

DEEP SEABED MINING

Industry Asked, BOEM Delivered – Expanded Area

BOEM has cut roughly a third of its workforce – over 400 positions – while fast-tracking the first-ever commercial deep sea mineral lease sale in U.S. history.

After reviewing over 76,000 comments, the vast majority opposing DSM, BOEM doubled the RFI area – ensuring that every area industry asked for was included:

- “BOEM received indications of interest from several other companies in response to the RFI. Several indications of interest identified preferences for areas in and around the RFI Area and for expanding the area of consideration to the southwest of the RFI Area... Collectively, the indications of interest are entirely encompassed by the available acreage/blocks in the Area ID recommendation.” - Page 3, BOEM Agency ID Memo

Mapping of American Samoa Needs to Be Done in Consultation With Our Scientists, and The Results Shared with Our Communities!

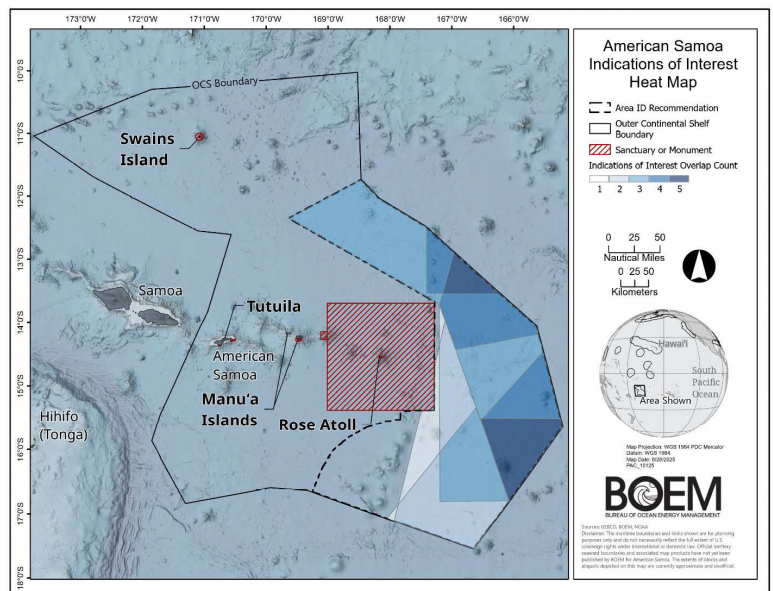


Figure 1: Indications of Interest Heat Map. The highest priority areas are shown as dark blue, lower priority areas shown in lighter shades of blue, and the lowest priority area shown in white.

Industry Asked, BOEM Answered - Streamlined Permits

- January 22, 2026:
 - Oliver Gunasekara, Founder and then-CEO of Impossible Metals: “Congress should streamline and clarify the permitting process.”¹
- January 27, 2026:
 - Megan Carr, the associate director of strategic resources at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, or BOEM, said a host of agencies along with the National Security Council and National Energy Dominance Council have crafted a plan to streamline permitting of offshore mining.²
 - “What an exciting time to know that within the next few years, under this administration, there will be companies pulling deep-sea nodules out of the ocean and bringing them to the U.S.,” Erik Noble, *Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere at NOAA*³.

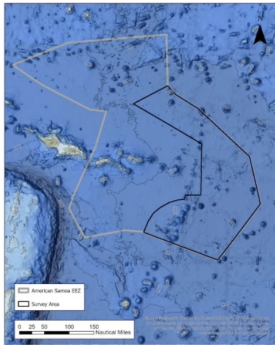
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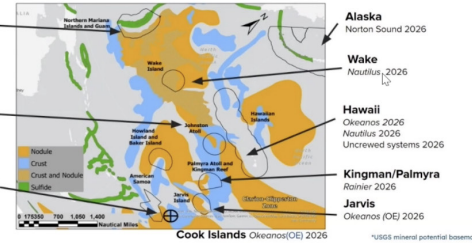


Deep Sea Science Needs To Be Designed By and For American Samoans

NOAA's Mapping Activities in support of the Mapping Plan



NOAA is the lead agency for seabed mapping
American Samoa/U.S. Outer Continental Shelf in the Pacific identified as the highest priority



American Samoans should understand who is profiting from government contracts to make decisions that affect us. We need to see work plans, and the outputs, from Port and Technology assessments.

76,000 voices said no. BOEM said yes anyway. The fight is not over — but the time to act is now.

Congresswoman Aumua Amata has spoken out against deep sea mining in committee. Now ask her to go further: demand she co-sponsor H.R. 664, the American Seabed Protection Act, and H.R. 663, the International Seabed Protection Act — moratorium bills introduced by Rep. Ed Case of Hawaii that would halt deep sea mining until the science and regulations are in place to protect our ocean.

Contact Congresswoman Amata's office:
Phone: 202-225-8577
Website: radewagen.house.gov

Ongoing/Planned U.S. Pacific Seabed Mineral-Related Studies

American Samoa Geological Mapping and Baseline Environmental Surveys

- Collaborating with NOAA and USGS on NOAA-funded multibeam, AUV imaging, and box coring survey. Survey work is complete; data is being processed.
- NOAA-funded deepwater ROV surveys of seamount and abyssal habitats offshore American Samoa. Anticipated NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* expedition in Summer/Fall 2026.

Socioeconomic Description and Analysis of Pacific Island Fisheries

- Partner with NOAA NMFS to summarize and analyze existing information on non-commercial fisheries in the U.S. Pacific Islands. (In procurement)
- Tuna Contaminants, Habitat, Movements, and Prey (Socioeconomic Description and Analysis of Pacific Island Fisheries)
- Partner with NOAA NMFS to describe micronesian communities through historical and new sampling; collect and analyze tissue samples from tuna and other species to establish current baseline levels of contaminants. (Awarded May 2026)

Sediment Plumes and Potential Environmental Impacts

- Initiating a sediment plume study program with several component pilot efforts including baseline characterization of sediment properties offshore American Samoa. Anticipate expanding the effort in FY2027. (In procurement)

Sea Turtle Distribution

- Partner with NOAA NMFS to expand sea turtle tagging efforts. (In procurement)

Maritime Heritage of the U.S. Pacific Islands

- Led by ECU to acquire and synthesize archival data on submerged and terrestrial archaeological resources and traditional cultural properties that could be affected by offshore leading activities. DOI terminated the study in Fall 2025. BOEM is in discussion about completing key aspects of the original study.

American Samoa Ports Assessment

- Assess near-term ports capabilities to support prospective seabed mineral development. (Awarded to Woolpert/Moffatt & Nichol)

Technology Assessment

- Current and future deep-sea mining-related exploration and extraction technology. (Awarded to MITRE Corporation)



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- <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/II/II06/20260122/118830/HHRG-119-II06-Wstate-GunasekaraO-20260122.pdf>
- <https://accf.org/trump-official-deep-sea-mining-just-years-away/>
- <https://accf.org/trump-official-deep-sea-mining-just-years-away/>