



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-RD-A
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2013-0438-DEM

28 May 2013

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AND
STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

**REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO DEPLOY LIMESTONE GABION ROCKS OR
CRUSHED CONCRETE OF SIMILAR SIZE IN VARIOUS CONFIGURATIONS AT
EIGHT (8) REEF COMPLEXES IN ALABAMA WATERS OF MOBILE BAY AND
BON SECOUR BAY, MOBILE/BALDWIN COUNTIES, ALABAMA.**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Alabama Marine Resources Division
Mr. Christopher M. Blankenship, Director
Post Office Box 189
Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528

LOCATION: Mobile Bay and Bon Secour Bay, Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama. See attached reef location list for details.

WORK: The Alabama Marine Resources Division (AMRD) proposes to deploy 3-6 inch limestone gabion rocks or crushed concrete of similar size in various configurations at 8 reef complex sites in Mobile Bay and Bon Secour Bay. The eight (8) reef complexes will be sited adjacent to the nine (9) platforms and the requested six piles at the previous site of Legacy 615#4. A total of 8.17 acres of seabed will be enhanced with approximately 1,613 cubic yards of reef material per acre. Limestone rocks will be deployed within the previous permitted areas (AL03-00061-U) boundaries with the addition of a reef complex located at the site where Legacy Resource's 615#4 was located prior to its removal in April 2011. A total of 6 piles will mark the expanded Legacy 615#4 reef site and a total of 5,919 cubic yards of reef material will be deployed with the same specifications as the previous permit (i.e. =1' +/-8" elevation). The 6 piles will possess appropriate safety/navigation signage. AMRD personnel proposes to closely coordinate with the operators of the Legacy and ExxonMobil platforms to ensure the proposed reefing project will not interfere with existing

pipelines, and buoys will be used during deployment to mark the location of each pipeline(s) to prevent interference. AMRD proposes to enhance the existing seabed to 1' +/-8" elevation, and current water depths at selected platform ranges from 11-27 feet, thus having no impact on navigational considerations around the platforms.

Crushed limestone gabion rock was deployed at 8 reef complexes adjacent to 10 gas production platforms in 2003 (AL03-00061-U). Subsidence, propeller wash, and storms have deteriorated the usability of the previously deployed material. The purpose of this proposed project is to provide beneficial habitat for small cryptic finfishes, shrimp, and crabs that will serve as a base of a biological community where large predatory finfishes (spotted seatrout, flounder species, red drum, southern kingfish, sheepshead, and sand seatrout) can be supported.

The applicant has applied for state water quality (WQ) certification in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, and for coastal zone (CZ) consistency in accordance with the State Coastal Zone Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to WQ certification and CZ consistency will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) can be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the

reasons for holding a public hearing. Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This project will disturb approximately 8.17 acres of water bottoms within Essential Fish Habitat for managed species in the Gulf of Mexico. Impacts to this nursery habitat may affect various aquatic species. Our final determination relative to project impacts to EFH and the need for mitigation measures are subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. Additional notification will be furnished to the State Historic Preservation Officer via this Public Notice. This review constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and Division of Archeological Services.

Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate that the proposed activity may affect listed species, or their critical habitat. This notice and application will be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to assess if the proposed activity will affect listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. Further coordination with the FWS will be performed as a result of this notice. The National Marine Fisheries Service requires the evaluation of impacts to Essential Fish Habitat of estuarine species. After review of public comments, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management will determine if the proposal complies with and will be operated or maintained in a manner consistent with the Clean Water Act and the Coastal Zone Management Program.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to **SAM-2013-0438-DEM** and should be mailed to District Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Attention: Regulatory Division (RD-C), Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy furnished to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, 4171 Commanders Drive, Mobile Alabama 36615.

All Comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager, Mr. Don Mroczko at telephone number (251) 690-3185 or donald.e.mroczko@usace.army.mil.

CESAM-RD-C
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2013-0438-DEM

28 May 2013

Please refer to the Public Notice Number **SAM-2013-0438-DEM**.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

SAM-2013-0438-DEM

Alabama Marine Resources Division

Reef Locations

1. ExxonMobil 76A-76A-Aux (Mary Ann 1)
76A Lat: 30° 15.250'N – Long: -88° 03.120'W
76 Aux Lat: 30° 15.294'N – Long: -88° 03.127'W
Water Depth -20'
2. ExxonMobil 63AB
Lat: 30° 17.511'N – Long: -87° 59.739'W
Water Depth -17'
3. ExxonMobil 62A – 62AA Double Rig
62A Lat: 30° 17.802'N – Long: -88° 02.731'W
62AA Lat: 30° 17.770'N – Long: -88° 02.677'W
Water Depth -19'
4. ExxonMobil 95E
Lat: 30° 14.459'N – Long: -87° 01.005'W
Water Depth -27'
5. Legacy Resources – Bon Secour Bay
Lat: 30° 16.823'N – Long: -87° 58.080'W
Water Depth -13'
6. Legacy Miocene Rig 615#3
Lat: 30° 16.837'N – Long: -87° 59.104'
7. Legacy Miocene Rig 615#1
Lat: 30° 16.012'N – Long: -87° 58.429'W
8. Previous Location of Legacy 615#4
Center Point
Lat: 30° 17.296'N – Long: -87° 57.313'W

Figure 1. Depiction of Mobile Bay and Bon Secour Bay where the project locations will be sited.

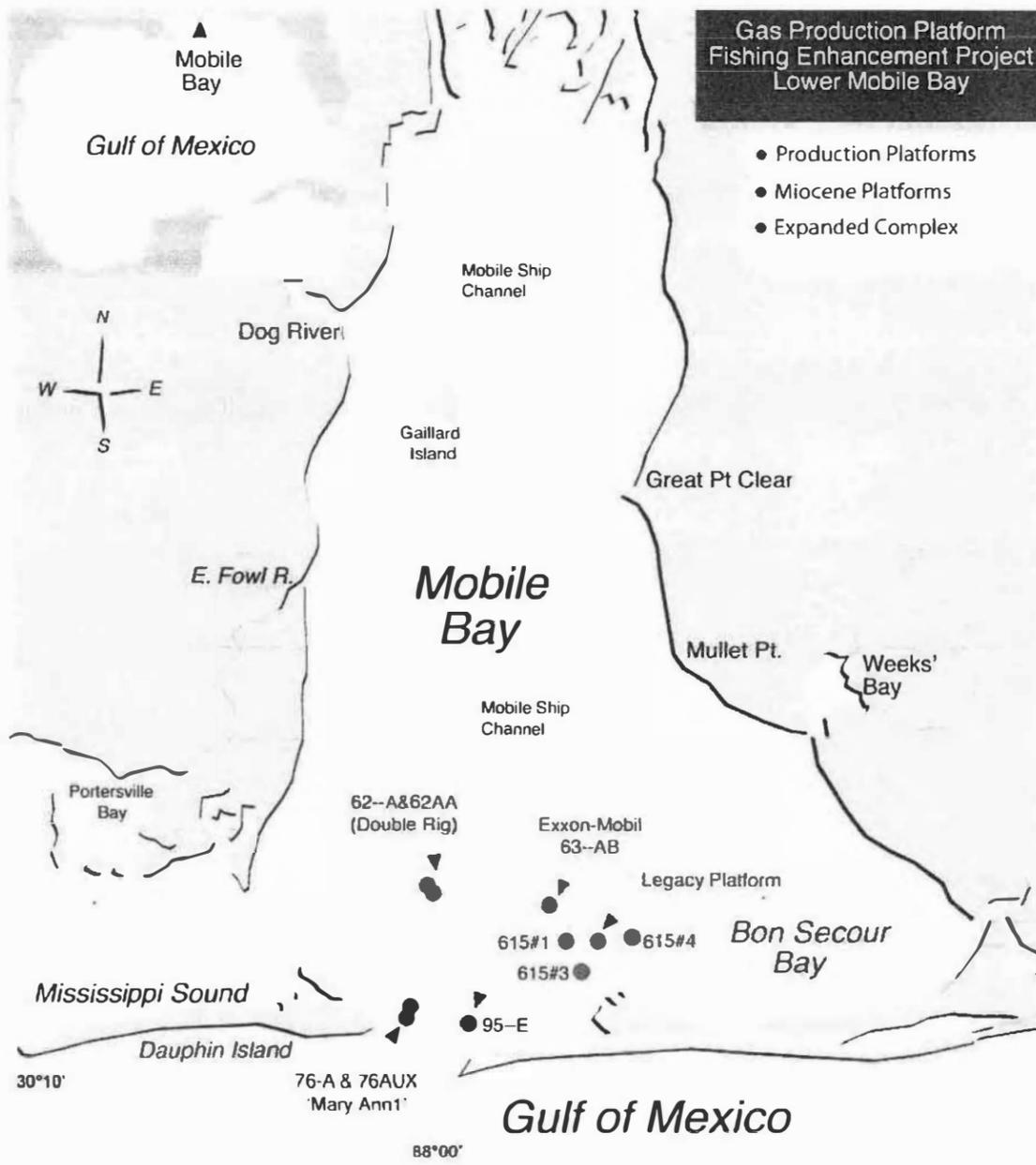


Figure 2. Typical profile of the substrate, water column, and platform leg/piling at each reef complex indicating depth of water and change in elevation after completion of project

ADCNR/MRD - ExxonMobil
Gas Platform Fishery Enhancement Project

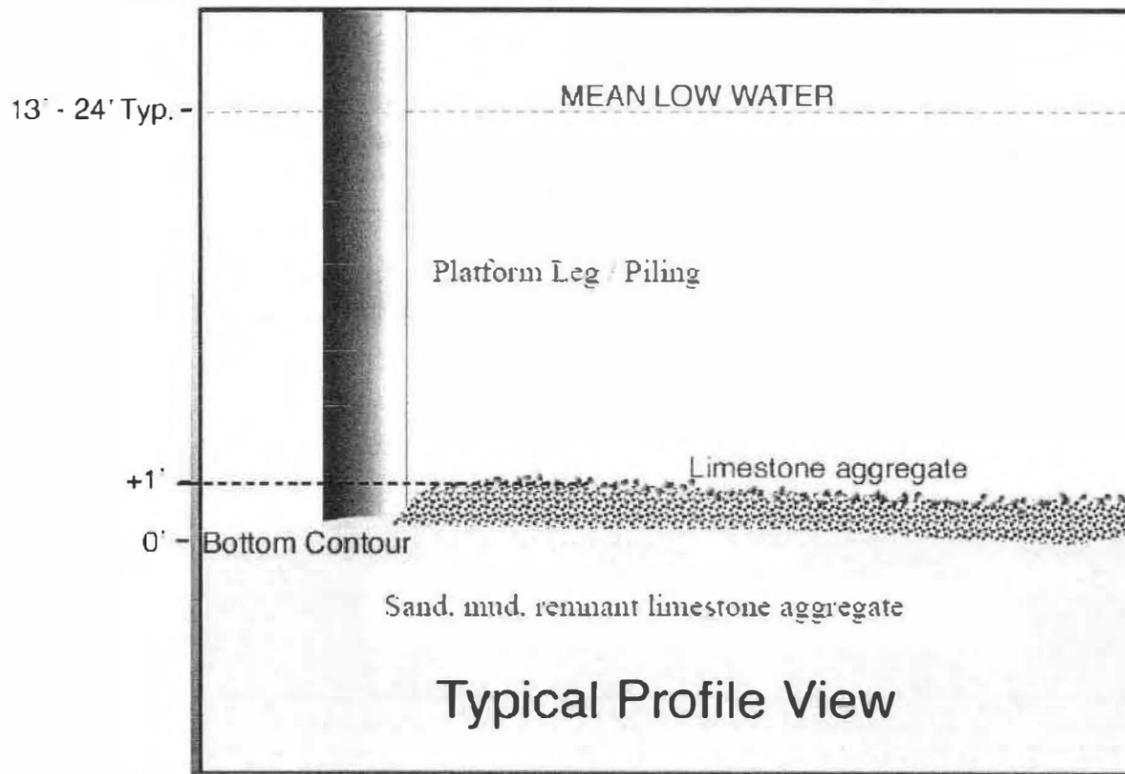


Figure 3. Project boundaries at platforms ExxonMobil76A and 76A-Aux with area of enhancement.

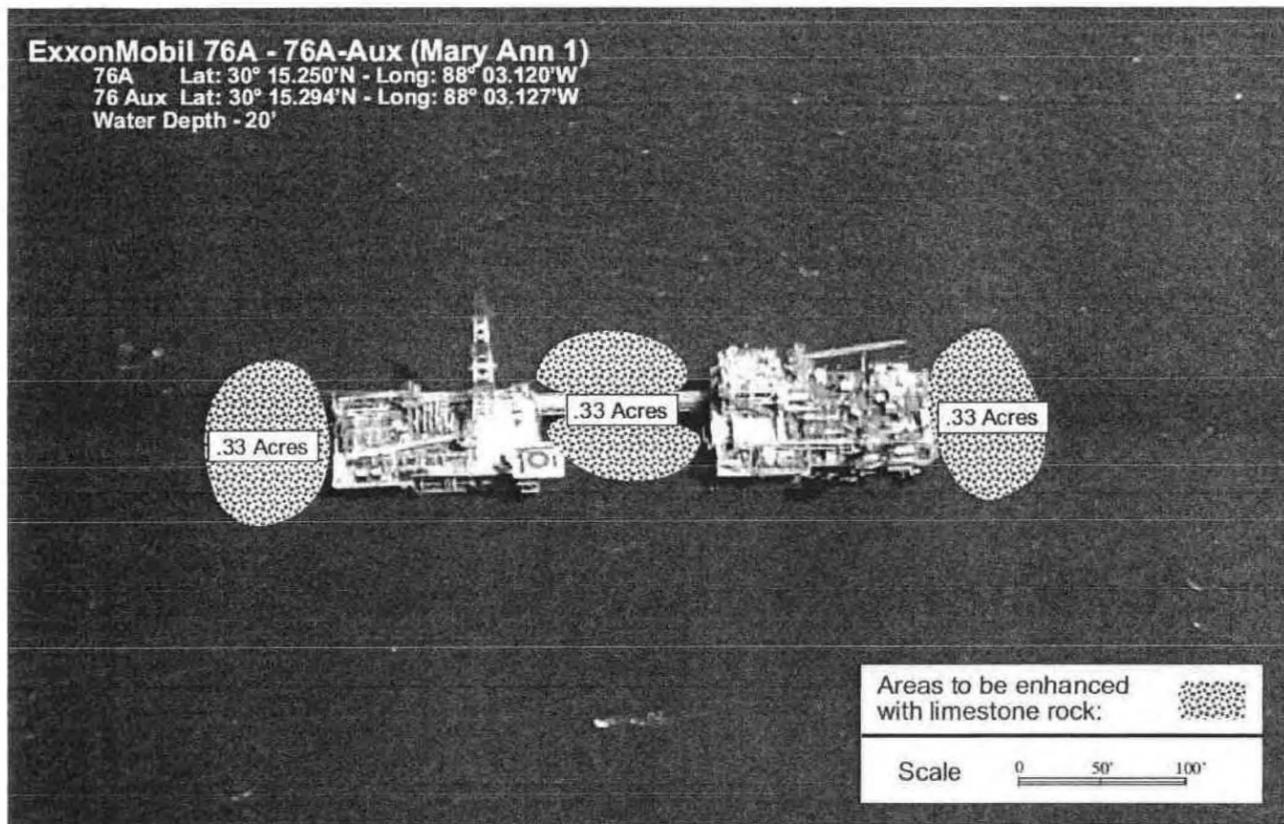


Figure 4. Project boundaries at platform ExxonMobil 63AB with area of enhancement.

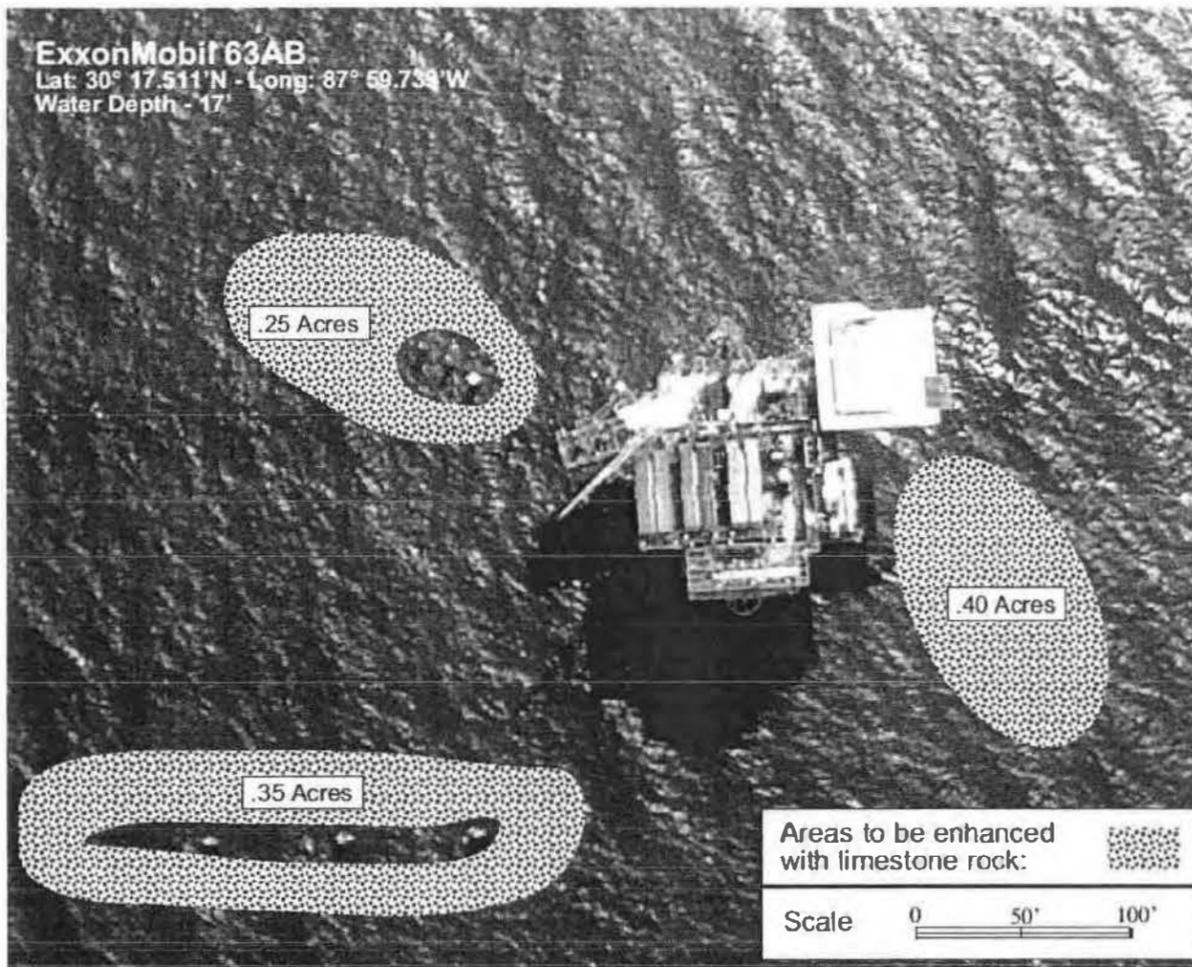


Figure 5. Project boundaries at platforms ExxonMobil 61A and 62AA with area of enhancement.

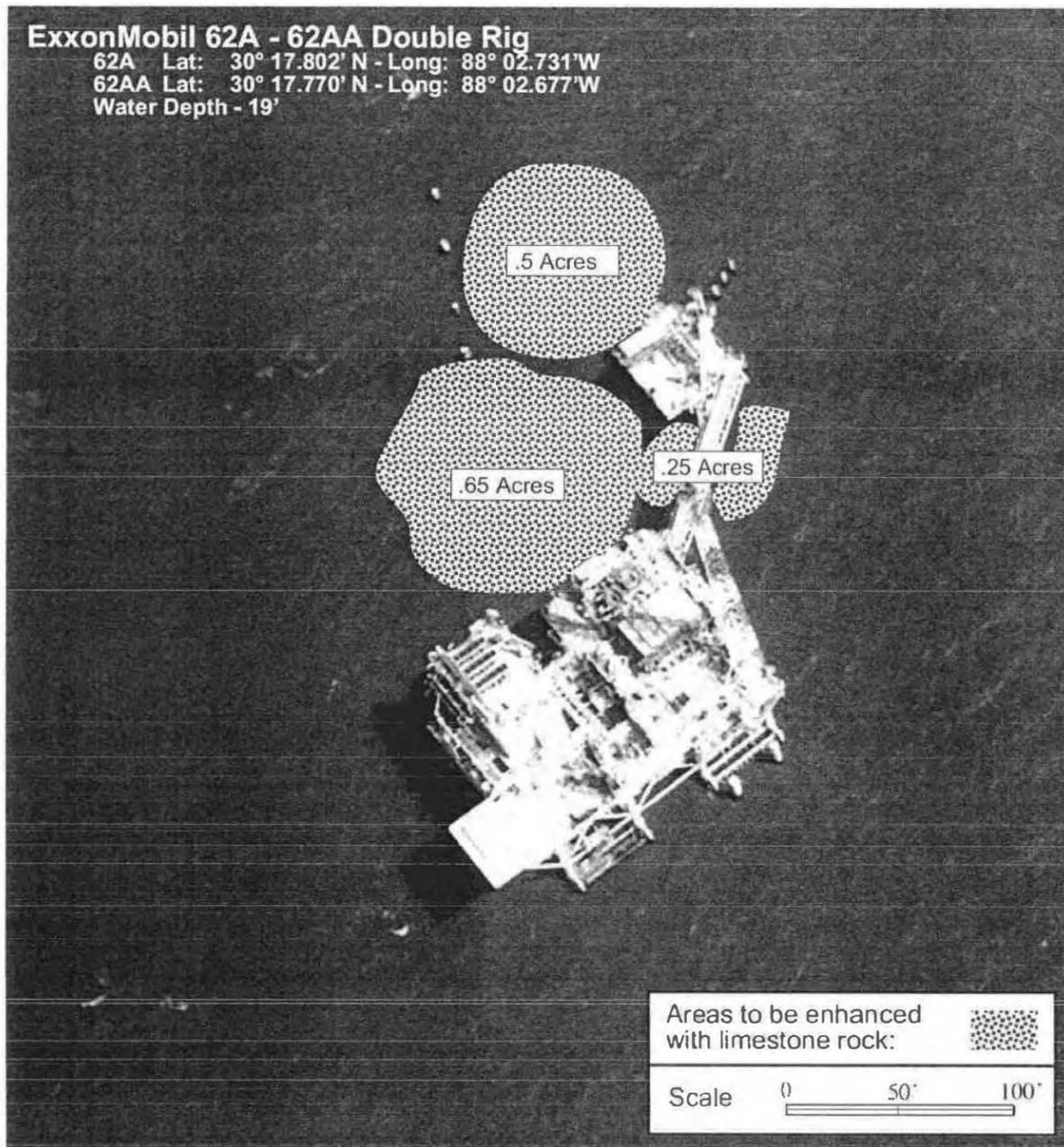


Figure 6. Project boundaries at platform ExxonMobil 95E with area of enhancement.

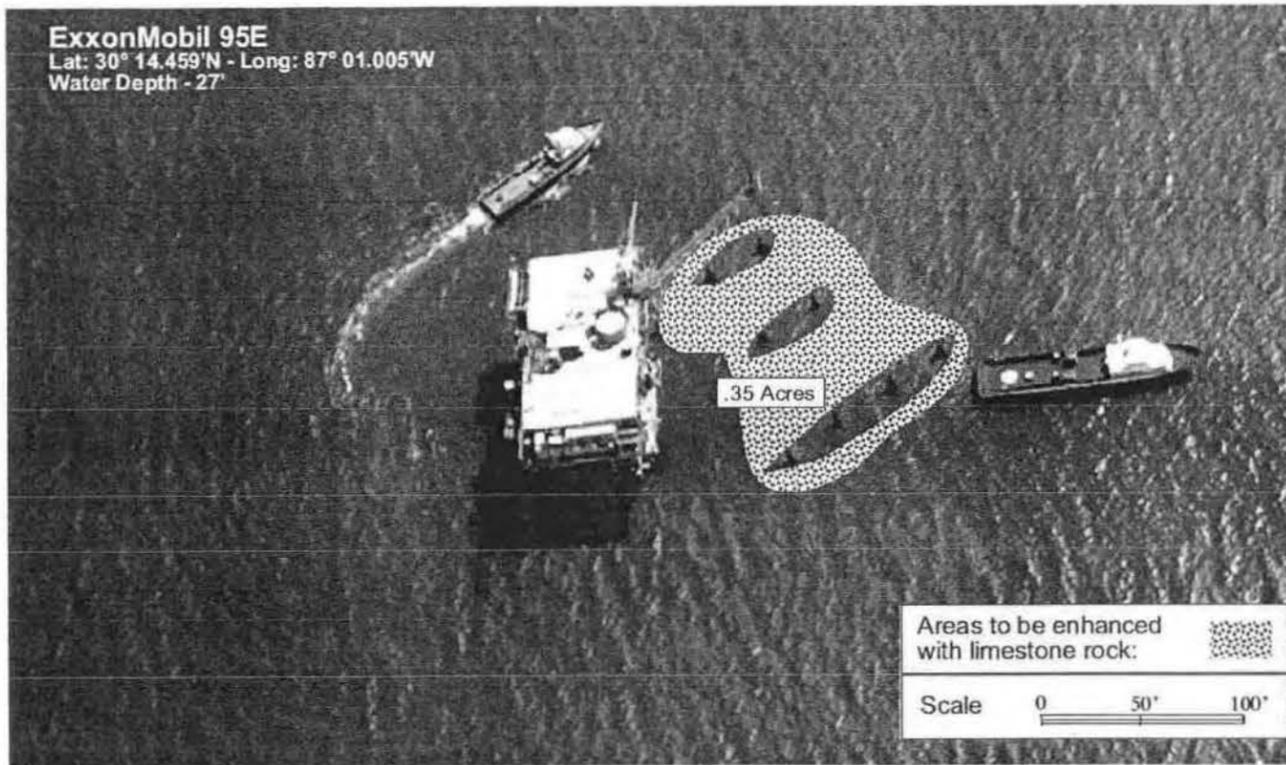


Figure 7. Project boundaries at platform Legacy Resources 78A with area of enhancement.

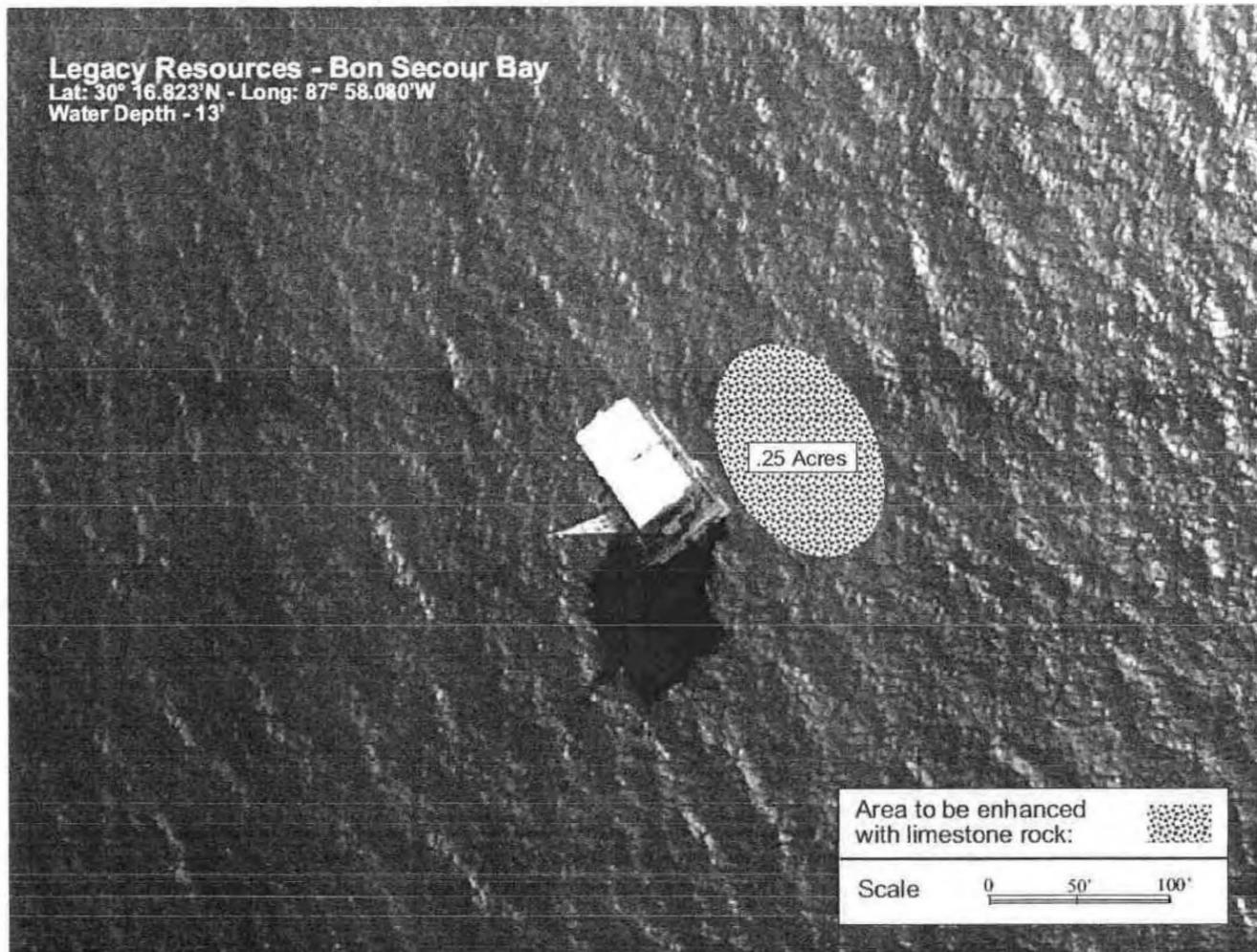


Figure 8. Project boundaries at platform Legacy Resources – Miocene 615#3 with area of enhancement.

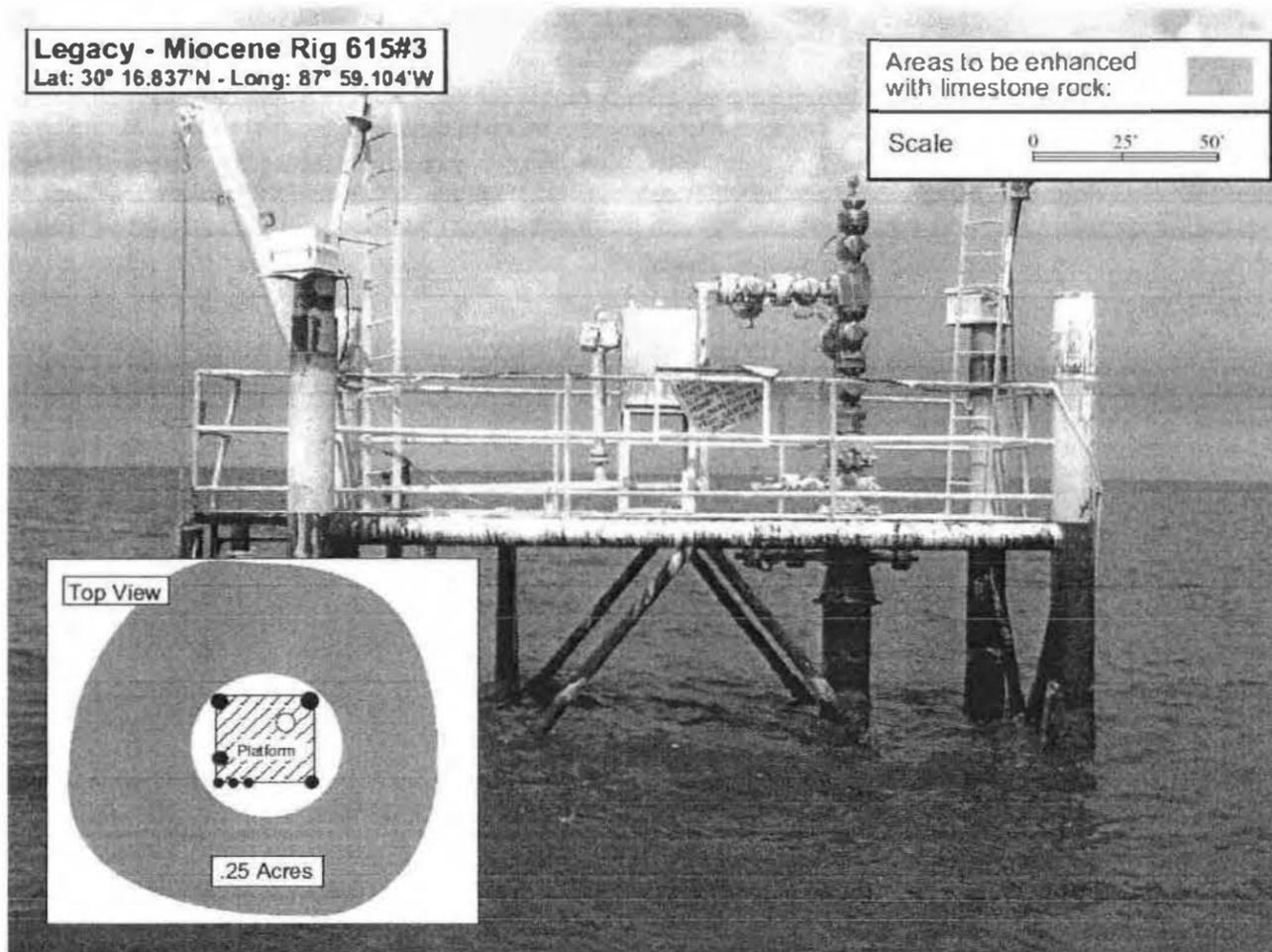
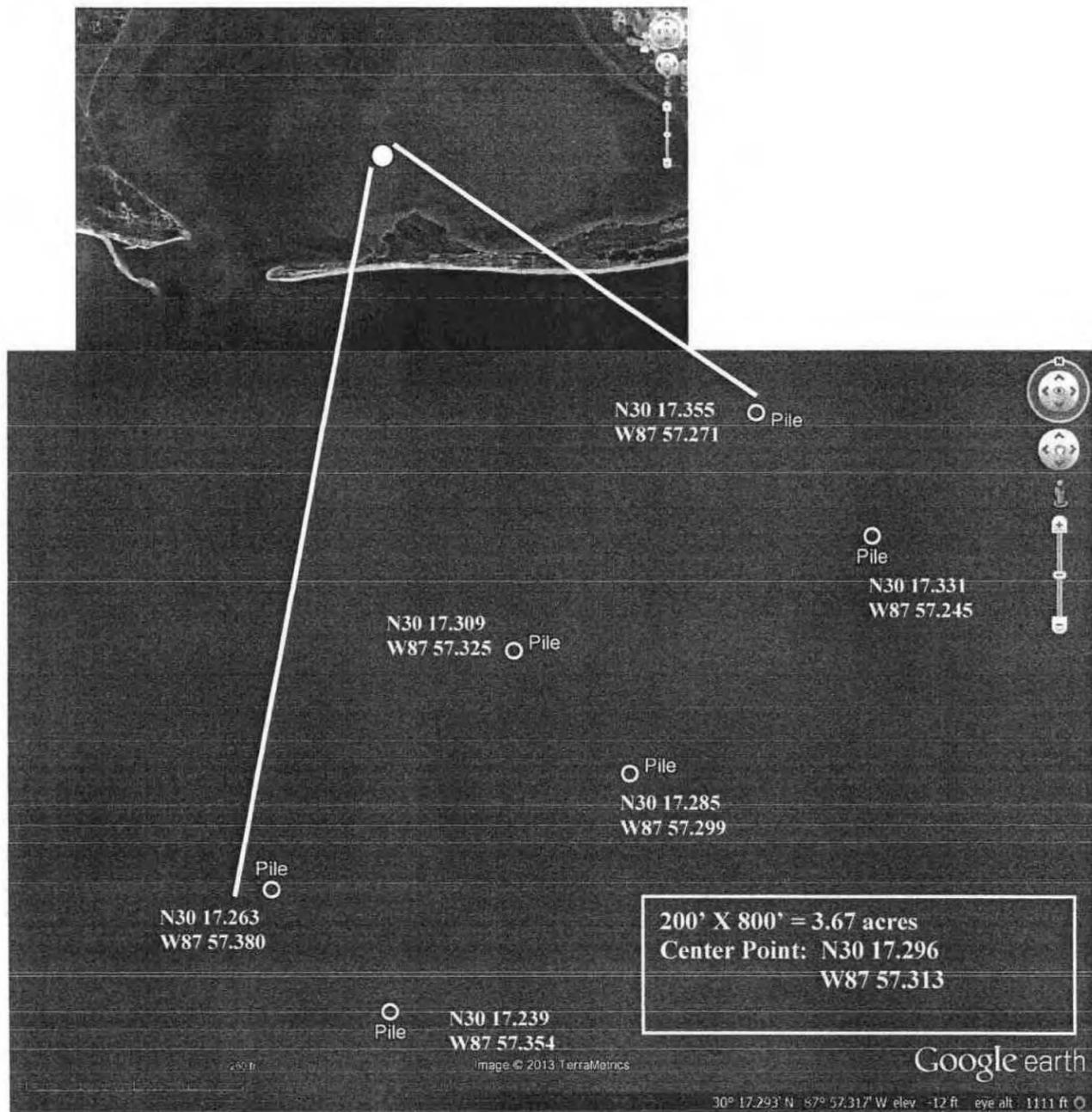


Figure 10. Expanded project boundary sited at the previous location of Legacy Resources 615#4 with area of enhancement.



PUBLIC NOTICE DISTRIBUTION – MOBILE BAY AND BON SECOUR BAY, MOBILE/BALDWIN COUNTIES, AL

Public Notice Number: SAM-2013-0438-DEM

Project Manager: Don Mroczo

_____ Mail Codes: **49** and **18 (Mobile Bay and Tributaries)**

_____ Regulatory:

_____ Applicant (2 copies): Alabama Marine Resources Division
Mr. Chris M. Blankenship, Director
Post Office Box 189
Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528

_____ Agent: None

_____ US POST OFFICE
ATTENTION POSTMASTER
DAUPHIN ISLAND, AL 36538

_____ MOBILE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
205 GOVERNMENT STREET
MOBILE ALABAMA 36644

_____ MOBILE REGISTER
P O BOX 2488
MOBILE AL 36652-2488

_____ DAUPHIN ISLAND CITY HALL
1011 BIENVILLE BOULEVARD
DAUPHIN ISLAND, AL 36538

_____ BALDWIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
ATTN: PLANNING DEPT
312 COURTHOUSE SQUARE, STE 18
BAY MINETTE, ALABAMA 36507

_____ GULF SHORES CITY HALL
P O BOX 299
GULF SHORES, ALABAMA 36547

_____ US POST OFFICE
ATTENTION POSTMASTER
GULF SHORES, ALABAMA 36542
2149 WEST 1ST STREET

_____ List of Adjacent Property Owners:

ExxonMobil Production Company
Attention: Mr. Michael Barbella
Post Office Box 4358
Houston, Texas 77210-4358

Legacy Resources Company
Attention: Mr. Tom Farmer
1423 West Causeway Approach
Mandeville, Louisiana 70471