

Technical Announcement

MMS

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

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Contact: Caryl Fagot
(504) 736-2590

Evaluation of Oil and Gas Platforms on the Louisiana Continental Shelf for Organisms with Biotechnology Potential

OCS Study MMS 2009-059

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Evaluation of Oil and Gas Platforms on the Louisiana Continental Shelf for Organisms with Biotechnology Potential*.

The study was initiated to study some groups of organisms common to Gulf of Mexico oil and gas platforms that show potential for biotechnology applications. These groups included bacteria, particularly members of the Class Actinobacteria, that have yielded numerous bioactive compounds valued as a source of pharmaceuticals and enzymes; marine algae that provide a range of natural products from agar to pharmaceuticals; benthic foraminiferans, especially agglutinated wall species; byssate molluscs that have potential in the production of bioadhesives for many uses from transdermal drug delivery systems to surgical adhesives; and bryozoans, particularly *Bugula neritina*, the only source of bryostatin, a drug used in cancer treatment.

The first object of this study, therefore, was to identify the organisms that make up the biofouling or epifaunal communities on Gulf oil and gas platforms. The second objective was to preliminarily determine the potential of any of these organisms to be the source of pharmaceuticals or any other commercially important products.

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 2009-059. 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
Public Information Office (MS 5034)
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia 22161
Phone: (703) 605-6040

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