

BOEM-Funded Research in Hawaii

Baseline data for informed decisions about offshore renewable energy

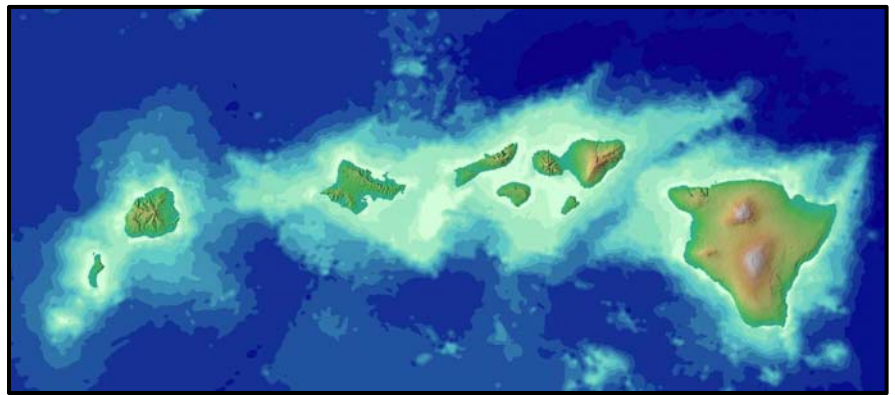


BOEM RESPONSIBILITIES

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for managing the development of conventional and renewable energy resources and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in an environmentally and economically responsible way. In Hawaii, interest in offshore renewable energy development is increasing, particularly regarding wind energy. BOEM will use robust scientific information about Hawaii ocean resources and uses to conduct thorough environmental analyses and make informed and well-balanced decisions about offshore renewable energy development.

INFORMATION NEEDS

Hawaii is a frontier area for BOEM. Although BOEM has completed more than 300 scientific studies in the Pacific Region, these studies have not considered the waters offshore Hawaii. Some information on ocean uses and biological, physical and cultural marine resources is already available through other government agencies, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations, and some data are yet to be collected.



ONGOING STUDIES

To assess available information, determine knowledge gaps, and collect new baseline information, the BOEM Pacific Region is funding four studies in the Main Hawaiian Islands. The studies, which are being conducted in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), cover a wide range of biological, physical, cultural, historical and socioeconomic information needs (see reverse). This information will be used for informed, science-based decision-making about renewable energy development offshore the Main Hawaiian Islands.



BOEM-Funded Hawaii Studies

Baseline data for informed decisions about offshore renewable energy



Habitat Affinities and At-Sea Ranging Behaviors Among Main Hawaiian Island Seabirds

Interagency Agreement: BOEM and USGS

BOEM Project Officer: David Pereksta (david.pereksta@boem.gov)

Objectives:

- Conduct field studies of at-sea habitat utilization and ranging behaviors for seabirds breeding within the Main Hawaiian islands
- Compile and analyze remotely sensed and modeled habitat data to examine habitat relationships to predict species' distributions and improve spatial vulnerability maps

Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas

Interagency Agreement: BOEM and NOAA Coastal Services Center

BOEM Project Officer: Sara Gultinan (sara.gultinan@boem.gov)

Objectives:

- Document patterns of existing and emerging ocean uses throughout the Main Hawaiian Islands through participatory mapping workshops
- Identify potential areas of conflict and/or compatibility between proposed renewable energy areas and other ocean uses

Maritime Cultural Resources Site Assessment in the Main Hawaiian Islands

Interagency Agreement: BOEM and NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

BOEM Project Officer: Dave Ball (david.ball@boem.gov)

Objectives:

- Develop geo-referenced databases of submerged cultural resources on the Hawaii OCS and land-based historic properties that could be adversely impacted by the alteration of the view of the ocean
- Develop a proactive approach to working with Native Hawaiian communities in order to identify areas of significance that need to be considered in the planning process for offshore renewable energy development

A Marine Biogeographic Assessment of the Main Hawaiian Islands

Interagency Agreement: BOEM and NOAA National Center for Coastal Ocean Science

BOEM Project Officer: Greg Sanders (greg.sanders@boem.gov)

Objectives:

- Characterize the distributions of living marine resources and their habitats found offshore of the Main Hawaiian Islands
- Support the development of spatial tools for planning and review of offshore renewable energy proposals in Hawaii
- Identify living marine resource data gaps

For more information about BOEM's Hawaii studies, visit:

<http://www.boem.gov/Pacific-Current-Studies/>