



Central Atlantic Renewable Energy Updates to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission

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Office of Renewable Energy Programs

June 13, 2022



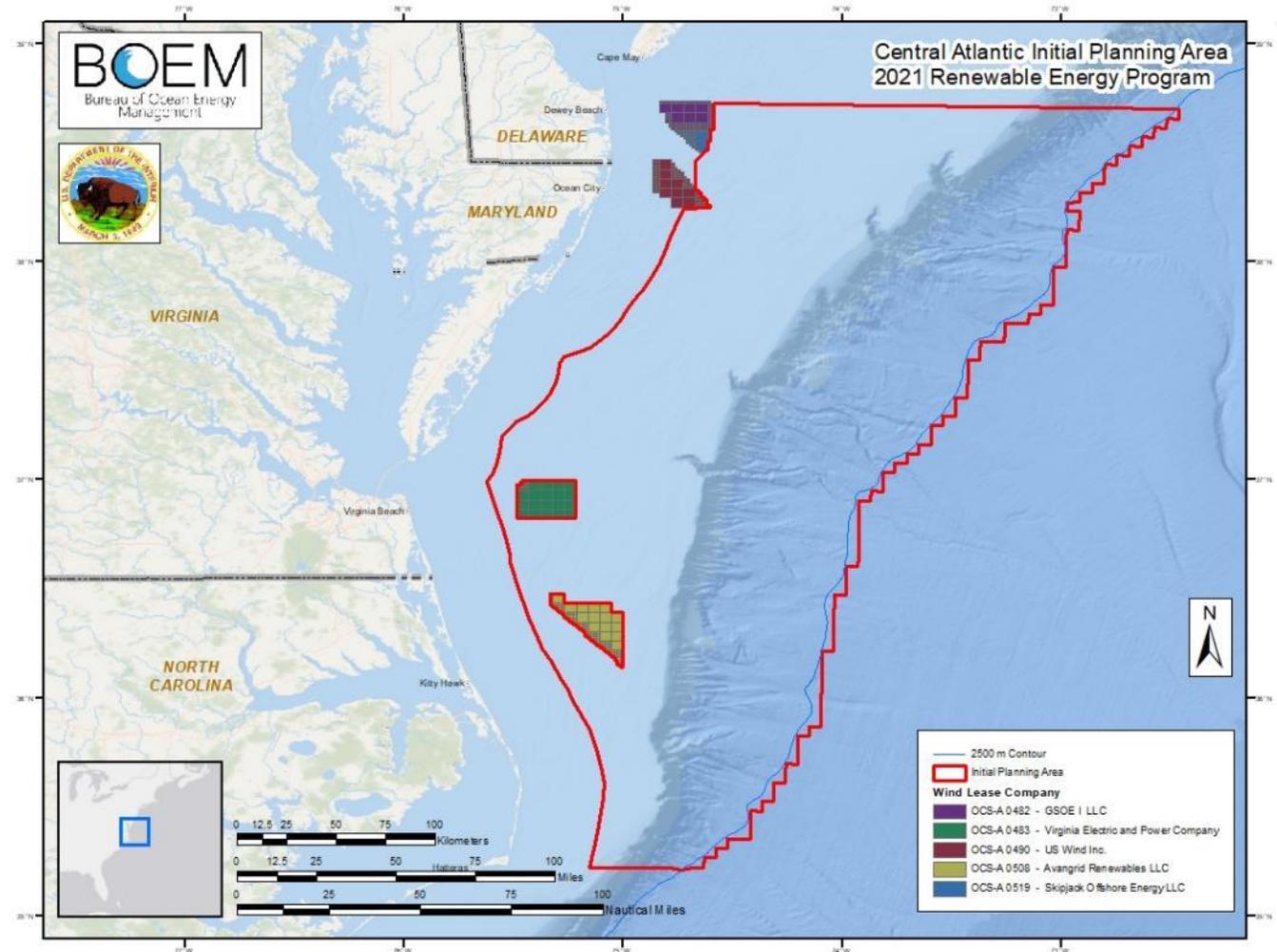
Central Atlantic Renewable Energy Planning

- Central Atlantic Planning Background
- Call Area and Milestones Update
- Fisheries Compensatory Mitigation Update
- Questions and Comments



Central Atlantic Renewable Energy Planning

- Central Atlantic Planning Region
 - Encompasses area offshore Delaware south to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina



Recent Engagement Activities

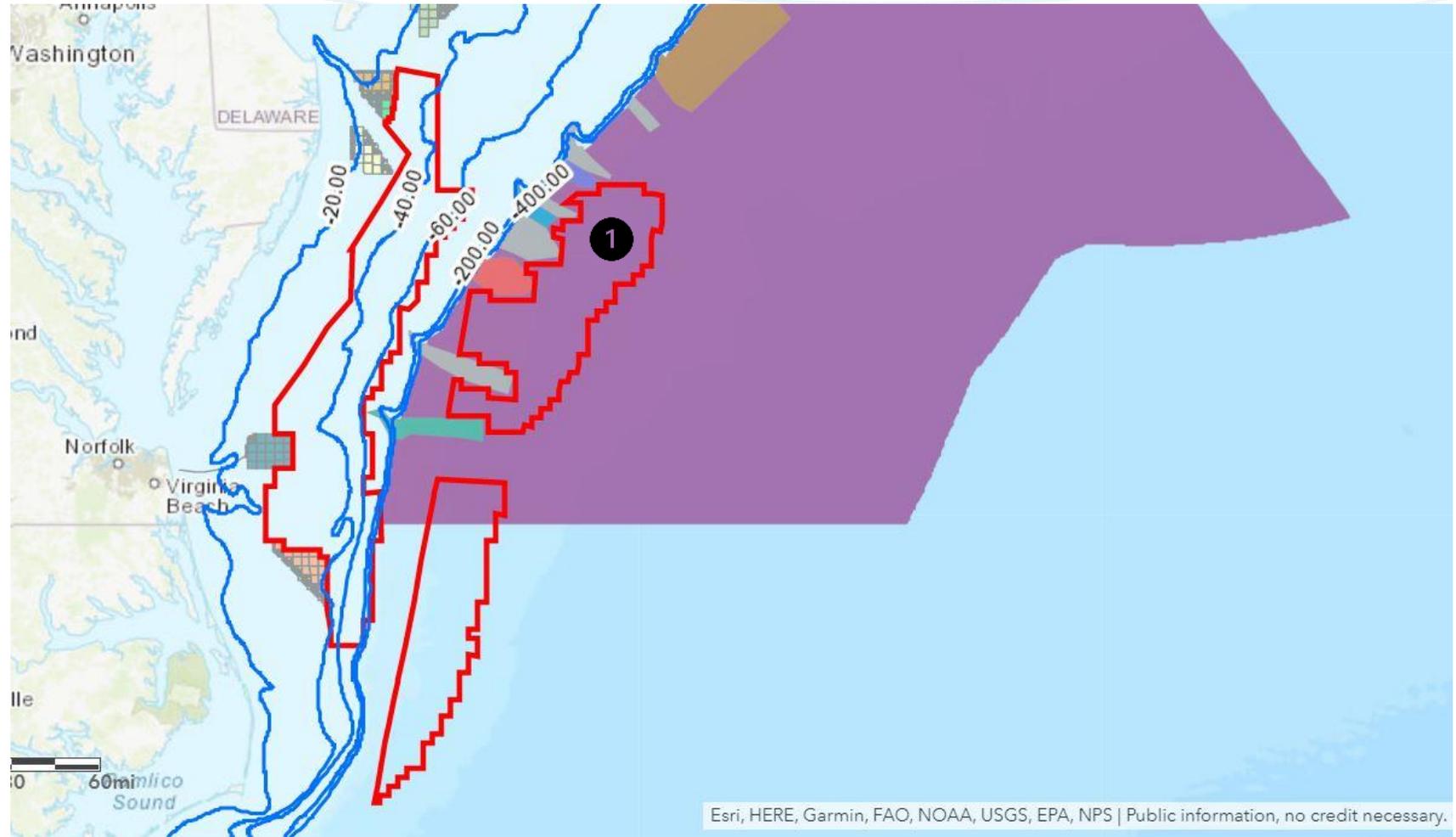
- **Held virtual meetings with each affected State (VA, MD, NC and DE)**
 - Discussed state wind energy goals, progress, concerns and data availability
- **Coordinated with Federal Partners (USCG, NOAA, NASA, USFWS and DoD)**
- **Solicited feedback at informational meetings on the Planning Areas**
 - Maritime Industry (December 8, 2021); 36 participants
 - Tribal Governments (December 9, 2021); 10 Tribes participated
 - Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (December 15, 2021); 47 participants
 - Four sector-based Fishery Meetings (January 5-6, 2022); 230 participants
 - Offshore Wind Energy Developers (January 19, 2022); 66 participants



Feedback on Planning Area 1

Call Area Development: Planning Area 1

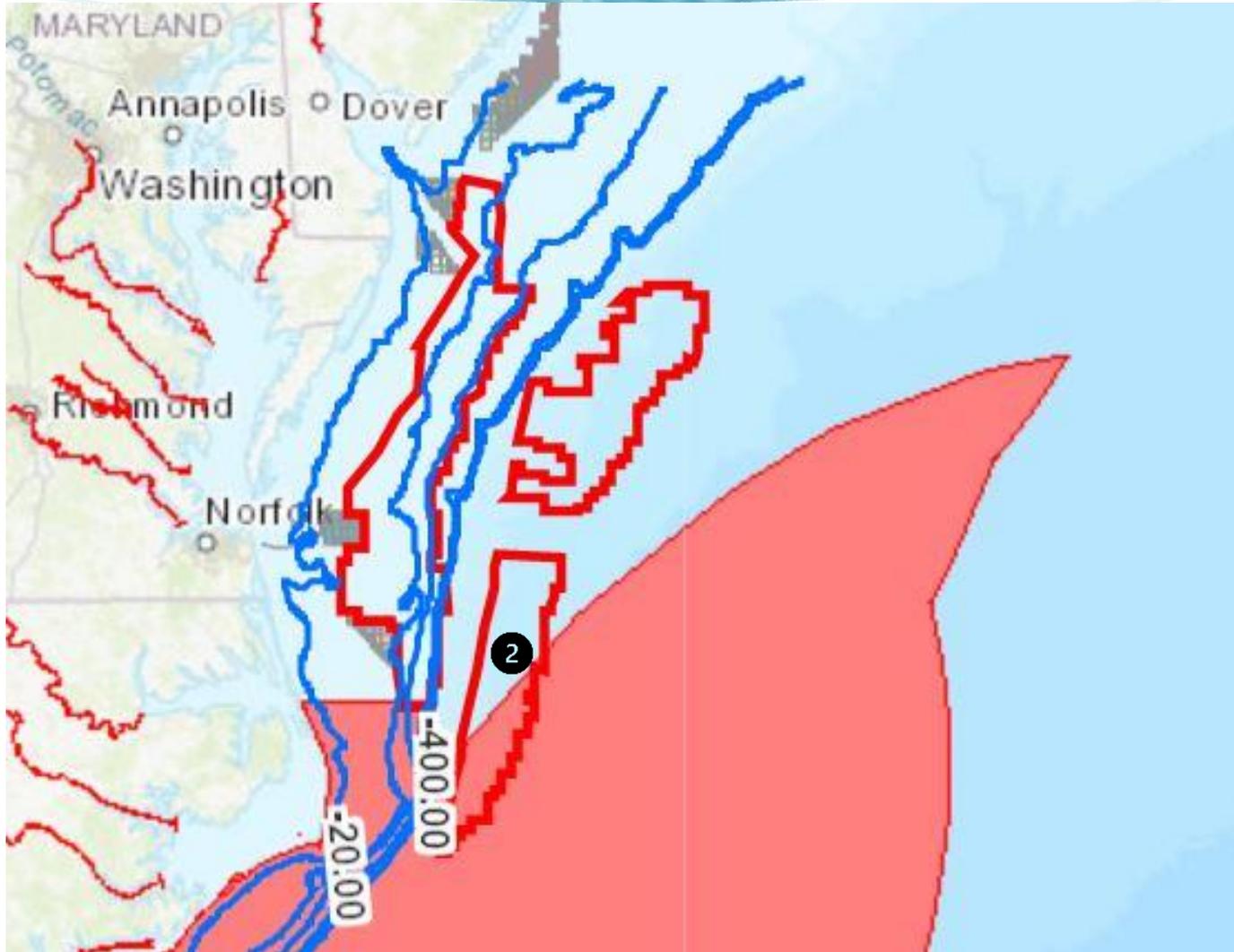
- Frank R. Lautenberg Deep Sea Coral Protection Areas
- We are not recommending removal of any area within Planning Area 1 at this time.



Feedback on Planning Area 2

Call Area Development: Planning Area 2

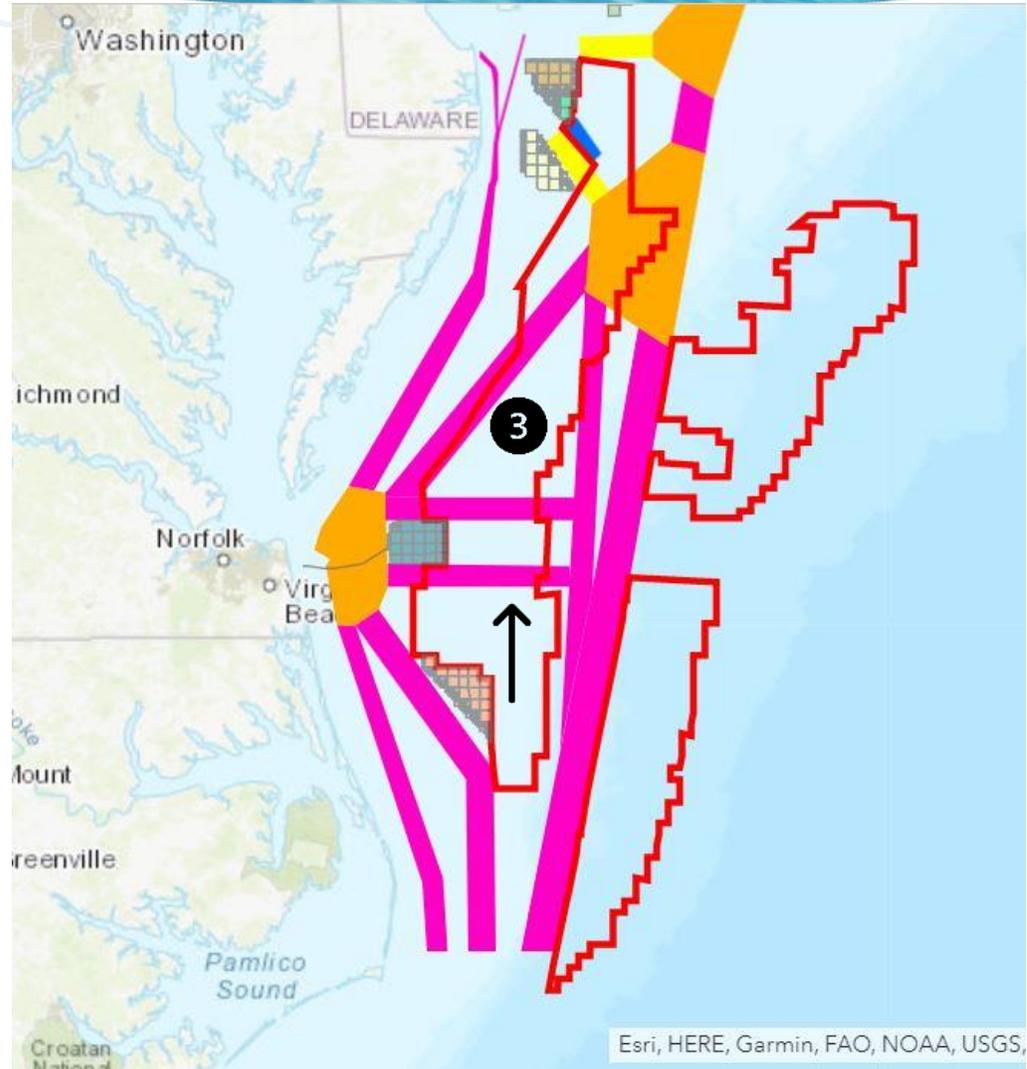
- Gulf Stream
- Coastal Critical Habitat Designation for *Sargassum*
- Black capped petrel and loggerhead sea turtle aggregate in this area
- Keller and Hatteras Canyons



Feedback on Planning Area 3

Call Area Development: Planning Area 3

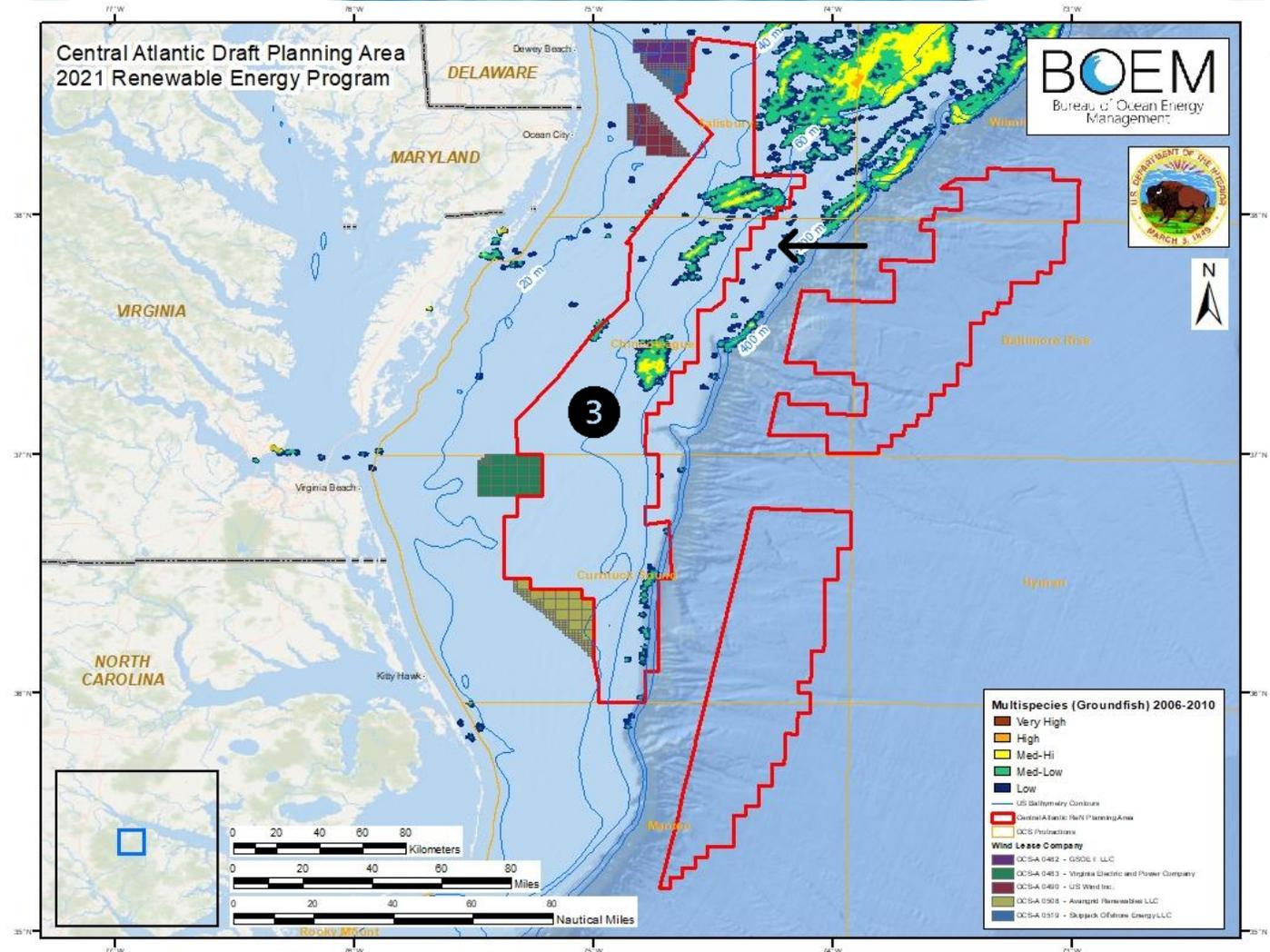
- Recommending removal of the East-West Navigation Lanes surrounding the active Virginia lease
 - USCG Proposed Shipping Safety Fairways unlikely to change in this area
 - Maritime industry recommendation



Call Area Development: Planning Area 3

○ Recommending removal of the Northeast corner of Planning Area 3

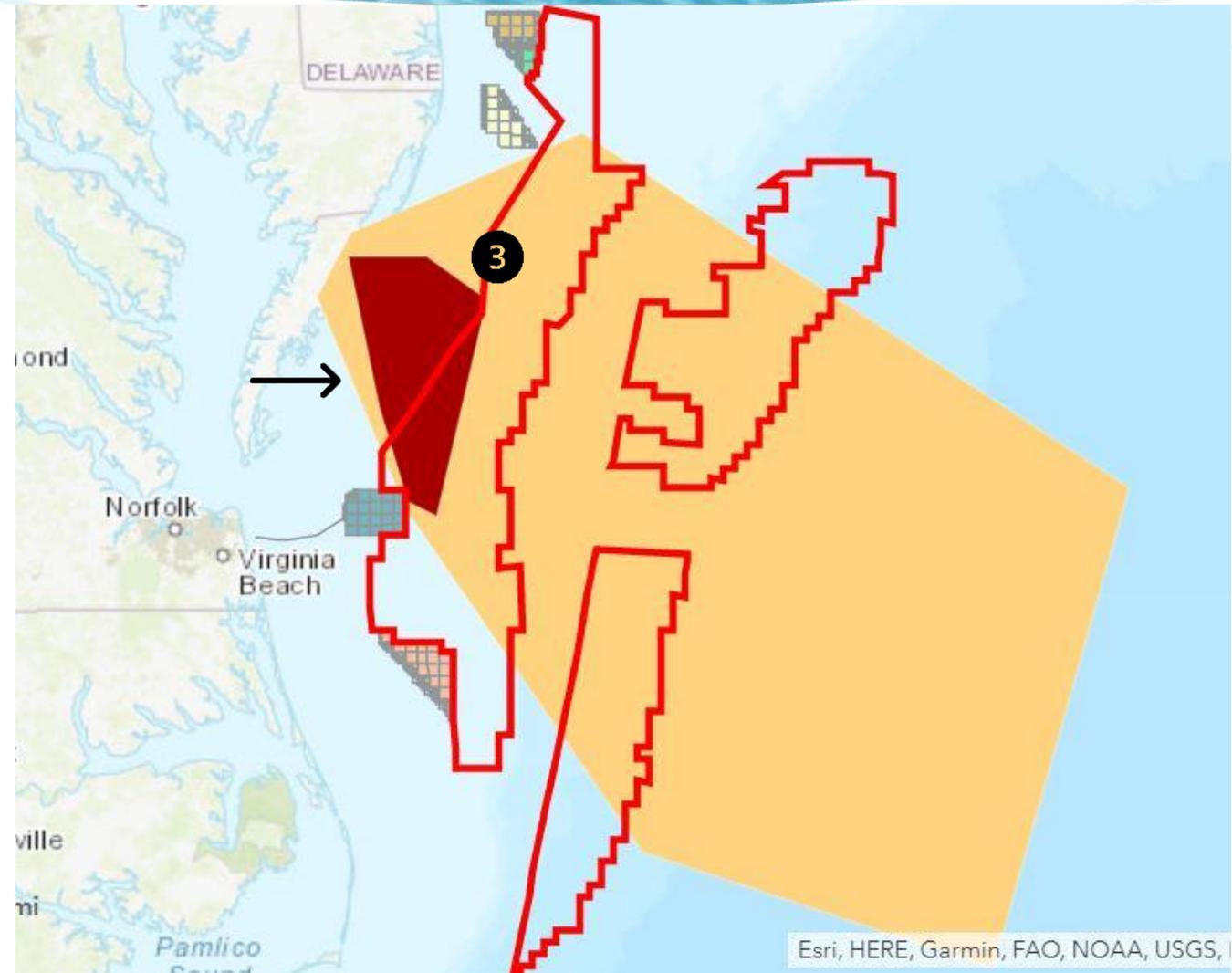
- Navigation
- Multiple fisheries (groundfish, scallop, recreational areas)



Office of Licensing and Plans - Mapping and Automation Section | MAS-2022-0009 | 14 December 2021

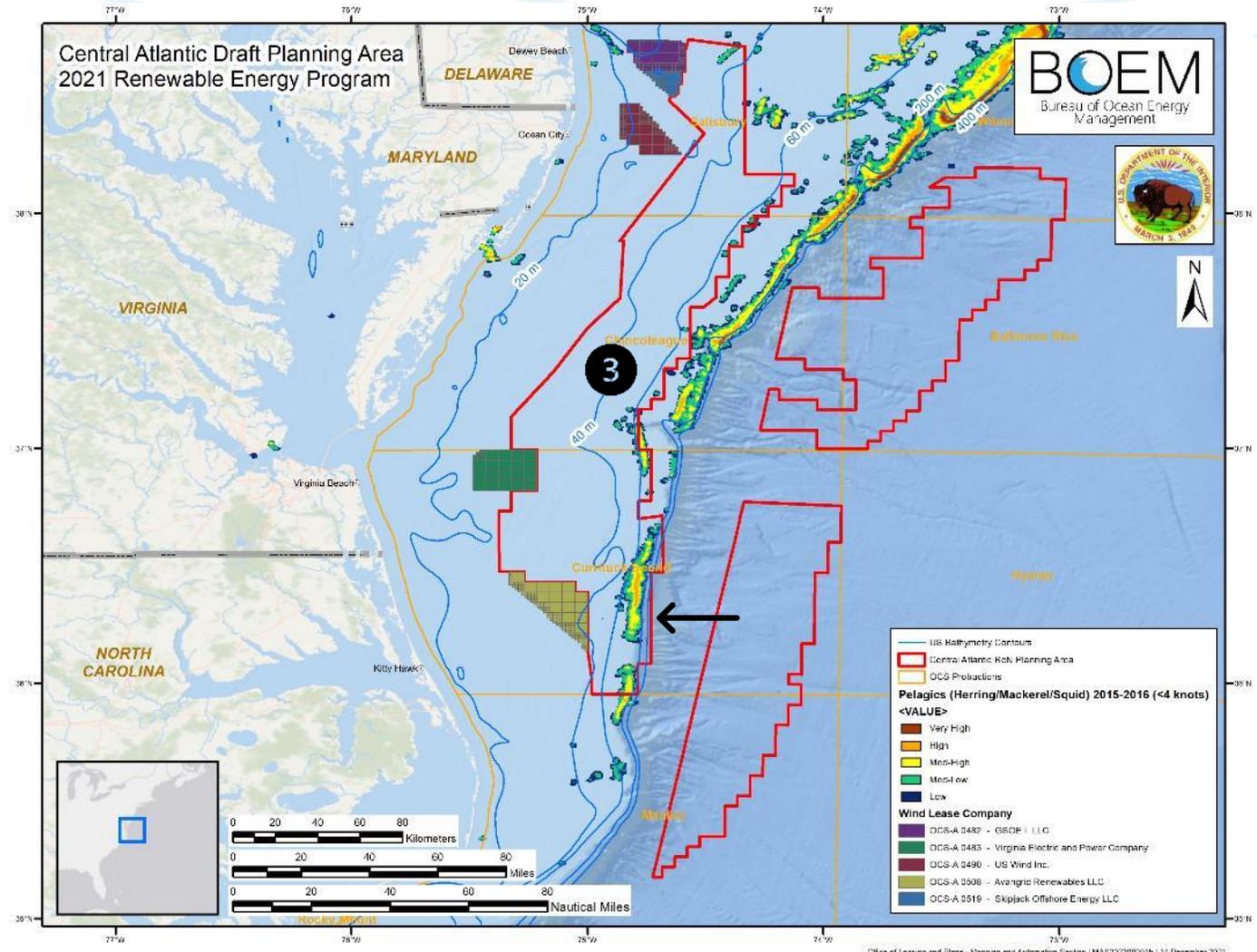
Call Area Development: Planning Area 3

- Recommending removal of the NASA Exclusion Zone (red)
 - NASA rocket launch danger zone
 - The U.S. Navy uses Wallops Flight Facility for launching training targets (drones)
 - With the exception of the portion directly behind the Virginia lease. BOEM wishes to discuss further with NASA.
- USCG proposed fairway overlap



Call Area Development: Planning Area 3

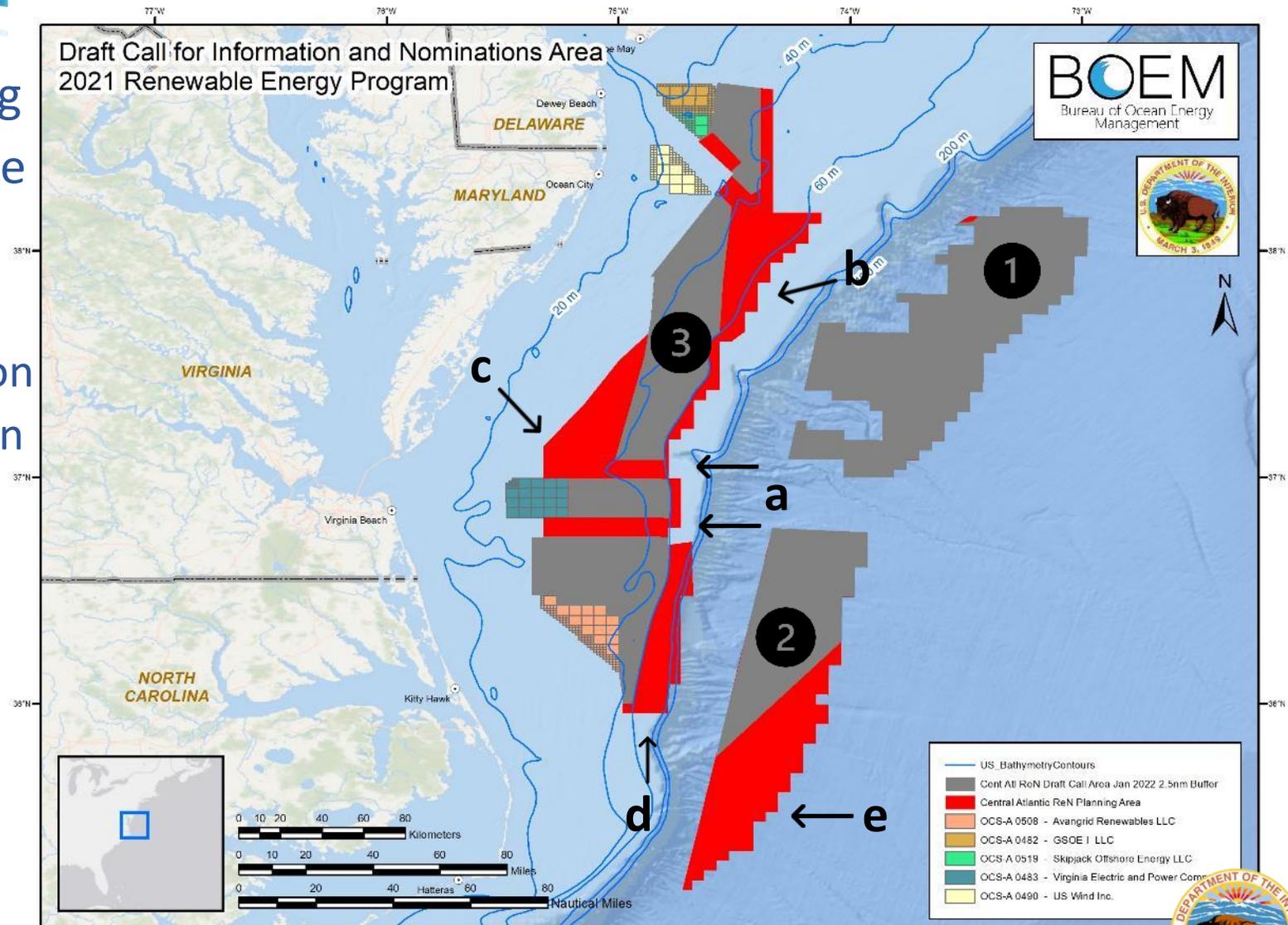
- Recommending removal of Southeast corner of Planning Area 3
 - Avoids shelf break where high density of many fish species exists (herring, mackerel, squid)
 - Avoids slope habitats that contain a high biodiversity of marine mammals
 - Avoids migratory critical habitat designated for loggerhead sea turtles



Draft Call for Information and Nominations Area

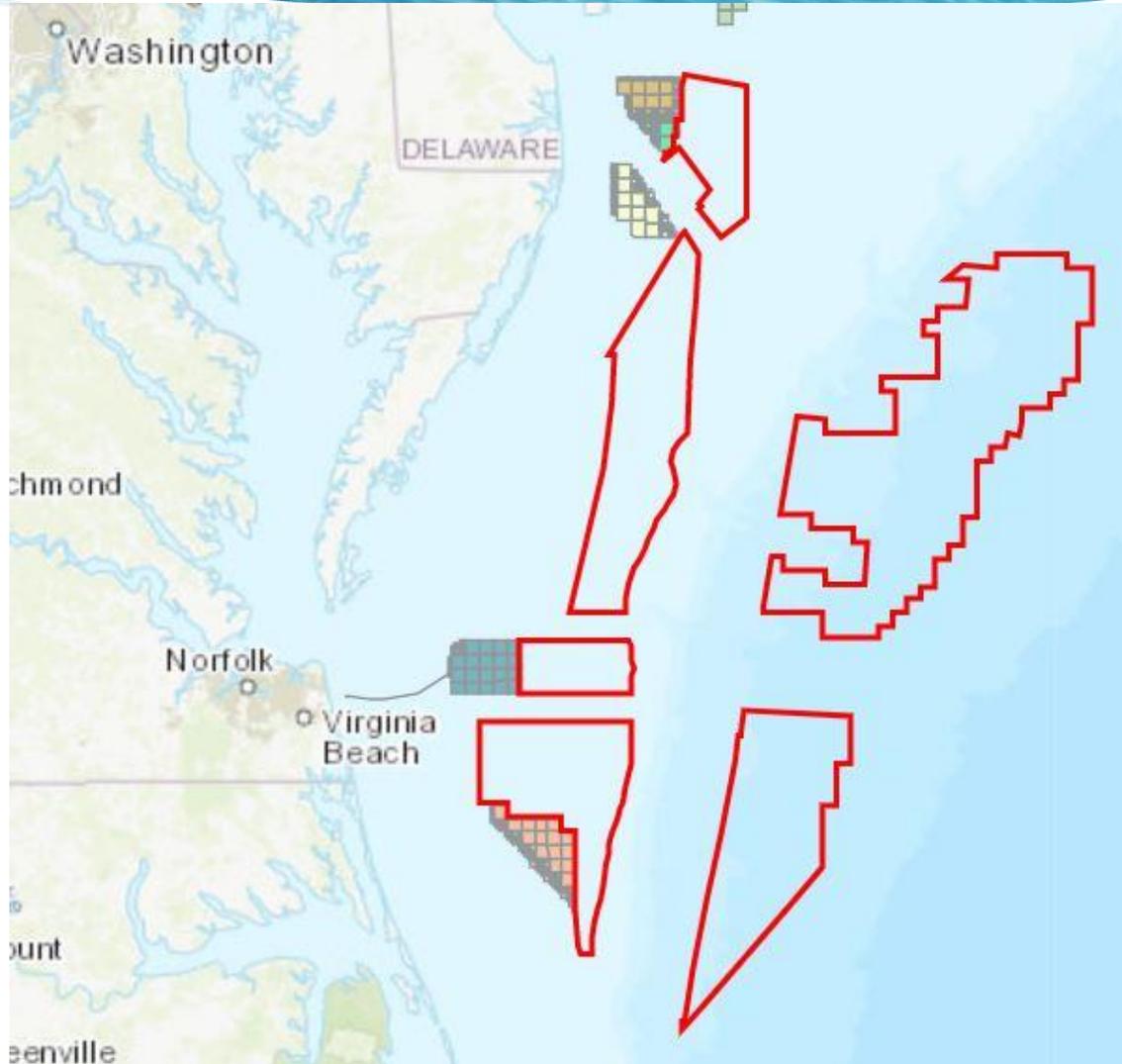
In summary, we are recommending removal of these areas (red) for the following reasons:

- a. Navigation lanes
- b. Multiple fisheries and navigation
- c. NASA Exclusion Zone, navigation
- d. Multiple fisheries and loggerhead sea turtle
- e. Gulf Stream, Black capped petrel, loggerhead turtle, *Sargassum* Critical Habitat



Draft Call for Information and Nominations Area

- 4.0 million acres
 - 68.5% reduction from Region
 - 31.0% reduction from Planning Area
 - Presented at the Task Force Meeting in February 2022



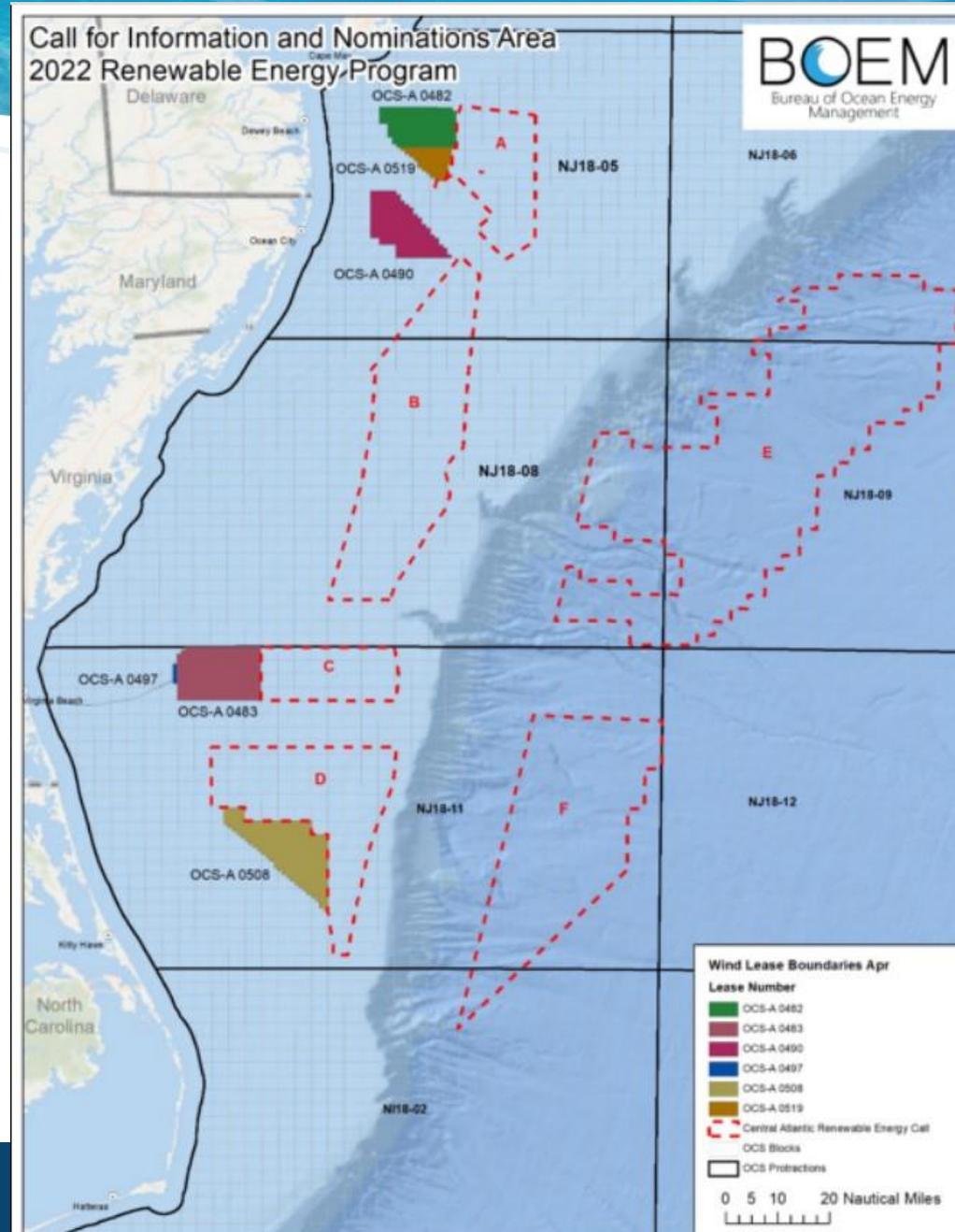
Call for Information and Nominations Area

- **Six Draft Call Areas (A-F)**

- Total 3.9 million acres
- 496 whole blocks
- 298 partial blocks

- **Published April 29, 2022**

- Comment period closes June 28, 2022
- Four comments to date



Central Atlantic Milestones

Milestone	Action	Target Date
Task Force Meeting	Hold virtual meeting	February 16, 2022
Publish Call for Information and Nominations	Publish Call	April 29, 2022
	60-Day Comment Period	June 28, 2022
Area Identification	Identify Wind Energy Area(s)	September 16, 2022
Lease Sale	Proposed Sale Notice	Q1 2023
	Final Sale Notice	Q2 2023
	Hold auction	Q3 2023



Helpful Links

Central Atlantic Website

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/central-atlantic-activities>

Experience Builder

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ce84e85e1f904823bbfaa8faa374c512>

Call for Information and Nominations

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM-2022-0023-0001>

Fisheries Compensatory Mitigation Update

- **Guidance for Mitigating Impacts to Commercial and Recreational Fisheries from Offshore Wind Energy Development**
 - Currently under review
 - Roll out delay
 - Rescheduling public meetings

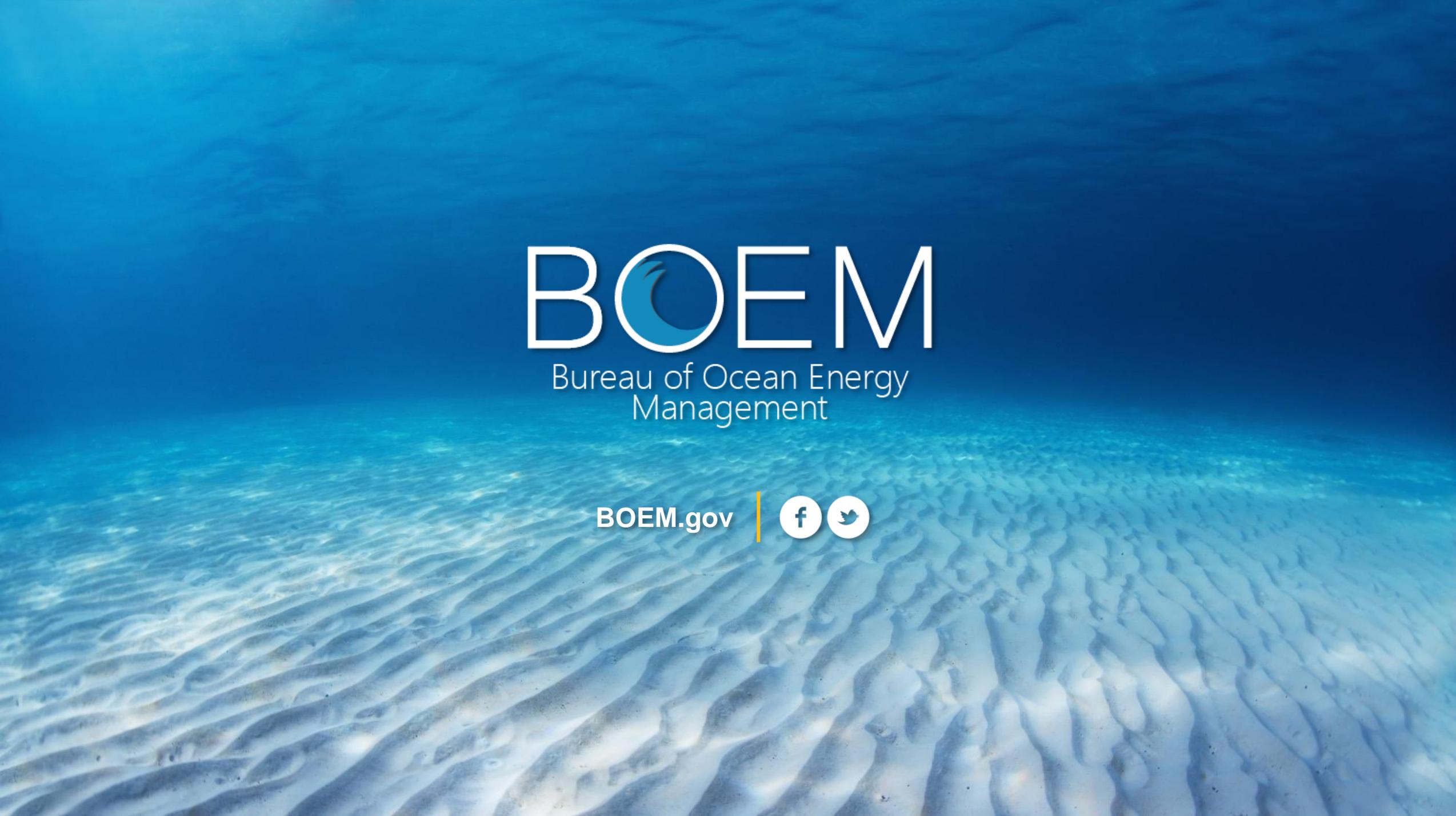


<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/reducing-or-avoiding-impacts-offshore-wind-energy-fisheries>



BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

Thank you!

An underwater photograph of sand dunes on the ocean floor, with light filtering through the water, creating a serene blue and white scene.

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