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MMS AND SOUTH CAROLINA TO STUDY OFFSHORE
SAND RESOURCES FOR BEACH RESTORATION

The U.S Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) awarded \$70,450 to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division, MMS officials announced today. The money funds an effort to identify sand resources in federal waters more than 3 miles offshore that may be useful for beach restoration projects being planned along the State's coastline. Other mineral resources and critical biological areas that could be affected by such projects are also being evaluated, as are sites previously used to borrow sand.

"The MMS is working closely with coastal states to make federal sand resources available to restore and protect their beaches," said MMS Director Cynthia Quarterman. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with South Carolina in promoting good science and providing the resources necessary to help restore the state's eroding coastlines."

Quarterman said that during the next year the federal/state task force on offshore resources will continue mapping efforts off Folly Beach and Edisto Island to identify and evaluate sources of beach compatible sand for use on these erosional beaches. The recovery of sites previously used to borrow sand will also be evaluated.

Similar efforts to evaluate offshore sources of sand and gravel as well as other non-energy minerals in federal waters have been initiated with nine other states on the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico, according to Quarterman.

The MMS is the federal agency that manages the Nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the OCS, 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.

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