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Biological Studies

Ongoing (2014–2022) — Potential Impacts of Submarine Power Cables on Crab Harvest

This two-part research effort is to learn more about whether the electromagnetic fields (EMF) emitted from subsea power-transmission cables may affect the movement and harvest of commercial crab species. The first part was conducted by the University of California, Santa Barbara, which collected data on red rock crab in the Santa Barbara Channel and Dungeness crab in Puget Sound. The second part is collecting and analyzing additional data.

Study Profile: <https://www.boem.gov/pc-19-02/>

Ongoing (2014–2022) — Year-round and Diel Patterns in Habitat-use of Seabirds off Oregon

This study by Oregon State University and the U.S. Geological Survey will provide information about the distribution, movements and behaviors of Oregon seabirds and identify patterns in their habitat use 24/7. New data collected with state-of-the-art tracking devices will be integrated with existing data to map and predict the distribution of species and their potential vulnerability to renewable energy devices.

Study Profile: <https://www.boem.gov/pc-14-03/>

Ongoing (2016–2022) — Analysis of Long-term Seabird Colony Legacy Data in the Pacific Northwest as a Regional Baseline

This study by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is summarizing data regarding the abundance and distribution of birds in seabird breeding colonies along the coasts of Oregon and Washington. It will provide an environmental baseline against which to evaluate potential effects of offshore energy projects on seabird colonies and populations.

Study Profile: <https://www.boem.gov/pc-16-06/>

Ongoing (2019–2022) — Development of Computer Simulations to Assess Entanglement Risk to Whales and Leatherback Sea Turtles in Offshore Floating Wind Turbine Moorings, Cables, and Associated Derelict Fishing Gear Offshore California

This study, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, has developed morphologically and behaviorally accurate 3-D computer models of protected whale species (fin and humpback) and leatherback sea turtles. Two offshore floating wind mooring systems are currently under digital development. The whale and mooring system models will be integrated into simulations to visualize various potential interaction scenarios, including considering associated derelict fishing gear. These simulations will assist BOEM in assessing the risk and potential severity of entanglement, and potentially identify mitigation measures to reduce any risk.

Study Profile: <https://www.boem.gov/pr-19-ent-profile/>

Infographic: <https://www.boem.gov/PR-19-ENT-Infographic>



Ongoing (2019-2023) — California Deepwater Investigations and Groundtruthing (Cal DIG) II

This study is a partnership between BOEM, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Geological Survey to map geologic features and characterize seafloor habitats offshore California and Oregon. It will enhance understanding about the location and nature of biologically sensitive communities, including in potential lease areas for wind energy development and areas where conventional energy is being developed.

Study Profile: <https://www.boem.gov/pc-19-06-profile/>

Ongoing (2020–2023) — Over Water Migration Movements of Black Brant

This study by the U.S. Geological Survey will increase BOEM’s understanding of the temporal and spatial distribution of Black Brant offshore of the Pacific coast to evaluate potential effects of offshore wind energy development on them. BOEM’s objective is to collect data on trans-oceanic and coastal migration routes for Black Brant along the Pacific coast of North America to identify their spatial location, timing, and flight altitudes. The results will help determine if the routes overlap with proposed Call Areas for wind energy development off the Pacific coast.

Study Profile: <https://www.boem.gov/pc-20-01-profile/>

Ongoing (2021–2023) — A Vulnerability Index to Scale Effects of Offshore Renewable Energy on Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles of the U.S. West Coast (VIMMS)

This study by Southall Environmental Associates (SEA), Inc. will develop a vulnerability index based on the best available data and expert elicitation for marine mammals and sea turtles that occur offshore central and northern California, Oregon, and Washington. This index will assist in scaling the effects and prioritizing which of these species need to be considered in assessments of risk from offshore renewable energy infrastructure. It will develop a visual representation of the levels of concern for relevant species or species groups, which will also inform the selection of renewable energy sites.

Study Profile: <https://www.boem.gov/pc-21-04>

Ongoing — BOEM-MARine (Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network)

This long-term and continuing study by BOEM and a network of partners provides for the monitoring of rocky intertidal habitats and communities at 32 coastal sites adjacent to existing and potential OCS energy development in California and Oregon. Site-specific data about the diversity and abundance of invertebrates are housed in a publicly available database that can be used to monitor intertidal communities.

Study Profile: <https://www.boem.gov/pc-19-01/>

MARine Website: <http://www.pacificrockyintertidal.org/>

MARine Highlights: https://epis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2020-053.pdf



Completed (2010) — Pacific Coast Fisheries GIS Resource Database

This study by the U.S. Geological Survey compiled marine fisheries and coastal spatial data from various wildlife agencies in California, Oregon, and Washington and integrated it into a single, comprehensive GIS-based system. The database includes information about Pacific Coast fish, fisheries, and active fishing, as well as southern California seabirds and marine mammals.

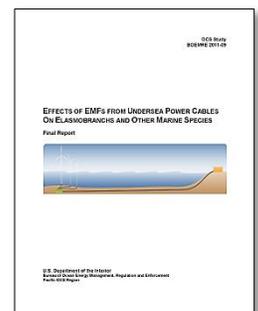
Database: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/werc/science/pacific-coast-fisheries-gis-resource-database>



Completed (2011) — Effects of EMF from Undersea Power Cables on Elasmobranchs and Other Marine Species

This study by Normandeau Associates synthesized data and information about subsea power-transmission cables and the sensitivity of marine organisms to electromagnetic fields (EMF) produced by the cables. It produced a database of information about potentially affected species of elasmobranchs (sharks and rays), other fishes, marine mammals, sea turtles, and invertebrates. It also recommended future research priorities and potential mitigation measures.

Report (BOEMRE 2011-09): <https://epis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5115.pdf>



Completed (2012) — West Coast Environmental Protocols Framework: Baseline and Monitoring Studies

This study by Pacific Energy Ventures provides a framework for identifying natural resources and ecological issues to monitor for proposed wave, tidal, and offshore wind projects along the U.S. West Coast.

Report (BOEM 2012-013): <https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5219.pdf>



Completed (2014) — Survey of Benthic Communities Near Potential Renewable Energy Sites Offshore the Pacific Northwest

This study by Oregon State University provided baseline information about the seafloor environment and the types and distribution of benthic invertebrates in areas of potential renewable energy development on the Washington, Oregon, and northern California OCS. Knowledge of species-habitat relationships will allow for prediction of seafloor communities beyond those sampled in this study.

Report (BOEM 2014-662):

Volume 1: <https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5453.pdf>

Volume 2: <https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5454.pdf>

Webinar: <https://www.boem.gov/Science-Exchange-4/>



Completed (2014) — Marine Mammal, Seabird and Ecosystem Data Collection in Pacific OCS Areas off Oregon

This oceanic field survey by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration performed detailed observations of marine mammals, seabirds and ecosystem conditions off Oregon in August/September 2014. Specifically, these short-term, sequential surveys covered the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease blocks for the Pacific Marine Energy Center South Energy Test Site (PMEC-SETS) and WindFloat Pacific, with overlapping, edge-to-edge transects. The methodology used visual, passive acoustic, water and other sampling protocols that have been used for over 10 years off the West Coast and allow for data integration and comparisons.

Synopsis: <https://www.boem.gov/PR-14-OBS/>

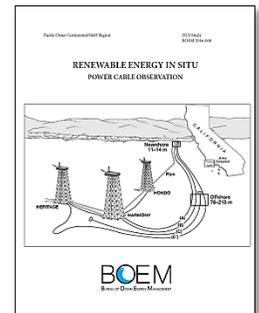


Completed (2016) — Renewable Energy in situ Power Cable Observation

This study by the University of California, Santa Barbara measured the strength and variability of electromagnetic fields (EMF) along subsea power transmission cables in the Santa Barbara Channel, which are similar to cables used for offshore renewable energy inter-device electrical connections. It also compared fish communities in cable versus natural habitats and determined the potential effectiveness of cable burial as a mitigation measure to decrease EMF.

Report (BOEM 2016-008): <https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5520.pdf>

Webinar: <https://www.boem.gov/Science-Exchange-3/>



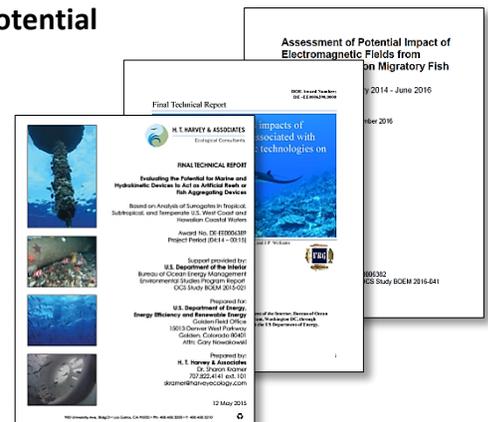
Completed (2016) — Using Ongoing Activities as Surrogates to Predict Potential Ecological Impacts from Marine Renewable Energy

BOEM and the U.S. Department of Energy partnered on this study to identify and analyze data from ongoing projects and activities (surrogates) with stressors and receptors similar to those expected from marine renewable energy projects. Two reports examined potential impacts of electromagnetic fields from operating power cables, and one examined mooring configurations of offshore surrogates such as aquaculture facilities and oceanographic buoys as fish attracting devices.

First Report (BOEM 2015-021): <https://www.boem.gov/2015-021/>

Second Report (BOEM 2015-042): <https://www.boem.gov/2015-042/>

Third Report (BOEM 2016-041): <https://www.boem.gov/2016-041/>



Completed (2016) — Developing and Applying a Vulnerability Index for Scaling the Possible Adverse Effects of Offshore Renewable Energy Projects on Seabirds on the Pacific OCS

This BOEM-directed study, conducted and primarily funded by the U.S. Geological Survey, developed a comprehensive database to evaluate 81 marine bird species in the California Current System (CCS) in terms of their collision and displacement vulnerability from offshore wind energy infrastructure. It used existing and newly analyzed at-sea behavioral information (e.g., avian habits and activities, flight-height, and flight characteristics) and population metrics to identify species-specific vulnerabilities at the population level. The vulnerability assessment results can now be combined with recent marine bird at-sea distribution and abundance data for the CCS to help address seabird conservation during the siting and operation of offshore wind energy development projects.

Report (USGS OFR 2016-1154, BOEM 2016-043):

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20161154>

Webinar: <https://www.boem.gov/Science-Exchange-6/>



Completed (2018) — California Current Cetacean and Ecosystem Assessment Survey and Use of Data to Produce and Validate Cetacean and Seabird Density Maps

This study by the National Marine Fisheries Service/Southwest Fisheries Science Center focused on listening for whale species that are difficult to detect during visual surveys because of their deep diving habits and limited surface activity.

Report (BOEM 2018-025): https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2018-025.pdf

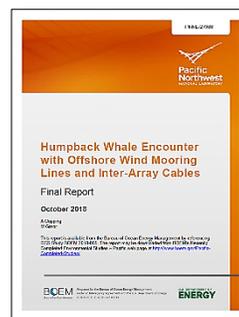


Completed (2018) — Humpback Whale Encounter with Offshore Wind Mooring Lines and Inter-Array Cables

This study by the U.S. Department of Energy/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory compiled information about whale movements (e.g., dive depths and swimming speed) and created a three-dimensional video animation of how whales may move through a hypothetical offshore floating wind farm. This visual simulation will help characterize the risk of whale encounters with mooring lines and electrical cables used in offshore floating wind projects.

Report (BOEM 2018-065): <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-2018-065/>

Video Animation: <https://www.boem.gov/Humpback-Whales-Floating-Wind/>



Completed (2020) — Seabird and Marine Mammal Surveys off the Northern California, Oregon and Washington Coasts

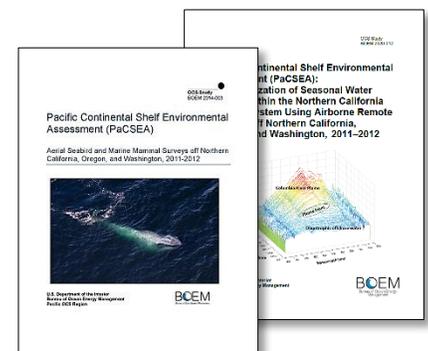
This study by the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided up-to-date information on the types, distribution, abundance, seasonal variation, and habitat use of marine mammals and seabirds along the northern California, Oregon, and Washington coasts. Aerial surveys using state-of-the-art technology focused on the most likely areas of OCS renewable energy development. Additional work determined ecosystem connections and species-habitat associations.

First Report (BOEM 2014-003): <https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5427.pdf>

Second Report (BOEM 2020-012):

https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2020-012.pdf

Webinar: <https://www.boem.gov/Science-Exchange-1/>



Completed (2020) — Cross-Shelf Habitat Suitability Modeling

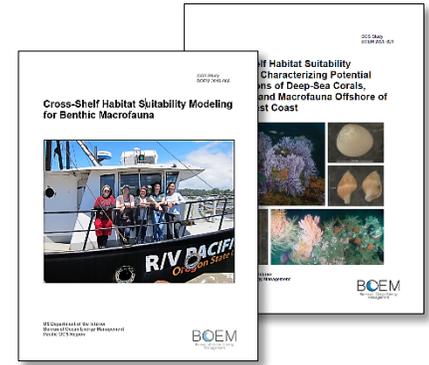
This study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Oregon State University created two new habitat suitability models for deep water corals, sponges, and soft-sediment macrofaunal species offshore the U.S. West Coast. These habitat suitability models extend across the continental shelf and out to 1200 meter depth. This study included field validations and comparisons with previous models, and improves the predictive capabilities of important seafloor habitats and benthic communities.

First Report (BOEM 2020-008):

https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2020-008.pdf

Second Report (BOEM 2020-021):

https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2020-021.pdf



Completed (2021) — Pacific Marine Assessment Partnership for Protected Species (PacMAPPS) – California Current

This study was a partnership between BOEM, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Navy to conduct shipboard surveys of marine mammals, seabirds, and, to the extent possible, sea turtles in the Pacific. The data collected during a 2018 survey of the California Current Ecosystem (Baja California, California, Oregon, and Washington) will help BOEM evaluate potential effects of proposed energy activities on protected species, that includes an ecosystem-level context, including in areas of interest for renewable energy development (California, Oregon) and for conventional energy decommissioning (California).

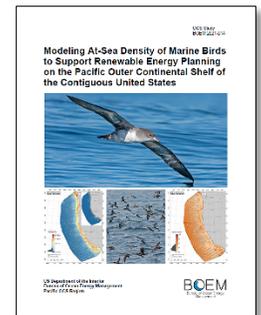
Report (BOEM 2021-013): https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2021-013.pdf



Completed (2021) — Data Synthesis and High-resolution Predictive Modeling of Marine Bird Spatial Distributions on the Pacific OCS

This study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Geological Survey synthesized 50 years of seabird survey data off California, Oregon, and Washington, and combined it with information about environmental and oceanographic conditions to predict the occurrence and abundance of seabirds at sea. The resulting predictive maps of seabird distributions will provide critical information for renewable energy siting and evaluation of potential environmental effects of management actions and project approvals.

Report (BOEM 2021-014): https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2021-014.pdf



Cultural & Archaeological Studies

Ongoing (2021–2024) — West Coast Tribal Cultural Landscapes

This effort by the Udall Foundation's John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution will work with interested West Coast Tribal Nations to develop cultural landscape assessments along the coast and offshore California and Oregon, near areas of potential offshore wind energy development. It will improve understanding about cultural and archaeological resources and places of importance, and assist in understanding potential impacts of offshore renewable energy development.

Study Profile: <https://www.boem.gov/pc-21-01>

Completed (2013) — Inventory and Analysis of Coastal and Submerged Archaeological Site Occurrence on the Pacific OCS

This study by ICF International assessed the potential for submerged prehistoric sites on the California, Oregon, and Washington Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), and identified coastal properties and significant coastal cultural resources subject to potential visual impacts from offshore energy development. It also produced a proprietary inventory of known, reported, and potential historic shipwrecks.

Report (BOEM 2013-0115): <https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5357.pdf>



Completed (2017) — Characterizing Tribal Cultural Landscapes

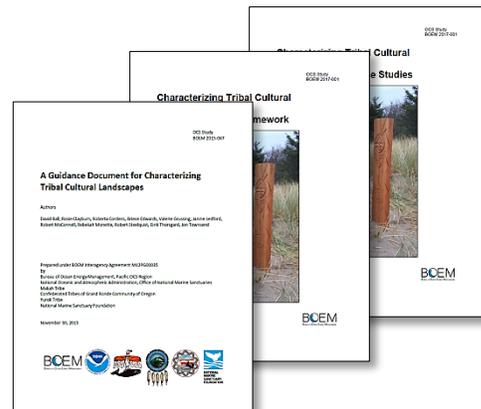
This effort, led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, collaborated with the Yurok Tribe of California, Grand Ronde Tribe of Oregon, and Makah Tribe of Washington to develop best practices for consultation through implementation of a cultural landscape approach. Each Tribe employed this approach to develop their own unique case studies. This information will likely be important to future consideration of marine renewable energy projects.

Guidance Document (BOEM 2015-047): <https://www.boem.gov/2015-047/Report> (BOEM 2017-001):

Volume I: <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-2017-001-Volume-1/>

Volume II: <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-2017-001-Volume-2/>

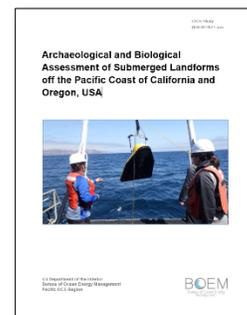
Webinar: <https://www.boem.gov/Science-Exchange-8/>



Completed (2021) — Archaeological and Biological Assessment of Submerged Landforms off the Pacific Coast of California and Oregon, USA

To better understand the potential for submerged pre-contact archaeological sites on the Pacific OCS, researchers from San Diego State University and a variety of other academic and government institutions employed terrestrial analogues, paleoshoreline mapping, sediment coring, ground-truthing techniques, and biological assessments to explore potential intact submerged geological landforms offshore California's Northern Channel Islands and central Oregon. This study produced a large dataset and a GIS-based model to predict where intact submerged landforms features may be located on the Pacific OCS.

Report: *in press*

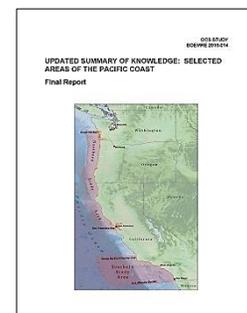


Information Synthesis Studies

Completed (2010) — Updated Summary of Knowledge: Selected Areas of the Pacific Coast

This study by Mangi Environmental Group compiled and analyzed information generated after 1977 about the coastal and marine environment from Grays Harbor, Washington to San Francisco Bay, and from Santa Barbara County to the U.S.-Mexico border. It identified early information and data gaps about oceanographic resources and potential impacts of offshore renewable energy development.

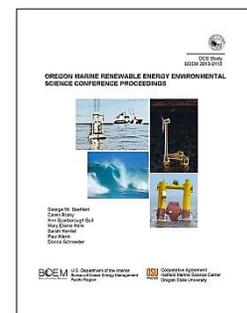
Report (BOEMRE 2010-014): <https://epis.boem.gov/final%20reports/4955.pdf>



Completed (2013) — Oregon Marine Renewable Energy Environmental Science Conference

This conference – coordinated by and held at Oregon State University, Corvallis – brought together an international group (including 40 Oregon specialists) to review existing and ongoing science pertinent to marine renewable energy. This expert group reviewed existing research and prioritized data gaps and needs for baseline conditions, environmental effects, and monitoring studies.

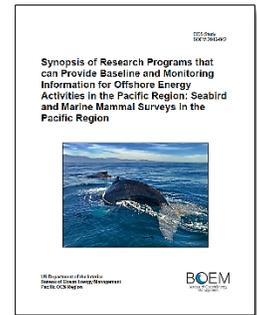
Report (BOEM 2013-0113): <https://epis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5255.pdf>



Completed (2019) — Synopsis of Research Programs that can Provide Baseline and Monitoring Information for Offshore Energy Activities in the Pacific Region

This study by the U.S. Geological Survey identified research programs that have produced databases containing information on species and habitats sensitive to offshore energy activities in the Pacific Region. It evaluated the capability of these programs to provide baseline and monitoring data to understand and mitigate potential impacts of conventional energy development offshore southern California and renewable energy development offshore southern California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii.

Report (BOEM 2019-042): <https://www.boem.gov/2019-042/>

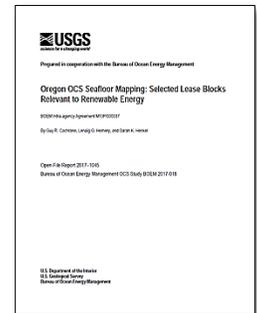


Physical Oceanography & Geology Studies

Completed (2017) — Oregon OCS Seafloor Mapping: Selected Lease Blocks Relevant to Renewable Energy

This study by the U.S. Geological Survey collected high-resolution, multibeam seafloor data of the potential Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease area offshore Coos Bay, Oregon. The data were used to develop comprehensive maps of seafloor habitats and geology, which are needed to address site-specific siting, ecosystem assessments and geohazards.

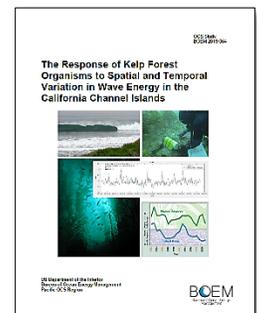
Report (USGS OFR 2017-1045, BOEM 2017-018): <https://www.boem.gov/2017-018/>



Completed (2019) — Predicting the Consequences of Wave Energy Absorption from Marine Renewable Energy Facilities on Nearshore Ecosystems

By calibrating a regional wave model with site-specific wave measurements and site-specific biological data (30+ year time series from the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey offshore southern California), this study developed a statistical model to predict the potential effects of wave energy absorption from marine renewable energy facilities on nearshore ecosystems, especially giant kelp forests. The study found that wave energy had a significant effect on several species. But for most taxa (36/57), density was unrelated to waves. Even for those species with a statistical relationship between density and wave energy, a 15% reduction in wave height would not have a detectable effect on the density of any species.

Report (BOEM 2019-064): https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2019-064.pdf

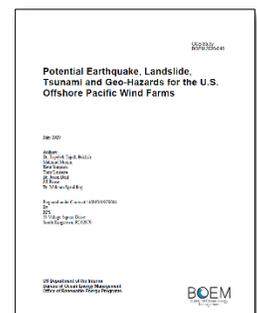


Completed (2020) — Potential Earthquake, Landslide, Tsunami and Geo-Hazards on the U.S. Offshore Pacific Wind Farms

Floating offshore wind (FOW) construction and operation on the U.S. West Coast may face the risk of potential geohazards, as they are relatively new applications of older technologies (land-based wind and mobile offshore drilling units) in tectonically active regions. Seismic activities, landslides, and tsunamigenic earthquakes are threats to the U.S. West Coast and Hawaii, and uncertainty exists over how FOW development and siting will be impacted by these threats in proposed areas of development. This study provided both a general evaluation of geohazards for floating wind areas already designated as potential lease sites and developed design considerations and criteria for structures to cope with extreme events.

Report (BOEM 2020-040): <https://www.boem.gov/environment/final-report-geohazards>

Web Map Interface: <http://boem-oceansmap.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/>



Resource, Technology & Infrastructure Studies

Ongoing (2021–2022) — Port of Coos Bay Infrastructure Assessment for Offshore Wind Development

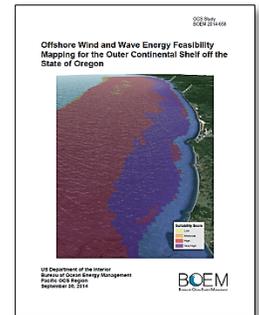
This study by Moffatt & Nichol identifies the modifications, improvements, or upgrades that would be needed for the Port of Coos Bay to support floating offshore wind development. The study is assessing the current capabilities and currently planned major projects of the Port and developing a basis of analysis to determine the requirements of the Port under different scenarios that would be needed to enable floating offshore wind development from the Port. A high-level cost estimate for the Port improvements that could be used to inform a site feasibility study is included in the assessment.

Study Profile: <https://www.boem.gov/pr-21-prt>

Completed (2014) — Industry Feasibility Mapping for the Outer Continental Shelf off the State of Oregon

This study by the U.S. Department of Energy/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory developed maps and other spatially explicit products to identify general areas where it may be technologically and economically feasible to site renewable energy devices on the Oregon Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). It examined the latest industry technologies for offshore wind and wave energy for the Oregon OCS.

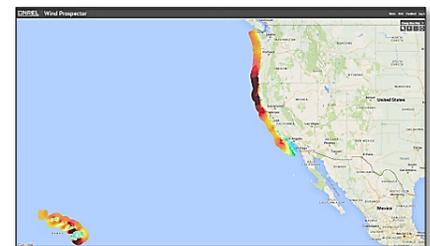
Report (BOEM 2014-658): <https://www.boem.gov/2014-658/>



Completed (2015) — Pacific Offshore Time Series Wind Resource Analysis

This study by the U.S. Department of Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) addressed time-series analysis of wind speed data along the coasts of Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii, scaled to BOEM's aliquot grid (a unit of leasing). Average wind speed is provided by month, by hours of the day, and for a long-term (17-year) time series. Data are available through Wind Prospector, NREL's web-based GIS application, which provides easy access to wind resource datasets and supports resource assessment and exploration associated with wind development.

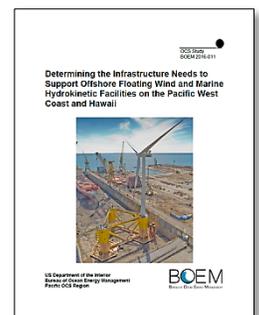
Data: <https://maps.nrel.gov/wind-prospector/>



Completed (2016) — Determining the Infrastructure Needs to Support Offshore Floating Wind and Marine Hydrokinetic Facilities on the Pacific West Coast and Hawaii

This study by ICF International evaluated the current infrastructure and vessel requirements and capabilities existing on the Pacific West Coast of the U.S. and the Hawaiian islands of Oahu, Maui, and Kauai to support the burgeoning offshore renewable energy industry. Understanding the infrastructure needs of the offshore renewable industry will help to identify the port-related requirements for offshore floating wind development and marine hydrokinetic industries and assess the utilization of the available marine equipment and facilities along the U.S. West Coast.

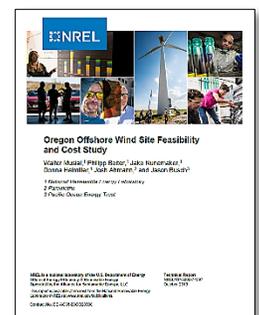
Report (BOEM 2016-011): <https://epis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5503.pdf>



Completed (2019) — Oregon Offshore Wind Site Feasibility and Cost Study

This study by the U.S. Department of Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) assessed the present and future costs of floating offshore wind technology deployment at five reference sites in the state of Oregon at commercial scale. The study builds off a 2016 NREL report assessing floating offshore wind costs in California. The Oregon study includes floating offshore wind technology advancement since the California study, recent European and U.S. market data, and cost differences between floating and fixed-bottom offshore wind foundations. The study provides the state of Oregon with site analysis and cost data to allow for consideration of floating offshore wind in the state's future energy portfolio. (Note: An updated cost study was completed in 2021; see Oregon Floating Offshore Wind Cost Modeling.)

Report (BOEM 2019-046): <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-2019-046/>

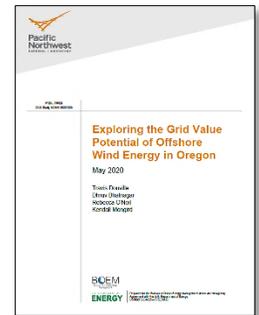


Completed (2020) — Exploring the Grid Value Potential of Offshore Wind Energy in Oregon

This study by the U.S. Department of Energy/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) broadly characterized the value that Oregon offshore wind energy may convey to the electric grid. Three types of grid value potential were considered: (1) resource complementarity, or the inherent time correlation of Oregon offshore wind resources to existing energy resources, (2) load (i.e., demand) complementarity as measured across the four Balancing Authorities in Oregon, and (3) locational value to support coastal grids and increase regional grid reliability. Benefits to regional transmission networks were quantified through a production cost model and capacity contributions were discussed.

Report (BOEM 2020-026): <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-2020-026>

Summary Presentation: <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-2020-026-Presentation>

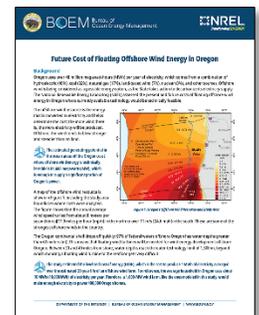


Completed (2021) — Oregon Floating Offshore Wind Cost Modeling

This study by the U.S. Department of Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) developed maps showing updated estimates of the levelized cost of energy (LCOE) for floating offshore wind off the coast of Oregon. The study builds upon NREL's assessments of floating offshore wind costs offshore Oregon (2019) and California (2020), and includes updated floating wind cost data, modeling methodology, and wind resource data since the 2019 Oregon study (see Oregon Offshore Wind Site Feasibility and Cost Study).

Fact Sheet: <https://www.boem.gov/PR-20-OWC-fact-sheet>

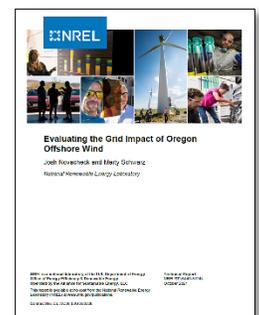
Presentation: <https://www.boem.gov/PR-20-OWC-presentation>



Completed (2021) — Evaluating the Grid Impact of Oregon Offshore Wind

This study by the U.S. Department of Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) comprehensively assessed the potential value of offshore wind energy to the Oregon power system, specifically as a possible non-wires alternative for the electric grid. The study team (1) developed scenarios for potential offshore wind deployment in the context of the Oregon power generation and transmission landscape, (2) modeled offshore wind power generation at high spatial and temporal resolution, and (3) assessed key potential grid benefits and challenges for the deployment scenarios via NREL's production cost models.

Report (BOEM 2021-064): <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-2021-064>

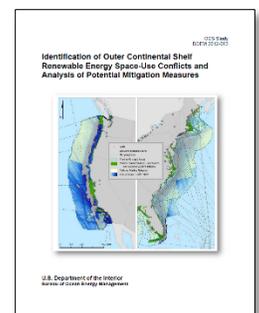


Socioeconomic Studies

Completed (2012) — Identification of Outer Continental Shelf Renewable Energy Space-Use Conflicts and Analysis of Potential Mitigation Measures

This study by Industrial Economics, Incorporated captured baseline space-use information on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts; the Pacific study area included federal waters offshore Washington, Oregon, and northern California. It collected data on more than a dozen space uses (including commercial fishing and shipping), identified potential and known conflicts that may arise with renewable energy development, and provided insights on potential mitigation and avoidance measures.

Report (BOEM 2012-083): <https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5203.pdf>

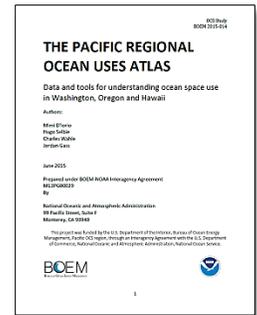


Completed (2015) — Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas

This partnership between BOEM and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration documented patterns of existing and emerging ocean uses in OCS areas off the states of Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii through participatory mapping workshops. The project also identified potential areas of conflict and/or compatibility between proposed renewable energy areas and other ocean uses. The atlas documents a full range of human activities and sectors in the ocean to support offshore renewable energy planning.

Report (BOEM 2015-014): <https://www.boem.gov/2015-014/>

Project Information: <https://marinecadastre.gov/oceanuses/>



Completed (2015) — Economic Impact from Large-Scale Deployment of Offshore Marine and Hydrokinetic Technology in Oregon

This study by the U.S. Department of Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory conducted an analysis of the potential economic impacts of deploying wave energy conversion devices off the coast of Oregon. It examined multiple deployment scenarios to estimate economic impacts for the entire state and Oregon's coastal counties.

First Report (BOEM 2014-664): <https://www.boem.gov/2014-664/>

Second Report (BOEM 2015-018): <https://www.boem.gov/BOEM-2015-018/>

Jobs and Economic Development Impact Marine and Hydrokinetic Models Website: <https://www.nrel.gov/analysis/jedi/marine-hydro.html>



Completed (2016) — Floating Offshore Wind in Oregon: Potential for Jobs and Economic Impacts from Two Future Scenarios

This study by the U.S. Department of Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory conducted an analysis of potential employment and economic impacts of large-scale floating offshore wind off the coast of Oregon. It examined two deployment scenarios to estimate impacts for the entire state and Oregon's coastal counties.

First Report (BOEM 2016-030): <https://www.boem.gov/2016-030/>

Second Report (BOEM 2016-031): <https://www.boem.gov/2016-031/>

Jobs and Economic Development Impact Wind Models Website: <https://www.nrel.gov/analysis/jedi/wind.html>



Other Studies Informing OCS Renewable Energy (not specific to Oregon)

- BOEM 2013-0116 Evaluation of Lighting Schemes for Offshore Wind Facilities and Impacts to Local Environments** (<https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5298.pdf>)
- BOEM 2016-002 Development of Guidance for Lighting of Offshore Wind Turbines Beyond 12 Nautical Miles** (<https://www.boem.gov/offshore-lighting-guidance/>)
- BOEM 2017-057 Phased Approaches to Offshore Wind Development and Use of the Project Design Envelope** (<https://www.boem.gov/Phased-Approaches-to-Offshore-Wind-Developments-and-Use-of-Project-Design-Envelope/>)
- BOEM 2018-053 Impact Assessment and Mitigation of Offshore Wind Turbines on High Frequency Coastal Oceanographic Radar** (https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/BOEM_2018-053.pdf)
- BOEM 2018-057 Metocean Characterization Recommended Practices for U.S. Offshore Wind Energy** (<https://www.boem.gov/Metocean-Recommended-Practices/>)
- BOEM 2020-039 Radar Interference Analysis for Renewable Energy Facilities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf** (<https://www.boem.gov/environment/radar-interference-atlantic-offshore-wind0pdf>)
- BOEM 2021-030 Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Development Assessment** (<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/studies/study-number-deliverable-4-final-report-technical-summary>)

- BOEM 2021-032** **Assessment of Seascape, Landscape, and Visual Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy Developments on the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States**
(<https://www.boem.gov/environment/environmental-studies/boem-2021-032>)
- BOEM 2021-053** **Comparison of Environmental Effects from Different Offshore Wind Turbine Foundations**
(<https://www.boem.gov/environment/wind-turbine-foundations-white-paper-final-white-paper>)
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For more information about BOEM-funded research:

Environmental Studies Program: <https://www.boem.gov/Studies/>

Pacific OCS Environmental Studies: <https://www.boem.gov/Pacific-Studies/>

Environmental Studies Program Information System (ESPIS): <https://marinecadastre.gov/espis/#/>

Renewable Energy Research: <https://www.boem.gov/environment/environmental-studies/renewable-energy-research>

BOEM Activities in Oregon: <https://www.boem.gov/Oregon>

