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CONTACT: Lee Scurry

(202) 208-3983
Barney Congdon
(504) 736-2595

MMS EXTENDS AGREEMENT WITH LOUISIANA TO STUDY SAND RESOURCES

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) awarded an additional \$32,637 to the Louisiana State University (LSU), Coastal Studies Institute to study sand resources for coastal restoration purposes, MMS officials announced today.

"In previous years, cooperative research efforts with Louisiana have produced outstanding results," said MMS Acting Director Cynthia Quarterman. "Extending this project strengthens that partnership and allows us to increase our knowledge about sand extraction and successful restoration.

"In Louisiana, research has focused on Ship Shoal, a large sand source on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore Louisiana, as a source of material for the restoration of the state's barrier islands," she said. "This funding will provide for the development of two Ship Shoal demonstration projects and assessing the feasibility of using OCS sand resources to mitigate continuing erosion on Isles Dernieres and Fourchon Beach, east of Grand Isle."

Including these funds, MMS has provided \$111,553 to the LSU Coastal Studies Institute toward the study of Ship Shoal since 1992. Projects funded are:

- In 1992, a geological assessment and feasibility evaluation was conducted of Ship Shoal. The study examined geological, engineering, economic and physical environmental aspects of the resource.
- In 1993, efforts focused on identifying the most promising sites on the shoal for sand removal, as well as detailed analysis of dredging technology and sand removal procedures.
- In 1994, the MMS Environmental Studies Program began funding LSU to perform a wave climate modelling project and a physical oceanographic evaluation pertinent to possible extraction of

portions of the Ship Shoal sand resource.

Similar efforts to evaluate marine mineral resources -- including other nonenergy minerals -- in federal waters have been initiated with other states in the Gulf of Mexico and on the East Coast.

The MMS Office of International Activities and Marine Minerals (INTERMAR) is responsible for the management of federal OCS sand and other nonenergy mineral resources. For more information contact INTERMAR at (703) 787-1300.

MMS is the federal agency that manages and regulates the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, and collects and disburses revenues from offshore federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on federal and Indian lands.

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