



Meeting Summary

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CT

I. Introduction

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) convened its fourth Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force (Task Force) Meeting on April 11, 2023. The meeting was held remotely via webinar using the Zoom webinar platform. Task Force participants included representatives from federal and state agencies, tribal nations, and local governments. Participating members of the public included representatives from industry, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and non-federally recognized tribes. Approximately 83 Task Force members and 191 members of the public attended.

The meeting's objectives were to:

- Facilitate coordination and consultation among federal, state, local, and tribal governments regarding offshore wind energy and the renewable energy leasing process on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Provide an overview and seek in-depth feedback on the Proposed Sale Notice and related auction format.
- Provide opportunities for public input on the topics being considered by the Task Force.

Recordings of the meeting proceedings along with each meeting presentation are available [on BOEM's website for renewable energy activities](#).

The meeting consisted of presentations on the Gulf of Mexico Renewable Energy Proposed Sale Notice and auction format and lease terms, Task Force members sharing updates related to offshore wind energy in the Gulf of Mexico and multiple opportunities for Task Force members to clarify questions and discussion. A public input opportunity followed the close of the formal Task Force meeting. The meeting agenda is available in Appendix A.

This meeting summary document summarizes key outcomes and the next steps from the meeting. It is not intended to be a detailed transcript. It focuses on discussions and Task Force members input shared rather than the formal presentations made. The meeting was facilitated by Kearns & West.

This meeting summary is organized into the following sections:

- I. Introduction
- II. Task Force Discussion Highlights
 - A. Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Task Force Meeting Overview
 - B. Discussion of the GOM Renewable Energy Proposed Sale Notice
 - C. Task Force Discussion of the Auction Format and Lease Terms

- D. Task Force Member Updates
- E. Next Steps and Closing Remarks
- III. Public Input Opportunity
- IV. Appendices
 - A. Agenda
 - B. Task Force Meeting Participation List

II. Task Force Discussion Highlights

A. Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Task Force Meeting Overview

1. Eric Poncelet, Facilitator, Kearns & West. Eric Poncelet welcomed participants to the fourth Task Force Meeting. Poncelet began the meeting by acknowledging the importance of Tribal Nations in the development of offshore renewable energy in the Gulf of Mexico region, noting that BOEM respects tribal sovereignty and self-governance and will continue to engage federally recognized tribes through government-to-government consultations.

2. Dr. James Kendall, Regional Director, BOEM Gulf of Mexico Region. Dr. James Kendall welcomed the meeting attendees and noted that BOEM is the federal agency within the United States Department of Interior (DOI) that manages energy and mineral resource development on the outer continental shelf (OCS). BOEM is the lead agency that oversees the offshore wind energy development. Dr. Kendall reviewed the purpose of the meeting, which was to update Task Force members on offshore wind energy planning activities and to discuss next steps in the BOEM leasing process, including the recently announced proposal for the first ever offshore wind lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. Kendall said that BOEM identified three areas with potential for leasing, called Lake Charles, Galveston 1, and Galveston 2 areas. The areas combined have the potential to produce enough clean energy to power nearly 1.3 million homes. The proposed sale is part of the DOI strategy to increase responsible, renewable energy development on public lands and offshore waters. The Biden Administration is committed to a target of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030, which would also create nearly 80,000 jobs. Dr. Kendall shared that BOEM has published the Proposed Sale Notice for the three lease areas; the public comment period ends on April 25, 2023.

Dr. Kendall closed by noting that the Gulf of Mexico is well positioned for a transition into a renewable energy offshore future. The region has directly supported the development of offshore oil and gas for the last 70 years, providing the expertise, experience, talent, and infrastructure needed to allow offshore wind to thrive in the Gulf of Mexico. Developing a secure source of clean, renewable energy is needed to combat climate change, strengthen national security, and create good paying jobs.

3. Task Force Meeting Overview. Mr. Poncelet reviewed the meeting's structure, webinar instructions, agenda, and then introduced the meeting conveners and Task Force members, which included representatives from BOEM, elected officials and representatives, tribal nations, state and federal agencies, and local government officials from the Gulf of Mexico region. The Task Force meeting participant list is available in Appendix B. The full Task Force member roster is available [on BOEM's website for renewable energy activities](#).

B. Presentation of the Gulf of Mexico Renewable Energy Proposed Sale Notice

1. *Idrissa Boube, BOEM Program Analyst and Gulf of Mexico Task Force Coordinator.* Idrissa Boube presented an overview of the Gulf of Mexico Renewable Energy Proposed Sale Notice. Boube explained that the Proposed Sale Notice was available for public comment until April 25, 2023. The auctions are scheduled for summer or fall of 2023. The Proposed Sale Notice describes BOEM's proposed areas available for leasing, stipulations of a lease, bidding credits, auction format and procedures, and process for issuing a lease. The Proposed Sale Notice also includes specific questions on which BOEM is seeking feedback. The Proposed Sale Notice is packaged with proposed lease instruments and overview maps for the three lease areas, qualification guidelines, electronic fund transfer (EFT) payment instructions, and bidder's financial form and financial form addendum.

Boube gave a brief overview of the three proposed lease areas. The Lake Charles and Galveston 1 areas are both 102,480 acres and the Galveston II area is 96,786. The Galveston 1 area has some potential Significant Sediment Resource Areas. BOEM is seeking feedback on which two of the three proposed lease areas will be included in the Final Sale Notice, unless BOEM receives enough comments that all three lease areas should be included.

Boube explained the proposed bidding credits. The first credit is a 20 percent non-monetary bid credit for a contribution to workforce training and supply chain development. The second credit is a 10 percent non-monetary bid credit for a contribution to a Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Mitigation Fund. This Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Mitigation Fund is proposed to be regional in scope, and BOEM expects funds will be available to compensate fishing mitigations in future lease areas where greater fishing conflicts are expected. The fund will also promote participation of fishers and fishing communities in the project development process and research into the coexistence of multiple ocean industries. Money from the fund can also be used to offset the cost of gear upgrades and transitions for operating within a wind farm. The bid credit commitment and provisional auction results will be reviewed and certified by a three-person BOEM panel that includes a State of Louisiana attorney advisor.

Boube gave information on the proposed auction format and feedback that BOEM is requesting. If three lease areas are offered, and a bidder is allowed to win a lease in both the Galveston and Lake Charles areas, BOEM may hold two simultaneous auctions. If only two lease areas are offered, BOEM is proposing a single auction. The auction will follow the traditional ascending clock auction format used in recent OCS wind leases. BOEM would like feedback on whether it should hold a single auction and offer all lease areas, or two simultaneous auctions and allow bidders to win one lease each in the Galveston and Lake Charles areas.

Boube reviewed the lease summary, noting that the lessee will be required to submit to BOEM for approval a Site Assessment Plan (SAP) and Construction and Operations Plan (COP) for a wind energy project. A lease does not, by itself, authorize any activity within the leased area. Plans are subject to subsequent environmental, technical, and public reviews prior to BOEM decision on whether to approve the plans. BOEM can approve, approve with modifications, or not approve an SAP or COP. The following lease duration terms apply: preliminary term (1 year), site assessment term (5 years), and operations term (33 years).

Boube concluded by noting that BOEM is requesting feedback specifically for the following:

- Number, size, orientation, and location of the proposed lease areas
- Engaging underserved communities
- Bidding credits

- Limits on the number of lease areas per bidder
- Definition of “affiliated entities”
- Engagement and reporting
- Project layout considerations
- Measures to facilitate vessel transit

C. Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Leasing in the GOM – Auction Format and Lease Terms

1. *Josh Gange, BOEM Office of Renewable Energy Programs.* Josh Gange presented on the auction format and lease terms. The next step after the Proposed Sale Notice public comment period is the issuance of the Final Sale Notice. It will incorporate the feedback from the comment period and note any changes in the Proposed Sale Notice. It will also list all eligible bidders. There is a minimum of 30 days from the publication of the Final Sale Notice to the auction.

Gange listed the steps before the auction. All potential bidders are required to submit a bidder financial form. The bidder financial form provides points of contact, specifies who is able to bid on behalf of the company, provides payment information, and identifies any company affiliations with other companies. The bidder's financial form is also used to identify how a bidder would qualify for any credit or credits. Bidders wishing to qualify are also required to pay a bid deposit. BOEM will then hold a mock auction for qualified bidders and answer any questions they may have about the process.

Gange explained the details of the live auction. In the live auction, BOEM lists an asking price for each lease area. The bidders then confirm whether they are willing to pay the asking price. If there is competition for a lease area, subsequent rounds will occur with an asking price of increasing value until there's one winner for each area. Throughout the auction, BOEM will periodically update their website to reflect the activity in the auction. At the conclusion of the auction, BOEM will convene the panel to confirm the results of the auction and declare provisional winners for each area. BOEM sends the results of the auction to the Department of Justice for an antitrust review, which can last up to 30 days. If the Department of Justice identifies no issues, the leases are then sent to the winners for execution and the provisional winners are required to pay the balance of the bid price, review the terms and conditions of the lease, and file required financial assurance.

2. *Marty Heinze, Chief, Leasing Economics Coordination Branch, BOEM Office of Strategic Resources.* Marty Heinze gave an overview of the bidding credits. Heinze noted that BOEM has offered bidding credits similar to those proposed in the Gulf of Mexico sale before in other regions of the country. Bidders may receive a bidding credit in exchange for committing to make a qualifying monetary contribution to programs or initiatives supporting offshore wind for the two types of credits listed in Idrissa Boube's presentation. Bidders must submit a bidding credit conceptual strategy with the Bidders Financial Form. The bidder's conceptual strategy will be reviewed by a BOEM Auction Panel for compliance with the bidding credit requirements. The Conceptual Strategy must do the following:

- Demonstrate the bidder will commit to workforce training and offshore wind supply chain contributions, and/or a contribution to a Gulf of Mexico Fishing Mitigation Fund as described in the lease and bidder financial form addendum.
- Explain how the lessee will select contribution recipients or partners that will support the purpose of the bidding credit(s).

Heinze gave more detail on the 20% non-monetary bid credit for a contribution to workforce training and supply chain development. This credit incentivizes lessees to make investments in workforce training and/or supply chain development that would be unlikely absent the bidding credit provisions. Workforce training programs are intended for skills needed to support offshore wind manufacturing, assembly, construction, or operations. They are not intended for other educational or research purposes. Supply chain efforts are intended to support offshore wind supply chain development through assistance to component suppliers. They can also support such things as bonding reserve fund, equipment upgrades, or component certification expenses.

Heinze provided details on the 10 percent non-monetary bid credit for a contribution to a Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Mitigation Fund. The credit is meant to help minimize potential negative economic impacts on commercial fisheries and provide assurance to fishing stakeholders that compensatory mitigation will be available for lost income and gear loss. The fisheries compensatory mitigation fund must be independently managed by a third party and designed with fiduciary governance and strong internal controls while minimizing administrative expenses. The fund's first priority is to compensate for gear loss or damage and income loss, but excess funds can be used to promote participation of fishers and fishing communities in the project development process or research into the coexistence of multiple ocean industries and help offset the cost of gear upgrades for operating within a wind farm.

D. Task Force Questions and Comments on the Proposed Sale Notice

Activities within the Lease Areas

- *Question:* What will be the access and transport rules in and around the lease areas?
 - *Response:* This has not been determined yet. In leases in the Atlantic Ocean, there are no restrictions or buffer zones. There may be restrictions during construction, but no anticipated restrictions during operations.
- *Question:* Will artificial reefing and other sea floor-based activities be allowed within the lease areas?
 - *Response:* BOEM will check with the policy group to answer that question.
- *Comment:* The U.S. Coast Guard provided information on automatic identification system (AIS) data collected to illustrate tank vessel ship-to-ship lightering operations that occur in the proposed Galveston lease areas. Shipping industry stakeholders provided comments as well that were used to determine the proposed lease areas.
 - *Response:* BOEM used the data provided by the U.S. Coast Guard and the shipping industry to create the proposed lease areas. BOEM will continue to work closely with the U.S. Coast Guard and industry stakeholders.

Oversight and Accountability

- *Question:* What review will the state have of the COP and SAP phase?
 - *Response:* Most likely there will be some consultation. States will also have the opportunity to review draft environmental analysis documents.
- *Question:* What prerequisites are there for lessees to enter the bidding process, and what financial assurances do they have to provide?
 - *Response:* A \$100,000 bond must be secured prior to lease issuance. Decommissioning supplemental financial assurance is also required at the same time as the site assessment plan and the construction operations plan. The primary liability is decommissioning. BOEM has evaluated phased bonding for decommissioning of offshore wind in the Atlantic.

- *Question:* Does BOEM have any guidance on commenting on the Proposed Sale Notice in conjunction with the Renewable Energy Modernization Rule?
 - *Response:* BOEM advises the public to send comments to each docket separately.

Bidding Credits

- *Question:* The Louisiana Governor's office is supportive of credits for fisheries as well as workforce and supply chain. Are there any opportunities to expand the credits to apply to other categories such as coastal and ecosystem restoration?
 - *Response:* BOEM has not proposed any other bidding credit. BOEM has to offer bidding credits that relate to its statutory mandates in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA). BOEM can't speculate if restoration work can be interpreted as part of that. BOEM's mission as part of the OCSLA is furthering energy development on the OCS, and so bidding credits must be linked to that mission. Also, BOEM is not seeking to have bidding credits exceeding 25 percent of the bid value to keep auctions competitive and have the cash component facilitate competition between bidders.
- *Comment:* Bidding credits have potential, especially if expanded to support things like the large-scale surveys that underpin marine spatial planning.
- *Question:* Will there be an administrative body to oversee the bidding credit activities and ensure things like equity, environmental justice, and fisheries are compensated appropriately?
 - *Response:* BOEM requires lessees to compensate losses during surveys, but the fund does not have to be set up until much later in the process. Most likely, it will be based on a time-frame of a typical lease development of 5 to 7 years. BOEM is not specifying a governance structure. BOEM would like to specify a fiduciary independent control framework. BOEM will not have an ongoing oversight or participatory role for this fund. So that is why BOEM is interested in comments on what should be specified for the fiduciary administrative component of this fund.
- *Comment:* There have been a couple of these type of arrangements set up in the Gulf of Mexico: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has served as an administrator of funds like this. There are models of good structures involving an agency that has accountability and independence. The process of identifying this oversight should start early so a clear process can be articulated.

Siting Process

- *Comment:* The siting process was used to identify vulnerable areas for protective species like Rice's whales and leatherback turtles. BOEM should continue to use the siting process that looks at factor like this.

Potential Impacts

- *Question:* When will transmission and near-shore impacts be examined? Will this be included in the environmental assessment that state agencies will be able to review?
 - *Response:* Leases will come with one or more non-competitive easements for transmission. BOEM does not regulate the purchase of the power, so the state agency is instrumental in determining the location of landfall and the interconnection. The lessee would arrange a power purchase agreement as a project is proposed. Then the lessee would propose a potential easement. Survey work would be done to evaluate route options, and then there may be a product design envelope proposing a few different easement options based on where the

power eventually needs to go. This would be incorporated into the construction and operation plan within an NEPA process in which state agencies are often cooperating agencies. The state has jurisdiction in state waters.

E. Task Force Member Updates

Poncelet invited Task Force members to provide updates on the topic of offshore wind energy in the Gulf of Mexico. Four formal updates were shared. This was followed by a period of discussion and clarifying questions.

1. Christy Lan, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). Christy Lan gave an overview of BSEE's role in offshore wind development. Lan explained that the Split Rule was published in the Federal Register in January 2023. The Split Rule transferred certain safety and environmental oversight, compliance, and enforcement regulations from BOEM to BSSE, but with no substantial changes to the regulations. As the offshore wind planning process moves from identification and leasing to operation, BSSE's role becomes larger, but it also has responsibility early in the process. A major shift of responsibility occurs after BOEM makes its decision on COP approval. After this, BSSE will review and accept or reject the Facility Design Report (FDR) and Fabrication and Installation Report (FIR). BSSE's responsibility then increases through installation, commissioning, operations, and decommissioning.

Lan said that since there were no substantive changes to the regulations and BOEM and BSSE have been working collaboratively for a while, there should be very little impact to the industry. BSSE is currently preparing by developing a compliance assurance strategy, standard operating procedures for BSSE's program and shared agreements with BOEM and other agencies, and guidance for the industry including FDR/FIR review and Certified Verification Agency (CVA) oversight. BSSE is also rolling out TIMS web, an internet-based submission system where industry can submit reports and other documents.

2. Jacob Aulner, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). Jacob Aulner noted that the USCG has published a notice of study on the federal register for their intent to conduct a Port Access Route Study (PARS) on the approaches to Galveston Bay and areas of Louisiana. The study is an evaluation of the adequacy of its existing vessel routing measures throughout the Gulf of Mexico. USCG is requesting feedback from the public and all maritime stakeholders to determine whether additional vessel routing measures are necessary. USCG is open to feedback on all types of vessel traffic and activities, as well as specifically in relationship to the proposed offshore wind energy activities in the Gulf of Mexico. The study typically takes one to two years. USCG will take into consideration offshore renewable energy leasing and development, vessel traffic frequency and patterns, commercial vessel lightering operations, and commercial and recreational fishing operations.

Aulner noted that in accordance with USCG authority and jurisdiction, BOEM's proposed lease areas adequately avoid designated fairways already in existence and avoid the recommended two-nautical mile setback from designated fairways. The USCG provided comments to BOEM regarding lightering operations in the proposed lease areas and recommends that BOEM continue to engage the region's offshore lightering stakeholders and evaluate potential impacts to inform proposed leasing decisions.

3. Andy Strelcheck and John Walter, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Strelcheck provided an overview of the comments NOAA would be providing on the Proposed Sale

Notice. Strelcheck noted that NOAA's comments would focus on NOAA's trust resources and mandates, habitat considerations, stakeholder engagement, equity and environmental justice, and scientific surveys and adaptive management. John Walters added that NOAA is recommending that BOEM move from static to dynamic marine spatial planning, continue large-scale survey monitoring, and extend bidding credits to allow for the development of science that supports the development of the blue economy.

4. Maya Whalen-Kipp, Department of Energy (DOE). Maya Whalen-Kipp announced that the DOE Offshore Wind Strategy was released two weeks ago. This strategy includes four pillars focused on fixed-bottom, floating offshore wind, transmission, and expanding co-generation technologies. In February, as part of this strategy, the DOE co-released the Floating Offshore Wind Shot that seeks to reduce the cost of floating offshore wind by more than 70%. Two weeks ago, the DOE released a Notice of Intent to issue a funding opportunity for Centers of Excellence, which will fund a university consortium to conduct research and educate our next generation of offshore wind workforce. Finally, DOE is reviewing research applications for its BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) Funding Opportunity, which includes several topic areas around offshore wind, including \$9.7 million for High-Voltage Direct Current for Offshore Wind Transmission studies and \$6.9 million for Offshore Wind Energy Social Science Research.

5. Task Force Member Comments and Discussion

Vessel Traffic Study

- *Comment:* BOEM is interested in the vessel traffic study and would like to partner with USCG.

Dynamic Spatial Mapping and Survey Monitoring

- *Comment:* Dynamic spatial mapping is an excellent goal but may be difficult to achieve. Industry stakeholders might ask about equity and planning in mitigation. The burden is often placed on BOEM, BSEE, and the fishing industry, instead of asking what other industries could do upfront.
- *Comment:* Industries probably feel they are quite heavily regulated in terms of protected species. New industries are often concerned that they will be blamed for impacts. Science has an important role in informing what potential impacts are. This is why continued monitoring is important.

Task Force

- *Question:* Will there be another Task Force meeting before the final sale notice is released to learn about the changes made to the PSN based on Task Force member input?
 - There are no Task Force meetings currently planned, but BOEM will discuss this.

E. Next Steps and Closing Remarks

Boube highlighted key next steps in the process. In the next few months, the Final Environmental Assessment will be finalized, and the Final Sale Notice will be published. A mock auction and the lease sale itself will take place in summer or fall of 2023. Kendall provided closing remarks and thanked everyone for attending. He said that this was an exciting time. The Gulf of Mexico is a super energy, multiple-use basin, and all have to work together. Offshore wind development is just one component of what's going on withing the Gulf, and it is forums like this Task Force meeting that help bring all the information together.

III. Public Input Opportunity

Poncelet invited participating members of the public to share questions or comments on all topics covered during the Task Force meeting. Questions and comments were shared orally or via the Q&A function of Zoom and read aloud. A recap of this discussion, organized by major theme, is provided below.

Environmental Impacts

- Are there any anticipated time-of-year restrictions for construction in the Gulf of Mexico during marine mammals, fish or avian migrations?
 - Time-of-year restrictions for construction and operations will be determined in consultation with other federal agencies after we receive construction and operation plans. While BOEM is routinely working closely with other federal partners informally, formal consultations will take place on those proposed activities. That could be 3-5 years after a lease is awarded.
- What kind of biological research will be conducted in association with the leases? Will this be for just the lease area, or will it include any potential impacts of transmission lines to fish and other organisms (i.e., will there be noise impacts/will potential noise impacts be evaluated)?
 - BOEM will do the environmental analysis using the best available science and consult with federal and state partners to determine if there are potential impacts and what conditions of approval may be required for ongoing research. BOEM has a long-running environmental studies program on the OCS. That will all be supplemented by the monitoring and survey requirements that are imposed on lessees before they can develop their construction and operation plans. BOEM will use all this information to do thorough environmental analysis to determine any potential impacts.
- How will BOEM and BSEE be incorporating NOAA's recommendations regarding dynamic management and adaptive monitoring, and what safeguards will they put in place to mitigate impacts to wildlife. When will observers be present, and will they be independent?
 - BOEM will analyze NOAA's comments and consider them for incorporation into the Final Sale Notice. One can see how BOEM has incorporated comments in the past by examining the incorporation of comments provided through the NEPA process for projects in the Atlantic. BOEM has had some agency consultations and is starting to incorporate some of those recommendations into mitigations or best management practices. The lease documents will have lease stipulations, and those will refer back to the best management practices. This means that even for the site assessment and site characterization phase, there will be some mitigations in place to avoid impacts to habitat.
 - BSEE enforces the terms and conditions of BOEM's COP approval and leases. The consultations that BOEM conducts are incorporated into those terms and conditions. So, the two agencies are partners in ensuring that the lessee lives up to the requirements and the mitigations included in those terms and conditions.
 - From NOAA's perspective, it is important to survey the animal populations across the entire Gulf of Mexico. The offshore wind developers will have to survey within the lease area, but that's not as useful for understanding animal populations. We need to know where species are, and, if they move somewhere else, whether they will be more vulnerable. Supporting large-scale surveys throughout the leasing process would benefit everyone. If something happens to a protected species, often it is fisheries who are impacted as well. They would be the ones who were feeling the pain if a species

declines. Fisheries want to ensure that they are not the ones that are going to be heavily restricted.

Auction and Lease Sale

- Why is BOEM considering having a separate lease sale for each region?
 - BOEM asks several different questions in the Proposed Sale Notice about whether BOEM should limit bidders to one lease area, one lease in each of the two regions, or whether it should offer all three possible lease areas. Some of those questions are asked due to the auction software restrictions. If BOEM offers three lease areas, it cannot restrict bidders to winning two areas in two different regions. So, because of the software limitations, if BOEM offers three lease areas in two regions and a bidder can win one lease area in two regions, BOEM needs to hold two simultaneous auctions.
- When will the auction occur and lease sales be finalized?
 - The auction will likely be held in late summer or early fall of 2023. The lease sales will be finalized after the auction.

Tribal Consultation

- How is BOEM engaging with tribal governments to ensure that historic sites are not disturbed by this project?
 - For the leasing and site characterization activities, BOEM initiated Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act last summer with state and federally recognized tribes. Each of the next stages, such as site assessment, planning, or the COP, would trigger another round of Section 106 consultation. Cultural resources surveys would take place before any seabed disturbance. BOEM encourages Tribal members to submit comments on the Proposed Sale Notice and will be back in touch when Section 106 is reinitiated.
 - Can BOEM confirm whether the United Houma Nation was contacted for Section 106 consultation.
 - BOEM believes a letter was sent to the United Houma Nation initiating Section 106 consultation. BOEM will investigate further and follow up.

Engagement

- What is BOEM's definition of an underserved community, and would BOEM be welcome to expanding that definition? How does that relate to the Justice40 initiative?
 - “Underserved” is not a BOEM definition. There are a number of sources of information that drive BOEM’s approach, such as the equity-related terms defined in executive branch documents. BOEM is open to expanding its understanding of those definitions. BOEM is engaging with experts and non-governmental organizations to learn how to do meaningful engagement in underserved communities.
- Is BOEM evaluating bidders’ history in environmental activities and engagement with environmental justice communities?
 - BOEM only evaluates lessees on their legal, financial, and technical qualifications. BOEM does not investigate bidders’ history relating to those other topics.

Bidding Credits

- Please re-state BOEM’s mandate and explain how this mandate relates to bidding credits for fisheries compensation.
 - OCLSA charges BOEM with expeditious and orderly development of energy on OCS lands. There is also a section of OCLSA that talks about other ocean users and references

fishing as an impacted use. Additionally, BOEM has a responsibility for safe operation that connects to supporting workforce training and development.

- What happens if a developer does not deliver on plans submitted for the bidding credits?
 - If a developer does not meet the requirements of the bid credit, they will have to pay the general treasury the amount of the bid credit plus interest. That interest rate is determined by the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

Permitting Frameworks

- Has there been any progress in permitting frameworks for either Louisiana or Texas?
 - Not yet; that will be addressed in the site assessment and construction phase.

IV. Appendices

A. Agenda



Agenda

Gulf of Mexico Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting #4

April 11, 2023

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM CT

**Registration is required for members of the public to attend the Task Force meeting.*

Register here: <https://kearnswest.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsd-GrqDwrHtcekgYvFMtS-w9XdCsn4VD9>

Meeting Purpose and Objectives

- Overall purpose: Facilitate coordination and consultation among federal, state, local, and tribal governments regarding offshore wind energy and the renewable energy leasing process on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM).
- Provide an overview and seek in-depth feedback on the Proposed Sale Notice and related auction format.
- Provide opportunities for public input on the topics being considered by the Task Force.

Time (CT)	Item	
8:30 a.m.	Join the Webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for Task Force members and the public to log into the virtual platform and get technical support as needed 	
9:00 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. James Kendall, Regional Director, BOEM Gulf of Mexico Region
9:10 a.m.	Task Force Meeting Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar instructions & guidance • Task Force introductions • Agenda review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Poncelet, Facilitator, Kearns & West
9:25 a.m.	Presentation of the GOM Renewable Energy Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Draft GOM Renewable Energy PSN Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Leasing in the GOM – Auction Format and Lease Terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Auction Format and Lease Terms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idrissa Boube, BOEM; Marty Heinze, BOEM • Marty Heinze, BOEM; Josh Gange, BOEM
10:00 a.m.	Task Force – Questions and Comments on the Proposed Sale Notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force Members
10:35 a.m.	Break	
10:50 a.m.	Task Force Member Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) • U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) • National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries) • Other Task Force member updates, clarifying questions, and discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christy Lan, BSEE • Jacob Aulner, USCG • Brian Rosegger, NOAA Fisheries • Task Force Members

Summary – April 11, 2023, Gulf of Mexico Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting



Time (CT)	Item
11:50 a.m.	Next Steps and Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idrissa Boube, BOEM • Dr. James Kendall, BOEM
<i>11:55 a.m.</i>	<i>Task Force Meeting Adjourns</i>
12:00 p.m.	Public Input Opportunity and Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for public input on topics under Task Force discussion
1:00 p.m.	<i>Adjourn</i>

B. Task Force Member Participant List

Task Force members are noted alphabetically by organization or agency.

U.S. Elected Officials & Representatives

1. Andrew David – U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Congressman Clay Higgins (LA-03)
2. James Shea – U.S. Senate, Office of Senator John Kennedy

Tribal Governments

1. Early Barnaby Jr – Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
2. Roy Holloman – Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

State of Alabama

1. Chris Blankenship - Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

State of Louisiana

1. Chett Chiasson – Greater Lafourche Port (Port Fourchon)
2. Brad Lambert – Louisiana Economic Development
3. Harry Vorhoff – Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
4. Joe Orgeron – Louisiana House of Representatives (District 54)
5. Joseph Breaux – Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
6. Denise Bennett - Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
7. Cheston Hill – Louisiana Division of Administration, Office of State Lands
8. Thomas Harris – Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
9. Mark Hogan – DNR
10. Jason Lanclos – DNR
11. Charles Reulet – DNR
12. Brandon Frey – Louisiana Public Service Commission
13. Helena Moreno – New Orleans City Council
14. Richert Self – Port of Lake Charles

State of Mississippi

1. Krystal Rudolph – Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality MDEQ
2. Chris Sanders – MDEQ
3. Willa Brantley – Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)
4. Joe Spraggins – MDMR

State of Texas

1. Jacquelyn Boutwell – Texas General Land Office (TXGLO)
2. Jeff Burroughs – TXGLO
3. Kevin Frenzel – TXGLO
4. David Green – TXGLO
5. Robert Hatter – TXGLO
6. Julie McEntire – TXGLO
7. Alan McWilliams – TXGLO
8. Melissa Porter – TXGLO
9. Matthew Scott – TXGLO
10. Melissa Smuck – TXGLO
11. Tony Williams – TXGLO

12. Emma Clarkson – Texas Parks and Wildlife
13. Laura Zebehazy – Texas Parks and Wildlife

Federal Agencies

1. Christopher Daniel – Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
2. David Saunders – Bureau of Indian Affairs
3. Steven Sample – Department of Defense
4. Maya Whalen-Kipp – Department of Energy
5. Shaikh Taimur – Environmental Protection Agency
6. Robert Fares – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission FERC
7. Cori Carraway – Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC) Agencies
8. Danny Wiegand – (FPISC) Agencies
9. Vicki Cornish – Marine Mammal Commission
10. David Dale – National Marine Fisheries Service
11. Jonathon Jossart – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
12. Alyssa Randall – NOAA
13. Kristin Ransom – NOAA
14. Brian Rosegger – NOAA
15. Noah Silverman – NOAA
16. Aileen Smith – NOAA
17. Andrew Strelcheck – NOAA
18. John Walter – NOAA
19. Dusty Pate – National Park Service
20. Katherine Taylor – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Galveston District
21. David Diamond – U.S. Geological Survey
22. Dave Soileau – USACE, New Orleans District
23. Jacob Aulner – U.S. Coast Guard
24. Shawn Danoff – U.S. Department of Transportation
25. Dawn Gardiner – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
26. Nida Holliday – USFWS
27. Kirsten McDonnell – USFWS
28. Kevin Reynolds – USFWS
29. Marty Tuegel – USFWS
30. Christine Willis – USFWS
31. Prianka Sharma – U.S. Small Business Administration