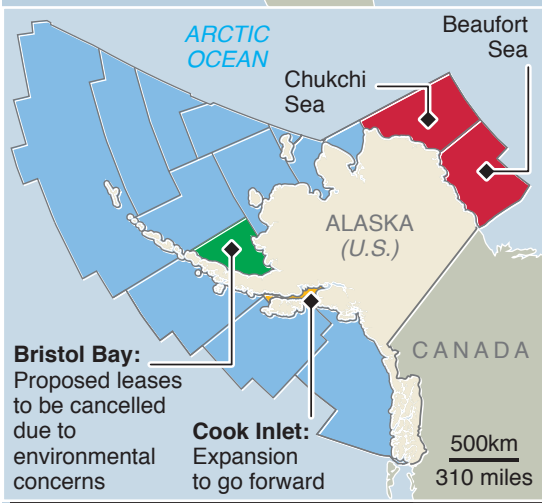
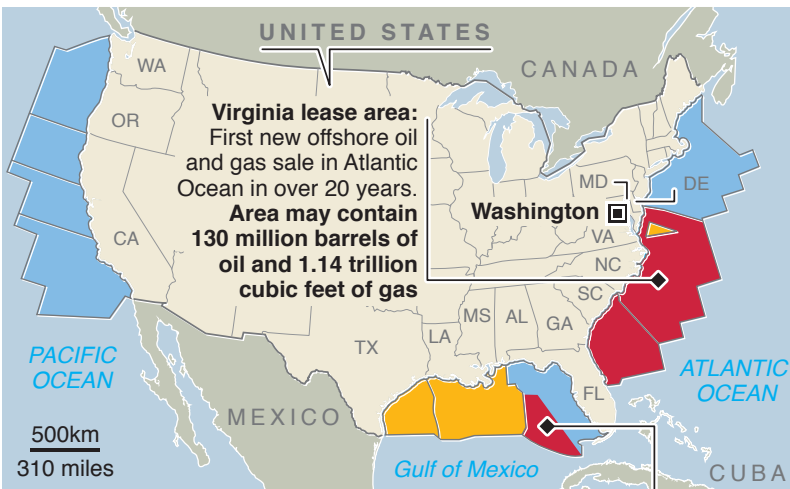


Obama's plan on offshore drilling

In a move intended to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil and generate revenue from the sale of offshore leases, President Barack Obama plans to open vast expanses of water along the Atlantic coastline, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and the north coast of Alaska to oil and natural gas drilling

■ Exploration approved ■ Newly protected ■ Under exploration ■ Banned



Eastern Gulf: Plan would open up about two-thirds of available oil and gas resources if Congress allows moratorium to expire. Area may hold up to 3.5 billion barrels of oil and 17 trillion cubic feet of gas

For over 20 years, drilling was banned in most offshore areas outside Gulf of Mexico because of concerns that spills could harm environment