



**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

---

(GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS)

Virtual Public Scoping Meetings

New Orleans Office

October 2023

# Zoom Webinar – Technical Guidance

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

*Please note, this meeting is being recorded.*

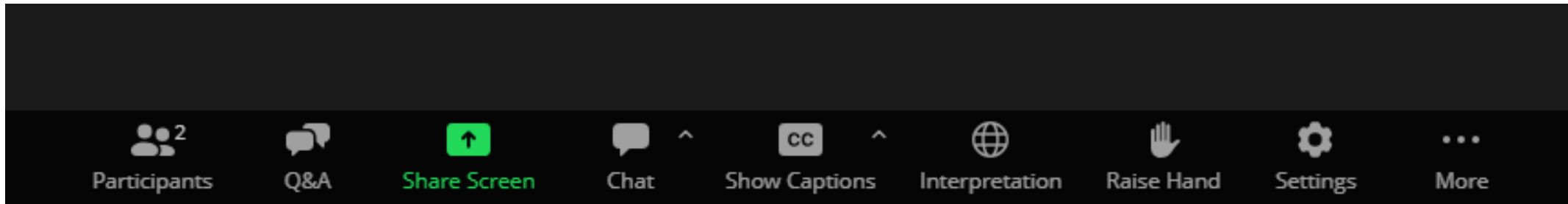


# Zoom Webinar – Live Interpretation

- 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 Sam Levy ([slevy@kearnswest.com](mailto:slevy@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 Sam Levy ([slevy@kearnswest.com](mailto:slevy@kearnswest.com)).



# Zoom Webinar – Closed Captioning



- Closed captions can be turned on here:



# Meeting Objectives

- Provide information on the development of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Regional Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for potential future oil and gas leasing activities.
- Answer questions related to the resources and preliminary alternatives to be analyzed in the Programmatic EIS, as well as identify significant issues for analysis.
- Provide an opportunity for the public to give input on the scope of the Programmatic EIS.



# Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Webinar Instructions and Guidance
- Overview of the Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS
  - Opening Remarks
  - Overview of the Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS
  - Greenhouse Gas Analysis Scoping
- Clarifying Questions
- Public Scoping Input on the Programmatic EIS
- Closing Remarks
- Adjourn



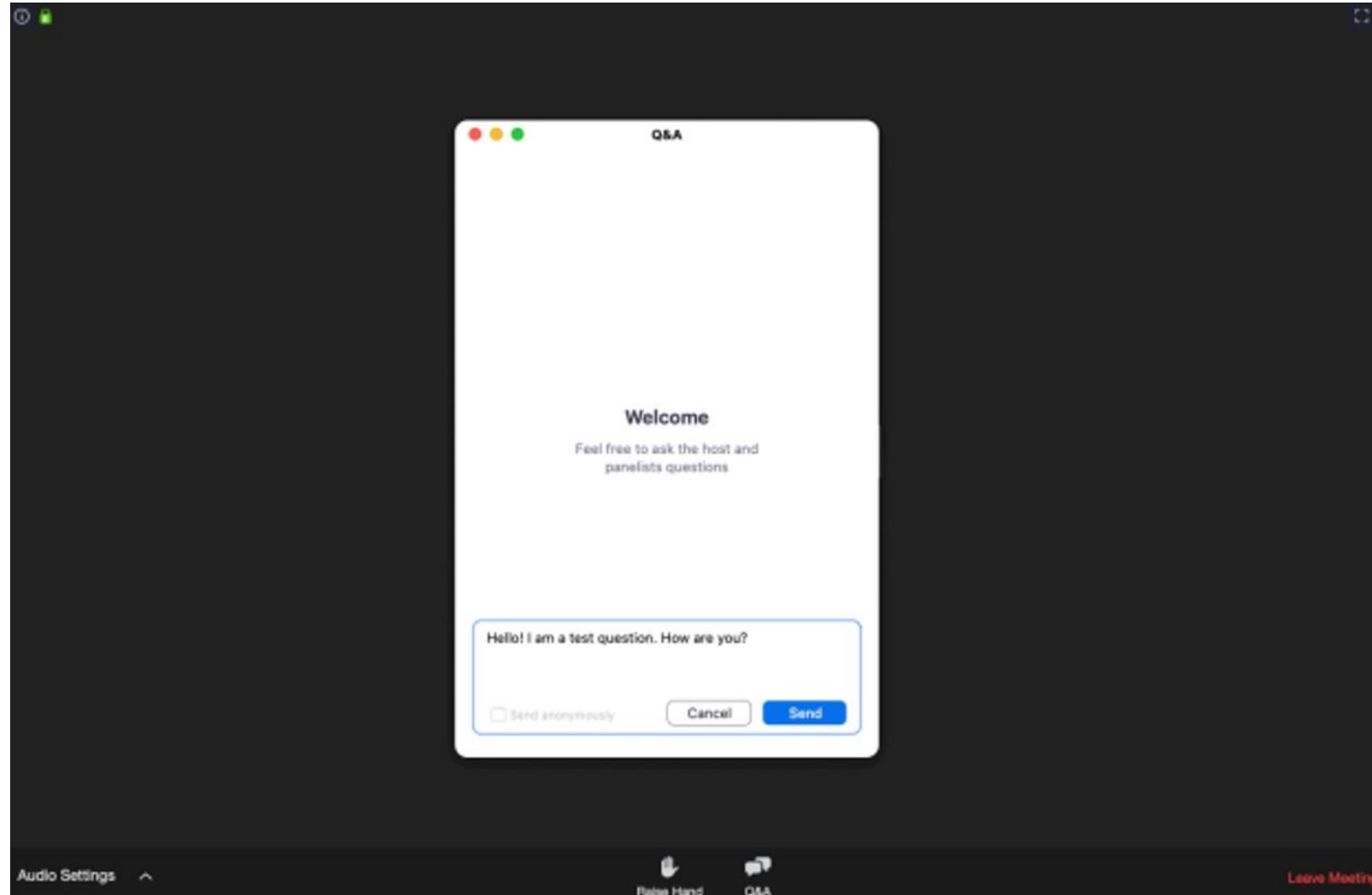
# Guides for a Productive Meeting

- **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.**



# Using Zoom Q&A

- Use the Q&A function to ask your *Clarifying Questions*.
- If you have a question, select the Q&A icon.
- Type your questions in the blue rectangle and select *Send*.







**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# Welcome and Opening Remarks

---

Dr Jim Kendall, Regional Director  
BOEM Gulf of Mexico Region



**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

---

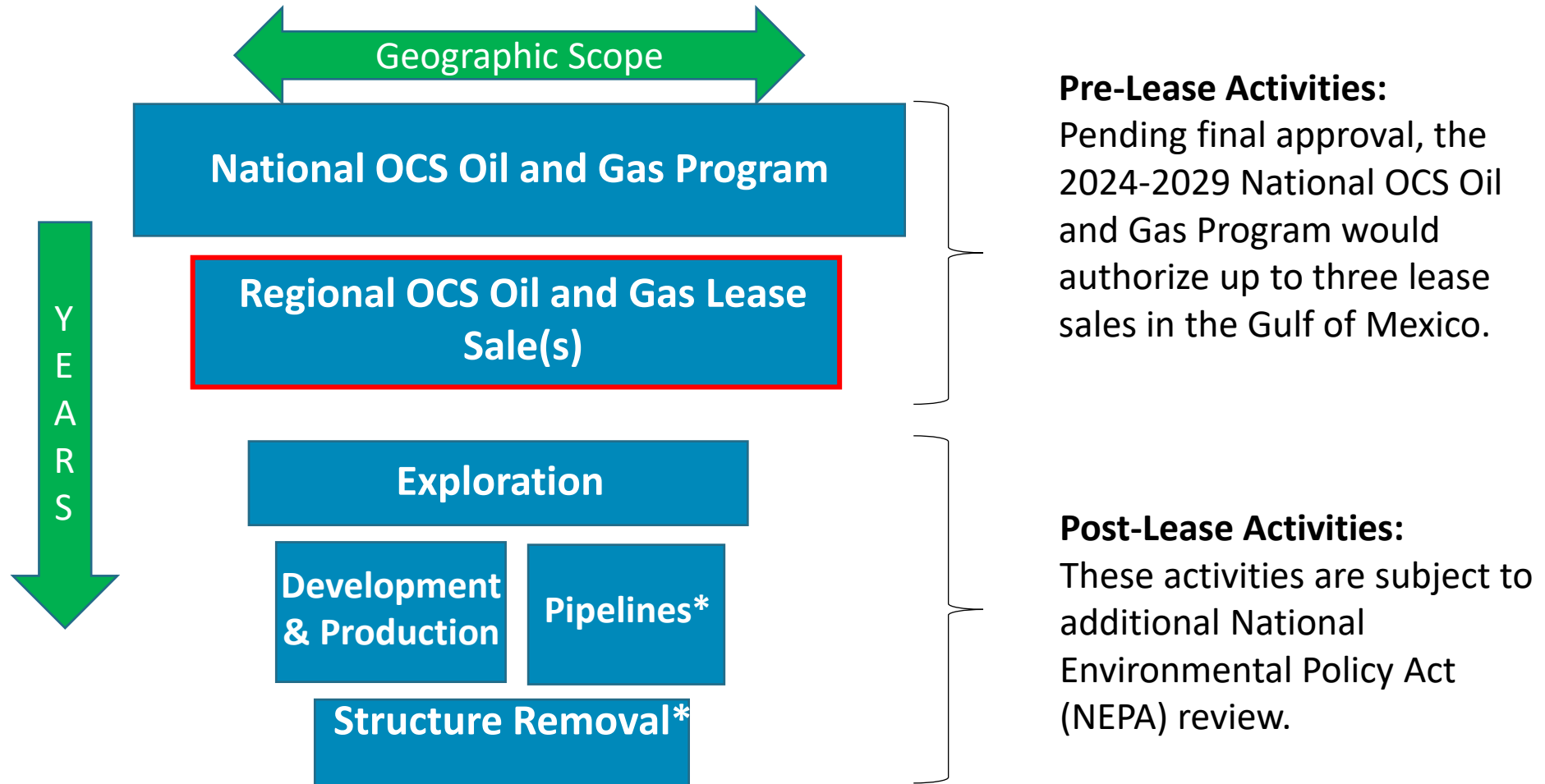
(GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS)

Virtual Public Scoping Meetings

New Orleans Office

October 2023

# Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Program Development Process



\*Decision made by Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement but supported by BOEM's NEPA analyses.



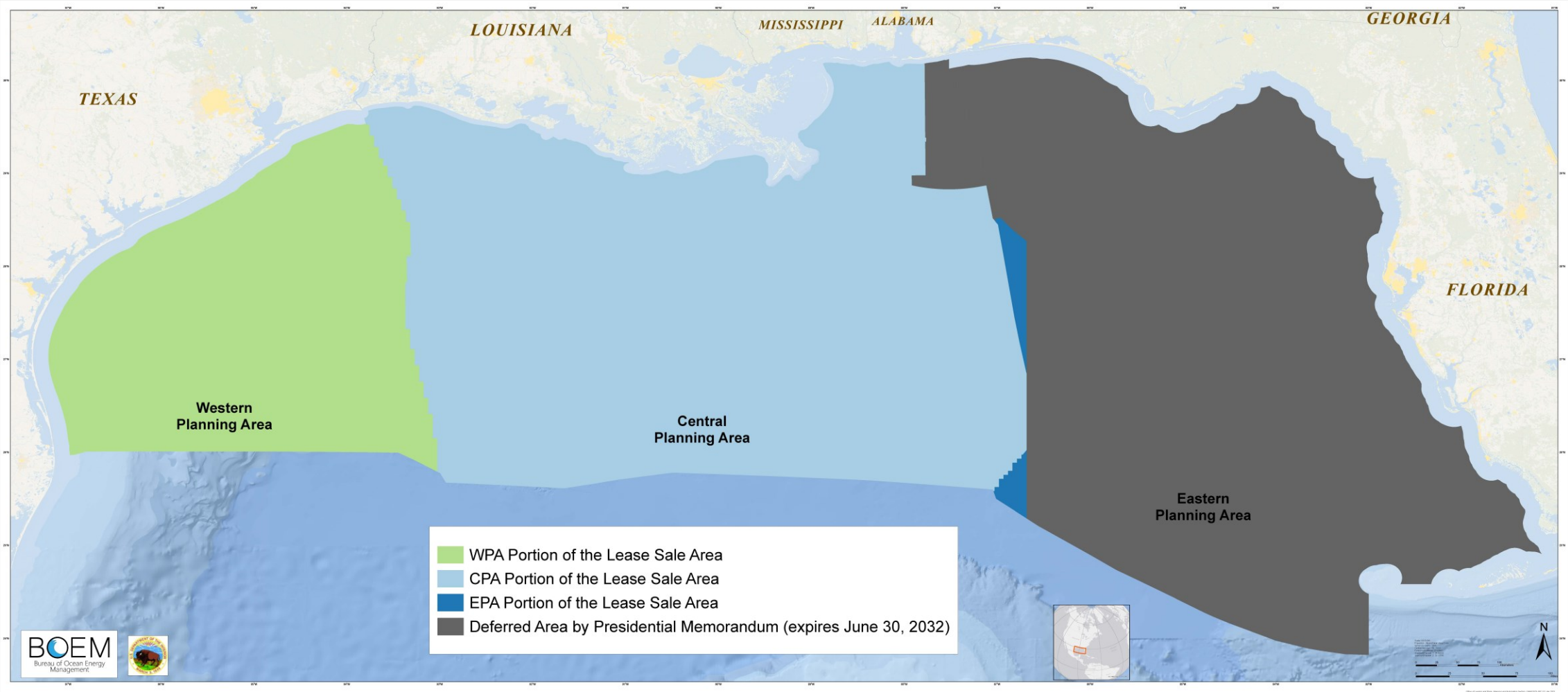
# Proposed Action

**The National Environmental Policy Act requires Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of a proposed major Federal action prior to making a decision.**

The proposed action to be analyzed in this GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS is a representative oil and gas lease sale on the Federal OCS in the Gulf of Mexico. The proposed action area is identified in the National OCS Oil and Gas Program as GOM Program Area 1 and includes waters offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.



# Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale Planning Area (GOM Program Area 1)



# GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS

This GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS will provide a regionwide environmental analysis and framework to support future decision making on individual plan and permit submittals. It will be used to:

- inform the decision for the first Gulf of Mexico OCS oil and gas lease sale proposed in the 2024-2029 National OCS Oil and Gas Program (i.e., Lease Sale 262);
- used and supplemented as appropriate for decisions on future proposed GOM OCS oil and gas lease sales; and/or
- used for tiering purposes for associated site and activity-specific OCS oil- and gas-related activity approvals (typically EAs for plan approvals).

It does NOT authorize any immediate activities (beyond ancillary activities under a lease) or approve any individual applications for plans or permits.



# Purpose of Scoping

**A Notice of Intent (NOI) starts the scoping process to collaborate with other agencies, organizations, and interested parties to define the range of issues and potential alternatives to be addressed in the environmental analysis.**

As we conduct scoping for this GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS, we are seeking your input to help:

- Identify significant environmental and socioeconomic issues related to OCS oil and gas leasing.
  - Provide new data or information on these resources for analysis.
  - Provide feedback on the proposed alternatives for analysis.
- Identify ways in which OCS oil and gas leasing has the potential to contribute to cumulative effects in the area.

# Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

**In September 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a goal of reaching 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030. In support of this goal, BOEM anticipates holding additional offshore wind energy lease sales in the foreseeable future.**

**The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) requires that offshore oil and gas lease sale(s) of at least 60 million acres must be provided in the 12-month period prior to the issuance of offshore wind energy leases.**

The proposed alternatives developed for this GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS consider the size of the lease sale area as it relates to these minimum acreage requirements.



# Proposed Alternative A

## Alternative A – No Action Alternative

- This alternative considers the effects of the cancellation of a single proposed Gulf of Mexico OCS oil and gas lease sale.
- 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 National OCS Oil and Gas Program would continue.



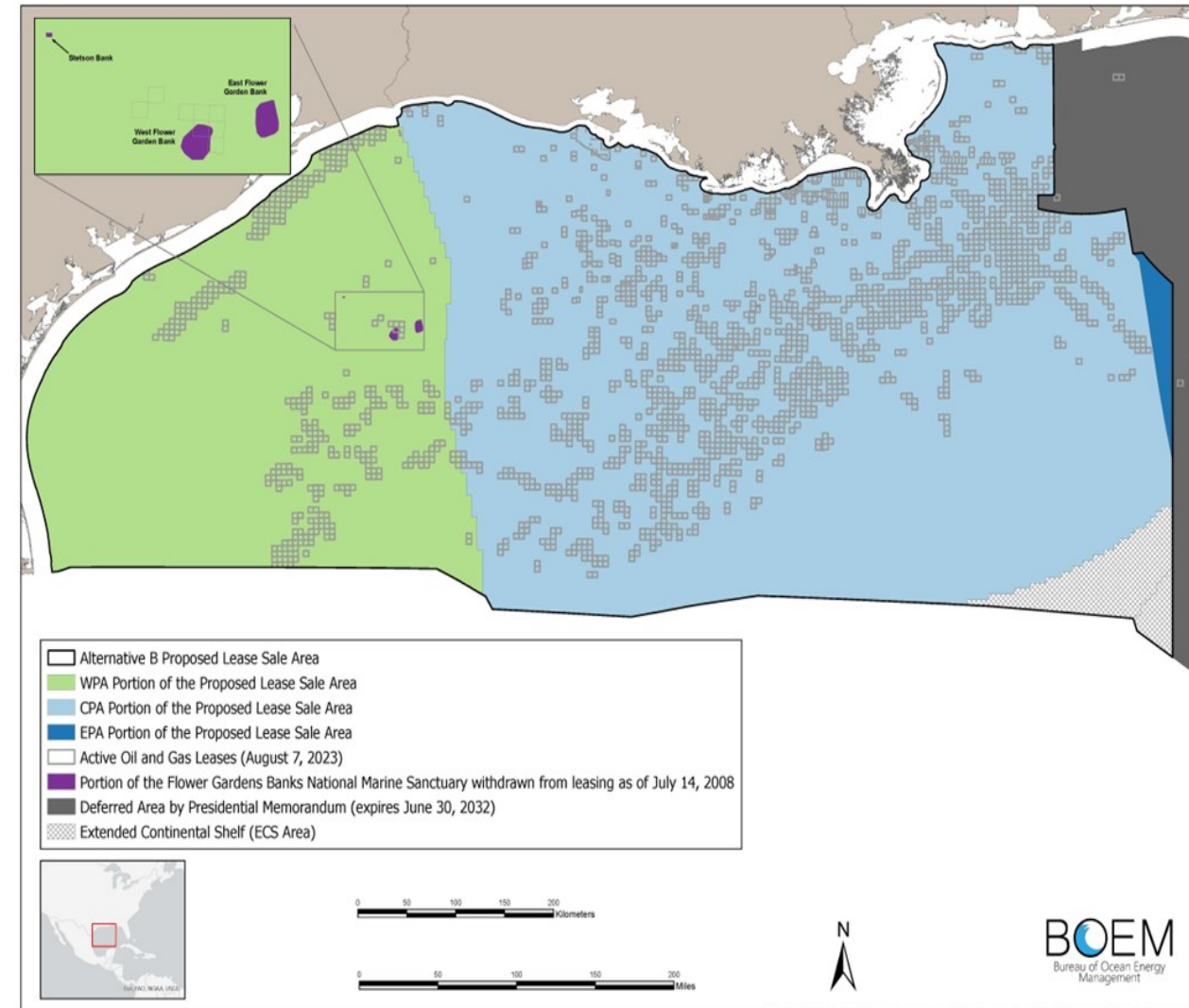
# Proposed Alternative B

**Alternative B would provide for a regionwide OCS lease sale area that would include all available unleased acreage in the GOM. It includes a lease sale area of more than 60 million acres to satisfy the IRA offshore wind leasing requirements.**

Preliminary Exclusion Areas include:

- whole and portions of blocks currently under Presidential withdrawal;
- blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (ECS Area); and
- whole and partial blocks within the boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks NMS as of July 2008.

**This alternative would rely on lease stipulations or other mitigating measures to reduce impacts to sensitive environmental areas.**

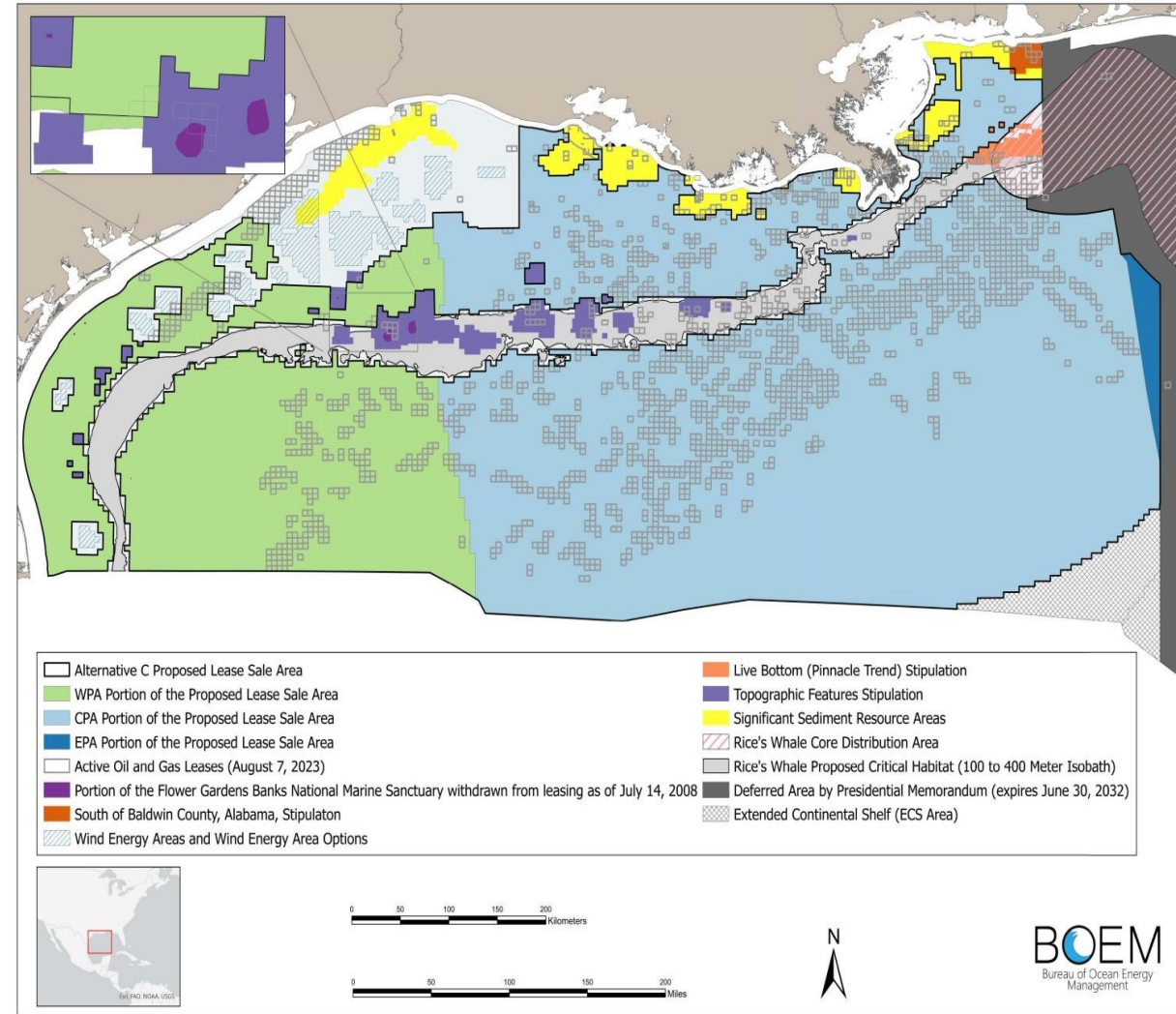


# Proposed Alternative C

Alternative C would provide a targeted lease sale area of more than 60 million acres to satisfy the IRA offshore wind leasing requirements.

## Preliminary Exclusions Areas include:

- all exclusions applicable to Alternative B;
- whole and partial blocks from the following Stipulations:
  - Topographic Features;
  - Live Bottom (Pinnacle Trend);
  - Blocks South of Baldwin County, Alabama;
- Significant Sediment Resource Areas;
- Wind Energy Area options and final Wind Energy Areas;
- whole and partial blocks within the Rice's whale Core Distribution Area; and
- whole and partial blocks within the Rice's whale proposed critical habitat (i.e., between the 100- to 400-m isobaths).



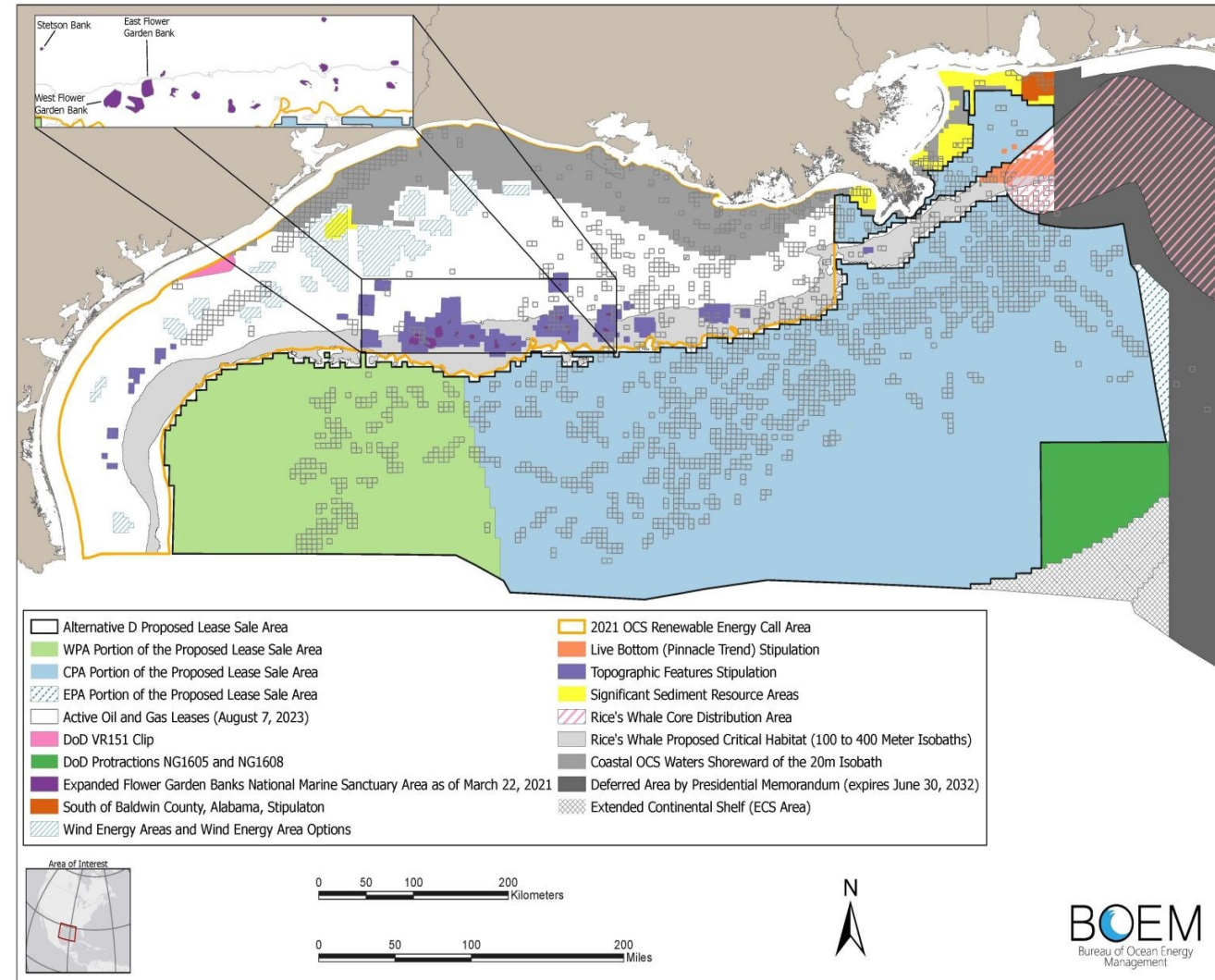
Office of Leasing and Plans-Mapping and Automation Section | MAS2023-289 | 14 August 2023

# Proposed Alternative D

**Alternative D does not provide for a lease sale area of at least 60 million acres. Therefore, this alternative would not on its own satisfy the IRA offshore wind leasing requirements.**

## Preliminary Exclusions Areas include:

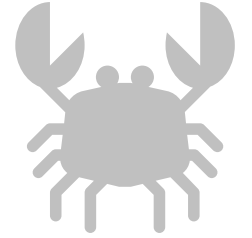
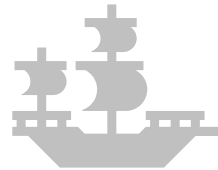
- all exclusions applicable to Alternatives B and C;
- whole and partial blocks in the EPA;
- Gulf of Mexico Wind Leasing Call Area;
- whole and partial blocks within the coastal OCS waters shoreward of the 20-m isobath;
- whole and partial blocks around the 2021 Expanded Flower Garden Banks NMS; and
- whole and partial blocks identified as Dept. of Defense Mission incompatibility areas.



# Preliminary List of Resources for Analysis

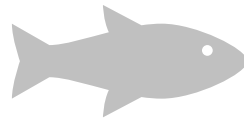
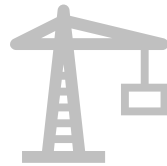
## Physical Resources

- Air Quality
- Water Quality



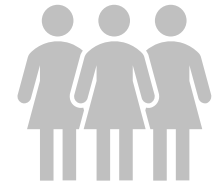
## Biological Resources

- Coastal Communities and Habitats
- Benthic Communities and Habitats
- Pelagic Communities and Habitats
- Fishes and Invertebrates
- Birds
- Marine Mammals
- Sea Turtles



## Social Resources

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



# Potential Effects of OCS Oil- and Gas-Related Activities and Programmatic Issues Considered for Analysis

## Potential Effects of OCS Oil- and Gas-Related Activities

- Air Emissions and Pollution
- Discharges and Wastes
- Bottom Disturbance
- Noise
- Coastal Land Use/Modification
- Lighting and Visual Impacts
- Offshore Habitat Modification
- Socioeconomic Changes and Drivers
- Unintended Releases into the Environment
- Response Activities
- Strikes and Collisions

## Programmatic Issues

- Climate Change
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Space-Use Conflicts
- Non-OCS Oil- and Gas-Related Activities
- Natural Processes



# Consultation and Coordination

- Endangered Species Act
- Essential Fish Habitat Assessment
- Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (Section 19)
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)
- Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation and Coordination



# Scoping Comments

Types of information we are seeking from you during scoping:

- What environmental resources could be affected by OCS oil- and gas-related activities?
- What do you think are the primary environmental issues of concern?
- Do you have any feedback on the preliminary exclusion areas identified in the proposed alternatives or additional alternatives to consider?
- Are there additional mitigating measures that should be considered to reduce environmental impacts?
- What additional scientific or technical information should BOEM include in its analysis?
- How can we improve our greenhouse gas modeling efforts?





# How to Provide Public Comments

## Comment opportunities during this process

Now! The Public Scoping Comment Period is open thru Wednesday, November 1, 2023.

\*\*\*\*\*

Following the issuance of the Draft Programmatic EIS, a 45-day comment period will be provided. The Draft Programmatic EIS is anticipated to be issued in the summer of 2024.

## How to submit comments during this Public Scoping Comment Period:

- Via [www.regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket ID BOEM-2023-0046
- Through oral testimony at this virtual public meeting

## For more information:

<https://www.boem.gov/Gulf-of-Mexico-Oil-and-Gas-PEIS>





**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# Greenhouse Gas Analysis

for the Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS

Virtual Public Scoping Meetings

New Orleans Office

October 2023

# GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Analysis

- **Quantitative analysis:**
  - GHG emissions from domestically consumed or produced energy
    - Full life cycle: upstream, mid- and downstream
    - Proposed Action vs No Action Alternative
  - Foreign oil's upstream and downstream GHG emissions
- **Qualitative analysis**
  - Foreign oil's midstream GHG emissions
  - All other foreign energy market substitutes' GHG emissions
- **New since last lease sale analysis:**
  - Foreign oil upstream GHG emissions estimates
  - Expanded discussion on uncertainty in modeling assumptions
  - Quantification of net-zero pathways' impact on energy market substitutions and estimates of GHG emissions.



# Components of BOEM's GHG Emissions Analysis

Emissions Source	Upstream	Midstream	Downstream
<b>Proposed Action:</b> new OCS oil and gas production from a single representative lease sale	Quantified	Quantified	Quantified
<b>No Action Alternative:</b> all domestically consumed substitutes of forgone OCS oil and gas production (onshore, gross imports, renewables, reduced domestic demand)	Quantified	Quantified	Quantified
<b>Foreign Oil Market Change:</b> due to a decrease in global oil prices under the Proposed Action	Quantified* (New since previous lease sale analysis)	Under consideration but unavailable at this time*	Quantified*
<b>Substitutes for Oil in Foreign Markets</b> (natural gas, coal, biofuels, renewables, reduced demand)	Not available at this time given available resources *	Not available at this time given available resources *	Not available at this time given available resources *

**Key:** \* = Foreign oil production and consumption are not modeled as dynamically as domestic oil production and consumption. The Market Simulation Model's (MarketSim) estimate of the shifts in foreign oil markets does not include cross-price effects. See [Memorandum: Capabilities of MarketSim and the OECM for the Estimation of GHG Emissions Impacts](#)

# GHG Analysis: Scoping Comments and Questions

- **Energy Market Substitutions:**
  - Are there any clarifications or additional questions BOEM can help answer regarding the concept of energy market substitution as it relates to the GHG emissions analysis?
- **BOEM's Foreign GHG Analysis:**
  - Are the differences between the analyses of domestic and foreign energy market GHG emissions clear? If not, what questions do you have?
- **Data Sources and Technical Information:**
  - Are there additional data sources or technical information that BOEM should consider in the analysis?



# BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy  
Management

[BOEM.gov](http://BOEM.gov)



**For media inquiries contact the New Orleans Office, Office of Communications**

**[john.filostrat@boem.gov](mailto:john.filostrat@boem.gov)**



**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# Clarifying Questions

---

Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic  
Environmental Impact Statement

# Clarifying Questions

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

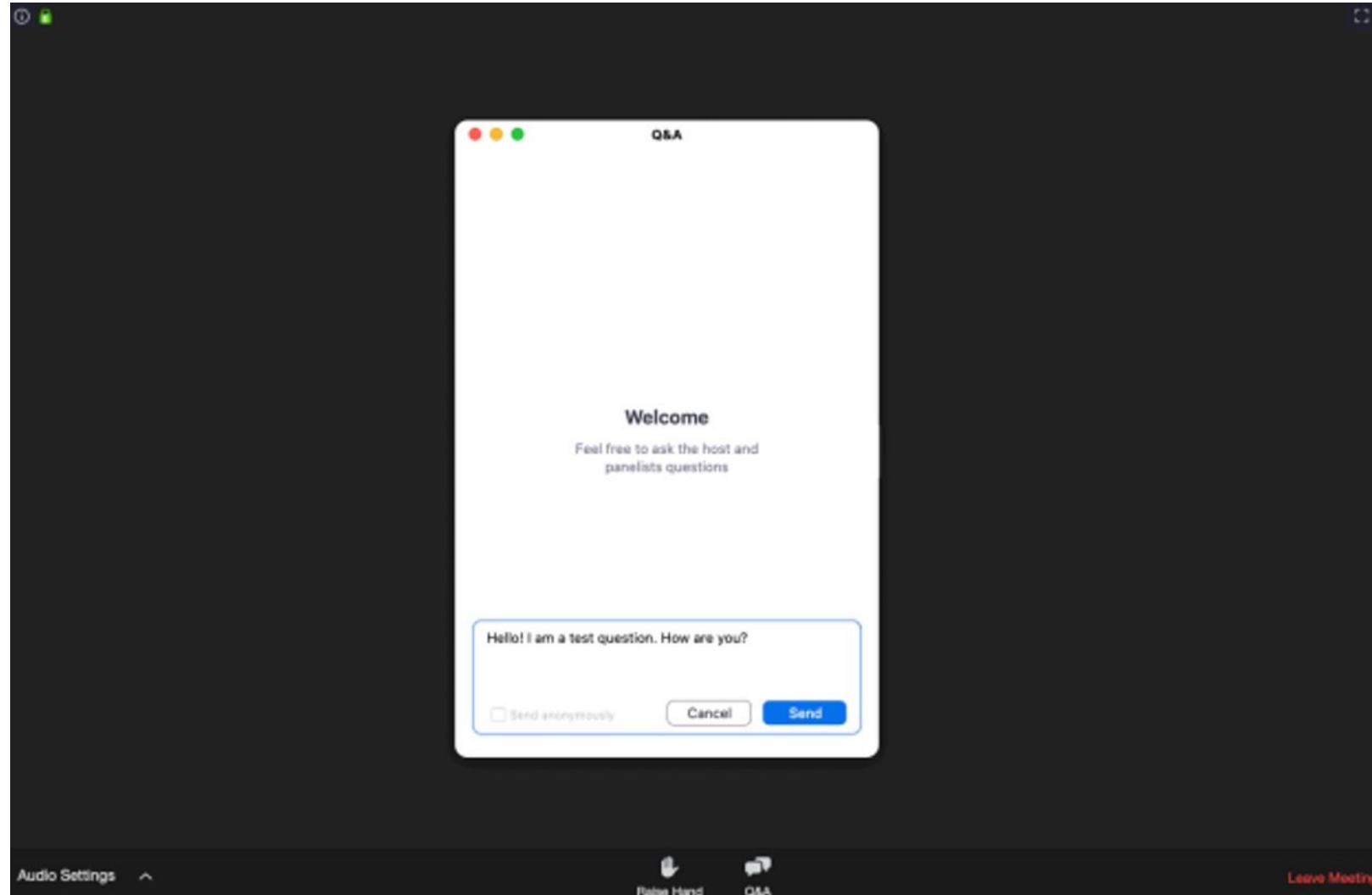
*Public comment on the Programmatic EIS will be received immediately following this Q&A session.*





# 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.






**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# Public Comment Opportunity

---

Scoping Comments on the Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Oil and  
Gas Programmatic EIS

# In-Meeting Public Comment Process

- **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, Sam Levy.**
- **If you leave and return, or lower and re-raise your hand, you will be placed at the end of the queue.**



# Public Comment – Programmatic EIS

- 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-2023-0046**





**BOEM** Bureau of  
Ocean Energy Management

# Thank You and Closing Remarks

---

John Filostrat  
BOEM Public Affairs

# BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy  
Management

[BOEM.gov](http://BOEM.gov)



**For media inquiries contact the New Orleans Office, Office of Communications**

**[john.filostrat@boem.gov](mailto:john.filostrat@boem.gov)**

# This meeting has adjourned

- This meeting has now adjourned.
- For more information on the Gulf of Mexico Regional Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, please visit the following webpage:  
<https://www.boem.gov/environment/environmental-assessment/gulf-mexico-regional-ocs-oil-and-gas-programmatic>
- To provide written public comment, please go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search for Docket ID: BOEM-2023-0046

