

# Technical Announcement

MMS

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

Date: June, 2008

Contact: Caryl Fagot  
(504) 736-2590

## ***Post-Hurricane Assessment at the East Flower Garden Bank Long-Term Monitoring Site: November 2005***

### **[OCS Study MMS 2008-019](#)**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Post-Hurricane Assessment at the East Flower Garden Bank Long-Term Monitoring Site: November 2005*.

The Flower Garden Banks (FGB), located 110 miles from shore in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico, form part of a discontinuous arc of reef environments along the edge of the outer continental shelf. These coral reef banks are the largest charted calcareous banks in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico and are the northernmost coral reefs on the continental shelf of North America.

The MMS assessed damage to the East Flower Garden Bank (EFGB) caused by the passage of Hurricane Rita. This was a cooperative effort with the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. Hurricane Rita passed within 50 miles of the EFGB on September 23, 2005. It was rated a Category 3 hurricane at the time of its passage with winds up to 125 mph. The closest weather buoy, located 143 miles west of the Flower Garden Banks, recorded wave heights close to 20 feet. Waves at the EFGB may have been up to 50 feet in height.

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 2008-019. 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.

Minerals Management Service  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Public Information Office (MS 5034)  
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394  
Telephone requests may be placed at

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Technical Information Service  
5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, Virginia 22161  
(703) 487-4650 or FAX: (703) 321-8547  
Rush Orders: 1-800-336-4700

(504) 736-2519, 1-800-200-GULF, or  
FAX: (504) 736-2620

**MMS Main Website:** [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)  
**Gulf of Mexico Website:** [www.gomr.mms.gov](http://www.gomr.mms.gov)