

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RENEWABLE ENERGY TASK FORCE FOR THE GULF OF MAINE  
DECEMBER 12, 2019  
MEETING SUMMARY**

*DISCLAIMER: This meeting summary was prepared by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), a non-profit entity contracted by BOEM to facilitate Task Force discussions and draft a discussion summary. This summary is not intended to be a meeting transcript. Rather, it focuses on the main points covered during the meeting.*

**MEETING IN BRIEF**

This initial meeting of the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force for the Gulf of Maine was convened to facilitate coordination and consultation among federal, state, local, and tribal governments by introducing their respective roles and responsibilities regarding offshore wind energy and the renewable energy leasing process. The meeting also sought to update participants on recent activities in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts related to offshore wind, as well as provide opportunities for public input.

The meeting opened with introductory remarks from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and NH Governor Sununu. Presentations during the day described the offshore leasing process, the roles of different governmental bodies, initiatives underway at the state level, and sources of information and relevant research.

In small groups, Task Force members discussed the best way to initiate the offshore leasing process, the role of the Task Force in that process, and other considerations. All members of the public who wished to comment had a chance to do so during sessions in the morning and afternoon. Presentation slides and a meeting recording are available online: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/gulf-maine-intergovernmental-renewable-energy-task-force-meeting>

**ACTION ITEMS**

Who	What
BOEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post all presentation slides, meeting summary, and meeting recording.</li> <li>• Incorporate Task Force feedback into next steps in leasing process.</li> </ul>
Task Force members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review materials and assist in communicating the process to their respective constituencies.</li> </ul>

**ATTENDANCE**

Seventy-six Task Force members attended the meeting. In addition, 174 members of the public attended, including representatives from the commercial fishing industry, wind energy developers, academic researchers, and interested citizens.

**DISCUSSION**

Below is a summary of key themes and topics discussed during the meeting.

**Welcoming Remarks**

James Bennett, Chief, BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP), and Governor Sununu opened the meeting, encouraging stakeholders to view offshore wind development as a “team effort” that won’t be successful unless the process listens to all people who might feel impacted by it.

**Morning presentations – The BOEM leasing process and state-level initiatives**

James Bennett, Luke Feinberg, and Meredith Lilley from BOEM described BOEM’s leasing process and how it might move forward in the Gulf of Maine. Then, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts presented on state initiatives related to renewable energy and offshore wind. Task Force comments and questions included:

- Timelines for leaseholders; the role of leaseholders in transmission as well as generation; the possibility of offshore transmission networks; decommissioning of infrastructure; and aesthetic considerations

- Coordination between state regulatory processes and the BOEM process
- Workforce development in the region

Comments and questions from other attendees included:

- Voices of support to act rapidly on wind development to address climate change
- Opportunity for the region to be a leader in floating technology
- Concerns from commercial fishermen about the impacts, and a desire to be involved in the process
- Interest in maximizing local jobs

### **Afternoon presentations - Jurisdictional Authorities and Information Resources**

The afternoon included short presentations from: United States Coast Guard; NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service; NOAA National Ocean Service; OceanReports and Northeast Regional Ocean Portal; Northeast Regional Ocean Council; New England Fisheries Management Council; Responsible Offshore Development Alliance; U.S. Department of Energy; BOEM’s Environmental Studies Program. All presentations are available here: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/gulf-maine-intergovernmental-renewable-energy-task-force-meeting>

Task Force members had questions and comments in reaction to these presentations, including:

- We should be learning more from the experience in Europe, including the experience of fishermen.
- We should fund a local university to look at best practices with floating platforms to see how to reduce impacts on fishing.

### **Small group conversation – summary ideas**

Below are some of the main ideas that emerged from the small group conversations among Task Force members.

#### **Where do we start?**

- Move efficiently. Start with a Planning Area or Request for Interest with qualifications (red-line areas).
- Be inclusive and comprehensive, yet as quick as possible.
- Get input from key stakeholders such as commercial fisherman as soon as possible.
- The states lead the way.
- The next meeting should include an update on the technology.

#### **What areas of concern have we not talked about yet?**

Navigation, shipping lanes total footprint; fishing logging data; access to ports and construction, interconnection points; regional power needs and transmission planning; shared transmission offshore; supply chain opportunities; economic benefits of developing projects; renewable energy credits; technical challenges to deeper water (gaps in data); right whales and floating cables; details of participatory process and how to engage locally; learning from other countries; primer on energy and floating technology; tribal stakeholder engagement; aesthetics/viewshed; technology of fishing and adaptability to wind infrastructure

#### **What is most important in this process?**

- Inclusive, participatory, good communication – Have digestible information for local/state reps/officials to bring to constituents. Feedback is looped back in.
- Learn from the experience further south (and Europe) – document lessons learned
- Need for urgency and an endpoint
- Acknowledge differences between the states, their history

### **Conclusion**

The meeting ended with an open dialogue with all participants and Task Force members, in which similar themes emerged regarding the importance of moving quickly, concerns about impacts on fishing, a desire to coordinate participation among stakeholders, and gratitude for the way this meeting was handled. BOEM concluded by thanking all participants for their input.

**PARTICIPANT LIST**

*Task Force members*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Brian Benedict	USFWS/Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge
Dan Burgess	Maine Governor's Energy Office
State Representative Jacqueline Cali-Pitts	State of New Hampshire
Bruce Carlisle	Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
Taylor Caswell	NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs
Jared Chicoine	NH Office of Strategic Initiatives
Steve Couture	NH Dept. of Environmental Services
State Representative Renny Cushing	State of New Hampshire
Michele DesAutels	U.S. Coast Guard
Ted Diers	NH Dept. of Environmental Services
Joseph Doiron	NH Office of Strategic Initiatives
Michael Donahue	Town of Newington
Lisa Engler	MA Office of Coastal Zone Management
Capt. Jeffrey Flumignan	Maritime Administration
Karen Foust	State of Maine
James S. Gillway	Town of Searsport
State Representative Allison Hepler	State of Maine
Heather Hopkins	Dept. of the Navy
Cheri Hunter	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
Christine Jacek	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - MA
David Kaiser	NOAA Office for Coastal Management
Alexis LaBrie	New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives
Mark Laliberte	NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs
Lindsey Lefebvre	US Army Corps of Engineers
Kathleen Leyden	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
Jim Maggiore	Chair, Town of North Hampton Select Board
Matthew Mailloux	NH Office of Strategic Initiatives
Geno Marconi	Pease Development Authority
Dianne Martin	NH Public Utilities Commission
Robert Marvinney	Maine Geological Survey
BJ McCollister	Office of the President of the Senate, Maine
Mark McCollough	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Daniel McKiernan	Division of Maine Fisheries
Frank McNeilly	Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport RI
Meredith Mendelson	Maine Dept. of Marine Resources
State Senator Marianne Moore	State of Maine
John Moskal	US EPA - Region 1

State Representative Kate Murray	State of New Hampshire
Becca Newhall	NOAA's Office for Coastal Management
Betsy Nicholson	NOAA Office for Coastal Management
Glenn Normandeau	NH Fish & Game Dept.
Matthew Odom	USCG Sector Northern New England
Mike Pentony	NOAA
Hannah Pingree	State of Maine
Executive Councilor Russell Prescott	State of New Hampshire
Jerry Reid	Maine DEP
State Representative Peter Schmidt	State of New Hampshire
Robert R. Scott	NH Dept. of Environmental Services
State Senator Tom Sherman	State of New Hampshire
Daniel Sieger	Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Nick Sisson	Integrated Statistics/ NOAA GARFO
State Representative Peter Somssich	State of New Hampshire
Eric Steltzer	MA Dept. of Energy Resources
Sarah Stewart	NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Representative Matthew Towne	State of New Hampshire
Sue Tuxbury	NOAA NMFS
State Representative Gerald W. R. Ward	State of New Hampshire
State Senator David Watters	State of New Hampshire
Thomas Watts	USCG
Chris Williams	New Hampshire Coastal Program
Julie Williams	NOAA General Counsel's Office
Melissa Winne	Maine Governor's Energy Office
Brooks Winner	Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Phil Winslow	Rye Selectmen
Patrick Woodcock	Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Chris Boelke	NOAA
Peter Clok	Senator Shaheen's Office
Marianne Ferguson	NOAA NMFS GARFO
Roger Groux	NH State Port Authority
Kerry Holmes	Senator Maggie Hassan
Cheri Patterson	NH Fish & Game Dept.
Alex Pelczar	Senator Susan Collins
Mary Krueger	NPS
Adam Lachman	Senator King
The Honorable Chris Sununu	Governor of New Hampshire
Nathan Webb	Maine Fish & Wildlife

*BOEM and Department of Interior Office of the Solicitor staff*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
James Bennett	BOEM
Mary Boatman	BOEM
Stephen Boutwell	BOEM
Luke Feinberg	BOEM
JT Hesse	BOEM
Brian Hooker	BOEM
Josh Kaplowitz	Department of Interior, Office of the Solicitor
Meredith Lilley	BOEM
David MacDuffee	BOEM
Hillary Mckey	BOEM
Frank Pendleton	BOEM
Jessica Stromberg	BOEM
Christine Taylor	BOEM Geospatial Services Division

*Facilitation team*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Patrick Field	Consensus Building Institute
David Plumb	Consensus Building Institute
Maggie Osthues	Consensus Building Institute

*Public*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Phoebe Adame	UNH student
Jerry Alexander	RODA
Renay Allen	Exeter Energy Corp
Erik Anderson	NH Commercial Fishermen's Association
Cat Ashcraft	UNH
Bill Baber	Dover Energy Commission
Michelle Bachman	NEFMC
Ed Barrett	MFP
Mani Barrett	Commercial Fisherman
Alison Bates	UMASS
Kaitlyn Bernard	TNC
Drew Biemer	No affiliation provided
Doug Bogen	Seacoast Anti-pollution League
Jay Borkland	Lloyd's Register and Tufts University
Wally Bothner	UNH ESCI
Sarah Boucher Gravel	Stantec
Catherine Bowes	NWF

Mike Bowman	CENH
Brianna Brand	Clean Energy NH
Hillary Bright	Blue Green Alliance
Peter Britz	City of Portsmouth Environmental Planner
Joseph Brodie	Rutgers University
Priscille Brooks	Conservation Law Foundation
Peter Browne	HDR
Brandon Burke	Business Network for Offshore Wind
Sandy Butterfield	Boulder Wind Consulting
Joe Casey	IBEW
Mike Casey	Associated Press
Beth Casoni	Massachusetts Lobstermen Association
J. Cavanaugh	Lloyd's Register
Martin Christense	OCA
Martin Cillóniz	Avangrid
Bruce Clendenning	TNC NH
Jason Clermont	CSA Ocean Sci
Judie Colla	Sustainable Hanover
Stephen Conant	Anbaric
Monique Coombs	MCFA
Jess Costa	Stantec
Al Cottone	Commercial fisherman/ Gloucester Fisheries
Fara Courtney	Outer Harbor Consulting
Susan Covino	No affiliation provided
Elizabeth Craig	UNH
David Creer	Business & Industry Association of NH
Heather Cronin	GMRI
John Crowther	Stantec
Dorothy Currier	Concord Energy Committee
Michael Cuzzi	SRL Strategies
Matt Davis	UNH
Heather Deese	Beech Hill Consulting
Govinda Dietel	private
John DiGenoa	Haley & Aldrich Inc
Paul Doscher	NH Audubon
James Drehes	Dorhan Energy Committee
Brian Dresser	Tetra Tech Inc
Alana Duerr	Industry (DNV GL)
Adam Dumville	McLane Middleton
Sue Ely	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Elizabeth Etrie	NESSN

Ned Farquhar	No affiliation provided
Jennifer Felt	CLF
Kim Fitzgibbons	Kleinschmidt
Diane Foster	UNH
Sandra Gagnon	No affiliation provided
Kevin Gardner	UNH
Tom Getz	McLane Middleton
Jim Graham	UNH Staff
Ellen Grant	GMRI
John Greene	Eversource
Michael Gulbrandter	Danish Embassy
Maurice Gulson	Consultant
Derek Haddad	No affiliation provided
Richard Hall	Lloyd's Register
Sirin Hamshe	DNV GL
Elizabeth Hansel	Vineyard Wind
Ryan Hansen	No affiliation provided
Annie Hawkins	Responsible Offshore Development Alliance
Erin Healy	Stantec
Nathan Henderson	HDR
Fiona Hoga	RODA
Kristen Holland	Mass CEC
Mary Hudson	MCFA
David Hughes	EDPR
Garrett Johnson	Avangrid Renewables
Joel Johnson	UNH
Lane Johnston	RODA
Markus Kochmann	DNV GL
Masa Kowaguchi	private individual
Jake Kritzer	EDF
Bob LaBelle	NH citizen
Aliz Laferriere	TNC
Ken Lannamann	No affiliation provided
Matty Leahy	Forest Society
Chloé Lemonnier-Burling	Ceteal
Jess Losta	Stantec
Nicole Lynass	Stantec
Joel Maiola	McLane Middleton
Nisa Marks	NH Audubon
Stephanie Marshall	350NH
Tracy Maynard	Kleinschmidt

Jen McCann	URI
Patrice McCann	Maine Lobstermen's Association
Kate McKeever	RWE
Amanda Merrill	former NH Legislator, former head, NH DEP
Mark Milutinovich	UNH
Nat Morse	Orr and Reno
Herb Moyer	Seacoast Anti-Pollution League SAPL
Susan Muller	350NH
Mike Murphy	TRC
Rebekah Nagy	Lloyd's Register
Nick Napoli	Northeast Regional Ocean Council
Thomas Nason	MYR Group
Charlie Natale	ESS Group
Jim Nelligan	Sprague
Eric Nestler	Normandeau Assoc Inc
Mary Newton Lima	CFF
Tom Nies	New England Fisheries Management Council
Jackie Odell	NSC Fishing Industry
Tom Palma	Unitil
Justin Pelkowski	Eversource
Doug Perkins	RWE
Joan Pratt	interested citizen from Exeter
Joy Prescott	Stantec
Francis Pullaro	RENEW Northeast
David Purcell	Think Reg
Jessica Reilly-Moman	Darling Marine Center
Susan Richman	Private NH citizen
Alex Ritchie	Ritchie Associate
Kevin Roche	SACO Innovation Center
Daniel Rogstad	Equinor
Annie Ropeik	NHPR
Samuel Rowe	EnBW North America
Jocelyn Runnebaum	TNC Maine
Suzanne Saylor	Kittery, ME
Krish T. Sharman	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Robert Sherwin	EAPC Wind Energy
Tom Shyka	NERACOOS
Griffin Sinclair-Wingate	350NH
Laura Singer	SAMBAS Consulting LLC
Stu Smitat	EOCUS
Geoff Smith	TNC



Kevin Staples	NROC
Matthew Tarpey	Marine Solar Point
Erin Taylor	Elevare
Jim Therriault	Sprague
Julie Thompson	No affiliation provided
Sarah Thorne	self
Elizabeth Tillotson	Granite Shore Power
Jake Tinus	Burns & McDonnell
Phelps Turner	Conservation Law Foundation
Bob Varney	Normandeau
Steve VonVogt	Maine Wind Industry Initiative
James S. Ward	University of Maine
Larry Ward	UNH CCOM
Stephen Werll	No affiliation provided
Rus Werner	League of Conservation Voters
Bill White	EnBW North America
Eric Wilkinson	Environmental League of MA
John Williamson	Seakeeper Fisheries
Martin Wosnik	UNH - Center for Ocean Engineering
Nicholas Zakin	Lautec
Frank	No affiliation provided
Mary Hallisey	NREL
Daniel Beals	Contractor to US Dept. of Energy