

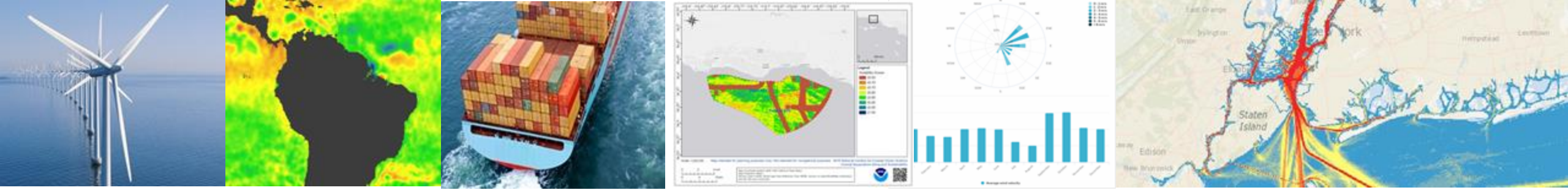


**BOEM** BUREAU OF OCEAN  
ENERGY MANAGEMENT

# Known Resource and Use Concerns – Potential Solutions and Opportunities Discussion

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Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Task Force Meeting  
September 11, 2024



# Ocean spatial modeling for siting of wind energy: How NOAA is providing Marine Spatial Planning support

## NCCOS Spatial Planning Team

Dr. James A. Morris, Jr.

(Presented by Seth Theuerkauf, BOEM)



# NOAA BOEM MSP Partnership



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Home / News & Features

## NOAA and BOEM announce interagency collaboration to advance offshore wind energy

HOME | NEWSROOM

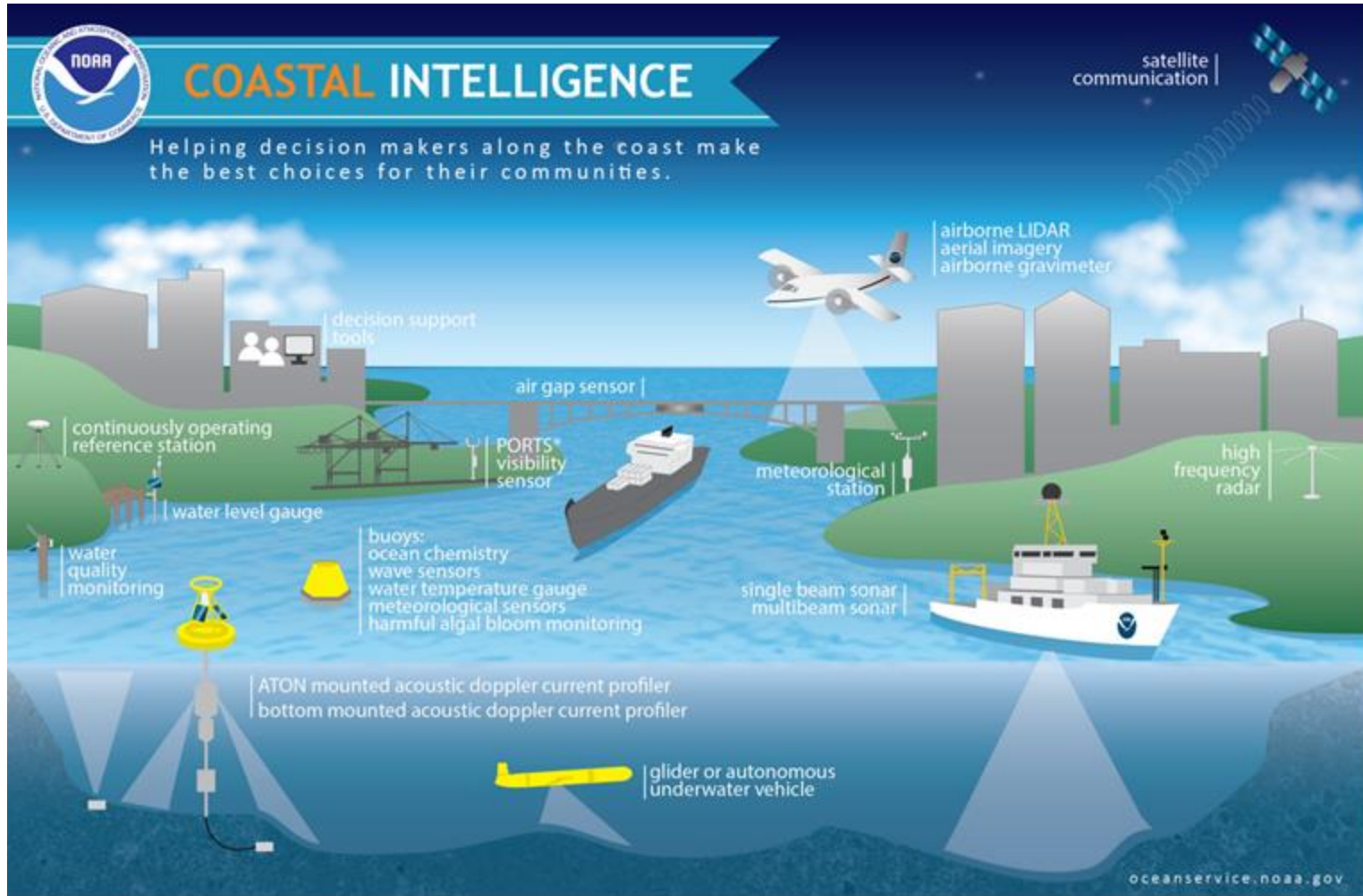
### BOEM Enhances its Processes to Identify Future Offshore Wind Energy Areas

New Changes in Response to Public Input

09/16/2022



# NOAA Leads the Nation on Ocean Intel

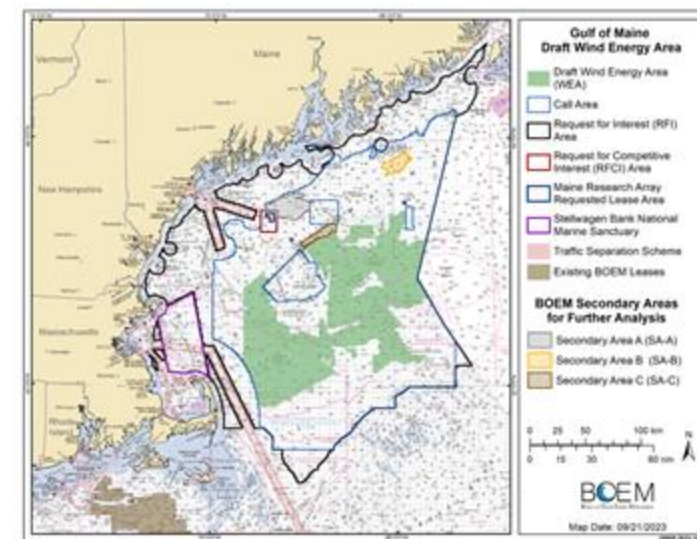
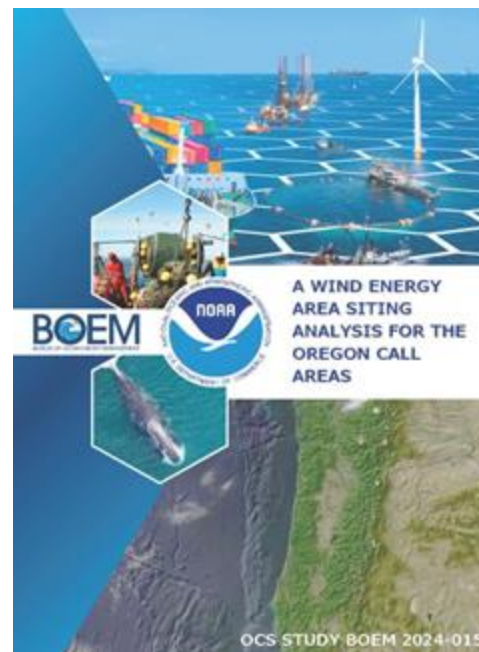
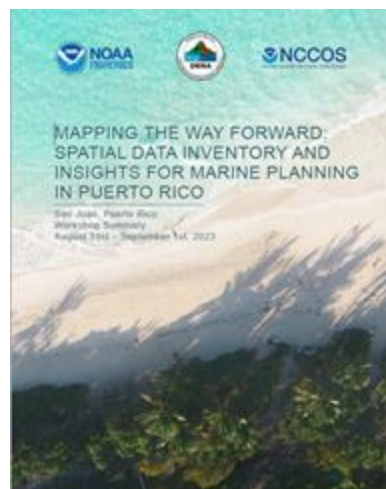
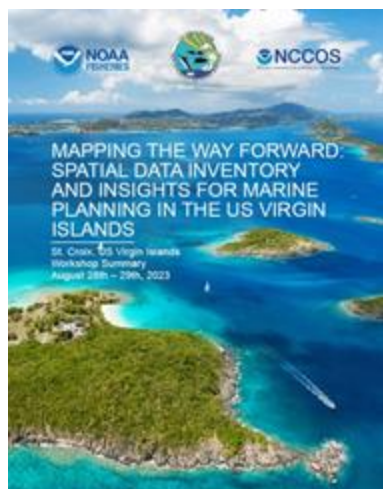
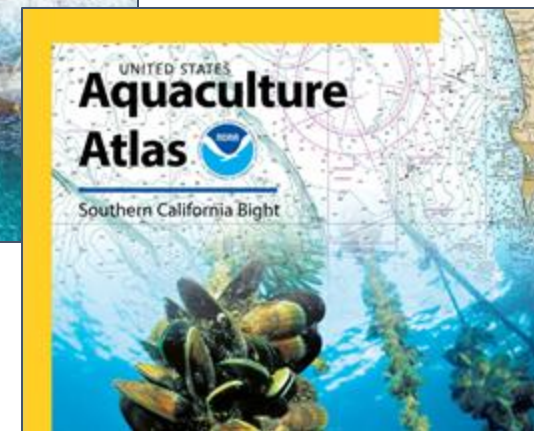
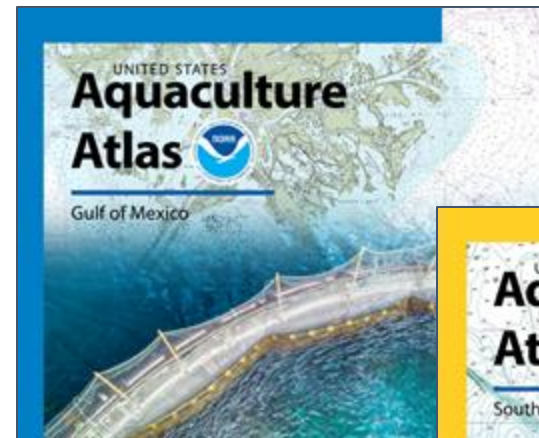


## Ocean Industries

-  Tourism and Recreation
-  Defense and Public Administration
-  Offshore Oil and Gas
-  Transportation
-  Fisheries and other Bio-products
-  Shipbuilding
-  Power Generation
-  Construction
-  Research and Education
-  Professional and Business Services\*

# NOAA Spatial Planning

- Facilitation of the MSP process
- Completed 50+ analyses in last 5 years
- Identified Aquaculture Opportunity Areas
- Identified Wind Energy Areas
- State-designated aquaculture use areas
- Spatial planning for Ports/Harbors
- Tool/app development
- Stakeholder engagement



# NOAA BOEM Spatial Planning

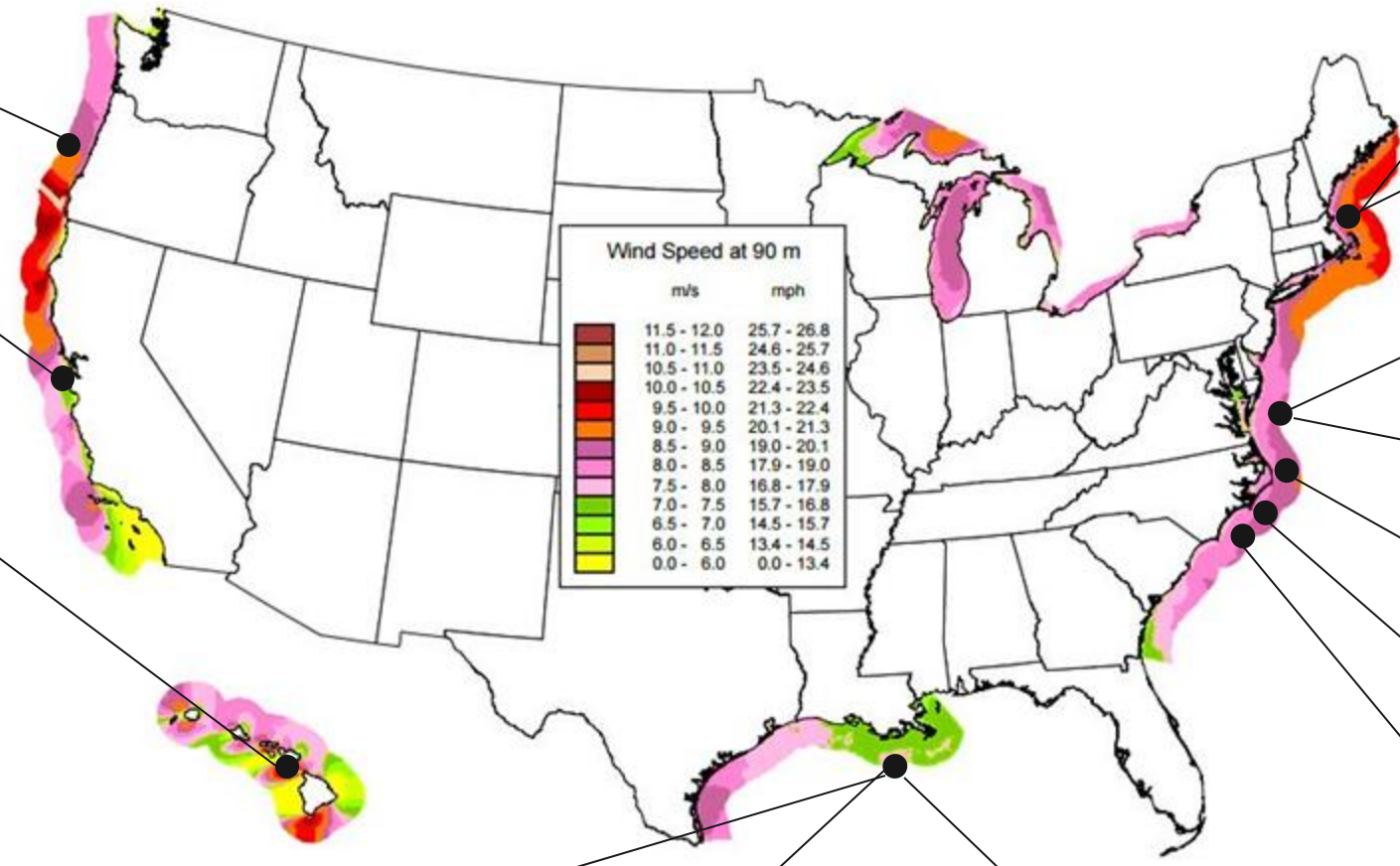
United States - Annual Average Offshore Wind Speed at 90 m

**Oregon**  
Wind energy area siting  
Lease siting  
Cable siting

**California #2**  
Call area siting  
Wind energy area siting  
Lease siting  
Cable siting

**Hawaii**  
Call area siting  
Wind energy area siting  
Lease siting  
Cable siting

**Guam**  
Call area siting  
Wind energy area siting  
Lease siting  
Cable siting



**Gulf of Maine**  
Call area siting  
Wind energy area siting  
Lease siting  
Cable siting

**Stellwagen Bank NMS**  
Cable corridors

**Central Atlantic 1**  
Wind energy area siting  
Lease siting  
Cable siting

**Central Atlantic 2**  
Call area siting  
Wind energy area siting  
Cable siting

**Kitty Hawk**  
Cable siting

**Cape Lookout NPS**  
**Cape Hatteras NPS**  
Cable corridors

**Carolina Long Bay**  
Cable siting

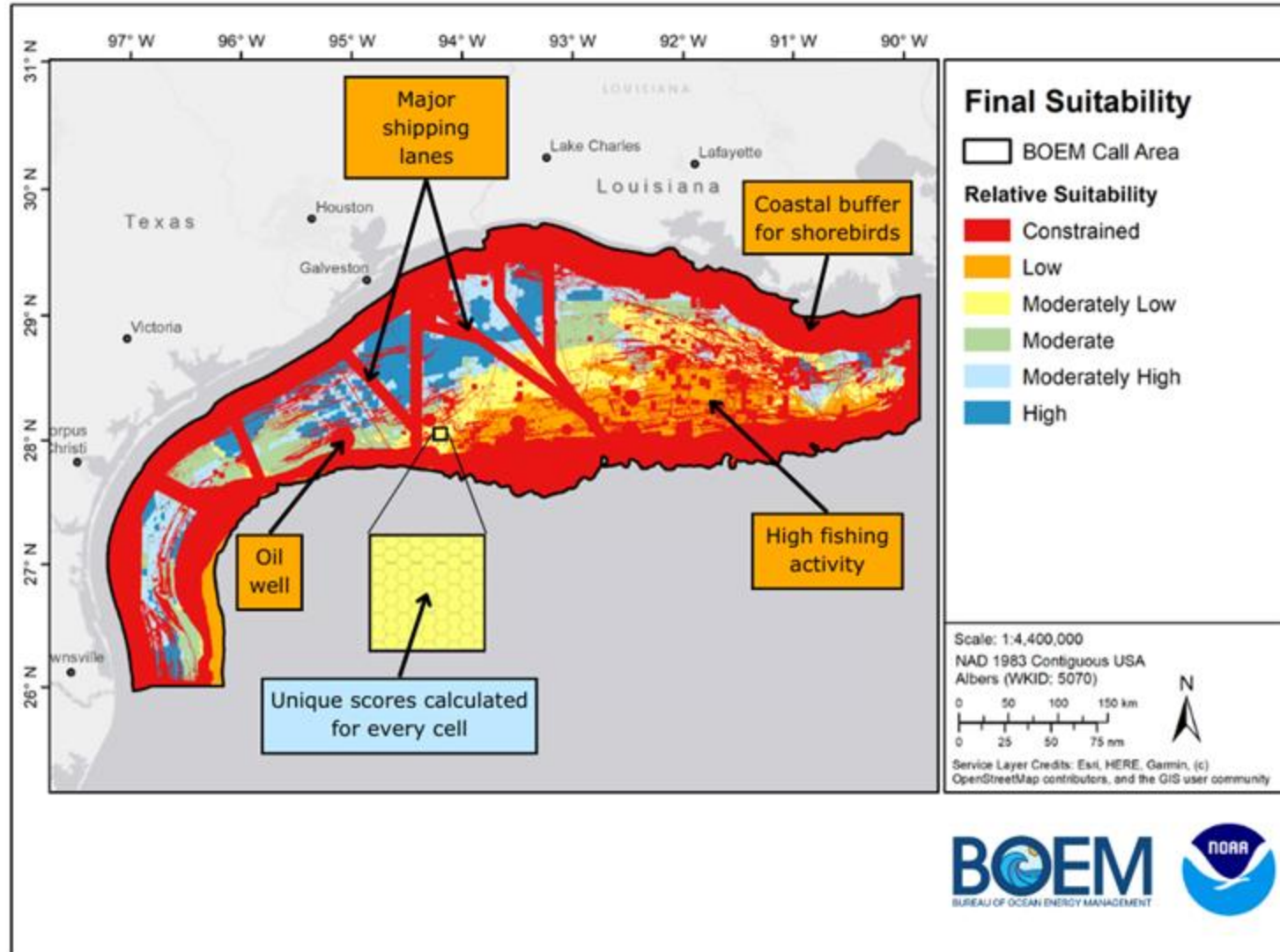
**Gulf of Mexico 1**  
Wind energy area siting  
Lease siting  
Cable siting

**Gulf of Mexico 2**  
Wind energy area siting  
Lease siting  
Cable siting

**Gulf of Mexico 3**  
Call area siting  
Wind energy area siting  
Lease siting  
Cable siting

**Puerto Rico**  
Call area siting  
Wind energy area siting  
Lease siting  
Cable siting

# Our Goal: Identify Conflict, Find *Opportunity*



A **spatial suitability model** weights locations relative to each other based on given criteria.



# How do we build the regional spatial model?



**MarineCadastre.gov**

An Ocean of Information

A joint BOEM and NOAA initiative providing authoritative data to meet the needs of the offshore energy and marine planning communities.



## Submodels

**Constraints**

**National Security**

**Industry**

**Fisheries**

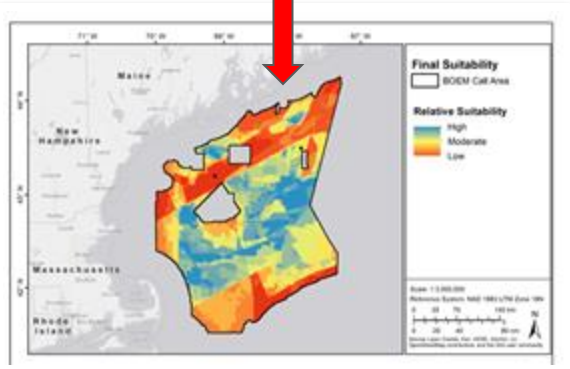
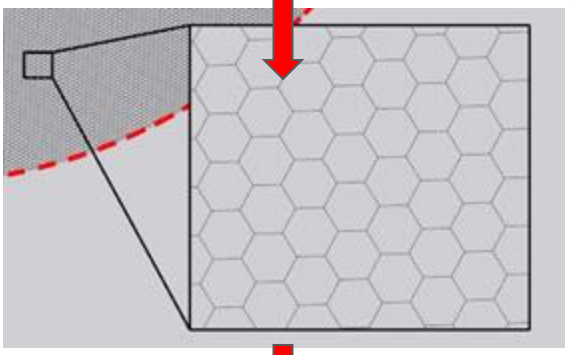
**Wind**

**Natural and Cultural Resources**

**Areas Eliminated**

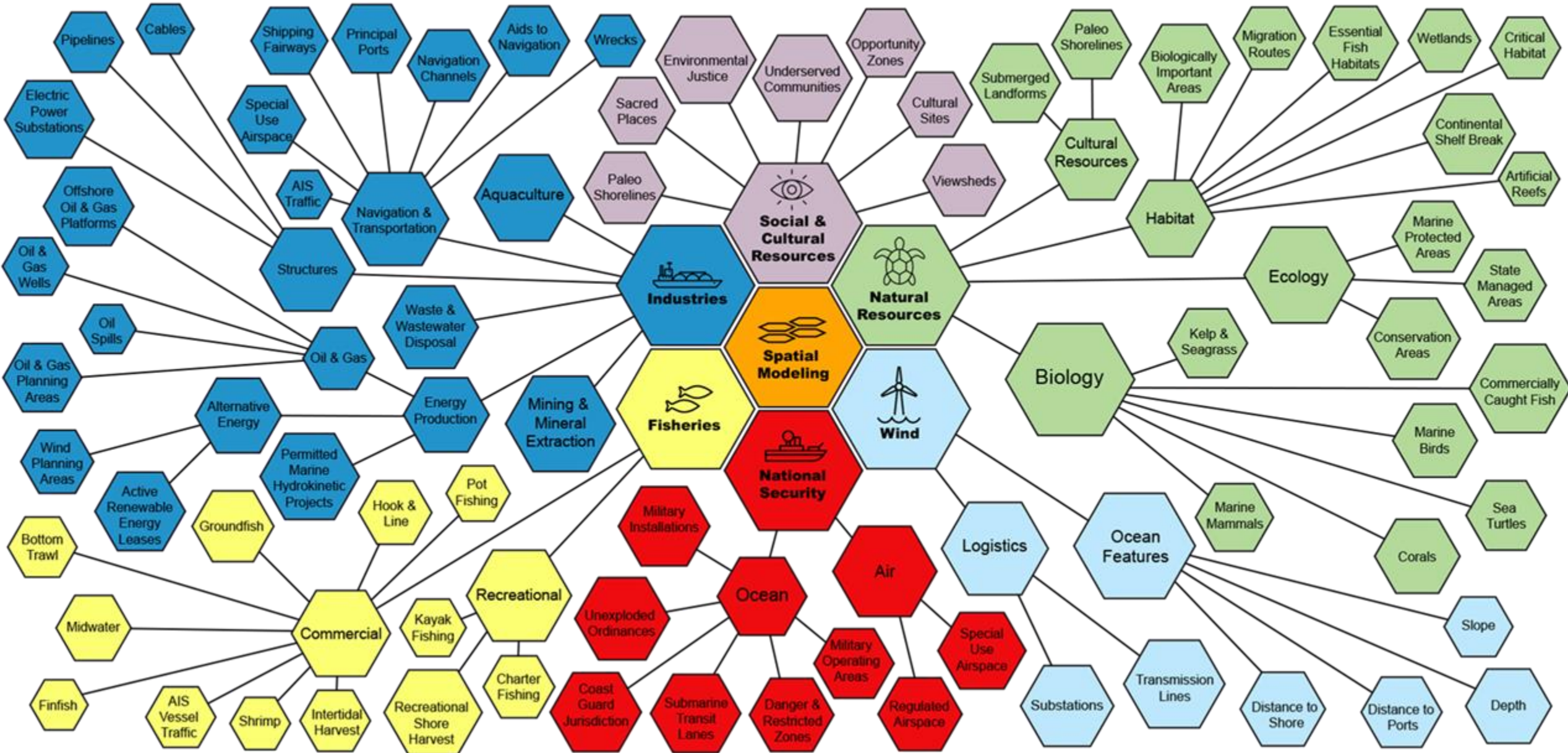
**Geometric Mean Calculated**

**Cumulative Suitability**

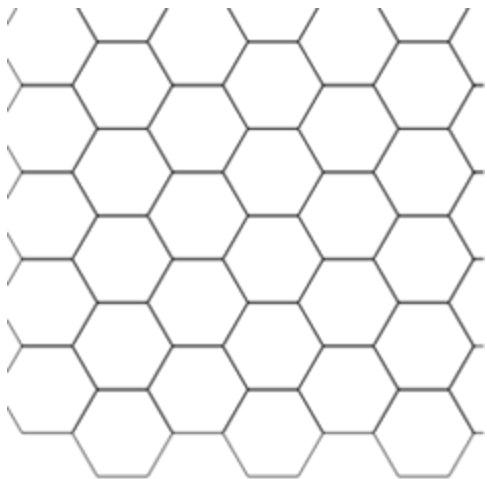
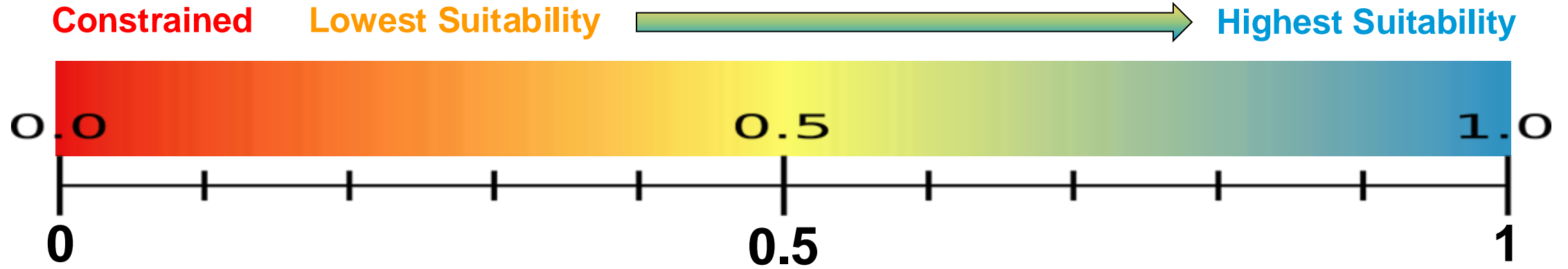




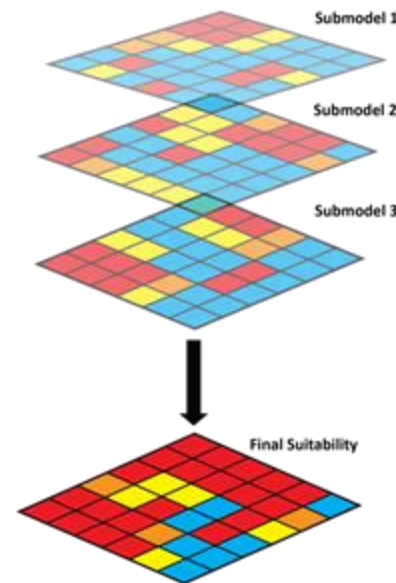
# Ecosystem Models Require an Ocean of Data



# Scoring Data Layers



Scores are assigned to each grid cell for each separate data layer

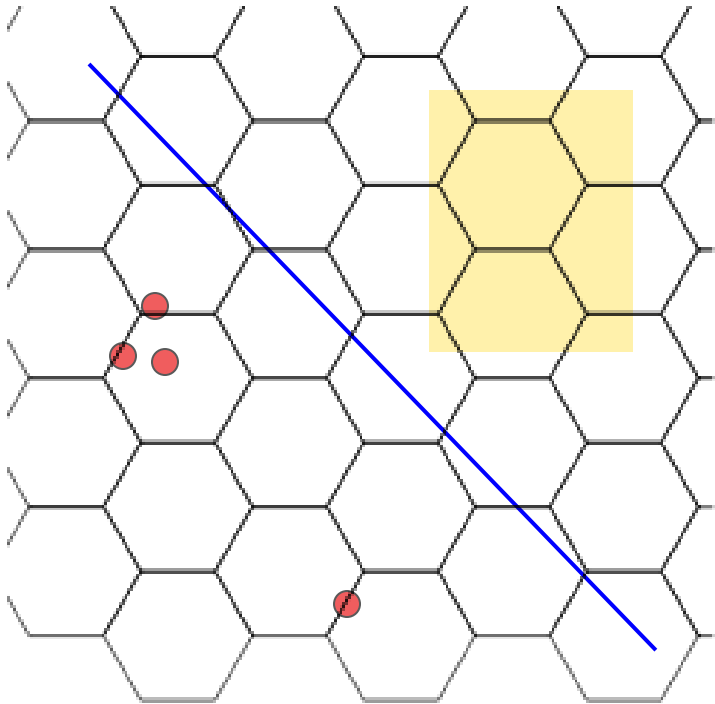


Cumulative scores for each submodel are calculated

The geometric mean of all submodels is calculated to determine final suitability

# Scoring Data Layers

## Categorical data



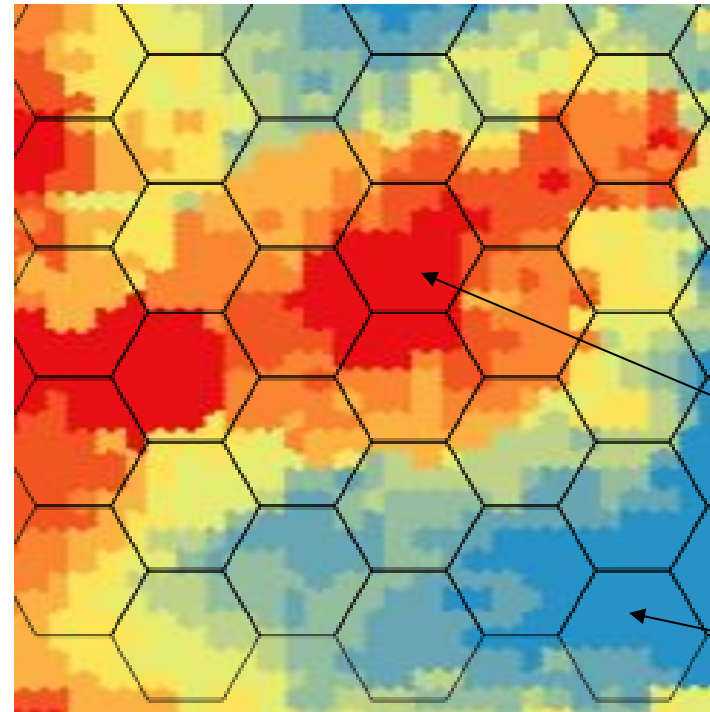
Examples:

- Deep-sea corals
- Cables
- Pipelines
- Wrecks
- Military restriction areas
- Hardbottom area
- Environmental buoys

### Presence/Absence Data

0 - 1 score is assigned to grid cell if that data layer is present inside of cell or overlaps the cell

## Continuous data



Examples:

- Fishing effort
- Vessel traffic
- Protected resources

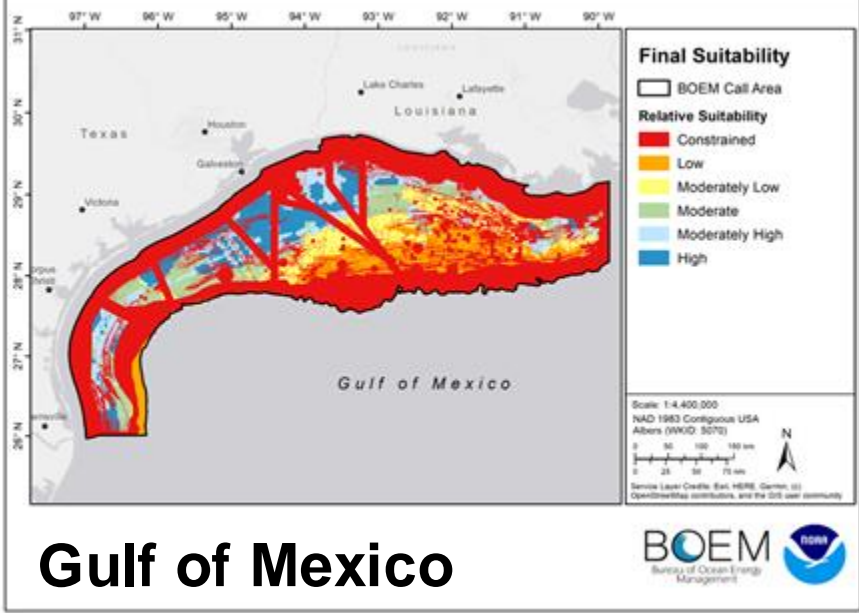
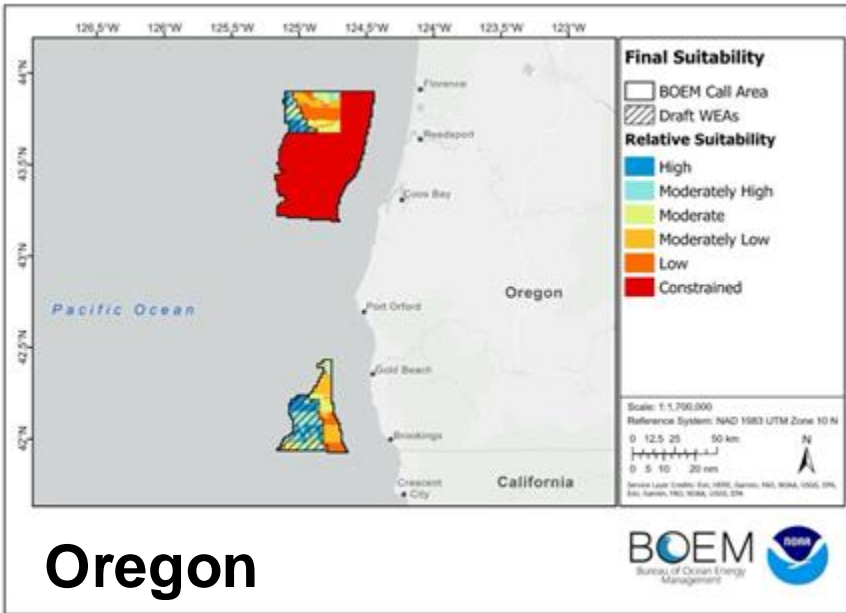
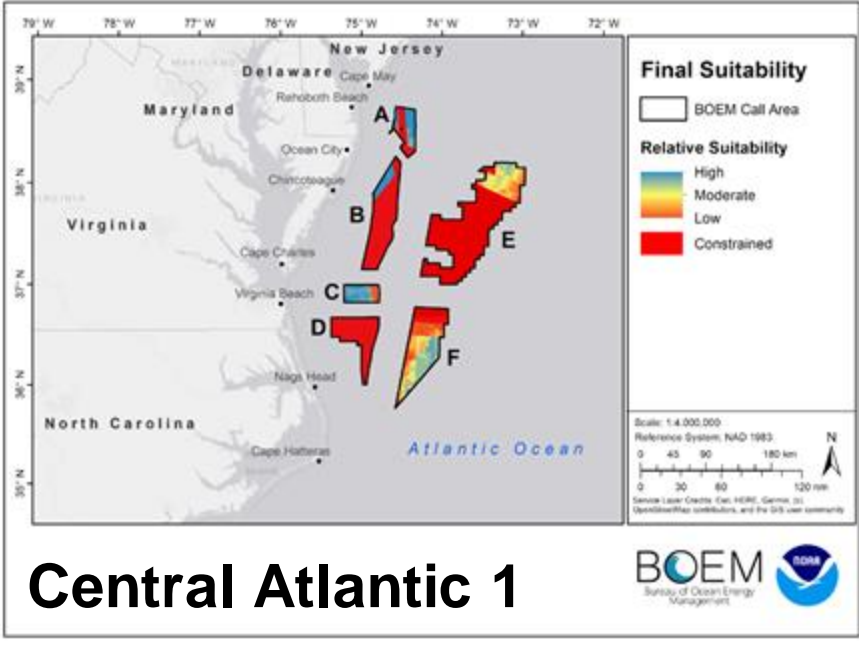
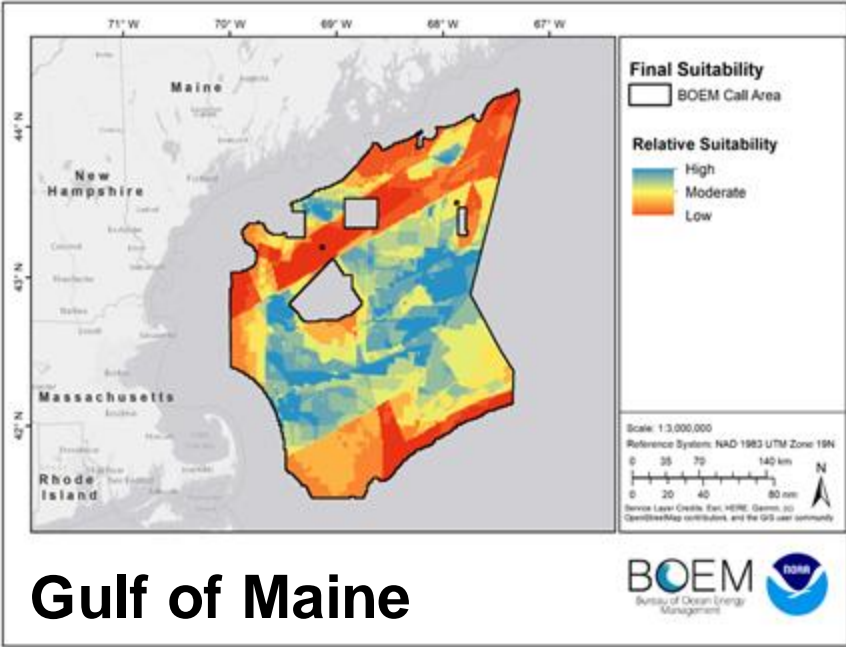
High fishing effort - score closer to 0

Lower fishing effort - score closer to 1

### Raster Data - Changes over space and time

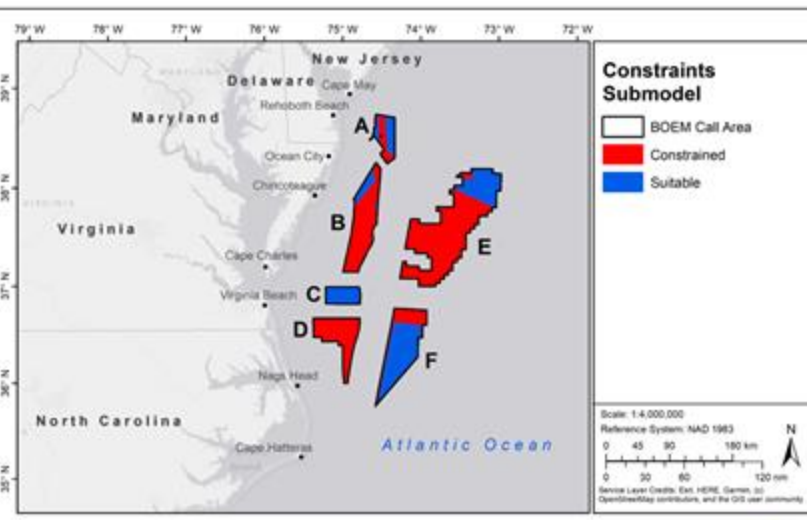
Data is rescaled to 0 - 1

# Regional Suitability modeling results

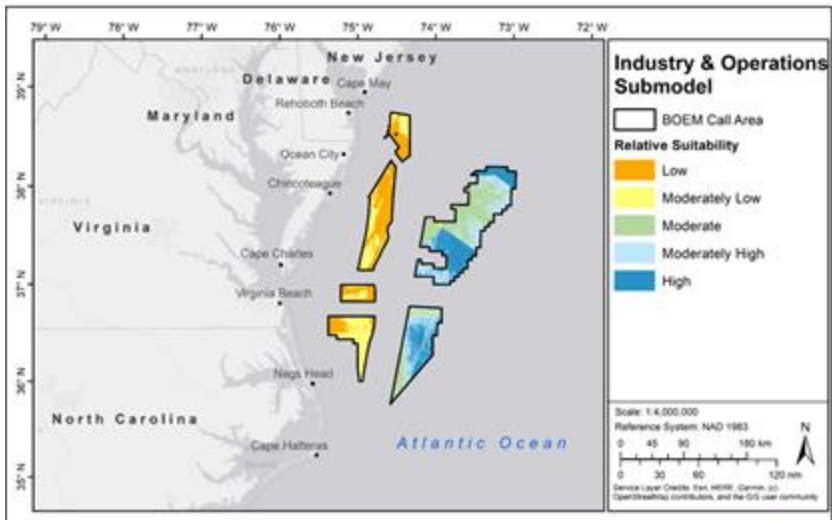


# Central Atlantic round 1 Model Inputs

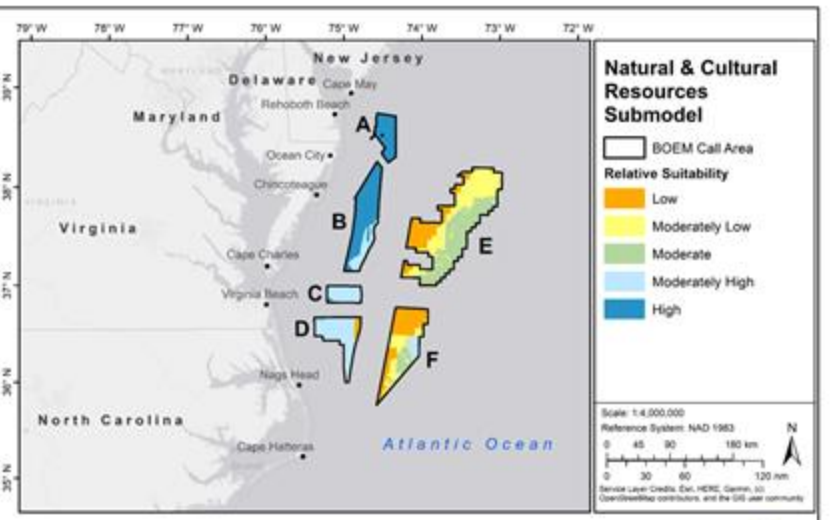
<b>Natural &amp; Cultural Resources</b>
Protected Resource Division Combined Layer (31 species)
Habitat Combined Layer (4 habitats)
Black-Capped Petrel Annual Abundance
Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Overfished/Prohibited Sharks Count (6 species)
Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Target Species Count (6 species)
<b>Fisheries</b>
VMS All Fishing Types 2016 - 2021
Southeast Region Headboat Survey
<b>Industry &amp; Operations</b>
NMFS Fisheries-Independent Surveys (13 total surveys)
AIS Vessel Traffic All Vessels 2015 - 2021
<b>Wind</b>
Distance to shore
Distance to inlet
Depth
Atlantic Wind Speed - Annual Average
<b>National Security</b>
Navy Assessment Areas (Priority Area 3 & areas that need further study)
NASA Assessment Areas (Major Risk Areas & areas that need further study)
Air Force Assessment Areas (Priority Areas 4-6 & areas that need further study)
<b>Constraints</b>
Deep Sea Coral and Sponge Observations
BWFA Exclusion Area
USCG Shipping Safety Fairways and Regulations
BOEM Proposed Fairway Extensions
DOD Area of No Seabed Disturbance
Navy Assessment Areas (Priority Areas 1-2)
NASA Assessment Areas (Extreme Risk Areas)
Air Force Assessment (Priority Areas 1-3)



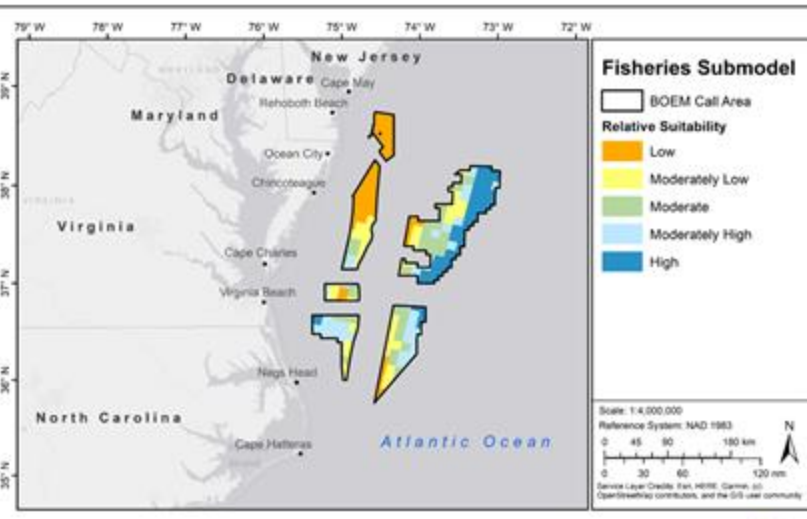
**Constraints**



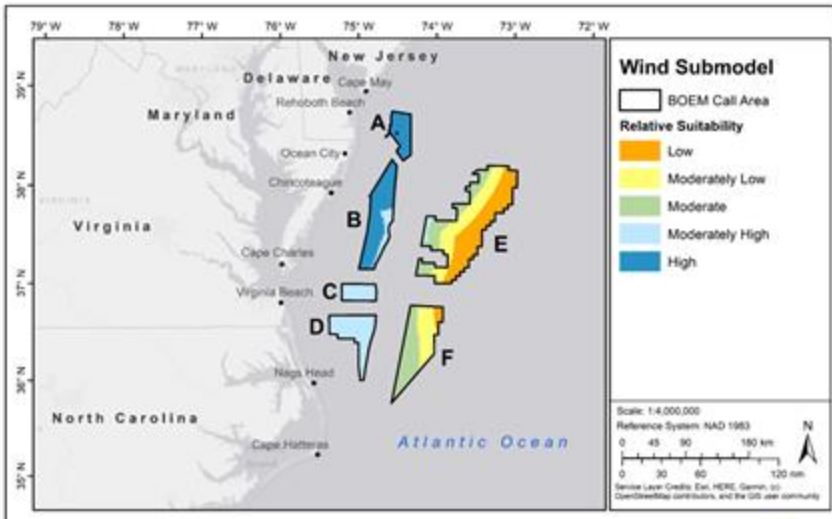
**Industry and operations**



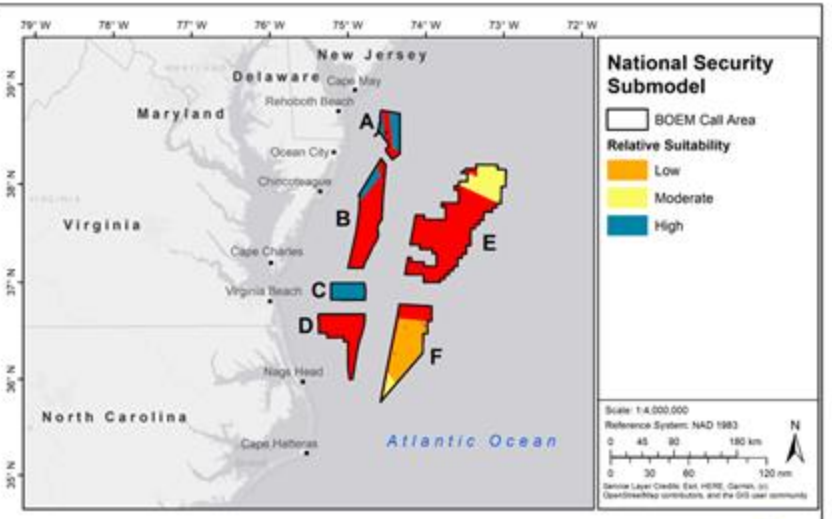
**Natural resources**



**Fisheries**

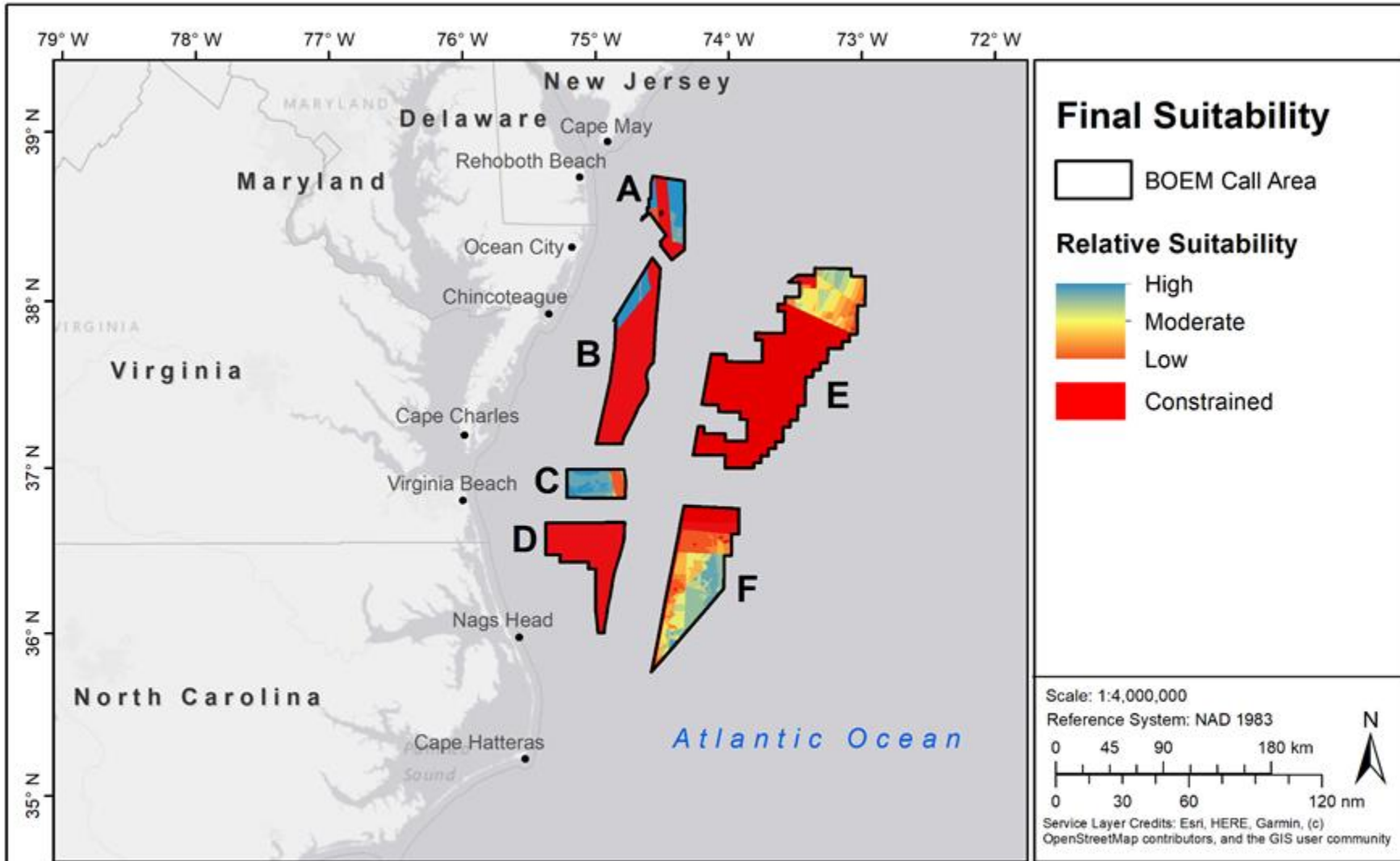


**Wind**



**National security**





# Central Atlantic Round 1



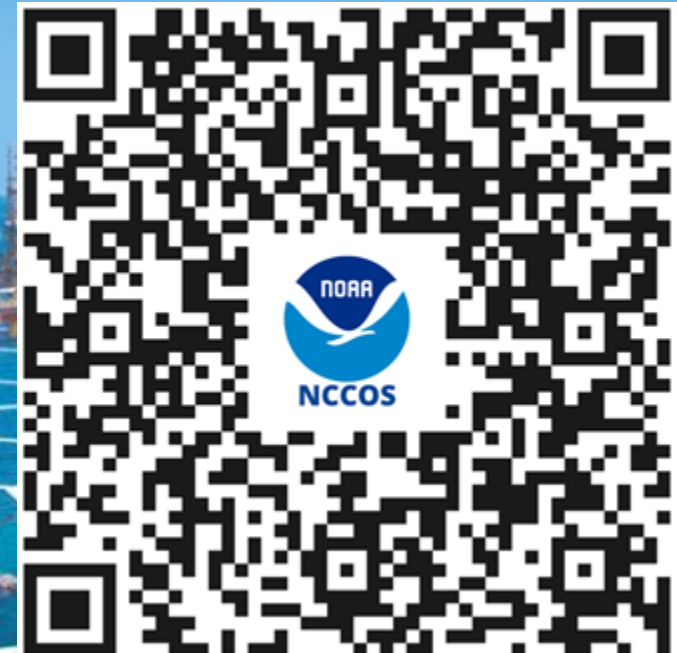
National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science  
National Ocean Service

# Your OceanFuture Starts Here

Spatial science for ocean food, energy, commerce, and conservation

Thank you!  
For more info:

[James.Morris@noaa.gov](mailto:James.Morris@noaa.gov)







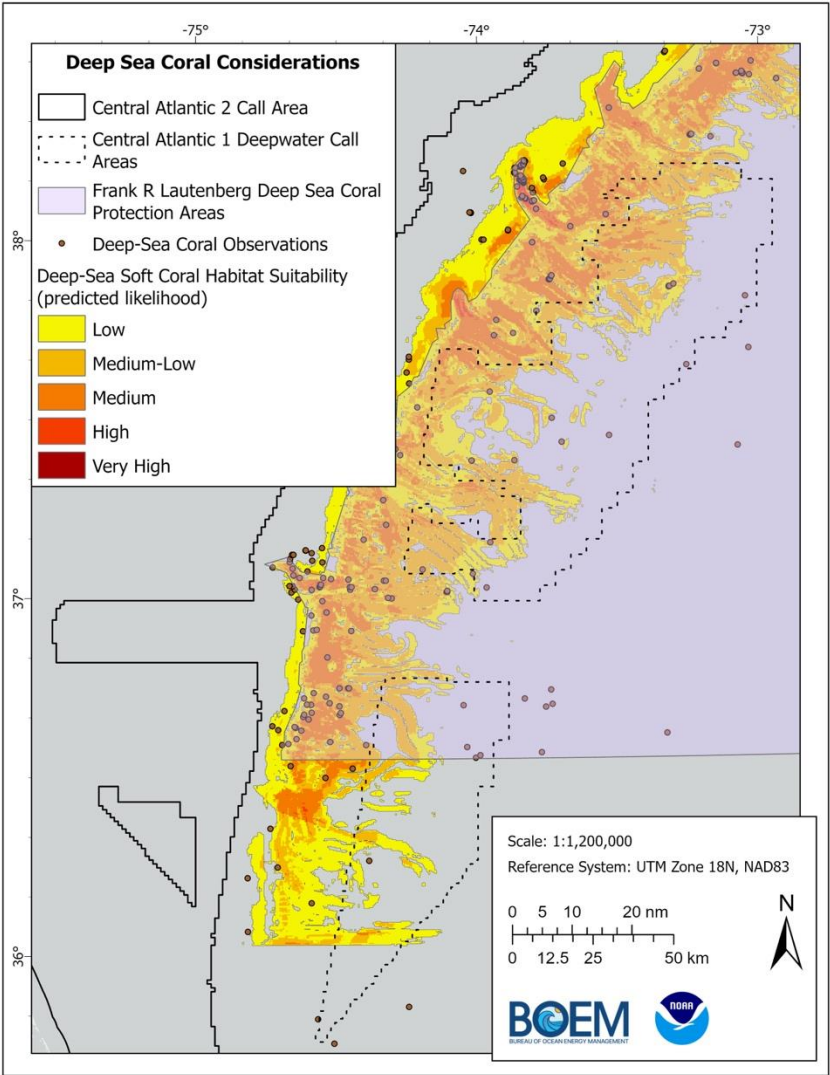
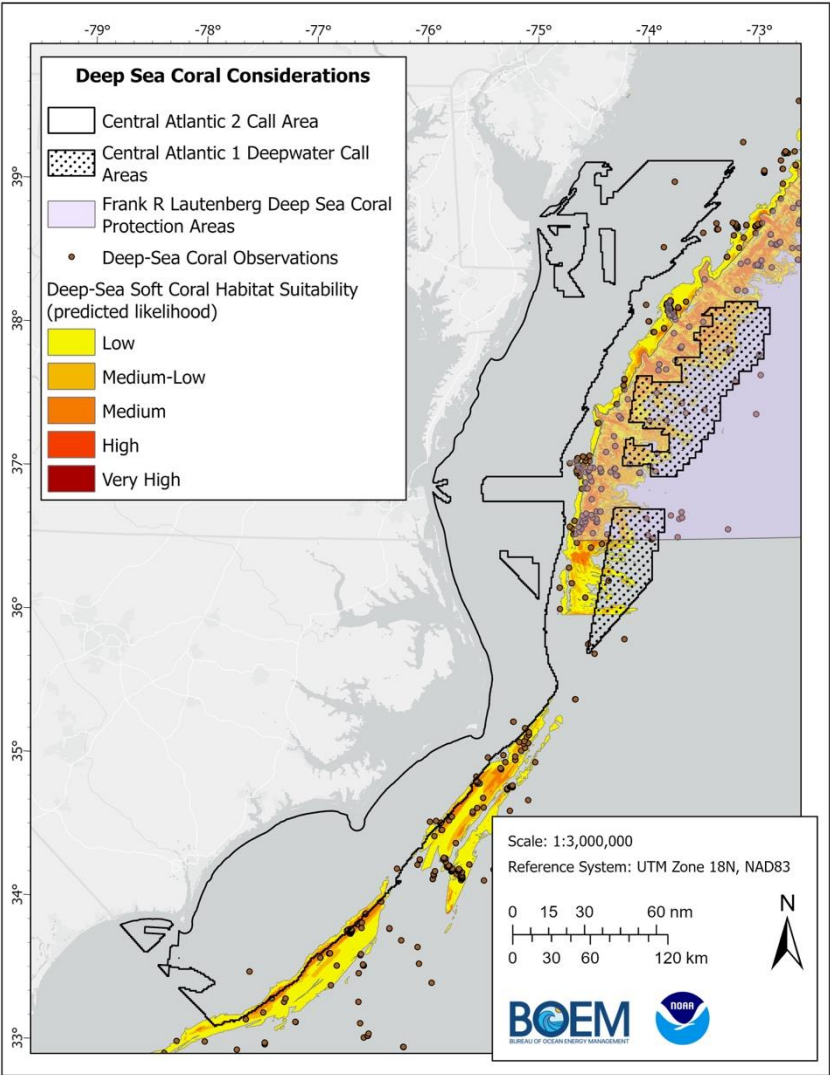
**BOEM** BUREAU OF OCEAN  
ENERGY MANAGEMENT

# Known Resource and Use Concerns – Potential Solutions and Opportunities Discussion

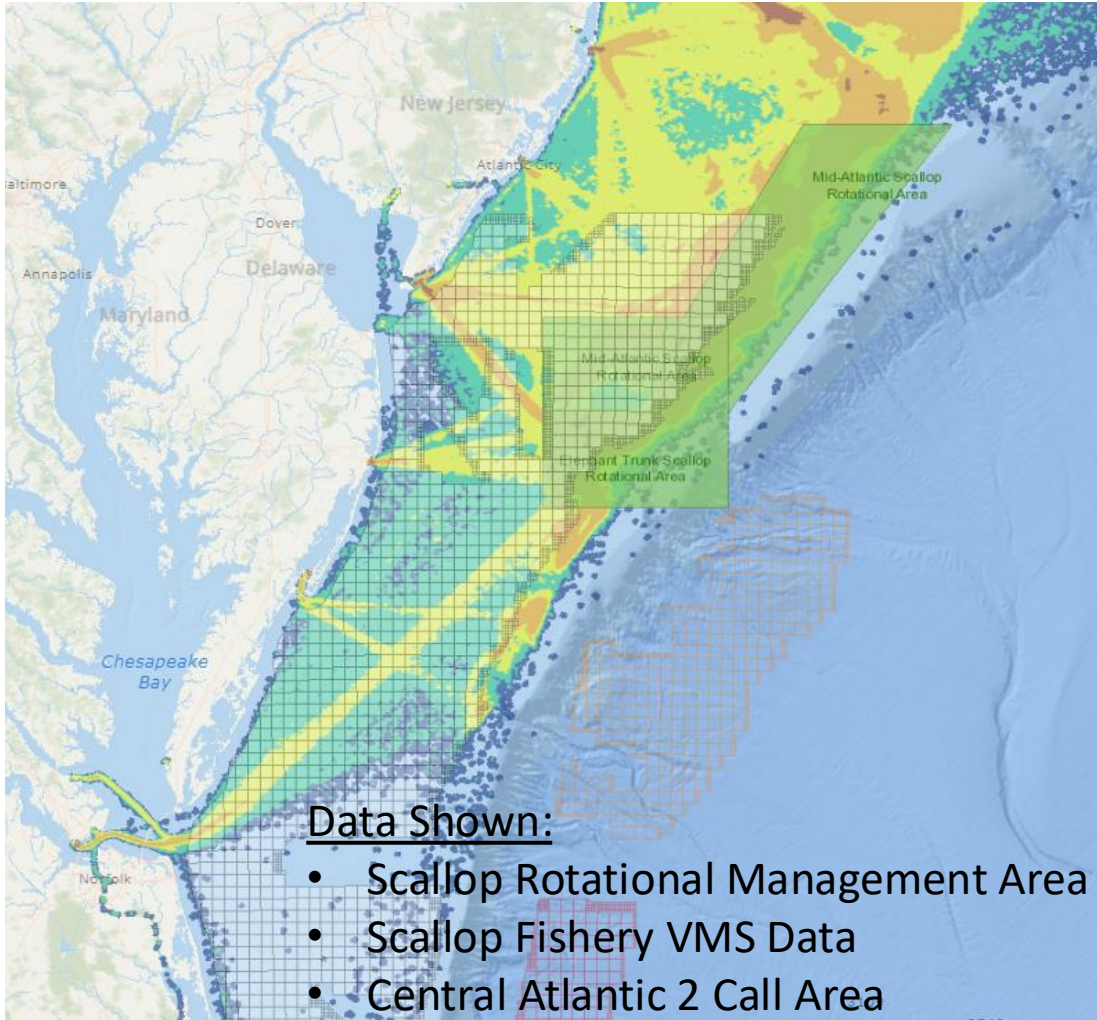
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Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Task Force Meeting  
September 11, 2024

# Example 1: Deep Sea Corals



# Example 2: Scallop Fishery



## Data Shown:

- Scallop Abundance Data (2015-2021)

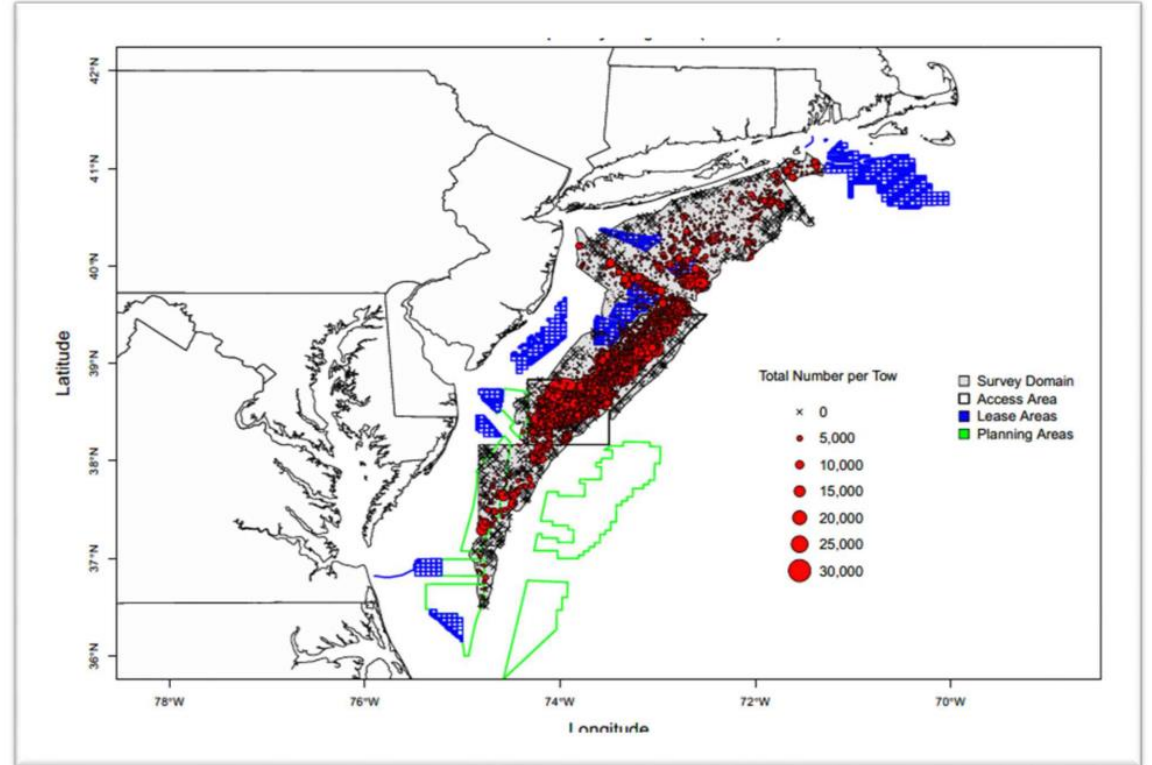
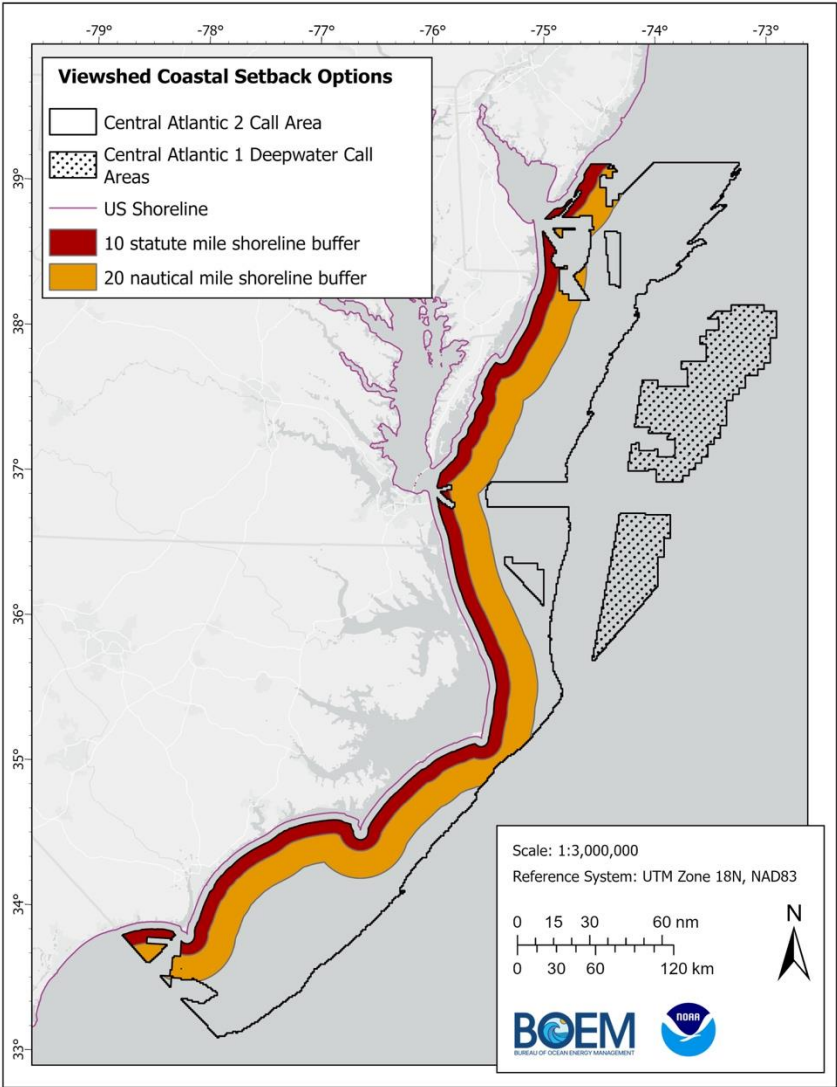


Figure 2: VIMS Cooperative Dredge Survey (2015-2021) w/ Central Atlantic Bight Call areas overlaid.  
Source: Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences.

(Source: BOEM Comment Letter, BOEM-2022-0023-0033)

# Example 3: Viewshed





[BOEM.gov](http://BOEM.gov)



Seth Theuerkauf | [Seth.Theuerkauf@boem.gov](mailto:Seth.Theuerkauf@boem.gov)