



Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

Mission

The mission of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is to ensure the safe and environmentally responsible exploration, development, and production of America's offshore energy resources through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement.

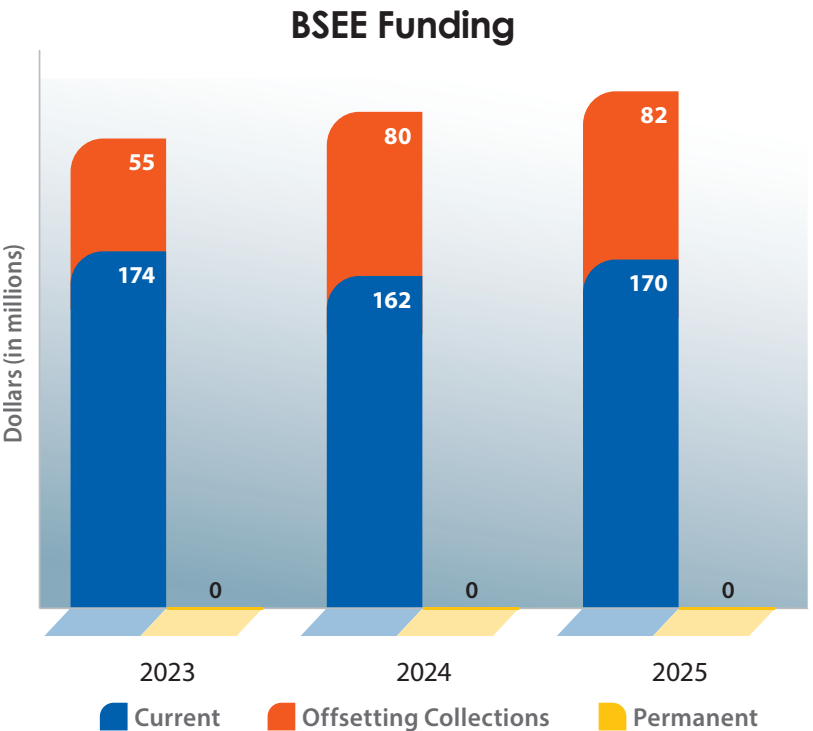
Budget Overview

The 2025 budget request for BSEE is \$252.6 million, \$10.9 million above the 2024 continuing resolution (CR) level, including \$170.4 million in current appropriations and \$82.2 million in offsetting collections from rental receipts, cost recoveries, and inspection fees. BSEE estimates staffing will total 938 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2025, including 125 FTEs that are fully reimbursed from other accounts to provide departmentwide shared services.

Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement

The 2025 budget request includes \$237.5 million for Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement programs, \$10.9 million above the 2024 CR level, consisting of \$155.3 million in appropriated funds, \$32.4 million in offsetting rental receipt and cost recovery collections, and \$49.8 million in inspection fee collections.

Underpinning its regulatory oversight and enforcement mission are BSEE's efforts to drive and support continual improvement in safety, environmental protection, and responsible offshore



resource conservation. BSEE pursues those efforts through data and risk analysis, safety improvement initiatives, research, regulatory development and maintenance, standards development, stakeholder engagement, policy development and oversight, and emerging technology evaluation.

The 2025 request enables BSEE to continue strengthening oversight, regulatory, and research capabilities on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) by building and sustaining staff capabilities. Funds will be used to recruit, train, and retain expert engineers, geoscientists, inspectors, and employees in other disciplines to support the implementation of BSEE's regulatory oversight responsibilities. BSEE will continue outreach and dialogue with stakeholders from academia, industry, nongovernmental organizations, and other governmental agencies to enhance the knowledge base of technical personnel related to innovative technologies, regulatory gaps, real-time monitoring capabilities, and



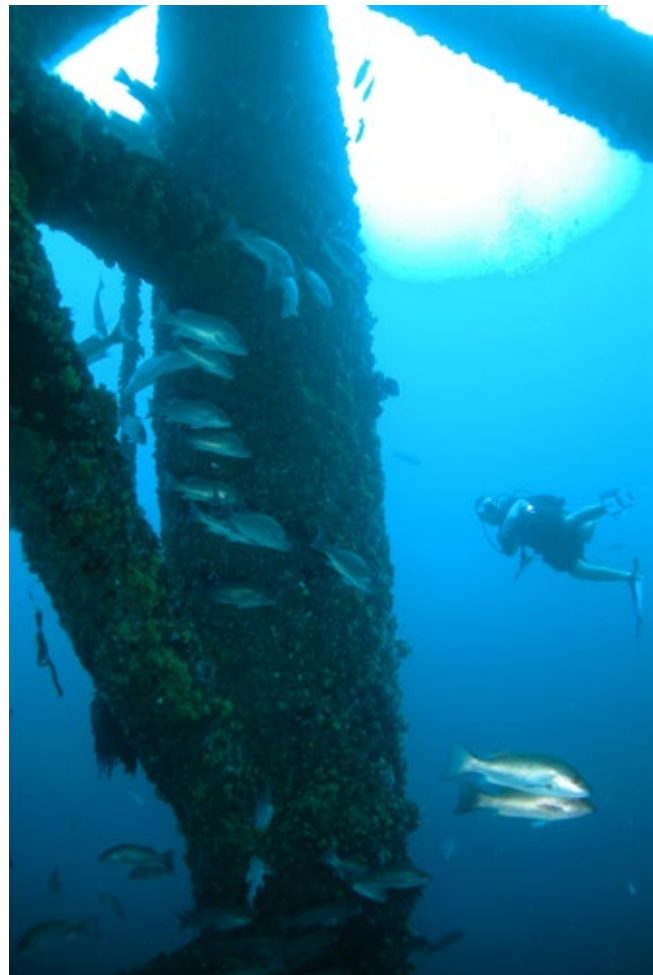
- BSEE consults with Tribes to identify cultural values, religious beliefs, traditional practices, and legal rights of Indigenous peoples potentially affected by energy development on the OCS.
- Each year, BSEE conducts approximately 11,000 inspections for more than 1,400 energy-related facilities and more than 20,000 miles of pipelines in Gulf of Mexico, Pacific coast, and Alaskan waters.
- BSEE operates the largest facility in the United States for testing oil spill response equipment with a variety of crude oils and refined petroleum products under reproducible marine conditions.
- BSEE facilitated the conversion of nearly 600 previously installed platforms in the Gulf of Mexico into artificial reefs through its Rigs-to-Reefs program, which boosts offshore fish habitat and supports coastal communities through expanded fishing, jobs, and tourism opportunities.

risk-based decision making for safety and environmental enforcement.

BSEE's 2025 budget reflects the progress made in the offshore renewable energy industry and anticipated growth and supports the Administration's priority to tackle the climate crisis. The 2025 request proposes a new budget activity—Renewable Energy Operations—to enable timely and rigorous industry plan and permit reviews, create a robust compliance verification and assurance program for new renewable offshore energy infrastructure, and demonstrate BSEE's commitment and leadership in driving safety performance and protecting environmental, cultural, and biological resources on the OCS.

BSEE's 2025 budget request includes \$1.5 million to help establish an offshore carbon sequestration program, including hiring personnel with the necessary technical expertise, developing safety and environmental standards, and establishing applied research needs and requirements to inform safe operational execution. BSEE is continuing to partner with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on the development of regulations to facilitate an effective and environmentally protective strategy for managing carbon sequestration on the OCS.

Unplugged or poorly plugged wells are serious environmental hazards because they provide potential conduits for fluids to migrate between formations and potentially into offshore waters. Strong winds and hurricanes can topple structures



A diver observes sea life beneath an offshore facility.

BSEE Photo.

and wells on the OCS, thus posing additional risks to unplugged wells. Proper decommissioning of orphaned wells and pipelines is essential to reducing the risk of oil spills.

BSEE's 2025 budget request includes \$12.0 million, an increase of \$9.0 million above the 2024 CR level,

to properly plug and abandon orphaned wells on the OCS and properly decommission associated orphaned pipelines and structures. This funding would augment forfeited financial assurances from operators, proceeds from bankruptcy proceedings, and funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to address the most immediate and urgent needs for proper plugging, abandonment, and decommissioning of orphaned wells, pipelines, and structures to reduce the risk of pollution and eliminate safety hazards.

Oil Spill Research

This program supports research on the prevention of and response to oil pollution, as authorized by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The Oil Spill Research program plays a pivotal role by funding applied research to support decision making on the methods and equipment needed to prevent

or mitigate oil spills, a critical component of the offshore permitting process. Located in Leonardo, NJ, the Ohmsett testing facility is the only one of its kind in North America, providing full-scale equipment and methodology testing for offshore spills in a safe, controlled environment. Funds are used to sponsor the testing of new equipment and methods and to support Ohmsett testing and training activities.

The 2025 budget proposes \$15.1 million for Oil Spill Research, equal to the 2024 CR amount. As renewable energy development from offshore wind and marine hydrokinetic energy accelerates, BSEE will continue to meet its oversight and safety responsibilities. The Bureau's Oil Spill Preparedness Program will help ensure that offshore renewable energy operations are conducted in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. The request



**BSEE regulates
the Offshore Energy Industry
by Promoting Safety, Protecting the Environment,
and Conserving Resources.**



will also help BSEE strengthen oil spill response capabilities, particularly in deepwater and Arctic environments.

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs of \$5.6 million are fully funded. The request also includes \$8.1 million for baseline capacity, which reflects the incremental amount needed to cover the fixed costs associated with mission operations in 2024. This request in combination with the 2025 fixed costs will allow BSEE to meet must-pay requirements without affecting program activities.



Tropical fish use offshore infrastructure to find food and shelter.

BSEE Photo.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2025 Request with 2024 CR

	2024 CR		2025 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement.....	778	146,960	790	155,295	+12	+8,335
Oil Spill Research	23	15,099	23	15,099	0	0
Subtotal, Current.....	801	162,059	813	170,394	+12	+8,335
Offsetting Collections	0	79,662	0	82,190	0	+2,528
Allocation and Reimbursable						
Reimbursable.....	125	0	125	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable	125	0	125	0	0	0
TOTAL, BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT (w/oc)	926	241,721	938	252,584	+12	+10,863

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Environmental Enforcement				
Appropriation	3,690	3,690	5,390	+1,700
Offsetting Collections	2,168	2,168	2,168	0
Subtotal, Environmental Enforcement	5,858	5,858	7,558	+1,700
Operations, Safety and Regulation				
Appropriation	124,101	111,784	95,577	-16,207
Offsetting Collections	42,842	67,895	69,007	+1,112
Subtotal, Operations, Safety and Regulation ..	166,943	179,679	164,584	-15,095
Administrative Operations				
Appropriation	11,663	11,663	10,937	-726
Offsetting Collections	7,629	7,629	8,838	+1,209
Subtotal, Administrative Operations	19,292	19,292	19,775	+483
Executive Direction				
Appropriation	16,823	16,823	18,841	+2,018
Offsetting Collections	1,970	1,970	2,177	+207
Subtotal, Executive Direction	18,793	18,793	21,018	+2,225
Offshore Decommissioning				
Appropriation	3,000	3,000	12,000	+9,000
Subtotal, Offshore Decommissioning	3,000	3,000	12,000	+9,000
Renewable Energy Operations				
Appropriation	0	0	12,550	+12,550
Subtotal, Renewable Energy Operations	0	0	12,550	+12,550
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o oc)	159,277	146,960	155,295	+8,335
Total Offsetting Collections	54,609	79,662	82,190	+2,528
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ oc)	213,886	226,622	237,485	+10,863

APPROPRIATION: Oil Spill Research

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	15,099	15,099	15,099	0

