

Objectives:

- (1) Develop standardized baseline descriptions of the new EIAs as defined by previous studies, and using these descriptions perform a final test to confirm or modify proposed EIA boundaries.
- (2) Develop rational methods for defining focal areas, and using those methods, create focus areas that address the regional economy and economic links to the OCS petroleum industry--building on initial efforts in the Geographic Units Project.
- (3) Evaluate the vulnerability of given geographic areas and economic sectors to changes in OCS-related activity.
- (4) Synthesize relevant findings from other BOEM-supported research into EIA focal area descriptions, and coordinate with relevant ongoing BOEM-supported research.

Methods:

“Fuzzy Set” analysis will be undertaken, which will provide a procedure for finalizing the location of individual counties within EIAs where trade and labor market analysis failed to reach consensus on location on revised EIAs from the GUP project. Variables that serve as primary measures of OCS energy industry dependency will be identified. Factor analysis will be employed to generate an index to tease out counties/parishes that would be considered focal areas for future BOEM research emphasis. Geographic supply chains that link inter-industry demand between geographic areas (either single counties or multi-county regions) will be identified using IMPLAN.

Products:

Two final reports will arise from this project. The first report will summarize and provide a brief overview of the new economic impact areas. The second report will provide a more detailed presentation of the methods and results of this project.

Importance to BOEM:

The geographic units defined by this project will frame BOEM’s NEPA analysis for economic factors, demographics, and infrastructure. This study will also produce a wide variety of data which can be used in future BOEM analyses.

Current Status: This study was awarded in August 2012.

Final Report Due: September 2015

Publications: N/A

Affiliated WWW Sites: N/A

Revised date: September 2012

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