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MMS AWARDS OVER \$1 MILLION TO LSU'S
CENTER FOR COASTAL, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
(#30050)

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) announced today that the nation's first Coastal Marine Institute (CMI), Louisiana State University's Center for Coastal, Energy and Environmental Resources has received grant for various studies totalling \$1,054,206. In strengthening its environmental, social, and economic studies programs, MMS established the CMI program to work directly with those states where Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) activities take place.

"Last November, MMS, the State of Louisiana and LSU decided to pool their resources to improve the way that important environmental, social, and economic issues associated with offshore development are identified," said MMS Director Tom Fry. Fry noted that the scientific data collected in this cooperative effort would provide valuable information to federal and State resources managers. "Offshore energy resources are valuable national assets," said Fry. "We are determined that decisions made about developing these assets will be based upon good, credible science, which results from these kind of research partnerships."

MMS officials said this 5-year CMI Cooperative Agreement could be worth up to \$20 million in federal and State funds. To start the matching funds program, Louisiana and MMS each contributed \$2 million in 1993. This year, each will contribute over \$1 million.

Studies that will be funded this year include: "Development of Bioremediation for Oil Spill Cleanup in Coastal Wetlands," "Coastal Marine Environmental Modeling," and "Development and Characterization of Sea Anemones as Bioindicators of Offshore Resource Exploitation and Environmental Impact."

MMS administers federal offshore mineral programs and manages the federal mineral royalty program. MMS is committed to achieving the appropriate balance between protecting the environment and providing opportunities for the discovery and recovery of critical energy and mineral resources.

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