Overview of Offshore Atlantic Ocean Study

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DOS’s Offshore Planning Summary

• Purpose:
  – Site offshore wind to meet energy needs, promote economic development
  – Protect areas important to New York’s industries

• Products:
  – **Offshore Atlantic Ocean Study**
  – Maps showing potentially suitable offshore wind lease areas (Wind Energy Area(s) or WEAs)
  – Ocean-focused amendment (Routine Program Change) to the New York Coastal Management Program
Acknowledgements

• Stakeholders: fishermen, navigation interests, recreational groups, tribal representatives, many others
• Federal partners: NOAA (NCCOS, CSC, NMFS), BOEM, Coast Guard
• State partners: Habitat and Energy Workgroups
• Cornell Cooperative Extension, New England Aquarium, North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium, Stone Environmental
• And others!
Offshore Atlantic Ocean Study

- **Focus is on data, not analysis**
  - The data component of the Habitat and Offshore Renewable Energy Work Group work efforts
  - Initial work group products provided as examples of how data are used
- Identifies areas/habitats important to New York industries
- Makes the case for increasing State involvement in federal activities offshore
- Provides a launch point for the ongoing work of the workgroups, identification of wind energy area
Offshore Atlantic Ocean Study: Scope

• Geographic area
  – 1500 feet from shore to the shelf edge, with focus on 3 miles and out

• Used the actual or predicted locations of existing uses and resources
  – Sparse existing information
  – New modeling techniques
  – Assumptions are important
Data Delivery

• Data shared in two formats
  – *Static* study and supporting reports with maps showing offshore habitats / ocean use areas
  – *Periodically updated* data layers to be made publically available on NY Ocean/Great Lakes Atlas

• Four foundational reports (also static)
  – NOAA National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Science (seabird, deep sea coral, oceanographic data)
  – New England Aquarium / University of Rhode Island (marine mammal, sea turtle data)
  – Cornell Cooperative Extension (interviews with commercial fishermen)
  – Stone Environmental (commercial fish data)
Key Study Elements

- **Base map/layers**
  - States/coastline
  - New York counties
  - Bathymetry
  - Navigation lanes
  - Federal/state territorial seas (red/yellow)
  - OCS Lands Act lease grid
Key Study Elements

- Base map/layers
- **Oceanographic data**
  - Wind energy data
  - Severe storm tracks
  - Temperature, turbidity, productivity, etc
Key Study Elements

- Base map/layers
- Oceanographic data
- **Existing biological data**
  - Deep sea corals & sponges
  - Seabirds
  - Marine mammals
  - Sea turtles
  - Fish (NMFS trawl data)
Key Study Elements

- Base map/layers
- Oceanographic data
- Existing biological data
- *Use data*
  - *Ocean use workshops*
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- **Use data**
  - Ocean use workshops
  - *Fishermen data from Cornell workshops*
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  - *NOAA fishing data*
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- Oceanographic data
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- **Use data**
  - Ocean use workshops
  - Fishermen data from Cornell workshops
  - NOAA fishing data
  - *Coast Guard AIS data*
Key Study Elements

- Base map/layers
- Oceanographic Data
- Existing Biological Data
- Use Data
- *Data Overlays*
  - *Wind energy baseline criteria*
Key Study Elements

- Base map/layers
- Oceanographic Data
- Existing Biological Data
- Use Data
- **Data Overlays**
  - Wind energy baseline criteria
  - **Natural resources**
Questions?