

**DoD Mission Compatibility Planning Assessment:
BOEM 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)
Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program**

30 October 2015



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1. Background

On January 27, 2015, the Secretary of the Interior announced the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil (OCS) and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program (DPP), and in a letter to the Secretary of Defense, requested Department of Defense (DoD) comments on the DPP. The information contained within this report and in the associated geospatial data files provides the DoD's detailed response to the Secretary of the Interior's call for comments on the 2017-2022 DPP.

The first DoD mission compatibility assessment for offshore oil and gas resource development was completed for the 2010-2015 DPP, which was later revised by Secretary of the Interior to cover the period from 2012-2017. The current assessment and report build on the methodology and experience developed for the 2010-2015 assessment. In 2010, at the request of the then Minerals Management Service, DoD assessed every Operating Area and warning area within all 26 OCS planning areas. In 2015, DoD assessed mission compatibility only for the DPP areas, and the assessment was conducted at the lease block level. It should be noted that the results of this DoD study are for oil and gas activity and infrastructure only and do not apply to offshore renewable energy activities or infrastructure.

2. Methods and Results: Analysis of DoD activities and compatibility with oil and gas resource development on the OCS

The Department used a comprehensive approach for its analysis of activities in the DPP areas. Four categories of potential compatibility were developed as part of this analysis:

1. Unrestricted: No DoD-requested restrictions on oil and gas infrastructure or related activities. However, DoD requests early and prior consultation if oil and gas activity is contemplated in these areas.
2. Site Specific Stipulations: Areas where, with specific stipulations, above-surface oil and gas infrastructure may be feasible. Examples of currently used stipulations include: "hold harmless" provisions; electromagnetic emission controls; site evacuation protocols; location pre-coordination; density limitations; and planned periods of lease operations. Appendix 1 provides further details on examples of OCS lease stipulations.
3. No Permanent Oil & Gas Surface Structures: Areas where subsurface oil and gas infrastructure may be compatible; e.g., where scheduled temporary surface activities from a drillship or moveable platform are pre-coordinated with DoD and subsurface and seabed infrastructure remains in place.
4. No Oil and Gas Activity: Areas where any oil and gas development infrastructure and activity would jeopardize DoD operations.

DoD assessed each DPP area using these four categories based on compatibility with current military activities and compiled the results into a geographic information system (GIS). The geospatial data integrates Operating Areas (OPAREAs) and warning areas, and DoD offshore

activities along with the BOEM Planning Areas and the 2017-2022 DPP Areas. The GIS shapefiles with this data will be transmitted to BOEM as part of this report.

DoD analysis of its offshore activities using the four categories above and aggregated for the eight BOEM OCS Planning Areas included in the 2017-2022 DPP results in the following:

1. Unrestricted:	67.2%
2. Site Specific Stipulations:	29.5%
3. No Permanent Oil & Gas Surface Structures:	1.6%
4. No Oil & Gas Activity:	1.7%

The assessment identified locations within both the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Planning Areas where DoD offshore activities are not compatible with oil and gas activities and infrastructure. Within the Mid-Atlantic Planning Area, DoD identified locations where subsurface oil and gas infrastructure may be compatible. However, the DoD would request that no permanent oil and gas surface structures be constructed in these areas.

DoD identified areas within two of the BOEM Planning Areas where the Department would request Site Specific Stipulations to protect ongoing and reasonable foreseeable future DoD activities; however, the analysis cannot reflect unknown or unforeseen requirements, such as new capabilities based on future threats, surge events, and contingency use. The categorization of areas within the Mid and South Atlantic Planning Areas as Site Specific Stipulations outside of OPAREAS and warning areas is a change from the 2010 assessment. In 2010 DoD requested early and prior coordination when oil and gas activity was contemplated in these areas. The current assessment reflects new mission requirements including expanded weapon and sensor footprints, and operational concerns. These new mission requirements call for the option to address potential impacts using site specific stipulations. However, offshore oil and gas leasing in these areas may or may not require Site Specific Stipulations as that determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.

DoD assessed the 2017-2022 DPP areas in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska as Unrestricted for oil and gas development. However, the DoD requests early and prior consultation if oil and gas activity is contemplated in these areas.

3. Results by BOEM OCS Planning and DPP Areas, DoD OPAREAs, and Warning Areas

The results of the compatibility assessment for the eight Planning Areas within the 2017-2022 DPP are featured in the tables below. For each of the eight Planning Areas, a table is provided featuring a description of the DoD activities within that Planning Area, the category for potential compatibility associated with those activities, and the justification for the categorization. Each lease block within the Program Area was assessed for compatibility and assigned one of the four categories for potential compatibility based on DoD activities conducted within that lease block. Adjacent lease blocks of the same category were grouped together and listed with the associated protraction and DoD OPAREAs or Warning Areas where the DoD activities take place. An explanation of the abbreviations and acronyms used for Activity Type and Justification can be found in Appendix 3.

Mid-Atlantic Planning Area

Activities within the Mid Atlantic, Categories, and Justification

<u>Category</u>	<u>Types of Activities</u>	<u>Justification for Categorization</u>
No Oil and Gas Activity	Live Fire Tests; Live ordnance release and impact; Airborne use of Chaff/Flares; Homing torpedo testing/training; Surface-to-air missile exercises (MISSILEX); air-to-surface bombing exercises (BOMBEX); Mine counter measure operations; surface-to-surface gunnery live fire/ordnance operations Aerial target hazard pattern; Supersonic flight tests; aerial target launch; operational test (OT), developmental test (DT), and combat system ship qualifications trials (CSSQT); Testing and Weapons Employment/Assurance; Aerial, surface, subsurface testing and training; In-water active acoustic decoy training (NIXIE); towed target operations; laser targeting operations; Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR), Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) sensor evaluations (live fire); Dynamic towed sonar systems; drone transit operations; Fleet operations and Test & Evaluation events	Preservation of a sterile test environment for live fire test events; undersea and surface operations; combat readiness training flexibility; freedom of maneuver; freedom of tactical action; safety margins for live fire events; safety associate with numerous unexploded ordnance (UXO) on the ocean floor; mine countermeasures (MCM) operations employ systems/hardware dragged through simulated minefield from helicopters and offensive weapons employment; On-going live ordnance release/impact, tactical training, drone launch/recovery hazard area, mine countermeasure and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) operations;
No Permanent Oil And Gas Surface Structures	Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier (CVN) operations and training; Aircrew landing qualifications (day and night); Extensive aircraft launch and recovery operations;	Uninhibited/unobstructed sea/air space to support restricted in maneuverability constraints inherent during carrier flight operations and initial/refresher carrier qualifications; Surface development & structures inhibit ability of aircraft carrier to navigate freely, safely launch/recover aircraft & conduct unencumbered, dynamic flight operations;
Site Specific Stipulations	Military air traffic, emerging Ballistic Missile Defense training missions	Site Specific Stipulation (Yellow) areas outside of DoD Warning Areas and Operating Areas are associated with emerging Ballistic Missile Defense training missions, longer weapons release ranges, and expanded weapons hazard patterns for safety. These activities may or may not require site specific stipulations and this determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Protractions, Lease Blocks, and Warning Areas/OPAREAs by Category

<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
			No Oil and Gas Activity



<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warming Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	No Oil and Gas Activity
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	No Oil and Gas Activity
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	No Oil and Gas Activity
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	No Permanent Oil And Gas Surface Structures
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	No Permanent Oil and Gas Surface Structures

[Redacted]

<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Site Specific Stipulations



<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

South Atlantic Planning Area

Activities within the South Atlantic, Categories, and Justification

<u>Category</u>	<u>Types of Activities</u>	<u>Justification for Categorization</u>
No Oil and Gas Activity	Strike Group transit & training, small boat, high speed maneuver & tactics, air-to-surface/surface-to-surface gunnery, fast attack craft/fast inshore attack craft (FAC/FIAC) operations, large scale exercise (LSE) support, MCM, mining exercise (MINEX), live underwater ordnance detonation operations, anti-submarine warfare (ASW) instrumented (seabed) training, torpedo firing exercises, naval surface fires, helicopter maritime strike wing Atlantic (HSMWL), Diesel Electric Submarine Initiative (DESI) exercises, Live air-to-surface ordnance operations, bomb drop box, Air-to-surface BOMBEX, shipboard Electronic Systems Evaluation Facility operations.	Preservation of live fire training range, mine neutralization operations, Numerous UXO on ocean floor, permanently installed instrumented tracking devices/hydrophone array located on seabed, hi-density/dynamic submarine, surface ship & helicopter ASW/USW operations conducted continuously, wide range of ASW offensive & defensive ordnance/countermeasures employed both above & below surface throughout the range, preservation of undersea and surface operations, preservation capability of testing and evaluation facility
Site Specific Stipulations	Military air traffic, new mission requirements including expanded weapon and sensor footprints and operational concerns	The current assessment reflects new mission requirements including expanded weapon and sensor footprints and operational concerns. These new requirements call for the option to address potential impacts using site specific stipulations. However, offshore oil and gas leasing in these areas may or may not require site specific stipulations as that determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Protractions, Lease Blocks, and Warning Areas/OPAREAs by Category

<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
<p>[Redacted]</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>	No Oil and Gas Activity



<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	No Oil and Gas Activity
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Site Specific Stipulations

Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area

Activities within the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, Categories, and Justification

<u>Category</u>	<u>Types of Activities</u>	<u>Justification for Categorization</u>
Unrestricted	Military flight training and operations	In order to maintain uninhibited/unobstructed air space to support training and flight operations, DoD requests early and prior coordination if oil and gas activity is contemplated in these areas

Protractions, Lease Blocks, and Warning Areas/OPAREAs by Category

<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Unrestricted

Central Gulf Of Mexico Planning Area

Activities within the Central Gulf of Mexico, Categories, and Justification

<u>Category</u>	<u>Types of Activities</u>	<u>Justification for Categorization</u>
Unrestricted	Military flight training and operations	In order to maintain uninhibited/unobstructed air space to support training and flight operations, DoD requests early and prior coordination if oil and gas activity is contemplated in these areas

Protractions, Lease Blocks, and Warning Areas/OPAREAs by Category

<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Unrestricted

Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area

Activities within the Western Gulf of Mexico, Categories, and Justification

<u>Category</u>	<u>Types of Activities</u>	<u>Justification for Categorization</u>
Unrestricted	Military flight training and operations	In order to maintain uninhibited/unobstructed air space to support training and flight operations, DoD requests early and prior coordination if oil and gas activity is contemplated in these areas

Protractions, Lease Blocks, and Warning Areas/OPAREAs by Category

<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Unrestricted
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Unrestricted
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Unrestricted
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Unrestricted
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Unrestricted
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Unrestricted
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Unrestricted

Chuckchi Sea Planning Area

Activities within the Chuckchi Sea, Categories, and Justification

<u>Category</u>	<u>Types of Activities</u>	<u>Justification for Categorization</u>
Unrestricted	Military flight training and operations	In order to maintain uninhibited/unobstructed air space to support training and flight operations, DoD requests early and prior coordination if oil and gas activity is contemplated in these areas

Protractions, Lease Blocks, and Warning Areas/OPAREAs by Category

<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	Unrestricted



<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	



<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	



<u>Protractions</u>	<u>Lease Blocks</u>	<u>Associated OPAREAs/Warning Areas</u>	<u>Category</u>
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	

