



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

February 2002

**Proceedings: Gulf of Mexico Fish and Fisheries:
Bringing Together New and Recent Research**

OCS Study MMS 2002-004

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Proceedings: Gulf of Mexico Fish and Fisheries: Bringing Together New and Recent Research*.

This report presents the results of a workshop held October 24-26, 2000, in Kenner, Louisiana, that brought together many experts to discuss widely ranging research topics on fisheries biology and ecology of the Gulf of Mexico. One of the topics was the relationship between Gulf fisheries and the oil and gas industry. More than 1,000 species of finfish inhabit the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Although only a small fraction are considered economically important, in 1998 finfish represented a substantial commercial resource valued at more than \$145 million. Recreational use of this natural resource from scuba diving to fishing is also substantial. Offshore energy structures are an important influence on Gulf of Mexico fisheries. In the Gulf region a unique relationship exists between the oil and gas industry, user groups, researchers, and managers. Now numbering in the neighborhood of 4,000 structures, petroleum platforms play a role as artificial reefs and also directly impact fisheries through enhancement of productivity, as attraction devices, and as a mechanism allowing dispersal of species across the Gulf. Fisheries research has had a relatively short history in the Gulf of Mexico and workshops directed specifically at bringing together all aspects of fisheries issues have been uncommon. The proceedings from this workshop are an important reference for the current state of knowledge for many aspects of Gulf of Mexico fisheries issues.

You can obtain copies of the report on CD-ROM from the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, at a charge of \$15.00 by referencing OCS Study MMS 2002-004. 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
Telephone requests may be placed at
(504) 736-2519 or 1-800-200-GULF
or FAX: (504) 736-2620

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National Technical Information Service
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Springfield, Virginia 22161
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MMS is the federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas and other mineral resources on the outer continental shelf in federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for and disburses mineral revenues from federal and Indian leases. These revenues totaled nearly \$10 billion in 2001 and more than \$119 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Annually, nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the acquisition and development of state and federal park and recreation lands.

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MMS's Website Address: <http://www.mms.gov>

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