

Subsection 5A

Chapter 3

Energy

Introduction

The present chapter includes two subchapters, in which an integrated approach is taken to exploring the renewable and non-renewable resources of the world's oceans, including an examination of relevant economic activities, innovative approaches and social factors at the global and regional levels.

Subchapter 3A concerns offshore renewable energy (ORE), such as wind, wave and tidal energy. Their potential positive cumulative environmental effects are outlined and it is highlighted that the proper handling of such resources could significantly reduce global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions (some 10% of the reductions required by 2050). Social equity is underlined as a priority to ensure that the expansion of ORE does not disproportionately affect already marginalized communities or perpetuate existing inequities.

Subchapter 3B concerns offshore and deepwater exploration of non-renewable oil and gas resources and begins with a description of the current magnitude and scope of these activities, which is followed by projections of future deepwater hydrocarbon exploration. The subchapter includes an analysis of the impacts, potential for disaster and longer-term effects of both hydrocarbon surveying activities and offshore installations. Lastly, the subchapter sets out the social perspective, highlighting that the offshore hydrocarbon industry's operations often intersect with the social and environmental concerns of local communities, leading to conflicts and challenges in securing public acceptance.