

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT (BOEM)
NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FORUM
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023
10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. ET
VIRTUAL MEETING

This document summarizes the discussion and key themes heard at the January 25, 2023 Environmental Justice Forum (EJF), hosted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). The meeting is part of a larger EJF series. The goals of the EJF series are to:

- Identify priorities, needs, and issues to address through BOEM’s draft New York Bight PEIS specific to environmental justice and underserved communities.
- Improve information-sharing and coordination across agencies, governments, lessees, community-based organizations, and Indigenous Peoples.
- Create greater accountability by providing transparency to communities on whether and how their input has affected the decision-making process.
- Grow long-term relationships with communities that are founded on mutual respect, understanding, and collaboration.
- Reduce barriers to participation, increase access to environmental reviews, and create better-informed decisions.

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1. Action Items

- **BOEM** to connect Peter Silva with a subject matter expert (SME) who can address the concern about impacts of pressure waves produced by windmills.
- **BOEM** to follow up with information about how long-term impacts of offshore wind energy projects would be considered or addressed retroactively.
- **BOEM** to share information and research on how impacts to whales are being addressed in the PEIS.
- **BOEM** to follow up with Kelly Dennis regarding a request for participation in a community meeting about wind projects in the Atlantic.
- **BOEM** to follow up with Katherine Miller (RWE) regarding a comment made by Mr. Jeff Bendremer about turbine blades being created on a historic site.
- **BOEM** to follow up via email with an update on BOEM’s exploration of pathways for capacity-building mechanisms.
- **BOEM** to connect Tyrese Gould Jacinto with an SME who can address whether there are studies on the number of pollutants off the coast of the Atlantic or on the impacts of pollutants on waterways near coastal communities.
- **BOEM** to consider conducting future EJFs in person, although it was noted that hosting in NYC could be inequitable and inaccessible for some.
- **BOEM** to share an update about BOEM’s role in the development of Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs). This was requested in both the Federal and State breakout groups and was also requested in plenary at the previous October EJF. Participants shared that they thought BOEM was the correct entity to lead a jointly developed CBA effort.
- **BOEM** to consider jointly developing and implementing engagement plans earlier than the Construction and Operations Plans (COPs), ideally starting with the area identification phase.
- **BOEM** to consider compiling and comparing all mitigation measures on projects across the entire NY Bight area (beyond the projects in the PEIS) to inform the mitigation proposed for the PEIS.
- **BOEM** to consider increasing lessee engagement in the EJF, where lessees can share what they’ve heard and how they are using that information.
- **BOEM** to reach out to NYSERDA/states to follow up on ways to avoid redundancy across processes.
- **BOEM** to consider jointly identifying data needs and selecting studies with the EJF.
- **BOEM** to adjust the EJF format based on participant feedback (e.g., providing more time for participant discussion sooner in the meeting).

2. Meeting Participants

| BOEM Staff | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Meghan Cornelison | Social Scientist |
| Annette Ehrhorn | Renewable Energy Program Specialist |
| Luke Feinberg | Energy Program Specialist |
| Holly Fowler | Program Analyst |
| Whitney Hauer | Renewable Energy Program Specialist |
| Marissa Knodel | Senior Advisor |
| Laura Mansfield | Social Scientist |
| Liz Oliver | Tribal Liaison |
| Sara Parkison | Engagement Advisor |
| Ian Slayton | Physical Scientist |

Chloe VanderMolen
Jacob Wolf
Eric Wolvovsky

Knauss Fellow
Physical Scientist
Meteorologist

Community Based Organizations and Indigenous Peoples

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Susan Bachor | Delaware Tribe of Indians |
| Conor Bambrick | Environmental Advocates New York |
| Jeff Bendremer | Stockbridge-Munsee Community |
| Daniel Chu | New York Environmental Justice Alliance |
| Dennis Coker | Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware |
| Jeremy Dennis | Shinnecock Nation |
| Kelly Dennis | Shinnecock Nation |
| Gwen Gallagher | New York Sea Grant |
| Jeanne Hedden Gallagher | Alliance for Clean Energy New York |
| Anastasia Gordon | WE ACT for Environmental Justice |
| Tyrese Gould Jacinto | Native American Advancement Corp |
| Maria Lopez-Nunez | Ironbound Community Corporation |
| Lauren McElroy | University of Waterloo |
| Lovinia Reynolds | UPROSE |
| Alex Rodriguez | Save the Sound |
| Marcus Sibley | National Wildlife Federation |
| Peter Silva | Shinnecock Nation |
| Lincoln Simmons | Ocean County College |

State and Local Agencies

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Tyler Hepner | New York State Department of Environmental Conservation |
| Jordan Koster | New York State Department of State |
| Julia Kortrey | New Jersey Environmental Development Authority |
| Laura McLean | New York State Department of State |

Federal Agencies

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Rin Ball | Department of Energy |
| Tene Becknell | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement |
| Kathleen Bell | Environmental Protection Agency |
| Jordan Creed | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement |
| Matthew Cutler | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| Nelle D'Avera | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| Karl Ford | US Maritime Administration |
| Naomi Handell | US Army Corps of Engineers |
| Jill Head | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement |
| Mary Krueger | National Parks Service |
| Jamie Marte | Department of Transportation |
| Samantha Nyer | Environmental Protection Agency |
| Kelly O'Reilly | US Maritime Administration |
| Ramona Sanders | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement |
| Tara Shifflett | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement |
| Angela Silva | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| Robert Vietri | US Army Corps of Engineers |

| Lessees | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Andrea Bonilla | Vineyard Offshore |
| Eleanor Evans | Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind |
| Laura George | Vineyard Offshore |
| Oriana Holmes-Price | Attentive Energy |
| Kori Ktona | Bluepoint / Ocean Wind |
| Katherine Miller | Community Offshore Wind |
| Daniel Sieger | Community Offshore Wind |
| Natalie Terhaar | Community Offshore Wind |
| Lisa Wood | Bluepoint / Ocean Wind |

Kearns & West Facilitation Team
 Caisey Hoffman, Hanna Khalil, Morgan Lommele, Briana Moseley, Arpana Nautiyal, Leigh Osterhus, Mark Anthony Sebarrotin, Hannah Silverfine, Kyle Vint.

3. Bulletin Board Announcements

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| <p><u>Sunrise Wind Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) public comment period</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Dec. 12, 2022, BOEM announced the availability of the DEIS for the proposed Sunrise Wind project offshore New York. The 60-day public comment period to inform the final Environmental Impact Statement will be open until Feb. 14, 2023. For information on how to submit a public comment, please visit BOEM’s website here. |
| <p><u>The Shinnecock Tribal Community intends to host a community meeting on projects in the Atlantic Ocean.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tribal members requested a community meeting on projects that are happening in the Atlantic Ocean. The Shinnecock Tribe (Kelly Dennis) requested that any EJF participants who would like to participate with the Tribal community on this effort to contact her. Point of contact: Kelly Dennis, kellydennis@shinnecock.org |
| <p><u>Concern was raised about the misinformation circulating in the media regarding a high number of recent whale deaths in the region.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community organization member asked: With the recent deaths of whales along the East Coast, and the narrative that offshore development is responsible, are there events planned to correct the record and share information to the public? Community organization member expressed concern about whale deaths and the importance of eliminating offshore wind as a factor. Concern was also expressed about potential negative impacts of sonic waves interfering with animals’ ability to communicate with one another. The following resources were shared by participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOAA Fisheries, Frequent Questions – Offshore Wind and Whales NOAA Fisheries, Frequent Questions: 2021-2023 Humpback Whale Atlantic Coast Unusual Mortality Event |

4. Discussion Highlights

Agenda Review, Introductions, and Welcome

The meeting facilitator welcomed participants to the EJF and expressed gratitude for their attendance. This second EJF is designed based on input from a series of environmental justice convenings held in the Summer of 2022 and the first EJF held in October 2022.

Peter Running Deer Silva (Shinnecock Tribal Nation Elder) shared an opening prayer for the group.

The facilitator reviewed the agenda, highlighting BOEM's intention for the meeting to be a two-way information exchange, with an openness to input and direction from participants.

The objectives for the meeting were to:

- Identify priorities, needs, and issues to address through BOEM's draft New York Bight Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement specific to environmental justice and underserved communities.
- Continue to develop a shared understanding of challenges affecting and efforts to engage environmental justice populations and underserved communities on offshore wind issues across New York and New Jersey.
- Provide updates on how previous input is being processed for consideration in BOEM's and others' decision-making processes so far and invite feedback to continue refining next steps.
- Grow relationships and improve coordination across agencies, governments, lessees, and community-based organizations.

Marissa Knodel (BOEM) provided opening remarks from BOEM's Directorate. BOEM core staff introduced themselves on video while participants introduced themselves in the chat.

Draft EJF Participant Guidelines

The EJF Participant Guidelines are intended to answer the question "What does it mean to participate in this forum?" The guidelines do not commit participants to joining every meeting, but rather seek to ensure that participants have equitable opportunity to participate.

The facilitator screen-shared the Draft EJF Participant Guidelines to review with participants, highlighting the principle that "all participants in this effort will strive to be open, transparent, inclusive, and accountable in their actions. They will adhere to the highest ethical standards and are committed to using informed judgment and thoughtfulness in their participation."

By agreeing to participate in the group, participants commit to the following guidelines:

- Interact respectfully with all other participants, valuing all perspectives.
- Honor the agenda and time frames.
- Participate in an active and focused manner – commit to the success of the process.
- Provide balanced speaking time.
- Provide explanations for views and interests.
- Share perspectives and values.
- Share relevant information.
- Strive for transparency.
- When sharing reports of discussions, not attributing discussions to any individual member to protect opportunities for open discussion.

The facilitator asked for feedback on the EIJ Participant Guidelines, and on the EIJ thus far. The following input was shared by participants.

- **Community organization member** noted in the chat that the Draft EIJ Participant Guidelines look good.
- **Community organization member** asked if there is a limit to how long folks can speak. The facilitator responded there is not, however it would be appreciated if participants could limit their speaking time to 1-2 minutes to ensure all participants have equitable access to share thoughts and ask questions.
- **Community organization member** requested that BOEM ensure lessees are present in the EIJs to listen to the perspectives shared by participants. They noted that much of the EIJ, thus far, could have been information provided via email in advance of the meeting. They suggested that the EIJ agenda reserve more time for meaningful discussion.

Status of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS)

BOEM staff shared an overview of the status of the PEIS for the New York Bight lease areas, noting that the Draft PEIS is anticipated to be published in September 2023. Acknowledging the feedback shared by participants to allow more time for discussion, **BOEM staff** moved through this section quickly.

Discussion of the Input Status Report

BOEM staff shared that the Input Status Report is intended to outline a clear feedback loop and show how information shared by EIJ participants is processed, analyzed, and addressed by BOEM. **BOEM staff** shared three input topic areas which were prominent in the Input Status Report based on the October EIJ, and invited Subject Matter Experts (SME) to present updates on those topics:

1. BOEM's air quality analysis in the PEIS.
2. How BOEM is expanding inclusivity in their outreach and engagement efforts.
3. What pathways BOEM is exploring for capacity-building mechanisms.

Air Quality Analysis

BOEM staff, a Physical Scientist in BOEM's Renewable Energy Program, presented on the following:

- BOEM's authority for renewables on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), specifically the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- The results of BOEM's air quality analysis based on activity:
 - Construction: Moderate impacts while remaining below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
 - Operations and Maintenance: Minor and intermittent impacts associated with planned and unplanned maintenance.
 - Decommissioning: Minor and temporary impacts due to advancing technologies.
- The pollutants considered in BOEM's air quality analysis, including the social cost of greenhouse gas emissions through the lifetime of a project.
- The tools for evaluating and analyzing air quality including the Avoided Emissions and generation Toom (AVERT) and the EPA's CO-Benefits Risk Assessment (COBRA).
- How BOEM compares alternatives and analyzes the "no action alternative."
- Examples of mitigation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other criteria pollutants.

Discussion

- **Community organization member** expressed that there are atmospheric pressure waves caused by windmills, which could have an impact on the wind that comes ashore and is weakening seaside plants and salt marshes.
 - **BOEM staff** noted that this was a physical resources or meteorology question, not air quality, and that BOEM would connect Peter with someone to follow up.

Expanding Inclusivity in Outreach and Engagement

BOEM staff presented an update on BOEM’s efforts to expand inclusivity in the agency’s outreach and engagement efforts, including the following:

- BOEM expanded outreach to organizations and individuals serving Indigenous communities.
- BOEM requested recommendations from EIJ participants (community organizations, state partners, and federal agencies), noting that the EIJ is open to anyone who may wish to participate, and process recommendations are welcome.
- The government-to-government Tribal consultation process for the Draft PEIS is forthcoming.

Discussion

- **Community organization member** asked how the impacts of projects such as offshore wind development be considered in this process or addressed retroactively with Tribes.
 - Their community is currently dealing with a solar power project where a power line trenches through an important historic area. There are competing efforts of repatriating human remains and monitoring trenching happening in the same location.
 - Offshore wind has more impacts than are commonly understood, which is of great interest to his Tribal organization.
 - **BOEM staff** responded that BOEM will follow up on how they intend to work these follow-on effects into their process and add it to the Input Status Report.
- **Community organization member** noted that agencies such as BOEM must engage stakeholders to infuse different perspectives as early in the process as possible. Federal agencies seem to bring in stakeholders after key decisions have been made. They added that local community members have specific, critical data and knowledge to contribute at the beginning of the process. Developers and federal agencies must do their due diligence when studying these impacts early in the planning stage.
 - **Community organization member** added that this point is not new. There have been studies around the country analyzing the impacts of offshore wind to communities such as his. He believes those impacts will be devastating.
- **BOEM staff** responded that feedback such as this is critical to providing a strong rationale for convening discussions with EJ communities during the wind energy lease area identification process in the future.

Exploring Pathways for Capacity-Building Mechanisms

Due to timing concerns, this presentation was not delivered. BOEM will follow up on the presentation after the EIJ.

Continued Discussion of Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

BOEM staff shared an overview of potential impacts and mitigation measures to analyze in the PEIS, noting that the potential impacts and mitigations are still being explored. At this stage, BOEM is looking for feedback on the following potential mitigation measures:

- **Communications Plan during Construction and Operations** to demonstrate how lessees will communicate with underserved communities about when and where construction and operations activities will take place and who may be affected by offshore wind activities.
- **Mitigations Resources Plan** to outline an approach for lessees to provide households affected by offshore wind construction and operation with mitigation resources.
- **Compensatory Mitigation Fund** to establish a third-party managed fund that provides grants to households, businesses, and/or community-based organizations directly impacted by development.

Breakout Sessions

The group was divided into four breakout sessions to allow for time to hear individual perspectives on potential impacts and mitigation measures to analyze in the PEIS. This summary's appendix provides the list of participants for each breakout session.

Participants were asked to discuss the following in the breakout sessions:

- Potential impacts from offshore wind activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).
- Potential avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures for impacts from OCS activities.
 - What mitigation measures should be analyzed in the PEIS?
 - What are your thoughts on the concepts BOEM is exploring?
 - Do you think these would be effective at mitigating potential impacts?
 - Is there anything you would change?
 - Is there any duplication with other efforts (e.g., State procurement, other Federal activities)?
 - What coordination would be needed to ensure effectiveness?
 - How could they be enforced or monitored?

Breakout Session 1: Community-based Organizations and Indigenous Peoples

Coordinating Community-Driven Public Engagement

- **Community organization member** shared that while early engagement is worthwhile, mitigation is difficult because impacts cannot be identified early on. They encouraged BOEM to consider models that are already in place and trust experts. Contractors have a vested interest in a particular outcome. Communities need assistance from regulators to understand potential impacts to relatives past, present, and future.
 - **Community organization member** agreed, reiterating that BOEM is critical in this process. Community members do not believe they can trust developers. BOEM is the most powerful entity that can provide equity and ensure offshore wind development is pursued responsibly.
- **Community organization member** encouraged BOEM to solicit data and studies from multiple researchers to avoid bias in data collection. Regulatory agencies should make a concerted effort to use data from Black and Brown and Indigenous scientists. BOEM needs to connect with people who have connection to the land and water, not only trained scientists. There are people who can share what the effects of development are because they have been seeing it for centuries.

Compensatory Mitigation Funds

- **Community organization member** expressed concern that the compensatory mitigation fund would be used after a community has already been impacted, but they support having policies in place.
 - **Community organization member** agreed and added that they support the compensatory fund for unintended consequences but would also like to mitigate and ensure agencies are doing their due diligence before unintended consequences occur.

Other Comments & Suggestions

- **Community organization member** asked whether studies have been conducted on the number of pollutants off the coast of the Atlantic, or on the impacts of pollutants on waterways near coastal communities. They are concerned about the long-term impacts of dredging up areas, referencing potential increases in diseases.
 - **BOEM** will connect **Community organization member** with a BOEM expert who can respond.
- **Community organization member** suggested that Tribes work with developers to determine mitigation strategies and proactively address the issue of lands being taken away from individuals and Tribes. They noted this specific need for known development sites that interfere with Native American sites and graves. They raised concerns about low frequency sound waves which run circularly around offshore windmills. They are concerned this could create a “no pass zone” for migrating animals.

Breakout Session 2: State Agencies

Establishing Communications Plans

- **State agency member** expressed that the communications plan is a good measure. Stakeholder engagement is a required component of all New York state contracted projects.
 - Because contracted projects in 2023 require strong stakeholder engagement programs with historically marginalized communities and Tribal engagement, there may be synergies between this mitigation measure and New York State requirements.
 - New York State has several standard mitigation measures for related energy and cable projects. BOEM should review the NYSEDA Cable Corridor Draft Assessments Report (expected release in early February 2023), specifically Table 3-22 that identifies mitigation and avoidance measures for environmental justice communities.
- **State agency member** requested that the group remain mindful of the varying definitions of “marginalized communities” for the federal government and the state. Plans should acknowledge the distinction.
- **State agency member** shared that New Jersey EPA is working on mitigation. Similar efforts are underway with the New York and New Jersey Offshore Wind Supply Chain Working Group that BOEM helped establish.

Compensatory Mitigation Funds

- **State agency member** shared that some New York State communities find Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) effective. Specifically, impacted communities that are separate from regulatory review, where cables pass through or where the jurisdiction contains a substation. Discussions with developers can lead to agreement on a package that would offset construction and operation impacts. The EJs could be a good space to share lessons learned about host community benefits agreements.

- The South Fork Wind Host Community Agreement example is publicly available [here](#).
- **State agency member** asked what opportunities are available for environmental justice communities in CBAs. There are issues around transmission upgrades and other clean energy developments where some environmental justice communities may benefit more than others.

Other Comments & Suggestions

- **State agency member** shared that several groups are having the same conversations separately. For example, in conversations with **State agency member** they realized there are overlapping groups discussing mitigations.
 - For example, EJ communities have been having conversations for years about concerns around transparency with developers. There is a disconnect between the information developers are sharing and what EJ communities are interested in hearing.
 - EJFs need to establish the right expectations. Currently, BOEM is not distilling this information in an actionable way for advocates and environmental justice communities.
 - They expressed support for consolidating and coordinating these efforts and co-creating solutions. Examples of individual efforts include:
 - A Coastal Energy State Alliance (CESA) group focused on overburdened communities and impact mitigation.
 - National Renewable Energy Laboratory discussions on the topic.
 - A NJEDA supply chain working group discussing the topic.
 - **State agency member** agreed and added that sharing a learning opportunity for stakeholders in this process could be helpful, for example learning how the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey evaluates facilities and how other States conduct evaluations.

Breakout Session 3: Federal Agencies

Establishing Communications Plans

- **Federal agency member** shared that BOEM could expand communications plans beyond construction and operations, to site characterization activities to map seafloors. Communications plans could be broadened to address these activities.
 - **Federal agency member** agreed and noted that lessees are eager to conduct pre-NEPA activities. These activities are pre-construction and not subject input because there were no communications plans put into place.
- **Federal agency member** noted that lessees already develop plans for communication with agencies, fisheries, and Tribes, but some stakeholder groups are missing.
 - They suggested looking into identifying other impacted groups that could benefit from a communications plan. Communications plans are still new, and activities are still underway.
 - The timeline for Tribal communications plans has been delayed as BOEM works to provide additional guidance to lessees.
- **Federal agency member** asked for information on how previous communications plans have been implemented, to incorporate learnings into future iterations.
 - There are concerns around communications overload with disadvantaged communities. It would be valuable to consider a central communications point. BOEM could consider allowing lessees to establish individual communications forums with the environmental justice communities.

- Communications around monitoring and enforcement activities should be coordinated.

Development of Community Benefits Agreements

- **Federal agency member** asked if BOEM has considered using CBAs within this process.
 - **BOEM staff** noted that this has been discussed internally and noted this as an action item for BOEM to follow-up with participants.

Compensatory Mitigation Funds

- **Federal agency member** expressed interest in better understanding how compensatory mitigation funds for fisheries would overlap with the compensatory mitigation funds for environmental justice communities.
- **Federal agency member** asked BOEM how environmental justice will be ensured in the compensatory mitigation fund, and whether businesses will apply and receive funds, or be required to meet standards to ensure those from underserved/marginalized communities receive benefits that might be distributed to businesses directly.

Other Comments & Suggestions

- **Federal agency member** suggested that it would be helpful to compare mitigation measures across projects to avoid duplication. They suggested comparing NY Bight projects to projects in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
 - **Federal agency member** shared that BSEE took on a similar exercise and learned that prior to implementing a mitigation strategy, it is valuable to understand who is responsible for monitoring and compliance. This ensured efficacy as some mitigation measures fell outside of BSEE’s authority.

Breakout Session 4: Lessees

Potential Mitigation Measures to Analyze in the PEIS

- Lessees generally indicated that the mitigation measures were acceptable.
- **Lessee representative** stated that separating lessees from stakeholders is counterproductive. It is critical for lessees to be aware of what stakeholders need.
 - **Lessee representative** suggested that observing breakout sessions with community members can be helpful to lessees.
 - **BOEM staff** stated that previous meetings had an issue of overrepresentation of agency staff, which led to breakout sessions by sector.
- **Lessee representative** noted that communications with Tribes has been challenging due to a 60-day turn-around period for co-authoring a joint communications plan. Further engagement is needed.

Coordinating Community-Driven Public Engagement

- **Lessee representative** understands that Tribes are tired of “one-off” meetings and expressed a need for more intentional, ongoing engagement. In-person opportunities could allow Tribes to directly ask questions to developers. Developers are interested in addressing issues as early on as possible. Tribes and communities all have varying levels of knowledge about development projects. Sharing potential scenarios with communities is important.
 - **BOEM staff** stated that coordinated communication and outreach efforts are underway.

- **Lessee representative** shared that BOEM, not lessees, needs to do due diligence in communicating with community members about the potential relationship between recent whale deaths and offshore wind and information must be backed by science.
- **Lessee representative** stated that communities need to be engaged earlier in the process. There is tension in the offshore wind community. Outreach to overburdened communities needs to be prioritized. Tribes often find agency and lessee assessments to be inaccurate.

Other Comments & Suggestions

- **Lessee representative** asked if there is a plan to conduct future forums in-person, noting this may help in receiving more transparent input.
 - **BOEM staff** responded BOEM intends to continue with a virtual format but acknowledged there is a growing number of participants requesting an in-person option and will discuss it with the BOEM EJF team.
- **BOEM staff** asked participants to suggest locations for an in-person forum.
 - **Lessee representative** suggested that New York City could be a centrally located option with good transit. However, it could be a challenging commute for Tribes and those in South Jersey.
 - **Lessee representative** expressed concern that New York City could pose a significant challenge for communities in New Jersey and Long Island. Communities that are located outside of central New York City are critical participants. Hosting an event in New York City could create a narrative that insinuates “we are not focused on your community” by making the communities most affected by these issues make the longest commute.

Key Themes Across Breakout Sessions

- Source data and studies from Brown and Black scientists and communities themselves.
- Consider hosting future EJFs in person.
- Avoid duplicating outreach and engagement efforts with state efforts.
- Prioritize engaging environmental justice communities as early in the process as possible.
- Prioritize avoidance over mitigation.
- Allow lessees and states to hear community member input. Don’t break up participants by sector in the breakout sessions.
- Develop better communication channels (and more transparent/ trustworthy) flowing into communities.

5. Process Improvements

The facilitator and BOEM staff invited participants to suggest changes to the next EJF. Suggestions included: Process improvements included the following:

- Participants suggested the group would benefit from having something to “work on” together. So far, BOEM has shared information out, and participants have provided input, but the conversations are not moving forward to meet everyone’s needs. The group should jointly develop something meaningful (e.g., joint study development or CBA sections).
- Lessees and states want to hear from other sectors, not only their own. At the next EJF, they requested all participants remain in the plenary for a group discussion. If breakout sessions are necessary, they requested BOEM ensure sure they include mixed representation.
- Participants requested the EJF use less time for reviewing processes to allow more time for meaningful discussion.

- Participants asked for time to hear from lessees on their activities, and what they've heard and learned through the EJF.
- Participants requested that BOEM include the optional social time in the calendar hold to increase attendance.

Participants were presented with three poll questions for feedback.

Do you have any recommendations for additional community-based organizations to include?

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- No (3)

Are there items you would like to have discussed today that we didn't?

- Understand Marcus's concern about time. Some agency folks like myself are just now being assigned to this meeting and know little about the project, so I appreciate the broad, high level overview of the project, format, and goals.
- No (3)

Was this meeting a good use of your time?

- Yes – 50%
- Yes, mostly – 13%
- Somewhat – 25%
- Mostly no – 13%
- No – 0%

Appendix: Breakout Session Participants

Breakout Session: Community Based Organizations and Indigenous Peoples

Facilitator: Morgan Lommele

Notetaker: Leigh Osterhus

Participants

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Laura Mansfield | BOEM |
| Chloe VanderMolen | BOEM, incoming Knauss Fellow |
| Jeff Bendremer | Stockbridge-Munsee Community |
| Daniel Chu | New York City Environmental Justice Alliance |
| Dennis Coker | Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware |
| Jeremy Dennis | Shinnecock Nation |
| Kelly Dennis | Shinnecock Nation |
| Gwen Gallagher | New York Sea Grant |
| Anastasia Gordon | WE ACT for Environmental Justice |
| Tyrese Gould Jacinto | Native American Advancement Corp |
| Lauren McElroy | University of Waterloo |
| Lovinia Reynolds | UPROSE |
| Alex Rodriguez | Save the Sound |
| Marcus Sibley | National Wildlife Federation |
| Peter Silva | Shinnecock Nation |

Breakout Session: State Agencies

Facilitator: Hannah Silverfine

Notetaker: Mark Anthony Sebarrotin

Participants

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Sara Parkison | BOEM |
| Eric Wolvovsky | BOEM |
| Julia Kortrey | New Jersey Economic Development Authority |
| Jordan Koster | New York State Department of State |
| Tyler Hepner | New York State Department of Environmental Conservation |
| Laura McLean | New York State Department of State |

Breakout Session: Federal Agencies

Facilitator: Briana Moseley

Notetaker: Hanna Khalil

Participants

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Annette Ehrhorn | BOEM |
| Holly Fowler | BOEM |
| Ian Slayton | BOEM |
| Tene Becknell | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement |
| Kathleen Bell | Environmental Protection Agency |
| Jordan Creed | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement |

Matt Cutler

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration Fisheries

Nelle D'Aversa

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration Office for Coastal Management
US Maritime Administration

Karl Ford

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

Jill Head

Environmental Protection Agency

Samantha Nyer

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

Ramona Sanders

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

Tara Shifflett

National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

Angela Silva

US Army Corps of Engineers

Rachel Ward

Breakout Session: Lessees

Facilitator: Kyle Vint

Notetaker: Arpana Nautiyal

Participants

Meghan Cornelison

BOEM

Jacob Wolf

BOEM

Andrea Bonilla

Vineyard Offshore

Eleanor Evans

Environmental Design and Research

Laura George

Vineyard Offshore

Kori Ktona

Bluepoint Wind

Lisa Wood

Bluepoint Wind