

Environmentally Responsible Development

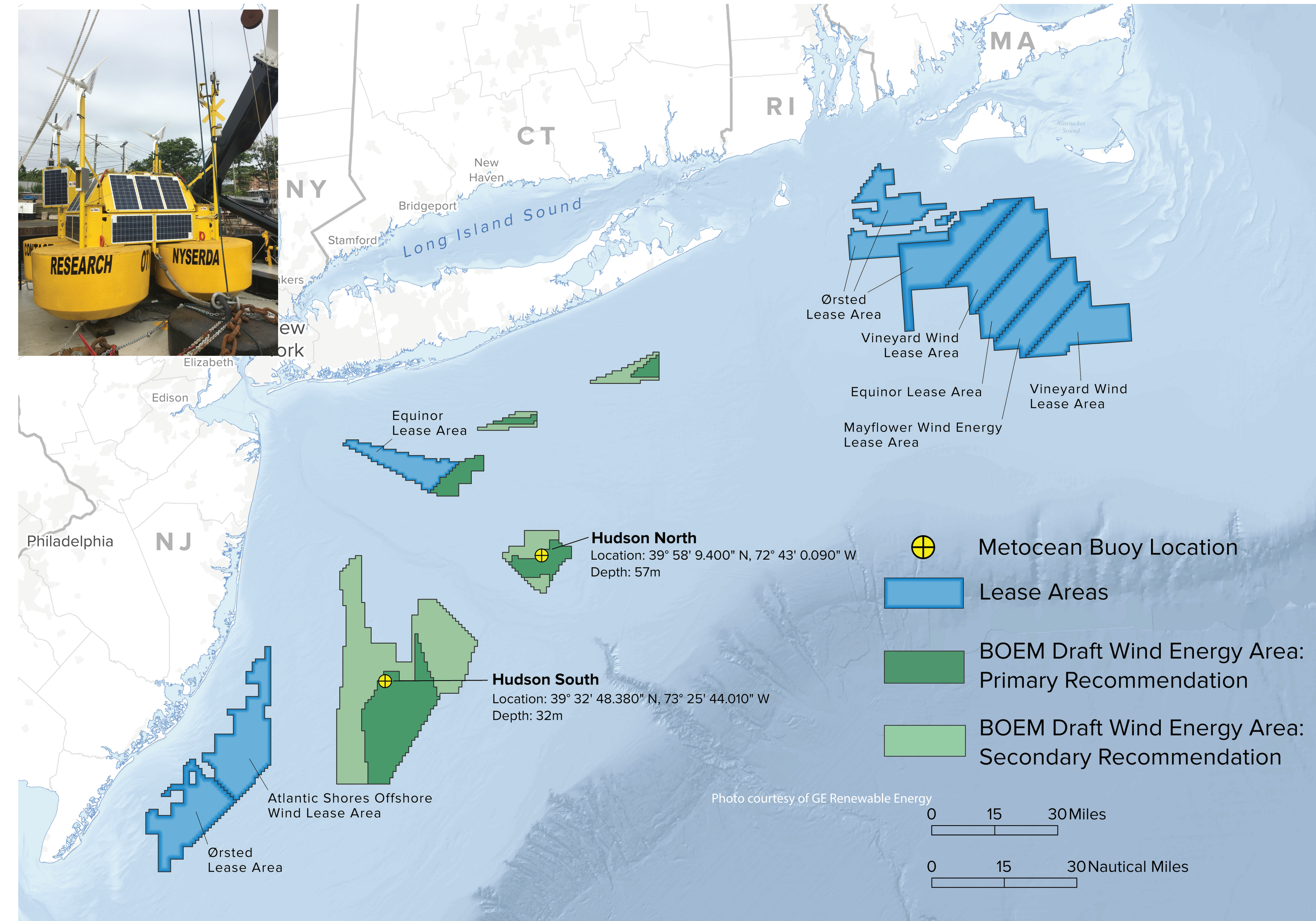
The waters off New York's coast are home to more than 300 fish species, a variety of marine mammals, sea turtles, and sea birds, among a wealth of other ocean and coastal wildlife. In partnership with environmental scientists and nonprofit organizations, New York State is working to understand and minimize the cumulative impacts to species and habitats from offshore wind development and operations.



New York State's Environmental Technical Working Group is working to plan for and implement the environmentally-responsible development of offshore wind energy. The practices being explored include:

- Developing best management practices to minimize the risks to wildlife such as marine mammals, birds, and bats during the siting, construction, and operation of future offshore wind farms
- Engaging a broad group of environmental stakeholders to identify research needs and mechanisms for filling those gaps
- Adapting and implementing project-specific Environmental Mitigation Plans

For more information about wildlife and offshore wind, visit www.briloon.org/offshorewindny or email environmentandoffshorewind@nyserda.ny.gov



New York State is conducting fisheries and environmental research to inform offshore wind development.

NYSERDA has deployed two LiDAR (light detection and ranging) buoys for a 2-year period. Remote sensing will provide continuous data on wind, ocean currents, and wildlife. Features include acoustic monitoring for birds, bats, and marine mammals, and nanotag antennas and fish tag receivers.

NYSERDA's efforts to analyze and collect new offshore environmental data began in 2017, with digital aerial surveys of birds, marine mammals, sharks and fish shoals. This three-year survey collected more than 3.5 million images across the New York Bight.



In Summer 2019, NYSERDA selected five multi-year projects following a competitive solicitation to further study important environmental and commercial fishing topics to support the responsible development of offshore wind. Environmental research projects include:

- A multi-scale study of the relationships between forage fish and seabirds and implications for offshore wind development
- Using multi-year, 3-D modeling of ocean environments to better understand wildlife distribution movements
- Development of monitoring protocols for collecting data on birds and bats from nanotag transmitters to inform offshore wind development