

BOEM Scientific Committee Meeting Social Science Breakout Group

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Environmental and Social Consequences of Port Modifications to Accommodate Operations Associated with Offshore Commercial Wind Energy on the Mid-Atlantic OCS

- In considering the needed port modifications, the following offshore wind technologies should be included: upright deployment of all topsides, suction bucket foundation, and horizontal deployment and winching with light vessels.
- There needs to be an understanding of land-use change as related to port expansion in the context of the municipality being affected.
- Onshore agencies should be engaged at regional local levels since they will be most affected by wind farm construction and operation.
- Environmental impacts measured through the study may be small relative compared to the overall construction operations associated with the wind farms.
- This study will certainly facilitate the permitting of offshore wind farms.

Committee Recommendation: **strongly support**

Small Coastal Vessel Usage Patterns and Density Levels on the Atlantic OCS

- Capture seasonal dynamics of boating patterns
- Don't assume that current conditions will be the same in the future.
- The study should try to capture how infrastructure may create both opportunities for small vessel operators as well as the need for avoidance.
- Two data sets need to be produced: 1) Vessels for which wind farm siting would present a conflict. 2) Vessels for which the installation of wind farms would be neutral or desirable.
- Limit scope to prioritize vessels of greatest concern
- This study would be useful for marine spatial planning and space-use conflicts

Committee Recommendation: support with modifications

Atlantic OCS Cultural Resources Survey and Archaeological Inventory Geographic Information System

- This system can be used as a template across all regions; coordination or discussions with the Gulf and Pacific regions as to their current practices was appropriate.
- There need to be continual agency-based commitments to maintain and add to the database, including costs of labor and upkeep/maintenance.
- This is an important project for management, stewardship and decision making.
- There needs to be a standardization of data collection and storage across all regions, including a unified database that can be readily accessed.

Committee Recommendation: **Strongly Support**

Development of a Historic Context for Shipwrecks Located on the OCS Offshore the Mid-Atlantic

- Incorporating a cultural landscape approach would serve as an excellent framework for this project, and the title of the project should be changed to reflect that.
- The scale of the cultural landscape should be adjustable, and a layered/nested approach should be implemented to identify multi-component situations and/or various landscape themes.
- This is timely and appropriate given the focus of renewable energy in the Atlantic region.

Committee Recommendation: **Strongly Support**

Alaska OCS Region

Subsistence Mapping of Wainwright, Point Lay, and Point Hope

- Define the concepts of 'intensity', 'duration' and 'value' more clearly
- Address the methodological problem of respondent recall and accuracy, especially as related to 'time'
- Identify environmental, social and economic conditions that explain harvest land-use patterns; draw on local knowledge and best available science as sources of information
- Collect data that allows study to relate the attributes (i.e., characteristics of individuals or households) to subsistence harvesting behavior and locations
- Where possible quantify (e.g., intake of wild food products, time on the land, travel routes)
- Recommendation: **Strongly support**

BOEM Headquarters

A Cultural Resource Survey of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas

- We suggest first funding a pilot study to test the approach before funding a complete regional study.
- Incorporate a cultural landscape approach and preview previous work to determine feasibility.
- Incorporate a review site distribution patterns for prehistoric land sites
- Work with NOAA OER and/or ONR on AUV prospects.
- Encouraged to see archaeological work in Alaska being proposed

Committee Recommendation: **Support**

Pacific OCS Region

Inventory and Analysis of Coastal and Submerged Archaeological Site Occurrence near the Main Hawaiian Islands

- Define clearly in the proposal what types of sites are to be included – e.g., Native Hawaiian Origin, Historic Sites, Shipwrecks
- Seek local knowledge of sites (constructed, natural, and sacred)
- Collaborate with NOAA

Committee Recommendation: **Strongly Support**

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

A Comparative Analysis of an Oil Spill on Biota Inhabiting Several Gulf of Mexico Shipwrecks Spanning the 19th to 20th Centuries

- Study design needs to distinguish between steel and wrought iron vessels
- Seek collaboration with NOAA
- Consider what types of information are needed for long-term monitoring
- This is a unique and important study
- Applaud efforts in education and outreach

Committee Recommendation: **Strongly Support**

Testing and Assessment of the Effects of an Oil Spill on Coastal Archaeological Sites

- Need a more complete explanation as to how to separate the effects of Hurricane Katrina from those caused by the DWH Oil Spill.
- Be sure to include control areas not affected by the DWH Oil Spill
- Seek cooperation with States

Committee Recommendation: **Support with use of controls**

(BSEE) Analyzing Impacts to Cultural Resources As a Result of Oil and Gas Activities in Deep-Water (below 500-10,000 ft)

- A contingency and conservation budget would be needed for studies such as this since there is the prospect of artifact retrieval.
- Aspects of this study, such as data collection and exchange, should overlap with the oil spill and biota assessment study, if both projects were approved for funding.
- Seek funding partners with BSEE and others

Committee Recommendation: **Strongly Support**

An Analysis of the Impacts of the *Deepwater Horizon* on the Seafood Industry

- Are there long-term effects to be considered?
How will this study capture this?
- This study would lend itself to the language of sensitivity, vulnerability, and resilience.
- Committee Recommendation: **Support**

An Analysis of the Fiscal Impacts of the OCS Industry in the Gulf of Mexico

- This is BIG. Be sure that the scope of work is well defined and the project is doable.
- Consider looking both at sources of revenues as well as entities that spend it
- Consider adding a policy analysis component (e.g., tax policy) to allow comparison between regions and opportunities for policy makers to learn about other regional approaches.
- Committee Recommendation: Support

The Demographic Consequences of the Gulf of Mexico Offshore Petroleum Industry

- Have demographers work closely with community experts, who can provide context for what the demographics mean at the local level.
- We suggest that migration would be a good focus; such as migration of families. Or urban- rural migration
- This is a valuable study BUT can it be done for \$250K? Be careful not to overreach or do something incomplete.
- Sharpen what the study is after, so it would be more useful to BOEM. If not well defined in the RFP, the people will respond based on personal interests as opposed to needs of agency.
- Consider a research design that has specific examples that are representative of certain kinds of communities and cities (vs doing it all).
- Committee Recommendation: **Support**

Environmental Justice and OCS Petroleum: A Geo-Spatial Analysis

- Seems to be an important project but needs to be framed in the context of previous work
- State how does this work relate to decision making? Be specific.
- There appear to be two parts to this study – 1) how are reparations undertaken and 2) how do we understand what might be the impacts/effects with future activities
- Address the problem of how the study will identify minorities and marginalized groups. There are problems with using data that relies on self identification. Have confidence in identifying minority group data
- Look for groups that were not affected by Katrina, but were affected by Deepwater
- Committee Recommendation: **Strongly support**

Coastal Land Loss and Oil & Gas Infrastructure

- Coastal erosion only? Is there a GIS element here?
- How is “the industry” defined?
- Much of the successful cumulative effects research has been done with simulation models and of course EIS work does not use models. How will this study address this assessment of CEs?
- How does this study contribute to the decision-making process?
- Committee Recommendation: Support

Overall Comments on the Social Science Proposals

- Good stuff!
- Consider the possibilities for conformity (greater standardization) of archaeological site inventory initiatives across BOEM regions.
- Consider projects which assess the social and economic consequences of delay in renewable energy projects.
- Consider funding more policy studies (not policy recommendations) that provide insight into effectiveness of institutions and approaches to governance.
- More social sciences in interdisciplinary area
- Increase the number of studies of contemporary social and economic conditions