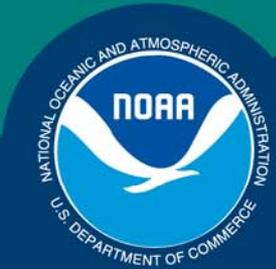


*Science, Service, Stewardship*



# NOAA Energy Activities: Presentation to the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

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**NOAA  
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SERVICE**



## Presentation Outline

- Context – High Level Interest in Energy
- NOAA Internal Energy Activities – Highlights
- NOAA Energy Activities with Partners – Highlights
- Issues for MAFAC Consideration and Discussion



## Context

- March 31, 2010: “Comprehensive Strategy for Offshore Oil and Gas Development and Exploration”
- April 20, 2010: Explosion on the *Deepwater Horizon*
- July 19, 2010: Executive Order adopting Ocean Policy Task Force recommendations, including Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
- January 2011: State of the Union challenge for 80% percent of electricity from clean energy sources by 2035



## Context

- March 30, 2011: “Blueprint for a Secure Energy Future” released by White House
  - Develop region-specific strategies to facilitate offshore energy development in Alaska and Mid/South Atlantic
  - Open a new frontier for Atlantic offshore wind energy development
- May 14, 2011: President announces “new plans to increase responsible domestic oil production”
  - Speed up evaluation of resources in the mid/south Atlantic
  - Leasing of new areas in the Gulf of Mexico
  - Extend length of some leases in Gulf of Mexico and Alaska
  - Alaska offshore permitting process coordinated by WH team



## Context – Link between NOC Priority Objectives and Ocean Energy

- Ecosystem-Based Management
- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
- Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding
- Changing Conditions in the Arctic



# NOAA INTERNAL ENERGY ACTIVITIES

- NOAA Strategic Energy Review
- NOAA Energy Plan



## NOAA Strategic Energy Review (SER)

- Requested in mid-2009 by the NOAA Executive Council
- Objective to develop:
  - An inventory of energy-related programs, capabilities, partnerships, and legislative mandates
  - An evaluation of gaps, opportunities, and potential risks
  - An evaluation of federal and non-federal partnership opportunities
  - Proposed recommendations for a comprehensive and coordinated NOAA strategy for energy issues that considers environmental stewardship of NOAA trust resources



## NOAA SER – Recommendations

- 1) Need to clearly communicate the importance of NOAA’s energy-related activities internally and externally; support stronger coordination and integration of energy activities into NOAA goals, strategies and budget; formalize a NOAA Energy Team.
- 2) NOAA should expand and improve its existing research, observing, modeling, and prediction capabilities to provide additional science and services that will benefit weather and water-dependent renewable energy.



## NOAA SER – Recommendations

- 3) NOAA should take actions to improve regulatory consistency and predictability for coastal and marine energy activities, while also seeking to decrease the environmental and socio-economic impacts of those sectors.
  
- 4) NOAA should seek legislative clarity related to its science and services roles in energy. NOAA should seek reauthorization of its energy-related legislation.



## NOAA Energy Plan

- Origins in December 2010 NOAA Next Generation Strategic Plan and Annual Guidance Memorandum
- Scope has broadened:
  - All NOAA energy activities will be included
  - Both traditional and renewable energy
- Follow up to Strategic Energy Review
- Initial plan will be aligned with the next SEE budget formulation cycle (FY14-18)
- Expected to be used by line offices to prioritize energy activities, partnerships are encouraged



# NOAA ENERGY ACTIVITIES WITH PARTNERS

- National Ocean Council
- NOAA-BOEMRE MOU
- DOE-NOAA MOU
- DOI Smart from the Start
- NOAA-DOE-BOEMRE Joint Funding of Ocean Energy Environmental Research Projects



## National Ocean Council Activities Relevant to Offshore Energy

- NOAA is currently working with other National Ocean Council agencies to develop tools and policies relevant to ocean energy:
  - National data portal for key federal data sets
  - Regional portals with state, local and non-governmental data at scales relevant for regional planning
- CMSP will identify areas most suitable for various types or classes of activities in order to reduce conflicts among uses, reduce environmental impacts, facilitate compatible uses, and preserve critical ecosystem services to meet economic, environmental, security, and social objectives.



## NOAA-BOEMRE MOU

- MOU on Coordination and Collaboration Regarding Outer Continental Shelf Development and Environmental Stewardship signed on May 19, 2011
  - Defines processes to ensure effective and timely communication on oil and gas, ocean renewable energy, and related science
  - Cooperation on environmental analyses to improve stewardship of living marine and coastal resources
  - Collaboration on scientific, environmental, and technical issues for offshore energy
  - Coordination and cooperation on oil spill response issues



## DOE-NOAA MOU

- Department of Energy and NOAA MOU on Weather-Dependent and Oceanic Renewable Energy finalized in January 2011
- Goal of promoting advancements in characterizing the resource dynamics of weather-dependent renewable energy systems
- MOU does not cover environmental or socioeconomic impacts of renewable energy



## DOI – Smart from the Start

- Offshore wind energy initiative for the Atlantic launched by DOI in November 2010
  - Accelerated approach to developing wind energy
  - Identify priority Wind Energy Areas for potential leasing
  - Coordination with local, state, and federal partners through State Task Forces
  - NOAA and NMFS participation on all task forces
  - NMFS interested in issues raised by Regional Fishery Management Councils and NMFS constituents



## NOPP – Renewable Ocean Energy Funding Opportunity

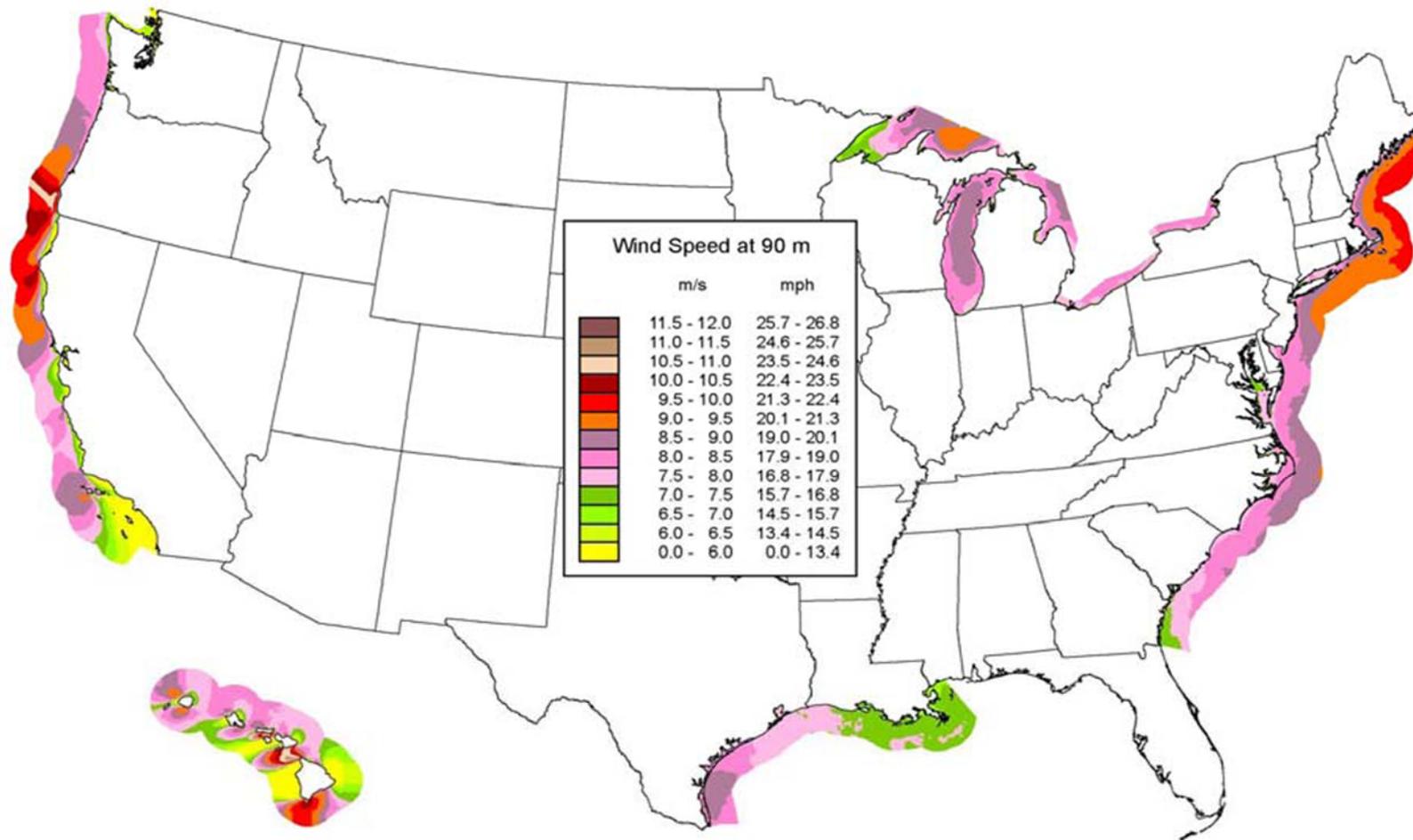
- “Developing Environmental Protocols and Monitoring to Support Ocean Renewable Energy and Stewardship”
- Funding partners: DOE, NOAA, and BOEMRE
- Almost \$5M awarded in FY2010
- 8 projects, each 2-3 years in duration – examples:
  - Characterization and Potential Impacts of Noise Producing Construction and Operation Activities on the Outer Continental Shelf
  - Protocols for Baseline Studies and Monitoring for Ocean Renewable Energy
  - Evaluating Acoustic Technologies to Monitor Aquatic Organisms at Renewable Energy Sites
  - Developing Environmental Protocols and Monitoring to Support Ocean Renewable Energy and Stewardship



# DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

- What priorities should NMFS/NOAA consider in development of the NOAA Energy Plan?
- Other questions or comments?

## United States - Annual Average Offshore Wind Speed at 90 m



Source: NREL

# Thank You!