

# 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: January 27, 2020



Federal Aviation  
Administration



# FAA Infrastructure Status

- Rana Obeid, Federal Lead



# Agenda

- **FAA Infrastructure Status**
- **ADS-B/VHF Comm Coverage**
- **AWOS Projects Status**
- **Upcoming FAA Installation Projects**
- **Gulf Umbrella Agreement**



# AWOS Coverage – Dec 31, 2019



Thirty (30) AWOS' in service

# AWOS Coverage – Oct 7, 2020



Fourteen (14) AWOS' in service



# FAA Infrastructure Out of Service in 2021

- The following AWOS platforms are currently shut-in and have been identified for abandonment:
  - Brazos 133B (BBF)
  - High Island A376B (HQI)
- The following AWOS' are on long-term shut-in platforms:
  - Mustang Island A85A (MZG)
  - Vermilion 331A (VQT)
- The Following AWOS's are out of service due to storm damage:
  - East Cameron 321A (EZP)
  - Garden Banks 668 (GUL)

# Projected AWOS Losses within Next Five (5) Years

1. Alaminos Canyon 25
2. East Breaks 165
3. East Breaks 643A
4. East Cameron 321A
5. Eugene Island 215B
6. Garden Banks 668
7. Mississippi Canyon 311A
8. Mustang Island A85A
9. South Marsh 268A
10. Vermilion 331A

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



# ADS-B/VHF Comm Coverage FAA AWOS Inspection Risk

- William Majeau, Project Management

# FAA AWOS Inspection Risk - Retired

## Gulf Sustainment: AWOS Inspections

**Situation:** FAA COVID-19 travel restrictions along with stringent oil company quarantine requirements have prohibited FAA inspectors from completing required inspections of FAA AWOS' in the Gulf of Mexico

**Impact:** If not inspected, the FAA Gulf AWOS' will not comply with FAA policy guidance dated Mar 17, 2010

**Status:** Received approval from FAA to continue operation without FAA inspections in 2020 (due to COVID-19 travel restrictions) and retired Risk.



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

### Memorandum

Date: MAR 17 2010

To: Jo Tarrh, Director of Operations, AJW-C

From: *Brad Gee* Brad Gee, Acting Director, Safety & Operations Support, AJW-1

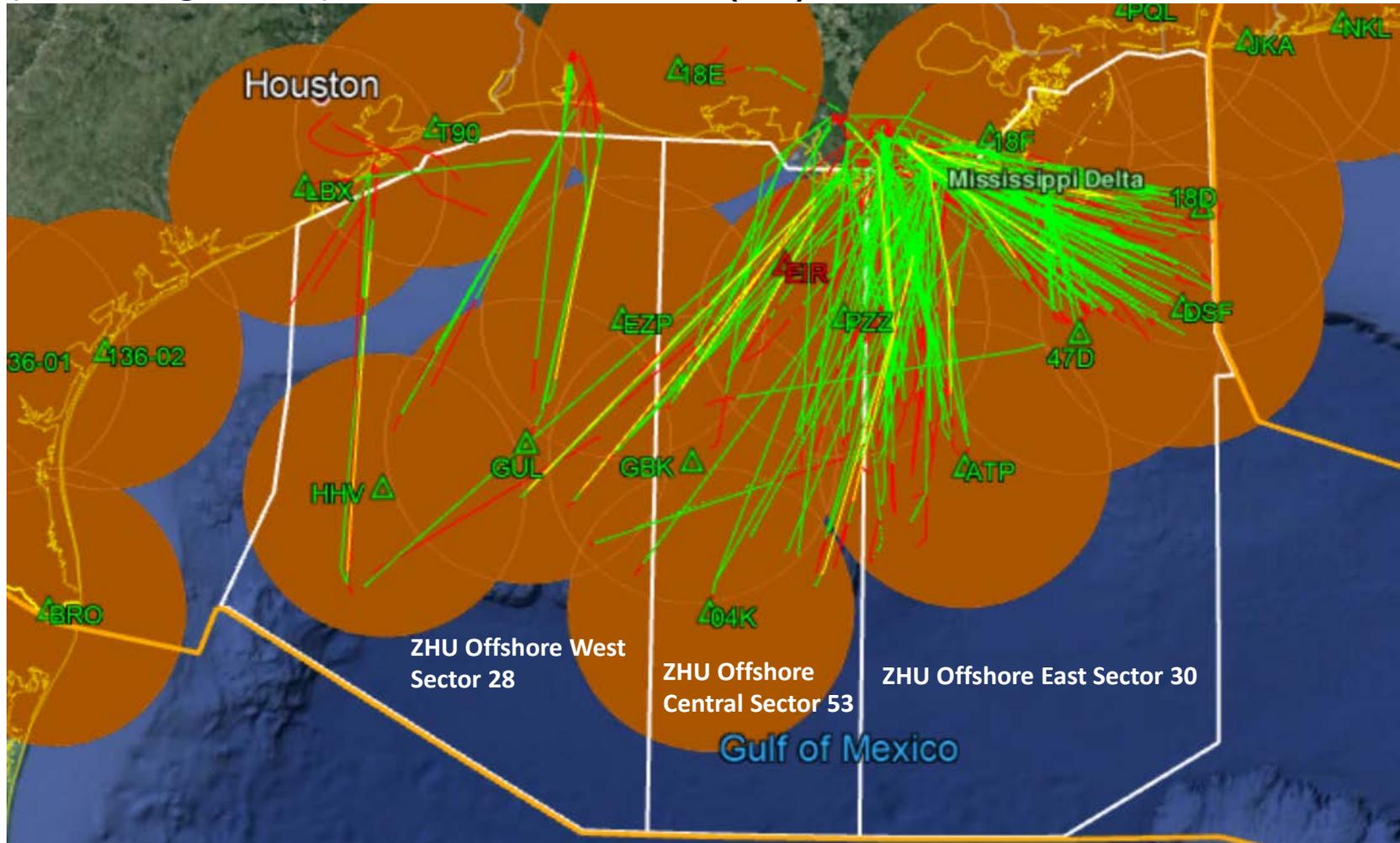
Subject: Inspection of Gulf of Mexico Automated Weather Observation System Infrastructure



# Current ADS-B Coverage 1500' MSL

(ADS-B Range 61 NM)

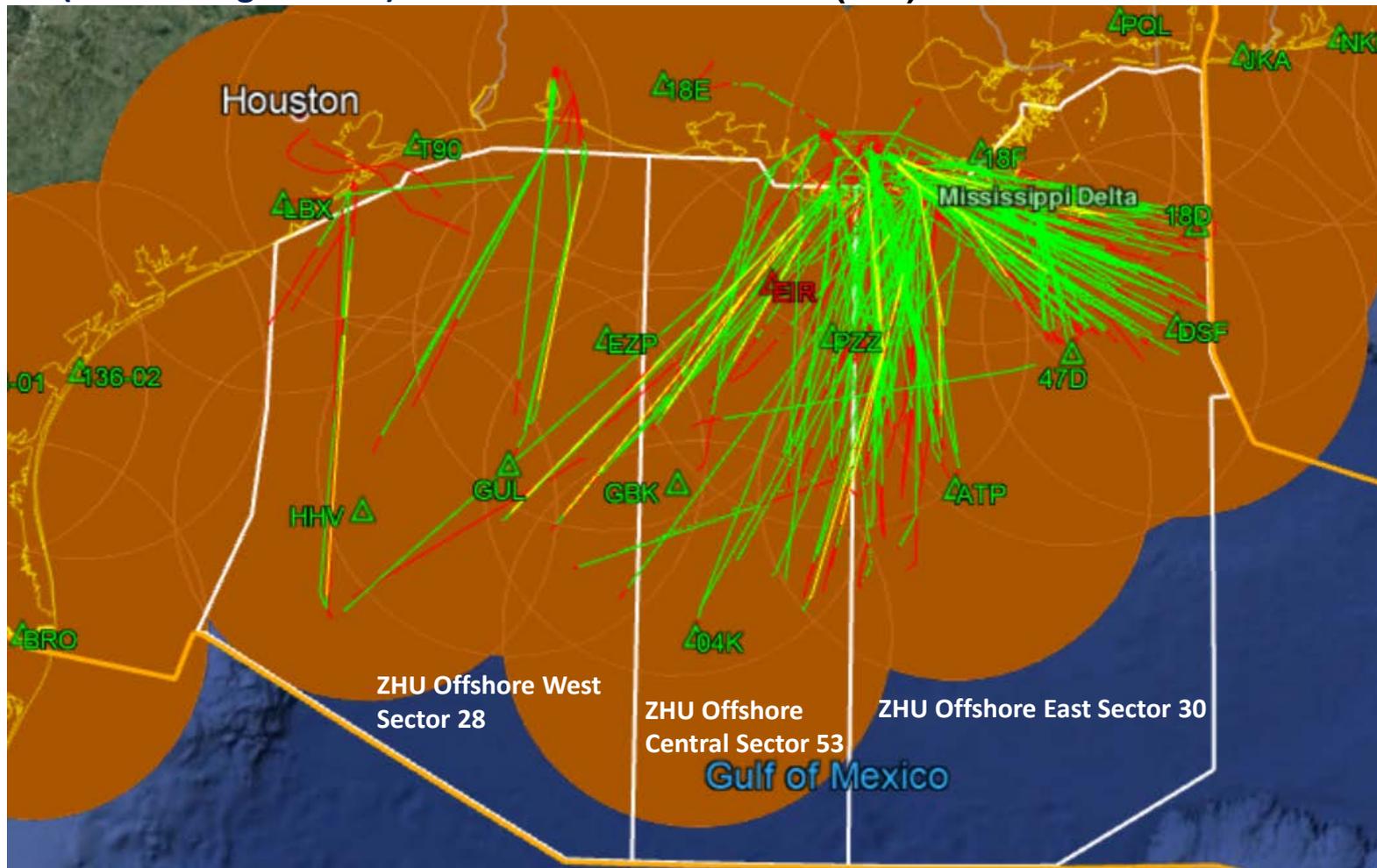
Without EI 215B (EIR)



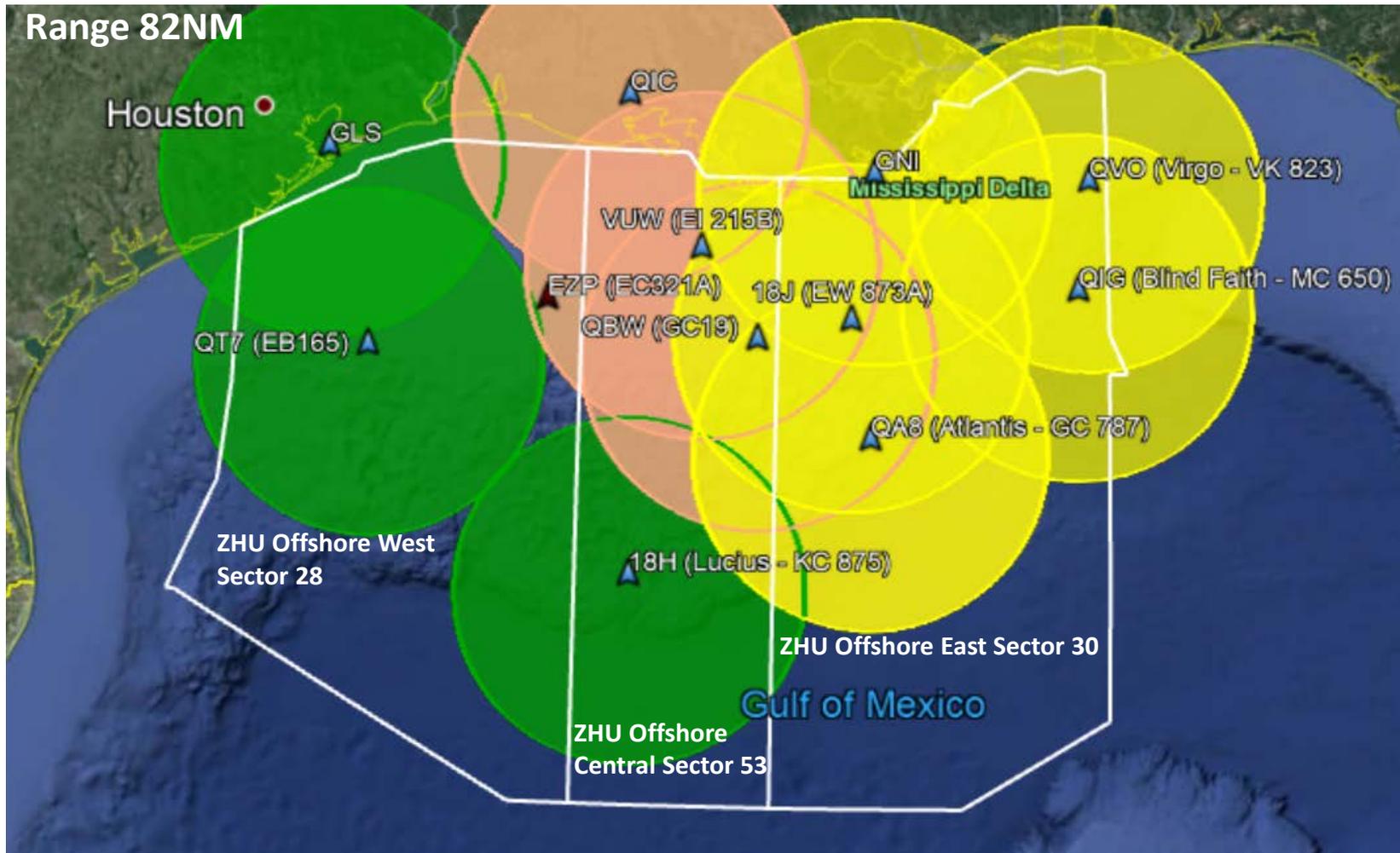
# Current ADS-B Coverage 3000' MSL

(ADS-B Range 82 NM)

Without EI 215B (EIR)



# VHF Comm Coverage 3,000' MSL



# NWS Provisional Weather Deviation Area Approval

- Paul Witsaman, Sector Services Program Manager



# Weather Deviation Area Approval

The National Weather Service has issued a notification letter to the Baton Rouge and Jackson Flight Standard District Offices stating that the following weather deviation areas have transitioned from temporary to permanent approval effective January 21, 2021.

All 27 weather deviation areas now have permanent approval.

	Pairing Station 1		Pairing Station 2		
#	Block No. / Platform Name	FAA LID	Block No. / Platform Name 2	FAA LID 2	NWS Provisional Approval Date
1	Green Canyon 19	XER	Ship Shoal 241	PZZ	7/30/2019
2	Eugene Island 215B	EIR	Ship Shoal 241	PZZ	7/30/2019
3	Garden Banks 426/Auger	QT9	Garden Banks 783 / Magnolia	GBK	11/23/2019*
4	Garden Banks 426/Auger	QT9	Garden Banks 172 / Salsa	GHB	11/23/2019*
5	Mississippi Canyon 437A / Appomattox	VQW	Mississippi Canyon 474	IKT	11/23/2019*
6	Mississippi Canyon 437A / Appomattox	VQW	Mississippi Canyon 650	DSF	11/23/2019*
7	Mississippi Canyon 807 / Mars	CYD	South Pass 89E-B	MTK	11/23/2019*
8	East Cameron 321A	EZP	Vermillion 331A	VQT	12/17/2019

\*Effective Approval Date (approval letter dated 2/07/2020)

**Letter will be distributed with next AWOS Update on 02/02/2021.**

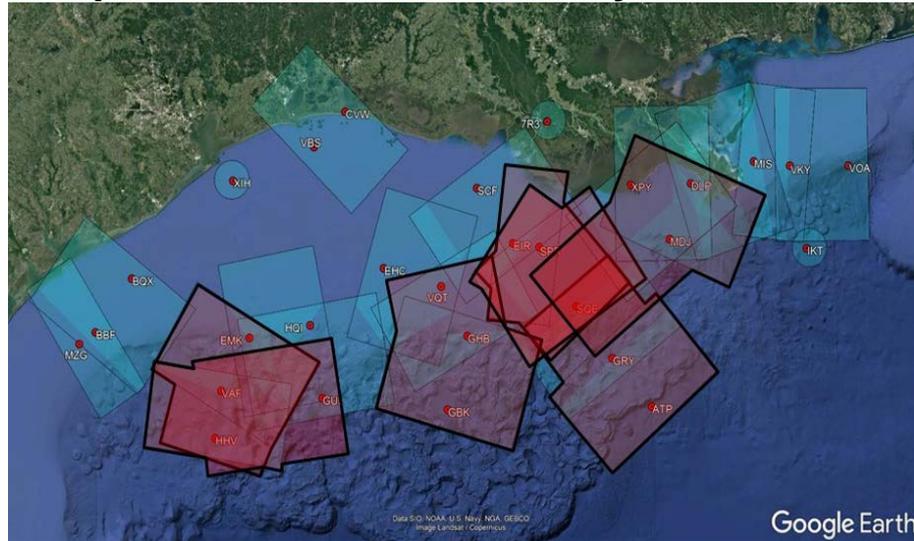
# Weather Deviation Area Expansion Project

- Bob Herak, Operations and Strategic Management Lead



# Offshore Weather Deviation Area Expansion

- Follow-up to 2017 Weather Analysis – that Volpe Report found “that permanent and expanded areas are possible with further analysis”



- The FAA/SBS Group Gulf Sustainment Team has initiated the process to enlist the support of Volpe for a follow-on analysis for possible permanent and expanded weather area expansion in FY2021
- Project Goal: Coordinate Volpe Analysis for Expansion of Weather Deviation Area and Permanent Weather Deviation Areas
- Project Completion Date Goal: August 1, 2021

# Offshore Weather Deviation Area Expansion

## Goals and Responsibilities

### Project Goal:

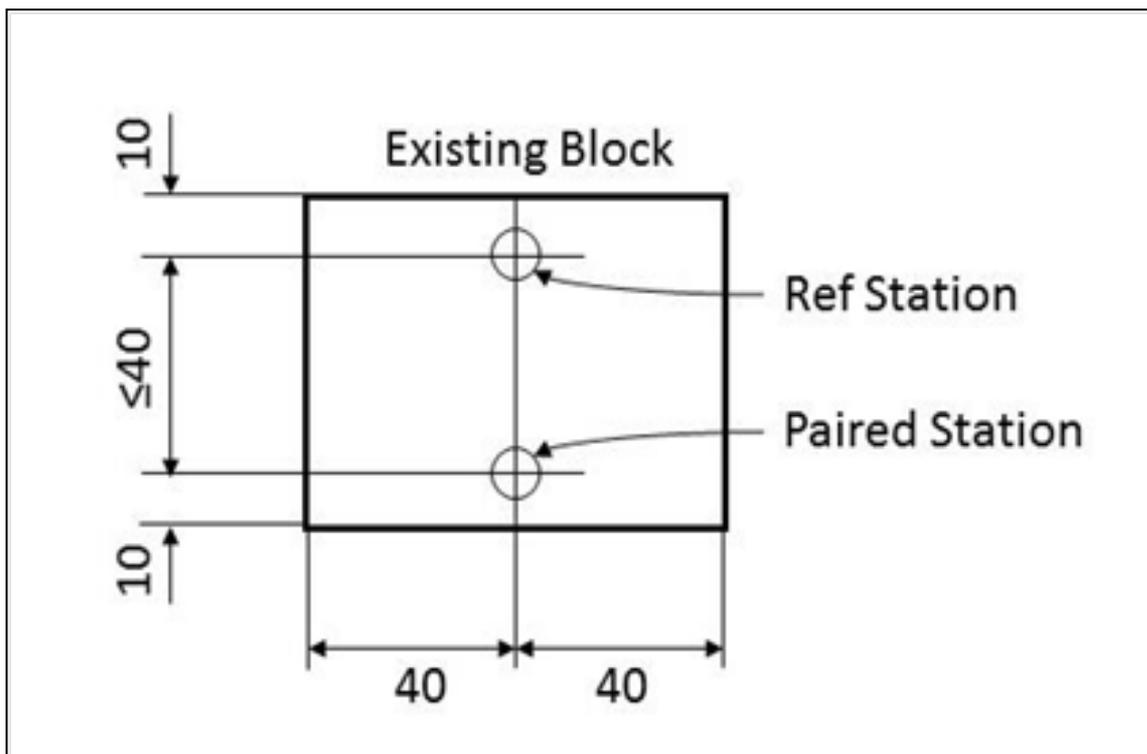
Coordinate Volpe Analysis for Expansion of Weather Deviation Area and Permanent Weather Deviation Areas

### FAA/SBS Group Gulf Sustainment Team Responsibilities:

1. Finance Weather Deviation Area Expansion Project
2. Coordinate and accumulate input from Stakeholders
3. Coordinate Stakeholder input and submit Technical Work Requirements to Volpe
4. Ensure Study results are distributed
5. Study Completion Date – Goal of August 1, 2021
6. Not involved in regulatory aspects of Weather Deviation Area Expansion
7. Provide post Weather Analysis support as required

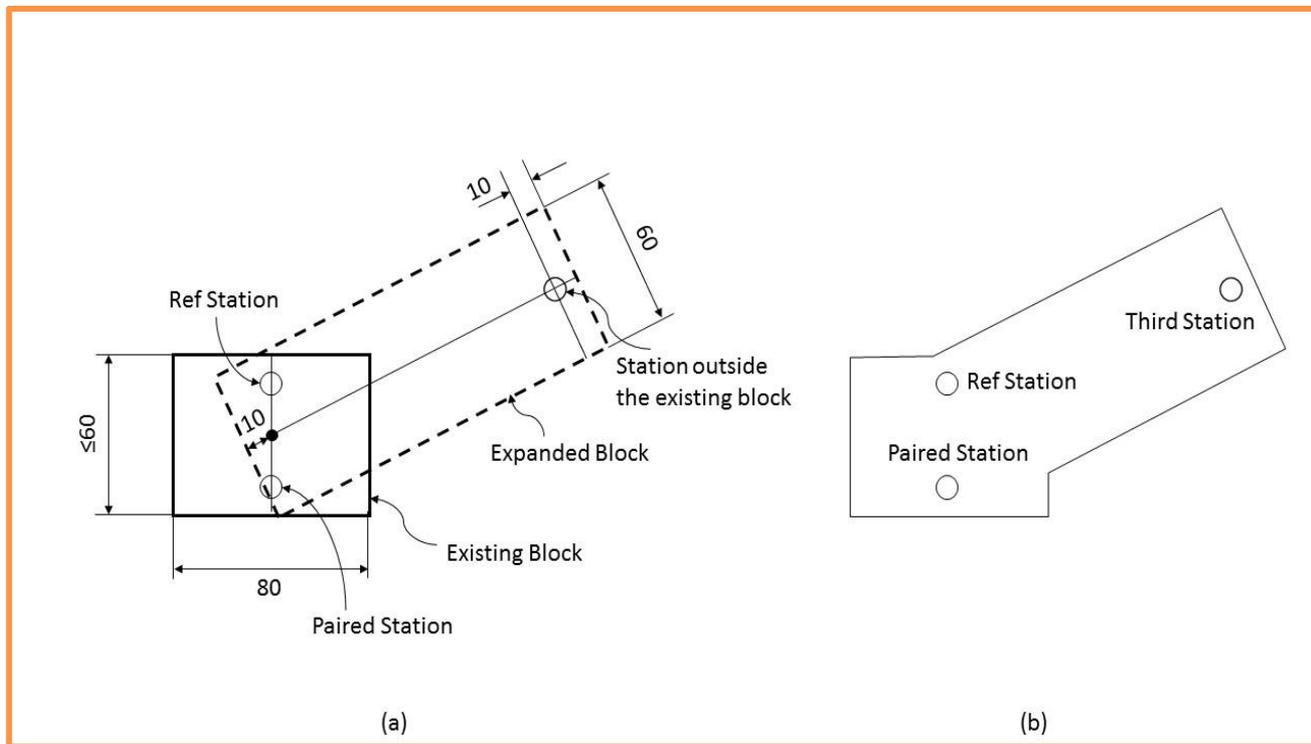
# Offshore Weather Deviation Area Expansion Team – Recommendations

1. Expand the Existing Weather Deviation Area Listed in AC90-80C
  - Increase dimensions of existing Weather Deviation Area
  - Reference and paired station, increase beyond 40 NM



# Offshore Weather Deviation Area Expansion – Recommendations

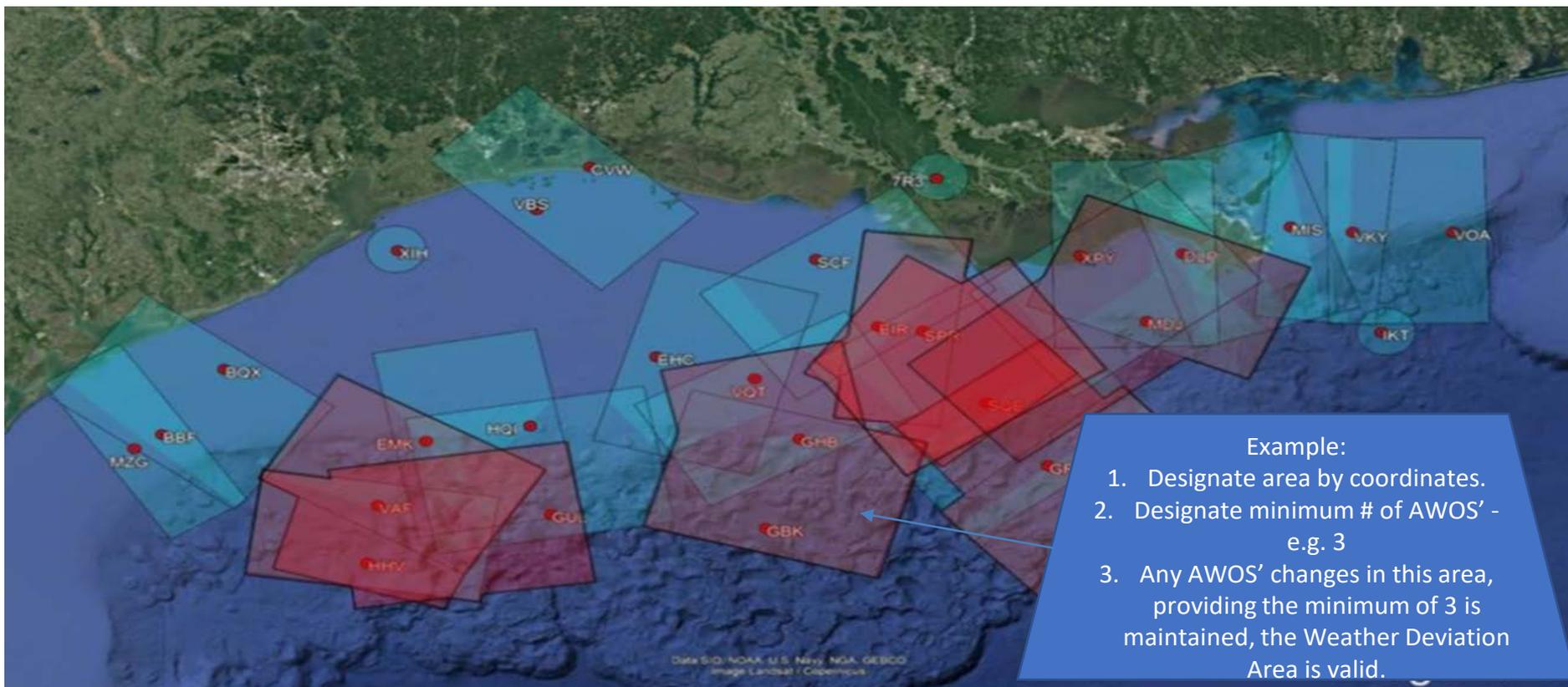
## 2. Develop criteria/dimensions for Extended Weather Box – Listed in 2017 Study



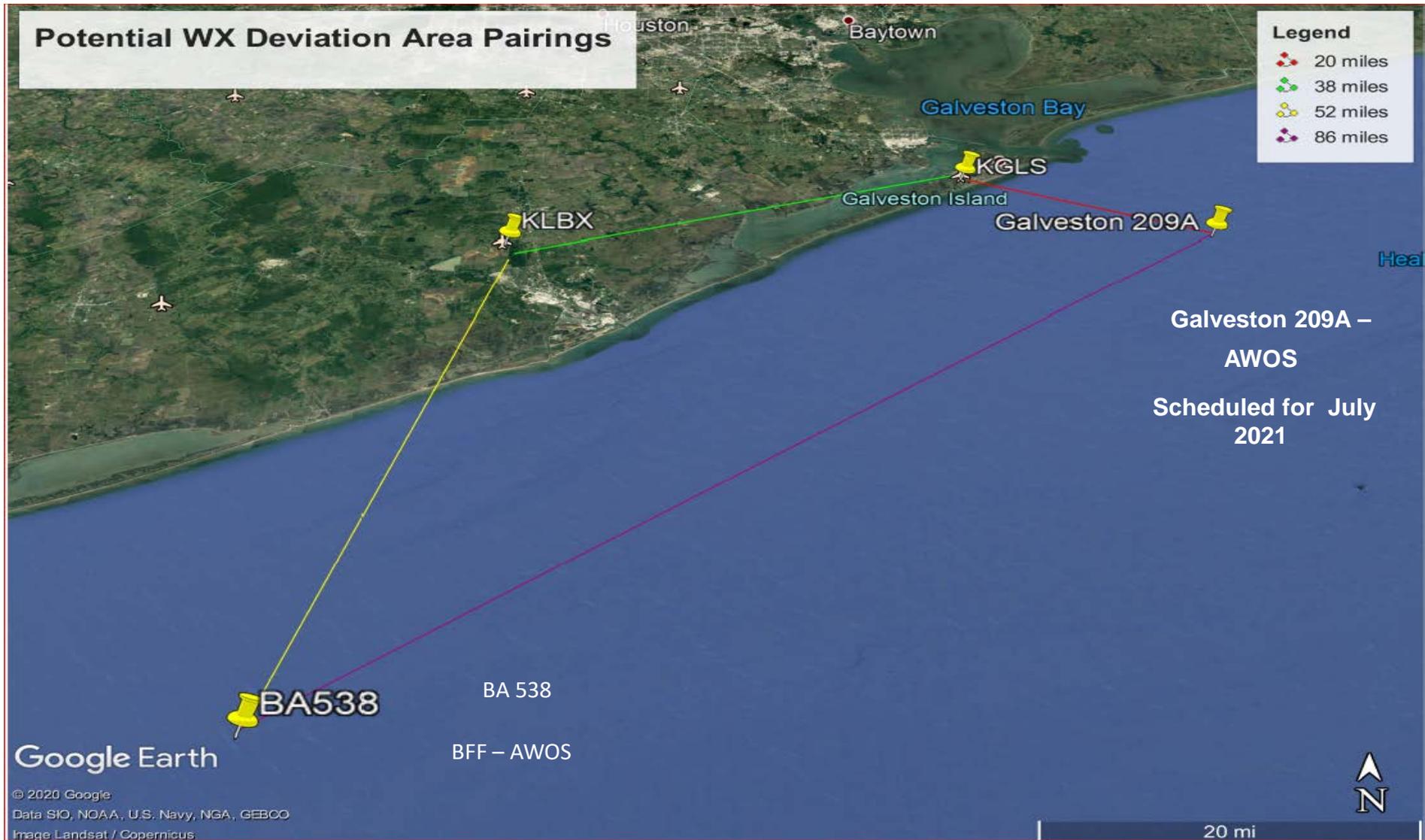
# Offshore Weather Deviation Area Expansion Team – Recommendations

## 3. Permanent Polygon Weather Deviation Area

- Defined Coordinates
- Designate minimum distance between AWOS stations
- Required minimum number of AWOS to maintain Polygon Weather Area



# AWOS Shoreline Support of VFR and IFR Operations



# Offshore Weather Deviation Area Expansion Project - Status

## Project Process:

### 1. Input from Stakeholders:

- Volpe
- FAA/SBS Group Contracting Office
- Flight Technologies and Procedures Division, Flight Standards
- Flight Standards District Offices: Baton Rouge, Jackson, Houston
- National Weather Service
- Houston ARTCC/Central Service Area
- Helicopter Companies: Westwind – Republic – ExxonMobil – PHI – Panther –  
Era/Bristow – Chevron - RLC – BP Aviation – MYU – Shell
- Industry Safety Organizations – Helicopter Safety Advisory  
Conference (HSAC) Helicopter Association International (HAI)

2. Volpe Analysis commencing: February 1, 2021

3. Volpe Analysis completion: August 1, 2021

4. Volpe Brief HSAC – October 2021

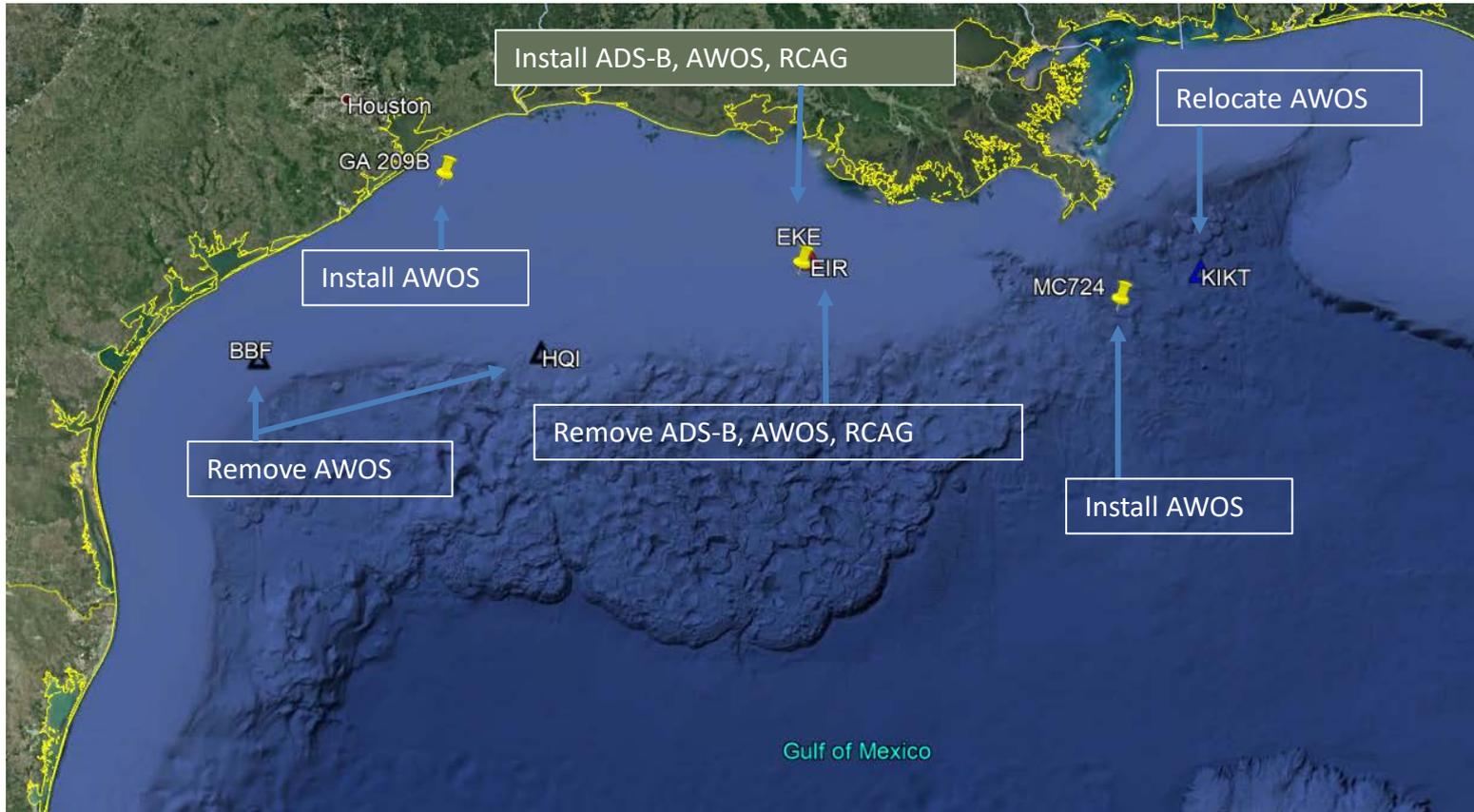
# Upcoming FAA Installation Projects and Gulf Umbrella Agreement

- Roseanne Albrecht, Agreement Lead

# AIC Decision Status (May and October 2020)

- **At the May and October 2020 AIC meetings, FAA and industry Stakeholders made the following decisions about AWOS coverage:**
  - Galveston 209 to replace High Island 179A—planning install, coordinating installation agreement and scheduling site survey
  - South Marsh 107 to replace South Marsh 268—still investigating feasibility
  - Cameron (Venture Global site) to replace Sabine Pass 13B—no longer available, damaged in hurricane
  - Chevron recommended Green Canyon 641/Tahiti platform as a candidate site for possible AWOS installation- Awaiting FAA site survey
  - Hess proposed Garden Banks 260 platform as a candidate site for possible AWOS installation-still investigating feasibility

# FAA Upcoming Projects



Remove BBF AWOS Brazos 133B (Feb)  
Remove HQI AWOS High Island A376B (Feb)  
Remove EIR ADS-B (Feb)  
Install EKE ADS-B, AWOS, RCAG (Jun)

Relocate IKT AWOS MC474 / Na Kika (Jun)  
Install AWOS GA209B (Jul)  
Install AWOS MC724 / Gulfstar One (Aug)  
Remove EIR AWOS and VUW RCAG EI215B (Sep)

# Gulf Memorandum of Agreement

- At the October 2020 meeting, the AIC supported the goal of not renewing the original umbrella Agreement based on many factors and specifically that the document is obsolete
- The AIC recommended investigating whether a document or artifact is necessary to uphold the FAA-industry's unity and commitment to sustain and improve aviation safety and services in the Gulf of Mexico and continue the AIC
- FAA contracting and legal concurred with AIC recommendation and determined a Memorandum of Understanding with the FAA, HAI and Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) would be the appropriate document to continue the aviation safety program in the Gulf and maintain the AIC
- The draft is currently in coordination with HAI and HSAC; target execution is February 2021

# Summary

- **FAA Infrastructure Status**
  - AWOS loss rate is greater than installations rate
  - ADS-B and RCAG importance
- **Industry Feedback and Support**
  - Explore all possibilities as an opportunity to increase safety in the Gulf of Mexico

# FAA Gulf of Mexico Sustainment Team

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