

BOEM ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM: Ongoing Studies

Region: Alaska

Planning Area(s): All Alaska Planning Areas

Title: BOEM / University of Alaska / State of Alaska /
Coastal Marine Institute – Management (AK-08-12-01)

BOEM Information Need(s) to be Addressed: By adopting this cooperative agreement, improved leasing decisions and EIS analyses pertinent to lease sales in the Beaufort Sea, Cook Inlet, and Chukchi Sea can be made. Final reports will be available for lease sales and post-sale decisions; interim data products and inputs will be used to address information needs. Topical areas to be addressed under the Coastal Marine Institute have been identified through this Annual Study Plan, previous Alaska Region study plans, and the Framework Issues. The study also will develop information that addresses public concerns raised during outreach efforts. This study addresses aspects of USGS Recommendations 5.26 and 7.01

Total Cost: \$453,320 plus Joint Funding

Period of Performance: FY 2008-2013

Conducting Organization: CMI, UAF

BOEM Contact: [Dr. Heather Crowley](#)

Description:

Background: This study provides management of a large ongoing program of scientific research into framework issues related to potential future lease sales in the Alaska OCS Region. It is a cooperative program between BOEM and the University of Alaska, with State of Alaska participation. The Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) is expected to leverage additional scientific results and logistics capability at levels comparable to the BOEM contribution of \$750,000 per year. The Coastal Marine Institute will update and expand our understanding of OCS environmental information and address future needs related to the offshore oil and gas program in Alaska.

Objectives: The purpose of the CMI is to generate scientific information for BOEM and State of Alaska decision makers that is consistent with the needs outlined by the Framework Issues. The Framework Issues are:

- Scientific studies for better understanding marine, coastal or human environments affected or potentially affected by offshore oil and gas or other mineral exploration and extraction on the OCS.
- Modeling studies of environmental, social, economic, or cultural processes related to OCS gas and oil activities in order to improve scientific predictive capabilities.
- Experimental studies for better understanding of environmental processes, or the causes and effects of OCS activities.

- Projects which design or establish mechanisms or protocols for sharing data or scientific information regarding marine or coastal resources or human activities in order to support prudent management of oil, gas and marine mineral resources.
- Synthesis studies of scientific environmental or socioeconomic background information relevant to the OCS gas and oil program.

Methods: A proposal process is initiated each year with a request for letters of intent to address one or more of the Framework Issues. The proposals are requested from university researchers and other scientific researchers in State agencies. A Technical Steering Committee, made up of scientific representatives of the cooperators, reviews letters of intent and proposals to be evaluated for possible funding. External peer reviews may be requested for new projects. Principal investigators give presentations at ITMs, scientific conferences and various public meetings.

Current Status: Ongoing

Final Report Due: December 2012

Publications Completed:

- Castellini, M. (Director). 2007. University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute Annual Report No. 14. OCS Study MMS 2008-014, University of Alaska Fairbanks and USDOJ, MMS, Alaska OCS Region.
- Castellini, M. (Director). 2008. University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute Annual Report No. 15. OCS Study MMS 2009-044, University of Alaska Fairbanks and USDOJ, MMS, Alaska OCS Region.
- Castellini, M. (Director). 2010. University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute Annual Report No. 16, Calendar Year 2009. OCS Study BOEMRE 2010-049, University of Alaska Fairbanks and USDOJ, BOEMRE, Alaska OCS Region.
- Castellini, M. (Director). 2011. University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute Annual Report No. 17, Calendar Year 2010. OCS Study BOEMRE 2011-029, University of Alaska Fairbanks and USDOJ, BOEMRE, Alaska OCS Region.
- Castellini, M. (Director). 2012. University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute Annual Report No. 18, Calendar Year 2011. OCS Study BOEM 2012-010, University of Alaska Fairbanks and USDOJ, BOEM, Alaska OCS Region.

Affiliated WWW Sites: <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/cmi/>
<http://www.boem.gov/akstudies/>

Revised Date: July 2012

ESPIS: Environmental Studies Program Information System

All completed ESP studies can be found

here: http://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data_center/other/espis/espisfront.asp