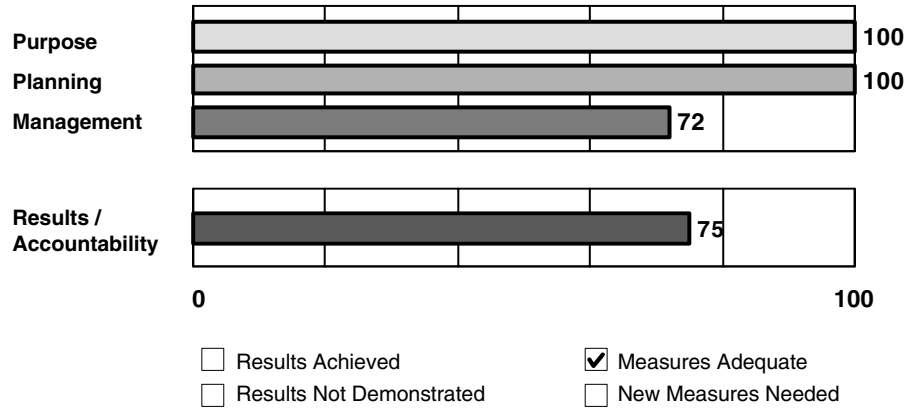


Program: Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Studies

Agency: Department of the Interior

Bureau: Minerals Management Service



Key Performance Measures

Year Target Actual

Measure	Year	Target	Actual
Long-term Measure: Acquire the environmental information needed for agency NEPA documentation completion for the next five-year OCS leasing program in accordance with the program's five-year study strategic plan (The quantification of this measure is under development.)			
Annual Measure: Timely design and execution of individual research projects reflecting the priorities in the annual National Studies List (The quantification of this measure is under development.)			
Efficiency Measure: Measures under development			

Rating: Moderately Effective

Program Type: Research and Development

Program Summary:

The environmental studies program provides environmental information for Interior decision makers, states, local governments, and public to use to ensure that proposed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) -- oil, gas, and minerals extraction -- is conducted in an environmentally safe manner.

- The assessment found that the program is very effective in providing timely and peer reviewed environmental research to decision makers. The assessment found:
1. An independent OCS Scientific Committee, consisting of OCS stakeholders, was established to advise on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the Environmental Studies program.
 2. The program uses a planning process that develops five-year study strategic plans in consultation with the Scientific Committee and other stakeholders. The five year plans are used to determine which studies are conducted annually.
 3. To implement the annual studies, research is conducted externally through competitive contracts, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements.
 4. To avoid duplication and maximization of opportunities for collaboration and cost sharing, the program coordinates extensively with other research programs -- Federal, state, industry, and universities and colleges.
 5. To ensure good science, the program uses the Scientific Committee and other venues to provide peer review and to recommend changes in study scope, direction or emphasis.

Because program activities are largely process-oriented, developing meaningful outcome measures is particularly challenging. This assessment was based largely on existing measure; however these measures are being revised to reflect meaningful program outcomes. The assessment also found that individual study performance information is compiled manually. This reporting process could cause time delays for management to take appropriate action on individual studies with emerging problems.

In response to these findings:

1. The 2004 Budget provides funding at the 2003 Budget level.
2. The Administration will work to quantify the measures, while being sensitive to the difficulties that research programs face in attempting to predict progress.

Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)

2002 Actual	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate
15	16	16