

# Technical Announcement

MMS

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

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## ***Study of Deepwater Currents in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico Volume I: Executive Summary and Volume II: Technical Report***

### **OCS Study [MMS 2008-030](#) and [2008-031](#)**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Study of Deepwater Currents in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico, Volume I: Executive Summary and Volume II: Technical Report*.

Thirteen moored arrays, in water depths ranging from 500 to 3,200 meters (1,640 to 10,800 feet) were used to document upper- and lower-layer current, temperature, and salinity fields in the area west of 93° W. longitude, north of the Exclusive Economic Zone, and south and east of the 200-meter isobath. Moored data collection began in March 2004 and ended in June 2005. For the entire field measurement interval, satellite remote-sensing observations (altimetry, sea-surface temperature, and ocean color) were used to provide a context for the upper-layer field measurements and to characterize the associated circulation processes and patterns. The objectives of this study were (1) to collect current data to increase our deepwater database and knowledge of the deep circulation in the northwestern Gulf Mexico; (2) to gather information to estimate oceanographic parameters needed to make experimental designs of full-scale, physical oceanography studies in deep water; and (3) to provide information to use in oil-spill analyses including the emerging deep spill analysis and other ongoing studies, to help evaluate exploration plans, and to contribute to the preparation of National Environmental Policy Act documents.

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 2008-030 and 2008-031. 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)  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Technical Information Service  
5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, Virginia 22161

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

(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)**