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MMS NAMES SEVEN NEW MEMBERS TO OCS SCIENCE PANEL (#30059)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today announced the appointment of seven new distinguished scientists to its Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Advisory Board's Scientific Committee.

The committee provides advice to MMS on its OCS Environmental Studies Program. Members review the data produced by the program and can recommend changes in its scope, direction or emphasis.

New members include:

- * Dr. Mary G. Altalo, deputy director for Scientific Affairs, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California;
- * Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, professor at the Graduate College of Marine Studies, Department of Political Science, and co-director of the Center for the Study of Marine Policy, University of Delaware;
- * Dr. James M. Coleman, executive vice chancellor of Louisiana State University and Boyd professor in the University's Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences;
- * Dr. Joanna Endter-Wada, anthropologist and assistant professor of the Department of Forest Resources and director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy Analysis Program at Utah State University;
- * Dr. Lee Huskey, professor of Economics at the University of Alaska-Anchorage;
- * Dr. William Merrell, vice chancellor for Research Policy, professor of Oceanography and professor of Marine Sciences at Texas A&M University; and
- * Dr. James O'Reilly, a scientist with extensive experience in environmental programs, currently working with Exxon Company in that firm's Natural Resource Damage Assessment effort in Prince William Sound, Alaska.

Other members of the committee include Drs. Larry P. Atkinson,

Thomas Bright, Scott Farrow, D. Michael Fry, Steve H. Murdock,
Jerry M. Neff, Thomas C. Royer and Richard W. Sternberg.

The new members "...bring added expertise to this already distinguished group of scholars and scientists," said MMS Director Tom Fry. With the new members, the advisory board numbers 15. The panel covers a wide range of scientific specialties and provides valuable scientific guidance to MMS administrators for managing the OCS oil, natural gas and mineral programs, Fry said.

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Subject: PR-12/14/93 OCS Science Panel/MMS Names Seven New Members
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