

# U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

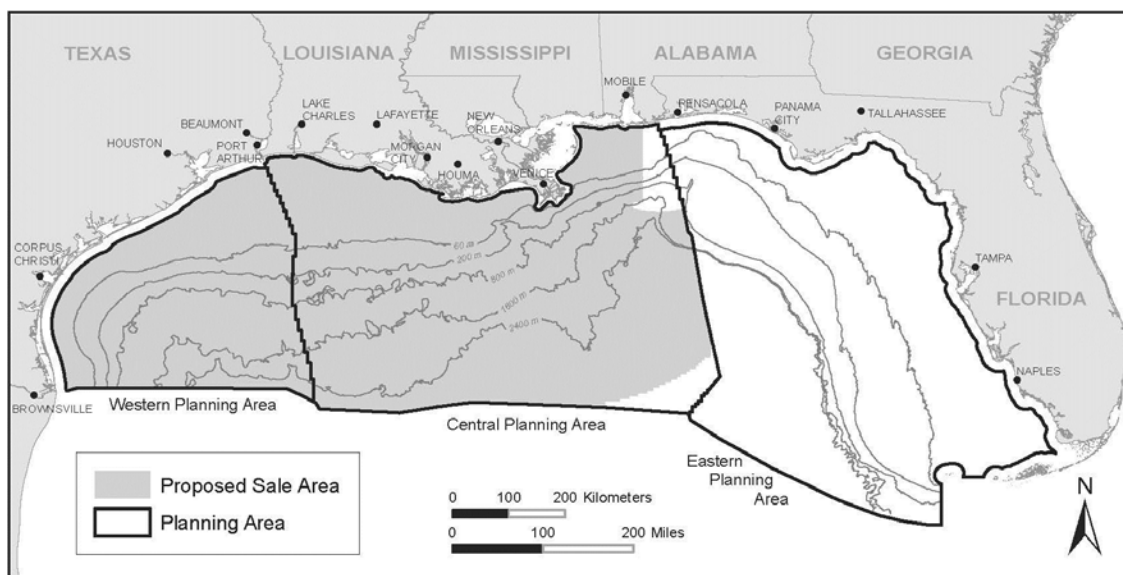
## *SPECIAL INFORMATION*

July 2012

### **BOEM Issues a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and an Opportunity for Scoping Comments for Proposed Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil and Gas Western Planning Area Lease Sale 233 and Central Planning Area Lease Sale 231**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) shall offer for oil and gas leasing approximately 28.58 million acres in the Western Planning Area (WPA) of the Gulf of Mexico, with the exception of whole and partial blocks within the boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and approximately 63 million acres of the total 66.45 million acres in the Central Planning Area (CPA) of the Gulf of Mexico, with the exception of whole and portions of blocks deferred by the Gulf of Mexico Security Act of 2006 and blocks that are beyond the United States Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap. Although the leasing of portions of the WPA and CPA (subareas or blocks) can be deferred during a Five-Year Program, DOI is conservative throughout the NEPA process and includes the total area within the Gulf of Mexico for environmental evaluation.

The BOEM published in the July 9, 2012, *Federal Register*, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The NOI seeks input on the scope of the Supplemental EIS, which will cover proposed WPA Lease Sale 233 and proposed CPA Lease Sale 231.



Federal, State, and local government agencies, and other interested parties are requested to send their technical comments on the scope of the Supplemental EIS, significant issues that should be addressed, and possible alternatives that should be considered. Written comments on the NOI should be received within 30 days following publication in the *Federal Register* in one of the following two ways:

1. In an envelope labeled “Comments on Scoping for the Supplemental EIS” to Mr. Gary D. Goeke, Chief, Regional Assessment Section, Office of Environment (Mail Stop GM 623E), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394.
2. BOEM email address: [LS\\_233-231SEIS@boem.gov](mailto:LS_233-231SEIS@boem.gov).

If you have questions, you may call Mr. Goeke at (504) 736-3233.