

Offshore Regulatory Update

Andy Radford

Sr. Policy Advisor

703-447-2297

radforda@api.org



American
Petroleum
Institute

Offshore Regulations

BSEE

- HPHT – Final Rule published. Still working through the details, but looks to be favorable
- Documents Incorporated by Reference – Final Rule coming soon
- Subpart J – Pipelines – Proposed Rule behind schedule, not expected this year
- BAST - Comments filed on Proposed Rule

BOEM

- Financial Assurance Final Rule
- Protection of Archaeological Resources Final Rule – Incorporated some industry suggestions
- 2025 Lease Sale – Awaiting Draft EIS – Timing could be impacted by BiOp
- Fitness to Operate Proposed Rule
- Proposed Air Regulations – Litigation underway

NMFS

- Rice's whale Critical Habitat Designation – delayed until December 2024

Rice's Whale and GOM Biological Opinion

GOM Biological Opinion for Oil & Natural Gas Activity

- Court ruling vacates 2020 BiOp as of December 20,2024
- NMFS working on new BiOp – New BiOp not ready until May 2025 – NMFS has offered the possibility of an “interim BiOp” that would avoid a gap in coverage
- Awaiting judge’s ruling on reconsideration request
- All BOEM, BSEE, EPA permitted activity potentially impacted
- If no BiOp in place, agencies anticipate substantial permitting delays
- Legislative and Legal options offer best chance at resolution
- Joint Trades coordinating advocacy activities