

FOR RELEASE: June 8, 1995

CONTACT: Lee Scurry
(202) 208-3983
Barney Congdon
(504) 736-2595

MMS CONTINUES AGREEMENT WITH ALABAMA TOWARD RESTORATION OF DAUPHIN ISLAND

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) awarded \$57,500 to the University of Alabama to develop a demonstration project using offshore sand resources for restoration of Dauphin Island, MMS officials announced today.

"This funding will provide for the first year of a possible three-year cooperative study to determine the feasibility of restoring the severely eroding Dauphin Island by using sand from federal waters," said MMS Director Cynthia Quarterman.

The study will culminate in scientific and engineering recommendations for island restoration. Sedimentary and erosional regimes will be used to model and analyze environmental conditions at the offshore resource site, along island beaches and across nearshore.

"Since 1991, three cooperative studies have been completed with Alabama," said Quarterman. "Results have led to selection of a promising resource site located 4 to 8 miles off the southeast coast of Dauphin Island. Analyses indicate that about 30 million cubic yards of sand are present, and it's clean and suitable for restoration."

Including these funds, MMS has provided more than \$175,000 to Alabama since 1991 for the study of offshore sand resources and coastal restoration needs. Under the cooperative agreements, Alabama has matched these funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Similar efforts to evaluate marine mineral resources, including other non-energy minerals, in federal waters have been initiated with other states in the Gulf of Mexico and on the East Coast. MMS's Office of International Activities and Marine Minerals (INTERMAR) is responsible for managing sand and other non-energy mineral resources in federal waters on the Outer Continental Shelf. For more information contact INTERMAR at (703) 787-1300.

MMS is the federal agency that manages the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, and collects and disburses about \$4 billion yearly in revenues from offshore federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on federal and Indian lands.

--MMS--