



BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force

May 10-11, 2023

Bangor, Maine

Gulf of Maine Task Force – May 2023

Meeting Objective:

Facilitate coordination, consultation, and information sharing



Gulf of Maine Task Force – May 2023

Day 1

Workshop – Key
Topics for OSW in
the Gulf of Maine

Day 2

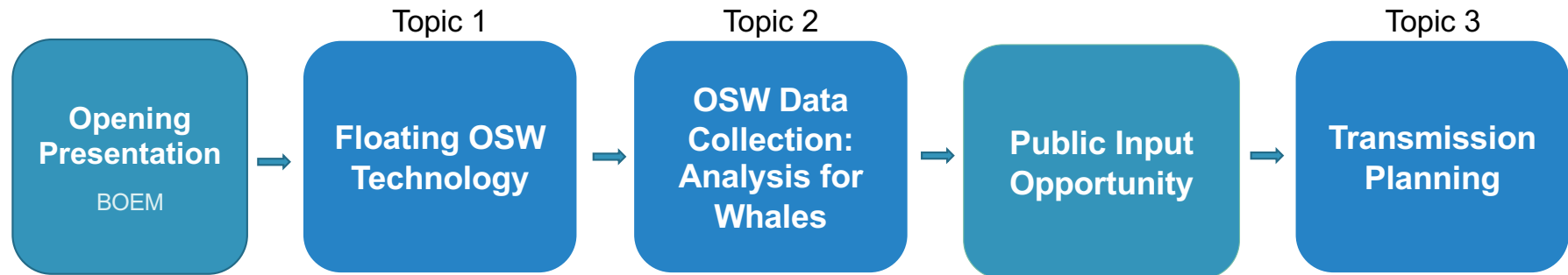
Next Steps in the
Leasing Process in
the Gulf of Maine

Opportunities for Public Input Both Days



Gulf of Maine Task Force – May 2023

Our Agenda Today



Take advantage of the poster session during breaks and after the meeting!

Gulf of Maine Task Force – May 2023

Ways to participate

Task Force Members

- Ask questions or provide comments verbally
- Participate in table discussions (tomorrow)
- Provide written comments using paper comment form or online
- Talk with BOEM staff & others during poster sessions

Members of the public

- Submit written questions to presenters (use the notecards)
- Participate in the Public Input Opportunities
- Provide written comments using paper comment form or online
- Talk with BOEM staff & others during poster sessions



Gulf of Maine Task Force – May 2023

Meeting Guidelines

- Share the floor
 - We're a big group! Please be concise when speaking
- Respect different views
 - It's OK to bring different perspectives. Show others the respect you'd want people to show you.





BOEM Bureau of
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Leasing Process in the Gulf of Maine

May 11, 2023

Luke Feinberg, Project Coordinator

Gulf of Maine: Parallel Efforts

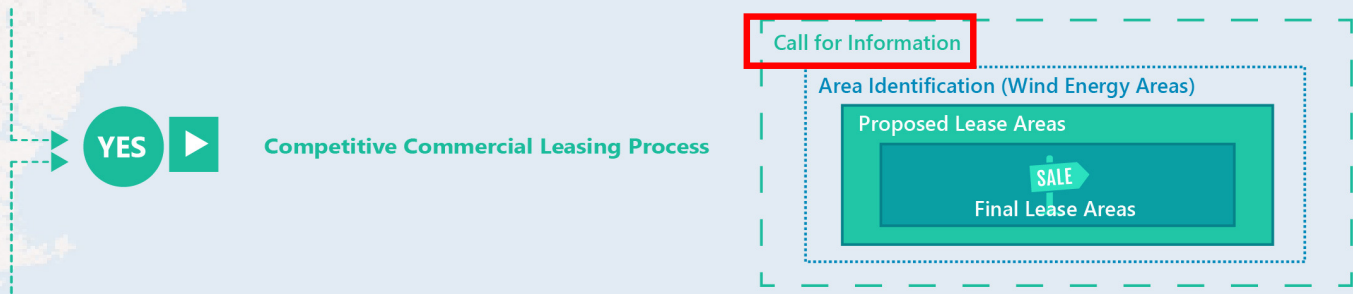
Planning Process in the Gulf of Maine



Commercial Track

Request For Interest (RFI)

Non-Competitive Leasing Process: Commercial Lease



Request For Competitive Interest (RFCI)

Non-Competitive Leasing Process: Research Lease

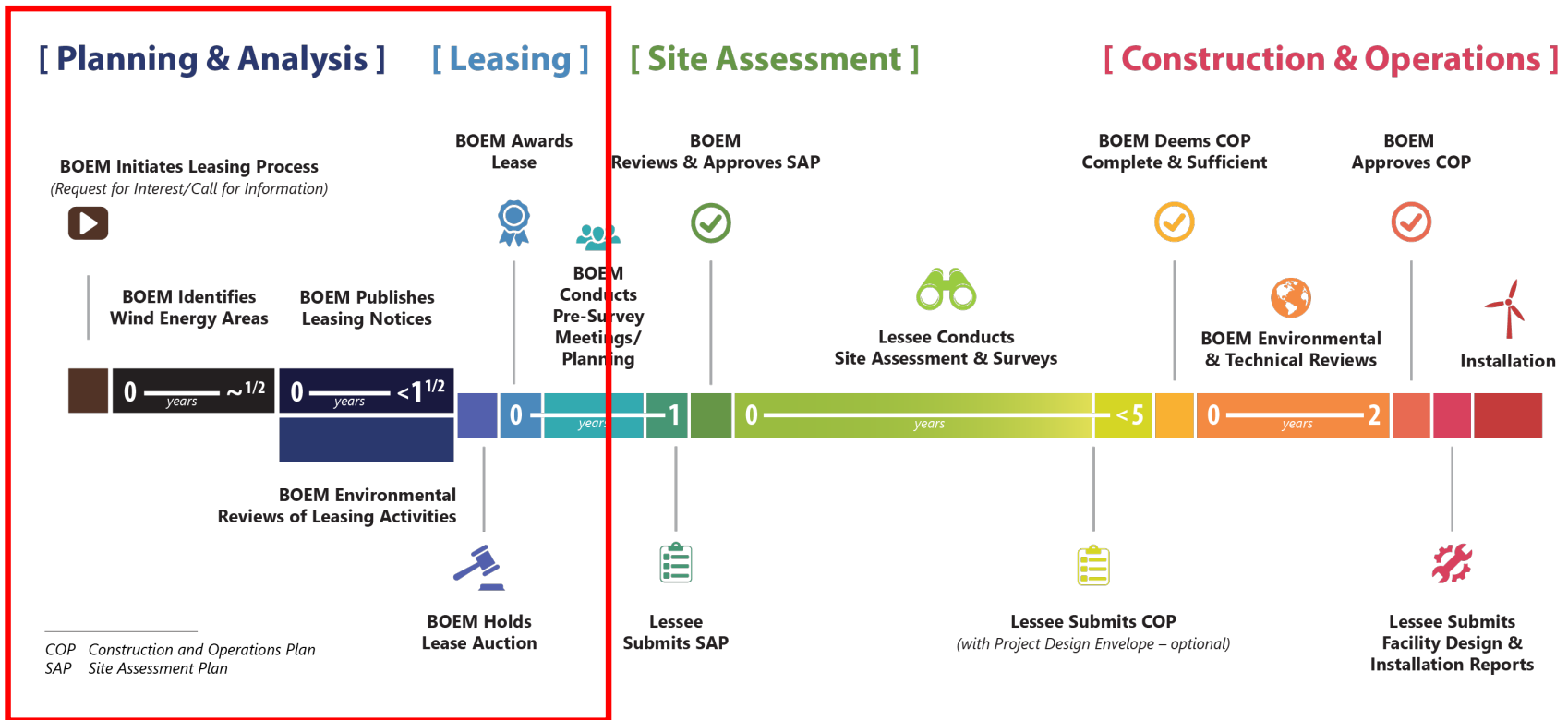


Research Track

May 2023



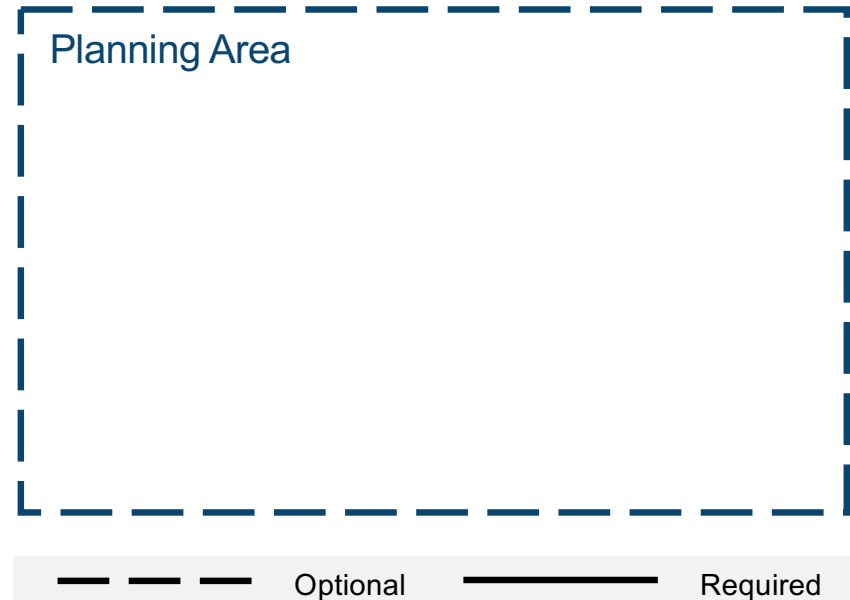
Renewable Energy Authorization Process



BOEM Renewable Energy Planning Process: *Planning Area*



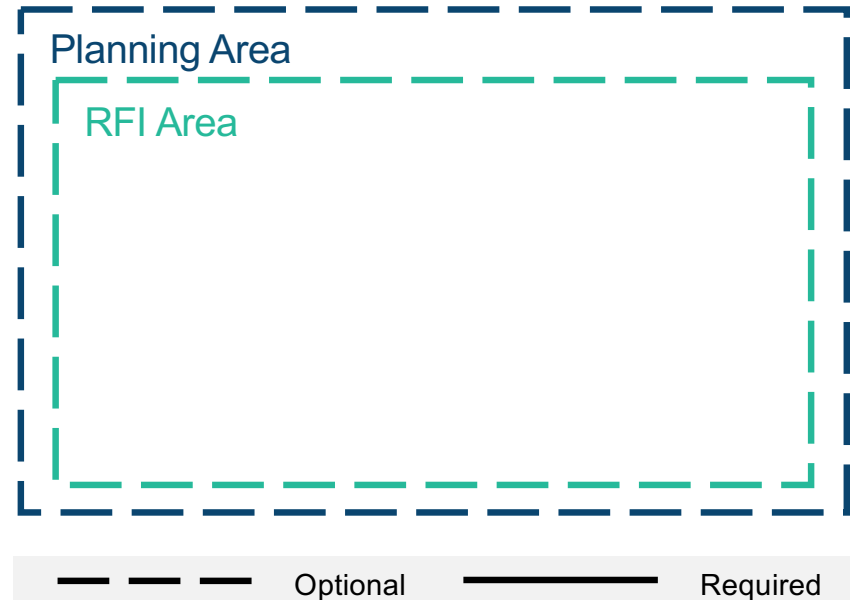
- High-level screening
- Initial identification of areas that may be suitable for potential offshore wind development



BOEM Renewable Energy Planning Process: *Request for Interest*



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

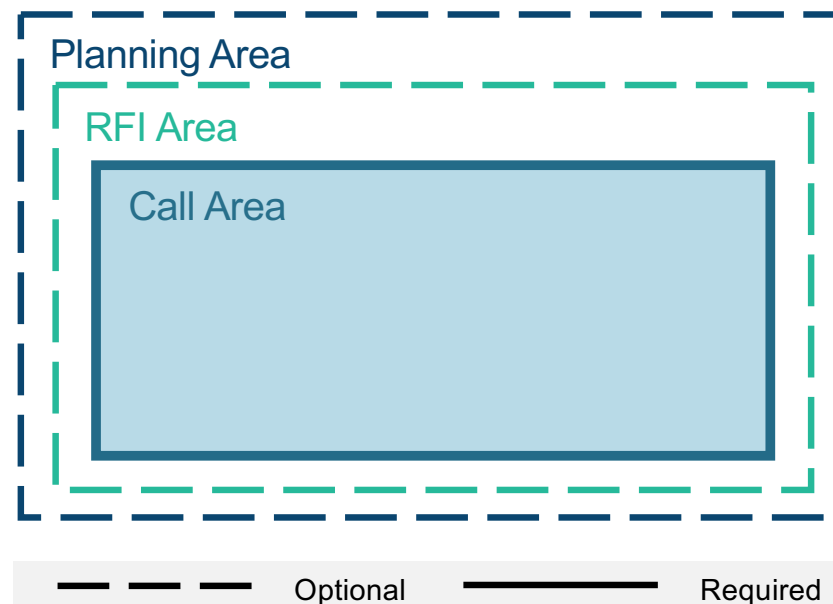


BOEM Renewable Energy Planning Process: *Call for Information and Nominations - Area*



Request comments on:

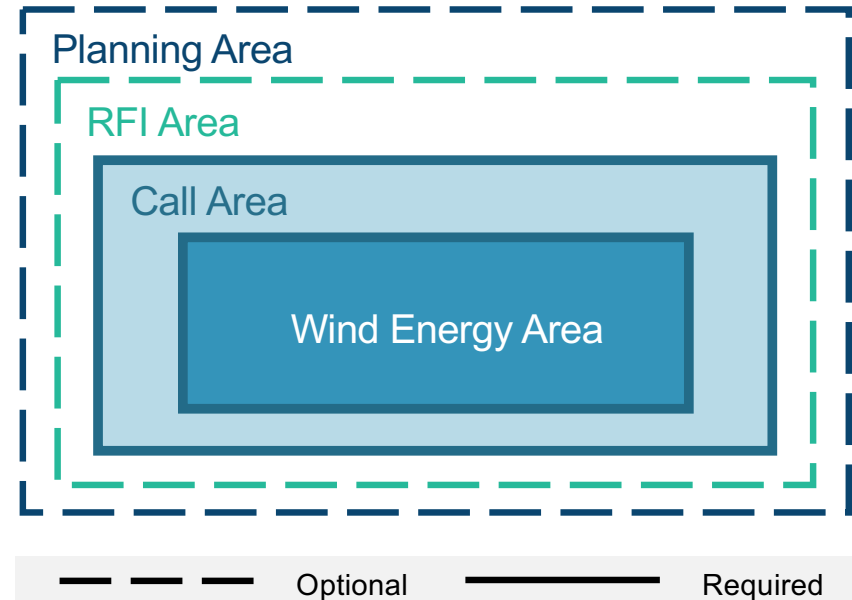
- Areas for special consideration and analysis
- Conditions in the Call Area
- Areas to be considered for leasing



BOEM Renewable Energy Planning Process: *Wind Energy Area*



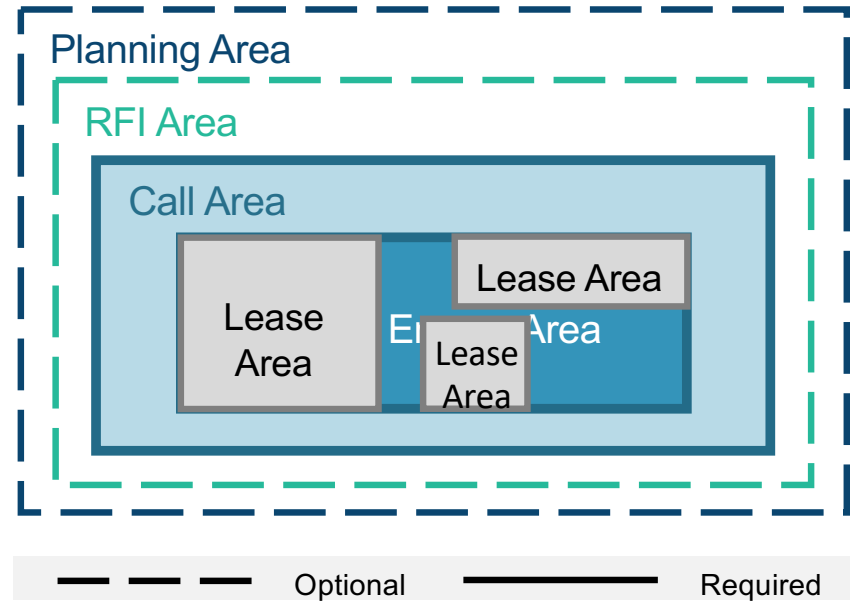
- A portion of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) identified by BOEM for NEPA analysis (Environmental Assessment)
- The basis for a Lease Area



BOEM Renewable Energy Planning Process: *Lease Areas*



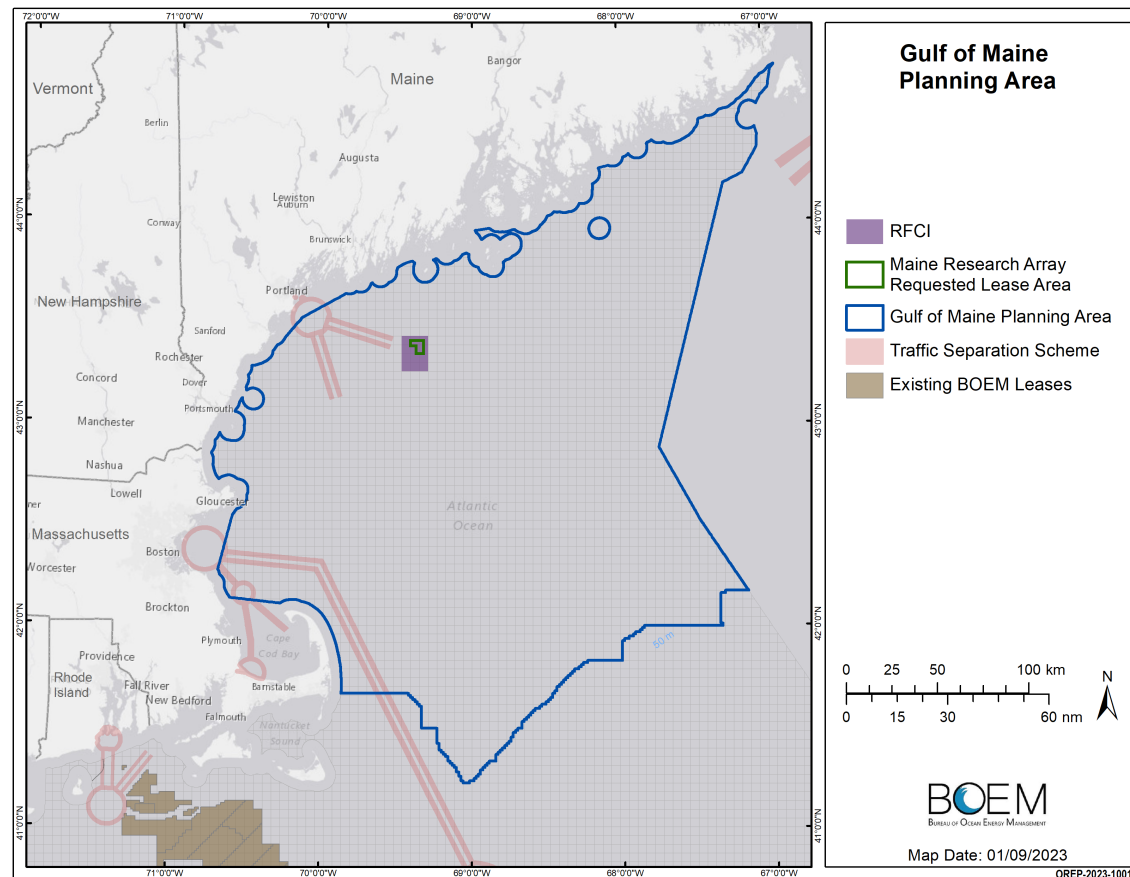
- Wind Energy Areas have the potential for further division into Lease Areas



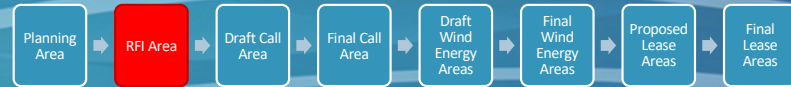
Gulf of Maine: Planning Area



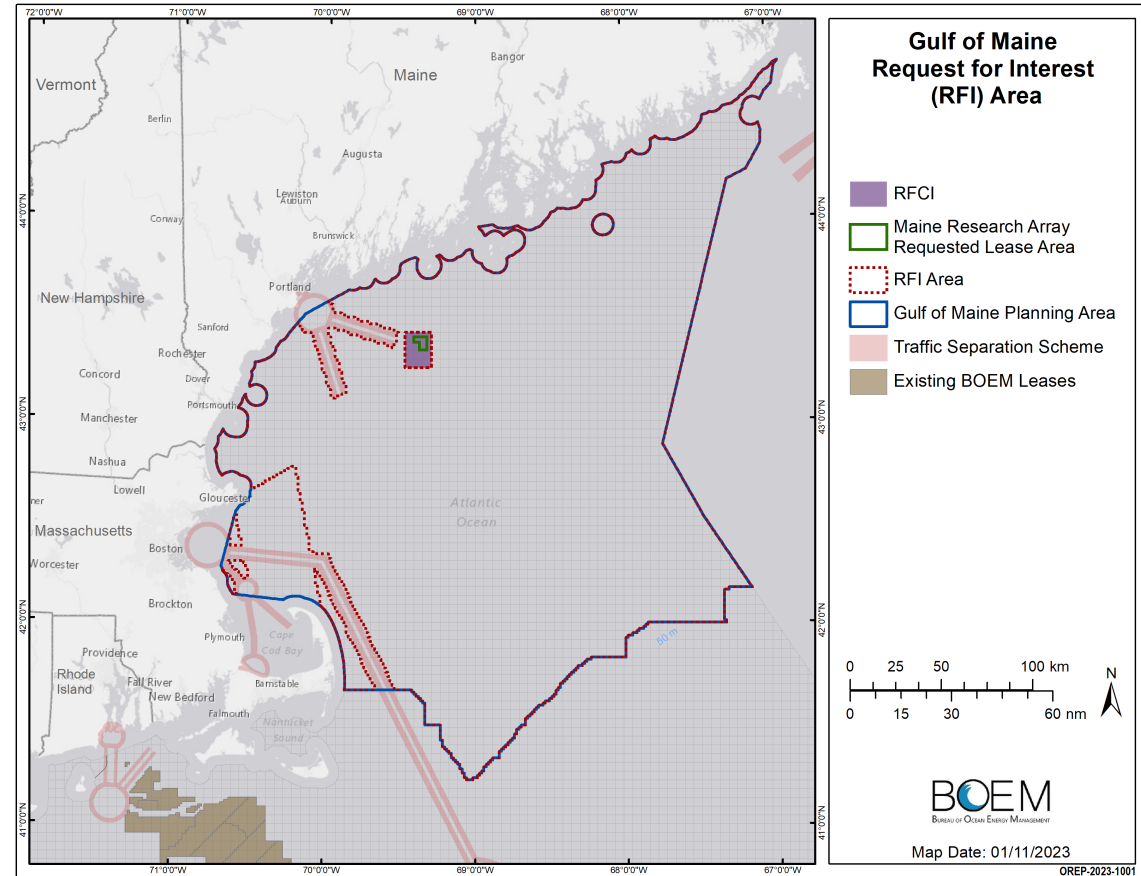
- Preliminary and optional step in the BOEM Planning Process



RFI Area



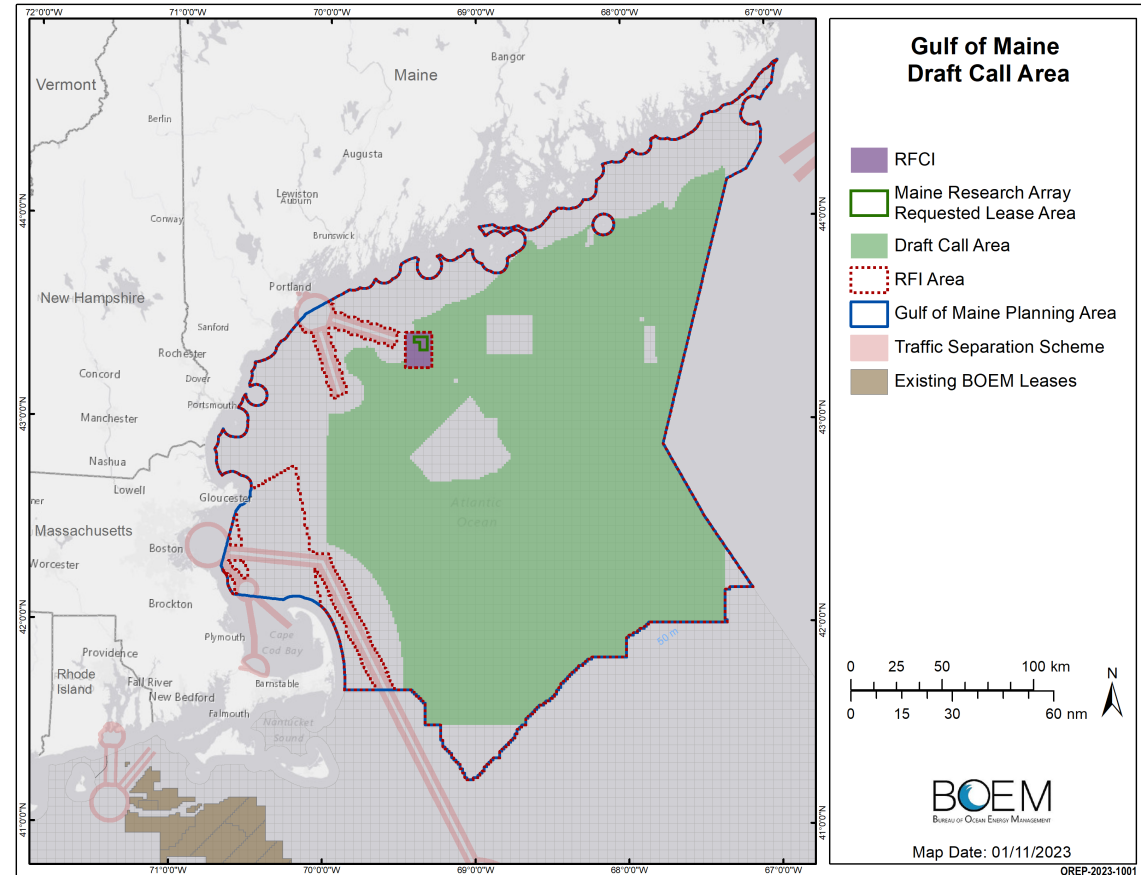
- Shared **Draft RFI Area** at May 2022 Task Force Meeting
- **Published RFI** in August 2022
 - 45-day comment period closed October 2022
- RFI Area removed:
 - National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge System, **National Marine Sanctuary System**, or any National Monument (§585.204)
 - **Existing Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS)**, fairways, or other internationally recognized navigation measures
 - **Unsolicited lease request areas** that are the subject of a separate request for competitive interest



Draft Call Area



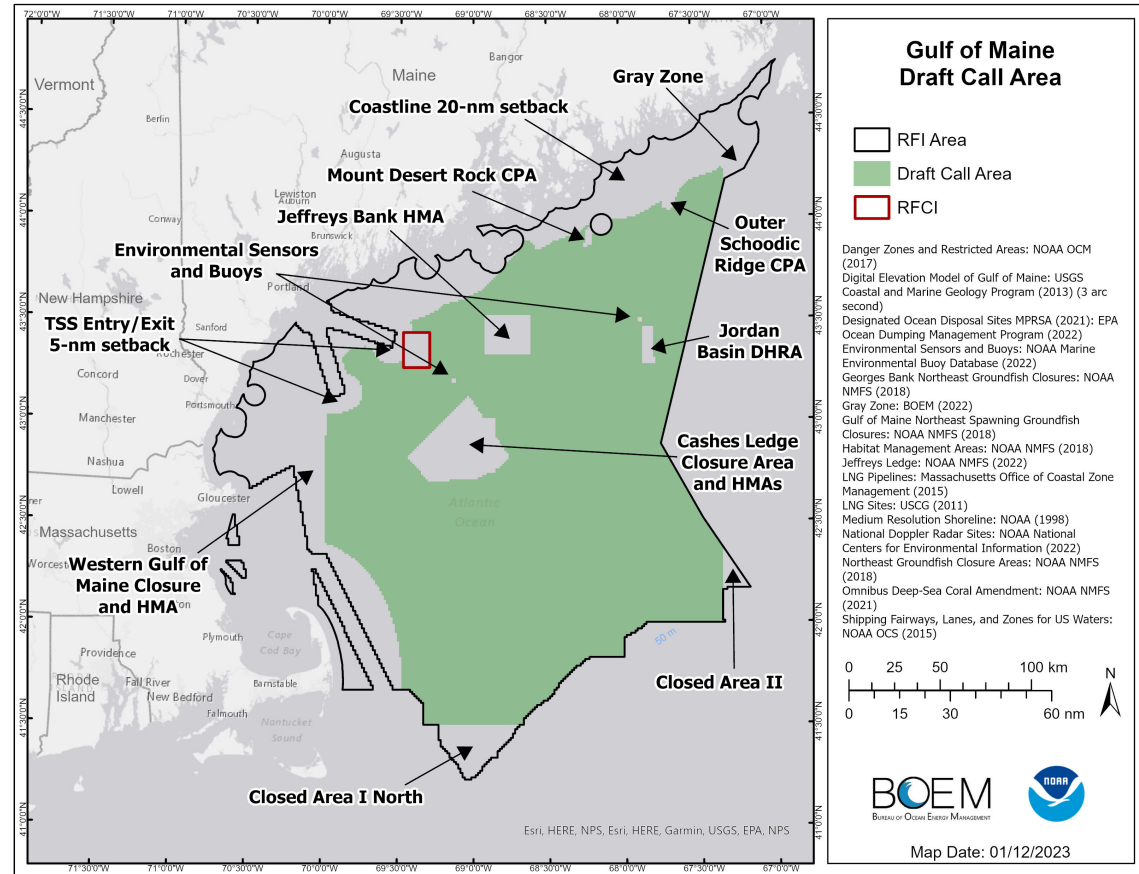
- BOEM reviewed responses to RFI and worked with NOAA NCCOS to conduct spatial analysis to inform Draft Call Area
 - 27% reduction from RFI Area
- The Draft Call Area was posted on BOEM’s website on January 10, 2023



Draft Call Area: Explained



Data Layer	Acres Constrained
Coastline (20nm setback)	2,470,690
Groundfish Closure Areas (Cashes Ledge Closure Area, Western Gulf of Maine Closure Area, and Closed Area II)	804,780
Habitat Management Areas (HMAs) and Coral Protection Areas (CPAs)	792,070
TSSs (2nm recommended buffer/setback from sides)	266,870
Closed Area I North	197,070
TSSs (5nm recommended buffer/setback from entry)	182,230
Gray Zone	155,190
Jeffreys Ledge (depths shallower than 120 m)	154,810
Jordan Basin Dedicated Habitat Research Area	26,960
Gulf of Maine Cod Spawning Protection Area	23,780
Radar Sites/Zones	20,950
EPA Ocean Disposal Sites	5,740
Danger and Restricted Zones	4,710
Environmental Sensors and Buoys	1,840
LNG Sites and Pipelines	1,150
All Constraints Combined*	3,684,090



*Many of the "constraints layers" overlapped (e.g., the 20 nm coastline setback encompassed all EPA Ocean Disposal Sites), and therefore, "All Constraints Combined" is not simply a sum of the "Acres Constrained" listed above, but instead represents the total acres removed from the RFI Area. This acreage total increased slightly to 3,749,985 acres removed when BOEM defined the Draft Call Area using OCS blocks and aliquots.

Gulf of Maine: Draft Call Area Information Exchanges

- **Purpose:** Gain perspectives, feedback, and input on the draft Call Area.
- **In-Person Information Exchanges: January 2023**
 - Salem, MA; Portsmouth, NH; Portland, ME
- **Virtual Information Exchanges: January and February 2023**
 - Shipping & Commercial Maritime
 - Fisheries Meetings (Fixed, Mobile and Recreational/HMS)
 - Environmental NGOs
 - Gulf of Maine Tribal Nations
- **Fisheries-focused Meetings: January through March 2023**
 - Virtual and in-person



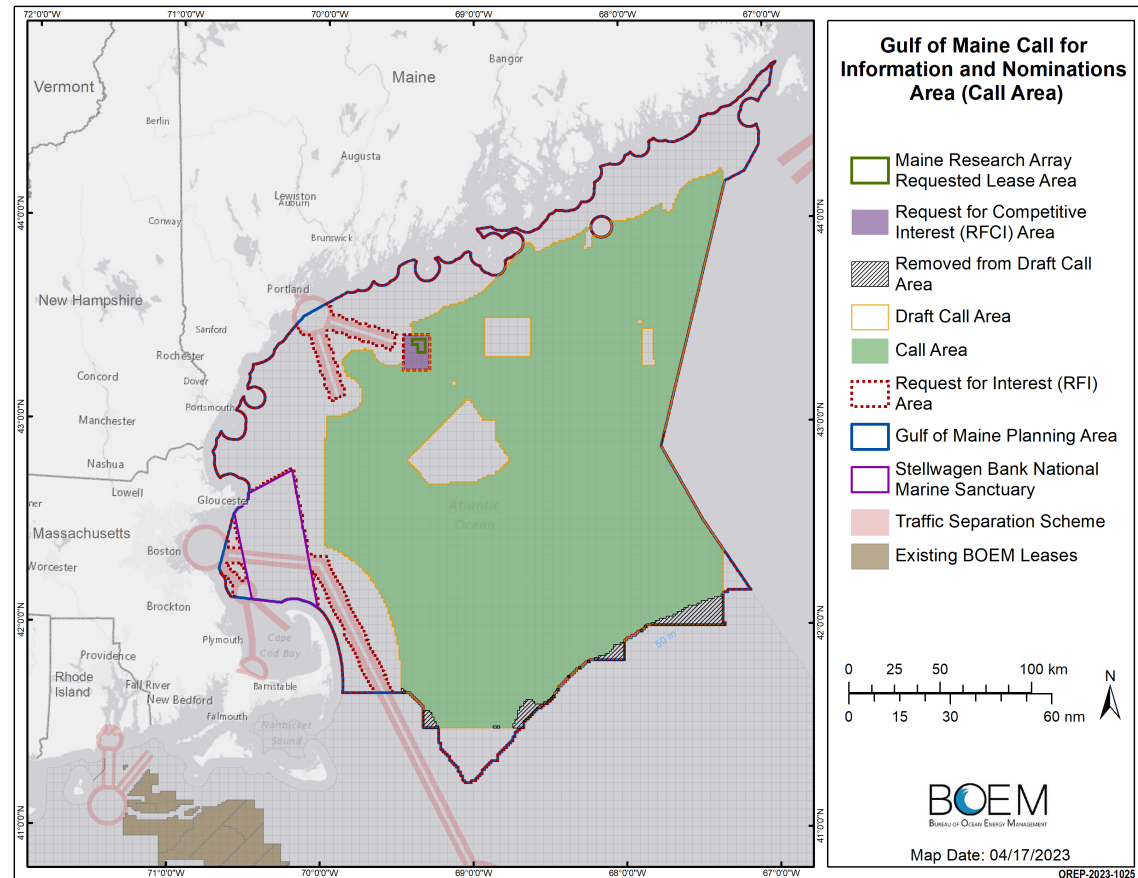
<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/gulf-maine-draft-call-area-engagement-meetings>



Final Call Area



- BOEM removed areas from the southern edge of the Call Area to avoid Georges Bank.
- The Final Call Area was published on April 26, 2023—opening a 45-day public comment period (open thru June 12).
- BOEM invites public comment on, and assesses interest in, possible commercial wind energy development in areas within the Call Area.



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