

ERMA Offshore Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) Tool

This tool allows you to query the Offshore Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps created by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) which provides a summary of marine biological resources at risk if an oil spill, or other hazardous incident, occurs.

To read more about ESIs and download the source Offshore ESI data, see the [NOAA ESI Download site](#).

ERMA can be used to view the ESI maps and visualize multiple ESI elements. View the Offshore ESI data in ERMA for the [Gulf of Mexico](#) or for [Alaska](#).

To run an Offshore ESI query:

1. On the **Query Tools** tab in ERMA, create one or more polygons using the **Create Polygon** button. To make a polygon, click on a spot on the map and then move the mouse pointer to draw the polygon's first side. When the map displays the shape that you want, double-click or press any key to turn off the Polygon Tool. Repeat these steps for additional polygons.
2. Use the drop down menu to select "**NOAA ESI Query Tool**". Select the layers to query and the months when the data will be retrieved. When finished select **Run Query**.

A new window will appear in your browser with a report highlighting what species are found within the query area and a small map highlighting the area of interest with total acreage. Scroll down to see the specific species listed in the summary, what jurisdiction they fall under for endangered species status (federal or state), and what months they are present in different life stages. The report URL is a permanent link to the ESI query and can be shared and reused.

Environmental Sensitivity Index: Resources at Risk

This report was generated on 8/27/24, 11:18 AM

Atlas(es) used in this report: Gulf of Mexico Offshore

Months selected in this report: Jul, Aug, Sep



Summary Results

*Species listed in **bold red** are considered threatened, endangered or of conservation concern by the state or federal government

The report window displays a list of species of concern for the query area. The species listed are:

- Gulf of Mexico Offshore Benthic (point)**: No features of concern for this resource in the area drawn
- Gulf of Mexico Offshore Benthic Habitats**: No features of concern for this resource in the area drawn
- Gulf of Mexico Offshore Bird Habitat**: No features of concern for this resource in the area drawn
- Gulf of Mexico Offshore Fish Habitat**: Species of concern (2): **Giant manta** | **Oceanic whitetip shark**
- Gulf of Mexico Offshore Invertebrates**: No features of concern for this resource in the area drawn
- Gulf of Mexico Offshore Marine Mammals**: Species of concern (2): **Rice's Whale** | **Sperm whale**
- Gulf of Mexico Offshore Reptiles**: Species of concern (4): **Green sea turtle** | **Kemp's ridley sea turtle** | **Leatherback sea turtle** | **Loggerhead sea turtle**
- Gulf of Mexico Offshore Bio Index (polygons)**: No special features flagged in this layer
- Gulf of Mexico Offshore ESI Area of Interest**

At the top right of the report window, there are two buttons: "Download ICS232 PDF" and "Download All ESI Tables to Excel". Below the species list, there is a map showing the query area with a total area of 926,131 acres. The map is credited to OpenStreetMap contributors.

To download a report that includes a full set of the ESI tables in Excel, see the top right of the report window for the **Download All ESI Tables in Excel** option.

The screenshot shows the ERMA Gulf of Mexico interface. The main map displays the Gulf of Mexico with a grid overlay. A large black polygon is drawn on the map, representing the query area. The Query Tools panel is open, showing Step 1: Create New or Use Existing Shapes. The "CREATE POLYGON" button is highlighted. Below the map, there is a legend and a list of layers to query. The "NOAA ESI Query Tool" is selected. The "RUN QUERY" button is at the bottom of the panel.