



NEWS RELEASE

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MMS to Present Findings at International Oil Spill Conference

MIAMI –Six papers will be presented on the results of MMS-funded research at the 2005 International Oil Spill Conference in Miami, Florida. Topics will cover aspects of oil spill response, mechanical recovery, chemical dispersants and oil modeling. MMS will also have two exhibit booths at the IOSC which takes place May 15-19.

MMS also sponsors a traditional highlight of the week-long conference – the IOSC Film Festival-- this year featuring 19 films from seven countries. Film topics include: oil spill response activities and operations, training and education. Joseph Mullin and Sharon Buffington, of MMS will present “Oscar-like” statuettes for “Best Film Presentation at the 2005 International Oil Spill Conference” on Tuesday, May 17. Following the Film Festival Award Ceremony, Rear Admiral Brian Peterman, Commander 7th Coast Guard District will address the luncheon.

Famed underwater explorer Robert D. Ballard, will be the opening plenary luncheon speaker on Monday May 16. Ballard is president of the Institute for Exploration at the Mystic Aquarium and an Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographic Society. The Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher will be the guest luncheon speaker on Wednesday, May 18.

The following scientific papers funded by MMS will be presented at the conference.

1. Correlating Wave Tank Dispersant Effectiveness Tests with At-Sea Trials, presented by Mr. Randy Belore, S.L. Ross Environmental Research Ltd.
2. Dispersant Effectiveness Testing with Heavy Oil: Results from Ohmsett to At-Sea, presented by Dr. Ken Trudel, S.L. Ross Environmental Research Ltd.
3. Examining the Fate of Emulsion Breakers Used for Decanting, presented by Mr. Ian Buist, S.L. Ross Environmental Research Ltd.
4. Statistical Estimate of Shoreline Oil Contact in the Gulf of Mexico, presented by Dr. Walter Johnson, Minerals Management Service and Dr. Zhen-Gang (Jeff) Ji, Minerals Management Service.

5. Modeling Deepwater Oil-Spill with Near Field and Far Field Models, presented by Dr. Zhen-Gang (Jeff) Ji, Minerals Management Service.
6. A Method to Characterize Materials to be Used on Oleophilic Skimmers, presented by Ms. Victoria Broje, University of California, Santa Barbara.

For more information on the International Oil Spill Conference, go to www.iosc.org.

As a steward of federal offshore energy resources, MMS ensures that industry operations on the Outer Continental Shelf use the best available and safest technologies. Through its Technology Assessment and Research Program, MMS funds extensive research on operational safety and pollution prevention as well as oil spill prevention and response.

The 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 approximately \$8 billion and more than \$143 billion since 1982. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, which pays for cooperative conservation, grants to states, and Federal land acquisition, gets nearly \$1 billion a year.

MMS Main Website: www.mms.gov

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