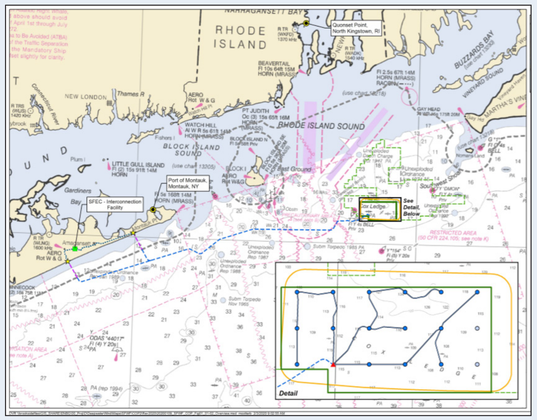
The Proposed Action and Alternatives

PROPOSED ACTION

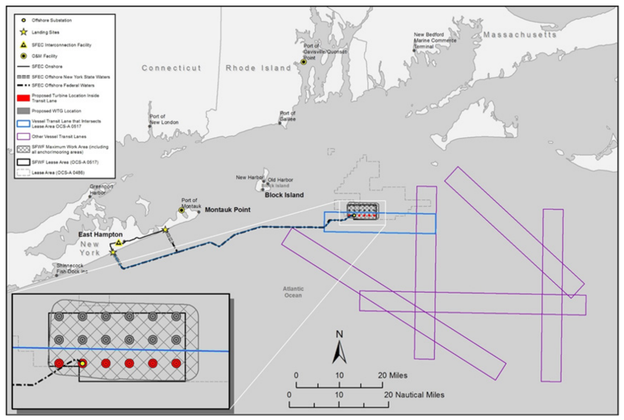


Under this alternative, the construction and installation, operations and maintenance (O&M), and conceptual decommissioning of up to 15 wind turbine generators (WTGs) in the 6- to 12-MW range and an offshore substation (OSS) within the Lease area (including the expanded area) and associated export cables would occur within the range of design parameters outlined in the Construction and Operations Plan (COP), subject to applicable mitigation measures.

Deepwater Wind South Fork (DWSF) would space WTGs in a uniform east–west and north–south grid with 1 × 1–nautical-mile (nm) spacing between WTGs and diagonal transit lanes at least 0.6 nm wide.

This configuration would still allow micrositing of WTGs to avoid sensitive cultural resources and marine habitats.

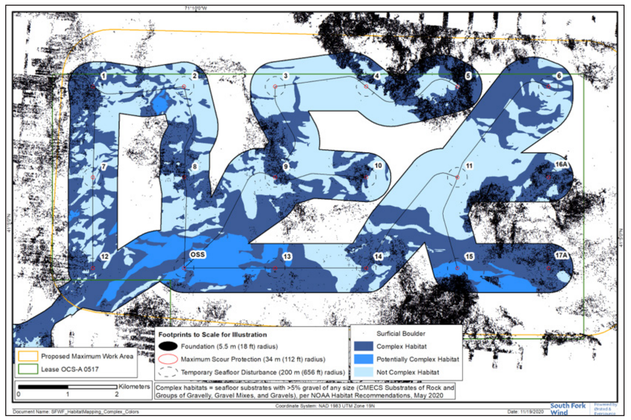
Vessel Transit Lane (Transit alternative)



Under this alternative, BOEM evaluated a 4-nm-wide vessel transit lane1 through the Lease area where no surface occupancy would occur. BOEM developed this alternative in response to the January 3, 2020, Responsible Offshore Development Association (RODA) layout proposal (RODA 2020). The RODA proposal includes designated transit lanes, each at least 4 nm wide. Although the proposal includes six total transit lanes, only one lane intersects the Lease area. The vessel transit lane is unique to this alternative and could facilitate transit of vessels through the Lease area from southern New England and eastern Long Island ports to fishing areas in the region.

WTGs located within the transit lane would be eliminated under this alternative. DWSF would develop the remaining WTGs with a 12-MW turbine capacity and would move the offshore substation north of the currently proposed location and install it in one of the remaining WTG locations. The Transit alternative is within the proposed design envelope of up to 15 turbines in the 6- to 12-MW range. This alternative would disclose the effect a transit lane could have on the expected effects from the other action alternatives analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Fisheries Habitat Impact Minimization (Habitat alternative)



Under this alternative, the construction and installation, O&M, and conceptual decommissioning of WTGs and an OSS within the Lease area and associated inter-array and export cables would occur within the range of design parameters outlined in the COP, subject to applicable mitigation measures.

However, to reduce impacts to complex fisheries habitats as compared to the Proposed Action, BOEM would require DWSF to exclude certain WTGs and associated cable locations, if micrositing is not possible to maintain a uniform east–west and north–south grid of 1 × 1–nm spacing between WTGs with diagonal transit lanes of at least 0.6 nm wide.

Under the Habitat alternative, BOEM may approve fewer WTG locations than proposed by DWSF.

No Action

Under this alternative, BOEM would not approve the COP, and Project construction and installation, O&M, and conceptual decommissioning activities would not occur.

Any potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts, including benefits, associated with the Project as described under the Proposed Action would not occur.