Glossary

This Glossary defines many of the technical terms used in this report.

Crude Oil: A mixture of hydrocarbons that exist in the liquid phase in natural underground reservoirs and remain liquid at atmospheric pressure after passing through surface separating facilities. Crude oil may also include:

Small amounts of hydrocarbons that exist in the gaseous phase in natural underground reservoirs but are liquid at atmospheric pressure after being recovered from oil well (casinghead) gas in lease separators, and that subsequently are commingled with the crude stream without being separately measured.

Small amounts of nonhydrocarbons produced with the oil.

Field: An area consisting of a single reservoir or multiple reservoirs all grouped on or related to the same individual geological structural feature and/or stratigraphic condition. There may be two or more reservoirs in a field which are separated vertically by intervening impervious strata, or laterally by local geologic barriers, or by both. (See **Reservoir**)

Field Area: A geographic area encompassing two or more pools that have a common gathering and metering system, the reserves of which are reported as a single unit. This concept applies primarily to the Appalachian region. (See **Pool**)

Field Discovery Year: The calendar year in which a field was first recognized as containing economically recoverable accumulations of oil and/or gas.

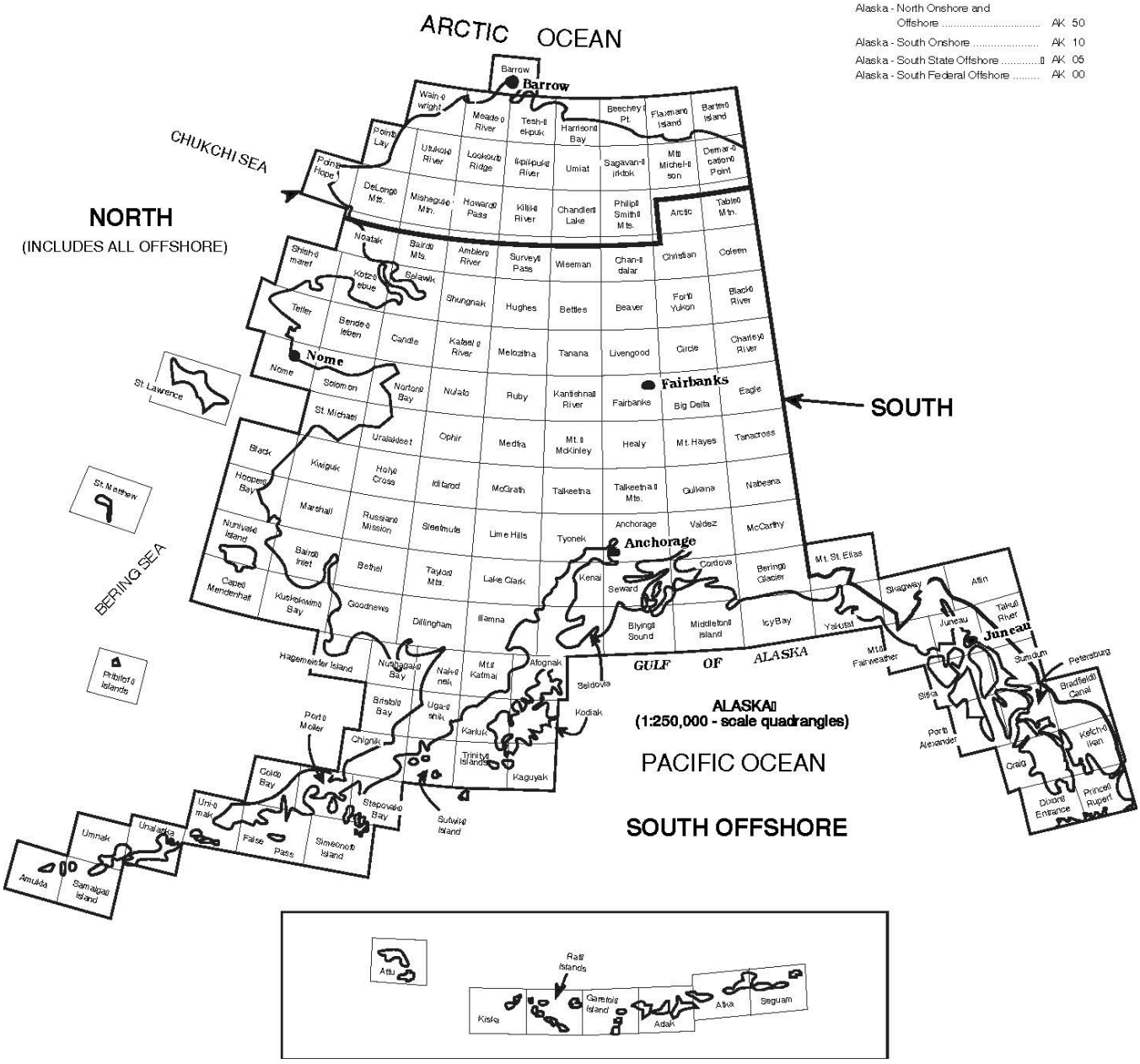
Natural Gas: A mixture of hydrocarbon compounds and small quantities of various nonhydrocarbons existing in the gaseous phase or in solution with crude oil in natural underground reservoirs at reservoir conditions. The principal hydrocarbons usually contained in the mixture are methane, ethane, propane, butane, and pentane. Typical nonhydrocarbon gases which may be present in reservoir natural gas are carbon dioxide, helium, hydrogen sulfide, and nitrogen. Under reservoir conditions, natural gas and the liquefiable portions occur either in a single gaseous phase in the reservoir or in solution with crude oil and are not distinguishable at the time as separate substances.

Pool: In general, a reservoir. In certain situations a pool may consist of more than one reservoir. (See **Field Area**)

Reservoir: A porous and permeable underground formation containing an individual and separate natural accumulation of producible hydrocarbons (oil and/or gas) which is confined by impermeable rock or water barriers and is characterized by a single natural pressure system.

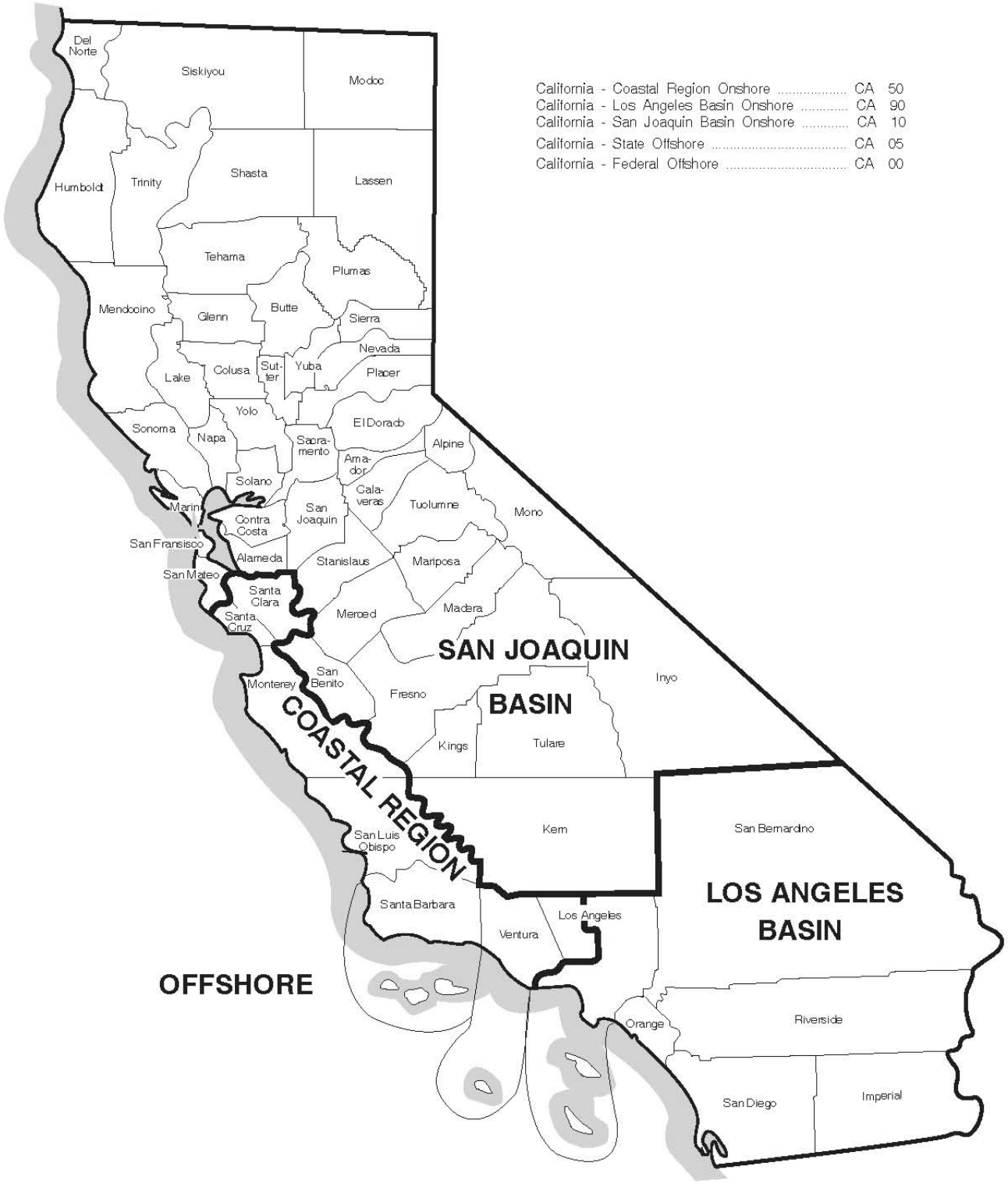
Subdivision: A prescribed portion of a given State or other geographical region defined in this publication for statistical reporting purposes.

Figure 1. Subdivisions of Alaska



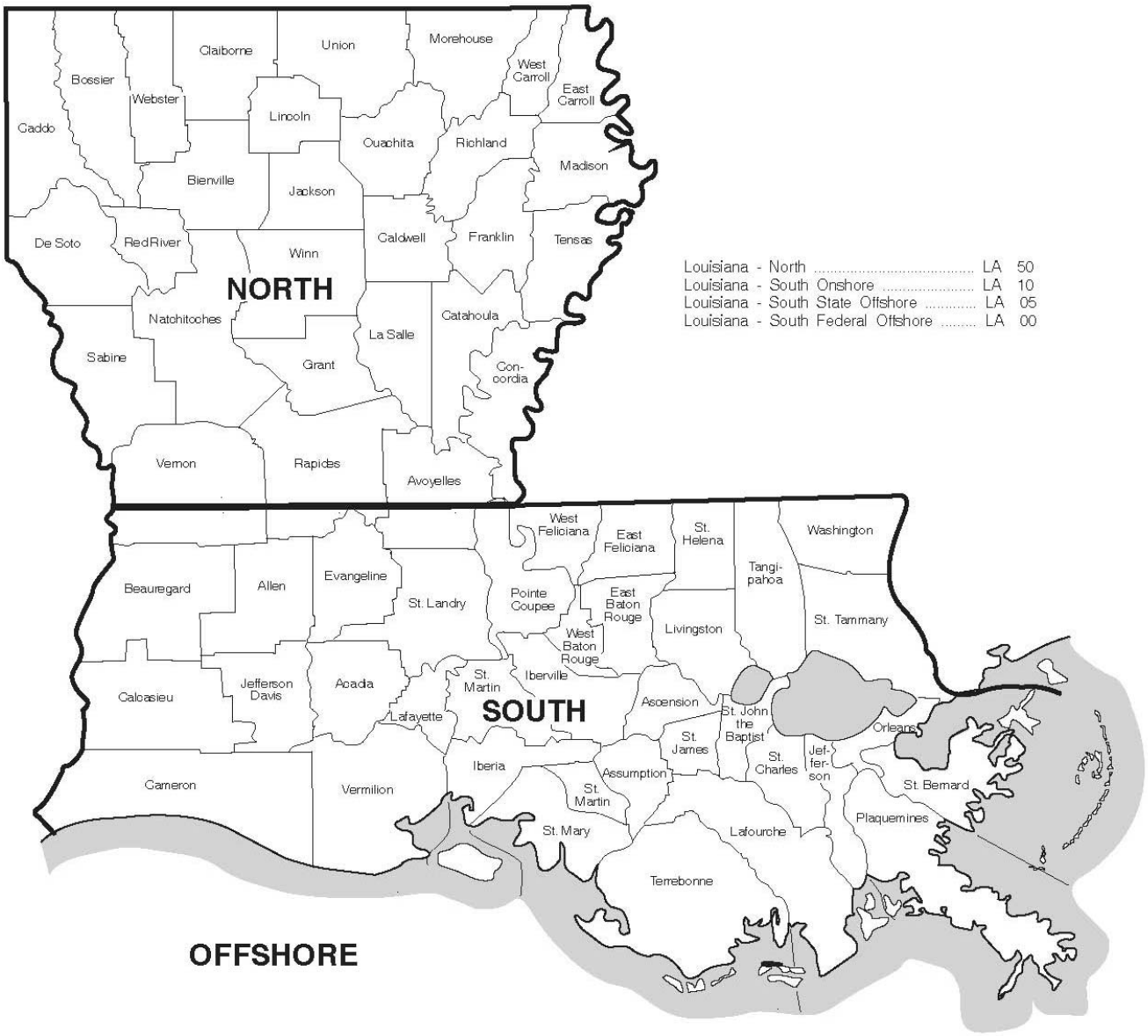
Source: After U.S. Geological Survey.

Figure 2. Subdivisions of California



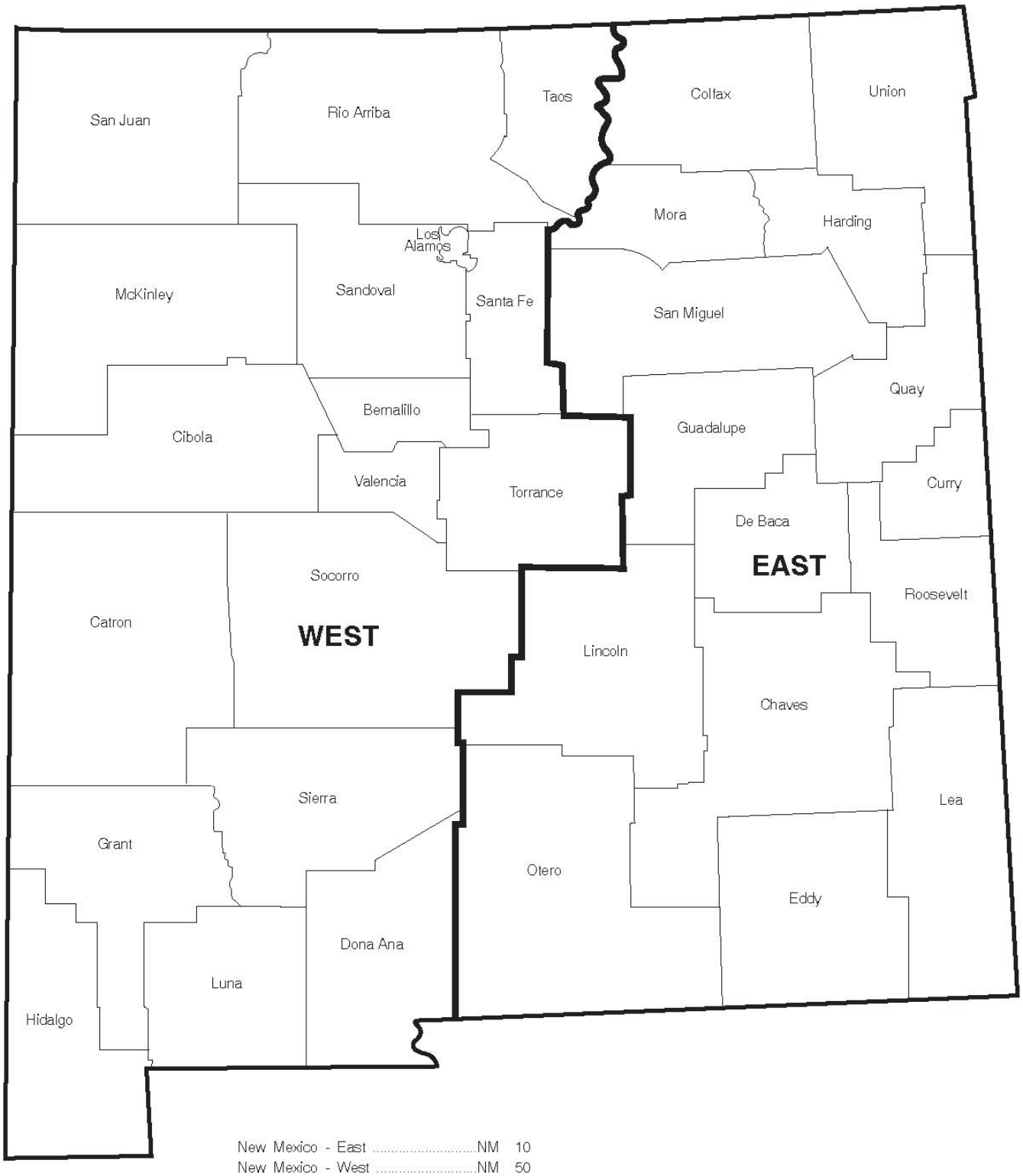
Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil and Gas.

Figure 3. Subdivisions of Louisiana



Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil and Gas.

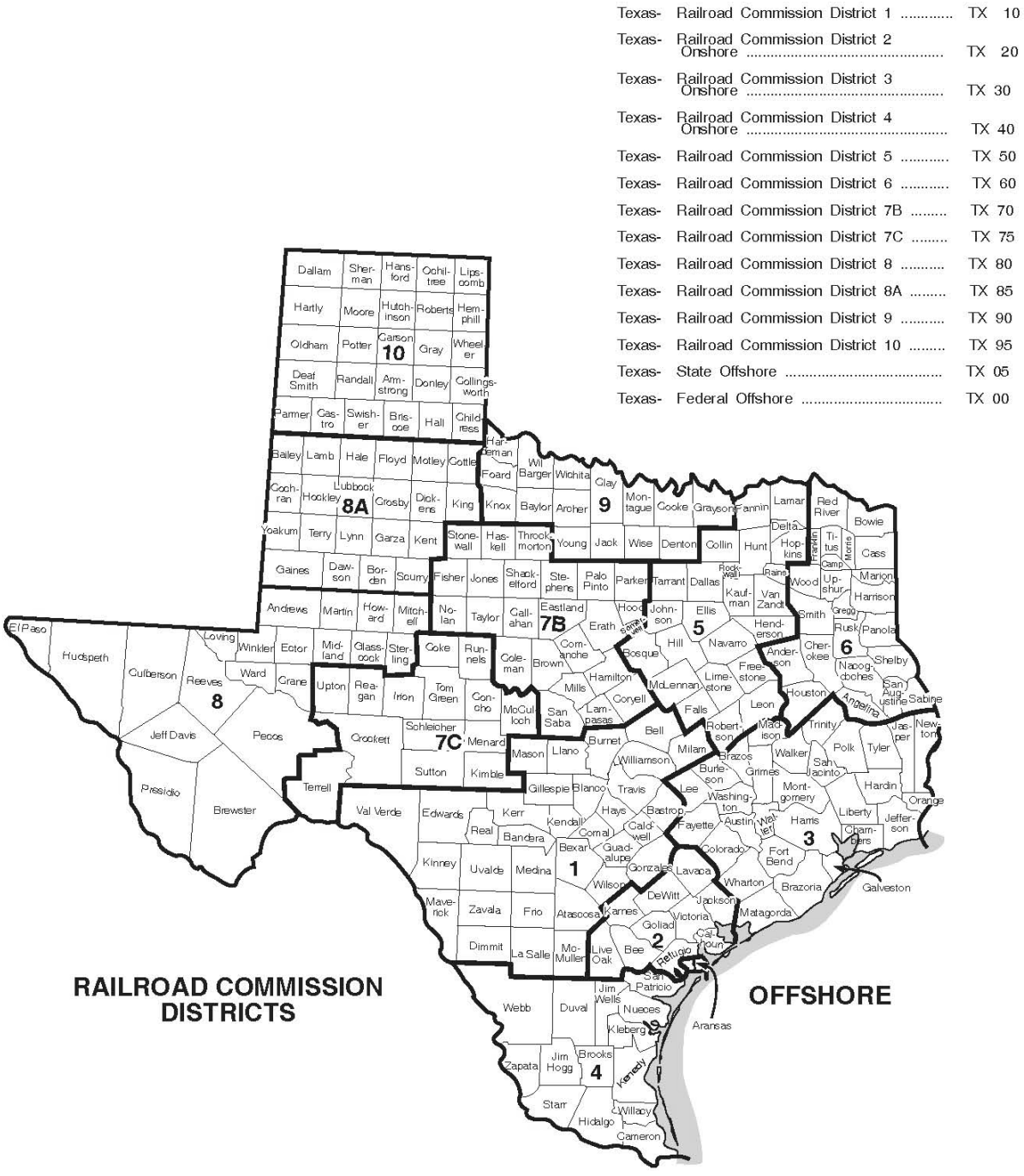
Figure 4. Subdivisions of New Mexico



New Mexico - East .....NM 10
New Mexico - West .....NM 50

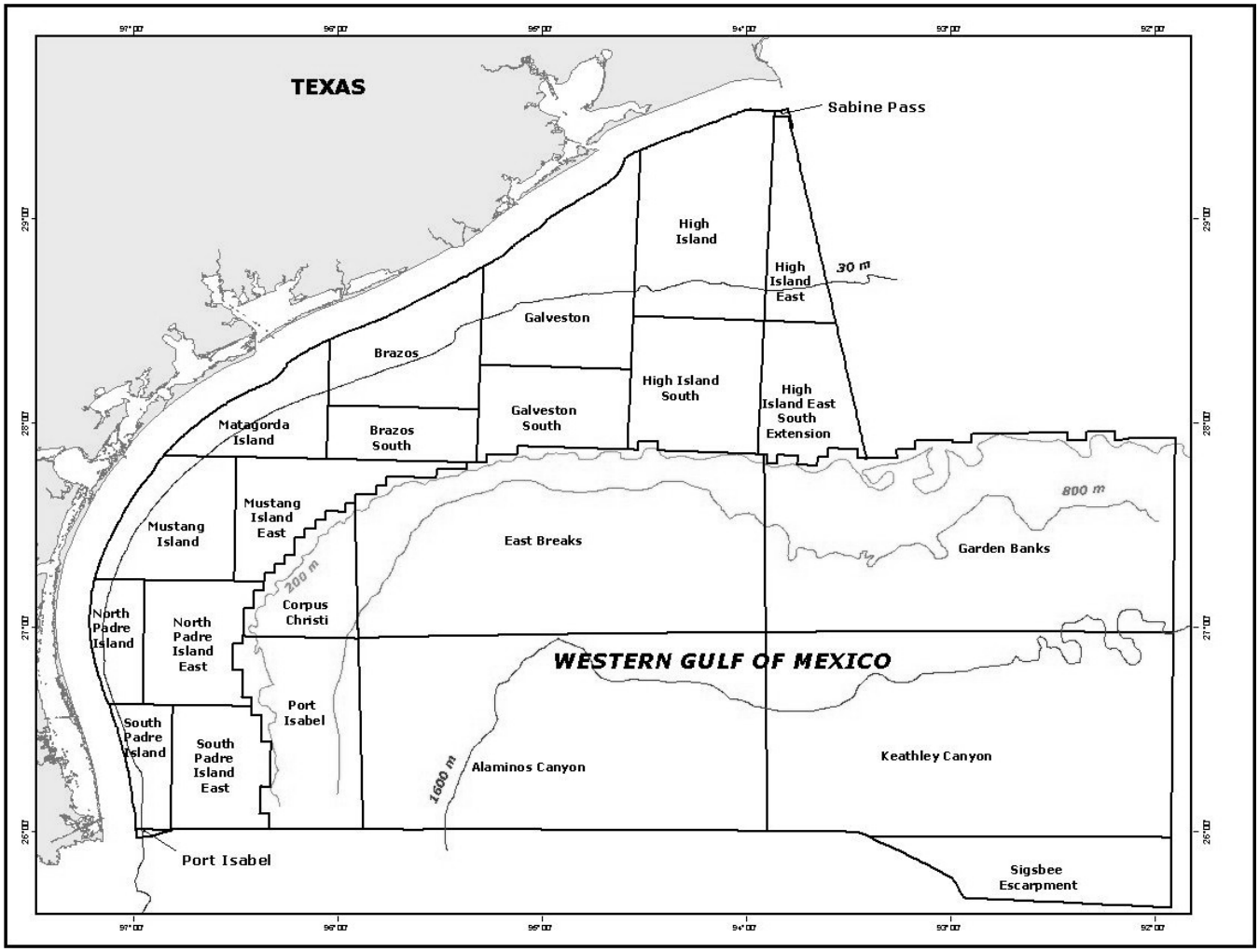
Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil and Gas.

Figure 5. Subdivisions of Texas



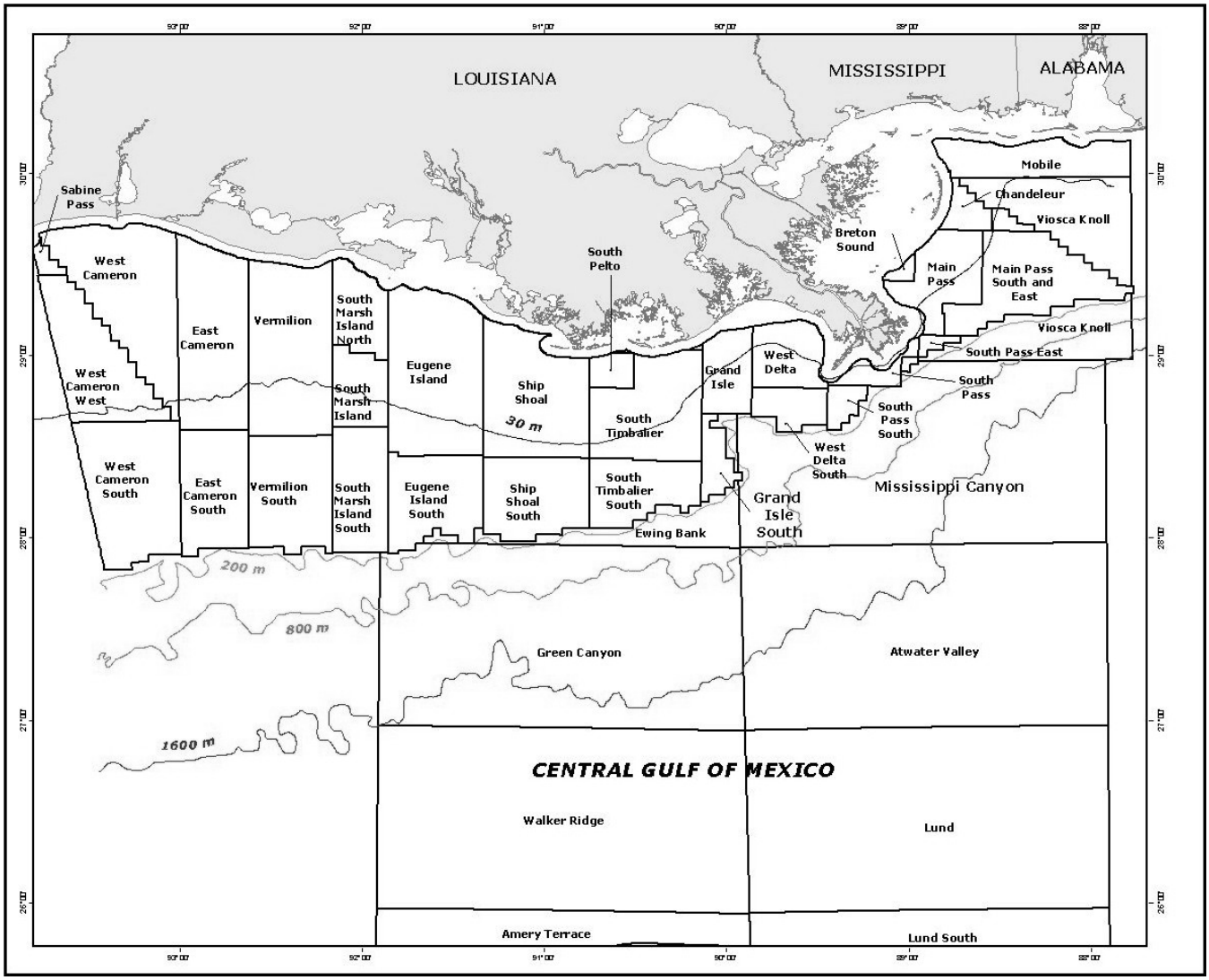
Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil and Gas.

Figure 6. Western Planning Area, Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region



Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil and Gas.

Figure 7. Central Planning Area, Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region



Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil and Gas.

Figure 8. Eastern Planning Area, Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region

Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil and Gas.