



Safety at All Levels, at All Times

Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council

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Safety at All Levels, at All Times

- Decommissioning
- Idle Iron
- Rigs to Reefs
- Interagency Working Group



Decommissioning

- Companies Obligated to Remove Infrastructure
 - Within one year after lease expires
 - When the company determines there is no future use
 - Included in Lease terms
 - Regulated by 30 CFR 250, Subpart Q: Decommissioning Activities



Idle Iron

- Alternative Internal Control Review
 - Conducted after devastating hurricane seasons (2004, 2005, and 2008)
 - 111 structures destroyed or significantly damaged from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
 - 50% were on terminated leases
- Notice to Lessees (Sept. 2010)
 - Clarified “no longer useful for operations”
 - Removal required 5 years after determination
 - NTL did not change requirements
 - Majority of infrastructure: Abandoned Wells



“Rigs to Reefs”

- Departure from Regulatory Requirements
 - BSEE can grant a departure from removal requirements providing reefing criteria are met
 - Benefits the environment / economy
 - “Rigs to Reefs” policy allows for reefing of certain oil and gas platforms in state-designated reefing areas
 - Some platforms can be reefed in place
 - Since 2005, on average, 12% of platforms decommissioned annually have been reefed



“Rigs to Reefs”

- Reefing Criteria:
 - The structure becomes part of a State artificial reef program that complies with the criteria in the National Artificial Reef Plan;
 - The responsible State agency acquires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and accepts title and liability for the reefed structure once removal/reefing operations are concluded;
 - The operator satisfies any U.S. Coast Guard navigational requirements for the structure (85 feet below waterline); and
 - The reefing proposal complies with Gulf of Mexico Region engineering, stability, and environmental (EPA) reviewing standards and reef-approval guidelines.



Interagency Working Group

- Interagency Working Group looking at Rigs to Reefs:
 - BSEE
 - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
 - United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Informational Meeting November 16, 2012
 - Texas Southern University, Houston, TX
 - 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 - Interagency Presentation / Q&A