

Comments on Proposed Information Collection - Atlantic Offshore Wind  
Reference: 1010-New

I am the former senior statistician for MMS. I worked for the Resource Evaluation and Economics Divisions.

**Survey Questions:**

The location of residence (primary or secondary) should be given as a Zip Code. The Zip Code then determines City, State, and distance to beach. There is no need for the respondent to guess what the distance is. Proper use of Geographic Information System (GIS) will specify City, State, and distance to beach. The Leasing Division of BOEM has expertise in GIS.

On the use of simulation of views of wind turbines. Offshore wind farms is a mature technology. A simple google image search shows a variety of real photos of winds farms off Denmark and the UK. Consider the use of real pictures in place of simulated offshore wind turbines.

On the hypothetical situation question about oil and tar balls on the beach. The geology of the Atlantic OCS indicates it is a natural gas province. For example in '70s there was a natural gas discovery off the coast of Atlantic City, NJ. Natural gas production accidents don't yield oil and tar balls. A better hypothetical would be beach closures from hurricanes and nor'easters. The respondents should be familiar with these kinds of events.

There is a question asking for personal annual income from working. There are many who have considerable income without working. Is it the intent not to capture this information? They have the time and the resources to be frequent ocean beach users.

**Statistical Design:**

The stratum sample sizes for the survey gives the appearance of being arbitrary. Consider that New Jersey & Delaware has a stratum of population of 8.8 million with a sample size of 200 participants. That works out to 22.73 participants per million. Compare to Pennsylvania 10.4 million population with 150 participants which is 14.42 participants per million. So citizens of Delaware are about 50% more likely to be selected as compared to Pennsylvania citizens. For full disclosure the University of Delaware is conducting the survey and I am a resident of Pennsylvania who is also a property owner in New Jersey. Further some one in Memphis, TN is part of the survey universe, however someone living in Vermont is excluded. I have family members who live in Vermont and frequently visits the Jersey Shore.

A good property of selected stratum is to have homogeneity within the stratum ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratified\\_sampling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratified_sampling)). The use of New York state as a stratum fails this principal. There is Long Island which is the beach community. New York City a major city with near by ocean beaches. Up state New York has ocean beaches which are more distant. Does not make sense to put Hampton's and Buffalo in the same stratum!

The total sample size for the participants of 1400 is reasonable for obtaining summary insights. The data collection includes attributes such as distance to the beach, education, number of children, employment status and income. If this survey has a goal of obtaining insights at this kind of granular level then the sample size will need to be adjusted to meet these goals.

The statistical survey design should follow Dillman's Tailored Design Method ([http://www.amazon.com/Internet-Phone-Mail-Mixed-Mode-Surveys/dp/1118456149/ref=dp\\_ob\\_title\\_bk](http://www.amazon.com/Internet-Phone-Mail-Mixed-Mode-Surveys/dp/1118456149/ref=dp_ob_title_bk)). This is the approach that being used by BOEM in Alaska in the Arctic Communities Survey.

### **Recommendations:**

- Establish clear goals for the Information Collection, which then drives the design.
- Use Dillman's Tailored Design Method.
- Create stratum that are approximately homogeneous. Suggested stratum: Near Ocean Beaches (SC coast, Outer Banks, Tidewater VA, Delmarva, Jersey shore, Long Island, Rhode Island, Cape Cod), Metro Areas (Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, Boston metro areas), Inland (Other parts of SC, NC, VA, MD, Central PA, NJ, CT, MA), Distant Areas (OH, WV, TN, KY, Western PA, Upstate NY, VT, NH).
- Use Zip Codes for location of respondents.
- Publish the raw data so it can be independently analyzed.

Ted D. Tupper  
PO Box 445  
Summerdale, PA 17093

<http://tedspublicpolicy.weebly.com/index.html>