

FY 2025–2026 Studies Development Plan

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Information to Protect the Environment

- Serves all **BOEM** regions & programs
- **Authorized by Section 20** of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
- **Over \$1.25 B provided for research** since its inception in 1973
- About **\$30 M in annual funding**
- Rigorous **planning, review, and procurement process:**
 - Interagency agreements
 - Cooperative agreements
 - Competitive contracts (FAR)



A low-angle photograph of a classical building facade, featuring two prominent fluted columns with ornate Corinthian capitals. The building is set against a clear, bright blue sky. The image is partially overlaid by a solid blue rectangle on the right side, which contains the title text.

The Pillars of the Environmental Studies Program (ESP)



BOEM BUREAU OF OCEAN
ENERGY MANAGEMENT



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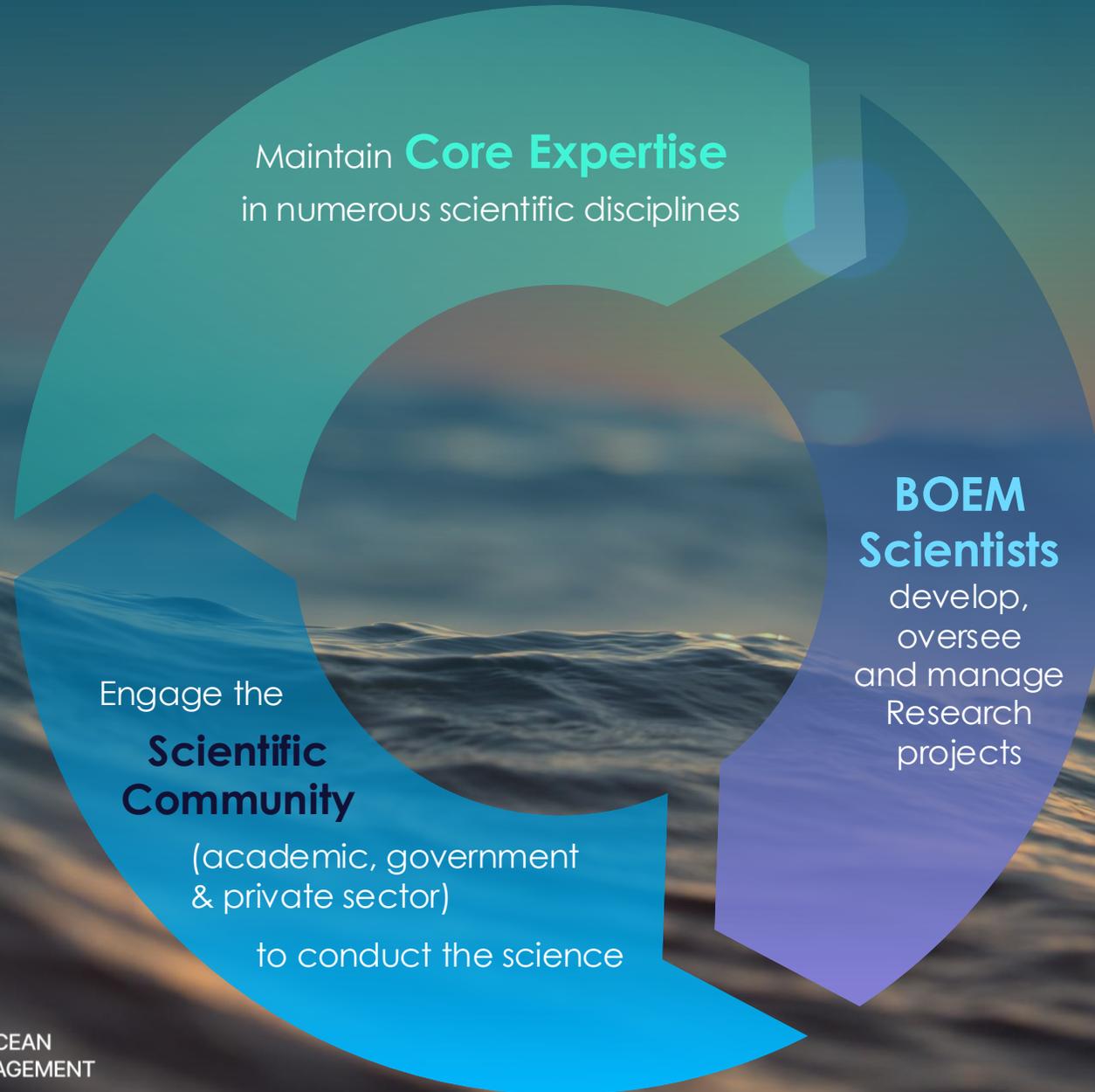
Use-Inspired

Credibility/Integrity

Partnering/Leveraging

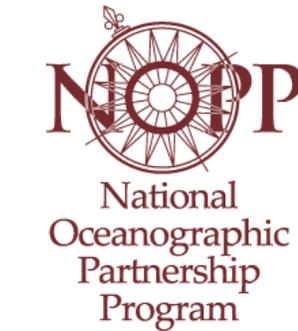
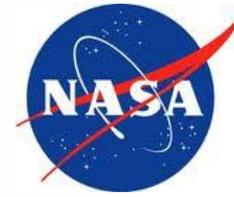
Outreach/Education

ESP Business Model



Partnerships

50 years of environmental science & research partnering and leveraging resources



Subcommittee on Ocean Science & Technology Interagency Working Group on Ocean Partnerships



Criteria for Study Development and Approval



Need for Information in BOEM Decision-Making

Research Concept, Design, and Methodology

Multi-Regional and Strategic Utility

Contribution to Existing Knowledge

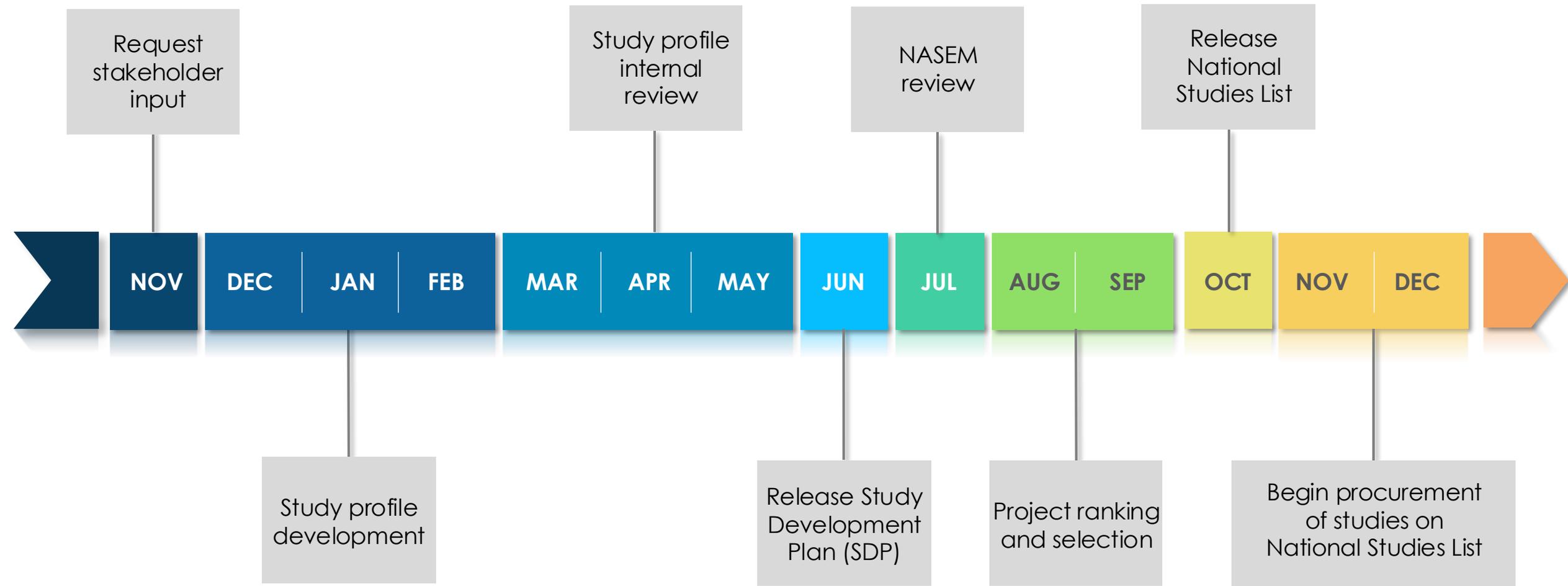
Leveraging Funds

Cost-Effectiveness

Partnerships



Study Profile Development, Approval, & Review Process

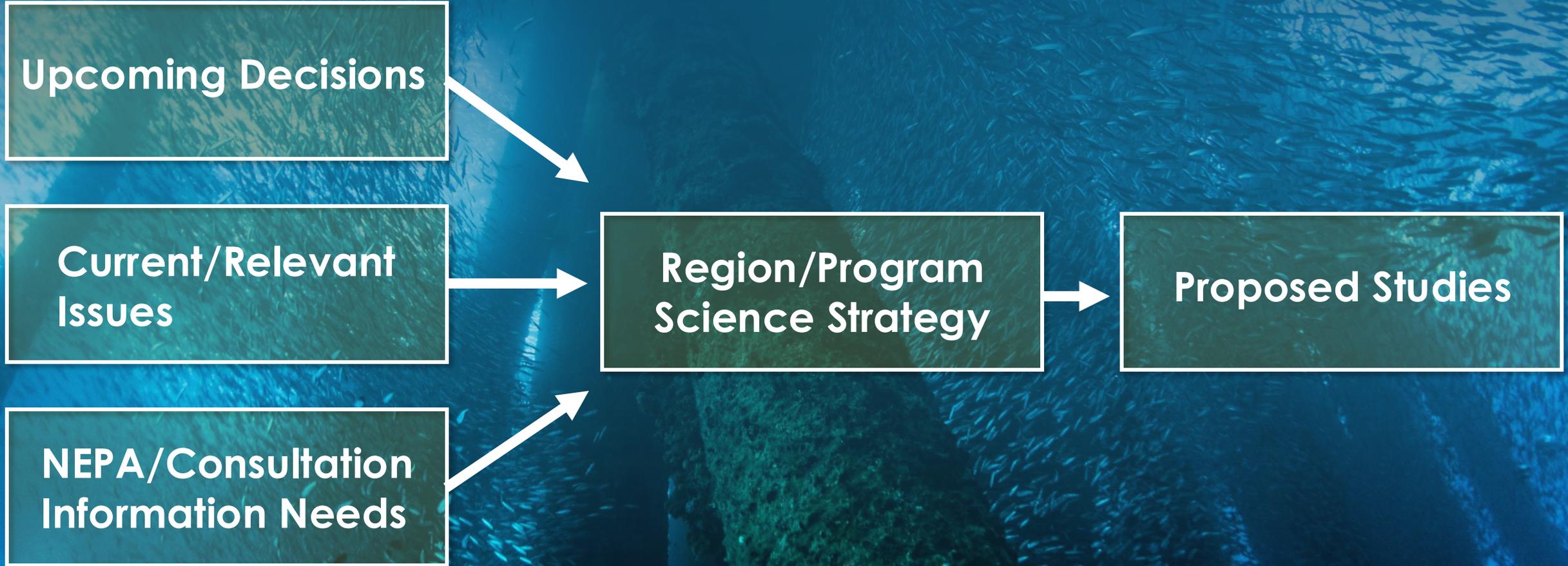


What is BOEM's Studies Development Plan?

- Annual strategic planning document
 - Outlines **ESP's scientific direction**
 - **Identifies** information needs
 - **Prioritizes research** for upcoming two fiscal years
- Represents priority science needs **of all regions and programs**
- External **communication tool**
- Serves as the foundation of the **annual National Studies List**



SDP Decision Context



FY 2025–2026

53 proposed studies

Alaska Regional Office: 5

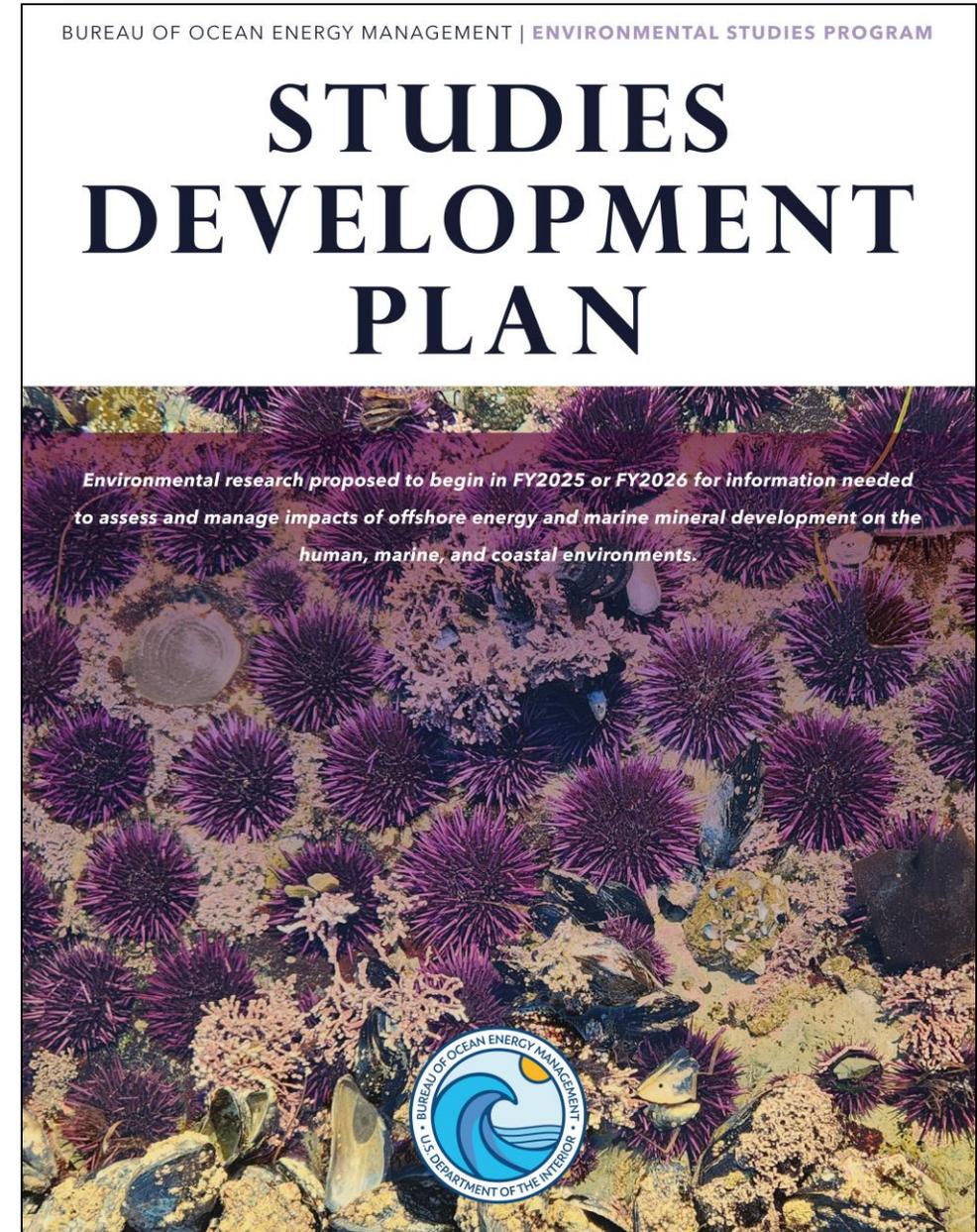
Gulf of Mexico Regional Office: 8

Marine Minerals Program: 8

Office of Environmental Programs: 17

Office of Renewable Energy Programs: 7

Pacific Regional Office: 8



FY 2025–2026 SDP

ESP priorities

- Renewable Energy (**23 proposed studies**)
- Environmental monitoring / cumulative effects (**30**)
- Innovative technologies or techniques (**16**)

Stakeholder and partner input

- **18** proposed studies have external input
- External stakeholders (**13**)
- Federal partners (**6**)



New and Upcoming Activities

- Carbon sequestration
- Expansion to **U.S. Territories**
- **Green/blue hydrogen**
- **Multi-use** activities
- **Ocean Climate** Action Plan
- National Aquatic **eDNA** Strategy
- National Ocean **Biodiversity** Strategy
- National Strategy for a **Sustainable Ocean Economy**





Surf 50 Years of Coastal and Ocean Science



The Environmental Studies Program (ESP), mandated by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act in 1978 (43 USC 1346), develops, funds, and manages scientific research of the highest degree of scientific integrity to inform Agency decisions. Since its inception in 1973, the ESP has provided over \$1 billion for research pertinent to energy development impacts on coastal, marine, and human ecosystems in BOEM's four OCS regions: Alaska, Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific. The ESP funds research on air quality, fates and effects, habitat and ecology, information management, marine archaeology, marine mammals, physical oceanography, social science, and more.



Search for ESP Documents via GovInfo

[Click this link to open the GovInfo document search website in a new browser window](#)

Research Topics

Click on a research topic to see a list of associated themes and research results.



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Comments welcomed on entire SDP and all study profiles

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For more information, see www.boem.gov/studies
[50 Years of Ocean Stewardship](#)