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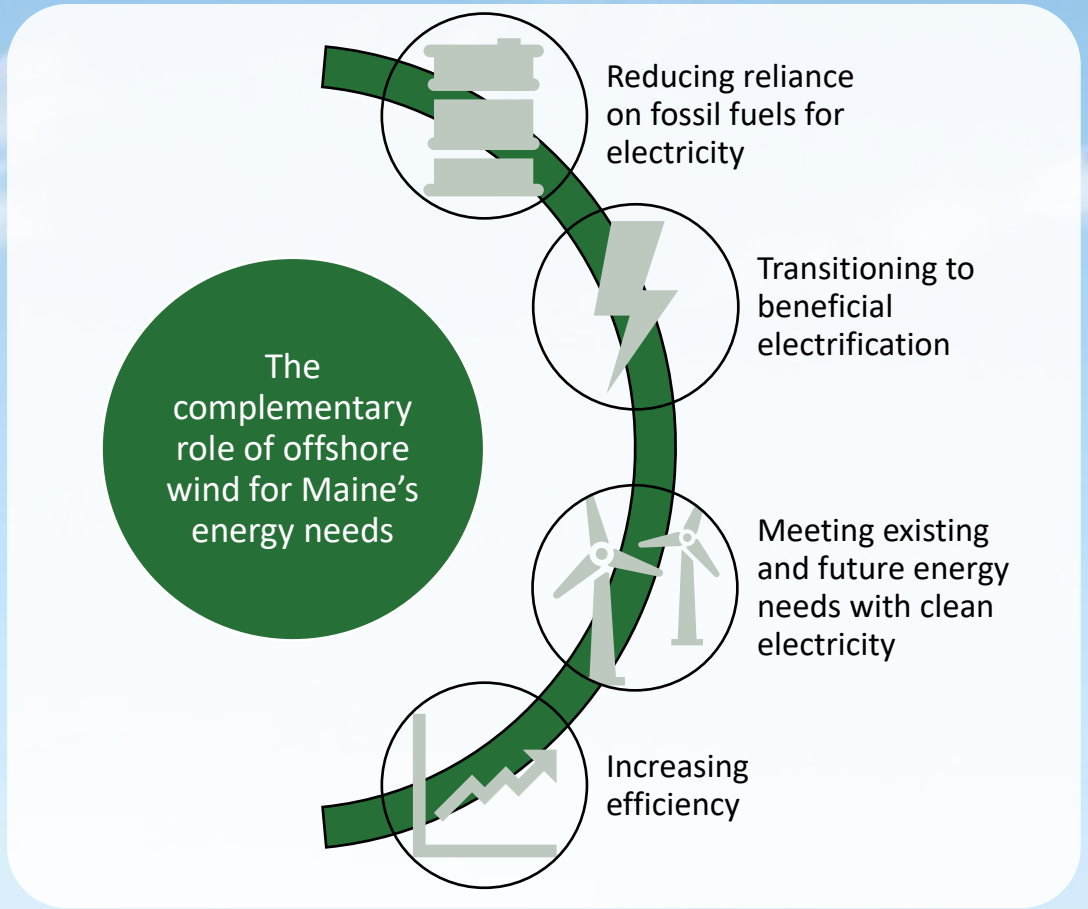
Energy Office

Maine Floating Offshore Wind Research Array

Informational Webinar

June 20, 2024

Maine's Clean Energy Goals



Starting with the Research Array and then progressing to commercial-scale development, offshore wind plays a crucial role in the State meeting its clean energy goals and electricity demand.

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Maine Offshore Wind Initiative

Offshore wind supports Maine's climate, clean energy, and economic targets:

- 100% clean energy by 2040
- Carbon neutral by 2045
- 30,000 clean energy jobs by 2030

Maine Offshore Wind Initiative:

- Planning and stakeholder engagement
- Research and innovation
- Policy and legislation
- Partnerships

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Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap

Maine's Offshore Wind Roadmap identifies five key objectives to responsibly advance offshore wind in Maine. Each objective contains a set of specific strategies recommended by the expert members of the Roadmap's Working Groups and endorsed by the Roadmap's Advisory Committee.

Objectives

Pursue Offshore Wind Supply Chain, Infrastructure, and Workforce Investments to Support Economic Growth and Resiliency

Harness Abundant Renewable Energy to Reduce Long-Term Costs, Reliance on Fossil Fuels, and Fight Climate Change

Advance Maine-Based Innovation to Compete in Emerging National and Global Offshore Wind Industry

Support Maine's Vital and Thriving Seafood Industries and Coastal Communities

Protect the Environment, Wildlife, & Fisheries Ecosystem in the Gulf of Maine

Cross Cutting Themes

At the inception and throughout the *Roadmap* development, four cross-cutting themes were deemed essential to the process of creating a *Roadmap* purpose-built for Maine and offshore:

- Stakeholder Engagement & Communications
- Equity
- Transparency & Data-Driven Decision Making
- Regional Collaboration & Coordination

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Why the Research Array?

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Research Array Partners

University of Maine

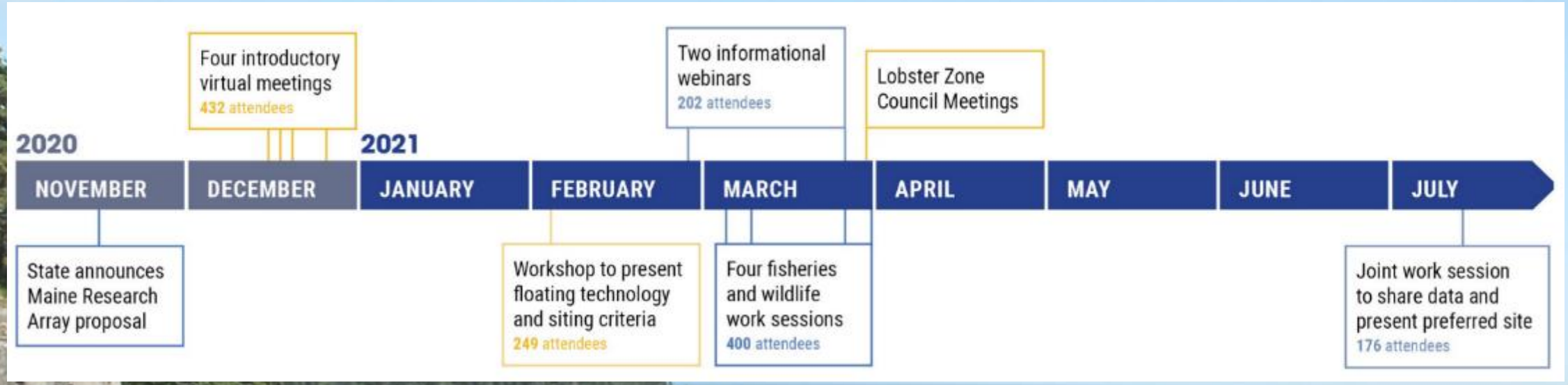
- UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center is a pioneer in the development of floating offshore wind platforms
- Holds over 70 patents in the floating offshore wind industry
- Patented VolturnUS platform design will be used for the Research Array

Diamond Offshore Wind

- Offshore wind developer
- Partnered with UMaine to help them develop VolturnUS platform
- Brings key offshore wind experience – owns and operates seven commercial scale offshore wind projects and 12 independent offshore wind transmission lines

State Siting Process

The State announced its intent to apply for a research lease in November 2020 and then began nearly a year of stakeholder engagement, focused on existing ocean users and scientists, to identify a Narrowed Area of Interest and a Research Framework.



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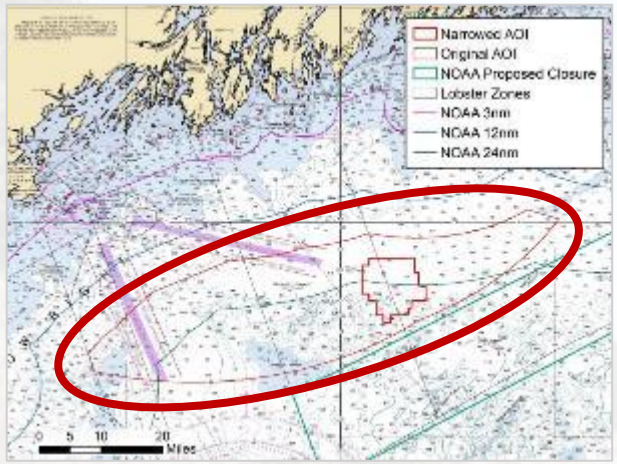
State Siting Process

Area of Interest

Informed by:

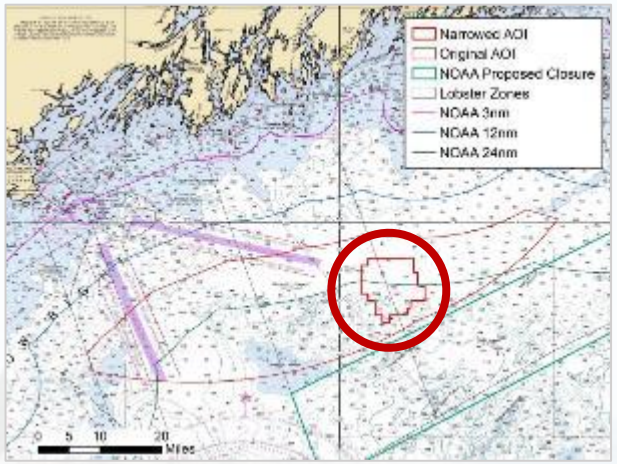
- Near grid connections
- Minimum depth of 150 ft
- >20 miles offshore to reduce fisheries and visual impacts
- <40 miles offshore for technical and cost reasons



Narrowed Area of Interest

Informed by:

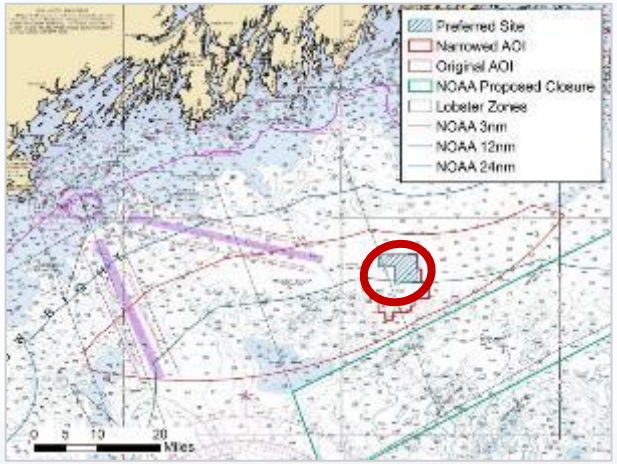
- Stakeholder input
- Geospatial analysis of physical and biological information
- Consultations with federal and state agencies, research institutions, and NGOs



Proposed Research Array Lease

Informed by:

- Stakeholder input
- Initial bathymetry data
- Limit of 16 square miles
- Geometry of 12-turbine array within 16 square miles



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Application and Review Process

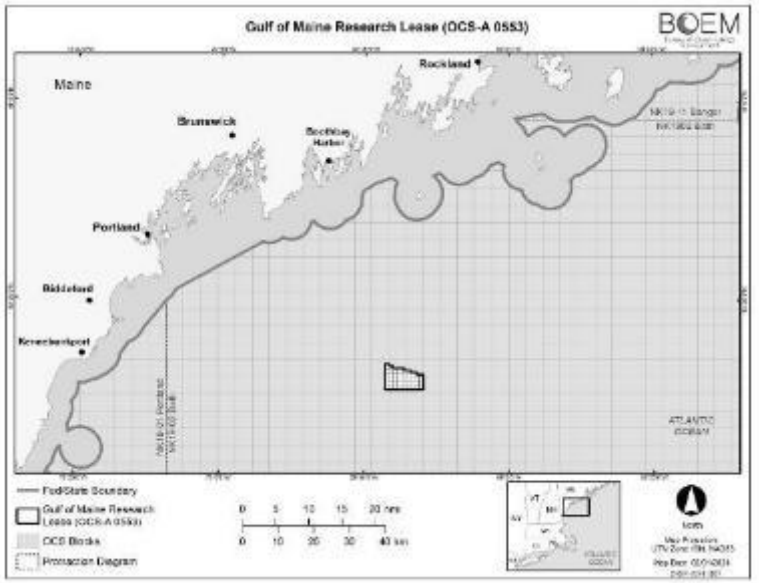
State Application Process

- Identified initial Area of Interest
- Engaged with ocean users and scientists to refine AOI*
- Engaged with ocean users and scientists to create Research Framework*
- Submitted lease application to BOEM October 2021

Federal Review Process

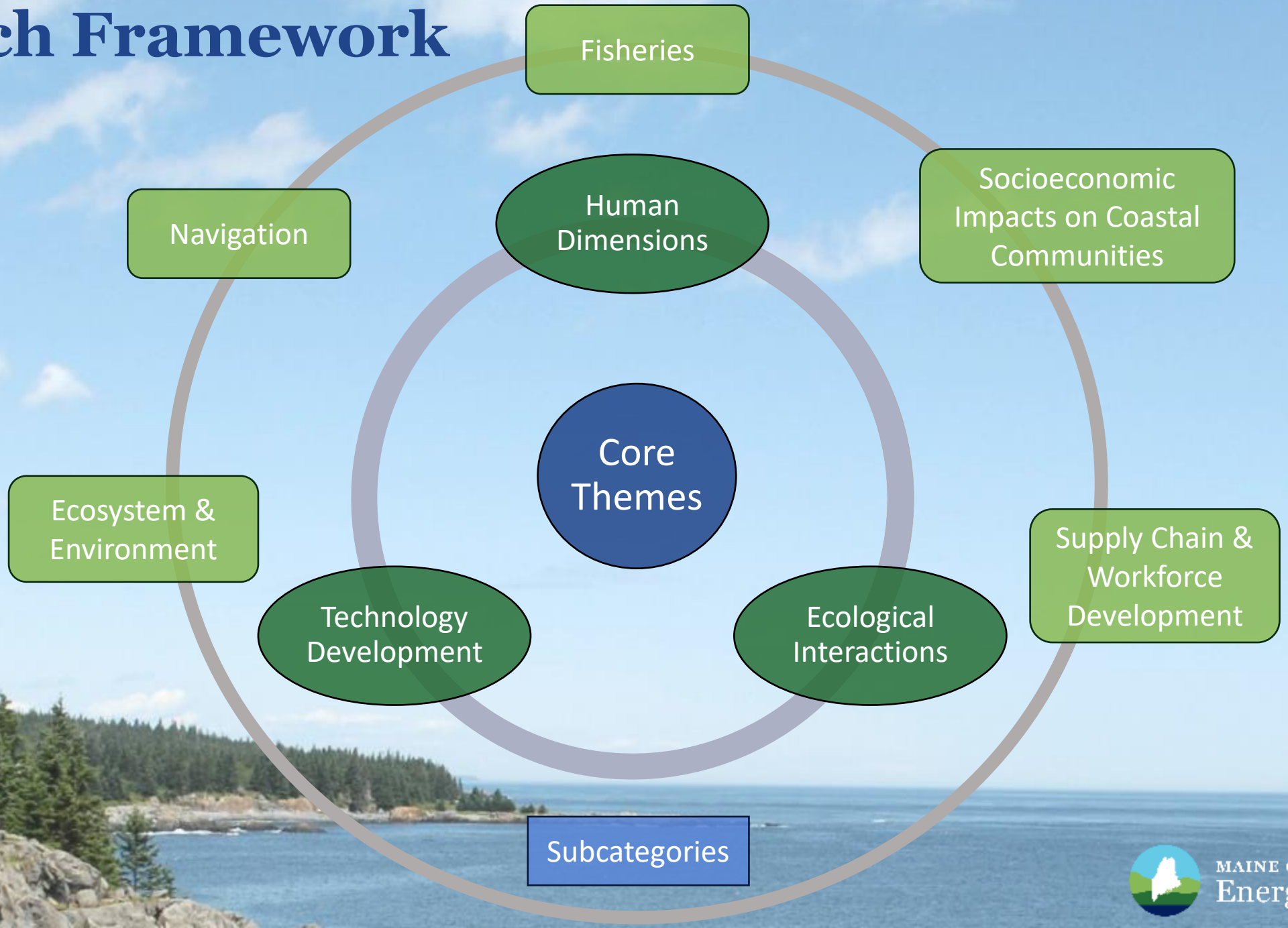
- BOEM conducted Request for Competitive Interest*
- BOEM completed Environmental Assessment*
- BOEM conducted Section 106 review*
- BOEM consulted with federal agencies, including Coast Guard, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and others
- BOEM identified lease area to offer to the State

BOEM Offers Lease to Maine



***Included opportunities for public comment**

Research Framework



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Ongoing Research Projects

The Maine Offshore Wind Research Consortium is tasked with establishing and implementing a Research Strategy that advances the State's understanding of the impacts of floating offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine. The Advisory Board includes people representing commercial and recreational fishing interests, scientists, NGOs, offshore wind industry, and state agencies.

1. Fisheries Coexistence

Engaging fishermen to explore definitions and considerations for coexistence and researching compatibility of FOW technologies with fishing gear used in the Gulf of Maine

2. Socioeconomic Baseline Inventory

Inventorying data and metrics related to Maine's fishing communities through stakeholder engagement and research to inform a future socioeconomic impact assessment

3. Seafloor Mapping

Mapping ~840 sq nm around the Research Array lease and potential cable corridors to fill habitat and seafloor classification data gaps

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Thank You

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www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/offshorewind

Sign up for email updates →

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Contact Information for the Research Array

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