

BOEM's Draft Proposed Program on 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing

On January 4, 2018 the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) published a draft proposed program (DPP) on 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing. The DPP would open approximately 98 percent of the OCS for consideration of oil and gas leasing during the 2019-2024 period. In its proposal, BOEM recommends several options for each region, but states that the option that is preferred is the one that allows for the greatest potential for discovery including the opportunity to bid on rejected, relinquished or expired drilling blocks.

On March 9, 2018 the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed a comment letter encouraging BOEM to consider the impacts to small businesses when preparing its proposed program for public comment, and to engage in small business outreach. The letter to BOEM may be accessed at: <http://sba.gov/advocacy>

- The DPP names 47 lease sales in all four OCS regions as follows: 19 lease sales in Alaska, 7 lease sales in the Pacific region, 12 lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico, and 9 lease sales in the Atlantic region.
- Advocacy heard from small business owners who stated that they support the DPP, and specifically the amount of the OCS that will be available for oil and gas leasing. These entities stated that they support maintaining an expansive leasing program as it will allow them the opportunity to expand their businesses and build new businesses.
- Advocacy also noted that the proposal may have a negative impact on some small tour operators, coastal recreation companies, and fisheries as well as other small entities and communities.
- Advocacy submitted to BOEM a public comment letter requesting that it consider the impact to small entities of the draft proposed program, and that BOEM use the factors in the RFA as a framework for its analysis of impacts.
- Advocacy also suggested that BOEM conduct specific small entity outreach and consider alternatives so that small entities may meaningfully and fairly participate in the leasing program process.
- For more information visit Advocacy's web page at www.sba.gov/advocacy, or contact Prianka Sharma at 202-205-6938.