

Research Opportunity

Call for Study Plans

Deadline: November 23, 2020



The University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) was established by a Memorandum of Agreement between the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the University of Alaska. BOEM oversees the exploration and development of the nation's offshore energy resources. Through their Environmental Studies Program, BOEM supports scientific studies to inform responsible energy and marine mineral resources management on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The CMI partnership strengthens the BOEM-State partnership in addressing information needs by engaging highly qualified scientific expertise within Alaska to address local and regional OCS-related environmental and resource issues and collect and disseminate environmental information needed for OCS oil and gas, renewable energy, and marine minerals management decisions.

The CMI is currently accepting Study Plans to guide our 2021 funding opportunity in topical areas relevant to the Environmental Studies Program. Study Plans selected to advance to full-proposal development will have technical merit, align with CMI Framework Areas, and address BOEM information needs. The CMI encourages innovation, local involvement and outreach, co-funding and collaborative efforts, and participation by individuals, small teams of investigators, and students.

Key Topical Areas of Interest

- Studies examining recent ecosystem changes, including alterations in the biological and physical environments off Alaska;
- Projects evaluating potential effects of increased shipping and vessel traffic (e.g., whale strikes, noise, interruptions to subsistence activities, etc.);
- Projects that examine adaptation and resiliency of people in the changing environment with respect to subsistence harvests, social systems, health and socio-economic well-being, and community involvement;
- Projects to support monitoring of marine and coastal biodiversity; and
- Studies of contaminants and trace metals in Cook Inlet waters.

Geographic Regions of Interest

The geographic area of interest for new Study Plans includes the Alaska OCS Region, with a strong emphasis on the State and Federal oil and gas lease areas in the Beaufort Sea and Cook Inlet. Other areas of focus include the Chukchi and Bering Seas. Projects outside of the Alaska Region may be considered if applicable to CMI priorities. The most relevant studies will supply information to support the analysis of the effects of offshore development, including identification and mitigation of potential impacts from oil spills on the biological and human environment.

Eligibility

Research projects funded through the CMI must have a University of Alaska faculty or staff member as Principal Investigator. However, CMI welcomes projects that include collaboration with state and local stakeholders and other scientific researchers and organizations. Student involvement is encouraged.

CMI Framework Areas

Study plans should be pertinent to the OCS offshore energy and marine minerals program and provide information to support management decisions and scientific understanding of the potential environmental and socio-economic effects of development activities. Within this context, CMI Study Plans should address one or more of the following CMI framework areas:

- scientific studies for better understanding of marine, coastal, or human environments affected or potentially affected by oil and gas exploration and extraction or renewable energy development on the OCS;
- modeling studies of environmental, social, economic, or cultural processes related to OCS oil and gas or renewable energy activities to improve scientific predictive capabilities;
- experimental studies for better understanding of environmental processes or the causes and effects of OCS activities;
- projects that improve collection or sharing of data or scientific information regarding marine or coastal resources or human activities to support prudent management of oil and gas resources; and
- synthesis studies of scientific environmental or socio-economic information relevant to the OCS oil and gas and renewable energy program, including workshops and literature syntheses.

Required Study Plan Content

The purpose of the call for Study Plans is to identify project concepts that have sufficient merit and relevance to justify a full proposal. Review of Study Plans will emphasize the quality and usefulness of the identified research concept or study focus and its relevance to CMI Framework Issues and Key Topical Areas (see above). Budget justification, general methodological approach, student participation, and community involvement/outreach will also be considered.

All Study Plans must include:

1. Cover page in with required content;
2. Narrative with required content (maximum 3 pages);
3. Estimated budget, budget justification, and likely cost-share sources (maximum 3 pages);
4. Single-page resumes for Principal Investigator and each Co-PI;

(Optional)

5. Letters indicating likely cost-share participation and/or supporting the project;
6. References essential to critique the project concept.

Required Cover Page Content

- a. Preliminary Title, Principal Investigator name/affiliation/contact, Co-Investigators/affiliations;
- b. Cost Estimates: Include Total Project Estimate, Funding Request, Anticipated cost-share participants and their associated contributions;
- c. Project Duration;
- d. Signatures: Principal Investigator and unit Dean/Director (or authorized representative). Study Plans are not proposals or referenced in final awards.

Required Narrative Content

NOTE: Study Plan narrative sections are limited to a 3-page maximum with a minimum 11-point font and 1-inch margins. Non-conforming Study Plans will not be considered.

- a. Project Concept: Briefly describe the project concept emphasizing the question/problem to be addressed. If appropriate, state a formal null hypothesis.
- b. Relevance: Briefly describe the type of information that the project will produce and relevance to Framework Issues and Key Topical Areas.
- c. Methods: Identify methods to be used in analysis and sampling design and indicate the level of PI experience with the proposed methods.
- d. Student Support: Describe anticipated student involvement/support.
- e. Outreach: Describe likely outreach activities.

Budget, Cost-share, and Period of Performance

While the Study Plan process is intended to stimulate research ideas, budget estimates should be scientifically justified and as accurate as possible. Budget formats are flexible; however, submissions should include sufficient detail to identify costs aligned with the project narrative. **CMI project awards require 1:1 cost-share**, and Study Plans should identify likely non-federal sources of cost-share and in-kind contributions (letters indicating participation/support are encouraged).

CMI awards are limited to \$200K per project year and \$400K per project (not including cost-share). Projects must start between **August 1 and September 30, 2021**, and be no longer than 30 months in duration. Total awards from the upcoming funding cycle are subject to the availability of funds and will not exceed \$850,000.

The Nature of CMI Projects

Projects will be funded as individual cooperative agreements and be assigned to a BOEM Project Officer from the Alaska OCS Regional Office. Project deliverables and timetables will be specified in cooperative agreements for each funded project.

Signatures

CMI requires signatures of the Principal Investigator and their unit Dean/Director (or representative).

Processing Schedule

Study Plans will be reviewed jointly by the CMI Technical Steering Committee and BOEM representatives. Investigators will be notified in mid-December 2020 whether their study concept will be included in a CMI/BOEM Notice of Funding Opportunity in early 2021.

Questions and Submission

Questions regarding this opportunity can be directed to Ruth Post, CMI Program Manager, at rmpost@alaska.edu. You are also encouraged to contact colleagues in the BOEM Alaska Region office to discuss Study Plan concepts. Heather Crowley (heather.crowley@boem.gov) can advise on appropriate BOEM advisors for your discipline.

Please submit Study Plans to rmpost@alaska.edu as a **single PDF file** by **5:00 PM, Monday, November 23, 2020**.