

Environmental Studies Program: Ongoing Study

Title	Archaeological, Scientific and Technical Services in Support of Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (NSL #AT16 X20)
Administered by	BOEM, Office of Renewable Energy Programs
BOEM Contact(s)	William Hoffman, william.hoffman@boem.gov
Principal Investigators(s)	William Hoffman (BOEM) and Joseph Hoyt (NOAA)
Conducting Organizations(s)	Inter-agency Agreement between BOEM and NOAA, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary
Total BOEM Cost	\$1,000,000
Performance Period	FY 2015–2019
Final Report Due	April 2020
Date Revised	February 7, 2019
PICOC Summary	Write one or two sentences for each of the following elements, as appropriate. If not appropriate, write N/A.
<i><u>Problem</u></i>	BOEM lacks baseline data regarding the presence of potential archaeological resources within Wind Energy Areas in order to inform its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act.
<i><u>Intervention</u></i>	BOEM will conduct baseline ground-truthing via remote sensing and scientific diver investigation of potential archaeological resources.
<i><u>Comparison</u></i>	N/A
<i><u>Outcome</u></i>	Confirmation if selected geophysical survey targets represent archaeological sites, and, if so, acquire documentation to assist in considering their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
<i><u>Context</u></i>	Renewable energy planning areas, Wind Energy Areas and associated Rights-of-Way on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf.

BOEM Information Need(s): BOEM is considering issuing leases and grants and approving plans for renewable energy development throughout planning areas, Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) and associated Rights-of-Way (ROWs) on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). BOEM needs baseline data for these areas regarding archaeological resources in order to make sound decisions about how to minimize impacts; to inform its responsibilities under Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act; and to inform post-construction comparisons. Additionally, previously identified geophysical targets (e.g. side scan sonar contacts and magnetic anomalies) in these areas may prove to be archaeological resources that should be avoided, or they may prove not to be resources and therefore should not prevent development within a specific area of the seafloor.

Background: BOEM is seeking to marry its need to gather baseline data with efforts to leverage partnerships with other Federal agencies and state partners. Doing so

creates efficiencies in BOEM's processes; reduces expenditures; builds relationships that will extend these efficiencies and cost reductions into the future; and provides needed data to inform sound decision-making in the present. Based on previous and successful collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, BOEM has elected to continue this relationship through an Interagency Agreement (M15PG00003) for archaeological services in support of renewable energy development on the Atlantic OCS.

Objectives: The goal of the interagency agreement is to collaboratively obtain limited baseline archaeological data near and within WEAs, wind planning areas, and associated ROWs in order to inform decision-making. Each year the agencies will finalize a research design detailing the objectives and methods for each survey effort. The yearly objectives will be based on information needs related to BOEM's Office of Renewable Energy Program's priority NEPA analyses and Section 106 reviews. The agencies will then work together to perform the surveys and field investigations, analyze results, and prepare a jointly-authored technical report.

Methods: The survey and investigations may involve gathering baseline geophysical survey data (e.g. side scan sonar, magnetometer, multibeam echosounder) on selected targets of archaeological interest within and near wind planning areas, WEAs, or ROWs; performing diver investigation; gathering photography and videography; or employing other methods as determined appropriate by the team via the annual research design.

Current Status: BOEM and NOAA have jointly conducted four years of projects and the fifth year is currently in planning:

- **Maryland Collaborative Archaeological Survey:** This study presents the results of an archaeological investigation of eight areas within the Maryland Wind Energy Area. Archaeological sites were identified at four of these areas and both avoidance and additional investigations are recommended. No further investigations are recommended for the remaining four sites as it was determined that these sites do not contain archaeological resources and are therefore not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Virginia Collaborative Archaeological Survey:** This study reports on investigations performed at thirteen archaeological sites near and within the Virginia Commercial Wind Energy Area. Avoidance or additional investigations were recommended for nine sites on the basis of possible eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places; no further investigations were recommended for the remaining four sites.
- **North Carolina Collaborative Archaeological Survey- Kitty Hawk WEA:** The study completed a reconnaissance survey of approximately half of the WEA and scientific divers investigated six targets with archaeological potential. Two of the targets were confirmed to be archaeological sites and the study recommended avoidance buffers and additional investigation for these sites. The remaining four targets were determined to be modern debris or geological features and no further investigation was recommended.

- North Carolina Collaborative Archaeological Survey – Wilmington West and East WEAs: BOEM and NOAA conducted diver investigation and documentation of potential shipwreck sites located within and adjacent to the Wilmington West and East Wind Energy Areas and the South Carolina Call Area. Fieldwork was performed summer 2017 and a final report is in preparation.
- New York Collaborative Archaeological Survey: The goal of the 2019 project is to obtain baseline archaeological data within and adjacent to the New York Lease Area and Call Areas to inform future decision-making. Fieldwork is scheduled for August 2019.

Publications Completed:

Carrier, Brandi, Nick DeLong, William Hoffman, Joseph Hoyt, and Will Sassorossi. 2017. *North Carolina Collaborative Archaeological Survey: Kitty Hawk Wind Energy Area*. Final Report to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs and U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. OCS Study BOEM 2017-070.

Carrier, Brandi, Joseph Hoyt, William Hoffman and William Sassarossi. 2016. *Maryland Collaborative Archaeological Survey*. Final Report to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs and U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. OCS Study BOEM 2016-055.

Carrier, Brandi, Joseph Hoyt, William Hoffman, Doug Jones, John McCord, Kara Fox and William Sassorossi. 2015. *Virginia Collaborative Archaeological Survey*. Final Report to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs and U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. OCS Study BOEM 2015-030.

Affiliated WWW Sites: <https://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy/Historic-Preservation-Activities/>