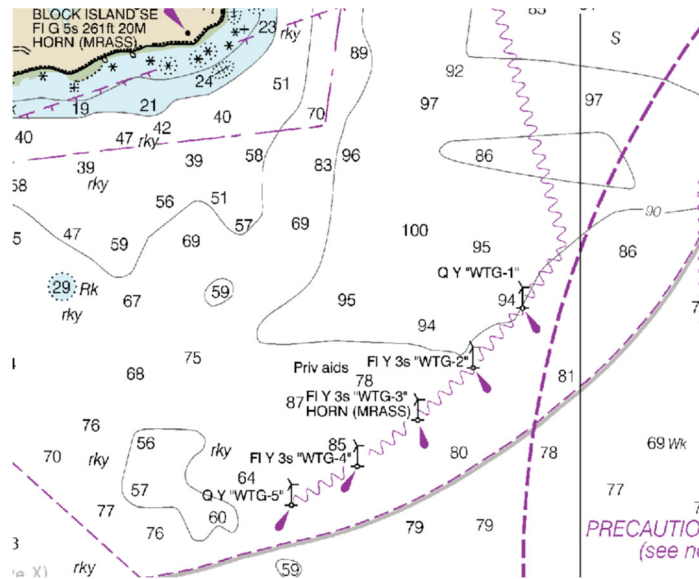


Wind Farms

John Collins, Div 4 SO-PE

If you are cruising near Block Island, RI, you will see the only offshore wind farm currently in the country. It is located about 4 miles southeast of Block Island, RI.



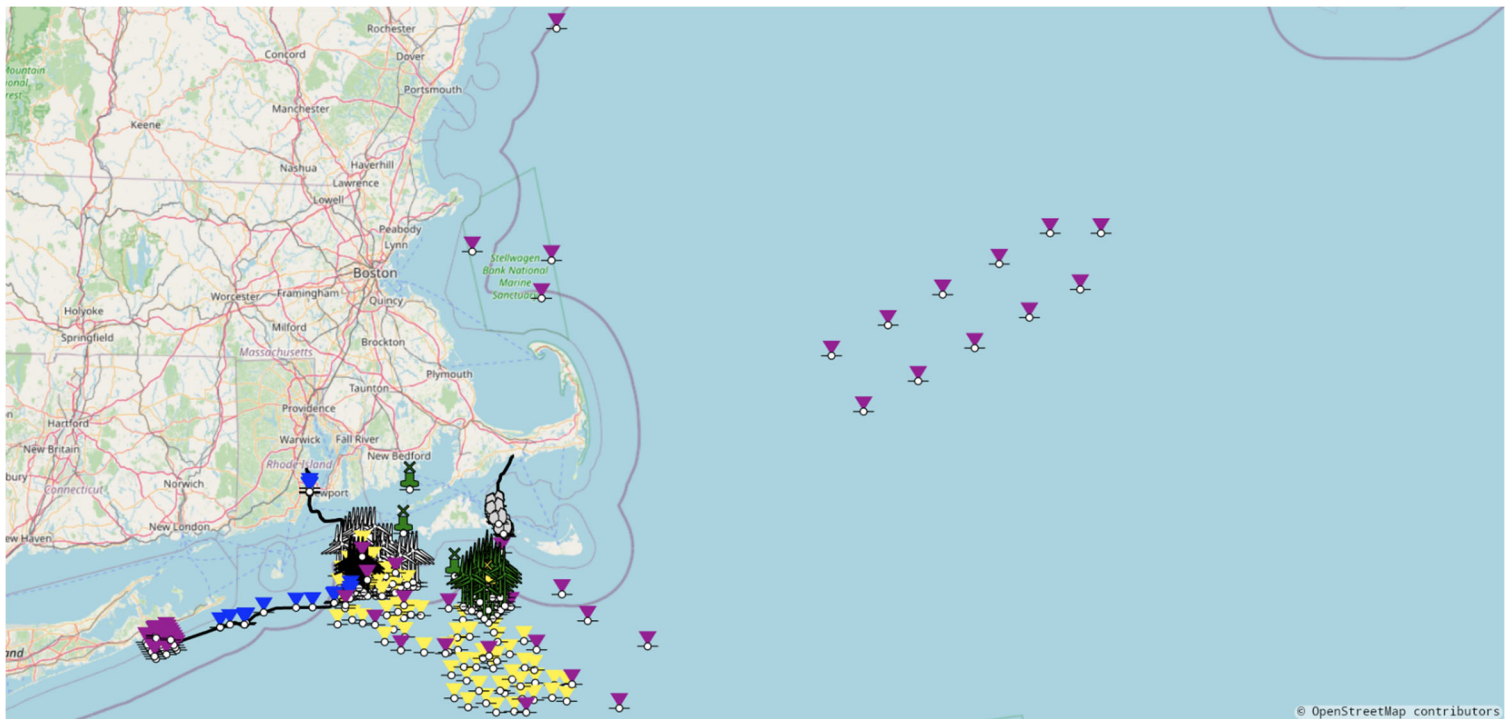
You should be careful here. The blade tip clearance is 75 feet above the water. So most sailboats are not in danger. The outer two towers have quick flashing yellow lights, the middle three have yellow lights that flash every three seconds and the middle one has an MRASS horn on it. Each tower has a red light on top.



Lights and sound signals on oil wells, wind turbines or other offshore structures in navigable waters are private aids to navigation. These are generally not listed in the Light List unless the structures are equipped with a RACON (RADar beaCON). Since there are no RACON equipped aids here, the wind turbines do not appear in the Light List.

There are several larger wind farms, of up to 100 turbines each, proposed and under construction for the area between Block Island and Martha's Vinyard and down the coast.. Survey ships are now in the area. When these wind farms get built, they will have designated travel lanes that you should keep in. While

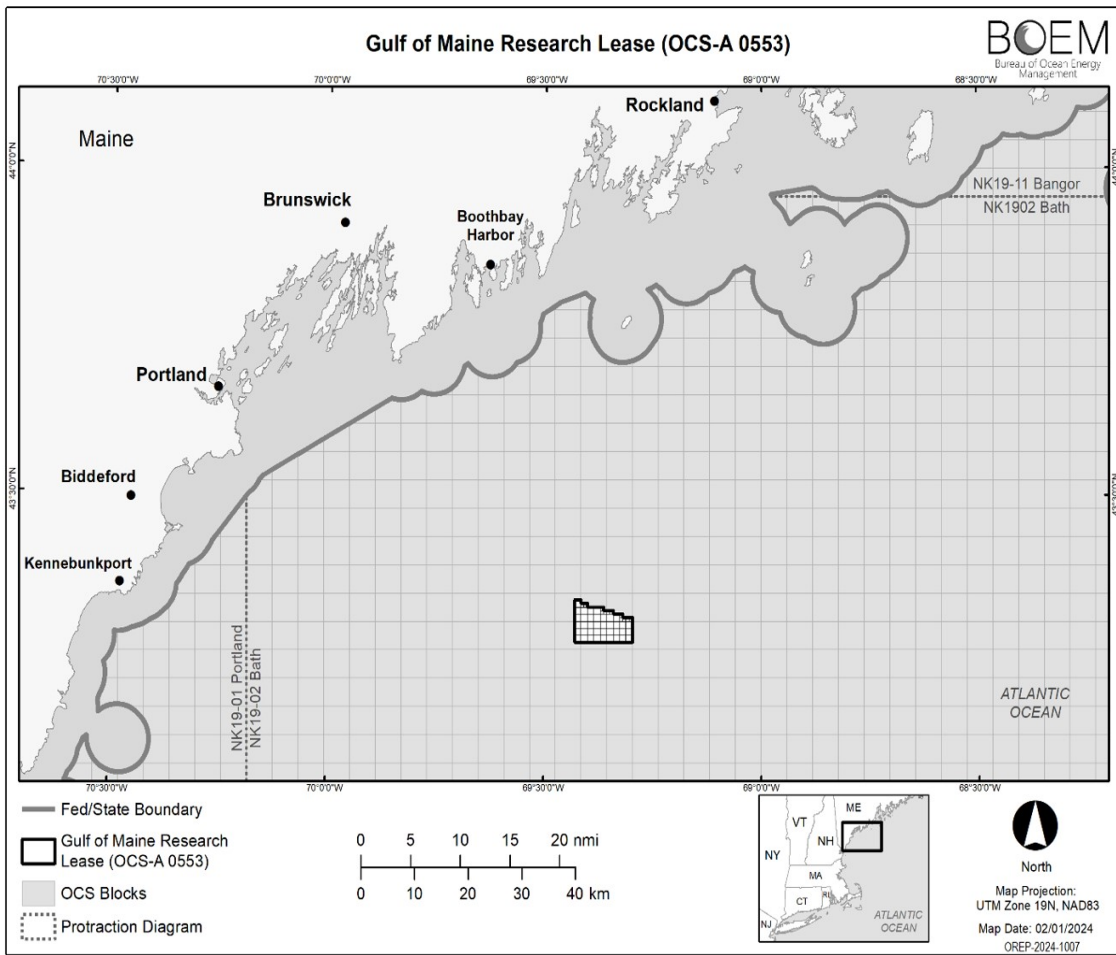
they are being built you should stay away from the area. Go here: <https://marinernotices.com/> to see a plot of wind turbines and NOAA buoys.



There likely will not be any fixed turbines in the waters north of Provincetown. The water there is too deep for fixed turbines.

In 2013, University of Maine and its partners successfully deployed the VoltornUS 1:8, a 1/8th scale, 65 foot tall prototype that was the first grid-connected floating wind turbine in the Americas. Data collected during this deployment is being used to inform design and construction of two full-scale floating offshore wind turbines utilizing the VoltornUS platform technology. There is a proposal to use the vacant land at the Salem power plant to assemble floating wind turbines.

The actual implementation of large scale wind farms in the Gulf of Maine is controversial due to concerns of the fishing industry. Due to the depth of the water, they would have to be floating, which would require more development. On August 19, 2024, the State and Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management reached an agreement on the research lease, <https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-announces-agreement-federal-research-lease-advance-floating-offshore-wind-2024>



Federal regulators have made [a final designation](#) of roughly 2 million acres in the Gulf of Maine where offshore wind turbines can be deployed to help provide power to New England.

