

FOR RELEASE: April 11, 1995

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MMS RELEASES ATLANTIC SAND AND GRAVEL MAPS

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) announced today that a set of four maps depicting sand and gravel deposits on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and an accompanying report have been published and are available from the agency.

Coastal erosion affects all 30 coastal states and all U.S. island territories. OCS sand and gravel is the preferable, longer-term and ultimately less expensive solution for beach and wetlands restoration and onshore public works projects. Offshore resources can be used to help solve onshore problems while maintaining high environmental standards and sensitivity to the ecosystem. These maps will provide valuable information for pinpointing potential sources of sand on the Atlantic coast.

The maps are full-color and at a scale of 1:1,000,000; they show grain size (from gravel to silt) and basic mineralogy (quartz and calcium carbonate content). The report describes the four map areas and includes estimates of sand and gravel volumes for each area. The maps were completed by MMS' Marine Minerals

Program in cooperation with 13 of 14 East Coast States.

Copies of Sand and Gravel Maps of the Atlantic Continental Shelf with Explanatory Text are available free of charge by writing, faxing or calling MMS at: 381 Elden St., MS 4810, Herndon, VA 22070-4817, Ph: (703) 787-1080, Fax: (703) 787-1284. Specify: OCS Monograph 93-0037.

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

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