



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

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**News Desk Alert:**

**Lease Sale 168 Sets All Time Western Gulf of Mexico Record  
for Number of Bids and Number of Tracts Bid On**

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service announced at 10 a.m. today that it has received 1,224 bids on 804 tracts offered in the Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 168.

**Comparative Western Lease Sales**

Sale 161	September 25, 1996	929 bids on 617 tracts
Sale 74	August 24, 1983	773 bids on 436 tracts
Sale 122	August 27, 1989	676 bids on 488 tracts
Sale 84	July 18, 1984	593 bids on 402 tracts
Sale 112	August 12, 1987	519 bids on 367 tracts
Sale 125	August 22, 1990	465 bids on 307 tracts

Lease Sale 168 will take place tomorrow, August 27, 1997, at 9 a.m. at the Grand Ball Room, Royal Sonesta Hotel, 300 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

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

**-MMS-GOM-**

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