



NOAA Habitat Conservation

Conserving Habitat for Future Generations

Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division Greater Atlantic Region

Stakeholder Aquaculture Projects



Mid-Atlantic Fishery
Management Council
February 2021

GARFO Aquaculture Program

- GARFO's Aquaculture Program is part of our new Ecosystem Management Branch in the Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division
- We have 2 Regional Aquaculture Coordinators who are the liaisons between NMFS Office of Aquaculture and GARFO
- Coordinate GARFO strategy for sustainable and responsible aquaculture development the region
- Work internally and with federal and state agencies, industry, and members of the scientific, academic, and NGO communities on a variety of marine aquaculture issues

Regional EEZ Aquaculture Projects Status Update

Pre-Application Phase

Manna Fish Farms - NY off Shinnecock Inlet, Long Island

- Steelhead trout/black sea bass
- Pre-Application meeting held 9/21/2020

Application Phase

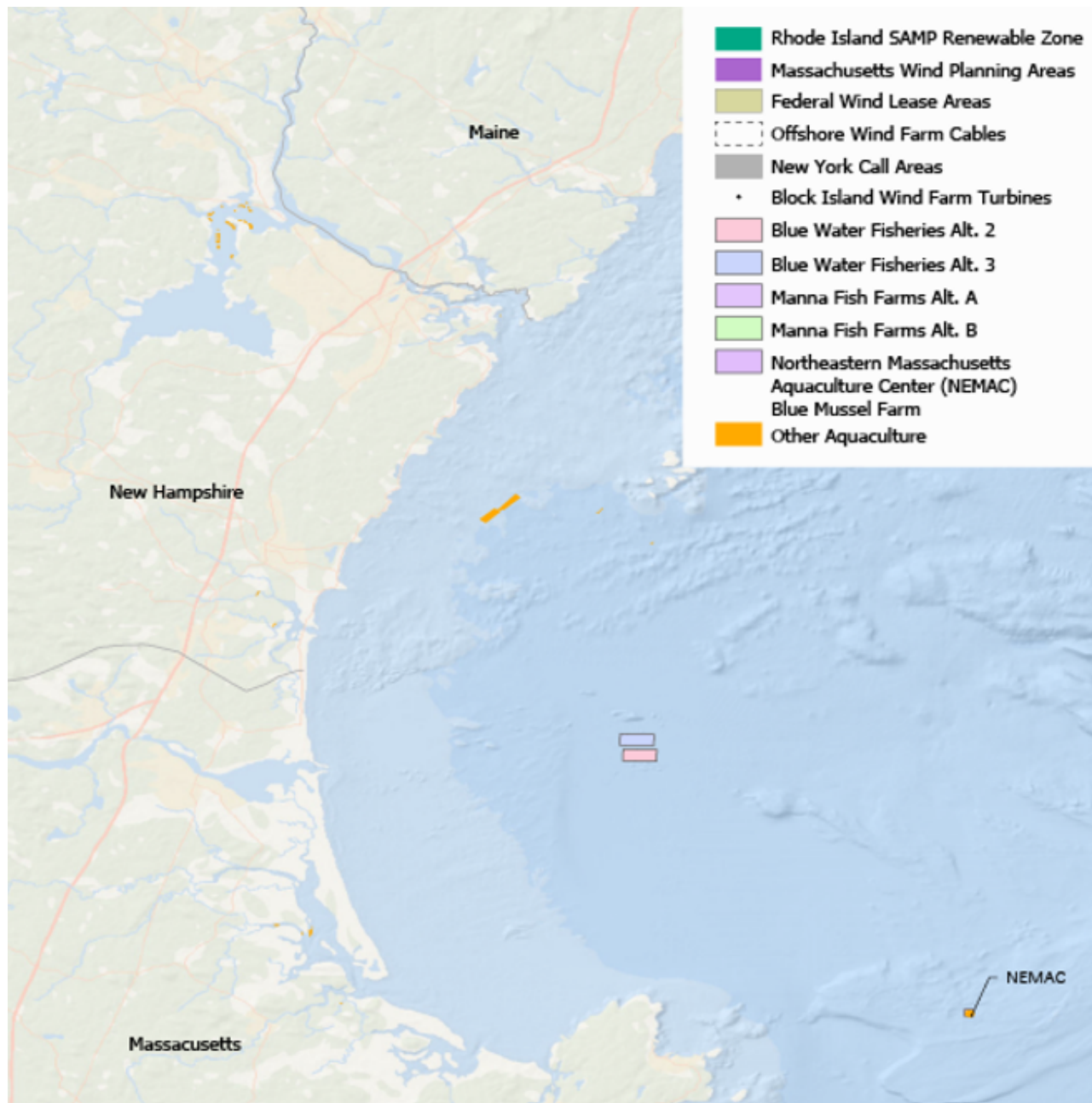
Blue Waters Fisheries LLC. - Off NH/MA

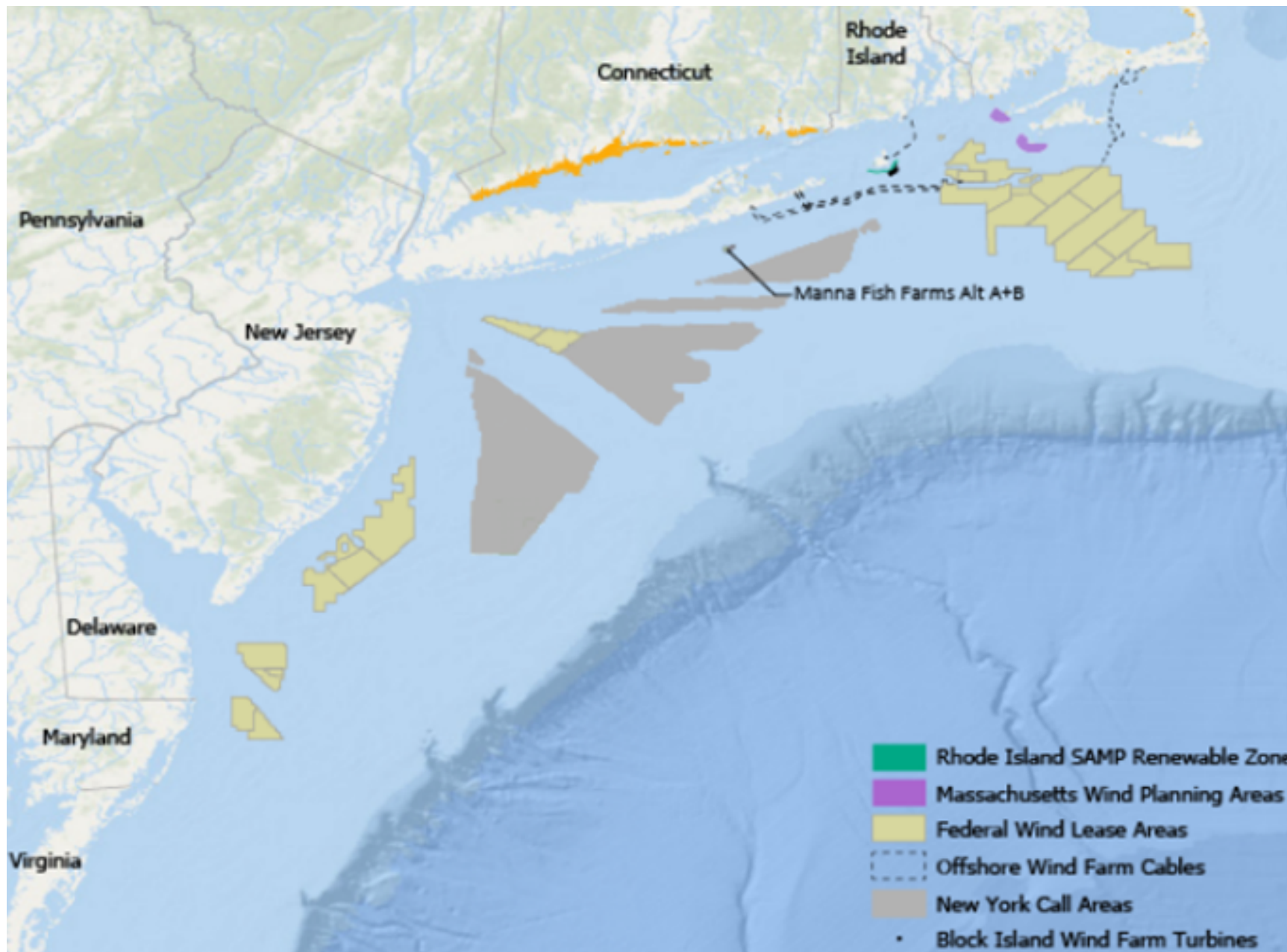
- Steelhead trout
- Pre-Application meeting held on 12/10/2020
- Applications submitted to USACE and EPA on 1/27/2021

Permit Application/Development Phase

Northeastern Massachusetts Aquaculture Center (NEMAC) at Salem State U. - off MA

- Location 8 miles off Cape Ann, MA
- Blue Mussels
- Submitted application on 12/7/2019 to ACOE to expand from 3 to 20 longlines on site originally permitted
- USACE is working with applicant to obtain additional information from proponent to inform consultations

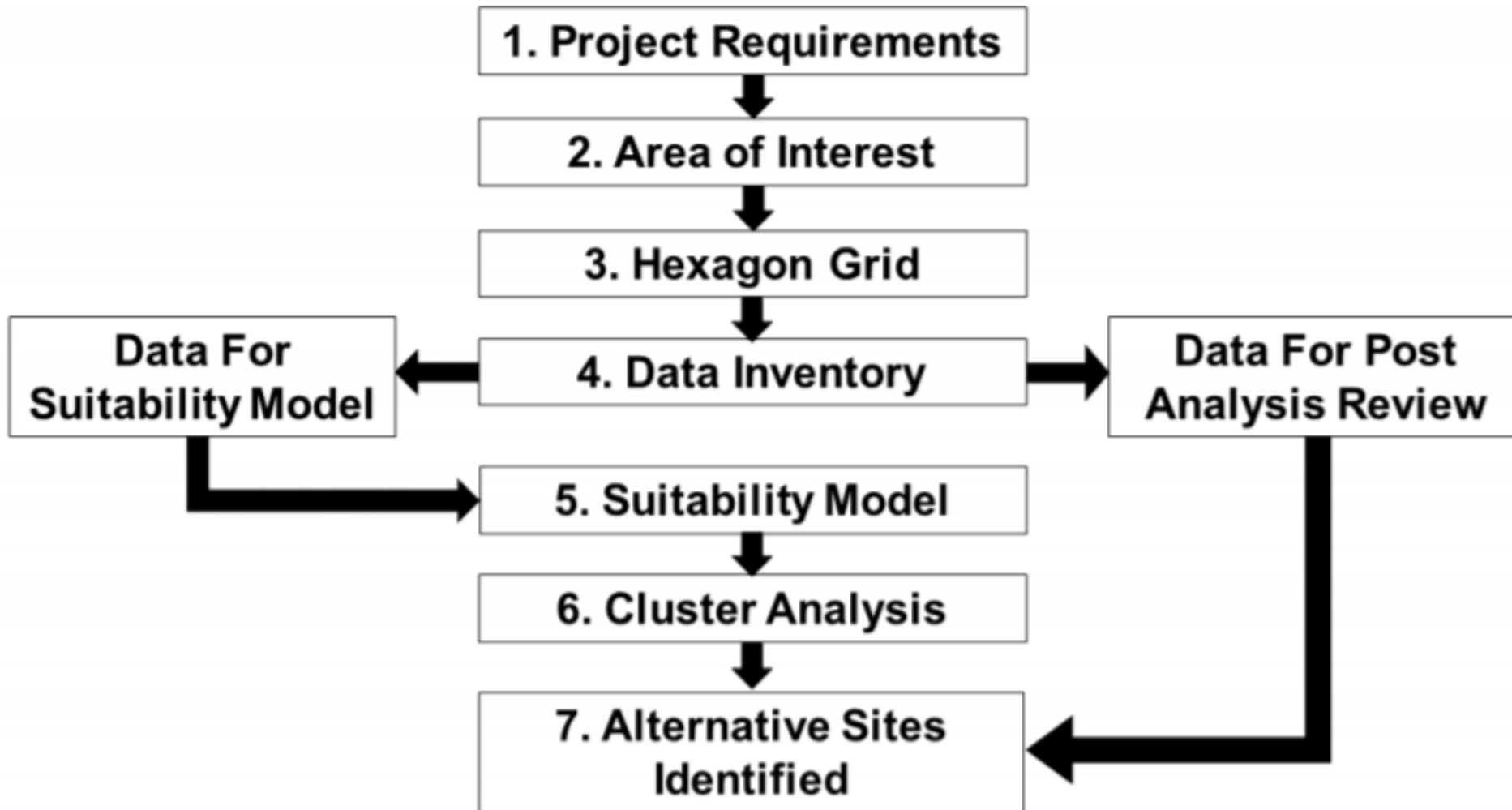




	Acreage	Acreage of transmission lines
EEZ Aquaculture		
Northeastern MA Aquaculture Center (operational)	33	0
Manna Fish Farms (proposed)	960	0
Blue Water Fisheries (proposed)	530	0
Cumulative Proposed EEZ Aquaculture Projects in the Mid-Atlantic south of Cape Cod	960	0



Overview of workflow for alternative site suitability analysis by NOAA NOS CASS



Current EEZ Aquaculture Pre-application Permitting Steps

1. Coordination between proponent and permitting agencies and project development
 - *GARFO directs proponent to review NEFMC Aquaculture Policy and contact*
2. Site scoping leading to site alternatives
 - GARFO recommends a siting suitability analysis by NOS CASS
3. Pre-application meeting(s) and following technical assistance – *fisheries mgmt. councils staff invited*
4. Preferred site alternative(s) decision by proponent
5. NOAA coordination with USACE and formal request to DOD Siting Clearinghouse
6. *Coordination with federal permitting agencies on seafloor characterization and hydrographic surveys*
7. *Execution of surveys, if required*
8. Submittal of applications to federal permitting agencies
 - Permitting agencies coordinate with state coastal programs and proponents
 - Complete applications would trigger permitting steps, such as requests for consultations under Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Coastal Zone Management Act and coordination with other federal agencies and stakeholders (*including fisheries management councils*).

