

TO: MAFMC Members

FROM: Brian Hooker, Bureau of Ocean Energy management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs

SUBJECT: June MAFMC Briefing regarding BOEM Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Leasing

BOEM will be updating the Council on the status of Atlantic offshore renewable energy leases and soliciting comments from the Council regarding an environmental assessment (EA) for the New York wind energy area (WEA). BOEM published an EA on June 6th for a 30-day public comment period. Comments received electronically or postmarked within that period will be made available to the public and considered before the publication of a revised EA. The EA considers potential impacts associated with issuing a lease, including those from conducting surveys, and approving the installation of resource assessment facilities (i.e., meteorological tower and/or buoys) in the area. BOEM will also consider these comments in determining whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact, or conduct additional analysis under NEPA. For information on how to submit comments, go to [www.boem.gov/New-York](http://www.boem.gov/New-York).

BOEM will hold four public meetings in June to provide an overview of the EA findings and offer additional opportunities for public comments. BOEM's public meetings will be held at the following locations: Long Branch, N.J. (June 20, 2016), Hempstead, N.Y. (June 21, 2016), West Hampton Beach, N.Y. (June 22, 2016), and Narragansett, RI (June 23, 2016). Specific times and venues will be posted online at [www.boem.gov/New-York](http://www.boem.gov/New-York).

Concurrent with the EA BOEM also published a proposed sale notice for the New York WEA for a 60-day comment period. The proposed lease area, approximately 11 miles south of Long Island, is identical to the New York Wind Energy Area, which Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) identified earlier this year in consultation with members of its New York Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force. This task force includes federal, state, tribal and local government partners. In addition, BOEM considered information gathered through outreach with stakeholders. This document provides detailed information concerning the area available for leasing, the proposed lease provisions and conditions, auction details (e.g., criteria for evaluating competing bids and award procedures) and lease execution. Comments received electronically or postmarked by the end of public comment period will be made available to the public and considered before the publication of the Final Sale Notice, which will announce the time and date of the lease sale. For information on how to submit comments, visit [www.boem.gov/New-York](http://www.boem.gov/New-York). Also see BOEM's new fisheries stakeholder website: <http://www.boem.gov/Atlantic-Fishing-Industry-Communication-and-Engagement/>.

