



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Office of Public Affairs

NEWS RELEASE

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Louisiana Offshore Oil and Gas Pioneers Exhibit Comes to Morgan City

The rich history of offshore oil and gas exploration and development will be showcased in an exhibit opening on July 15th at the St. Mary Parish Culture and Heritage Center in Morgan City. The exhibit chronicles the story of the "Pioneers in the Louisiana Offshore Oil & Gas Industry" using artifacts from the early years, memorabilia, photographs, paintings, and most important, the words of the people themselves – more than 400 precious transcripts.

Born and cultivated in the coastal regions of Louisiana less than 60 years ago, the offshore petroleum industry is of global proportions today. The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service is documenting this remarkable history through the eyes of the people who built it, worked it, and lived with it. This exhibit is just a sampling of MMS' ongoing research effort "The Offshore Oil Oral History Project" and includes transcripts of interviews and oral histories, photographs, academic papers and reports. The project's interim reports are available through MMS.

Researchers from the University of Arizona and Mind's Eye Productions created the traveling exhibit. "Pioneers in the Louisiana Oil & Gas Industry" will be in Morgan City through September 5th and is hosted by the Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival and Artists Guild Unlimited.

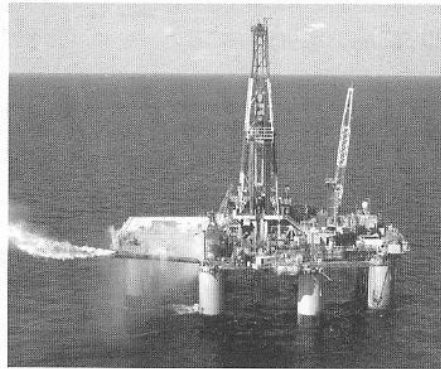
MMS, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, oversees 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, managing offshore energy and minerals while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments through advanced science and technology research. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and 21 percent of natural gas produced domestically, and sand used for coastal restoration. MMS collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands, with Fiscal Year 2004 disbursements of approximately \$8 billion and more than \$143 billion since 1982. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which pays for cooperative conservation, grants to states, and Federal land acquisition, gets nearly \$1 billion a year.

"Pioneers in the Louisiana Offshore Oil & Gas Industry"

A traveling exhibit on display July 15 - September 5, 2005
at the St. Mary Parish Culture and Heritage Center

hosted by

The Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival and Artists Guild Unlimited



The Gulf of Mexico offshore oil and gas industry was born off the coast of Louisiana in the 1940s. In 2001 the U.S. Minerals Management Service Environmental Studies Program funded the study, "History of Offshore Oil Development in the Gulf of Mexico" to explore the history and evolution of this industry and the people and communities where it was born. Researchers from the University of Arizona teamed up with a local firm, Mind's Eye Productions, to create a traveling exhibit, "Pioneers in the Louisiana Offshore Oil & Gas Industry" which helps tell the story of the offshore oil and gas industry.

Please join us for an Opening Reception on
Friday, July 15, 2005
5:00 - 7:00 PM

St. Mary Parish Culture and Heritage Center
201 Everett Street • Morgan City, Louisiana

EVERETT STREET GALLERY
Wednesday - Friday, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

MMS Main Website: www.mms.gov
Gulf of Mexico Website: www.gomr.mms.gov

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