



**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# **BOEM Activity Update**

## **Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

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**Ursula Howson, PhD**

*Office of Renewable Energy Programs*

4 October 2023

# Renewable Energy Program by the Numbers



# Topics to be Covered

- Empire Wind
- New York Bight Programmatic EIS
- Atlantic Shores South
- Ocean Wind 1
- Maryland Offshore Wind
- CVOW
- Central Atlantic Wind Energy Areas
- Status of Fisheries Mitigation Guidance
- Environmental studies updates
  - Fishing Industry Spatial Needs Analysis – Mid-Atlantic Bight
  - Nature Inclusive Design Study



# Empire Wind Update

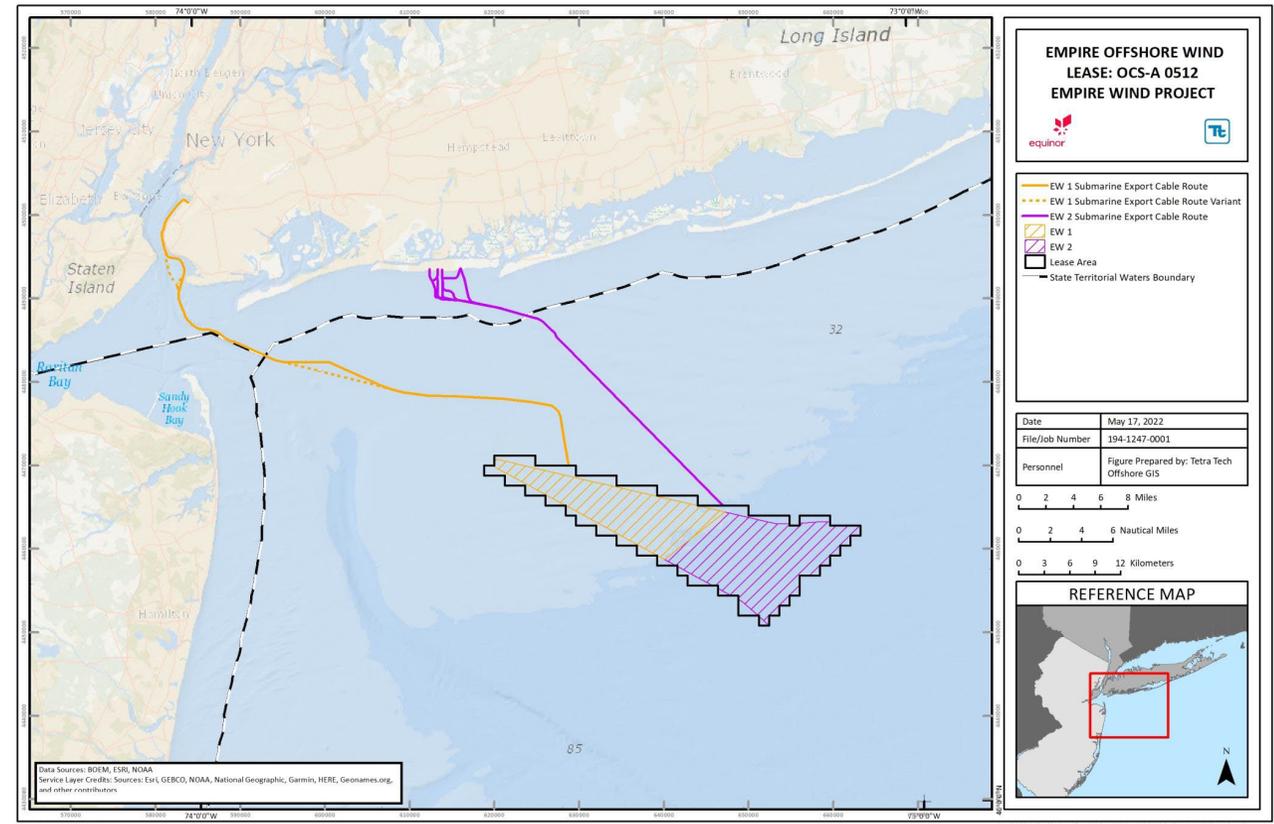
- FEIS

- Published September 15, 2023

- Record of Decision

- November 21, 2023

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/empire-wind>

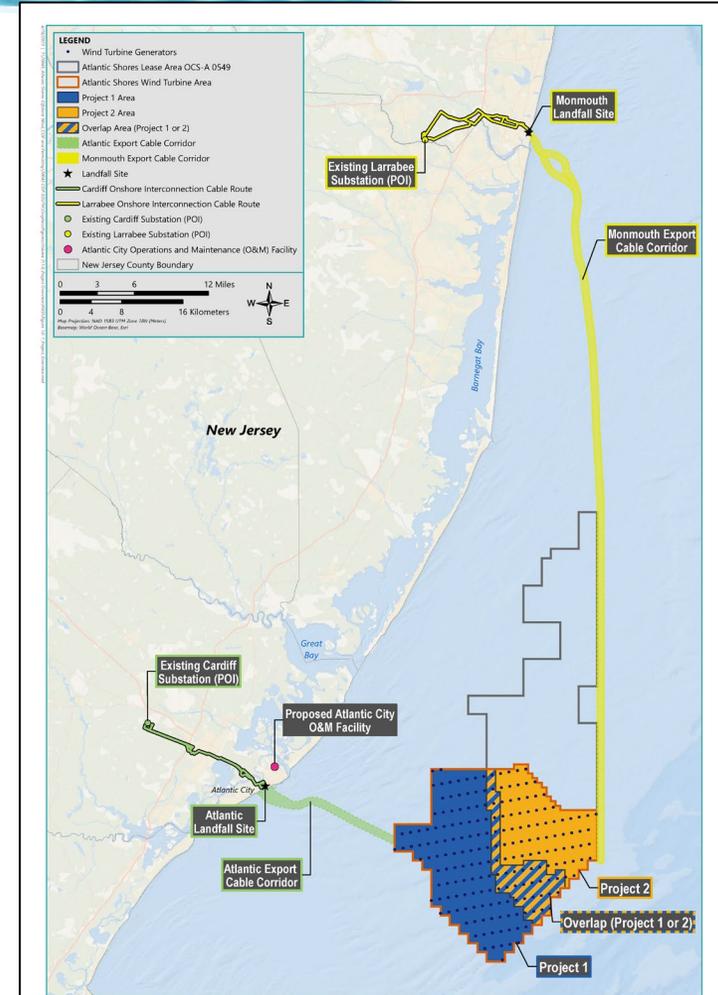




# Atlantic Shores South Update

- DEIS
  - published May 2023
- DEIS public meetings
  - June 2023
- FEIS
  - February 2024
- Record of Decision
  - March 2024

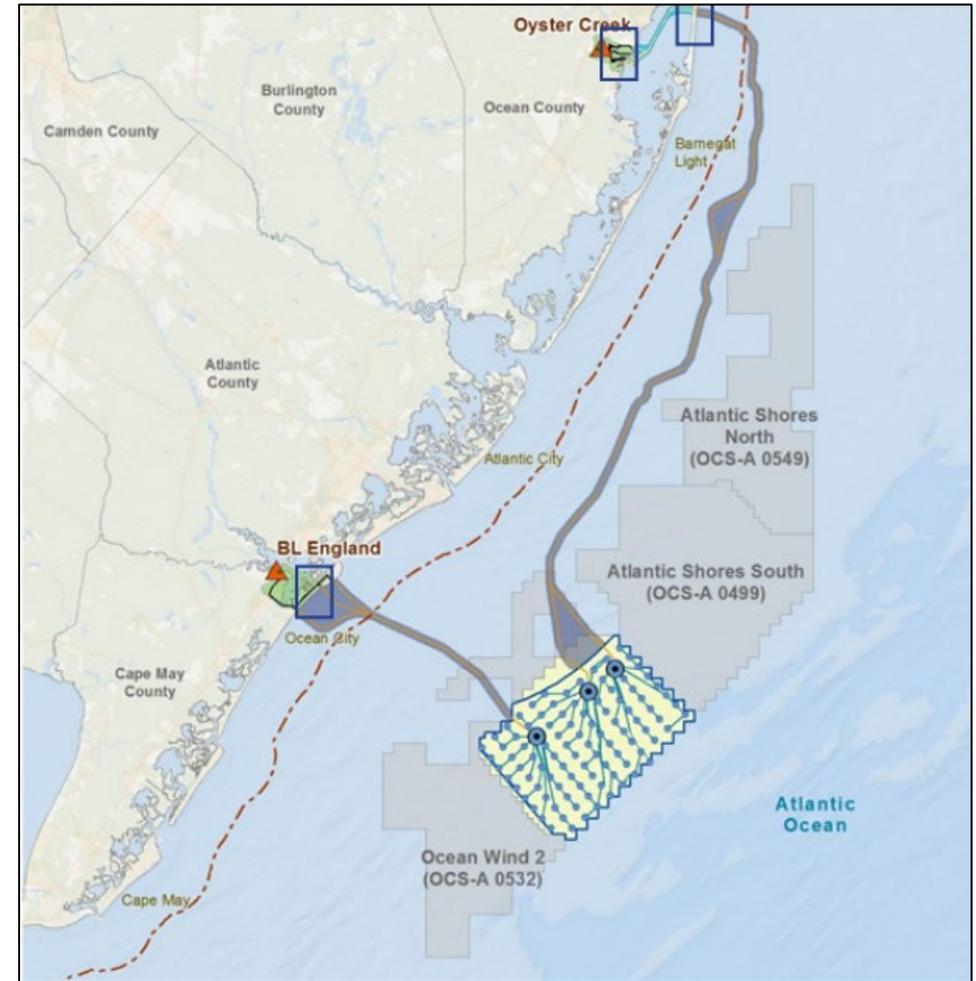
<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/atlantic-shores-south>



# Ocean Wind 1 Update

- FEIS
  - May 26, 2023.
- Record of Decision (ROD) to approve project
  - July 7, 2023.
- COP Letter of Approval (permit) issued
  - September 21, 2023
  - See Terms and Conditions at link below.

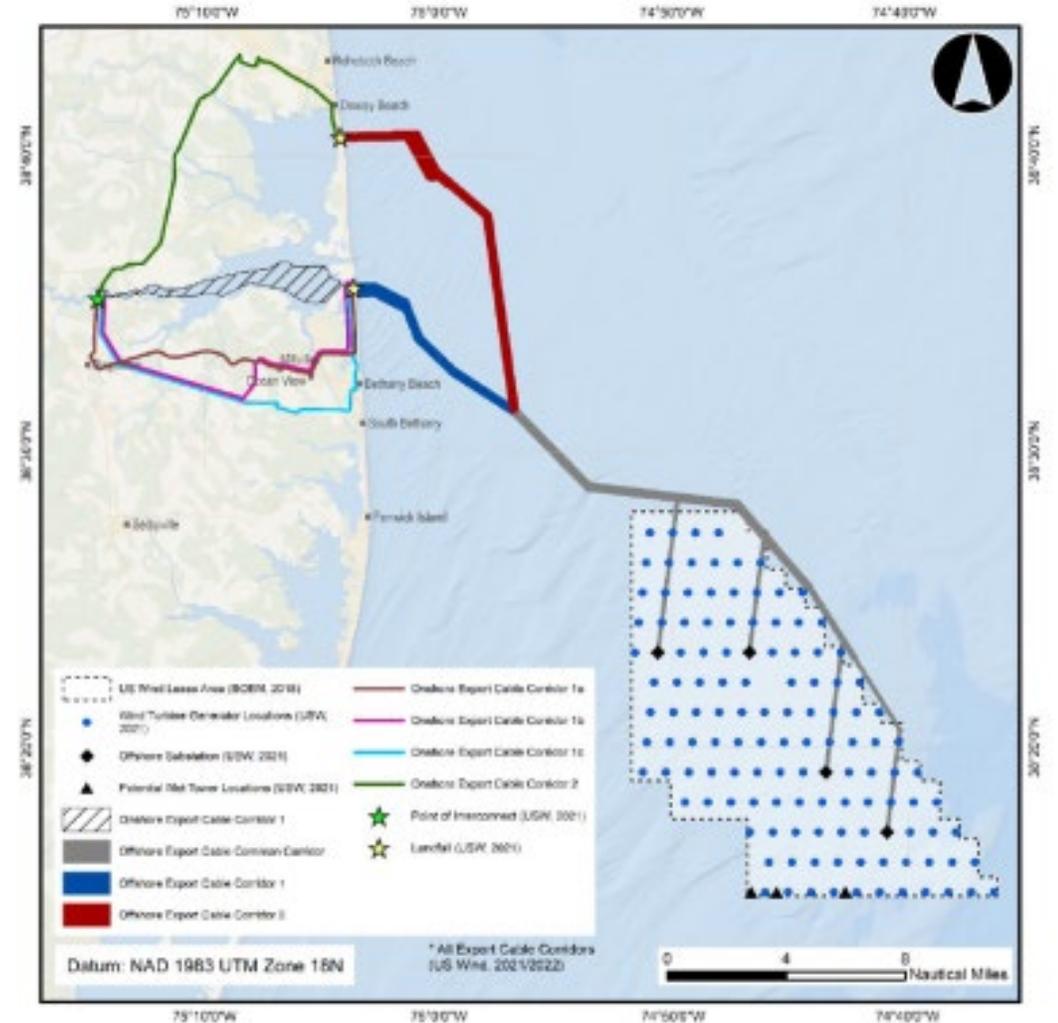
<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/ocean-wind-1>



# Maryland Offshore Wind

- Publication of DEIS
  - October 6, 2023
- FEIS
  - June 2024
- Record of Decision
  - July 2024

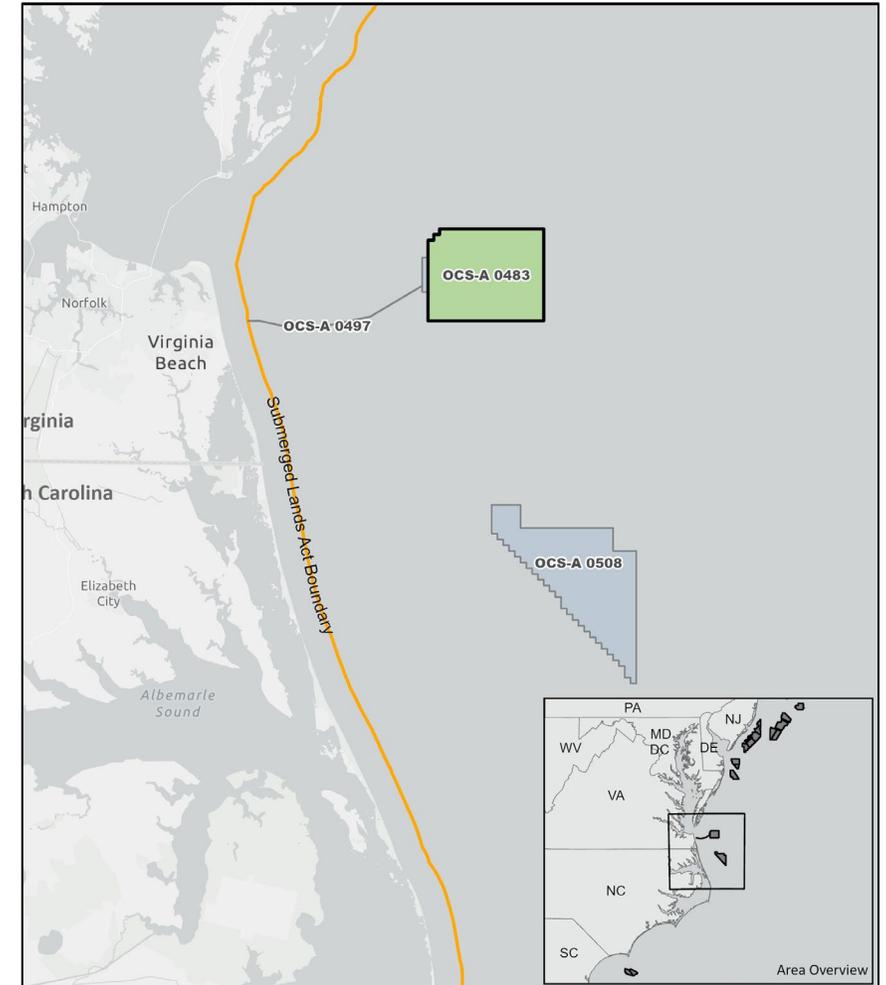
<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/maryland-offshore-wind>



# Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind - Commercial (CVOW)

- FEIS
  - Published September 29, 2023
- Record of Decision
  - October 30, 2023

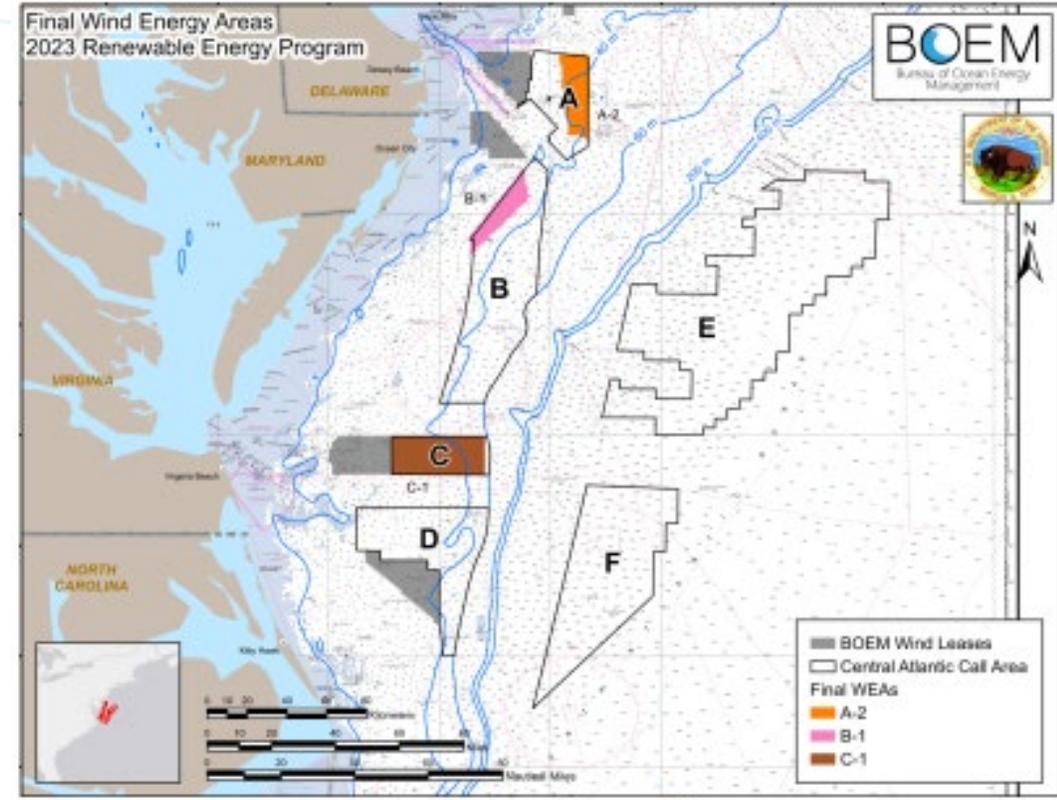
<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/CVOW-C>



# Central Atlantic: Draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)

- **Final WEAs published July 31, 2023**
  - Call Area: 3.9 million acres
  - Final WEAs: 356,556 acres
  - 91% reduction in area
- **Task Force meeting for Public Sale Notice (PSN): October 10, 2023**
  - Register at link below
- **EA publication: December 2023**
- **Lease sale anticipated in 2024. No firm dates yet on.**

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



# Fisheries Mitigation Guidance Development

- **November 23, 2021**

- “Request for Information” - inform BOEM’s development of draft guidance on avoiding, minimizing and if needed compensating for impacts from offshore wind energy projects to commercial and recreational fisheries.

- **June 2022:**

- Draft guidance document and comment period

- **Summer 2023**

- Discussions with Tribal Nations completed.

- **TBD**

- Issuance of final guidance (development of final guidance is moving forward).

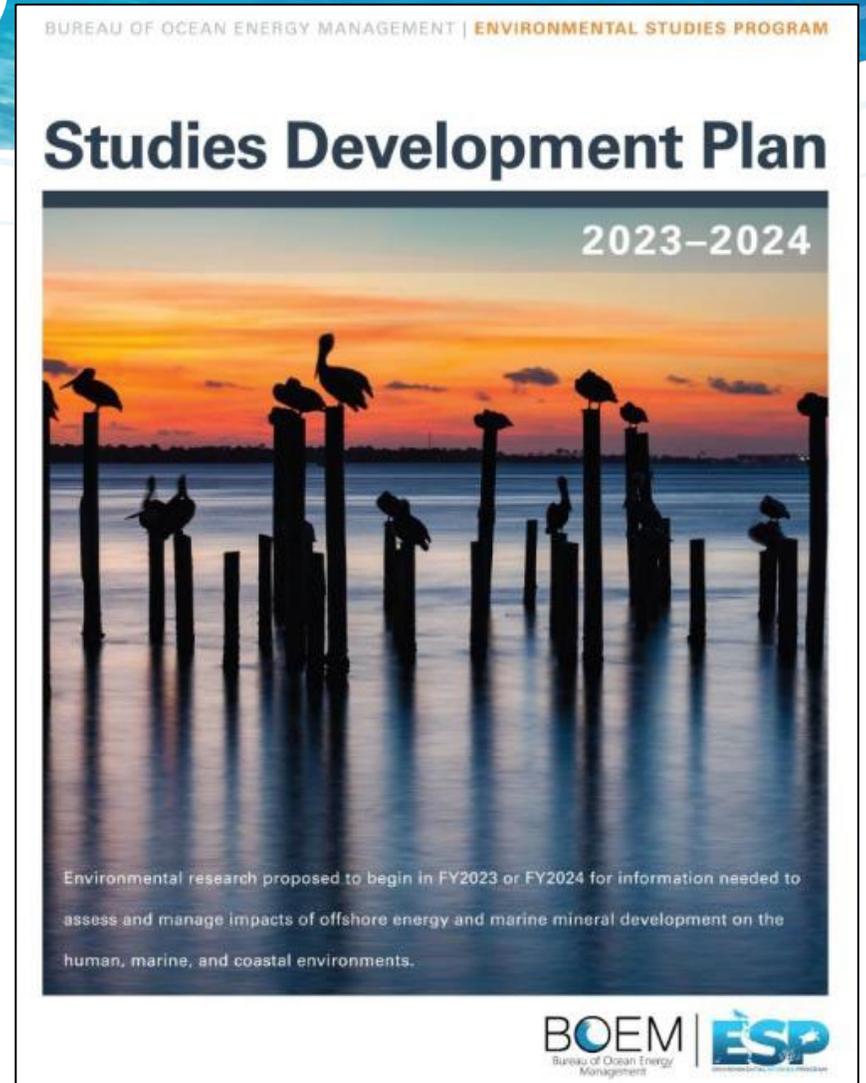
<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/request-information-reducing-or-avoiding-impacts-offshore-wind-energy-fisheries>



# Environmental Studies Program (ESP)

- BOEM publishes annual Studies Development Plan; approved projects on National Studies List.
- Study ideas reviewed by Standing Committee on Offshore Science & Assessment (COSA), National Academy of Sciences
- Results of studies used in BOEM environmental assessment and decision-making process
- **Submit study ideas to BOEM in Nov/Dec 2023**

<https://www.boem.gov/environment/get-involved>



# ESP Spotlight: Fishing Industry Spatial Needs Analysis

- **Fishing Industry Spatial Needs Analysis – Mid-Atlantic Bight**
  - VIMS + Lynker Corp
  - Understand current state of knowledge on fishing fleet behavior
    - Atlantic surf clam
    - Ocean quahog
    - Atlantic sea scallop
  - Work with Fisheries Knowledge Trust
- **August 2023 – August 2025**
- **Goal: greater understanding of potential and actual changes in relevant fishing activity as result of OSW facilities**



**VIMS** | WILLIAM & MARY  
VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

**Lynker**

# ESP Spotlight – Nature Inclusive Design - update

## Evaluating the Effectiveness of Nature Inclusive Design Materials

**Purpose:** Test effectiveness of different materials in promoting marine growth and enhancing habitat. Monitor for epifaunal growth and habitat utilization.

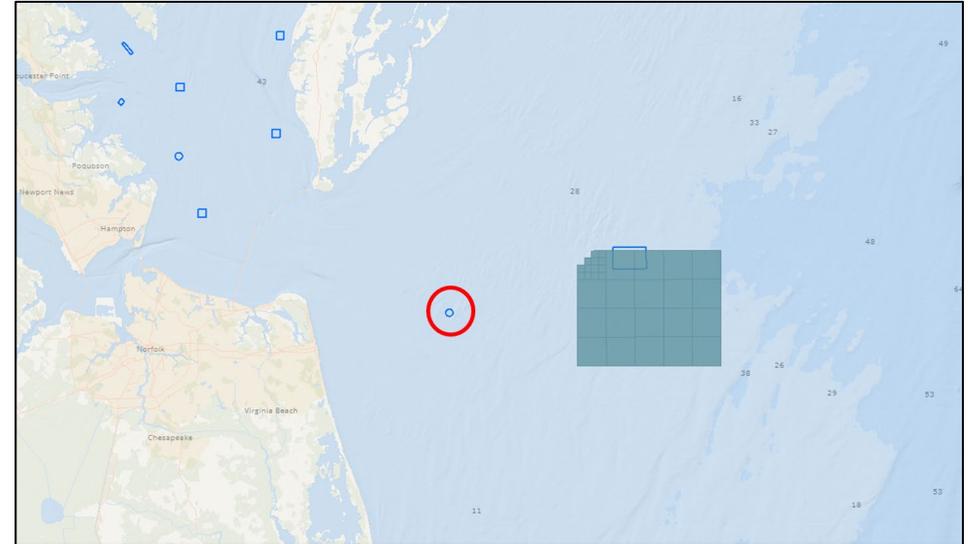
**Location:** Tower Reef (VMRC) 12 nmi offshore Virginia Beach; 12 nmi CVOW

### Summer 2023:

Deployed test materials and replicates  
Diver quadrat surveys; timelapse camera monitoring

**Field Deployment:** Summer 2023 – Fall 2024

**Final Report:** Summer 2025



Material	Dimensions	m <sup>2</sup>	Required for 3m <sup>2</sup> Coverage
Reef Innovations cube module	22" x 22" x 8"	approx. 0.3	12 (4 per replicate)
Articulating mat	8 ft x 20 ft	14.9	6 (2 per replicate); need to be cut
Repurposed concrete boulders	0.02 m <sup>3</sup>	approx. 0.1	36 (12 per replicate)
ECONcrete scour protection units	1.3 ft x 2 ft	0.23	15 (5 per replicate)
Reefmaker units	1.5 m x 1.5 m	2.25	3 (1 per replicate); need to be cut



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**Thank you!**

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