

## **Environmental Studies Program: Ongoing Studies**

**Study Area(s):** Atlantic

**Administered By:** BOEM, Office of Renewable Energy Programs

**Title:** Archaeological Scientific and Technical Services in Support of Renewable Energy Development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf

**BOEM Information Need(s) to be Addressed:** 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.

**Total Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Period of Performance:** FY 2015-2019

**Conducting Organization(s):** Inter-agency partnership between BOEM and NOAA, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary

**BOEM Contact(s):** [William Hoffman](mailto:william.hoffman@boem.gov), william.hoffman@boem.gov

### **Description:**

**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 and reduces expenditures for our agency and others; 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, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, BOEM has elected to continue this relationship through an Interagency Agreement (M15PG00003) for archaeological scientific and technical services in support of renewable energy development on the Atlantic OCS. NOAA will provide scientific and technical specialists and services, share resources, and assist BOEM with conducting and analyzing the resulting data. BOEM also will contribute scientific and technical specialists and share resources for the benefit of these investigations.

**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) within and near wind planning areas, WEAs, or ROWs; the collection of geophysical survey data on selected targets of archaeological interest located within these areas; performing diver investigation of targets; 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 now jointly conducted three years of projects and published results under this Interagency Agreement:

- **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.

BOEM and NOAA have prepared a research design for the North Carolina Collaborative Archaeological Survey. Fieldwork was conducted July through September 2016 and a final portion will be completed spring 2017. The final report for this work is expected to be published by summer of 2017.

**Final Report Due:** Summer 2017

### **Publications Completed:**

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/>

**Revised Date:** January 23, 2017