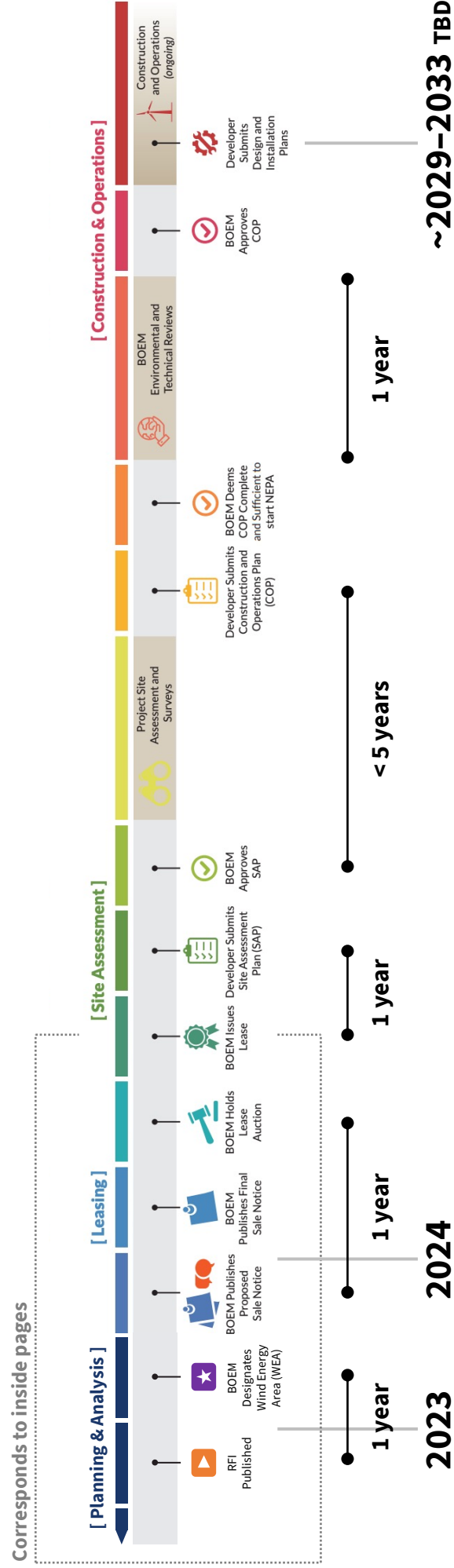


# Federal Offshore Wind Energy Development Process in the Gulf of Maine

Graphic adapted from SIOW & AWEA Offshore Wind Public Participation Guide



## Acronyms used:

BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (U.S. Federal)
COP	Construction & Operations Plan
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
GLD	Geographic Location Description
GOM	Gulf of Maine
FSN	Final Sale Notice
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (U.S. Federal)
NHDES	NH Department of Environmental Services (N.H. State)
NHF&G	NH Fish & Game Department (N.H. State)
NHDOE	NH Department of Energy (N.H. State)
NHCP	NH Coastal Program (within NHDES)
NHSG	NH Sea Grant
PSN	Proposed Sale Notice
RFI	Request for Information
SAP	Site Assessment Plan
WEA	Wind Energy Area

BOEM's Offshore Wind Energy Development Process in the Gulf of Maine consists of four phases:

- 1. Planning and Analysis** [Dark Blue]
- 2. Leasing** [Light Blue]
- 3. Site Assessment** [Green]
- 4. Construction and Operations** [Yellow, Orange, Red]

The **Planning and Analysis** phase and the **Leasing** phase are further detailed in the centerfold, and will conclude with a lease area auction, anticipated for late 2024.

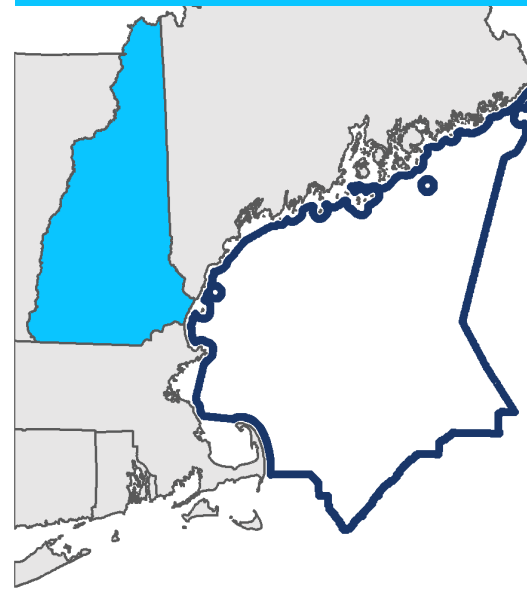
## Who can I contact for updated info?

For an updated version of this document, please email Katy Bland (katy@neracoos.org), Engagement and Research Associate for NERACOOS and NH Sea Grant.

# Federal Offshore Wind Energy Development in the Gulf of Maine

An Overview of the Timelines and Concurrent Development Processes Relevant to New Hampshire

VERSION 30: MAY 1, 2024  
(SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This is a living document that visualizes the timelines of multiple processes (federal and state) that are proceeding in parallel. As such, this document will be periodically updated when milestones and event dates are determined. With this document, we hope to inform New Hampshire stakeholders and enable public participation in the various processes. *(This document does not include the meetings of the New Hampshire Commission to Study Offshore Wind and Port Development.)*

## CONTENTS: WHAT'S INSIDE?

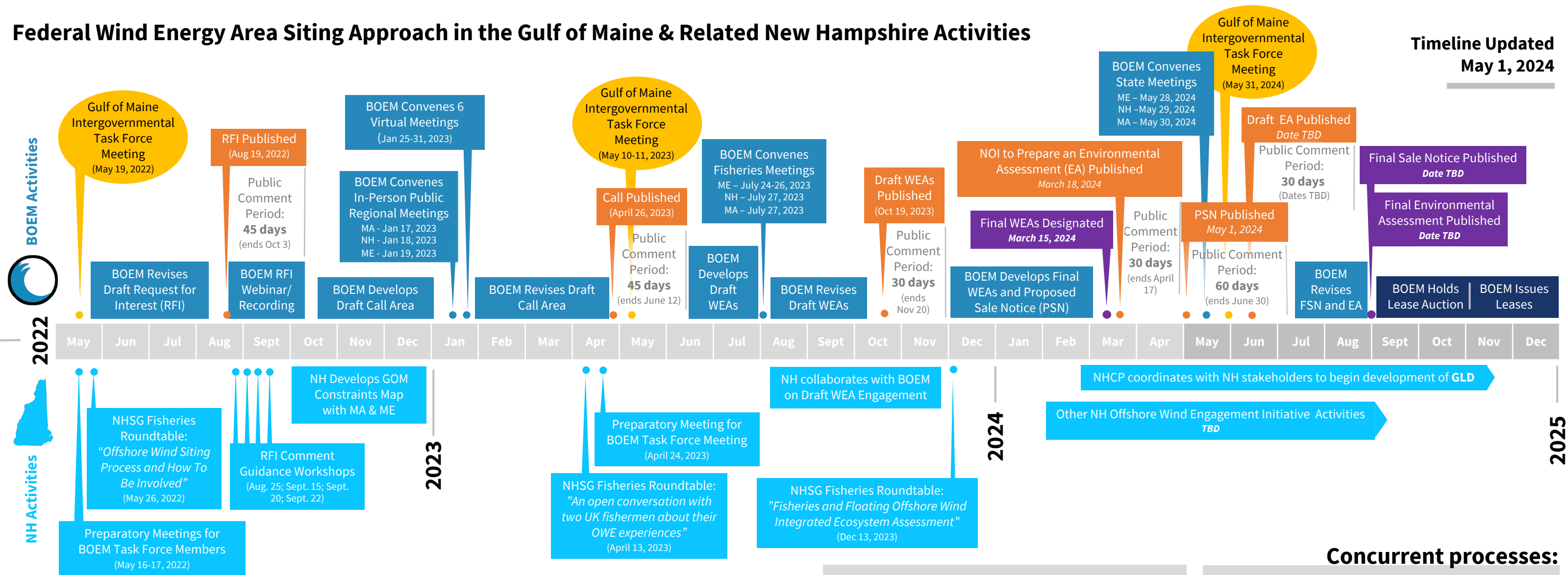
<b>Centerfold</b>	2022-2024	Federal Offshore Wind Energy Area <b>Siting</b> Approach in the Gulf of Maine New Hampshire Geographic Location Description (GLD) Development Fishery Impact Mitigation Guidance and 11-State Mitigation Project NH Department of Energy Assessment Report
<b>Back Page</b>	2022-2030	Federal Offshore Wind Energy <b>Development</b> Process in the Gulf of Maine

This document was produced by the **NH Offshore Wind Energy Engagement Initiative Working Group**, composed of multiple NH state agencies and local organizations:



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

Timeline Updated  
May 1, 2024



## What is depicted on this timeline?

### Federal Wind Energy Area (WEA) Siting Approach:

The siting approach for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the federal agency authorized to oversee offshore wind energy development, is outlined above the timeline [steel blue]. More information: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/maine/gulf-maine>

Actions that the NH Offshore Wind Engagement Initiative Working Group are taking, related to WEA siting, are outlined below the timeline [sky blue] and will be compiled on a website in the future.

### NH Geographic Location Description (GLD) Development:

Through the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), New Hampshire has the authority to review certain federal actions that take place within the state's coastal zone (extends 3nm offshore) through the "federal consistency" review process in order to make sure they align with the state's enforceable policies. Federal activities outside NH's coastal zone aren't subject to federal consistency review unless: 1) the applicant voluntarily submits to the NH Coastal Program (NHCP); 2) NHCP submits a request to NOAA to review the activity under federal consistency and NOAA approves the request; or 3) NHCP develops and NOAA approves a Geographic Location Description (GLD).

More information: <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/coastal-waters/federal-consistency>

## Fisheries Impact Mitigation:

### Multi-State Fisheries Mitigation Project

In parallel, nine east coast states (now 11) formed the Fisheries Mitigation Project to establish a regional fund administrator for fisheries compensatory mitigation, through the Special Initiative for Offshore Wind. More information: <https://offshorewindpower.org/fisheries-mitigation-project>

### NH State, recent updates:

- Winter 2024: States sign Letter of Support for Project
- Spring 2024: States release RFP to fund a regional program administrator

### Federal (BOEM) Fishery Mitigation Guidance

In early 2023, BOEM will publish final guidance on "Reducing or Avoiding Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy on Fisheries." More information: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/reducing-or-avoiding-impacts-offshore-wind-energy-fisheries>

### BOEM:

- June 23, 2022: Draft Guidance Published (public comment period closed Aug. 22, 2022)
- TBD 2024: Final Guidance Published

## Concurrent processes:

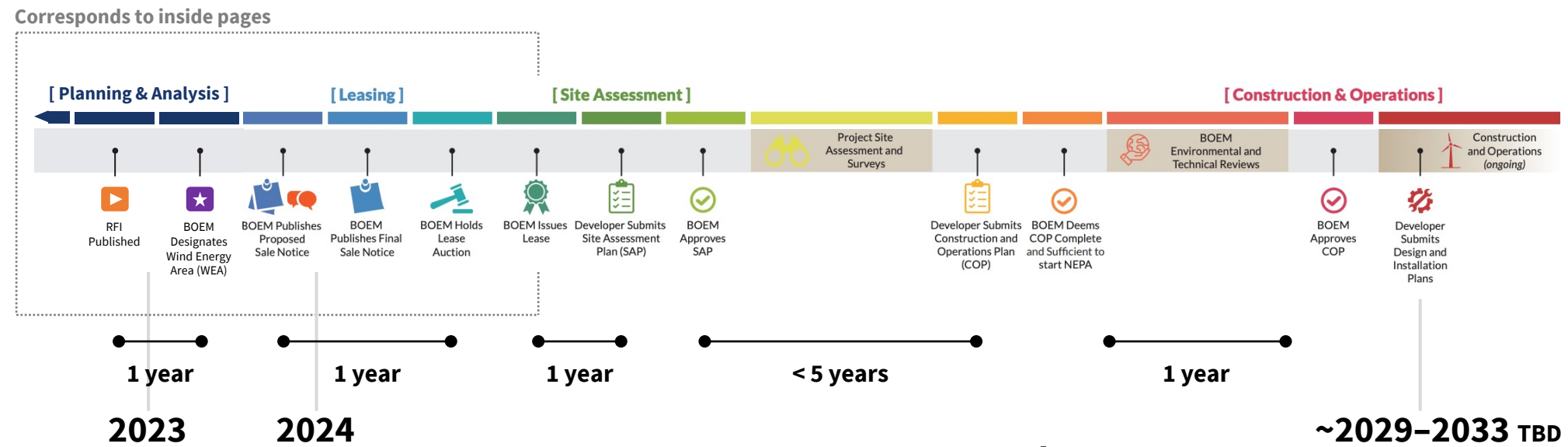
**NH Dept. of Energy (NHDOE) Assessment Report: "Potential Environmental, Economic, and Energy Impacts in New Hampshire from Development of Offshore Wind in the Gulf of Maine"**

Published September 2023:  
<https://www.energy.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt551/files/inline-documents/sonh/offshore-wind-potential-environmental-economic-energy-impacts-report.pdf>

Report Background: Through an RFP released in 2021, Normandeau Associates has been contracted by NHDOE to assess the potential environmental, economic, and energy impacts in New Hampshire of development of offshore wind projects in the Gulf of Maine.

# Federal Offshore Wind Energy Development Process in the Gulf of Maine

Graphic adapted from SLOW & AWEA Offshore Wind Public Participation Guide



BOEM’s Offshore Wind Energy Development Process in the Gulf of Maine consists of four phases:

1. **Planning and Analysis** [Dark Blue]
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