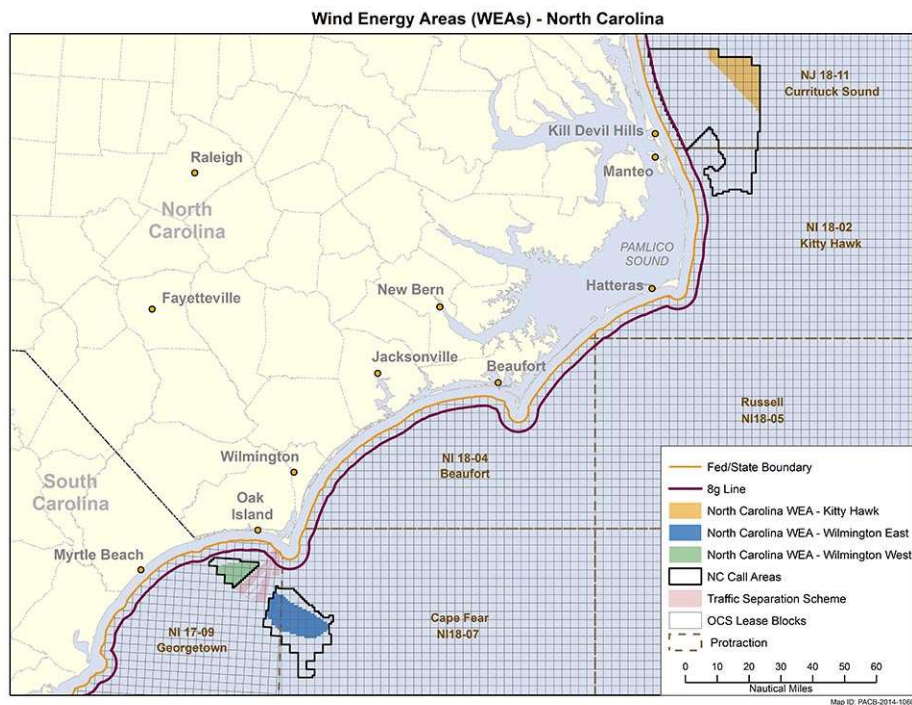


North Carolina Coastal Federation Position on Wind Energy September 2016

Wind energy is coming to North Carolina by land and sea. The first wind farm in the state is a massive project of 104 turbines near Elizabeth City that is being constructed by Amazon. Other land-based projects are planned.

Three **Wind Energy Areas (WEAs)** (See Figure) are proposed by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) offshore of North Carolina. These areas are near Kitty Hawk and Brunswick County. This summer, the decision-making concerning the two WEAs near Brunswick County was incorporated into a leasing process that includes offshore waters of South Carolina as well. This grouping ensures a more holistic look at potential impacts of wind development on the North Atlantic right whale's calving grounds.



That leaves the area off of Kitty Hawk that is currently being considered by BOEM for leasing.

BOEM announced on August 12, 2016 the Atlantic Wind Lease Sale 7 Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) and Request for Interest (RFI) for 122,405 acres offshore of North Carolina, in the Kitty Hawk WEA. This is the beginning of the auction process. It will likely be years before any wind project are installed and operational. There were two public hearings about the Kitty Hawk WEA:

September 20, 2016, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Julia Jones Daniel Center for Community Leadership
711 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

September 21, 2016, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Jennette's Pier
7223 South Virginia Dare Trail
Nags Head, North Carolina 27959

The North Carolina Coastal Federation generally supports projects that produce clean non-polluting energy. At the same time, the federation strongly believes that no industry should be given a “free pass” when it comes to protecting the environment and avoiding conflicts with traditional coastal and ocean uses. We expect wind energy proposals to be strictly regulated to avoid, minimize and mitigate environmental impacts. As a new industry along our coast that has not yet established a track record, we will ask for independent and critical analysis of potential environmental impacts of any proposed project. We will also request extensive monitoring of any approved projects to evaluate their long-term environmental consequences. As long as environmental impacts are found to be negligible, we are hopeful that wind energy will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and therefore help to mitigate climate change and sea level rise.