

# Task Force Initiative: Findings and Next Steps

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# Project Overview

## National Offshore Wind Strategy



BOEM commitment to *enhancing coordination and stakeholder engagement*

Action	Deliverable	Impact
Revisit the Structure of Intergovernmental Task Forces	Document describing Task Force evaluation and path forward for BOEM's Task Force utilization	Efficient intergovernmental coordination that considers input from any and all potentially affected states

- Task Forces have been successful, two major themes to address:
  1. Regional issues
  2. Task Forces in a post leasing world
- Engaged CBI to conduct interviews with ~30 Task Force members

# Assessment Headlines

## Interim Findings

- Task Forces earn strong praise in many areas
- Also clear opportunities for improvement (substance and process)
- Important choices ahead
  - State vs. Regional task force focus
  - How/when to launch next round of leasing
  - Strategies for improving transparency, dialogue, and strengthening confidence in process

# Primary Strengths and Challenges

## Interim Findings

### Key Perceived Strengths

Strong BOEM staff

Gets folks (esp. feds) out of stovepipes; helps streamline reviews

Relationship building

Drives towards decision-making; BOEM role as decision-maker is clear

Great information-sharing, especially for stakeholders with few resources

Surfaces substantive concerns; lays groundwork for off-line dialogues

# Primary Strengths and Challenges

## Interim Findings

### Key Perceived Challenges

Unclear if BOEM seeking genuine dialogue

BOEM-centric presentations

Task Forces' limited in addressing regional issues (vessel traffic, fishing)

Limited transparency in decision-making

Issues surfaced but not addressed

Insufficient proxy for meaningful outreach

# What about Regional TFs?

## Important Choices Ahead

- Great value in regional approach ...
  - *“I like the idea of periodically having regional task forces.”*
- ... But tough to leave state task forces behind
  - *“I see (regional task forces) as creating complexities for BOEM. I would keep things as they are.”*
  - *“Having membership driven by a single state allows for much more targeted and candid discussion.”*
- Numerous opportunities to articulate regional perspectives within state task force structure

# Task Forces in a Post-Leasing World

## Important Choices Ahead

- Strong sentiment among participants to maintain Task Forces through upcoming phases
  - *“Identifying areas is a big step, but it’s only a step.”*
- Some – particularly federal partners – saw potential for redundancy with NEPA process
- Strong support for bringing lessees to Task Force table post-award
  - *“They have the knowledge and answers to many of our questions.”*
- Diverse formats suggested for engagement

# Ideas for Improving Effectiveness

## Important Choices Ahead

- Diversify frequency and type of Task Force meetings
- Increase basic transparency: meeting summaries, meeting dates, etc.
- Need better, more consistent ways to understand stakeholders concerns
- Articulate credible roadmap for discussing, deciding and communicating on issues raised at Task Force meetings
- Hardwire in strategies to surface regional issues and considerations
- And lots more.....



# BOEM's Next Steps

## The Path Forward

- CBI to document results and recommendations in report
- In conjunction with Path Forward exercise, BOEM is assessing ways to incorporate a more regional approach
- Task Forces in a post-leasing world
- **Summer/Fall 2017** – Document describing Task Force evaluation and path forward for BOEM's Task Force utilization

# Future Task Force Implementation

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## Questions? / Discussion