



U. S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

## Technical Announcement

Date: February 2015

Contact: Caryl Fagot  
(504) 736-2590

### ***Measuring County-level Tourism and Recreation in the Gulf of Mexico Region: Data, Methods, and Estimates***

#### **[OCS Study BOEM 2014-660](#)**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), announces the availability of a new study report, *Measuring County-level Tourism and Recreation in the Gulf of Mexico Region: Data, Methods, and Estimate*. The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) set requirements for assessing the impacts of leasing offshore areas for oil and gas exploration and development in the Gulf of Mexico. Under this project, BOEM contracted with Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG) to develop data for assessing the impacts of leasing offshore areas on the travel, tourism, and recreation industries in the Gulf of Mexico region. Recreation and tourism are significant drivers of economic activity and impacts a broad range of economic sectors in the Gulf region.

Some of these sectors, such as hotels and air transportation, depend on tourism for most or all of their business. Other sectors, such as retailers and restaurants, depend on a more even mix of tourists and local residents for their business. This paper will present a methodology for estimating the effects of tourism on these various sectors. The data compiled for this report indicate that the tourism industry in the Gulf region accounted for slightly more than one million jobs (approximately 4.5 percent of total employment) in 2009.

This report also develops county-level estimates of the scale of tourism, travel, and recreation for 64 counties in the Gulf region. These data will help BOEM assess the impacts of routine operations associated with offshore energy development, as well as the impacts of accidental events, such as oil spills.

This report is available on CD from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, for \$15.00, and free of charge as a pdf file downloaded from the BOEM Website. Copies can also be viewed at selected Federal Depository Libraries. The addresses are listed below.

To order a CD, use the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region contact information below and reference OCS Study BOEM 2014-660. To download a pdf copy, use the [Environmental Studies Program Information System](#) (ESPIS) and search on the study report number. In the near future, you will also be able to get this report also from the National Technical Information Service.

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Public Information Office (MS 5034)  
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394  
Phone: (504) 736-2519, 1-800-200-GULF  
Fax: (504) 736-2620

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Technical Information Service  
5301 Shawnee Rd.  
Springfield, Virginia 22312  
Phone: (703) 605-6000, 1-800-553-6847  
Fax: (703) 605-6900  
Website: <http://www.ntis.gov/>

**BOEM Main Website:** <http://www.boem.gov/>