For this project, the Service recommends that 3 years of preconstruction studies be completed using a combination of radar (horizontal and vertical), acoustic, thermal imaging, direct field sampling, and visual (boat, barge, and aircraft) observation. The remote sensing techniques (such as radar and acoustic) should be operated continuously 365 days per year using a combination of land-based and ocean-based facilities. The visual observations should be conducted when the radar is being operated on a jack-up barge or other platform. The additional observations would be those necessary or advisable for the purpose of ground-truthing the remote sensing data, to assist other study elements such as weather-related effects, and to identify birds during periods of major movement or migration. Ideally, the study protocol will evaluate the response of avian use to weather events. This should include avian response prior to and after storm events, inclement weather such as rain, drizzle, and fog, and response of migrants
to storms, frontal movements, and inclement weather.

Currently, the land based radar unit combined with unreliable or infrequent boat based radar data, falls short of providing sufficient information. If adequate data cannot be collected by a boat based radar unit, then insufficient information will be available to document wildlife use of the project airspace. This will result in an inadequate data set from which project-related risk can be accurately predicted.