



Revised Massachusetts EA and FONSI

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Environmental Assessment

- BOEM published a Notice of Availability (NOA) of an Environmental Assessment (EA) on November 2, 2012.
- 25 comments received on the EA
 - Comments focused on endangered species, standard operating conditions, the WEA and alternatives, marine resources, wind energy, and the environmental review process.

Environmental Assessment

- As a result of the comments received, BOEM revised the EA.
- The NOA of the Revised EA was published on June 18, 2014.
- Notable changes in the Revised EA:
 - New information incorporated
 - Refined Standard Operating Conditions
 - Response to commenters

Standard Operating Conditions

- Developed through ESA Section 7 consultations with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Designed to minimize or eliminate potential impacts to protected species
- A few examples include vessel strike avoidance measures, pile driving "soft start" requirements, exclusion zones, protection species observers and reporting requirements
- All of the SOC's can be found in Appendix B of the EA
- Incorporated into the leases as Addendum C

Finding of No Significant Impact

- BOEM determined that no reasonably foreseeable significant impacts are expected to occur as a result of the proposed action and alternatives
- All impacts were determined to be negligible to minor
- No EIS is required and a FONSI has been issued

Status of Consultations

- Section 7 Endangered Species Act
 - On November 2, 2012, USFWS concurred with BOEM's determination that proposed action is not likely to adversely affect species considered
 - BOEM received NMFS Biological Opinion on April 10, 2013 which determined that the proposed action may adversely affect but it is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species considered
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act
 - NMFS concurred with several BOEM SOC's on November 29, 2012 but has requested to participate in the review of individual SAPs in order to make final conclusions regarding the impacts to EFH

Status of Consultations

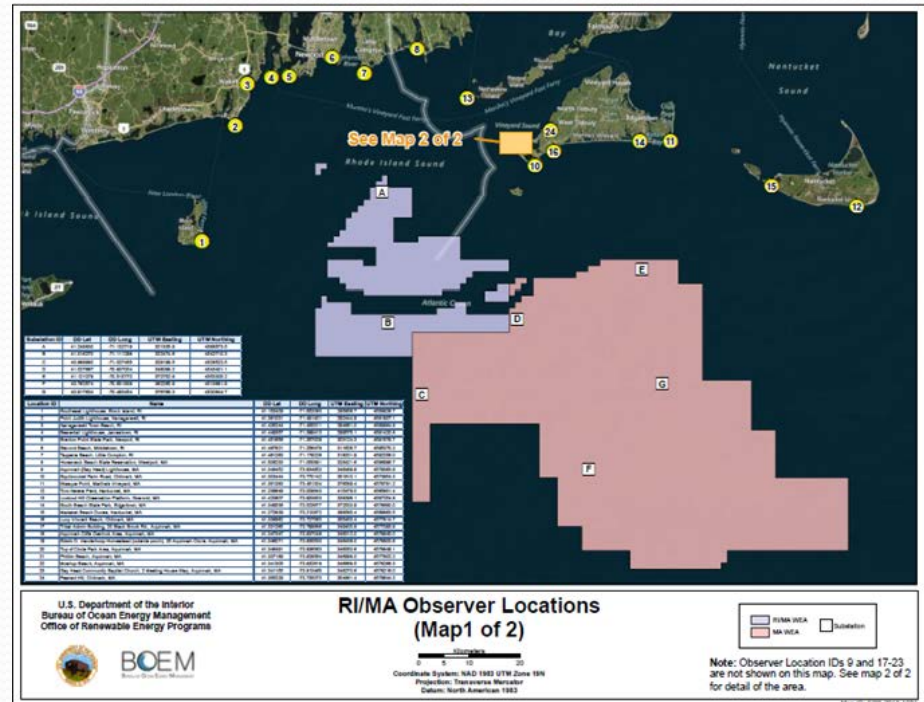
- National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)
 - BOEM prepared a programmatic agreement (PA) to guide its Section 106 activities for the undertakings under the Proposed Action
 - The PA provides for continued Section 106 consultation through both the leasing process and approval of SAPs.
 - Although not all parties invited to participate in the development of the PA chose to sign the agreement, the PA has been executed with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officers of RI and MA and is in effect

Status of Consultations

- Coastal Zone Management Act
 - BOEM prepared a consistency determination (CD) and sent it to both the MA and RI
 - BOEM determined that the activities in the Proposed Action are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the provisions identified as enforceable by the Coastal Management Programs of MA and RI
 - MA and RI have 60 days from the receipt of the CD to concur with or object to the CD or to request an extension

Ongoing Environmental Work

- Cooperative agreement with Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
 - Marine mammal, sea turtle, and bird surveys
- BOEM Environmental Studies Program
 - Recreation and tourism survey study
 - Visual Simulations for Offshore Massachusetts and Rhode Island WEAs



For Additional Information:

<http://www.boem.gov/Commercial-Wind-Leasing-Offshore-Massachusetts/>

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