



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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**News Media Contact:**  
Marjorie Weisskohl, 703-787-1304

## **BOEM Chief Environmental Officer to Lead Talks on Offshore Energy and National Ocean Policy at Ocean Science Meeting**

**WASHINGTON** — Alan D. Thornhill, Ph.D., Chief Environmental Officer for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, will participate in two Town Halls at the 2012 Ocean Sciences conference in Salt Lake City on February 20 and 21. Dr. Thornhill will chair a session discussing the critical role that applied science plays in BOEM decisions on conventional and renewable energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf. Bureau oceanographers and biologists will join him for a discussion on opportunities to collaborate on research.

In addition, Dr. Thornhill will join a panel of senior ocean science policy makers and managers from the U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Science Foundation, Florida Atlantic University and the Consortium for Ocean Leadership for a wide-ranging discussion of the role of science in National Ocean Policy.

### **Event 1: Town Hall on National Ocean Policy: The role of science in developing policy**

**WHEN:** Monday, February 20, 2012, from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Salt Palace Convention Center, Room 151 A, B, C, G

**WHO:** BOEM Chief Environmental Officer Alan D. Thornhill, Ph.D. will participate in the panel.

**WHY:** Released by the Obama Administration in January 2012, the draft National Ocean Policy implementation plan is guided by four themes: (1) adopt ecosystem-based management; (2) obtain, use, and share the best science and data; (3) promote efficiency and collaboration; and (4) strengthen regional efforts.

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## **Event 2: Town Hall on funding of applied environmental science at BOEM**

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012, from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Salt Palace Convention Center, Ballroom E

**WHO:** BOEM Chief Environmental Officer Alan D. Thornhill, Ph.D. and scientists from the bureau's Environmental Studies Program will focus on research activities and applications.

**WHY:** The applied nature of BOEM's environmental studies program is unique among federal agencies as research informs BOEM decisions on ocean energy and marine mineral development. The program is multi- and interdisciplinary, and includes physical, chemical and biological oceanography; marine ecology; social sciences; and archaeology.

Additional information about BOEM is available at <http://www.boem.gov/Studies>.

Additional information about the National Ocean Policy is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/policy>.

*The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management manages the exploration and development of the nation's offshore resources. The bureau seeks to balance economic development, energy independence and environmental protection through oil and gas leases, renewable energy development and environmental reviews and studies.*