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BOEM

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

BULLETIN



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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the BOEM Bulletin. As one of our stakeholders, we want to make sure that you are well-informed of our work on a regular basis. In the past, you have received items of interest from us such as press releases as we have transitioned from the former Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) to BOEM along with our sister agency, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).

In the BOEM Bulletin each month, you will find items that may not be the topic of a press release from our agency but may help you stay aware of our ongoing activities. On this message page, you will also find a link to our archived press releases, listings of upcoming hearings and other notices.

These past few months since our reorganization have been busy at BOEM. With our mission of balancing responsible management of ocean resources and economic development with protection of the environment, we see new challenges and new opportunities to communicate. As always, we look forward to your feedback on the Bulletin as a communications tool and on our work throughout the Outer Continental Shelf. Please let us know how BOEM can best serve your organization.

Sincerely,

Tommy P. Beaudreau
Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Ocean Research

Recently Completed BOEM Studies

BOEM plans, conducts and oversees world-class scientific research to inform policy decisions for management of Outer Continental Shelf energy and mineral resources. The Environmental Studies Program, the bureau's scientific backbone, was established in 1973 and covers a broad range of disciplines including physical oceanography, atmospheric sciences, biology, protected species, social sciences and economics, submerged cultural resources and the environmental effects of energy development. With more than 2,000 completed studies available in its Environmental Studies Program Information System, or ESPIS, the studies program delivers information for future energy policy decisions.



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For a summary of recently completed studies, click on the titles below: The [Literature Synthesis for the North and Central Atlantic Ocean](#), posted in January 2012, is relevant to potential renewable energy development on the Atlantic Coast. The most recent synthesis of physical oceanographic information in the U.S. Atlantic Coast conducted for BOEM was in 1992 and indicated information gaps. With advances of knowledge since then, BOEM commissioned a synthesis of current knowledge to help in understanding the unique and varied oceanographic resources in the study area and in analyzing how they will be able to respond to potential renewable energy development.

As part of the bureau's historic preservation program, BOEM posted a completed study in 2011 that examined The Impact of [Recent Hurricane Activity on Historic Shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico](#) to gauge the effects of the massive forces associated with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 on deepwater shipwrecks. The magnitude of damage to the offshore petroleum and gas infrastructure raised questions within BOEM's Historic Preservation Program as to the potential environmental effects to shipwrecks lying on or embedded in the seabed. A key finding indicated that the damage caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to the primary study wrecks was substantially less than anticipated due to protection from burial in the seabed.

A BOEM Pacific regional report titled [Determining the Potential Effects of Artificial Lighting from Pacific Outer Continental Shelf \(POCS\) Region Oil and Gas Facilities on Migrating Birds](#) will help to evaluate the strategies for reducing or avoiding the impacts of nighttime lighting from energy sources on migratory birds. This study examined adverse effects on birds such as collision, disorientation from illumination and an increased vulnerability to predators thought to occur as a result of nighttime lighting of offshore oil and gas platforms. During hundreds of hours of field observations on platforms offshore California, no negative effects of platform lighting on migratory birds were observed, and bird interactions appear to be infrequent occurrences.

To receive announcements of new study awards and completions, please send an e-mail to BOEMPublicAffairs@boem.gov and use "Studies" in the subject line.

Applied Science for Informed Decisions on Ocean Energy

About BOEM

As part of the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) manages the exploration and development of the nation's offshore energy and mineral resources. The bureau seeks to balance economic development, energy independence, and environmental protection through responsible management of offshore conventional and renewable energy development based on the best available science.

For more information, please visit: www.BOEM.gov

