

Virginia Fisheries and Offshore Wind

A public meeting to discuss collaboration on fisheries related research to understand and mitigate the potential negative effects of the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project.

Thursday, November 18, 2021 5:00 – 7:00 PM
Virginia Tech Agricultural Research Center
102 S King Street, Hampton

Attendance

Scott Lawton, Dominion Energy	Thomas Reed Eskridge, Commercial Fisheries
Robert Ruhle, Commercial Fisheries and NEAMAP	Todd Jameson, Commercial Fisheries
Jimmy Ruhle, Commercial Fisheries and NEAMAP	Dave Rudders, VIMS
Susanna Musick, VIMS	Andrew Scheld, VIMS
Ron Larsen, Sea Risk Solutions	Tom Dameron, Surfside Foods, LLC
Kevin Carroll, Dominion Energy	Laura McKay, VA CZM
James Eskridge, Commercial Fisheries	Todd Janeski, VCU/VA CZM
Tommy Eskridge, Commercial Fisheries	Lyndie Hice-Dunton, ROSA
Kenneth Heath, Commercial Fisheries	Rick Robbins, Fathom Edge Limited
Jerry Barnes, Dominion Energy	Alicia Nelson, VMRC
Pat Geer, VMRC	Brian Dresser, Tetra Tech
JC Hudgins, Commercial Fisheries	Jill Ramsey, VMRC
John Swinerton, Dominion Energy	Lewis Gillingham, VMRC
Susan Gonzalez, Dominion Energy	Lane Johnston, RODA
Dan Knott, VA Watermen's Assoc	JC Hudgins, VA Watermen's Assoc
Alexa Galvan, VMRC	Rachel Peabody, VMRC

Meeting Summary

Dominion Energy Updates and Information Sharing

Kevin Carroll, Dominion Energy presented an overview of the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind-Commercial (CVOW-C) project. The presentation included turbine and scour protection design, turbine and substation placement, permitting and construction timeline, and contact information for the Dominion Energy Team. The presentation is attached.

Discussion with Fishing Industry on Fisheries Surveys and Monitoring:

Members of the commercial fishing industry in attendance included the conch/whelk fixed gear fishermen, surf clam, mixed trawl fishermen and representatives of the VA Watermen's Association. The conch industry explained that the CVOW-C lease contains reliable and productive fishing areas particularly in the winter months. The clam industry additionally reported harvestable resource several miles east and south of the lease area; with harvestable resources in 3-4yrs, during construction. The industry members collectively requested that

preconstruction and monitoring surveys have a time series that accurately assess the known fisheries in the area and that the surveys are cooperative in nature with a focus on using commercial gear, and are consistent with existing coast wide assessments and methodology. All industry members indicated a strong desire to participate in the development and implementation of monitoring. Dominion Energy iterated their intent to provide a thorough and robust assessment of the fisheries resources in the area and to design a balanced project that ultimately allows coexistence of commercial fisheries and wind energy, mitigates for potential losses of resources and informs the pre-construction stock assessment to inform changes in CPUE during operation. Additionally, Dominion Energy expressed their intent to begin surveying as soon as possible with a goal of commencing data collection as early as January 2022 and compensating the fishermen for their involvement in cooperative research. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), who have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dominion Energy to act as science advisors, committed to creating a cooperative research proposal for Dominion Energy that would include the details discussed in this meeting. VIMS and VCU will coordinate the near-term meeting to inform the development of the pre-construction, construction and operational monitoring plan. The Responsible Offshore Science Alliance (ROSA) committed to providing coordination support and communication regarding existing and planned research along the coast and possible data coordination to ensure coast wide survey and data consistency. Finally, Dominion Energy committed to supporting quarterly meetings with the group moving forward to continue open discussions as they work towards construction. The next meeting in Q1 '22 has not yet been established. Dominion Energy noted that communications and coordination with fishermen, fishermen's representatives will continue in the meantime with VCU continuing to coordinate those affected fishermen and their involvement.