

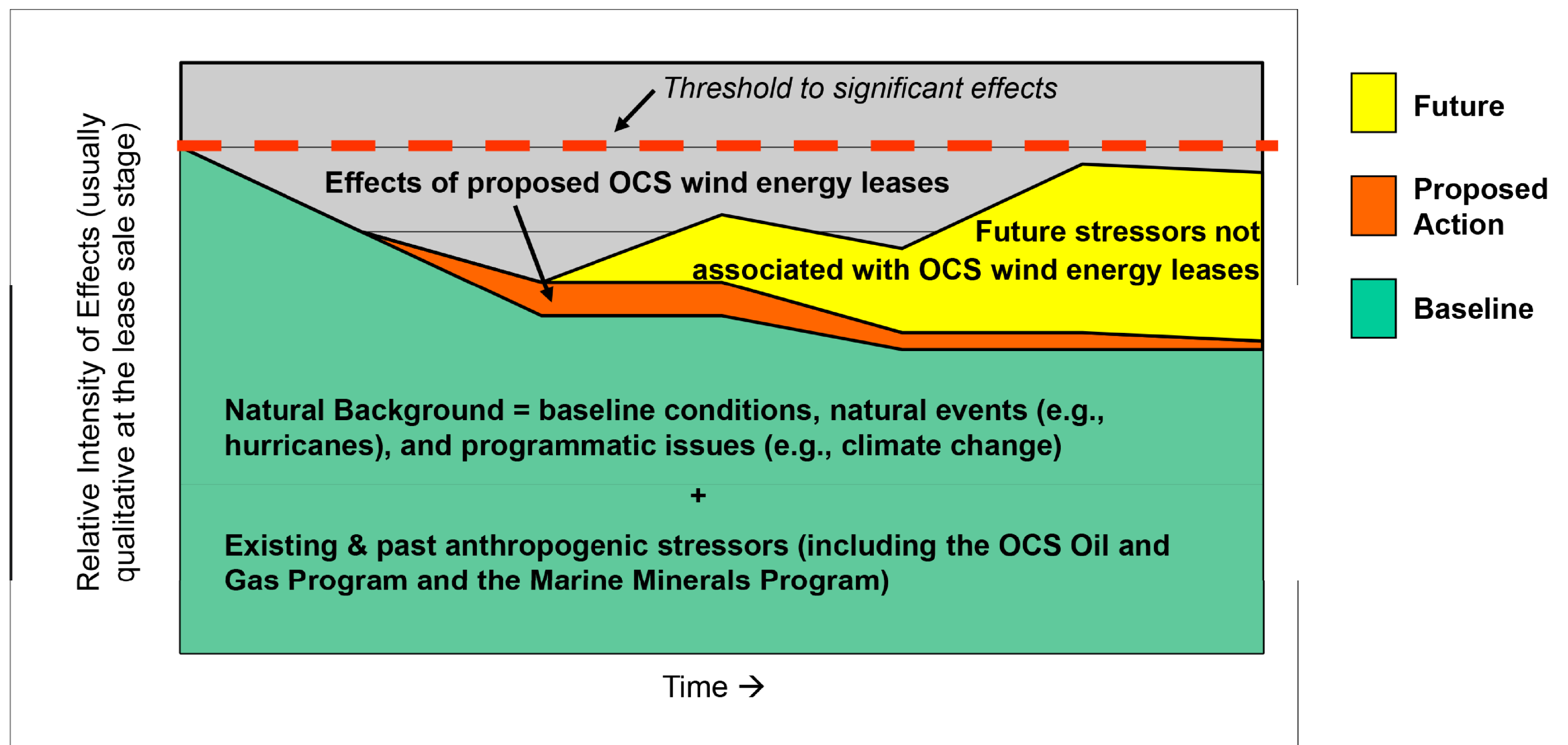


## GULF OF MEXICO CALL AREA

# Potential Impacts of Alternatives

## • Benthic Communities and Habitats and Fish and Invertebrates

BOEM analyzed the potential impacts of the Proposed Action in this EA. The analysis includes a description of the baseline conditions of the affected environment and the impacts of past and present stressors on each resource. The analysis also includes the potential incremental impacts of site assessment and site characterization activities on the resource and compares those potential impacts to the cumulative impacts affecting the resource (past, present, and foreseeable future activities in the Gulf of Mexico).



The figure to the left shows a visualization of the baseline environment (green), impacts of future activities not associated with OCS wind energy leases (yellow), and the potential impacts of the Proposed Action (orange). Cumulative impacts are the sum of the Proposed Action (orange), baseline environment (green), and impacts of future activities not associated with OCS wind energy leases (yellow).

The table below summarizes the potential impacts of site assessment and site characterization activities to Benthic Communities and Habitats and Fish and Invertebrates under Alternatives A, B, and C. Impacts from the Proposed Action were then compared to the cumulative impacts from the same impact producing factors (IPFs) for Benthic Communities and Habitats and Fish and Invertebrates to put those impacts into perspective.

### Magnitude of Potential Impact for Site Assessment and Site Characterization Activities

Resource	IPFs Impacting Resource	Range of Incremental Impacts for Site Characterization and Site Assessment Activities for a Single OCS Wind Energy Lease and 18 OCS Wind Energy Leases			
		Protective Measure	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B	Alternative C
Benthic Communities and Habitats	Bottom Disturbance	<b>Range of Impacts from All IPFs</b>			
		WITHOUT Protective Measures	None	Negligible to Minor	Negligible to Minor
		WITH Protective Measures	None	Negligible	Negligible
		<b>Range of Incremental Contribution of Impacts from All IPFs Compared to Cumulative Impacts</b>			
		WITHOUT Protective Measures	None	Negligible to Minor	Negligible to Minor
		WITH Protective Measures	None	Negligible	Negligible
Fish and Invertebrates	• Bottom Disturbance • Noise	<b>Range of Impacts from All IPFs</b>			
		WITHOUT Protective Measures	None	Negligible to Minor	Negligible to Minor
		WITH Protective Measures	None	Negligible	Negligible
		<b>Range of Incremental Contribution of Impacts from All IPFs Compared to Cumulative Impacts</b>			
		WITHOUT Protective Measures	None	Negligible to Minor	Negligible to Minor
		WITH Protective Measures	None	Negligible	Negligible

