

The Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) promotes energy independence, environmental protection and economic development through responsible, science-based management of energy and mineral resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). BOEM ensures that environmental protection— informed by the best available science and law—is a foremost concern and an indispensable consideration in BOEM’s decision making.

Overview

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines stewardship as “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” BOEM’s approach to the development of ocean energy and minerals comes with our unwavering dedication to responsible stewardship. The bureau is committed to ensuring that America’s ocean environment and marine life are protected when planning and leasing for energy and marine mineral development.

The OCS Lands Act directs BOEM to study and consider coastal, marine and human environmental impacts when making decisions on how to effectively promote energy independence, environmental protection, economic development and national security. BOEM applies more than 30 federal regulations, statutes, executive orders and policies – including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – into our decisions.

BOEM has funded more
than
\$1 billion
in scientific research
since 1973.



To ensure that environmental protection is a primary consideration in our decisions, BOEM focuses on two core components that constantly engage with and inform each other:



Environmental Assessment – Includes the activities BOEM performs to evaluate the impacts of BOEM’s proposed actions and to involve the public and federal, state and tribal governments in the process. BOEM prepares NEPA documents and OCS Lands Act reports; conducts consultations with other agencies charged with protecting various resources, and participates in international conventions and treaty activities. The bureau encourages meaningful public participation in its decision making process.



Environmental Science – BOEM develops, conducts and oversees world-class scientific research to inform policy decisions. The bureau’s environmental studies cover a broad range of disciplines, including physical oceanography, atmospheric sciences, biology, protected species, social sciences (including economics and cultural resources) and the environmental impacts of energy development. BOEM manages pioneering and ongoing research studies nationally and in the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and offshore Alaska.

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



For More Information:

<https://www.boem.gov/environment>

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