

# BOEM

Bureau of Ocean Energy  
Management

## BOEM Overview

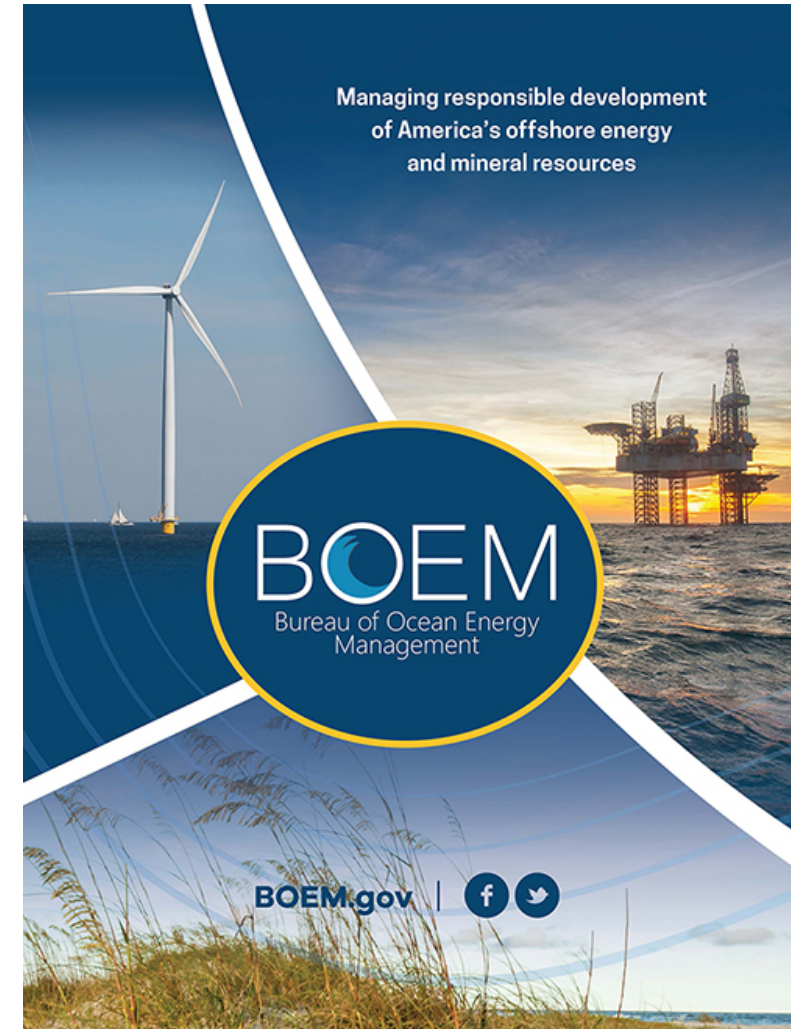
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Tribal Ocean Summit  
March 2021



# BOEM's Mission

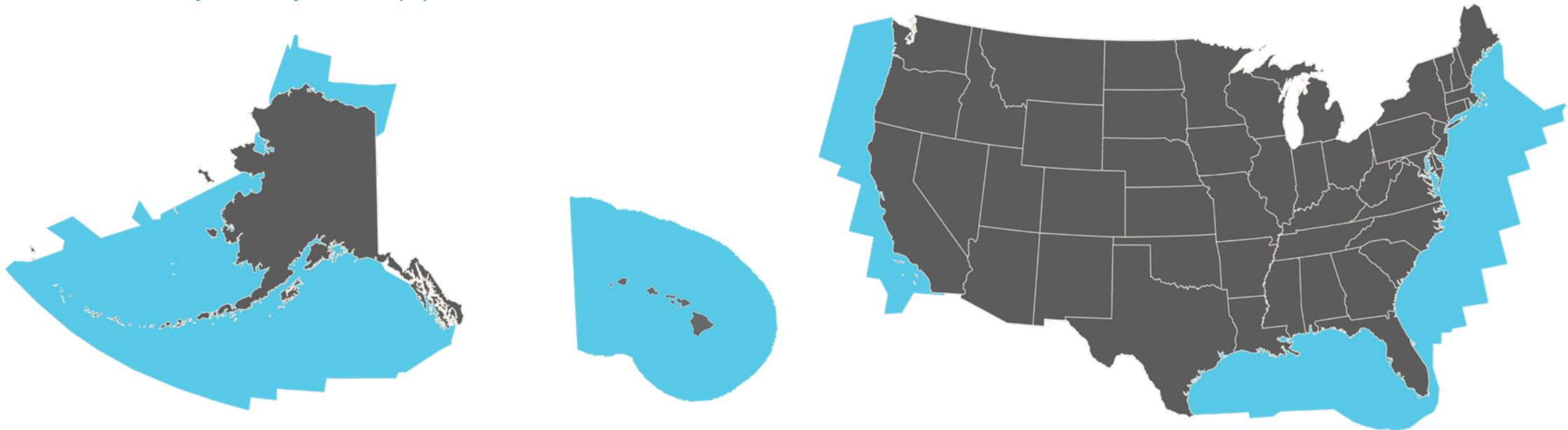
**BOEM's mission is to manage the development of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way.**



# Outer Continental Shelf

The U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is the area of submerged lands and seafloor between state jurisdiction\* to 200 nautical miles (nm) from shore.

"The OCS is a **vital national resource** reserve held by the federal government for the public, which should be made available for **expeditious and orderly development**, subject to **environmental safeguards**, in a manner which is consistent with the maintenance of competition and other national needs." **Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) | Sec 3(3)**



*\*State jurisdiction over the seafloor extends out to 3nm, except Texas and the Florida Gulf Coast, which extend out to 9 nm.*

# BOEM's Area of Responsibility

**BOEM is the bureau within the Department of the Interior (DOI) responsible for stewardship of our nation's offshore energy resources. It manages almost 2.5 billion acres of OCS.**

- BOEM has a broad area of responsibility that includes:



## **Oil and Gas**

Manage offshore oil and gas exploration and development activities on the OCS.



## **Renewables**

Oversee the development of renewable energy resources in federal waters.



## **Marine Minerals**

Manage non-energy minerals, primarily sand and gravel, on the OCS.



## **Environmental**

Ensure that science-based environmental protection is at the forefront of BOEM's decision making.

BOEM manages the nation's offshore resources to ensure that exploration and development activities are conducted in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

# Oil and Gas

- Offshore oil and gas are large contributors to our national energy portfolio. **Nearly 1/6 of our nation's oil** comes from OCS resources.
- BOEM estimates that in FY 2019, the offshore oil and gas industry contributed:
  - **More than \$30 billion** to the U.S. economy
  - **More than 275,000 jobs** (approximately 65 percent of these are in the Gulf Coast states; the remainder are spread throughout the U.S.)
  - **\$225 million** in revenue sharing programs to Gulf of Mexico states, Alaska and California
  - **\$230 million** in grant programs through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Historic Preservation Fund



# Oil and Gas



- The OCS Lands Act (OCSLA) gives BOEM the authority to grant leases for the exploration, development and production of oil and gas on the OCS.
- BOEM conducts the planning, leasing, and plan review processes for OCS oil and gas exploration and development activities.
- BOEM ensures that these activities are conducted in a safe and environmentally sound manner, and that the public receives fair market value for the use of OCS energy resources.
- OCSLA requires BOEM to prepare, periodically revise and maintain a National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program).

# National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

- The **National OCS Program** establishes a schedule of oil and gas lease sales for the U.S. OCS.
- The schedule specifies the size, timing and location of potential leasing activity to best meet the nation's energy needs for the five-year period under consideration.
- The program considers the potential for environmental damage, oil and gas discovery and adverse impacts on the coastal zone.
- It also assures that U.S. taxpayers receive fair market value for the rights to produce OCS energy and mineral resources.
- For more information, visit: <https://www.boem.gov/oil-and-gas-energy>





# Oil and Gas

- In January 2021, the Biden Administration issued [Executive Order 14008](#) that directs DOI to pause new oil and natural gas leasing on public lands and offshore waters, concurrent with a comprehensive review of the federal oil and gas program. The order:
  - **Does not** restrict energy activities on private or state lands, or lands that the United States holds in trust or restricted status for tribes or individual Indians.
  - **Does not** impact existing operations or permits for valid, existing leases, which are continuing to be reviewed and approved.
  - **Will provide** a chance to review the federal oil and gas program to ensure that it serves the public interest and to restore balance on America's public lands and waters to benefit current and future generations.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/27/fact-sheet-president-biden-takes-executive-actions-to-tackle-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad-create-jobs-and-restore-scientific-integrity-across-federal-government/>



BOEM manages development of renewable energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf through conscientious planning, stakeholder and tribal engagement, comprehensive environmental analysis, and sound technical review.

# Renewable Energy

- BOEM is responsible for overseeing offshore renewable energy development in federal waters in an economically and environmentally sound manner. The bureau:
  - Evaluates the potential impacts on ocean users, historic and cultural resources and the marine environment.
  - Uses a multi-phased process to grant access to ocean areas that are suitable for wind energy development



# Renewable Energy Leasing Process



## Planning & Analysis

~ 2 YEARS

- Intergovernmental Task Force
- Request for Information or Call for Information and Nominations
- Area Identification
- Environmental Reviews



## Leasing

~ 1-2 YEARS

- Publish Leasing Notices
- Conduct Auction or Negotiate Lease Terms
- Issue Lease(s)



## Site Assessment

UP TO 5 YEARS

- Site Characterization
- Site Assessment Plan



## Construction & Operations

~ 2 YEARS (+25)

- Construction & Operations Plan
- Facility Design Report and Fabrication & Installation Report
- Decommissioning
- Environmental and Technical Reviews

# Renewable Energy

- BOEM engages key stakeholders throughout these processes to ensure early communication with interested and potentially affected parties, including tribes, which is critical to managing potential conflicts.
- In addition, the bureau has established **Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Forces** for areas where there is interest in developing offshore renewable energy. Each task force collects and shares information that would be useful and relevant to BOEM's decision making process. Federally recognized tribes are invited to be on the task forces.
- BOEM is also integrating regional perspectives into the task forces to better utilize the shared regional interests and concerns between states.
- For more information, visit: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy>

# Renewable Energy

The January 2021 [Executive Order 14008](#) also addresses renewable energy on public lands and offshore waters. The order directs DOI to:

- **Review siting and permitting processes to identify steps to increase renewable energy production on those lands and in those waters with the goal of:**
  - doubling offshore wind by 2030;
  - ensuring robust protection for our lands, waters, and biodiversity; and
  - creating good jobs.
- **Consult with relevant federal agencies, state and tribal authorities, project developers, and other interested parties.**
- **Engage with Tribal authorities** regarding the development and management of renewable and conventional energy resources on Tribal lands.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/27/fact-sheet-president-biden-takes-executive-actions-to-tackle-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad-create-jobs-and-restore-scientific-integrity-across-federal-government/>

BOEM manages the nation's Outer Continental Shelf non-energy marine minerals, including sand and gravel for coastal restoration, through environmentally responsible coordination with governmental partners, stakeholder engagement, and mission-focused scientific research.

# Marine Minerals



- BOEM manages non-energy marine minerals (sand, gravel, etc.) in the OCS in a manner that facilitates access, promotes responsible use and minimizes or avoids environmental impacts.
- BOEM is the only federal agency with the authority to lease access to offshore sand resources.
- Marine minerals are used primarily in coastal restoration projects, including beach nourishment and coastal habitat restoration, with increased attention to building resilience to deal with future storms and rising sea levels.

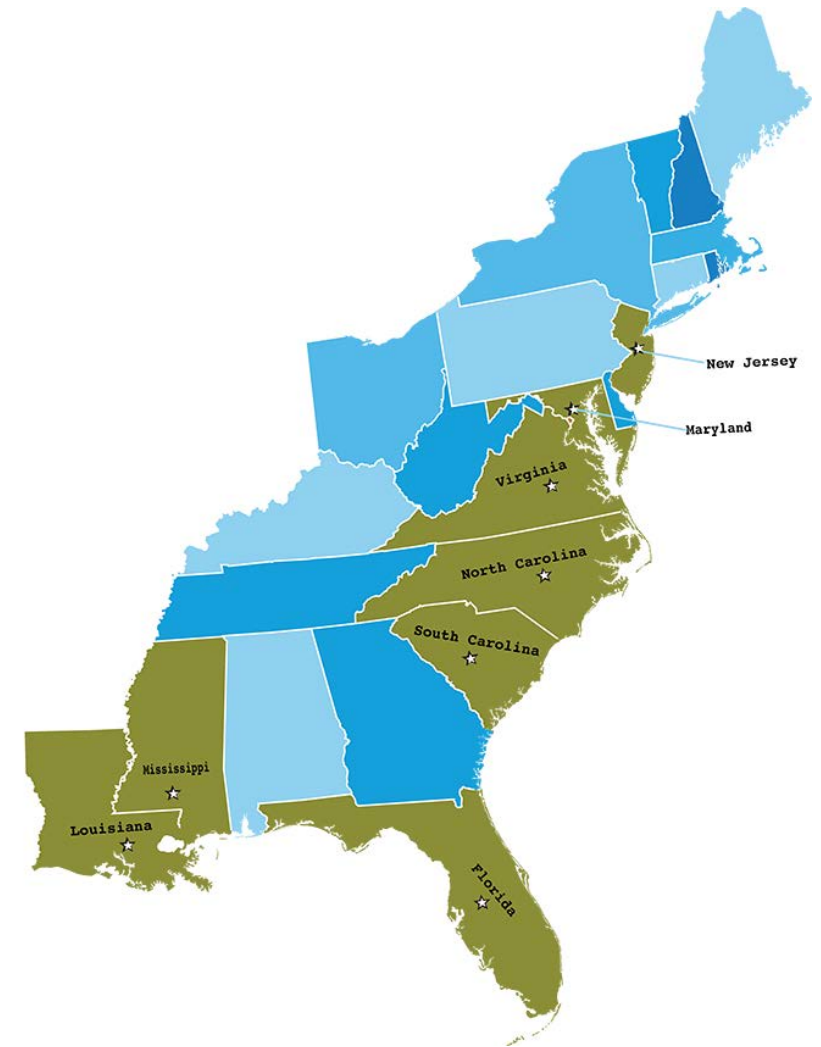


# Marine Minerals

- To date, BOEM has authorized:
  - **more than 165 million** cubic yards of OCS material for
  - **60** coastal restoration projects in **8** states
  - restoring **more than 400 miles** of the nation's coastline.\*

*\*As of February 2021*

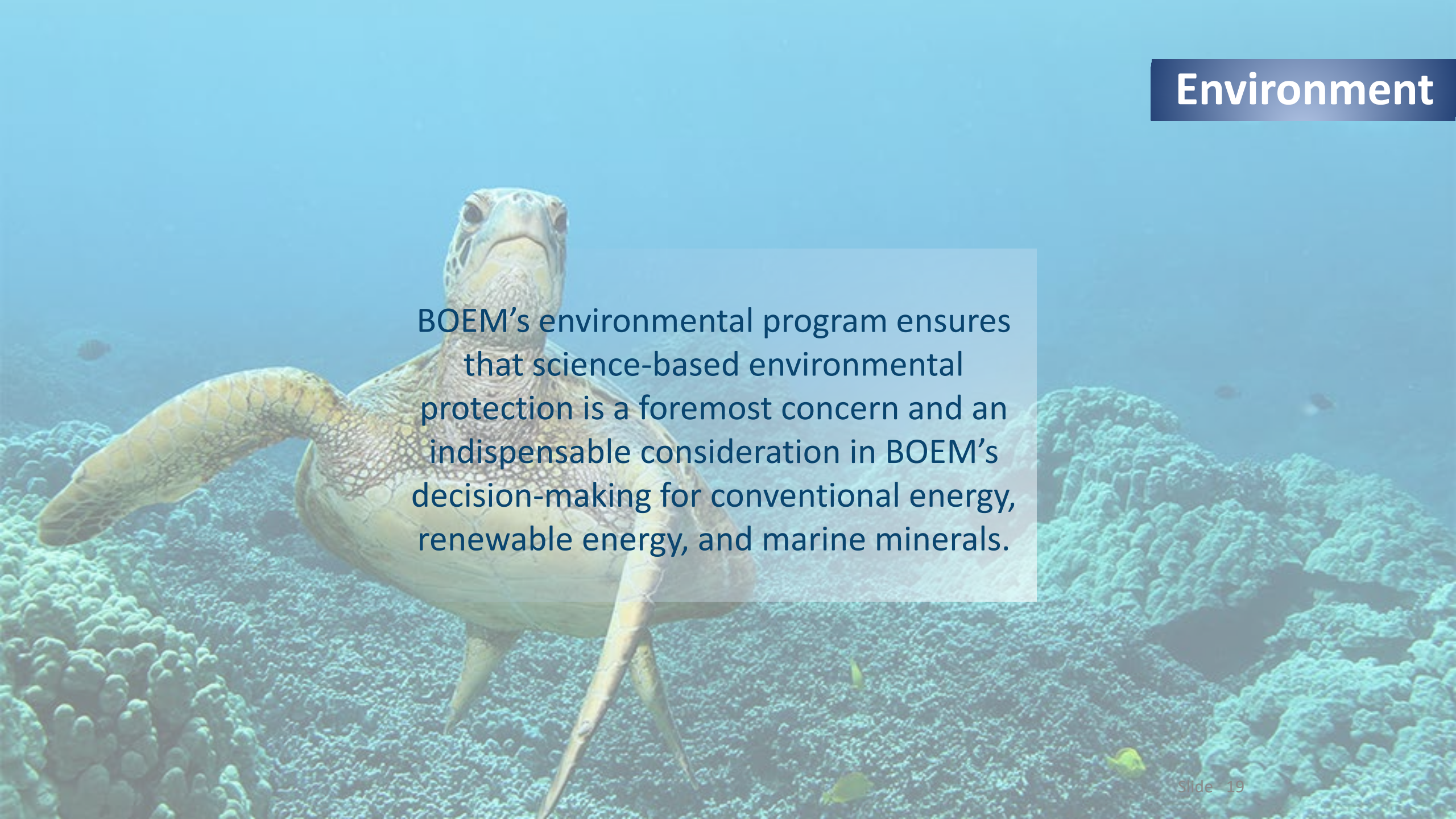
(Source: <https://www.boem.gov/current-marine-minerals-statistics>)



# Marine Minerals

- BOEM is building a National Offshore Sand Inventory to identify sources of potential use.
- This data is housed within a GIS-based Marine Minerals Information System (MMIS) that includes sediment quality, quantity, location, and accessibility.
- BOEM also oversees leasing of other strategic and critical minerals to support our nation's security and economy.
- For more information, visit: <https://www.boem.gov/marine-minerals>



A large sea turtle is swimming over a coral reef in clear blue water. The turtle is the central focus, with its head and front flippers visible. The background shows a vast expanse of coral reef and some small fish.

BOEM's environmental program ensures that science-based environmental protection is a foremost concern and an indispensable consideration in BOEM's decision-making for conventional energy, renewable energy, and marine minerals.

## Environmental Science

- The bureau is committed to ensuring that America's ocean environment and marine life are protected when planning and leasing for energy and marine mineral development.
- Since 1973, BOEM has funded **more than \$1 billion** in scientific research.
- To ensure that environmental protection is a primary consideration in our decisions, BOEM focuses on two core components that constantly engage with and inform each other:
  - **Environmental Science**
  - **Environmental Assessment**



## BOEM's Environmental Studies Program

- Develops, funds, and manages rigorous scientific research to inform policy decisions on energy and mineral resource development (offshore oil and gas, offshore renewable energy, and coastal restoration) on the OCS.
- Research includes oceanography, atmospheric sciences, biology, protected species, social sciences (including economics and submerged cultural resources), and environmental fates and effects.
- For more information, visit:  
<https://www.boem.gov/environmental-studies>

## Environmental Assessment

- BOEM prepares National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and OCSLA reports.
- BOEM provides oversight, policy guidance and direction for NEPA and other environmental laws and regulations and tribal consultations affecting OCS activities.
- The bureau participates in international conventions and treaty activities.
- For more information, visit:  
<https://www.boem.gov/environment/environmental-assessment/environmental-assessment>



# Regional Offices

In addition to headquarters offices in Washington, DC, and Sterling, Virginia, BOEM has three other offices across the country.

- [Alaska OCS Region](#)
- [Gulf of Mexico OCS Region](#)
- [Pacific OCS Region](#)



BOEM respects Indian tribal self-government and sovereignty. It is essential that the bureau understands and listens to the views and recommendations from representatives of tribal governments.



# Tribal Engagement

- BOEM is committed to maintaining open and transparent communications with tribal governments, Alaska Native Organizations, Native Hawaiian Organizations and other indigenous communities.
- BOEM's approach aims to emphasize trust, respect, and shared responsibility as part of a deliberative process for effective collaboration and informed decision-making.
- BOEM makes use of traditional knowledge in its policy and decision-making processes whenever possible.



## Tribal Consultations

- BOEM implements tribal consultation policies through both formal government-to-government consultation and informal dialogue, collaboration, and engagement.
- BOEM holds consultations with Alaska Natives and other Native American tribes on actions that may have a substantial effect on a tribe such as:
  - Tribal cultural practices
  - Lands
  - Resources
  - Access to traditional areas of cultural or religious importance on federally-managed lands that could be impacted by BOEM-authorized activities
- For more information, visit: <https://www.boem.gov/about-boem/tribal-engagement>

# Public and Stakeholder Engagement

BOEM must consider input from all stakeholders as the bureau pursues its mission of safe and responsible development of offshore resources.

# Public and Stakeholder Engagement



- Any development on the OCS must consider how these activities can affect both ocean users and the marine environment
- Public input is a critical component of the safe and responsible exploration and development of offshore resources.
- Consequently, engaging stakeholders in BOEM's process is an essential part of the bureau's offshore energy programs.
- BOEM is committed to transparency and public involvement by:
  - Publishing important regulatory actions and environmental analysis for public comment.
  - Sending announcements on programs to the public.
  - Updating information on [BOEM.gov](https://www.boem.gov) regularly.

# Public and Stakeholder Engagement

- BOEM also interacts with stakeholders and partners in state, local and tribal governments through task force meetings and small community meetings on specific issues.
- Stakeholders include:
  - Members of Congress
  - Educators and students
  - Industry representatives
  - Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
  - Fishing communities
- For more information, visit: <https://www.boem.gov/public-engagement>



# Learn More About BOEM

**BOEM is committed to managing responsible development of America's offshore energy and mineral resources.**

- To learn more about BOEM, visit: [www.boem.gov](http://www.boem.gov)
- To receive announcements about BOEM's programs and public meetings, please sign up at: [www.boem.gov/subscribe/](http://www.boem.gov/subscribe/)
- To reach BOEM, visit: [www.boem.gov/Contact-Us/](http://www.boem.gov/Contact-Us/)

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