

Maritime Outreach and Coordination

Some participants shared suggestions and made recommendations to improve coordination between the maritime sector and offshore wind developers:

- **Essential information for mariners related to process.** To plan and coordinate with offshore wind companies and state and federal agencies, mariners need to know the following:
 - *Which agencies are responsible for approving routes, cable operations and maintenance plans.*
 - *What happens at the end of a cable's operational life.*
 - *What stage of development the project is in.* For example, Harbor Safety, Navigation, and Operations Committee (Harbor Ops) members are sometimes asked to review proposals at various stages of completeness. Members may not fully understand the specific stage they are asked to review something (is an offshore wind company just testing an idea or is it a review of an actual proposal).
 - *How best to participate in the project review.* For example, maritime organizations are not familiar with the New York State Article VII review process and may benefit from an educational training. Stakeholders should consider whether Harbor Ops is suited to be the *de facto* maritime sponsor or as an intervenor in Article VII cases.
 - *Coordination on water installations.* The New York State Article VII process should include formal outreach to maritime organizations for all in water installations.
- **Recommendations for good coordination among sectors.**
 - *Clarify roles.* Mariners need more information on the agencies and companies responsible for approving various aspects of routes, cable operations, and maintenance plans.
 - *Facilitate coordination on cable routes.* Until developers have offtake agreements, agencies may be best suited to coordinate cable routes. When offshore wind developer competition warrants it, regulators could bring developers together to determine routing and coordinate plans. Developers noted, for example, that Vineyard Wind, Mayflower Wind, and Bay State have been closely coordinating while concurrently going through their Construction and Operations Plan review.
 - *Establish a single point of contact (e.g., developer liaison).* It would be helpful if offshore wind companies had a single point of contact for the maritime industry, such as the fisheries

- liaison that some offshore wind projects have. For offshore wind companies, it would be helpful to have one agency or utility point of contact about the cabling process (from inception to decommissioning).
- *Ensure consistent agency participation.* Some state agencies are not regularly attending the forums that exist for coordination with mariners. All key agencies need to be present.
 - **Stakeholders to include.** Participants suggested stakeholders who should be involved in the development of offshore wind projects:
 - Maritime stakeholders engaged through Harbor Ops or other similar channels because they offer diverse expertise and can provide efficiencies for developers.
 - State and city representatives and other multi-state agencies like the Port Authority.
 - U.S. Coast Guard to assist with ground-truthing information from developers prior to Harbor Ops reviews through regular meetings/discussions with developers.
 - Army Corps of Engineers to facilitate Coast Guard and maritime operators' concerns into applicant approvals.
 - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to reconsider exclusion zones thus providing optimum cable routing.
 - State power needs sited in state waters.
 - NYSDEC engagement in discussions of dredging in state waters.
 - **Forums.** Participants provided examples for types of forums for conducting outreach.
 - Hold town hall meetings, particularly if new infrastructure is proposed for development. This forum may be less important if projects use existing infrastructure.
 - Increase real-time communication. There are solutions like technology applications in the fishing industry, but there should be a cohesive, integrated app for all projects. Mariner safety and awareness of projects can be broadcast via apps.
 - Conduct briefings to mariners.