

and understanding the consequences of such development on coastal institutions and the economy.

Objectives: This study will have similar objectives to the prior history studies:

- to document the strategies and objectives of the companies involved;
- to ascertain the cumulative effects of offshore development on the coastal landscape, and community and family relationships;
- to describe how technology and managerial innovations enabled the development of reservoirs in deeper and deeper water depths; and
- to study how the policies and regulations of the government agencies with responsibilities in state and the federal jurisdictions were developed to explore how these aspects of the story were related and effected each other.

Methods: To collect and transcribe oral histories, develop a text database of transcripts and other relevant materials covering the offshore oil and gas industry and those it has affected during the deepwater era and who have been affected by the industry in that period. To review comparative materials from the North Sea, Gulf of Guinea, and offshore Brazil. To develop detailed analytical papers that will cover prominent themes in the deepwater era history and extend subjects analyzed in History I and II. Proposed analytical papers include:

1. modern history of OCS leasing from the 1962 lease sale to the late-1990s sales;
2. history of digital seismic exploration technology;
3. evolution of offshore production from fixed to floating platforms/structures;
4. a business history case study of how a particular community or segment of the industry experienced the bust of the 1980s and revival of the 1990s-2000s;
5. evolution of the offshore labor force from the 1960s through the 1990s;
6. impacts of the evolving industry on local landscapes; and
7. patterns of community response to the industry and its impacts.

Products: Recorded and transcribed oral histories, technical reports, published papers.

Importance to BOEM: This research addresses several programmatic needs: (1) BOEM is charged by NEPA with documenting the social and economic effects of the industry. The NRC noted that the GOMR's fifty-year history of offshore oil provides a natural laboratory for studying its effects. To "calibrate" this laboratory, the changing dynamics of the industry (such as technological evolution, changes in business practices, changes in financing) must be documented and analyzed; (2) NEPA charges BOEM with assessing cumulative effects of the industry. This history is the commutative effects as well as the current "baseline"; (3) associated with the baseline issue, BOEM the Science Committee and others have requested BOEM to synthesize its socioeconomic research findings. This study will involve a wide range of experts in synthesizing this material; (4) the study will help distinguish the effects of onshore oil from offshore oil, and offshore oil from the OCS; (5) the social and economic effects of the offshore industry are often defined abstractly, in terms of literature on other industries in other regions. This study will serve as a "scoping" vehicle. Effected parties will define the salient social and economic issues in a non-adversarial milieu. It will provide the agency with effective outreach to other Federal, state institutions, communities.

Current Status: Initiation of the Cooperative Agreement and year one research tasks was delayed. However, work is now complete and BOEM and expects a 2015 publication of the study.

Final Report Due: April 2015

Publications: none

Affiliated WWW Sites:

http://www.gomr.BOEM.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/history_louisiana.html [history_louisiana.html](http://www.gomr.BOEM.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/history_louisiana.html)

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