

Mariners Briefing

South Fork Wind Fisheries Monitoring Activity

Beam Trawl Survey:

Date of Notice: April 12th, 2022

Overview:

From October 2020 through October 2022, the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation will be working with a Rhode Island based commercial fishing vessel to complete a pre-construction beam trawl study for demersal fish and invertebrate species. Sampling will occur inside South Fork Wind (SFW) and at two control areas to the northeast and west of SFW (see attached chart). No catch will be sold from this study; all animals will be returned to the water as quickly as possible after biological sampling is complete, with the exception of a small number of fish that will be sacrificed for stomach sampling.

Survey details:

Purpose: To assess the impacts of offshore wind activities in SFW on the abundance, diet composition, and demographics of various demersal fish and invertebrate species compared to the control areas.

Vessels: *F/V Mister G* (see below for vessel details)

Sampling frequency: Sampling will occur monthly with 3 tows made at random locations in each of the 3 areas.

Gear configuration: 10 ft beam trawl with 4.5 in mesh and a 1 in codend liner. Tows are 20 minutes long at approximately 4 knots.

Gear marking: N/A

Communications: VHF channels 13 & 16 will be monitored as all times.

For more information, please contact:

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F/V Mister G

Captain: Mike Marchetti

Homeport: Point Judith, RI

