



**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

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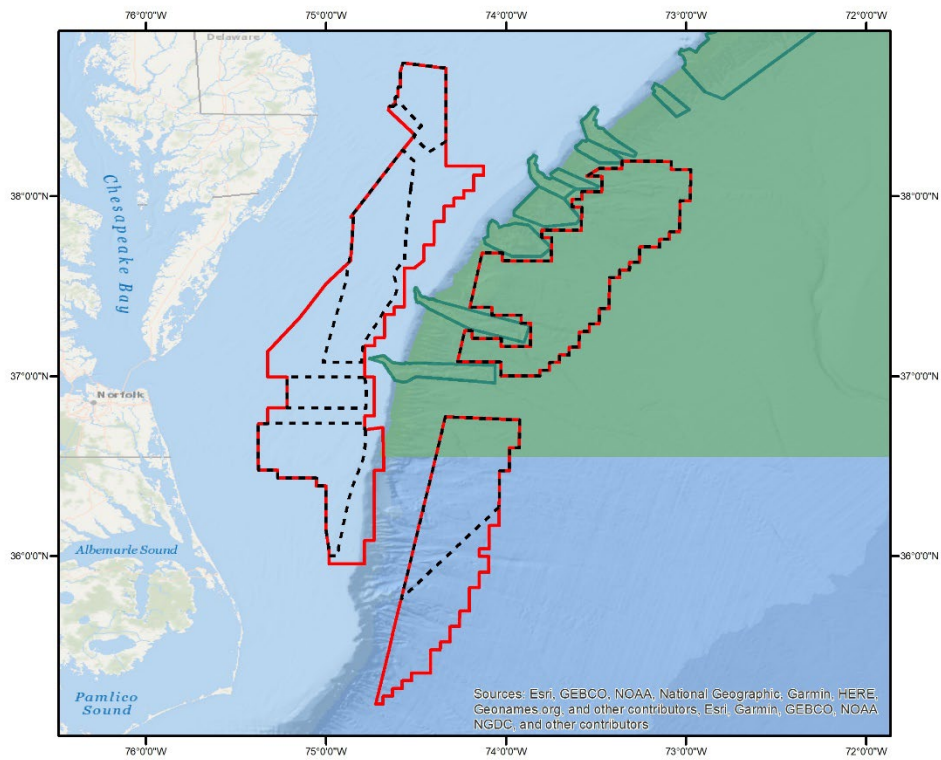
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** February 2, 2022  
**To:** Council  
**From:** Julia Beaty, staff  
**Subject:** Updates on Central Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Planning Areas

On December 13, 2021, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) presented updates on offshore wind energy development to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council). [The presentation](#) included updates on offshore wind energy Planning Areas for the Central Atlantic (i.e., offshore of Delaware through North Carolina). The Council discussed the overlap between the Frank R. Lautenberg Deep Sea Coral Protection Areas and the Central Atlantic Offshore Wind Planning Areas. The Council later sent a [letter to BOEM](#) requesting that the coral areas, including both the discrete and broad zones, be excluded from all stages of offshore wind energy planning and development. The Council also asked that these areas be removed from the Central Atlantic Planning Areas prior to BOEM’s Central Atlantic Task Force meeting on February 16, 2022.

In late January, BOEM posted the draft Central Atlantic Call Area shown in the figure on the next page. The current draft Call Area represents a 31% reduction in size from the draft Planning Area presented to the Council in December; however, the coral protection areas have not been removed. Materials currently posted on [BOEM’s website](#) state that the reduction from the draft Planning Area to the draft Call Area was based on “feedback from federal, state and tribal governments as well as many stakeholders through engagement meetings.” The intent is that this Call Area will be further reduced into a Wind Energy Area and then further reduced into individual lease areas over the next year and a half.



**Legend**

-  BOEM Draft Central Atlantic Wind Call Area (Jan 2022)
-  BOEM Draft Central Atlantic Wind Planning Area (Dec 2021)
- Frank R. Lautenberg Deep Sea Coral Protection Areas**
-  Discrete Deep-Sea Coral Zones
-  Broad Deep-Sea Coral Zone