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MMS AWARDS \$110,660 CONTRACT  
TO UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS (40039)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) announced today that a \$110,660 contract has been awarded to the University of Alaska at Fairbanks (UAF) under the Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) program. To date, MMS and UAF have each contributed nearly \$1 million to fund the CMI program.

"MMS is pleased to continue this partnership with the state of Alaska," said MMS Director Tom Fry. "Scientific data collected through cooperative efforts like the CMI program provide valuable information to federal and state resource managers on which to base decisions about natural gas and oil activities.

"This most recent contract will provide for a 2-year study on water circulation patterns in the central Chukchi Sea," said Fry. "The results will generate needed information for applying the oil-spill risk assessment model."

The MMS/UAF study will be complemented by simultaneous field studies sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, and the Japan Marine Science and Technology Center, Fry said. The collaborating researchers will collect similar oceanic measurements from Bering Strait, Barrow Canyon, and Herald/Hope Sea Valley.

MMS administers federal offshore mineral programs and manages the federal mineral royalty program.

The MMS Environmental Studies Program has funded more than \$600 million in scientific research and marine habitat studies since 1974. More than 90 percent of these studies are performed under cooperative agreements with state and federal research organizations, academic institutions, and private industry.

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Contract to University of Alaska, Fairbanks (#40039)