

# Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Planning Outreach and Engagement



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for managing offshore wind energy development in the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in federal waters offshore Oregon, extending from 3 nautical miles offshore to the edge of the Exclusive Economic Zone ending at 200 nautical miles. BOEM coordinates OCS renewable energy activities offshore Oregon with its Federal, State, local, and federally recognized Tribal government partners through the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force (Task Force).

BOEM and the State of Oregon, led by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), have engaged in offshore wind planning since 2019 with a meaningful and effective data gathering and engagement process to identify appropriate areas for offshore wind leasing.

***BOEM is committed to continued outreach and engagement with Tribes, ocean users, including the fishing community, coastal communities and the public throughout BOEM's offshore wind energy planning process.***

## Outreach and Engagement to Date

### September 2019

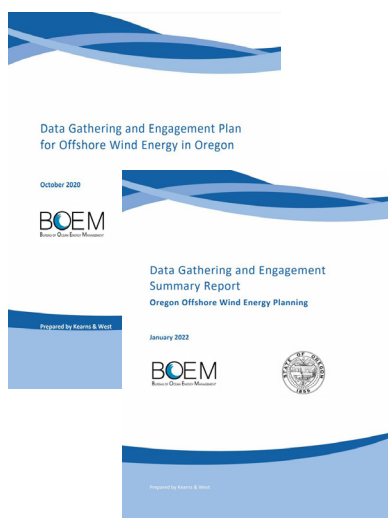
In response to industry interest in offshore wind development, BOEM and the State of Oregon began a conversation with the Task Force regarding potential offshore wind planning offshore Oregon in September 2019. Task Force members supported the development of an engagement plan that outlined the planning and engagement process for data and information collection to better understand the opportunities and challenges for offshore wind development from communities of interest and the public, and to share this plan at the next Task Force meeting.

### June 2020

BOEM and DLCD developed and distributed a Data Gathering and Engagement Plan for Offshore Wind (Plan) in Oregon to the Task Force for review in advance of the eighth Task Force meeting in June 2020. At this meeting, BOEM, the State of Oregon and Task Force members agreed to move forward with offshore wind planning in Oregon and defined a planning area of the entire OCS offshore the Oregon coast, where offshore wind is technically viable with water depths of less than 1,300 meters (4,265 feet) and average wind speed of at least 7 meters/second (13.6 knots). The Plan included a 12-month schedule and approach for data gathering and engagement with coastal communities and potentially interested and affected parties to inform potential future leasing decisions.

### October 2020 - 2021

Beginning in October 2020 and continuing through the October 2021 Task Force meeting, BOEM and the State of Oregon held 6 public webinars and over 60 meetings with Tribes, elected officials, the commercial fishing community, mariners, the academic and research community, environmental groups, industry, labor unions, and the general public. At its October 2021 meeting, the Task Force discussed the Data Gathering and Engagement Summary Report prior to publication in January 2022. BOEM considered all the data and information received throughout this planning effort and subsequently identified the Oregon Call Areas. The Report summarizes key messages and concerns BOEM heard during the meetings described above.



Data Gathering and Engagement Plan and Summary Reports can be found on [www.boem.gov/Oregon](http://www.boem.gov/Oregon)

## February - April 2022

At its February 2022 meeting, the Task Force discussed the rationale for the identification of three Call Areas. BOEM and the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Marine Planning Committee hosted an online work session in March 2022 and solicited public input. BOEM responded to the initial input and feedback by removing one Call Area, and then published a Call for Information and Nominations (Call) with two Call Areas in the Federal Register in April 2022 for public comment.

The two Call Areas (shown in bold outlined areas in Figure 1), located offshore Oregon, comprised of areas identified as Coos Bay and Brookings. These areas totaled about 1,159,298 acres (1,811 square miles) and are located offshore south-central and southern Oregon, respectively.

## May 2022 - August 2023

BOEM received 278 comments on the Call Areas, which are available at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/BOEM-2022-0009>. Working toward development of Draft Wind Energy Areas, BOEM continued to meet and engage with interested and potentially affected parties and held in-person meetings on the Oregon coast in June 2022. BOEM held consultation meetings and Tribal outreach meetings with federally recognized Tribes. Additionally, BOEM regularly participated in meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management Council to provide updates, answer questions and receive feedback.

BOEM took into consideration all of the comments and feedback received, and used a suitability model to help develop the Draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) (shown in blue filled areas in Figure 1). Additionally, in response to input received regarding viewshed impacts from potential offshore wind development in the Call Areas, BOEM conducted a visual simulation study of the hypothetical offshore wind projects in the Oregon Draft WEAs. More information can be found here: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/oregon-offshore-wind-visual-simulation>

## Next Steps

The next step in BOEM's renewable energy leasing process offshore Oregon is a 60-day public comment period starting August 15, 2023. During the comment period, BOEM will hold several meetings with local coastal communities to gather public comments on the Draft WEAs. These meetings are open to the public and everyone who is interested in potential offshore wind energy is encouraged to attend.

To comment on the Draft WEAs, please go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search for docket number BOEM-2023-0033. BOEM will accept comments beginning August 15, 2023, through October 16, 2023 (11:59 pm ET).

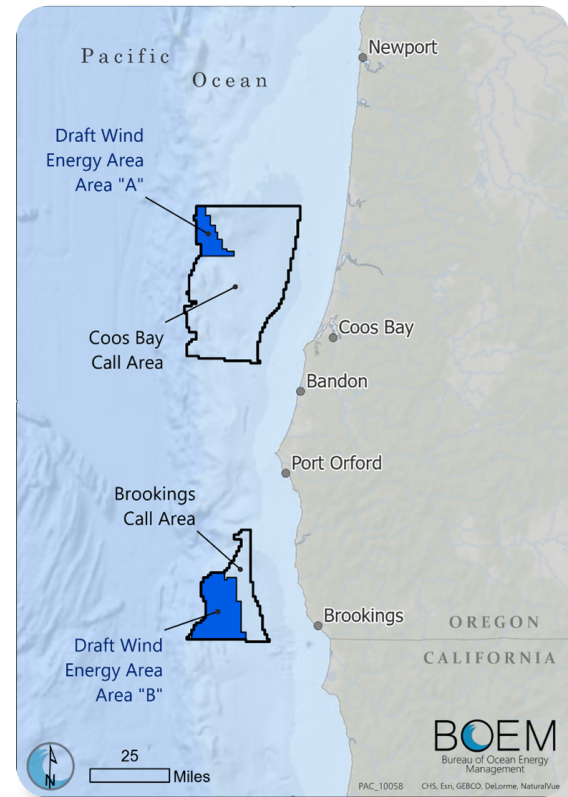


Figure 1. Oregon Call Areas (bold outlined areas) and Draft Wind Energy Areas (blue filled areas).

### Considerations Used for Draft WEA development

- OROWindMap data sets and information
- NCCOS Spatial Suitability Model Results
- State of Oregon renewable energy goals
- Input from Tribal nations, state and federal agencies
- Comments from relevant ocean users and stakeholders
- Domestic and global offshore wind market and technological trends
- BOEM Oregon Task Force meetings
- Results from Data Gathering and Engagement Plan, Outreach, and Summary Report
- Comments and nominations received on Call for Information and Nominations