

Offshore energy development – upcoming issues of interest

Michelle Bachman

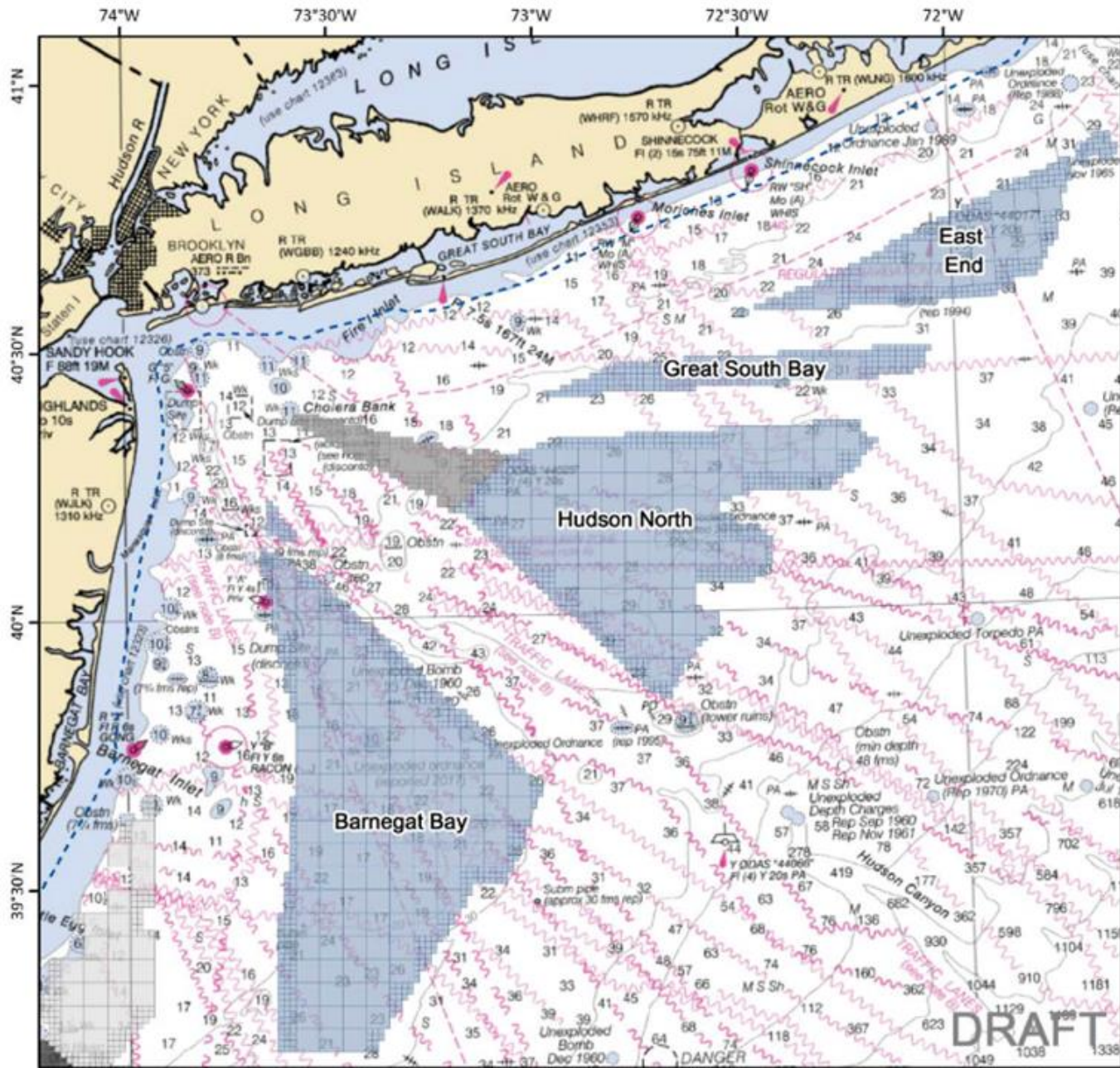
NEFMC Staff, Habitat PDT Chair

NEFMC Habitat Committee
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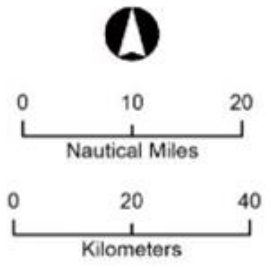
Upcoming wind leases

- NYSEERDA areas for consideration off New York
 - Call for information and nominations anticipated early 2018
 - Seeking interest from developers as well as public input on site conditions, resources, existing uses
- Remainder of Massachusetts Wind Energy Area
 - Proposed sale notice under development
 - Will be published in FR and includes comment period



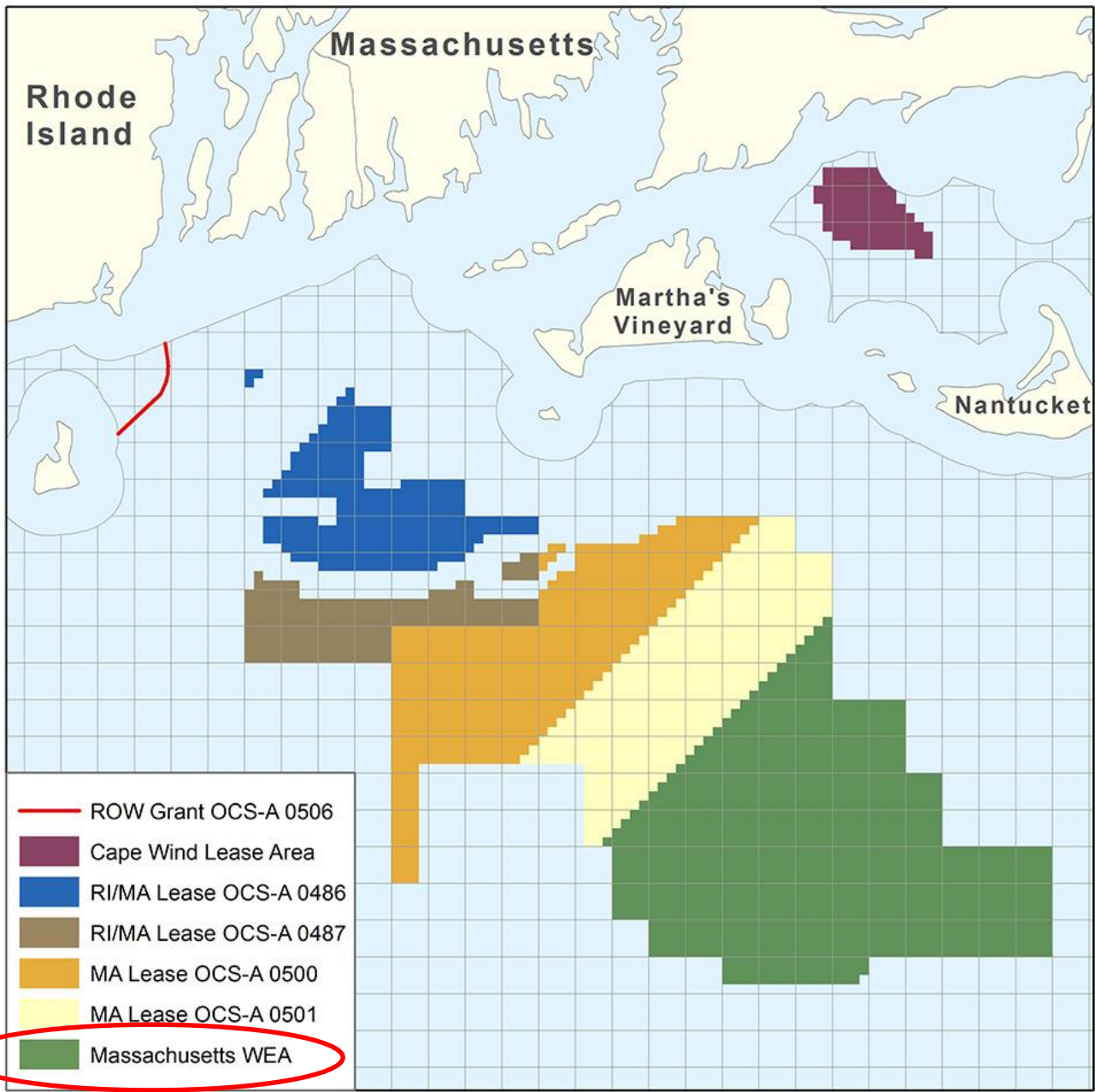
NEW YORK BIGHT CALL AREAS

-  Federal/State Boundary
-  Proposed Call Areas
- BOEM Lease Areas**
-  Statoil Wind US LLC OCS-A 0512
-  US Wind Inc. OCS-A 0499
-  Ocean Wind LLC OCS-A 0498



Map Date: 11/22/2017





Construction and operations plans

- Vineyard Wind's COP has already been submitted to BOEM – once deemed sufficient will be posted on BOEM's website
- Bay State Wind and South Fork Wind Farm COPs anticipated this year
- Once submitted, BOEM conducts environmental and technical reviews of the COP and decides whether to approve, approve with modification, or disapprove the COP

Oil and Gas – Draft Program

- OCS Lands Act calls for the preparation of a nationwide OCS oil and gas leasing program – sets forth a five-year schedule of lease sales designed to best meet the Nation’s energy needs
- BOEM is preparing a National OCS Program for 2019–2024 to replace the current 2017–2022 Program in response to EO 13795 “America-First Offshore Energy Strategy”
- DPP is the first in a series of three decision documents developed before the Secretary of the Interior may take final action (others are Proposed Program and Proposed Final Program)
- The DPP phase provides a basis for conducting further analysis and a mechanism for gathering additional information for the Secretary to consider

What is the purpose of the DPP?

- Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act charges the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to perform a regional comparison between OCS regions and select the timing and location of OCS leasing so as to balance, to the maximum extent practicable, the potential for environmental damage, the potential for the discovery of oil and gas, and the potential for adverse impact on the coastal zone.

Scope of proposal and rationale

- DPP would make more than 98 percent of the OCS available to consider for oil and gas leasing during the 2019–2024 period
- Including nearly the entire OCS is consistent with advancing the goal of moving the United States from simply aspiring for energy independence to attaining energy dominance
- By not prematurely restricting or narrowing OCS areas under consideration, DPP will allow industry the opportunity to further inform the Secretary of their interest in leasing frontier areas and to collect data in areas that have not been explored in decades, if ever
- This will, in turn, further our understanding of the resources available on the OCS to meet national energy needs.

Scope, continued.

- Areas considered for leasing may be narrowed at later stages of the process, after further environmental analysis and input and coordination with key stakeholders
- As of now, trade associations have expressed interest in leasing in all of the OCS regions and only a few exploration and production companies have responded
- DPP will allow the Secretary to obtain additional information on actual industry interest. Consideration of industry interest along with other factors will allow for a more thorough comparison of OCS areas and will assist the Secretary in his choice of the time, size, and location of the lease sales to be scheduled

Consultation

- The Secretary is committed to enhancing coordination and collaboration with other governmental entities to discover solutions to multiple use challenges so that oil and gas resources can be discovered and extracted, critical military and other ocean uses can continue, and our sensitive physical and biological resources are protected.
- The Secretary's goal is to increase access to America's energy resources and to provide environmental stewardship based upon the most up-to-date environmental information and analysis.

Process

- Comments being solicited now on DPP (60 days)
- Will be used to inform DPEIS and PP (90 day comment period, noticed in FR)
- DPEIS will analyze the potential environmental effects of leasing in areas included in the DPP and may identify areas that warrant consideration or exclusion from leasing in the 2019–2024 Program.

Process, continued

- FPP and FPEIS to President and Congress; approval at least 60 days after transmission
 - ROD provides information on the methods to avoid, minimize, or otherwise mitigate environmental impacts. The ROD could adopt any programmatic mitigation measures, geographic exclusions or other restrictions on leasing activities that the Secretary considers necessary for environmental protection and that are sufficiently identifiable at the Programmatic stage.
- Additional requirements at the lease sale stage for lease sale size and timing analyses, environmental review, and public comment.

Eight factors considered

Geographical,
geological,
ecological

Equitable
sharing

Regional and
national energy
markets

Other uses of the
OCS

Interest of oil and
gas industry

Laws, goals, and
policies of affected
states

Environmental
sensitivity and
marine
productivity

Environmental
and predictive
information

Potential Atlantic lease sales

Option 1:

- 3 sales each for the Mid- and South Atlantic (2020, 2022, 2024)
- 2 for the North Atlantic (2021 and 2023)
- 1 for the Straits of Florida (2023)



Chart: Adapted from DPP Figure 2

Other Atlantic options

Option 2: Option 1 with the exclusion of the Atlantic Canyons in the North Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic program areas, identified as having exceptional ecological values

Option 3: Option 1 with coastal buffer(s) to accommodate concerns such as military use, fish and marine mammal migration, and other nearshore uses



Geologic plays

Established play:
hydrocarbons have been discovered and a petroleum system has been proven to exist

Conceptual play:
hydrocarbons have not been detected, but G&G data, integrated with regional geologic knowledge, suggest that accumulations could exist.

