

BOEM ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM: ONGOING STUDIES

BOEM OCS Region: [Gulf of Mexico](#)

Title: Administration of the LSU Coastal Marine Institute (2009-2013) (GM-09-01-01)

Planning Area: Gulfwide

Total Cost: \$120,636.00

Period of Performance: FY 2009-2013

Conducting Organization: [Coastal Marine Institute](#), Louisiana State University

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Description:

Background: The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Louisiana State University (LSU) (through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)) are continuing the Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) program to conduct environmental and socioeconomic research of joint interest to the State of Louisiana and BOEM on offshore energy and marine minerals issues. Under the terms of this agreement the State, through LSU, provides matching funds of at least one dollar for each dollar BOEM provides for selected studies. The first agreement was signed in September 1992, establishing the first BOEM CMI at LSU. Under the current agreement, any LSU researcher can propose research projects of interest to both the State and BOEM, provided that the offeror provides matching funds.

The status of the ongoing CMI studies varies as to the individual study being conducted. The CMI agreement emphasizes a close cooperative working relationship between LSU and BOEM resulting in a program of research of vital interest to both the State of Louisiana and BOEM.

Objectives: This agreement is designed to use the highly qualified, scientific expertise at the local levels to: collect and disseminate environmental information needed for OCS energy and mineral decisions; address local and regional OCS related environmental and resource issues of mutual interest, and strengthen the BOEM-LSU-State partnerships in addressing OCS energy information needs.

Methods: Annually, proposals for studies that address the information needs identified within a general framework are solicited by and submitted to the CMI Director at LSU. Proposals are then evaluated by a CMI Steering Committee as to scientific merit and applicability to information needs of the BOEM and the State of Louisiana, and deemed either acceptable, in need of revision, or unacceptable. External peer review, such as by

the BOEM Scientific Committee of the OCS Advisory Board, is sought to assist in the reviews, particularly when questions of technical merit cannot be resolved. So as to maximize use of the capabilities of the researchers, latitude exists to revise unacceptable proposals to more closely conform to the needs of the BOEM and the State.

Products: Ongoing development of the LSU CMI webpage.

Importance to BOEM: The CMI agreement provides a vital mechanism to continue dialog and research on mutually agreed upon OCS issues. With matching of funds, the BOEM and State are able to collect information that otherwise might not be obtained. Individual projects conducted under the agreement, address issues of immediate concern to both the State of Louisiana and BOEM, and provide information for numerous OCS decisions, depending on the focus and scope of the particular project.

Current Status: The agreement was renewed in FY 2009 reflecting the continued success of the program. Since its inception, closer cooperation has been achieved and more than 100 projects have been jointly undertaken. BOEM and LSU announced the Call for Letters of Intent in November. Letters of Intent submitted by LSU Principal Investigators will be due in January 2012. Based upon the peer review and evaluation of these Letters of Intent, BOEM will invite proposals from LSU for FY 2012 funding through the CMI program.

Final Report Due: Not applicable.

Publications: None

Affiliated WWW Sites: For information on other BOEM projects conducted through the LSU CMI see the [LSU CMI webpage](#).

Revised date: December 2011

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