BOEM Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

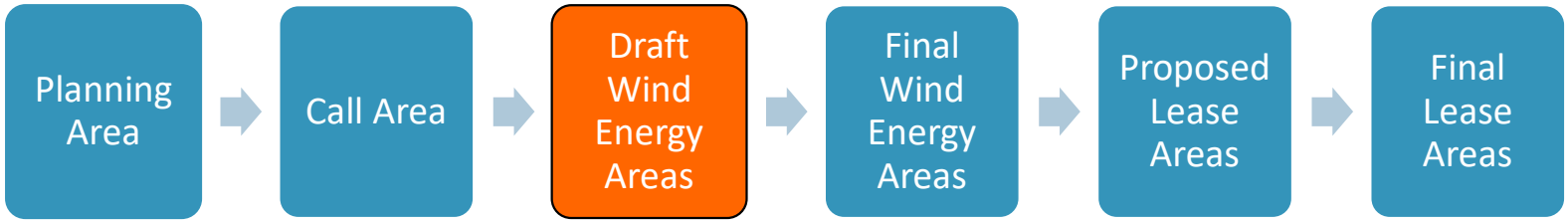
Spatial Suitability Modeling in Oregon & Programmatic EIS in California

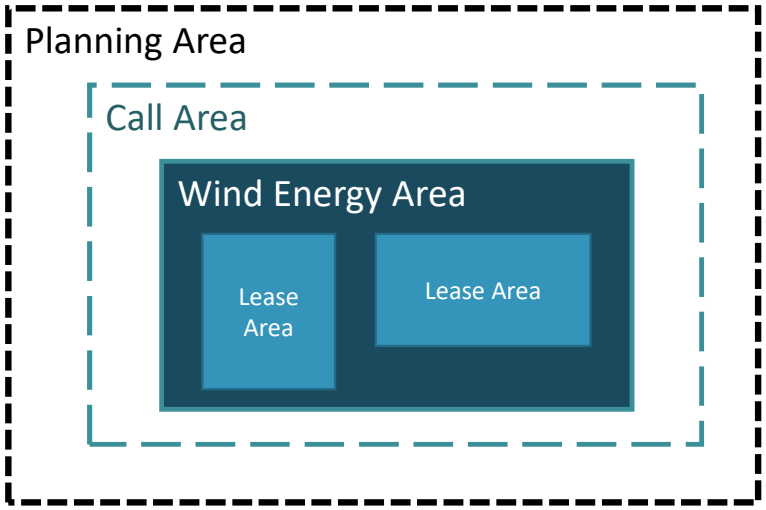
Assessment of environmental effects and ocean users: synthesis and stakeholder convening initiatives

POET Northwest Offshore Wind Conference 2024

January 31, 2024

BOEM Planning Process





Oregon Draft Wind Energy Areas Suitability Modeling

- Goal is to find the most suitable (least conflicted) Draft WEAs in the Coos Bay and Brookings Call Areas for public review and comment
  - The ocean is a busy place
  - The ocean is a wild place
- Working with NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS)

NCCOS | NATIONAL CENTERS FOR COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE

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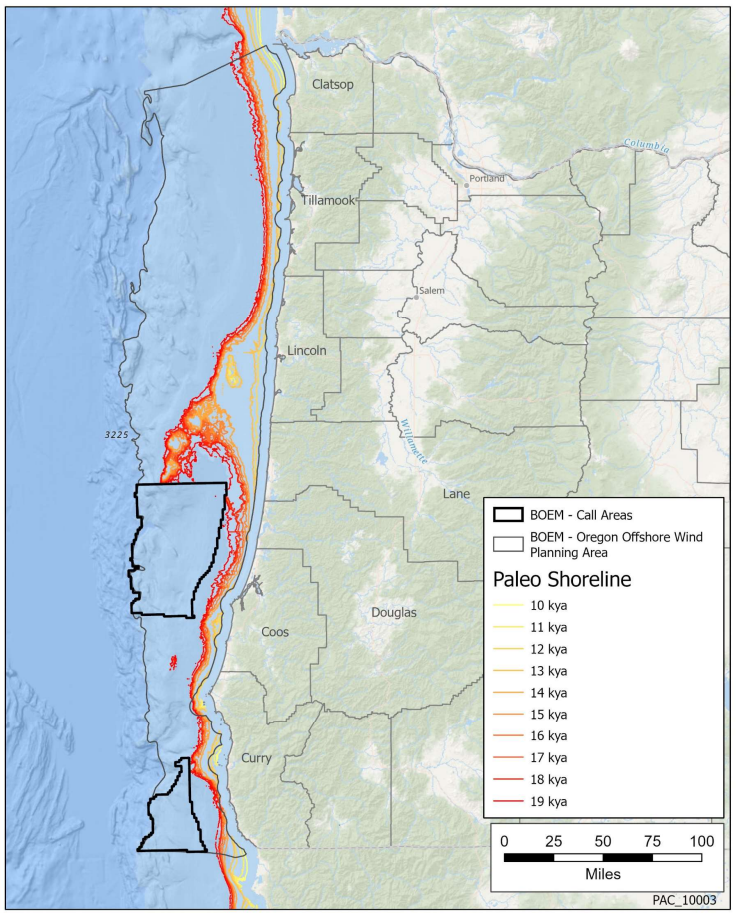
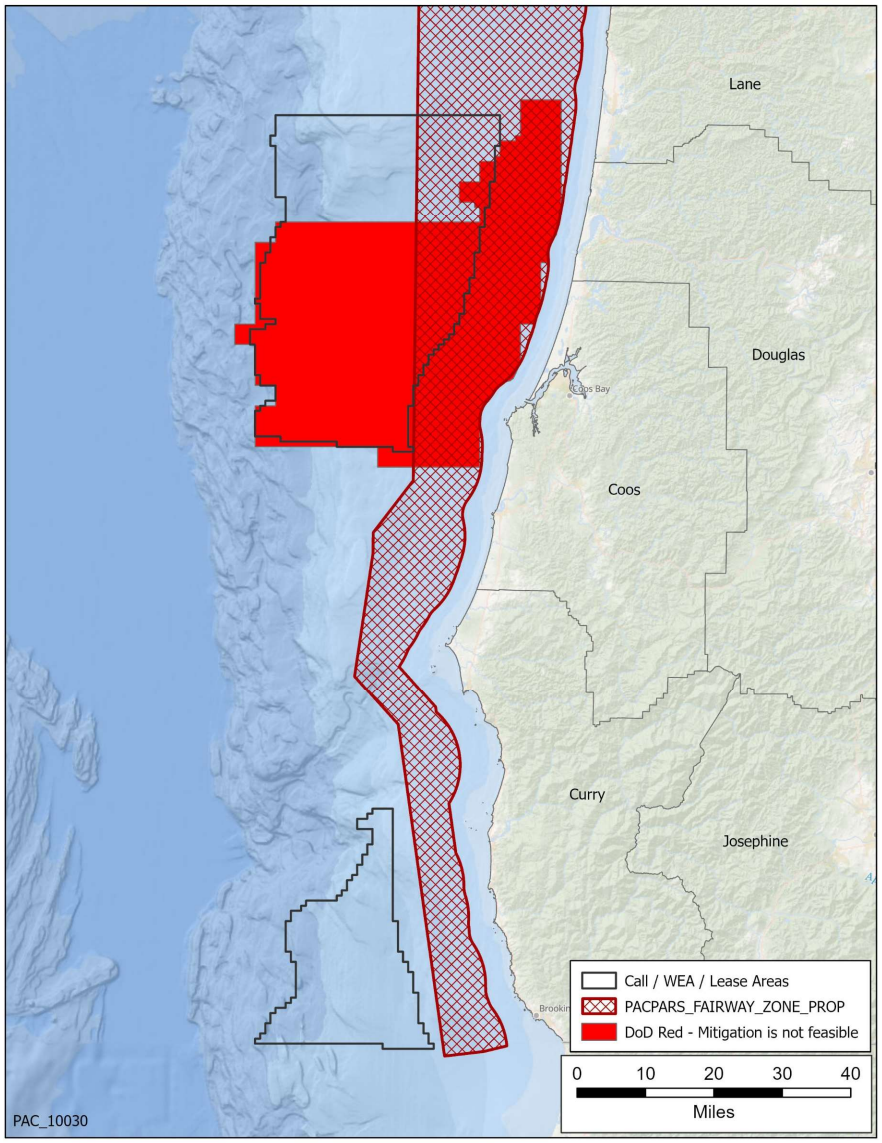


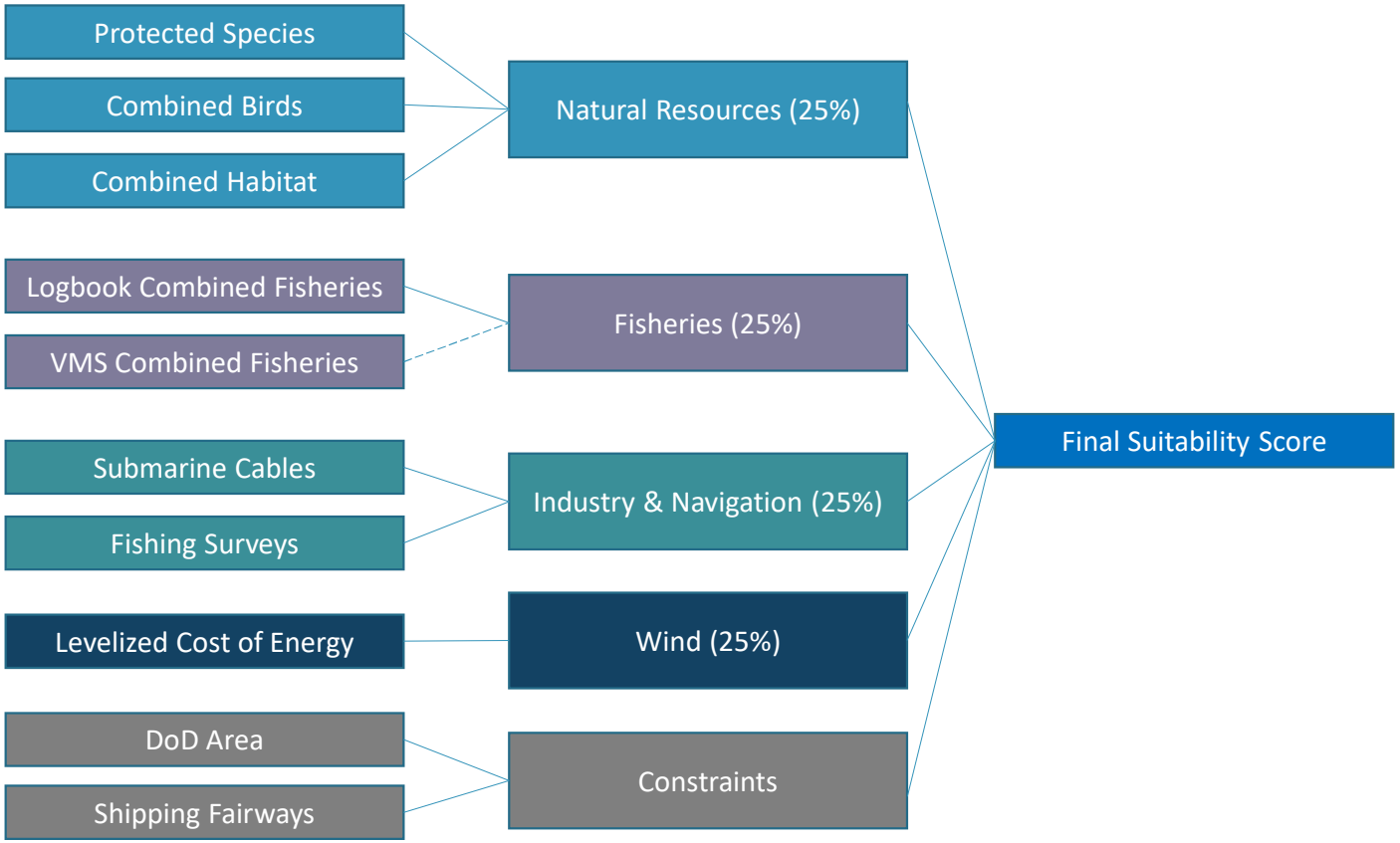
Constraints

- DoD Exclusion Zone
- PacPARS –
  - Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Lanes
- Call Area ≈ 1,170,000 acres
- Unconstrained ≈ 500,000 acres
- 1 GW ≈ 50,000 - 80,000 acres



Submodels

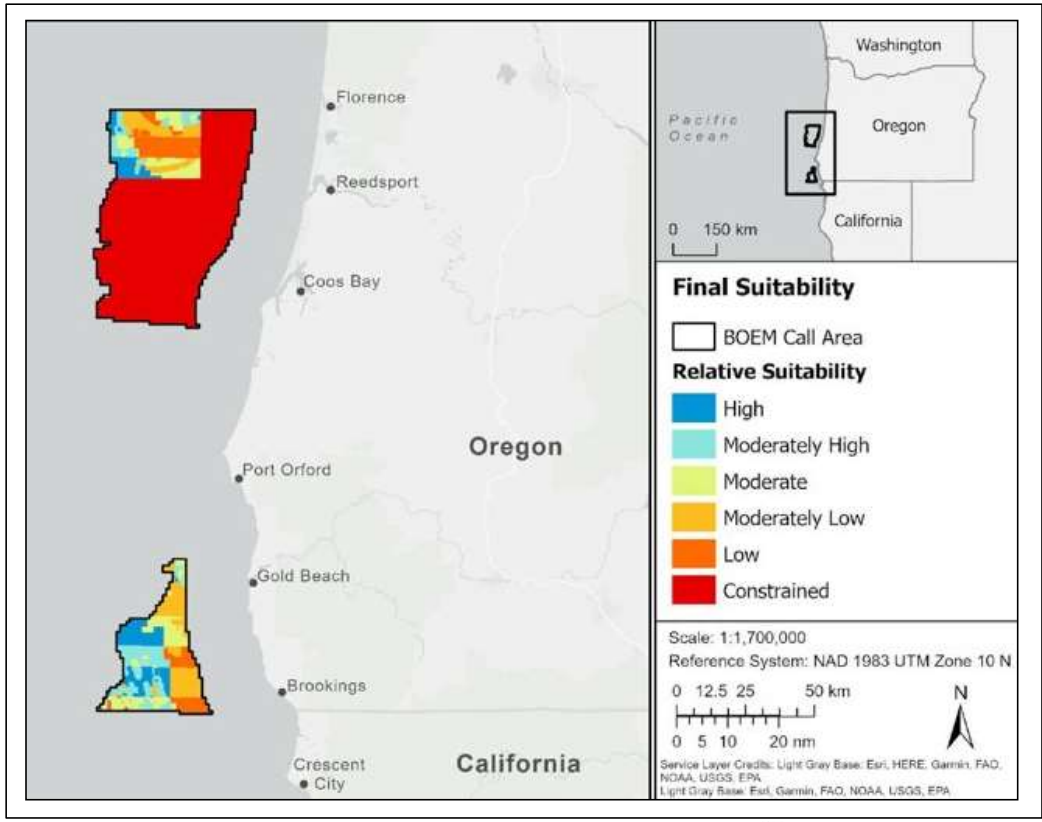
- Best available geospatial data
- Combine into submodels
- Combine into suitability map
- Find most suitable clusters



Next Steps

- Continue stakeholder engagement
- Draft WEA comment period closed Oct 31
  1150 comments received
- BOEM currently analyzing comments
- If we identify WEAs, we will start the Environmental Assessment process.

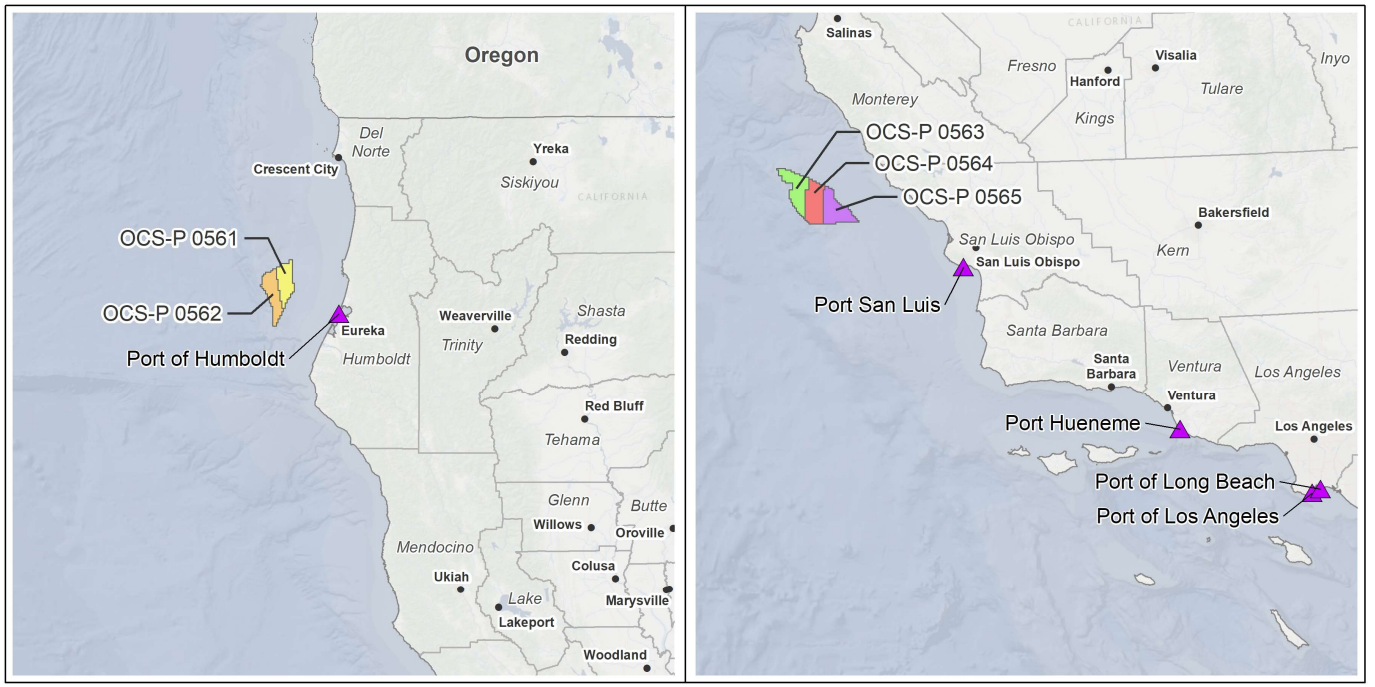
*For more details on the approach, visit the BOEM Oregon website at www.boem.gov/oregon
- Modeling process Technical Report, August 2023



California Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Proposed Action for the California OSW Programmatic EIS

- Identify, analyze, and adopt potential **mitigation measures** for the 5 leased areas that may be incorporated into future **Construction and Operations Plans (COPs)** or imposed as conditions of approval of COPs.



Objectives and Outcomes

PEIS Record of Decision (ROD) will NOT approve any activities. The ROD will:

- Establish a tiered review process that relies on the analyses in the PEIS for review of forthcoming Construction and Operations Plans (COPs); and
- Identify programmatic Avoidance, Minimization, Mitigation, and Monitoring (AMMM) measures for consideration as conditions of approval for the California COP approvals.

Project-specific EIS's will be conducted after COP submission. They will incorporate analyses done in the Programmatic EIS and focus on site-specific impacts of each project.

California Offshore Wind PEIS Schedule

Milestone	Date
California Lease Auction	December 6–7, 2022
California Leases Effective Date	June 2023
Inflation Reduction Act Funds Awarded to Contractor	August 2023
NOI Publication	December 20, 2023
Draft PEIS Anticipated Publication	Autumn 2024
Final PEIS Anticipated Publication	Late Summer 2025
PEIS ROD Anticipated Publication	Autumn 2025

For more information

Notice of Intent

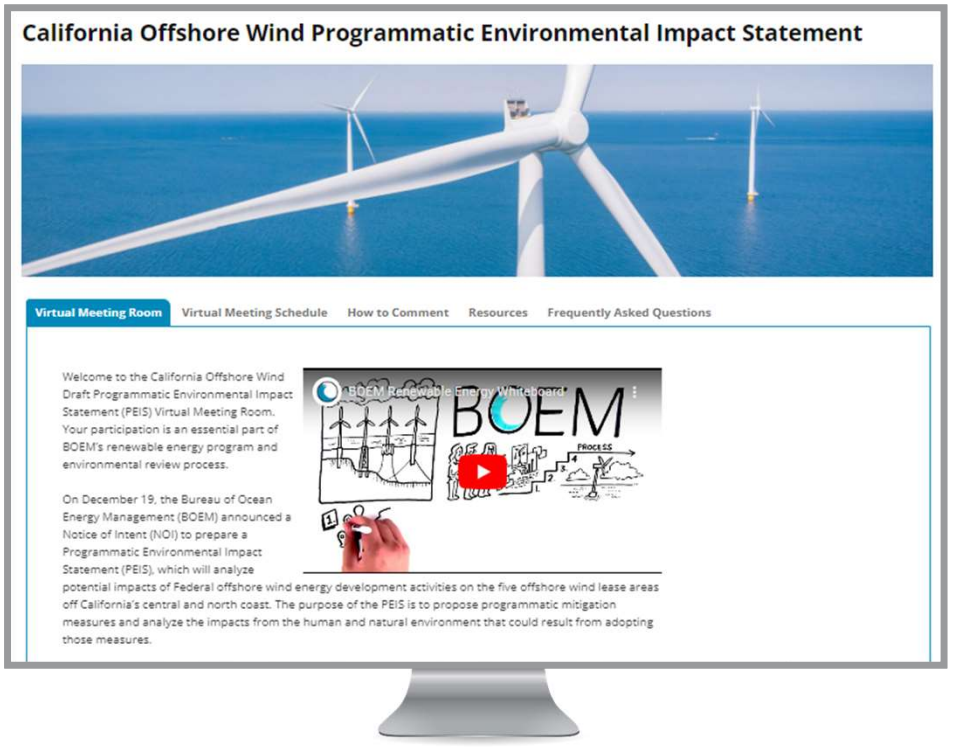
- Available at www.regulations.gov, docket BOEM-2023-0061
- Scoping comments due February 20, 2024 8:59 PM PT / 11:59 PM ET

Virtual Meeting Room

- www.boem.gov/caoffshorewindpeis
- Public meetings: Feb 6 & 8

Project Manager & Supervisor

- Melanie Hunter, NEPA Coordinator, melanie.hunter@boem.gov
- Lisa Gilbane, Environmental Analysis Section Chief, lisa.gilbane@boem.gov



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