



BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

BOEM Activity Update to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Office of Renewable Energy Programs

June 7, 2023

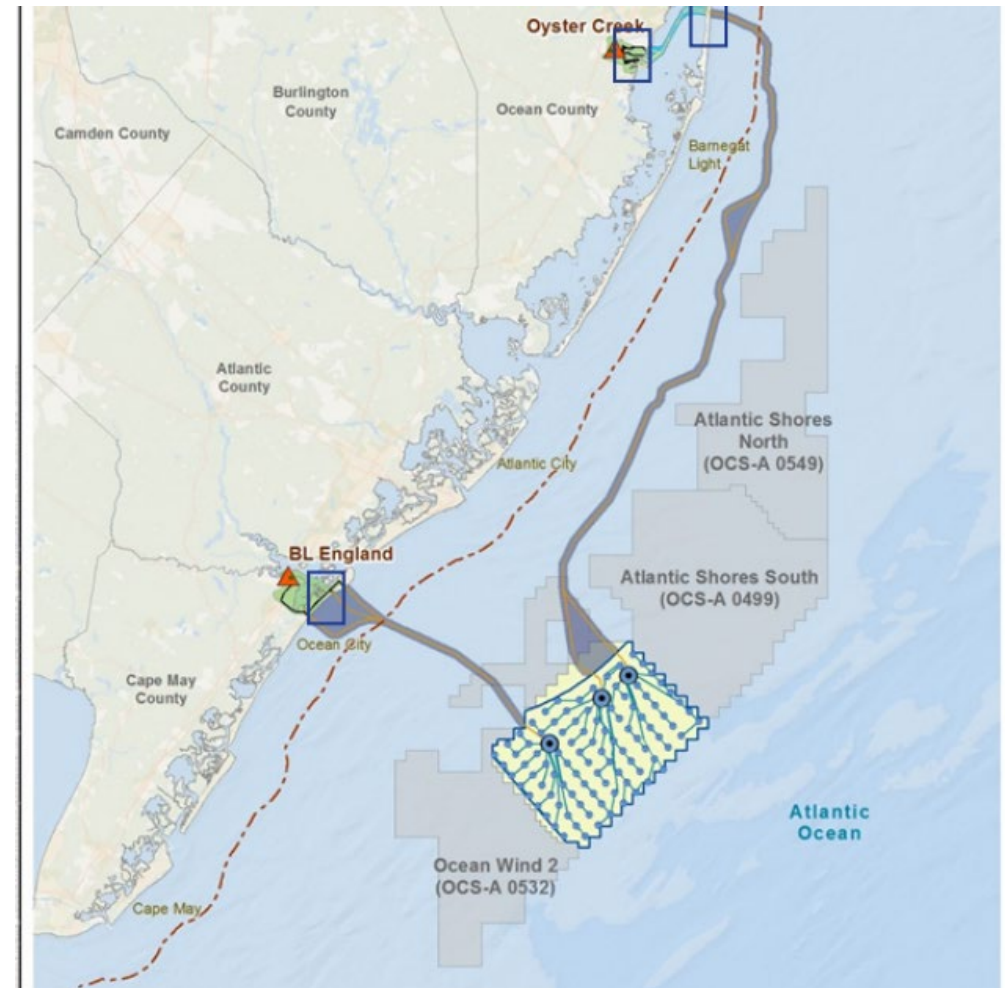
Topics to be Covered

- Ocean Wind 1
- Atlantic Shores South
- Status of Fisheries Mitigation Guidance
- Central Atlantic Wind Energy
- New York Bight Programmatic EIS
- National Academies Standing Committee on Offshore Wind and Fisheries
- Environmental studies updates.
 - Nature Inclusive Design Study



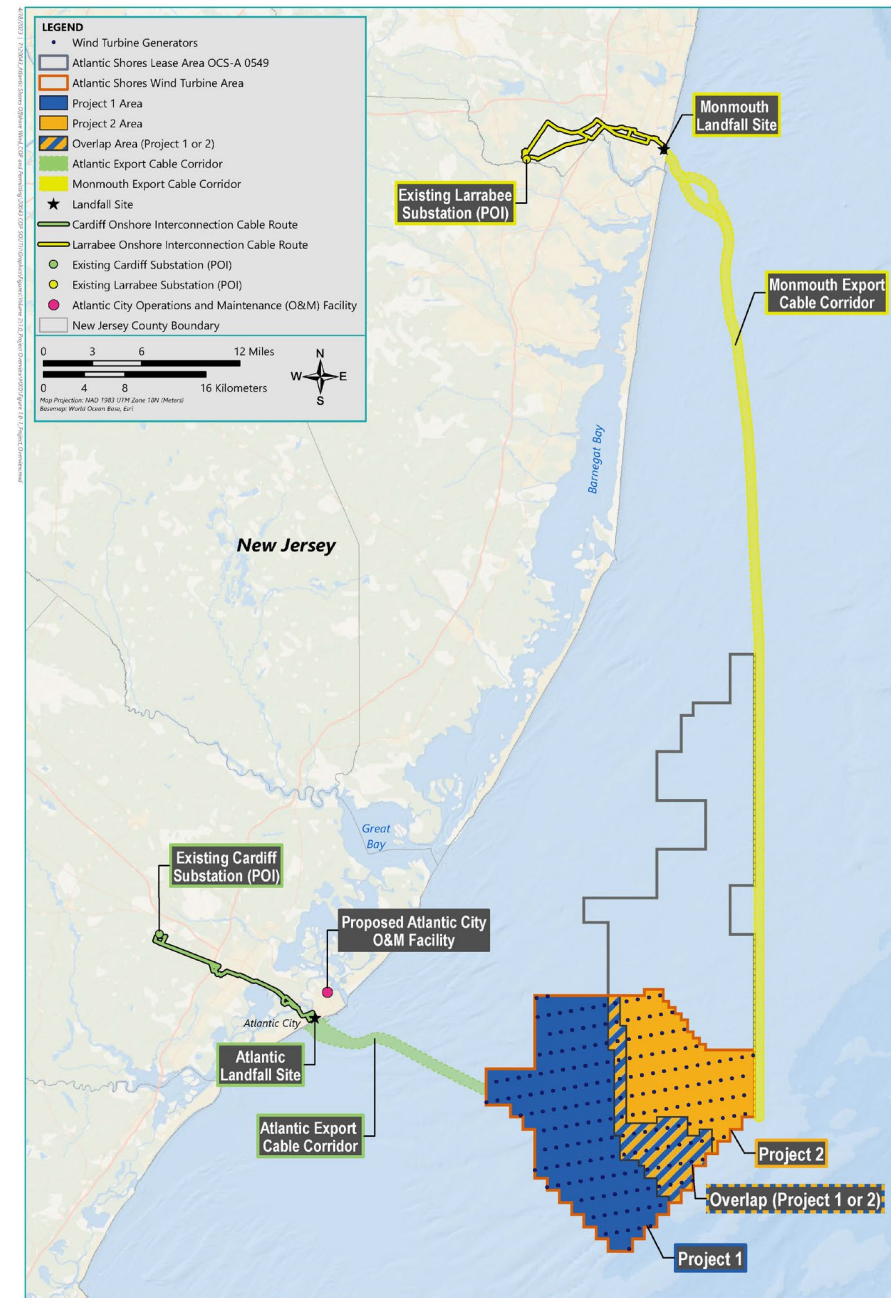
Ocean Wind 1 Update

- Final environmental impact statement for Ocean Wind 1, off New Jersey, released May 26, 2023.
- A record of decision announcing BOEM's decision to approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the project is expected on July 7, 2023.
- <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/ocean-wind-1>




Atlantic Shores South Update

- On May 15, 2023 BOEM announced the availability for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Atlantic Shores South Wind Project.
- The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Atlantic Shores South Wind DEIS published in the Federal Register on May 19, 2023, opening a 45-day public comment period, which ends at 11:59 p.m. ET on Jul. 3, 2023.
- <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/atlantic-shores-south>

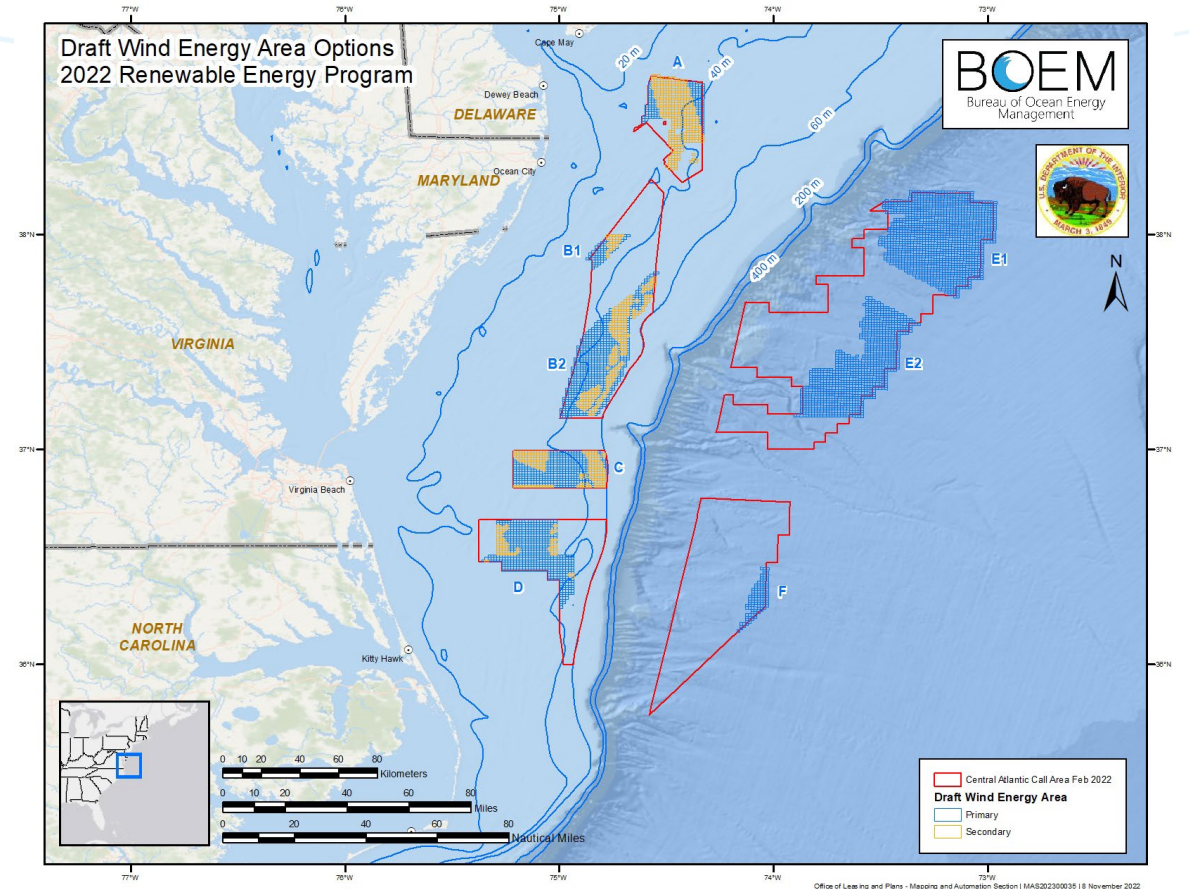


Fisheries Mitigation Guidance Development

- **November 23, 2021**, BOEM published a “Request for Information” to request information and perspective to inform BOEM’s development of draft guidance on avoiding, minimizing and if needed compensating for impacts from offshore wind energy projects to commercial and recreational fisheries.
- **June 2022:**
 - BOEM published the draft guidance document and opened a 60-day comment period which concluded on August 22, 2022. In total, 88 comments were received from 79 organizations and 9 individuals.
- **Summer 2023:**
 - Consultation with Tribal Nations.
- **TBD:** Issue final guidance.
 -  <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/request-information-reducing-or-avoiding-impacts-offshore-wind-energy-fisheries>

Central Atlantic: Draft Wind Energy Area

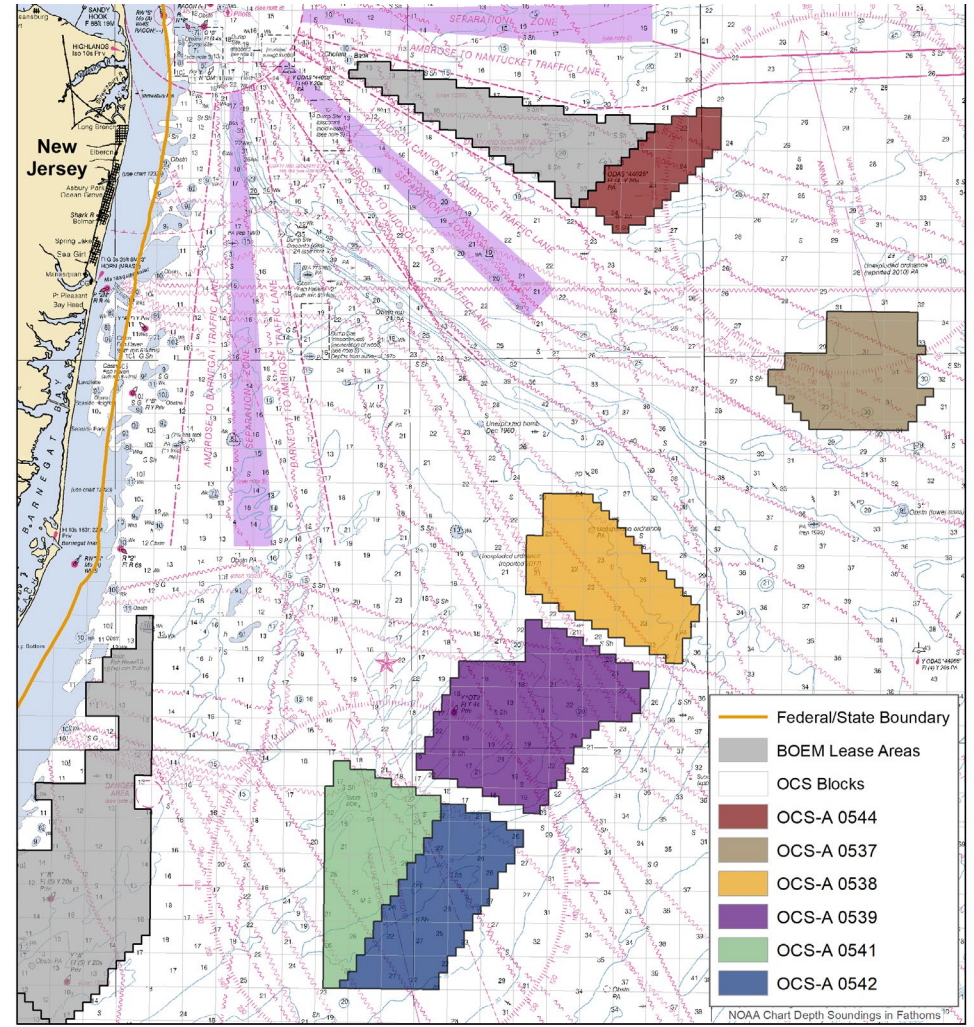
- Draft WEAs published on November 16, 2022.
- Presentations can be viewed on BOEM's website at 67 comments received on draft WEAs.
- Final WEAs are scheduled for publication this summer, followed by environmental assessment for lease issuance.
- Lease sale anticipated in 2024. No firm dates yet on when a lease sale may be held.



<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/central-atlantic>

NY Bight Programmatic EIS

- BOEM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to develop the NY Bight Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on July 15, 2022.
- BOEM expects to publish the NY Bight Draft PEIS in Fall/Winter 2023.
- BOEM is also developing Programmatic Biological Assessments (BAs) and a Programmatic Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment alongside the PEIS.
- <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/new-york-bight>



NAS Standing Committee on Offshore Wind & Fisheries

- Engage in discussions and exchanges of information on key topics of interest;
- Provide expert assessment of recent developments in selected fields of science and technology;
- Provide stakeholder understanding and insights on a diversity of issues pertinent to offshore wind and fisheries.
- The committee has held two public meetings to date, the last being April 26-27.
- <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/standing-committee-on-offshore-wind-energy-and-fisheries>

NATIONAL
ACADEMIES

Sciences
Engineering
Medicine



Environmental Studies Program

- BOEM publishes a Studies Development Plan annually and posts approved projects on a National Studies List.
- Study ideas are reviewed by the Standing Committee on Offshore Science and Assessment (COSA) convened under the National Academy of Sciences
- Results of studies are incorporated into BOEM environmental assessment and decision-making process

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT | ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM

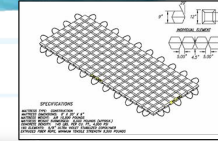
Studies Development Plan

2023–2024



ESP Spotlight – Nature Inclusive Design

DUNNDEMOLITION RECYCLED CONCRETE, BRICK & BLOCK
SERVICE SINCE 1974



Evaluating the Effectiveness of Nature Inclusive Design Materials

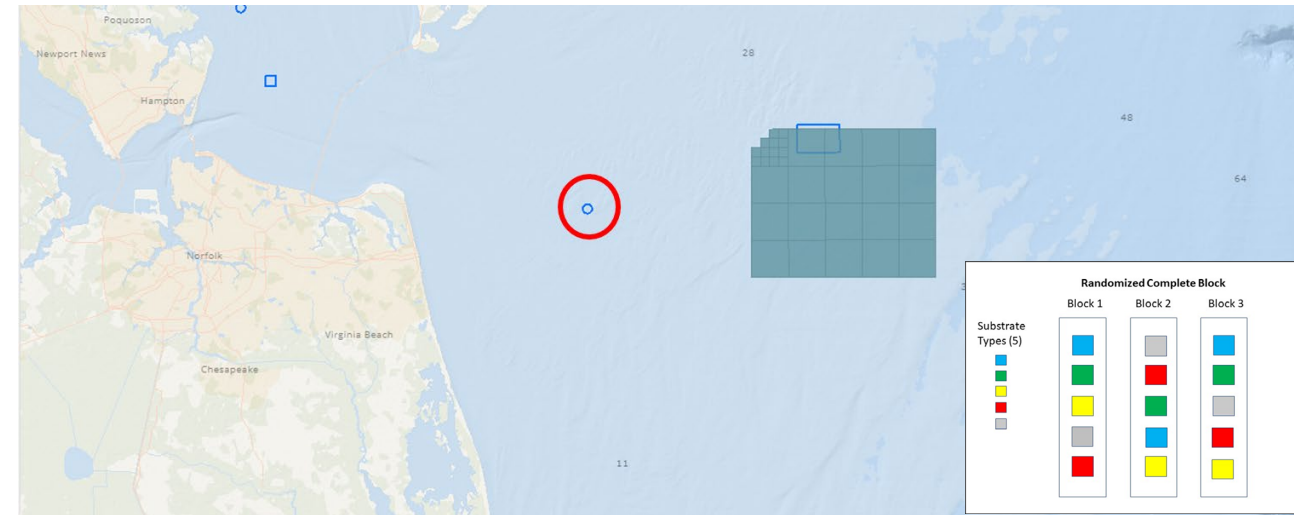
Purpose: Test the effectiveness of different materials in promoting marine growth and enhancing habitat. Materials will be monitored for epifaunal growth and habitat utilization.

Location: Tower Reef (VMRC) 12 nmi offshore Virginia Beach; 12 nmi CVOW

Methods:
Deploy test materials and replicates
Diver quadrat surveys; timelapse camera monitoring

Field Study Timeline: June 2023 – November 2024

| Material | Dimensions | m ² | Required for 3m ² Coverage |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Reef Innovations cube module | 22" x 22" x 8" | approx. 0.3 | 12 (4 per replicate) |
| Articulating mat | 8 ft x 20 ft | 14.9 | 6 (2 per replicate); need to be cut |
| Repurposed concrete boulders | 0.02 m ³ | approx. 0.1 | 36 (12 per replicate) |
| ECONcrete scour protection units | 1.3 ft x 2 ft | 0.23 | 15 (5 per replicate) |
| Reefmaker units | 1.5 m x 1.5 m | 2.25 | 3 (1 per replicate); need to be cut |





BOEM Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Thank you!
