

Presentation 2: Michael Faught

Theory and Method of Submerged Landscapes Pre-Contact Archaeology in the Gulf of Mexico and the Place of the US CRM industry in it.

This talk will remind us of the efforts necessary to conduct productive, appropriate CRM survey and sampling procedures for submerged pre-contact sites and landscapes anywhere in North America, but especially in the GOM. It will be organized around the predictive modeling approaches developed in 1977 by Woody Gagliano and his Coastal Environments CRM archaeologists. In many ways, this CRM driven work is foundation for a new generation of submerged pre-contact geoarchaeologists, as well as for BOEM's Renewable Energy Survey Guidelines – the best in the business. The BOEM Renewable Energy guidelines also recommend various methods to assess the accuracy of predictive models from remote sensing data by testing specific targets, such as using vibra-cores or by diver controlled dredging excavations. The range and effectiveness of these and other procedures to identify sites and reconstruct paleolandscapes will be described and evaluated with regard to setting revised guidelines for the GOM. Finally, the importance of submerged landscapes archaeology to Clovis origins in the GOM will be expanded and emphasized, as well as other culture historical questions that require data from underwater contexts.