Memorandum of Agreement
Between The
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
And The
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

I. Background

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Environmental Studies Program (ESP) develops and oversees applied scientific studies required for making responsible decisions for managing energy and marine mineral resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Federal management of the OCS is guided by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), which authorizes scientific and socioeconomic studies needed for the assessment and management of environmental impacts on the human, marine, and coastal environments.

To ensure that BOEM's ESP continues to meet its mandate under OCSLA, it is essential that the ESP include process-oriented studies in addition to monitoring and descriptive studies in order to increase predictive capabilities to support management decisions. Studies and research must be conducted in an impartial, scientific manner. The results of these efforts should be recognized by the various interest groups, as well as the scientific community, as unbiased findings of experts. Scientific information collected for leasing, exploration, and development decisions tends to be more readily accepted by the local and regional populace if the studies are conducted by well-known and scientifically respected local experts and institutions. Because BOEM and the states have distinct, but complementary, roles in the process that leads to decisions, scientific information is needed by BOEM, the State of Alaska (State), and localities potentially affected by OCS operation.

II. Parties

The parties to this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) are: the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), the UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, the University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute (CMI), and BOEM.

III. Purpose

The purpose of this MOA is to set out the general terms for continuing the CMI program at the University of Alaska (UA). With this MOA, BOEM and the State, through UA, will jointly agree on the most important local research needs in the context of the OCS Program. The CMI program will use the highly qualified, scientific expertise at local levels to:

1. Collect and disseminate environmental information needed for OCS oil and gas, and renewable energy decisions;
2. Address local and regional OCS-related environmental and resource issues of mutual

interest; and
3. Strengthen the BOEM-State partnership in addressing OCS oil and gas information needs.

To share the cost for research of mutual interest when addressing these concerns, BOEM and the State are entering into a five-year MOA to continue the established CMI at UA, subject to availability of funds. The UA is uniquely suited to participate by virtue of its flagship status within the State and by its nationally recognized scope and depth of marine and coastal expertise.

IV. Objectives

The objectives of the MOA are to:

1. Respond to BOEM, State, and local scientific information needs and interests with scientific expertise of national caliber in relevant disciplines and found at a major university in an active OCS region;
2. Broaden recognition and comprehension of study results through performance and presentation of findings by a highly credible scientific research institution;
3. Improve existing local scientific capabilities and facilities for innovative scientific research relevant to OCS resource management issues;
4. Use the interdisciplinary environment of a research university to foster process oriented scientific studies, needed technologies and concepts, and syntheses of scientific information that will benefit environmental and resource management;
5. Achieve consensus between BOEM and the State of Alaska, through the University of Alaska, regarding the most important environmental research needs relevant to the OCS Program; and
6. Reduce the costs to the State of Alaska and BOEM of obtaining resource management information by co-funding information acquisition activities.

V. Scope of the MOA

1. CMI Program Development and Direction

A. Framework

The following framework, developed during the formation of CMI, provides the parameters for submission of study ideas:

1. Scientific studies for better understanding of marine, coastal, or human environments affected or potentially affected by offshore oil and gas exploration and extraction or renewable energy development on the outer continental shelf;
2. Modeling studies of environmental, social, economic, or cultural processes related to OCS oil, gas, or renewable energy activities in order to improve scientific predictive capabilities;
3. Experimental studies for better understanding of environmental processes or the causes and effects of OCS activities;

4. Projects which design or establish mechanisms or protocols for sharing of data or scientific information regarding marine or coastal resources or human activities to support prudent management of oil and gas resources; and
5. Synthesis studies of environmental or socioeconomic information relevant to the OCS oil, gas, and renewable energy program.

Given BOEM's comprehensive responsibilities, the CMI framework includes socioeconomic effects, effects upon adjacent environments, and effects associated with mineral and renewable energy resources other than oil and gas. To that end, proposal preparation and submission guidelines must be widely distributed by CMI to all UA campuses and departments and to state agencies with appropriate expertise. Application of the framework should ensure that the research program supports the range of BOEM's information needs across various disciplines. These needs are determined by the fact that the Alaska Region is a major area of oil and gas activity. Information dissemination and outreach activities are also considered in the framework.

B. Study Area and Topics

The study area generally will be limited to the Alaska Region with a strong emphasis on the state and federal waters offshore of Alaska. Research outside of the Alaska Region may be proposed if it clearly increases the utility of the resulting information through support of Pan-Arctic data sharing, or when warranted by specific information needs or study design. Discipline topics may include the environmental, social, and economic effects of oil, gas, and renewable energy development on the OCS.

2. Coastal Marine Institute Program Management

A. Coastal Marine Institute Management

The UA will designate a CMI Director who will be the primary contact with BOEM and will have sufficient authority to commit the resources of the institution to accomplish all studies within the scope of this MOA. The CMI Director will be, at a minimum, a tenured faculty member, department chair, or dean of a school. The CMI Director will have demonstrated abilities to organize, prepare, and run an interdisciplinary research program. The CMI Director is responsible for ensuring proper coordination of investigators, timely completion and reporting of study results, coordination of study proposals, and monitoring study expenditures. The CMI Director will ensure that inter-study coordination and synthesis of results takes place where appropriate. The cooperative agreement for CMI Management will specify details for additional CMI staff and the management activity.

B. Technical Steering Committee

BOEM and UA will jointly constitute a Technical Steering Committee (TSC) which will include:

1. Two members from BOEM designated by the BOEM Alaska Regional Director.
2. Two members from UA, one of whom will be the CMI Director, and the other selected by the CMI Director.

3. When possible, two members representing State stakeholder agencies.

The purpose of the TSC is to ensure that BOEM and the State are represented in the identification of OCS related issues and the selection of studies to address these issues. It is the responsibility of the State of Alaska TSC members to ensure state agencies with coastal and marine resource issues/concerns are duly considered in the development of study projects.

The members of the TSC will have relevant technical scientific qualifications, as well as policy/program management capability and organizational standing sufficient to represent BOEM and State interests. All decisions reached by the TSC will be by unanimous agreement. In cases where the TSC cannot reach such agreement, the matter will be referred to the BOEM Alaska Regional Director for a final decision. The CMI Director will coordinate the activities and schedule of the TSC.

The TSC will evaluate all study proposals as to scientific merit and applicability to information needs of BOEM and the State. The BOEM representatives will provide guidance to ensure that issues addressed by proposals are consistent with the BOEM mission and appropriately coordinated with the long-range planning of the ESP.

The MOA will be reviewed annually to determine if the program is meeting the needs of BOEM and the State. BOEM may enlist the National Academies Committee on Offshore Science and Assessment or other experts to assist in this review.

C. Press Releases and News Media Contacts

The CMI Director will inform BOEM, as early as possible, of planned press announcements, planned news media contacts and planned public presentations concerning findings and results of research. Planned press releases and planned news media contacts which include discussion of BOEM programs or policies will be reviewed by BOEM prior to release.

VI. Financial Management

1. This MOA is not a fiscal document and does not obligate funds. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties of this MOA will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures.

2. This MOA establishes the intent of BOEM and the State, through UA, to cost-share research on a one dollar for one dollar contribution. Cost-sharing is on the basis of the total costs across the program. In any funded project, the collective CMI match commitment must equal or exceed BOEM commitments. State funds will be appropriated by the State or drawn by UA or the State from any available source. In funded projects where match commitments exceed BOEM commitments, excess match balances may be used to cover a portion of the match requirement for other CMI projects, at the discretion of BOEM. On a case by case basis, for example where a proposal fulfills a priority on the BOEM National Studies List, BOEM may consider a lower match ratio. All cost sharing and matching funding will comply with the criteria and

procedures detailed in accordance with applicable OMB Circulars and other Federal regulations.

3. Any funds obligated between the parties shall be accomplished separately through individual Cooperative Agreements or other means. Nothing in this MOA obligates the commitment of funds or resources, except as provided by Congress.

VII. Effective Date, Modifications, and Termination

This MOA will become effective on the date that the last party signs the MOA and will remain in effect until December 31, 2024. Modifications may be requested by any of the parties and will become effective only when acknowledged in writing by all parties.

This MOA may be terminated at any time by any of the parties upon ninety (90) day written notice to the other parties. Notice of termination shall be directed to the signatory parties. The termination of the MOA should not affect the validity or duration of projects initiated prior to such termination.

SIGNATURE PAGE

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
Between The
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
And The
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

Signatures below certify understanding of, and agreement to, the provisions of this Memorandum of Agreement effective until December 31, 2024:

DocuSigned by:
Brenda Konar
1965BDC17783841E...
February 8, 2019

CMI Director **Date**
Dr. Brenda Konar

DocuSigned by:
S. Bradley Moran
626D9A259EF5472...
February 8, 2019

Dean, UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences **Date**
Dr. S. Bradley Moran

DocuSigned by:
Larry Hinzman
B36928F617E418...
February 8, 2019

Vice Chancellor of Research, University of Alaska Fairbanks **Date**
Dr. Larry Hinzman

Mark Storzer
12/10/18

BOEM Alaska Regional Director **Date**
for **Dr. James J. Kendall**