



**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# Gulf of Mexico Lease Sales 259 and 261 Draft Supplemental EIS

Draft Supplemental EIS Public Meetings  
October 24 & 26, 2022

BOEM New Orleans Office

# Zoom Webinar – Technical Guidance

- If you encounter any technical difficulties within this meeting or the Zoom Webinar platform, please contact:
  - Technical Support, Eric H., Kearns & West
  - [eholmes@kearnswest.com](mailto:eholmes@kearnswest.com) or (916) 603-3470
- For media inquiries, please contact:
  - BOEM Office of Communications
    - John Filostrat - [john.filostrat@boem.gov](mailto:john.filostrat@boem.gov) or 504-284-8605
    - Hillary McKey - [hillary.mckey@boem.gov](mailto:hillary.mckey@boem.gov)

*Please note, this meeting is being recorded.*



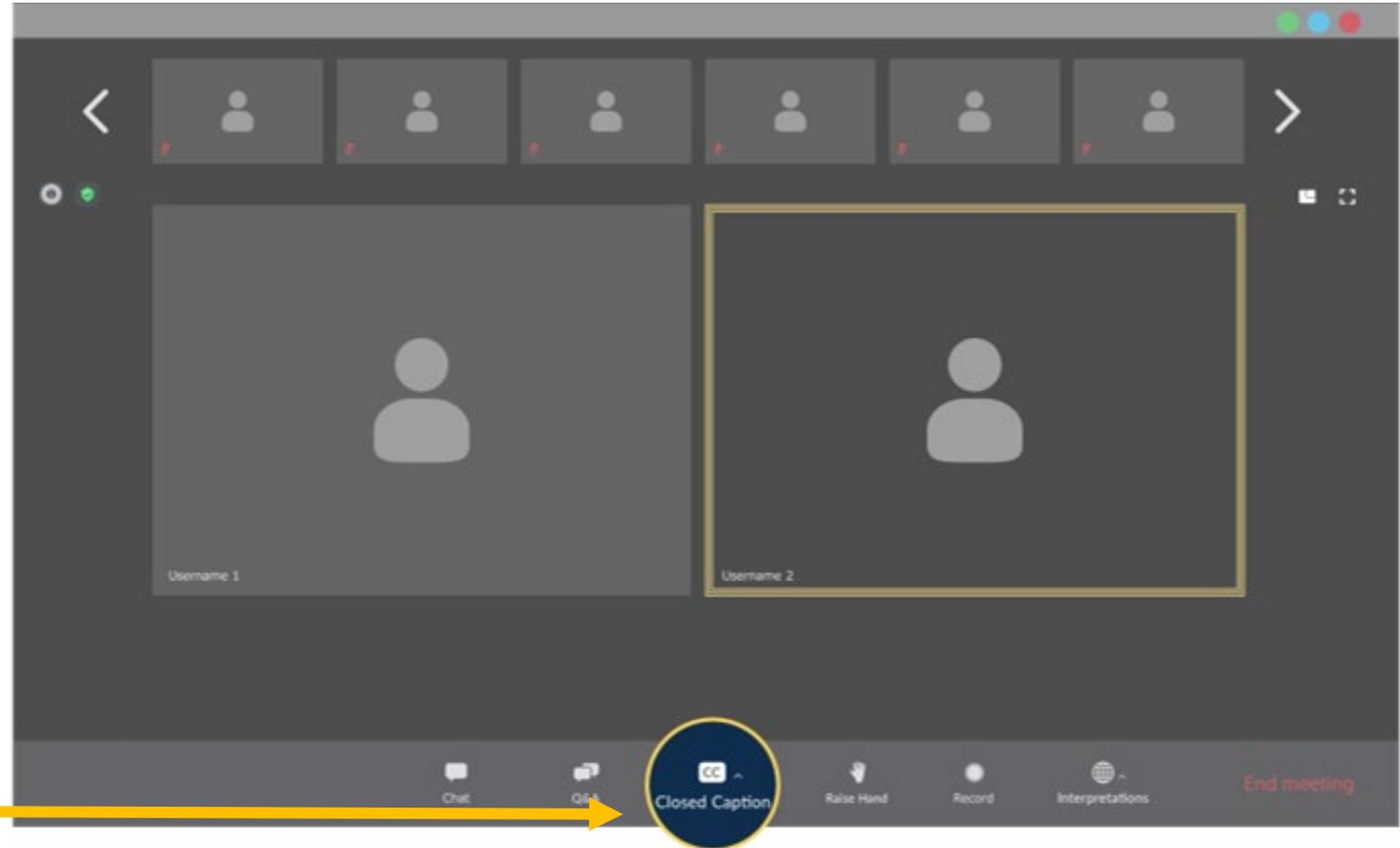
# Zoom Webinar – Live Interpretation

- American Sign Language interpretation will be provided throughout the course of the meeting.
- Active el canal de interpretación apropiado haciendo clic en el icono del globo terráqueo en la barra de tareas de Zoom ubicada en la parte inferior de su pantalla y seleccione su idioma.
- Si tiene dificultad con la traducción o con Zoom, por favor envíe un email o un mensaje a Eric Holmes (eholmes@kearnswest.com).
- Kích hoạt kênh thông dịch thích hợp bằng cách nhấp vào biểu tượng quả địa cầu trên thanh tác vụ Thu phóng ở cuối màn hình và chọn ngôn ngữ của bạn.
- Nếu bạn gặp khó khăn với bản dịch hoặc với Zoom, vui lòng gửi email hoặc nhắn tin cho Eric Holmes (eholmes@kearnswest.com).



# Zoom Webinar – Closed Captioning

- Closed captions can be turned on here:



# Meeting Objectives

- Provide information on the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sales 259 and 261 Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).
- Answer questions related to the Draft SEIS.
- Provide an opportunity for the public to give input on the Draft SEIS.



# Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Webinar Instructions and Guidance
- Overview of the Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales 259 and 261 Draft SEIS
  - Opening Remarks
  - Overview of the Draft SEIS
- Clarifying Questions
- Public Comment on the Draft SEIS
- Closing Remarks
- Adjourn



# Guides for a Productive Meeting

- **Participate respectfully.** We reserve the right to mute individuals who do not participate respectfully, use “colorful” language, or who use threatening or other inappropriate language.
- **Speak in order,** the meeting facilitator will mind the queue.
- **When you speak, provide your name and affiliation, speak clearly into the mic, and speak concisely.**



# Where are you joining us from tonight?





**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# Welcome and Opening Remarks

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Mike Celata, Regional Director  
BOEM New Orleans Office



**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# **Gulf of Mexico Lease Sales 259 and 261 Draft Supplemental EIS**

Michelle Nannen, Environmental Scientist  
Sarah Coffman, Chief, Economics Division  
BOEM New Orleans Office

# The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022

- **BOEM is holding Lease Sales (LS) 259 and 261 as required under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022**
- **This Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will inform the lease sale processes for LS 259 and 261**
  - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 requires BOEM to hold
    - LS 259 by the end of March 2023
    - LS 261 by the end of September 2023
- **While BOEM has no discretion on whether to hold these lease sales, BOEM has prepared this Supplemental EIS to follow its normal leasing process to the fullest extent possible.**



# New Information in the GOM Lease Sales 259 and 261 Supplemental EIS

- **References BOEM's Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Greenhouse Gas Lifecycle Emissions Paper**
  - Paper includes expanded greenhouse gas (GHG) analysis of a representative GOM lease sale
    - Analyzed the mid-activity level identical to Alternative A in the Supplemental EIS
  - In accordance with recent Executive Orders
  - Includes monetized impacts from estimated GHG emissions
- **Includes new range of possible royalty rates from the IRA**
- **Addresses litigation related to Government Accountability Office reports**
- **Adds new information and verifies conclusions of the 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS and 2018 GOM Supplemental EIS**



# Overview of the GOM Lease Sales 259 and 261 Supplemental EIS

- Purpose of and Need for Action
- Proposed Action
- Routine, Accidental, and Cumulative Activities Analyzed
- Alternatives
- Analysis Approach
- Environmental Consequences
- GHG Analysis
- Consultations
- Providing Comment on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Next Steps



# Purpose of and Need for Action

- **Purpose**

- To offer for lease those areas that may contain economically recoverable oil and gas resources in order to further the orderly development of OCS oil and gas resources in accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA)

- **Need**

- To manage the development of the OCS energy resources in an environmentally and economically responsible manner, as required under Section 18 of the OCSLA

- **Proposed Action**

- To hold an oil and gas lease sale on the Federal OCS in the GOM



# Routine, Accidental, and Cumulative Activities Analyzed

The **scenario** describes the offshore activities, and impact-producing factors, that could occur for a lease sale under each alternative.



- **Routine Activities** generally occur on a regular basis during the lifetime of a lease and include exploration, development, oil or gas production and transport, and decommissioning. Routine operations are evaluated over the 50-year analysis period.



- **Accidental Events** include releases into the environment (e.g., oil spills, loss of well control, accidental air emissions, pipeline failures, and chemical and drilling fluid spills), collisions (e.g., helicopter, service vessels, and platforms), and spill-response activities.

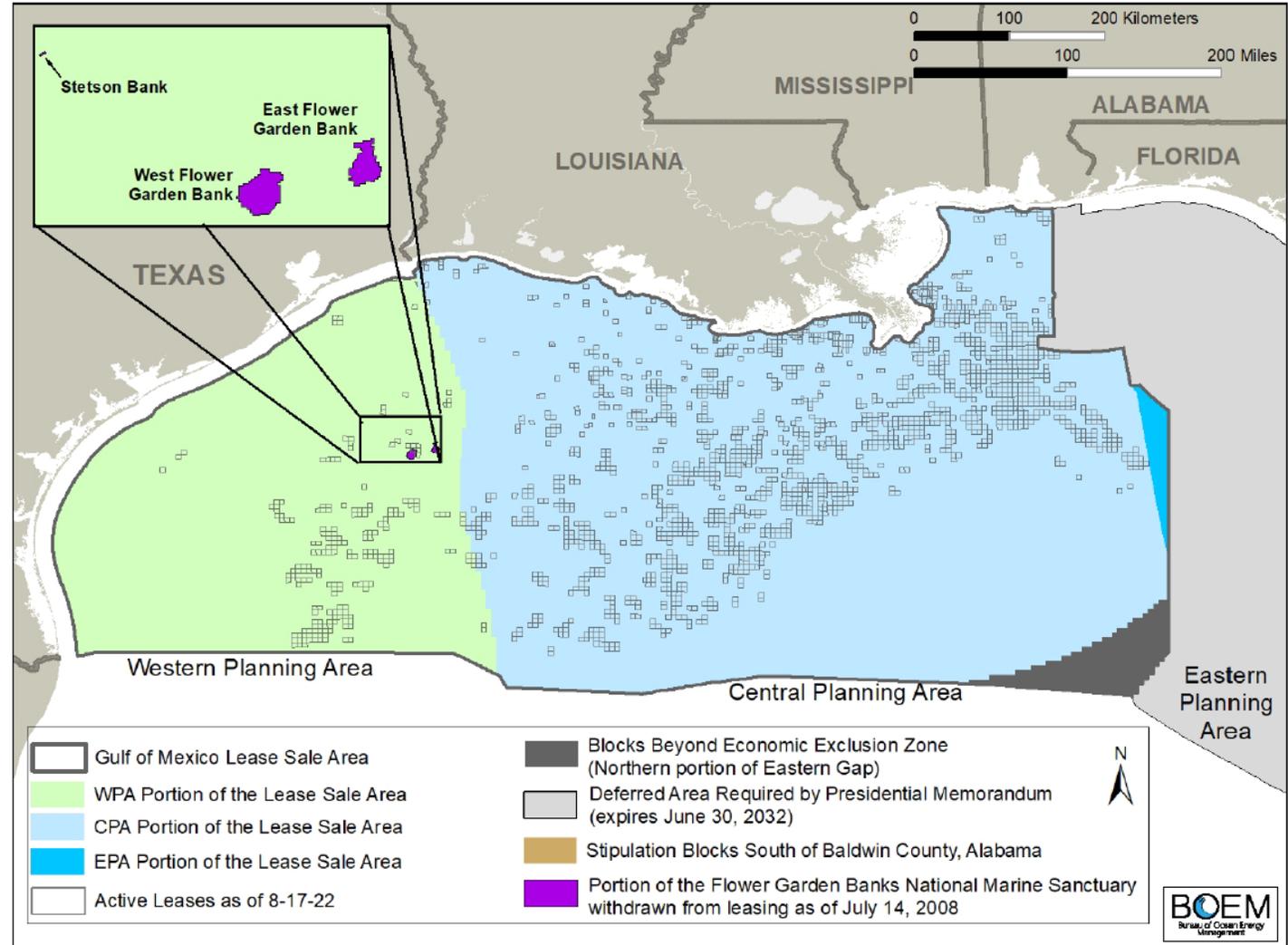


- **Cumulative Activities** are past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities occurring within the same geographic range and within the same timeframes as the routine activities and potential accidental events, including the Cumulative OCS Oil and Gas Program.



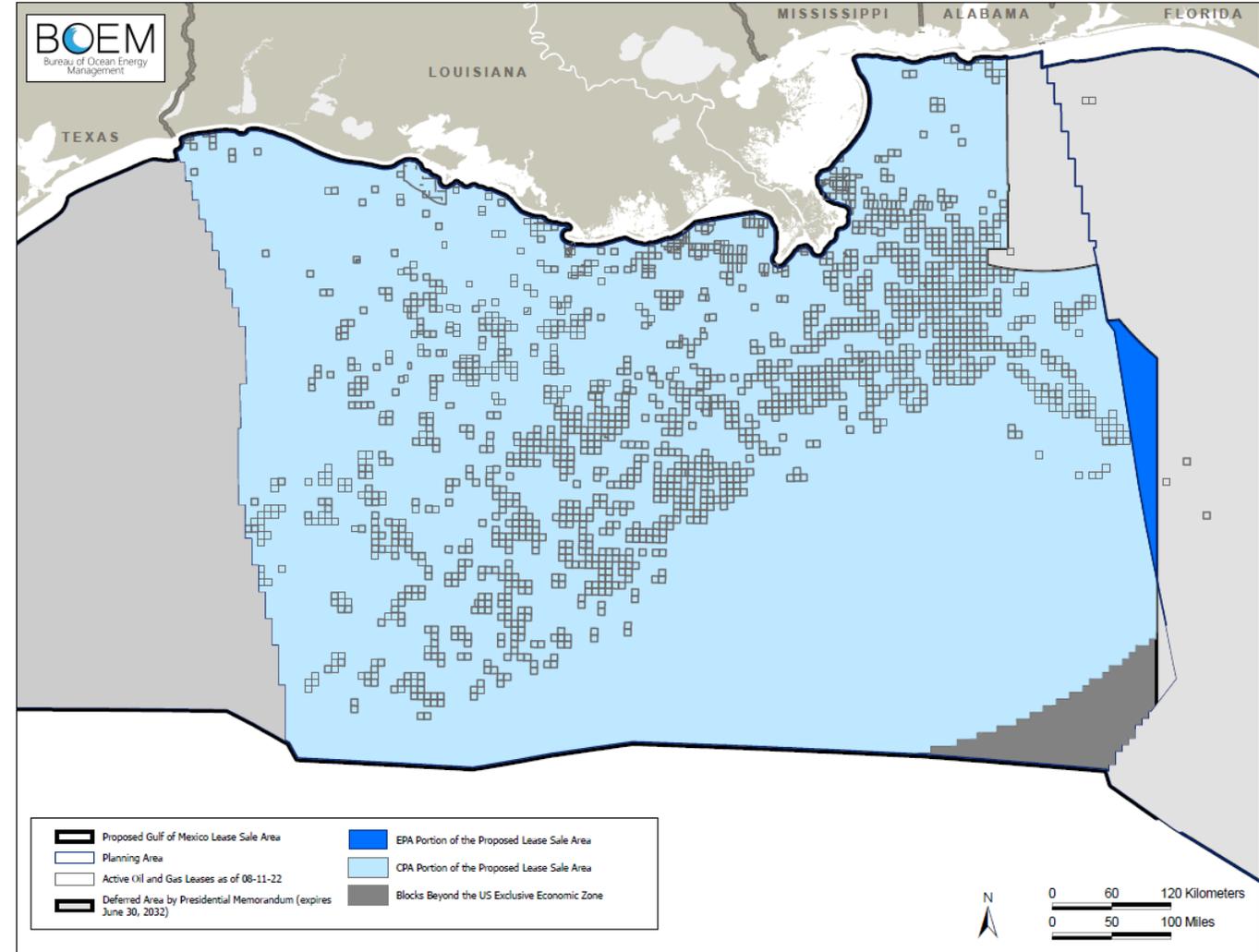
# Alternative A: Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale

- **Alternative A** would allow for a GOM lease sale encompassing the three GOM planning areas of the WPA, CPA, and EPA, with the following exceptions:
  - whole and portions of blocks currently under Presidential withdrawal;
  - blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone; and
  - whole and partial blocks within the boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (as of the July 2008 Memorandum on Withdrawal).



# Alternative B: Gulf of Mexico OCS Lease Sale Excluding Available Unleased Blocks in the WPA Portion of the Proposed Lease Sale Area

- **Alternative B** would offer for lease all available unleased blocks within the CPA and EPA portions of the proposed lease sale area, with the following exceptions:
  - whole and portions of blocks currently under Presidential withdrawal; and
  - blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone.

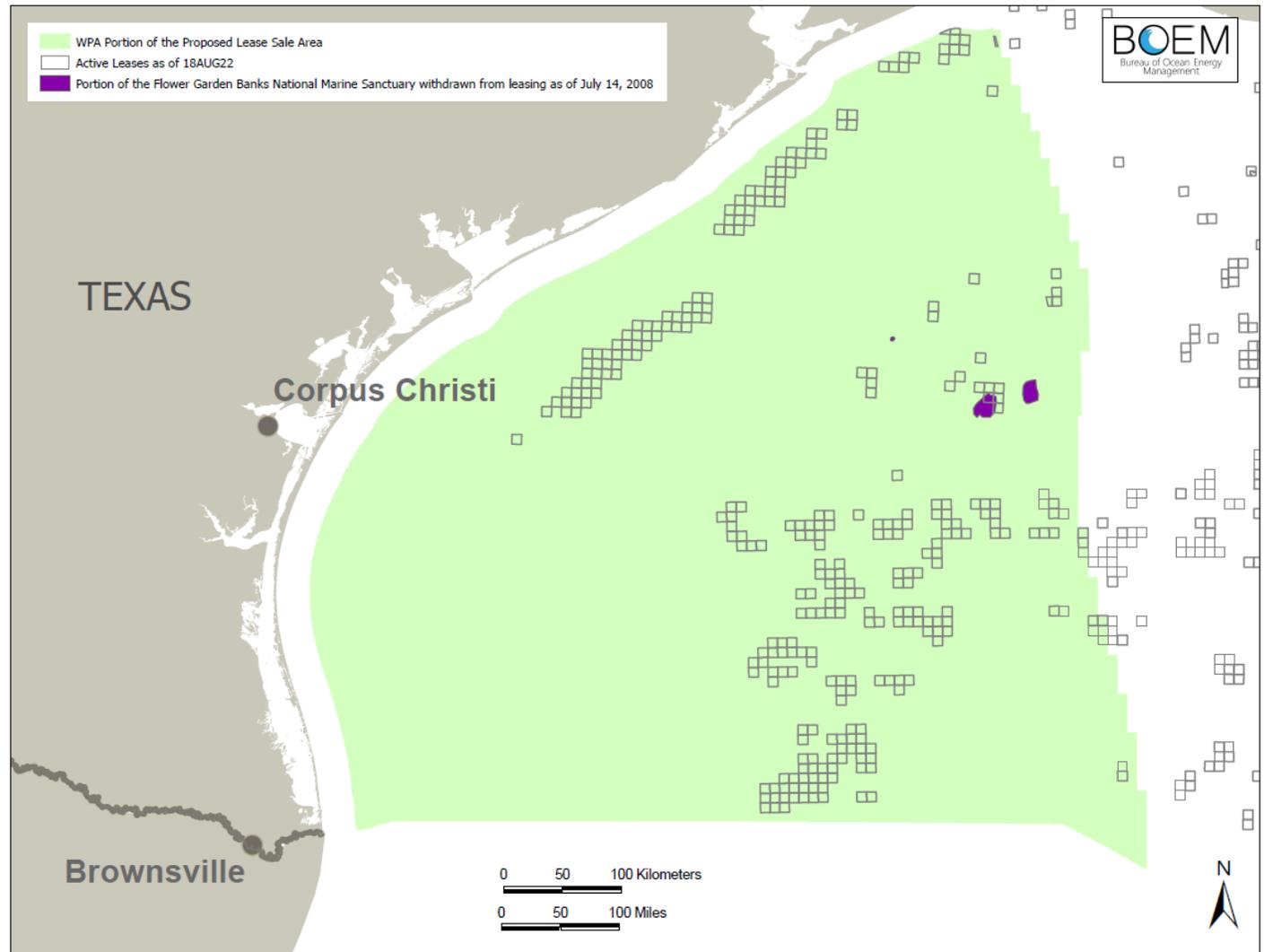


Office of Leasing and Plans - Mapping and Automation Section | MA0202200298 | 17 August 2022



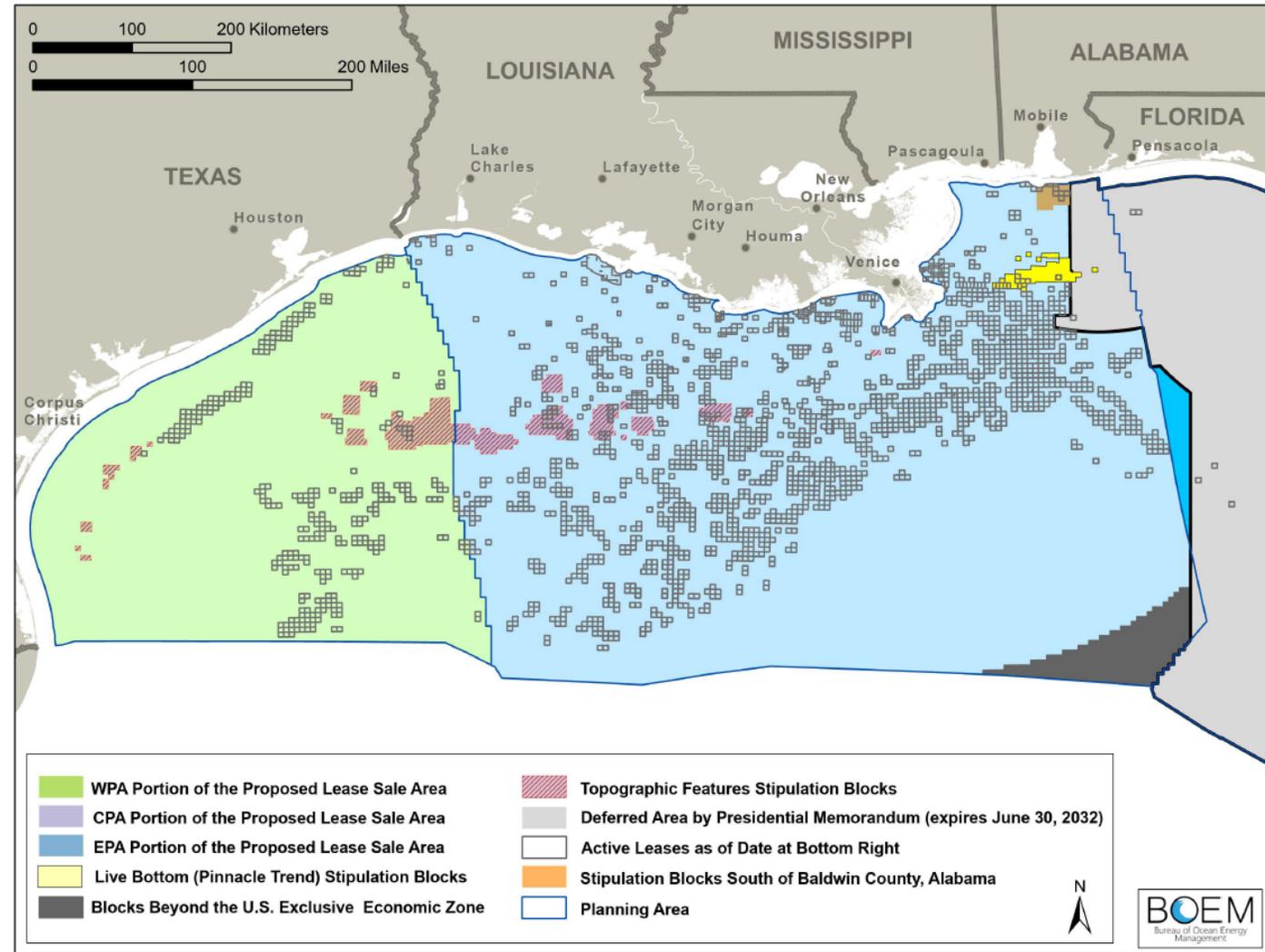
# Alternative C: Gulf of Mexico OCS Lease Sale Excluding Available Unleased Blocks in the CPA/EPA Portion of the Proposed Lease Sale Area

- **Alternative C** would offer for lease all available unleased blocks within the WPA portion of the proposed lease sale area, with the following exceptions:
  - whole and partial blocks within the boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (as of the July 2008 Memorandum on Withdrawal).



# Alternative D: Alternative A, B, or C, with the Option to Exclude Available Unleased Blocks Subject to the Topographic Features, Live Bottom (Pinnacle Trend), and/or Blocks South of Baldwin County, Alabama, Stipulations

- **Alternative D** could exclude from leasing any available unleased whole or partial blocks that would otherwise have been subject to any one and/or a combination of the following stipulations:
  - Topographic Features Stipulation;
  - Live Bottom (Pinnacle Trend) Stipulation; and
  - Blocks South of Baldwin County, Alabama Stipulation (not applicable to Alternative C).



# Alternative E: No Action

- **Alternative E** is the cancellation of a single GOM lease sale, which would require Congressional action.
  - Although the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 requires that both Lease Sales 259 and 261 be held, this alternative is being included for comparative purposes and because NEPA's implementing regulations require the analysis of a no action alternative.
  - Any potential environmental impacts resulting from a lease sale would not occur.
  - Activities related to previously issued leases and permits (as well as those that may be issued in the future under a separate lease sale decision) related to the OCS Oil and Gas Program would continue.



# Resources Analyzed in This Supplemental EIS

- **Physical Resources**

- Air Quality
- Water Quality

- **Social Resources**

- Commercial Fisheries
- Recreational Fishing
- Recreational Resources
- Archaeological Resources
- Human Resources and Land Use
  - Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure
  - Economic Factors
- Social Factors (including Environmental Justice)

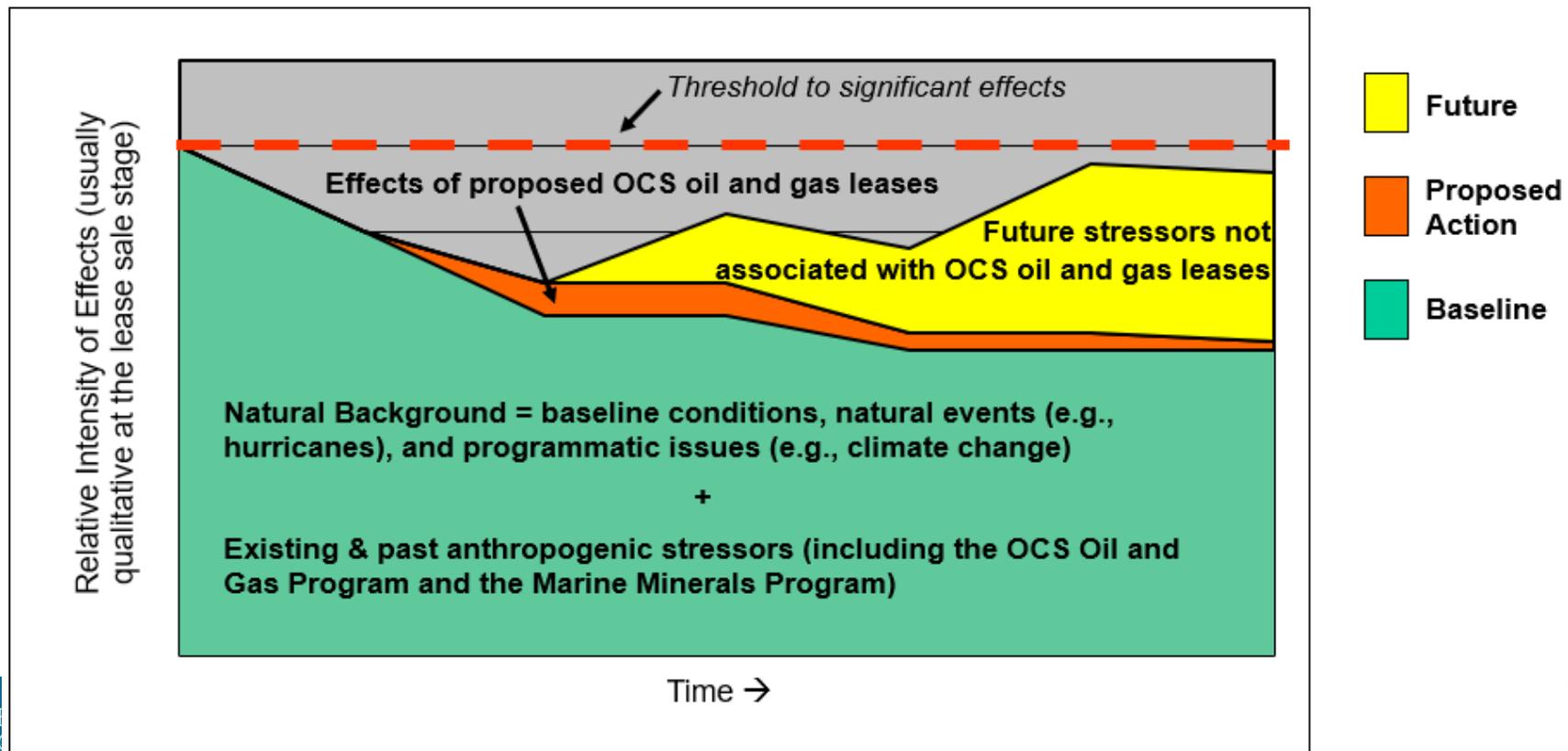
- **Biological Resources**

- Coastal Habitats
  - Estuarine Systems
  - Coastal Barrier Beaches and Associated Dunes
- Deepwater Benthic Communities
- *Sargassum* and Associated Communities
- Live Bottoms
  - Topographic Features
  - Pinnacles and Low-Relief Features
- Fish and Invertebrates
- Birds
- Protected Species
  - Marine Mammals
  - Sea Turtles
  - Beach Mice
  - Protected Birds
  - Protected Corals



# Analysis Approach

- Analyzed the routine and accidental impacts of OCS oil and gas activities expected for a single lease and determined the level of impacts for those activities.
- Compared impact levels of routine and accidental OCS oil and gas activities to the cumulative impacts of those same impact-producing factors in the GOM
  - Cumulative impacts include the proposed action plus past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities in the GOM



# Classification Scheme for Potential Impacts

## Negligible

- Impacts may or may not cause observable changes to natural conditions; regardless, they do not reduce the integrity of a resource.

## Minor

- Impacts cause observable and short-term changes to natural conditions, but they do not reduce the integrity of a resource.

## Moderate

- Impacts cause observable and short-term changes to natural conditions and/or they reduce the integrity of a resource.

## Major

- Impacts cause observable and long-term changes to natural conditions, and they reduce the integrity of a resource.

## Beneficial

- Positive impacts that can range from low, medium, or high.



# Summary of Impacts

- Impacts by alternative for:
  - Physical Resources
  - Biological Resources
- Shows impacts of a single sale
- Most impacts are negligible to minor
- A few moderate impacts possible for estuarine systems and birds

Alternative Comparison Matrix for a Single Lease Sale

Resource	Impact Level Key <sup>1</sup>				
	Beneficial <sup>2</sup>	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
	Alternative				
	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
<i>Sargassum</i> 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

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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> The level of beneficial impacts is specified in the analysis, which could range from low, medium, or high.

<sup>3</sup> 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.



# Summary of Impacts

- Impacts by alternative for:
  - Social Resources
  - Economic Resources
- Shows impacts of a single sale
- Most impacts are negligible to minor
- Some beneficial impacts for social and economic resources

Alternative Comparison Matrix for a Single Lease Sale

Resource	Impact Level Key <sup>1</sup>				
	Beneficial <sup>2</sup>	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
Resource	Alternative				
	A	B	C	D	E
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 <sup>3</sup>	Negligible <sup>3</sup>	Negligible <sup>3</sup>	Negligible <sup>3</sup>	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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

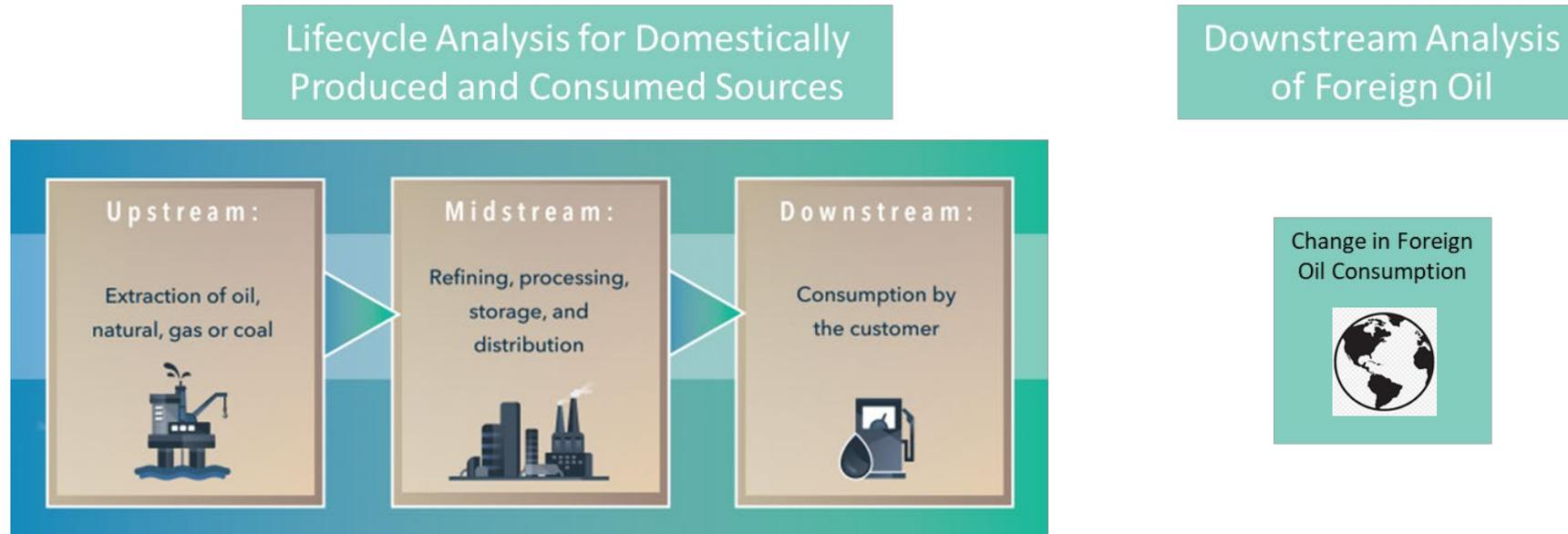
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<sup>3</sup> The level of impacts for archaeological resources ranges between negligible to major and is dependent upon whether a survey is performed, mitigation is imposed, mitigation is followed, or a site is identified prior to the activity.



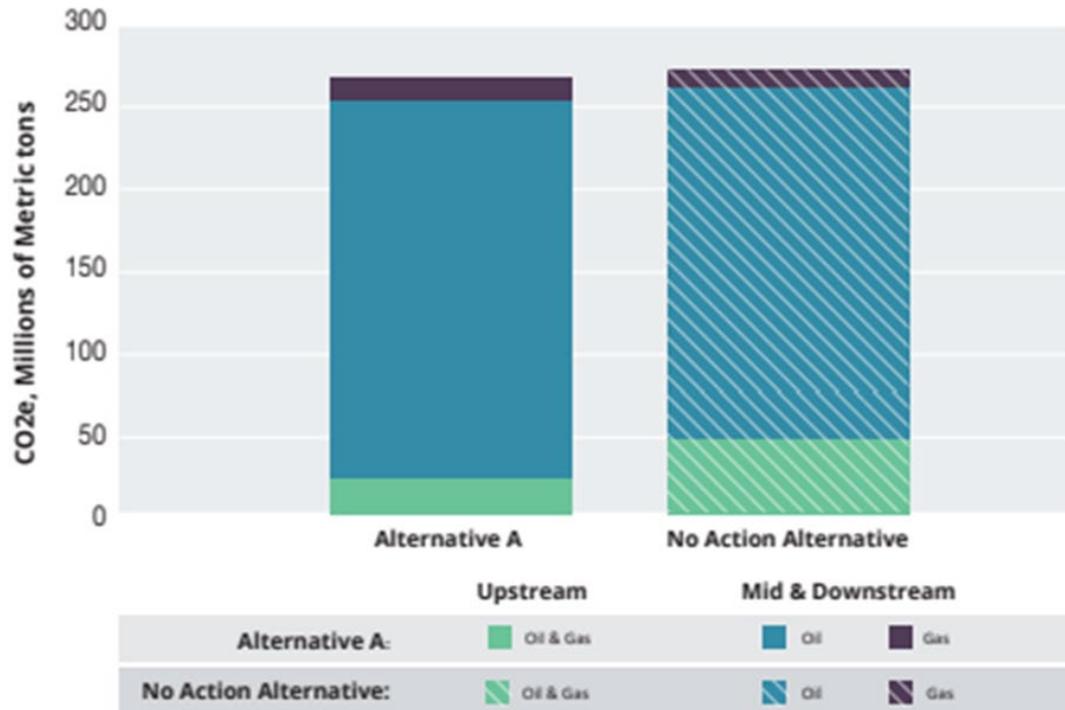
# Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- The Draft SEIS references BOEM's Gulf of Mexico GHG Analysis which includes the full greenhouse gas analysis
- Analysis estimates emissions under Alternative A and emissions from substitute energy sources under the No Action Alternative



# Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions (cont.)

Estimated GHG Emissions from Full Life Cycle of Domestically Produced or Consumed Energy

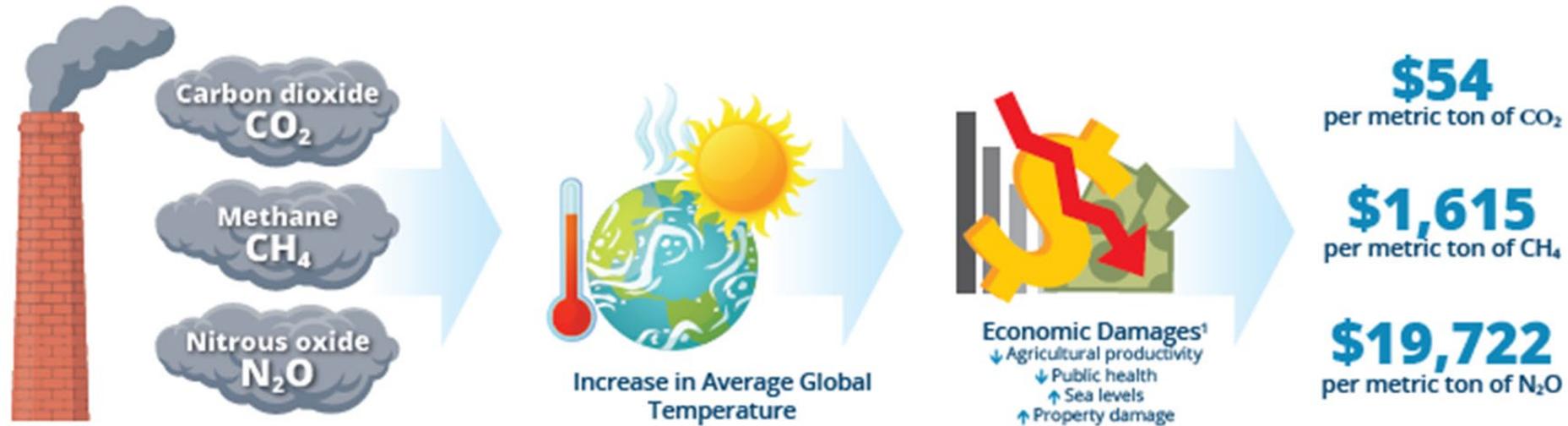


Domestic life cycle GHG emissions are **essentially equivalent** between the Leasing and No Leasing Scenario.

However, when accounting for the **reduced global oil consumption** in the No Action Alternative, global emissions are expected to be lower under the No Action Alternative.



# Social Cost of Greenhouse Gas Emissions



BOEM applies these Social Costs of GHG Emissions to the domestic lifecycle and foreign downstream emissions to estimate the aggregate monetary value of the net harm to society.

1: BOEM uses the February 2021 Interagency Working Group's per-unit SC-GHG estimates to monetize the costs of the GHG emissions it estimates from lifecycle of the Program and substitute energy sources. The SC-GHG estimates are for emissions in 2022 and are inflated to 2022 dollars.



# Consultation and Coordination

- **Endangered Species Act**

- FWS completed the Biological Opinion in April 2018; NOAA completed the Biological Opinion in March 2020

- **Essential Fish Habitat**

- Completed September 2017; new consultation to be completed by December 2022

- **OCSLA Section 19**

- Completed by January 2023

- **States (Coastal Zone Management Act)**

- States: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida
- Completed by January 2023



# Government to Government Tribal Consultation and Coordination



- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
- Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe of Louisiana

- **Consultation for this National Program included:**
  - Development of the 2017-2022 National Program
  - 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS
  - 2018 GOM Supplemental EIS
  - GOM LS 259 and 261 Supplemental EIS
- **Began March 2015 and continues through present:**
  - 6 formal letters, emails, and phone calls
  - Documents sent for review and comment
  - BOEM requested consultations and invited Tribes to be cooperating agencies
  - Provided additional information at Tribe's requests
  - BOEM holds quarterly update meetings with Tribes



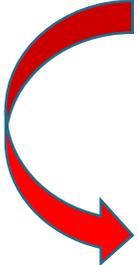
# Making Information Accessible to All Stakeholders

- **One example - during development of the 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS**
  - BOEM held meetings with the Vietnamese fisherfolk community in Mississippi at the fisherfolk community's request.
  - BOEM also provided Vietnamese translations of relevant portions of the 2017-2022 GOM Multisale EIS to maximize participation in the EIS process.
  - The work with the Vietnamese fisherfolk community alleviated the community's concerns.
  - This offer is open to other communities that request assistance.



# Remaining EIS Schedule

We are here in the process (45-Day Comment Period)



Milestone	Dates
Published Draft Supplemental EIS	October 7, 2022
45-Day Comment Period	October 7 – November 21, 2022
Publish Proposed Notice of Sale	October 2022
Publish Final Supplemental EIS	Early 2023
Publish Record of Decision	Early 2023
Publish Final Notice of Sale	Early 2023
Minimum 30-Day Waiting Period	Early 2023
Lease Sale	March 2023



# Providing Public Comments

**Public Comment Period Ends November 21, 2022**

## Helpful Types of Comments

- Accuracy of information
- Adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used in the environmental analysis
- New information relevant to the analysis or that would change the conclusions
- Where clarification is needed

## How to Submit Comments

- Via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under Docket ID BOEM-2022-0048
- Through oral testimony at virtual public meetings

## For More Information

<https://www.boem.gov/GoM-Sales-259-and-261-SEIS>





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# Clarifying Questions

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Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sales 259 and 261 Draft  
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

# Clarifying Questions

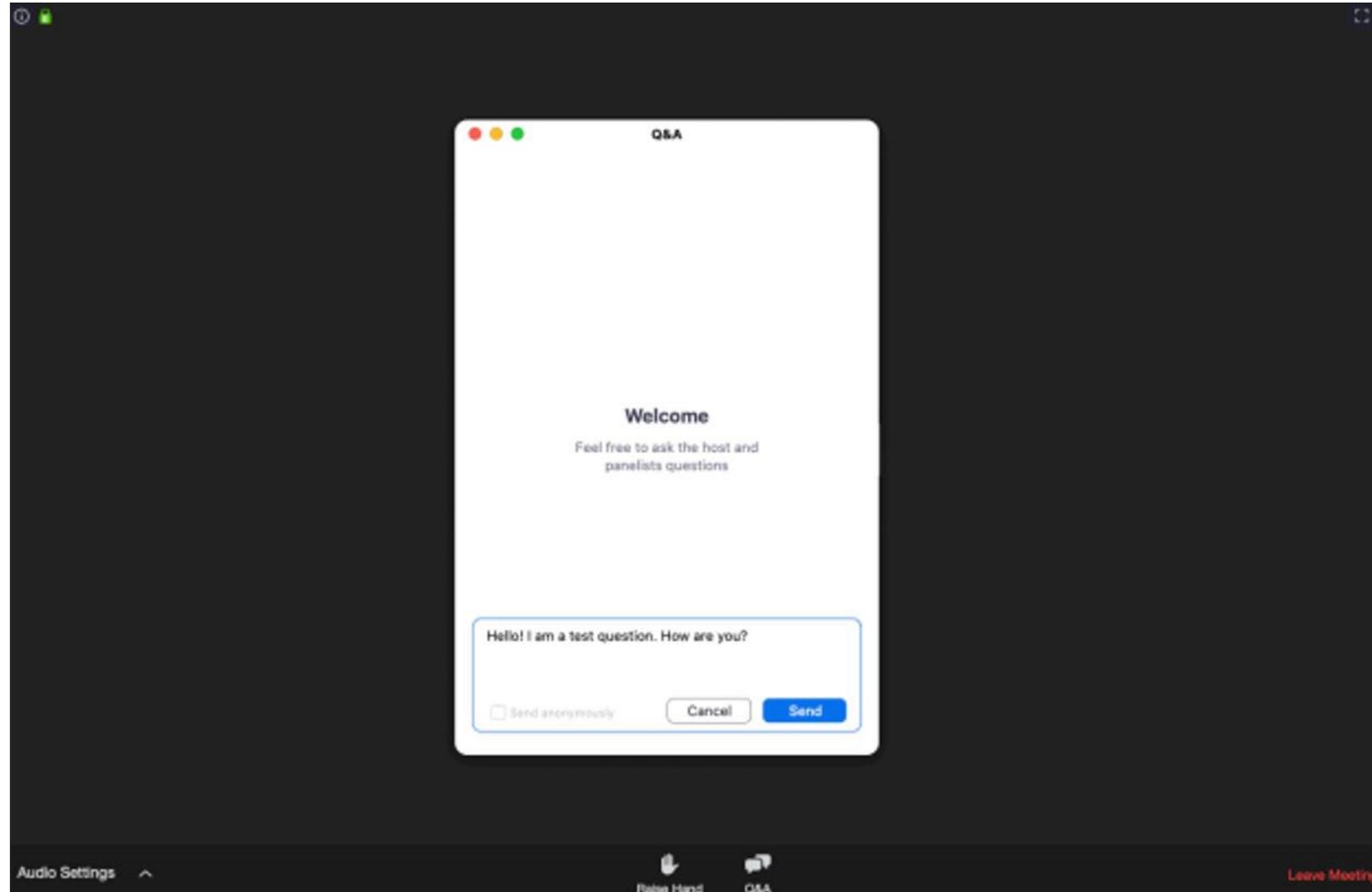
- The Q&A function will be open for questions related to the Draft SEIS.
- BOEM will respond to questions relating to the Draft SEIS. All other questions will be noted by BOEM, but not responded to as a part of this meeting.

*Public comment on the Draft SEIS will be received immediately following this Q&A session.*



# Using Zoom Q&A

- Only use the Q&A function during this *Clarifying Questions* portion of the meeting.
- If you have a question, select the *Q&A* icon.
- Type your questions in the blue rectangle and select *Send*.
- For those on the phone, dial \*9 to raise your hand. The moderator will call on you by announcing the last four digits of your phone number and invite you to unmute.



# Break – Draft SEIS Public Meeting

We Will Be Right Back

We are on a quick break and will return to the meeting at  
[2:00 CT/ 3:00 ET]





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# Public Comment Opportunity

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Comments on the Draft SEIS

# In-Meeting Public Comment Process

- Pre-registered public comments will be taken first.
- Members of the public will be muted throughout the meeting.
- To provide comments, use the Raise Hand function  located on the bottom right of the control bar.
- When it is your turn, the facilitator will call your name. You will be unmuted to provide your oral comment.
- We ask that you limit your comments the allotted time as indicated by the timer.
- Provide your name and affiliation before speaking.
- For phone-only participants, press \*9 to “raise your hand” and enter the queue, and \*6 to unmute yourself when prompted.
- If you encounter technical issues, chat Technical Support, Eric H.
- If you leave and return or lower then re-raise your hand, you will be placed at the end of the queue.



# Public Comment – Draft SEIS

- Meeting Guidelines

- To provide oral comment, click on the “Raise Hand” button  or press \*9 on your phone. Everyone will have **3 minutes**.
- The moderator will **call on you** when it is your time to speak and will unmute your line.
- **Please be respectful.** Threatening, profane, or other inappropriate language will not be permitted. Disruptive participants will be removed.
- For technical problems, please send a message to **Technical Support** via the chat box.
- Para la traducción al español, haga clic en el ícono del globo terráqueo en la barra de tareas de Zoom.
- Để xem bản dịch bằng tiếng Việt , vui lòng nhấp vào biểu tượng quả cầu trên thanh Zoom.
- You can also comment online via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under Docket ID **BOEM-2022-0048**



# Public Comment – Pre-registered Comments

- Pete Stauffer
- Hunter Miller
- Naomi Yoder
- Grant Bixby
- Chris Phelan
- Brady Bradshaw
- Alexcia Best
- Kelsey Lamp
- Claudia Steiner
- Zainab Mirza
- Jasmine Fournier
- Morgan Huetten
- Luke Metzger
- Ian Giancarlo
- Elida Castillo
- Dorothy Peña





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# Thank You and Closing Remarks

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Mike Celata, Regional Director  
BOEM New Orleans Office

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**Project Website:** <https://www.boem.gov/GoM-Sales-259-and-261-SEIS>