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US government eyes final stage of Alaska O&G auction in June

The US government plans to auction leases to over 200 exploration blocks off the southern coast of Alaska this spring, but a new local tax bill and an existing ban on Arctic drilling threaten prospective gas and oil production in the area.

The US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) late last week said it hopes to offer 224 blocks covering around 1.1 million acres (4,400 sq. km) in the Cook Inlet to bidders in June, subject to approval by Alaskan governor Bill Walker.



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