Task Force Initiative: Findings and Next Steps

Bennett Brooks, *CBI*, and James Bennett, *Program Manager, BOEM*
BOEM commitment to *enhancing coordination and stakeholder engagement*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revisit the Structure of Intergovernmental Task Forces</td>
<td>Document describing Task Force evaluation and path forward for BOEM’s Task Force utilization</td>
<td>Efficient intergovernmental coordination that considers input from any and all potentially affected states</td>
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- Task Forces have been successful, two major themes to address:
  - Regional issues
  - Task Forces in a post-leasing world
- Engaged CBI to conduct interviews with ~30 Task Force members
## Primary Findings

### Task Force Initiative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Perceived Strengths</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong BOEM staff</td>
<td>Gets folks (esp. Feds) out of stovepipes; helps streamline reviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relationship building</td>
<td>Drives towards decision-making; BOEM role as decision-maker is clear</td>
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<td>Great information-sharing, especially for stakeholders with few resources</td>
<td>Surfaces substantive concerns; lays groundwork for off-line dialogues</td>
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## Primary Findings

### Task Force Initiative

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Key Perceived Challenges</th>
<th>BOEM-centric presentations</th>
<th>Limited transparency in decision-making</th>
<th>Task Forces not proxy for meaningful outreach</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unclear if BOEM seeking genuine dialogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Task Forces’ limited in addressing regional issues (vessel traffic, fishing)</td>
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<td>Issues surfaced but not addressed</td>
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Core Challenges Moving Forward

Task Force Initiative

① Strengthening task force dialogues
② Incorporating regional perspectives
③ Post-leasing role for task forces
④ Meaningful stakeholder engagement
⑤ Transparency of decision-making
## Challenge 1

**Strengthening Task Force Dialogues**

- Develop internal guidance documents that incorporate recommendations to improve Task Force mechanics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-Meeting</th>
<th>At Meeting</th>
<th>Post-Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 month:</strong> meeting notice</td>
<td>Close the loop on past questions/concerns</td>
<td>Post meeting summary on web</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1 week:</strong> materials sent</td>
<td>Updates on past issues</td>
<td>Draft and distribute two-page meeting-in-brief summaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Task Force membership list publicly available</td>
<td>Integrated public input periods</td>
<td>Keep website updated</td>
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**General:** Contact TF 2-4 times yearly (in-person meeting, topic-specific webinar, email updates, etc.)
Challenge 2

Incorporating Regional Perspectives

- Retain current State Task Force structure
- Allow for flexibility to include regional perspectives on a case-by-case basis
  - Joint Task Forces
  - Regional Meetings
  - Guest Speakers, etc.
Challenge 3
Post-Leasing Role for Task Forces

- Work with state to customize post-leasing approach
- Identify key discussion points and process/structure
  - SAP
  - COP
  - FDR/FIR
Challenge 4
Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement

- BOEM, with state partner, produces stakeholder outreach plan
- Review with relevant bodies, including state Task Forces
OREP will take explicit steps to increase the transparency of decision-making processes, including:

- Documenting action items and next steps
- Closing loop at subsequent Task Force meetings
- Recommend publication of decision documents
Future Task Force Implementation

Luke Feinberg, Project Coordinator, BOEM, and Pat Fields, CBI

Questions? / Discussion