

Environmental Studies Program
*Applied Science for Informed Decisions
on Ocean Energy*

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Chief, Division of Environmental Sciences





**40 Years and going
strong ...**





Our Organization(s)

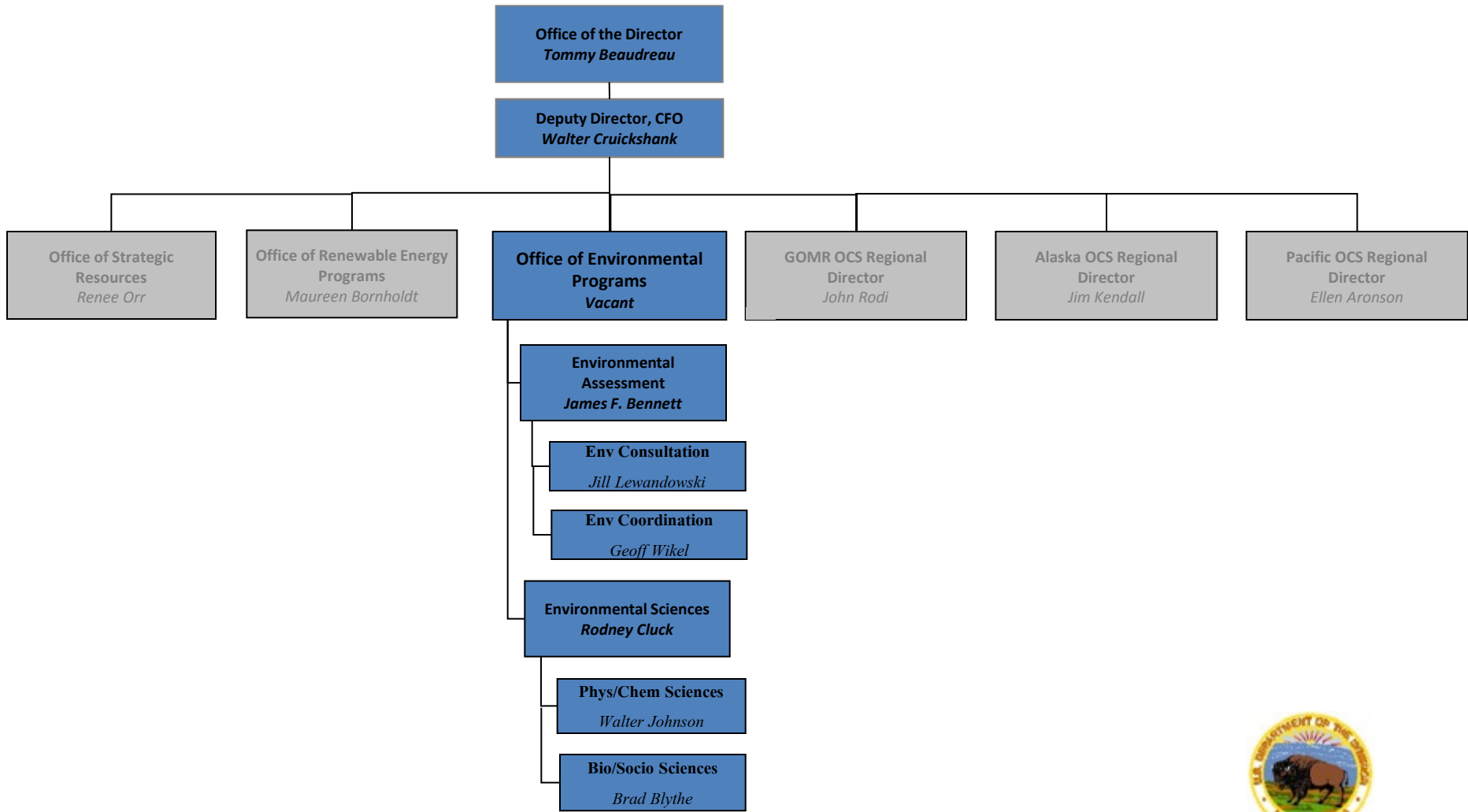


BOEM manages development of the nation's offshore resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

BSEE develops and enforces safety and environmental regulations.



Structure of BOEM: Where's the Science?



Mission

To provide the information needed to identify, assess, and minimize impacts from offshore energy and marine mineral exploration, development, and production activities on human, marine, and coastal environments.

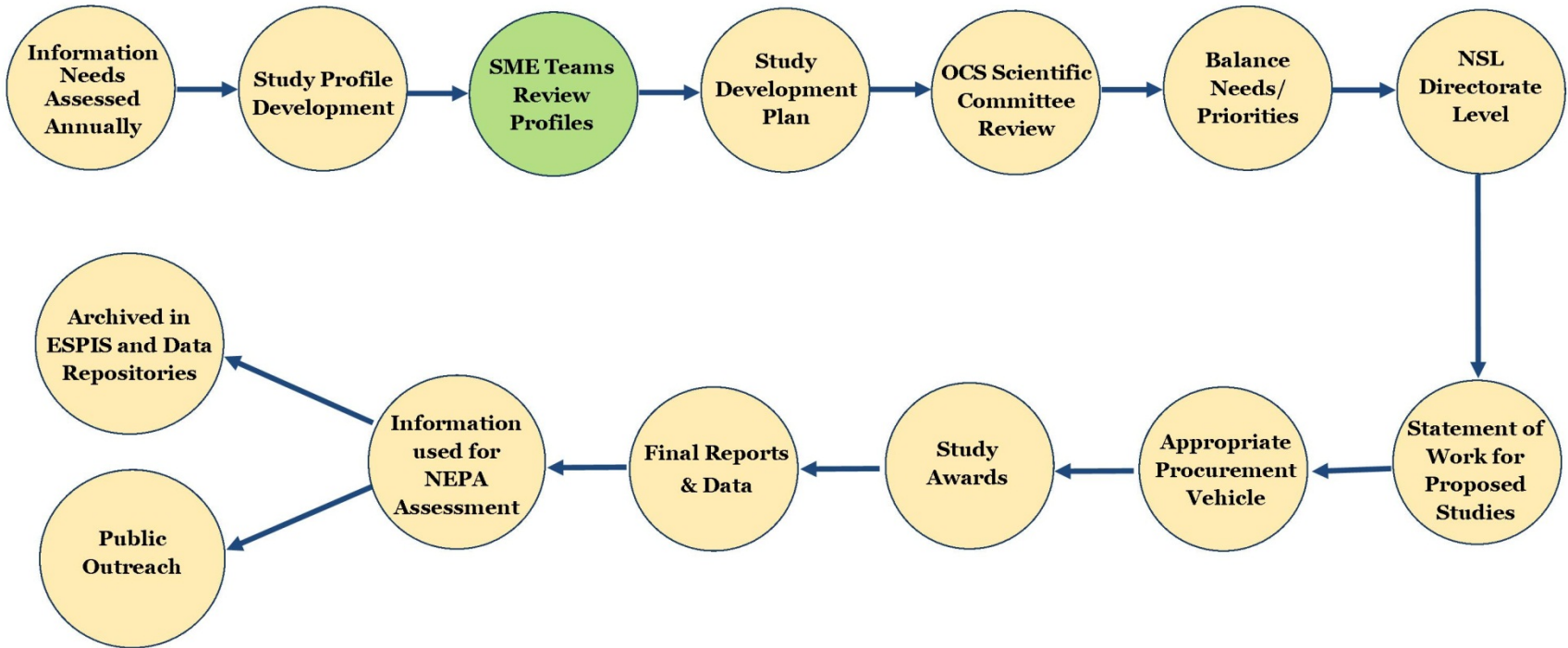


GOALS

- 1) Establish the information needed for assessment and management of environmental impacts
- 2) Assess impacts on the marine biota; and
- 3) Monitor human, marine, and coastal environments



Environmental Studies Program (ESP) Process



BOEM Environmental Studies Program (ESP) is dynamic and flexible to the changing information requirements. New information needs routinely arise outside the annual planning process and in response proposed studies are often added/deleted. This schema is a simplified version of the program process and does not entirely capture its complexity and variability.

BOEM has over 200 scientists across all regions.

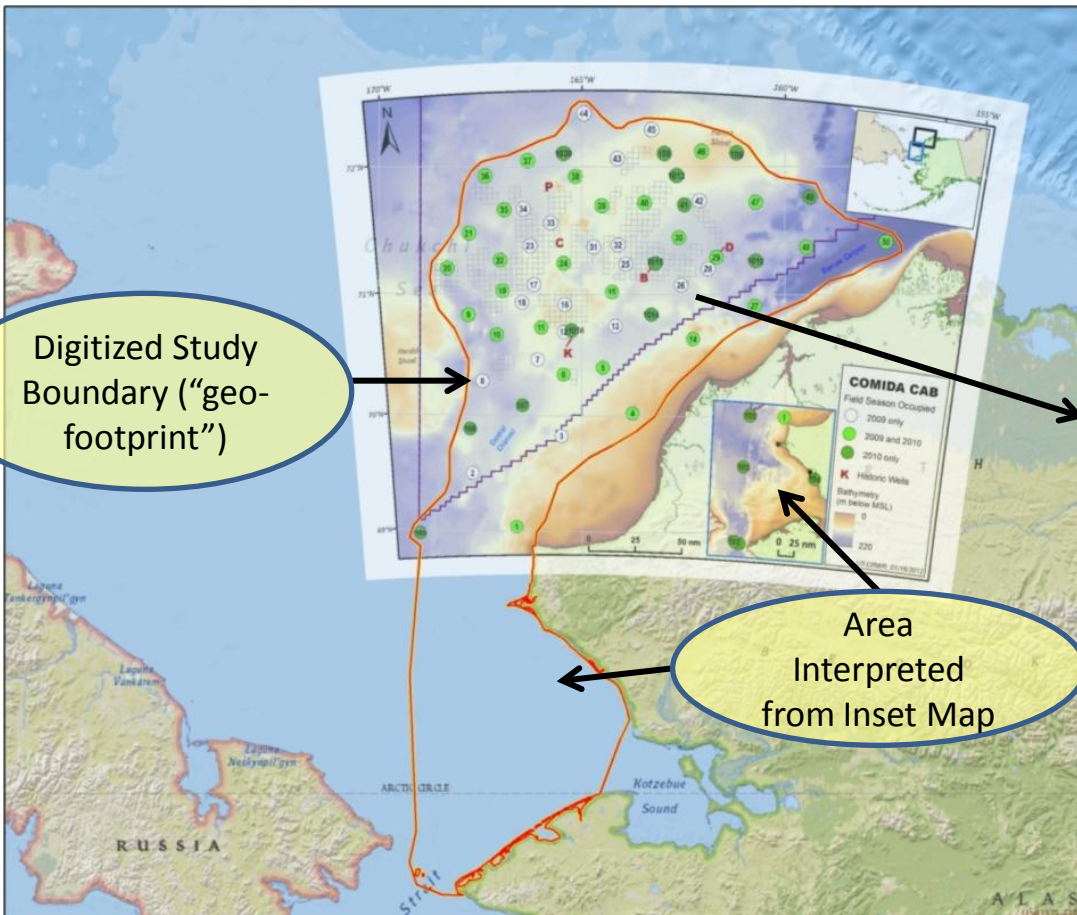
- BOEM Disciplinary Subject Matter Experts
 - Socio-Economic SME team
 - Biology/Ecology SME team
 - Physical Oceanography/Atmospheric Science SME team
- BOEM Policy Subject Matter Experts
 - NEPA SME team
 - ESA SME team
 - Data and Mapping team



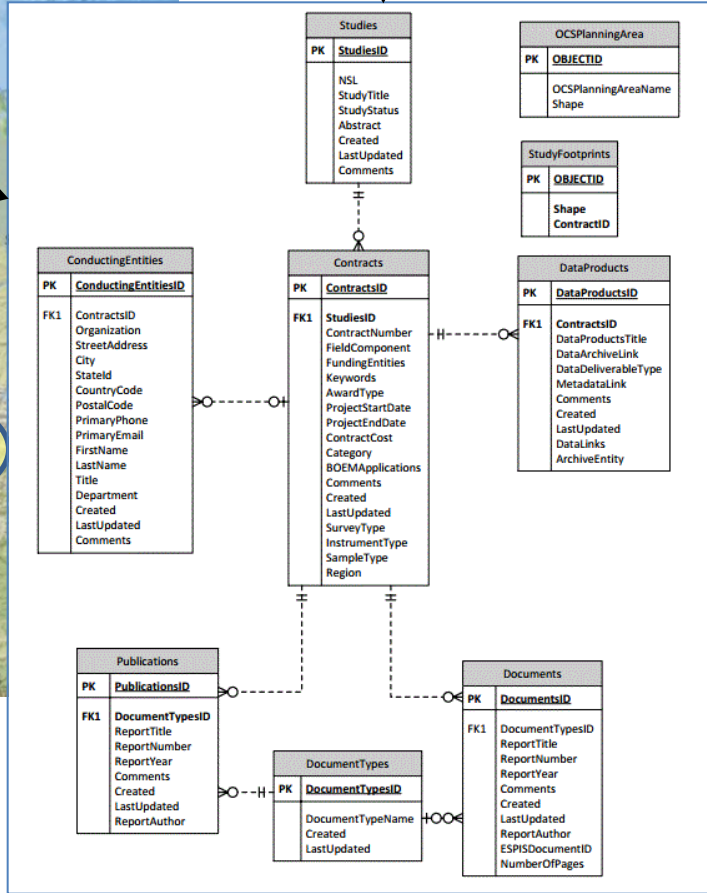
- Refining Contract Language
 - Improve and standardize existing requirements given to principal investigators conducting studies.
- Fulfilling Jurisdictional and Legal Mandates
 - Ensure compliance with existing directives and requirements for example: NEPA, Information Quality Act.
- Engaging Science Community
 - Ensure best practices
 - Standard formats and archiving



geoESPIS - Spatially Enabling Environmental Studies



Studies Catalog (attributes)

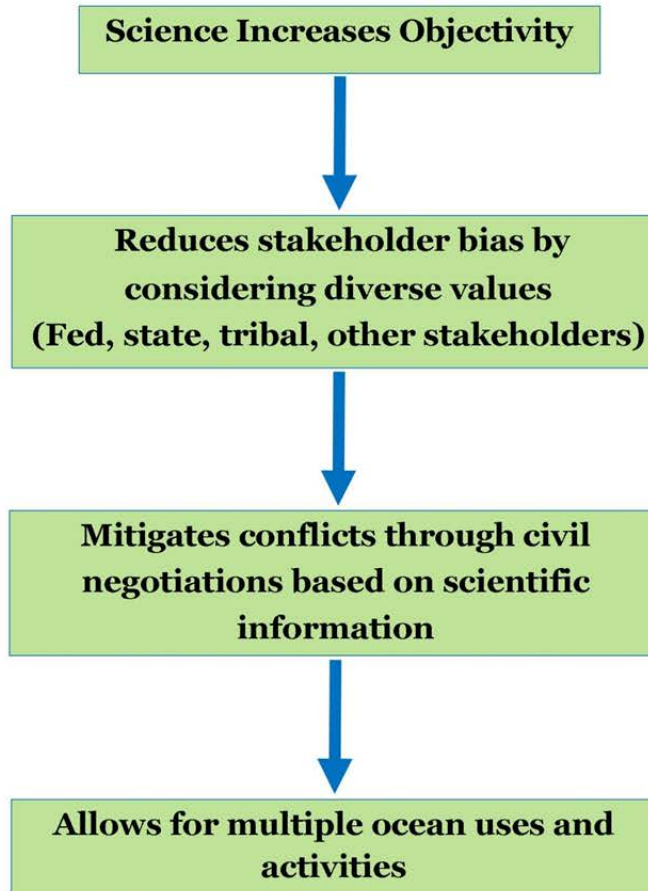


- **Long term monitoring** efforts are being considered for all regions in the OCS
- BOEM is evaluating a number of options to move in the direction of **long term monitoring** in partnership with other agencies
- *Examples:* MARES (Arctic), RODEO (Atlantic), Ecosystem Health (GOMR, *RESTORE Act*)



- When managing ocean energy, conflicts are inevitable
- Science provides an objective and rational basis for decision making, it is the only logical starting point in regards to marine planning







THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Final Recommendations
Of The
Interagency Ocean Policy
Task Force
July 19, 2010*



NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

National Ocean Council

APRIL 2013



- FY 2013 ESP budget reduction of \$4.5 million (total budget of \$35 million)
- FY 2014 Nearly \$30 million committed towards continuing and deferred study efforts
- Ability to start new projects will be severely limited in FY 2014 (OCS SC advise is welcome)
- Goal is to get back to where we have approximately 50% of yearly budget dedicated to new starts

1. New organization structure effective in putting science first and fostering collegiality across offices and regions
2. Data management and dissemination is being improved
3. New research partnerships are being explored
4. Evolving long-term ecosystem monitoring programs are being developed
5. Using science to mitigate conflict among stakeholder

