



MEMBER COUNTRY PROFILE	
Country name	United States
Organisation:	Marine Minerals Administration (MMA)
Country Representative(s):	Seong Kim, Acting Principal Deputy Associate Director Office of Strategy and Governance, MMA
Primary Contact(s):	Seong Kim: seong.kim@bsee.gov
Regime scope:	The U.S. DOI manages energy, mineral, and geological resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), encompassing about 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 MMA. MMA advances the safe, orderly, and expeditious development of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy, mineral, and geological resources while protecting the environment and conserving natural resources through rigorous oversight and responsible stewardship.
Governance arrangements:	The U.S. Secretary of the Interior has delegated the authority granted under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to the bureau currently reunified as MMA, formerly the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) .
Legislation type:	MMA is governed by U.S. Federal Statutes and Regulations. OCSLA is MMA's primary authorizing statute. OCSLA establishes federal jurisdiction over the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf and authorizes the Department of the Interior to lease and oversee offshore energy and mineral development in an orderly manner with safety, environmental, conservation, and public-return safeguards. MMA's regulations governing OCS energy and minerals can be found in Title 30 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
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 Chapter II and Chapter V of the Code of Federal Regulations • DOI NEPA Implementing Regulations: 43 CFR Part 46 • DOI Secretarial Order 3451 established MMA (July 2026).
Extent of government approval:	MMA serves as the lead U.S. regulator for the full lifecycle of energy and mineral activities on the OCS from geological and geophysical exploration through, leasing, planning, construction, operations, and decommissioning. MMA also conducts environmental analysis and studies, economic analyses, outreach and engagement, inspection, compliance, and enforcement activities, and approval of safety management systems and oil spill response plans.
Nature of duties imposed:	MMA ensures that energy and mineral develop on the OCS is carried out in a safe, orderly, and expeditious manner while protecting the environment and conserving natural resources through rigorous oversight and responsible stewardship, in compliance with OCSLA and other relevant laws and regulations. The U.S. imposes requirements on leaseholders, operators, and entities responsible for specific work to ensure offshore resources are developed responsibly and safely, while maximizing their value and return to the American public. This is done through a hybrid system of prescriptive and performance-based regulations.
Physical objects in the regime:	For leasing statistics, visit MMA's Combined Leasing Status Report webpage . For other information about offshore oil and gas activities, see MMA Data Center ; for information about exploration and development plans, visit MMA's Exploration and Development Plans webpage . For information about infrastructure in the U.S. Gulf of America, visit MMA's Offshore Infrastructure Dashboard .
Compliance assurance mechanisms:	MMA'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 MMA 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 MMA without notice, and every structure is inspected annually for compliance with all regulations and terms of the lease, plan, and permit approvals.



	MMA has several enforcement options, when needed, to ensure compliance by the regulated community. These options include incidents of non-compliance, component and facility shut-in, civil penalties, and suspension or cancellation of a lease.
Financial basis:	Please refer to the MMA legacy bureaus' Congressional budget justifications: BOEM's Congressional budget justifications and BSEE's Congressional budget justifications.
Environmental regulation responsibilities:	OCSLA requires offshore energy and marine minerals activities be carried out in a manner that provides for the protection of the environment. Environmental stewardship is integral to MMA's mission to manage development of the Nation's offshore energy and marine mineral resources. MMA conducts environmental assessments to evaluate the impacts of Bureau actions by using science, engaging stakeholders, and working with government partners. For more information, click here. MMA 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. MMA works with OCS stakeholders to reduce environmental impacts on the OCS. For more information, click here.
Oil spill response:	MMA 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 which may result from their activities. Additionally, MMA 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, MMA focuses on source control and other facility safety issues.
Transparency:	MMA's functions and responsibilities are described on the legacy bureaus' respective websites (BOEM.gov and BSEE.gov), along with additional resources such as guidance, environmental analyses, investigation reports, and program statistics.



Research:

MMA's legacy bureaus BOEM and BSEE both conduct a significant amount of research focused on geological and geophysical evaluation; coastal, marine, and human environmental impacts; technology innovation; and safety and response management including a long-term research program dedicated to improving oil spill response options. The major focus of the oil spill response program is to improve the methods and technologies used for oil spill detection, containment, treatment, recovery, and cleanup. In collaboration with the Department of Energy, MMA also funds the Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI) which brings together industry, academia, national laboratories, and other stakeholders to advance technology, research, workforce capability, safety, resource conservation, and environmental stewardship across offshore energy sectors.

Additional resources are available:

BOEM related research: [BOEM research](#)

MMA Technology Assessment Program: [MMA's Technology Assessment Program \(TAP\)](#)

BSEE relate research and information: [BSEE Research](#)

OESI: [OESI](#)

Oil Spill Research: [Oil Spill](#)

Profile date:

August 2026