

Surveillance and Broadcast Services

FAA Offshore Infrastructure Management and Engineering Update

Presented to FAA-Industry Gulf of Mexico Agreement Implementation Committee

By: Rana Obeid, Federal Lead

Date: January 17, 2024



Federal Aviation
Administration



FAA-Agreement Implementation Committee “AIC”

Why are we here?

- The AIC is a product of the 2006 FAA-Industry Gulf of Mexico Memorandum of Agreement and subsequently carried over by the 2021 Memorandum of Understanding between FAA, HSAC, and HAI for aviation safety in the Gulf of Mexico
- The purpose of the AIC is to foster cooperation, commitment, accountability, and trust to improve and sustain quality Air Traffic Services in the Gulf
- The AIC assists the FAA in strategic planning by providing feedback / recommendations
- The AIC is used to assess the coverage of installed FAA equipment and weather additional areas should be addressed

Safety / Service

Agenda

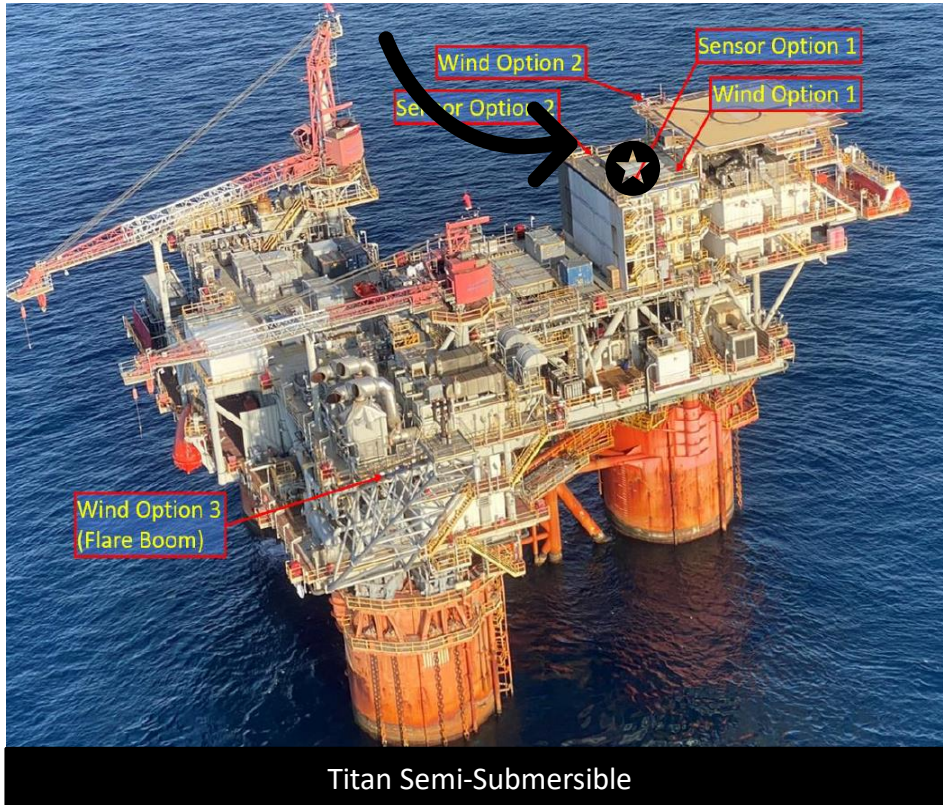
- Regular Business
 - FAA Infrastructure Projects
 - 5-Year Outlook
 - AWOS, ADS-B, & VHF Comm Coverage
 - Installation Updates
- New Business
 - AIC Decisions
 - Traffic Count & Traffic Trends
 - Community Awareness

FAA Infrastructure Status



Newly Commissioned ETO AWOS MC 941 / Titan

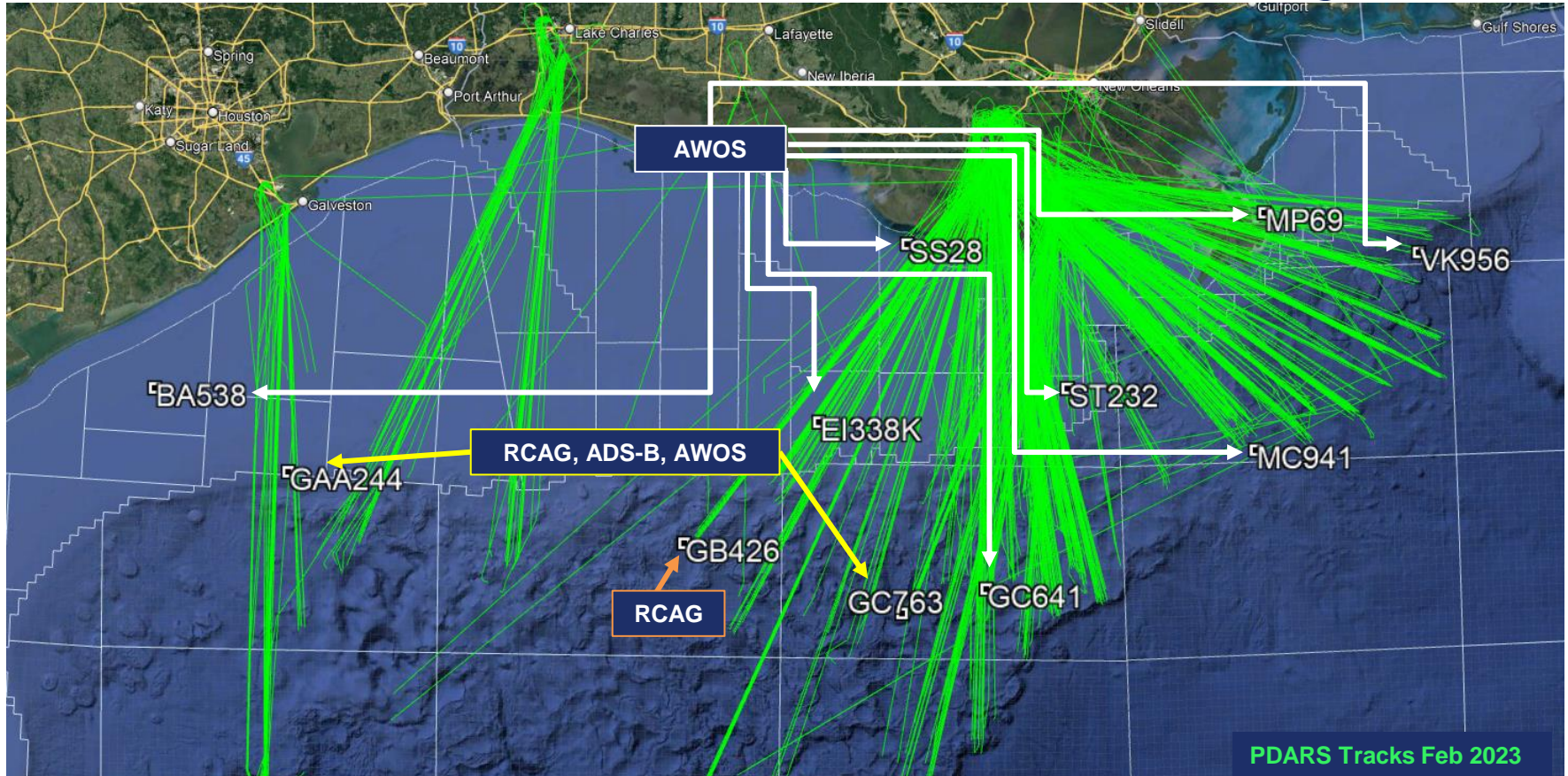
AWOS Location



Wind sensor



2024-25 Offshore Installation Projects



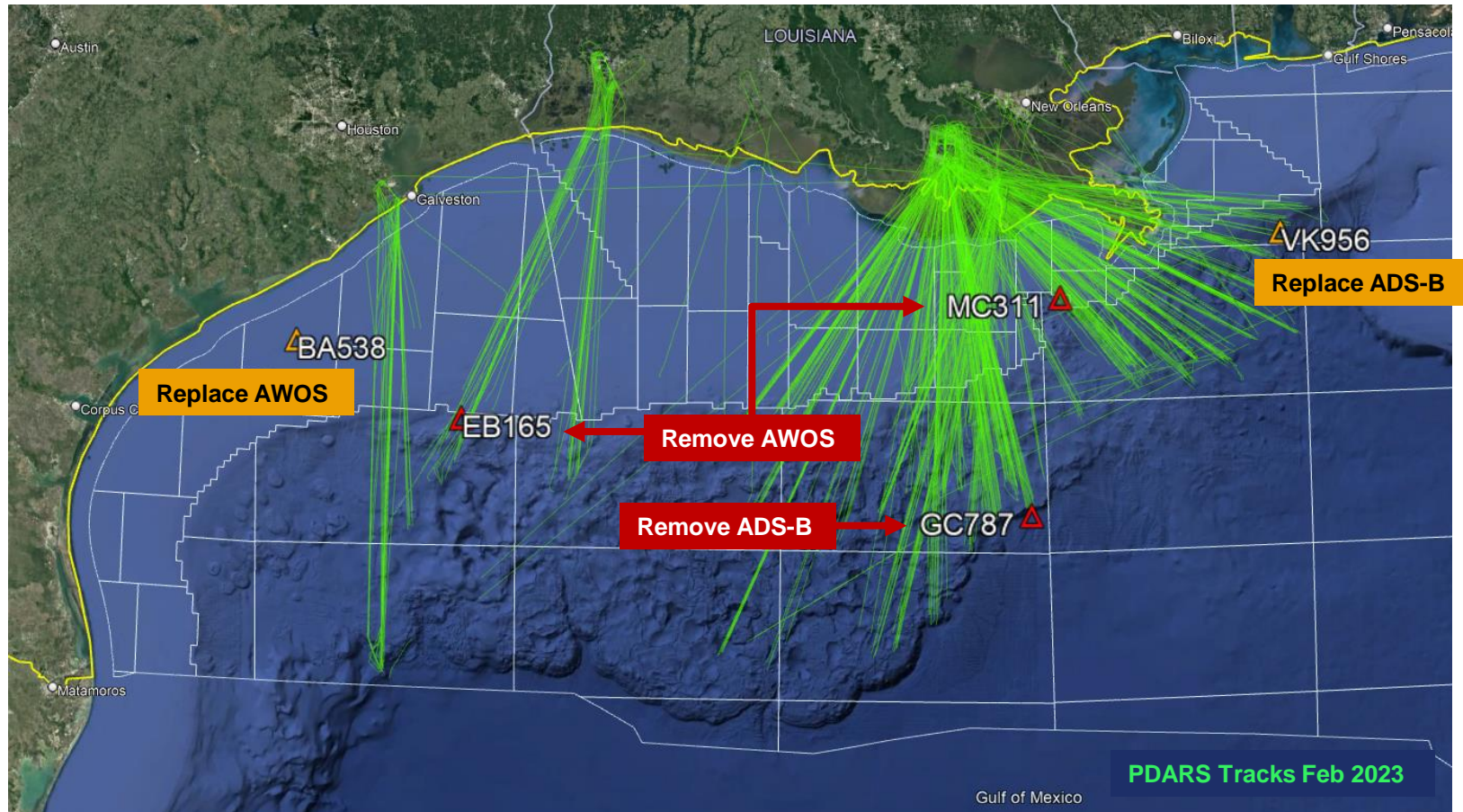
AWOS Commissionings:

- ✓ Mississippi Canyon 941 (Dec 2023)
- Eugene Island 338K (Mar 2024)
- Green Canyon 641 (Mar 2024)
- Ship Shoal 28P (May 2024)
- Main Pass 69B (Jun 2024)
- South Tim 232 (Jul 2024)
- Brazos 538 (Aug 2024)
- Galliano, LA (TBD)
- Viosca Knoll 956 (TBD)
- Galveston A244A (TBD)

ADS-B/RCAG Commissionings:

- RCAG Green Canyon 763 (Mar 2024)
- ADS-B Green Canyon 763 (Jun 2024)
- RCAG Garden Banks 426 (TBD)
- ADS-B, RCAG Galveston A244A (TBD)

2023-24 Offshore Sustainment Projects



Remove AWOS Mississippi Canyon 311 (TBD)
Remove AWOS East Break 165 (TBD)
Remove ADS-B Green Canyon 787 (TBD)

Replace AWOS Brazos 538 (TBD)
Replace ADS-B Viosca Knoll 956 (TBD)

5-Year Outlook

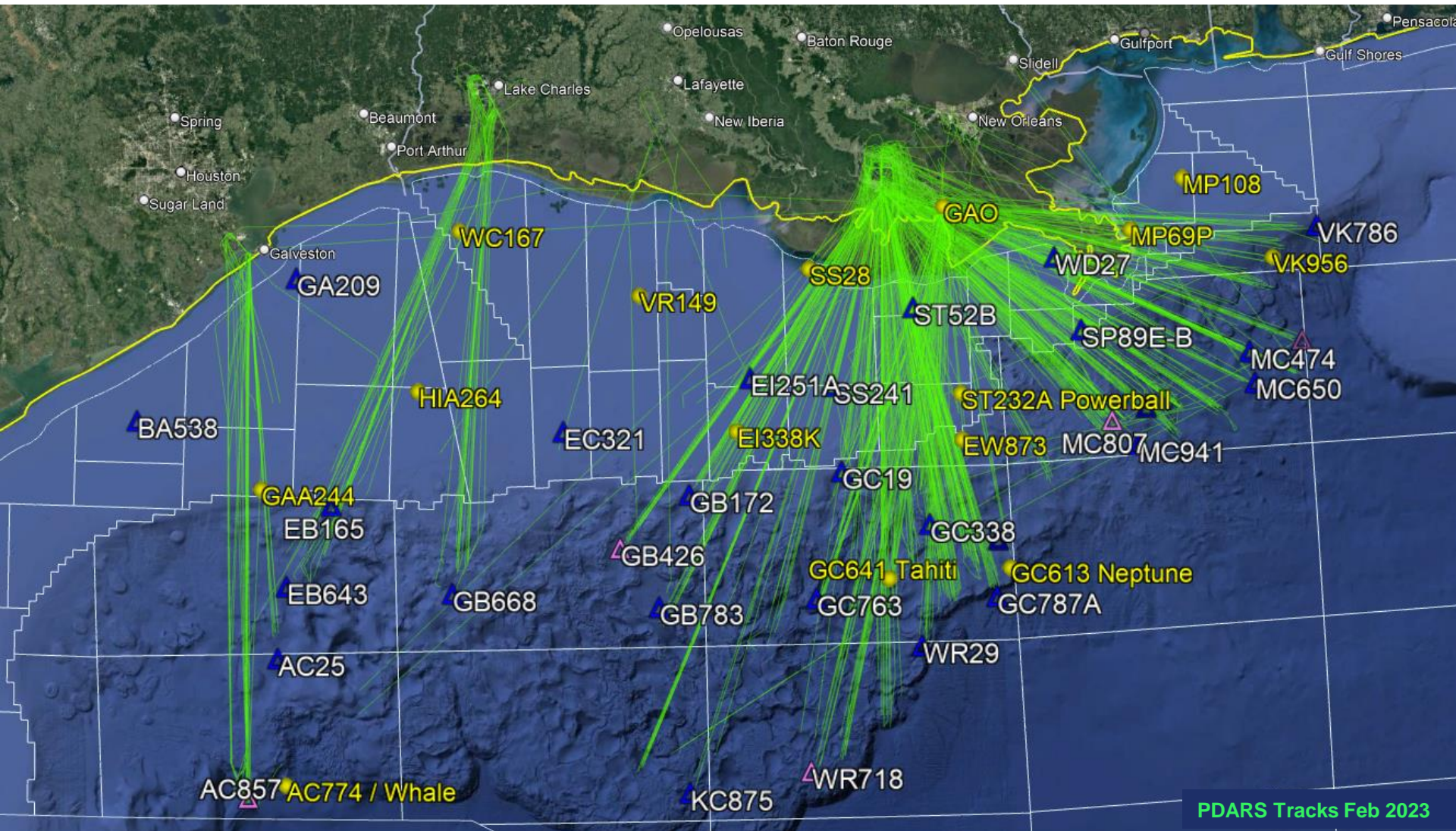


Projected AWOS Losses within 5 Years

1. Alaminos Canyon 25
2. East Breaks 165 - Seeking additional options
3. East Breaks 643A
4. East Cameron 321A
5. **Garden Banks 668**
6. Garden Banks 783

- = No replacement identified, seeking replacement suggestions
- = Replacement not planned
- = Possible replacement identified

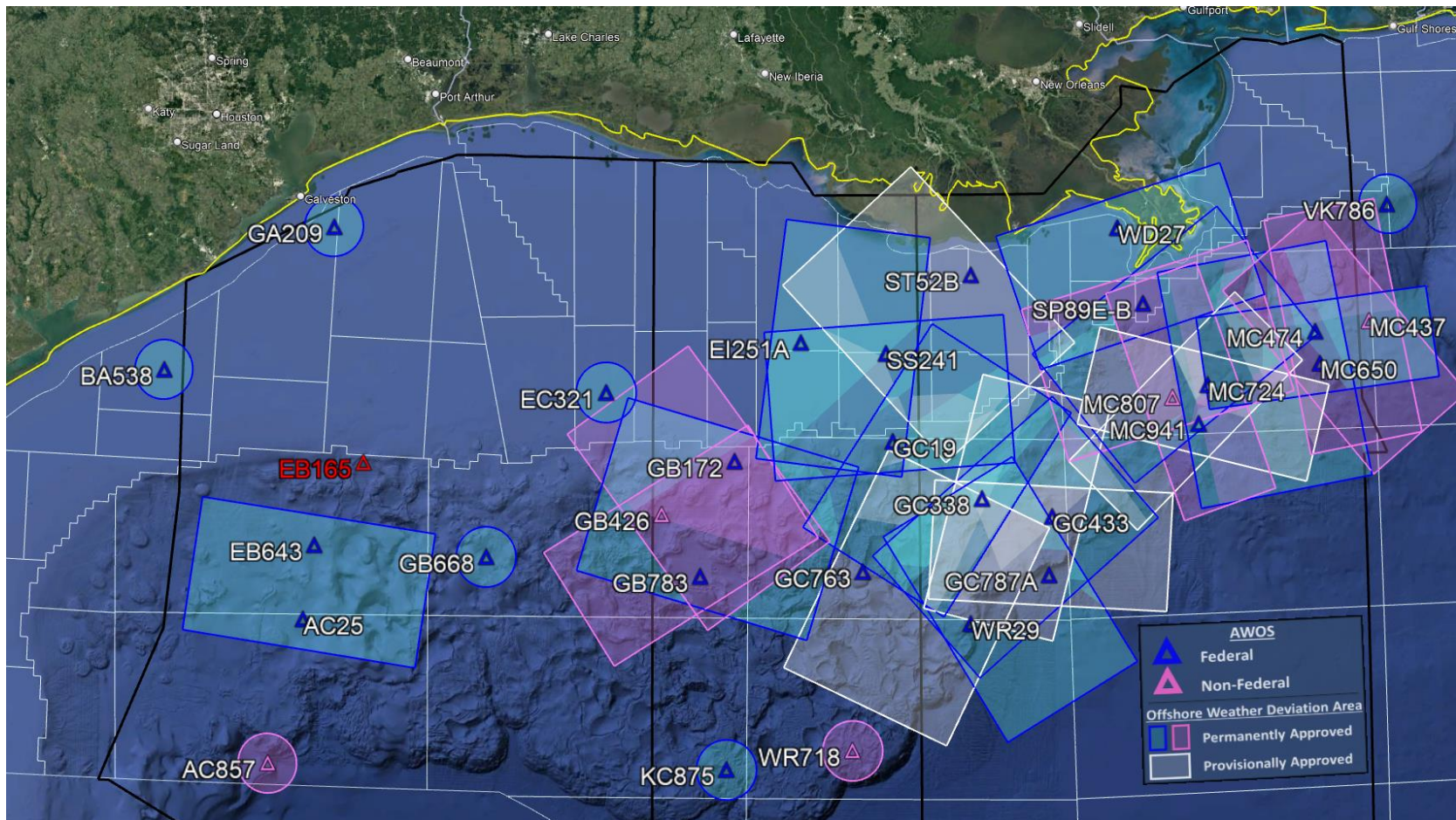
Candidate Sites Identified for AWOS Installation Within Next 5 Years



AWOS, ADS-B, & VHF Comm Coverage

Mitch Olshansky
Project Manager

AWOS Coverage – December 22, 2023

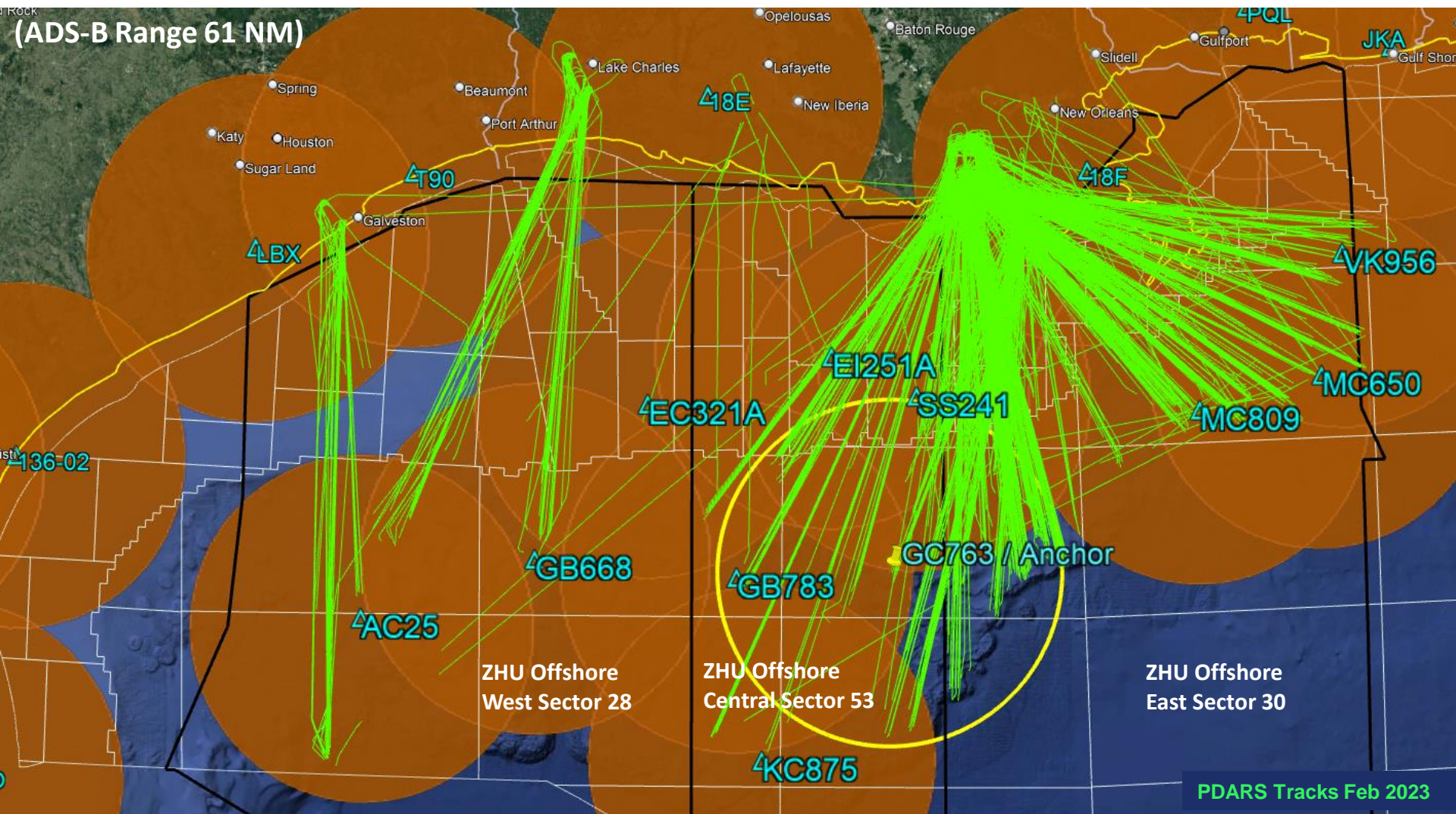


▲ Out of service due to hurricane damage: 1
(EB165)

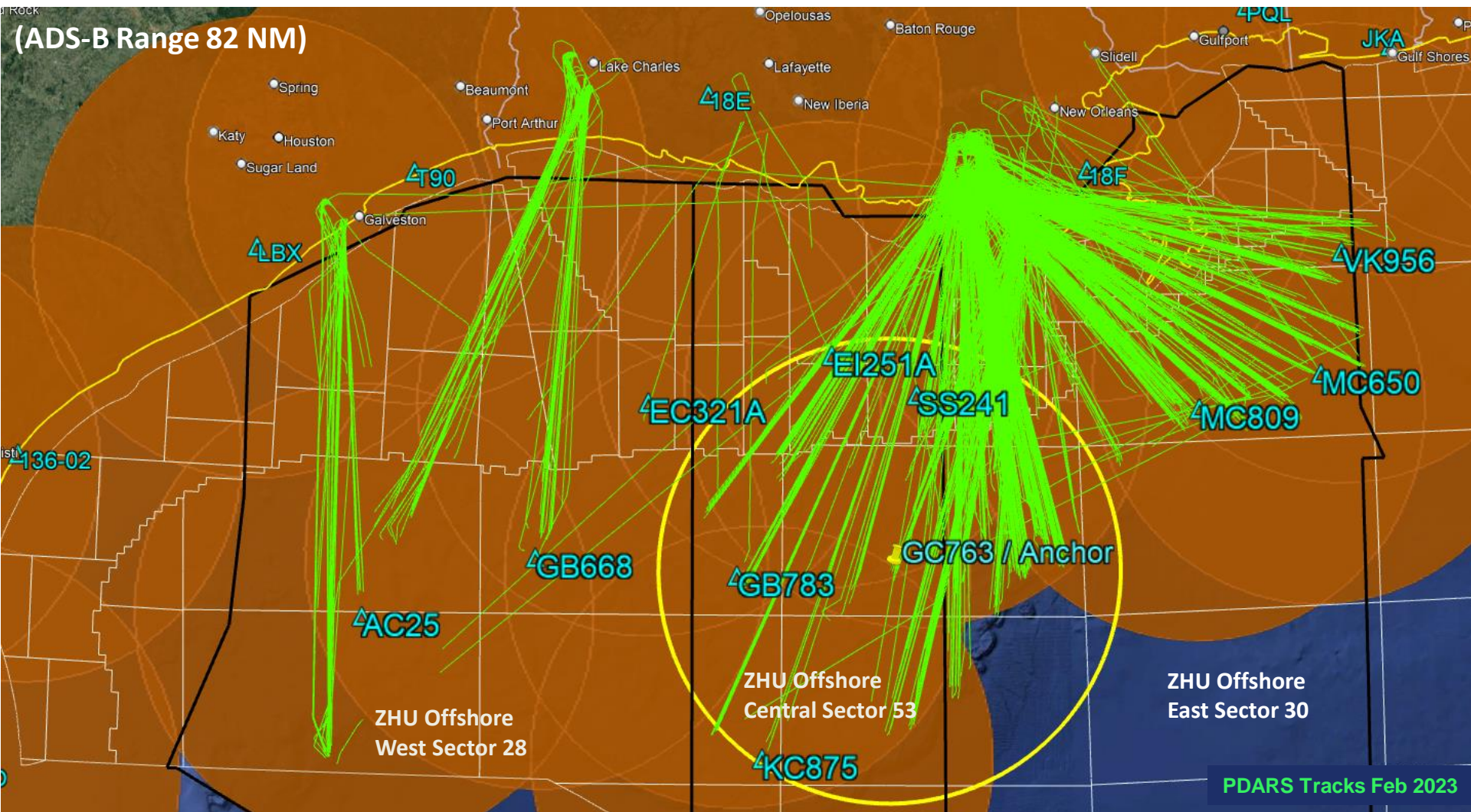
Federal AWOS Commissioned*: 26*

*AWOS may be temporarily out of service due to required maintenance

Current ADS-B Coverage 1500' MSL



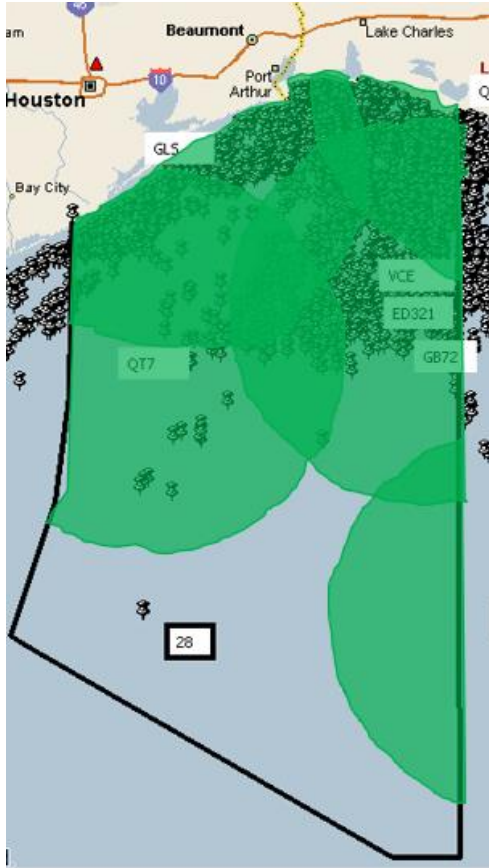
Current ADS-B Coverage 3000' MSL



VHF Comm Coverage 3,000' MSL

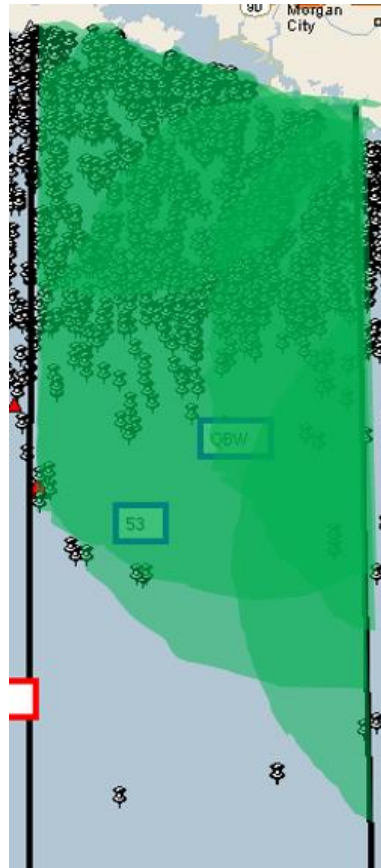
Offshore West / S28

GLS, QIC, QT7, EZP, 18H



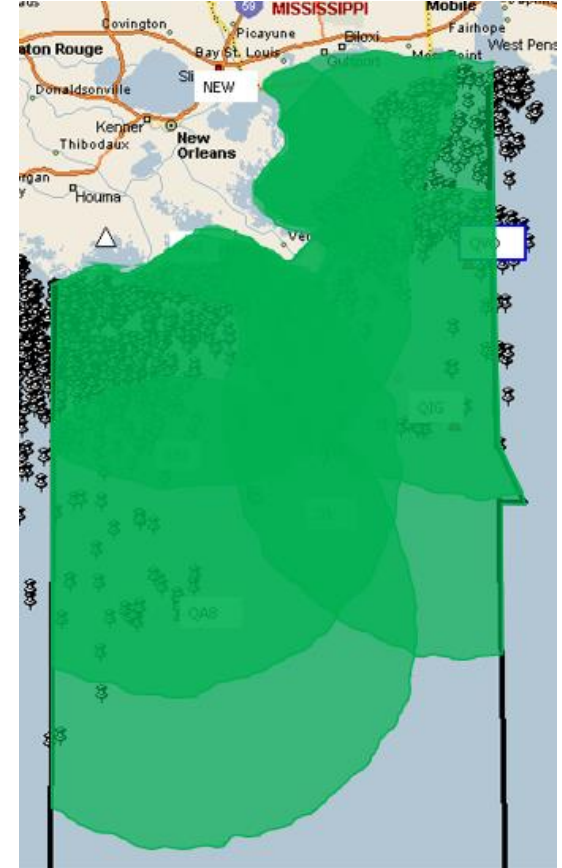
Offshore Central / S53

QIC, EKE, QA8, QBW, 18J



Offshore East / S30

GAO/GNI*, QA8, QVO, QIG, 18J



AIC Decisions

Colleen Ahlers
Implementation Lead



AIC Decision Status Updates

At recent AIC meetings, FAA and industry Stakeholders made the following decisions about AWOS coverage:

1. Decision to site survey WC167 for AWOS – Unanimous Decision to proceed. **Decision Closed**
2. Decision to site survey HIA264C for AWOS – Unanimous Decision to proceed. **Decision Closed**
3. Decision to site survey VR149 for AWOS - Unanimous Decision to proceed. **Decision Closed**
4. *Decision to conduct installation feasibility study for GC780 / Argos for AWOS, ADS-B, VHF Comm - Unanimous Decision to proceed. **Decision Closed**
5. Decision to install AWOS at ST232 - Unanimous Decision to proceed. **Decision Closed**
6. Decision to install AWOS at Mississippi Canyon 127 / Horn Mountain - Unanimous Decision to proceed. **Decision Closed**
7. Decision to install AWOS and replace ADS-B Building and infrastructure at VK956 / RAM Powell – Unanimous Decision to proceed. **Decision Closed**

* If GC613 and GC780 are both found to be feasible, then only one location will be selected

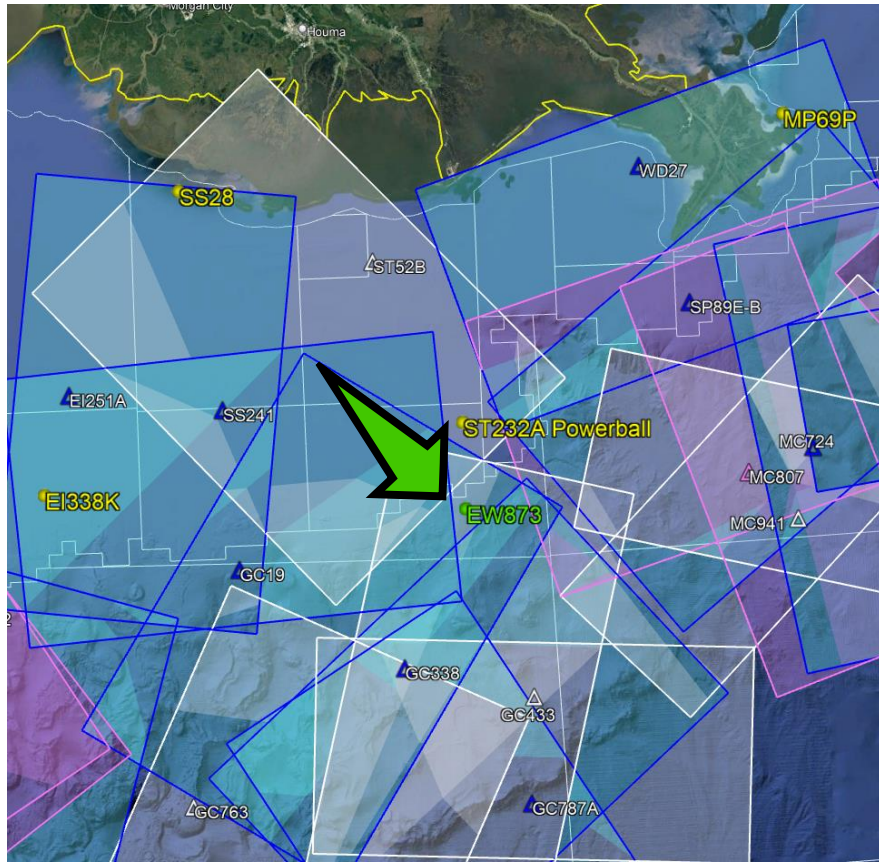
AIC Decisions

8 Decisions to propose to the AIC

- **2x AWOS Site Surveys**
- **4x AWOS Installation Projects**
- **1x AWOS, ADS-B, VHF Comm Installation Project**
- **1x AWOS Remove and Replace**

AIC Decision 1 of 8

Decision to site survey for an AWOS at Ewing Banks 873 /
Lobster:

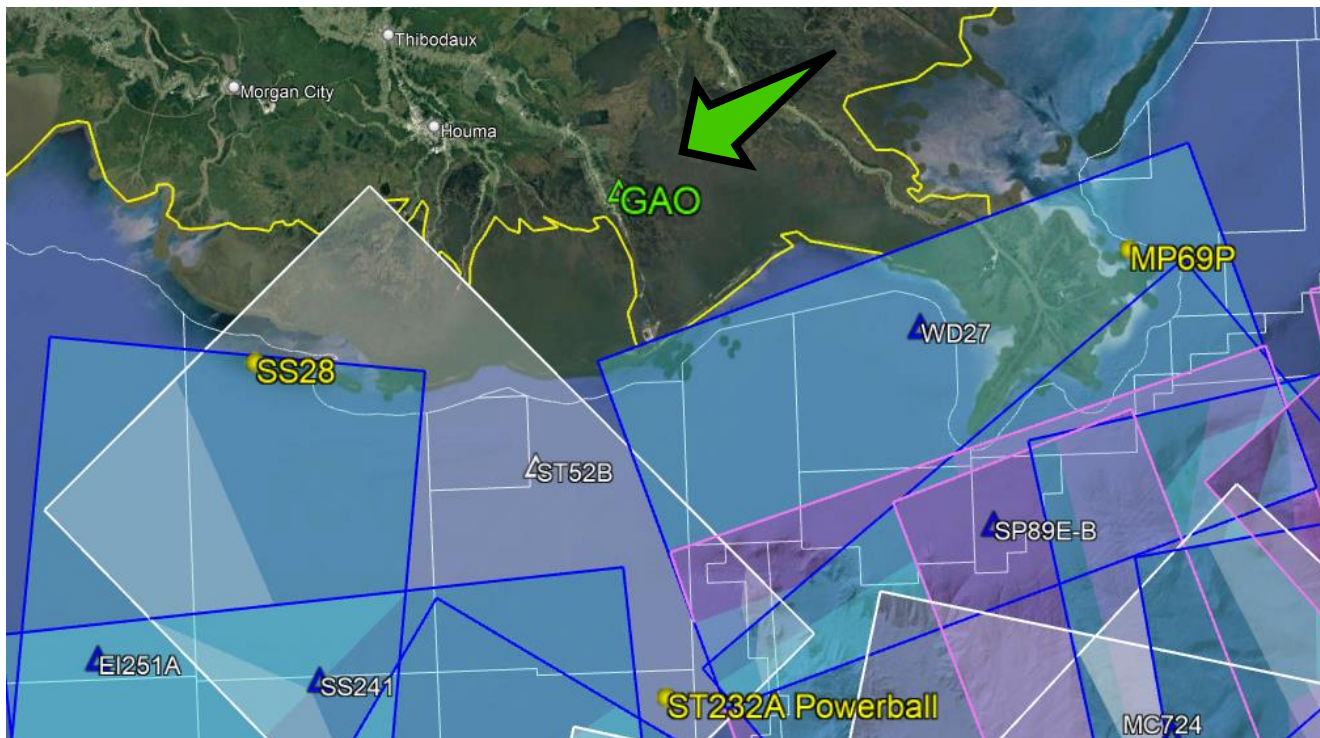


Benefits: Provides redundant coverage in high-traffic area; pairs with future ST232 / Powerball

AIC Decision 2 & 3 of 8

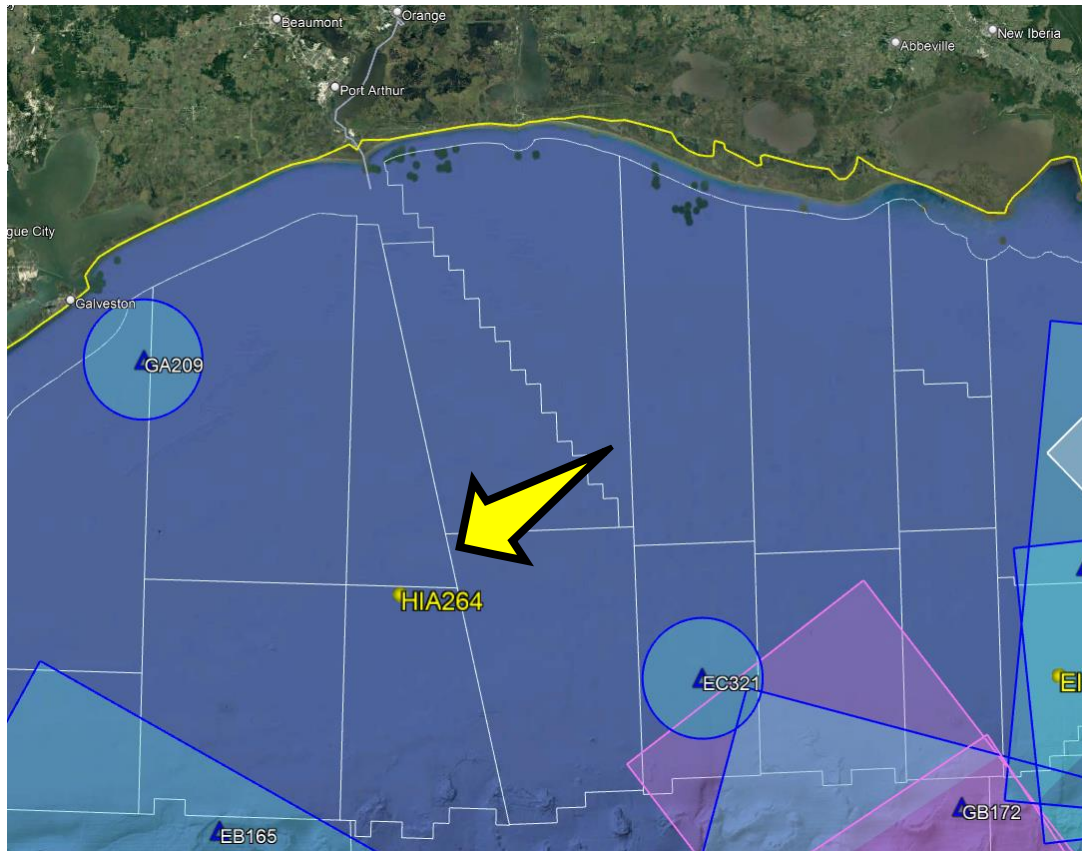
Decision to site survey and install an AWOS at Galliano, LA:

Benefits: Support operations at KGAO, for use as a primary destination or alternate; situational awareness for nearby operations



AIC Decision 4 of 8

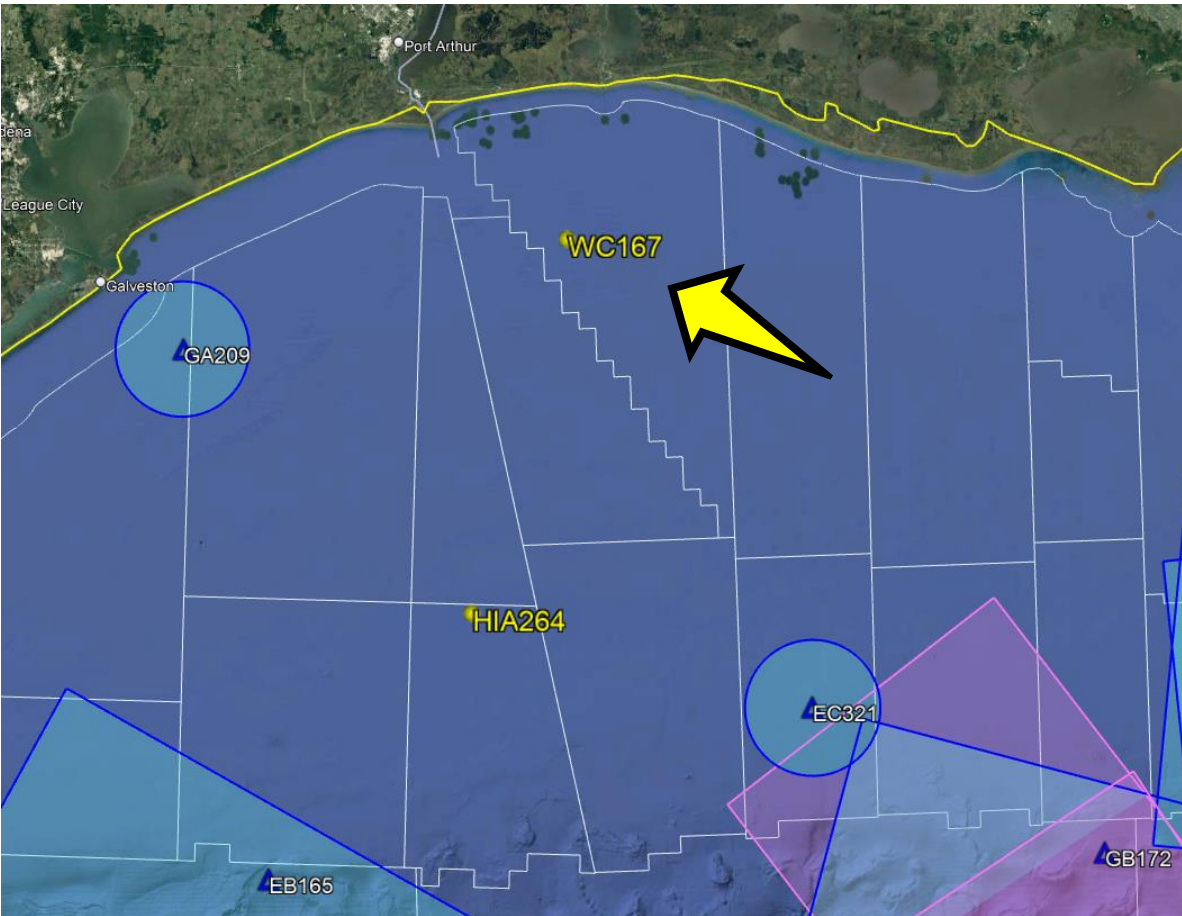
Decision to install an AWOS at High Island A264A:



Benefits: Expand coverage, support VFR operations in western GOM; fog avoidance

AIC Decision 5 of 8

Decision to install an AWOS at West Cameron 167:

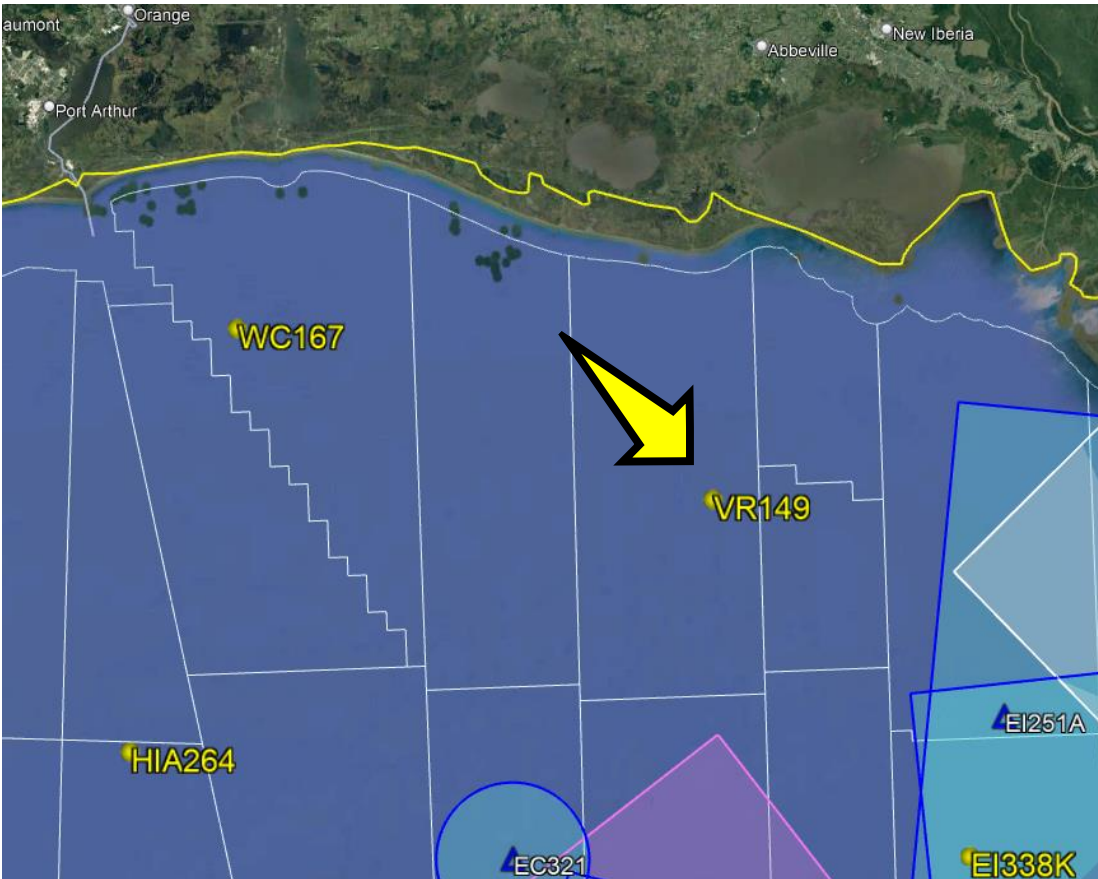


Benefits: Expand coverage, support VFR operations nearshore, south of Lake Charles, LA; fog avoidance

AIC Decision 6 of 8

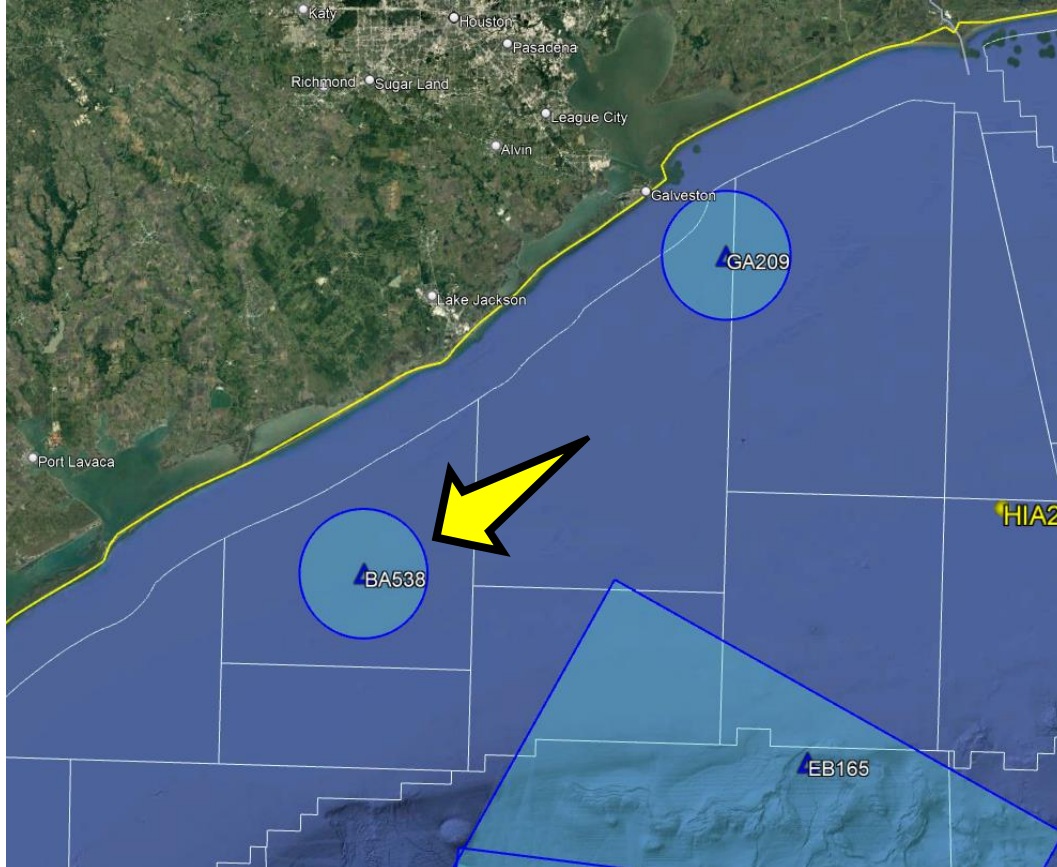
Decision to install an AWOS at Vermillion 149:

Benefits: Expand coverage, support VFR operations nearshore, south of Lake Charles, LA; fog avoidance



AIC Decision 7 of 8

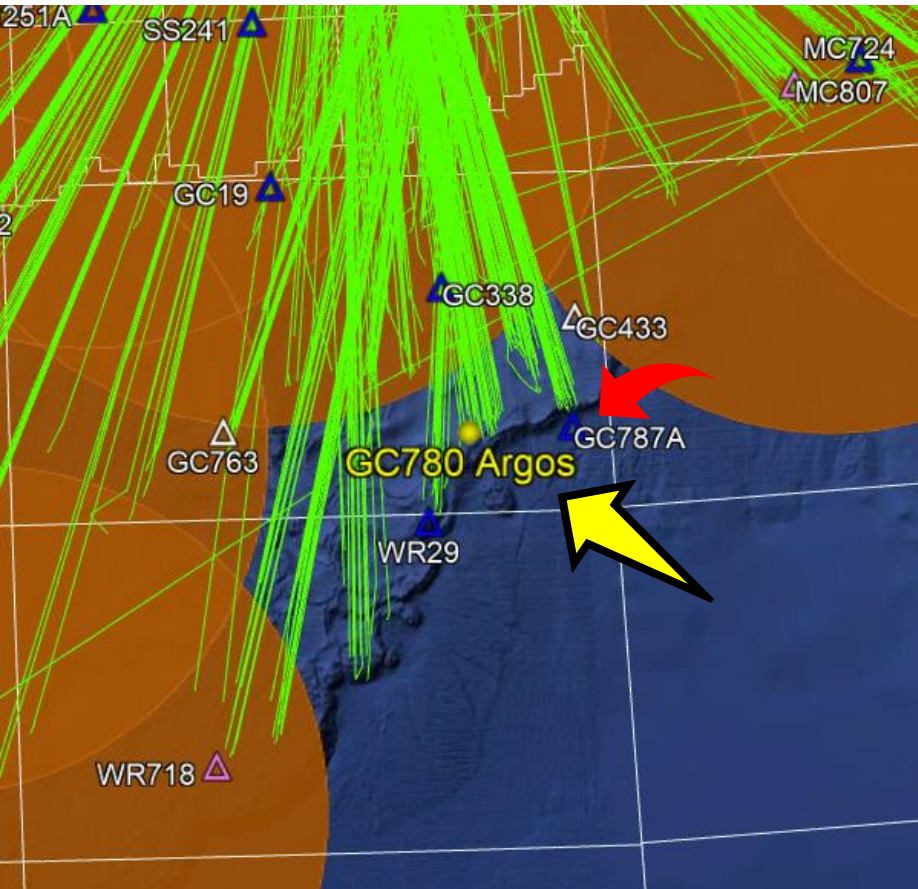
Decision to remove and replace AWOS at Brazos 538:



Benefits: Preserve coverage off of the coast of Texas; fog avoidance

AIC Decision 8 of 8

Install ADS-B, AWOS, and VHF Comm at Green Canyon 780 / Argos:



Benefits:

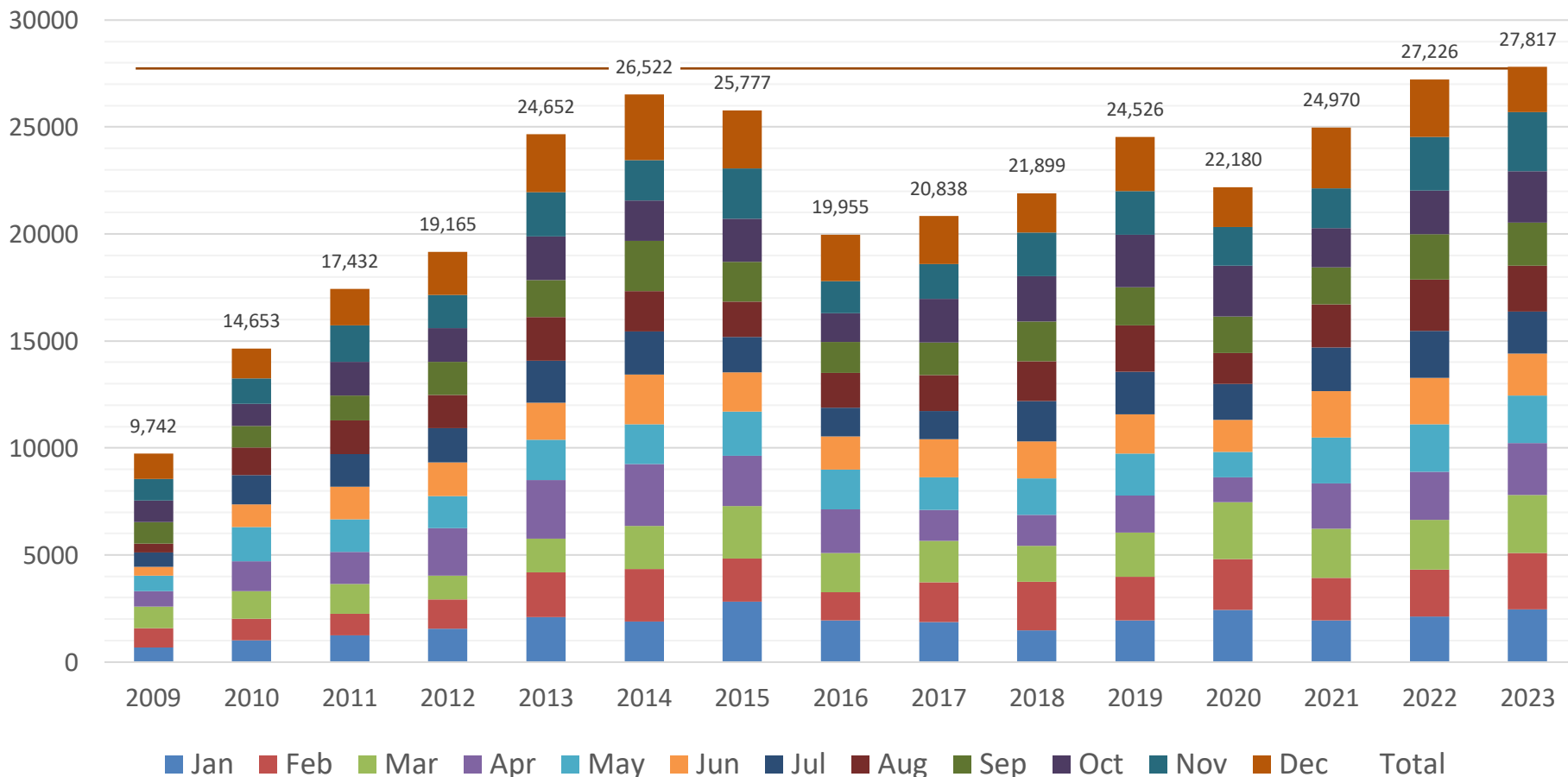
- Invest smaller funding amount than to restore services at Atlantis
- Argos to offer extended longevity
- Fill ADS-B coverage gap
- Replace aging VHF comm

Traffic Count & Trends



ZHU IFR Offshore Traffic Count Chart

IFR Offshore Helicopter Operations (ZHU) 2009 - 2023

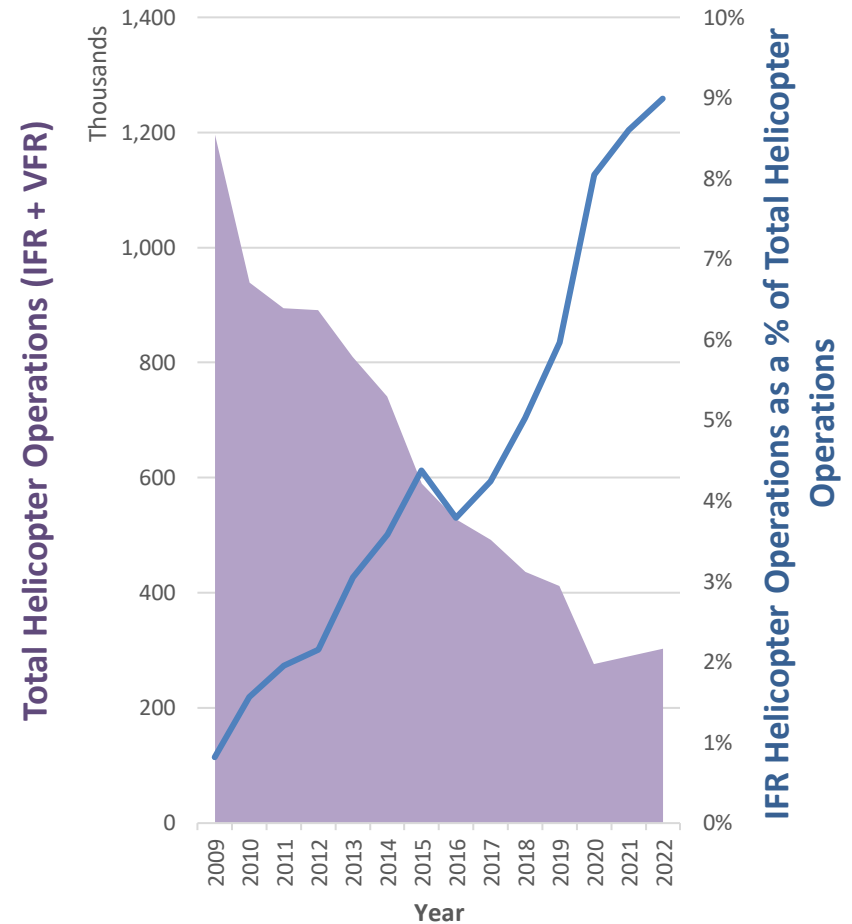


IFR Offshore Helicopter Traffic Trends

GOM IFR Helicopter Operations and % IFR of Total



GOM Total Helicopter Operations



Community Awareness & Closing Comments

Rana Obeid
Federal Lead



Community Awareness

1. Anticipate BA538 AWOS outage as early as February, through approximately August
 - A result of platform construction
2. ST52 METAR online distribution began 1/3/2024
3. MC941 / Titan METAR online distribution expected to commence on 1/25/2024
4. HAI - ForeFlight efforts kick-off on 1/22/2024
3. See you at Heli-Expo!

Closing Comments

FAA Infrastructure Status

- 2024 will feature the most AWOS commissionings since before 2020!
We will sustain / install:
 - 31 AWOS sites
 - 12 ADS-B sites (11 operational sites, 1 inoperable)
 - 11 VHF Comm sites

FAA Offshore Infrastructure Management & Engineering (OI Me)



Rana Obeid
Project Lead
202-386-9823
rana.obeid@faa.gov

Allan Overbey
Project Manager
202-270-9175
adoverbey@gems-inc.com

Billy Majeau
Project Manager
202-763-5844
wmajeau@gems-inc.com

Jennifer Barker
Agreements Lead
202-375-4857
jbarker@gems-inc.com

Oluwatobi Dedeke
Systems Engineer
240-603-6187
Olutatobi.a.dedeke@faa.gov

Colleen Ahlers
Implementation Lead
202-515-0054
cahlers@gems-inc.com

Rhonda Carraway
Transportation
202-329-9285
rhonda@gems-inc.com

Bob Herak
Air Traffic Requirements
216-509-8932
bherak@regulus-group.com

Mitch Olshansky
Project Manager
202-836-5251
molshansky@regulus-group.com

Alexandra Charity
Intern
443-472-5920
Alexandra.D-INT.Charity@faa.gov