

Outer Continental Shelf Energy Access Now (OCEAN) Act

Background

In December of 2016, President Obama issued a moratorium for offshore oil and gas exploration in parts of Alaska and off of the Atlantic Coast weeks before leaving office. President Obama's moratorium withdrew hundreds of millions of acres of federally owned land in the Arctic and Atlantic Ocean from exploration.

The President used the perceived authority from the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to declare these areas off limits, a withdrawal that some believe cannot be undone by the current administration. The *OCEAN Act* would revise OCSLA and tweak the Antiquities Act so they may no longer be used by presidents to block offshore energy production.

Overview

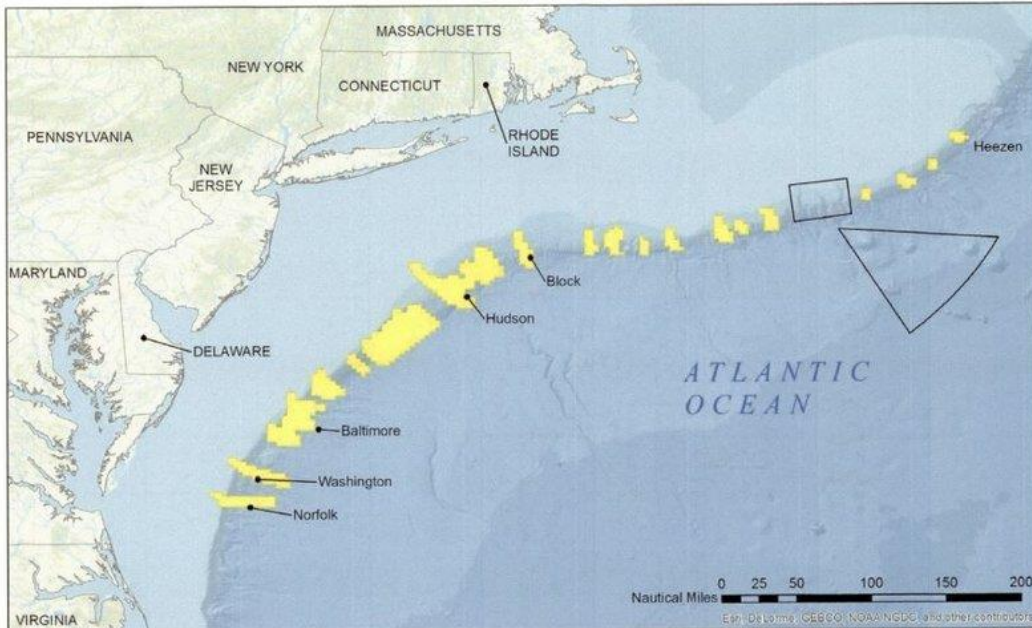
The *OCEAN Act* would amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Antiquities Act to:

- Require an Act of Congress to establish new moratoriums on offshore drilling and to create new Marine National Monuments
- Rescind all previous moratoriums other than Marine Sanctuaries and National Monuments
- Allow presidential withdrawals during a national emergency for up to 90 days, subject to renewal
- Would limit the President's ability to declare or reserve any ocean waters or lands beneath ocean waters as a national monument

Current Support

This legislation is supported by the following: American Petroleum Institute (API), National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA), Arctic Energy Center, U.S. Oil and Gas Association, Alaska Support Industry Alliance, International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC), Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE), Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA)

Atlantic Canyon Withdrawal



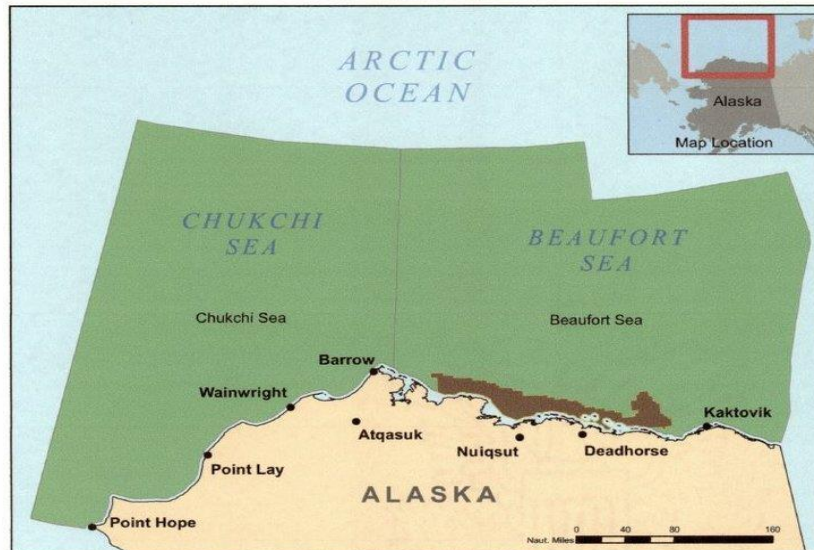
Legend

- Atlantic Canyon Withdrawal
- Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument



Date: 12/2016

Arctic Withdrawal



Legend

- Area Available for Future Leasing
- Arctic Withdrawal



Date: 12/2/2016

GCS: NAD 83 - Alaska Albers Proj.

Link: <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/12/20/506336885/obama-designates-atlantic-arctic-areas-off-limits-to-offshore-drilling>