

Technical Announcement

MMS

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

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Platform Debris Fields Associated with the Blue Dolphin (Buccaneer) Gas and Oil Field Artificial Reef Sites Offshore Freeport, Texas: Extent, Composition, and Biological Utilization

[OCS Study MMS 2008-048](#)

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Platform Debris Fields Associated with the Blue Dolphin (Buccaneer) Gas and Oil Field Artificial Reef Sites offshore Freeport, Texas: Extent, Composition, and Biological Utilization*.

This report presents results of a study that documented the extent, composition, and reef value of debris fields around two sets of production and quarters platforms (GA-288A, AQ; GA-296B, BQ) in the Blue Dolphin Gas and Oil Field (formerly the Buccaneer Gas and Oil Field) that were partially removed and “reefed” in place in August 2003. These sites are now maintained as artificial reefs. These platforms had been in place since the 1960’s, and, because the sites were designated as artificial reefs, the seafloor at these locations was not “cleaned up” when the platforms were partially removed. The debris piles around the two platform complex areas each covered about 5,300 m² in 2005 and each had a maximum vertical relief of about 6 m. Outside these piles, the seafloor was relatively clean; i.e., very little, if any, material was located outside a radius of about 150 m. The total fish populations at these two sites were evaluated using acoustic techniques in 2004. The dominant species included red snapper, Atlantic spadefish, blue runner, and sheepshead. These species were among the dominants when the platforms were standing.

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 2008-048. 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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