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Welcome folks, it's just a couple minutes before the top of the hour. We're going to be gathering for another minute or two.

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And just invite everyone to settle in.

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Welcome to the meeting.

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Again, welcome everyone. We're settling in.

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We'll be starting meeting in just a few minutes. Thank you for joining tonight, or this afternoon.

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Hi. Welcome again everyone, we see that we have about 11 participants from the public right now, we're expecting a few more. Rick, I propose we wait one more minute and then we'll start with the meeting.

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Thanks, Eric.

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Okay, I'm going to propose we get us started so welcome to members of the public.

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This is to the Humboldt Wind Energy Area Scoping Meeting for the development of an environmental assessment.

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This is the second of two scoping meetings that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or BOEM has held today. We did one this morning at nine o'clock and we had, I think 98 total participants who participated in that meeting and we're very happy to see

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those of you who are joining tonight. We expect more will be joining over the course of the meeting. So my name is Eric Poncelet, I'm with Kearns & West and I’m part of the Kearns & West facilitation team that will be helping to facilitate this evening’s meeting.

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I will be serving as lead facilitator and helping to manage the meeting and mind the queue and things like that.

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I'm joined by Jasmine King who will be serving as webinar manager, who will particularly be helping to address any webinar or technical issues that come up with our zoom webinar platform and then finally we have Ali Liberman who's going to be taking notes.

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So, I'm going to start with some logistical items and then go over the basics for the meeting.

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We're going to be using the zoom webinar platform for this public meeting this evening. Important for participants to recognize that you will be muted throughout the scoping meeting and will not be able to unmute yourself. This is a function of zoom webinar.

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Members of the public will have the opportunity to share verbal or oral public comments during the public comment opportunity later in the meeting.

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And in order to get into queue, we’ll ask people to use the raise hand function that you see at the at the top or bottom of your screen. You don't need to use it now but we’ll ask you to do that when we get to the public comment period, and likewise if you're

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joining by telephone, you can dial star nine to indicate that you would like to provide public comment.

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There's also in zoom webinar a q & a function that is, that we’ll be using

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when we get to the agenda item this evening that's focused on clarifying questions around the scoping process. So we'll be inviting people to ask any clarifying questions we have when we get to that part of our agenda.

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And then finally want to let folks know that there is a chat function that you have access to in zoom. We're asking that people use that solely if they have technical difficulties with the webinar and the chats go solely to the host and the panelists.

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So, invite everyone to keep the chat channel clear for those purposes. At the same time, Jasmine, my co facilitator will be sharing information through the chat to participants throughout the meeting. Want to note that there are positives and

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negatives with all these different a webinar platforms that we have.

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One of the comments we've heard in the past with zoom webinars that it's hard for members of the public to know who's participating. And so, we taken some steps to make that more transparent.

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Currently we have about 29 members of the public who are participating. If you look at the top, or at least for some people who have the appropriate zoom platform loaded on your computers, if you look next to the meeting ID

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figure at the top of your zoom screen, you should be able to see the number of people participating and in just a moment we're going to be doing a poll to find out who's participating from which sectors.

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So we appreciate your efforts in supporting this webinar.

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Next, with regard to technical assistance, as I mentioned before we’ll be sharing some important information and links through the chat feature but please again keep that available for technical assistance requests coming to Jasmine in particular. Again

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if you're participating by phone you can raise your hand by dialing star nine, and we will then provide you the telephone number, in which to contact us and we can provide you with technical assistance in that way.

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And again, if you're encountering any other technical issues

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you can email Jasmine King at jking@kearnswest.com or you can send a message to the chat. Zoom webinar also offers closed captioning so if you want to be able to read the captioning throughout the meeting you could just click the

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closed caption button at the bottom of your screen, or perhaps at the top of some screens.

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So, I want to move on to the meeting objectives here. There are four main things we're trying to accomplish with this meeting. One is to provide information on the Humboldt wind energy area environmental review process or we will often say WEA but

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will try to spell it out or say wind energy area. And we also want to use that information to help inform the comments that we're hoping that you as members of the public will be providing as part of this scoping process on the Humboldt wind energy area.

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We also, I think an important part of this meeting will be providing an opportunity for you as members of public to provide input, and your scoping comments on what should be considered

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in the Humboldt wind energy area environmental assessment. And then finally, we'll take a little bit of time as I mentioned earlier to answer any clarifying questions you might have

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with regards to the scoping process.

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So, the agenda we're starting with our welcome now. I'll be passing it on soon to BOEM to share some other welcoming and opening remarks, then we'll have two presentations for you all, one will be on the Outer Continental Shelf wind energy leasing process

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in California, and the second will be a presentation on the scoping process within the National Environmental Policy Act. We’ll then take a pause and take some time for any clarifying questions, in particular with regard to those two presentations, and

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then we'll move on to the public comment opportunity, and then we'll close at the end of that.

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So, finally, last thing for me is that we want to invite you all to adhere to these process guidelines to help make this meeting as productive as we can for everyone so we invite you to help us honor the agenda and stay on track.

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We invite you to participate and hope to hear comments from you and invite you to engage respectfully when doing so.

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Please speak in order when we get to the public comment period, and I'll be helping to mind the queue to help make that organized. Please speak clearly into your mic or your phone when it is your turn to provide a public comment and at the same time

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to make sure to start by giving your name and affiliation when you speak. And then finally, when if you are speaking, please be sure to use the mute button as appropriate to keep the background noise down.

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So, invite everyone to help us to bring these process guidelines with us throughout.

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So, two more things we before we go into BOEM’s opening remarks. As I mentioned before, we're interested to hear more about the folks participating in the meeting, right now I see we have 33 members of the public participating.

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Jasmine is going to be sharing a poll with you right now to ask you to describe what affiliation you have. And so, invite everyone to fill that out and I'll read off the responses in just a second.

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Everybody should be able to just click the categories are community-based organizations, academia, government, non-governmental organizations, tribal indigenous groups, and business and industry, and the press.

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I think we’ve heard from almost everybody, wait couple more seconds here for folks to fill it out.

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Okay and Jasmine if you want to share the poll results.

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So here it looks like we have about, 10% from community-based organizations, 5% from academia, 40% from government.

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And it looks like none from, self-identified from non-organizations.

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But 10% from tribal or tribes or indigenous groups and then finally about a quarter from business and industry and no one from the press.

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So thank you for sharing that. The one other poll that we want to do before we get started is to just get a sense of who's planning on providing public comment to make, this gives us a sense of numbers so if you know that you want to make public comment,

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please click Yes.

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So, we have a feel for it. You're not committed to this if you change your mind and want to give public comment you can do that too but this gives us an idea about how many people will be doing so.

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So, I’ll wait a few more seconds for that.

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We know that a small number of people have signed up ahead of time indicating their desire to give public comment tonight.

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And it looks like we have a small number of so I'm seeing just a, maybe a little less than half a dozen right now. So, we invite you over the course of the meeting

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if you have, if specific comments come up that you'd like to present during the public comment period, we'll invite you to do so. So, we can pull that off.

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Jasmine, thank you.

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Okay, so let's move on to the formal welcome and opening remarks. I'd like to introduce Rick Yarde who's a regional supervisor in the office of the environment for BOEM’s pacific region. Rick, off to you.

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Thank you, Eric just to check that you can hear me alright. You sound great.

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Very good. Thanks. Well welcome everybody to this meeting and thank you for taking the time to participate today.

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This late afternoon and early evening.

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My name as Eric said is Richard Yarde and I lead the Office of Environment in the BOEM Pacific region.

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Along with myself from BOEM, we have a team of environmental experts here in the background and they have had been asked to participate here today to be able to hear firsthand what you might have to say about the process.

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And I also want to point out that in addition to our team of environmental experts, we also have some other people from BOEM here tonight, and in particular we have Jean Thurston-Keller.

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She's BOEM’s coordinator for the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force in California, I think many of you have probably heard Jean speak before at other events open to the public.

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She has just generally a wide span of responsibility for moving this larger BOEM process along.

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She's going to be speaking a little later tonight.

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So we're here tonight to talk about the scope of an environmental assessment for potential wind energy leasing in Humboldt County.

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A step in BOEM’s process related to offshore renewable energy in the earliest stages of that larger BOEM process started several years ago. What brought us to the point here for the scoping meeting this afternoon most recently is the identification

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of the Humboldt wind energy area posted on our website.

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This represents, at least to me a step in BOEM’s vetting process where we have said in my own words here that we found an area for potential leasing for offshore renewable energy that we believe is worthy of further evaluation.

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So we come to this point in the process in close coordination with our colleagues at the state of California, and in particular the California Energy Commission and I want to welcome representatives from that entity, along with all of the other state

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of California governmental participants this afternoon. Thank you for being here.

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We also have began what I believe will be an ongoing and a productive discussion with tribes who have interest in and in some cases, traditional knowledge of the ocean environment. I welcome all of our tribal participants today.

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And here I'd also like to take a moment to introduce Sara Guiltinan just so that you know she's here. She's not on camera but she's our BOEM tribal liaison on the call this afternoon and I think our tribal participants are probably familiar with

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Sara.

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Just wanted to do to let just wanted to let you know she's with us this afternoon.

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We've also spoken often with representatives at other federal and state agencies, many of whom are also on the call tonight as we saw on the poll, thank you all for your continued participation here.

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And finally, I want to welcome all of you here who represent non-governmental organizations, who represent industry, who represent maybe just yourselves because you're here of your personal interest in this process.

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We have been engaging people for quite a while here in the several years that our process has been going on.

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And I know that we ask a lot of you to come to these meetings, but I appreciate your participation and your continuing participation in these processes and I look forward to hearing your points of view

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tonight and into the future. So with that, I'll say again welcome everyone, thank you for being here.

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And I'm going to then turn it back to Eric for.

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All right, thank you very much Rick, and so last two pieces of housekeeping before we move on, just want to remind everyone that the webinar is being recorded and we will make that available on the BOEM website

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after the meeting, and this PowerPoint will also be made available on the website too. Jasmine, I believe has just shared in the chat that web address it's a boem.gov/humboldtEA.

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Okay, so let's move forward, we're going to move now to the first of our two main presentations for this meeting. This will be given by Jean Thurston-Keller who's BOEM’s California Task Force coordinator and Jean is going to present on the Outer Continental

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Shelf wind energy leasing process in California.

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So Jean welcome to come on screen and

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off to you.

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Hello and Good evening. My name is Jean Thurston-Keller and I'm the BOEM California intergovernmental renewable energy taskforce coordinator and the California Project Lead for BOEM’s Pacific regional office, like Rick mentioned thank you all for being

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here tonight and taking the time out of your day and personal schedules to be here to talk about the Humboldt environmental assessment here tonight.

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So today I'm going to provide you an overview of BOEM responsibilities and our approach, our leasing and environmental review processes, and our next steps for offshore wind energy development on the north coast.

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BOEM is primarily responsible for offshore wind energy development in federal waters, which is three nautical miles out to 200 nautical miles offshore, because it's mandated under law by Congress through the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the

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Energy Policy Act of 2005.

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So, any siting of offshore wind energy projects outside of state waters,

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in other words, greater than three nautical miles offshore is BOEM’s responsibility by law. But we do not conduct this responsibility alone. There are several state and other federal laws that would apply to any project that would be built, because it

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has to be connected to the shore so along with BOEM,

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there are many other agencies, and many other laws that would be affected by this decision that BOEM would make.

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So, the launch of any new industry in California, in our nation's most populous state in the fifth largest economy in the world, in waters that have a multitude of other uses, including commercial and recreational fishing, military activities, maritime transportation,

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migratory species pathways, sea floor variability, seismic activity, and viewshed concerns is not an easy task, and it must be done with input from several diverse and different groups.

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And so we work with many others to fulfill our responsibilities and also provide for safety and the protection of the environment.

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Because there are several state and federal laws that would apply to any offshore renewable energy project in federal waters, BOEM in the state of California established an intergovernmental renewable energy Task Force back in 2006 to look specifically

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at offshore wind energy planning, and the potential for offshore wind energy development.

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The Task Force is a governmental forum that includes sovereign tribal nations, representatives of the US governmental agencies, the government of California and its agencies, and locally elected representatives, including at the state, county, and local levels.

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However, the task force is not the only forum to discuss these issues. It is the government-focused forum. So through early Task Force discussions in 2016 and 17,

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BOEM and the state of California created the offshore wind energy gateway to house data and information that we have been collectively gathering to inform our planning and siting processes.

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This gateway is a transparent, publicly available online data portal that can be reached through our website, and also through the web link on your screen, and it now has over I think 700 data sets.

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So the public can review these and they can, they public can look at the same data that our agency is looking at when we make our decisions.

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So BOEM and the state have and will continue in the future to reach out to affected users and to local communities who may be affected by our decisions, such as this virtual meeting today. Close to 100 meetings have been held since 2017 including over 20

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meetings with fishing communities up and down the coast of California.

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In 2018, after many months of outreach, we published a call for information and nominations in the Federal Register for official public comment.

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We received 118 comments and 14 nominations of interest from developers who would like to pursue leases in the areas that we have identified in federal waters with the notice.

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So BOEM’s overall approach for offshore wind energy planning focuses above all on being collaborative to support our science-based decision making throughout BOEM’s offshore wind energy authorization process.

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And so, what is BOEM’s offshore wind planning and authorization process. Next slide.

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BOEM’s process follows four basic phases. Planning and analysis phase, leasing phase, site assessment phase,

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and finally, construction and operations phase.

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The first phase is the planning and analysis phase that we began in California in 2016 with the establishment of the intergovernmental renewable energy Task Force, and public outreach to identify potential areas for leasing. That's on the left-hand side

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of your screen.

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The next step in the planning and analysis phase was publication in the Federal Register of a call for information and nominations which is a public notice for formal public comment.

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Following publication of this call BOEM used the comments we received during the comment period, and the previous data and information we received during our stakeholder outreach on the coast to identify the areas that appear to be the most suitable for

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future leasing through a process called area identification.

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These areas would then be the focus of an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA. Public scoping for this environmental review is why we are here today.

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If after our NEPA review, areas for leasing are offered, we would then move into the next phase in BOEM’s process called the leasing phase which is in lighter blue

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near the option and lease granted inside that box. So, the leasing phase consists of additional public notices including both a proposed sale notice and then a final sale notice.

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This includes more opportunity for public comment and would conclude with the lease auction where BOEM would offer one or more leases for future projects.

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We anticipate a lease auction will occur in fall of 2022, so next year. The lease however does not allow for any construction to begin. A developer must conduct surveys before designing a project.

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So, the third phase in the process is the site assessment phase where developers have up to five years to conduct site characterization and assessment to assess the lease areas, and that phase you can see that’s in yellow and kind of a green on your screen.

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So, site characterization and assessment activities are exactly what they sound like. They’re activities a lease holder would conduct to understand the characteristics of a site.

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So this is the detailed characteristics. This would include doing surveys to understand and answer questions such as what is the potential strength of the seabed to determine what type of anchors a developer could use.

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What does the seabed look like, are there any canyons rocks that I can't put a cable through,

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where could there be uncharted shipwrecks or even deep-water coral beds located.

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So, a lessee needs to understand the characteristics of the site first in order to understand questions of how to construct a project,

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the best size of a turbine to select, to choose, and good places to anchor a structure.

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So, the site assessment phase ends when a developer has gathered enough information to submit a construction and operations plan to BOEM, which is the fourth phase in our process.

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A second NEPA environmental review would examine the results of the site characterization surveys and the proposed construction and operation design plans of an actual specific project.

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So, we do not have the specific parameters and designs for an actual project like the height of the turbines, how many turbines, where they would be anchored until the review of the construction and operations plan, the lessee would submit to BOEM for approval

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after the surveys are conducted. So again, two NEPA processes, one for the anticipated site characterization survey work and lease issuance, and a second for the project that is designed based on the results of those surveys.

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So, from where we are today, it'll still take several years before a project can be constructed, because there are numerous parts, approvals and authorizations from other federal and state agencies, and tribal governmental consultations that are part of

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of the process. In addition to BOEM’s leasing process.

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Public opportunities exist throughout the process that includes public meetings, Federal Register notices providing for formal public comment periods, and opportunities for Tribal Consultation.

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So right now we're in the first part of this process, the planning and analysis phase.

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So, let's take a closer look at this planning and analysis phase for today.

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Thanks.

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So, during planning and analysis BOEM publishes a call for information and nominations, which we did for the Humboldt call area on the north coast in 2018.

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We published an area identification memo in July of 2021 last year.

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And we have begun the environmental review of this area under the National Environmental Policy Act. Designation of a wind energy area marks the beginning of the NEPA process.

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Because issuance of a wind energy lease does not allow for any construction of a specific project to occur, NEPA examines offshore wind energy leasing activities, including site characterization activities and site assessment activities.

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Once this review is complete, BOEM will then publish a proposed sale notice, which may also include portions of the Morro Bay call area and extensions that I'll show you in just a moment.

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We will also consult with the state of California for their review by the California Coastal Commission under California’s coastal Management Group program in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The proposed sale notice has a 60 day official public

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comment period, and BOEM expects to hold a lease auction in fall of 2022 after posting have a final sale notice. Next slide.

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So, these are the two areas that BOEM is considering for leasing. You have the Humboldt wind energy area on the north coast on the left-hand side, and a 399 miles square area that may include portions of the Morro Bay call area issued in 2018 with the east

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and west extensions on the Central Coast that is open right now for public comment. That's on the right-hand side of your screen.

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These two areas will have separate environmental reviews.

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So, the Humboldt call area is approximately 206 square miles, distance the shore is 20 nautical miles, that's closest to shore. It extends out to about 32 nautical miles from shore at the farthest Western point.

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And it was published in the call for information and nominations in our federal register in 2018.

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The Humboldt wind energy area is identical to the Humboldt call area, and information about how we determine this is available to the public online in the area identification memo that's available on that website that you see right there.

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You're also probably familiar with that website, that's the same web address that you used for registering for tonight's meeting.

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And this area will be the focus of the environmental assessment that Mr. Yarde will speak about in just a few more moments.

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BOEM will conduct an environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act.

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After completion of an environmental review BOEM will then public a proposed sale notice for both the north coast and the Central Coast under a single California proposed sale notice so that’ll include all the areas that BOEM is intending for leasing in that notice.

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The proposed sale notice has a 60-day public comment period. And it's the last opportunity for developers to indicate their interest for an area, and to participate in the auction. All public comments will be reviewed, considered, and addressed and then BOEM

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will publish a final sale notice and conduct a lease option where one or more leases would be awarded for the Humboldt wind energy area.

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The focus of today's scoping meeting is to hear from you, the public, on issues BOEM should considered during the environmental assessment.

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So, any questions you have related to the overall process that I just described, you can direct to me offline at my email address there. And with that, I'd like to wrap up and thank you for taking your time today, and hand it back over to you, Eric.

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Thank you very much Jean, and just wanted to let everybody know that after the next presentation here we will be pausing to take any clarifying questions that participants might have on making sure that you understand what this process is so

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just hang on right, jot those down and we'll get back to them soon.

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So, I'd like to turn it over now to Rick Yarde again, who will present on the commercial wind lease issuance and site assessment activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf offshore Humboldt county, and in particular Rick's going to be describing the NEPA process

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that we're involved in right now. So, off to you Rick. Thank you, Eric. Hello again everyone, you can see at the bottom of the slide there. That my name Richard Yarde is there with Lisa Gilbane.

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Lisa Gilbane is our chief of environmental assessment, and she would otherwise have given this presentation but couldn't be with us this afternoon.

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But I do want to call out her name there for your identification because she will be a wonderful point of contact for you. If you have follow up questions, she would be happy to talk to you as well.

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So, the National Environmental Policy Act, as mentioned as the reason we're here tonight, NEPA requires federal agencies to evaluate environmental impacts and proposed actions prior to making a decision.

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This is the most important information for this evening. If you are going to focus on one thing, this will help you to frame up what we're doing here tonight.

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So, our proposed action is lease issuance and associated activities post-lease, which include site characterization and site assessment.

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Those are two different kinds as you see they're basically gathering more information about the wind energy area.

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That's the basic scope of the document we're going to be looking at tonight, and all of your questions and comments I should say, really should be focusing on those activities. As Jean stressed and I’ll stress again, construction and operation

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is a separate phase of our process. They're not at issue today, they are several years out, post lease.

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So, impacts related to construction and operations of an actual project are something that would be handled in a separate NEPA process, not in the current process.

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This environmental assessment for leasing and associated activities is in scoping right now that's what we're doing here tonight, in summer 2021.

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And then the next major milestone for it will be

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after we finish writing the analysis and have prepared an environmental assessment that will be released for public review and comment. So, there will be another point at which you will be able to comment on this process on the EA

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once you have an EA in hand and can react to the contents and I expect that to be this winter and I,

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to be more specific really think it'll probably be early in 2022.

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So, once we have released that for review and comment, we will consider those comments, make any revisions or clarifications that are necessary if there are any, and then we will be releasing that final EA in 2022.

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I do think it's going to be roughly a year or a little more than a year of the entire process.

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So again, we're asking for comments in the scope of the EA.

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And I talked about the proposed action at stake about lease issuance and site assessment and site characterization. Here are some broad categories of types of things that might come into the idea of scope.

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So that includes sources of information that would be important in our analysis, any known or suspected data gaps and information needs that you would like to make us aware of, reasonable alternatives, and to the action is described.

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We also at this point, always request that federally recognized tribes and federal agencies submit any expressions of interest in participating as cooperating agencies in the EA

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when they have jurisdiction by law or special expertise.

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Any of the comments should be submitted,

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besides tonight in this public forum, in writing in methods that I will describe later.

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By September 13, that's the end of our scoping period, about three more weeks. Next slide.

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Excuse me.

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I'm not going to read through all of these, but we do like to put out there sort of a comprehensive list of the types of environmental resources and socio-cultural considerations that we expect to be investigating.

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I do want you to be aware that not all of these will end up being analyzed to the same extent in an environmental assessment. Once we enter our preliminary analysis we may find that some resources don't have the big interface with the proposed action

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and don't need a very substantive discussion.

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Excuse me again.

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I'll point out one example in particular that I think could be helpful for you. So, avian species is on the list there. So, impacts to birds from leasing in site assessment,

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I do not currently anticipate that there will be

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any impacts to avian species to a very large degree. We will certainly discuss them.

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But I think those impacts, like I said, I do anticipate those to be relatively minor at this leasing stage.

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However, in contrast, I do think in that further stage of the process that Jean described, should we get to evaluation of a construction and operation of an offshore wind project, avian species and potential impacts to them will certainly be one

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of the more robust analyses we need to engage in there. So just an example of how different resources are discussed in different contexts. Next slide.

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We also just wanted to mention very quickly some of the consultations that are considered at this stage and every stage really. We do have National Historic Preservation next section 106 consultation, that's related to historic properties.

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We also have, and Jean mentioned this in her process slide, the Coastal Zone Management Act review with the California Coastal Commission. So, we do at the leasing stage prepare a consistency determination for that state agencies review.

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We will also consider whether we need to engage an Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation and similarly Magnuson-Stevens fishery conservation and management act, really essential fish habitat consultation.

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I acknowledge that this is small on your screens I'm sure and you probably are not able to see this very well.

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It's only some examples that we wanted to point out of the ways that we have employed to collect and disclose information.

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Some of the examples you could see on the page here if you can see the writing include our very robust Environmental Sciences program.

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Our participation in the construction of the California offshore wind energy gateway, the database and where there are huge amounts of data that's collected and stored there for everyone's review. A vessel monitoring system that is related to fisheries etc.

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so again, just an example of a lot of the data that we have collected.

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So, we've talked about how we've been engaged in the process for quite a long time, since the first task force meeting I think about five years ago, we've had a number of public forums to seek input.

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Some of the major points of input that we have received so far, wanted to provide a summary of those for you here. That includes fishing, the concerns of fishermen about potential impacts to the ability to fish and livelihood of them.

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The concerns about environmental, visual, and noise impacts from a potential project in the future. Again that's not an issue in this current analysis but could be in the future.

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We spent quite a lot of time investigating vessel traffic, maritime vessel traffic and shipping issues.

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And we also do frequently hear from people about expectations about the potential economic impacts from offshore wind development.

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So, the ways that you may comment on during the scoping period, again by September 13th, and you can comment during this meeting and I know some of you will.

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You may also submit written comments and written comments are very helpful for us it helps us collect our thoughts as we do our analysis, and you may do that in writing, either through the mail and our address is listed there or through the email address

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we have set up for this project humboldtoffshoerwind@boem.gov. All of these are described in full along with other information about this project and how to comment and what to comment on at that website listed, it's in the chat.

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And it's on the top of the slide. Beom.gov/HumboldtEA.

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And next slide, I believe, is the end and Lisa’s contact information.

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And she and I, and all the BOEM team will be happy to talk to people further. Reach out.

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Thank you for your attention and that concludes the presentations, and back to Eric to talk about where we head next. Okay, thank you very much, Rick. So, we're going to pause now after those two presentations acknowledging there was a lot of detail there both

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about the overall leasing process, and about the NEPA scoping process that we're currently involved in. So, while we thought that if you have questions about that we want to make sure that you understood what was being shared there. Here's where we would

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invite you to use the q & a function that you should see on your screen, you can click on that and type in a clarifying question that you have. So, now would be the appropriate time. I think we have a couple of questions that have just arrived again focused

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on the environmental scoping process. Our BOEM team will be taking a look at the questions and we'll be providing responses to those questions that are relevant to scoping in this case. It's possible that you may have questions that are outside of the scope

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here, these will be noted by BOEM, although they won’t be necessarily responded to as part of this scoping meeting. And I do want to reiterate what Rick said and Jean said earlier, Lisa Gilbane and Jean have shared their email addresses and if you

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questions that are not answered tonight about the process, invite you to reach out to them again, and contact them directly. Finally, if you're participating by phone, and you want to ask a clarifying question you would dial star nine to raise your hand

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and get in the queue and then we would take your question, orally. Want to remind everybody again this is just for clarifying questions, we will be moving into the formal public comment section

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immediately after this this q & a session here, which is again focused on the environmental scoping process. So, let's take a look. So again, invite folks if you want to ask a question, click on the q & a icon in front of you, and then we'll get to

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Them. So I'm going to start with the first one here.

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It says, to clarify our competing uses of proposed areas considered before reaching this EA process the environmental assessment process. That is to say, when identifying areas right from the start,

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what other uses of the area are considered, if at all apart from the capacity to generate electricity in the depth of water.

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And so, Rick. Off to you, or I think that Jean may want to weigh in on this one.

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Sorry. Yeah, Jean. Please go ahead.

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Okay. Um, yeah. So, BOEM underwent an extensive stakeholder outreach effort in order to identify areas that appear to be the most suitable for offshore wind energy development.

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So, we looked first at technical criteria such as how deep the water is. You can only go so deep with technology, down to about 1300 meters or so.

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And then we also looked into to the wind resource potential, we looked at proximity to transmission substations and interconnection points, but we also looked at a lot of environmental data. So, we looked at, you know, proximity to shore we need that viewshed

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is a large concern for California.

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We know from conversations with the fishermen that there's more activity, typically not always, but typically there's more fishing activity the closer you are to shore.

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So, the farther we could go offshore was better for fishermen, overall, not 100%.

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And then we also looked at like vessel traffic from the maritime transportation industry, which has quite a lot of traffic offshore that a lot of people don't see.

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And then we also looked at military activities.

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So, we looked at a lot of things offshore, human uses, environmental concerns, and then also like migratory seas and their patterns. And so, we didn't just pick areas in a vacuum.

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We did a lot of work up front with a lot of conversations with people, and we used a lot of the data and information gathered that we have through the offshore wind energy gateway to make those decisions.

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These are science-based decisions, and also with a lot of input from the public.

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A lot of that information you'll also see in the area identification memo that's published online at the boem.gov/humboldtEA website, so you can find that memo there.

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And if you have any other questions if you want to know more about how we develop these call areas, please feel free to reach out directly to either Lisa or myself.

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Rick, did you want to add anything to that.

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Sorry, that it was my turn to not be able to hit the mute button, no Jean. Thank you. Thank you.

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Okay great, so I'm going to move on to the next one. We have a question on the timeline that Jean presented, the phase four construction and operation phase. Environmental and technical review takes place before plans and designs are submitted.

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This seems counterintuitive. How can a complete environmental and technical review of a project be performed before there is a project design and review.

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And should, do want me to go back to the process slide for this Jean.

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Yeah, if you can, I think that'd be really good for folks to actually see that process again, because it is a, it's a detailed process. Okay so construction and operations, that phase that’s been referred to in the question, is on the right-hand side

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of the screen. So, you'll see at the bottom there's a point where, at the end of the site assessment and surveys, that five-year time period

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a developer will submit a construction and operations plan.

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BOEM will review that construction operation plan, and it takes us about a year to determine that that cop, or construction operations plan for short, is complete and sufficient.

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So, in our regulations we have a lot of detailed information that is required. I also mentioned that developers do a lot of site assessment survey work that includes like side scan sonar of the seabed in order to, like I said, identify any

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archaeological resources for instance. If that's not complete, if there are gaps in that, we make the developer go back in and redo those surveys, so it's actually an extensive review.

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And also, Mr. Yarde’s group does a review to make sure that it has all of the environmental information so they're looking for, they're looking for any gaps that may exist and any questions that they need to have answered. So, after that process point where we

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say yes, the construction and operations plan is complete, and it's sufficient for us to begin our environmental review.

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Then we conduct our environmental review of that plan. So, I think it's important to iterate that we have a point where we have to review the plan to make sure it has all the information we need both from a technical perspective which includes engineering,

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and then also from an environmental perspective, to make sure that it meets all the needs of Mr. Yarde’s group.

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And so, with that I think that's clarified that question. Again, if there's more questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

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I know it's a complicated process. And these slides will be available so you can go back and visit these slides again too, or just give me an email. Thank you.

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Thank you Jean for that. So, the next clarifying question we have is the example about avian impacts is interesting. Wouldn't it be better to understand avian impacts

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now before we get too far down the road, as I'm sure you may know, there are strict ramifications to commercial fishermen including fishery closures

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if a small number of a certain albatross, for instance are taken. Why not consider that upfront versus later.

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And Rick to you for this one.

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Yeah, thank you. I'll say that we've gotten a number of questions that are really quite similar in concept so I'm going to really address them as a group here I think, and try to try to get to everyone's essence of everybody’s question here about the

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process about what we're considering when.

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And maybe if Eric or Jasmine, you can go to the slide about impact.

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There. No, sorry I was wrong.

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This one here. Nope, a little further back.

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It's the one that talks about BOEM will do a comprehensive review at the top. So, while you're scrolling through, I will go into production. Here is it. Nope, Sorry, maybe go forward one slide past this one.

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Okay.

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Thank you.

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I think it's not, let's stick with that so you can stop scrolling and I'll just describe it. Sorry everyone, trying to be helpful with the slides but I can't see them myself in the, in order, so many questions again about process.

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And, and why an EA now, what we're covering in the EA, why not a EIS.

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Many along the same theme so I want to say again that you know we've been engaged in the process for quite a long time, at least five years where we've been acquiring data, and I called this a milestone in a larger process, where we basically have through

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the area identification memorandum said that we have this area in Humboldt County that we think is warrants further evaluation, because we have been evaluating, we have considered a lot of information but as time goes on, we acquire more information,

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we get more input.

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And we do further analysis through time to be at a finer scale and about, you know, in using more data, and ultimately this environmental assessment is going to help refine and do that further evaluation.

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The scope, which is the other slide I was looking for, is about lease issuance, and the things that happen immediately after lease issuance and site assessment characterization.

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Those things are basically surveys, as you might imagine, gathering a lot of information, oceanographic climatological, sea floor data.

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Just getting more information about a site so we are still in the evaluation phase to gather more information.

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We will finally, you know, finish an EA

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if we issue a lease and do that site assessment and site characterization work with the help of a lessee at that point, getting more information. Ultimately, we will then move on to another round of further evaluation, where we will

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at that time, have the benefit of a plan that includes information about a specific project, which is what we don't have now. So, a long answer but we had so many questions about it I wanted to try to help everybody understand that my perspective on how

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this works is we are in a very long process where we evaluate and get a finer skill of information through time.

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And ultimately lead up to what would be perhaps evaluation of an actual project, a construction operation where we have more information.

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Rick should I move back up to, I think, it was one of Jean’s slides where she showed, I think it was this.

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Sure, yes. Thank you, Eric.

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Again, that Humboldt tag at the beginning shows where we are at this current point in time, but much process yet to come.

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Wrapped up into this answer though, or questions about my example about avian impacts and I didn't mean to imply that we're not considering birds at this stage, just understand the interface with birds from site surveys, as well we will consider now.

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And I was trying to point out that, you know, that's very different from thinking about the interface of birds with a potential project, construction and operations of a project which is something we will evaluate later when we have information about the project

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so just a different scale of analysis and a different

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specificity of informational we’ll have at different times.

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So, again, probably half a dozen questions or so in the chat that were all sort of around this theme and I was trying to get to all of them with that.

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So, hopefully it does help them.

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So, looking to BOEM staff right now, I think you did answer a bunch of them at once. Are there any other the questions that come in that

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still fall into this nice category of clarifying questions on the scoping process.

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No, I'll say that I think we've hit the scoping process questions.

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Okay, great.

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Okay, well thank you everybody for your clarifying questions and again, these are being noted by BOEM, and if you feel like you have questions that still weren't answered tonight we invite you to please reach out to Jean and Lisa and other members of

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the BOEM team to address them.

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So, I'm going to bring our slides back up to the present here.

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So, we're going to shift a little bit right now and go into the formal public comment opportunity. So, thank you again for your clarifying questions and now we're going to invite you to share your comments about potential impacts associated with the proposed

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action that Rick described earlier. A couple of just slides to help tee up this part of our agenda. I want to invite you again to help adhere to our process guidelines.

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So again, help us to honor the agenda and our time limits. Please participate actively and respectfully.

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I'll be managing the queue so ask you to speak in order please speak clearly into your mics, providing your name and affiliation when you speak and please

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to the extent needed manage background noise using the mute button.

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Again, just want to let everybody know that this is a common opportunity associated with a scoping meeting, but as Rick and others have said, the scope and comment period is open through September 13.

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More information on how to provide comment is at the boem.gov/HumboldtEA web address. And again, we invite your comments in writing or via email, and the website provides additional information on this.

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We actually just saw this slide a moment ago, but I think it's an important one to reiterate this is the kind of information that BOEM is identifying is especially helpful information to get from members of public as part of the scoping process and

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so BOEM is interested to hear issues and sources of information that they should be including in the environmental assessment, any gaps in data or information needs that you're aware of, reasonable alternatives to the proposed actions about site

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characterization and site assessment that that Rick mentioned before, and again request from tribes or federal agencies in becoming cooperating agencies for this effort.

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So, this we share again as guidance for information that is especially helpful to be receiving.

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And so here’s how the process is going to work.

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We did receive a small number of folks who had pre-identified or had pre-registered saying they wanted to provide public comments tonight so we're going to take those names first. We've listed them on a slide we’ll be showing that in just a second.

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And we'll move through those first, and then when we're done with that, we’ll open it up to others here who would like to enter the queue to provide public comment.

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So, again to get in the queue, you want to click the raise hand icon, that's either at the top or the bottom of your webinar window and we invite you after you have finished providing your comment to lower your hand

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after speaking.

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I'll be calling on you when it's your turn to speak, and I will ask you to unmute yourself.

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And so, those instructions will be coming along. If you are participating by phone, again, to get in the queue to provide public comment please press star nine, and that will raise your hand and then we will address you in the order by which your

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hand went up.

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And again, we invite everyone to please provide your name and affiliation if you have one before you speak. And then finally, the public comment period will be limited to three minutes, this as I mentioned before, is being recorded and we

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can invite everyone to be respectful to everyone's time and opportunity to speak here.

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And so with that,

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Jasmine I'm going to I guess share or power to you.

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In terms of

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share your screen. Are folks seeing that.

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Jasmine, I'm not sure if you've, maybe I can.

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If you're asking if we can see names and stop watch, we do Eric.

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Oh, you do see that.

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Oh, and I am not so maybe I need to

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pause otherwise because I'm not able to see that right now.

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That’s always disconcerting when that happens.

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Okay, here we go.

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Okay, so the first few folks who had indicated a desire to speak as part of the registration process are Peter Flournoy, Steven Johnson and Ted Romo and so I invite all three of you to raise your hand

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at this point if you're just to indicate that you're here, and then we would like to do that and I see all three hands up at this point. So we will start with the three of you, and I think we're going alphabetically here but Peter will turn it over to you

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first. So, if you could again introduce yourself. And we'll get the clock going.

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Oh, and I think I need to help by actually allowing you to talk so you should be allowed to talk now, you should be able to unmute yourself, Peter.

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Yes I think I have.

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Thank you.

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Thank you. Thank you very much. Actually, I put my primary question or comment I guess in the chat box, and it was partially answered by Rick, but I'm at this point I'm pretty familiar with what the standard BOEM process is.

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And so, my real question is, is there any chance that BOEM would consider slightly revising their process so that they would have more information before they announce to the public and to developers, the outlines of their perspective areas that would

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eventually be up for lease. My understanding of what you've said Rick and what some other people have said is, basically, you look at the geophysical properties of the ocean bottom, you look at the water depth,

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you look at the wind speeds, maybe look at earthquake faults every once in a while if there's information available, you look at wrecks and things like that.

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But none of those surveys, none of that information that you're gathering in those three areas really tell you very much about other ocean users, and I think as part of your charter, and part of the overall aspect of marine planning, what's supposed

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to happen is, there’s supposed to be information about existing uses in the ocean, and how things can be worked out. Now, I know you've done that a lot with the military.

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I don't know if you've done it with respect to cable areas, cable routes. I don't know if you've done it with respect to shipping routes, but it's pretty clear that the information you've had off the coast of California has basically been either quite

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old or quite inaccurate when it comes to commercial and sport fishing.

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Thank you for the time to make this statement.

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Thank you, Peter, for that, for that question which we will take as a comment here about the process and an invitation for BOEM to reexamine that. Okay next, we have Steven Johnson.

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So, Steven. You should now be able to unmute yourself so please come on.

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So let me to thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, for giving me this opportunity to speak.

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It's all very, very interesting. I'm retired. I support the Society for new water technology,

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a technology, learning and sharing group.

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When I see, look at your schedules, a little bit surprised how long the schedules are before you can get first wind production.

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Because I'm seeing things such as the fires in California, Oregon, that's been on the news. I see flooding on the east coast. I see that the environment isn't being quite friendly towards the moment.

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I also read stories of California being short of energy, electricity, and the like.

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What are the ways of bringing forward your process in order that we can provide better energy for California, and which leaves these off other states as well.

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And also, that in turn would help alleviate the or may ease the problems with the environmental change we're seeing at the moment.

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Thank you.

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Okay, thank you very much, Steven.

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Okay, next up we have Ted Romo,

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and Ted I'm going to allow you to speak now, so please unmute yourself. And again, please introduce yourself too. Hi, can hear me. Yep, you sound good. Great.

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Good afternoon.

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My name is Ted Romo, I live in Eureka, California.

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I'd like to call to the attention of the scoping session, the migration patterns of your Pacific black brant, Pacific black brant stage and Izembeck National Wildlife Refuge out on the Aleutian Islands.

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They start the migration around October, and wait until the winds that are favorable from the north to hitch a ride across 5000 miles of open water, reaching their final destination down in Baja, Mexico.

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Some of these brant have been known to make this trip within 64 hours, but the majority of these brant take a slower trip.

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The big question is, what distance and what time of day, are these brant cruising along our coastline, here in California.

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But suddenly an ordinary migration, which takes over a period of six to seven months, about two days.

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I would ask your project to let you protect a small declining population or task that you need to protect the slight population of a total period of the proposed lifespan of your offshore project.

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30 years, my understanding.

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Humboldt bay is a major stopping off point for up to 40,000 migrating brant, that join here by instinct, and need to be considered as a viable species of concern. If brant are in the kill zone of this project and over lifetime with 30 years,

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brant population will be putting in jeopardy.

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A comprehensive study needs to be completed. And it's just not even started yet because of COVID. It needs to be done over a period of no less than five years, five migration cycles,

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with northerly and southernly. At least probably close to 500 California found migrating birds need to be captured and GPS tagged that can be monitored over this process.

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And this is kind of a bird that’s going to be a burden to you I know, but it's a very important bird, it’s small, weights about five pounds, and it needs to have our protection here in North Coast, thank you, Ted.

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Okay, thank you very much Ted for that detailed comment. So, these are the three participants

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this evening who had pre-registered to speak. At this point we're going to open it up to anyone else who's participating tonight who would also like to provide their formal oral comment, and to do so here just invite you to raise your hand again you just

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go to the raise hand icon on your screen hit it and that will put you in the queue.

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And at this point I see one hand raise its Alan Alward.

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And so, Alan I'm going to allow you to unmute yourself. And so, I would say go ahead. Introduce yourself.

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Hello, am I getting through. Yep, you sound good. Okay.

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So, my name is Alan Alward, I'm a commercial fisherman, I'm a co-chair of the alliance of communities for sustainable fisheries, which is an umbrella organization for Central Coast fishing groups and communities and recreational fishermen from stretching

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from Santa Cruz down to Santa Barbara.

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And I'm also secretary of the Morro Bay commercial fishermens organization.

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So, I my concern that I can address it by three minutes today is the lack of data on Albacore fishing. On my boat I had a VMS. And that was because I fished ground fish.

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But in the winter, but in the summer I fish Albacore and I travel from Morro Bay up to Oregon, sometimes Washington. And sometimes Northern California, and fish Albacore, and up to a couple of years ago, I think it was year before last I had VMS data because

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we're required to keep our VMS on whether we're fishing ground fish or not.

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Now I started the project on my boat, and I got rid of the VMS. So for the last year or so I haven't had any data.

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But and most Albacore boats do not have a VMS. You're required to have one if you're fishing offshore, but you're not required to fish within 200 miles what's called the highly migratory species zone or the exclusive economic zone.

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So, I know you have the gateway. And I remember hearing about the gateway when BOEM came to Morro Bay, quite a few years ago now and explained the process.

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And I remember thinking, I'm not going to go put anything on that gateway because I don't understand it and that is the mentality of the vast majority of fishermen. So, thinking that you have the data because you have the gateway, that isn't

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really working. It's like asking a fishermen, you know, go read the Federal Register to learn the rules for fishing. Well, we're incapable of doing that too because it's all too complicated.

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We're not lawyers.

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So, my point is, BOEM needs to get that Albacore data and there are a couple of projects in the works now that gathering anecdotal information about fishing from old time Albacore fishermen.

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And there was one kicked off at Humboldt and now and Morro Bay. We've got another one going on to do that. And I urge you to check all that out. And that's it for me.

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Thanks.

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Thank you very much for that, that comment, in particular about data that you feel are missing. And that should be addressed as part of the process.

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So, I again want to invite other participants this evening if you would like to provide oral comment. At this point, I don't see any hands up right now so I'm just going to pause for a few moments to see if anyone else wants to raise their hand and participate

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in this public comment opportunity.

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Okay, I'm not seeing any hands go up. Rick at this point.

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I think we can provide information for everybody again, one last time about how else comments can be provided. Obviously, this is not your only opportunity before the end of September 13th

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to do so. But I think we'll actually then leave this formal public comment section here. I'm going to go back to sharing my screen at this point, and

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can everybody see that.

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Yes.

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Okay, great. So, thank you to the members of the public who provided comments tonight and everyone for participating. I'm going to turn it back to Rick Yarde from BOEM to provide some closing comments and to describe next steps.

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Excuse me. Well, I'll emphasize, or amplify what you said Eric. Thank you everyone for your participation tonight I, as I said earlier, I know that we asked a lot of you to come to our meetings and we have a lot of them.

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But, as Jean pointed out, we have a process that feeds on collaboration. We seek information, and we rely on you to provide it. Thank you all for your input.

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We do appreciate you being here tonight.

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As far as next steps.

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As I mentioned, we will be working on this environmental assessment for the next several months and we will be issuing one early in the next calendar year for public review and comment.

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I think you should look to that to be at least for this particular environmental assessment, that should be your next milestone to watch opportunity to see an actual analysis written down, something to react to in another round of comments that will have

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early next year.

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And with that, again, thank you all. Appreciate your participation in this late afternoon, early evening meeting tonight. Thank you, Rick and thank you everybody else. We will close this meeting now. We will leave this slide up in case people do join late, but otherwise we will close our meeting. Thank you again for participating, and have a wonderful evening everyone.