



Environmental Studies Program

Applied Science for Informed Decisions on Ocean Energy

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Environmental Studies Program (ESP) plans, conducts and oversees world-class scientific research to inform policy decisions regarding leasing and development of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy and mineral resources. BOEM works to manage the exploration and development of the nation's offshore resources in a way that appropriately balances economic growth, energy development, and environmental protection through oil and gas leases, renewable energy development, and environmental reviews and studies.

BOEM's **environmental studies** cover a broad range of disciplines including physical oceanography, atmospheric sciences, biology, protected species, social sciences and economics, submerged cultural resources and the environmental effects of energy development. BOEM is the leading contributor to the growing body of scientific knowledge about the nation's marine and coastal environment. Completed studies are available to the public through the Environmental Studies Program Information System (ESPIS), and technical summaries of more than 700 BOEM-sponsored environmental research projects, as well as copies of more than 2,000 research reports, are available for online full text search. To learn more about BOEM's ongoing work to further environmental studies, go to: <http://www.boem.gov/Environmental-Stewardship/Environmental-Studies/Environmental-Studies.aspx>.

The **OCS Scientific Committee** advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BOEM Director, on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the ESP. For more information about the OCS Scientific Committee, go to: <http://www.boem.gov/About-BOEM/Public-Engagement/Federal-Advisory-Committees/OCS-Scientific-Committee/Index.aspx>.

BOEM oversees scientific research conducted through contracts, cooperative agreements with state institutions or universities and interagency agreements. These arrangements enable the bureau to leverage resources, meet national priorities and satisfy common needs for robust scientific information. Many of the bureau's studies are collaborations with partners under the umbrella of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program.

In 2011, the Department of the Interior established a **Scientific Integrity Policy** to ensure and maintain the integrity of scientific and scholarly activities used in Departmental decision making. BOEM has fully adopted the policy and is committed to securing independent, peer-reviewed environmental research, which is considered during every stage of the decision-making process. The Department of Interior's Scientific Integrity Policy is available at: <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Salazar-Announces-New-Scientific-Integrity-Policy-and-Designation-of-Departmental-Science-Integrity-Officer.cfm>.

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