



Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management

BOEM GOM Area Identification

Tershara Matthews

*Chief, Emerging Programs, Gulf of Mexico
Regional Office*



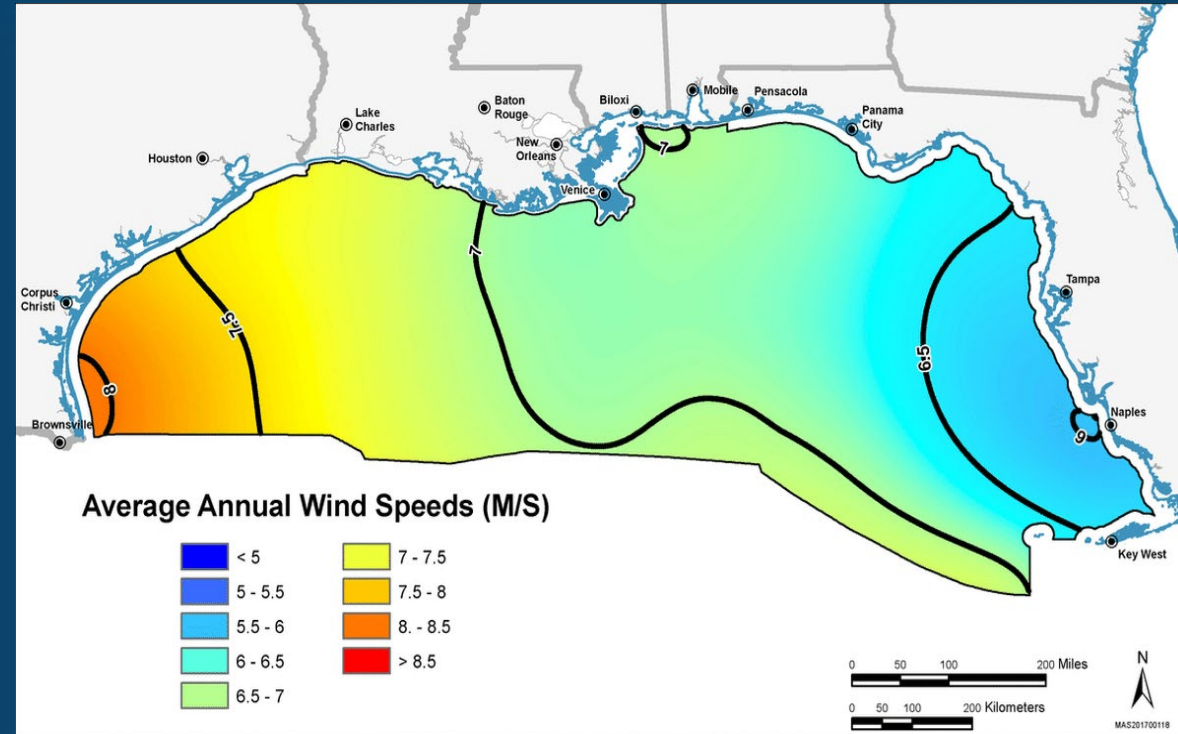
Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Renewable Energy

Agenda

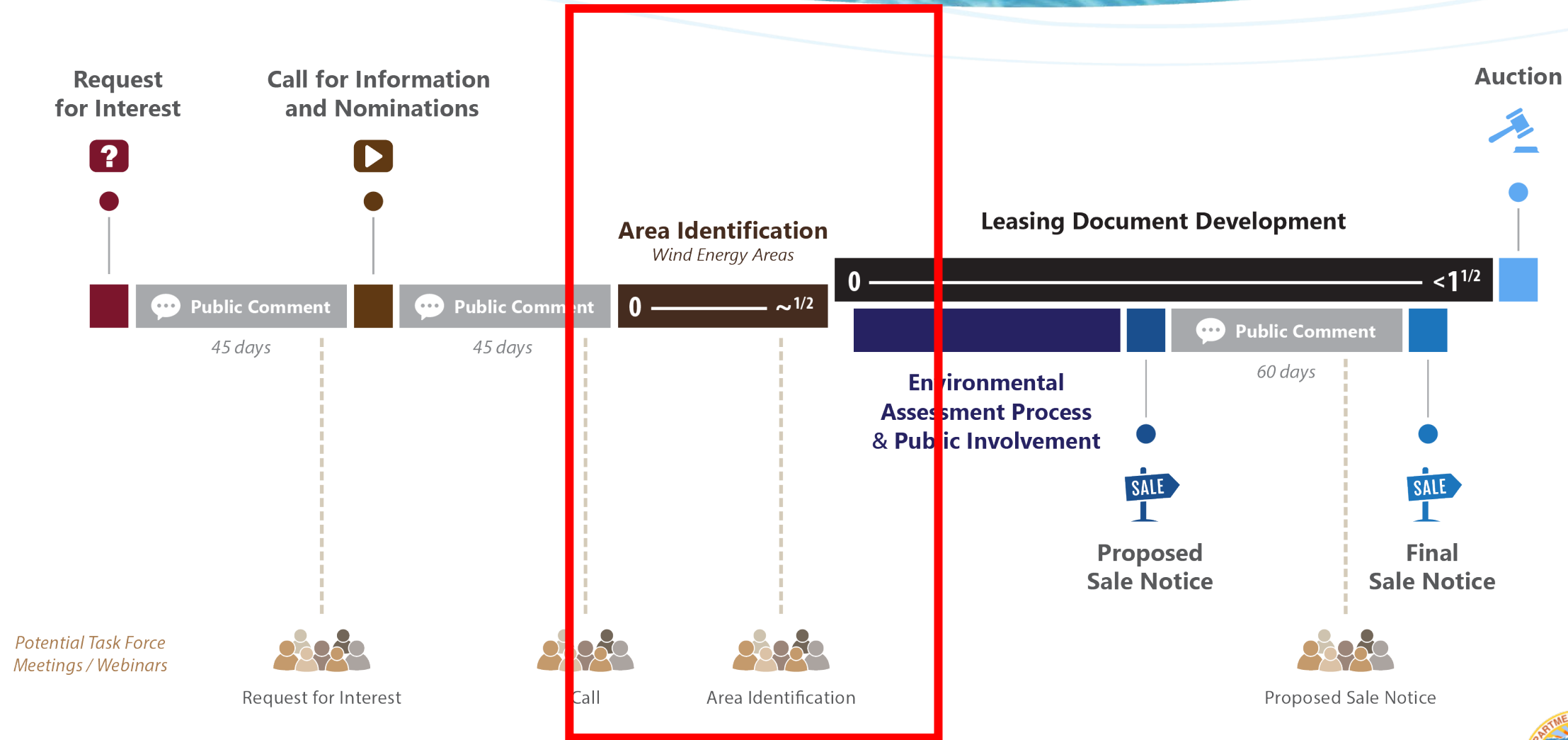
- **Background**
- **Renewable Leasing Process**
- **Next Steps**

Gulf of Mexico Renewable Energy

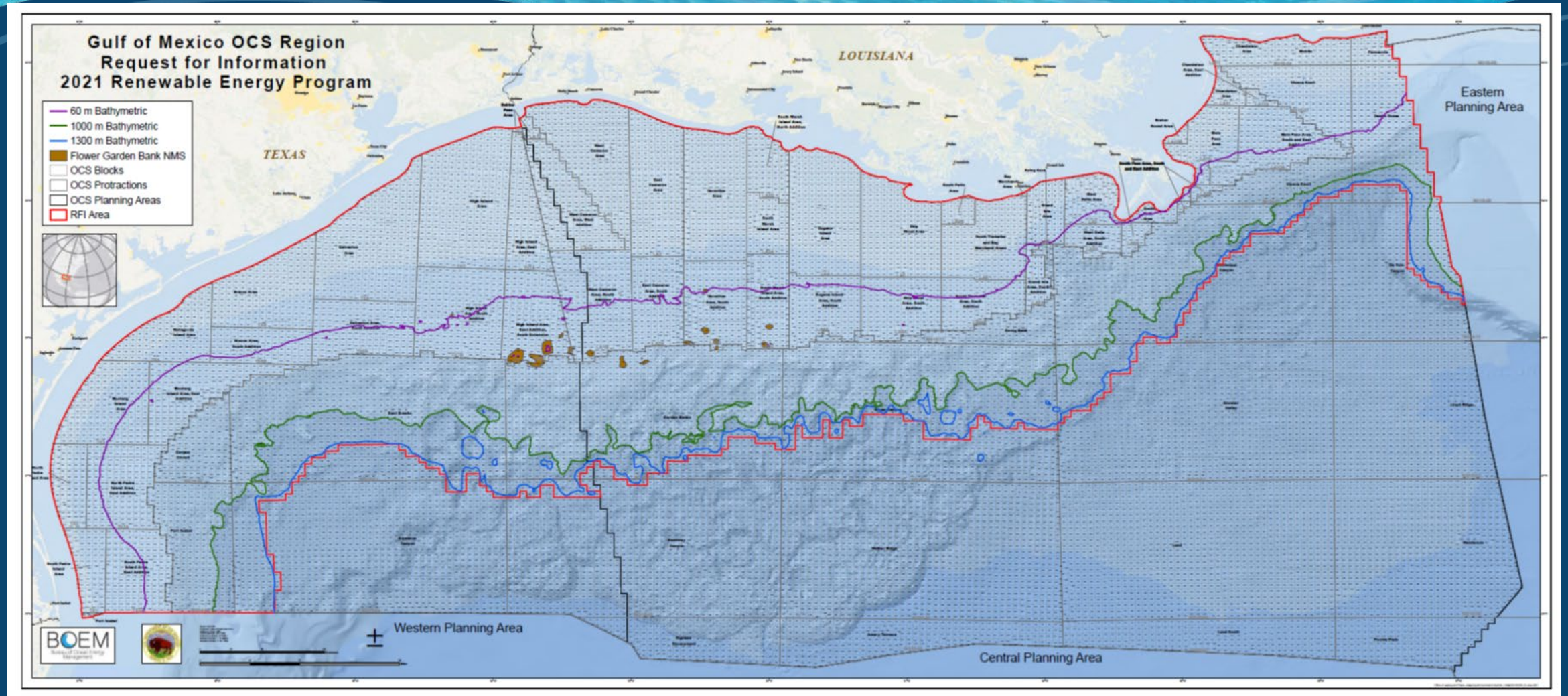
- Louisiana Governor Edwards requested a Task Force on October 26, 2020.
- December 2020, Gulf of Mexico Region responded to the LA Task Force Request Letter with a region-based Task Force approach. The inaugural GOM Regional Task Force Meeting was held on June 15, 2021.
- Conducting outreach and engagement to collect data and information.
- Advantages: Proximity to oil and gas supply chain – leverage existing capabilities
- Challenges: Hurricanes – major hurricanes could increase turbine and substructure costs



Renewable Energy Process: Focus on Pre-Lease Activities



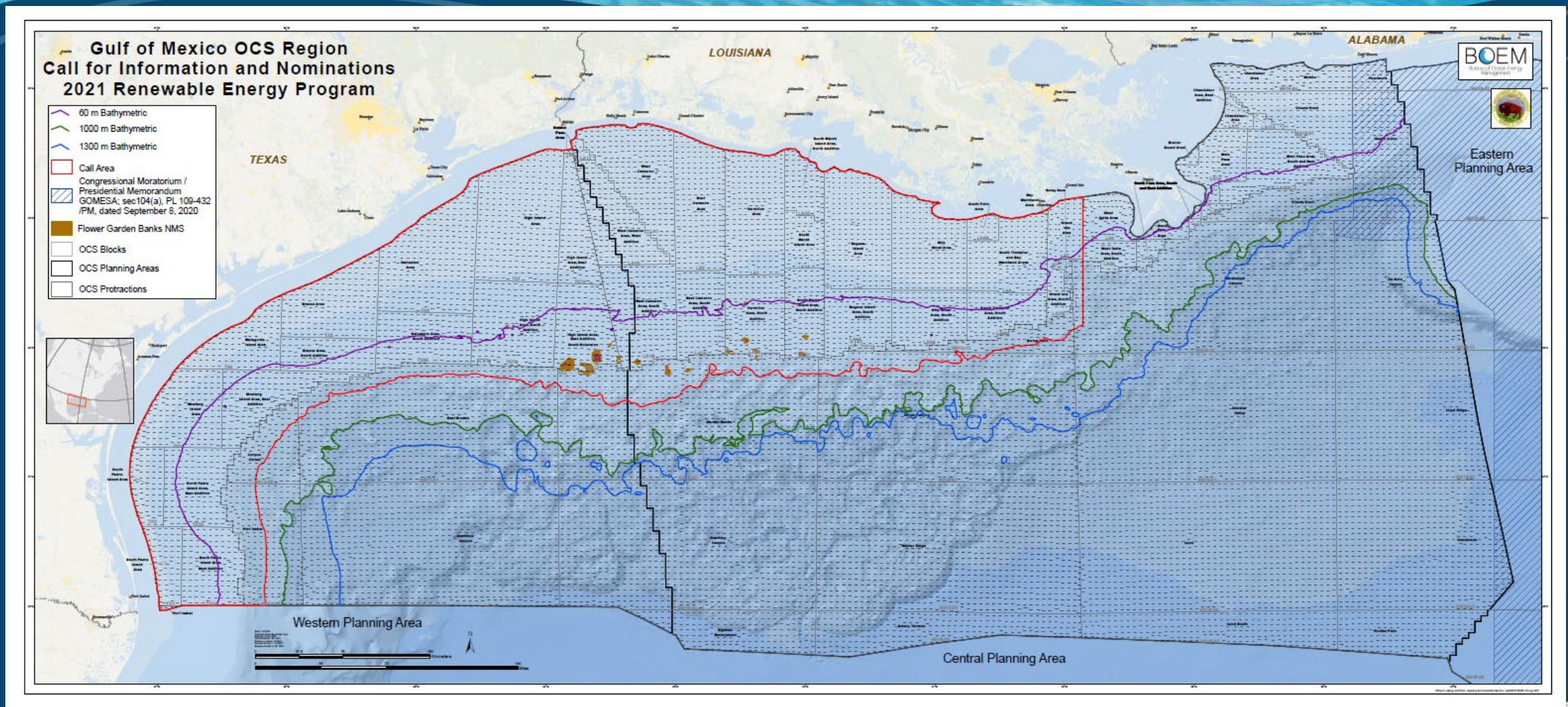
Request for Interest (RFI) Area



RFI Comment Summary

Stakeholder Comments	Number of comments
Private Citizens	10
State Agencies (LA)	2
Federal Agencies	2
Universities	1
Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)	14
Industry	10
Total Comments	39

Call for Information Area



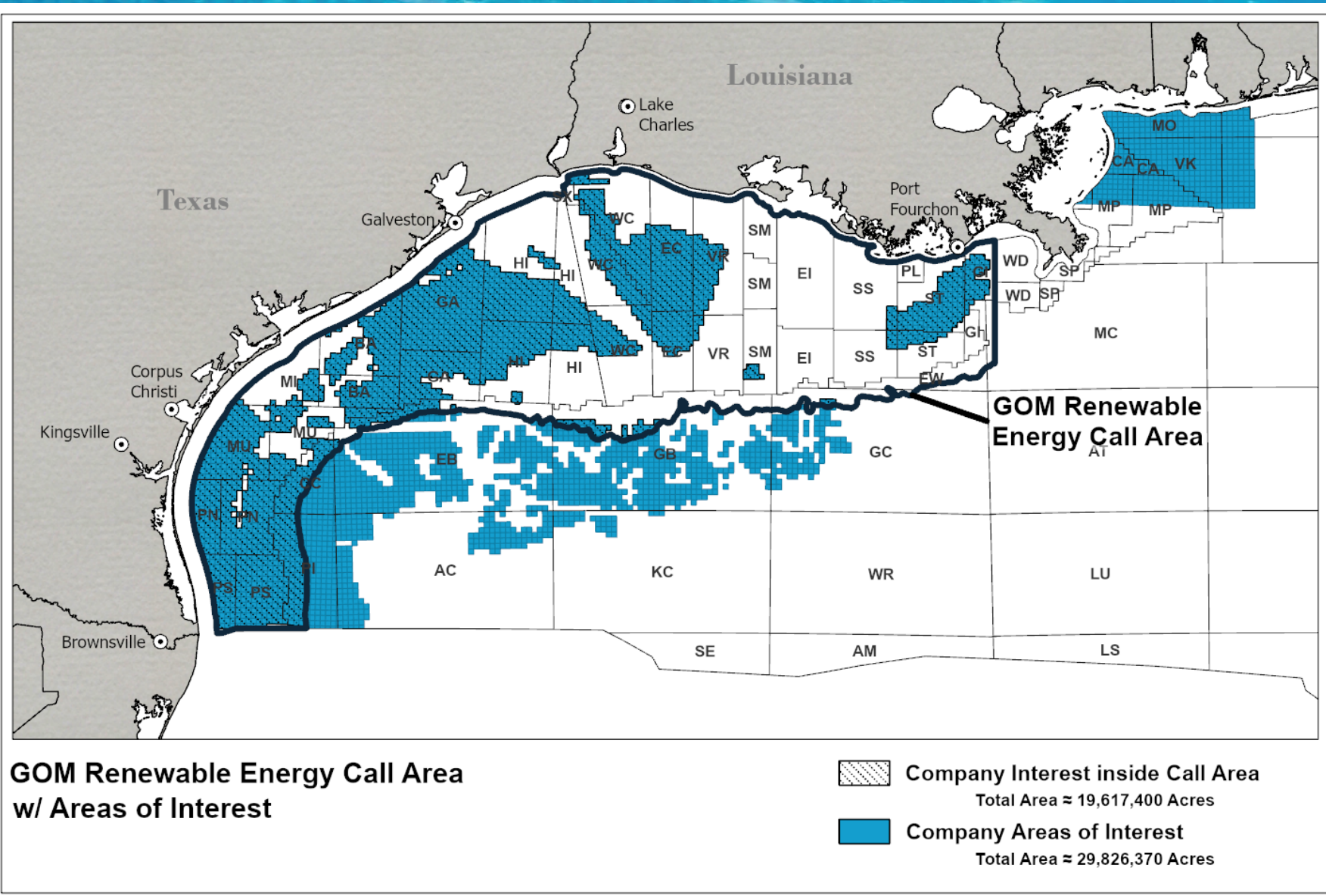
Call Comment Summary

Stakeholder Comments	Number of comments
Private Citizens	10
State Agencies	1
Federal Agencies	5
Universities	0
Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)	16
Industry	8
Total Comments	40

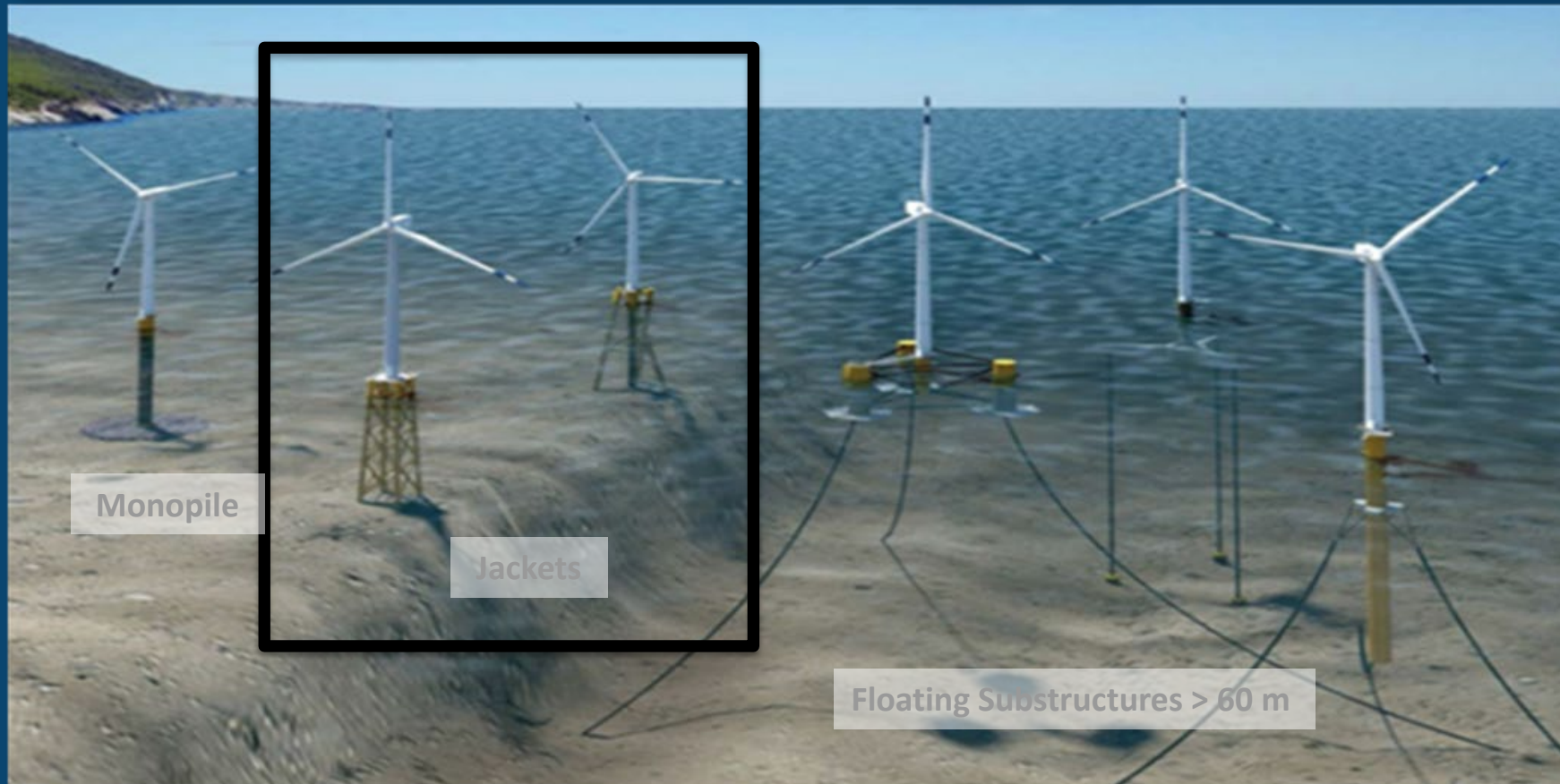
Some Major Comments Received on the Call for Information

- Request for 20 nm Coastline Buffer for Migratory Birds
- Request for 20 nm Coastline Buffer for Menhaden Fisheries for flyovers
- Protection for the Significant Sediment Resource Areas (SSRAs)
- Request for 100-400 m Buffer for Rice's Whale
- Request for exclusion of high-moderate high shrimping areas
- Request for 2 nm buffer for navigation fairways
- Removal of areas located near low-altitude training areas for DoD

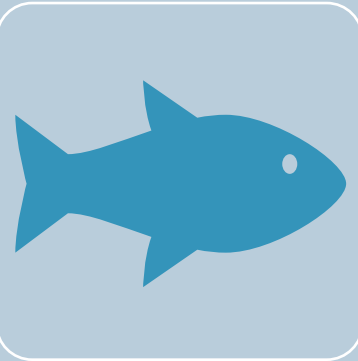
Companies' Areas of Interest



Offshore Wind Turbine Structures



Stakeholder Engagement Meetings



Fishery Meetings
23 Informational Meetings
3 Planned Feedback Meetings
Fisheries Summit



Industry Meetings
21 Held Meetings
OOC Webinar
Individual Company Meetings
OTC Conference



State Agency Meetings
14 Meetings
Introductory State Meetings
Monthly Meetings with LA
Task Force Meeting in February 2022



Migratory Bird Coordination Meetings
10 Meetings
Formed a Collaboration Team with FWS

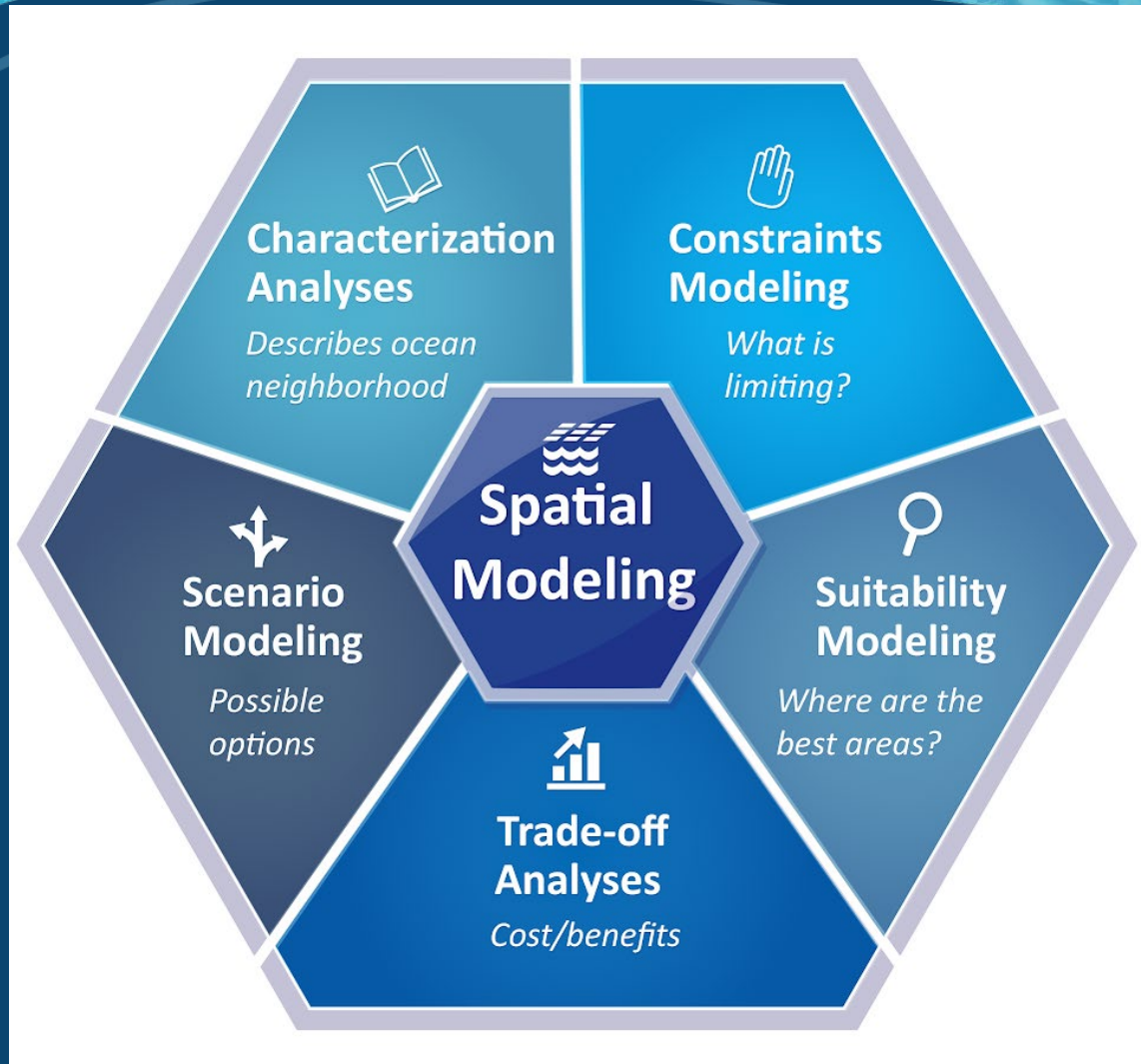
Stakeholder Engagement Milestones

Stakeholder Engagement	Date
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	March 17, 2021
NOAA	April 6, 2021
DoD	April 9, 2021
The Business Network for Offshore Wind	April 22, 2021
State of Mississippi	April 2021
The Business Network for Offshore Wind	May 6, 2021
OOC Wind Workshop	May 10, 2021
GOM Fishery Management Council	May 26, 2021
Tribal Informational Meeting	June 10, 2021
BOEM GOM Task Force Meeting	June 15, 2021
LA Wind Week	June 21-25, 2021
Gulf of Mexico Alliance Offshore Wind Webinar	June 30, 2021
LA Oyster Task Force Meeting	July 20, 2021
LA Crab Task Force Meeting	August 3, 2021
LA Shrimp Task Force Meeting	August 4, 2021
GOM Fishery Management Council	August 25, 2021

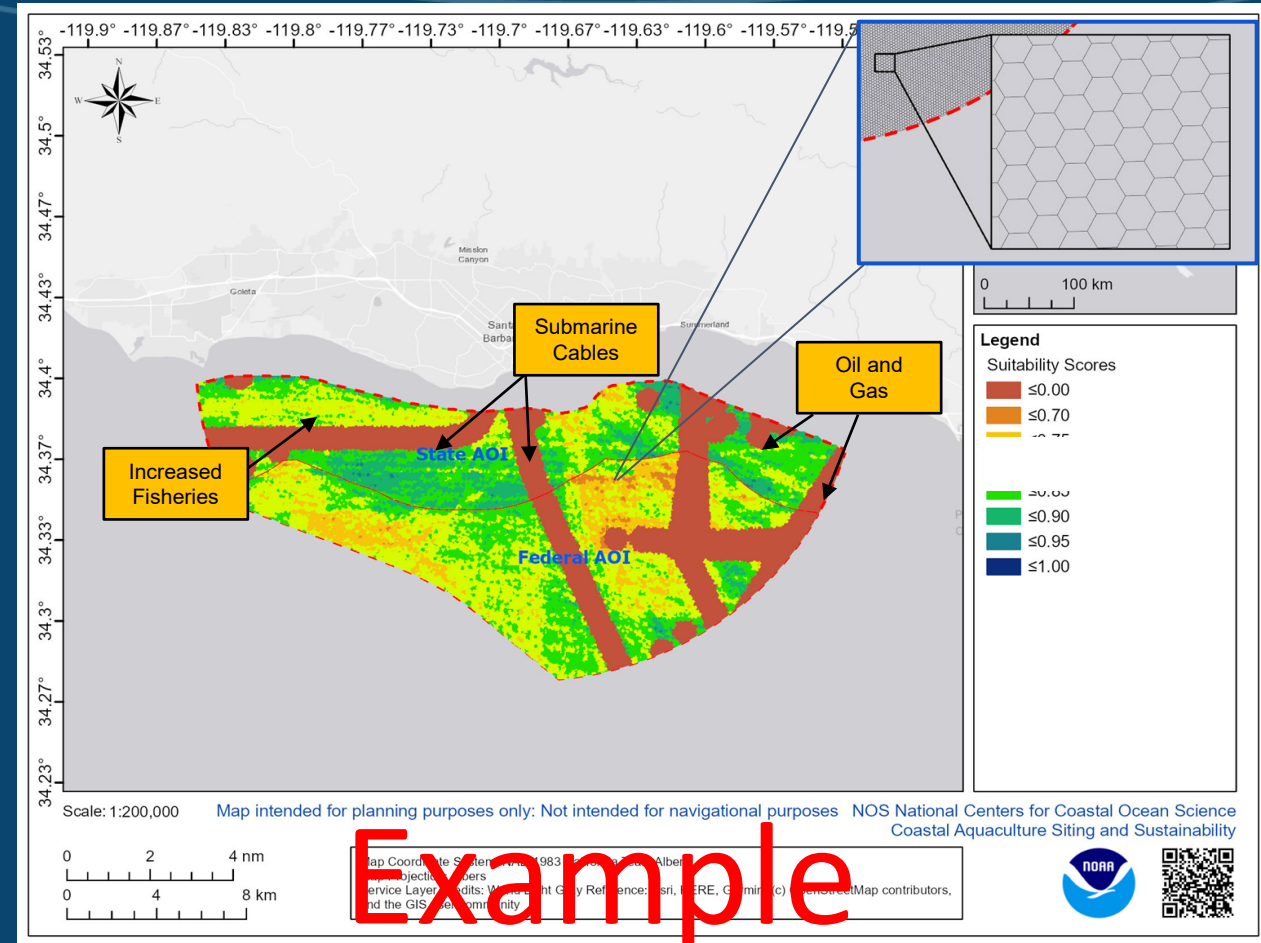
Stakeholder Engagement	Date
Reef Fish Stakeholders' Alliance	September 10, 2021
NOAA-NMFS	September 24, 2021
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	October 20, 2021
Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute (COPRI)	October 28, 2021
Shrimp Advisory Panel	December 8, 2021
Fisheries Mitigation Workshop	December 15, 2021
BOEM's Fisheries Summit	January 19-20, 2022
GOM Fishery Management Council	January 24, 2022
BOEM GOM 2 nd Task Force Meeting	February 2, 2022
Professional Landmen's Association NO	February 23, 2022
LA Climate Task Force Meeting	March 9, 2022
TX GLO Meeting	March 14, 2022
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	March 16, 2022
Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council	April 6, 2022
Gulf of Mexico Conference (GOMCON)	April 25, 2022



Spatial Modeling



A **spatial suitability model** weights locations relative to each other based on a given criteria.



Example

****PRE-DECISIONAL AND DELIBERATIVE**

Spatial Planning - Deconflicting Model structure



Equally weighted submodels

****PRE-DECISIONAL AND DELIBERATIVE**

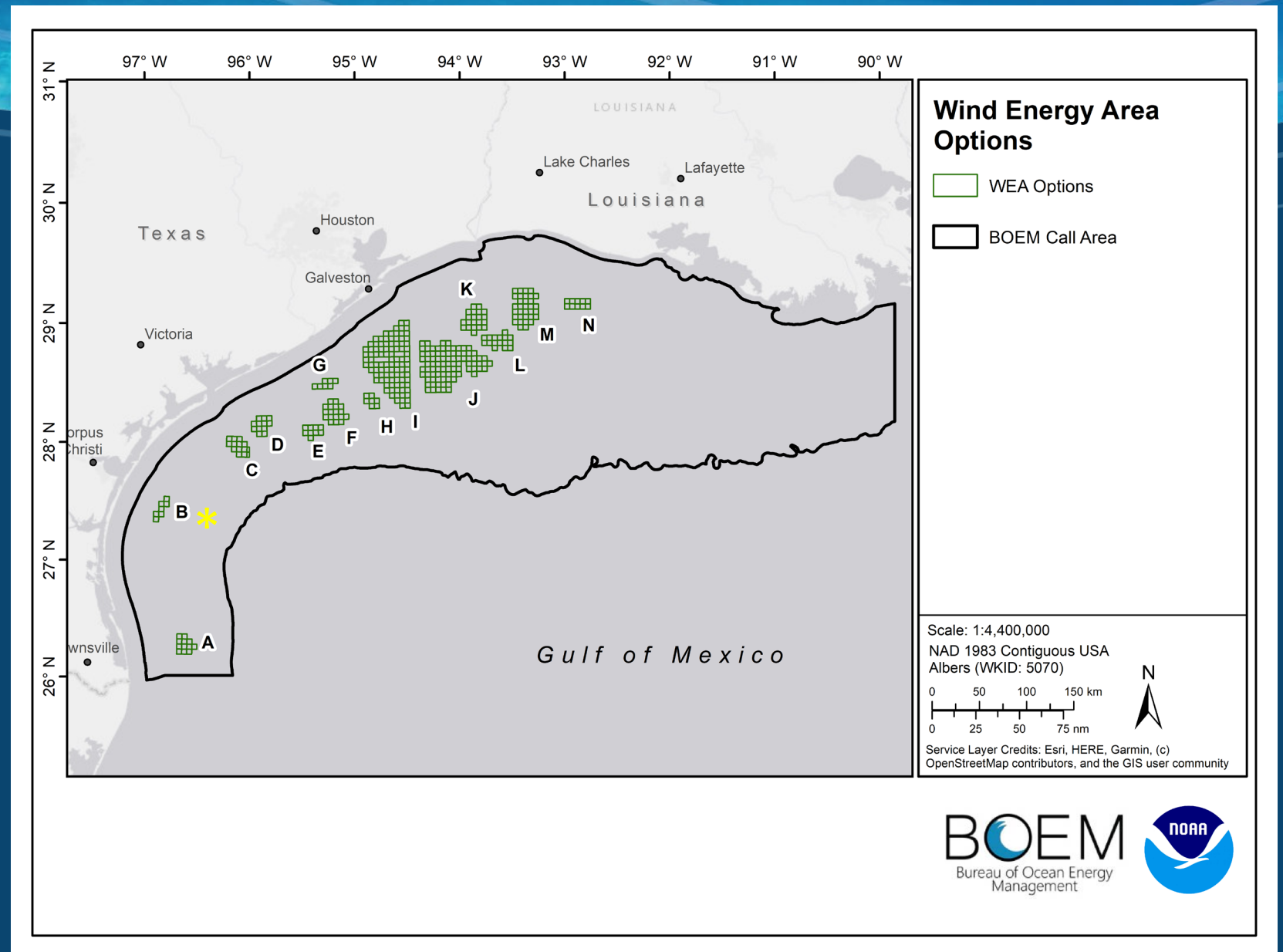
Deconflicting Process

13 deconflicted areas ranging from: 39,840 to 546,645 acres

2 million acres total

Top scoring clusters at the $p=.05$ significance level (approx. top 5%)

*Area B is no longer an option due a later DoD assessment requesting removal.



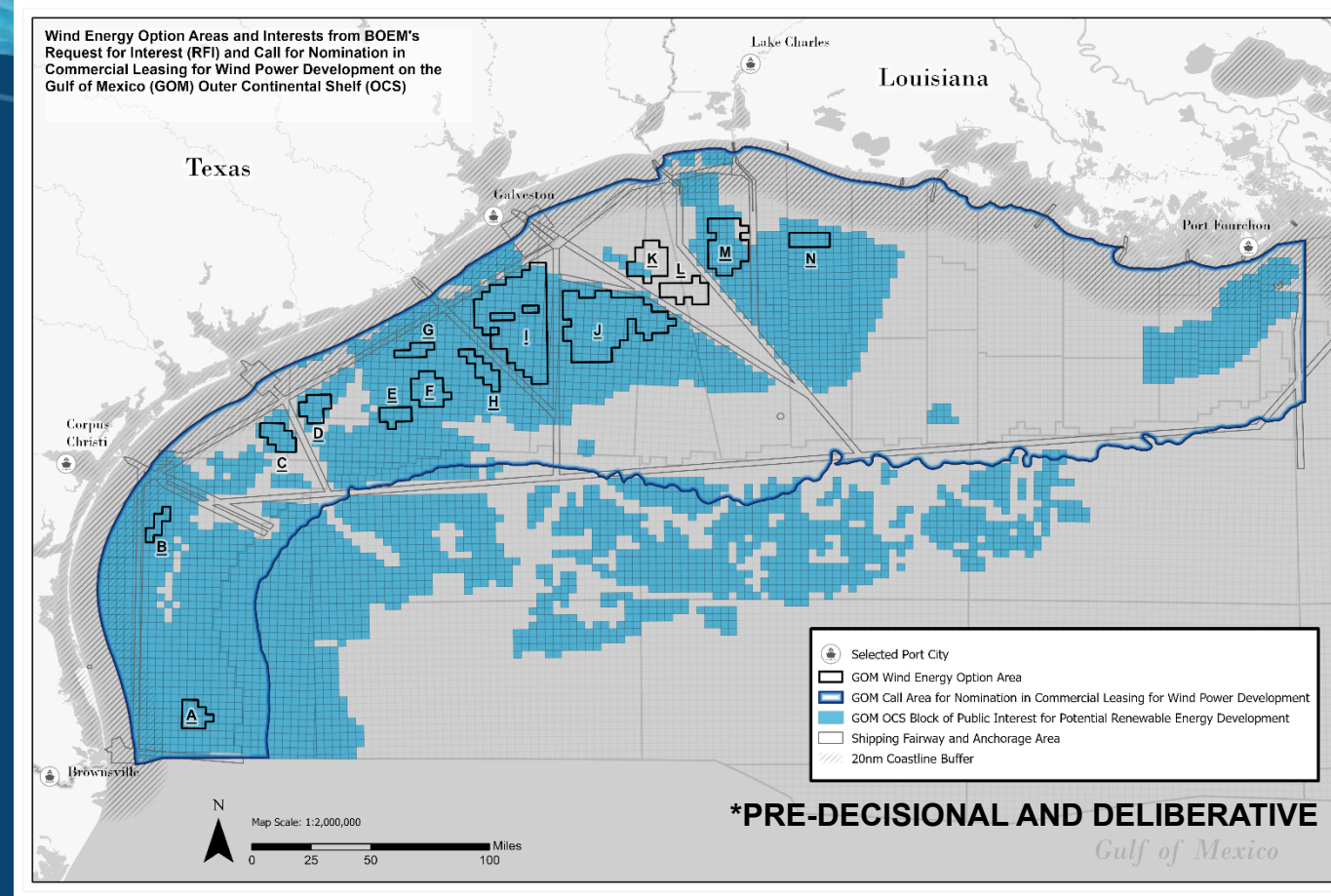
GOM Recommended WEAs

1. Galveston (Option I)
2. Lake Charles (Option M)

Rationale for WEA Recommendations:

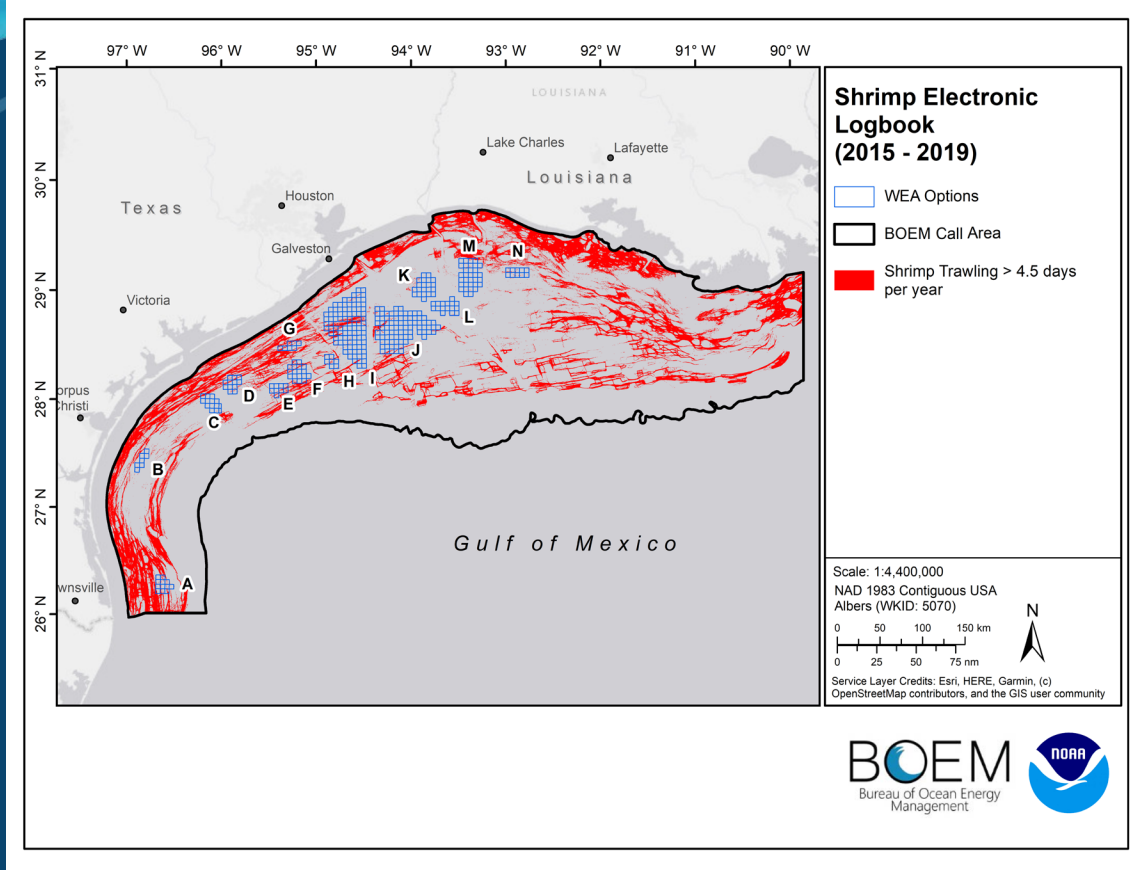
- Competitive Interest
- Less National Security Concerns
- Proximity to Points of Interconnection
- Proximity to Shore
- Less than 10% Moderate-High Shrimping
- Enough acreage to further divide into smaller lease sale areas

**PRE-DECISIONAL AND DELIBERATIVE

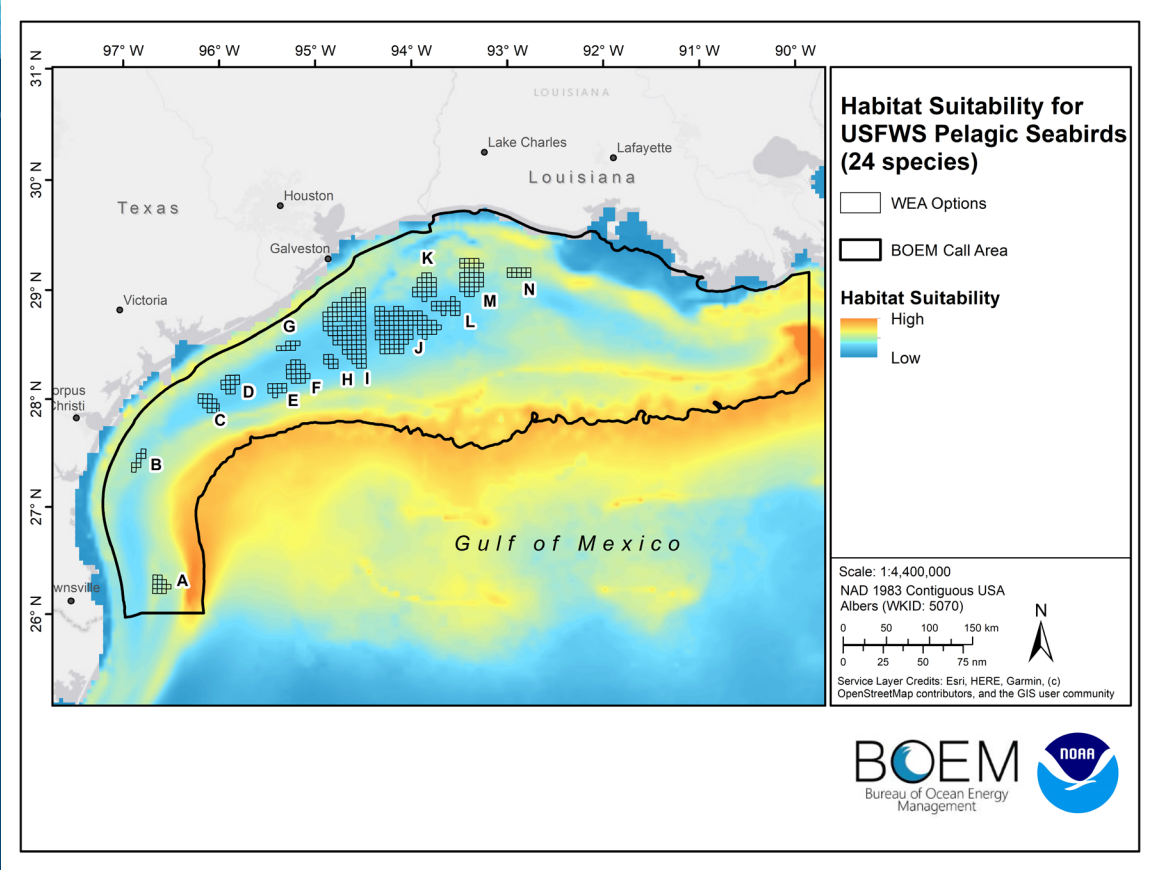


Competitive lease blocks in relation to the 13 deconflicted areas

Rationale for Recommended WEAs



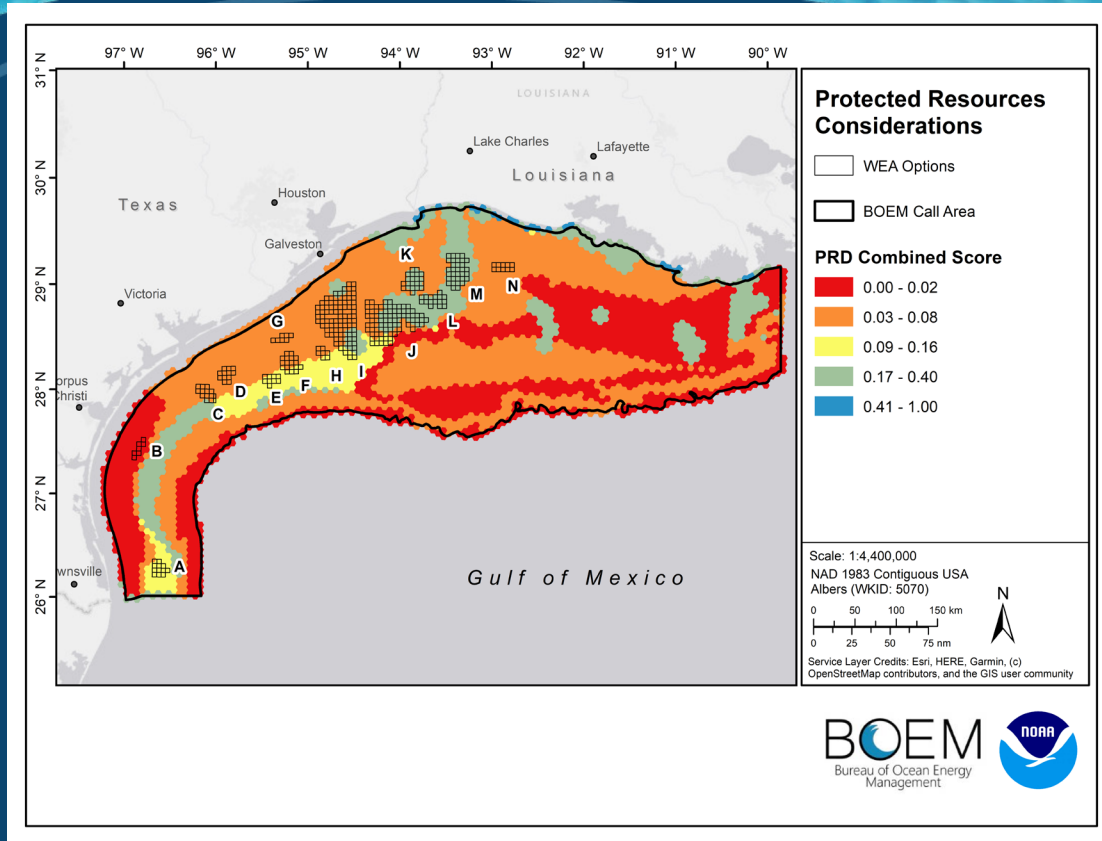
Shrimp Electronic Logbook (2015 - 2019)



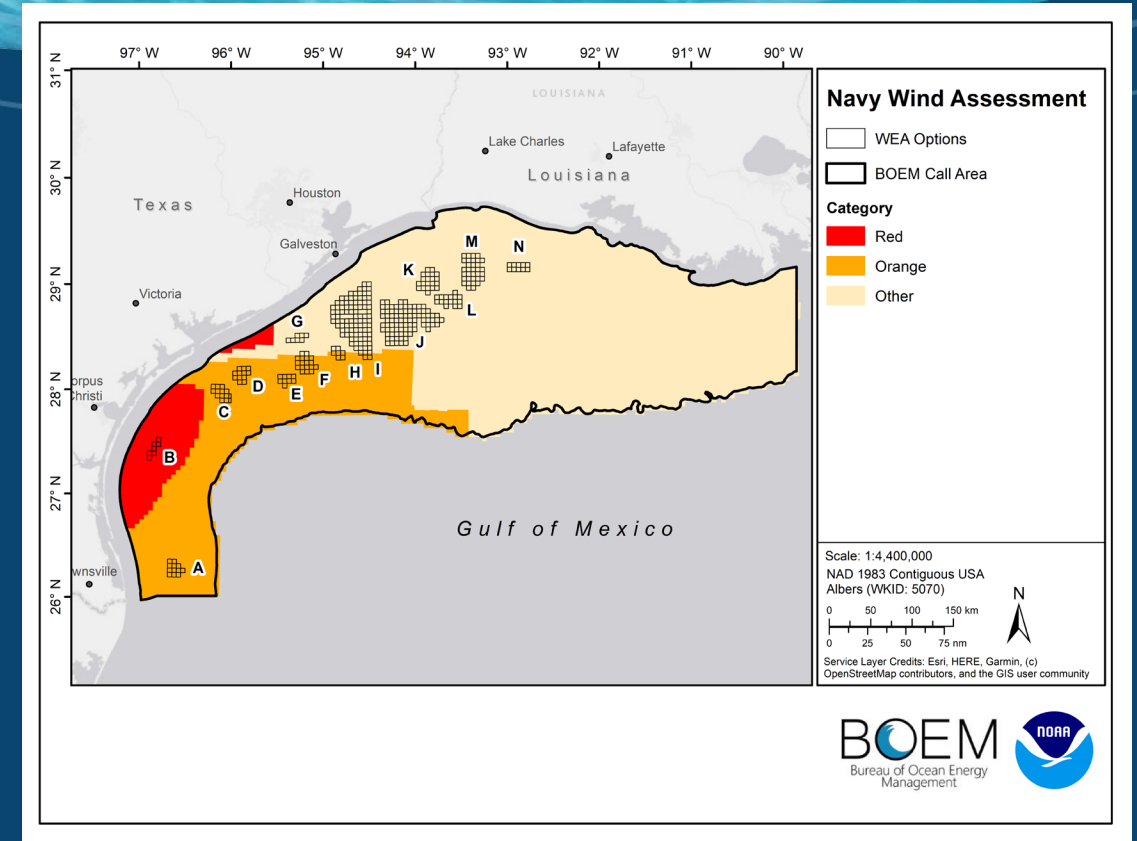
USFWS Pelagic Bird Considerations (24 species)



Rationale for Recommended WEAs part two

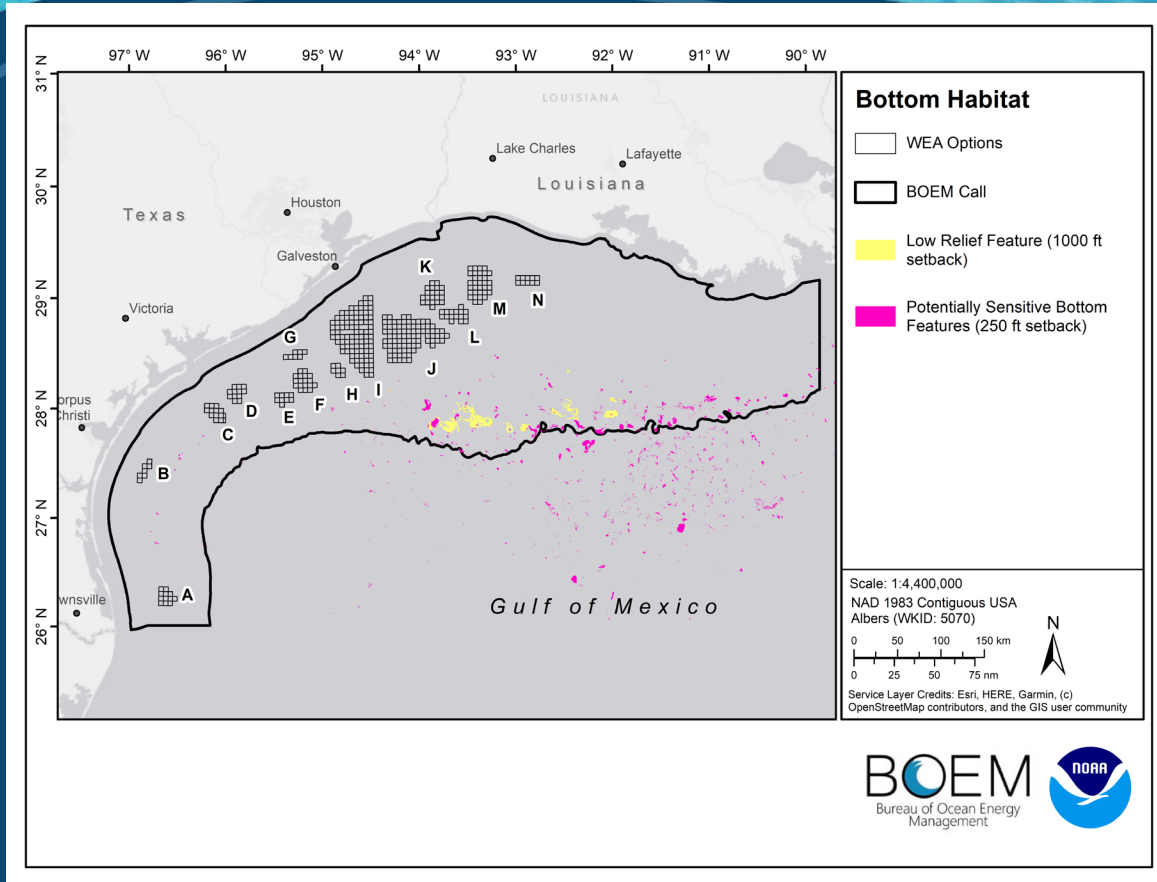


National Marine Fisheries Service Protected Resources combined composite data layer implemented within the relative suitability analysis.

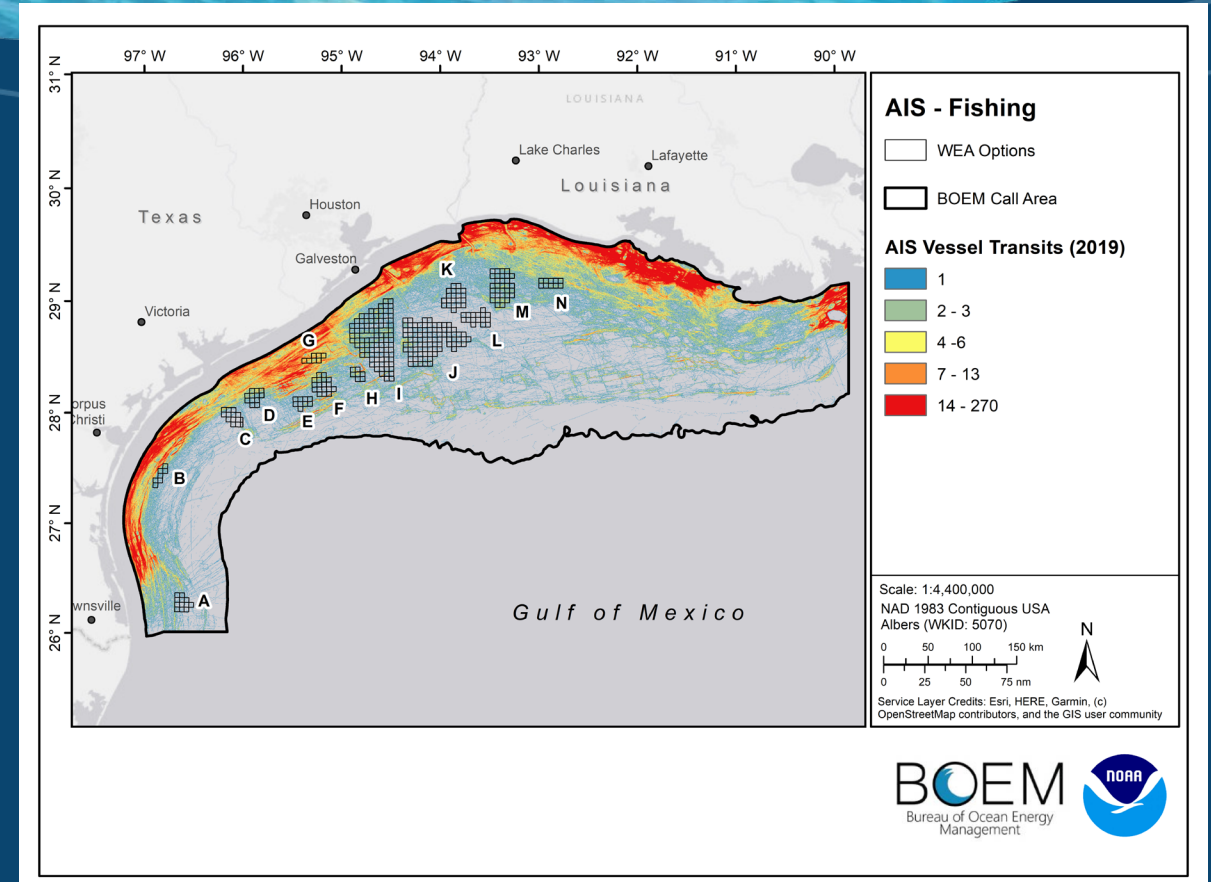


U.S. DoD Preliminary Assessment of the Call Area. The Red Areas denote Wind Exclusion Zones.

Rationale for Recommended WEAs part three



Bottom Habitat-Natural and Cultural Submodel



AIS Fishing Data-Industry and Operations Submodel

GOM Offshore Wind Energy Leasing Milestones

- **June 11, 2021:** Request for Interest (RFI) published in the Federal Register.
- **June 15, 2021:** BOEM GOM Inaugural Intergovernmental Renewable Task Force Meeting to present and gather information.
- **July 26, 2021:** Comment Period for the RFI Closed.
 - BOEM received 39 RFI comments.
- **November 1, 2021:** BOEM published the Call for Information and Nominations (Call) in the Federal Register. Docket Number BOEM-2021-0077
- **December 16, 2021:** Comment Period for the Call Closed.
 - BOEM received 40 Call comments.
- **January 19 and 20, 2022:** Fisheries Summit
- **February 2, 2022:** Held 2nd GOM Intergovernmental Renewable Task Force Meeting
- **July 20, 2022:** Draft Wind Energy Areas Published. Comment period closes August 19, 2022
- **July 20, 2022:** Draft Environmental Assessment Published. Comment period closes August 19, 2022



Future Action: **Next Few Months**

Next Steps

- Publish Area Identification (ID) memo
- Identify lease areas, auction format, and publish Proposed Sale Notice (PSN)
- Final EA
- Final Sale Notice (FSN)
- Proposed Lease Auction



**PRE-DECISIONAL AND DELIBERATIVE

Team Members

GOM Regional Director:

Michael Celata – Michael.celata@boem.gov

GOM Deputy Regional Director:

Laura Robbins– laura.robbins@boem.gov

Chief of Emerging Programs:

Tershara Matthews - Tershara.Matthews@boem.gov

Renewable Energy Coordinator:

Idrissa Boubé - idrissa.boubé@boem.gov

Fisheries Lead:

Mariana Steen - mariana.steen@boem.gov

Data Management:

Dana Inzinna - Dana.Inzinna@boem.gov

Communications:

John Filostrat - john.filostrat@boem.gov

Hillary McKey - Hillary.mckey@boem.gov

