



OSC Scientific Committee Meeting May 2013

**S. E. O'Reilly
M.K. Nannen**

**Physical Sciences
Water Quality/Waste and Discharge Issues**

**Biological Sciences
Benthic Communities**

Gulf of Mexico Region

Erin.O'Reilly@BOEM.GOV





Workshop on Developing a New, Leveraged Approach to Long-term Monitoring in the Gulf of Mexico Using Stations

Moved to the 2015 SDP,

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BOEM GOM Region





Workshop on Developing a New, Leveraged Approach to Long-term Monitoring in the Gulf of Mexico Using Stations

BOEM Information Need:

In accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCLA; SEC. 20. ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (b)) and BOEM's mission, BOEM should periodically revisit the results of past studies and consider new research and monitoring efforts to allow for the identification of environmental changes and potential cumulative effects of offshore oil and gas activity on the GOM.

BOEM needs a plan for an efficient and effective Gulf-wide, *inter-disciplinary*, long-term monitoring program that builds off of past baseline studies, current focused research studies, and limited on-going monitoring efforts like the Flower Garden Banks long-term monitoring.

Date Information Required: Past due

Background:

Past and Current BOEM studies

- Baseline studies in 1970s and 1980s
 - Focused ecosystem and archeological studies
 - Flower Garden Banks long-term monitoring
-

BOEM's monitoring program

Challenges

- Subject specific approach more common
 - Difficult to leverage
 - Interdisciplinary challenging
 - Water and sediment data may be ancillary
- Recognition-
 - Titles not reflective of all data
 - Limits accessibility - response or collaboration efforts

Background:

Determining BOEM's Path Forward

- BOEM ongoing and slated studies
- Post Deepwater Horizon focused studies (e.g., GoMRI)
- Current non-BOEM Efforts
 - SEAMAP
 - GEOMECC-2
 - GCOOS
- Future non-BOEM ideas/plans-
 - GOMA nutrient monitoring framework
 - GCOOS
 - **RESTORE ACT?**

Challenge- most of the above are very limited. How does BOEM make sure its particular needs and obligations are met now and into the future.

Objectives

Hold a workshop to create a framework for future GOM long-term monitoring efforts

- Determine what previous studies/data are most valuable for baseline or incremental data
 - Data mining?
- Determine offshore sites “stations”
 - Capitalize on sites from past/current studies and establish new sites
 - Encourage/require future studies to include some stations
 - Stations visited more frequently due to cross discipline selection
- Evaluate what, how, and how often new data should be collected and reported
 - New techniques or instrumentation
 - Passive sampling
 - Basic data set and collection protocol
 - Allows projects with other goals to get basic data for other disciplines

Study's Methods:

- **Two day workshop in New Orleans**
- **Academia, private sector, and government invited**
- **Multiple disciplines-** archeology, toxicology, biology, microbiology, genetics, chemical oceanography, (bio)geochemistry, environmental mineralogy, geology and sedimentology

Additional *Pertinent* Information

- **Report yielding recommendations of a framework for future studies to consider as they are developed**
- This work would be supportive of proposed and ongoing work
- This format can foster more collaboration and discussion both inside and *outside* of BOEM
- Moving in this direction has already become fruitful
- Having key elements and areas of interest can also help leverage RESTORE ACT efforts.