



South Fork Wind Farm and South Fork Export Cable Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Virtual Public Meeting

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Poster and Publications

- OCS Renewable Energy Lease Areas
- BOEM Renewable Energy Process
- **How to Comment**
- South Fork Project Area
- Proposed Action and Alternatives
- Impact Definitions
- Impact of Underwater Sound
- Right Whale Protection Measures
- Impact Distance for Monopiles
- Electromagnetic Fields
- Atlantic Science Year in Review
- Cumulative Impact Scenario

www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/south-fork-wind-farm-virtual-meetings

Presentations

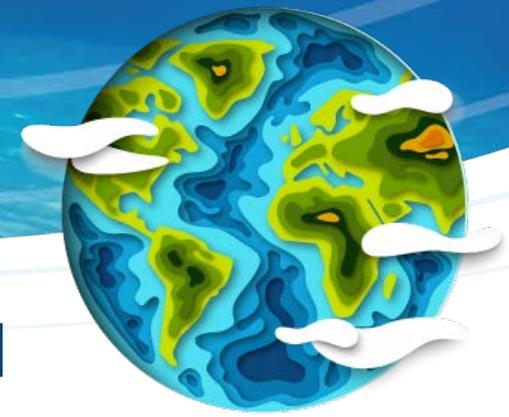
- Navigating the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Virtual Meeting Room
- Commercial and For-Hire Recreational Fishing
- Navigation
- Birds
- Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles
- Cultural Resources
- Benthic Habitats

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National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- **NEPA** is a procedural law requiring Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed action(s), and reasonable alternatives, prior to making decisions.
- The **NEPA** process collects relevant information for the decision maker to either approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the plan.

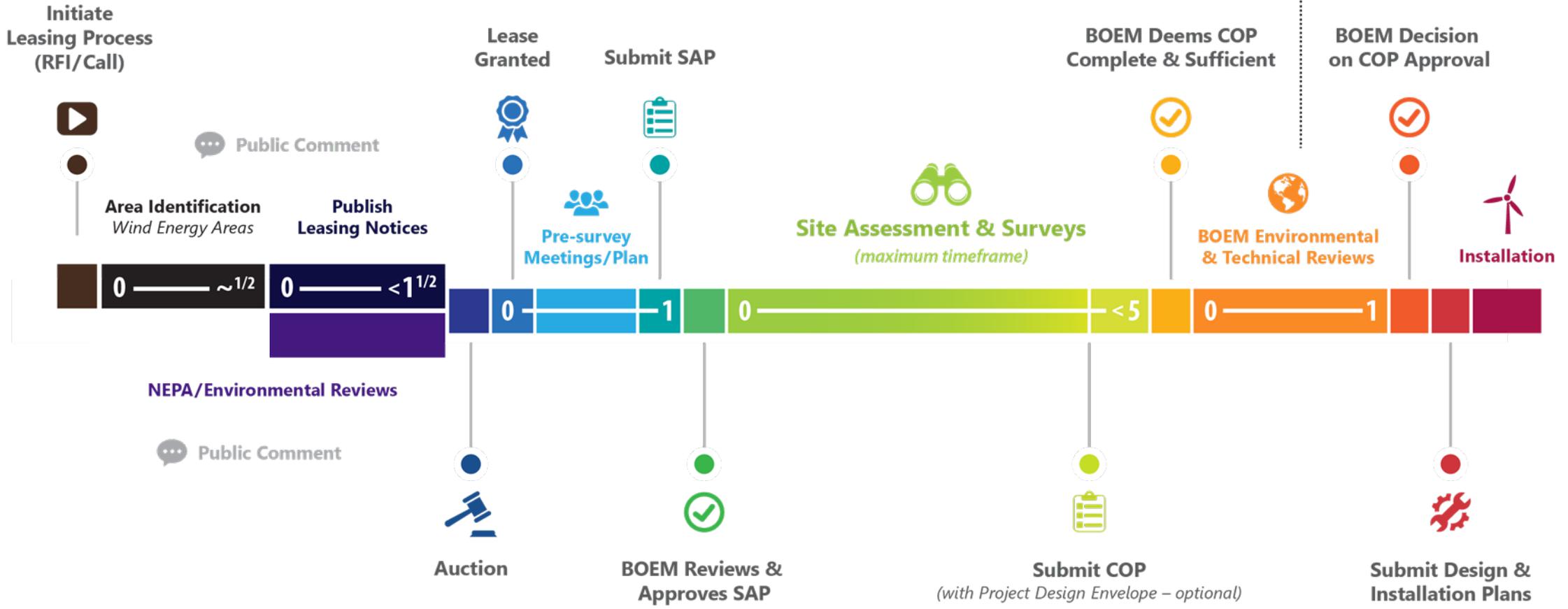
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



- Must be prepared if agency is proposing a **major federal action** significantly affecting the quality of the human environment
- Outline the impact of a proposed project on its surrounding environment
- Public scoping required and public comment period required for Draft EIS
- Analysis of reasonable alternatives and cumulative effects required

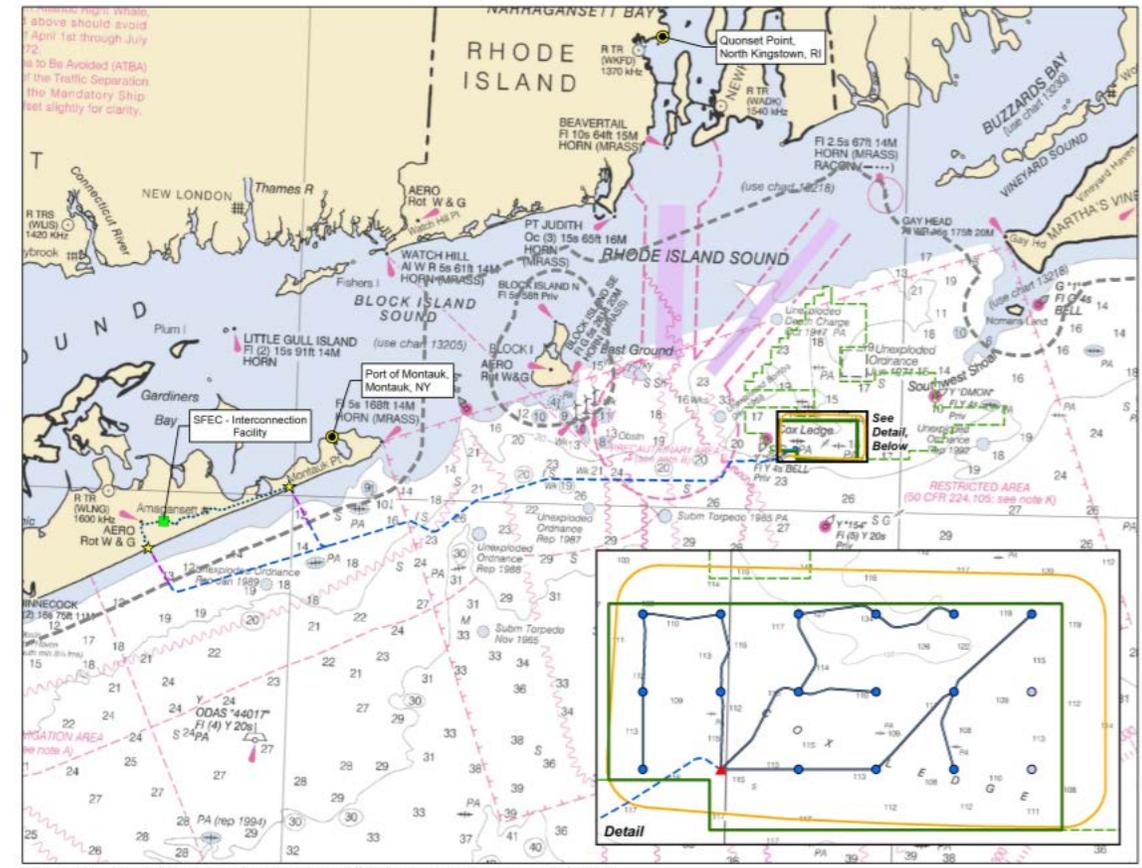
Where is South Fork in the Renewable Energy Process?

YOU ARE HERE



Project Overview

- BOEM issued lease to Deepwater South Fork (DWSF) in September 2013
- Long Island Power Authority awarded DWSF a power purchase agreement in January 2017
- DWSF submitted a Construction and Operations Plan (COP) to BOEM June 2018
- Up to 15 wind turbines, an Offshore Substation, and an Export Cable
- 6-12-megawatt (MW) wind turbines with monopile foundations



Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- NOI published on October 19, 2018 (30-day public comment period closed on November 19, 2018)
- Public scoping meetings held November 5-8, 2018 in New Bedford, MA; Narragansett, RI; and East Hampton, NY.
- Scoping Report Available on project website:
www.boem.gov/south-fork
- Comments can be found here:
<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=BOEM-2018-0010>

Notice of Availability (NOA) of DEIS

- Published in *Federal Register* **January 8, 2021**
- Three Virtual Public Meetings:
 - Tuesday, February 9, 2021 | 1:00 pm
 - Thursday, February 11, 2021 | 5:00 pm
 - Tuesday, February 16, 2021 | 5:00 pm
- 45-day public comment period closes **February 22, 2021**
- Additional information can be found at: www.boem.gov/south-fork

- **Types of information BOEM is looking for:**
 - Accuracy of information
 - Adequacy of methodology or assumptions used in the environmental analysis
 - New information relevant to the analysis or that would change the conclusions
 - Different source of credible research
 - Where clarification is needed

Notable Sections of the DEIS

In SEIS...	You can find...
Executive Summary	A high-level summary of the proposed Project, alternatives and the potential impacts of the project for each resource and alternative
Chapter 1	The Purpose and Need Statement, an introduction to the project, and a summary of the cumulative impact scenario
Chapter 2	Overview of Alternatives Considered for Further Analysis
Chapter 3	Analysis of the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and Action Alternatives and the No Action Alternative*
Appendix D	Project Design Envelope and maximum case scenario
Appendix E	Details of the cumulative activities scenario
Appendix H	Resource evaluations where direct and indirect impacts are minor or negligible

*To comply with page limit goals under Secretarial Order 3355, for resources where the direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Project would be no greater than minor, the environmental analysis for these resources have been moved to Appendix H.

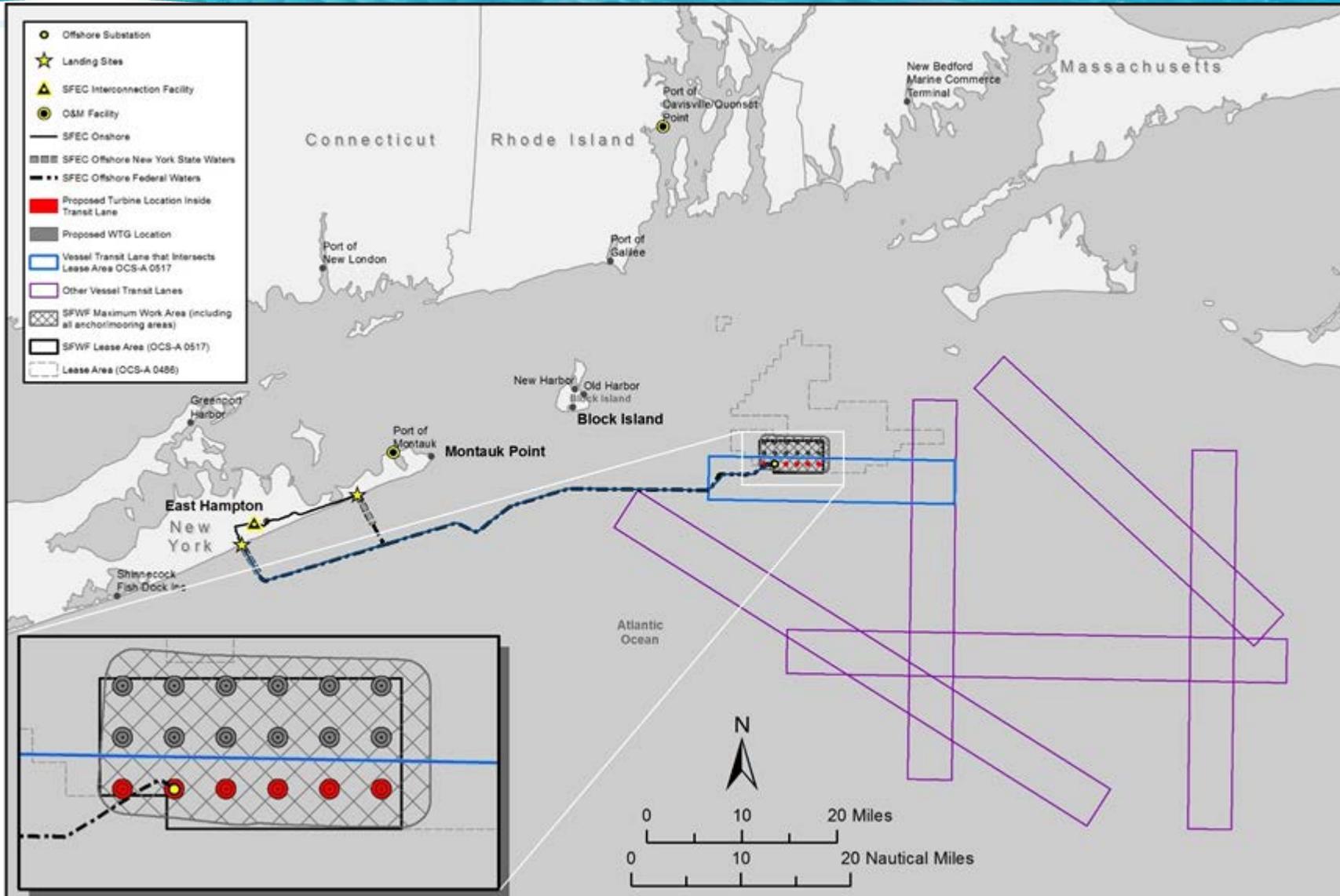


Proposed Action and Alternatives

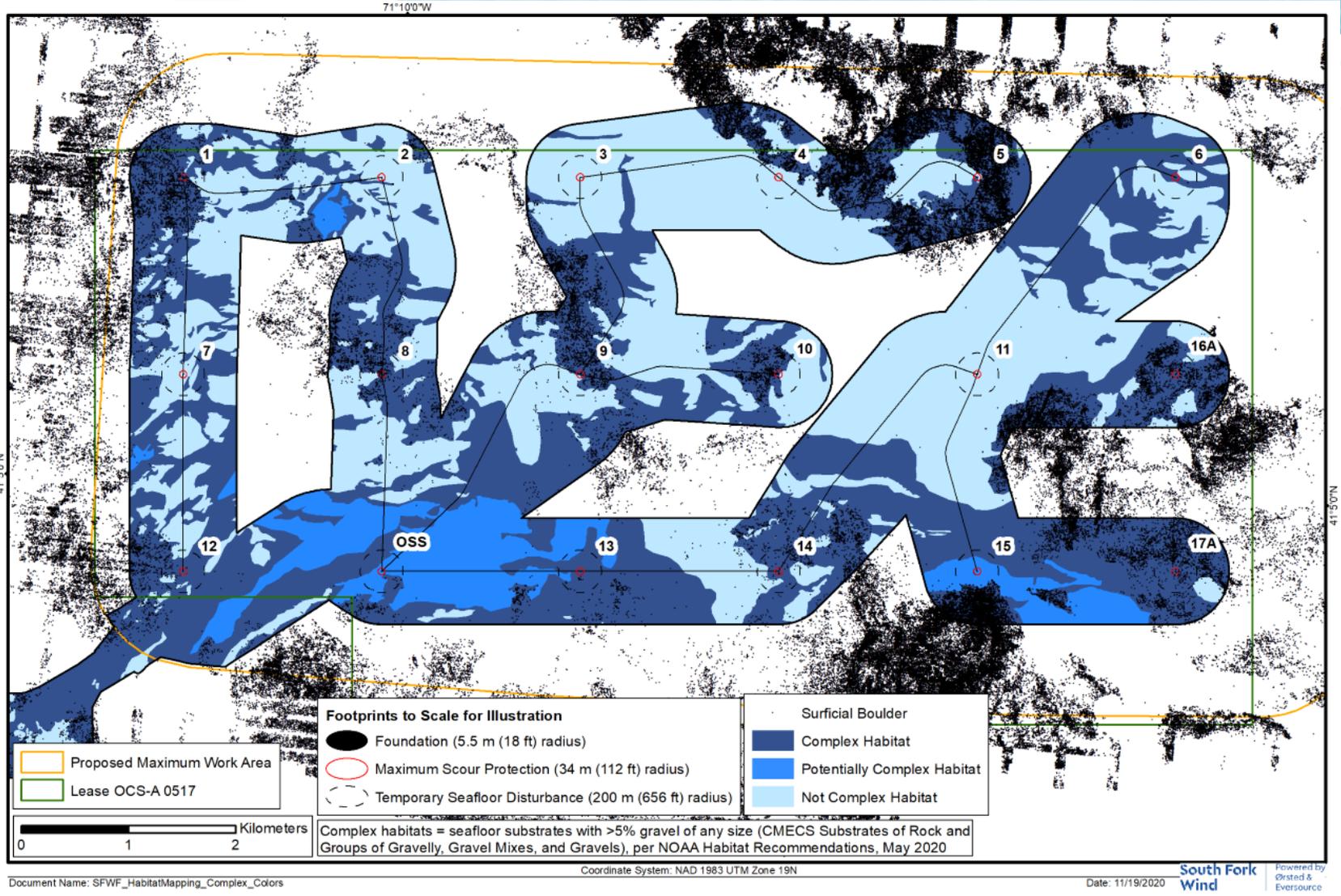
- **Proposed Action:** Up to 15 turbines, an offshore substation, in the Lease Area OCS-A 0517 and an export cable to supply electricity to the South Fork of Long Island. Two proposed export cable with landings in Suffolk County, NY.
- **Vessel Transit Lane Alternative :** Remove 6 of 18 potential turbine locations to allow for a 4 nautical mile transit lane.
- **Fisheries Habitat Impact Minimization Alternative:** Identify turbine locations that cannot be occupied or where turbines need to be moved to reduce or eliminate impacts to complex habitat.



Vessel Transit Lane Alternative



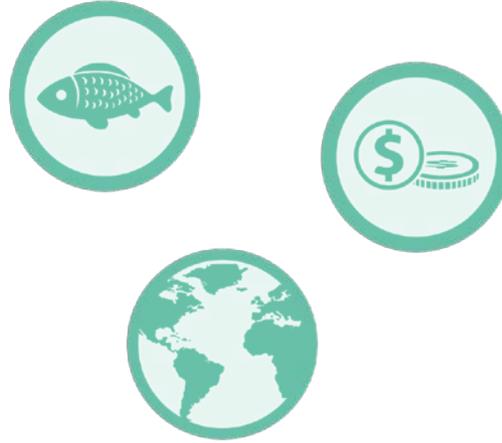
Fisheries Habitat Impact Minimization Alternative



Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources

Biological

- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Finfish, Invertebrates, and Essential Fish Habitat
- Coastal Habitats
- Benthic Resources
- Avian and Bat Species



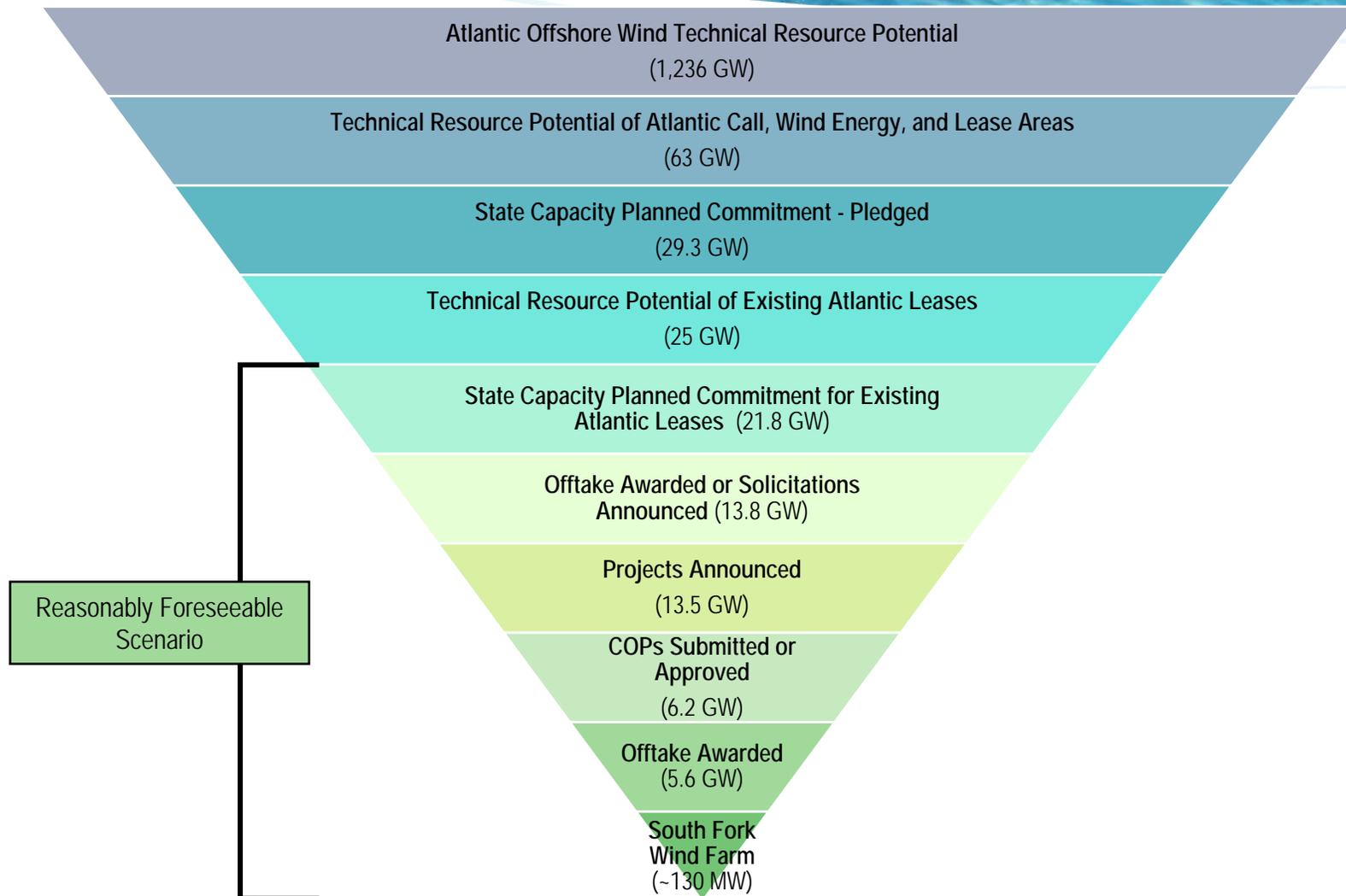
Socioeconomic

- Visual Resources
- Commercial Fisheries and For-hire Recreational
- Cultural Resources
- Military Uses
- Navigation
- Environmental Justice
- Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure
- Tourism and Recreation
- Demographics, Employment, Economics

Physical

- Air Quality
- Water Quality

Scope of Future Possible Development of Offshore Wind



Summary of Impacts

- Proposed Action
 - Majority of impacts are **negligible to moderate**
 - Potential **major** impacts on: Cultural Resources (unavoidable paleolandforms); and Visual Resources (visible from the shore)
 - Potential **beneficial** impacts to: Air Quality; Demographics, Employment and Economics; Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure; Recreation and Tourism
- Alternatives
 - Both alternatives would reduce the number of turbines
 - Impacts to commercial fishing would be reduced by Transit Alternative
 - Impacts to benthic habitat would be reduced by Habitat Alternative

Resource	No Action	Proposed Action	Vessel Transit Lane Alternative	Fisheries Habitat Impact Minimization Alternative
Air quality: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of existing trends	Minor to moderate; minor beneficial	Minor to moderate; minor beneficial	Minor to moderate; minor beneficial
Air Quality: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to moderate; minor beneficial	Minor; minor beneficial	Minor; minor beneficial	Minor; minor beneficial
Water quality: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of existing trends	Negligible to moderate	Negligible to moderate	Negligible to moderate
Water Quality: Cumulative Impacts	Minor to moderate: minor beneficial	Minor	Minor	Minor
Bats: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of population trends	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor
Bats: Cumulative Impacts	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor
Benthic habitat, essential fish habitat (EFH), invertebrates, and finfish: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of population trends.	Negligible to minor for benthic resources, minor for EFH, and negligible to minor for invertebrates and finfish	Negligible to minor for benthic resources, minor for EFH, and negligible to minor for invertebrates and finfish	Negligible to minor for benthic resources, minor for EFH, and negligible to minor for invertebrates and finfish
Benthic habitat, essential fish habitat (EFH), invertebrates, and finfish: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
				

Resource	No Action	Proposed Action	Vessel Transit Lane Alternative	Fisheries Habitat Impact Minimization Alternative
Birds: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of population trends.	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor
Birds: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to minor; minor beneficial	Minor	Minor	Minor
Marine mammals: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of population trends	Negligible to moderate	Negligible to moderate	Negligible to moderate
Marine mammals: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Other terrestrial and coastal habitats and fauna: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of population trends	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor
Other terrestrial and coastal habitats and fauna: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to minor	Minor	Minor	Minor
Sea turtles: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of population trends	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor
Sea turtles: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to moderate	Moderate; moderate beneficial.	Moderate; moderate beneficial.	Moderate; moderate beneficial.

Resource	No Action	Proposed Action	Vessel Transit Lane Alternative	Fisheries Habitat Impact Minimization Alternative
Wetlands and WOTUS: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of existing trends	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor
Wetlands and WOTUS: Cumulative Impacts	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor
Commercial fisheries and for-hire recreation fishing: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of current trends.	Negligible to moderate	Negligible to moderate	Negligible to moderate
Commercial fisheries and for-hire recreation fishing: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Cultural, resources: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of existing trends/issues.	Negligible to major	Negligible to major	Negligible to major
Cultural, resources: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to major	Negligible to moderate	Negligible to moderate	Negligible to moderate
Demographics, employment, and economics: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of existing trends for population and employment.	Negligible to minor: minor to moderate beneficial	Negligible to minor; minor to moderate beneficial	Negligible to minor; minor to moderate beneficial
Demographics, employment, and economics: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to minor; minor beneficial.	Minor; minor beneficial.	Minor; minor beneficial.	Minor; minor beneficial.



Resource	No Action	Proposed Action	Vessel Transit Lane Alternative	Fisheries Habitat Impact Minimization Alternative
Environmental justice: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of current demographic trends.	Minor to moderate Overall cumulative adverse impacts would be moderate.	Minor to moderate	Minor to moderate
Environmental justice: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Land use and coastal infrastructure: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continued activity in accordance with established land use patterns and regulations.	Negligible to moderate; minor beneficial	Negligible to moderate; minor beneficial	Negligible to moderate; minor beneficial
Land use and coastal infrastructure: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to minor	Minor; minor beneficial	Minor; minor beneficial	Minor; minor beneficial
Navigation and vessel traffic: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Current navigation trends would continue.	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor
Navigation and vessel traffic: Cumulative Impacts	Minor to moderate.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Resource	No Action	Proposed Action	Vessel Transit Lane Alternative	Fisheries Habitat Impact Minimization Alternative
Other marine uses: Direct and Indirect Impacts	No new impacts	Negligible to moderate impacts to mineral extraction, military use, air traffic, land-based radar services, cables and pipelines, and scientific surveys	Negligible to moderate impacts to mineral extraction, military use, air traffic, land-based radar services, cables and pipelines, and scientific surveys	Negligible to moderate impacts to mineral extraction, military use, air traffic, land-based radar services, cables and pipelines, and scientific surveys
Other marine uses: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to minor (most uses) to moderate (military uses) to major (scientific research surveys)	Minor for most uses. Moderate for military uses. Major for scientific research and protected species surveys.	Minor for most uses. Moderate for military uses. Major for scientific research and protected species surveys.	Minor for most uses. Moderate for military uses. Major for scientific research and protected species surveys.
Recreation and tourism: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of existing trends	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor
Recreation and tourism: Cumulative Impacts	Minor to moderate; minor beneficial	Minor; minor beneficial	Minor; minor beneficial	Minor; minor beneficial
Visual resources: Direct and Indirect Impacts	Continuation of impacts to viewshed from past and current activities.	Negligible to major	Negligible to major	Negligible to major
Visual resources: Cumulative Impacts	Negligible to major	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Remaining EIS Schedule

- **February 2021:** Hold public meetings
- **August 2021:** Publish Final EIS
- **October 2021:** Conclude consultations and publish Record of Decision

Where Can I Find More Information?

- www.boem.gov/south-fork
- South Fork's Construction and Operations Plan
- Draft EIS
- Virtual Meeting Room webpage
 - Posters
 - Presentations
 - Meeting registration link
 - FAQs

How to Comment by February 22, 2021



At this public meeting through verbal testimony.



In writing to:

Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland Road, VAM-OREP, Sterling, VA 20166



Online at www.regulations.gov: Search for Docket No. BOEM-2020-0066. Click on the “Comment Now!” button to the right of the document link. Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit.”