



**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# **Gulf of Maine Updates MA Habitat Working Group**

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February 5, 2024

# Focus for Today

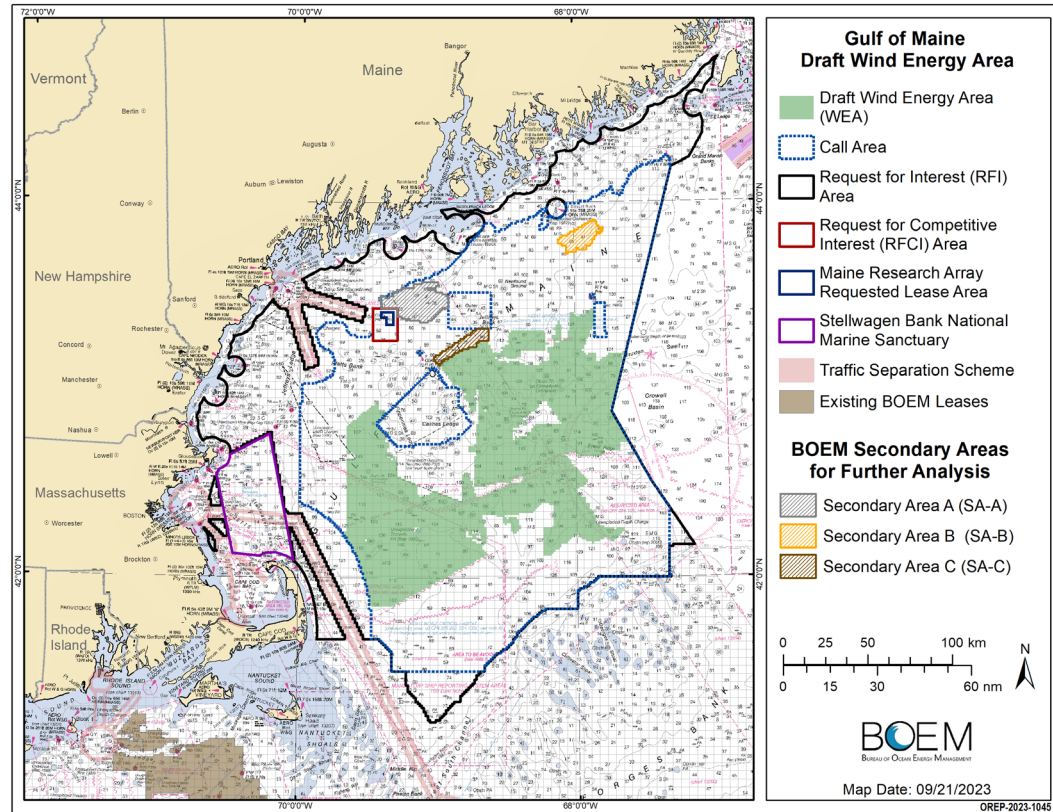
- Update: Where are we in the planning/leasing process in the Gulf of Maine?
- Gulf of Maine stakeholder engagement
  - By the numbers
  - Draft WEA Comments – what did we hear?
- Discuss next steps in the planning/leasing process, for example:
  - Approach to identifying Final WEAs
  - Leasing timeline



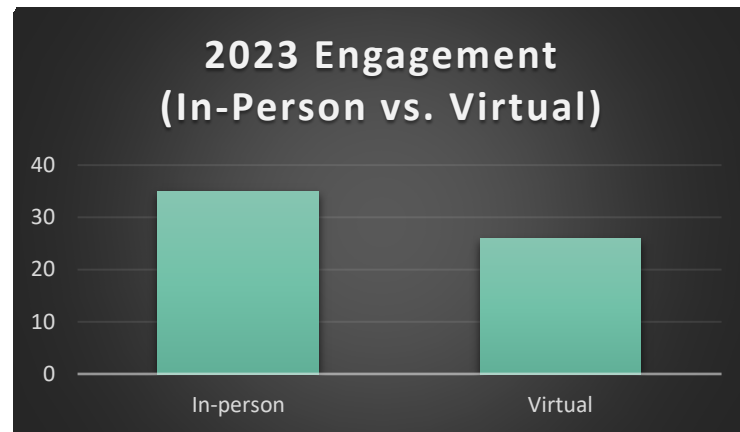
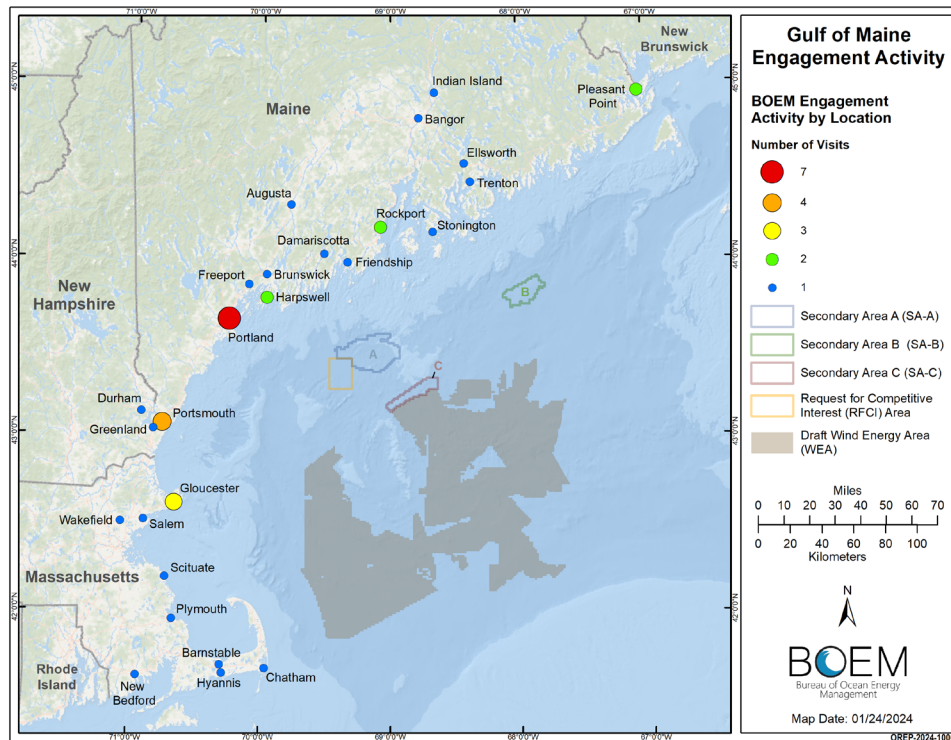
# Draft WEA



- Draft WEA was published on October 19, 2023—opening a **30-day public comment** period (closed November 20, 2023)
- ~3.5 million acres, representing a **64% reduction** from the Call.
- **Request for Comment**
  - Explains the Draft WEA and Secondary Areas
  - Asks questions about:
    - Relative developability of different areas
    - Phased leasing
    - Fishing gear used, migration patterns of fish, protected species
- **Draft NCCOS Report: Wind Energy Siting Analysis**
  - Modeling methodology
  - Model performance across different resource groups/stakeholder interests.



# 2023 Gulf of Maine Engagement



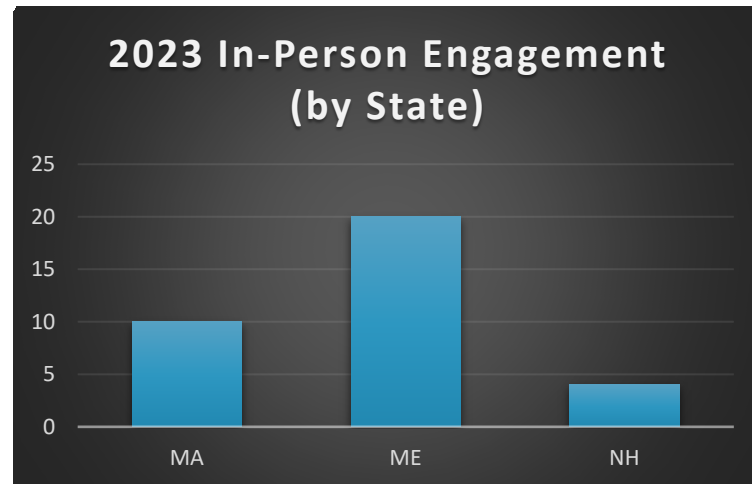
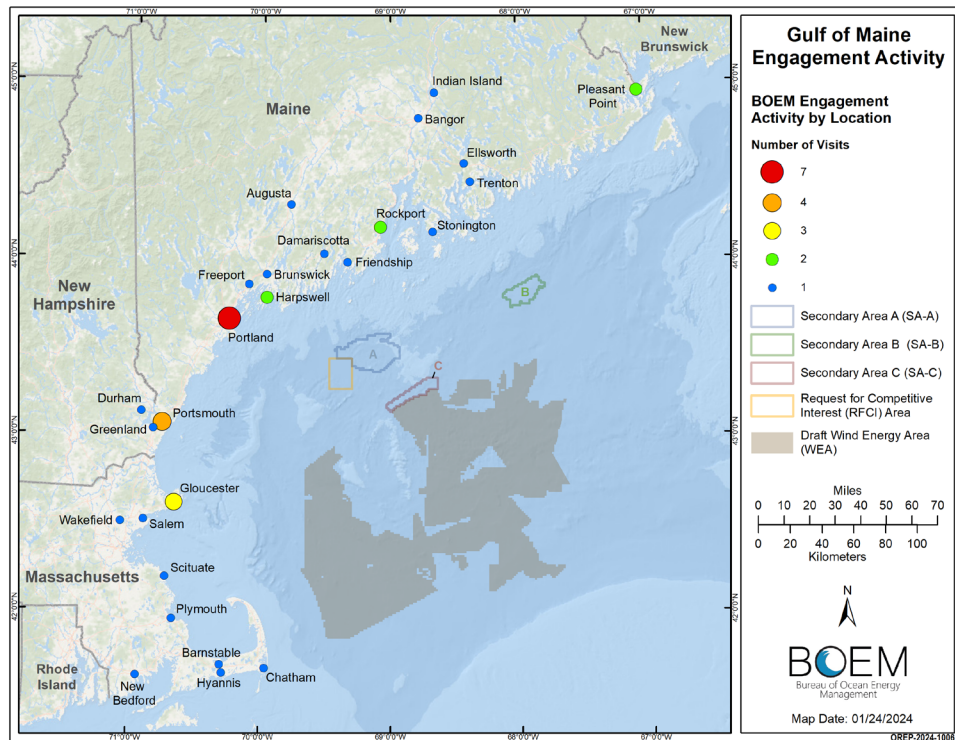
In 2023, we participated in **~ 60 external meetings** with various stakeholders (includes Task Force Meetings, public meetings, and targeted engagement meetings with specific stakeholder and groups, as well as external events at which BOEM presented)

Engagement in the map spans 2019-2023; however, all but 5 in-person meetings took place in 2023





# 2023 Gulf of Maine Engagement

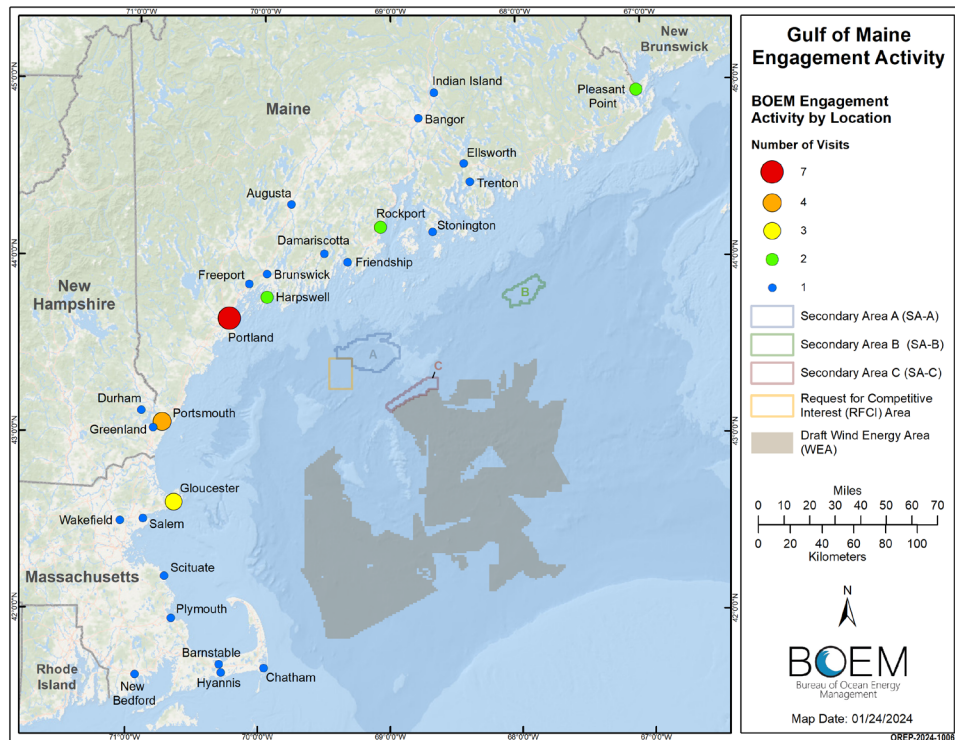


Specific to the Draft WEA, we held 7 meetings in ME, 6 in MA, 2 in NH

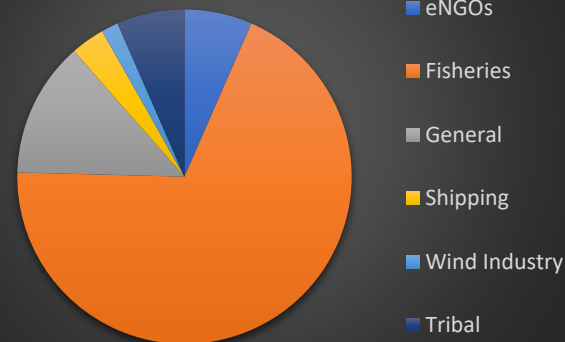
Engagement in the map spans 2019-2023; however, all but 5 in-person meetings took place in 2023



# 2023 Gulf of Maine Engagement



## 2023 Engagement (by focus area)



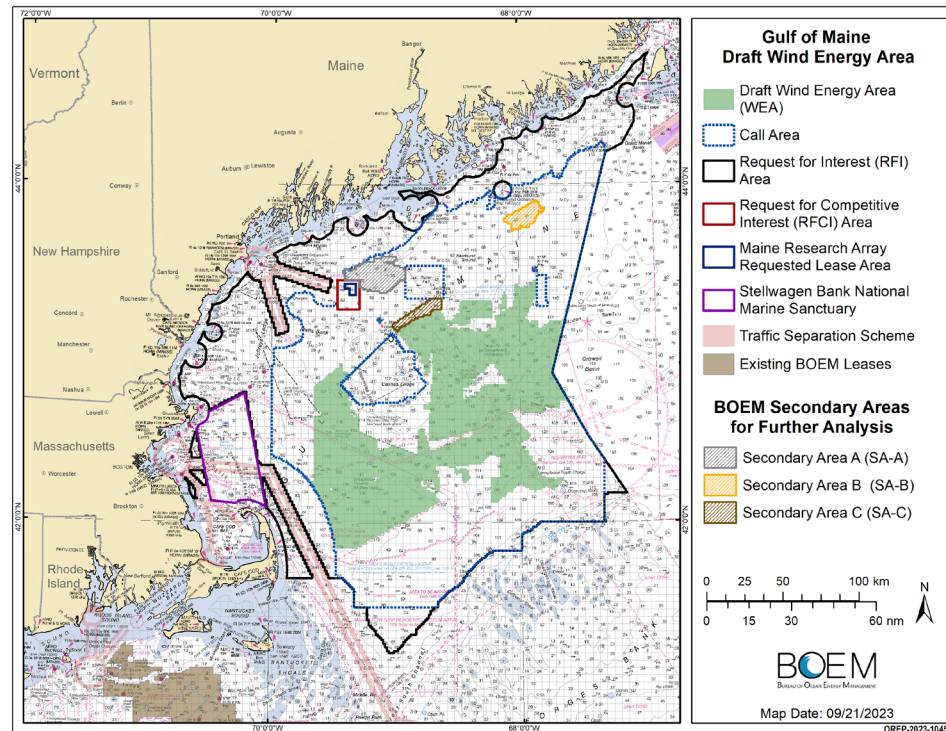
Includes in-person and virtual events

Engagement in the map spans 2019-2023; however, all but 5 in-person meetings took place in 2023



# What did we hear in the Draft WEA comment period?

- 300+ comments received
- General support for engagement, model, transparency
- Almost no support for Secondary Areas, particularly A&B.
- Concerns about eventual transmission routes/landfall locations.
- Support for phased leasing (though different perspectives on scale, timing)
- Support for multi-factor auction (bidding credits)
- Habitat/Natural Resources:
  - Cashes Ledge extension, NARW Corridor, Toothaker Ridge, buffers from nesting seabird islands, etc.
- Focus on key user/resource conflicts (“if everything is important, nothing is important”)





# Key Questions Moving Forward

- Size, Number, Location, Orientation of Final WEAs/Proposed Lease Areas
- Phased leasing
  - What are the benefits and drawbacks of such a program?
- Remaining conflicts within the Draft WEA and Secondary Areas
  - What makes those conflicts more/less compatible with floating offshore wind development?
- Transmission
  - Opportunities and constraints
- Lease Stipulations and Bidding Credits



# How Many Acres Are Potentially Needed?

- Planning and Analysis phase is based on **winnowing** – starting large, receiving feedback and deconflicting
- Spatial modeling acreage assumptions
  - Call comments documented several capacity requests
  - MA – 10 GW of capacity by 2050
  - ME – 3 GW of capacity by 2050
  - ISO-NE – 18GW
  - American Clean Power – 20 GW
- BOEM will strive to identify sufficient area to meet the States' planning goals; however, *this may not be possible*.
- Draft WEA is ~ **3.5 million acres**.

Capacity (GW) to acreage – **Energy Density\***

MW	PLANNING DENSITY  ~0.012 MW/acre or 3 MW/km <sup>2</sup>	AVERAGE DENSITY OF BOEM PROPOSED PROJECTS  ~ 0.019 MW/acre or 4.7 MW/km <sup>2</sup>
13,000	1,083,333	683,482
18,000	1,500,000	946,360
20,000	1,666,666	1,051,511

\*this table has been updated since the July 2023 Meetings





# Commercial Leasing Milestones

Milestone*	Action	Target Date**
Publish Request for Interest	Publish RFI <i>45-Day Comment Period</i>	August 19, 2022
Publish Call for Information & Nominations	Publish Call <i>45-Day Comment Period</i>	April 26, 2023
Area Identification	Draft Wind Energy Areas <i>30-Day Comment Period</i>	Oct. 19, 2023 – Nov. 20, 2023
	Designate Final Wind Energy Areas	Q1 2024
Lease Sale	Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) <i>60-Day Comment Period</i>	Q2 2024
	Final Sale Notice (FSN)	Q3 2024
	Hold auction	Q4 2024

COMPLETE

\* Task Forces are incredibly valuable tools in the leasing process and **additional meetings** can be expected, likely to be scheduled around significant process milestones.

\*\* Dates of planning/leasing milestones are all tentative; Quarters refer to Calendar Quarters, and not Fiscal Year Quarters





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# Orsted Northeast Program Update

## South Fork Wind

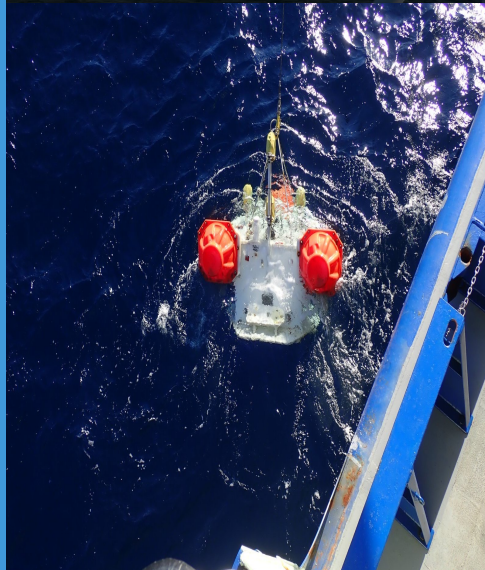
- Commissioning ongoing
- All WTGs installed
- Second batch of data for LT PAM analysed (May – Oct 2023)
- Evaluating participation in BOEM POWERON fund for long term PAM monitoring during operations
- Foundations Monitoring and Mitigation report under review by agencies

## Revolution Wind

- Boulder survey ongoing
- Preparing for foundation installation due to begin in May
- Close to signing POWERON agreement for long term PAM monitoring

## Sunrise Wind

- Upcoming HRG surveys and boulder removal in prep for construction
- Waiting on final permits before beginning construction later this year



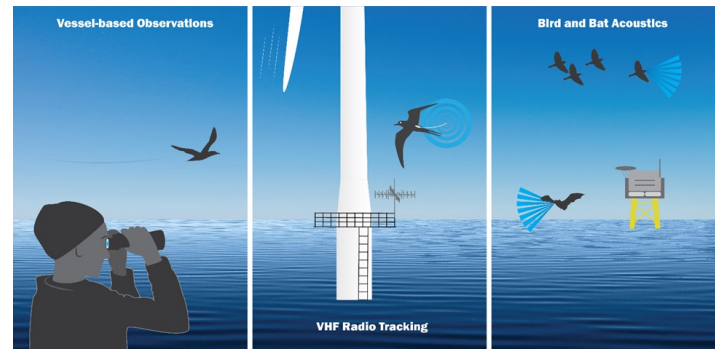
# Northeast Program Update: Bird and Bat Post Construction Monitoring [PCM]

## South Fork Wind PCM Plan [PCMP]

- Final plan approved by BOEM in November 2023
- MOTUS receiving stations installed on OSS and WTC
- Avian and bat acoustic recorders being installed on OSS and WTC
- Proposals for acoustic analysis and boat surveys under review
- Motus annual calibration process to begin in Q2
- Worker Incidental Reporting System (WIRS) – in progress
- Support for Roseate Tern tagging – evaluating opportunities in coordination with USFWS

## Revolution Wind and Sunrise Wind

- Draft PCMP are being developed for submission to BOEM
- MOTUS receiving stations and bird & bat acoustic monitors are being configured
- Evaluation of potential ESA avian tagging study(ies) for support is underway
- Radar monitoring devices have undergone testing onshore
- WIRS for dead/injured birds & bats will be integrated with the SFW program
- Motus annual calibration will be integrated with SFW process



South Fork Bird and Bat Post-Construction Monitoring



Motus receiving station on wind turbine platform –

South Fork Wind



# Orsted Northeast Program Update

## FISHERIES SURVEYS

- **SFW (underway)**
  - Beam Trawl
  - Fish Pot Survey
  - Ventless Trap Survey
  - Jigging Survey (start Apr 2024)
  - Acoustic Monitoring (start after construction)
- **REV/SRW (underway)**
  - Bottom Trawl Survey (REV started Aug 23, SRW started Nov 23)
- **REV (underway)**
  - Ventless Trap Survey (May 2023)
  - Cable Route Ventless Trap Survey (Jan 2023)
- **SRW (underway)**
  - HABCAM survey
- **ACOUSTIC TELEMETRY SURVEYS**
  - Highly Migratory Species (SFW/REV/SRW- 32 receivers deployed)
  - Export Cable (SFW-underway/SRW-array deployed)

## BENTHIC SURVEYS (completed)

- Soft and Hard Bottom Habitats (SFW/REV)
- Soft Bottom Habitats (REV/SFW/SRW)



\*Photos courtesy of RI Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation and Coonamessett Farm Foundation, Rutgers





# SOUTHCOAST WIND

## Project Updates

### Permitting

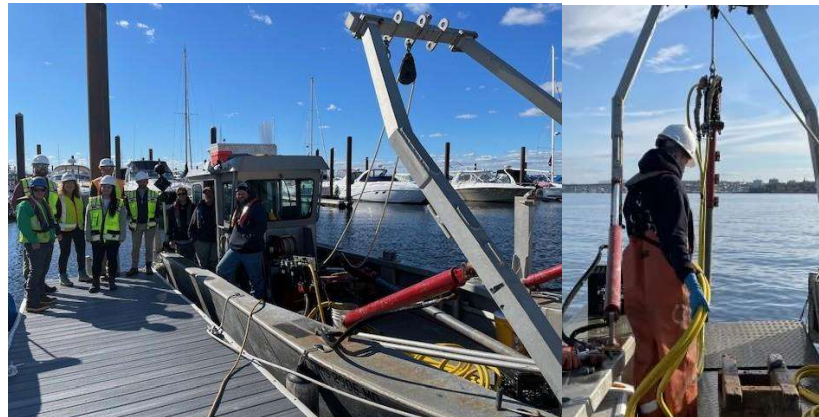
- MA EEA Secretary's MEPA Certificate was issued – Dec 15, 2023
- MA 401 Water Quality and Dredging permit filed – Dec 20, 2023
- RI CRMC issued Federal Consistency concurrence – Dec 19, 2023
- RI 401 Water Quality and Dredging permit – March 2024

### Fisheries

- Presenting final fisheries economic exposure analysis at the MA Fisheries Working Group on February 9<sup>th</sup>

### Benthic

- Sediment Sampling occurred in Mount Hope Bay from October 24 – 26; Final report sent to MassDEP
- None of the analytes tested in project sediment samples exceeded the MCP Reportable Concentrations for Soil



## Surveys

### Onshore

- Geotech investigations along the onshore cable route later this year

## Outreach

### Events and Locations

- Offshore Wind Information Event January 31st Portsmouth, NH
- Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association Annual Weekend March 21st – 24th Hyannis, MA
- New England Saltwater Fishing Show March 8th – 10th Providence, RI
- Public Comment Hearing for RI 401 application February 22nd Portsmouth, RI

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