



# NOAA Habitat Conservation

*Conserving Habitat for Future Generations*

## Habitat Updates Greater Atlantic Region

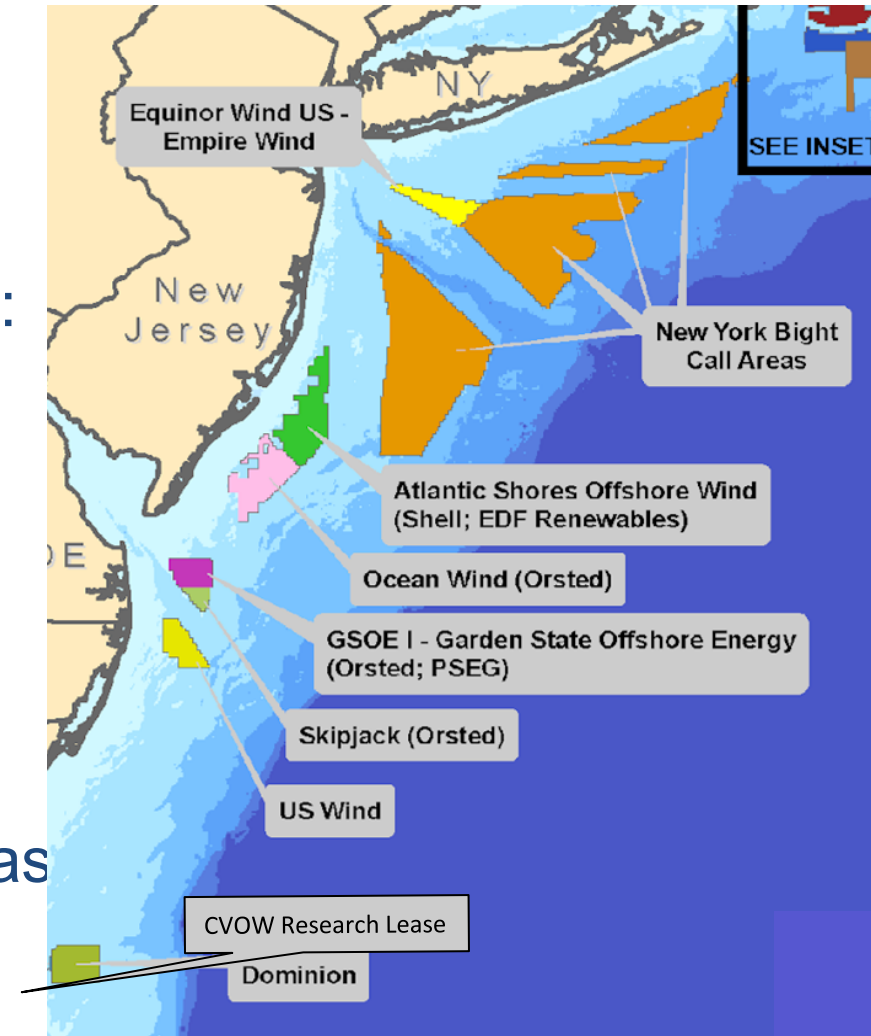


Mid-Atlantic Fisheries  
Management Council  
June 17, 2020

Karen Greene  
Sue Tuxbury  
GARFO Habitat  
Conservation Division

# Offshore Wind Energy

- BOEM has 7 Construction and Operation Plans (COPs)
- 3 COPs are Mid-Atlantic projects:
  - Skipjack Wind (DE)
  - Ocean Wind (NJ)
  - Empire Wind (NY)
- BOEM anticipates additional 8 COPs in next 12 months
- New York Bight wind energy areas not yet identified

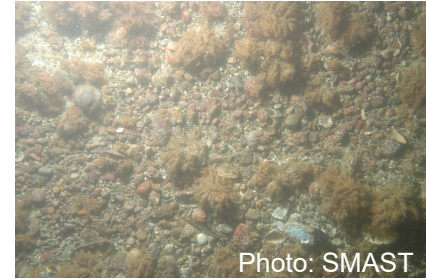


Source: BOEM

# Offshore Wind Energy

## Habitat Activities

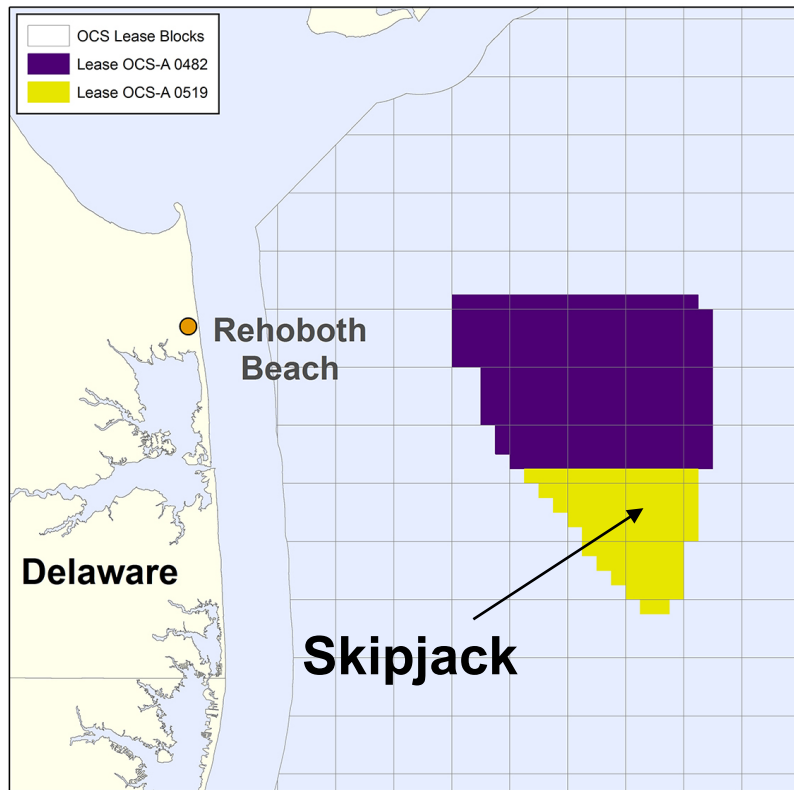
- Recommendations for Mapping Fish Habitat
  - Updated document submitted to BOEM May 2020
  - Information intended to supplement existing BOEM guidance so that information for EFH Consultation is sufficient
  - Encourages increased early coordination with our agency
- Continue to coordinate with BOEM on EFH consultation timelines and information needs for future projects
- Participating in early coordination meetings with developers



# Offshore Wind Energy

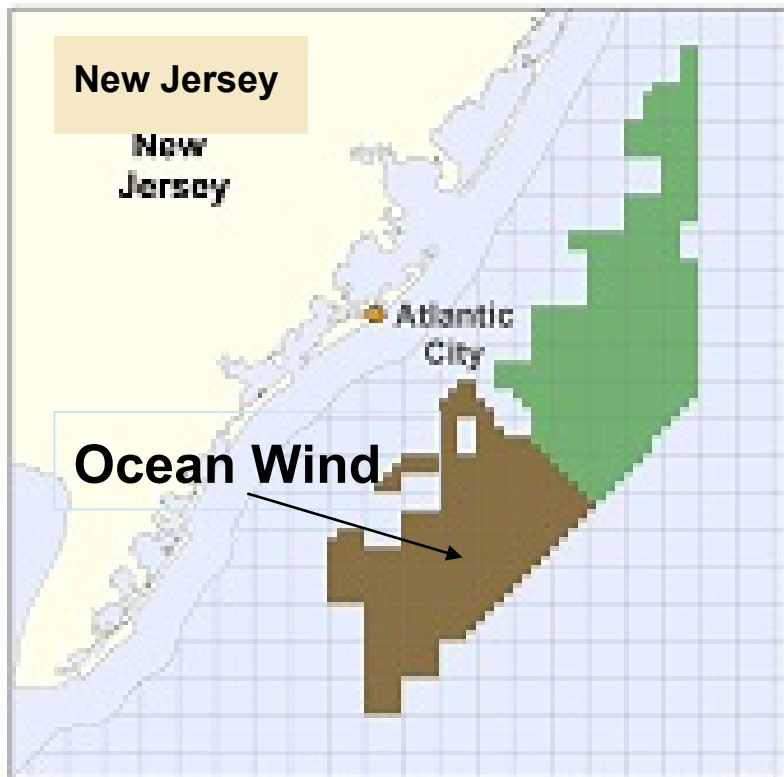
## Skipjack (Ørsted) - DE

- 120 MW project proposal
- Up to 16 turbines and 1 cable
- COP submitted April 2019 and updated Nov 2019
- Initiated FAST-41 March 2020
- EFH meetings Feb & May 2020
- Interagency Kick-Off May 5, 2020



Source: BOEM

# Offshore Wind Energy



Source: BOEM

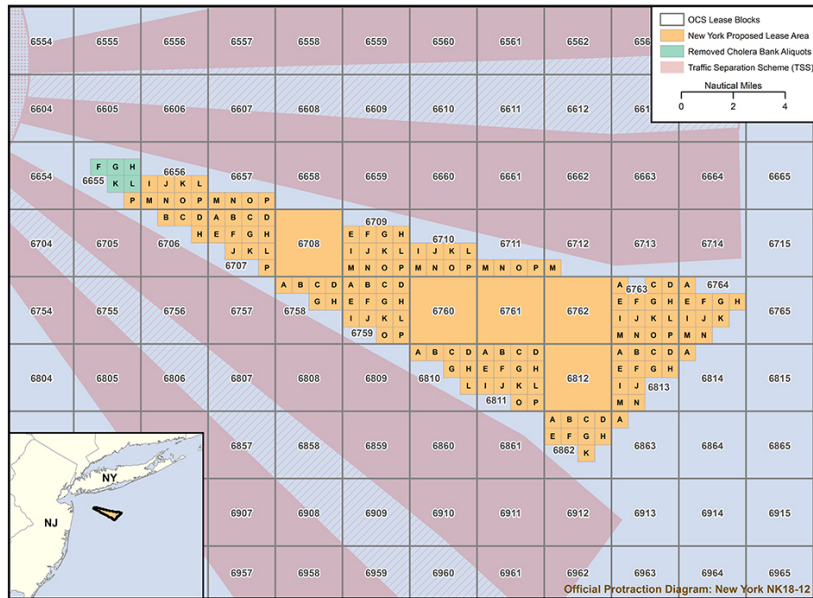
## Ocean Wind (Ørsted) - NJ

- 1,100 MW project proposal
- COP submitted Aug 2019
- Initiated FAST-41 Oct 2019
- EFH meeting April 2020
- Interagency Kick-Off May 2020

# Offshore Wind Energy

## Empire Wind (Equinor) - NY

New York Proposed Lease Area



Source: BOEM

- NY RFP awarded for 816 MW July 2019
- Up to 240 turbines and 3 offshore substations
- COP submitted Jan 2020
- FAST-41 initiated April 2020
- EFH meeting in 2019

# Offshore Wind Energy

## Atlantic Shores (NJ)

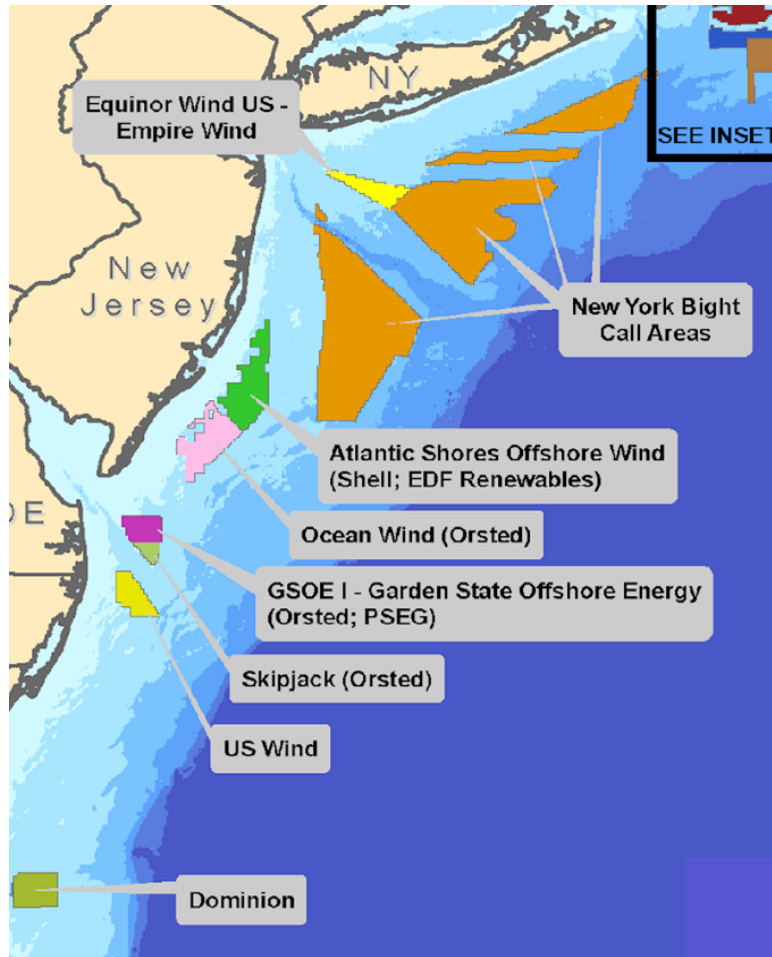
- COP expected end of 2020
- EFH meeting May 2020

## US Wind (MD)

- COP expected summer 2020
- EFH meeting June 2020

## Dominion CVOW Research (VA)

- 2 foundations installed
- Construction to be completed this summer



Source: BOEM

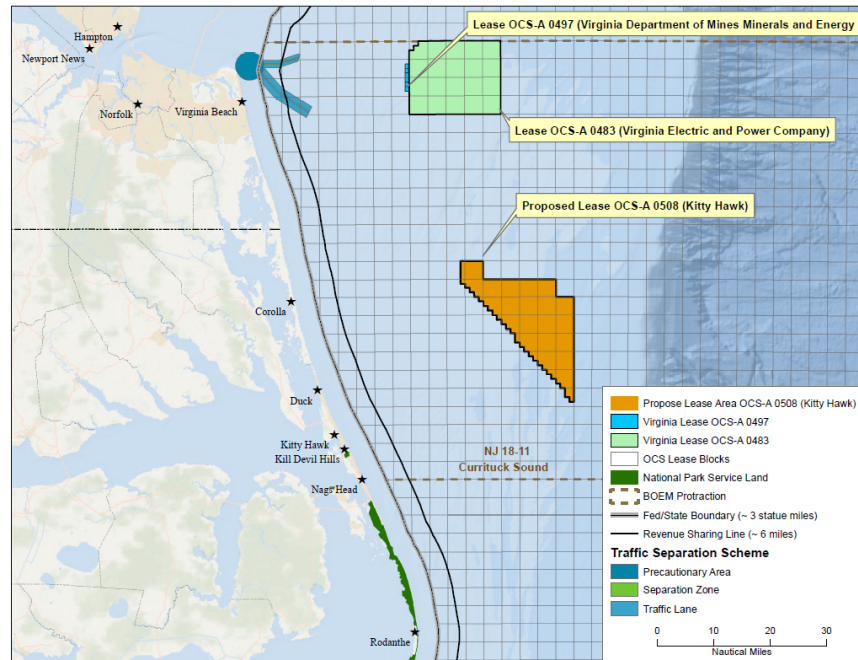
# Offshore Wind Energy

## Dominion Commercial (VA)

- COP expected within 12 months
- Benthic Survey Plan submitted to BOEM June 2020

## Kitty Hawk Wind (NC)

- COP expected end of 2020 or early 2021
- DEIS tentatively spring 2022





# Offshore Wind Energy

## Vineyard Wind

- SEIS published June 12, 2020

[www.boem.gov/Vineyard-Wind-SEIS-Virtual-Meeting](http://www.boem.gov/Vineyard-Wind-SEIS-Virtual-Meeting)

## South Fork

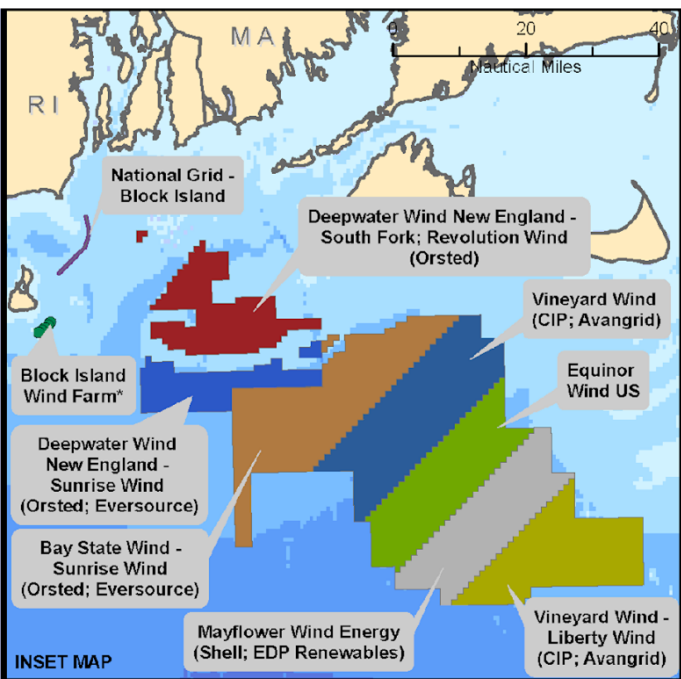
- Under paused status
- Ongoing interagency meetings

## Revolution Wind

- COP submitted March 2020

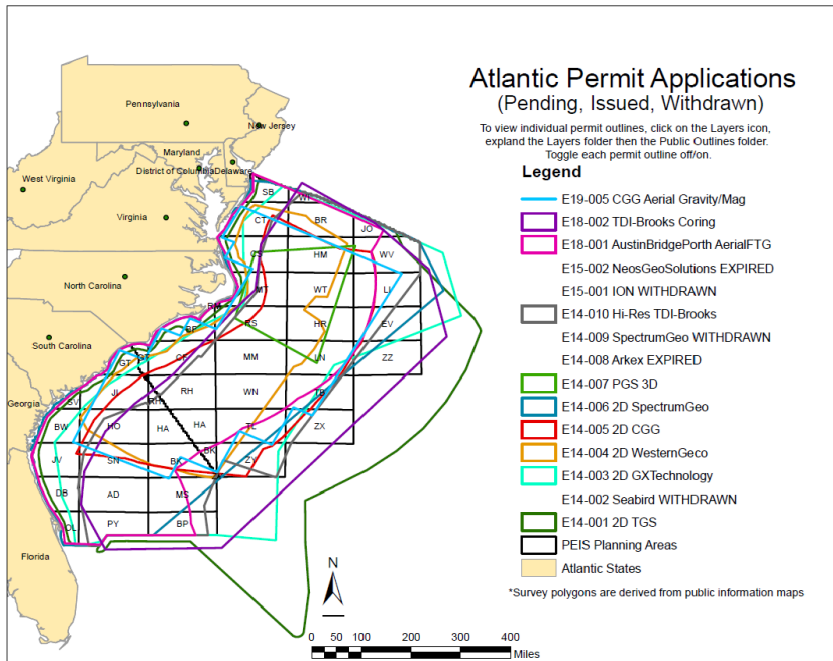
## Bay State Wind

- Updating COP submittal from 2019



Source: BOEM

# BOEM Oil and Gas Survey Activities



## Issued Permits:

- **CGG Services (US)**. - E19-005 (For aerial survey)

## Expired Permits

- NEOS GeoSolutions Inc. - E15-002
- ARKeX Limited - E14-008

## Withdrawn Permits

- Spectrum Geo Inc. - E14-009
- SeaBird Exploration Americas, Inc. - E14-002
- GX Technology Corporation - E15-001

From the BOEM website:

<https://www.boem.gov/regions/atlantic-ocs-region/atlantic-gg-permitting>

# BOEM Oil and Gas Survey Activities

## Permits Under Review

- [ABI Holdings Limited \(Austin Exploration\)](#) - E18-001 (For aerial survey)
- [TDI Brooks International, Inc.](#) - E18-002 (Piston coring and surface heat flow measurements)
- [TGS-NOPEC Geophysical Company](#) - E14-001 (Use of air gun array)
- [GX Technology Corp.](#) - E14-003 (Air gun array)
- [WesternGeco, LLC](#) - E14-004 (Air gun array)
- [CGG Services \(US\) Inc.](#) - E14-005 (Air gun array)
- [Spectrum Geo Inc.](#) - E14-006 (Air gun array)
- [PGS](#) - E14-007 (Air gun array)
- [TDI-Brooks International, Inc.](#) - E14-010 (Hull mounted multibeam and sub-bottom sonar)

# Army Corps Activities

U.S Army Corps has a number of CRMS underway:

- Nassau County Back Bays -continuing but scaled back
- NY/NJ Harbor and Tributaries Study (NY/NJ HATS) - on hold
- New Jersey Back Bay Study - on hold
- Baltimore Metro -on hold
- Northern Virginia -on hold
- City of Norfolk – Chief’s report complete

Other actions:

NY/NJ Harbor Deepening Channel Improvement project

Buoy 10 Delaware Bay

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

# GARFO Aquaculture Program

- Coordinating development of GARFO strategy for aquaculture development the region
- Working with federal and state agencies, industry, and members of the scientific, academic, and NGO communities on a variety of marine aquaculture issues



# Executive Order on Seafood Competitiveness

- **Signed on May 7, 2020**
- **Includes both aquaculture and wild fisheries aspects**
- **Relies on existing authorities to provide greater efficiencies and planning around seafood production**
- **The EO rollout was conducted by the White House**
- **NMFS and other federal agencies are still working to develop implementation plans for our respective mandates**

# Aquaculture Opportunity Areas

- **NMFS, in coordination with other federal agencies, states, and Regional Fishery Management Councils, are directed to identify at least two geographic areas containing locations suitable for commercial aquaculture within 1 year, and complete a programmatic EIS (to include suitable species, gear types, and reporting requirements) within 2 years of identifying each area.**
- **The EO further directs DOC to identify two additional geographic areas and prepare an EIS for each of the following 4 years.**
- **The size and scope of activities allowed in the AOA is not defined and will likely vary based on input and regional considerations**
- **The EO does not require these areas to be geographically distributed across U.S. waters. Thus, this could result in more than 2, or no, AOAs in a given NMFS region**

# Aquaculture Permitting Efficiencies

**Agency guidance on the use of existing authorities to develop permitting efficiencies for aquaculture projects:**

- **The EO directs that environmental reviews and authorization decisions for aquaculture projects which require an EIS, and environmental review or authorization by two or more agencies, be made within 2 years, in a single Record of Decision, using the One Federal Decision process.**
- **Should such projects occur in Federal waters, the EO automatically designates NOAA as the lead federal agency. An example would include a commercial scale EEZ finfish operation requiring both EPA and USACE permitting.**