

Marine Mammal Commission 2014 Annual Meeting



Offshore Energy Development

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May 6, 2014 Washington D.C.



Impact Producing Factors

Oil and gas, wind, and marine mineral mining all have environmental impacts.









Environmental Evaluation Oil and Gas





Mitigation

Mitigation includes:

- Avoiding impacts
- Minimizing impacts
- Rectifying impacts through restoration
- Compensating for the impact







Pacific Region

Renewable Energy Program

- Wind Float Pacific Project offshore of Coos Bay, Oregon
- Pacific Marine Energy
 Center South Energy
 Test Site offshore of
 Newport, Oregon



Five-Year Oil and Gas Lease Program for 2012 to 2017

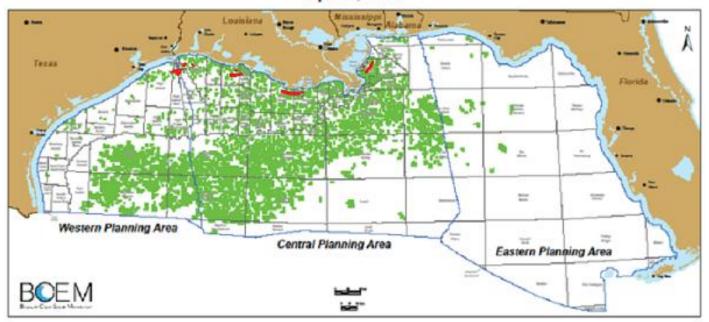
- No lease sales proposed
- Most recent lease sale: 1984

No pending mineral resource projects in the Pacific Region



Gulf of Mexico: Oil and Gas Leasing 2012-2017

BOEM Gulf of Mexico OCS Region Blocks and Active Leases by Planning Area April 1, 2014



Western GOM: 5 lease sales

beginning in 2012

Central GOM: 5 lease sales beginning in 2013

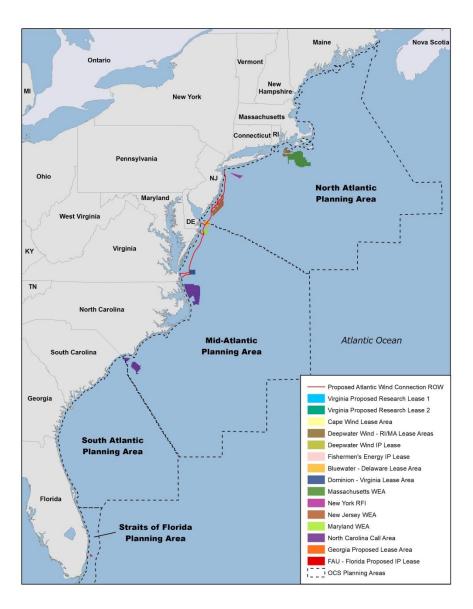
Eastern GOM: 2 lease sales in 2014 and 2016

OCS Areas with Significant Sediment Resources Highlighted in Red

No pending Renewable Energy Projects in the GOM



Atlantic Coast: Renewable Energy Program



BOEM held its first two offshore wind lease sales in 2013:

- Rhode Island/Massachusetts 2 leases issued to Deepwater Wind
- Virginia 1 lease issued to Dominion
 Virginia Power

BOEM is currently deciding whether to permit seismic surveys for O&G in the mid- and south Atlantic planning areas

BOEM permits mineral resource use in the OCS, primarily dredging for coastal restoration



Selected Studies: Protected Species and Noise

- Sperm Whale Acoustic Prey Study (SWAPS)
- Improving Cetacean Electronic Data Loggers
- Opportunistic Study of Hearing in Sea Otters



- Sperm Whales and their Response to seismic exploration in the GOM (SWSS)
- Characterization and Potential Impacts of Noise Producing Construction and Operation Activities on the OCS (Parts Tand II)
- Evaluating Acoustic Technologies to Monitor Aquatic Organisms at Renewable sites
- Pressure Wave and Acoustic Properties Generated by the Explosive Removal of Offshore Structures



Additional Selected Studies

- Marine Mammal and Seabird Surveys of Potential Alternative Energy Sites Offshore Northern California, Oregon, and Washington
- Describing Biologically Significant Marine Mammal Behavior (NOPP)
- COMIDA: Factors Affecting the Distribution and Relative Abundance of Endangered Whales
- Demography and Behavior of Polar Bears Summering onshore in Alaska
- A Marine Biogeographic Assessment of the Main Hawaiian Islands
- Sperm Whales and Bottlenose Dolphins in the GOM
- Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas





Recent Workshops and Partnerships

- Workshop: Marine Mammals and Sound, 2010 (BOEM, NOAA and Navy)
- Workshop Science Foundations for Ocean Planning in Hawaii: Human Use and Habitat Characterization, 2012
- Workshop Quieting Technologies for Reducing Noise during Seismic Surveying and Pile Driving Workshop, 2013
- DOI/DoD MOU on Renewable Energy and Renewable Energy Partnership Plan-Offshore Wind Energy Plan
- BOEM/FERC MOU on Renewable Energy Hydrokinetic Installations Pacific Region
- OCS Renewable Energy Task Forces: Hawaii, Oregon, and Atlantic





Continuing Partnerships: AMAPPS

Atlantic Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species

Phase I Study Summary: 2010 - 2015

- Conducted broad scale surveys
- Developed spatially explicit models
- Tagged loggerhead sea turtles

Phase II Study Objectives: 2015 - 2019

- Continue core survey work
- Integrate and cross-validate fine-scale and broad-scale survey results
- Tag seabirds, cetaceans and seals
- Incorporate passive acoustic survey and large whale monitoring efforts
- Analytical and modeling results from the first phase of AMAPPS will inform which topics to prioritize during the next 5 year phase











New Partnerships: MARES Marine Arctic Ecosystem Study

- Address integrated ecosystem dynamics & monitoring through coordinated observational & modeling efforts
- Focus on the Beaufort Sea
- Facilitate the incorporation of technological innovations through
 TFORT
- Aligns with the National Ocean Policy, the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee's 5-year research priorities and USGS report recommendations

























Thank You!



