

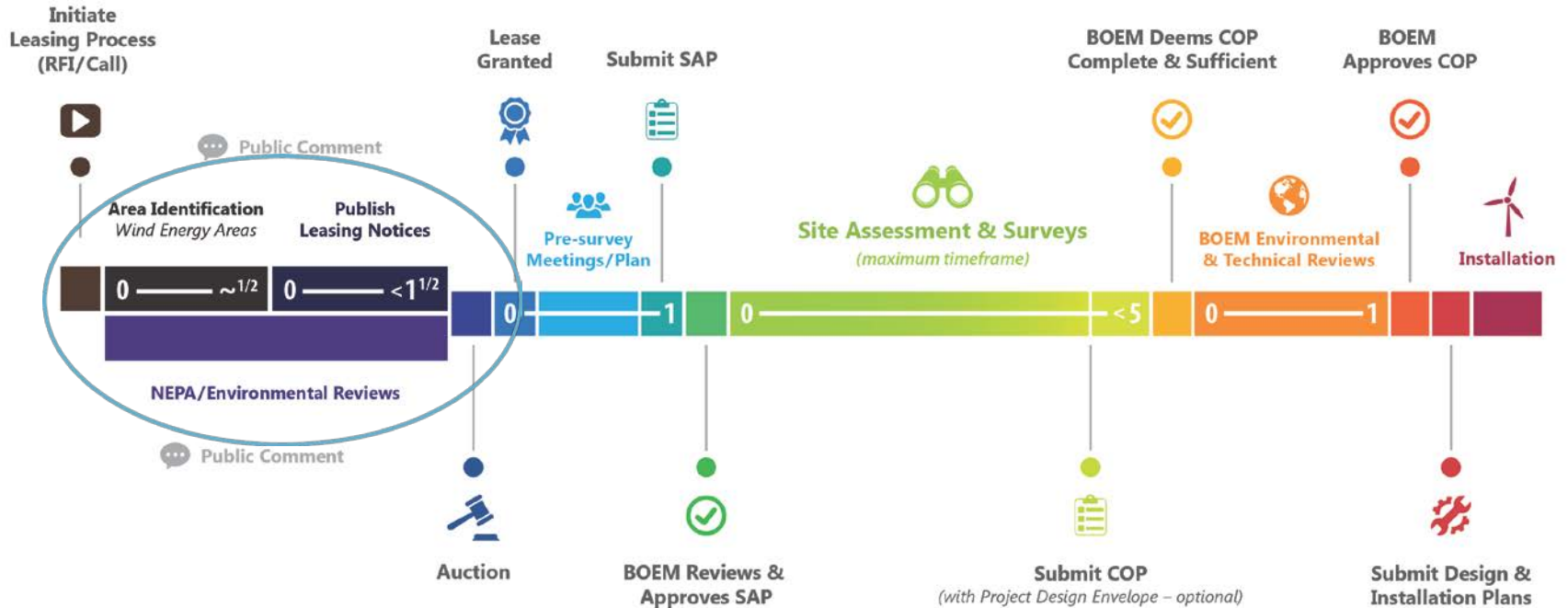
Vineyard Wind

Construction & Operations Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Meredith Lilley
Project Coordinator

Brian Krevor
Environmental Coordinator

Leasing and Development Process



Stakeholder Outreach in Massachusetts

▶ **13 Task Force Meetings**

- First meeting November 2009

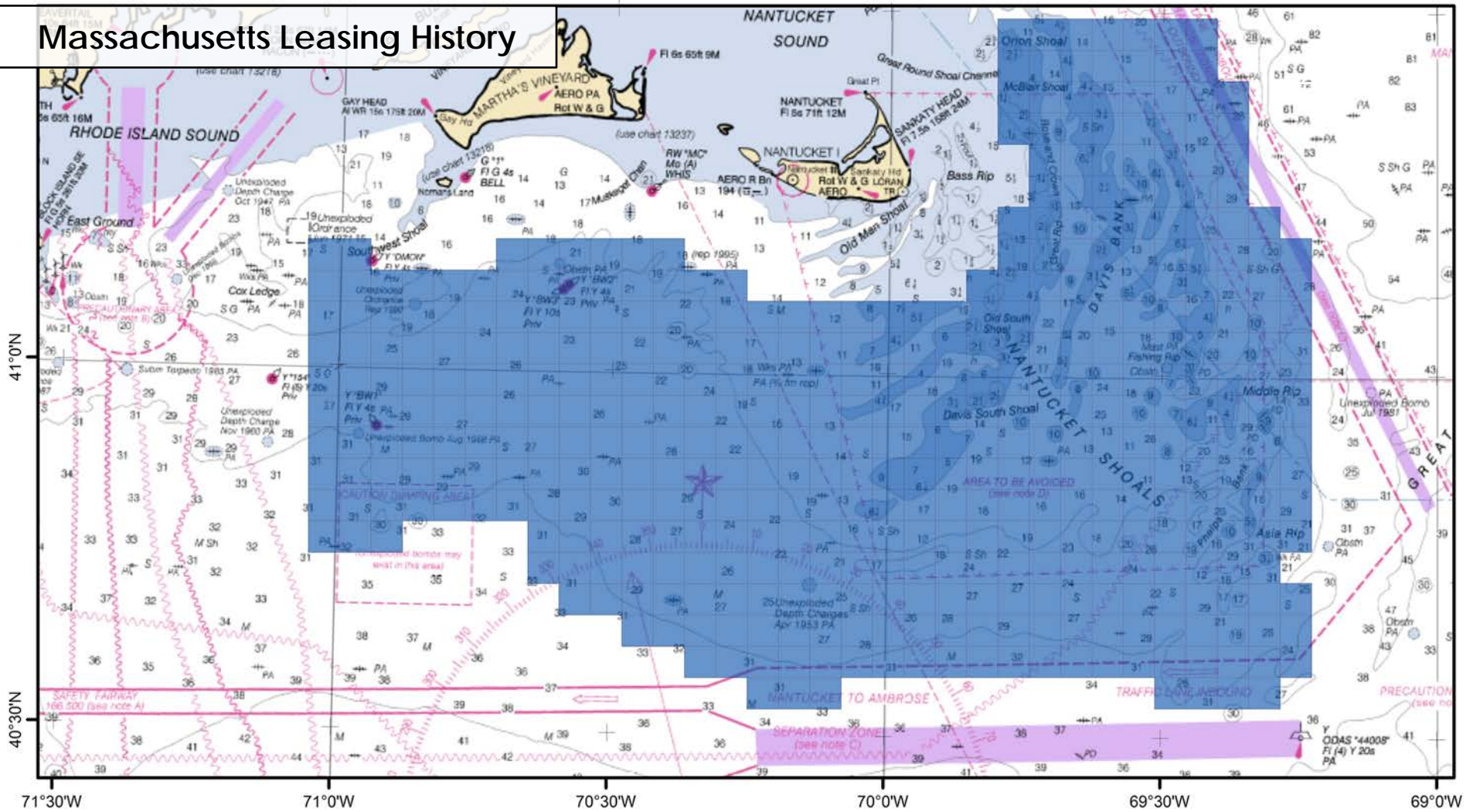
▶ **20 Public Meetings**

- Informational, Environmental Assessment meetings

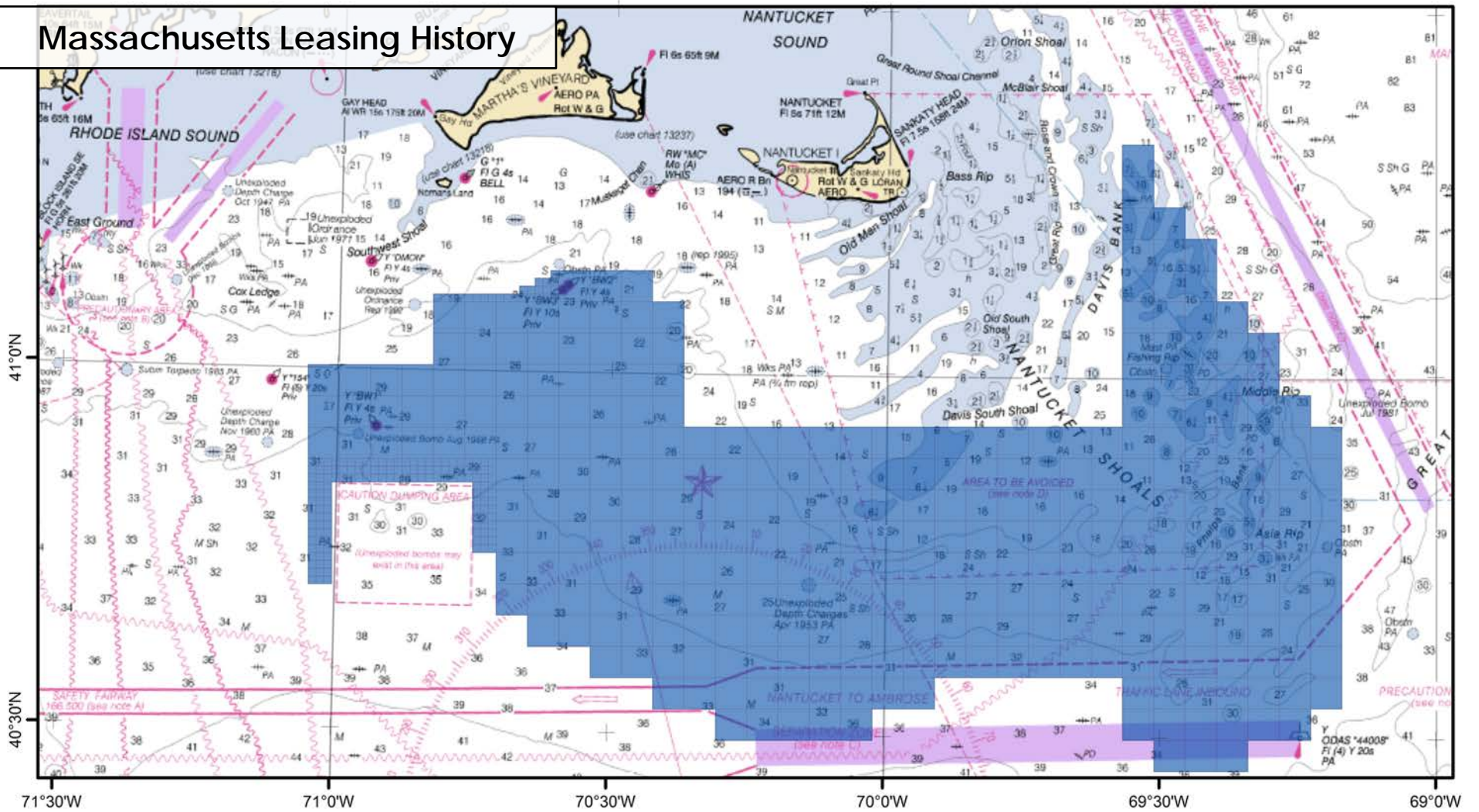
▶ Engagement with Massachusetts Fisheries Working Group and Habitat Working Group



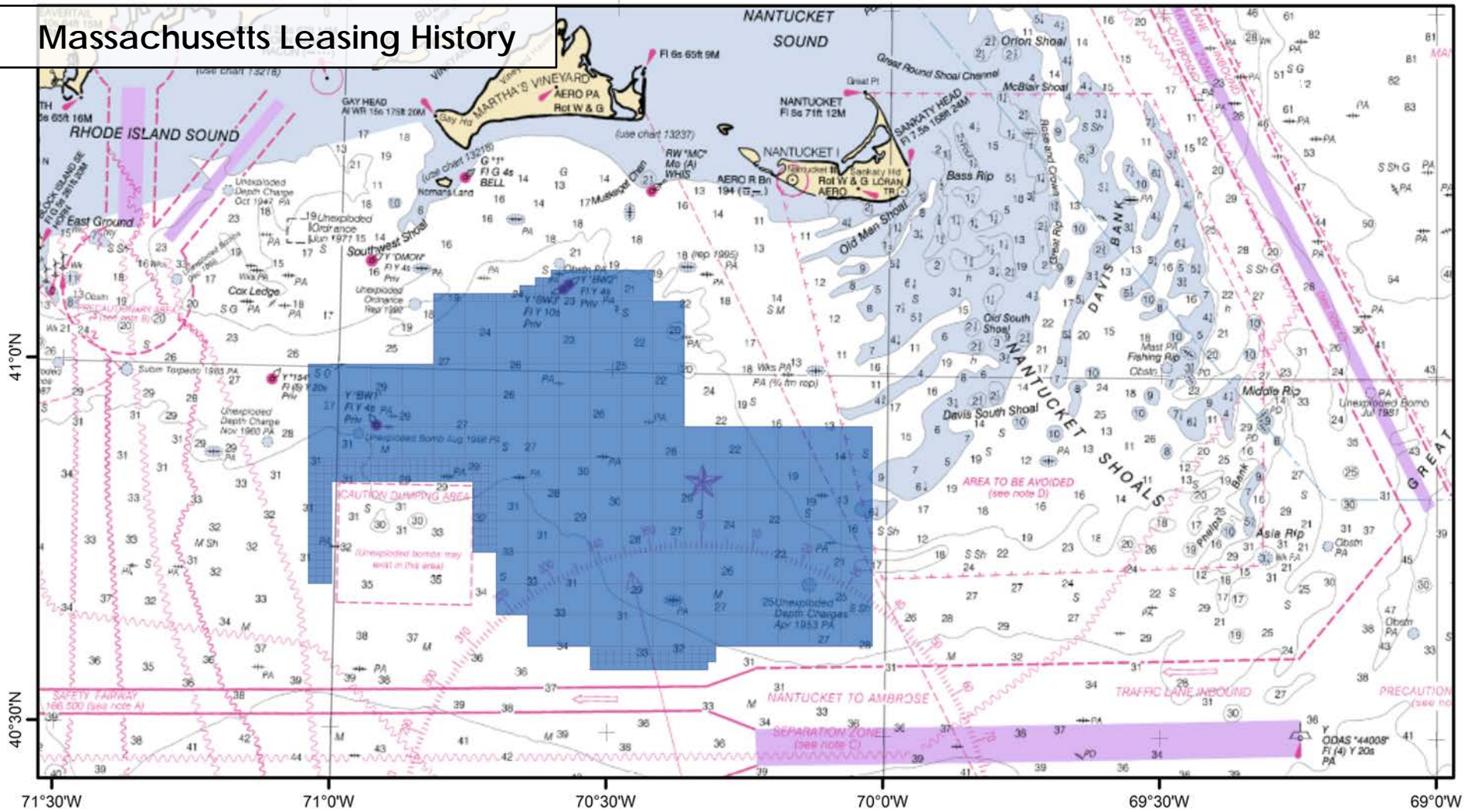
Massachusetts Leasing History



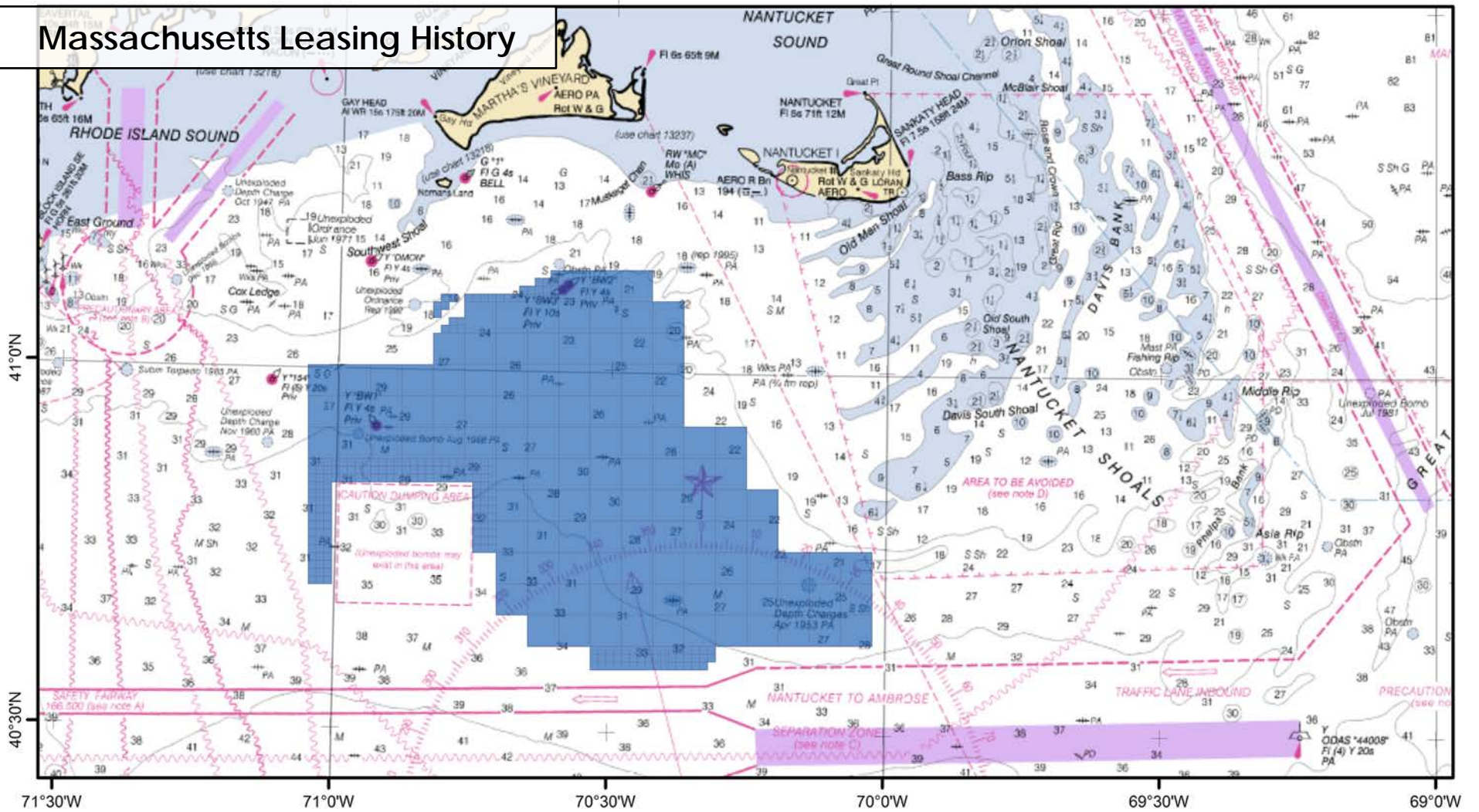
Massachusetts Leasing History



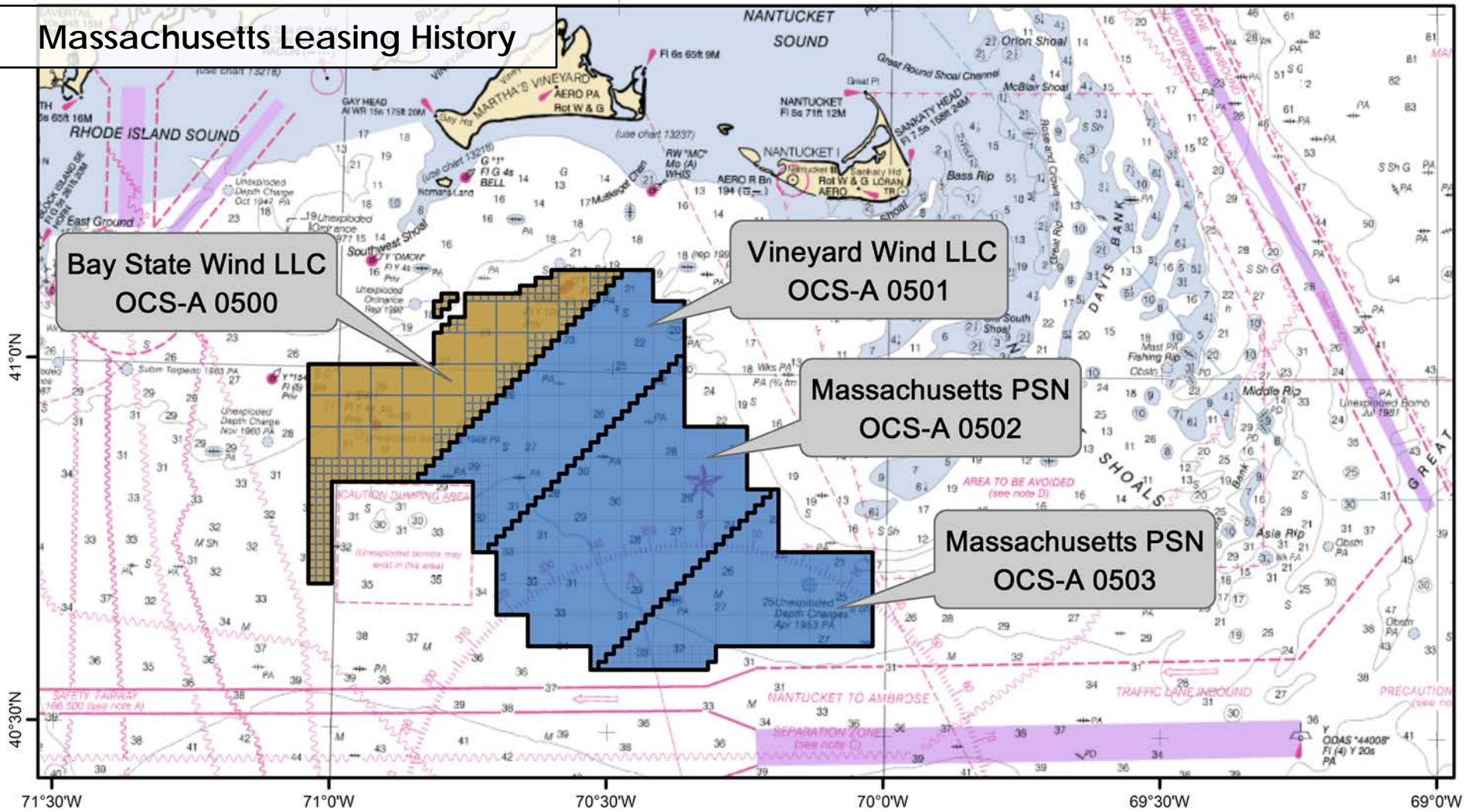
Massachusetts Leasing History



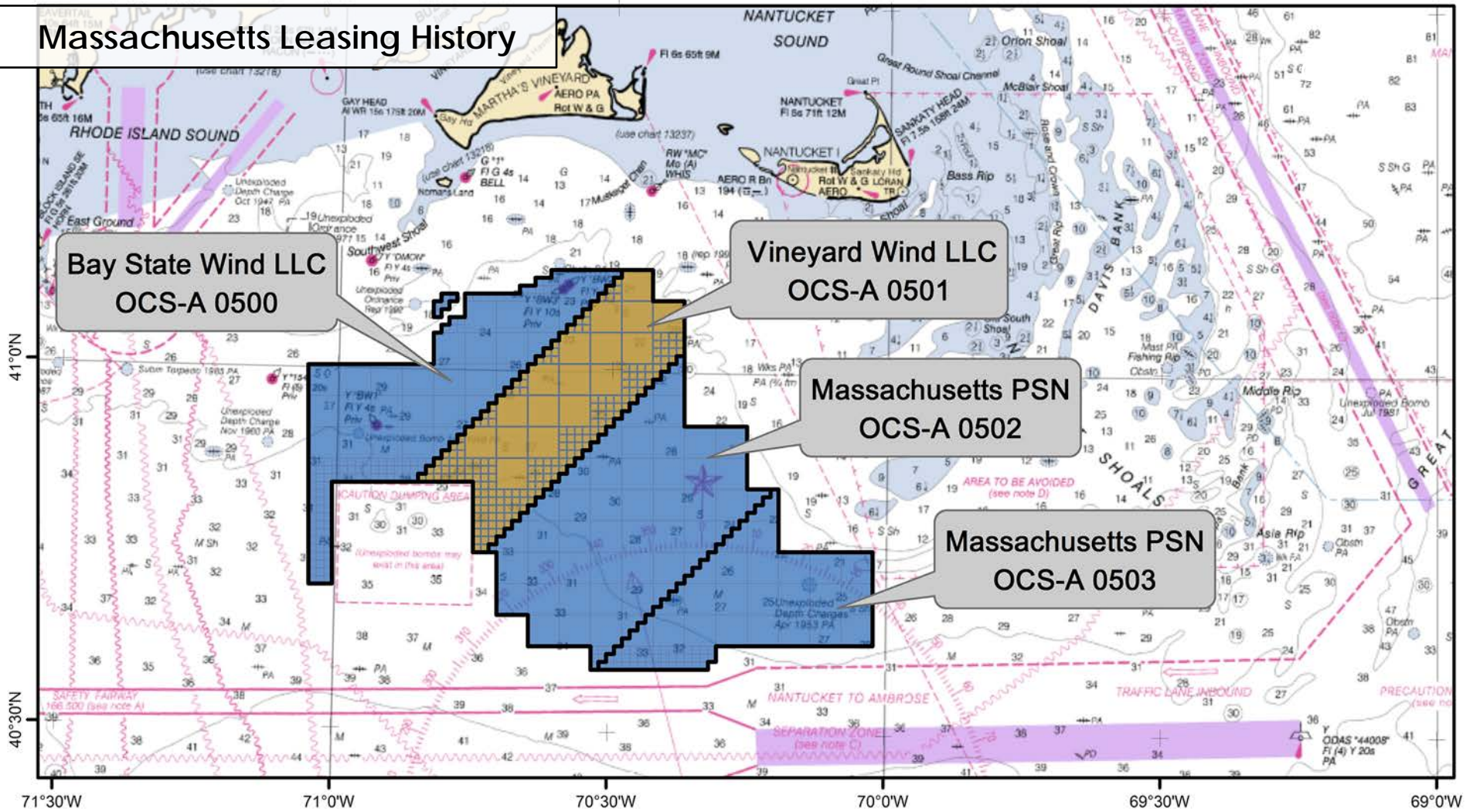
Massachusetts Leasing History



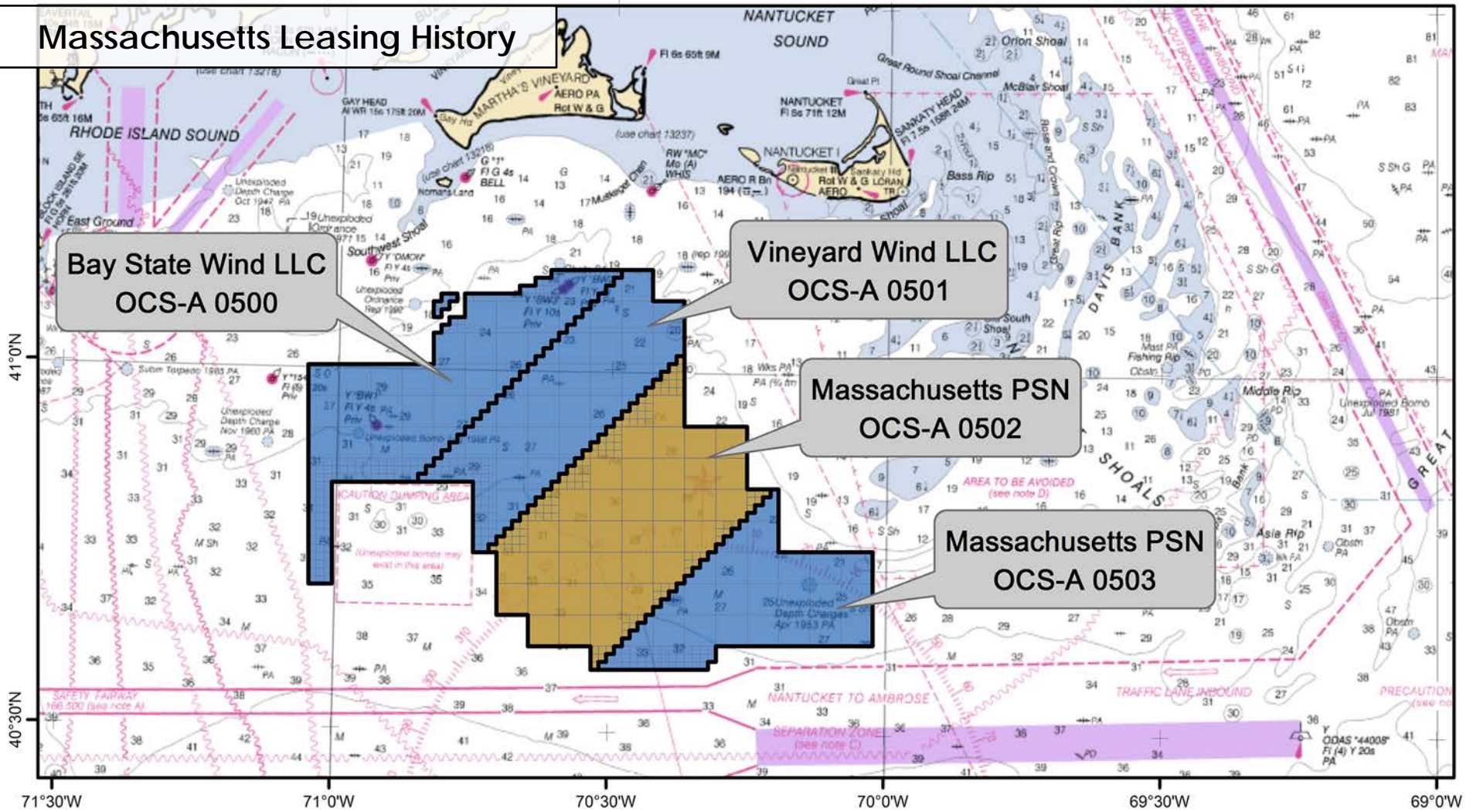
Massachusetts Leasing History



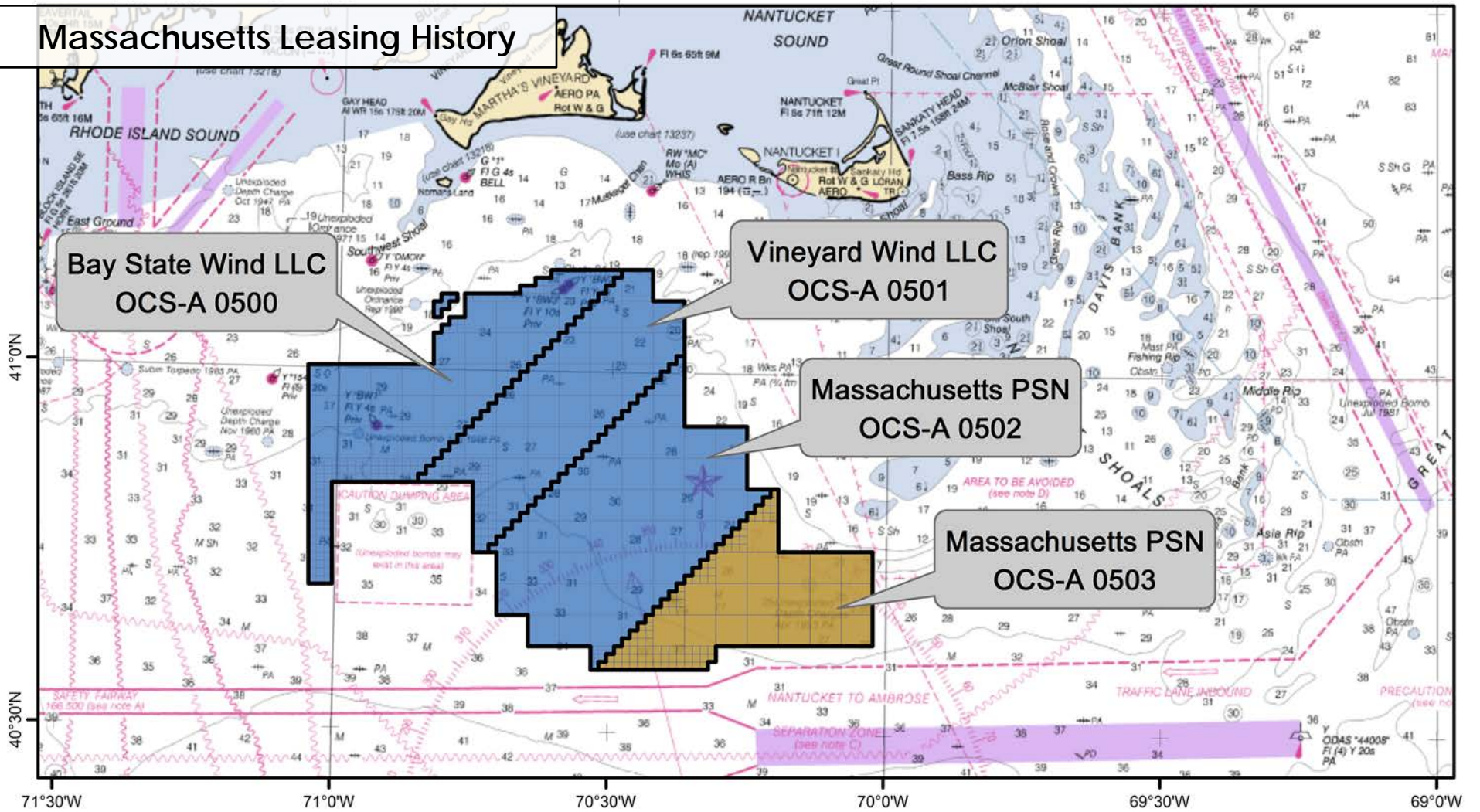
Massachusetts Leasing History



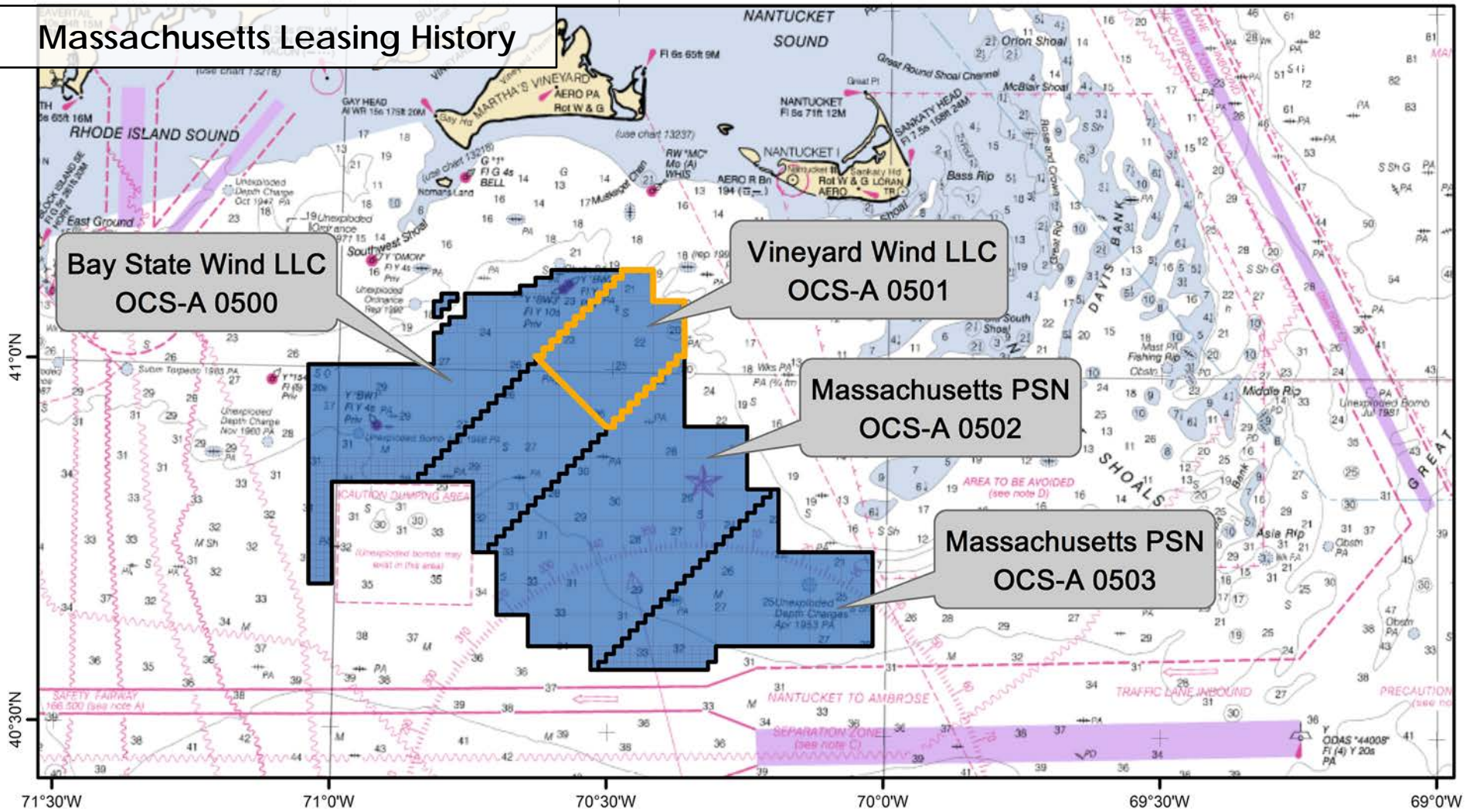
Massachusetts Leasing History



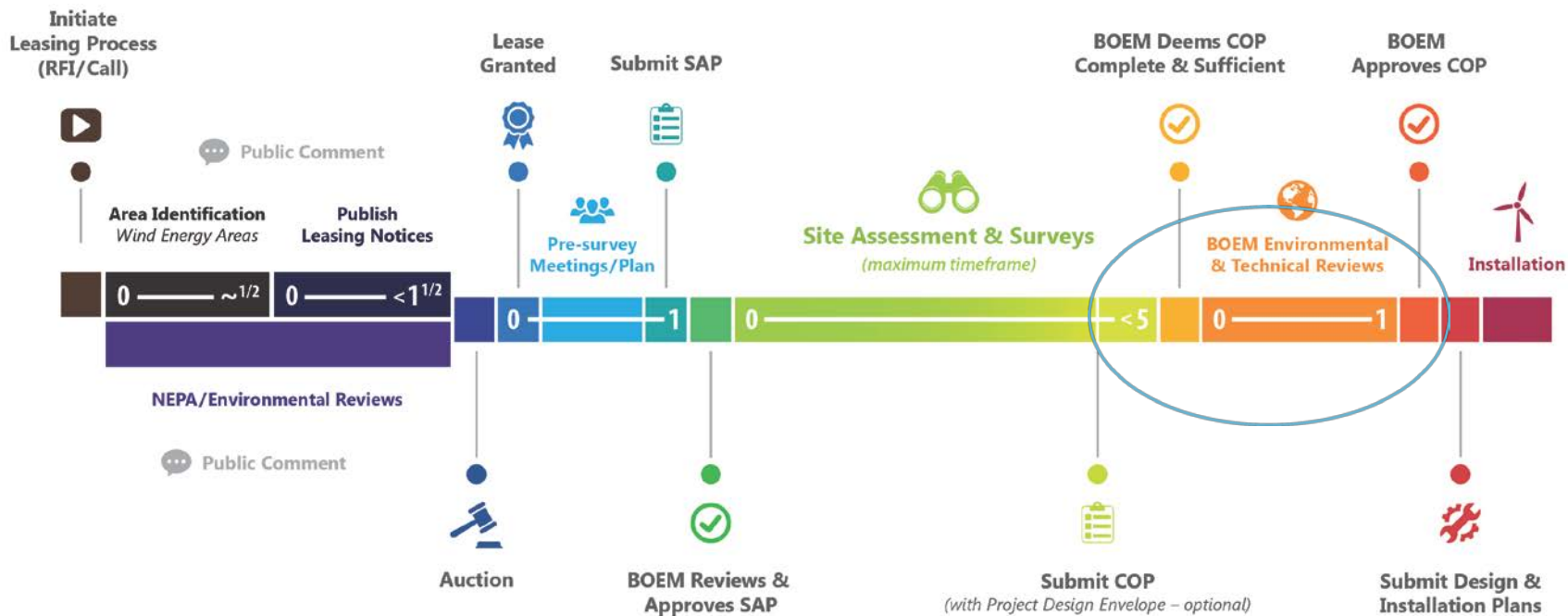
Massachusetts Leasing History



Massachusetts Leasing History



Leasing and Development Process



A Construction & Operations Plan Must Include:

- ▶ Project Information
- ▶ Survey Results
- ▶ Overall Site Investigation Report
- ▶ Certified Verification Agent (CVA) Nomination Package
- ▶ Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP)
- ▶ Safety Management System (SMS)
- ▶ Other Information (e.g., Hazards, Water Quality)

A Construction and Operations Plan Must Demonstrate:

- ▶ Compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and lease provisions
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ No unreasonable interference
- ▶ No undue harm or damage
- ▶ Best available and safest technology
- ▶ Best management practices
- ▶ Properly trained personnel

Next Steps for Vineyard Wind's COP

- ▶ BOEM can disapprove, approve, or approve with conditions
 - Will happen after environmental impact statement (EIS) is complete and will be documented by the Record of Decision (ROD)
- ▶ Lessee Submits:
 - Facility Design Report (FDR)
 - Fabrication and Installation Report (FIR)
 - 60-day review
- ▶ Safety Management System (SMS)

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA is a law requiring 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 & Operation, or General Activities)
- Decommissioning Activities

Environmental Review and Approval Process for COP

~2 YEARS OR LONGER

COP Submittal

- Completeness and sufficiency review

Public Scoping

- Publish Notice of Intent in *Federal Register*
- 30-day public comment period
- Hold public meetings
- Receive input on issues and alternatives

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

- Prepare with cooperating agencies
- Publish Notice of Availability in *Federal Register*
- 45-day public comment period
- Hold public hearings

Final Environmental Impact Statement

- Address public comments with cooperating agencies
- Publish Notice of Availability in *Federal Register*

Record of Decision

- "One Federal Decision"
- Minimum 30-day wait period

12 MONTHS

Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- ▶ Published in *Federal Register*
March 30, 2018
(www.boem.gov/83-FR-13777)
- ▶ Kicks off the EIS process
- ▶ 30-day public comment period
April 30, 2018

Identifies:

- Significant issues to be analyzed in EIS
- Issues that will not be significant or have been adequately covered in prior environmental review and can be eliminated from detailed review
- Gaps in data and information needs
- Reasonable alternatives

Scoping Meetings

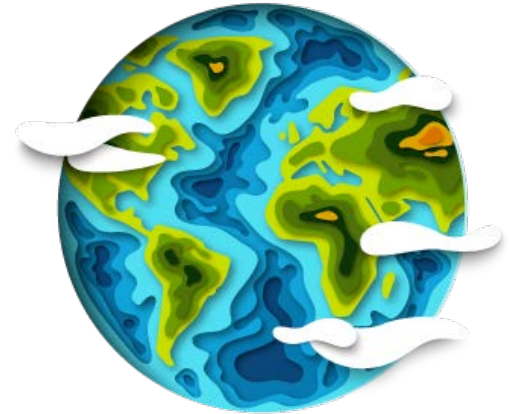
Five public scoping meetings:

- April 16 – New Bedford, MA
- April 17 – Martha's Vineyard, MA
- April 18 (a.m.) – Nantucket, MA
- April 18 (p.m.) – Hyannis, MA
- April 19 – Kingston, RI



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- ▶ Must be prepared if agency is proposing **major federal action** significantly affecting the quality of the human environment
- ▶ Public scoping required
- ▶ Draft EIS required with 45 day public comment period



What's in an EIS?

▶ **Proposed Action**

- Action being analyzed (*e.g., construction & operation of an offshore wind energy facility*)

▶ **Alternatives**

- At a minimum, proposed action and no action alternative

▶ **Cumulative Effects**

- Incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions
- Can result in individually minor but collectively significant actions

Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources

Biological

- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Fish and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
- Coastal Habitats
- Benthic Resources
- Avian and Bat Species



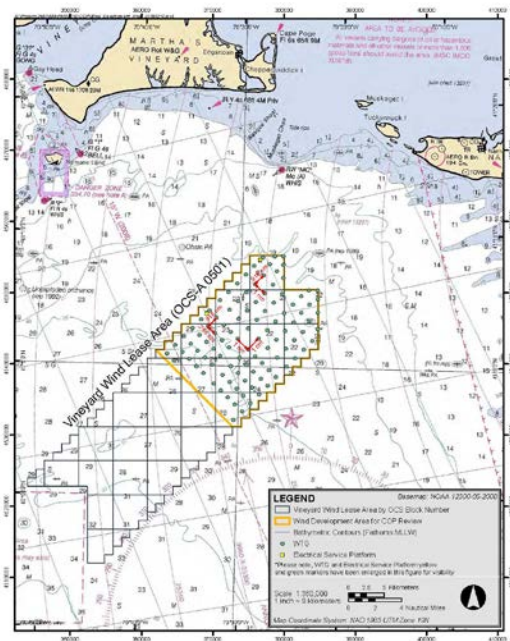
Physical

- Air Quality
- Water Quality

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 Review of COP



- ▶ Design Envelope
 - Maximum impacting parameters for each resource
- ▶ Reasonable scenario for cumulative impacts
- ▶ Review to run concurrent with consultations

Consultations

- ▶ Section 106, 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])



Executive Order (EO) 13807 and Secretarial Order (SO) 3355

- ▶ **Executive Order 13807:** *Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure*
 - Complete all Federal environmental reviews and authorization decisions for major infrastructure projects within 2 years of NOI
 - “One Federal Decision”

- ▶ **Secretarial Order 3355:** *Streamlining National Environmental Policy Reviews and Implementation of Executive Order 13807*
 - One year EIS (from NOI to NOA of Final EIS)
 - EIS page limits – 150 pages/300 pages for unusually complex projects (excl. appendices)

EIS Schedule



Fall 2018

Publish Draft EIS – (45 day public comment period)

Spring 2019

Publish Final EIS

Spring 2020

Conclude consultations and publish Record of Decision



How to Comment

28

► In writing:

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

► Online at

www.regulations.gov

Enter **BOEM-2018-0015**;
click "search." Use the
"Comment Now!" button on
the right side of the screen

Questions?

For more information on the Vineyard Wind project, visit:

www.boem.gov/Vineyard-Wind

Meredith Lilley

Project Coordinator

Meredith.Lilley@boem.gov

Brian Krevor

Environmental Coordinator

Brian.Krevor@boem.gov