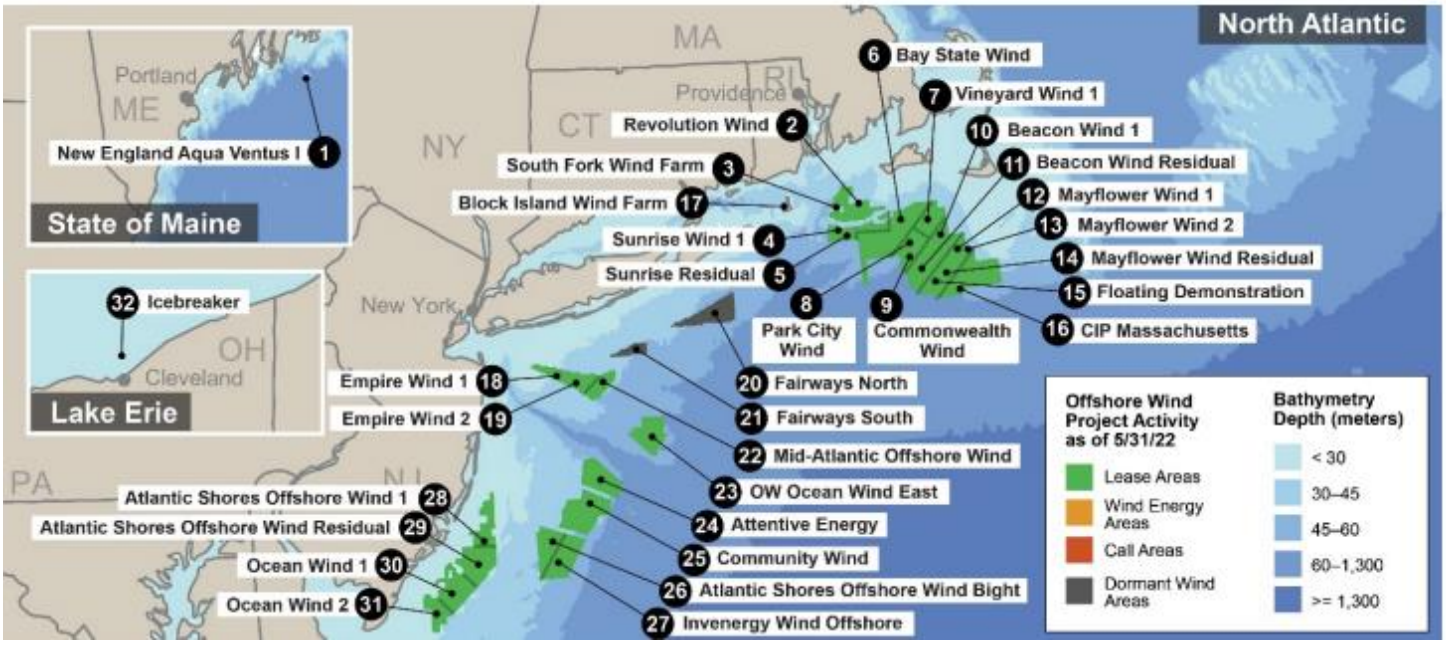
Actions for Week of April 2, 2023

OCEAN INDUSTRIALIZATION:
TOO MUCH ~ TOO FAST
MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD!



Map of US North Atlantic Projects for Offshore Wind Leasing & Planning Photo Credit: National Renewable Energy Laboratory

CURRENT GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR OFFSHORE POWER PLANTS

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), by 2030 the Northeast marine ecosystem will be occupied by:

- ✓ **Over 2.4 million acres of leases (twice the size of Grand Canyon National Park)**
- ✓ **3,400 turbines (as tall as the Chrysler Building)**
- ✓ **10,000 miles of submarine cables (3 ½ times the distance from LA to NYC)**

PLUS, an additional 5.7 million acres is under review for development.

Offshore wind energy is renewable but will impact the ocean and marine life. While reasonable and responsible offshore wind could provide some needed renewable energy, the scope, magnitude, and speed of the industrialization for wind energy are unprecedented and will result in vast marine ecosystem destruction.

Studies to determine impacts are underway, but are too little too late, and cumulative impacts are largely ignored. There are few laws protecting marine life. The risks are high for the ocean and marine life. There are cheaper, faster, and safer energy-wise solutions that can be implemented now on land, such as energy waste and use reduction. For example, mining one Bitcoin requires using the energy needs of one home for 13 years.

A reasonable pilot studies may help determine how to conduct offshore wind in an environmentally responsible manner, but the government has rejected such a responsible approach.

YOUR VOICES ARE NEEDED NOW TO DEFEND THE OCEAN: Take Action Now!

TAKE ACTION TODAY! See below for action opportunities and to help stop the ocean from becoming an environmental sacrifice zone!

Action #1: SIGN & SHARE THE PETITION!

Sign and share the petition to demand an independent investigation of the whale deaths. There is a plausible link between preconstruction activities for offshore wind energy projects and the whale deaths. Help us get 400,000 petition signatures!

Action #2: PUBLIC COMMENTS DUE: EXTENDED TO APRIL 28, 2023 BY 5PM.

Tell the State of New Jersey that more science and a comprehensive, scientifically independent pilot project is needed before massive ocean industrialization of offshore wind energy moves forward. Strong baseline information is required in advance of decisions made on this large-scale industrialization. A pilot project is needed to ensure offshore wind development is done right. Submit your comments and suggestions for research that is needed to the NJDEP by 5pm on April 28, 2023. Go to the **Public Notice** for more information and instructions to submit comments online. Or email comments to Carmen D. Diaz Acting Secretary of the Board at board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov.

Action #3: FEDERAL STREAMLINING OF OFFSHORE WIND PROJECTS

DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS - EXTENDED TO MAY 1, 2023

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) calls this proposal "modernization," however this is likely code for streaming and weaking public protections for the environment and public interests by making it easier for the offshore wind industry. According to BOEM:

> *"This proposed rule contains reforms identified by the Department and recommended by industry since 2010, including proposals for incremental funding of decommissioning accounts; more flexible geophysical and geotechnical survey submission requirements; streamlined approval of meteorological (met) buoys; revised project verification procedures; reform of BOEM's renewable energy auction process; and greater clarity regarding safety requirements."*

These rules also may reduce or create confusion for citizens to address already limited requirements for environmental protection. BOEM estimates its proposals will save offshore wind energy developers about $1 billion over 20 years by eliminating or reducing regulatory, financial, and other obligations and further the Administration's climate goals**.** For example, the rules, if adopted, would "*replace the current requirement to fully fund decommissioning accounts for renewable energy facilities before installation with a BOEM-approved funding schedule to be established only after operations begin, with full funding due by the time of actual decommissioning*." What if there is a hurricane, or if the company goes out of business? How will decommissioning be funded? Who will pay the bill?

Link for information & to submit comments: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/30/2023-00668/renewable-energy-modernization-rule#open-comment

For more and updated actions, check out CleanOceanAction.org.