



BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

Oregon and California Offshore Wind Update

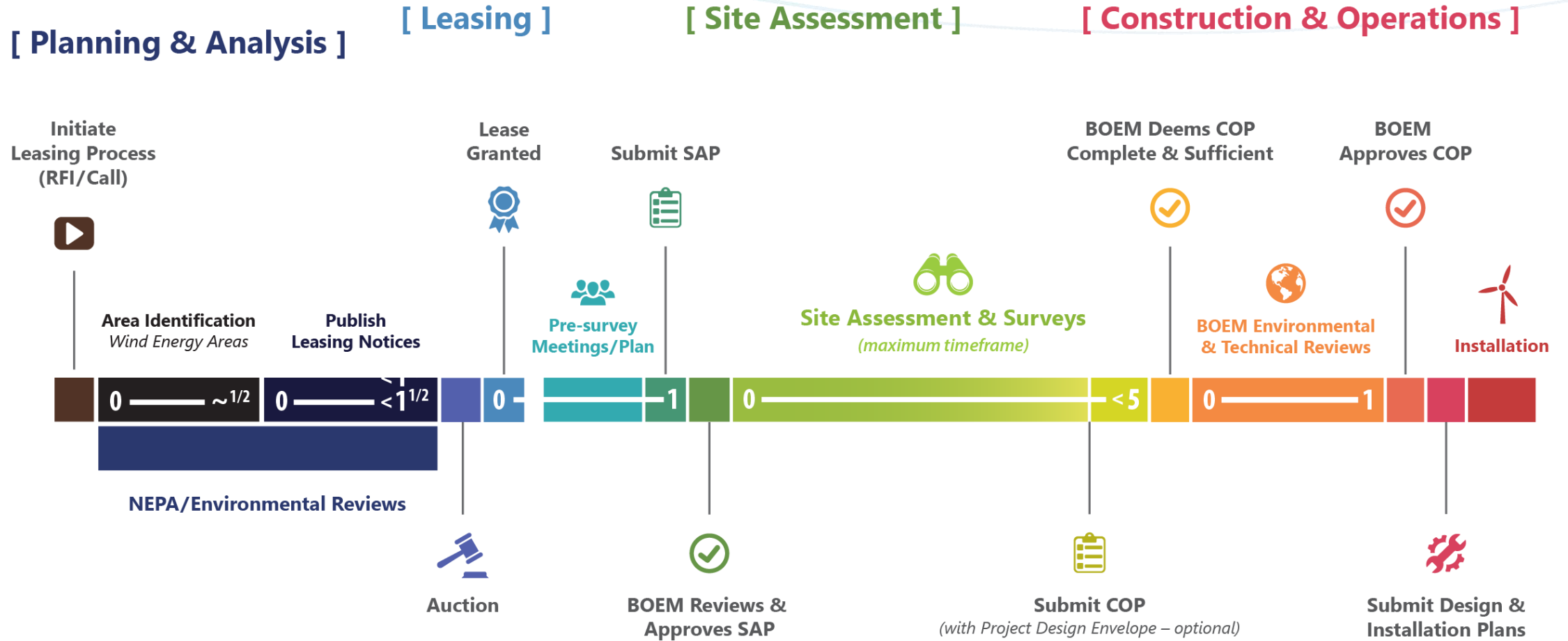
February 1, 2022

**Pacific Fishery Management Council
Ad Hoc Marine Planning Committee**

BOEM Pacific Office

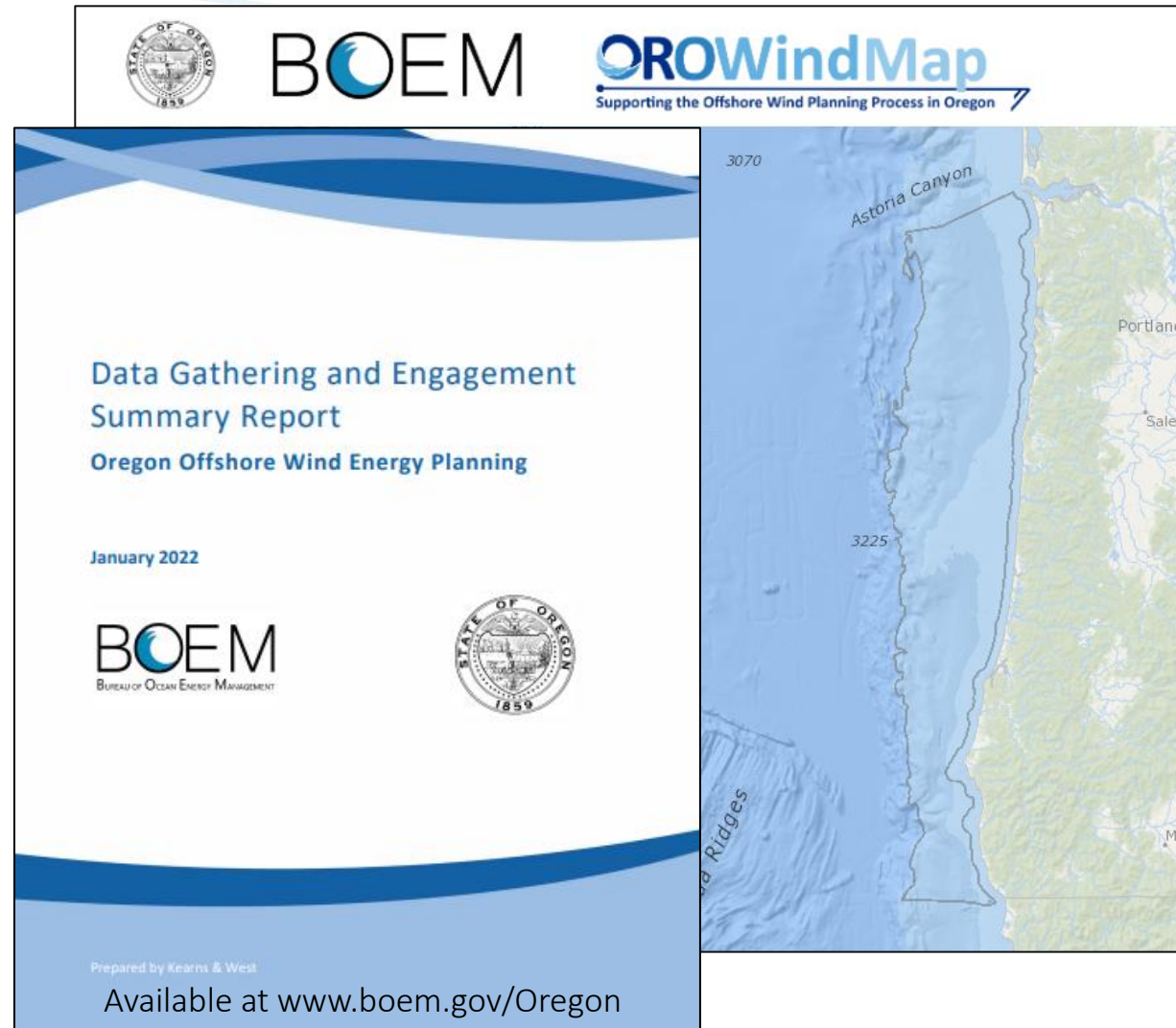
Rick Yarde, Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment
Necy Sumait, Regional Supervisor, Office of Strategic Resources

BOEM's Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process



Oregon Offshore Wind Planning

- Data Gathering and Engagement Summary Report
 - Available at www.boem.gov/regions/pacific-ocs-region/renewable-energy/draft-data-gathering-and-engagement-summary-report
- Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) led Oregon Offshore Wind Mapping Tool ([OROWindMap](#)) effort with BOEM
- Next Steps:
 - Hold BOEM Oregon Task Force Meeting: Present and discuss proposed Call Areas: **February 25, 2022**
 - Publish Call for Information and Nominations in Federal Register



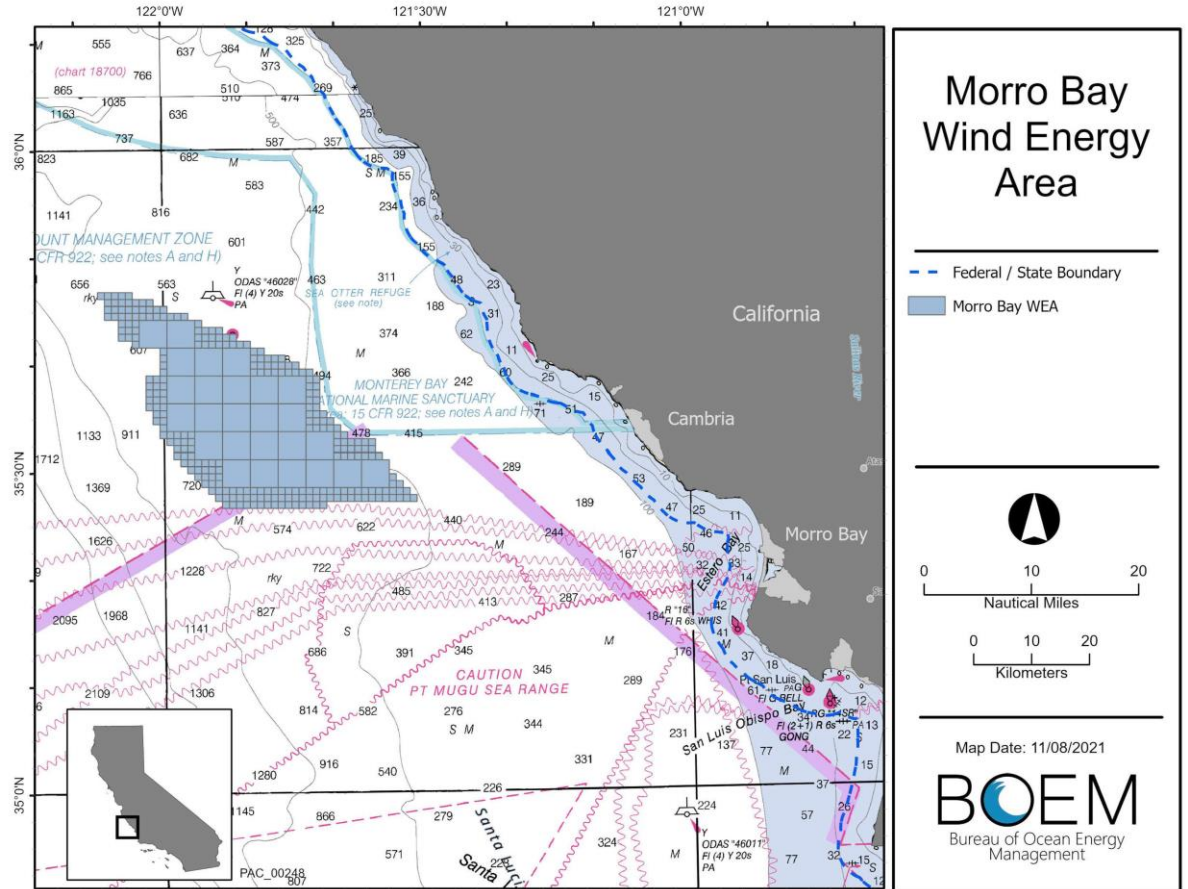
California Central Coast Status Update: Morro Bay

Morro Bay 399 Area

- Size: 255,360 acres (399 square miles)
- Combination of portions of the Morro Bay Call Area from October 2018 and the Call Area Extensions from July 2021

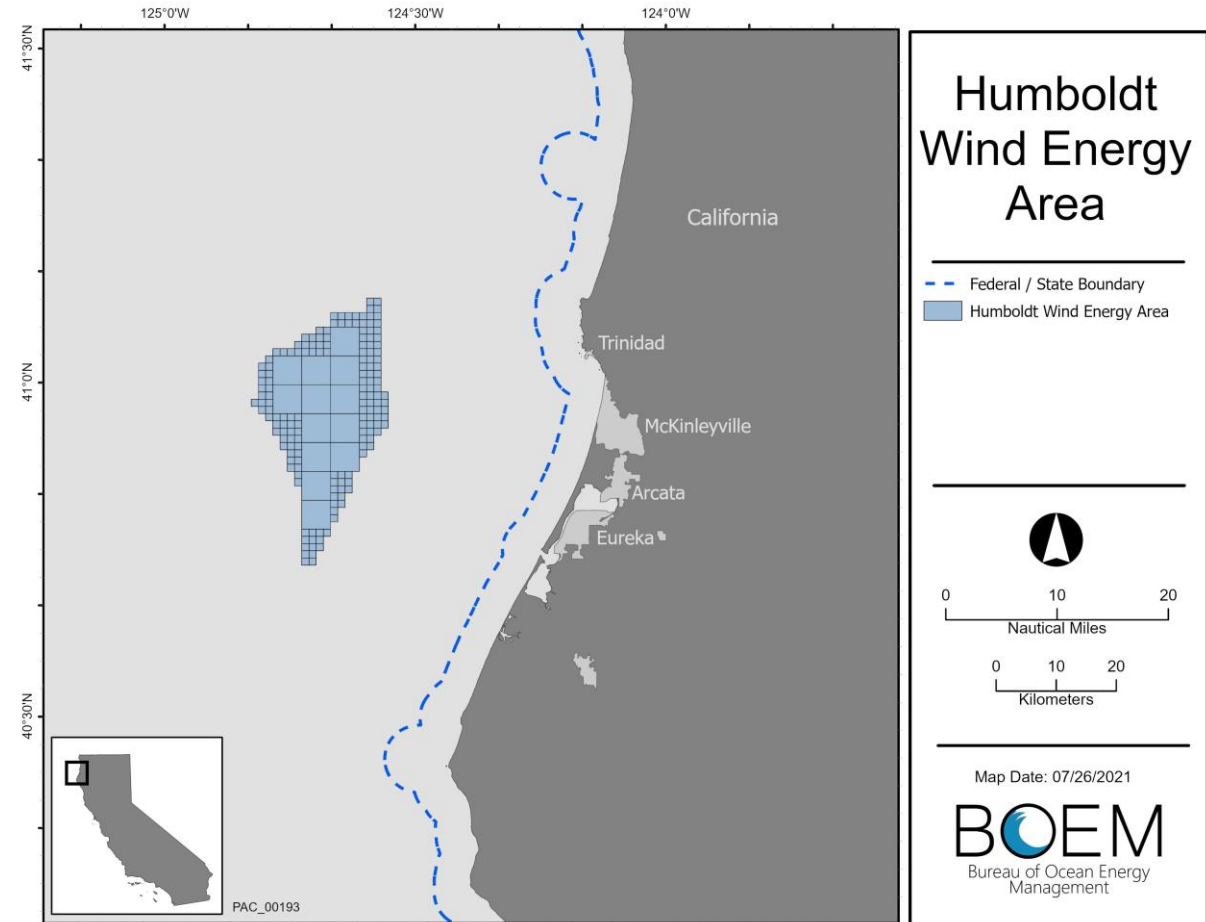
Morro Bay Wind Energy Area

- Reduced size to 240,898 acres (376 square miles)
- Distance to Shore: ~20 miles
- November 12, 2021: BOEM announced the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area (WEA) offshore central California
- December 1, 2021 and January 5, 2022: Virtual public scoping meetings held to solicit input on the Morro Bay WEA Environmental Assessment
- **Next Step:** Publish draft Environmental Assessment



California North Coast Status Update: Humboldt

- **Humboldt Wind Energy Area**
 - Size: 132,369 acres (206 square miles)
 - 21 miles from City of Eureka
 - July 28, 2021 – BOEM announced the Humboldt Wind Energy Area (WEA) offshore northern California
 - January 11, 2022 - draft Environmental Assessment (EA) released
 - 30-day public review and comment period ends Feb. 10, 2022
 - January 25 and January 26, 2022: Two virtual meetings held for public inputs
- **Next Step:** Complete Environmental Assessment



California – Outlook and Next Steps

Conduct Environmental Assessments

Publish Proposed Sale Notice

- Humboldt and Morro Bay Areas will be combined into one Proposed Sale Notice for a single California auction that includes both wind energy areas
- 60-day comment period
- Last opportunity for developers to provide interest and submit qualifications to bid

Publish Final Sale Notice

Lease Auction (Fall 2022)



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

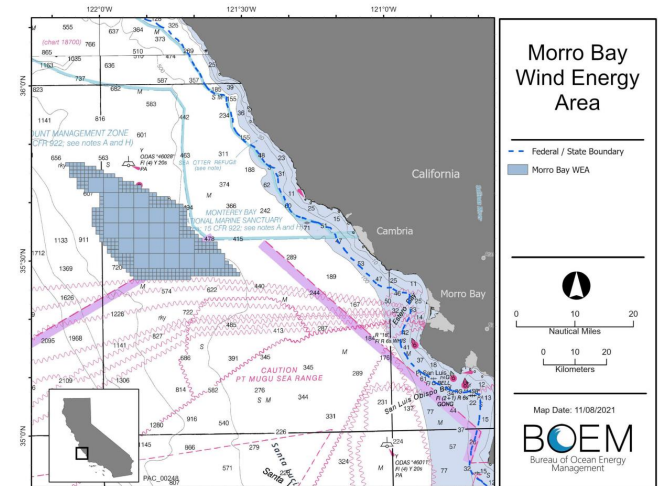
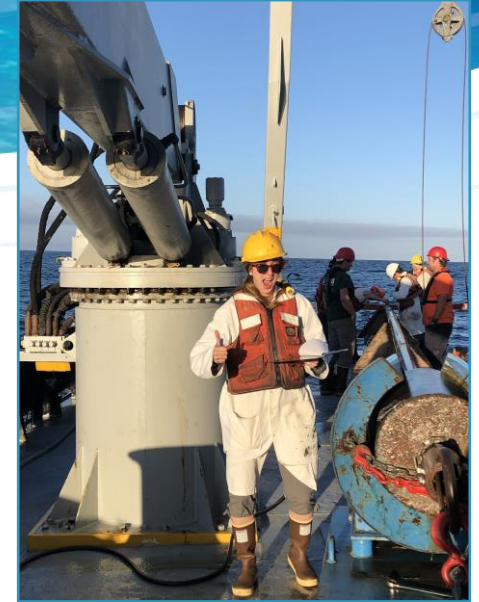
NEPA requires Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed action prior to a decision

Proposed Action / Decision Point

- Issuance of commercial wind energy lease(s), which includes areas within federal waters that might be used for energy production, collection, and transmission
- Site Characterization Activities – biological, geotechnical, geophysical, and archaeological surveys
- Site Assessment Activities – deployment of one or more buoys to gather oceanographic and meteorological data

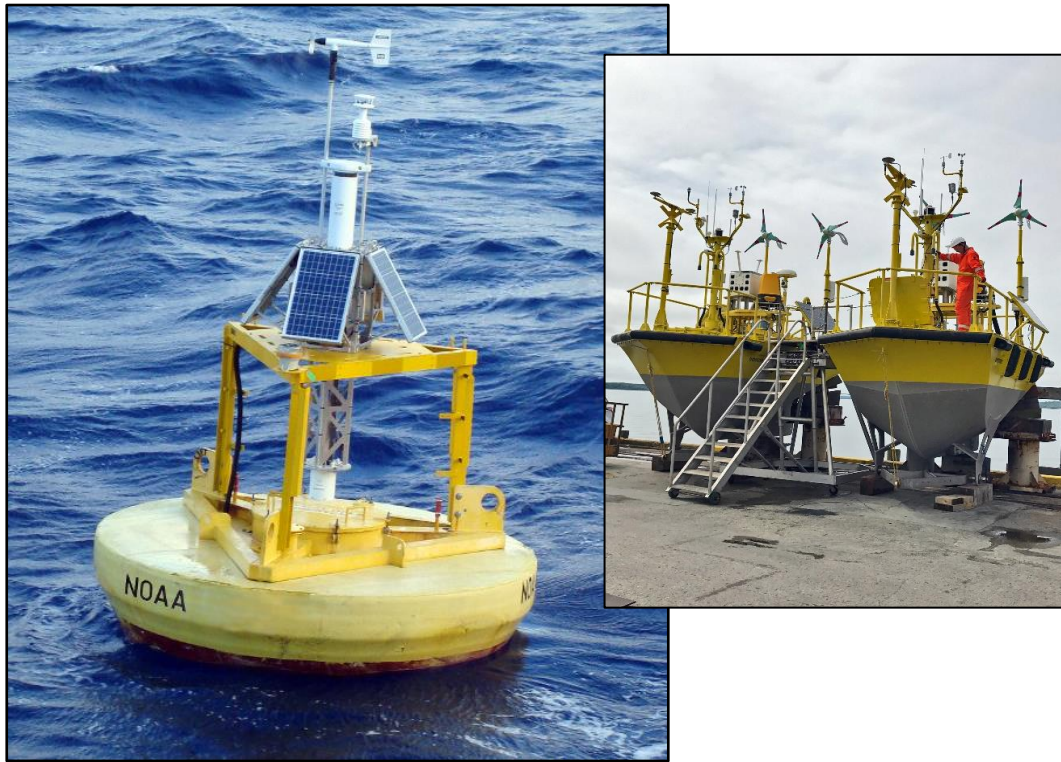
Construction and Operation of a project are not being considered

These impacts are evaluated once a project plan is submitted

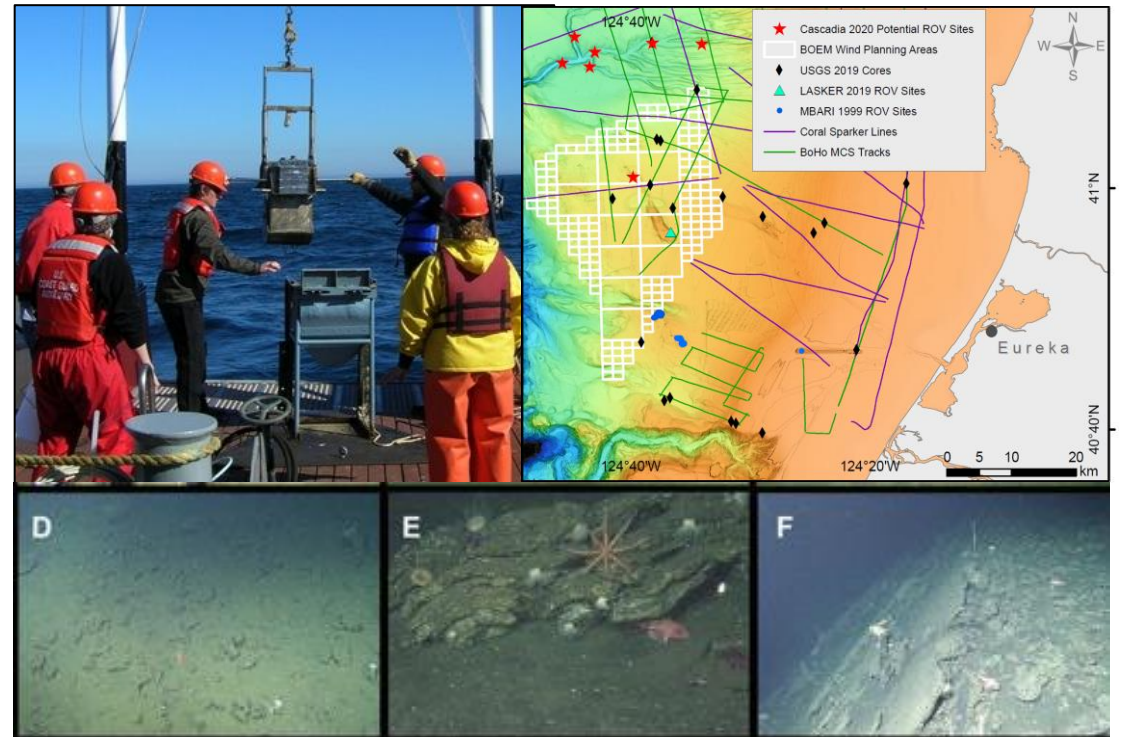


What are Site Assessment & Characterization Activities?

Site Assessment: Temporary placement of meteorological buoys, scientific sampling equipment



Site Characterization: Surveys to gather data on the geology, biology, and archaeological resources



Images courtesy of (top left) Oregon State University, (top right) D. Waters (NOAA), N. Prouty (USGS) and E. Lundsten (MBARI) and (Bottom Row) Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI).



Resource Assessment – Humboldt

- Each resource is presented in the EA according to its **affected environment** and **potential impacts** to the affected environment that could occur as a result of leasing and site characterization.



- Geology
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Marine and Coastal Habitats and Associated Biotic Assemblages
- Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles
- Coastal & Marine Birds
- Commercial Fishing
- Recreation & Tourism
- Socioeconomics
- Historic Properties
- Environmental Justice
- Tribes

Virtual
Meeting
Page:

www.boem.gov/HumboldtEA



Selected Resource: Commercial Fishing

Affected Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eureka Port Complex, in particular Eureka, Trinidad, and Crescent City
Potential Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Space-use conflict• Entanglement with data buoys
Estimated Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimal to low, but some fisheries may be disproportionately affected



See **Section 3.7** for more information



Selected Resource: Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles

Affected Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 39 species of marine mammals• 4 federally listed sea turtles
Potential Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Noise from surveys• Collision with vessels• Entanglement in metocean buoy mooring systems
Estimated Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negligible effects from acoustics• Negligible effects from vessel interactions• Discountable effects from buoys



Photo credit: David Pereksta

See **Section 3.5** for more information



Selected Resource: Coastal and Marine Birds

Affected Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 170 species of coastal and marine birds
Potential Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disturbance from noise and traffic• Lighting from buoys• Collision with buoys• Trash and Debris
Estimated Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimal effect from buoys or traffic• Negligible effects from traffic and debris• SOPs will reduce impacts



See **Section 3.6** for more information



Selected Resource: Cultural Resources

Affected Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreation & tourism• Historic properties• Tribes
Potential Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trash and debris generation• Disturbance to seafloor• Impacts to Tribal resources
Estimated Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negligible impact to tourism• No impacts to submerged archaeological sites• Continued Tribal consultation to reduce impacts



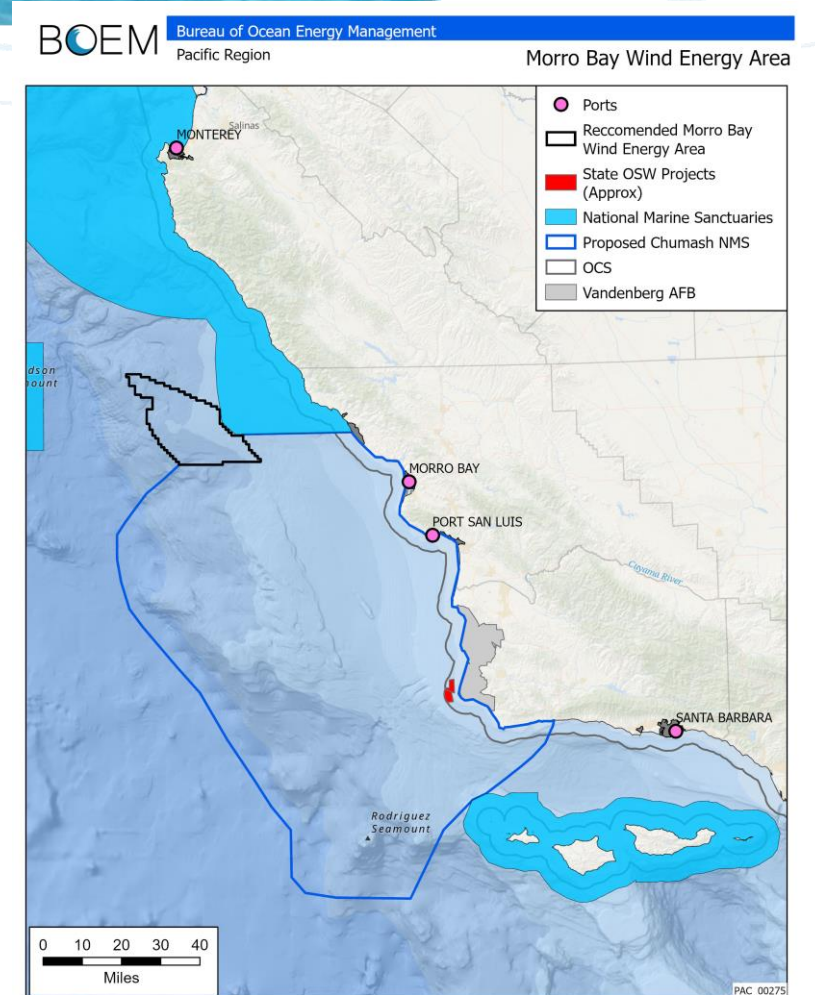
See **Sections 3.8 to 3.12** for more information



Resource Assessment – Morro Bay

BOEM will conduct a comprehensive review of impacts associated with lease issuance and site assessment and characterization

- Scoping meetings held December 1, 2021, and January 5, 2022
- Scoping Comment period ended **January 11, 2022**
- Finalize EA and issue for public review and comment, Spring 2022



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