

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

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## **Overview of BOEMRE Environmental Review Process**

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BOEMRE Maine Task Force Meeting  
September 14, 2010  
Hutchinson Center

# Multi-Step Environmental Review Process

Programmatic AEAU EIS

Competitive  
Commercial

Lease Sale EIS

SAP EA/EIS

COP EA/EIS

Non Competitive  
Commercial

Lease Issuance/  
SAP EA/EIS

COP EA/EIS

Non Competitive  
Limited

Lease Issuance/GAP  
EA/EIS

# Environmental Analysis



# Environmental Studies

## BOEMRE Mandate:

Protect the environment and develop information necessary to assess and manage environmental impacts on the human, marine, and coastal environments.



# The National Environmental Policy Act "NEPA"

- Disclose Plans
- Involve Public
- Identify and Evaluate Alternatives
- Avoid & Mitigate Negative Effects
- Integrate Environmental Analyses

Council on Environmental Quality  
Executive Office of the President

REGULATIONS  
For Implementing The Procedural Provisions Of The  
NATIONAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICY ACT



Reprint  
40 CFR Parts 1500-1508  
(as of July 1, 1986)

# Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA)

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## Sections

- I Purpose and Need for Action
- II Alternatives Including the Proposed Action
- III Affected Environment
- IV Environmental Consequences

# Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

## Steps:

- Public Scoping Meetings
- Draft EIS
- Public Hearings
- Final EIS
- Record of Decision



# Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources and Issues

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Birds
- Bats
- Seafloor Habitats



- Physical Oceanography
- Coastal Habitats
- Socioeconomics
- Cultural Resources
- Fisheries
- Multiple Use Conflicts

# Mitigation Measures

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- BOEMRE's primary mitigation strategy is avoidance
- Lease Stipulations
- Source of mitigation measures:
  - Task Force members
  - Consultations (with partner agencies)
  - Renewable Energy Regulatory Framework
  - Best Management Practices in the Record of Decision on the AEAU Programmatic EIS



# Major Federal Agencies Involved in OCS Activities



Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,  
Regulation and Enforcement



U.S. Coast Guard



Environmental Protection Agency



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



National Marine Fisheries Service



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Federal Aviation Administration

U.S. Geological Survey



Department of Defense

# State, Tribal & Local Stakeholders Involved in OCS Activities for Maine

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- Local Governments
- Tribal Governments
- State Historic Preservation Offices
- Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
- Maine State Planning Office
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and lands
- Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

# Environmental Consultation Processes: Required for BOEM Lease Issuance or Plan Approval

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- Consultations:
  - Coastal Zone Management Act
  - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat)
  - National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)
  - Endangered Species Act (Section 7)
- Clean Air Act General Conformity Determination
- Migratory Birds Treaty Act/Executive Order Analysis

**Run concurrently with NEPA process**

# **Other Processes: Required by Other Federal Agencies or Responsibility of Applicant**

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- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine fisheries Service
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Federal Aviation Act (out to 12 nautical mile)
- USCG Ports and Waterways Safety Act, Maritime Transportation Act
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting under Section 404, Clean Water Act, Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act
- EPA NPDES/VGP Permitting
- FERC Licensing and Coordination
- DOD Coordination

## More Information...

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