

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM: Studies Development Plan FY 2012–2014

Region: Headquarters

Planning Areas: All

Title: Enhancement of the Environmental Studies Program Information System (NT-12-01)

BOEM Information Need(s) to be Addressed: BOEM needs a more efficient and easily accessible way to provide public access to data and information collected from environmental studies. The Environmental Studies Program Information System (ESPIS) is the portal to all scientific research generated by the program and is the best way for all those interested to understand and use the reports and products of Environmental Studies Program (ESP) projects. Key users of ESPIS include our own scientists, other Federal and State agencies, academicians, non-governmental organizations and the general public.

Cost Range: (in thousands) \$800-1,000

Period of Performance: FY 2012-2014

Description:

Background: The Environmental Studies Program Information System is the primary mechanism by which the BOEM Environmental Studies Program (ESP) shares the results of scientific investigations with the public. Currently ESPIS is designed to provide reports, with limited capability to provide other information such as data files, video, and images. However, there is an increasing demand to provide information besides reports to scientists, local and state government, and regional ocean planning bodies. In addition, recent Executive Order 13366 requires that each Federal agency “be held accountable for managing its own information assets by keeping them current, easily accessible, and consistent with Federal standards.” An improved ESPIS system will facilitate sharing results of studies with the public and help BOEM meet Federal requirements and standards for data.

The enhancements to ESPIS will work in concert with a related effort to provide support to the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre (MMC). ESPIS makes the synthesized products of ESP projects available while the MMC will make selected datasets available within a web based viewer. Together, the two efforts make all of the information, data and products of ESP research fully available to any users.

Objectives: The objective of this project is to enhance the ability of the ESPIS system to provide improved public access to data and information.

Methods: The ESPIS database will be redesigned to allow greater functionality such as:

- Adding the ability to store, retrieve and search multiple media types such as geospatial data sets, images, video, audio, and other project related files.
- Enhancing the ability to search the database.
- Providing the geospatial location (“footprint) of all studies completed to date.

- Allowing linkages with the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre
- Creating an interface for uploading and maintaining data.

Revised Date: April 8, 2011

