



New York Bight History, Process Overview, and Draft Environmental Assessment

Office of Renewable Energy Programs

Draft Environmental Assessment Public Meetings

August 25 & 26, 2021

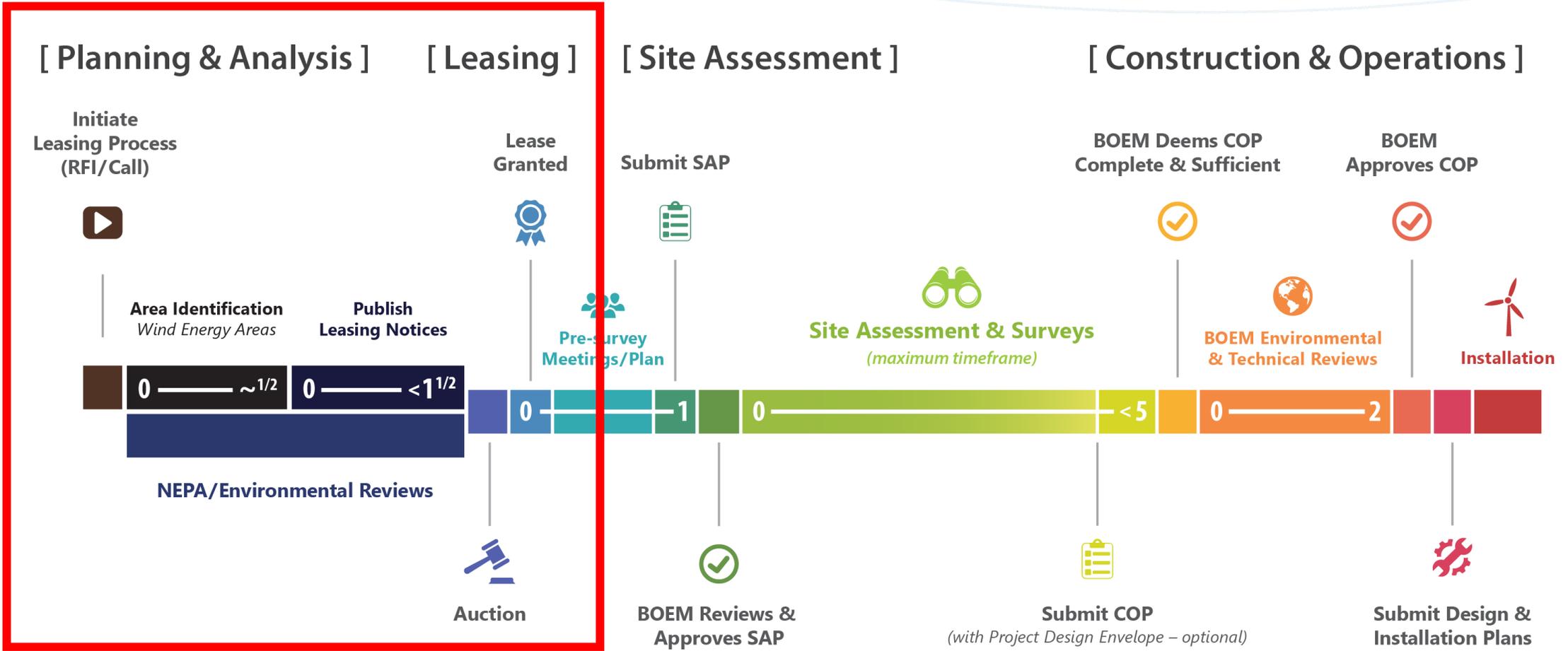


Overview

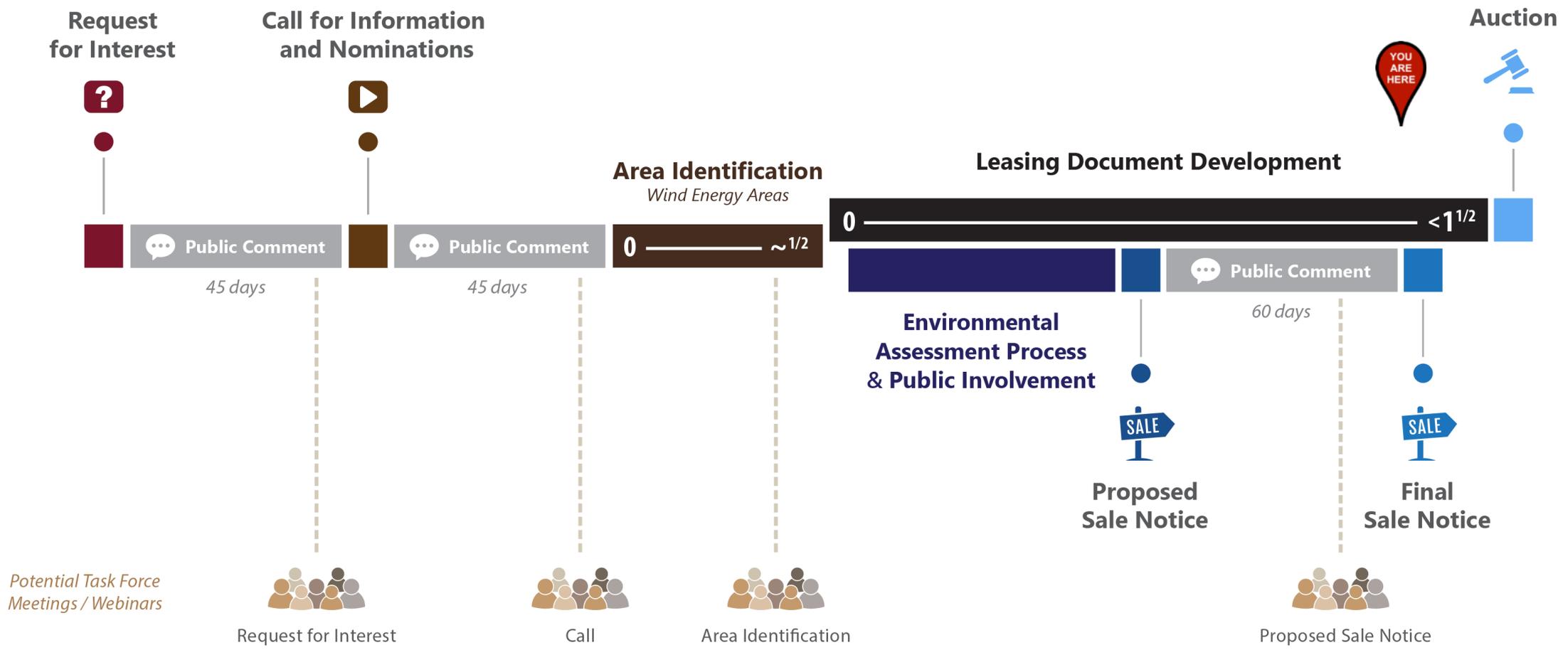
- **Background on Leasing Process**
- **Wind Energy Areas**
- **Proposed Lease Areas**
- **Draft Environmental Assessment**

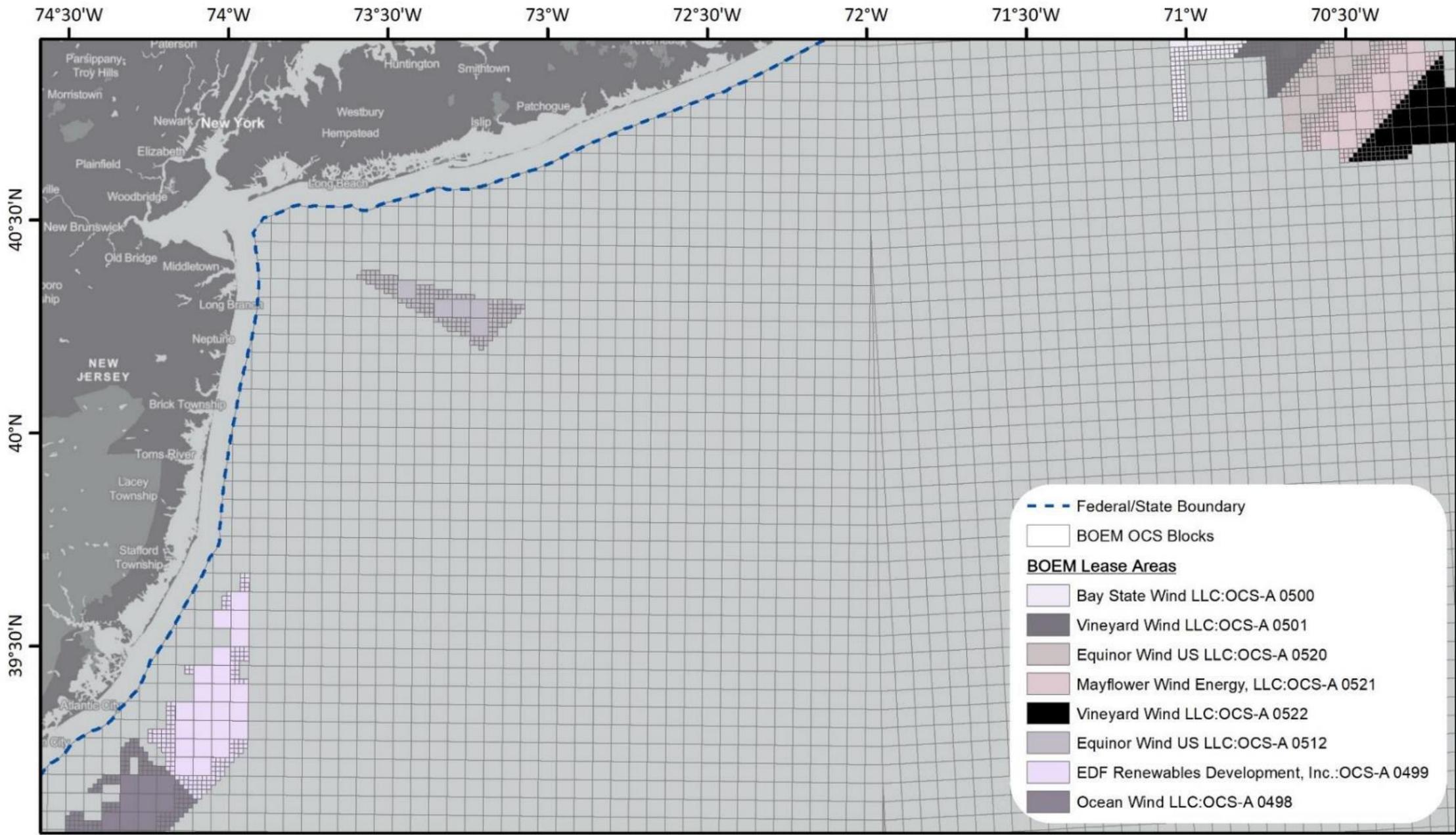


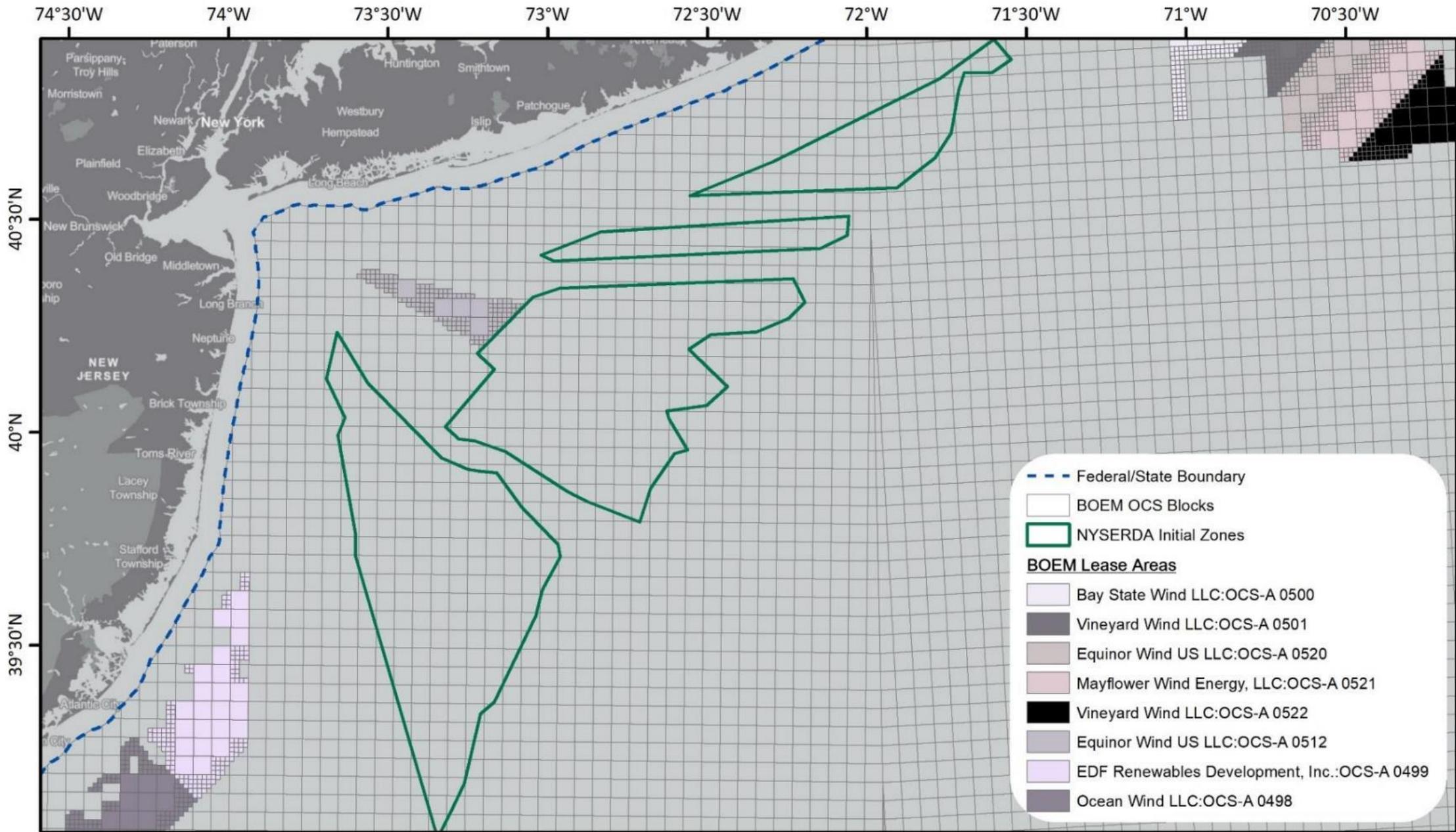
Renewable Energy Process: From RFI/Call to Operation



Request for Interest to Lease Sale







- - - Federal/State Boundary
- BOEM OCS Blocks
- NYSERDA Initial Zones

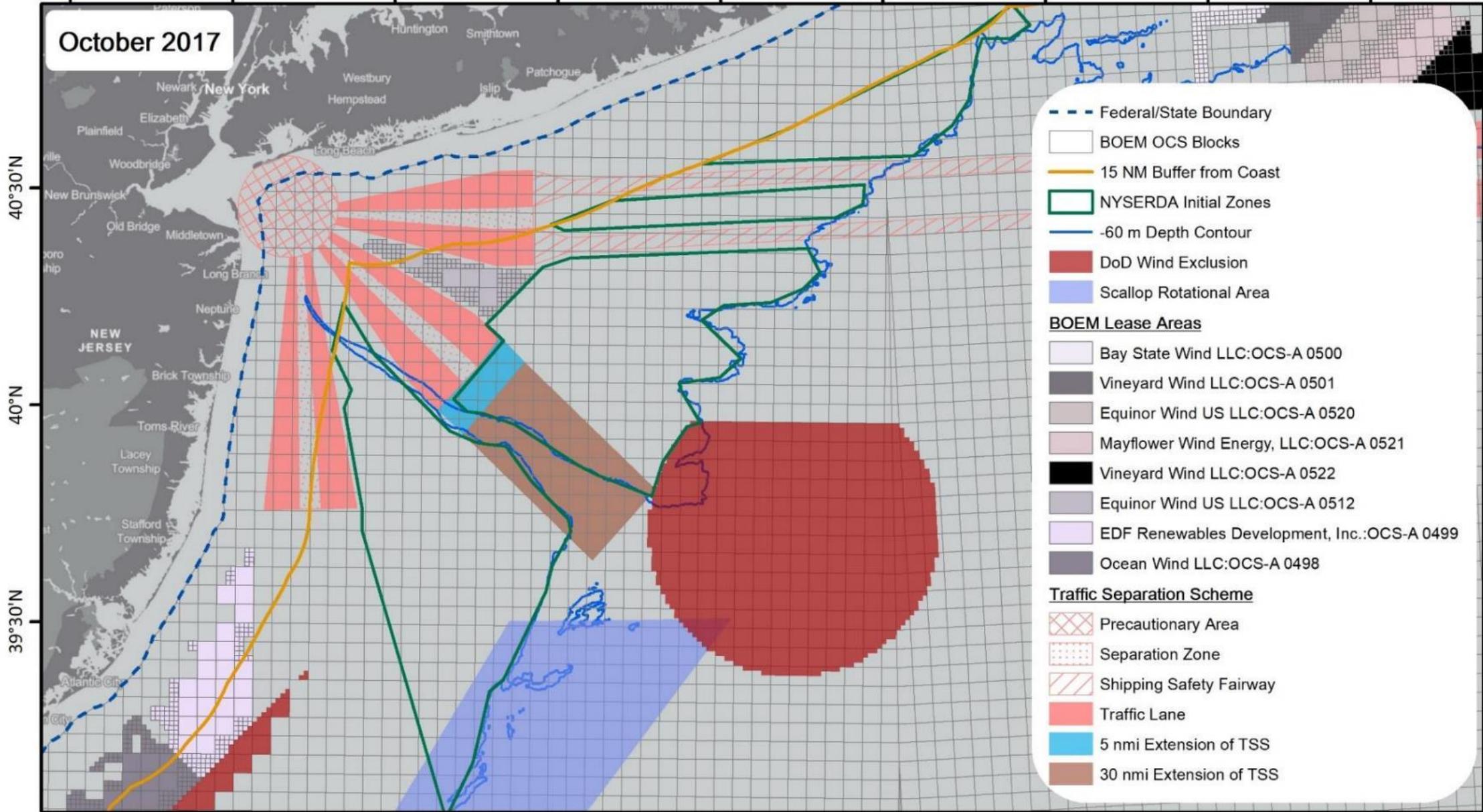
BOEM Lease Areas

- Bay State Wind LLC:OCS-A 0500
- Vineyard Wind LLC:OCS-A 0501
- Equinor Wind US LLC:OCS-A 0520
- Mayflower Wind Energy, LLC:OCS-A 0521
- Vineyard Wind LLC:OCS-A 0522
- Equinor Wind US LLC:OCS-A 0512
- EDF Renewables Development, Inc.:OCS-A 0499
- Ocean Wind LLC:OCS-A 0498



74°30'W 74°W 73°30'W 73°W 72°30'W 72°W 71°30'W 71°W 70°30'W

October 2017

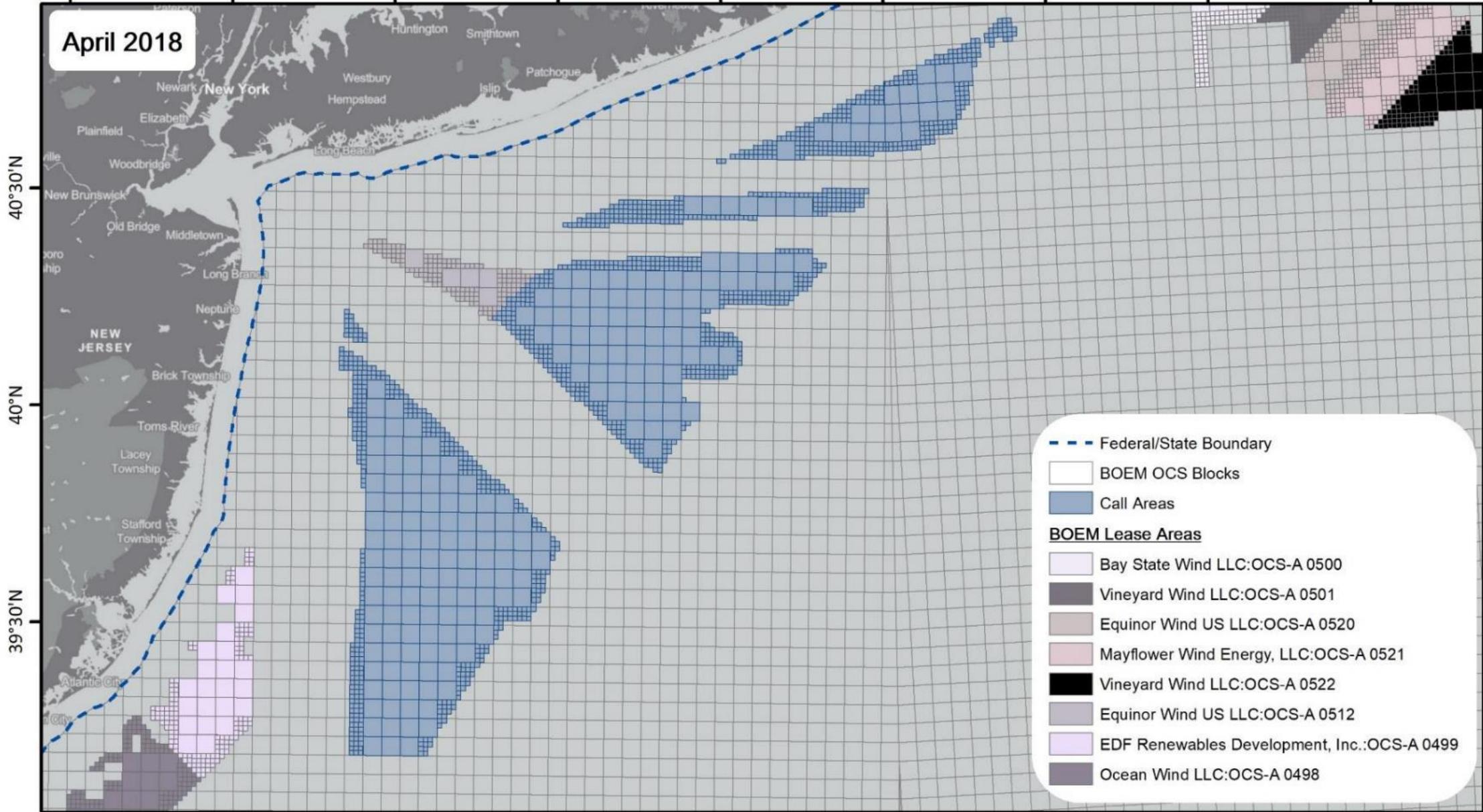


- - - Federal/State Boundary
- BOEM OCS Blocks
- 15 NM Buffer from Coast
- NYSERDA Initial Zones
- -60 m Depth Contour
- DoD Wind Exclusion
- Scallop Rotational Area
- BOEM Lease Areas**
- Bay State Wind LLC:OCS-A 0500
- Vineyard Wind LLC:OCS-A 0501
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- EDF Renewables Development, Inc.:OCS-A 0499
- Ocean Wind LLC:OCS-A 0498
- Traffic Separation Scheme**
- ▨ Precautionary Area
- ▨ Separation Zone
- ▨ Shipping Safety Fairway
- Traffic Lane
- 5 nmi Extension of TSS
- 30 nmi Extension of TSS



74°30'W 74°W 73°30'W 73°W 72°30'W 72°W 71°30'W 71°W 70°30'W

April 2018



- - - Federal/State Boundary
- BOEM OCS Blocks
- Call Areas

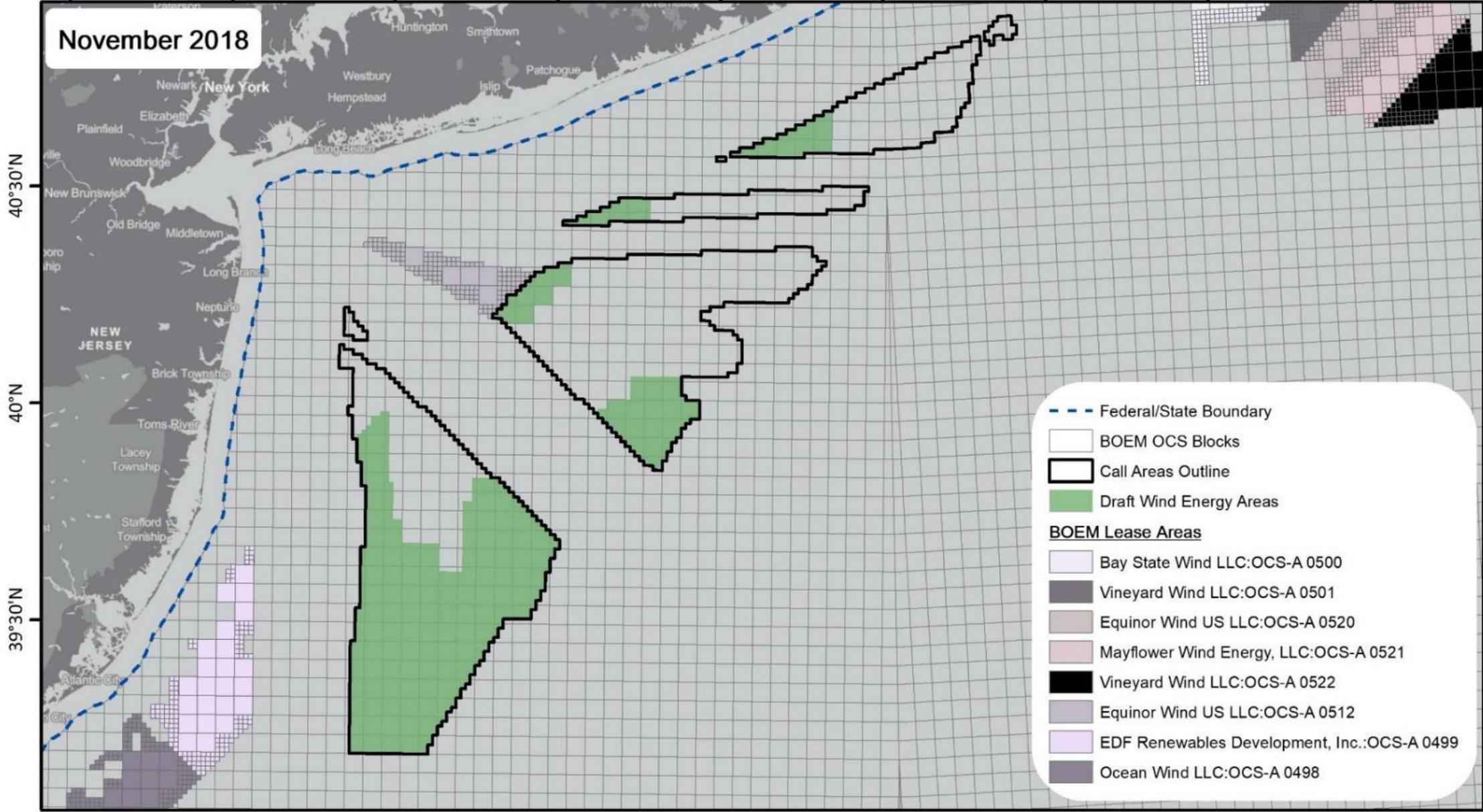
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November 2018

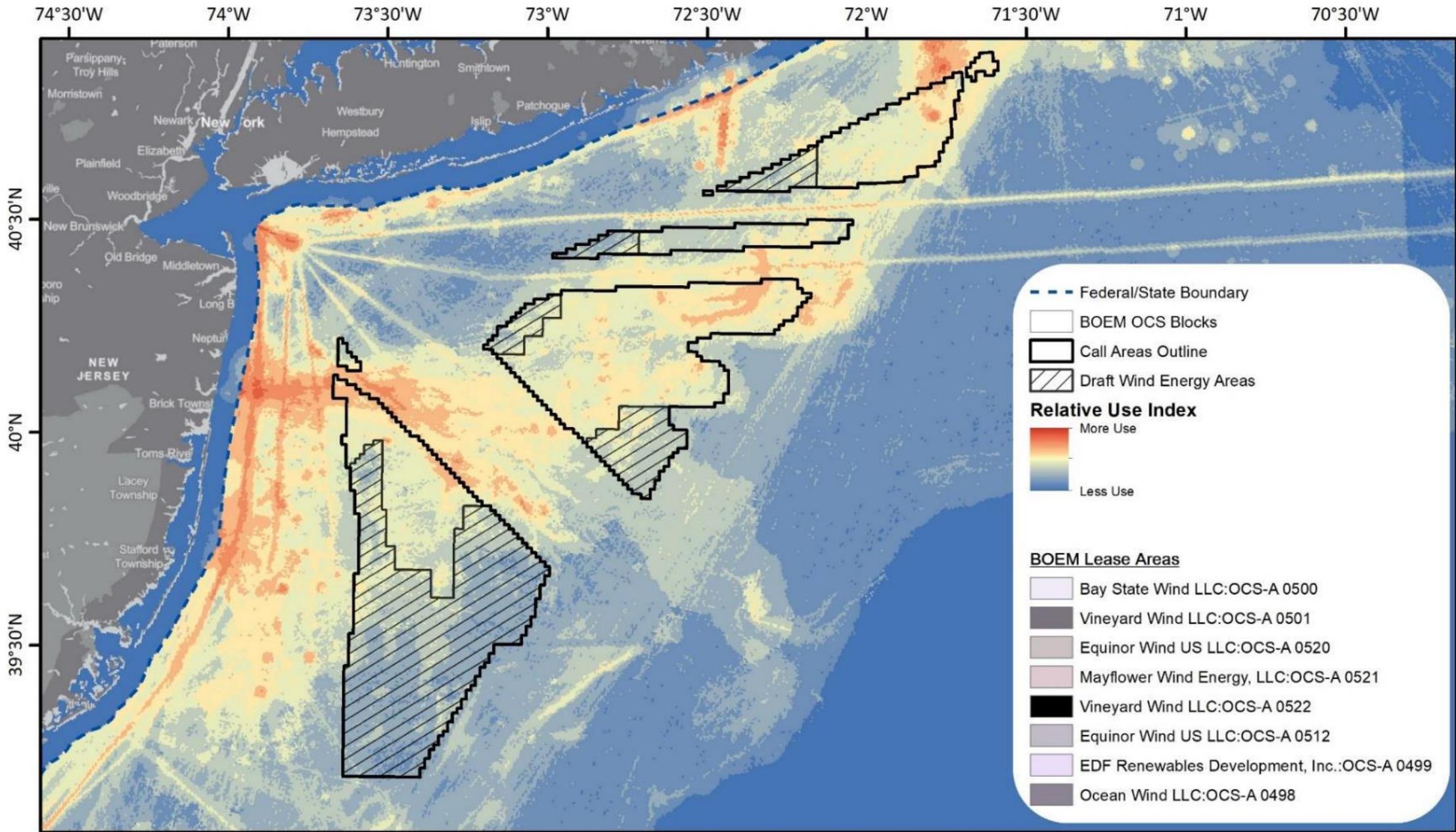


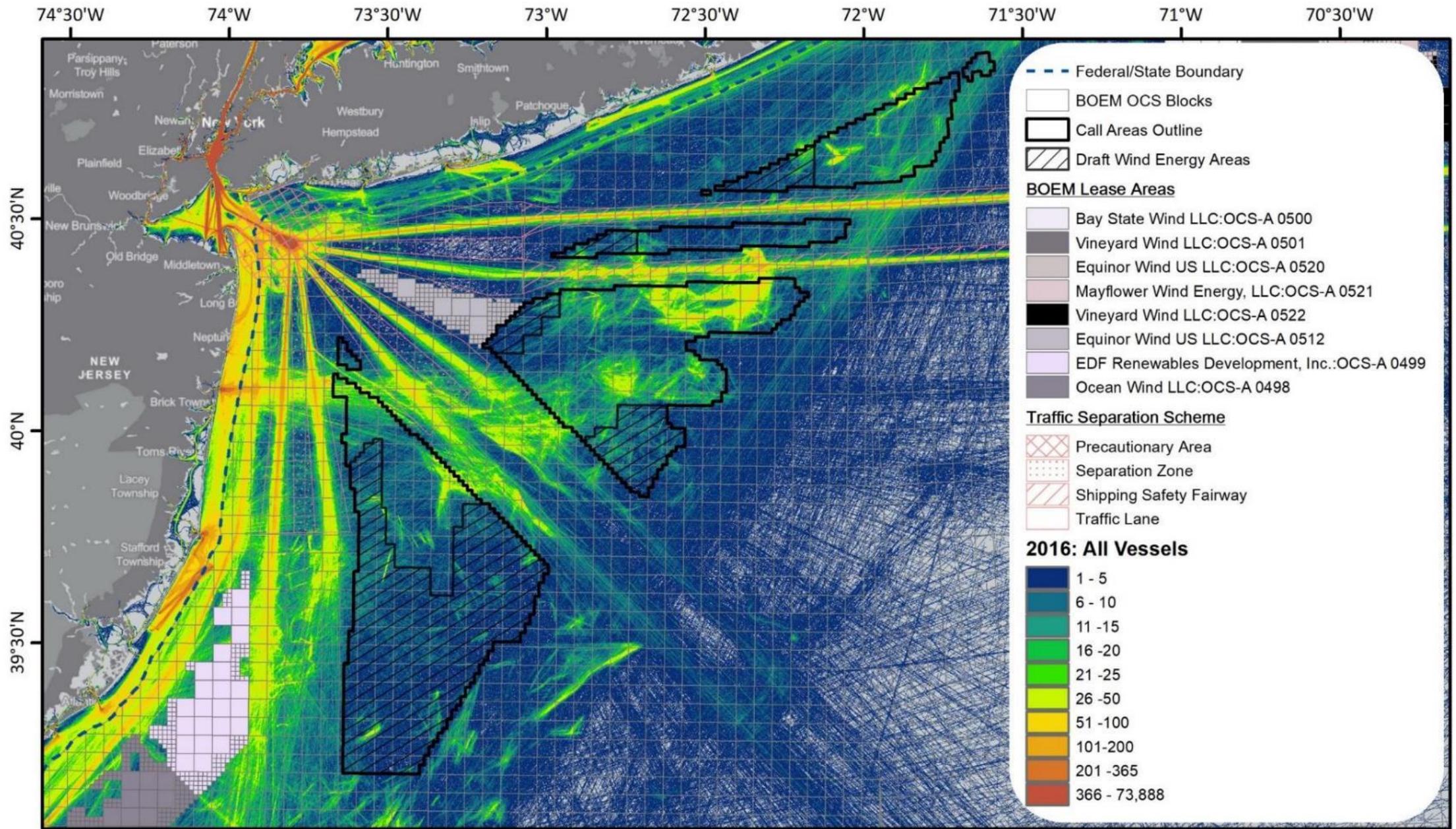
- - - Federal/State Boundary
- BOEM OCS Blocks
- Call Areas Outline
- Draft Wind Energy Areas

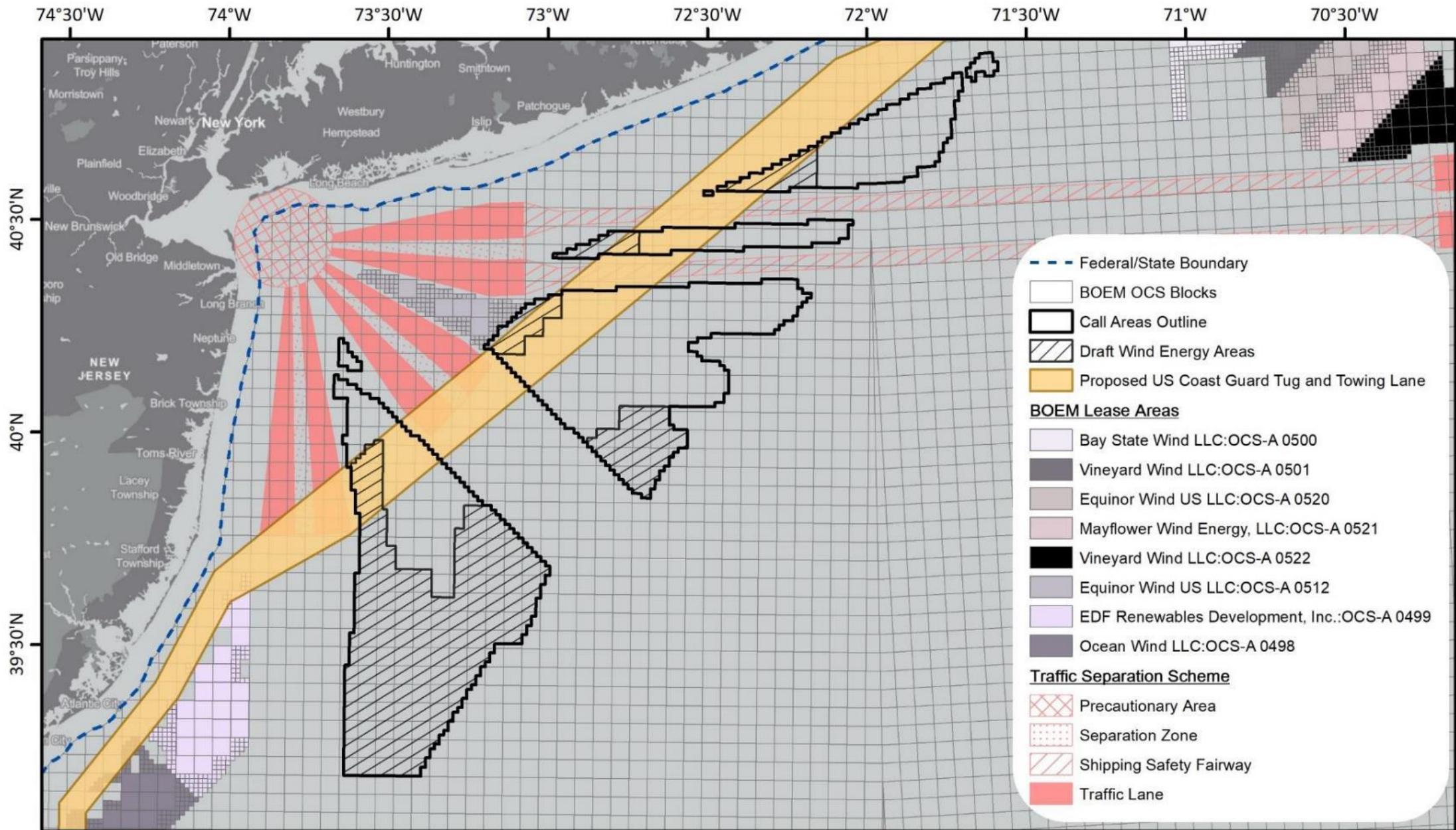
BOEM Lease Areas

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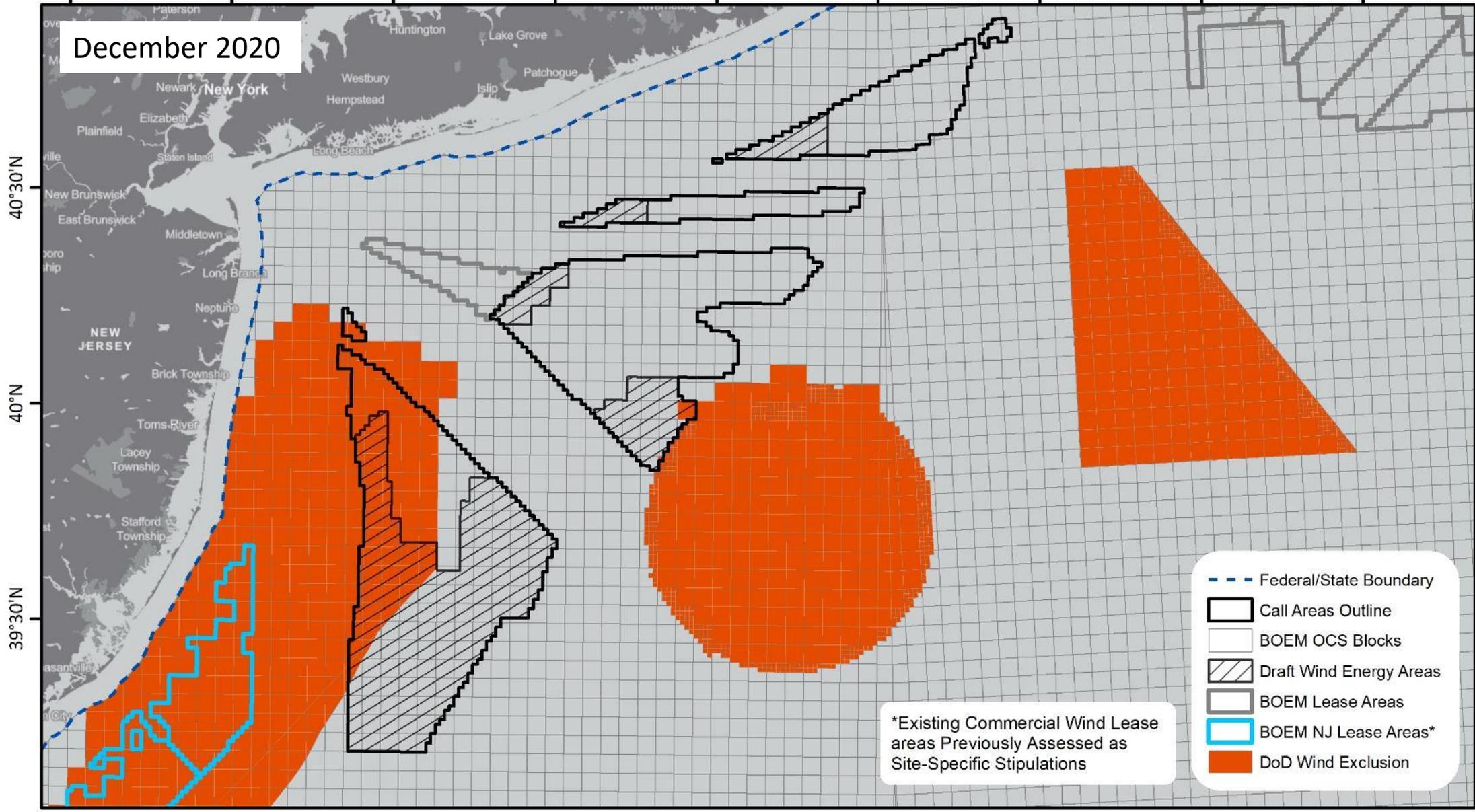






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December 2020



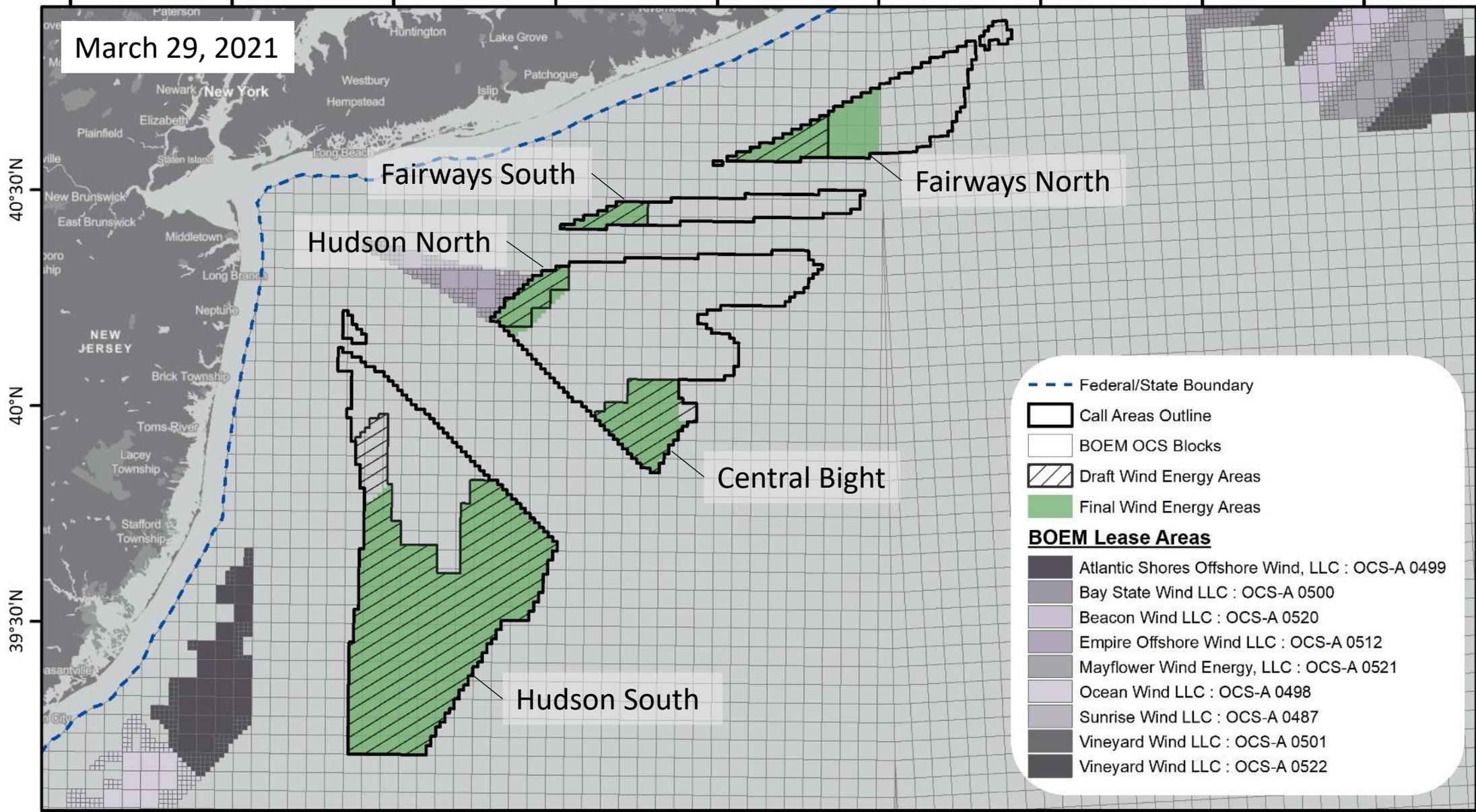
- - - Federal/State Boundary
- Call Areas Outline
- BOEM OCS Blocks
- Draft Wind Energy Areas
- BOEM Lease Areas
- BOEM NJ Lease Areas*
- DoD Wind Exclusion

*Existing Commercial Wind Lease areas Previously Assessed as Site-Specific Stipulations



74°30'W 74°W 73°30'W 73°W 72°30'W 72°W 71°30'W 71°W 70°30'W

March 29, 2021



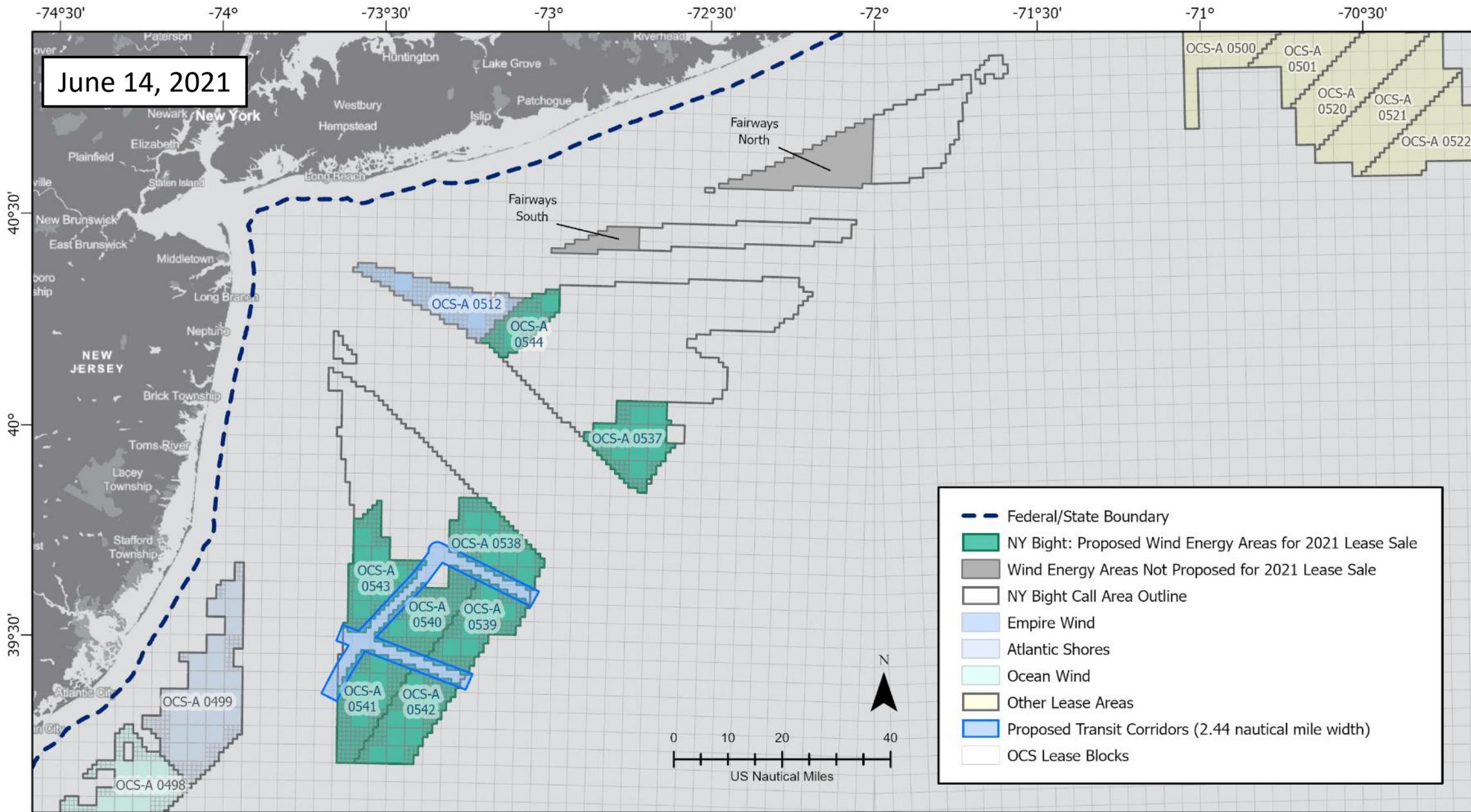
- - - Federal/State Boundary
 [Outline] Call Areas Outline
 [Grid] BOEM OCS Blocks
 [Hatched] Draft Wind Energy Areas
 [Green] Final Wind Energy Areas

BOEM Lease Areas

- Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC : OCS-A 0499
- Bay State Wind LLC : OCS-A 0500
- Beacon Wind LLC : OCS-A 0520
- Empire Offshore Wind LLC : OCS-A 0512
- Mayflower Wind Energy, LLC : OCS-A 0521
- Ocean Wind LLC : OCS-A 0498
- Sunrise Wind LLC : OCS-A 0487
- Vineyard Wind LLC : OCS-A 0501
- Vineyard Wind LLC : OCS-A 0522

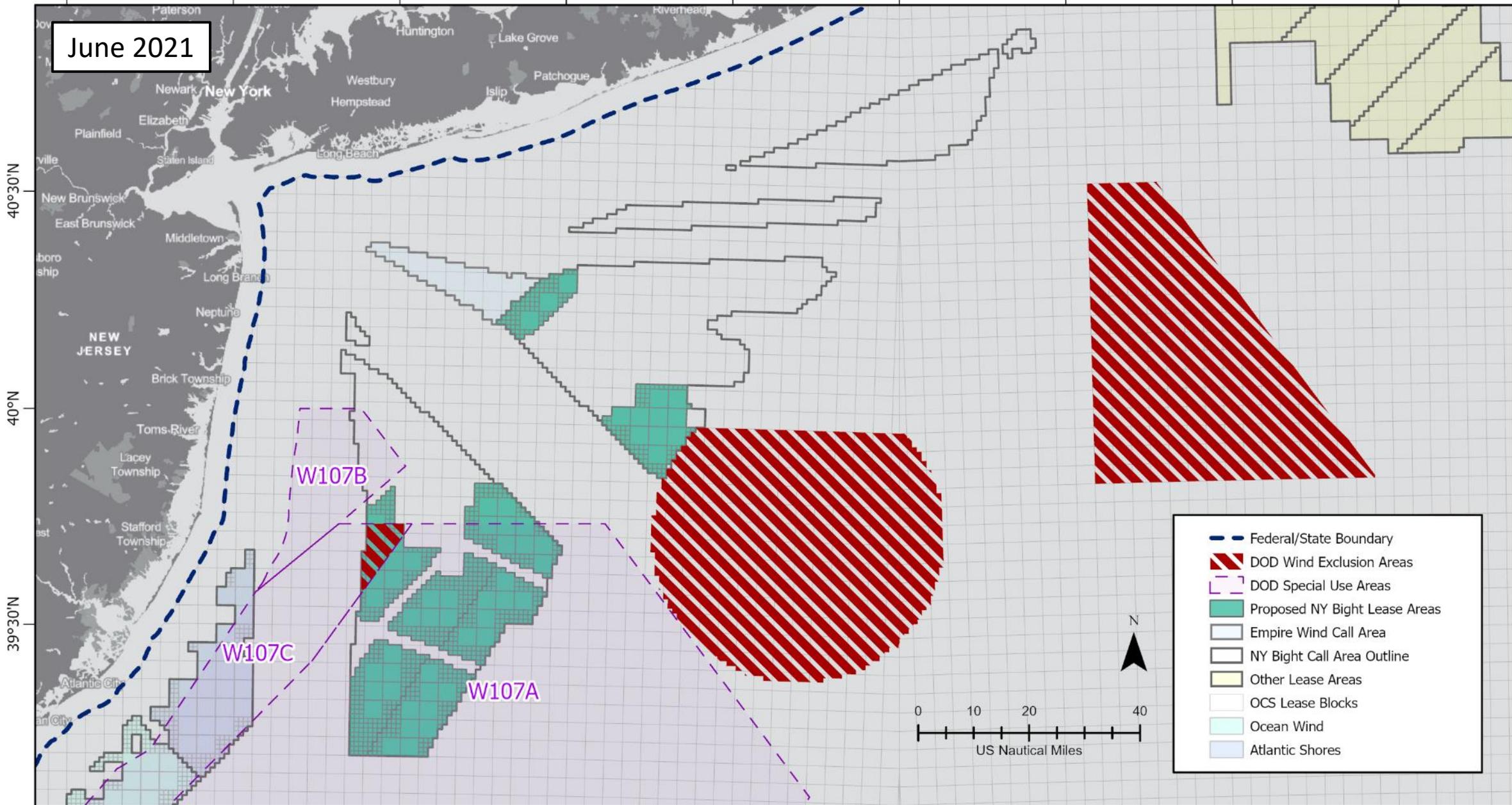


June 14, 2021



- Federal/State Boundary
- NY Bight: Proposed Wind Energy Areas for 2021 Lease Sale
- Wind Energy Areas Not Proposed for 2021 Lease Sale
- NY Bight Call Area Outline
- Empire Wind
- Atlantic Shores
- Ocean Wind
- Other Lease Areas
- Proposed Transit Corridors (2.44 nautical mile width)
- OCS Lease Blocks

June 2021

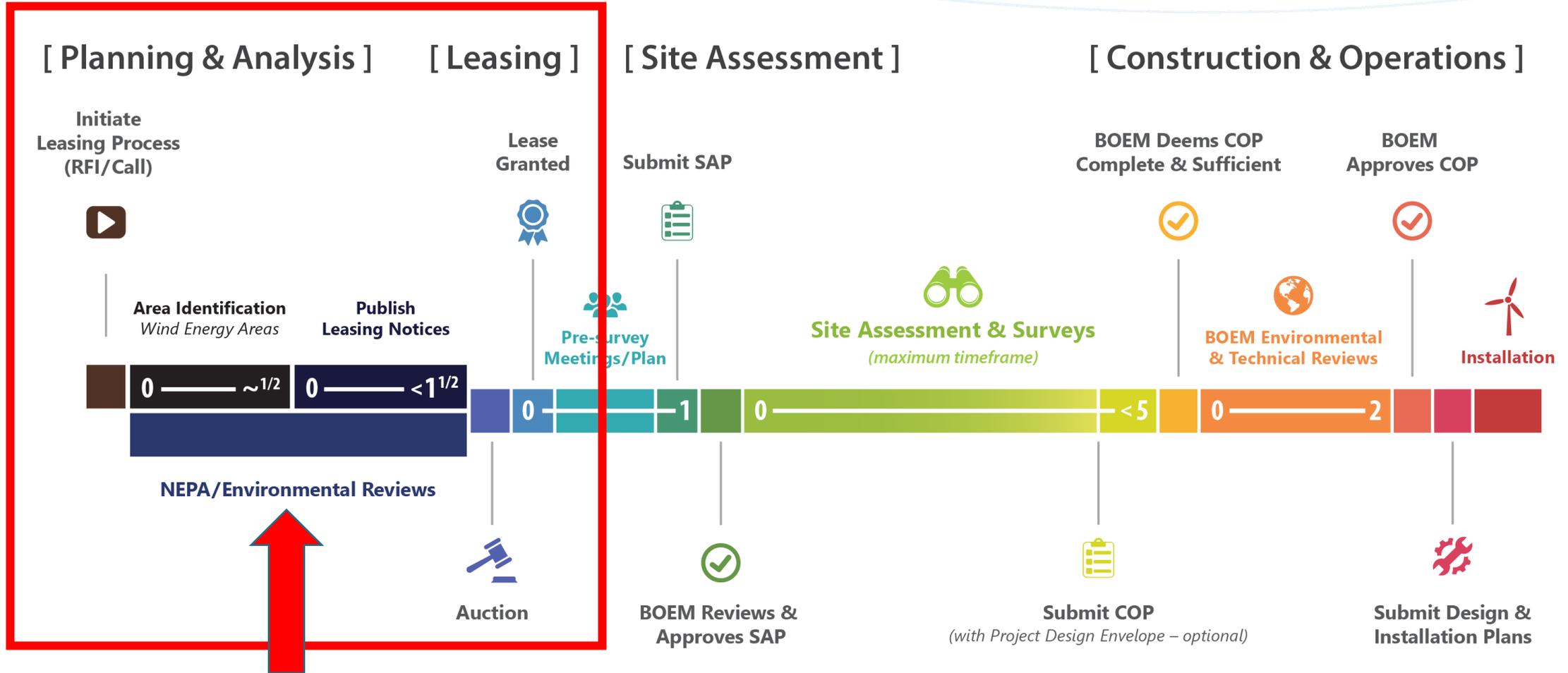


Overview of the Draft Environmental Assessment

- **Purpose and Need for Action**
- **Proposed Action and Alternatives**
- **Routine Activities and Impact-Producing Factors**
- **Environmental Consequences**
- **Notice to Stakeholders and Comment Period**
- **Next Steps**



Renewable Energy Process: From RFI/Call to Operation



NEPA and Offshore Wind



Environmental Assessment — Site Characterization and Assessment Activities

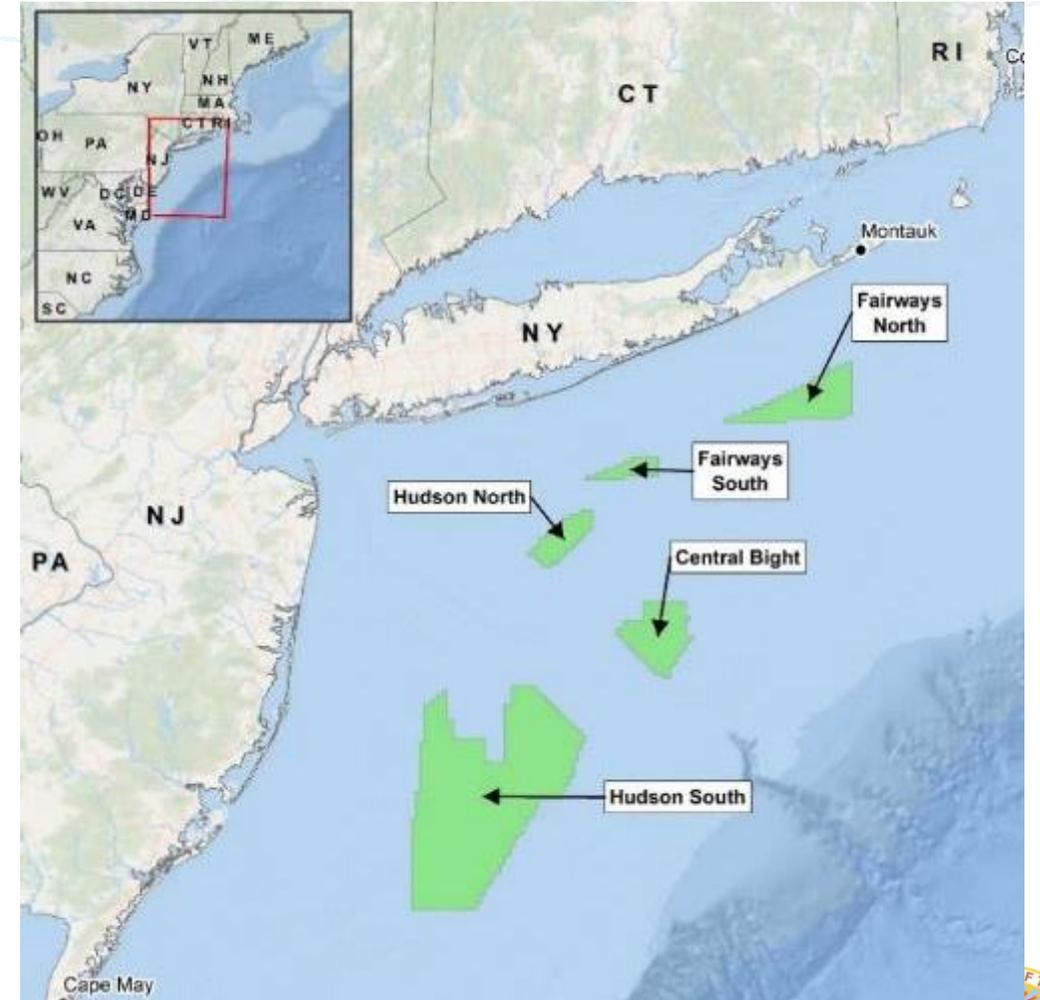


Environmental Impact Statement — Construction and Operation Plan



Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

- **Geographic scope based on the March 29, 2021, Area ID Memorandum for WEAs on the NY Bight**
 - Scoping Comment Period ended April 28, 2021
 - Docket No. BOEM-2021-0021
- **Proposed Action:** issuance of leases and grants within the WEAs and rights-of-way and rights-of-use and easement
- **Purpose of EA:** determine if the Proposed Action would lead to reasonably foreseeable significant impacts on the environment
 - Builds upon prior EAs completed in the Region



NY Bight Wind Energy Areas

Parameter	Fairways North WEA	Fairways South WEA	Hudson North WEA	Central Bight WEA	Hudson South WEA	Total
Acres	88,246	23,841	43,056	84,688	567,552	807,383
Maximum depth (m)	56	46	45	61	59	--
Minimum depth (m)	42	39	41	52	32	--
Closest distance to New York (nm)	15	15	21	38	45	--
Closest distance to New Jersey (nm)	69	45	36	53	23	--



Purpose and Need for Action

Issuance of leases and grants:

- Confers exclusive right to submit plans to BOEM for potential development
- Determines suitability for commercial offshore wind production and/or transmission through site characterization and assessment
- Ensures the site characterization and assessment activities are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner

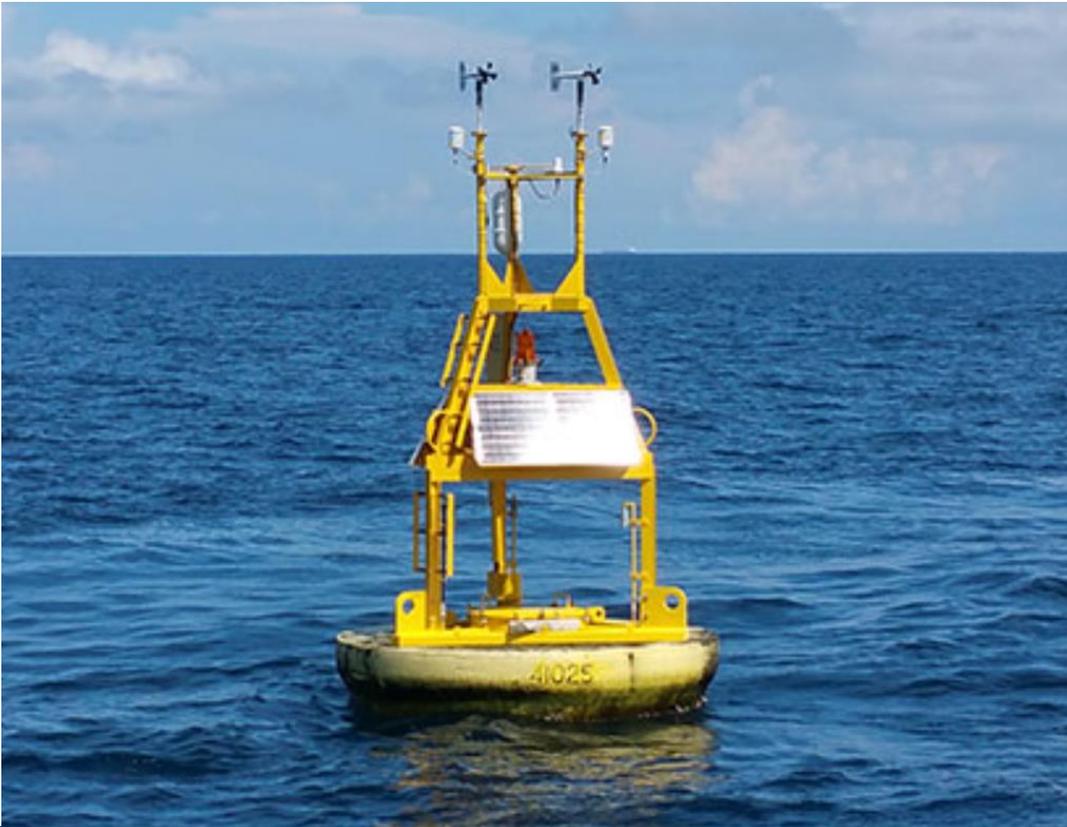
Scope of Analysis:

- Up to 10 leases that may cover the entirety of the WEAs
- Potential easements and grants for subsea cable corridors and offshore collector/converter platforms

Routine Activities Analyzed in the Draft EA

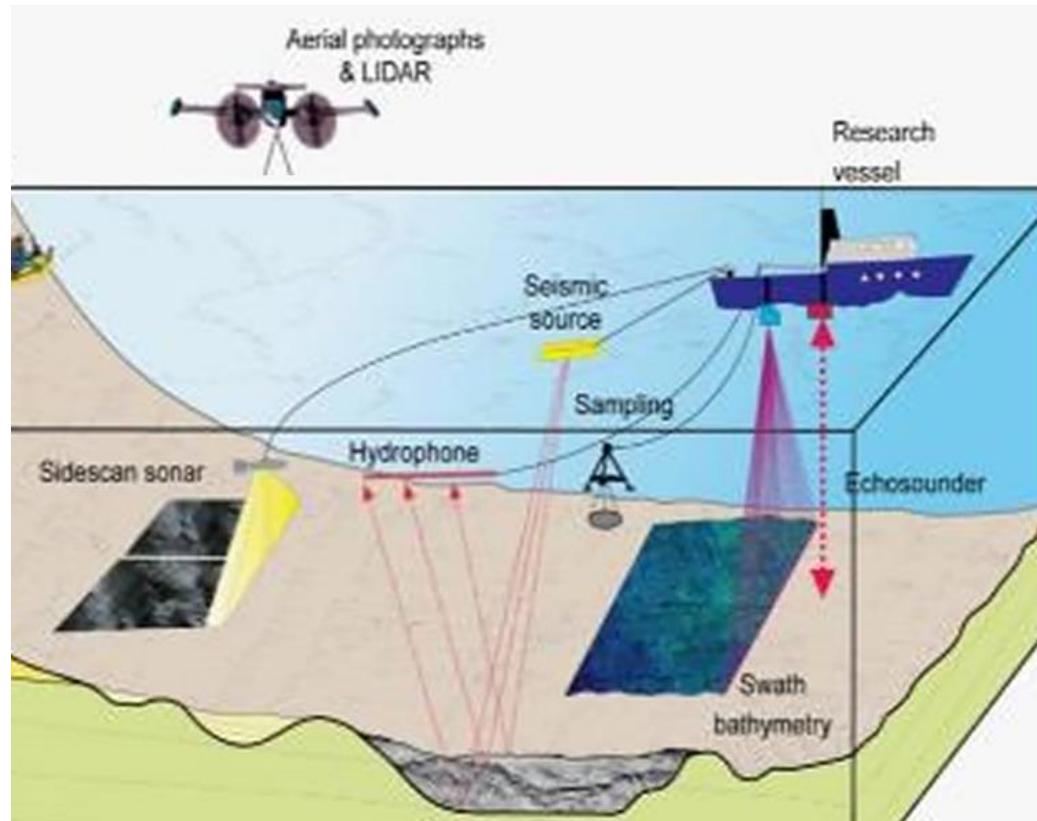
Site Assessment

Temporary placement of meteorological buoys and oceanographic devices



Site Characterization

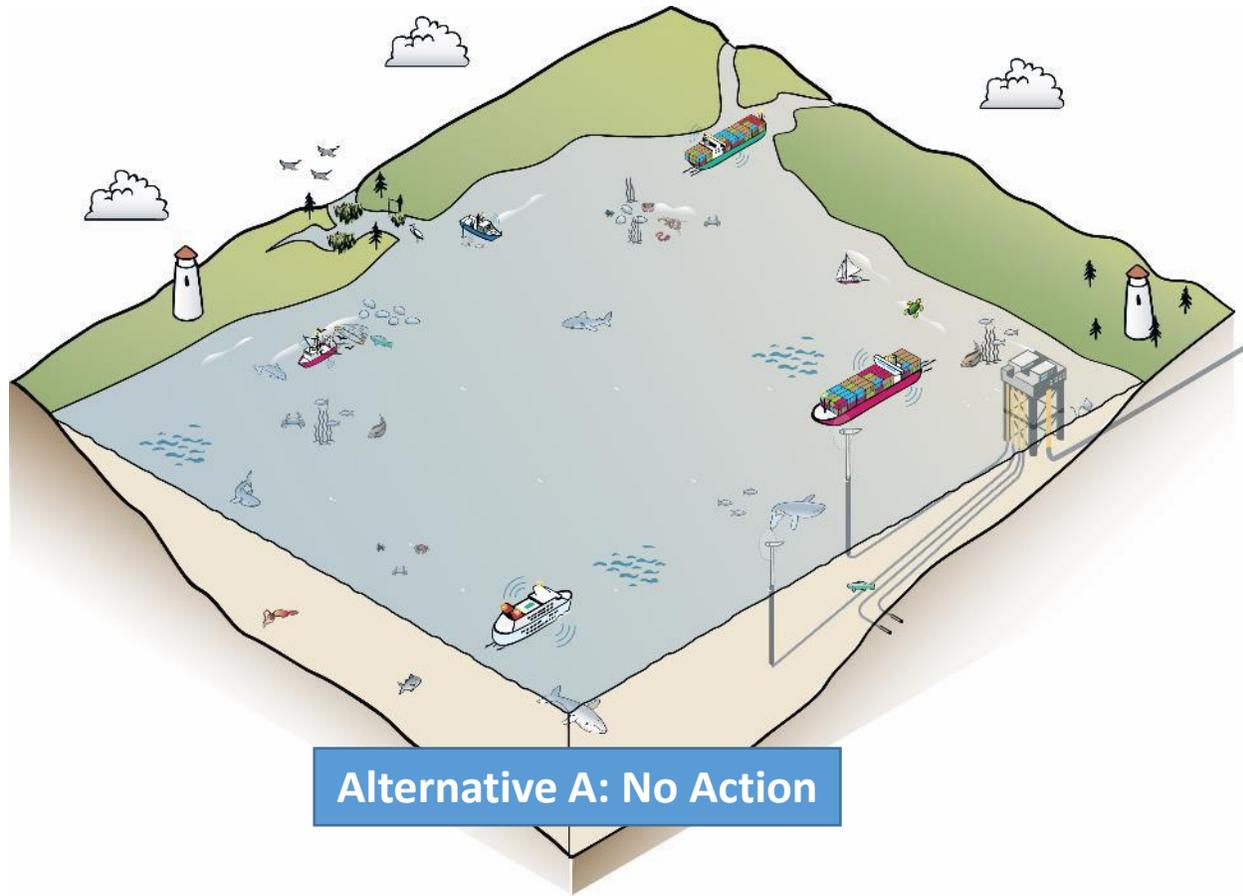
Geophysical surveys, geotechnical surveys, biological surveys, and archeological surveys



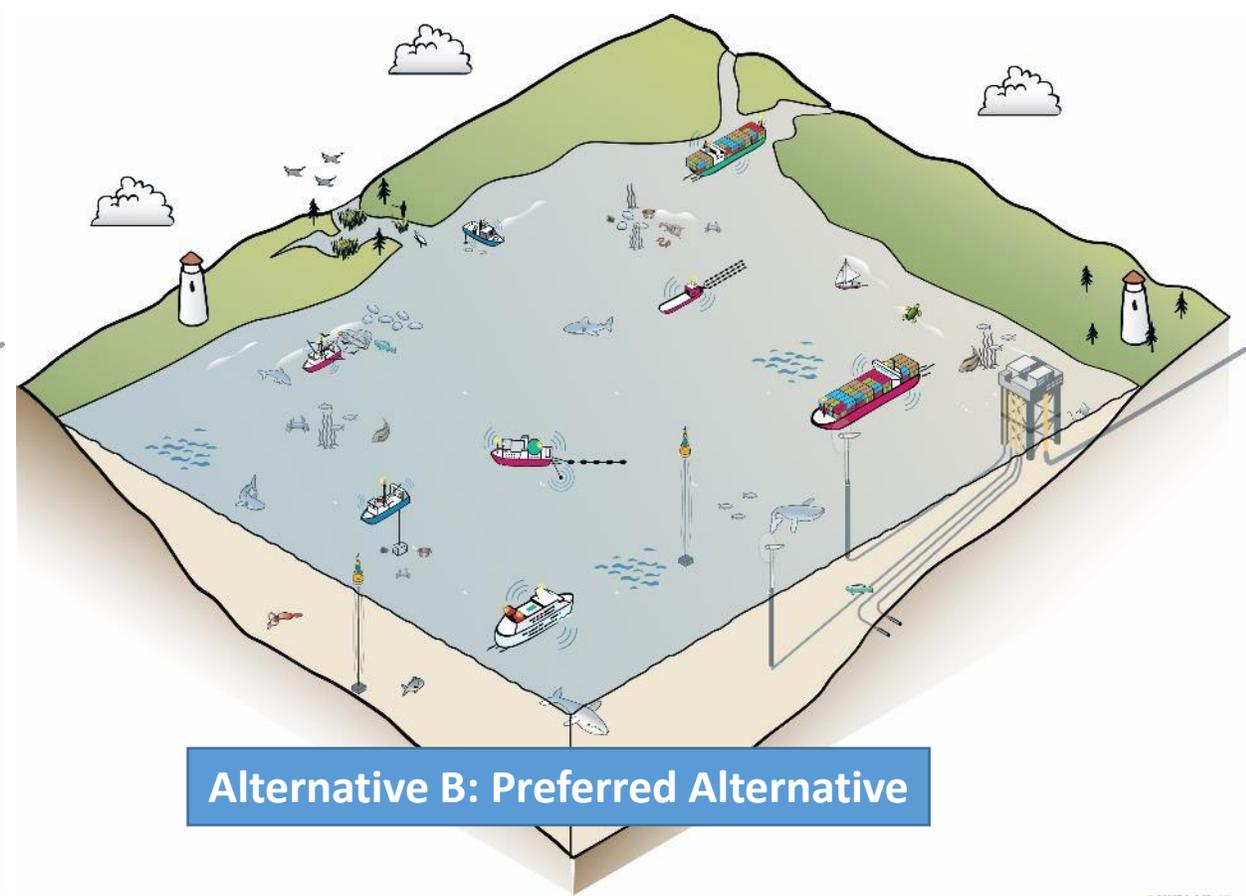
Non-Routine Events Analyzed in the Draft EA

- **Storms**
- **Collisions and allisions**
- **Spills**
- **Recovery of lost survey equipment**

Alternatives



Alternative A: No Action



Alternative B: Preferred Alternative

Impact-Producing Factors (IPFs)

IPFs Associated With the Proposed Action

- Noise
- Lighting
- Vessel traffic
- Air emissions
- Routine vessel discharges
- Bottom disturbance
- Habitat degradation
- Entanglement
- Marine faunal mortality

Classification Scheme for Potential Impacts

Negligible

Minor

Moderate

Major



Resources Eliminated from Consideration

These resources are anticipated to have **Negligible** or less impacts:

- Bats
- Bathymetry, geology, and sediments
- Birds
- Coastal habitats
- Coastal infrastructure
- Demographics and employment
- Environmental justice
- Visual resources
- Water quality



Potential Environmental Consequences

Resources	Routine Activities		Non-Routine Events
	Site Assessment	Site Characterization	
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Benthic Resources	Negligible to Minor	Minor	Negligible
Commercial and Recreational Fishing	Negligible to Minor	Negligible to Minor	Negligible
Cultural, Historical, and Archaeological Resources	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Finfish, Invertebrates, and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)	Negligible	Negligible to Minor	Negligible
Marine Mammals	Negligible (except for ESA-listed marine mammals, which are Minor to Moderate)	Negligible to Minor (except for ESA-listed marine mammals, which are Minor to Moderate)	Negligible
Military Use and Navigation/Vessel Traffic	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Recreation and Tourism	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Sea Turtles	Negligible	Negligible to Minor	Negligible

Standard Operating Conditions (SOCs)

- **Reduce or eliminate potential risks to, or conflicts with, some resources**
 - Lessees required to comply through lease stipulations and/or as conditions of site assessment plan
 - Ensures the site characterization and assessment activities are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner

- **Mitigation Strategies:**
 - Avoidance
 - Survey shutdowns
 - Visual monitoring

Consultations

- **Endangered Species Act**
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
- **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act**
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
- **Marine Mammal Protection Act**
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
- **Coastal Zone Management Act**
 - States of New York and New Jersey
- **Government-to-Government Consultations with Federally Recognized Tribes**
 - Nine Native American Tribes with historic and cultural ties to the NY Bight area
- **National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)**
 - NY, NJ, and RI State Historic Preservation Offices
 - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
 - Federally recognized Native American Tribes
 - Certified local governments, historical preservation societies, museums, and state-recognized Tribes

Next Steps

Action	Timing
Published Draft EA	August 10, 2021
30-Day Comment Period	Ends September 9, 2021
Publish Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact, if applicable	Fall 2021
Publish Final Sale Notice	
Minimum 30-Day Waiting Period	
Sale Date	Late 2021 or Early 2022

Providing Public Comments

Public comment period ends September 9, 2021

Helpful Types of Comments:

- Accuracy of information
- Adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used in the environmental analysis
- New information relevant to the analysis or that would change the conclusions
- Where clarification is needed

How to Submit Comments:

- Via www.regulations.gov under docket ID BOEM-2021-0054
- Through oral testimony at virtual public meetings
- In writing to:
“Comments on New York Bight EA”
Office of Renewable Energy Programs (VAM-OREP)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166

www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/new-york-bight

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Management

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