

**Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales:
2017-2022
Multisale Environmental Impact Statement
for
10 Proposed Gulfwide Lease Sales**

Scoping Meetings

- New Orleans, Louisiana – May 12, 2015
- Houston, Texas – May 14, 2015
- Panama City, Florida – May 19, 2015
- Mobile, Alabama – May 20, 2015
- Gulfport, Mississippi – May 21, 2015



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is a bureau within the U.S. Department of the Interior.

BOEM is the Federal agency responsible for overseeing the safe and environmentally responsible development of energy and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).



Congressional Mandate

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that ... the Outer Continental Shelf is a vital national resource held by the Federal Government for the public, which should be made available for ***expeditious and orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards***, in a manner which is consistent with the maintenance of competition and other national needs."

Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953
43 U.S.C. § 1332(3)



In 2014, OCS leases provided 16 percent of all oil and, in 2013, 6 percent of all natural gas produced in the U.S., with the vast majority coming from Gulf of Mexico leases. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy, Energy Information Administration)

Responsible for managing 1.7 billion acres on the OCS

- Analysis of prelease activities through facility decommission

Day-to-Day

- ~5,200 leases
- ~30 million acres leased
- ~3,400 production platforms
- ~33,000 miles of pipeline
- ~35,000 offshore workers
- >150 designated operating companies



Five-Year Program – **Nationwide**
Programmatic EIS

Lease Sale – **Region Specific**
Multisale EIS and Supplemental EISs

Exploration Plan –
Project Specific

Development and Production
Plan –
Platform Specific

Decommissioning –
Platform Specific

Prelease

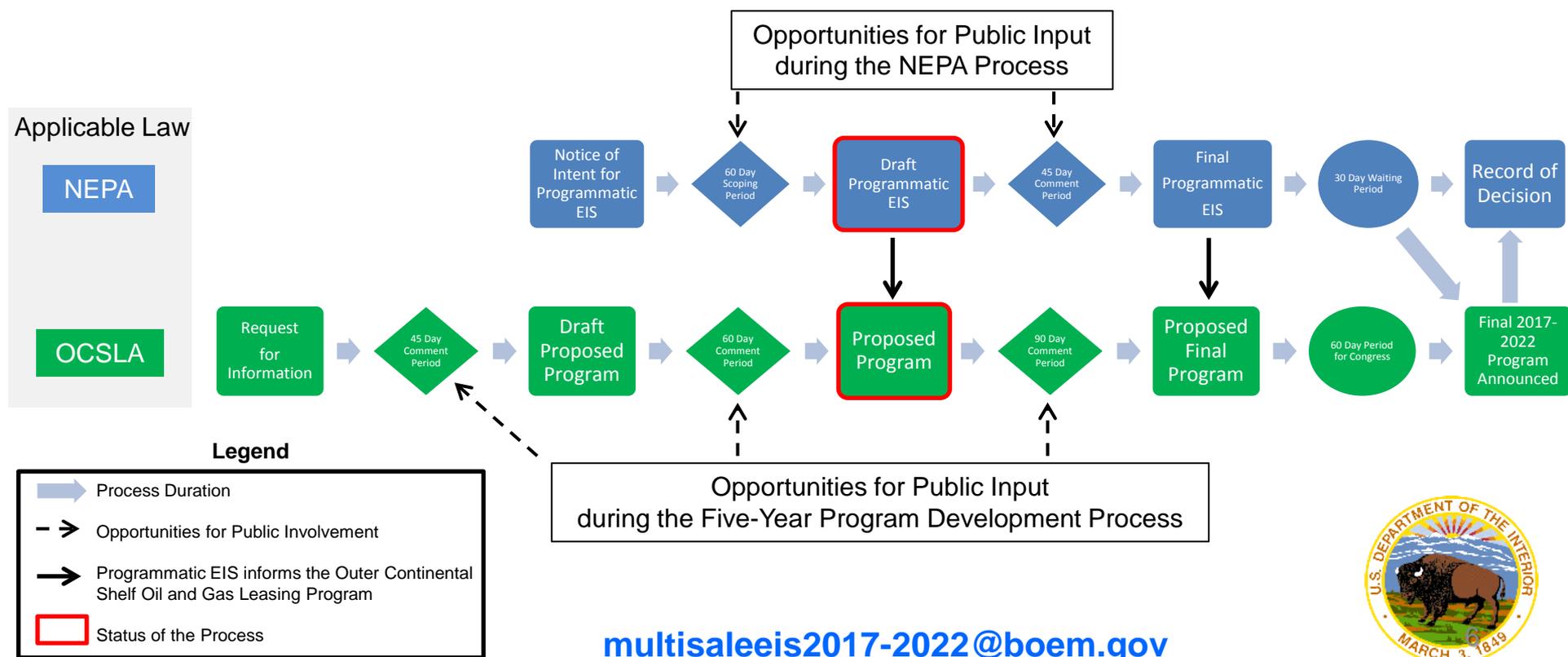
Postlease



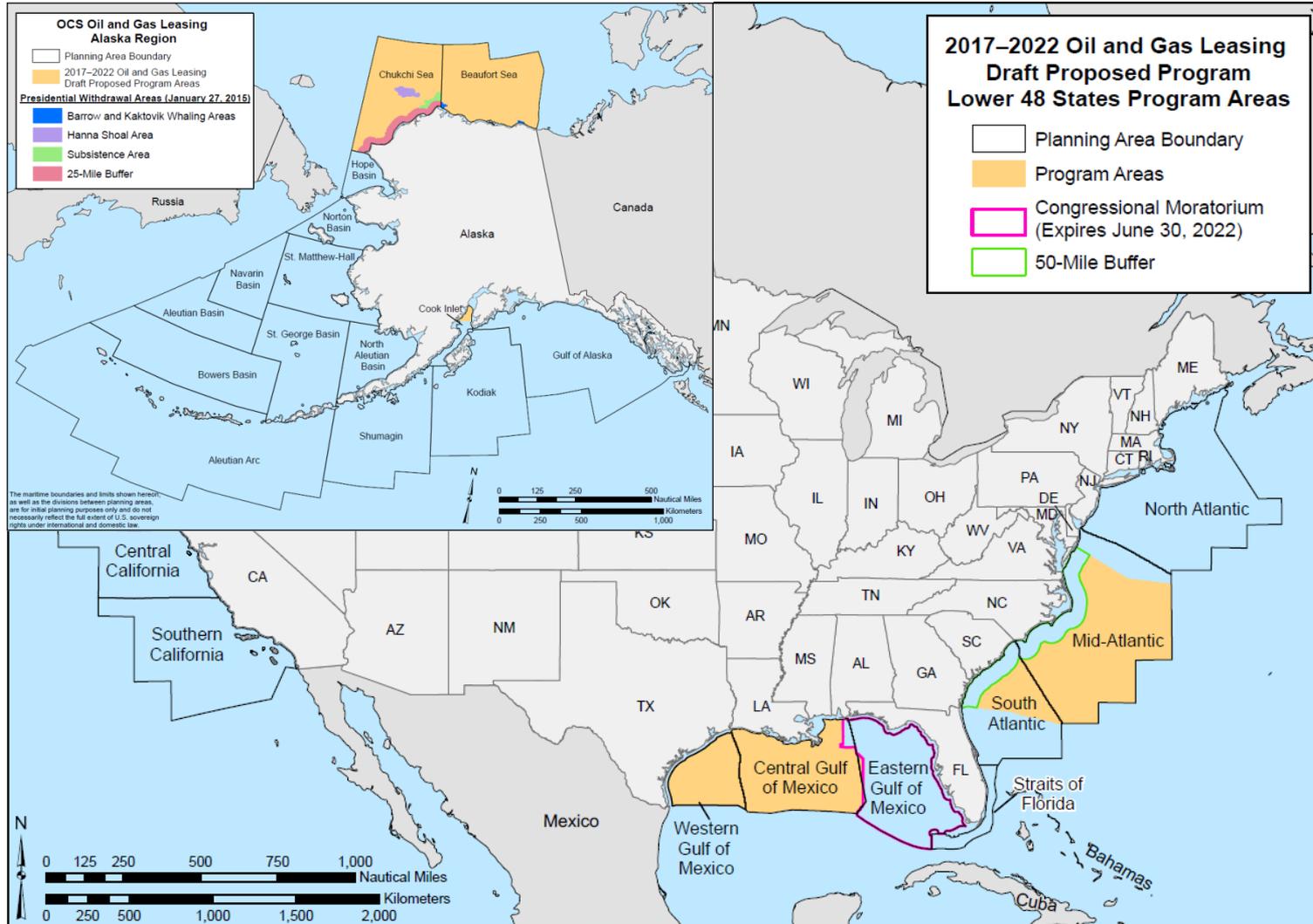
Initiated by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act

- Mandates that OCS resources be developed in a safe and environmentally responsible manner
- Develops the schedule of lease sales to be held during the Five-Year Program for the entire U.S.
- Revisited every 5 years

Subject to its own National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis



Proposed Lease Areas in the 2017-2022 Five-Year Program



Five-Year Program – **Nationwide**
Programmatic EIS

Prelease
Lease Sale – **Region Specific**
Multisale EIS and Supplemental EISs

Postlease
Exploration Plan –
Project Specific

Development and Production
Plan –
Platform Specific

Decommissioning –
Platform Specific



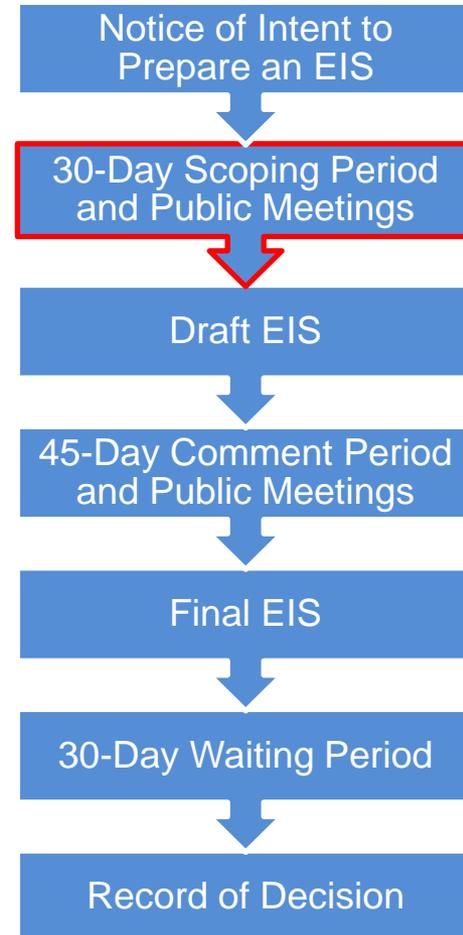
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Provides the framework for protecting the environment by disclosing decision consequences
- Requires Federal agencies to consider environmental impacts of their activities
- Requires decisionmakers to incorporate environmental values into Federal programs
- Requires coordination with other Federal agencies with resource responsibilities
- Develops environmental impact statements (EIS) and environmental assessments (EA)



Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations require

- “full and fair discussion of significant environmental impacts and shall inform decisionmakers and the public of the reasonable alternatives that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment”;
- the analyses should not be “encyclopedic” but restricted to resources with the potential to be impacted; and
- information that is unavailable or conclusions that are uncertain are disclosed.



To receive comments from Federal, State, and local agencies; Tribal governments; the oil and gas industry; environmental and other interested organizations; and the general public about the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an EIS.



The proposed action is to hold 10 proposed Gulfwide OCS oil and gas lease sales to include all unleased blocks in the proposed lease sale areas.

The EIS will disclose the potential impacts associated with the proposed Gulfwide lease sales.

A typical lease sale scenario includes all of the activities that occur over a 50-year analysis period.

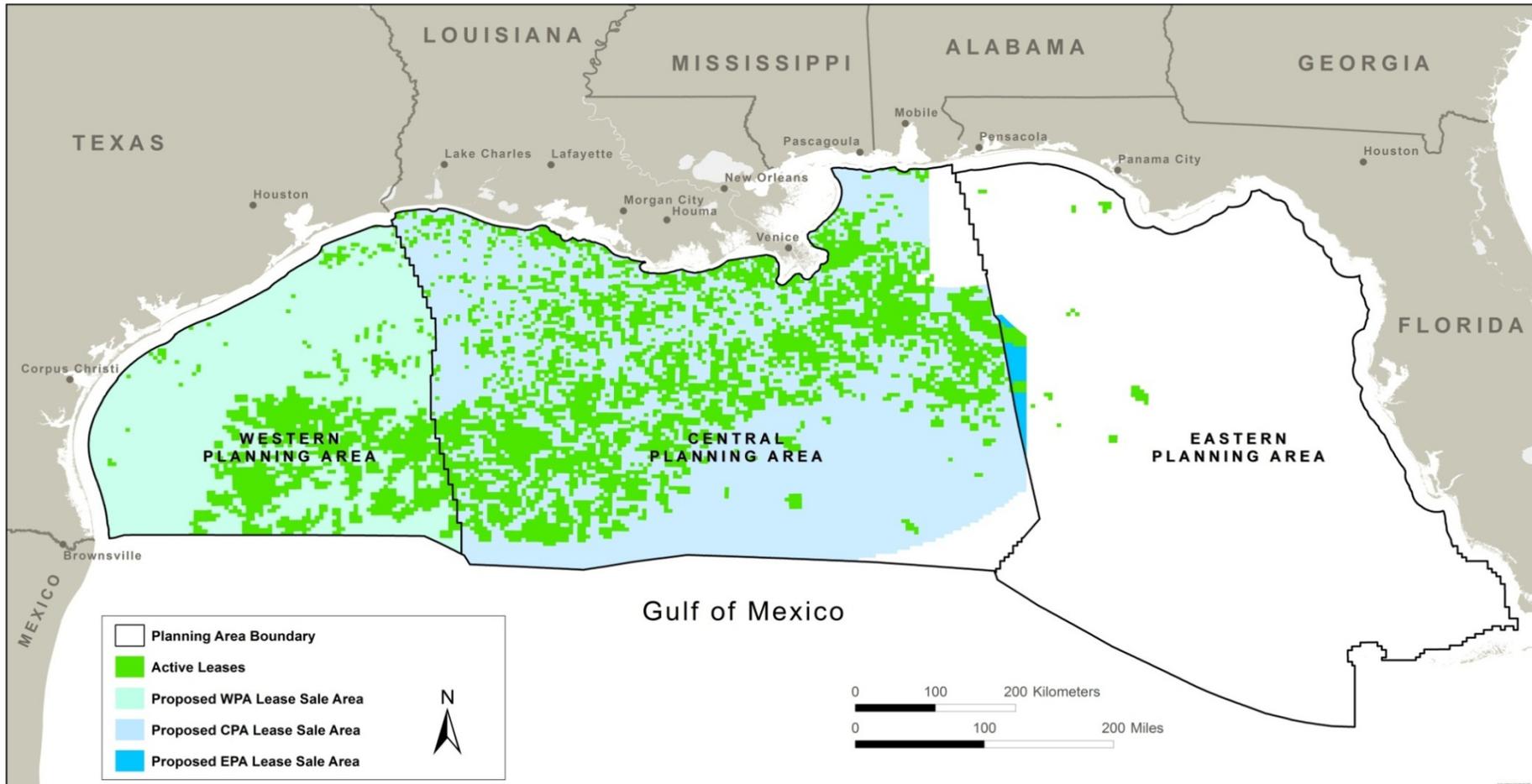
Your comments will help develop the Draft EIS for the proposed Gulfwide lease sales.





There are approximately 64.4 million acres available for lease in the proposed lease sale areas (as of April 27, 2015).





As of May 2015, there are 5,132 active leases and approximately 64.4 million acres available for lease in the proposed lease sale areas.



Alternative A: The Proposed Action – Ten Proposed Gulfwide OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales to Include All Unleased Blocks in the Proposed Lease Sale Area

Alternative B: Proposed Gulfwide OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales Excluding Unleased Blocks in the Western Planning Area Proposed Lease Sale Area

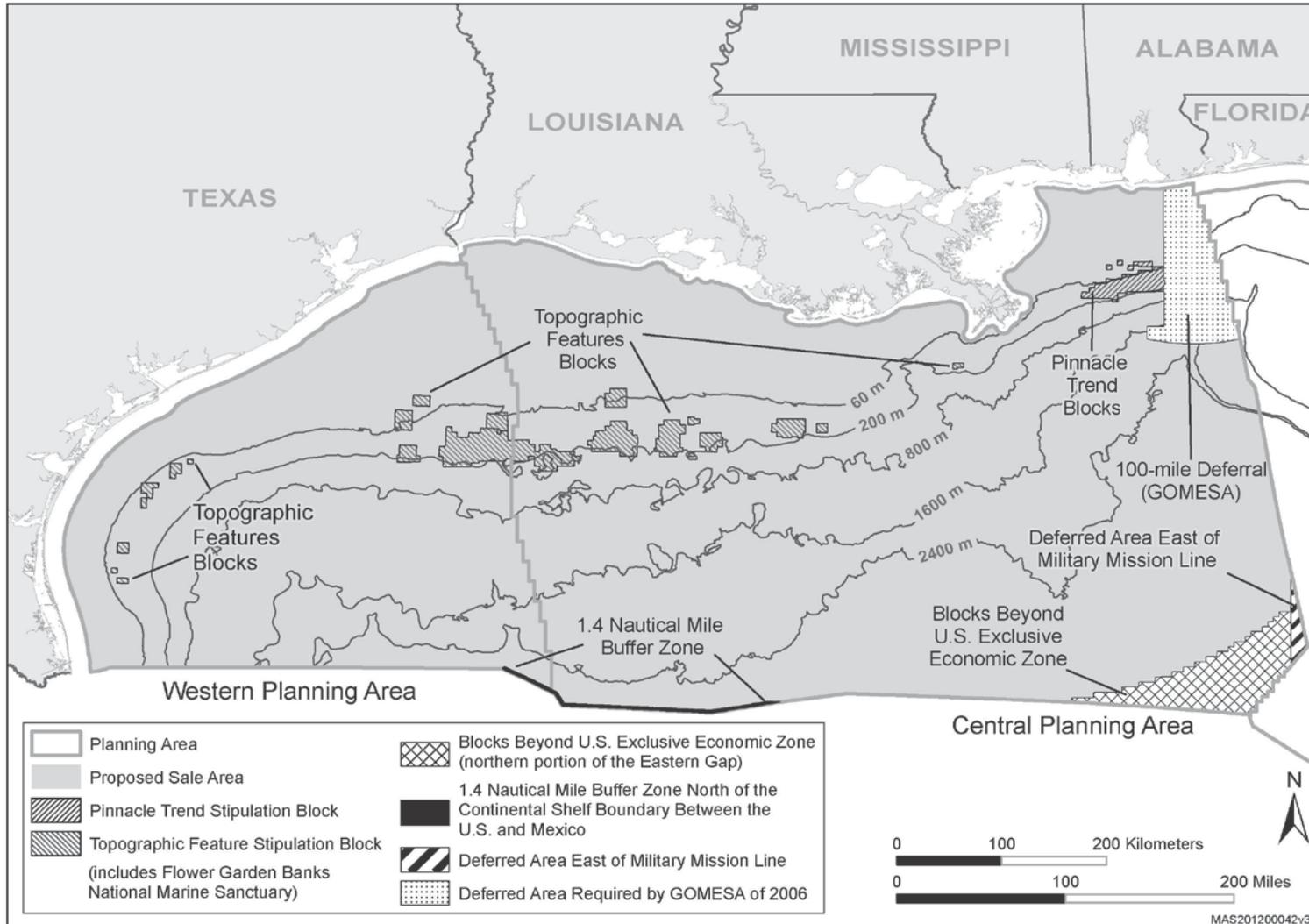
Alternative C: Proposed Gulfwide OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales Excluding Unleased Blocks in the Central Planning Area/Eastern Planning Area Proposed Lease Sale Area

Alternative D: Alternative A, B, or C, Excluding the Unleased Blocks Subject to the Topographic Features and Live Bottom (Pinnacle Trend) Stipulations

Alternative E: No Action



Location of Proposed Stipulations and Deferrals



Exploration, Development, and Production

- Seismic Surveying
- Drilling
- Infrastructure (emplacement and removal)
- Operational Wastes
- Air Emissions
- Offshore Transport (pipelines, service vessels, and helicopters)
- Trash and Debris
- Decommissioning
- Coastal Support Infrastructure
- Oil Spills



- **Coastal Habitats**
(Wetlands, Dunes and Beaches, and Seagrass)
- **Deepwater Habitats**
(Chemosynthetic Communities, Deepwater Corals, *Sargassum*)
- **Live Bottom Habitats**
(Topographic Features, Pinnacles, Low Relief, Inshore Reefs)
- **Fishes and Invertebrate Resources**
- **Coastal and Migratory Birds**
- **Protected Species**
(Endangered Species, Sea Turtles, Diamondback Terrapin, Beach Mice, Marine Mammals)
- **Commercial and Recreational Fishing**
- **Recreational Resources**
- **Archaeological Resources**
(Prehistoric and Historic)
- **Human Resources and Land Use**
(Land Use/Coastal Infrastructure, Demographics, Economics, and Environmental Justice)





Federal Water
Pollution
Control Act

Clean Air Act

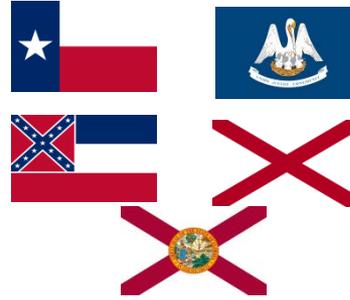


Endangered
Species Act

National Marine
Sanctuary Act

Marine Mammal
Protection Act

Magnuson-Stevens
Fishery Conservation
and Management
Act



Coastal Zone
Management Act

National Historic
Preservation Act



Tribal
Consultation



Areas of Special Concern to Fisheries
(such as important spawning areas)



Sensitive Resources and Habitats That Could
Be Impacted (such as deep-sea corals)



Human Impacts (such as the effect on
employment)

Alternatives



Comments must be received on or before June 1, 2015.

Comments submitted at this meeting may be

- Oral Comments
- Written Comments (may be left at the registration table)

Comments may be emailed to multisaleeis2017-2022@boem.gov

Comments should be labeled

“Comments on the 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS” and mailed (or hand delivered) to

Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief
Environmental Assessment Section
Office of Environment (GM 623E)
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394



Comments may also be submitted through the regulations.gov web portal:

- Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov>
- Search for
“Oil and Gas Lease Sales: Gulf of Mexico, Outer Continental Shelf; 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS”
(Note: It is important to include the quotation marks in your search terms.)
- Click on “Comment Now!” button to the right of the document link.
- Enter your information and comment, then click “Submit”



Enter your name on the speaker's list at the registration table.

Limit comments to 3 minutes so there is adequate time for all speakers.

Additional comments can be made after everyone on the speaker's list has the opportunity to speak.

When you come up, please state your name for the record.

Written comments may be left at the registration table.

Media representatives should register at the media table.



