Appendix 5 - Areas to Avoid and Areas of Concern for Siting Analysis for Offshore Wind Transmission Cable Corridors

As described in Chapter 2 (of Volume 1), building on the work and approaches in the 2009 ocean plan, the 2014 draft ocean plan employs a compatibility assessment, screening analysis, and optimization tool to identify potential transmission corridor routes for further characterization, investigation, and assessment work, with the goal of synchronizing transmission planning and siting with the next stages in the BOEM process, including leasing, site assessment, and NEPA analysis.

Through the analysis, areas to avoid and areas of concern were identified based on potential biological and physical environmental impacts, incompatibility, limitations and specifications of transmission cable installation operations, and/or adverse interactions with existing uses and sites to avoid. This Appendix contains all of the maps of the designated the areas to avoid and areas of concern for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cables corridors, listed in Table Appendix 5-1.

Table Appendix 5-1. Areas to avoid and areas of concern for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cables corridors

Category	Areas to avoid
SSU Resources	North Atlantic right whale core habitat
	Humpback whale core habitat
	Fin whale core habitat
	Hard/complex seafloor
	Eelgrass
	Intertidal flats
Seafloor Substrate	Areas of rock from surficial sediment dataset
Transportation and Navigation Uses	Anchorage Areas (C, D, L, and M)
Aquaculture Uses	Aquaculture sites
Sites to Avoid	Nomans Danger Zone
	Cape Wind project footprint
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers disposal sites
Areas of Operational Limitation	Water depth <16 feet (limitations to cable installation vessels due to draft, currents, navigational hazards)
Category	**Areas of concern**
SSU Resources	Important fish resources
Infrastructure Uses	Cable areas and existing cables with 250-m buffers
	Pipeline areas and existing pipelines with 500-m buffers

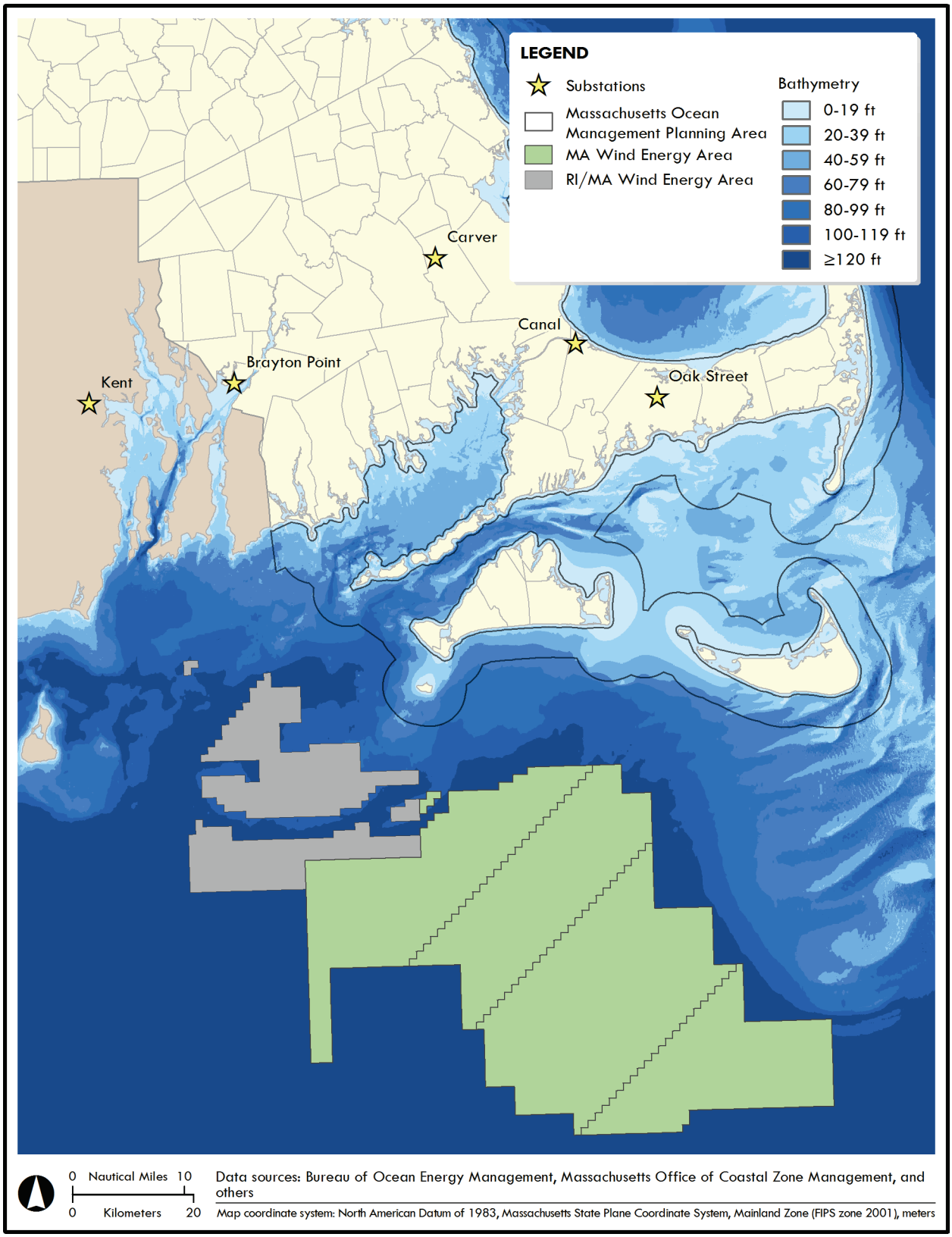

Figure Appendix 5-1. Federal Wind Energy Areas and priority substations

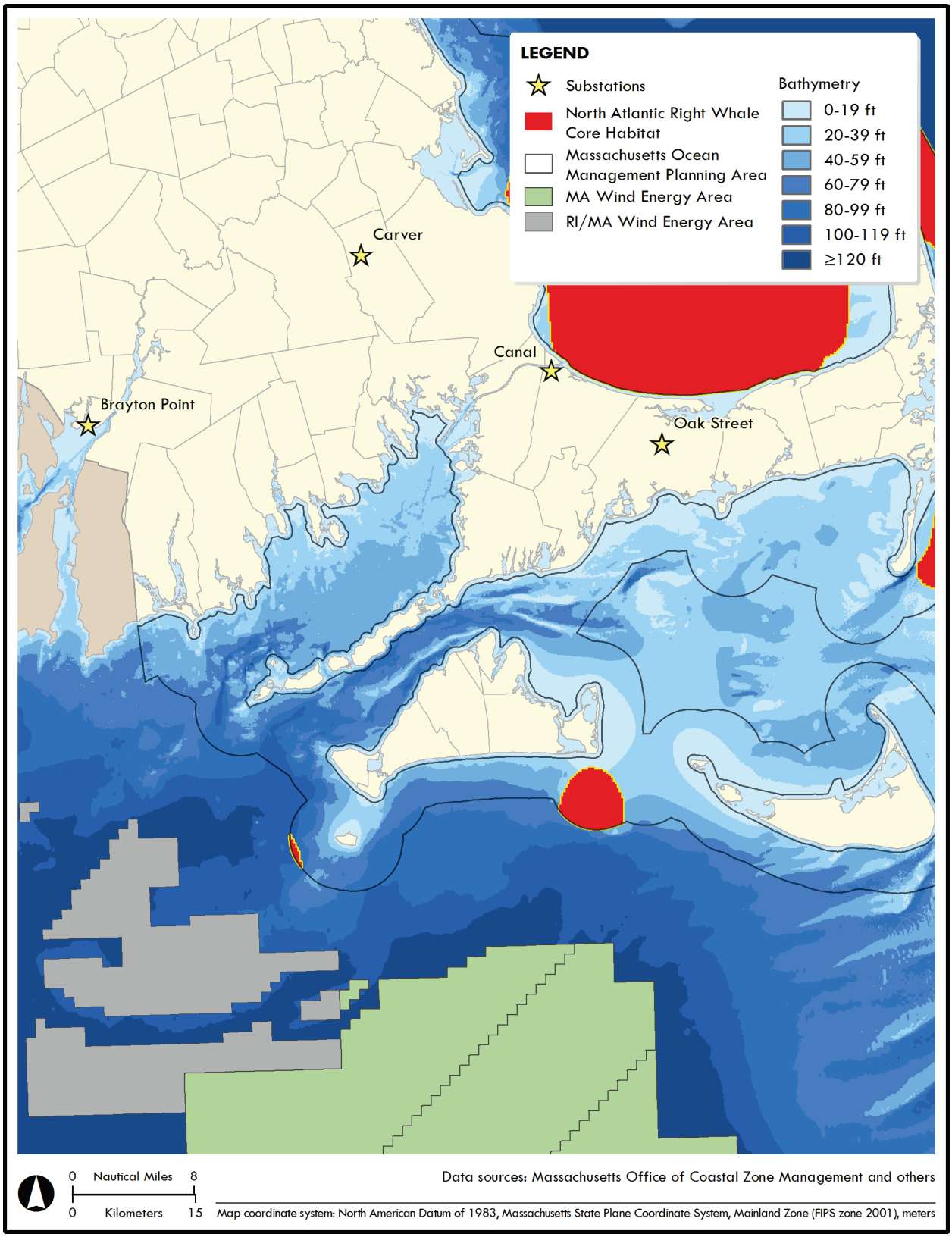

Figure Appendix 5-2. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: North Atlantic right whale core habitat

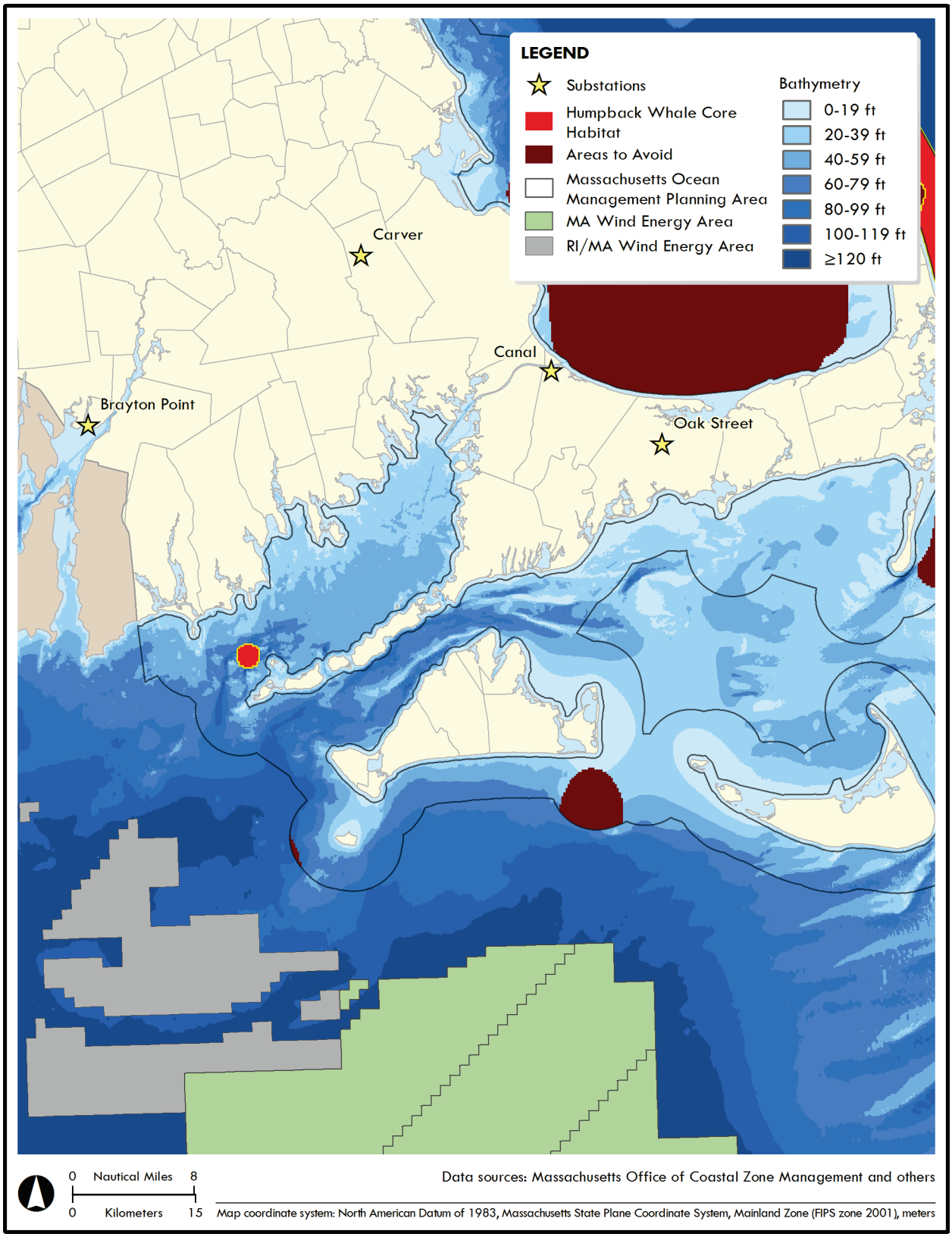

Figure Appendix 5-3. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: humpback whale core habitat

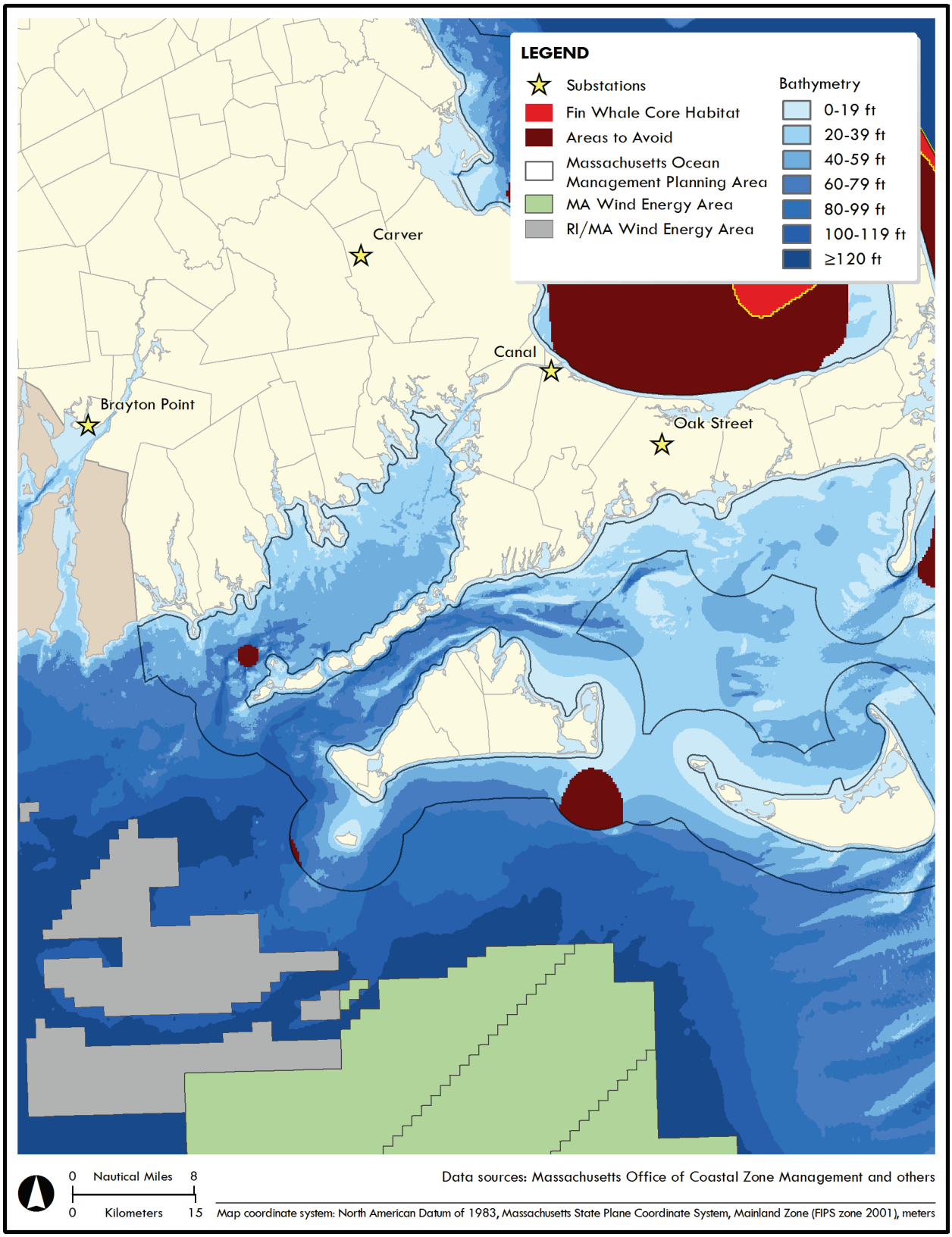

Figure Appendix 5-4. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: fin whale core habitat

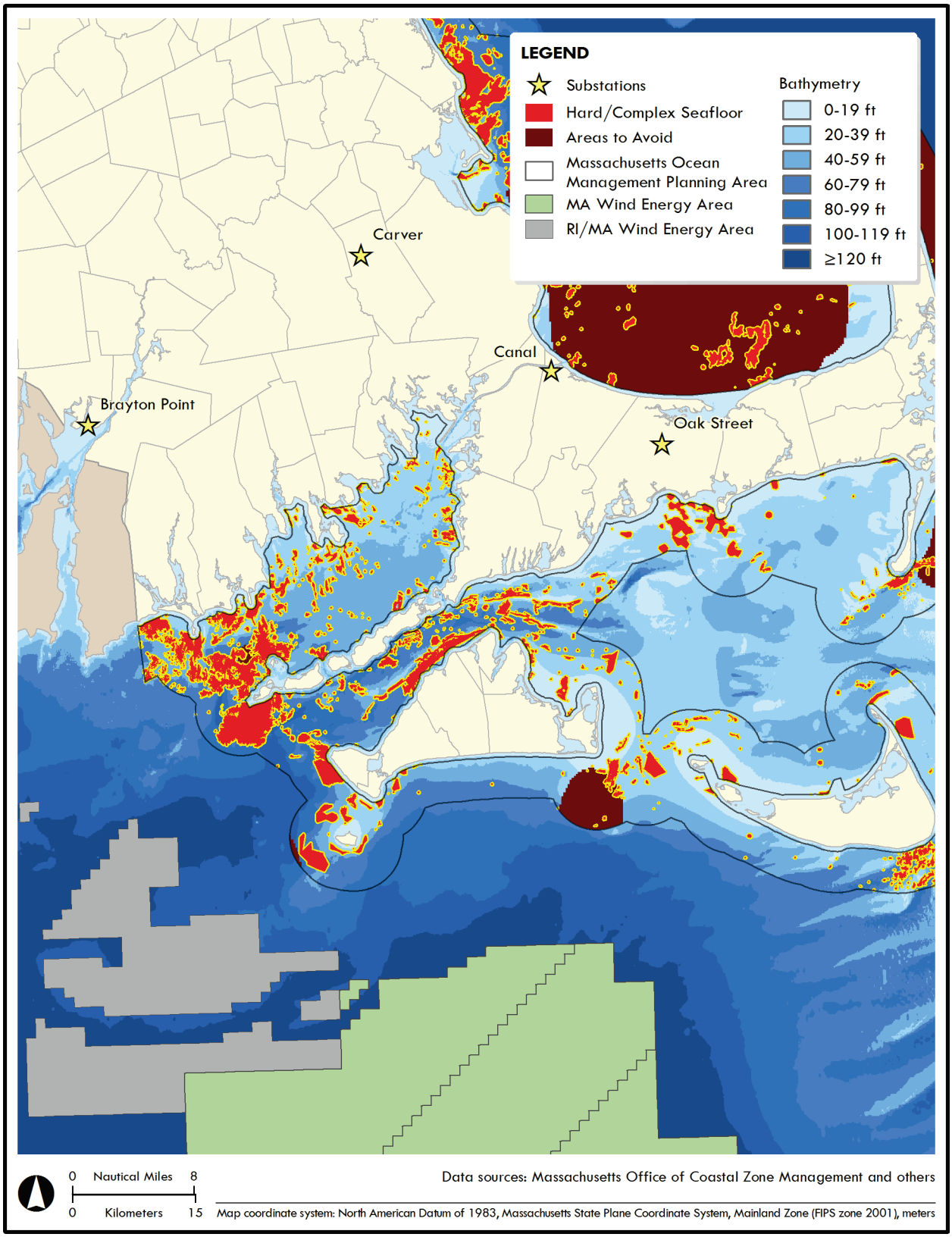

Figure Appendix 5-5. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: hard/complex seafloor

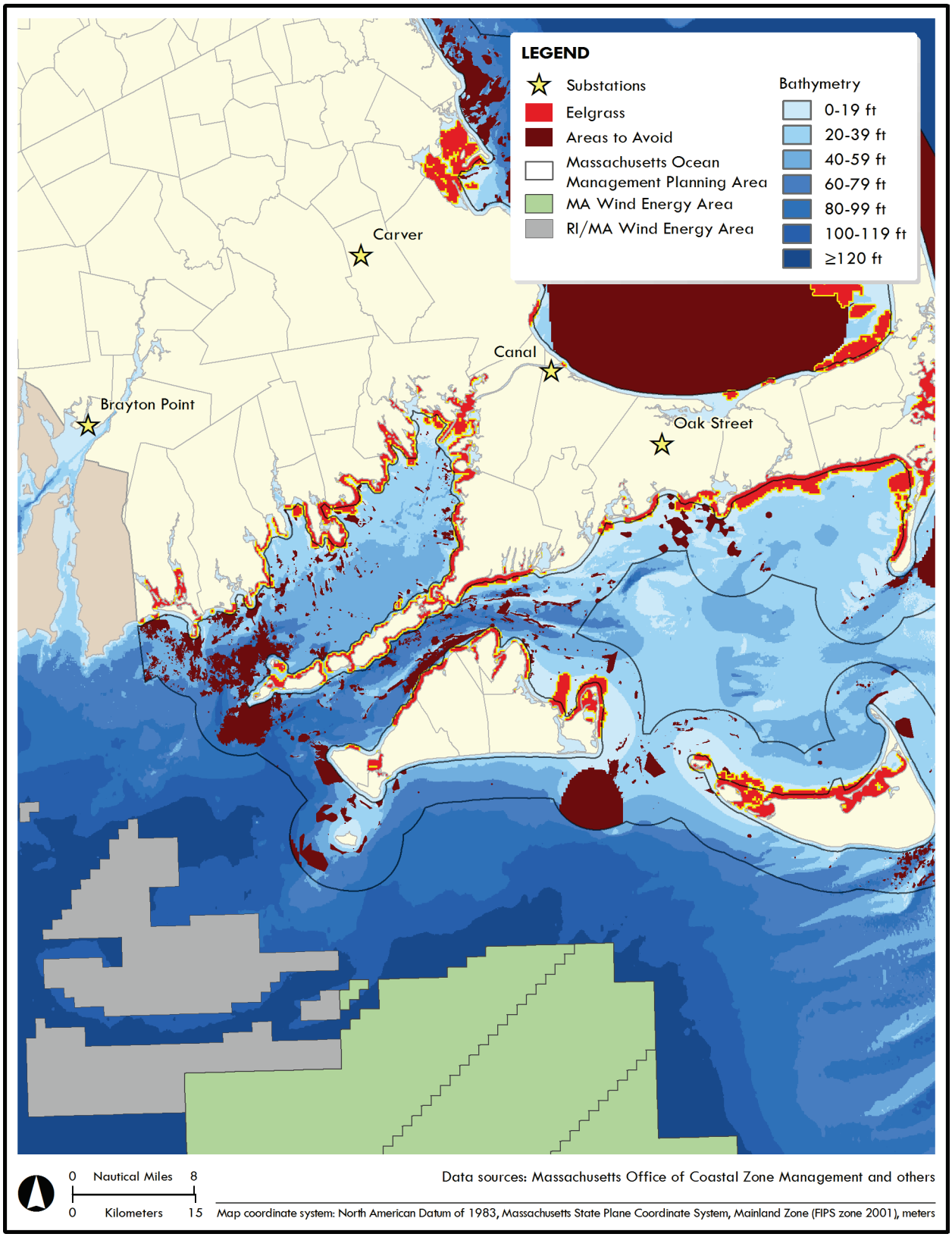

Figure Appendix 5-6. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: eelgrass

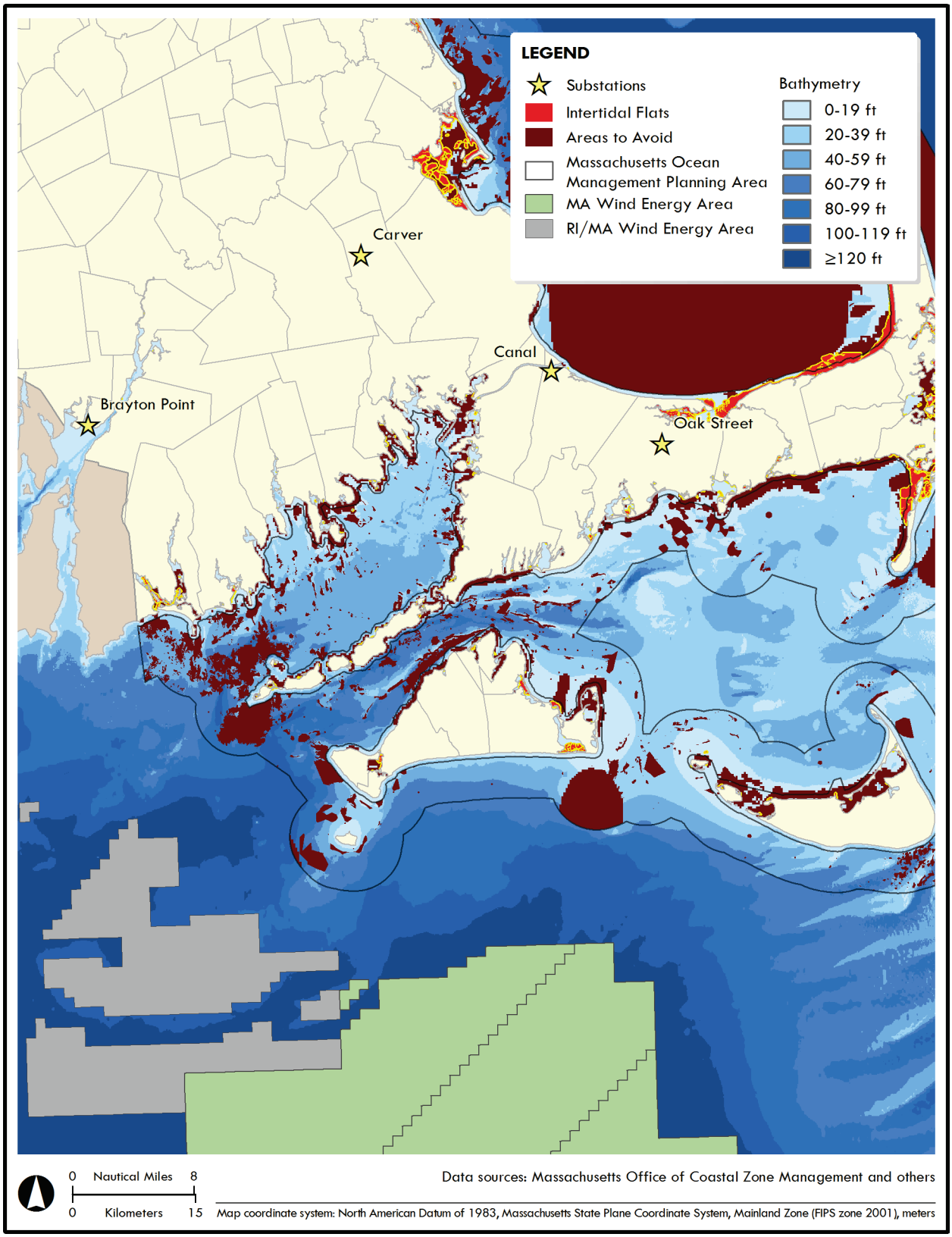

Figure Appendix 5-7. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: intertidal flats

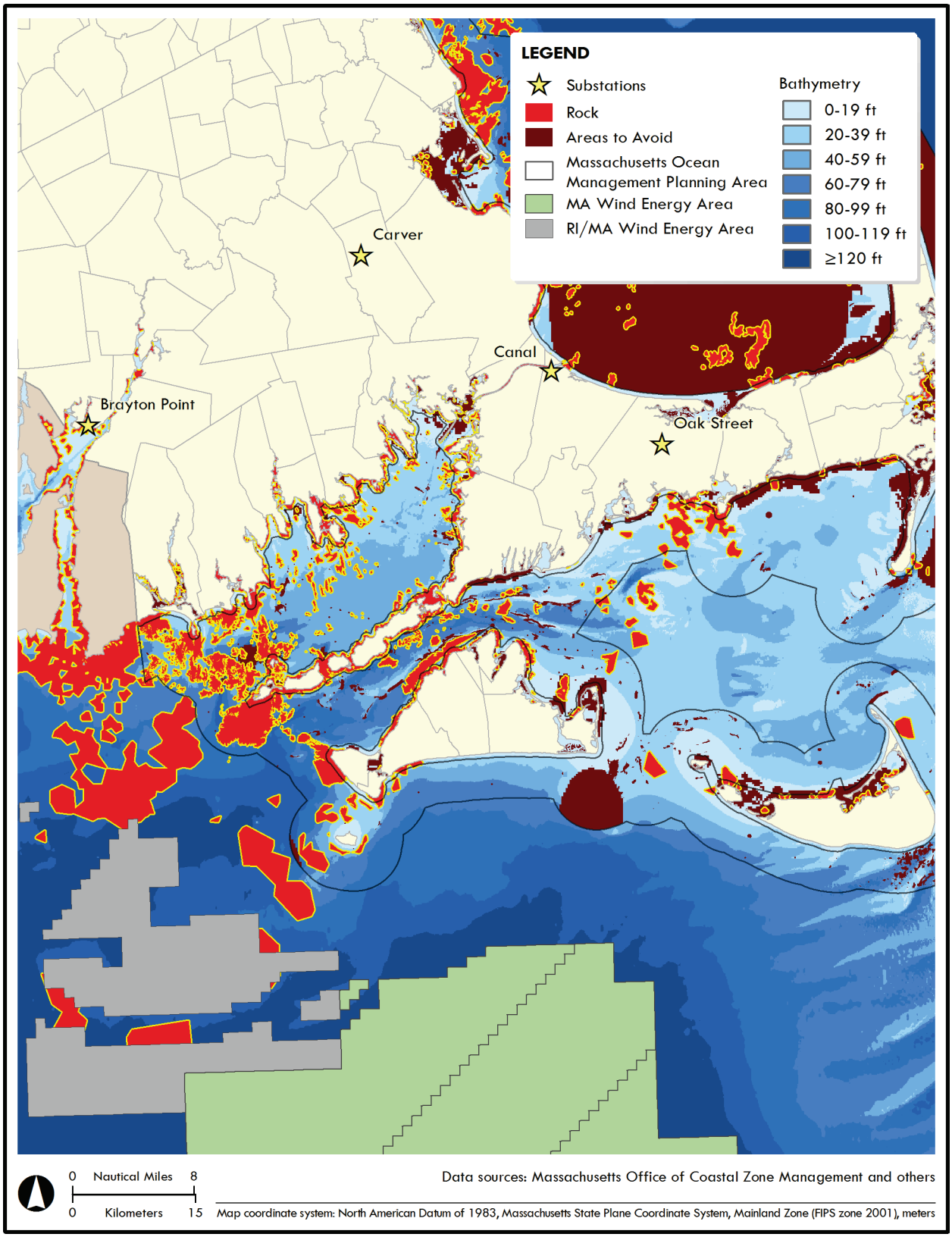

Figure Appendix 5-8. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: areas of rock from surficial sediment dataset

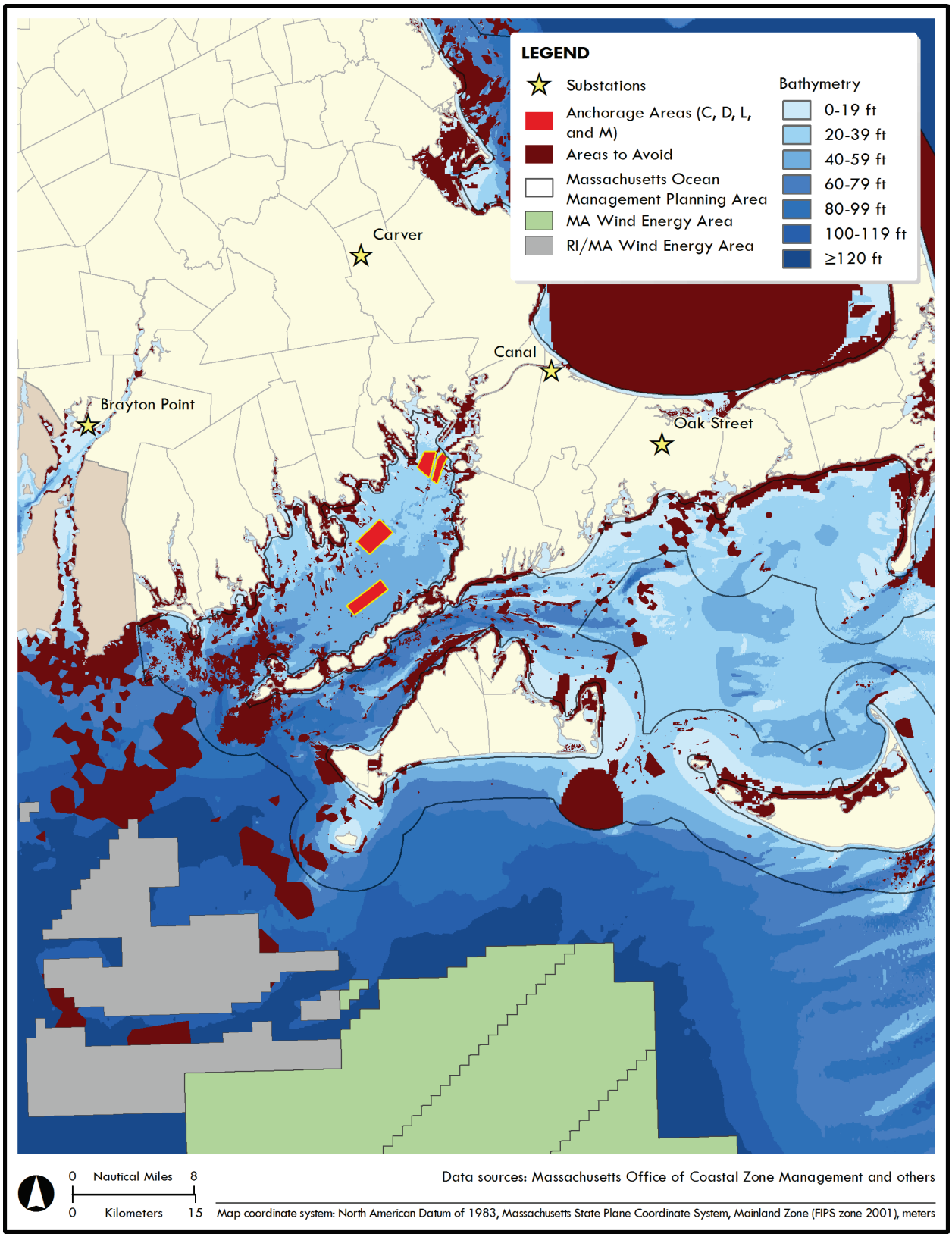

Figure Appendix 5-9. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: anchorage areas (C, D, L, and M)

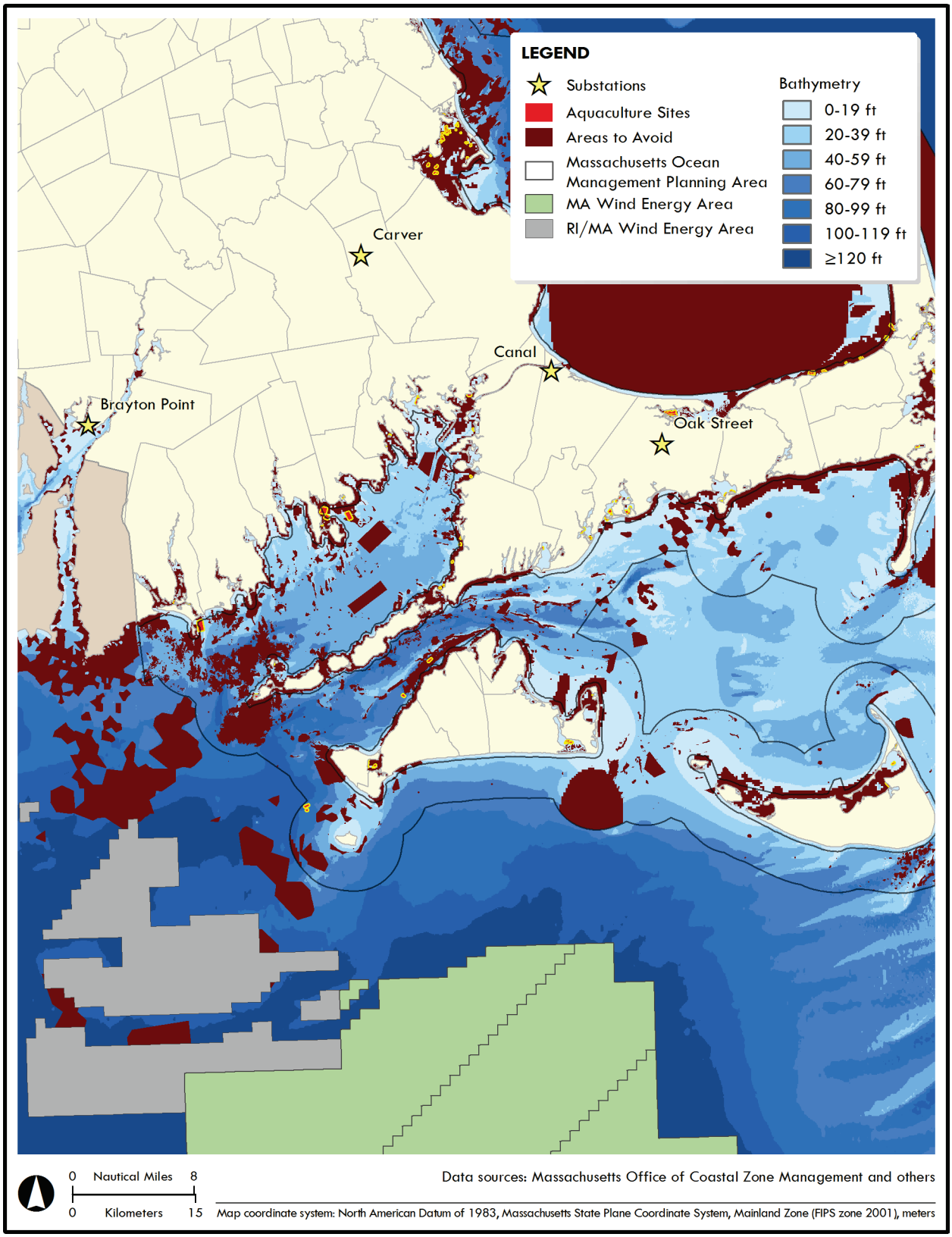

Figure Appendix 5-10. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: aquaculture sites

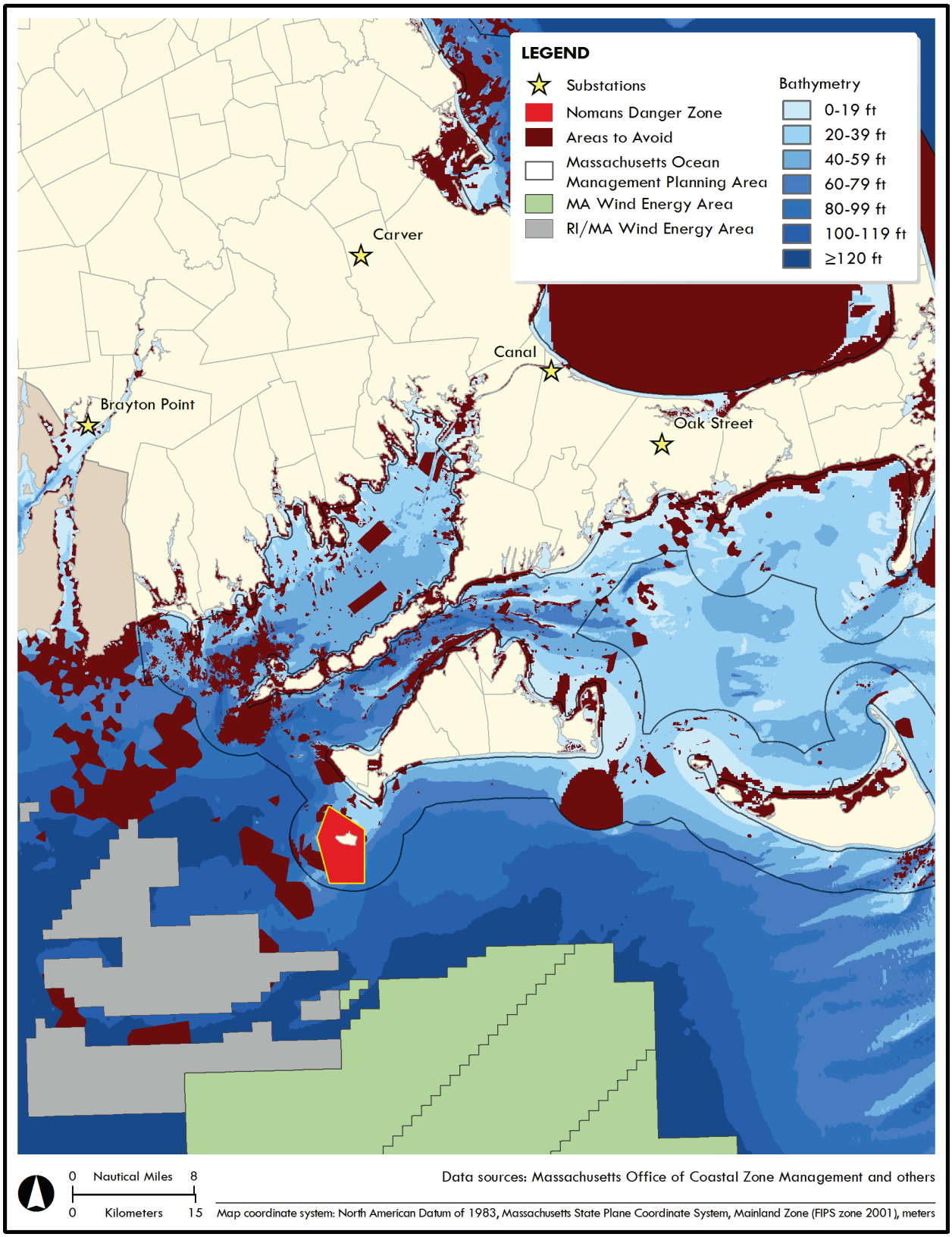

Figure Appendix 5-11. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: Nomans Danger Zone

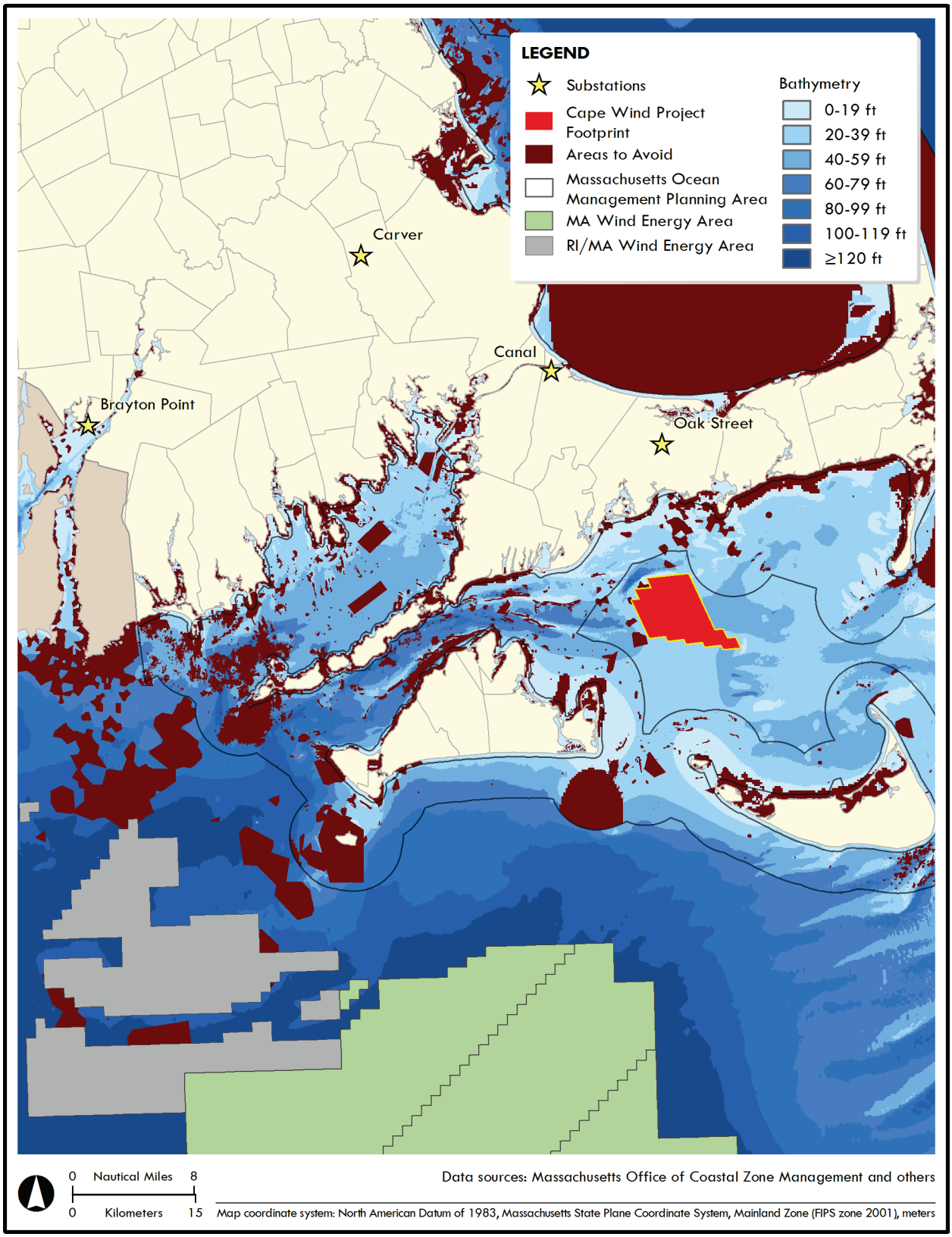

Figure Appendix 5-12. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: Cape Wind project footprint

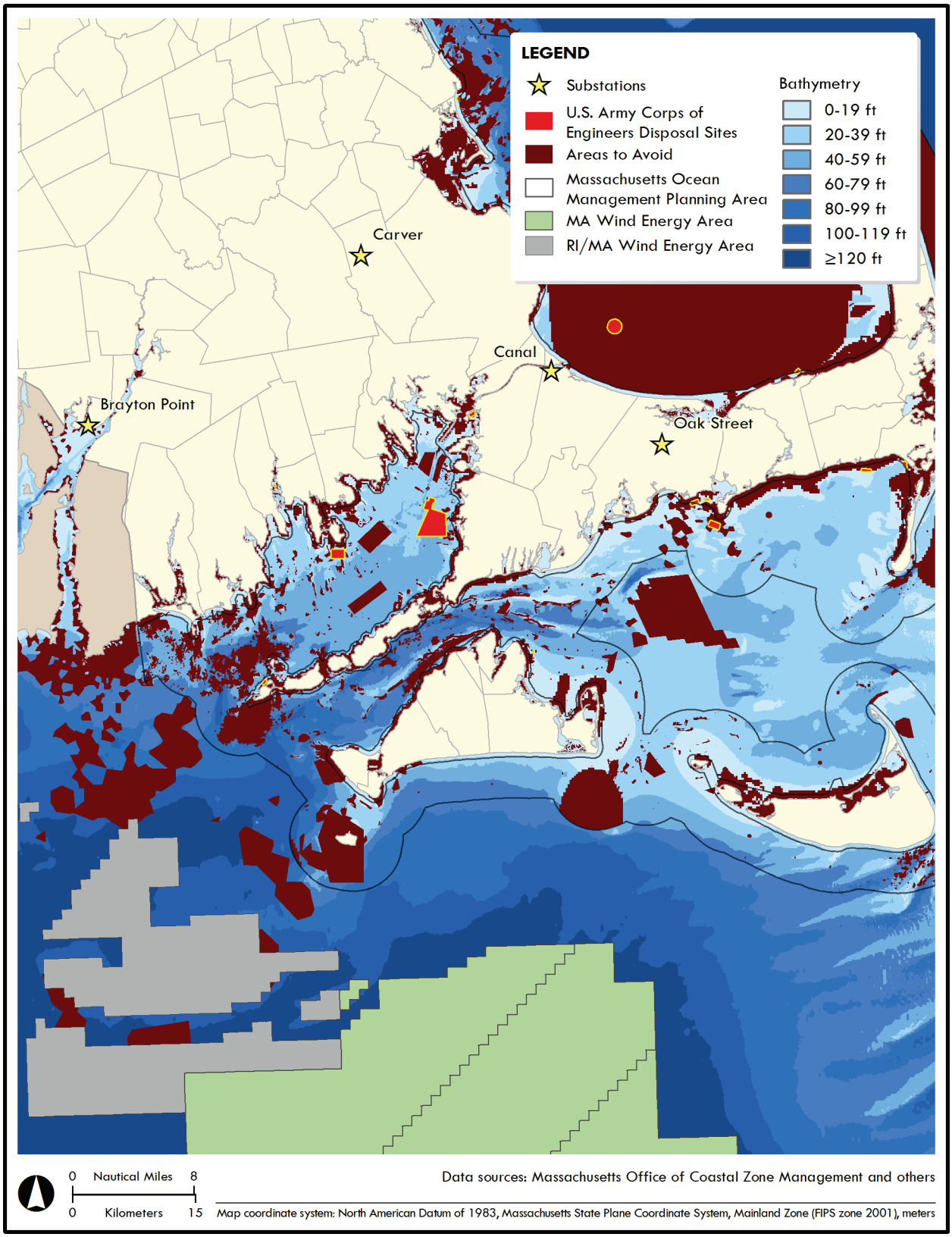

Figure Appendix 5-13. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers disposal sites

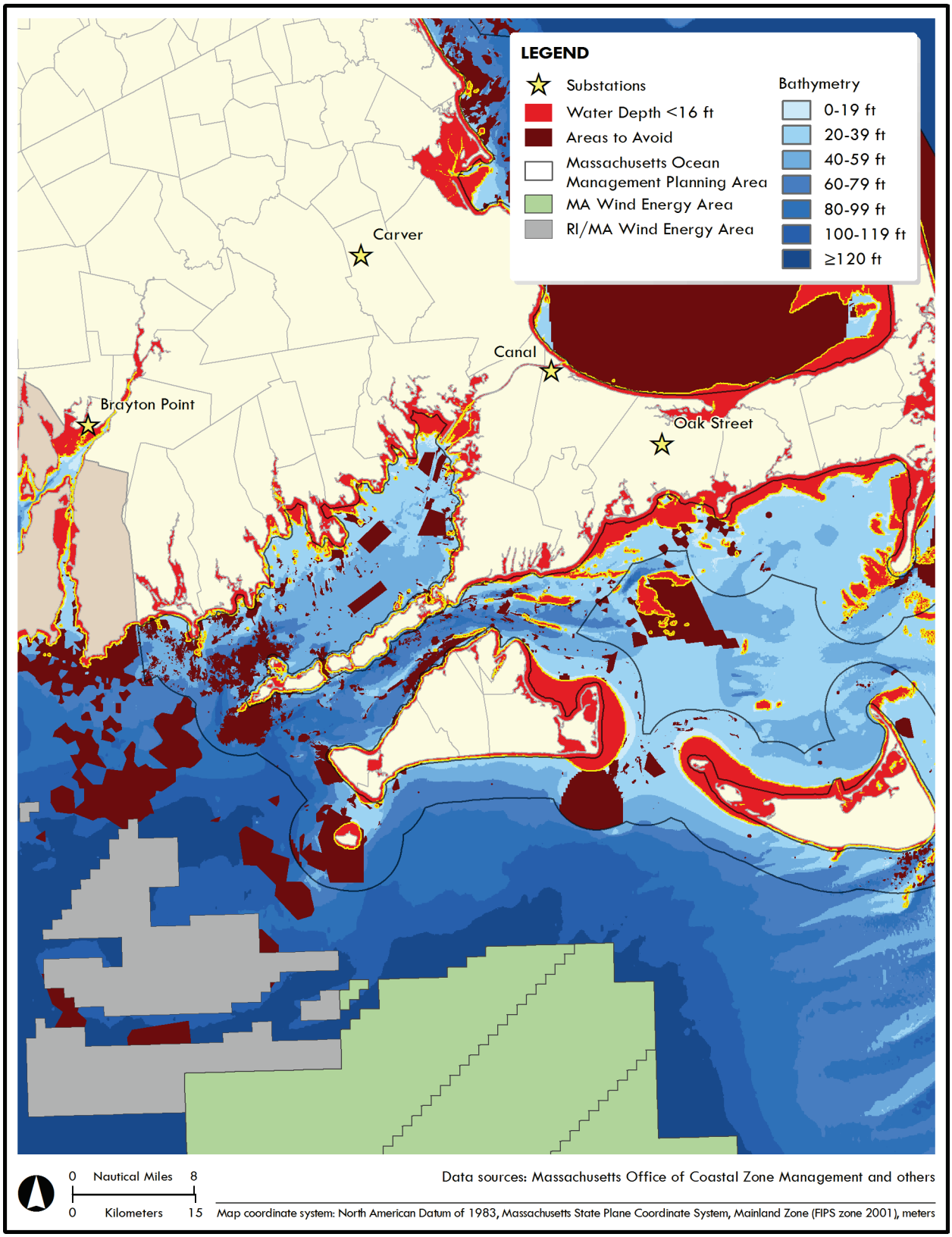

Figure Appendix 5-14. Areas to avoid for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: water depth <16 feet (limitations to cable installation vessels due to draft, currents, navigational hazards)

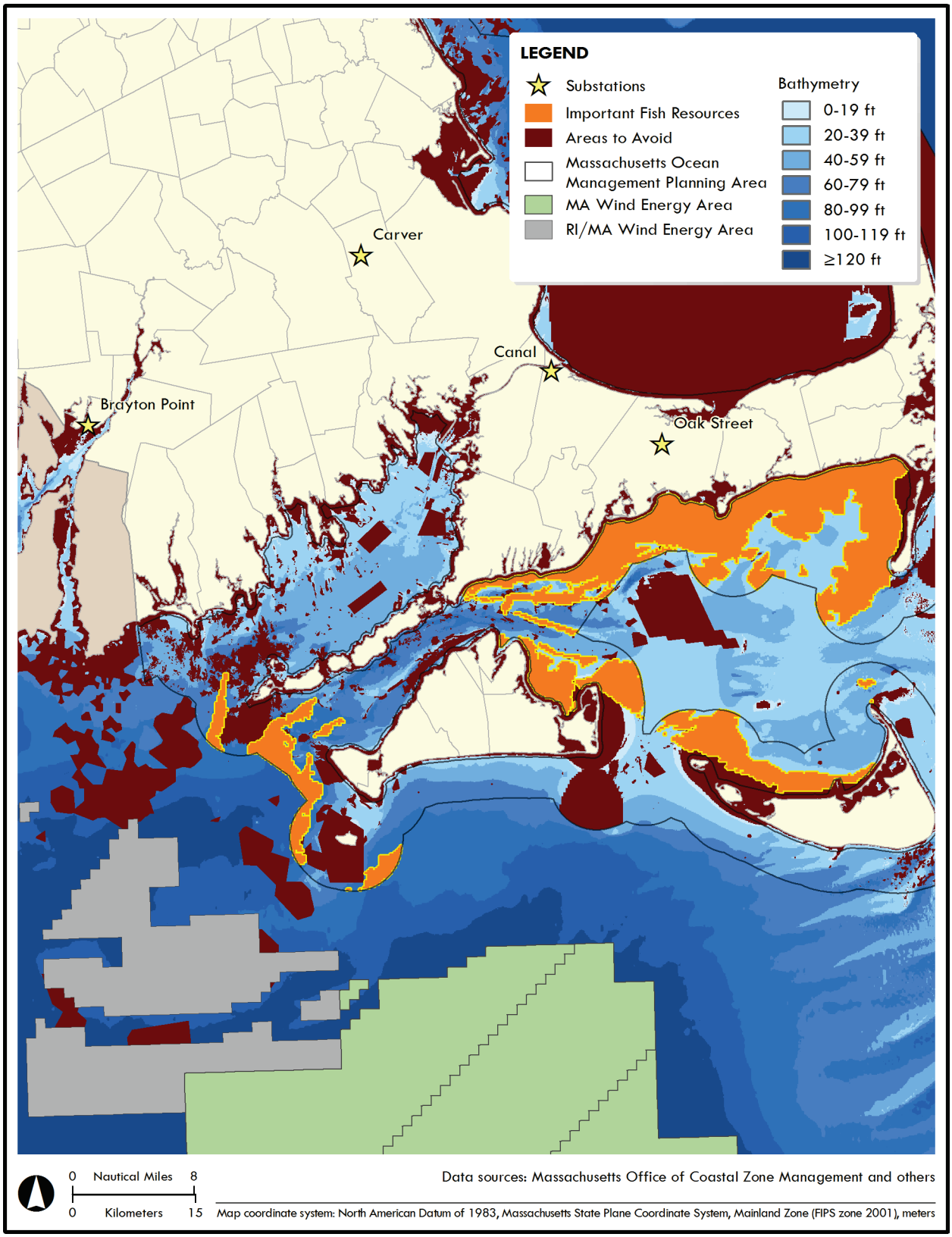

Figure Appendix 5-15. Areas of concern for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: important fish resources

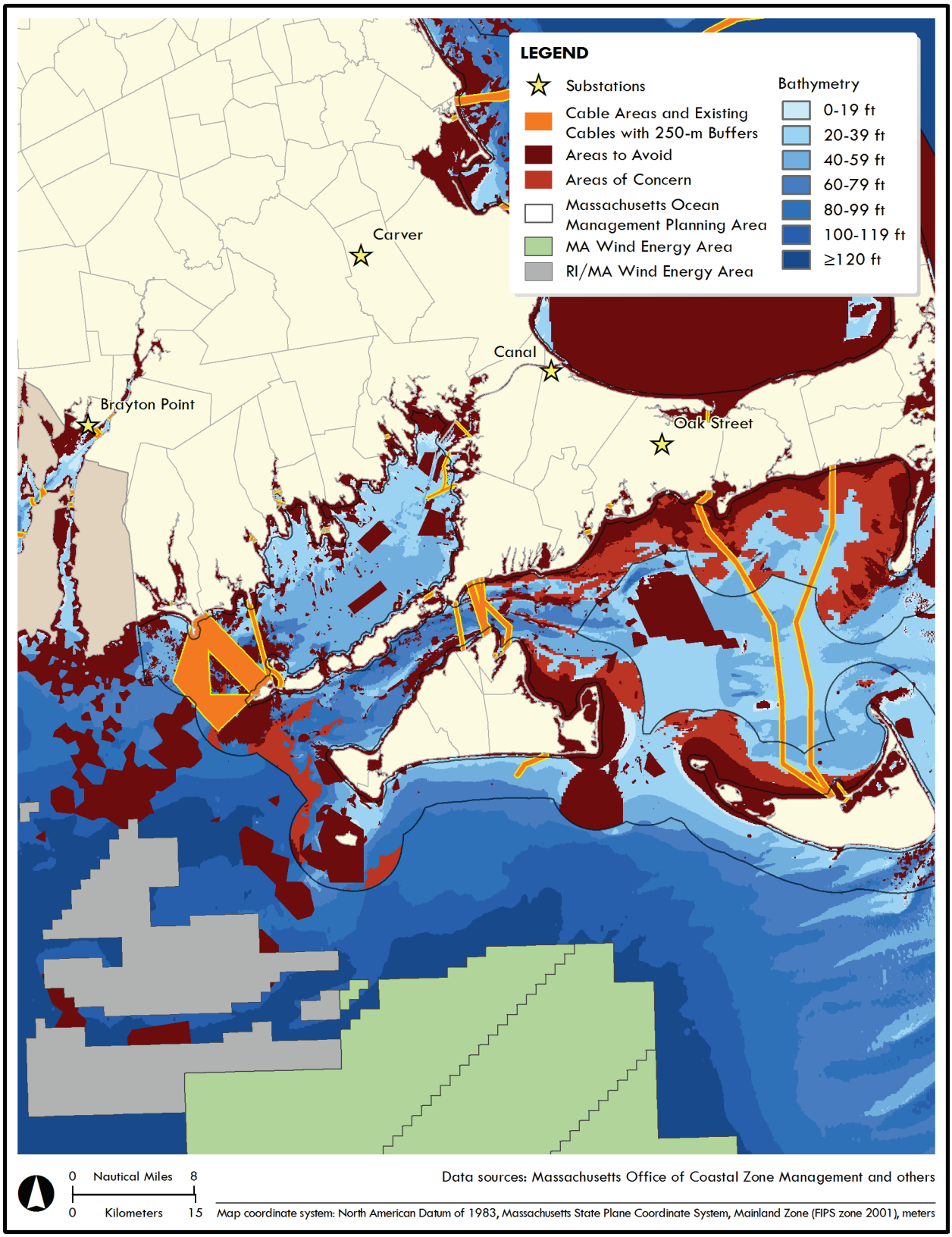

Figure Appendix 5-16. Areas of concern for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: cable areas and existing cables with 250-m buffers

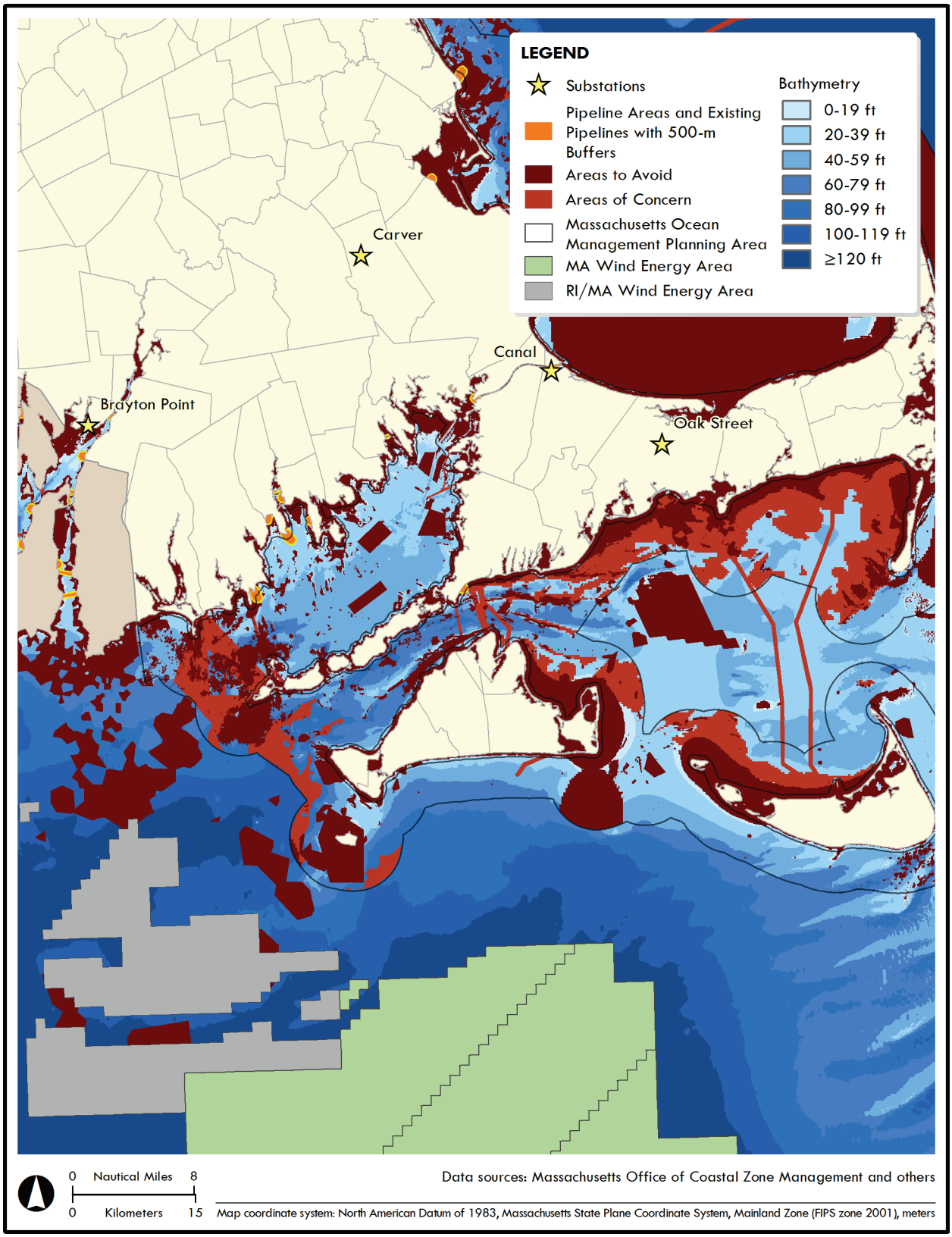

Figure Appendix 5-17. Areas of concern for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors: pipeline areas and existing pipelines with 500-m buffers

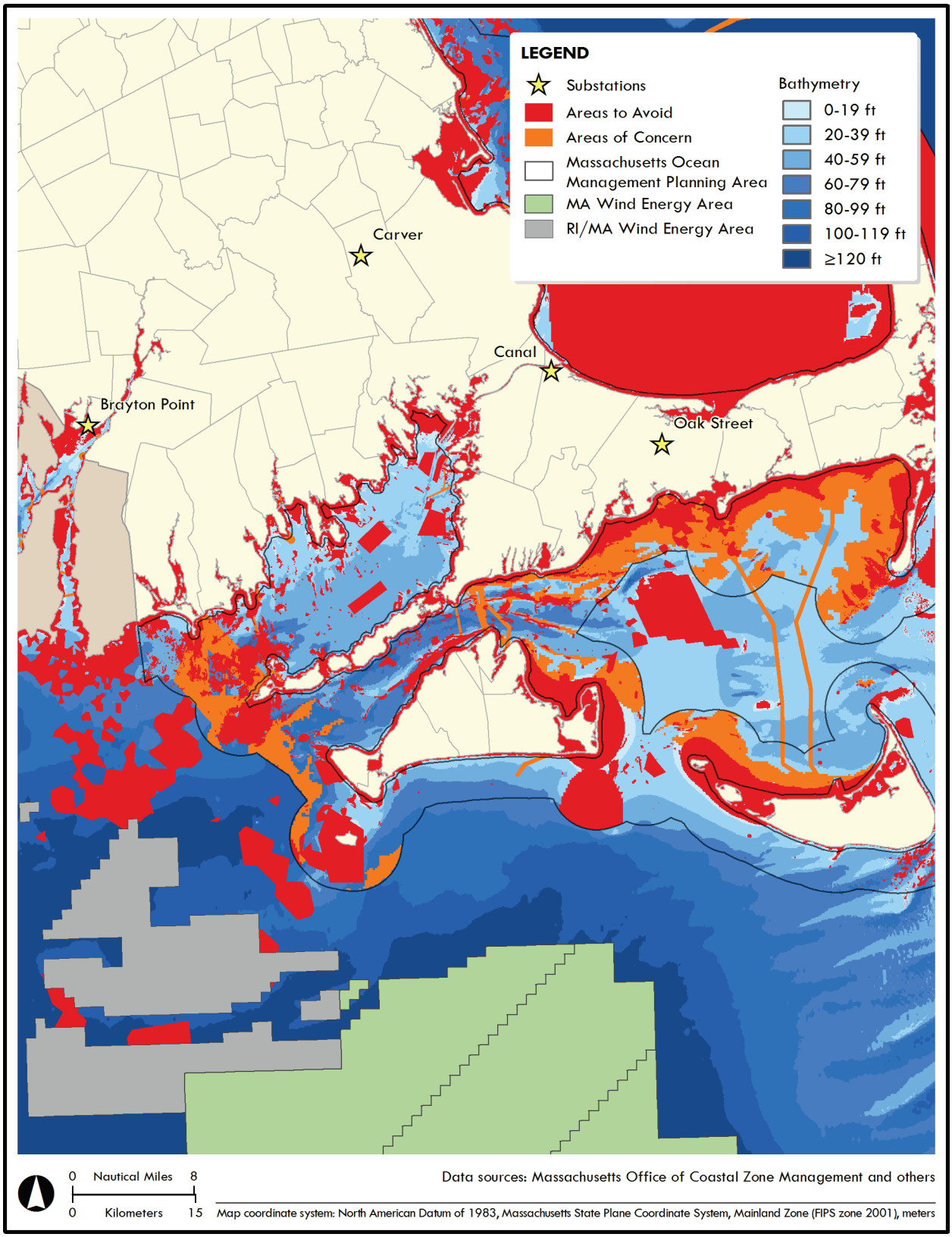

Figure Appendix 5-18. Areas to avoid and areas of concern for siting of potential offshore wind transmission cable corridors