

# **BOEM Scientific Committee Meeting Social Science Breakout Group: Report**

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# **Atlantic OCS Region**

# Wind Energy Development on the Atlantic OCS: The Identification of Port Modifications and their Environmental and Socioeconomic Consequences

- Contact and collaborate with existing ports, including those in Europe, that have experienced these processes. Consequences of port modifications in Europe, for example, have included the development of Wind Hubs.
- Conduct this in a participatory manner. Approach and engage local stakeholders /communities to broaden and understand the impacts/issues.
- Understand ‘other drivers’ for change with Ports (widening of the Panama canal, for example), and understand wind develop into this context. Understand winners and losers.
- “Consequence” evaluation methods should be open to new technologies and new deployment methods, as well as new types of requirements. Important not to limit the study’s conceptualization to existing technologies.
- Consider targeting the deliverables to a dual or broader audience. NEPA audience as well as a stakeholder audience.
- **Strongly Recommend**

# **BOEM Headquarters**

# Human Dimensions National Portal Rebuild Using the Department of the Interior Science Base Platform

- Look to identify database/portal outside BOEM, but inside the Department of the Interior. Strong sense that BOEM should not develop it's own "in-house" system.
- Investigate other systems and other options – e.g., GOMRI.
- Investigate how other entities/organizations handle sensitive data and other types of data (e.g, GIS, photo, etc) - E-Loka.arctic.org
- Ensure that metadata is full and appropriate. The database needs to account for variety of social science data and be aware of the sensitivities. Personal data needs to include permission to use data, for example.
- The dissemination/database system should have monitoring capabilities – to quantify use.
- Greater government-wide effort also required. Need a Federal equivalent of NGDC for Social Science data, with standard protocols. This would require an alignment of partners.
- **Not Recommended.** The need is clear, but the proposal needs to be more fully developed<sup>5</sup>.

# **Gulf of Mexico OCS Region**

# Testing and Assessment of the Effects of an Oil Spill on Coastal Archaeological Sites

- Recognized the immediate and pressing need for the data.
- Broader implications for understanding potential impacts for archaeological sites from oil spills.
- CESU is an appropriate mechanism to support this effort.
- Explore closer working relationship with Louisiana Archaeological Society (perhaps in the form of an MOU) that would draw on volunteer support and build community interest.
- The information could be used for advanced planning, which is important.
- **Strongly Recommend**

# Geo-Spatial Analysis of OCS Petroleum Effects on Gulf Coast Communities

- Has potential to be useful, but the geography is quite broad and, as a result, the utility is questionable.
- Problem with research design – does not get to the BOEM needs that have to be addressed, which would require estimates of impact per community/social group (concern that the appropriate data is not be collected to do this)
- Proposal needs further work
- Need to clarify the source of risks
- **Not Recommended.** Should not go forward as proposed. The study needs to be bounded and further defined.



# Coastal Land Loss and Oil & Gas Infrastructure

- Think more critically about “informal discussions”; consider semi-structured interview questions to capture quantitative results.
- Need to ask industry what their time horizon is for their business activities and associated facilities. It’s important to include the insurance industry this study.
- Explicitly recognize in the study and in the associated instrument that relative sea level rise is part of the problem.
- **Strongly recommend**

# **Alaska OCS Region**

# Traditional Knowledge Implementation: Establishing Arctic Community Panels of Subject Matter Experts

- This is an important area of inquiry that needs to be addressed, but the research idea needs to be more fully developed.
- Potential research question – how do you identify these “subject matter experts” and limit the political and personal bias?
- In the initial study consider a pilot portion that uses two methods of expert identification – the proposed method should be tested against “consensus analysis.”
- Transparent, community based process.
- **Strongly recommend** with provisos stated above.

# General Comments

- Concern about the relative number of social science studies brought forward for consideration.
  - Sequestration
  - Pattern
  - Quality
  - Existence of personnel in each region with time/knowledge
- Concern about the degree of social science integration into the interdisciplinary studies (excluding archaeology)
  - Adding social science to some of the proposed studies would enrich them and increase their value to managers.