Overview

The United States’ natural resources provide its citizens unparalleled opportunities for energy and mineral production, job creation and revenues for the American people. These opportunities can only be realized when these resources are managed thoughtfully. BOEM manages the nation’s offshore resources to help meet the country’s energy needs. With fewer than 600 employees, BOEM is a fairly small agency tasked with managing almost 2.5 billion acres of the seabed—nearly equal the size of the nation’s land acreage. BOEM’s primary mission focuses are oil and gas energy, renewable energy and marine minerals, with environmental science underpinning all of our efforts.
BOEM manages almost 2.5 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, nearly equal the size of the nation's land acreage.
BOEM strives to protect the environment while overseeing the development of OCS energy and mineral resources

Marine Minerals

In addition to its offshore energy responsibilities, BOEM manages appropriate access to marine mineral resources on the OCS, such as sand and gravel. Shore protection, beach nourishment, and coastal habitat restoration projects are the primary uses of these minerals. To date, BOEM has authorized more than 165 million cubic yards of OCS material for nearly 60 coastal restoration projects in eight states to restore more than 380 miles of the nation’s coastline. These projects protect billions of dollars of infrastructure and ecological habitats while restoring public beaches affected by severe erosion. The OCS also has the potential to contain significant volumes of critical minerals that can help support national security and the economy.

For more information on BOEM’s marine minerals activities, visit: https://www.boem.gov/marine-minerals.

Environment

All of BOEM’s activities are underlain by a robust environmental program, which ensures that science-based environmental protection is at the forefront of BOEM’s decision making. BOEM prepares and oversees environmental reviews, including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses for offshore energy and mineral development. In addition, BOEM develops, funds, and manages rigorous scientific research to inform policy decisions regarding the development of energy and mineral resources on the OCS. Since 1973, BOEM has funded more than $1 billion in scientific research.

For more information on BOEM’s environmental activities, visit: https://www.boem.gov/environment.

Offices Around the Country

BOEM employees work in three offices across the country: New Orleans, La.; Camarillo, Calif.; and Anchorage, Alaska, as well as two offices in the Washington, DC area.