

# Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS

## Potential Impacts to Social Resources from a Single OCS Oil and Gas Lease Sale

### Commercial Fisheries

Reduced area of impact

| Area of Impact                              | Alternative A <sup>[1]</sup> | Alternative B                                | Alternative C   | Alternative D   |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Routine Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>      | none                         | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse   | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse                  | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse                  |
| Routine Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i>    | none                         | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse   | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse <sup>[2,3]</sup> | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse <sup>[4,5]</sup> |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>   | none                         | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse                | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse                |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i> | none                         | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse                | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse <sup>[6]</sup> |

1. **No** direct impacts to commercial fisheries would occur as a result of the proposed action, including any potential beneficial effects from structure emplacement. Any indirect effects to commercial fisheries from energy substitution due to cancellation of a single OCS oil and gas lease sale would likely be **negligible adverse**.
2. Alternative C could reduce localized space-use conflicts and potential impacts to commercial fisheries from noise, bottom disturbance, habitat loss, and oil spills in the areas excluded from leasing. For example, fishermen would likely not use certain gear types, such as bottom trawls, near topographic features and other hard bottom features in the excluded areas, thereby avoiding snags and damage to fishing gear and/or lost catch.
3. Conversely, Alternative C introduces additional restrictions on offshore oil- and gas-related activities, which would also preclude the possibility of beneficial effects stemming from new platforms or other fish attractions in the excluded areas.
4. By excluding OCS oil- and gas-related activity from additional areas, however, Alternative D could reduce potential space-use conflicts and impacts to commercial fishing operations. Fishermen tend to avoid using certain equipment, like bottom trawls, in topographic locations due to the risk of entanglement and damage to gear.
5. Conversely, Alternative D introduces additional restrictions on offshore oil- and gas-related activities, which would also preclude the possibility of beneficial effects stemming from new platforms or other fish attractions in the excluded areas.
6. In some instances, there may still be the potential for **minor adverse** impacts from large oil spills and response activities if they travel into fishing grounds within the excluded areas.

| KEY             |                    |                 |                      |                         |                    |                       |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ● Major Adverse | ● Moderate Adverse | ● Minor Adverse | ● Negligible Adverse | ▲ Negligible Beneficial | ▲ Minor Beneficial | ▲ Moderate Beneficial | ▲ Major Beneficial |

For more information, visit the [GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS webpage](#).

## Recreational Fishing

Reduced area of impact 

| Area of Impact                              | Alternative A <sup>[1]</sup> | Alternative B                                | Alternative C   | Alternative D   |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Routine Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>      | none                         | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse   | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse                  | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse                  |
| Routine Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i>    | none                         | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse   | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse                  | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse <sup>[3]</sup>   |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>   | none                         | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse                | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse                |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i> | none                         | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse <sup>[2]</sup> | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse <sup>[3]</sup> |

1. **No** direct impacts to recreational fishing would occur as a result of the proposed action. Indirect impacts to recreational fishing from the cancellation of a single OCS oil and gas lease sale would be **negligible adverse** (mostly stemming from possible economic impacts).
2. The removal of the wind energy areas, SSRAs (Significant Sediment Resource Area), and other blocks could reduce the probability of some accidental events being experienced in adjacent coastal areas, especially in Texas and western Louisiana where recreational fishing is common.
3. The potential distribution of activities could be especially noticeable in Texas and western Louisiana with the removal of the entire Gulf of Mexico Wind Leasing Call Area and waters shoreward of the 20-m (66-ft) isobath, which could alter the spatial distribution of the positive and negative impacts identified under Alternative B. For example, the geographic extent of potential production structures from a proposed oil and gas lease sale in shallower OCS waters, which recreational fishermen may prefer to target as a potential fishing ground, is much more restrictive than in the other alternatives.

**KEY**

- Major Adverse
- Moderate Adverse
- Minor Adverse
- Negligible Adverse
- ▲ Negligible Beneficial
- ▲ Minor Beneficial
- ▲ Moderate Beneficial
- ▲ Major Beneficial

For more information, visit the [GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS webpage](#).

## Recreational Resources

Reduced area of impact 

| Area of Impact   | Alternative A <sup>[1]</sup> | Alternative B                                | Alternative C   | Alternative D           |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|
| Routine Impacts <i>without</i> BOEM Protective Measures <i>in leased areas</i>   | none                         | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse   | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse                  | ●<br>Negligible adverse |
| Routine Impacts <i>with</i> BOEM Protective Measures <i>in leased areas</i>      | none                         | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse   | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse                  | ●<br>Negligible adverse |
| Routine Impacts <i>without</i> BOEM Protective Measures <i>in excluded areas</i> | none                         | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse   | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse                  | ●<br>Negligible adverse |
| Routine Impacts <i>with</i> BOEM Protective Measures <i>in excluded areas</i>    | none                         | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse   | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse                  | ●<br>Negligible adverse |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>  | none                         | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse                | ●<br>Negligible adverse |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i>                                      | none                         | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to minor adverse <sup>[2]</sup> | ●<br>Negligible adverse |

1. **No** direct impacts to recreational resources would occur as a result of the proposed action, including any potential beneficial effects from structure emplacement. Any indirect effects on recreation and tourism from energy substitution due to cancellation of a single OCS oil and gas lease sale would likely be negligible adverse.
2. Impacts from accidental events on recreational resources would be **minor adverse**, although the removal of the wind energy areas, SSRAs (Significant Sediment Resource Area), and other blocks could reduce the probability of some accidental events being experienced in adjacent recreational areas, especially in Texas and western Louisiana.













### KEY

● Major Adverse   
 ● Moderate Adverse   
 ● Minor Adverse   
 ● Negligible Adverse   
 ▲ Negligible Beneficial   
 ▲ Minor Beneficial   
 ▲ Moderate Beneficial   
 ▲ Major Beneficial

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## Cultural, Historical, and Archaeological Resources

Reduced area of impact 

| Area of Impact                              | Alternative A | Alternative B  | Alternative C  | Alternative D  |
|---|---------------|--|--|--|
| Routine Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>      | none          | <br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse <sup>[1]</sup> | <br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse <sup>[1]</sup> | <br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse <sup>[1]</sup> |
| Routine Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i>    | none          | <br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse <sup>[1]</sup> | <br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse <sup>[1]</sup> | <br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse <sup>[1]</sup> |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>   | none          | <br>Negligible adverse to major adverse <sup>[1]</sup>    | <br>Negligible adverse to major adverse <sup>[1]</sup>    | <br>Negligible adverse to major adverse <sup>[1]</sup>    |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i> | none          | <br>Negligible adverse to major adverse <sup>[1]</sup>    | <br>Negligible adverse to major adverse <sup>[1]</sup>    | <br>Negligible adverse to major adverse <sup>[1]</sup>    |

1. Impacts can be reduced to **negligible to minor** with the use of post-lease mitigating measures.

**KEY**

-  Major Adverse
-  Moderate Adverse
-  Minor Adverse
-  Negligible Adverse
-  Negligible Beneficial
-  Minor Beneficial
-  Moderate Beneficial
-  Major Beneficial

For more information, visit the [GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS webpage](#).

## Land Use and Coastal Infrastructure

Reduced area of impact



| Area of Impact                              | Alternative A | Alternative B                                 | Alternative C <sup>[1]</sup>                  | Alternative D <sup>[2]</sup>                  |
|---|---------------|---|---|---|
| Routine Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>      | none          | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse    | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse    | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse    |
| Routine Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i>    | none          | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse    | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse    | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to minor adverse    |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>   | none          | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to moderate adverse | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to moderate adverse | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to moderate adverse |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i> | none          | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to moderate adverse | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to moderate adverse | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to moderate adverse |

1. The potential spatial redistribution of activity does not affect land use and coastal infrastructure because impacts to land use and coastal infrastructure are tied directly to the level of offshore activities, and a lease sale under Alternative C is not expected to alter the forecasted development activity.
2. The potential spatial redistribution of activity does not affect land use and coastal infrastructure because impacts to land use and coastal infrastructure are tied directly to offshore activity levels, and a lease sale under Alternative D is not expected to alter the forecasted development activity.

**KEY**

- Major Adverse
- Moderate Adverse
- Minor Adverse
- Negligible Adverse
- ▲ Negligible Beneficial
- ▲ Minor Beneficial
- ▲ Moderate Beneficial
- ▲ Major Beneficial

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## Economic Factors



| Area of Impact                              | Alternative A   | Alternative B   | Alternative C   | Alternative D  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Routine Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negligible adverse short term</li> <li>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse long term</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor beneficial to moderate beneficial</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor beneficial to moderate beneficial</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor beneficial to moderate beneficial</li> </ul>                  |
| Routine Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negligible adverse short term</li> <li>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse long term</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor beneficial to moderate beneficial</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor beneficial to moderate beneficial<sup>[1]</sup></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor beneficial to moderate beneficial<sup>[3, 4]</sup></li> </ul> |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>none</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse</li> </ul>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse</li> </ul>                   |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>none</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse<sup>[2]</sup></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse</li> </ul>                   |

1. Due to the restrictions imposed by the lease area, Alternative C would provide proportionately less area for activity than Alternative B, resulting in economic impacts that are either similar, or only slightly less than those of Alternative B. Most operators would adapt and relocate to other available lease areas, resulting in a minimal reduction in overall production when compared to Alternative B. However, it is worth noting that some operators specializing in specific depths may experience a disproportionate effect. The revenue, corporate profit, market, and adverse impacts would also be proportionately lower.
2. The nature of potential accidental events would be the same or similar to Alternative B, although slightly fewer activities would likely lead to slightly fewer accidental events, and distancing would lead to less impacts to sensitive areas as spills could undergo increased weathering.
3. The shift to deeper waters could have a disproportionate impact on operators that rely heavily on shallow-water operations (i.e., <200 m; 656 ft), as most acreage in this water-depth category would not be offered under Alternative D.
4. The exclusion areas under this alternative could also impact revenue sharing with states required under Section 8(g) of the OCSLA, which mandates that the Federal Government's share of 27 percent of leasing and development within 3 nmi (3.5 mi) of State boundaries.

| KEY           |                  |               |                    |                       |                  |                     |                  |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|               |                  |               |                    |                       |                  |                     |                  |
| Major Adverse | Moderate Adverse | Minor Adverse | Negligible Adverse | Negligible Beneficial | Minor Beneficial | Moderate Beneficial | Major Beneficial |

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## Social Factors

Reduced area of impact 

| Area of Impact                              | Alternative A <sup>[1]</sup> | Alternative B                                   | Alternative C  | Alternative D  |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Routine Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>      | none                         | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to negligible adverse | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to negligible adverse                | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to negligible adverse                |
| Routine Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i>    | none                         | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to negligible adverse | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to negligible adverse                | ▲ → ●<br>Minor beneficial to negligible adverse                |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in leased areas</i>   | none                         | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse                | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse                |
| Accidental Impacts <i>in excluded areas</i> | none                         | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse <sup>[2]</sup> | ● → ●<br>Negligible adverse to moderate adverse <sup>[3]</sup> |

1. **No** direct impacts to social factors would occur as a result of the proposed action. Impacts to social factors from the cancellation of a single OCS oil and gas lease sale would be **negligible** (mostly stemming from possible economic impacts).
2. The removal of the wind energy areas, SSRAs, and other blocks could reduce the probability of some accidental events being experienced in adjacent coastal areas, especially in Texas and western Louisiana.
3. The removal of the wind leasing call area, waters shoreward of the 20-m (66-ft) isobath, and SSRAs could reduce the probability of some accidental events being experienced in adjacent coastal areas, especially in Texas and western Louisiana.

### KEY

|   |  |   |  |   |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
|  Major Adverse |  Moderate Adverse |  Minor Adverse |  Negligible Adverse |  Negligible Beneficial |  Minor Beneficial |  Moderate Beneficial |  Major Beneficial |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|

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