



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

Technical Announcement

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Contact: Barney Congdon
(504) 736-2595

Caryl Fagot
(504) 736-2590

Debra Winbush
(504) 736-2597

*Oil Spill During Hurricane Lili, Ship Shoal Block 119
Responses, Fate, and Effects*

OCS Study MMS 2003-039

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Oil Spill During Hurricane Lili, Ship Shoal Block 119: Responses, Fate, and Effects*.

This descriptive report records the oil spill that occurred as the result of Hurricane Lili in October 2002 some 18 miles off the coast of Louisiana in Ship Shoal Block 119. The report describes the hurricane, the fate and transport of the spill, and the response efforts.

Spilled oil resulting from hurricane damage to offshore structures was minimized because of platform construction standards and production safety system requirements. One spill of an estimated 350 bbl did occur. Murphy mounted an appropriate response. Approximately 145 bbl of oil was recovered and 205 bbl of oil dissipated.

No shoreline or wildlife impacts were reported. No birds were fouled. The oil was removed from the surface of the water by natural weathering processes including evaporation, dissolution in the water, adsorption to particulate material, and biodegradation. Although no specific data are available, this material probably had negligible concentrations of aromatic compounds and therefore low aquatic toxicity. The report concluded that remains of the spill that are associated with particulate matter could be degraded by microbes over time or, if sedimentation rates are high, could be buried by new sediments. Lessons learned from this hurricane as well as others are included in the planning process for future events.

This report is available only in compact disc format. The disc is available from the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, at a charge of \$15.00 by referencing OCS Study MMS 2003-039. 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

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Technical Information Service
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, Virginia 22161
(703) 487-4650 or FAX: (703) 321-8547
Rush Orders: 1-800-336-4700

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 American Indian leases. These revenues totaled over \$6 billion in 2002 and nearly \$127 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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