

BOEM ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM: ONGOING STUDIES

Region: Alaska

Planning Area(s): All Alaska Planning Areas

Title: Alaska Environmental Database (AK-11-15)

BOEM Information Need(s) to be Addressed: The BOEM and other state-wide research efforts for the Chukchi, Beaufort and Bering seas, in addition to other areas of the Alaska outer continental shelf will be made available to the Environmental Studies Section, Environmental Analysis Section and BOEM Management via an online web browser. A web-based visual display of ongoing, recently completed and possibly planned study efforts will assist BOEM in the writing of new study descriptions, Statements of Work, in preparation and planning for new meetings (e.g., North Aleutian, Chukchi, etc.); promoting collaboration with other agencies on similar projects; provide significant savings of funds; expand our research potential; and improve BOEM decision making in the writing of Environmental Documents and commenting on exploration and development plans for the OCS. This study addresses aspects of USGS recommendations 7.01 and 7.03.

Total Cost: TBD

Period of Performance: FY 2012-2015
(deferred in FY 2010)

Conducting Organization: TBD

Project Manager: TBD

BOEM Contact: TBD

Description:

Background: The BOEM places digital copies of their final study reports online, but it's difficult to quickly access report information such as study boundaries, data collection efforts, or conclusions from multiple study efforts, without expending significant personal time and effort. In addition, it is a challenge for internal BOEM staff to remain current with all research in the OCS due to the quantity of government and industry activities conducted within these areas. The BOEM as well as other agencies (NPRB, AOOS, UAF, University of Alaska-Anchorage, USFWS, USGS-Alaska Science Center, NOAA, National Park Service, BLM, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, ADEC, Alaska Department of Transportation, ADF&G, Barrow Arctic Science Consortium, etc.) have identified a statewide need for a centralized database of past, present and future projects and associated observations and observing plans. Representatives from these agencies held a Data Integration Meeting in August of 2008 to plan how to integrate studies projects from these agencies into one unified project browser. A technical steering committee was formed among the participants. The technical steering committee succeeded in establishing the fields necessary to integrate the agency project information. The NPRB started the project browser several years ago with a focus on NPRB projects. This BOEM study will design, develop, document, and implement a BOEM Internet Geospatial Web Portal for BOEM project information and data from completed and ongoing BOEM Alaska OCS Region Environmental Studies can be queried and displayed by internal BOEM staff and other agencies.

Objectives:

- Develop a BOEM Environmental Studies project database that can be fully utilized to query, graphically display, and extract project specific information from all fields within the database.
- Develop programming tools that would allow internal BOEM staff and external non-BOEM users to query, display, and extract available spatial data sets collected from each study.
- Automate the updating of new studies project information: Develop programming tools that can import new BOEM Environmental Studies project information from newly completed or existing studies in a seamless manner. Specifically, a program that incorporates information from a technical summary and other sources to update the project database.
- Develop programming tools that can automatically search, retrieve, upload and merge project specific information and possibly data from other state, federal agencies, and industry into the BOEM project database and data directories.
- Develop a BOEM Geospatial Web Site User Interface and Graphical display whereby internal BOEM staff and other agencies can query, display, and extract project specific information, and display an extract BOEM environmental studies data sets covering Alaska OCS.
- Provide complete documentation on the database and user interface application.
- Provide a user manual and train internal staff on the use of the BOEM Geospatial Web Portal
- Provide online documentation for external users

Methods: Under this study, internal staff and contractors hired by BOEM will gather environmental studies project information and available data in a concerted effort to make the information readily available to BOEM staff and other agencies. This effort will centralize the function to collect, catalogue, and distribute BOEM environmental studies project information, associated project studies data, initially collecting studies project information and data going back to 2000. A BOEM web interface shall display maps of the project boundaries, links to the project specific information, data, metadata, and reports.

Current Status: In procurement

Final Report Due: TBD

Publications Completed: None

Affiliated WWW Sites: <http://www.boem.gov/akstudies/>

Revised Date: March 2012