



U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

Technical Announcement

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Platform Recruited Reef Fish, Phase II: Do Platforms Provide Habitat that Increases the Survival of Reef Fishes?

OCS Study BOEM 2013-0120

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Platform Recruited Reef Fish, Phase II: Do Platforms Provide Habitat that Increases the Survival of Reef Fishes?*

This study expands the geographic range of previous work done by BOEM and Louisiana State University and refined the otolith technique. Substrates were sampled to compare the otolith “platform fingerprint” and determine the source of the signature. Otoliths from Texas to Florida were examined to determine what proportion of the red snapper population has been associated, at some life stage, with platforms. Study results indicate that trace metals associated with platforms can be used to develop otolith chemical signatures to differentiate among regions and to a lesser extent, habitats in the Gulf of Mexico. Although the overall goal was to develop oil and gas platform otolith signatures based on a suite of trace metals, this combination of trace metals proved to work best for discriminating among regions because of unique features, e.g., the Mississippi River, that differentially affect each area. Also, evidence of the platform signature in regions devoid of platforms may not indicate that platforms enhance the production of red snapper, but instead reflect a possible western contribution to the eastern Gulf.

This report is available on CD from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, for \$15.00, and free of charge as a pdf file downloaded from the BOEM Website. Copies can also be viewed at selected Federal Depository Libraries. The addresses are listed below.

To order a CD, use the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region contact information below and reference OCS Study BOEM 2013-0120. To download a pdf copy, use the Environmental Studies Program Information and search on the study report number:

http://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data_center/other/espis/espismaster.asp?appid=1.

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