



U. S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

## Technical Announcement

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### *Digital Conversion of Dive Video from Fifteen Dive Seasons*

#### [OCS Study BOEM 2015-004](#)

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announces the availability of a new study report, *Digital Conversion of Dive Video from Fifteen Dive Seasons*.

This study report describes the conversion of fifteen dive seasons of analog video to a common digital format that will be a permanent data archive, making the dive video data more accessible and user-friendly.

Since the mid-1980s, MMS (BOEM) and other national funding agencies have supported studies of the northern Gulf of Mexico natural hydrocarbon seeps and their unusual biologic communities. These investigations used research submersibles to observe and sample the benthic biology and geology-geochemistry of seep sites. An important element of the database, generated from these studies, is video of the seafloor associated with each site visited. In addition to producing a record of the seafloor, video was used to record instrument installations and sample sites, a valuable record during the data analysis and interpretation phases of seep studies. Over the nearly three decades of submersible dives and associated video collection, several different analog video formats with various resolutions were used. The project described in this document was designed to convert these various analog video datasets to a common digital format for the purpose of both archiving these important datasets and making them more accessible to the user. This archive represents 144 submersible dives covering 48 different oil and gas lease block areas. A total of 3,341 clips of five minutes duration each, representing a total of 280 hours of bottom time, comprises the video data archive.

This report is available on CD from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, for \$15.00, and free of charge as a pdf file downloaded from the BOEM Website. Copies can also be viewed at selected Federal Depository Libraries. The addresses are listed below.

To order a CD, use the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region contact information below and reference OCS Study BOEM 2015-004. To download a pdf copy, use the [Environmental Studies Program Information System](#) (ESPIS) and search on the study report number. In the near future, you will also be able to get this report also from the National Technical Information Service.

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