



Offshore Renewable Energy Leasing: Rhode Island

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Offshore Alternative Energy Programs
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Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation & Enforcement

- Department of the Interior's Ocean Energy Agency
- Manage the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral and energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)
- Energy Policy Act 2005 gave the Secretary authority for renewable energy



OCS Renewable Energy Program Philosophy

- Coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments, and stakeholders
- Focus on multiple-use
- Work within the current authorities and responsibilities of agencies and continue ongoing activities

Applicable Statutes & Executive Orders

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Marine Protection, Research, & Sanctuaries Act
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act
- E.O. 13186 (Migratory Birds)
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Marking of Obstructions
- E.O. 13547 (Stewardship of the Oceans, Our Coasts & the Great Lakes)
- Ports and Waterways Safety Act
- Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- Federal Aviation Act
- Federal Power Act
- E.O. 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)

Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources and Issues

- Multiple Use Conflicts
- Fisheries & Fishing
- Socioeconomics
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Birds and Bats
- Seafloor Habitats
- Physical Oceanography
- Coastal Habitats
- Cultural Resources



Major Framework Elements

- Coordination (throughout rule)
 - Federal/State/Local Task Forces
- Leasing Process and Issuance (Subpart B)
 - Commercial & Limited Leases
 - Competitive & Noncompetitive Leasing
 - Research Activities
- Payments (Subpart E)
 - Bonding, Payments, Revenue Sharing
- Plans (Subpart F)
 - Site Assessment and Construction & Operations
 - General Activities
- Conduct of Approved Plan Activities (Subpart H)
 - Environmental & Safety Monitoring & Inspections
- Decommissioning (Subpart I)

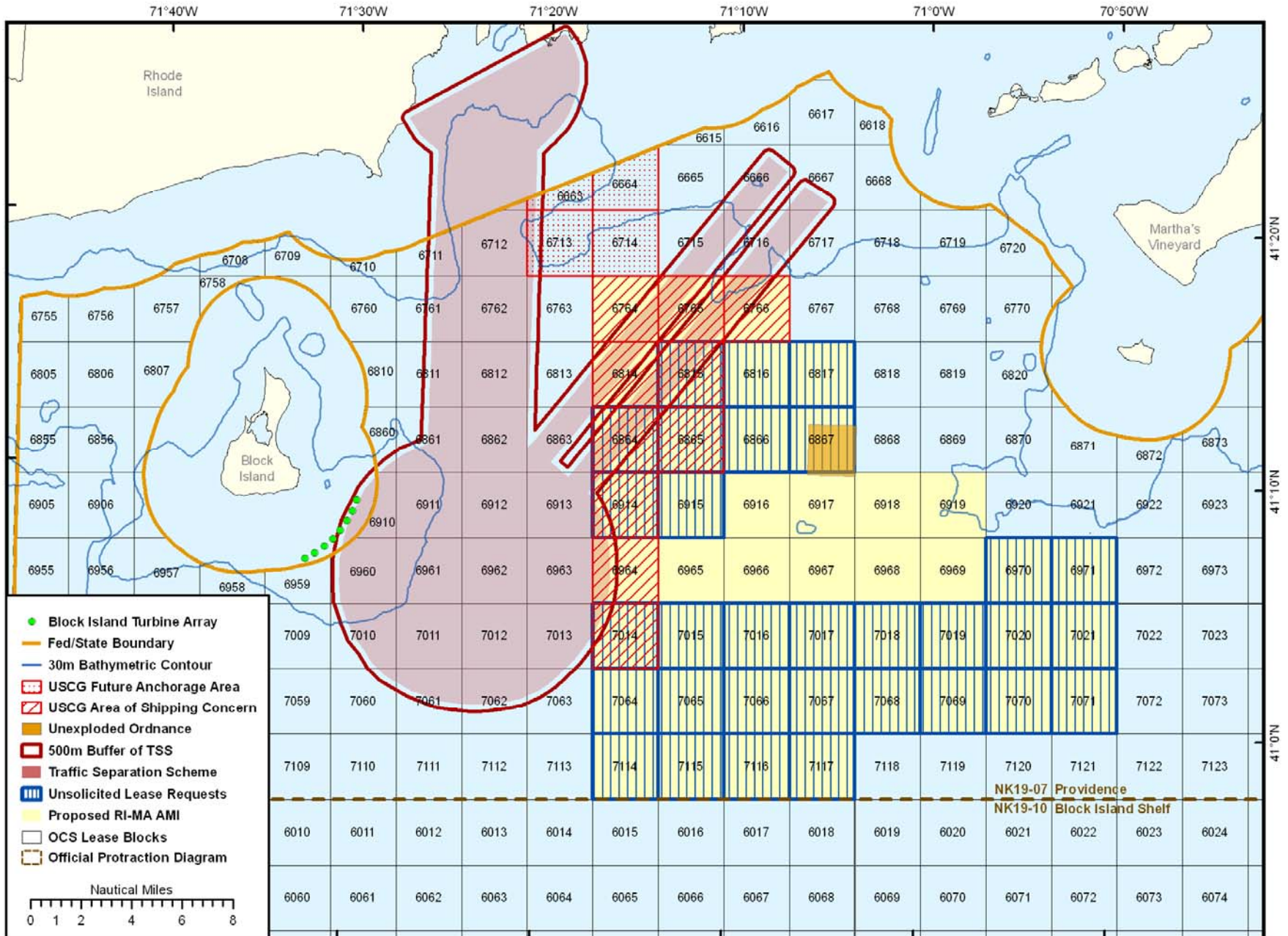
Starting the Leasing Process in Rhode Island

- BOEMRE/RI task force established in November 2009
 - FACA exempt
 - Elected local, tribal, state and federal government members
 - Public Q&A session
- Unsolicited lease requests have been submitted by two companies
- Leasing process will be informed by RI's SAMP

Rhode Island Planning

- Started work on a planning notice (RFI) for an area within the SAMP area
- RI & MA signed AMI MOU in July 2010
- Received two unsolicited lease requests in late 2010
- Ongoing outreach on fishing issues
 - RI SAMP consultation with RI fishing interests
 - Consultation broadened to MA interests
- RI provided SAMP input at December 2010 joint RI/MA task force meeting
- RI and MA fishing issues discussed at joint meeting
- Continuing outreach—stakeholder meetings like today's; task force meetings (attendance open to all)

Rhode Island - Area of Mutual Interest and Unsolicited Applications



Competitive Leasing Process

- **Call** requests lease nominations & pertinent information about the general leasing area (**45-day comment period**)
- **Area Identification** establishes leasing area & alternatives for NEPA analysis based on information from the Call
- **Proposed Sale Notice** solicits comment on proposed lease terms & conditions and other details about the competitive lease sale (**60-day comment period**)
- **Final Sale Notice** announces final auction details 30 days before the lease sale
- **Lease sale** is held, submitted bids considered, and lease(s) awarded

Noncompetitive Process

- Issue public notice describing leasing proposal and requesting information to determine whether competitive interest exists
- Continue with noncompetitive process if no competitive interest exists
- Comply with environmental and consultation requirements (e.g., NHPA, NEPA, CZMA, ESA)

Opportunity for Public Involvement

- BOEMRE/State Task Force Meeting
Public Q&A Session
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Call for Information and Nominations
- NEPA Scoping Meetings and Public Hearings
- Proposed Sale Notice (if competitive)

Rhode Island: Next Steps

- Convene RI/MA Intergovernmental Task Force meeting in April
 - Develop the planning notice (Call for Information & Nominations)
- Publish Call
 - Seek information on archaeological sites, multiple use activities (e.g., fishing), socioeconomic issues & other environmental data
 - Inquire about commercial interest
- Identify the proposed lease area
- Initiate environmental evaluation and consultations (e.g. NEPA, NHPA, ESA)

- More info:

www.boemre.gov/offshore/RenewableEnergy