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# A Regulatory Agency Perspective on Anthropogenic Noise and Marine Mammals



## Minerals Management Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

### MMS Role

MMS regulates the oil and gas industry and non-energy mineral extraction.

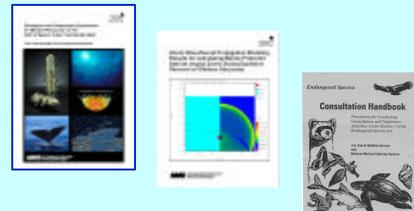
### MMS Responsibility

To achieve a “balance” between mineral resource development and protecting the environment.

### Sources of Noise Related to OCS Activities



### Risk Assessment Environmental Analysis, Modeling, Consultations



### Environmental Monitoring

Section 20(b), Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978

Requires the Secretary of the Interior to monitor the human, marine, and coastal environments of areas to be leased or developed for offshore oil and gas resources

### Monitoring Program

- Baseline Information
- Effects of Activities
- Effectiveness of Mitigation
- Compliance with Regulations

### Mitigation Requirements

- ESA Biological Opinions
- MMPA Authorizations & Regulations
- EFH Conservation Recommendations
- Lease Stipulations
- MMS Operating Regulations
- Project Specific Requirements or Approval Conditions
- Notices to Lessees and Operators

### Mitigation for Seismic Surveys in the Gulf of Mexico

- NTL 2004-G01 (3/04)
- Ramp-up Procedures
- 500-meter Exclusion Zone
- Visual Observers
- Shut Down and Power Down
- Reporting Requirements
- Experimental Passive Acoustic Monitoring



### Mitigation for Explosive Removals in the Gulf of Mexico

- NTL 2004-G06 (4/04)
- Visual Observers
- Aerial Surveys
- 1,000-yard Exclusion Zone
- Night-time Restrictions
- 50 lbs/Detonation Limitations
- Reporting Requirements

