

**Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Marine Minerals Program**

**Florida Sand Management Working Group Webinar**

**May 7, 2014, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

## **Summary**

### **I. Introduction**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)'s Marine Minerals Program held a webinar for the Florida Sand Management Working Group on May 7, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The purpose of the webinar was to provide updates on BOEM sand management activities; obtain feedback on projects and processes; and determine topics of discussion for the next meeting. The list of participants in the webinar is included as **Appendix A**, the agenda is found in **Appendix B**, and the presentations are available on the BOEM website: <http://www.boem.gov/Marine-Minerals-Program/>.

Jason Gershowitz and Elana Kimbrell, facilitators with Kearns and West, opened the webinar. They noted it was being recorded (the recording is found [HERE](#)). Jeff Reidenauer, Chief of the Marine Minerals Branch, reviewed the agenda and the goals of the webinar.

### **II. Obtaining an Agreement for OCS Sand: Terms and Conditions**

Jennifer Rose, BOEM, gave a presentation summarizing the types of agreements BOEM enters into regarding use of federal sand resources, and the basic terms of these agreements. She also addressed BOEM's leasing process, environmental review process, including the key environmental resources that are evaluated, and the required elements of Project Completion Reports. Ms. Rose displayed a list of current projects on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) off of Florida, and asked for participants to respond to the poll on the webinar screen if they were aware of any other projects that might be in the pipeline for the next five years.

Responses to the poll were as follows:

- Bob Krakowski – Collier County
- Lisa Lehnhoff – Walton County
- Mike McGarry – Brevard County Submerged Bar

### **III. Geological and Geophysical Authorization Informational Session**

Geoffrey Wikel, Chief of Environmental Coordination, gave an overview of BOEM's process for reviewing and authorizing geological and geophysical (G&G) activities. This topic was suggested at the previous Florida Sand Management Working Group Meeting in September 2013. The geological issues of potential concern are bottom-disturbing effects on benthic and archaeological resources, and vessel strike risk to marine mammals; the potential geophysical issues of concern are vessel strike risk and noise effects on marine mammals and sea turtles. Mr. Wikel explained the required forms and reports, and BOEM's recommendations to efficiently meet BOEM's requirements for applying for authorizations for G&G activities.

#### IV. Regional Sand Agreement Update

Ms. Rose gave a presentation summarizing Florida's Regional Sand Agreement, which involves a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between BOEM, USACE, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the five southeastern counties.

Questions from the participants included the following (*responses are in italics*):

- Is the regional agreement planned for southeastern Florida, or the entire state? *Ms. Rose responded that it is currently envisioned for the five southeastern counties.*
- Under what authorities will the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) be identifying project-specific needs and executing the MOA? *Jason Spinning, USACE, stated that the USACE is working on these questions. They will include this information in agreements, and will be prepared to respond to this question during scoping meetings.*
- It was noted that a number of local sponsors of the MOA are cities and towns. *Ms. Rose responded that localities could become parties to the MOA through addenda.*

#### V. Hurricane Sandy Cooperative Agreements Update

Jeff Waldner, BOEM, provided an update on BOEM's Hurricane Sandy Cooperative Agreements, which are planned with 13 Atlantic coastal states. He explained the history of cooperative agreements with the states, reviewed the objectives for these agreements and the desired outcomes, which include increased availability of data, a needs assessment and data gaps identification, development of collaborative web tools, and increased communication between federal and state stakeholders.

Questions and comments included the following (*responses are in italics*):

- Will BOEM be addressing the issue of competing interests in sand resources among local sponsors? *Mr. Waldner stated that the Cooperating Agreements are intended in part to help engage with the states and understand their competing interests. However, as Ms. Rose added, BOEM would prefer to avoid being in the position of prioritizing projects.*
- How will the States work with the Broad Agency Agreement (BAA) contractor (given that the Cooperative Agreement and BAA tasks seem to overlap)? *Mr. Waldner stated that the BAA is a data acquisition program BOEM recently announced, which encompasses the entire Atlantic coast. The state Cooperative Agreements are separate from the BAA, and are intended to compile existing data. They don't generally include data acquisition. Ms. Rose noted that BOEM will ask the BAA contractor to coordinate with each of the states, and the data will be made available to them.*
- When will the data collected under the BAA be made available to the states? *Ms. Rose stated that the data will ideally be provided as soon as it is available, or at least, by the end of the project's two-year timeline.*
- Does BOEM know how much of the BAA funding will be allocated to each state? *Ms. Rose stated that 40% will go toward offshore New Jersey and New York, and the division of the remainder is yet to be determined.*
- Will there be funding available to support state geologists accompanying the BAA contractor during data collection? *Ms. Rose stated that while 1-2 state geologists could be permitted to accompany the contractor during data collection, funding for their participation will not be provided.*
- Is there publicly available data on sand resources off of Collier County? *BOEM was unsure of whether there was data available on this.*

- Are BOEM's sand management activities being coordinated with the artificial reef development proposed off of Collier County in federal waters? It was suggested perhaps extraction could take place at the same time. *Mr. Reidenauer noted that he was not aware of the reef-building proposal, and asked that the participant contact him or Ms. Rose with information about it.* Another participant added that reef-building is proposed off of other counties as well, such as Escambia County.
- Are marine minerals being adequately considered in the offshore renewable energy planning process? *Mr. Reidenauer responded that BOEM is incorporating sand resources into the regional ocean data portals, and is coordinating with its Office of Renewable Energy Programs.*

## VI. FY2015 Proposed Studies

Doug Piatkowski, BOEM, reviewed the timeline for BOEM's Studies Development Program: on May 13, all of BOEM's proposed studies for FY15 would be presented to the Scientific Committee (a federal advisory committee comprised of stakeholder experts); BOEM would make its selections around September 2014; and awards would be made starting in March 2015. He described each of the studies proposed by the Marine Minerals Program, including one that is a request for continued funding (environmental monitoring on Canaveral Shoals).

Questions and comments from the participants included (*responses are in italics*):

- A participant requested that BOEM be sure the "Optimizing Use of Sand Resources" study includes input from the dredging community to avoid developing guidance that is not feasible in practice.
- Another participant pointed out, regarding the same study, that many of BOEM's partners actively try to re-use existing borrow sites to avoid using a previously undisturbed borrow area and the process that would involve (such as new environmental review and consultations). In addition, other federal agencies encourage re-use of sites to minimize disturbance of untouched areas. *Mr. Piatkowski suggested that the regional sand agreement and BAA approach is intended to improve efficiency through more strategic planning and a shorter timeline for consultations, and to come to agreement on how to use sand resources, given the best available science.*
- Will there be additional opportunity to review and provide input on the studies? *Mr. Waldner responded that BOEM welcomes input at any time, although there is a period of time after the procurement process begins when there are restrictions on communications about the studies. After awards are made, there will be additional opportunities for input.*

## VII. Wrap Up and Next Steps

Mr. Reidenauer thanked the webinar participants for joining, and reviewed the topics discussed. Ms. Kimbrell asked for suggestions of topics for the next sand management working group meeting, to be held before the end of 2014. She also encouraged participants to contact BOEM with any additional questions or comments. Contact information was provided (see below).

- One participant suggested that after studies are selected for funding, BOEM hold another webinar describing the scopes of the funded studies in more detail.

Webinar participants were asked to fill out a short evaluation form for the webinar to help improve future sand management working group interactions:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17Im2bZDMJ9JWe-5LylcXg0D8MSJlgyqmTEX8-nns4/viewform>

**BOEM Contact Information**

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Doug Piatkowski, Division of Environmental Assessment

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## Appendix A: List of Webinar Participants

Nicole Adimey, USFWS  
Lisa Armbruster, FSBPA  
Jennifer Bistyga, City of Boca Raton  
Richard Bouchard, St. Lucie County  
Robert Brantly, FDEP  
Al Browder, Olsen Associates  
Eddy Carter, GEC  
Christopher Champigny, Weeks Marine  
Jennifer Coor, FDEP  
Ken Craig, Taylor Engineering  
Chuck Dill, Alpine Ocean Seismic Survey  
Roxane Dow, FDEP  
Kathy Fitzpatrick, Martin County  
James Flocks, USGS  
Catherine Florko, FDEP  
Aubree Hershorin, USACE  
Danielle Irwin, FDEP  
Jack Kindinger, USGS  
Shana Kinsey-Carlson, FDEP  
Bob Krasowski, Naples resident  
Melanie Larenas, CB&I

Lisa Lehnhoff, USFWS  
Mike McGarry, Brevard County  
Tim Murphy, USACE  
Dan Phelps, FL Geological Survey  
Alex Reed, FDEP  
Sheldon Shuff, USACE  
Mark Sickles, Weeks Marine  
Rick Smith, Weeks Marine  
Jason Spinning, USACE  
Michael Stahl, Palm Beach County  
David Stites, Taylor Engineering  
Beau Suthard, CB&I  
Robbin Trindell, FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation  
Commission  
Michael Trudnak, Taylor Engineering  
Debbie Tucker, FDEP  
Michael Walther, Coastal Tech  
Robert Weber, Town of Palm Beach  
William Weeks, FDEP  
Mark White, USACE  
Pace Wilber, NOAA Fisheries

### BOEM

Doug Piatkowski  
Jennifer Rose  
Lora Turner  
Jeff Waldner  
Geoffrey Wikel

### Facilitators

Jason Gershowitz, Kearns & West  
Elana Kimbrell, Kearns & West

**Appendix B: Webinar Agenda**

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Marine Minerals Program**

**Florida Sand Management Working Group Webinar**

**Wednesday, May 7, 2014  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EST**

**AGENDA**

**Meeting Purpose/Objectives:**

- *Provide detailed information on how BOEM's leases are developed, including mitigation, and on geological and geophysical surveys*
- *Provide updates on funding opportunities, research efforts, coastal projects, and challenges faced*

10:00 a.m.	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review agenda and meeting objectives</li> </ul>
10:15 a.m.	<p><b>Obtaining an Agreement for OCS Sand: Terms and Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What are the necessary steps to acquiring a lease/MOA?</li> <li>➤ What drives the requirements?</li> <li>➤ What dictates whether an agreement will be a lease or an MOA, and what are the ramifications of each?</li> <li>➤ How are the terms and conditions settled upon, and how does BOEM use this information?</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A / Discussion</b></p>
10:45 a.m.	<p><b>Geophysical and Geological (G&amp;G) Authorization Informational Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introduction to G&amp;G authorizations</li> <li>➤ NEPA and consultations</li> <li>➤ Issues, turn-around time</li> <li>➤ MMP's role in G&amp;G reviews</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A / Discussion</b></p>

11:00 a.m.	<b>Regional Sand Agreement Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Intro</li><li>➤ NEPA</li><li>➤ MOA</li></ul> <b>Q&amp;A / Discussion</b>
11:15 a.m.	<b>Update on Hurricane Sandy Cooperative Agreements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ History of Cooperative Agreements</li><li>➤ Negotiated Agreements planned with 13 Atlantic Coastal States</li><li>➤ Objectives</li></ul> <b>Q&amp;A / Discussion</b>
11:30 a.m.	<b>FY 2015 Proposed Studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Studies Development Program</li><li>➤ Proposed Studies</li></ul> <b>Q&amp;A / Discussion</b>
11:55 a.m.	<b>Wrap Up &amp; Next Steps</b>
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>