

A photograph showing a view from the deck of a ship looking out at a series of offshore wind turbines in the ocean. The ship's yellow and grey railing is visible in the foreground on the left. The turbines are white with yellow bases, receding into the distance under a clear blue sky.

Offshore Renewable Energy Leasing: Massachusetts

February 2011

Maureen A. Bornholdt
Program Manager

Offshore Alternative Energy Programs
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,
Regulation and Enforcement

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation & Enforcement

- Department of the Interior's Ocean Energy Agency
- Manage the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral and energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)
- Energy Policy Act 2005 gave the Secretary authority for renewable energy



OCS Renewable Energy Program Philosophy

- Coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments, and stakeholders
- Focus on multiple-use
- Work within the current authorities and responsibilities of agencies and continue ongoing activities

Applicable Statutes & Executive Orders

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Marine Protection, Research, & Sanctuaries Act
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act
- E.O. 13186 (Migratory Birds)
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Marking of Obstructions
- E.O. 13547 (Stewardship of the Oceans, Our Coasts & the Great Lakes)
- Ports and Waterways Safety Act
- Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- Federal Aviation Act
- Federal Power Act
- E.O. 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites)

Environmental and Socioeconomic Resources and Issues

- Fisheries & Fishing
- Cultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles
- Marine and Coastal Birds
- Bats
- Seafloor Habitats
- Physical Oceanography
- Coastal Habitats
- Socioeconomics
- Multiple Uses



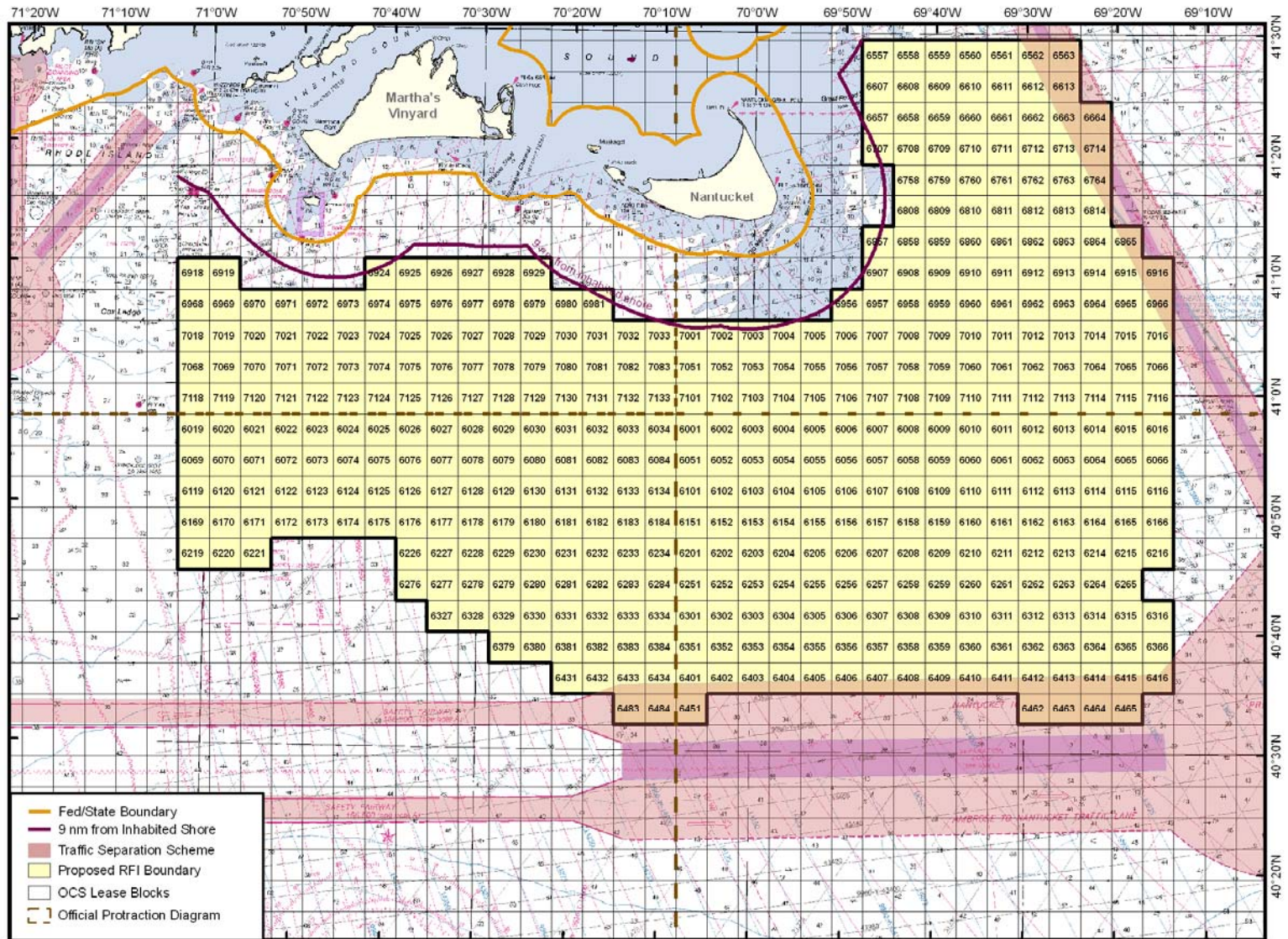
Major Framework Elements

- Coordination (throughout rule)
 - Federal/State/Local/Tribal Intergovernmental Task Forces
- Leasing Process and Issuance (Subpart B)
 - Commercial & Limited Leases
 - Competitive & Noncompetitive Leasing
 - Research Activities
- Payments (Subpart E)
 - Bonding, Payments, Revenue Sharing
- Plans (Subpart F)
 - Site Assessment and Construction & Operations
 - General Activities
- Conduct of Approved Plan Activities (Subpart H)
 - Environmental & Safety Monitoring & Inspections
- Decommissioning (Subpart I)

Starting the Leasing Process in Massachusetts

- Leasing process started by **BOEMRE**
- December 29, 2010 published a Request for Interest (**RFI**)
- BOEMRE/MA task force established in November 2009
 - FACA exempt
 - Elected local, tribal, state and federal government members
 - Public Q&A session

Massachusetts Draft RFI - January 2010



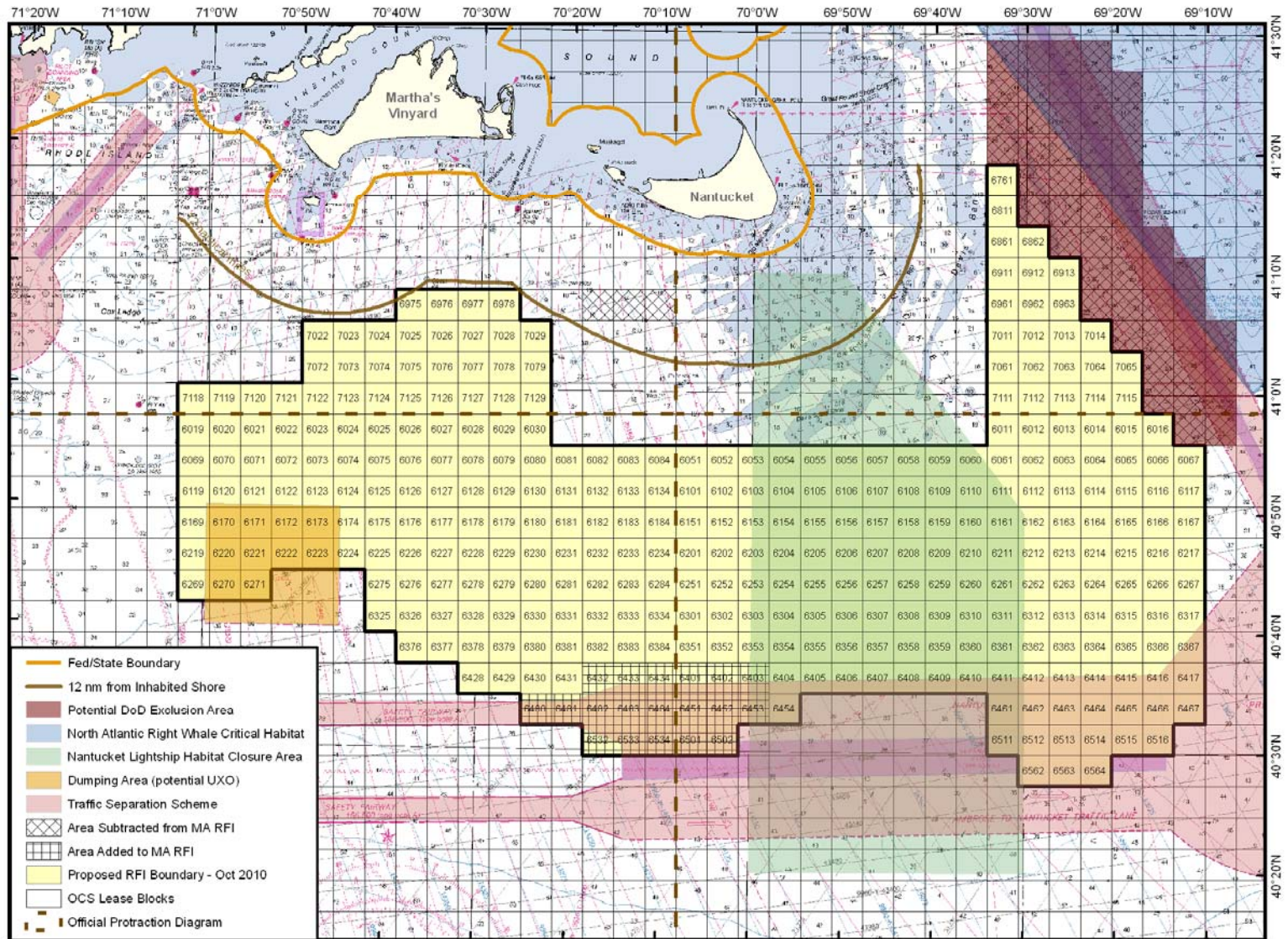
NANTUCKET AND MARtha's VINEYARD AREA

Legend:

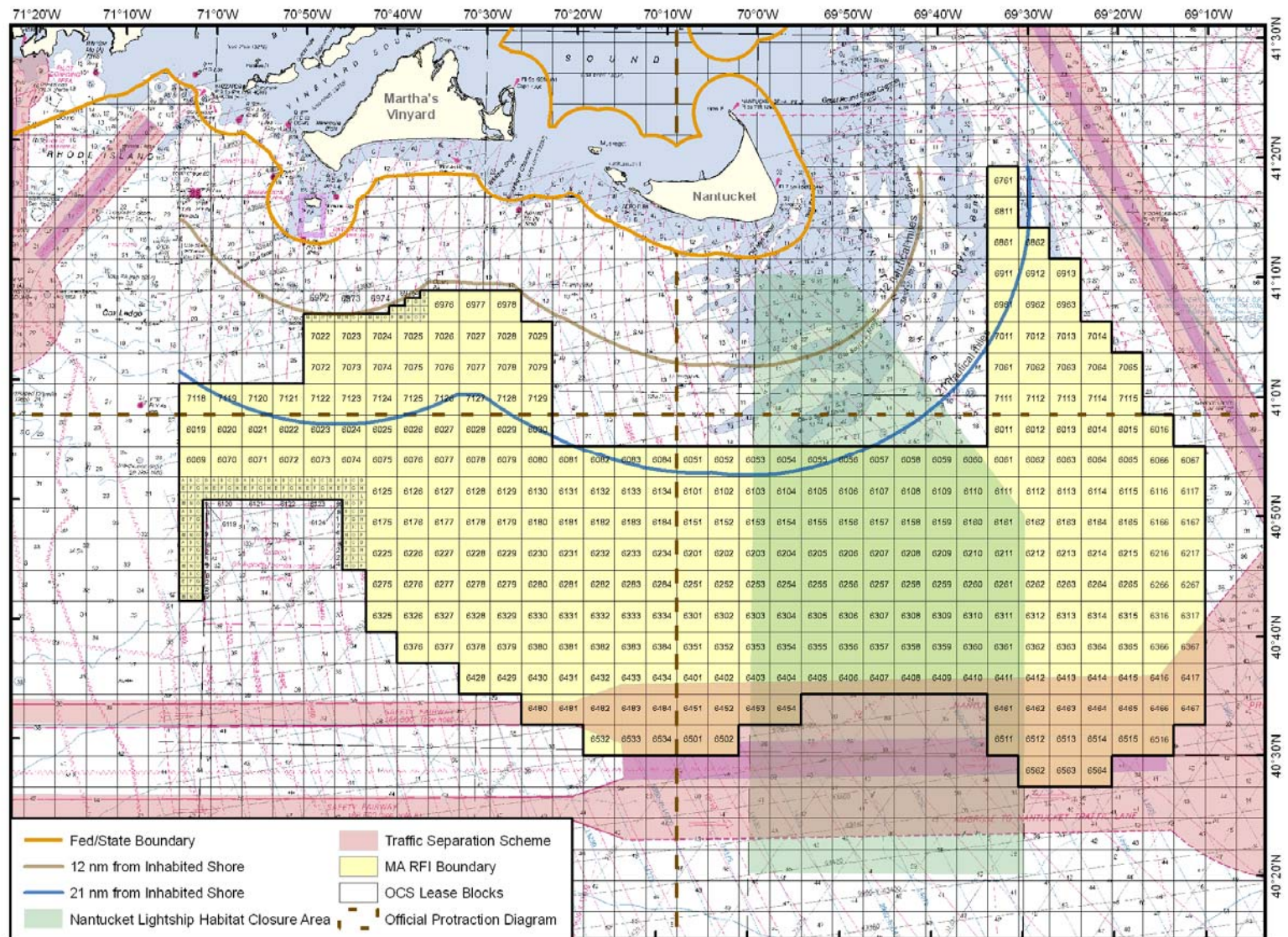
- Fed/State Boundary
- 9 nm from Inhabited Shore
- 12 nm from Inhabited Shore
- Traffic Separation Scheme
- Area Subtracted from RFI
- Area Added to RFI
- Proposed RFI Boundary - Sept 2010
- OCS Lease Blocks
- Official Protraction Diagram

The map displays a grid of numbered blocks (e.g., 6019, 6020, 6021, 6022, 6023, 6024, 6025, 6026, 6027, 6028, 6029, 6030) and various geographical features like Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Vineyard Sound. The proposed RFI boundary is shown as a yellow line, and the area subtracted from the RFI is indicated by a cross-hatched pattern.

Massachusetts Draft RFI - October 2010



Massachusetts RFI - Published December 29, 2010



Massachusetts RFI

- Comment period closes 2/28

Mail:

BOEMRE

OAEP

381 Elden Street, MS 4090

Herndon, VA 20170

Electronically:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Massachusetts RFI

BOEMRE will consider results and information received:

- Identify issues for discussion with the BOEMRE/Massachusetts Renewable Energy Task Force
- If qualified nominations are received, we will follow processes outlined in the regulations for leasing in consultation with the task force

Competition Requirement

Section 388 of EPA Act 2005:

“The Secretary shall issue a lease, easement, or right-of-way on a competitive basis unless the Secretary determines after public notice... that there is no competitive interest.”

Competitive Leasing Process

- **Call** requests lease nominations & pertinent information about the general leasing area (**45-day comment period**)
- **Area Identification** establishes leasing area & alternatives for NEPA analysis based on information from the Call
- **Proposed Sale Notice** solicits comment on proposed lease terms & conditions and other details about the competitive lease sale (**60-day comment period**)
- **Final Sale Notice** announces final auction details 30 days before the lease sale
- **Lease sale** is held, submitted bids considered, and lease(s) awarded

Noncompetitive Process

- Issue public notice describing proposed lease areas and requesting additional information (comment period)
- Continue with noncompetitive process if no competitive interest exists
- Conduct environmental analyses according to NEPA (comment period)
- Comply with environmental and consultation requirements before we issue leases (e.g., NHPA, CZMA, ESA)

Opportunity for Public Involvement

- BOEMRE/MA Task Force Meeting
Public Q&A Session
- Request for Interest
- Call for Information and Nominations
- Request for Competitive Interest
- NEPA Scoping Meetings and Public Hearings
- Proposed Sale Notice (if competitive)
- Stakeholder Meetings

Massachusetts RFI: Next Steps

- Comment period closes 2/28

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- Task Force Meeting Spring 2011
- More info:

www.boemre.gov/offshore/RenewableEnergy