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MMS AWARDS \$121,799
TO UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, ANCHORAGE (#40071)

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has awarded \$121,799 to the University of Alaska, Anchorage, Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) to update and enhance an existing socioeconomic modeling system, MMS officials announced today. This award brings MMS funding for ISER to \$600,892 to date.

ISER developed the original socioeconomic modeling system, known as the Rural Alaska Model (RAM), for MMS under a previous project. Under this funding, ISER will update Bureau of Census data, and provide additional training in the use of RAM -- a significant component of the services to be acquired.

"This project will provide the most current data, and additional training in socioeconomic analysis," said MMS Acting Director Cynthia Quarterman, "so that MMS can continue to develop the most accurate environmental impact statements and environmental assessments possible.

"The completion of this one-year project, will provide MMS with improved efficiency and operations in the area of socioeconomic analysis," Quarterman said.

"The model also allows for the monitoring of environmental consequences of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) activities, should such a need occur. This is consistent with MMS' responsibilities under the OCS Lands Act and the National Environmental Policy Act," Quarterman added.

MMS administers the federal offshore minerals programs and manages the mineral royalty collection program for federal and Indian lands.

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