

BOEM ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM: Ongoing Studies

Region: National

Planning Area(s): All Planning Areas

Title: Enhancement of the Environmental Studies Program Information System and the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre to Provide Environmental Studies Program Data (NT-12-01)

BOEM Information Need(s) to be Addressed: The OCS energy extraction process requires physical, biological, oceanographic and social science information at all stages from leasing through exploration and production, to decommissioning. Regulatory agencies and prospective lease holders rely on scientific studies and other data mining exercises to build their knowledge base from past and ongoing work conducted in the Alaska OCS Region. A web-based visual display of completed and ongoing study efforts will assist BOEM in (1) planning new research, (2) promoting collaboration with other agencies on similar projects, (3) evaluating exploration and development plans, and (4) improving BOEM decision-making to safeguard activities on the OCS.

Total Cost: \$1,700,000

Period of Performance: FY 2012-2016

Conducting Organization: NOAA-Coastal Services Center

BOEM Contact: [Rick Raymond](#)

Description:

Background: BOEM places digital copies of final study reports online. However, it remains challenging to process some report information efficiently, such as study boundaries, data collection efforts, or conclusions from multiple study efforts. It is also a challenge for internal BOEM staff to remain current with all research due to the volume of activities conducted within the OCS planning areas. BOEM as well as other agencies and academia have identified a statewide need for a centralized database of past, present and future projects with associated observations.

This study will design, develop, document, and implement a BOEM Internet Geospatial Web Portal utilizing the online Environmental Studies Program Information System (ESPIS) database Browser and the Marine Cadastre spatial data tool for BOEM completed and ongoing environmental studies that can be queried and displayed by internal BOEM staff and other agencies. The project is national in scope and will include a subcontract dedicated to service information needs for the Alaska OCS Region.

Objectives:

- Develop a BOEM Environmental Studies project database that can be fully utilized to query, graphically display, and extract project specific information.

- Develop programming tools that would allow BOEM staff and others to query, display, and extract available spatial data sets collected from each study.
- Automate the updating of new studies project information through development of programming tools that can seamlessly import BOEM Environmental Studies project information from newly completed or existing studies into ESPIS and the Marine Cadastre.
- Develop programming tools that can automatically search, retrieve, upload and merge project specific information and data from other State and Federal agencies, and industry, into the BOEM project database and data directories.
- Develop a BOEM Geospatial Website User Interface and Graphical Display whereby users can query, display, and extract project specific information, and display and extract BOEM Environmental Studies data sets covering the Alaska OCS.
- Provide complete documentation on the database and user interface application.
- Provide a user manual and train internal staff on the use of the BOEM Geospatial Web Portal.
- Provide online documentation for external users.

Methods: Under this study, NOAA-Coastal Services Center and BOEM internal staff will gather environmental studies project information and available data in a concerted effort to make information readily available to BOEM staff and other agencies. This effort will centralize functions to collect, catalogue, and distribute BOEM Environmental Studies project information and associated project studies data gathered since 2000. A BOEM web link will interface with ESPIS and the Marine Cadastre displaying maps of project boundaries, link to project specific information, data, metadata, and reports.

Current Status: Ongoing

Final Report Due: N/A

Publications Completed: None

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

Revised Date: July 2016

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