



Revised Massachusetts EA and FONSI

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Environmental Assessment

- Analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with lease issuance
 - This includes site characterization (surveys) and site assessment (installation of a meteorological towers and/or buoys)
- Does not cover the construction and operation of a wind facility or any cables to shore
 - Will be analyzed when/if a lessee submits a construction and operations plan (COP)

Environmental Assessment

- BOEM published an Environmental Assessment (EA) on November 2, 2012
- 25 comments received on the EA
 - Comments focused on endangered species, standard operating conditions, the WEA and alternatives, marine resources, wind energy, and the environmental review process

Environmental Assessment

- As a result of the comments received, BOEM revised the EA
- The Revised EA was published on June 18, 2014
- Notable changes in the Revised EA:
 - New information incorporated (MA CEC Coop data, 2013 NOAA SPUE data, relevant completed studies)
 - Refined Standard Operating Conditions
 - Response to commenters

Standard Operating Conditions

- Developed through ESA consultations with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Designed to minimize or eliminate potential impacts to protected species
- A few examples include vessel strike avoidance measures, pile driving "soft start" requirements, exclusion zones, protection species observers and reporting requirements
- All of the SOCs can be found in Appendix B of the EA
- Incorporated into the leases as Addendum C

Finding of No Significant Impact

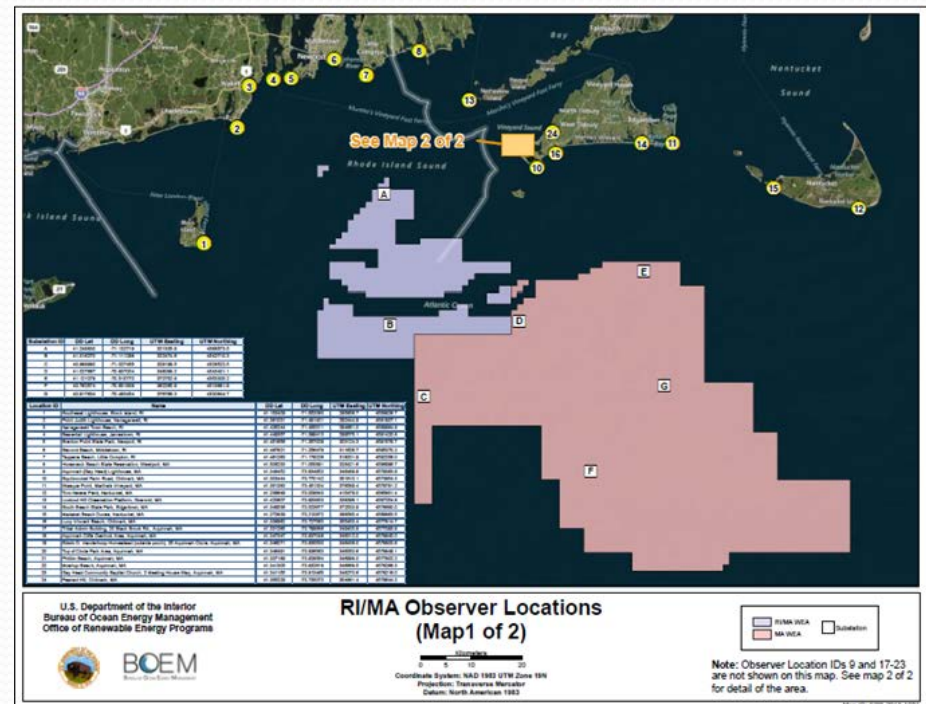
- BOEM determined that no reasonably foreseeable significant impacts are expected to occur as a result of the proposed action and alternatives
- All impacts were determined to be negligible to minor
- No EIS is required and a FONSI has been issued

Status of Consultations

Consultation	Resource Agency	Status
ESA Section 7	NOAA NMFS, FWS	Completed: Concurrence with BOEM's finding
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act	NOAA NMFS	Ongoing: NMFS requests to review Site Assessment Plans (SAPs) and make final conclusions on impacts to EFH
NHPA Section 106	MA SHPO, RI SHPO, ACHP	Programmatic agreement (PA) executed and is in effect. PA will guide Section 106 consultations.
CZMA	MA CZM and RI CRMC	Under review: CD sent to MA and RI

Ongoing Environmental Work

- Cooperative agreement with Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
 - Marine mammal, sea turtle, and bird surveys
- BOEM Environmental Studies Program
 - Visual Simulations for Offshore Massachusetts and Rhode Island WEAs



Fisheries Best Management Practices

- Final report in development, to be published late Summer 2014
- BOEM regulations require that a SAP demonstrates use of Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Examples of fisheries BMPs include: hiring fishery liaison officers, timing and design of facility to reduce fisheries impacts, and identification/marketing of structures to assist fishermen
- Draft report available here:
<http://www.boem.gov/Fishing-Offshore-Wind-Mitigation-Measures-Development-Workshops/>

For Additional Information:

<http://www.boem.gov/Commercial-Wind-Leasing-Offshore-Massachusetts/>

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