

# Technical Announcement

MMS

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

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## ***Viosca Knoll Wreck: Discovery and Investigation of an Early Nineteenth-Century Wooden Sailing Vessel in 2,000 Feet of Water***

### **[OCS Study MMS 2008-018](#)**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Viosca Knoll Wreck: Discovery and Investigation of an Early Nineteenth-Century Wooden Sailing Vessel in 2,000 Feet of Water*.

This report details the visual study of a wooden-hulled shipwreck discovered near the Petronius oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico. The study was performed by analyzing hours of video acquired using a remotely operated vehicle. The identity and nationality of the vessel remains unknown, but the researchers concluded from the visual analysis of the hull remains that the ship was most likely a two-masted brig, brigantine, or schooner dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The hull of the vessel is sheathed in copper or a cupreous alloy, which accounts for the wreck's state of preservation. In addition to the hull, substantial remains of the standing rigging survive, lying along the starboard side. Few artifacts could be identified from the video alone, but one significant find included the discovery of a rare ship's stove. The bow of the wreck is partly intact, but the stern is disarticulated. The site was found to have been impacted within the last decade, most likely by a large anchor cable, which is suggested by a ragged tear through the port side of the hull and a drag scar that crosses the wreck.

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 2008-018. 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  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394  
Telephone requests may be placed at

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Technical Information Service  
5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, Virginia 22161  
(703) 487-4650 or FAX: (703) 321-8547  
Rush Orders: 1-800-336-4700

(504) 736-2519, 1-800-200-GULF, or  
FAX: (504) 736-2620

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