

# Offshore Wind activities in SECOORA footprint

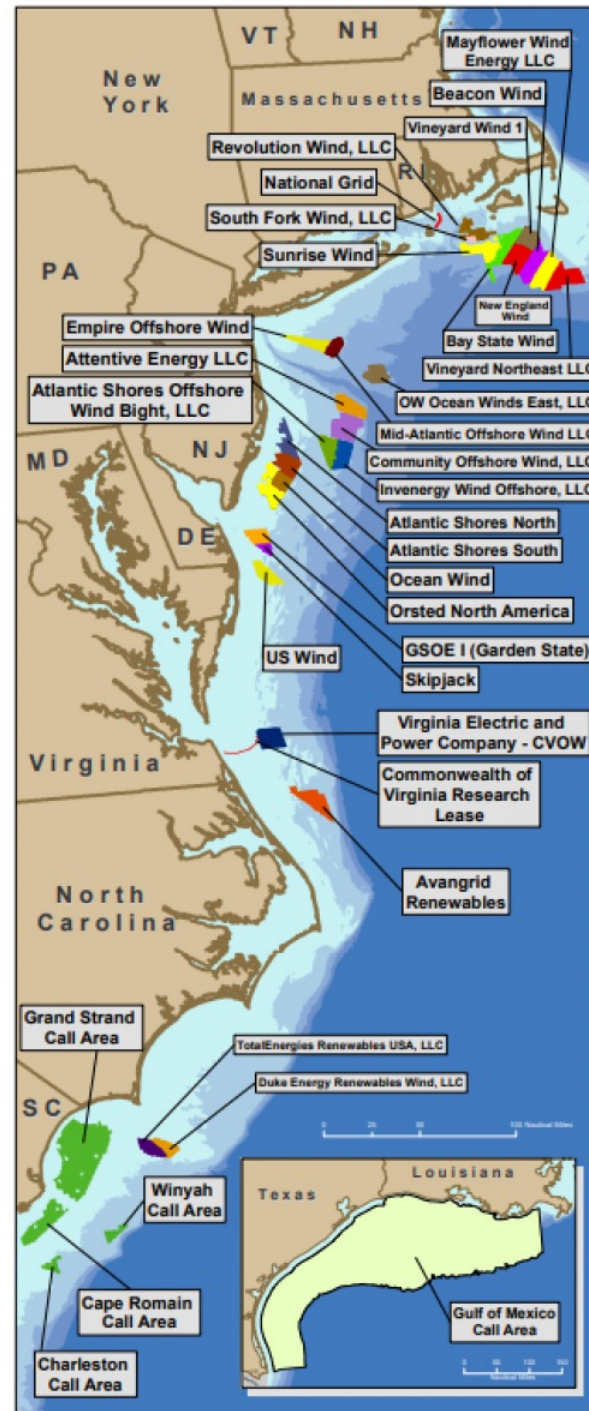
Harvey Seim

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill / SECOORA

# Map of leased OSW blocks along the US East Coast

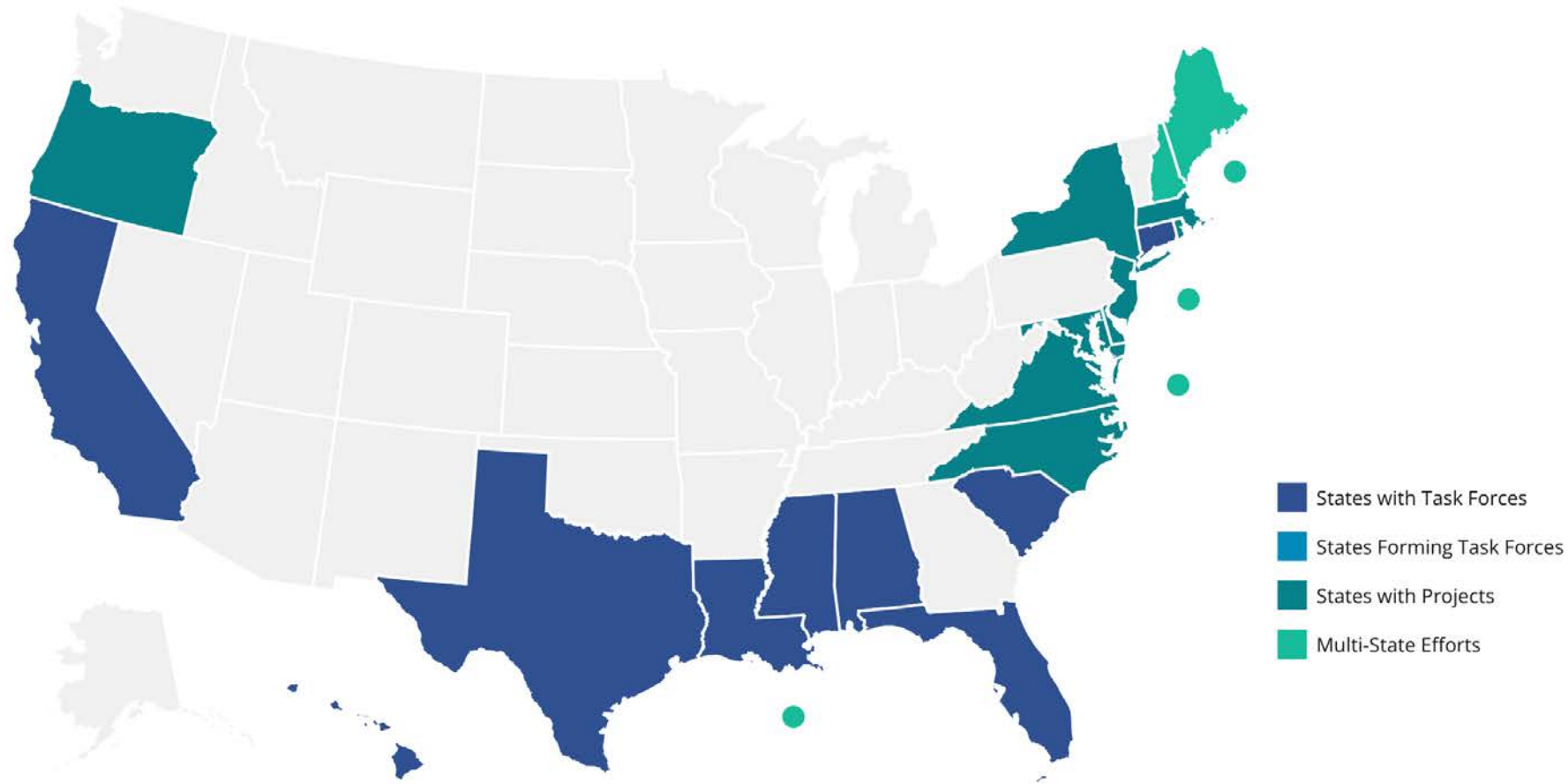
Lots of activity, especially Delaware northward

Note: green areas offshore of SC are call areas, not leased blocks



## In the SECOORA footprint:

- Only leased areas are offshore of NC (Kitty Hawk, Wilmington East)
- Kitty Hawk most advanced in effort but not yet under construction
- NC, SC, FL have formed BOEM task forces; GA has not
- Mid-Atlantic and NE US seeing numerous leases being developed, has led to regional-scale OSW efforts



# How to assess impact of wind farms?

- Developers required by BOEM to conduct extensive site-specific studies
- However, baseline data limited in time and only for leased blocks
- Regional groups seeking to create consistent database for entire east coast of US, identify state-of-knowledge and gaps
- Intent is to use region-wide information to assess environmental (abiotic) and ecosystem changes
- Hope is to be better able to assign cause of change with more holistic informational database

# Regional efforts

- **RWSC (Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind)** - led by federal agencies, state agencies, environmental NGOs and the wind industry. SECOORA participating, along with other RAs.
- Developing a science plan – ***themes shown to right***
- Draft release at end of June 2023, opportunity for input once released
- Possible funding opportunities later this year

# RWSC

Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative  
for Offshore Wind



+ Marine Mammals

+ Birds & Bats

+ Sea Turtles

+ Habitat & Ecosystem

+ Protected Fish Species

+ Technology

# Regional efforts

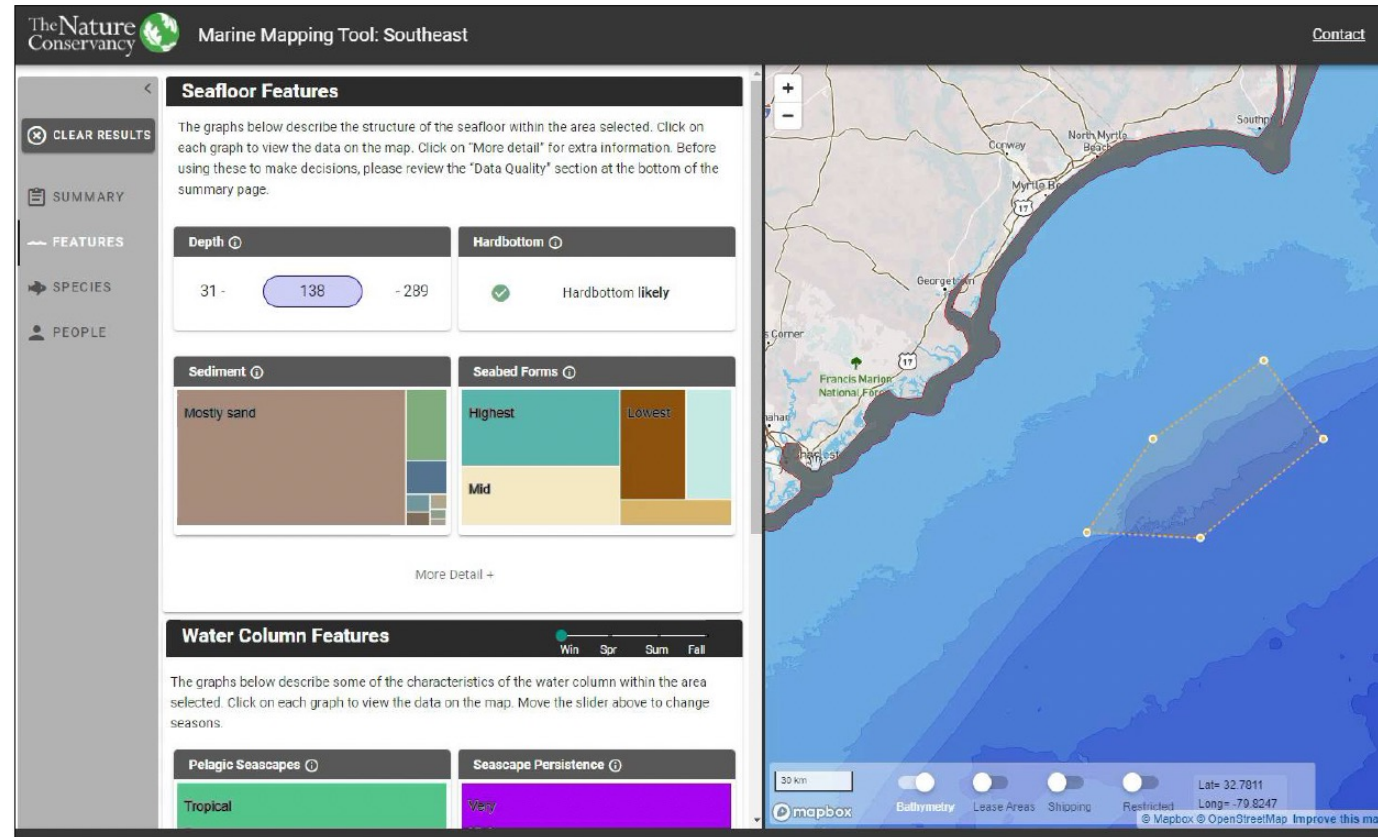
- TNC (The Nature Conservancy) – is creating the Southeast Marine Mapping Tool
- Fills a gap in information portals along the US (as Governor's South Atlantic Alliance is non-functional).



# Regional efforts (TNC SE Marine Mapping Tool)

## KEY FEATURES

Interactive tool, using both maps and graphs





# IOOS Association coordination efforts

- coordinate across the RAs impacted by offshore wind development to provide a cohesive and coherent description of Ras as critical partners in providing access to data both for and from offshore wind developers and those impacted and interested in OSW related activities
- improve the visibility of RAs in the ongoing OSW discussions at all levels of government
- consider / explore options for simplifying access to relevant data (from all the RAs) that may be of interest to OSW stakeholders



# Summary

- Lots of offshore wind activity off mid-Atlantic and NE US
- Some activity of NC; possibly off SC
- Strong interest in regional-scale coordination on data sharing and new data collection to evaluate impact of wind farms
- SECOORA participating in 3 of these: RWSC; TNC; IOOS Association
- May seek input from SECOORA members once RWSC draft science plan released
- May be funding opportunities later this fall, associated with data sharing and new data collection