



Shell Offshore Inc.  
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November 7, 2024

Mr. Ben Laws, Deputy Chief,  
Office of Protected Resources  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
Dept. of Commerce  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Via email: [benjamin.laws@noaa.gov](mailto:benjamin.laws@noaa.gov)

SUBJECT: Request for an LOA extension to conduct a geophysical survey, (Vito OBN) in the Mississippi Canyon, Gulf of Mexico.

Dear Mr. Laws,

On April 4, 2024, Shell Offshore Inc. ("Shell") was granted a Letter of Authorization to conduct a seismic OBN survey over Block 941 and the surrounding areas located in the Mississippi Canyon, Gulf of Mexico. The survey to be executed is also referred to as the "Vito OBN."

The Vito OBN is part of a 2024/2025 OBN survey campaign which includes Perdido, Appomattox and Mars/Ursa. The Vito survey is planned as the final survey in the OBN survey campaign and was originally expected to be completed by June 2025 and as such the Vito LOA was requested for the period July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. However, the ruling in August by THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND to vacate the BiOp on December 20, 2024 resulted in Shell delaying the start of the OBN survey campaign because of uncertainties and potential liabilities if LOA and G&G permits were cancelled or halted on December 20<sup>th</sup>. The new ruling, to revise the vacate date to May 21, 2025, provided Shell with the opportunity to complete negotiation with an acquisition contractor to commence with acquisition on or about December 19, 2024. A start date of December 19, 2024, will allow Shell to complete 2 of the 4 OBN surveys and commence with the 3rd on or about Mid-April 2025 with the expectation to complete the 3rd survey by the end of May or early June 2025. The Vito survey is the last OBN in the program and as such cannot be completed by the effective period end date of the current LOA, June 30, 2025 (LOA e attached for reference). Therefore, Shell is requesting an extension of the effective period of the Vito LOA to October 31, 2025.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact Tracy Albert at +1 504 425 4652, [tracy.albert@shell.com](mailto:tracy.albert@shell.com) or Nicole St. Amand at +1 832 337 1499, [Nicole.StAmand@shell.com](mailto:Nicole.StAmand@shell.com).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derrek Karber", is placed over a grey rectangular background.

Derrek W. Karber  
Subsurface Regulatory Manager