

Adjusting offshore wind planning and leasing to account for net positive impact

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Offshore wind planning and the mitigation hierarchy

BOEM and lessees must **avoid, minimize, and mitigate** impacts at all stages of leasing:

- Area identification
- Lease issuance
- Site assessment
- Construction and operations

Net positive impact for biodiversity offers the opportunity for further ecosystem benefits.

30 C.F.R. 585.211(b), 585.216(b), 585.610(8), 585.625(b)(15)

Wind energy area identification

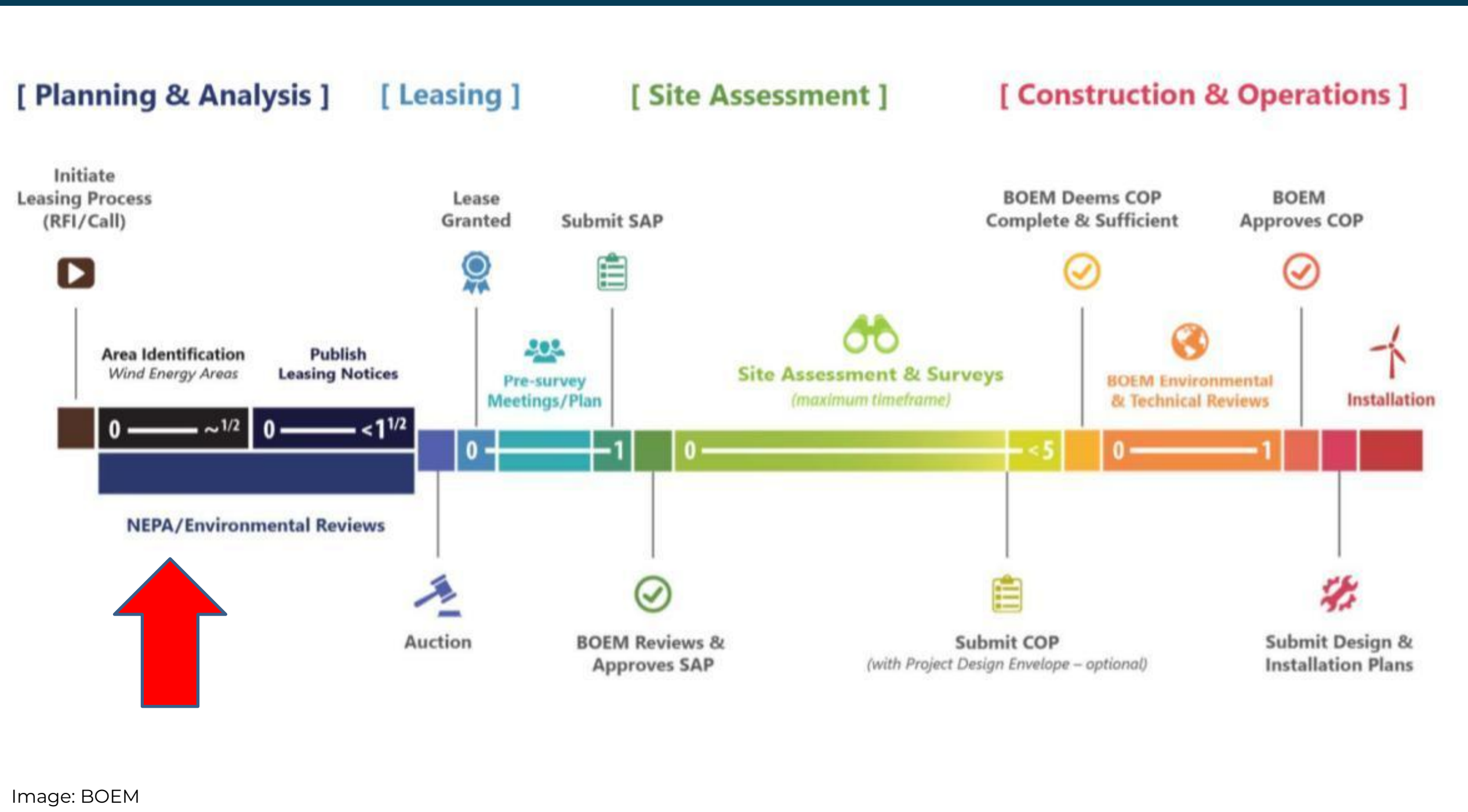
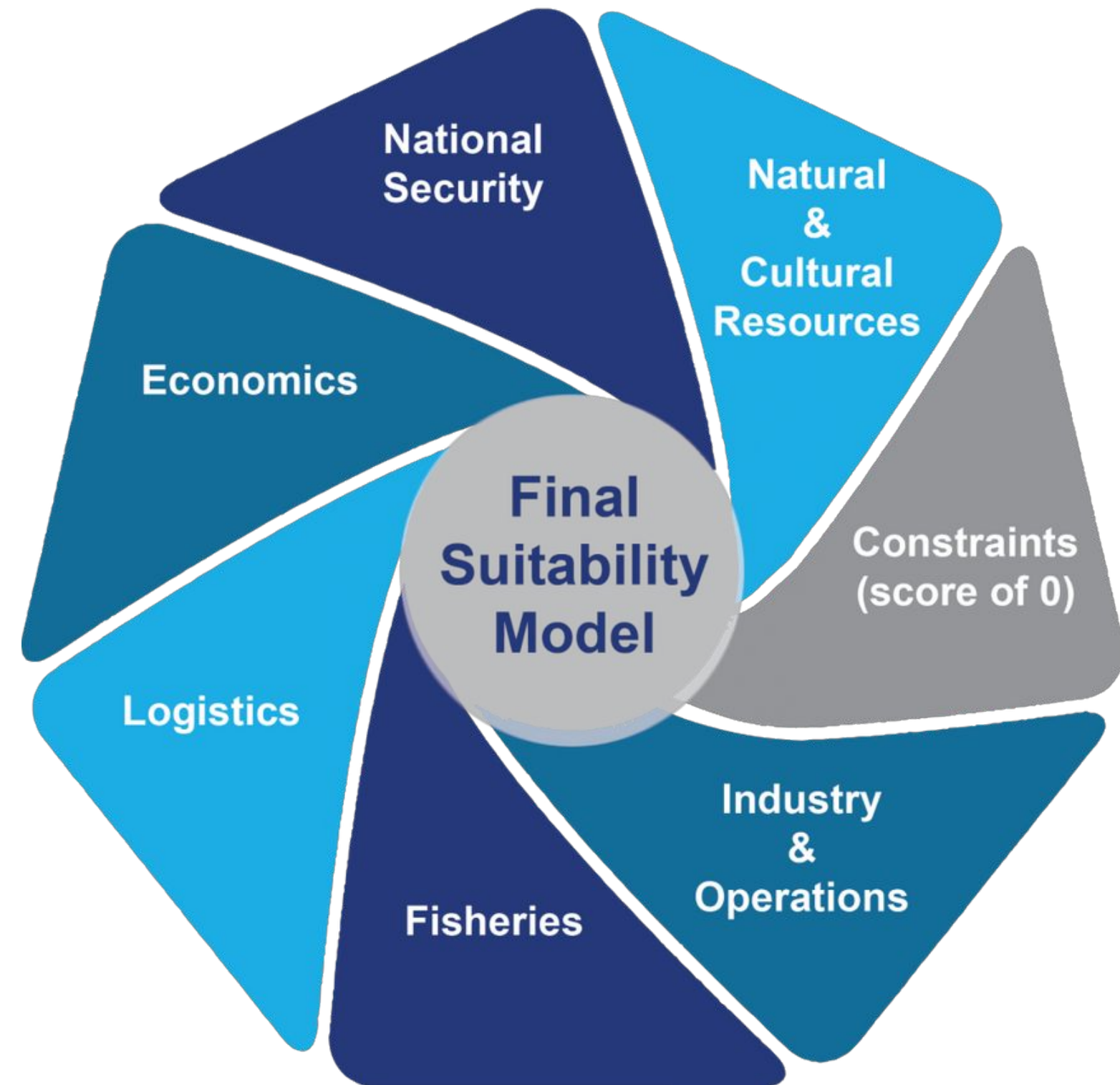


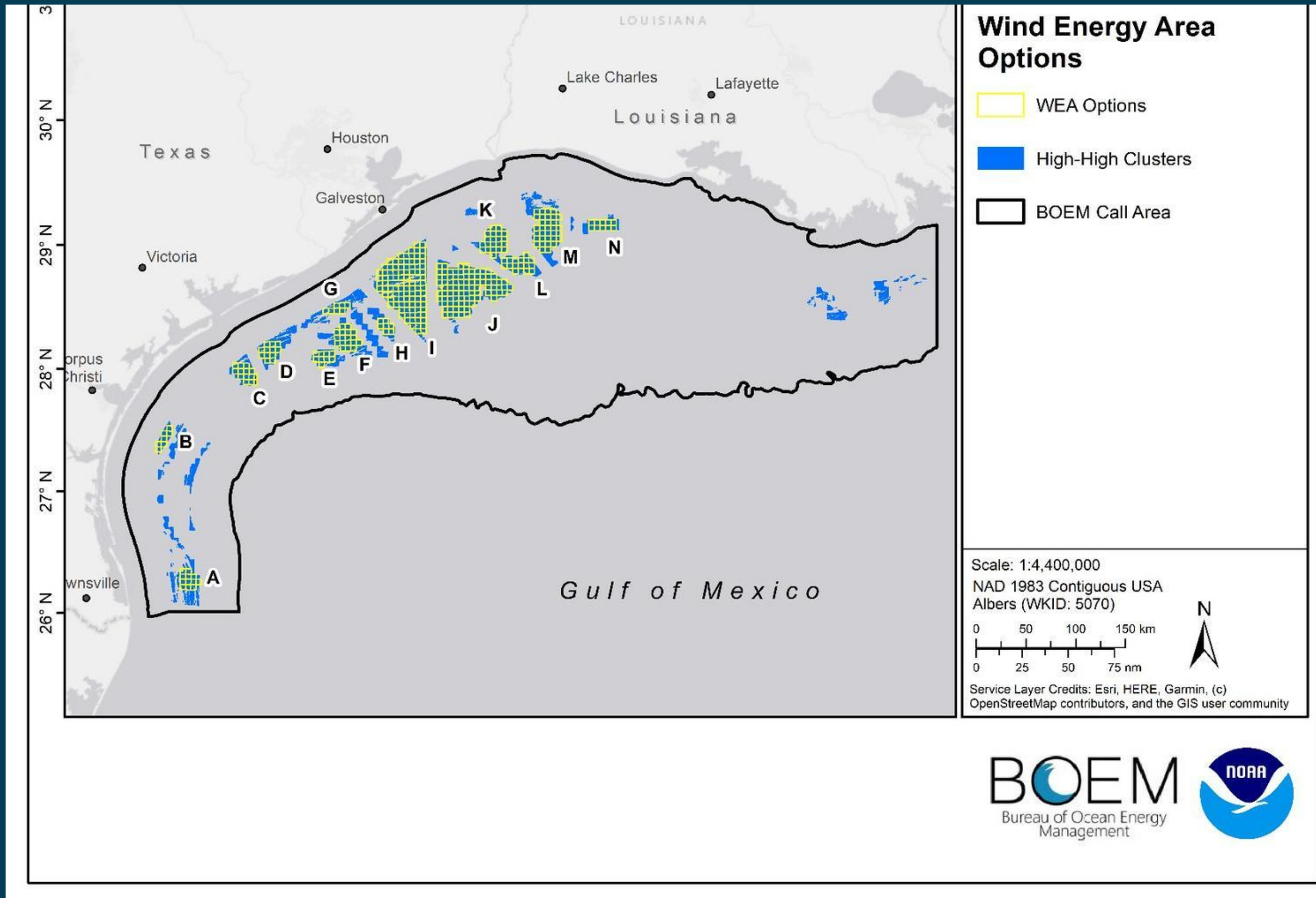
Image: BOEM

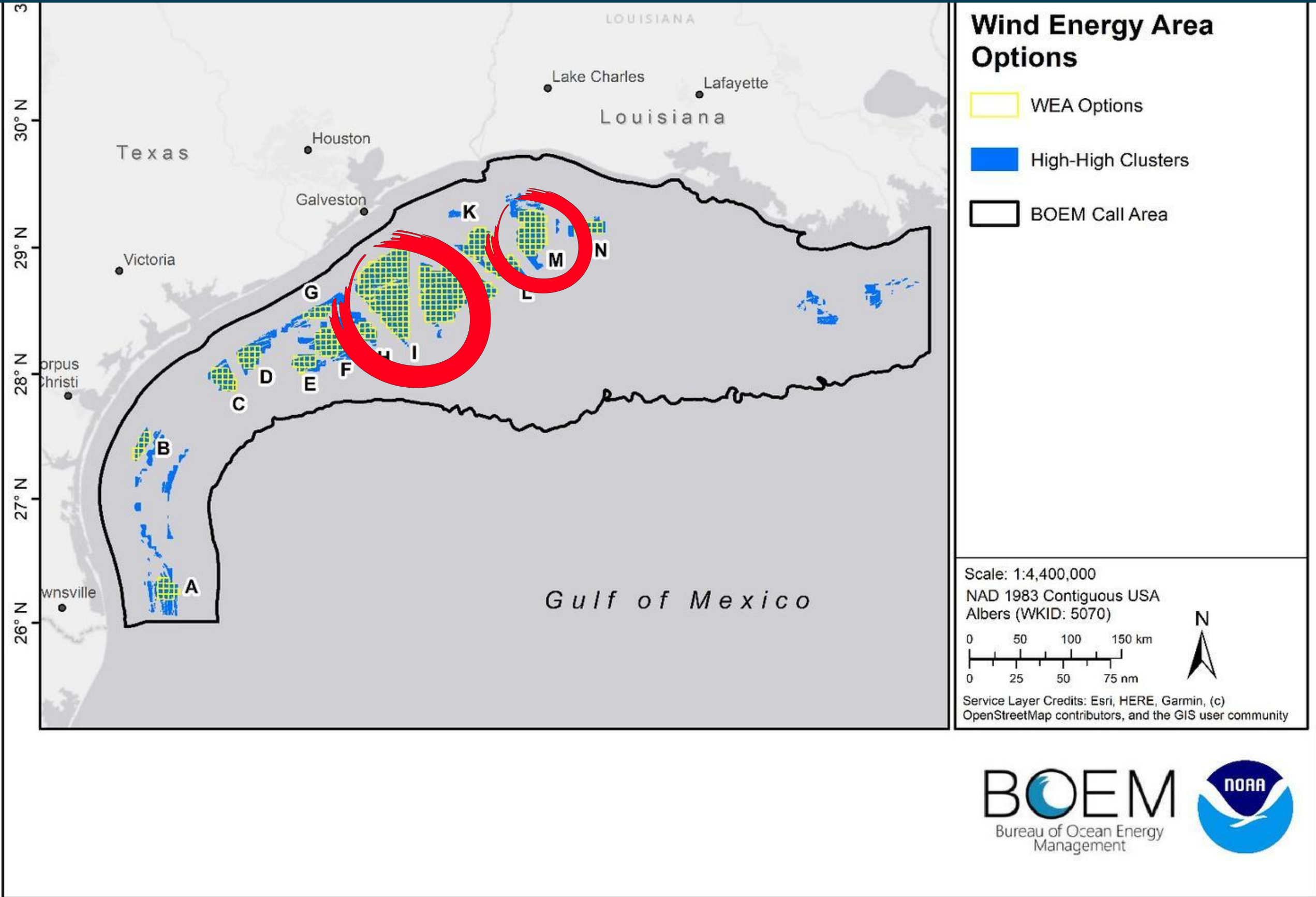
NCCOS spatial suitability modeling

- Narrows down a larger region into areas most suitable for offshore wind based on spatial data
- 50+ data layers in 7 categories
- Assigns “suitability score” for each data layer to each



Wedge diagram: BOEM WEA Modeling Report, <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/state-activities/GOM-WEA-Modeling-Report-Combined.pdf>





Can NCCOS modeling inform NPI?

CHALLENGES

- Reporting lacks detail as to the nature of impacts
- Model does not consider construction and operations impacts

OPPORTUNITIES

- Use NCCOS information to advise net positive impact approaches in legally binding lease stipulations

Offshore wind lease sales and multiple-factor auctions

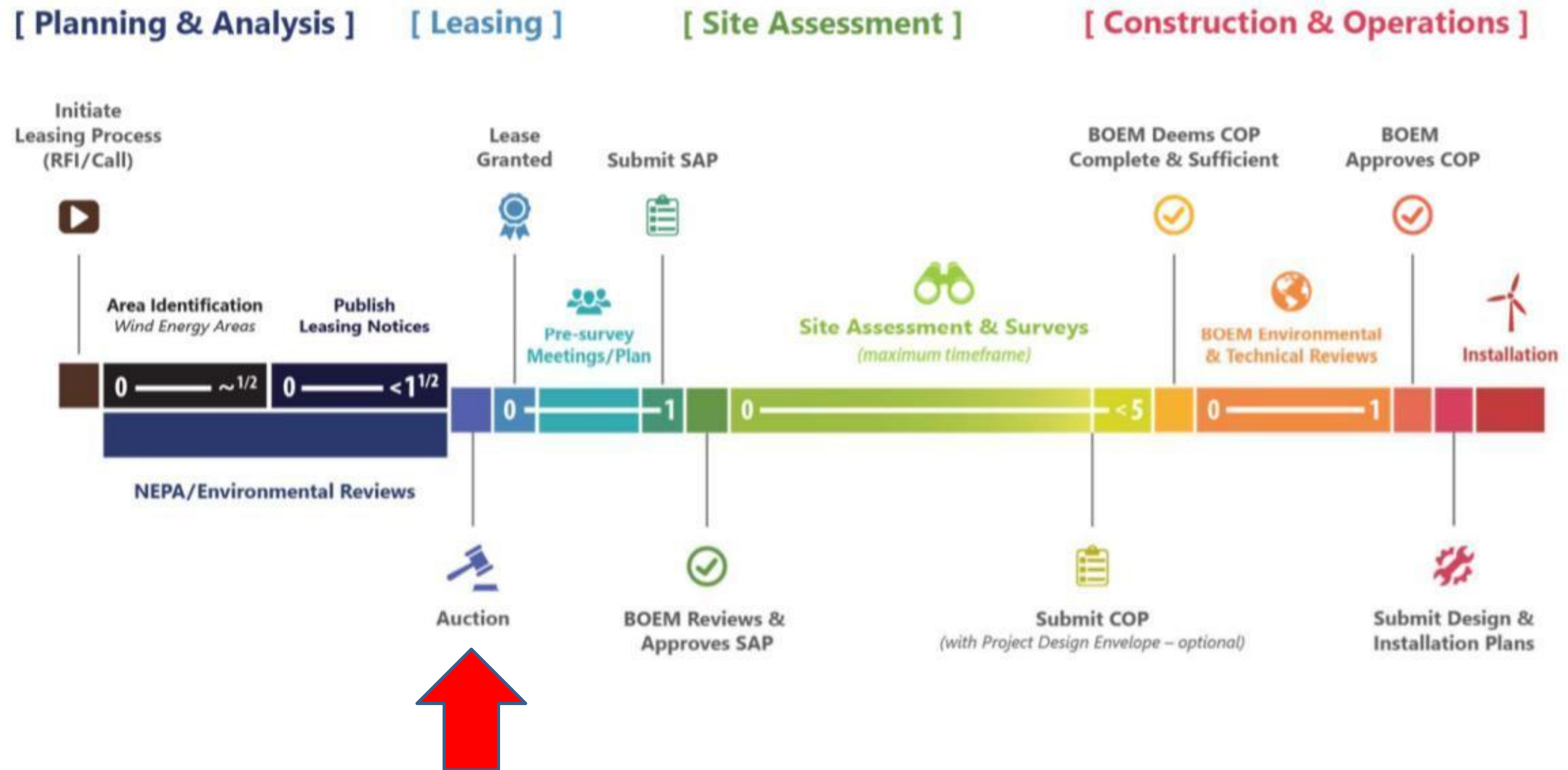


Image: BOEM

Multiple-factor auctions (MFA)

30 C.F.R. 585.220(a)(4)

30 C.F.R. 585.221(a)(6)

30 C.F.R. 585.222(d)

88 Fed. Reg. 5968

PURPOSE

- Support public policy objectives or maximize public benefits
- Must provide added value:
 - Cannot overlap with a pre-existing lease obligation or stipulation

EXAMPLES

- Supply chain
- Workforce training
- Community Benefit Agreements

Example

5% credit for Community Benefit Agreement

- Goal: mitigate impacts and encourage collaboration
- Commitment to enter a Community Benefit Agreement
- Bidder must identify:
 - Method for identifying impacted community(ies)
 - Strategies to mitigate potential impacts
 - Mechanism for collaboration or issue resolution

Pac Wind Lease Sale 1 FNOS, 87 Fed. Reg. 64093, 64104.

Can NPI be implemented through multiple-factor auctions?

Critical considerations

- Potential NPI credits must be additional.
 - MFA cannot replace mitigation required in lease stipulations.
 - MFA credits for NPI must go beyond addressing impacts.
- Strategies must be effective.
- Strategies must be enforceable over the long-term.

Thank you!



Contact information

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