

Alaska OCS Region: Environmental Studies Program



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Outline:

- Status Update
 - Brief Intro
 - FY12 Regional News
 - FY12 Studies News



Alaska Studies: extensive history...

- Since 1973, completed over 500 study reports and 300 peer-review pubs
- Funded \$360M+ (~\$1B)
- Maintains 50+ ongoing study projects
- In terms of scale and longevity, AK regional program is most comprehensive impact assessment data collection effort in world



Environmental Stewardship

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Environmental Studies - Alaska Region

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The Alaska Environmental Studies Program was initiated by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1974 in response to the Federal Government's decision to propose areas of Alaska for offshore gas and oil development. The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to conduct environmental studies to obtain information pertinent to sound leasing decisions as well as to monitor the human, marine and coastal environments.

Alaska Annual Studies Plan

The Plan contains brief profiles of ongoing and proposed studies. The Plan also describes background, strategic overview, projected Outer Continental Shelf activities, examples of affected decisions, information sorted by discipline, and information needs.

[2012 Alaska Studies Plan](#)
[Previous Years' Studies Plans](#)

Alaska Region Ongoing Studies

OCTOBER 2011. This table, updated quarterly, contains links to all studies that the Alaska Region's Environmental Studies Program is currently undertaking, and those that are in the planning stages. Studies are broken down into seven categories: Physical Oceanography, Fates and Effects, Babitat and Ecology, Marine Mammals and Protected Species, Social Systems, Information Management, and Integrated Studies.

Environmental Studies Program Information System (ESPIS)

ESPIS is a searchable database of all completed Environmental Studies Program reports. It includes technical summaries of more than 700 BOEM-sponsored environmental research projects, and more than 2,000 full research reports. The information is grouped geographically by BOEM region – Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic, Pacific, or Alaska. A "national" study is research that pertains to more than one geographic region (for example, the effects of wind on oil spill spreading).

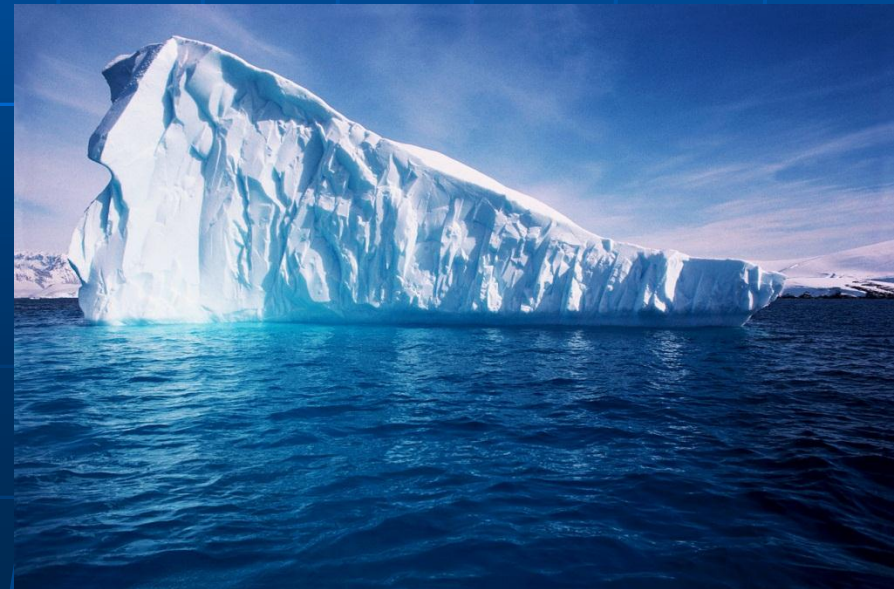
Notable ALASKA News

- Personnel Changes
- Regulatory Changes: Air Quality; CIAP
- 5 Year Programmatic DEIS (2012-17)
 - includes BF, CH, and CI
- SEIS for CH LS 193 (Oct 2011)
- Exploration/Development Activities
 - Shell Revised Camden Bay EP (2012)
 - Shell Revised Chukchi Sea EP (2012)
 - ConocoPhillips; Stat Oil



Notable Studies News

- AK Marine Science Symposium
- Expanding Research Coordination
 - NSSI/LCC/NPRB
 - NOAA; USGS; CMI
 - AK Climate SC
 - Shell/NSB
- UAF Science & Tech Center



Programmatic Trends

- Extension and Refinement of Successful Projects (long-term data)
- Emphasis on Synthesis Reporting
- Expansion of Integrated Studies
- Int'l collaboration (Canada/Russia)
- Enhance spill response
- Citizen Science
- Community health
- Enhance outreach component

Questions?

