

**STUDY TITLE:** Management of Coastal Marine Institute's Task Orders

**REPORT TITLE:** Management of the MMS-LSU Coastal Marine Institute: A Report of the First Six Years 1992-1998

**CONTRACT NUMBERS:** 14-35-0001-30660-19918

**SPONSORING OCS REGION:** Gulf of Mexico

**APPLICABLE PLANNING AREA:** Central Gulf

**FISCAL YEARS OF PROJECT FUNDING:** 1994 - 1998

**COMPLETION DATE OF REPORT:** August 2001

**COST(S):** FY 1994: \$131,656; FY 1995: \$15,794; FY 1996: \$6,000; FY 1997: \$37,129; FY 1998: \$23,820; **CUMULATIVE PROJECT COSTS:** \$214,390

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Robert S. Carney

**AFFILIATION:** Coastal Marine Institute, Louisiana State University

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**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Robert S. Carney

**KEY WORDS:** Coastal Marine Institute, Project Management, University Research, Louisiana

**BACKGROUND:** The Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) at Louisiana State University was established for an initial six years (1992-1998) as a cooperative agreement between the state and the Minerals Management Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The basic intent of CMI was to direct the considerable research talents of a major research university towards federal and state information needs in a state where Outer Continental Shelf development of the oil and gas industry is a major factor. Funding for all projects undertaken has been equally divided between MMS and Louisiana resources. A Management Task was established to oversee CMI.

**OBJECTIVES:** The CMI Management Task coordinated annual identification of topics and carried out pre-proposal and proposal solicitation. Once awarded, CMI projects were administered by MMS contracting officers and contracting officer's technical representatives. CMI Management facilitated interaction with PI's on a case to case basis. CMI Management arranged for and oversaw Louisiana matching funds.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Management Task established a CMI Management Office. A director, Robert S. Carney, was assisted by an administrative specialist, Madolyn Cox, and undergraduate student workers. The director maintained close contact with MMS personnel in New Orleans and in the Headquarters Office concerning issues appropriate for CMI research. During the annual Gulf of Mexico Region ITM, the director would meet with MMS officials and mutually agree upon routine and special information topics. The CMI Management Office would then solicit, receive, and transmit to MMS pre-proposals. Following MMS internal review, the director would meet with MMS and identify, solicit, and transmit to MMS projects for full proposal submission. The director would again meet with MMS for the mutual acceptance or rejection of proposals. During the course of CMI tasks, the CMI Management Office provided budgetary and reporting oversight.

**SIGNIFICANT CONCLUSIONS:** The CMI Management Task did not undertake studies leading to conclusions. Conclusions are reported separately for each study task.

**STUDY RESULTS:** During its initial six years, CMI has been exceptionally effective. Fifty projects have been funded employing the talents of 64 faculty researchers, 14 postdoctoral associates, 26 Ph.D. candidates, 22 master's candidates, and 38 undergraduate workers. As projects have been completed, publication in the peer-reviewed literature has been very good creating a greater awareness in the academic community for issues of resource development. The total cost to MMS and LSU has been equal at \$11,360,000 each. All of this has been achieved at a management cost of less than 2%. Research tasks fell into five broad categories: Information Dissemination (4 projects at \$1,325,000), Chemical Fates, Effects, and Bioremediation (13 projects at \$2,053,000), Offshore Structure Ecology (6 projects at \$2,807,000), Physical Oceanography and Meteorology (12 Projects at \$2,661,000), Deepwater Environment Studies (4 projects at \$810,000), and Socioeconomics and Policy (16 projects at \$2,225,000).

**STUDY PRODUCTIONS:** The CMI Management Task produced a final report: Carney, R.S. 2001. Management of the MMS-LSU Coastal Marine Institute: A report of the first six years, 1992-1998; Final report. OCS Study MMS-2001-062. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Minerals Mgmt. Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, New Orleans, La. 92 pp.