



Overview of the Mid Atlantic Regional Environmental Assessment and Comments

**Virginia State Task Force Meeting —
August 19, 2011**

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Background

- On February 9, 2011, BOEMRE published the NOI in the *Federal Register* to prepare the Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Identification of wind energy areas (WEAs) offshore NJ, DE, MD and VA.
- Issues identified in comment period framed scope of the analysis.

Summary of the Regional EA:

What it is:

- ✓ Applying '*Smart from the Start*'.
- ✓ Creating efficiencies in renewable energy development.
- ✓ Focused effort, regional in scope.
- ✓ Addresses lease issuance, site characterization surveys, and site assessment activities (towers and buoys).



What it is NOT:

Does NOT include construction/ operations of a commercial wind facility.



Environmental Analysis Summary

■ Routine & Non-Routine Activities

✓ Routine:

- Site Characterization Surveys include shallow hazards, geological, geotechnical, archaeological and biological surveys.
- Site Assessment Activities include the installation of a meteorological towers and/or meteorological buoys.

✓ Non-routine Activities:

- Storms, allision, collisions between vessels or marine life.

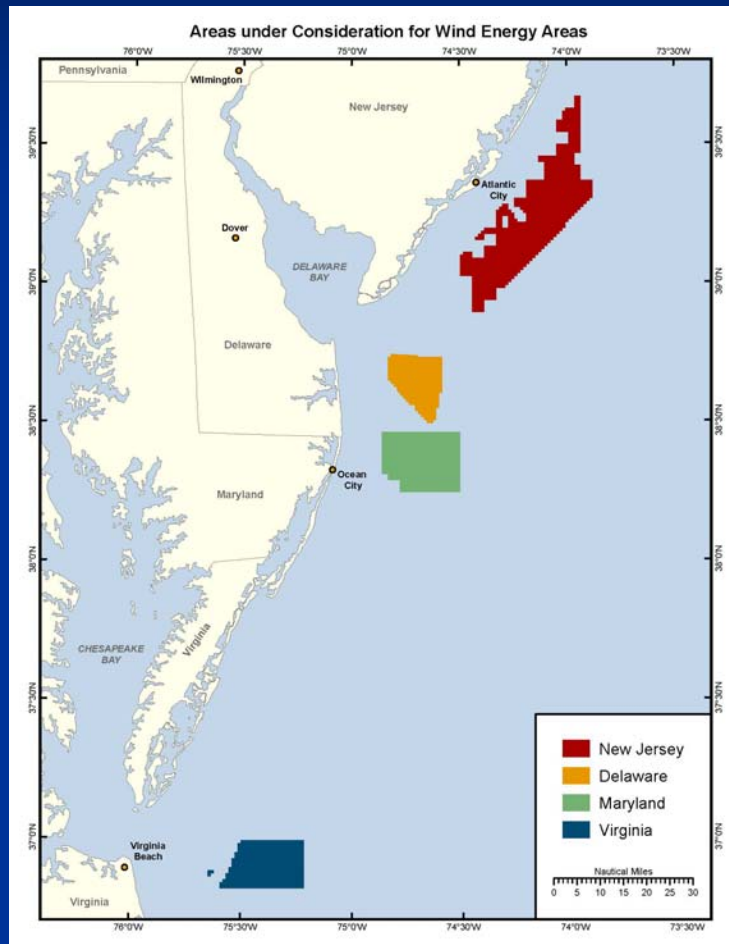
■ Addresses physical, biological, and socioeconomic resources

■ Involved outreach to Mid-Atlantic Mariner Groups

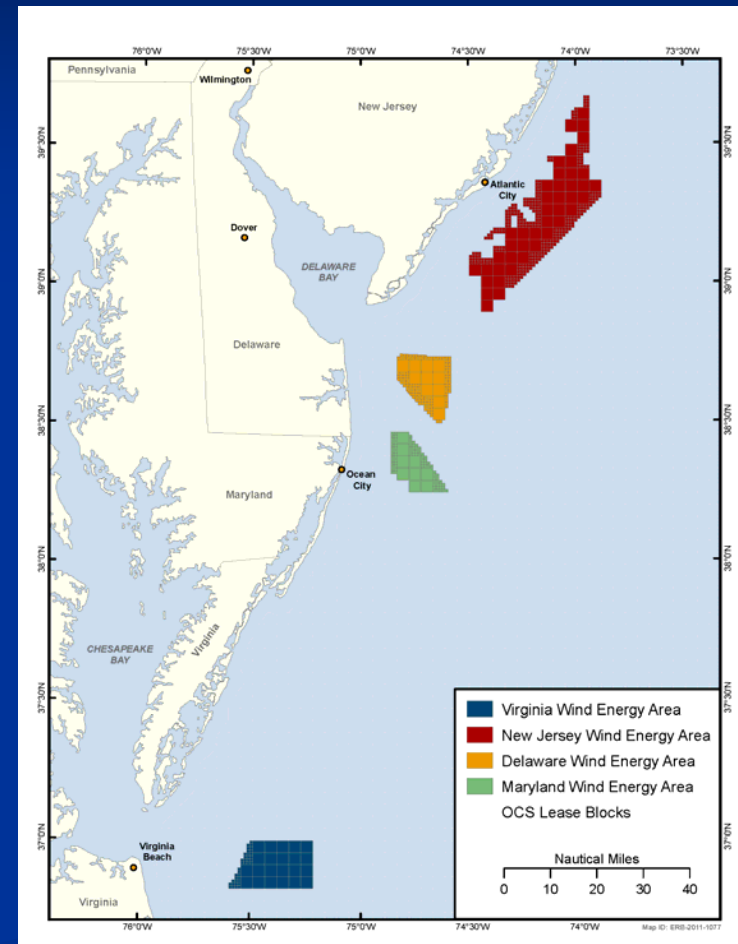
- ✓ Port Authorities
- ✓ Local Mariner Groups
- ✓ Mariner's Advisory Councils



Wind Energy Areas



ORIGINAL WEAs



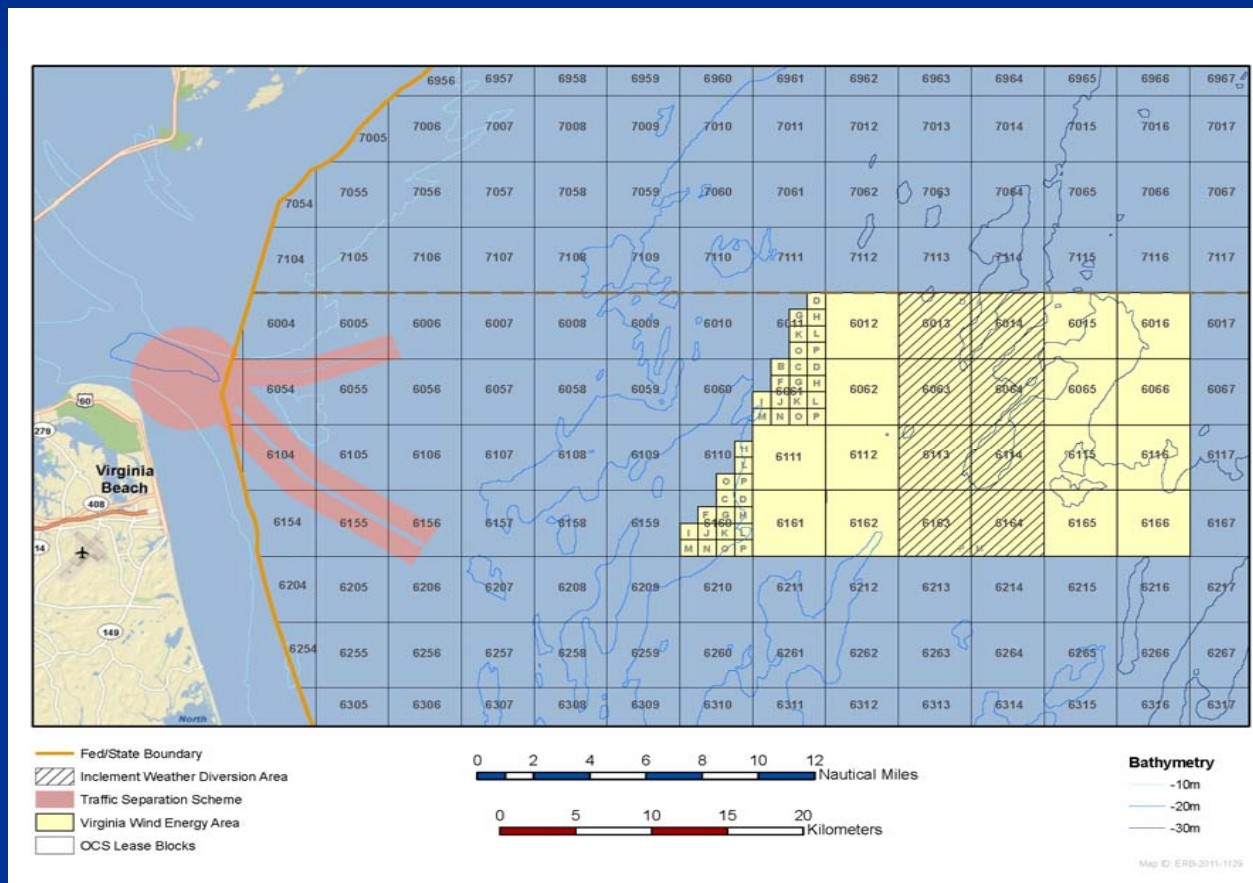
REFINED WEAs

Alternative D – Seasonal Prohibition to Protect the North Atlantic Right Whale

- Alternative D would limit vessel activity during peak migration periods of right whales to and from the summer feeding ground in New England and winter calving ground offshore Georgia and Florida.



Alternative E – Removal of Inclement Weather Diversion Area Offshore Virginia



Draft EA Comments Received

- Draft complete July 11, 2011.
- Mid-Atlantic Draft Regional EA public comment period closed August 11, 2011.
- BOEMRE held two webinars during public comment period (State Task Forces & interest groups).
- Total comments: 57
- VA-related comments: 10

Effects on Call / Next Steps

- BOEMRE will analyze comments received.
- Vessel traffic and mariner issues are a primary concern based on comments received for Virginia.
- Will continue to work closely with USCG on vessel traffic and navigational impacts.
- Final analysis will assist in development of the Call area.



Thank you

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