

Past Seminars/Conferences/Workshops

1999	2004	2009
2000	2005	2010
2001	2006	2011
2002	2007	
2003	2008	

2011

[2011 Alaska Marine Science Symposium, January 17-21, 2011.](#) This symposium provided a forum for marine scientists and local communities to present information on the changing marine environment in Alaska, provided a venue for BOEMRE's Alaska OCS Region's environmental studies research for the Arctic and Bering Seas, and provided a forum for the Alaska OCS Region's scientists and Principal Investigators to communicate with other researchers who are conducting similar scientific studies within the Alaska OCS or adjoining areas of the Alaska marine ecosystem.

[11th National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment: Our Changing Oceans, January 19-21, 2011.](#) The conference provided a forum to address the crisis facing our oceans, new knowledge and innovative tools to effectively face this challenge, and the policy and governance needed to restore and protect the oceans.

[26th Gulf of Mexico Information Transfer Meeting, March 22-24, 2011.](#) Session subjects included Deepwater Horizon oil spill topics, such as the regional response effort, cooperative research opportunities, and adaptive management during an environmental crisis. Sessions also covered our ongoing studies including topics in physical oceanography, coastal impacts, protected species, deepwater corals, marine archaeology, socioeconomics, shallow sediment transport, and hydrates, among other topics.

[Evaluation of the Use of Hindcast Model Data for OSRA in a Period of Rapidly Changing Conditions, March 29-31, 2011.](#) For more than 30 years the OSRA model has been used to synthesize environmental information to produce conditional and joint probabilities of oil spill occurrence and subsequent contact with sensitive living and nonliving resources along the shoreline and at sea. Session subjects included a review of the current status of oceanographic knowledge in the Arctic, including existing research in Arctic Ocean modeling and the quality of available forcing data.

[OCS Scientific Committee Meeting, May 17-19, 2011.](#) The meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, Hyannis, Massachusetts. Regional Supervisors for Leasing and Environment from each OCS region updated the Committee regarding pertinent OCS activities and provided an overview of the Environmental Studies Program (ESP). BOEMRE Headquarters and Regional ESP Studies Chiefs presented proposed studies plans for fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

[The National Marine Educators Association Annual Conference, June 29-July 3, 2011.](#) This annual conference was attended by classroom/formal educators, informal educators from museums, aquariums, zoos, science centers, and research facilities, basic and applied researchers, and representatives from government agencies. This year's meeting was held in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference theme was "Cape to Cape: In the Hub of Marine Education".

[The Community Surface Dynamics Modeling System \(CSDMS\) Meeting 2011: Impact of Time and Process Scales, October 28-30, 2011.](#) The CSDMS Meeting 2011 brought together CSDMS members to present new scientific insights in the modeling of surface dynamics and the impact of time and process scales, new advances in cyber-infrastructure, development and use of CSDMS models in education, and to allow the CSDMS Working and Focus Research Groups to engage in

cross-domain discussions. Their *Impact of time and process scales* theme addressed state-of-the-art hydrological, ice, earth and ocean modeling; advances in the use of the CSDMS Model-coupling Tool (CMT); high performance computing projects; and offered various hands-on clinics on specific community models as well as on model tools and protocols.

2010

[Alaska Marine Science Symposium, January 18-22, 2010.](#) This symposium provided a forum for marine scientists and local communities to present information on the changing marine environment in Alaska, provided a venue for BOEMRE's Alaska OCS Region's environmental studies research for the Arctic and Bering Seas, and provided a forum for the Alaska OCS Region's scientists and Principal Investigators to communicate with other researchers who are conducting similar scientific studies within the Alaska OCS or adjoining areas of the Alaska marine ecosystem.

[Adapting to Climate Change in the Mid-Atlantic, March 23-25, 2010.](#) The goal of this workshop was to develop a common understanding of assessment techniques that determine potential climate change impacts to protected areas in the Mid-Atlantic United States and to explore adaptive management approaches that address those impacts. The workshop was designed to meet the needs of managers of federal, state and private lands and resources, both terrestrial and marine, in the Mid-Atlantic United States. The workshop also benefited protected area planners, maintenance and facility managers, education specialists, wildlife, fisheries, forestry and other technical specialists who work in or within these areas.

[EnergyOcean 2010 Conference, June 8-10, 2010.](#) The 7th Annual EnergyOcean event has been established as the world's leading event focusing on renewable and sustainable energy from the oceans. This event is supported by the ocean energy organizations, including the Ocean Energy Council. Technologists, financiers, policy makers, developers, and utilities from around the world gathered during EnergyOcean 2010 to share and discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the ocean renewables market.

[Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2010, June 8-10, 2010.](#) This symposium brought together a wide-range of stakeholders to discuss current ocean and coastal issues. Panel speakers included Members of Congress, as well as representatives of the federal and state government, industry, academia, and nonprofits. This year, the symposium explored the role of our ocean in leading us towards a sustainable energy future. Specifically, the symposium examined innovation, planning and deployment of ocean-related energy technologies in fulfilling our goal for a sustainable energy future, and examined the impacts and consequences that are likely to be seen in the ocean as a result of our energy uses.

[National Marine Educators Association, July 18-23, 2010.](#) This annual conference is attended by classroom/formal educators, informal educators from museums, aquariums, zoos, science centers, and research facilities, basic and applied researchers, and representatives from government agencies. This year's meeting was held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The conference theme was "From the Mountains to the Sea".

[Second International Conference on the Effects of Noise on Aquatic Life, August 15-20, 2010.](#) *This conference was held in Cork, Ireland, and the main emphasis of the conference was on defining the current state of knowledge, along with assessing progress in the 3 years since the first conference. This conference placed strong emphasis on recent research results, sharing of ideas, discussion of experimental approaches, and analysis of regulatory issues.*

[California and the World Ocean Conference 2010, September 7-10, 2010.](#) The CWO was the fifth in a line of conferences originally organized 46 years ago. It assembled state, federal and international experts and leaders to discuss the path forward in terms of ocean stewardship. The conference provided a unique opportunity to bring together representatives from academia, government, industry, and the public to share ideas and to identify action strategies.

[ICETECH 10, Anchorage, Alaska, September 20-23, 2010.](#) The conference took place in Anchorage starting with an opening "icebreaker" reception on the evening of Monday, September 20, and concluded in the late afternoon on Thursday, September 23. The theme of the conference was "Performance of Ships and Structures in Ice", but the hot topics addressed included: global warming, geopolitics, and future expectations for the Arctic, through participation of Arctic Marine Shipping and other experts.

[EnergyOcean Pacific 2010, September 29-30, 2010.](#) EnergyOcean Pacific was collocated this year with the 5th Annual Ocean Renewable Energy Conference produced by the Oregon Wave Energy Trust. The event, held in Portland, Oregon, was strategically located in the middle of the fast-growing Pacific Region ocean energy industry. This conference was designed for Developers, Utility Companies, Investors, Researchers, Component and System Manufacturers, Government Officials, Policy Makers, and Academic & Educational Organizations. The event featured a technical program created by the industry for the industry, and an exhibition showcasing the latest technologies for the ocean renewables market.

[Second Canada - United States Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum, November 30-December 2, 2010.](#) This forum provided an important multilateral opportunity for scientists and analysts to share and discuss research findings on the Arctic Alaska marine environment, afforded an opportunity to network, and envisioned and planned potential future research projects.

2009

[25th Gulf of Mexico Information Transfer Meeting, January 6-8.](#) Session subjects included alternative energy, deepwater benthic habitats, climate change, hydrates, air quality, platform and hard-bottom ecology, the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, socioeconomics, hurricanes, and marine archaeology.

[2009 Alaska Marine Science Symposium, January 19-23.](#) More than 600 people attended plenary sessions on Arctic, Bering Sea/Aleutians, and Gulf of Alaska research; in addition, there were exciting keynote speakers, poster presentations, and events for students. The Alaska Marine Science Symposium is the only annual science meeting focusing solely on the marine ecosystems of Alaska. It provides an outstanding opportunity for scientists to inform others about their research and to network with those who comprise the vibrant research community working in Alaska.

[The 4th International Symposium on Chemosynthesis-Based Ecosystems, June 29-July 3.](#) This symposium highlighted the recent achievements in the field of unique ecosystems driven by chemosynthesis rather than photosynthesis. Major topics included biogeography, biodiversity, evolution, symbiosis, ecology, physiology, geochemistry, microbiology, and research technology and methodology.

[Coastal Zone '09, July 19-23.](#) Our coastal and ocean landscape is changing, whether it's the climate, shoreline, habitat, or even the people setting and implementing policy. Many facets of change and information were explored to help in managing our changing coastal and ocean resources. Scheduled sessions were organized around three conference tracks: Coastal Communities Adapting to Changing Conditions, Conservation in the Face of Change, and Ocean and Great Lakes Planning for Changing Human Uses.

[Workshop on the Status and Applications for Acoustic Monitoring of Marine Mammals, November 17-19, 2009.](#) BOEMRE will conducted a workshop for the purpose of identifying available software and hardware systems for passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) and active acoustic monitoring (AAM) and for learning more about their applicability, costs, and limitations. In particular, BOEMRE wanted to know more about their effectiveness in detecting marine mammals in the vicinity of offshore operations (e.g., seismic surveys, pile driving, etc.) and assessing the potential impacts to marine mammals from those operations. PAM systems merely listen to the sounds made by vocalizing mammals, whereas AAM systems work more like sonar to identify the presence of these animals, which may not be vocalizing, in an area of offshore operations. The workshop also reviewed the most recent developments in acoustic monitoring technology and equipment as well as those systems now in use.

Finally, the workshop will briefly examine other emerging marine mammal monitoring technologies currently available or in development (e.g., radar, unmanned aerial aircraft).

2008

Workshop on Birds and Offshore Wind Development in the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic, February 13-15. The workshop focused on reviewing existing knowledge; developing research priorities; reviewing monitoring and mitigation approaches; and exploring partnership opportunities. For more information, please contact Dr. Sally Valdes at Sally.Valdes@boemre.gov

[Energy/Fisheries Interface in the North Aleutian Basin Workshop, March 18-19.](#) This workshop created a forum for open dialogue based on mutual respect between fisheries stakeholders of the North Aleutian Basin and the energy industry, through which all can gain a shared understanding of the issues and concerns of the region, and participate in the region's long-term conservation and wise use.

[Eleventh Information Transfer Meeting \(ITM\), October 28-30.](#) Information on the ongoing environmental research in OCS Alaska was shared at the BOEMRE ITM, with 25 presentations being given. These included topics covering protected species, biological studies, social sciences and economics, fates and effects, physical oceanography, and multi-disciplinary topics.

[4th International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals \(ISDSC\), December 1-5, 2008.](#) This symposium was designed to bring together scientists, resource managers, students, and policymakers from around the world who are actively involved in research and management of deep-sea corals and other deep-sea habitats as well as the animals associated with them. Dr. Thomas Ahlfeld presented information on management applications of scientific data to the protection of deep-sea coral communities in the northern Gulf of Mexico and on the U.S. interagency efforts regarding the protection of deep-sea corals and other vulnerable marine ecosystems.

[Workshop on Environmental Research Needs to Support Potential Virginia Offshore Oil and Gas Activities, December 3-4.](#) Hosted by Dr. Robert Diaz of the Virginia Marine Science Institute, the workshop focused on the existing scientific knowledge base along the Virginia coast. The workshop included presentations from local scientific experts in physical oceanography, fish and fisheries, marine mammals, socioeconomics, and other relevant science topics of concern.

2007

[Twenty-Fourth Gulf of Mexico Information Transfer Meeting, January 9.](#) The 24th ITM had diverse topics of interest ranging from coastal ecology to deepwater. Highlights included presentations on sperm whale seismic research, deepwater *Lophelia* coral, and deepwater technology. Since BOEMRE has been tasked by Congress to oversee the Coastal Impact Assistance Program which authorizes funds to be distributed to Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas producing States to mitigate the impacts of OCS oil and gas activities, a session was devoted to that program. Two sessions were devoted to socioeconomics and impacts of the oil and gas industry. One session focused solely on the socioeconomic effects of hurricanes on the Gulf region. Other sessions focused on the air quality, deepwater habitats, platform ecology, hydrates, coastal wetland and offshore ecology, and chemosynthetic research. The meeting reflected the broad areas of interest to BOEMRE and the excellent scientists studying these topics.

[USA-Mexico Workshop on the Deepwater Physical Oceanography of the Gulf of Mexico, June 26-28.](#) For nearly four decades, BOEMRE has sponsored innovative investigations of the Gulf of Mexico circulation that have advanced the state-of-the-art in support of its OCS mission. Pursuant to those mission needs, BOEMRE convened an open workshop to plan field and modeling studies of the deepwater Physical Oceanography of the Gulf of Mexico basin. Recent observational and modeling

results were reviewed. Future needs and opportunities for coordination and collaboration between USA and Mexican field and modeling studies were examined.

[**Workshop to Identify Alternative Energy Environmental Information Needs, June 26-28.**](#) This workshop was an important step for BOEMRE in communicating and developing a collaborative relationship with other Federal Agencies, affected States and local groups, and industry. Members of groups with knowledge about existing offshore alternative energy development (i.e., academia or representatives from countries or States where development is already occurring,) were invited to share their expertise.

2006

[**First Minerals Management Service Marine Minerals Program Information Transfer Meeting, June 20-22.**](#) The 3-day meeting fostered coordination and communication among interested parties relative to offshore sand borrow investigations in Federal waters and the conduct of environmental studies to evaluate the effects of dredging for beach nourishment.

[**7th International Temperate Reef Symposium, June 26-July 1.**](#) This symposium was co-sponsored by BOEMRE and included a session organized by BOEMRE on the use of long-term monitoring data for assessment of specific impacts. Monitoring programs in the Pacific and Gulf of Mexico Regions were highlighted.

[**Ninth International Marine Environmental Modelling Seminar \(IMEMS 2006\), October 9-11.**](#) IMEMS brought together marine environmental scientists and managers from research, the oil and gas industry, and government to share information and concepts across national, disciplinary, and technical boundaries.

[**COMIDA Workshop on Chukchi Sea Offshore Monitoring in Drilling Area, November 1-3.**](#) This 3-day workshop was intended to review existing research, identify information gaps, recommend research monitoring concepts, and provide BOEMRE with information to be used in preparing descriptions of the proposed COMIDA Phase II field program.

[**North Aleutian Basin Information Status and Research Planning Meeting, November 28-December 1.**](#) This 3 ½- day meeting identified information needs and priorities for future inventory, monitoring, and research related to potential leasing and oil and gas development in the North Aleutian Basin.

2005

[**Twenty-Third Gulf of Mexico Information Transfer Meeting, January 11.**](#) The 23rd ITM focused on several topics, from benthic ecology of the deep sea to deepwater technology. One highlight was the presentation of research funded through the Louisiana Oil Spill Research and Development Program. Interesting stories about the pioneers of the oil industry were shared along with many old photos. Three sessions focused on acoustics and marine mammals, particularly the Sperm Whales in the Gulf of Mexico. Physical oceanographers presented their most recent findings of the movement of currents in deepwater using various models. The results from the most complete evaluation of deep-sea ecology were presented. Other sessions focused on air quality, operational discharges, and deepwater technology.

[**Tenth Information Transfer Meeting and Barrow Information Update Meeting, March 14-16.**](#) The specific goals of this meeting were to provide an exchange of the Environmental Studies Program in Alaska in an open forum, more particularly to provide an opportunity for priority users such as the Alaska

Region's Environmental Assessment analysts and the public to refresh familiarity with the progress and results of the various studies thereby enhancing the use of the information.

Eighth International Marine Environmental Modelling Seminar (IMEMS 2005), August 23-25.

IMEMS brings together marine environmental scientists and managers from research, industry, and government to share information and concepts across national, disciplinary, and technical boundaries. Bringing model developers and users together helps to achieve a common understanding of present and future capabilities, needs, and limitations.

Third International Symposium on Hydrothermal Vent and Seep Biology, September 12-16.

Hydrothermal vents and cold seeps represent two of the great ecosystem discoveries of the 20th century. Hydrothermal vents were discovered in 1977 during observations at the Galapagos Spreading Center. Cold seep communities were identified along the Florida Escarpment in the Gulf of Mexico in 1984. These initial observations led to renewed interest in deep-sea exploration, benthic ecosystems, and the characterization of novel marine biochemical adaptations. **Felbeck, H.; Bartlett, D.H. (Ed.)** (2006). Third International Symposium on Hydrothermal Vent and Seep Biology, La Jolla, USA, September 12-16, 2005. *Cahiers de Biologie Marine*, 47(4). Station Biologique de Roscoff: Roscoff, France. 331-505 pp.

Chukchi Sea Science Update Meeting, October 31 and November 1. This meeting provided BOEMRE analysts with up-to-date information on the Chukchi Sea Planning Area for preparing potential NEPA documents and assessments of pre-sale activities, such as further seismic exploration.

Third International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals: Science and Management, November 28-December 2. The 3rd International Symposium provided attendees from around the world with an opportunity to share their research results, identify information gaps, and discuss if deep-sea corals need special protection and if so, the statutory means available to do so. Being international and inter-institutional in nature, the Symposium also allowed scientists to develop collaborative partnerships for future projects.

2004

Research Sponsorship Meeting to Map Surface Currents in the Beaufort Sea and Cook Inlet, Alaska through the Deployment of High Frequency Doppler Radar, March 31-April 1. The goal for this meeting was to bring together those in government agencies and public, non-profit, and private entities who might be interested in partnering with BOEMRE in the deployment and operation of High Frequency Doppler Radar units. The general reason BOEMRE seeks to initiate jointly-funded research in this topic is because we hope the techniques and information yield will assist us in refining our understanding of physical oceanography and improvement of our circulation and trajectory models.

Workshop on Hydrological Modeling of Freshwater Discharge from Alaska's Arctic Coast,

October 7-8. The objectives of this workshop were to: 1) review precedents in hydrological observations, data archives and analysis, and modeling of freshwater discharge (including river runoff from numerous creeks and streams due to snow and glacier melting); 2) review the impacts of climate variability on hydrology in the North Slope and possible connections between hydrology, sea ice, and oceanography; 3) lay out strategies for hydrological observation and modeling, particularly for implementing a high-resolution DEM-based hydrological model which will incorporate the first-order hydrological processes (precipitation, energy balance, aquifer/land processes) to estimate freshwater discharge into the Arctic Ocean primarily along the Beaufort-Chukchi Sea coasts; 4) make recommendations to BOEMRE for future research, including atmospheric forcing, hydrology-related sea ice, oceanography, and biogeochemistry which would also benefit water resource management by the State of Alaska, North Slope Borough, and local communities.

Seventh International Environmental Modelling Seminar (IMEMS 2004), October 19-21. IMEMS brings together marine environmental scientists and managers from research, industry, and government

to share information and concepts across national, disciplinary, and technical boundaries. Bringing model developers and users together helps to achieve a common understanding of present and future capabilities, needs, and limitations.

Workshop on Deepwater Current Monitoring Program, October 30. The workshop focused on a pioneering monitoring program to improve the nation's understanding of powerful ocean currents that have the potential to affect deepwater operations across the Gulf of Mexico. Under the program, operating companies will collect and share comprehensive current data from deepwater drilling and production sites. The data and predictive information will enable operators to curtail drilling operations before currents build to threatening levels. The monitoring program will also enhance capabilities for the design of deepwater production structures.

[Workshop on the Variability of Arctic Cisco \(Qaaktag\) in the Colville River November 18-20.](#) It is the responsibility of BOEMRE to manage the offshore development of oil and gas resources in an environmentally sound and safe manner. For more than 20 years, BOEMRE investigators have studied how to protect natural resources that could be affected by offshore development. In recent years, residents of the North Slope Borough have been concerned with falling catches of Arctic cisco and the possible correlations with offshore development. BOEMRE offered to convene a workshop bringing together local experts from Nuiqsut, Kaktovik, and Barrow, Alaska, and Tuktoyaktuk, Canada, as well as scientists from the United States and Canada. The primary goals were to share knowledge of the Arctic cisco and to identify important questions and how those questions might be answered in the future.

2003

[Twenty-Second Annual Gulf of Mexico Information Transfer Meeting, January 14.](#) The 22nd ITM focused on numerous topics from sperm whale research far offshore to studies of the coastal environment of Louisiana. Two sessions focused on air quality issues including the completion of offshore air emissions inventories. Presentations were given on the types of organisms that live on and around the numerous structures in the Gulf of Mexico including their biotechnology potential. Physical oceanographers presented their most recent findings on the movement of currents in deep water using various models. Presentations on benthic organisms from the deep Gulf of Mexico provided a lively discussion on taxonomy and sample analysis issues. The continuing expansion into deepwater with new technologies and issues were discussed.

[Ninth Information Transfer Meeting and Barrow Information Update Meeting, March 10-12.](#) The specific goals of this 9th ITM included: 1) provide and exchange information obtained by the Environmental Studies Program in Alaska openly, particularly to provide an opportunity for Alaska Region Environmental Assessment analysts and the public to refresh familiarity with the progress and results of various studies, thereby enhancing use of the information; 2) sharing and integrating information with that of other agencies, researchers, and the public, particularly that which is relevant to Outer Continental Shelf decision-making; 3) obtain additional input from attendees regarding potential study topics or information exchange useful to BOEMRE decision-making.

[Small-Scale Sea-Ice and Ocean Modeling in the Nearshore Beaufort and Chukchi Seas Workshop, August 7-9.](#) One of the objectives of this workshop was to bring modelers and observers together to discuss strategies for state-of-the-art ice-ocean modeling. The workshop highlighted the approaches to small-scale and regional ice-ocean modeling that could be applied to nearshore Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, including seasonal landfast ice based on satellite measurements of small-scale deformations.

[Beaufort Sea Polar Bear Monitoring Workshop, September 3-5.](#) The goal of this meeting was to identify components for the development of a comprehensive, long-term polar bear monitoring program in association with the oil and gas industry in Alaska. This workshop was the initial effort to design an effective monitoring strategy that provided information to help reduce bear/human interactions and help protect polar bear habitat for the southern Beaufort Sea polar bear population. Potential oil and gas

industry impacts on polar bears, which were discussed during the workshop, included habitat alteration, chemical contamination, attraction and preclusion of areas, oil spills, industrial noise, and polar bear interactions with humans. Ideally, an improved management plan which identifies information necessary to monitor polar bears of the Southern Beaufort Sea stock will result from the recommendations of this workshop.

2002

[Twenty-first Annual Gulf of Mexico, Information Transfer Meeting, January 8.](#) The 21st ITM focused on several topics, from sperm whale research to the history of the oil and gas industry in southern Louisiana. New information about the movements of sperm whales was shared with an overflowing capacity crowd. Interesting stories about the pioneers of the oil industry were shared along with many old photos. Presentations were given on the types of organisms that live on and around the numerous structures in the Gulf of Mexico. Physical oceanographers presented their most recent findings of the movement of currents in deep water using various models. Two sessions addressed the socioeconomic impacts from the oil and gas industry to Gulf Coast States. The removal of offshore structures was the topic of a full day of presentations that brought together government agencies and industry. The continuing expansion into deep water with new technologies and issues were discussed. Speakers came from as far away as Mexico and England.

Sixth International Marine Environmental Modelling Seminar (IMEMS 2002), September 2-4. IMEMS brings together marine environmental scientists and managers from research, industry, and government to share information and concepts across national, disciplinary, and technical boundaries. Bringing model developers and users together helps to achieve a common understanding of present and future capabilities, needs, and limitations.

2001

[Eighth Information Transfer Meeting, April 3-5.](#) The objectives of this workshop were: 1) to obtain information for environmental impact assessment; 2) to enhance decision processes and information transfer; and 3) in the event of offshore development, to conduct monitoring of any potential environmental changes.

[Fifth International Marine Environmental Modelling Seminar \(IMEMS 2001\), October 9-11.](#) IMEMS brings together marine environmental scientists and managers from research, industry, and government to share information and concepts across national, disciplinary, and technical boundaries. Bringing model developers and users together helps to achieve a common understanding of present and future capabilities, needs, and limitations.

2000

[Beaufort Sea Information Update Meeting, March 28-29.](#) The purpose of this meeting was to pass along information regarding the various studies and research that are being done in the area.

Fourth International Marine Environmental Modelling Seminar (IMEMS 2001), October 4-6. IMEMS brings together marine environmental scientists and managers from research, industry, and government to share information and concepts across national, disciplinary, and technical boundaries. Bringing model developers and users together helps to achieve a common understanding of present and future capabilities, needs, and limitations.

[Twentieth Annual Gulf of Mexico Information Transfer Meeting, December 5.](#) The primary purposes of the ITM were to: 1) provide a forum for an interchange on topics of current interest relative to environmental assessments in support of offshore oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region; 2) present the accomplishments of the BOEMRE Environmental Studies Program for the Gulf of Mexico and of other research programs or study projects; and 3) foster an exchange of information of regional interest among scientists, staff members, and decisionmakers from BOEMRE, other Federal or State governmental agencies, regionally important industries, and academia and to encourage opportunities for these attendees to meet and nurture professional acquaintances and peer contacts.

1999

[Cook Inlet Oceanography Workshop, November 9.](#) The goal of this workshop was to assess the state of knowledge of the physical oceanography in Cook Inlet and to examine the results of numerical models used to predict oil-spill trajectories. Information was exchanged during presentations by more than a dozen experts who presented their views on Cook Inlet circulation, use and validation of oil-spill trajectory models, use of satellite imagery for understanding the temporal and spatial variance of tidal rips, and use of free-drifting surface buoys and acoustic Doppler profilers for direct estimates of Cook Inlet currents.

Decommissioning and Removal of Oil and Gas Facilities Offshore California: Recent Experiences and Future Deepwater Challenges, March 29-April 1.

[Fifth California Islands Symposium, March 29-April 1.](#) The California Islands Symposia are a series of irregular meetings convened to present recent findings in science and management on California's islands, including the Channel Islands and those off the west coast of Baja California, Mexico. The symposia have been held every five years or so since 1965, and record recent island work in all disciplines of natural and cultural science. They are sponsored by a fluid consortium of agencies, non-profits, conservancies and academics involved in the work and management of the islands. Available on CD-ROM.

[Nineteenth Annual Gulf of Mexico Information Transfer Meeting, November 30-December 2.](#) The primary purposes of the ITM were to: 1) provide a forum for interchange on topics of current interest relative to environmental assessments in support of offshore oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region; 2) present the accomplishments of the BOEMRE Environmental Studies Program for the Gulf of Mexico and of other research programs or study projects; and 3) foster an exchange of information of regional interest among scientists, staff members, and decisionmakers from BOEMRE, other Federal or State governmental agencies, regionally important industries, and academia, and to encourage opportunities for these attendees to meet and nurture professional acquaintances and peer contacts.