



Atlantic Wind Energy: *Smart from the Start*

MAFAC/NMFS
Key West

US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management, Regulation and
Enforcement (BOEMRE)

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The Process - 1

- State-level governmental **task forces**: Consider issues, represent concerns, begin screening for possible leasing areas
- Use the **public process** (Request for Interest and/or Call for Information) to
 - gather public comments,
 - ascertain early developer interest,
 - continue analyzing issues and geography of possible leasing areas, and
 - determine whether competitive or non-competitive.



The Process - 2

- Conduct appropriate **environmental analysis** to decide whether leasing and site assessment can proceed
- Issue **specific leasing proposals** (non-competitive or competitive), with public notice
- Issue **leases**
 - Convey the right to pursue and propose
 - Allow the lessee to present a construction plan
- Proceed to full public review and **environmental evaluation of the proposed project** (COP and EIS)



The Process - Summary

- Involve government
- Involve and inform the public and stakeholders (*e.g.* FMCs)
- Identify possible leasing areas
- Conduct appropriate environmental and public review to support site assessment and leasing
- Propose leasing in a specific area, with public comment
- Lease, allowing developers to pursue and propose development
- Permit development (or not) only after full review of a specific project
- Project development



Intergovernmental Task Forces



- **Task Force States:**
Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Oregon
- **On the Horizon:**
Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, South Carolina



Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation & Enforcement (BOEMRE)

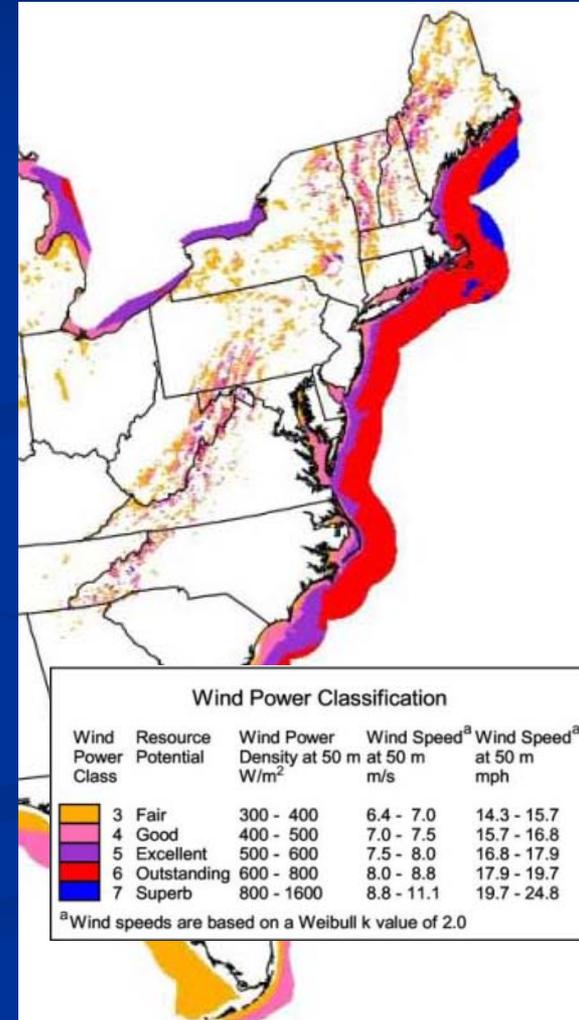
- Ocean energy management in the Federal offshore
- Natural gas, oil, and alternative energy including wind
- Energy Policy Act of 2005: Consideration of “any other use of the sea or seabed, including use for a **fishery**, a sealane ... navigation,”





Atlantic Wind Resources

- A world-class resource – >1200 MW, near load centers
- Consolidated jurisdiction
- State-level Renewable Portfolio Standards and greenhouse gas initiatives
- Governors' interest: Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium (AOWEC)





Secretary Salazar's *Smart from the Start* Atlantic Wind Initiative

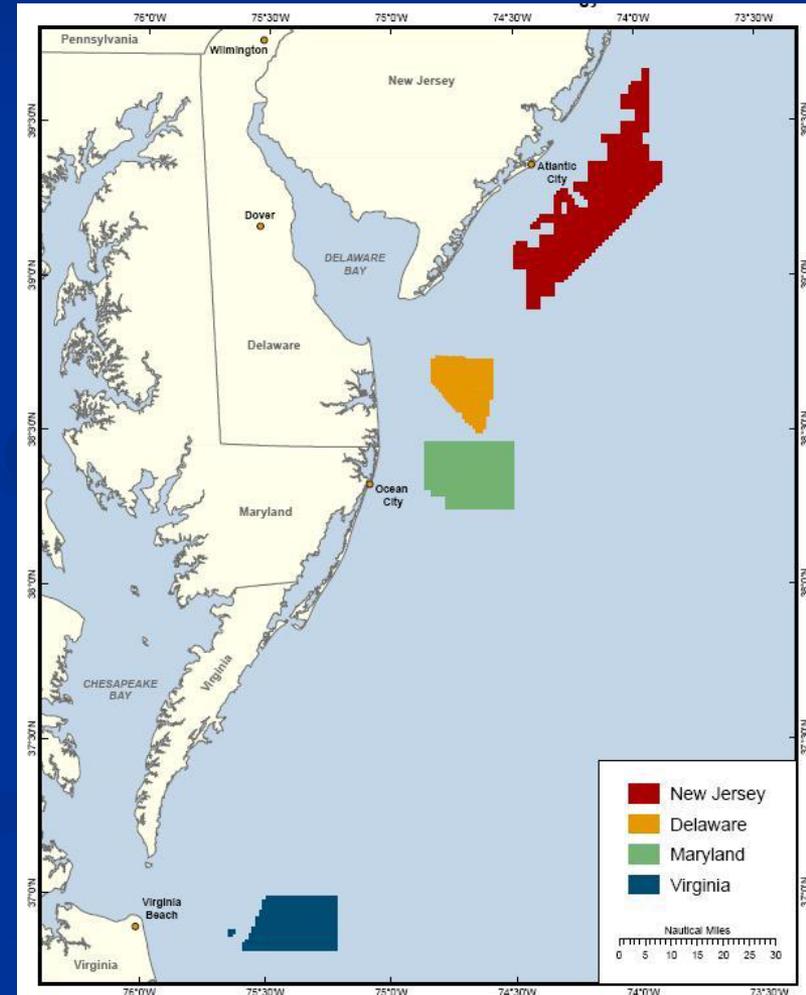
- Earlier actions: FERC agreement, new regulatory framework, Cape Wind decision making, AOWEC
- Comprehensive analysis and appropriate leasing
- Early cooperation among federal, state, Tribal, and local governments (FACA)
- Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)





Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)

- Target analysis: Lowest probable conflict, highest wind potential
- February 2010: WEAs off New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia suitable for further consideration as sites for future offshore wind development





Site Characterization

- High Resolution Geophysical Survey (HRG)
 - Includes subsurface seismic profiling, extent/intensity determined by the area being considered for development (currently limited only to high to mid frequency sonar arrays (i.e., no airguns))
- Biological Resource Survey
 - Presence/absence of threatened and endangered species
 - Presence/absence of sensitive biological resources/habitats
- Cultural Resource Survey
 - Magnetometer
- Sub-bottom Reconnaissance
 - Vibracores, CPTs, sediment borings



SAP Consult Statutes

- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)
- Magnuson-Steven Act (EFH)
- Migratory Bird Treat Act (HMBTA)
- Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Clean Water and Clean Air Acts
- Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)



Research and Studies Efforts

- Environmental Studies Program
<http://www.boemre.gov/eppd/sciences/esp/RenewableEnergyResearch.htm>
- Technology Assessment and Research
www.boemre.gov/tarprojectcategories/RenewableEnergy.htm
- International Energy Agency (IEA) Annex
- Partners include National Oceanic Partnership Program, DOE, FERC, industry, academia, Marine Board, and BOEMRE Scientific Advisory Committee
- Use results to inform leasing, plan review, and program decisions



Opportunities for Public Input

- BOEMRE/State Task Force Meeting Public Q&A Session
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Request for Information published in the Federal Register (60 days)
- Call for Information and Nominations published in the Federal Register, assuming competitive interest, (45 days)
- Proposed Sale Notice (assuming competitive interest) published in the Federal Register (60 days)
- Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement published in the Federal Register (60-90 day scoping)
- Notice of Availability of a draft environmental impact statement published in the Federal Register (60 days, public hearings in the vicinity of the proposed lease)
- Notice of Availability of a final environmental impact statement published in the Federal Register (30 days public review)
- There are also opportunities for stakeholder input in the NEPA process (scoping, draft EIS public hearings, etc.) and possibly CZM.

Thank you!