

BOEM Seeks Public Involvement in Preparing an Environmental Assessment for the ION Geophysical Corporation 2012 Seismic Survey on the Alaska Outer Continental Shelf

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed exploratory in-ice two-dimensional marine seismic survey by ION Geophysical Corporation (ION), covering much of the Beaufort Sea Planning Area and part of the Chukchi Sea Planning Area during the fall (October – December) of 2012. As part of BOEM's review, BOEM will prepare an EA specific to the proposed marine seismic survey activities. BOEM is inviting the public to comment on issues that should be considered by BOEM in preparing the EA.

BOEM received ION's 2012 Geological and Geophysical Permit application on March 9, 2012. The application proposes conducting in-ice seismic survey operations throughout much of the Beaufort Sea Planning Area, with specific transect lines and segments within the Chukchi Sea. ION's permit application #12-01 and an associated area coverage map are available for review at: <http://www.boem.gov/BOEM/BOEM-Regions/Alaska-Region/Resource-Evaluation/Alaska-Recent-G-G-Permit-Activities.aspx>.

BOEM is only accepting and considering public comments submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>). The deadline to receive these comments is April 30, 2012 (12:00 midnight, EST). BOEM cautions that before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask BOEM (prominently at the beginning of your submission) to withhold your personal identifying information from public view, BOEM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. BOEM will not consider anonymous comments.