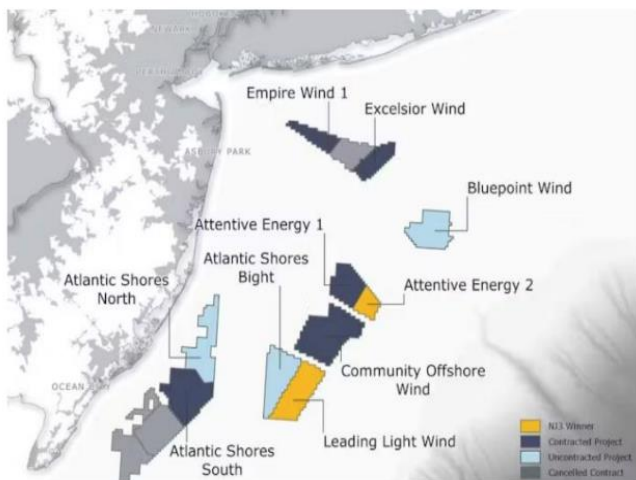




10 Things to Know About Offshore Wind

Clean Ocean Action (COA) is not opposed to the concept of offshore wind and supports transitioning away from fossil fuels to reduce climate change. However, offshore wind must be reasonable, responsible, and protective of marine life. COA focuses on the expanse of ocean stretching from Montauk, NY to Cape May, NJ referred to as the NY/NJ Bight.

1. As of July 2024, there are 13 projects underway that total over 670,000 acres leased to large-scale offshore wind energy developers directly off the Jersey shore. In 2023, Ocean Wind 1 and 2 decided not to move forward and put the project up for sale. Each project will include hundreds of turbines nearly as tall as the Chrysler building (averaging over 1,000 feet).



2. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, offshore wind projects may increase vessel traffic and strikes, change species survival rates, alter existing habitats, and introduce electromagnetic fields that impact navigation, security, and communication.

3. Large-scale offshore wind research revealed that turbines can generate noise pollution up to 177 underwater decibels (or 151 air decibels) at their source. This would be the equivalent of a rocket launch. Sound travels farther underwater and this level of noise pollution could rupture the swim bladders or damage the eardrums of marine species.

4. As of July 2024, the federal government has authorized the harassment or “takes” of over 650,000 marine mammals by offshore wind companies in the NY/NJ Bight for pre-construction and construction activities. These authorizations allow impacts on marine mammals’ ability to breathe, migrate, nurse, breed, and feed, including critically endangered species like the North Atlantic right whale (NARW) of which fewer than 340 remain globally.
5. The corrosion of offshore wind turbines can change the chemistry of the ocean and harm marine species by releasing substances such as aluminum, zinc, indium, and epoxy resin.
6. Estimates for an approved offshore wind project predict the initial energy cost will be \$160 per megawatt hour (MWh). A modern solar system generates energy at \$24 per MWh.
7. Offshore wind turbines impair radar navigation systems which puts boaters, fishermen, and commercial vessels at risk. This could complicate rescue operations and increase the likelihood of collisions which could include oil and chemical spills.
8. Offshore wind farms often require open-loop cooling systems. Annually, each system pulls in billions of gallons of life-rich seawater. After the water is doused with biocides, it is used to cool transmission systems. The resulting hot water is discharged into the ocean, altering the natural temperature of marine ecosystems.
9. Federal agencies have no evidence that offshore wind will reduce climate change. Moreover, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 requires the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to offer at least 60 million acres for offshore oil and gas leasing *prior* to issuing offshore wind leases.
10. Offshore wind farms development is underway from Maine to South Carolina. These millions of acres overlap with the migratory pathways of birds, fish, and mammals, including the piping plover and North Atlantic right whale. There is insufficient science to prove these species will be protected.

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References available on COA’s website