

SSWG TOR 3 – Sub-Group Interview Results

Impacts of Wind Installations on Scallop Survey

Identify survey methods, tools, and designs to monitor and assess the scallop resource in a **changing ocean environment that includes offshore wind installations** and changes in resource and fishery distribution.

- *Description of the likely impacts of offshore wind installations on the current survey domain and methods on a present and multi-year timescale.*

1. Potential impacts to individual survey tools:
 - Spatial coverage
 - Sampling intensity (fine vs. broad scale)
 - Survey timing
2. Potential impacts to overall survey system:
 - Survey type (dredge, optical, towed, drop)
 - Data products (abundance, biomass, biological samples)
3. How will impacts from offshore wind installations on the surveys affect our ability to support science and management?
4. What survey related processes (e.g., RSA priority setting and selection process, Council data compilation process, etc.) may be impacted by offshore wind installations?
5. Other general thoughts about potential impacts from wind or other potential changes in resource and fishery distribution on the scallop survey?

| Evaluation Topic | Dredge | HabCam | DropCam |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|
| <i>Survey Tool Impacts</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracted UNOLS vessel cannot operate • Random stratified design will be impacted • Transit issues • Most impacted survey tool | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracted UNOLS vessel cannot operate • Potential for hangs and lost survey tool • Transit issues • Sediment plumes form turbine base may impact visual abilities • Costs may increase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey scale will be impacted • Insurance may be cost prohibitive • Transit issues • Sediment plumes from turbine base may impact visual abilities • Cost may increase |

| Evaluation Topic | Data Products | Uncertainties/Gaps |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Survey System Impacts</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All current survey tools may be impacted • Potential loss of biological sampling ability • Lack of full resource coverage • Potential loss of recruitment and yearclass tracking • Large area of MAB may be impacted • Clapper detection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing occurring where surveys cannot • Incremental development of wind farms causing multiple changes to survey design • Area specific selectivity of different survey tools • RSA competitive grant implications if only certain tools can be used in wind areas • Degradation in precision and accuracy |

| Evaluation Topic | Science Support | Management Support |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <i>Survey Process Impacts</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to time series for multiple survey types • Losing information compared to current status • Assessment inputs (modeled by area) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data combination method may need to be revised • Possible delays in management actions • Stock status, ABC/ACL calculations • SAMS areas may not be fully covered |

| <i>Evaluation Topic</i> | SSWG Topics to Consider |
|--|---|
| <i>Impacts from Wind Installations</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify each survey tool strengths and weaknesses related to wind farms (adaptability, maneuverability, data products, costs) • Consider how to leverage with external surveys (wind developer monitoring, other species surveys, regional approaches) • Consider developing a survey that has multiple objectives, not scallop specific • Focus on immediate needs because construction is starting soon • Need longer term planning for survey overall to be able to make plans to adapt • Consider impacts across multiple surveys and how it will affect scallop management (bycatch, habitat, protected species) • NEFSC re-stratification effort should consider changing survey areas • Need more advanced planning and coordination between NEFSC survey and RSA surveys to set RSA priorities • Consider a new process/funding mechanism for industry based surveys • Regular review of survey footprint in response to changing resource distribution |