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Welcome to everyone who is joining us this morning.

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I'm your facilitator Jenna Tourje we’ll wait a few moments as people are still joining the webinar. We're glad that you are with us here this morning.

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and welcome you at the Humbodlt wind energy areas scoping for the development of an environmental assessment meeting we'll be starting in the next minute or so people are joining the webinar.

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And we'll give just a moment for people to join us here.

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Okay, I think we'll get started.

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Again, my name is Jenna Tourje

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I'll be our facilitator today.

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And you are at the Humbodlt wind energy area scoping for the development of an environmental assessment meeting today.

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We're glad you're here. I'm going to walk through the zoom webinar features, it's a little bit different than a Zoom meeting and wanted to talk through some of the specific.

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So, if you are joining as a member of the public, you'll be muted throughout the scoping meeting, you will not be able to unmute yourself, but there will be a public comment opportunity.

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you can use the raise hand feature to get in the queue and share your public comments at the end, after a couple presentations.

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You can use the raise hand feature on zoom. You can also use a chat function and a Q&A function. The chat function will be available for tech questions and tech difficulties, only we’ll also be sharing some important links through that

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chat, as well. As a reminder for folks, this meeting is being recorded.

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And I mentioned were in the webinar and zoom meetings. There's a lot of great things that we gained from zoom webinars, such as the opportunity to ask questions about scoping through the Q&A tool.

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But there's also limitations inthat you can't see fully who's on the call and so we have enabled something at the top of your screen. If you go to where you can see that I'm sharing my screen, you can see the number of participants who

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have joined today. We'll also do a poll and a couple of minutes to see who's on the call in terms of affiliation and so just to open it up a little bit to see who is with us today.

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As a reminder, the chat is for requests for technical assistance, and again if you're unable to use the chat for technical assistance you can email Jasmine King at jKing@kearnswest.com

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or message again technical assistance in the chat.

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And again, if you're a phone calling user, you can also dial star nine.

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And we can get technical help for you as well.

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We will be enabling closed captions at the bottom of your screen you can click on closed caption to get a live transcript of the meeting.

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So today we are here to provide information and the Humboldt WEA Or the wind energy area environmental review process.

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We want to inform comments on the Humbodlt wind energy area and provide an opportunity for the public to give input on what should be considered in the environmental assessment.

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And we'll also be answering questions related to the scoping process.

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So we are here in the Facilitator’s Welcome.

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We will be moving on to welcome and opening remarks from Rick Yarde who will be leading us today. We will have a presentation on the Outer Continental Shelf wind energy leasing in California, another presentation on the scoping process. We’ll have time for clarifying

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questions on this environmental scoping process.

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And then a public comment opportunity and we’ll close and discuss next step.

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So today we ask, in terms of our process, to set up some guidelines of how we will be with each other on this webinar. The first is we asked folks honor the agenda.

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We want to make sure that we're providing space for folks to provide public comments.

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And so as part of that we've asked that you participate in that public comment if you would like to do so actively and respectfully.

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We ask that you speak in order me as the facilitator I'll mind, the queue and calling you in the order that we set up in the queue. When you are if you are providing verbal public comment if you speak clearly into your microphone or your phone for

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others to hear you and provide your name and affiliation when you speak.

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And then when you are finished, mute yourself. We'll also be muting you but it's also a good opportunity for you to be yourself too.

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So, I wanted to start today with a poll.

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I mentioned earlier, we want to open up a little bit of who is here with us today. So you'll see a poll pop up on your screen.

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And we asked the poll will ask for you to identify your affiliation.

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And when we get some results in, we'll end the poll and then share their results.

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Pretty good number of folks responding will give it another few seconds here.

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Okay.

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And I'll have my webinar manager Jasmine King end the poll. We also have Ali Liberman taking notes with us today.

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Okay, so I think the poll results are shared here. So, for the folks who have joined us, about 43% are representing government agencies.

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Next is community-based organizations, and business industry. We also have NGOs, tribal indigenous folks, and the press.

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And let me scroll down a little bit here. I think there's one missing. And so, folks could respond to this other as well.

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All right, thank you so much for this poll.

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Our next call is to help us identify who will be providing public comments and folks have already registered. And if you have this okay still respond.

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Are you planning on providing public comment today?

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This will help us gauge

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How many folks will be joining us.

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Later in the call so public comment.

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Okay, thank you so much for responding to that poll.

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And at this time, I want to turn it over to Rick Yarde he will be providing our welcome and opening remarks. So, Rick over to you.

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Jenna just a quick check that you hear me all right, I think you do but

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we hear you great. Okay, thank you. Well, welcome everyone to the meeting today thank you for taking the time to participate with us. My name is Richard Yarde as Jenna mentioned or Rick Yarde and I lead up the Office of environment and BOEM Pacific region

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on the team from my office here we've got a team of experts on the call who are also going to be responsible for preparation of this EA that we're talking about today, and we wanted to have them here to be able to hear your input firsthand.

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I also want to point out that in addition to this team of environmental experts we have we also have a number of our BOEM leasing specialists here, and in particular, we've got Jean Thurston Keller, you're going to hear more from her in a moment about

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the BOEM process and I think many of you have probably heard Jean speak before perhaps several times, she is BOEMs coordinator for our intergovernmental renewable energy Task Force in California, and just generally has a wide span of responsibility for

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helping us move through the larger BOEM process.

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

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This is a step in BOEM’s process related to offshore renewable energy oversight and the earliest stages of that larger process began several years ago. We were brought to this point, most recently by the identification of the Humboldt wind energy area,

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which represents to me.

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Another step in BOEM’s vetting process where we have essentially sat, and my own words here. We found an area in Humboldt County that we believe is worthy of further evaluation so we're starting some further evaluation right now with this EA. we got

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this point in the process and close coordination with our colleagues at the state of California. And in particular the California Energy Commission, and I want to welcome representative so that commission today and all of our state

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of California governmental participants.

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We've also begun what I believe will be an ongoing and productive discussion with Tribes who have interested in and in many cases have traditional knowledge of the ocean environment.

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I welcome all of our Tribal participants today.

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I also want to take a moment here to point out the Sara Guiltinan is our BOEM Tribal Liaison, I think you're probably all familiar with Sara. She's on the call today as well.

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We've spoken with representatives of other federal and state agencies as well and I know many of you are on the call today too so thank you for your continued participation.

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And finally, just to welcome to all the rest of you who represent those non-governmental organizations, and industry, the press, or just representing yourself here today because of your personal interest in this process.

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I know that many of you have been engaged in this for a long time with us. We appreciate your continued engagement on offshore renewable energy in California and look forward to hearing your points of view later today.

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And with that, again, just welcome, and Jenna,

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turn it over to you to carry on with the agenda. Thanks.

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Great, thanks. Thank you, Rick. I'll now turn the process over to Jean Thurston Keller to share a presentation on the Outer Continental Shelf wind energy leasing in California.

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Jean take it away.

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Great, thanks Jenna.

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Good morning. My name is Jean Thurston Keller and I am the BOEM California intergovernmental renewable energy taskforce coordinator, and the California Project Lead for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management specific regional office, and as Rick has mentioned

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thank you all for being here today. You are important part of the work that we do.

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So next slide. Overview.

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So today I will provide you an overview of BOEM’s responsibilities in our approach. Our leasing and environmental review processes, and our next steps for offshore wind energy development on the north coast of California.

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BOEM is primarily responsible for offshore wind energy development in federal waters. I think it's important to point this out this morning, goes from three nautical miles to 200 nautical miles offshore.

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It's mandated under law by Congress to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Energy Policy Act of 2005. So, any sighting of offshore wind energy projects, outside of state waters, which is greater than three nautical miles offshore is BOEM’s responsibility

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by law. But we don't conduct this responsibility alone, there are several state and federal laws that apply to any project that's built and connected to the shore, and so although BOEM is charged with this decision.

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It affects many other agencies and involves many other laws.

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And so with the launch of a 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 recreational fishing, military activities maritime

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Transportation, migratory species pathways, seafloor variability, seismic activity and viewshed concerns, this is not easy, and must be done with input from several different and diverse stakeholder groups.

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And so, we work with many others to fulfill this responsibility and also provide for safety and protection of the environment.

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So, because there are several state and federal laws that would apply to any offshore wind energy projects in federal waters, BOEM the state of California establishing intergovernmental renewable energy Task Force back in 2016, 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 an intergovernmental forum that includes sovereign tribal nations, representatives of US Federal governmental agencies, the government of California and its agencies, and locally elected representatives at the state, county, and local levels.

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But the task force is not the only forum to discuss these issues.

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And this is another forum here today as well. Through early Task Force discussions in 2016 and 17, BOEM state of California created the offshore wind energy gateway for data collection, and it is a publicly available website at

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www.caoffshorewind.databasin.org

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And this gateway is a transparent publicly available online data portal that now has over 700 data sets the public can review and use as well. And so, we collected all this data and information during extensive outreach and engagement with stakeholders.

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And so BOEM and the state have collaborated and will continue to reach out to affected users and local communities who could be affected by our decisions, through this virtual meeting today.

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So we've held close to 100 meetings since 2017, including over 20 meetings with fishing communities up and down the coast. In 2018, after many months of outreach we published a call for information nominations in the Federal Register for official public

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comment.

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We received 118 comments and 14 nominations from developers interested in leasing offshore California in federal waters with the notice.

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And so BOEM's approach for offshore wind energy planning, focus above all, in being collaborative to support science-based decision making throughout our offshore wind energy authorization process.

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So, next slide. So, what is bonus authorization process? So BOEM's process follows four basic phases: the planning analysis phase, leasing phase, site assessment phase.

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And finally, construction and operations phase. So, the first phase is the planning and analysis phase, we began in California in 2016 with the establishment of an intergovernmental renewable energy Task Force, and public outreach to identify potential

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areas for leasing.

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

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Following publication of the 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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leasing, which we call a process known as area identification.

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These areas would then be the focus of an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy actor NEPA and public scoping for this environmental review is why we're here today.

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And so, if after our NEPA review areas for leasing are offered, we would then move to the next phase in the process known as the leasing phase. The leasing phase consists of additional public notices.

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And, and that includes a proposed sale notice and a final sale notice. This also includes more opportunity for public comment, and then would conclude with a lease option where one or more leases would be issued for future projects.

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BOEM anticipates a lease option will occur for California in fall of 2022, so next year.

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A lease, however, does not allow for any construction to begin, a developer most conduct surveys before designing the project.

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So, after the leasing phase, comes the site assessment phase. This is the third phase in the process that you'll see in green, to the right of the box.

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And this is where developers have up to five years to conduct site characterization and assessment activities to assess the lease areas.

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So, site characterization activities are exactly what they sound like- their activities that a lease holder would conduct in order to understand the particular characteristics of the site.

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So, these include answering questions such as, what is the tensile strength of the seabed that would be needed to determine which anchors to be used and, what the seabed looks like. Are there any canyons or rocks that you could put a cable through or not?

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

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So, unless he needs to understand the characteristics of the site first in order to answer those questions about how to construct a project the best size of the turbines to use, and the places to anchor any structure.

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And so, this phase and when a developer submits a construction and operations plan to BOEM, which is the fourth phase in our process that you see an orange on the right-hand side.

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A second environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act would examine the results of the site characterization surveys, and the proposed construction and operations design plans of an actual specific project.

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

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approval after the survey site assessment.

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Time is completed and those surveys are conducted. So again, two NEPA processes, one for the anticipated site characterization survey work and lease issuance, which is what we're looking at today.

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And then a second later in the process for the project that is designed based on the results of the surveys.

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And so, from where we are today, it will still take several years before you'll see actual, I'd say steel in the water with numerous permits approvals and other authorizations, not only from federal and state agencies, but also through consultations with

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tribal governments, which is part of our process in addition to BOEM's leasing process that you see here.

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So public opportunities also exist throughout the process through public meetings, Federal Register notices providing for formal public comment periods and opportunities for Tribal Consultation.

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However, we're currently in the first part of the process. On the left-hand side of your screen. The planning and analysis phase. So, because of this, next slide.

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Let's take a closer look at the planning analysis phase.

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So, during planning and analysis BOEM published the call for information nominations for the Humboldt call area on the north coast in 2018.

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Then we published the area identification memo through the area identification process in July of 2021 so just the summer, and we have begun the environmental review of this area under the National Environmental Policy Act designation of a wind energy area

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marks the beginning of the NEPA process. Because issuance of a wind energy lease does not allow for any construction of a specific project yet until the surveys are completed, BOEM

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Will, under NEPA, examine offshore wind energy leasing activities that will include the site characterization surveys and site assessment activities, and also the lease issuance through an option.

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Once this environment review is complete, we would publish it for post-sale notice, which may also include any purport portions of the Morro Bay call area that I'll tell you about in a moment.

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And any extensions.

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We will also consult with the state for their review with the California Coastal Commission under California’s Coastal management program to ensure that it is in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

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So, the state also has a review during this timeframe.

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The proposed sale notice also has a 60-day official public comment period, and we expect again to hold a lease option in fall of next year after posting and final sale notice.

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So that's a close up of where we are right now and the immediate next steps.

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And that's where we are for Humboldt.

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So, there are two areas BOEM is considering for leasing Humboldt wind energy on the north coast that you'll see on the left-hand side of your screen, and a 399 square mile area that may include portions of the Morro Bay area for to that from 2018,

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with east and west extensions that we've just published in the Federal Register on the Central Coast, this summer.

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So, these two areas will have separate environmental reviews and our focus today is on the Humboldt wind energy area.

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So, the Humboldt wind energy area, the Humboldt call area is approximately 206 square miles in size and is closest to shore at 20 nautical miles.

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But it goes out to about 32 nautical miles from shore. So between 20 and 32 months from shore.

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And it was this area was published in the call for information nominations for federal register notice that BOEM published in October 2018 next slide. The Humboldt wind energy area is identical to the Humboldt call area, and we published an area identification

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memo online.

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That is posted boem.gov/humboldtea. You may have visited that same website when you registered for this webinar today.

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And that will be the focus of the environmental review, that Rick will talk about in our next presentation.

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So, our immediate next steps, is that BOEM will conduct an environmental assessment, under the National Environmental Policy Act. After completion of the environmental review, we will publish a proposed sale notice for both the North coast and Central

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Coast under a single California proposed sale notice, so separate environmental reviews, but one proposed sale notice this proposed sale notice will have a 60-day public comment period, and is the last opportunity for any developers to indicate their interest

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for participating in a lease sale.

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And at the conclusion of the comment period, BOEM will review all public comments and we'll review them, consider them, and address them as necessary. And then BOEM will publish a final sale notice and conduct a lease auction, or one or more leases will

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be awarded to developers for particular projects and to begin construction site assessment activities and do those in order to inform future construction and operation plan that would be the subject of a second environmental review.

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So that's an overview of our process.

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It is kind of complicated at times. So, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me; my information is there on the screen.

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

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Any questions related to the overall process I just described, you can direct to me offline.

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At my, my email there.

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And with that, I'd like to wrap up, and again, thank you for your time this morning, and I will hand it back over to Jenna.

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Thank you, Jean.

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We have also added Jean’s contact information in the chat, as well as where you can access the memo she identified as well.

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So we’ll now turn it back over to Rick Yarde to introduce the Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf offshore Humboldt County.

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So, Rick, I'll turn it over to you.

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Thank you, Jenna, you'll see on the slide here my name at the bottom along with Lisa Gilbaine. So, Lisa is the chief of our environmental analysis section and plays a key role in the preparation of the EA.

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Unfortunately, she intended to give this presentation as part of the meeting, but she had some unavoidable issues come up so I'm standing in but she will later continue to be a key participant and one of the people that you should feel free to reach out to.

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For more information about the EA with that the next slide, please.

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So, the National Environmental Policy Act is the framework for what we're doing here today.

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I bet you're all aware already, but just as an overview NEPA requires federal agencies to consider environmental impacts of their proposed actions prior to decision making.

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And I'll talk about this one more time in the presentation but here it is written out well for you. If you're going to pay special attention to any one thing all morning this is the thing that will help you provide the best comments that you can.

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The scope that we have laid out for this EA right now is potential commercial energy leases in Humboldt County for potential future offshore wind.

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And we are considering within the scope of the CA everything that might happen on an eventual lease if there is one, up to but not including as Jean stressed, construction and operations.

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And I know that can be a little confusing, but please understand our process here because it is going to help you provide the most comments, the scope that we are considering is that leasing and what happens on the lease prior to construction and operations

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and that is site assessment and site characterization. Those are essentially activities. When I mentioned earlier about how we determine we were ready for further evaluation of this area, those are basically the steps in the evaluation process.

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It's meteorological and oceanographic information gathering. And if we do get to at least a lot of information that the lessee will gather at a much finer grain and that information we have already gathered about the site, and what might be potential

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for future renewable energy development.

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All right, next up in distress that last point again.

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Construction operations is a future phase several years out, assuming that we would get there, those impacts about construction operation will be evaluated at a future date and a further NEPA analysis.

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Okay. Next slide. Thank you.

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So, for this environmental assessment.

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We've got basically a year or a little more than a year of process here. We've started now scoping, and I think you all know again, but scoping is the setting the bounds of what is included in the environmental assessment.

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The next step will be our preparation of that environmental analysis, and we will complete an EA over the coming months and sometime in the winter and early next calendar year.

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We expect to have an environmental assessment that we will release to you all again for review and for comments, and we do this, not because it's required in the regulations but because it's helpful for us to get further feedback from the public about

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what that analysis looks like. We do expect it to be a largely final document but if we do as a result of that review and comment here anything that would indicate we should make clarifications revisions to the EA we will do that and then in the next

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phase, we will be releasing that final EA in 2022.

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Again, we're looking at, you know, around a year, maybe a little more of a process for that.

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So, the scope of the EA, as I mentioned, we kind of get into some more specifics about the scope, and this is where we do that to help you frame what your comments would be at this point.

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So we're doing a comprehensive review of potential least issuance inside assessment and characterization.

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So we're looking for feedback on any sources of information that we could use that would be helpful for the EA. Any data gaps that you might exist, and information is that we have reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

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We also always at this stage invite tribes and other federal agencies to become cooperating agencies if they have jurisdiction or special expertise on the action of leasing and site assessment and characterization.

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And all of these comments that you might have that you can submit today or through the forums that will discuss later should be in by the end of the scoping period of September 13.

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Next slide.

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I'm not going to read through all of these but there's a whole suite of environmental and social-cultural considerations that we would include in the environmental assessment, as a matter of course, not all of these will get the same degree of

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analysis because some will naturally be more relevant to this current action than others. And I'll just use for you an example of avian impact.

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So, impacts to birds or something that if you think about this, this environmental assessment which is lease issuance, site assessment, and site characterization, which is generally going to be some sites surveys, I would not anticipate

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a large degree of impacts to birds from those types of activities. In the future, if and when we get to construction and operations and consider the potential impacts of building up an offshore wind energy project impacts to bird species would

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get much more attention at that stage. So, just trying to explain to you here that although we have all of these environmental and social cultural considerations in mind,

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They will not all be considered in the analysis to the same degree.

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Just wanted to also identify some of the consultations with other agencies that are usually associated with potential actions offshore.

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And we expect those to be an issue here so National Historic Preservation Act section one of six, which is about starting properties that count. The Coastal Zone Management Act process that we will get through with the California Coastal Commission, we will prepare

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a consistency determination for that California Coastal Commission's consideration, Endangered Species Act, Section seven consultation about potential impacts to endangered species, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

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 consultation process which focuses on central fish habitat.

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I realized this is small on your screen and probably difficult to see and I just want to let you know that what this is trying to portray is the many sources of information that we have already been collecting and providing and will continue to work on

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this sort of represents a suite of issues, you know, again, understanding it's hard to see but it shows you the information about our robust Environmental Sciences program that we always have ongoing and some of the studies that come out of that are

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come from the database and that collection of all sources of information and data relevant to the offshore energy development that the state of California and BOEM have been collaborating on with the help of many other entities. The fisheries data that

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we've been working on by talking to by talking to both outreach to fishermen and agencies that deal with fisheries, and the federal and state side.

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And, you know, other sources of data that we've been acquiring. So, again, just a collection of different sorts of information that we have. Next slide.

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And as Jean and I have both mentioned we have for several years been engaged and gathering inputs.

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We just wanted to point out that the many types of information that we have already received, and which will all help inform the process that we're at the stage.

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Included outreach to fisherman, and their concerns about fishing activities in their livelihood.

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Concern from people about visual impacts, noise impacts and various environmental impacts from eventual offshore wind development. We have spent a lot of time talking with entities about vessel traffic and the need for us to deconflict the large amount of vessel traffic offshore.

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And we have also frequently heard from people about their expectations and their hopes about potential positive economic impacts from offshore wind development.

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So please do take this opportunity today to submit your comments verbally to us. That's what we're here for. But understand that there's more than one way to submit comments you may want to get through the meeting and think some more and write up comments

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written comments are always appreciated as well, they help us organize our thoughts but anyway you want to submit comments to us,

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We're happy to receive them and these three major ways that you see here today during this public comment period in the mail at the address there, and through email, at the email address there information about how to provide comments and all the background

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and doing today are on our website, which you see at the top of the slide there and which has been posted into the chat earlier.

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And one more reminder, we've got about three more weeks in the scoping period so by September 13, please do submit your comments.

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Yeah, I believe that's it. And again, I left Lisa's name there at the end so you can contact her. She's probably going to be more helpful than I am, because she's spending all of her time working on this practically, and she'd be happy to talk to you.

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So reach out to her.

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If you need further information after this. And with that, I thank you for your participation once again.

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Thank you, Rick for your presentation and I'm sure Lisa will be helpful, and we appreciate you sharing and sharing the information in her absence.

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We have a few moments. Now to answer questions related to the environmental scoping process.

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So at the bottom of your screen, you'll see a Q&A function that will be open to ask questions related to the environmental scoping process that we're going through right now.

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BOEM will be responding to and answering questions related to the environmental scoping question. If there's a question that comes in, that's not related to this specific process BOEM will note it, but we won't be providing the verbal responses as part

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of this.

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If you're a phone calling user and you do have a question about this environmental scoping process, you can dial star nine on your phone.

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And we'll have the opportunity for you to ask the question verbally, to ask the question about the environmental scoping process. As a reminder, public comment will be received immediately following this Q&A so if you would rather

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provide public comment, and you don't have an question related to environmental scoping,

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That is not a problem at all. So I do see a couple questions coming through here, and then I'll let the BOEM team, take a look at and identify questions specifically related to this process.

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So the first question that we'll ask here is “Could the results of the WEA environmental assessment result in a larger or smaller lease area?”

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So Rick, I'll turn it over to you to answer the question or identify someone from the team to answer that question.

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Thank you, Jenna. And I'm sorry but I had a different screen up, could you just repeat the question for me, I think I heard it but I want to make sure I got the full question.

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No problem, so the question is, could the results of the WEA environmental assessments, result in a larger or smaller least area.

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Okay, thank you. Um, I would invite Jean as well to chime in, because this is about the overall process but my, my answer for you would be as a result of this environmental review process.

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At the end, there is going to be a decision point about a proposed lease sale, and the ultimate sale lease sale, could involve one or more leases within the wind energy area.

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They could be smaller, some subset of that wind energy area that's identified, they would never, at this point, be larger than the wind energy area that we're evaluating

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yeah hi and this is Jean.

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Just to just to add on to what Rick said so yeah BOEM's environmental analysis process. Wouldn't result in a larger area than what's considered during NEPA being put forward for leasing.

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When BOEM designate lease areas, they would be subsets of the wind energy area that is under review for the environmental analyses is BOEM wanted to go out with larger areas for leasing outside of those areas, it would go back to the beginning of the

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process, and publish call for information and nominations. So, the area is not going to get larger and we may have one or more leases within the area because of the size of the area could support more than one project.

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So hopefully that answers that question if you, if you have further clarification that you need you can just email myself or Lisa.

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Great, thank you Jean and thank you Rick. And as a reminder we have a couple questions that have come in that don't relate specifically to that process.

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And so if you've asked the question, you might have seen it dismissed, but really BOEM is taking consideration of all those questions that are being asked

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And we'll have a record of those but will answer verbally questions specifically related to the process so just to let you know every question is being catalogued and taken into consideration.

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So, the next question we have is, why doesn't BOEM consider environmental and human uses or fisheries.

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During the call area phase to help identify areas to avoid for wind energy development early in the process.

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Thanks for the question.

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During the presentation I was, I was trying to stress about the long BOEM process that we've been engaged in and Jean mentioned too that we have been doing a progressive sort of vetting of areas for potential leasing for several years.

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And I think the response that I want to give to this question is emphasized that we do consider other uses of the SES like the ones that you've identified in the question throughout the process.

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We have been engaged in that.

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It's just because of the way the process works. Grabbed we are at this point of considering lease areas and I called it

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How we basically determined the two areas deserve further evaluation because we are considering a lot of things and you'll see that in the area identification memo that's posted online and you'll see it on the EA that’s released for public review.

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We just get in finer detail as we go through the process. So, we get more and more information on getting finer detail about the issues that you've asked

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Great. Thank you, Rick.

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And I'd like to remind our phone calling users if you do have a question about the environmental process you can dial star nine and ask your question about this process.

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All right. Our next question is will the least areas be chosen if the site assessment has not been completed. So let me say that again. How will the lease areas be chosen

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If the site assessment has not been completed?

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Right. And it's really the same answer to this question because I believe in the question, you're trying to get at the fact that you think we may not have as much information as we can, at this point, to make some choices, but I want to stress

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again, it's a long process, we're considering the information that we got and we acquire more throughout the process and get into finer detail. So, we are at the stage.

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Essentially, as I said, identifying areas for potential leasing, and that basically means that we continue our evaluation, and if we do lease, we have lessees that assist by gathering more detailed and more fine scale data for further analysis and evaluation

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of potential lease areas.

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Thank you, and from the BOEM team. Are there any other questions that have come through that relates to the environmental scoping process that we are in?

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Okay, so I see a question here.

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It's a follow up question. And so, it's regarding smaller lease areas. The person clarifies they meant a smaller area than the WEA, so I think the question is related to

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Could the result of the environmental assessment results in a larger or smaller lease area, and they clarified a smaller area than the WEA.

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Yeah. And I'm sorry I

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wasn't clear about the process. I’m trying to think of a different way to put it, but the short answer to the question I believe is

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Yes, least areas could be smaller than the wind energy area as a result of the analysis

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That would be true and any case at this point in the process there would not be lease areas larger than the wind energy area. And Jean again, if you can add any clarity to that I’d appreciate it.

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Yeah, no, I think it may be a good way to look at this is, It's sort of a winnowing process right? Where we started with the call areas, there are certain size, and then we get public comment,

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We were so when we selected the call areas, as Rick mentioned, we did an extensive amount of outreach and engagement. So we didn't just pick areas offshore at random, we went and we talked with local communities,

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We looked at all the data and information in the database in the data basing gateway- over 700 data sets are in there.

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And we also put out a federal register notice for public comment so we looked at multiple factors, before we even designated those call areas. We looked at some of the technical criteria such as you know, distance to shore proximity to transmission

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what's the wind resource. What's the water depth as an initial screen. And then we talked to stakeholders, we went to local communities, we talked to fishermen, we learned that the closer we are to shore, the more.

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There are fishing activities.

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We talked to the Coast Guard we looked at vessel traffic to understand better where the patterns of vessel traffic are offshore for, you know, our maritime transportation industries.

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And so, there was a lot that went into designing the call areas. And then the wind energy area came after we analyzed all the comments and there was a good amount of time between 2018, when we went out with that call.

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And we analyzed the comments we talked with a lot of nonprofit organizations that provided comments to us.

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They showed us some data in the data basin at the time. And so, we looked at all those, and we have information about that process of how we looked at all that data and analyzed those comments it's available online in our area identification memo.

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So it's on the boem.gov/HumboldtEA website. I think that's a really great website it has a lot of information related to this process. Rick mentioned a lot of studies and information that's available for folks, that's just a sample of the things

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that we looked at before we even got to where we are today.

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And so, how this all ties back into leasing is, we looked at those areas. These are the areas that we think are the most suitable for leasing and now we're going to take a closer look and do an environmental review and then California Coastal Commission

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is also going to look at those areas too.

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So, I hope that provides a little further clarification on our work.

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Thanks. Okay, thank you Jean, and I think the person who asked identified that, the question was fully answered, so thank you.

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I think that is all of the questions related to the environmental scoping process that we have received, I appreciate everyone for asking those questions.

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If you asked a question that was an identified that wasn't responded to verbally here, we are keeping it as part of the record. And just so you are aware that poem has seen it, and will be taking it into account.

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So, we're now going to move on to.

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I'd say the main part of today's scoping meeting which is the public comment opportunity.

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Now review the process guidelines again as we move forward, or want to make sure to honor the agenda to participate actively and respectfully to speak in order we’ll mind the queue.

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And when you speak into the mic clearly provide your name and affiliation, and will mute and unmute you as well. As a reminder of how to comment,

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Rick shared this slide earlier but I wanted to remind folks that you could provide comments during the comment period at this meeting. You can also do so in writing and in email, and the link to where to provide this information is in the chat as well.

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Okay, so we will start today with public comments from folks who have pre-registered, public comments and we'll be taking those public comments first following with the names on the following slides, but to enter into the discussion or public comment

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queue you'll click the raised hand icon at the top of your webinar window, or at the bottom of the webinar window wherever your taskbar is.

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We will call on you when it's your turn to speak, you'll then be unmuted.

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If you're a phone calling user and you would like to enter the public comment queue, you can dial star nine on your phone to speak, and again we’ll call on you in the order in which you raise your hand again as a reminder to provide your name and

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affiliation before you speak, and public comment will be recorded and we’ll have three minutes for public comments, so we ask that everyone respects the time and the opportunity to speak.

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So, as we move on to the next

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slide here.

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And I'll remind folks what Rick had mentioned before about the types of comments we’re looking for today.

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BOEM will be conducting a comprehensive review of impact, we're looking for issues and sources of information to include in the EA: gaps in data and information needs, reasonable alternative and requests from tribes and federal agencies and becoming cooperating

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agencies.

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So, these important notes that BOEM is looking for in scoping for this process. Next slide.

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Okay, so we have five names on this slide here.

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And these are folks who have pre-registered we have another slide of names of folks who've pre-registered. So, if you see your name on the screen here, if you can raise your hand, using the raise hand feature to let us know that you would like to still

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provide public comment if your name is on the slide here. So we'll give folks just a minute.

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The first is Jenna Bader, then Adam Canter, Vincent Doyle

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David Grover, and Jennifer Kalt.

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If your name is on the slide, if you can raise your hand to indicate that you would like to provide public comments.

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Okay, so I will start with the first person on the screen whose hand is raised here, which is Adam Canter. So, Adam, we will unmute you and you can unmute on your end.

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And you have three minutes for public comments.

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Adam, you should be unmuted.

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Hello, good morning. Can you guys hear me OK? We can hear you.

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Well, thank you I'm here representing that Wiyot Natural Resources Department and welcome to Wiyot territory for folks that are in the Humboldt Area and the Humboldt.

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Call area, which is, including in the Wiyot ancestral territory and

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And of course, the tribes have been the stewards of this area since time immemorial and, you know, really concerned about the climate emergency and, and want to do our part to help mitigate

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All these impacts that we're seeing from

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greenhouse gas and carbon pollution in the atmosphere, but you know I think that it's going to be really important when looking at the environmental impacts of this project to factor in later on

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the companies that end up bidding for these leases.

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And I think it would be really good to have caveats that help ensure that this is a, you know, a national If not, you know, West Coast company, and to factor that in and to really just, you know, get more data on what's actually going on offshore.

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I don't I don't think we have a real a real handle on what's going on 30 miles off the coast and it's going to be really good that we, you know, monitor this and take into account all the marine activity, the biological activity, and the ecological systems

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and functions that are happening out in the call area I noticed is an important area for fishermen.

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And as the tribe wants to be involved as a community, we work to make this the best project that it can be with the least amount of impacts to biological systems but also to fishermen to the tribes' cultural resources, and to any resources that

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that could be 30 miles offshore. So thank you for your time will probably be submitting some written comments as well. Have a wonderful day.

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Great. Thank you, Adam for providing that comment.

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So, the next person we have with the raised hand at on this screen is Vincent Doyle so then I will unmute you here.

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And you can now have three minutes for your public comments.

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Okay, can you hear me?

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Yes.

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So I'm Vince Doyle I'm a commercial fisherman from Fort Bragg California I fished here off the coast of California with trawl gear for roughly 30 years.

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One thing I’d quickly like to point out is there's actually a fairly large reef area on the inside edge of your lease.

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And I was wondering if you have checked in any potential impact to that large reef area

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One of the things I'd like to point out. I was going to give you guys some grief on running cables and setting anchors and things like that. There also has been very little outreach to the tribal sector that I know of, which is troublesome.

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I think they may be impacted the most.

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The other thing I’d like to comment on to is you know potential impact to humpback whales and blue whales. I know the dungeoness crab fisheries has been under heavy scrutiny, with vertical lines in the water.

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And I think that's something else that needs to be looked at.

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Also, the VMF data that you showed on the overlay; that reflects data that has been collected fairly recently. And I'd like to point out that historically, there was a lot more trawl activity in that lease area, when the export market for hard heads

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or what they call thorny heads was a lot stronger market, currently that market for the last 10 years has not been that that good, but that doesn't mean it couldn't come back again, and you know you hate to give up a lot of ground that you've historically

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fished on, and actually made a lot of money there. Wanted to kind of point that out to I think you need to go back a little bit further

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When you're collecting your data.

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That's about all I have. I think I'll go ahead and pass my time on to somebody else. Thank you.

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Thank you, Vince, for your comments.

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I will now call on David Grover. David I see your hand raised here, and you should be unmuted. Yes, thank you everyone for being here and to continue - think this might be my third or fourth webinar.

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I’ve already devoted a lot of time to this because of some specialized skills that are required for the past decades, I understand the sense of urgency is a little more prevalent than we thought.

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And I know that there's the infrastructure plans and things like that seem to be moving things along.

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I'm just glad it seems like we're going to get a lot more stakeholder involvement and public participation that's been needed in some of these projects that went along this process but didn't quite make it.

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So I'm looking forward that when we need to take a step back, but we continue, you know this educational process that we're all doing so.

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Yeah, that's about all I wanted to say right now.

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Basically, thank you for being here.

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Thank you, David. And the next person is Jennifer Kalt, and Jennifer if you can unmute yourself and say your name and your affiliation, and you have three minutes.

01:02:36.000 --> 01:02:54.000

Good morning. Thank you for holding this listening session. My name is Jennifer Kalt I’m the director of Humboldt Baykeeper based in Arcada, California, and we will be submitting written comments as well but for now I just, I just want to say on behalf of

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Humboldt Baykeeper that we, as humanity and this community, need this project. The planet needs this project, and it will be up to BOEM, and other leaders in the federal government and the state government, whether this project is done well, as well as

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it can be with the lease area chosen based on the least impacts to the environment and to the people who rely on the ocean and the marine environment.

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If not, it does have the potential to divide the community into factions fighting for their interests as we have seen so many times in the past and I'm hoping that this process will be done as thoroughly as possible to avoid those types of divisions in

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our community.

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Some years ago, the California Marine Life Protection Act process showed that on the north coast tribes, environmentalist, fishermen, and business owners can work together.

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And, in short, if you don't know about the MLPA process here on the North Coast these different groups, worked with tribes to develop a single unified proposal for citing the marine protected areas instead of each advocating for their own proposal.

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And, you know, watching the process go south and the baby be cut into various pieces. The result of the MLPA process

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Not only avoided areas of controversy that would have harmed some of the members of our community, but it resulted in the north coast unified proposal which led to the state of California acknowledging tribal fishing rights for the first time.

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So I hope that this process can look to the MLPA process and how that worked here, which was different than, you know, what I would consider a 20th century style.

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Everyone fight for their interests and cut up the baby as they said. So, I look forward to contributing and helping this be the best process we can site the project in the areas of least controversy.

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Thank you.

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Great. Thank you, Jennifer for your comments

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and looks like I'm getting a little bit of feedback here.

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Okay, and so let's go to the next slide.

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Okay, so we have four names on this slide here and so if your name is here, please raise your hand to indicate that you would like to provide comments.

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And again, after the names here we will go to folks who have raised their hand, or dialed star nine on their phone. So, the names on this slide are Kate Kelly,

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Mike Okoniewski, Mary Sanger, and Brian Stone.

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I'll read those again. We have Kate Kelly, Mike Okoniewski, Mary Sanger and Brian Stone, if you would still like to provide public comments during this meeting, raise your hand to let us know.

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Okay, so I have two folks from this group who has pre-registered with their hands raised.

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So, I will call on Mike first. So, Mike, we will unmute you if you can say your name and your affiliation.

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You have three minutes.

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Michael Okoniewski and I do consulting for Pacific seafood and worked for them for the last 25 years.

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I’m semi-retired.

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And anyway, my question I think is relatively simple, it's just, what's the process for economic analysis on the fishing side. Can you hear me OK?

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We can still hear you. Yeah.

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Okay.

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What was that process entail? And does it include the processors important industries, local government markets, and entire community.

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Because these fishing communities are, you know, linked pretty closely and tightly with a lot of what happens on the water.

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But the industry itself is much more far reaching, and than what goes on the water so as that as a question.

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If I could get some kind of response to that.

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Thank you for the opportunity.

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Thank you, Mike. We aren’t providing responses to questions during public comment but the BOEM the team has taken your comment, and we'll take it into consideration for possible follow-up, so thank you for your comments.

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And the next question. The next comment.

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The next person we have for public comment is Mary Sanger, Mary, we will unmute you if you can say your name, your affiliation, and you have three minutes.

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Hi, thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Mary Sanger, and I represent 350 Humboldt, which is an affiliate of the national, international climate action organization, 350.org.

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I'm going to keep my comments brief, but I wanted to say that I wholeheartedly agree with the comments offered by Jennifer Kalt particularly about moving forward in such a way that the divisions within the community are not inflamed.

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And that we can find ways of working together to address the urgency of the climate crisis.

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Thank you very much.

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Thank you, Mary, for your comment, and we will now go to the next slide, and for folks who would like to provide comment who didn’t pre register. So to enter the discussion queue you can use the raise hand feature on your Zoom webinar and we will

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call on you in the order

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of the queue. So, I see one hand raised here.

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And we have Nathan Bama. So, Nathan.

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We will unmute you and I'll just remind calling users if you'd like to dial star nine, you can ask a question, you can provide your comments by Dallas by dialing star nine.

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So

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it looks like Nathan.

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Your hand was raised by accident. No problem at all. So, the next is Vivian Helliwell.

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So Vivian. We will unmute you here, if you can say your name and your affiliation, and you have three minutes.

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Hi, my name is Vivian Helliwell, and I'm with the Institute for fisheries resources, a nonprofit, and I'm concerned about several things that I haven't seen the information on. I don't know how much information you have on them, whether there are data gaps.

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One of them is the behavior of electricity in the ocean.

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From cables.

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And what happens if those cables or their installation are breached, to the fish and biology in the ocean the marine mammals, and also whether these areas that will be closed to fishing because they have cables running through them.

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Could be included in the closed areas that are being called for by the 3030 movement to close 30% of the ocean, and land for preservation.

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I understand from maps I've seen that there will be a substation that will be permanently anchored or placed not floating close to shore.

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That will bring a cable to shore. And I'm interested in its effects on fishing areas.

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I agree with the people who want a full economic analysis to see what other sectors might be affected besides just the fishing itself.

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And I'm interested in how the leases are cited compared to the transmission capacity once it reaches shore.

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I know that the capacity from Humboldt is very limited to transmit from here and would require huge construction of transmission cables.

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And then, if you're going to run a cable under the ocean to far away for that transmission.

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How well does that hold up?

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Can there be a bond for cleanup for when these things wash ashore?

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We've had huge weather buoys and they’re anchored offshore they're supposed to stay there, come ashore because the ocean is very unforgiving here and move things around quite a bit.

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Those are some of my questions that I hope to see addressed as we go forward. Thank you.

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Thank you, Vivian for your comment.

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I'll pause for a moment to see if anyone else would like to enter the public comment too and provide verbal public comment today. Again, you can use do that through using the raise hand feature and you can also dial star nine on your phone if your phone

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Call-in user.

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So, wait a moment or two.

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Okay, so Ari Benkler, you're up for public comment.

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If you can say your name, affiliation, and you are unmuted you have three minutes.

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Thank you so much. My name is Ari Benkler. I’m affiliated with a company that advises wind developers.

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And I've got a question, both in the context of environmental assessment and scoping, but looking more broadly than that towards the rest of the process.

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How is BOEM and to what extent is BOEM thinking about the need for more transmission capacity?

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Is that something that's part of the pre-construction scoping process so that there may be some clarity for developers about whether that's something coming down the pipeline or would that be something that gets assessed sort of at the construction operations plan stage? You know, that second NEPA process. Looking for any kind of clarity you might be able to offer in terms of prospect for more comprehensive transmission capacity in Humboldt county.

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Thank you so much.

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Alright, thank you for Ari for your comment.

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I'll pause again briefly to see if anyone else has a public comment that they'd like to give verbally during this meeting again star nine or the raise hand feature on the webinar tool.

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Okay, I don't see anyone in our public comments, too.

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So, I will turn it over to Rick for closing and next steps we will be leaving this

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webinar open with instructions for folks who might join later to provide public comment as well. So Rick, I'll turn it over to you for closing remarks.

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Thank you. I'm sure I'll just say quickly thank you again everyone for spending time with us today and for the comments that you have provided and I expect that many of you will want to submit comments and writing and I encourage you to do that in

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the places, email or regular mail that we posted for you there on the other slide and that's on our website.

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I know as I mentioned earlier, we asked a lot of you all because we have a lot of meetings where we're seeking input and trying and engage with you on this process and I know it takes your time, and we do appreciate it so thank you for that.

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And with that, I'll just say as far as next steps we mentioned that this environmental analysis, environmental assessment, excuse me, will be prepared over the next few months so our team of experts here in BOEM, we're going to be working hard on that

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for a little while. And I believe you shouldn't expect to see an EA again for public review and your comment.

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Probably early calendar year, 2022.

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So don't give you an opportunity. Once we have the analysis written to see how it is formed and give you something to react to perhaps a little more specifically, at that point, so look forward to continuing our conversation to that future, and thanks

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again everyone.

01:17:56.000 --> 01:18:26.000

Thank you, Rick and as we close out the meeting today, I want to remind folks that you can go to be boem.gov/humboldtEA to provide a public comment and then also we will be posting the presentation there as well.