



# Minerals Management Service

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## News Release

### Office of Public Affairs

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## MMS Approves \$377,000 Grant for Mississippi Coast Species Control

*State to implement aquatic invasive species assessment plan*

**NEW ORLEANS** – The Minerals Management Service (MMS) has approved a grant package for \$377,757 to the State of Mississippi Department of Marine Resources through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), for the implementation of an Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination, Assessment, and Control Plan.

Grant funding will assess the types and number of invasive aquatic plants within the Mississippi gulf coastal zone. Invasive plants such as water hyacinths degrade water quality, block recreational navigation in the waterways, and have a negative effect on fisheries. Appropriate control measures will be implemented in target spots within major drainage basins along the Mississippi coast.

“MMS is committed to helping the coastal states in their vital conservation efforts through the CIAP program,” said MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Director Lars Herbst. “We are proud to assist the State of Mississippi in supporting important preservation projects like the Aquatic Invasive Species Assessment and Control Plan.”

The CIAP was created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Through the program, MMS will provide \$250 million in grants annually, from 2007 to 2010, to six eligible Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas producing states – Mississippi, Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana, and Texas. The funding to Mississippi included \$30.9 million for each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008, and \$23.8 million for each of the fiscal years 2009 and 2010. Three Coastal Political Subdivisions (counties) are eligible to share in the funding of projects outlined in the state’s approved plan.

—MMS—

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