

### Office of Renewable Energy Programs

### NAC-CESU Annual Meeting June 12, 2013

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- Bureau within the Department of the Interior
- Sister bureau to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)
- Oversees development of the nation's oil and gas, renewable energy, and other mineral and energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf





### **Environmental Studies Program**

- Initiated in 1973 to support offshore oil and gas leasing program
- Statutory authorization derived primarily from the OCSLA and EPAct of 2005 which gave BOEM authority to regulate OCS Renewable energy projects
- Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is the submerged lands beyond the State navigable waters; the OCS ranges from 3 to 200 miles seaward of the coastline
- Section 20 of the OCSLA authorizes the ESP and establishes three general goals for the program





### **Environmental Studies Program**

- Establish the information needed for assessment and management of environmental impacts on the human, marine, and coastal environments of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and the potentially affected coastal areas
- Predict impacts on the marine biota which may result from chronic, low-level pollution or large spills associated with OCS production, from drilling fluids and cuttings discharges, pipeline emplacement, or onshore facilities
- Monitor human, marine, and coastal environments to provide time series and data trend information for identification of significant changes in the quality and productivity of these environments, and to identify the causes of these changes



# **Partnering**









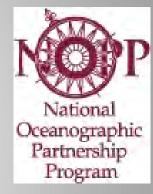
































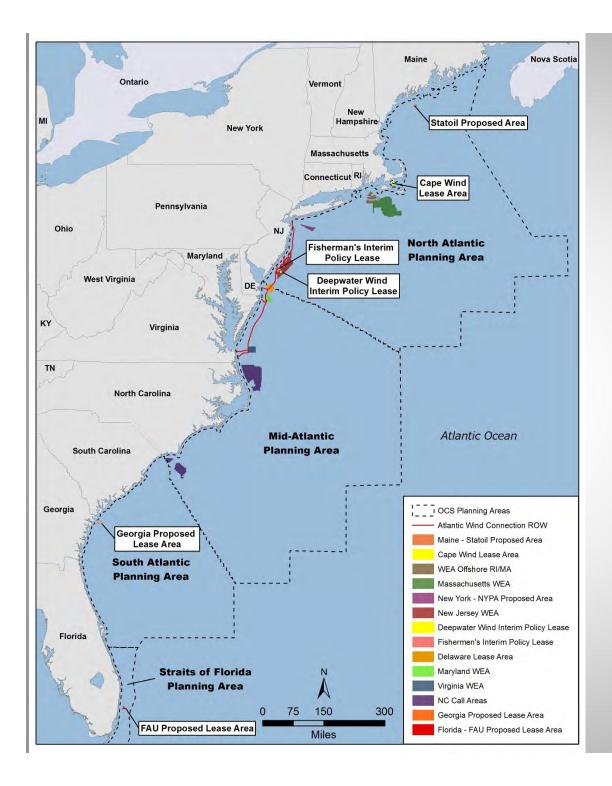
Coastal \_\_\_\_ Marine Institute

University of Alaska & Minerals Management Service



# Renewable Energy Program





### Wind Energy Areas:

Massachusetts
Rhode Island\*
New Jersey
Delaware\*
Maryland
Virginia
North Carolina\*

### **Interim Policy Leases:**

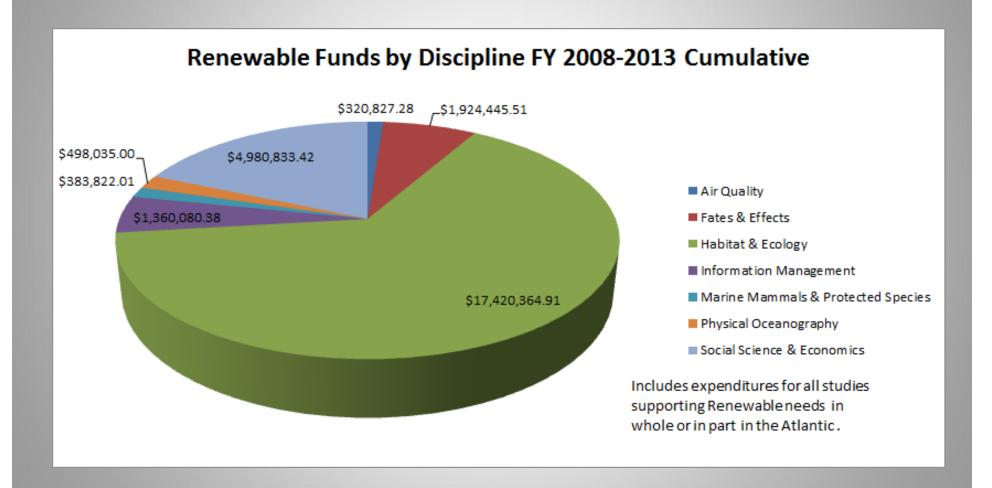
New Jersey Georgia\* Florida\*

### **Specific Projects:**

Cape Wind
Statoil\*
Atlantic Wind Connection\*



## Renewable Energy Program





# Process for Commercial Lease Issuance (30 CFR 585)

#### Planning and Analysis

- •BOEM engages with the Intergovernmental Task Forces to identify priority Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) offshore. WEAs are locations that appear most suitable for wind energy development
- BOEM prepares an Environmental Assessment for Lease or Grant Issuance and Site Assessment Activities

#### Lease or Grant

- BOEM notifies the public and developers of its intent to lease through Sale Notices
- BOEM determines whether Competitive Interest exists
- If Competitive Interest exists, BOEM holds a lease or grant auction
- If Competitive Interest does not Exist, BOEM negotiates a lease

#### Site Assessment

- Lessee conducts site characterization studies
- •Lessee submits Site Assessment Plan (SAP)
- BOEM conducts environmental and technical reviews of SAP, eventually deciding to approve, approve with modification, or disapprove the SAP
- If approved, Lessee assesses site (usually with meteorological tower(s) and/or buoy(s)

#### Construction and Operations

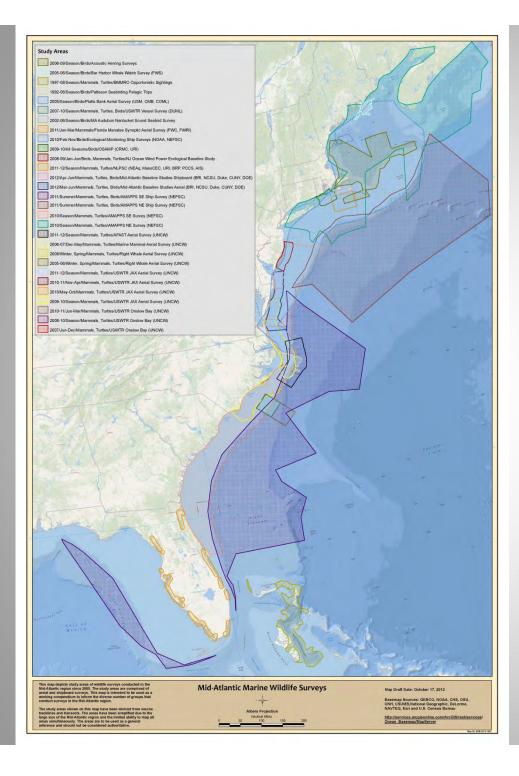
- Lessee may conduct additional site characterization
- Lessee submits
   Construction and
   Operations Plan
   (COP)
- BOEM conducts
   environmental
   and technical
   reviews of COP,
   eventually
   deciding to
   approve, approve
   with modification,
   or disapprove the
   COP
- •If approved, Lessee builds wind farm



### **Site Assessment**

Collecting baseline information about the distribution of species.

- ➤ Marine Mammals/Sea Turtles
- >Birds
- > Fish



### **Surveys Since 2005**

**Aerial and Boat Surveys** 

Birds
Marine Mammals
Sea Turtles

**Variable Densities** 

**Variable Techniques** 

**Available on Marine Cadastre** 



### **Site Assessment**

### Collecting baseline information about:

- ➤ Tourism and Recreation\*
- ➤ Historical Properties\*
- ➤ Archaeological Sites\*

\* - Completed studies



## **Construction and Operations**

- What are the positive effects from development?
- What are the impact producing activities?
- How can we best measure these effects?
- What effects will wind turbines have on the local environment?



## **Current CESU Projects**

 Developing Protocols for Reconstructing Submerged Paleocultural Landscapes and Identifying Ancient Native American Archaeological Sites in Submerged Environments

 Southern New England Cooperative Ventless Trap Survey