

Technical Announcement

U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

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Contact: Caryl Fagot
(504) 736-2590

Long-Term Monitoring at the East and West Flower Garden Banks, 2004-2008 Volume I: Technical Report and Volume II: Appendices

OCS Study BOEMRE 2010-052 and 2010-053

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Long-Term Monitoring at the East and West Flower Garden Banks, 2004-2008, Volume I: Technical Report and Volume II: Appendices*.

The Flower Garden Banks, located 110 miles from shore in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico, form part of a discontinuous arc of reef environments along the edge of the Outer Continental Shelf. These coral reef banks are the largest charted calcareous banks in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico and are the northernmost coral reefs on the continental shelf of North America.

The BOEM has conducted a program of protective activities at the Flower Garden Banks since 1973. Annual monitoring has been done since 1988 at the East and West Flower Garden Banks to ensure that the established protective measures continue to be effective. Monitoring included assessment of benthic cover, coral accretion, lateral growth, coral health, fish communities, urchin and lobster densities, and water quality.

Coral cover has consistently remained above 50 percent at the Flower Garden Banks. The community has recovered from recent impacts by Hurricanes Rita and Ike and outbreaks of coral disease. Evidence continues to support the contention that BOEM's protective measures prevent potential impacts from oil and gas activities.

This report is available only in compact disc format from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, at a charge of \$15.00, by referencing OCS Study BOEMRE 2010-052 and 2010-053. The report may be downloaded from the BOEM website through the [Environmental Studies Program Information System \(ESPIS\)](#). You will be able to obtain this report also from the National Technical Information Service in the near future. Here are the addresses. You may also inspect copies at selected Federal Depository Libraries.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
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National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia 22161

1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
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