

**National Marine Fisheries Service
Pacific Islands Regional Office**



**ADDENDUM - REPORT TO THE 205th
WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING**

Directorate

On June 16, 2025, the Bureau of Energy Management (BOEM) published a [Request for Information](#) in response to an unsolicited request that Outer Continental Shelf minerals be offered for lease in an area offshore American Samoa. The comment period closed on July 16, 2025 and BOEM is now moving ahead in the leasing process to undergo environmental review of proposed commercial leases for critical minerals in the form of an environmental assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. For more information on this leasing process, see the [BOEM website](#).

On November 12, 2025, BOEM published a [Request for Information](#) for commercial leasing of deepsea mining off the CNMI and Guam with a 30-day public comment period ending on December 12. On November 15, 2025, the Governors of CNMI and Guam sent a [joint response requesting a 120 day extension to the public comment period](#).

On the high seas, [National Ocean Service \(NOS\)](#) has the authority to issue exploration licences and recovery permits, with several companies indicating applications. PIRO and PIFSC remain closely engaged with both BOEM and NOS.