OCS Study
BOEM 2022-003

North Carolina / South Carolina Offshore Wind
Stakeholder Assessment

Prepared April 2018
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US Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Renewable Energy Programs

BOEM
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

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1.0 Introduction and Context

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) manages planning and leasing activities for offshore wind energy development in federal waters off the coasts of North Carolina and South Carolina. BOEM initiated public engagement around offshore wind development in North Carolina in 2010 and in South Carolina in 2012. Since initiation, BOEM has held seven North Carolina renewable energy task force meetings and five South Carolina renewable energy task force meetings along with a number of public information meetings. Off the coast of North Carolina, BOEM signed a commercial lease after a competitive bidding process for the Kitty Hawk Wind Energy Area in October 2017.[1]

BOEM has defined six wind energy areas relevant for purposes of this report. These six wind energy areas can be seen in Image 1.

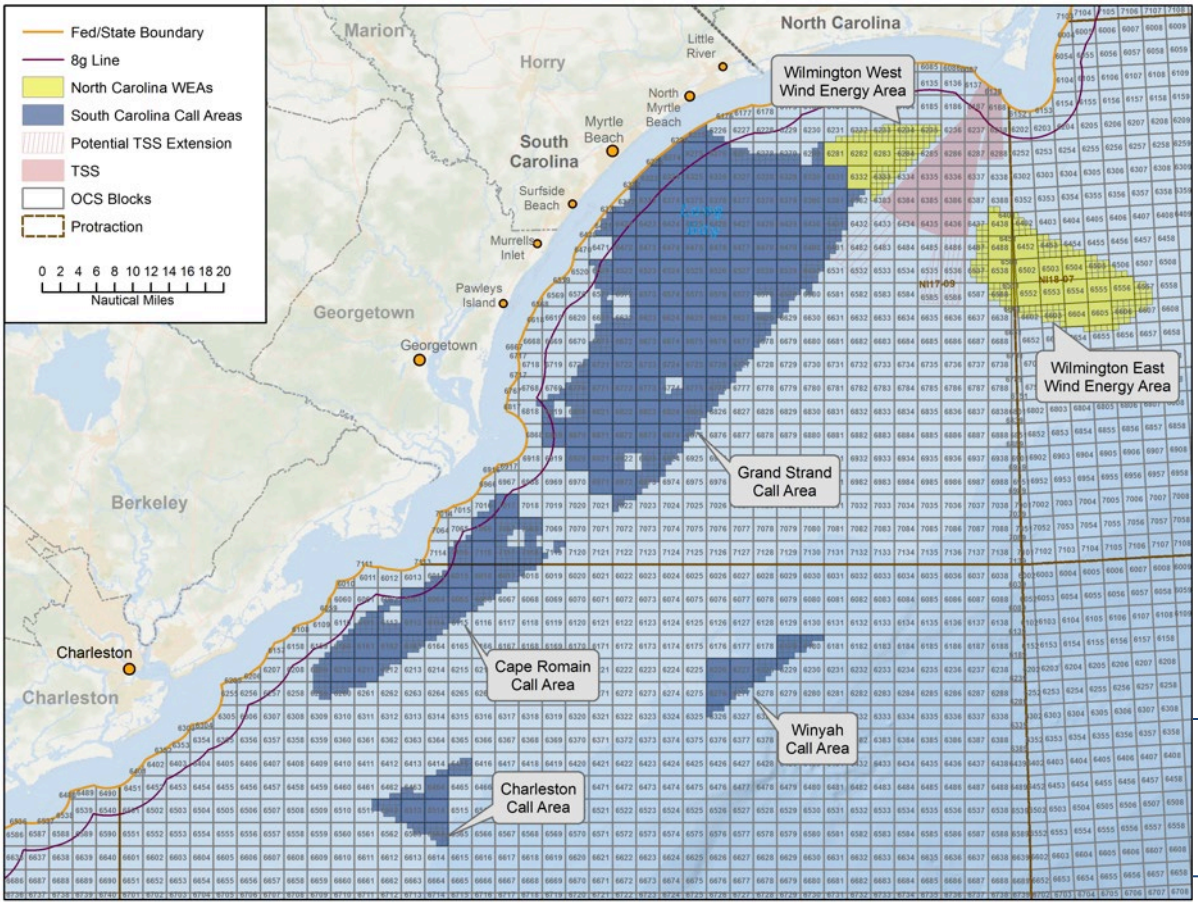

Image 1

[1] Additional information about the Kitty Hawk lease can be found at: https://www.boem.gov/Commercial-Wind-Leasing-Offshore-North-Carolina/.

2.0 Approach

During the past few years, stakeholders near the North Carolina/South Carolina state line have expressed a variety of opinions about the prospect of locating wind turbines off the coasts of both states. In particular, while some stakeholders have expressed enthusiasm about the prospect of offshore wind development, others have raised concerns about changing ocean views and expressed apprehension about negative effects on property values and tourism-based economies.[2] Given the range of views expressed, BOEM hired a neutral party to help explore, detail, and capture local and state stakeholders' perspectives on this issue.[3]

The stakeholder assessment process was guided by a steering committee consisting of BOEM representatives, North Carolina state officials, and South Carolina state officials. The assessment process focused on confidential conversations with approximately 30 key stakeholders (recommended by the steering committee) from relevant communities in the study area including: local government, state government, neighborhood associations, businesses, and environmental advocates. The study area is defined as the coastal area stretching south from Wilmington, NC to Georgetown, SC.[4] The intent of these conversations was to identify, in a non-partisan and independent fashion, the range of interests, concerns, and options held by the participants in this effort and to identify if there is any collaborative process that might aid in designating Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) acceptable to most stakeholders. A list of individuals who participated in conversations is provided in Appendix A and a list of the types of questions discussed in conversations is provided in Appendix B. More than 25 official comments from state and local government bodies, local government resolutions, and other forms of official comment from jurisdictions with an interest in offshore wind energy development off the coast of the Carolinas were also reviewed.

Breakdown of conversations:

- 11 Local Government officials
- 4 State Government officials
- 1 Federal Government official
- 4 Local Associations
- 5 Non-profit environmental groups

Input from the conversations was synthesized into a range of cross-cutting themes, highlighting stakeholders' priorities and key areas of concern and laying out possible strategies for moving forward.

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[2] BOEM has heard these stakeholder perspectives through diverse channels since publicly beginning consideration of leasing for offshore wind development in 2012, including Renewable Energy Task Force meetings and public information meetings.

[3] The Consensus Building Institute (CBI) served as the neutral party. Additional information about CBI is available at www.cbi.org.

[4] Consultations also included a few representatives from coastal communities located north of Bald Head Island, NC. Upon discussion with these individuals, however, it generally became clear that offshore wind has not been a significant point of concern in these communities and that they had minimal likelihood of being able to see turbines sited in the Wilmington East and Wilmington West wind energy areas. As such, this report focuses on perspectives collected from stakeholders within the refined study area.

3.0 Findings

Perspectives and opinions expressed by the stakeholders who participated in conversations are provided below. These views are paraphrased and do not represent exact quotations. They are offered without attribution by name or organization. Please note that, given the diversity of stakeholder input received, these views may be contradictory to one another.

3.1 Broad Views on Renewable Energy

> *"The negative impacts of oil and fossil fuel exploration are much more substantial than renewable energy. [We] would much rather see renewable energy than oil and gas drilling."*
>
> *-Local government official*

Stakeholders noted that, generally, offshore wind development in the areas near the North Carolina/South Carolina state line has faded from public attention since BOEM has not held public workshops or intergovernmental task force meetings in the area in recent years. Furthermore, public concern has been largely focused on the inclusion of North and South Carolina (as well as other Atlantic states) in the US Department of the Interior's Draft National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program announced in January 2018. Stakeholders from coastal communities in the study area expressed significantly greater support for renewable energy development than offshore oil and gas development. For example, 19 of 20 North Carolina coastal counties passed proclamations or resolutions against offshore oil and gas development, mostly in 2015. Contrary to the view of offshore oil and gas development, many respondents noted that renewable energy, and offshore wind specifically, is "the future" and represents progress. If sited appropriately, stakeholders expressed broad support for offshore wind energy development.[5]

3.2 Economic Context and Issues

Many of the local economies in the study area are heavily reliant on tourism and property and accommodation taxes to fund municipal services. As can be seen in Table 1, while some cities, such as Wilmington, NC and Myrtle Beach, SC are larger, many communities in the study area are quite small, though populations swell significantly during the summer tourism season.

Table 1: Communities and Populations

Municipality	Year-Round Population[6]	Estimated Summertime Population[7]
Wilmington, NC	117,525	*Not available*

[5] This finding generally accords with other studies of stakeholder attitudes towards offshore wind development conducted in the study area. For example, see Brownlee, Matthew & C. Hallo, Jeffrey & Jodice, Laura. (2012). 2011 Survey of marine recreationists' attitudes towards potential offshore wind energy in South Carolina, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/310642903_2011_Survey_of_marine_recreationists'_attitudes_towards_potential_offshore_wind_energy_in_South_Carolina.

[6] 2016 US Census estimates.

[7] Figures gathered from conversations with municipal officials.

Bald Head Island, NC	150	5,000-6,000
Caswell Beach, NC	429	2,500
Ocean Isle Beach, NC	614	2,500
Holden Beach, NC	644	*Not available*
Sunset Beach, NC	3,902	*Not available*
North Myrtle Beach, SC	16,032	*Not available*
Myrtle Beach, SC	32,240	300,000
Georgetown, SC	9,024	*Not available*
Pawleys Island, SC	103	*Not available*

In addition to summer populations and the importance of property taxes for county and municipal revenues, Table 2 illustrates the significance in the local economies of the leisure and hospitality industry and the significant growth in these areas over the last 20 or more years.[8]

Table 2: Counties and Economies

Brunswick County	*Population*	50,895 (1990) → 107, 431 (2010)
	Population below Poverty Line	16.1% during 2010-2014
	Employment	6.4% of GDP Is leisure and hospitality industry 25.5% of GDP and largest sector is trade, transportation and utilities
	GDP	$2.56 billion (2014)
Horry County	*Population*	144,053 (1990) → 269,291 (2010)
	Population below Poverty Line	18.7% during 2010-2014
	Employment	14.9% of GDP Is leisure and hospitality industry 19.9% of GDP and largest sector is trade,

[8] Data in Table 2 for Brunswick, Horry, and Georgetown Counties collected from NOAA Office for Coastal Management reports. Retrieved from https://coast.noaa.gov/ on April 18, 2018.

		transportation and utilities
	GDP	$8.13 billion (2014)

Georgetown County	*Population*	46,302 (1990) → 60,158 (2010)
	Population below Poverty Line	20.9% during 2010-2014
	Employment	7.8% of GDP Is leisure and hospitality industry 17.4% of GDP and largest sector is manufacturing
	GDP	$1.94 billion (2014)

Stakeholders expressed a diversity of perspectives about the possible economic effects of offshore wind energy development on their communities, with some expressing grave concern for the future of their community while a few saw significant promise from the prospect of this new industry. Many stakeholders spoke with apprehension about the potential effect of offshore wind development on the local economy and on their own financial wellbeing. These individuals noted that their coastal communities compete for vacation and real estate dollars (rental and purchase) with other beach communities from North Carolina to Georgia, and the installation of visible turbines off their coast could result in the loss of tourism and business to competing coastal towns with unobstructed views. A decrease in property values could also adversely affect individual beach property owners as well as the tax base for these coastal communities that depend almost entirely on property and accommodation taxes to fund municipal services. These stakeholders also expressed skepticism that offshore wind development would bring any significant benefit to their local communities in the form of jobs or reduced electricity prices.

> *"There is concern that putting wind turbines within sight would drive rental tourism elsewhere. People come to…beachside towns between Wilmington and the South Carolina border because they want a quiet, relaxed place."*
>
> *–Local association representative*

> *"We have to do everything we can in the US to create clean energy, and clean energy is solar and wind. I'm surprised by how many people come to me and say 'Mayor, are we going to get the wind energy?'"*
>
> *–Local government official*

In contrast, some stakeholders enthusiastically embraced the economic opportunities that could materialize for their local communities with offshore wind development. In particular, stakeholders suggested that, if wind energy production were to be sited close enough to shore to be economically viable and in proximity to their local port, it would create jobs

for ports, construction, and maintenance while increasing recreational fishing opportunities around the artificial reefs created by the wind turbine foundations as well as serving as a tourist attraction.

A few stakeholders acknowledged that the overall risks and benefits from offshore wind development are uncertain and may not be as significantly positive or negative as proponents and critics often portray.

3.3 Visual and Identity Issues

Many of the stakeholders expressing concern about negative economic effects from offshore wind development grounded their concern in the perceived negative visual effects from being able to see wind turbines on the horizon off the coast. In particular, for both local residents and vacationers who visit the North Carolina and South Carolina coasts, there was a perception that seeing wind turbines would be inconsistent with the desire for peace, quiet, relaxation, and enjoying nature that currently draws people to coastal communities. Many of these stakeholders expressing concern also raised the issue of nighttime lighting (assumed to be blinking lights) that presumably would be required by the Federal Aviation Administration and interfere with the night sky.

> *"If we have to put up with the visual impact, then where is the benefit for us?"*
>
> *–Local government official*

In contrast to the perspectives summarized above, some other stakeholders suggested that the addition of turbines off the coast would signal a forward-thinking and progressive mentality and spirit. Furthermore, these stakeholders also posited that although turbines could initially seem obtrusive to some people, they expected that the public would soon adjust to the change and fold it into their expectations of the seascape over time.

3.4 Historic, Cultural, and Protected Areas

Some stakeholders, especially those connected to and particularly conscious of/ focused on historic, cultural, and natural protected areas, expressed concern that siting turbines off the coast of protected areas, such as the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, would negatively affect birds, whales, sea turtles, and other protected species. Furthermore, there were a number of historic places, sites, landmarks, and districts cited that could be adversely affected by the turbines, primarily due to altered viewscapes. Stakeholders noted the importance of consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act at all stages in the wind development process. The Bald Head Island lighthouse was given as a prime example of a site that would be adversely affected: it is tall and sited on a relatively high point along the low-lying North Carolina shore, enhancing visibility to the horizon.

> *"Old Baldy is the oldest lighthouse in the State of North Carolina…Twenty-eight thousand people per year pay to climb the lighthouse."*
>
> *–Non-profit environmental representative*

Below, in Table 3, are other historic and federal resources named by one or more stakeholders as potential areas of concern (NM = National Monument; NHL = National Historic Landmark;

NHD = National Historic District; NHP = National Historic Place; NHPg = National Heritage Program):

Table 3: Historic Sites, Landmarks, and Districts

Site	Designation	Site	Designation
Bald Head Island Lighthouse	NHP	Fort Sumter National Monument	NM
Cape Fear Civil War Shipwreck Noncontiguous District	NHD	Georgetown Historic District	NHD
Cape Fear Lighthouse	NHP	Georgetown Lighthouse	NHP
Fort Caswell Historic District	NHP	Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor	NHP
Fort Fisher	NHL	Oak Island Lighthouse	NHP
Fort Johnston	NHP	Pawleys Island National Historic District	NHD
Fort Moultrie	NHL		

3.5 Other Issues Identified

In addition to the more frequently raised considerations and concerns (economic issues, visual and identity issues, and protected and cultural areas), a smaller number of stakeholders spoke about a variety of other issues, including concern about where transmission infrastructure will come onshore, boating and fishing access, sea turtles, energy independence and sustainability, and the federal government's role in offshore wind development.

Several stakeholders raised questions about whether the infrastructure carrying electricity generated offshore into the grid would be disruptive for local communities and residents. Some of these questions and concerns were related to other areas of concern, such as marred viewsheds and historic preservation concerns.

> *The concern with the majority of call areas (other than Grand Strand) is that you're bringing infrastructure (e.g. cabling and in-take) through the protected areas.*
>
> *–State official*

A few stakeholders, particularly those connected to the recreational fishing industry, inquired about boat access in the turbine areas (for activities such as fishing, boating, and sightseeing) and transit through the turbine areas (for fishing further offshore, for example). These stakeholders also spoke about the possibility of fishing near the turbines, which could develop into artificial reefs, and raised questions about potential effects on habitat, in species composition, and effects of construction activity on fisheries.

> *The boats are worried about where [the turbines] are only if they block transit. If they are allowed to fish on and near, they will be happy because [turbines] create new bottom habitat."*
>
> *–Local association representative*

Sea turtles are a highly valued species in the study area and many communities and residents spend a great deal of time and money to manage lighting, nesting, and turtle protection. Some

stakeholders expressed concern about potential negative effects (e.g. from night lighting on turbines causing confusion to hatchlings) on these species.

Some stakeholders highlighted the importance of offshore wind energy development for enhancing the environmental sustainability of the energy system by reducing greenhouse gas generation as compared to fossil fuel-generated electricity. Some stakeholders also expressed support for offshore wind energy as a clean, domestically produced source of energy.

Finally, a few stakeholders expressed general skepticism about the federal government's role in managing offshore wind development. These stakeholders emphasized the importance of incorporating substantial local input and influence into the decision-making process.

3.6 Words or Phrases to Describe Sample Visual Simulation

To ascertain "quick" emotive reactions to visual simulations of offshore wind energy development, stakeholders were asked to provide quick reactions to a visual simulation of an offshore wind energy facility sited ten nautical miles from shore.[9] The visual simulation shown to stakeholders is provided below, in Image 2.

Image 2

[9] BOEM notes that, while reactions to this type of visual simulation can be helpful in understanding respondents' visceral emotional responses to the prospect of offshore wind energy development, it should be noted that the visual simulations themselves do not represent accurate portrayals of what would be visible from shore at all times. In real seascapes, a number of factors impact visibility. For example, atmospheric haze reduces the practical viewing limit, sometimes significantly, and waves also obscure objects very low on the horizon. Furthermore, limits to human visual acuity reduce the ability to discern objects at great distances even though they theoretically would be visible. The color, reflectivity, and other visual characteristics of the object and its contrast with the visual background under varying lighting conditions also affect its visibility.

Stakeholder responses to the sample visualization included:

Busy	Progress
Blighted	Interesting
Industrial	Artificial
Unnatural	Man-made
That's what we're trying to get away from by coming to the beach	Ruining what we've had for the last 40 or 50 years

3.7 Justification for Proposed Turbine Distance from Shore

Interviewees were asked about what distance from shore they would support and why. Table 4 provides the various distances offered and the accompanying rationale (please note that responses are grouped).

Table 4: Recommended Distances from Shore

Distance from Shore in nautical miles *(nm)*	Provided Rationale
33.7 nm	Setback from Bodie Island Lighthouse
30 nm	Ensures no visibility under any circumstances
24 nm	Setback consistent with setbacks defined for offshore wind development from Kitty Hawk area and in Virginia. Due to curvature of earth, turbines should be below horizon line and therefore not visible.
15-20 nm	"Middle ground" that splits the difference between greater and lesser setbacks. Likely would only see the turbines on some days, and they would be small. This distance would involve siting turbines towards the far edge of the Grand Strand Call Area (though siting cannot be pushed further out (e.g. beyond the current boundaries of the Call Area) without interfering with existing shipping lanes).
3-10 nm	Located in federal waters and promotes economic viability for development.

3.8 Potential Mitigation Options

Stakeholders contributed several ideas for potentially mitigating the types of concerns represented in Sections 3.2-3.5. Stakeholders suggested the following mitigation possibilities:

- *Placement in peripheral vision:* If the wind array were only visible from the beach or houses in the periphery of concerned communities it may be acceptable to some (e.g. development in the Grand Strand Call Area could be sited to be mostly in a "side view" for North Carolina's southern-facing beaches).

- *Specific orientation of beaches and houses:* Taking note of the specific orientations of beaches and houses can be helpful for mitigating viewshed concerns. For example, the beaches between Wilmington and Bald Head Island face due east and thereby would be unlikely to see offshore wind turbines located in the Wilmington West and Wilmington East wind energy areas, which are to the south of these communities. On the other hand, the populated southern shore of Bald Head Island looks south towards the Wilmington West wind energy area, with the Wilmington East wind energy area located to the southeast.
- *Proceed gradually:* Given that offshore wind development is relatively novel in the United States, begin by siting turbines further away from shore to allow for testing, learning, and gauging public reaction. Gradually proceed with placement closer to shore, as appropriate.
- *Turbine color:* Adjusting the color of the turbines (e.g. shades of grey versus white) might reduce visibility from shore.
- *Technology for night lighting:* Explore options for making nighttime lighting for aviation less visually obtrusive from the shore, such as making it radar-activated, reducing brightness, or directing it in some way.
- *No mitigation possible*: The viewshed should remain perfectly unencumbered and no mitigation of negative viewshed effects is possible.
- *Array design*. Stakeholders did not have enough information about turbine size, spacing, and overall array design to determine if one approach over another might be more acceptable.

4.0 Process Options for Moving Forward

Given the diversity of priorities, interests, and concerns around offshore wind energy development in the study area outlined above, BOEM and its state partners could explore the following process options for moving forward. These process options were generally developed by CBI and were discussed during stakeholder conversations.

4.1 Produce White Paper, Brief, or Fact Sheet on WEAs

BOEM creates a brief document on the background and status of the current WEAs. BOEM could create a short document that explains the configuration and design of the designated WEAs relevant to the study area, including the process used for defining them. The document would also include distances from shore that were defined for other WEAs, including accompanying rationales for those setback distances. Several stakeholders mentioned needing a briefing or reminder of how the current WEA boundaries were determined. Some stakeholders also expressed interest in what new data has come to light or has been developed since these areas were designated that might affect or influence final boundary and leasing decisions.

4.2 Create Options and "Tools" for Public Input on Wind Turbine Siting

BOEM refines existing tools for visual simulations, charts, and maps to spur further discussion. BOEM could use both existing visual simulations and tools and develop additional tools, as needed, to help coastal communities consider wind turbine siting and distance from shores. For instance, if possible, such tools could include user flexibility to vary the number and kind of turbines in an array, the distance from shore, the degree of visual field covered (from full to peripheral vision), and the related implications for mapping changes to the existing proposed WEAs.

4.3 Use State Task Forces for Input on Next Steps

BOEM utilizes the existing NC and SC state Task Forces, jointly convened. BOEM could jointly convene the North Carolina and South Carolina intergovernmental renewable energy task forces to consider this report and explore next steps. The task force meeting could include: 1) presentation of these findings; 2) task force members asking questions and commenting; 3) task force members reacting to a set of detailed questions and options presented by BOEM; and 4) having further dialogue as needed. Although the task forces are not decisional, input from task force members could be useful and instructive as BOEM and its state partners consider how to move forward.

4.4 Convene a Region-Wide Workshop to Share Information and Gather Input

BOEM convenes a NC-SC coastal workshop on refining the Wilmington WEAs and South Carolina Call Areas. BOEM and its state partners could convene a regional workshop, inviting cities, towns, and interested neighborhood associations between Wilmington, NC and Georgetown, SC (workshop invitees could also include others beyond municipal officials and organized neighborhood associations). The workshop would seek to engage diverse stakeholders in exploring different principles, parameters, and options for siting offshore wind development off

the coasts of North and South Carolina. The workshops could include agenda items such as: 1) an introduction to wind development along the eastern seaboard; 2) the current status of the WEAs and Call Areas; 3) background on how other WEAs were decided, balancing a host of factors; 4) interactive break out groups around different visual options, to the extent possible, including turbine numbers, height, distance between, distance from shore, and degree of visual field; 5) discussions of several WEA options offered by BOEM; and 6) identifying regional parameters, priorities, and principles for consideration. The workshop would be advisory and not intended to seek consensus, but rather to explore collectively in detail with sufficient visual and mapping tools a range of options and choices along this portion of the coast. A sample agenda for this type of workshop is provided in Appendix C.

4.5 Sub-Regional Workshops for Tailored Information Sharing

BOEM convenes two to three NC-SC coastal workshops on refining the WEAs and Call Areas. While the content would be similar to the above single workshop, BOEM could also convene more focused workshops around sub-regions of the coast potentially affected by development. Again, BOEM would convene these workshops, inviting the cities, towns, and interested neighborhood associations from Wilmington, NC to Georgetown, SC. In this case, however, BOEM would convene three to four sub-regional workshops. The sub-regions could include 1) communities from Wilmington, NC to Caswell Beach, including Bald Head Island; 2) communities from Oak Island to Holden Beach; 3) communities from Ocean Isle Beach to North Myrtle Beach; and 4) communities from Myrtle Beach to Georgetown, SC. Because these different areas may have different values, cultures, and economic bases, and because they have different viewsheds, more nuance and detail might be drawn out of these sub-regional workshops. While the general content would be the same, each workshop would need to have visual tools and maps tailored to that specific area. A sample agenda for this type of workshop is provided in Appendix C.

4.6 Individual Meetings

BOEM meets with individual towns and neighborhoods. BOEM could also take the tools and information described in the preceding recommendations and meet individually with towns, neighborhood associations, and others to further explore their concerns and issues. This would provide less formal settings for discussions, an opportunity for detailed and specific conversation per area, and require less logistical and facilitation support than the workshops described above. One limitation to these individual meetings is that they do not engage multiple players along stretches of the coast who will be collectively, not individually, affected by offshore wind energy development. Holding multiple meetings also can be more resource intensive than some of these other process options. In contrast, sub-regional or regional workshops would encourage and provide for conversation among town, city, county, and state representatives, and not just between BOEM and specific individual jurisdictions and other entities.

5.0 Appendices

5.1 Appendix A: Discussion Participants

Name	Title	Affiliation
Monroe Baldwin	Board Member	North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce (SC)
Joe Benson	Mayor	Town of Carolina Beach, NC
Sandra Bundy	Volunteer Coordinator	Stop Offshore Drilling on the Atlantic (SC)
Chris Carnevale	Coastal Climate & Energy Manager	Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Regional Advocacy for the Southeast
Ryan Fabbri	Town Administrator	Town of Pawleys Island, SC
Bryan Faehner	Energy & Environmental Specialist	National Parks Service, Southeast Region
Robert Forrester	Mayor	Town of Sunset Beach, NC
Marilyn Hatley	Mayor	North Myrtle Beach, SC
Sel Hemingway	County Administrator	Georgetown County, SC
Chad Hicks	Town Administrator	Town of Caswell Beach, NC
Blan Holman	Managing Attorney	Southern Environmental Law Center
Elizabeth Johnson	Director, Historical Services	South Carolina Department of Archives and History, State Historic Preservation Office
Marc Jordan	President/CEO	North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce (SC)
Josh Kay	CEO	Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation (SC)
Ed Keelin	Operations Manager	Georgetown Landing Marina (SC)
Chris McCall	Village Manager	Village of Bald Head Island, NC
Carrie Moffett	Executive Director	Bald Head Association (NC)
Tim Owens	Town Manager	Town of Wrightsville Beach, NC
John Pedersen	City Manager	City of Myrtle Beach, SC
Lorianne Riggin	Director, Office of Environmental Programs	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Chris Shank	Executive Director	Bald Head Island Conservancy (NC)
Woody Tyner	Board Member	Holden Beach Property Owners Association (NC)
Chris Webb	Executive Director	Old Baldy Foundation (NC)
Scott Whittaker	South Carolina Director	Coastal Conservation Association
Reid Wilson	Chief Deputy Secretary	North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

5.2 Appendix B: Discussion Questions

Interests and priorities

- Tell us a little bit about your organization and position.
- How have you been involved in coastal issues broadly and wind energy development in particular over the last several years? What motivates your involvement?
- What do you see as the pros and cons of offshore wind energy development? What are the likely positive and negative effects for you and your community/constituents?
- Is the distance of wind turbines from the shore an important consideration for you? Why or why not?
- If you were to think about a distance criteria for WEAs, what would it be, and why?
- Can you think about other criteria or principles, other than distance from shore that might guide the designation of offshore wind energy area, particularly to address visual issues?
- If turbines were sited more closely that you would prefer, can you imagine other design criteria that would mitigate the anticipated impact *(e.g. distance between turbines, lay out of the array of turbines, night lighting, other)*?
- How might you respond to neighbors in your community or in a neighboring community who are concerned that EITHER 1) being able to see wind turbines offshore could hurt the local economy? OR 2) would like to see offshore wind development happen to promote local jobs and economic development]? *(ask about the opposing perspective from the discussant)*
- WEA designations seek to balance a number of factors: wind speed, ocean depth, vessel traffic, fisheries, marine mammals, coastal views and community perspectives. For some communities, maximizing wind energy development for employment, economic development, and/or advancing renewable energy development may be most important; but for others, preserving views, concerns about negative effects on the local economy, and concerns about high-energy costs may be more important. If you were "BOEM for a day" how would you go about trying to balance all these different interests?

Process Considerations

- What steps or options could you think of for resolving these differing perspectives?

Are there any other considerations that we should keep in mind as we're thinking about these issues? Anything that we haven't touched on that you would like to share?

5.3 Appendix C: Sample Workshop Agenda

9:30 am	Welcome and opening
9:45 am	Photo essay composed of images of coastal Carolinas, displaying examples of different communities and their visual fields from Wilmington to Georgetown
10:15 am	Keypad polling on participants' opinions and attitudes towards offshore wind energy
10:30 am	Presentations and background information: • Introduction to offshore wind development along the eastern seaboard • Current status of NC/SC WEAs and call areas • How WEAs are defined
11:30 am	Q&A and discussion
12:00 pm	Lunch break
1:00 pm	Interactive break out groups around different visual options, including turbine numbers, height, distance between turbines, distance from shore, and degree of visual field
2:30 pm	Discussions of several WEA options offered by BOEM
3:30 pm	Identifying regional parameters, priorities, and principles for consideration
4:30 pm	Final keypad polling on participants' opinions and attitudes towards offshore wind energy
5:00 pm	Conclude