Task Force Initiative: Findings and Next Steps

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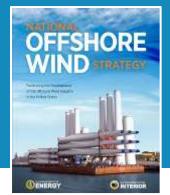
RIMA Task Force Meeting | May 16, 2017 | Falmouth, MA





Project Overview

National Offshore Wind Strategy



BOEM commitment to enhancing coordination and stakeholder engagement

Action	Deliverable	Impact
Revisit the	Document describing Task	Efficient intergovernmental
Structure of	Force evaluation and path	coordination that considers
Intergovernmental	forward for BOEM's Task	input from any and all
Task Forces	Force utilization	potentially affected states

• Task Forces have been successful, two major themes to address:

- 1. Regional issues
- 2. Task Forces in a post leasing world

○ Engaged CBI to conduct interviews with ~30 Task Force members



Assessment Headlines

Interim Findings

- Task Forces earn strong praise in many areas
- Also clear opportunities for improvement (substance and process)
- Important choices ahead
 - State vs. Regional task force focus
 - How/when to launch next round of leasing
 - Strategies for improving transparency, dialogue, and strengthening confidence in process



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Primary Strengths and Challenges

Interim Findings

Key Perceived Strengths		
Strong BOEM staff	Gets folks (esp. feds) out of stovepipes; helps streamline reviews	
Relationship building	Drives towards decision-making; BOEM role as decision-maker is clear	
Great information-sharing, especially for stakeholders with few resources	Surfaces substantive concerns; lays groundwork for off-line dialogues	



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Primary Strengths and Challenges

Interim Findings

Key Perceived	l Challenges
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Unclear if BOEM seeking genuine dialogue	BOEM-centric presentations
Task Forces' limited in addressing regional issues (vessel traffic, fishing)	Limited transparency in decision- making
Issues surfaced but not addressed	Insufficient proxy for meaningful outreach



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What about Regional TFs?

Important Choices Ahead

- Great value in regional approach ...
 - "I like the idea of periodically having regional task forces."
- ... But tough to leave state task forces behind
 - "I see (regional task forces) as creating complexities for BOEM. I would keep things as they are."
 - "Having membership driven by a single state allows for much more targeted and candid discussion."
- Numerous opportunities to articulate regional perspectives within state task force structure



Task Forces in a Post-Leasing World

Important Choices Ahead

 Strong sentiment among participants to maintain Task Forces through upcoming phases

• "Identifying areas is a big step, but it's only a step."

- Some particularly federal partners saw potential for redundancy with NEPA process
- Strong support for bringing lessees to Task Force table post-award
 - "They have the knowledge and answers to many of our questions."

• Diverse formats suggested for engagement



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Ideas for Improving Effectiveness

Important Choices Ahead

- O Diversify frequency and type of Task Force meetings
- Increase basic transparency: meeting summaries, meeting dates, etc.
- Need better, more consistent ways to understand stakeholders concerns
- Articulate credible roadmap for discussing, deciding and communicating on issues raised at Task Force meetings
- Hardwire in strategies to surface regional issues and considerations
- And lots more.....



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BOEM's Next Steps

The Path Forward

• CBI to document results and recommendations in report

 In conjunction with Path Forward exercise, BOEM is assessing ways to incorporate a more regional approach

• Task Forces in a post-leasing world

 Summer/Fall 2017 – Document describing Task Force evaluation and path forward for BOEM's Task Force utilization



Future Task Force Implementation

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FINDINGS & NEXT STEPS Questions? / Discussion

Falmouth, MA



