



**BUDGET** The United States  
Department of the Interior  
**JUSTIFICATIONS**

and Performance Information  
Fiscal Year 2027

**MARINE MINERALS  
ADMINISTRATION**

NOTICE: These budget justifications are prepared for the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees.



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## Executive Summary

### Introduction

In response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, the Department of the Interior (DOI) restructured the former Minerals Management Service (MMS) into three distinct entities: the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR). Subsequent reviews concluded the root causes of the disaster were operational failures by private companies and operators, not primarily structural deficiencies within MMS.

The Department proposes a strategic reunification of BOEM and BSEE accounts under a single, consolidated bureau named the Marine Minerals Administration (MMA) to better align with DOI's mission, streamline governance of offshore energy and mineral resources, and deliver greater value to the American public. This consolidation is grounded in four non-negotiable themes:

**1. Unleashing American Offshore Energy and Critical Mineral Potential**

The MMA will continue to play a major role in helping drive historic growth in offshore oil and gas production and mineral development, reinforcing the country's position as a global energy and critical mineral leader, securing U.S. national security and driving American prosperity.

**2. Unwavering Commitment to Safety on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)**

The MMA will maintain enhanced safety protocols and rigorous oversight across all OCS activities throughout the span of the energy life cycle, ensuring the highest standards of environmental and operational safety.

**3. Preservation and Enhancement of Human Capital Assets**

The MMA will prioritize the retention and placement of subject matter experts across the full resource development life cycle, ensuring a resilient and capable workforce.

**4. Operational Integration and Readiness**

With embedded operations in New Orleans, Louisiana; Camarillo, California; and Anchorage, Alaska, the MMA is positioned for immediate and seamless integration, minimizing disruption and maximizing continuity in energy operations.

### Budget Overview

The FY 2027 budget request reflects the MMA's commitment to:

- Advancing offshore oil, gas, and critical mineral development;
- Upholding the highest safety and environmental standards;
- Streamlining permitting and leasing processes; and
- Reducing regulatory burdens while enhancing stakeholder access.

The MMA's funding is requested through two accounts:

- **Marine Minerals Administration (MMA) Account:** Includes net discretionary appropriations and offsetting collections (e.g., OCS rental receipts, inspection and cost recovery fees); and
- **Oil Spill Research (OSR) Account:** Supports research and innovation in spill prevention and response.

In FY 2027, the MMA requests total budget authority of \$296.2 million. This request is comprised of \$286.7 million within the MMA Account and \$9.5 million within the Oil Spill Research Account. The MMA budget funds statutory mission requirements and focuses on Administration priorities including encouraging energy dominance through increased exploration and hydrocarbon production in Federal waters, advancing critical mineral access, and increasing stakeholder access to these opportunities while reducing regulatory burdens. Budgetary increases from FY 2026 reflect strategic investments in workforce, safety, and permitting efficiency. The FY 2027 budget proposes several initiatives to further existing activities essential to achieving Administration, Department, and MMA priorities in the areas of offshore oil and gas leasing, exploration, and production as well as activities to advance critical mineral exploration, leasing, and extraction on the OCS. The MMA will focus on expediting offshore oil and gas and critical mineral leasing as the country moves toward global energy and critical mineral dominance, thus fostering prosperity, economic growth, and national security.

### **Budget Highlights**

In FY 2027, the Department proposes to unify the offshore regulatory bureaus, BOEM and BSEE. Merging the bureaus will improve the efficiency of interdependent activities including exploration and development permitting, reduce regulatory burdens by creating a single organization to interact with the offshore industry, facilitate access to Federal resources to increase energy exploration and development, and reduce administrative redundancy. The unification will eliminate the need for interagency agreements that promote coordination and enable MMA to implement a single review process for plans and permits with consideration of modernized safety systems. With a single bureau interacting with industry throughout the planning and execution of exploration and development plans, the safety of offshore energy development will improve to ensure continuous protection from leasing to decommissioning, particularly as the industry increasingly moves towards producing oil and gas from high pressure/high temperature zones.

The FY 2027 budget reflects the MMA's commitment to ongoing efforts and initiatives that are critical to supporting the Administration's priorities and vital to executing its mission. The budget supports an emphasis on activities identified in Executive Orders (EOs) and Secretary's Orders (SOs), including, but not limited to: EO 14156, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency*; SO 3417, *Addressing the National Energy Emergency*; EO 14154 and SO 3418, *Unleashing American Energy*; EO 14148 *Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions*; SO 3420, *Announcing President Trump's Revocation of Former Outer Continental Shelf Withdrawals*; EO 14153 and SO 3422, *Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential*; EO 14285, *Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources*; and, EO 14303, *Restoring Gold Standard Science*. Collectively, the EOs and associated SOs describe the Administration's focus on accelerating opportunities to access, encourage development, and

foster production of America's energy and critical minerals in a manner that supports the country's prosperity, energy security, and environmental protection.

The MMA will continue supporting the EOs and SOs by improving access to OCS energy, geological and mineral resource identification, permitting, and leasing; enhancing the public's access to science and data; advancing energy security; supporting economic prosperity; and ensuring the reliability and affordability of domestic energy. The budget will continue supporting environmental stewardship and utilizing environmental studies and analyses to inform the MMA's decision making. Overall, the budget reflects a careful analysis of the resources required to advance the Administration's priorities and develop the MMA's core capacity to execute its functions responsibly and efficiently in service of the country.

### **Marine Minerals Administration Appropriation**

The MMA account includes the following budget activities: Conventional Energy Operations; Marine Minerals; Environmental Programs and Enforcement; Executive Direction; and Offshore Decommissioning. Please see budget activity chapters for additional information.

**Conventional Energy Operations Budget Activity.** This activity directly advances the Administration's priority to unleash OCS energy potential and thus generate prosperity and economic and national security for our country. This activity funds the National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program) and activities required by the Working Families Tax Cut Act (P.L. 119-21) including activities such as administering existing leases, OCS permit and plan application reviews and process tracking, inspections of OCS facilities (including critical high-risk activities), geological and geophysical survey reviews, evaluating resources, investigations, enforcement, audit programs, annual operator performance reviews, oil and gas production level verifications, research supporting emerging technology analysis and activities, cybersecurity, standards and regulatory review activities, and technical training.

**Marine Minerals Budget Activity.** The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) authorizes the Secretary to convey, on a noncompetitive basis, the rights to OCS sediment resources to Federal, State, and local government agencies for shore protection, beach or coastal wetlands restoration projects, or construction projects funded or authorized by the Federal government. This activity funds critical mineral priorities through OCS critical mineral lease sales and execution of post lease sale activities, and assessment of OCS critical minerals and collection of baseline information pertaining to ecological conditions and communities associated with OCS critical mineral deposits. Through this work, the MMA will be better positioned to evaluate future requests to prospect for, lease, and potentially develop offshore critical minerals in an environmentally responsible manner. Funding supports responsible resource exploration and leasing activities, coordination with governmental partners, engagement of stakeholders, and applied scientific studies to improve decision making and manage risk.

**Environmental Programs and Enforcement Budget Activity.** This activity supports environmental studies and assessments necessary to inform environmentally and economically responsible decisions regarding energy and mineral development on the OCS, environmental compliance staff and operational support required to manage MMA's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other environmental laws and regulations for all Federal actions, such as permitting; compliance verification and enforcement of

environmental standards, including specialized offshore inspections; and environmental coordination, including collaboration with operators and Federal and State agencies in support of decommissioning activities.

**Executive Direction Budget Activity.** This activity funds organization-wide leadership, strategic direction, management, coordination, communications strategies, and outreach. Resources support functions such as managing the budget planning and execution processes, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) activities, managing official documents and administrative records related to offshore energy development, and policy analysis.

**Renewable Energy Budget Activity.** In alignment with EO 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*, the FY 2027 Budget eliminates the Renewable Energy budget activity. MMA will support legal requirements for existing offshore leases in the Conventional Energy Operations Budget Activity. The MMA does not request funding for this activity in FY 2027.

**Offshore Decommissioning Budget Activity.** The MMA does not request funding for this activity in FY 2027. In FY 2027, MMA will continue issuing contracts using prior appropriations to perform decommissioning services for Gulf of America OCS conventional energy infrastructure orphaned by bankrupt operators when no other jointly or severally liable parties existed. These contracts will fund the proper plugging and abandonment of orphaned wells and ultimately fund the proper decommissioning of the associated orphaned pipelines and structures. Additionally, MMA will continue efforts with owners and operators, co- and prior-lessees responsible for decommissioning, contractors performing decommissioning activities, and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to ensure that the government and all potential responsible parties are prepared to respond to discharges that could occur as a result of decommissioning activities.

### **Oil Spill Research Appropriation**

For the OSR Appropriation, the MMA derives funding from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to execute its delegated responsibilities in support of title I, section 1016; title IV, sections 4202 and 4303; title VII; and title VIII, section 8201 of OPA 90. The MMA executes these responsibilities through a robust, world-class Oil Spill Preparedness (OSP) Program that protects people and the environment by optimizing responses to offshore facility oil spills through: (1) regulatory oversight; (2) basic, applied, and developmental research; (3) integrated government and industry preparedness; and (4) accountability to the National Response System.

## Summary Table (\$000)

<b>Budget Authority</b>	<b>2025 Actual<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2026 Enacted<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2027 Request</b>	<b>Change from 2026 Enacted</b>
<b>Marine Minerals Administration Account</b>				
Conventional Energy Operations	239,348	234,942	186,231	-48,711
Marine Minerals	13,808	13,808	17,808	+4,000
Environmental Programs and Enforcement	80,002	78,744	52,474	-26,270
Executive Direction	47,349	37,505	30,169	-7,336
Renewable Energy	33,105	20,000	-	-20,000
Offshore Decommissioning	2,880	2,880	-	-2,880
<b>Total, MMA</b>	<b>416,492</b>	<b>387,879</b>	<b>286,682</b>	<b>-101,197</b>
<b>Offsetting Collections</b>				
Offsetting Rental Receipts	-68,537	-80,000	-88,206	-8,206
Cost Recovery Fees	-5,959	-7,000	-9,897	-2,897
Inspection Fees	-28,360	-36,000	-37,144	-1,144
<b>Total, Offsetting Collections</b>	<b>-102,856</b>	<b>-123,000</b>	<b>-135,247</b>	<b>-12,247</b>
<b>Net, MMA</b>	<b>313,636</b>	<b>264,879</b>	<b>151,435</b>	<b>-113,444</b>
<b>Oil Spill Research</b>	<b>15,099</b>	<b>15,099</b>	<b>9,493</b>	<b>-5,606</b>
<b>Total MMA (w/o Offsetting Collections)</b>	<b>328,735</b>	<b>279,978</b>	<b>160,928</b>	<b>-119,050</b>
<b>Total MMA (w/ Offsetting Collections)</b>	<b>431,591</b>	<b>402,978</b>	<b>296,175</b>	<b>-106,803</b>
<b>Full Time Equivalents (FTE)</b>				
<i>Total Direct FTEs</i>	<i>1,304</i>	<i>1,096</i>	<i>874</i>	<i>-222</i>
<i>Total Reimbursable FTEs</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-5</i>

<sup>1</sup> The FY 2025 and FY 2026 columns represent notional comparability funding allocations by MMA Budget Activity had BOEM and BSEE been unified.

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## Budget Crosswalk Table (\$000)

Activity		2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027				
				Internal Transfers	Fixed Costs	Program Change	Request	Change From 2026
Current	BSEE - Environmental Enforcement	2,924	5,624	-5,624	-	-	-	-5,624
	BSEE - Operations, Safety and Regulation	162,365	156,827	-156,827	-	-	-	-156,827
	BSEE - Administrative Operations	19,520	15,520	-15,520	-	-	-	-15,520
	BSEE - Executive Direction	17,641	15,900	-15,900	-	-	-	-15,900
	BSEE - Offshore Decommissioning	2,880	2,880	-2,880	-	-	-	-2,880
	BOEM - Renewable Energy	33,105	20,000	-	-	-20,000	-	-20,000
	BOEM - Conventional Energy	67,028	70,200	-70,200	-	-	-	-70,200
	BOEM - Marine Minerals	13,808	13,808	-13,808	-	-	-	-13,808
	BOEM - Environmental Programs	77,078	73,120	-73,120	-	-	-	-73,120
	BOEM - Executive Direction	20,143	14,000	-14,000	-	-	-	-14,000
							-	
Proposed	<b><u>Marine Minerals Administration</u></b>							
	Conventional Energy Operations	-	-	+234,442	+111	-48,322	186,231	+186,231
	Marine Minerals	-	-	+13,808	-	+4,000	17,808	+17,808
	Environmental Programs and Enforcement	-	-	+78,244	-	-25,770	52,474	+52,474
	Executive Direction	-	-	+38,505	-	-8,336	30,169	+30,169
	Offshore Decommissioning	-	-	+2,880	-	-2,880	-	-
	Oil Spill Research	15,099	15,099	-	-	-5,606	9,493	-5,606
<b>Total</b>	<b>431,591</b>	<b>402,978</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>+111</b>	<b>-106,914</b>	<b>296,175</b>	<b>-106,803</b>	

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## Organizational Chart

MMA’s mission closely aligns with and advances the Administration’s policies and priorities by supporting resource evaluation, planning, and leasing of the country’s OCS energy, mineral, and geological resources in a balanced way that supports economic development and energy security. These activities are carried out via program offices located at headquarters and regional offices, as shown below in the organizational chart. Policy and administrative functions for each mission area are managed from headquarters offices in the greater Washington D.C. area and focus on national offshore leasing strategy and the development of comprehensive environmental analyses and science. MMA’s regional offices in Anchorage, Alaska; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Camarillo, California, implement MMA policy, manage regional leasing activity, conduct region-specific analyses, and coordinate stakeholder outreach and engagement.



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## Justification of Mandatory and Legislative Proposals

### **Transfer of Funds, Marine Minerals Administration**

The Department of the Interior proposes consolidating the BOEM and BSEE accounts in pursuit of improving access to offshore oil, gas, and mineral resources to advance the Administration's American energy dominance priorities. The reorganization of these Bureaus into a consolidated entity will enhance the Department's efficiency in oil and gas exploration and development and reduce regulatory burdens. A single agency overseeing the full life cycle of OCS energy and mineral resource development would align with both BOEM's and BSEE's shared mission of ensuring safe and responsible resource development. The requested legislative proposal will ensure fund accessibility for the continuation of mission critical activities within the new organization.

#### **Proposed legislative language:**

##### *MARINE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION REORGANIZATION*

*Sec. 127. The Secretary of the Interior, in order to implement a reorganization of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, may transfer affected program funds as necessary to effectuate the reorganization.*

### **Outer Continental Shelf Inspection Fees**

**Designated Operator Change:** While awaiting decommissioning, platforms and wells must be maintained and monitored (M&M) as necessary pursuant to DOI regulations, including by predecessors when lessees and operating rights owners fail to complete decommissioning within the time required. Because facilities and wells awaiting decommissioning still have "safety equipment designed to prevent or ameliorate blowouts, fires, spillages, or other major accidents," MMA is required by statute (i.e., OCSLA) to inspect them. When the current lessee has abandoned its interest and/or defaulted on its decommissioning obligations, then predecessor entities must take responsibility for (e.g., maintain and monitor) the facilities and wells for which they have decommissioning liability. In this circumstance, where facilities and wells still exist and require inspection, MMA identifies the responsible predecessors as the entities to be billed. To avoid future concerns by predecessor lessees regarding who is responsible for paying these fees, MMA is proposing to remove the term "designated operator" from the existing general provision and replacing it with "lessee, operator, or predecessor," to ensure that DOI can assess inspection fees on predecessors who are conducting monitoring, maintenance, and decommissioning.

**Offshore Wind Inspection Fee:** When Congress initially authorized collection of oil and gas facility inspection fees as part of the FY 2010 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-88), there were no offshore renewable energy projects either under construction or operating on the OCS. Offshore wind expanded significantly under the previous Administration with multiple projects currently in various stages of development, including site assessment, construction, and operations. Based on this expansion, and so that offshore wind operators

are not held to different standards than oil and gas companies, MMA is proposing inspection fees to offset MMA's costs.

**Proposed legislative language:**

*SEC. 111. (a) In fiscal year 2027, the Secretary of the Interior shall collect a nonrefundable inspection fee, which shall be deposited in the "Marine Minerals Administration" account, from the lessee, operator, or predecessor for facilities subject to inspection under section 22 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1348(c)).*

*(b) Annual fees shall be collected for facilities that are above the waterline, excluding drilling rigs, and are in place at the start of the fiscal year. Fees for fiscal year 2027 shall be—*

*(1) \$10,500 for facilities with no wells, but with processing equipment or gathering lines;*

*(2) \$17,000 for facilities with 1 to 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells; and*

*(3) \$31,500 for facilities with more than 10 wells, with any combination of active or inactive wells.*

*(c) Fees for drilling rigs shall be assessed for all inspections completed in fiscal year 2027. Fees for fiscal year 2027 shall be—*

*(1) \$30,500 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of 500 feet or more; and*

*(2) \$16,700 per inspection for rigs operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.*

*(d) Fees for inspection of well operations conducted via non-rig units as outlined in title 30 CFR 250 subparts D, E, F, and Q shall be assessed for all inspections completed in fiscal year 2027. Fees for fiscal year 2027 shall be—*

*(1) \$13,260 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths of 2,500 feet or more;*

*(2) \$11,530 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths between 500 and 2,499 feet; and*

*(3) \$4,470 per inspection for non-rig units operating in water depths of less than 500 feet.*

*(e) Fees for inspection of offshore wind projects shall be assessed for all inspections completed in fiscal year 2027. Fees for fiscal year 2027 shall be—*

*(1) \$7,300 for onshore visit to offshore wind project control center.*

*(2) \$72,800 for physical inspection of any wind turbine generator or substation either under construction or operating on the OCS.*

*(3) \$15,400 for visual inspection of each wind turbine generator or substation either under construction or operating on the OCS.*

*(4) \$5,300 for onshore pre-production inspection of each wind turbine generator or substation prior to installation on the OCS.*

*(f) The Secretary shall bill lessees, operators, or predecessors under subsection (b) quarterly, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill lessees, operators, or predecessors under subsection (c) and (e) within 30 days of the end of the month in which the inspection occurred, with payment required within 30 days of billing. The Secretary shall bill*

*lessees, operators, or predecessors under subsection (d) with payment required by the end of the following quarter.*

### **Contribution Authority**

The Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026 (H. R. 6938; P.L. 119-74), amended the law to extend BOEM and BSEE authority through FY 2030 to accept contributions for environmental and technical work related to the development of OCS resources.

As a result of this authority, BOEM and BSEE are able to accept and use contributions in a manner that (1) promotes and enhances its programs and activities on the OCS consistent with applicable laws, for example by expanding the Bureaus' capacity to conduct environmental reviews as well as accept crude oil for research purposes at its Ohmsett Facility; (2) does not create a conflict or the appearance of a conflict of interest between the Bureaus and the entities it regulates or any other prohibited source; and (3) maintains the Bureaus' high standards for scientific and technical adequacy.

In FY 2027, MMA proposes the following change to reflect its inclusion to utilize contribution authority:

#### **Proposed legislative language:**

*SEC. 124. Section 113 of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, Public Law 113–76, as amended by section 114 of division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019, Public Law 116-6, and by section 124 of division C of the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026, Public Law 119-74, is further amended by inserting “, or any successor agency,” after “Enforcement”.*

### **Outer Continental Shelf Critical Minerals Revenue Sharing**

The United States possesses vast untapped critical mineral resources within our federal seabed. Offshore critical minerals are increasingly important to the Nation's security and technological leadership. The Administration supports legislation that would share the revenue from such undersea mining projects with adjoining States and territories, which will enhance infrastructure investment, support local community needs and accelerate domestic production.

This proposal would establish a revenue-sharing program for the offshore mining of these critical minerals under which 50% of revenues from these projects would be allocated to the U.S. Treasury and the remaining 50% would be deposited into a special account from which the Secretary of the Interior shall disburse 75% to the adjoining state or states, and 25% to the stateside apportionment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Revenues from the entire OCS would be available for sharing with States based on the location of the offshore lease with respect to equidistant administrative boundaries in a manner identical to that used for offshore oil and gas revenues.

### **Topple-in-Place Contingency Fund**

The MMA currently requires that OCS operators remove all platforms and other facilities within 1 year of lease termination, unless granted approval by the MMA for partial removal or topple in place. Spurred by the environmental benefits to fisheries in the Gulf of America, the MMA began a “rigs to reefs” program in the Gulf of America in 1985. Under this program, which has had significant application growth in recent years, an operator is permitted to “topple in place” if safety and stability criteria are met and States assume ownership and liability for the remaining infrastructure.

The Administration proposes to set “topple in place” as the default decommissioning standard, on the condition that such circumstances meet U.S. Coast Guard navigational requirements. The expanded use of topple in place is expected to significantly reduce operator decommissioning costs and liability. As part of this, the Administration is proposing to establish an industry-financed revolving fund – akin to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Fisherman’s Contingency Fund – to pay damages resulting from toppled structures under Federal liability (primarily the cost to replace damaged fishing gear). This new fund will also help address the MMA’s long-term orphaned decommissioning liabilities that are currently borne by American taxpayers.

## **Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act Report**

The Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act (GAO-IG Act, P.L. 115-414) enacted January 3, 2019, requires that Agencies report the status of each open audit recommendation issued more than one year prior to the submission of the Agency's annual budget justification to Congress. The Act requires Agencies to include the current target completion date, implementation status, and any discrepancies on closure determinations.

The Department of the Interior leadership takes audit follow-up very seriously and considers our external auditors, to include the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Office of the Inspector General, valued partners in not only improving the Department's management and compliance obligations but also enhancing its programmatic and administrative operations. As stewards of taxpayer resources, the Department applies cost-benefit analysis and enterprise risk management principles in recommendation implementation decisions. The Department's GAO-IG Act Report is available at the following link:

<https://www.doi.gov/cj>

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**Account: Marine Minerals Administration**

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## Account: Marine Minerals Administration

### Summary of Requirements Table (\$000)

	2025 Actual <sup>1</sup>		2026 Enacted <sup>1</sup>		2027 Request						
	Budget Authority	FTE	Budget Authority	FTE	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (\$)	FTE Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Authority	FTE	Change from 2026 Enacted
<b>Marine Minerals Administration (MMA)</b>											
Conventional Energy Operations	239,348	827	234,942	722	+111	-500	-48,322	-143	186,231	579	-48,711
Marine Minerals	13,808	22	13,808	17	-	-	+4,000	-	17,808	17	+4,000
Environmental Programs and Enforcement	80,002	196	78,744	170	-	-500	-25,770	-9	52,474	161	-26,270
Executive Direction	47,349	202	37,505	94	-	1,000	-8,336	-	30,169	94	-7,336
Renewable Energy	33,105	123	20,000	75	-	-	-20,000	-75	-	-	-20,000
Offshore Decommissioning	2,880	-	2,880	-	-	-	-2,880	-	-	-	-2,880
<b>Total, MMA</b>	<b>416,492</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>387,879</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-101,308</b>	<b>-227</b>	<b>286,682</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>-101,197</b>

<sup>1</sup> The FY 2025 and FY 2026 columns represent notional comparability funding allocations by MMA Budget Activity had BOEM and BSEE been unified.

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**Fixed Costs and Internal Realignments Tables (\$000)**

**Marine Minerals Administration  
Justification of Fixed Costs Changes**

<b>Fixed Cost Element</b>	<b>2026 Enacted Change</b>	<b>2026 Enacted to 2027 Request Change</b>	<b>Description</b>
Pay Raise	+3,454	+502	The President's Budget for 2027 includes one quarter (October-December 2026) of the 1.0% pay raise for 2026 and 0.0% pay raise for 2027. Pay raises are consistent with the published OMB Circular A-11.
FERS Employer Contribution Increase	0	-643	The estimates reflect adjustments to the employer contribution for FERS and Law Enforcement FERS for FY 2027. This information is consistent with the published OMB Circular A-11.
Departmental Working Capital Fund (WCF)	+348	-233	The estimates reflect Department decisions on the FY 2027 Working Capital Fund Central Bill.
Workers' Compensation Payments	-32	-37	The amount reflects final chargeback costs of compensating injured employees and dependents of employees who suffer accidental death while on duty. This amount reflects the final Workers Compensation bill for FY 2027 payable to the Department of Labor, Federal Employees Compensation Fund, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8147(b) as amended by Public Law 94-273.
GSA and Non-GSA Rents	-629	+522	This estimate reflects the FY 2027 President's Budget Exhibit 54s as submitted. The amounts reflect changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration (GSA) and others for office and non-office space as estimated by GSA, as well as the rental costs of other currently occupied space. These estimates reflect Udall Building rent, Security, Federal Reserve Parking, and Operations and Maintenance, distributed by bureau and office, based upon OFAS provided Udall Building occupancy levels. Costs of mandatory office relocations, i.e. relocations in cases where due to external events there is no alternative but to vacate the currently occupied space, are also included.
Total, Account 2027 Fixed Costs	+3,141	+111	

**Marine Minerals Administration  
Justification of Internal Realignments**

<b>Internal Realignments and Non-Policy/Program Changes (Net-Zero)</b>	<b>2027 Request (+/-)</b>	<b>Description</b>
Conventional Energy Operations - BOEM/BSEE Merger	-500	In FY 2027, the Department proposes to combine the offshore regulatory bureaus, BOEM and BSEE. Merging the bureaus will improve the efficiency of interdependent activities including exploration and development permitting, reduce regulatory burdens by creating a single organization to interact with the offshore industry, facilitate access to Federal resources to increase energy exploration and development, and reduce administrative redundancy.
Environmental Programs and Enforcement - BOEM/BSEE Merger	-500	In FY 2027, the Department proposes to combine the offshore regulatory bureaus, BOEM and BSEE. Merging the bureaus will improve the efficiency of interdependent activities including exploration and development permitting, reduce regulatory burdens by creating a single organization to interact with the offshore industry, facilitate access to Federal resources to increase energy exploration and development, and reduce administrative redundancy.
Executive Direction - BOEM/BSEE Merger	+1,000	In FY 2027, the Department proposes to combine the offshore regulatory bureaus, BOEM and BSEE. Merging the bureaus will improve the efficiency of interdependent activities including exploration and development permitting, reduce regulatory burdens by creating a single organization to interact with the offshore industry, facilitate access to Federal resources to increase energy exploration and development, and reduce administrative redundancy.
Net Account Total, Internal Transfers	0	

## Appropriations Language

### Marine Minerals Administration (MMA)

*For expenses necessary for granting, administering, and the regulation of operations related to leases, easements, rights-of-way, and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf and approving operations related thereto, as authorized by law; for environmental studies, as authorized by law; for enforcing and implementing other laws and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, \$249,538,000, of which \$151,435,000 is to remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which \$98,103,000 is to remain available until expended: Provided, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Marine Minerals Administration (and predecessor Bureaus) pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (67 Stat. 28) (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, in fiscal year 2027, such amounts as are assessed under 31 U.S.C. 9701 shall be collected and credited to this account and shall be available until expended for necessary expenses: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections described in the two preceding provisos are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2027 appropriation estimated at not more than \$151,435,000: Provided further, That not to exceed \$3,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for reasonable expenses related to promoting volunteer beach and marine cleanup activities: Provided further, That not to exceed \$5,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.*

*For an additional amount, \$37,144,000, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary and credited to this appropriation, which shall be derived from non-refundable inspection fees collected in fiscal year 2027, as provided in this Act: Provided, That the sum appropriated by this paragraph shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2027 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2027 appropriation estimated at \$0: Provided further, That to the extent that amounts realized from such inspection fees exceed \$37,144,000, the amounts realized in excess of \$37,144,000 shall be credited to this appropriation and remain available until expended: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2027, not less than 50 percent of the inspection fees expended by the Marine Minerals Administration will be used to fund personnel and mission-related costs to expand capacity and expedite the orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards, of the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), including the review of applications for permits to drill.*

### Appropriations Language Citations

The following provides a provision-by-provision explanation and citation of authority for each component of the appropriations language.

**1. *For expenses necessary for granting, administering and the regulation of operations related to leases, easements, rights-of-way, and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf and approving operations related thereto, as authorized by law;***

This provision authorizes MMA to expend funds for specific, mission-related purposes pursuant to the MMA's primary authorization, the OCS Lands Act, as amended, as well as myriad additional statutes that guide its activities, such as the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and others.

**2. *... for environmental studies, as authorized by law;***

This provision authorizes MMA to expend funds for environmental studies, pursuant to law. Specifically, the MMA's Environmental Studies Program function was established in 1973 by the OCS Lands Act, which directed the Secretary of the Interior, now through MMA, to –

“... conduct a study of any area or region included in any oil and gas lease sale or other lease in order to establish information needed for assessment and management of environmental impacts on the human, marine, and coastal environments of the Outer Continental Shelf and the coastal areas which may be affected by oil and gas or other mineral development in such area or region.” 43 U.S.C. §1346(a)(1).

“... to predict impacts on the marine biota which may result from chronic low level pollution or large spills associated with Outer Continental Shelf production, from the introduction of drill cuttings and drilling muds in the area, and from the laying of pipe to serve the offshore production area, and the impacts of development offshore on the affected and coastal areas.” 43 U.S.C. §1346(a)(3).

“Subsequent to the leasing and developing of any area or region, [to conduct] such additional studies as he deems necessary and shall monitor the human, marine, and coastal environments of such area or region in a manner designed to provide time-series and data trend information which can be used for comparison with any previously collected data for the purpose of identifying any significant changes in the quality and productivity of such environments, for establishing trends in the areas studied and monitored, and for designing experiments to identify the causes of such changes.” 43 U.S.C. §1346(b).

**3. *... for enforcing and implementing other laws and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation;***

This provision authorizes MMA to expend funds on activities related to its mission that are delegated to MMA by either the President of the United States or the Secretary of the Interior. For instance, Section 388 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 gives the Secretary of the Interior the authority to issue leases, easements, and rights-of-way on the OCS for activities that produce or support production, transportation, or transmission of energy from sources other than oil and gas.

**4. ... and for matching grants or cooperative agreements,**

This language provides authority for MMA to utilize matching grants or cooperative agreements to carry out mission-related functions. The Bureau uses cooperative agreements with Federal and non-Federal partners to conduct environmental studies and to implement OCS sand projects.

**5. ... \$286,682,000, of which \$151,435,000 is to remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which \$98,103,000 is to remain available until expended**

This provision identifies the amount of MMA's total budget authority for FY 2027 (\$286,682,000). Of this total budget authority, \$151,435,000 is designated as two-year money, to be available from FY 2027 through the end of FY 2028. Meanwhile, \$98,103,000 of MMA's budget authority – the amount associated with offsetting collections – is designated as no-year money with no expiration date. This enables MMA to use no-year money to fund long-term projects such as environmental studies.

**6. ... Provided, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Marine Minerals Administration (and predecessor Bureaus) pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (67 Stat. 28) (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities:**

Since 1995, annual appropriations language has provided MMA (and its predecessor agencies) authority to keep rental revenues above the \$3.00/acre rate in effect on August 5, 1993, up to an annual cap, to fund current operations. This provision allows the Bureau to use these rental receipts – as well as cost recovery fees for specific activities authorized by the OCS Lands Act, as authorized by the Independent Offices Appropriations Act – to partially fund mission-related activities. A listing of the specific cost recovery services and associated fees can be found on the Bureau's website in the "Fees for Services" section (<http://www.boem.gov/Fees-for-Services/>; Fees for Services | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement).

**7. ... Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, in fiscal year 2027, such amounts as are assessed under 31 U.S.C. 9701 shall be collected and credited to this account and shall be available until expended for necessary expenses:**

This provision allows MMA to charge and collect cost recovery fees and use those funds to cover expenses associated with the services provided to the public such as permit reviews.

**8. ... Provided further, That not to exceed \$3,000 shall be available for reasonable expenses related to promoting volunteer beach and marine cleanup activities:**

This provision has been included annually since 1998 (P.L. 105-83) and authorizes MMA to expend up to a certain amount for the promotion of volunteer beach and marine clean-up activities.

**9. ...Provided further, That not to exceed \$10,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses:**

The 2027 budget proposes appropriations language to enable MMA to use up to \$10,000 of appropriated amounts for courtesy and social responsibilities associated with official duties, including outreach and engagement with Tribal partners to honor traditions. This request would provide the MMA similar authority provided to other agencies to extend hospitality to official visitors without bureau employees bearing expenses from their own personal funds.

**10. ... Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2027 appropriation estimated at not more than \$151,435,000.**

This provision pertains to the availability of offsetting collections. The timing difference between the collection of rents and cost recovery fees and the availability of the funding for use as offsetting collections created significant operational challenges for MMA's predecessor bureaus, so the language was amended to include this "safety clause" in FY 2014. The language allows MMA to derive initial funding from the general fund of the Treasury, with amounts returned to the general fund at the end of the year once all collections have been received.

**11. ... For an additional amount, \$37,144,000, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary and credited to this appropriation, which shall be derived from non-refundable inspection fees collected in fiscal year 2027, as provided in this Act: Provided, That the sum appropriated by this paragraph shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2027 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2027 appropriation estimated at \$0:**

This provision pertains to availability of inspection fees and enables MMA to derive initial funding from the general fund of the Treasury, with amounts returned to the general fund at the end of the year once all collections have been received.

**12. ... Provided, That to the extent that amounts realized from such inspection fees exceed \$37,144,000, the amounts realized in excess of \$37,144,000 shall be credited to this appropriation and remain available until expended:**

This provision enables MMA to retain inspection fee collections in excess of \$37,144,000, until expended.

**13. ... Provided further, That for fiscal year 2027, not less than 50 percent of the inspection fees expended by the Marine Minerals Administration will be used to fund personnel and mission-related costs to expand capacity and expedite the orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards, of the Outer Continental Shelf pursuant the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C 1331 et seq.), including the review of applications for permits to drill.**

This provision requires that not less than 50 percent of the inspection fees be used to fund personnel and outlined mission-related costs.

**Activity: Conventional Energy Operations**  
**Introductory Funding Table**

Activity: Conventional Energy Operations (Dollars in Thousands)											
	2025 Actual		2026 Enacted		2027 Request						
Activity	Budget Authority	FTE	Budget Authority	FTE	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (\$)	FTE Change	Budget Authority	FTE	Change from 2026 Enacted
<b>Conventional Energy Operations</b>	239,348	827	234,942	722	+111	-500	-48,322	-143	186,231	579	-48,711

<sup>1</sup> The FY 2025 and FY 2026 columns represent notional comparability funding allocations by MMA Budget Activity had BOEM and BSEE been unified.

**Summary of Program Budget Changes Table: Conventional Energy Operations**

**Summary of 2027 Program Changes for Conventional Energy Operations**

*Dollars in Thousands (\$000)*

<b>Program Changes</b>	<b>2027 Request Change</b>	<b>FTE Change</b>
<i>Permitting Efficiencies</i>	+2,000	+6
<i>Alaska Seismic Data</i>	+3,000	-
<i>Legacy BSEE Renewable Energy Program</i>	-10,000	-40
<i>Program Reduction</i>	-43,322	-109
<b>TOTAL Program Changes</b>	<b>-48,322</b>	<b>-143</b>

**Justification of Program Changes Narrative: Conventional Energy Operations**

The 2027 budget request for the Conventional Energy Operations Activity is \$186,231,000 and 579 FTE, a program change of -\$48,322,000 and -143 FTE from the 2026 Enacted.

**Program Change: Permitting Efficiencies (+\$2,000,000; +6 FTE)** - With the additional funding allocated in FY 2027, the MMA plans to recruit six additional engineers in the Gulf of America (GOA) Region. This expansion will bolster the MMA's capacity to handle the anticipated rise in permit submissions stemming from the mandated lease sales detailed in the Working Families Tax Cut Act and the growing number of facilities on existing leases. These additional positions would increase Application for Permit to Drill and Application for Permit to Modify review capacity, which will in turn lead to shorter permit review times in subsequent years.

**Program Change: OCS Alaska Seismic Data (+\$3,000,000; 0 FTE)** - The MMA requests \$3.0 million dollars in FY 2027 to obtain Cook Inlet seismic data to inform decision-making. Modern geological and geophysical (G&G) data are an essential component of oil and gas resource characterization and are

necessary to support successful leasing and exploration activities. Limited modern G&G data (specifically, deep-penetration seismic) is available to support oil and gas resource characterization in the Cook Inlet, where the MMA will hold six lease sales as required under the Working Families Tax Cut Act. The MMA is requesting FY 2027 funds to support the acquisition of modern G&G data in the Cook Inlet that can be made available for immediate release to the public.

The acquisition of new seismic data can be a time-consuming and costly endeavor, where the anticipated rate of return often correlates with future financial investment. Requested funding would support marine acquisition of 3-D seismic data utilizing a state-private cost share model. The 3-D data is the gold standard of seismic imagery, and only one 3-D seismic survey in Cook Inlet, shot in 2019, is currently available to the MMA for interpretation. New 3-D surveys would illuminate complex geologic features in the subsurface and help to identify additional development opportunities not identifiable with 2-D data. Collection of new 3-D data in Cook Inlet is constrained by the same open water and environmental considerations as with new 2-D data, and the open water season limits the survey size to around 45-50 OCS blocks each spring or fall collection season. Given the substantial cost of surveys, the MMA would look to enter a cost-share model with the State of Alaska and one or more private companies.

As the Department moves forward with resource assessments and lease sales in the Cook Inlet Planning Area, the resource data produced because of this funding would be critical to help identify the areas that appear appropriate for potential future exploration. This data would also be integral to the MMA's post-lease sale fair market value analysis, which helps meet the statutory mandate to ensure the receipt of fair market value for the use of OCS resources. Ultimately, the data sets would enhance the MMA's knowledge and understanding of the resource endowment in the Cook Inlet Planning Area, and could help facilitate development of a potentially large, untapped resource area on the OCS.

**Program Change: Legacy BSEE Renewable Energy Program (-\$10,000,000; -40 FTE):** The budget proposes to eliminate the renewable energy program that has cost hardworking American families, consumers, and businesses while only offering unreliable, intermittent energy production. The budget retains funding necessary in the Conventional Energy Operations Budget Activity to support statutorily required safety and environmental enforcement and compliance activities including annual exercises and inspections requirements while continuing to ensure safe construction and operations of existing energy projects on the Federal OCS. MMA will realize savings of FTE through existing vacancies as well as those employees that accepted either the Deferred Resignation Program or the VERA/VSIP.

**Program Change: Program Reduction (\$43,322,000; -109 FTE) -** At the proposed level, the program will have sufficient funding to operate by leveraging existing FTE and contractor support. In addition, MMA will realize savings of those FTE that accepted either the Deferred Resignation Program or the VERA/VSIP. The FY 2027 budget supports the Administration's priority to streamline government.

### *Activity Overview and Program Description*

Management of oil and gas resources on the OCS is governed by the OCSLA (43 U.S.C. § 1331 *et seq.*), which sets forth procedures for OCS oil and gas leasing, exploration, development, and production, and the issuance of leases, easements, or rights-of-way. The MMA seeks to manage the development of offshore energy resources in an environmentally and economically responsible manner. Work supports

energy security, and economic development through responsible management of these offshore resources. Foundational to the conventional energy program is the preparation of the National OCS Program.

The MMA's mission directly advances the Administration's priority to unleash OCS energy potential and thus generate prosperity and economic and national security for our country. In accordance with the Working Families Tax Cut Act, the MMA will conduct a minimum of 30 region-wide lease sales in the Gulf of America between 2025 and 2040, including at least two sales per year from 2026 through 2039, and an additional sale in 2040. The MMA will also offer a minimum of six lease sales between 2026 and 2032 within the Cook Inlet. Additionally, the MMA will begin to implement the 11<sup>th</sup> National OCS Program. These activities align with EOs 14148, *Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions*, 14153, *Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential*, 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*, and 14156, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency*. The EOs and associated Secretarial directives instruct the MMA to ensure OCS exploration and development are not unnecessarily inhibited or delayed but rather promote expansion of OCS oil and gas leasing, exploration, and production to foster energy security and provide hardworking Americans with affordable, reliable energy.

Work also includes OCS permit application reviews and process tracking, inspections of OCS facilities (including critical high-risk activities), investigations, enforcement, audit programs, annual operator performance reviews, oil and gas production level verifications, research supporting emerging technology analysis and activities, cybersecurity, standards and regulatory review activities, technical training, assessments of oil and gas resource potential on the OCS, inventories of oil and gas reserves, and economic evaluations of OCS submerged lands to ensure the receipt of fair market value for U.S. taxpayers for any leasing and development activities. This activity will support legal requirements for existing offshore leases. This budget activity includes five major components: leasing, plans, risk management, resource evaluation, and economic evaluation.

### *Contribution to Administration Priorities*

MMA is critical to the Administration's goal to expand domestic energy production and advance American energy dominance. MMA's mission is foundational to advancing the Administration's oil and gas energy policies on the OCS, including the implementation of EO 14154, *Unleashing American Energy* through activities supporting the orderly and responsible development of OCS oil and gas resources. MMA's mission critical activities align with the EO's direction to "...encourage energy exploration and production on Federal lands and waters, including on the Outer Continental Shelf, in order to meet the needs of our citizens and solidify the United States as a global energy leader long into the future..." In support of EO 14154, Secretary of the Interior Burgum issued SO 3418, *Unleashing American Energy*, which directed the development of plans to suspend, revise, or rescind regulations and other directives from the former Administration that are determined to be unnecessarily burdensome to U.S. energy development. The SO also focuses on "advancing innovation to improve energy and critical minerals identification, permitting, leasing, development, production, transportation, refining, distribution, exporting, and generation capacity of the United States to provide a reliable, diversified, growing, and affordable supply of energy for our Nation." The SO encourages energy exploration and production on the OCS. Specifically, the SO directs review of specific prior regulations and to take the "actions to review the 5-year program for offshore oil and gas leasing to assess the need for changes to

meet the country's energy goals, consistent with the principles outlined in the OCSLA (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.).”

Also, in support of harnessing America’s energy potential, Secretary Burgum issued SO 3420, *Announcing President Trump's Revocation of Former Outer Continental Shelf Withdrawals*, which supports implementation of EO 14148, *Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions*. This EO revoked previous Presidential withdrawals that unnecessarily restricted OCS oil and gas leasing. Finally, MMA’s energy and mineral resource efforts on the Alaska OCS closely align with EO 14153, *Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential*, and the associated SO 3422. SO 3422 directs bureaus and offices to ‘unlock’ Alaska’s natural resources to contribute to the country’s economic and national security. MMA will support the country’s prosperity through the advancement of SO policies including considering the resource potential of the entirety of Alaska’s natural resources, “efficiently and effectively maximizing the development and production of natural resources” located on Federal lands within Alaska and expediting the permitting and leasing of those resources. Consideration and analysis of Alaska resources will factor into the development and scope of the next National OCS Program. Through implementation of the EOs and SOs, MMA will advance our country as a global energy leader while improving national security.

In FY 2027, MMA will prioritize streamlining the permitting process including for applications for permits to drill (APDs), applications for permits to modify (APMs), permit reviews for geologic and geophysical surveys to identify oil and gas resources across the OCS, and to expedite public data releases when authorized. MMA anticipates evaluating and issuing permits, as well as various permit modifications, to include those permits related to pipelines, high resolution and deep penetration geophysical surveys, APMs, and modifications to facility production safety system applications. In addition to providing data on potential offshore oil and gas resources, geologic and geophysical surveys are also used to locate critical minerals, potential seafloor hazards, potential sand and gravel resources for beach replenishment activities, and potential archaeological resources. Data from geophysical surveys also assists in determining the fair market value of offshore resources. The MMA actively tracks permit reviews from a management oversight level with permit processing levels remaining relatively stable for almost all permitting categories. There are established control limits for these processes and any anomalies are regularly tracked early in the process to improve outcomes. Additionally, the MMA has identified the permit review areas with other agencies that impact permit timing and is working to reduce processing times for permits not under direct control. A cross-bureau committee on permitting statistics is actively engaged in tracking efficiency and identifying areas for improvement.

As a condition of the permits issued prior to each industry activity (such as seismic data acquisition), companies are required to provide a copy of the data and information to MMA upon request after completion of data acquisition. The data is used internally, maintaining data for a proprietary term that generally ranges from 2 to 25 years. The extensive amount of data and information acquired are used by geologists, geophysicists, and petroleum engineers to perform a variety of analyses leading to resource estimates, reserve inventories, and determining fair market value of the leased tracts. MMA will continue making geophysical data publicly available to support the identification of the country’s valuable resources.

*The FY 2027 Budget will Support the Following Priorities and Strategic Outcomes:*

- **Working Families Tax Cut Act:** In accordance with the Working Families Tax Cut Act, MMA will conduct a minimum of 30 region-wide lease sales in the Gulf of America between 2025 and 2040, including at least two sales per year from 2026 through 2039, and additional sales in 2025 and 2040. MMA will also offer a minimum of six lease sales between 2026 and 2032 within the Cook Inlet. In FY 2027, MMA will hold two Gulf of America lease sales and one Cook Inlet lease sale in accordance with the Working Families Tax Cut Act.
- **National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program:** As required by Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act, MMA prepares the National OCS Program, which sets forth a schedule for proposed offshore oil and gas lease sales over a 5-year period. The National OCS Program is designed in a manner to best meet the country's energy needs while considering the potential environmental impacts. On April 18, 2025, Secretary Burgum [announced](#) the development of the 11<sup>th</sup> National OCS Program. MMA will continue to advance development of the National OCS Program, with an approved and active new program in place in early FY 2027. As signaled by the Department's April 18, 2025, announcement, MMA will continue to conduct robust public outreach, engagement, and comment analysis activities throughout the 11<sup>th</sup> National OCS Program development. Tribal consultation invitations have also been sent to all 575 federally recognized Tribes. For more information, visit: [National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Safety Enforcement:** Ensuring safe energy exploration and production are central to the MMA's mission. The MMA advances this mission through its ongoing commitment to advancing the effectiveness of its inspection program, enhancing the permitting workflow, reliance on data and risk analysis, and preparing for emerging energy and natural resource activity. In addition, MMA will employ several tools, including issuance of incidents of noncompliance (INCs), civil penalties, and orders to underscore the importance of safe operations and environmental stewardship and create a level playing field for all operators. MMA will conduct annual performance reviews of each operator to address recurring safety and environmental concerns and may place operators on improvement plans when performance history merits.

Under OCSLA, MMA is required to conduct investigations and prepare an investigation report for each major incident associated with OCS activities. Reporting requirements specify that certain incidents must be reported to MMA, which reviews each incident based on the severity and complexity of the event, and determines what type and level of investigative resources will be devoted. The purpose of an investigation is to identify the cause(s) of an incident and to make recommendations to prevent its recurrence or the occurrence of similar incidents. As a result of incident investigation report recommendations and other inspections and enforcement activities, Safety Alerts are published to inform the offshore energy industry of the circumstances surrounding an incident or near miss and to provide recommendations that will help prevent the recurrence of a similar incident. For more information, visit: [Enforcement Program | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#).

- **Inspection Program:** The MMA is committed to maintaining a comprehensive inspection program through an annual inspection strategy that includes Risk Based Inspections (RBIs) and ensuring that it

operates at the highest level of effectiveness, while continuously exploring opportunities to increase overall program efficiency through data analysis of vital statistics, business intelligence, and various status and process management tools. Funding in FY 2027 promotes a robust culture of safety while reducing risk in the offshore energy industry through inspections, permitting, enforcement, incident and equipment failure investigations, data analytic tools and process development, regulatory development, cybersecurity program development, and enhancing a culture of scientific integrity. FY 2027 funding also enables the MMA to pursue the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning platforms which can be applied to hazard analysis further enhancing inspections and permit application reviews.

Using data and trend analysis to identify higher-risk operations and facilities, MMA will focus inspection resources on these targets as a supplement to the existing schedule of inspections on production facilities and active drilling operations. In FY 2025, 30 production and 28 drilling RBIs covering managed pressure drilling, heat illness, and bypassed safety devices were conducted. The findings from these inspections led to the published safety alert [BSEE Identifies Bypassed Safety Device Deficiencies during Risk-Based Inspections No. 501](#) with six recommendations to improve performance. As a result of the managed pressure drilling RBI, meetings were held with industry subcommittees to address gaps and best practices. For more information, visit: [Risk Based Inspection Program | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#).

- **Permitting:** The foundation of safe OCS operations begins with leading edge prevention through risk identification, assessment, mitigation, management, and oversight during the permit review process. Based upon the risks identified and associated with operators' permit submissions, MMA will continue working to focus permit review efforts on ensuring that review processes focus on areas of highest risk. Review of permitting strategies to ensure they are efficient and effective and help execute the President's direction in EO 14154. Oil and gas permitting processes are regularly reviewed to support timely processing and appropriate consideration of the risks of development on the OCS. For more information, visit: [fnl-fact-sheet-permitting-process-51321.pdf](#); [Status of Well Permits in the Gulf of America | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#).
- **Lease Administration:** As of March 1, 2026, 1,922 active oil and gas leases are managed covering 10.6 million acres of the OCS. The producing OCS leases account for about 14 percent of the country's domestic oil production and two percent of domestic natural gas production. For more information, visit: [Combined Leasing Status Report | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Plan Review:** MMA will review all submitted Exploration Plans, Development Operations Coordination Documents, and Development and Production Plans. These plans describe all exploration, development, and production activities on OCS leases planned by an operator and include an analysis of any potential offshore and onshore impacts. For more information, visit: [Exploration and Development Plans | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Geological and Geophysical Surveys:** MMA will issue permits for conventional energy geological and geophysical surveys, which are conducted to obtain data for oil and gas exploration and production and aid in siting offshore structures. The data is used in bid evaluation to ensure the receipt of fair market value for the leasing of OCS resources and to identify and characterize potential

carbon sequestration storage sites. The geological and geophysical surveys will play a critical role in monitoring the migration of injected carbon dioxide. For more information, visit: [Geological & Geophysical \(G&G\) Data | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#); [COMPS-857.pdf](#).

- **Resource Evaluation:** The resource evaluation program supports MMA’s conventional energy program through technical and economic analysis. The primary program objectives are to provide an assessment of discovered and undiscovered oil and gas resources on the OCS, complete G&G and engineering analyses to ensure receipt of fair market value for OCS resources as mandated by the OCSLA, and characterize the OCS subsurface to assess carbon storage potential and model carbon plume movement. For more information, visit: [Resource Evaluation | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Comprehensive Inventory of OCS Resources:** Section 357 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 directs the Secretary of the Interior to update the “Report to Congress for the Comprehensive Inventory of OCS Resources” at least once every five years. MMA will maintain these resource assessments and reserves estimates across the OCS and be responsible for generating this periodic report to Congress, the most recent of which was published in January 2024.
- **Ensuring Fair Market Value:** Section 18(a)(4) of the OCSLA requires that leasing activities be conducted to ensure receipt of fair market value. Once a lease sale is completed and the high bidders for each tract are publicly announced, MMA follows specific bid adequacy procedures to ensure the government receives fair market value. For more information, visit: [Energy Economics | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Carbon Sequestration:** The Department has the statutory authority to issue leases, easements, or rights-of-way on the OCS for the long-term storage of carbon dioxide. In preparation for potential future commercial carbon dioxide storage projects, an assessment of carbon storage capacity on both regional and national scales has been undertaken, using existing geological and geophysical data from the OCS, and engagement continues with external stakeholders related to overlapping areas of technical interest. For more information, visit: [Carbon Storage | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Marine Cadastre:** The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58), section 388(b), directed the Department to cooperate with other Federal departments and agencies to establish an interagency comprehensive digital mapping initiative. To accomplish this, MMA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will jointly manage the [MarineCadastre.gov portal](#), which provides authoritative and regularly updated ocean information such as offshore boundaries, infrastructure, human use, energy potential, and other data. This system is used by the public, environmental groups, Federal regulatory agencies, State and regional marine planners, Tribes, intergovernmental task forces, and other government organizations. For more information, visit: [MarineCadastre.gov | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Official Offshore Marine Mapping:** Accurate OCS boundary lines and map products are a foundational requirement for all MMA OCS planning and leasing activities. Per OCSLA, MMA is required to prepare Official Protraction Diagrams, Supplemental Official Block Diagrams, and other

map products depicting areas of the OCS. Further, pursuant to the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 and OMB Circular A-16 (*Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities*), which provides direction for Federal agencies that produce, maintain, or use geospatial data either directly or indirectly in the fulfillment of their missions, MMA is responsible for producing and maintaining the official offshore Marine Cadastre for the OCS of the United States. For more information, visit: [Maps and GIS Data | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).

- **Geospatial Services Coordination:** Geospatial data, technologies, and services are critical components of our country’s digital infrastructure. The Geographic Information System is a vital piece of MMA’s digital infrastructure for the OCS. Managing this infrastructure and accessibility of geospatial data across all mission areas is necessary to ensure the organization is equipped for current and future demands.
- **Regulations:** The foundation of the MMA’s oversight and enforcement program is a set of best practices that govern numerous aspects of offshore energy operations, from engineering specifications and operating standards to encouraging and supporting the development of a strong OCS safety culture. MMA will perform technical assessments, detailed risk evaluation, and research on both new and existing technologies to determine feasibility, investigate potential utilization risks, and clarify gaps related to their use to propose modifications to regulations and standards. These activities help identify and resolve potential safety issues before incidents occur and ensure that existing and emerging technologies can be reviewed and approved. The MMA will continually review these requirements and expectations, and update and revise them as necessary. This will include assessment and removal of impediments to energy development on the OCS while preserving effective practices for safety and environmental protection. The MMA will maintain its commitment to review and update regulatory requirements and facilitate regulation development in compliance with all applicable laws, statutes, and executive and secretarial orders.
- **Technical Training:** The MMA’s National Offshore Training Center provides comprehensive, multi-tiered, professional development opportunities for MMA inspectors, engineers, scientists, and analysts that are involved in regulating offshore energy operations on the OCS. The technical training program supports the MMA’s goals by identifying and providing up-to-date training and development opportunities to all staff involved in regulating, inspecting, or approving the use of new technologies for offshore energy operations. The technical curriculum consists of formalized on-the-job training and over 145 courses taught by renowned subject matter experts to ensure continuous education and development that improves and enhances professional competence, skills development, and job satisfaction.
- **Conservation Management:** As a steward of the country’s OCS oil, gas, and mineral resources, MMA must provide for the conservation of these natural resources by preventing waste and ensuring efficient recovery of the resources, as well as protecting the correlative rights of OCS lessees and the government. Conservation is accomplished through effective monitoring of development and production activities on the OCS and robust enforcement of regulations that require operators to produce oil and gas reservoirs using methods that avoid waste and maximize the recovery of these natural resources while the infrastructure to develop them is in place. This also minimizes the human footprint needed to develop the resources and advances Administration priorities of strategic land use

for an affordable, reliable energy supply.

- **Downhole Commingling:** In FY 2025, the MMA adjusted an existing policy and implemented new guidelines for downhole commingling to advance EO 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*, in the Gulf of America by expanding the allowable pressure differential in reservoirs to raise oil and gas production. Downhole commingling is approved for cases where the proposed development scenario maximizes ultimate recovery of two or more reservoirs allowing for conscientious and efficient use of the offshore resources. In FY 2026, dedicated research to study the impact of downhole commingling will conclude with results and recommendations for improvements to existing regulatory oversight to advance resource recovery from Gulf of America reservoirs. For more information, visit: [BSEE Implements Innovative Downhole Commingling Policy to Boost U.S. Offshore Oil Production | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#) .

#### *Demands, Trends, and Resources:*

- **Increased Access to Offshore Oil and Gas Resources:** Under the OCSLA, the Secretary of the Interior has the responsibility to prepare, periodically revise, and maintain an oil and gas leasing program to “best meet national energy needs” while balancing other important factors. At the Administration’s direction, the MMA is developing a new National OCS Program to replace the previous Administration’s excessively restrictive program to support oil and gas leasing, exploration, and production as the country strives for American energy dominance. For more information, visit: [Oil and Gas Energy | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Increased Public Access to Resource Information:** MMA supports the Administration’s efforts to provide increased access to resource information as the country’s oil and gas leasing program continues to expand. MMA will provide access to numerous sources of offshore oil and gas leasing information on its web site, as noted in the above bullets. MMA will continue to release to the public, at the end of its proprietary term, oil and gas geophysical data through the National Archive for Marine Seismic Surveys website. For more information, visit: <https://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/namss/>

The role of information sharing, sound science, and the independent verification and validation of processes and practices must continue to grow. In accordance with the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA), the MMA frequently uses standards developed through a consensus process by standards development organizations, with input from offshore energy industries, as a means of establishing requirements for activities on the OCS. Subject matter experts actively participate on multiple standards committees for offshore energy industries. The MMA currently incorporates over 130 industry standards by reference in its oil and gas regulations.

- **Production Measurement and Verification:** Offshore Federal oil and gas production in FY 2025 reached approximately 677.2 million barrels of oil and 718 billion cubic feet of gas, almost all of which was produced in the Gulf of America. Over the past decade, oil production in the Gulf of America has increased from 1.1 million barrels per day (MMBopd) to nearly 1.97 MMBopd as of September 2025. This increase in oil production was accomplished by drilling and completion work from platform and floating drilling rigs in support of both new and existing production facilities for deepwater projects. In coordination with ONRR, MMA inspectors will continue to ensure that

production volumes are accurately measured and reported for the assessment of royalties owed to the American people. MMA's measurement approval, verification, and inspection responsibilities will help validate the collection of billions of dollars in royalties from offshore oil and gas resources each year.

## Activity: Marine Minerals

### Introductory Funding Table

Activity: Marine Minerals											
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>											
	2025 Actual		2026 Enacted		2027 Request						
Activity	Budget Authority	FTE	Budget Authority	FTE	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (\$)	FTE Change	Budget Authority	FTE	Change from 2026 Enacted
Marine Minerals	13,808	22	13,808	17	-	-	+4,000	-	17,808	17	+4,000

<sup>1</sup> The FY 2025 and FY 2026 columns represent notional comparability funding allocations by MMA Budget Activity had BOEM and BSEE been unified.

### Summary of Program Budget Changes Table: Marine Minerals

#### Summary of 2027 Program Changes for Marine Minerals

*Dollars in Thousands (\$000)*

Program Changes	2027 Request Change	FTE Change
<i>Critical Mineral Leasing</i>	+4,000	-
<b>TOTAL Program Changes</b>	<b>+4,000</b>	<b>-</b>

### Justification of Program Changes Narrative: Marine Minerals

The 2027 budget request for the Marine Minerals Activity is \$17,808,000 and 17 FTE, a program change of +\$4,000,000 and 0 FTE from the 2026 Enacted.

**Program Change: Critical Mineral Leasing (+\$4,000,000; 0 FTE)** – The FY 2027 budget requests \$4.0 million in FY 2027 to advance EO 14285, *Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources*, through holding three anticipated critical mineral lease sales and preparing for future lease sales. As the organization responsible for overseeing the prospecting, permitting and leasing of offshore critical minerals, the MMA is committed to fulfilling the Administration's goal of unleashing America's offshore critical minerals and resources, as well as the Department's efforts to accelerate permitting of energy and critical mineral projects. In response to this EO, the MMA anticipates holding three offshore lease sales during fiscal years 2026 and 2027: American Samoa (August 2026), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) (November 2026), and the Alaska Region (December 2026).

Resources will support post-lease sale work, support NEPA, and address cross-cutting program requirements related to lease sale activities. To bolster critical mineral knowledge and accelerate post lease sale activities, funds would be directed toward contractual support for NEPA and consultation documents for delineation, testing, and mining plans submitted by lessees. Funds would support distinct

requirements to execute important lease sale steps after lease issuance, such as economic evaluation and information management. Funds would support post-lease sale economic evaluation to support bid adequacy and fair market evaluation. Additionally, funds support updating the architecture of the Marine Minerals Information System (MMIS), which is currently optimized for the sand and gravel mission and does not meet the scope and confidentiality requirements needed for critical minerals. An updated system is required to support secure data transfer and handling, as well as collaboration and sharing of non-sensitive data.

The MMA has longer-term responsibilities to prepare for and encourage plan submissions under any leases issued and advance long-term exploration or leasing opportunities in the most prospective areas. Funds would contribute toward National Ocean Mapping, Exploration and Characterization Council goals for mapping critical minerals, ensuring that decisions are based on the highest quality data, and enable expediting and refining plan review and processing. Funding would also be utilized for resource evaluation to inform future leasing by mapping areas of the OCS likely to have abundant or accessible undersea resources, to accelerate data collection, and to promote characterization, initially offshore the U.S. territories. This request would also provide funding for environmental studies related to exploration and development of critical minerals and will support post-lease sale environmental studies to characterize physical and biological environments, and social systems.

Finally, funding would support tribal, and Pacific Islander outreach after the 2026 critical minerals lease sales. In alignment with DOI's Tribal Consultation Policy and the MMA's Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Engagement Strategy, funding would cover contract support with local communities to enhance strategic indigenous engagement and capacity building. The leasing and development of critical minerals on the OCS promises significant economic and strategic benefits to U.S. Territories, particularly in the Pacific. Development projects are expected to create skilled jobs in the region, supporting local workforces, and diversify territorial economies featuring an overreliance on industries like tuna canning. These activities ensure that leasing outcomes are transparent and aligned with community interests.

### *Activity Overview and Program Description*

MMA is the Federal steward of marine minerals across billions of acres of the OCS. MMA's Marine Minerals Program will facilitate access to and responsibly manage OCS sand and sediment resources to support resilient coasts, natural disaster preparedness, and critical infrastructure development and protection. MMA will also advance mapping, support resource evaluation, and facilitate potential prospecting and leasing of critical minerals on the OCS. Critical minerals are vital to the economy and national security. MMA's marine minerals mission involves coordination with governmental agencies, Tribal Nations, Native Hawaiians, Alaska Natives, and Pacific Islander communities, engagement of stakeholders, and environmental assessment and scientific research to improve decision-making and manage risk. This budget activity includes two major components: sand and sediment resources and critical minerals.

### *Contribution to Administration Priorities*

MMA's marine mineral efforts align with the Administration's critical mineral priorities as outlined in EOs and SOs. The EO 14156, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency*, cites the inadequacy of current

energy and critical mineral availability to meet the country's needs. The EO 14154, *Unleashing American Energy*, directs the removal of "burdensome regulations" that hinder the development and use of our energy and natural resources (including critical minerals). The SO 3418 focuses on "advancing innovation to improve energy and critical minerals identification, permitting, leasing, development, production, transportation, refining, distribution, exporting, and generation capacity of the United States to provide a reliable, diversified, growing, and affordable supply of energy for our Nation." The SO further directs MMA to "review and, as appropriate, revise all undue burdens on the domestic mining ... of nonfuel minerals" and "prioritize efforts to accelerate the ongoing, detailed geologic mapping of the United States, with a focus on locating previously unknown deposits of critical minerals. The MMA is advancing EO 14285, *Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources*, and taking immediate action to accelerate the responsible exploration and leasing of seabed mineral resources, quantify the country's endowment of seabed minerals, reinvigorate American leadership in associated extraction and processing technologies, and ensure secure supply chains for our defense, infrastructure, and energy sectors. Through implementation of these Administration priorities, MMA will advance America's national security and future prosperity.

*The FY 2027 Budget will Support the Following Priorities and Strategic Outcomes:*

- **National Offshore Critical Mineral Inventory:** MMA will invest in the National Offshore Critical Mineral Inventory to map and describe OCS critical mineral resources and environmental conditions associated with critical mineral-bearing deposits (e.g., polymetallic nodules, ferromanganese crusts, heavy mineral sands, placer deposits, phosphorites, and hydrothermal vents). For more information, visit: [National Offshore Critical Minerals Inventory | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Critical Mineral Exploration and Leasing:** The MMA is taking important steps to facilitate prospecting, scientific research, and potential leasing in highly prospective areas. The MMA anticipates holding lease sales during calendar year 2026 and 2027: American Samoa (August 2026), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) (November 2026), Alaska Region (2027), and Virginia (2027). During FY 2027, MMA will pursue post-lease sale activities. MMA plans to continue evaluating commercial interest in exploration and leasing on the OCS and, as warranted, solicit requests for mineral information and interest and pursue additional leasing steps in highly prospective areas. MMA will ensure environmental assessment and stakeholder engagement are integral in the process. MMA plans to leverage Environmental Studies Program research to study priority environmental issues, such as slow-growing biological communities associated with critical mineral deposits. For more information, visit [Exploring and Leasing Marine Minerals | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **National Offshore Sand Inventory:** The Inventory will assist MMA and its partners to identify the location, quantity, and character of sand and sediment that may be appropriate for use in future infrastructure protection, beach nourishment, coastal restoration, and coastal construction projects. The Inventory enables partners to act quickly and responsibly in emergency or post-storm situations and supports scenario and resilience planning to adapt to coastal erosion. Heavy mineral sand deposits feature in both the Offshore Sand Inventory and Offshore Critical Mineral Inventory. Now that silicon, found in combination with oxygen ions in nature as silica, is added to the list of critical minerals, effective management of sand as a finite resource is more important than ever. MMA will

also use the Inventory to identify and manage multiple use conflicts and to avoid or minimize environmental impacts from dredging activities. For more information, visit: [National Offshore Sand Inventory | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).

- **Coastal Resilience:** MMA will continue the OCS sand and sediment program during FY 2027 and facilitate the protection of coastal infrastructure and restoration of beaches and wetlands vital to the Nation’s security, economy, tourism, and ecosystems. MMA will support and apply gold standard science to make informed decisions, apply nature-based solutions and other resilience strategies, and build strong partnerships to ensure our country’s coasts are managed for the benefit of current and future generations. For more information, visit: [Coastal Resilience | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#); [Environmental Stewardship | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Use of Sand and Sediment Resources:** As of September, 2025, the MMA has conveyed the rights to over 209 million cubic yards of OCS sediment and executed 75 negotiated agreements for projects in eight States that have restored over 517 miles of coastline. For more information, visit: [Current Statistics on Leases | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#); [Partnerships | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Marine Minerals Information System:** MMA will manage and use the MMIS to organize marine minerals data. The MMIS is publicly accessible and provides stakeholders with reliable information on sand and gravel resources on the OCS. In FY 2027, MMA will continue to host the MMIS and provide updated data and metadata for geologic information, OCS sand resource areas, OCS dredge areas, and shoreline placement reaches. MMA will begin to expand the MMIS data model to include critical mineral data assets. For more information, visit: <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/marine-minerals/BOEM-MMIS.pdf>; [MMIS Viewer | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).

#### *Demands, Trends, and Resources:*

- **Critical Mineral Assessment:** Critical minerals include cobalt, manganese, nickel, and rare-earth elements among others designated by the U.S. Geological Survey. As the need grows for a dependable critical mineral supply chain to support the country’s production of high-tech equipment and infrastructure in a wide variety of sectors, including energy production, national defense, battery technology, information technology, and health care, so does the need to understand U.S. offshore resources. Given this potential demand, it is imperative the country understands what potential critical mineral resources may exist offshore. Although there is increased interest from industry, the military, and the international community regarding critical mineral development, the quantity and characteristics of the OCS critical mineral resources, as well as the potential environmental impact of developing those resources, remain uncertain. There is a need to identify areas that have high economic potential but low ecological value, making them potentially suitable for consideration for future leasing and development of critical minerals on the OCS. For more information, visit: <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/marine-minerals/fact-sheets/Critical-Mineral-State.pdf>

- **Demand for Sand and Sediment Resources:** OCS sand and sediment resources are critical to the long-term success of many coastal protection, beach nourishment, and wetlands restoration projects along the Atlantic and Gulf of America coasts. Over the past three decades, the MMA has authorized use of an increasingly large volume of OCS material for coastal resilience projects. These trends are driven by diminishing resources in State waters and frequent tropical and winter storms along the Atlantic and Gulf of America coasts. Over the next ten years, MMA expects project partners to request the use of several hundred million cubic yards across 13 coastal States. Final project requirements will depend on ongoing planning, findings of MMA-sponsored resource evaluation, and future erosion and storm damage. MMA anticipates potential growth into Delaware, New York, and Texas. A greater number of projects in Florida, North Carolina, and New Jersey are also expected. Timely access to OCS resources is critical to restoration and recovery efforts in the aftermath of natural disasters. For more information, visit: [Coastal Resilience | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#)
- **Increased Public Access to Resource Information:** MMA will continue to maintain its National Offshore Sand Inventory and MMIS to inform decision-making of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, other Federal Agencies, States, and local governments undertaking coastal protection or restoration projects. Key partnerships have been forged with State partners and alliances to collect and coordinate sediment resource identification data. The MMA also works closely with other DOI bureaus to assist in beach nourishment, coastal and wetlands restoration, and infrastructure protection efforts. The U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service are important partners and collaborators on offshore sand resource evaluation and coastal vulnerability assessments, as well as projects restoring or protecting federally-managed lands including national parks and wildlife refuges.

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**Activity: Environmental Programs and Enforcement**  
**Introductory Funding Table**

Activity: Environmental Programs and Enforcement											
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>											
	2025 Actual		2026 Enacted		2027 Request						
Activity	Budget Authority	FTE	Budget Authority	FTE	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (\$)	FTE Change	Budget Authority	FTE	Change from 2026 Enacted
<b>Environmental Programs and Enforcement</b>	80,002	196	78,744	170	-	-500	-25,770	-9	52,474	161	-26,270

<sup>1</sup> The FY 2025 and FY 2026 columns represent notional comparability funding allocations by MMA Budget Activity had BOEM and BSEE been unified.

**Summary of Program Budget Changes Table: Environmental Programs and Enforcement**

**Summary of 2027 Program Changes for Environmental Programs and Enforcement**

*Dollars in Thousands (\$000)*

	2027 Request Change	FTE Change
<b>Program Changes</b>		
<i>Program Reduction</i>	-25,770	-9
<b>TOTAL Program Changes</b>	<b>-25,770</b>	<b>-9</b>

**Justification of Program Changes Narrative: Environmental Programs and Enforcement**

The 2027 budget request for the Environmental Programs and Enforcement Activity is \$52,474,000 and 161 FTE, a program change of -\$25,770,000 and -9 FTE from the 2026 Enacted.

**Program Change: Program Reduction (-\$25,770,000; -9 FTE)** – At the proposed level, the program will have sufficient funding to conduct studies and analyses by leveraging existing FTE and contractor support. In addition, MMA will realize savings of those FTE that accepted either the Deferred Resignation Program or the VERA/VSIP. The FY 2027 budget supports the Administration's priority to streamline government.

**Activity Overview and Program Description**

The MMA's Environmental Programs and Enforcement budget activity is foundational to the MMA's mission, supporting all other budget activities, and ensures the safe, responsible, and predictable development of offshore energy and mineral resources and carbon sequestration critical to U.S. energy independence and national security. This budget activity maintains compliance with key environmental

regulations without unnecessary bureaucracy. It provides the scientific and technical basis for evaluating offshore projects, consistent with EO 14303, *Restoring Gold Standard Science*, ensuring that energy and minerals development on the OCS proceeds efficiently, with appropriate environmental safeguards in place that reduce environmental risk. This budget activity's production of rigorous data and streamlined analyses enables the MMA to identify and mitigate potential environmental impacts early in the planning process, thereby reducing project uncertainty, enhancing permitting efficiency, and bolstering the durability of the MMA actions.

The Environmental Programs and Enforcement activity includes three primary components. The first two, environmental analysis and environmental studies, provide a science-based framework for responsible offshore development that supports the country's energy needs, maintains durability of the MMA decisions, and reinforces public trust in the MMA oversight of the OCS. The third component reflects the MMA's commitment to enforcement and compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

MMA will conduct environmental analyses to evaluate the impacts of actions by using science, engaging stakeholders, working with government and tribal partners, and integrating information gathered with environmental laws and regulatory requirements. MMA's environmental analyses will play a key role in developing and implementing the National OCS Program, offshore critical minerals, carbon sequestration, and emerging programs. This function underpins all phases of MMA energy and minerals activities, from exploration and leasing to development and decommissioning. Environmental analyses assess potential impacts, explore alternatives, and help meet legal requirements by identifying mitigation measures. Importantly, environmental analyses are always done through the lens of maintaining compliance with key environmental regulations without unnecessary bureaucracy. For more information, visit: [Environmental Analyses | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).

MMA's environmental studies are mandated under the OCSLA 1978 amendments, which direct the Department to have a comprehensive environmental studies program to provide sound scientific analysis of the potential impacts of offshore development. Through its Environmental Studies Program (ESP), MMA will collect data and monitor human, marine, and coastal environments to identify and minimize potential ecological, economic, and social impacts resulting from OCS energy and mineral activities. MMA's ESP is a highly applied program that studies only what is relevant for decisions. It is a data-driven, partnership-focused science program, generating products that help ensure energy development proceeds with speed, efficiency, and are legally defensible. For more information, visit: [Environmental Science | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).

MMA will monitor, inspect, enforce, and promote improvement of industry's compliance with environmental laws, regulations, and stipulations for all regulated activities on nearly 2,000 active leases covering over 10 million acres of submerged lands on the OCS. The MMA is responsible for ensuring the OCS energy and minerals industry comply with applicable environmental laws, regulations, and conditioned protection measures. MMA responsibilities include verification of environmental compliance through records reviews and field inspections, NEPA compliance coordination and documentation for MMA drilling, production, and infrastructure permits, and interagency consultation and coordination required by environmental statutes (e.g., Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act). Through these critical activities, MMA will establish policies and procedures for compliance with environmental regulations and maintain environmental compliance performance standards through

national program goals and a program vision that directly supports MMA’s mission and Departmental goals. MMA will promote proactive and regular engagement with energy and marine mineral stakeholders, government agencies at all levels, non-governmental organizations, international partners, and the public.

### *Contribution to Administration Priorities*

This budget activity effectively executes required environmental science and analyses to facilitate durable decisions for offshore energy and mineral development, allowing MMA to advance the following Administration priorities:

- [Declaring a National Energy Emergency](#) (Executive Order 14156): “...facilitate the identification, leasing, siting, production, transportation, refining, and generation of domestic energy resources...”
- [Addressing the National Energy Emergency](#) (Secretarial Order 3417): “...implements provisions of President Trump's January 20, 2025, Executive Order (EO) 14156, titled "Declaring a National Energy Emergency," and will improve the energy and critical minerals identification, permitting, leasing, development, production, transportation, refining, distribution, exporting, and generation capacity of the United States to provide a reliable, diversified, growing, and affordable supply of energy for our Nation by making the fullest use of existing authorities, including emergency authorities.”
- [Unleashing American Energy](#) (Executive Order 14154 and Secretarial Order 3418): “...guarantee that all executive departments and agencies (agencies) provide opportunity for public comment and rigorous, peer-reviewed scientific analysis...”
- [Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential](#) (Executive Order 14153 and Secretarial Order 3422): “...efficiently and effectively maximizing the development and production of natural resources...”
- [Unleashing America’s Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources](#) (Executive Order 14285): “...advance United States leadership in seabed mineral development by rapidly developing domestic capabilities for the exploration, characterization, collection, and processing of seabed mineral resources through streamlined permitting without compromising environmental and transparency standards...”
- [Department of the Interior Implements Energy Permitting Procedures to Strengthen Domestic Energy Supply](#): “...utilize emergency authorities under existing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.”
- [Restoring Gold Standard Science](#) (Executive Order 14303): “...restoring a gold standard for science to ensure that federally funded research is transparent, rigorous, and impactful, and that Federal decisions are informed by the most credible, reliable, and impartial scientific evidence available.”

*The FY 2027 Budget will Support the Following Priorities and Strategic Outcomes:*

Building sustainable programs and decisions depends on robust environmental studies, analyses, and stakeholder engagement. Through targeted environmental studies and streamlined environmental analyses, MMA will ensure energy and minerals development occurs expeditiously and with appropriate environmental safeguards. In FY 2027, this Budget Activity will support the following key activities:

- **Advance Offshore Energy Development:** Support the development of oil and gas leasing through environmental science, analyses, and modeling requirements for implementing the current National OCS Program and developing OCSLA-driven, streamlined environmental analyses and modeling for the next National OCS Program and any resulting lease sales and lease-based activities.
- **Facilitate Prospecting and Leasing for America’s Offshore Critical Minerals:** Conduct environmental science, analyses, and community engagement actions involved with an offshore Critical Minerals Program and associated leasing and regulatory requirements; and develop and execute an environmental science, mitigation, and monitoring strategy that identifies environmental needs (e.g., further studies of affected benthic habitats and multiple ocean uses) early in the process to increase the efficiency and predictability of program execution.
- **Environmental Enforcement and Compliance:** Manage the MMA’s compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other environmental laws and regulations for all Federal actions; and, compliance verification and enforcement of environmental standards, including specialized offshore inspections. For more information, visit: [Environmental Compliance | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#).
- **Innovate and Partner to Meet the Challenges of Increased Responsibilities:** Leverage available budget activity resources by using cutting-edge technologies, promoting flexible acquisition strategies, and fostering public-private partnerships that bolster the science-based information, modeling, and analyses to support durable decisions, especially given increases in OCS acreage and programs. Central to this effort is continued availability of contribution authority for MMA.
- **Public Access to Environmental Assessment and Studies Information:** Address public expectations for transparency by making environmental data and analyses more accessible and understandable; leverage environmental science and analyses resources through partnerships, allowing collection of valuable data useful not only to MMA but also to other Federal agencies, Tribal, State and local governments, and non-governmental stakeholders; and, develop easily accessible and transparent on-line tools and resources that maximize environmental data, analyses, and decision transparency. For more information, visit: [Environmental Studies Information | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#); [Who We Work With | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#); and, [Research | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#).
- **Rigs-to-Reef Program:** Continue to encourage the reuse of appropriate structural material from decommissioned oil and gas platforms as artificial reefs. Historically, approximately 15 percent of decommissioned platform jackets were reefed under the program annually. However, in the last two years, the annual percentage of decommissioning applications with reef proposals has increased to over 40 percent, providing more savings to companies during decommissioning, and more revenue and reef material to coastal States for reef monitoring and maintenance, recreational and commercial

fishing, and recreational diving. For more information, visit: [Rigs-to-Reef Program](#).

***Demands, Trends, and Resources:***

- **Increased Demand for Offshore Energy and Mineral Resources:** The MMA’s Environmental Programs are adapting to growing national and global trends emphasizing energy and minerals security and domestic resource development. With increased demand for a stable supply of U.S.-based energy and minerals, there is a renewed focus on accelerating offshore oil and gas and minerals activities. Environmental science and analyses are evolving to support the potential expansion of leasing areas and programs. The MMA is also supporting critical minerals development, which is essential to modern technology, defense, and energy infrastructure, and is preparing environmental frameworks to evaluate and manage their development on the OCS in line with national strategic interests.
- **Evolving Project Scales and Technologies:** As offshore energy projects become larger, more complex, and more technologically advanced, the MMA is adapting its environmental review processes to match this evolving landscape. Trends such as multi-use ocean planning and ecosystem-scale analysis are becoming increasingly important. The Environmental Programs are addressing these shifts by conducting more targeted, science-based evaluations that meet legal obligations while also supporting timely development. This includes anticipating emerging risks, integrating cutting-edge environmental monitoring and modeling tools, and aligning reviews with industry advancements, ensuring that environmental activities evolve in step with the pace of offshore development.
- **Enhanced Permitting and NEPA:** Compliance with and implementation of NEPA ensures Federal actions are properly informed and the potential environmental impacts from those actions are appropriately mitigated or avoided altogether. Environmental reviews for permit applications rely on a programmatic tiering approach, which in most cases, allows for a single NEPA document to be adopted and referenced for NEPA compliance on multiple permit applications. The MMA conducts over 3,000 NEPA compliance reviews for permitting programs each year to ensure that adequate mitigation measures are applied as Conditions of Approval to limit or negate potential environmental impacts. In FY 2027, MMA will continue to rely on the streamlined tiering approach for NEPA reviews of permit applications. For more information, visit: [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Compliance Verification and Enforcement:** MMA will ensure environmental compliance of all offshore energy activities during the life of the project. MMA will continue to execute compliance verification reviews and field inspections for regional operations. Environmental reviews and field inspections help MMA verify the effectiveness of mitigations imposed on OCS activities and provide the data needed to inform and develop more effective mitigations and Conditions of Approval.

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## Activity: Executive Direction

### Introductory Funding Table

Activity: Executive Direction											
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>											
	2025 Actual		2026 Enacted		2027 Request						
Activity	Budget Authority	FTE	Budget Authority	FTE	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (\$)	FTE Change	Budget Authority	FTE	Change from 2026 Enacted
<b>Executive Direction</b>	47,349	202	37,505	94	-	+1,000	-8,336	-	30,169	94	-7,336

<sup>1</sup> The FY 2025 and FY 2026 columns represent notional comparability funding allocations by MMA Budget Activity had BOEM and BSEE been unified.

### Summary of Program Budget Changes Table: Executive Direction

#### Summary of 2027 Program Changes for Executive Direction

*Dollars in Thousands (\$000)*

Program Changes	2027 Request Change	FTE Change
<i>Program Reduction</i>	-8,336	-
<b>TOTAL Program Changes</b>	<b>-8,336</b>	<b>-</b>

### Justification of Program Changes Narrative: Executive Direction

The 2027 budget request for the Executive Direction Activity is \$30,169,000 and 94 FTE, a program change of -\$8,336,000 and 0 FTE from the 2026 Enacted.

**Program Change: Program Reduction (-\$8,336,000; -0 FTE)** – At the proposed level, the program will have sufficient funding to operate by leveraging existing FTE and contractor support. In addition, MMA will realize savings of those FTE that accepted either the Deferred Resignation Program or the VERA/VSIP. The FY 2027 budget supports the Administration's priority to streamline government.

### Activity Overview and Program Description

Executive Direction supports MMA-wide leadership direction, management, coordination, and regulatory development, including managing the budget planning and execution processes, integrating budget and performance activities, Freedom of Information Act activities, overseeing official documents, and policy analysis. This budget activity also reflects the MMA's commitment to its trust responsibilities and special commitments to Tribal Nations, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities via consultation during the offshore energy and minerals planning process and throughout the decision-making process

when planning actions with Tribal implications. MMA tribal liaisons work closely with the program and regional offices and provide a holistic view and approach for MMA-wide activities. This budget activity includes five major components: Office of the Director, Office of the Chief of Staff, Freedom of Information Act Office, Office of Regulatory Affairs, and Office of Budget and Administration. In FY 2025, in support of SO 3429, *Consolidation, Unification and Optimization of Administrative Functions*, all human resources, information technology, financial management, training and development, contracting, Federal financial assistance, and other administrative services staff were unified within the Department's Office of the Secretary. In FY 2026 and 2027, MMA will provide funding for these services through the Department's Working Capital Fund.

### ***Contribution to Administration Priorities***

This budget activity supports MMA efforts to advance activities identified in EOs and SOs, including, but not limited to: EO 14156, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency*; SO 3417, *Addressing the National Energy Emergency*; EO 14154 and SO 3418, *Unleashing American Energy*; EO 3419, *Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis*; EO 14148 *Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions*; EO 14192, *Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation*, SO 3420, *Announcing President Trump's Revocation of Former Outer Continental Shelf Withdrawals*; SO 3421, *Achieving Prosperity through Deregulation*; EO 14153 and SO 3422, *Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential*; and, *EO 14285, Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources*. Collectively, the EOs and associated SOs describe the Administration's focus on developing America's energy and critical minerals global dominance in a balanced way that supports the country's prosperity and energy security. Through this budget activity, MMA will ensure the necessary strategic planning, policy analysis, and regulatory review are available to decision-makers as they work to advance Administration priorities.

### ***The FY 2027 Budget will Support the Following Priorities and Strategic Outcomes:***

- **Strategic Leadership:** Provide MMA policy guidance and leadership, including the implementation of Administration priorities and policies.
- **Budget:** Manage the budget formulation and execution processes, from the development of the annual budget justification through the expenditure of funds from multiple sources, in conformance with Administration policies and applicable regulations and statutes.
- **Planning and Performance:** Implement MMA's planning and performance activities mandated by and in response to the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010, Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, Program Management Improvement Accountability Act of 2016, and OMB Circular A-123 Management's Responsibility for Internal Controls. Examples of activities include: ensuring MMA's performance goals track progress for strategic objective requirements within the Department's Annual Performance Report; integrating budget and performance information within budget, performance, and planning documents and data call responses; and contributing toward the Department's Evidence Act Program.

- **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):** Ensure timely resolution of FOIA and Privacy Act requests, as well as implement any legislative actions that pertain to FOIA policy.
- **Policy:** Support MMA mission areas and help achieve Departmental and Administration priorities on programmatic and national-level issues, emerging issues, interagency and external coordination, information sharing, and project management to support the resolution of complex energy and issues.
- **Administration and Compliance:** Oversee and coordinate MMA -level programs and management initiatives with MMA offices and regions, including coordination with administrative service providers, continuity of operations and emergency management program, directives and delegations, external audit liaison activities, and internal control programs.
- **Regulatory Affairs:** Lead and oversee the development of MMA regulatory actions and interagency reviews and maintain oversight responsibility for MMA’s compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act.
- **Uphold Trust Responsibilities with Tribal Nations, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Communities:** Honor trust responsibilities by increasing engagement as it pertains to the stewardship of culturally and environmentally significant Federal lands and waters potentially impacted by offshore energy and minerals activities. Increase capacity for impacted Tribal communities to engage as more active participants in analyzing technical information, data collection, risk assessment, and monitoring.

*Demands, Trends, and Resources:*

- **Unleashing Offshore Energy and Critical Mineral Access:** MMA’s mission delivery, goals, and operations align with the Administration’s vision for Energy and Critical Mineral Dominance as it ensures the OCS remains a safe and stable energy source. Offices funded through the Executive Direction budget activity provide overarching leadership, strategic planning, policy analysis, and regulatory support throughout the MMA as it advances offshore energy and critical mineral dominance. MMA is committed to eliminating unnecessary regulatory barriers, accelerating offshore energy and critical mineral development, ensuring the United States leads in global energy production, and ensuring offshore development is rapid, responsible, and fully aligned with America’s energy and critical mineral goals.

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## Activity: Offshore Decommissioning Introductory Funding Table

Activity: Offshore Decommissioning (Dollars in Thousands)											
Activity	2025 Actual		2026 Enacted		2027 Request						Change from 2026 Enacted
	Budget Authority	FTE	Budget Authority	FTE	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (\$)	FTE Change	Budget Authority	FTE	
<b>Offshore Decommissioning</b>	2,880	-	2,880	-	-	-	-2,880	-	-	-	-2,880

<sup>1</sup> The FY 2025 and FY 2026 columns represent notional comparability funding allocations by MMA Budget Activity had BOEM and BSEE been unified.

## Summary of Program Budget Changes Table: Offshore Decommissioning

### Summary of 2027 Program Changes for Offshore Decommissioning (Dollars in Thousands (\$000))

Program Changes	2027 Request Change	FTE Change
<i>Program Reduction</i>	-2,880	-
<b>TOTAL Program Changes</b>	<b>-2,880</b>	<b>-</b>

## Justification of Program Changes Narrative: Offshore Decommissioning

The 2027 budget request for the Offshore Decommissioning Activity is \$0 and 0 FTE, a program change of -\$2,880,000 and 0 FTE from the 2026 Enacted.

**Program Change: Program Reduction (-\$2,880,000; -0 FTE)** – MMA is not requesting funding for this Activity in FY 2027. In FY 2027, MMA will continue issuing contracts using prior appropriations to perform decommissioning services for Gulf of America OCS conventional energy infrastructure orphaned by bankrupt operators when no other jointly or severally liable parties existed. These contracts will fund the proper plugging and abandonment of orphaned wells and ultimately fund the proper decommissioning of the associated orphaned pipelines and structures. Additionally, MMA will continue efforts with owners and operators, co- and prior-lessees responsible for decommissioning, contractors performing decommissioning activities, and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to ensure that the government and all potential responsible parties are prepared to respond to discharges that could occur as a result of decommissioning activities.

***Activity Overview and Program Description***

The Offshore Decommissioning Activity funds activities to ensure the long-term protection of resources and the surrounding environment by ensuring the proper closure and removal of infrastructure used to develop energy or mineral resources on the OCS. Orphaned infrastructure includes wells, structures, or pipelines left on the OCS following termination of the underlying lease or right-of-way without having been decommissioned to regulatory standards and for which there is no remaining liable party capable of performing decommissioning. The maintenance, monitoring, and decommissioning costs associated with such orphaned infrastructure, less any financial assurance proceeds held by MMA, is called orphaned liability. The MMA has issued contracts to perform decommissioning services on orphaned conventional energy infrastructure. For example, in January 2024, the first task order was awarded to conduct initial platform inspections, perform the necessary repairs for safe platform operations, perform well diagnostic testing, and perform wellbore decommissioning on orphaned infrastructure in the Matagorda Island Area of the Gulf of America. This work was completed in FY 2025 and additional task orders have been awarded for similar work in other parts of the Gulf.

The MMA will oversee the program for obtaining general bonds and supplemental bonds (i.e., financial assurances) to cover decommissioning obligations to protect the American public in cases such as bankruptcy.

## **Account: Oil Spill Research**

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## Account: Oil Spill Research

### Summary of Requirements Table (\$000)

#### 2027 Marine Minerals Administration Submission (\$000)

##### *Summary of Requirements*

	2025 Actual		2026 Enacted		2027 Request						
	Budget Authority	FTE	Budget Authority	FTE	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (\$)	Program Changes FTE (+/-)	Budget Authority	FTE	Change from 2026 Enacted
<b>Oil Spill Research (OSR)</b>											
Oil Spill Research	15,099	26	15,099	23	-	-	-5,606	-	9,493	23	-5,606
<b>Total, OSR</b>	<b>15,099</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15,099</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-5,606</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,493</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-5,606</b>

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## Appropriations Language

### Oil Spill Research

*For necessary expenses to carry out section 1016 of title I, sections 4202 and 4303 of title IV, and title VII (33 U.S.C. 2761 et seq.) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, Public Law 101-380, as amended, (33 U.S.C. 2716, 1321 note, 2716a, and 2761 et seq.), and section 24(b) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1350(b)), \$9,493,000, which shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, to remain available until expended.*

### Appropriations Language Citations

The following provides an explanation of the appropriations language.

**1. *For necessary expenses to carry out section 1016 of title I, sections 4202 and 4303 of title IV, and title VII (33 U.S.C. 2761 et seq.) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, Public Law 101-380, as amended, (33 U.S.C. 2716, 1321 note, 2716a, and 2761 et seq.), and section 24(b) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1350(b)),***

This provision directs MMA to execute oil spill related responsibilities outlined and delegated by specific regulatory authority.

**2. *...\$9,493,000, which shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, to remain available until expended.***

This provision enables MMA to expend \$9,493,000 from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund; funds remain available until expended.

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## Activity: Oil Spill Research

### Introductory Funding Table

Activity: Oil Spill Research											
<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>											
	2025 Actual		2026 Enacted		2027 Request						
Activity	Budget Authority	FTE	Budget Authority	FTE	Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (\$)	FTE Change	Budget Authority	FTE	Change from 2026 Enacted
Oil Spill Research	15,099	26	15,099	23	-	-	-5,606	-	9,493	23	-5,606

### Summary of Program Budget Changes Table: Oil Spill Research

#### Summary of 2027 Program Changes for Oil Spill Research

*Dollars in Thousands (\$000)*

Program Changes	2027 Request Change	FTE Change
<i>Program Reduction</i>	-5,606	-
<b>TOTAL Program Changes</b>	<b>-5,606</b>	<b>-</b>

### Justification of Program Changes Narrative: Oil Spill Research

The 2027 budget request for the Oil Spill Research Activity is \$9,493,000 and 23 FTE, a program change of -\$5,606,000 and 0 FTE from the 2026 Enacted.

**Program Change: Program Reduction (-\$5,606,000; -0 FTE)** – At the proposed level, the MMA will have sufficient funding and has developed the capability to conduct research projects with engineers leading much of the research on traditional, alternative, and emerging spill response technologies at the Ohmsett facility. Through enhancement and operationalization of response technologies, spill cleanups can be completed more effectively and efficiently resulting in safer field oil recovery and treatment activities, with less impact to the environment, and a quicker return of platforms to production operations. The MMA will focus on priority research activities that align with the OCS safety and environmental risk-reduction goals and objectives of the Administration. During years that major renovations are needed to Ohmsett, such as the necessary major refurbishments that occur every five years to preserve the safety and service quality of the facility, the MMA will focus funding on any needed renovations and limit research projects.

### ***Activity Overview and Program Description***

With the Oil Spill Research (OSR) Appropriation, the MMA derives funding from the OSLTF to execute its delegated responsibilities. The MMA will execute these responsibilities through a robust, world-class Oil Spill Preparedness (OSP) Program managed by the OSPD that protects people and the environment by optimizing responses to offshore facility oil spills through: (1) regulatory oversight; (2) basic, applied, and developmental research; (3) integrated government and industry preparedness; and (4) accountability to the National Response System. The Program emphasizes quality training, equipment testing, periodic unannounced drills, research and development endeavors, and stakeholder engagement, which are all critical elements for improving spill preparedness, threat mitigation, and response measures. The FY 2027 request addresses the key needs, knowledge, and technology gaps in the three roles of the MMA's OSP Program.

Acknowledging these authorities and their associated responsibilities, the MMA established the OSP Program with three interdependent roles - Preparedness Verification (PV), Oil Spill Response Research (OSRR), and operating and maintaining the Ohmsett testing facility. Through these roles, the MMA improves spill preparedness and response capabilities through comprehensive contingency planning, equipment testing and inspection, training, unannounced exercises, research and development, and close engagement with the stakeholders of the National Response System. The OSP Program's three roles ensure that the country's offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities in both State and Federal waters can proceed in a safe and environmentally responsible manner while supporting EO 14154.

### ***The FY 2027 Budget will Support the Following Priorities and Strategic Outcomes:***

- **Strategic Leadership in Oil Spill Prevention:** The OSP Program draws its mandate and purpose from the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of October 18, 1972, as amended, and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). It is framed by the regulations in 30 CFR Part 254 – Oil Spill Response Requirements for Facilities Located Seaward of the Coastline, and 40 CFR Part 300 – National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan. The OSP Program has three interdependent roles - Preparedness Verification (PV), Oil Spill Response Research (OSRR) and operating and maintaining a world-class oil spill research and training facility called Ohmsett. For more information, visit: [Oil Spill Preparedness | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#).
- **Preparedness Verification (PV):** Administration of the MMA's oil spill preparedness regulatory requirements for offshore facilities discussed in 30 CFR Part 254. The functions that serve the PV role help the MMA, State and Federal partners, and the industry to be ready to respond to an oil spill from an offshore facility by ensuring offshore facility owners and operators maintain approved comprehensive oil spill response plans (OSRPs), have access to sufficient caches of oil spill response equipment, and have adequate personnel training and management structures needed to respond to and mitigate a spill. The MMA's ePermits software has a sub-program, eOSRP, that allows plan holders to electronically submit their OSRPs to MMA and to exchange correspondence. MMA's OSP Program is an important component of the National Response System (NRS). The NRS provides a framework for coordination among Federal, State, and local responders and responsible parties to

respond effectively to discharges of oil and hazardous materials. For more information, visit: [Preparedness Verification | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#).

- **Oil Spill Response Research (OSRR):** The OSRR role addresses the MMA’s oil spill research requirements under OPA 90 and provides valuable input to the PV role as well as providing industry with tools to improve oil spill preparedness and response. The technologies and data produced from robust studies and testing inform regulatory updates, improve contingency plans, enhance the response tools in equipment inventories, and support safe and environmentally sustainable operations for offshore energy exploration and development. Studies and testing also spur economic growth by guarding against the impacts of oil spills, yielding new innovations in technologies and tactics, identifying research gaps, and reducing investment risks for private research and development entities. For more information, visit: [Oil Spill Response Research | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#).
- **Ohmsett - The National Oil Spill Response Research and Renewable Energy Test Facility:** The MMA has managed and operated the Ohmsett facility for oil spill response testing, training, and research since 1990. The Ohmsett facility is located at the U.S. Navy Base, Naval Weapons Station Earle, in Leonardo, New Jersey. An agreement with the U.S. Navy allows MMA to use the facility to: (a) test various types of oil spill control equipment; (b) train other agencies and private companies on oil spill response and clean up; (c) research new methods of tracking spills in the ocean; (d) research the characteristics of oil slicks; (e) research wave energy and movement; and (f) research and test marine renewable energy sources. Ohmsett users include government agencies, academia, and public and private companies. Per its agreement with the Navy, MMA is responsible for maintaining the Ohmsett tank, systems, and facilities. As a large, complex industrial facility, MMA’s OSR appropriation is critical for maintaining and updating its critical operational systems and infrastructure. Ohmsett is critical for advancing oil spill response tactics and technologies. Without Ohmsett, rigorous testing and evaluation of spill response equipment, systems, and methodologies would be difficult, if not impossible, to accomplish. For more information, visit: [Ohmsett – the National Oil Spill Response Research and Renewable Energy Test Facility | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#).

#### ***Demands, Trends, and Resources:***

- **Oil Spill Response Research:** In FY 2027, MMA will focus on numerous research areas including but not limited to: (1) Advancing new technology for remote sensing tools on subsea gliders, satellites, drones, and fixed wing platforms for oil spill detection, thickness determination, and oil characterization; (2) Developing, testing, and evaluating enhanced mechanical recovery technologies; (3) Investigating enhancements to improve oil separation and demulsification processes; (4) Optimizing the temporary storage and disposal of recovered fluid in remote or harsh environments; (5) Integrating and institutionalizing oil spill response Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) to the technology development process for projects conducted under the OSRR program; and, (6) Developing tools or methods to improve *in situ* burning of oil spills.

- **National Response System (NRS):** The MMA’s OSP Program is an important component of the NRS. The framework includes four levels of contingency planning (national, regional, area, and industry site-specific) that guide preparedness and response efforts. In the NRS, MMA and the USCG must work closely together to manage offshore facility incidents. MMA will maintain subject matter expertise on the intent, organization, and execution of the NRS to ensure that OSRPs are consistent with the NRS’s tenets and that the USCG and MMA can work together during a major offshore facility spill. For the latter, MMA will also provide liaison services, training and education, and incident-specific advice to its staff and to partnering agencies for issues associated with the NRS. The MMA accomplishes its liaison responsibilities by participating in activities of 29 NRS groups and their development of contingency plans under the NRS. Because this interagency coordination is so important, especially during a spill, in 2026, the MMA finalized the MMA Manual Chapter - Oil Spill Response Policy, Functions, and Responsibilities to formalize the MMA’s roles and identify needed resources and training. For more information, visit: [Reporting & Prevention | Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#).

## Appendix B – Section 403 Compliance/Employee Count by Grade

### Compliance with Section 403

This exhibit fulfills the statutory reporting requirements for Bureaus and Office directed in Section 403 Division C Title 1 of the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-74) as shown below.

#### DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

*SEC. 403. The amount and basis of estimated overhead charges, deductions, reserves, or holdbacks, including working capital fund charges, from programs, projects, activities and subactivities to support government-wide, departmental, agency, or bureau administrative functions or headquarters, regional, or central operations shall be presented in annual budget justifications and subject to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Changes to such estimates shall be presented to the Committees on Appropriations for approval.*

#### External Administrative Costs (Working Capital Fund)

To improve efficiency across the Department, SO 3429 *Consolidation, Unification and Optimization of Administrative Functions* consolidated all MMA human resources, information technology, financial management, training and development, contracting, Federal financial assistance, and other administrative services staff within the Office of the Secretary in FY 2025. In FY 2026 and 2027, the MMA will provide funding for these services through the Department’s Working Capital Fund. Maintaining these administrative functions within the Department provides the following benefits:

- Minimizing duplication of administrative entities across multiple organizations while optimizing efficiency.
- Providing a centralized administrative function that can, over time, allow the Department to pursue additional efficiencies.

#### Working Capital Fund Dollars in Thousands (\$000)

Activity	2026 Estimate			2027 Estimate		
	Central	Direct	TOTAL	Central	Direct	TOTAL
OS Shared Services	1,772.0	92.8	1,864.9	1,873.9	85.9	1,959.8
OS Activities	33,954.4	413.7	34,368.0	32,027.2	323.7	32,350.8
IT Shared Services	15,087.4	3,804.5	18,891.8	14,668.9	3,539.5	18,208.4
Interior Business Center	586.8	394.2	981.0	580.8	390.6	971.4
<b>TOTAL, WCF Billing</b>	<b>51,400.5</b>	<b>4,705.1</b>	<b>56,105.6</b>	<b>49,150.8</b>	<b>4,339.6</b>	<b>53,490.4</b>

**Bureau Administrative Costs**

Funding is assessed for Bureau-wide infrastructure support to MMA. This includes costs associated with office space, security, information technology, utilities, and communications for all organizational needs to carry out the MMA’s primary missions. Funding for shared activities and related support services is used for:

- Lease and utilities of office space
- Emergency Management, Security, and Safety & Occupational Health programs
- Workers’ and Unemployment compensation
- Voice and data communications
- Facility maintenance
- Mail and shipping services
- Printing costs
- Transportation Subsidy benefits
- IT shared services and support

**MMA Administrative Costs (\$000)**

<b>Cost Description</b>	<b>2026 Estimate</b>	<b>2027 Estimate</b>
Solicitor Legal Support	3,501	3,705
Rent, Security, Facilities, O&M	26,805	28,145
IT Shared Services and Support	23,376	23,843
Mission IT	13,854	14,131
NARA	200	205
<b>TOTAL, MMA Administrative Costs</b>	<b>67,736</b>	<b>70,029</b>

**Employee Count by Grade Table**

Employee Count by Grade	2025 Actual	2026 Estimate	2027 Estimate
Executive Level V .....	0	0	0
SES .....	12	8	8
<b>Subtotal .....</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
SL - 00 .....	1	1	1
ST - 00 .....	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal .....</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
GS/GM -15 .....	104	96	71
GS/GM -14 .....	316	297	236
GS/GM -13 .....	406	385	325
GS -12 .....	141	130	103
GS -11 .....	108	102	78
GS -10 .....	2	2	1
GS - 9 .....	42	33	22
GS - 8 .....	19	18	10
GS - 7 .....	16	11	6
GS - 6 .....	22	17	13
GS - 5 .....	8	1	0
GS - 4 .....	4	0	0
GS - 3 .....	0	0	0
GS - 2 .....	1	0	0
GS - 1 .....	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal .....</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>865</b>
Other Pay Schedule Systems .....	0	0	0
<b>Total employment (actuals &amp; estimates) .....</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>874</b>

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