



**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# Gulf of Maine

## Engagement Opportunities & Next Steps

---

May 11, 2023

Luke Feinberg, Project Coordinator

# Gulf of Maine: Parallel Efforts

## Planning Process in the Gulf of Maine



### Commercial Track

#### Request For Interest (RFI)

#### Non-Competitive Leasing Process: Commercial Lease



YES

Competitive Commercial Leasing Process

Call for Information

Area Identification (Wind Energy Areas)

Proposed Lease Areas

Final Lease Areas

SALE

Comment Period

Determination of Competitive Interest

NO

Environmental Assessment

Non-Competitive Research Lease Issuance

#### Request For Competitive Interest (RFCI)

#### Non-Competitive Leasing Process: Research Lease

### Research Track

May 2023




# Open Comment Periods


- Commercial Track
  - Call for Information and Nominations - **BOEM-2023-0025**
  - Open until June 12, 2023
- Research Track
  - Notice of Intent for an Environmental Assessment - **BOEM-2023-0031**
  - Open until June 5, 2023
- Comment today via forms, summarized public comment or [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)



**Comment Form** **May 2023**

BOEM currently has two comment periods open related to the Gulf of Maine. Please indicate the notice at which your comments are directed:

Commercial Leasing: Gulf of Maine's Call for Information and Nominations (Call) 

Research Lease: Intent to conduct an Environmental Assessment 

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**Tips for Effective Comments**

I'd prefer to submit this comment anonymously

- A comment can express simple support or dissent for a regulatory action. However, a constructive, information-rich comment that clearly communicates and supports its claims is more likely to have an impact on regulatory decision making.
- Read and understand the regulatory document you are commenting on (use the QR codes above for more information)
- Base your justification on sound reasoning, scientific evidence, and/or how you will be impacted

Submit comments here:

*More space on back*



# Commercial Track: Engagement & Next Steps

## Gulf of Maine

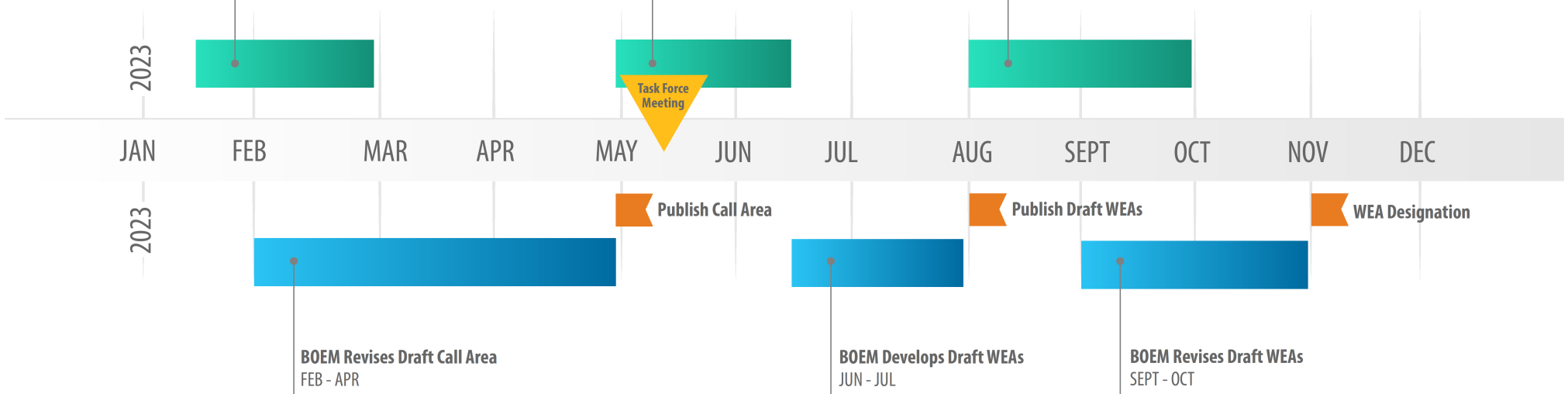
### Path to Wind Energy Area (WEA) Designation

Engagement Opportunities  
on Draft Call Area  
JAN - FEB

Public Comment  
Period  
APR - JUN

Engagement Opportunities  
on Draft WEAs  
AUG - SEPT

- Prior Milestones**
- Task Force Meeting #1 (Dec 2019)
  - Task Force Meeting #2 (May 2022)
  - Publish RFI (Aug 2022)

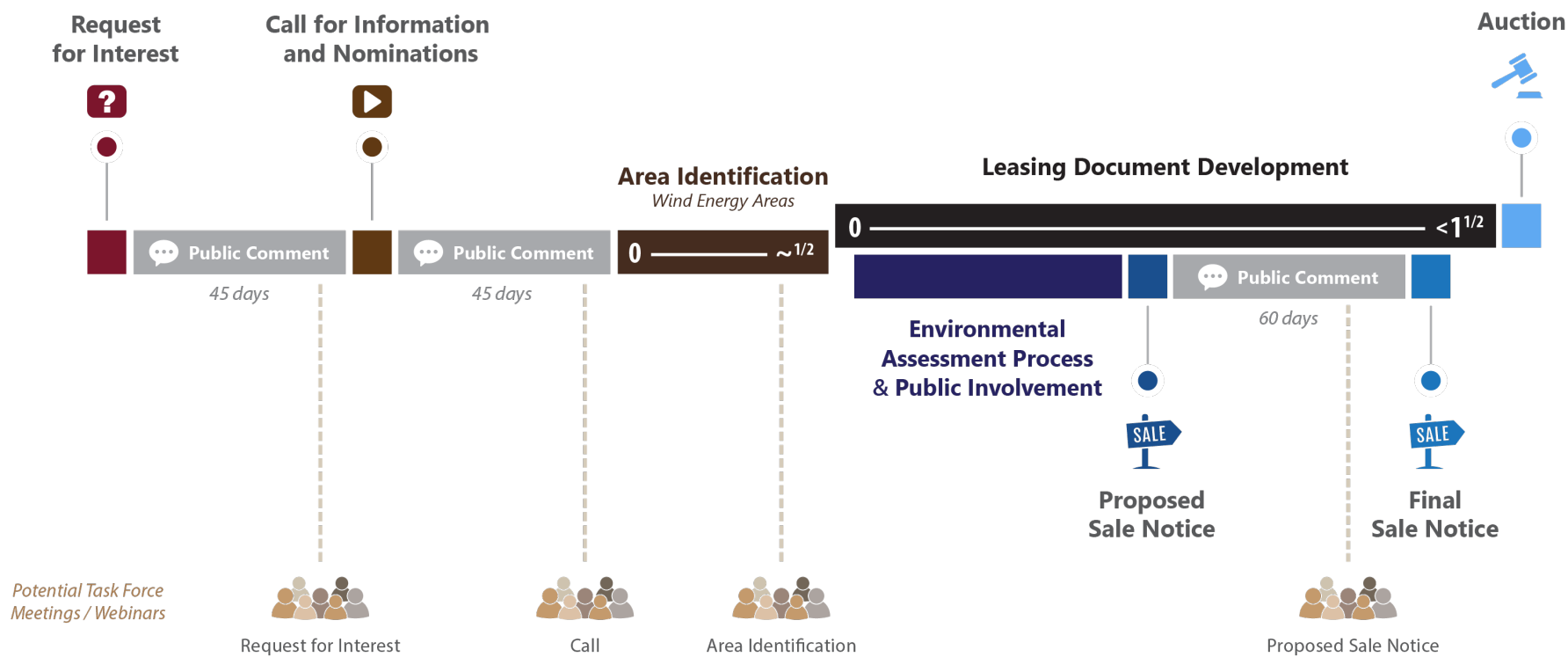


Engagement Opportunities BOEM Activities

NOTE: The dates of proposed meetings and planning/leasing milestones are all tentative.



# Commercial Track: Request for Interest → Lease Sale



# Commercial Track: Leasing Milestones

Milestone*	Action	Target Date**
Publish Request for Interest	<b>Publish RFI</b> <i>45-Day Comment Period</i>	August 19, 2022
<b>Publish Call for Information &amp; Nominations</b>	<b>Publish Call</b> <i>45-Day Comment Period</i>	<b>April 25, 2023</b>
Area Identification	<b>Draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)</b>	August, 2023
	<b>Designate Final Wind Energy Areas</b>	Q4 2023
Lease Sale	<b>Proposed Sale Notice (PSN)</b> <i>60-Day Comment Period</i>	Q1 2024
	<b>Final Sale Notice (FSN)</b>	Q3 2024
	<b>Hold auction</b>	Q3 2024

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

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



# Research Track: Request Evaluation

Environmental Assessment

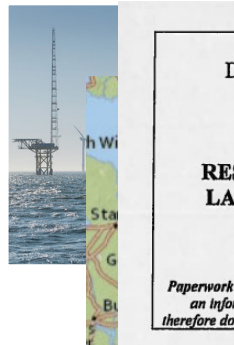
Spatial Analysis

Leasing

Aerial photographs & LIDAR

navigation (DGPS)

<b>UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT</b>  <b>RESEARCH LEASE OF SUBMERGED LANDS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTIVITIES ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF</b>  <small><i>Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 statement: This form does not constitute an information collection as defined by 44 U.S.C. § 3501 et seq. and therefore does not require approval by the Office of Management and Budget.</i></small>	<b>Office</b> Herndon, VA	<b>Renewable Energy Lease Number</b> OCS-A 0497
	<b>Cash Bonus and/or Acquisition Fee</b> N/A	<b>Resource Type</b> Wind
	<b>Effective Date</b> April 1, 2015	<b>Block Number(s)</b> See Addendum A



# Research Track: Next Steps & Timeline

Milestone	Action	Target Date
Environmental Assessment	<b>Notice of Intent</b> <i>30-Day Comment Period</i>	<b>May 4, 2023</b>
	<b>Draft EA</b> <i>30-Day Comment Period</i>	<b>Summer 2023</b>
	<b>Final EA</b>	<b>Fall 2023</b>
Lease Issuance	<b>Spatial Analysis Recommendations</b>	<b>Q4 2023</b>
	<b>Leasing Negotiations Complete</b>	<b>Q4 2023</b>
Research Activities Plan (RAP)	<b>Submission</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Environmental Review (EIS/EA)	<b>Notice of Intent</b> <i>Scoping Comment Period</i> <b>Draft EIS/EA</b> <i>Comment Period</i>	<b>TBD</b>



Photo credit: [UMaine](#)





# THANK YOU & SAFE TRAVELS



Hywind Tampen | Photo: Anne Lise Norheim



# BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy  
Management

BOEM.gov



Luke Feinberg | [luke.feinberg@boem.gov](mailto:luke.feinberg@boem.gov) | (571) 474-7616