



Minerals Management Service

People Promoting Energy, the Environment, and the Economy

FACT SHEET

January 16, 2009

Environmental Studies Program

- The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) is leading the Nation into a new era where offshore alternative energy will become a vital piece of America's energy portfolio.
- In Fiscal Year 2008, MMS awarded seven new ocean environmental studies worth \$3.8 million to evaluate several aspects relating to alternative energy. These studies will help ensure that the environmental consequences of alternative energy siting, operations and interactions with other ocean resources are evaluated.
- In the past 35 years, the Environmental Studies Program has dedicated \$800 million towards environmental research for use in decision-making regarding offshore energy development.
- Below is a complete list of environmental studies that were funded in Fiscal Year 2008 related to the Offshore Alternative Energy Program:
 - Potential for Interactions between Endangered and Candidate Bird Species with Wind Facility Operations on the Atlantic OCS, awarded \$1 million to Pandion Systems.
 - Energy Market and Infrastructure Information for Evaluating Alternative Energy Projects for OCS Atlantic and Pacific Regions, awarded \$443,319 to Eastern Research Group.
 - Effects of Pile Driving Sounds on Auditory and Non-auditory Tissues of Fish, awarded \$810,000 to University of Maryland
 - Meteorological and Wave Measurements for Improving Meteorological and Air Quality Modeling, awarded \$489,265 to Sonoma Technology.
 - Evaluation of Visual Impacts on Historic Properties, awarded \$299,628 to John Milner and Associates

- Update of Summary of Knowledge: Selected Areas of the Pacific Coast, awarded \$692,581 to Mangi Environmental Group
- Compendium of Avian Information and Comprehensive GIS Geo-Database, awarded \$588,847 to U.S. Geological Survey
- For more information on the Environmental Studies Program and completed studies please visit:

<http://www.mms.gov/offshore/AlternativeEnergy/Studies.htm>