

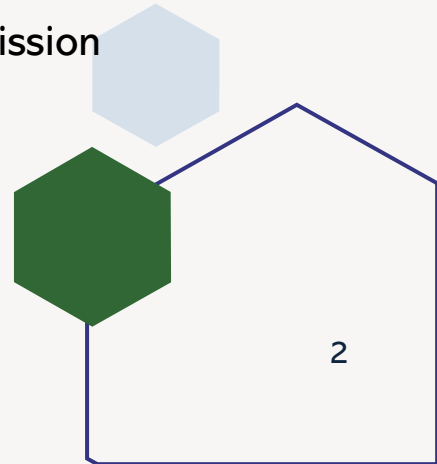
NH Offshore Wind Update

Ted Diers, Assistant Water
Division Director



How did we get here?

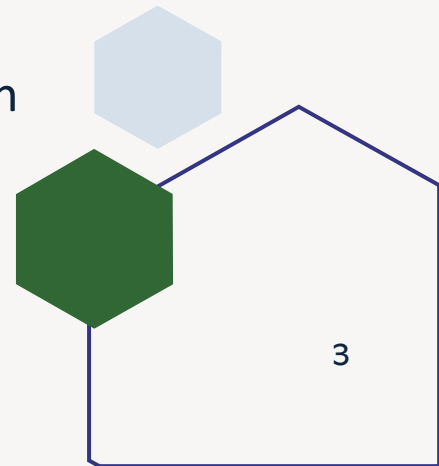
- January 2019 – NH Governor Chris Sununu requests the BOEM establish the Gulf of Maine Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force
- December 3, 2019 –Executive Order 2019-06 supporting the efforts of the Task Force and requiring a report on greenhouse gas emissions and port & transmission infrastructure
- December 19, 2019 – BOEM holds the first meeting of the Tri-State Task Force.
- July 29, 2020 –HB 1245 creates the NH Commission to Study Offshore Wind and Port Development; includes representatives from state government, the business community (including NH's commercial fishing industry), and labor unions.
- Summer 2021 – BOEM, NH, MA and ME resume the activities of the Task Force, includes creating a regional stakeholder engagement plan to support each of the states' stakeholder engagement.
- October 2021 – BOEM releases their schedule for upcoming leasing auctions for seven bodies of water in the United States; the Gulf of Maine is last of the seven with a projected auction to take place during the 3rd quarter of calendar year 2024.
- May 19, 2022 –2nd meeting of the Tri-State Task Force to reset the effort to begin the siting and leasing phase of the process.
- February 2022 – The NHDES and NHDOE releases the report on greenhouse gas emissions and port & transmission infrastructure
 - <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/offshore-wind-deployment-report.pdf>



State Legislative Activities

In the 2022 Session of the NH State Legislature, two pieces of legislation relating to offshore wind activities were passed and signed into law, SB 268 and SB 440:

- **SB 268**: The focus of this bill is to ensure New Hampshire's statutes included our regulatory policies regarding offshore wind deployment, including the need to address compensatory mitigation for negatively impacted commercial fishing activities along with other commercial and recreational maritime activities; the catalyst for this piece of legislation was to ensure NH had the ability to utilize federal consistency for offshore wind projects in federal waters in the Gulf of Maine.
- **SB 440**: The focus of this bill is to ensure the NH Department of Energy's Office of Offshore Wind Industry Development advises the NH Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and is part of any conversations regarding a NH utility being interested in pursuing clean energy resources produced in the Gulf of Maine.



What's next?

June to November 2022 – Relevant NH state agencies will conduct a six-month stakeholder engagement effort to discuss their questions, priorities, and concerns as it relates to BOEM's siting and leasing process for the Gulf of Maine and the mapping efforts that are part of this process; NH's engagement activities will be coordinated with BOEM's regional activities and the activities of Massachusetts and Maine.

June 2022-2023 – Work will begin on a NH funded impacts assessment study to be conducted by an independent, objective consultant to perform a SWOT analysis of the potential economic, energy, and environmental impacts for New Hampshire and the New England Region of offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine; stakeholder engagement by the consultant will also be part of the process for their analysis.

Improvements to NH's Port Infrastructure – The NH Port Authority has five projects it has either started or is in the final stages of securing funding for that are part of its efforts to ensure New Hampshire's main port in Portsmouth and its supporting facilities in other parts of the state have the capacity and capability to service the large cargo ships that are part of offshore wind supply chain operations; the state is moving these projects forward as quickly as possible to ensure completion of all five projects before construction of any offshore wind facilities in the Gulf of Maine begins.



Commercial Track

Starting the Planning Process in the Gulf of Maine: First Steps

Request For Interest (RFI)

Non-Competitive Leasing Process: Commercial Lease



YES

Competitive Commercial Leasing Process

Call for Information

Area Identification (Wind Energy Areas)

Proposed Lease Areas

SALE

Final Lease Areas

Comment Period

Determination of
Competitive Interest

NO

Environmental Assessment

Non-Competitive Research Lease Issuance

Request For Competitive Interest (RFCI)

Non-Competitive Leasing Process: Research Lease

Research Track

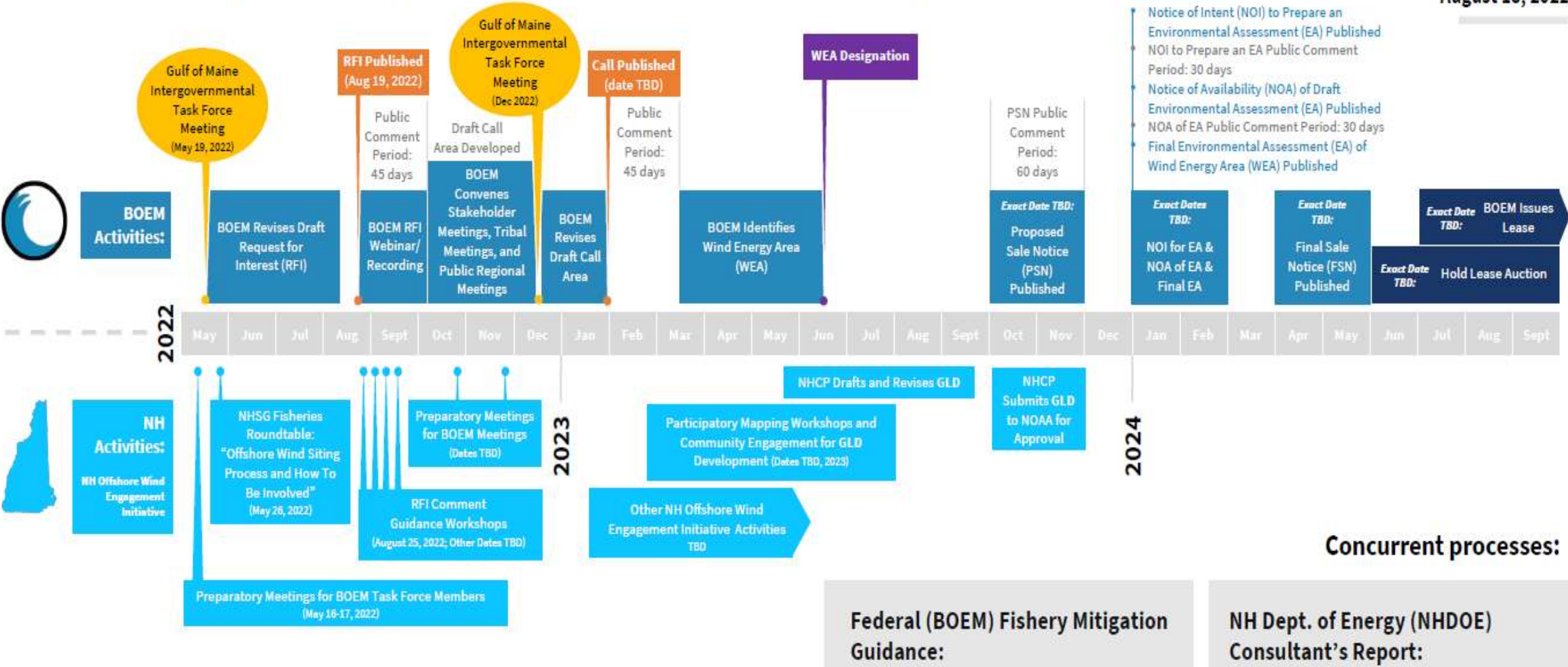
AUGUST 2022

Federal Wind Energy Area Siting Approach in the Gulf of Maine & Related New Hampshire Activities

Timeline Updated
August 18, 2022

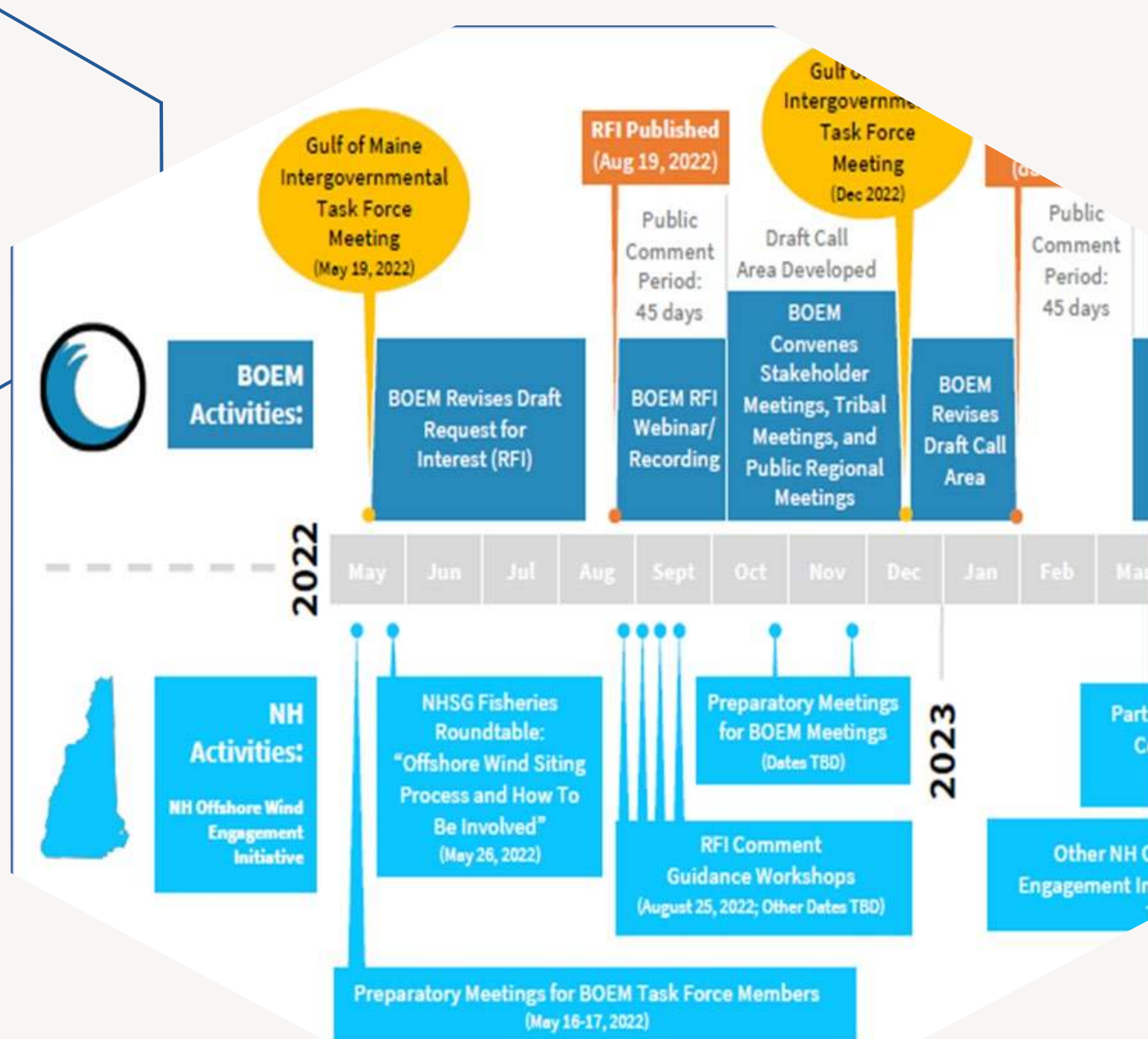
During this period:

- Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) Published
- NOI to Prepare an EA Public Comment Period: 30 days
- Notice of Availability (NOA) of Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Published
- NOA of EA Public Comment Period: 30 days
- Final Environmental Assessment (EA) of Wind Energy Area (WEA) Published

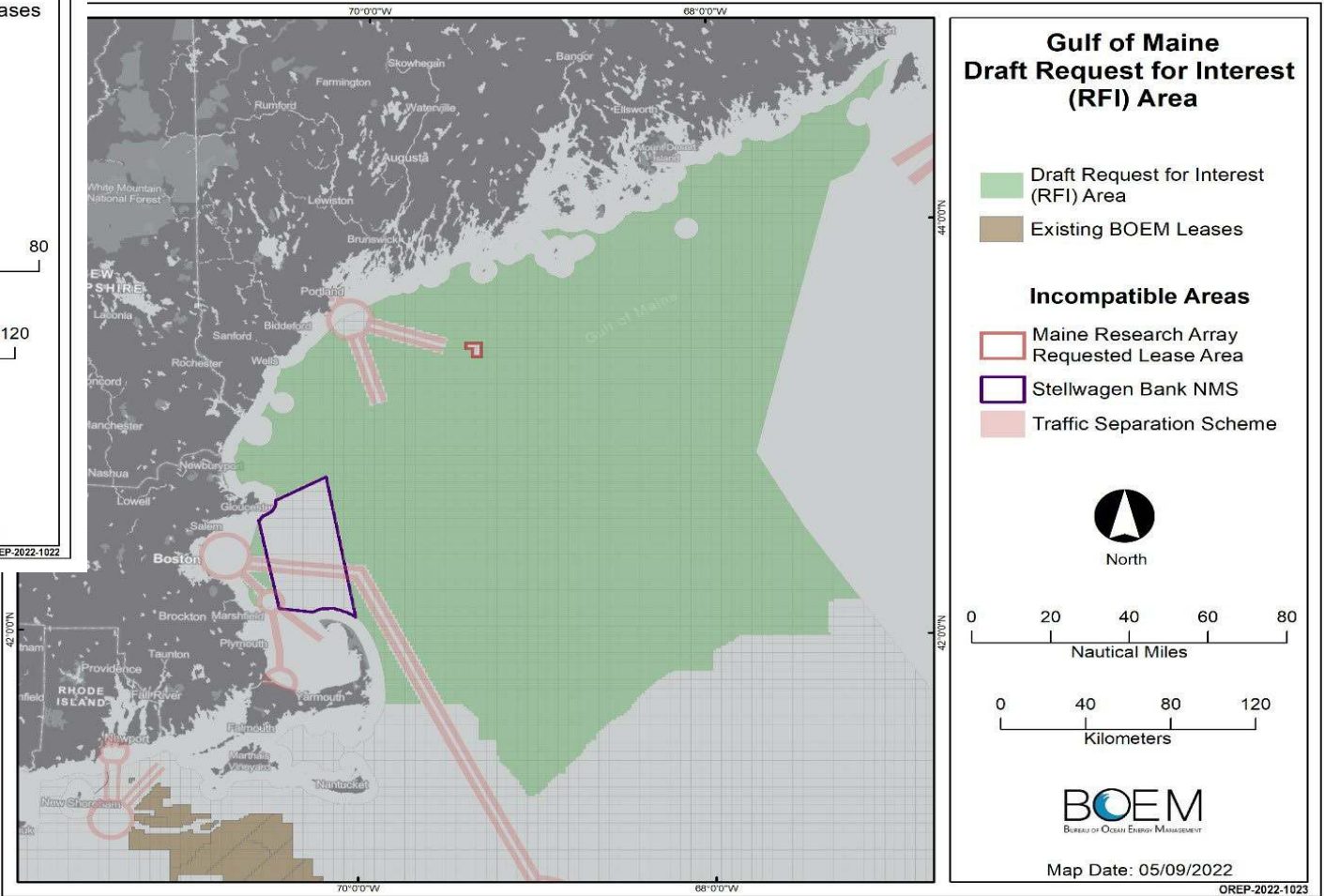
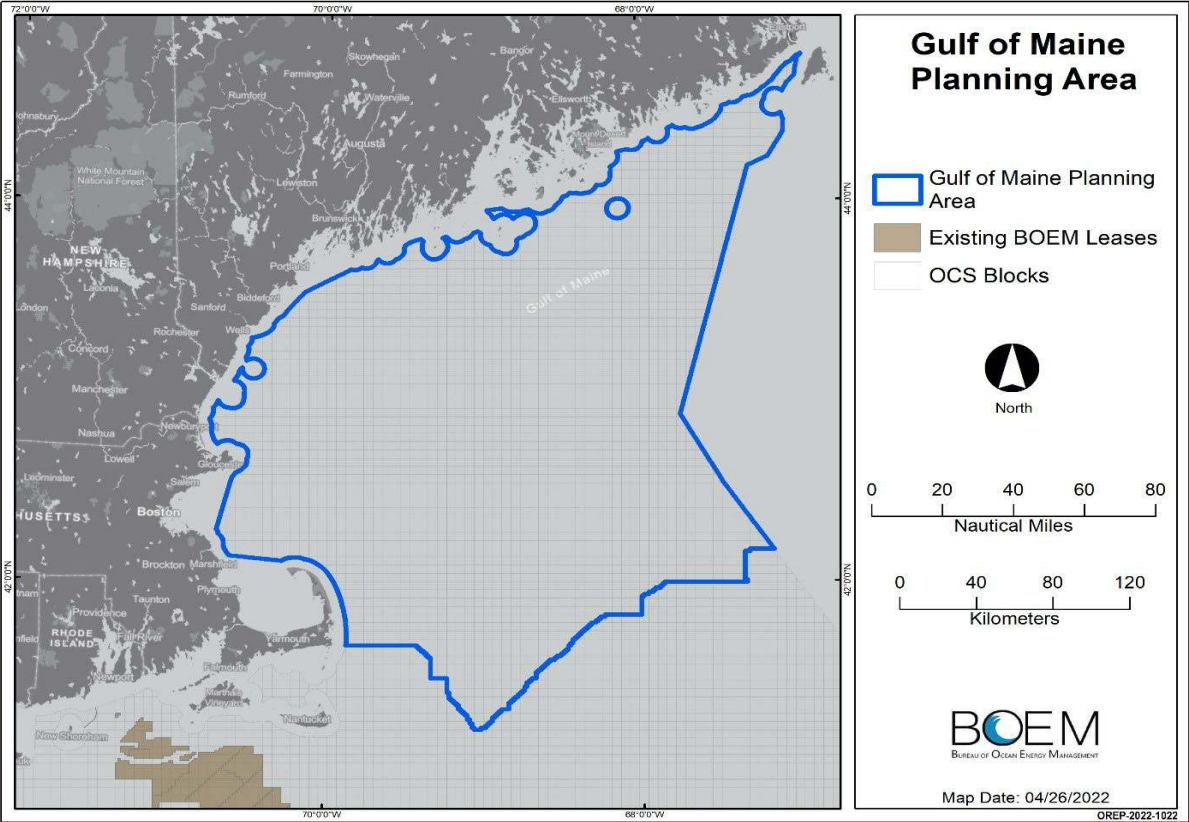


Request For Information (RFI)

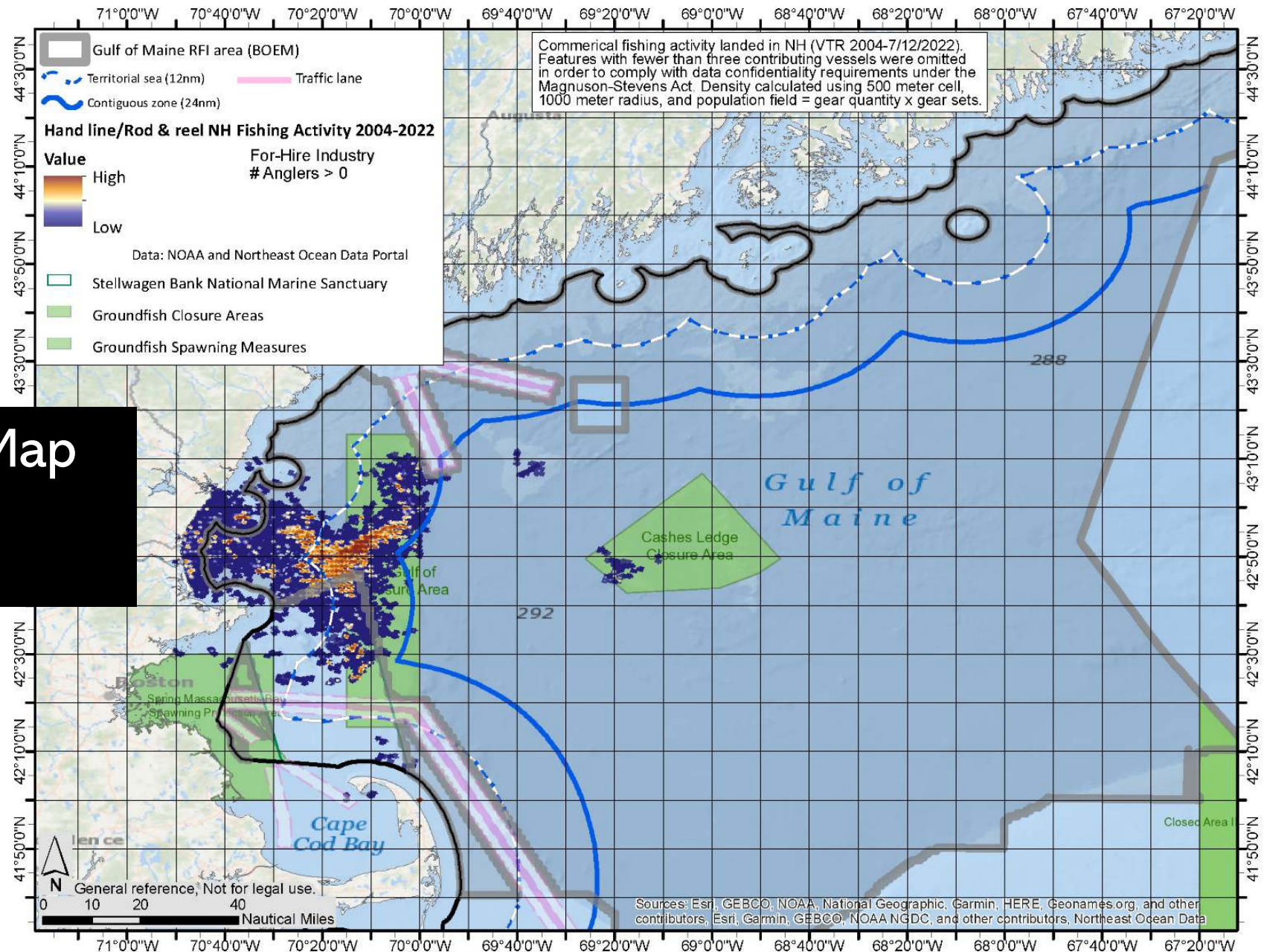
- *Within the 45 Day Comment Period (October 3, 2022)*
- *4 NH Stakeholder meetings*
- *BOEM RFI Webinar (recorded)*



The Winnowing Begins



Example Constraints Map (recreational fishing)



RFI – How to Comment

Deadline October 3, 2022:

1. Federal eRulemaking Portal:

<http://www.regulations.gov>. In the entry entitled, “Enter Keyword or ID,” enter BOEM-2022-0040 and then click “search.” Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view supporting and related materials available for this notice.

2. By mail to the following address:

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, 45600 Woodland Road, Mailstop: VAM-OREP, Sterling, VA 20166.



Federal Consistency and Geographic Location Description GLD

- Federal Consistency is a powerful tool!
- Federal activities outside CZ not subject to federal consistency unless NH develops and NOAA approves a GLD.
 1. A coastal *effects analysis* describing the reasonably foreseeable effects on state's costal resources and/or uses;
 2. A description of the specific geographic boundaries of the area outside the state coastal zone for which the GLD is sought; and
 3. The specific federally permitted activities that are subject to federal consistency review within the GLD boundary.





Thank you!

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