



GULF OF MEXICO CALL AREA

Consultations

Endangered Species Act

Federal agencies must ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of those species. When the action of a Federal agency may affect a protected species or its critical habitat, that agency is required to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), depending upon the protected species.

USFS

BOEM is coordinating with USFWS. Any need for consultation for site assessment and site characterization activities within the Gulf of Mexico Call Area would be based on a determination that the lease sale or activities expected to follow a lease sale could affect ESA-listed species or critical habitat managed by the USFWS.

NMFS

The site assessment and site characterization activities that may result from of the issuance of leases in the Gulf of Mexico Call Area will be the subject of a consultation with NMFS under the ESA.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Federal agencies are required to consult with NMFS on any action that may result in adverse effects on EFH. Certain outer continental shelf (OCS) activities authorized by BOEM may result in adverse effects on essential fish habitat (EFH) and, therefore, require consultation with NMFS. Concurrent with this EA, BOEM will consult with NMFS regarding the impacts of the Proposed Action on EFH.

Coastal Zone Management Act

Federal actions that are reasonably likely to affect any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone of a state must be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with relevant enforceable policies of each affected state's federally approved coastal management program. If BOEM decides to offer an area(s) for lease, a leasing notice will be published and BOEM will prepare a Consistency Determination to determine whether issuing leases and site assessment activities are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the provisions identified as enforceable by the Coastal Zone Management Programs of the states of each affected state.

Government to Government Consultations with Federally Recognized Tribes

BOEM recognizes the unique legal relationship of the U.S. with tribal governments, and the bureau is required to consult with federally recognized Native American Tribes when a BOEM action has tribal implications. BOEM has initiated government-to-government consultations with Tribes with historic and cultural ties to the region to discuss proposed lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico Call Area and will invite Tribes to further participate in consultations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)

Section 106 of the NHPA requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. BOEM will initiate consultation with Louisiana and Texas State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, federally recognized Native American Tribes, and other potential consulting parties.

