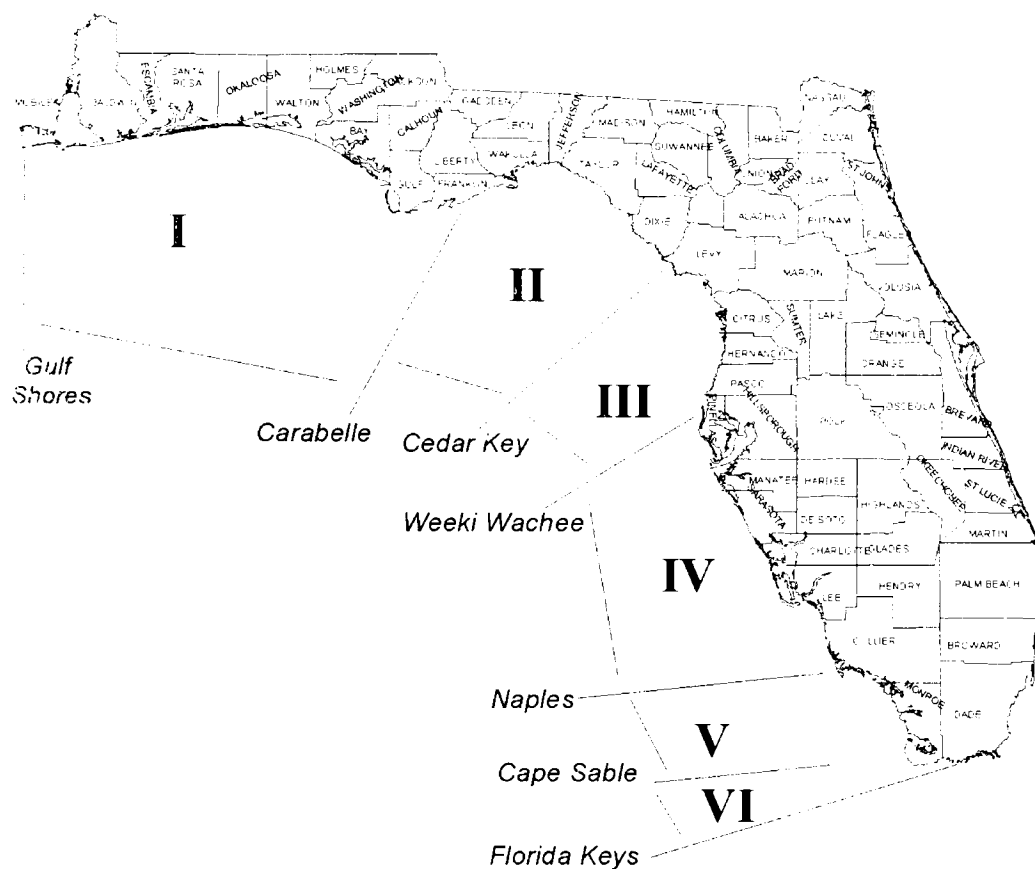


Stakeholders' Issues in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico

Volume I: Technical Report



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ABSTRACT

This is a study of Stakeholders' attitudes toward offshore oil and gas production in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. The purpose of the study was to "provide in a single document an identification of stakeholder groups in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, the definitions of their interests and the degree of their concerns about OCS oil and gas activity." This required identification of stakeholders' social and economic issues. A second requirement was to prepare an annotated bibliography of the relevant materials. The study resulted in an inventory of stakeholders in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and an annotated bibliography of relevant social science sources.

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INTRODUCTION

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 stipulates that Federal agencies use an integrated, interdisciplinary approach in research involving assessment of environmental impacts. Therefore, the social sciences, in addition to the natural sciences, are taken into consideration by the Minerals Management Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior prior to granting approval of offshore oil and gas exploration and production projects.

In keeping with these requirements, The University of West Florida, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Sciences Interdisciplinary was contracted by the MMS to conduct a study of Stakeholders' attitudes toward offshore oil and gas production, "Socioeconomic Outer Continental Shelf Issue Analysis of Stakeholders in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico." The study area consisted of Florida coastal counties from Escambia, which borders Alabama, (and the adjacent Baldwin County, Alabama), to the Florida Keys, and the southernmost Gulf-bordering county of the state, Dade.

The purpose of the study was to "provide in a single document an identification of stakeholder groups in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, the definitions of their interests and the degree of their concerns about OCS oil and gas activity." This required identification of stakeholders' social and economic issues.

A second requirement was to prepare an annotated bibliography of the relevant materials, which is found in Volume II.

METHODOLOGY

Our first task was to determine the limits of the term “stakeholder.” While the results of offshore activity will possibly have both positive and negative effects for every citizen and large numbers of organizations both within and beyond the state, certainly there are large numbers of persons and organizations with a stake who do not perceive themselves as such. These might include organizations and individuals who would incur profit or loss from offshore activity but are not aware of that. Such persons and organizations are unlikely to attempt to affect the decision makers or offshore policy. However, persons and organizations may exercise influence upon decision makers without intending to influence those decisions and even without being aware of their influence. In the process of their own decision making, for example, people may take into consideration what they perceive to be the interests of those they believe are powerful. This might be called an anticipatory response. Thus, “stakeholders” could include virtually the entire population of the state and large numbers of persons and organizations outside the area of interest.

In order to make this research both manageable and meaningful, we have defined “stakeholders” as those organizations within the State of Florida and Baldwin County, Alabama who define themselves as having a stake (having something to gain or lose) in offshore oil and gas activity. This definition deliberately excludes individuals, for including individuals would require sampling the population of the Eastern Region, a task outside this scope of work.

While the initial design included only the State of Florida, the Eastern Region of the Gulf of Mexico boundary includes, beyond Florida, only Baldwin County, Alabama. Therefore, given its quite manageable size and proximity, Baldwin County was added to the scope of this research.

The research design called for us to hold focus groups¹ at representative locations along the Eastern Region Gulf Coast. The focus groups consisted of individuals who represented the range of organizations thought to be the population of organizations under study. To gather an initial perspective on the range of concerned organizations and possible key informants, we attended Public Information sessions conducted by MMS in Mobile and Pensacola.

The focus groups were to be formed from initial discussions with Key Informants. The intent was that the focus groups would give an initial understanding of the scope and range of attitudes toward and concerns about Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas activity and to identify other stakeholder organizations.

An initial list of interested parties and organizations was developed for organizing the

¹A focus group is a small group, usually consisting of 15-20 persons, who are perceived by the researcher as representing the broad range of interests under investigation. It helps the researcher clarify the issues, and enables the researcher to probe for the nuances and deeper motivations and concerns of the population under investigation prior to the full research.

focus groups which we held in Gulf Shores, Alabama, and in Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach, Panama City, and Apalachicola, Florida. This initial and subsequent lists were gathered through a snowball² technique: We contacted known or assumed stakeholders and asked them to recommend other interested parties until we felt we could invite a balanced, representative group of 15-20 persons to each focus group meeting. Focus group participants were asked to give us the names and organizations of other possible stakeholders for continuing the snowball list to a final set of organizations.³

Focus groups were not conducted for additional areas of the state since we determined that it was an inefficient and unduly expensive method of gathering information in this instance. It became evident that we would (1) get information as adequate and as detailed, (2) get a more complete inventory of stakeholders, (3) get it quicker, (4) get it at less cost by direct telephone conversing and using the snowball method on those sources, and (5) get more accurate expressions of attitudes in a non-public venue.

Thus, the focus group participants and those identified but not selected for a focus group became our original population for the Panhandle.

We spoke with State of Florida environmental personnel on the Governor's staff to expand the population of stakeholder organizations. We held additional direct discussions in Tampa to get a better sense for that area of the state. Organizations identified in these discussions were added to our developing population of stakeholders.

To further expand upon this developing list, we then surveyed via the Internet the Yellow Pages for the State of Florida and compiled a list of potential stakeholders from the following Yellow Page categories (number identified in each category in parentheses)⁴:

Oil & Gas Exploration and Development (2)
Oil Field Equipment (7)
Oil Field Services (12)
Oil Refiners Equipment & Supplies (12)
Oil Well Drilling Mud & Additives (16)
Oil Well Drilling (7)
Oil Well Equipment & Supplies (7)

²The snowball method asks an initial group of informants to name all other persons or organizations of whom they are aware also for the study. Then that list is questioned and also asked for recommended persons and organizations. This keeps "snowballing" until new recommendations become redundant and no new suggestions are offered.

³Professor Terry J. Prewitt, anthropologist at the University of West Florida, assisted in leading the focus groups.

⁴There was only limited duplication between categories.

Oil Well Services (68)

Environmental, Conservation & Ecological Organizations (356)

Environmental & Ecological Services (834)

Those sources determined to be either Gulf coastal or having statewide⁵ interests were contacted to determine if they actually were stakeholders, and we asked them to identify other concerned organizations as we did in the development of the focus groups. However, we quickly found that the snowball technique did not work with businesses having the potential to profit from off-shore activities. These businesses understandably hesitated to identify their competition. However, we feel the use of the statewide Yellow Pages gave more than adequate coverage of those businesses. We made additional searches of the *Environmental Yellow Pages*⁶ on the Internet to give as full a coverage as possible of this category of stakeholder.

We dealt with this problem by trying to be as comprehensive as we could in seeking sources. The Yellow Pages mentioned above, both in telephone books and on the Internet, covered, we felt, the major proportion of the population. However, we sought the identification of organizations from additional sources:

1. The research team telephoned very Gulf Coastal Chamber of Commerce and newspaper for potential organizations and got membership lists from those chambers willing to share them.⁷
2. Keyword searches of the Internet produced additional organizations.
3. In all these searches most environmentally oriented organizations had on their Web pages links to additional organizations.
4. Furthermore, as we consulted for-profit organization leaders, they were asked for leads to additional organizations both within and beyond their general geographic areas, with the emphasis on those outside their area, under the assumption that the more distant organizations would be viewed as less competitive.

⁵A number of organizations with Gulf Coast concerns were regional, national, or even international. Most of these, however, have Florida subgroups, some, such as the Audubon Society, even having a large number of local community organizations. In these cases we sought information, wherever possible, from both their Florida statewide and local organizations.

⁶P. O. Box 771375, Coral Springs, FL 33077. This is independent of and separate from the telephone companies' "Yellow Pages."

⁷Several chambers demanded rather high prices for membership lists, as much as \$100. This is a disservice to their membership when those seeking lists will open potential business to a class of their members.

As stated above, most difficult to locate were organizations, especially businesses, with an interest in the development of the off-shore industry. Seldom are these businesses members of larger organizations or associations obviously related to off-shore activities, and seldom do they include links to their competitive organizations or businesses. Most of these were culled one by one from yellow pages through seemingly endless telephone directory searches.

It was far easier to locate key citizen voluntary stakeholder organizations, especially those with an environmental concern. While being completely volunteer and not having a formal office, many of the organizations are not listed in telephone directories, but many of these had Internet Web pages with linkages to a number of other organizations sharing their particular concerns and interests.

DISCUSSION SCHEDULE

The scope of work called for us to develop “a document identifying the specific stakeholder groups in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, their interests, and the extent of their concerns about OCS oil and gas activity.”

A list of the specific stakeholder groups in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico is appended to this document.

To delineate “their interests and the extent of their concerns about OCS oil and gas activity” we identified an extensive list of various activities related to off-shore development from exploration to production as well as potential positive and detrimental impacts of off-shore development which we used in our initial focus group meetings. Our list included:

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION CHECKLIST

POLLUTANTS:

drilling muds
produced water/oil field brine
naturally occurring radioactive
materials (NORMs)
air emissions

SOURCES OF POLLUTANTS:

transporting materials to and
from the platforms
oil and gas mishaps

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL:

pipeline on Gulf bottom
pipeline on land
processing plants

SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS:

BENEFITS

Increased oil industry job
availability

Increased tax revenues
 (property and sales tax)
 Increased real estate/rental
 market
 Potential fishing "reef"
 Industrial relocations and
 development
 Increased revenues from ashore
 industry
 New construction during
 "boom"
 Increased disposable income
 during "boom"
 Increased retail sales near
 onshore industries
 during "boom"
 Possible increase in Federal
 royalties and payments
 to Florida.

COSTS

Reduction in tourist/visitor
 traffic
 Increase in heavy
 manufacturing facilities
 Decrease in tourism-related
 employment
 Decreased tourism-related
 revenue
 Decreased retail sales

Susceptibility to "boom and
 bust" cycles
 Pipeline leaks or ruptures
 Tanker collisions/spills
 Gas explosions
 Cumulative pollution
 Little (if any) royalties/rents to
 local area
 Displacement of commercial
 fishermen
 Increased social problems and
 crime
 Devaluation of properties and
 businesses
 Decrease in family oriented
 patrons
 Potentially rapid, unplanned
 growth
 Increase in port traffic
 Income inequality
 Aesthetic deterioration
 Increasing urbanization
 Noise and visual pollution
 Increased rail and truck traffic
 greater income inequality
 destroy commercial and
 recreational fishing
 onshore industrialization
 local image, identity, and
 quality of life

When we tried to probe the early focus groups on this variety of potential issues, they gave us questioning looks. One person cut us off with, "We don't want **anything** to do with **any** kind of oil or gas activity out there at **any** distance from the shore!" A comparable response came when we probed the *reasons* some political leaders opposed off-shore activities and their response was, "We don't need a reason."

That seemed to summarize the consistent response we received. While a few participants recognized some of the finer distinctions and their implications, this awareness was rare and the vast majority saw it as an issue in black and white, with no shades of gray. This was regardless of

whether they supported or opposed oil and gas activities in the Gulf. Both the defense of gas recovery and the opposition to it tended to be heated and intense.⁸

Furthermore, respondents saw no distinction between activity immediately off-shore and that beyond the current 100 mile limit or the offshore continental shelf. While we stressed our focus on leasing beyond the 100 mile limit, respondents viewed activity on existing federal leases, such as Chevron's work on the Destin Dome, and existing State of Florida leases, such as those held by Coastal Oil, and potential federal leases beyond 100 miles as a single activity.⁹ In the focus groups, the intensity of feeling expressed varied directly with how recent activity had occurred in any of the three areas and with the proximity of that activity.

Thus, seeing the futility of seeking refined opinions, our inquiries quickly became terser and broader. Occasionally a respondent would indicate some knowledgeable ability about the range of issues. In these cases our questioning was more probing, and the results are included in the directory of stakeholders.

STAKEHOLDERS' DIRECTORY EXPLAINED

A Directory of Stakeholders was constructed from the information gathered from all these respondents. This Directory includes for each organization its name, mailing address, date of organizational founding, approximate membership size, name of the contact person, and the environmental concerns of the organization. This also includes every possible current source of communication: telephone number, Fax number, E-mail address, and Web page address, if any, in addition to mailing address. Environmental concerns reported are verbatim responses of the stakeholders.

There were two criteria for inclusion of an organization in the Directory:

1. A responsible official in the organization had to approve the inclusion of that

⁸However, those few organizations supporting offshore activities tended to be less public in their support. This was due to the strong unpopularity of development throughout the state of Florida. For example, a representative of one chamber of commerce volunteered in conversations setting up a focus group that his chamber strongly supported offshore activities in the Gulf of Mexico. However, in the actual focus group discussion, he remained completely silent. When I asked why he did not express his chamber's support during the meeting, he said, in effect, "The opposition was so strong that I hesitated to speak out." Our research confirms the earlier findings of Gramling and Freudenburg (1996).

⁹These conclusions were confirmed when students in Professor Prewitt's University of West Florida class in Applied Anthropology held detailed and probing conversations with key informants in the Panhandle of Florida from Pensacola to Apalachicola.

organization; and

2. A responsible official in the organization had to approve the copy to be included.

It was very rare for any stakeholder organization to refuse inclusion except for those favoring offshore development.¹⁰ However, it was not unusual for stakeholders to postpone provision of data, especially when the Gulf of Mexico was not a major concern to them. We had to approach a large number of organizations many times, in some cases convincing them only after Faxing or E-mailing a schedule to them. Follow up calls normally provided more detailed information when needed, but not in every case.

In sum, we sought potential stakeholders initially, in order of preference, through Fax, E-mail, and postal mail. The follow-up used any one or a combination of the three methods. The last resort was telephone.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

From the process of developing the population to include in this study we characterize the organizations as follows:

1. There appears to be a high failure rate among small businesses devoted to environmental consulting and the mitigation of deleterious events. We did not keep a count of organizations contacted or of those which, at the time of the survey, had disconnected telephones because we did not become fully aware of this factor until about half way through the task. While of interest to us, these data were not included in the scope of work.
2. Volunteer- and citizen-based environmental organizations, both statewide and local, have utilized the Internet by creating Web pages to a greater degree than the for-profit organizations. When asked, for-profit organizations frequently responded that they intend to create a Web page but have not gotten around to it yet.

Reasons for this could be that (1) businesses have been slow to realize the potential of the Internet for promoting their services, (2) few businesses have an in-house person capable of creating a Web page and would have to employ outside services, (3) most environmental groups have in their membership a number of technicians capable of

¹⁰A few organizational officers perceived strong opposition in their communities to any organization supporting development, and, therefore, they declined inclusion to avoid community pressure and criticism. Only one environmental organization declined inclusion and that was to avoid the reality or the perception of any kind of cooperation with MMS.

building and maintaining a Web page and willing to do it at no charge, and (4) environmental groups appear to have interests far more intense and motivating than for-profit businesses. Apparently for-profit businesses have been slower to grasp the utility of networking with those who have common interests.

3. Environmentally concerned organizations have established numerous linkages with similar groups across the state, some even having regional, national, and international interests and activities. These groups are quite familiar with one another and have formed a definite network, especially as it relates to offshore oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico. They are able to communicate rapidly among themselves and to mobilize to face new issues or events. This networking and linking have been facilitated by MMS hearings, at which such groups become aware of one another. Also, the unified opposition to any Gulf of Mexico oil or gas activities by the offices of the State of Florida, both legislative and executive, enables the state environmental offices to facilitate statewide networking.

SOCIOECONOMIC/CULTURAL AREAS OF THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO COAST

We hypothesized that issues regarding development on the OCS in the Eastern Gulf would vary by socioeconomic factors and, further, that the counties of the Eastern Region could be divided into “natural” areas based upon socioeconomic and ecological commonalities. Major criteria used were primary industries, percentage of occupations in the service sector, number of rental units in the county, and coastal topography (beach/non-beach).

By analyzing the 1990 census data for the Eastern Region coastal counties we delineated six such “natural” areas:

I. Gulf Shores, Alabama, to Mexico Beach/Carabelle, Florida.

This area is famous for its white sands. The coastal areas have a primary interest in tourism and permanent residents, many of them retirees. Recreational and commercial fishing and shrimping are major coastal industries.

II. Mexico Beach/Carabelle to Cedar Key.

While there is some tourism in this area, primary coastal activity is in commercial fishing and oystering. It includes, for example, Apalachicola Bay, famous for its oysters. There is not as much sandy beach as in the area West of Apalachicola.

III. Cedar Key to Weeki Wachee (Big Bend).

In the Big Bend there is more off-coast tourism than in the above area but not as much as the Panhandle or the offshore islands near Tampa. It also is concerned with commercial and recreational fishing.

IV. Weeki Wachee to Naples.

Barrier islands are prominent along the area south of the Big Bend leading to tourism and permanent coastal residents as a major industry. Furthermore, industrial development is heavy in the Tampa Bay area, and commercial and recreational fishing is heavy along this coast.

V. Naples to Cape Sable.

Sparsely populated marshlands and little developable coast mark this area. It is also not available to oil or gas development currently by federal-state agreement.

VI. The Keys.

The Florida Keys, some distance from coastal Florida by automobile, are dominated by tourism, retiree permanent residents, and commercial and recreational fishing.

HYPOTHESES

1. Coastal communities will exhibit a wide variety in their extent of social organization. For example, on one extreme there will be communities with a wealth of social organizations dedicated to diverse goals. Those organizations will have a web of interlocking memberships. At the other extreme, there will be communities with a dearth of organizations, and those organizations which do exist will exist largely in isolation from one another.
2. Attitudes vary by the type of tourism, if any, now being serviced and types desired for the future.
3. Attitudes vary by the proportion of permanent residents.
4. Attitudes vary by the political context.
5. Attitudes vary by type(s) of accommodations available to tourists.
6. Attitudes vary by historical experiences with the extractive history of offshore oil and gas activities.
7. Values and interests related to offshore activities of areas will vary by socioeconomic base.
8. The greater the distance of existing leases from shore, the greater the acceptance of offshore activity.
9. The nearer to the coast existing off-shore activity, the more intense the resistance to it.

10. Key correlates of opposition to offshore activity will be social class, age, and occupation.

11. The more diversified the economic base of a community the higher the probability that a chamber of commerce will take no position on offshore development.

12. The greater a community's economic base is centered on retirees and tourism the more likely a chamber of commerce will oppose offshore development.

CONCLUSIONS

The first conclusion we came to was that quantitative data were virtually useless for our purposes. For one thing, most organizational representatives were unable to clearly characterize the socioeconomic profiles of their memberships. This is understandable for many of them are primarily mailing lists and do not involve significant personal interaction.

The major distinction in attitudes toward offshore development is qualitative and that is largely a matter of the *intensity* of opposition toward development. While the state politicians are virtually unanimous in opposition to offshore extraction and almost every coastal chamber of commerce and county commission has passed resolutions in opposition, even these differ in the intensity of that opposition.

While the Alabama portion of the Eastern Region shares with Panhandle Florida similar kinds of beaches and residency base, it differs and stands apart primarily due to the Alabama history of extraction and the political realities of the state. Residents of the Gulf Shores area have a history of offshore extraction, primarily through state leases just off Dauphin Island and in Mobile Bay. Rigs, for example, can be seen just a mile or less off Fort Morgan and in Mobile Bay. The state itself has a much more extensive history of extraction than that of Florida. Most Florida experience has been in the western Panhandle in the Jay field, while Alabama has seen development near Flomaton and Citronelle, as well as recently in the Mobile County area. State and some local political bodies, as well as individuals, have experienced increased revenue through the years and they have been largely supportive of development.

However, the Baldwin County area has a major economic base in tourism and retired permanent residents. Organizations there have felt it would be difficult to gain a 100 mile limit, as has Florida, because of a lack of intensive state government support. Opposition to development is as strong as that in neighboring Florida, especially since Baldwin County organizations are striving to dispel their image of the "Redneck Riviera" and attract a higher social class and income group of both residents and tourists than they have in the past. Given the political realities as they

perceive them, they feel gratified and successful in limiting development to fifteen mile offshore.¹¹

At the other extreme from the Alabama portion of the Eastern Region is the area of Florida south of Naples, especially the Florida Keys. Environmental and political organizations have been successful in banning all offshore activities largely because of the sensitivity of the coral reefs of the Keys, and especially the *perception* of the coral reef sensitivity. A not insignificant factor lies in the presence of local, national, and even international environmental organizations in the Keys which have been able to marshal strong support for a moratorium locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally.

Within the rest of Florida, we found the intensity of opposition based on type of permanent resident, type of tourist appealed to, and the kind of social organizations active on the issues. The Panhandle is best illustrative of this. While the Panhandle is largely opposed to development, there are also gradations of intensity of that opposition.

Near Pensacola (Perdido Key, Pensacola Beach and Navarre) there is a large proportion of permanent residents, many of them retired, and upper middle class non-resident condominium owners. They have significant investments in the coast, they are accustomed to and knowledgeable about political activism, and they have strong social organizations to bring pressure to bear in meeting their goals.¹² Also, this area is closest to the Destin Dome development by Chevron, approximately 25 miles off the coast, so these organizations perceive a greater threat from development.

Near Fort Walton Beach, there is a larger proportion of non-resident owners of beach property, and like Perdido Key, they are largely upper middle class and well organized.

Panama City is much less intense. Beach residents are as strongly opposed as the permanent residents to the west to oil and gas activities in the Gulf, but there is a smaller proportion of permanent residents and condominium owners. Panama City Beach has a large proportion of motels, which attract a lower social class than the beaches to the west. Commercial recreation activities there also appeal to working and lower middle class clientele. Within the city of Panama City we detected a less intense opposition. This may be due largely to the city's being some distance from the Gulf beaches and more businesses engaged in potential servicing of offshore activities.¹³

¹¹Drilling has been active just off the Mobile County boundaries right next to Baldwin County from leases let by the State of Alabama.

¹²The strongest social organizations and most effective in opposition to development--even beyond 100 miles--are the Gulf Coast Environmental Defense and the Citizens Association of Bonita Beach. Both have garnered a broad base of membership and have strong leadership.

¹³Some of those businesses have already profited from the exploration activities in the Gulf and are more vocal in their support of development. Port authorities are also supportive of

As one moves eastward toward Apalachicola, the opposition grows less intense. Beach development is not as extensive and there are fewer strong social organizations. The Apalachicola area is virtually “beachless” except for St. George Island, which has been relatively inaccessible. The primary coastal activity of the area is oystering in Apalachicola Bay and Gulf fishing. Neither of these groups perceive offshore activities as much of a threat. However, there are nearby state agencies and planning organizations which do.¹⁴

This pattern follows down the Gulf Coast south of Apalachicola. Strongest organization against development are areas with a large proportion of permanent residents, upper middle class residents and investors, a large contingent of retired persons with time, knowledge, and incentive to engage in political activity, and high residential and tourist development of the beach areas.

THE HYPOTHESES REVISITED

We found all our hypotheses largely supported.

Hypothesis 1: Coastal communities will exhibit a wide variety in their extent of social organization. For example, on one extreme there will be communities with a wealth of social organizations dedicated to diverse goals. Those organizations will have a web of interlocking memberships. At the other extreme, there will be communities with a dearth of organizations, and those organizations which do exist will exist largely in isolation from one another.

This was borne out. The counties with a wealthier (upper middle class) proportion of permanent residents, primarily the counties with barrier islands such as those near Pensacola, Tampa, and the Keys, have a greater degree of social organization. This is likely due to the social class predisposition to create and join organizations and permanent residents perceiving a greater stake in the environment of their communities. Also, they have a greater degree of financial investment in the community properties and potential perceptions of community desirability, whether real or not, strongly affect the value of their investment. While counties and communities with a large proportion of motels and facilities for non-residents, such as Panama City Beach, offer less incentive for social organization and less time to deal with it.

development because they see a potential for increased revenues.

¹⁴This area belies at least one of our hypotheses in that it is within the area of Coastal Oil leases, which are on the state-owned submerged lands and apparently are not viewed as a threat. The Coastal Oil leases, however, are a significant factor in opposition to development as one nears the barrier islands close to Tampa.

Hypothesis 2: Attitudes vary by the type of tourism, if any, now being serviced and types desired for the future.

Baldwin County, Alabama, for example is seeking to “upgrade” (their phrase) the social class of their appeal and are especially concerned about the perception of the environment to potential residents and tourists. However, that county is willing to compromise on the limits of development largely due to the history of development in Mobile Bay and Mobile County and due to their perceptions of a relatively weak political system in the state.

Panama City and Panama City Beach, however, typify those communities serving and encouraging short-term tourists (one to two weeks, for example) served primarily by motels rather than condominiums. Their major appeal is to working and lower middle class tourists, largely from a long history of that kind of appeal, which has been historically profitable for them. Their clientele tends to be nearer to the community than that of higher social class communities. For example, Panama City Beach traditionally draws on Alabama rural and urban communities. Avondale Mills of Birmingham has a vacation site for its employees near there, and Panama City Beach even has a section locally called Little Birmingham. Also, Panama City Beach is a long time place for vacations for upper middle class residents of Black Belt Alabama and Mississippi, while Perdido Key and Destin areas draw on more distant tourists and owners, from Louisiana to Canada.

Hypothesis 3: Attitudes vary by the proportion of permanent residents.

Perdido Key, Destin, the barrier islands off Tampa, the Sarasota/Fort Myers area and the Keys—all particularly depend on permanent, retired residents and condominium owners now renting to distant tourists and expecting eventually to retire to their property, or on temporary residents of an upper middle to lower upper class. The accommodations they offer are also more expensive than those of, say, a Panama City Beach.

On the other hand, for example, those counties between the Big Bend and Panama City have relatively few coastal residents. Their economies, except for the Apalachicola area, are not based on tourism or retirees nearly to the degree of those other counties.

Hypothesis 4: Attitudes vary by the political context.

Florida is perceived as virtually unanimously and strongly opposed to any offshore activity. This attitude was adopted by the Democratic governors (especially the Childs administration). This was due primarily to the environmental bent of that political party and the perceived strength of opposition to offshore activity by citizen organizations. (That perception may, however, be due to the organizing talents of some specific

organizations and their abilities to form coalitions.¹⁵

On the other hand, Baldwin County, Alabama, has a far different political context. That state has welcomed development, e.g., first in the Citronelle and Flomaton fields and later in Mobile Bay and on Dauphin Island and immediately offshore Mobile County. Both the state and Mobile County have in the past sought and encouraged development. The Baldwin County and especially the Gulf Shores and Orange Beach communities' ability to convince the governor and federal representatives to work for a fifteen mile Gulf of Mexico limit to leases is perceived as a great victory by those communities, given the political context.

Hypothesis 5: Attitudes vary by type(s) of accommodations available to tourists.

This hypothesis is covered largely in the discussions of Hypotheses 1, 2, and 3.

Hypothesis 6: Attitudes vary by historical experiences with the extractive history of offshore oil and gas activities.

Alabama, as noted above, has had a history of extractive activities even virtually at resort communities (Dauphin Island). Indeed, rigs off Dauphin Island and in Mobile Bay are approximately one mile or less of Baldwin County. This heightens the fear of close in-shore activities by Baldwin County residents, but it also tempers their opposition in their assumption that any limitations are more than could be hoped for.

At the same time, Florida has had a very limited experience with oil/gas extraction, primarily in the Jay field in the far northern part of Santa Rosa County. Leases were let from approximately Apalachicola to near Tampa by the state in the 1940s, but no strong efforts have been made to date to develop those leases. Also, those leases were let prior to extensive development of the barrier islands. This relative lack of extractive history makes Florida shoreline residents and developers subject to offshore activity "horror" stories.

Hypothesis 7: Values and interests related to offshore activities of areas will vary by socioeconomic base.

This hypothesis has been largely covered in the discussion of Hypotheses 1, 2, and 3. But to be specific, the greatest opposition to offshore development activities arise in direct proportion to social class and an economy based on tourism and retired residents. Those counties and communities less dependent on tourism and retirees are less motivated to oppose offshore activities.

¹⁵This research does not deal with this question, but we suspect, from our personal and fairly detailed knowledge of some specific organizations in the state, that this is true.

Hypothesis 8: The greater the distance of existing leases from shore, the greater the acceptance of offshore activity.

The nearest to shore existing leases in Florida are those leased to Coastal Oil in the 1940s, leases within nine miles of the Florida coast. That portion of the Coastal Oil leases nearest tourism and retiree development tend to have a greater opposition to MMS leasing, even outside 100 miles offshore. This opposition is exacerbated by the recent efforts of Coastal Oil to get state approval for exploration, especially that off Longboat Key near Tampa.

The Pensacola area opposition is strong at least partially due to the nearness of Alabama development and the Chevron test wells on the Destin Dome about 25 miles offshore, as well as the likelihood of extensive Chevron development of the Destin Dome.

Thus, this hypothesis is tempered and qualified by the factors of socioeconomic base and the social class of near shore residents.

Hypothesis 9: The nearer to the coast existing off-shore activity, the more intense the resistance to it.

This hypothesis should be qualified to “The nearer to the coast existing offshore activity *or the threat of offshore activity*, the more intense the resistance to it. This is borne out by the strongest and most organized opposition coming from the Gulf Coast Environmental Defense (G.C.E.D.) of the Pensacola area and that coming from Citizens Association of Bonita Beach (C.A.B.B.) of the Tampa-Sarasota area (near Longboat Key).

Hypothesis 10: Key correlates of opposition to off-shore activity will be social class, age, and occupation.

Social class, age, and occupation are the primary indices of political activity. Those of higher social class (upper middle to upper class), older age (and therefore having greater economic resources and investments), and higher occupation are those who are most knowledgeable about, have the greatest perceived stake in, have the highest rate of participation in, and have the most influence over political activity. This is consistently borne out in this research from community to community and county to county in the Eastern Region.

Hypothesis 11: The more diversified the economic base of a community the higher the probability that a chamber of commerce will take no position on offshore development.

This hypothesis is based on the sociological theory of the effect of membership in diverse organizations having a tempering effect on the behavior of individuals. Those having membership only in organizations with a single view of reality and issues are understood as *social isolates*. Social isolates tend to have more radical and monolithic views of reality and worldview. Those belonging to diverse organizations (e.g., professionals in unions)

have more moderate views. We extend this to chambers of commerce. We hypothesize then that the more diverse the kinds of economic organizations in a county, the more tempered the response to offshore activities.

While virtually every chamber of commerce in the Eastern Gulf Region has passed resolutions against offshore oil and gas activities and we have no statistical evidence of this, we find that the intensity, strength, and commitment to opposition to offshore activity varies with economic diversity. Those chambers and communities based primarily on tourism and permanent coastal residents exhibit a greater willingness to expend efforts and funds in opposition to offshore activities, while those with a diverse base have basically a *pro forma* opposition.

Hypothesis 12: The greater a community's economic base is centered on retirees and tourism the more likely a chamber of commerce will oppose offshore development.

Evidence supporting this hypothesis is found in that of virtually every other hypothesis.

Furthermore, the relationships among this very diverse set of factors have a determining effect on attitudes toward offshore activities. Thus, social class of residents, economic base of the community, type of resident (permanent vs. occasional), economic resources of residents, the extent of community social organization, the perceived threats of offshore oil and gas activities, the extra-community political context, the nearness to the shore of potential oil and gas activities have a determining effect on attitudes toward offshore activities. And the specific combination(s) of these factors characterize the varying intensity and presence or absence of opposition to that activity accounts for the major portion of Eastern Gulf Region attitudes.

APPENDIX
DIRECTORY OF STAKEHOLDERS

INTRODUCTION

The information in this list was provided by an authorized officer of each organization. In addition, the final copy was approved by that officer. This information is presented as submitted except for minor editing for stylistic consistency. As a result there is a wide divergence in degree of specificity and length of information.

Some items in the list are blank. These were deliberately left blank to make clear and unambiguous where information was not provided or did not exist.

Alabama Gulf Coast Area Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Drawer 3869
Gulf Shores, AL 36547

Phone: (334) 968-6904

Fax: (334) 968-5332

e-mail: agcacc@gulftel.com

Web page: <http://www.alagulfcoastchamber.com>

Organized: 1961

Membership: 750. Businesses and individuals, primarily middle to upper middle class.

Contact: Linda Mickelson, President
David Laurenz, Environmental Committee Chair
(334) 968-2222

Environmental concerns: The basic concern lies in the attraction of tourists and new residents.

Therefore, they want all oil/gas rigs out of the view of the coast. Concerns remain regarding potential spills and negative environmental impact. The Chamber would support rigs relegated to leasing farther off the coast.

Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau
P. O. Box 457
Gulf Shores, AL 36547

Phone: (334) 974-1510

Fax: (334) 974-1509

E-mail: info@gulfshores.com

Web page: <http://www.gulfshores.com>

Contact: Herbert Malone, President/CEO

E-mail: hmalone@gulfshores.com

Organized: 1993

Membership: A non-membership organization marketing the area.

Environmental concerns: The Bureau does not generally pass resolutions or take public stands on issues. However, the Bureau is concerned with issues which might affect its marketing efforts. Environmental quality has a tremendous impact on the appeal of our community as a tourist destination. We are concerned about water quality, aesthetics, and tourists's perceptions regarding oil rigs.

The Bureau supports the Chamber of Commerce position on offshore oil/gas activity, the compromise position of not opposing such activities as long as they remain 15 miles or more offshore, out of sight from the shore.

American Littoral Society, Gulf/South Atlantic Office

4154 Keats Drive

Sarasota, FL 34241-6048

Phone: (941) 377-5459

Fax: (941) 377-5459 (call ahead)

E-mail: none

Web page: none

Contact: David Bulloch, Regional Director

Organized: 1961

Membership: About 400 in Florida. Primarily middle and upper middle class, professionals, retirees. Tend to be centered in the Sarasota area.

Environmental concerns: Main concern is with Coastal Petroleum leases between Naples and Apalachicola within State of Florida waters. Not heavily concerned about gas drilling offshore, but afraid that gas activities will lead to oil exploration and recovery. Therefore, opposed to all offshore activities. Concerned also about trash coming ashore from ships and potential oil/gas rigs in the Gulf.

Apalachee Planning Council

314 E. Central Avenue
Blountstown, FL 32424

Phone: (850) 674-4571

Fax: (850) 674-4574

E-mail: arpc@thearpc.org

Web page: <http://www.thearpc.org>

Organized: 1979

Membership: N/A

Contact: Mike Donovan, Senior Planner

Environmental concerns: Coordination and planning for the Apalachee Region. Protection of Apalachicola Bay; impact on the economies of Franklin, Gulf and Wakulla Counties.

Apalachicola Bay Chamber of Commerce
99 Market Street
Apalachicola, FL 32320

Phone: (850) 653-9419

Fax: (850) 653-8219

E-mail: chamber1@digitalexp.com

Web page: <http://www.hometown.com/apalachicola>

Organized: 1940

Membership: 325. Business and professional persons.

Contact: Anita Gregory, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Destruction or disruption of delicate estuary and coastal areas,

unsightly structures within view of coastal vacation areas regarded as pristine. Direct economic impact on seafood and tourist industries. (The Apalachicola Marine Research Reserve is the largest reserve in the nation.)

Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
350 Carroll Street
Eastpoint, FL 32320

Phone: (850) 670-4783

Fax: (850) 570-4324

E-mail: ledmist@digitalexp.com

Web page: N/A

Organized: 1979

Membership: n/a. This is a governmental agency.

Contact: Lee Edmiston, Research Coordinator

Environmental concerns: Estuarine and coastal protection and management. Performs research, monitoring and education. Concerned about oil and gas activities's impacts on natural and cultural resources of the shelf, coastal, and estuarine areas.

Audubon Society, Panama City
P. O. Box 1182
Panama City, FL 32402

Phone: (850) 872-8260

Fax: (850) 872-9976

E-mail: none

Web page: <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/fl/index/html>

Contact: Candis Harbison, President
120 E. 2nd Place

Panama City, FL 32401

E-mail: charbis@bellsouth.net

Environmental concerns: Opposed to any and all offshore activities.

Baldwin County Economic Development

P. O. Box 1304

Robertsdale, AL 36567

Phone: (334) 947-2445

Fax: (334) 947-4229

e-mail: lbaldwin@baldwineda.com

Web page: <http://www.baldwineda.com>

Contact: Terry White, Assistant Director

Organized: 1993

Membership: Consists of persons appointed by five chambers of commerce, the county commission and the county Mayors' Association.

Environmental concern: The organization generally supports the positions taken by member groups which it represents. Therefore, it supports the compromise of most Baldwin County organizations, which would limit oil/gas rigs to 15 or more miles off-shore and out of sight from the shore. The concern, then, is the impact on tourism and, therefore, is primarily esthetic.

Bay Area Resource Council (BARC)

P. O. Box 486

Pensacola, FL 32514

Phone: (850) 595-8910

Fax: (850) 595-8967

E-mail: joseph@wfrpc.dst.fl.us

Web page: <http://www.wfrpc.dst.fl/us/barc/barc.htm>

Organized: 1987

Membership: 7. Elected officials from Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, Cities of Pensacola, Milton, and Gulf Breeze, FL.

Contact: Ms. Terry A. Joseph, BARC Staff, and Director of Environmental Planning of the West Florida Regional Planning Council

Environmental concerns: Water quality in the Pensacola Bay Watershed.

Bay County Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 1850 235 West 5th Street
Panama City, FL 32402-1850 Panama City, FL 32401

Phone: (850) 785-5206
(888) Bay-Site

Fax: (850) 763-6229

E-mail: Info@panamacity.org

Web page: <http://www.panamacity.org>

Founded: 1000. Business persons, active and retired.

Contact: James Cherry, President

Environmental concerns: Protection of the beaches and tourism. Concerned also about potential oil spills and other hazards.

Bay County Tourist Development Council

P. O. Box 9473
Panama City Beach, FL 32417

Phone: (850) 233-5070

Fax: (850) 233-5072

E-mail: pcb@interoz.com

Web page: <http://www.panamacitybeachfl.com/>

Contact: Dan Stark, Executive Director

Organized: 1986

Membership: The Council is an agency of the County Commission and advises it on matters relating to tourism in a special taxing district. Members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

Contact: Dan Stark, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Basic concerns lie in the potential impact of offshore activities on the water and beach and how this would impact tourism development along the Gulf of Mexico's northwest Florida coast.

Beach to Bay Connection

412 Hilltop Drive

Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

Phone: (850) 267-2227

Fax: (850) 267-2227

E-mail: c.cobena@gnt.net

Web page: <http://www.beachtobay.org>

Organized: 1995

Membership: 150. Upper middle class, 40-70, Caucasians, professionals.

Contact: Celeste Cobena, Chair

Environmental concerns: The mission of Beach to Bay Connection is to enhance and protect the undeveloped lands and waters within South Walton County by taking an active role in gathering and disseminating information specific to our ecosystems and acting as stewards of our public lands. Opposes any offshore oil or gas activity because it will result in pollution and littering of Florida's coast.

Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 747
Cape Coral, FL 33910

Phone: (941) 549-6900

Fax: (941) 549-9609

E-mail: mdqtp@aol.com

Web page: <http://www.capecoralchamber.com>

Organized: 1989. 600 members, businesses, primarily. A bedroom community for Fort Myers, its members' median age is 39. Major industry home construction.

Contact: Mike Quaintance, President

Environmental concerns: While the Chamber has taken no official position on offshore oil and gas activities, the members in informal discussions have expressed concern about how offshore oil and gas will affect this community environmentally.

Captiva Erosion Prevention District
P. O. Box 365
Captiva, FL 33924

Phone: (941) 472-2472

Fax: (941) 472-0037

E-mail: cepd1@aol.com

Web page: N/A

Organized: 1959

Membership: Governmental agency.

Contact: Alison Hagerup, Administrator

Environmental concerns: Beach maintenance and management.

**Caribbean Conservation Corporation and
Sea Turtle Survival League**
4424 NW 13th Street, Suite #A1
Gainesville, FL 32609

Phone: (352) 373-6441
(800) 678-7853

Fax: (352) 375-2449

E-mail: ccc@cccturtle.org

Web page: <http://www.cccturtle.org>

Organized: 1959

Contact: Daniel R. Evans, Program Coordinator, Sea Turtle Survival League

Environmental concerns: Concerned about offshore drilling in terms of destruction of marine habitat, pollution of marine (especially seagrass beds and coral reefs) and coastal habitat as a result of pipe leaks and oil spills from the rigs. The noise created by a drilling operation may have a negative impact on sea turtles.

Caribbean Marine Research Center
1501 Northpoint Parkway, Suite 101
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

Phone: (561) 471-7552

Fax: (561) 471-7553

E-mail: cmrc@gate.net

Web page: <http://www.cmrc.org>

Organized: N/A

Membership: N/A

Contact: Renee Cooper, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Research in coral reefs, aquaculture, effects of climate and

humans on the oceans.

Cedar Key Area Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 610

Cedar Key, FL 32625

Phone: (352) 543-5600

Fax: (352) 543-5600

E-mail: info@cedarkey.org

Web page: <http://www.cedarkey.org/>

Organized:

Membership: 100 businesses and four families.

Contact: Judy Johnson, Office Manager

Environmental concerns: To preserve our unique cultural, historical, and natural assets is paramount to our quality of life on our island. The Gulf is our life blood. We oppose any and all oil or gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico.

Center for Marine Conservation (CMC)

One Beach Drive, Southeast

Suite 304

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Phone: (813) 895-2188

Fax: (813) 895-3248

E-mail: gleonard@flcmc.org

Web page: <http://www.cmc-ocean.org/>

Contact: Gerald Law Leonard, Regional Director

Organized: 1972 (as the Center for Environmental Education)

Membership: 7,000 in Florida; 120,000 nationally.

Environmental concerns: The Southeast Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Regional Office monitors a variety of marine fisheries councils, and works with State and Federal fishery managers on such issues as shrimp trawl bycatch, conservation of reef fish, and protection of the living corals. The Office seeks to reduce trawl bycatch, foster beach and underwater cleanups and advocate for clean water and endangered marine species including manatees and sea turtles.

CMC is committed to protecting ocean environments and conserving the global abundance and diversity of marine life. Through science-based advocacy, research and public education, CMC promotes informed citizen participation to reverse the degradation of our oceans.

CMC's Ten-Point Agenda for the oceans: 1) fashion a U.S. ocean policy for the 21st century; 2) revitalize America's oceans; 3) clean America's ocean waters; 4) invest in the future of America's oceans; 5) strengthen and expand marine protected areas; 6) save America's coral reefs; 7) lead international efforts to protect the oceans; 8) protect endangered marine wildlife; 9) explore America's marine wildlife and ocean waters; and 10) promote ocean stewardship and education.

CMC is opposed to offshore oil/gas activity in the Gulf.

Choctawhatchee Audubon Society

P. O. Box 1014

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

Phone: (850) 243-2298 (Mathilda Cox)

Fax: (850) 244-3277 (Mathilda Cox)

E-mail: mathilda@emeraldcoast.com

Web page: <http://www.audubon.org/Fl/choctawhatchee>

Organized: 1976

Membership: 450 in Okaloosa and Walton Counties. Conservationist and birders across all ages, races, and social classes.

Contact: Mathilda Cox, Newsletter Editor

Environmental concerns: Conservation, bird and wildlife habitats, environmental education, outdoor recreation.

Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance

%Ross Hamilton
OWCC Biology Department
100 College Boulevard
Niceville, FL 32578

Phone: (850) 729-5239

Fax: (850) 729-6052

E-mail: hamilton@owcc.net

Web page: none

Contact: Ross Martin, Treasurer
Mike Flynt, Chair, Board of Directors
(850) 729-5402

Organized: 1995

Membership: 100. A volunteer organization of environmental scientists, educators, area government officials, environmental consultants, concerned citizens, and business leaders. The purpose of the Alliance is to share information for informed decisionmaking, and to encourage cooperation among disparate organizations and persons with diverse interests together to promote sustainable stewardship of the area's environmental resources.

Citizens Association of Bonita Beach (C.A.B.B.)

4450 Bonita Beach Road, #10-118
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Phone: (941) 992-5153

Fax: (941) 992-0153

E-mail: None

Web page: <http://www.hawk.net/lee/civic/cabb/index.htm>

Contact: Marjorie F. Ward, President

Organized: 1985

Membership: 1,700. "Average" social class; mostly over age 50, but some younger; Caucasian, but no racial restrictions; mostly retired volunteers; professionals.

Environmental concerns: Dedicated to conservation and protection of our "sovereign" lands, our beaches held by the governor and the cabinet in public trust. Have expanded interests to rivers and bays that empty into the Gulf of Mexico where beaches exist to attempt to prevent pollution. Since 1986 we have worked to keep away exploration, leasing and drilling for oil offshore of Florida and especially on the Gulf coast. We have sent over 29,000 signatures to Washington, DC, to this end and to worked closely with all Florida governors and cabinets in opposition, including input into their response that goes annually to the Department of the Interior. We have worked environmental fairs, spoken before various organizations, and such with a prepared approach explaining the dangers and what help is needed.

The Association, the President, and the Vice President have received numerous plaques and awards for efforts in which opposition to oil activities were prominent among the reasons for receiving the awards. Among these were the 1998 Points of Light from Washington, DC; the Take Pride in Florida and later the Take Pride in America awards.

Our current petition to the President and the Congress calls for the following requests opposing future oil/gas exploration/leasing/drilling off the coast of Florida:

1. The Florida buffer zone be increased to a minimum of 100 miles.
2. The existing temporary moratorium on offshore leases near Southwest Florida be placed permanently off limits. Any expenses incurred are to be borne by the Federal Government to whom all oil companies made initial payment.
3. The deferred area off the coast of Southwest Florida running from the 86 degree longitude west to 26 degrees parallel north should be increased northward to include the 28th parallel. This deferred area should become permanent, except in the case of a national emergency rather than expiring in the year 2000.
4. Our Federal Government should look into establishment of alternative fuels.

5. Strict “tanker” enforcement laws for transportation of fuels and chemicals, with mandatory responsibility by the purveyors for catastrophic spills.

Coastal Conservation Association-Florida (CCA-Florida)

905 East Park Avenue

Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: (850) 224-3474

Fax: (850) 224-5199

E-mail: info@cca-florida.com

Web page: <http://www.cca-florida.com>

Membership: 8,000. Represents all ages, races, and social classes. Most have an interest in conservation and the protection of our marine environment.

Contact: Ted Forsgren, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Dedicated to conserving and protecting Florida’s marine resources.

Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc.

3106 Horseshoe Dr., S.

(Home Office)

Naples, FL 34104-6139

677 North Washington Blvd.

(Sarasota Office)

Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: (941) 643-2324

(941) 952-5810

Fax: (941) 957-3630

E-mail: wph1@gte.net

Web pages: <http://www.coastalengineering.com>

<http://www.ceci-group.com>

Organized: 1977

Contact: Paul Harrison, office manager

Business concerns: Coastal engineering, civil engineering, surveying, ecological and human health risk assessment.

Continental Shelf Associates, Inc. (Environmental Consulting Firm)

759 Parkway Street
Jupiter, Florida 33477

Phone: (561) 746-7946

Fax: (561) 747-2954

E-mail: csa@gate.net

Web page: None

Organized: 1970
32 employees

Contact: David A. Gettleson, Ph.D., President, Scientific Director

Environmental concerns or services: CSA serves a wide variety of clients including oil and gas companies, industrial firms, land development companies, engineering firms, port authorities, and public utilities, as well as local, State, Federal, and international government agencies. CSA offers a wide range of permitting and environmental services from desktop environmental impact assessments to offshore multidisciplinary baseline and monitoring studies. CSA designs cost-effective and scientifically-sound environmental programs, conducts comprehensive field investigations, performs rigorous data analyses, and prepares multidisciplinary reports in a time-efficient manner.

J. N. "Ding" Darling Foundation

Phone: (305) 361-9788

Fax: (305) 361-9789

E-mail: kipkoss@compuserve.com

Web page: None

Organized: 1962

Contact: Kip Koss, President

Environmental concerns: Conservation and education.

Destin Area Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 8

Destin, FL 32540

Phone: (850) 837-6241

Fax: (850) 654-7165

E-mail: chamber@destin.net

Web page: <http://www.destinchamber.com>

Organized: 1965

Membership: 900

Contact: Ray Navitsky, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Opposed to any and all oil/gas activities in the Gulf at any distance from shore. Concerned about the impact of Gulf activities on tourism.

Destin, FL, City of

4200 Two Trees Road

Destin, FL 32541

Phone: (850) 837-4242

Fax: (850) 837-3267

E-mail: cityofdestin@emeraldcoast.com

Web page: <http://www.cityhalldestin.net>

Population: 10,000

Contact: Kenneth B. Beard, Mayor

Environmental concerns: The City Council passed a resolution requesting Congress to terminate all leases permitting offshore drilling off the Florida coast, including existing leases within 100 miles of the coast.

The Greater Dunedin Chamber of Commerce
301 Main Street
Dunedin, FL 34698

Phone: (727) 733-3197

Fax: (727) 734-8942

E-mail: chamber@dunedin-fl.com

Web page: <http://www.dunedin-fl.com>

Organized: 1927

Membership: 500. Caucasian, middle class, small businesses (retail, services, professionals)

Contact: Robert S. Bellavance, President/CEO

Environmental concerns: Spoiling beaches which are a major part of our economic environment. To put them in jeopardy would promote an economic as well as an environmental disaster.

Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County
P. O. Box 4097
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

Phone: (850) 651-7374

Fax: (850) 651-7378

E-mail: larrys@florida-edc.org

Web page: <http://www.florida-edc.org>

Organized: 1991

Membership: 350-400. Voluntary organization of private sector CEOs and managers, and representatives of area governmental agencies.

Contact: Larry Sassano

Environmental concerns: The Council opposes all oil/gas activities of any kind in the Gulf.

Englewood Area Chamber of Commerce

601 South Indiana Avenue
Englewood, FL 34223-3788

Phone: (941) 474-5511

Fax: (941) 475-9257

E-mail: eacc@sunline.net

Web page: <http://www.Englewoodchamber.com>

Organized: 1941

Membership: 554 member businesses; 94 associates and nonprofit organizations.

Contact: Karen Maurer, Community Development Director

Environmental concerns: Protection of environmentally sensitive lands; Lemon Bay beach erosion.

Florida Audubon Society

1331 Palmetto Avenue, Suite 110
Winter Park, FL 32789

Phone: (407) 539-5700

Fax: (407) 539-5701

E-mail: chenderson@audubon.org

Web page: <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/fl/>

Organized: 1900

Membership: 40,000. There are 45 chapters in the state. Membership is diverse in profile, roughly matching the profile of the state population.

Contact: Clay Henderson, President
Charles Lee, Senior Vice-President
Eva Armstrong, Governmental Affairs Director

Environmental concerns: Primary concern is protection of birds, all wildlife, and their habitats. The Society publishes *The Florida Naturalist* and maintains two centers, the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey at Maitland, FL, and The Audubon Center at Celebration, near Disney World. Opposes offshore oil and gas activity in the Gulf.

Florida Conservation Foundation, Inc.
1251-B Miller Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789

Phone: (407) 644-5377

Fax: None

E-mail: florida@sundial.net

Web page: <http://sundial.net/~florida/>

Contact: Doug Head, director

Organized: 1968

Membership: 5,000.

Environmental concerns: A non-profit organization dedicated to supplying environmental information to the public. Concerned with all facets of the environment in Florida. Would not support or advocate in any way offshore oil or gas activities.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 10
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Phone: (850) 488-1554

Fax: (850) 488-7093

E-mail: STRUHS-D@epic5.dep.state.fl.us

Web page: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us>

Contact: David Struhs, Secretary

Staff Contact: Lynn Griffin, Environmental Administration
Office of Intergovernmental Programs
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Phone: (850) 487-2231

Fax: (850) 922-5380

Environmental concerns: Protection of air and water quality; marine and estuarine habitat and resources; coastal ecosystems; fisheries' sovereign submerged lands and State-owned lands; parks, reserves and other managed areas.

Florida Environmental Publishing, Inc.
4010 Newberry Road, Suite F
Gainesville, FL 32607

Phone: (352) 373-1401

Fax: (352) 373-1405

E-mail: info@enviroworld.com

Web page: <http://www.enviroworld.com>

Organized: 1986

Contact: Dave Newport

Florida Environmental Publishing offers a very informative Web page for anyone interested in or concerned about the Florida environment.

Florida Geological Survey (FGS)

903 West Tennessee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32304-7700

Phone: (850) 488-4191

Fax: (850) 488-8086

E-mail: schmidt_w@dep.state.fl.us

Web page: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/geo/>

Organized: 1907. The FGS is currently a bureau level agency within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Contact: Walter Schmidt, Chief and State Geologist

Environmental concerns: The oil and gas section of the FGS is Florida's regulatory agency for oil and gas operations within the state. We are concerned with all issues to oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico. Our responsibilities include Florida's coastal waters.

Florida Greens/Green Party

P. O. Box 10294
Pensacola, FL 32524

Phone: (850) 474-1495

Fax: None

E-mail: None

Web page: None

Contact: Johnny Ardis

The Green Party operates statewide and has 10 chapters within the state. See Gulf Coast Environmental Defense (GCED), which is the spokesperson for the Florida Greens.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
P. O. Box 500368
Marathon, FL 33050

Phone: (305) 743-2437

Fax: (305) 743-2357

E-mail: billy.causey@nosa.gov

Web page: <http://www.nos.nosa.gov/nmsp/fknms>

Organized: N/A. Federal agency.

Membership: N/A

Contact: Billy Causey, Sanctuary Superintendent

Environmental concerns: The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1990, consists of 2,800 sq. nautical miles of coastal and oceanic waters, and the submerged lands thereunder, surrounding the Florida Keys and extending westward to encompass the Dry Tortugas. The shoreward boundary of the Sanctuary is the mean high water mark. The purpose of the Sanctuary is to ensure the sustainable use of the Keys' marine environment by achieving a balance between the comprehensive resource protection and multiple, compatible uses of the resources.

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-605) established the boundary of the Sanctuary, prohibits any oil drilling or exploration within the Sanctuary, prohibits the operation of tank ships or ships greater than 50 meters in the area to be avoided, and requires the development and implementation of a water quality protection program for the Sanctuary.

Florida Keys Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
93600 Overseas Highway
Tavernier, FL 33070

Phone: (305) 852-4486

Fax: (305) 852-3186

E-mail: fkwbc@reefnet.com

Web page: <http://islandfun.com/keylargo/bird.htm>
<http://www.fkinfo.com/wildbird.htm>
<http://thefloridakeys.com/attractions.htm>

Organized: 1987. This is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with six staff members, seven on the board of directors, and possibly thousands who donate for memberships.

Contact: Bruce B. Horn, Operations manager

Environmental concerns: As a wild bird rehabilitation center, we are adamant about protecting our avian population and its environment. As environmentalists, we see no overall compatibility with oil and the environment, regardless of “beauty spots” shown by the industry. As residents of the Keys, we know that our environment has no tolerance for oil. The vast sums of money needed for offshore activity belongs in energy conservation.

Florida Offshore, Inc.
3605-D Thomas Drive
Panama City Beach, FL 32408

Phone: (850) 234-8944

Fax: (850) 233-7434

E-mail: seadaddy@interoz.com

Web page: <http://www.glassbottomboat.com>

Contact: Carl Anderson, owner

Business organized: 1983

Environmental concerns: Supports offshore oil/gas development, but not close to the shore. Prefers that it remain 100 miles offshore.

Florida Public Interest Research Group (Florida PIRG)

704 West Madison Street

Tallahassee, FL 32304

Phone: (850) 224-3321

Fax: (850) 224-1310

E-mail: floridapirg@pirg.org

Web page: <http://www.pirg.org/floridapirg>

Organized: 1981

Membership: 10,000 - recruited through door-to-door canvassing and traditional citizen outreach methods. Broad based. Membership diverse and similar to those in the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society--primarily college educated, middle aged and older, and middle to upper middle class.

Contact: Mark Ferrulo, Campaign Director

Environmental concerns (in order of importance):

1. Offshore oil and gas drilling anywhere off the Florida coast. They regard oil/gas exploration, drilling, and all other related activities as pollution intensive and incompatible with Florida's coastal environment and economy.
2. Toxic pollution
3. Endangered species
4. Solid wastes

Florida PIRG is a statewide non-profit, non-partisan environmental and consumer watchdog organization. It consists of a staff of attorneys, scientists and other public interest professionals. They conduct research, litigate, and are advocates on environmental and consumer issues.

Florida Spill Response Corporation

605 Townsend Road

Cocoa, FL 32926-3306

Phone: (407) 631-7778

Fax: (407) 639-4017

E-mail: fsrc@palmnet.net

Web page: <http://www.frsc.com>

Contact: James Hesketh or Martin Koivy

Established: 1990

Business concern: Spills clean-up, site remediation, and bioremediation.

Florida Wildlife Federation

P. O. Box 6870

Tallahassee, FL 32314-6870

Phone: (850) 656-7121

Fax: (850) 942-4431

E-mail: wildfed@aol.com

Web page: <http://www.usf.edu.fwf>

Organized: 1937

Membership: 40,000 members and supporters. Membership is a broad spectrum of social classes, races, ages, and occupations.

Contact: Diane Hines, Office Manager

Environmental concerns: The Federation is involved in a variety of issues all across the state, particularly those involving the state's fish and wildlife and natural resources. The Federation has been interested in stopping offshore oil drilling for a number of years.

Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 640

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549

Phone: (850) 244-8191

Fax: (850) 244-1935

E-mail: roger@gnt.net

Web page: <http://www.fortwaltonbeach.fl.org>

Organized: 1946

Membership: 1200. Area businesses and individuals.

Contact: Roger Peters, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Protection of tourism; opposed to all oil/gas activities in the Gulf closer than 100 miles to the shoreline.

Greater Fort Myers Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

17200 San Carlos Boulevard

Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Phone: (941) 454-7500

Fax: (941) 454-7910

E-mail: fmbeach@usa-chamber.com

Web page: <http://www.coconet/fmbeach>

Organized: 1938. Approximately 503 business and professional men and women members.

Contact: D. J. Petruccelli, CCE, President

Environmental concerns: The Chamber took the position in 1985 opposing any offshore oil or gas drilling off the coast of Florida. The area economy is based on tourism, and they are always concerned about any potential pollution of their environment.

Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

P. O. Box 9289

Fort Myers, FL 33902

Phone: (941) 332-3624

Fax: (941) 332-7276

E-mail: fortmyers@fortmeyers.org

Web page: <http://www.fortmeyers.org>

Organized: 1989

Membership: 850. Business owners.

Contact: Marietta Mudlett, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: The Chamber passed a resolution opposing offshore drilling.

Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce

4094 Commercial Way

Spring Hill, FL 34606

Phone: (352) 796-0697

Fax: (352) 796-3704

E-mail: questions@hernandochamber.com

Web page: <http://www.hernandochamber.com>

Organized: 1925

Membership: 1,200. Businesses and professionals located in and around Hernando County.

Contact: Wanda Kelly

Environmental concerns: To keep our climate as natural as possible. We are a “natural” type of county and promote our natural beauty and waterways as a tourism and relocation feature.

Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 128

Riverview, FL 33568

Phone: (813) 677-2604

Fax: (813) 671-3666

E-mail: chamber@riverviewfl.com

Web page: <http://www.riverviewfl.com>

Organized: 1966

Membership: 172. Mixed businesses and professionals.

Contact: Debra Smith, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Anything that could possibly have a negative effect the Gulf of Mexico or the many rivers in our central Florida area.

Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce

1819 Main Street
Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone: (941) 955-2508 ext. 236

Fax: (941) 366-5621

E-mail: saracham@ix.netcom.com

Web page: <http://www.sarasotachamber.org/>

Organized: 1921

Membership: 1,500. Small and large businesses in Sarasota County.

Contact: William W. Couch, Vice President Public Affairs

Environmental concerns: Concerned with the overall health of the physical and economic environment as they contribute to the quality of life in Sarasota County. Regarding offshore oil and gas activities, we are concerned that a fair and impartial hearing is conducted.

Greater Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce
11 East Orange Street
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Phone: (727) 937-6109

Fax: (727) 937-2879

E-mail: None

Web page: <http://www.tarponsprings.com>

Organized: 1921

Membership: 500. Business and professional persons.

Contact: Charlie Phillips, Executive Director

Environmental concerns:

Gulf Beaches of Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce
501 150th Avenue
Madeira Beach, FL 33708

Phone: (727) 391-7373

Fax: (727) 391-4259

E-mail: gulfbches@gte.net

Web page: <http://www.gulfbeaches-tampabay.com>

Organized: 1997

Membership: 1,200. Businesses and professionals.

Contact: John C. Bowers, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Potential effect of oil or gas activity in the Gulf on tourism.

Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 337

Gulf Breeze, FL 32562-0337

Phone: (850) 932-7888

Fax: (850) 934-4601

E-mail: gbcoc@bellsouth.net

Web page: <http://www.gulfbreezechamber.com>

Organized: 1988

Membership: 375. Business and professional persons.

Contact: Karen Tomasovic, Executive Director

Environmental concerns:

Gulf Coast Environmental Defense (GCED)

P. O. Box 732

Gulf Breeze, FL 32506

Phone: (850) 432-3001 or
(850) 434-9988

Fax: (850) 433-6040

E-mail: GCEDFL@aol.com

Web pages: <http://pcola.com/gced>
<http://www.gced.org>

Organized: 1992

Membership: 400, plus about 40 businesses. Members tend to be middle class to upper middle class, college educated, professionals. Also have a number of blue collar workers, students and retirees.

Contact: Amy Belanger, Executive Director
Enid Sisskin, President [home Phone: (850) 934-5449]

Environmental concerns: Primarily opposing any oil/gas activity within 100 miles of the Florida coast. Willing to accept, as a compromise, activities beyond 100 miles. GCED was organized to oppose offshore drilling. Other issues have been added, including land preservation, preservation of water quality, and environmentally friendly lifestyle choices. Programs include the Northwest Florida Green Pages, Earth Day, environmental internships, environmental education in public school classrooms, and an environmental resource center.

Gulf Islands National Seashore

1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561

Phone: (850) 934-2604

Fax: (850) 932-9654

E-mail: hank_snyder@nps.gov

Web page: <http://www.nps.gov>

Organization: Federal agency, National Park Service

Contact: Hank Snyder, Chief, Resources Management

Environmental concerns: Offshore oil and gas issues impacting parking resources.

H. G. Harders Construction

5521 E. Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32404

Phone: (850) 874-1500

Fax: (850) 871-4669

E-mail: None

Web page: None

Contact: Captain Holton Harders, owner

This company is involved in marine construction. It has been involved to some extent with offshore oil/gas activities such as providing crane barges for repair work and crew boats which could service rigs. The company has been approached by various concerns as a possible staging area. One of those was a HAZMAT agency.

Environmental concerns: The owner is ambivalent about offshore activity and feels more positive about it the further it is out in the Gulf.

Holiday Isle Improvement Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 5467

Destin, FL 32540

Phone: (850) 837-4753

Fax: (850) 837-4984

E-mail: holiday@arc.net

Web page: None

Organized: 1962

Membership: 1800+. Home, condo, and townhouse owners, both resident and non-resident.

Contact: Frank Copeland, President

Phone: (850) 882-9811 ext. 3396 (office)

(850) 654-4813

E-mail: copeland@gnt.net

Environmental concerns: Beach and water quality.

Inshore Saltwater Anglers, Inc.

P. O. Box 550708

Jacksonville, FL 32255

Phone: (904) 778-8628

Fax: none

E-mail: bobney@dockingbay.com
capt-holmes@masn.com

Web page: <http://www.inshoresaltwateranglers.com>

Organized: 1994.

Members: 62 Families (About 130 persons). A family oriented fishing club emphasizing catch and release. Members are a wide range in income, social class, etc.

Contact: Capt. Steve Holmes, (904) 388-5154

Environmental concerns: The group works with the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to study the impact of the State's net ban. They report to the Florida Marine Patrol all violations observed on the water. They make frequent trips to the Gulf (Steinhatchee); therefore, we have concerns on both sides of Florida.

Institute of Diving
17314 Back Beach Road
Panama City Beach, FL 32413-2020

Phone: (850) 235-4101

Fax: same

E-mail: subraces@panamacity.com

Web page: <http://www.panamacity.com/~subraces>

Contact: Douglas Hough, Director, The Museum of Man in the Sea

Organized: 1978

Membership: 450. Primarily persons interested in military, commercial, and recreational underwater activities.

Environmental concerns: Primary concern is for clean water and use of it without contaminating it. Members feel that America's future is underwater and favor reasonable and cautious use of it. They are aware of the gas production activities and experiences off Dauphin Island, AL, and see no problem with gas drilling and

production 15 or more miles off the Florida coastline. Do have a greater concern with the transportation of oil through the Gulf (including the proposed pipeline to be laid from Mobile to Tampa along the edge of the continental shelf) and see that as the major pollution source in the past.

The Institute is nonprofit and also operates the Museum of Man in the Sea. This museum is the only one in America dedicated to man's endeavor to live, work, and play underwater. The \$6.5 million collection illustrates the progressive achievements of underwater technology from diving bells to remotely operated working vehicles that can cut, weld, and bolt construction projects at depths to several thousand feet.

**Lee Island Coast Visitor & Convention Bureau
and Tourist Development Council**

2180 West First Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Phone: (941) 338-3500

Fax: (941) 334-1106

E-mail: lic@cyberstreet.com

Web page: <http://www.leeislandcoast.com>

Organized: 1983. The bureau is an agency of county government.

Contact: Elaine McLaughlin, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Ecotourism; protection of the beaches, islands and wildlife.
The bureau and council has always urged political bodies to ban offshore oil and gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico.

Manatee Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 321

Bradenton, FL 34206-0321

222 10th Street West

Bradenton, FL 34206-0321

Phone: (941) 748-4842 ext. 124

Fax: (941) 745-1877

E-mail: info@manatee-chamber.com
Web page: http://www.manatee-chamber.com
Organized: 1964
Members: 1,900 businesses with 2,600 key contacts.
Contact: Neil Spirtas, Vice President, Public Affairs
NeilS@manatee-chamber.com

Environmental concerns: The Chamber passed a resolution: "This Board strongly urges President Bush and the U.S. Department of the Interior to create a 50 mile buffer beyond the State boundary line of 9 miles along the Manatee County Gulf Coast of Florida as well as extended northward from the Naples (26 degrees latitude) boundary to include the Tampa Bay area coastline where oil and gas exploration/development would be prohibited." (10/30/90)

Ocean dumping resolution: "The Board of Directors of Manatee Chamber of Commerce urges the cautious and careful spending of the total allocation of funds available to provide oversight of this project for its duration so that no significant environmental damage is done and so that all dumping is done in accordance with prior agreements." (3/27/84)

Monroe County Commercial Fishermen, Inc.
P. O. Box 501404
Marathon, FL 33050

Phone: (305) 743-0294

Fax: (305) 209-1207

E-mail: None

Web page: None

Organized: N/A

Membership: 800-1,000. Seafood processors and harvesters.

Contact: Gregory P. DiDomenico, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Water quality issues that affect the Florida Keys, Gulf of Mexico, and Atlantic Ocean. They are concerned with the environmental impacts associated with oil and gas activities; what mining, processing, and transporting of oil products would do to water quality.

National Audubon Society, Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuary
410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 702
Tampa, FL 33619

Phone: (813) 623-6826

Fax: (813) 623-4086

E-mail: aschnapf@audubon.org

Web page: None

Organized: 1899

Membership: 35,000 in Florida; 500,000 in the United States. Generally upper/middle class, middle aged or older, well educated, Caucasian.

Contact: Ann Schnapf, Assistant Manager

Environmental concerns: Management of coastal islands sanctuaries where large numbers of colonial water birds breed and nest together, and the natural resources that support these populations. Specific to oil or gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico, we are concerned with water quality, oil or gas spills, fisheries production, wildlife protection, oiling of birds, and similar issues.

The Nature Conservancy
P. O. Box 876
Apalachicola, FL 32329-0876

Phone: (850) 653-3111

Fax: (850) 653-3111

E-mail: rmathews@tnc.org

Web page: None
Organized: 1950
Membership: 40,000 in Florida. Conservationists
Contact: Ruth Mathews, Apalachicola Project Manager
Environmental concerns: Health of the Apalachicola River and Bay.

The Northwest Florida Daily News
200 Racetrack Road
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Phone: (850) 863-1111 ext. 44

Fax: (850) 863-7834

E-mail: jeffn@nwfdailynews.com

Web page: <http://www.nwfdailynews.com>

Organized: 1946. This is a daily newspaper of general circulation in Okaloosa, Walton, and Santa Rosa Counties in Northwest Florida. Also publishes on the Web page above.

Contact: Jeff Newell, Staff Writer

Environmental concerns: The Daily News concerns center on ensuring accurate, complete, and balanced coverage on all aspects of this issue as a member of the region's news media. They are neither an opponent of, nor advocate for, environmental or business causes. Their chief concern regarding the environment and its attendant business regulatory scheme is that we have the best available information on this topic (offshore oil and gas activities). They regard offshore oil and gas activities as a key area of newsworthy interest and public policy for our readers.

Chief concerns are timely notice of and access to government officials and all proceedings governing offshore oil or gas drilling. A related issue is access to government publications and documents, press releases, memoranda, correspondence and all other paper, electronic, photographic and other forms of documentation available under Florida's Public Records Law ("Sunshine Law") and the Federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

1000 Friends of Florida
P. O. Box 3948
Tallahassee, FL 32314-3948

Phone: (850) 222-6277

Fax: (850) 222-1117

E-mail: cpattison@nettally.com

Web page: <http://www.1000fof.usf.edu/>

Organized: 1986

Membership: N/A

Contact: Charles Pattison, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Growth management generally; enforcement of the 1985 Growth Management Act of Florida; protecting community quality of life and environmental features; affordable housing; and legal advocacy. We oppose offshore oil activity off the Florida coast.

Orange Beach, AL, City of
P. O. Box 458
Orange Beach, AL 36561

Phone: (334) 981-6979

Fax: (334) 981-2551

E-mail: cobclerk@gulftel.com

Web page: None

Organized: N/A

Membership: N/A

Contact: Cathy Larimore, City Clerk

Environmental concerns: The basic concern lies in economic development, which includes the attraction of tourists and new residents. Therefore, they want all oil/gas rigs out of the view of the coast. Concerns then are not so much potential spills or pollution, but the esthetics.

Organization for Artificial Reefs (OAR)

2545 Blairstone Pines Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Phone: (850) 656-2114

Fax: (850) 942-4431

E-mail: matthewbracken@sprintmail.com

Web page: None

Organized: 1986.

Membership: 400. Sport fishermen, divers, boaters and ocean enthusiasts.

Contact: Matt Bracken, Office Manager

Environmental concerns: Providing artificial reefs for local communities as well as scientific monitoring of fish species abundance thereupon. Concerns specific to Gulf oil or gas activities: the effects of spills/accidents, effects on artificial reefs, species abundance and size.

Ostego Bay Foundation, Inc.

718 Fishermans Wharf
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Phone: (941) 765-8101

Fax: (941) 463-0865

E-mail: None

Web page: None

Organized: 1991

Membership: N/A

Contact: Joanne Semmer James, President

Environmental concerns: Education, research, community service. Ostego Bay Oil Spill Co-op. Engaged in general information, education, and oil spill response.

Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce

415 Beckwith Road, Suite 200

Panama City Beach, FL 32413

Phone: (850) 235-1159

Fax: (850) 235-2301

E-mail: pcbeach@interoz.com

Web page: <http://www.pcbeach.org/>

Organized: 1987

Membership: 800. Primarily middle and upper-middle class, managers and professionals. Businesses engaged in the tourist industry.

Contact: Debie Parish, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: The Chamber of Commerce does not have a position on the environment in general. Nor on offshore oil/gas activities. Would prefer activities remain beyond the current 100 mile limit.

Panama City Beach, City of

110 South Arnold Road

Panama City Beach, FL 32413

Phone: (850) 233-5100

Fax: (850) 233-5108

E-mail: jacksonr@prodigy.net

Web page: None

Contact: Philip Griffiths, Mayor
 Richard Jackson, City Manager

Environmental concerns: None. The city supports offshore activity in the Gulf as long as such activity is “responsible.” Would have some concerns if activity moved inside the current 100-mile limit.

Panama City Port Authority

P. O. Box 15095
Panama City, FL 32406

Phone: (850) 763-8471

Fax: (850) 769-5673

E-mail: portpc@bellsouth.net

Web page: None

Contact: Rudy Etheridge, Port Director

Environmental concerns: A number of businesses associated with the port have been and might be employed in offshore oil/gas activities. Two produce pipe for the oil companies, another two builds boats for them, and still others have been used in servicing testing and rigs. Also, a number of Panama City residents are employed in the industry off the Louisiana coast. The Authority, therefore, supports activity in the Gulf and is not concerned about negative effects since the Gulf will produce gas, not oil.

Pasco County Growth Management/Zoning

West Pasco Government Center
7530 Little Road, Suite 320
New Port Richey, FL 34654

Phone: (727) 847-8193

Fax: (727) 847-8084

E-mail: None

Web page: None

Organized: This is a county agency.

Contact: Katherine Burbridge, Planner II

Environmental concerns: Environmental degradation, spills, economic degradation, negative impact on tourism.

Peninsula Design & Engineering, Inc.
9720 Princess Palm Avenue, Suite 106
Tampa, FL 33619

Phone: (813) 626-5400

Fax: (813) 623-1034

E-mail: pde@gte.net>

Web page: None

Organized: 1972

Employees: 30

Contact person: Robert L. Whitman, Jr., Vice President

Environmental services: Civil Engineering, Ecological Consulting, Restoration

Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce
735 Pensacola Beach Boulevard
Pensacola Beach, FL 32561

Phone: (850) 932-1500

Fax: (850) 932-1551

E-mail: penbeach@bellsouth.com

Web page: <http://www.pcola.com/penbeach>

Membership: Businesses, primarily in the tourism industry.

Contact: Sandy Reynolds Johnston, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Any leak or even trash from boating or rigs that would spoil our beautiful white sand and clear blue water. We do not want rigs offshore within 100 miles of our beach. Tourism is the primary industry of Florida.

Pensacola Beach Residents and Leaseholders Association (PBRLA)

P. O. Box 341

Gulf Breeze, FL 23562

Phone: (850) 932-4454

Fax: (850) 916-0396

E-mail: pbrla@xoommail.com

Web page: <http://members.xoom.com/PBRLA/>

Membership: 600. PBRLA is a nonprofit voluntary association of renters, residents, long-term leaseholders and businesses of Pensacola Beach, FL. Associate membership is available to seasonal visitors and mainland residents. Membership spans a wide range of ages, family size, socioeconomic status, and interests. Since 1992, when State school attendance laws for beach residents changed, working families with school age children have constituted an increasing percentage of the membership.

Contact: Don Acres, President

Environmental concerns: Principle concerns of PBRLA center on the governance of Pensacola Beach, including issues that frequently involve the environment, protection of endangered flora and fauna, sustainable development, land use, and the carrying capacity of barrier islands, zoning regulation, public education, and the local economy.

Pensacola Maritime Preservation Association
P. O. Box 1415
Pensacola, FL 32596

Phone: (850) 453-3471

Fax: (850) 457-1662

E-mail: tedbrown@brownmarine.com

Web page: <http://www.brownmarine.com/PMPA.htm>

Organized: N/A

Membership: No members.

Contact: Ted Brown, President & Director

Environmental concerns: Balance between economic and social concerns.

Pensacola Port Authority
P. O. Box 889
Pensacola, FL 32594-0889

700 S. Barracks Street
Pensacola, FL 32501

Phone: (850) 435-1870

Fax: (850) 435-1879

E-mail: cporter@ci.pensacola.fl.us

Web page: <http://www.portofpensacola.com>

Organized: 1743

Contact: Charles W. Porter, Port Director
cporter@ci.pensacola.fl.us

Tom Wharton, Assistant Port Director, Marketing
twharton@ci.pensacola.fl.us

Leon Walker, Assistant Port Director, Operations
lwalker@ci.pensacola.fl.us

Lynette M. Bason, Administrative Officer
lbason@ci.pensacola.fl.us

Business concerns: The Port of Pensacola is the leading deepwater port in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Located only 11 miles from the sea buoy for quick access to sea lanes. Stevedoring and marine services for breakbulk, container, bulk, liquid bulk, and frozen/chilled commodities.

Environmental concerns: The Port of Pensacola operates in a manner which minimizes or mitigates negative impacts on the basic functions and productivity of the City's natural land, coastal and water resources. The Port works to eliminate, reduce or avoid Port related health and safety concerns for present and future residents of the City of Pensacola.

Perry-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce
P. O. Box 892
Perry, FL 32348

Phone: (850) 584-5366
(800) 257-8881

Fax: (850) 584-8030

E-mail: tacoembr@perry.gulfnet.com

Web page: <http://www.asksam.com/chamber>

Organized: 1950s

Membership: 285. Local business and industry persons.

Contact: William M. Deming, President

Environmental concerns: We promote resource-based tourism on our coast. We would be concerned about our fishery and other related issues. Taylor County has the longest coastline of any county in Florida, much of which is preserved by the state, water management districts, and other public agencies. The counties contiguous to Taylor also have coastal land owned by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forestry Service, Water Management Districts, Florida State Park System, etc.

Pinellas Park/Mid-County Chamber of Commerce
5851 Park Boulevard
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Phone: (727) 544-4777

Fax: (727) 545-5911

E-mail: chamber@pinellasparkchamber.com

Web page: None

Organized: about 1920.

Membership 600. Business persons.

Contact: Rita Bott, Executive Vice President

Environmental concerns: Concerned about the quality of life and tourism on Florida's West Coast (Gulf of Mexico), particularly spills, pollution, and unsightly structures. The Chamber worked with England Brothers Construction and Mote Marine on the Year of the Gulf documentary (1996).

Port St. Joe, City of
P. O. Box 278
Port St. Joe, FL 32457

Phone: (850) 229-8261

Fax: (850) 227-7522

E-mail: None

Web page: None

Organized: 1913

Contact: Pauline Pendarvis, City Clerk

Environmental concerns: Water quality in St. Joseph's Bay and the aquatic life and its environment.

Reef Relief

201 William Street
Key West, FL 33040

Mailing: P. O. Box 439
Key West, FL 33041-0430

Phone: (305) 294-3100

Fax: (305) 293-9515

E-mail: reef@bellsouth.net

Web page: <http://www.reefrelief.org>

Organized: 1986

Membership: about 6,000, international. Diverse persons. No profile available.

Contact: Ms. DeeVon Quirolo, Project Director
Michael Blades, Project Coordinator

Environmental concerns: Anything impacting coral reefs worldwide. Special interest in the Keys. Opposed to any activity related to offshore oil/gas development.

Reef Relief operates an Environmental Center and Store in Key West to educate the public and raise funds for its programs. They monitor coral reefs to discern changes in them, conduct public educational programs, seek to increase scientific knowledge of reefs, and develop strategies to protect reefs.

St. Andrew Bay Environmental Study Team (BEST)

Attn: Lynn Gager
Coordinator, Lifelong Learning
Gulf Coast Community College
5230 West Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32401

Phone: (850) 872-3821

Fax: (850) 747-3258

E-mail: lgager@ccmail.gc.cc.fl.us

Web page: None

Contact: Lynn Gager, Past President
Gary Shaffer, President

Organized: 1988

Membership: 200. Local citizens; local, state, and federal governmental agencies, local industry, local civic groups, and educational organizations.

Environmental concerns: The primary concern is in St. Andrew Bay watershed. The Team has taken no official position on offshore oil/gas activities, but has expressed an interest to keep informed on the issue. Through it, other organizations and persons will be kept informed.

BEST's vision is to maintain and restore a healthy St. Andrew Bay ecosystem for the benefit of all people. To this end it evaluates the status of St. Andrew Bay, identifies any problems, and initiates corrective actions. BEST is a Florida Department of Environmental Protection ecosystem workgroup.

St. Joe Bay Committee

P. O. Box 219
Port St. Joe, FL 32457

Phone: (850) 227-1812

Fax: (850) 227-1227

E-mail: None

Web page: None

Organized: N/A

Membership: Interested members of the public.

Contact: Robert King, Chairman

Environmental concerns: Maintaining the health of St. Joseph Bay.

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road

P. O. Box 839

Sanibel, FL 33957-0839

Phone: (941) 472-2329

Fax: (941) 472-6421

e-mail: Sccf@sccf.org

Web page: <http://www.sccf.org>

Organized: 1967

Membership: 2,500. Full- or part-time residents of the barrier islands of Lee County.

Contact: Kristie Seaman Anders

Environmental concerns: A healthy shoreline, wildlife habitat, water quality, boat traffic.

Santa Rosa Sound Coalition

5397 Soundside Drive

Gulf breeze, FL 32561-9530

Phone: (850) 932-3077

Fax: (850) 932-9425

e-mail: aandf@gulf.net

Web page: <http://www.gulfmarket.com/srsc/>

Organized: 1995

Membership: 85. Primarily residents near and users of Santa Rosa Sound.

Contact: Frances Dunham

Environmental concerns: The Santa Rosa Sound Coalition was formed at the end of summer 1995 to work for improvement of water quality in the Sound. The Santa Rosa Sound is the body of water north of Santa Rosa Island in Northwest just East

of Pensacola and connects the Pensacola Bay System to Choctawhatchee Bay to the east. There has been a decline in the Sound: algae growth and sea grass disappearance, diminished numbers of fish and shellfish, turbidity, muck, and foam. The Coalition is concerned about the overnutrification, which causes these visible effects, and also about the presence of pathogens like bacteria and viruses.

The Santa Rosa Sound Coalition is very concerned about off-shore drilling. It is part of Gulf Coast Environmental Defense's "Save Our Shores" alliance opposing all petroleum production in the Gulf.

Save the Manatee Club

500 N. Maitland Avenue, Suite 210
Maitland, FL 32751

Phone: (407) 539-0990

Fax: (407) 539-0871

E-mail: pthompson@savethemanatee.org

Web page: <http://www.savethemanatee.org>

Membership: 40,000. No demographics available.

Contact: Patty Thompson, staff biologist

Environmental concerns: This is a single focus organization concentrating on the protection of manatees and their habitats.

Sea Critters

13005 Sea Critter Lane
Dover, FL 33527

Phone: (813) 986-6521

Fax: (813) 986-0191

E-mail: seacritters@cis.compuserve.com

Web page: petsforum.com/seacritters/

Organized: 1993 (S Corporation)

Membership: N/A

Contact: Roy, President
Teresa, Vice-President

Environmental concerns: The company is an aquiculture liverock dealer, marine life collectors and Florida natives concerned about our oceans. We have aquicultured liverock sites in the Gulf of Mexico offshore from Tarpon Springs, Florida.

Sierra Club, Florida Chapter

P. O. Box 060275

Palm Bay, FL 32906-0275

Phone: (407) 723-2480

Fax: None

e-mail: jack.maney@sierraclub.org

Web page: <http://www.sierraclub.org/>

Organized: 1972

Membership: 22,000. Member profile: primarily college educated, upper middle class. Chapter has 16 local groups across the state. Their locations can be determined by consulting the map of “ecoregions” on the state Web page. The chapter publishes a newsletter, also available on the Web page.

Contact: Jack Maney, State Chair.

Environmental concerns: All forms of pollution. Concerns relative to offshore oil and gas activities are delineated in an issue paper on the Web page. These concerns include the potential impacts of the Destin Dome development, the interaction of the Eglin Air Force Base ballistic missile range with oil/gas production platforms, potential development of Coastal Petroleum’s near-shore leases, transportation of oil/gas through the Gulf from any source, and the potential pipeline from Venezuela to the southern United States.

South Walton Turtle Watch Group
74 Birch Street
Freeport, FL 32439

Phone: (850) 897-5228

Fax: None

E-mail: sturtlewh@aol.com

Web page: None

Organized: 1995

Membership: 40

Contact: Sharon Maxwell, Founder and Coordinator
(Working under State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Sea Turtle Permit #120)

Environmental concerns: Concerned about all sea turtle nesting beaches, feeding grounds, and traveling areas and the health of our oceans. Concerned about what offshore oil or gas activities and equipment might mean to sea turtles and the effects any spills and waste from such activities will have on all or any marine life. Opposed to all oil or gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico.

Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.
1118-B Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Phone: (850) 224-0812

Fax: (850) 222-3663

E-mail: Bobfish@aol.com

Web page: <http://www.southeasternfish.org>

Organized: 1952

Membership: 450 seafood companies, 85% located in Florida. All fisheries and all

segments of the commercial industry are represented from harvesters to processors. To distributors, to the retail sector.

Contact: Bob Jones, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: Destruction of wetlands and significant ecosystems.

Southern Charm

6240 105th Terrace North
Pinellas Park, FL 337822

Phone: (727) 546-7257

Fax: None

E-mail: captchas@flfish.com

Web page: <http://www.flfish.com/fl>

Organized: This is a charter boat captain.

Contact: Capt. Charles Walker, Owner

Environmental concerns: Captain Walker says, "I've been to Louisiana and seen the damage caused by the support system during the last thirty and more years. The fishing around the rigs is great, but the environmental damage to our shore lines is too big a price to pay for it."

Southern Transport Service

P. O. Box 4173
Panama City, FL 32401

Phone: (850) 784-0927

Fax: (850) 784-9239

E-mail: None

Web page: None

Contact: Bill New, owner

Business organized: 1955

Type of business: Since 1976, this firm has been servicing rigs and development phases of offshore oil/gas activities in the Gulf, primarily off Texas and Louisiana.

Environmental concerns: Mr. New considers the risk of such activities in the Gulf is very small, especially given that the Gulf activity often involves only gas. The primary source of negative impacts have been from transportation of overseas oil in the Gulf.

Southern Waste Services, Inc. d/b/a SWS Environmental First Response

Corporate Office

1619 Moylan Road

Panama City Beach, FL 32407

(Eight other operational locations in FL, AL, GA)

Phone: (800) 852-8878 (24-hour emergency response)
(850) 234-8428 (Corporate HQ)

Fax: (850) 234-2451

e-mail: Info@swsefr.com

Web page: <http://www.swsefr.com/>

Founded: 1988. 105 employees

Contact: James J. Weber, Jr., President

Interests in off-shore drilling: SWS Environmental First Response is an emergency contractor specializing in oil, fuel, and chemical spill response for inland, coastal and open water events. The firm also provides disaster recovery services due to natural or manmade events.

Tampa Audubon Society

P. O. Box 320025

Tampa, FL 33679

Phone: (813) 623-6826

Fax: (813) 623-4086

E-mail: aschnapf@audubon.org

Web page: <http://www.gins.net/arc>

Membership: 1500. Well-educated, involved citizens, nature/bird appreciators.

Contact: Ann Schnapf, President
(813) 623-6826 (work)
(813) 238-5042 (home)

Tom Ries, Environmental Chair
(813) 949-4167 (work)
(813) 971-0170 (Fax)
scheda@gate.net

Environmental concerns: The mission of the Tampa Audubon Society is to conserve and restore our ecosystems, focusing on birds, wildlife, and their habitats, through education, advocacy, and community involvement. To these ends Tampa Audubon Society opposes any oil or gas activities in the Gulf of Mexico.

Tampa Bay Saltwater (TBS)

1720 Eldred Dr.
Tampa, FL 33603

Phone: (813) 875-3574

Fax: (813) 875-8501

E-mail: liverock@tbsaltwater.com

Web page: <http://www.tbsaltwater.com>

Organized: 1964. TBS is a private company certified and permitted by the State of Florida and the Federal Government to aquaculture live rock in the open ocean (Gulf and Atlantic) for use in the marine life industry.

Contact: Richard Londeree, owner

Environmental concerns: An oil spill in the Gulf would be catastrophic to the marine life industry in Florida. The Florida Marine Life Association (FMLA) has 180 members whose livelihood depends upon farming the Gulf and Atlantic seas. Specifically, those of us who have invested in the future of live rock production

(aquiculture) in the Gulf area have been farming the Gulf since 1993. TBS has 4 million pounds of seed rock under production with a potential market value of 24 million dollars. An oil spill, well blowout, or pipeline leak could devastate the industry and the Gulf environment.

If oil or gas drilling is allowed, the companies involved should be made to post a bond in the total dollar amount of the cumulative efforts of the companies farming the Gulf for reimbursement of inventory, lost sales, redeployment of new seed rock, and income for the six-year period of rock development.

Also of concern are the hundreds of clam and oyster aquiculture operations in the Big Bend area of Florida. There are millions of dollars in inventory invested in those industries also.

Taylor County Development Authority

P. O. Box 892
Perry, FL 32348

Phone: (850) 584-5366
(800) 257-8881

Fax: (850) 584-8030

E-mail: tacoembr@perry.gulfnet.com

Web page: <http://www.asksam.com/chamber>

Organized: 1960s

Membership: Not applicable. An appointed body.

Contact: William M. Deming, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: The Authority promotes resource-based tourism on our coast. They would be concerned about our fishery and other related issues. Taylor County has the longest coastline of any county in Florida, much of which is preserved by the State, water management districts, and other public agencies. The counties contiguous to Taylor also have coastal land owned by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forestry Service, Water Management Districts, Florida State Park System, etc.

Trout Unlimited of North Florida
4006 S. Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33813

Phone: (941) 646-1475

Fax: (941) 646-9142

E-mail: None

Web page: None

Organized: 1985

Membership: 1960 middle to upper class white professionals, ages 40-80.

Contact: Dr. Robert M. Jackson, Chair

Environmental concerns: Do not want any cold water trout in Florida, and do not want any offshore drilling or mining. Concerned about water pollution, trashing service areas and employees of offshore activities, and poor progress in energy. Seek improved alternative energy sources.

Turtle Time, Inc.
P. O. Box 2621
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33932

Phone: (941) 481-5566

Fax: (941) 481-5566

E-mail: whaverfi@peganet.com

Web page: <http://www.swflorida.com/turtletime/>

Organized: 1969

Membership: About 60 active volunteers, middle to upper class men and women, Caucasian, from pre-teen to octogenarians. Occupations such as hotel management, air line industry, construction, medicine, law, education, computer science, art, real estate, government administration, accounting, journalism, law enforcement, retirees, and middle, high school and university students.

Contact: Eve M. Haverfield, Founder and Director

Environmental concerns:

University of Florida Environmental Action Group
Box 56 JWRU
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Phone: (352) 392-1665 ext. 325

Fax: None

E-mail: eag@afn.org

Web page: under construction

Organized: 1970s. Approximately 50 student members, 18-24 years old.

Contact: Valerie True

Environmental concerns: All current campus, local, national and international issues.
Regarding offshore activities, the primary concern is potential habitat destruction, especially that of seagrasses. Against all offshore activity.

Valparaiso, FL, City of
P. O. Box 296
Valparaiso, FL 3232580-0296

Phone: (850) 729-5402

Fax: (850) 678-4553

E-mail: valparaiso@emeraldcoast.com

Web page: None

Contact: Mike Flynt, City Administrator

Organized: 1921. The city has approximately 6,700 citizens.

Environmental concerns: The City passed a resolution opposing all and any offshore oil/gas activities.

Venice Area Chamber of Commerce
257 Tamiami Trail North
Venice, FL 34285

Phone: (941) 488-2236

Fax: (941) 484-5903

E-mail: vcchamber@venicechamber.com

Web page: <http://www.venicechamber.com>

Organized: 1925

Membership: 1,250. Businesses and professionals.

Contact: John Connors, Executive Director

Environmental concerns:

Visitors Bureau for Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands
1600 Tamiami Trail, Suite 100
Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Phone: (941) 743-1900

Fax: (941) 743-2245

E-mail: visit@pureflorida.com

Web page: <http://www.pureflorida.com>

Organized: 1997

Membership: N/A

Contact: Cheryl Lauzon, Director

Environmental concerns: As a destination management organization, our goal is to work with interested parties and committees to develop sustainable tourism. We are concerned about the negative effect of offshore oil and gas activity in the Gulf of Mexico.

Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce
38415 5th Avenue
Zephyrhills, FL 33540

Phone: (813) 782-1913

Fax: (813) 783-6060

E-mail: zephcofc@innet.com

Web page: None

Organized: 1944

Membership: 400.

Contact: Cliff McDuffie, Executive Director

Environmental concerns: None.



The Department of the Interior Mission

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.



The Minerals Management Service Mission

As a bureau of the Department of the Interior, the Minerals Management Service's (MMS) primary responsibilities are to manage the mineral resources located on the Nation's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), collect revenue from the Federal OCS and onshore Federal and Indian lands, and distribute those revenues.

Moreover, in working to meet its responsibilities, the **Offshore Minerals Management Program** administers the OCS competitive leasing program and oversees the safe and environmentally sound exploration and production of our Nation's offshore natural gas, oil and other mineral resources. The **MMS Royalty Management Program** meets its responsibilities by ensuring the efficient, timely and accurate collection and disbursement of revenue from mineral leasing and production due to Indian tribes and allottees, States and the U.S. Treasury.

The MMS strives to fulfill its responsibilities through the general guiding principles of: (1) being responsive to the public's concerns and interests by maintaining a dialogue with all potentially affected parties and (2) carrying out its programs with an emphasis on working to enhance the quality of life for all Americans by lending MMS assistance and expertise to economic development and environmental protection.