

# Virginia Offshore Energy Update

Presentation to the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission  
Executive Committee

April 21, 2010

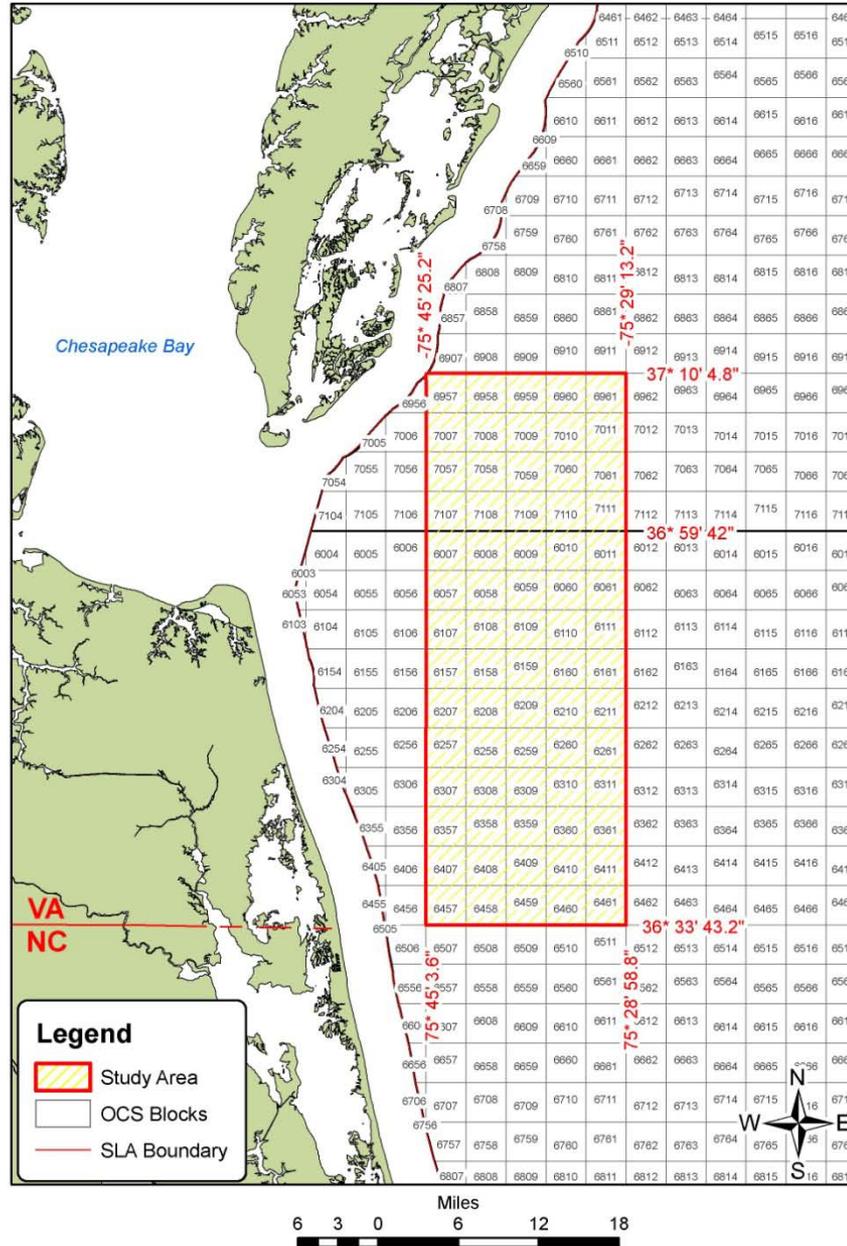
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# Wind Energy

- ▶ MMS Task Force meeting scheduled for April 27, 2010 at the Williamsburg Marriott
  
- ▶ Draft agenda includes:
  - Update on State activities
  - Update on MMS activities
  - Presentation on VACAPES operations and compatibility with Request for Interest (RFI) area
  - Presentation on Coast Guard activities in the RFI area
  - Discussion of draft RFI

# Potential RFI Area Offshore VA



# Virginia Oil and Gas Development

- ▶ HRPDC staff review of draft Environmental Impact Statement for the 2007–2012 Oil and Gas Leasing Program:
  - Several significant omissions in the draft EIS including incomplete mapping of environmental resources, military facilities and the VACAPES training area.
  - Comment period ends on May 3, 2010

# Virginia Oil and Gas Development

- ▶ Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate the environmental effects of multiple geological and geophysical exploration activities:
  - Public scoping meetings on April 29, 2010, Norfolk Airport Hilton, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
  - Public comment period open through May 17, 2010

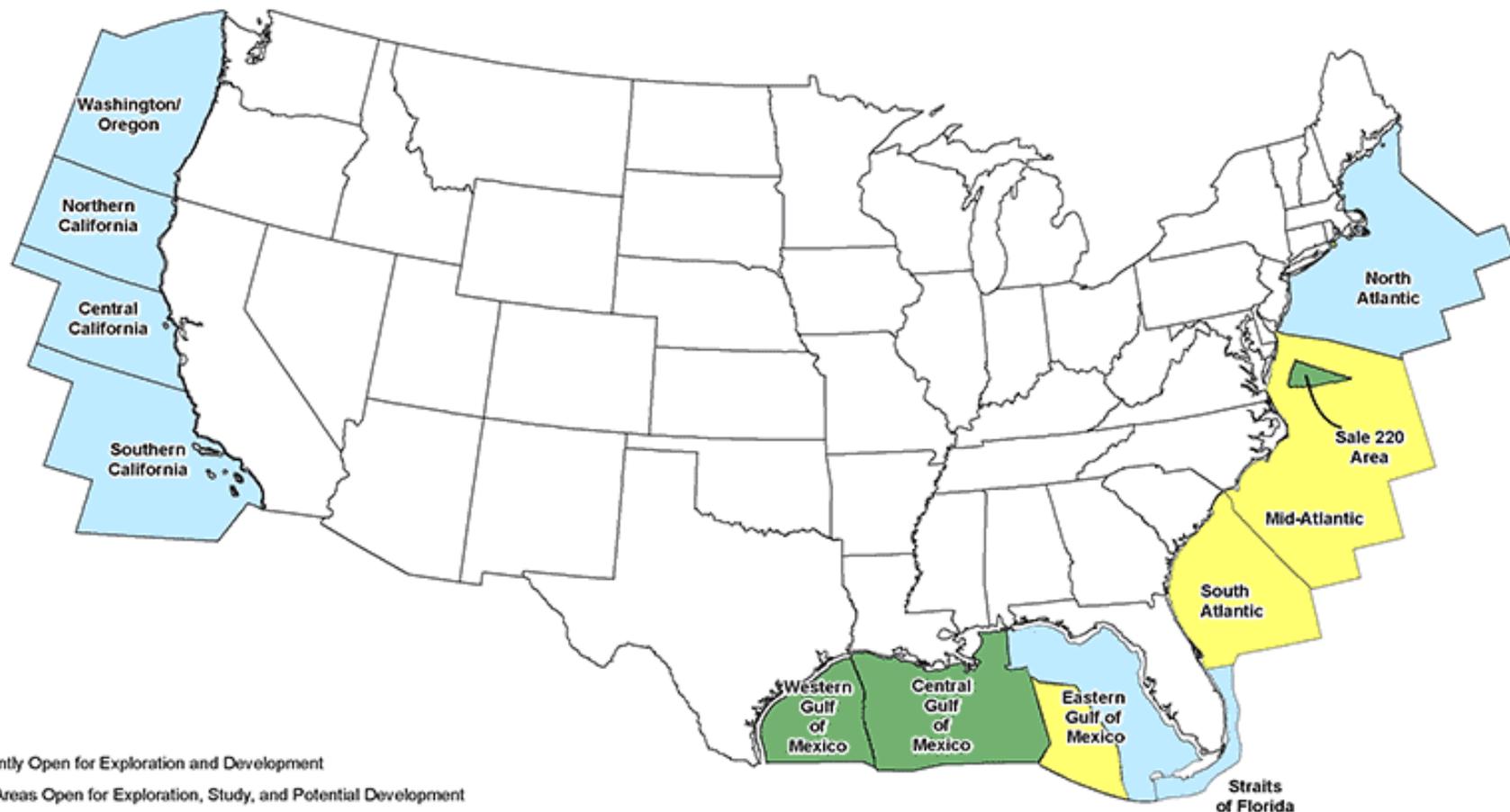
# Virginia Oil and Gas Development

- ▶ Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2012–2017:
  - Public comment period open through June 30, 2010
  - Scoping meeting will be held in Norfolk but has not yet been scheduled

# Virginia Oil and Gas Development

- ▶ **How might the Secretary's scoping decision for the next 5-year program affect future Atlantic OCS lease sales and how might the new program differ from the current program?**
  - The current program includes a special interest sale in the Mid-Atlantic off the coast of Virginia.
  - In contrast, the initial scoping decision for 2012–2017 would include the entire Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic planning areas in the EIS analysis.
  - Decisions as to whether to schedule lease sales in these areas, and if so, whether to remove from leasing consideration those parts of the planning areas with conflicting uses (e.g., shipping lanes) or particular sensitivity, will come later in the process of developing the new 5-year program and the pre-sale process.

# Department of the Interior Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Strategy



Lower 48 Continental US Projection Datum/Scale



USA Contiguous Equidistant Conic  
North American Datum

The maritime boundaries and limits shown hereon, as well as the divisions between planning areas, are for initial planning purposes only and do not necessarily reflect the full extent of U.S. sovereign rights under international and domestic law.

# Virginia Oil and Gas Development

- ▶ The MMS estimates of undiscovered, economically recoverable resources for the Atlantic OCS areas proposed for EIS scoping are:
  - Mid-Atlantic:
    - 0.5–1 billion barrels of oil
    - 2.5–11 trillion cubic feet of natural gas;
  - South Atlantic:
    - 0.03–0.15 billion barrels of oil
    - 0.3–0.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

# Conclusions

- ▶ Offshore energy development will likely have significant impacts on Hampton Roads
- ▶ The extent to which the economic impacts are positive will be largely dependant on effective planning and the extent to which significant use conflicts and adverse environmental impacts can be avoided

# Recommendations

- ▶ It is important that the region stay engaged in the planning process and provide comments on:
  - The draft RFI area for wind energy
  - The programmatic EIS on geological and geophysical exploration
  - The oil and gas leasing program for 2012–2017

**Questions?**