



OSC Scientific Committee Meeting May 2013

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Paper		Evaluating the effectiveness of BOEM-imposed adaptive management of biological mitigation and monitoring requirements	
41		Environmental Effects and Cost Comparison of Single Beam, Swath, and Multi-beam Bathymetric Surveys Before and After Dredging Operations	8
43		Monitoring Dredging Intensity Using Variable Grid Analysis of Dredge Quality Management Data (staying in agenda)	9
37		Variability in Ecosystem Service, Resiliency, and Post-Dredging Recovery of Ridge-Swale Habitat and Biological Communities in the Mid- and South-Atlantic Bight	6
33		Developing BOEM's Access to Protected Species Occurrence Data for Impact Analyses and Rule-making	4
45		Support for the Development of an Improved Biostatistical Method to Analyze and Interpret Observations from Marine Mammal Behavioral Response Studies	10
<p>**PO = Physical Oceanography FE = Fate & Effect BIO = Biology PS = Protected Species SE = Social & Economic OT = Other</p>			

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BOEM Information Need:

- Understand the effectiveness of mitigations and monitoring measures required by BOEM
- Understand effectiveness of processes in place to adaptively manage these measures
- Incorporate results to improve BOEM's environmental assessment and adaptive management of measures

Date Information is Required:

Ongoing need for current and future projects. Will be incorporated in BOEM environmental assessments.

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Tentative Ranking:___

Background:

- Mitigation and monitoring decisions hold significant weight in determining conclusions on environmental effects and ultimately Bureau decisions on authorizing activities
- Intent is to use monitoring results to inform future mitigation and monitoring decisions
- Lack an understanding of current effectiveness of measures and clear process for adaptive management of measures

Background:

- Approach is encouraged per the Council of Environmental Quality's January 14, 2011 guidance on mitigation and monitoring in National Environmental Policy Act
- Required for BOEM to explain in environmental consultations with other agencies.
- Needed for intended adaptive management process with BSEE.

Study's Objectives: Undertake a rigorous analysis of the effectiveness and adaptability of BOEM-required mitigation and monitoring measures, using biological measures as case study.

- known information on their effectiveness
- adequate defining of measures, expected outcomes and performance, and processes to adaptively adjust
- effective engagement of stakeholders in planning and whether this improves outcomes
- ways to improve and add rigor to measures

Study's Methods: Suggested methods include:

- Compile existing BOEM-imposed requirements
- Conduct literature review to assess effectiveness
- Measure quality and robustness of the mitigation and monitoring analyses in representative BOEM environmental assessment documents
- Solicit feedback from representative sample of BOEM staff and external stakeholders to determine opinions on effectiveness
- Identify ways to improve mitigation/monitoring effectiveness and adaptive management process for mitigation and monitoring