

# OFFSHORE WIND AND THE JONES ACT



The Jones Act, which regulates maritime commerce, requires U.S.-flagged vessels for transporting merchandise. The Jones Act treats construction activities separately and does not require U.S.-flagged vessels.



■ The Jones Act requires that U.S.-flagged vessels transport merchandise, such as wind turbine blades, between two U.S. "points." U.S.-flagged vessels are built in the U.S., registered in the U.S., and primarily crewed by Americans.



■ U.S. "points" are considered to include U.S. ports, offshore wind turbines, and jack-up installation vessels fixed to the sea floor. A wind turbine component loaded in the U.S. — one point — and transported to an offshore wind project — a second point — must be done on a U.S.-flagged vessel.



■ There are **18** different types of vessels needed to build offshore wind.

■ **16** of those vessel types are available in the Jones Act fleet. There are two types of heavy-lift installation vessels, floating and jack-up, that are not available in the Jones Act fleet.

■ When an offshore wind turbine component is loaded in a U.S. port onto a U.S.-flagged feeder vessel, the U.S.-flagged vessel will **transport** the merchandise to the foreign installation vessel. To perform installation, the installation vessel will lift the merchandise from the Jones Act vessel to install it on the turbine foundation.

■ Foreign installation vessels can transit from turbine to turbine to do **construction** activities.



■ There are no U.S.-flagged heavy-lift installation vessels to construct the current generation of offshore wind turbines. Approximately **12** of these very specialized vessels are available worldwide, and they are all foreign-flagged. However, Dominion Energy is leading a consortium to invest \$500 million to build the first U.S. offshore wind heavy-lift installation vessel in Brownsville, Texas.

■ The U.S. offshore wind industry has already contracted with U.S.-flagged vessels such as: survey vessels, lift boats, offshore supply vessels, crew transfer vessels, and more. The offshore wind industry is creating a brand new market for U.S.-flagged vessels and looks forward to continuing to contract with the Jones Act fleet.

**The Offshore Wind Industry looks forward to continuing to contract with the Jones Act fleet.**