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MMS Ocean Science Magazine Explores the Depths of Ocean Research

Oceans cover over 70 percent of the earth's surface and are home to untold numbers of fish, mammals and plants. Below the ocean floor are mineral deposits that help fuel our energy dependent lives. But, the oceans remain some of the last uncharted and least understood places on the earth. In an effort to build a greater understanding of our oceans, the Minerals Management Service recently launched ***MMS Ocean Science***, a new bimonthly magazine highlighting ocean science and technology.

The March/April issue of *MMS Ocean Science* magazine is now available and looks at the MMS Deepwater program: Past, Present, and Future. The stories provide a fascinating look at deepwater exploration, technology advances, and the challenges facing development and the unique communities that live as much as 12,000 feet below sea level in the Gulf of Mexico.

As new technologies are developed by industry, exploration activities are moving further into the deepwaters of the Gulf of Mexico. One of the most impressive technologies being used in deepwater exploration today are giant drill ships. These ships can drill in over 10,000 feet of water and an additional 25,000 feet below the seafloor. This is one of the many interesting articles contained in the latest issue of *MMS Ocean Science*.

MMS has funded over \$600 million in research on the marine environments along the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, Pacific and Atlantic outer continental shelves over the past 30 years.

MMS Ocean Science is also available by mail or electronically. Sign up on the web at:
www.gomr.mms.gov/guestbook/gmaillist/oceansub.asp.

The Minerals Management Service is the federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in Federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands. MMS disbursed more than \$8 billion in 2003 and more than \$135 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund annually for the acquisition and development of state and Federal park and recreation lands.

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