



MAINE GOVERNOR'S  
Energy Office

# Maine Floating Offshore Wind Research Array

BOEM Proposed Sale Notice Open House

May 31, 2024



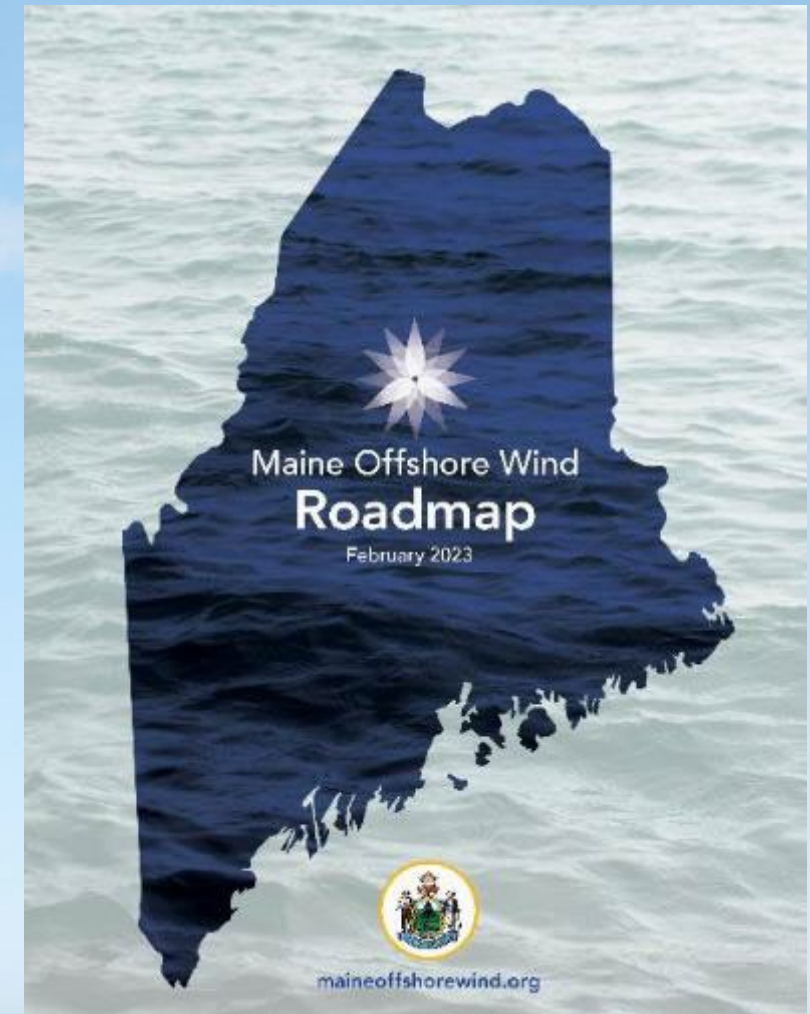
# Maine Offshore Wind Initiative

**Offshore wind supports Maine's climate, clean energy, and economic targets:**

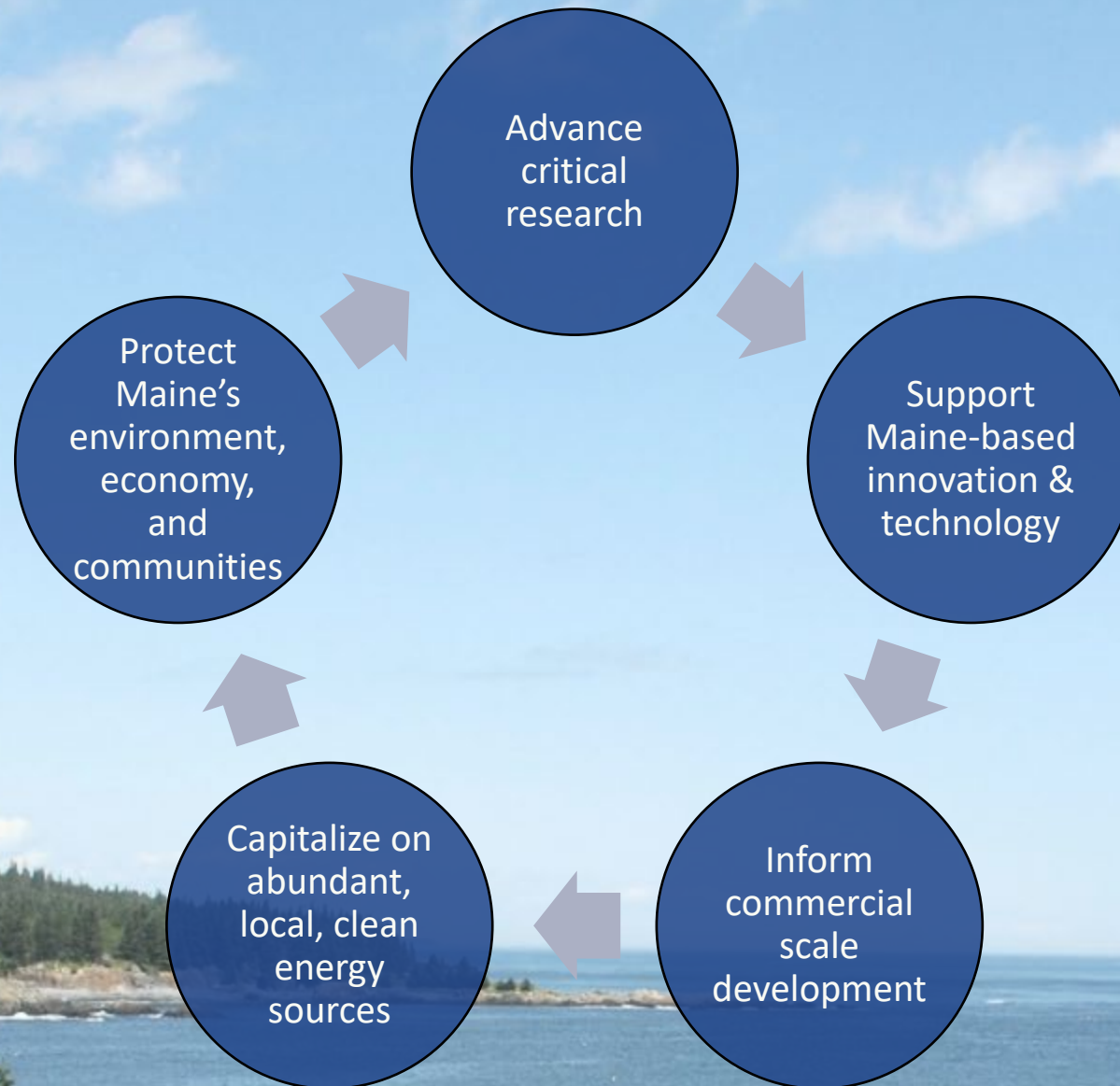
- 100% clean energy by 2040
- Carbon neutral by 2045
- 30,000 clean energy jobs by 2030

**Maine Offshore Wind Initiative:**

- Planning and stakeholder engagement
- Research and innovation
- Policy and legislation
- Partnerships



# Why the Research Array?



# State Siting Process

The State announced its intent to apply for a research lease in November 2020 and then began nearly a year of stakeholder engagement, focused on existing ocean users and scientists, to identify a Narrowed Area of Interest and a Research Framework.

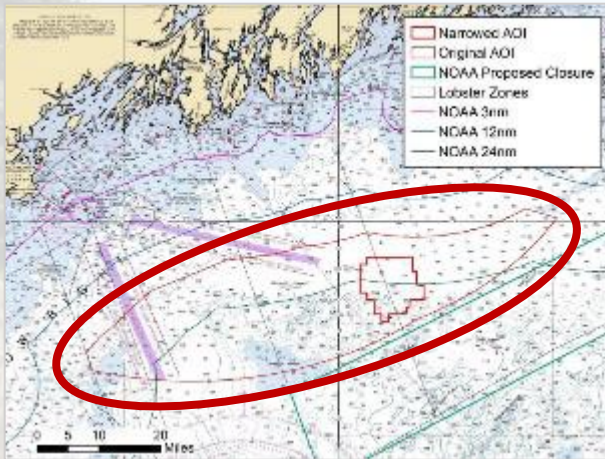


# State Siting Process

## Area of Interest

Informed by:

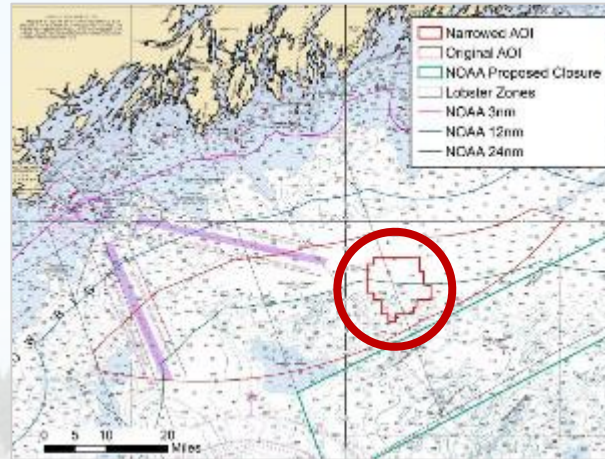
- Near grid connections
- Minimum depth of 150 ft
- >20 miles offshore to reduce fisheries and visual impacts
- <40 miles offshore for technical and cost reasons



## Narrowed Area of Interest

Informed by:

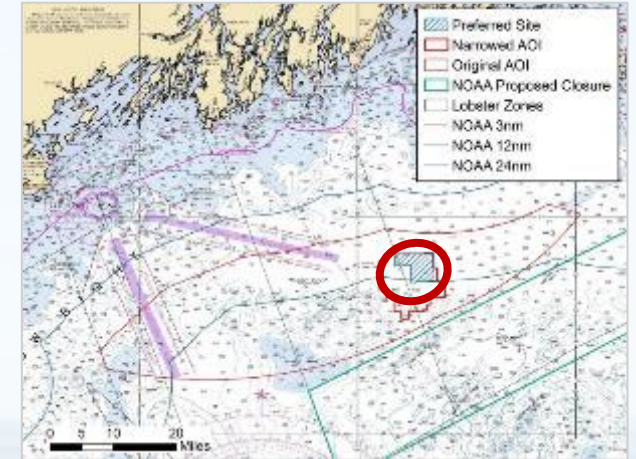
- Stakeholder input
- Geospatial analysis of physical and biological information
- Consultations with federal and state agencies, research institutions, and NGOs



## Proposed Research Array Lease

Informed by:

- Stakeholder input
- Initial bathymetry data
- Limit of 16 square miles
- Geometry of 12-turbine array within 16 square miles



# Application and Review Process

## State Application Process

- Identified initial Area of Interest
- Engaged with ocean users and scientists to refine AOI\*
- Engaged with ocean users and scientists to create Research Framework\*
- Submitted lease application to BOEM October 2021

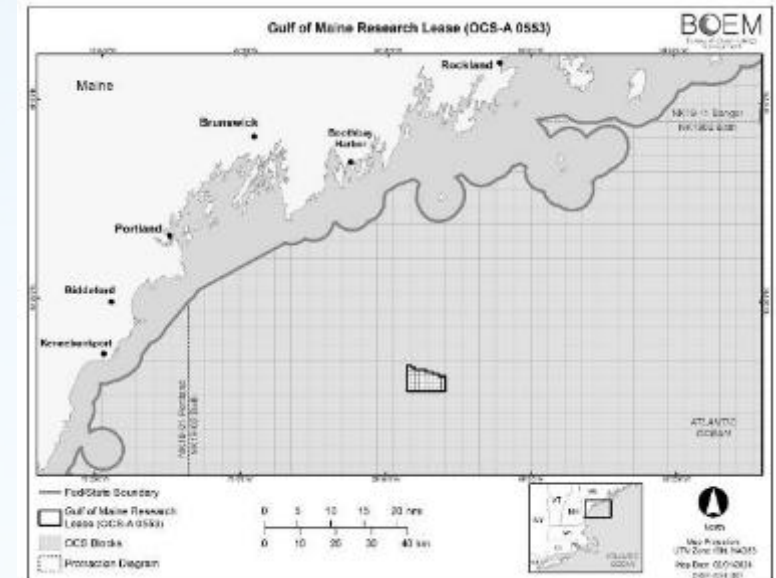


## Federal Review Process

- BOEM conducted Request for Competitive Interest\*
- BOEM completed Environmental Assessment\*
- BOEM conducted Section 106 review\*
- BOEM consulted with federal agencies, including Coast Guard, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and others
- BOEM identified lease area to offer to the State

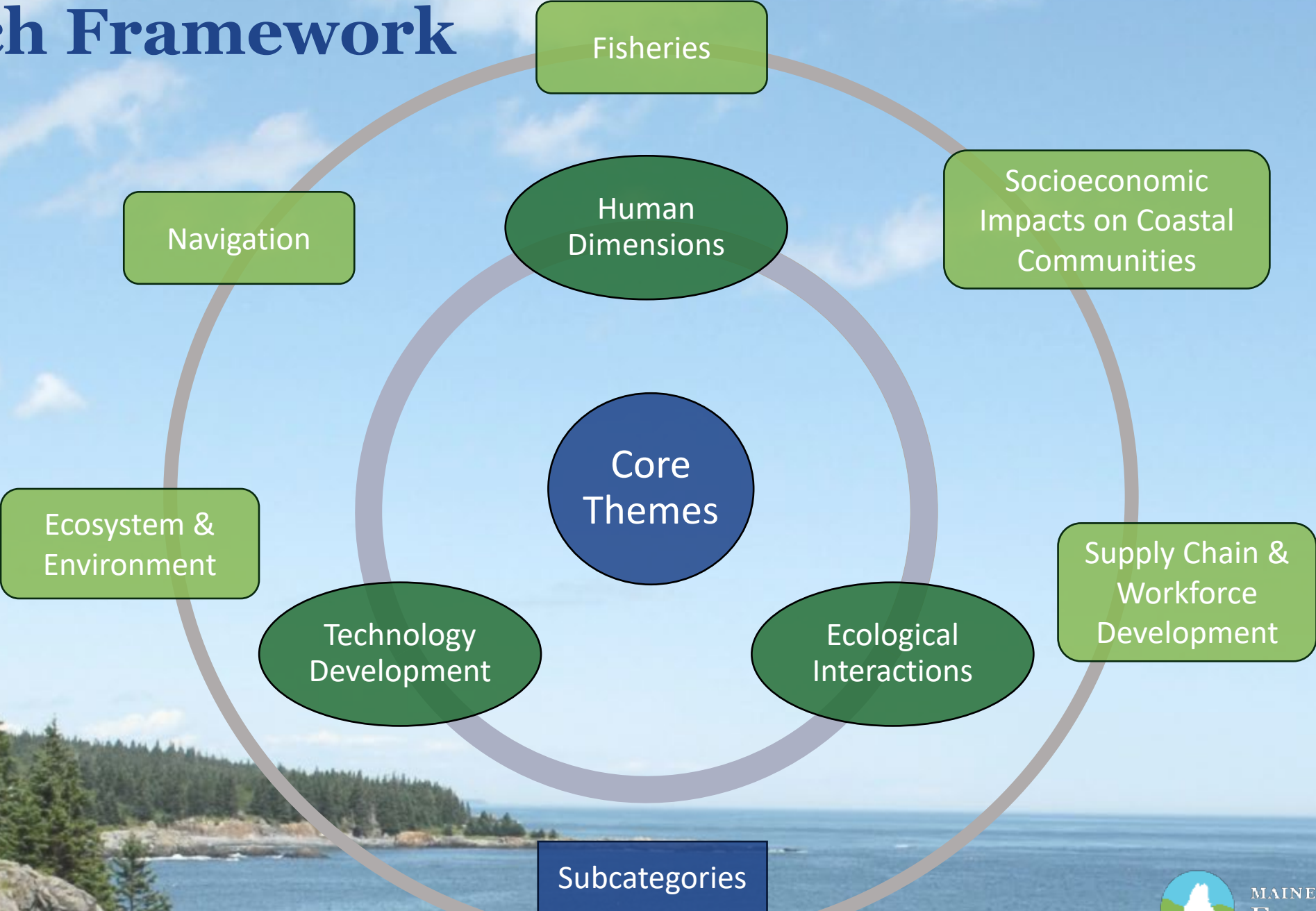


## BOEM Offers Lease to Maine



\*Included opportunities for public comment

# Research Framework



# Ongoing Research Projects

The Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium is tasked with establishing and implementing a Research Strategy that advances the State's understanding of the impacts of floating offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine. The Advisory Board includes people representing commercial and recreational fishing interests, scientists, NGOs, offshore wind industry, and state agencies.

## 1. Fisheries Coexistence

Engaging fishermen to explore definitions and considerations for coexistence and researching compatibility of FOW technologies with fishing gear used in the Gulf of Maine

## 2. Socioeconomic Baseline Inventory

Inventorizing data and metrics related to Maine's fishing communities through stakeholder engagement and research to inform a future socioeconomic impact assessment

## 3. Seafloor Mapping

Mapping ~840 sq nm around the Research Array lease and potential cable corridors to fill habitat and seafloor classification data gaps







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# Thank You

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[www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind](http://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind)



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