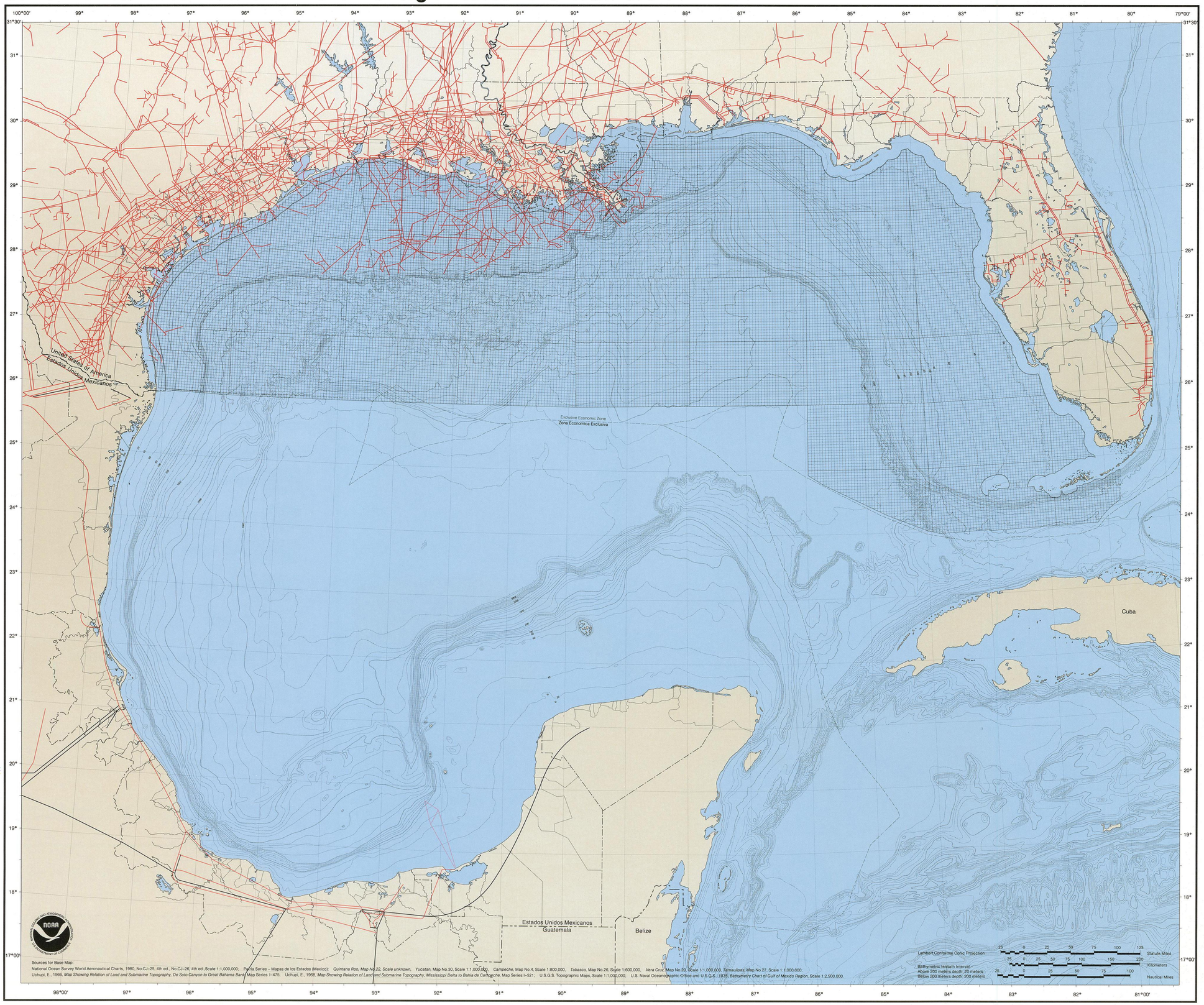

Sources for Base Map:
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Natural Gas Pipelines

Description

Natural gas is transported through offshore natural gas pipelines from wells throughout the outer continental shelf (OCS) to central offshore collection points and from there, the gas is moved onshore.

Fifty-six major pipeline systems now bring OCS oil and gas ashore in the American waters of the region (Havran, et al., 1982). In 1981, natural gas produced from the American OCS of the Gulf of Mexico accounted for over 99% of the total OCS production in the USA. Most of the pipeline infrastructure for this production lies in waters off Louisiana and Texas. Map 4.24 provides additional information on offshore gas production and infrastructure.

At least five Federal agencies in the USA have some regulatory control over the construction and operation of offshore natural gas pipelines, including the Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Transportation, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Interstate Commerce Commission (Havran, et al., 1982). The location where the pipelines come ashore depends on shoreline characteristics (Map 1.05), production plans, and agreements among the company producing the gas, local jurisdictions, and private landowners. The placement of natural gas pipelines and pipeline malfunction can contribute to the same types of offshore and onshore impacts mentioned for crude oil and product pipelines (Maps 4.11 and 4.12).

Natural Gas Pipeline

- **Existing**
- **Under Construction**
- **Approved**
- **Blocks for OCS Oil and Gas Leasing**

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