

Good morning!

The Morro Bay Wind Energy Area Environmental Assessment Scoping Meeting will begin at 9 a.m. PT.

If you are encountering any technical issues, please contact Jasmine King at jking@kearnswest.com





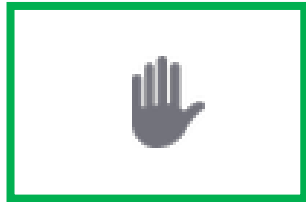
BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

**Morro Bay Wind Energy Area
Scoping for the Development of an Environmental Assessment**

January 5, 2022

BOEM Pacific Office

Zoom Webinar Instructions – Members of the Public



- Members of the public will be muted throughout the scoping meeting and will not be able to unmute themselves.
- Members of the public will have the opportunity to share verbal public comments during the public comment opportunity. The public comment period is at the end of this meeting, after the presentations and a Question-and-Answer period.
- Use the “raise hand” feature, or if on the phone, dial *9 to indicate you would like to provide public comment.
- The Question-and-Answer (Q&A) function will be open for questions related to the environmental scoping process. This is NOT the place to submit comments.

This meeting is being recorded and will be posted to the BOEM website.



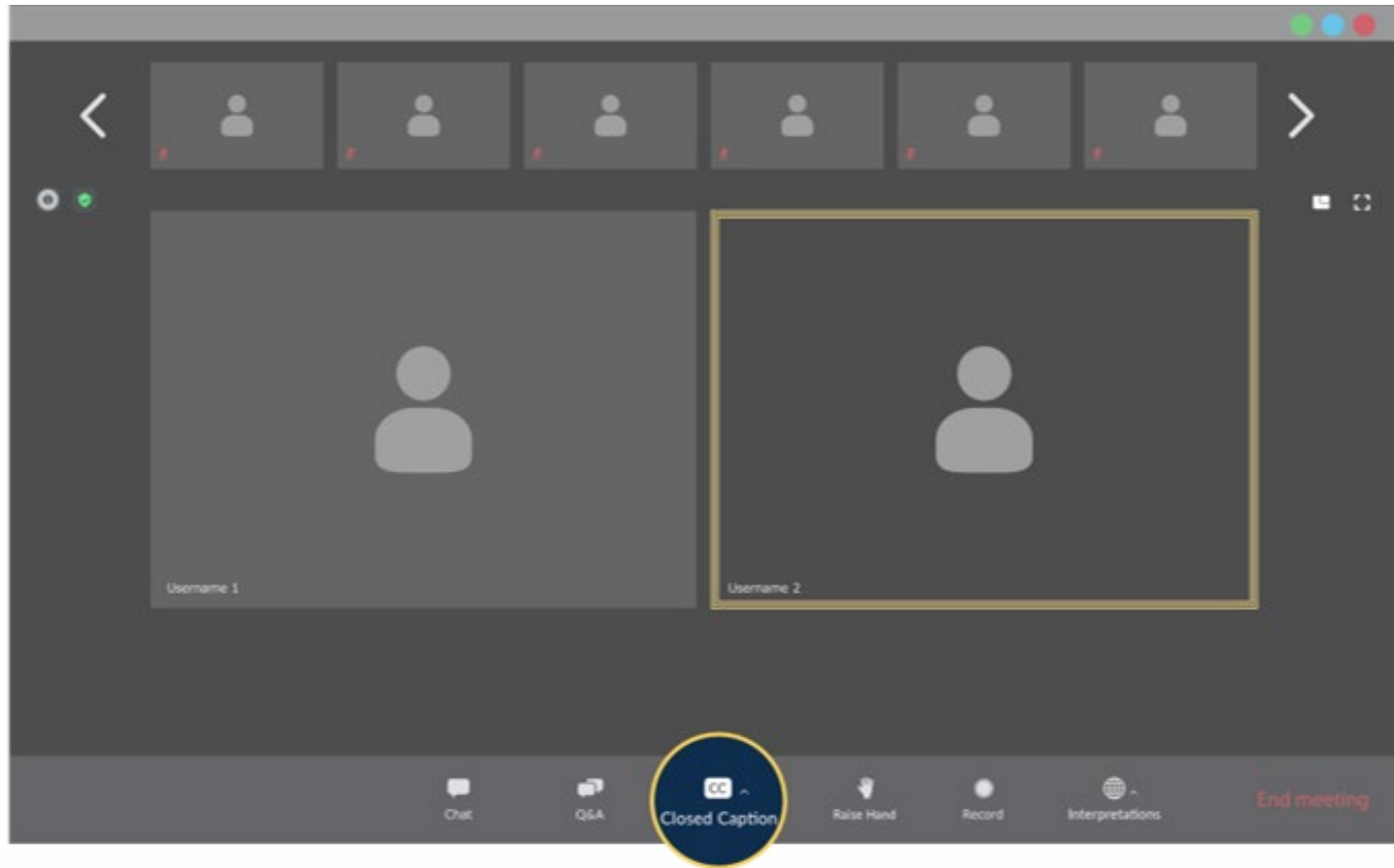
Zoom Webinar Instructions – Technical Assistance

- We will share relevant links and information through the "chat" feature.
- Please use the “chat” feature *only* for requests for technical assistance.
- If you are participating by phone, raise your hand for help by dialing *9.
- If you encounter any technical difficulties throughout the webinar, please email Jasmine King at jking@kearnswest.com or message “Technical Assistance” in the “chat” feature.



Zoom Webinar Instructions – Closed Captioning

Closed Captions can be found here:



Agenda

- Facilitator's Welcome
- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Presentation - Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Leasing in California
- Presentation – Scoping
- Clarifying Questions on the Environmental Scoping Process
- Public Comment Opportunity
- Closing and Next Steps



Process Guidelines

- “Honor” the agenda.
- Participate actively and respectfully.
- Speak in order; facilitator will mind the queue.
- Speak clearly into the mic/phone for others to hear you.
- Provide your name and affiliation when you speak.
- Please select the mute button to mute your audio to the phone when you’re not speaking.



Poll 1 – Who has joined the webinar?
Identify your affiliation



Poll 2 – Public Comment

Are you planning on providing public comment today?



Welcome & Opening Remarks

Richard Yarde, Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment





Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Leasing in California

Morro Bay Environmental Assessment Scoping Meeting

January 5, 2022

Sara Gultinan, Renewable Energy Specialist for Jean Thurston-Keller, CA Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Coordinator | Morro Bay Wind Energy Area



Overview

- BOEM Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process
- Approach to Offshore Wind Energy Planning in California
- Environmental Assessment of Offshore Wind Energy Leasing
- Central Coast Updates and Next Steps



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Approach for Offshore Wind Energy Planning in California

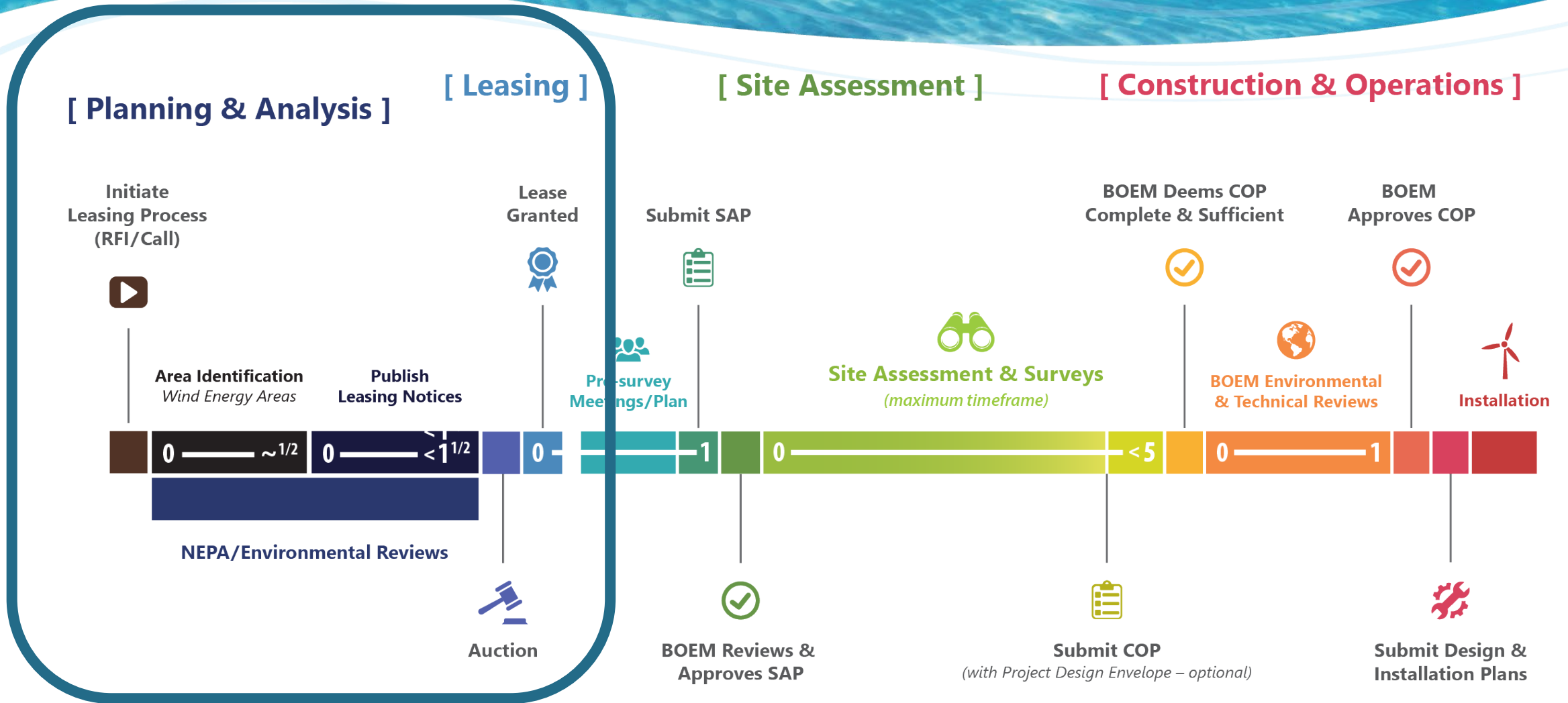
- Established the BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force
- Created Offshore Wind Energy Gateway for data collection in publicly accessible website: <https://caoffshorewind.databasin.org/>
- Published Call for Information and Nominations (Call) in the Federal Register in October 2018: 118 comments, 14 nominations
- Coordination, outreach and engagement with Tribal Governments, State of California, and public stakeholders with over 80 meetings
- Employ scientific studies and analyses to support informed decision-making
- Call in July 2021 for extending Morro Bay Wind Energy Areas: 62 comments, 6 additional nominations
- Established the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area



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BOEM's Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process



Current California Status in BOEM's Authorization Process

Call for Information and Nominations



Public Comment

45 days

Area Identification
Wind Energy Areas

0 ————— ~ 1/2

Morro Bay

Leasing Document Development

0 ————— < 1 1/2

Public Comment

60 days

Environmental Assessment Process & Public Involvement



Proposed Sale Notice

CZMA Consultation



Final Sale Notice



PSN

Auction



Potential Task Force Meetings/Webinars



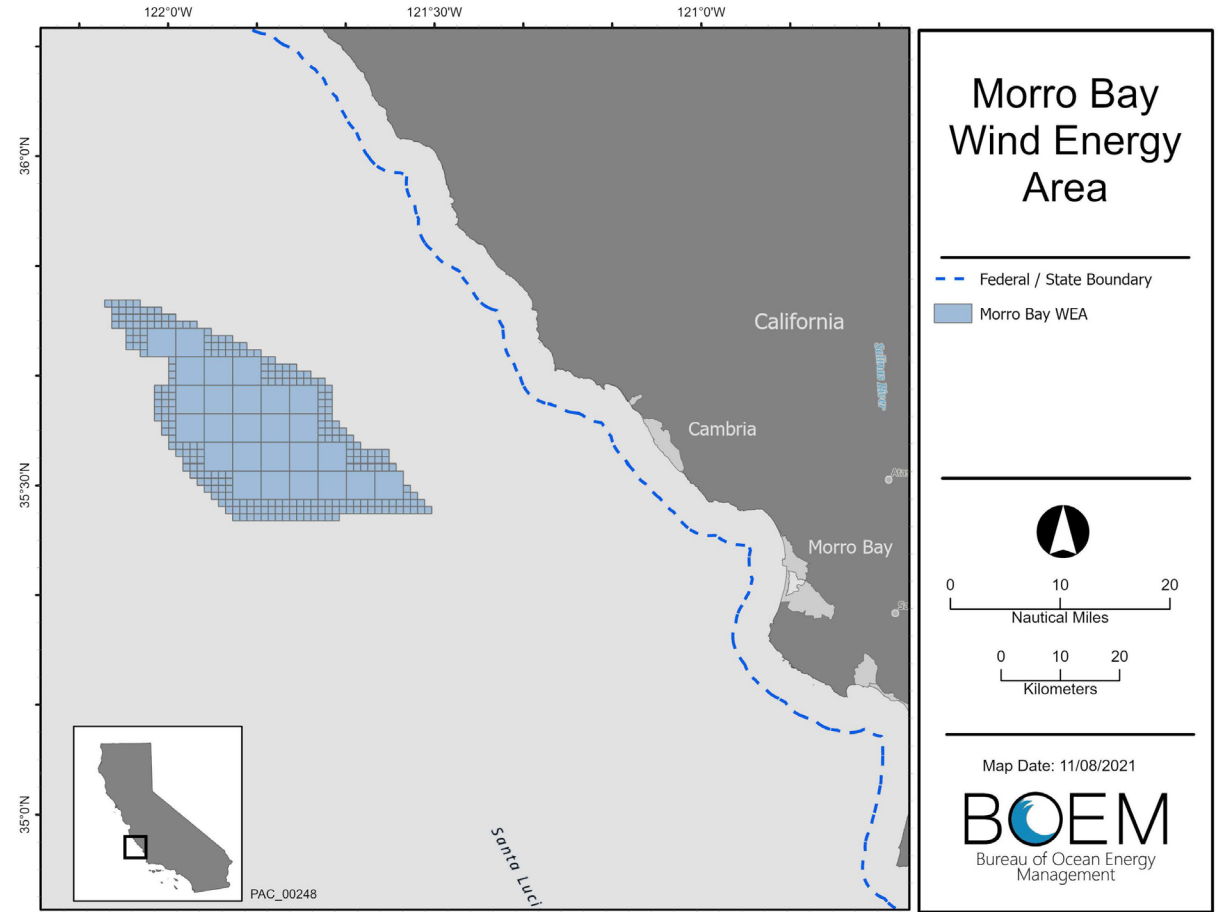
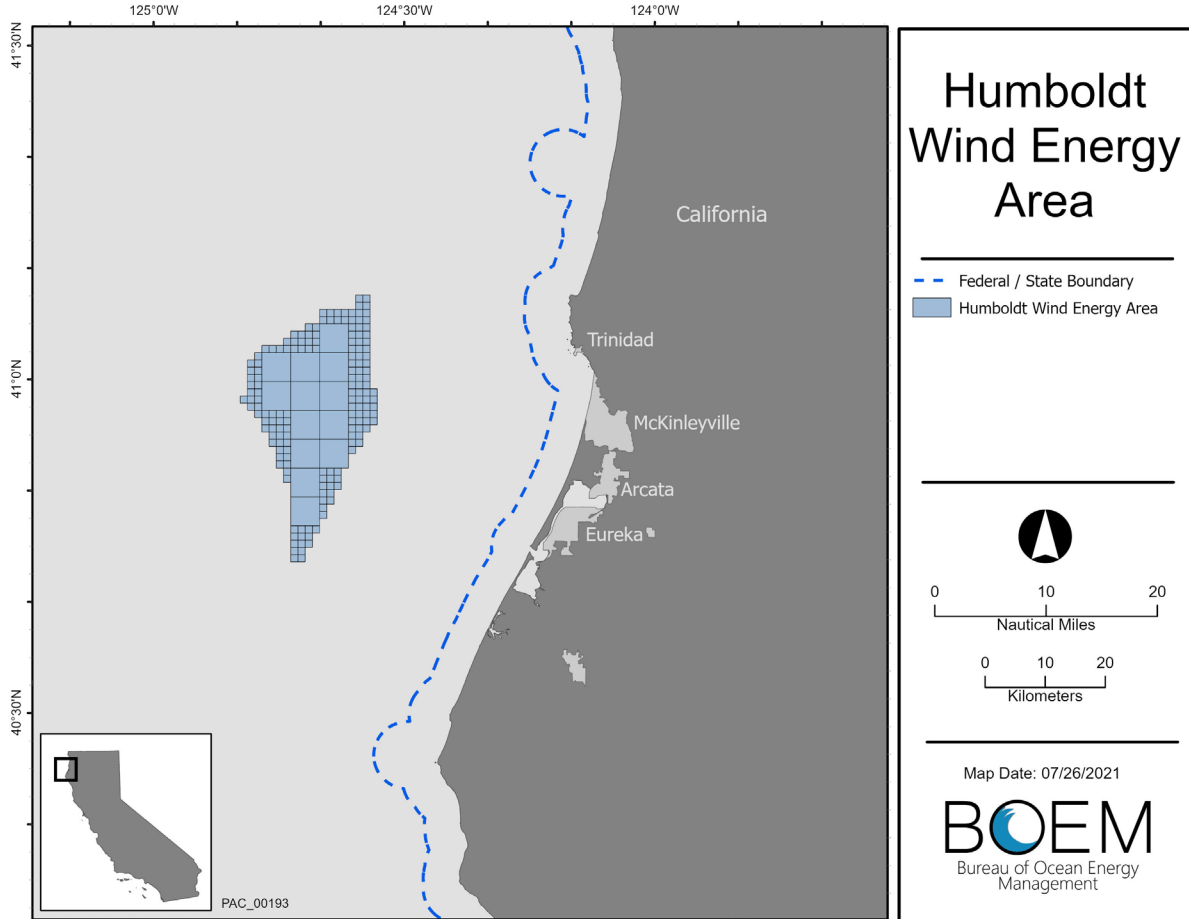
Call



Area ID



California Wind Energy Areas



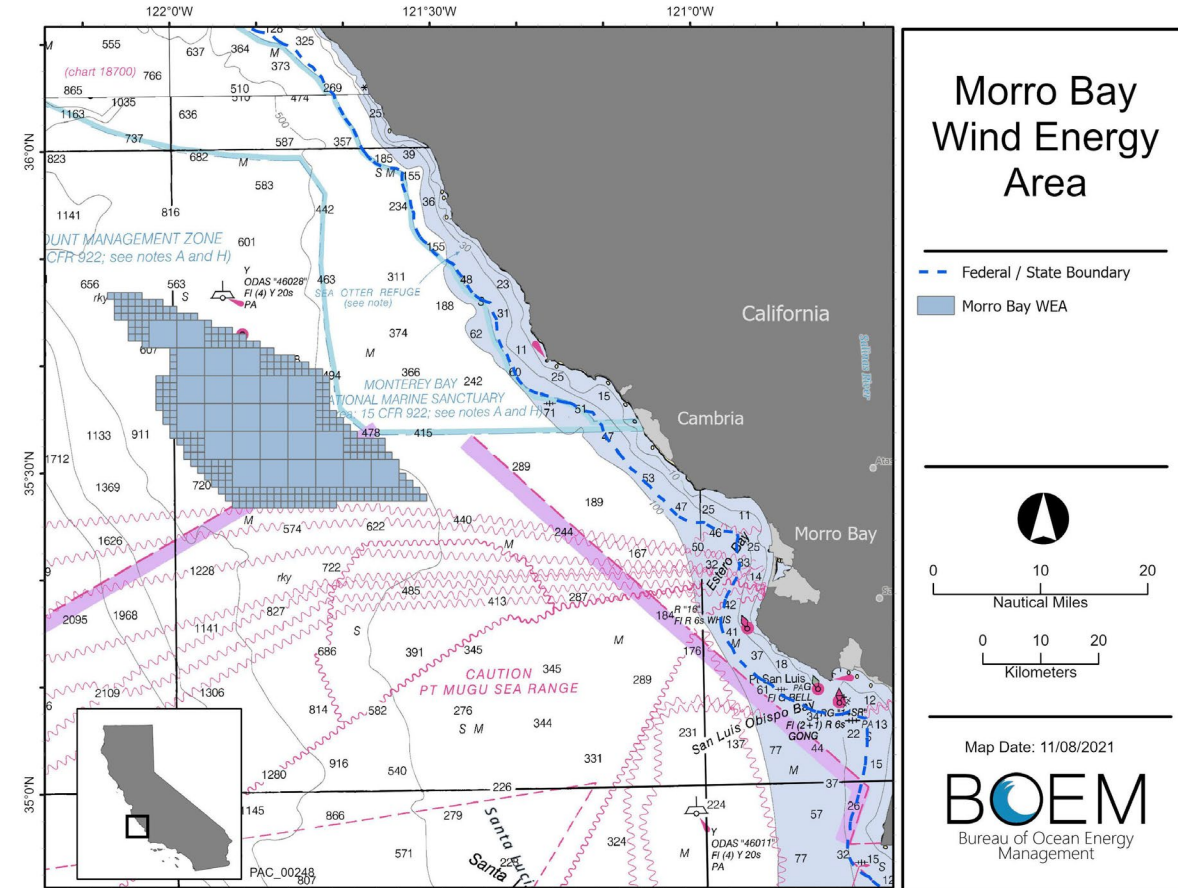
Central Coast Status Update: Morro Bay

Morro Bay Call Area

- Size: 255,360 acres (399 square miles)
- Published Call for Information and Nominations in October 2018
- Additional areas considered in July 2021

Morro Bay Wind Energy Area

- Reduced size to 240,898 acres (376 square miles)
- Distance to Shore: ~20 miles
- BOEM Area Identification Memo available at: www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA
- Focus of the environmental assessment



Road Ahead – Outlook and Next Steps

Conduct Environmental Assessment

Publish Proposed Sale Notice

- Humboldt and Morro Bay Areas will be combined into one Proposed Sale Notice for a single California auction that includes both wind energy areas
- 60-day comment period
- Last opportunity for developers to provide interest

Publish Final Sale Notice

Lease Auction (Fall 2022)



BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management

BOEM.gov



Questions: Sara Gultinan filling in for Jean Thurston-Keller until February 3, 2022

sara.gultinan@boem.gov

jean.thurston-keller@boem.gov



Environmental Assessment Scoping Meeting

Commercial Wind Lease Issuance and Site Assessment Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Morro Bay

January 5, 2022

Lisa Gilbane, Environmental Analysis Section Chief | Morro Bay Wind Energy Area



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

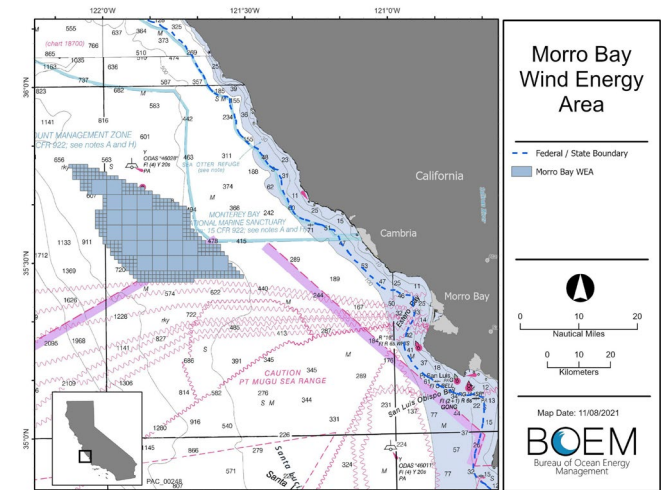
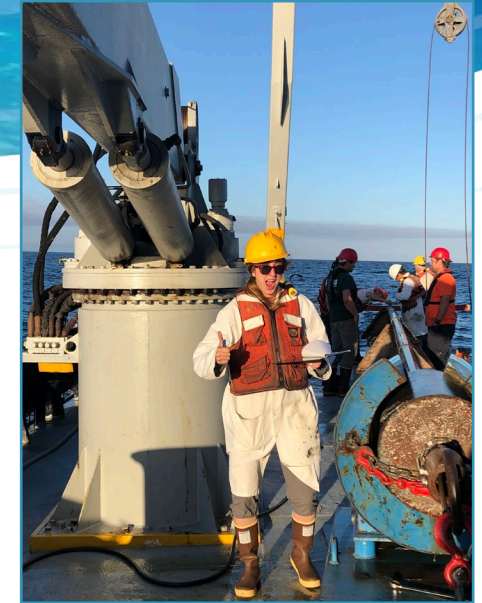
NEPA requires Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed action prior to a decision

Proposed Action / Decision Point

- Issuance of commercial wind energy lease(s), which includes areas within federal waters that might be used for energy production, collection, and transmission
- Site Characterization Activities – biological, geotechnical, geophysical, and archaeological surveys
- Site Assessment Activities – deployment of one or more buoys to gather oceanographic and meteorological data

Construction and Operation of a project are not being considered

These impacts are evaluated once a project plan is submitted



BOEM Consultations with Agencies

- **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA, Section 106)**
 - Requires that BOEM take into account the effects of undertakings on historic properties
 - Programmatic Agreement in place for offshore California, we invite comments related to potential impacts to historic properties from the undertaking of lease issuance
- **Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)**
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA Section 7) – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat) – NOAA NMFS**

Environmental Assessment (EA) Schedule



Environmental Resources and Socio-cultural Considerations



Biological

- Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles
- Fish and Essential Fish Habitat
- Marine Habitats
- Avian and Bat Species
- Threatened and Endangered Species



Physical

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Geology/ Geohazards



Socio-cultural

- Tribal Perspectives
- Historic Properties
- Commercial and Recreational Fishing
- Environmental Justice
- Tourism and Recreation
- Demographics and Employment
- Military Use
- Navigation/Vessel Traffic



Collecting and Providing Information

California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway
In support of the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force

powered by DATA BASIN

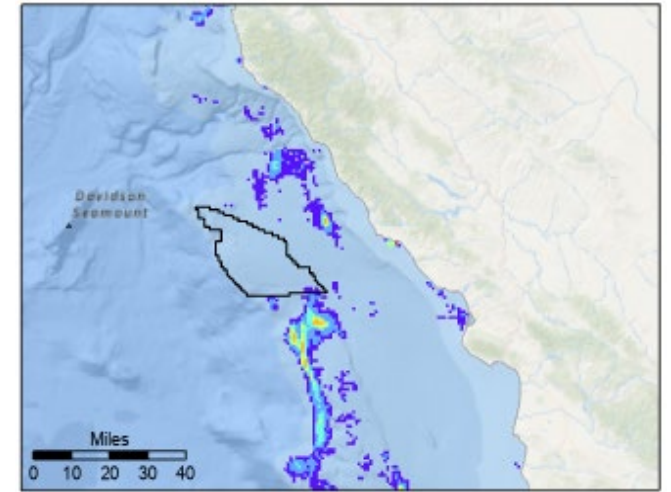
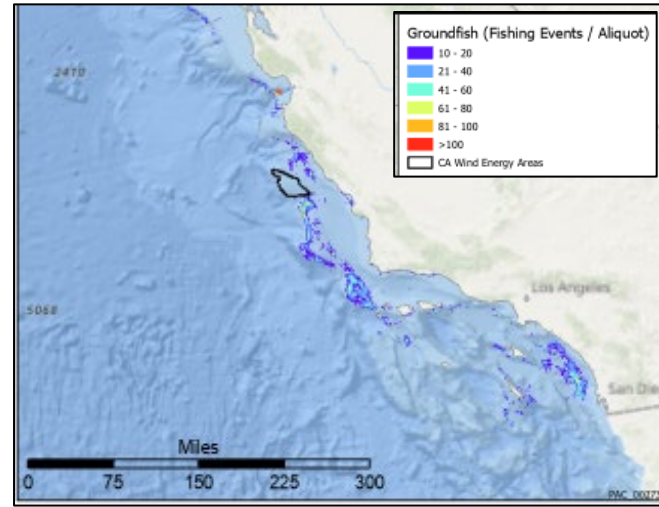
Get Started | Explore | Create | Community | Workspace

What is the California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway?
What can I do?
How do I start exploring?

The Offshore Renewable Wind Energy Gateway assembles geospatial information on ocean wind resources, ecological and natural resources, ocean commercial and recreational uses and community values. This information will help identify areas off of California that are potentially suitable for wind energy generation. [read more](#)

California Marine & Coastal Energy | California Marine & Coastal Management | California Marine & Coastal Ecology and Natural Resources | California Marine Fishing and Traditional Uses

<https://caoffshorewind.databasin.org/>

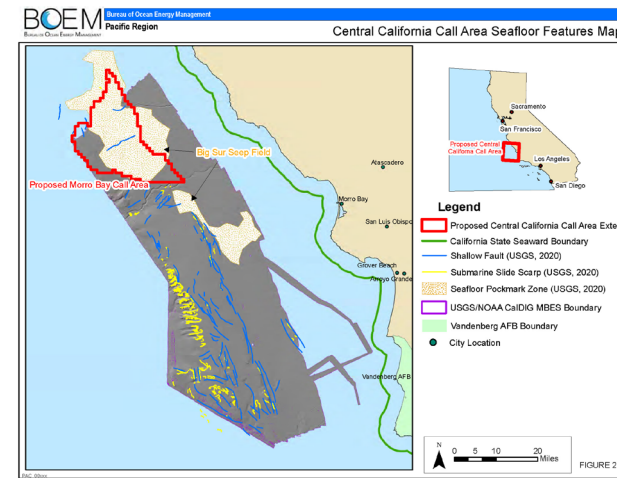


BOEM
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Selected BOEM-Funded Research Informing Renewable Energy Offshore California
JUNE 2021

Biological Studies PAGE 1
Cultural & Archaeological Studies..... PAGE 6
Information Synthesis Studies PAGE 7
Physical Oceanography & Geology Studies PAGE 8
Resource, Technology & Infrastructure Studies..... PAGE 9
Socioeconomic Studies PAGE 10

<https://www.boem.gov/west-coast-renewable-energy-science-exchange>

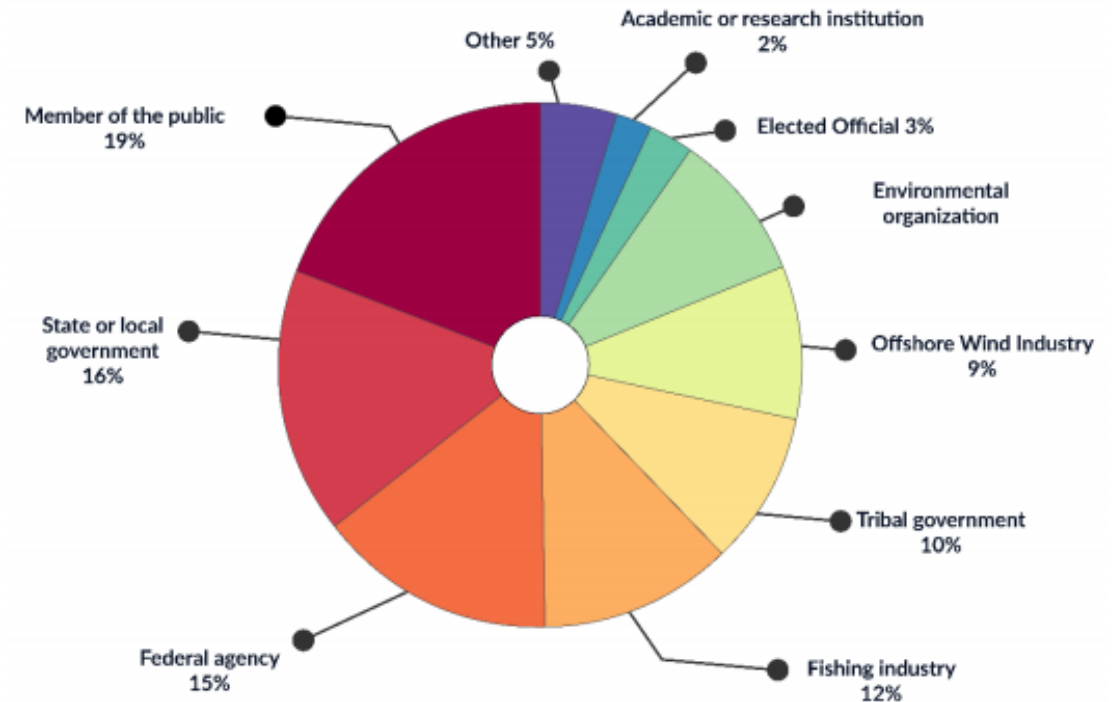


Collecting and Providing Information

Overview of key input from 2018-2020

- Fishermen are concerned about potential impacts to their current activities and long-term livelihood.
- Concern about environmental, visual, and noise impacts from offshore wind.
- Concerns with maritime vessel traffic patterns and offshore wind.
- Interest in potential economic impacts from offshore wind development.

BOEM CA Offshore Wind Energy Planning Outreach
Participation: October 2018—December 2020



What comments are we seeking?

BOEM will conduct a comprehensive review of impacts associated with *lease issuance* and *site assessment and characterization*

- Which **issues** should BOEM consider in the EA?
- What **sources of information** should BOEM use for the analysis?
- What **reasonable alternatives** should BOEM consider?
- **Tribes and Federal Agencies:** Please notify us if you would like to be a cooperating agency
- Comment period ends **January 11, 2022**

BOEM is
Asking for
Comments
on the Scope
of the EA



BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management

BOEM.gov



Lisa Gilbane | lisa.gilbane@boem.gov | 805-384-6387

For more information on the Environmental Assessment
offshore the central coast, visit: www.boem.gov/MorroBayEA

Clarifying Questions - Environmental Scoping Process



Questions – Environmental Scoping Process

- The Q&A function will be open for questions related to the environmental scoping process.
- BOEM will respond to questions relating to the process. All other questions will be noted by BOEM but not responded to as part of this scoping meeting.
- Phone call-in users can dial *9 to verbally ask questions related to the environmental scoping process.

Public comment will be received immediately following questions relating to environmental scoping process



Public Comment Opportunity



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- Provide your name and affiliation when you speak.
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BOEM is
Asking for
Comments
on the Scope
of the EA





At this meeting

Public Comment is next...

Online

Go to:
Regulations.gov
Search for:
BOEM-2021-0044

By mail

“Morro Bay EA”
Office of the
Environment
BOEM
760 Paseo Camarillo,
Suite 102
Camarillo, CA 93010

Comments are due by January 11, 2022



In-Meeting Public Comment Process

- **Pre-registered public comments will be taken first following names on the slide.**
- **To enter the discussion queue:**
 - Click the “raise hand” icon in the top of the webinar window; click again to lower your hand after speaking.
- **The facilitator will call on you when it is your turn to speak. You will then be unmuted.**
 - If you are a phone call-in user, dial *9 on your phone to Speak in order; facilitator will mind the queue
- **Provide your name and affiliation before you speak.**
- **Public comment will be recorded (3 minutes); please be respectful of everyone’s time and opportunity to speak.**



Closing and Next Steps

Lisa Gilbane, Environmental Analysis Section, Chief





- This meeting is now adjourned. You can provide comments in the following way by **January 11, 2022**
- Visit the virtual room meeting webpage for more information

Online

Go to:
Regulations.gov
Search for:
BOEM-2021-0044

By mail

“Morro Bay EA”
Office of the
Environment
BOEM
760 Paseo Camarillo,
Suite 102
Camarillo, CA 93010

Virtual
Meeting
Page:

boem.gov/MorroBayEA





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January 5, 2022

Thank you for your participation.
BOEM Pacific Office