BOEM BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS

Impact-Producing Factors

What is an Impact-Producing Factor?

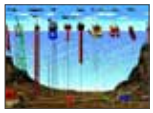
An Impact-Producing Factor (IPF) is the outcome or result of any proposed or ongoing OCS oil- and gas-related activities with the potential to affect (positively or negatively) physical, biological, cultural, and/or socioeconomic resources. These IPFs are grouped into "issue" categories based on BOEM's internal and external scoping and consideration of the extensive history of public input received through previous and ongoing assessments and outreach efforts. Both OCS and non-OCS oil- and gas-related activities can contribute to one or multiple IPF categories.

Routine OCS Oil- and Gas-Related Activities

Air Emissions and Pollution: Emissions from vessels, helicopters, platforms, and other OCS oil- and gas-related activities

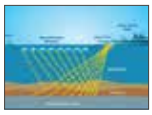
Bottom Disturbance: Drilling, infrastructure and anchor emplacement, and infrastructure removals caused by activities associated with offshore oil and gas exploration and production

Coastal Land Use/Modification: Onshore oil- and gas-related infrastructure that provides support for offshore OCS oil- and gas-related activities



Offshore Habitat Modification/Space Use: Modification and/or use of habitats and other specific areas through the placement or removal of infrastructure

Discharges and Wastes: Drilling fluids, drill cuttings, various waters, deck drainage, sanitary wastes, and domestic wastes generated during offshore oil and gas exploration and development



Noise: G&G (Geological and Geophysical) surveys, vessels, helicopters and aircraft traffic, drilling and production operations, pipeline trenching, construction, and decommissioning from offshore oil- and gas-related activities

Lighting and Visual Impacts: Infrastructure presence and light emissions that could alter the existing landscapes and seascapes

Socioeconomic Changes and Drivers: The extent to which OCS oil- and gas-related activities produce socioeconomic changes in the offshore oil and gas industry and elsewhere in society.

For more information, visit the [GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS webpage].

Accidental OCS Oil- and Gas-Related Events

Unintended Releases into the Environment: Oil, chemical, and drilling fluid spills, accidental air emissions, and trash and debris related to OCS oil and gas exploration and development activities

Response Activities: Spill response techniques or tools used to contain and remove oil in the event of a spill

Strikes and Collisions: A vessel or aircraft unintentionally hitting a resource (strike) or another vessel, aircraft, or structure (collision)

Cumulative Activities

Cumulative OCS Oil and Gas Program: Includes all activities (i.e., routine activities projected to occur and accidental events that could occur) from past, proposed, and future proposed GOM oil and gas lease sales

Air Emissions and Pollution: Offshore natural and anthropogenic sources of air pollution not related to OCS oil- and gas-related activities that cause degradation to air quality

Bottom Disturbance: Seafloor disturbance caused by activities that are not part of BOEM's OCS Oil and Gas Program (e.g. anchoring, military operations, State oil and gas activities, dredging, trawling, and renewable energy installations)

Coastal Land Use/Modification: Includes sea-level rise and subsidence, erosion, saltwater intrusion, dredging and navigation canals, coastal restoration programs, and tourism infrastructure

Offshore Habitat Modification/Space Use: Activities other than the OCS Oil and Gas Program occurring in the Gulf of Mexico

Climate Change: The climate's response to human-influenced changes to the Earth's atmosphere, resulting in a net increase of energy in the Earth's system

Discharges and Wastes: Discharges and wastes from non-OCS oil- and gas-related events may derive from discharge from shipwrecks, military activities, dredged material disposal, land-based nonpoint pollution, and natural seeps

Noise: Includes natural sources (e.g. sounds produced by animals, wind-driven waves, rainfall, and storms) and anthropogenic sources

Lighting and Visual Impacts: Activities from stakeholders that use the ocean that have the potential to alter or disrupt the existing visual and aesthetic environment

Socioeconomic Changes and Drivers: The extent to which non-OCS oil- and gas-related activities produce socioeconomic changes

Natural Processes: Major storms, eutrophication and hypoxia, and natural seeps, as well as other processes occurring in the Gulf of Mexico

For more information, visit the GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS webpage.