



## The Offshore Wind Round-Up

Distributed through the JCTA

Issue #28

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### IN THIS ISSUE

- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) has given **final approval** of the Construction and Operations Plan for Atlantic Shores South. A link to the announcement is [below](#).
- Information about the **lawsuit** filed last month by Save LBI begins [on this page](#).
- NOAA issued an **opinion** about the impact of the Vineyard Wind offshore wind project off the coast of Massachusetts on endangered species. Details begin [on page 2](#).
- Clarification was requested following **recent reporting** by The Associated Press about trouble in a local offshore wind area. Details begin [on page 3](#).
- Answers to questions about the **Central Atlantic** offshore wind project begin [on page 4](#).
- Several **letters to the editor** in *The Sandpaper* stirred up questions about horseshoe crabs. Answers to FAQs begin [on page 5](#).

### BOEM APPROVAL FOR ATLANTIC SHORES SOUTH

On October 1, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) announced its approval of Atlantic Shores South’s plan to begin construction and operation. This approval is the final one needed, following the Record of Decision issued from the U.S. Department of the Interior, which first announced approval of this project July 2024.

*Access the BOEM October 1 press release by clicking on this link*

<https://www.boem.gov/newsroom/press-releases/boem-approves-construction-and-operations-plan-atlantic-shores-south>

### LAWSUIT FILED

On September 13, Save LBI filed a lawsuit against Atlantic Shores South seeking “injunctive relief, asking the court to require Atlantic Shores South to complete a full airborne noise assessment and pilot project before the project can proceed,” according to an article published in *Patch* September 16.

*Access the full Patch article by clicking on this link*

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/barneгат-manahawkin/lbi-offshore-wind-farm>

The article states that “[Bob] Stern and Save LBI commissioned Xi Engineering<sup>1</sup> to conduct their own noise study.” Round-Up researchers have been unable to locate that study, but a 2011 article published in COMSOL News<sup>2</sup> provides insight into how Xi Engineering analyzed a wind turbine noise problem and produced solutions that enabled the wind turbines to operate below the 50-decibel level referenced in the *Patch* article.

Access the full 2011 article “Wind Turbine Noise Reduction” by clicking on this link [https://www.comsol.com/story/download/158463/Xi\\_Engineering\\_CN2011.pdf](https://www.comsol.com/story/download/158463/Xi_Engineering_CN2011.pdf)

## NOAA OPINION ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF PILE DRIVING IN VINEYARD WIND

On September 4, *The Inquirer and Mirror*, Nantucket’s local news source, updated an article published nine days earlier under the headline “New NOAA opinion: Wind farm pile driving causing ‘temporary disturbance’ to sea life.”

**NOAA** is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries. The opinion was specific to the **Vineyard Wind** offshore wind project off the coast of Massachusetts.

*From the article:*

“The federal government has issued a new ‘biological opinion’ on Vineyard Wind’s offshore energy project 15 miles southwest of Nantucket, finding that pile-driving noise associated with its construction is likely to adversely affect, but not likely jeopardize, the continued existence of whales, fish and sea turtles listed under the Endangered Species Act.

“It will have no effect on any designated critical habitat,” National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries said in a statement. “NOAA Fisheries does not anticipate serious injuries to or mortalities of any Endangered Species Act listed whale including the North Atlantic right whale.”

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<sup>1</sup> The company’s full name is Xi Engineering Consultants, located in Edinburgh, Scotland. <https://xiengineering.com/>

<sup>2</sup> *From COMSOL’s website:* “COMSOL’s mission is to provide easy-to-use software solutions to engineering problems and to help our users get the most out of our products. At COMSOL, we develop mathematical modeling software that drives new breakthroughs in physics and engineering.

Our flagship product, COMSOL Multiphysics®, is used in all fields of engineering, manufacturing, and scientific research for modeling multiphysics systems. Our customers use the software to understand, predict, innovate, and optimize product designs and processes.” <https://www.comsol.com/company>

“In *COMSOL News 2023*, we have gathered inspiring stories from engineers, scientists, and researchers who use modeling and simulation to push their field forward.” <https://www.comsol.com/offers/comsol-news-2023>

Access the full article from *The Inquirer and Mirror* by clicking on this link  
<https://www.ack.net/environment/new-noaa-opinion-wind-farm-pile-driving>

Access NOAA's biological opinion issued August 23, 2024 by clicking on this link  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/s3/2024-09/GARFO-2024-01318.pdf>

## LEADING LIGHT WIND

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, reporting from The Associated Press (“AP”), picked up by multiple news sources, prompted some questions.

The headline on several articles was some variation of “Another New Jersey offshore wind project runs into turbulence . . .”

**Is Atlantic Shores involved?** No. Because the cancellation of Ørsted’s offshore wind project<sup>3</sup> continues to be a topic of conversation, it was a small leap to think that the reference in the reporting to “another New Jersey offshore wind project” would be Atlantic Shores.

The offshore wind project on which the AP reporting focuses is **Leading Light Wind**, an offshore wind project to be built as a partnership between lead developer Invenergy out of Chicago and New York-based co-developer energyRe.

Its 84,000-acre area is 40 miles east of Atlantic City and 80 miles south of Long Island. The development phase is expected to last through 2027 with offshore construction beginning in 2028.

Access a description and a map showing its location from the *Leading Light Wind* website by clicking on this link  
[https://leadinglightwind.com/assets/img/Invenergy\\_LLWFactSheet-English-508c-March-2023.pdf](https://leadinglightwind.com/assets/img/Invenergy_LLWFactSheet-English-508c-March-2023.pdf)

**Is Atlantic Shores having trouble getting offshore wind turbines?** No. The article mentions all three wind turbine manufacturers, including Vestas, which is providing the offshore wind turbines for the Atlantic Shores project. Many thought that the statement in the article that the turbines made by Vestas “[were] deemed unsuitable for the project” meant that turbines made by Vestas were unsuitable for *any* project.

The unsuitability of offshore wind turbines – from Vestas or either of the other two manufacturers – is **site-specific**, meaning that the reported situation impacts only *Leading Light Wind*, not *Atlantic Shores*, which is 3 – 4 years ahead of *Leading Light Wind* in the planning process.

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<sup>3</sup> In late October 2023

The AP article reported that Leading Light had intended to use offshore wind turbines from GE Vernova, but that manufacturer “said it would not announce the kind of turbine Invenergy planned to use in the Leading Light Project, according to the July 2024 filing with the utilities board [NJ Bureau of Public Utilities]” made public in early September.

**Do next steps impact Atlantic Shores?** No. Leading Light Wind has asked the NJ Board of Public Utilities (“NJBPU”) to pause the project through December 20 so it can secure a new manufacturer.

*Access the full AP article by clicking on this link*  
<https://apnews.com/article/leading-light-offshore-wind-new-jersey-4ede0a61ebefc8d011d5ce9d36d55eca>

On September 26, *Patch* reported that the NJBPU had granted Leading Light Wind’s request.

*Access the article from Patch by clicking on this link*  
<https://patch.com/new-jersey/barneqat-manahawkin/wind-farm-lbi-hits-pause-cant-find-turbine-blades>

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CENTRAL ATLANTIC OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

In September the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) announced the schedule for public meetings and an open house to talk about the **Central Atlantic offshore wind projects**.

That spawned **several questions** and the answers are below. The answers are from BOEM’s June 2024 report<sup>4</sup> and its website,<sup>5</sup> unless otherwise noted:

**What’s going on?** BOEM has announced the **second round** of offshore wind energy lease sales in the Central Atlantic, an offshore area extending south from the Delaware Bay to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

BOEM has identified final **three areas** within this geographical region which it deems suitable for the development of offshore wind energy areas: A2, located east of Delaware Bay; B1, located east of northern Maryland’s coast; and C1, located east of the Chesapeake Bay.

**First Round.** On December 12, 2023, BOEM published a Proposed Sale Notice in the Federal Register and proposed two of the three wind energy areas for leasing, **A-2 and C-1**.

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<sup>4</sup> Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf of the Central Atlantic, June 2024 <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/Central Atlantic Wind Auction Final Draft EA.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Central Atlantic tab on BOEM’s website: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/central-atlantic>



[https://ocean.weather.gov/newNCOM/NCOM\\_GulfStream\\_currents.php](https://ocean.weather.gov/newNCOM/NCOM_GulfStream_currents.php)

More about the habitat of these bottom-dwelling creatures from the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission:

“Horseshoe crabs, ranging from the Yucatan peninsula to northern Maine, are most abundant between Virginia and New Jersey, with the largest population of spawning horseshoe crabs in the world found in the Delaware Bay.”<sup>6</sup>

The same article reported that various tagging and recovery programs have concluded that the distance traveled from a breeding beach into the ocean varied by state and noted that the distance reported may reflect movement of a fishing vessel rather than actual animal migration.

*Click here for more details developed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Horseshoe Crab Plan Development Team by clicking on this link*  
<https://www.horseshoecrab.org/info/range>

## THE ROUND-UPS

*This Offshore Wind Round-Up was prepared by a group of writers and researchers from Long Beach Island, New Jersey. The first Round-Up first appeared in May 2022 and it has been published every month except two since its debut.*

*Round-Ups endeavor to periodically provide a **review of recent research efforts** in which the effects of offshore wind farms have been studied. In addition, they occasionally offer factual, **clarifying information**, in response to readers’ questions and suggestions.*

*Research included in Round-Ups points you in the direction of the science and assumes **no point of view** one way or the other about the presence of offshore wind farms off our shore. Likewise, clarifications are provided without editorial comment; they are there for you to consider so you can **draw your own conclusions**.*

*Questions about the content of Round-Ups and **suggestions** for future topics can be directed to [RoundUpLBI@gmail.com](mailto:RoundUpLBI@gmail.com). The Round-Up research and writing team welcomes questions and comments.*

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<sup>6</sup> “Though horseshoe crabs are native to the Mid-Atlantic, they are closely identified with the Delaware Bay, the part of the Delaware River estuary that borders New Jersey and Delaware before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean.” from “Some good news for New Jersey’s ancient, dwindling horseshoe crab population,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 27 2024. <https://www.inquirer.com/news/new-jersey/horseshoe-crab>

**Round-Ups** are **distributed** to the voting representatives of the eleven member organizations of the Joint Council of Taxpayers Associations of LBI (JCTA). The board members of each member association collectively make their own decisions about how and when this information will be distributed to its members and/or the community. Most often, taxpayer associations use their regular communication platforms, such as newsletters, website postings and/or social media, to make Round-Ups **available to the public**.

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