



NROC

Northeast Regional
Ocean Council



NORTHEAST **OCEAN PLANNING**



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Ocean Planning Committee Work Plan

October 28, 2021

NROC Ocean Planning Committee (OPC) Background

- Began sharing information and coordinating on ocean planning in mid-2000s
- Established the Northeast Ocean Data Portal with regional partners in 2009
- Supported the development of the 2016 Northeast Ocean Plan
- Reestablished in 2018 to include the tribes, NEFMC, states, and federal agencies
- In 2021, in partnership with MARCO, selected to host the Regional Wildlife Science Entity

OUTCOMES
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

The intended outcome of intergovernmental coordination is to develop a common understanding of a proposed project or activity, its potential impacts and alternatives, issues for specific agencies, and the information that will be needed to support review and agency decision-making. Coordination of this type can identify opportunities for making the environmental and regulatory review process more efficient by clarifying the applicable authorities and resulting information requirements, by holding joint meetings or hearings, or by producing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents that support decision-making by multiple agencies. Done successfully, intergovernmental coordination also provides initial identification of potential adverse impacts to resources or potential conflicts with existing human activities, threatened and endangered species (or other habitats or species), and historic and cultural resources. One outcome of agency coordination is a common understanding of what data are available or missing and needed, and which stakeholders need to be consulted, both as a source of information and as parties with interests in the use of ocean space. The actions in Chapter 3 are intended to inform all of these considerations. Their collective impact, along with the best practices in this chapter, will enhance intergovernmental coordination.



EARLY AGENCY COORDINATION

Entities that participate in early agency coordination in the Northeast typically include (or should include) some combination of the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DOI (including BOEM, USFWS, NPS, USGS)• FERC• USACE• NOAA (including NMFS)• USEPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DHS (including USCG and FEMA)• Navy• DOT (MARAD)• NEFMC and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (depending on location)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State agencies (permitting, boating, wildlife, and fisheries agencies; CZM programs; SHPD)Fisheries agencies may also coordinate through NEFMC, HAFMC, or ASMFC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission• Federally recognized tribes
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RELEVANT LAWS

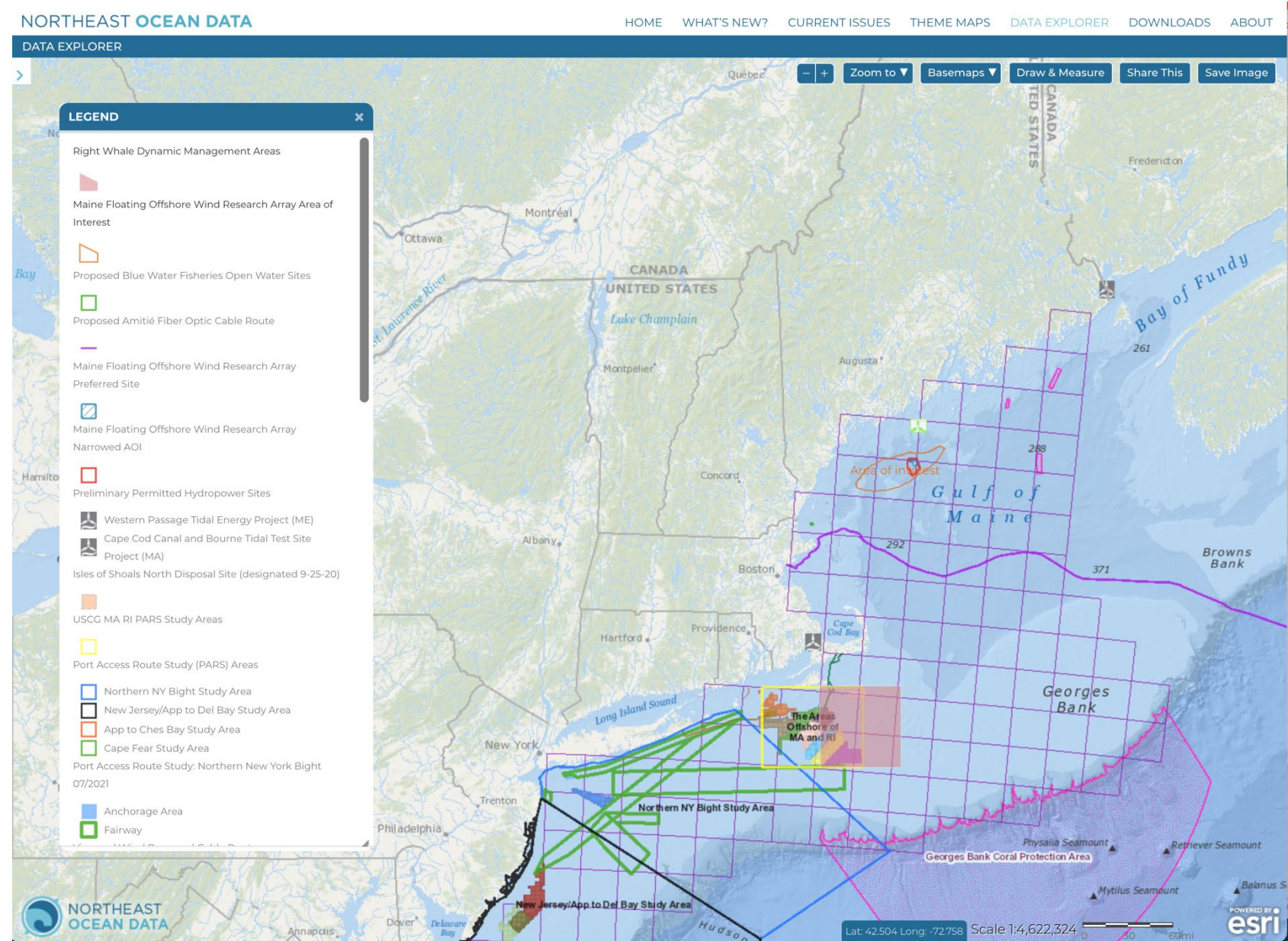
Federal environmental and regulatory laws to which best practices may apply include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NEPA• Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10• Clean Water Act• Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act• Endangered Species Act• Clean Air Act• Marine Mammal Protection Act• Federal Power Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act• Deepwater Port Act• Migratory Bird Treaty Act• National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106• Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act• Ports and Waterways Safety Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act• Coastal Zone Management Act• Natural Gas Act• National Marine Sanctuaries Act• Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
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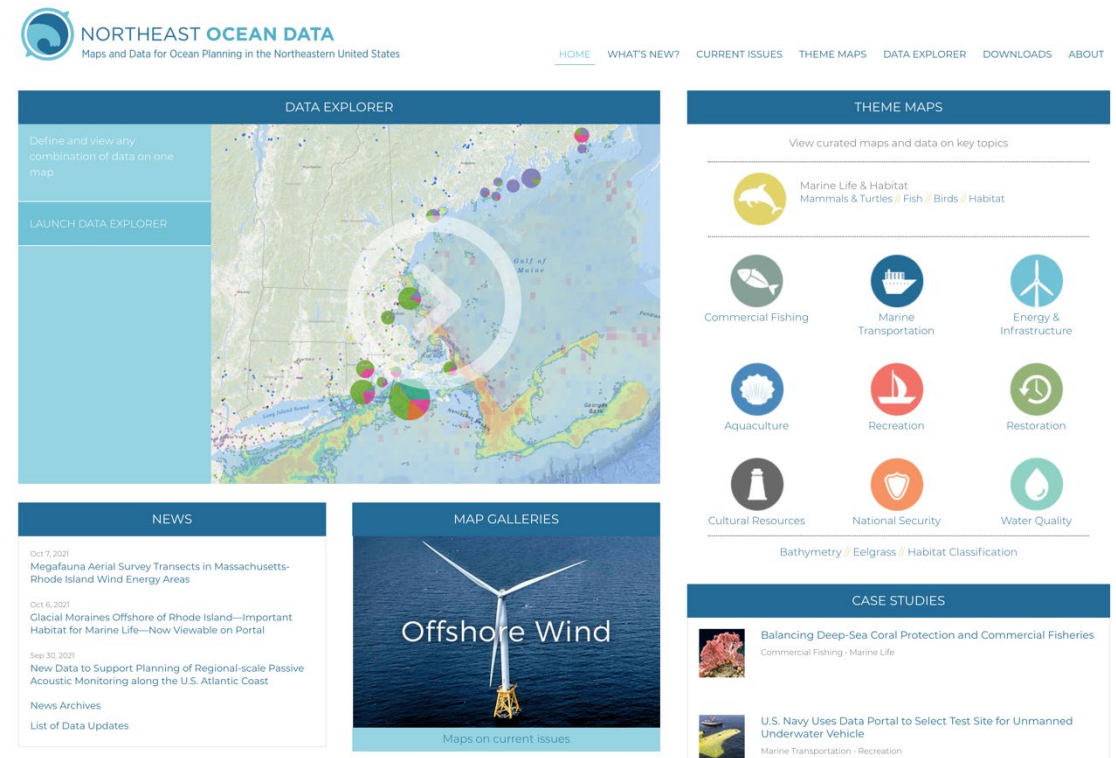
Recent and Potential Ocean Planning Issues

- Offshore wind leasing
- Offshore wind project development & permitting
- Offshore wind wildlife & fisheries research
- Energy transmission
- Waterways management and navigation
- Telecommunications
- Aquaculture
- Dredged material disposal
- Habitat & biodiversity conservation
- Sand & sediment management



NROC Ocean Planning Committee (OPC) Goal:

Provide a forum, data and information, best practices, and opportunities to coordinate offshore planning, regulatory, and siting activities to improve ocean and coastal ecosystem health, enhance decision making, and ensure compatibility among human activities.



Strategy OPC-1: Provide a regional forum for a broad range of interests to engage in and coordinate across offshore planning and management issues

1.1 Host OPC Meetings

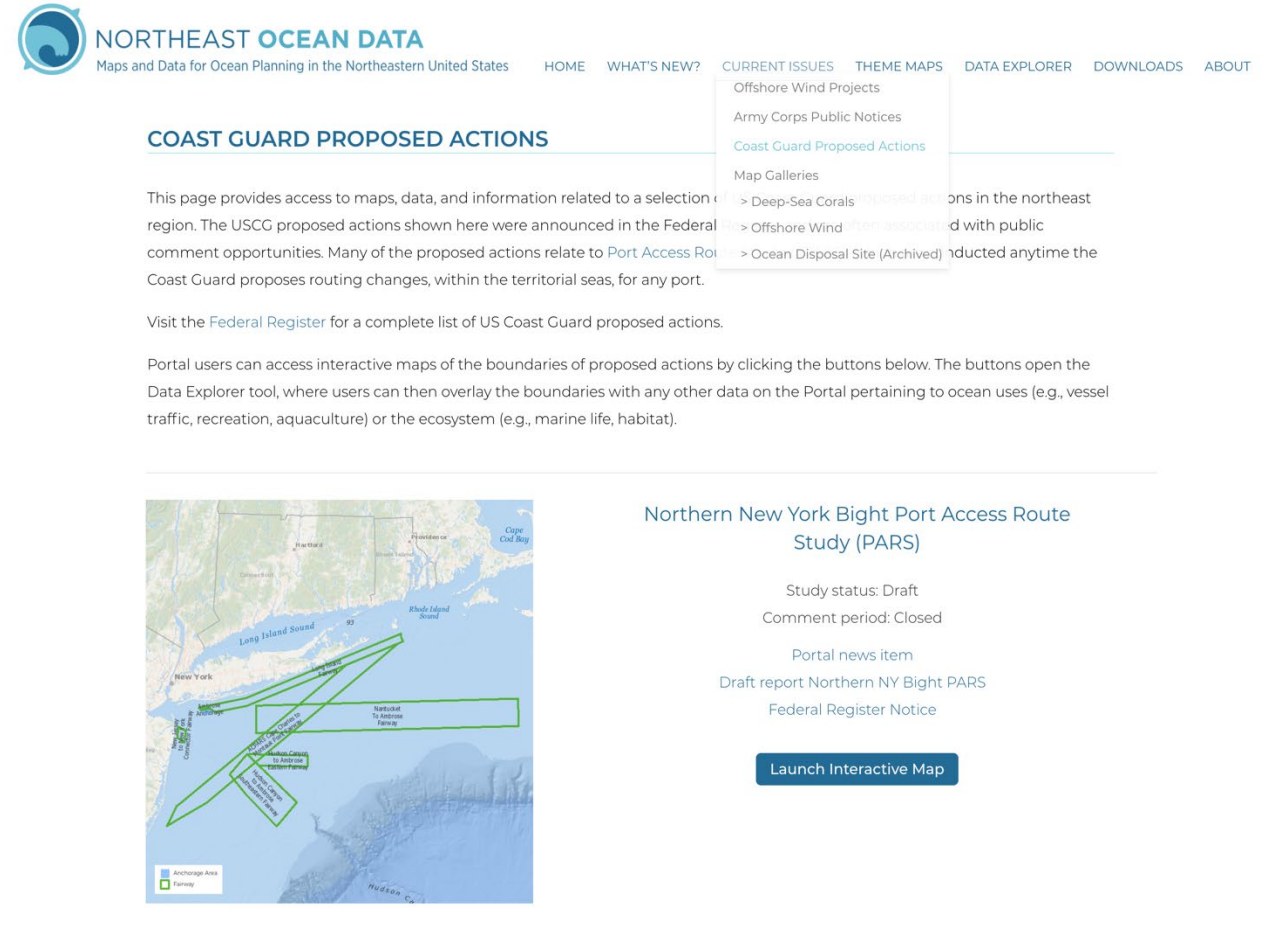
1.2 Establish work groups or subcommittees to support regional ocean management and planning priorities

1.3. Enable and initiate discussions, forums, and workshops for emerging or important regional ocean management and planning issues

Strategy OPC-2: Identify and implement best practices for environmental review, permitting, and management of ocean uses

2.1 Finalize, communicate, and obtain Feedback on Best Practices

2.2 Develop short summaries of the best practices being used for different management activities and regulatory processes



NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA
Maps and Data for Ocean Planning in the Northeastern United States

HOME WHAT'S NEW? CURRENT ISSUES THEME MAPS DATA EXPLORER DOWNLOADS ABOUT

COAST GUARD PROPOSED ACTIONS

This page provides access to maps, data, and information related to a selection of US Coast Guard proposed actions in the northeast region. The USCG proposed actions shown here were announced in the Federal Register. Many of the proposed actions relate to Port Access Routes (PARs) proposed by the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard proposes routing changes, within the territorial seas, for any port.

Visit the [Federal Register](#) for a complete list of US Coast Guard proposed actions.

Portal users can access interactive maps of the boundaries of proposed actions by clicking the buttons below. The buttons open the Data Explorer tool, where users can then overlay the boundaries with any other data on the Portal pertaining to ocean uses (e.g., vessel traffic, recreation, aquaculture) or the ecosystem (e.g., marine life, habitat).

Northern New York Bight Port Access Route Study (PARS)

Study status: Draft
Comment period: Closed

Portal news item
Draft report Northern NY Bight PARS
Federal Register Notice

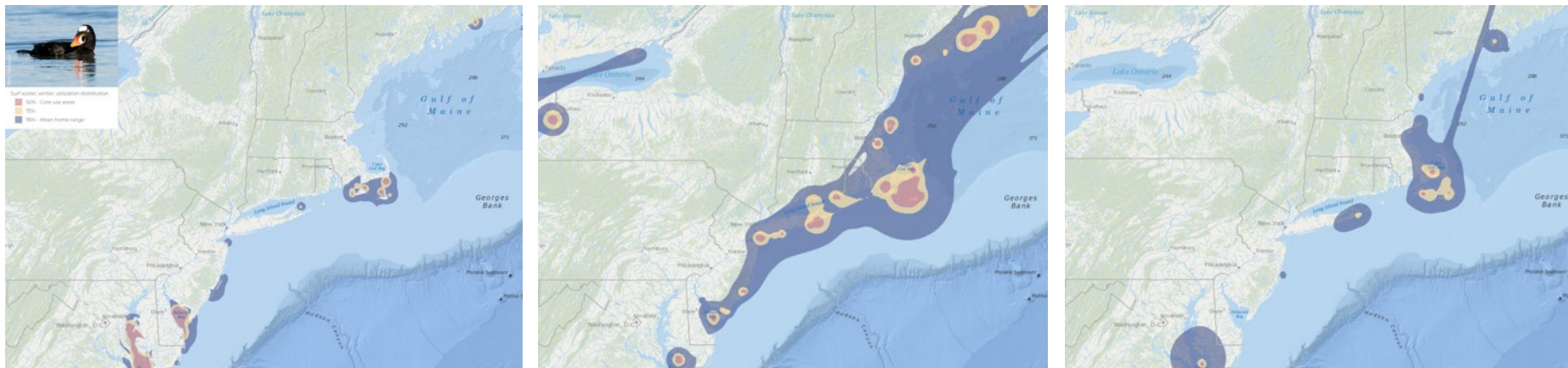
[Launch Interactive Map](#)

Strategy OPC-3: Engage stakeholders in the development of peer-reviewed geospatial data products characterizing human activities and ecological and cultural resources and their change over time

3.1 Develop, implement and update the Northeast Ocean Data Portal Work Plan

3.2 Establish expert work groups to guide the development of data products

3.3 Coordinate data work groups and data development with related NROC and partner activities

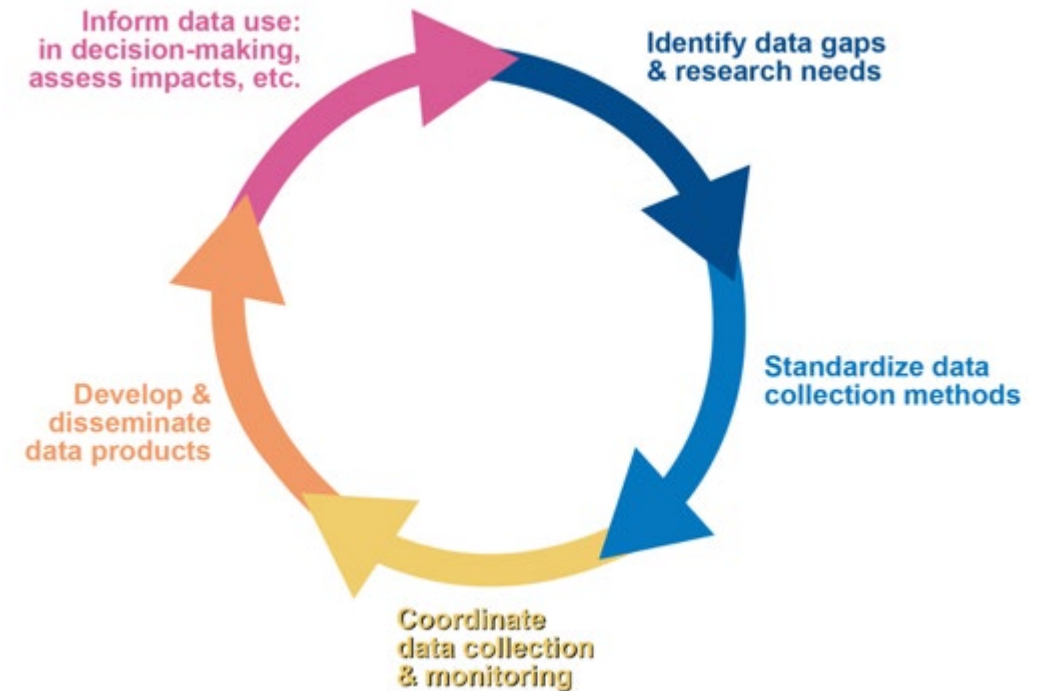


Strategy OPC-4: Host and foster the Regional Wildlife Science Entity (RWSE)

4.1 Support RWSE administrative, fundraising, and governance functions

4.2 Support RWSE research coordination

4.3 Support RWSE communications, outreach and engagement



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MID-ATLANTIC
REGIONAL COUNCIL
ON THE OCEAN





Strategy OPC-5: Determine near and long-term capacity and funding needs to support OPC activities

5.1 Establish OPC membership and leadership

5.2 Determine capacity and budget requirements and secure funding to support ocean planning activities, including the operations and maintenance of the Northeast Ocean Data Portal

Contacts

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