

# MMS Alaska OCS Region

# News Release

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Robin Lee Cacy  
907-271-6070  
1-800-764-2627  
[www.mms.gov/alaska](http://www.mms.gov/alaska)

## **Dr. Richard Prentki Receives Interior Department's Superior Service Award**

Dr. Richard Prentki received the Interior Department's Superior Service Award for his outstanding work in the MMS Environmental Studies Program and his many contributions to the Outer Continental Shelf offshore oil and gas leasing program.

During his 20-year tenure with the MMS Alaska OCS Region, Prentki played a significant role in the environmental assessment and studies that provide a foundation for the OCS program. As an environmental assessment analyst, he served as coordinator of the Oil Spill Risk Analysis model and was responsible for maintaining the scientific quality and format of the model as well as interpreting and communicating the results to the Region's analysts.

Prentki joined the Environmental Studies Section in 1990, serving as the primary scientist for planning, designing and administering contracts for MMS-sponsored physical oceanography studies. He has administered more than 30 scientific contracts in the fields of physical oceanography and fates and effects of oil. He also contributes to preparation of environmental impact statements, serves in an advisory role to groups such as the Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council, and interacts with the MMS Scientific Committee. A recent accomplishment was his planning, designing, and outreach for a multi-million dollar monitoring study titled, "Arctic Nearshore Impact Monitoring in Development Area.(ANIMIDA)" The ANIMIDA study is an integral part of the MMS environmental oversight of upcoming oil and gas development in the arctic OCS.

Throughout his career, Dr. Prentki has fostered innovative planning and implementation of studies that enhance our knowledge of the arctic environment. His peers and his colleagues have long recognized his work for its outstanding quality.

MMS is the federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas and other mineral resources on the outer continental shelf in federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for and disburses mineral revenues from federal and Indian leases. These collections totaled nearly \$8 billion last year and more than \$110 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Annually, nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the acquisition and development of state and federal park and recreation lands.

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