

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.

○