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Abstract
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In response to proposals for offshore wind farms in Massachusetts, Delaware, Texas, and Long Island, MMS is currently developing a programmatic EIS for the offshore wind industry in the United States. Though this is meant to take into account all effects this new industry will have on the marine environment, the process is a reactive one that considers wind in isolation from future uses of US offshore resources. Proliferation of the offshore wind industry in addition to other alternative energies, aquaculture, LNG terminals, and expansion of oil and gas development may produce conflict with existing uses of both state and federal waters. Though a coherent national ocean policy may mitigate these potential problems, the best management structure is in question. This paper considers the possibility of rapid and widespread development of US offshore resources within the next decade, assesses the use of ocean zoning as a management option, and suggests a policy that may be more appropriate to US needs than existing zoning structures.