



CENTRAL ATLANTIC 2 VIRTUAL TASK FORCE MEETING SEPTEMBER 10th & 11th, 2024 MEETING SUMMARY

DISCLAIMER: This meeting summary was prepared by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), a non-profit entity contracted by Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to facilitate discussions. This summary is not intended to be a meeting transcript. Rather, it focuses on the main points covered during the meetings.

Meeting In Brief

BOEM convened on September 10th & 11th, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM ET (both days) a virtual meeting of the Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force (hereafter Task Force). The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate coordination, consultation, and information sharing among federal, Tribal, state, and local governments regarding the Central Atlantic 2 Call for Information and Nominations (hereafter Call). The Call represents the first step of Central Atlantic 2—an offshore wind lease planning process underway ahead of a possible second Central Atlantic offshore wind lease sale.

On September 10th, the Task Force reviewed BOEM's leasing process and gathered insights from state and federal partners on the Call. Representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Park Service (NPS) shared their perspectives and considerations related to the Call. On Day 2 of the meeting, the discussion continued with presentations from the Department of Defense (DoD), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), along with an overview of the spatial modeling process. Across both days there was opportunity for Task Force discussion. The second day included an opportunity for public input.

Attendance

On the first day, approximately 145 Task Force members, 35 BOEM staff and 3 Consensus Building Institute staff participated. In addition, approximately 86 members of the public attended including representatives from the fishing industry, interested citizens, environmental non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. On the second day, approximately 122 Task Force members, 31 BOEM staff, 3 Consensus Building Institute and 78 members of the public attended.

Summary of Presentations

Below is a summary of key themes and topics discussed during the meeting. All presentations and recordings are accessible through the BOEM Central Atlantic Task Force Meeting webpage at: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/central-atlantic-task-force-meeting-september-10-11-2024>.

Day 1

Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting opened with a welcome and introductory remarks from Dave Diamond, Deputy Chief for Atlantic Operations within BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP), and Seth Theuerkauf, Project Coordinator within BOEM OREP and lead for Central Atlantic 2. David Plumb, facilitator with CBI, described meeting guidelines and the agenda for the meeting.



Overview of BOEM Offshore Wind Leasing Process in the Central Atlantic

BOEM's Seth Theuerkauf presented an overview of BOEM's offshore wind leasing process and provided a detailed review of the Call. BOEM has begun Central Atlantic 2 through a broad Call for Information and Nominations with a large Call Area which spans from southern New Jersey to southern North Carolina and from the state-federal waters line at 3 nautical miles to the 60-meter depth contour (i.e., the maximum depth possible for installation of fixed foundations for offshore wind turbines). The Call is intended to gather substantial information that will guide future stages of Central Atlantic 2, building upon feedback from the first round of planning in the Central Atlantic region. Feedback received through the Call will inform the identification of draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs), which are expected in the first quarter of 2025 and represent the next milestone of Central Atlantic 2. Theuerkauf also reviewed next steps and how interested parties can provide input to inform Central Atlantic 2.

State Perspectives

North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware offered brief presentations on the states' priorities around offshore wind and their respective interests in, and concerns regarding, the Call and Central Atlantic 2. A Task Force member urged Maryland and other states to employ lessons learned from the feedback provided by constituents in the recent Central Atlantic 1 offshore wind lease planning process. Presenters' names and affiliations are listed in the presenters list at the end of this document.

NOAA Fisheries

Sue Tuxbury of NOAA's Greater Atlantic Regional Field Office presented on the agency's role in the offshore wind leasing and permitting process, resource concerns related to the Central Atlantic 2 Call for Information and Nominations Area (hereafter Call Area), and recommendations for the Central Atlantic 2 process. The presentation highlighted habitats, protected resources and scientific surveys of concern within the Call Area. Tuxbury noted challenges for site identification and offered recommendations that emphasized improved understanding and transparency early in the process. A Task Force member asked for examples of successful avoidance of resource impacts during the offshore wind lease planning process in the past and how lessons learned could be applied to Central Atlantic 2. Tuxbury highlighted an example of deconfliction of fishery conflicts with the shrimp fishery in the Gulf of Mexico with offshore wind lease planning in the region, as well as NOAA Fisheries' past engagement on the Gulf of Maine and Central Atlantic 1 lease planning processes. NPS and USFWS staff also highlighted specific examples of past engagement in BOEM offshore wind lease planning processes to address resource concerns, including a focus on: (a) visual simulations earlier in the lease planning process to better understand visual resource concerns, and (b) integration of data related to coastal birds into lease planning to avoid nearshore areas where coastal bird impacts may be higher.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Glenn Smith, Assistant Endangered Species Coordinator at USFWS, provided information on portions of the Call Area of greatest concern for federally-listed species and underscored the importance of thorough data collection to protect vulnerable habitats, migratory corridors, and National Wildlife Refuges. A Task Force member asked about foreseeable challenges in the lease planning process without sufficient baseline data for ESA-listed species and how the public, states and other groups could help identify available data. USFWS and NOAA Fisheries staff both highlighted the importance of integrating best available data into lease planning and



the future challenges and potential delays or impacts on regulatory decisions that data gaps can present.

National Park Service

Kristin Andel, Energy Specialist at NPS, provided an overview of the NPS' jurisdiction, NPS units within the Call Area and specific park resources that offshore wind could impact. The presentation outlined the importance of visual simulations and coordination with NPS early in the lease planning process.

Day 2

Welcome and Overview of Day 1

Dave Diamond, Deputy Chief for Atlantic Operations for BOEM OREP opened the meeting with words of welcome and a moment of silence to acknowledge the anniversary of September 11th, 2001. David Plumb, facilitator with CBI, provided an overview of the agenda and reminded participants of meeting guidelines. Seth Theuerkauf, Project Coordinator within BOEM OREP, briefly reviewed BOEM's offshore wind lease planning process and oriented participants to the current stage of Central Atlantic 2 (i.e., the Call).

Department of Defense

Steven Sample, Executive Director of the Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse, presented a summary of how the Clearinghouse assesses national security concerns related to offshore wind and how they will participate in Central Atlantic 2 through provision of a formal assessment of mission compatibility and conflicts with the Call Area. Sample noted that the DoD's priority is to protect military testing, training and operations while helping to identify areas for compatible renewable energy development.

United States Coast Guard

Maureen Kallgren, Marine Transportation Specialist for the USCG Office of Navigation Systems, shared maps of the USCG's proposed Shipping Safety Fairways Along the Atlantic Coast (hereafter fairways) that overlap with the Call Area and highlighted important areas of USCG concern from Central Atlantic 1 to consider for the Central Atlantic 2 process. Kallgren further encouraged public participation in the USCG rulemaking process on the proposed fairways through provision of comments during the effort's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, noting that the USCG targets completion of the rulemaking process in late 2025. A Task Force Member requested clarification on how the finalization of proposed fairways will affect existing lease areas. Kallgren clarified that the latest proposed fairways do not overlap any existing lease areas.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Douglas Voss, Deputy Office Chief for the Range and Mission Management Office of NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, offered an overview of NASA's preliminary assessment of mission compatibility with the Call Area and information on the anticipated Wallops Flight Facility launch cadence forecast for the next 10 years. Voss noted that NASA will be providing BOEM with a formal technical assessment of the Call Area in the fall of 2024.

Known Resource and Use Concerns

On behalf of Dr. James Morris of the NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NOAA NCCOS), BOEM's Seth Theuerkauf presented an overview of NOAA NCCOS' marine



spatial planning program and introduced the partnership between BOEM and NOAA on marine spatial modeling to inform BOEM's offshore wind lease planning process. Bryce O'Brien, Central Atlantic Marine Planning Coordinator for NOAA NCCOS, provided an in-depth presentation on the spatial modeling process and provided a summary of categories of model layer inputs considered during the Central Atlantic 1 spatial modeling process. Task Force members asked for further detail on how fisheries, transmission and tourism are incorporated into model data layers. Theuerkauf shared that the currently open comment period on the Call seeks additional information on relevant spatial data to represent fisheries, transmission planning considerations, and tourism. Theuerkauf further presented and provided a few examples of the known resource and use concerns that exist in the Call Area. Task Force members asked how viewshed and environmental impact concerns are incorporated into modeling efforts and the overall planning process. Theuerkauf further shared that regarding tourism, a coastal setback is typically the factor used to address visual concerns at this stage of the lease planning process.

Public Input

Towards the end of Day 2 of the Task Force meeting, participating members of the public attending the meeting were provided an opportunity to provide oral statements or questions. Public participants' statements and questions are summarized thematically below.

Leasing and other Regulatory Processes

- A participant requested clarification and transparency on how bidding credits are determined.
- A participant expressed interest in policies that would provide paths forward for offshore wind development if leaseholders do not move forward with construction on lease areas.

Wildlife and Habitat Impacts

- A participant expressed concerns over the Central Atlantic 1 Deepwater Call Areas due to their overlap with deep sea coral habitats.
- A participant encouraged the consideration of the Carl N. Shuster, Jr. Horseshoe Crab Reserve in the Central Atlantic 2 lease planning process.
- Participants expressed concerns about potential impacts to the North Atlantic Right Whale population.

Economic Impacts

- Participants expressed concerns about visual impacts and ramifications for tourism economies.
- A participant commented that a robust supply chain is emerging in states adjacent to the Call Area in response to states' offshore wind energy goals and noted that federal leasing policy should align with market growth.

Data and Research Gaps

- Participants emphasized the need for updated studies and long-term data collection on turbine specifications, floating turbine technology, ecological impacts and fisheries.

Spatial Modeling

- A participant asked how cable routes will be addressed in spatial models.
- Participants encouraged further exploration of fisheries and protected species spatial data layers.



Marine Transport

- A participant urged further collaboration between USCG and BOEM to ensure maintenance of safe access to ports and maritime transit within the areas currently under consideration for Central Atlantic 2.
- A participant questioned the feasibility of meeting state energy goals if the proposed USCG shipping fairways and large viewshed buffers are excluded from the Call Area.

BOEM Planning Process

- Several participants expressed appreciation for ongoing collaboration between federal, state and local governments regarding the renewable energy leasing process for the Central Atlantic 2 Call Area and the consideration of known resource concerns from the Central Atlantic 1 lease planning process.
- Participants called for continued and greater collaboration among stakeholders to address resource concerns comprehensively.

Lessons from International Partners

- A participant expressed interest in understanding how BOEM may be learning lessons from international experience with offshore wind, particularly related to national security concerns.



Presenters

Name	Affiliation
Dave Diamond	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
Seth Theuerkauf	BOEM
Jennifer Mundt	North Carolina Department of Commerce
Ken Jurman	Virginia Department of Energy
Jennifer Walle	State of Virginia Natural and Historic Resources
Andrew Sinclair	The Port of Virginia
Todd Janeski	Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Ryan Green	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Ryan Opsal	Maryland Energy Administration
Catherine McCall	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Kristin Andel	National Park Service
Sue Tuxbury	NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Field Office
Glenn Smith	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Lisa Borin-Ogden	Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Kevin Dillon	New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
Colleen Brust	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Steven Sample	Department of Defense
Maureen Kallgren	United States Coast Guard
Douglas Voss	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Bryce O'Brien	NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)

Facilitation team

Name	Affiliation
David Plumb	Consensus Building Institute (CBI)
Charlotte Goodman	CBI
Meira Downie	CBI