



Fishing Gear Loss Claim Procedure

US Wind recognizes that commercial fishing and the US Wind offshore wind project share common space and both harvest a resource to benefit the citizens of the Delmarva region and the United States. US Wind also recognizes that coexistence of these user groups in this shared space may result in interactions between US Wind and commercial fishing gear. We believe that with proper planning, outreach, communication and training, fishing gear interactions can be minimized. The following outlines US Wind's approach to managing this issue, and, in the unfortunate event of an interaction, we have implemented the following claim process.

Outreach - Sea Risk Solutions serves as the Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) for the US Wind project and will be the primary point of contact for fishery related issues. The FLO conducts extensive outreach and interacts with commercial and recreational fishermen, fishermen's associations, recreational tournament organizers, management authorities and support services to identify mariners that operate in areas where project activities are planned. Communications are established directly with identified fishermen, including methods for real-time communications, in order to mutually share operational information and updates. The FLO is available for direct telephone inquiries to assist with coordination of activity between fishing and project operations and to address any fishery-related questions and concerns.

Communications and Planning – Through the FLO, US Wind provides project Mariner Information Sheets (MIS) and information related to USCG Local Notice to Mariners to share operational updates, names of active vessels, activities being conducted and the specific areas of operation. This information can be found at www.uswindinc.com. US Wind utilizes local fishing vessels to serve as Scout Vessels to proactively survey upcoming work areas for fishing gear. If gear is located within the planned work area, we will try to identify and contact the owner of the gear. Each offshore vessel contracted by US Wind is advised to communicate early and often with fishing vessels operating in the area of survey activities, while always following USCG Rules of the Road.

Fisheries Briefing – US Wind contractors, including survey vessel Masters, bridge officers, and survey crew are briefed in local fisheries and their respective seasons and gear methods, how to identify and avoid fishing gear, and the importance of coordinating with local and regional fishermen. Fishing observations are recorded by onboard personnel, fixed gear positions are plotted for future reference and avoidance. Fishing vessel sightings and gear information are reported to the FLO for follow-up as necessary. Should an interaction occur, offshore contractors are briefed in how to respond to the event safely and responsibly, document the interaction, and report immediately to the FLO. The FLO will follow-up with the fishing vessel operator and gather feedback in order to improve communication on vessel activities.

Filing a Claim – If you have experienced gear loss or damage that you believe was caused by or was the result of US Wind activities, please follow the instructions below to submit a claim.



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- 1) As soon as safe to do so, report incident via cell phone or email to FLO:
 - Wolfgang Rain at (206) 427-6553 or wrain@searisksolutions.com and/or
 - Ron Larsen at (570) 242-5023 or ronlarsen@searisksolutions.com
- 2) Within 30 days of the incident submit a complete, legible, executed Claim Form to the above-listed FLOs.

Claim Review – All Claim Forms will be reviewed by the FLO and US Wind.

- 1) Within 30 days of receipt of a complete Claim Form, the Applicant will receive a written response which may include a request for additional information.
 - a. If the claim is confirmed, payment will be arranged with the Applicant.
 - b. If the claim is denied, a written explanation will be provided to the Applicant.

Gear conflict prevention methods should be followed by all parties. US Wind reserves the right to deny a claim should an applicant file multiple claims for gear loss in the same area. Any payment in connection with a filed claim will be considered a full release. US Wind reserves the right to request additional information to support the review of any claim.

[Claim Form Appears on the Next Page]



Fishing Gear Loss Claim Procedure Form

Name:

Address:

Homeport:

Vessel Name:

State License #:

Gear Type:

Business Name:

Phone #:

Email:

Vessel Documentation #:

Federal License #:

Date of Incident:

Last Time Gear Set/Hauled: _____

Specific Gear Location (Lat/Lon or TD): _____

Gear Description (Markings, Polyballs, Highflyers):

Description of Incident Causing Damage/Loss: _____

Was any of the gear retrieved?

How many gillnets, pots, highflyers, trawl, doors, ground cables, scissor legs, etc. are lost/damaged?

Vessel(s) Observed in Area (Yes/No). If yes, Vessel Name(s):

Describe normal gear configuration and fishing activity:

Total Claim Amount = \$ _____



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Additional information required to process Gear Loss Claim Form:

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- ☐ Copy of a valid fishing permit.
 - ☐ Proof of landing history through a VTR report, sales slip, or similar type of documentation that the vessel was fishing in the area for period of gear loss/damage.
 - ☐ Proof of ownership of the vessel capable of fishing area of loss, including photos.
 - ☐ Sales slip or gear invoice for replacement or repair gear (must be substantially similar to gear that was lost/damaged).
 - ☐ Location of gear loss/damage – either GPS coordinates and/or photo of chart plotter
 - ☐ Completed W-9 form (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>)

I, _____, as the Applicant hereunder authorize US Wind to make whatever reasonable inquiries and investigations it deems necessary to verify my Application and request for reimbursement. Applicant understands that submitting this Application does not guaranty payment. Applicant further agrees that if this claim is accepted and paid in its entirety, that acceptance of such payment constitutes full, final and complete payment for this particular claim and that neither US Wind, nor any of its affiliates shall have any further outstanding or ongoing obligation with respect to this particular claim and Applicant shall not, directly or indirectly, assert any claim, or commence, join in, prosecute, participate in, or fund any part of, any suit or other proceeding of any kind against US Wind, or any of its affiliates, based upon this particular claim. If a claim is denied in part, Applicant may accept payment for the undisputed part without waiving Applicant's right to appeal the disputed part of the claim. Applicant recognizes that submission of this Application does not affect Applicant's rights concerning matters other than those specifically identified in this particular Application.

I attest, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of my knowledge the information in this Application is true and correct.

Signature

Date



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Please return this Gear Loss Claim form and the all required information, including a completed W-9 form, by one of the below methods:

1) Delivering an electronic copy via email to the FLOs Wolfgang Rain (wrain@searisksolutions.com) and Ron Larsen (ronlarsen@searisksolutions.com) and with a copy to US Wind's Benjamin Cooper (b.cooper@uswindinc.com); or

2) Mail a copy to:

US Wind, Inc.
401 East Pratt Street, Suite 1810
Baltimore, MD 21202
ATTN: Benjamin Cooper

Please note that the payment cannot be processed without a signature and W-9 form. Upon acceptance of the Application and confirmation of the validity of the claim, payment will be issued within 10 business days of such confirmation.