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CONTACT: Lee Scurry
(202) 208-3983

MMS AWARDS \$200,000 CONTRACT TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
(#40046)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has awarded a \$200,000 contract to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy to conduct the second phase of a study of sand deposits offshore the state, MMS officials announced today.

"Locating sources of sand on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is an important component in combating coastal erosion," MMS Director Tom Fry said. "As MMS prepares to meet future demand for OCS sand resources, we are working increasingly closer with involved states.

"This two-year study with New Jersey will examine basic geological, economic, and environmental data on nearby federal sand deposits that have the potential for future beach nourishment," said Fry.

The study will: 1) identify New Jersey shoreline that is experiencing the worst erosion; 2) identify the nearest suitable sand source in federal waters; 3) compile necessary data relevant to the sand source; and 4) investigate environmental issues related to dredging in federal waters. Funding for the study will be in two \$100,000 installments, with the second payment contingent on the availability of funds.

The project is a continuation of a 1992 cooperative agreement.

Similar efforts to evaluate marine mineral resources in federal waters have been initiated with all other states on the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico.

MMS administers federal offshore mineral programs and manages the federal and Indian mineral royalty program. The MMS Office of International Activities and Marine Minerals (INTERMAR) is responsible for the management of OCS sand resources. For more information contact INTERMAR at (703) 787-1300.

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the State of New Jersey (#40046)