



Meeting Summary

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

I. Introduction

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) convened its second Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting on October 10, 2023. The Task Force is intended to facilitate coordination, consultation, and information sharing among federal, state, local, and Tribal Nations regarding the renewable energy leasing process on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in states comprising Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The meeting's objectives were to:

- Provide an update to Task Force members on activities relevant to offshore wind energy since the February 2022 Task Force meeting.
- Outline next steps in the offshore wind energy leasing process for the Central Atlantic states, including opportunities to provide input into the process through the anticipated lease sale.
- Provide opportunities for public input on the topics being considered by the Task Force.

The meeting agenda is available in [Appendix A](#). Recordings of the meeting proceedings along with each meeting presentation are available on [BOEM's Central Atlantic Renewable Energy Activities website](#).

The meeting was held virtually via webinar using the Zoom Webinar platform. Participants included representatives from federal and state agencies and several local government officials. Potentially affected Tribal Nations were invited but did not attend. Members of the public included representatives from industry, academic and research institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) among others. Approximately 60 Task Force members and 120 members of the public attended. The list of Task Force members who attended the meeting is available in [Appendix B](#).

BOEM made a series of presentations on offshore wind activities in the Central Atlantic region and Task Force members shared relevant information related to offshore wind energy in the Central Atlantic. There were multiple opportunities for Task Force members to ask clarifying questions and engage in discussion. An informal public input opportunity followed the close of the formal Task Force meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Kearns & West.

This meeting summary document synthesizes presentation content, distills the discussions related to presentations, includes Task Force and public questions, comments, and responses, and describes next steps from the meeting. It is not intended to be a detailed transcript.

This meeting summary is organized into the following sections:

- I. Introduction

- II. Task Force Discussion Highlights
 - A. Welcome & Opening Remarks
 - B. Central Atlantic Updates from BOEM
 - C. Task Force Discussion – Tribal Governments
 - D. Task Force Updates & Feedback
 - E. Process Next Steps
 - F. Future Leasing in the Central Atlantic & Closing Remarks
- III. Public Input Opportunity
- IV. Appendices
 - A. Agenda
 - B. Task Force Member Participation List

II. Task Force Discussion Highlights

A. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Liz Klein, BOEM Director, welcomed participants to the Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting. Director Klein noted the importance of the Central Atlantic Task Force and other regional Task Forces as valuable opportunities for BOEM to collect meaningful feedback to guide offshore wind development. She explained that BOEM prioritizes wind energy areas (WEAs) by evaluating the strongest wind resources, environmental impacts, and potential conflicts with other ocean users and stakeholders.

Director Klein emphasized the Central Atlantic will be invaluable in accomplishing the Biden-Harris administration's goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030, as well as 15 gigawatts of floating offshore wind energy by 2035. She reviewed BOEM's recent lease sales off the coasts of New York, the Carolinas, California, and the Gulf of Mexico and highlighted that future offshore wind development may take place in regions such as the Central Atlantic, the Gulf of Maine, and Oregon. Director Klein reviewed the anticipated mid-2024 lease sale in the Central Atlantic region and noted the potential for additional lease sales in the future. She concluded her remarks by stating that BOEM is committed to a transparent, inclusive, and data-driven process that results in the Central Atlantic flourishing while meeting states' clean energy goals.

Karen Baker, Chief of BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP), explained that BOEM is nearly ready to release its draft Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) document, but requires more time due to considerations about deconflicting proposed WEAs. She emphasized BOEM's priority in remaining transparent during its decision-making process. Ms. Baker reiterated that this Task Force meeting is an opportunity to provide insights into the primary factors that BOEM has been considering and engaging federal partners on with regard to the Central Atlantic region.

B. Central Atlantic Updates from BOEM

1. Lease Sale Process and Background

Bridgette Duplantis, BOEM's Central Atlantic Project Coordinator, provided an overview of BOEM's renewable energy leasing and development process in the Central Atlantic. The presentation included an overview of BOEM's offshore wind planning and analysis process and the steps that have already been completed, including previous Task Force and public engagement, comment periods, and modeling. She explained that BOEM anticipates releasing the Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) in Q4 2023 followed by a 60-day public comment period. After that, the Final Sale Notice will be released, likely in Q2 2024. The proposed timeline aims for a lease auction to occur in Q3 2024. Ms. Duplantis reviewed how BOEM winnowed down the initial Planning Areas and considered existing conflicts or environmental factors. Ms. Duplantis explained that once a prospective WEA is removed from BOEM's consideration, it cannot be reconsidered within the current leasing and development process.

Brandon Jensen, BOEM's Central Atlantic Technical Lead, reviewed how spatial modeling was used in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) to support BOEM's identification of the WEAs. Mr. Jensen reviewed the spatial suitability model, how it considered the entirety of ecosystems, and identified areas of conflict or potential opportunity for offshore wind development. Sub-models that informed the suitability score included constraints, national security, industry, fisheries, wind, and natural and cultural resources.

Following the determination of suitability scores, BOEM solicited feedback from members of the public and federal partners, such as the Department of Defense (DOD), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and incorporated comments to inform the determination for the final WEA map.

Dave Diamond, Atlantic Operations Deputy Chief for BOEM's OREP, clarified that while the final suitability model only showed high suitability for Areas A and C, BOEM and its federal partners agreed to review portions of Area B and re-run the suitability model without DOD and NASA constraints to fully understand spatial suitability. Mr. Diamond noted that mitigating DOD impacts is challenging because significant operational activities take place in the area. The final WEAs were Areas A-2, B-1, and C-1 with a combined 356,550 acres and 4.3-8.1 gigawatts (GW) of capacity when fully developed. Mr. Diamond added that Area B-1 could be included in the PSN if a strategy is developed to adequately mitigate the DOD and NASA constraints in the area.

2. Auction Format, Lease-Specific Terms, Conditions, and Stipulations

Marty Heinze, an Economist for BOEM, reviewed the potential Central Atlantic offshore wind auction format. He explained that bids are equal to the total of monetary factors (cash) and non-monetary factors (bidding credits). Bidding credits are commitments to financial investments in special initiatives like workforce training, supply chain development and fisheries mitigation. An auction will continue until no more than one active bidder per lease area remains. Mr. Heinze added that three companies are currently qualified to bid in the Central Atlantic. He concluded his presentation by reviewing the specific stipulations of bidding credits and potential terms and conditions.

3. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Consultations, and the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)

Lisa Landers, BOEM's NEPA Section Chief, reviewed the NEPA process for offshore wind development in the Central Atlantic region. BOEM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in August 2023. The EA will analyze potential environmental impacts associated with site assessment and characterization activities that may occur after lease issuance. Ms. Landers concluded by outlining consultations that are required by the Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the CZMA.

4. Next Steps

Ms. Duplantis concluded BOEM's presentation by reviewing the anticipated schedule for offshore wind development in the Central Atlantic region. The PSN is anticipated to be published in Q4 2023, the Final Sale Notice to be published in Q2 2024, and the lease auction to occur in Q3 2024.

5. Task Force Clarifying Questions

The BOEM speakers then opened the floor for clarifying questions specific to the information presented to participants from the PowerPoint slides. A summary of the clarifying questions posed and their responses from presenters are captured below by topic.

a) *Leasing Process*

Question: Can you please explain why only three companies are qualified to bid on Central Atlantic leases? Do you expect more companies will become qualified in the future?

Response: Those three companies submitted qualification packages during the Call for Information and Nominations process, so they have already completed the necessary steps to be legally, financially and technically qualified for the Central Atlantic lease sale. There is another opportunity for additional companies to become qualified during the Proposed Sale Notice (PSN). Those instructions will be included in the PSN document when it is published.

Question: Will WEA C off the coast of Virginia be one lease or multiple?

Response: Currently BOEM expects WEA C to be one lease but that has not been finalized. The final decision will be included in the PSN.

Question: Can you explain the expected lease stipulations? What are developers' obligations to supply chain and workforce development, and how will BOEM hold them accountable?

Response: For supply chain and workforce training, bidders submit a conceptual strategy for how they propose to meet the bidding credit requirements. Although aspects of the conceptual strategy might change between a lease bid and the beginning of construction, lessees must commit to making bidding credit contributions consistent with the bidding credit requirements. The lease stipulation includes the eligible programs, initiatives or fisheries mitigation obligations as well as enforcement mechanisms (e.g., a lessee paying the Treasury back for the amount of a bidding credit plus interest) if the lessee does not comply with the lease stipulations.

Question: How does BOEM determine the percentages for bidder credits?

Response: BOEM limits the non-monetary factor to a maximum of 25% of the bid. BOEM is utilizing new software that will calculate the percentages for bidder credits based on the total bid rather than the cash bid as done in recent auctions. Our percentages will differ slightly from previous leases in the Gulf of Mexico and California, but the total non-monetary percentage of the bid won't exceed 25%.

Question: What is the status of including federal fisheries survey mitigation requirements within the leasing process?

Response: Based on BOEM's the legal constraints for bidding credits, survey mitigation requirements do not fall within BOEM's statutory authority. The primary legal constraint is the Miscellaneous Receipts Act which restricts BOEM from directing funds to another federal agency.

Question: Can you explain what "siting conditions for bidding credits" includes?

Response: Siting conditions are lease conditions for coordinating with an adjacent lease.

Question: Can you clarify the specific percentages for bidding credits between fisheries compensatory mitigation fund and workforce training and/or domestic supply chain development?

Response: Supply chain development is 17% and fisheries compensation is 8% of bidding credits. The sum of these two bidding credits' percentages equal 25% which is currently BOEM's maximum non-monetary bid factor.

Question: How will BOEM coordinate with the Atlantic Fisheries Mitigation Fund?

Response: BOEM requires the lessee to contribute to a fisheries mitigation compensation fund if it committed to the bidding credit. BOEM does not specify that the contribution must go to a particular fund. BOEM expects that lessees will choose to contribute to the Atlantic Fisheries Mitigation Fund, but it is not a requirement of the lease.

Question: How does BOEM evaluate the sufficiency of compensation funds? Is it possible that the maximum amounts might change as project details become clearer?

Response: As an example, if BOEM receives \$100 million in a bid for all the Central Atlantic lease areas, \$8 million (8%) will be contributed to a compensatory fisheries mitigation fund. The fund is designed to be regional, and the contribution amount may be deemed insufficient as a project's plans become clearer in the Construction and Operations phase. There are terms and conditions for each COP approval that outline what developers' obligations may be for fisheries mitigation. The developer might need to contribute additional amounts if the initial total is insufficient.

Question: Are bidding credits required or are they conditions that BOEM is offering?

Response: Bidding credits are voluntary and not a requirement. BOEM believes that bidders will opt to commit to all bidding credits, but it is up to the bidder's discretion. Deciding to not use bidding credits will require bidders to commit more money in cash up front to win a lease.

b) Environmental Impacts

Question: Is BOEM considering conducting a Programmatic ESA Section 7 consultation in the Central Atlantic to match the work being done in the New York Bight area, or will individual ESA consultations be conducted like in the Massachusetts and Rhode Island leases?

Response: BOEM has not made a final decision on whether a programmatic approach will be applied in the Central Atlantic region.

c) WEAs

Question: How did BOEM calculate the potential capacity for each WEA?

Response: BOEM uses a range to display the potential capacity of offshore wind projects. The lower end of the estimated range is a conservative number that BOEM has calculated using the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) guidance, which is based on 3 kilowatt/square kilometer capacity. As BOEM receives new leases and Construction and Operations Plans (COPs), such as off the coast of Virginia, the agency has seen proposals with higher densities for turbines so we have updated our range to include those estimates as well.

Question: Will the WEA B-1 be included in the PSN?

Response: BOEM is still coordinating with NASA and DOD on WEA B-1 and a final decision has not been made yet.

d) NCCOS Model

Question: How were fisheries resources utilized in the NCCOS model to identify potential conflicts?

*Response: BOEM collaborated with its partners at the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to use fisheries footprint data early in the process to remove highly constrained fisheries areas. **Post-Meeting Clarification:** BOEM chose not to include fisheries footprint data. Instead, BOEM considered data from a study by Kirkpatrick et al. 2017 titled "Socio-Economic Impact of Outer Continental Shelf Wind Energy Development on Fishing in the U.S. Atlantic." Areas identified as having the most intense fishing activity in VTR data from 2007 – 2012 were removed before the development of the Call Area. BOEM has a final report that is available [on its website](#) that details all the fisheries data that were included in the NCCOS model.*

C. Task Force Discussion – Tribal Governments

BOEM invited Tribal Nations within the Central Atlantic region to provide remarks during the Task Force meeting, however, no Tribal Nation chose to provide updates or feedback.

D. Task Force Updates & Feedback

1. Federal Partners

a) USCG – Maureen Kallgren, Marine Transportation Specialist

Ms. Kallgren reviewed updates that have been made to the Port Access Route Studies (PARS) which informed an earlier rulemaking proposal to establish shipping safety fairways along the Atlantic coast. She explained that USCG is waiting on clearance before publishing the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with a 90-day comment period. Once those comments are received, USCG will incorporate them into the final rule and codify the fairways into regulation. Ms. Kallgren encouraged participants to contact her with any questions or alternate proposals at Maureen.r.Kallgren2@uscg.mil.

b) DOD – Steve Sample, Executive Director, Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse

Mr. Sample explained that the role of DOD Clearinghouse is to find compatible and safe energy development opportunities in the U.S. that balance DOD's needs to conduct testing and training operations. Mr. Sample explained that BOEM and DOD coordinate early and often in the area identification process to name challenges associated with energy development in prospective areas. Mr. Sample indicated that DOD does not remove WEAs from consideration but identifies use conflicts for BOEM that would impact offshore wind development. DOD also provides potential mitigation strategies to BOEM, with the most common mitigation strategies being radar optimization agreements and curtailment agreements.

Mr. Sample outlined DOD's review of the Call Areas within the Central Atlantic region. DOD considered Areas A and C to be ideal and non-conflicted by DOD due to already-approved leases nearby. He explained that, from DOD's perspective, some of the deepwater areas had potential for renewable energy development but were removed for consideration by BOEM before DOD conducted a comprehensive review. Area B has critical impacts for Navy and Air Force operations which pose significant challenges for offshore wind development. BOEM, NASA, and DOD are actively discussing feasible mitigation strategies within Area B-1. Mr. Sample explained that DOD considers the impacts of implementing mitigation strategies such as the likelihood of success, cost implications to DOD and developers, and future impacts to other viable areas for energy development. Mr. Sample concluded by stating that DOD is committed to a long-term partnership with BOEM that supports the safe energy development on the OCS.

c) Clarifying Questions

The following clarifying question was asked about DOD's presentation.

Question: Where is the starting point for renewable energy development consideration off the coast of North Carolina? Are BOEM and DOD amenable to reconsidering Area D in future leasing processes?

Response: Call Area D was not included in the final Central Atlantic WEAs, so BOEM cannot re-review this area within the current lease sale process. BOEM anticipates reviewing Call Area D again for a future lease sale in the Central Atlantic region. BOEM is working with stakeholders to prepare for additional sale processes. BOEM hopes that new information, technologies, and models can help open up previously constrained areas. Additionally, DOD and USCG do not make decisions about which WEAs are included in lease sales but are prepared to partner with BOEM on future area identification processes.

2. State Members

a) Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) - Paul Pinsky, Director

Director Pinsky opened his presentation by reinforcing Governor Wes Moore's commitment to offshore wind development off Maryland's coast to meet the state's goal of 100% clean energy by 2035. He overviewed legislation the state has passed in support of clean energy development and explained that Maryland is investing in workforce development, new steel fabrication, turbine component manufacturing, and supply chain operations. Director Pinsky emphasized that long-term commitment to offshore wind development needs to be demonstrated for additional investment in the offshore wind market.

Director Pinsky expressed concern that BOEM's current WEAs and expected capacities are not enough for Maryland to achieve its goal of 8.5 GW of offshore wind and pose challenges to other states in the Central Atlantic region in reaching their own offshore wind goals. Director Pinsky requested that BOEM identify additional, larger lease areas in the Central Atlantic region. He requested that BOEM expand Area A-2, maintain Area B-1, and review Area E. He emphasized that investments are needed to meet President Joe Biden's offshore wind goals, which could include mitigation strategies and relocating DOD training facilities. Director Pinsky concluded his remarks by welcoming increased collaboration between MEA, BOEM, and other federal agencies for future leasing processes.

b) North Carolina Department of Commerce – Jennifer Mundt, Assistant Secretary for Clean Energy Economic Development

Ms. Mundt opened her remarks by thanking BOEM and acknowledging the difficult work of deconflicting potential WEAs with other ocean users. She reviewed legislation that North Carolina has recently enacted in support of clean energy development. Ms. Mundt overviewed North Carolina's partnerships with other states and investments in manufacturing facilities, ports, workforce development, and supply chain elements.

North Carolina currently has three active leases with one near Kitty Hawk and two in the Carolina Long Bay. North Carolina expects these leases to generate up to 6 GW of offshore wind energy. Ms. Mundt requested that BOEM identify additional suitable areas for offshore wind development within the Central Atlantic region to support North Carolina's goal of developing 8 GW of offshore wind by 2040. She concluded her presentation by requesting that BOEM 1) prepare an EA for the entirety of the November 2022 Call Area to allow greater flexibility for future area identification and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) coverage, and 2) deconflict Area D off the North Carolina coast to allow the area to go to auction before it can be impeded by Congressional Review Act activities.

3. Other Task Force Members and General Discussion

a) Rachael Peabody and Todd Janeski, Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Ms. Peabody introduced herself and noted that her remarks were specific to fisheries' considerations and not on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Ms. Peabody explained that the Marine Resources Commission's goal is to balance maximizing Virginia's offshore wind energy development with other ocean users' and stakeholders' interests. She requested that BOEM consider the Commission's recommendations for fisheries resource avoidance and minimization in Areas A and C and noted that these recommendations have been provided to BOEM through letters but have not been accounted for in the NCCOS model. Ms. Peabody specified that Area A contains valuable surf clam and Atlantic Sea scallops that have economic and ecological implications for Virginia's fisheries and the fishing community. Ms. Peabody noted that the Commission has also heard industry concerns regarding navigation and vessel traffic in Area A. For Area C, pot and trap fishery concerns and surf clam resource conflicts have been

raised. Ms. Peabody concluded her remarks by recommending early avoidance of pot and trap fisheries resources in documented major harvest areas as well as prioritizing early surveys of surf clam resources to inform future mitigation and minimization efforts.

Todd Janeski, Fisheries Coordinator, added that Virginia has been a member of the 11-state effort to establish a regional fiduciary administrator for compensatory mitigation. Mr. Janeski explained that the process has solicited input from the commercial fishing industry through the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA).

c) [Ryan Green, Coastal Zone Management \(CZM\), Virginia.](#)

Mr. Green emphasized the importance of communicating early and often throughout the offshore wind development processes. He explained that a Trump-administration executive order replaced regional planning bodies with state-led efforts, so Virginia has responded by developing a Virginia Ocean Plan. Mr. Green added that CZM will likely conduct outreach to relevant federal agencies to develop a comprehensive plan with recommendations on policy and identification and resolution of data gaps. Mr. Green concluded his remarks by requesting additional information on future opportunities for coordination with BOEM during the offshore wind development process since some of CZM's comments or data were not included in the final WEAs.

BOEM shared that staff *will reach out to CZM and provide a report detailing all of the data layers included in the NCCOS model.*

d) [Will Fediw, Vice President, Virginia Maritime Association](#)

Mr. Fediw acknowledged that his remarks represent the Virginia Maritime Association and not the Commonwealth of Virginia. He shared that Virginia has the second-largest port on the East Coast and the largest naval presence in the world, so the collaborative process with different stakeholder segments is important for maximizing offshore wind and maritime supply chain development. Mr. Fediw requested that offshore wind development avoid negatively impacting DOD and NASA operations in the Central Atlantic, which he stated are also critical to Virginia's economy.

e) [Amanda Rutherford, U.S. Department of Transportation \(USDOT\)](#)

Ms. Rutherford noted that the USDOT and the Marine Administration have grants to support offshore wind development needs at U.S. ports. Ms. Rutherford encouraged participants to contact her to discuss pursuing different grant options, providing an example of a recent \$20 million grant to support offshore at the Portsmouth Marine Terminal in Virginia. Ms. Rutherford also highlighted that the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) has an offshore wind simulator that is relevant to the Task Force's discussion. Ms. Rutherford concluded by stating that Task Force members and members of the public are welcome to contact her via email (Amanda.Rutherford@dot.gov) for more information.

f) [Lorig Charkoudian, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly](#)

Delegate Charkoudian introduced herself as the chief author and sponsor of the POWER Act in Maryland which established the goal of 8.5 GW of offshore wind by 2030. Del. Charkoudian highlighted three key themes for BOEM's consideration:

- Low-hanging fruit for offshore wind development has been utilized and the more difficult work is ahead in balancing ocean users' needs and moving forward on clean energy.
- Discussions of offshore wind siting often ignore the negative impacts of inaction such as poor health, rising sea levels, and severe weather events.

- The U.S. offshore wind market must see significant growth to optimize capacity and financial feasibility.

Del. Charkoudian stated that piecemeal development raises costs over time and will make it more difficult to get full buy-in and investment from industry. Del. Charkoudian concluded by requesting BOEM keep and expand WEA B-1 and maximize lease areas in future sale processes.

Once all the Task Force members provided their feedback or remarks, Karen Baker acknowledged the comments that BOEM heard and noted BOEM's appreciation for the challenges associated with balancing offshore wind development with other ocean users. Ms. Baker added that BOEM will continue this dialogue and will share all the input heard at the Task Force meeting with BOEM leadership to inform the release of the draft PSN and future processes. Ms. Baker reiterated BOEM's commitment to future offshore wind development beyond this first lease sale in the Central Atlantic.

E. Process Next Steps

Bridgette Duplantis reminded participants of the milestones within the Central Atlantic region. After draft WEAs were published in November 2022, BOEM held three virtual stakeholder meetings and incorporated input into the final WEAs that were published on July 31, 2023. She shared that the PSN is anticipated to be published in Q4 2023, the Final Sale Notice to be published in Q2 2024, and the lease auction to occur in Q3 2024.

The following clarifying questions were asked:

Question: Will we learn about the decision on Area B-1 through the Proposed Sale Notice?

Response: Yes, the Proposed Sale Notice will contain the decision on Area B-1.

Question: How will BOEM notify the public of any changes to the target schedule?

Response: BOEM will hold other stakeholder meetings or publish an updated schedule on our website. You can also subscribe to BOEM's email distribution list to receive updates [using this sign-up form](#).

Question: Will the second Central Atlantic lease sale reevaluate WEAs from this first round?

Response: BOEM will re-review the Central Atlantic region and may include previously reviewed WEAs depending on the level of constraints.

F. Future Leasing in the Central Atlantic & Closing Remarks

Karen Baker provided closing remarks for the Task Force meeting. Ms. Baker explained that BOEM is prepared to move rapidly into conversations with Central Atlantic states and Task Force members for the first lease sale while simultaneously planning for the next Central Atlantic lease sale. BOEM believes the next potential Central Atlantic sale could occur as early as 2025, however, that timeline is dependent on the PSN and Final Sale Notice. Ms. Baker added that BOEM is interested in re-engaging Central Atlantic states to update its modeling assumptions related to additional acreage closer to shore, adjacent planning areas, new information that may change NCCOS constraints, and opportunities for deepwater development through new technologies. Ms. Baker ended her remarks by reminding participants that additional stakeholder engagements with BOEM are forthcoming.

III. Public Input Opportunity

A. Public Input

Comments and questions shared during the public input opportunity generally fell under the categories of offshore wind capacity, leasing processes, impacts and mitigation, and stakeholder engagement. These questions and comments are summarized below.

1. Offshore Wind Capacity

Question: Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina all have laws that require them to build at least 11 GW of offshore wind in new lease areas. Will the final maps allow states to meet our existing requirements?

Response: The final areas included in the PSN will include all or some of the WEAs released in July. Those total capacity estimates were between 4-8 GW so they will fall below the 11 GW goal. BOEM does not view this lease sale as the only lease sale opportunity in the Central Atlantic region and will consider future sales to help meet states' goals.

Comment: In my opinion, 4.8 GW of offshore wind energy is not enough capacity to foster new investments in the region and I have concerns about the necessary acreage to meet states' goals. The Inflation Reduction Act is a powerful tool, but it must be paired with a long-term leasing strategy that increases acreage to maximize its impact.

Comment: Investment and support of the domestic supply chain, manufacturing, and workforce development are essential to foster the offshore wind industry's growth.

2. Leasing Processes

Question: Has WEA D been ruled out by BOEM for future consideration?

Response: Area D is off the table for the 2024 lease sale but will be re-reviewed for future sales. The next lease sale could occur as early as 2025; however, that timeline is determined by Inflation Reduction Act stipulations that require the federal government to hold offshore wind lease sales within one year of oil and gas auctions.

Question: How will BOEM consider deepwater call areas in future area identification processes?

Response: BOEM will revalidate the assumptions used in this process for future lease sales. Factors included in the NCCOS model to identify constraints might change such as new technologies, mitigation strategies, or OCS information. That would include deepwater areas included in the Call Area but not the final WEAs.

Question: How were the two bidding credit percentages determined?

Response: For other lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and California, supply chain and workforce training have been allocated two-thirds of the available credits, and the fisheries compensation mitigation fund has been allocated one-third. As discussed earlier, this same proportion is likely to be proposed for the Central Atlantic.

Question: Can existing leases be transferred to leases farther offshore to minimize impacts on tourism and residents?

Response: Ownership of a lease can be transferred from one entity to another and that process is outlined in the lease's terms and conditions; however, leases cannot be moved to a different geographic location.

3. Impacts and Mitigation

Question: Has DOD identified any concerns within WEAs A, B, and C due to transmission lines running to shore?

Response: DOD has worked with current leaseholders and found successful landings that do not pose challenges for DOD. While DOD has not yet looked at landings for other leases, we will always work to mitigate concerns. BOEM has not yet taken a comprehensive look at transmission planning but has an interagency agreement with NCCOS to apply transmission planning in the Central Atlantic once more information is available.

Comment: I do not think that offshore wind energy is a viable solution for climate change due to the necessary resources and time needed to make an impact.

Question: Will it be clear to developers what the level of necessary funding is to mitigate fisheries impacts?

Response: The bidding credits will not fully compensate for fishing impacts but are intended as voluntary contributions that will compensate for these impacts. The total scale and value of the impacts will not be known until later in the project, but BOEM has draft guidance on how to calculate those impacts.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

Comment: It does not seem like communities' perspectives and feedback have been adequately incorporated into BOEM's process.

Question: Why was U.S. Wind allowed to revise its COP without advance public notice and enough time for the public to review the document?

Response: Generally, when a COP is received it undergoes a sufficiency review to ensure it contains all necessary information for BOEM and other agencies to complete their review. COPs typically have multiple updates through this process and can sometimes have significant changes to the project design based on this review. The U.S. Wind lease is currently undergoing environmental review and the public comment period will be open through November 20.

B. Meeting Adjourn

Bridgette Duplantis concluded the Task Force meeting by thanking attendees for their active participation and engagement throughout the process. Interested parties can reach out to BOEM with questions at Bridgette.Duplantis@boem.gov or David.MacDuffee@boem.gov by October 31, 2023, and for media inquiries, parties should contact John Filostrat at John.Filostat@boem.gov.

IV. Appendices

A. Agenda

Virtual Meeting/Zoom Webinar
Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force
October 10, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET

Meeting Information

[Register here](#)

**Registration is required to attend the Task Force meeting*

Task Force Purpose: Facilitate coordination, consultation, and information sharing among federal, state, local, and tribal governments regarding renewable energy leasing process on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in states comprising North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware.

Meeting Objectives

- Provide an update to Task Force members on activities relevant to offshore wind energy since the February 2022 Task Force meeting.
- Provide Task Force members with information on the Central Atlantic draft Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) and solicit feedback.
- Outline next steps in the offshore wind energy leasing process for the Central Atlantic states, including opportunities to provide input into the process through the anticipated lease sale.
- Provide opportunities for public input on topics being considered by the Task Force.

Agenda

Time (ET)	Item	Lead
9:45 a.m.	Join the Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All
10:00 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz Klein, Director, BOEM • Karen Baker, Chief, Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP), BOEM
10:15 a.m.	Task Force Meeting Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar instructions & guidance • Task Force introductions • Public participation process • Agenda review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitator, Kearns & West
10:25 a.m.	Presentation of the Draft Central Atlantic Renewable Energy Proposed Sale Notice (PSN), including Proposed Bidding Credits, Auction Format, & Leasing Stipulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Task Force Engagement Process (10 min) • Overview of Central Atlantic Offshore Wind Activities and Draft PSN (40 min) • Clarifying questions (10 min) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgette Duplantis, Central Atlantic Project Coordinator, BOEM • Brandon Jensen, Fisheries Biologist, BOEM • Dave Diamond, Atlantic Operations Deputy Chief, OREP, BOEM

Summary – October 10, 2023, Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting

Time (ET)	Item	Lead
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marty Heinze, Economist, BOEM • Lisa Landers, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Section Chief, BOEM
11:25 a.m.	Task Force Discussion – Tribal Governments’ Feedback on Draft PSN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal Governments • Bridgette Duplantis, BOEM
11:45 a.m.	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
12:30 p.m.	Task Force Updates and Feedback on Draft PSN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Coast Guard • Department of Defense • State of Maryland • State of North Carolina • Other Task Force members and general discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force Members • Facilitator, Kearns & West
2:25 p.m.	Process Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridgette Duplantis, BOEM
2:30 p.m.	Future Leasing in the Central Atlantic and Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Baker, Chief, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, BOEM
2:40 p.m.	<i>Task Force Meeting Adjourns</i>	
2:45 p.m.	Public Input Opportunity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested individuals are encouraged to provide input on the topics considered and discussed by the Task Force. Please note that this is not formal public comment, but rather than additional informal input opportunity that BOEM is offering the public at the Draft PSN stage to inform the PSN. • Participants may provide input by clicking the “raise hand” icon to enter the queue. Those who wish to provide oral input will be given a 1-3 minute time amount depending on the number of anticipated speakers. The queue of comments and questions will be moderated by the facilitator. • Informal written input may be submitted following the meeting via email to Bridgette Duplantis at Bridgette.Duplantis@boem.gov with the subject line “Oct. 10 BOEM Central Atlantic Task Force Public Input” by Oct. 31, 2023. 	
3:55 p.m.	<i>Next Steps and Adjourn</i>	

Note on Timing

The length and tenor of any one session are hard to predict. Posted times should be used as a guide but not as a rule. Other than a start time of 10:00am and an end time approximating 4:00pm, topics may take varying degrees of time and the meeting may end early or extend beyond the noted time of adjourning.

B. Task Force Member Participant List

See below for a list of Task Force members who participated in the October 10, 2023, Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting. Task Force members are listed alphabetically by affiliation.

State of New Jersey

1. Colleen Brust – Department of Environmental Protection

State of Delaware

1. Kimberley Cole – Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
2. Jesse Hayden – Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
3. Jackie Griffith – Delaware State University
4. David Wunsch – University of Delaware

State of Maryland

1. Catherine McCall – Department of Natural Resources
2. Troy Nowak - Department of Planning
3. Samuel Beirne – Maryland Energy Administration
4. Eric Coffman – Maryland Energy Administration
5. Amanda Best – Maryland Public Service Commission
6. Terence McGean – Town of Ocean City

Commonwealth of Virginia

1. Al Christopher – Department of Energy
2. Ryan Green – Department of Environmental Quality
3. Rachael Peabody – Marine Resources Commission
4. Todd Janeski – Virginia Commonwealth University
5. Will Fediw – Virginia Maritime Association/Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority
6. Hayes Framme – Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority
7. Eileen Woll – Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority
8. Cathie Vick – Virginia Port Authority
9. Chris Gullickson – Virginia Port Authority/Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority

State of North Carolina

1. Bobby Outten – Dare County
2. Jennifer Mundt – Department of Commerce
3. Daniel Govoni – Department of Environmental and Natural Resources
4. Mike Lopazanski – Department of Environmental Quality
5. Ramona Bartros – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
6. George Bonner – N.C. State University
7. James McLawhorn – N.C. Utilities Commission
8. Jeff Thomas – North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff
9. Beth Bucksot – Pamlico County
10. Dan Taylor – Town of Peletier
11. John Brodman – Town of Pine Knoll Shores

Federal Agencies

1. Christopher Daniel – Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

2. Jennifer Bucatari – BOEM
3. Bridgette Duplantis – BOEM
4. David MacDuffee – BOEM
5. Joanne Lewis – BOEM
6. Bernadette Thomas – BOEM
7. Cheri Hunter – BSEE
8. Timothy Witman – EPA
9. Charles Coddington – FWS
10. Pamela Loring – FWS
11. Cindy Schulz – FWS
12. Stephanie Vail-Muse – FWS
13. Christine Willis – FWS
14. Amanda Rutherford – United States Maritime Administration (MARAD)
15. Shari Miller – NASA
16. Kristin Andel – NPS
17. Dusty Pate – NPS
18. Pete Burns – NOAA
19. Doug Christel – NOAA
20. Keith Hanson – NOAA
21. Andy Lipsky – NOAA
22. Sue Tuxbury – NOAA
23. Walt Musial – NREL
24. Naomi Handell – USACE
25. Matthew Creelman – USCG
26. Maureen Kallgren – USCG
27. Rob Webb – USCG