

Renewable Energy Leasing Schedule

For the Five-Year Period Starting May 1, 2024

As the lead federal agency for planning and authorization of offshore wind energy development, the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** is at the forefront of implementing the Biden-Harris administration goals of deploying **30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030 and 15 gigawatts of floating offshore wind energy by 2035**. The Bureau made significant progress towards advancing offshore wind in federal waters off the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific Coasts in the last few years.

BOEM approved the nation's first eight commercial-scale offshore wind energy projects since the start of the Biden-Harris administration – these approvals represent **more than 10 gigawatts (GW) of clean energy, enough to power nearly 4 million homes**. Additionally, BOEM held **four offshore wind lease auctions** that brought in almost \$5.5 billion in high bids, including a record-breaking sale offshore New York and New Jersey, a sale offshore the Carolinas, and the first-ever sales in the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico. BOEM also made significant progress advancing responsible offshore wind energy development in the Gulf of Maine, offshore Oregon, and the Central Atlantic coast, as forecast in the [Offshore Wind Leasing Path Forward 2021-2025](#).

**4**offshore wind lease
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As the transition to a clean energy economy continues to accelerate, BOEM aims to provide certainty and transparency through the creation of a renewable energy leasing schedule. Regularly issuing a schedule of potential lease sales demonstrates BOEM's commitment to a long-term pipeline of offshore wind leases.

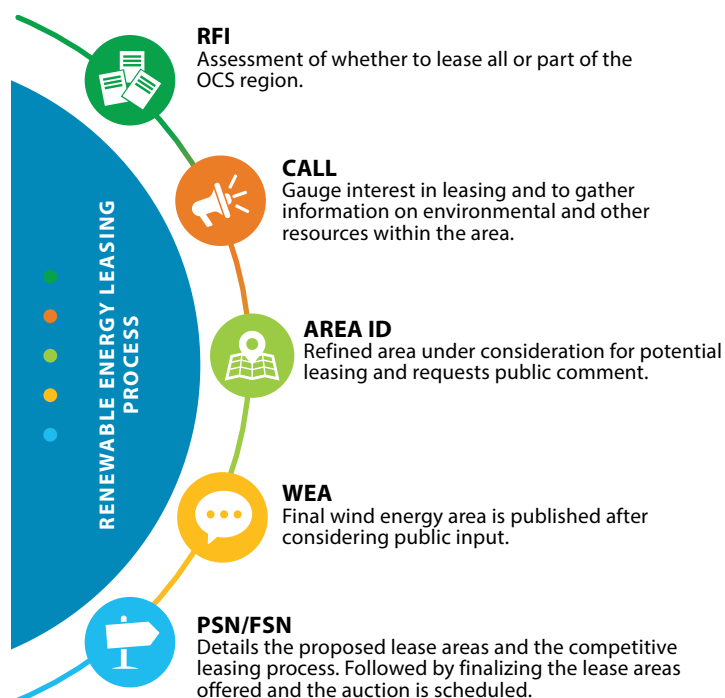
The leasing schedule is intended to provide advance notice to stakeholders of areas being considered for future lease sales, and to facilitate planning by Tribes, states, territories, localities, interest groups, academia, non-profits, fisheries, Federal agencies, and other stakeholders.

Moving forward, BOEM's newly revised renewable energy regulations require that at least once every 2 years, the Secretary will publish a schedule with a list of locations under consideration for leasing, along with a projection of when lease sales are anticipated to occur for the 5-year period following the schedule's publication. Consistent with this new requirement, for each potential auction, this leasing schedule includes a general description of the area and the calendar year by which a sale could be held. BOEM maintains the discretion to modify this plan during the next five years; decisions regarding these potential lease sales – including whether to hold a lease sale at all – have not yet been made.

In developing this plan, BOEM also considered the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA), which constrains the issuance of offshore wind energy leases on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) by requiring that BOEM offer at least sixty million acres for offshore oil and gas leasing within the year preceding the issuance of offshore wind energy leases. On December 14, 2023, the Secretary approved the 2024–2029 National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program, which includes three potential oil and gas lease sales, each of which would fulfill the IRA requirements and permit BOEM to issue offshore wind energy leases. These three oil and gas lease sales—Sale 262, Sale 263, and Sale 264—are scheduled to occur in 2025, 2027, and 2029, respectively. The exact timing of oil and gas lease sales could affect the timing of the issuance of offshore wind energy leases.

The renewable energy leasing process begins with gathering information and soliciting input through extensive public outreach and discussions with Tribes, states, territories, localities, interest groups, academia, non-profits, fisheries, Federal agencies, and other stakeholders.

BOEM may begin the leasing process by publishing a **request for interest (RFI) to assess whether to lease all or part of a region of the OCS** for renewable energy activities. The RFI is followed by a **call for information and nominations (Call)**. The purpose of the Call is to **gauge interest in leasing within the area, and to gather information on environmental and other resources within the area**. BOEM uses the feedback from the RFI and the Call to assess competitive interest in specified OCS areas. After Call area(s) are identified, BOEM refines the proposed area(s) as it evaluates the potential impacts of leasing those areas on the human, marine, and coastal environments under the OCS Lands Act (OCSLA) and consults with Federal agencies and other affected governments (including state, tribal, and territorial) regarding the requirements of other potentially applicable Federal statutes.



As BOEM refines the potential lease area(s), it usually publishes a **draft area identification (Area ID) memo, which includes the refined area under consideration for potential leasing and requests public comment**. After considering this input, **the agency publishes final wind energy areas (WEAs)**.

Typically, BOEM will perform an Environmental Assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act to evaluate the effects of site assessment and planning activities allowed under the lease.

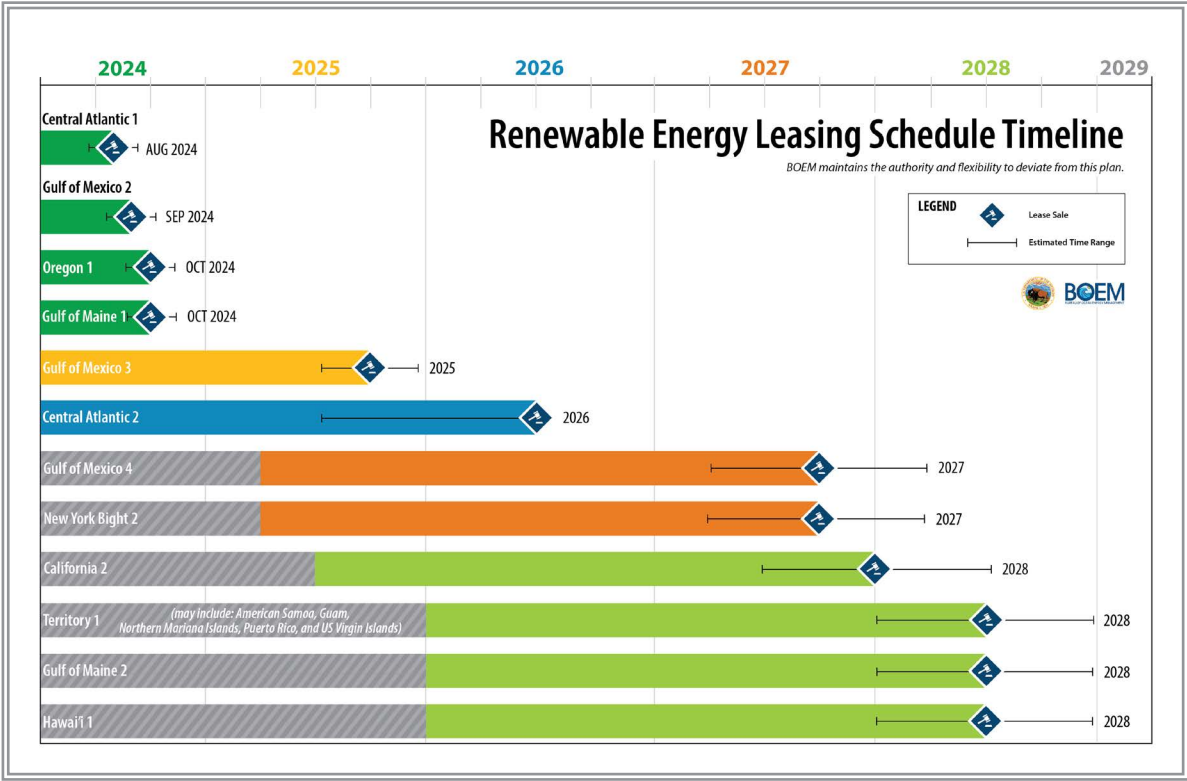
Under the competitive leasing process, BOEM initiates a sale by **publishing a proposed sale notice (PSN)** in the *Federal Register* **detailing the proposed lease areas and the competitive leasing process** for those areas, including draft auction procedures, bidding credits, and lease provisions and conditions. The PSN invites public comment on the areas and proposed auction procedures. BOEM assesses the comments received in response to the PSN and may incorporate changes into the **final sale notice (FSN)**. The FSN is published in the *Federal Register* at least thirty (30) calendar days before the auction date.

The FSN finalizes the areas offered for lease, bidding credits, auction procedures, and lease provisions, and sets the time and date for the auction. The FSN also provides details regarding a mock auction, which is an optional practice auction intended to familiarize bidders with auction procedures.

BOEM conducts an auction for the relevant lease areas in accordance with the FSN. Upon conclusion of the auction, BOEM announces the provisional winning bidder for each commercial lease area. The issuance of a commercial lease does not grant the lessee the right to construct any facilities; rather, the lease grants an exclusive right to conduct site assessment and site characterization activities and submit a Construction and Operations Plan for BOEM review and approval.

OCS Renewable Energy Leasing Schedule

The following sections outline BOEM’s OCS Renewable Energy leasing schedule timeline. As previously mentioned, this leasing schedule demonstrates BOEM’s commitment to establishing a long-term portfolio of lease sales. However, there may be deviation from the proposed timeline.

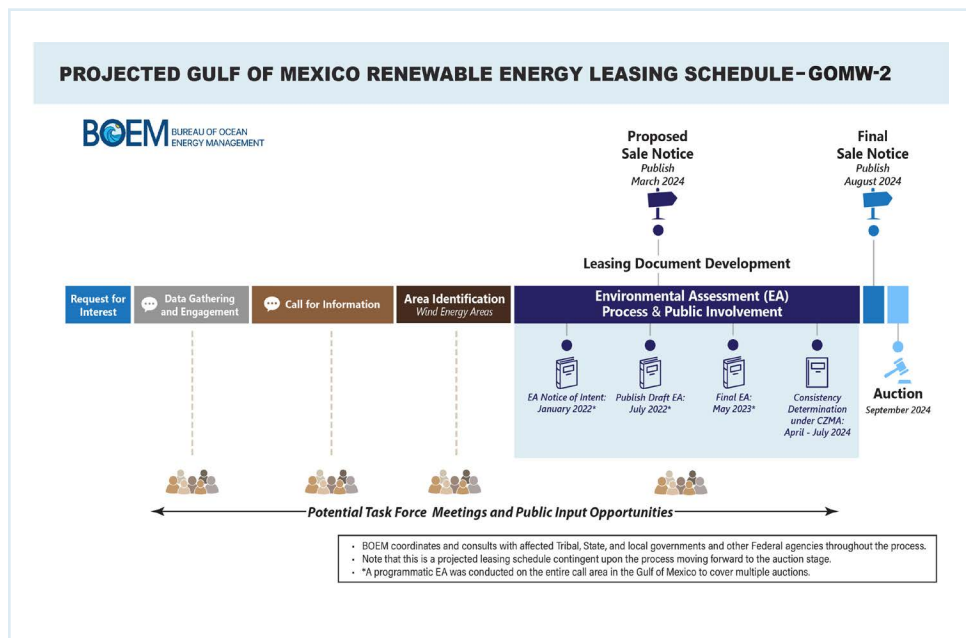
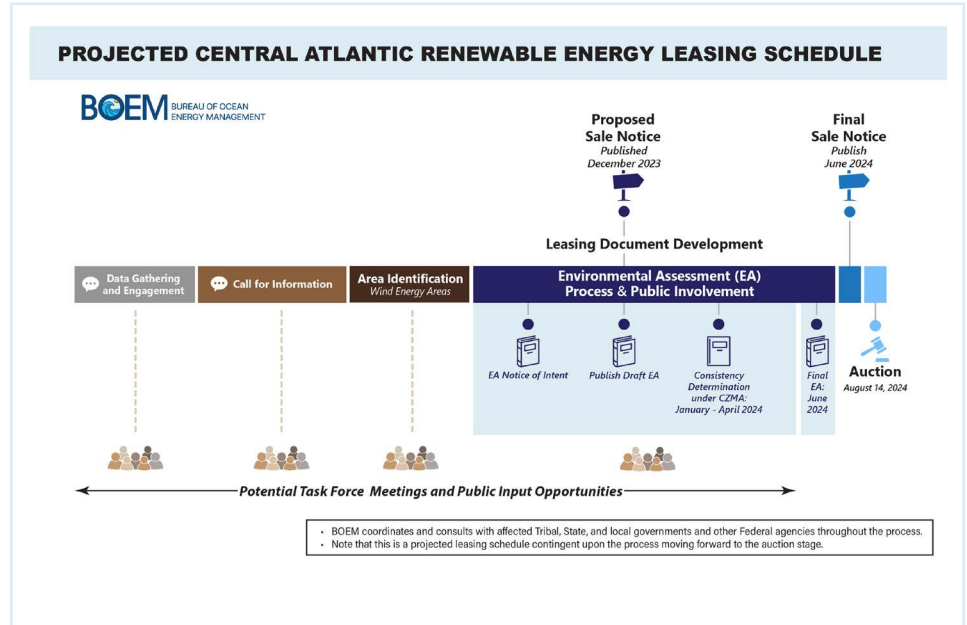


THE FOUR PROPOSED OCS WIND ENERGY LEASE SALES IN 2024

BOEM plans to hold four OCS wind energy lease sales this year for the Central Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Gulf of Maine and offshore Oregon. The following four graphics depict the proposed timeline for each 2024 sale.

Central Atlantic 1 (2024):

In 2020 and 2021, BOEM received letters from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Maryland, respectively, requesting the formation of a regional renewable energy task force to initiate the lease sale planning process. In response, BOEM established the Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force to facilitate coordination among relevant Federal agencies and affected state, local, and Tribal governments throughout the leasing process. BOEM subsequently published a Central Atlantic Call in April 2022, a Draft Wind Energy Area ID Memo in November 2022, a Final Wind Energy Area ID Memo in July 2023, and a PSN in December 2023. BOEM anticipates publishing a **Central Atlantic FSN** in June 2024 and holding a **lease auction in August 2024**.

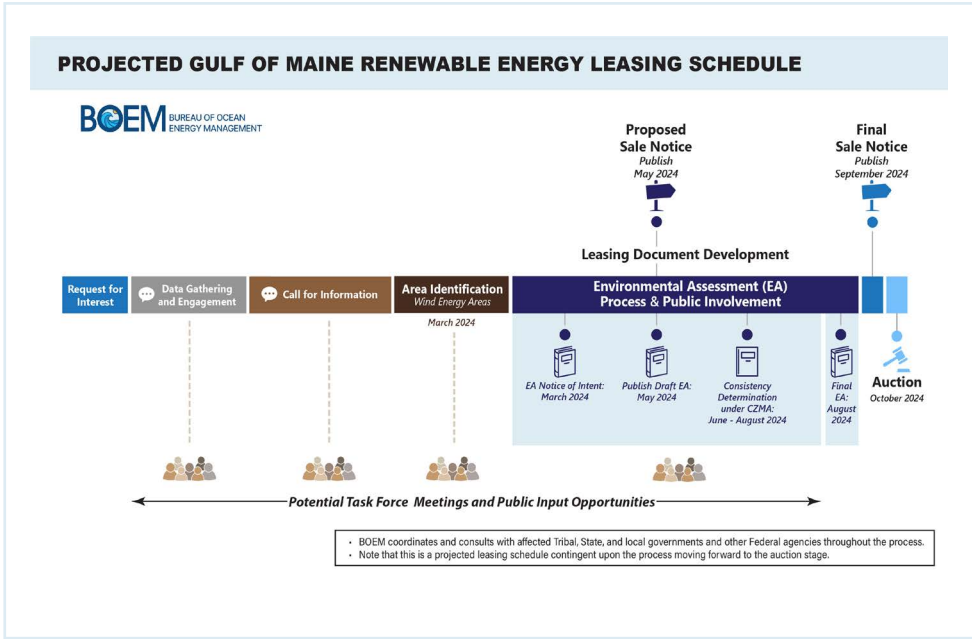


Gulf of Mexico 2 (2024):

The first offshore wind lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico was held in August 2023 and included three wind energy areas. In response to continued competitive interest in the area, the proposed second Gulf of Mexico sale will use four wind energy areas previously identified through the Area ID process for the first Gulf of Mexico wind sale. In October 2023, BOEM published a Final Wind Energy Area ID Memo for a second Gulf of Mexico wind sale and published a PSN in March 2024. BOEM anticipates publishing a **Gulf of Mexico 2 FSN** in August 2024 and holding a **lease auction in September 2024**.

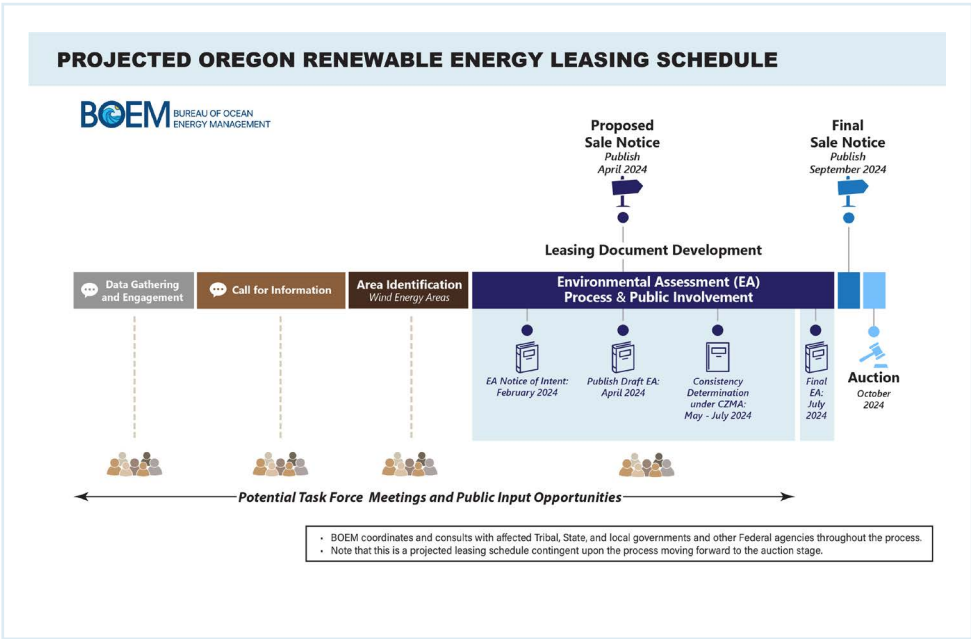
Gulf of Maine 1 (2024):

At the request of the governor of New Hampshire, a Gulf of Maine offshore wind task force was formed in December 2019. BOEM published a Request for Information in 2022 and received area nominations from five developers. This leasing effort moved forward to be responsive to the renewable energy goals of the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. BOEM subsequently published a Call in April 2023, a Draft Wind Energy Area ID Memo in October 2023, and a Final Wind Energy Area ID Memo in March 2024. BOEM anticipates publishing a **Gulf of Maine PSN** in May 2024, a FSN in September 2024, and holding a **lease auction in October 2024**.



Oregon 1 (2024):

BOEM and Oregon resumed planning for offshore wind in 2019, marked by a meeting of the Oregon Renewable Energy Task Force. The effort supports the state of Oregon’s offshore wind planning efforts and clean energy goals.



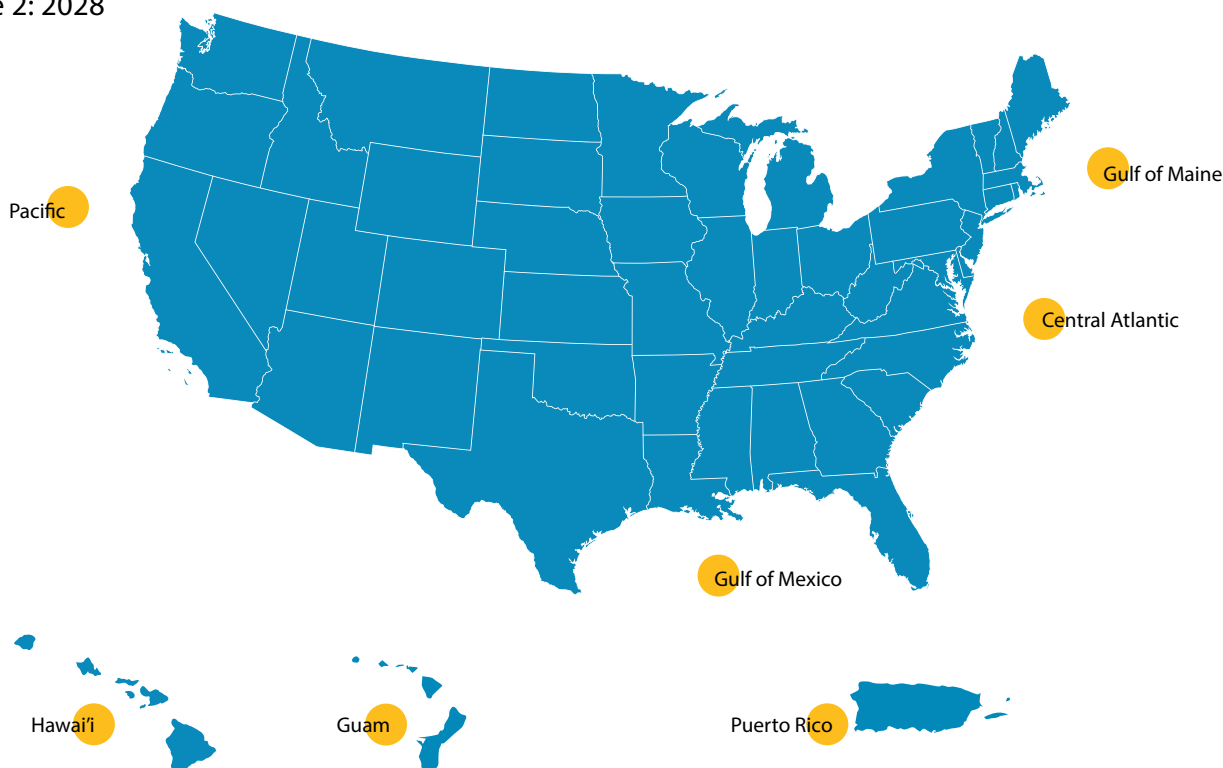
Following the Task Force formation and extensive community engagement, BOEM published an Oregon Call in April 2022, a Draft Wind Energy Area ID Memo in August 2023 and a Final Wind Energy Area ID Memo in February 2024. BOEM anticipates publishing an **Oregon PSN** in April 2024, a FSN in September 2024 and holding a **lease auction in October 2024**.

PROPOSED OCS WIND ENERGY LEASE SALES BEYOND 2024

The Atlantic Region

The potential lease sales identified for the Atlantic Region in the next five-year period are as follows:

- Central Atlantic 1: 2024 (see above)
- Gulf of Maine 1: 2024 (see above)
- Central Atlantic 2: 2026
- New York Bight 2: 2027
- Gulf of Maine 2: 2028



Central Atlantic 2 (2026):

The states of Maryland, New Jersey, and North Carolina have ambitious renewable energy and wind energy goals that will require additional offshore wind leasing to meet. Virginia and Delaware are also sources of future offshore wind demand. BOEM has initiated the area identification process to support an additional future sale in the Central Atlantic and anticipates active engagement through the Central Atlantic Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force to discuss next steps.

New York Bight 2 (2027):

New York and New Jersey have ambitious offshore wind goals, with New York targeting 9 GW by 2035 and New Jersey targeting 11 GW by 2040. Additional leasing prior to 2030 is necessary for these goals to be realized.

BOEM plans to initiate discussions with the New York Bight Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force to discuss next steps.

Gulf of Maine 2 (2028):

BOEM anticipates continued interest in offshore wind leasing due to the ambitious offshore wind and renewable energy goals of the states of Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. This sale is contingent on the amount of acreage offered and sold in the Gulf of Maine 1 auction. Assuming sufficient demand to justify an additional lease sale, BOEM would initiate discussions with the Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force to discuss next steps.

The Gulf of Mexico Region

The Gulf of Mexico Region anticipates holding three lease sales in the next five-year period as follows:

- Gulf of Mexico 2: 2024 (see above)
- Gulf of Mexico 3: 2025
- Gulf of Mexico 4: 2027

Gulf of Mexico 3 (2025) and Gulf of Mexico 4 (2027):

BOEM anticipates continued competitive demand for offshore wind leases as the industry matures. BOEM plans to continue stakeholder engagement and initiate the planning process for potential sales in 2025 and 2027.

The Pacific Region

The Pacific Region anticipates the following lease sales in the next five-year period:

- Oregon 1: 2024 (see above)
- California 2: 2027/2028
- Hawai'i 1: 2028

California 2 (2027/2028):

California has an offshore wind goal of 5 GW by 2030 and 25 GW by 2045, which will require adding 1 to 1.5 GW per year starting in 2030. To meet this goal, regular leasing will be required to allow for timely development. BOEM is initiating stakeholder engagement and the planning process to be able to hold the next lease sale in late 2027 or early 2028.

Hawai'i 1 (2028):

The Hawai'i Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force was originally formed in 2012 to investigate the possibilities for offshore wind on the OCS around Hawai'i. Hawai'i set an ambitious goal for 100% renewable energy by 2045, and Hawaiian Electric's Integrated Grid Plan includes a long-term procurement plan that would aim to get projects in service by 2035, including offshore wind. BOEM is re-initiating stakeholder engagement and the planning process for offshore wind and, if planning efforts lead to the identification of suitable areas and continued interest, BOEM expects a lease sale could occur by 2028.

The Territories of the United States

Territory 1 - Caribbean Region or Guam (2028):

The IRA amended OCSLA to allow for offshore wind leasing to take place offshore the US territories. The Governor of Guam has expressed interest in moving forward with planning for offshore wind in the Territory, and BOEM has had preliminary engagement with the government of Puerto Rico and has contacted the US Virgin Islands. BOEM plans to conduct stakeholder engagement with these territories and, if suitable areas are identified and interest persists, BOEM expects a lease sale could take place as early as 2028.



For additional information, visit www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy

