

Environmental Studies Program: Ongoing Studies

Study Area(s): All Alaska Planning Areas

Administered By: Alaska OCS Region

Title: Coastal Marine Institute (AK-13-03)

BOEM Information Need(s) to be Addressed: This cooperative agreement supports improved leasing decisions and NEPA analyses pertinent to lease sales in the Beaufort Sea, Cook Inlet, and Chukchi Sea. Final reports will be available for lease sales and post-sale decisions; interim data products and inputs will be used to address information needs. Topical areas to be addressed under the Coastal Marine Institute have been identified through the Alaska Annual Studies Plan and a set of identified Framework Issues. The study also will develop information and public products for various audiences that address public concerns raised during outreach efforts.

Total BOEM Cost: \$501,500
plus Joint Funding (\$497,424)

Period of Performance: FY 2013-2020

Conducting Organization: CMI, UAF

Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Brenda Konar (Director), Ruth Post

BOEM Contact: [Dr. Heather Crowley](#)

Description:

Background: This study provides management of a large ongoing program of scientific research into framework issues related to potential future lease sales in the Alaska OCS Region. It is a cooperative program between BOEM and the University of Alaska, with State of Alaska participation. The Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) is expected to leverage additional scientific results and logistics capability at levels comparable to the BOEM contribution of \$1,000,000 per year. The Coastal Marine Institute will update and expand our understanding of OCS environmental information and address future needs related to the offshore oil and gas program in Alaska.

Objectives: The purpose of the CMI is to support BOEM's commitment to environmental stewardship and generate scientific information for BOEM and State of Alaska decision-makers that is consistent with the needs outlined by the Framework Issues. The Framework Issues are:

- Scientific studies for better understanding marine, coastal or human environments affected or potentially affected by offshore oil and gas or other mineral exploration and extraction on the OCS.
- Modeling studies of environmental, social, economic, or cultural processes related to OCS oil and gas activities in order to improve scientific predictive capabilities.
- Experimental studies for better understanding of environmental processes, or the causes and effects of OCS activities.

- Projects which design or establish mechanisms or protocols for sharing data or scientific information regarding marine or coastal resources or human activities in order to support prudent management of oil, gas and marine mineral resources.
- Synthesis studies of scientific environmental or socioeconomic background information relevant to the OCS oil and gas program.

Methods: A proposal process is initiated each year with a request for letters of intent to address one or more of the Framework Issues. The proposals are requested from university researchers and other scientific researchers in State agencies. A Technical Steering Committee, made up of scientific representatives of the cooperators, reviews letters of intent and proposals to be evaluated for possible funding. External peer reviews may be requested for new projects. Principal investigators give presentations at ITMs, scientific conferences and various public meetings.

Current Status: Completed

Final Report Due: Completed December 2018

Publications Completed:

- Grading, R. 2014. University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute Annual Report 20, Calendar Year 2013. Fairbanks, Alaska. OCS Study BOEM 2014-0052
- Konar, B. 2015. University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute Annual Report 21, Calendar Year 2014. Fairbanks, Alaska. OCS Study BOEM 2015-015
- Konar, B. 2016. University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute Annual Report 22, Calendar Year 2015. Fairbanks, Alaska. OCS Study BOEM 2016-013
- Konar, B. 2017. University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute Annual Report 23, Calendar Year 2016. Fairbanks, Alaska. OCS Study BOEM 2017-015
- Konar, B. 2018. University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute Annual Report 24, Calendar Year 2017. Fairbanks, Alaska. OCS Study BOEM 2018-011

Affiliated WWW Sites: <http://www.boem.gov/akstudies/>
<http://www.cfos.uaf.edu/cmi/>
<https://marinecadastre.gov/espis/#/search/study/26893>

Revised Date: February 4, 2019