

Social Sciences

Quantitative Assessment of Spatially Explicit Social Values Relative to Wind Energy Areas

- This is a very well-designed project, and important to BOEMs mission for renewable energy in the OCS.
- The social scientists on the Committee offer to review survey instrument questions, as this is a complex topic. Specifically, W. Kempton has done surveys in this area and offers to review.
- This depends on group homogeneity; do different groups place the different values on the same place? Keep in mind that strongly-held values, if ignored, may lead to reactions — this is another reason this study should be done.
- Consider whether study may want to repeat the same questions at a later point, since attitudes on this topic seem to be changing rapidly.
- If the survey is successful, consider using the values and attitudes survey template for other BOEM-regulated activities, such as decommissioning in the Gulf.

Alternative Energy Capacity Inventory in Coastal Alaska

- Original scope was to examine all possible renewables. We feel that is much too wide.
- The purpose was to find practical, implementable renewable resources. If that is the goal, the study can be narrowed simply to offshore wind resources, which are commercial and practical today.
- Alaska also has good wind resources on land, and land-based turbines are about 1/2 the cost of ocean ones. Thus a full assessment of Alaska practical renewables would include land-based turbines. (We recognise that land turbines may be outside of BOEM's scope.)

The Demographic Consequences of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Petroleum Industry

- We support the idea for this as a 2016 project.
- However, for a complete analysis, the study should include the extraordinary changes due to shale oil and gas exploration in the Gulf Coast regions.

Interdisciplinary Research at the Site of Three 19th Century Deepwater Shipwrecks-the Monterey Shipwrecks

- We commend the interdisciplinary design of this study.
- We encourage further research on the biological value and uniqueness of this resource, and the legal protection that it could offer.
- We recognize the potential for huge public interest in the results of this project.
- We recommend that the study proposal also define a point at which field work would be sufficient, and the project would be completed.
- We encourage this project to move forward.

Refining Maps of Ocean Use Compatibility and Cumulative Impacts for Ocean Energy Projects

- This is a bit like trying to do a stakeholder process as a study, rather than having the stakeholders in the room, participating in a process.
- Without stakeholder participation and consensus building, it is not clear what is the value of the maps and the determinations of compatibility.

General Comments

- The study suggested in the prior letter to the Director, on the cost of delay of renewable energy projects in the OCS. We note that this study was not in the listed studies, but we are glad to hear that it is moving into the procurement process.