

## Environmental Studies Program: Studies Development Plan | FY 2021–2022

Title	Tribal Cultural Landscapes of the California Coast
Administered by	Pacific OCS Region
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Conducting Organization(s)	TBD
Total BOEM Cost	TBD
Performance Period	FY 2021–2023
Final Report Due	TBD
Date Revised	August 10, 2020
PICOC Summary	
<i><u>Problem</u></i>	BOEM needs a better understanding of the types of Tribal cultural landscapes that could be affected by wind energy development offshore California for consideration in leasing decisions, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) reviews, offshore wind plan reviews, and in direct response to recommendations from Tribes.
<i><u>Intervention</u></i>	BOEM Pacific OCS Region will work with local Tribal communities to develop Tribal cultural landscape assessments near Humboldt Bay and Morro Bay, including the coast and offshore.
<i><u>Comparison</u></i>	This effort will provide BOEM with the needed Tribal cultural landscape assessments for its decision-making, and an opportunity to further implement the Guidance Document for Characterizing Tribal Cultural Landscapes (Guidance Document) (Ball et al. 2015) and identify opportunities for revision.
<i><u>Outcome</u></i>	Tribal cultural landscape assessments for several Tribes with ties to the Humboldt Bay and Morro Bay coast and offshore areas.
<i><u>Context</u></i>	The geographic domain is the area of effect relevant to the potential wind energy leasing areas offshore the northern and central California coast (Humboldt, Morro Bay, and Diablo Canyon Call Areas, and five negotiated discussion areas off Morro Bay, as of the date of writing).

**BOEM Information Need(s):** Proper and effective consultation on federal actions with Tribal implications requires a considerable amount of time, and typically more time than is available under the streamlined environmental review processes (EO 13807). BOEM needs to document areas and resource types of importance to Native American Tribes that could be impacted by future BOEM actions offshore California so that impacts and adverse effects can be resolved in a timely manner. Information developed through this effort will help streamline and directly

support BOEM's NEPA and NHPA reviews and Government-to-Government consultations on BOEM actions and undertakings related to wind energy leasing and development offshore California.

**Background:** BOEM is currently considering potential wind energy development in multiple areas offshore California (Humboldt, Morro Bay, and Diablo Canyon Call Areas, and five negotiated discussion areas off Morro Bay, as of the date of writing) (California Energy Commission 2020). Multiple Native American Tribes are known to have current or ancestral ties to these areas. During information meetings with California Tribes for offshore wind energy planning, Tribes requested that BOEM and its planning partners identify archaeological and cultural resources and areas of cultural sensitivity well ahead of project siting. Specifically, Tribes recommended: that such work be carried out via ethnographic and oral history inquiries with Tribal people; that any model for cultural resource data collection should accommodate many Tribes; and that analysis of Tribal cultural resources be non-invasive and culturally-sensitive (Kearns & West 2018).

Understanding the types and locations of significant archaeological and cultural resources is essential to their preservation and consideration during planning for offshore renewable energy development. As planning and development for offshore renewable energy projects off the California coast increases, the potential for impacts to coastal and marine areas and resources of significance to Pacific Region Tribal communities will increase as well. These impacts can include physical disturbances to archaeological sites and traditional use areas, as well as viewshed impacts to sacred places through offshore siting. This effort will implement a holistic cultural landscape approach, which integrates environmental science with historical, archaeological, and traditional knowledge. The cultural landscape approach recognizes that places and resources can have different or multiple meanings and levels of significance based on how people from different cultures, times, or backgrounds have interacted with the respective landscapes. Implementing this approach increases the likelihood that cultural heritage resources will be found, recognized, and appropriately resolved as decisions are made about the siting and potential effects of offshore renewable energy projects.

**Objectives:** The overarching goal of this effort is to develop cultural landscape assessments of areas of Tribal significance that need to be considered in the offshore wind energy planning process. Information from this effort will help facilitate decision-making processes that may impact these locales while enhancing adherence to federal regulatory timelines.

**Methods:** The Principal Investigator will work with California Tribes and the BOEM Pacific OCS Region to identify Tribes who claim ties to the Humboldt Bay and Morro Bay coast and offshore regions. The Principal Investigator will facilitate the establishment of a working group for each area, led by a Tribal Facilitator and consisting of Tribal representatives. The BOEM project officer and BOEM Pacific Tribal Liaison will also be included in these working groups. Each working group will host inter-tribal workshops in its respective area with the goal of bringing together Tribal partners to identify best practices and general resources significant to Tribal communities that would enhance any future offshore wind project-scale assessments. BOEM's

Guidance Document (Ball et al. 2015) will then be used by individual participating Tribes to identify Tribal cultural landscapes within their individual communities. Protocols will be identified and implemented to address potentially sensitive information and any sensitive information will be excluded from the final report.

**Specific Research Question(s):**

1. What Tribes claim ties to the Humboldt Bay and Morro Bay coast and offshore regions?
2. What areas and types of resource areas are of significance to Tribes?
3. What types of traditional cultural properties need to be considered in relation to offshore wind development?

**Current Status:** Proposed

**Publications Completed:** N/A

**Affiliated WWW Sites:** N/A

**References:**

- Ball, D., Clayburn, R., Cordero, R., Edwards, B., Grussing, V., Ledford, J., McConnell, R., Monette, R., Steelquist, R., Thorsgard, E., and Townsend, J., 2015. A Guidance Document for Characterizing Tribal Cultural Landscapes. US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Pacific OCS Region, Camarillo, CA. OCS Study BOEM 2015-047. 32 p. <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/environmental-stewardship/Environmental-Studies/Pacific-Region/Studies/BOEM-2015-047.pdf>
- California Energy Commission, 2020. Notice of Availability of Outreach on Additional Considerations for Offshore Wind off the Central Coast of California. Docket Number 17-MIC-01, 02/07/2020. <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-01>
- Executive Order 13807 – Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects. 82 FR 40463, August 15, 2017.
- Kearns & West, 2018. Outreach Summary Report: California Offshore Wind Energy Planning. 42 p. <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/renewable-energy-program/State-Activities/CA/Outreach-Summary-Report-September-2018.pdf>