



BOEM: Social Science

Environmental Studies Program (ESP)

Division of Environmental Sciences

John V. Primo, PhD

BOEM Science Day

December 13, 2011


Consortium for Ocean Leadership

Washington, DC

Environmental Studies Program

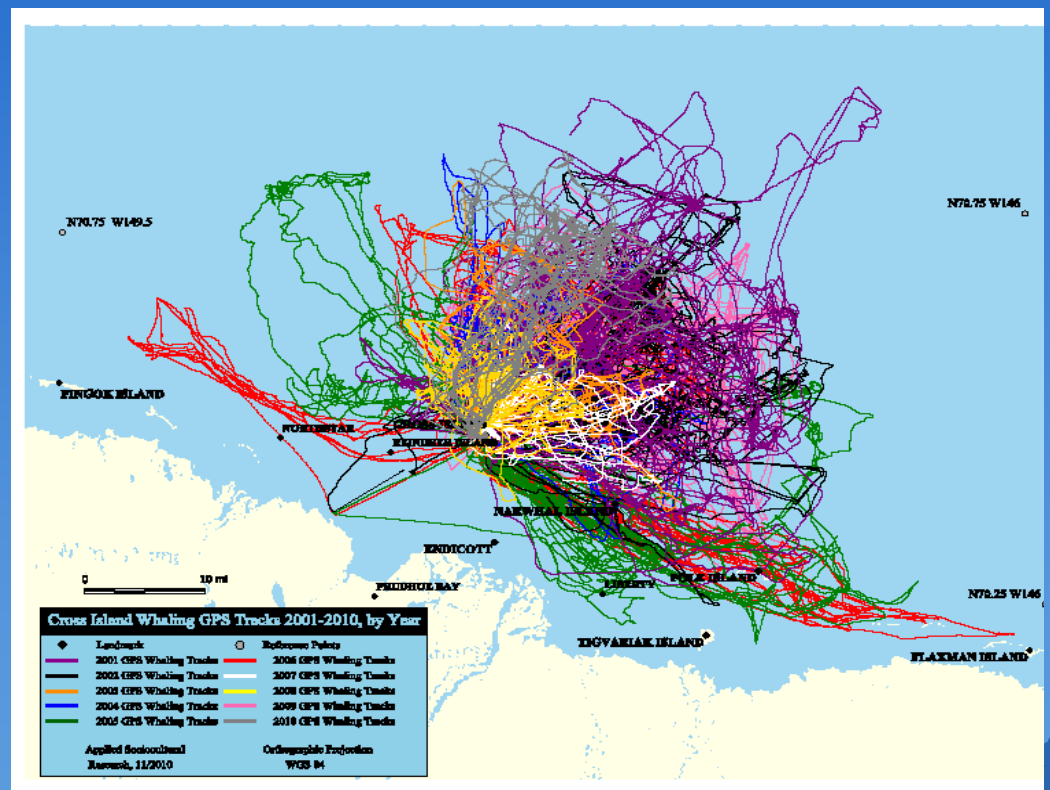
- Develops and oversees **applied scientific** studies required for making responsible decisions for managing energy and marine mineral resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf

Mandate Driven Social Science Research

- OCSLA 1953, EPA Act 2005, NHPA 1966, NEPA 1969 - Provide information to support responsible energy and mineral resource development on the OCS; particularly through our environmental assessment process
 - Draws on a diversity of disciplines to understand the past, present, and future
 - Significant Study Areas: Cultural Resources, Subsistence, Communities, Regions and the Industry
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A Subsistence Study: Cross Island Monitoring Subsistence Bowhead Whaling

Spring Whale Hunt



Using GPS to Reveal Interactions between Humans and
the Environment through Space and Time

A Subsistence Study: Cross Island Monitoring Subsistence Bowhead Whaling



Harvesting and Processing a Whale

Understanding the Role of
Subsistence in Communities

- Sustenance
- Traditional Social Status/Roles
- Maintaining Social Ties/Capital

A Community Study: Ethnic Groups and Enclaves Affected by OCS Activities

- Enhance our understanding of the interplay between ethnic groups and the various sectors of the Oil & Gas Industry



Collaborative Research: University and
Community Researchers



A Cajun Mardi Gras Run
~ History.com 2011



Vietnamese Store Fronts
~ blogs.bauer.uh.edu 2011

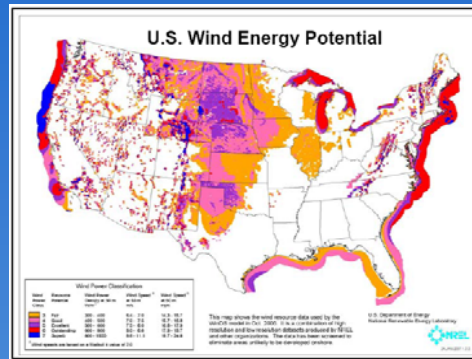
A Community Study: Ethnic Groups and Enclaves Affected by OCS Activities

- Contract modification to address the impacts of the DWH Oil Spill
- Quick Response to Spill – Studies Program
- Focus of study = social effects – impacts on households, community economies, social gatherings, social networks
- Coastal counties in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana
- Capitalized on Established Relationships/Long-term Embedded Research



French Festival – Larose, LA

A Regional Study: Atlantic Wind Energy Development – Recreation and Tourism Economic Assessment



Atlantic Coast




Tourism and Recreation
on ATL

EPAct 2005 – BOEM Role

A Regional Study: Atlantic Wind Energy Development – Recreation and Tourism Economic Assessment

Steps and Deliverables

- Literature Synthesis
 - Create Scorecard to Identify Counties
 - Profiles of Identified Counties (approx. 70)
 - Geo-Database with socio-econ information
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An Industry Study: History of Oil and Gas Industry in Southern Louisiana (DOI Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award 2010)



An Understanding of
the Industry through
the Words of
Employees



The Development of the Industry as evidenced through
Platform Design

An Industry Study:
History of Oil and Gas Industry in Southern Louisiana
(DOI Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award 2010)

- Provides Baseline and Longitudinal Information on the Development of the Oil and Gas Industry
 - Over 500 Interviews - Diversity of Individuals
 - Captured a Precious and Rich Body of Knowledge
 - Traveling Exhibit and Archiving of Project Information
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What Should You Know About Our Research?

- ✓ **APPLIED RESEARCH:** Mission Relevant Social Science in Support of Responsible Energy and Mineral Development on the OCS
 - ✓ Over 30 years of Social Science Research – baseline and longitudinal studies – enhancing our understanding of the human dimensions of energy and mineral development on the OCS
 - ✓ Partnerships – Leveraging Resources for Common Goals
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