

RESOLUTION OF THE OCS POLICY COMMITTEE
REGARDING THE PROPOSED FIRST MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE MARINE
MINERALS PROGRAM INFORMATION TRANSFER MEETING (ITM)

WHEREAS, the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Policy Committee has been formed to provide advice to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the Minerals Management Service (MMS) related to discretionary functions of the Bureau under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA); and

WHEREAS, the Marine Minerals Program States Cooperative effort has been in existence since 1992; and

WHEREAS, the MMS has expended almost \$11 million in Environmental Study Program funds for marine mineral-related environmental studies and approximately \$9 million to identify and evaluate sand resources in 14 coastal states for beach and coastal restoration, and wetlands protection; and

WHEREAS, the results of these investigations have broad application and implications relative to the users of these resources, and the information on the MMS Marine Minerals Program has never been widely dispersed; and

WHEREAS, the cooperative program and the associated environmental studies have enabled the use of OCS sand resources for 16 projects in five states, providing protection to more than 90 miles of the Nation's environmentally sensitive coastlines; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Minerals Program has proposed an OCS Marine Minerals Workshop - Information Transfer Meeting using Environmental Program Studies Program Funds in Fiscal Year 2006; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of an OCS Marine Minerals Workshop – Information Transfer Meeting would be to foster sharing of information among participants about past and current research and accomplishments, to disseminate critical information relative to procedures to be followed and environmental information available for impact assessments and decision making, to facilitate future coordination of negotiated leases, to foster relationships, and to discuss issues of concern; and

WHEREAS, the OCS Hard Minerals Subcommittee will assist with the planning, organizing, and managing of an OCS Marine Minerals Workshop – Information Transfer meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the OCS Policy Committee, on this 22 day of June 2005, urges the Secretary of the Interior through the Minerals Management Service to support MMS' request to conduct a dedicated OCS Marine Minerals Workshop – Information Transfer Meeting in FY 2006; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to the Secretary of the Interior for her consideration.

Resolution passed unanimously.