



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



FOR RELEASE:

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News Desk Alert:

Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 172 Receives 272 Bids on 207 Tracts

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service announced at 10 a.m. today that it has received 272 bids on 207 tracts offered in the Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 172. Last year's Central Gulf Sale 169 received 1,188 bids on 794 tracts.

Lease Sale 172 will take place tomorrow, March 17, 1999, at 9 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Conference Center (Cabildo Rooms), 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana. The sale will be broadcast on the following radio stations from 8:45 a.m. to Noon on the day of the sale under the sponsorship of The Offshore Oil Scouts Association:

KNON (89.3 FM) in Dallas
KTSU (90.9 FM) in Houston
KRVS (88.7 FM) in Lafayette
WTUL (91.5 FM) in New Orleans

MMS is the Federal Agency that manages the Nation's oil and gas and other mineral resources on the OCS and collects, accounts for, and last year disbursed about \$6 billion in revenues from Federal offshore mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands.