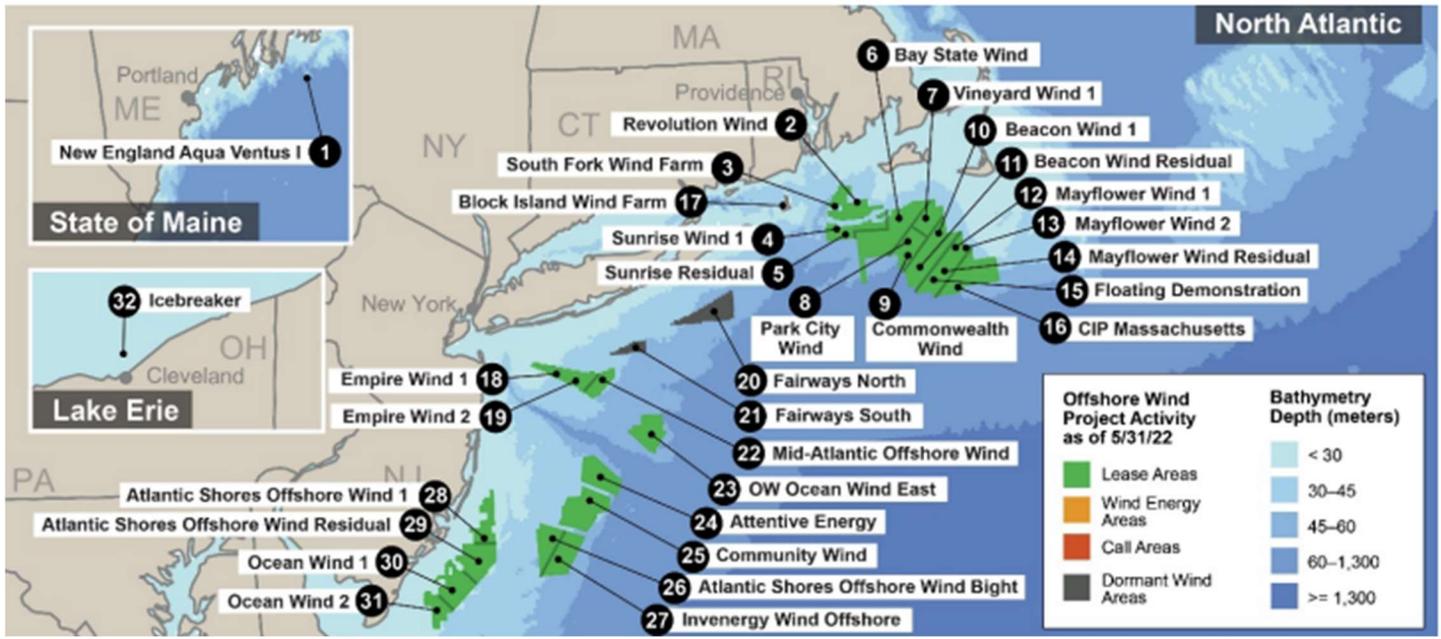


OCEAN INDUSTRIALIZATION: TOO MUCH ~ TOO FAST *MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD!*



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!

Please see below for action opportunities and to help stop the ocean from becoming an environmental sacrifice zone!

Action #1: PUBLIC COMMENTS DUE MARCH 13, 2023 - Offshore Wind Company Applies to Harass

Over 20,000 Whales, Dolphins, Porpoises, and Seals off NY/NJ. Sunrise Wind, a partnership between Orsted and Eversource, plans to build nearly 100 massive offshore wind turbines 30 miles off Montauk Point, NY, as well as an offshore converter station, inter-array cables, an onshore converter station, an offshore transmission cable, and an onshore interconnection cable. Sunrise Wind applied for Incidental Take Regulations (ITR) and an associated Letter of Authorization (LOA) which, if issued, would authorize the “take” by Level A harassment and/or Level B harassment of **20,512 marine mammals** over the course of 5 years (2023-2028) for the construction and operation of the project. The proposed for harassment of marine mammals include from “pile driving (impact and vibratory), potential detonation of unexploded ordnance or munitions and explosives, and vessel-based site assessment surveys using high-resolution geophysical (HRG) equipment” (NMFS).

Total 5-year Requested Number of Marine Mammal Harassments (by Level A and Level B) for Sunrise Wind:

- 64 level A (Fin whale, Humpback whale, Minke whale, Sei whale, Harbor Porpoise, gray seal, and harbor seal)
- 20,448 whales, dolphins, and seals of 16 different species

Sunrise Wind ITR Application – Updated Densities

December 2022

Table 51. Total 5-year requested Level A and Level B take from all activities. The percent of NMFS stock abundance is calculated from the 5-year total Level A and Level B requested take.

Species	NMFS Stock Abundance ^a	5-Year Total		Percent of NMFS Stock Abundance ^a
		Requested Level A Take	Requested Level B Take	
Mysticetes				
Blue Whale*	402	0	7	1.7
Fin Whale*	6,802	4	97	1.5
Humpback Whale	1,396	3	123	9.0
Minke Whale	21,968	27	467	2.2
North Atlantic Right Whale*	368	0	47	12.8
Sei Whale*	6,292	2	39	0.7
Odontocetes				
Atlantic Spotted Dolphin	39,921	0	215	0.5
Atlantic White-Sided Dolphin	93,233	0	768	0.8
Bottlenose Dolphin	62,851	0	631	1.0
Common Dolphin	172,974	0	12,193	7.0
Harbor Porpoise	95,543	20	1,304	1.4
Pilot Whales	68,139	0	91	0.1
Risso's Dolphin	35,215	0	68	0.2
Sperm Whale*	4,349	0	21	0.5
Pinnipeds				
Gray Seal	27,300	3	1,350	5.0
Harbor Seal	61,336	5	3,027	4.9

^aDenotes species listed under the Endangered Species Act

What is Level A & B Harassment?

- Level A Harassment - has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild; or,
- Level B Harassment - has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering but which does not have the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild.

TO SEND YOUR COMMENT: go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NMFS-2023-0012/document>, click “Comment” box under first entry “Proposed Rule;” type comments at “start typing here,” complete parts of the form, click “Submit Comment” at bottom.

Action #2: **MARCH 16, 2023** – Offshore Wind Hearing “An Examination into Offshore Wind Industrialization.”

US Congressman Van Drew is holding a [hearing on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. EST](#) at Wildwood Convention Center (4501 Boardwalk, Wildwood, NJ 08260) to “gather testimony from experts in pertinent industries and groups that are affected by offshore wind development. The hearing will be conducted as a typical congressional hearing, including expert testimony and questioning.” RSVP for the hearing [here](#). Submit written testimony and questions to NJ02JV.RSVP@mail.house.gov. Seating is available, doors open at 1:30 p.m. EST.



For Immediate Release
February 17, 2023

Contact: [Ashley Brown](#)
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Congressman Van Drew Announces Local Hearing on Offshore Wind Projects with Corresponding Legislation

Action #3: **FEDERAL STREAMLINING OF OFFSHORE WIND PROJECTS—**

DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS - MARCH 31, 2023

Link: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/30/2023-00668/renewable-energy-modernization-rule#open-comment>

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) calls this proposal “modernization,” however this is likely code streaming and weakening 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?

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