

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Office of Communications**

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Contact: Tom DeRocco - (202) 208-3983, Robin Cacy - (907) 271-6010

**PRESS STATEMENT
Regarding Alaska's Cook Inlet/Sale 149**

Press reports to the contrary, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) seriously considers a Governor's comments when evaluating proposed OCS lease sales. This is not only a matter of good public policy, but a requirement of law.

The MMS is still reviewing its approach to Cook Inlet/Sale 149. MMS is currently in the process of assessing industry interest. Once that information is available, MMS will continue its dialogue with all of the stakeholders before arriving at a final decision on this sale. Clearly, Governor Knowles' comments will be an important factor in any decision reached on this sale.

Governor Knowles has spoken not only with the Director of the MMS, but also with Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Assistant Secretary Bob Armstrong. We expect that dialogue to continue in the future.

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