

# Technical Announcement

MMS

U. S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

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Contact: Caryl Fagot  
(504) 736-2590

## ***Sperm Whale Seismic Study in the Gulf of Mexico, Synthesis Report***

### **OCS Study MMS 2008-006**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Sperm Whale Seismic Study in the Gulf of Mexico, Synthesis Report*.

The Sperm Whale Seismic Study (SWSS) was a multi-institutional, interdisciplinary research project supported by MMS under Cooperative Agreement 1435-01-02-CA-85186 for *Cooperative Research on Sperm Whales and Their Response to Seismic Exploration in the Gulf of Mexico* through the Texas A&M Research Foundation. The scientists were from Ecologic, Oregon State University (OSU), Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), Texas A&M University (TAMU), Texas A&M University-Galveston (TAMUG), University of Colorado (CU), University of Durham (UD-UK in the United Kingdom), University of Saint Andrews (UStA in the United Kingdom), University of South Florida (USF), and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Funding sponsors were the MMS, National Science Foundation (NSF), Office of Naval Research (ONR), Industry Research Funders Coalition (IRFC), and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). This documents reports on the synthesis of results from a 4-year field study with objectives to (1) establish baseline information on the biology and behavior of sperm whales in the northern Gulf of Mexico, (2) characterize sperm whale habitat use in the northern Gulf of Mexico, and (3) determine possible changes in the behavior of sperm whales when subjected to manmade noise, particularly from seismic airgun arrays used for offshore oil and gas exploration and geological monitoring.

This report is available only in compact disc format from the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, at a charge of \$15.00, by referencing OCS Study MMS 2008-006. The report may be downloaded from the MMS website through the [Environmental Studies Program Information System \(ESPIS\)](#). You will be able to obtain this report also from the National Technical Information Service in the near future. Here are the addresses. You may also inspect copies at selected Federal Depository Libraries.

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