



Fiscal Year 2024 Tribal Consultation Report

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2024 Department of the Interior Tribal Consultation Annual Report

This Annual Report summarizes the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Tribal consultation efforts during Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.¹ BOEM consults with federally recognized Indian Tribes, including Alaska Native villages, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations (ANCSA Corporations), and the Native Hawaiian Community on BOEM actions with Tribal, ANCSA Corporation, and/or Native Hawaiian Community Implications in accordance with BOEM's Tribal Consultation Guidance.² BOEM actions that may fall within one or both of these categories include, but are not limited to, a rulemaking, a notice to lessees (NTL), a lease sale, approval of an oil and gas exploration or development plan, a renewable energy plan, a permit for a seismic air gun survey, a right-of-way, a right-of-use and easement, or a non-energy mineral lease or agreement.³ In addition to formal consultation in recognition of the government-to-government relationship with Tribal Nations, the government-to-corporation relationship with ANCSA Corporations, and the government-to-sovereign relationship with the Native Hawaiian Community, BOEM also engages through informal meetings, public hearings, and direct communications or discussions with individual Tribes, ANCSA Corporations, and representatives of the Native Hawaiian Community, or as required by statute, depending on the scope, scale, and significance of a proposed action.

1. Summary and List of All Consultation Topics.

Topics of consultation during FY 2024 included renewable energy activities in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico regions; conventional energy activities in the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, and Pacific regions; rulemakings; and environmental studies. BOEM also initiated consultation on the draft revised Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Tribal Consultation Guidance and the draft Tribal Nation and Indigenous Peoples Engagement Strategy.

Renewable Energy

Atlantic Region

During FY 2024, BOEM continued to expand the nation's energy portfolio by advancing renewable energy development along the Atlantic Coast. In preparation for offshore wind lease sales in the U.S. Central Atlantic and the Gulf of Maine coast, BOEM identified wind energy areas and potential lease areas on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) off the coasts of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, and held formal government-to-government Tribal consultations and informal engagements with affected Tribes in those areas. BOEM held the Central Atlantic wind energy lease auction in August 2024 and plans to hold the Gulf of Maine wind energy lease auction in October

¹ Required by Department of the Interior Manual sections [512 DM 4.9](#) and [512 DM 6.7](#).

² [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Tribal Consultation Guidance](#), 29 June 2018. See also [512 DM 4.3](#) for the definition of a "Departmental Action with Tribal Implications," [512 DM 6.3](#) for the definition of a "Departmental Action with ANCSA Corporation Implications," and proposed [513 DM 1.4](#) for the definition of an "Action with Native Hawaiian Community Implications."

³ Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Tribal Consultation Guidance, Draft 22 December 2023, Section 5.c.

2024. As part of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), BOEM held formal and informal consultation and listening sessions on the following planning efforts and project activities for offshore wind development along the Atlantic Coast:

- Atlantic Coast offshore wind transmission planning efforts.
- Guidance on information needed to issue a notice of intent to conduct an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act for a construction and operations plan, “Final Information Needed for Issuance of a Notice of Intent (NOI)” (NOI Checklist).
- BOEM Senior Management presented information and participated in listening sessions related to the Offshore Renewable Energy Programs (and Federal Infrastructure Permitting and Development) at the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET)/ United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) Annual Meeting, October 23-25, 2023, and the Office of Environmental Programs at the USET/USET SPF Impact Week, March 27-29, 2024. Discussions related to Ancient Submerged Landform Features (ASLFs), core water screening, and laboratory standards related to collecting and analyzing cores taken from ASLFs.
- Discussions with the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs.
- Atlantic Shores South (Lease OCS-A 0499), off the coast of New Jersey.
- Atlantic Shores North (Lease OCS-A 0549), off the coast of New Jersey.
- Beacon Wind (Lease OCS-A 0520), off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- Carolina Long Bay (Lease OCS-A 0545 and 0546), off the coast of North and South Carolina.
- Central Atlantic Wind Energy Areas, off the coast of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.
- Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (Lease OCS-A 0483), off the coast of Virginia.
- Empire Wind (Lease OCS-A 0512), off the coast of New York and New Jersey.
- Gulf of Maine commercial and research leasing, off the coast of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.
- Maryland Offshore Wind (formally US Wind; Lease OCS-A 0490) off the coast of Maryland and Delaware.
- New England Wind (OCS-A 0534), off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- New York Bight Leases (OCS-A 0537, OCS-A 0538, OCS-A 0539, OCS-A 0541, OCS-A 0542, and OCS-A 0544), off the coast of New York and New Jersey.
- Revolution Wind (Lease OCS-A 0486), off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- Sunrise Wind (Lease OCS-A 0487), off the coast of New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.
- Vineyard Wind 1 (Lease OCS-A 0501), off the coast of Massachusetts.
- Vineyard Wind NE (OCS-A 0522), off the coast of Massachusetts.
- Joint BOEM/BSEE meeting on the Vineyard Wind Blade incident with Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, August 16, 2024.

Gulf of Mexico Region

During FY 2024, BOEM authorized competitive wind energy leasing for a second offshore wind energy lease sale (GOMW-2) in the Gulf of Mexico Region. BOEM sent a letter to Tribes with an interest in the development of offshore wind in the Gulf of Mexico Region on December 21, 2023, to solicit information and interest in additional consultation as part of the Section 106 process. Only two substantive responses were received from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma requested to be notified in the event of an inadvertent discovery. The Seminole Tribe of Florida noted their concerns were largely associated with paleo-landscapes, which BOEM determined would not be affected by this undertaking. Additionally, a second letter inviting consultation was sent to interested Tribes on December 21, 2023, to provide them with a summary update of wind activities, including the proposed second wind auction for lease areas identified on the Gulf of Mexico OCS (GOMW-2), but no responses were received. Interested Tribes were also invited to attend an Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting held on April 18, 2024. Due to a lack of competitive interest, GOMW-2 was ultimately canceled.

As a result of the first Gulf of Mexico Wind Action (GOMW-1), one lease was awarded to RWE Offshore US Gulf, LLC (RWE). RWE submitted their Native American Tribal Communication Plan to BOEM for review on August 31, 2024. It is under review by BOEM staff. Once implemented, this will set the parameters for the lessee's engagements with Tribes, in addition to BOEM's government-to-government consultation.

- GOMW-1: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/gulf-mexico-wind-auction-1>
- GOMW-2: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/gulf-mexico-wind-auction-2>

Pacific Region

During FY 2024, BOEM Pacific Region continued to engage with Tribes in support of existing offshore wind leases off the coast of California and offshore wind lease planning activities off the coast of Oregon. Formal and informal consultation and listening sessions occurred for the following activities:

- California Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement: [California Offshore Wind Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#)
- Oregon Wind Energy Leasing: Brookings and Coos Bay Wind Energy Areas: [Oregon Activities | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#)

Additionally, BOEM Pacific Region began outreach to Native Hawaiian Communities and Pacific Islander Communities in support of wind energy planning offshore Hawai'i and Guam.

- Hawai'i Planning Activities: [Hawai'i Activities | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](#)

- Guam Planning Activities: [Guam Activities | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(boem.gov\)](https://www.boem.gov/guam)

Alaska Region

During FY 2024, BOEM Alaska Region focused efforts on providing information to Tribes and ANCSA Corporations to determine their interest in potential renewable energy projects in the federal waters of the Cook Inlet. BOEM Alaska Region continues to build upon long-standing trust and respect between BOEM, Tribes, ANCSA Corporations, and Alaska Native communities through offering in-person meetings, consultations, and engagements on potential activities on the Alaska OCS.

Regulatory Activities

Carbon Sequestration Rule

BOEM and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) sent a joint letter to all federally recognized Tribes and ANCSA corporations inviting consultation on the proposed Carbon Sequestration rulemaking in May 2023. On February 6, 2024, BOEM and BSEE hosted a joint consultation with Blue Lake Rancheria on the Carbon Sequestration rulemaking effort.

Risk Management and Financial Assurance for OCS Lease and Grant Obligations Final Rule

On March 31, 2023, BOEM sent a letter to all federally recognized Tribes and ANCSA Corporations inviting each to consult on the Risk Management and Financial Assurance for OCS Lease and Grant Obligations Rule. This letter was sent before the publication of the proposed rule.

One request for consultation was received from the Red Willow/Southern Ute Tribe. BOEM held this initial consultation in June 2023 and a follow-up meeting prior to the publication of the final rule on April 19, 2024.

Renewal Energy Modernization Final Rule

In FY 2024, BOEM's engagements on the Renewable Energy Modernization Rule included government-to-government consultations with two Tribes, a webinar conducted jointly with BSEE, and staff-level briefings with Tribal Nations. The regulatory amendments to the Department of the Interior's (DOI) renewable energy regulations went into effect on July 15, 2024.

Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources Final Rule

On March 3, 2023, BOEM sent a letter to all federally recognized Tribes and ANCSA Corporations, inviting each to consult on the Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources Rule. This letter was sent before the publication of the proposed rule. Only one request for

consultation was received from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. BOEM held this consultation prior to publication of the final rule on March 14, 2024.

Conventional Energy

In FY 2024, BOEM continued to coordinate and consult with Tribal Nations regarding conventional energy development in the Gulf of Mexico Region. BOEM sent a letter to interested Tribes on April 15, 2024, to initiate Section 106 consultation associated with a draft programmatic environmental impact statement for lease sales proposed for the 2024–2029 National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. As part of this consultation, BOEM informed Tribes how these lease sales may impact historic properties and described the efforts to avoid and minimize any effects. This resulted in a determination that there would be no adverse effects to historic properties. BOEM invited the Tribes to comment on that determination, and no comments were received.

BOEM’s Pacific Region participated in a virtual consultation with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and BSEE regarding decommissioning activities on the Pacific OCS.

Environmental Studies

In FY 2024, BOEM continued to invite the participation of Tribes and Indigenous communities on environmental studies, including the following:

- West Coast Tribal Cultural Landscapes ([PC-21-01](#)): This 4-year interagency effort, awarded to the Udall Foundation’s National Center on Environmental Conflict Resolution, collaborates with interested West Coast Tribes to proactively identify areas of Tribal significance that need to be considered during the planning and development of offshore energy activities.
- Ancient Landforms Offshore Washington ([PC-22-05](#)): This 4-year cooperative effort, awarded to Oregon State University, includes direct involvement with the Quinault Indian Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office. The effort fills an existing data gap in BOEM’s regional model of submerged paleo-landforms off the West Coast by integrating industry-standard geophysical survey data with Indigenous knowledge and oral histories.
- Maritime Heritage of Guam and Northern Mariana Islands ([PC-22-07b](#)): This 4-year cooperative effort, awarded to East Carolina University, will collaborate with Pacific Islander Communities to develop engagement guidance on offshore wind activities and proactively identify areas of significance that need to be considered during the planning and development of offshore energy activities.
- The Gulf of Mexico Regional Office continues to implement the study titled, *Reevaluating BOEM’s Guidelines for Identifying Submerged Pre-Contact Archaeological Sites in the Gulf of Mexico* ([GM-22-05](#)). Through a cooperative agreement with Florida State University, this study will integrate Tribal communities into all phases of research through annual workshops, training, and fieldwork opportunities. The study will provide BOEM with updated geodatabases, iterative

models for site discovery, and feedback on Tribal priorities for site discovery and mitigation. The research will also provide the public with new geodatabases of archaeological site potentials and will increase Tribal capacity for managing offshore pre-contact cultural heritage. cultural heritage.

- The Gulf of Mexico Regional Office continues to implement the study titled *Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge of Vulnerable Coastal Communities* ([GM-23-04](#)). This study analyzes how the loss of archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties due to coastal land loss and nearshore development activities affects coastal communities in the Gulf of Mexico. BOEM is working proactively with coastal communities and Tribes to understand their perspectives about submerging and submerged archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties. The study examines the preferences of coastal communities and Tribes for how State and Federal agencies should manage, document, and mitigate potential impacts to these resources.

2. List of Tribal Nations, ANCSA Corporations, and Representatives of the Native Hawaiian Community Consulted.

Atlantic Region

BOEM invited 30 Tribal Nations to consult on Atlantic Region actions.

- Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Catawba Nation
- Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Eastern Division
- Delaware Nation
- Delaware Tribe of Indians
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
- Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
- Mi'kmaq Nation
- Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut
- Monacan Indian Nation
- Nansemond Indian Nation
- Narragansett Indian Nation
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians, Indian Township Reservation
- Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians, Pleasant Point Reservation
- Penobscot Indian Nation
- Rappahannock Tribe

- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Shawnee Tribe
- Shinnecock Indian Nation
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Band of Mohican Indians
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
- Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

State-recognized Tribes, Tribal organizations, and non-Atlantic Tribes also participated in BOEM's national consultations and listening sessions. These include the following 23 Tribes and Tribal organizations.

- United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) and USET Sovereignty Protection Fund
- The Massachusetts Wampanoag Tribe of Chappaquiddick
- Schaghticoke Tribal Nation
- Unkechaug Nation
- The Golden Hill Paugussett
- Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation
- Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation
- Nanticoke Indian Association
- Lenape Tribe of Delaware
- Powhatan Renape Nation
- Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation
- Ramapough Mountain Indians
- Cheroenhaka Nottoway Indian Tribe
- Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe
- Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
- Meherrin Indian Tribe
- Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia
- Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation
- Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia
- The Coharie Tribe
- The Mattaponi Nation
- The Sappony
- Waccamaw Siouan Tribe

Gulf of Mexico Region

BOEM invited 22 Tribal Nations to consult on Gulf of Mexico Region actions.

- Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town

- Atakapa-Ishak Nation
- Caddo Nation
- Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Comanche Nation
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
- Kickapoo Tribe of Texas
- Kiowa Indian Tribe
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Poarch Band of Creeks
- Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Shawnee Tribe
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Tunica Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

State-recognized Tribes (13) also participated in BOEM's consultations and listening sessions.

- Adai Caddo Indians of Louisiana
- Bayou Lafourche Band of BCCM
- Biloxi-Chitimacha Choctaw of Louisiana
- Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb
- Clifton Choctaw Tribe of Louisiana
- Four Winds Cherokee
- Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of BCCM
- Jean Charles Choctaw Nation
- Louisiana Band of Choctaw
- Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana
- Pointe au Chien Tribe
- The Atakapa-Ishak Nation of Southwest Louisiana
- United Houma Nation

Pacific Region

BOEM invited 82 Tribal Nations to consult on Pacific Region actions.

California

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

- Barona Band of Mission Indians
- Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria
- Big Lagoon Rancheria
- Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
- Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Blue Lake Rancheria
- Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria
- Cahuilla Band of Indians
- Campo Kumeyaay Nation
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria
- Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
- Elem Indian Colony
- Elk Valley Rancheria, California
- Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Federated Tribes of Graton Rancheria
- Fort Bidwell Indian Community
- Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki Indians
- Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians
- Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Hopland Band of Pomo Indians
- Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel
- Inaja-Cosmit Band of Indians
- Jamul Indian Village
- Karuk Tribe
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria
- Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation (Cortina Rancheria)
- Koi Nation of Northern California
- La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
- La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians
- Lytton Rancheria
- Manchester Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians
- Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation
- Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians
- Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians
- Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians
- Pinoleville Pomo Nation

- Pitt River Tribe
- Potter Valley Tribe
- Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People (formerly Resighini Rancheria)
- Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
- Ramona Band of Cahuilla
- Redding Rancheria
- Redwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
- Robinson Rancheria
- Round Valley Indian Tribes
- San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
- Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
- Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation
- Tolowa Dee-ni` Nation
- Tule River Indian Tribe
- United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
- Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Wilton Rancheria
- Wiyot Tribe
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
- Yurok Tribe

Oregon

- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Klamath Tribe

Washington

- Hoh Tribe
- Makah Tribe

- Quinault Indian Nation
- Quileute Tribe
- Shoalwater Bay Tribe

Non-federally recognized Tribes in California also participated in BOEM’s consultations and listening sessions.

- Coastal Band of Chumash Nation
- Northern Chumash Tribal Council
- Salinan Tribe of Monterey and SLO Counties
- Xolon Salinan Tribe
- yak tity u tity u yak tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe

BOEM invited 180 Native Hawaiian Organizations, members of the Native Hawaiian Community, and local Native Hawaiians to observe, provide perspectives, and ask questions during the BOEM Hawai‘i Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting that took place on August 22, 2024. Participants included:

- Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi
- Kānaka Maoli / ‘Ōiwi
- Ke Kumu 'Ulu
- KUA
- Hui Kū Like Kākou
- The Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board
- The Ka Iwi Coalition
- The Keaukaha Community Association
- The Lāhui Foundation
- The Moloka'i Community Service Council
- The Waimānalo Neighborhood Board
- Waipā

Alaska Region

BOEM invited the following Alaska Native Tribes and ANCSA Corporations to consult on Pacific Region actions:

- Eklutna Native Village
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- Salamatof Tribe
- Knik Tribe
- Ninilchik Village
- Seldovia Village Tribe
- Native Village of Tyonek
- Native Village of Karluk

- Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak
- Native Village of Larsen Bay
- Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor
- Native Village of Ouzinkie
- Native Village of Port Lions
- Tangirnaq Native Village (formerly Lesnoi Village (aka Woody Island))
- Calista Corporation
- CIRI Corporation
- Doyon, Incorporated
- Koniaq Incorporated
- Nana Regional Corporation

3. List the Location of Each Consultation by City and State.

Atlantic Region

Within the Atlantic Region, BOEM held all Tribal consultations and informational meetings virtually, with the exception of:

- A presentation to the USET Board of Directors on October 24, 2023, in Oneida, NY.
- A meeting held with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe on March 26, 2024, at the Main Interior Building in Washington, D.C.
- A presentation to the USET Culture and Heritage Committee on March 27, 2024, in Arlington, VA.
- A meeting with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Historic Preservation Officer on April 18, 2024, in Mashantucket, CT.
- A meeting with the Passamaquoddy Tribe on August 2, 2024 in Indian Township, Maine.

Gulf of Mexico Region

BOEM held all Gulf of Mexico related Tribal consultations and informational meetings virtually.

Pacific Region

In the Pacific Region, BOEM typically defers to individual Tribes for in-person or virtual meetings. Whenever possible, in-person meetings are held at Council Chambers.

- Blue Lake Rancheria (with BSEE), virtual
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, virtual (with BOEM Director Elizabeth Klein)
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (with BOEM Director Elizabeth Klein), Florence, OR
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Grand Ronde, OR

- Coquille Indian Tribe, Hybrid (with BOEM Director Elizabeth Klein), North Bend, OR
- Coquille Indian Tribe, virtual
- Coquille Indian Tribe (with BOEM Director Elizabeth Klein), North Bend, OR
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Roseburg, OR
- Elk Valley Rancheria, California, virtual
- Elk Valley Rancheria, California, Crescent City, CA
- Karuk Tribe, virtual
- Makah Indian Tribe, Neah Bay, WA
- Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People (formerly Resighini Rancheria), virtual
- Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People (formerly Resighini Rancheria), Klamath, CA
- Quinault Indian Nation (with BOEM Director Elizabeth Klein), virtual
- Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe, virtual
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (with BSEE), virtual
- Yurok Tribe, with BOEM Director Klein, Klamath, CA
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Smith River, CA
- Yurok Tribe, virtual

Alaska Region

- Ninilchik Tribe Meeting with the Chief, Ninilchik, AK
- Tanana Chiefs Conference Meeting with senior representatives, Fairbanks, AK

4. Outcomes and Recommendations.

Atlantic Region

During FY 2024, Tribes continued to express interest in reviewing cultural resources-related reports as well as reviewing information related to marine mammals, the Renewable Energy Modernization Rule, and individual offshore wind projects that are either under review or are beginning construction. Tribes also continued to express concerns and opposition to the construction of offshore wind energy projects both on the OCS and the associated cabling and onshore construction to support these facilities. Six NHPA Section 106 Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) related to offshore wind projects were executed with Tribes as signatories. Within each of these agreements are mitigation measures tailored to meet the concerns of individual Tribes that participated in the Section 106 consultation process. MOAs were executed for the following projects:

- Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial Project (OCS-A 0483), MOA executed October 27, 2023
- Empire Wind (OCS-A 0512), MOA executed November 21, 2023
- New England Wind (OCS-A 0534), MOA executed March 1, 2024
- Sunrise Wind (OCS-A 0487), MOA executed March 24, 2024
- Atlantic Shores South (OCS-A 0499), MOA executed June 27, 2024
- US Wind/Maryland Offshore Wind (OCS-A 0490), MOA executed August 27, 2024

Gulf of Mexico Region

During consultation on Gulf of Mexico renewable energy activities, Tribes expressed interest in reviewing cultural resources-related reports, being notified when any cultural resource is inadvertently discovered, and being included in future NHPA Section 106 consultations. BOEM committed to sending Tribes any cultural resources-related reports and including the pertinent Tribes in future NHPA Section 106 consultations. Additionally, one Tribe expressed concerns regarding submerged paleo-landscapes, specifically the possible presence of ancestor-related archeological sites within those landscapes (especially burial resources) and how any proposed offshore energy project might affect those sites. BOEM will ensure this Tribe is included in any consultations on offshore renewable undertakings.

As described earlier in this report, BOEM consulted with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe via their affiliate, Red Willow Production Co., on the finalization of the Risk Management and Financial Assurance Rule. No specific issues were raised.

Pacific Region

During FY 2024, BOEM received letters from several Tribes expressing concerns and opposition to offshore wind off the west coast. Several of these Tribes (Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria; Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People, formerly Resighini Rancheria; Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe; and Yurok Tribe) passed resolutions formally requesting a pause in BOEM's offshore wind process until certain criteria are met, including a comprehensive environmental impact assessment, consent-based Tribal consultation, and assistance with capacity to adequately engage in the process.

In December 2023, BOEM hosted an inter-Tribal webinar to announce that BOEM would prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement ([PEIS](#)) to analyze potential impacts of development activities for the five offshore wind lease areas off California's central and north coast. The PEIS analyzes the impacts of development of floating offshore wind in five leased areas and proposes programmatic mitigation measures that could avoid or reduce impacts on the human and natural environment. BOEM invited government-to-government consultation with federally recognized Tribes and also encouraged Tribes to participate in the development of the PEIS as cooperating Tribal Nations. To help address capacity concerns, BOEM [contracted with a Native-owned business](#) to provide assistance to interested Tribes in reviewing and commenting on the PEIS.

In reference to lease planning activities offshore Oregon, BOEM published an [Area Identification Memorandum](#) (Area ID Memo) in February 2024 that documents the analysis and rationale used to develop recommendations for two final wind energy areas offshore and a [final sale notice](#) (FSN) in August 2024. The Area ID Memo summarizes engagement efforts, including Tribal consultations, throughout the planning period, which began in 2020. It also identifies concerns shared by Tribes and describes how BOEM addressed those concerns in its planning process. As stated in the Area ID Memo, many comments from Tribal Nations focused on potential impacts from project construction. The FSN documents the analysis and

rationale that BOEM used to develop recommendations for the Lease Areas to be included in the FSN for the Oregon offshore wind renewable energy lease sale on the OCS. The FSN includes lease stipulation requirements for lessees to develop a communications plan with Tribes to increase communication and accountability between lessees, Tribes, and BOEM. It also includes bidding credits for the development of community benefit agreements with potentially affected communities, including Tribes. While BOEM will continue to invite consultation with Tribes at each point in its decision process, these stipulations and credits are intended to provide additional opportunities for direct communications between Tribes and lessees, in addition to BOEM's regular consultation and engagement efforts. On September 27, 2024, BOEM postponed the scheduled sale due to lack of sufficient interest.

In June 2024, the BOEM Pacific Region invited federally recognized Tribes along the northern and central California coast to participate in a two-day BOEM Regional Tribal Working Group meeting to discuss potential future wind leasing offshore California to support the State's offshore wind goals. Invitations were sent to thirteen Tribes in late July to attend an in-person meeting in late October. BOEM remains committed to a process of meaningful dialogue with Tribal Nations that would identify potential viable wind energy areas that consider and minimize impacts to Tribes, multiple ocean uses, and the environment.

Alaska Region

Tribal Consultation with Tribes and ANCSA Corporations on potential renewable energy development in the region focused on general possibilities for the future. Tribes and ANCSA Corporations, and communities are still learning about new and unfolding efforts, technologies and products, and potential applications for an Arctic environment.

BOEM's Alaska Region, based upon numerous informal meetings, discussions, and exchanges, is committed to continued outreach and engagement throughout FY 2025 that will aid in distributing information and developing a better understanding of BOEM's renewable energy development process amongst Tribal partners.

5. Successes, Accomplishments, and Recommendations for Improvements

Bureau-wide

In the area of technical, financial, and other forms of support and partnership with Tribes, BOEM contributed to the following:

- BOEM issued an IDIQ contract to three Indian Small Business Economic Enterprises (American Indian Consulting Services, Chloeta, and Snow Eagle Group) to provide technical assistance to Tribes for specific tasks, such as the review of offshore wind Construction and Operations Plans (COPs), National Environmental Policy Act documents, and National Historic Preservation Act agreements. BOEM may issue up to \$1 million for all tasks for up to five years. Projects for which Task Orders have been issued under this IDIQ include: South Coast Wind, US Wind, and Beacon Wind COPs;

New York Bight and California Programmatic EISs; and the Oregon and Gulf of Maine Environmental Assessments.

- BOEM sponsored a booth at the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) Annual Meeting on the Ho-Chunk Reservation in Wisconsin in August 2024 and plans a similar engagement at the meeting to be held in Reno, Nevada.
- The Office of Environmental Programs (OEP) has continued engagement with the Shinnecock Indian Nation on a Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-funded 3D visualization tool for the submerged cultural and natural heritage in the vicinity of the Shinnecock Indian Nation. Part of this work will be accomplished through a series of contractor-facilitated scientific information exchange meetings between BOEM SMEs and Shinnecock experts to determine what cultural and natural data need to go into the tool.
- OEP continues to work closely with the Aquinnah and Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Nations, providing technical assistance under an FY 2022 awarded cooperative agreement that provides capacity to the Tribes so that they have the capabilities to manage and analyze the requisite environmental information supplied to them by offshore wind energy developers. Moreover, this agreement facilitates development of pro-active, best practices for the management of data and information concerning cultural and archaeological places important to both the Tribes, incorporates indigenous knowledge and language into a model depicting the preservation potential of submerged ancient cultural landforms and associated archaeological resources, and it facilitates work and collaboration with Tribal Nations to develop capacity for the active monitoring and documentation of offshore cultural and archaeological resources that may be impacted as a result of BOEM's approved activities.
- BOEM continued to facilitate cultural exchanges between Tribes. In September 2024, BOEM offered invitational travel for two traditional cultural practitioners from Katirvik Cultural Center Director in Nome, Alaska, to provide hands-on assistance with marine mammal traditional cultural items.
- OEP initiated a pilot approach to increase Tribal inclusion at conferences and trainings in partnership with BOEM's Environmental Studies Program and the Center for Marine Acoustics (CMA).
- Tribal STEM and youth engagement has increased since FY 2023 with a panel and booth at the Society for Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) conference in Portland, Oregon, October 2023. OEP began administering a cooperative agreement with the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) in May 2024. This education and workforce development program improves academic outcomes for Native Alaskan students, and it provides exposure to science and engineering careers through workshops and internships. OEP also sponsored a student from Saipan to attend the Native Youth Climate Adaptation Leadership Congress (NYCALC), and provided staff support for a BOEM-focused workshop at the NYCALC in June 2024.
- The Tribal Program is leading and participating in national and international Indigenous working groups. For example, the International Offshore Petroleum

Environmental Regulators (IOPER) initiated a working group called Consultations of Indigenous Peoples intended to improve offshore petroleum and carbon capture and storage regulator engagement and consultation with Indigenous Peoples. Program staff also engage on indigenous issues with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and DOI workgroups.

Internally, BOEM pursued new actions to improve consultation and engagement activities, and increase the knowledge and skills of staff to engage and consult with Tribes:

- BOEM staff sponsored, facilitated, and attended multiple training series during FY 2024. OEP facilitated two training series for BOEM staff on Effective Tribal Consultation. One series was hosted by the Udall Foundation's National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution and another series was hosted by Strongbow Strategies. Both trainings increased awareness of the many facets of the government-to-government relationship, including history, law, policy, sovereignty, protocol, consultation, collaboration, and communication skills. Additionally, the Tribal Liaison Officer and the Historic Preservation Officer conducted a training on the new Sacred Sites Best Practices Guide and made training materials available for all staff. Lastly, several members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) completed DOI's Tribal Co-Stewardship and Federal Public Lands Training held throughout the Nation.
- A letter to all federally recognized Tribes and ANCSA Corporations was emailed in January 2024 to invite consultation and comment on updates to BOEM's Tribal Consultation Policy. In September 2024, a second letter was sent to invite consultation and comment on BOEM's first-ever Tribal Nation and Indigenous Peoples Engagement Strategy. BOEM drafted the Strategy as a guiding framework and accountability aid to help fulfill the Bureau's trust responsibilities and commitment to meaningful and informed engagement with Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples. BOEM staff across all regions and programs will use this Strategy to ensure early and consistent outreach and engagement on BOEM activities with implications for Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples. Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI), Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and NANA Regional Corporation responded with interest to Consult.
- BOEM's Tribal Working Group (TWG) promotes collaboration and coordination across its regions and programs, exchanges information, guidance, and recommendations related to activities that may potentially impact Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples. In September 2024, the TWG enacted a charter to formalize the duties, membership, and frequency of meetings.

Atlantic Region

One of the challenges that BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs faced during FY 2024 was a vacant Tribal Liaison Coordinator position. Because of the volume of consultations that BOEM is involved with, BOEM recognized a need for additional personnel to aid in these consultations. During 2024, BOEM received approval to hire four Tribal Liaison Coordinators.

Three of these individuals were brought onboard during the last quarter of FY 2024, and the fourth individual will be onboard during the first quarter of FY 2025. All four of these positions are dedicated to Tribal affairs.

Gulf of Mexico Region

BOEM's Gulf of Mexico Regional Office continues to implement two significant studies that include direct Tribal participation and will allow the Region to make informed decisions and minimize impacts on resources important to Tribes.

Additionally, BOEM's Gulf of Mexico Office of the Regional Director continues to build relationships and expand contacts in order to include every Tribe in its consultations and proactively connect with each Tribe to build relationships *before* the consultation "process" begins. Examples during FY 2024 include the BOEM Gulf Community Liaison seeking and attending multiple inter-Tribal meetings and trainings:

- Bridging the Gap, Oklahoma City, April 2024
- NATHPO's Annual Conference, Baraboo, WI, August 2024
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs' Indian Law and Co-Stewardship Workshop, Bloomington, MN, August 2024

Pacific Region

To help address concerns raised by Tribes in the Pacific Region, BOEM continued an inter-agency agreement (PC-21-01) with the Udall Foundation's National Center on Environmental Conflict Resolution. This work with interested Tribes will develop cultural landscape assessments of areas of Tribal concern that could be impacted by offshore wind energy development. The cultural landscape approach recognizes that places and resources can have multiple meanings and levels of significance based on how people from different cultures, times, or backgrounds have interacted with the respective landscapes. BOEM is implementing this holistic approach to enhance future consultations and decision-making processes that take into consideration the importance of these areas to Tribes. A similar effort was launched in FY 2024 to work with the Pacific Islander Communities of Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

BOEM continued working with Oregon State University (OSU) and the Quinault Indian Nation's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (QIN THPO) to further refine the model for understanding and identifying submerged pre-contact landforms offshore the West Coast (PC-22-05). Submerged pre-contact landforms are areas that may have once been inhabited but now lie buried offshore due to sea-level inundation over the last 20,000 years. OSU and the QIN THPO submitted this study idea to BOEM, and BOEM awarded the contract in September 2022. QIN THPO is a sub-contractor and a key member of the research team. The goal is to create a better model of submerged paleo-landforms off the West Coast by integrating industry-standard geophysical survey data with indigenous knowledge through consultation with coastal Washington Tribes.

BOEM is working with Tribes along the California Central Coast to support a traditional cultural property nomination through a cooperative agreement with Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.

Alaska Region

BOEM expanded its outreach in the Alaska Region significantly in FY 2024, engaging with federally recognized Tribes and ANCSA Corporations, and hosting or otherwise attending more than a dozen meetings, conferences, and events related to renewable energy programs in the Alaska Region.

Much of the focus and effort for FY 2024 was on the Cook Inlet region—bringing together a broad group of Alaskans, including the Tribes, ANCSA Corporations, industry, local and regional governments, selected federal and state agencies, and others. The Region has expanded its outreach through pertinent conferences, conventions, and activities that provide forums for discussion about the future of renewable energy for Alaska.