



BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

Environmental Review Process

Scoping Meetings

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National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Procedural law requiring Federal agencies to assess environmental effects of proposed action(s) and reasonable alternatives prior to making decisions.
- The NEPA process is often referred to as environmental review.
- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) presents a proposed Federal action's **impacts analysis** on the environment

Proposed Action

Action being analyzed

Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives that could reduce or eliminate impacts. At a minimum, proposed action and no action alternative.

Effects

Beneficial and adverse effects

Affected environment description includes reasonably foreseeable environmental trends and planned actions other than the Project.



Programmatic EIS vs Project-specific EIS

Programmatic EIS (Tier 1)

- Includes high level analysis of potential impacts across a broad geographic region
- Considers mitigation measures that could be applied across a broad geographic region
- Allows for a robust cumulative analysis

Project-specific NEPA (Tier 2)

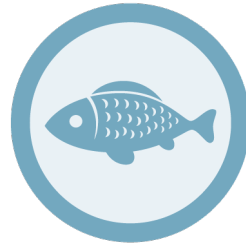
- Incorporates the analysis done in the Programmatic EIS by reference where applicable
- Focuses on site-specific impacts of a particular project
- Analyzes additional mitigation measures that could be applied to a particular project



Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources

Biological

- Avian and Bat Species
- Benthic Resources
- Coastal Habitat and Fauna
- Finfish, Invertebrates and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)
- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S.



Physical

- Air Quality
- Water Quality

Socioeconomic

- Commercial and For-Hire Recreational Fishing
- Cultural Resources
- Demographics, Employment, and Economics
- Environmental Justice
- Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure
- Navigation and Vessel Traffic
- Recreation and Tourism
- Other Uses
- Scenic and Visual Resources



BOEM Environmental Studies Program

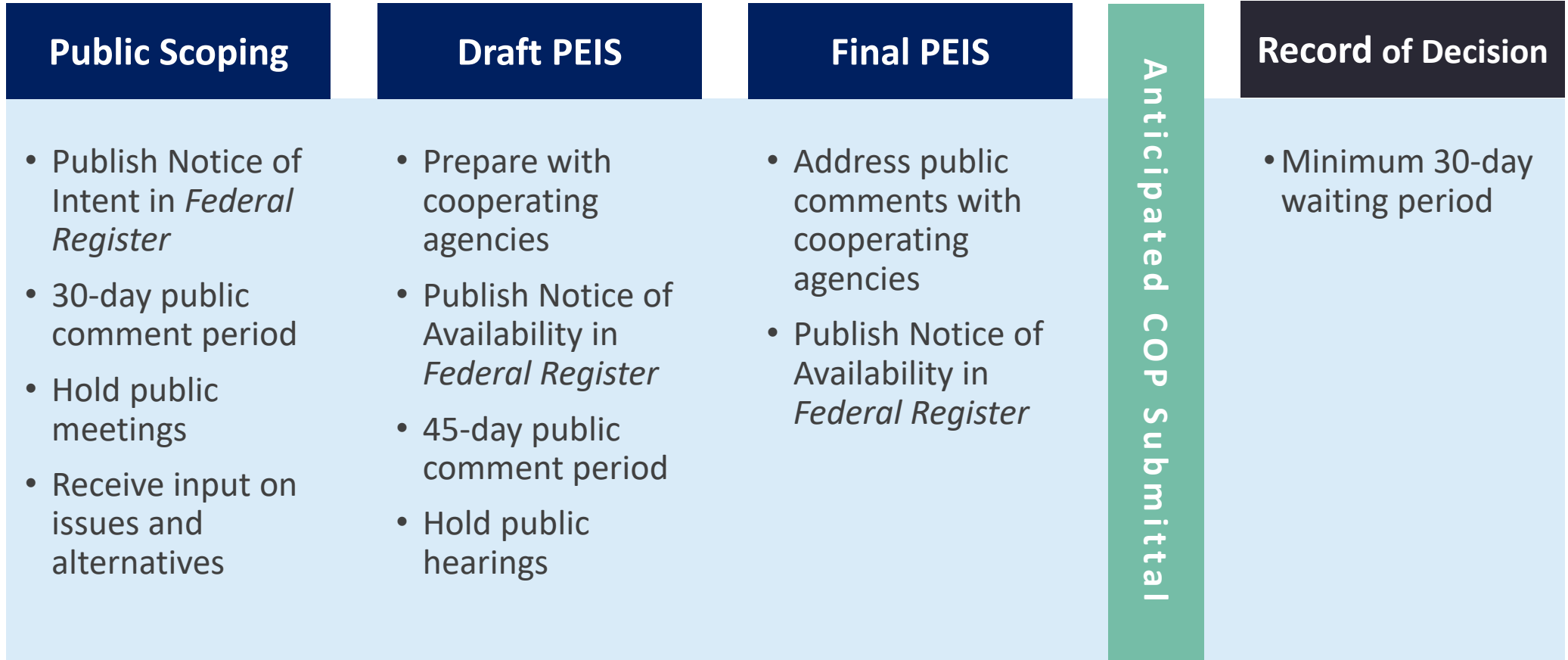
- Rigorous scientific research
- Informs decision-making processes and fills data gaps
- **Snapshot of studies:**
 - EMF Impacts on Elasmobranch (sharks, rays and skates) and American Lobster Movement and Migration – Led by University of Rhode Island (<https://epis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5659.pdf>)
 - Renewable Energy in situ Power Cable Observation (<https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/environmental-stewardship/Environmental-Studies/Pacific-Region/Studies/BOEM-2016-008.pdf>)
 - Real-time Opportunity for Development Environmental Observations (RODEO) (www.boem.gov/RODEO)
 - Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Development: Values and Implication for Recreation and Tourism (<https://epis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5662.pdf>)

Visit our website: www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Environmental-Studies



New York Bight Programmatic Environmental Review Process

~2 YEARS



Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare a PEIS

Published in the *Federal Register* on July 15, 2022



<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/BOEM-2022-0034>



Docket Number: BOEM-2022-0034



Starts the PEIS process



Initiates 30-day public comment period, ending **August 15, 2022**



Public Comments on the Notice of Intent (NOI)

- Very important element of NEPA
- Local expertise and perspective guide environmental analysis = more informed decisions



COMMENTS DUE

August 15, 2022

Types of information BOEM is looking for:

- Significant **issues** to be analyzed in the PEIS
- **Sources** of information to include in the PEIS
- Data **gaps** and information needs
- Reasonable **alternatives** and potential mitigations

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/BOEM-2022-0034>



Virtual Public Scoping Meetings

Live Virtual Meetings

- Thursday, July 28, 2022, 5:00 pm EST
- Tuesday, August 2, 2022, 5:00 pm EST
- Thursday, August 4, 2022, 1:00 pm EST

Virtual Meeting Room

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/new-york-bight-peis-virtual-meetings>

Meeting
Information

Fact
Sheets

How to
Comment



Virtual Meeting Room

New York Bight PEIS Virtual Meetings

Virtual Meeting Room How to Comment **Resources**

BOEM Fact Sheets



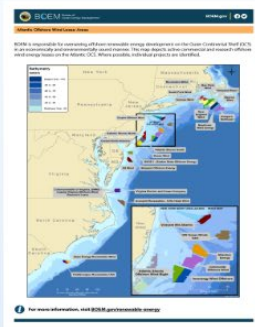
About BOEM Fact Sheet



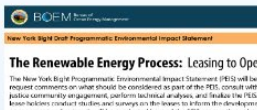
Renewable Energy Fact Sheet



Offshore Wind Role



OCS Renewable Energy



The Renewable Energy Process: Leasing to Operate



New York Bight Lease Areas Overview



Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement



Virtual Public Scoping Meeting Agenda

Resources Tab includes fact sheets focused on:

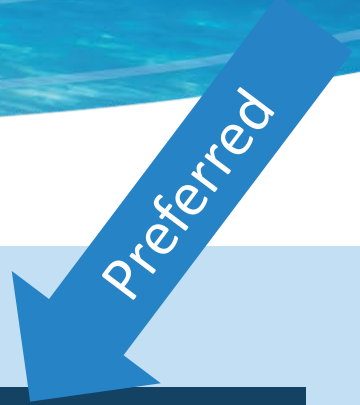
- BOEM and Outer Continental Shelf Renewable Energy
- New York Bight Leasing and the Programmatic EIS Process
- Public Involvement Opportunities and How to Comment
- Resource Specific Topics
- NY Bight Lease Areas-provided by each of the lessees



How to Comment



<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/BOEM-2022-0034>



At this meeting

“Raise your hand” in the Zoom meeting during the listening session portion

Via Mail: In an envelope titled: “NY Bight PEIS”, addressed to:

Chief, Division of Environmental Assessment,
Office of Environmental Programs, Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland
Road (VAM-OEP), Sterling, Virginia 20166

Online at www.regulations.gov

Enter BOEM-2022-0034;
click “search.” Use the
“Comment” button



BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management

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For more information on the New York Bight Programmatic EIS, visit:
<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/new-york-bight>