



# Sand Survey EA

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Sand Management Working Group  
11/29/2018

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## Planning ahead

- Comprehensive, proactive coverage to identify, delineate, monitor, and study sand resources
- Other environmental coverage is limited
- Proactive coverage allows us to support ongoing co-ops and respond quickly if funding becomes available for the inventory



# Scope

## Sand survey activities

- To 50 meters deep, plus some state waters under co-ops

Survey type	Use	Equipment types	Estimated amount per day
Geophysical	Seafloor mapping	Boomer, chirp, side-scan sonar, magnetometer	70 line-miles
Geological	Sediment attributes	Vibracore, grab	15 samples

## Submerged Land Act Boundary to 50m Bathymetry Contour



# Proposed Mitigations

Based on previous BOEM work; used to streamline other consultations

Mitigation	General terms	Primary reasoning
Time-area restrictions in the Atlantic	Activities limited in distinct areas critical to North Atlantic right whale	Minimize North Atlantic right whale impacts
Geophysical survey, vibracore sampling, and nighttime protocols	Acoustic exclusion zones for certain sound levels, protected species observers onboard	Minimize acoustic impacts on marine mammals and sea turtles
Vessel strike avoidance protocols	Observers onboard, speed restrictions (for right whales), separation distance	Minimize marine mammal and sea turtle strike risk
Cultural and sensitive benthic habitat avoidance requirements	Clear sites using geophys info before bottom contact (cores, anchors), buffer around sites	Preserve archaeological and biodiverse sites

# Draft EA Next Steps

- Finalize EA and sign FONSI
- Finish other consultations



