

Agenda

Birds and Offshore Wind Development in the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic

February 13-15, 2008

U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Conservation Training Center
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

- 1:00 - 1:15 p.m. Welcome, logistics – Dr. Sally Valdes, Environmental Division, Minerals Management Service and Dr. James Kendall, Chief Scientist, Minerals Management Service as meeting facilitator
- 1:15 - 1:30 p.m. Introduction – Robert LaBelle, Deputy Associate Director, Offshore Energy and Minerals Management, Minerals Management Service

Background on MMS

- 1:30 - 1:50 p.m. Update on Alternative Energy Program – Maureen Bornholdt, Program Manager, Alternative Energy and Alternative Use Program Office
- 1:50 - 2:20 p.m. Environmental Compliance and Monitoring – Judith Wilson, Chief, Environmental Compliance Unit
- 2:20 - 2:45 p.m. Role of Science at MMS – Dr. James Kendall, Chief, Environmental Studies and Chief Scientist
- 2:45 - 3:00 p.m. Break

Overview of Birds at Risk

A review of current planning efforts and research gaps, highlighting birds and behaviors that might put them at most risk in the offshore environment.

- 3:00 - 4:20 p.m. A review of migratory songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, waterbirds/seabirds, and waterfowl.
- Introduction – Melanie Steinkamp, USFWS Atlantic Coast Joint Venture

Waterfowl – Melanie Steinkamp

Shorebirds and Raptors – Melanie Steinkamp

Landbirds – David Mizrahi, New Jersey Audubon Society

Waterbirds/Seabirds – Dick Viet, City University of New York

Waterbird Surveys for Cape Wind project - Simon Perkins,
Massachusetts Audubon

4:20 - 4:40 p.m. Candidate/threatened/endangered species of concern in the offshore environment – Michael Amaral, Chief, Endangered Species, New England Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

4:40 - 4:50 p.m. Sum up the day. Briefly describe the plan for the next day. Announcements

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Building upon International Experience

8:15 - 8:30 a.m. Introductions, value of international experience – Dr. Rodney Cluck, Alternative Energy Program, Minerals Management Service

8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Offshore bird research results from Denmark – Dr. Ib Krag Petersen and Dr. Mark Desholm, National Environmental Research Institute of Denmark (by video conference)

9:15 - 10:00 a.m. Birds and offshore wind power development in the UK – Dr. Philip Bloor, Senior Environmental Manager, Department of Trade and Industry, UK

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 - 10:40 a.m. Offshore wind power development in Canada – Dr. John Chardine, Canadian Wildlife Service

Discussion of State Activities/Research

10:40 – 11:10a.m. Overview of the New Jersey Ocean Wind Power Baseline Studies – Dr. Gary Buchanan, Chief, Natural Resources Science, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

10:40 - 11:40 a.m. Opportunity for the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic states to discuss wind power activities/bird data collection efforts concerns in the offshore environment.

11:40 - 12:40 p.m. Lunch

Updates on Tools/ Science that Could Inform Decision-making

12:40 - 12:45 p.m. Announcements. Introduction.

12:45 - 1:25 p.m. Overview of radar ornithology/ thermal imaging/new developments – Adam Kelly, Detect, Inc.

1:25 - 2: 05 p.m. Monitoring using acoustical methods – Dr. Christopher Clark and Dr. Andrew Farnsworth, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

2:05 - 2:45 p.m. Artificial lighting and bird behavior – Dr. William Montevecchi, Memorial University of Newfoundland

2:45 - 3:00 p.m. Break

3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Loons as a model for study of marine mortality – Dr. Paul Spitzer, independent ornithologist

3:30 - 4:00 p.m. Adapting tracking techniques used on least terns to coastal species of concern – Jennifer Stucker, U.S. Geological Survey

4:00 - 4:30 p.m. Announcements. Describe breakout sessions for the following day. Each group's task and expected products will be outlined.

4:30 - 5:00 p.m. Opportunity to sign up for workgroups for those who have not already selected a group.

Friday, February 15, 2008

Updates on Current Efforts to Collect Information/Inform Decision-making

8:00 - 8:05 a.m. Announcements

8:05 - 8:35 a.m. Terrestrial wind turbine guidelines and advisory committee – David Stout, Chief, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

8:35 - 9:15 a.m. Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership – Dr. Richard Veit, College of Staten Island/City University of New York

- 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. NW Atlantic Birds at Sea Conservation Cooperative, Marine Bird Database, and Modeling Seabird Distributions in Offshore Waters between Maine and Florida – Andrew Gilbert and Dr. Allan O’Connell, USGS, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and Melanie Steinkamp, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- 10:15 - 12:15 p.m. Break and move to work in breakout sessions.

Break-out Sessions

Participants will be divided into four working groups.

Working Groups:

1) Monitoring: technology options/limitations. When do you choose which approach? What are the components of a good monitoring plan?

Research priorities:

2) Data management: Existing efforts/limitations. How can we improve inputs/sharing?

Research priorities:

3) Mitigation: Review existing approaches. What are the options/limitations? What can behavioral research tell us?

Research priorities:

4) Improving linkage between ongoing efforts: Possible mechanisms for improving communication/data-sharing in this fast-developing, multi-disciplinary field.

Priorities for improving cross-agency communication:

- 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. Lunch (approximately, groups can decide when to break for lunch)
- 1:15 - 2:30 p.m. Presentations by the four groups
- 2:30 - 2:45 p.m. Summation/ Next Steps to Continue Communication
- 2:45 p.m. Adjourn

