

# Surveillance and Broadcast Services

## FAA Gulf of Mexico Sustainment Team Update

Presented to FAA-Industry Gulf of Mexico  
Agreement Implementation Committee

By: FAA Gulf Team

Date: May 12, 2020



Federal Aviation  
Administration



# Agenda

- FAA-Industry Gulf of Mexico Agreement
- Old Business
  - FAA Infrastructure Status
  - AWOS/ADS-B/VHF Comm Coverage
  - Weather Deviation Area Expansion Project Status
- New Business

# **FAA-Industry Gulf of Mexico Agreement**

**Rana Obeid, Federal Lead**



# FAA-Industry Gulf of Mexico Agreement Background

**MOA signed May 2006 → MOU signed Mar 2021**  
(up for 5-year renewal - May 2021) (has no expiration date)

- In May 2006, the FAA teamed with participating energy companies and helicopter operators through an FAA-industry Memorandum of Agreement to deliver a higher level of aviation safety and services in the Gulf of Mexico
- In October 2020, the FAA-industry Agreement Implementation Committee supported the goal of not renewing the original 2006 MOA based on many factors
- In January 2021, HAI and HSAC joined the FAA committed to upholding the FAA-industry's unity and commitment to continuously improve and uphold "Safety Through Cooperation"

# Gulf Industry Aviation Safety Memorandum of Understanding

## Gulf Industry Aviation Safety Memorandum of Understanding Executed March 6, 2021

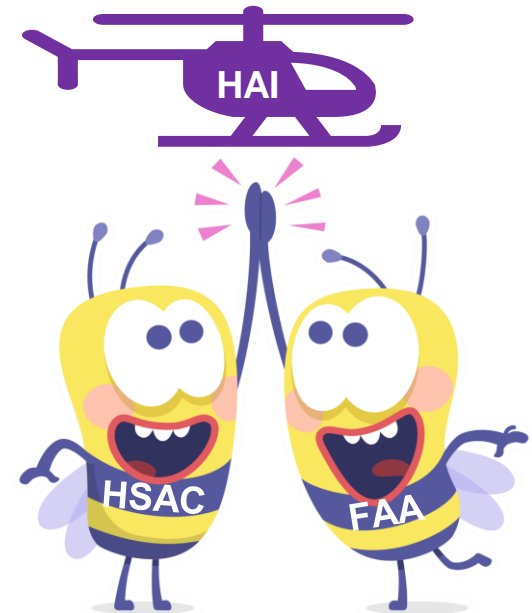
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
between  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION,  
HELICOPTER ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL,  
and  
HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE  
for  
AVIATION SAFETY IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

1. **Parties**  
This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MOU") is between the Federal Aviation Administration (hereinafter referred to as "FAA"), Helicopter Association International (hereinafter referred to as "HAI") and Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (hereinafter referred to as "HSAC").

2. **Objectives**  
A. Continue the government/industry business relationship that was established in 2006 between the FAA, HAI, and Gulf of Mexico energy companies and helicopter operators to enhance communications, surveillance, and weather reporting capabilities for air traffic services in the Gulf of Mexico.  
B. Maintain the Agreement Implementation Committee (hereinafter referred to as "AIC") as the government-industry entity established in 2006 to uphold the unity of purpose and preserve the ultimate goal of providing aviation safety enhancements.

3. **Background**  
Since 2006, the FAA has teamed with participating energy companies and helicopter operators in an FAA-sponsored Aviation Safety program to deliver a higher level of aviation services in the Gulf of Mexico (hereinafter referred to as the "Gulf"). Air-to-ground communications, surveillance and weather reporting systems are installed on platforms throughout the Gulf to provide air traffic services comparable to domestic air traffic service. In general, Gulf industry provides transportation services, platform space, power and local telecommunications at no cost to the FAA. In return, the FAA provides communications, surveillance and weather reporting capabilities in the Gulf at no cost to industry. While chiefly intended for helicopter use, the enhancements under this program offer benefits to all aircraft operating in Gulf airspace.  
HAI and HSAC are not-for-profit, professional trade associations dedicated to promoting and upholding safety through cooperation with the FAA and Gulf industry.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION  
TROY T TEACHEY Digitally signed by TROY T TEACHEY  
Date: 2021.03.06 11:01:29 -05'00'  
Troy Teachey, Contracting Officer Date  
Surveillance Branch  
HELICOPTER ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL  
James A. Viola, President 03/02/21 Date  
HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE  
Pat Attaway, Chairman 3/5/2021 Date



By signing the MOU, the FAA continues this professional "Safety Through Cooperation" relationship with the energy industry, HAI and HSAC dedicated to delivering the highest level of aviation safety and services in the Gulf

# Gulf Industry Aviation Safety Memorandum of Understanding

- **MOU Objectives**

- Continue the government / industry business relationship that was established in 2006 between the FAA, HAI, and Gulf of Mexico energy companies and helicopter operators
- Maintain the Agreement Implementation Committee as the government-industry entity to uphold the unity of purpose and preserve the goal of providing aviation safety enhancements

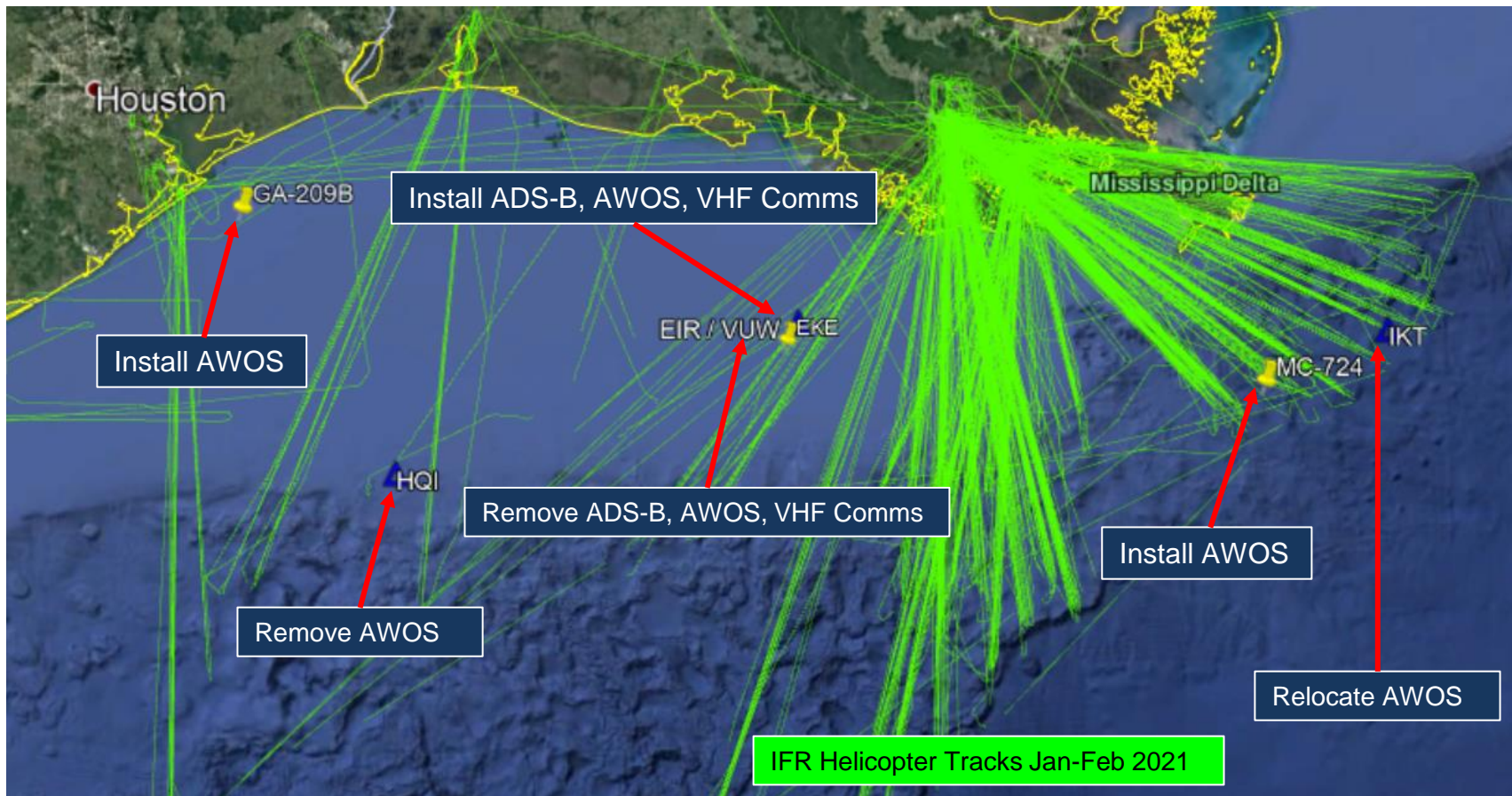
# FAA Infrastructure Status

Rana Obeid, Federal Lead





# 2021 Offshore Projects

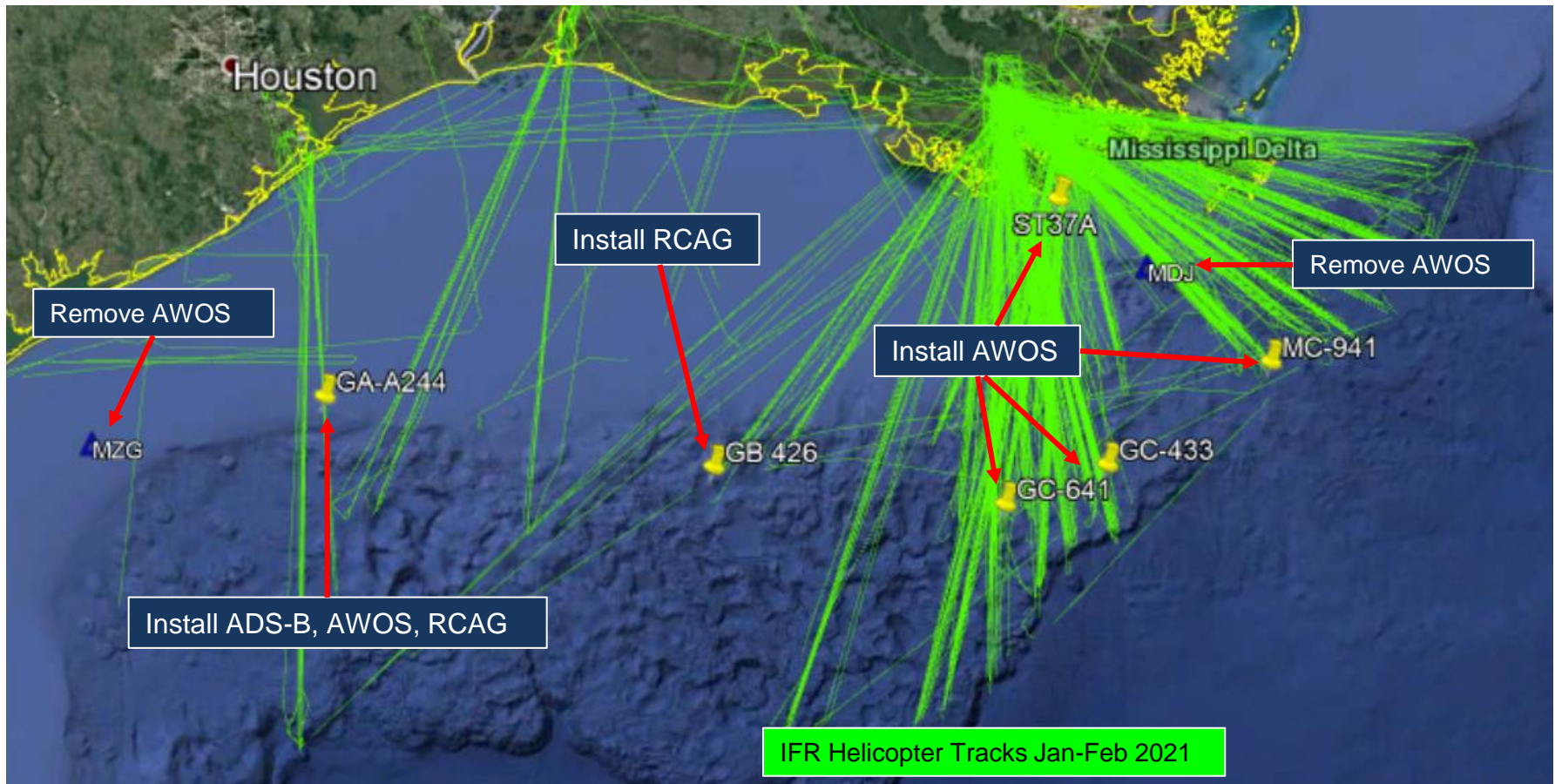


Removed AWOS BBF / Brazos 133B (Feb)  
Remove AWOS HQI / High Island A376B (Jun)  
Remove EIR / Eugene Island 215 ADS-B (Jun)  
Install EKE / Eugene Island 251 ADS-B, AWOS, VHF (Jun)

Relocate AWOS IKT / MC474 / Na Kika (Jun)  
Install AWOS GVW / GA209B (Sept)  
Install AWOS MC724 / Gulfstar 1 (Sept)  
Remove Eugene Island 215 AWOS and VHF EI215B (Sept)



# 2022 Predicted Offshore Projects



Remove AWOS MZG / Mustang Island 85 (Dec)  
Remove AWOS MDJ / Mississippi Canyon 311 (Apr)  
Install RCAG Garden Banks 426 (May)  
Install AWOS South Timbalier 37A \* (May)

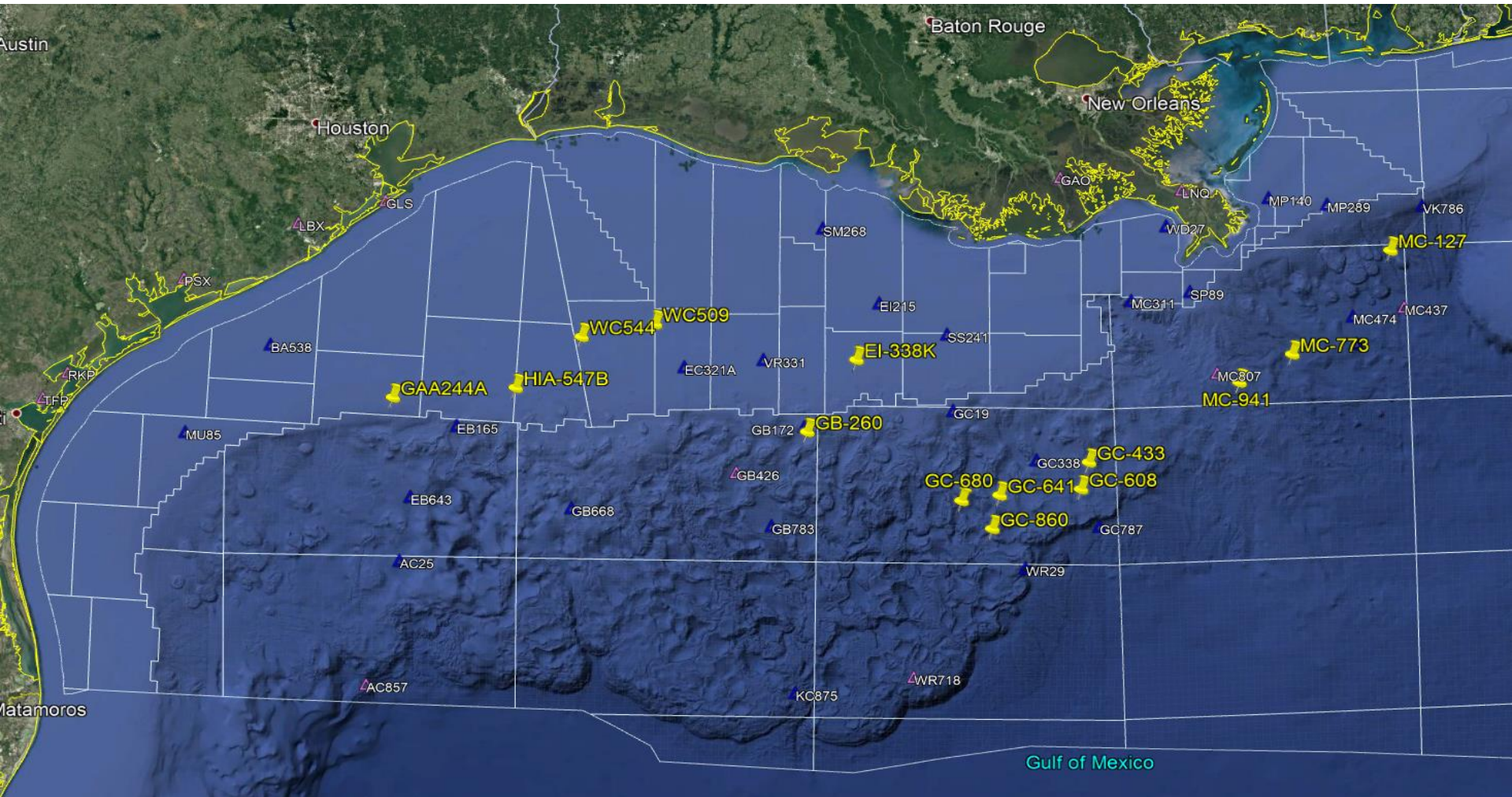
Install AWOS Mississippi Canyon 941 (Jun)  
Install AWOS Green Canyon 433 (Jul)  
Install AWOS Green Canyon 641 (Aug)  
Install ADS-B, AWOS, RCAG Galveston A 244A (Sep)

# Projected AWOS Losses within Next Five (5) Years

- |                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Alaminos Canyon 25</b>      | <b>(No replacement identified)</b> |
| <b>2. East Breaks 165</b>         |                                    |
| <b>3. East Breaks 643A</b>        | <b>(No replacement identified)</b> |
| <b>4. East Cameron 321A</b>       |                                    |
| <b>5. Eugene Island 215B</b>      |                                    |
| <b>6. Garden Banks 668</b>        | <b>(No replacement identified)</b> |
| <b>7. Mississippi Canyon 311A</b> | <b>(No replacement identified)</b> |
| <b>8. Mustang Island A85A</b>     | <b>(No replacement identified)</b> |
| <b>9. South Marsh 268A</b>        |                                    |
| <b>10. Vermilion 331A</b>         | <b>(No replacement identified)</b> |



# Candidate Sites Identified for Possible AWOS Installation Within Next 2-3 Years



# **AWOS, ADS-B, & VHF Comm Coverage**

**William Majeau, Project Management**



# AWOS Coverage – Jan 22, 2021



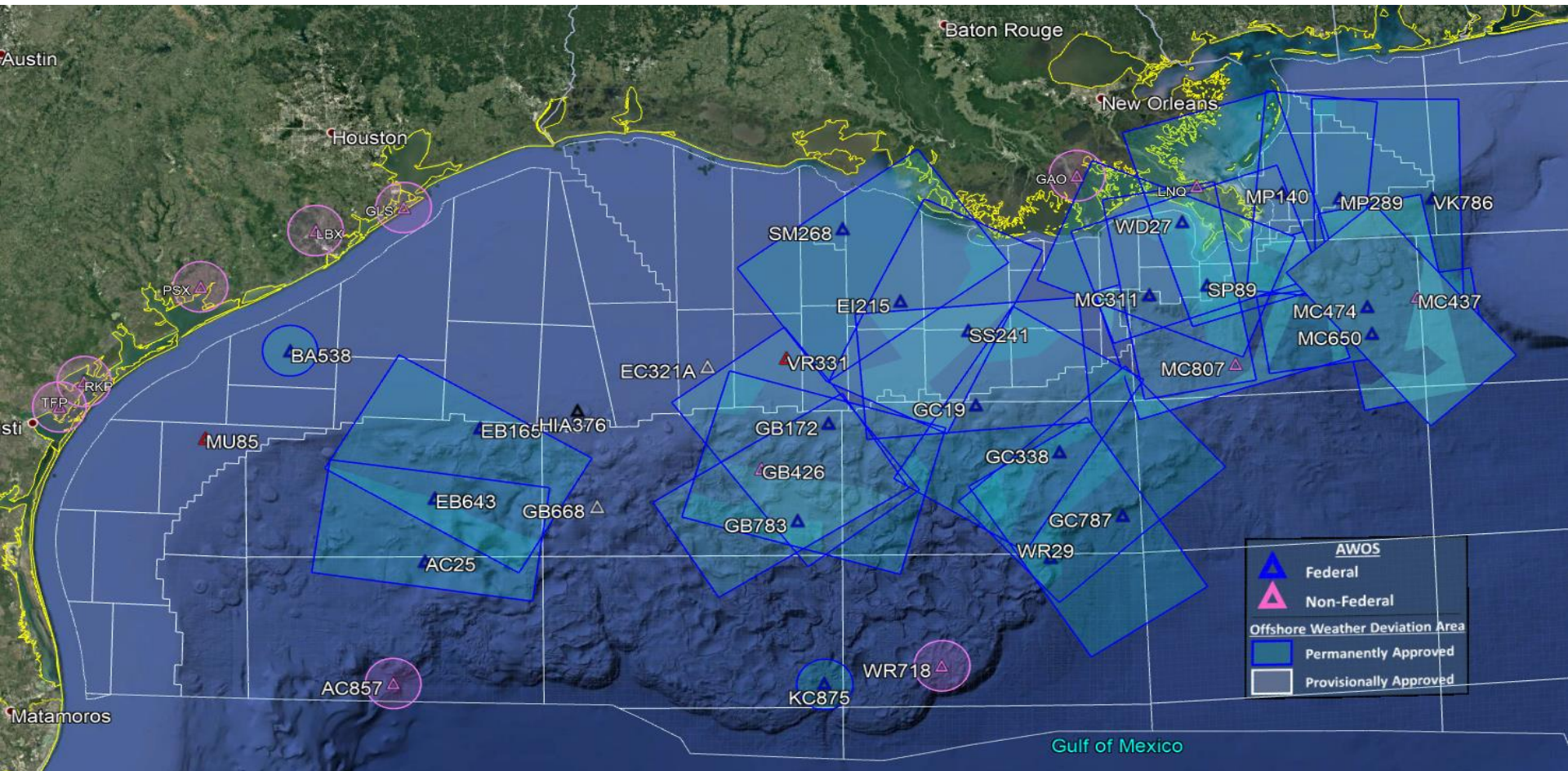
- ▲ Out of service due to decommissioning (BA133 & HIA376)
- ▲ Out of service due to platform shut-in (MU85 & VR331)
- ▲ Out of service due to hurricane damage (GB668 & EC321A)

**Federal AWOS in Operation\*: 22**

**\*may be out of service due to maintenance**



# AWOS Coverage – May 4, 2021



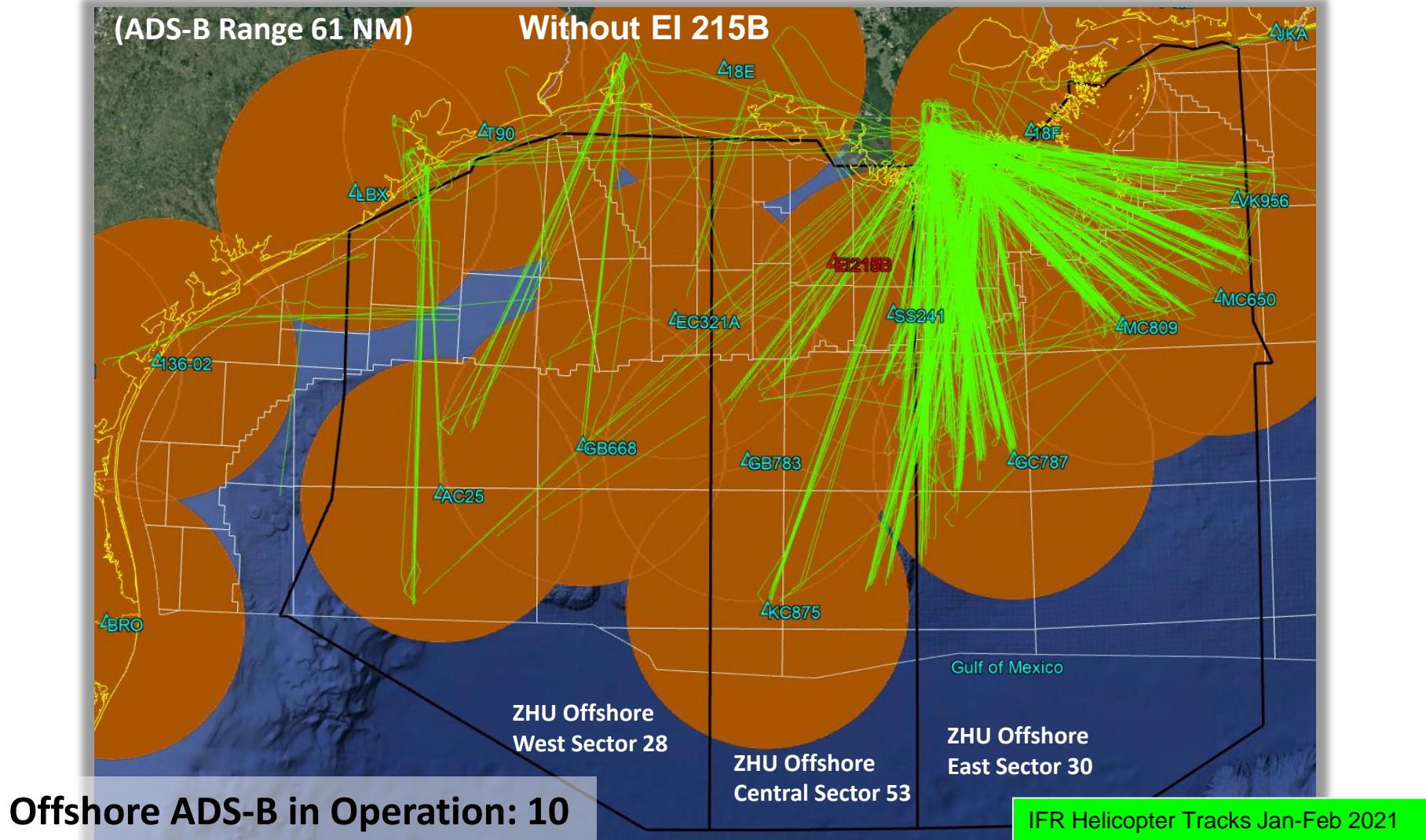
- ▲ Out of service due to decommissioning (HIA376)
- ▲ Out of service due to platform shut-in (MU85 & VR331)
- ▲ Out of service due to hurricane damage (GB668 & EC321A)

**Federal AWOS in Operation\*: 22**

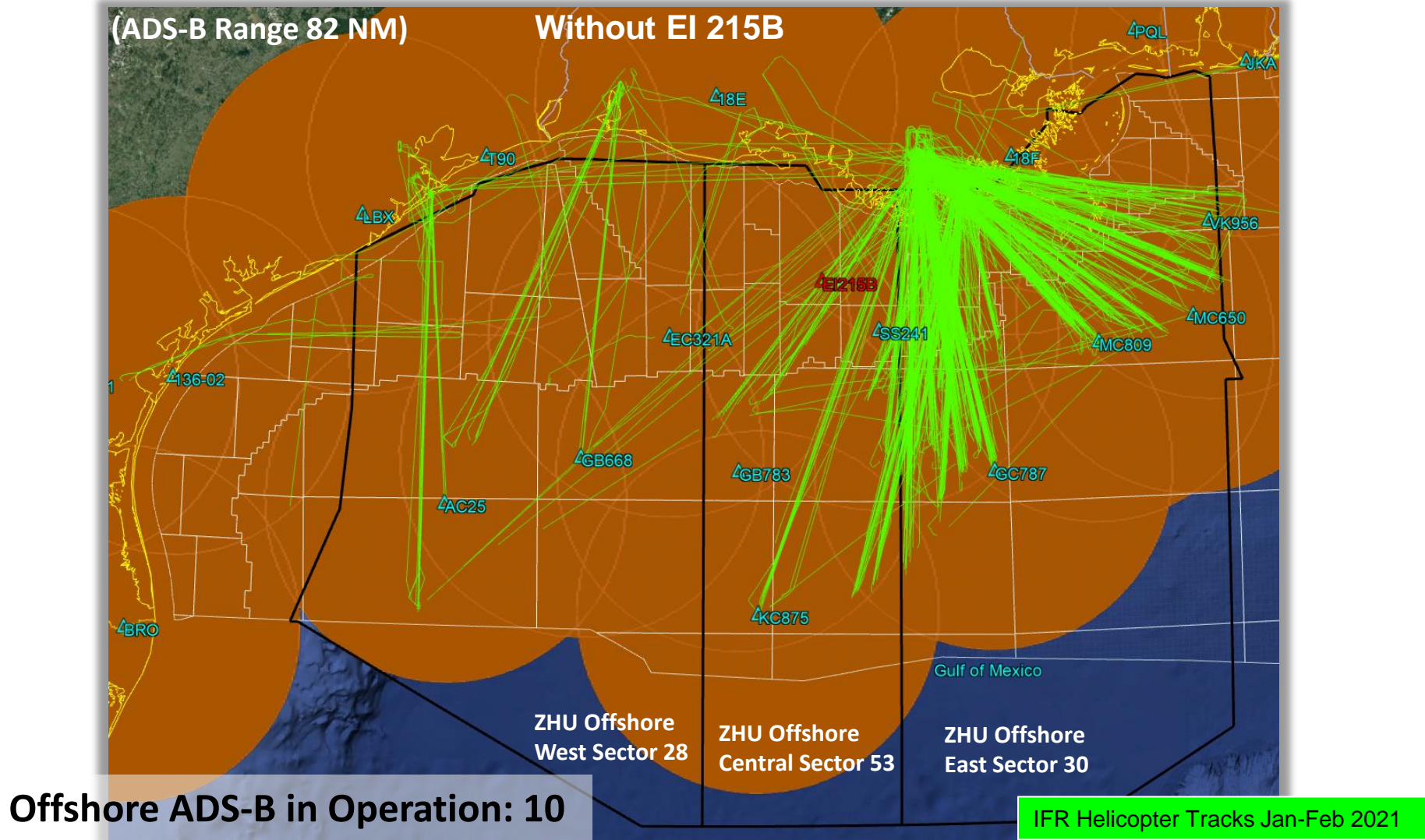
\*may be out of service due to maintenance



# Current ADS-B Coverage 1500' MSL

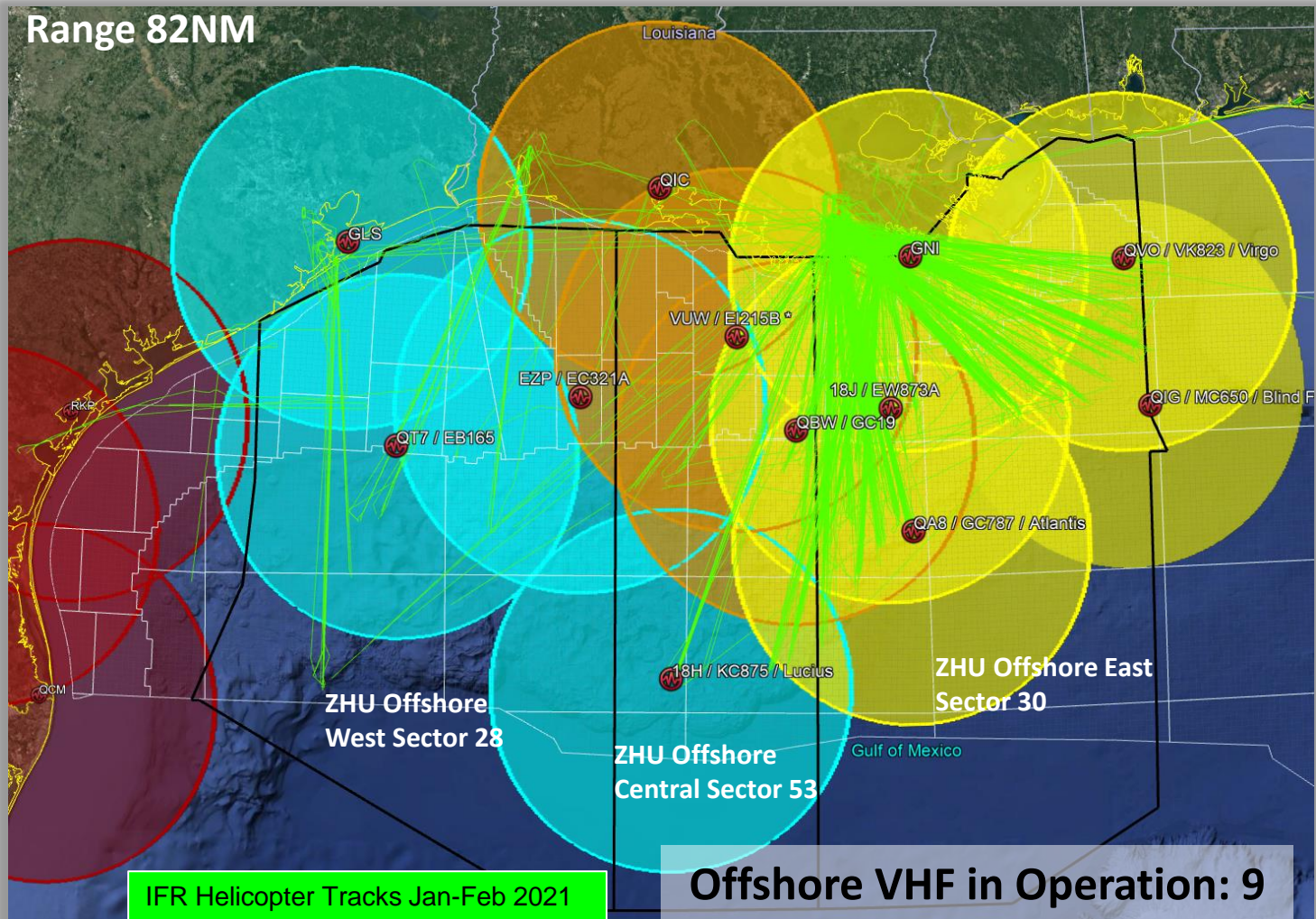


# Current ADS-B Coverage 3000' MSL





# VHF Comm Coverage 3,000' MSL



# FAA Watch List

William Majeau, Project Management

# AWOS Inspections

- **Last fall, the Gulf helicopter community assisted the FAA by supplying PIREPs on AWOS'**
  - **This allowed the continued operation of the AWOS' despite not being formally inspected in 2020 because of the pandemic**
- **In Jan 2021, the AIC suggested virtual inspections to mitigate the offshore inspection requirement**
  - **The FAA is not prepared to implement virtual inspections**
- **The FAA has yet to re-start offshore inspections**
  - **The number of offshore AWOS' needing inspection is 14**
  - **Three (3) commissioning inspections are also planned**
- **Depending on how the rest of the year unfolds, may need to call on the Gulf operators to assist again**

# Green Canyon 787 FAA AC Outage

- The air conditioning units installed in the FAA building at GC-787 have been out of service since last fall—efforts to repair them have been hampered by the pandemic
- The near-term, get-well plan is to remove the units in June, repair on shore, and reinstall at GC-787 as soon as possible
- Loss of VHF comm and surveillance should be expected when building temperature reaches maximum operating temperature for the equipment

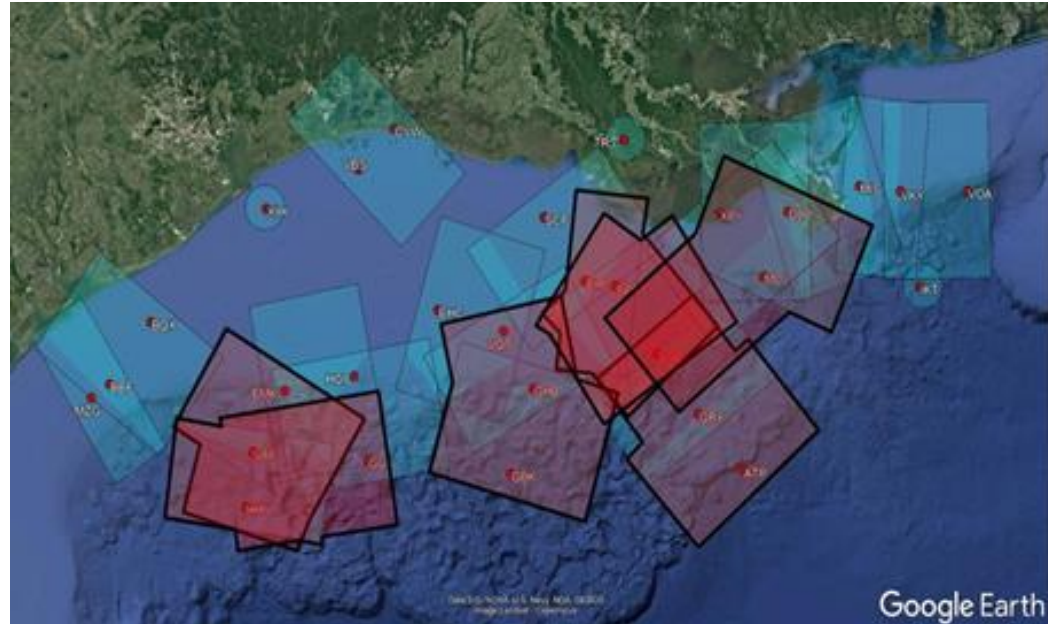
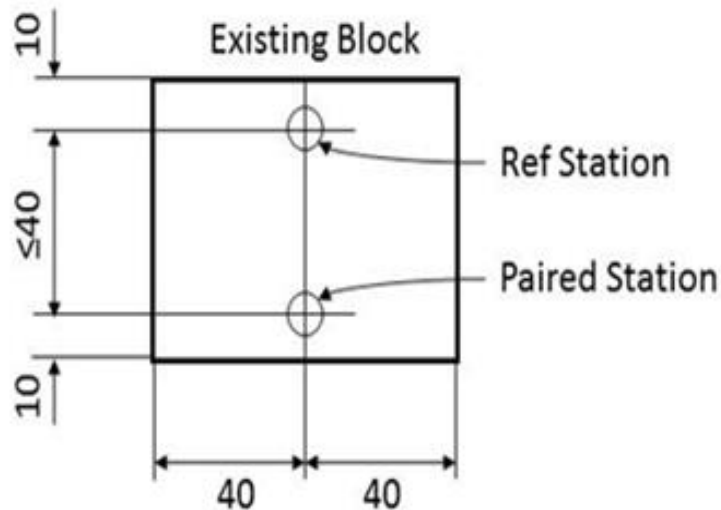


# Weather Deviation Area Expansion Project Status

Bob Herak, Operations and Strategic  
Management Lead

# Offshore Weather Deviation Area Expansion

**The Weather Deviations Area Expansion Project is meeting all schedule requirements.**



**Completion of the report from the Department of Transportation – Volpe, is scheduled for August 1, 2021.**

# New Business

Colleen Ahlers, Project Management

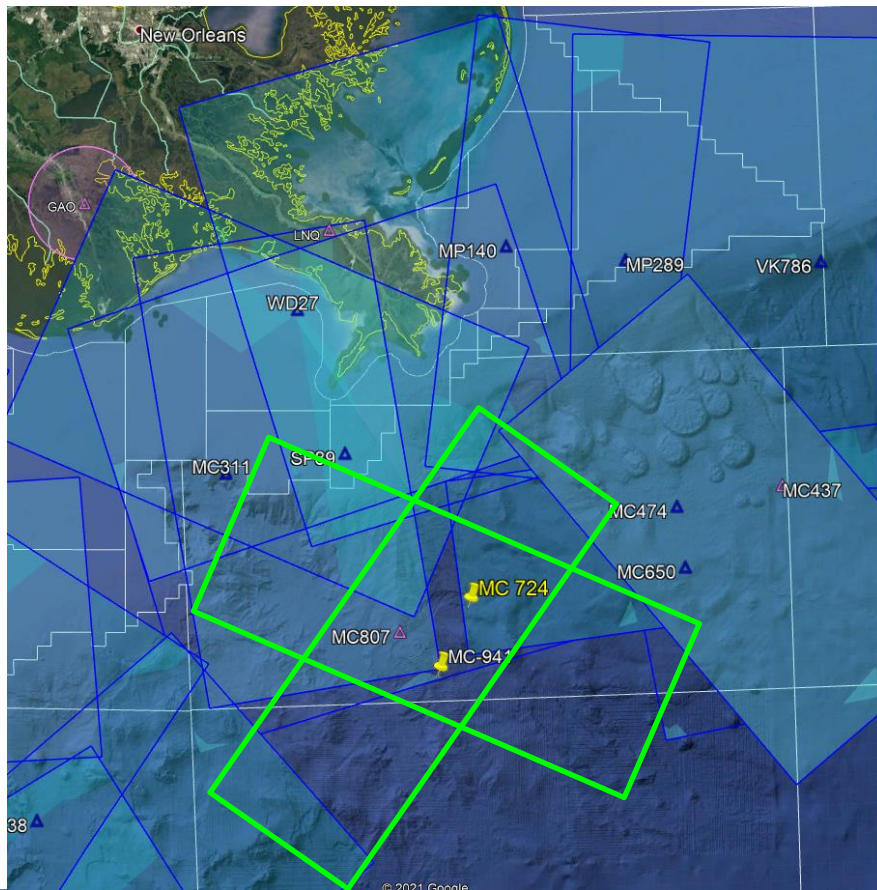
# AIC Decisions

Colleen Ahlers, Project Management

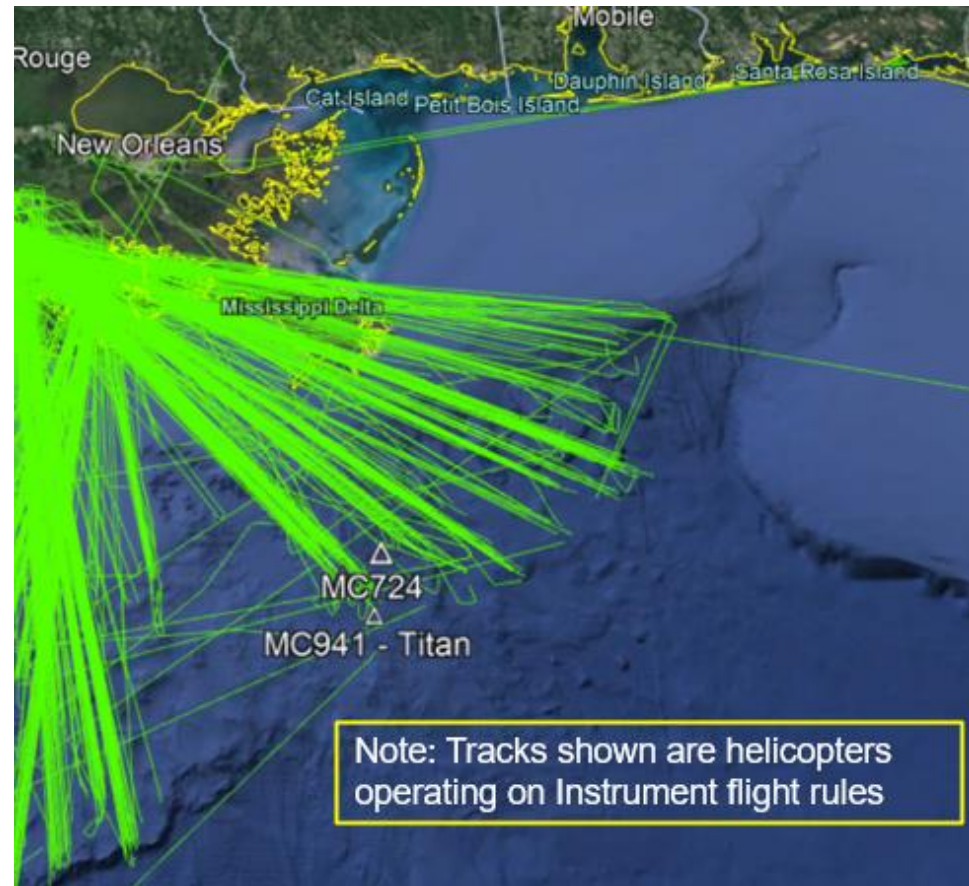
# AIC Decision 1 of 2

## AWOS Installation at Titan Platform, Mississippi Canyon 941

### Weather Coverage Added



### Location with IFR Traffic Overlay

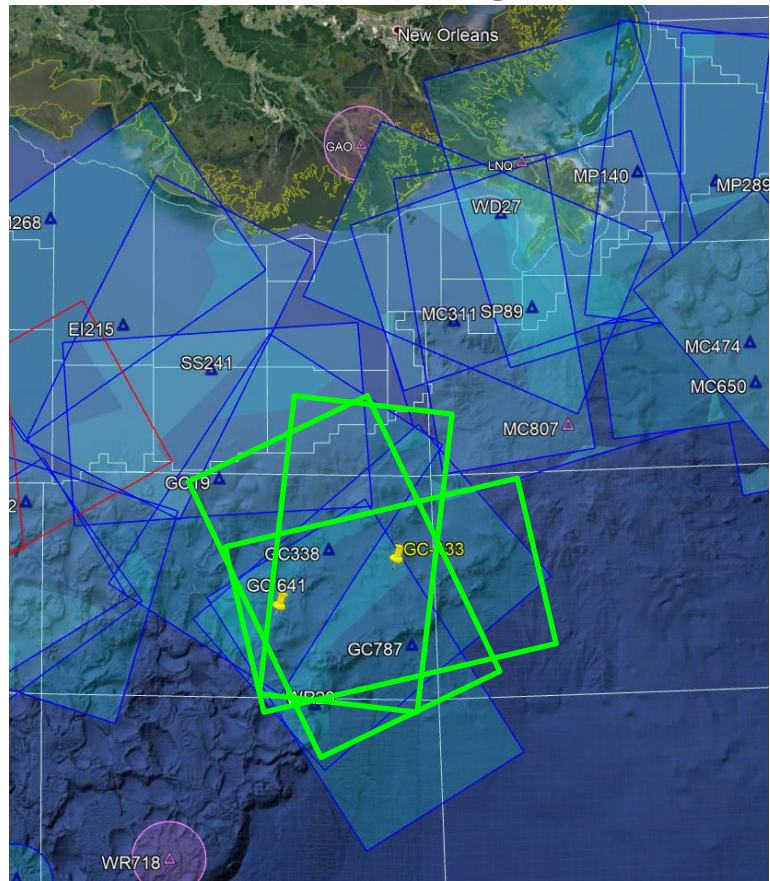




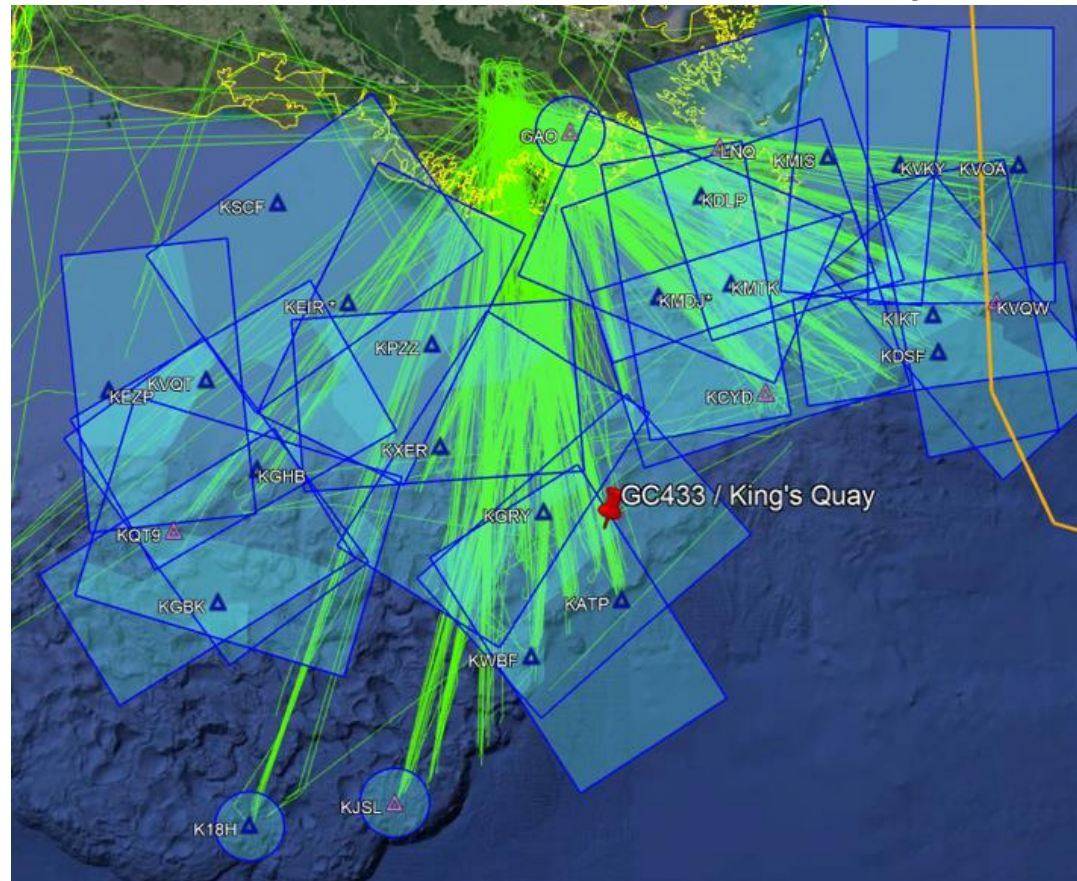
# AIC Decision 2 of 2

## AWOS Installation at King's Quay Platform, Green Canyon 433

### Weather Coverage Added



### Location with IFR Traffic Overlay

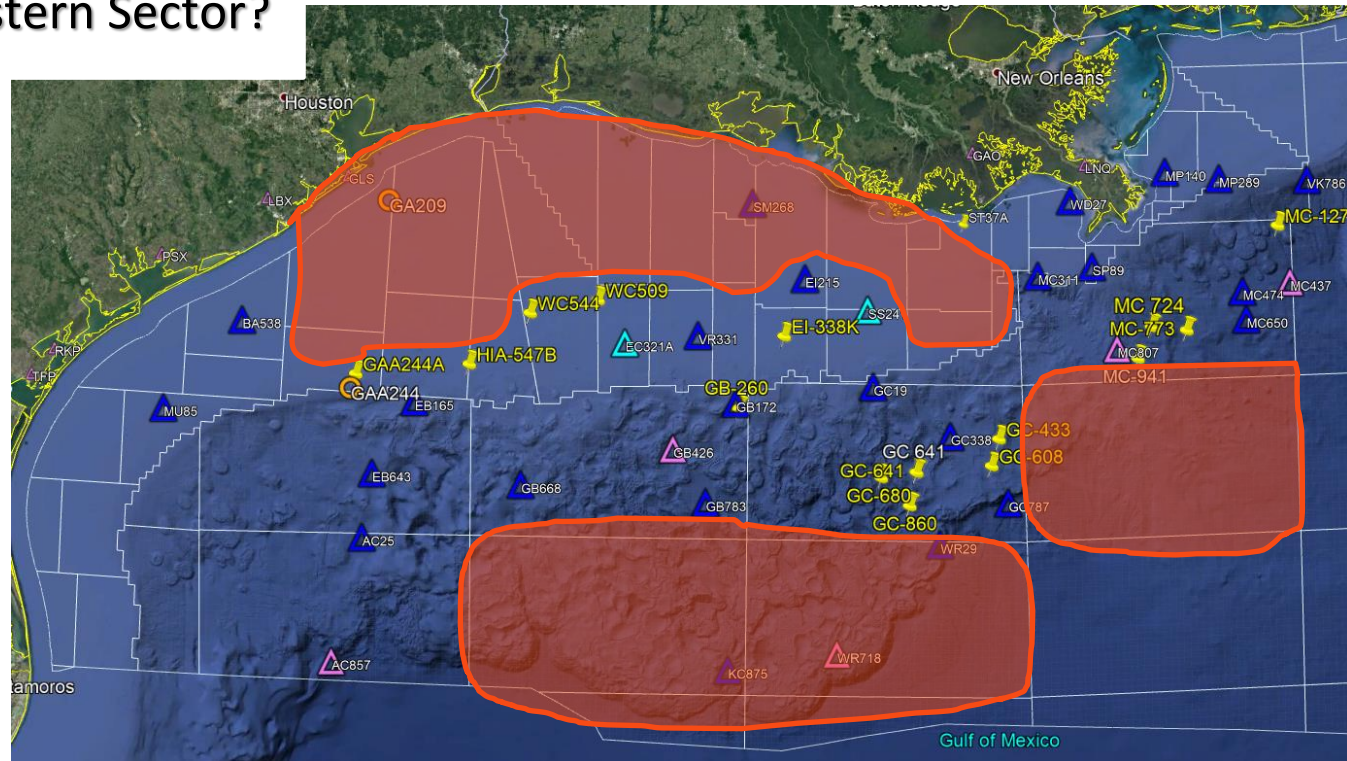




# Seeking Platform Candidates

Are there any additional platforms for the AIC to consider?

- a) Deep-deepwater Central Sector?
- b) Deepwater Eastern Sector?
- c) Near Shore?



# Gulf AWOS Status Update Enhancements

1. Include wind sensor placement information?
2. Additional enhancement input?

GULF OF MEXICO AWOS STATUS  
February 2, 2021

Commissioned Facilities	Block	ICAO I	Phone	Frequer	Lat/Long	Unreliable Win
Alaminos Canyon 25/Hoover-Diana	AC25	KHHV	713-431-	119.075	28.939-94.689	No
Alaminos Canyon 857/Perdido (Shell E&P)	AC857	KGVF	504-425-	120.275	28.129-94.880	No
Brazos 538 (Williams Atlantic-Gulf)	BA538	KBDX	979-843-	118.375	28.314-95.620	No
East Breaks 165 (Fieldwood Energy)	EB165	KEDX	337-210-	119.475	27.819-94.323	No
East Breaks 843A/Boomvang Spar (Occidental)	EB843	KVAF	832-636-9297	119.525	27.354-94.825	Yes, 225-360
East Cameron 321A (v&t Offshore)	EC321	KEDP	504-323-	119.050	28.219-92.794	No
Eugene Island 215B (Arenia Offshore)	EI215B	KEDP	832-463-	119.475	28.635-91.489	No
Garden Banks 172/Salsa (Shell E&P)	GB172	KGHB	504-321-2911	118.025	27.840-91.988	No
Garden Banks 426/Auger (Shell E&P)	GB426	KQT9	504-728-	118.375	27.546-92.44	Yes, 345-022
Garden Banks 668/Gunnison Spar (Occidental)	GB668	KGUL	832-636-	119.025	27.304-93.538	Yes
Garden Banks 783/Magnolia TLP (V&T)	GB783	KGBK	TBD	118.825	27.204-92.203	Yes, from the East
Green Canyon 19 (Shell Pipeline)	GC19	KVEB	504-728-	118.55	27.945-90.396	Yes, all directions
Green Canyon 338/Front Runner (Murphy E&P)	GC338	KGRV	281-646-	118.875	27.629-90.441	Yes
Green Canyon 787/Atlantis (BP)	GC787A	KATP	979-235-	119.525	27.199-90.027	No
Kearhley Canyon 875/Lucius Spar (Occidental)	KC875	K19H	832-636-	118.075	28.129-92.038	Yes, 110-160
Main Pass 140B (Fieldwood Energy)	MP140B	KMS	337-210-	119.825	28.284-98.842	Yes, from the South
Main Pass 289C (Fieldwood Energy)	MP289C	KVKY	337-210-8389	118.075	29.249-98.841	Yes, 140-180
Mississippi Canyon 311A (Fieldwood Energy)	MC311A	KMDJ	337-210-	119.325	28.643-89.794	No
Mississippi Canyon 437/Appomattox (Shell E&P)	MC437	KVQW	504-425-	118.325	28.573-87.934	No
Mississippi Canyon 474/Na Kika (BP)	MC474	KIKI	979-230-	118.025	28.521-88.289	No
Mississippi Canyon 650/Blind Faith (Chevron)	MC650	KDSE	337-210-	119.325	28.343-98.165	Yes, 290-010
Mississippi Canyon 807/Mars (Shell E&P)	MC807	KCYD	504-425-	119.025	28.1-89.13	No
Mustang Island A85A (EnVer Energy Ventures)	MUA85A	KMG	504-208-2392	119.325	27.727-86.191	Yes, 010-130
Ship Shoal 241 (Shell Pipeline Company)	SS241	KPZ	985-288-	121.125	28.434-91.034	No
South Marsh 268A (Fieldwood Energy)	SM268A	KSCF	337-210-	119.575	28.169-91.871	No
South Pass 83E-B (Shell Pipeline Company)	SP83E-B	KMTK	337-761-	124.175	28.697-89.395	No
Vermilion 331A (Talos Energy)	VR331A	KVDT	281-613-	118.125	28.270-92.284	No
Viosca Knoll 786/Petronius (Chevron)	VK786	KVDA	985-773-	118.325	29.229-97.781	Yes, 355-005
Walker Ridge 231/Big Foot (Chevron)	WR231	KVSE	985-773-	118.525	28.934-95.507	Yes, all directions
Walker Ridge 716/Jack St. Malo (Chevron)	WR716	KJS	985-773-	119.575	28.142-91.854	Yes, from the NNE
West Delta 27A (Cos Operating)	WD27	KDLP	713-730-	120.425	28.124-93.547	No

Federal (FAA-leased) AWOS sites indicated with alternating white and blue fill. Non-Federal (privately owned) AWOS sites indicated

To access weather information: <https://www.aviationweather.gov/metar?giss=off>

## ADVISORY

- MUA85A and VR331A are currently unavailable due to platform shut-in
- EC321A and GB668 are currently unavailable due to significant storm damage
- GB783 AWOS phone number to be available upon transition to new telecommunications service provider
- Garden Banks 426 / Auger AWOS is undergoing a Location Identifier (LID) change from KQT9 to KAGI

AWOS Removal in Progress or	Block ID	ICAO ID	Phone #	Frequencies	Lat/Long	Status
Port Fourchon, LA (Era Helicopters)	-	KVPY	-	119.675	29.123-90.202	Completed Dec 2020
Brazos 133B (Fieldwood Energy)	BA133B	KBBF	337-210-8998	118.875	27.835-96.013	Planned for Feb 2021
High Island A378B (Fieldwood Energy)	HIA378B	KHQI	337-210-8999	118.275	27.934-93.669	Planned for Feb 2021
Sabine Pass 13B	SA13B	KVES	832-461-0101	119.075	28.478-93.638	Completed Dec 2020

AWOS Awaiting Installation	Block ID	ICAO ID	Phone #	Frequencies	Lat/Long	Strategic Impact
Galveston 209A (Arenia Offshore) - July 2021	GA209A	TBD	TBD	TBD	29.069-98.091	Replaces SA13B
Eugene Island 251A (Arenia Offshore) - Aug 2021	EI251A	EKE	TBD	TBD	28.497-91.570	Replaces EI215B
Mississippi Canyon 724/Gustaf One (Hess/Williams) - Aug 2021	MC724	TBD	TBD	TBD	28.234-98.995	Expands Coverage / Adds Redundancy

Locations Under Consideration for Possible Federal AWOS Installation	Block ID	Objective
Green Canyon 443/King's Quay (Murphy)	GC443	New Install / Pairs with GB172, GB668, and GB783
Green Canyon 84W/Tahiti (Chevron)	GC84W	New Install / Pairs with WR23, GC787, and GC338
South Timberline 37A or 52C (Arenia)	ST37A/52C	Replace Fourchon, LA (VPI)
High Island A547B (Arenia)	HIA547B	Replace HIA378B (HQI)
Eugene Island 338K (Arenia)	EI338K	Redundancy to future EI251A (EKE)

**PROBLEMS ? (Applicable to Federal sites above ONLY):** Please report Federal AWOS performance problems to the L3Harris Network Operations Center (NOC), open 24/7, at 888-461-7277 (preferred) or DL-SBSS\_NOC@att.com

**NOTE:** The FAA does not have remote maintenance monitoring capability for the telephone dial-up or VHF radio. Please report outages/problems of Federal AWOS sites to the NOC.

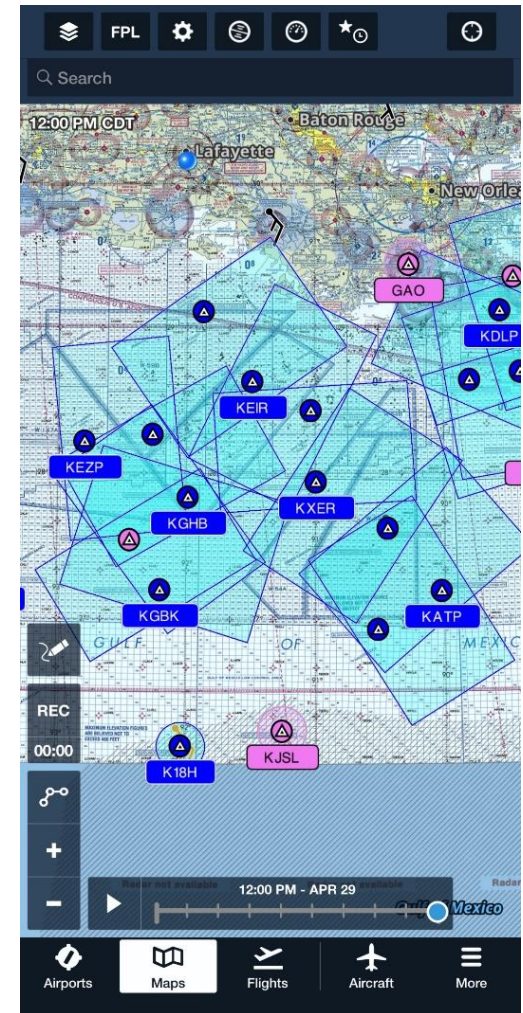
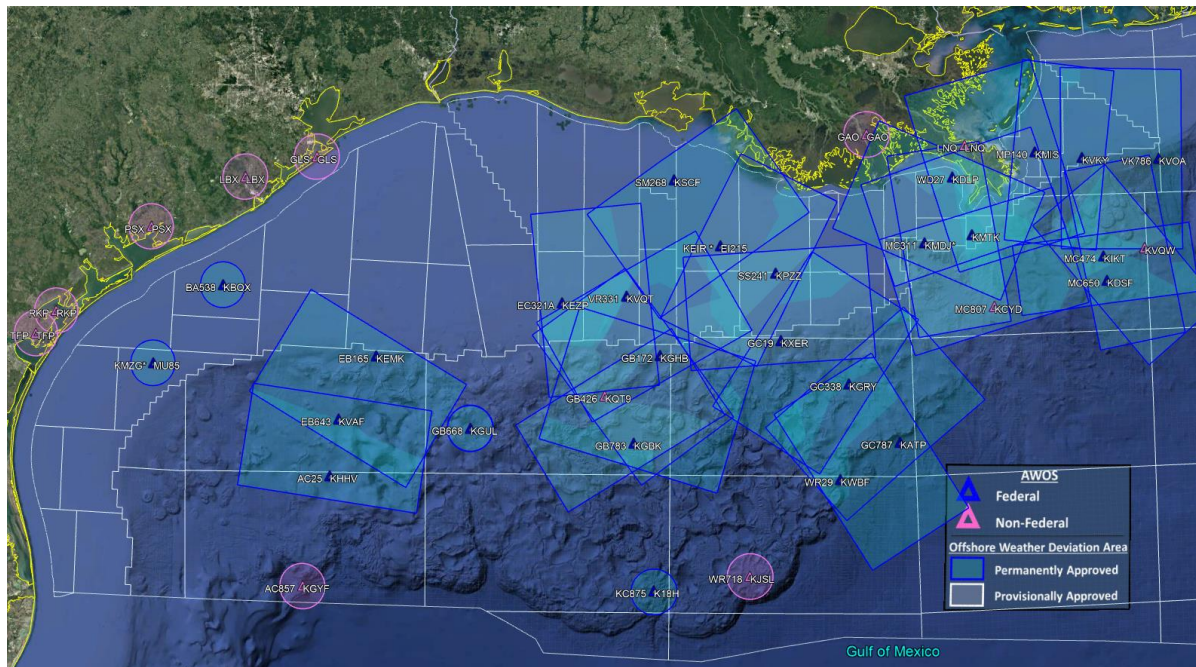




# Gulf AWOS Status KMZ File (map)

Recommended enhancements include:

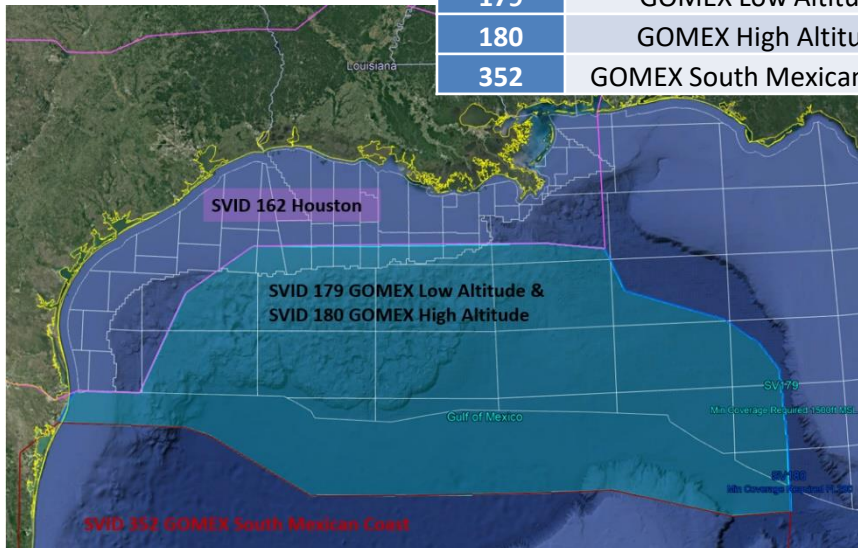
1. Alphabetize LIDS, Lease Blocks, Pairings lists
2. Include frequency in Lease Block ID ( ie EC321/119.050)
3. Include link to Historical METAR Report in description
4. Black border for increased visibility
5. Other enhancements??



# Equipage and Services in the Gulf

1. Discuss equipage in the Gulf of Mexico
  - a. Prevalence of 978 UAT vs 1090ES
2. Discuss services used in the Gulf of Mexico
  - a. Utilization of FIS-B (Flight Information Services – Broadcast) **Is it being used?**

SVID	SV Name	ADS-B UAT	ADS-B 1090	ADS-R UAT	ADS-R 1090	TIS-B UAT	TIS-B 1090	FIS-B UAT
162	Houston	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
179	GOMEX Low Altitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
180	GOMEX High Altitude	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
352	GOMEX South Mexican Coast	No*	Yes	No	No	No	No	No



**What is FIS-B?** FIS-B broadcasts a range of aeronautical information products from the FAA and weather products from the National Weather Service, such as AIRMET, SIGMET, METAR, SPECI, NEXRAD RADAR, NOTAM, TAF, and WINDS ALOFT

# Community Awareness

Colleen Ahlers, Project Management





# EC321 (EZP) AWOS SKID

**Background:** The fiberglass AWOS skid and some sensors were severely damaged in the 2020 hurricane season. The structural integrity remaining is unlikely to survive another cyclonic storm event.

**Action Pending:** Removal of the AWOS as soon as possible, followed by a replacement





# On behalf of Houston Center (ZHU)

Due to the activation of a new ZHU program feature, ZHU requests that Gulf IFR helicopter flight plan filings include the surveillance application data in field 18 in order to maximize efficiency of ZHU's pre-planning workloads.

Probably already  
doing this

**The Ask:** make sure  
you're doing this, too

Aircraft Equipage	ICAO Form Field 10b:	ICAO Form Field 18:
1090 ES	B1 or B2	SUR/260B
978 UAT	U1 or U2	SUR/282B
1090 & 978	B1 or B2 and U1 or U2	SUR/260B 282B

## References

[AC 90-114A Change 1,  
Chapter 4](#)

[AIM Paragraph 5-1-9-b-8-g](#)

[FAA Air Traffic Services –  
Flight Plan Filing Guidance](#)

# On behalf of Houston Center (ZHU) continued...

Practical examples below include filing by form and by foreflight

*Tip: If filing by phone, dictate the “forward slash”, too*

International Flight Plan

PRIORITY: FF

FLIGHT TIME: 10:00

MESSAGE: FPL

10 DEPARTURE AIRPORT: KJFK

11 DESTINATION AIRPORT: KJFK

12 OTHER INFORMATION: SUR/282B

Aircraft

FUEL

Fuel Units: Gallons

Start/Taxi/Takeoff Fuel: Required

Total Usable Fuel: Required

Default Reserve Fuel: Required

FAA Equipment: D, F, G, M1, S, U

ICAO Equipment: B2, C

ICAO Surveillance: L

ICAO Wake Category: None

ICAO PBN: None

Other Information: 1 item

STS Special Handling: None

DINGHY

Count

Capacity (Persons)

Color

Airports Maps Flights Aircraft More

Close Other Information

NAV

OPR

ORGN

PER

RALT

REG

RIF

RVR

SEL

SUR

TALT

260B

Already doing this  
(B1, B2, U1 or U2)

Type it  
in here

# Meeting Wrap Up

Rana Obeid, Federal Lead



# Cooperative Actions in the Gulf



# Summary

## 1. MOU Executed

## 2. FAA Infrastructure Status

- AWOS loss rate is greater than installations rate

## 3. Weather Box Expansion

- On track for August completion

## 4. AIC Decisions/Recommendations

## 5. Industry Feedback and Support

- Enhancing services & resources provided to the Gulf Aviation Community



## Gulf Sustainment Team Contact Information

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