

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) manages the development of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. The bureau promotes energy independence, environmental protection, and economic development through responsible, science-based management of energy and mineral resources on the OCS.

Overview

BOEM is responsible for stewardship of our nation's offshore energy resources, as well as protecting the environment that the development of those resources could impact.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, offshore federal production reached approximately 603 million barrels of oil and 767 billion cubic feet of gas. This accounted for about 15 percent of all domestic oil production and about two percent of domestic natural gas production.¹ About 500 of the 2000 active leases in the Gulf are producing oil and gas.

BOEM estimates that there are undiscovered oil and gas fields totaling about 69 billion barrels of oil and 229 trillion cubic feet of gas.²

National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

The OCS Lands Act gives BOEM the authority to grant leases for the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas on the OCS. It also requires that BOEM prepare, periodically revise, and maintain a National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program).



The National OCS Program establishes a schedule of oil and gas lease sales for the U.S. OCS after consideration and analysis of all 26 planning areas. The schedule specifies the size, timing, and location of potential leasing activity to best meet the nation's energy needs for the five-year period under consideration. The program considers potential environmental damage, oil and gas discovery, and adverse impacts on the coastal zone. It also assures that U.S. taxpayers receive fair market value for the rights to produce OCS energy and mineral resources.

Development of a new program typically takes at least two years to complete and includes multiple proposals and opportunities for public involvement, including live virtual public meetings where the public can speak directly to BOEM staff about the National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. To learn more about this multi-phase process, visit: <https://www.boem.gov/National-OCS-Program/>.

BOEM has a number of other responsibilities relating to offshore oil and gas, including the following:



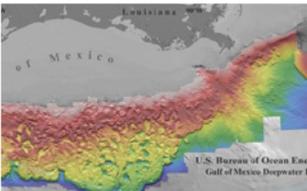
Resource Evaluation – Conduct resource evaluation through critical geologic and economic analysis to identify areas of the OCS that could be prospective for oil and gas development. Maintain a comprehensive inventory of both discovered oil and gas reserves and undiscovered technically and economically recoverable resources on the OCS.



Exploration and Development Plans – Conduct in-depth review of exploration plans and development and production plans to ensure compliance with laws, regulations, and lease terms.



Energy Economics – Conduct analyses to evaluate and implement policies relating to lease terms, bidding systems, auction designs, operating conditions, and rulemaking.



Mapping and Data – Create, maintain, and provide OCS maps and data, such as OCS blocks and administrative boundaries between adjoining coastal states. Manage, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the MarineCadastre.gov and Ocean Reports, an integrated marine information system providing authoritative data to meet the needs of the offshore energy and marine planning communities along with tools that can help reduce ocean use conflicts.



Risk Management – Require proper financial assurance from OCS energy lessees to guarantee that their regulatory obligations are satisfied and ensure the American taxpayer is not responsible for shouldering the liability for decommissioning existing or future facilities on the OCS.

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of the 2000
active leases
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¹Source FY23 Budget Justifications: <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/fy2023-boem-greenbook.pdf>

²2021 National Assessment: www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/oil-gas-energy/2021-NA_1.pdf

For More Information:

<https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy>

