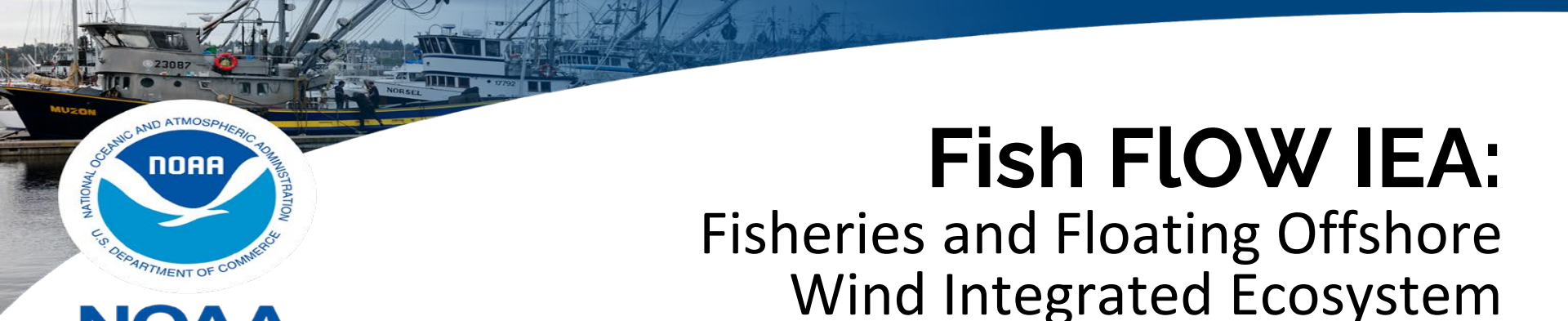

Fish FlOW IEA:

Fisheries and Floating Offshore Wind Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for the Gulf of Maine

NOAA FISHERIES
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

NROC Ocean Planning Committee
May 22, 2024
Gloucester, MA

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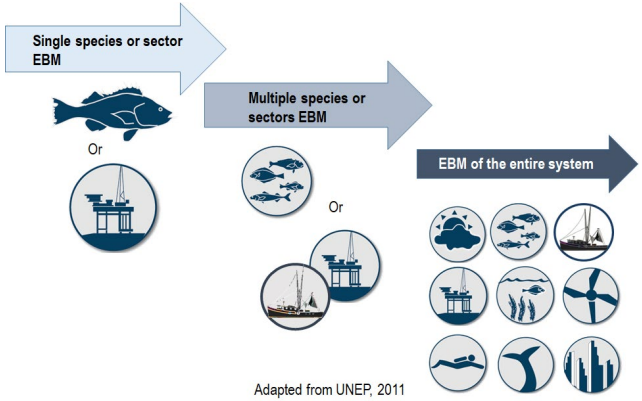
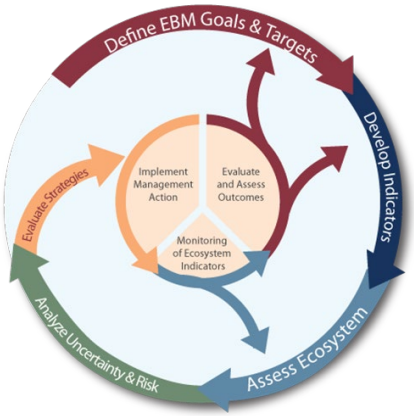
Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEA)

- Tool to achieve multiple ecosystem objectives
- Allows for consideration of environmental and socio-economic dimensions
- Iterative and collaborative approach
- Provides decision-support information
- Complementary to single-species or single-sector approaches





Fisheries and Floating Offshore Wind Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for the Gulf of Maine (FishFlOW)

Exploring Interactions Between Offshore Wind and Fisheries in the Gulf Of Maine (GOM) with an Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA)

RODA

NOAA FISHERIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND GRADUATE SCHOOL OF OCEANOGRAPHY | CRC50 COASTAL RESOURCES CENTER

Sea Grant Rhode Island

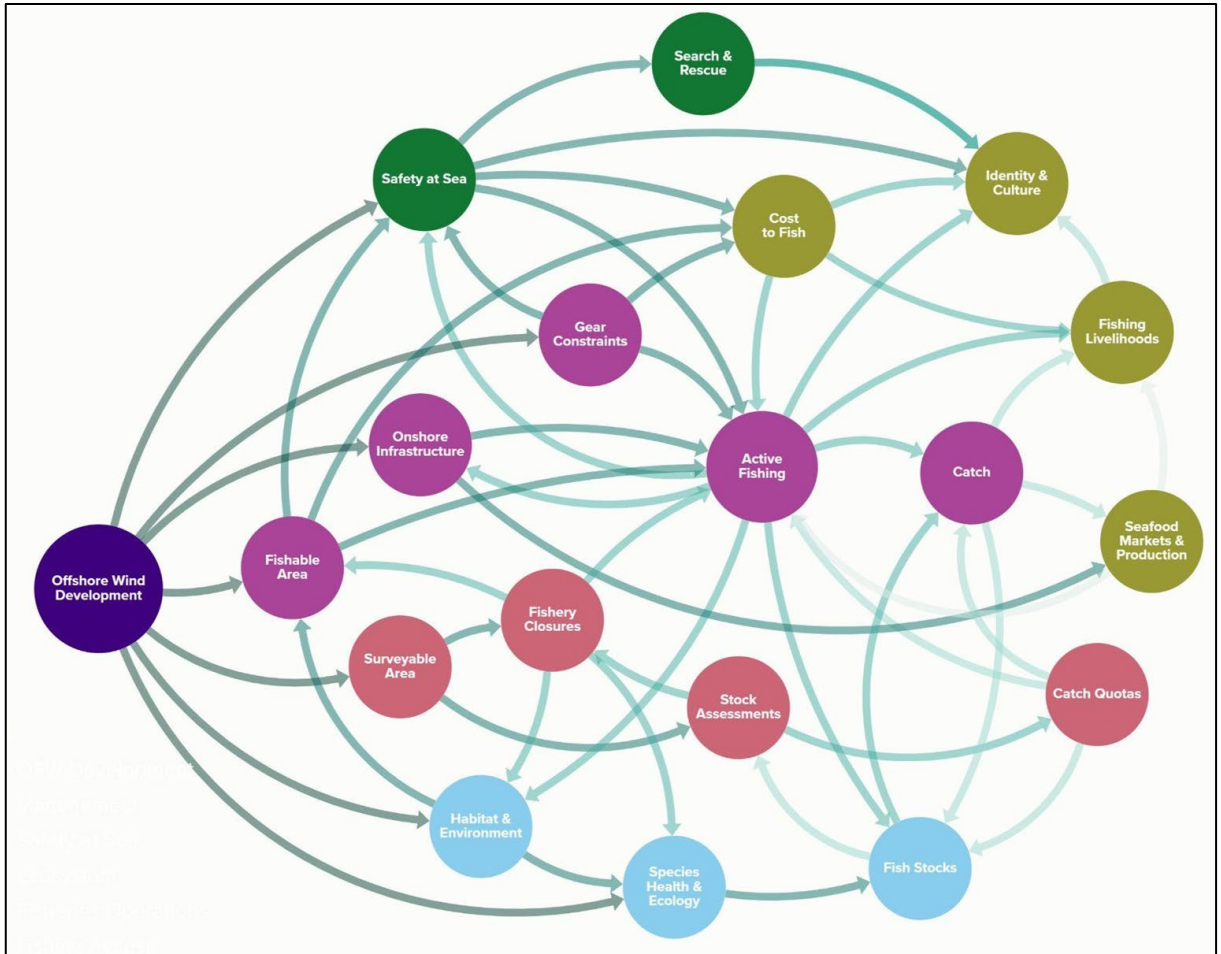
PROJECT GOAL:
Collaboratively work with ocean users to identify complex interactions between offshore wind, fisheries, and the environment and provide tools to inform environmental analyses and reviews

In collaboration with fishing communities, research scientists, managers, and developers:

1. Map key links and interactions between offshore wind development, fisheries, and the environment
2. Identify priority concerns, key indicators and gather data that can help measure the current conditions and future effects from offshore wind through these linkages
3. Assess and report on and monitor indicators, risks, and tradeoffs over time
4. Ensure the project's products are applicable to the decision making process and circulated through existing management pathways.

Identify priorities, linkages and data with fishing industry

Figure: *Initial conceptual map illustrating the pathways through which offshore wind may influence fishing industry and communities.*



Ground Truthing the model and identifying priorities: Workshops with Stakeholders

Goals of Workshops:

- Improve conceptual model
- Identify priorities
- Determine the best data and indicators to assess and monitor the needs of the fishing industry

Next Steps:

- Synthesize information collected at workshops
- Identify data and indicators
- Continue coordinating with ongoing research in the Gulf of Maine
- Second round of workshops/engagement where appropriate

Date	Location	Description of participants
12/11/2023	Ellsworth, ME	Fishing industry
12/12/2023	Brunswick, ME	Fishing industry
12/13/2023	Portsmouth, NH	Fishing industry
12/14/2023	Gloucester, MA	Fishing industry
1/4/2024	Virtual	Academic and governmental researchers
1/5/2024	Virtual	Academic and governmental researchers
1/5/2024	Virtual	Academic and governmental researchers
TBD	Virtual	State and federal managers
TBD	Virtual	Developer engagement

Next steps

- Revised base conceptual model (complete)
  - Finalize selected submodels, inclusive of current understanding of mechanisms and weight of relationships (in progress)
- Workshop Synthesis Report (complete- will be publicly available on RODA's website soon)
- Refined list of topics / subnodes in major themes / base model nodes (in progress)
- Indicator and data inventory (in progress)
  - Collate full list of identified potential indicators, and identify initial priority list
  - Collate list of identified research, data sources identified in comments and workshops
  - Engagement with managers and developers to finalize initial indicator list [complete step 2, indicator selection]
- Assess data and LEK needs, follow-up engagement
- Indicator assessment and reporting (next slide), longer term goal: risk assessments

Products & Applications

- NOAA Fisheries New England and Mid-Atlantic SoE reports currently have set of wind related indicators:
  - Species revenue within lease areas
  - Development timeline
  - Port Revenue/Coastal community vulnerability

- FishFIOW will identify additional indicators for an expanded wind focused SoE report. Reports will be publicly available.

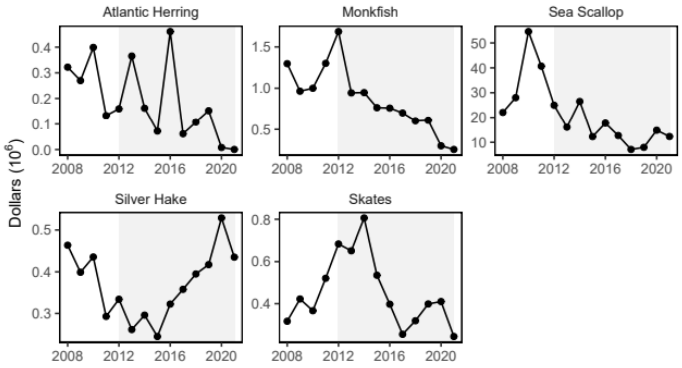
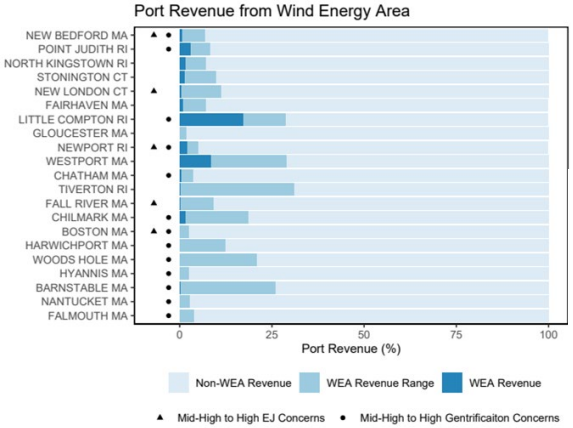
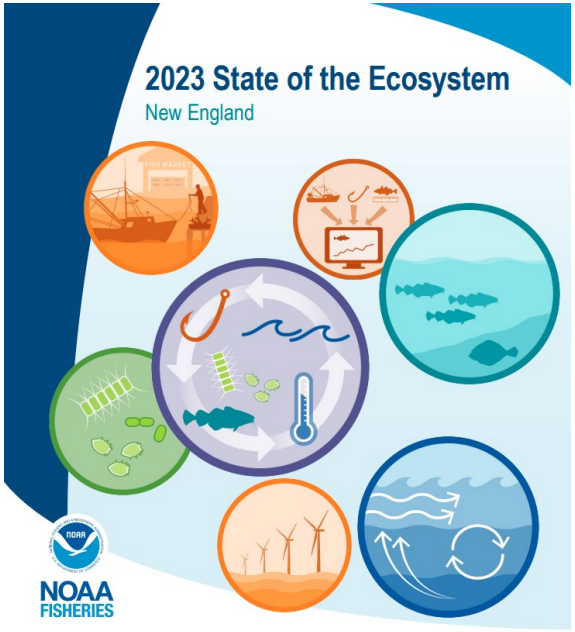


Figure 58: Fishery revenues from NEFMC managed species in the Wind energy lease areas.





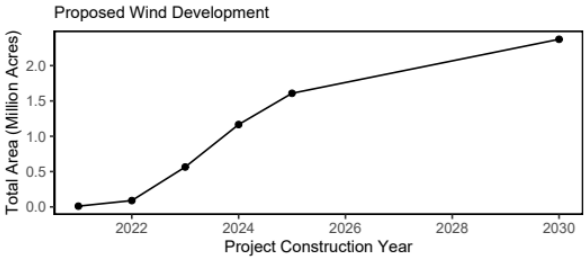
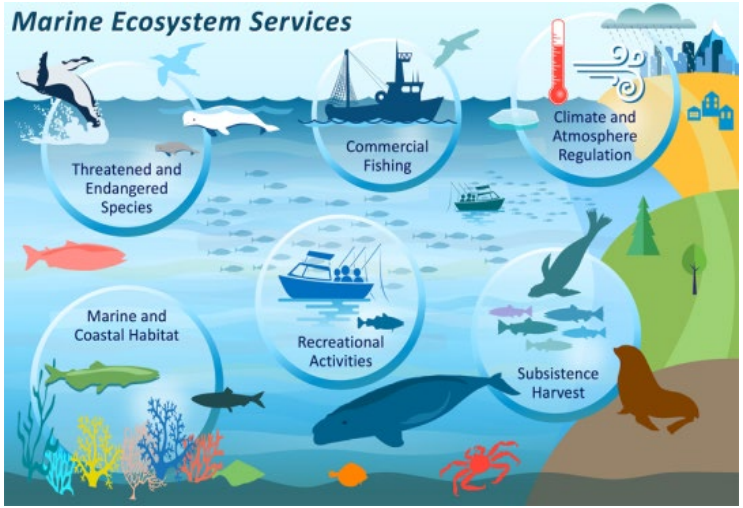


Figure 56: Proposed wind development on the northeast shelf.

Use of Products and Information

Intent is for products that are:

- Applicable to the decision making process
  - Example: to support data and information needs for offshore wind projects' Environmental Impact Statements (EISs)
  - Use for Cooperating Agencies to BOEM
- Circulated through existing management pathways
  - Example: use for understanding effects in resource management decisions (fisheries management councils)
- Included in publicly available reporting
  - Example: State of the Ecosystem type reports that assess the system; Risk Assessments



Users:

- Decision makers (BOEM)
- Resource managers (FMCs)
- Fishing industry
- Wind developers/industry

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/about-us#overview

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/socioeconomics