

2015 Current Fiscal Year Report: Outer Continental Shelf Scientific Committee

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2015

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Outer Continental Shelf Scientific Committee

3b. GSA Committee No.

21402

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter Renewal Date

03/10/2014

7. Expected Term Date

09/30/2015

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

8b. Specific Termination Authority

5 USC Appendix 2

8c. Actual Term Date

09/30/2015

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

AGENCY

13. Effective Date

02/21/2006

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next
FY FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Scientific Committee (SC) provides advice on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the OCS Environmental Studies Program (ESP) to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

The Committee consists of members with scientific expertise drawn primarily from academia, and its duties are narrowly limited to evaluating the quality of research proposals eligible for funding by the agency's ESP. The SC reviews the relevance of proposed research and the subsequent information produced to meet BOEM's scientific information needs for decision making; the Committee may recommend changes in

scope, direction, and emphasis. In May 2013, the SC met in an open forum to address new opportunities and challenges, and review proposed studies for Fiscal Years (FY) 2014 and 2015. Focus was on the proposed studies for FY 2014. The Committee members broke into their respective Discipline Breakout Groups and reviewed 50 proposed new starts: 9 for Alaska; 10 for Atlantic, 14 for the Gulf of Mexico, and 8 for the Pacific Regions. HQ proposed 9 new starts. The accompanying discussions and advice of the SC were then incorporated into the decision making process leading to the successful approval by BOEM Directorate of the FY 2014 National Studies List – BOEM's formal, annual research plan.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Secretary appoints non-Federal members based on technical skills and geographic representation. Members must meet the following criteria: scientific competence, reputation within their field of expertise, and ability to address important elements of BOEM's research and science activities. BOEM's research and science activities span a diverse spectrum of environmental and socioeconomic disciplines pertinent to decision making of the OCS energy and minerals management programs. This responsibility requires a broad spectrum of expertise both in terms of scientific specialty and geographic range. Members are selected such that their expertise does not overlap. The OCS SC is also evenly divided into three sections covering the areas of physical, biological, and social sciences. Recommendations for appointment are based on the specific expertise of the appointee and the existing balance of the SC.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The full SC normally meets each April or May at the beginning of BOEM's annual cycle to develop and vet those research projects being proposed under the auspices of the ESP to address BOEM's information needs. Subcommittees met as necessary to address specific issues for further development.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The SC is unique and there are no other existing committees that serve this function. While the issues the SC addresses are long-term, complex scientific topics, they are also focused and mission driven. Other scientific type committees tend to be basic research oriented and thus do not provide the timely, focused advice as this Committee. Furthermore, other means of receiving public input, such as public hearings do not provide the thoughtful, consensus-based input that is sought from this Committee. In light of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin dated December 16, 2004, Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review, it specifically states that the earlier the peer review process starts the better and this Committee is the Bureau's first phase of its peer-review process. Specifically, this group of non-Federal experts is consulted early in the process of developing specific, scientific information needs which are then further refined into individual research projects. Later, as the research projects progress, the SC is briefed for additional input/guidance.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

No meetings were held in FY 2015. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has entered into a contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to establish a committee on environmental science and assessment for offshore energy resources. The committee will provide independent, scientifically credible and objective information on issues relevant to BOEM's environmental studies and assessment activities and to support discussions on relevant issues. The Committee has fulfilled its duties and will not be renewed.

Designated Federal Officer

Rodney E. Cluck Chief Environmental Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Allison, Tabor	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Biology (Sea Birds/Wind-Wildlife Impacts)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Diaz, Robert	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Biology (Toxicology/Ecosystems)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dunton, Kenneth	06/24/2008	10/19/2014	Physical Oceanography	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Elgar, Stephen	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Physical Oceanography (Nearshore/Remote Sensing)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Galt, Jerry	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Physical Oceanography (Oil Spill Modeling)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Gould, Richard	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Social Sciences (Anthropology)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hopper, Abigail	01/02/2015	09/30/2015	Director, BOEM	Ex Officio Member
Johnson, Mark	06/24/2008	10/19/2014	Physical Oceanography (Arctic Region & Sea Ice)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kempton, Willett	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Social Sciences (Anthropology/Alternative Energy)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kofinas, Gary	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Social Sciences (Resource Policy and Management)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Levin, Lisa	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Physical Oceanography (Biological Oceanography)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Love, Milton	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Social Sciences (Archeology)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mather, I.	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Social Sciences (Archeology)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McLaughlin, Richard	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Social Sciences (Marine Policy and Law)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rea, Lorrie	06/24/2008	10/19/2014	Biology (Endangered Species; Arctic Marine Mammal Health)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sullivan, Kathryn	03/09/2012	09/30/2015	Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction	Ex Officio Member

Werner, Sandra	10/19/2011	10/19/2014	Physical Oceanography (engineering/Ocean Modeling)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
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Number of Committee Members Listed: 17

Narrative Description

No meetings were held in FY 2015. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has entered into a contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to establish a committee on environmental science and assessment for offshore energy resources. The committee will provide independent, scientifically credible and objective information on issues relevant to BOEM's environmental studies and assessment activities and to support discussions on relevant issues. The Committee has fulfilled its duties and will not be renewed. The OCS SC provides advice on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the OCS ESP to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of BOEM. The OCS SC reviews the relevance of proposed research and subsequent information produced to meet BOEM's scientific information needs for decision making and may recommend changes in scope, direction, and emphasis. The external independent review by the Committee strengthens the foundation of science used for BOEM decisions. Through the diverse associations of the Committee members, BOEM can learn of additional opportunities for building partnerships and with the nationally recognized scientific expertise of the members, BOEM can more effectively optimize resources use with environmental protection.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Effective grant making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

Because BOEM's information needs far outweigh its resources (funding ability), any actual savings to the Bureau is in terms of helping to ensure that the research (environmental studies) supported is properly aligned with the Bureau's priorities. Since the OCS SC is comprised of distinguished scientists in biological, physical, chemical, and social sciences and selection is based on maintaining disciplinary expertise in all areas of research, as well as geographic balance, the members are able to provide timely advice and guidance during the development of the research design and provide peer-review of final products. BOEM is also better able to manage its limited resources and target the highest priorities.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

66

Number of Recommendations Comments

To better integrate the advice and guidance of the Committee into BOEM's ESP, the OCS SC traditionally meets in plenary session at the onset of the Studies Development Process, the cycle whereby the Bureau's scientific information needs are developed into specific research projects for the next fiscal year. From 2004 to 2013, the SC made 66 recommendations. May 2013 meeting recommendations have not been included in the cumulative number of recommendations; waiting for official Letter to the Director.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

93%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

BOEM strives to implement 100 percent of the OCS SC recommendations. Recommendations are addressed as appropriate prior to the next meeting of the full SC. Several recommendations were not fully implemented in previous reporting periods. The recommendations from the May 2013 meeting have not been included in the cumulative percentage pending review and consideration by BOEM and the Department.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

N/A

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Prior to each OCS SC meeting, a letter is provided to each member addressing how the recommendations resulting from the previous meeting were addressed or being implemented.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

N/A

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A