

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Integrating Science, Policy, and Decision Making

The Webster dictionary defines stewardship as “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” Environmental stewardship is integral to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s (BOEM’s) mission to manage development of the Nation’s offshore resources: oil and gas, renewable energy, and marine minerals such as sand and gravel. The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) directs BOEM to study and consider coastal, marine, and human environmental impacts when making decisions on how to effectively promote energy independence, environmental protection, and economic development.

To ensure that environmental protection is a primary consideration in BOEM’s decisions, our environmental program focuses on two core components which constantly engage with and inform each other. **Environmental assessment** includes the activities we perform to evaluate the impacts of BOEM’s proposed actions and to involve the public, and federal, state and tribal governments in the process; **environmental science** is where we obtain the best available data and information about environmental resources. Assessment determines what science is needed, and science provides the knowledge for making accurate assessments.

Environmental Assessment

- Evaluate impact of proposed actions
- Consult, coordinate, and collaborate with governmental entities and stakeholders to prevent and/or minimize impacts to specific resources
- Encourage meaningful public participation in the decision making process

Environmental Science

- Serve as a leading contributor to the growing body of scientific knowledge about the marine and coastal environment, funding more than \$1 billion in research since 1973
- Cover a broad range of disciplines, including physical oceanography, atmospheric sciences, biology, social sciences (economics, archaeology), and fates and effects of oil or gas in the sea
- Leverage resources for research through inter- and intra-agency agreements and cooperative agreements with federal and state partners, universities, and public colleges in coastal states



BOEM's Key Activities

Ongoing interaction between studies and assessment activities helps BOEM prioritize and target specific information needs, fill knowledge gaps in time for future decisions, and maintain our high level of commitment to environmental stewardship.



Applying Federal Law and Policy to Fulfill Our Stewardship Responsibilities

More than 30 regulations, executive orders, and policies are integral to BOEM’s decisions. These include, but are not limited to OCLSA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other laws such as the:

- Clean Air Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act
- Clean Water Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- National Historic Preservation Act

Executive Orders (EOs) and Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretarial Orders

- EO 12114: Environmental Effects Abroad
- EO 13007: Indian Sacred Sites
- EO 13186: Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds
- EO 13777: Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda
- EO 13795: Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy
- Secretarial Order 3355: Streamlining NEPA Reviews and Implementation of Executive Order 13807
- EO 13175 of Nov. 6, 2000. *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.* 65 Fed. Reg. 67249 (Nov. 9, 2000).
- EO 12898: Environmental Justice
- EO 13089: Coral Reef Protection
- EO 13766: Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects
- EO 13783: Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth
- EO 13807: Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects
- Secretarial Order 3350: America-First Offshore Energy Strategy
- DOI Policies on Consultation with Indian Tribes (Dec. 1, 2011), and Consultation with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations (Aug. 10, 2012).

Be Involved!

- ❖ Check out our assessment documents at <http://www.boem.gov/EnvAssessment/>
- ❖ Check out our environmental studies at www.boem.gov/Studies/
- ❖ Check out the Environmental Studies Program Information System (ESPIS) <https://marinecadastre.gov/espis/#/>
- ❖ Provide input through public meetings and written comment