



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

## Technical Announcement

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Contact: Caryl Fagot  
(504) 736-2590

*Long-Term Monitoring at the East and West Flower Garden Banks National Marine  
Sanctuary, 2009-2010*  
*Volume I: Technical Report Volume II: Appendices*

**OCS Study BOEM [2013-214](#) & [2013-215](#)**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Gulf of Mexico OCS, announces the availability of a new study report, *Long-Term Monitoring at the East and West Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, 2009-2010 Volume I: Technical Report Volume II: Appendices*.

The Flower Garden Banks, located 110 miles from shore in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico, form part of a discontinuous arc of reef environments along the edge of the Outer Continental Shelf. These coral reef banks are the largest charted calcareous banks in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico and are the northernmost coral reefs on the continental shelf of North America.

BOEM has conducted a program of protective activities at the Flower Garden Banks since 1973. Annual monitoring has been done since 1988 at the East and West Flower Garden Banks to ensure that the established protective measures continue to be effective. Monitoring included: assessment of benthic cover, coral accretion, lateral growth, coral health, fish communities, urchin and lobster densities, and water quality.

Coral cover has consistently remained above 50 percent at the Flower Garden Banks. The coral reef community and associated fish populations have remained continuously stable over time. Evidence continues to support the contention that BOEM's protective measures prevent potential impacts from offshore oil and gas activities.

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 2013-214 & 215. To download a pdf copy, use the Environmental Studies

Program Information System and search using the study report number:  
[http://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data\\_center/other/espis/espismaster.asp?appid=1](http://www.data.boem.gov/homepg/data_center/other/espis/espismaster.asp?appid=1)

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Public Information Office (GM 217G)  
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd.  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394  
Phone: (504) 736-2519, 1-800-200-GULF  
Fax: (504) 736-2620

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Technical Information Service  
5301 Shawnee Rd.  
Springfield, Virginia 22312  
Phone: (703) 605-6000, 1-800-553-6847  
Fax: (703) 605-6900  
Website: <http://www.ntis.gov/>

**BOEM Main Website:** <http://www.boem.gov/>