



NATIONAL
OCEAN
POLICY
COALITION

***U.S. Ocean Policy Update:
Implications for Alaska***

**Resource Development Council for Alaska
44th Annual Alaska Resources Conference
November 15, 2023
Anchorage, AK**



Federal Activities

- **30x30 (“America the Beautiful”)**
- **National Ocean Plan (Nat’l. Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy)**
- **2024-2029 Proposed Final OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program**
- **Natural Capital Accounting**



- **Goal: Conserve 30% of U.S. waters by 2030**
- **Origin: Jan. 2021 Executive Order on “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”**
- **Awaiting federal database of areas deemed already conserved**
- **NOPC study: 4,200+ sites covering area ~5x U.S. EEZ already conserved**



ALASKA REGION

The U.S. Alaska region includes **340 marine sites** being managed for conservation and/or safety purposes, spanning over **20 million km²**. That equates to **over 5 times the size of Alaska's Exclusive Economic Zone (3,770,021 km²)**.¹

Protected Areas:	19	26,687.49 km ² (0.71% of EEZ)
Critical Habitat Areas:	32	2,779,940.95 km ² (73.74% of EEZ)
Shipping Safety Fairways:	5	N/A
Anchorage Areas:	N/A	N/A
Energy Leasing Withdrawals:	4	752,674.58 km ² (19.96% of EEZ)
DOD Restricted Areas & Danger Zones:	5	N/A
Regulated Navigation Areas & Limited Access Areas:	7	N/A
Biodiversity Protection/Fisheries Mgmt. Areas:	268	16,537,581.24 km ² (438.66% of EEZ)
TOTAL	340 sites	20,096,884.26 km² (533.07% of EEZ)





U.S. OCEAN PLAN

- **Goal: “Sustainable Ocean Plan” for all federal waters by 2026**
- **Origin: U.S. accession to High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy**
- **Comment period concluded September 2023**
- **Final plan expected in 2024**

**OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

**Request for Information; National
Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean
Economy**

AGENCY: Office of Science and
Technology Policy (OSTP).

ACTION: Notice of request for
information (RFI).



Federal Offshore O&G Leasing

- **Record low lease sales proposed for 2024-2029**

Table 1: 2024–2029 Proposed Final Program Lease Sale Schedule

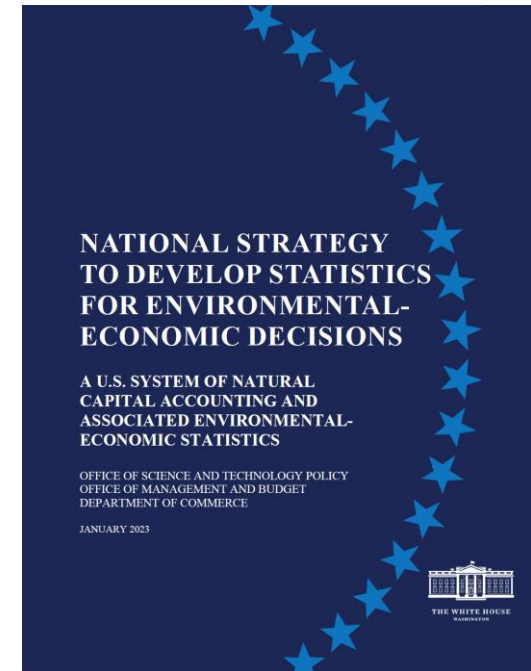
Count	Sale Number	Sale Year	OCS Region and Program Area
1	262	2025	Gulf of Mexico: GOM Program Area
2	263	2027	Gulf of Mexico: GOM Program Area
3	264	2029	Gulf of Mexico: GOM Program Area

- **Zero potential lease sales included for Alaska**
- **A return to more normalized leasing activity is unlikely, barring congressional action and/or a new administration**



Natural Capital Accounting

- **Goal: Incorporate value of nature in all federal regulatory cost-benefit analyses**
- **Origin: 2022 Earth Day Executive Order on “Strengthening the Nation’s Forests, Communities, and Local Economies”**
- **Based on premise that GDP is no longer an accurate way to measure the health of the U.S. economy**





QUESTIONS?



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