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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Gulf Deepwater Sees Major Advance in 2004; Records Set**

Emphasizing the major expansion of the oil and gas industry in deepwater Gulf of Mexico, the Minerals Management Service announces that there were 14 new deepwater startups and 12 new deepwater discoveries in 2004. According to Chris Oynes, Gulf of Mexico MMS Regional Director, "These 14 new deepwater startups and 12 deepwater discoveries show once again that the Gulf of Mexico is alive and well, helping America meet her energy needs. This tenth year of sustained expansion of deepwater production adds further to the success of previous years."

Six of these 14 starts are floating production facilities (two tension-leg platforms [TLP] and four spars) that can act as hubs for future subsea development projects. (See Table 1.) Two of these startups broke offshore records in 2004: ConocoPhillips' Magnolia set the world record for TLP water depth at 4,674 feet, and BP's Holstein is the world's largest producing spar.

"Some of these new deepwater discoveries are opening up new areas for natural such gas development in the eastern Gulf," said Oynes. "The discoveries of Atlas and San Jacinto in the Eastern Gulf have helped bring economic viability to the Independence Hub facility now being planned." Oynes also noted that "ChevronTexaco's discoveries at Tiger, Silvertip, and Jack located in Alaminos Canyon and Walker Ridge respectively, and Unocal's discovery at Tobago in Alaminos Canyon added new excitement to the Paleogene in this area." (See table 2.)

MMS, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, oversees 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf, managing offshore energy and minerals while protecting the human, marine, and coastal environments through advanced science and technology research. The OCS provides 30 percent of oil and 23 percent of natural gas produced domestically, and sand used for coastal restoration. MMS collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands, with fiscal year 2004 disbursements of around \$8 billion and more than \$143 billion since 1982. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which pays for acquisition of state and federal park and recreation land, gets nearly \$1 billion a year.

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

**\*\*\*MMS: Securing Ocean Energy and Economic Value for America\*\*\***

**Table 1: 2004 Deepwater Startups**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Block</b>	<b>Water Depth (ft)</b>	<b>System Type</b>
EB598/599	Kerr-McGee	East Breaks	598	3212	Subsea
Raptor	Pioneer	East Breaks	668	3710	Subsea
Harrier	Pioneer	East Breaks	759	4114	Subsea
Llano	Shell	Garden Banks	386	2663	Subsea
Magnolia	ConocoPhillips	Garden Banks	783	4674	TLP
Red Hawk	Kerr-McGee	Garden Banks	877	5334	Spar
Glider	Shell	Green Canyon	248	3440	Subsea
Front Runner	Murphy	Green Canyon	338	3330	Spar
Marco Polo	Anadarko	Green Canyon	608	4320	TLP
Holstein	BP	Green Canyon	645	4344	Spar
Kepler/Na Kika	Shell	Mississippi Canyon	383	5759	Subsea
Ariel/Na Kika	Shell	Mississippi Canyon	429	6240	Subsea
Coulomb/Na Kika	Shell	Mississippi Canyon	657	7591	Subsea
Devil's Tower	Dominion	Mississippi Canyon	773	5610	Spar

**Table 2: 2004 Deepwater Discoveries**

<b>Prospect Name</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Block</b>	<b>Water Depth (ft)</b>
Tobago	Unocal	Alaminos Canyon	859	9627
Silvertip	ChevronTexaco	Alaminos Canyon	815	9226
Tiger	ChevronTexaco	Alaminos Canyon	818	9004
Atlas	Anadarko Petroleum	Lloyd Ridge	5	8810
San Jacinto	Dominion Exploration	Desoto Canyon	618	7850
Jack	ChevronTexaco	Walker Ridge	759	6965
Thunder Hawk	Dominion Exploration	Mississippi Canyon	734	5724
Goldfinger	Dominion Exploration	Mississippi Canyon	771	5423
Ticonderoga	Kerr-McGee	Green Canyon	768	5250
Puma	BP Exp. & Prod. Inc.	Green Canyon	823	4130
Dawson Deep	Kerr-McGee	Garden Banks	625	2900
Crested Butte	Nexen	Green Canyon	242	2846