



Renewable Energy Planning & Leasing: Next Steps for the Gulf of Maine

Office of Renewable Energy Programs

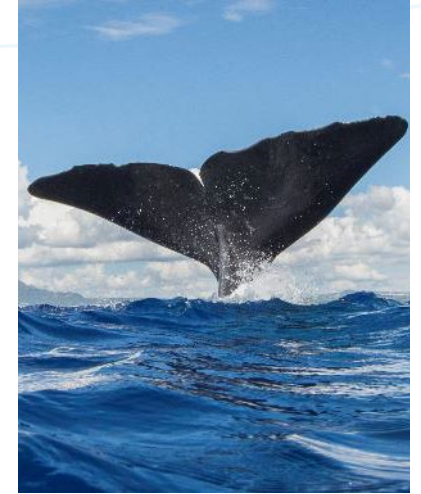
Zach Jylkka, Project Coordinator

May 19, 2022



Presentation Topics

- Task Force Structure, Purpose, and 2019 Meeting
- State of Maine Research Lease Application
- BOEM Commercial Planning & Leasing Process
- Gulf of Maine Leasing Timeline
- RFI Development Framework – Preview
- Task Force Questions



Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force

Gulf of Maine Task Force

Requested by Governor Sununu in 2019, and last met in December 2019.

- Who is on it?
 - Members include federal officials and elected officers of state, local, and Tribal governments.
 - Members of the public can attend meetings, and there is always an opportunity to provide input.
- What is it?
 - Mechanism for coordination and information exchange with governmental partners. Not a decision-making nor approval body.



Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force

What are the goals of the Task Force?

1. **educate** members about the renewable energy program, processes, and requirements;
2. **exchange** data and information;
3. **discuss** issues of concern; and
4. **assist government decision-making** within the established BOEM regulatory framework regarding renewable energy activity on the OCS in the Gulf of Maine

What did we cover in 2019?

- Task Force Structure/Purpose
- Renewable Energy Leasing Process
- State perspectives
- Jurisdictional Authorities (DoD, USCG, NMFS)
- Data, Information Sources, Ocean Users
 - BOEM, NROC, NEFMC, RODA, DOE
- Public Input/Concerns

Link to the 2019 Gulf of Maine Task Force Meeting Materials:

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/gulf-maine-intergovernmental-renewable-energy-task-force-meeting>

State of Maine's Research Lease Application

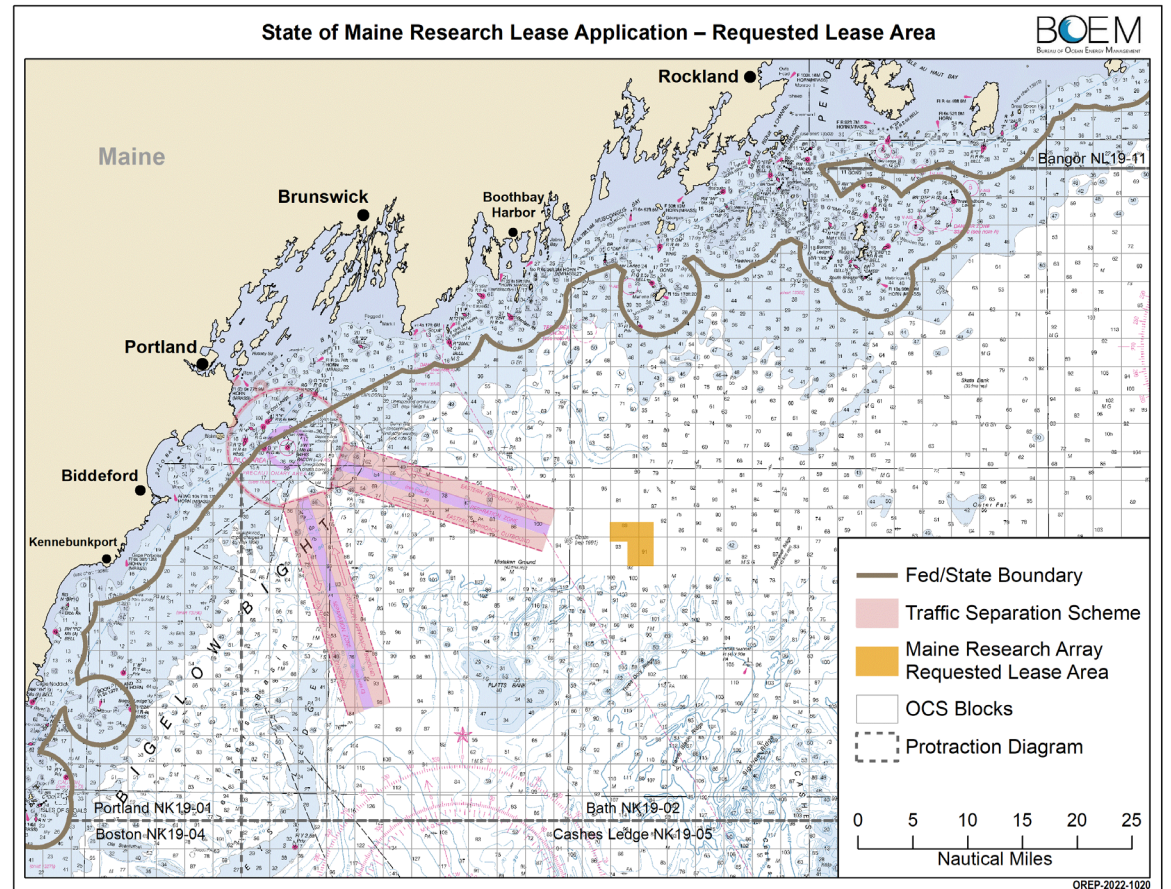
State of Maine Research Array

Maine submitted a research lease application (Oct. 2021) for a floating research array in Federal Waters

- ~25 nmi from the mainland; 15 Square Miles (~10,000 acres)
- ≤ 12 Floating Turbines (up to 144 MW)
- BOEM currently reviewing and processing application

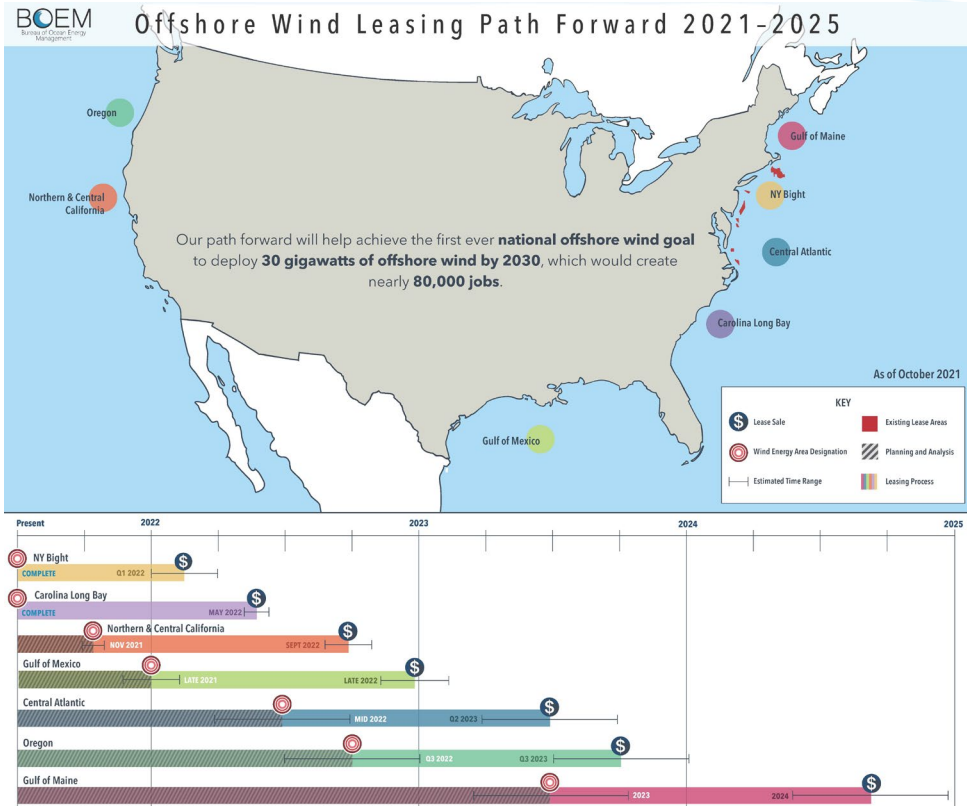
BOEM Process: Unsolicited Lease Request

- Qualifications (Legal, Technical, Financial)
- Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI)
 - Publication expected early summer (2022)
 - 30-day comment period
- **Competitive Interest** → Competitive Leasing Process
- **No Competitive Interest** → Suitability Analysis, Environmental Assessment, Lease Negotiation

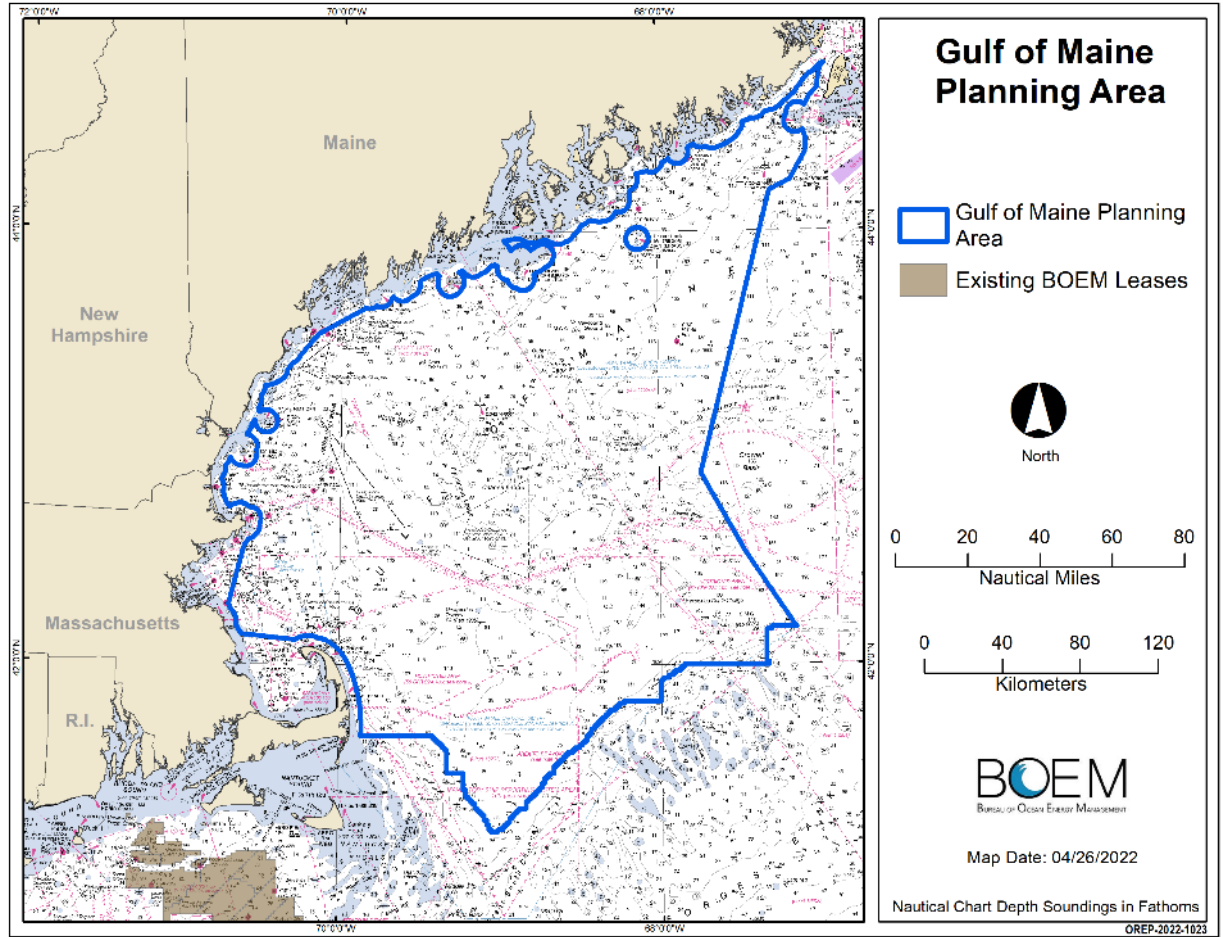


[BOEM Website: State of Maine Research Lease Application](#)

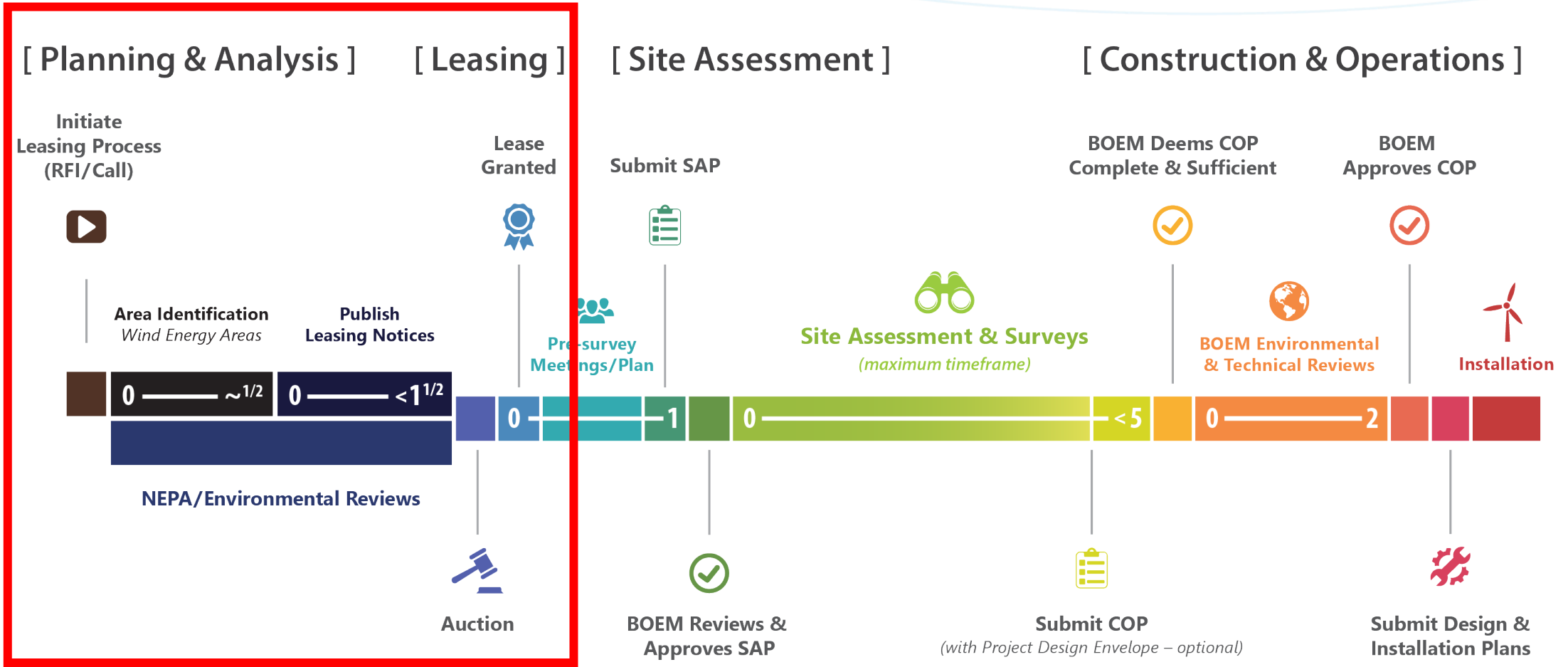
Gulf of Maine: Commercial Planning & Leasing Process



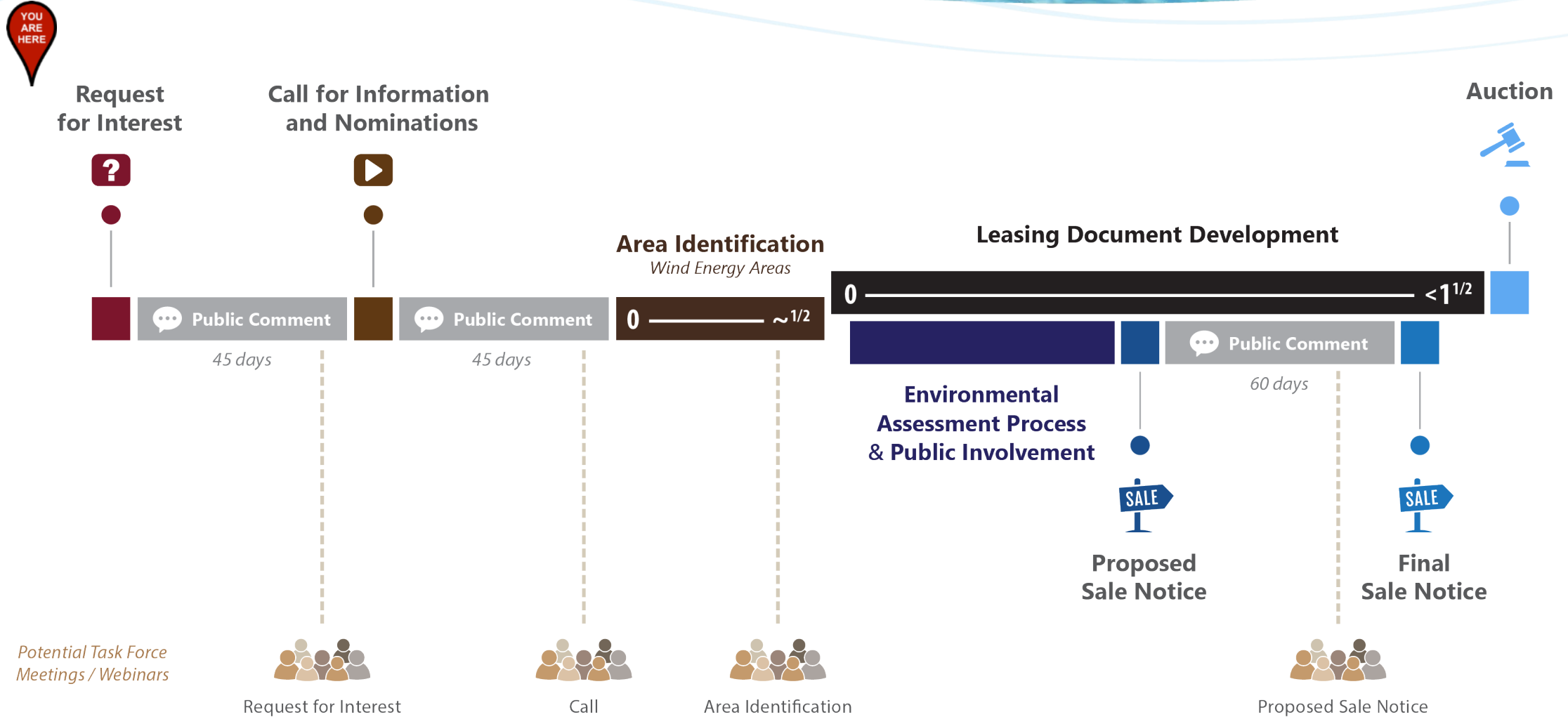
10/13/21 Announcement:
<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-haaland-outlines-ambitious-offshore-wind-leasing-strategy>



Renewable Energy Process: From RFI/Call to Operation



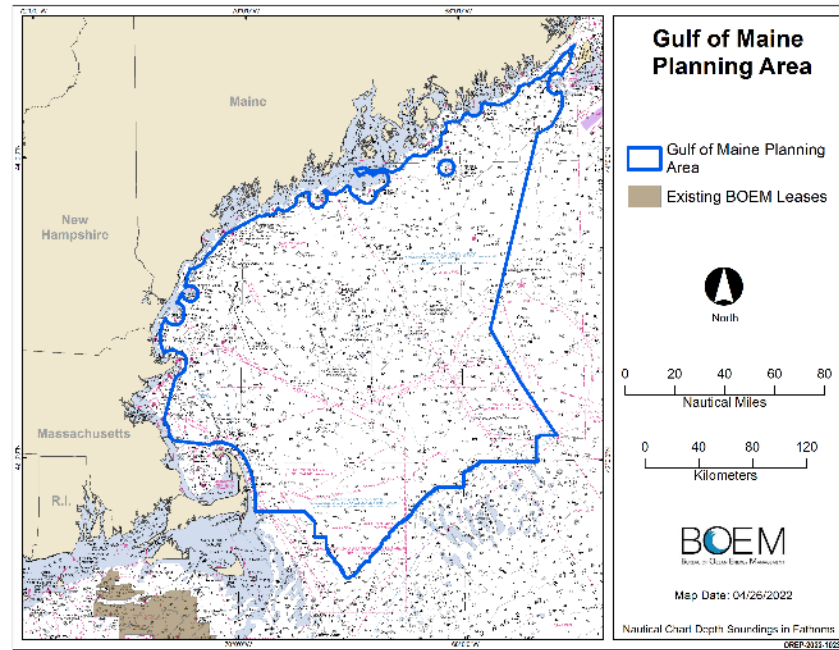
Request for Interest to Lease Sale



Planning Area

- BOEM's first step in establishing the boundaries for an area (or areas) that will be considered for leasing.
- BOEM avoids overlap between Planning Areas (e.g., Gulf of Maine, MA/RI, New York Bight, etc.)

Planning Area



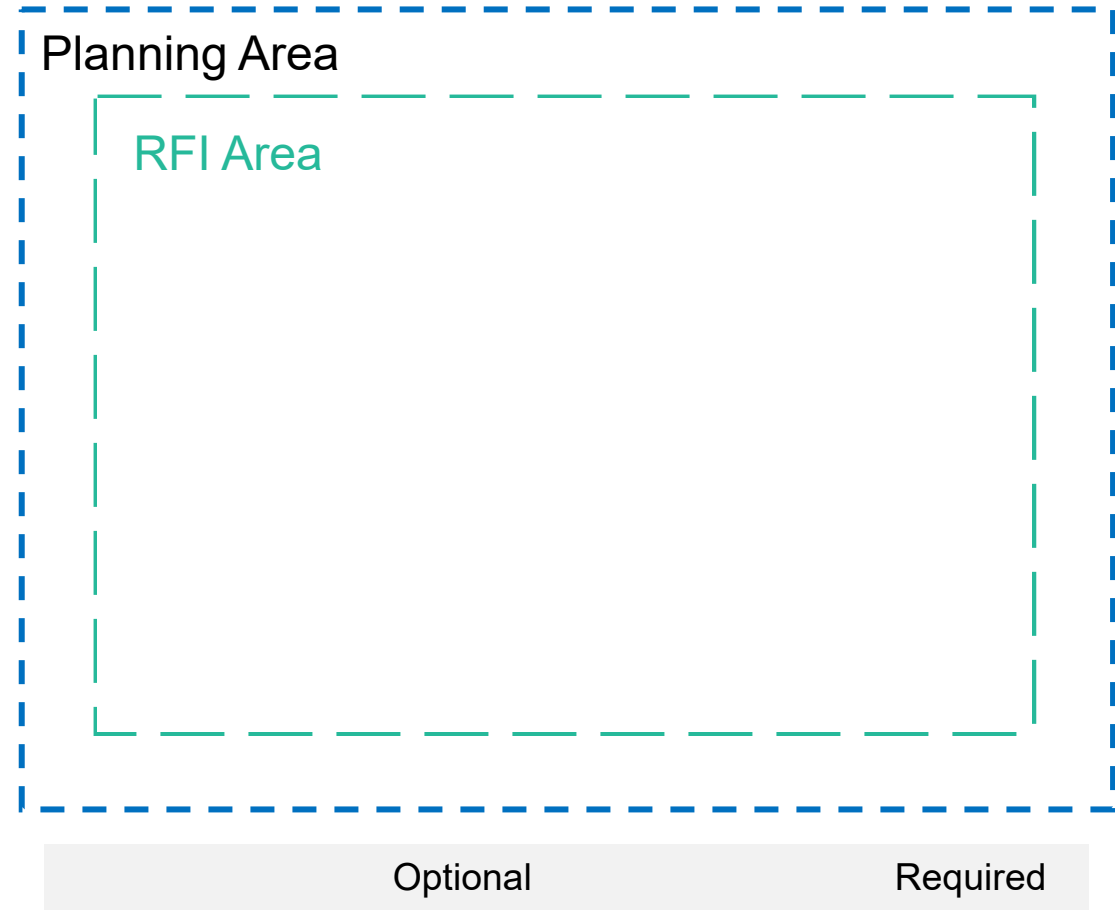
Optional

Required



Request for Interest (RFI) Area

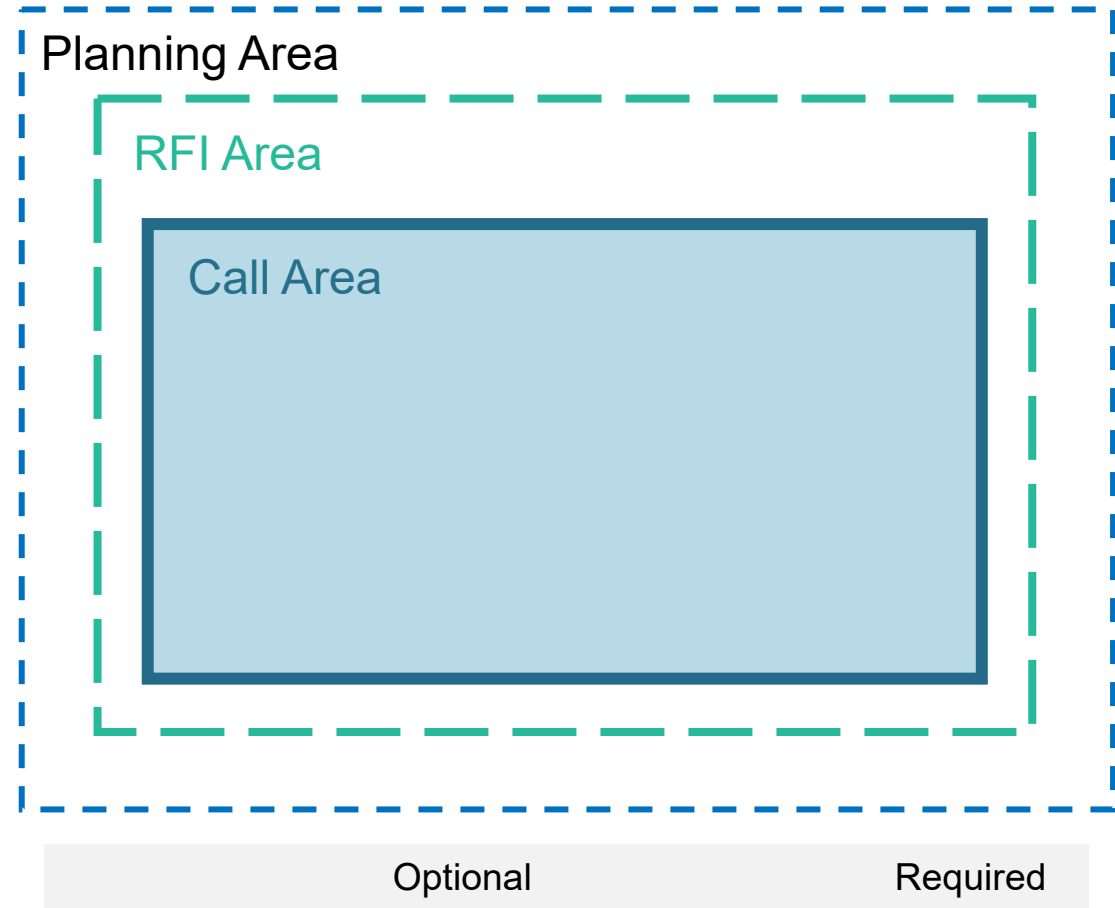
- Collect information to determine the level of interest in offshore wind leasing
- Shed more light on suitability of area for wind development



Call for Information and Nominations - Area

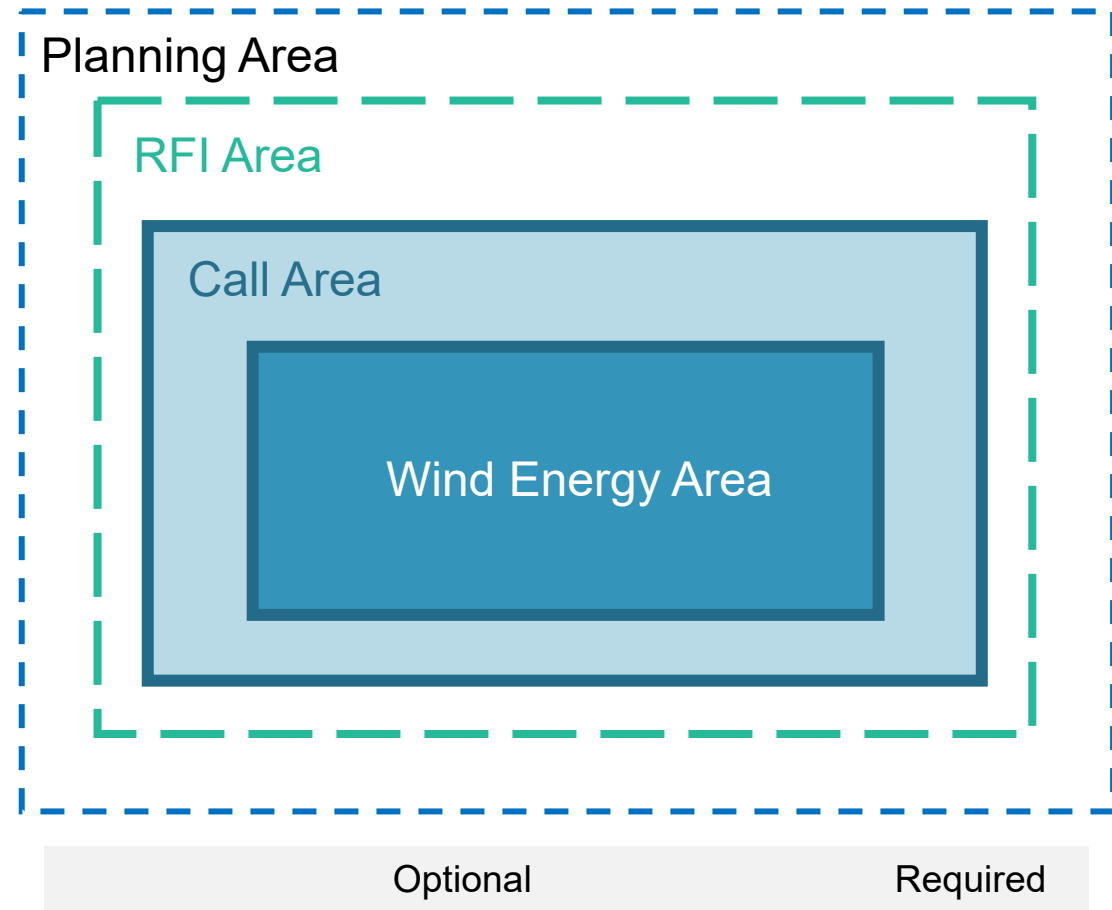
Request comments on:

- Areas for special consideration and analysis
- Conditions in the Call Area
- Areas to be considered for leasing



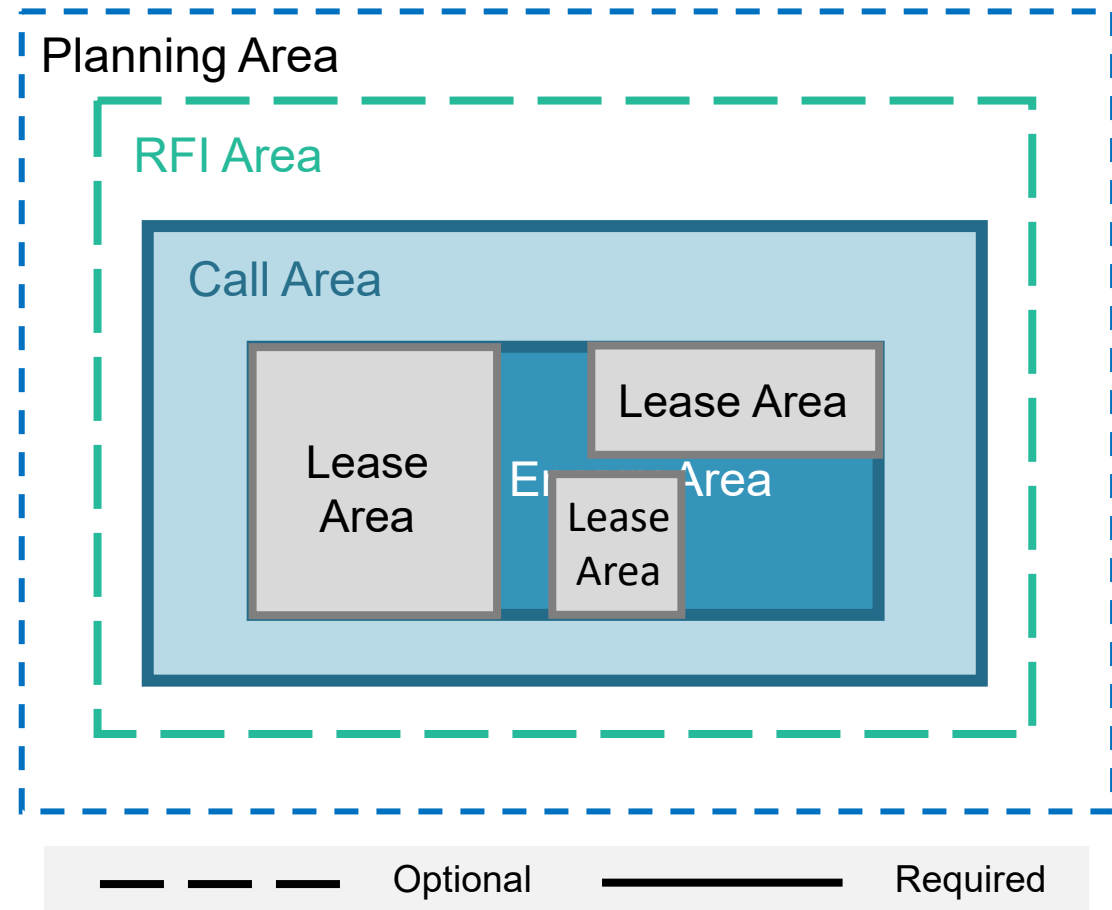
Wind Energy Area

- A portion of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) identified by BOEM for NEPA analysis (Environmental Assessment)
- The basis for a Lease Area



Lease Areas

- Wind Energy Areas have the potential for further division into Lease Areas



Pre-Lease Sale Process: Proposed Sale Notice

What is in a PSN?

- Area for leasing
- Fiscal terms
- Auction details and format
- Proposed lease terms
- Last opportunity to submit company qualification materials
 - Legal
 - Technical
 - Financial
- Nonmonetary factors

Auction Seminar for potential bidders



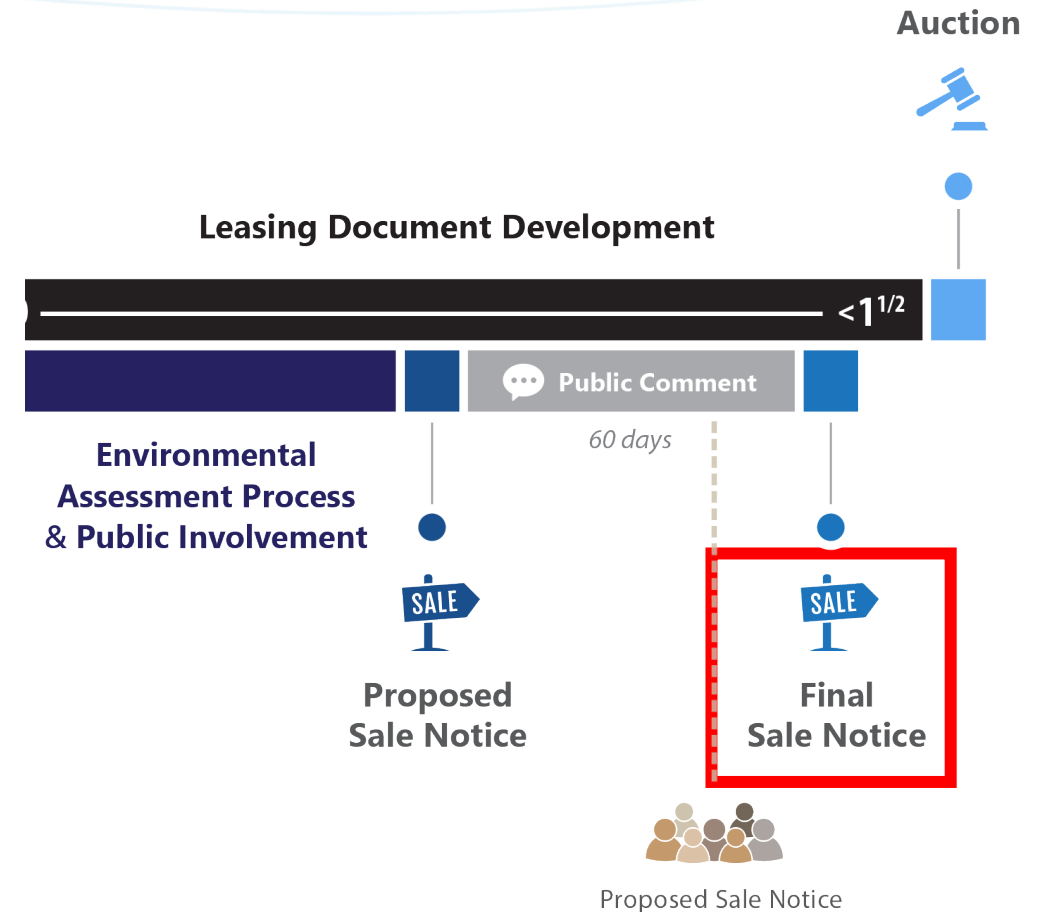
Pre-Lease Sale Process: Final Sale Notice

Final Sale Notice

- Bid deposit required to participate in auction
- List of qualified bidders

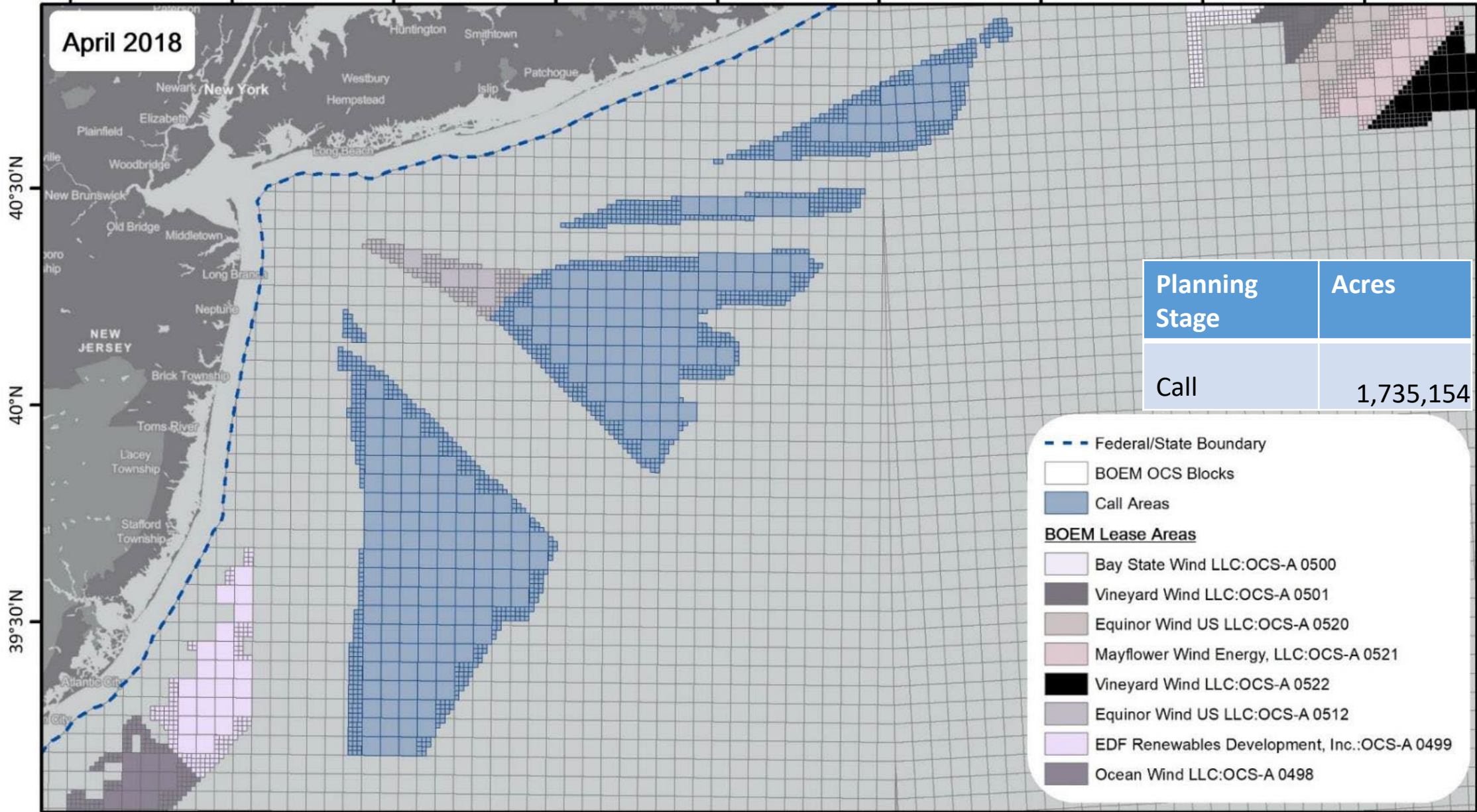
Mock Auction

Auction



74°30'W 74°W 73°30'W 73°W 72°30'W 72°W 71°30'W 71°W 70°30'W

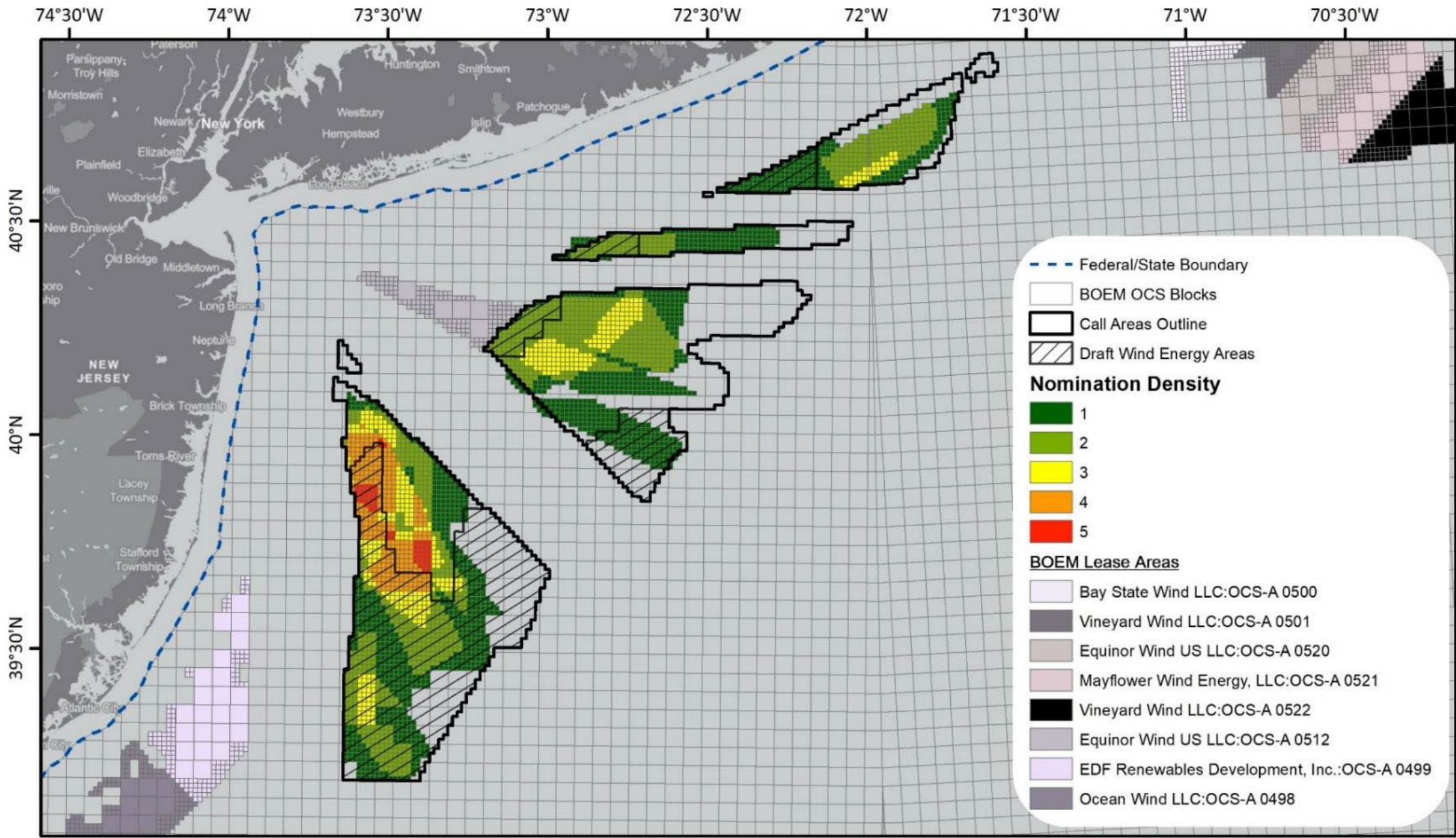
April 2018

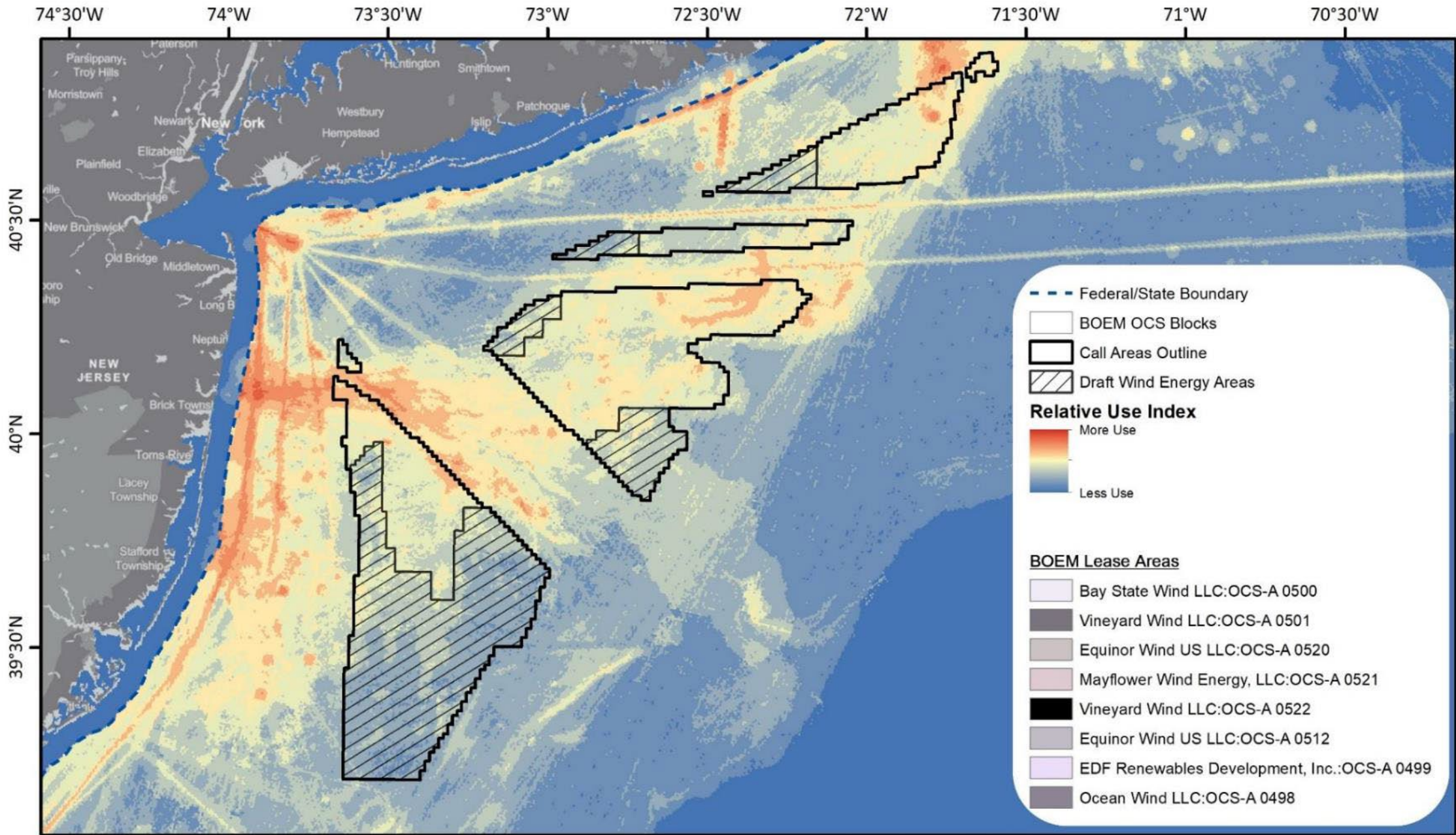


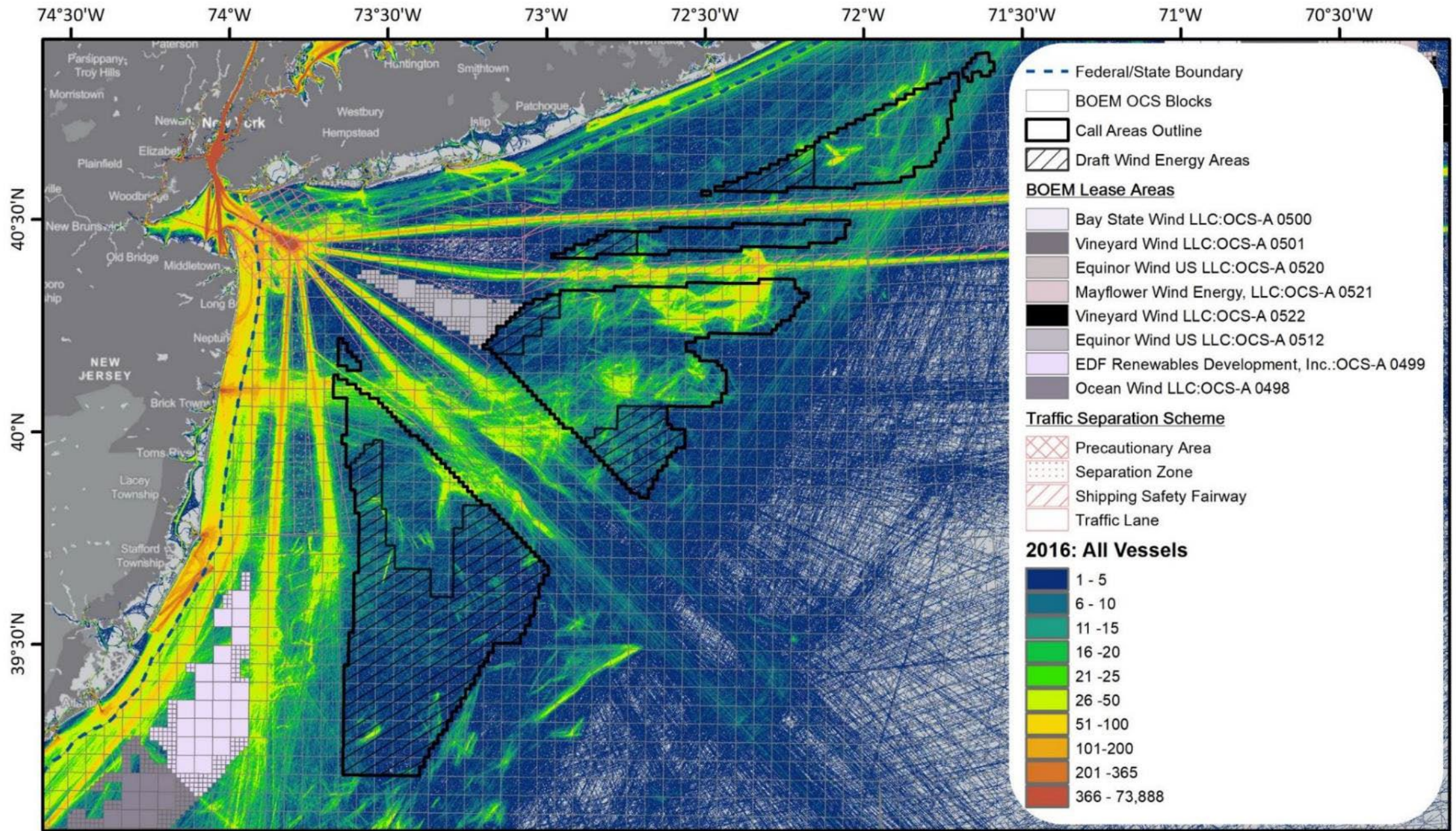
Planning Stage	Acres
Call	1,735,154

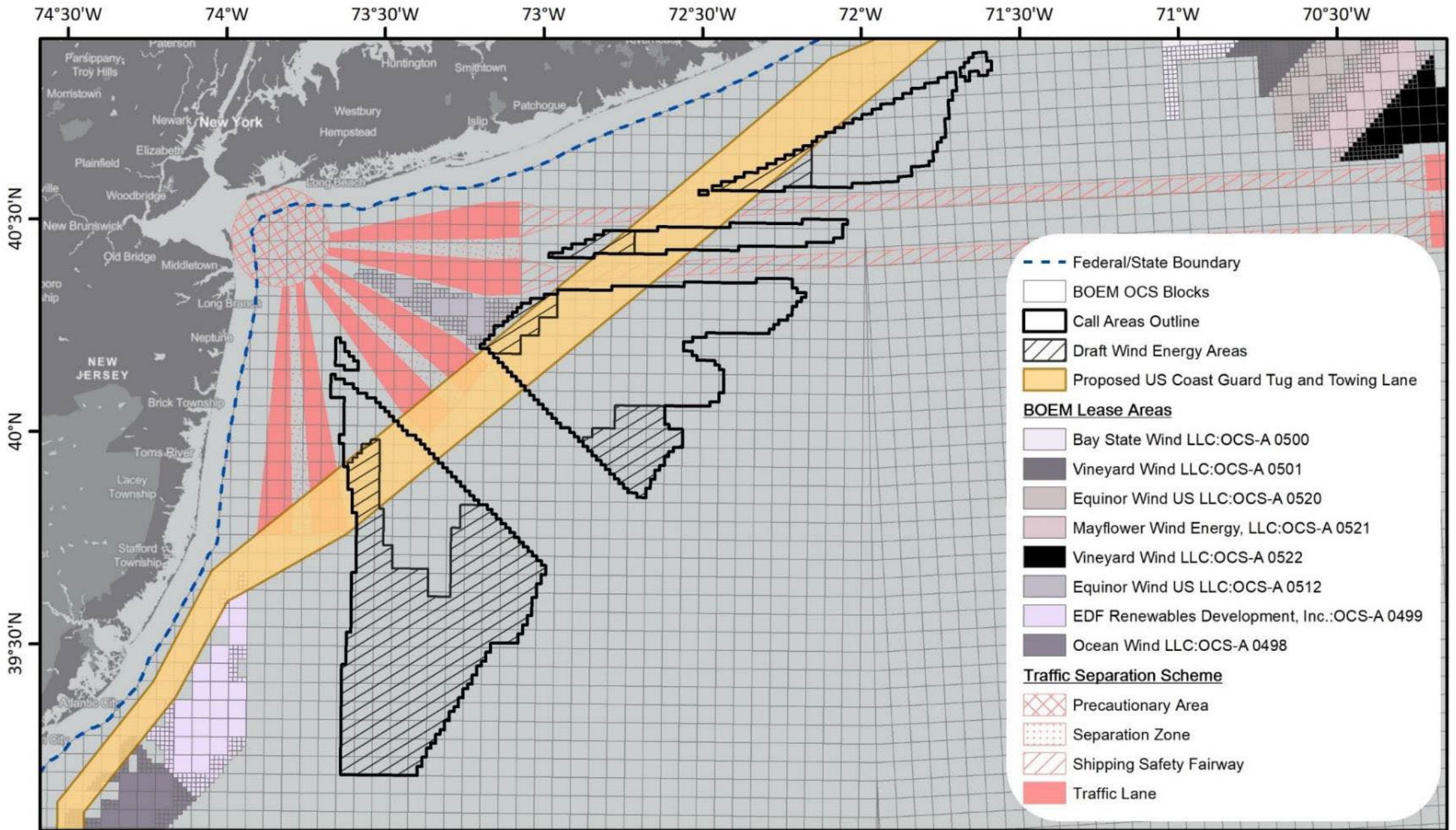
- - - Federal/State Boundary
- BOEM OCS Blocks
- Call Areas
- BOEM Lease Areas**
- Bay State Wind LLC:OCS-A 0500
- Vineyard Wind LLC:OCS-A 0501
- Equinor Wind US LLC:OCS-A 0520
- Mayflower Wind Energy, LLC:OCS-A 0521
- Vineyard Wind LLC:OCS-A 0522
- Equinor Wind US LLC:OCS-A 0512
- EDF Renewables Development, Inc.:OCS-A 0499
- Ocean Wind LLC:OCS-A 0498

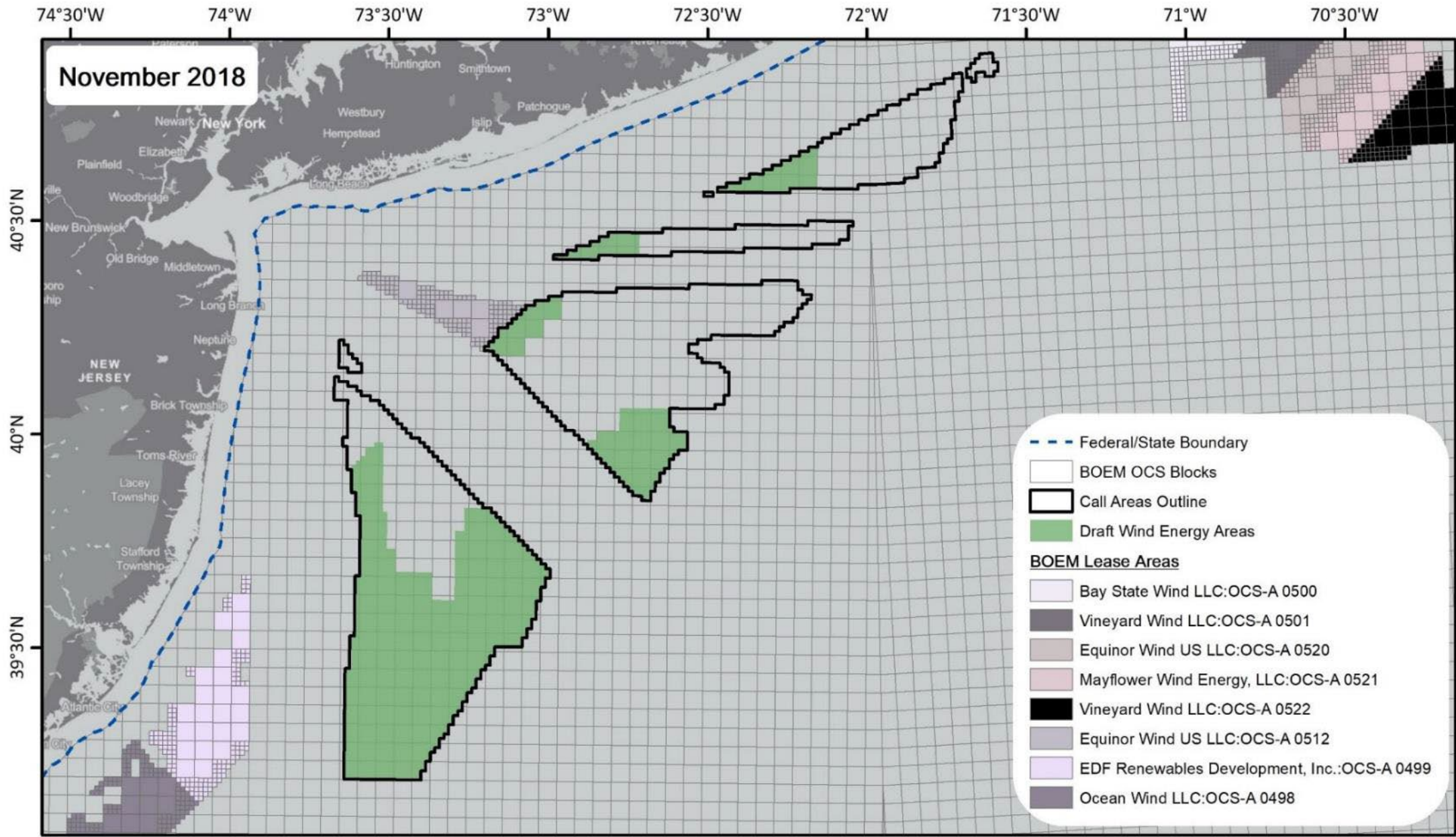






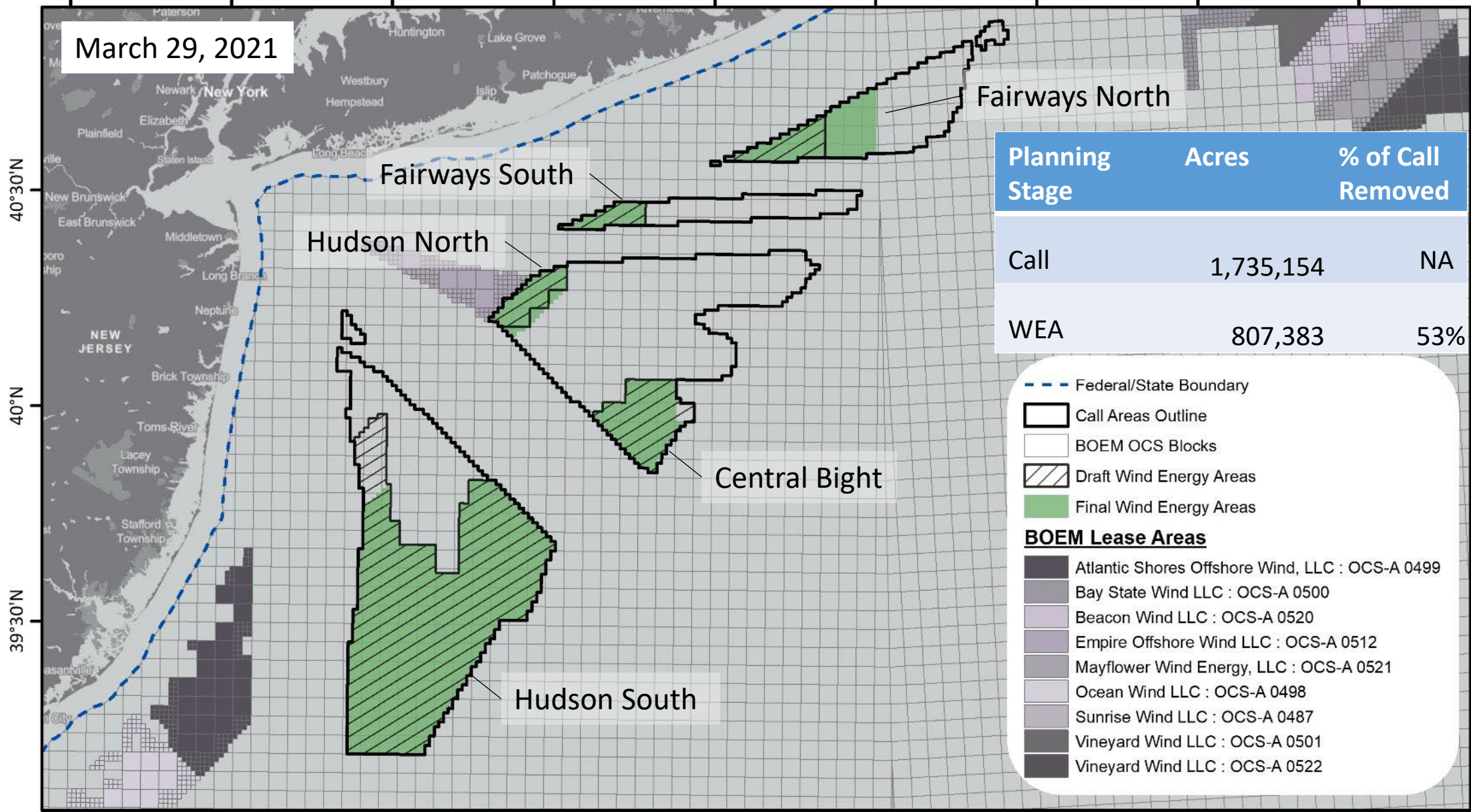






74°30'W 74°W 73°30'W 73°W 72°30'W 72°W 71°30'W 71°W 70°30'W

March 29, 2021



Planning Stage	Acres	% of Call Removed
Call	1,735,154	NA
WEA	807,383	53%

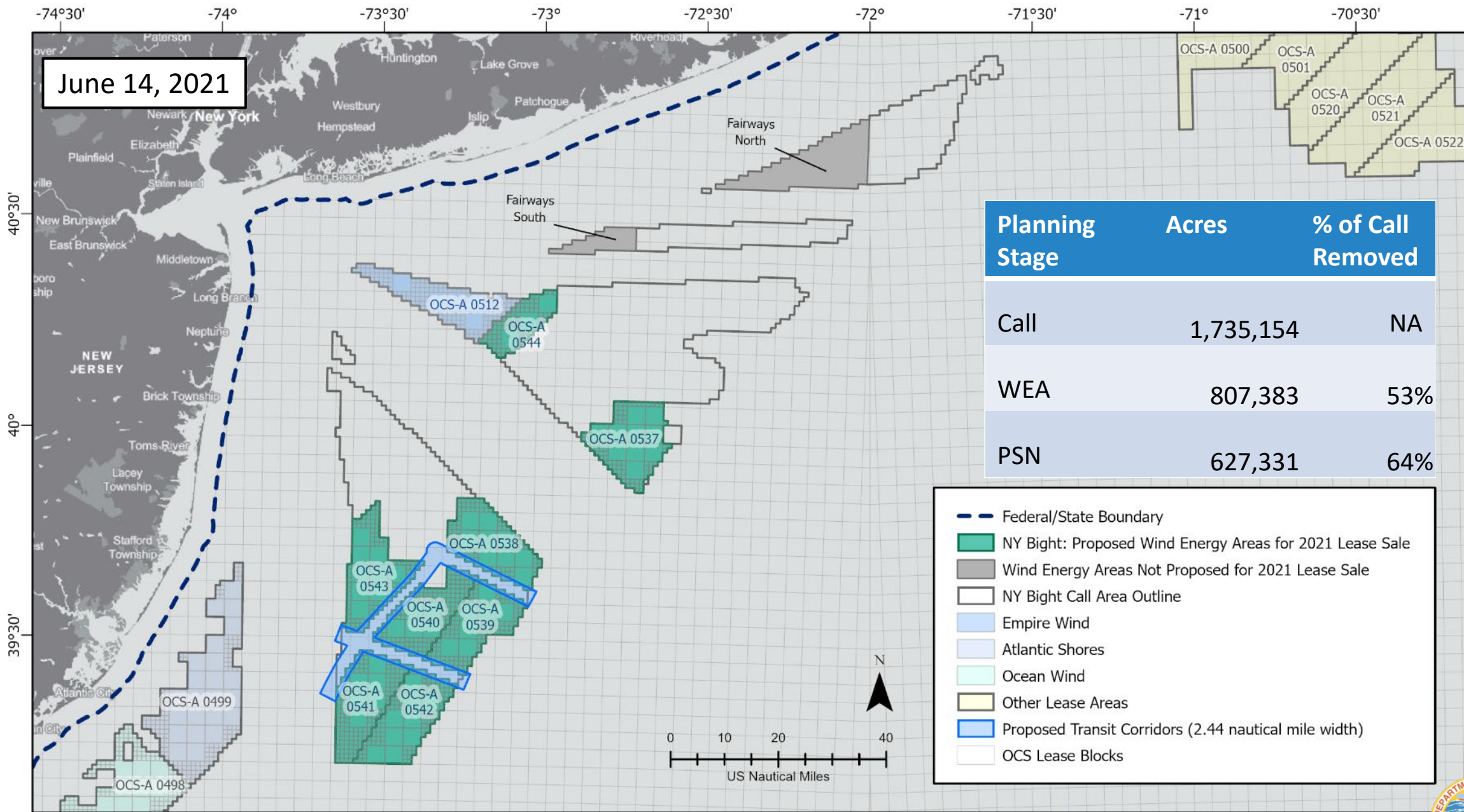
- - - Federal/State Boundary
 Call Areas Outline
 BOEM OCS Blocks
 Draft Wind Energy Areas
 Final Wind Energy Areas

BOEM Lease Areas

- Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC : OCS-A 0499
- Bay State Wind LLC : OCS-A 0500
- Beacon Wind LLC : OCS-A 0520
- Empire Offshore Wind LLC : OCS-A 0512
- Mayflower Wind Energy, LLC : OCS-A 0521
- Ocean Wind LLC : OCS-A 0498
- Sunrise Wind LLC : OCS-A 0487
- Vineyard Wind LLC : OCS-A 0501
- Vineyard Wind LLC : OCS-A 0522

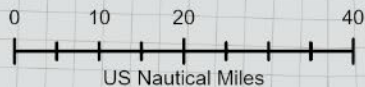


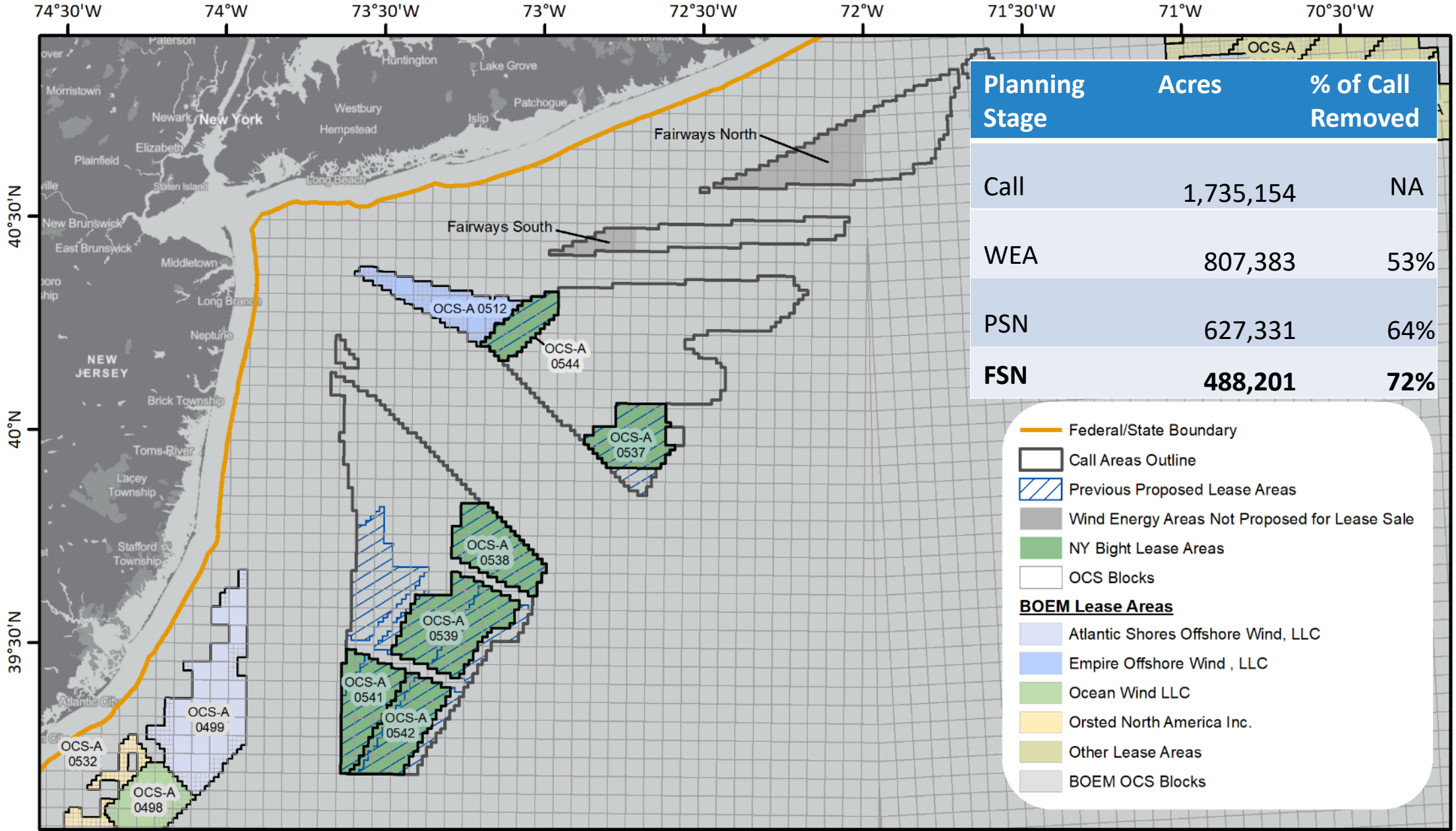
June 14, 2021



Planning Stage	Acres	% of Call Removed
Call	1,735,154	NA
WEA	807,383	53%
PSN	627,331	64%

- Federal/State Boundary
- NY Bight: Proposed Wind Energy Areas for 2021 Lease Sale
- Wind Energy Areas Not Proposed for 2021 Lease Sale
- NY Bight Call Area Outline
- Empire Wind
- Atlantic Shores
- Ocean Wind
- Other Lease Areas
- Proposed Transit Corridors (2.44 nautical mile width)
- OCS Lease Blocks





Planning Stage	Acres	% of Call Removed
Call	1,735,154	NA
WEA	807,383	53%
PSN	627,331	64%
FSN	488,201	72%

Legend

- Federal/State Boundary
- Call Areas Outline
- Previous Proposed Lease Areas
- Wind Energy Areas Not Proposed for Lease Sale
- NY Bight Lease Areas
- OCS Blocks

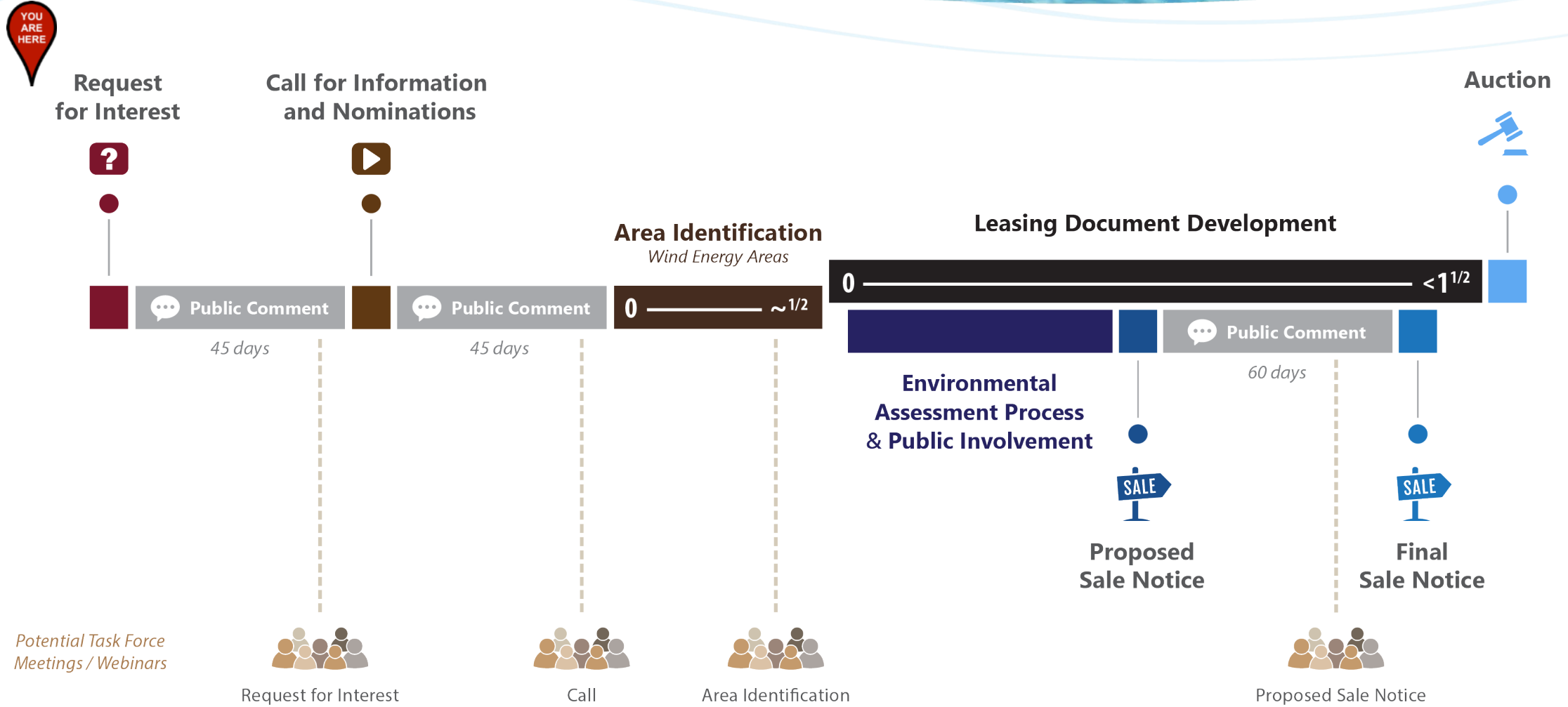
BOEM Lease Areas

- Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC
- Empire Offshore Wind, LLC
- Ocean Wind LLC
- Orsted North America Inc.
- Other Lease Areas
- BOEM OCS Blocks

OREP-2021-1049



Request for Interest to Lease Sale



Planning & Leasing – Data & Public Engagement

Assemble the best available science and data, including Traditional Knowledge

- Robust Public Engagement + Transparency on Process & Decision-Making
- BOEM Environmental Studies Program
- Northeast Ocean Data Portal / BOEM Marine Cadastre
- RFI Comment Period, Call for Information & Nominations, etc.
- Exploring additional spatial modeling approaches



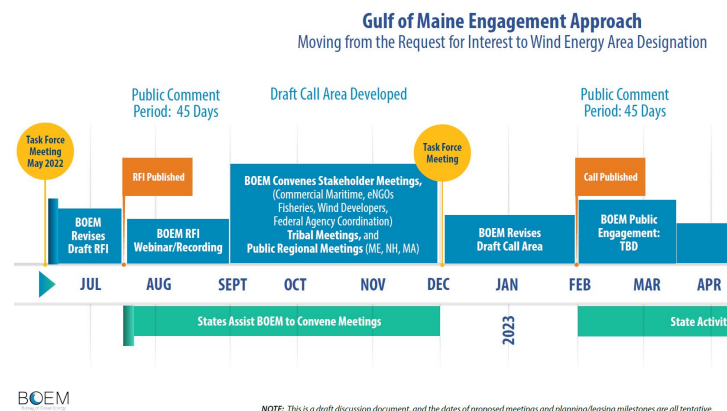
Gulf of Maine Environmental Studies Overview
BOEM
May 2022

Through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Environmental Studies Program, BOEM funds scientific research to inform decisions about offshore wind. BOEM has invested more than \$80 million in collecting baseline information about the distribution and abundance of marine life, birds, and bats and potential impacts from development (seafloor disturbance, sound, electromagnetic fields [EMF]). The topics studied are informed through intergovernmental task forces, public meetings, formal information solicitations, and recommendations made in BOEM-funded studies. BOEM identifies priorities annually during the development of the [study plan](#). Selected studies that provide information about the Gulf of Maine are listed below. A complete list of studies that are *in progress or completed* is available on the BOEM website. BOEM also supports regional data portals, such as the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#), where data form study products are made available to the public.

BOEM has invested over **\$80 million** in collecting baseline information

- Marine Life
- Birds and Bats
- Seafloor Disturbance
- Sound
- Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

Gulf of Maine Studies Fact Sheet



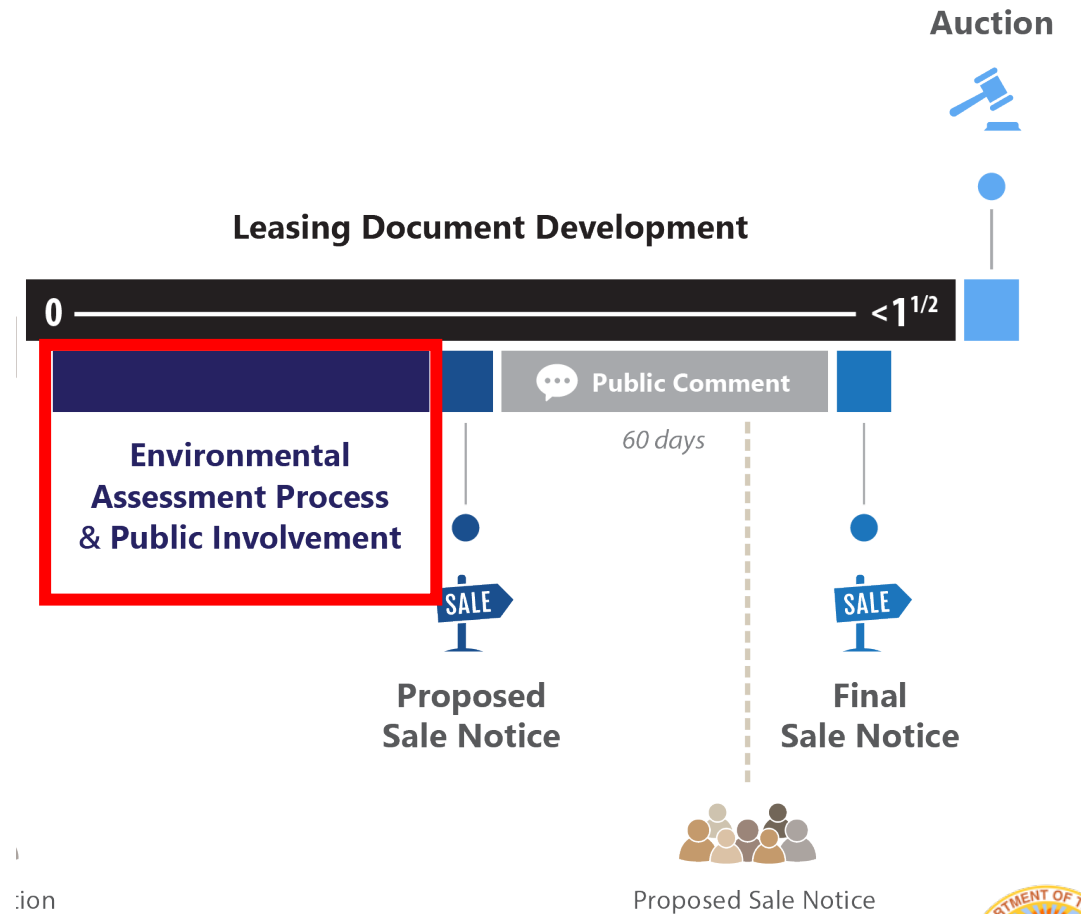
NOTE: This is a draft discussion document, and the dates of proposed meetings and planning/leasing milestones are all tentative.



Environmental Assessment

Assesses Environmental Effects Associated with Leasing

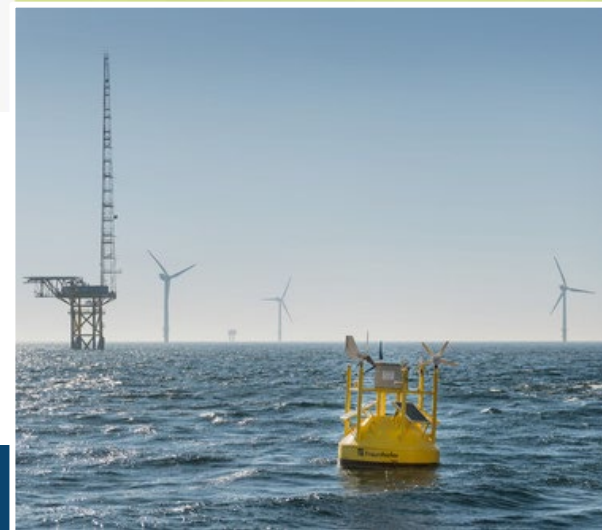
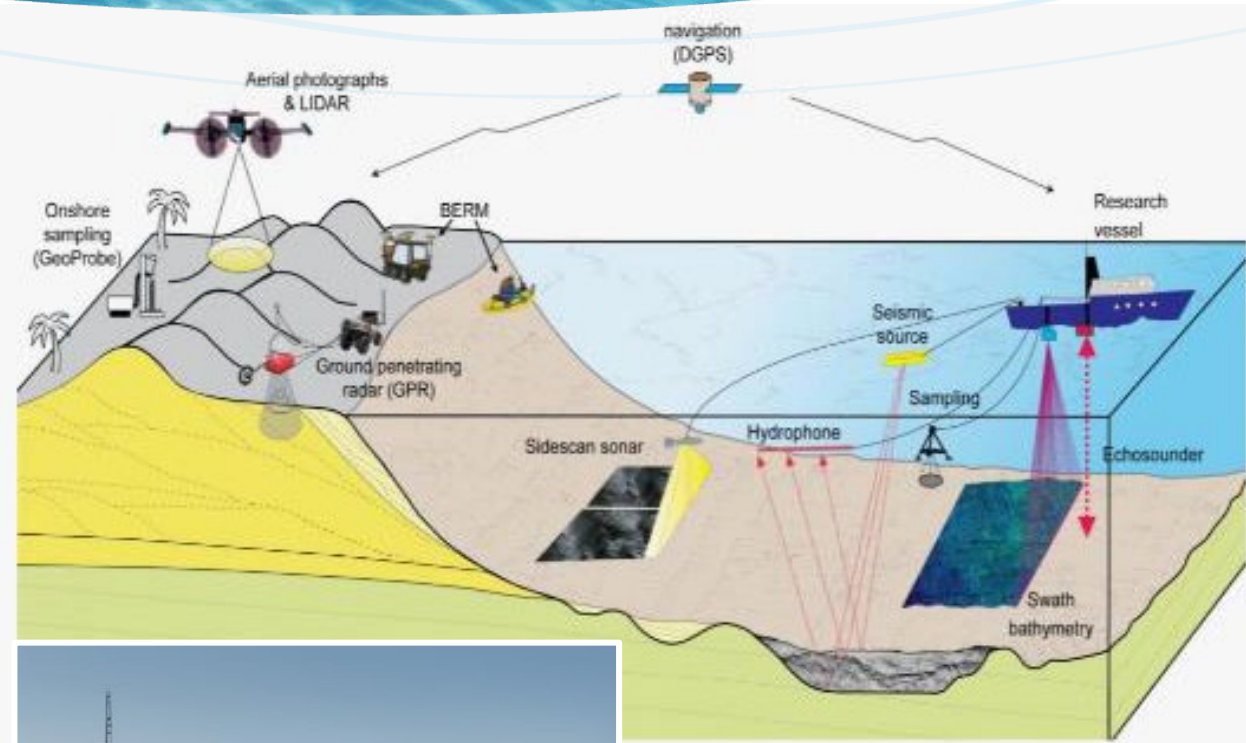
- Site Characterization Activities
 - biological, geological, geotechnical, and archaeological surveys
- Site Assessment Activities
 - meteorological and oceanographic buoy deployment



Environmental Assessment

Assesses Environmental Effects Associated with Leasing

- Site Characterization Activities
 - biological, geological, geotechnical, and archaeological surveys
- Site Assessment Activities
 - meteorological and oceanographic buoy deployment



Gulf of Maine Commercial Leasing Milestones

Milestone*	Action	Target Date**
Task Force Meeting	Hold virtual meeting	May 19, 2022
Publish Request for Interest	Publish RFI <i>45-Day Comment Period</i>	Q3 2022
Publish Call for Information & Nominations	Publish Call <i>45-Day Comment Period</i>	Q1 2023
Area Identification	Designate Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)	Q3 2023
Lease Sale	Proposed Sale Notice (PSN)	Q4 2023
	Final Sale Notice (FSN)	Q2 2024
	Hold auction	Q3 2024

* Task Forces are incredibly valuable tools in the leasing process and **several meetings** can be expected, likely to be scheduled around significant process milestones.

** Dates of planning/leasing milestones are all tentative.

RFI Development Framework

Request for Interest (RFI) Development Framework

- Approach to developing DRAFT RFI.
- *Focus of our afternoon discussion & breakout groups*
- Starting at the earliest point in the process
 - Maximize engagement opportunities
 - Gauge commercial interest
 - Collect additional data



BOEM
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Updated May 9, 2022

Gulf of Maine
Request for Interest (RFI) Development Framework

BOEM's offshore wind leasing strategy for 2022-2025 includes the goal of holding a commercial lease sale within the Gulf of Maine in 2024. To achieve this goal, BOEM has decided to start with a request for interest (RFI). Beginning with an RFI will allow BOEM to gauge commercial interest in offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine, while also maximizing the opportunity for the public to engage and provide input.

This document explains BOEM's framework for developing the Gulf of Maine RFI, both in terms of the spatial extent of the RFI area, as well as the data and information BOEM will seek from the public to inform subsequent analysis in the planning and leasing process (e.g., Call Area, Wind Energy Area). BOEM is sharing this RFI Development Framework for consideration and discussion at the May 19, 2022, Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting.

Defining the RFI Area

Before determining the extent of the RFI Area, BOEM first had to define a Planning Area for the Gulf of Maine commercial planning and leasing process (Figure 1). This Planning Area is roughly bounded on the west, north, and east by BOEM's jurisdiction for renewable energy activities on the outer continental shelf (OCS), ranging from the shore to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). BOEM delineated the southern boundary of the Planning Area by looking at the physiographic, oceanographic, and biotic variables that together uniquely define the Gulf of Maine.¹ This Planning Area also avoids any overlap with the Planning Area used for the previous Massachusetts/Rhode Island planning and leasing process.

¹ The southern boundary of BOEM's Gulf of Maine Planning Area is an adaptation of the Gulf of Maine Ecological Production Unit defined in the "State of the Ecosystem Report" (Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 2011).

Fisheries Mitigation Guidance

- Request for Information (RFI) on Reducing or Avoiding Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy on Fisheries
 - Published November 23, 2021, Comment Period closed January 7, 2022
 - 7 workshops held in December 2021
- Next Steps:
 - Publication of **DRAFT Guidance**: Spring 2022
 - 60-day comment period
 - 3 Regional Public Virtual Meetings: Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific
 - Updates to Fishery Working Groups, Individual State Meetings, etc.
 - Meeting with Developers
 - Publication of **FINAL Guidance**: Summer 2022



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zachary.jylkka@boem.gov | (978) 491-7732