



Offshore Renewable Energy and Fisheries Outreach

Maryland's Chesapeake & Coastal Program

Our ocean faces an era of unprecedented activity. Energy development, commercial fishing, recreational uses, and shipping are all competing for use and space.

As the State continues to explore the development of new offshore wind energy facilities, proactive ocean planning and mapping provides the opportunity to understand and balance these competing uses. Coastal and marine spatial planning is underway in Maryland to help identify areas most suitable for various types of activities in order to reduce potential conflict among uses, facilitate compatible uses, and reduce environmental impacts to preserve crucial ecosystem services.

To date, Maryland's ocean planning efforts to date have resulted in: the collection of site-specific ocean use and natural resource data; identification of knowledge gaps and research needs; a better understanding of the breadth of ocean uses and potential areas of conflict; and early discussions with stakeholder groups to establish a transparent ocean planning process.

Offshore Wind Area - Recent News

On November 8, 2010 BOEMRE published Maryland's offshore wind energy area Request for Interest (RFI) in the Federal



DNR staff engages with stakeholders at the April open house held in Berlin just outside Assateague National Seashore.

"The ocean waters off the coast of Maryland provide a wealth of economic and environmental services to local communities... We are reaching out to our citizens to ensure that the State has the best information available to support the sustainable development of renewable energy in offshore areas."

*- John Griffin, Secretary
MD Department of Natural Resources*

Register. In January 2011, nine indications of interest from eight parties were received wishing to obtain a commercial lease for a wind energy project in federal waters adjacent to Maryland's Atlantic Coast. Since this time, the size of the RFI area was reduced to address shipping and navigation concerns. It is anticipated that another Federal Register notice for Maryland's updated offshore wind area may be published in August or September 2011. It is expected that there will be 45 days to comment.

How to Get Involved

Additional feedback, information and mapped use areas is needed to continue to inform offshore wind energy siting discussions. In preparation for the upcoming Federal Register notice period and again until December, 2011, there will be several additional opportunities for fisheries stakeholders to get involved in the discussion about Maryland's offshore wind energy area and provide feedback. In addition, DNR plans to work with stakeholders to map out uses between shore and the wind area to

Balancing human demands with conservation of the resources that make Maryland such a unique place to live, work and play

*Martin O'Malley, Governor
John R. Griffin, Secretary*



Coastal Zone

Counties:

Anne Arundel
Baltimore
Calvert
Caroline
Charles
Cecil
Dorchester
Harford
Kent
Prince George's
Queen Anne's
Somerset
St. Mary's
Talbot
Wicomico
Worcester
and
Baltimore City

inform transmission pathway discussions. It is anticipated that several mapping meetings will be scheduled in the coming months. Updates to the leasing status may also be provided via email notices.

If you are interested in participating in these meetings or receiving further information, please contact the Chesapeake & Coastal Program at oceanplanning@dnr.state.md.us.

DNR uses the information gathered through outreach activities to ensure that the leasing process for the RFI area addresses a variety of issues raised by the stakeholders and resource experts.

Maryland's Coastal Atlas

Maryland's Coastal Atlas (<http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccp/coastalatlantlas>) is a tool that has been developed to support ocean planning efforts and provides data and maps illustrating administrative, human use, biological and geophysical resource data.

Planning efforts to date have employed data and information collected from multiple partners and a broad range of stakeholders, including public-use data gathered through public meetings.

Stakeholder Outreach - 2010

In order to raise public awareness about offshore wind energy development and to expand the list of data, Maryland began working with stakeholders in April 2010. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) hosted two public open houses in April 2010 held in Annapolis and in Ocean City/Berlin to provide information on offshore wind energy, project timelines and the anticipated leasing process as well to as solicit community feedback. To provide those stakeholders who were not able to attend the open houses an opportunity to access the information and to participate in the discussion, DNR created a Virtual Open House website (http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccp/coastal_resources/

oceanplanning) an online public comment database.

Scoping meetings, one-on-one interviews and mapping packets were also used to reach targeted stakeholders, such as commercial and recreational fishermen and resource managers, to collect local, community knowledge and to gather information on historical, current and future uses. By having stakeholders delineate areas of interest or concern in the ocean, potential conflicts were identified and avoided early in the planning process.

Maryland Offshore Renewable Energy Task Force

Maryland DNR is one of a number of local, state and federal agencies represented on the Maryland Offshore Renewable Energy Task Force convened by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE). The Task Force serves as a forum through which BOEMRE shares current information about the status of the offshore leasing process and through which other members of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments provide meaningful and timely comments. To date, Maryland's Task Force has held four meetings – April and July of 2010 and March and June of 2011.



Source: Island Institute in Maine

Photo credits:

Jack Diamond, Chuck Prah,
Laura Younger, Chris Paulis,
George Close and
Andy Aughenbaugh

**Maryland's Chesapeake and Coastal Program • Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building, E-2 • 580 Taylor Avenue • Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Toll free in Maryland: 1-877-620-8DNR ext. 8732**

**Out of state call: 410-260-8732 • Fax: (410) 260-8739 • TTY users call via the MD Relay
Email: oceanplanning@dnr.state.md.us • <http://dnr.maryland.gov/ccp>**

