

WHAT LEADERS ARE SAYING (from page 21)

Things are ramping up rapidly so now is the time for the recreational fishing community to get engaged. Our aim moving forward is to help form a RODA style entity to better represent the recreational fishing community. Offshore wind farms will provide badly needed clean renewable energy, however, we aim to protect wild life, fish and mammals such as right whales and a host of others.”

Dr. Johnathan Hare, director of NOAA’s Northeast Fisheries Science Center

When asked how recreational anglers can engage in research to help better represent their concerns, Dr. Hare said, “Recreational anglers have access to research that is done in wind farm areas by NOAA. Today, I would suggest three ways to gain access and get recreational research done. First through recreational ROSA advisory council members, they are on the council to guide research, particularly from the recreational sector both private anglers and for hire industry. Second, research can be culled and brought through our Council system (New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils). And last, do not hesitate to approach us directly as the Northeast Fisheries Science Center can engage on research directly.”



Capt. Michael Pierdinock, President of the Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association, Recreational Advisor on the ROSA Executive Committee and Advisory Council and Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) Massachusetts Chapter Chairman

“I am all for green energy but not to the detriment of the resource or fisherman. What is lacking is baseline data before, during and after construction to measure any potential impacts. With the Vineyard Wind project there is lack of baseline data to assess potential impacts. As a result we are now going to have to put a strong research and monitoring plan in place conducting research as we go to measure impacts. We have a big data gap that needs to be addressed... what recreational angler fishing effort occurs in wind farm areas, what species are present in these areas, etc. The ROSA Advisory Panel has a good cross section of the recreational fishing community to provide research input.”



Willy Goldsmith, executive director, American Saltwater Guides Association, ROSA advisory council

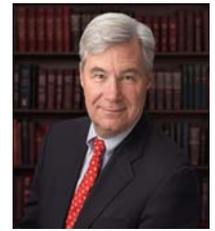
“We realize the need for renewable energy and offshore wind, however, the pace of siting will not allow us to know impacts until construction and operation are underway. Additionally, the scale of wind farm impacts is unknown so we have to be prepared to react. The goal is to make sure offshore wind relies on the best available science. Wind farms will create opportunities for recreational fishing too. No doubt fish and anglers will aggregate at wind farms,



the challenge this may create is overfishing as it may make it easier to catch certain species. So this is a possible indirect impact.”

U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), climate change advocate, fisheries champion

Last year the *Boston Globe* reported [a new study](#) that shows why Senator Sheldon Whitehouse remains the leading advocate in Congress when it comes to addressing climate change issues.



Senator Whitehouse said, “Offshore wind should be a major part of our national energy mix. With the first offshore wind farm in the country operating here, the Ocean State is well positioned to be a hub of the new industry. Offshore wind must work respectfully with different ocean users, including recreational and commercial fishermen. Rhode Island’s example is proof that offshore wind turbines can be sited to respect hardworking fishermen.”

Caela Howard Fisheries Liaison, Vineyard Wind

“Since being the first US offshore wind developer to hire a fisheries representative in 2010, we’ve had numerous discussions with recreational fishing groups and organizations as well as charter and head boat companies, going over everything from scour protection and highly migratory species to lease area access.



We’re trying to build partnerships, going so far as to reach out to tournament and derby organizers to try and find out about potential time conflicts so we can hopefully avoid. The work and discussions are ongoing and will be a part of every facet of the project all the way through operations and maintenance.”

Ross Pearsall Fisheries Relations Manger, Orsted

“To enhance angler input we have developed a formal outreach plan and effort. The plan includes a Fishinar Series on both ground fish and pelagic fish caught in the near offshore in and around our wind farms.



The aim of the initiative is to engage anglers using expert charter captains and anglers talking about fishing strategies and tactics. At the same time we are providing general wind farm information setting the table for future input meetings.

Additionally, we instituted a fishing survey to identify who fishes in our wind farm areas and what they catch. We have also instituted research and monitoring plans for ever one of our projects developed with recreational and commercial fishing input.”

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