



BUDGET The United States Department of the Interior **JUSTIFICATIONS**

and Performance Information
Fiscal Year 2026

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

NOTICE: These budget
justifications are prepared
for the Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
Appropriations
Subcommittees.



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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Introduction.....	1
Budget Overview	2
Summary Table	4
Organizational Chart	5
Account Details - Ocean Energy Management	7
Summary of Requirements Table.....	7
Appropriations Language.....	8
<i>Appropriations Language Citations</i>	8
<i>Expiring Authorizations</i>	10
Activity: Conventional Energy	13
<i>Conventional Energy Funding Table</i>	13
<i>Activity Overview and Program Description</i>	13
<i>Contribution to Administration Priorities</i>	13
<i>Demands, Trends, and Resources</i>	17
Activity: Marine Minerals.....	19
<i>Marine Minerals Funding Table</i>	19
<i>Activity Overview and Program Description</i>	19
<i>Contribution to Administration Priorities</i>	19
<i>Demands, Trends, and Resources</i>	21
Activity: Environmental Programs	23
<i>Environmental Programs Funding Table</i>	23
<i>Activity Overview and Program Description</i>	23
<i>Contribution to Administration Priorities</i>	24
<i>Demands, Trends, and Resources</i>	26
Activity: Executive Direction	27
<i>Executive Direction Funding Table</i>	27
<i>Activity Overview and Program Description</i>	27
<i>Contribution to Administration Priorities</i>	27
<i>Demands, Trends, and Resources</i>	28
Compliance with Section 403	29
Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act Report.....	31

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget reflects its commitment to manage development of the country's offshore energy, mineral, and geological resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. Proposed funding supports an emphasis on activities identified in several Executive Orders (EO).

Offshore energy development is a vital component of U.S. national security and a critical driver of American prosperity. As the steward of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), BOEM is uniquely positioned to advance the Administration's goal of unleashing American energy (EO 14154). The OCS is a significant source of oil and gas for the country's energy supply. Under the FY 2026 budget, BOEM will continue to play a major role in helping drive historic growth in offshore oil and gas production and reinforce the Nation's position as a global energy leader.

In FY 2026, BOEM will encourage energy exploration and production in Federal waters to help ensure an affordable and reliable energy supply to American citizens including through the development of the 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program). Through innovation, expertise and regulatory certainty, the budget reflects BOEM's commitment to securing Energy Dominance while upholding the highest safety and environmental standards.

In response to President Trump's declaration of a National Energy Emergency (EO 14156), BOEM's FY 2026 budget supports implementing emergency permitting procedures to accelerate the development of domestic energy resources and critical minerals. As the Bureau responsible for overseeing the prospecting, permitting and leasing of offshore critical minerals, BOEM is committed to implementing the Administration's goal of unleashing America's offshore critical minerals and resources (EO 14285), as well as the Department's efforts to accelerate permitting of energy and critical mineral projects that are vital to the country's geopolitical security, economic resilience and energy independence. BOEM's FY 2026 budget will help expedite permitting and leasing processes for critical mineral resources to help ensure efficiency, predictability, and competitiveness for American companies and advance the Administration's energy goals, strengthen America's supply chain security, and reduce strategic vulnerabilities.

The FY 2026 budget reflects a careful analysis of the resources needed to advance the Administration's priorities and develop BOEM's core capacity to execute its functions responsibly and efficiently in service of the Nation.

Bureau Mission Statement

The mission of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is to manage development of the Nation's offshore energy, mineral, and geological resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. BOEM's core statutory mandate is provided by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), 43 U.S.C. § 1331 et seq., in conjunction with the Submerged Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. § 1301 et seq. In OCSLA, the term "Outer Continental Shelf" (OCS) is defined as "(1) all submerged lands lying seaward and

outside of the area of lands beneath navigable waters as defined in [the Submerged Lands Act], and of which the subsoil and seabed appertain to the United States and are subject to its jurisdiction and control or within the exclusive economic zone of the United States and adjacent to any territory of the United States; and (2) does not include any area conveyed by Congress to a territorial government for administration” (43 U.S.C. § 1331). The Secretary of the Interior delegated to BOEM the authority provided under the OCS Lands Act to issue leases, easements, and rights-of-way on the OCS for energy, marine mineral, and carbon sequestration activities.

To carry out OCSLA’s statutory mission as intended by Congress, BOEM manages OCS energy, mineral, and geological resources, including: OCS oil and gas planning, leasing, and oversight, including inventories of oil and gas reserves, resource and economic evaluation, review and administration of oil and gas exploration and development plans, geological and geophysical permitting, and financial assurance and risk management; conveyance of sand and gravel resources; collecting information to advance geological mapping of OCS critical minerals; and conducting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses and environmental studies. BOEM works with the offshore energy industries, Tribal Nations, Federal agencies, State, and local governments, local communities, ocean users, and other key stakeholders to ensure that any future offshore energy, mineral and geological resource development is done safely and responsibly and relies on the best-available science consistent with E.O. 14303.

Budget Overview

Funding for BOEM is requested through the Ocean Energy Management (OEM) account, which consists of net discretionary appropriations and offsetting collections (comprising a portion of OCS rental receipts and cost recovery fees). In FY 2026, BOEM requests \$148.2 million in total budget authority. BOEM’s request includes \$76.5 million in net current appropriations and \$71.8 million in offsetting collections. The FY 2026 OEM account includes the following budget activities: Conventional Energy, Marine Minerals, Environmental Programs, and Executive Direction. In alignment with EO 14154, the FY 2026 Budget eliminates the Renewable Energy budget activity, and focuses taxpayer resources on it’s the Bureau’s statutory mission and Administration priorities. BOEM will focus on priorities such as expediting offshore oil and gas leasing as the country moves toward global energy and critical mineral dominance, thus fostering prosperity, economic growth and national security.

BOEM’s budget advances the Administration’s goals and BOEM’s mission as the steward of America’s energy, mineral, and geologic resources on the OCS. The budget reflects the Bureau’s commitment to ongoing efforts and initiatives that are vital to BOEM’s mission and critical to supporting the Administration’s priorities. The budget supports an emphasis on activities identified in Executive Orders (EOs) and Secretary’s Orders (SOs), including, but not limited to: EO 14156, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency*; SO 3417, *Addressing the National Energy Emergency*; EO 14154 and SO 3418, *Unleashing American Energy*; EO 14148 *Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions*; SO 3420, *Announcing President Trump’s Revocation of Former Outer Continental Shelf Withdrawals*; EO 14153 and SO 3422, *Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential*; and, EO 14285, *Unleashing America’s Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources*. Collectively, the EOs and associated SOs describe the Administration’s focus on developing America’s energy and critical minerals global dominance in a balanced way that supports the Nation’s prosperity, energy security, and environmental

protection. BOEM will continue supporting the EOs and SOs by improving access to OCS energy, geological and mineral resource identification, permitting, and leasing; enhancing the public's access to science and data; advancing energy security; supporting economic prosperity; and ensuring the reliability and affordability of domestic energy. BOEM's budget will continue supporting environmental stewardship and utilizing environmental studies and analysis to inform the Bureau's decision making. Overall, the budget reflects a careful analysis of the resources needed to advance the Administration's priorities and develop BOEM's capacity to execute its functions responsibly and efficiently.

Budget Highlights

Conventional Energy Budget Activity. BOEM's mission directly advances the Administration's priority to unleash OCS energy potential and thus generate prosperity and economic and national security for our country. BOEM's development of the 11th National OCS Program aligns with EOs 14148, 14153, 14154, and 14156. The EOs and associated Secretarial directives instruct BOEM to ensure OCS exploration and development are not unnecessarily inhibited or delayed, but rather promote expansion of OCS oil and gas leasing, exploration and production to foster energy security and provide hardworking Americans with affordable, reliable energy. BOEM's base budget supports these goals through the preparation of a new National OCS Program in line with the Administration's priorities. During FY 2026 the Bureau will continue meeting its other statutorily required OCS energy activities, which include activities such as administering existing leases, permitting geological and geophysical surveys, reviewing exploration and development plans, evaluating resources, and implementing the 10th National OCS Program. In meeting these obligations, BOEM conducts its OCS energy program in a manner that delivers a fair return for the American taxpayer, mitigates and addresses adverse impacts, and ensures leaseholders maintain adequate financial assurance.

Marine Minerals Budget Activity. The OCS Lands Act authorizes BOEM to convey, on a noncompetitive basis, the rights to OCS sediment resources to Federal, State, and local government agencies for shore protection, beach or coastal wetlands restoration projects, or construction projects funded or authorized by the Federal government. These crucial OCS resources support resilient coasts, natural disaster preparedness, and critical infrastructure development and protection. During FY 2026, BOEM will continue to champion EO 14285 and advance critical mineral priorities through the assessment of OCS critical minerals and collection of baseline information pertaining to ecological conditions and communities associated with OCS critical mineral deposits. Through this work, BOEM will be better positioned to evaluate future requests to prospect for, lease, and potentially develop offshore critical minerals in an environmentally responsible manner. Funding will continue to support environmentally responsible resource exploration and leasing activities, coordination with governmental partners, engagement of stakeholders, and applied scientific studies to improve decision making and manage risk.

Environmental Programs Budget Activity. Environmental assessments and studies are critical to the successful management of offshore energy and mineral resources, and effecting legally durable policy and permitting decisions. BOEM seeks to be a model for how OCS energy and mineral development go together with responsible stewardship of the environment. BOEM's Environmental Programs budget activity supports applied scientific studies necessary to inform environmentally and economically

responsible decisions regarding energy and mineral development on the OCS. BOEM conducts its environmental analyses in a transparent, coordinated, and efficient fashion to ensure that its decisions are informed by the best available science, state risks clearly, and incorporate mitigations to reduce risk. BOEM's Environmental Studies Program (ESP) provides the environmental science used as the bedrock for sound policy decisions. BOEM's environmental programs also contribute to understanding impacts to the human environment and have assumed a leading role in addressing impacts on federally recognized Tribes and other communities. During FY 2026, BOEM will continue supporting the development of the 11th National OCS Program and ongoing offshore oil and gas activities, and advancing scientific information associated with marine and critical mineral activities.

Executive Direction Budget Activity. In FY 2026, the Bureau will utilize base funding to continue bureau-wide leadership, management and coordination. Resources will provide functions such as: managing the budget planning and execution processes, Freedom of Information Act activities, overseeing official documents, policy analysis, and regulations.

Workforce Unification. The FY 2026 budget supports the Administration's priority to streamline government and will continue efforts to consolidate common administrative and support services across the Department to increase efficiency and promote cost savings. Program reductions reflected within budget activities reflect streamlining and efficiency activities conducted during the unification.

The following summary table provides a high-level view of BOEM's FY 2026 budget.

Summary Table

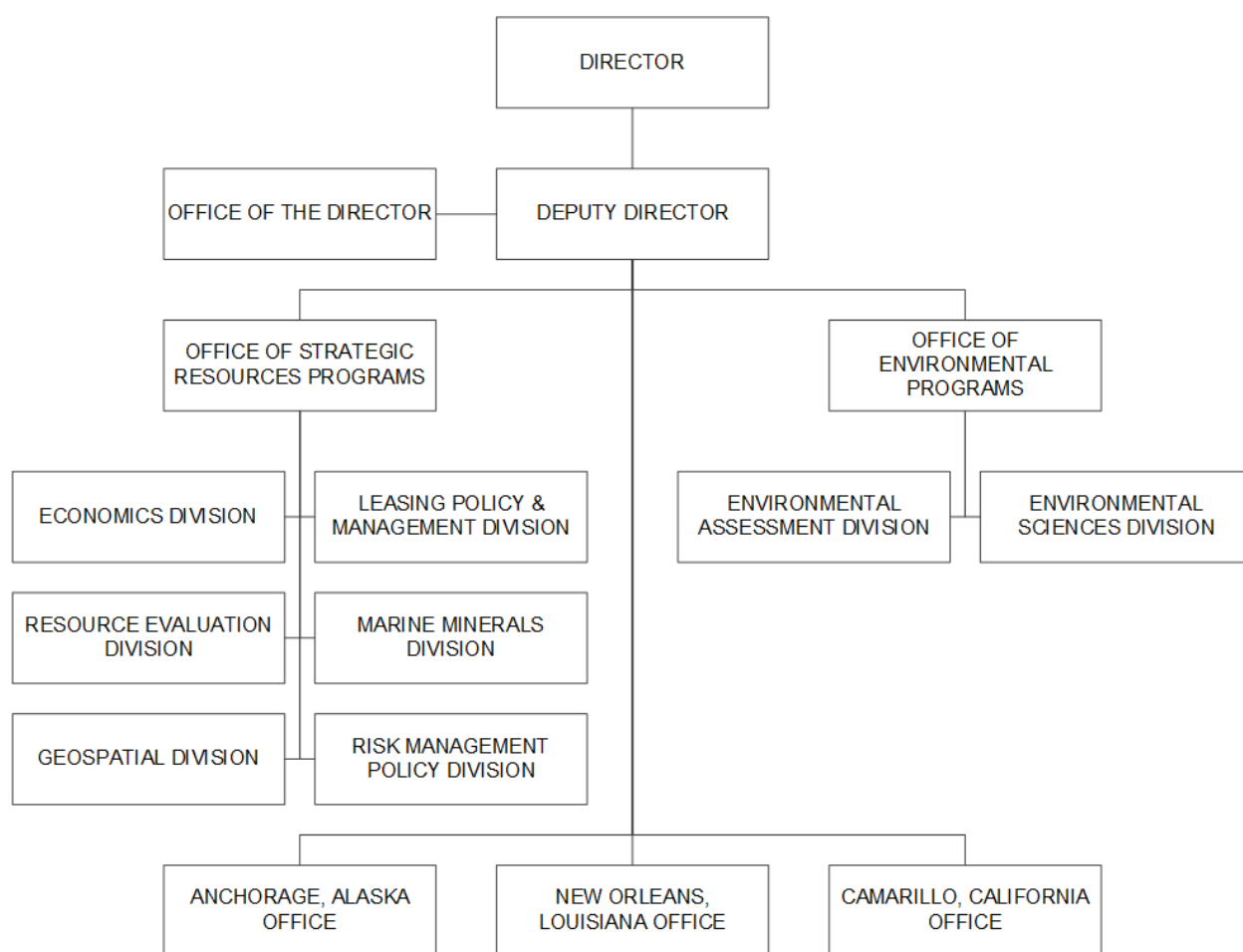
2026 President's Budget (\$000)

	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Ocean Energy Management			
Net Current Appropriation	154,194	156,207	76,458
Offsetting Collections	56,968	54,955	71,776
Total Current	211,162	211,162	148,234
Offsetting Collections			
<i>Rental Receipts</i>	<i>54,302</i>	<i>52,822</i>	<i>69,971</i>
<i>Cost Recovery Fees</i>	<i>2,666</i>	<i>2,133</i>	<i>1,805</i>
Ocean Energy Management			
<i>Renewable Energy</i>	<i>41,105</i>	<i>33,105</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Conventional Energy</i>	<i>59,028</i>	<i>67,028</i>	<i>72,642</i>
<i>Marine Minerals</i>	<i>13,808</i>	<i>13,808</i>	<i>13,808</i>
<i>Environmental Programs</i>	<i>79,078</i>	<i>77,078</i>	<i>49,132</i>
<i>Executive Direction</i>	<i>18,143</i>	<i>20,143</i>	<i>12,652</i>
Total Current	211,162	211,162	148,234

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise 2025 spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

Organizational Chart

BOEM's mission closely aligns with and advances the Administration's policies and priorities by supporting resource evaluation, planning, and leasing of the country's OCS energy, mineral, and geological resources in a balanced way that supports economic development and energy security. These activities are carried out via program offices located at headquarters and regional offices, as shown below in the organizational chart. Policy and administrative functions for each mission area are managed from the greater Washington, D.C., area and focus on national offshore leasing strategy and the development of comprehensive environmental analyses and science. BOEM's regional offices in Anchorage, Alaska; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Camarillo, California, implement Bureau policy, manage regional leasing activity, conduct region-specific analyses, and coordinate stakeholder outreach and engagement.



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Account Details

Account: Ocean Energy Management

Summary of Requirements Table

Ocean Energy Management (\$000)	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Ocean Energy Management			
Renewable Energy			
Direct Appropriation	34,024	28,344	-
Rental Receipts	6,181	4,011	-
Cost Recoveries	900	750	-
Total, Renewable Energy	41,105	33,105	-
Conventional Energy			
Direct Appropriation	47,686	53,111	45,547
Rental Receipts	9,576	12,534	25,290
Cost Recoveries	1,766	1,383	1,805
Total, Conventional Energy	59,028	67,028	72,642
Marine Minerals			
Direct Appropriation	12,061	12,591	12,591
Rental Receipts	1,747	1,217	1,217
Total, Marine Minerals	13,808	13,808	13,808
Environmental Programs			
Direct Appropriation	46,790	44,813	13,505
Rental Receipts	32,288	32,265	35,627
Total, Environmental Programs	79,078	77,078	49,132
Executive Direction			
Direct Appropriation	13,633	17,348	4,815
Rental Receipts	4,510	2,795	7,837
Total, Executive Direction	18,143	20,143	12,652
TOTAL, OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT	211,162	211,162	148,234

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise 2025 spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary for granting and administering leases, easements, rights-of-way, and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf and approving operations related thereto, as authorized by law; for environmental studies, as authorized by law; for implementing other laws and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, \$148,234,000, of which \$76,458,000 is to remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which \$71,776,000 is to remain available until expended: Provided, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (67 Stat. 28) (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than \$76,458,000: Provided further, That not to exceed \$3,000 shall be available for reasonable expenses related to promoting volunteer beach and marine cleanup activities: Provided further, That not to exceed \$5,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

Note.--This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Division A of Public Law 119-4).

Appropriations Language Citations

The following provides a provision-by-provision explanation and citation of authority for each component of the appropriations language.

1. *For expenses necessary for granting and administering leases, easements, rights-of-way and agreements for use for oil and gas, other minerals, energy, and marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf and approving operations related thereto, as authorized by law;*

This provision authorizes BOEM to expend funds for specific, mission-related purposes pursuant to BOEM's primary authorization, the OCS Lands Act, as amended, as well as myriad additional statutes that guide its activities, such as the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and others.

2. *...for environmental studies, as authorized by law;*

This provision authorizes BOEM to expend funds for environmental studies, pursuant to law. Specifically, BOEM's Environmental Studies Program function was established in 1973 by the OCS Lands Act, which directed the Secretary of the Interior, now through BOEM, to –

“ . . . conduct a study of any area or region included in any oil and gas lease sale or other lease in order to establish information needed for assessment and management of environmental impacts on the human, marine, and coastal environments of the Outer Continental Shelf and the coastal areas which may be affected by oil and gas or other mineral development in such area or region.” 43 U.S.C. §1346(a)(1).

“... to predict impacts on the marine biota which may result from chronic low level pollution or large spills associated with Outer Continental Shelf production, from the introduction of drill cuttings and drilling muds in the area, and from the laying of pipe to serve the offshore production area, and the impacts of development offshore on the affected and coastal areas.” 43 U.S.C. §1346(a)(3).

“Subsequent to the leasing and developing of any area or region, [to conduct] such additional studies as he deems necessary and shall monitor the human, marine, and coastal environments of such area or region in a manner designed to provide time-series and data trend information which can be used for comparison with any previously collected data for the purpose of identifying any significant changes in the quality and productivity of such environments, for establishing trends in the areas studied and monitored, and for designing experiments to identify the causes of such changes.” 43 U.S.C. §1346(b).

3. ...*For implementing other laws and to the extent provided by Presidential or Secretarial delegation;*

This provision authorizes BOEM to expend funds on activities related to its mission that are delegated to BOEM by either the President of the United States or the Secretary of the Interior. For instance, Section 40307 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) amended the OCS Lands Act to give the Secretary of the Interior the authority to grant leases, easements, and rights-of-way on the OCS for activities that “provide for, support, or are directly related to the injection of a carbon dioxide stream into sub-seabed geologic formations for the purpose of long-term carbon sequestration.” Additionally, the law directs the Secretary to promulgate regulations to carry out this new, unfunded authority. The Secretary delegated to BOEM and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement the responsibility to create an offshore carbon sequestration program; this provision allows BOEM to fund these activities on behalf of the Secretary.

4. ... *and for matching grants or cooperative agreements,*

This language provides authority for BOEM to utilize matching grants or cooperative agreements to carry out mission-related functions. BOEM uses cooperative agreements with Federal and non-Federal partners to conduct environmental studies and to implement OCS sand projects.

5. ...*\$148,234,000, of which \$76,458,000 is to remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which \$71,776,000 is to remain available until expended:*

This provision identifies the amount of BOEM’s total budget authority for FY 2026 (\$148,234,000). Of this total budget authority, \$76,458,000 is designated as two-year money, to be available from FY 2026 through the end of FY 2027. Meanwhile, \$71,776,000 of BOEM’s budget authority – the amount associated with offsetting collections – is designated as no-year money with no expiration date. This enables BOEM to use no-year money to fund long-term projects such as environmental studies.

6. ... *Provided, That this total appropriation shall be reduced by amounts collected by the Secretary of the Interior and credited to this appropriation from additions to receipts resulting from increases to lease rental rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees from activities conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including studies, assessments, analysis, and miscellaneous administrative activities:*

Since 1995, annual appropriations language has provided BOEM (and its predecessor agencies) authority to keep rental revenues above the \$3.00/acre rate in effect on August 5, 1993, up to an annual cap, to fund current operations. This provision allows BOEM to use these rental receipts – as well as cost recovery fees for specific activities authorized by the OCS Lands Act, as authorized by the Independent Offices Appropriations Act – to partially fund mission-related activities. A listing of the specific cost recovery services and associated fees can be found on BOEM’s website in the “Fees for Services” section (<http://www.boem.gov/Fees-for-Services/>).

7. ...Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such collections are received during the fiscal year, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than \$148,234,000:

This provision pertains to the availability of offsetting collections. The timing difference between the collection of rents and cost recovery fees and the availability of the funding for use as offsetting collections created significant operational challenges for BOEM, so the language was amended to include this “safety clause” in FY 2014. The language allows BOEM to derive initial funding from the general fund of the Treasury, with amounts returned to the general fund at the end of the year once all collections have been received.

8. ...Provided further, That not to exceed \$3,000 shall be available for reasonable expenses related to promoting volunteer beach and marine cleanup activities.

This provision has been included annually since 1998 (P.L. 105-83) and authorizes BOEM to expend up to a certain amount for the promotion of volunteer beach and marine clean-up activities.

9. ...Provided further, That not to exceed \$5,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

The 2026 budget proposes appropriations language to enable BOEM to use up to \$5,000 of appropriated amounts for courtesy and social responsibilities associated with official duties, including outreach and engagement with Tribal partners to honor traditions. This request would provide the Bureau similar authority provided to other agencies to extend hospitality to official visitors without bureau employees bearing expenses from their own personal funds.

Expiring Authorizations

Contribution Authority, The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6), amended the law to enable BOEM authority through FY 2024 to accept contributions for environmental and technical work related to the development of OCS resources. The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act extended BOEM’s authority until the end of FY 2025.

As a result of this authority, BOEM is able to accept and use contributions in a manner that (1) promotes and enhances its programs and activities on the OCS consistent with applicable laws, for example by expanding BOEM’s capacity to conduct environmental reviews; (2) does not create a conflict or the

appearance of a conflict of interest between BOEM and the entities it regulates or any other prohibited source; and (3) maintains BOEM's high standards for scientific and technical adequacy.

BOEM proposes the following change to extend authority through 2026:

SEC.124. Section 113 of Division G of Public Law 113–76, as amended by Public Law 116-6, is further is amended by striking "2025," and inserting "2026,".

This proposed language change will not affect the funding totals identified in BOEM's FY 2026 Budget.

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Activity: Conventional Energy

Conventional Energy Funding Table

Activity: Conventional Energy

Dollars in Thousands (\$000)

Activity: Conventional Energy	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Conventional Energy	59,028	67,028	72,642

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L. 119-4) to revise 2025 spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

Activity Overview and Program Description

Management of oil and gas resources and long-term carbon sequestration on the OCS is governed by the OCS Lands Act (43 U.S.C. § 1331 *et seq.*), which sets forth procedures for OCS oil and gas leasing, exploration, development, and production, and the issuance of leases, easements, or rights-of-way for carbon storage. BOEM seeks to manage the development of offshore energy resources in an environmentally and economically responsible manner. BOEM’s work supports energy security, and economic development through responsible management of these offshore resources. Foundational to the conventional energy program is the preparation of the 5-year National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program). BOEM’s work also includes assessments of carbon storage potential and the oil and gas resource potential on the OCS, inventories of oil and gas reserves, and economic evaluations of OCS submerged lands to ensure the receipt of fair market value for U.S. taxpayers for any leasing and development activities. To the extent necessary, this activity will support legal requirements for certain existing offshore leases. This budget activity includes five major components: leasing, plans, risk management, resource evaluation, and economic evaluation.

Contribution to Administration Priorities

BOEM’s mission is foundational to advancing the Administration’s oil and gas energy policies on the OCS, including the implementation of Executive Order (EO) 14154 — *Unleashing American Energy* — through activities supporting the orderly and responsible development of OCS oil and gas resources. BOEM’s mission critical activities align with the EO’s direction to “...encourage energy exploration and production on Federal lands and waters, including on the Outer Continental Shelf, in order to meet the needs of our citizens and solidify the United States as a global energy leader long into the future...” In support of EO 14154, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum issued Secretarial Order (SO) 3418 — *Unleashing American Energy* — which directed the development of plans to suspend, revise, or rescind regulations and other directives from the former Administration that are determined to be unnecessarily burdensome to U.S. energy development. The SO also focuses on “advancing innovation to improve energy and critical minerals identification, permitting, leasing, development, production, transportation, refining, distribution, exporting, and generation capacity of the United States to provide a reliable, diversified, growing, and affordable supply of energy for our Nation.” The SO encourages energy

exploration and production on the OCS. Specifically, the SO directs BOEM to review specific prior regulations and to take the “actions to review the 5-year program for offshore oil and gas leasing to assess the need for changes to meet the country’s energy goals, consistent with the principles outlined in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.).”

Also, in support of harnessing America’s energy potential, the Secretary issued SO 3420 — *Announcing President Trump’s Revocation of Former Outer Continental Shelf Withdrawals*, — which supports implementation of EO 14148, *Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions*. This EO revoked previous Presidential withdrawals that unnecessarily restricted OCS oil and gas leasing. Finally, BOEM’s energy and mineral resource efforts on the Alaska OCS closely align with EO 14153 — *Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential* — and the associated SO 3422. The SO 3422 directs bureaus and offices to ‘unlock’ Alaska’s natural resources to contribute to the country’s economic and national security. BOEM will support the Nation’s prosperity through the advancement of SO policies including considering the resource potential of the entirety of Alaska’s natural resources, “efficiently and effectively maximizing the development and production of natural resources” located on Federal lands within Alaska, and expediting the permitting and leasing of those resources. Consideration and analysis of Alaska resources will factor into the development and scope of the next National OCS Program. Through implementation of the EOs and SOs, BOEM will advance our Nation as a global energy leader while increasing the Nation’s security.

The Bureau will prioritize permit reviews for seismic studies to identify oil and gas resources across the OCS, and to expedite public data releases when authorized. BOEM anticipates evaluating and issuing permits, as well as various permit modifications, with the majority of the permits issued for high resolution and deep penetration seismic surveys. In addition to providing data on potential offshore oil and gas oil and gas resources, seismic surveys are also used to locate critical minerals, potential seafloor hazards, potential sand and gravel resources for beach replenishment activities, and potential archaeological resources. Data from seismic surveys also assists in determining the fair market value of offshore resources.

As a condition of the permits that BOEM issues prior to each industry activity (such as seismic data acquisition), companies are required to provide a copy of the data and information to BOEM upon request after completion of data acquisition. BOEM uses the data internally, maintaining data for a proprietary term that generally ranges from 2 to 25 years. The extensive amount of data and information acquired are used by BOEM and BSEE geologists, geophysicists, and petroleum engineers to perform a variety of analyses leading to resource estimates, reserve inventories, and determining fair market value of the leased tracts. BOEM will continue making seismic data publicly available to support the identification of the Nation’s valuable resources.

The FY 2026 Budget will Support the Following Priorities and Strategic Outcomes:

- **National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program:** As required by Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act, BOEM prepares the National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program, which sets forth a schedule for proposed offshore oil and gas lease sales over a 5-year period. The National OCS Program is designed in a manner to best meet the Nation’s energy needs while considering the potential

environmental impacts. On April 18, 2025, Secretary Burgum [announced](#) the development of the 11th National OCS Program. The first step in program development, the [Request for Information and Comments](#) (RFI) was published in the *Federal Register* on April 30, 2025, with a comment period closing June 16, 2025. After considering input received through the RFI process, BOEM will prepare the Draft Proposed Program, Proposed Program, and Proposed Final Program, and the Secretary will make three distinct leasing proposals at each of these phases. As signaled by the Department's April 18, 2025, announcement, BOEM will also conduct robust public outreach, engagement, and comment analysis activities throughout the 11th National OCS Program development. Tribal consultation invitations have also been sent to all 574 federally recognized Tribes. For more information, visit: [National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).

- **Lease Administration:** On December 14, 2023, the Secretary approved the 10th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (2024-2029), which includes three potential oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of America Program Area. BOEM published a Call for Information and Nominations and a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in October 2023; an Area Identification in April 2024; a draft Programmatic EIS in December 2024; and is now completing work on the Final EIS for the three lease sales included in the 10th National OCS Program. The first sale, Gulf of America Lease Sale 262, is expected to occur in December 2025. BOEM is also considering options for expediting the other two sales, Gulf of America Lease Sales 263 and 264. As of May 1, 2025, BOEM manages 2,206 active oil and gas leases covering approximately 12 million acres of the OCS. Of these, 430 are producing hydrocarbons, mostly in the Gulf of America. The producing OCS leases account for about 14 percent of the Nation's domestic oil production and two percent of domestic natural gas production. For more information, visit: [Leasing Statistics | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Plan Review:** BOEM reviews all submitted Exploration Plans, Development Operations Coordination Documents, and Development and Production Plans. These plans describe all exploration, development, and production activities on OCS leases planned by an operator and include an analysis of any potential offshore and onshore impacts. For more information, visit: [Exploration and Development Plans | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Geological and Geophysical Surveys:** BOEM issues permits for conventional energy geological and geophysical surveys, which are conducted to obtain data for oil and gas exploration and production and aid in siting offshore structures. The data are used in bid evaluation to ensure the receipt of fair market value for the leasing of OCS resources and to identify and characterize potential carbon sequestration storage sites. The geological and geophysical surveys will play a critical role in monitoring the migration of injected carbon dioxide. For more information, visit: [Geological & Geophysical \(G&G\) Data | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#); [COMPS-857.pdf](#).
- **Resource Evaluation:** The resource evaluation program supports BOEM's conventional energy program through technical and economic analysis. The primary program objectives are to provide an assessment of discovered and undiscovered oil and gas resources on the OCS, assure receipt of fair market value for OCS resources as mandated by the OCS Lands Act, and characterize the OCS subsurface to assess carbon storage potential and model carbon plume movement. For more information, visit: [Resource Evaluation | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Comprehensive Inventory of OCS Resources:** Section 357 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 directs

the Secretary of the Interior to update the “Report to Congress for the Comprehensive Inventory of OCS Resources” at least once every five years. BOEM maintains these resource assessments and reserves estimates across the OCS and is responsible for generating this periodic report to Congress, the most recent of which was published in January 2024.

- **Ensuring Fair Market Value:** Section 18(a)(4) of the OCS Lands Act requires that leasing activities be conducted to assure receipt of fair market value. Once a lease sale is completed and the high bidders for each tract are publicly announced, BOEM follows specific bid adequacy procedures to ensure the government receives fair market value. BOEM finalized new bid adequacy procedures in January 2024, effective for use with the first lease sale held in the 2024 – 2029 National OCS Program. For more information, visit: [Energy Economics | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Carbon Sequestration:** The Department of the Interior has the statutory authority to issue leases, easements, or rights-of-way on the OCS for the long-term storage of carbon dioxide. In preparation for potential future commercial carbon dioxide storage projects, BOEM has undertaken the assessment of carbon storage capacity on both regional and national scales, using its existing geological and geophysical data from the OCS, and continues to engage with external stakeholders related to overlapping areas of technical interest. For more information, visit: [Carbon Storage | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Marine Cadastre:** The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58), section 388(b), directed the Department to cooperate with other Federal departments and agencies to establish an interagency comprehensive digital mapping initiative. To accomplish this, BOEM and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration jointly manage the MarineCadastre.gov [portal](#), which provides authoritative and regularly updated ocean information such as offshore boundaries, infrastructure, human use, energy potential, and other data. This system is used by the public, environmental groups, Federal regulatory agencies, State and regional marine planners, Tribes, intergovernmental task forces, and other government organizations. For more information, visit: [MarineCadastre.gov | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Official Offshore Marine Mapping:** Accurate OCS boundary lines and map products are a foundational requirement for all of BOEM’s OCS planning and leasing activities. Under the OCS Lands Act, BOEM is required to prepare Official Protraction Diagrams, Supplemental Official Block Diagrams, and other map products depicting areas of the OCS. Further, pursuant to the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 and OMB Circular A-16 (*Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities*), which provides direction for Federal agencies that produce, maintain, or use geospatial data either directly or indirectly in the fulfillment of their missions, BOEM is responsible for producing and maintaining the official offshore Marine Cadastre for the OCS of the United States. For more information, visit: [Maps and GIS Data | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Geospatial Services Coordination:** Geospatial data, technologies, and services are critical components of our Nation’s digital infrastructure. BOEM’s Geographic Information System is a vital piece of BOEM’s digital infrastructure for the OCS. Managing this infrastructure and accessibility of geospatial data across all mission areas is necessary to ensure the organization is equipped for current and future demands.

Demands, Trends, and Resources:

- **Increased Access to Offshore Oil and Gas Resources:** Under the OCS Lands Act, the Secretary of the Interior has the responsibility to prepare, periodically revise, and maintain an oil and gas leasing program to “best meet national energy needs” while balancing other important factors. At the Administration’s direction, BOEM is developing a new National OCS Program with the expectation that it will ultimately lead to increased opportunities for oil and gas leasing, exploration, and production as the Nation strives for energy dominance. For more information, visit: [Oil and Gas Energy | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Increased Public Access to Resource Information:** BOEM supports the Administration’s efforts to provide increased access to resource information as the Nation’s oil and gas leasing program continues to expand. BOEM provides access to numerous sources of offshore oil and gas leasing information on its web site, as noted in the above bullets. BOEM also continues to release to the public, at the end of its proprietary term, oil and gas geophysical data through the National Archive for Marine Seismic Surveys website. For more information, visit: <https://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/namss/>

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Activity: Marine Minerals

Marine Minerals Funding Table

Activity: Marine Minerals

Dollars in Thousands (\$000)

Activity: Marine Minerals	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Marine Minerals	13,808	13,808	13,808

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L. 119-4) to revise 2025 spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

Activity Overview and Program Description

BOEM is the Federal steward of marine minerals across billions of acres of the OCS. BOEM’s Marine Minerals Program facilitates access to and responsibly manages OCS sand and sediment resources to support resilient coasts, natural disaster preparedness, and critical infrastructure development and protection. In addition, BOEM advances geologic mapping, supports resource evaluation, and facilitates potential prospecting and leasing of critical minerals on the OCS. Critical minerals are vital to the national economy and security. BOEM’s marine minerals mission involves mineral resource exploration and leasing, coordination with governmental agencies, Tribal Nations, Native Hawaiians, Alaska Natives, and Pacific Islander communities, engagement of stakeholders, and environmental assessment and scientific research to improve decision-making and manage risk. This budget activity includes two major components: sand and sediment resources and critical minerals.

Contribution to Administration Priorities

BOEM’s marine mineral efforts align with the Administration’s critical mineral priorities as outlined in Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders. The EO 14156 —*Declaring a National Energy Emergency*— cites the inadequacy of current energy and critical mineral availability to meet the Nation’s needs. The EO 14154 —*Unleashing American Energy*— directs the removal of “burdensome regulations” that hinder the development and use of our energy and natural resources (including critical minerals). The SO 3418 —*Unleashing American Energy*— focuses on “advancing innovation to improve energy and critical minerals identification, permitting, leasing, development, production, transportation, refining, distribution, exporting, and generation capacity of the United States to provide a reliable, diversified, growing, and affordable supply of energy for our Nation.” The SO further directs BOEM to “review and, as appropriate, revise all undue burdens on the domestic mining ... of nonfuel minerals” and “prioritize efforts to accelerate the ongoing, detailed geologic mapping of the United States, with a focus on locating previously unknown deposits of critical minerals. Additionally, BOEM is advancing EO 14285 —*Unleashing America’s Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources*— and taking immediate action to accelerate the responsible exploration and leasing of seabed mineral resources, quantify the country’s endowment of seabed minerals, reinvigorate American leadership in associated extraction and processing technologies, and ensure secure supply chains for our defense, infrastructure, and energy sectors. Through

implementation of these Administration priorities, BOEM will advance America's national security and future prosperity through the identification and access to critical minerals.

The FY 2026 Budget will Support the Following Priorities and Strategic Outcomes:

- **National Offshore Critical Mineral Inventory:** BOEM invests in the National Offshore Critical Mineral Inventory to map and describe OCS critical mineral resources and environmental conditions associated with critical mineral-bearing deposits (e.g., polymetallic nodules, ferromanganese crusts, and hydrothermal vents). In FY 2026, BOEM will conduct resource assessment and environmental characterization work in the Atlantic, Alaska, Pacific, and Gulf of America regions. For more information, visit: [National Offshore Critical Minerals Inventory | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Critical Mineral Exploration and Leasing:** BOEM is taking important steps to facilitate prospecting, scientific research, and potential leasing in highly prospective areas. In FY 2026, BOEM plans to evaluate commercial interest in exploration and leasing on the OCS and, as warranted, solicit requests for mineral information and interest and pursue additional leasing steps in highly prospective areas in the Pacific OCS Region. BOEM will evaluate the 30 CFR 580-582 regulations and address any burdensome or unnecessary requirements. BOEM will ensure environmental assessment and stakeholder engagement are integral in the process. BOEM plans to leverage Environmental Studies Program research to study priority environmental issues, such as slow-growing biological communities associated with critical mineral deposits. For more information, visit [Exploring and Leasing Marine Minerals | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Coastal Resilience:** BOEM continues its marine minerals activities that facilitate the protection of coastal infrastructure and restoration of beaches and wetlands vital to the Nation's security, economy, tourism, and ecosystems. BOEM supports and applies state-of-the-art science to make informed decisions, applies nature-based solutions and other resilience strategies, and builds strong partnerships to ensure our Nation's coasts are sustainably managed, protected, and preserved for current and future generations. For more information, visit: [Coastal Resilience | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; Environmental Stewardship | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **National Offshore Sand Inventory:** BOEM continues to develop the National Offshore Sand Inventory, focusing on priority areas along the Atlantic and Gulf of America coasts. The Inventory is critical for BOEM and its partners to identify the location, quantity, and character of sand and sediment that may be appropriate for use in future infrastructure protection, beach nourishment, coastal restoration, and coastal construction projects. The Inventory enables BOEM's partners to act quickly and responsibly in emergency or post-storm situations and supports scenario and resilience planning to adapt to coastal erosion. BOEM also uses the Inventory to identify and manage multiple use conflicts and to avoid or minimize environmental impacts from dredging activities. For more information, visit: [National Offshore Sand Inventory | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).
- **Use of Sand and Sediment Resources:** As of May 1, 2025, BOEM has conveyed the rights to over 201 million cubic yards of OCS sediment and executed 71 negotiated agreements for projects in eight States that have restored over 500 miles of coastline. BOEM expects to facilitate additional projects through FY 2026 using sand and sediment found on the Atlantic and Gulf of America OCS. For more

information, visit: [Current Statistics on Leases | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#); [Partnerships | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).

- **Marine Minerals Information System:** BOEM manages and uses the Marine Minerals Information System (MMIS) to organize marine minerals data. The MMIS is publicly accessible and provides stakeholders with reliable information on sand and gravel resources on the OCS. In FY 2026, BOEM will continue to host the MMIS and provide updated data and metadata for geologic information, OCS sand resource areas, OCS dredge areas, and shoreline placement reaches. For more information, visit: <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/marine-minerals/BOEM-MMIS.pdf>; [MMIS Viewer | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).

Demands, Trends, and Resources:

- **Deep Seabed Critical Mineral Assessment:** Critical minerals include cobalt, manganese, nickel, and rare-earth elements among others designated by the U.S. Geological Survey. As the need grows for a dependable critical mineral supply chain to support the Nation's production of high-tech equipment and infrastructure in a wide variety of sectors, including energy production, national defense, battery technology, information technology, and health care, so does the need to understand U.S. offshore resources. Given this potential demand, it is imperative that the Nation understands what potential critical mineral resources may exist offshore. Although there is increased interest from industry, the military, and the international community regarding critical mineral development, the quantity and characteristics of the OCS critical mineral resources, as well as the potential environmental impact of developing those resources, remain uncertain. There is a need to identify areas that have high economic potential but low ecological value, making them potentially suitable for consideration for future leasing and development of critical minerals on the OCS. For more information, visit: <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/marine-minerals/fact-sheets/Critical-Mineral-State.pdf>
- **Demand for Sand and Sediment Resources:** OCS sand and sediment resources are critical to the long-term success of many coastal protection, beach nourishment, and wetlands restoration projects along the Atlantic and Gulf of America coasts. Over the past three decades, BOEM has authorized use of an increasingly large volume of OCS material for coastal resilience projects. These trends are driven by diminishing resources in State waters and frequent tropical and winter storms along the Atlantic and Gulf of America coasts. Over the next ten years, BOEM expects project partners to request the use of several hundred million cubic yards across 13 coastal States. Final project requirements depend on ongoing planning, findings of BOEM-sponsored resource evaluation, and future erosion and storm damage. BOEM anticipates potential growth into Delaware, New York, and Texas. A greater number of projects in Florida, North Carolina, and New Jersey are also expected. Timely access to OCS resources is critical to restoration and recovery efforts in the aftermath of natural disasters. For more information, visit: [Coastal Resilience | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#)
- **Increased Public Access to Resource Information:** BOEM continues to maintain its National Offshore Sand Inventory and Marine Minerals Information System to inform decision-making of other Federal Agencies, States, and local governments undertaking coastal protection or restoration projects. BOEM has forged key partnerships with State partners and alliances, such as the Delaware

Geological Survey, New Jersey Geological and Water Survey, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and the Texas General Lands Office to collect and coordinate sediment resource identification data. BOEM also works closely with other DOI bureaus to assist in beach nourishment, coastal and wetlands restoration, and infrastructure protection efforts. The U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service are important partners and collaborators on offshore sand resource evaluation and coastal vulnerability assessments, as well as projects restoring or protecting federally-managed lands including national parks and wildlife refuges.

Activity: Environmental Programs

Environmental Programs Funding Table

Activity: Environmental Programs

Dollars in Thousands (\$000)

Activity: Environmental Programs	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Environmental Programs	79,078	77,078	49,132

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L. 119-4) to revise 2025 spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

Activity Overview and Program Description

BOEM’s Environmental Programs budget activity is foundational to the Bureau’s mission, supporting all other BOEM budget activities, and ensures the safe, responsible, and predictable development of offshore energy and mineral resources and carbon sequestration critical to U.S. energy independence and national security. This budget activity maintains compliance with key environmental regulations without unnecessary bureaucracy. It provides the scientific and technical basis for evaluating offshore projects, consistent with E.O. 14303, ensuring that energy and minerals development on the OCS proceeds efficiently, with appropriate environmental safeguards in place that reduce environmental risk. This budget activity’s production of rigorous data and streamlined analyses enables BOEM to identify and mitigate potential environmental impacts early in the planning process, thereby reducing project uncertainty, enhancing permitting efficiency, and bolstering the durability of Bureau actions.

The Environmental Programs activity includes three components. The first two, environmental analysis and environmental studies, provide a science-based framework for responsible offshore development that supports the Nation’s energy needs, maintains durability of Bureau decisions, and reinforces public trust in BOEM’s oversight of the OCS. The third component focuses on trust responsibilities and quality engagements with Tribal Nations, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

BOEM’s environmental analysis synthesizes scientific data and other relevant information to support decisions on energy and mineral activities. It plays a key role in developing and implementing the National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program, offshore critical minerals, carbon sequestration, and emerging programs. This function underpins all phases of BOEM energy and minerals activities, from exploration and leasing to development and decommissioning. Environmental reviews assess potential impacts, explore alternatives, and help meet legal requirements by identifying mitigation measures. Importantly, environmental analysis is always done through the lens of maintaining compliance with key environmental regulations without unnecessary bureaucracy. For more information, visit: [Environmental Analyses | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).

BOEM's environmental studies are mandated under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act 1978 amendments, which direct the Department to have a comprehensive environmental studies program to provide sound scientific analysis of the potential impacts of offshore development. Through its Environmental Studies Program (ESP), BOEM collects data and monitors human, marine, and coastal environments to identify and minimize potential ecological, economic, and social impacts resulting from OCS energy and mineral activities. BOEM's ESP is a highly applied program that studies only what is relevant for decisions. It is a data-driven, partnership-focused science program, generating products that help ensure energy development proceeds with speed, efficiency, and (legally defensible) confidence. For more information, visit: [Environmental Science | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).

BOEM honors its trust responsibilities and special commitments to Tribal Nations, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities. Offshore energy and minerals planning, leasing, and development activities require extensive coordination and consultation. The Environmental Programs activity makes good-faith efforts to invite Tribes to consult early in the planning process and throughout the decision-making process and engage in robust, interactive, pre-decisional, informative, and transparent consultation when planning actions with Tribal implications. This budget activity also seeks to increase capacity for Tribal communities to engage as more active participants in analyzing technical information, data collection, risk assessment, and monitoring (such as through the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, also known as P.L. 93-638). For more information, visit: [Tribal Engagement | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#).

Contribution to Administration Priorities

BOEM's Environmental Programs budget activity effectively executes required environmental science and analyses, and upholds tribal trust responsibilities, to facilitate durable decisions for offshore energy and mineral development, allowing the bureau to advance the following Administration priorities:

- [Declaring a National Energy Emergency](#) (Executive Order 14156): “facilitate the identification, leasing, siting, production, transportation, refining, and generation of domestic energy resources”
- [Unleashing American Energy](#) (Executive Order 14154 and Secretarial Order 3418): “guarantee that all executive departments and agencies (agencies) provide opportunity for public comment and rigorous, peer-reviewed scientific analysis”
- [Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential](#) (Executive Order 14153 and Secretarial Order 3422): “efficiently and effectively maximizing the development and production of natural resources”
- [Unleashing America's Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources](#) (Executive Order 14285): “advance United States leadership in seabed mineral development by rapidly developing domestic capabilities for the exploration, characterization, collection, and processing of seabed mineral resources through streamlined permitting without compromising environmental and transparency standards”
- [Department of the Interior Implements Energy Permitting Procedures to Strengthen Domestic Energy Supply](#): “utilize emergency authorities under existing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.”

- [Restoring Gold Standard Science](#) (Executive Order 14303): “restoring a gold standard for science to ensure that federally funded research is transparent, rigorous, and impactful, and that Federal decisions are informed by the most credible, reliable, and impartial scientific evidence available.”

The FY 2026 Budget will Support the Following Priorities and Strategic Outcomes:

Building sustainable programs and decisions depend on robust environmental studies, analyses, and stakeholder engagement. Through targeted environmental studies and streamlined environmental analyses, BOEM can ensure energy and minerals development occurs expeditiously and with appropriate environmental safeguards. In FY 2026, this budget activity will support the following key initiatives:

- **Advance Offshore Energy Development:** Support the development of oil and gas leasing through environmental science, analyses, and modeling requirements for implementing the 2024–2029 National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program and developing new OCSLA-driven streamlined environmental analyses and modeling for the next National OCS Program.
- **Facilitate Prospecting and Leasing for America’s Offshore Critical Minerals:** Conduct environmental science, analyses, and community engagement actions involved with an offshore Critical Minerals Program and associated leasing and regulatory requirements. Develop an environmental science, mitigation, and monitoring strategy that identifies environmental needs (e.g., further studies of affected benthic habitats and multiple ocean uses) early in the process to increase the efficiency and predictability of program execution.
- **Innovate and Partner to Meet the Challenges of Increased Responsibilities:** Leverage available budget activity resources by using cutting-edge technologies, promoting flexible acquisition strategies, and fostering public-private partnerships that bolster the science-based information, modeling, and analyses to support durable decisions, especially given increases in OCS acreage and programs. Central to this effort is continued availability of BOEM’s continued contribution authority.
- **Uphold Trust Responsibilities with Tribal Nations, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Communities Through Respectful Collaboration and Capacity Building:** Honor our trust responsibilities by increasing engagement in the stewardship of culturally and environmentally significant Federal lands and waters potentially impacted by offshore energy and minerals activities. Increase capacity for impacted tribal communities to engage as more active participants in analyzing technical information, data collection, risk assessment, and monitoring.
- **Public Access to Environmental Assessment and Studies Information:** Address public expectations for transparency by making environmental data and analyses more accessible and understandable. Leverage environmental science and analysis resources through partnerships, allowing collection of valuable data useful not only to BOEM but also to other Federal agencies, Tribal, State and local governments, and non-governmental stakeholders.
- **Streamline Environmental Permitting Processes:** Continue to respond to calls for more predictable and efficient permitting processes, including further modernizing and streamlining project reviews through improved data collection, digital tools, standardized methodologies, and emergency authorities. Reduce permitting timelines while maintaining environmental integrity.

Demands, Trends, and Resources:

- **Increased Demand for Offshore Energy and Mineral Resources:** BOEM’s Environmental Programs are adapting to growing national and global trends emphasizing energy and minerals security and domestic resource development. With increased demand for a stable supply of U.S.-based energy and minerals, there is a renewed focus on accelerating offshore oil and gas and minerals activities. Environmental science and analysis are evolving to support the potential expansion of leasing areas. BOEM is also tracking the rising importance of critical minerals—essential to modern technology, defense, and energy infrastructure—and is preparing environmental frameworks to evaluate and manage their development on the OCS in line with national strategic interests.
- **Evolving Project Scales and Technologies:** As offshore energy projects become larger, more complex, and more technologically advanced, BOEM is adapting its environmental review processes to match this evolving landscape. Trends such as multi-use ocean planning and ecosystem-scale analysis are becoming increasingly important. BOEM’s Environmental Programs are addressing these shifts by conducting more targeted, science-based evaluations that meet legal obligations while also supporting timely development. This includes anticipating emerging risks, integrating cutting-edge environmental monitoring tools, and aligning reviews with industry advancements, ensuring that environmental activities evolve in step with the pace of offshore development.

Activity: Executive Direction

Executive Direction Funding Table

Activity: Executive Direction

Dollars in Thousands (\$000)

Activity: Executive Direction	2024 Actual	2025 Notional ^{1/}	2026 Request
Executive Direction	18,143	20,143	12,652

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates. The President reserves his authority under the “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025” (P.L. 119-4) to revise 2025 spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

Activity Overview and Program Description

Executive Direction supports Bureau-wide leadership, direction, management, coordination, and regulatory development, including managing the budget planning and execution processes, integrating budget and performance activities, Freedom of Information Act activities, overseeing official documents, and policy analysis. Specialists work closely with – and sometimes in – the program and regional offices and provide a holistic view and approach for Bureau-wide activities. This budget activity includes five major components: Office of the Director, Office of the Chief of Staff, Freedom of Information Act Office, Office of Regulatory Affairs, and Office of Budget and Administration.

Contribution to Administration Priorities

This budget activity supports Bureau efforts to advance activities identified in Executive orders (EOs) and Secretarial Orders (SOs), including, but not limited to: EO 14156, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency*; SO 3417, *Addressing the National Energy Emergency*; EO 14154 and SO 3418, *Unleashing American Energy*; EO 14148 *Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions*; SO 3420, *Announcing President Trump’s Revocation of Former Outer Continental Shelf Withdrawals*; EO 14153 and SO 3422, *Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential*; and, EO 14285, *Unleashing America’s Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources*. Collectively, the EOs and associated SOs describe the Administration’s focus on developing America’s energy and critical minerals global dominance in a balanced way that supports the country’s prosperity, energy security, and environmental protection. Through this budget activity, BOEM ensures the necessary strategic planning, policy analysis, and regulatory support are available to decision-makers as they work to advance the Administration’s priorities.

The FY 2026 Budget will Support the Following Priorities and Strategic Outcomes:

- **Strategic Leadership:** Provide BOEM policy guidance and leadership, including the implementation of Administration priorities and policies.
- **Budget:** Manage the budget formulation and execution processes, from the development of the annual budget justification through the expenditure of appropriated funds, in conformance with Administration policies and applicable regulations and statutes.

- **Planning and Performance:** Implement BOEM’s planning and performance activities mandated by and in response to the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010, Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, Program Management Improvement Accountability Act of 2016, and OMB Circular A-123 Management's Responsibility for Internal Controls. Examples of activities include: ensuring BOEM’s performance goals track progress for strategic objective requirements within the Department’s Annual Performance Report; integrating budget and performance information within budget, performance, and planning documents and data call responses; contributing toward the Department’s Evidence Act Program; and tracking the two-year Agency Priority Goal milestones.
- **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):** Ensure timely resolution of FOIA and Privacy Act requests, as well as implement any legislative actions that pertain to FOIA policy.
- **Policy:** Support BOEM mission areas and help achieve Departmental and Administration priorities on programmatic and national-level issues, emerging issues, interagency and external coordination, information sharing, and project management to support the resolution of complex energy, mineral, geological, and environmental issues.
- **Administration and Compliance:** Oversee and coordinate Bureau-level programs and management initiatives with BOEM offices and regions, including strategic human capital programs and plans, continuity of operations and emergency management program, directives and delegations, external audit liaison activities, and internal control programs.
- **Regulations and Guidelines:** Lead and oversee the development of BOEM regulatory actions and interagency reviews. In addition, maintain oversight responsibility for BOEM’s compliance with Paperwork Reduction Act requirements.

Demands, Trends, and Resources:

- **Unleashing Offshore Energy and Critical Mineral Access:** Offices funded through the Executive Direction budget activity provide overarching leadership, strategic planning, policy analysis, and regulatory support throughout the Bureau as it advances offshore energy and critical mineral global dominance.

Compliance with Section 403

Purpose: To fulfill legislative requirements Bureaus/Offices funded in Division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, for disclosure of program assessments used to support Government-wide, Departmental, or Agency initiatives or general operations. Section 403 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42), shown below, continues requirements regarding the disclosure of planned funding assessments in the annual budget justification. This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Division A of Public Law 119-4).

DISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

SEC. 403. The amount and basis of estimated overhead charges, deductions, reserves, or holdbacks, including working capital fund charges, from programs, projects, activities and subactivities to support government-wide, departmental, agency, or bureau administrative functions or headquarters, regional, or central operations shall be presented in annual budget justifications and subject to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Changes to such estimates shall be presented to the Committees on Appropriations for approval.

The majority of BOEM's external assessments are associated with the costs of the shared services approach that allows it to meet its administrative and information technology needs. BOEM implements this approach through reimbursable services agreements with the Department, which are identified in the table below. Under this arrangement, third party service providers provide a full suite of administrative services including acquisition management, finance, human resources, information technology management, management support, personnel security, communications, congressional and legislative affairs, and support services. Maintaining these critical administrative functions within the Department provides the following benefits:

- Minimizing duplication of administrative entities across multiple organizations and optimizing efficiency.
- Providing a centralized administrative function that can, over time, allow the Department to pursue additional efficiencies.

The Department has strongly supported the expansion of business cross-servicing to strategically expand high-quality, high-value shared services to improve performance and efficiency throughout the Department.

This supports the Department's and the Administration's efforts to increase the efficiency of core operations, reduce duplication and waste, enable investments in innovation, use shared services and common infrastructure, and facilitate agency collaboration. Specifically, this arrangement has the added benefit of implementing standardized practices that further increase the productivity for highly skilled resources in both Bureaus. By utilizing the shared services model, BOEM continues to improve its best practices and optimize the use of administrative funds.

BOEM and its third-party service providers regularly evaluate these support arrangements. Because these costs are regularly reevaluated, estimated out-year costs are based on prior year actuals and the stated

billing methodology. Additionally, because BOEM has no dedicated budget line to pay for its administrative overhead, all external assessments are paid through internal assessments to the Ocean Energy Management account.

In addition to the administrative contracts with BSEE and the Department, BOEM also contracts with the Office of the Solicitor for legal support. Other external assessments include the Department's Working Capital Fund, which supports Department-wide systems, such as the Financial and Business Management System, which bureaus use for accounting and finance. BOEM is also externally assessed for information archiving through the National Archives and Records Administration.

External Administrative Costs (Working Capital Fund)

Disclosure of Program Assessments

Dollars in Thousands (\$000)

Activity	2025 Notional ^{1/2} (Estimate)			2026 Request ¹ (Estimate)		
	Central	Direct	TOTAL	Central	Direct	TOTAL
Administrative IAA with BSEE	0	22,986	22,986	0	22,986	22,986
IT Labor IAA with BSEE	0	4,686	4,686	0	5,361	5,361
IT Technology IAA with BSEE	0	18,068	18,068	0	19,333	19,333
Solicitor Support	0	2,101	2,101	0	2,101	2,101
Administrative Functions Consolidation	0	2,305	2,305	0	2,305	2,305
Working Capital Fund	2,900	1,282	4,182	3,190	1,410	4,600
NARA	100	0	100	100	0	100
TOTAL, Program Assessments	3,000	51,428	54,428	3,290	53,496	56,786

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates.

^{2/} The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise 2025 spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

Bureau Administrative Costs

Bureau Administrative Costs

Dollars in Thousands (\$000)

Cost Description	2025 Notional ^{1/2} (Estimate)	2026 Request ¹ (Estimate)
Internal Bureau Assessments	54,428	56,786
TOTAL, Bureau Administrative Costs	54,428	56,786

^{1/} Resource levels included are estimates.

^{2/} The President reserves his authority under the "Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025" (P.L. 119-4) to revise 2025 spending within the amounts provided by Congress.

Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act Report

The Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act (GAO-IG Act, P.L. 115-414), enacted January 3, 2019, requires that agencies report the status of each open audit recommendation issued more than one year prior to the submission of the Agency's annual budget justification to Congress. The Act requires agencies to include the current target completion date, implementation status, and any discrepancies on closure determinations by the GAO.

DOI leadership takes audit follow-up very seriously and considers our external auditors, including the GAO and OIG, valued partners in not only improving the Department's management and compliance obligations but also enhancing its programmatic and administrative operations. As stewards of taxpayer resources, the Department applies cost-benefit analysis and enterprise risk management principles in recommendation implementation decisions. The Department's GAO-IG Act Report is available at the following link: <https://www.doi.gov/cj>.

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