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Page #	Break-out	Title	Rank
125	BIO	Explosive Removal of Structures: Fisheries Impact Assessment	1
<p>PO = Physical Oceanography      FE = Fate &amp; Effect      BIO = Biology            PS = Protected Species      SE = Social &amp; Economic      OT = Other</p>			



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## **BOEM Information Need:**

- NEPA Biology & SocioEconomics - Effects on fish stocks and commercial/recreational fisheries
- EFH Consultations; Council comments
- Decommissioning policy (EA)



## **Date Information is Required:**

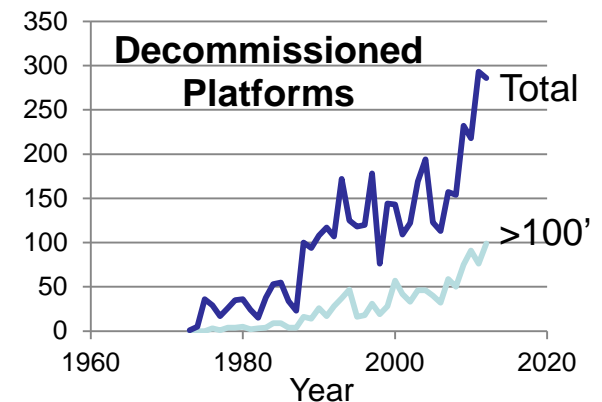
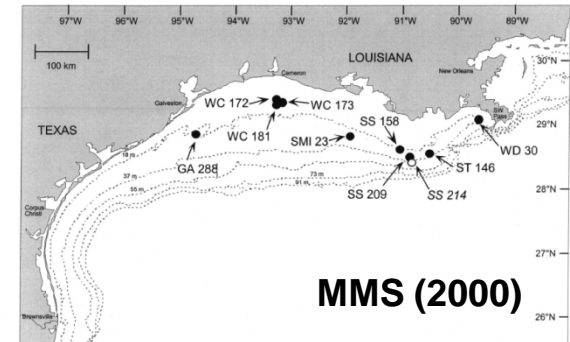
- GoM Multisale 2017-2022 EIS
- Analyses and management decisions are based on information formulated using variables that may no longer suit current operational parameters



**Background:**

**A) Relationship with Previous Work/Efforts**

- ~20 years since explosive impacts were assessed (MMS 2000)
- Current activity significantly different than in past
  - Fewer structures on the OCS; decreased habitat
  - Increased removal rate (~3x)
  - ~4x increase in removals >100 ft
- Stock statuses have changed, as have harvest rates



## Background:

### **B) Relationship with Concurrent/Future Efforts**

- Study – “Pressure Wave & Acoustic Properties (PWAP) Generated by Explosive Removal” currently underway
- Anecdotal evidence suggests political and public opinion are less tolerant of imprecise impact estimates
- Social and economic costs of increased decommissioning activities are unknown



**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**  
*Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico*

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24 April 2013

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Jewell,

The Gulf of Mexico supports recreational and commercial fisheries of immense economic, cultural, and social value. Reef fishes including prized species such as red snapper, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish are common inhabitants around petroleum platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. Moreover, these species are currently considered overfished by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and stock rebuilding plans are in progress. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management



## **Study's Objectives:**

- 1) Estimate mortality of commercially and recreationally valuable fishes due to explosive decommissioning
- 2) Estimate potential impacts to commercial and recreational fisheries in terms of lost opportunity, income or future access
- 3) Obtain data for impact analyses of OCS activities to inform management decisions and policies governing the responsible development of OCS resources

## **Study's Methods:**

- Five-year study with 3 field sampling years (~May-October)
- Annually sample multiple decommissioning events for coastal (0-30 m), offshore (30-60 m) & blue water zones (>60 m)
- Use biomass estimates pre- and post-activity, ROV observation and meristic data to characterize assemblages and estimate mortality
- Model mortality for species of interest, incorporating spatial and temporal variation in removal activities

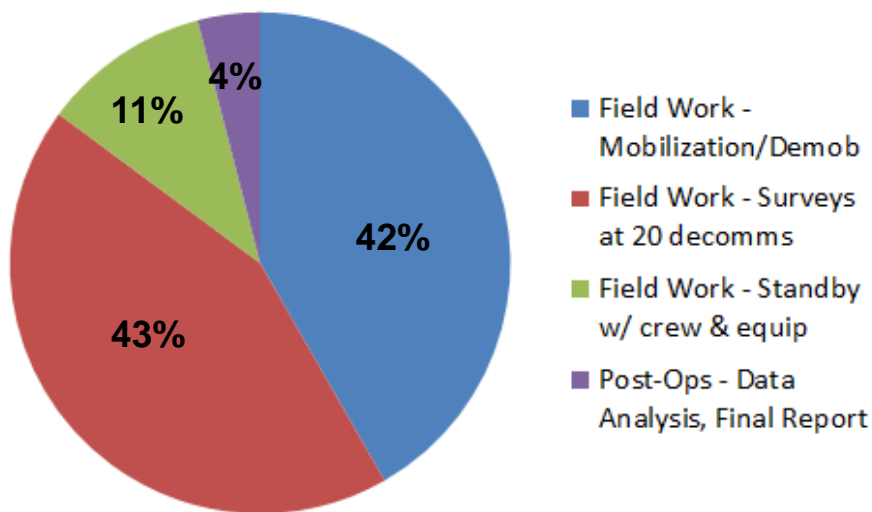


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**Tentative Ranking: 1**

## **Additional *Pertinent* Information**

- Whole characterization of assemblage – will benefit from new technologies
- \$3M estimated for study, as follows:



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**Tentative Ranking: 1**