



Environmental Justice and Offshore Wind in the New York Bight

Snapshot of BOEM's EJ Engagement Activities Related to the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the New York Bight Offshore Wind Lease Areas

Overview

For the New York Bight Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), BOEM is evaluating potential environmental impacts from offshore wind activities in the New York and New Jersey region. Meaningfully engaging with environmental justice (EJ) populations and community-based organizations (CBOs) is necessary to understand, identify, and avoid potential local impacts from development of the six New York Bight lease areas.

BOEM recognizes that potential impacts from offshore wind development on EJ communities could include:

- Public health and safety effects
- Changes in the local economy, including jobs and income
- Changes in access to marine spaces and resources

In response to community requests for BOEM to engage early and often, BOEM has been hosting a quarterly EJ Forum for the New York Bight region. BOEM co-developed this series with participants to both meet BOEM's needs to evaluate potential environmental impacts, and to provide a convening space to advance broader equity considerations related to offshore wind and community goals. This document provides an overview of engagement efforts to date as well as future opportunities for providing feedback related to environmental justice and the Draft PEIS.

History of the NY & NJ Offshore Wind Environmental Justice Forum

In June 2022, in advance of the scoping period of the Draft PEIS, BOEM hosted **three meetings** – one with state agencies, one with federal agencies, and one with CBOs – to discuss topics around EJ and offshore wind.

These three meetings informed the topics discussed at a **NY & NJ Environmental Justice Roundtable Convening** on offshore wind held on July 21, 2022. During the convening, BOEM heard the need for regular engagement with agencies and organizations working on EJ issues and offshore wind in the NY & NJ region throughout the preparation of the PEIS.

In response to this input, **BOEM established the Environmental Justice Forum (EJF)**, which has hosted quarterly meetings over the course of the Draft PEIS development. See below for a recap of key issues covered in previous meetings:

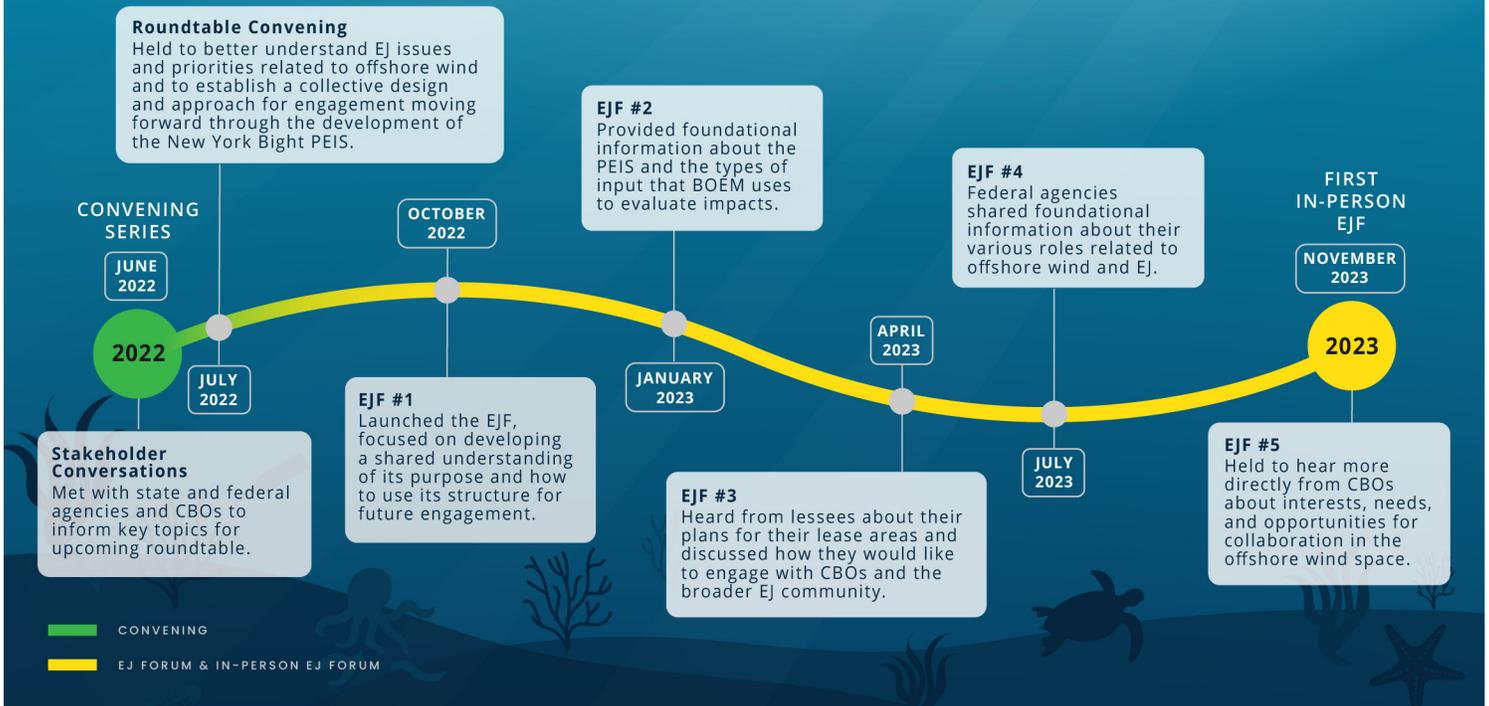


For more information, visit [BOEM.gov/renewable-energy](https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy)



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Environmental Justice Forum (EJF) Timeline



Goals of the EJF

The goals of the EJF are to bring together community organizations and members, states, and federal agencies to:

- Advance the principles of meaningful engagement and outreach that reduce barriers to participation, increase access to environmental reviews, and create better-informed decisions.
- Grow long-term relationships with impacted communities in the region that are founded on mutual respect, understanding, and collaboration.
- Continue to expand BOEM's understanding of potential impacts on communities and discuss local contexts to inform appropriate mitigation measures.
- Improve coordination with other federal agencies, state governments, and CBOs to streamline information sharing.
- Close the information feedback loop by providing greater clarity to EJF participants on how BOEM processes and incorporates their input.



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What is the PEIS?

The publication of the New York Bight PEIS is a step in the NEPA process. NEPA stands for the National Environmental Policy Act. It is a federal law that requires federal agencies to engage in an environmental review process to consider potential environmental impacts of and alternatives to any major action they propose.

The NY Bight PEIS will describe the potential environmental and social impacts resulting from development of the six New York Bight leases, as well as how to avoid, minimize, mitigate and monitor such impacts. The document will also include a focused, regional cumulative analysis which will consider impacts of all of the six proposed offshore wind projects together and within the context of what is already occurring in the ocean (including other offshore wind projects and additional activities).

PEIS Comment Period

Much of the information provided in the EIJ will inform the New York Bight PEIS. Other information and concerns shared through the series could also be applicable to BOEM's reviews of Construction and Operations Plans submitted by New York Bight lessees, and some information could be of interest to other federal and state partners.

While the EIJ is one platform for exploring topics relevant to the PEIS, it does not replace the formal process for providing public comment on the Draft PEIS. Once the Draft PEIS is published, you can submit comments during in-person or virtual public meetings, or online at the [regulations.gov website](https://www.regulations.gov). To stay up to date on the Draft PEIS publication and opportunities to comment, visit the [BOEM New York Bight website](#).

Following a public comment period, BOEM will update the Draft PEIS to reflect any new information received in the Final PEIS.

If you have comments or questions you wish to submit outside of the formal comment process you may contact Laura Mansfield (Laura.Manfield@boem.gov) or Holly Fowler (Holly.Fowler@boem.gov). They would be happy to informally collect comments or input and share that information directly with the PEIS team to help structure the EJ portion of the PEIS analysis. However, to ensure comments on the PEIS are considered, BOEM recommends submitting through the formal comment process.

Laura and Holly are available to help you navigate the comment process as needed. Please reach out for any questions or guidance – we want to hear from you!

