

FOR RELEASE: September 27, 1994 CONTACT: Lee Scurry
(202) 208-3983

MMS EXTENDS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
WITH DELAWARE TO STUDY SAND RESOURCES (#40067)

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has awarded \$44,000 to the Delaware Geological Survey for further studies and inventories of federal sand resources along the state's coastline, MMS officials announced today.

"This contract is a continuation of a three-party agreement between MMS and the states of Delaware and Maryland to examine sand and gravel resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) between Ocean City, MD and Cape Henlopen, DE," said acting MMS Director Cynthia Quarterman. "Researchers are in their third year of assessing OCS sand deposits for suitability as beach nourishment sand."

Work will include acquiring and analyzing additional geological and geophysical data and making an archeological survey of the areas offshore Delaware having potential for beach quality sand.

"Sand from state waters -- from the coastline to three miles offshore -- has been used for nourishment of Delaware beaches for a number of years. However, sand taken from federal waters is preferable as a longer-term and ultimately less expensive solution," Quarterman said.

Similar efforts to evaluate marine mineral resources -- including other nonenergy minerals -- in federal waters have been initiated with all other states on the East coast and the Gulf of Mexico. As with MMS' other cooperative programs, the focus is on the assessment of selected sand deposits, and the evaluation of environmental, engineering and economic aspects related to sand extraction and placement.

MMS administers the federal offshore minerals program and manages the mineral royalty program for federal and Indian lands. The MMS Office of International Activities and Marine Minerals (INTERMAR) is responsible for the management of OCS sand and other nonenergy mineral resources. For more information contact INTERMAR at (703) 787-1300.

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