

Alaska OCS Region: Environmental Studies Program



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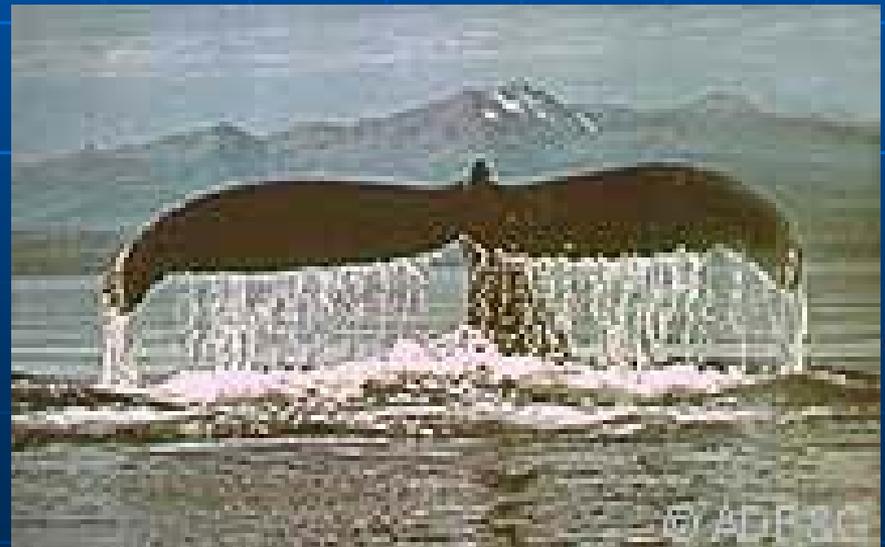
Outline:

- Status Update
 - FY11 News
 - Notable ESS Challenges
- FY12 Priority List



Notable FY11 AKRO Events

- Personnel Changes
- Current 5 Year Program (2007-12)
- 5 Year Programmatic DEIS (2012-17)
 - Scoping includes BF, CH, and CI
- SEIS for CH LS 193 (Oct 2011)
- Exploration/Development Activities
 - Liberty Prospect
 - Shell Revised BF EP (2012)
 - Shell Revised CH EP (2012)
 - ConocoPhillips; Stat Oil
- Proposed "OCS Permit Processing Coordination Act"



Notable FY11 ESS Events

- Budget Uncertainty
- ITM - AK Marine Science Symposium
- USGS OCS Report
- Expanding Research Coordination
 - Shell/NSB
 - NSSI/LCC/NPRB
 - AK Climate SC
 - NOAA Arctic Vision (DBO)



Distributed Biological Observatories

- DBO: a “change detection” array to monitor biophysical responses in high productive areas
- Integrated measures of basic oceanographic variables with data on species and trophic level interactions



Studies webpage: www.boemre.gov/alaska/ess/index.htm

Environmental Studies Program

Page 1 of 1



Alaska Region
About BOEMRE
Newsroom
FAQ
Revenue Management
Renewable Energy
Offshore Energy
Enviro. Stewardship
Research
Jobs
Library
Niche Page
Pipeline Open Access
GOEMSA Rev. Sharing
Contact Us

Environmental Studies Program

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) Environmental Studies Program began in 1973 as a means to gather and synthesize environmental, social, and economic information to support decision making for the offshore oil and gas program. Since its beginning, the National Environmental Studies Program has conducted for more than \$500 million dollars of studies throughout the coastal zone of the continental United States. These funds have supported studies of all aspects needed for a thorough understanding of the complex nature of the Alaskan Outer Continental Shelf and have aided in the wise protection of its valuable resources. The BOEMRE uses information from the studies program in evaluating potential environmental problems associated with all levels of oil and gas activities.

- Alaska Annual Studies Plan FY 2011
- Aerial Surveys of Endangered Whales, Bowhead Whale Aerial Survey Program (BWAASP)
- Coastal Maine Institute Annual Reports
- Ongoing Studies
- Completed Studies
- Results of Completed Studies Available on the Web
- Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program (OCSEAP Reports)
- Environmental Studies Program Information System (ESPIS)
- Peer-reviewed Publications for BOEMRE Funded Projects (1990 - Present)
- Proceedings of Alaska Region Information Transfer Meetings
- Information of Interest to Offshore
- Links to Other BOEMRE Environmental Studies Sites
- International Polar Year 2007 - 2008
- Posters, Presentations & Proceedings

Hot Topics:

- [Investigations and Review Unit \(IRU\)](#)
- [Notice to Lessees](#)
- [Well Permits](#)
- [Hurricane Info](#)
- [Coastal Impact Assistance Program \(CIAP\)](#)

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Last Updated: October 27, 2010 8:27 AM Alaska Standard Time

- Studies Plan
- Completed Reports
- Published Articles
- Project Websites
- Interim Data
- OCSEAP Reports
- Noise Impacts

FY12 Study Priorities

- Extension and Refinement of Successful Projects
- Expansion of Integrated Studies
- New Horizons:
 - Community health through diet
 - US-Canada fish survey
 - Near-shore fish survey



Study to be Discussed

Page No.	Discipline	Title	Ranking
33	MM	Satellite Tracking of Bowhead Whales: Habitat Use, Passive Acoustic and Environmental Monitoring	1
35	PO	Surface Water Interaction Among Shelf Areas of the Northeast Chukchi Sea and the Western Beaufort Sea	2
37	FE	Physical and Chemical Analysis of Crude and Refined Oils: Lab and Mesoscale Oil Weathering	3
39	SS	Baseline Nutritional Survey: Inventory and Content Analysis of Subsistence and Market Foods as Consumed by North Slope Communities	4
41	HE / PO	U.S.-Canada Transboundary Fish and Lower Trophic Communities	5
43	MM	Ice Seal Movements and Foraging: Village-based Satellite Tracking and Acoustic Monitoring of Ringed, Bearded, and Spotted Seals	6
45	HE	Distribution and Habitat Use of Fish in the Nearshore Ecosystem of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas	7
47	PO	High-Resolution Digital Bathymetry Dataset	8
49	MM	Use of the Chukchi Sea by Endangered Baleen and Other Whales (Westward Extension of BOWFEST)	9
53	IM	Conference Management and Reports on BOEMRE Results	10

AQ = Air Quality
 IM = Information Management

FE = Fates & Effects
 SS = Social Systems
 HE = Habitat & Ecology

MM = Marine Mammals and Protected Species
 REN = Renewable Energy

PO = Physical Oceanography

BOEMRE OCS Region: Alaska

Tentative Ranking:

Questions?



Extensive Science Collaboration

- Federal
 - NOPP
 - NOAA-NMFS (especially NMML, PMEL)
 - USGS
 - FWS
 - BLM
 - NSF
- State of Alaska
 - University of Alaska (Coastal Marine Institute)
 - Department of Fish and Game
- Interagency Coordination Units
 - North Slope Science Initiative
 - Alaska Ocean Observing System (w/NPRB)
 - Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
 - Arctic Council
- Universities
- Industry
- Coastal Impact Assistance Program
- BOEMRE Technology Assessment & Research Program