

Good afternoon!

The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) Meeting will begin shortly.

If you are encountering any technical issues, please contact Bushra Bangee at bbangee@kearnswest.com





BOEM Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management

Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Overview

BOEM Pacific Regional Office – Decommissioning Oil & Gas
Activities on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf

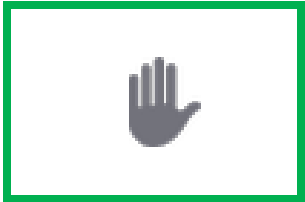


Rick Yarde | Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment
Linette Makua | NEPA Coordinator



Zoom Webinar Instructions – Members of the Public

At this meeting you can:



- Ask questions via the Zoom Q&A pod during the questions and answers portion
- Provide oral public comments during the public comment session
- Use the “raise hand” feature on your computer, or dial *9 to indicate you would like to provide public comment
- Use the chat feature for technical assistance *only*
- Use closed captioning that is provided at the bottom of your Zoom screen

This meeting is being recorded and will be posted to the BOEM website.



Zoom Webinar Instructions – Technical Assistance

- If you encounter any technical difficulties throughout the webinar, please message Bushra Bangee (Host) or message “Technical Assistance” in the “chat” feature.
- Please use the “chat” feature *only* for requests for technical assistance.
- If you are participating by phone, raise your hand for technical assistance by dialing * 9.



Participant Polls

Question & Answer vs Public Comment

Question & Answer

- The Q&A session is for members of the public to ask clarifying questions regarding the PEIS process and allow BOEM staff provide responses.
- The Q&A pod is open for questions related to the environmental scoping process.
- To submit a question, use the Q&A pod at the bottom of your screen.

Public Comment

- The public comment period is a formal comment opportunity that will be part of the record.
- BOEM is interested in gathering input on the scope of the PEIS and to identify potentially relevant information, studies, and analyses to inform future decommissioning application decisions.



Meeting Objectives

- Provide information to the public on the Draft PEIS
- Answer questions related to the Draft PEIS
- Solicit public comment on the Draft PEIS
- Next Steps for PEIS Process
 - December 12, 2022 - DPEIS public comment closes
 - Follow website for updates
 - Final draft will be released March 2023



Agenda

- Facilitator's Welcome
- Introductory Remarks
- Presentation - Overview of BOEM Decommissioning Draft PEIS
- Question & Answer
- Public Comment Opportunity
- Closing and Next Steps



Process Guidelines

- “Honor” the agenda
- Participate respectfully
- Speak in order; facilitator will mind the queue
- Speak clearly into the mic/phone for others to hear you
- Provide your name and affiliation when you speak



Opening Remarks

Rick Yarde | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Bruce Hesson | Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Theresa Stevens | Army Corp of Engineers

Opening Remarks

Rick Yarde

Regional Supervisor, Office of Environment | Pacific Regional Office

BRUCE HESSON

Regional Director
BSEE, Pacific Regional Office

“To promote safety, protect the environment and conserve resources offshore through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement.”



BOEM/BSEE PROGRAMMATIC EIS FOR OIL/GAS DECOMMISSIONING: PUBLIC MEETING

Theresa Stevens, PhD
Senior Project Manager
Regulatory Division
Los Angeles District, North Coast Branch

November 2022



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

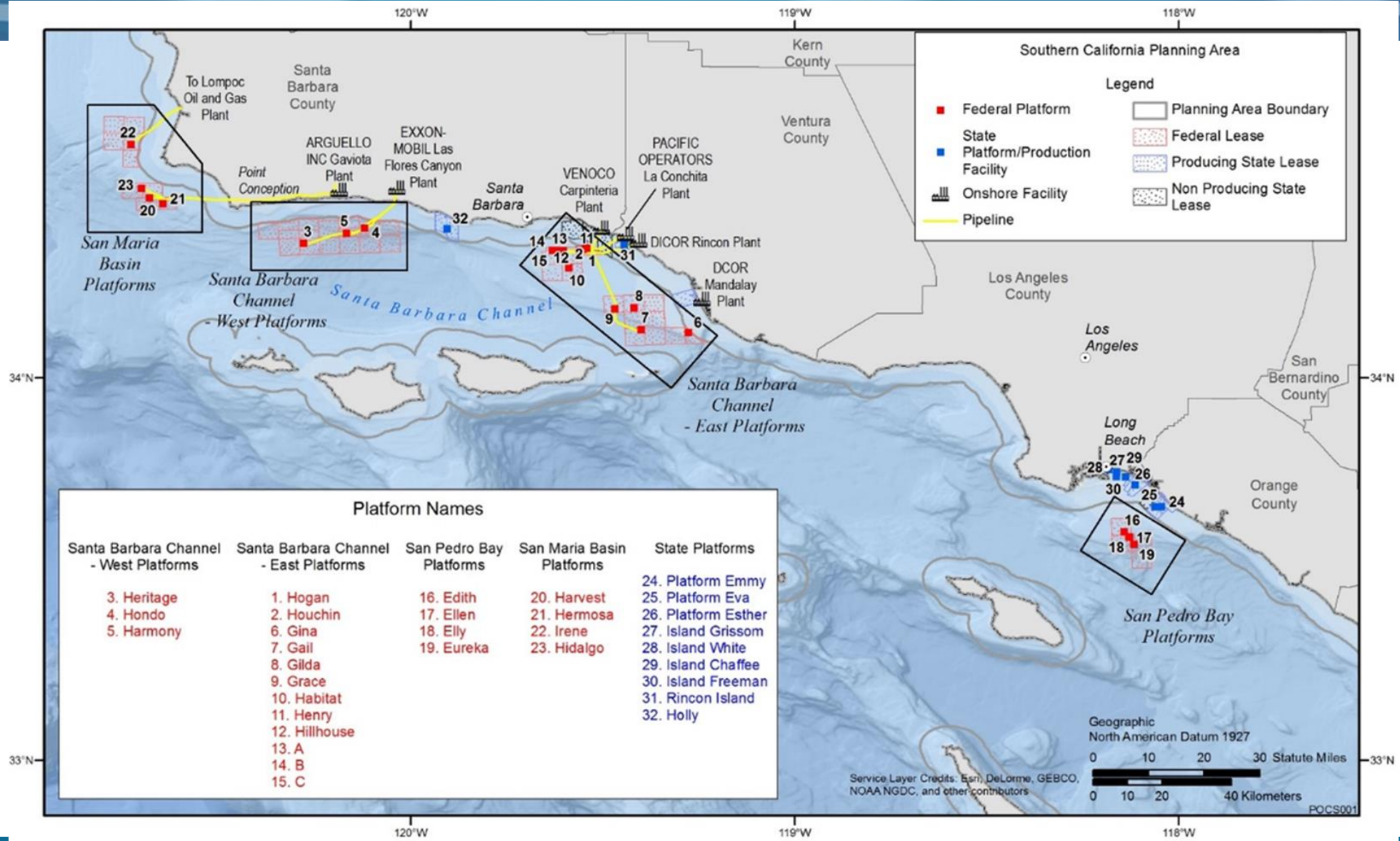
Overview of Decommissioning Draft PEIS

Linette Makua

NEPA Coordinator | Pacific Regional Office

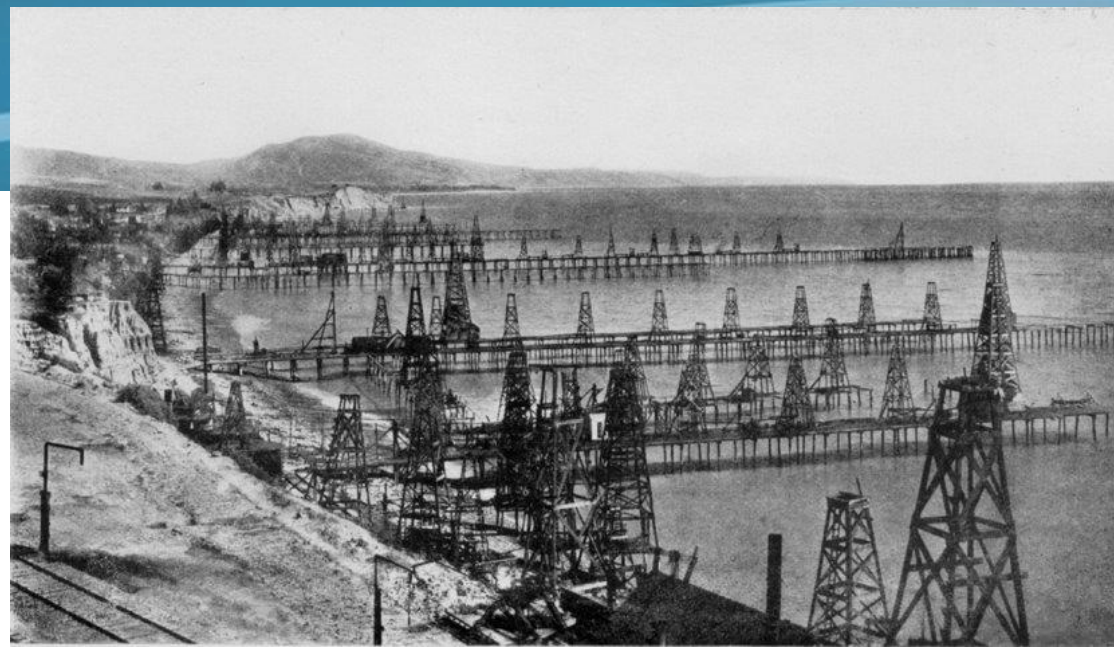


Pacific Region Oil and Gas Platform Locations





Background



Southern California coastline ~ 1895

[BOEM's PEIS webpage](#)



Same coastline 110+ years later



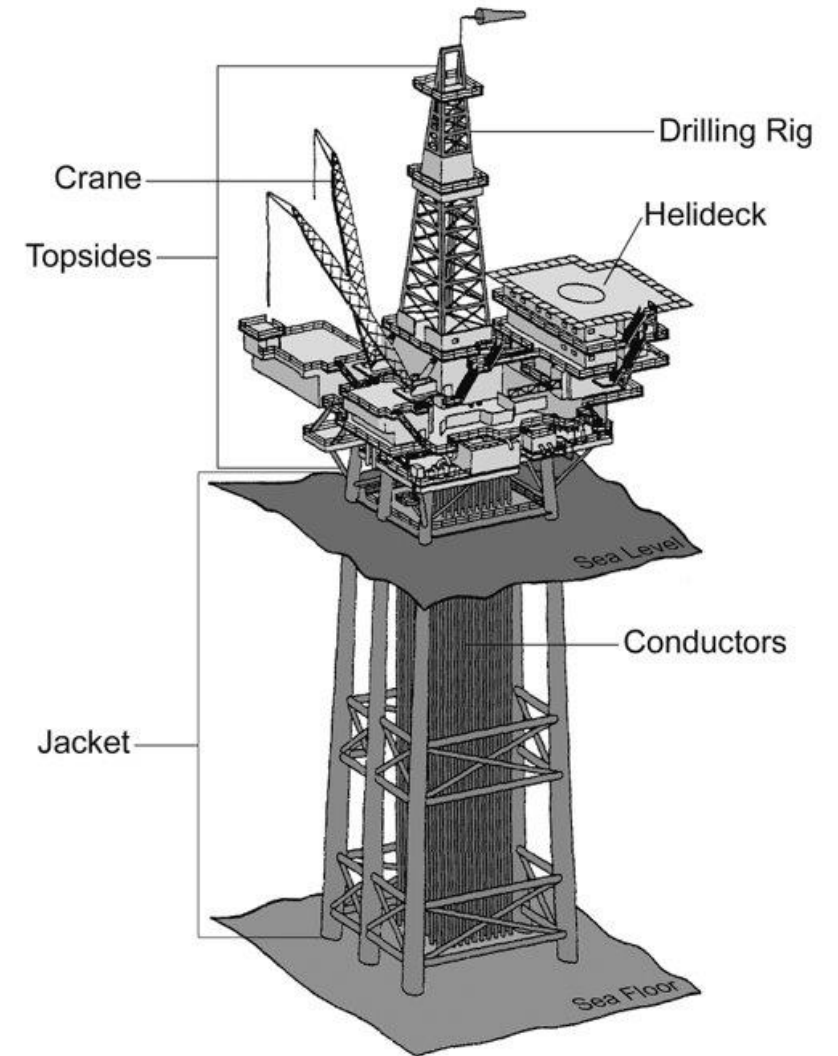


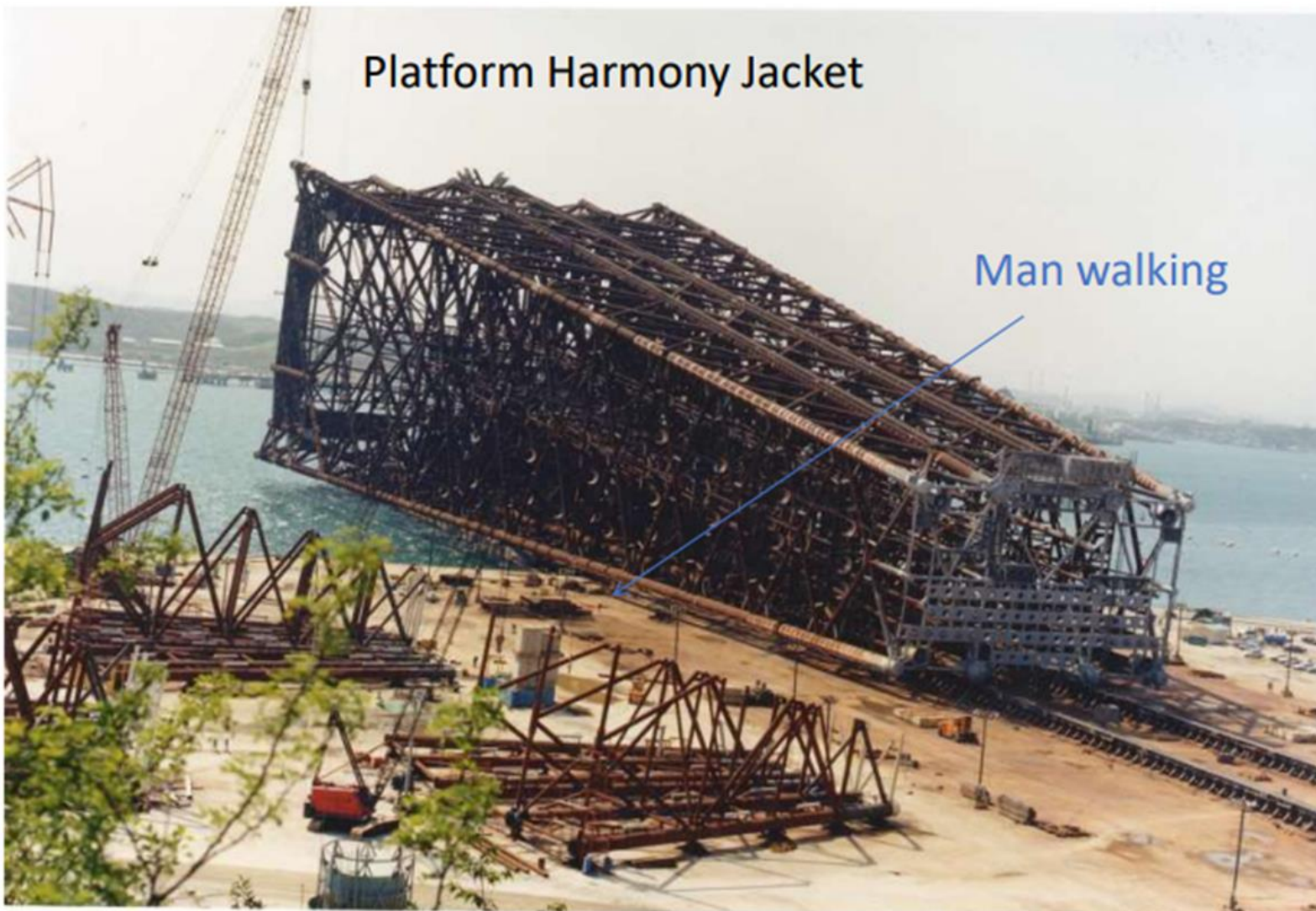
OCS Oil & Gas Leasing, Exploration, and Development Process

- First California offshore Federal infrastructure installed 1967
- Last platform installed 1989

As of June 2022

- Total Active Leases: 30
- Producing: 14
- Active Acres Leased: 152,578
- Number of Platforms: 23
 - 8 in beginning stages of decommissioning: Gail, Grace, Habitat, Harvest, Hermosa, Hidalgo, Hogan, and Houchin





Platform Harmony Jacket

Man walking

Photo credit:
ExxonMobil

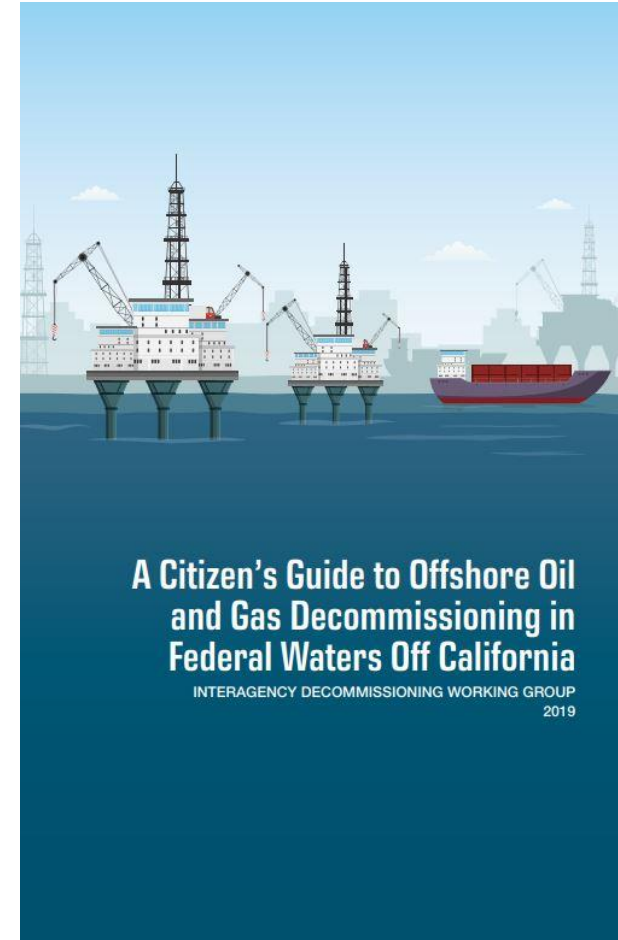




Process for Decommissioning

A Citizen's Guide to Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning in Federal Waters Off California

- Decommissioning is a complex process.
- Conductor removal is a separate analysis (i.e., EAs) and already taking place in the Pacific.



[A Citizen's Guide to Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning in Federal Waters off California](#)





National Environmental Policy Act Overview

What's the difference between a Programmatic EIS and an EIS?

- **This PEIS does not approve any decommissioning activities.**
- **PEIS**
 - Evaluates the effects of broad proposals or planning-level decisions.
- **EIS**
 - “Site-specific” analyses and consultations including Essential Fish Habitat happen at this stage.



Saipem 7000 HLV
Photo credit: BSEE





- **Purpose and need:** ensure safe and environmentally sound decommissioning activities.
- **Proposed action:** no O&G infrastructure would remain on the Pacific OCS seafloor that could interfere with navigation, commercial fisheries, future O&G operations, or Pacific OCS users.



Example of an upper jacket removal
Photo credit: BSEE





Alternative 1 (Proposed Action):

- Complete Removal of Platforms, Associated Pipelines and Obstructions
- Onshore Disposal

Alternative 2:

- Partial Platform Removal
- Removal of Accessible Facilities and Obstructions
- Onshore Disposal of Topsides
- Abandonment-in-Place of Associated Pipelines

Alternative 3:

- Partial Platform Removal
- Upper Jackets Placed as an Artificial Reef
- Removal of Accessible Facilities and Obstructions
- Onshore Disposal of Topsides
- Abandonment-in-Place of Associated Pipelines

Alternative 4:

- No Action



Platform Houchin
Photo credit: BSEE





- Associated pipelines would be abandoned in place (rather than removed for Alt 1).
- Jackets could be severed as far down as the seafloor. Platforms would be considered partially removed since below mudline structures would remain.
- Pipelines would be flushed of contaminants, filled with seawater, sealed, and then left in place on the seafloor with their ends buried.
- Obstructions rendered inaccessible due to remaining jacket portions, including shell mounds, if any, would remain in place.





Alternative 3 - “Rigs-to-Reef”

- Extensive scientific research shows that platforms can form productive marine habitats.
- The State of California passed a “Rigs-to-Reef” bill (AB 2503) so that preservation of this productive habitat could be considered during the decommissioning process.



Platform Grace

Photo credit: Donna Schroeder





Alternative 3 - Partial Removal

- **PEIS Section 2.3.7.2**
 - BSEE may grant a departure from the requirement to remove a platform or other facility under certain conditions.
 - AB 2503 authorizes the State of California to take title to the remaining decommissioned offshore O&G structures that will serve as the artificial reef.

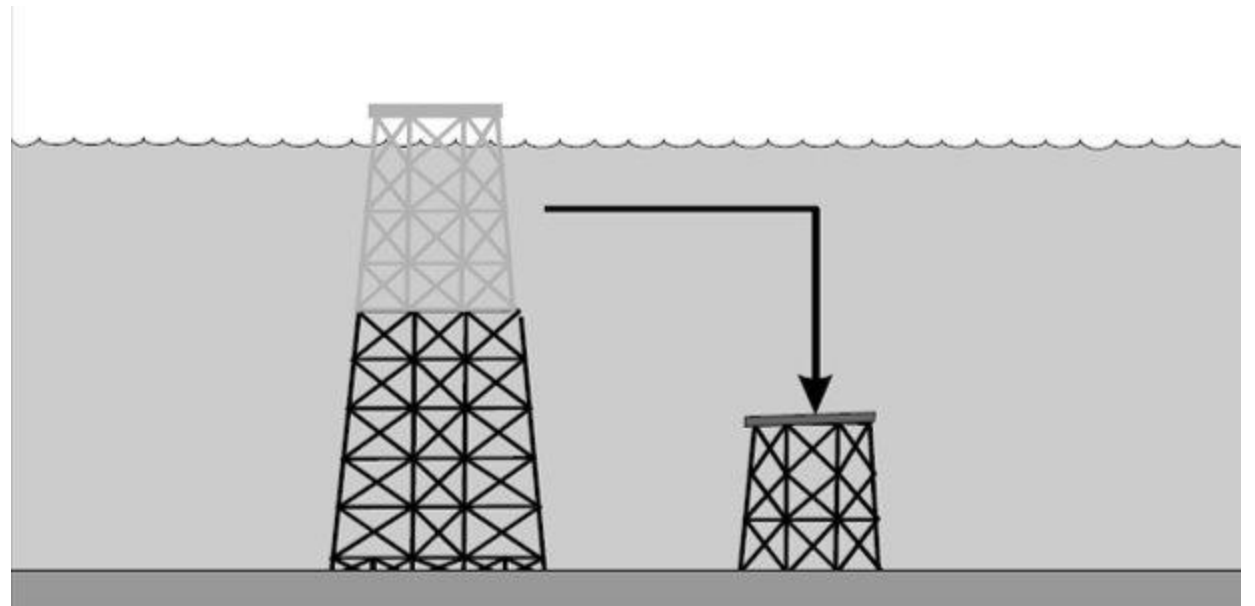


Figure showing Partial Removal





Photo credits: (left) Scott Geitler (right) Sloane Viola





Resource Impact Summary

- **Biological and Physical:** no more than minor, except for possible moderate impacts on marine mammals and fishes with swim bladders if explosive severance is used, and temporary moderate impacts on water quality and marine invertebrates and benthic habitat due to bottom disturbance during severance.
- **Sociocultural:** would be negligible to minor, except for possible major impacts on any platforms removed that are eligible as historic properties.



Photo credit: Ralph Vasquez





TABLE 4.1-1

Impact-Producing Factors (IPFs)
Potentially Affecting Biotic and
Physical Resources During
Platform Decommissioning

Platforms Hillhouse, A, B, and C
Photo credit: BOEM

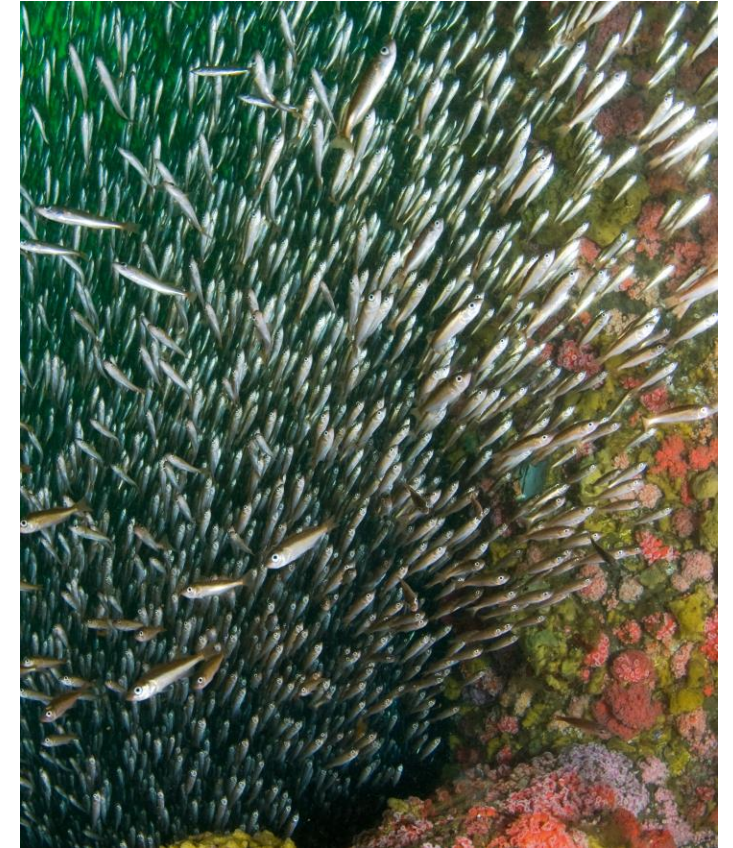




Cumulative Impacts

Section 4.1.4

- Small estimated potential impacts of decommissioning activities on resources
- Cumulative impact analysis considered reasonably foreseeable future activities such as:
 - Offshore wind energy development
 - Offshore military training
 - Commercial shipping and navigation
 - Commercial and recreational fisheries
 - Aquaculture



Rockfish at Platform Gilda
Photo credit: Scott Geitler





Science to Inform Decisions



Air Quality Study PAGE 1

Biological Studies:

- Platform Ecology – Fish PAGE 1
- Platform Ecology – Biota Other than Fish PAGE 4
- Other Biological Studies PAGE 6

Cultural & Archaeological Studies PAGE 7

Information Synthesis Studies & Workshops PAGE 7

Shell Mound Studies PAGE 9

Technology & Cost Studies PAGE 10

NEW Indicates a study started or a study product was published since the previous edition of this brochure was published in February 2022.

Air Quality Study

Completed (2019) — Air Emissions Associated with Decommissioning Operations for Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Platforms

This study by MRS Environmental, Inc. developed estimates of air pollutants expected for all phases of decommissioning Pacific OCS oil and gas facilities, including from offshore and associated onshore operations. It also determined which local regulations will be required and how they will be applied to ensure regulatory compliance within the jurisdictions to support NEPA analyses for decommissioning the facilities.

Report BOEM 2019-016:

Volume I: https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2019-016.pdf

Volume II: https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2019-016_M.pdf

Database: <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-DEEP-TOOL>



Biological Studies: Platform Ecology – Fish

Ongoing (2021–2023) — The Environmental Status of Artificial Structures Offshore California

This study by the Southern California Marine Institute will use relevant ecological indicators (e.g., biodiversity, biomass, productivity) to improve understanding of how local and/or regional factors influence the variation in environmental status observed in marine infrastructure/facility/obstruction habitats within the Pacific Region, especially offshore California. Study results will assist BOEM in evaluating proposed plans that involve significant amounts of marine infrastructure (which function as de facto artificial reefs) and to gain insight in determining if existing energy infrastructure affects other uses of the outer continental shelf.

Study Profile: <https://www.boem.gov/pc-20-02>

Selected BOEM & BSEE Funded Research Informing Oil & Gas Decommissioning Offshore California



Platform Gail
Photo credit: BOEM



How to Provide Public Comment

- Comments are due by **December 12, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. ET / 8:59 p.m. PT**
- More information available on [BOEM's Decommissioning – Pacific website](#)

Federal Register (preferred)

Go to: [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)
Search: BOEM-2021-0043
Click on blue “Comment”

In writing

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Management

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Linette Makua | linette.makua@boem.gov

Question & Answer

Question & Answer vs Public Comment

Question & Answer

- The Q&A session is for members of the public to ask questions regarding the PEIS process and allow BOEM staff provide responses.
- The Q&A pod is open for questions related to the environmental scoping process.
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Public Comment

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Q&A Process

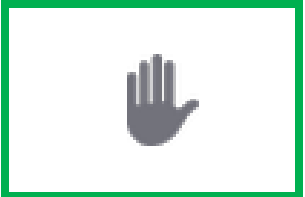
- Click on the Q&A box at the bottom of your Zoom screen. You can enter anonymous or non-anonymous questions.
- For phone-call users dial *9 to raise your hand. We will call on you to verbally ask your question. Please provide your name and affiliation when you speak. To unmute dial *6.
- The team will be answering questions that have been submitted during registration first then will move to questions in the Q&A box related to the scoping process.



Public Comment Opportunity

(Listening Session)

Process Guidelines



- Participate actively and respectfully.
- Use the "Raise Hand" feature on the bottom of your Zoom screen, or dial *9 to indicate you would like to provide public comment.
- Speak in order; facilitator will mind the queue.
- Speak clearly into the mic/phone for others to hear you. For phone-users, dial *6 to unmute.
- Provide your name and affiliation when you speak.
- Please select the mute button to mute your audio when you're not speaking.



In-Meeting Public Comment

- **Pre-registered public comments will be taken first.**
- **To enter the discussion queue:**
 - Click the “raise hand” icon in the top of the webinar window; click again to lower your hand after speaking.
 - The facilitator will call on you when it is your turn to speak. You will then be unmuted.
 - If you are a phone call-in user, dial *9 on your phone to enter the queue.
 - Provide your name and affiliation before you speak.
- **Public comment will be recorded (3 minutes); please be respectful of everyone’s time and opportunity to speak.**



Closing Remarks & Next Steps

Rick Yarde | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management

BOEM.gov



Linette Makua | linette.makua@boem.gov



U.S. ARMY



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