

RESPONSIBLE & REASONABLE OFFSHORE WIND IS A CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION

BUT...THE OCEAN IS AT RISK FROM TOO MUCH, TOO FAST!

NEARLY 1 MILLION ACRES LEASED & FOR LEASE

Climate Action Now: No time to waste!

- *Fact:* human use of fossil fuels is causing accelerated climate change.
- Climate change is threatening all life on Earth.
- The ocean has buffered climate impacts, but to her own demise with sea-level rise and ocean acidification.
- A healthy ocean is key to helping reduce impacts from climate change.
- It could take over a decade to install and build offshore wind projects; we must prioritize onshore energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy.



Little to no protections for marine life
Photo: NOAA

The Ocean Off the NY/NJ Coast:

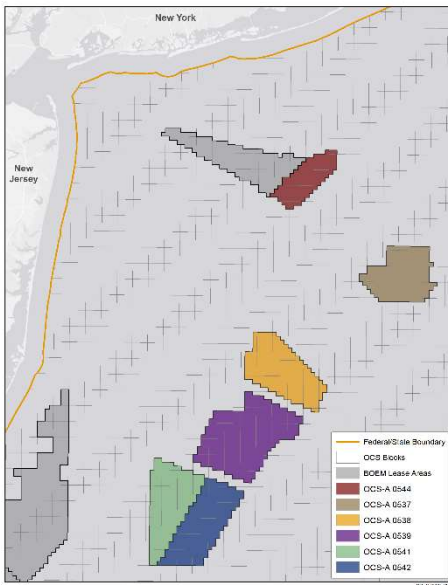
- is the most diverse with 27 species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises, 5 species of sea turtles, and 4 species of seals.
- has hundreds of species of fish and birds that depend on the region for home, food, or migration.
- is home or host to endangered animals, including one most at risk, the North Atlantic right whale.
- provides sustainable seafood for millions of people each year locally and around the world.
- is VERY busy—flanked by the #1 port on the East Coast, NY/NJ Harbor, and by the Port of Philadelphia.

An Ocean Industrialization Experiment is Already Underway off New York & New Jersey:

- Massive industrialization is already underway with about 500 offshore wind turbines proposed (and more on the way) with unknown impacts from noise, electromagnetic fields, and massive onshore and offshore infrastructure.
- Rushed and uninformed development puts marine life at risk and is rife with possible unintended consequences.
- Nearly half million acres are already privatized -- sold to big energy (including "Big Oil").
- The nearly **425,000 acres** already leased is roughly:
 - More than **2 times** the size of all 5 Boroughs of New York City
 - Nearly 5 times the size of Las Vegas
 - Nearly 1.5 times the size of Los Angeles
- Marine mammals, including endangered species, are at grave risk from vessel strikes and noise.
- New turbines are huge – nearly as tall as the Empire State Building (without antenna).
- Large onshore construction sites for offshore wind have yet to be developed.
- Over 425,000 acres off NJ is already underway for wind energy & could take over a decade to build without delays. The US has no experience in industrial offshore wind development.
- Full development is over 10 years away—far slower than the options on hand today to meet the climate challenges. The estimated completion of offshore wind projects in the NJ wind energy areas is 2035.



The nearly 425,000 acres already leased is more than 2 times the size of all 5 Boroughs of New York City



Six new areas (in color) – nearly 500,000 more acres of ocean off the NY/NJ Coast – will be leased for offshore wind energy

Photo: BOEM

NEARLY 500,000 MORE ACRES FOR LEASE: THAT’S TOO MUCH, TOO FAST

On January 12, 2022, the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced a final sale and lease auction of **488,201** acres of public ocean waters (*see map of six auction areas*) for offshore wind energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf off the NY/NJ coast. These proposed lease sales are *in addition to* the nearly 425,000 acres already leased.

TOO MUCH: Nearly 1 Million Acres Slated for Offshore Wind Energy

Combined, the areas off the coast already leased and proposed for leasing for offshore wind **total nearly one million acres** – nearly the size of Grand Canyon National Park. To provide perspective, in total, these 913,201 acres are roughly:

- **34 times** the size of Disney World, FL, the largest amusement park in the world.
- **Over 1.7 times** the size of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- Nearly **5 times** the size of all 5 boroughs of New York City.

Nearly one million acres of ocean is slated for offshore wind energy off the NY/NJ coast – nearly the size of Grand Canyon National Park.

Once the lease areas are sold, they are no longer public lands. Current laws do not fully protect ocean resources from harm. Right now, only the court

of public opinion can protect these lands and ocean resources.

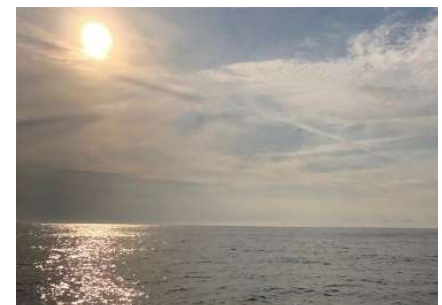
TOO FAST: BOEM is fast-tracking the process, seeking bidders before the Environmental Assessment, which evaluates the marine life at risk, has been completed for these lease areas.

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION IS NEEDED NOW!

- The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released in August 2021 indicates climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying worldwide, and robust action must be taken within this decade.
- However, proposed offshore wind projects and on-land construction sites are in their infancy and will take years to get approved, constructed, and put into operation. No onshore construction facilities are on-line and could take years to develop. The projection for completion of these massive offshore wind facilities is, at best, 2030-2035 or beyond without challenges from hurricanes, storms, offshore construction, and other delays.
- The ocean & planet cannot wait over a decade for offshore wind, which is one of the climate change solutions.
- Immediate solutions to address climate change must not adversely impact the very resources that need to be protected.
- **CHEAPER, SAFER, EASIER:** It is imperative to **PRIORITIZE, EXPEDITE, and IMPLEMENT ONSHORE GREEN OPTIONS NOW**, including more energy reduction requirements and efficiency measures. The GREENEST energy of all is the energy people do not use, and it can save people thousands of dollars.

OFFSHORE WIND MUST BE REASONABLE & RESPONSIBLE TO PROTECT OCEAN RESOURCES

Clean Ocean Action (COA) supports responsible and reasonable offshore wind (OSW) energy development; this includes operation, management, and decommissioning, as well as the associated onshore infrastructure. Notably, many marine scientists agree that little is known about the harm from this industrialization of the ocean, especially at the magnitude, scale, and speed of development currently proposed. This fast-tracked scope and scale of offshore wind energy development off the NY/NJ coast is not reasonable or responsible because of all the unknowns.



Protecting what lies beneath

Go to COA’s website for opportunities to take action for the ocean!

Clean Ocean Action * www.CleanOceanAction.org * February 15, 2022