

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM: ONGOING STUDIES

BOEM OCS Region: National

Planning Areas (s): All

Title: OCS Renewable Energy and Space-Use Conflicts and Related Mitigation (NT-08-x12)

Total Cost: \$824,872

Period of Performance: FY 2009-2012

Conducting Organization: Industrial Economics, Inc. (IEC)

BOEM Contact: [John Primo](#)

Description:

Background: The Ocean accommodates a variety of uses that are separated by time of day, season, location, and/or zones set aside for specific users. Alternative energy development offers the potential for new use space conflicts with other existing uses of the OCS. Management of ocean space and resources have been addressed by a number of state, regional, and federal organizations – fisheries management councils, state task forces, and coastal zone management agencies, for example – but information on the various uses of these spaces and the potential conflicts as they pertain to alternative energy development are not well documented nor are they understood in terms of type of activity, duration, and timing.

Space use conflicts were identified as a social, economic, and cultural concern in the synthesis of existing information on the environmental effects of alternative energy development on the OCS. Avoidance and mitigation measures have not been fully developed for space use conflicts of alternative energy development, but need to be.

Objectives: The purpose of the study is to identify space use conflicts on the OCS between alternative energy development and existing and potential other uses of the OCS and ways to mitigate those conflicts.

Methods: The study will develop a geospatial database that is compatible with the BOEM mapping system to assist in determining multiple uses offshore. Through a literature search and key informant discussions, including lessons learned from the European experience, the study will identify mitigation and avoidance measures as well as conflict resolution strategies to address potential conflicts between alternative energy sites and other space-uses present on the OCS. In addition, the study will explore the possibilities for creating or revising institutional linkages that might facilitate communication and cooperation between the various entities involved.

Importance to BOEM: Siting issues are extremely important in determining areas of possible alternative energy development. BOEM decisions on lease sales must consider potential space-use conflicts on the OCS and consider how these conflicts differ during construction and operations. BOEM needs to identify potential space use conflicts of OCS alternative energy development with other activities (e.g., fishing, navigation, sand and gravel extraction etc.), develop criteria for evaluating those conflicts, and identify mechanisms to mitigate existing conflicts and avoid future ones. This study will engage other Federal and state agencies to promote institutional and cross cutting thinking about multiple uses. Information from the study will be used in BOEM decision making on siting and monitoring alternative energy development.

Current Status: The contractors are writing the ‘draft’ final report, and are completing the final version of

the geospatial database.

Final Report Due: June, 2012

Publications: None

Affiliated WWW sites: None

Updated: January 17, 2012

ESPIS: Environmental Studies Program Information System

All completed ESP studies can be found here:

http://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data_center/other/espis/espismaster.asp?appid=1