



## Statement by Offshore Wind California on Announcement by Interior Secretary Haaland of Five-Year Plan Setting Schedule for Next Rounds of U.S. Offshore Wind Leasing

April 24, 2024

We are encouraged by U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland's [announcement](#) today of a new five-year schedule of planned offshore leasing by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to accelerate the progress and momentum of U.S. offshore wind, including off the coast of California. This sends an important signal of commitment and certainty of the Administration's support for responsibly developing offshore wind over the long term, and delivering its benefits in good-paying U.S. jobs, clean electricity, and climate mitigation for America's clean-energy future.

For California, today's announcement underscores the state's course and commitment to go big on offshore wind and generate a nation-leading [25 gigawatts \(GW\)](#) by 2045. The Golden State is on its way to becoming a global leader in floating offshore wind and making this renewable energy resource a key contributor to achieve the state's ambitious climate, clean-energy, and grid-reliability goals.

California is answering the call to responsibly develop offshore wind as part of its [100%](#) clean-power portfolio. The California Energy Commission and other state agencies are advancing the state's [draft AB 525 Strategic Plan](#) that outlines the essential [next steps](#) California must take to achieve its offshore wind goals. These include investments in a multi-port strategy and new transmission, an efficient process for permitting, a robust supply chain and workforce training, engaging key stakeholders, and identifying suitable sea space for further leasing.

Moving forward with the process for the next round of California offshore wind lease sales is a priority to ensure sufficient lease areas are designated to meet the state's 25 GW planning goal by 2045. Updated [industry estimates](#) show that the existing Morro Bay and Humboldt lease areas have a generation potential of 10+ GW. Setting a schedule to designate further offshore wind call areas will send an important signal to the industry and markets regarding economies of scale that will drive a sustainable in-state supply chain, creation of more California-based jobs, and the steady downward trajectory of costs that will result in significant savings for California electricity ratepayers.

Offshore wind promises to deliver a host of [benefits](#) for California workers, residents, and electricity ratepayers. Deploying 25 GW off the state's North and Central Coasts will create [thousands](#) of family-wage jobs and supply clean power to up to [25 million homes](#). Offshore wind can also save ratepayers [billions](#), help avoid rolling blackouts, and bring real environmental and health benefits, all while coexisting with other ocean users and protecting the state's coastal communities and cultural resources. As an industry, we're committed to work with federal and state agencies, the California Legislature, and key stakeholders to make offshore wind's promise a reality.

Adam Stern, Executive Director, [Offshore Wind California](#) (OWC), a trade group of offshore wind developers and technology companies