

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION**

NTL No. 2008-G20

Issue Date: 10/15/2008

Effective Date: 10/20/2008

Expiration Date: until superseded

**NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS (NTL) OF FEDERAL OIL AND
GAS LEASES AND PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) HOLDERS
ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS), GULF OF MEXICO
OCS REGION (GOMR)**

**Revisions to the List of OCS Lease Blocks
Requiring Archaeological Resource Surveys and Reports**

Authority

This NTL is issued pursuant to 30 CFR 250.103. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) regulations at [30 CFR 250.194, 250.207\(b\), and 250.1007\(a\)\(5\)](#) require OCS lessees and operators and pipeline ROW holders to conduct surveys within areas of high archaeological potential and to submit the results to MMS. This NTL constitutes the written notice referenced in these regulations.

NTL No. 2005-G07 provides specific guidance on how to conduct archaeological resources surveys and prepare archaeological reports, and gave preliminary notice that deepwater OCS blocks on the approach to the Mississippi River were added to the list of OCS blocks requiring archaeological resource surveys and reports. If you have any questions on archaeological resource surveys or reports, please refer to the Archaeology Contacts website at: <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/archaeological/contacts.html>

Purpose

This NTL supersedes NTL 2006-G07 by providing new additions and modifications to the list of OCS blocks that require archaeological resource surveys and reports for submittal to MMS, and the required survey line-spacing for each block. **It does not rescind NTL 2005-G07.**

Additions and modifications made through this NTL are included in Appendix 1. The complete list of GOMR OCS blocks requiring archaeological resource surveys and reports, including the blocks identified in this NTL and other previously identified blocks are published on the MMS website at:

<http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/archaeological/surveyblocks.pdf>.

NOTE: Any future changes made to the list of GOMR OCS lease blocks requiring archaeological survey requirements will be posted directly to the above listed website. Operators are directed to check this website prior to conducting archaeological surveys to

ensure proper survey parameters. Lease holders will be notified in writing when changes to survey requirements for their lease blocks change.

This NTL does not apply to lease blocks located in the Atlantic OCS. MMS-permitted activities for the Atlantic OCS should follow NTL 2005-G07 for instrumentation requirements. Survey line spacing for the Atlantic OCS should be conducted at no greater than 30-meter line spacing for water depths 200 meters or less, and no greater than 200-meter line spacing for water depths greater than 200 meters. Contact the MMS GOMR Social Sciences Unit (see Archaeology Contacts website above) for additional requirements in the Atlantic OCS.

Background

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, and other applicable laws and regulations require MMS to be responsible for ensuring that archaeological resources on the OCS are not damaged or destroyed by oil, gas, and sulphur operations. Archaeological resources are any material remains of human life or activities that are at least 50 years of age and that are of archaeological interest (see definition at [30 CFR 250.105](#)).

A 2003 MMS study found that there are more than 2,100 historic shipwrecks in the Federal waters of the GOM. In addition to identifying the reported or known locations of these vessels, this study also assigned a location reliability rating to each of these vessels. The blocks identified in Appendix 1 reflect additions to the archaeology block list based on recent discoveries, primarily through right-of-way pipeline surveys.

Revisions to the List of Archaeological High Probability Lease Blocks

Attachment 1 presents the OCS blocks now added to the list of blocks currently requiring an archaeological survey and report or modifications to the survey line spacing for blocks already on the list. Blocks comprising this list occur primarily in the Central Planning Area.

No Waiver of High-resolution Sidescan Sonar Survey Requirement

As stated in NTL No. 2005-G07 (Archaeological Resource Reports section, paragraph E), MMS **will not approve** requests to use 3-D seismic data as a substitute for high-resolution sidescan sonar data in deepwater areas. For EP's and DOCD's in deepwater lease blocks, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) or Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) surveys may be appropriate. Contact the MMS Social Sciences Unit (see Archaeology Contacts website above) if you wish to discuss other survey options.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 Statement

This NTL provides clarification, description, and interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR 250, subparts A and J. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in these regulations under OMB Control Numbers

1010-0114 for subpart A and 1010-0050 for subpart J. This NTL does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

[original signed]

Lars T. Herbst
Regional Director

Appendix

NTL 2008-G20 Appendix:
List of OCS Lease Block Additions and Modifications

Lease Blocks Added to Block List:

Protraction	Lease Block	Survey Line Spacing
Atwater Valley	AT 250	300
Atwater Valley	AT 251	300
Atwater Valley	AT 252	300
Atwater Valley	AT 253	300
Atwater Valley	AT 294	300
Atwater Valley	AT 295	300
Atwater Valley	AT 296	300
Atwater Valley	AT 297	300
Atwater Valley	AT 338	300
Atwater Valley	AT 339	300
Atwater Valley	AT 340	300
Atwater Valley	AT 341	300
Atwater Valley	AT 382	300
Atwater Valley	AT 383	300
Atwater Valley	AT 384	300
Atwater Valley	AT 385	300
East Cameron	EC 266	300
East Cameron	EC 267	50
East Cameron	EC 330	300
Eugene Island	EI 349	300
Grand Isle	GI 32	300
Grand Isle	GI 40	300
High Island	HI A 528	50
South Marsh Island	SM 163	50
South Marsh Island	SM 171	300
South Pass	SP 51	300
South Pass	SP 52	50
South Pass	SP 85	50
Vermilion	VR 282	300
West Cameron	WC 549	300
West Delta	WD 69	300
West Delta	WD 75	300
West Delta	WD 104	300
Walker Ridge	WR 115	300

Lease Blocks Modified:

Protraction	Area/Block	Old Line Spacing	New Line Spacing
Galveston	GA A22	300	50

Galveston	GA A195	300	50
Galveston	GA A211	300	50
Galveston	GA A212	300	50
Grand Isle	GI 114	300	50
Matagorda Island	MI 616	300	50
Mustang Island	MU A10	300	50
Mustang Island	MU A15	300	50
Mustang Island	MU A16	300	50
Mustang Island	MU A53	300	50
Mustang Island	MU A54	300	50
Mustang Island	MU A64	300	50
Mustang Island	MU A65	300	50
Mustang Island	MU A83	300	50
Mustang Island	MU A84	300	50
Mustang Island	MU A100	300	50
Mustang Island	MU A107	300	50
South Pass	SP 36	300	50
South Pass	SP 42	300	50
South Pass	SP 73	300	50
Vernon Basin	VN 347	300	50