



Energy Efficiency &  
Renewable Energy



## Establishment of Environmental and Social Sciences Working Group to Develop Environmental Monitoring & Mitigation Protocols

**Summary:** The purposes of this initiative are to identify and address environmental data gaps on the Atlantic OCS, to achieve synergies by coordination of survey efforts by the various parties conducting such surveys, and to develop consensus on common methodologies to facilitate comparisons of results across surveys.

The goals are to identify:

- 1) what environmental surveys are currently being conducted, have recently been conducted, or are about to be conducted on the Atlantic OCS;
- 2) who are the entities conducting such surveys;
- 3) the contact people for those entities;
- 4) the methods being used to conduct such surveys;
- 5) data gaps not addressed by these surveys; and
- 6) opportunities for DOE and BOEMRE to collaborate to address data gaps.

An ultimate goal is to develop and conduct a series of annual workshops to bring together as many entities as possible who are conducting environmental surveys on the Atlantic OCS to share information, facilitate coordination, and to work toward adoption of common survey methods.

**Targeted Stakeholders:** The target stakeholders are all federal and state agencies, university researchers, NGOs, and private corporations conducting or with interest in environmental surveys on the Atlantic OCS

**Status/Next Steps:** BOEMRE and DOE staff have met on several occasions to share information on their legal and policy mandates, information needs, funding and database capabilities, and to describe their respective past, current and imminent research efforts designed to meet information needs. BOEMRE is currently reviewing the DOE draft Strategic Plan for Creating an Offshore Wind Industry in the United States. The next action will be to discuss that draft Strategic Plan and how it fits with BOEMRE's needs and activities.

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