

**STUDY TITLE:** NEDRES Data Indexing and ROSCOP Oceanographic Cruise Cataloging Study

**REPORT TITLE:** Guide for the Uniform Coding of ROSCOP Forms for Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Studies Programs; Revised and Recoded ROSCOP Forms For Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Studies Programs

**CONTRACT NUMBER:** 14-12-0001-30027

**SPONSORING OCS REGION:** Gulf of Mexico

**APPLICABLE PLANNING AREAS:** Straits of Florida; Eastern Gulf of Mexico; Central Gulf of Mexico; Western Gulf of Mexico

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**PROJECT MANAGER:** R. Childers

**AFFILIATION:** Ralph Childers Associates

**ADDRESS:** 554 Lanecrest, Houston, Texas 77024

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** R. Childers

**KEY WORDS:** Straits of Florida; Eastern Gulf; Central Gulf; Western Gulf; data; guidelines; standardization; forms; coding

**BACKGROUND:** These guidelines are intended for use by researchers in the Minerals Management Service (MMS) Environmental Studies Program for the Gulf of Mexico in preparing the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) "Report of Observations/ Samples Collected by Oceanographic Programs (ROSCOP), Second Edition." The MMS Environmental Studies Program utilizes the ROSCOP form as a first level of data inventory which will eventually be entered into the National Environmental Data Referral Service (NEDRES) files. This report attempts to develop guidelines for standardization of information reporting.

**OBJECTIVES:** (1) To review and record approximately 160 ROSCOP forms covering studies over the past decade; and (2) to make recommendations and guidelines for standardization of ROSCOP forms.

**DESCRIPTION:** The ROSCOP form used in this study, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Form 24-23 (1-76), consists of four pages. The first page contains information of a general nature and also localization information. The next three pages contain information regarding type of observations or samples collected.

**SIGNIFICANT CONCLUSIONS:** The ROSCOP form should be completed in the following order [A25 (Remarks) can be completed at any time]: (1) the upper one-half (through A15) of the first page; (2) the second through fourth pages; and (3) the lower one-fourth of the first page.

**STUDY RESULTS:** Following the guidelines, the upper three-fourths of the first page (through A25) of the ROSCOP form should be completed first. This information is of a general nature and locates the study. The second through fourth pages of the ROSCOP form (completed second) includes measurements, observations, and types of studies. Difficulty arises in maintaining consistency with category descriptions because of the broad range of studies conducted under the MMS Environmental Studies Program and the inherent vagueness and inadequacies in the ROSCOP form. Under certain circumstances (e.g., diverse sampling program) more than one category may be applicable, while in other instances it is impossible to find an appropriate category. In an endeavor to remedy this situation, an attribute called "common usage" was introduced in this section. Categories listed under this attribute reflect more common entries during the past decade of MMS Gulf of Mexico studies. Examination of existing ROSCOP forms indicates that it is common to ignore the distinction between "types of studies" and "types of measurements." In general, an entry in GL (Measurements Made at a Specific Location) or GU (Measurements Made Underway) should have counterpart entries in GS (Types of Studies). Similarly, an entry in B (Biology) should have a counterpart entry in BS (Types of Studies). Creating new categories should not be done because it serves no purpose for standardization. If no appropriate categories can be found, then the "other measurements" category should be used. It is permissible to use more than one category.

The bottom quarter of the first page deals with localization of measurements. Level one localization is satisfied by completion of "General Ocean Areas" (A08) in the upper half of the first page of the ROSCOP form. Level two localization deals specifically with the 10° Lat x 10° Long squares. Level three localization deals with the 1° Lat x 1° Long squares supplying further details relating to level 2 localization.

Compilation of ROSCOP forms will provide the basis for timely inventories of data and samples resulting from on-going programs available for international exchange. The forms also provide a standardized format for the entry of information into the NEDRES system.

**STUDY PRODUCTS:** Childers, R. E. 1984. Guide for the Uniform Coding of ROSCOP Forms for Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf

Environmental Studies Programs. A final report by Ralph Childers Associates for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Metairie, LA. NTIS No. PB86-245081. MMS Report 85-0010. Contract No. 14-12-0001-30027. 30 pp.

Childers, R. E. 1984. Revised and Recoded ROSCOP Forms for Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Studies Programs. A final report by Ralph Childers Associates for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Metairie, LA. NTIS No. PB86-245073. MMS Report 85-0009. Contract No. 14-12-0001-30027. 173 pp.