

Technical Announcement

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

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***Evaluation of Visual Impacts on Cultural Resources/Historic Properties:
North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic and Florida Straits
Volume I: Technical Report of Findings and Volume II: Appendices***

OCS Study [BOEM 2012-006](#) and [007](#)

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Evaluation of Visual Impacts on Cultural Resources/Historic Properties: North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic and Florida Straits, Volume I: Technical Report of Findings and Volume II: Appendices*.

This investigation is intended to provide a baseline of cultural information for preliminary planning decisions regarding renewable energy development in the Atlantic OCS Region and to assist in compliance with National Historic Preservation Act and National Environmental Policy Act with respect to the placement of offshore energy facilities. It identifies known cultural resources/historic properties that could be visually affected, as well as publically accessible cultural resources/historic properties that could be socioeconomically impacted due to diminished levels of visitation.

A study area was defined that encompassed a continuous coastal strip approximately 3,800 miles (mi) long (approximately 6,116 kilometers ([km]) beginning at a defined shoreline and extending inland for a distance of 0.25 mi (0.4 km) (approximately 1,851 mi²; 4,794.07 km² on land) and seaward for a distance of 3 mi (4.83 km) (approximately 9,549 mi²; 24,731.8 km² at sea). Within this corridor, information was collected from a variety of sources, including the National Register Information System, the State Historic Preservation Offices of 13 coastal states, local municipalities, other government agencies and State and federally recognized Native American tribes. Cultural resources/historic properties data were codified into 27 basic attributes that addressed various aspects of identity, location, status, size, ownership, type, age, function, accessibility, public visitation and setting.

A total of 9,600 known cultural resources/historic properties were addressed. Of this total, 9,175 were considered to have a historically significant maritime setting, and 1,108 were considered to have a historically significant view toward the open sea. Publically accessible resources with significant maritime settings were field-visited, and representative, geospatially-linked, digital photographs were taken of selected resources and from such resources toward the open sea.

Public visitation data were collected for 61 resources. Final results are detailed in a report, along with a Microsoft Access database and Environmental Sensitivities Research Institute shapefiles containing spatial data to be used for planning purposes.

This report is available only in compact disc format from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, at a charge of \$15.00, by referencing OCS Study BOEM 2012-006 & 007. The report may be downloaded from the BOEM website through the [Environmental Studies Program Information System \(ESPIS\)](#). You will be able to obtain this report also from the National Technical Information Service in the near future. Here are the addresses. You may also inspect copies at selected Federal Depository Libraries.

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