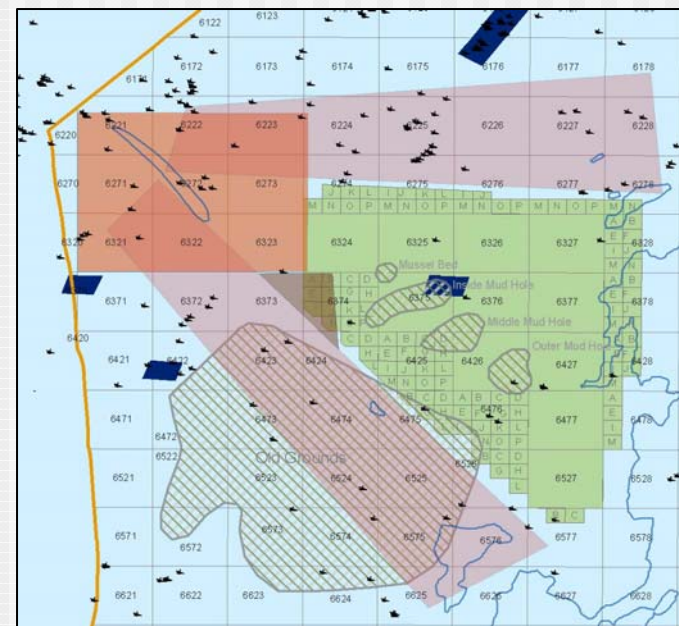


# Proposed Lease Area and Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI) in Commercial Leasing in Wind Power Offshore Delaware

## Discussion of Responses Received

Erin C. Trager, Delaware  
Project Coordinator

Office of Offshore Alternative Energy  
Programs, BOEMRE



# Overview of Comments

---

- Public comment period closed Feb. 10
- 4 comment letters total
  - Resource Access International, LLC
  - Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay & River Delaware
  - Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
  - Professional Mariner
- No commercial expressions of interest

# General Comment

- BOEMRE should adopt a more comprehensive approach to stakeholder **outreach** to public and private sector maritime and fisheries stakeholders



Comments from:

## Resource Access International

---

- Surf clam/ocean quahog harvesting occurs in the proposed lease area
- Concerned that wind development could cause the following:
  - **Socioeconomic** impacts from loss of access to shellfish beds
  - **Safety** impacts from harvesting in other areas, including the TSS
  - **Loss of habitat** from turbine facilities

# Comments Common Among Maritime Stakeholders



- The proposed lease area is used as an **anchorage** by deep draft commercial vessels waiting for berth in the Delaware River ports
- The Coast Guard's planned **anchorage ground** should be excluded from development

Comments from:

## Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay & River Delaware (MAC)

---

- The proposed lease area is a **transit area** for smaller coastal traffic seeking shelter from strong westerly winds
- A **1/2 nm buffer** is needed between the TSS, anchorage areas and any adjacent structures
- BOEMRE should require **sufficient cable burial depth** to prevent snagging by emergency anchor drops

Comments from:

## Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay & River Delaware (MAC)

---

- Any potential lease holder should be required to participate with the local commercial **maritime community**
- Encourages BOEMRE and the relevant state government agencies to participate in the **MAC Wind Working Group**

# Comments from: Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay

- Consideration be given to developing a regional plan in line with the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Framework for **CMSP** released in July 2010





## Comments from: Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay

---

- The Coast Guard should take the lead on analyzing vessel traffic data to inform the BOEMRE leasing process:
  - **Port Access Route Study (PARS)**
  - **AIS data**
- Information gleaned from traffic analyses should be made available for **public review** and comment

## Comments from: Professional Mariner

---

- Further study is needed to justify the proposed **500 m buffer** between the TSS and proposed lease area
  - Historical **AIS data**
  - **Computer simulation**, with all potential factors, including heavy sea conditions, heavy concentrations of fishing and recreational vessels, and reduced visibility scenarios

# Next Steps in the Leasing Process

---

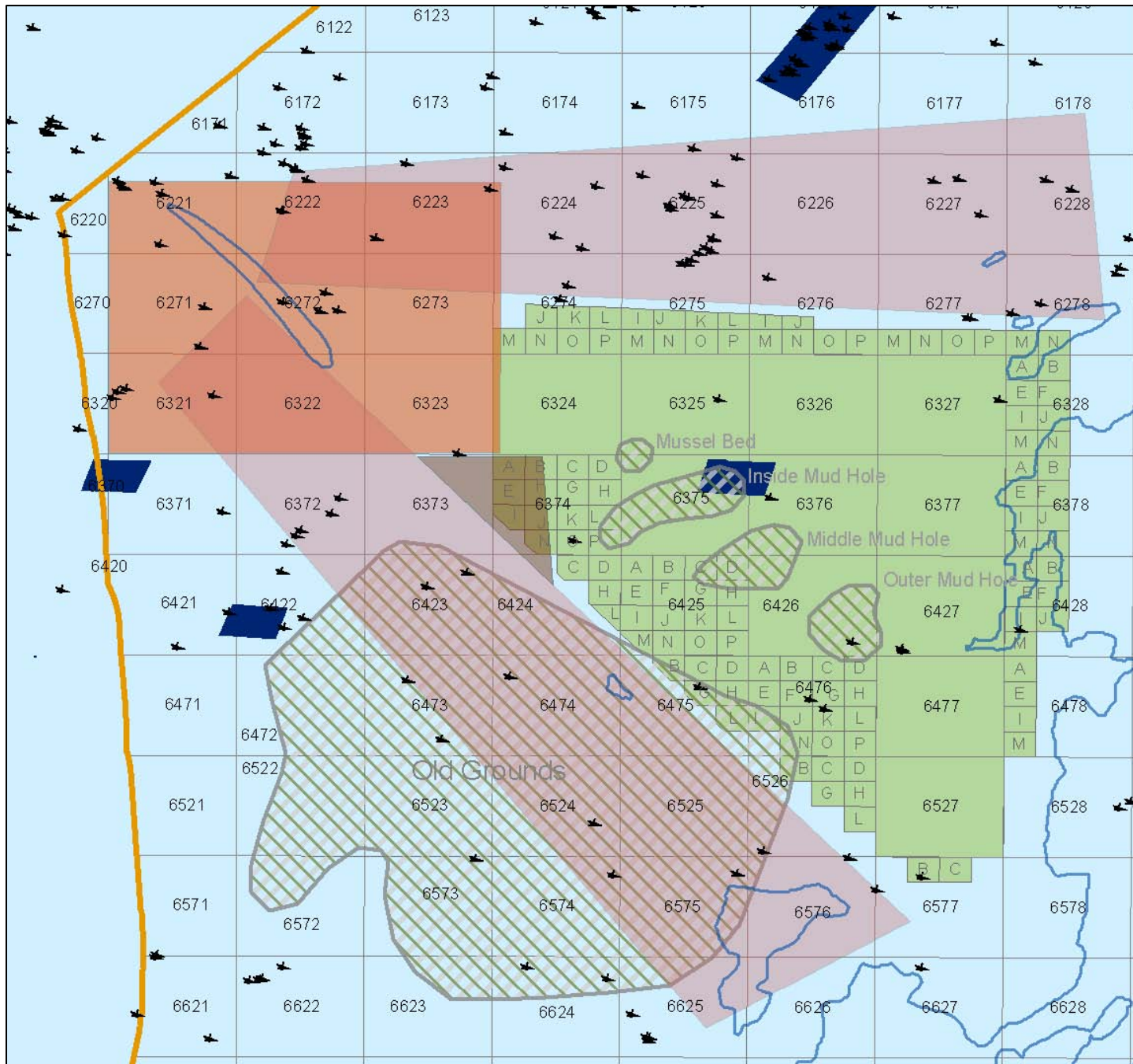
- Publish Determination of No Competitive Interest (**DNCI**)
- Complete Regional Environmental Analysis (**EA**) for Mid-Atlantic Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)
- Develop lease **stipulations** and **offer lease**
- Bluewater must submit Construction and Operations Plan (**COP**) for review and approval before construction may begin

# Options to Address Comments

---

- Vessel Anchorage
  - Consider excluding Coast Guard planned anchorage ground from area identified for analysis and/or leasing





# Options to Address Comments

---

- Vessel Traffic and Maritime Safety
  - Conduct study on available AIS data to analyze **traffic patterns and density** within and around the proposed WEAs
  - Model **pilot behavior** in a development scenario
  - Apply stipulations/conditions to lease or COP approval

# Options to Address Comments

---

- Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog Concerns
  - Consider potential impacts and mitigation during appropriate phase of **environmental analysis**
  - Consider a separate Task Force work group on the issue to plan outreach and collect data
  - Apply stipulations/conditions to lease or COP approval

# Options to Address Comments

---

- Continue and further enhance stakeholder outreach to maritime and fishing industries





# Questions?

---

Erin C. Trager

703-787-1713

[erin.trager@boemre.gov](mailto:erin.trager@boemre.gov)

Jean Thurston

703-787-1768

[jean.thurston@boemre.gov](mailto:jean.thurston@boemre.gov)

