

BOEMRE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM: ONGOING STUDIES

OCS Region: Headquarters

Planning Area(s): All

Title: Estimation of Marine Productivity in each Planning Area

Total Cost: \$299, 415.00

Period of Performance: FY 2008-2010

Conducting Organization: CSA International, Inc

BOEMRE Contact: [Dr. Michael Rasser](#)

Description:

Background: The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) requires that a leasing program which provides a schedule of proposed lease sales be prepared every five years. The most recent program begins in July of 2007 and extends until July 2012. The proposed program includes an analysis of “the relative environmental sensitivity and marine productivity of different areas of the outer Continental Shelf” per section 18 of OCSLA. The summary incorporated in the leasing program document describes the relative marine productivity for each planning area as primary productivity. The MMS last prepared a synthesis report in 1991 (CSA, 1991) for use in the preparation of the program document.

Objectives: The objective is to estimate marine productivity for each planning area for incorporation into the next 5-year proposed final program document (2012-2017).

Methods: The method that has been used in the past includes estimating primary productivity using standard methods such as chlorophyll-a or the amount of carbon fixed. Recent information suggests that secondary productivity and perhaps tertiary productivity should be included to yield total marine productivity. The report will include a literature search of recent information for each planning area and calculations of marine productivity.

Importance to BOEMRE: The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act requires that the 5-year leasing program include consideration of marine productivity for each planning area. The information will be used in the preparation of the proposed program document which will begin in early 2010.

Current Status:

Final Report Due: 05/31/14

Publications:

Affiliated WWW Sites:

Revised Date: July 28, 2010

ESPIS

Reference:

Continental Shelf Associates, Inc. 1991. A comparison of marine productivity among outer continental shelf planning areas. Feasibility analysis of secondary production measures. A final report for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service, Herndon, VA, MMS Report 91-0031. Contract NO. 14-35-0001-30487. 74 p.