

# Technical Announcement

MMS

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

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Contact: Caryl Fagot  
(504) 736-2590

## ***Long-Term Monitoring at the East and West Flower Garden Banks, 2004-2005 Interim Report: Volume I: Technical Report and Volume II: Appendices***

### **OCS Study [MMS 2008-027](#) and [2008-028](#)**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Long-Term Monitoring at the East and West Flower Garden Banks, 2004-2005-Interim Report; Volume I: Technical Report and 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.

The MMS 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 community has recovered from recent impacts by Hurricane Rita and outbreaks of coral disease. Evidence continues to support the contention that MMS's protective measures prevent potential impacts from oil and gas activities.

This report is available only in compact disc format from the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, at a charge of \$15.00, by referencing OCS Study MMS 2008-027 and 2008-028. The report may be downloaded from the MMS website through the [Environmental Studies Program Information System \(ESPIS\)](#). 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)

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Technical Information Service  
5285 Port Royal Road

1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394  
Telephone requests may be placed at  
(504) 736-2519, 1-800-200-GULF, or  
FAX: (504) 736-2620

Springfield, Virginia 22161  
(703) 487-4650 or FAX: (703) 321-8547  
Rush Orders: 1-800-336-4700

**MMS Main Website: [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)**  
**Gulf of Mexico Website: [www.gomr.mms.gov](http://www.gomr.mms.gov)**