

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Institute of Standards and Technology****Community Engagement on the Open Security Controls Assessment Language (OSCAL)**

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is seeking to identify stakeholders involved in ongoing or planned activities, including but not limited to standardization, education, and adoption, related to the Open Security Controls Assessment Language (OSCAL).

**DATES:** NIST will accept written questions for clarification, comments, and/or pertinent feedback until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on August 8, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Community members involved in ongoing or planned OSCAL-related efforts can submit written questions for clarification, comments, and/or pertinent feedback via email to: [oscal@nist.gov](mailto:oscal@nist.gov) or by mail to the contact identified below. Submissions via email should include “OSCAL Engagement” in the subject line of the message.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michaela Iorga via email to [oscal@nist.gov](mailto:oscal@nist.gov) or by phone at 301-975-8431, or by mail to National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, Attn: Michaela Iorga, ITL/CSD.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Background:* The Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-283, 44 U.S.C. 3554) emphasized the importance of information security to the economic and national security interests of the United States. FISMA requires agency heads to report on the adequacy and effectiveness of their enterprise’s information security policies, procedures, and practices. For two decades, agencies worked diligently to implement the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-130: “Managing Information as a Strategic Resource,” employing *Authorization to Operate (ATO)* processes reliant on paper-based documentation, manual assessment processes, and non-interoperable proprietary automation processes and tools that do not support security data portability.

NIST initiated the development of the

Language (OSCAL) to support automated (or computer-assisted) assessment and risk management through operationally sustainable means and to fill federal, national, and international gaps in security assessment automation by providing a set of data-centric, regulatory-agnostic, technical specifications capable of expressing security information in machine-readable formats (XML, JSON or YAML), in support of risk management automation.

The NIST OSCAL program has been working with the public to develop a standardized, open-source, actionable data framework referred to as OSCAL, OSCAL models, or OSCAL framework, and a service interface and proof-of-concept tools for representing and exchanging high-fidelity controls-based IT system risk management data between applications hosted by multiple organizations. This OSCAL framework, the service interface, and tools provide the foundation for a high degree of automation around assessing the underlying system implementation state and the extent to which this state ensures that security and privacy controls are implemented and remain effective.

The immediate acceptance and successful international adoption of the OSCAL framework calls for a long-term NIST vision of OSCAL evolution and incremental maturity into open-source standards developed by industry-accepted standards development organizations. OSCAL will also promote innovation around applying machine learning, robotic process automation, and new knowledge domains to the IT system risk management space.

*Community Engagement Areas:* NIST seeks to identify community members involved in ongoing or planned activities, including but not limited to standardization, education, and adoption, related to OSCAL. Individual and organizational community members with ongoing or planned activities in these areas may respond to this notice to describe these activities and inform NIST’s planning and coordination efforts across the OSCAL program.

Exemplary activities could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assessing OSCAL maturity level readiness for international standardization. The category could include development of open-source OSCAL content for community’s consumption based on the OSCAL latest released set of models (7), development of tests or OSCAL content exercising the latest prototype OSCAL models.

- Developing enhancements or new OSCAL models as deemed necessary by the community.

- Developing OSCAL educational material (tutorials, videos) for all OSCAL-adoption levels, from novice to advanced.

- Organizing OSCAL events such as conferences, webinars, workshops for security experts, assessors, auditors and developers implementing OSCAL-based solutions.

- Establishing OSCAL incubators (labs) that will develop proof of concept implementations (pilots), tools and adoption best practices guidance.

- Implementing OSCAL solutions for internal purpose.

- Implementing OSCAL Governance Risk and Compliance (GRC) tools.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 272(b)(10).

**Alicia Chambers,**

*NIST Executive Secretariat.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XE074]

**Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the New England Wind Project, Offshore Massachusetts**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of letter of authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, and implementing regulations, notification is hereby given that a Letter of Authorization (LOA) has been issued to Avangrid Renewables, LLC (Avangrid), the parent company of the original applicant, Park City Wind, LLC (Park City Wind), LLC, for the taking of marine mammals incidental to the construction of the New England Wind Project (hereafter known as the “Project”).

**DATES:** The LOA is effective from March 27, 2025, through March 26, 2030.

**ADDRESSES:** The LOA and supporting documentation are available online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Karolyn Lock, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

The MMPA prohibits the “take” of marine mammals, with certain exceptions. Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce (as delegated to NMFS) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made, regulations are promulgated (when applicable), and public notice and an opportunity for public comment are provided.

An authorization for incidental taking shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for taking for subsistence uses (where relevant). If such findings are made, NMFS must prescribe the permissible methods of taking; “other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact” on the affected species or stocks and their habitat, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds, and areas of similar significance, and on the availability of the species or stocks for taking for certain subsistence uses (referred to as “mitigation”); and requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such takings. The MMPA defines “take” to mean harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal (16 U.S.C. 1362(13); 50 CFR 216.103). Level A harassment is defined as any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (16 U.S.C. 1362(18); 50 CFR 216.3). Level B harassment is defined as any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (16 U.S.C. 1362(18); 50 CFR 216.3). Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA and the implementing regulations at 50 CFR part 216, subpart I authorize NMFS to propose and, if appropriate, promulgate regulations and issue associated LOA(s).

On June 21, 2024, NMFS promulgated a final rule (89 FR 52222) responding to

a request from the applicant for authorization to take small numbers of marine mammals (39 species comprising 39 stocks). After reviewing the request and making the required findings, NMFS is authorizing the take, by harassment only, of 38 species, representing 38 stocks (19 species by Level A harassment and all 38 species by Level B harassment) incidental to select construction activities occurring in Federal and State waters off of Massachusetts, specifically within and around the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lease Area OCS-A 0534, OCS-A 0561, the southwest (SW) portion of Lease Area OCS-A 0501 (collectively referred to as the Lease Area), and along an export cable routes to sea-to-shore transition points (collectively, the Project Area) over the course of 5 years (March 27, 2025 through March 26, 2030). The specified activities are impact pile driving, vibratory pile driving, and drilling of wind turbine generator (WTG) and electrical service platform (ESP) foundations; high-resolution geophysical (HRG) site characterization surveys; detonation of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) or munitions and explosives of concern (MECs); fisheries and benthic monitoring surveys; placement of scour protection; trenching, laying, and burial activities associated with the installation of the export cable from the ESP(s) to shore based converter stations and inter-array cables between WTG foundations; vessel transit within the specified geographical region to transport crew, supplies, and materials; and WTG operations.

Marine mammals exposed to elevated noise levels during foundation pile driving and/or UXO/MEC detonation, may be taken by Level A harassment (limited to blue whales, fin whales, humpback whales, minke whales, sei whales, sperm whales, dwarf sperm whale, pygmy sperm whale, Atlantic spotted dolphin, Atlantic white-sided dolphin, common bottlenose dolphin, common dolphin, long-finned pilot whales, short-finned pilot whale, Risso’s dolphin, harbor porpoise, gray seal, harbor seal, and harp seal). Marine mammals exposed to elevated noise levels during impact pile driving, vibratory pile driving, and drilling during foundation installation, UXO/MEC detonation, and site characterization surveys may be taken by Level B harassment (all 38 stocks). For reasons described in the final rule,

no mortality or serious injury of any marine mammal is anticipated to occur or authorized. Further, for reasons described in the final rule, no take by Level A harassment of several species, including the North Atlantic right whale, is expected to occur or authorized.

**Authorization**

In accordance with the final rule (89 FR 52222, June 21, 2024; see 50 CFR 217.326), we have issued a LOA to Avangrid authorizing the take, by harassment, of marine mammals incidental to specified activities within the specified geographical region. As previously stated, no mortality or serious injury of any marine mammal species is anticipated to occur or authorized. The incidental takes authorized herein are the same as those analyzed in the final rule (89 FR 52222, June 21, 2024). Takes of marine mammals will be minimized through the following planned mitigation and monitoring measures, as applicable for each specified activity: (1) implementation of spatio-temporal work restrictions; (2) use of multiple NMFS-approved Protected Species Observers (PSOs) to visually observe for marine mammals (with any detection within specifically designated zones triggering a delay or shutdown, as applicable); (3) use of NMFS-approved passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) operators to acoustically detect marine mammals during foundation installation activities, with a focus on detecting baleen whales (with any detection within designated zones triggering a delay or shutdown, as applicable); (4) implementation of clearance and shutdown zones; (5) use of soft-start prior to the start of foundation impact pile driving; (6) use of noise attenuation technology; (7) use of situational awareness monitoring for marine mammal presence; (8) conducting sound field verification during foundation installation and UXO/MEC detonation; (9) use of ramp-up acoustic sources during HRG surveys; and (10) implementation of several vessel strike avoidance measures (e.g., speed and separation distance measures) to reduce the risk of a vessel interaction with a marine mammal. Additionally, Avangrid is required to submit reports frequently to NMFS. Through adaptive management, NMFS may modify the LOA’s mitigation, monitoring, or reporting measures, based on new information, when appropriate.

As described in the preamble of the final rule, NMFS has determined that the take authorized in the LOA is of small numbers of marine mammals, will

have a negligible impact on marine mammal stocks, will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the affected marine mammal stock for subsistence uses, and the mitigation measures provide a means of affecting the least practicable adverse impact on the affected stocks and their habitat.

Dated: July 22, 2024.

**Kimberly Damon-Randall,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; NOAA Satellite Customer Questionnaire**

**AGENCY:** National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before September 23, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments to Adrienne Thomas, NOAA PRA Officer, at [Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov](mailto:Adrienne.thomas@noaa.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0648-0227 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Mark Turner and Toby Hutchings at [Mark.W.Turner@noaa.gov](mailto:Mark.W.Turner@noaa.gov), 301-817-4446 and [Toby.Hutchings@noaa.gov](mailto:Toby.Hutchings@noaa.gov), 240-569-0871, Suitland Federal Center,

4231 Suitland Road, Bldg. NSOF, Suitland, MD 20746.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

This request is for the extension of a current information collection.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) operates a minimum of four meteorological satellite imagery transmission systems, two from geostationary operational environmental (GOES) satellites and two from Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) satellites. In addition, a commercially broadcast data stream and legacy/backup/standby polar-orbiting satellites continue to be operated as their health permits. The data transmitted are available worldwide, and any user can establish a ground receiving station for reception of the data without the prior consent, notification, or other approval from NOAA. With such an open access policy, it is currently not possible to have a comprehensive understanding of the range and numbers of the data users and application of the data received and/or used. The purpose of collecting the information contained in the "Questionnaire" is to satisfy the following objectives: (1) To comply with international agreements such as the Department of Commerce (DOC)/NOAA's memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), so that NOAA can provide environmental satellite data and processed satellite data products to the public domain, and (2) To improve Government efficiencies of data dissemination using cost-saving technologies to minimize the expenditure of personnel and financial resources. The NOAA Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information is also pertinent to this information collection. This policy was developed to strengthen the partnership among government, academia, and the private sector, which provides the nation with high quality environmental information.

The collection of information from a respondent is initiated when an individual contacts National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) via letter, telephone, fax or email, or when they visit a web page. If the nature of the contact indicates the individual may operate a satellite receiving station for the acquisition of NOAA satellite data or may use NOAA satellite data or services, the individual is requested to complete an on-line electronic questionnaire, which is found on a NOAA internet site. The questionnaire

is completed at the respondent's discretion. The information received is used by NOAA for short-term operations and long-term planning. Collection of this data assists in complying with the terms of the MOU with the WMO, MOU with DOC, and NOAA on areas of common interest and other international agreements.

**II. Method of Collection**

Information will be collected via an online questionnaire.

**III. Data**

*OMB Control Number:* 0648-0227.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission [extension of a current information collection].

*Affected Public:* Federal government, Not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 30.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 6 minutes per response.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 30 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

**IV. Request for Comments**

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we