



# ***Proposed Notice of Sale Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 256***



## ***Information to Lessees***

This document contains Information to Lessees (ITL) clauses designed to inform potential bidders of select applicable Federal requirements and other information that may be of benefit to bidders participating in this sale.

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**(1) Navigation Safety**

Bidders and lessees are advised that operations on certain blocks offered for lease may be restricted by the designation of fairways, precautionary zones, anchorages, safety zones, or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) pursuant to the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 United States Code [U.S.C.] §§ 1221-1236), as amended, and the Deepwater Port Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1501-1524), as amended.

Bidders and lessees are advised to review the USCG regulations at 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 150, including 33 CFR 150.940, “Safety zones for specific deepwater ports,” and the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port Safety Zones, included in Appendix A of 33 CFR part 150. Bidders and lessees also are advised to review the USCG regulations at 33 CFR part 147, “Safety Zones.” These regulations establish a 500-meter (1,640-foot) safety zone around several oil and gas production facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), measured from each point on its outer edge or from its construction site, so as not to interfere with the use of recognized sea lanes essential to navigation. These regulations prevent all vessels from entering or remaining in the safety zones except as follows: (1) an attending vessel, (2) a vessel less than 100 feet in length overall not engaged in towing, (3) a vessel authorized by the Eighth Coast Guard District Commander, or (4) as otherwise specified in the regulations. These facilities and their locations are specifically identified in 33 CFR part 147.

For additional information, contact the USCG Waterways Management Division, Sector New Orleans, 200 Hendee Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114, or at (504) 365-2280.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permits are required for construction of any artificial islands, installations, and other devices permanently or temporarily attached to the seabed on the OCS in accordance with Section 4(e) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1331 *et seq.*), as amended. For additional information, contact Mr. Martin Mayer, USACE, Regulatory Section Chief, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267, or at (504) 862-2255.

**(2) Ordnance Disposal Areas**

Bidders and lessees are advised of the following ordnance disposal areas. Exploration and development activities in these areas require precautions commensurate with the potential hazards.

**Western Planning Area (WPA)**

There are two inactive ordnance disposal areas in the Corpus Christi and East Breaks areas, as shown on the map “Gulf of Mexico, Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 256, November 2020, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks” included in the Proposed NOS package. These areas were used to dispose of ordnance of unknown composition and quantity. These areas have not been used for ordnance disposal since 1970. Water depths in the Corpus Christi area range from approximately 600 to 900 meters. Water depths in the East Breaks area range from approximately 300 to 700 meters. Bottom sediments in both areas are generally soft, consisting of silty clays.

### Central Planning Area (CPA)

Two known inactive ordnance disposal areas are in Mississippi Canyon, as shown on the map “Gulf of Mexico, Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 256, November 2020, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks” included in the Proposed NOS package. These areas were used to dispose of ordnance of unknown quantity and composition in approximate water depths of 750 to 1,525 meters. Bottom sediments in both disposal areas are soft, consisting of silty clays.

### Eastern and Central Planning Areas

The U.S. Air Force (USAF) has also released an indeterminable amount of unexploded ordnance throughout Eglin Water Test Areas (EWTAs) 1, 2, 3, and 4. The exact location of unexploded ordnance is unknown. The EWTAs are identified on the map “Gulf of Mexico, Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 256, November 2020, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks” included in the Proposed NOS package. Bidders and lessees are advised that all lease blocks within these water test areas should be considered potentially hazardous for drilling and platform/pipeline placement.

### (3) Existing and Proposed Artificial Reefs/Rigs-to-Reefs

Bidders and lessees are advised that there are OCS artificial reef planning and general permit areas for the Gulf of Mexico Region (GOMR), in which reef sites are or may be established for use by applicable state Rigs-to-Reefs programs. Rigs-to-Reefs proposals for reefing oil and gas structures must be accepted by the appropriate state and approved by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). The State Artificial Reef program developing a reef site must also obtain a permit from the USACE. Each state’s Artificial Reefs/Rigs-to-Reefs program is managed under that state’s Artificial Reef Plan. For more information, see the contact information in **Table 1**.

**Table 1. Contacts for State Artificial Reefs/Rigs-to-Reefs Programs**

State	Coordinator	Phone	URL
Alabama	Craig Newton	(251) 861-2882	<a href="http://www.outdooralabama.com/artificial-reefs">http://www.outdooralabama.com/artificial-reefs</a>
Florida	Keith Mille	(850) 617-9633	<a href="http://myfwc.com/conservation/saltwater/artificial-reefs">http://myfwc.com/conservation/saltwater/artificial-reefs</a>
Louisiana	Mike McDonough	(225) 763-5418	<a href="http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/artificial-reef-program">http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/artificial-reef-program</a>
Mississippi	Travis Williams	(228) 523-4110	<a href="http://www.dmr.ms.gov/marine-fisheries/artificial-reef">http://www.dmr.ms.gov/marine-fisheries/artificial-reef</a>
Texas	Dale Shively	(512) 389-4686	<a href="http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/habitats/artificial_reef/">http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/habitats/artificial_reef/</a> Note: use Google Chrome to view.

### (4) Lightering Zones

Bidders and lessees are advised that the USCG has designated certain areas of the OCS as lightering zones for the purpose of permitting single hull vessels to offload oil within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. Such designation may have implications for oil and gas operations in

the areas. See 33 CFR 156.300-330 for the regulations concerning lightering zones. For more information, contact Lieutenant Commander Ben Kerbs, USCG Attorney Advisor, Eighth District Waterways Management Division, at (504) 671-2033, or via email at [benjamin.j.kerbs@uscg.mil](mailto:benjamin.j.kerbs@uscg.mil).

#### **(5) Indicated Hydrocarbons List**

Bidders and lessees are advised that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) makes available, approximately 3 months prior to a lease sale, a list of unleased blocks in the Central, Western, and Eastern planning areas that have wellbores with indicated hydrocarbons. Information relating to production, wellbores, and pay range for each block is included (see BOEM's website at <http://www.boem.gov/Oil-and-Gas-Energy-Program/Resource-Evaluation/Gulf-OCS-Region-Activities/Indicated-Hydrocarbon-List.aspx>). Bidders and lessees should be aware that prior lessees on these lease blocks may have continuing rights and obligations with respect to the wells and infrastructure developed under the prior lessee's lease, for at least a year after termination of the prior lessee's lease (see 30 CFR part 250, subpart Q). Lessees seeking the right to use preexisting platforms, pipelines, wells, or other infrastructure on a lease block must first obtain BSEE approval, and, in the event the request is made within the time BSEE authorizes for the completion of decommissioning, the express consent of the prior lessee. Bidders should also refer to 30 CFR 250.1702 for the circumstances under which lessees accrue decommissioning liabilities, including, but not limited to, when re-entering wells that previously were plugged.

#### **(6) Military Areas**

Bidders and lessees are advised that Stipulation No. 1, Military Areas, found within the document "Lease Stipulations" included in the Proposed NOS package, applies to leases in any new Military Warning and Water Test Areas that may be established by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and any blocks that previously were subject to the stipulation. Military Warning and Water Test Areas are established in the FAA Air Traffic Document JO 7400.10B, "Title 14-Aeronautics and Space - Chapter 1 Federal Aviation Administration - Subchapter Airspace - Part 73 - Special Use Airspace Regulatory and Non-regulatory." This document can be downloaded from the FAA website at:

[https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Order/Order\\_7400.10B\\_Special\\_Use\\_Airspace\\_-\\_with\\_Digital\\_Signature\\_Box\\_\(003\).pdf](https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Order/Order_7400.10B_Special_Use_Airspace_-_with_Digital_Signature_Box_(003).pdf) The stipulation also applies to the EWTAs established by the agreement between the USAF (Eglin Air Force Base) and the FAA. The lease sale area for GOM Region-wide Sale 256 includes all or portions of EWTAs 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The lessee is responsible for establishing and maintaining contact and coordinating with the military commander(s) in any Military Warning and Water Test Area in which operations, radio communications, or other traffic is planned during the occupation and development of any lease, including boat, ship, or aircraft traffic that passes through a Military Warning and Water Test Area to a leased block that is not in a Military Warning and Water Test Area. BOEM recommends lessees establish and maintain contact, and coordinate with the appropriate military commander(s), whether their lease is subject to a Military Areas Stipulation. For more information, contact:

Federal Aviation Administration - Airspace Office  
Houston Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC)

Attention: Mike McGee  
16600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77032  
Telephone: (281) 230-5563 (mission support for daily schedules)  
Telephone: (281) 230-5520 (operations support for procedural updates and information)

BOEM advises lessees to refer to the most current Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) on Military Warning and Water Test Areas, NTL No. 2014-G04: “Military Warning and Water Test Areas,” available on BOEM’s website at <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-NTL-No-2014-G04/> or from BOEM’s Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Office.

**(7) Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Inspection and Enforcement of Certain U.S. Coast Guard Regulations**

Lessees are advised to review the USCG regulations at 33 CFR part 140, subpart B “Inspections.” These regulations authorize BSEE to perform inspections on fixed OCS facilities engaged in OCS oil and gas activities and to enforce USCG regulations applicable to those facilities in accordance with 33 CFR subchapter N parts 140-147. For more information, contact the Prevention Department, USCG Sector New Orleans, at 200 Hendee Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70114, or at (504) 365-2240.

**(8) Significant Outer Continental Shelf Sediment Resource Areas**

Bidders and lessees are advised that BOEM has designated lease blocks in the GOMR as Significant OCS Sediment Resource areas. OCS sediment resources are sediment deposits composed of minerals with a range of particle sizes (including clay, silt, sand, and gravel) and shell pieces found on or below the surface of the OCS seabed. BOEM has implemented measures to prevent obstructions to the use of the most Significant OCS Sediment Resources, reduce multiple use conflicts, and minimize interference with oil and gas operations. For the most current listing of Significant OCS Sediment Resource blocks, see <http://www.boem.gov/Non-Energy-Minerals/Managing-Multiple-Uses-in-the-Gulf-of-Mexico.aspx>.

BOEM advises lessees to refer to the most current NTL for obligations regarding Significant OCS Sediment Resources. The most recent NTL, No. 2009-G04, “Significant OCS Sediment Resources in the GOM,” can be accessed on BOEM’s website at <http://www.boem.gov/Regulations/Notices-To-Lessees/Notices-to-Lessees-and-Operators.aspx>. NTL No. 2009-G04 states the following:

If it is determined that significant OCS sediment resources may be impacted by a proposed activity, the BOEM/BSEE Gulf of Mexico Region may require you to undertake measures deemed economically, environmentally, and technically feasible to protect the resources to the maximum extent practicable. Measures may include modification of operations and monitoring of pipeline locations after installation.

BSEE will not approve future requests for in-place decommissioning of pipelines in these designated areas unless the BSEE GOM Regional Supervisor determines that the pipeline does not constitute a hazard (obstruction) to navigation and commercial fishing operations, unduly

interfere with other uses of the OCS, or have adverse environmental effects. If it is deemed necessary, pipelines previously decommissioned in place may be required to be removed if the BSEE GOM Regional Supervisor determines that the pipeline is an obstruction.

There is potential for offshore dredging activities involving excavation and transportation of OCS minerals for beach nourishment and coastal restoration projects in some of the blocks listed below. Sediment transport corridors and staging areas may extend beyond the listed blocks and into state waters. **Table 2** represents those areas designated at the time of publication and new blocks may be added or removed based on new information.

**Table 2. OCS Blocks with Significant OCS Sediment Resources**

Area	OCS Blocks
<b>Western Planning Area</b>	
Sabine Pass Area	10, 16, 17, 40, 44
High Island Area	17, 37-39, 45-49, 70-76, 84-90, 114, 115, 136, 158-160, 171-174, 198-204, 231-234, A7-A9, A16-A22, A37-A39
West Cameron, West Addition	157
<b>Central Planning Area</b>	
Breton Sound	41-44, 53-56
Chandeleur	30-34
Main Pass	42-44, 86-90, 92-114, 118-120
Main Pass, South and East Addition	161, 162, 180, 181
Sabine Pass Area	11-15
West Cameron Area	20-22, 43-45, 56-58, 90-93, 113-118, 128-134, 146-150, 168-172
West Cameron, West Addition	155, 156, 162
Vermilion Area	11, 30, 51-54, 68-77, 86-96, 108-111
South Marsh Island, North Addition	207-237, 241-249, 259-261
Eugene Island Area	10, 18-35, 37-69, 71-93
Ship Shoal Area	64, 71-75, 84-100, 107-110
South Pelto Area	6-15, 17-20
West Delta Area	20-31, 43-50, 56-61
Mobile	765-767, 778-779, 809-830, 853-874, 897-918, 954-962, 999-1006
Viosca Knoll	34-38, 78-82
<b>Eastern Planning Area</b>	

Area	OCS Blocks
Charlotte Harbor	518, 561-563, 605-607, 649-653, 701, 744-746, 788-790, 832-834, 875-878, 919-922, 964-966, 1011
Destin Dome	1-7, 45-51
Miami (MA)	89, 269-271
St. Petersburg	19-21, 65, 417-418, 461-463, 506-508, 775, 820, 864
Pensacola	751-754, 793-798, 837-842, 881-886, 925-930, 969-975
Pulley Ridge	43, 87
Tarpon Springs	810-812, 854-856, 899, 900, 987-989

### Potential Areas with Active Sediment Dredging

BOEM is partnering with the Coastal Protection Restoration Authority in the development and design phase of the East Timbalier Island (TE-118) and Terrebonne Basin (TE-143) projects. These islands have been severely degraded due to the impacts of several strong storms, subsidence and other factors. The projects are critical to maintaining lower wave-energy environments in eastern Terrebonne Basin, which protects fragile interior marshes and infrastructure and provides quiescent bay habitats preferred by many fish and invertebrate species. In addition, the islands provide critical beach, dune, and marsh habitat in isolation from the human disturbances that typically impact many Gulf Coast barrier islands. The proposed borrow areas for these projects are from the Ship Shoal in South Pelto Area Blocks 12-14.

St. Bernard Shoals in Chandeleur Area, Blocks 30-34, Main Pass Area, Blocks 86-90, 92-114, and 118-120, and Main Pass Area South and East Addition, Blocks 161, 162, 180, and 181, have been identified as possible sediment sources for the restoration of Breton and Chandeleur Islands.

In 2010, the USACE released the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) ecosystem restoration plan, which proposed the use of 60 million cubic yards (mcy) of OCS sediment for barrier island and headland restoration. Potential sediment sources included the Ship, Tiger, and Trinity Shoals. The State of Louisiana has begun building the projects because the LCA has been unfunded by the USACE. Louisiana has invested hundreds of millions of dollars over the past 2 decades to restore its barrier islands and shorelines and plans to continue to invest in rebuilding these features. The 2017 Louisiana Comprehensive Master Plan includes nearly \$18 billion for marsh creation using dredged material. One and a half billion dollars of the \$25 billion Louisiana restoration budget has been identified to fund the Barrier Island Program, which includes restoring the Terrebonne, Timbalier, and Barataria barrier islands and shorelines as part of a regular rebuilding program.

The USACE Mobile District and BOEM entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the use of OCS sediment for barrier island restoration in Mississippi as part of the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program along the Gulf Islands National Seashore in December 2016. OCS sediment identified for the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program includes a borrow area in the Mobile Area, including Blocks 812-820, 856-864, and 902-908. Construction began in 2017 and will continue through 2021.

A 3-year lease amendment with Collier County was executed on February 2, 2018, for 1.7 mcy

of sediment from the Tom's Hill (T1) borrow area for the nourishment of beach along 7.5 miles of coastline between Wiggins Pass and Gordon Pass, including Vanderbilt Beach, Pelican Bay, Park Shore, and Naples Beach.

To be effective stewards of the resource, BOEM must know the location, quantity, and quality of the available sediment. The U.S. Department of the Interior approved sediment inventory planning activities as part of its application to the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE) council for funding all five Gulf States to work with BOEM on the Gulf wide Sediment Inventory. BOEM currently has cooperative agreements with all five Gulf Coast States to assess OCS sediment resources off their coasts. In addition, the Coastal Texas Study Project, led by the Galveston USACE and Texas General Land Office, includes BOEM as a participating agency to evaluate resource availability for the extraction of more than 110 mcy of material for use in projects in the State of Texas. BOEM is also a participating agency in the South Atlantic Coastal Study which is led by the Jacksonville USACE.

For more information, or to obtain a map of the potentially affected blocks, contact the BOEM Marine Minerals Program Supervisor, Office of Regional Director, at (504) 736-2676.

Additional information is also available on BOEM's website at <http://www.boem.gov/Non-Energy-Minerals/Managing-Multiple-Uses-in-the-Gulf-of-Mexico.aspx>, or in NTL No. 2009-G04, "Significant OCS Sediment Resources in the GOM," which can be accessed on BOEM's website at <https://www.boem.gov/Regulations/Notices-To-Lessees/2009/09-g04.aspx>

#### **(9) Notice of Arrival on the Outer Continental Shelf**

Lessees are advised that, pursuant to 33 CFR 146.405, which implements provisions of the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 (Public Law [Pub. L.] No. 109-347), owners or operators of U.S. and foreign flag floating facilities, mobile offshore drilling units, and vessels are required to submit notice of arrival information to the National Vessel Movement Center (see website at <https://www.nvmc.uscg.gov>) prior to engaging in OCS activities (33 CFR part 146). Section 704 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. No. 112-213) mandates that:

The regulations required under section 109(a) of the Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. 1223 note), dealing with notice of arrival requirements for foreign vessels on the Outer Continental Shelf, shall not apply to a vessel documented under section 12105 of title 46, United States Code, unless the vessel arrives from a foreign port or place.

For more information, contact:

CVC-2 Port State Control Oversight  
Telephone: (202) 372-1218

#### **(10) Bidder/Lessee Notice of Obligations Related to Criminal/Civil Charges and Offenses, Suspension, or Debarment; Disqualification Due to a Conviction under the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act**

- A. *Information Bidders/Lessees Must Provide to BOEM Related to Criminal/Civil Charges and Offenses, Suspension, or Debarment:*



Under 2 CFR 180.335, before submitting a bid, bidders/lessees must notify BOEM in writing if they know that they or any principals as defined in 2 CFR 180.995:

- are presently excluded or disqualified from entering into a transaction with a Federal agency;
- have been convicted within the preceding 3 years of any of the offenses listed in 2 CFR 180.800(a), or had a civil judgment rendered against them for one of those offenses within that time period;
- are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in 2 CFR 180.800(a); or
- have had one or more public transactions (Federal, state, or local) terminated within the preceding 3 years for cause or default.
- under 2 CFR 180.350, after obtaining a lease, bidders/lessees must notify BOEM in writing if they learn that:
  - they failed to disclose information earlier, as required by 2 CFR 180.335; or
  - due to changed circumstances, they or any of the principals for the transaction now meet any of the criteria in 2 CFR 180.335.

*B. Effect of a Conviction Under the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act on Bidders/Lessees:*

Under 2 CFR 1532.1110, bidders/lessees (including any principals as defined in 2 CFR 180.995) who are convicted of any offense described in 2 CFR 1532.1105 are automatically disqualified from eligibility to receive any lease by award or assignment (i.e., a covered transaction under subpart A through I of 2 CFR part 180, or prohibited awards under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4) if they:

- will perform any part of the transaction or award at the facility giving rise to their conviction (called the violating facility); and
- own, lease, or supervise the violating facility.

**NOTE:** A conviction under 2 CFR 1532.1105 automatically disqualifying bidders/lessees from eligibility as described in 2 CFR 1532.1110 set forth in “B” above triggers the notice requirements in 2 CFR 180.335 and 180.350 set forth in “A” above.

### **(11) Protected Species**

Bidders and lessees are advised that Stipulation No. 4, Protected Species, found within the document “Lease Stipulations” included in the Proposed NOS package, addresses activities that may have an impact on species afforded special protection under the law, including, but not limited to, the Endangered Species Act (ESA, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 *et seq.*) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1361 *et seq.*). This lease stipulation will apply to all lease blocks included in this lease sale. Stipulation No. 4, Protected Species, has been updated for this lease sale to incorporate by reference and make a binding part of the lease the new terms and conditions, reasonable and prudent measures and relevant protocols from the biological opinion recently issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and described below.

The purpose of the stipulation is to ensure that the lessees acknowledge and agree that they will

be required to implement measures designed to reduce or avoid potential impacts on these protected species during lease activities. As new species are listed for protection, and as new measures and mitigations are identified to protect such species in the future (e.g., through ongoing or future consultations under the ESA or authorizations issued under the MMPA), BOEM and BSEE will condition approvals of plans and permits on implementation of the most current measures and mitigations in place at the time.

Potential bidders should be aware that NMFS issued its programmatic Biological Opinion on March 13, 2020 (2020 NMFS BiOp). The 2020 NMFS BiOp addresses the impacts to and incidental take of ESA listed species as a result of the Bureaus' proposed action of new oil and gas lease sales and any future oil and gas approvals issued by BOEM and BSEE after March 13, 2020, under both existing and future OCS oil and gas leases in the GOM, for the next ten years.

The 2020 NMFS BiOp may be found here:

(<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/biological-opinion-federally-regulated-oil-and-gas-program-activities-gulf-mexico>). The Appendices and protocols may be found here: (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/appendices-biological-opinion-federally-regulated-oil-and-gas-program-gulf-mexico>). The relevant terms and conditions, reasonable and prudent measures, and protocols from the 2020 NMFS BiOp are included in the updated Protected Species Stipulation and will also be applied, as appropriate, to post-lease approvals. Bidders should also be aware that certain post-lease approvals (e.g., for activities involving new and unusual technologies, seismic surveys, and equipment involving entanglement risks) will require step-down review with NMFS and may necessitate additional mitigations. BOEM is further petitioning NMFS for rulemaking under the MMPA relating to geological and geophysical (G&G) surveys on the OCS; that rulemaking may result in additional or different mitigation measures for all marine mammals (e.g., in addition to the 2020 NMFS BiOp Appendix A and C Protocols).

On April 20, 2018, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a 10-year biological opinion for BOEM and BSEE activities with no terms and conditions, and any future consultations may be informal, dependent upon the likelihood of take.

#### **(12) Proposed Expansion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary**

Bidders and lessees are advised that on May 1, 2020, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) published a proposed rule that would expand the boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS). 85 Fed. Reg. 25359 (May 1, 2020). In 2016, NOAA published its Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzing the proposed expansion of the FGBNMS boundaries, based on the recommendation contained within the Sanctuary Expansion Action Plan of the 2012 FGBNMS Management Plan (81 Fed. Reg. 37576 [June 10, 2016]; available online at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-06-10/pdf/2016-13661.pdf>). Executive Order (E.O.) No. 13795 (April 28, 2017) modified the process and requirements for the Department of Commerce to designate or expand National Marine Sanctuaries. Pursuant to this E.O., NOAA requested an analysis from BOEM on the potential resource and development impacts of the proposed expansion. For additional information related to the proposed expansion, contact George Schmahl at (409) 621-5151, extension 102, or at [fgbexpansion@noaa.gov](mailto:fgbexpansion@noaa.gov).

Bidders and lessees are advised that Stipulation No. 5, Topographic Features, found within the document "Lease Stipulations" included in the Proposed NOS package, already prohibits certain

activities related to oil and gas exploration and development in areas BOEM has designated as “No Activity Zones” due to the presence of biologically sensitive features and areas. Some of these restrictions occur in the same areas proposed for FGBNMS expansion. Restrictions are explained in NTL No. 2009–G39: “Biologically Sensitive Underwater Features and Areas,” which can be accessed on BOEM’s website at <http://www.boem.gov/Regulations/Notices-To-Lessees/Notices-to-Lessees-and-Operators.aspx>.

### **(13) Communication Towers**

Bidders and lessees are advised that the USAF currently owns communication towers in the Chandeleur, Mobile, and Viosca Knoll areas that previously supported Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation (ACMI). Through advancements in technology, the need for the towers has ceased and they are no longer in use. While there are currently no plans to bring the towers back online for use, they remain on-site and are not scheduled for removal at this time. In the event the towers will be used in the future, BOEM will coordinate operations with the new user. The towers are within Mobile Blocks 769, 819, and 990, Viosca Knoll Block 116, Chandeleur Area Blocks 33 and 61, and Chandeleur Area, East Addition, Block 39. For information and maps of the specific locations and line-of-sight crossings for ACMI towers, contact Mr. Charles Smith, Range and Operations Sustainment Section 96 TW/XPO, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, (850) 882-5614 or at [charles.smith.7@us.af.mil](mailto:charles.smith.7@us.af.mil).

### **(14) Deepwater Port Applications for Offshore Oil and Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities**

Bidders and lessees are advised that the USCG and the Maritime Administration (MARAD) may process applications for the licensing of deepwater ports involving both proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation/exportation facilities and oil importation/exportation facilities in the GOM. There is currently only one such oil facility, the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, located 16 miles southeast of Port Fourchon in the GOM. Applications for new crude oil import and/or export facilities have been received and are at various stages of processing.

A list of current/proposed deepwater port projects is provided below. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive. One project with a licensing decision that may be imminent is seeking to export LNG from a proposed floating facility in the West Cameron block 167. That applicant has received a Department of Energy grant of authority to export LNG from this location to Free Trade Agreement Nations<sup>1</sup> and is actively seeking permission to export LNG to Non-Free Trade Nations.<sup>2</sup> MARAD published the license application for this proposed facility in the *Federal Register* on July 16, 2015, (Docket Number: USCG-2015-0472) and issued its Record of Decision approving the license application, subject to conditions, on March 13, 2017.<sup>3</sup>

Bidders and lessees also are advised to review, and monitor for, relevant deepwater port applications, MARAD records of decision, and port licenses to assess safety zones, no anchoring zones, avoidance areas, recommended routes, and other ships’ routing measures that could prevent or otherwise impact oil and gas operations on and around both existing and proposed deepwater port locations.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://fossil.energy.gov/programs/gasregulation/authorizations/2013\\_applications/Delfin\\_LNG\\_LLC\\_13-129-LNG.html](https://fossil.energy.gov/programs/gasregulation/authorizations/2013_applications/Delfin_LNG_LLC_13-129-LNG.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://fossil.energy.gov/programs/gasregulation/authorizations/2013\\_applications/Delfin\\_LNG\\_LLC\\_13-147-LNG.html](https://fossil.energy.gov/programs/gasregulation/authorizations/2013_applications/Delfin_LNG_LLC_13-147-LNG.html)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USCG-2015-0472-0120>

For more information, contact:

Commandant (CG-OES-22), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters  
2703 Martin Luther King Ave., SE (STOP 7509)  
Attn: Deepwater Ports Standards Division  
Washington, D.C. 20593-7509  
(202) 372-1444

POC: Mr. Matthew Layman,  
Email: [Matthew.D.Layman@uscg.mil](mailto:Matthew.D.Layman@uscg.mil) or [DWP@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:DWP@comdt.uscg.mil)  
Web Address: <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Commercial-Regulations-standards-CG-5PS/Office-of-Operating-and-Environmental-Standards/vfos/DWP/>

Ms. Yvette M. Fields, Director Maritime Administration  
Office of Deepwater Ports and Offshore Activities  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W21-309 (MAR-530)  
Washington, DC 20590  
Telephone: 202-366-0926  
Fax: 202-366-5123  
Email: [yvette.fields@dot.gov](mailto:yvette.fields@dot.gov)  
Web Address: <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/ports/deepwater-ports-and-licensing/approved-applications-and-operational-facilities>

For information on specific deepwater port projects, search by the docket numbers noted in **Table 3** and at the website at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**Table 3. Deepwater Port Application Status**

<b>Company/Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Docket Number</b>
Delfin LNG, LLC, Delfin LNG Deepwater Port	Positive Record of Decision received – License Application pending	USCG-2015-0472
Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (Marathon Domestic LLC).	Approved – Operational Facilities	USCG-2000-6981
Texas Gulf Terminals, Inc. Deepwater Port License Application	New Application Received	MARAD-2018-0114
SPOT Terminal Services, LLC Deepwater Port License Application	New Application Received	MARAD-2019-0011
Texas COLT, LLC Deepwater Port License Application	New Application Received	MARAD-2019-0012
Sentinel Texas Gulf Link Deepwater Port License Application	New Application Received	MARAD-2019-0093
Phillips Blue Water Texas Deepwater Port License Application	New Application Received	MARAD-2019-0094
West Delta LNG LLC Deepwater Port License Application	New Application Received	MARAD-2019-0095

**(15) Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites**

Bidders and lessees are advised that, pursuant to the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1431 *et seq.* and 33 U.S.C. §§ 1401 *et seq.*), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has the responsibility for designating and managing Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS). The decision to issue a dredged material disposal permit is made by the USACE, using USEPA’s environmental criteria and subject to USEPA’s concurrence. The USEPA has several designated ODMDS in the GOM, all of which can be viewed on the USEPA website at <https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/ocean-disposal-map>. Additional information can also be accessed on the USACE’s Ocean Disposal Database <https://odd.el.erdc.dren.mil/>.

The USEPA is considering enlarging the existing offshore ODMDS near Mobile, Alabama. The USEPA Region 4 Final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (General Permit No. GEG460000) for Offshore Oil and Gas Activities in the Eastern GOM (including portions of the CPA) does not allow the discharge of any drilling fluids, drill cuttings, or produced waters from offshore oil and gas facilities within 1,000 meters of, or within, any designated ODMDS. **Table 4** shows the contacts for additional information on ocean dredged disposal sites.

**Table 4. Ocean Dredged Disposal Sites Contacts**

Agency	Name/Title	Email	Phone Number
USEPA Region 4	Jennifer Derby Chief, Marine Regulatory and Wetlands Enforcement	<a href="mailto:derby.jennifer@epa.gov">derby.jennifer@epa.gov</a>	(404) 562-9401
USEPA Region 4	Gary Collins Biological Oceanographer	<a href="mailto:collins.garyw@epa.gov">collins.garyw@epa.gov</a>	(404) 562-9395
USEPA Region 4	Bridget Staples Lead, NPDES offshore oil and gas general permit	<a href="mailto:staples.bridget@epa.gov">staples.bridget@epa.gov</a>	(404) 562-9783
USEPA Region 6	Karen McCormick Ocean Disposal Program Coordinator	<a href="mailto:mccormick.karen@epa.gov">mccormick.karen@epa.gov</a>	(214) 665- 8365
USACE Mobile District	LeKeshia Reynolds	<a href="mailto:lekesha.w.reynolds@usace.army.mil">lekesha.w.reynolds@usace.army.mil</a>	(251) 690-3260
USACE Mobile District	Jenny Jacobson	<a href="mailto:jennifer.l.jacobson@usace.army.mil">jennifer.l.jacobson@usace.army.mil</a>	(251) 690-2724

**(16) Rights-of-Use and Easement**

There are current rights-of-use and easement (RUEs) on a number of lease blocks in the GOM. Bidders and lessees are advised to review the list of existing and pending RUEs that could limit operations on a lease block. Any successful bidder on such a block acknowledges that their lease operations must comply with no activity areas or other requirements to ensure the RUE holders may continue their operations. The current list of blocks with existing or pending RUEs is available at the website: <https://www.data.boem.gov/Plans/Files/rureport.pdf>. RUEs may allow permanent mooring of floating production facilities or other infrastructure (e.g., anchor chains, moorings). If an oil and gas lease is issued for such a block, and the RUE is approved before lease issuance, Stipulation No. 10, Restrictions due to Rights-of-Use and Easement for Floating Production Facilities, contained within the document “Lease Stipulations” included in the Proposed NOS package, would apply.

Stipulation No. 10 prohibits certain activities from occurring or being located on the seafloor or in the water column, including, but not limited to, the construction and use of structures, operation of drilling rigs, laying of pipelines, and/or anchoring. Below seabed activities that are part of exploration, development, and production activities from outside the no-activity zones and associated 500-foot buffer zones may be allowed, including the use of directional drilling or other techniques. Consistent with Section 19 of the lease, BOEM may issue RUEs on blocks after lease issuance. Pursuant to 30 CFR 550.160, a lessee is given certain rights to comment and obtain adjudication of objections if a RUE application is received on its lease block.

For more information, contact:

Michelle Uli Picou, BOEM GOMR, Plans Section Chief,

[michelle.picou@boem.gov](mailto:michelle.picou@boem.gov), (504) 736-2747

### **(17) Industrial Waste Disposal Areas**

Bidders and lessees are advised that an inactive industrial waste disposal site exists on all or portions of blocks in the Mississippi Canyon Area. This site is depicted on the map “Gulf of Mexico, Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 256, November 2020, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks” included in the Proposed NOS. The site was established by the USEPA in 1973 under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act to permit the seafloor deposition of approximately 205,000 steel barrels containing chemical wastes and chlorinated hydrocarbons. More information about the waste site (Site B) is available in a 1975 National Academy of Sciences report, *Assessing Potential Ocean Pollutants, a Report of the Study Panel on Assessing Potential Ocean Pollutants to the Ocean Affairs Board, Commission on Natural Resources, National Research Council*.

Barrels have been detected during hazards surveys in the following blocks: Mississippi Canyon 628, 631, 632, 635, 672, 679, 716, 718, 720-723, 761-765, 768, 769, 805-813, 847-851, 853-855, 891-895, 897-899, 934-944, 983-986.

Barrels may also exist in other nearby blocks not listed above. Bidders and lessees are advised that the blocks associated with the disposal site and adjacent blocks that are included in the sale area may exhibit hazards from barrel contents (toxic, corrosive, and/or potentially explosive materials). Thus, hazards surveys are required before bottom-disturbing activities can be approved in plans and permits. Drilling and platform/pipeline placement may require precautions, such as avoidance (recommended 30-foot minimum distance from individual barrels), decontamination of equipment, and personnel health and safety procedures.

### **(18) Gulf Islands National Seashore**

Bidders and lessees should be aware that post-lease plans submitted by lessees proposing development of whole and partial lease blocks within the first 12 miles of Federal waters near the Gulf Islands National Seashore (see State of Mississippi Barrier Island Chain Map at the end of this document) may be subject to additional review to minimize visual impacts from development operations on these blocks. BOEM will review and make decisions on a lessee’s plans for these blocks in accordance with applicable Federal law and regulations, and BOEM policies, to determine if visual impacts are expected to cause serious harm and if any additional mitigation is required. Mitigation could include, but is not limited to, requested changes in location, modifications to the design or direction of proposed structures, pursuing the joint use of existing structures on neighboring blocks, changes in color design, or other plan modifications. BOEM may consult with the State of Mississippi and/or the State of Alabama and with the National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, during such reviews as appropriate.

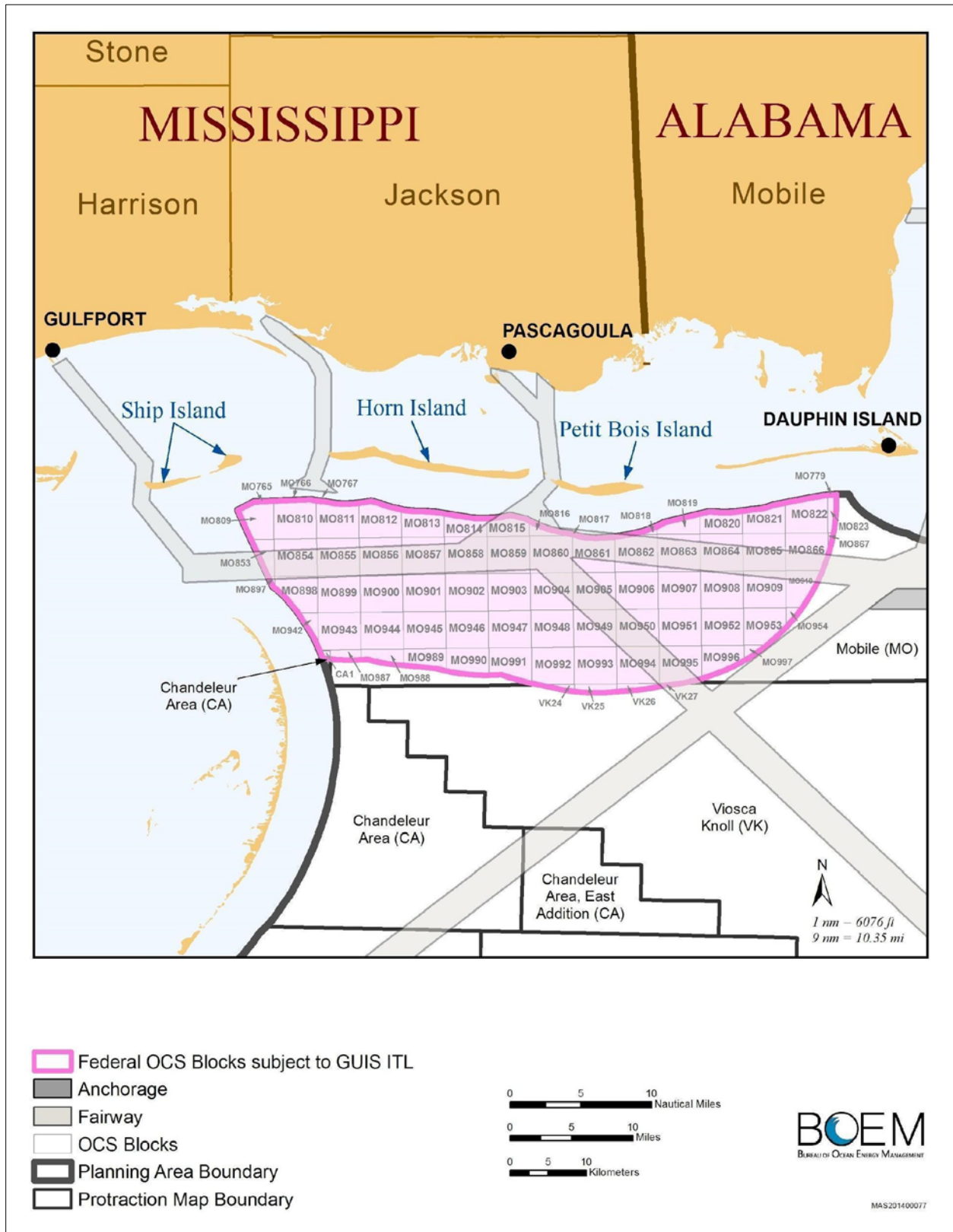
The following whole and partial blocks, listed below and shown on the enclosed map, are specifically identified for this ITL in **Table 5**.

**Table 5. Gulf Island National Seashore Blocks with ITLs**

<b>Area</b>	<b>OCS Block</b>
Chandeleur Area	1
Mobile	765-767, 778, 779, 809-823, 853-867, 897-910, 942-954, 987-997
Viosca Knoll	24-27



ITL 18 – Gulf Islands National Seashore Map



**(19) Air Quality Permit/Plan Approvals**

Bidders and lessees are advised that section 328(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act requires the USEPA to establish requirements to control air pollution from OCS sources under its jurisdiction. The USEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR part 55 apply to OCS sources in the GOM except those located westward of 87°30' W longitude, which are subject to BOEM regulations at 30 CFR part 550, subparts B and C. Therefore, lessees who plan activity eastward of 87°30' W longitude must consult with the USEPA.

Bidders and lessees are advised to refer to NTL No. 2009-N11, “Air Quality Jurisdiction on the OCS,” which can be accessed on BOEM’s website at <http://www.boem.gov/Regulations/Notices-To-Lessees/Notices-to-Lessees-and-Operators.aspx>.

Bidders and lessees are also advised to check the BOEM website to obtain up-to-date information on air quality requirements.

For more USEPA information, contact:

Ms. Kelly Fortin, Air Permits  
USEPA, Region 4, APTMD  
61 Forsyth Street SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Telephone: (404) 562-9117  
Email: [fortin.kelly@epa.gov](mailto:fortin.kelly@epa.gov)

For more BOEM GOMR plan approval information, contact:

Michelle Uli Picou,  
BOEM GOMR, Plans Section Chief  
Telephone: (504) 736-2747  
Email: [michelle.picou@boem.gov](mailto:michelle.picou@boem.gov)

**(20) Provisions Pertaining to Certain Transactions by Foreign Persons Involving Real Estate in the United States**

Bidders should be aware that the Office of Investment Security, Department of the Treasury issued a final rule, effective February 13, 2020, establishing regulations to implement the provisions relating to real estate transactions in section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended by the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018. The final rule was published at 85 Fed. Reg. 3158 (January 17, 2020), and will be codified at 31 C.F.R. part 802.

The new rule sets forth the process relating to the national security review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) of certain transactions, referred to in the rule as “covered real estate transactions,” that involve the purchase or lease by, or concession to, a foreign person of certain real estate in the United States. Covered real estate transactions include some transactions involving real estate located within the territorial sea of the United States, as

identified in the new rule, and may apply to certain lease blocks offered in this Lease Sale.

In determining whether a lessee is a foreign national, government, person or entity, CFIUS looks not only at the entities that are lessees, but also to any person with the ability to exercise control, as defined by the statute and its implementing regulations, over the lessee. CFIUS is authorized to review covered real estate transactions and to mitigate any risk to the national security of the United States that arises as a result of such transactions. This could result in the modification, suspension, or prohibition of a covered real estate transaction.

The CFIUS notification process in the regulation is largely voluntary. A party to a transaction may, pursuant to the regulations, notify CFIUS of the transaction by submitting a declaration or notice and seek a determination.

Accordingly, BOEM recommends that each bidder review the final rule before bidding on blocks located within the U.S. territorial sea. The boundary of the U.S. territorial sea is delineated on the map “Gulf of Mexico, Region-wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale 256, November 2020, Stipulations and Deferred Blocks” included in the Proposed NOS package:  
<https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/leasing/lease-sale-256>.

For further information, please refer to the contact information for CFIUS in the Federal Register Notice cited above.

**Gulf of Mexico Region Public Information Office  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394  
Telephone: (504) 736-2519 or (800) 200-GULF  
BOEM Gulf of Mexico Region website: <http://www.boem.gov/>**