



NEWS RELEASE

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Coastal Impact Assistance Program Environmental Assessment Available

Finding of No Significant Impact

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Interior’s Minerals Management Service (MMS) has published a final programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) and Finding of No Significant Impact. The EA assesses potential impacts on the environment from the implementation of the program, and assists MMS in planning and decision making on future assessment of individual CIAP projects. The EA is available on the MMS website at: www.mms.gov/offshore/CIAPmain.htm.

The CIAP was established under section 384 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, through MMS, to distribute \$250 million annually to six states -- Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas -- all Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas producing states, in fiscal years 2007 through 2010. The Act requires that all CIAP funding be used for projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands; mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources; planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with CIAP legislation; implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan; or mitigation of the impact of OCS activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs.

MMS recently announced availability of the FY 2007 and FY 2008 allocations to each of the six eligible states and their Coastal Political Subdivisions (CPSs), which include counties, parishes, or boroughs.

CIAP funds will be distributed through a grant process. States must submit a State CIAP plan to MMS. Once a State plan has been approved by MMS, States and their CPSs can submit grant applications to MMS. CIAP funds cannot be drawn without MMS approval of grant applications. MMS will accept grant applications beginning in mid-October 2007.

More information on the CIAP program is available at: <http://www.mms.gov/offshore/CIAPmain.htm>.

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