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Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division Greater Atlantic Region Updates



Source: J. Watson

Mid-Atlantic Fishery
Management Council
October 2023

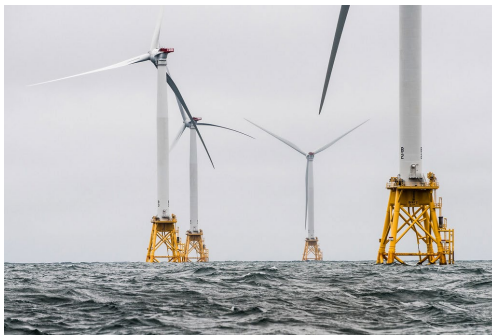
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/habitat-conservation/habitat-conservation-and-stewardship-greater-atlantic>

Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division (HESD) Updates

- Infrastructure/Habitat
 - Coastal Storm Risk Management
 - Port Development
 - National Climate Guidance
- Offshore Wind
 - Offshore HAPC Designation



Source: J. Murray



Block Island Wind Farm
credit: Dennis Schroeder / NREL



Source: US. Army Corps of Engineers

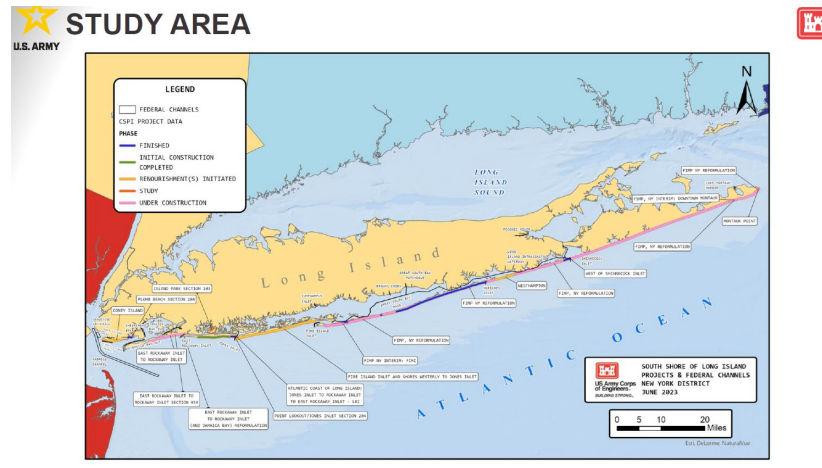
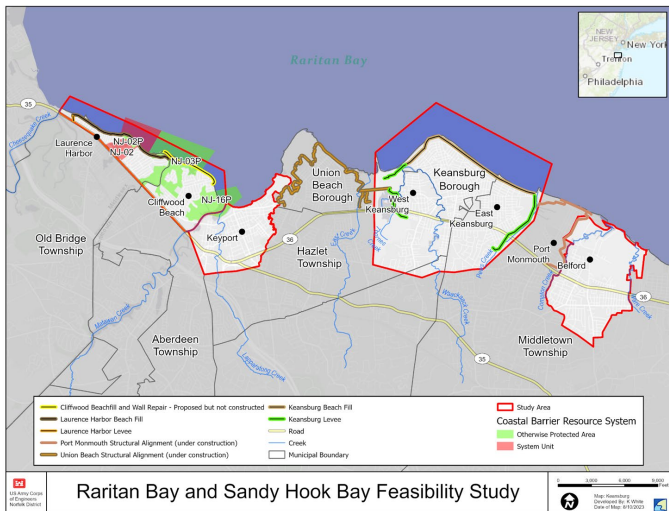
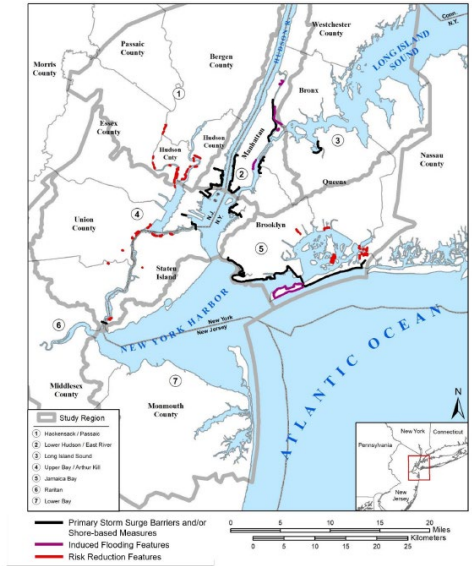
Habitat/Infrastructure Updates



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USACE Coastal Storm Risk Management Studies

- New York-New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study - <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-York/New-York-New-Jersey-Harbor-Tributaries-Focus-Area-Feasibility-Study/>
- Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, NJ Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Feasibility Study <https://www.nao.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/-Raritan-Bay-and-Sandy-Hook-Bay-CSRM-Study/>
- South Shore of Long Island CSRM

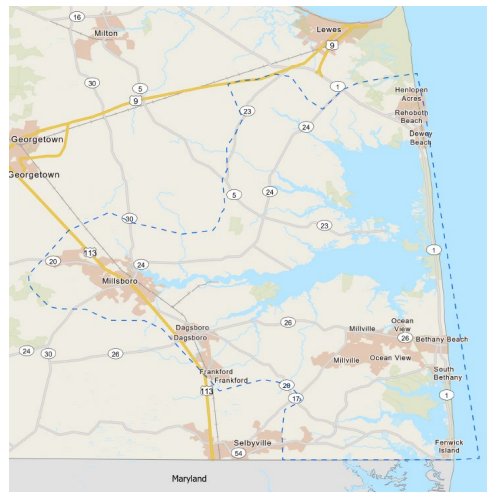
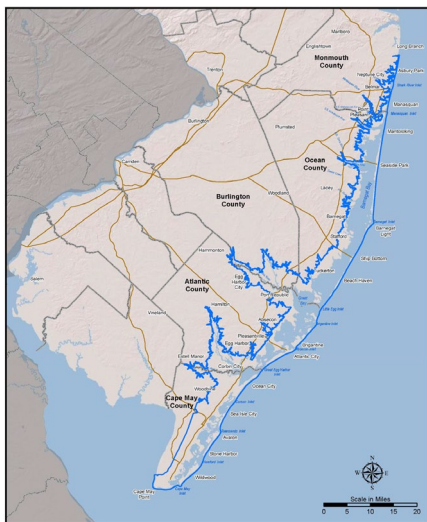


Maps from USACE websites.



USACE Coastal Storm Risk Management Studies

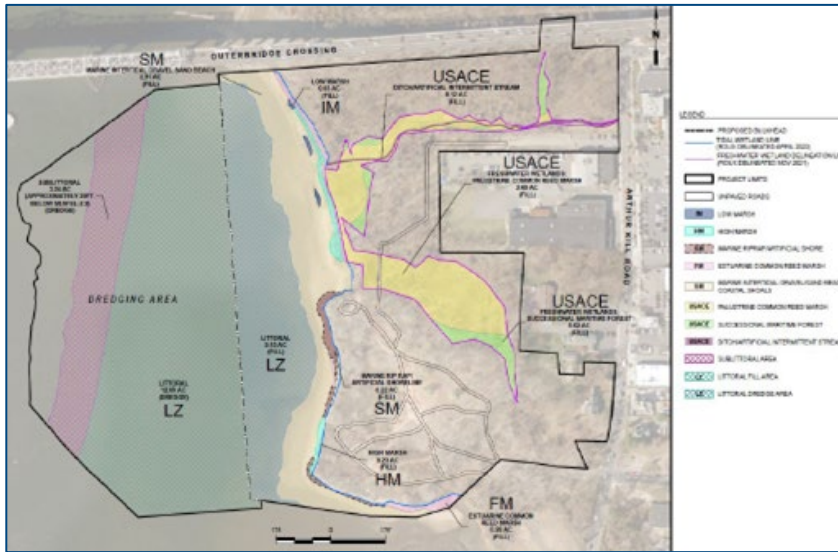
- New Jersey Back Bays Coastal Storm Risk Management Study www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/New-Jersey-Back-Bays-Study/
- Delaware Inland Bays and Delaware Bay Coast Coastal Storm Risk Management Study www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Delaware-Inland-Bays-Study/
- Virginia Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study www.nao.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/VBCSRM/



Maps all from USACE websites

Port Terminal Development

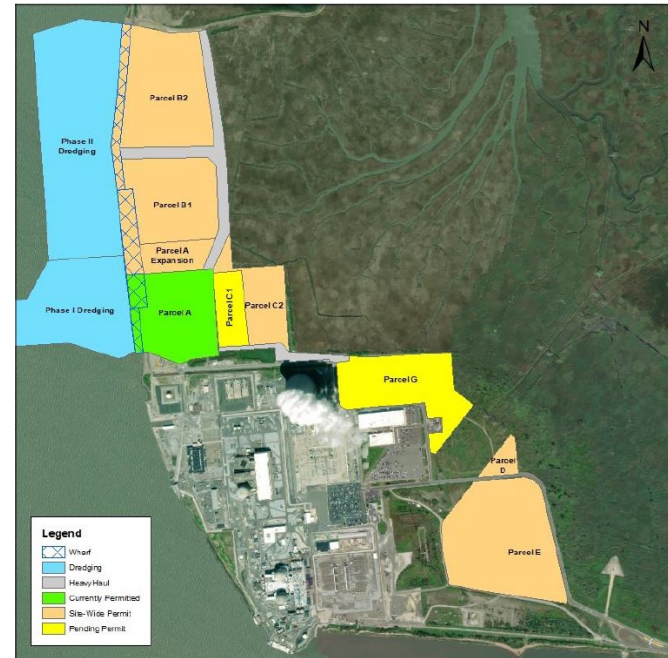
Arthur Kill Terminal



- MARAD Funded
- 18 + acres of dredging
- 9.8 + acres of fill in Arthur Kill
- Fish exclusion system proposed in lieu of time of year restrictions

<https://www.arthurkillterminal.com/>

NJ Wind Port - Phase 2



- 100 acres of new dredging
- 4 MCY of dredged material for initial work
- 200,000 CY dredging annually

<https://www.nj.gov/windport/>



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National Climate Consultation Guidance

Procedure for Addressing Climate Change in NMFS Essential Fish Habitat Consultations

- Provides guidance to action agencies, Councils, and consulting NMFS staff on how to incorporate expected climate change effects into EFH assessments and consultations
- Five considerations identified.
 1. Identifying ways that climate change may interact with an action in EFH assessments.
 2. Identifying time periods for projecting anticipated climate change effects in EFH assessments.
 3. Selecting a climate change emission scenario for EFH assessments.
 4. Identifying project design considerations and minimization measures.
 5. Determining permitting conditions and EFH conservation recommendations.



Offshore Wind Update

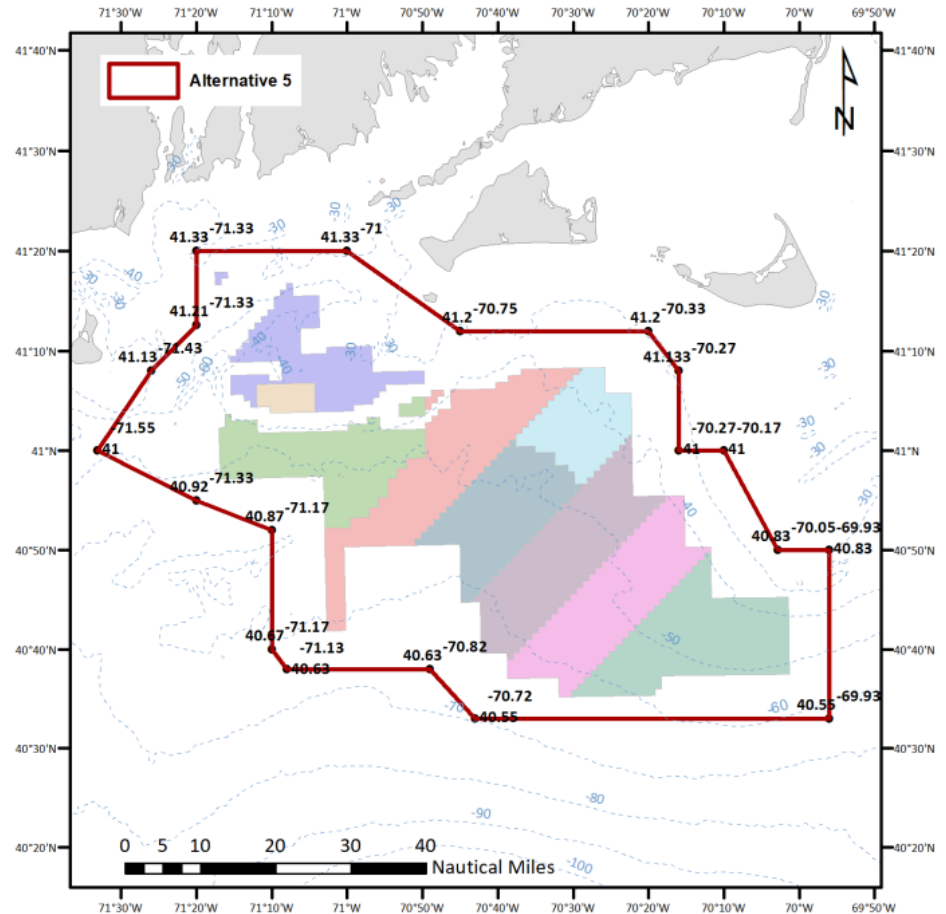


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Southern New England HAPC Designation

- Proposed Habitat Area of Particular Concern within and around southern New England wind lease areas, and Cox Ledge
- The complex bottom habitats and cod spawning areas within the red area (right) included in *proposed* HAPC designation
- NEFMC voted on/approved alternative (right)
- Proposed rule published on 9/26/23. Public comment ends 10/26/23

Figure 6. Alternative 5 SNE Complex Habitat and Cod Spawning HAPC designation (red outlined polygon). The HAPC would apply where complex habitat or cod spawning habitat occurs, as defined in the text.



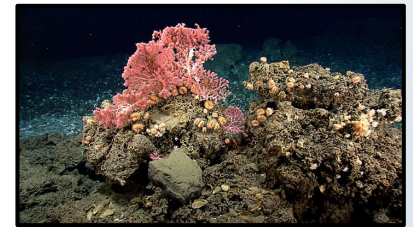
Map of Proposed HAPC Designation from NEFMC SNE HAPC Framework Document



Essential Fish Habitat Consultations

EFH Consultation Complete

- Ocean Wind 1
- Revolution Wind
- CVOW



Consultation Initiated and Under Review

- Sunrise Wind
- Atlantic Shores South
- New England Wind
- Empire Wind



Upcoming Consultations

- US Wind Maryland (Dec 2023)
- Southcoast (TBD)



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Additional OSW Updates

Central Atlantic

- Wind Energy Areas identified by BOEM this summer
- BOEM issued NOI to prepare an EA for site assessment and site characterization activities
- Task Force Meeting Planned for October 10

New York Bight

- BOEM is preparing Programmatic EIS with Draft expected to be published in early 2024
- BOEM is preparing a Programmatic EFH assessment for the NYB leases and other Mid-Atlantic projects
- Beginning early coordination with some developers



Additional OSW Updates

US Wind Maryland

- DEIS expected to be published for public comment on October 6, 2023

Kitty Hawk North

- BOEM provided NMFS with a draft ESA Biological Assessment and anticipates providing a draft EFH Assessment in December.
- BOEM anticipates completing the ESA and EFH consultations during fall 2024

EFH Template

- Worked with BOEM to develop a template for EFH assessments which has been posted to our OSW [Technical Guidance web page](#)



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Thank you



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