

Welcome to the
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Offshore Wind Energy
Public Meeting

At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to learn about offshore wind energy planning in this area, as well as to provide your comments.

Tonight's Agenda

Open House..... 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Presentation and Question and Answer..... 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Poster Session and Map Exercise..... 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.





New York Environmental Assessment

Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment
Activities

June 2016

Brian Krevor, Environmental Protection Specialist

Office of Renewable Energy Programs
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

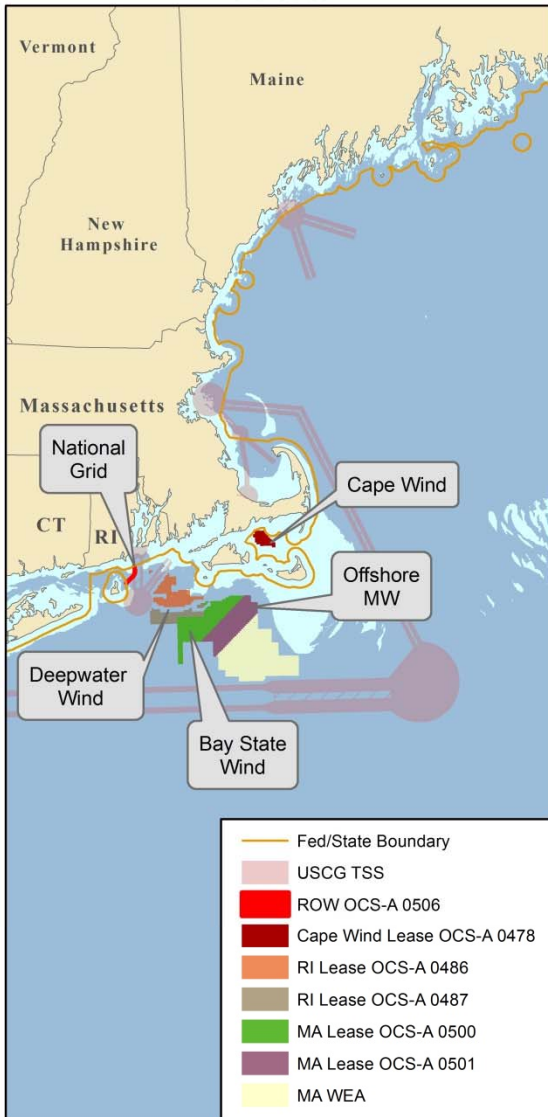
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



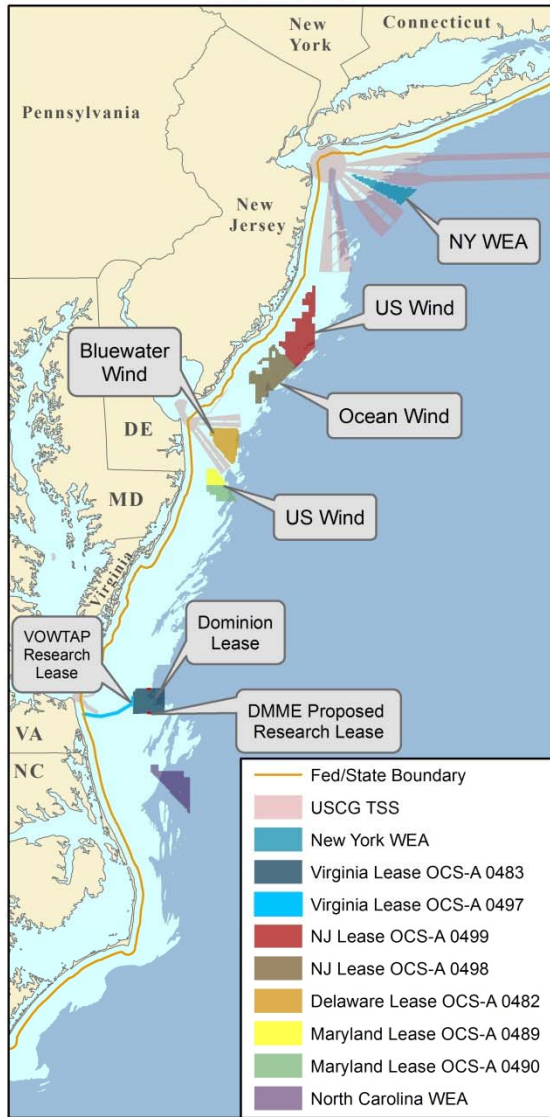
Atlantic OCS Renewable Energy - Massachusetts to Florida



Northeast



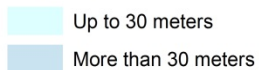
Mid-Atlantic



Southeast



Bathymetry



Overview of New York Milestones

Per **Competitive Leasing Process** outlined in 30 CFR 585

- Unsolicited commercial nomination received – Sept. 28, 2011
- Request for Interest (RFI) – January 4, 2013
- Call for Information and Nominations (Call) and Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) – May 28, 2014
- Area Identification (Area ID) – completed March 16, 2016
- **Notice of Availability of EA – June 6, 2016**
- **Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) – June 6, 2016**
- Final Sale Notice (FSN)
- Lease Sale





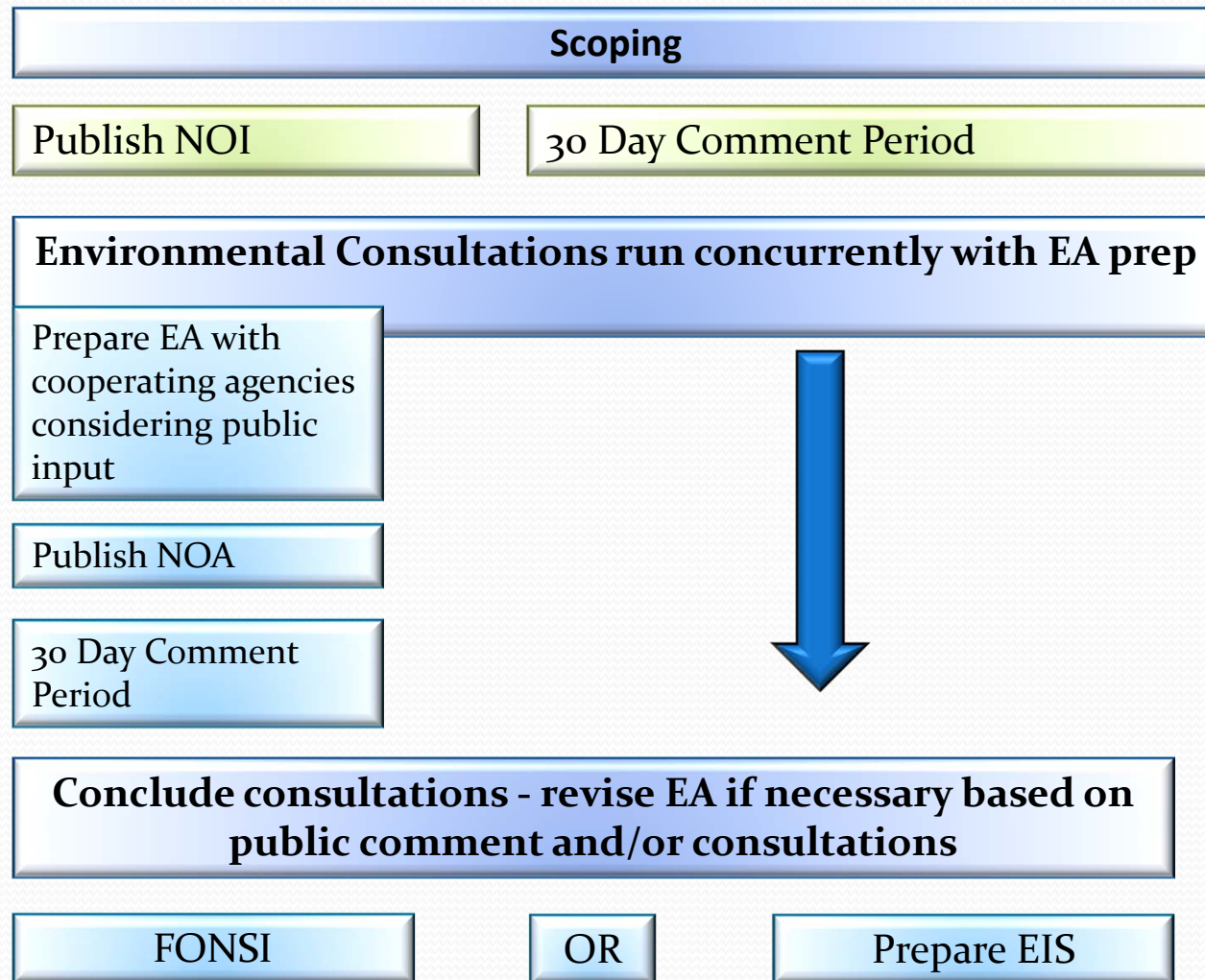
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA is a procedural law that requires Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed action(s), and reasonable alternatives, prior to making decisions.

- **Major Actions/Decision Points**

- Lease Issuance (Survey Work)
- Plan Approval (Site Assessment, Construction and Operation, or General Activities)
- Decommissioning Activities

Overview: Standard NEPA Process



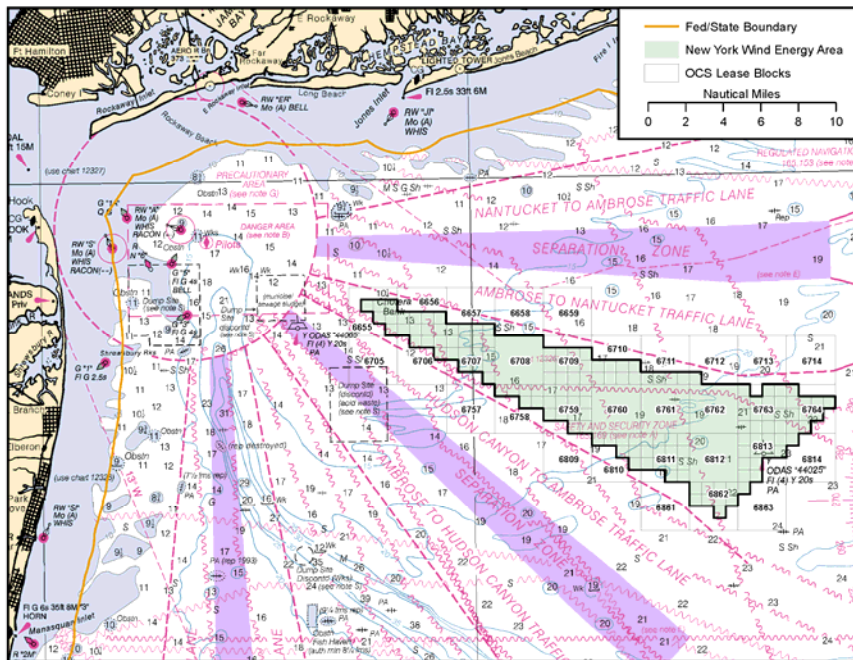


What is an Environmental Assessment (EA)?

- An EA is a concise public document which:
 - Briefly provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS);
 - Aids an agency's compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary (better alternatives and mitigation measures) and;
 - Facilitates preparation of an EIS when one is necessary.

New York Environmental Assessment

- Notice of Availability published on June 6, 2016 (Docket No. BOEM-2016-0038)
- 30-day public comment period (ending July 6, 2016)



Proposed Action: What is considered

- Lease Issuance
- Associated site characterization surveys
- Subsequent site assessment activities



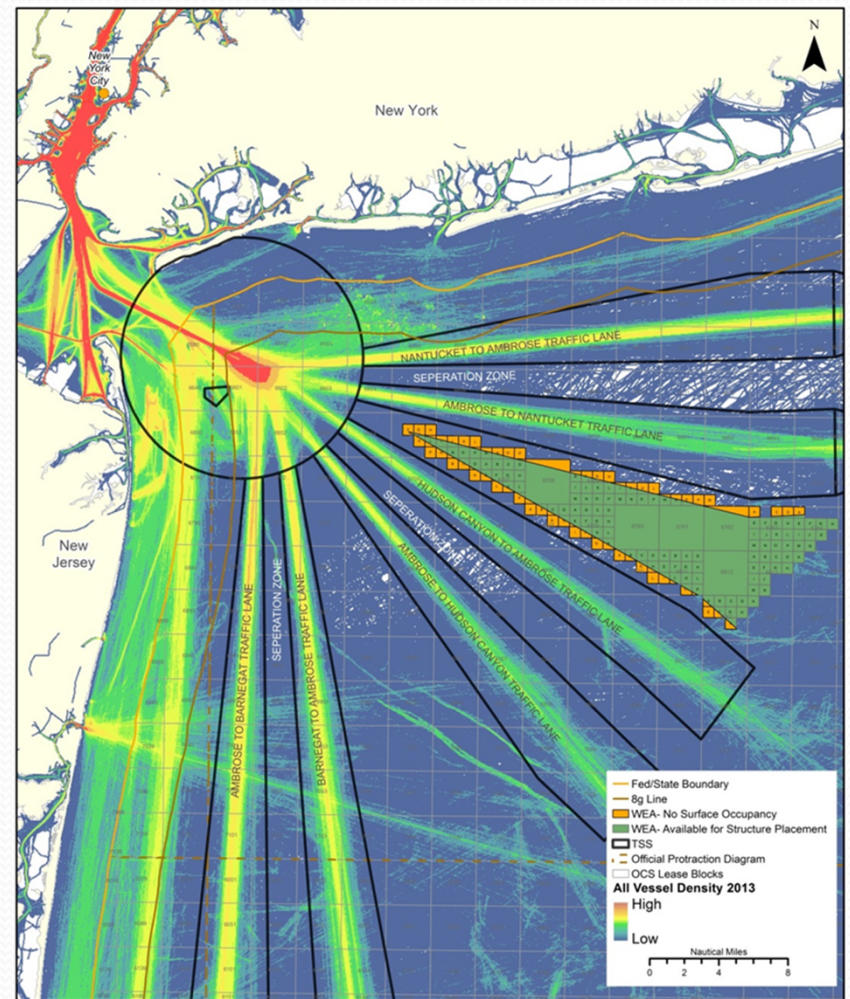


Proposed Action: What is NOT considered

- Installation, operation, and decommissioning of a commercial wind energy facility
- If an eventual lessee were to submit a construction and operations plan, BOEM would conduct a project specific environmental analysis that would likely take the form of an EIS

Other Alternatives

- Alternative B – Leasing of the Whole WEA, Restricting Site Assessment Structure Placement within 2 NM of a TSS
- Alternative C – No Action
- Others alternatives were considered but not analyzed in the EA as they did not meet the purpose and need and/or they were not reasonable. These are outlined in Section 2.4 of the EA



Impact Producing Factors

- Vessel Traffic
- Noise (Pile Driving, Surveys)
- Vessel Collisions/Allisions
- Bottom Disturbance
- Emissions and Discharges
- Lighting
- Visual and Aesthetic Interference

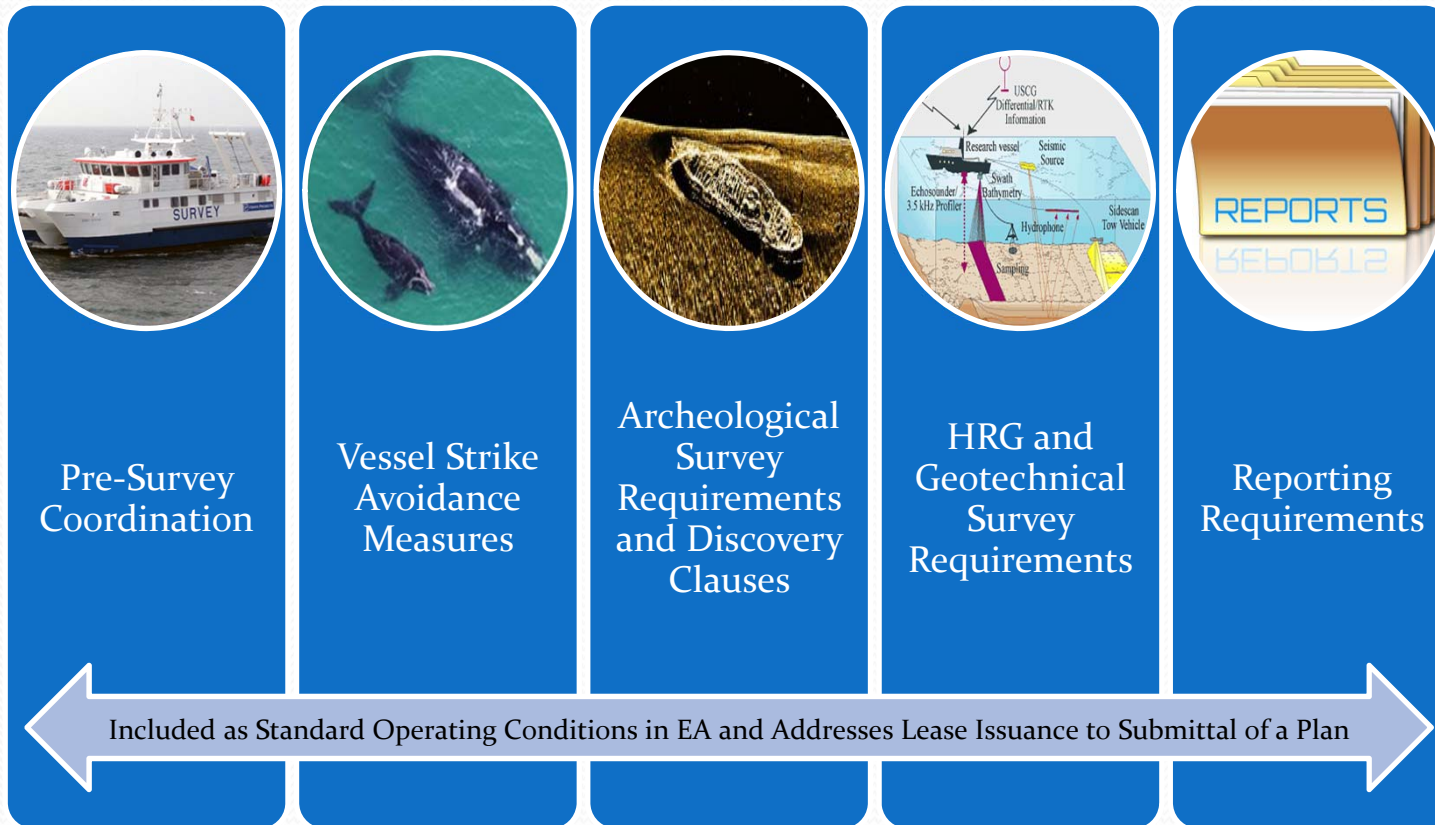




Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources

- Physical
 - Air Quality
 - Water Quality
- Biological
 - Marine Mammals
 - Sea Turtles
 - Fish and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
 - Coastal Habitats
 - Benthic Resources
 - Avian and Bat Species
- Socioeconomic
 - Aesthetics and Visual Resources
 - Commercial and Recreational Fishing
 - Cultural Resources
 - Military Uses
 - Environmental Justice
 - Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure
 - Tourism and Recreation
 - Demographics and Employment

Environmental Lease Stipulations



****Additional Construction or Operations Stipulations May Be Added As Terms and Conditions of Plan approval***



EA Findings

- For most resources, reasonably foreseeable impacts were negligible to minor.
- Potential moderate impacts identified for marine mammals and sea turtles
 - Only result from noise related to pile driving (i.e., meteorological tower construction)
 - SOCs developed to minimize or eliminate these potential impacts
- No reasonably foreseeable significant impacts are expected to occur as a result of the proposed action

Consultations

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat (EFH))





Posters/Stations

- BOEM Leasing Process
- Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles
- Survey and Site Assessment Equipment
- Fishing Activities
- Navigation
- Studies
- Visual Resources
- Map Exercise
- Court Reporter



Environmental Assessment: Next Steps

- 30-day comment period closes on July 6, 2016
- BOEM will review all comments received and either:
 - Revised the EA and/or;
 - Issues a Finding of No Significant Impact or;
 - Prepare an EIS



How to comment on the EA

In written form, deliver to:

Office of Renewable Energy Programs
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Road (VAM-OREP)
Sterling, Virginia 20166

Electronically:

<http://www.boem.gov/About-BOEM/Public-Engagement/Public-Engagement-Opportunities.aspx>

- Click on “Documents Open for Public Comment” and choose the “Open Comments Document” link. Please use the documents titled “Environmental Assessments; Availability, etc.: Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Offshore New York”



Questions?

Brian Krevor, Environmental Protection Specialist

Brian.Krevor@boem.gov

703-787-1346