

Temporary U.S. Coast Guard Safety Zones: South Fork Wind Farm

What is a U.S. Coast Guard Safety Zone?

An area of water, approximately 500-meters (one quarter nautical mile radius) around each offshore wind monopile tower position, which may not be entered by any vessel except those with direct permission from the U.S. Coast Guard.



Scan here to view the USCG safety zone regulations

Why is there a Safety Zone?

The Coast Guard has determined potential safety risks associated with the extremely complex circumstances involved in the construction of offshore wind farms, including hydraulic pile driving, hammer operations, heavy lift operations, overhead cutting operations, potential falling debris, increased vessel traffic, and stationary barges in close proximity to the facilities and each other.

Based on these circumstances, the Coast Guard has determined that establishing safety zones within a 500-meter radius of each of the 13 monopile positions during their construction is warranted to ensure the safety of life, property, and the environment.

When are Safety Zones in effect?

Temporarily, usually up to 48 hours depending on weather and other factors. Enforcement periods and the exact locations of where the safety zone will be enforced will be announced in the weekly First Coast Guard District Local Notice to Mariners (NLM), published each Tuesday.

Mariners may subscribe to the LNM at the NAVCEN website <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov>.

Safety Zones may be in effect from the start of construction (June 2023), until the end of construction in Fall/Winter 2023. A USCG vessel or boat does not need to be on scene for the safety zone to be enforced.

Where are the Safety Zones?

The safety zones encompass a 500-meter radius around each tower (see Figure 1).

How do I know if a zone is being enforced?

There are two easy methods to determine if a safety zone is being enforced:

Listen: When mariners are underway, they should listen to the Coast Guard's safety broadcasts (normally announced on VHF 16 and broadcast on VHF channel 22A, or call 508-457-3211), speak to a Coast Guard asset if one is on scene, or speak to the South Fork Wind safety vessel on scene via VHF channels 13, 16, or 80A.

Read: Information is published online on both the USCG Coast Guard website and in Ørsted's Mariners Briefs.

Note: Ørsted uses a "Traffic Light" notification model.

Safety Zones being enforced, or expected to be enforced, within 72 hours are red, future zones not yet enforced but expected to be in the next seven days, are marked as yellow. All other areas are marked as green.

Can I get permission to travel through the Safety Zone?

When enforced, unauthorized vessels or persons will not be permitted to enter the safety zone without obtaining permission from the First Coast Guard District Commander or a designated representative. Vessels seeking to enter the safety zone must request authorization from the First Coast Guard District Commander or designated representative via VHF-FM channel 16 or by phone at 508-457-3211 (Sector Southeastern New England Command Center).

If permission is granted, all persons and vessels must comply with the instructions of the First Coast Guard District Commander or designated representative.

No offshore wind vessel or employee may grant permission to enter the safety zone.

Is the wind farm closed to navigation or fishing?

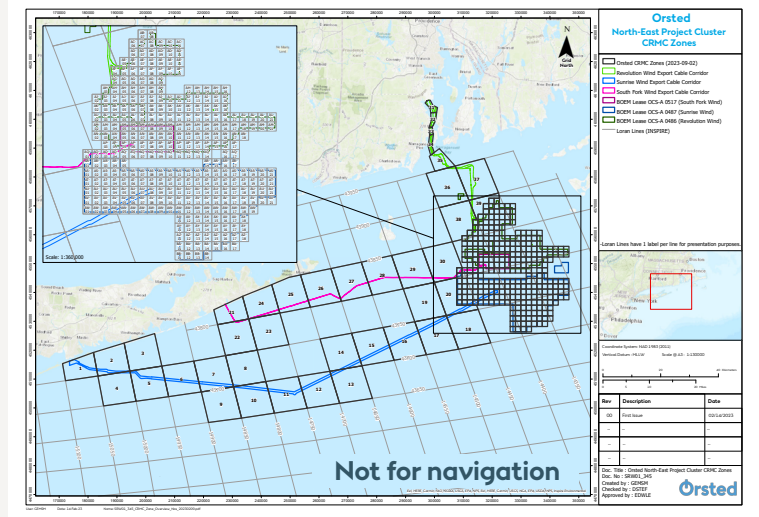
No, these Safety Zones are defined and temporary. During the enforcement period, areas outside of the safety zone are open to navigation and fishing. Mariners are always subject to the Rules of the Road, Rule 2, the Rule of Good Seamanship, and the General Prudential Rule.

About Ørsted

A global clean energy leader, Ørsted develops, constructs, and operates offshore and land-based wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, and bioenergy plants. Ørsted is the first energy company in the world with a science-based net-zero emissions target as validated by the Science Based Targets initiative.

In the United States, the company has approximately 650 employees and a growing portfolio of clean energy assets and partnerships that includes offshore wind energy, land-based wind energy, solar, storage technologies and e-fuels.

Figure 1



South Fork Wind Farm is bounded by purple.



A leader across the renewable energy sector in the United States, Ørsted holds the top position in offshore wind energy with approximately 5 gigawatts in development and operates America's first offshore wind farm, located off the coast of Block Island. Ørsted has a total U.S. land-based capacity of 5 gigawatts across wind, solar, storage technologies and e-fuels.

To learn more about the Ørsted U.S. business, visit us.ored.com or follow the company on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (@ØrstedUS).