

**STUDY TITLE:** Socioeconomic Factors Relating to the Area Adjacent to and Including the OCS from Brownsville, Texas, to the Point 24°N Lat, 81°W Long (Gulf of Mexico)

**REPORT TITLE:** Environmental and Socio Economic Baseline on the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Zone and Outer Continental Shelf, Volume I: Supplemental Bibliography on Environmental Processes and Conditions in the Gulf of Mexico and Volume II: Current and Recent Research on Environmental Processes and Conditions in the Gulf of Mexico Region

CONTRACT NUMBER: BLM: 08550-CT3-10

SPONSORING OCS REGION: Washington

APPLICABLE PLANNING AREAS: Eastern Gulf of Mexico, Central Gulf of Mexico; Western Gulf of Mexico

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PROJECT MANAGER: Not available

AFFILIATION: Environment Consultants, Inc.

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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Not available

**KEY WORDS:** Eastern Gulf; Central Gulf; Texas; Louisiana; Alabama; Mississippi; Florida; baseline; literature review; archeology; commercial fishing; transportation; demographics; marine; geology; meteorology; physical oceanography; pollution; endangered species; recreational fishing; Headquarters

**BACKGROUND:** In 1970, the National Oceanographic Data Center published a multi-volume bibliography entitled Cooperative Investigation of the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CICAR), which cited all of the scientific investigations previously conducted in Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico waters. In terms of socioeconomic summaries, several major studies were completed in 1973 which evaluated various aspects of deepwater ports and/or future lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico. In light of heightened interest in offshore oil and gas exploration and development in various portions of this region, the Bureau of Land Management identified a need to supplement the extensive environmental and socio-economic references through the identification and addition of recent publications.

References were also needed in several other relevant categories not previously summarized. A compilation of recent and current research being conducted in the Gulf of Mexico was required. Finally, presentation of recent socio-economic data was necessary within a format conducive to the evaluation of proposed or anticipated future development.

**OBJECTIVES:** (1) To upgrade and update existing annotated bibliographies pertaining to environmental processes and conditions within the Gulf of Mexico; (2) to present this bibliographic compilation in several usable forms to assure user utility; (3) to compile a listing of recent and current research applicable to environmental processes and conditions in the Gulf of Mexico; and (4) to identify and compile recent socio-economic data for the study area, and present these data in summary narrative, tabular, and map form.

**DESCRIPTION:** The geographic extent of this study was bounded on the east by a straight line drawn from Brownsville, Texas, offshore to the point at 24°N Lat, 81°W Long, excluding the Campeche Escarpment, and including all coastal counties and parishes either adjacent to the coastline or containing bay/estuary systems and coastal wetlands on the Gulf of Mexico. New citations were identified by a literatures search. Bibliographic material of an environmental nature (Volume I) was subsequently grouped into one of 18 general topics, including archaeological and historic sites; commercial activities; commercial fishing; commercial shipping; demography; land use; marine biology; marine, general; marine geology; meteorology; miscellaneous; oceanography; petroleum industry; pollution; rare and endangered species; recreational sites and activities; sport fishing; and transport systems. Within each of these 18 general topics, citations were presented both chronologically (by year of publication) and alphabetically by author within each year. When available, an abstract accompanies each citation. All references within a general topic were numbered consecutively without regard to year. Three indices (i.e., Subject Index, Geographical Index, Author Index for each general topic) were compiled to assist in the location of specific citations of interest. The hierarchical Subject Index provides a listing of specific topics indented beneath the sub-general topic to which they pertain. Indented specific topics were given the same weight as the terms under which they appeared. Thus, redundancy was eliminated by indexing an entry only under the most specific terms applicable within the hierarchy. The Geographical Index was arranged as an alphabetic system by major regions (i.e., ordered in a pattern of headings and their subordinate geographic units were arranged alphabetically. Since each entry was indexed only under the most specific location applicable within the hierarchy, redundancy was avoided. This format enables a user to find all specific geographic references contained within a broader geographic region. The Author Index represents an alphabetic listing of authors (or corporate authors if individual authors were not listed). Corporate authors were ordered in a pattern of indentations, indicative of divisional or departmental subordination. Major agencies, in conjunction with their composite divisions, were arranged alphabetically. As with the previous indices, and entry was indexed only under the most specific term applicable.

The compilation of recent and current research (Volume II) was accomplished following the solicitation of information from public and private institutions, agencies, and

organization deemed likely to be engaged in such studies. Ongoing and recent research projects were grouped into one of the 18 general categories listed previously. Each citation includes the name and the study project, subject of study, and abstract of the project, the agency conducting the study, the funding agency, estimated completion date, principal investigators, publications resulting from the study. Recent and current research references were listed alphabetically by agency conducting the research, then numbered consecutively. Four indices (i.e., Subject Index, Geographical Index, Research Agency Index, Funding Agency Index) for each general topic were compiled to assist users in the location of specific research of interest. The hierarchical Subject Index and Geographical Index were prepared in a fashion similar to that cited previously for respective indices within Volume I. The Research Agency Index represents and alphabetic listing, with major institutions ordered in a pattern of indentations indicating divisional or departmental subordination. As with other indices, entries were indexed only under the most specific term applicable. The Funding Agency Index was prepared using the identical structure of the Research Agency Index previously discussed.

**SIGNIFICANT CONCLUSIONS:** Volume I represents and upgraded and updated annotated bibliography pertaining to environmental processes and conditions in the Gulf of Mexico. It contains 2,859 references in 18 general categories. Volume II represents a compilation of recent and current research in the Gulf of Mexico, also grouped into 18 general categories.

**STUDY RESULTS:** Volume I: This volume, an upgraded and updated annotated bibliography pertaining to environmental processes and conditions in the Gulf of Mexico, contains 780 references within the original CICAR categories. The sections pertaining to oceanography and meteorology were updated to include references for the years 1972-73. In addition, 2,079 references were also provided in the new categories not cited by CICAR. Volume I contained the following general topics: archaeological and historic sites; commercial activities; commercial fishing; commercial shipping; demography; land use; marine biology; marine, general; marine geology; meteorology; miscellaneous; oceanography; petroleum industry; pollution; rare and endangered species; recreational sites and activities; sport fishing; and transport systems. Sections for each general topic consisted of a Subject Index, Author Index, Geographic Index, and a references section.

Volume II: This volume summarized research and studies in progress at the time the volume was prepared which related to the CICAR. As was established within Volume I, sections in this summary volume were consistent with the 18 general topic areas noted previously. Numbers of current or recent research efforts, by subject, which are annotated in the volume are as follows: archaeological and historical sites (6); commercial activities (19); commercial fishing (135); commercial shipping (14); demography (8); land use (37); marine biology (239); marine, general (15); marine geology (82); meteorology (22); miscellaneous (109); oceanography (98); petroleum industry (18); pollution (89); rare and endangered species (52); recreational sites and activities (22); sport fishing (19); and transport systems (8). Each research citation presented, when available, the name of study project; subject of study; an abstract of the study project; agency conducting the study; funding agency; estimated completion

date; principal investigators; and publications resulting from the study. Each topic area was indexed by subject, research agency, funding agency, and geography.

**STUDY PRODUCTS:** Environment Consultants, Inc. 1974. Environmental and Socio-Economic Baseline on the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Zone and Outer Continental Shelf. Vol. I, Supplemental Bibliography on Environmental Processes and Conditions in the Gulf of Mexico Region. A final report for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D. C. NTIS No. PB80-202831. Contract No. 08550-CT3-10. iv + 525 pp.

Complete set, Vols. I-III - NTIS No. PB80-202823.