BOEM Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Standing Committee on Offshore Wind and Fisheries

BOEM Pacific Regional Update

April 8, 2024

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presenting for Ingrid Biedron I Marine Biologist

Overview

- California Offshore Wind Leases
- California Offshore Wind Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
- Oregon Wind Energy Area Identification
- Environmental Studies

Credit: BOEM

CA Leases: Site Assessment and Site Characterization Survey Review

- BOEM held an offshore wind auction and issued five leases in California, two in northern California off Humboldt Bay, and three in Central California near Morro Bay.

Winners of the California Lease Areas, $757,100,000 in High Bids

LEASE AREA		
OCS-P0561	RWE Offshore Wind Holdings, LLC	$157,700,000
OCS-P0562	California North Floating LLC	$173,800,000
OCS-P0563	Equinor Wind US LLC	$130,000,000
OCS-P0564	Golden State Wind, LLC	$150,300,000
OCS-P0565	Invenergy California Offshore LLC	$145,300,000

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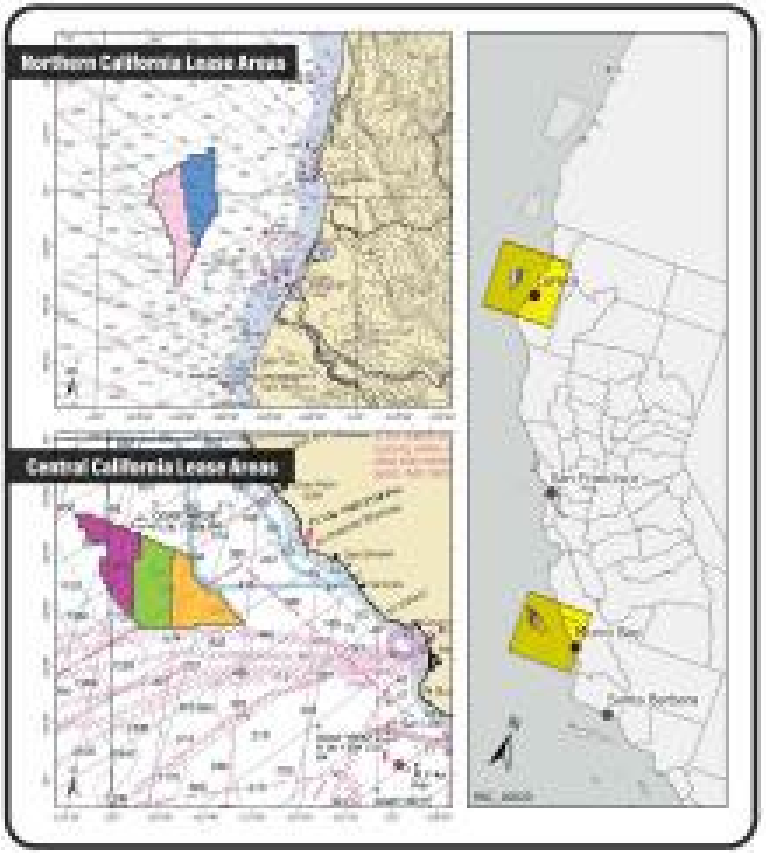
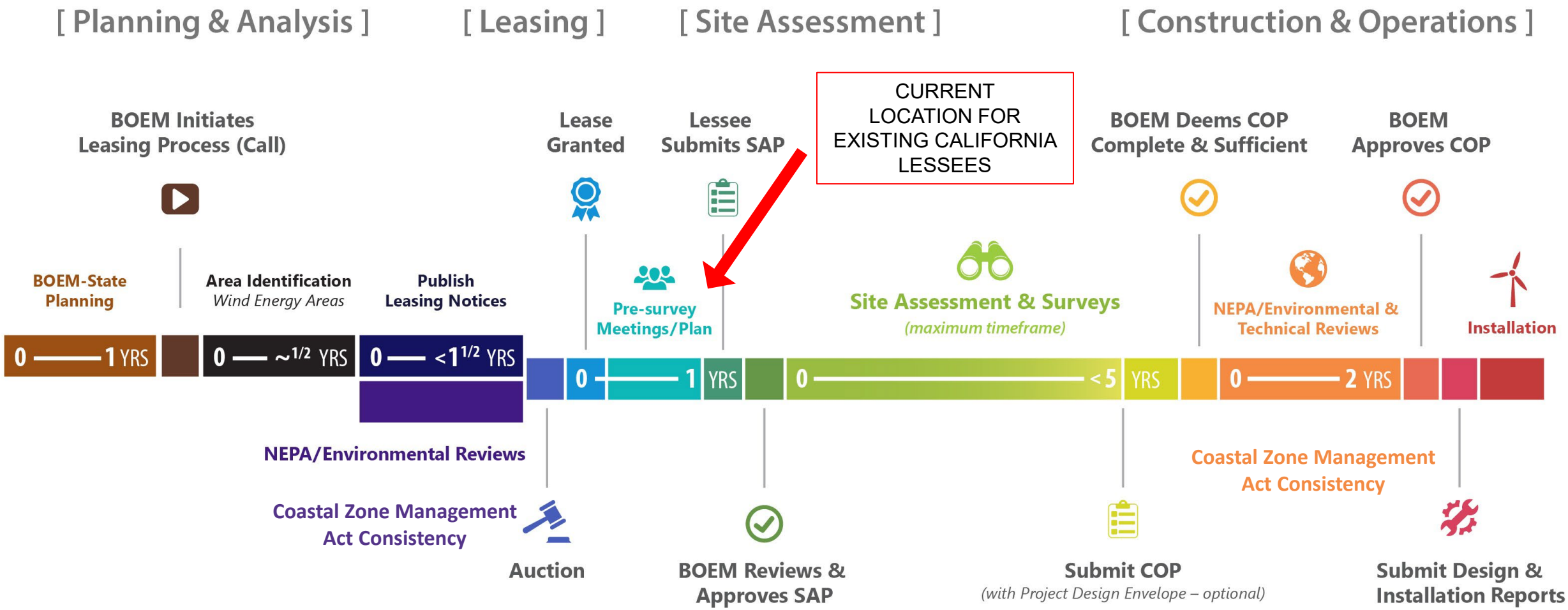


BOEM Offshore Wind Process Milestones



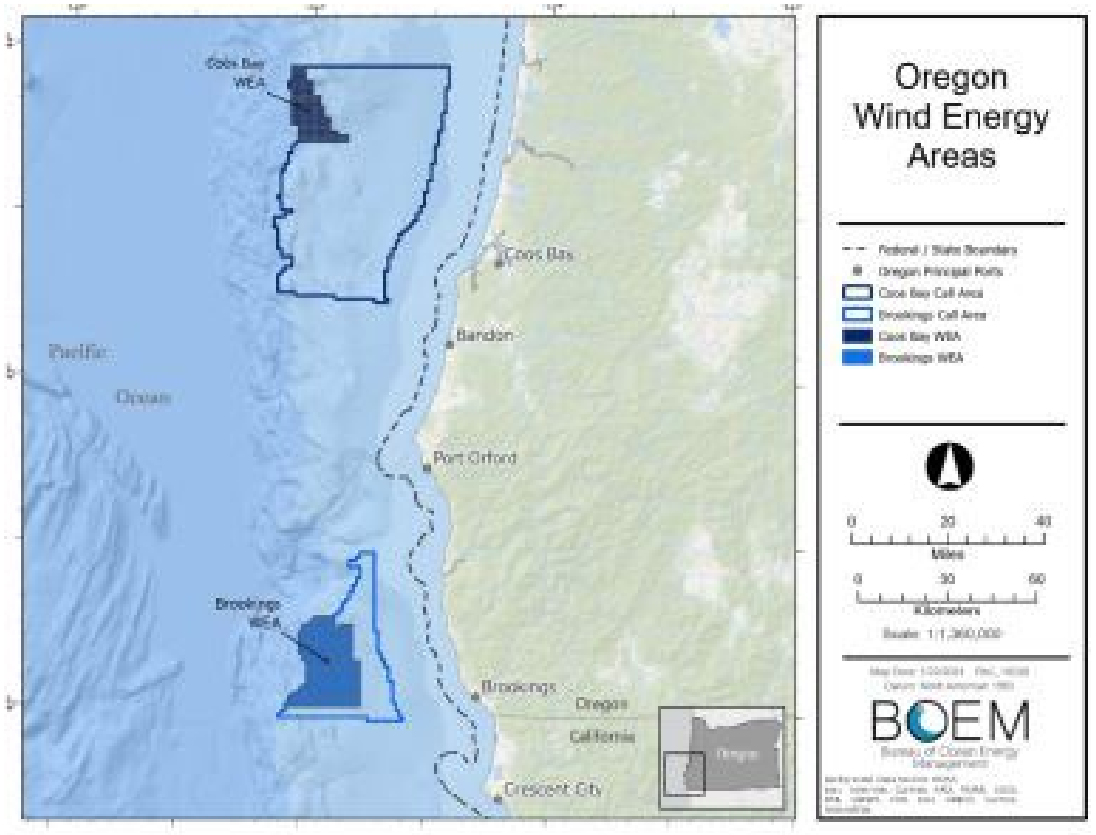
California Offshore Wind Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

- BOEM is working on a programmatic environmental impact statement that will describe:
  - The potential impacts of offshore wind energy development at the five existing leases off the coast of California.
  - Identification of potential programmatic avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures to address those impacts.

Credit: BOEM

Oregon Wind Energy Area Identification

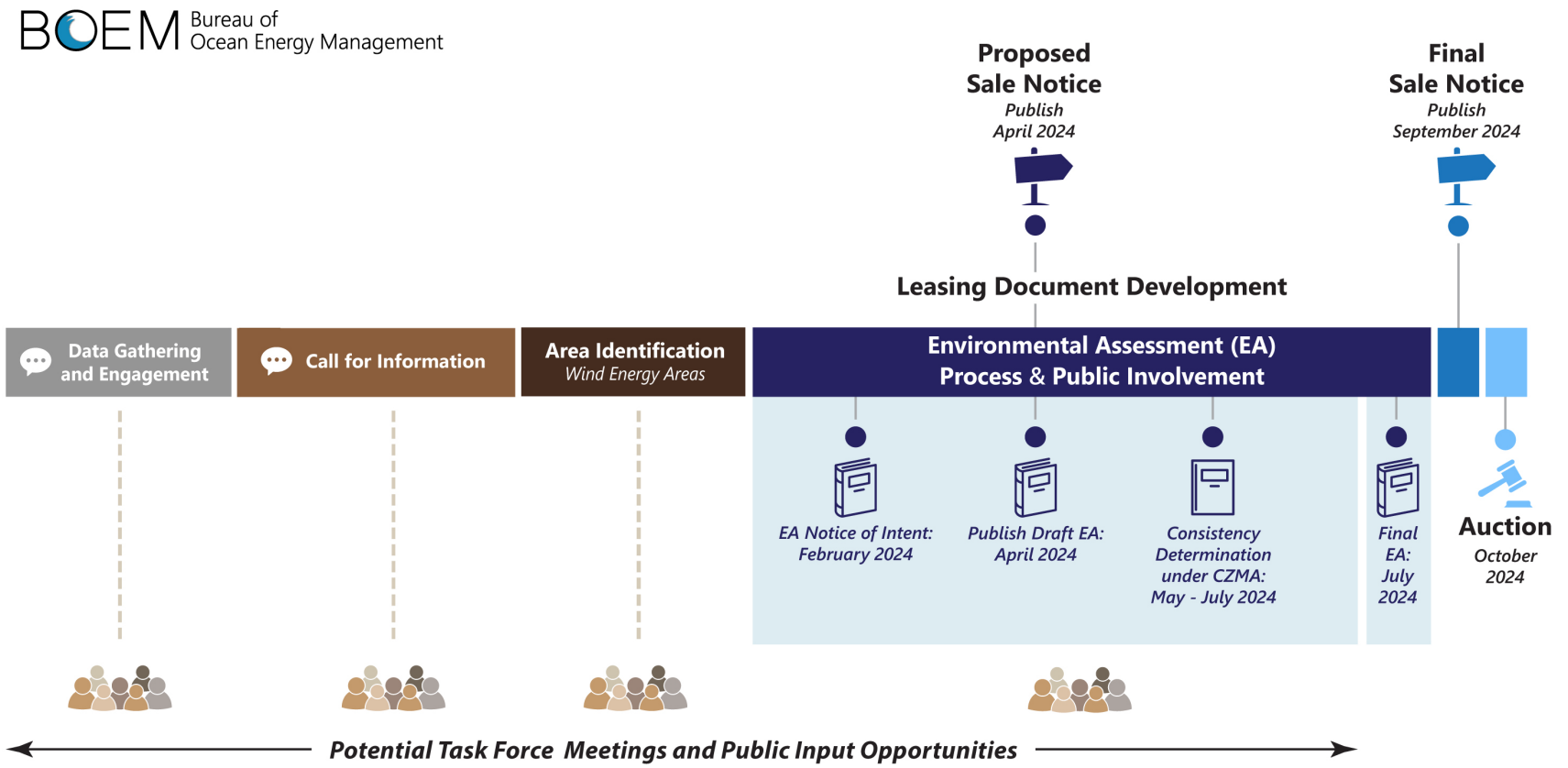
- BOEM has designated two Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) off the Oregon coast:
  - The Coos Bay WEA is 61,204 acres and located approximately 32 miles (mi) from shore.
  - The Brookings WEA is 133,808 acres and approximately 18 mi from shore.
- If fully developed, the Final WEAs could support 2.4 GW of energy production.



Current Oregon Status in BOEM's Authorization Process

Schedule

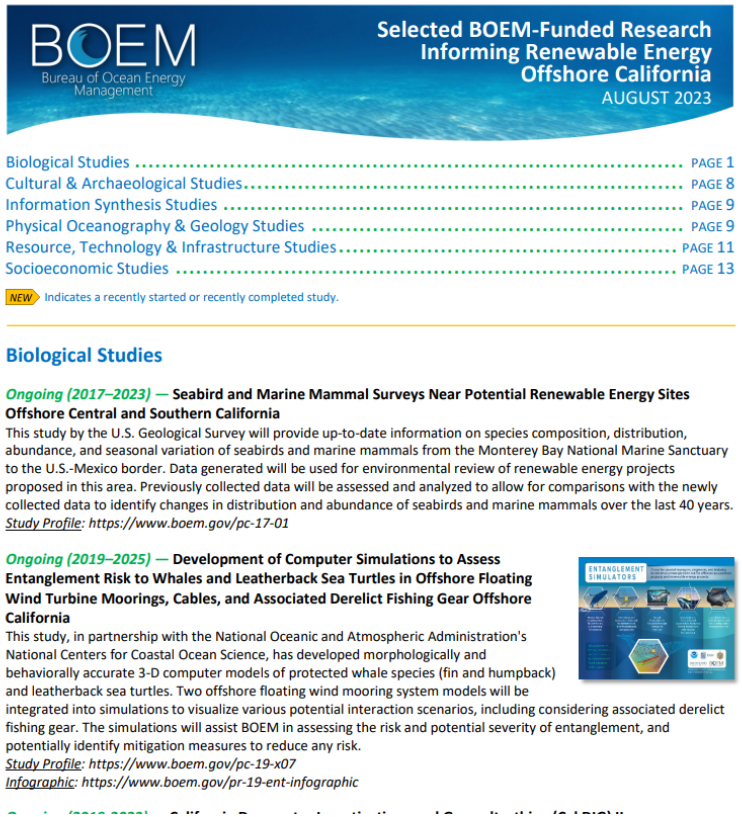
PROJECTED OREGON RENEWABLE ENERGY LEASING SCHEDULE



- BOEM coordinates and consults with affected Tribal, State, and local governments and other Federal agencies throughout the process.
- Note that this is a projected leasing schedule contingent upon the process moving forward to the auction stage.

Environmental Studies

- BOEM has funded or considered numerous studies to collect information about the marine environment to support decisions concerning offshore renewable energy development.



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Selected BOEM-Funded Research Informing Renewable Energy Offshore California
AUGUST 2023

NEW Indicates a recently started or recently completed study.

Biological Studies

Ongoing (2017–2023) — **Seabird and Marine Mammal Surveys Near Potential Renewable Energy Sites Offshore Central and Southern California**

This study by the U.S. Geological Survey will provide up-to-date information on species composition, distribution, abundance, and seasonal variation of seabirds and marine mammals from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to the U.S.-Mexico border. Data generated will be used for environmental review of renewable energy projects proposed in this area. Previously collected data will be assessed and analyzed to allow for comparisons with the newly collected data to identify changes in distribution and abundance of seabirds and marine mammals over the last 40 years.
Study Profile: https://www.boem.gov/pc-17-01

Ongoing (2019–2025) — **Development of Computer Simulations to Assess Entanglement Risk to Whales and Leatherback Sea Turtles in Offshore Floating Wind Turbine Moorings, Cables, and Associated Derelict Fishing Gear Offshore California**

This study, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, has developed morphologically and behaviorally accurate 3-D computer models of protected whale species (fin and humpback) and leatherback sea turtles. Two offshore floating wind mooring system models will be integrated into simulations to visualize various potential interaction scenarios, including considering associated derelict fishing gear. The simulations will assist BOEM in assessing the risk and potential severity of entanglement, and potentially identify mitigation measures to reduce any risk.
Study Profile: https://www.boem.gov/pc-19-x07
Infographic: https://www.boem.gov/pr-19-ent-infographic

Environmental Studies

- Some examples are listed here:
  - Facilitating Resilience and Adaptation in Commercial Fisheries in Response to Offshore Renewable Energy Development and Climate Change
  - Port Infrastructure Needs of Commercial and Recreational Fisheries along the US West Coast
  - Traditional Native Hawaiian Voyaging and Cultural Fishing and Boating Practices on the OCS

For more information, please visit: https://www.boem.gov/environment/environmental-studies-pacific.

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