



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Protection of Subsistence Lifestyle Focus of MMS Beaufort Sea Lease Sale 195

ANCHORAGE-The Minerals Management Service is holding their ninth federal offshore lease sale for the Alaska Beaufort Sea area. Although this area continues to be of interest to the oil and gas industry, MMS is sensitive to the concerns of subsistence users and will ensure that any exploration and development in the Arctic will not adversely impact their subsistence lifestyle.

MMS will open bids for leases in federal OCS Sale 195 beginning at 9 a.m. MMS Regional Director John Goll will announce the results of the sale immediately after the bid reading. Mr. Goll will be available for interviews immediately after the sale.

What: Beaufort Sea Lease Sale 195

When: 9 a.m., Wednesday, March 30, 2005

Where: Wilda Marston Theatre, Loussac Library, 3600 Denali Street in Anchorage, AK.

The sale area extends from the Canadian border on the east to near Barrow on the west, and includes approximately 1,792 whole or partial blocks that encompass about 9.4 million acres offshore Alaska's northern coast in the Beaufort Sea. The sale includes a package of economic incentives, in addition to special requirements for safeguarding the bowhead whale subsistence hunt in the area. Sale 195 is the second sale in the federal portion of the Beaufort Sea since 1998. The State of Alaska holds annual sales in State waters. For more information about the sale, visit mms.gov/alaska.

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 23 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, receives nearly \$1 billion a year.

Additionally, the State of Alaska receives 27% of all revenues generated as a result of federal leases that lie within 3-to-6 miles offshore the Alaska coast, and 50% of this money goes into the Alaska Permanent Fund Account.

MMS Main Website: www.mms.gov

MMS: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America