Title	Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) Special Issue of *Oceanography* Magazine
Administered by	Headquarters
BOEM Contact(s)	James Price (james.price@boem.gov)
Procurement Type(s)	Purchase Order
Performance Period	FY 2020
Date Revised	March 10, 2019
PICOC Summary	Write one or two sentences for each of the following elements, as appropriate.
Problem	how to most effectively transmit the results of the three MBON studies co-funded by BOEM and nearing completion
Intervention	produce a special issue of *Oceanography* magazine dedicated to the topic of marine biodiversity observing
Comparison	individual publications in various peer-reviewed journals are the alternative; but interested readers will not be able to easily see the connection among them and miss the big-picture story
Outcome	as with other special-issue publications, a comprehensive overview of marine biodiversity observing and its value scientifically and practically will be presented
Context	Community-wide among marine scientists and natural resource managers

BOEM Information Need(s): Biodiversity as a proxy for ecosystem health gives BOEM another measure for assessing environmental impact beyond the important considerations about individual species and individual populations. Presenting the big-picture story about marine biodiversity observing (monitoring) in the widely read *Oceanography* magazine gives BOEM analysts and the marine scientific community in general the opportunity to see the current results from the MBON projects in a well-integrated context.

Background: Together with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) office and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) biodiversity program, BOEM co-funded three studies to develop the means of observing changes to marine biodiversity in three different ecosystems (the Santa Barbara Channel [PC-15-05], the Chukchi Sea [AK-15-01], and the Florida Keys and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries [NOAA and NASA alone]). In addition, the projects were tasked with coming up with ideas about how a national program (in all U.S. waters) doing sustained observing of changes in marine biodiversity could be done.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to produce, edit, and publish a special-issue collection of research papers describing the results from the three MBON studies and how sustained biodiversity observing in U.S. waters could/should be done and why it is

important for science and for the management of natural marine resources. Publication will be sought in *Oceanography* magazine.

Methods: The Principal Investigators (PIs) and representatives of the funding agencies will discuss among themselves a strategy for presenting the many research results in an integrated way and the overall story we want to tell. The PIs and co-investigators will write the articles to be published and an overview statement in the style and format of *Oceanography* magazine. The group of participating scientists as a whole will review all the text to be submitted. *Oceanography* magazine reviewers will review the draft we submit.

The requested funding for this study is to pay one-third of the publication cost. NOAA and NASA will each pay one-third.

Specific Research Question(s):

References: http://tos.org/oceanography/