

California Offshore Renewable Energy

BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force

About the BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force

The BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force (“Task Force”) is a partnership of members of state, local and tribal governments and federal agencies created in 2016 that provide critical information to the decision-making process for planning future offshore renewable energy development opportunities in federal waters offshore California. The Task Force is seeking to identify potential areas in federal waters offshore California that may be suitable for offshore renewable energy development. It serves as a forum to:

- Discuss stakeholder issues and concerns;
- Exchange data and information about biological and physical resources, ocean uses and priorities; and
- Facilitate early and continual dialogue and collaboration opportunities.

Where is the Wind?

BOEM is responsible for regulating offshore energy uses in federal waters, extending from 3 nautical miles (nm) offshore to the edge of the Exclusive Economic Zone ending at 200 nm offshore, except within boundaries of any National Park, National Marine Sanctuary, National Wildlife Refuge (or associated systems) or National Monument. BOEM and the Task Force are focused on exploring areas for offshore renewable energy off California’s coast. The Task Force is pursuing a data and information gathering effort along the entire California coast, with special emphasis in

central California because there is commercial interest by offshore wind developers, readily available existing transmission infrastructure and viable wind energy resources.



Did you know?

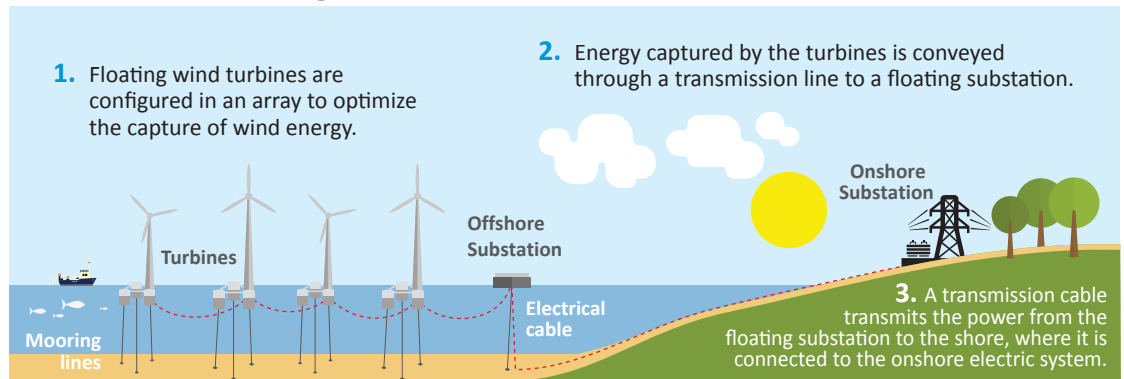
- The Department of Interior is responsible for offshore energy resources and has jurisdiction over 1.7 billion acres on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).
- California Governor Jerry Brown signed SB 350 into law, which set a 50% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) for the state to achieve by 2030.
- One gigawatt (GW) of offshore wind energy could power 350,000 homes with clean, renewable energy. According to a 2016 study from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, there is more than 158,000 GW of capacity offshore California.

About Floating Wind Technology

Numerous offshore wind farms already provide electricity to millions of people in Europe. In the U.S., the 30MW, five-turbine Block Island Wind Farm began producing energy offshore Rhode Island in 2016. Floating wind energy technology is gaining interest offshore of California where water depth drops off rapidly, making most federal and state waters too deep for fixed, bottom-mounted turbines. A typical floating offshore wind facility is pictured below.

A project in federal waters must pass through state waters with its electrical cable to get to a land-based power substation, requiring federal and state permits in addition to a BOEM OCS lease.

How Offshore Floating Wind Farms Work



Collaborative Data and Information Gathering Effort

The California Energy Commission, in partnership with BOEM, is developing an online data portal to facilitate decision-making about offshore wind energy development in the context of existing ocean resources and uses. The State and BOEM will work with stakeholders and members of the Task Force to identify appropriate existing data sets to include in the data portal.

How Can I Become Involved?

- Share information and data to include in the data portal. California and BOEM (the Team) will hold webinars to support data sharing in early 2017.
- Participate in tribal outreach meetings. The Team plans five meetings between November 2016 and spring 2017.
- Participate and provide comments in public meetings open to everyone; these are provisionally scheduled for spring 2017.
- Participate in smaller, targeted outreach meetings with community groups, including fishermen, environmental NGOs, elected officials and others.
- Attend Task Force meetings; the next meeting will be held near the central Coast and is expected in summer 2017.
- Track progress on the BOEM website, www.boem.gov/California.
- Provide your contact information to BOEM so that we can contact you regarding future activities; you can decide at what level you want to be involved. Email Jean.Thurston@boem.gov.
- Public media inquiries: John.Romero@boem.gov



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