

## NATIONAL CENTERS FOR COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE

### CENTER FOR COASTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

#### MISSION

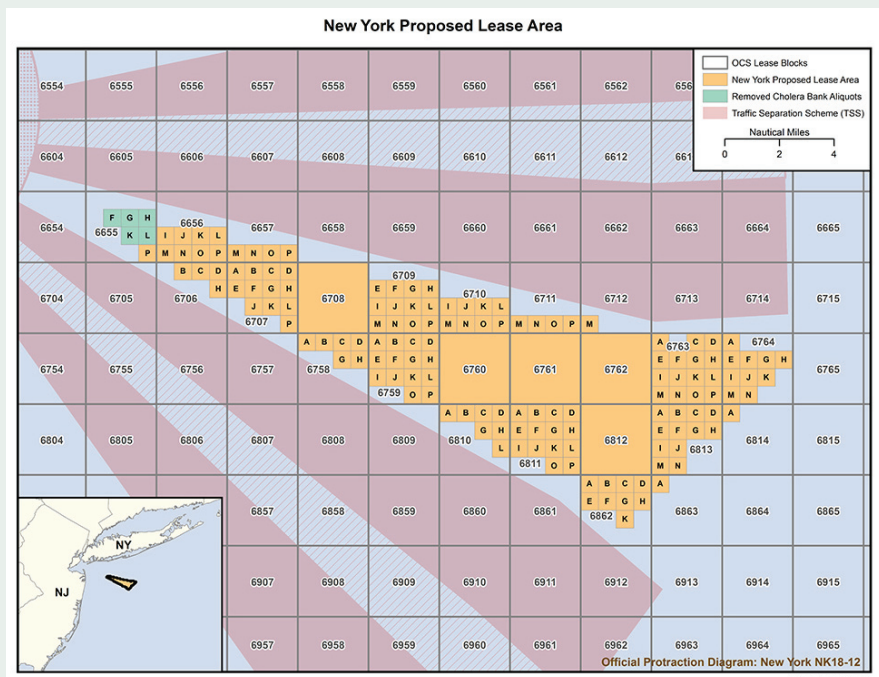
*Provide research, scientific information and tools to help balance the Nation's ecological, social and economic goals.*



## HABITAT MAPPING of the NEW YORK BIGHT

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

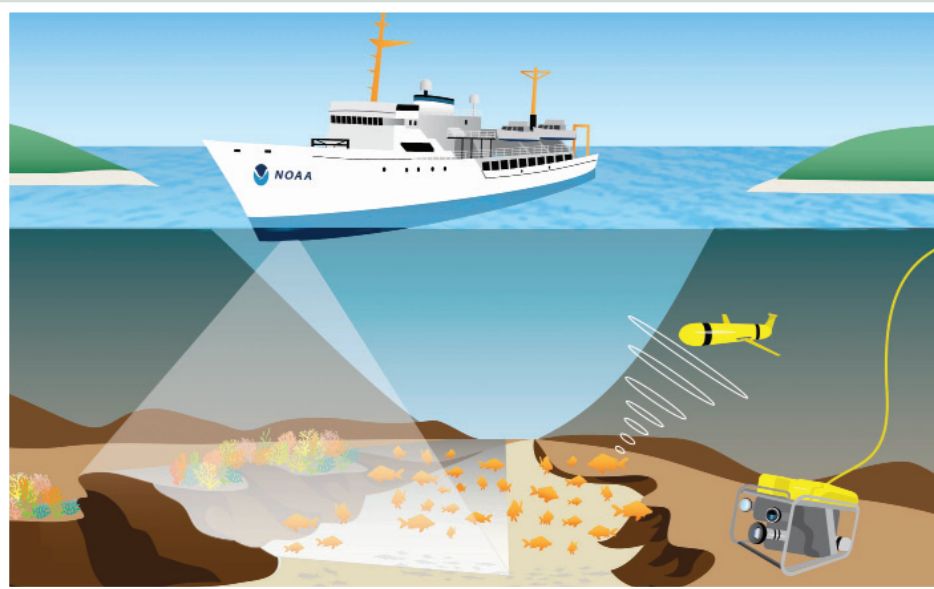
As part of the National Ocean Service's (NOS) efforts to promote responsible offshore energy development, the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) is providing scientific support to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) per the auction of 79,350 acres offshore New York for commercial wind energy leasing (December 16, 2016). The location, known as the New York Wind Energy Area, is located south of Long Island, approximately 13 miles off Rockaway Peninsula. This initiative furthers New York State objective to provide 50 percent of its electricity from renewable energy by 2030, and to develop a comprehensive [Offshore Wind Master Plan](#) by 2017.



### PROJECT SUMMARY

In June 2016, NCCOS and BOEM signed a new three-year agreement to support alternative energy development in the New York Bight region.

Under this agreement, NCCOS will provide technical services and expertise to produce a site characterization of the New York Wind Energy Area to include comprehensive seafloor habitat and substrate maps of the region. Before issuing approval for a renewable energy project siting, BOEM will use the results of the site characterization to evaluate the potential effect of proposed facility, structure or cable activities on biological, social, physical and economic resources prior to approval. Final deliverables will be provided to BOEM by August 2019.



### PLANNED PRODUCTS

NCCOS efforts will include the characterization of seafloor habitats, morphology, and topology through the use of high resolution multibeam sonar surveys; optical ground-truthing surveys; substrate and grain-size characterization; characterizing fish abundance and distribution using fishery acoustics; and regional hard bottom prediction



modeling. It is anticipated that NOAA's Office of Marine and Aircraft Operations (OMAO) ship assets will be utilized to conduct survey efforts in FY17 (acoustic surveys) and FY18 (ground-truthing). Twenty-five sea days onboard the NOAA ship Nancy Foster have been scheduled for September 2017 to conduct the first year of ship-based surveys in the New York Wind Energy Area. NCCOS work will allow BOEM to quickly evaluate industry proposals.

### ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science <http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/>

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management <http://www.boem.gov/About-BOEM/index.aspx>

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this project and others like it, contact:

Tim Battista, Project Manager: [Tim.Battista@noaa.gov](mailto:Tim.Battista@noaa.gov) or 240-533-0379

John Christensen, NCCOS Biogeography Branch Chief: [John.Christensen@noaa.gov](mailto:John.Christensen@noaa.gov) or 240-533-0378

NOAA/NOS/NCCOS/CCMA, 1305 East-West Highway, NSCI-1, Silver Spring, MD 20910