

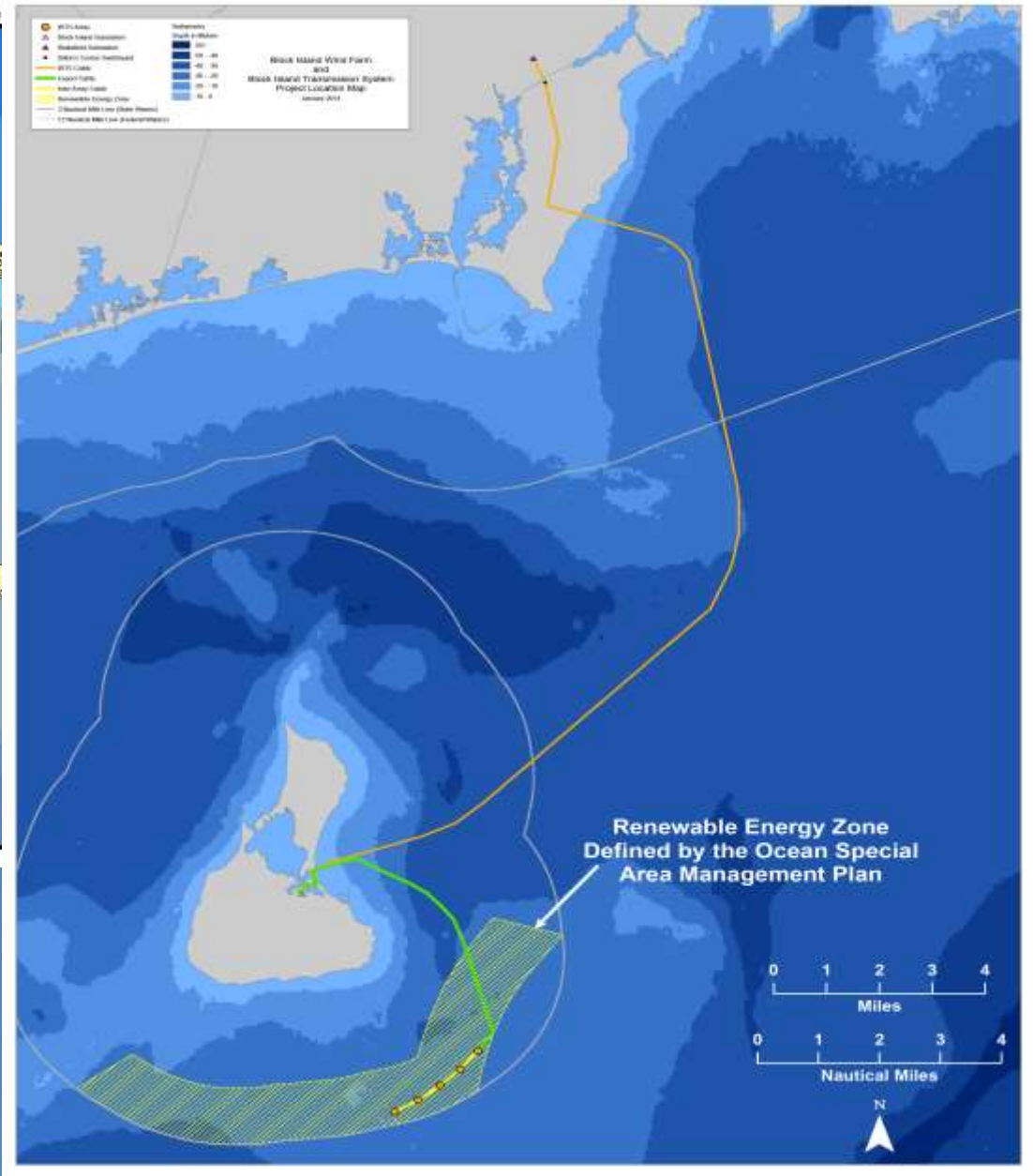
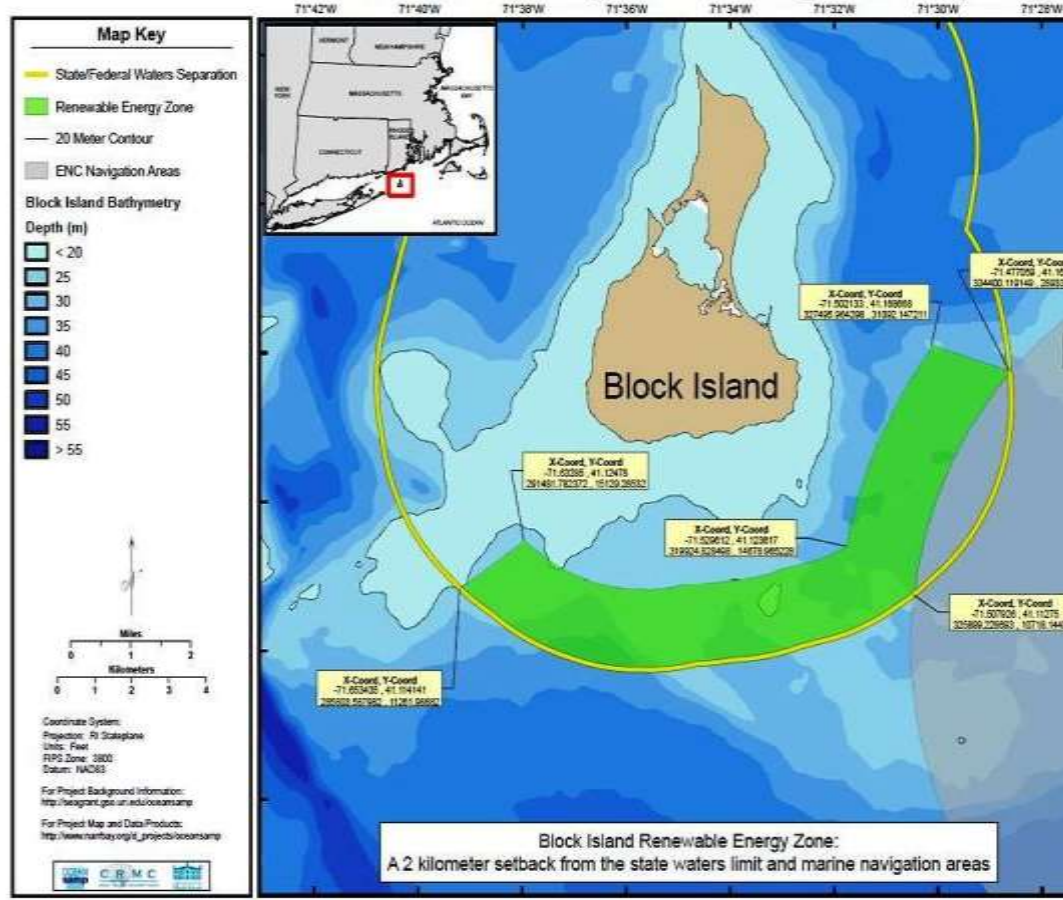
PERCEPTIONS OF THE BLOCK ISLAND WIND FARM PUBLIC PROCESS: PERSPECTIVES FROM THOSE INVOLVED

Joe Dwyer and David Bidwell
University of Rhode Island
Dept. of Marine Affairs
Social Coast Forum Feb 8th-10th

BLOCK ISLAND WIND FARM PROCESS

	Ocean Special Area Management Plan (Ocean SAMP)	Block Island Wind Farm (BIWF)
Public Process Lead	State agency and URI research extension	Private developer and public utility company
Timeline	2008-2010	2014-2016
Process Characteristics	Monthly meetings (Public/ affected stakeholders) Targeted stakeholder outreach	Information/Status meetings (Public) Targeted stakeholder outreach
Outcome	Designation of Renewable Energy Zone (REZ)	Siting of the BIWF and Block Island Transmission System (BITS) pathway/landing

Rhode Island Ocean Special Area Management Plan (SAMP)



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Public has expectations** (Devine-Wright 2011)
 - Process: Procedural fairness/justice, preconceived thoughts of process leader, role of other groups (Gross 2007, Ottinger 2014)
 - Project: Size, siting, community benefits
- **How do these expectations and their subsequent fulfilment (or lack of fulfilment) affect project support?**
 - Managers and developers also bring with them expectations of the process
 - Highlight mismatches
 - **Role**

METHODS

What?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19 interviews• In-person – Some phone
Who?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 Developers – BIWF and BITS• 5 Managers – State agencies - OceanSAMP• 8 Public –Affected/Involved Stakeholders
When?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• August – November 2015• Construction of BIWF foundations occurring• 5-year OceanSAMP review process

THEMES - TRUST

- *Procedural Trust*

- “And so, I’m thinking, **has the decision already been made**, and now they’re doing the research to substantiate this location. And only this location.” (P2)
- “**We didn’t want it to seem like it was that done deal**, like we were just making a plan that fits the BIWF design or something...” (M5)
- “And so, everything we talked to them about, **they were willing to listen and were willing incorporate our concerns** with their evolving plan.” (P1)
- “So, because they felt okay you guys are doing, I understand what you’re doing, I understand your process **and I understand that you’re basing your decisions on fact.**” (M4)

- *Relationship Trust*

- “So, I felt comfortable after my experience on the town council, **that I could speak to people and they would trust me.** They know that my loyalty are to my family and my community. My engagement with Deepwater Wind, in no way, shape, or form would compromise my two initial loyalties, it just would not happen.” (D6)
- “and because he’s got so much or has so much insight on the commercial fishing industry in Rhode Island, **he was a good fit for the Special Area Management Plan**” (P5)

THEMES - ROLES

- *Public*
- “We must, there’s a public process **we must participate in good faith.**” (P2)
- “I guess my role evolved into **getting as much public awareness** of the high cost of the project to the public.” (P4)
- “So, the role and responsibility of the public was to **come to the meetings, express their concerns and issues.**” (M3)
- *Managers*
- “we don’t have you know a position one way or the other if there should or shouldn’t be a wind farm or we just want **to provide the best information** on and **make sure that people have a say**” (M2)
- “Well, as the major regulatory bodies, we wanted. My expectations was **that they were going to take all the necessary actions to protect environment**” (P1)
- *Developers*
- “But it’s our **responsibility to reach out to the stakeholders** about our project. That’s I think a key thing” (D1)
- “Right, I mean really just they **care what the regulators are doing and making them do**, so that’s how the incorporate public concerns is through what the regulators are telling them to do.” (M4)
- “Well you know again, **developers are going to get away with the minimalist.**” (P2)

CONCLUSIONS

- Support
 - Trusted liaisons
 - Informal meetings
 - Information heard + incorporated
- Opposition
 - Distrust of process leader
 - Limited access to information/participation
 - Place attachment

- Questions?

