

# “Southern Winds” Offshore Project Summary

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December 3, 2007



# “Southern Winds” Offshore Project Summary

- Joint project between the Georgia Tech Strategic Energy Institute and Southern Company
- Project started July 1, 2005
- Project objective is to study the viability of wind power generation off the Georgia coast
- Project deliverable: A final report



# SOUTHERN WINDS

Summary Project Report 2007

*A study of wind power generation  
potential off the Georgia coast.*



No Offshore wind projects Installed in U.S. yet

Superior Renewable

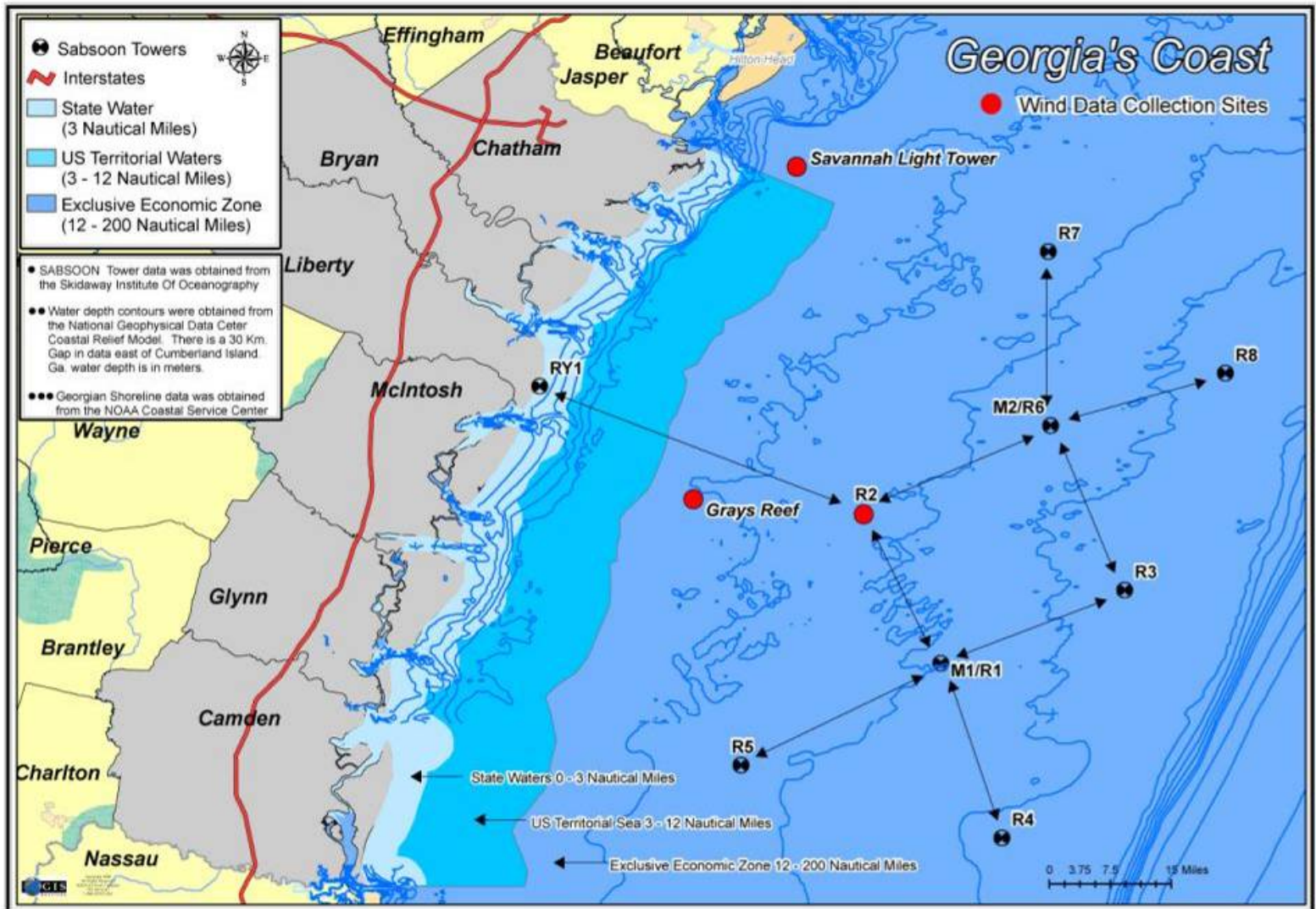
W.E.S.T. LLC

Gulf of Mexico




Southern Company

Cape Wind Associates  
Hull Municipal Winery  
LIPA & Florida Power and Light

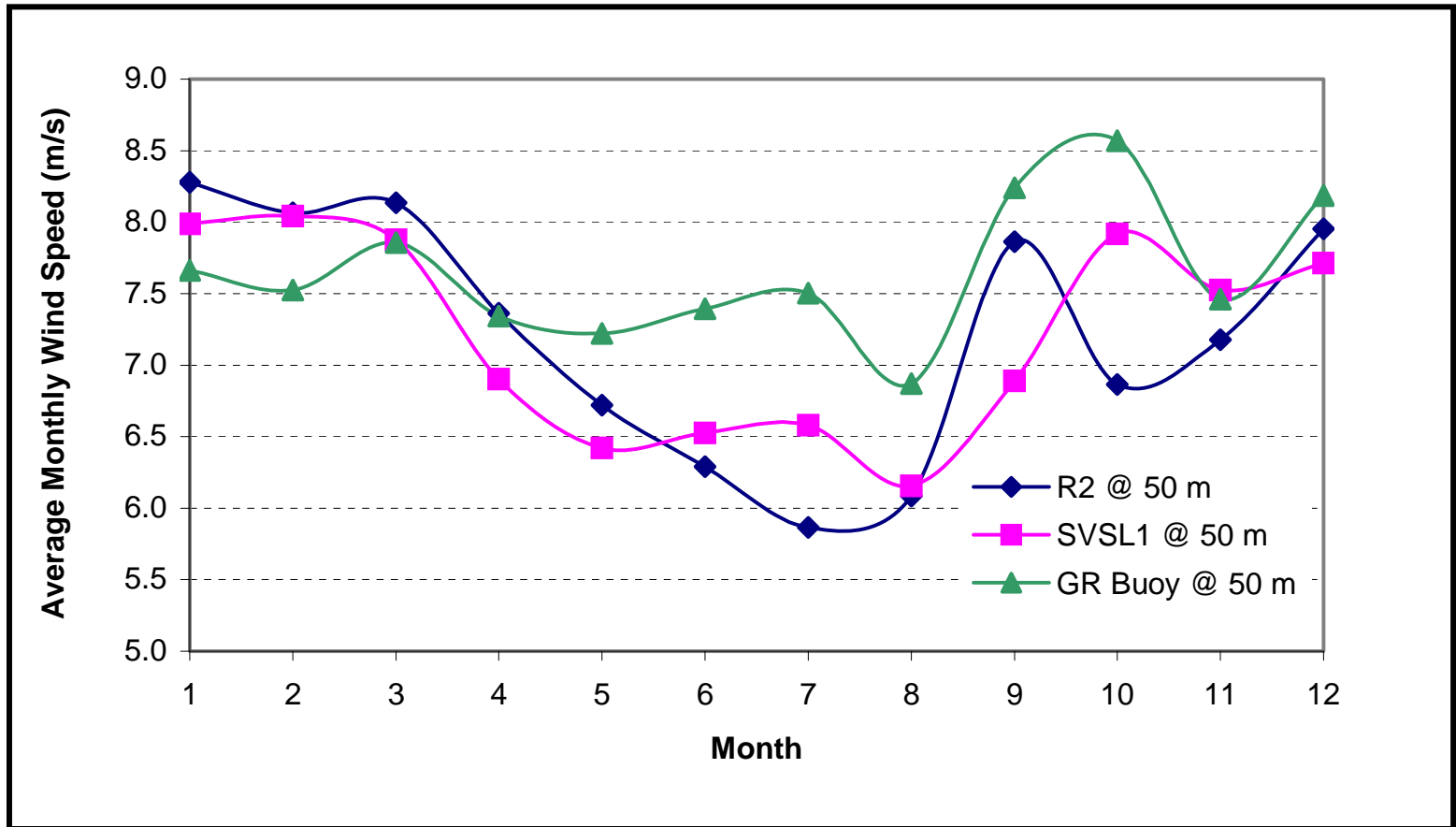
Atlantic Ocean



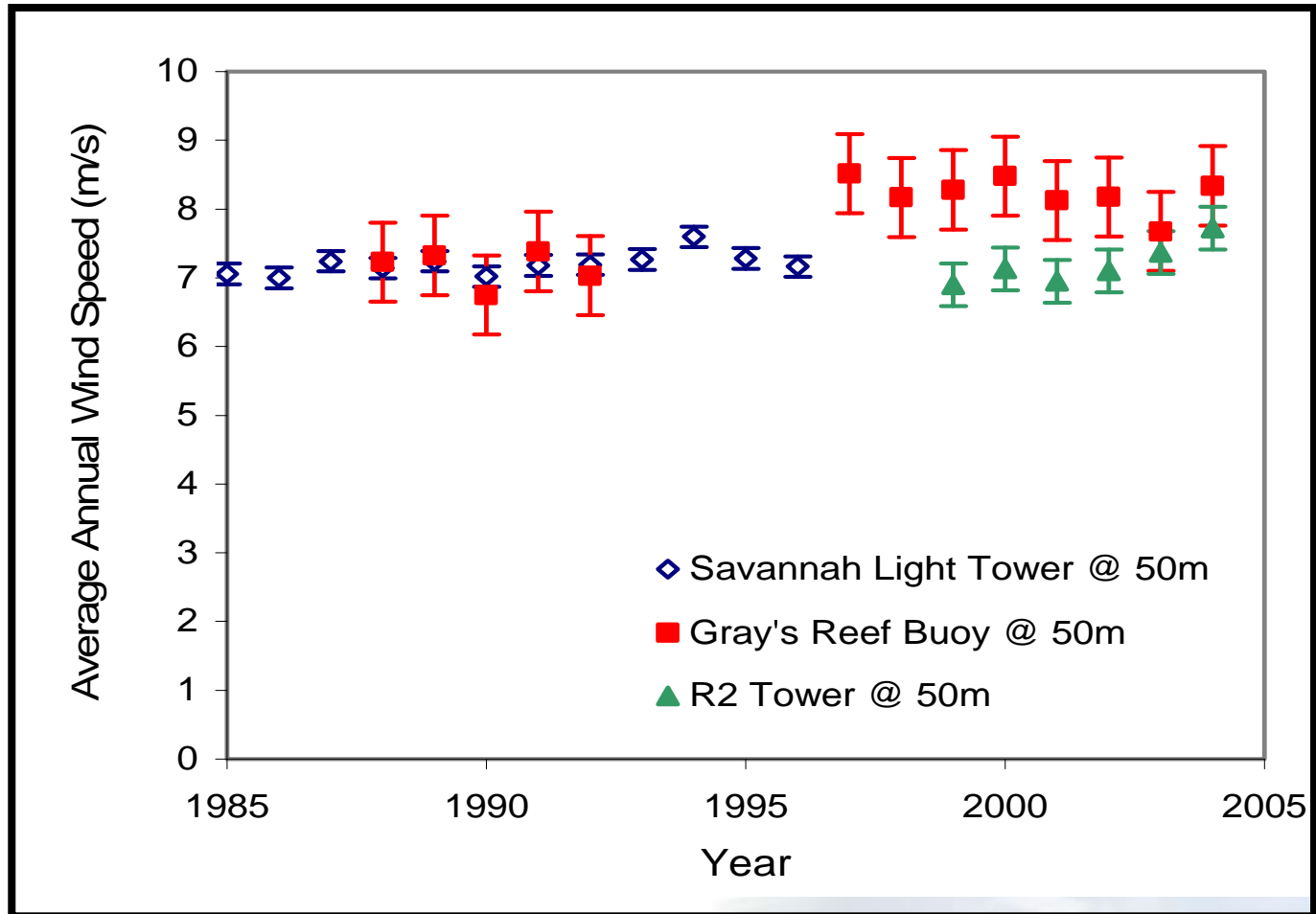
# Georgia Tech Wind Data Locations

| Name                            | Distance/<br>Height             | Date                          |   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>R2 SABSOON<br/>Tower</b>     | <b>35 miles /<br/>50 meters</b> | <b>June '99 -<br/>present</b> |  A photograph of the R2 SABSOON Tower, a yellow offshore wind turbine structure in the ocean. An inset image in the top right corner shows a closer view of the tower's upper section. |
| <b>Savannah Light<br/>Tower</b> | <b>10 miles/<br/>30 meters</b>  | <b>May '85 –<br/>Nov '96</b>  |  A photograph of the Savannah Light Tower, a black steel structure with a white top section, situated in the ocean.  |
| <b>Gray's Reef<br/>Buoy</b>     | <b>15 miles/<br/>5 meters</b>   | <b>Mar '88 -<br/>present</b>  |  A photograph of the Gray's Reef Buoy, a yellow buoy with a white top section, floating in the ocean.   |

# Average Monthly Wind Speeds



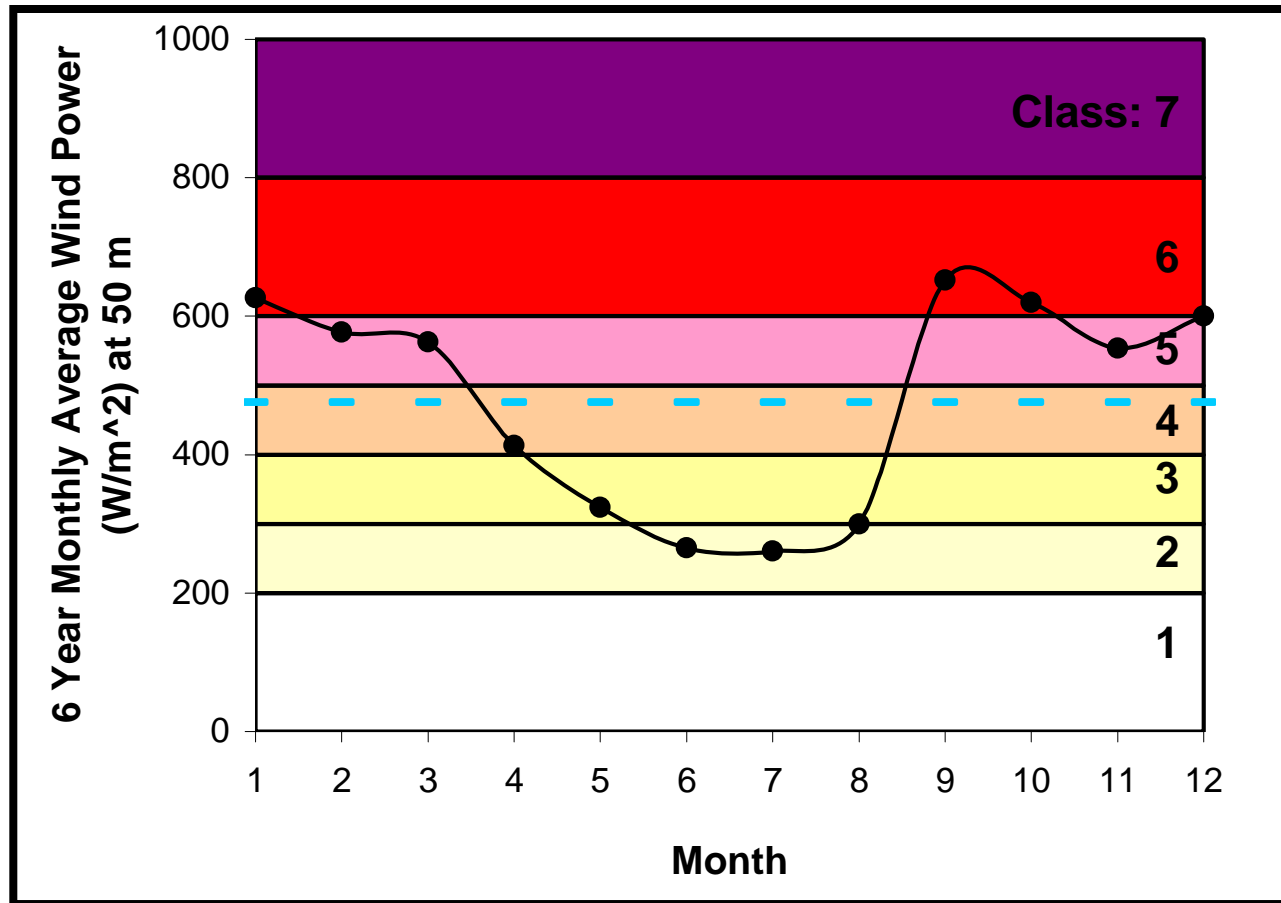
# Average Annual Wind Speeds



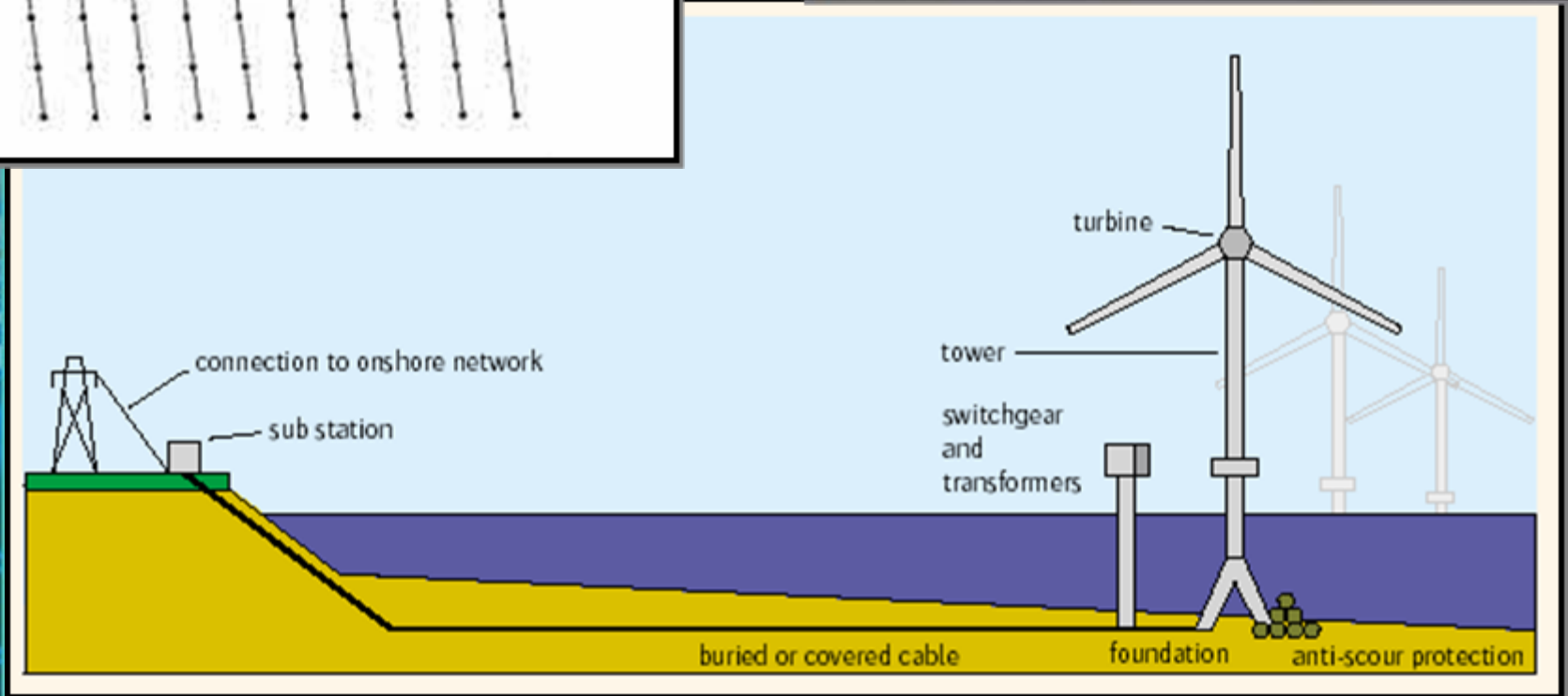
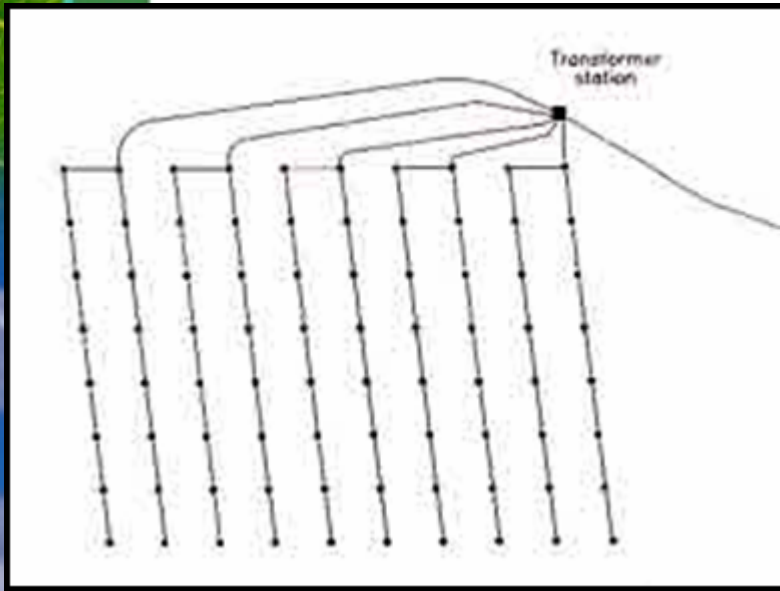
# Summary of Overall Average Wind Speeds

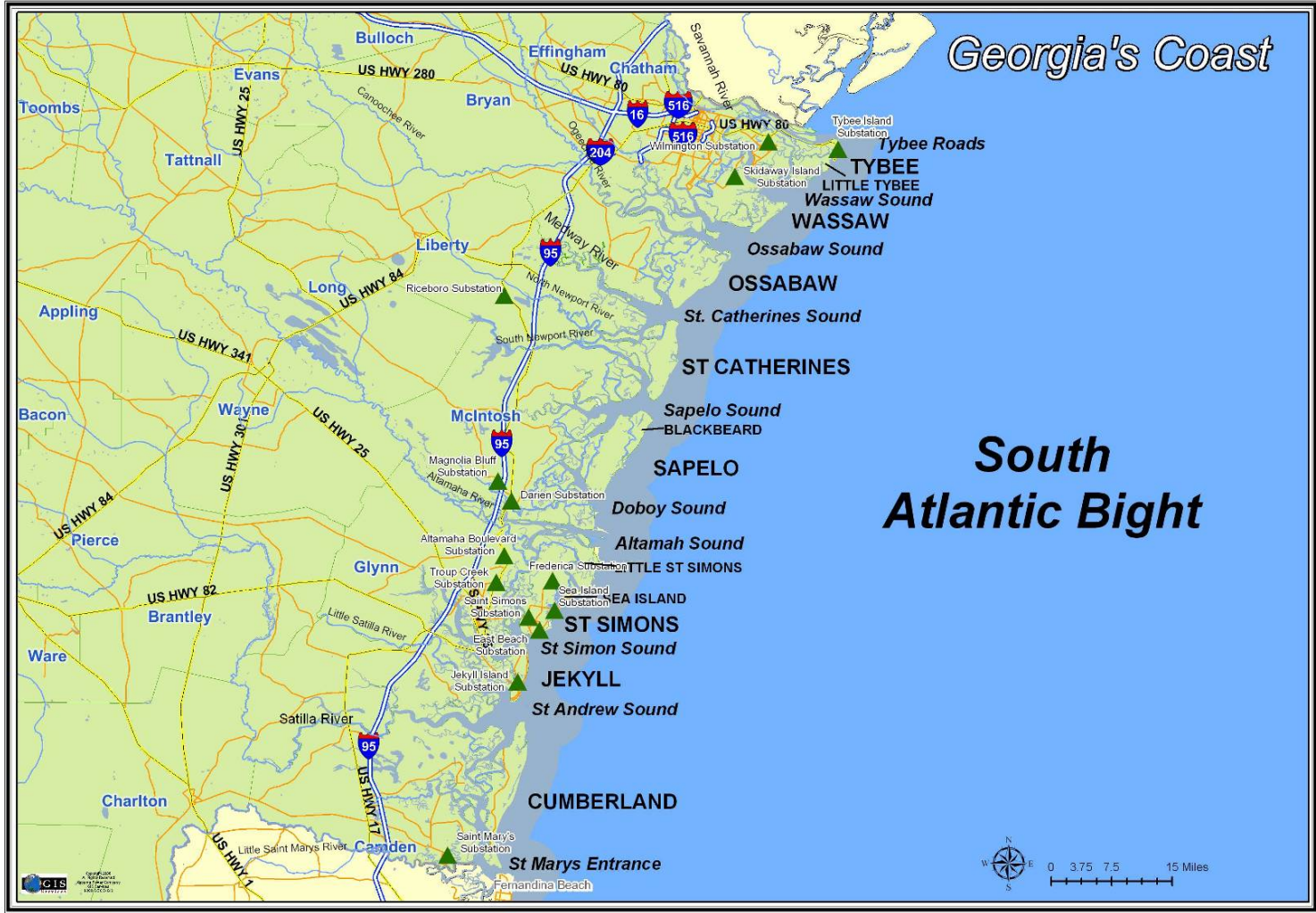
| Location | Height (m) | Wind Speed (m/s) | Extrapolated Wind Speed at 50 m (ms/) |
|----------|------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| R2       | 50         | 7.36             | 7.36                                  |
| SLT      | 32.9       | 6.73             | 7.02                                  |
| GR       | 5          | 5.79             | 7.29                                  |
| StA      | 5          | 5.66             | 7.12                                  |

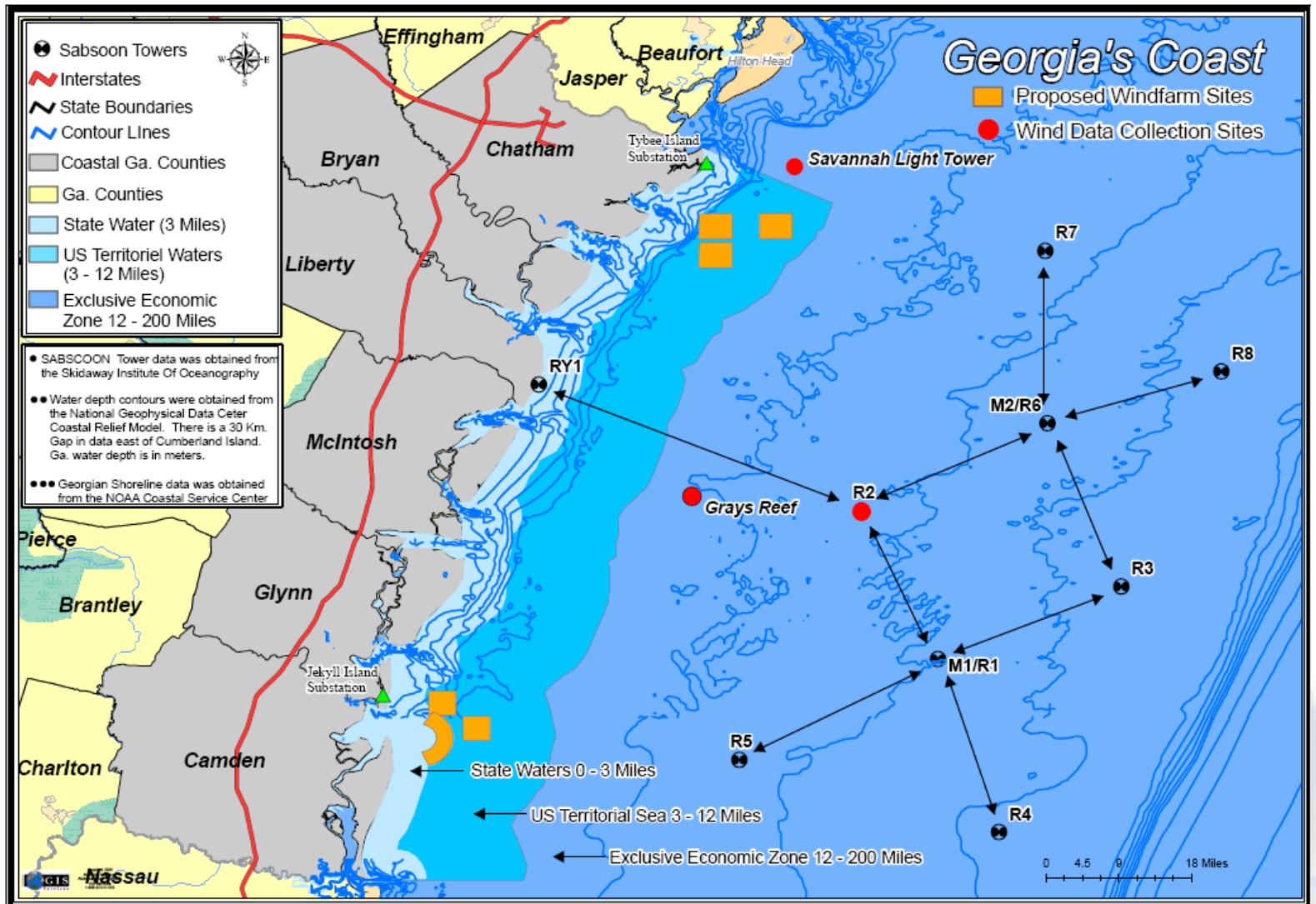
# R2 Tower Monthly Average Wind Power Density ( $W/m^2$ )



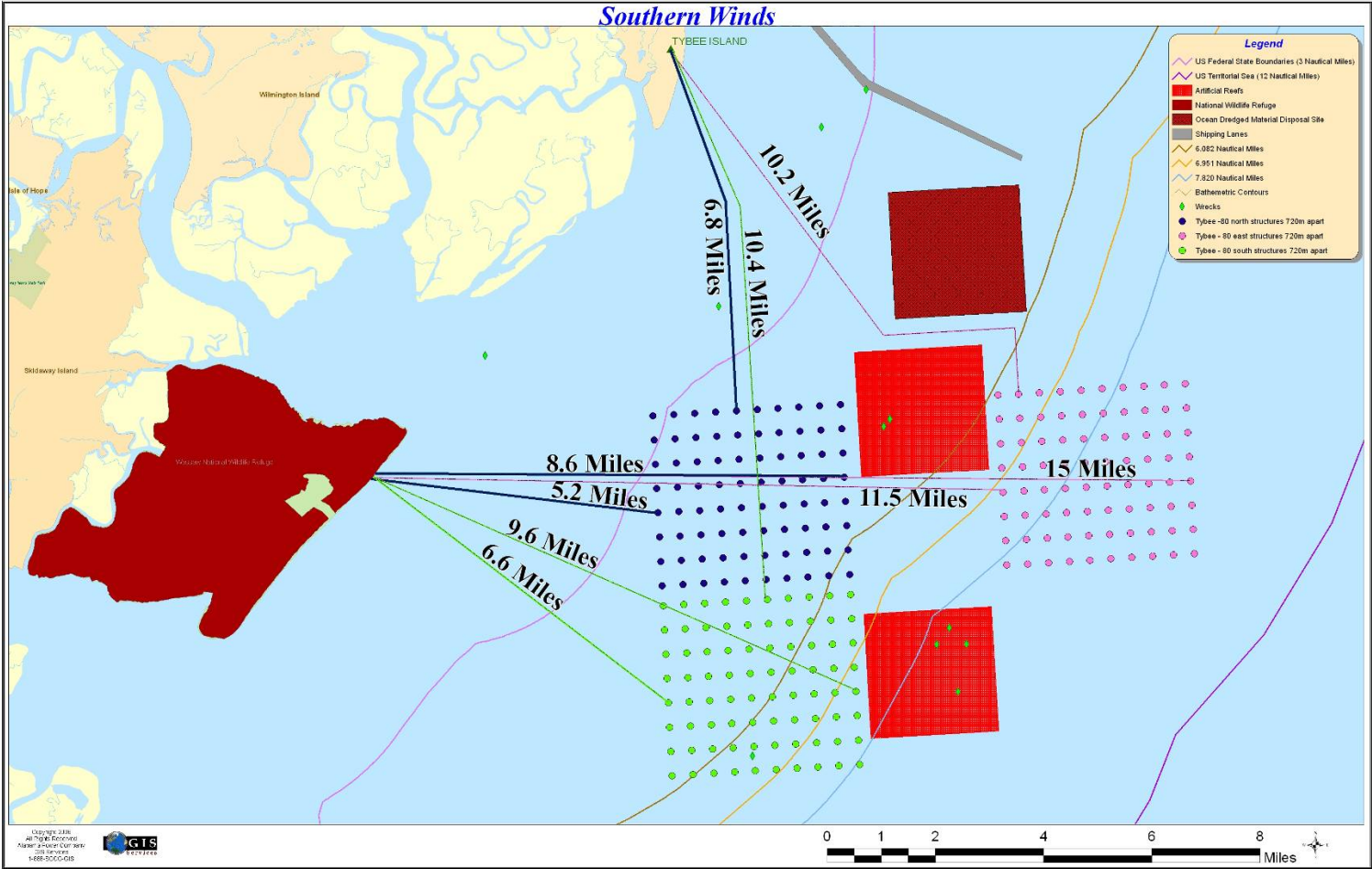
# Typical Offshore Wind Farm Layout



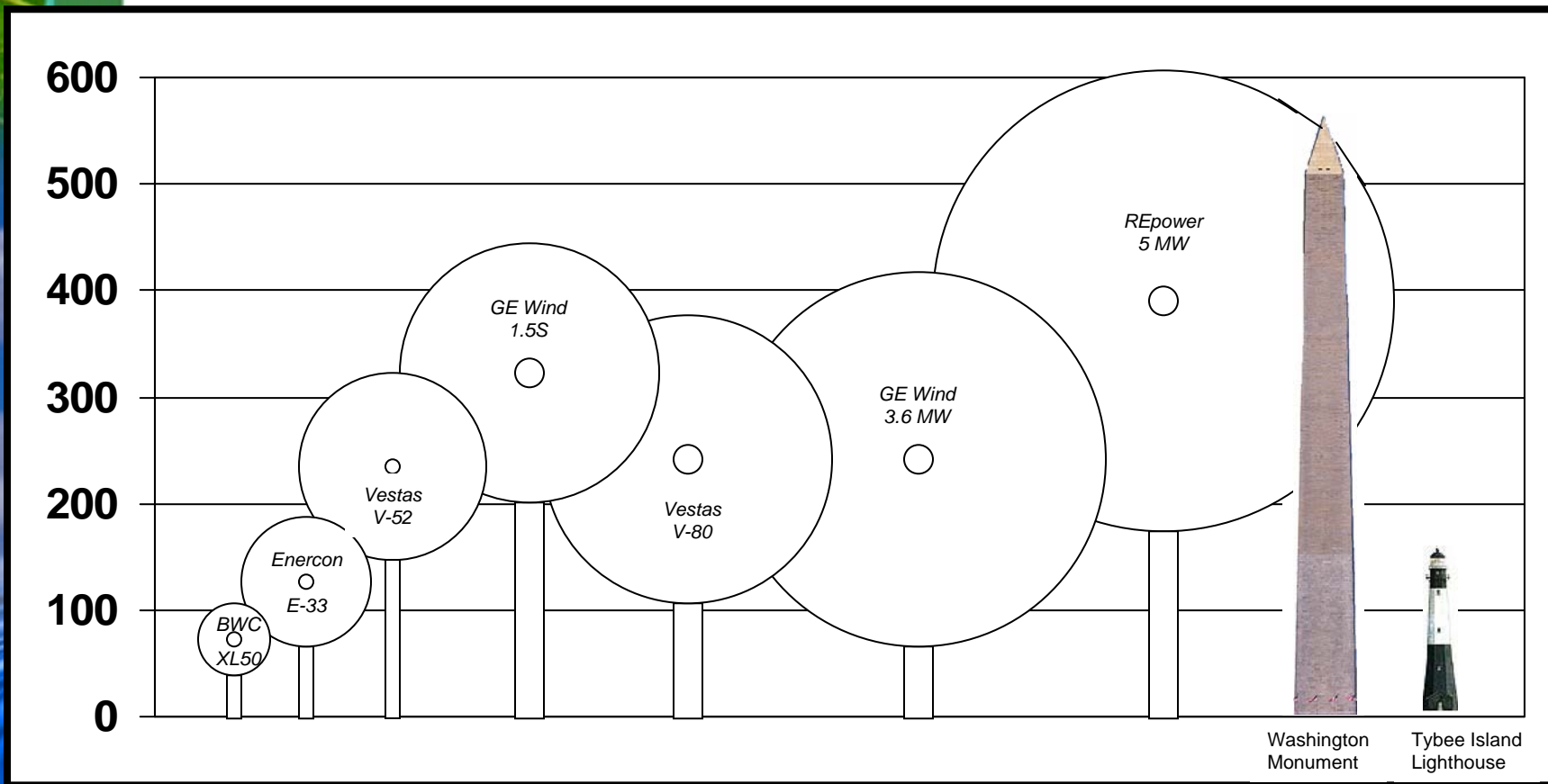




# Mileages for Tybee Island Sites



# Wind Turbine Size



| Capacity       | 50 kW        | 330 kW        | 850 kW        | 1500 kW        | 2000 kW       | 3600 kW        | 5000 kW        |                |               |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Rotor diameter | 46 ft (14 m) | 110 ft (33 m) | 171 ft (52 m) | 232 ft (71 m)  | 265 ft (80 m) | 341 ft (104 m) | 413 ft (126 m) |                |               |
| Tower height   | 82 ft (25 m) | 144 ft (44 m) | 243 ft (74 m) | 328 ft (100 m) | 230 ft (70 m) | 243 ft (74 m)  | 394 ft (120 m) | 558 ft (170 m) | 154 ft (47 m) |

# Photosimulation View from Tybee Island



5 turbine wind farm – Eastern Site  
(approximately 10 miles)



80 turbine wind farm – Eastern Site  
(approximately 8 - 13 miles)

# Photosimulation View from Tybee Island



5 turbine wind farm – Northern Site  
(approximately 6.8 miles southeast of Tybee)



80 turbine wind farm – Northern Site  
(approximately 7 - 13 miles)

# Photosimulation View from St. Simon's Island



5 turbine wind farm –  
Arcing Site  
(approximately 13 miles)



80 turbine wind farm –  
Arcing Site  
(approximately 8-13 miles)

# Weather Considerations

- Hurricanes
- Lightning

# Hurricanes: The Saffir-Simpson Scale

| Category           | Wind Speed                                    | Barometric Pressure   | Storm Surge                    | Damage Potential                        |
|--------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1<br>(weak)        | 75 - 95 mph<br>65 - 82 kts<br>33 - 42 m/s     | > 28.94 in. Hg<br>> 980.0 mb<br>> 97.7 kPa                  | 4.0 - 5.0 ft.<br>1.2 - 1.5 m   | minimal damage to vegetation            |
| 2<br>(moderate)    | 96 - 110 mph<br>83 - 95 kts<br>43 - 49 m/s    | 28.50 - 28.93 in. Hg<br>965.1 - 979.7 mb<br>96.2 - 97.7 kPa | 6.0 - 8.0 ft.<br>1.8 - 2.4 m   | moderate damage to houses               |
| 3<br>(strong)      | 111 - 130 mph<br>96 - 113 kts<br>50 - 58 m/s  | 27.91 - 28.49 in. Hg<br>945.1 - 964.8 mb<br>96.2 - 97.7 kPa | 9.0 - 12.0 ft.<br>2.7 - 3.7 m  | extensive damage to small buildings     |
| 4<br>(very strong) | 131 - 155 mph<br>114 - 135 kts<br>59 - 69 m/s | 27.17 - 27.90 in. Hg<br>920.1 - 944.8 mb<br>91.7 - 94.2 kPa | 13.0 - 18.0 ft.<br>3.9 - 5.5 m | extreme structural damage               |
| 5<br>(devastating) | > 155 mph<br>> 135 kts<br>> 70 m/s            | < 27.17 in Hg<br>< 920.1 mb<br>< 91.7 kPa                   | > 18.0 ft<br>> 5.5 m           | catastrophic building failures possible |

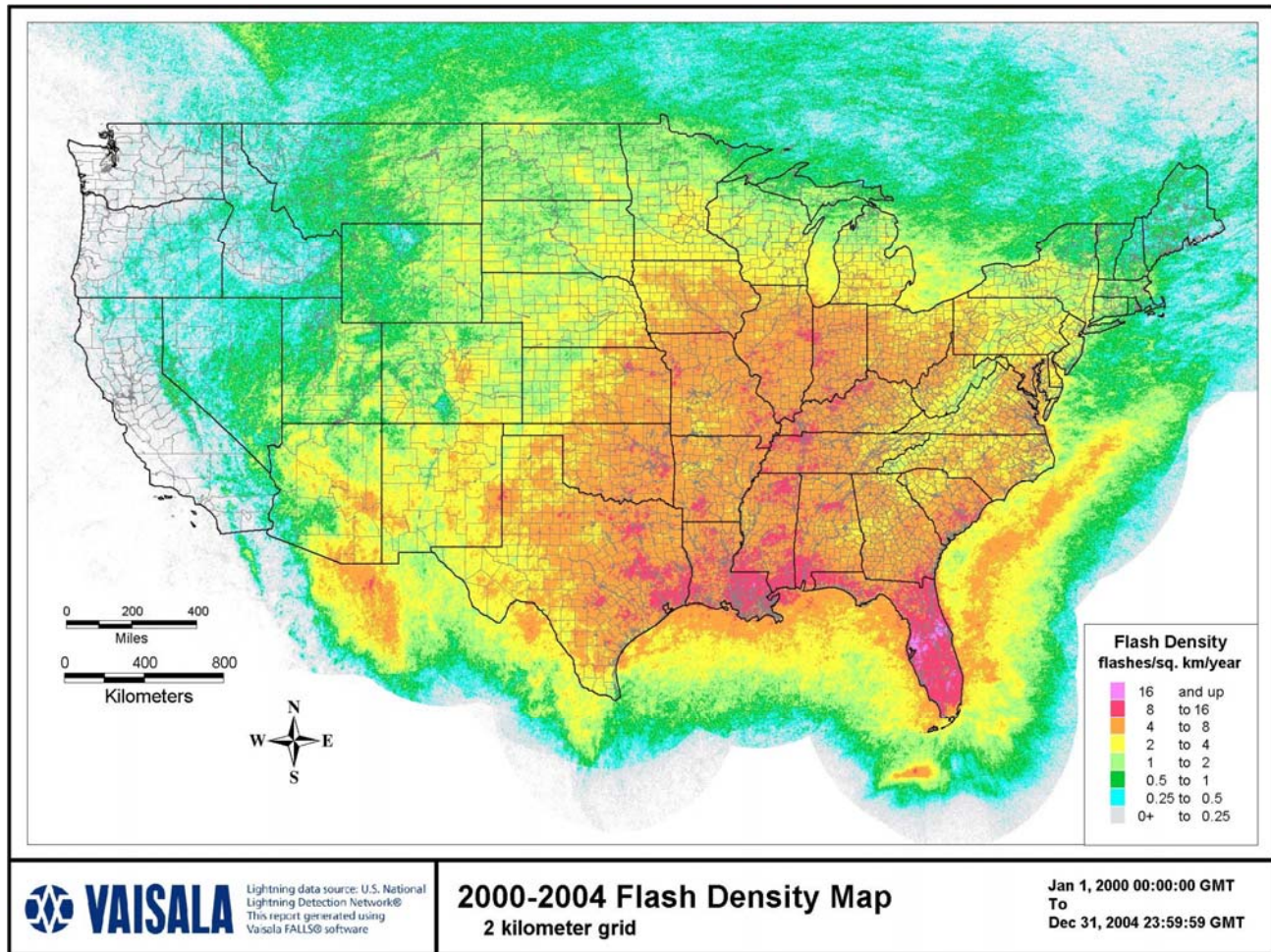
Source: Hurricane Categories



# Lightning



# Lightning



# Environmental Issues

NEPA review required by MMS includes

- Wind farm footprint
- Cabling pathway
- Landfall location review

# Environmental Considerations

- Migratory pathways
- Habitats – marine, fisheries, avian
- Natural reefs and other aquatic life

# Regulatory – Federal

(Beyond 3 nautical miles from shore)

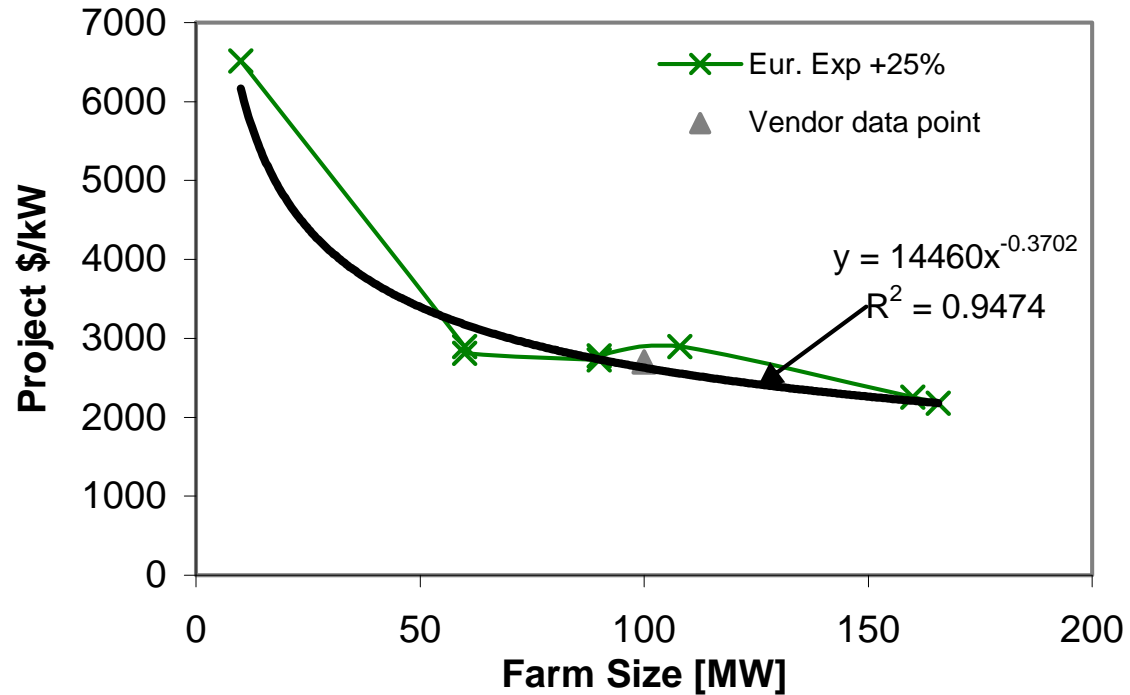
- Federal governing authority – Department of Interior Minerals Management Service
- Significant coordination with other federal, state, and local authorities
- Multiple federal governing authorities

# Regulatory – State

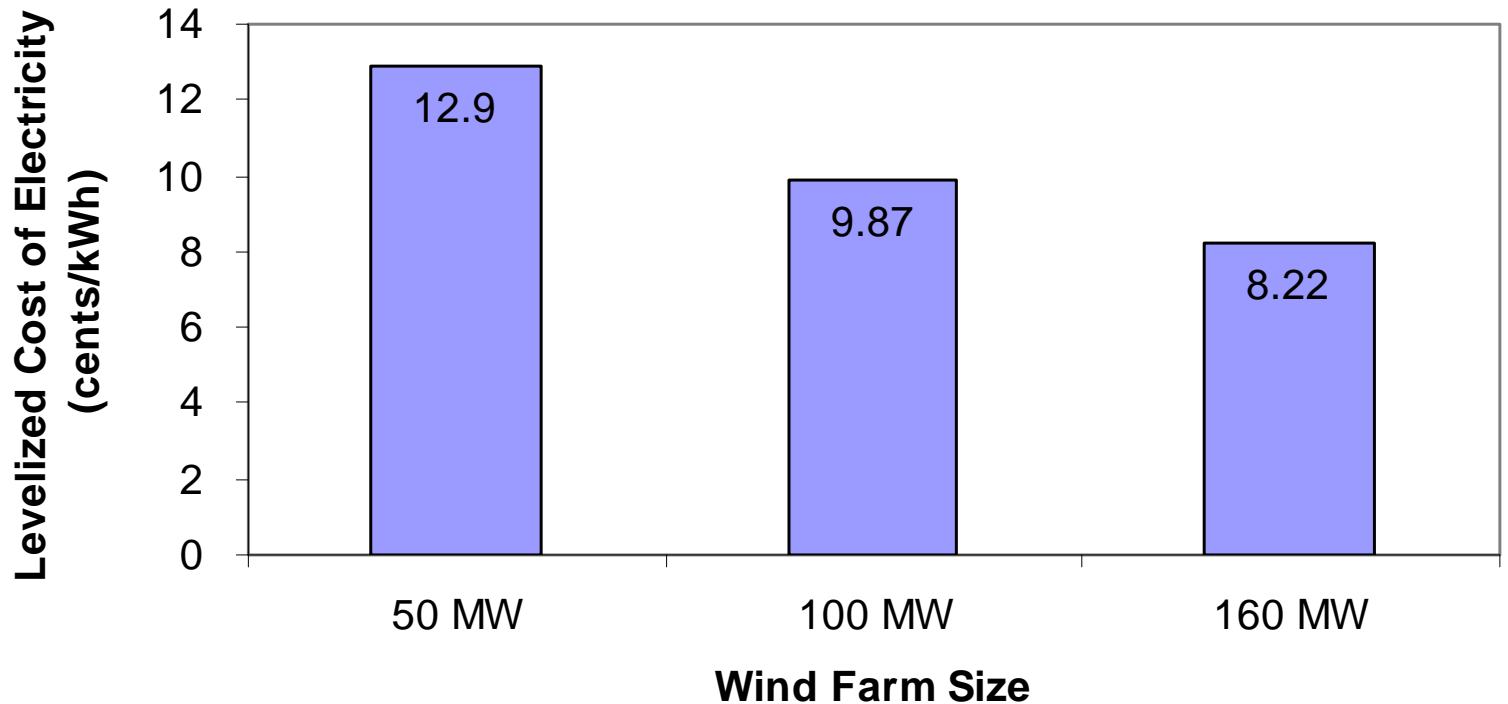
(From shoreline to 3 nautical miles seaward)

- Primary governing act – Georgia Coastal Management Act
- Multiple state governing authorities apply
- Key agencies include the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and others

# European Costs + 25% Increase (\$2006)



# Wind Farm Levelized Cost: (with Production Tax Credit: 1.9 cents/kWh)



# Conclusions

## **Georgia Offshore Wind Resource**

Solid Class 4: 17 mph average, 2-20 miles Offshore.

Hurricane Probabilities ~ 1% per Year.

## **20 yr levelized cost of renewable zero emissions electricity**

50-160 MW Scale; \$0.08-\$0.12/kwhr

## **Scroby Sands in UK Operating at Similar Wind Resource**

Capacity Factor Low due to Equipment Reliability Issues

## **No “Show Stopper” Environmental Issues**

Biological Studies will be Required for Permitting

## **MMS Permitting Process Targeted for Completion in 2008**

Coastal Community Acceptance Important

Legislation Requires Competitive Process for Lease Site

# Recommendations

- Continue to follow the MMS rulemaking process
- Install a meteorological tower for wind resource assessment
- Construct a 10 MW “Demonstration” Project near Tybee Island