

# Technical Announcement

MMS

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

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## ***Incorporation of Gulf of Mexico Benthic Survey Data into the Ocean Biogeographic Information System***

### **OCS Study MMS 2007-030**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Incorporation of Gulf of Mexico Benthic Survey Data into the Ocean Biogeographic Information System*.

The MMS has sponsored primary biological research in the Gulf of Mexico for over 30 years. The information accumulated has been stored in government reports and data archived with the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC). This project transferred four datasets of major MMS studies into a modern digital database format, the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), a part of the Census of Marine Life program. The four datasets transferred were (1) the published results of deep sampling by W.E. Pequegnat, (2) the Northern Gulf of Mexico Continental Shelf study, (3) the South Texas OCS study, and (4) the Southwest Florida Benthic Community study.

This project serves as a pilot study and instruction guide for extracting NODC data and incorporating MMS biological data into OBIS. The four datasets represent the full range of archival data and associated problems that anyone attempting transfer may encounter. This report details project activity and contains elements of a “users manual” that can aid in the transfer of MMS and other archival datasets describing the distribution of marine species. The report contains a brief discussion of how benthic data are used to serve as a guide in deciding what data should be transferred.

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 2007-030. 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.

Minerals Management Service  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Technical Information Service

Public Information Office (MS 5034)  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394  
Telephone requests may be placed at  
(504) 736-2519, 1-800-200-GULF, or  
FAX: (504) 736-2620

5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, Virginia 22161  
(703) 487-4650 or FAX: (703) 321-8547  
Rush Orders: 1-800-336-4700

**MMS Main Website: [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)**  
**Gulf of Mexico Website: [www.gomr.mms.gov](http://www.gomr.mms.gov)**