



MEMBER COUNTRY PROFILE

Country Name	United States
Organisation:	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), in the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
Country Representative(s):	Juliette Lee, Program Analyst, Office of Strategic Policy and International Affairs, BOEM Julie Fleming, Deputy Assistant Director for Congressional and International Affairs, BSEE
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Regime scope:	<p>The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) manages energy, mineral, and geological resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), encompassing nearly 3.2 billion acres offshore the 50 U.S. States, five territories with civilian governments, and significant acreage offshore other U.S. territories. These responsibilities are carried out by the BOEM and BSEE.</p> <p>BOEM's mission is to manage OCS energy, mineral, and geological resources in an environmentally and economically responsible manner. BOEM's strategic operational priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainably Manage OCS Energy and Mineral Resources• Position BOEM to Address Emerging Offshore-Related Technologies, Opportunities, and Uses• Ensure that BOEM has a First in Class Environmental Program and Advances Environmental Stewardship• Build Effective Relationships with Tribal Nations, Native Hawaiian Communities, and Pacific and Caribbean Indigenous Communities in the U.S. Territories• Meaningfully Engage with Ocean Users, Partners, and Stakeholders• Modernize Our Data and Technology Infrastructure <p>More detailed information is available here.</p> <p>BSEE's mission is to ensure safe and environmentally sustainable exploration, development, and production of America's offshore energy and mineral resources through regulatory oversight and enforcement. BSEE's authority includes, but is not limited to, permitting, environmental compliance, engineering standards and regulations, oil spill response planning, inspections, enforcement, and investigations related to operations and facilities on the U.S. OCS. More detailed information is available here.</p>
Governance arrangements:	The Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior has delegated the authority granted under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to BOEM and BSEE.
Legislation type:	BOEM and BSEE are governed by U.S. Federal Statutes and Regulations. The OCSLA is the primary statute governing the submerged lands of the OCS and the administration of its mineral and non-mineral resources. Regulations governing OCS



oil, gas, minerals, and renewable energy can be found in Title 30 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Federal management of OCS energy and mineral resources has had a long and productive history following first enactment of the Submerged Lands Act and OCSLA in 1953. OCSLA was amended significantly in 1978, and declared a policy that “the Outer Continental Shelf is a vital national resource reserve held by the federal government for the public, which should be made available for expeditious and orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards . . .” The OCSLA charged the Secretary of the Interior with implementing this policy, including procedures for offshore oil and gas leasing, exploration, development, and production that proved OCS resources could be accessed in a manner that is safe and environmentally sound, prevents waste, and provides a fair return for public resources.

Since its enactment, OCSLA has been amended to include additional goals and responsibilities for the Secretary of the Interior. The [Energy Policy Act of 2005](#) expanded the scope of OCSLA to include other offshore energy sources, such as renewables, and alternative uses of OCS facilities. In 2021, [the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#) further expanded the OCSLA’s scope by authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to grant a lease, easement, or right-of-way on the OCS for sub-seabed carbon dioxide sequestration. In 2022, the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) amended the OCSLA’s geographic reach to include submerged lands within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) adjacent to U.S. territories.

Links to relevant legislation:

[Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act \(OCSLA\)](#)
[National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) of 1969](#), as amended.

[Oil Pollution Act of 1990](#), as amended.

[Marine Mammal Protection Act](#)

[Endangered Species Act](#)

[National Historic Preservation Act](#) of 1966.

Title 30 of the Code of Federal Regulations:

- BOEM: [30 CFR 550](#)
- BSEE: [30 CFR 250](#)

The Council on Environmental Quality has promulgated NEPA regulations at [40 CFR 1500-1508](#).

DOI Secretary’s [Order 3299](#) established the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.

Extent of government approval:

BOEM: Geological and geophysical permitting, planning, leasing, exploration, and development / production plan approvals, environmental reviews, environmental studies, economic analyses, outreach, and engagement.

BSEE: Drilling permits, engineering evaluations of renewable energy projects and installation plans, environmental analyses and studies, inspection, compliance, and enforcement activities, production safety system permits, structural permits, pipeline rights-of-way, decommissioning plans, evaluation and approval of oil spill response plans.

Nature of duties imposed:

BOEM and BSEE ensure activities on the OCS are carried out in an economically and environmentally responsible way in compliance with OCSLA and other relevant laws and regulations. The U.S. imposes obligations on lease holders, operators, and entities responsible for specific work. This is done through a hybrid system of prescriptive and performance-based regulations.



Physical objects in the regime:	For leasing statistics, click here . For information about offshore oil and gas leasing, visit BOEM’s Leasing webpage ; for information about exploration and development plans, visit BOEM’s Exploration and Development Plans webpage . For information about infrastructure in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, visit BSEE’s Offshore Infrastructure Dashboard . Additional information on offshore oil and gas activities can also be found in the BSEE Data Center .
Compliance assurance mechanisms:	<p>On April 15, 2024, BOEM released the final Risk Management and Financial Assurance for OCS Lease and Grant Obligations Rule. The rule strengthens and simplifies financial assurance requirements for the offshore oil and gas industry operating on the OCS. This rule updated BOEM’s regulations to better protect the American taxpayer from bearing the cost of oil and gas facility decommissioning. For more information, click here.</p> <p>BSEE’s inspection program is a vital component for ensuring compliance with all applicable regulations; safe operations reduce the risk of potential incidents that could harm the environment. The Seafloor Compliance, Assessment, and Monitoring Program, an element of the BSEE Office of Environmental Compliance field inspection efforts, uses scientific methodologies and procedures to help verify operators’ and permittees’ compliance with environmental standards conditioned on offshore operations. Additionally, drills (spill response, BOPE, H2S, evacuation, etc.) are required and may be initiated by BSEE without notice.</p>
Financial basis:	Please refer to BOEM’s congressional budget justifications and BSEE’s congressional budget justifications .
Environmental regulation responsibilities:	<p>The OCSLA requires offshore energy and marine minerals activities be carried out in a manner that provides for the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Environmental stewardship is integral to BOEM’s mission to manage development of the Nation’s offshore resources: oil and gas, renewable energy, and marine minerals such as sand and gravel or critical minerals. BOEM conducts environmental assessments to evaluate the impacts of our actions by using science, engaging stakeholders, and working with government partners. Our core values – service, stewardship, integrity, innovation, and excellence – enable BOEM’s environmental scientists and policy experts to provide the public and decision-makers with a clear understanding of environmental risks and benefits so that these factors can be considered with other factors to meet our nation’s energy and mineral needs. For more information, click here.</p> <p>BSEE aims to carry out to the highest standards in all our mission duties that contribute to the management, protection, and care of the coastal, marine, and human environments. BSEE focuses on environmental resource priority areas and also coordinates environmental stewardship functions across bureau lines of authority and program objectives. The Bureau ensures lessees and operators subject to its jurisdiction and active on the OCS comply with environmental laws and regulations, environmental standards established by science and found in leases plans and permits, as well as applied mitigations and terms or conditions of approval. BSEE works with OCS stakeholders to strengthen operators’ abilities to reduce environmental impacts on the OCS and to ensure the environmental benefits are equitable, accessible, and inclusive of all. Our nation’s oceans provide nourishment and economic opportunity for many Americans. The Bureau also values its cooperative relationships with federal partners and is working to strengthen resources through interagency cooperation and Tribal engagement. For more information, click here.</p>



Oil spill response:	<p>BSEE administers a robust Oil Spill Preparedness Program which includes requirements that owners and operators of offshore facilities engage in comprehensive contingency planning and equipment testing to ensure their readiness for oil spills and other environmental or safety threats that may result from their activities.</p> <p>Additionally, BSEE conducts unannounced exercises, research and development activities, and maintains close engagement with the stakeholders of the National Response System through collaboration with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to manage incidents on offshore facilities. While the USCG leads operational responses as the On-Scene Coordinator for such incidents, BSEE focuses on source control and other facility safety issues.</p>
Transparency:	<p>BOEM and BSEE’s functions and responsibilities are described on their respective websites (BOEM.gov and BSEE.gov). BOEM released its 2024-2028 Strategic Framework, which communicates a vision for the future of the bureau’s work on the OCS. BSEE’s Notices to Lessees, investigation reports, and statistics are available on the BSEE website.</p>
Research:	<p>OCSLA directs BOEM to study and consider coastal, marine, and human environmental impacts when making decisions on development activities. BOEM’s Environmental Studies Program develops, conducts, and oversees world-class scientific research studies to inform sound policy decisions. Additional information is available here.</p> <p>BSEE manages a robust oil spill research and development program. For more than 25 years, BSEE has maintained a comprehensive, long-term research program dedicated to improving oil spill response options. The major focus of the program is to improve the methods and technologies used for oil spill detection, containment, treatment, recovery, and cleanup. Additionally, through contracts with universities, private firms, and governmental laboratories to evaluate safety-related technologies, BSEE's Technology Assessment Program has administered nearly 900 research and development projects since its inception. BSEE has also begun funding safety related research for offshore wind. Additional information regarding BSEE’s research is available on the website.</p>
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