

Environmental Assessment of Offshore Activities

**Brazilian Delegation
October 31, 2007**



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MMS

**Minerals Management Service
United States Department of the Interior**

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

**Oil
and
Gas
Leasing
Program**





**Alternative
Energy
and
Alternate Use
Program**



Sand and Gravel Program



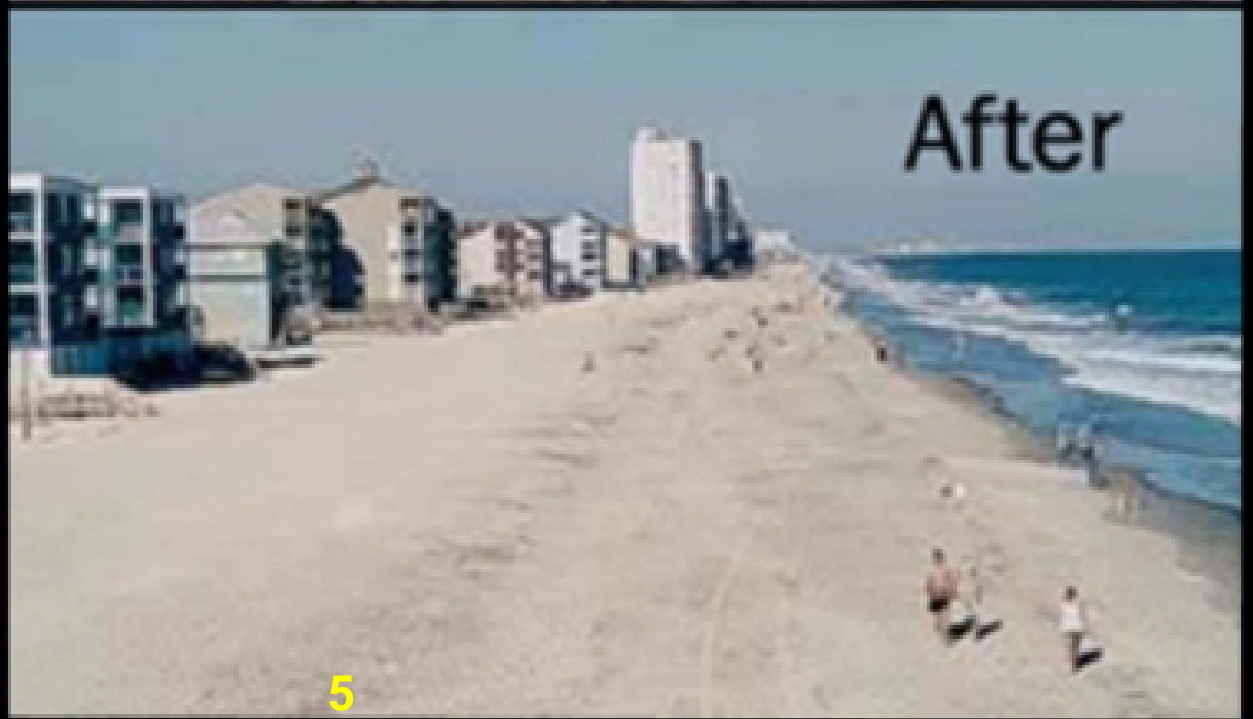
**Sand
and
Gravel
Program**

Myrtle Beach, SC

Before



After



Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Issues

National

- ❖ 5-Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program
- ❖ Natural Gas Demand
- ❖ Alternative Energy

Alaska

- ❖ Economic Incentives
- ❖ Leasing Activity
- ❖ Arctic Operations

Pacific

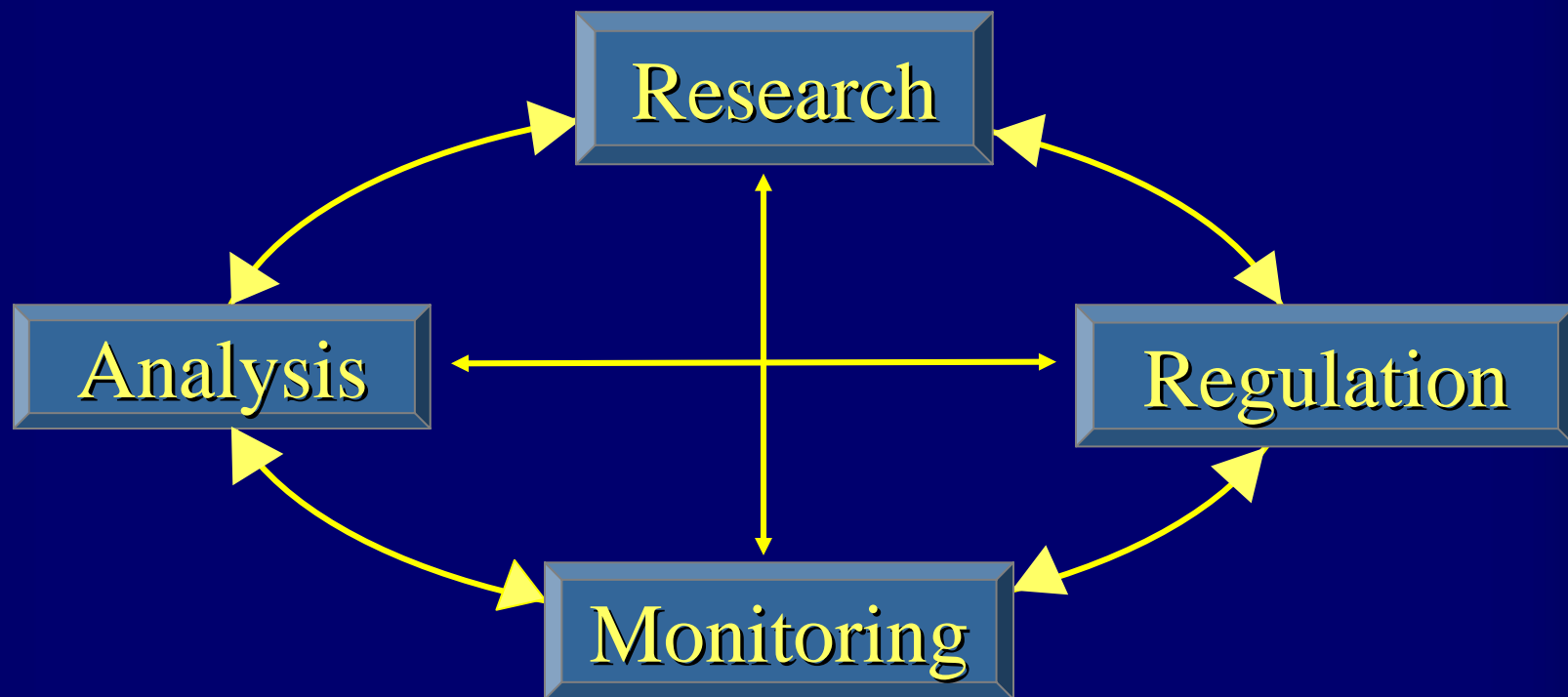
- ❖ Undeveloped Leases
- ❖ Decommissioning

Atlantic

- ❖ Sand and Gravel
- ❖ Wind Power

Gulf of Mexico

- ❖ Economic Incentives
- ❖ Infrastructure Assessment
- ❖ Sand and Gravel





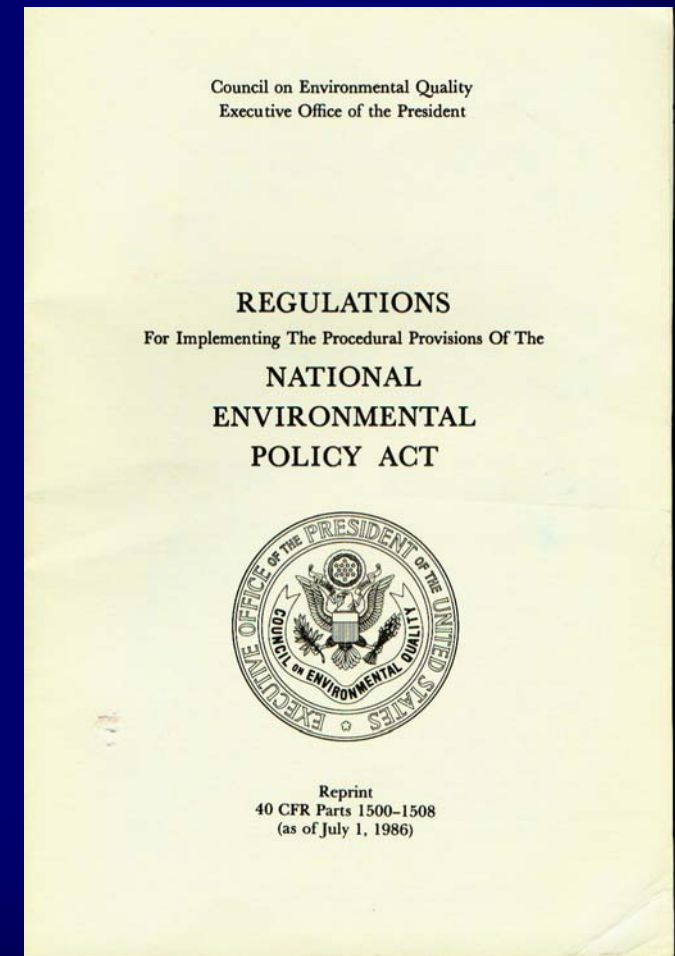
Environmental Analysis

Environmental Studies



The National Environmental Policy Act "NEPA"

- **Disclose Plans**
- **Involve Public**
- **Identify and Evaluate Alternatives**
- **Avoid Negative Effects**
- **Unify Environmental Analysis**



The National Environmental Policy Act "NEPA"

Environmental Impact Statement

Sections

I Purpose and Need

II Alternatives and Proposed Action

III Affected Environment

IV Environmental Consequences

-- Cumulative Effects

The National Environmental Policy Act "NEPA"

- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

- **Environmental Assessments (EA)**

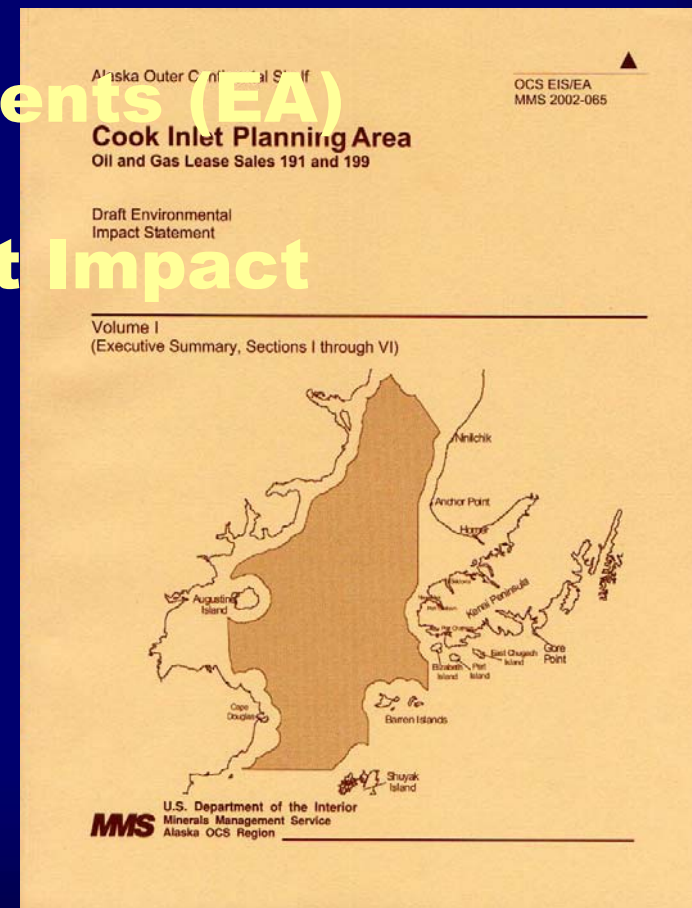
Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas
Leasing Program: 2002-2007

Final Environmental Impact Statement
April 2002

- **Finding of No Significant
Statement (FONSI)**

- **Categorical Exclusion**

MMS U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service



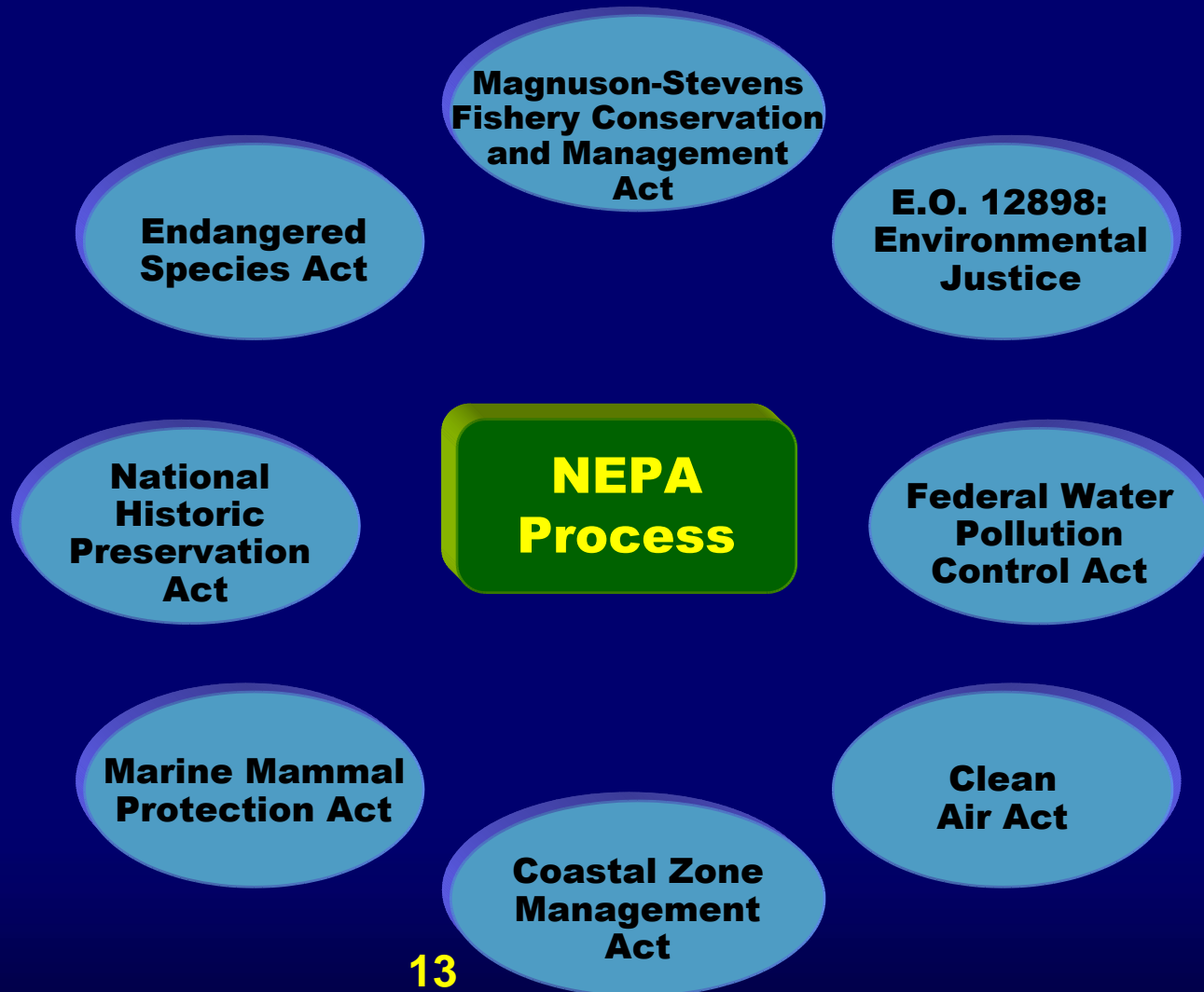
The National Environmental Policy Act "NEPA"

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation

- 1) Scoping**
- 2) Draft EIS**
- 3) Comments**
- 4) Final EIS**
- 5) Decision**



The National Environmental Policy Act "NEPA"



Air Quality

Clean Air Act

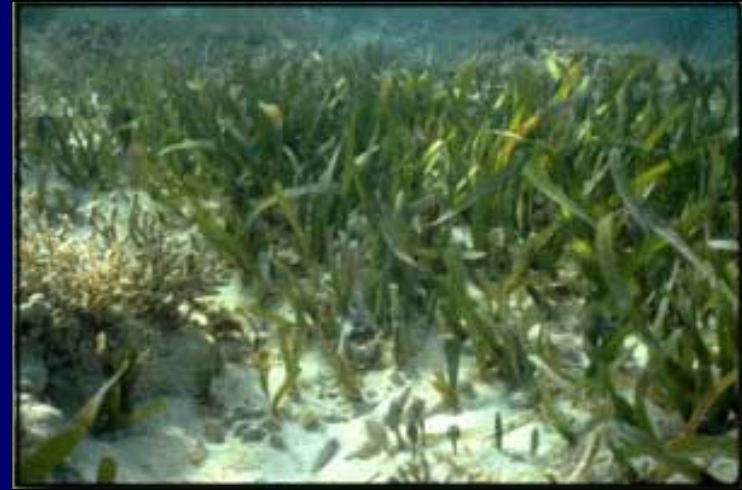
Protects and enhances the air quality to promote public health and welfare



Radar Profiler/Radio Acoustic Sound System Installation on West Delta Platform

Water Quality

Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act)



**Regulates pollution to
restore and maintain
the chemical, physical,
and biological integrity
of waterways**

Marine Biology – Protected Species

Marine Mammal Protection Act

✎ protects and promotes the conservation of marine mammals and their ecosystems

✎ establishes the Marine Mammal Commission



Marine Biology – Protected Species

Endangered Species Act

Conserve endangered or threatened plants and animals and their critical habitats



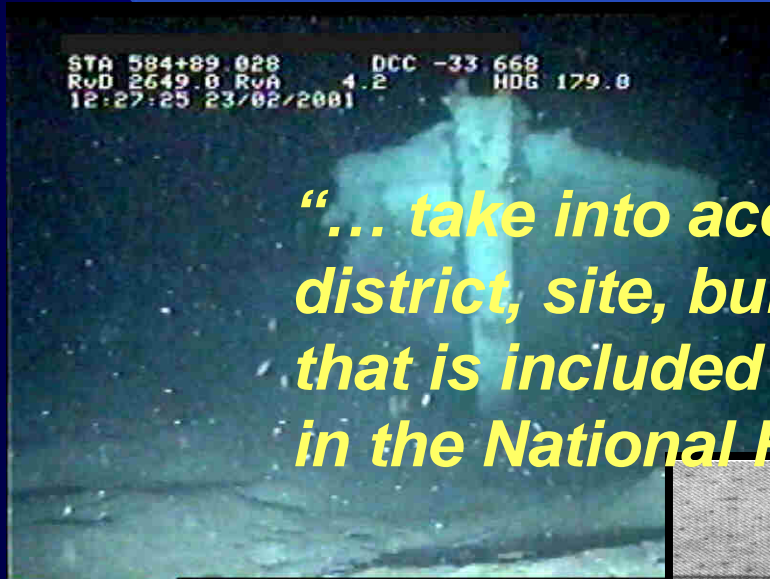
Marine Biology -- Fisheries

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

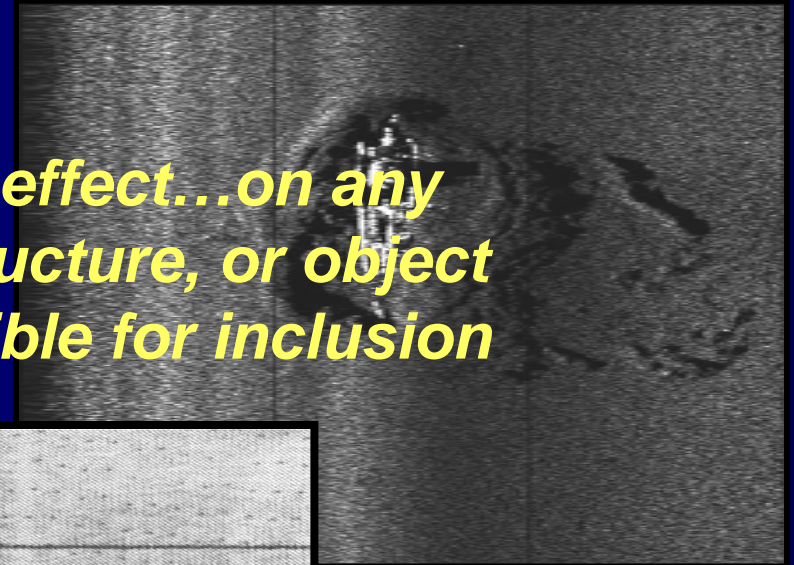
**Conserve and manage fishery
resources of the U.S. coasts and
out to 200 nautical miles**



Archaeology



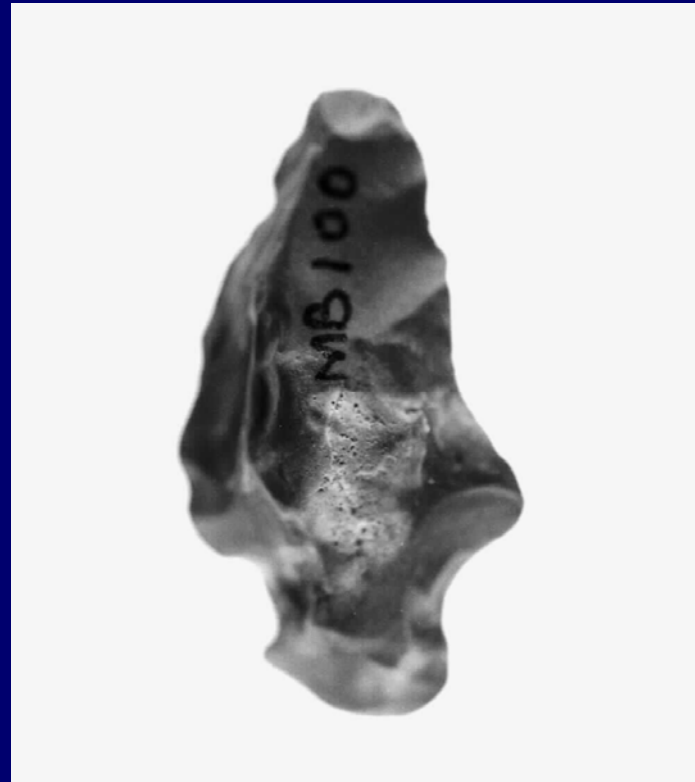
“... take into account the effect...on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register.”



National Historic Preservation Act

Archaeology

- **Prehistoric Remains**
- **Sea Level Rise**
- **Seismic Profiles**



Social Science

Port Review

A publication of
The Greater
Lafourche Port
Commission

Summer '01



While others
have been
saying no to
drilling ...

**weve been saying yes
for a long time.**

Its time America recognizes this.



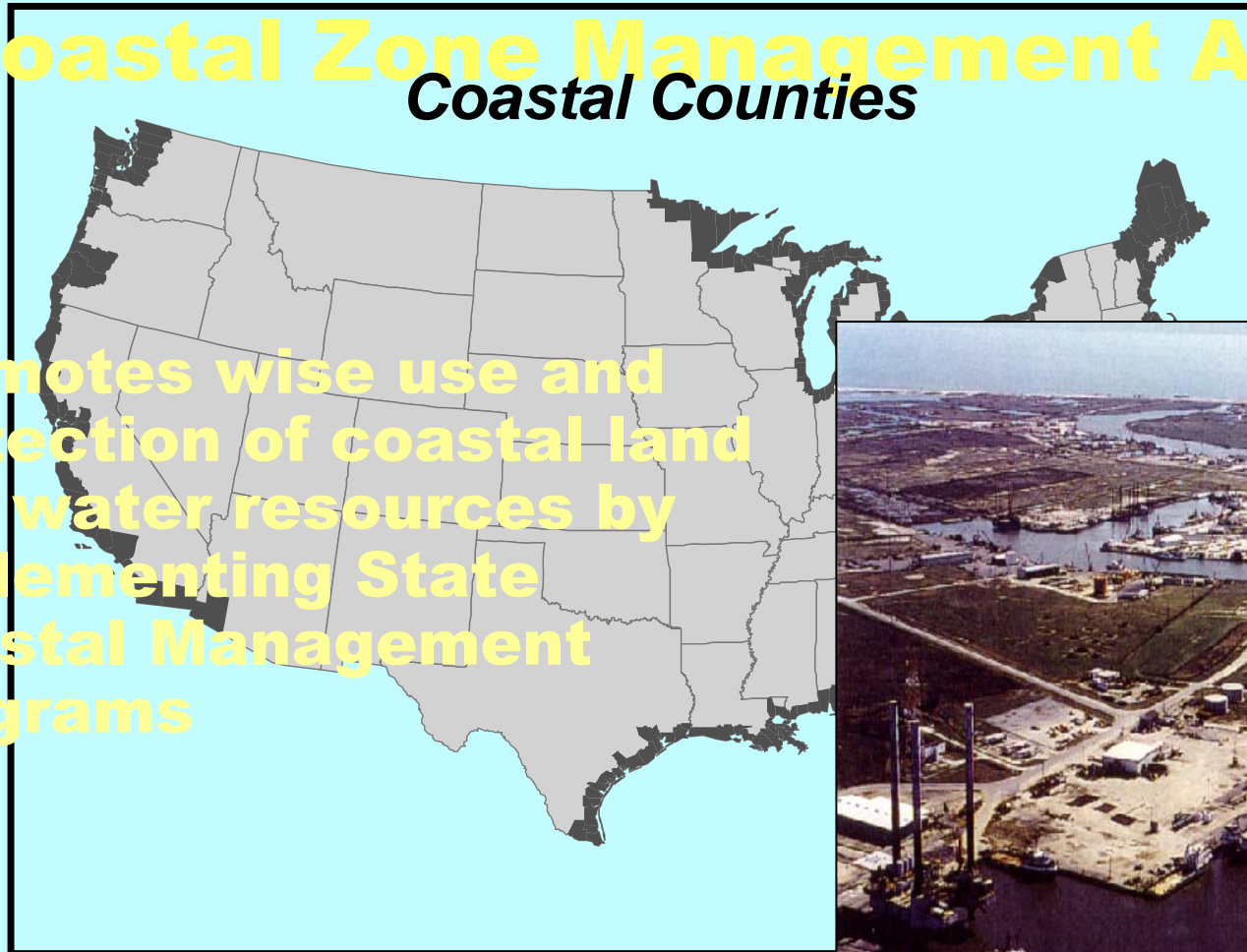
NEPA:

“...the relationship of people with that environment.”

Coastal Zone Management

Coastal Zone Management Act *Coastal Counties*

Promotes wise use and protection of coastal land and water resources by implementing State Coastal Management Programs



Major Federal Agencies Involved in OCS Activities

- **Minerals Management Service**



- **U.S. Coast Guard**



- **Environmental Protection Agency**



- **National Marine Fisheries Service**



- **Fish and Wildlife Service**



- **Ocean & Coastal Resource Management**

- **Geological Survey**  **USGS**
science for a changing world

Major State/Local Agencies Involved in OCS Activities

- **Coastal Commissions**



- **Departments of Fish and Wildlife**



- **Air Resources Boards**

- **Departments of Water Resources**



- **Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources**

- **Departments of Environmental Regulations**



- **Departments of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism**

Environmental Studies Program



**“To provide for the
environmental
information needs of the
MMS”**



Environmental Studies Program



Sperm Whale
Seismic Survey



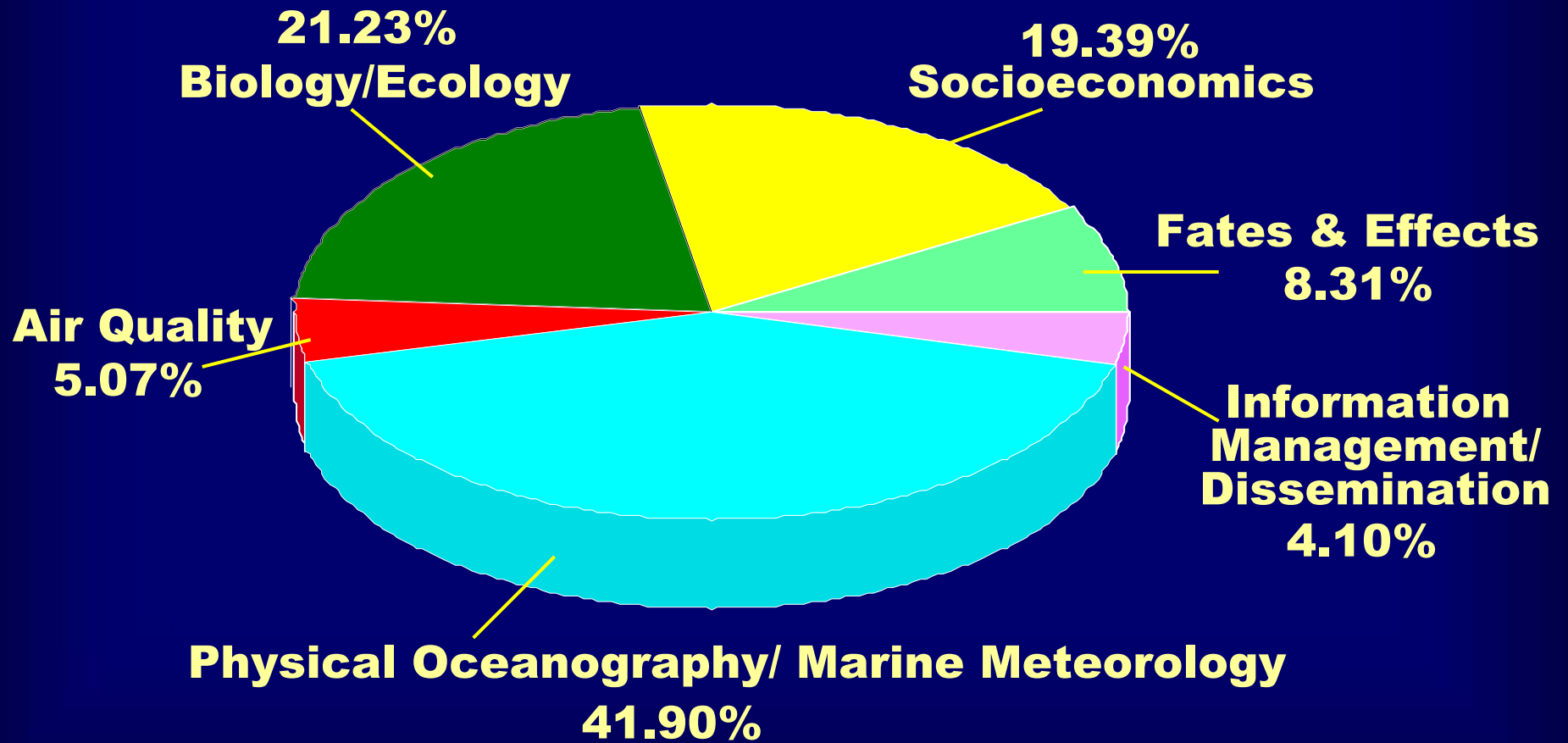
Monitoring at the Flower Garden
Banks Coral Reef



Sampling at Northstar

Environmental Studies Program

Expenditures By Discipline



Environmental Studies Program

How Do We Work ?

- **Competitive Contracts**
- **Interagency Agreements**
- **Cooperative Agreements**

Environmental Studies Program

Studies Oversight

- **MMS Scientific Committee**
- **National Academy of Sciences**
- **Peer Review**

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by large, dark clouds. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and purple. The ocean is dark blue with some whitecaps. In the distance, an offshore oil rig is visible on the horizon.

Questions ???