

Compensatory Mitigation for Birds: Opening a Dialog

A side meeting of the NYSERDA State of the Science on Wildlife and Offshore Wind
Hosted by Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative Marine Spatial Planning Working Group

Date: Tuesday, July 26, 1-2:30 pm

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Description

The [Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative](#) (AMBC) Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Working Group is hosting an open meeting to encourage discussion and brainstorming about compensatory mitigation related to impacts of offshore wind development on birds that cannot be addressed through avoidance and minimization. This is the first step in an ongoing effort by the MSP to outline a proactive and strategic approach to compensatory mitigation planning, should it become necessary:

- Review & discuss current considerations for compensatory mitigation, including examples from other industries, and regulatory agencies
- Review & discuss MSP Working Group efforts to develop a list of relevant conservation actions that could be used in compensatory mitigation planning
- Identify potential partners, roles, and mechanisms (e.g., AMBC, RWSC, regulatory agencies, developers)
- Discuss considerations for future compensatory mitigation planning and next steps to develop working group recommendations to inform such planning

Objective

Brainstorm, discuss, and begin outlining considerations for a proactive, collaborative, and strategic approach to compensatory mitigation related to impacts of offshore wind development on birds that cannot be addressed through avoidance and minimization. This discussion is an initial step in a working group objective to draft a set of recommendations and alternatives that could be submitted to BOEM, USFWS, and the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative (RWSC) to help inform future mitigation plans for birds and offshore wind.



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Preliminary Reading

Prior to the discussion we suggest partners look over the following:

Section E (Financial Compensation) of BOEM's draft [Guidelines for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries on the Outer Continental Shelf Pursuant to 30 CFR Part 585](#)

These draft guidelines may provide useful context for compensatory mitigation within a broader mitigation framework, and identify related considerations that may also be relevant for birds.

Agenda

Presentations

Presentations will be up to 10 minutes each, plus 5 minutes for questions:

- 1:00 Introduction and background
Caleb Spiegel (USFWS)
- 1:15 Considerations and challenges for effective compensatory mitigation plans
Aspen Ellis (University of California, Santa Cruz)
- 1:30 USFWS perspective: Examples from land-based wind and considerations for offshore wind
Stephanie Vail-Muse (USFWS)
- 1:45 Example of a pooled research fund to inform wind-wildlife mitigation
Shilo Felton (Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute)

Discussion

Facilitated by Caleb Spiegel (USFWS) and Shilo Felton (REWI)

- 2:00 Challenge-driven approach to brainstorm conservation solutions to offset impacts
- 2:15 Identify potential partners, roles, and mechanisms to fund compensatory conservation
- 2:25 Next steps for drafting a compensatory mitigation plan



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