

COASTAL ZONE
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STATEWIDE OCS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

OCS Task 1.4

Prepared by

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Land Resources and Forest Management
Outer Continental Shelf Study Program
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12233

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NOAA
COASTAL SERVICES CENTER
2234 SOUTH HOBSON AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SC 29405-2413

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Introduction

This report consists of a list of goals and objectives that will be utilized as a program focus and discussion element of the OCS program. DEC reviewed existing goals and objectives of the Coastal Zone Management Program to include goals and objectives relevant to OCS. The draft statewide OCS goals and objectives prepared by DEC were circulated to other members of DEC, the OCS contractors, other state agencies and interested parties. The final statewide OCS goals and objectives incorporates regional goals and objectives submitted by the Nassau-Suffolk Regional Planning Board and the New York City Planning Commission.

1. Goal: Ecological Processes:

To protect and preserve coastal resources from potential adverse offshore and on-shore impacts from exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the Mid-Atlantic and North Atlantic leasing areas.

Objectives:

- Encourage environmental baseline studies to determine stress levels and predict the consequences if the stress levels are exceeded.
- Examine the effectiveness of federal, state and private oil spill contingency plans designed to cope with oil spill incidents that may occur as a result of OCS-related facilities and activities.
- Assess factors that may contribute to oil spills, including transport and transfer mechanisms, vessel traffic concentrations and patterns, pipeline and platform siting and safety requirements, and other activities.
- Recommend appropriate measures to correct deficiencies in state and federal legislation and rules and regulations in order to more effectively protect and preserve the coastal environment from adverse effects of OCS-related activities.

2. Goal: Environmental Compatibility:

To inventory existing and planned uses of coastal areas and minimize adverse economic, environmental, and social impacts in New York State resulting from offshore and on-shore OCS-related activities.

Objectives:

- Identify activities that are environmentally compatible and economically and socially beneficial to New York State.

- facilitate the location of environmentally compatible and economically and socially beneficial OCS-related activities in New York State.
- Determine possible siting locations of on-shore Outer Continental Shelf facilities and activities, including industrial and port development uses, and pipeline rights-of-way.
- Assess short-term and long-term economic, environmental, social and physical impacts of OCS related facilities along and near marine coastal areas of New York State.
- Provide efficient environmental review and certification processes for the siting and construction of OCS facilities in New York State.

3. Goal: Economic Utilization:

To maximize the economic benefits of OCS development to New York State while avoiding or mitigating any short-term dislocation, whether economic or environmental, caused by OCS resource development.

Objectives:

- Assess the extent to which OCS energy development will supplement New York oil and gas supplies.
- Assess the possible economic benefits of OCS development and evaluate what public and private actions can be taken to maximize the benefits to New York State.
- Assess potential adverse economic impacts from OCS activity and propose public and private actions to minimize such impacts.
- Estimate the total economic benefits and costs of OCS development considering environmental and social costs and benefits.

4. Goal: Intergovernmental Coordination:

To ensure coordination and information interchange among federal, state and local governments and among state agencies for the purpose of improving the efficient administration of regulatory and planning actions by various levels of government.

Objectives:

- Provide technical assistance to local governments affected by the impacts of Outer Continental Shelf development.
- Create a two-way communication network to recognize local concerns at an early stage.
- Establish mechanisms such as technical advisory committees to provide liaison, technical input and coordination of work programs and related activities.
- Participate in a regional technical review center which will allow individual states to collectively discuss problems, regional policy responses to federal actions and to review and evaluate other states actions.
- Alert appropriate state and local officials to significant federal policy actions that may affect different agencies.
- Provide the focal point for review and evaluation of federal policy actions, most notably coordinated state responses to environmental impact statements and policies related to the OCS program.
- Provide policy guidance to the Governor, the Legislature, and other state decision-makers on Outer Continental Shelf impacts on New York State.

5. Goal: Education:

To promote public awareness and understanding of the purposes of protecting and enhancing the coastal areas of New York State.

Objectives:

- Conduct public meetings to familiarize the citizens of New York State with drilling off the Atlantic Coast particularly with the benefits and liabilities such drilling will have on New York State
- Elicit public reaction and response to the state's Outer Continental Shelf Study program through citizen advisory committees, community forums, and other communicative methods.

IV. Development of Scenarios

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The development of scenarios is aided somewhat by the Results of Lease Sale #40, which was held last August. Although the validity of the lease sale was under judicial review when this was written, the amounts and patterns of the bids are indicative of oil industry interest in the resources. Bidding by the companies was based on extensive geophysical exploration of the area and on analysis of the results of the Continental Offshore Stratigraphic Test (COST) well drilled last year.

Industry interest in the lease sale was significantly higher than had been expected. The total amount of all bids received was \$3.5 billion, and the total amount of all bids accepted was \$1.1 billion, ~~with record amounts~~. A total of 410 bids were received on 101 tracts, of a total of 154 ^{tracts} offered for lease. Eight bids were rejected, leaving a total of 93 tracts leased by the Department of Interior.

The pattern of accepted bid amounts in the lease area is shown on map _____. The highest bids were concentrated in northwest part of the leasing area and in three other areas. Eight bids of over \$50 million were accepted, the highest of which was a record \$107.8 million. An additional 17 bids of between \$10 million and \$50 million were accepted; there were an additional 68 bids of less than \$10 accepted by Interior. The highest ^{bids} value ~~tracts~~ accounted for the bulk of the total ^{Receipts from the Sale} ~~bid values accepted~~; the top 8 accounted for 50% and the top 25 accounted for 85% of the total value of bids accepted.

Map _____ shows tracts leased by successful bidding companies. Exxon, bidding alone, won 30 tracts. The next highest were consortiums headed by Chevron and Shell, which accounted for 13 and 12 tracts, respectively. All of the companies except Exxon participated in the bidding as members of consortiums.

The results of the bidding indicated that the petroleum industry believes there are significant hydrocarbon resources in the Mid-Atlantic area. Although the amount of resources actually present can only be determined by drilling, the results of the bidding for Lease Sale #40 were taken into account in the development of scenarios for this report.

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