

## US Wind Mariners Briefing – July 12, 2021

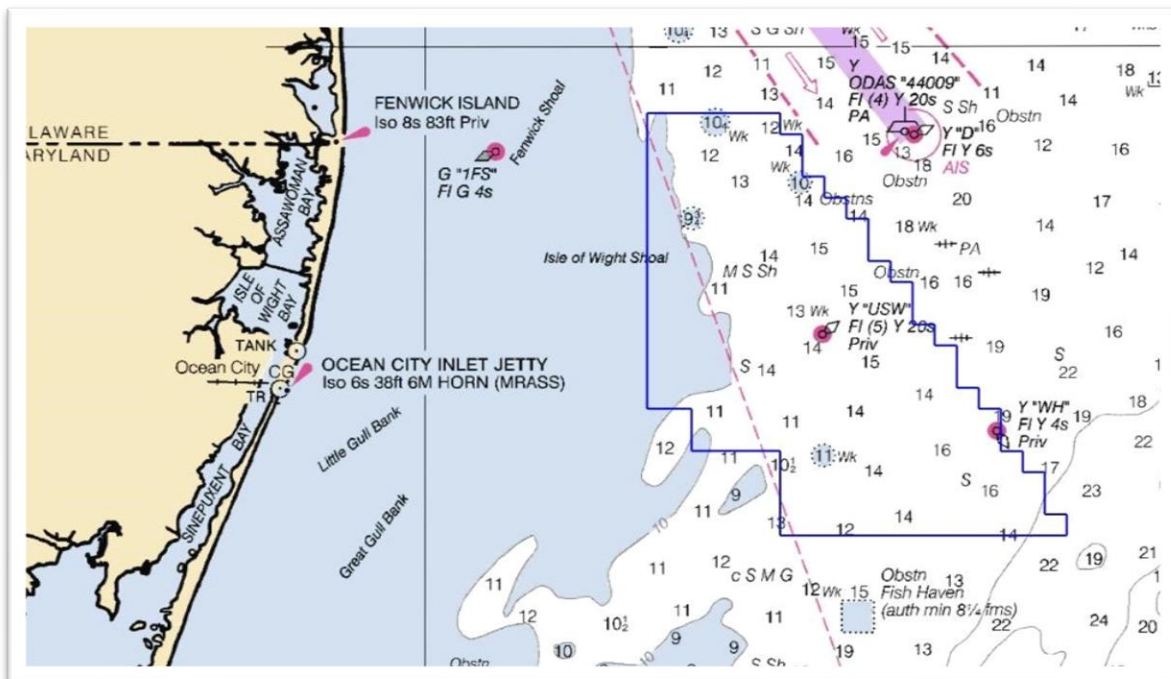
These briefings are intended to update mariners on marine operations in and around the US Wind Maryland offshore wind Lease area. Mariners briefings are distributed to interested mariners on our website at: <https://uswindinc.com/mariners/> or can be requested from Benjamin Cooper, US Wind's Director of Marine Affairs, via email at [b.cooper@uswindinc.com](mailto:b.cooper@uswindinc.com).

### About Us

US Wind was founded in 2011 and has established its position as Maryland's leader in offshore wind development. In 2014, US Wind obtained a federal lease for site control to develop approximately 1,500 MW of offshore wind power generation off the coast of Maryland. In 2017, US Wind won an Offshore Renewable Energy Credit (OREC) award to build a 270 MW offshore wind facility in their Lease area.

### Ongoing Survey Activities in Maryland Offshore Lease area

In April 2021, US Wind began an extensive oceanographic research campaign in the Maryland Lease area. Survey efforts are expected to continue within the Lease area and along candidate export cable routes into September 2021.



**Chart depicting US Wind Lease area off Maryland's coast (not to be used for navigation purposes)**



Geophysical survey operations are being conducted by the U.S. flag research vessels R/V Brooks McCall and the R/V Miss Emma McCall, operated by TDI Brooks, Inc. Both multi-use oceanographic research vessels are equipped to acquire geophysical surveys for offshore hazard/site clearance assessments, pipeline/cable routing, seafloor mapping, port and channel conditions, fisheries habitat mapping, and burial assessment studies.

US Wind continues to implement extensive efforts to minimize impacts to marine life during survey operations. Expert Protected Species Observers are aboard each vessel to monitor for the presence of protected species, such as the North Atlantic right whale, and to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to protect these species.



**R/V Miss Emma McCall – LOA 153'; Call Sign: WDG8742; MMSI: 338100000 (top)**  
**R/V Brooks McCall – LOA 160'; Call Sign: WCZ7811; MMSI: 338257000 (bottom)**

***\*\*All Mariners transiting or fishing in the survey area are requested to give a wide berth to survey vessels as they may be limited in their ability to maneuver and may be towing gear out to 300 yards behind the vessel. Vessels in the vicinity of the survey vessels should operate in a manner that will not endanger the vessel or associated equipment\*\****

## Whale Buoy “WH” Deployment

On July 12, 2021, US Wind, Inc. announced its coordination with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR), Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) on the deployment of an ocean buoy that monitors and provides daily reports of whales detected off Maryland's Atlantic coast.

The UMCES Lighted Research Buoy “WH”, known as the whale monitoring buoy, was deployed in position **38°18'10.8"N 74°38'42.0"W**, about 23 miles off the coast. The “WH” buoy will monitor the presence of a wide range of whales, dolphins, and porpoises who either call the ocean offshore Maryland home or pass during migration along the coast. The buoy system includes an underwater hydrophone that will record the marine mammal calls. A detection algorithm will analyze the calls to determine the presence of humpback, fin, sei, and the critically endangered North Atlantic Right whale species.

The data collected will be transmitted to shore, verified by UMCES scientists, and shared on the [buoy website](#). The data from the monitoring buoy will help further advance the ongoing research efforts of Dr. Helen Bailey with the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory at UMCES to understand the distribution of marine mammals off Maryland's Atlantic shoreline and characterize the current ambient noise environment.



For more information, please contact:  
Benjamin Cooper, Director of Marine Affairs: [b.cooper@uswindinc.com](mailto:b.cooper@uswindinc.com) or 410-340-9602