BOEM ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM: ONGOING STUDIES

BOEM OCS Region: Gulf of Mexico

Planning Area: All

Title: An Analysis of the Impacts of the Deepwater Horizon on

the Seafood Industry (GM-13-06)

Total Cost: \$ 362,470 **Period of Performance:** FY 2013-2016

Conducting The VERTEX Companies

Organization:

BOEM Contact: Mark Jensen (mark.jensen@boem.gov)

Description:

<u>Background</u>: The Deepwater Horizon oil spill (DWH) had a number of economic impacts on the communities along the Gulf of Mexico. Some of the most severe and complex economic effects of the DWH were on the Gulf's seafood industry. Most directly, commercial fishing was banned in a number of areas for substantial periods of time subsequent to the spill. This impacted commercial fishermen and various firms along the seafood supply chain. The DWH also impacted product demand, labor availability, price patterns, and income sources throughout the seafood industry.

Objectives:

The objectives of this study are to:

- a. Improve BOEM's understanding of the structure of the Gulf's seafood industry and how this structure may have been altered as a result of the DWH.
- b. Improve BOEM's understanding of the varied impacts of the DWH on the individuals and firms that comprise the Gulf's seafood industry.
- c. Provide information that will be used to improve the nation's response to future oil spills as it relates to the Gulf's seafood industry.

<u>Methods</u>: This study will use statistical analyses to clarify how changes in fish landings and prices impacted the Gulf seafood supply chain. This study will also entail a literature review and a descriptive discussion of the varied economic impacts of the DWH on the Gulf seafood industry.

<u>Products</u>: The primary product of this study will be a written report that synthesizes the results of the various methods.

<u>Importance to BOEM:</u> This study will allow BOEM to assess baseline conditions in the seafood industry subsequent to the DWH, as well as to better understand the impacts of potential future oil spills.

Current Status: The contractor has submitted various interim deliverables, including a literature review, a discussion document, preliminary modeling work, and an outline of the synthesis report.

Final Report Due: February 2015

Revised date: December 2014

ESPIS - All *completed* ESP Studies:

Full Text, Online, Right Now!

Environmental Studies Program Information System