



BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force

May 10-11, 2023

Bangor, Maine

Gulf of Maine Task Force – May 2023

Meeting Objective:

Facilitate coordination, consultation, and information sharing



Gulf of Maine Task Force – May 2023

Day 1

Workshop – Key
Topics for OSW in
the Gulf of Maine

Day 2

Next Steps in the
Leasing Process in
the Gulf of Maine

Opportunities for Public Input Both Days



Gulf of Maine Task Force – May 2023

Our Agenda Today

Morning

Opening BOEM Presentation

Tribal Perspectives

State Perspectives

Take advantage of the poster session during breaks and after the meeting!

Afternoon

Task Force Discussion

Research Lease Application

US Coast Guard

Public Input Opportunity

Engagement Opportunities /
Next Steps

Two moments of public input!



Gulf of Maine Task Force – May 2023

Ways to participate

Task Force Members

- Ask questions or provide comments verbally
- Participate in table discussions
- Provide written comments using paper comment form or online
- Talk with BOEM staff & others during poster sessions

Members of the public

- Submit written questions to presenters (use the notecards)
- Participate in the Public Input Opportunities
- Provide written comments using paper comment form or online
- Talk with BOEM staff & others during poster sessions



Gulf of Maine Task Force – May 2023

Meeting Guidelines

- Share the floor
 - We're a big group! Please be concise when speaking.
- Respect different views
 - It's OK to bring different perspectives. Show others the respect you'd want people to show you.





BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

Commercial Wind Leasing Process in the Gulf of Maine

May 11, 2023

Seth Theuerkauf, Project Coordinator

Presentation Topics

- BOEM Planning & Leasing Process
- Gulf of Maine Commercial Planning
- Call for Information & Nominations
- Path to Wind Energy Areas and Timeline
- *NOAA NCCOS Presentation*



Clarifying Ongoing Gulf of Maine Planning Efforts

Planning Process in the Gulf of Maine



Commercial Track

Request For Interest (RFI)

Non-Competitive Leasing Process: Commercial Lease



Request For Competitive Interest (RFCI)

Non-Competitive Leasing Process: Research Lease

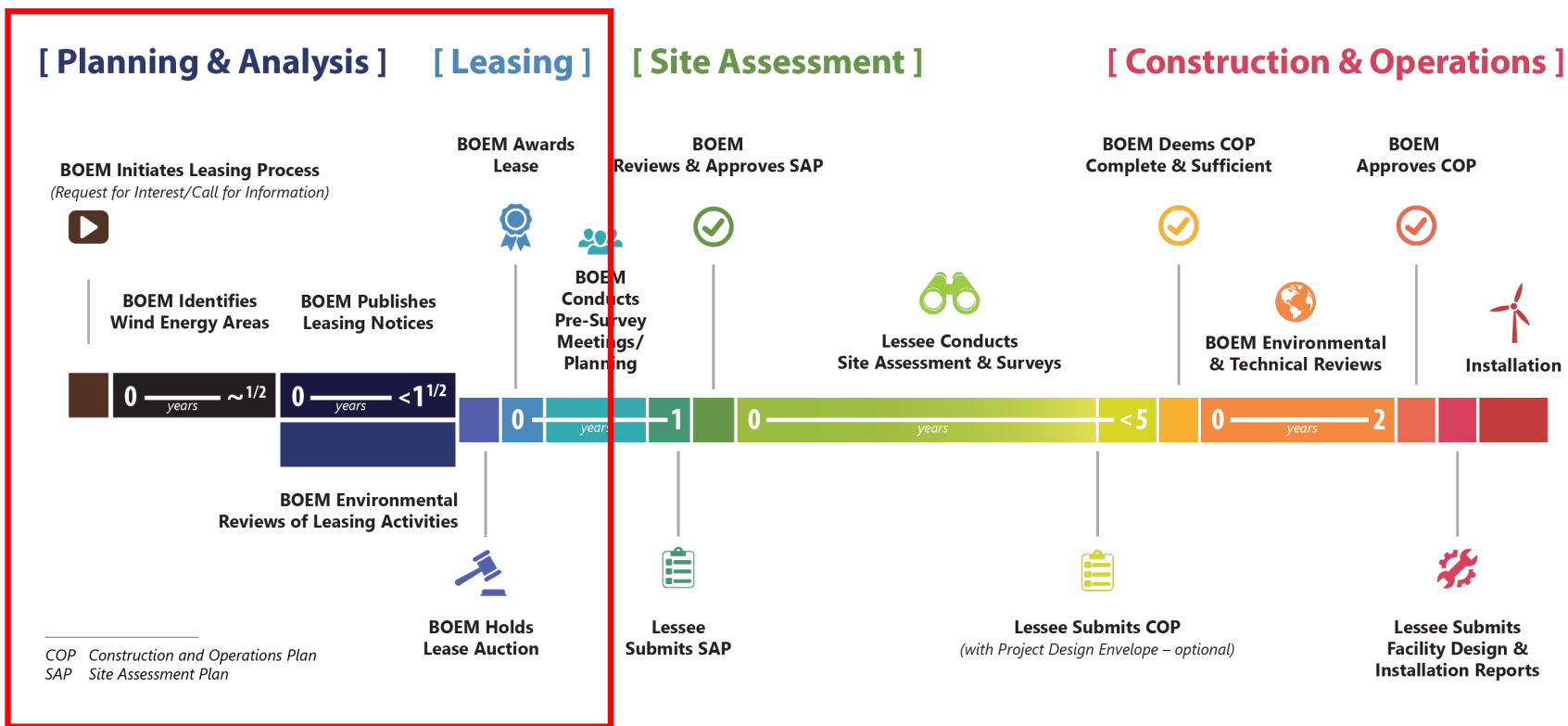
Research Track

Join this afternoon's Research Lease Application session

May 2023



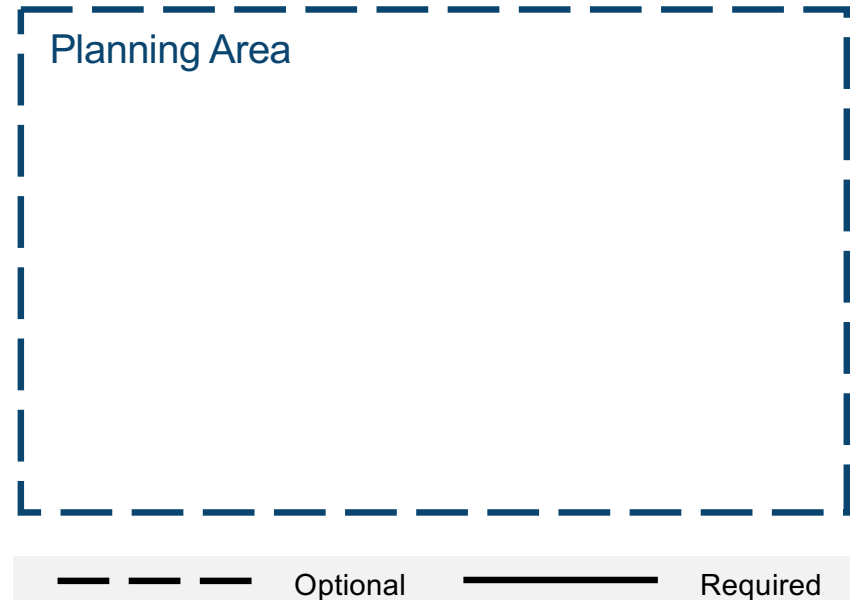
Renewable Energy Authorization Process



BOEM Renewable Energy Planning Process: *Planning Area*



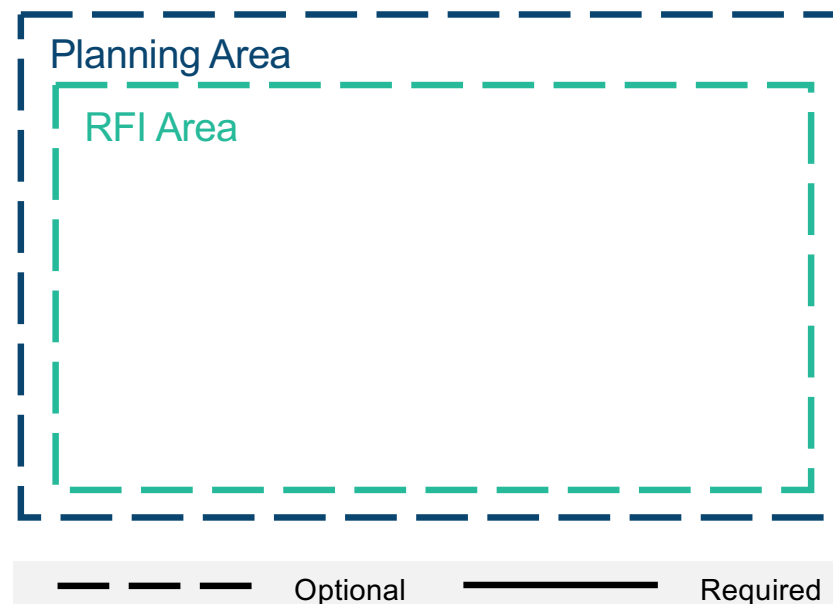
- High-level screening
- Initial identification of areas that may be suitable for potential offshore wind development



BOEM Renewable Energy Planning Process: *Request for Interest*



- Collect information to determine the level of interest in offshore wind leasing
- Shed more light on suitability of area for wind development

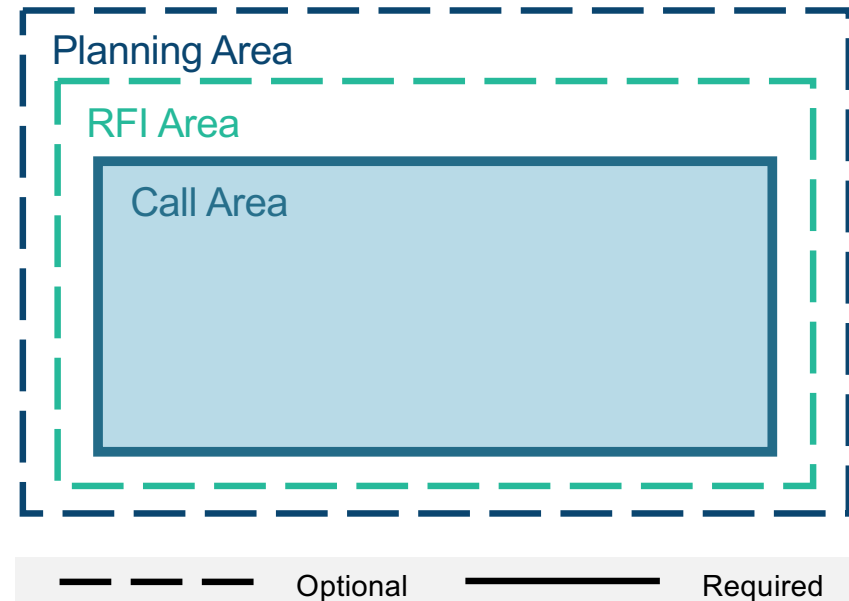


BOEM Renewable Energy Planning Process: *Call for Information and Nominations*



Request comments on:

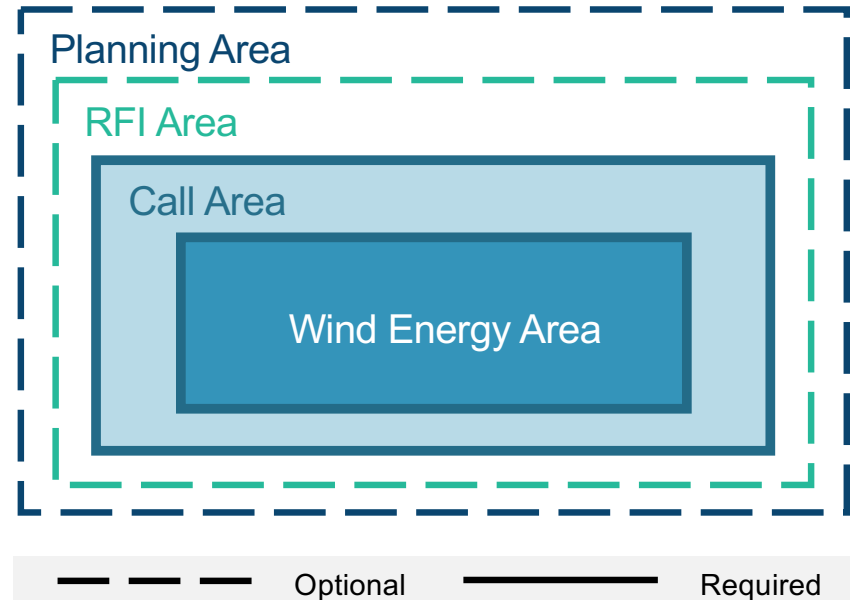
- Areas for special consideration and analysis
- Conditions in the Call Area
- Areas to be considered for leasing



BOEM Renewable Energy Planning Process: *Wind Energy Area*



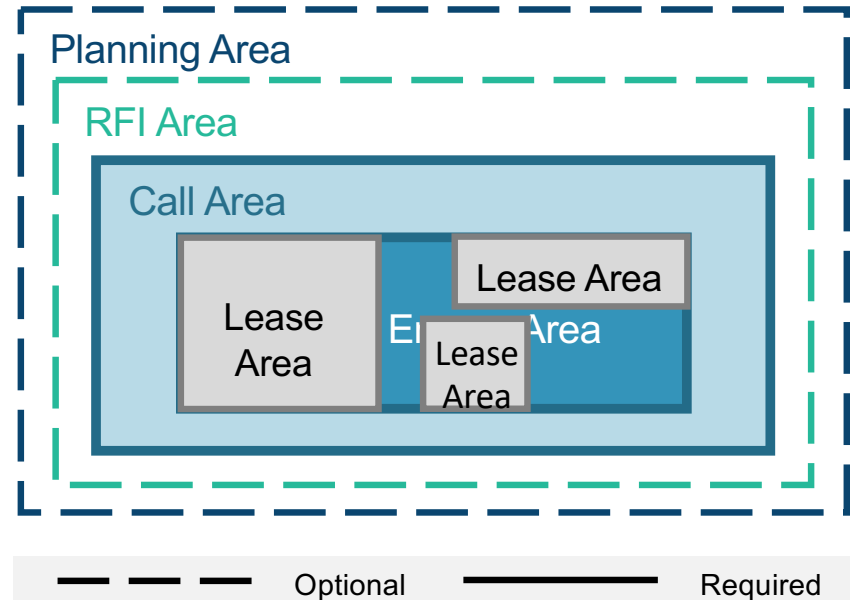
- A portion of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) identified by BOEM for NEPA analysis (Environmental Assessment)
- The basis for a Lease Area



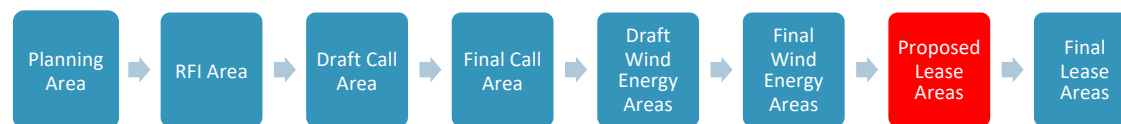
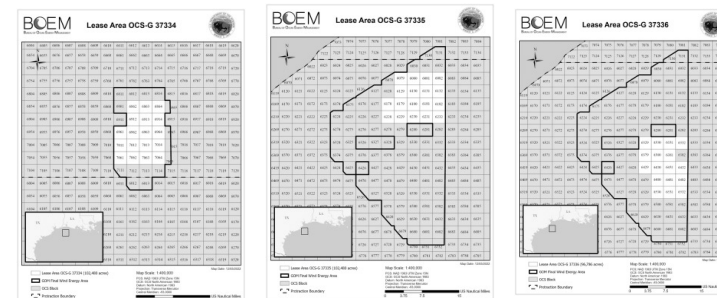
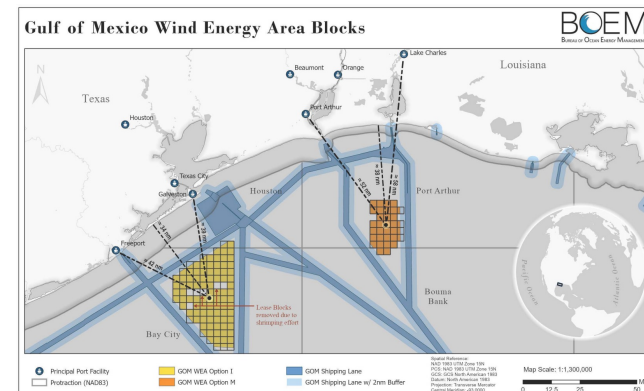
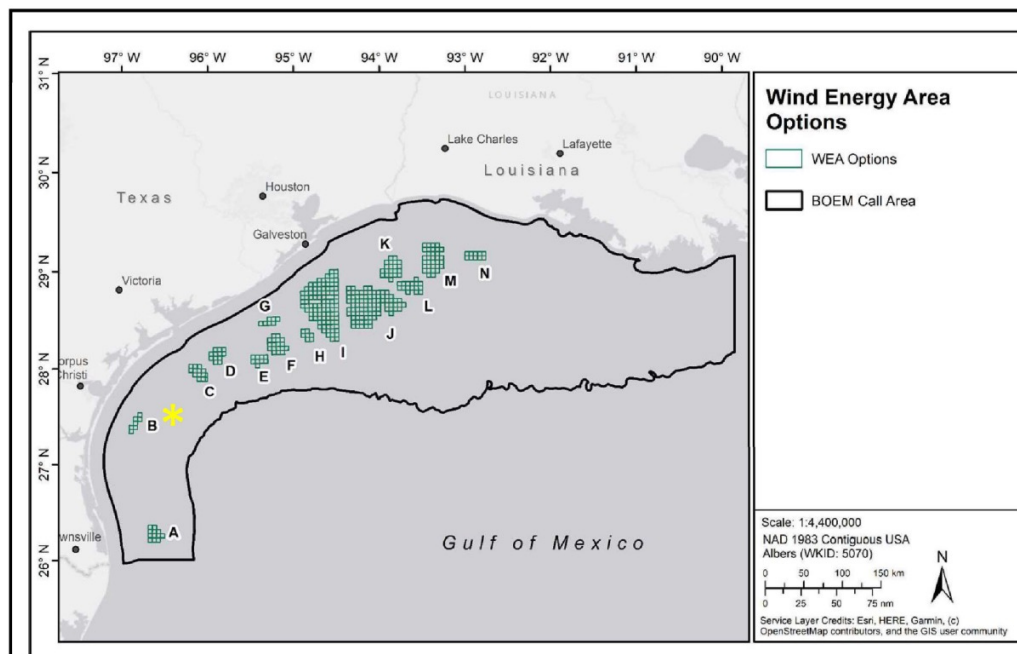
BOEM Renewable Energy Planning Process: *Lease Areas*



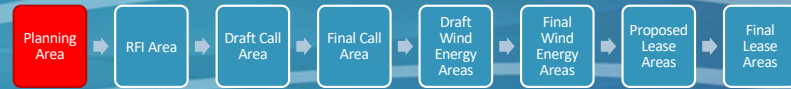
- Wind Energy Areas have the potential for further division into Lease Areas



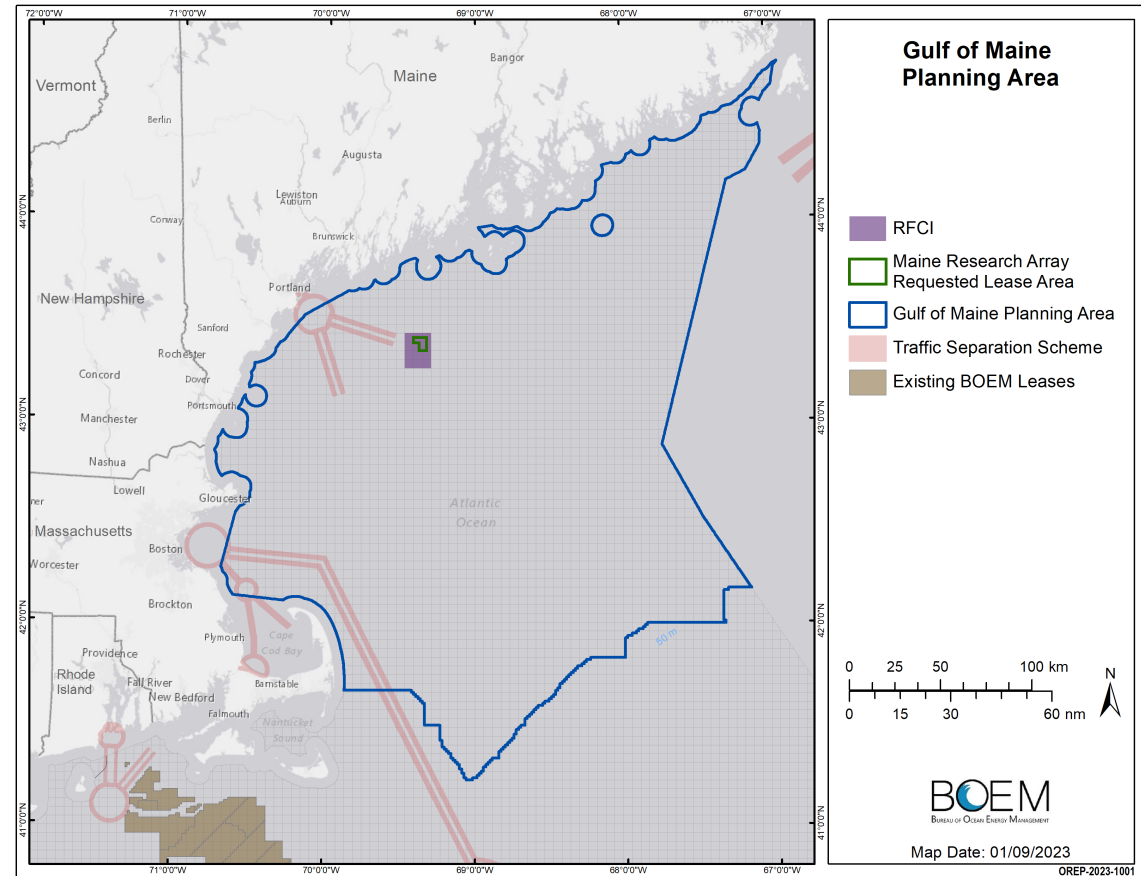
Call Area → Wind Energy Areas: Gulf of Mexico Example



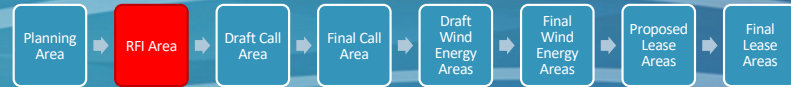
Gulf of Maine: Planning Area



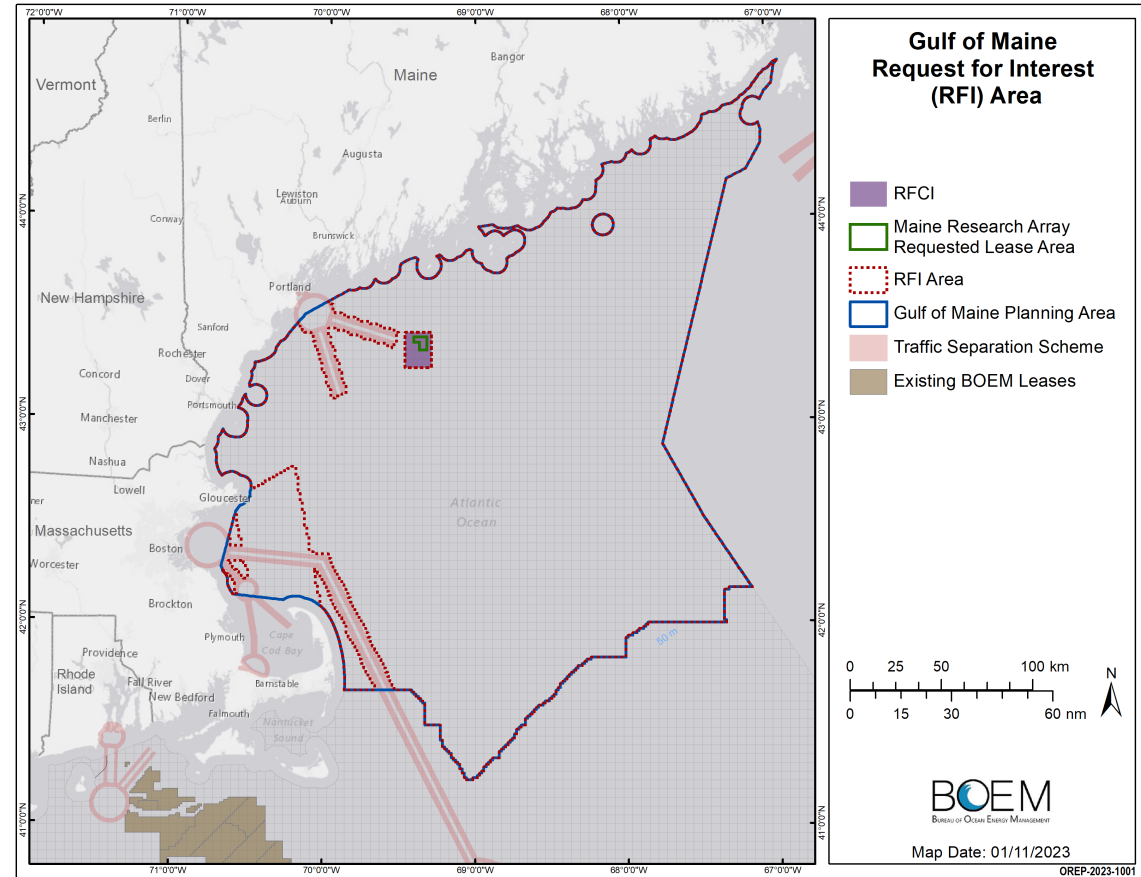
- Preliminary and optional step in the BOEM Planning Process



Request for Interest (RFI) Area



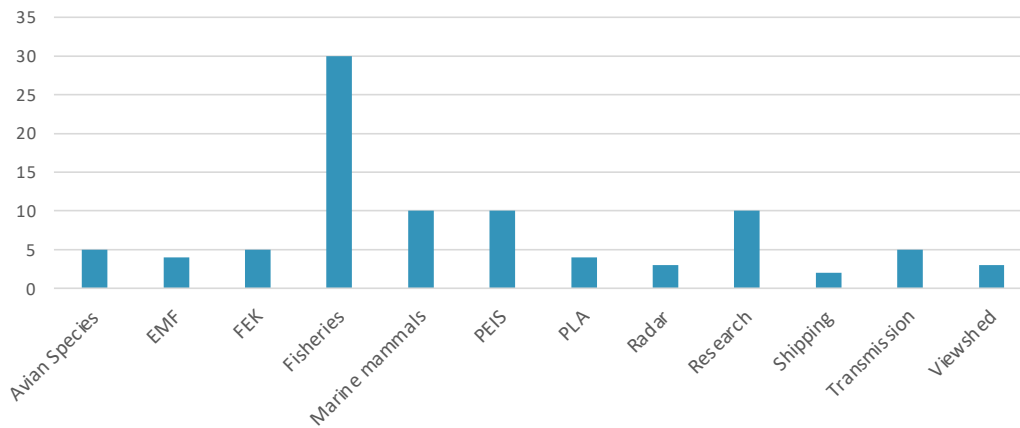
- Shared Draft RFI Area at May 2022 Task Force Meeting
- Published RFI in August 2022
 - 45-day comment period closed October 2022
- RFI Area removed:
 - National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge System, **National Marine Sanctuary System**, or any National Monument (§585.204)
 - **Existing Traffic Separation Schemes (TSS)**, fairways, or other internationally recognized navigation measures
 - **Unsolicited lease request areas** that are the subject of a separate request for competitive interest



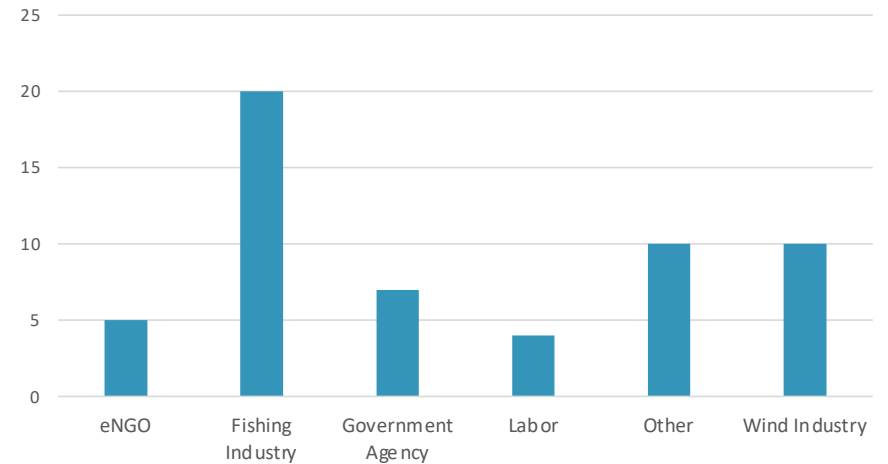
Request for Interest (RFI): What did we hear?

- 45-day comment period (August 19 – October 3, 2022): 53 unique comments*
- Received 5 indications of interest from the wind industry

Gulf of Maine RFI Comments: Topic Count



Gulf of Maine RFI: Who Commented



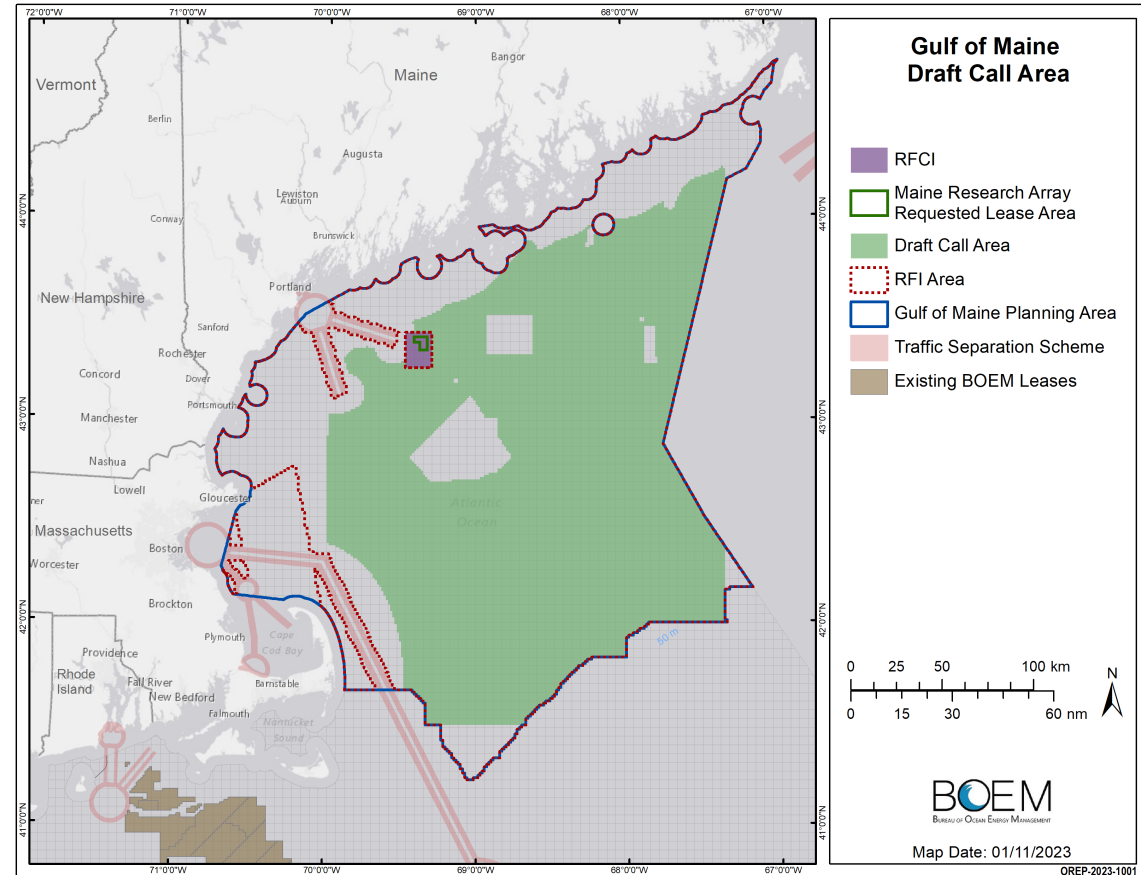
* Note: several RFI comments included multiple attachments, including letters from several individuals. Two duplicate entries were submitted.



Draft Call Area



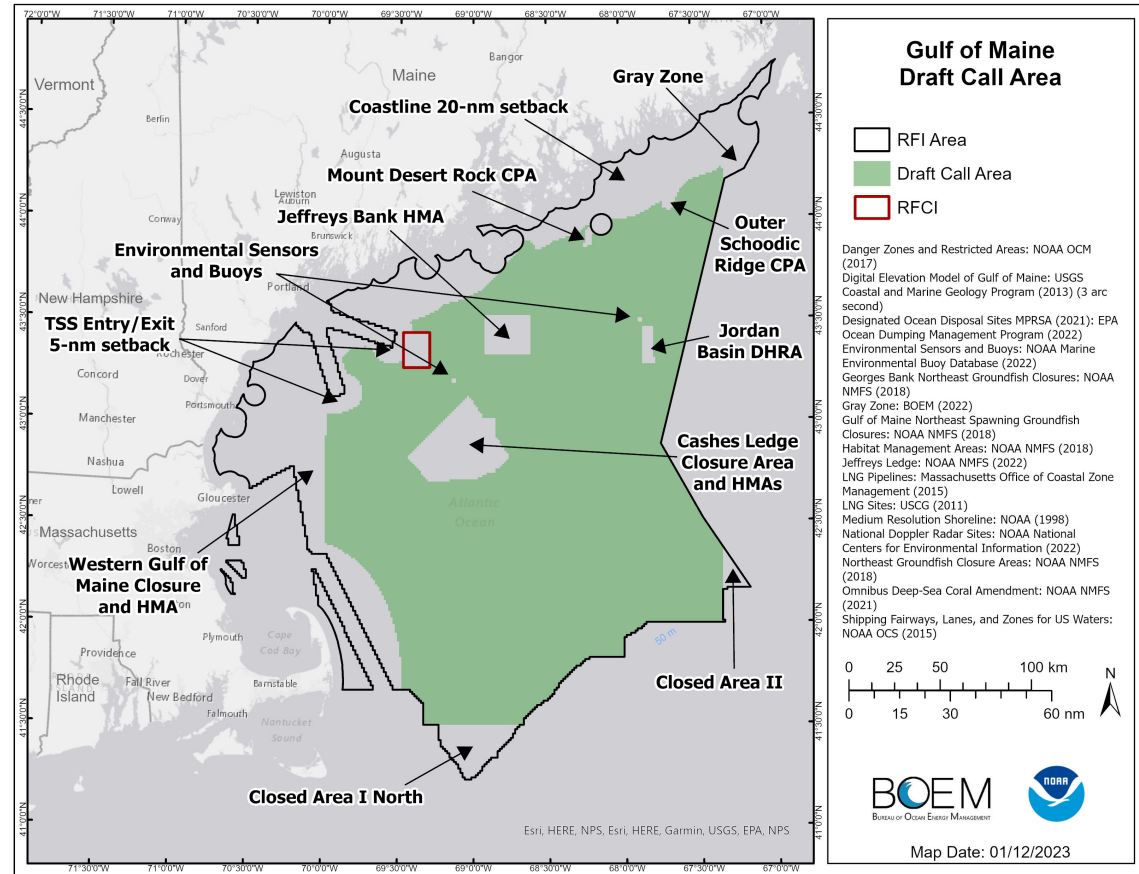
- BOEM reviewed responses to RFI and worked with NOAA NCCOS to conduct spatial analysis to inform Draft Call Area
 - 27% reduction from RFI Area
- The Draft Call Area was posted on BOEM’s website on January 10, 2023



Draft Call Area: Explained



Data Layer	Acres Constrained
Coastline (20nm setback)	2,470,690
Groundfish Closure Areas (Cashes Ledge Closure Area, Western Gulf of Maine Closure Area, and Closed Area II)	804,780
Habitat Management Areas (HMAs) and Coral Protection Areas (CPAs)	792,070
TSSs (2nm recommended buffer/setback from sides)	266,870
Closed Area I North	197,070
TSSs (5nm recommended buffer/setback from entry)	182,230
Gray Zone	155,190
Jeffreys Ledge (depths shallower than 120 m)	154,810
Jordan Basin Dedicated Habitat Research Area	26,960
Gulf of Maine Cod Spawning Protection Area	23,780
Radar Sites/Zones	20,950
EPA Ocean Disposal Sites	5,740
Danger and Restricted Zones	4,710
Environmental Sensors and Buoys	1,840
LNG Sites and Pipelines	1,150
All Constraints Combined*	3,684,090



*Many of the "constraints layers" overlapped (e.g., the 20 nm coastline setback encompassed all EPA Ocean Disposal Sites), and therefore, "All Constraints Combined" is not simply a sum of the "Acres Constrained" listed above, but instead represents the total acres removed from the RFI Area. This acreage total increased slightly to 3,749,985 acres removed when BOEM defined the Draft Call Area using OCS blocks and aliquots.

Draft Call Area Information Exchanges

- **Purpose:** Gain perspectives, feedback, and input on the draft Call Area.
- **In-Person Information Exchanges: January 2023**
 - Salem, MA; Portsmouth, NH; Portland, ME
- **Virtual Information Exchanges: January and February 2023**
 - Shipping & Commercial Maritime
 - Fisheries (Fixed, Mobile and Recreational/HMS)
 - Environmental NGOs
 - Gulf of Maine Tribal Nations
- **Fisheries-focused Meetings: January through March 2023**
 - Virtual and in-person



<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/gulf-maine-draft-call-area-engagement-meetings>



Draft Call Area Information Exchanges: What did we hear?

- Topical concerns
 - Transmission and siting
 - Marine mammals
 - Floating wind technology
- Spatial concerns
 - Specific areas to consider to reduce conflict
- Continued engagement
 - Meetings (virtual and in-person),
 - Comment opportunities,
 - Accessibility



Wageningen University & Research

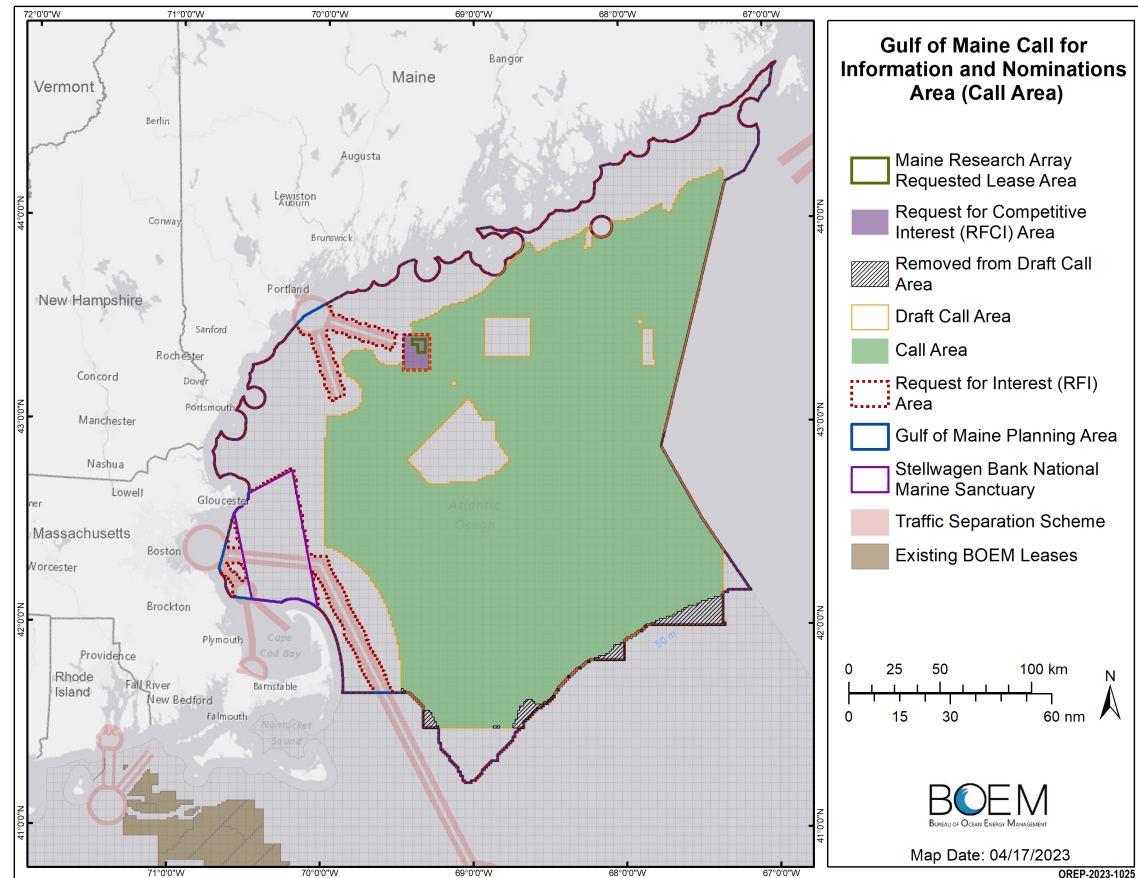
<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/gulf-maine-draft-call-area-engagement-meetings>



Final Call Area



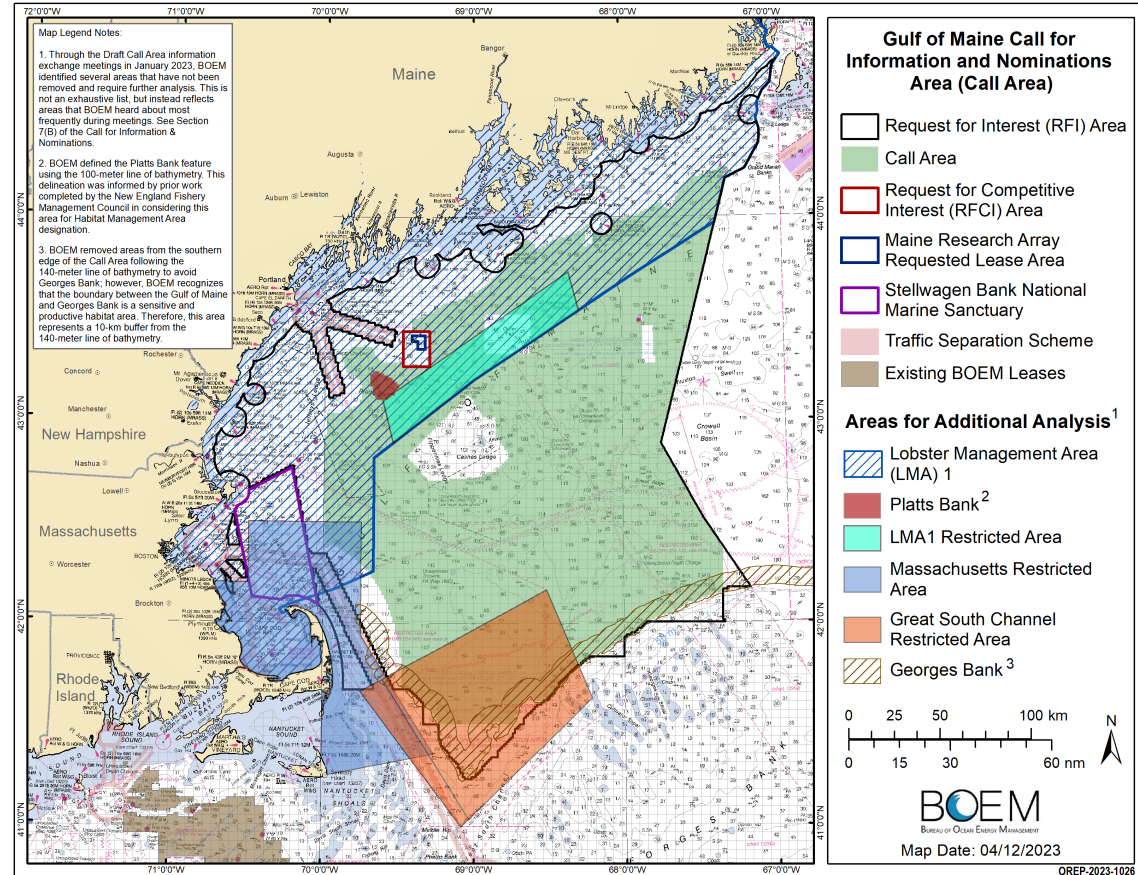
- The Final Call Area was published on April 26, 2023—opening a 45-day public comment period (open thru June 12)
- BOEM removed areas from the southern edge of the Call Area to avoid Georges Bank
- BOEM invites public comment on, and assesses interest in, possible commercial wind energy development in areas within the Call Area.



What's in the Call?: Areas for Additional Analysis



- BOEM has identified several areas that have not been removed from the Call Area and require further analysis
- BOEM seeks additional information on these **specific** areas to inform draft WEA designation, such as data and science-based justifications for removal of areas or areal setbacks for these areas
- BOEM seeks additional information on **where different activities occur or resources exist** to inform draft WEA designation (e.g., fishing gear compatibility with floating wind, projected protected species distributions)



What's in the Call?:

Information on Policy Options



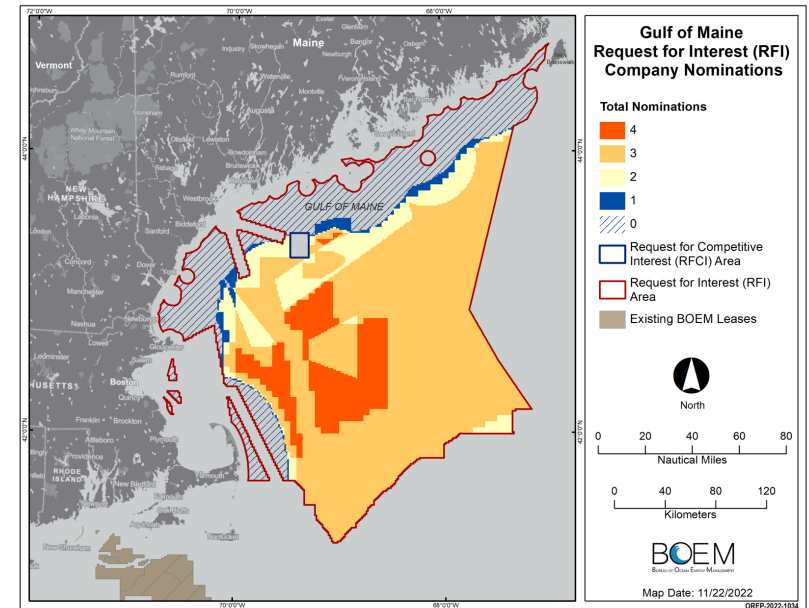
- BOEM also seeks additional information on **potential policy options** to be considered as part of the leasing process, such as:
 - Size and number of WEAs,
 - Potential auction formats,
 - Interest in shared transmission systems by potential developers,
 - Unique impact considerations related to different floating wind turbine foundations



What's in the Call?: Nominations



- BOEM seeks nominations for areas for commercial wind energy leasing within the Call Area (i.e., specific locations, rationale)
- Opportunity for potential developers to provide info on where they might wish to see development occur
- Nominations will be published in an aggregated view, used to inform WEA identification



Identifying Draft Wind Energy Areas



- BOEM has partnered with NOAA NCCOS to utilize best available science and data through spatial modeling to inform WEA identification.
- Public input will inform spatial modeling and decisions on draft WEAs.
- BOEM is committed to ensuring draft WEAs will be made available for public review.



Commercial Track: Leasing Milestones

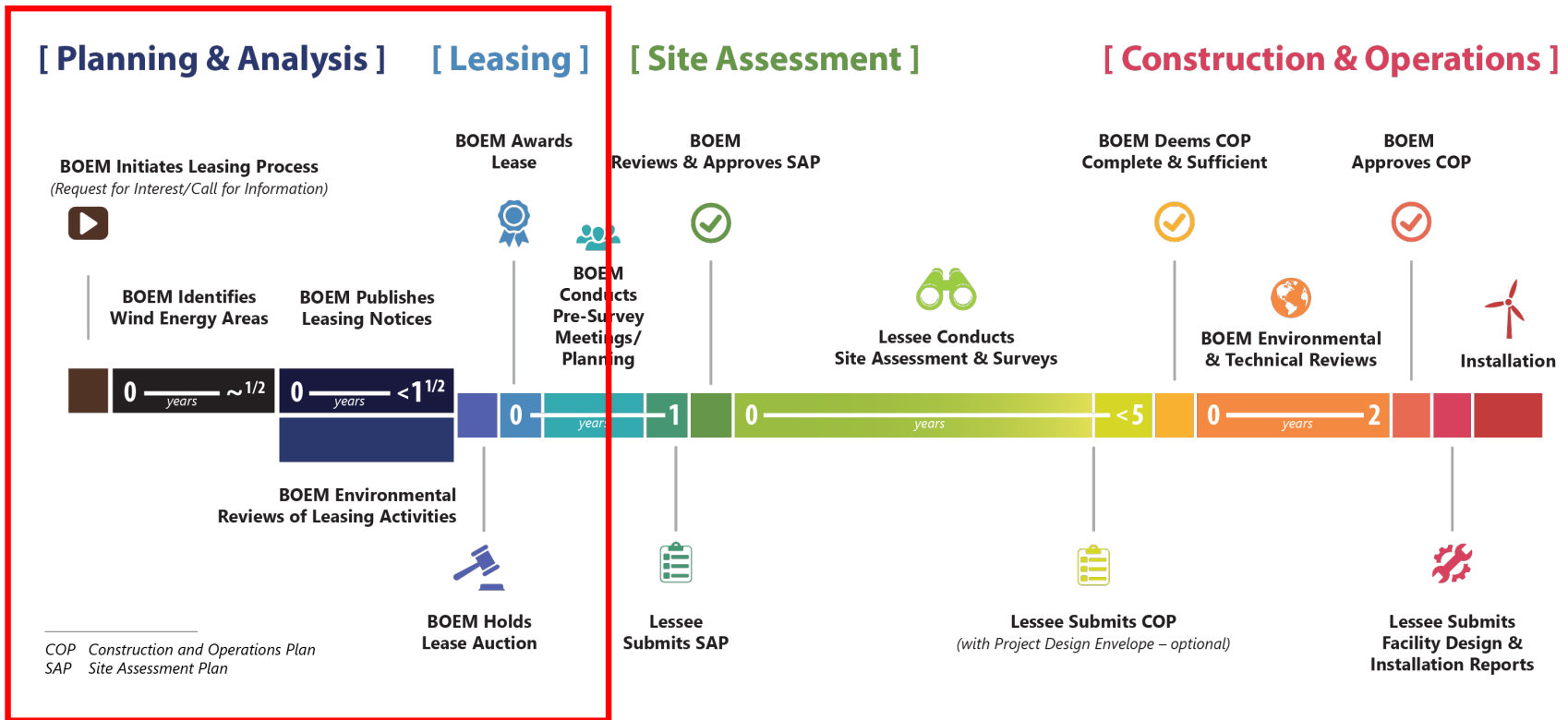
Milestone*	Action	Target Date**
Publish Request for Interest	Publish RFI <i>45-Day Comment Period</i>	August 19, 2022
Publish Call for Information & Nominations	Publish Call <i>45-Day Comment Period</i>	April 25, 2023
Area Identification	Draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)	August, 2023
	Designate Final Wind Energy Areas	Q4 2023
Lease Sale	Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) <i>60-Day Comment Period</i>	Q1 2024
	Final Sale Notice (FSN)	Q3 2024
	Hold auction	Q3 2024

* Task Forces are incredibly valuable tools in the leasing process and **additional meetings** can be expected, likely to be scheduled around significant process milestones.

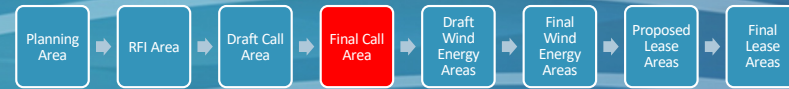
** Dates of planning/leasing milestones are all tentative.



Renewable Energy Authorization Process



How to Comment





- Commercial Track
 - Call for Information and Nominations - **BOEM-2023-0025**
 - Open until June 12, 2023
- Research Track
 - Notice of Intent for an Environmental Assessment - **BOEM-2023-0031**
 - Open until June 5, 2023
- Comment today via forms, summarized public comment or [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)



Comment Form **May 2023**

BOEM currently has two comment periods open related to the Gulf of Maine. Please indicate the notice at which your comments are directed:

Commercial Leasing: Gulf of Maine's Call for Information and Nominations (Call) 

Research Lease: Intent to conduct an Environmental Assessment 

Tips for Effective Comments

Your Name: _____
Affiliation (optional): _____

I'd prefer to submit this comment anonymously

- A comment can express simple support or dissent for a regulatory action. However, a constructive, information-rich comment that clearly communicates and supports its claims is more likely to have an impact on regulatory decision making.
- Read and understand the regulatory document you are commenting on (use the QR codes above for more information)
- Base your justification on sound reasoning, scientific evidence, and/or how you will be impacted

Submit comments here:

More space on back



Thank you!

BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management

BOEM.gov



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