

Offshore energy development – upcoming issues of interest

Michelle Bachman

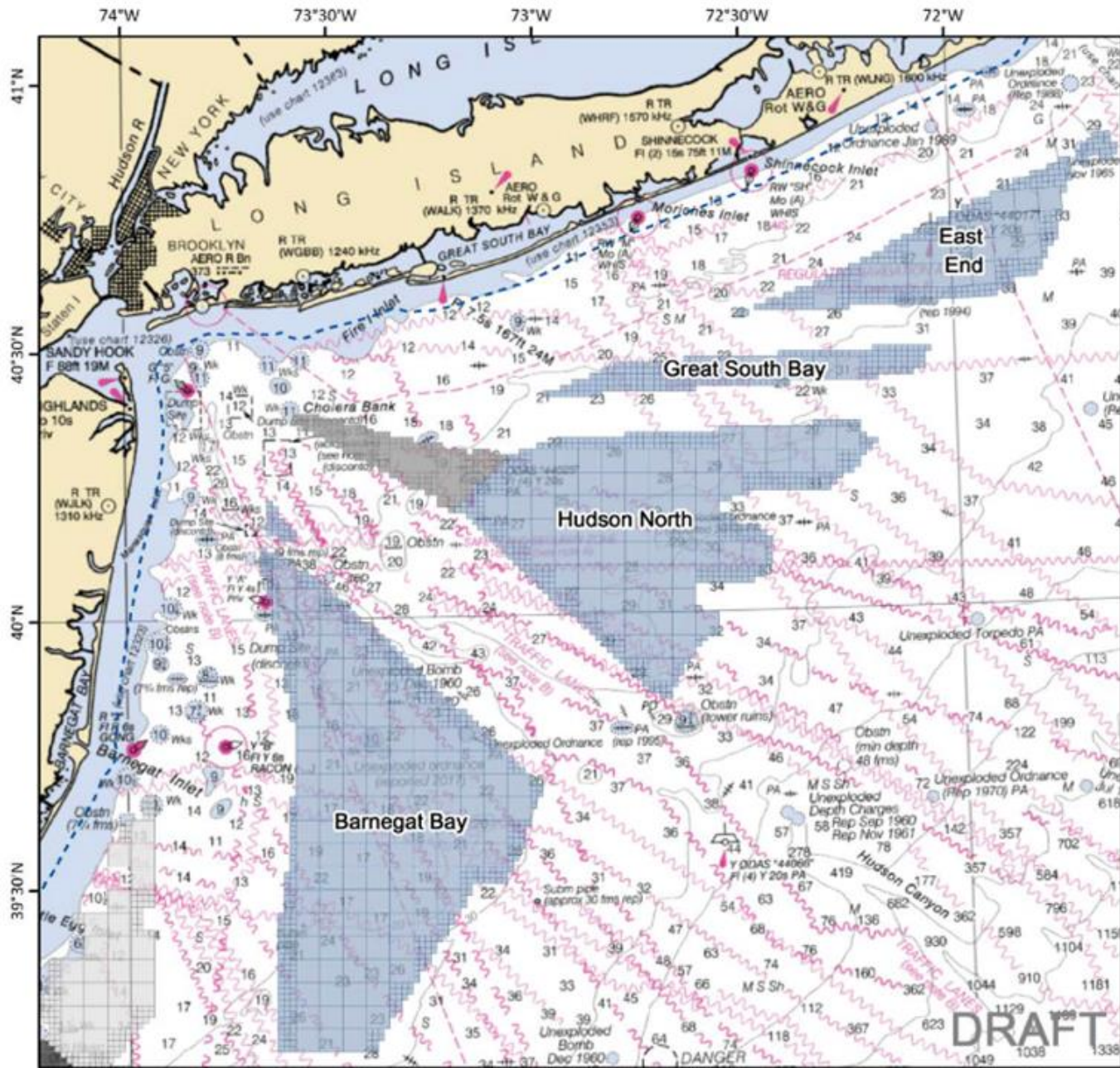
NEFMC Staff, Habitat PDT Chair

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Portsmouth, NH



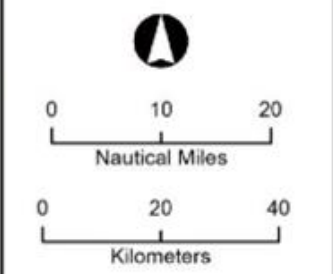
Upcoming wind leases

- NYSERDA areas for consideration off New York
 - Call for information and nominations anticipated early 2018 (February or March)
 - Seeking interest from developers as well as public input on site conditions, resources, existing uses
 - Additional taskforce meetings and public outreach planned
- Remainder of Massachusetts Wind Energy Area
 - Proposed sale notice under development
 - Will be published in FR and includes comment period
 - Less public process than NY areas



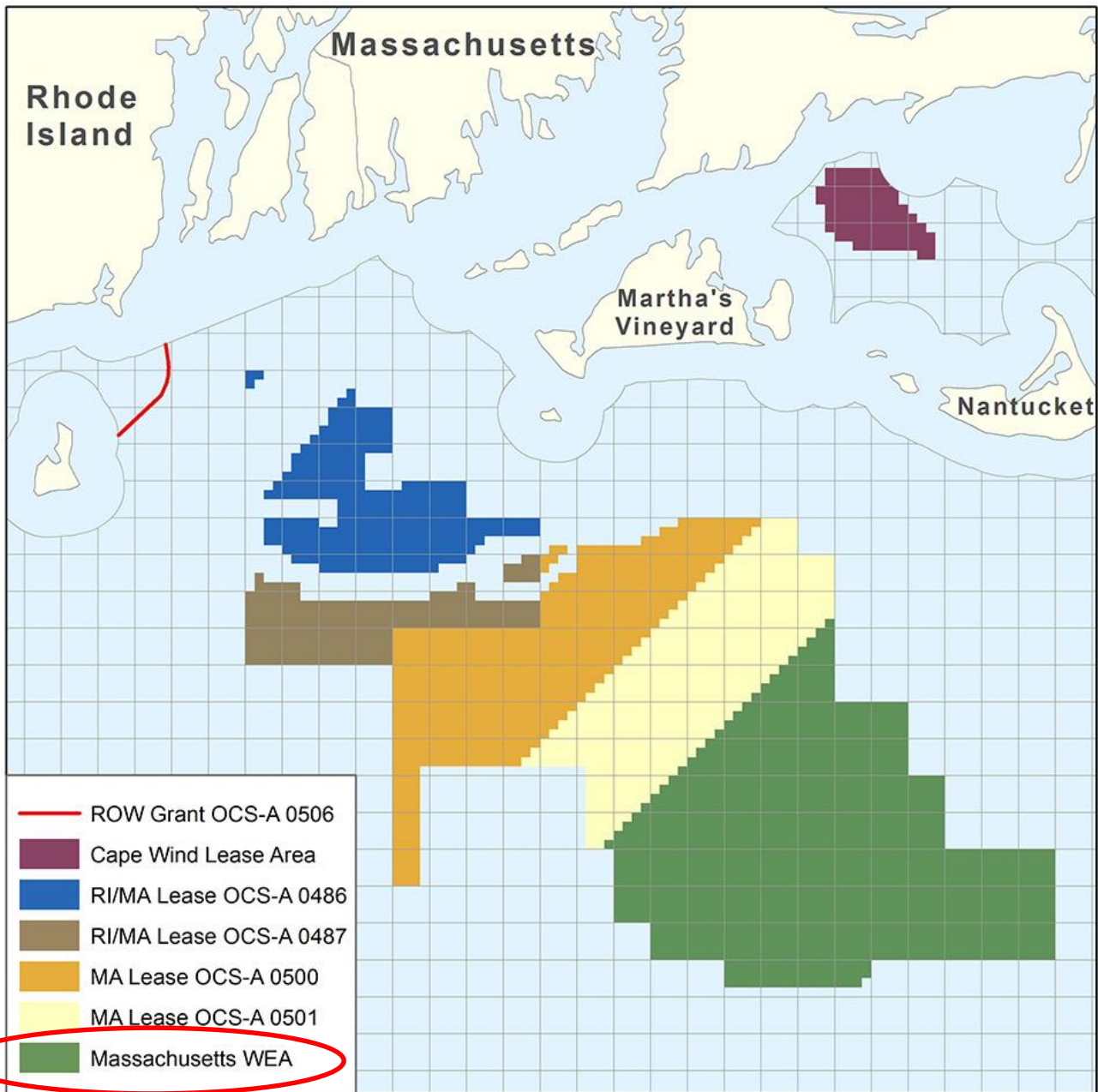
NEW YORK BIGHT CALL AREAS

- Federal/State Boundary
- Proposed Call Areas
- BOEM Lease Areas**
- Staitoil Wind US LLC OCS-A 0512
- US Wind Inc. OCS-A 0499
- Ocean Wind LLC OCS-A 0498



Map Date: 11/22/2017

BOEM
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT



Construction and operations plans

- Vineyard Wind's COP has already been submitted to BOEM – once deemed sufficient will be posted on BOEM's website
- Bay State Wind and South Fork Wind Farm COPs anticipated this year
- Once submitted, BOEM conducts environmental and technical reviews and decides whether to approve, approve with modification, or disapprove the COP

Atlantic Link transmission cable

- Have not seen a specific route proposal yet
- Preferred route goes through Jordan Basin and comes ashore in Plymouth



Oil and Gas – Draft Proposed Program

- OCS Lands Act calls for the preparation of a nationwide OCS oil and gas leasing program – sets forth a five-year schedule of lease sales designed to best meet the Nation’s energy needs
- BOEM is preparing a National OCS Program for 2019–2024 to replace the current 2017–2022 Program in response to EO 13795 “America-First Offshore Energy Strategy”
- DPP is the first in a series of three decision documents developed before the Secretary of the Interior may take final action (others are Proposed Program and Proposed Final Program)
- The DPP phase provides a basis for conducting further analysis and a mechanism for gathering additional information for the Secretary to consider

Scope of proposal

- DPP would make more than 98 percent of the OCS available to consider for oil and gas leasing during the 2019–2024 period
- Areas considered for leasing may be narrowed at later stages of the process, after further environmental analysis and input and coordination with key stakeholders
- DPP will allow the Secretary to obtain additional information on actual industry interest. Consideration of industry interest along with other factors will allow for a more thorough comparison of OCS areas and will assist the Secretary in his choice of the time, size, and location of the lease sales to be scheduled

Process

- Comments being solicited now on DPP (60 days)
- Will be used to inform DPEIS and PP (90 day comment period, noticed in FR)
- DPEIS will analyze the potential environmental effects of leasing in areas included in the DPP and may identify areas that warrant consideration or exclusion from leasing in the 2019–2024 Program.
- FPP and FPEIS to President and Congress; approval at least 60 days after transmission
- Additional requirements at the lease sale stage for lease sale size and timing analyses, environmental review, and public comment.

Eight factors considered

Geographical,
geological,
ecological

Equitable
sharing

Regional and
national energy
markets

Other uses of the
OCS

Interest of oil and
gas industry

Laws, goals, and
policies of affected
states

Environmental
sensitivity and
marine
productivity

Environmental
and predictive
information

Potential Atlantic lease sales

Option 1:

- 2 for the North Atlantic (2021 and 2023)
- 3 sales each for the Mid- and South Atlantic (2020, 2022, 2024)
- 1 for the Straits of Florida (2023) – seems to be off the table since publication of DPP



Chart: Adapted from DPP Figure 2

Other Atlantic options

Option 2: Option 1 with the exclusion of the Atlantic Canyons in the North Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic program areas, identified as having exceptional ecological values

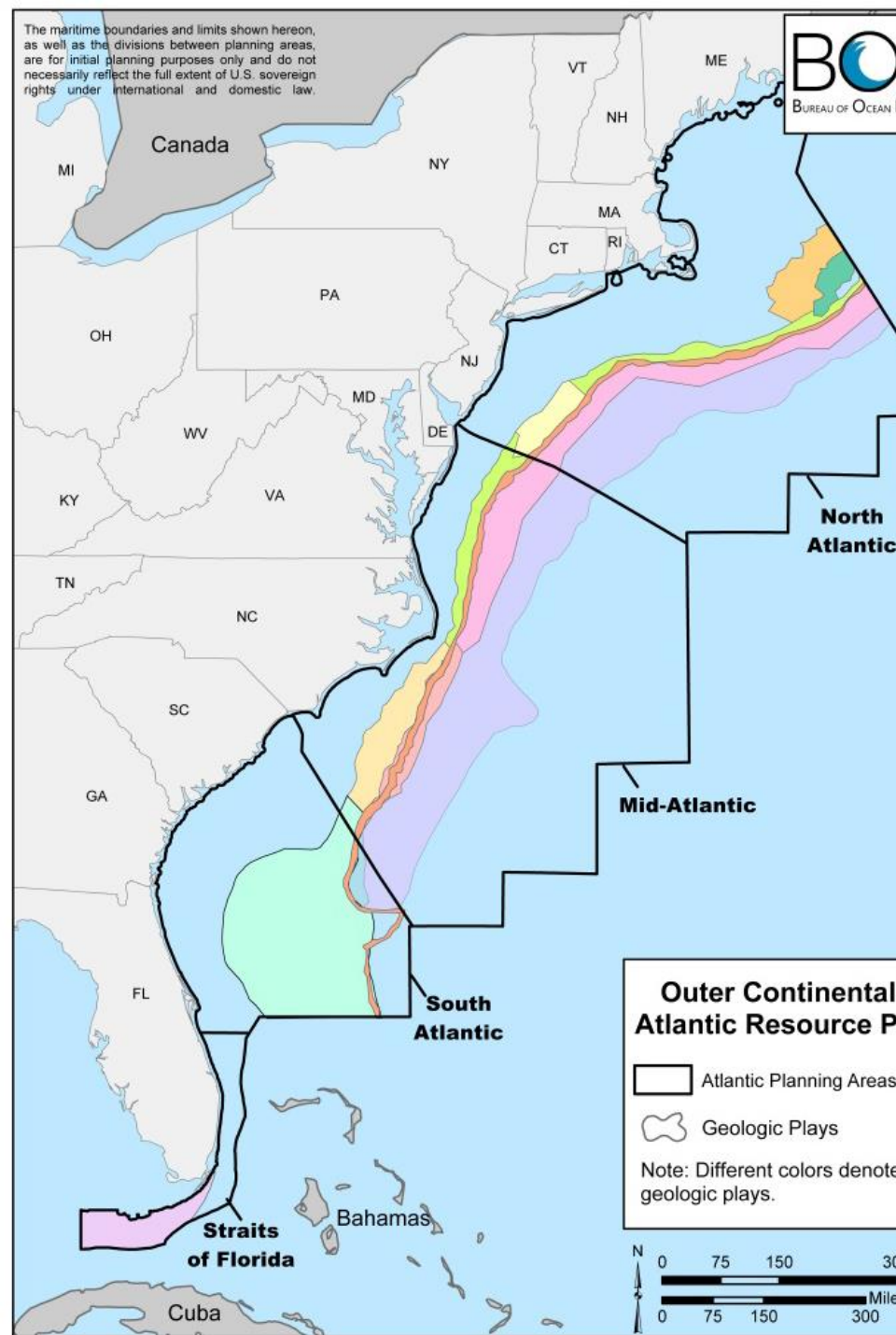
Option 3: Option 1 with coastal buffer(s) to accommodate concerns such as military use, fish and marine mammal migration, and other nearshore uses



Geologic plays

Established play:
hydrocarbons have been discovered and a petroleum system has been proven to exist

Conceptual play:
hydrocarbons have not been detected, but G&G data, integrated with regional geologic knowledge, suggest that accumulations could exist.



Committee motions

Motion 3 (McKenzie/Alexander): The HC recommends that the Council oppose offshore oil and gas development in the strongest terms possible. (Carried on voice vote with one abstention.)

Motion 4 (Reid/McKenzie). That the Committee convene a sub-committee to review the MAFMC's policies on offshore wind and oil and gas development and develop a template for their use in New England. (Carried without objection)

Subcommittee members: Terry Alexander, Eric Reid, Matthew McKenzie

Committee motions

Motion 5 (McKenzie/Alexander): The Committee recommends that the Council support the development of a report that documents spatially the fisheries value of the Northeast US continental shelf. This report can then be used to develop comments related to offshore energy. (Carried without objection)

Note: 'Fisheries' includes the value of extracted resources as well as supporting habitats, etc. Data could be summarized by wind energy area, statistical area, etc.