

BOEMRE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM: ONGOING STUDIES

Region: National

Planning Area(s): All

Title: OSRA Modeling Review Board (NT-09-X13)

Total Cost: (in thousands) \$5-\$15 annually **Period of Performance:** FY 2009-2014

Conducting Organization: Dr. C. J. Beegle-Krause, Dr. Jerry Galt, Dr. David Amstutz, Dr. Dong-Ping Wang

BOEMRE Contact: Dr. Walter R. Johnson

Description:

Background: The Modeling Review Board is a panel of recognized national experts on physical oceanography and oceanographic modeling. BOEMRE is responsible for analysis of potential oil-spill impact to the environmental resources prior to the lease sales for the oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The Oil Spill Risk Analysis (OSRA) in BOEMRE uses ocean modeling results and the Modeling Review Board will provide expertise to improve the accuracy of the OSRA in areas of OCS operations. The Board provides advisory services in ocean modeling to the BOEMRE in order to better direct and use the limited funds and results from ongoing and planned research in physical oceanography. The MRB provides BOEMRE with state-of-the-art guidance on issues related to ocean circulation modeling and independent evaluations of technical aspects of ongoing and planned procurements related to ocean circulation modeling. The board has served to advise BOEMRE on draft statements of work and proposal evaluation. The board serves as a contract-independent "quality review board" on ocean modeling studies. They also participate in workshops, such as regional physical oceanography workshops.

The results of the ocean circulation modeling studies support improvements in an improvement in the OSRA for all future sales following the study completion. The results of the ocean circulation modeling studies are also vital to improvements to oil spill contingency planning and other operational requirements.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to support a Board to provide supplemental physical oceanographic expertise in the area of ocean modeling. The BOEMRE has felt increasing urgency from coastal states, as well as from scientific and public review of these efforts, to model the offshore circulation at ever finer spatial and temporal scales. This requires the use of state-of-the art techniques in numerical modeling.

Methods: Board members will meet with BOEMRE staff and contractors to review progress of on-going modeling studies. Members will submit review comments which will be used by BOEMRE staff to improve contract results.

Importance to BOEMRE: The Board members advise BOEMRE on on-going studies, draft final reports, draft statements of work, evaluate proposals for ocean circulation modeling, and plan research in physical oceanography. The services are needed annually for ongoing and new modeling studies designed to improve OSRA.

Final Report Due: None, individual review reports submitted for Task Order.

Publications: None

Revised Date: April 6, 2011