



## **FY 2023 Tribal Consultation Report**

Prepared by members of BOEM's Tribal Working Group: Michael Haller, David Ball, Laura Mansfield, Christopher Page, Liz Oliver, and Jeffrey Brooks.

Edited by: Marissa Knodel, Jeffrey Brooks, Jennafer Foreman, Jessica Bravo, Russell Yerkes, and William Y. Brown.

Date Prepared: December 8, 2023

Approving Official: Hillary Renick, BOEM Tribal Liaison Officer



## **2023 Department of the Interior Tribal Consultation Annual Report**

This annual report [<sup>1</sup>] summarizes the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Tribal consultations and related activities during Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. BOEM consults on a government-to-government basis with federally recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native villages and consults with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporations. BOEM conducts these consultations in accordance with the Department's and BOEM's policies and procedures for consultation (512 DM 4, 5, 6, and 7) following the consensus seeking model.

### **1. Summarize and list all consultation topics.**

Topics of consultation in FY 2023 included renewable energy activities in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico regions; conventional energy activities in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska regions; carbon sequestration; marine minerals activities; and environmental studies.

#### **Renewable Energy**

##### *Atlantic*

In FY 2023, BOEM continued advancing renewable energy development along the Atlantic Coast. BOEM advanced the wind energy area identification process in preparation for potential offshore wind lease sales offshore the U.S. central Atlantic coast (comprising areas offshore Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina) and the Gulf of Maine (comprising areas offshore Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts). BOEM also consulted on several projects and planning efforts for offshore wind development for areas leased along the U.S. Northeast Coast.

Formal and informal consultation and listening sessions occurred on the following activities and projects:

- Atlantic Coast offshore wind transmission planning efforts.
- Guidance on information needed to issue a notice of intent to conduct an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act for a construction and operations plan (“NOI Checklist”).
- Renewable energy modernization rulemaking.
- Atlantic Shores South (Lease OCS-A 0499), off the coast of New Jersey.
- Beacon Wind (Lease OCS-A 0520), off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- Carolina Long Bay (Lease OCS-A 0545 and 0546), off the coasts of North and South Carolina.
- Central Atlantic Wind Energy Areas, off the coasts of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.
- Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (Lease OCS-A 0483), off the coast of Virginia.

---

<sup>1</sup> Required by Department of the Interior Manual sections [512 DM 4.9](#) and [512 DM 6.7](#).

- Empire Wind (Lease OCS-A 0512), off the coasts of New York and New Jersey.
- Gulf of Maine commercial and research leasing, off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.
- New England Wind (OCS-A 0534), off the coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- New York Bight Leases (OCS-A 0537, OCS-A 0538, OCS-A 0539, OCS-A 0541, OCS-A 0542, and OCS-A 0544), off the coasts of New York and New Jersey.
- Ocean Wind 1 (Lease OCS-A 0498), off the coast of New Jersey.
- Revolution Wind (Lease OCS-A 0486), off the coasts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- Vineyard Wind 1 (Lease OCS-A 0501), off the coast of Massachusetts.

### ***Gulf of Mexico***

Throughout FY 2023, BOEM implemented the authorization process for competitive wind energy leasing for the first offshore wind energy lease sale held in the Gulf of Mexico Region. This process included publishing the proposed and final sale notices on February 22, 2023, and July 21, 2023, respectively, and holding the lease sale on August 29, 2023. The sale resulted in one lease area receiving a high bid. Throughout this process, BOEM coordinated with several Tribes interested in BOEM activities in the Gulf of Mexico through both the Section 106 process as well as offering government-to-government consultation. The lease that was awarded as part of the first auction includes a stipulation requiring the development of a Native American Tribal Communication Plan to ensure interested tribes are engaged throughout the development of the lease.

Additionally, the BOEM sent letters informing interested Tribes that BOEM was considering holding a second offshore wind energy lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico and inviting formal consultation. BOEM also invited the Tribes to participate in a roundtable discussion regarding the potential second lease sale.

### ***Pacific***

BOEM regularly invites engagement with up to 84 federally recognized Tribes in California, Oregon, and Washington, as well as with numerous non-recognized Tribes in California. Consultation and engagement efforts in FY 2023 centered on:

- Wind energy leasing activities offshore California.
- Oregon offshore wind energy planning, including identification of draft wind energy areas and consultation on development of a programmatic agreement for National Historic Preservation Act section 106 activities related to wind energy development offshore Oregon.
- Unsolicited lease requests for wind energy development offshore Washington.
- Renewable Energy Modernization Rule.

- Fisheries mitigation guidance.

### ***Alaska***

BOEM convened a renewable energy roundtable discussion involving a mix of Tribal, industry, Federal, and State of Alaska representatives to focus on potential renewable energy activities in the Cook Inlet. This discussion offered an opportunity for attendees to build and develop relationships, share information, and gauge interest for renewable energy development in the region. BOEM continues to engage with the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) through a cooperative agreement that provides recruitment and outreach opportunities to Alaska Native middle school, high school, under-graduate, graduate, and post-doc students.

### **Carbon Sequestration**

BOEM emailed a notice to all federally recognized Tribal Nations on May 1, 2023, about a proposed, joint BOEM and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) carbon sequestration rulemaking. The Aquinnah Wampanoag, Blue Lake Rancheria, Makah, Mashantucket Pequot, Mashpee Wampanoag, Pinoleville Pomo, and Southern Ute Tribe expressed interest to consult on the proposed rulemaking.

### **Conventional Energy**

BOEM continued to coordinate and consult with Tribal Nations regarding conventional energy development in the Gulf of Mexico Region. BOEM sent a letter to Tribes on October 10, 2022, to notify them a draft supplemental environmental impact statement for Gulf of Mexico oil and gas Lease Sales 259 and 261. BOEM invited the Tribes to engage in government-to-government consultation on the draft statement. BOEM also sent a letter to Tribes on September 29, 2023, to notify them of BOEM's intent to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement for oil and gas development on the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). BOEM invited them to engage in government-to-government consultation.

In addition to the lease-specific consultations, BOEM continued to consult with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe regarding the financial assurance rulemaking, including a government-to-government meeting held on June 28, 2023.

### **Environmental Studies**

BOEM continues to invite participation of Tribes and indigenous communities on environmental studies in the Pacific Region, including the following:

- West Coast Tribal Cultural Landscapes (PC-21-01): This 4-year interagency effort, awarded to the Udall Foundation's National Center on Environmental Conflict Resolution, collaborates with interested West Coast Tribes to proactively identify areas of Tribal significance that need to be considered during the planning and development of offshore energy activities.

- Ancient Landforms Offshore Washington (PC-22-05): This 4-year cooperative effort, awarded to Oregon State University, includes direct involvement with the Quinault Indian Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office. The effort will fill an existing data gap in BOEM's regional model of submerged paleolandforms off the West Coast by integrating industry-standard geophysical survey data with indigenous knowledge.

## **2. List of all the Tribes consulted**

### **Atlantic**

BOEM invited 30 Tribal governments to consult on Atlantic offshore wind activities:

- Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Catawba Nation
- Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Eastern Division
- Delaware Nation
- Delaware Tribe of Indians
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
- Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
- Mi'kmaq Nation
- Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut
- Monacan Indian Nation
- Nansemond Indian Nation
- Narragansett Indian Nation
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians, Indian Township Reservation
- Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians, Pleasant Point Reservation
- Penobscot Indian Nation
- Rappahannock Tribe
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Shawnee Tribe
- Shinnecock Indian Nation
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Band of Mohican Indians
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma

- Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

In addition to the above, State-recognized Tribes, Tribal organizations, and non-Atlantic Tribes participated in BOEM's national consultations and listening sessions related to renewable energy. These include:

- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe
- Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas
- Makah Tribe
- Menominee Indian Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
- United South and Eastern Tribes

### **Gulf of Mexico**

BOEM invited 24 Tribal governments to consult on Gulf of Mexico activities:

- Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
- Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
- Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Shawnee Tribe

- Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Tonkawa Tribe
- Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

## **Pacific**

BOEM invited 84 Tribal governments to consult on Pacific Region activities:

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Barona Band of Mission Indians
- Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
- Big Lagoon Rancheria
- Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
- Big Valley Band of Pomo
- Blue Lake Rancheria
- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community
- Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria
- Cahuilla Band of Indians
- Campo Kumeyaay Nation
- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria
- Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Coquille Indian Tribe
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians
- Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
- Elem Indian Colony
- Elk Valley Rancheria
- Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- Fort Bidwell Indian Community
- Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki Indians
- Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians
- Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake

- Hoh Tribe
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Hopland Band of Pomo Indians
- Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel
- Inaja-Cosmit Band of Indians
- Jamul Indian Village
- Karuk Tribe
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria
- Klamath Tribes
- Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation
- Koi Nation of Northern California
- La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians
- La Posta Band of Diegueño Mission Indians
- Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians
- Lytton Rancheria
- Makah Tribe
- Manchester Point Arena Band of Pomo Indians
- Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
- Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California
- Pala Band of Mission Indians
- Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians
- Pinoleville Pomo Nation
- Pit River Tribe
- Potter Valley Tribe
- Quartz Valley Indian Reservation
- Quileute Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Ramona Band of Cahuilla
- Redding Rancheria
- Redwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Resighini Rancheria
- Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
- Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians
- Round Valley Indian Tribes
- San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
- Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians



- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Shoalwater Bay Tribe
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
- Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
- Tachi-Yokut Tribe
- Tolowa Dee-ni` Nation
- United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
- Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Wilton Rancheria
- Wiyot Tribe
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
- Yurok Tribe

In addition to the above, BOEM invited engagement with the following non-recognized Tribes in California:

- Coastal Band of Chumash Nation
- Northern Chumash Tribal Council
- Salinan Tribe of Monterey and SLO Counties
- Xolon Salinan Tribe
- yak tit<sup>y</sup>u tit<sup>y</sup>u yak tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe

### **Alaska**

BOEM offered over two dozen Tribes, Tribal entities, and ANCSA Corporations an opportunity to either consult or meet about OCS issues related to Cook Inlet, Lease Sale 258, or potential renewable energy projects. Tribes and Tribal Entities:

- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe (IRA)
- Chickaloon Native Village
- Native Village of Port Graham
- Native Village of Nanwalek
- Seldovia Village Tribe
- Ninilchik Traditional Council
- Salamatof Tribal Council
- Native Village of Tyonek
- Eklutna Tribe
- Knik Tribal Council

- Native of Afognak
- Native Village of Akhiok
- Native Village of Karluk
- Sun aq Tribe (Kodiak)
- Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor
- Native Village of Ouzinki
- Native of Port Lions

#### ANCSA Corporations

- Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
- Chickaloon-Moose Creek Native Association, Inc.
- Cully Corporation
- English Bay Corporation
- Koniaq Corporation
- Port Graham Corporation
- Seldovia Native Association, Inc.
- Tyonek Native Corporation

### **3. List the location of each Consultation by City and State**

#### **Atlantic**

BOEM hosted most consultation meetings related to Atlantic renewable energy activities virtually. Individual in-person consultations and meetings occurred in Penobscot, Maine; Washington, DC; Mohegan, Connecticut; and Indian Township Reservation and Pleasant Point Reservation (*Sipiyak*) in Maine. Consultations addressed projects off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, North and South Carolina.

#### **Gulf of Mexico**

BOEM held all Gulf of Mexico related Tribal consultations and informational meetings virtually.

#### **Pacific**

BOEM hosted several Pacific consultation and engagement meetings virtually. In-person consultations occurred in Neah Bay, Washington (Makah Tribe); Forks, Washington (Hoh Tribe); La Push, Washington (Quileute Tribe); Taholah, Washington (Quinault Indian Nation); Tokeland, Washington (Shoalwater Bay Tribe); Coos Bay, Oregon (Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians); and North Bend, Oregon (Coquille Indian Tribe).

## **Alaska**

BOEM hosted one virtual consultation with the Kenaitze Tribe. BOEM received several informal verbal inputs from the Seldovia Tribe regarding sensitive areas of Cook Inlet in nearby waters.

### **3. Summarize and list all the Issues and Recommendations**

#### **Atlantic**

Tribal Nations have expressed several concerns with respect to the development of offshore wind energy projects. Generally, these concerns are related to the speed at which renewable energy projects are developed and to the limited Tribal capacity to participate in multiple reviews simultaneously. Tribes have expressed several concerns related to the potential impacts from offshore wind construction, including:

- Impacts to marine mammals with a specific emphasis on the North Atlantic right whale as well as other marine life, such as underwater vegetation, fin fish, shellfish, and the American eel.
- Impacts to accessing fishing and shellfish grounds; impacts to commercial and cultural fishing.
- Visual impacts, often related to obstructed views of the sunrise and sunset.
- The cumulative effects of all planned offshore wind energy projects.
- Impacts to water quality from sediment disturbance, as well as the potential for release of chemical pollutants.
- Impacts from cable placement and landfall locations.
- Impacts to sites of religious and cultural significance, including traditional cultural properties and places, and areas located on Tribal lands.
- The need for Tribes to be invited versus required signatories on applicable section 106 agreements and environmental reviews
- Impacts from vessel traffic, including potential whale and marine mammal strikes.

Tribes also questioned the sufficiency and enforcement of mitigation measures and future decommissioning plans. Tribes also raised concern about ancillary effects, such as the effects from supply chain issues (e.g., new construction of ports and turbine manufacturing plants). Tribes recommended that BOEM work with Tribes earlier in BOEM's leasing process and provide funding for Tribes to review BOEM and developer documents. They also recommended that BOEM should treat Tribes as partners in the offshore wind leasing process and that BOEM should provide mechanisms in its leases for Tribes to benefit from offshore wind lease sales. United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) recommended a moratorium or pause on leasing activities pending additional analysis and procedural changes.

## **Gulf of Mexico**

As part of consultations on Gulf of Mexico renewable energy activities, Tribes expressed interest in reviewing any cultural resources-related reports regarding such activities, being notified when any cultural resource is inadvertently discovered, and being included in future section 106 consultations. BOEM committed to sending Tribes any cultural resources-related reports and including the pertinent Tribes in future section 106 consultations. Additionally, one Tribe expressed concerns regarding submerged paleolandscapes, specifically the possible presence of ancestor-related archeological sites within those landscapes (especially burial resources) and how any proposed offshore energy project might affect those sites. BOEM will ensure this Tribe is included in section 106 consultations on offshore renewable undertakings.

BOEM consulted with Southern Ute Tribe, doing business as Red Willow on the proposed financial assurance rule. The Tribe would like to stay informed as the rulemaking proceeds.

## **Pacific**

Multiple Tribes across the West Coast expressed issues like those identified in the Atlantic. The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) recommended a stop to leasing pending a programmatic environmental review of offshore wind energy activities along the West Coast. Additionally, the following concerns were also raised:

- Need for a programmatic environmental impact statement for wind activities offshore the West Coast.
- Tribal consent (free, prior, and informed) for activities within BOEM's jurisdiction.
- Impacts to commercial, ceremonial, and subsistence fishing, including impacts to migratory fish and marine mammal species of importance to Tribes, and displacement of commercial fishing activities from other areas into adjudicated treaty fishing areas.
- Impacts to migratory species of spiritual importance.
- Impacts to sacred and important viewsheds, including potential traditional cultural properties.
- Concerns over impacts to sacred sites onshore from project buildouts and port improvements.
- Lack of capacity to fully engage in the Federal process.
- Questions about how BOEM is balancing the administration's goals for offshore wind energy development and meaningful Tribal engagement and consultation.

## **4. Summarize successes and accomplishments and include recommendations for improvements to the consultation process.**

### **Bureau-wide**

BOEM attended regional inter-Tribal meetings such as the NCAI , USET, ATNI, Alaska Federation of Natives , and other requested regional and national meetings to increase visibility and to answer questions from Tribal and ANCSA corporation members.

BOEM provided bureau-wide staff training to include components of Federal Indian law; obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act; cultural competency; regional Tribal history and Department related actions; Tribal co-management and co-stewardship.

BOEM facilitated cultural exchanges between the Wampanoag and Inupiat, which was requested by the Tribes to encourage knowledge-sharing amongst New England ‘first contact’ Tribal nations with Alaska Native communities, and with other Algonkian speaking tribal groups in the Pacific Region.

*Figures 1 and 2 below, Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribal Council members Jonathan James Perry and retired U.S. Army Sergeant Major Kevin Devine, who served as an airborne Ranger, during part of the cultural exchange at the Yurok Indian Tribe (canoe with Taralyn Ipina) and Hoopa Valley Indian Tribe in northern California (Fig 2, at Hupa village with Danielle Vigil-Masten).*



## **Atlantic**

BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP) issued a \$1 million indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract to three Indian small businesses to strengthen Tribal capacity for document review related to offshore wind projects. The IDIQ allows BOEM to provide support for specific tasks, such as review of construction and operations plans, environmental analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act, and agreements under the National Historic Preservation Act.

BOEM's Office of Environmental Programs issued its first cooperative agreement with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe for \$300,000. The funding will assist the Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribes in writing an ethnography of their traditional cultural landscape in Vineyard Sound. BOEM also is working with the Shinnecock Indian Nation under a Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation award of \$600,000 for conservation planning and ecosystem management.

## **Gulf of Mexico**

As part of BOEM's Environmental Studies Program, BOEM's New Orleans office awarded a project (GM-23-04) to analyze how the loss of archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties due to coastal land loss and nearshore development activities affects coastal communities in the Gulf of Mexico. As part of this study, BOEM will work with coastal communities and Tribes proactively to understand their perspectives about submerging and submerged archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties. The study will examine the preferences of coastal communities and Tribes for how State and Federal agencies should manage, document, and mitigate these resources.

## **Pacific**

To help address concerns raised by Tribes in the Pacific Region, BOEM continued an inter-agency agreement (PC-21-01) with the Udall Foundation's National Center on Environmental Conflict Resolution. This work with interested Tribes will develop cultural landscape assessments of areas of Tribal concern that could be impacted by offshore wind energy development. The cultural landscape approach recognizes that places and resources can have multiple meanings and levels of significance based on how people from different cultures, times, or backgrounds have interacted with the respective landscapes. BOEM is implementing this holistic approach to enhance future consultations and decision-making processes that take into consideration the importance of these areas to Tribes.

BOEM continued working with Oregon State University (OSU) and the Quinault Indian Nation's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (QIN THPO) to further refine the model for understanding and identifying submerged pre-contact landforms offshore the West Coast (PC-22-05). Submerged pre-contact landforms are areas that may have once been inhabited but now lie buried offshore due to sea-level inundation over the last 20,000 years. OSU and the QIN THPO submitted this study idea to BOEM, and BOEM awarded the contract in September 2022. QIN

THPO is a sub-contractor and a key member of the research team. The goal is to create a better model of submerged paleolandforms off the West Coast by integrating industry-standard geophysical survey data with indigenous knowledge through consultation with coastal Washington Tribes. In May 2023, the research team hosted a workshop for the QIN General Council to introduce the project and address questions.

BOEM's Camarillo office is utilizing the OREP-issued IDIQ contract (referenced above) to enhance Tribal capacity with West Coast Tribes with wind energy reviews offshore California and Oregon. BOEM is also working with Tribes along the central California coast to support a traditional cultural property nomination.

### **Alaska**

BOEM's successes and accomplishments include a broad range of activities and engagements with Alaska Native Tribal members. BOEM puts forth a continual effort to engage with Tribes, ANCSA corporations, and communities on topics related to conventional energy leasing, renewable energy development, and marine mammals in the Alaska Region.

BOEM sponsored the in-person Alaska Marine Science Symposium with more than 800 people participating, including marine scientists, Tribal environmental specialists, educators, resource managers, and the public. Presenters discussed the latest marine research being conducted in Alaskan waters.

BOEM participated in 10 Tribal conferences and conventions in Alaska during FY 2023, including the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention, the BIA Providers Conference, the Alaska Forum on the Environment, and the Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference. BOEM's participation provided an opportunity to engage with Tribal members from across Alaska and the Nation on a wide range of topics including migratory birds, energy development, resource protection, and fishing interests.

BOEM continues to foster a strong relationship with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC). BOEM and BSEE met with AEWC leaders in Washington, DC, to set up subsequent consultation on BSEE's proposed rule on oil spill response plans. BOEM regularly engages with AEWC about upcoming AEWC-hosted conferences and potential BOEM participation to report research updates. BOEM has routinely provided the AEWC with updates and presentations about ongoing marine mammal and ocean-related topics.

BOEM also hosted a series of in-person meetings to discuss environmental studies: Subsistence Harvest and Iñupiaq Knowledge of Beluga Whales for Wainwright, Alaska (AK-20-06) and Traditional Knowledge Implementation: Accessing Arctic Community Panels of Subject Matter Experts (AK-15-05). These studies are ongoing and involve working closely with the Village of Wainwright (Ulguniq) Tribal Council, the Olgoonik Corporation, the City of Wainwright, and

the North Slope Borough's Department of Wildlife Management located at Ilisagvik College in Utqiagvik, Alaska.



*Figure 3.* The waterfront in Utqiagvik, Alaska.