



## New York Bight Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

# Environmental Justice (EJ) and Offshore Wind in the New York and New Jersey Region

## A Snapshot of BOEM EJ Activities Related to the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the New York Bight Lease Areas



### Overview

Hearing directly from the people who offshore wind activities may impact is key to advancing equity in BOEM's environmental review of the New York Bight lease areas. BOEM's Environmental Justice engagement team wants to make sure everyone is included, and is relying on individuals from EJ or Underserved Communities as well as states, other agencies, and community-based organizations to better understand who BOEM should talk to and the priorities or concerns of communities.

For the New York Bight PEIS, BOEM is especially interested in discussing potential impacts and benefits of offshore wind activities in the New York and New Jersey region and what BOEM can do to improve engagement with EJ and Underserved Communities.

We are available and looking forward to connecting with community members and those that serve them, please contact us at:

- Laura Mansfield, Social Scientist, [laura.mansfield@boem.gov](mailto:laura.mansfield@boem.gov), (703) 787-1132
- Sara Parkison, Engagement Advisor for Underserved Communities and Offshore Wind Deployment, [sara.parkison@boem.gov](mailto:sara.parkison@boem.gov)
- Holly Fowler, Program Analyst, [holly.fowler@boem.gov](mailto:holly.fowler@boem.gov)

### Environmental Justice engagement efforts

BOEM is developing a draft PEIS for the New York Bight lease areas. One of the early phases of the PEIS development is scoping, where BOEM asks the public, stakeholder organizations, Federal agencies, and Tribal, State, and local governments to comment on the scope of the draft PEIS and help identify potential alternatives and mitigation measures.

As part of this effort, and to implement the BOEM-New York-New Jersey Shared Vision, BOEM hopes to understand the needs of all ocean users and communities. **This includes finding opportunities between community members, state organizations, and federal agencies on how to increase meaningful engagement, improve communication, and work to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse impacts from offshore wind activities on EJ communities.**

#### BOEM-New York-New Jersey Shared Vision

"The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the states of New York and New Jersey are proud to announce a collaboration to transition to a clean energy future, creating well-paying, family-supporting jobs and establishing a durable domestic supply chain that will facilitate the responsible development of the offshore wind industry and deliver benefits to residents of New York and New Jersey, including underserved, disadvantaged, and overburdened communities."



## New York Bight Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

### Environmental Justice engagement efforts, continued

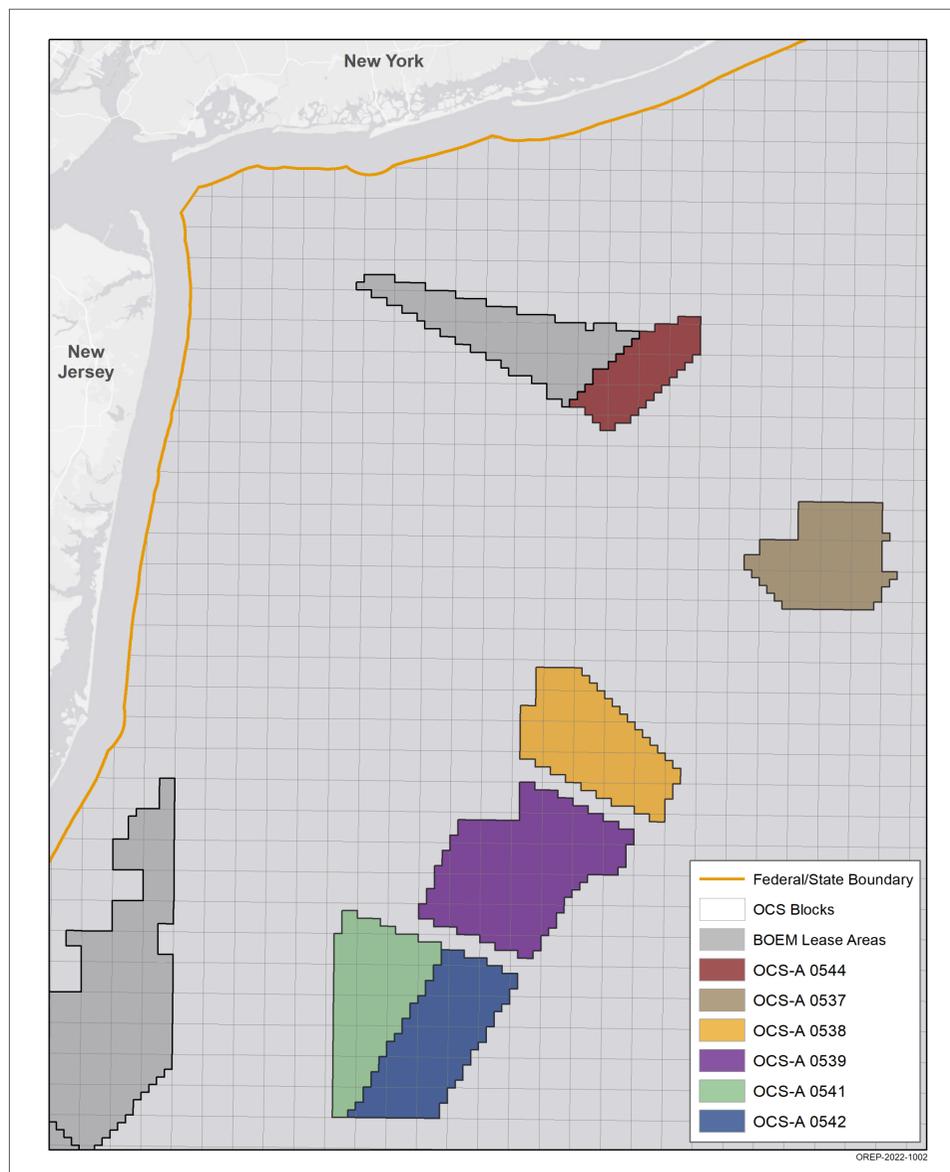
BOEM recognizes that potential impacts from offshore wind development on EJ communities could include:

- Public health and safety effects
- Changes in the local economy
- Changes in jobs and income due to change in ocean and coastal areas
- Changes in spatial access
- Changes in access to resources

BOEM is conducting EJ engagement to listen to communities, identify potentially impacted communities, understand potential impacts, advance equity considerations, and design methods to mitigate adverse effects. In support of those outcomes, BOEM convened organizations and individuals in New York and New Jersey who work closely with

EJ communities, as well as state and federal partners whose work relates to offshore wind activities and engagement with EJ communities. The overarching goals of these meetings were to:

- Further develop the network organizations, communities, and individuals to engage in the New York and New Jersey region.
- Learn how best to conduct outreach and engagement to advance ideals of equitable participation.
- Understand the equity-related efforts of partners and collaborators and understand where opportunities exist.
- Improve EJ community access to and input in environmental review processes.
- Develop a model for meaningful community engagement that – ideally – can be replicated for all BOEM-regulated activities.



New York Bight Lease Areas with Nautical Background



## New York Bight Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

### Environmental Justice engagement efforts, continued

Most immediately, these conversations serve BOEM's EJ engagement efforts to inform the scope of the New York Bight PEIS. As this process evolves, BOEM will use these conversations to learn more about the needs of EJ communities and how they want to engage, consider how to build community capacity and to engage, create regular engagement for communities to ask questions and provide input, foster collaboration to decrease redundancy in EJ engagement, and identify offshore wind impacts and benefits to EJ communities.

Local expertise and perspectives guide environmental analysis and create more informed decisions. This is just one piece of BOEM's long-term commitment to better serve communities with EJ concerns in the process of offshore wind energy development off the coast of New York and New Jersey.

**Executive Order 12898** requires that EJ issues are considered and analyzed during the environmental review process. BOEM is actively working to broaden its equity efforts to also include the consideration of Underserved Communities through its engagement efforts, pursuant to **Executive Order 13985**.



### PEIS comment period

Currently, BOEM is requesting public comments to inform the scope of the New York Bight draft PEIS. Specifically, BOEM is seeking input on significant issues to be analyzed in the PEIS, communities to engage, potential impacts to EJ communities, sources of information to include in the PEIS, data gaps and information needs, and reasonable alternatives.

If you would like formal written responses to your comments as part of the PEIS, you would need to submit comments formally during the comment period. Comments must be received or postmarked no later than August 15, 2022. Members of the public may comment with the following methods.



#### During the virtual public meetings through testimony

Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 5 p.m. ET  
Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at 5 p.m. ET  
Thursday, August 4, 2022, at 1 p.m. ET



#### In writing to

Chief  
Division of Environmental Assessment  
Office of Environmental Programs  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
45600 Woodland Road (VAM-OEP)  
Sterling, VA 20166



#### Online at Regulations.gov

Using docket number BOEM-2022-0034

If you have comments or questions and are not seeking a formal written response, you may contact Laura, Sara, or Holly as listed in the "Overview" section at the beginning. They would be happy to informally collect comments or input and share that information directly with the PEIS team to help structure the EJ portion of the PEIS analysis. Laura and Sara are also available to help you navigate the comment process as needed. **Please reach out for any questions or guidance – we want to hear from you!**