

# OCS Scientific Committee

## Social Science Break-out Group

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# Alaska Region

# Baseline Nutritional Survey: Inventory and Content Analysis of Subsistence and Market Foods as Consumed by North Slope Communities

- Should go ahead and seek OMB approval. Would serve well as a test case
- Qualitative components would be very useful in order to contextualize possibly politically sensitive results.
- This research complements work done in Y-K Delta.

# General

- We appreciated the update on recently completed and current socioeconomic studies in Alaska. It made us aware of key findings and publications that we can both use and help disseminate. It also gave us important insight into the success and challenges of these studies, and how they inform strategic thinking about social studies in Alaska.
- We suggest that similar updates be included in future breakout sessions as time allows.

# Gulf of Mexico Region

# A Statistical Analysis of the Causes of the Tourism Impacts of an Oil Spill

- We recommend this study be combined with the ongoing Synthesis of Current Information on the Effects of the DWH Oil Spill on Recreation, Tourism, and Commercial and Recreational Fisheries
  - Closely related and social and economic studies of the impacts of the oil spill should be expedited.
  - Some concern about the efficacy of using statistical methods to determine causes of impacts
  - Bringing county datasets together is worthwhile in itself and contributes to new strategy for social impact assessment in the Gulf.

# Post-Oil Spill Assessment of OCS-Related Infrastructure and Communities in the Gulf of Mexico Region

- We support updating the OCS Infrastructure fact book.
- We encourage combining various fact books into a single comprehensive fact book, and exploring ideas for regularly updating and feeding into the GOM CMSP process.

# Impacts to Shipwrecks From Dredging Activities Associated with the Louisiana Sand Berm

- Very valuable, time sensitive study
  - Important cultural heritage resources are at risk, the study will help inform future decisions to protect them.
- We support mandate for increased outreach and education both in affected communities and the appropriate academic sources.

# General

- We recommend coordinating with entities such as NIH, Harte Research Institute, and Gulf of Mexico Alliance in designing and implementing post oil-spill studies.
- Understanding the constraints imposed by the NRDA process and pending completion of important baseline studies, we nevertheless feel that it is an urgent priority to launch post oil-spill social impact studies.
- We reiterate our recommendation from last year that social science studies in the Gulf of Mexico be managed under the regional studies office, rather than in assessment.

# Office of Alternative Resources (OAREP - Atlantic Region)

## Potential Space-Use Conflicts between Commercial Shipping and Wind Facilities on the Atlantic OCS

- Study products would be a series of spatial and temporal maps.
- We recommend including study products in the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre, and the appropriate regional CMSP process.
- Recommend that relevant GOM experiences be included in the study (i.e. Port Vision)

# Offshore Wind Turbine Allision Impact Analysis and Modeling

- This is a well designed study based on concerns expressed in Task Force meetings for studying and modeling the risks of possible space-use conflicts.
- Encourage consulting with American Bureau of Shipping in developing synthesis of current information on vessel allisions with marine structures
- Should build on the U.S. Coast Guard's Port Access Route Study (PARS)

# General

- We support the newly formed OAEP in its creative efforts to anticipate and study potential social impacts of wind energy development. We encourage the OAEP to continue staffing up with socioeconomic expertise