



Annual Tribal Consultation Report Fiscal Year 2015

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Tribal Liaison Officer

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December 31 2015



Acronyms and References

AKR: Alaska Region
AKR Director: Dr. James Kendall
AKR Deputy Director: Sharon Warren
ANCSA: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
ASLM: Assistant Secretary of Land and Mineral Management
BLM: Bureau of Land Management
BOEM: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
BOEM Director: Abigail R. Hopper.
BOEM TLO: William Y. Brown
BSEE: Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
DPP: “Draft Proposed” Five Year Program (2017-2022)
EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
FRT: Federally Recognized Tribes
G2G: Government-to-Government
GOMR: Gulf of Mexico Region (Also manages proposed Atlantic Oil and Gas Activities)
GOMR Director: Mike Celata (current), John Rodi (retired)
GOMR TLOR: Doug Jones
HQ: Headquarters
HQ TLOR(s): Jennifer Ewald and Keely Hite
NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OCS: Outer Continental Shelf
OCSLA: Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
OREP: Office of Renewable Energy Programs – Manages Atlantic Renewable Energy
OREP Program Manager: James Bennett.
OREP TLOR: Brandi Carrier
THPO: Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
TLO: Tribal Liaison Officer
TLOR: Tribal Liaison Officer Representatives
TCL: Tribal and Community Liaison: Michael Haller*
PACR: Pacific Region
PACR Director: Joan Barminski (current) Ellen Aronson (retired)
PACR TLOR: David Ball

* This is the only full-time position working on Tribal affairs

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1. Mission and Authority

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) promotes energy independence, environmental protection, and economic development through responsible, science-based management of offshore conventional and renewable energy. BOEM's jurisdiction includes 2.2 billion acres constituting the outer continental shelf (OCS). The Bureau is organized around three main programs; oil and gas, renewable energy, and marine minerals such as sand used for beach replenishment and restoration. The Bureau is headquartered in the Washington, D.C. area, with regional offices in the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, and the Pacific; offices in the Washington area and the Gulf of Mexico manage Atlantic activities.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 as amended (OCSLA) requires the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to monitor and assess the impacts of resource development activities in Federal waters on all relevant human, marine, and coastal environments. BOEM is designated by the Secretary to administer and oversee these activities and ensure that effective environmental safeguards are applied. The OCS is seaward of 3 nautical miles from the coastline, with the exception of areas offshore Texas and the western coast of Florida where state jurisdiction extends to 9 nautical miles. Thus all lands that BOEM manages are submerged and off the coast, yet it is recognized that OCS activities can affect people and ecosystems landward of the OCS, including tribes.

BOEM is committed to maintaining open and transparent communications and relationships with Tribal governments, Alaska Native Organizations, Native Hawaiian Organizations and other indigenous communities. Engaging, prior to Federal actions is an ongoing effort. Gaining knowledge of how Bureau activities may affect traditional ways, subsistence use of resources, and indigenous cultural resources is critical to BOEM's decision-making, along with government-to-government (G2G) consultations, Government-to-ANCSA Corporations (G2ANCSA) consultations, community meetings, public hearings, and other special activities provide effective ways and means to have meaningful engagements.

2. Tribal Engagement Strategy

BOEM Tribal Consultation Policy Guidance adopts and augments the Department's Tribal Consultation Policy, which calls for regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Federally recognized tribes (FRTs). William Y. Brown, BOEM's Chief Environmental Officer is the appointed BOEM Tribal Liaison Officer (TLO). He appointed a TLO representative (TLOR) in each OCS Region, the Office of Renewable Energy Programs, and Washington, D.C offices. TLOR's work to develop and improve relationships between Tribes and BOEM, related to bureau Federal actions that may be of interest to a particular Tribe.

Bureau efforts are enhanced by recent reinforcement and guidance concerning Federal Government trust responsibilities as reflected in work of the President’s Task Force on Climate Change, White House Tribal Conferences, and the “Secretary’s commitment to upholding the Federal Governments obligations to Native Americans and to strengthening the G2G relationship with Indian tribes and Alaska Natives” ([link 1](#)).

BOEM engaged with the White House Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) and Climate Change working groups by participating in numerous calls with representatives from all Federal agencies. BOEM utilized this working group and other contacts to host a meeting with Alaskan Native Youth visiting Washington DC as part of a Subsistence Mapping study and Gen-I community challenge in June 2015. BOEM also participated in the White House Gen-I Youth Gathering in July 2016, with an education/outreach booth.

BOEM has scheduled an in-person meeting for the TLO and supporting staff in early January 2016 to discuss Tribal Program planning, needed resources to support ongoing Tribal-BOEM relationships, and further development of BOEM Guidance. Three TLOR’s participated in the DOI Consulting with Indian Tribes beta-training, Albuquerque, NM (August 2015), the remaining TLOR’s are scheduled to participate in the DOI Consulting with Indian Tribes training in Washington DC January 2016.

3. Major Bureau Actions Initiating Engagement and Consultation

3.1 OCS Oil and Gas Five Year Program for 2017-2022

BOEM’s “Five Year Program” consists of a schedule of oil and gas lease sales indicating the size, timing, and location of proposed leasing activity the Secretary determines will best meet national energy needs for the five-year period following its approval. This Program includes all national OCS Planning Areas for consideration into the Final Program. An area must be included in an approved Five Year Program in order to be offered for leasing. BOEM is currently operating under the OCS Oil and Gas Program 2012-2017 ([link 2](#)). Efforts are underway to develop a 2017-2022 Five Year Program, which will include public meetings, formal G2G consultations and a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

BOEM has conducted several tribal outreach and consultation meetings in the proposed program areas, as well as with federally recognized tribes who have historical ties to the lands adjacent to the proposed program areas. Therefore, BOEM has met with tribal leadership and representatives in the Atlantic, Gulf, and Alaska Regions in preparation for the 2017-2022 OCS Oil and Gas Program.

Atlantic Outreach: A letter was sent in 2015 following up on a 2014 outreach letter, and the 2015 letter was itself followed-up with phone calls to 30 Federally Recognized Tribes with ties to the Atlantic Coast. The 2015 letter's purpose was to send a reminder and gauge each tribe's level of interest in BOEM OCS activities on the Atlantic, including the 2017-2022 Five Year Program and proposed Geophysical and Geological (G&G) Surveys.

In April, 2015, a BOEM team including the TLO and 3 TLOR's met in person with two tribes (Narragansett Indian Tribe and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation) to better explain the mission and time frames of each of its programs. The meeting with the Narragansett was part of the bureau's ongoing relationship with the tribe and included conversations with the technical and scientific project managers at the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography on the BOEM funded study; *Developing Protocols for Reconstructing Submerged Paleocultural Landscapes and Identifying Ancient Native American Archaeological Sites in Submerged Environments* ([link 3](#)). The Mashantucket meeting was the first with BOEM and served as an orientation to the bureau with the tribal historic preservation office. BOEM continues communicating with 22 of the Atlantic tribes to keep those governments aware of milestones within BOEM processes, as 6 of the tribes have responded that they are not interested in furthering the consultation process at this time.

GOMR Outreach: An outreach letter initiating formal G2G consultation with the 12 FRT's (listed in section 3.3) in the Gulf of Mexico region was sent after the DPP was announced in early 2015.

AKR Outreach: The region's TCL initiates coordination with the tribes, ANCSA corporations and communities to assure that a proposed consultation and meeting schedules takes into account upcoming traditional and cultural activities of the tribes along the Alaska OCS. The 2017-2022 Five Year Program AKR outreach letter was sent to the tribes after the draft proposed program (DPP) was announced in early 2015. For details see section 3.4.

PACR: The Pacific Region is not included in the outreach plan as there will be no proposed oil and gas leasing in this region.

3.2 Geophysical and Geological Surveys in Atlantic

As part of the ongoing effort to communicate Atlantic activities, this component is included in the Five Year outreach efforts.

3.3 Gulf of Mexico Lease Sales

September 2014, BOEM notified the 12 Gulf of Mexico-affiliated Tribes of the availability of the final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the proposed Central Planning Area (CPA) 235/241/247 Lease Sale. Tribal recipients

included the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Jena Band of Choctaw, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe of Louisiana. An email response was received from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Historic Preservation Department stating that the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama portions of the CPA are within the tribe's area of historic interest. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma concurred with BOEM's archaeological survey requirements as described in the SEIS, and further recommended that Tribes be included in the review of these surveys and that their office be contacted immediately in the event that any Native American cultural objects or human remains are encountered during BOEM permitted activities. No other responses were received.

January 2015 each of the above listed Tribes was notified of the availability of the draft SEIS for the proposed CPA 241/Eastern Planning Area (EPA) 226 Lease Sale for review, comment or consultation. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma had previously indicated interest in reviewing the DEIS following BOEM's Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the DEIS in June 2014, however did not provide further comment. No other responses were received.

March 2015 a formal letter, co-signed by then-Gulf of Mexico Regional Director John Rodi (retired) and TLO Dr. William Brown, was sent in order to introduce the Gulf-affiliated Tribes to BOEM leadership and to invite consultation on the development of the Gulf Geological and Geophysical Activities Programmatic EIS and/or the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma responded requesting clarification on the geographic areas impacted by each of these initiatives but provided no further comment, nor were responses received from any of the remaining Tribes.

Tribes were notified of two proposed Western Planning Area (WPA) Lease Sale efforts. In February 2015 the final SEIS for the proposed WPA 246 Lease Sale was distributed to each of the Gulf-affiliated Tribes, and in April 2015 comments and consultation were solicited on the NOI to prepare the proposed WPA 248 Lease Sale DEIS. Again the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma responded, stating that to the best of their knowledge the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma did not have any cultural affiliation to the offshore areas of the WPA and deferring further comment to the other Tribes. No other comments were received.

3.4 Alaska Region: Consultations and public meetings

There were various G2Gs, G2ANCSAs, and related events during the 2014 and 2015 time-period important for this report. Taken individually, or as a group, these activities demonstrate the Alaska Region's commitment to active support of the missions and activities of BOEM. They include:

2014 – Recap Info

January 2014

January 8, 2014: Bering Sea Alliance (BSA) President Art Ivanoff followed up with the Alaska Region **requesting a partnership** with developing a three-day workshop with BOEM and BSEE on sharing information about the activities related to energy exploration, in the Chukchi Sea area. TCL began working with the BSA on the project.

March 2014

March 4, 2014: Cully Village Corporation (Point Lay) initiated a **Government-to-ANCSA Corporation consultation** to further discuss Ledyard Bay stipulations and restrictions; and, explore oil spill response training.

April 2014

April 28–30, 2014: **Sivuqaq I**, a three-day workshop in the village of Gambell, on Saint Lawrence Island, was a successful event for all of the participants. More than 50 key leaders attended. Members of the Alaska Legislature, Congressional staffers, and representatives of more than a dozen Federal and State agencies took part in meeting with representatives of twenty two tribes and seven ANCSA village Corporations. BOEM and BSEE regional leaders provided briefings about activities – both ongoing and proposed – for the Chukchi Sea area, to the north of Saint Lawrence Island.

June 2014

June 25, 2014: BOEM and Cully Village Corporation conducted another in the series of **Government-to-ANCSA Corporation consultations**. The focus of this consult was to obtain additional up-to-date background information on tribal changes in the village of Point Lay.

August 2014

August 11–13, 2014: **Sivuqaq II**, a second three-day workshop in the village of Gambell, on Saint Lawrence Island, a successful event for all of the participants. More than 80 people attended. Members of the Alaska Legislature, Congressional staffers, and representatives of more than a dozen Federal and State agencies took part – the U.S. Coast Guard provided critically important information regarding the proposed sea lanes being established through the Region. Again, BOEM and BSEE regional leaders briefed attendees on current and future activities.

September 2014

September 30, 2014: BOEM, BSEE and Cully Village Corporation conducted another in the series of **Government-to-ANCSA Corporation consultations**. The focus of this

consultation was to obtain further information on tribal changes in the village of Point Lay.

Federal Fiscal Year 2015

October 2014

October 2014: Alaska Federation of Natives Convention – annual statewide convention. BOEM and BSEE shared a booth in the exhibition hall. This is a **significant annual outreach event to the 229 Federally-recognized Tribes** in Alaska. More than 5,000 people attend the annual AFN Convention and the Elders and Youth Conference in Anchorage. In addition to meeting tribal members from the areas that each bureau is operationally active in, the booth also provided a practical opportunity to discuss BOEM missions and activities with hundreds of participants and visitors at AFN.

November 2014

November 24, 2014: The Native Village of Port Graham Council took part in a **G2G consultation**, via teleconference, with the Alaska Region. Discussion focused on the proposed Lease Sale 244 in Cook Inlet and provided for ample discussion of possible deferral areas, traditional hunting and fishing areas and related concerns.

December 2014

December 1, 2014: Alaska Region Director **provided an update briefing** on mission and activities for the attendees of the Indigenous Peoples Conference (IPC). The IPC is a group of Native leaders from across Alaska. Their interests are focused on energy exploration and the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas.

December 1, 2014: Nanwalek Chiefs agreed to Alaska Region invitation for **G2G consultation** in Anchorage. This provided an opportunity for AKR Director to meet with the First and Second Chiefs of Nanwalek Tribe as follow-on to the first **G2G consultation** held several weeks prior. The Chiefs not only sustained their council's sharing of hunting and fishing information, but also provided insight and background on energy exploration in nearby State of Alaska waters.

December 1–5, 2014: BOEM conducted a **series of meetings and consultations** in support of the 193 SEIS 2nd Draft that included North Slope Borough Mayor Charlotte Brower's senior staff, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, and Native Village of Barrow. One of the key outreach efforts was to hold the public hearing at Alaska's only Indian college – Ilisagvik College that provided an opportunity to informally meet with a number of the college's students in advance of the public event. The results were an increased understanding of BOEM's activities regarding the 193 SEIS second draft.

December 16, 2014: Kotzebue IRA Council took part in the **G2G consultation** with Alaska Region to discuss the 193 SEIS 2nd Draft. The special noon-meeting was successful in including the majority of the council.

2015

March 2015

March 2, 2015: BOEM Five-Year Program 2017–2022 | BOEM, at their Open House in Anchorage (held at the Marriott Hotel & Convention Center), greeting nearly 100 people representing the Tribes, ANCSA Corporations, local and regional governments, industry and local citizens. This gathering provided an opportunity to gather information and insights regarding the proposed leasing and exploration activities for the period of 2017 thru 2022. Attendees were encouraged to offer additional, detailed remarks via the Regulations.gov website.

March 4, 2015: BOEM Five-Year Program 2017–2022 | Open House at Barrow’s Inupiat Heritage Center, in meeting with more than 50 people representing the Native Village of Barrow, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, and local and regional governments, and interested local citizens. Gatherings provided an opportunity to share insights and information regarding proposed leasing and exploration activities for 2017 thru 2022. Attendees were encouraged to offer additional, detailed remarks via the Regulations.gov website.

March 4, 2015: BOEM Five-Year Program 2017–2022 | BOEM **G2G Consultation** with Native Village of Barrow. This gathering provided an opportunity to gather critical traditional knowledge, local information and insights regarding the proposed leasing and exploration activities for the period of 2017 thru 2022. Attendees were encouraged to offer additional, detailed remarks via the Regulations.gov website.

March 4, 2015: BOEM Five-Year Program 2017–2022 | BOEM **G2G Consultation** with Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission in Barrow. This gathering provided an opportunity to gather critical traditional knowledge, local information and insights regarding the proposed leasing and exploration activities for the period of 2017 thru 2022. Attendees were encouraged to offer additional, detailed remarks via the Regulations.gov website.

March 5, 2015: BOEM Five-Year Program 2017–2022 | BOEM **G2G Consultation** with the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS) in Barrow. ICAS represents tribal members in more than 22 North Slope and Northwest Arctic communities. This gathering provided an opportunity to gather critical traditional knowledge, local information and insights regarding the proposed leasing and exploration activities for the period of 2017 thru 2022. *Further*, it provided the organization with an opportunity to share their various frustrations with a broad range of Federal government activities and programs. Attendees were encouraged to offer detailed remarks via the Regulations.gov website.

April 2015

April 8, 2015: BOEM and BSEE responded to a **G2ANCSA Consultation** request initiated Cully Village Corporation (Point Lay) to discuss the uses of nearby Ledyard Bay for transiting and training purposes. During the consultation, BSEE provided Cully with a fulsome explanation of oil spill responsibilities assumed by various Federal agencies, State government, industry, and regional and local governments.

April 20 thru 23, 2015: BOEM and BSEE joined efforts in reaching out to Tribes and communities of the North Slope to discuss the proposed Arctic Rule. The **‘road trip’ to the Bush included a series of public meetings, mixed with G2G and G2ANCSA consultations** during April. Highlights of G2G and G2ANCSA consultations follow, by date, as:

April 20, 2015 – **G2G with Kotzebue IRA** | Arctic Rule: BSEE operations outlined proposed requirements – essentially what Shell did in 2012, highlighting what Shell did right and what the contractors did wrong. Two main operating requirements in the proposed rule: (1) same season relief rig – goal is to have no compromised well under the ice. Requirement is proposed as performance standards, not prescriptive standards; and, (2) response system components – new casing design, capping stack, cap and flow, containment system, and relief rig. Noted extension of public comment period to May 27. The rule proposes requirements to show OSR is ready to mobilize, integrate response into training, and prepare for ice, etc., in the response training.

BOEM explained responsibility for the planning component of the proposed requirements on exploratory drilling. Under federal law [OCSLA], there is 30 day time line for a decision. The Integrated Operations Plan (IOP) has ten elements: (1) how designed for Arctic conditions; (2) suggested drilling program; (3) mobilize and demobilize; (4) drilling/abandoning; (5) ice/weather forecasting; (6) how supervise contractor work; (7) operations safety plan; (8) OSR asset plan; (9) how minimize impacts on the local infrastructure; and, (10) operational reliance on local community (workforce, OSR, etc.).

April 20, 2015 – **G2G with NV Point Hope** | Arctic Rule: BSEE operations outlined proposed requirements – essentially what Shell did in 2012, highlighting what Shell did right and what the contractors did wrong. Two main operating requirements in the proposed rule: (1) same season relief rig – goal is to have no compromised well under the ice. The requirement is proposed as performance standards, not prescriptive standards; and, (2) response system components – new casing design, capping stack, cap and flow, containment system, and relief rig. Noted extension of public comment period to May 27 – but consultations are not limited to this time. The rule proposes requirements to show OSR is ready to mobilize, integrate response into training, and prepare for ice, etc., in the response training.

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drilling/abandoning; (5) ice/weather forecasting; (6) how supervise contractor work; (7) operations safety plan; (8) OSR asset plan; (9) how minimize impacts on the local infrastructure; and, (10) operational reliance on local community (workforce, OSR, etc.)

April 21 & 23, 2015 – **G2G with ICAS** | Arctic Rule: (Spread across two different consultation periods at the request of ICAS). BSEE operations outlined proposed requirements – essentially what Shell did in 2012, highlighting what Shell did right and what the contractors did wrong. Two main operating requirements in the proposed rule: (1) same season relief rig – goal is to have no compromised well under the ice. The requirement is proposed as performance standards, not prescriptive standards; and, (2) response system components – new casing design, capping stack, cap and flow, containment system, and relief rig. Noted extension of public comment period to May 27, 2015 – but consultations are not limited to this time. Rule proposes requirements to show OSR is ready to mobilize, integrate response into training, and prepare for ice, etc., in the response training.

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April 22, 2015 – **G2G with Native Village of Barrow** – Thomas Olemaun President, Rebecca Brower Council member, Charlie Brower Transportation Director. |Arctic Rule: BSEE operations outlined proposed requirements – essentially what Shell did in 2012, highlighting what Shell did right and what the contractors did wrong. Two main operating requirements in the proposed rule: (1) same season relief rig – goal is to have no compromised well under the ice. The requirement is proposed as performance standards, not prescriptive standards; and, (2) response system components – new casing design, capping stack, cap and flow, containment system, and relief rig. Noted extension of public comment period to May 27 – but consultations are not limited to this time. Rule proposes requirements to show OSR is ready to mobilize, integrate response into training, and prepare for ice, etc., in the response training.

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April 22, 2015 – **G2G with Native Village of Wainwright** | Arctic Rule: (Spread across two different consultation periods at the request of ICAS). BSEE operations outlined

proposed requirements – essentially what Shell did in 2012, highlighting what Shell did right and what the contractors did wrong. Two main operating requirements in the proposed rule: (1) same season relief rig – goal is to have no compromised well under the ice. The requirement is proposed as performance standards, not prescriptive standards; and, (2) response system components – new casing design, capping stack, cap and flow, containment system, and relief rig. Noted extension of public comment period to May 27 – but consultations are not limited to this time. Rule proposes requirements to show the OSR is ready to mobilize, integrate response into training, and prepare for ice, etc., in the response training.

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April 23, 2015 – **G2G with AEWC in Barrow** | Arctic Rule: BSEE operations outlined proposed requirements – essentially what Shell did in 2012, highlighting what Shell did right and what the contractors did wrong. Two main operating requirements in the proposed rule: (1) same season relief rig – goal is to have no compromised well under the ice. The requirement is proposed as performance standards, not prescriptive standards; and, (2) response system components – new casing design, capping stack, cap and flow, containment system, and relief rig. Noted extension of public comment period to May 27 – but consultations are not limited to this time. Rule proposes requirements to show the OSR is ready to mobilize, integrate response into training, and prepare for ice, etc., in the response training.

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May 2015

May 1, 2015 – **G2ANCSA Consultation with Cully Corp** | Five-year Program 2017–2022. In response to Cully’s invitation, BOEM consulted with Cully Corporation’s leadership and Board members in Anchorage. This consultation provided an opportunity to share information regarding the proposed leasing and exploration activities for the period of 2017 thru 2022. Further, it provided the organization with an opportunity to share their various frustrations with a broad range of Federal government activities and programs. Attendees were encouraged to offer detailed remarks via the Regulations.gov website.

May 4 thru 31, 2015 – Worth noting: the Northwest Arctic Borough (regional government for Kotzebue area, representing ten villages) requested BOEM Alaska Region for assistance with assisting their **Tribal Youth Program** for an upcoming visit to Washington, DC. BOEM was asked to play host to the youth and to provide a central meeting location, at the Main Interior Building, assist with developing a briefing and meeting agenda that would allow other Federal agencies to rally to. In a series of twice weekly primary meetings and numerous other special meetings, the program was successfully planned and developed.

June 2015

June 3–4, 2015 – Canadian IEIRB North American Arctic Offshore Regulatory Practices Meeting. **Tribal and Community Liaison Awareness Training for Canadian scientists** and government leaders gathered in Anchorage to discuss Arctic Energy Operations was provided by BOEM and BSEE TCLs. The result was a clearer understanding by the Canadians of the import of connecting with and maintaining active, transparent relationships with their First Nations tribes and peoples, and the critical uses of Government-to-Government consultations as means and method for sharing information and Traditional Knowledge.

June 1 thru 20, 2015 – Preparation Sessions for **Northwest Arctic Borough’s Tribal Youth Program visit to BOEM** continued in advance of their visit to Washington, DC and the Department of the Interior. BOEM continued to play a significant part with developing a briefing and meeting agenda to organize participation by other Federal agencies, including the White House.

June 22 – 25, 2015 – Northwest Alaska **Tribal Youth Program** participants visit BOEM senior leaders, other bureaus and organizations of the Interior Department, hosted at the Main Interior Building. They were also hosted for a special tour of the White House. Both the BOEM Director and BOEM Senior Tribal Liaison were able to interact with the group. This rare opportunity proved very successful as the youth were able to gain new insights of the Nation’s capital and a fresh understanding of how America’s Federal Government is designed, how it operates, and the important roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for her citizens.

June 26, 2015 – Training & Coordination Day @ **National Museum of the American Indian**. Several BOEM Tribal and Community Liaisons toured the NMAI as a training event and made an initial effort to try and get NMAI programming staff to consider the use / playing BOEM’s ‘Year In the Life of the Bowhead Whale’ film on a rotational basis in their main theatre.

July 2015

July 13, 2015 – **Preserving Cultural Heritage – Tribal Training**, with guest speaker Corine Wegener, a Smithsonian Cultural Heritage Preservation Officer (from the Rachel

Carson Room, Main Interior Building, Washington, DC). BOEM understanding of Cultural heritage, the legacy left behind for future generations, is the thread of continuity that people search for when the rhythm of everyday life has been shattered. It has particular meaning for BSEE and BOEM as energy exploration offers rare and unique opportunities.

Bringing focus to mitigation efforts, Wegener shared insights from Smithsonian Haiti Cultural Recovery Project after 2010 Haiti earthquake, Hurricane Sandy, Smithsonian's current work in Mali, Iraq, Syria, and coordination efforts right here at home.

July 15-17, 2015 – Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission Quarterly Meeting – **BOEM shared updates** of ongoing research and mission activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, in Fairbanks.

July 27-29, 2015 – BSEE Director Brian Salerno and BOEM Director Abigail Hopper to Anchorage and Barrow. **G2Gs** were held with **Native Village of Barrow and ICAS**. A series of special meetings were organized and held with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission leaders, North Slope Borough Mayor Charlotte Brower and her senior staff, and with Alaska Governor Bill Walker. Both the G2Gs and the meetings served as opportunities for each director to meet and establish open communications with respective leaders and staff.

August 2015

August 1–6, 2015 – Conducting a series of urgent meetings (and **G2G consultations**) between BOEM, with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and the US Coast Guard Series, helped to avoid a potentially critical cultural error with whaling captains during the Fall Whale Hunt on the North Slope. The result: improved understanding, several opportunities to refine relationships between and among several agencies, and gain local experience and Traditional Knowledge as an outcome. Also, BOEM not only has a standing invitation to attend quarterly AEWC meetings, but has continuing opportunities as a presenting agency – a genuinely high level of trust.

September 2015

September 9, 2015 – An **update meeting** with North Slope Borough (NSB); provided key advisors to NSB Mayor Charlotte Brower with critical insight for her planning purposes regarding the Liberty Proposal. The result was their readiness to receive and comment on the proposal, and to be a voice of assurance in and among tribal groups in Barrow, Nuiqsut and Kaktovik.

September 14–16, 2015 – BOEM Leadership Meeting – provided **Cultural & TCL Training**, in-person, and with the assistance of staff from the Alaska Native Heritage Center, for BOEM's senior leadership team from Headquarters and the Regions. Using an updated model, developed for the Canadian presentation back in June, the opportunity to tour the Alaska Native Heritage Center proved invaluable to the process. The results were

to clarify the roles, responsibilities and opportunities for effective Tribal and ANCSA relationships and how they benefit BOEM and BSEE.

October 2015

October 14–17, 2015 – Alaska Federation of Natives – **BOEM was unable to commit** to the annual statewide convention with members of 229 Federally recognized Tribes attending. BOEM and BSEE were unable to commit the funding secure a booth due to possibility of no Federal budget. Again, we regret, that funding issues associated with the U.S. Congress' continuing resolution that we are unable to participate this year. The delay in funding has a negative fallout impact when we're considering potential participation in not only the AFN, but a wide host of other programs and conferences that come up in the Fall.

In thinking about this challenge, we will seek innovative ways and means to overcome this kind of issue in the future. We will want to take a positive look at how we can take part in the 2016 AFN (next year). There are legitimate reasons for the Bureau to improve our relationship with the Alaska Federation of Natives (not only as an exhibitor), but with an eye toward other AFN meetings, workshops and gatherings that occur throughout the year. Part of the solution may be in gathering the Department of the Interior agencies together and working toward a common solution in partnership with AFN.

October 19–22, 2015 – Two important programs were part of the Senior Arctic Officials Meeting in Anchorage. First, the forum provided for a "**consultation / outreach**" meetings for the PAME Secretariat. Focus of discussions included the MEMA (Meaningful Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Marine Activities) project, part of the Arctic Marine Strategic Plan Implementation. Partners include the United States, Aleut International Association, ICC, Saami Council, and Canada. The second, aimed at middle and senior high school students from across Alaska who were able to meet with the Foreign Ministers of nine nations during a major cultural training event at the Alaska Native Heritage Center, hosted in part, by BOEM.

October 20–21, 2015 – Alaska Tribal Conservation Alliance Conference provided an opportunity to share the missions and activities of BOEM and BSEE in a broad forum represented by more than 100 Alaska Tribes. The results were increased awareness of both of our organizations, and opportunities to share BOEM Science and Research.

November 2015

November 2, 2015 – Liberty Proposal Public Meeting | Westmark Hotel & Conference Center in Fairbanks; **G2G was offered to the Tanana Chiefs Conference** and was declined. **G2ANCSA was offered to Doyon Corporation** – who declined at this time.

November 3, 2015 – Liberty Proposal Public Meeting | Kaktovik Community Center; **G2G with the Native Village of the Kaktovik**; G2ANCSA was offered to Kaktovik Native Corporation – who declined at this time.

November 4, 2015 – [Liberty Proposal Public Meeting](#) | Nuiqsut Community Center; **G2G with NV Nuiqsut**. G2ANCSA was offered to Nuiqsut’s Kuukpik Corporation – who did not respond initially, but requested a subsequent follow-on.

November 5, 2015 – [Liberty Proposal Public Meeting](#) | Inupiat Heritage Center in Barrow. A series of separate meetings were held with **Native Village of Barrow, ICAS, and NSB** Mayor Charlotte Brower and CAO Jake Adams. A G2ANCSA invitation to ASRC was declined. AEWC leaders participated in the public meeting.

November 9, 2015 – [Liberty Proposal Public Meeting](#) | Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center in Anchorage. More than 90 members of the public, associated ANCSA Corporations and Tribal members attended and took part.

November 12, 2015 – Marine Mammal Commission provided an informal opportunity for BOEM and BSEE TCLs to meet with Tribal leaders during their attendance at this event in Anchorage.

December 2015

December 1–4, 2015: BIA Providers Conference, a statewide event held annually in Anchorage, provided an another timely, yet informal, opportunity for BOEM and BSEE TCLs to meet with Tribal leaders during their attendance at this event in Anchorage. Second, only to the AFN, in its impact for BOEM attendance, the Providers Conference offers numerous opportunities to **meet with, or otherwise consult with Tribal leaders** from the villages potentially affected by BOEM activities.

3.5 Wind Energy Leasing in the Atlantic

In 2009, President Obama announced the final regulations for the OCS Renewable Energy Program, which was authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. These regulations provide a framework for issuing leases, easements and rights-of-way for OCS activities that support production and transmission of energy from sources other than oil and natural gas. BOEM is responsible for overseeing offshore renewable energy development in Federal waters. To date, seven leases have been issued off the Atlantic coast. For updates on lease sales: [link 4](#).

In October 2014, BOEM initiated consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with the Catawba Indian Nation for the issuance of leases offshore North Carolina. BOEM has executed two Programmatic Agreements that guide the bureau’s Section 106 review of activities occurring under the renewable energy regulations on the OCS within the South Atlantic ([link 5](#)). Under Stipulation I.C of these agreements, BOEM contacted the Tribe to ensure that BOEM has taken into consider the effects of its undertakings on historic properties and traditional cultural places of interest and concern to the Catawba.

Also in October 2014, BOEM initiated consultation with a number of Tribes for the purposes of obtaining feedback about its *Guidelines for Providing Archaeological and Historic property Information Pursuant to 30 CFR 585*. The Office of Renewable Energy Programs has developed a number of national and regional guidelines for renewable energy activities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). These documents serve to provide renewable energy applicants with technical guidance, information on the interpretation of a regulation, clarification of a lease stipulation, or notification of administrative updates within BOEM's renewable energy program. As part of plan submission, BOEM requires detailed information regarding the nature and location of archaeological sites and other historic properties that may be affected by the proposed renewable energy activities. This information is used to assist the bureau in meeting its obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and other regulations. BOEM relies on the guidelines of State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO), (for activities or effects located on tribal lands) in establishing what constitutes a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties within state waters and onshore areas. BOEM provides the Guidelines to meet this need for the identification of archaeological resources on the OCS that may be affected by activities under the regulatory authority of BOEM. BOEM was updating the Guidelines to incorporate the results of recent bureau-funded studies, lessons learned from the review of reports generated under the 2012 Guidelines, and feedback from our ongoing consultations. Tribes consulted concerning these changes included the Narragansett Indian Tribe, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the Shinnecock Indian Nation, and the Catawba Indian Nation.

Between January and April 2015, BOEM consulted with a number of tribes under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the approval of a Research Activities Plan (RAP) for the Virginia Offshore Technology Advancement Project. The project proponent, the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, had submitted a revised RAP that included modifications to project elements originally discussed with the parties during consultation in 2014. BOEM shared these modifications, as well as revisions to the three historic property identification reports submitted to the bureau, and updated its Finding of No Adverse Effect as a result of these consultations. Tribes consulted concerning these changes included the Narragansett Indian Tribe, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and the Shinnecock Indian Nation.

3.6 Renewable Energy Development in the Pacific

The main topic of consultation from the PACR continued to be the support of the WindFloat project ([link 6](#)) off Coos Bay, Oregon. Formal consultation meetings were held the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI); and The Coquille Indian Tribe at Tribal offices in North Bend and Coos Bay, Oregon, respectively.

November 05, 2014, Section 106 meeting with Coquille Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), North Bend, OR. Discussion centered on the proposed WindFloat project. Among the topics were an update of recent activity and next steps; defining the area of potential effect; how to address sensitive information; strategies for identifying historic properties and traditional cultural properties; and strategies to resolve adverse effects. The meeting also included site visits to traditional properties along the coast that could incur viewshed impacts.

November 06, 2014, Section 106 meeting with CTCLUSI THPO, Coos Bay, OR. Issues discussed at this meeting were similar to those identified during the meeting with the Coquille THPO on 05 November. This meeting also included site visits to traditional properties along the coast that could incur viewshed impacts.

February 27, 2015, Section 106 meeting with WindFloat consulting parties, including CTCLUSI and Coquille Tribe (video-conference meeting). Discussion centered on the proposed WindFloat project and included the purpose of the project, the BOEM undertaking and potential effects, the Department of Energy's and BOEM's roles in the proposed project; and an update of next steps.

August 05, 2015, G2G meeting with CTCLUSI, Coos Bay, OR. Discussion centered on the proposed WindFloat project and included an update of accomplishments and next steps; the proposed WindFloat Pacific transmission line alignment; land ownership along the proposed transmission line; and an update of selected BOEM research informing renewable energy offshore Oregon.

August 06, 2015, G2G meeting with Coquille, North Bend, OR. This meeting included representatives from BOEM and the Department of Energy. Discussion centered on the proposed WindFloat project and included an overview of BOEM and DOE roles in the project; an update of accomplishments and next steps; the proposed WindFloat Pacific transmission line alignment; land ownership along the proposed transmission line; and an update of selected BOEM research informing renewable energy offshore Oregon.

The BOEM POCS Region continued work on developing best practices for consulting with Native American Tribes through the Characterizing Tribal Cultural Landscapes study, which was awarded as an inter-agency agreement to NOAA. This project is a collaborative effort, working with representatives from the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices of the Makah Tribe of Washington, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde of Oregon, and the Yurok Tribe of California. The final report is expected in May 2016, the best practices guidance document was released in November 2015, and is available online ([link 7](#)) additional information on this project can be found online ([link 8](#)).

The BOEM POCS Region continued work on developing best practices for consulting with Native Hawaiian Communities, similar to the effort discussed in the previous bullet, Characterizing Tribal Cultural Landscapes. Additional information on this project can be found online ([link 9](#)).

4.0 Links

- 1) http://www.doi.gov/ocl/hearings/113/biadepartmentalpriorities_051513.cfm
- 2) <http://www.boem.gov/Five-Year-Program-2012-2017/>
- 3) <http://www.boem.gov/Developing-Protocols-for-Reconstructing-Submerged-Paleocultural-Landscapes/>
- 4) <http://www.boem.gov/Lease-and-Grant-Information/>
- 5) www.boem.gov/South-Atlantic-PA-Executed
- 6) <http://www.boem.gov/windfloatpacific/>
- 7) <http://www.boem.gov/2015-047/>
- 8) <http://www.boem.gov/pr-12-tcl/>
- 9) <http://www.boem.gov/pc-13-01/>