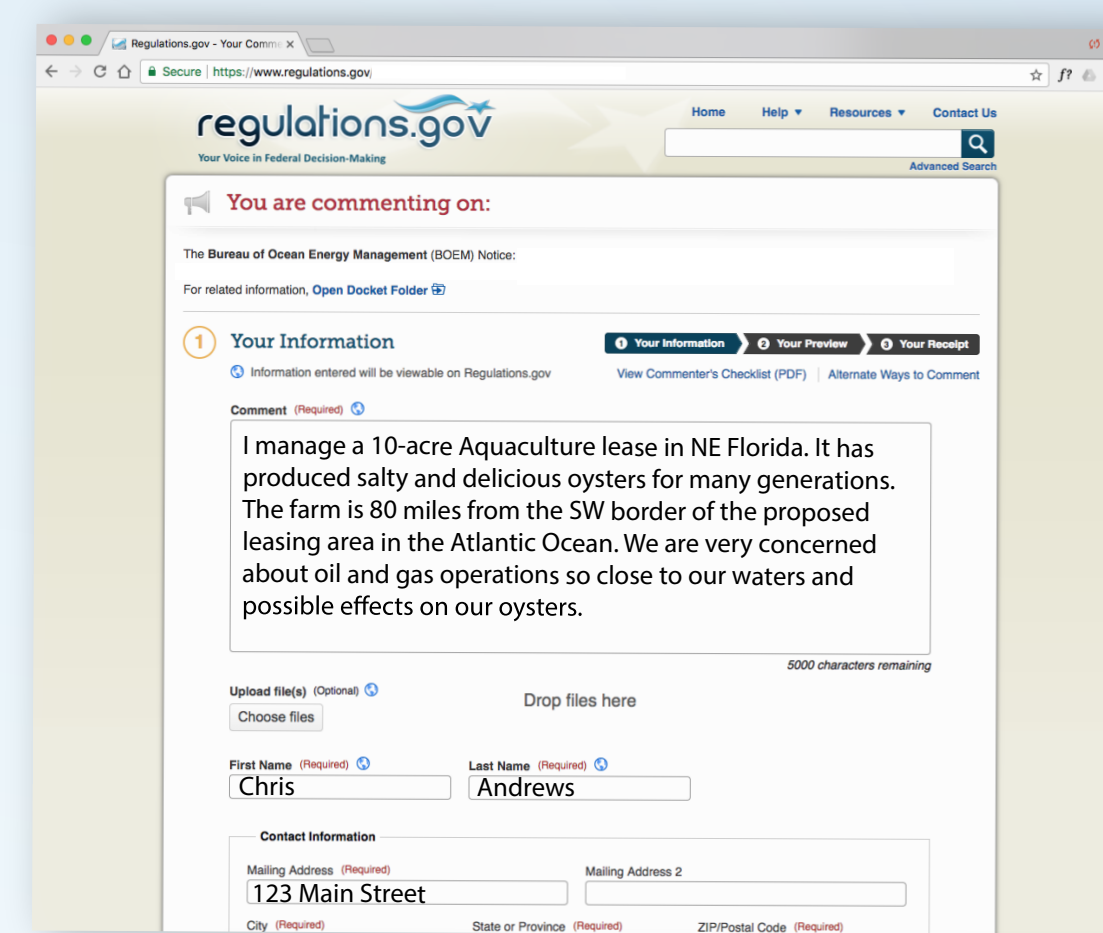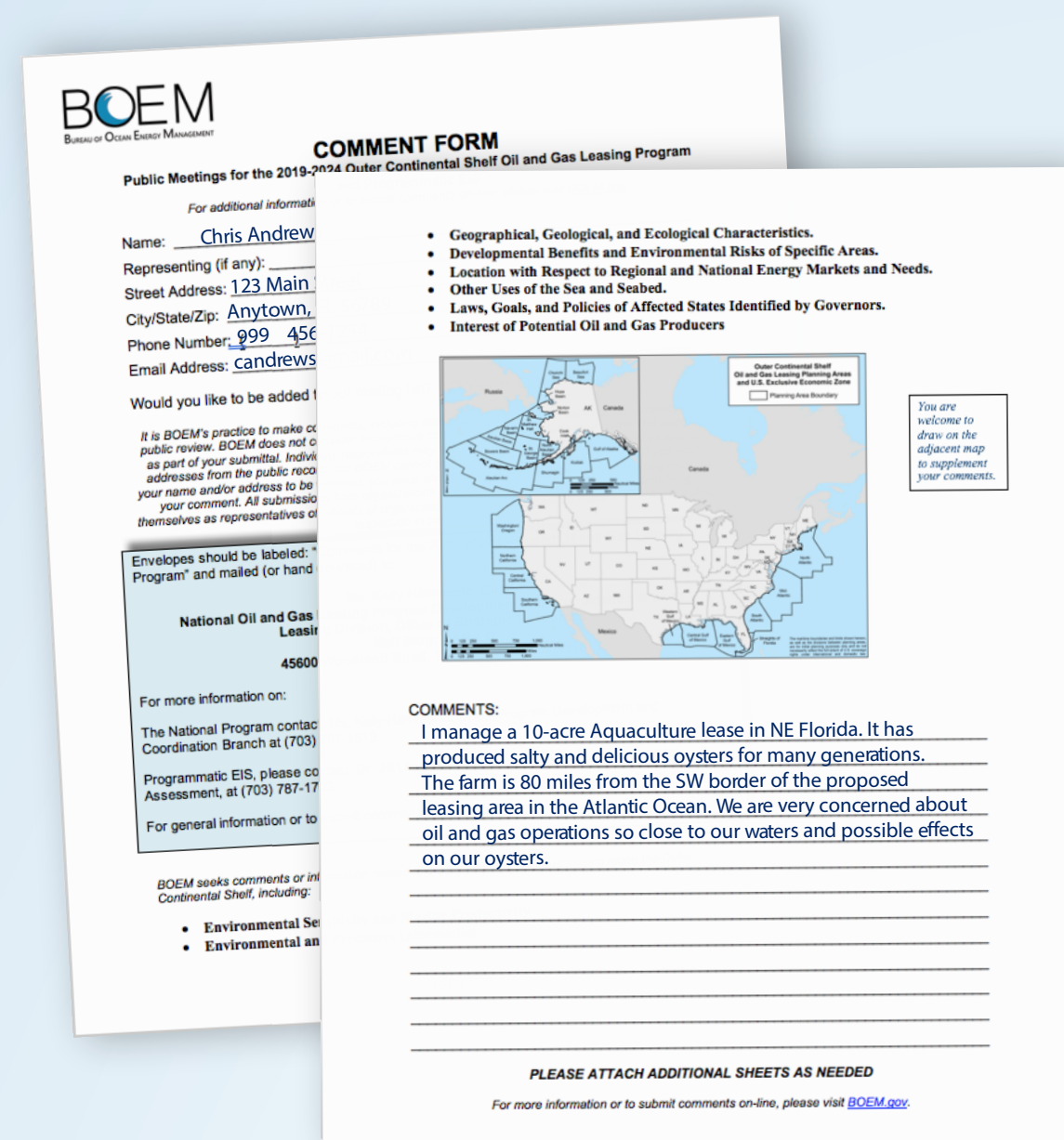# Tips to Provide Helpful Comments

Public input assists BOEM with evaluating potential impacts of oil and gas development on the Outer Continental Shelf. This input helps inform the Secretary of the Interior, who is charged with determining where and when lease sales for oil and gas may be offered during the National OCS Program.

Helpful Comments

- Are fact based
- Include links to data or research
- Provide specifics regarding impacts to the ocean and coasts, the plants and animals, to people, and how people use the ocean
- Provide specifics on where and when the ocean is utilized

[OIL AND GAS COMPANY] would not pursue oil and gas development in the Arctic, but would be interested in leasing in the southeast Atlantic.

Fact

Three nautical miles off the coast of Wilmington, NC is a 10 km stretch that is popular for open water swimmers from May to August. Please consider this recreational use in your review.

Fact & location specific

The coast of the Beaufort Sea is an important denning habitat for polar bears. Experience with captive female polar bears suggests that they may be particularly sensitive to noise and disturbance during maternity denning during the fall and winter. Research on this topic is available at [LINK].

Data / research & impacts

I manage a 10-acre aquaculture lease in NE Florida. It has produced salty and delicious oysters for many generations. The farm is 80 miles from the SW border of the proposed leasing area in the Atlantic Ocean. We are very concerned about oil and gas operations so close to our waters and possible effects on our oysters.

Fact, impacts & location specific

Non specific

Oil and gas development hurts the environment and will cause me to lose business.

Opinion

I support oil and gas drilling.

Opinion

I do not like oil and gas drilling.

Less Helpful Comments

- Only support or oppose the program
- Do not provide enough specificity or substance for BOEM to evaluate the impact
- Provide the same or similar information as other comments (these comments are grouped together)

boem.gov/National-Program/