

FOR RELEASE: July 7, 1994

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MMS SIGNS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA  
(#40051)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has signed a new cooperative agreement with the Florida Geological Survey to study sand resources along Florida's central east coast, MMS officials announced today.

"MMS is dedicated to assisting states in locating sand on the federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for the restoration and preservation of coastal beaches and adjacent wetlands," said MMS Director Tom Fry. "This agreement allows us an excellent opportunity to work with Florida in identifying sand resources suitable for their beach nourishment projects."

Similar efforts to evaluate marine mineral resources in federal waters have been initiated with all other states on the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico. As with MMS' other cooperative programs, the focus is on the assessment of selected sand deposits, and the evaluation of environmental, engineering and economic aspects related to sand extraction and placement.

MMS awarded the state \$92,955 to conduct the one-year study.

MMS administers federal offshore mineral programs and manages the federal and Indian mineral royalty program. The MMS Office of International Activities and Marine Minerals (INTERMAR) is responsible for the management of OCS sand resources. For more information contact INTERMAR at (703) 787-1300.

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