

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9004

To allow the Secretary of the Interior to authorize geological and geophysical surveys for offshore oil and gas exploration.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To allow the Secretary of the Interior to authorize geological and geophysical surveys for offshore oil and gas exploration.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION LI-**
4 **CENSING.**

5 The Secretary of the Interior shall authorize geologi-
6 cal and geophysical surveys related to oil and gas activities
7 on the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf, except
8 within areas subject to existing oil and gas leasing mora-
9 toria. Such authorizations shall be issued within 30 days
10 of receipt of a completed application and shall, as applica-

1 ble to survey type, comply with the mitigation and moni-
2 toring measures in subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), and
3 (g) of section 217.184 of title 50, Code of Federal Regula-
4 tions (as in effect on January 1, 2022), and section
5 217.185 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in
6 effect on January 1, 2022). Geological and geophysical
7 surveys authorized pursuant to this section are deemed to
8 be in full compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection
9 Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) and the Endangered
10 Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and their
11 implementing regulations.

○