## CVOW-C MARINER UPDATE 2023 #6: November 2023



#### **Recent Project Updates**

The first 8 monopiles (foundations) for the CVOW project have been delivered to Portsmouth Marine Terminal by the Heavy Lift Vessel M/V Sun Shine. This important milestone was the result of the hard work and collaboration between Dominion Energy, the Port of Virginia, and DEME Offshore, among others. Delivery of monopile foundation components will continue through 2023 and 2024. Commercial project construction offshore is expected to begin during the spring of 2024. See more images of the

monopile arrival here.





### **Ongoing Surveys**

#### **Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Identification Surveys**

UXO identification surveys are in progress with the M/V Subsea Responder II and M/V HOS Mystique. The M/V HOS Innovator will join the project in the coming weeks and the M/V Subsea Responder I will resume her activities after completing their regular dry dock maintenance and repair period in approximately 4-8 weeks. This activity will utilize underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to determine if targets previously identified as potential UXO are confirmed to be UXO some other metallic object. These activities continue through the 2023 calendar year.

M/V HOS Mystique will be conducting identification surveys nearshore (approximately 0.5NM south and extending 2.5NM southeast of Rudee Inlet) from late October into December (Area A). During these nearshore operational periods, two safety vessels will be available for deployment from Rudee Inlet if needed. Additionally, a ~0.25NM (500m) radius USCG Safety Zone will surround the survey operation to prevent unnecessary risk to the survey vessels, equipment, and other waterway users. Mariners are asked not to transit within the Safety Zone due to the deployed ROV tethered up to  $\sim 0.16$  NM ( $\sim 305$ m) from the vessel, and to communicate with the survey vessels on CH 16 if necessary.

The operation is currently ongoing in Areas A and C. At no point during these investigation surveys will any targets intentionally be physically disturbed, moved, or contacted. These surveys are investigative in nature only. Confirmed UXO are relayed to the cognizant maritime authorities.

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These vessels should not pose a hazard to any fixed gear commercial fishing operations. Any targets confirmed as UXO will be shared via the USCG 5th District Local Notice to Mariners.

- Mariners should be aware that these surveys have confirmed the presence of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) throughout areas A, B, and C, and should review the USCG LNM regarding bottom impacting activities in the vicinity of identified UXO.
- Mariners transiting or fishing in the operational area are requested to give a wide berth to survey vessels which are limited in their ability to maneuver when conducting ROV operations. Vessels restricted in their ability to maneuver means a vessel which from the nature of her work is restricted in her ability to maneuver as required by the <u>Rules</u> and is therefore unable to keep out of the way of another vessel. These vessels exhibit the appropriate dayshapes or lights and broadcast Automatic Identification System (AIS) status when so encumbered. Mariners should operate in a manner that will not endanger themselves, the survey vessel or its equipment a 0.5 NM closest point of approach or clearance is requested.
- Any confirmation of UXO through these activities strictly applies to the lease area and cable corridor. Mariners are advised of the extreme likelihood that UXO are present on the seabed throughout the Virginia Capes offshore and nearshore regions, and are reminded to exercise prudent seamanship when operating off the coast of Virginia.
- Vessels are requested to avoid anchoring in the identified survey area and fishing vessels deploying fixed fishing gear (e.g., pots, traps, gillnets, etc.) are requested to coordinate activities with the project's Fisheries Liaison to avoid damage to fishing gear and/or the survey equipment.



### Fisheries Resource Characterization Surveys

In partnership with the **Virginia Institute of Marine Science** (VIMS) and the **Virginia Marine Resource Commission** (VMRC), Dominion Energy is conducting resource assessment studies for Black Sea Bass, Channeled Whelk, and Atlantic Surfclam in the project area.

- Black Sea Bass: The study consists of 8-strings of ventless traps with 6-traps per string. Sampling once per month with a 48-hour soak utilizing acoustic release buoys to recover gear. The chart above on the right displays sampling area, which includes locations south of the lease area. The study is ongoing, utilizing the VIMS **R/V Bay Eagle**, and will continue for the next 18 months.
- **Channeled Whelk:** The study proposes to use 18-strings of 7 pots, a 48-hour soak time, and recovery by acoustic release buoys. This cooperative study will utilize two local commercial whelk fishermen and their vessels. It is expected to begin in November 2023 and continue for the next 18 months. The study area has not yet been defined and will be shared when available.

**The Nature Conservancy** is planning a fish tagging study that will take place in the vicinity of the existing CVOW pilot project turbines. More information on this study will be provided when details are available.

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**Project Vessels** 



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We remain committed to maintaining communications with fishing communities and other mariners in the area via these periodic updates, informational speaking engagements and dock visits. This information is also posted on the **CVOW Website**.