Offshore Survey Activities 2018 Update

Attention Fishermen and Other Mariners: Survey Activities for the Empire Wind Offshore Lease, New York Bight - Ongoing 2018

Equinor Wind US, formerly known as Statoil Wind US, is the lease holder of the New York offshore wind energy area OCS-A 0512 known as the ‘Empire Wind’ project. As part of the site development process, Equinor has been conducting geophysical & geotechnical surveys over the project area since spring 2018.

Details of the survey activities were covered in the Survey Newsletter issued in February 2018. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an update on active survey activities, planned surveys and metocean mooring deployments.

Survey vessel RV Ocean Researcher has been engaged in surveys in the wind lease area since April 2018 and is finishing surveys as of December 2, 2018.

Following the approval of Equinor’s Site Assessment Plan (SAP) by BOEM on November 21, 2018, contractor RPS will deploy two meteorological & oceanographic (metocean) buoys and one subsurface metocean mooring in the lease area as of December 2018 for a period of up to 2-years.

Details of the metocean buoy positions and relevant contact details are covered on the next page.

Empire Wind OCS-A 0512

The Empire Wind site extends 14-30 miles south of Long Island, spanning 79,350 acres, in water depths between 65 and 131 feet (see map). Subject to environmental and technical constraints, which will be explored as part of the development phase, it is believed that the site has a potential generating capacity of over 1 GW. The exact details of the wind farm design and installation techniques will be influenced by consultation with the maritime and fishing community. Equinor intends to consult on draft layouts this winter 2018/2019.
Equinor Wind Lease and Metocean Mooring Deployment Positions

Contact: Steve Drew, Fisheries Liaison Officer
Steve Drew of Sea Risk Solutions is representing Equinor Wind as Fisheries Liaison Officer.

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Helpful Data?
Equinor intends to make non-commercially sensitive data collected by the moorings publicly available to help support research and other offshore operations. Data may become available both as reports or in near real-time via a web page.

Anyone interested can contact Equinor to gain access.

RPS Metocean Moorings
RPS has been contracted to supply and deploy surface and subsurface metocean moorings on Equinor’s offshore wind lease in order to measure wind, meteorological and oceanographic conditions to help inform the design and development of the proposed wind farm. This consists of 1 x Floating LiDAR (FLiDAR) buoy, 1 x surface Metocean buoy and 1 x subsurface current meter mooring.

FLiDAR Buoy - the FLiDAR buoy is made up of a surface buoy of approx. 15 ft diameter and 16 ft overall height, moored to the seabed via a combination of mooring chains, rubber cords and anchor weights. The FLiDAR measures wind speed and direction.

Metocean Buoy – the Metocean buoy, measuring waves and meteorological conditions, is made up of a surface buoy of approx. 9 ft diameter and 8 ft in height, moored to the seabed via a combination of mooring chains, rubber cords and anchor weights.

Current Meter Mooring – The current meter mooring is an inline subsurface mooring made up of subsurface floats, chain, wire rope and oceanographic sensors measuring current speed and direction and seawater properties. The upper most float is approx. 15 ft below sea surface.