

Environmental Studies Program: Studies Development Plan | FY 2019–2021

Title	Support for Fifth International Conference on the Effects of Noise on Marine Life
Administered by	Headquarters
BOEM Contact(s)	Stanley Labak, stanley.labak@boem.gov
Procurement Type(s)	Contract, Inter-agency agreement, Cooperative Agreement
Approx. Cost	\$25 (in thousands) * Current policy is a \$10,000 sponsorship limit. Previous sponsorship for this conference was \$30,000. Asking for \$25,000 this time in case ceiling lifts.
Performance Period	FY 2019
Date Revised	February 15, 2018
PICOC Summary	
<i>Problem</i>	BOEM-authorized activities add unwanted noise to the ocean, which can have impacts on a wide variety of marine life. This presents a complex scientific and regulatory challenge to BOEM and its many stakeholders. Gaining access to the best available and most recent scientific information can also be challenging on this issue given its international focus.
<i>Intervention</i>	Gaining an understanding of the latest research and management approaches in this field is key for BOEM to remain a leader in its field and fulfill its mission of safe and responsible energy development. Access to and supporting the sharing of information is central for BOEM to meet this demand.
<i>Comparison</i>	There is no other comparable conference in scope
<i>Outcome</i>	Supporting and attending this one-of-a-kind international conference is critical for BOEM's acoustic team and helps to identify BOEM as a strong participant in the discussion, development, and solutions to the underwater noise issue.
<i>Context</i>	This Conference occurs once every three years, and this time it will be held in The Hague, Netherlands in summer 2019.

BOEM Information Need(s): Anthropogenic noise continues to be a significant environmental concern for BOEM and many of its stakeholders. It is a central issue across all program areas and regions. There is a constant need for BOEM to not only support further research on this topic, but also to gain access to the latest scientific and management information.

Background: This conference occurs every three years, and is the only conference of its kind in the world. The presenters are in the top of their fields and are on the cutting-edge of new technology and research to address these issues. It provides excellent information on scientific progress and regulatory strategies in different jurisdictions, as well as access to domestic/international colleagues and stakeholders highly engaged on this issue. Results may identify specific research needs for BOEM or suggest potential mitigation and management strategies.

Objectives: Support of and participation in this conference allows BOEM to disseminate its own research and management information as well as reinforce its role as a key player on this issue.

Methods: N/A

Specific Research Question(s): N/A

References:

1) Information from the last conference can be found here:

http://www.aquaticnoise2019.org/2016/about_dublin.html

2) Short summary of 2016 conference:

Erbe, C., Sisneros, J., Thomsen, F., Hawkins, A., and Popper, A. (2016). Overview of the Fourth International Conference on the Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life. *Proceedings of Meetings on Acoustics: 27.*

3) Published book of extended abstracts from the 2013 conference:

Popper, A., Hawkins, A. (2016). *The Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life II*. New York: Springer.