

Technical Announcement

MMS

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

Date: September, 2009

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Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)-Related Pipelines and Navigation Canals in the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico Relative Impacts on Wetland Habitats and Effectiveness of Mitigation

OCS Study MMS 2009-048

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)-Related Pipelines and Navigation Canals in the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico: Relative Impacts on Wetland Habitats and Effectiveness of Mitigation*.

This report presents an analysis of the impacts of OCS-related pipelines and navigation canals on the wetland habitats of the Central and Western Gulf coasts and on the effectiveness of mitigation techniques. The impacts were greatest in Louisiana where the locations of the OCS-related pipelines and canals were associated with enhanced landloss, suggesting that they contributed to the loss. However, the analysis was not able to disassociate the trends uniquely related to canal or pipeline impacts from the larger, regional trends related to a host of other contributing variables. Additionally, temporal analysis revealed that the landloss decreased over time.

Although pipeline impacts can be severe, they can be greatly minimized or avoided with proper application of mitigation techniques; this is true even for impacts from flotation canals. Given the direct, uncontrollable impacts of a functioning navigation canal (for example, saltwater intrusion), the key to mitigating additional impacts is bank stabilization, and where possible, beneficial use of dredged material from maintenance dredging activities to create wetland or upland habitats.

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 2009-048. 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.

Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

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