



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Capabilities

Whether for exploration and extraction, transportation or energy generation, the continued and growing interest in coastal and ocean development requires close attention to the potential impacts. When projects in coastal or offshore waters pose potentially significant impacts, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) is required.

Scientists at Woods Hole Group provide a range of services to our clients seeking to complete EIAs. Our team includes marine and coastal scientists, oceanographers, and engineers with experience evaluating the physical and biological conditions on a site, and potential impacts associated with development projects.

Our expertise focuses on several technical areas relevant to EIAs: resource evaluation, impact assessment, met-ocean data analysis, sustainability reporting, risk communication, and environmental monitoring.

Areas of Expertise.

Environmental Baseline Studies

Our ecologists and engineers prepare Environmental Baseline Studies to provide an accurate understanding of the habitats in which a proposed project might be developed, and the marine resources that may be affected. We define the nature and extent of potential impacts, and evaluate options for minimizing impacts. Geographic information systems (GIS) are used to present data and communicate findings to a broad audience.

Metocean Data Analysis

Our metocean work includes collecting, analyzing and integrating meteorological and oceanographic (metocean) data into the assessment to describe operational and extreme wind, wave, and current statistics that support the development of design criteria used in construction and operation of the offshore facilities. This work also provides insights into weather related hazards and requirements for safety planning.

- *Coastal Sciences, Engineering & Planning*
- *Oceanography & Measurement Systems*
- *Applied Ecology & Sustainability*



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Sustainability Reporting

Increasingly our work includes sustainability reporting, including evaluation of project alternatives with respect to carbon emissions, climate change, and vulnerability of facilities in coastal flood risk areas. Working with engineering firms and regulatory agencies, our Team can determine the lowest impact alternative among a number of options for a proposed project.

Risk Communication

As part of EIA projects, Woods Hole Group often facilitates discussions among diverse groups of technical experts from environmental resource agencies, academia, and the professional consulting realm. With expertise in a broad range of marine and coastal disciplines, our staff are highly effective in facilitating technical discussions, summarizing relevant information, and presenting it concisely for a diverse audience.

Monitoring

Our Team can develop and implement monitoring programs to evaluate environmental conditions and impacts over the life of the project.

Representative Projects.

- 1) Hubline pipeline project:** evaluation of existing conditions and potential impacts associated with an underwater natural gas pipeline extension offshore of Massachusetts.
- 2) Northeast Gateway Energy Bridge:** evaluation of existing conditions and potential impacts associated with an offshore Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) terminal.
- 3) Fire Island Breach:** evaluation of physical and biological resources affected by the 2014 breach that occurred during Super Storm Sandy.

The Woods Hole Group Team always works closely with clients to understand proposed projects, identify potential impacts early in the process, and develop innovative, sustainable approaches for mitigating or avoiding impacts entirely.