

Technical Announcement

MMS

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

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Proof of Concept for Platform Recruited Reef Fish, Phase 1: Do Platforms Provide Habitat for Subadult Red Snapper?

OCS Study MMS 2010-002

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of a new study report, *Proof of Concept for Platform Recruited Reef Fish, Phase 1: Do Platforms Provide Habitat for Subadult Red Snapper?*

The objective of this study was to determine if a trace element isotopic fingerprint could be detected and described as unique to red snapper inhabiting oil and gas platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. After determination of the elemental concentrations in otoliths using Inductively-Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry, stepwise and canonical discriminant function analyses were used to compare red snapper elemental fingerprints from platforms and artificial reefs, and from east and west of the Mississippi River. Classification accuracies, i.e., the probability of an individual fish being correctly classified into the habitat from which it was sampled, were over 90%. The study examines the possibility of subsampling otoliths of adult fish to determine age-specific habitat affinity and to determine if the new recruits now expanding into the eastern Gulf as the red snapper population rebuilds were associated with oil and gas platforms during some portion of their early life.

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 2010-002. 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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