The Minerals Management Service (MMS) announces the availability of the publication **Deepwater Gulf of Mexico 2005: Interim Report of 2004 Highlights**. This report provides an up-to-date review of the deepwater frontier and presents highlights of 2004. The report is divided into five sections.

**The Background** section discusses:
- highlights of current deepwater GOM activity and new discoveries and geologic plays.

**The Leasing and Environment** section discusses:
- historical water-depth and bidding trends in deepwater leasing,
- future deepwater lease activity, and ocean current monitoring.

**The Drilling and Development** section discusses:
- deepwater rig activity,
- appraisal activity,
- deepwater development systems, and the Independence Hub facility.

**The Reserves and Production** section discusses:
- discoveries in new, lightly tested plays with large potential,
- Hurricane Ivan’s impact on production, and high deepwater production rates.

**The Summary and Conclusions** section discusses:
- increasing deepwater oil and gas production and anticipated new fields and difficulties evaluating deepwater leases before their terms expire.

The large volume of active deepwater leases, the steady drilling program, and the growing deepwater infrastructure indicate that the deepwater GOM will continue to be an integral part of the Nation’s energy supply and remain one of the world's premier oil and gas basins.