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OSC Scientific Committee Meeting
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Study Title to be Discussed

Page #	Break-out	Title	Rank
27	BIO	Investigation of Pre-riser Discharges from Wells within Proximity to Deep Water Benthic Communities for Plans with a “Zero Discharge” Mitigation	3

**PO = Physical Oceanography FE = Fate & Effect BIO = Biology
PS = Protected Species SE = Social & Economic OT = Other

Investigation of Pre-riser Discharges from Wells within Proximity to Deep Water Benthic Communities for Plans with a "Zero Discharge" Mitigation

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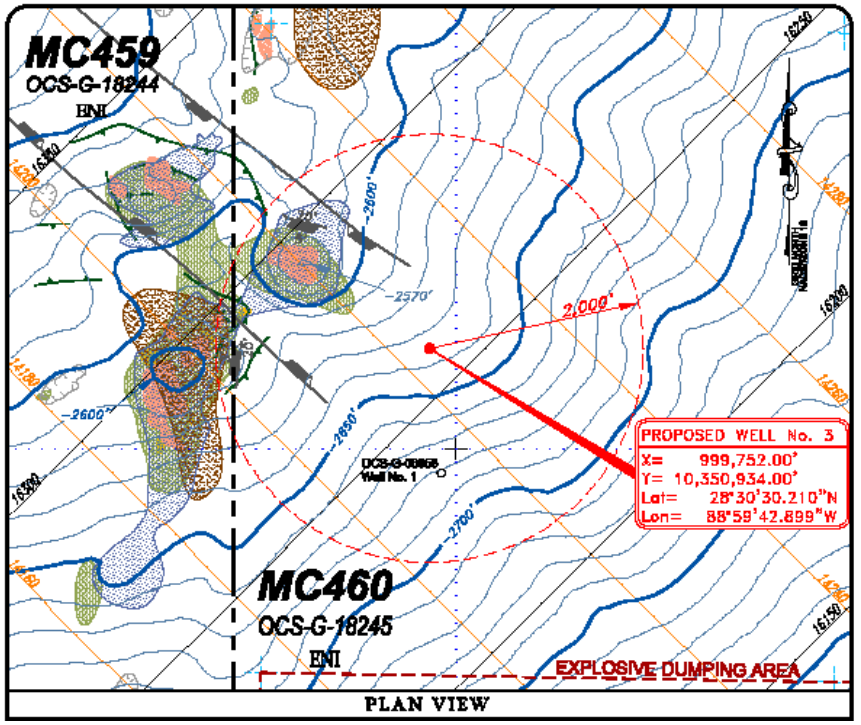
BOEM Information Need:

- **Special mitigation applied to deepwater plans allowing wells <2,000 ft from probable deepwater benthic habitat**
- **"Zero Discharge" = no muds or cuttings released once spudding complete**



Date Information is Required:

- **Before Jan 25th, 2015 – expiration date of NTL 2009-G40**

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Tentative Ranking: 3

Investigation of Pre-riser Discharges from Wells within Proximity to Deep Water Benthic Communities for Plans with a "Zero Discharge" Mitigation

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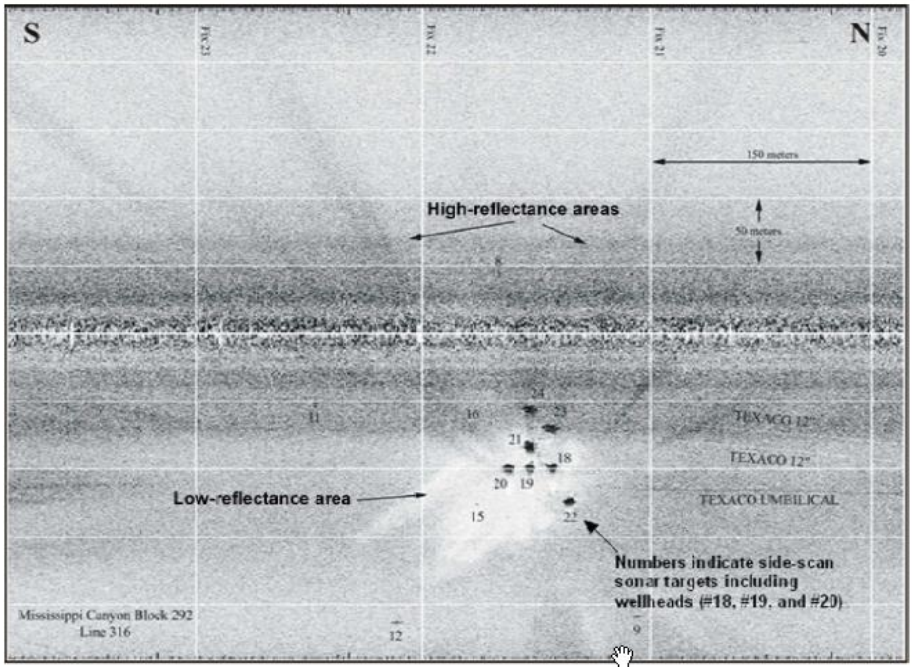
Background:

A) Relationship with Previous Work/Efforts

- **CSA 2006 investigated pre-riser and surface released cutting splays**
- **Present study will expand upon CSA 2006 with site specific investigation of "zero discharge" sites**
  - **Distance and thickness of spudding deposits**
  - **ROV to look for sedimentation on organisms**

Example side scan sonar



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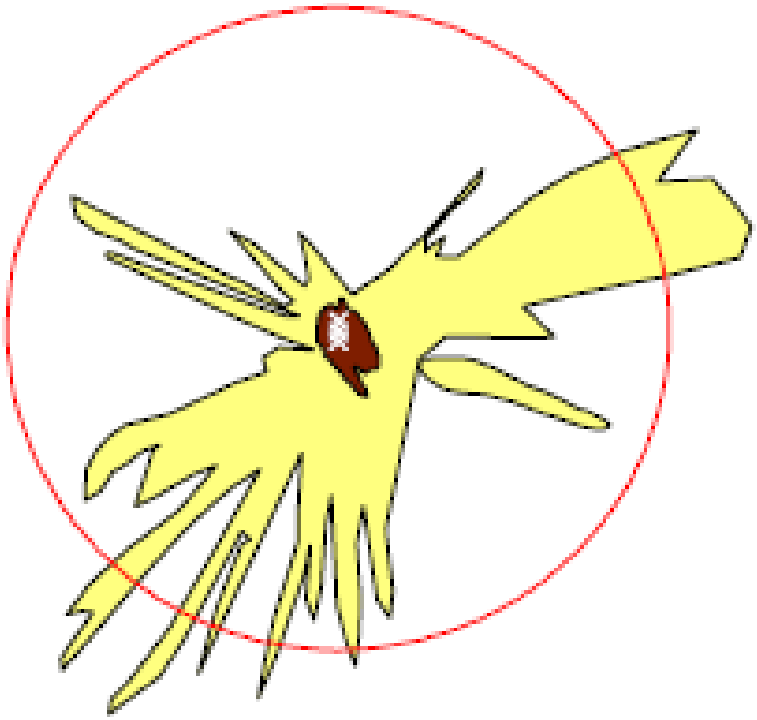
Background:

B) Relationship with Concurrent/Future Efforts

- **Presently the "zero discharge" mitigation has been applied to a few plans on a case-by-case basis**

Pre-riser and surface discharge splays



Closeup (500-m radius)

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Study's Objectives:

- **Site specific investigation of "zero discharge" sites**
  - **Distance and thickness of spudding deposits**
  - **Minimal allowable distance**
  - **Inclusion of mitigation in update of NTL 2009-G40**

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Study's Methods:

- Side Scan Sonar
- Sub-bottom profile imagery
- ROV video
- Sediment sampling for drilling fluid tracers
- Seafloor current measurement

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Addition *Pertinent* Information

- Budget ~ 2 million
- Based on CSA 2006 and other future planned studies

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