



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

Technical Announcement

October 2003

*Preparation of an Interactive Key for Northern Gulf of Mexico Polychaete Taxonomy Employing the DELTA/INTKEY System: Final Report*

[OCS Study MMS 2003-065](#)

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Preparation of an Interactive Key for Northern Gulf of Mexico Polychaete Taxonomy Employing the DELTA/INTKEY System: Final Report*.

Over the past 20 years, taxonomy has innovatively incorporated computer database methodology into the management, analysis, and synthesis of taxonomic data. As a result, there is a transition underway in which traditional taxonomic papers, monographs, and identification keys are being replaced by interactive data-management systems. Part of this transition has been the development of Computer Aided Taxonomic Identification (CATI). CATI is now sufficiently mature that its methods of taxonomic data analysis should be adopted by agencies supporting species identification.

As a demonstration project, the information on northern Gulf of Mexico polychaete worms was converted into a database and interactive key. The Descriptive Language for Taxonomy (DELTA) was used to develop the database, and a companion program INTKEY was used to develop the interactive key. The exercise proved the practicality of basing taxonomic QA/QC efforts upon CATI.

This report is available only in compact disc format. The discs are available from the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, at a charge of \$15.00 by referencing OCS Study MMS 2003-065. The report may be ordered through the Minerals Management Service's on-line ordering system at: <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/WebStore/front.asp>. 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  
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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.

**-MMS-GOM-**

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

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