

Alternative Comparison Matrix for a Single Lease Sale

Impact Level Key ¹					
Beneficial ²	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	
Alternative					
Resource	A	B	C	D	E
Air Quality	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	None
Water Quality	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None
Coastal Habitats					
Estuarine Systems	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Negligible
Coastal Barrier Beaches and Associated Dunes	Minor	Minor	Negligible to Minor	Negligible to Minor	Negligible
Deepwater Benthic Communities	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None
Sargassum and Associated Communities	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None
Live Bottoms					
Topographic Features	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None
Pinnacles and Low-Relief Features	Negligible to Minor	Negligible to Minor	Negligible	Negligible	None
Fishes and Invertebrate Resources	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	None
Birds	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	None
Protected Species					
Marine Mammals	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None
Sea Turtles	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None
Beach Mice	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None
Protected Birds	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None
Protected Corals	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	None
Commercial Fisheries	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Negligible
Recreational Fishing	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Negligible
Recreational Resources	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Negligible
Archaeological Resources	Negligible ³	Negligible ³	Negligible ³	Negligible ³	None
Human Resources and Land Use					
Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	None
Economic Factors	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Beneficial to Minor	Negligible to Minor
Social Factors (including Environmental Justice)	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	None

Note: Some resources have a range for the impact levels to account for certain variables such as the uncertainty of non-OCS oil- or gas-related activities, the level and magnitude of potential accidental events, and the minimization of the OCS oil- or gas-related impacts through lease stipulations, mitigations, and/or regulations. The impact-level ratings have been specifically tailored and defined for each resource within the Chapter 4 impact analysis of the 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS and 2018 GOM Supplemental EIS.

1. The findings for Alternatives A-D are the incremental contribution of a proposed action added to what would be expected to occur under the No Action Alternative (i.e., no lease sale). Therefore, each impact determination under Alternatives A-D assumes that the cumulative conditions and impacts (i.e., past, present, and future activities as a result of past lease sales) under the No Action Alternative would still be present.
2. The level of beneficial impacts is specified in the analysis, which could range from low, medium, or high.
3. The level of impacts for archaeological resources ranges between negligible to major and is dependent upon whether a survey is performed, mitigation is imposed, mitigation is followed, or a site is identified prior to the activity