

TOO MUCH! TOO FAST!

OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY OFF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY:

Expansion of 800,000+ Acres Proposed, Yet First 400,000+ Acres Still Unused

SUPPORT A PAUSE ON MORE ... LET'S GET IT RIGHT FIRST!!

While the ocean can play a role in providing renewable energy, it will take time to do correctly and responsibly. Most people agree that careful consideration must be the guiding principle to ensure offshore wind (OSW) energy development is done responsibly and without harm to wildlife and resources, as well as onshore communities.

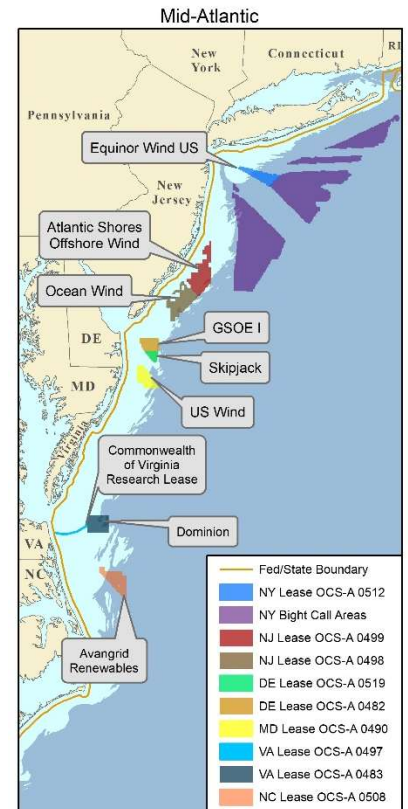
Clean Ocean Action does not oppose offshore wind, but it must be done right and responsibly and be a model for the country!

Currently, over 400,000 acres of ocean were leased to five companies.

The NY/NJ region has worked hard to stop ocean pollution and industrialization, making our waterways a source of pride and thriving with marine life. We must make sure offshore wind development is responsible and protective.

- ✓ The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) *already* approved 400,000 acres for OSW development (see Map 1).
- ✓ Cumulative impacts on marine resources, wildlife, busy port region, and the industries that depend on a clean ocean have not been identified.
- ✓ There is no transparency about the comprehensive onshore industrial activities that will be needed to support the offshore development.
- ✓ The impacts are unknown—not one Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been completed.

- ✓ The impact to many threatened and endangered species, including the Northern Atlantic right whale (pictured below), is also unknown.
- ✓ Each project will take years to evaluate and develop – there is time to consider more future leasing – if we get this right from the beginning.



Map 1: Depicts areas in the Mid-Atlantic region for offshore wind development. Credit: BOEM



Lest we forget...

Our ocean is already doing more than her share to her own detriment of warming and ocean acidification.

- The ocean absorbs about 25% of carbon dioxide emissions and has been absorbing 90% of the Earth's extra heat since 1955!
- In fact, thanks to the ocean, climate change impacts -- as bad as they are -- are lessened. We must do more with energy conservation and efficiency, as well as solar and geo-thermal alternatives to address our energy needs.

PLAN SEEKS TO SELL MORE OF OUR OCEAN!!!

On March 30, President Biden announced over 800,000 **more** acres for possible sale off New Jersey.

- Once sold, our public lands – even under the sea – will never be the same or wild and free.
- It will be difficult to stop the building of these facilities, despite environmental consequences.
- Lessons learned from early projects could be ignored.

We understand the need and enthusiasm for addressing climate change!

LET'S DO OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY RIGHT!

Clean Ocean Action calls upon US President Biden and BOEM to **PAUSE** the Environmental Assessment of all 800,000+ acres of Wind Energy Areas for potential future lease sale. This will allow time to provide transparency and to understand and evaluate the impacts from the existing 400,000+ acres and five companies' projects. More specifically, Clean Ocean Action asks:

- *What are the scope and magnitude of the projects and consequences of the existing 400,000 acres of OSW areas?*
- *Why is there no transparency on the development, construction, operation, and management for both onshore and offshore project needs?*
- *What is the rush? Pausing will not cause any harm. The 400,000 acres will take time to develop. Future leasing proposals can be considered once more is known.*
- *ONSHORE renewable energy can move forward now, with the most important and immediate solutions: energy conservation and efficiency. The US is one of the most wasteful energy users in the world.*

How Can You Help? Submit Comments! Due April 28, 2021

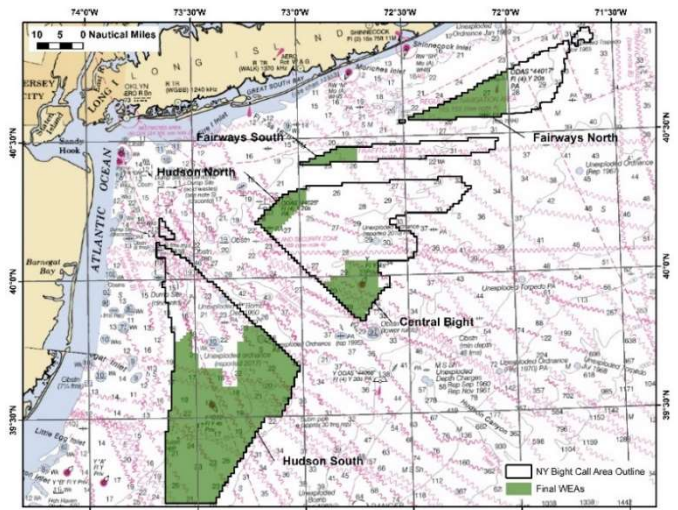
Urge President Biden and BOEM to PAUSE the Environmental Assessment of all 800,000+ acres of Wind Energy Area for potential future lease sales to allow residents of the region to understand and evaluate the impacts from the existing 400,000+ acres and five companies' projects. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is accepting comments from the public about their specific concerns with the 800,000 acres of the ocean identified for offshore wind projects.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS: Comments on the above topics and the alternatives to include in the Environmental Assessment (EA), can be submitted no later than April 28th in the following two ways:

1. 1. Using the Regulations.gov website:

- a. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/search?filter=BOEM-2021-0021> (For reference, the docket number for this document is BOEM-2021-0021.)
- b. Click on the "Comment" button under the document link ("NY Bight Notice of Preparation...").
- c. Type or paste your comment where noted or attach a file.
- d. Enter an email address and select identity (an individual, organization, or anonymous).
- e. Answer prompt "I'm not a robot."
- f. Click "Submit Comment."

– OR –



This map shows the 800,000 acres of Wind Energy Areas (WEA) identified by BOEM shown in green. Credit: BOEM

2. In written form by mail, enclosed in an envelope labeled “New York Bight Environmental Assessment” and addressed to: Program Manager, Office of Renewable Energy, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, Virginia 20166. Comments must be received or postmarked no later than April 28, 2021.

In your comments, in addition to requesting the PAUSE, please include the following or other additional questions/considerations you have for the wind energy areas, including:

- ✓ *What are the cumulative impacts to natural resources, marine mammals, birds, endangered species, and navigation with wind energy areas in the already-busy port region?*
- ✓ *Are there special qualities (e.g., indigenous areas of significance, fishing, diving, whale-watching, archeological significance) in these Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) that should prevent industrialization, including for renewable energy projects?*
- ✓ *What are the onshore impacts to offshore wind energy in terms of infrastructure needs, environmental impacts, and communities?*
- ✓ *Any other concerns you may have.*



Please respond quickly to this action request!

Clean Ocean Action will soon be sharing more about additional opportunities and efforts to ensure offshore wind development off NY/NJ moves forward responsibly.