



**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

**BOEM Activity Update**  
**South Atlantic Fishery Management Council**  
**Habitat Advisory Panel Meeting**

**Brian Hooker**

*Office of Renewable Energy Programs*

2 November 2023

# Topics to be Covered

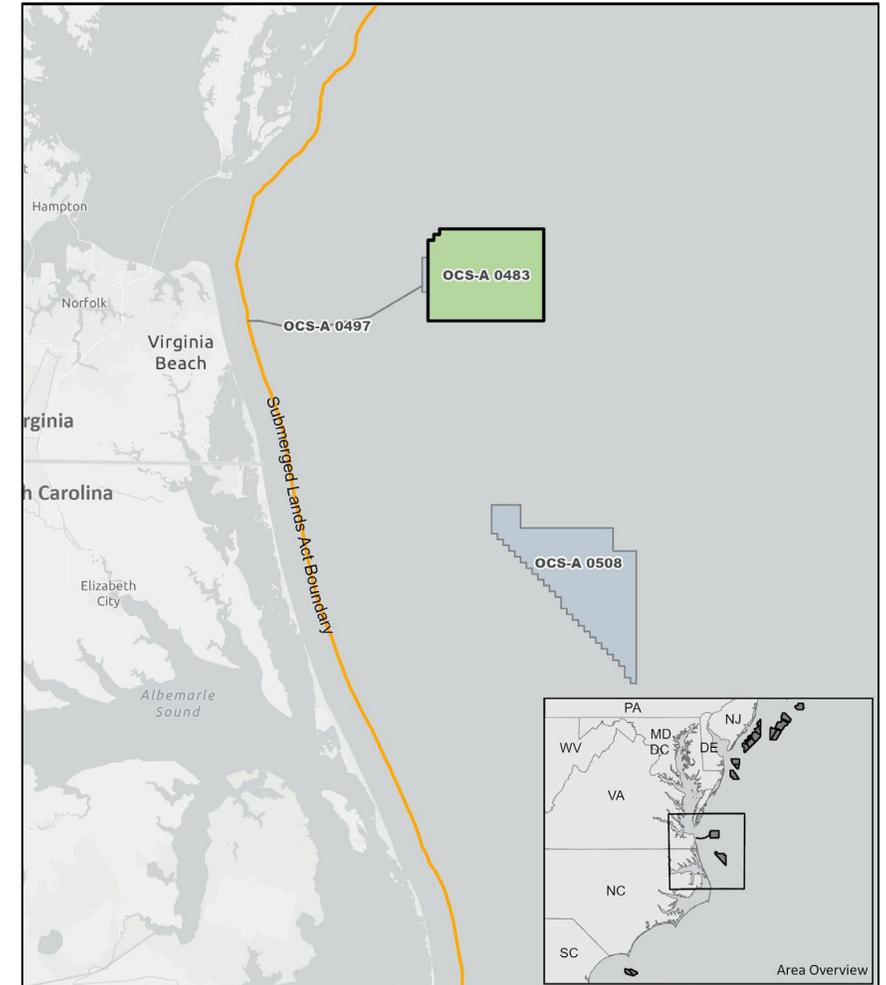
- Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project
- Central Atlantic Wind Energy Areas
- Environmental studies updates
  - Nature Inclusive Design Study
  - RODEO – CVOW-R
- National Academies Updates



# Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind - Commercial (CVOW)

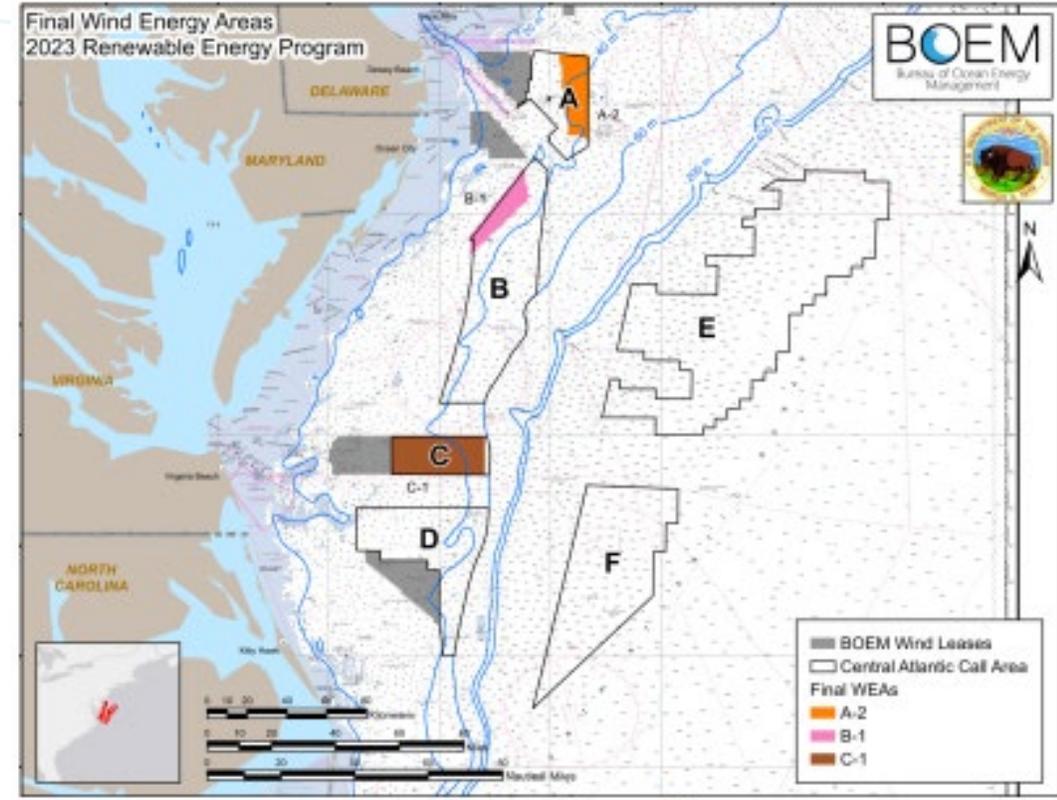
- FEIS
  - Published September 29, 2023
- Record of Decision
  - October 30, 2023
- Federal Permit Approvals
  - BOEM
  - USACE Norfolk District
  - NMFS Office of Protected Resources

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/CVOW-C>



# Central Atlantic: Draft Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)

- **Final WEAs published July 31, 2023 (image)**
  - Call Area: 3.9 million acres
  - Final WEAs: 356,556 acres
  - 91% reduction in area
- **Task Force meeting for Public Sale Notice (PSN): October 10, 2023**
- **Proposed Sale Notice/EA publication: December 2023**
- **Lease sale anticipated in 2024.**

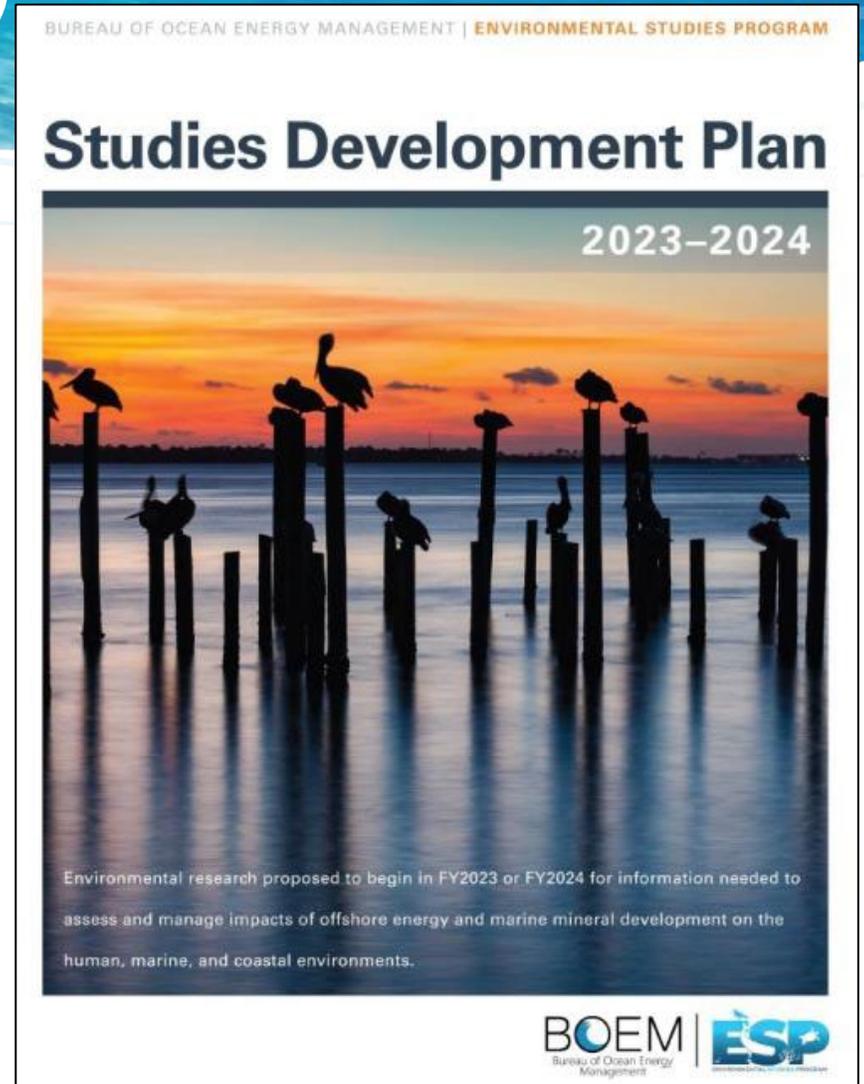


<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/central-atlantic>

# Environmental Studies Program (ESP)

- BOEM publishes annual Studies Development Plan; approved projects on National Studies List.
- Study ideas reviewed by Standing Committee on Offshore Science & Assessment (COSA), National Academy of Sciences
- Results of studies used in BOEM environmental assessment and decision-making process
- Submit study ideas to BOEM in Nov/Dec 2023

<https://www.boem.gov/environment/get-involved>



# ESP Spotlight – Nature Inclusive Design - update

## Evaluating the Effectiveness of Nature Inclusive Design Materials

**Purpose:** Test effectiveness of different materials in promoting marine growth and enhancing habitat. Monitor for epifaunal growth and habitat utilization.

**Location:** Tower Reef (VMRC) 12 nmi offshore Virginia Beach; 12 nmi CVOW

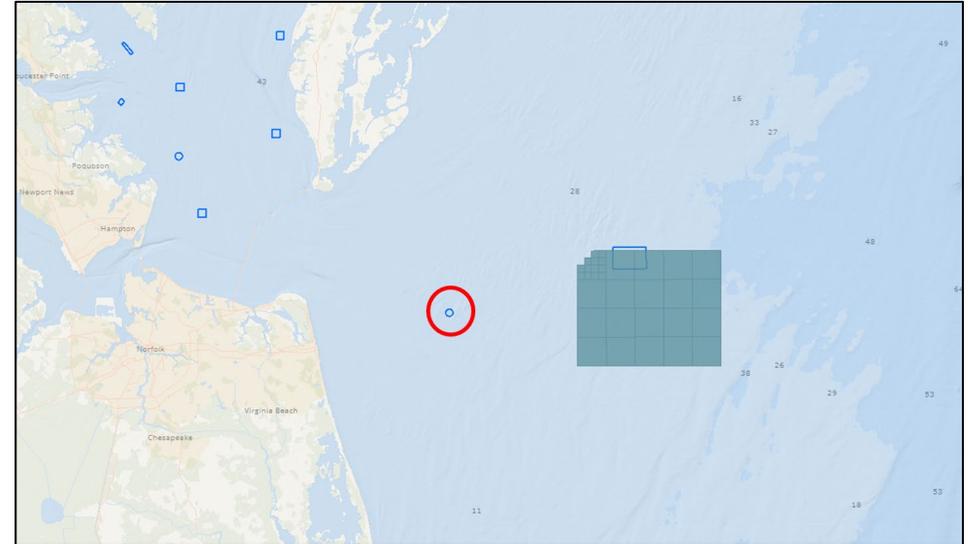
### Summer 2023:

Deployed test materials and replicates  
Diver quadrat surveys; timelapse camera monitoring

### Fall 2023:

September cameras retrieved.

**Final Report:** Summer 2025



Material	Dimensions	m <sup>2</sup>	Required for 3m <sup>2</sup> Coverage
Reef Innovations cube module	22" x 22" x 8"	approx. 0.3	12 (4 per replicate)
Articulating mat	8 ft x 20 ft	14.9	6 (2 per replicate); need to be cut
Repurposed concrete boulders	0.02 m <sup>3</sup>	approx. 0.1	36 (12 per replicate)
ECONcrete scour protection units	1.3 ft x 2 ft	0.23	15 (5 per replicate)
Reefmaker units	1.5 m x 1.5 m	2.25	3 (1 per replicate); need to be cut



# CVOW – Research Monitoring Results

OCS Study  
BOEM 2023-034

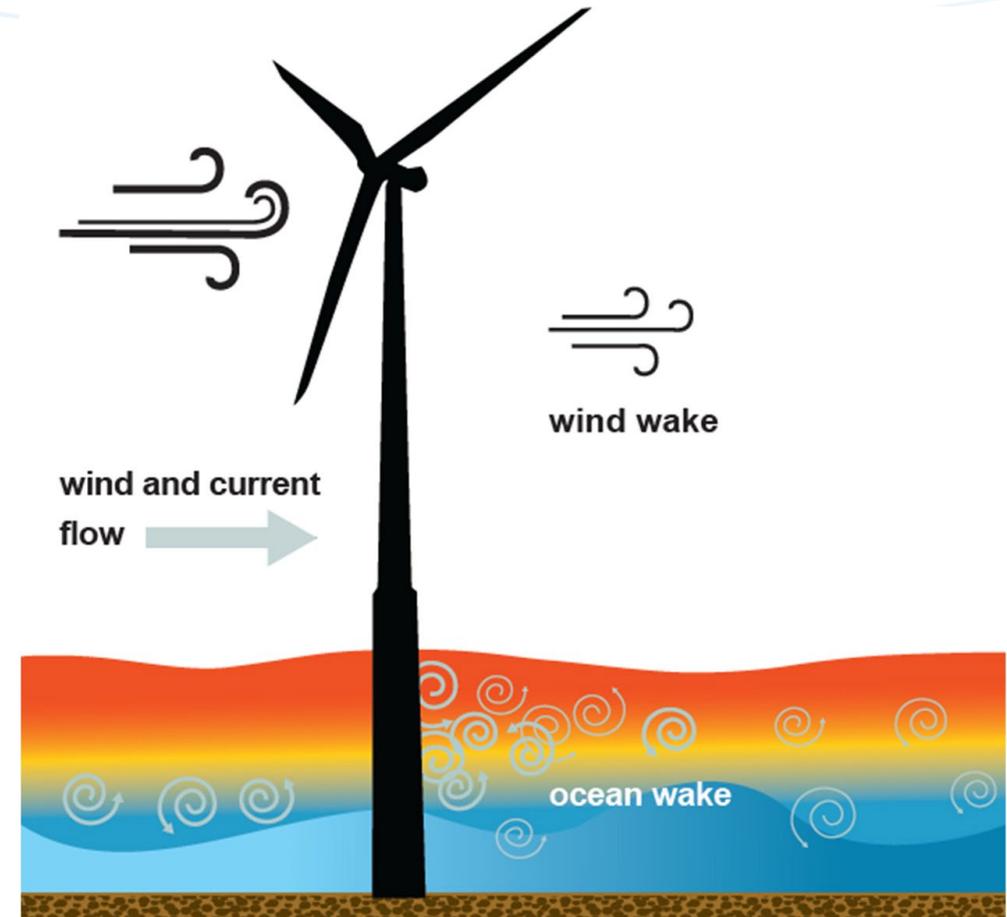
- BOEM published results of monitoring at the CVOW-R Project
  - Turbidity
  - Biofouling
    - Included:
      - Mussel growth
      - Fish species observations
      - Fishing gear observations
  - Corrosion
  - [https://epis.boem.gov/Final%20Reports/BOEM\\_2023-034.pdf](https://epis.boem.gov/Final%20Reports/BOEM_2023-034.pdf)

## Field Observations During Offshore Wind Structure Installation and Operation, Volume 3



# National Academies – Hydrodynamic Modelling

- The NAS Committee released its findings on “Potential Hydrodynamic Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy on Nantucket Shoals Regional Ecology: An Evaluation from Wind to Whales”
- Conclusion: The impacts of offshore wind projects on the North Atlantic right whale and the availability of their prey in the Nantucket Shoals region will likely be difficult to distinguish from the significant impacts of climate change and other influences on the ecosystem. As planning and construction of wind farms in the Nantucket Shoals region continue, further study and monitoring of the oceanography and ecology of the area is needed to fully understand the impact of future wind farms. Advancing understanding of potential impacts is especially important as North Atlantic right whale use of the Nantucket Shoals region continues to evolve.
- <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/evaluation-of-hydrodynamic-modeling-and-implications-for-offshore-wind-development-nantucket-shoals>



# NAS Standing Committee on Offshore Wind and Fisheries

- **National Committee meant to serve as a forum to discuss the state of science and pressing concerns related to offshore wind and fisheries. Specifically:**
  - engage in discussions and exchanges of information on key topics of interest to BOEM's activities related to offshore wind and fisheries;
  - provide expert assessment of recent developments in selected fields of science and technology, including reviewing and providing general advice on gaps and priorities for research;
  - provide stakeholder understanding and insights on a diversity of issues pertinent to offshore wind and fisheries to ground discussions, provide context, and, expand the Committee's and BOEM's understanding on the topics of discussion.

## Videos

Day 1





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**Thank you!**

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