

# Gulf of Mexico Regional OCS Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS

## Alternatives

### Alternative A

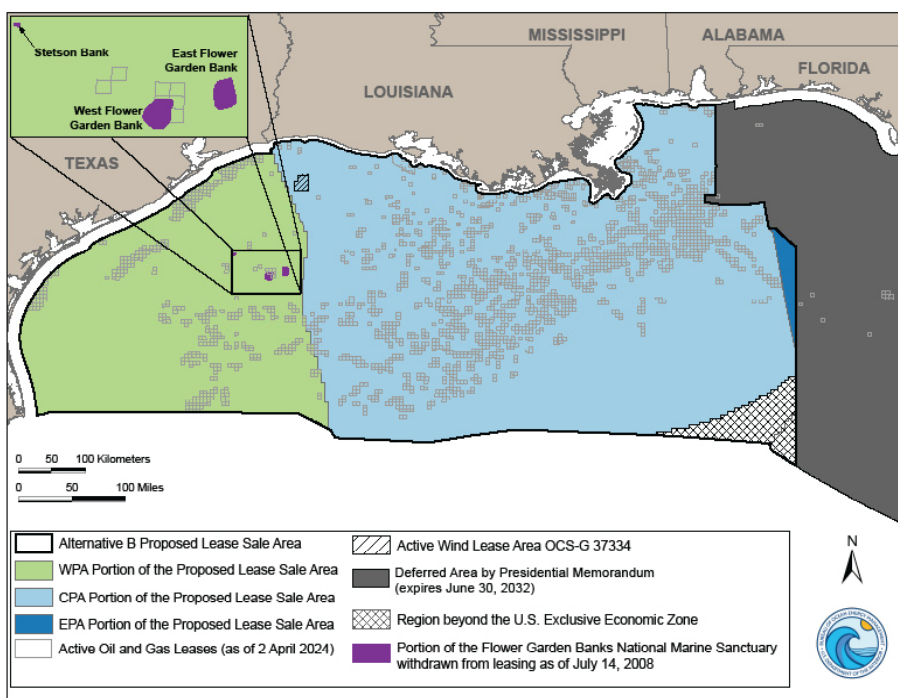
Alternative A is the cancellation of a single proposed GOM oil and gas lease sale.

However, activities related to previously issued leases and permits (as well as those that may be issued in the future under a separate past lease sale decision) related to the National OCS Program would continue.

### Alternative B

Alternative B would allow for a proposed GOM oil and gas lease sale including all available unleased blocks in the Western Planning Area (WPA), Central Planning Area (CPA), and Eastern Planning Area (EPA) Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sale areas for oil and gas operations, with the following exceptions:

1. whole and portions of blocks currently under Presidential withdrawal (The White House 2020);
2. blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone; and
3. whole and partial blocks within the boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary as of the July 2008 Memorandum on Withdrawal of Certain Areas of U.S. OCS from Leasing Disposition (The White House 2008).

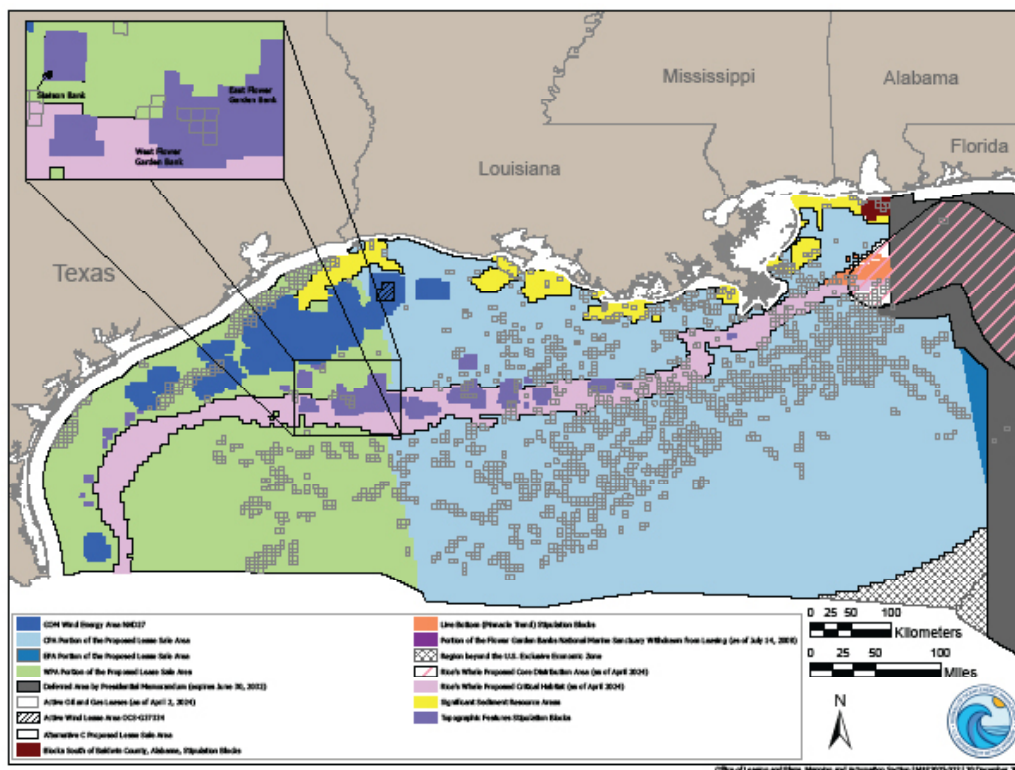


For more information, visit the [GOM Oil and Gas Programmatic EIS webpage](#).

# Alternative C

Alternative C would allow for a proposed OCS oil and gas lease sale area within a reduced geographic area by excluding targeted areas from Alternative B. This alternative would include all available unleased blocks in the WPA, CPA, and EPA Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sale areas for OCS oil- and gas-related activities, with the following exceptions:

1. blocks that were excluded from consideration under Alternative B;
2. whole and partial blocks subject to the proposed Topographic Features Stipulation;
3. whole and partial blocks subject to the proposed Live Bottom (Pinnacle Trend) Stipulation;
4. whole and partial blocks subject to the proposed Blocks South of Baldwin County, Alabama, Stipulation;
5. whole and partial blocks that contain Significant Sediment Resource Areas (SSRA);
6. Wind Energy Area Options (Areas A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H) as of April 2024, final Wind Energy Areas (Areas I, J, K, L, and N), and Wind Energy Lease(s) (i.e., OCS-G 37334);
7. whole and partial blocks within the Rice's whale proposed core distribution area as of April 2024; and
8. whole and partial blocks within the Rice's whale proposed critical habitat area as of April 2024.

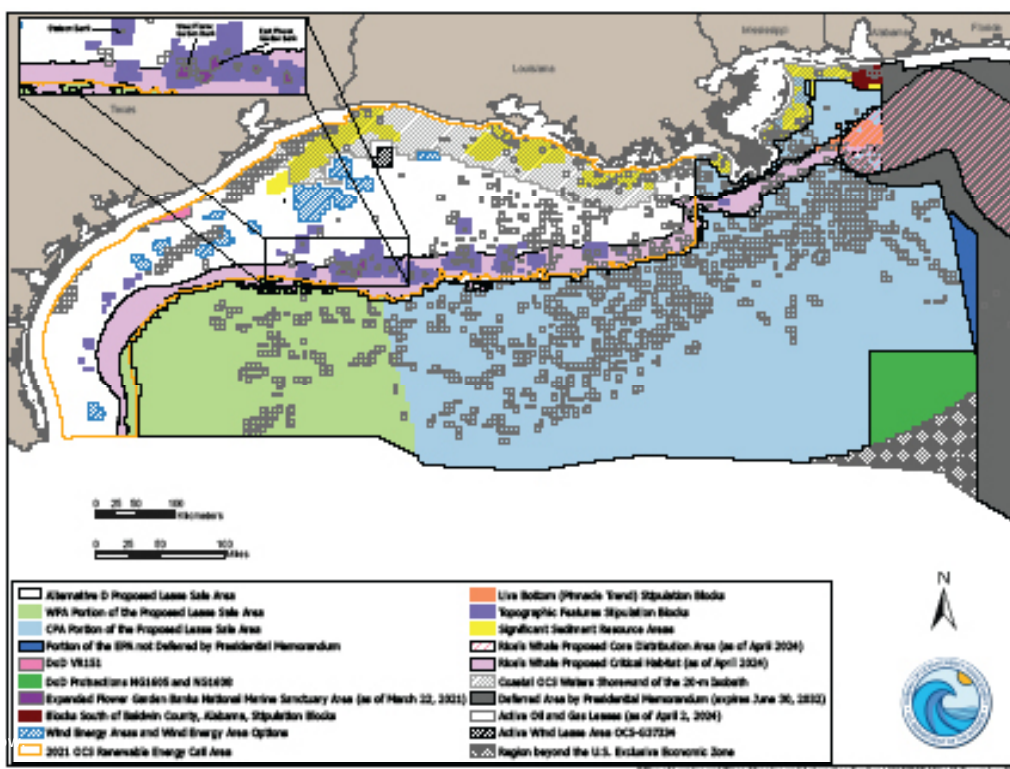


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# Alternative D

Alternative D would allow for a proposed OCS oil and gas lease sale area within a smaller geographic area than Alternative C by excluding additional areas for environmental considerations and marine spatial planning. Alternative D would include all available unleased blocks in the WPA and CPA OCS oil and gas lease sale areas for OCS oil and gas operations, with the following exceptions:

1. blocks that were excluded from consideration under Alternatives C;
2. whole and partial blocks in the EPA of the GOM;
3. additional whole and partial blocks of the Gulf of Mexico Wind Leasing Call Area;
4. whole and partial blocks in coastal OCS waters shoreward of the 20-m (66-ft) isobath to avoid additional impacts to coastal stocks of bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*);
5. whole and partial blocks around the expanded Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary as of March 22, 2021; and
6. whole and partial blocks identified by the Department of Defense as mission incompatibility areas.



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

