

Presentation Summary

Upgrading Air Quality Modeling in the Gulf of Mexico: Integrating Local and Remote Emissions with Photochemical Models - Alexis Fernandez, page 183.

Sahara dust is advected to the GOM region and may be a health issue (PPM2.5) for coastal residents. Dust affects OCS onshore areas and BOEM wants to quantify this contribution for NEPA studies. Prior studies have not examined the role of particulates in GOM in non-attainment areas.

COMMENTS: Output of photochemical model depends critically on the input forcing of the meteorology produced by WRF. Is there sufficient confidence in the output of the WRF model to justify this work and how is that output validated?

We understand that there are ways to identify Sahara dust (10% of total PPM) which still leaves 90% from other sources. Based on data alone, how accurately can dust from offshore oil and gas be distinguished from other industries including shipping?

Presentation Summary

Watersipora II: Biological Oceanographic Connectivity of Southern California Reefs and Manmade Structures - Susan Zaleski (page: 77)

Part of a previously proposed study to address larval transport and growth on oil platforms by this non-native bryozoan with a larval stage that lasts less than a day. Larval stages are passive drifters and larvae are released at unknown intervals and time scales.

Goal is to know distribution and connectivity among different locations including platforms and identify the seasonality of larval settlement. Transport will be analyzed on platforms using a 3D ROMS model. Results will help in the decommissioning of the study sites.

COMMENTS: Is this work also motivated by asking whether the presence of platforms has affected the spread of these bryozoans? The project should show better how its results should be used in BOEM decision making to prioritize this project among others. Decommissioning appears to be primarily a fiscal issue.

Presentation Summary

Development of a Very High-Resolution Regional Circulation Model of Beaufort Sea Nearshore Areas - Heather Crowley (page: 231)

The Alaska region needs to resolve the barrier islands and lagoons in Beaufort Sea to properly understand the coastal circulation. The project is in response to the Liberty Prospect (BP) and is important because the circulation in ice-covered and ice-free seas is different.

COMMENTS:

This study sounds good. We assume that the model will be a coupled ice-ocean version. Now, model validation must include sea ice not only in terms of its concentration and thickness but also validation of the seasonal cycle timing. We recommend that BOEM really push the resolution. Updated field observations should including better bathymetry and geography. Careful consideration of the thermodynamcis and fast ice are suggested.