

BOEM ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM: Ongoing Studies

Region: Alaska

Planning Area(s): All Alaska Planning Areas

Title: Operation and Maintenance of BOEM Research Vessel
Launch 1273 (AK-14-04a)

BOEM Information Need(s) to be Addressed: Without funding of this program-support element, it would not be possible to maintain or deploy the 36-foot Launch 1273 that provides a mobile, cost-effective, and specialized research vessel for a variety of biological and oceanographic studies throughout the coastal waters of Alaska. Costs for certain studies would increase significantly if more expensive marine-support alternatives were chartered. Additionally, it would not be possible to maintain an equipment warehouse that allows us to re-use and share equipment effectively among projects and agencies. This is a fundamental program-support element related to studies that support all current leases.

Total Cost: \$200,000/year

Period of Performance: FY 2014-2016

Conducting Organization: Kinnetic Laboratories Inc.

BOEM Contact: [Catherine Coon](#)

Description:

Background: BOEM utilizes a contract to provide “Management and Logistics of Oceanographic Equipment – Launch 1273” our research vessel in support of ongoing BOEM research efforts in the near-shore waters of coastal Alaska. The contract supports an experienced Captain, necessary crew, routine maintenance and repairs, fueling, and mobilization (with assembly and transport) and demobilization (with cleaning, transport, and disassembly), and offseason storage. The location of operation is between Prudhoe Bay and the approximate area of Barrow, Alaska between July and September. BOEM will be responsible for the research itinerary through contact with principal investigators and general scheduling of the Captain’s duties during each field season based upon the most current environmental study information priorities. Supported efforts include the ANIMIDA III: Boulder Patch Kelp Monitoring (AK-14-14a) Contaminants, Sources, and Bioaccumulation (AK-14-14b) and (AK-12-06) ‘Distribution and Habitat Use of Fish in the Nearshore Ecosystem of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.’

Objectives: The purpose of this program-support element is to efficiently manage and store oceanographic equipment and provide other support to ESP needs.

Methods: Launch 1273 was commissioned in 1983. The BOEM contractors use it for a number of oceanographic studies in the Arctic.

Current Status: Ongoing

Final Report Due: N/A

Publications Completed: None

Affiliated WWW Sites: <http://www.boem.gov/akstudies/>

Revised Date: April 2015

ESPIS: Environmental Studies Program Information System

All *completed* ESP studies can be found

here: http://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data_center/other/espis/espisfront.asp