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Fidelity of Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) to Petroleum Platforms and Artificial Reefs in the Northern Gulf of Mexico: Final Report
[OCS Study MMS 2006-005](#)

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Fidelity of Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) to Petroleum Platforms and Artificial Reefs in the Northern Gulf of Mexico: Final Report*.

This report presents results of a study that evaluated the site fidelity and diel movement patterns of red snapper tagged with acoustic transmitters and released at several different platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. In May 2003, 125 red snapper were captured with hook and line at several platforms in a 35-km² area 50 km south of Port Fourchon, Louisiana. Individually coded acoustic pingers were surgically implanted into each fish. The presence of individual snapper was recorded with omnidirectional acoustic receivers attached to seven platforms and to one artificial reef (a toppled platform). Red snapper exhibited little movement between platforms in the study area. High initial fidelity to release locations subsequently decreased over time. This result differs from previous studies on red snapper fidelity that reported high fidelity over longer time spans. Red snapper recaptured outside of the study area showed little uniform directional movement. Other analysis showed a diel pattern of movement away from structures at night, most likely for offsite foraging.

This report is available only in compact disc format from the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, at a charge of \$15.00, by referencing OCS Study MMS 2006-005. The report may be downloaded from the MMS website through the [Environmental Studies Program Information System \(ESPIS\)](#). You will be able to obtain this report also from the National Technical Information Service in the near future. Here are the addresses. You may also inspect copies at selected Federal Depository Libraries.

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