Aquaculture Opportunity Area Timeline

**SUMMER 2020**

1. Select regions for areas for evaluation. Convene NOAA AOA Teams.
2. Announce selected regions to regulatory partners, stakeholders, and general public.
3. National Center for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) compiles siting data for the first two regions (ongoing).
4. Outreach to fishery management councils, marine fisheries commissions, stakeholders, and the public.

**FALL 2020**

1. Publish Request for Information (RFI) to gather public input.
2. Continue outreach and engagement to stakeholder groups.
3. Host five public listening sessions and review submitted RFI comments.
4. Using best available data, NCCOS conducts siting analysis to find areas that may support sustainable aquaculture development.

**WINTER 2020/SPRING 2021**

1. NCCOS drafts an Aquaculture Opportunity Atlas to present maps and share the results of their siting analysis.
2. Combine results of draft Atlas with RFI public input to select areas in the Gulf of Mexico and Southern California to evaluate in more depth during the NEPA process.
3. Consider information collected through RFI, including industry interest, state agency input, and ecosystem factors to begin selection of regions to assess for possible future AOAs.

**FALL 2021/SUMMER 2022**

1. Publish Atlases as peer reviewed NOAA tech memos for each region.
2. Publish Notice of Intent (NOI) for each programmatic EIS in the Gulf of Mexico and Southern California, beginning in-depth evaluation of potential areas.
3. Continue to coordinate with other federal agencies, Fishery Management Councils, Marine Fisheries Commissions, states, and tribes.
4. Announce selection of next region(s) of focus for AOA identification using best available scientific data and stakeholder input.