

**OCS Scientific Committee**  
**April 21 – April 23, 2004**  
**Hyatt Regency New Orleans at Louisiana Superdome**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**

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Transcripts are available upon request. Please go to Transcripts outline and request which pages you would like to receive. Please e-mail your request to [EnvironmentalStudiesProgram2@BOEMRE.gov](mailto:EnvironmentalStudiesProgram2@BOEMRE.gov).

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# OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

**Wednesday, April 21, 2004**

## **Introduction**

The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Scientific Committee (SC) is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to advise the Minerals Management Service (MMS) on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the MMS Environmental Studies Program (ESP). Its April 2004 meeting was called to order by Dr. James Kendall.

He explained that as a result of a request by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior (DOI) to review its advisory committees under the FACA, a number of findings suggested that the SC charter be updated, which entailed disbanding the former committee and chartering a new one. This has been accomplished, and appointments have been signed.

Since this was technically the first meeting of the new SC, there were no official Chair or Vice-chair. Previously, these positions were held by Drs. Lynda Shapiro and Bob Diaz, respectively, but were vacated with the disbandment of the previous SC. Since the new charter calls for a Chair, Vice-chair, and Parliamentarian, Dr. Kendall requested that the SC give some thought as to whom it would like to nominate to these positions.

He also explained that members of the SC were notified that they are now designated as Special Government Employees (SGE's), and with that designation comes a number of responsibilities. He then introduced Mr. Art Gary of the Ethics Office, who would explain these responsibilities.

Dr. Kendall then welcomed Mr. Robert LaBelle, the Deputy Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management (OMM), who presented MMS's recent accomplishments and future directions.

## **MMS HQ Presentation**

*Presentation by Mr. Robert LaBelle*

As advisor to the Director, MMS, the Committee appreciates the opportunity to have a dialogue with the Director and the Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management on ongoing and future issues, policies, and activities of the Bureau. This exchange not only keeps the Committee apprised of MMS direction but also offers an opportunity for the Committee to provide direct advice and guidance on matters as they relate to the Environmental Studies Program (ESP).

Mr. LaBelle explained that neither the Director nor the Associate Director for OMM were able to attend this meeting due to prior commitments. However, the Director did want the SC to know that she appreciates its patience during its reorganization and praised its good scientific advice how MMS programs could better serve the public.

Mr. LaBelle also assured the SC that he shares the Director's enthusiasm and respect for the important work it does, and he commended Dr. Kendall and his staff for planning this spring meeting.

He then introduced Mr. Dick Wildermann who will be retiring from MMS shortly. Throughout his career with MMS, Mr. Wildermann served as the Chief of the Environmental Assessment Section in the Atlantic OCS Region, and in Headquarters as the Chief of Environmental Evaluation Branch, Chief of Environmental Assessment Branch, and finally Chief of the Environmental Division where he oversaw compliance of the offshore programs with environmental regulations.

Mr. Wildermann, he continued, has made sure that the science coming out of MMS studies programs gets translated into use in environmental assessments (EA's) and public policymaking.

Mr. LaBelle went on to explain that the MMS is the largest land manager in the United States (U.S.), albeit submerged lands. Just as the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service have responsibility for millions of acres of cultural, natural, and mineral resources, so does the MMS, in the amount of 1.76 billion OCS acres.

As he reported, production from 40 million OCS acres under lease account for about 30 percent of domestic crude oil production and about 25 percent of the domestic natural gas production. These offshore lands are managed from the initial assessment of the resources available to the end of the field's production life, when a company plugs and abandons its wells, and cleans up the surrounding environment.

It is predicted that, by 2006, the OCS will account for about 40 percent of the U.S. oil production. At the same time, it is expected that the OCS will continue to account for about 25 percent of domestic natural gas production.

In the Gulf of Mexico, deepwater production now accounts for about 60 percent of the Gulf's oil production and 23 percent of the natural gas production. Deepwater development projects continue at a fast pace.

### **Major Issues**

Mr. LaBelle explained that the current 5-year oil and gas leasing program runs from 2002 to 2007. There have been five sales held on schedule, with 14 sales remaining. There is a potential for around 22 billion barrels of oil and 61 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas to be produced in the areas to be offered. Mr. LaBelle also explained that MMS is starting to prepare its next 5-year planning document, covering 2007-2012, and he hopes that the draft proposed leasing program document will be out by next spring.

Some incentives to promote leasing are in place and will continue. Economic incentives include a royalty incentive program for deepwater leases and expanded incentives to promote development of natural gas from deep drilling in shallow waters. The deep shelf gas royalty relief provisions are also being extended to leases purchased before 2002.

Lease extensions are also being offered for certain exploration activities that focus on targets that occur beneath subsurface salt sheets. The deep shelf gas and sub-salt provisions are specifically targeted at bringing more natural gas production online in the near future, which should help meet the expanding demand for natural gas.

Mr. LaBelle stated that MMS is also developing economic incentives for exploration in offshore waters of Alaska to make sure the process for permitting new wells is the most efficient and effective possible. It is critical that there is a well-managed program of regular lease sales in the areas where exploration is allowed.

Multiple use of the OCS, especially by projects that compete with management of energy and mineral resources, presents a challenge. Traditional competing uses have included fishing, tourism, shipping and boating, military activities, and telecommunications. Now there are new and different uses to consider, such as offshore liquified natural gas (LNG) projects that weren't even on the radar screen a couple of years ago. Other alternative uses are OCS gas storage projects, wind and wave energy projects, and conversion of OCS oil and gas facilities for other uses such as mariculture.

While the U.S. Coast Guard has permitting authority for offshore LNG projects in accordance with the Deepwater Port Act, MMS is heavily involved in reviewing these projects and coordinating the proposed activities with the OCS oil and gas and sand and gravel programs. No fewer than eight LNG project proposals are now pending. Operators of the existing facilities for offshore oil and gas are quite concerned about these issues. As these new projects come on line, they require a way to get the gas to the shore, and that involves space and use conflicts.

However, there is a lack of clear authority by one agency to manage such activities, and this could significantly impede MMS's attempts to ensure orderly development of the OCS. To address this situation, MMS has drafted legislation that would give the Secretary of the DOI the authority to grant rights to the OCS for alternative energy-related uses that are not otherwise covered by existing law. The proposed legislation is included in the comprehensive energy bill that is now under debate and would apply to projects that (1) support exploration, development, production, transportation, or storage of oil and gas and other minerals; produce or support production, transportation, or transmission of energy from sources other than oil and gas; (2) use, for energy or marine-related purposes, facilities currently or previously used for activities authorized under the OCS Lands Act.

The proposed alternative use provisions are included in both the Senate and House versions of the energy bill; however, significant differences on other measures within those bills threaten passage of the energy legislation. It appears that if the differences are not reconciled and the legislation does not move by the July 4th recess, energy legislation will not be enacted by this Congress.

While it is uncertain whether the comprehensive energy bill will be enacted, MMS is determined to address this issue and, if necessary, will pursue other vehicles for Congress to consider alternative energy-related uses of the OCS.

Mr. LaBelle announced that DOI recently held a meeting of the senior managers across all its bureaus. The subject of the meeting was adaptive management, which is basically the strategy by which the department wants to link the adaptive management approach to its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses.

A typical NEPA analysis will plan, predict, and implement mitigation to allow the given project to go through in a safe manner. Adaptive management would go beyond the implementation of mitigation by monitoring how well the mitigation is taking care of the problem, evaluating the results of that monitoring, and providing feedback to the original plan.

In this particular meeting, the managers dwelled on the DOI success stories and the not-so-successful stories about adaptive management. One aspect it brings to the table is that it seems to be a very effective way of obtaining more input from State, local, and other communities. Also, in the cases where it didn't seem so successful, one of the stumbling points was FACA and how the public can have access to the decision making without violating the rules of FACA.

Mr. LaBelle stated that he believes that the department will adopt adaptive management as one of its tools for future NEPA work. When that happens, hopefully it will translate into more support for research dollars to monitor and mitigate projects.

He also briefly mentioned the Ocean Commission (OC) report which came out on April 20, 2004. The issues basically include stewardship, support of science, pollution prevention, commerce, transportation, education, integrated ocean observing systems, etc. MMS has been taking a lead role within the DOI to help with the problem of having a coordinated response to the recommendations in this report. He thanked Dr. Kendall on the marvelous job he has done in the background over the last couple of years along with his staff and others in MMS who worked on this issue. Not having read the entire report, Mr. LaBelle said he thinks MMS issues and responsibilities are fairly portrayed, which he believes is quite an accomplishment.

There is a 30-day review period now that is underway, mainly for State governors and others to send their comments on the report to the OC. Then, there will be a 90-day period for Federal Agencies to respond to the recommendations on behalf of the Administration. He stated that there may be a possible role for the SC to be very helpful as MMS goes forward the next few years to evaluate these recommendations and start implementation.

Mr. LaBelle continued by informing the SC that, during the afternoon, they will review the regional study plans for next year and the environmental questions that need answering in order to help MMS manage OCS mineral management development in as safe and environmentally sound a manner as possible. The ESP has been taking progressively larger budget hits recently, and this fiscal year (FY) is expected to be another tough year. Perhaps the call that's in the OC report to increase study funding for ocean issues will help.

Mr. LaBelle closed his discussion by stating that MMS looks forward to the SC's able assistance on some of the key challenges to formulate these research plans on many present and upcoming complex issues.

### ***Open Discussion***

Dr. Shapiro requested that the SC be provided with the appropriate portion of MMS's report, and Mr. LaBelle assured that it would be provided digitally as soon as possible.

Dr. Joseph Smith asked Mr. LaBelle to clarify his remarks regarding the regulatory aspects of non-oil and gas facilities on the OCS. What he thought he heard was that the regulatory responsibility for things such as winds and currents hasn't been assigned. Mr. LaBelle replied that it has not been assigned for certain things like wind turbines, but he believes MMS is at the point now where there are proposals to actually go out and do some of this, and Federal regulators are struggling to get an answer.

Dr. Diaz said he thought the energy bill assigned responsibility to MMS. Dr. Kendall replied that it currently does have that responsibility; however, Mr. LaBelle explained that this could be changed prior to approval of the bill.

## **Gulf of Mexico OCS Region Review**

*Presentation by Mr. Chris Oynes*

Mr. Chris Oynes, Gulf of Mexico Regional Director, provided an overview of ongoing and planned activities on the Gulf of Mexico OCS. He thanked the SC for the opportunity to update it on the Gulf Mexico OCS Region's activities.

He gave a review on the use of the EA and environmental review processes, from development of a 5-year program through each lease sale, exploration plan, and development plan documents.

Mr. Oynes presented two strategic trends in the Gulf of Mexico and said that about 95 to 97 percent of all the OCS production comes from the Gulf of Mexico.

### **Focus on Oil**

Deepwater oil production is rapidly growing and has been growing for a number of years. In 1995, there were 55 million barrels of oil produced; this rose to 332 million in 2002. What that shows is about a 530- to 535-percent increase over those years. Both shallow and deepwater OCS productions in the Gulf of Mexico are responsible for a very large percentage of all OCS production. Oil production, as a percentage of total domestic supply, has risen from 13 percent in 1992 to 30 percent in 2002, and it is estimated that it may rise as much as 40 percent of all domestic production by the year 2010. However, the denominator indicates that total domestic production is declining. The 40-percent number as an example was contained in the Vice President's energy report issued about 2 years ago.

### **Focus on Gas**

Shallow-water gas production in the Gulf of Mexico has rapidly declined from about 4.7 Tcf a year down to 3.3 Tcf in 2002. Deepwater gas production has not been able to offset the decline in shallow-water gas production. During 1997 through 2000, shallow water gas production was kept at 5 Tcf, and then it started to drop. Mr. Oynes reported that the total production is about 4.5 Tcf at this point in time. The deepwater gas production has not been able to overcome the decline in shallow-water gas production, so total OCS gas production is declining. In order to rectify this, MMS has tried to respond with some incentives in the deep shelf, i.e., shallow water, 600 feet of water and less, but drilling deeper for deeper sediments that is below on the first floor of 15,000 feet total vertical depth or greater. MMS has recently issued a revised estimate of shallow water gas production which is just below 15,000 feet, not the shallow shelf, but the deep shelf, and this might have 55 Tcf of natural gas. One of the thoughts behind the incentives that MMS has now put into place has been that there probably needs to be some encouragement from the Federal Government. Since drilling is taking place below 15,000 feet, there is concern about high pressure, high temperature, corrosion, and cost since different types of equipment are needed and it is very difficult to get to the site. MMS adopted the incentive in two pieces. First of all, the MMS went with new lease incentives. In 2001, MMS adopted a provision that stated if a new lease is acquired and the natural gas well would be drilled below 15,000 feet, the number was 20 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of gas, and it was accomplished in 5 years of the lease terms, the company would be exempt for the first 20 Bcf of gas productions; this amount would be royalty free. Currently, MMS probably has in existence about 7,000+ leases in the Gulf of Mexico. If a new sale is held, 500 to 700 new leases may be issued, and older wells don't get that royalty relief. Therefore, another rule has been applied to existing leases.

What has happened, he further explained, is that gas production has risen in 2002 to about 421 Bcf a year. However, he added, that amount of gas production needs to double, triple, or quadruple just to make up the decline in the existing shallow-water production.

Mr. Oynes gave a PowerPoint presentation which described the Gulf of Mexico's deepwater discoveries and concluded that extremely deep water is beginning to come into play. Ultra deepwater can be defined as 7,500 feet of water depth or greater, and there is a beginning trend of major discoveries in ultra-deep water. Because of the new geology and new water depths, there are going to be new technical research and development problems to contend with. Exploration in ultra-deep water is going to start taking off even more because the geology is starting to firm up, and the discoveries are starting to show through.

He continued that there are about 4,000 production structures ranging from a one-well production facility to various very small types of facilities, to a major platform, such as an 8-pile or 16-pile platform with multiple wells in relatively shallow water. However, he pointed out that there were 1,057 new structures installed since 1995, so there is still a lot of activity going on in the shallow water, even though the shallow water gas number is still declining. New facilities are being installed in spite of declining numbers since new discoveries are being brought on line, and shallow water is still a very strong engine.

About 86 production projects are now installed in deep water. In 1995, there were only five or six in production. Mr. Oynes said that geologists are getting very excited about a brand new geological area in which to play in the Gulf of Mexico since very little known in the ultra-deep water.

Opposing events are occurring in the eastern gulf from the central and western gulf. In the central and western gulf, there are thousands of structures, projects, and activity. In the eastern gulf there is very little activity. The exception is in the Sale 181 area. Sale 181 was the first eastern gulf sale in 14 years, and it was held in December of 2001. What has happened since that lease sale is that industry has jumped on those leases that they bought and is really charging ahead.

One of the things, he continued, that is noteworthy is that, when a line is drawn straight out in the water from Florida and Alabama, Sale 181 is off Alabama and not off Florida. Also, the lease area is not closer than 100 miles from Florida's coast and Florida has been granting coastal zone consistency to exploration plans there, and everything has moved ahead. Several of these discoveries have been small gas discoveries, and there is now talk that there will be a possible project of development, not just exploration, where the project might have a surface piercing structure (SPAR) located in the central gulf, right on the line between the central and eastern gulf.

Another piece of the shallow-water activity in the Gulf of Mexico involves platform removals and installations which are continuing on the same strategic framework. Roughly, 100 removals and 100 installations a year occur in the entire Gulf of Mexico.

Some other recently completed studies include:

- Stability and Change in Gulf of Mexico Chemosynthetic Communities,
- Northeastern Gulf of Mexico Chemical Oceanography and Hydrography Study,
- Deepwater Physical Oceanography Reanalysis and Synthesis of Historical Data, and
- Social and Economic Impacts of Outer Continental Shelf Activities on Individuals and Families.

Some studies nearing completion are:

- Northern Gulf of Mexico Continental Slope Habitats and Benthic Ecology,
- Exploratory Study of Deepwater Currents in the Gulf of Mexico,
- Cooperative Research on Sperm Whales and Their Response to Seismic Exploration in the Gulf of Mexico – (Sperm Whale Seismic Study – SWSS),
- Effects of Oil and Gas Exploration and Development at Selected Continental Slope Sites in the Gulf of Mexico,
- The Archaeological and Biological Analysis of World War II Shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico: A Pilot Study of the Artificial Reef Effect in Deepwater,
- Long-term Monitoring at the East and West Flower Garden Banks, and
- History of Offshore Oil Development in the Gulf of Mexico.

Some challenges facing the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region in the Deepwater Ocean Currents are:

- several project installations have been delayed by high currents,

- Mobile Drilling Units (MODU) could not disconnect/contribute to incidents,
- premature replacement of export riser (fatigue),
- industry's design criteria was formulated in 1980's – early 90's, and
- MMS is preparing a new Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTO) building off requirements in regulations, and may require full water column measurements by facilities and MODU's.

Mr. Oynes gave a visual on some of the LNG projects that are in the Gulf of Mexico. There are two new ones that have been filed or are about to be filed. These are offshore LNG projects, which will involve bringing in the LNG, re-gasifying it, turning it back into regular natural gas, injecting it into a pipeline, and transporting the gas to market. This process does work, in part, because it is being tied into the existing gas distribution network in the Gulf of Mexico.

A couple of proposals off Florida call for gas to be re-gasified in the Bahamas. Then, new pipelines would be built from the Bahamas to Miami which will bring the gas ashore to be used for power, probably at utility plants in the southern part of Florida.

The amount of gas the country needs versus what there is in the way of production is severely out of balance; therefore, the country is searching for a lot of new supply alternatives to deal with that problem.

### ***Open Discussion***

Dr. Michael Rex asked, of the ultra-deep rigs, what are the prospects for the gas? Mr. Oynes responded that it is probably way too early to talk about that, but in general, what has been seen in deep water has been a surprise. The amount of the oil versus gas, to a large extent, is associated with gas rather than gas reservoirs per se. He added that these are broad generalizations.

Mr. Oynes said that he should have mentioned Shell's project on the Great White in the western gulf and one that Shell was drilling recently called Hammerhead – both of these projects are very close to the boundary with Mexico. Either today or tomorrow, a delegation from the U.S., including people from his office, would be meeting with the Mexican government to discuss transboundary development issues or how to deal with something where there is a reservoir that straddles the boundaries of Mexico and the U.S. One interesting question is “if you locate a floating SPAR structure next to the site of the boundary, how is the U. S. going to inspect that?” Also, how are proper measurements going to be ensured in a foreign country's waters? Shell is drilling a well that is about less than a mile from the boundary of Mexico and the reservoir probably straddles the boundary; so these issues need to start to be addressed.

Dr. Mike Castellini asked, along that analysis of national and international differences, Mr. Oynes to explain the distinctions between the State boundaries and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) distinctions within the State and Federal regulations. Mr. Oynes responded that it is his understanding that if there are less than 200 miles from the U.S. coast, the dividing line is the mid point. If both coasts can swing 200 miles arcs, EEZ lines, and there is still an area that is in the middle that is further out from both coasts, then that is the gap that needs to be resolved. Mexico was concerned the U.S. would probably develop before it would, so Mexico wanted the boundary set off. As an example, Mr. Oynes thinks it is 1.3 miles on both sides of the line that are set off, which means no lease or issuance of a license can be made for the next 10 years, in effect, to try to protect from drainage. He explained that most of the area is subject to normal international boundaries, and there is no gap. As an example, he said that if the U.S. drilled a well on its side of the line and it was two feet from Mexico and resources were able to be drained from Mexico's side of the line, that's the way it is handled. Of course, Mexico doesn't like that, so that is part of the reason it needs to be discussed. They don't have a rule of capture in their legal system, whereas the U.S. does.

### **Some Highlights of the MMS ESP and Our Goal for the Next Day and-Half**

*Presentation by Dr. James Kendall*

The MMS Headquarters ESP presentation outlined the overall objectives of the meeting, the process by which the various disciplines fit together in the overall picture, and potential studies efforts and issues for the future.



Dr. Kendall reviewed the mission of the MMS, which is to manage the mineral resources on the OCS in an environmentally sound and safe manner, and to timely collect, verify and distribute mineral revenues from Federal and Indian lands.

The ESP's mission is to provide the information needed to predict, assess, and manage impacts from offshore gas and oil and marine mineral exploration, development, and production activities on human, marine, and coastal environments.

He explained that some of the primary ESP customers are internal MMS personnel preparing EA's and EIS's under NEPA. When these documents are being planned and it is realized that some research has not been done on a particular issue, different routes are explored to get that scientific information, and one of the routes is the ESP.

Information generated by the ESP is also used in a more regulatory sense. As an example, Dr. Kendall said that the MMS started doing studies on chemosynthetic communities a decade ago, anticipating possible deepwater activity in the years to come. From this scientific information, MMS developed an NTL which provides a consistent and comprehensive approach to protecting high-density chemosynthetic communities. Thus, information collected through the ESP is not only used for NEPA documents, but also in a regulatory sense.

Dr. Kendall noted that the ESP budget for FY 04 was approximately \$17 million. Of that money, 47 percent is being expended in the Gulf of Mexico, and the remainder is split between the other offices. He continued to explain that the \$17 million also continues ongoing studies and not just new studies. As for the distribution, the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region got approximately 42 percent; Pacific OCS Region about 14 percent; the Alaska OCS Region 22 percent; and the National Program about 10 percent.

For FY 05, approximately \$17 million will be available, with probably 50 percent needed for ongoing or continuing projects.

#### **Budget by Discipline**

Disciplines include everything from air quality, biology, fate and effects, minerals (sand and gravel), socioeconomics, and others. Generally speaking, ESP resources have been expended as follows:

Air Quality	14 percent	Biology	18 percent
Fates and Effects	17 percent	Information Management	6 percent
Minerals	3 percent	Pollutant and Transport	30 percent
Endangered and Protected Species	7 percent	Social Economics	12 percent
Other	3 percent		

Currently, there are about 120 ongoing studies in the Gulf of Mexico to the tune of about \$56 million; the Alaska OCS Region has 50 studies at \$22 million, the Pacific OCS Region has 40 studies at \$38 million, and the National Program has 22 studies at \$7 million. These change on a regular basis since next week another study may be awarded and two other studies may be completed.

Each Region has its priorities:

- Gulf of Mexico—Deepwater, Decommissioning,
- Alaska Beaufort/Cook Inlet—Physical Oceanography, Oil/Ice, Monitoring Marine Mammals,
- Pacific—Monitoring, Decommissioning, and
- National—Modeling, Information Management, Hydrates, and Sand & Gravel

**How Does the ESP Work?** After determining which studies should be pursued, it is then decided how each study should be procured: either by a Competitive Contract, Interagency Agreement (IA), or a Cooperative Agreement (CA).

**Who Works with MMS?** Dr. Kendall explained that MMS works with scientists in academia, universities, and the private sector, as well as Federal and State agencies through CAs and IAs.

### **How Does the Process Work?**

- Information needs are assessed annually.
- Studies Development Plans are created and prioritized for MMS relevance.
- OCS Scientific Committee deliberates.
- Needs/priorities are balanced with resources, other stakeholder input, and evolving needs.
- A National Studies List is developed.
- An appropriate procurement vehicle is determined.

### **Monitoring for Quality**

- Information needs are reviewed internally and externally (highly participatory).
- Examined in light of National Research Council (NRC), National Academy of Sciences, and Office of Management and Budget reviews.
- OCS SC provides input.
- External participation on a Technical Proposal Evaluation Committee (TPEC).
- Scientific/Quality Review Boards.
- Peer-reviewed literature is encouraged.
- MMS relevance is ascertained.
- Recent examples:
  - Sand and Gravel Environmental Studies within the Minerals Management Service: *A Framework for Decisionmaking*; April 2003 and
  - Thematic Section, *MMS Environmental Studies to Assess the Potential Effects of Offshore Dredging Operations in Federal Waters*; Journal of Coastal Research, Vol. 20, No. 1, Winter 2004.

Dr. Kendall mentioned that the ESP is not the only program at MMS which supports research. The Technology Assessment and Research Program looks at engineering concerns; however, occasionally, the two programs overlap, so information and resources are shared. He went on to discuss the following issues.

### **The National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP)**

In the OC report, the Commission emphasizes that more money needs to go into ocean research; that it needs to double the current investment of \$650 million. One way to increase funding is to partner with other agencies. MMS is a member of the NOPP which consists of 15 Federal Agencies that work together on issues of common concern: technology, research, education, etc. MMS has been a member from the program's beginning, and the MMS Director sits on the National Ocean Research and Leadership Council which is the governing body of NOPP. MMS uses this program to leverage its dollars and also to keep plugged into the bigger picture.

### **Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)**

Another high priority issue with the OC is the IOOS which is to develop a sort of a weather channel for the oceans, so that in 10 to 15 years, there may be less of a need to fund oceanography studies because the information is being collected through regional associations of stations tied into a national backbone. The MMS is involved in this because it is a member of NOPP, and it is also a member of the Executive Committee of Ocean.US which was created by NOPP at the request of Congress to manage the development of an Ocean Observing System for the nation.

### **Ecosystem-Based Management**

Another OC issue is ecosystem-based management (not the same as ecosystem management). The Commission defines it as: "U.S. ocean and coastal resources should be managed to reflect the relationships among all ecosystem components, including humans and non-human species and the environments in which they live. Application of ecosystem-based management will require defining geographic management areas based on ecosystem, rather than political, boundaries." Dr. Kendall said that the SC will be discussing a proposed study entitled, *Deepwater Gulf of Mexico Science Review, Critique, and Synthesis and its Ability for an Ecosystem-Based Management Approach*. This proposed study has two intents: to get a program review of what MMS is doing in deep water and also to see if it needs to be tweaked a bit in terms of ecosystem-based management because MMS is the only one out in deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Most of the biology, and most of the physical oceanography, that are being done are supported by MMS.

**How the U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy, MMS, the SC, and ESP are All Connected.** The public has a poor understanding of the role oceans play in their lives; therefore, an ocean-literate society that is equipped to deal with existing and impending issues and which is able to make choices and influence decisions based on knowledge must be fostered. NOPP's Observation Research Advisory Panel (a FACA committee) sponsored an inventory of education programs and projects supported by NOPP members. MMS and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) participated in this inventory. With advice received from the former SC, their prodding, and this inventory, a draft paper resulted entitled *Regulatory Agency's Role In Marine Education: Current and Future Resources*.

To summarize, Dr. Kendall's presentation on the ESP:

- the ESP is focused on mission,
- clear goals and clear strategy,
- highly participatory,
- internal and external review,
- coordination, collaboration, and leveraging,
- U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy recommendations,
- quality science for MMS mission, and
- more information.

### ***Open Discussion***

Dr. Shapiro asked for an approximation of how much of MMS's research budget is actually carried out by MMS staff and how much of it is outsourced. Mr. James Cimato replied that about 2-3 percent of the budget is internal.

Mr. Gary Brewer said that he appreciated the nod to USGS but thought a hug would be more deserving. He pointed out that USGS contributes \$2.5 million every year specifically to the MMS ESP and about a million of that has been going to the Gulf of Mexico. He added that it is important that everyone in DOI work together and address not only this OC report and its ramifications, but also DOI needs. Dr. Kendall responded that the SC is now concerned with specifically addressing information needs and how they should be done. A lot of work is done by USGS, and it is top notch, but those decisions will come later in the process. For the next day and a half to 2 days, the SC will need to focus on what MMS's information needs are and the science that needs to be done in 2005, 2006, and beyond – then MMS will find the best people.

### **[Overview of the Louisiana State University Coastal Marine Institute \(CMI\), Louisiana State University](#)**

*Presentation by Dr. Larry Rouse*

The MMS Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) initiative was proposed in 1991 as an MMS-State partnership to strengthen relationships with coastal states where OCS oil and gas activities take place and to improve the information flow to the affected States and the public. It accomplishes this by using State institutions to conduct research on issues of concern to both the State and MMS. This research is focused on environmental and socioeconomic aspects of OCS oil and gas and marine mineral development activities. Through the CMI's, increasing numbers of students and faculty are engaging in OCS related research, developing new skills, and developing new information and approaches to solving management issues.

In recognition of the mutual need for critical scientific information for resource management decisions, the CMI program leverages MMS funds with State funds (one-to-one matching is required) so that more research can be done than if MMS funded all the work itself. The first cooperative agreement under the CMI program was signed in 1992 with the State of Louisiana and Louisiana State University. A second cooperative agreement was signed with the State of Alaska and the University of Alaska in 1993. A third agreement was signed with the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1994. Approximately 18% of the Environmental Studies Program budget is allocated to research conducted through the CMI's.

The Coastal Marine Institute at Louisiana State University was formed in 1993 under a five year Cooperative Agreement between the University and the Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior. The program has been continued with a Second Cooperative Agreement for another five years. Final arrangements are being made for continuation of the agreement for another five years.

The purpose of the LSU-CMI Program is to permit MMS to take advantage of highly qualified, scientific expertise at local levels to: collect and disseminate environmental information needed for OCS oil and gas and marine minerals decisions; address local and regional OCS related environmental and resource issues of mutual interest; and strengthen the MMS-State of Louisiana partnership in addressing OCS oil and gas and marine minerals information needs.

Since the beginning of the agreement in 1993, 105 projects have been funded - 50 are presently active though several of these are in the process of preparing final project reports. Approximately \$23 million in research contracts have been awarded by MMS through the CMI program to researchers at LSU and other institutions. Each year, \$2,000,000 is available from MMS to fund research on MMS/OCS related issues. This money is matched on a 1:1 basis from university, state, and industry funds, so that \$4,000,000 worth of research is initiated each year. The total since 1993 is over \$45 million. In addition to funding the research of scientists at LSU, more than 50 graduate and 50 undergraduate students have been supported through these projects

Funded Projects have come from the variety of disciplines relevant to MMS/OCS needs, including sociology, economics, platform ecology and fisheries, physical oceanography of the Gulf of Mexico, geomorphology studies related to offshore sand mining.

Dr. Rouse explained that the first CA was signed between MMS and the State of Louisiana through Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1993, and included 62 projects at a cost of \$11,679,604. It was renewed in 1998 and included 43 Projects at a cost of \$9,551,828. This second CA expired last September or the first of October 2003, and when matched with LSU funds, the total is over \$42 million. Presently, the third CA is being reviewed by LSU program officers, and discussions with MMS Procurement personnel are underway.

The CMI at LSU focuses on:

- collecting and disseminating environmental information for decisions,
- addressing local and regional environmental and resource issues,
- strengthening the MMS/State of Louisiana partnership,
- high-quality local expertise,
- credible study results,
- improving local capabilities,
- interdisciplinary research,
- MMS/Louisiana consensus, and
- cost reduction.

The research areas that the CMI covers are:

- sociology,
- economics,
- toxicology,
- platform ecosystems,
- meteorology,
- physical oceanography, and
- geomorphology.

The schedule the CMI follows is:

- October – issues are identified,
- November – Letters of Intent (LOI) are solicited,
- January – LOI's are selected for proposals,
- March – Proposals are submitted,
- April – Proposals are selected for funding, and
- June – negotiations and awards.

He mentioned that 11 proposals were recently submitted, and at the end of this week or early next week, MMS will decide which of those proposals are going to go forward to the next stage.

One recommendation introduced by the Alaska OCS Region at the previous SC meeting was that CMI's should highlight student participation in projects and programs. Dr. Rouse explained in detail several projects in which graduate students have played an important, if not complete, role in the analysis of the data.

Dr. Rouse has been discussing with Dr. Mary Boatman of the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region ways to bring science education into graduate-level university science projects. Each funded CMI project would have its own education component. The question is how does one get an educator involved in an individual project? One idea he and Dr. Boatman had was to add a separate task in each year with a science education person at LSU, that would be open-ended; that the task for that person would be to go to these funded projects and try to work together to create an outreach project that perhaps can summarize one or more projects.

### ***Open Discussion***

Dr. Rex commented that the National Science Foundation (NSF) has a Grade K to 12 program which is a very big and growing program that pays graduate students stipends with the agreement that ongoing research projects be integrated into the secondary school curriculum and work with secondary school teachers. Dr. Rouse explained that his current biggest problem is having someone to chair the oceanography department since there are good students but not enough stipends to get them in.

Dr. Rouse said that he would look into that.

### **Ethics Responsibilities**

*Presentation by Mr. Art Gary*

Under applicable ethics laws, appointments to the Committee carry with it the status of "special government employee." This means that, when a member acts in their capacity as a committee member they will be subject to many of the same standards of conduct that apply to Federal employees in general, including the avoidance of conflict of interest. But because their service is not full-time, many of the restrictions apply to only in limited circumstances.

Mr. Gary discussed the ethics requirements which the SC members must follow since being designated as SGE. He explained that each member is required to submit an annual financial disclosure form at the time of appointment and after each reappointment. He discussed the ethics laws that are also criminal laws and can carry a \$250,000 fine or up to 10 years in prison per count.

He explained that an SGE is someone who is appointed as an officer or employee in an Executive Agency for temporary duties with or without compensation no more than 130 days out of the year.

Mr. Gary stated that the reason the SC members were not designated SGE in the beginning is because the DOI realized it was designating incorrectly. The law does recognize an SGE as someone who is appointed as a representative of an outside group or if the appointment is based on scholarly studies and degrees.

Dr. Shapiro commented that the SC is chosen to represent disciplines with the intent to balance those disciplines. Mr. Gary agreed and explained that since members do represent a discipline, they express their point of view as a member of that discipline, but there is nobody out there who they can go to who really constitutes a body. There is no good way to make sure how one represents a discipline because of all the different points of view within the discipline.

Dr. Rex said that there are a lot of people on the SC who receive extramural funding for research from NSF and asked if there would be a conflict of interest in terms of receiving those funds as an SGE. Mr. Gary said that information on salary and source of funding would need to be revealed when submitting the financial disclosure form. Based on that information and working with MMS and the matters that come before the SC, the Ethics Office will be able to determine whether or not there is a conflict of interest. It may not be a conflict of interest, but it does create an issue which needs to be addressed. Mr. Gary said that he has the authority to waive the conflict, but that he can only write a waiver after reviewing the financial disclosure form.

Mr. Gary offered the following information regarding Executive Order 12674:

- public service is a public trust,

- employees shall not use public office for private gain,
- employees shall not solicit or accept a gift from any person or entity seeking official action from or affected by the employee's agency,
- employees shall not use nonpublic government information to further any private interests, and employees shall endeavor to avoid any actions creating the appearance that they are violating the law or the ethical standards promulgated pursuant to this order.

Mr. Gary explained the following ethics laws in Title 18 of the United States Code:

**201– Bribery**

It is unlawful to solicit or accept a bribe, and a bribe is anything of value that is offered to you in exchange for doing your job a certain way or not doing your job, depending on the circumstances.

**203 – Compensation for Representational Activities, and 205 – Representational Activities**

With or without pay, an employee, SGE or otherwise, may not represent a third party with certain exceptions before the Federal Government if it is a matter in which the government has an interest or is a party. This only applies to what is called particular matters involving specific parties. A particular matter, generally, is anything that is focused on and affects the legal interests of an identifiable group or class of persons. So there could be a particular matter that is a general MMS policy. For example, once specific parties are known, such as a contract for a lease sale where the bidders are already known, you have got a particular matter involving specific parties as opposed to a general policy.

Dr. Diaz stated that he is with a State university, and if the State Board asks him to pass on a sand mining issue that MMS and other Federal Agencies would be involved in, would this be something he should or should not do.

Mr. Gary responded that if it had been a matter that he had participated in on the SC, then he must avoid representing the university on that matter if it is already known who is going to mine the sand. He added that, if his agreement with the State of Virginia involves a particular matter with specific parties, but he would not be working on the agreement itself but with the science, then it would be okay to pursue the matter. He added that representation requires an arrangement with ability to speak on behalf of another person and generally requires intent to influence the government on their behalf. There are exceptions, however, for representing self, parents, spouse, children, estate unless personally and substantially involved, grants and contracts with U.S. if approved by Director, and sworn testimony. He suggested the SC avoid problems and limit communications with MMS to matters relating to the OCS SC.

He asked that SC members who have any ethics issues to funnel them through Dr. Kendall who will discuss them with the Ethics Office.

**207 – Post Employment – Revolving Door**

Mr. Gary explained that this again is tied to particular matters involving specific parties. There are certain things that cannot be done after leaving Federal service for any third party.

The Lifetime Ban states that if you are involved in a particular matter involving specific parties and you were personally and substantially involved through deliberations or review on the committee, then for the life of that matter, not necessarily your lifetime, but for the life of that matter, you may not look at the prohibited activity or communicate or appear before an agency or employee or court on behalf of another party with the intent to influence where the U.S. is a party of the matter.

There is a 2-year ban that covers all particular matters involving specific parties under supervisor's authority in the last year without regard to personal involvement.

Communicating with or appearing before an agency/employee or court on behalf of another with the intent to influence if U.S. is a party or has an interest in the matter is a prohibited activity.

## **208 – Actions Affecting a Personal Financial Interest**

An SGE may not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which, to his knowledge, he or any person whose interests are imputed to him under this statute has a financial interest if the particular matter will have a direct and predictable effect on that interest. This means that you may not participate personally and substantially in a matter in which you have a financial interest. Personal, substantial involvement means you actively are doing it and you are participating by deliberation or review, and you have to have knowledge that you or someone whose financial interest is attributed to you has a financial interest, and there has to be a direct and predictable effect, not necessarily between your action and the financial interest, but between the matter that you are working on and the financial interest. Whose interests are imputed to you? – your spouse, your minor children, your general business partner, any organization in which you are serving as an officer or employee or board member except for the SC. Your employment itself is not disqualifying.

If the matter does focus on your employer uniquely from everybody else or in a very, very small pool uniquely from everybody else, then you need to recuse yourself. Recusal is an agreement not to participate in a particular matter in which the employee has an imputed interest. Or, a waiver can be granted if DOI determines that need because the SGE's service outweighs the potential for conflict of interest created by the financial interest involved.

Mr. Gary suggested that a procedure be created that once the agenda items for a meeting are known, members have an opportunity to identify whether or not there is going to be a financial interest or someone is imputed to you to have a financial interest such that the recusal can be taken care of prior to the meeting.

Dr. Castellini mentioned that many members are directors, chairs, or deans of various schools that receive grants and negotiate with MMS. He wanted to know if this is what Mr. Gary was talking about. Mr. Gary replied that it may be. What will be needed to be known are what the positions are and whether or not there is a fiduciary responsibility? The conflict law applies to those outside groups in which there is a fiduciary responsibility or a significant responsibility. The Ethics Office will probably deem the kinds of offices Dr. Castellini suggested as being significant enough to want to make sure the ethical implications are understood and waivers are issued as necessary. In this case, the Department will probably determine that the need for your services outweighs the potential for conflict of interest brought on by the financial arrangement.

Dr. Shapiro stated that many of the SC members also serve as advisors on other committees or boards and advising these other groups would overlap. She asked if that would cause a conflict of interest. Mr. Gary said that by serving as an advisory to another entity or a board would not be the kind of relationship that would trigger the criminal law; however, it may trigger the appearance of issues that come up about your ability to be impartial.

## **209 – Dual Compensation**

Mr. Gary explained that there are different levels of conflict, but these are lower than the criminal law. This is a law that says for doing your Federal job, all you're entitled to is your Federal pay. This rule does not apply to SGEs even though the government does reimburse travel expenses incurred by the SC.

### **No Use of Appropriated Funds for Lobbying**

- 18 U.S.C. § 1913 and other laws prohibit using appropriated funds to influence members of Congress or any State, local, territorial or tribal jurisdiction or official to favor or oppose any legislation, law, appropriation, or policy, except if it's your job and only then through proper channels.
- No "grassroots" lobbying – you may not tell someone to contact a State, local, territorial or tribal government regarding any pending legislation.
  - ◊ Exceptions: good faith responses to request for information and/or strictly factual public statements without a slant

### **Standards of Conduct**

Gifts from prohibited sources or given because of your position.

- Exclusions: snacks, greeting cards, certificates, plaques, items of little intrinsic value, items paid for by the government, items you pay market value for, discounts available to the public or all government employees.

- Exceptions: Items worth \$20 or less (but NEVER cash), waiver of conference fees for speakers, widely attended gatherings, gifts based on personal relationship, outside business or employment, travel expenses incidental to work.

### **Standards of Conduct: Impartiality**

- An SGE must disqualify him (or her) self from any particular matter involving specific parties that would directly and predictably affect the financial interest of:
  - Members of his/her household
  - Close relative or friend
  - Business relationship (but not employer if only interest is salary and employer is not specially affected)

### **Misuse of Position**

- Use of title or reference to service on the OCS SC
  - Private gain
  - Financial transaction
  - Coerce/induce another to provide benefit
- Use of non-public information
- Unauthorized commitment
- Use of Government property

### **Political Activity**

- Hatch Act
- No partisan political activity while actually performing duties as an SGE
- May not solicit or accept political contributions or otherwise engage in activities that support a candidate in a partisan election

### ***Open Discussion***

Dr. Duane Gill stated that these are public meetings; therefore, basically everything discussed as committee members is open to the public. He asked what the distinction is between being an SC member and the public. Mr. Gary stated that the SC can legally close a portion of its meeting to the public if it is necessary. It cannot have a full-fledged meeting without public notice and having the public available. There may be times when it is appropriate for MMS to want to share information with the SC, but it can't. There are ramifications that are part of the Freedom of Information Act that allow exemption of government agencies. Predecisional delivered documents do not apply to advisory committees but there may be times when it can be structured as such. Dr. Gill then asked if it is okay for an SC member to make a statement or tell somebody about what went on in this meeting. Mr. Gary answered that it is alright but suggested discretion be used in what is being told. When an SC member wants to express his/her own personal opinion about something, that isn't necessarily that of the agency, he recommended that he/she announce that it is his/her view and not that of the SC, MMS, or the DOI.

Dr. John Trefry asked Mr. Gary to clarify where the SC members stand with respect to receiving research funds or consulting money from MMS or the oil industry. Mr. Gary stated that he did not see any problem with MMS – there is no conflict. There might be some overlap to make sure that if you are being paid to do a certain thing, you are not also doing that certain thing while you are here because it might be in a different capacity. If you are being paid by an oil company, we would want to be able to identify what it is you are being paid for and understanding the nature of your relationship with them. If you are a consultant for them as opposed to an employee of them, there are different effects under these ethics rules.

Dr. Shapiro asked what becomes of the financial disclosure form once it has been submitted. Mr. Gary assured her that all information is confidential and is secure.

Dr. Pat Roscigno asked if an SC member could apply for a grant after being off of the Committee for 2 years. Mr. Gary replied that the member's status while on the SC would need to be analyzed to determine whether it is a particular matter that involved specific parties and is subject to the post employment restriction.



Dr. Rouse asked, as an example, if there is a sand and gravel problem in the Gulf of Mexico and he wants to go after a CMI project, could he ask Dr. Diaz to be a co-person to investigate on it even though he has had some influence in saying MMS needs to look at sand and gravel.

Mr. Gary responded that that is a matter of general applicability. As long as at the time that the MMS was considering the general issue of oil and gas, they did not have in mind specific parties who might compete for that contract.

Mr. LaBelle asked if MMS has a new operative quality report on a specific project and has asked experts on the SC to serve on those projects, does it affect those people? Mr. Gary replied that it does and MMS needs to be alert when working on something that has specific parties involved. For example, when MMS is reviewing grant applications involving personal substantial involvement in a particular matter by a specific party, as opposed to sand and gravel generally, that's where the ethic rules apply, and that's where we have to know whether or not there is a conflict.

Mr. LaBelle asked if the Ethics Office is able to grant waivers for it if it is designated in favor of the government. Mr. Gary answered that it can; whether it would be a policy decision to balance, and MMS would be asked to get involved. He explained that a lot of lawyers find themselves in a situation where something is legal; however, it still should not be done. MMS does not want to compromise its overall work to the department or to the bureau.

### **Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Parliamentarian**

Prior to recessing for lunch, elections were held. Dr. Mary Scranton nominated Dr. Shapiro for Chair and it was seconded. Dr. Shapiro accepted the nomination. Dr. Scranton also nominated Dr. Diaz for Vice Chair. No other nominations were received, and they were unanimously elected Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Dr. Gill was nominated and unanimously elected Parliamentarian of the SC.

The meeting recessed for lunch. After lunch, SC members would convene in their Discipline Breakout Groups to discuss national and regional studies plans.

## **Thursday, April 22, 2004**

This day was spent reviewing regional draft Studies Development Plans. Following a brief charge from the Chair to the Discipline Breakout Groups, the groups went into their sessions (Ecology/Biology, Physical Oceanography, and Social Sciences) to consider proposed regional priorities and information needs. Each Discipline Breakout Group met with staff members from each MMS OCS Region and Headquarters. In each breakout session, a Committee member was designated as a discussion leader and an MMS staff member was assigned to take notes. The Regional MMS Studies Chiefs and staff members were asked to identify, justify, and discuss priorities for future environmental studies.

## **Friday, April 23, 2004**

Dr. Shapiro called the meeting to order. She thanked the MMS staff for pulling this meeting together under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. She also thanked the presenters and those who presented written material with their presentations as well as the SC members.

Since all of the previous subcommittees disappeared along with the original charter, she explained that a new subcommittee structure needed to be reestablished. She asked Drs. Fred Piltz, Cleve Cowles, and Pat Roscigno what subcommittees they feel are still needed. After discussions, it was decided that the following subcommittees would be formed, and members would be appointed during the business part of the SC meeting:

- Deepwater Subcommittee,
- Arctic Subcommittee,
- Marine Minerals Subcommittee,
- Decommissioning Subcommittee, and
- Gulf of Mexico Social Economic Research Subcommittee.

Dr. Shapiro also mentioned that the SC may want to reconsider the structure of subcommittees in terms of the kinds of approaches that are made and give closer-up examinations. She added that some of the members may want to consider whether serving on a particular subcommittee might create a conflict of interest. She also reminded the SC that it can add members to the subcommittees who not members of the SC.

### **Discipline Breakout Group Reports**

#### **Ecology/Biology**

Drs. Michael Castellini, Bob Diaz, Lynda Shapiro, and Michael Rex are members of the Ecology/Biology Discipline Breakout Group. Dr. Castellini presented the report to the SC.

He stated that the group discussed the following issues facing the Regions:

- Gulf of Mexico – high use, turnover and movement into deep water,
- Pacific – decommissionings,
- Minerals (Sand and Gravel) – impacts and new sites, and
- Alaska – large area and bio-political impacts.

There had been a presentation by Headquarters on the science review for the Deep Water Gulf of Mexico, and Dr. Castellini affirmed that the group strongly endorses the proposal to conduct the Deep Water Gulf of Mexico Science Review, Critique and Synthesis, and its Applicability for an Ecosystem-Based Management Approach, and encourages external review.

#### **General Recommendations for All of the Regions**

- All regions should develop plans for linking biological and physical databases.
- Per OC recommendations, attention should be given to educational projects.
- A conceptual presentation should be prepared for the next meeting on relational databases, how they would be used, what resources would be needed, and how MMS would approach their utilization.
- Summary tables of completed and ongoing studies should be included in the Studies Development Plan.
- Presentations should be consistent with materials provided.
- MMS is commended for responding to a request to archive and make accessible biological material.

#### **Recommendations for the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region**

- Chemo III is strongly supported.
- Integration of many pieces into a larger deepwater program is good.
- Merging of oil seep detection, through remote observation, with location of chemosynthetic communities is supported.
- Workshop concept is good.

- Balance between costs for data acquisition and data analysis is a concern, but partnering (e.g., NOPP) may shift it toward analysis.
- Complicated nature of deepwater program does require outside review and study design. Recommend using outside experts to assist in evaluating sampling designs at TPEC level.
- In the interest of ecosystem-based management, strongly encourage continued coordination with Mexico.
- In the interest of Headquarters plans for an overall evaluation of Gulf of Mexico OCS regional studies, it is important that the Deep Gulf of Mexico Benthic Study final report be made available in a timely way.
- Recommend that Chemo III be initiated and that simultaneous work should begin on the parts of SWSS II that require continuity.
- MMS should consider incorporating records for earlier dredging operations in the Gulf of Mexico (station data and species lists) into their relational database.

#### **Recommendations for the Pacific OCS Region**

- Given the critical importance of decommissioning, the panel supports the proposed FY 05 projects and the FY 06 Information Transfer Meeting relative to decommissioning.
- Recommend continued and expanded support for the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network, ecosystem monitoring, and linking relational databases between physical and biological information.
- Encourage continued creative thinking towards future educational programs and outreach.
- Sound (acoustics) is of interest to OCS regions, regulatory agencies, and independent research programs such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Navy, Office of Naval Research, Marine Mammal Commission, Cornell, and other non-government organizations. Recommend that there be coordination between MMS and these other agencies on sound issues to maximize the value of support.

#### **Recommendations for Marine Minerals**

- Continue to follow the strategic plan.
- Evaluation and use of dredging windows are supported. The new study, as profiled, is not necessary in light of the National Research Council report, but environmental windows should be adopted and applied. Identification and development of environmental windows should be an integral part of site-specific studies.
- Standard templates for protocols should be specified and evaluated particularly if environmental windows will be applied. A presentation of the template and how it incorporates windows is requested.
- An expanded effort in finding non-shoal sand sources is encouraged. For presentation at the next meeting, develop the environmental criteria for choosing viable sources.
- Representative biological material should be archived with the Smithsonian Institute.

#### **Recommendations for the Alaska OCS Region**

- Continue clear and critical linkages among partner agencies and groups on social, biological, endangered species, and compliance issues.
- Continue efforts to exploit new technologies and new tools (e.g., sampling designs, numerical methods of analysis, population genetic structure, instrumentation, and tagging). MMS should support development of cutting edge technologies for environmental study.
- Continue to involve educational elements in programs (e.g., contact the Educational Directorate of the National Science Foundation).
- Critical issues in a vast area have been well identified.
- Inclusion of oceanographic and meteorological information during collection of biological information is encouraged.

Dr. Shapiro suggested creating a subcommittee for database management in which there might be members who are data gurus from other large programs. Dr. Kendall said that recommendation was made last year at the SC meeting; because of the logistics for this meeting and with the new format to try to keep it short, there were two reasons why it was decided not to do it during this session. The main reason is that there is an effort in MMS, called Electronic Government (E-GOV), to coordinate internal MMS data and make it available to the outside world through the OCS connection. Even though it does not deal with the ESP yet, it has been discussed. The environmental component will be reviewed, and data that has been collected from physical oceanography and other programs will be fit into E-GOV. Since the next meeting might be in the Washington, D.C. area, a presentation on the databases currently available and how this issue is handled internally will be made. Also, a presentation by MMS's E-GOV personnel will be made to show the extent of this effort. Dr. Shapiro agreed that this topic could wait until the next SC meeting, but emphasized the importance to consider not only how the database is structured but how it will be most appropriate to query the data.

### Physical Oceanography

Drs. Denise Stephenson-Hawk, Mary Scranton, and Joe Smith are members of the Physical Oceanography Discipline Breakout Group. Dr. Scranton presented the report to the SC.

### **Gulf of Mexico OCS Region**

#### **Hydrate Studies**

- Comparison of technologies to localize hydrates is relevant to both safety and environmental mission of MMS.
- Evaluation of methods to develop hydrate resources should be addressed.
- Environmental assessment of mining of the hydrate development on chemosynthetic communities should be addressed.

#### **Hydrate Recommendations**

- The 3-D seismic and four component ocean-bottom cable reevaluation will increase the understanding of locations and viability of the deposits and the possible safety issues.
- Interagency cooperation and leveraging are essential.
- Environmental evaluation should not be done until the deposits and recovery techniques are better known.

#### **Air Quality (AQ) Studies (FY 06)**

- Gulf of Mexico Air Quality Study (GMAQS)
  - Revisit the 1995 study with the new 8-hour pollution requirement using a new emissions inventory. Are the needed data on pollutant and meteorology going to be available?
  - Particulates should be included.
  - Should the Volatile Organic Content flux from the sea surface be included? Perform a "back of the envelope calculation" to determine its significance.
  - This study should be developed better over the next year.
- Meteorological data by satellite.
  - Profile wasn't presented and should be revised before the next meeting.

#### **AQ Recommendations**

- The suggestion that the MMS add an AQ specialist to the SC is a good one.
- Encourage cooperation and coordination of the regulatory data gathering (Gulf of Mexico Activities Data System II) and the environmental data gathering (GMAQS).

#### **Physical Oceanography Breakout Group**

- The program seems to be proceeding very well.

#### **Physical Oceanography Recommendations**

- The FY 06 studies on Flower Gardens (with NOAA) need to be justified relative to other MMS needs.
- The Near-Synoptic Hydrographic Surveys with the Mexicans are encouraged.

#### **Alaska OCS Region**

- Beaufort Mesoscale Meteorological Study
  - The project should have sea ice in the title and greater emphasis on it.
  - The study may have to nurture the mesoscale meteorological model.

- The group liked the phased approach in this study.
- Hydrological Modeling Study
  - The project should get river flow data to support this effort. The calculation based on snow cover volume could be valuable.
  - Perhaps the FY 06 study of sea-ice over-flood should be moved up in the schedule. These studies should be coordinated.
  - Simple stage height sensors should be considered.
- Boundary Oceanography Study
  - The freshwater component from this should be pulled out and done under the hydrological study.
  - Recommend the eventual study be closely coordinated with bowhead whale and other biological studies.
- High Resolution Bathymetry Study for the Beaufort
  - Recommend doing this study.

### **Program-wide Recommendation**

The fidelity of the numerical models depends on the existence of quality data. It is recommended that the ESP design its studies to ensure that collection of data and information can be applied to generate reliable and accurate models.

### **Socioeconomics**

Drs. Duane Gill, Richard Hildreth, and Scott Goldsmith are members of the Social Science Discipline Breakout Group. Dr. Gill gave the presentation.

### **Gulf of Mexico OCS Region**

- Social and Economic Planning Conference, February 2004.
  - Proceedings should go to participants before it is finalized.
  - Household economic well-being should be included.
  - Examine other economic and social activities that influence the dynamic context within which Gulf of Mexico OCS development occurs.
  - Changes in industry are the major drivers of social and economic impacts.
  - An industry life-cycle model should be expanded based on the cultural impact paradigm.
  - The cultural impact paradigm can be done to a large extent in-house.
  - Combine monitoring with the cultural impact paradigm.
  - The group found the workshop proceedings document useful as a contextual basis for reviewing the study plan.
  - The next step is for the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region to prioritize and synthesize themes in the workshop proceedings document.
  - Prioritization means making the best use of limited resources.
  - Develop a strategy for prioritizing information needs; this may take the form of in-house monitoring with industry rather than an ESP study.
  - Focus information needs on targeted issues that have been less developed in EIS's.
- Monitoring Industry Labor Needs—Study Profiles
  - Working with the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Census Bureau to make surveys more compatible with MMS needs is a good approach.
  - Previous study was a good-faith effort demonstrating the limitations of using a broad-based survey approach.
  - Consider using alternative methods to collect targeted information.
  - Develop an in-house description of industrial structure to serve as a basis for gathering information.
  - Conduct focus groups with key industry informants.
  - Develop survey instruments based on input from the focus groups.

### **Alaska OCS Region**

- Exploring Potential Visual Resource Effects from Oil Development in Cook Inlet
  - Consider other development activities in the area and how this may change the demographic make-up of the community (copper mine).
  - Consider using virtual image simulations of the view shed.

- Include residents as well as tourists and visitors in the survey.
  - Consider acclimation effects.
- Dynamics of Distribution and Consumption of Subsistence Resources in Coastal Alaska
  - Broaden ‘sharing’ beyond food.
  - Consider using social capital as a theoretical framework.
  - Remember diabetes is a major health issue for indigenous people in Alaska.
- Conference Management and Reports on MMS Results
  - Fits with recommendations for educational components of MMS.

### **National Recommendation**

Simplify the scope of work for Energy Alternatives and the Environment, and contract it to an outside entity.

Dr. Goldsmith added that although a lot of time was spent talking about the results of the Gulf of Mexico OCS Workshop, he emphasized that MMS is dealing with a very dynamic industry in oil and gas in the gulf, and the traditional way of keeping on top of that from an economic and social perspective has always been to do a point-in-time study – kind of a cross section of taking a picture of what the industry is looking like. The problem with this technique is that as soon as the picture is taken and developed, the industry has changed, and the picture is no longer accurate. Therefore, one of the things discussed was how to monitor, on a more continuing basis, the conditions in the industry and keep current on what is going on in the industry in terms of labor supply or labor demands and composition of inputs going into various types of production. These conditions vary fairly quickly as the industry moves further offshore and into deeper waters. One of the recommendations made was to consider alternative ways of keeping abreast of what industry is doing rather than what has occurred every 5 years.

He continued that another topic discussed was, since the MMS already has a lot of experience in the Gulf of Mexico doing social and economic impact studies, it needs to begin considering what is different this time rather than doing the same study again; it needs to concentrate on those aspects of impact that are different from the last time. This would also have an added benefit of perhaps freeing up some resources which will enable MMS to look at some of the impacts that may have fallen through the cracks in previous studies because there just weren't enough resources to devote to them.

Dr. Castellini had one comment for the Alaska OCS Region. He stated that there are large National Institute of Health-supported studies being conducted in Alaska (with collaborations between the Alaska Native Health Service, the universities, and a variety of hospitals in communities) trying to look specifically at the subsistence foods relative to health issues. He mentioned that he could help the Region get in touch with the people who do those things.

Dr. Shapiro made one comment regarding the Discipline Breakout Groups; she suggested it would be helpful when presenting the reports to have a sentence which explains why the MMS is supporting this research. Dr. Kendall replied that, from now on, this would be done.

Dr. Hildreth stated that Dr. Jack Irion's socioeconomic presentation to the Social Science Discipline Breakout Group on marine archeology was absolutely fascinating and suggested that during next year's preliminary session, either that very same presentation, or an update of it, be presented to the entire SC.

Dr. Kendall introduced Dr. Ed Richardson who announced that there is a new report being published – a 2004 edition of the *Deep Water Report for the Gulf of Mexico*. Its availability will be announced by the MMS Director at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston on Wednesday, the 5th of May. This is a 2-year update from the last version and it is the fourth version that MMS has been through in the deep water, and it characterizes activities from leasing to the decommissioning, and Dr. Richardson encouraged the SC to obtain a hard copy or compact disc. In addition, copies will be available on the internet that is set up by key segments which will allow members to examine these characterizations.

### **Presentation of Plaque**

Dr. Kendall stated that Dr. Goldsmith was elected and nominated to the SC in 1999 and has recently rotated off. Dr. Lee Huskey, a former SC member who works with Dr. Goldsmith, agreed to fill in for the remaining time of Dr. Goldsmith's appointment. However, since Dr. Huskey was not able to attend this meeting and the Social and Economic Discipline needed to be covered, Dr. Goldsmith was kind enough to attend this meeting and participate.

Dr. Goldsmith was then presented with a plaque and a letter signed by the Director stating MMS's appreciation for his being on the SC.

### **Open Discussion of Subcommittee Reports**

The next objective was to discuss the Discipline Breakout Group reports and find the common denominators so that when the draft Letter to the Director is created, those recommendations that are program wide and other comments will be appended to the letter.

#### **Database Management**

Although MMS may be developing the E-Gov models, it is still going to take a lot of adapting to the needs of the ESP. In addition to the database formatting, data query sets and how to query disparate data sets need to be considered since they are particularly important to those who depend on data collected by other agencies.

Therefore, one of the major considerations for the next meeting should be setting up data sets in such a way that they may be readily queried and then learning how to query the different databases from the other agencies.

Dr. Rex concurred and stated that the key to database management is the professional advantage; the database has to be protected, quality controlled, developed, and made available in a way that is sensitive to the needs of the organization and to answer the kinds of questions that will be posed. It also has to interface well with analytical tools that people are going to be using to synthesize those data. People do not realize that it must be professionally managed, which presents an immense, complex, and complicated problem.

Dr. Piltz encouraged the SC members, between now and the next meeting, to carefully consider how databases and data and information management could best serve the MMS. Dr. Shapiro agreed and added that there are a very large number of different levels that need to be considered. Data needs to be made available to a much larger community, but it needs to be developed in such a way that it is very useful to MMS, within the program, and also to others.

#### **2003 Decommissioning Workshop**

Dr. Hildreth said that, at his initial SC meeting in Anchorage, the Decommissioning Subcommittee was formed and that the Pacific OCS Region seemed to have done a lot of homework in this arena to prepare for the October 2003 Decommissioning Workshop. He had been given the 1997 proceedings of a workshop and suggested that, in future work, these and the October 2003 proceedings be referred to since there is a lot of the groundwork including the socioeconomics, legal aspects, and permitting process in those proceedings.

#### **Ocean Commission Report**

On behalf of the SC, Dr. Shapiro requested a copy of the executive summary of the OC report, specifically those portions that refer to MMS.

#### **Requests for Proposals (RFP's)**

Dr. Trefry said that MMS needs to consider peers to review RFP's and that distribution needs to be broadened in order to make more people aware of the opportunities.

Dr. Rex made a general comment that there are two new kinds of technology that MMS needs to develop a stronger awareness of: (1) a genetic component to the biological studies because it can answer definitively, in many cases, questions that arise and (2) samplings. A lot has been developed about sampling design and the kind of statistics that can be used to answer specific questions about whether there is an anthropogenic effect on it. Although this is very new and technical, it should be incorporated into those RFP's that specifically address this, and the TPEC should have the kind of expertise that can critically evaluate those things with respect to questions that are being asked.

Dr. Shapiro said that one of the overall issues that she has heard is better coordination between biological and physical components of the different programs in the regions. Often, these components are handled as separate programs; if integrated, more information might be yielded. Although she commended the Regions where interdisciplinary programs have been developed, she encouraged this practice be continued and done wherever possible to combine the biological and physical components of the program in order to evaluate the organization of the data in terms of the full complement of other data.

Another comment Dr. Shapiro made is the importance of partnering wherever possible to leverage the maximum benefit from available funds. Again, although this practice is already done very well, it should be continued.

### **Dissemination of RFP's**

Dr. Diaz stated that there are several organizations that manage E-mail servers and suggested that they be given the RFP's to distribute to their members. Dr. Shapiro added that she, too, receives notices about RFP's directing her to a website for further details if she is interested in the subject. She suggested that the titles and the subject be broadcast using this type of list, along with the Universal Resource Locator for those who want further detail. Other suggestions were to announce the RFP on the MMS's website and maintain a mailing list of those interested in receiving them. Dr. Kendall agreed that these were excellent points.

Mr. Cimato explained that competitive procurements must be first announced as small business set-asides; this is a Federal requirement received from the Small Business Administration that creates goals for the Federal Government to allocate a certain percentage of the acquisitions. In MMS, the goal for acquisitions is to first offer 50 percent of all acquisitions to small businesses. When a project is identified for a competitive procurement, it is first developed as a request for interest that is announced through *FED BIZ-OPS*. If two or more small businesses have the capability to meet the requirements, then MMS must negotiate with them for the work. If less than two small businesses demonstrate capability, then MMS is free to proceed with an unrestricted procurement, in which case all entities are able to compete.

Dr. Castellini asked Mr. Cimato what is the historical percentage that contracts have been awarded to small business set-asides. Mr. Cimato explained it is his understanding that MMS has, in fact, awarded on the order of 40 percent of its acquisitions to small businesses, which is for total acquisitions and not just studies; studies are a much bigger number.

Dr. Shapiro asked if the small businesses contracted actually do the work or do they function as coordinators and subcontractors? Mr. Cimato replied that it is a mix, and there are a few projects that have gone to small businesses in the past, so that there is not a real good history. This is the first year MMS has developed this request for interest approach, where there is screening and specifically directing procurements as small business set-asides as a result of the screening step. Dr. Piltz explained further that a small business can essentially front for a much larger business or university; however, the small business has to do at least 51 percent of the work and cannot, for example, bid on a \$5 million contract and, then, for a half million dollars, go to a major corporation.

### **Outreach**

Dr. Diaz added that one of the recommendations from the last SC meeting was to bring science into the classroom by investigating additional ways to turn MMS research products into educational and outreach material. Another recommendation was for CMI student participation.

The following subcommittee structure and membership was moved by Dr. Kosro and seconded by Dr. Hildreth. The motion was then passed by the SC unanimously.

#### **OCS Scientific Committee Deepwater Subcommittee**

Jim Coleman	Will Schroeder
Mike Rex	Joe Smith
Mike Kosro	

#### **OCS Scientific Committee Arctic Subcommittee**

Michael Castellini	Will Schroeder
Lee Huskey	Lynda Shapiro

#### **OCS Scientific Committee Marine Minerals Subcommittee**

Jim Coleman	Duane Gill – Chair
Bob Diaz	Livingston Marshall
Richard Hildreth	



**OCS Scientific Committee Decommissioning Subcommittee**

Livingston Marshall

Mary Scranton

Richard Hildreth

Mike Kosro

**OCS Scientific Committee Social Economic Research Subcommittee**

Duane Gill

Richard Hildreth

Lee Huskey

Edella Schlager

**Public Comment**

Dr. Liesel Ritchie explained that she is with the Social Science Research Lab at Mississippi State University. Although she had no comments, she did ask who, within the MMS, she should discuss problems regarding data management issues. Through the Department of Agriculture, she has recently assisted with a Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, and she did some facilitation of bringing to the table their issues which needed to be addressed. Some of the items being discussed by the SC brought to mind how that Department addressed some of these items a couple of years ago and has now moved further down the road on the process. She offered her expertise to help MMS with that area. Dr. Kendall requested that she contact him.

Dr. Rex motioned to close the public comments period; Dr. Kosro seconded the motion; SC unanimously passed the motion.

**Committee Business**

**Emerging Issues/Topics of Interest**

Dr. Diaz raised the emerging issues and topics of interest from the previous SC meeting:

- MMS should continually monitor the environmental data it collects as well as advances in sampling technology and data analysis in order to continuously refine procedures or assigning appropriate distances for separation between OCS activities and resources designated for protection;
- Decommissioning;
- MMS should start considering the relationship between OCS activities and marine protected areas;
- Shifting emphasis in contaminant risk assessment from body burden to affect;
- Cooperation between Canada and U. S. on possible oil and gas development.

Dr. Diaz asked the SC to recommend additional issues and which previous issues/topics of interest should be included in the Letter to the Director. The SC decided on the following items:

- Encourage MMS to continue and expand its cooperation with other agencies to address issues concerning acoustics and seismic effects on marine mammals;
- Encourage MMS to continue its coordination with other agencies and to also review and coordinate with other agencies, as appropriate, on alternative uses of the OCS; also, the bureau should feel free to bring before the SC issues of relevance to the ESP;
- Welcome information from MMS on how ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention will affect OCS activities, in particular those pertaining to deep water, and welcome requests for assistance from the studies program.

**Other Business**

Dr. Castellini asked Dr. Kendall what he predicts in terms of ESP budget. Dr. Kendall replied that over the last couple of years it has been relatively stable – about \$17 million. Also, there is a small pot of money, about \$2 million that the USGS has made available to MMS for MMS research issues. There is talk of a potential cut in FY 06; however, the amount is not known. The DOI is recognizing how important the studies program is and that it already has a bare-bones budget. He added that he suspected that, based on recommendations of the OC, MMS should receive additional resources. Recognizing the fact that MMS is making an effort to reach the public and becoming more recognizable, Dr. Kendall said he is hopeful the budget will increase. He added that MMS is still trying to increase the cooperation leverage within the NOPP agencies.

**Dates and Locations for the Next Meeting**

Since the 2003 meeting had been held in Anchorage, Alaska, and the 2004 meeting took place in New Orleans, Louisiana, it was decided that the 2005 SC meeting would be held in the Washington, D.C. area probably in April. It was decided that dates would be solicited via E-mail in order to give members time to review their schedules. Once a consensus is decided, members will be notified via E-mail of the dates for the next meeting.

Dr. Trefy motioned that the meeting be adjourned, and it was seconded by Dr. Rex. The motion was carried and Dr. Diaz adjourned the meeting.

**Minerals Management Service (MMS)  
Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)  
Scientific Committee (SC)  
Meeting Agenda**

**MEETING DATES:** April 21 – 23, 2004  
**LOCATION:** Hyatt Regency  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Wednesday, April 21, 2004**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.    | Welcome and Introductions<br>Dr. James Kendall, MMS Chief Scientist and Committee Executive<br>Secretary of the OCS SC                         |
| 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.    | MMS HQ Presentation<br><a href="#">Mr. Robert LaBelle</a> , Deputy Associate Director for Offshore<br>Minerals Management                      |
| 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.    | Gulf of Mexico OCS Regional Overview<br><a href="#">Mr. Chris Oynes</a> , Director, MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Region                              |
| 9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.    | Break  |
| 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.   | Some Highlights of the MMS <i>Environmental Studies Program</i> and Our Goal for<br>the Next Day-and-Half<br><a href="#">Dr. James Kendall</a> |
| 10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  | Overview of the Coastal Marine Institute, Louisiana State University<br><a href="#">Dr. Larry Rouse</a> , Director                             |
| 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  | Ethics Responsibilities of Committee Members<br><a href="#">Mr. Art Gary</a> , Deputy Ethics Director, Department of the Interior              |
| 11:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon  | Break  |
| 12:00 noon. – 12:30 p.m. | <a href="#">Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian</a>   |
| 12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.   | Lunch  |

**This session will be held in Esplanade B on the Second Floor.**

**Minerals Management Service (MMS)  
Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)  
OCS Scientific Committee (SC)  
Meeting Agenda**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2004**

2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Charge to the Discipline Subcommittees  
Chair, OCS Scientific Committee

Physical Sciences, Biology, and Socioeconomic Disciplines meet separately to discuss national and regional studies plans.

	<b>Biology/Ecology Decommissioning</b>	<b>Physical Sciences Phys-O, Air Quality, Hydrates</b>	<b>Social Sciences</b>
<b>2:15 - 3:30</b>	Pacific	Gulf of Mexico/HQ	Room Available for social scientists & other discussions
<b>3:30 - 3:45</b>	Break	Break	Break
<b>3:45 - 5:00</b>	Pacific	Gulf of Mexico/HQ	Room Available for Social Scientists & other discussions

**Biology/Ecology will meet in Prytania on the Second Floor.**

**Physical Sciences will meet in Gentilly on the Second Floor.**

**Social Sciences will meet in Elysian Fields on the Second Floor.**

**Minerals Management Service (MMS)  
Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)  
OCS Scientific Committee (SC)  
Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday, April 22, 2004**

This day was spent reviewing regional draft Studies Development Plans. Following a brief charge from the Chair to the Discipline Breakout Groups, the groups went into their sessions (Ecology/Biology, Physical Oceanography, and Social Sciences) to consider proposed regional priorities and information needs. Each Discipline Breakout Group met with staff members from each MMS OCS Region and Headquarters. In each breakout session, a Committee member was designated as a discussion leader and an MMS staff member was assigned to take notes. The Regional MMS Studies Chiefs and staff members were asked to identify, justify, and discuss priorities for future environmental studies. Sessions include sand and gravel and renewable energy study profiles.

Physical Sciences, Biology, and Socioeconomic Disciplines meet separately to discuss national and regional studies plans.

	<b>Interdisciplinary/ Biology/Ecology</b>	<b>Physical Sciences</b>	<b>Social Sciences</b>
<b>8:00- 9:30</b>	Sand & Gravel		Alaska-Social Sciences
<b>9:30 - 10:00</b>	Break	Break	Break
<b>10:00 - 12:00</b>	Sand & Gravel	Alaska (Biol/Ecol)	Gulf/HQ-Social Sciences
<b>12:00 - 1:30</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<b>1:30 - 3:30</b>	Gulf Biology	Alaska (Phys-O)	
<b>3:30 - 3:45</b>	Break	Break	Break
<b>3:45 - 5:30</b>	Biol./Ecol. Chairs and MMS Recorder Finalize Recommendations	Physical Sciences Chairs and MMS Recorder Finalize Recommendations	Social Sciences Chairs and MMS Recorder Finalize Recommendations

**Biology/Ecology will meet in Cabildo B on the Second Floor.**

**Physical Sciences will meet in Poydras A on the Second Floor.**

**Social Sciences will meet in Poydras B on the Second Floor.**

**Minerals Management Service (MMS)  
Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)  
OCS Scientific Committee (SC)  
Meeting Agenda**

**Friday, April 23, 2004**

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.  | Plenary Session<br>Opening Comments, Chair, OCS SC   |
| 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  | Discipline Subcommittee Reports<br>(20 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Biology</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Physical Oceanography</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Socioeconomics</a></li></ul>                        |
| 9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | Break  |
| 10:00 a.m. –11:00a.m.  | Open Discussion of Subcommittee Reports  |
| 11:00 a.m. –11:30a.m.  | <a href="#">Public Comment</a>   |
| 11:30 a.m. - 12:30p.m. | <a href="#">Committee Business</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Items for Letter to the Director</li><li>• Emerging Issues/Topics of Interest</li><li>• Other Business</li><li>• Dates and locations for the next meeting</li></ul> |
| 12:30 p.m.             | Adjourn the meeting  |

**This session will be held in rooms Cabildo A and B on the Second Floor.**

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## ACRONYMS

AQ	Air Quality
Bcf	Billion cubic feet
CA	Cooperative Agreement
CMI	Coastal Marine Institute
DOI	Department of the Interior
EA	Environmental Assessment
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
E-GOV	Electronic Government
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESP	Environmental Studies Program
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act
FY	Fiscal Year
GMAQS	Gulf of Mexico Air Quality Study
IA	Interagency Agreement
IOOS	Integrated Ocean Observing System
LOI	Letter of Intent
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LSU	Louisiana State University
MMS	Minerals Management Service
MODU	Mobile Drilling Units
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOPP	National Oceanographic Partnership Program
NRC	National Research Council
NSF	National Science Foundation

NTL	Notice to Lessees
OC	Ocean Commission
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
OMM	Offshore Minerals Management
RFP	Request for Proposal
SC	Scientific Committee
SGE	Special Government Employee
SPAR	Surface Piercing Structure
SWSS	Sperm Whale Seismic Study
Tcf	Trillion cubic feet
TPEC	Technical Proposal Evaluation Committee
U.S.	United States
USGS	U. S. Geological Survey

# MEETING SUMMARY

**April 21, 2004**

## **MMS HQ Presentation**

Mr. Robert LaBelle, Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management, gave the Headquarters' presentation. As advisor to the Director, MMS, the Committee appreciates the opportunity to have a dialogue with the Associate Director on ongoing and future issues, policies, and activities of the Bureau. This exchange not only keeps the Committee apprised of MMS's direction but also offers an opportunity for the Committee to provide direct advice and guidance on matters as they relate to the Environmental Studies Program.

Below is Mr. LaBelle's presentation to the SC:

Good morning, everybody. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you once again. I would like to just say a few brief remarks about what we're up to at MMS and sort of set the stage for the next 2½ days, hopefully; but I will try not to get into a lot of the technical details and other interesting items that other speakers will present you to this evening.

As most of you know, the MMS manages the largest amount of land in the United States, albeit submerged lands offshore in the amount of 1.76 billion acres. Today, production from the 40 million OCS acres under lease account for about 30 percent of the domestic crude oil production and about 25 percent of the domestic natural gas production. We project that by 2006, the OCS will easily account for about 40 percent of the U.S. oil production. At the same time, we expect the OCS to continue to account for about 25 percent of domestic natural gas production. In the Gulf of Mexico, deepwater production now accounts for about 60 percent of the Gulf's oil production and 23 percent of the natural gas production. Deepwater development projects continue at a fast pace.

We will be facing several major issues in the next few years, including planning for the upcoming 5-year program covering 2007 to 2012, and continuation and extension of economic incentives we have established, some of which are specifically targeted at bringing more natural gas production online in the near future. Another topic that is more and more on our minds lately and could create new obligations and responsibilities for MMS is multiple use of the OCS. Traditional competing uses have included fishing, tourism, shipping and boating, military, and telecommunications. Now, we have new and different uses to consider, some of which weren't even on our radar screen a couple of years ago, such as offshore liquid natural gas projects, OCS gas storage projects, wind and wave energy projects, and conversion of OCS oil and gas facilities for other uses such as mariculture.

Recently, the Department had a rather large meeting of the senior managers across all bureaus, the subject of which was adaptive management. As you know, a typical NEPA analysis will plan, predict, and implement mitigation to allow a given project to go through in a safe manner. Adaptive management goes beyond the implementation of mitigation, by monitoring how well the mitigation is taking care of the problem, evaluating the results of that monitoring, and providing feedback and perhaps making necessary changes to the original plan.

The reason I am mentioning this to you is that I think the Department will adopt adaptive management as one of its tools for future NEPA work. When and if that happens, hopefully it will translate into more support for research dollars for monitoring type projects and mitigation of evaluation type projects, and I think that's good news for all of us who are wrestling with using this information in a way to benefit the public. So we will keep you posted on how the Department of the Interior is doing in their efforts, and we will appreciate any advice and input on the subject.

I want to mention briefly the Ocean Commission report which came out yesterday, as you all know. MMS has taken a leading role to provide a coordinated DOI response to the report's recommendations. As I understand it, there is currently a 30-day review period underway, mainly for States and governors and others to comment on the report. After the Commission responds to these comments and releases its final recommendations, there will be a 90-day period for the Federal Agencies to respond on behalf of the Administration. As a member of the Science and Technology Joint Subcommittee on Oceans, MMS, along with all the other agencies, will look at the many science and technology issues.

Finally, the Environmental Studies Program. Starting this afternoon, you will review the regional study plans for next year and the environmental questions we are trying to answer to help us manage OCS minerals development in as safe and environmentally sound a manner as we possibly can. Frankly, the ESP has been taking progressively large budget hits recently. We expect this to be another tough fiscal year. Perhaps the call in the Ocean Commission report to increase study funding for ocean issues will help.

As always, we look forward to your advice as we attempt to formulate these research plans on many present and upcoming complex issues. And I would like to thank this committee once again for helping us achieve our goals in the past and look forward to working with you in the future.

### **Gulf of Mexico OCS Regional Overview**

Mr. Chris Oynes, Gulf of Mexico Regional Director, provided an overview of ongoing and planned activity in the Gulf of Mexico.

He explained that the Department has put a very high importance on Alaska to help provide access to federal lands for future energy. These themes have resonated from many different sources – from industry in past meetings, local reporters, and even from both gubernatorial candidates in the recent election.

Mr. Oynes listed the Region's goals and challenges and explained each in detail.

He announced that deepwater oil production had escalated 535 percent between 1995 and 2002, and that areas in shallow water but below 15,000 True Vertical Depth are largely unexplored. MMS estimates this area could have as much as 55 trillion cubic feet of natural gas since several recent discoveries are judged significant.

#### ***Recently Completed Studies***

- Stability and Change in Gulf of Mexico Chemosynthetic Communities,
- Northeastern Gulf of Mexico Chemical Oceanography and Hydrology Study,
- Deepwater Physical Oceanography Reanalysis and Synthesis of Historical Data, and
- Social and Economic Impacts of Outer Continental Shelf Activities on Individual and Families.

#### ***Studies Nearing Completion***

- Stability and Change in Gulf of Mexico Chemosynthetic Communities,
- Exploratory Study of Deepwater Currents in the Gulf of Mexico,
- Cooperative Research on Sperm Whales and Their Response to Seismic Exploration in the Gulf of Mexico,
- Effects of Oil and Gas Exploration and Development at Selected Continental Slope Sites in the Gulf of Mexico,
- The Archaeological and Biological Analysis of World War II Shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico: A Pilot Study of the Artificial Reef Effect in Deepwater,
- Long-term Monitoring at the East and West Flower Garden Banks, and
- History of Offshore Oil Development in the Gulf of Mexico

#### ***Challenges Presented by Deepwater Ocean Currents***

- Several project installations have been delayed by high currents,
- Mobile Drilling Units (MODU) could not disconnect/contributed to incidents,
- Premature replacement of export riser (fatigue),
- Industry's design criteria was formulated in 1980's – early 90's,
- MMS is preparing a new Notice to Lessees building off requirements in current regulations, and
- May require full water column measurement by facilities and MODU's.

Mr. Oynes also discussed the proposed liquefied natural gas projects.

### **C. Overview of the Coastal Marine Institute, Louisiana State University**

Dr. Larry Rouse Schmidt explained that the Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) at Louisiana State University (LSU) was formed in 1993 under a 5-year cooperative agreement between LSU and the MMS. The program has been continued under a second cooperative agreement for another 5 years. Final arrangements are being made for continuation of the agreement for another 5 years.

The purpose of the LSU-CMI Program is to permit MMS to take advantage of highly qualified, scientific expertise at local levels to collect and disseminate environmental information needed for OCS oil and gas and marine minerals decisions; to address local and regional OCS-related environmental and resource issues of mutual interest; and to strengthen the MMS-State of Louisiana partnership in addressing OCS oil and gas and marine minerals information needs.

He reported that 105 projects have been funded since the beginning of the agreement in 1993; 50 are presently active, though several of these are in the process of preparing final project reports. Approximately \$23 million in research contracts have been awarded by MMS through the CMI program to researchers at LSU and other institutions. Each year, \$2 million is available from MMS to fund research on MMS/OCS related issues. This money is matched on a 1:1 basis from university, state, and industry funds, so that \$4 million worth of research is initiated each year. The total since

1993 is over \$45 million. In addition to funding the research of scientists at LSU, more than 50 graduate and 50 undergraduate students have been supported through these projects.

Funded projects have come from the variety of disciplines relevant to MMS/OCS needs, including sociology, economics, platform ecology and fisheries, physical oceanography of the Gulf of Mexico, and geomorphology studies related to offshore sand mining.

### **Ethics Responsibilities of Committee Members**

Mr. Art Gary, Deputy Director of the DOI's Ethics Office, Office of the Solicitor, explained to the Committee that, with the signing of the new Charter, the SC is now under applicable ethics laws and carries with it the status of "special government employee." This means that when acting in the capacity as a committee member, that member is subject to many of the same standards of conduct that apply to Federal employees in general, including the avoidance of conflict of interest. However, since a member's service is not full-time, many of the restrictions apply only in limited circumstances.

### **Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian**

With the signing of the new Charter, the SC was required to elect a new Chair, Vice-Chair, and Parliamentarian. Dr. Lynda Shapiro was elected Chair; Dr. Robert Diaz was elected Vice-Chair, and Dr. Duane Gill was elected Parliamentarian.

**Wednesday's afternoon and Thursday's sessions** were devoted to discipline-based breakout sessions (Ecology/Biology/Physical Oceanography, and Socioeconomics) where each discipline-based breakout group met separately with staff members from each Region and Headquarters. In each breakout session, one SC member was designated as a discussion leader and an MMS staff member was assigned to take notes.

## **April 23, 2004**

During Friday morning's session, the leaders identified regional priorities for future environmental studies.

Friday afternoon's plenary session dealt with the SC's Subcommittees and their restructuring. The updated Subcommittees and their members are listed below.

### **OCS Scientific Committee Deepwater Subcommittee Members**

Jim Coleman	William Schroeder
Mike Rex	Joe Smith
Mike Kosro	

### **OCS Scientific Committee Arctic Subcommittee Members**

Michael Castellini	Will Schroeder
Lee Huskey	Lynda Shapiro

**OCS Scientific Committee Marine Minerals Subcommittee**

Jim Coleman	Livingston Marshall
Bob Diaz	Richard Hildreth
Duane Gill - Chair	

**OCS Scientific Committee Decommissioning Subcommittee**

Livingston Marshall	Mary Scranton
Richard Hildreth	Mike Kosro

**OCS Scientific Committee GOM Social Economic Research Subcommittee**

Duane Gill	Richard Hildreth
Lee Huskey	Edella Schlager

Items to the Director were discussed as well as other business. The SC members will be polled to determine best dates (Spring 2005) to hold the next meeting which will be held in the Washington D.C. area.

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Minerals Management Service (MMS)

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Scientific Committee of the Minerals Management Service;  
Announcement of Plenary Session

**AGENCY:** Minerals Management Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The OCS Scientific Committee of the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service will meet at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**DATES:** Wednesday, April 21, 2004, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Thursday, April 22, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, April 23, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

A copy of the agenda may be requested from MMS by calling Ms. Carolyn Beamer at (703) 787-1211. Other inquiries concerning the OCS Scientific Committee meeting should be addressed to Dr. James Kendall, Executive Secretary to the OCS Scientific Committee, Minerals Management Service, 381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4043, Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817 or by calling (703) 787-1656.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

The OCS Scientific Committee is an outside group of non-Federal scientists which advises the Director, MMS, on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific merit of the MMS OCS Environmental Studies Program as it relates to information needed for informed OCS decisionmaking.

The Committee will meet in plenary session on Wednesday morning, April 21. Presentations will be made by the Deputy Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management, the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Director, and the MMS Chief Scientist. For remainder of the day, and through Thursday, April 22, the Committee will meet in discipline breakout sessions (i.e., physical oceanography, biology, and socioeconomics) to review the specific research plans of the regional offices for Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006 in the context of regional decisionmaking.

On Friday morning, April 23, the Committee will meet in plenary session for reports of the discipline breakout sessions of the previous day and to continue Committee Business. The meetings are open to the public. Approximately 30 visitors can be accommodated on a first-come-first-served basis at the plenary session.

**AUTHORITY:** Federal Advisory Committee Act, P.L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix I, and the Office of Management and Budget's Circular A-63, Revised.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/S/\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas A. Readinger  
Associate Director for  
Offshore Minerals Management



## **Outer Continental Shelf Scientific Committee**

### **Charter**

#### **Official Designation**

Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Scientific Committee.

#### **Scope and Objectives**

The OCS Scientific Committee will provide advice on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Studies Program to the Secretary of the Interior through the Director of the Minerals Management Service (MMS). The Committee will review the relevance of the research and data being produced to meet MMS scientific information needs for decision making and may recommend changes in scope, direction, and emphasis.

#### **Duration and Termination**

The Committee will terminate 2 years from the date this charter is filed, unless renewed prior to that date to comply with section 14(a) (2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Committee charter may be renewed by the Secretary as long as the Offshore Minerals Management Program of the Minerals Management Service requires advice and expertise of the Committee.

Official to Whom the Committee Reports  
The Director, Minerals Management Service.

Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support  
The Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service.

Estimated Operating Costs  
Annual activities of the Committee will require approximately \$44,000 and 1-year of Federal employee support.

Description of Duties: The duties of the Committee are solely advisory and are stated in Scope and Objectives above.

Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings  
The Committee will meet at the request of the Director, but not less than once a year. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to approval by the Committee Chair.

#### **Travel Expenses**

Each voting non-Federal member will be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred when attending Committee and subcommittee meetings in accordance with Federal travel regulations as implemented by the Department of the Interior.

#### **Membership**

The Secretary will appoint non-Federal members to the Committee to serve a 2-year term. Non-Federal members may not serve more than three consecutive terms. There will be no alternates. The Secretary may revoke an appointment to the Committee if a member fails to attend two consecutive meetings. Previous service on the Minerals Management Advisory Board OCS Scientific Committee will count as service on this Committee for purposes of determining eligibility. However, to facilitate the transition from the Minerals Management Advisory Board OCS Scientific Committee, any member who has served three consecutive terms or more on that Committee is eligible to be nominated for an additional 2-year term on the OCS Scientific Committee. After a 2-year break in service, that member will again be eligible for appointment.

Appointments will be made to balance the Committee in terms of technical skills and geographic representation. Members will be appointed to the Committee based on the following criteria:

- Scientific competence,
- Reputation within their field of expertise, and
- Ability to represent important elements of the MMS's research and science information efforts.

### ***Federal Members***

The Director, Minerals Management Service, or designee, is a nonvoting, ex officio member of the Committee.

### **Subcommittees**

The Committee may establish subcommittees to study issues in-depth and to develop recommendations for consideration by the full Committee. Membership will be balanced in terms of perspective, subcommittee function, and expertise required by the subcommittee. Subcommittees may include people who are not members of the Committee. The Committee Chair will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittee members will be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred when attending subcommittee or committee meetings to present subcommittee deliberations to the full Committee. Subcommittee members will be reimbursed in accordance with Federal travel regulations as implemented by the Department of the Interior.

### **Officers**

The Committee will elect from its membership a Chair, Vice Chair, and Parliamentarian to serve a 2-year term. The Associate Director for the Offshore Minerals Management Program, or designee, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer. The MMS Chief Scientist is the Executive Secretary and MMS Science Liaison to the Committee and will attend all meetings.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Detailed minutes of each Committee meeting, recommendations made, and copies of all studies and reports received, issued, or approved in conjunction with the activities of the Committee will be available for public review at the following location:

Minerals Management Service  
381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4001  
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817



# ATTENDEES

## OCS Scientific Committee Members

Dr. Michael Castellini, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Dr. Robert Diaz, Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
Dr. Duane Gill, Mississippi State University  
Dr. Richard Hildreth, University of Oregon  
Dr. Michael P. Kosro, Oregon State University  
Dr. Michael Rex, University of Massachusetts  
Dr. Mary Scranton, State University of New York  
Dr. Lynda Shapiro, University of Oregon  
Dr. Joseph Smith, ExxonMobil Upstream Research  
Dr. Denise Stephenson-Hawk, The Stephenson Group  
Dr. John Trefry, Florida Institute of Technology

## Minerals Management Service

Dr. Tom Ahlfeld, Environmental Sciences Branch  
Dr. David Ball, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Ms. Carolyn Beamer, Offshore Minerals Management  
Dr. Richard Bennett, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Tom Bjerstedt, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Mary Boatman, Environmental Sciences Section, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Greg Boland, Environmental Sciences Section, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Darice Breeding, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Ms. Maureen Bornholdt, International Activities and Marine Minerals  
Dr. T.J. Brousard, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Ms. Elizabeth Burkhard, Environmental Sciences Branch  
Dr. Robert Cameron, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Ms. Jane Carlson, Procurement Operations Branch  
Dr. Dennis Chew, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Joe Christopher, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Mr. James Cimato, Environmental Sciences Branch  
Ms. Phyllis Clark, Environmental Sciences Branch  
Dr. Rodney Cluck, Environmental Assessment Branch  
Dr. Kimberley Cook, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. David Cooke, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Cleve Cowles, Environmental Studies Section, Alaska OCS Region  
Dr. Carole Current, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Richard Defenbaugh, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Mr. Barry Drucker, International Activities and Marine Minerals  
Ms. Mary Elaine Dunaway, Environmental Sciences Section, Pacific OCS Region  
Dr. Holli Ensz, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Deborah Epperson, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Art Gary, Ethics Office  
Mr. Michael Hargrove, Procurement Operations Branch  
Dr. Maurice Hill, Pacific OCS Region  
Ms. Terri Holman, Policy and Management Improvement  
Dr. Christopher Horrell, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Chester Huang, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Jess Hunt, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Jack Irion, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Quazi Islam, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

Dr. Bonnie Johnson, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Walter Johnson, Environmental Sciences Branch  
Dr. A.J. Jones, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Jim Kendall, Environmental Sciences Branch  
Mr. Robert LaBelle, Offshore Minerals Management  
Dr. Ron Lai, Environmental Sciences Branch  
Dr. Bill Lang, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Herb Leedy, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Alexis Lugo-Fernandez, Environmental Sciences Section, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Asha Luthra, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Harry Luton, Environmental Sciences Section, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. David Martin, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Margaret Metcalf, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Charles Monnett, Environmental Studies Section, Alaska OCS Region  
Dr. Dave Moran, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Mr. Chris Oynes, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Liz Peuler, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Fred Piltz, Environmental Sciences Section, Pacific OCS Region  
Dr. Paul Post, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Dick Prentki, Environmental Studies Section, Alaska OCS Region  
Dr. Ed Richardson, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Carol Roden, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Bob Rogers, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Pat Roscigno, Environmental Sciences Section, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. Mark Rouse, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Dr. James Sinclair, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Mr. Paul Stang, Leasing and Environment, Alaska OCS Region  
Dr. Kristen Strellec, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region  
Mr. Will Waske, International Activities and Marine Minerals  
Mr. Dick Wildermann, Environmental Division  
Dr. Vicki Zatarain, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

### **Invitees**

Dr. Scott Goldsmith, University of Alaska Anchorage  
Dr. Larry Rouse, University of Louisiana

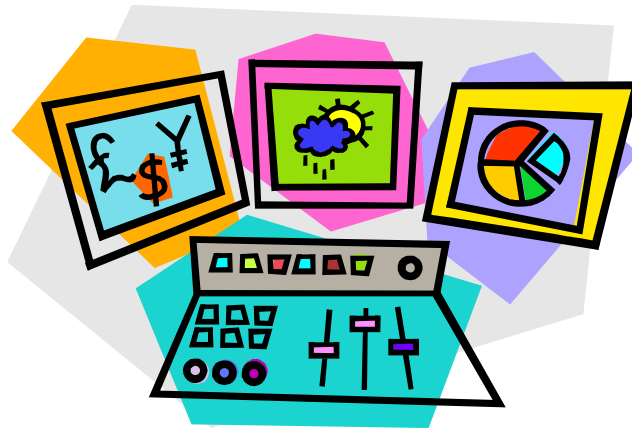
### **Others**

Dr. Jonelle Husain, University of Mississippi  
Dr. Liesel Ritchie, University of Mississippi  
Dr. Dawn Bolden, USDA  
Dr. Charles Griffith, USDA  
Dr. Linda Simmons, USDA

# **MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

## **OCS Scientific Committee**

### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**



**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**April 21-23, 2004**

## Dr. Michael Angelo Castellini

Dr. Castellini is the Director of the Institute of Marine Science, University of Alaska Fairbanks. Projects focus on many different aspects of marine mammal biology. Some of these include nutritional physiology of harbor seals and Steller sea lions in Alaska as related to their population declines and to the survival of seal and sea lion pups. Other projects include studies on lipid metabolism in marine mammals, the biochemistry of contaminants, metal chemistry, anti-oxidant chemistry and immune function. These programs are both field based from the Arctic to the Antarctic and conducted in collaboration with marine laboratories throughout North America.

Director, Institute of Marine Science  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7220  
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fax: (907) 474-7204  
e-mail: [mikec@ims.uaf.edu](mailto:mikec@ims.uaf.edu)

Discipline: Marine Biology

Originally Appointed:	December 18, 2001
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004
Reappointment:	January 1, 2006

## Dr. James M. Coleman

James M. Coleman is a Boyd Professor for the Coastal Studies Institute and recently served as Interim Vice-Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies at Louisiana State University. He started his professional career as a graduate student at Coastal Studies Institute, LSU, and eventually serving as director of CSI, chairman of Geology and Geophysics, head of the School of Geoscience, and interim dean of Basic Sciences before being named Executive Vice-Chancellor in 1989. He has conducted worldwide research on deltaic sedimentation, riverine processes, marine geology, shallow structure of shelf sediments, and muddy coasts. He serves on numerous local, state, and national committees and is presently a member of the Ocean Studies Board, National Research Council, and has recently been appointed to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

Boyd Professor, Coastal Studies Institute  
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Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
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e-mail: chanjc@lsu.edu

Discipline: Oceanography/Geology

Originally Appointed:	October 1, 1993
Reappointed:	June 7, 1995, October 27, 1997
Appointed Discretionary Member:	October 25, 2000
Reappointed:	January 6, 2003
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004
Reappointment:	January 1, 2007



## Dr. Robert J. Diaz

Dr. Diaz's research interests center around understanding trophic dynamics and the functional importance of production in ecosystems, benthic boundary layer processes, and organism-habitat interactions, and how perturbations of these processes influence energy flow and population dynamics. Recently he has focused on organism-habitat interaction on the inner continental shelf to predict how sand dredging will affect fish and invertebrate communities. He is striving to estimate the relative resource value of various estuarine and marine benthic habitat types for the dual purpose of quantifying energy flow between habitats and for developing environmentally sound management strategies. This research has led him to consider a landscape ecological approach to looking within and between systems around the U.S. for how the physical and biological processes interact. In addition, he is also interested in the application of the statistical and numerical methods to biological data and in the ecology and taxonomy of estuarine and marine invertebrates with specialization in oligochaetes.

Professor, School of Marine Science  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
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Discipline: Biological Sciences

Originally Appointed:	December 18, 2001
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004
Reappointment:	January 1, 2006

## Dr. Duane A. Gill

Dr. Gill is Professor of Sociology in the Social Science Research Center and Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work at Mississippi State University. He has conducted research on the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, Gulf of Mexico fisheries, and various environmental issues in Mississippi. His research interests include the study of technological disasters, natural resource management, and community.

Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology,  
Anthropology, and Social Work  
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Discipline: Socioeconomics

Originally Appointed:	October 1, 1999
Reappointed:	December 18, 2001
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004

## Dr. Richard G. Hildreth

Dr. Hildreth is the author of three casebooks and many other publications on ocean and coastal law. He has consulted frequently with federal and state coastal management agencies in the U.S. and Australia and with Pacific Island governments on environmental legal matters. Dr. Hildreth served as the University of Queensland Law Faculty's 50th Anniversary Visiting Fellow. He has served on the National Research Council's Non-native Oysters and Coastal Ocean Committees, the Pacific Northwest Regional Marine Research Board, and the editorial advisory boards of the journals Coastal Management and Ocean Development and International Law. Dr. Hildreth practiced business law with Steinhart & Falconer in San Francisco before teaching law.

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Discipline: Socioeconomics

Originally Appointed:	January 1, 2003
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004
Reappointments:	January 1, 2005; January 1, 2007

## Dr. Lee L. Huskey

Dr. Huskey is a Professor of Economics at the University of Alaska at Anchorage. He has been Department Chairman for the past 4 years and is currently serving as the acting Director of the Center for Economic Education at the university. Professor Huskey's research interests include the economics of remote regions, in particular the labor market response of people in these regions to changing economic opportunities.

Professor of Economics  
University of Alaska Anchorage  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
phone: (907) 786-1905  
fax: (907) 786-4115  
e-mail: afl2@uaa.alaska.edu

Discipline: Socioeconomics

Replaced Dr. Oliver Scott Goldsmith  
Appointed Under New Charter: March 30, 2004

## Dr. P. Michael Kosro

Dr. Kosro is an Associate Professor of Oceanography at Oregon State University. His research focus is coastal physical oceanography. Since 1997, his group has employed a growing array of HF radiowave systems for time-series mapping of the surface circulation over the Oregon shelf and slope, for a region presently 400x150 km. He also makes conventional moored and shipborne measurements. Recent studies include the circulation changes off Oregon associated with the 1997-98 El Nino, the mesoscale features of the upwelling circulation, California Current and undercurrent, and spatial mapping of tidal flows.

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e-mail: [kosro@coas.oregonstate.edu](mailto:kosro@coas.oregonstate.edu)

Discipline: Physical Oceanography

Originally Appointed:	January 1, 2003
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004
Reappointments:	January 1, 2005; January 1, 2007

## Dr. Livingston S. Marshall, Jr.

Dr. Livingston Marshall Jr., currently works as a Consultant and Science Advisor in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Nassau, Bahamas. Prior to taking this position, Dr. Marshall held faculty positions at Morgan State University, Clark Atlanta University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. His academic accomplishments include a Bachelors degree in Marine Science from Hampton University and a Ph.D. in Marine Science from the College of William and Mary, School of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. His 15+ years of professional research experience in marine and estuarine systems has focused on applied fisheries, habitat restoration, ecosystem monitoring, conservation, and environmental policy. As a Consultant and Science Advisor to the Prime Minister and Government of The Bahamas, Dr. Marshall provides scientific advice on a range of marine and environmental science, research, education and policy initiatives. He also currently serves an Adjunct Associate Professor of Biology at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Marshall, Dr. Livingston S., Jr.  
Consultant and Science Advisor  
Office of The Prime Minister  
Cabinet Office  
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Nassau, The Bahamas  
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Email: [lmarschall@moac.morgan.edu](mailto:lmarschall@moac.morgan.edu) (Adjunct Assoc. Prof. of Biology)

Discipline: Biology

Originally Appointed:	December 18, 2001
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004
Reappointment:	January 1, 2006

## Dr. Michael A. Rex

Dr. Rex's research is centered on the ecology and evolution of deep-sea benthic communities. It includes analyses of bathymetric and global-scale patterns of biodiversity and their causes. We are using satellite imagery to examine the relationship of surface production to community structure in the deep sea at different temporal and spatial scales. Geographic variation in body size of mollusks is being explored to study adaptation to the deep-sea environment. Multivariate analyses of shell architecture and mitochondrial DNA are being employed to study patterns of population differentiation in deep-sea mollusks. Adaptive radiation and taxon cycles are being investigated by documenting patterns of taxonomic diversity. A major long-term research goal is to synthesize patterns of distribution, geographic variation, taxonomic composition and life histories to formulate a model of evolution in deep-sea invertebrates.

Professor and Chairman, Department of Biology  
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fax: (617) 287-6650  
e-mail: michael.rex@umb.edu

Discipline: Biology

Originally Appointed:	December 18, 2001
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004
Reappointment:	January 1, 2006

## Dr. Edella C. Schlager

Dr. Schlager is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Administration and Policy at the University of Arizona. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Indiana University. Her research centers on local community management of natural resources, such as watersheds in the western United States and coastal fisheries.

Associate Professor, School of Public  
Administration and Policy  
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The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 85721  
phone: (520) 621-5840  
fax: (520) 626-5549  
email: Bluff2u@aol.com

Discipline: Socioeconomics/Public Policy Issues

Originally Appointed:	October 1, 1999
Reappointed:	December 18, 2001
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004



## Dr. Mary I. Scranton

Dr. Scranton received a BA in Chemistry from Mount Holyoke College and a PhD. in Oceanography from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Her dissertation was on the marine geochemistry of methane. Following her dissertation work, she spent 2 years as a National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C., working on analytical and geochemical aspects of hydrogen gas distributions in the ocean and atmosphere. Since 1979, she has been at the Marine Sciences Research Center of Stony Brook University. In recent years she has been interested in the factors controlling the cycling of organic compounds in sediments and in the water column, primarily as a part of the CARIACO (Carbon Retention in a Colored Ocean) program, a study of carbon cycling in the Cariaco Basin, Venezuela. She also maintained her long-standing interest in methane geochemistry and is investigating the role of seeps and vents, and possibly of destabilizing gas hydrates, in controlling water-column methane concentrations near the US North-East continental shelf.

Professor, Marine Sciences Research Center  
Stony Brook University  
Stony Brook, New York 11794-5000  
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Discipline: Chemical Oceanography

Originally Appointed:	January 1, 2003
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004
Reappointments:	January 1, 2005; January 1, 2007

## Dr. Lynda P. Shapiro

After completing her Ph.D. at Duke University, Dr. Shapiro worked at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, and the University of Oregon. She directed the University's marine laboratory, the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, from 1990 to 2001, and continues there as a Professor Emerita of Biology. Dr. Shapiro's research centers on the biology of pelagic marine phytoplankton. In recent years, she has focused on the distributions and abundances of the eukaryotic ultraplankton, on incorporation of these minute cells into the microbial food web, and on the role of associated bacteria on the nutrition of phytoplankton. She also is interested in harmful algal blooms and in the sustainable harvesting of marine macroalgae.

Professor Emerita of Biology  
Oregon Institute of Marine Biology  
University of Oregon  
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Charleston, OR 97420  
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Discipline: Ecology/Biology

Originally Appointed:	October 1, 1999
Reappointed:	December 18, 2001
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004

## Dr. Joseph P. Smith

Dr. Smith is group leader for environmental technology research at ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company. He holds a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley (1978) and a B.S. in chemistry from the University of Rochester (1972). He joined Exxon Production Research Company in 1981 and has been active in research on the environmental aspects of offshore oil and gas operations since 1990. His research interests include numerical modeling of offshore discharges, the environmental fate and effects of drilling and production discharges, and oil spill response techniques for deepwater and arctic environments. He has also chaired or served on the steering groups for many joint industry environmental studies sponsored by organizations such as the American Petroleum Institute, the Offshore Operators Committee, the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers and the Petroleum Industry Operators Environment, Health, and Safety Committee (Angola).

Research Associate, Offshore Division  
ExxonMobil Upstream Research  
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Houston, Texas 77252-2189  
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fax: (713) 431-6423  
e-mail: joe.p.smith@exxonmobil.com

Discipline: Physical Oceanography

Originally Appointed:	January 1, 2003
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004
Reappointments:	January 1, 2005; January 1, 2007

## Dr. Denise M. Stephenson-Hawk

Dr. Stephenson-Hawk is principal of a consulting group assisting organizations with the application and use of science and educational tenets for purpose of strategically influencing policy and organizational and resource allocation decisions. She has a B.S. degree in Mathematics from Spelman College; a M.S. degree in Environmental Modeling from The George Washington University; and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Geophysical Fluid Dynamics from Princeton University. Dr. Stephenson Hawk has served as an ocean systems analyst at AT&T Bell Laboratories, an atmospheric scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Langley Research Center, and as professor, chair and provost within academia. She has served as a principal investigator for research funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), NASA, U. S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Education. She has also been appointed to national committees that include the NSF's Geosciences Advisory Committee, NASA's Earth Systems Science Applications Advisory Committee, the Ocean Research Advisory Panel of the National Ocean Partnership Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Science Advisory Board. She has worked with educators at the K-12 level, serving as co-chair for statewide (Georgia) workshops for K-12 teachers of mathematics and science and as co-principal investigator for an NSF-funded Urban Systemic Initiative in Atlanta, Georgia.

Chairman, The Stephenson Group  
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fax: (404) 870-9004  
e-mail: [thestephensongroup@msn.com](mailto:thestephensongroup@msn.com)

Discipline: Physical Oceanography

Originally Appointed:	December 18, 2001
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004
Reappointment:	January 1, 2006

## Dr. John H. Trefry

Dr. Trefry is a Professor of Chemical Oceanography at Florida Institute of Technology. His research activities focus on the concentrations and cycling of trace metals in rivers, estuaries, oceans and deep-sea hydrothermal vents. Trace metals are studied for their natural value and for their potential as pollutants. Dr. Trefry's research activities are carried out in a wide variety of geographical settings including the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Alaskan Arctic, the Gulf of Mexico and the Indian River Lagoon, Florida.

Professor, Oceanography and Environmental  
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Originally Appointed:	January 1, 2003
Appointed Under New Charter:	March 30, 2004
Reappointments:	January 1, 2005; January 1, 2007

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## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **Deepwater Subcommittee Members**

Jim Coleman  
Mike Rex

Will Schroeder  
Joe Smith

### **Beaufort Sea Monitoring Issues Subcommittee Members**

Michael Castellini  
Lee Huskey

Will Schroeder  
Lynda Shapiro

### **Sand and Gravel Subcommittee Members**

Jim Coleman  
Bob Diaz - Chair

Duane Gill  
Livingston Marshall

### **Chemical Contaminants in the Gulf of Mexico Subcommittee Members**

Mary Scranton  
Denise Stephenson-Hawk

John Trefry  
Joe Smith

### **Decommissioning Subcommittee Members**

Livingston Marshall  
Richard Hildreth

Mary Scranton  
Mike Kosro

### **GOM Social Economic Research Subcommittee Members**

Duane Gill  
Lee Huskey

Richard Hildreth  
Edella Schlager

# ***MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE***



## ***Personnel Who Interact with the OCS Scientific Committee***

***New Orleans, Louisiana***

***April 21-23, 2004***



## Regane “Johnnie” Burton

Ms. Burton's appointment as Director, Minerals Management Service, became effective on March 15, 2002. Ms. Burton's background provides a solid mix of experience in state government, the oil and gas industry, and education. Since 1995, she served on the governor of Wyoming's cabinet as director of the Department of Revenue. Before that, she served (1989-92) as vice-president of TCF Inc., an oil and gas exploration company based in Casper, Wyoming. Prior to that, she was vice president of Dwights Energydata Inc., an information company specializing in oil and gas databases. Ms. Burton was also president and founder of Hotline Energy Reports Inc., which later merged with Dwights Energydata Inc. Under her leadership, Hotline Energy Reports Inc. built a historical database of all wells drilled for oil and gas in the 11 Rocky Mountain States. Ms. Burton began her career in the oil and gas industry as an oil scout in Casper, Wyoming, for Rinehart Oil News of San Antonio, Texas. From 1982 through 1988, Ms. Burton was a member of the Wyoming State House of Representatives. She served as a member of the Wyoming State Advisory Council of Education Grants (1986-88), and also as director of the First Wyoming Bank in Casper from 1981 through 1984. She served as a member of the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States Speaker's Bureau from 1977 through 1979. Her career highlights also include positions as a lecturer and teacher of French at the university and high school levels and as a translator and interpreter for the J. F. Pritchard Company in Paris, France, and Kansas City, Kansas. In 1987, she was honored as a “Friend of Education” by the Wyoming School Boards Association. Ms. Burton is a member of the National Order of Women Legislators and the American Association of Translators. She is also a member of the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association and served as its president, representing Wyoming from 2000 to 2001. Born in French Algeria, Ms. Burton immigrated to the United States in 1963 and became an American citizen in 1968. In 1958, she completed the Baccalaureat de l'Enseignement Secondaire (option Philosophie) from the Lycee Fromentin in Algiers, Algeria. She completed the Licence-es-Lettres, English, Diplome d'Enseignement from the Universities of Algiers in Algeria and in Paris, France, in 1962. She holds a master's degree (1974) from the University of Wyoming. She studied at the University of Arkansas and has completed management training by The Presidents Association and Duke University.

## **Thomas Readinger**

Mr. Readinger is the Associate Director of the Offshore Minerals Management Program. He was appointed to this post in January 2002. He is responsible for managing the MMS Offshore program to (1) help meet the nation's energy needs, (2) protect the ocean environment, and (3) ensure the receipt of fair market value for resources leased. Prior to this new appointment, Mr. Readinger was the Deputy Associate Director of OMM. In that capacity, he also served as the chairman of the OMM Information Management Committee and led the OMM effort to develop the new e-Government Transformation proposal to increase the efficient and effective delivery of services to agency stakeholders. Mr. Readinger has been involved with the OCS program for 28 years. He joined the Federal Government in 1976 as an economist with the Bureau of Land Management where he was responsible for developing bidding systems and bid adequacy procedures to ensure fair market value for OCS resources. From 1987 to 1997, he served as Program Director for the Office of OCS Program Development and Coordination, where he developed and implemented the OCS 5-year Oil and Gas Leasing Program for MMS. In 1995, Mr. Readinger was awarded the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award for career-long contributions to the development of procedures to ensure fair market value for public resources. Since being promoted to the Senior Executive Service in 1987, he has received numerous performance awards for contributions to program management and information technology advancements. Mr. Readinger received a B.S. degree in Business Management from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1972, and an M.A. degree in Economics from American University in 1974. He received his Senior Executive Certification in Public Administration from George Washington University in 1987.

## **Robert P. LaBelle**

Mr. LaBelle, as the Deputy Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management, serves as Chief Operating Officer for the management of all facets of the Offshore Program, including policy development, policy implementation, and program planning. He is responsible for directing the implementation of Offshore's Strategic Plan and serves as Executive Secretary for the Offshore Steering Committee, as well as Chairman of the Offshore Information Management Committee. Previously, as Chief of the MMS Environmental Division, Mr. LaBelle was responsible for offshore oil

and gas industry compliance with all environmental requirements, including water and air quality, endangered species, oil spill risk analysis, and archaeology, in all U.S. Federal waters. He oversaw a large environmental research program and the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments and other decision documents used for both offshore energy and mining activities. In prior positions, Mr. LaBelle was Chief of the MMS Technology Assessment and Research Branch, where he led research on engineering and technical aspects of offshore production and development. Previous positions at MMS and USGS include Chief of the Environmental Operations and Analysis Branch, and Chief of the Branch of Environmental Modeling. Prior to joining Interior, Mr. LaBelle worked for Martin Marietta Corp. as an environmental analyst on the siting of electrical power plants and on assessing the effects of nuclear power stations on aquatic species. Mr. LaBelle is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts (BS), the University of Maryland (MS), and Loyola College (MBA).

### **Thomas E. Ahlfeld**

Dr. Ahlfeld is a Biological Oceanographer in the MMS Environmental Sciences Branch. He has over 25 years experience in marine environmental research with emphasis on benthic ecology, marine environmental monitoring, and biological effects of offshore oil and gas development. He holds a B.S. degree in biology from Loyola University (New Orleans) and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in biological oceanography from Florida State University. Dr. Ahlfeld serves on several U.S. interagency panels dealing with diverse marine environmental issues including invasive species, coral reef protection, and ecosystem management and served on the science advisory panel for Mote Marine Laboratory of Sarasota, Florida. Dr. Ahlfeld recently published on resource management applications of environmental research on chemosynthetic communities associated with hydrocarbon seeps in the Gulf of Mexico and is currently serving as Team Leader for the MMS Environmental Monitoring Working Group.

### **Colleen (Lee) Benner**

Ms. Benner is an Oceanographer in the Environmental Sciences Branch, Herndon, Virginia. She is the office specialist for efforts and studies dealing with endangered marine species as well as non-endangered or threatened marine mammals, birds, and fish. Her responsibilities include

formulating and recommending environmental studies that support the MMS environmental program and oversees projects as MMS Contracting Officer's Technical Representative or Contract Inspector. In addition to Ms. Benner's responsibilities in developing and supporting studies, she also serves as the Branch representative on several interagency working groups addressing various marine environment related issues.

### **Mary Boatman**

Dr. Boatman is the supervisor of the Studies Coordination Unit in the Leasing and Environment Division of the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region. She serves as a Contracting Officer's Technical Representative for a number of Environmental Studies Program contracts related to fates and effects and chemical issues in the Gulf. She co-authored the white paper "Ocean Gas Hydrates Research and Activities Review." She has a Ph.D. in chemical Oceanography from Texas A&M University.

### **Gregory S. Boland**

Mr. Boland is a Biological Oceanographer/Fishery Biologist in the Environmental Sciences Section, MMS New Orleans. He came to MMS in 1998 with an M.S. in biological oceanography from Texas A&M University. His areas of interest include deep-sea biology, coral reef ecology, artificial reef ecology, and fishery biology. His professional career includes 10 years with the consulting firm LGL Ecological Research Associates where he was involved as Principal Investigator for many of the major MMS-funded Gulf studies in the 1980's, and 10 years with the Texas A&M Department of Oceanography where he worked with Dr. Gil Rowe in a variety of benthic ecology studies worldwide. He is also an active member of the MMS Dive Team using diving as an additional facet of studies management as well as for environmental compliance monitoring.

### **Elizabeth Burkhard**

Ms. Burkhard is a Marine Biologist in the MMS Environmental Sciences Branch. She holds a B.S. degree in Biology from the College of William and Mary and an M.S. degree in Marine Science from the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. Ms. Burkhard serves on the interagency committee to implement the Executive Order on Marine Protected Areas. She also coordinates information needs and studies on decommissioning,

alternative energy and other marine biological studies. She is also involved in Studies Program policy.

### **Jane Carlson**

Ms. is the Team Lead for Minerals Management Service. She is a contracting Officer with 30 years of government contracting experience. Her procurement background covers a wide range of complex contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements including research and development, statistical surveys and analyses, vessel and aircraft charters, environmental, oceanographic and atmospheric surveys, transportation studies, and major electronic system programs for the acquisition of advanced automation systems.

### **James Cimato**

Mr. Cimato is a senior staff analyst in the Environmental Sciences Branch. He is responsible for developing MMS-wide policies and procedures governing the formulation and implementation of the Environmental Studies Program. As an Oceanographer within the branch, Mr. Cimato coordinates many of the fates and effects studies within MMS and the Coastal Marine Institute program. Mr. Cimato worked in the private sector in oil pollution prevention research before joining the Offshore Program in 1975.

### **Cleve Cowles**

Dr. Cowles is Chief, Environmental Studies Section, Alaska OCS Region. His responsibilities include managing a multi-disciplinary staff to implement the Alaska environmental studies portion of the MMS ESP. Dr. Cowles has been with the Alaska OCS Region since 1979, serving as Chief of the Environmental Studies Unit from 1983-1995, and as Acting Chief of the Social and Economic Studies Unit from 1992-1995.

### **Barry S. Drucker**

Mr. Drucker is a Physical Scientist, Office of International Activities and Marine Minerals. He is responsible for formulating and recommending environmental studies in support of the MMS marine minerals program and for negotiating leases for the use of Federal sand for beach and

coastal restoration efforts. He develops statements of work for funded studies and oversees projects as MMS Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, as well as working with various Federal, State, and local entities in the development of negotiated sand leases, environmental stipulations, and NEPA documents.

### **Mary Elaine Dunaway**

Mary Elaine Dunaway is a biologist in the Environmental Studies Section in the Pacific Region. She oversees contracts pertaining to biology and fates and effects. Mary Elaine also team-leads MINT, the MMS inhouse Intertidal Team. MINT collects data at 20 rocky intertidal sites adjacent to OCS platforms in the tri-County area and conducts independent research. Current responsibilities include oversight of MARINE, the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network. MARINE is a partnership of agencies and universities who monitor rocky intertidal communities off California. MARINE with it's 20 members and partners now monitor 70 fixed sites biannually from Oregon to San Diego, and conduct periodic comprehensive sampling from Washington to the mainland of Mexico. Protocols are standardized and data is placed in a shared database. Mary Elaine provides expertise to joint State/Federal oil spill efforts, particularly as it relates to groundtruthing the presence of biological resources during a spill or drill. She has initiated a new educational curriculum which presents math and scientific method concepts through the tidepool and is working with several Federal agencies on joint education workshops for science teachers.

### **John Goll**

Mr. Goll is the Regional Director of the MMS Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Office, since May 1997. He is responsible for oil and gas and other mineral leasing and oversight of industry activities on the outer continental shelf off Alaska. This ranges from assessments of the oil and gas resources, preparation of environmental analyses and research, coordinating with local, state, tribal, and federal governments, and others interested in the OCS program, and assuring that exploration and development on the federal OCS is done safely and in the best interest of the United States. Prior to becoming Regional Director, Mr. Goll headed the MMS's national environmental office and was responsible for the agency's nationwide environmental program, including NEPA and research. He was closely involved with the National Research Council

and GAO committees which reviewed MMS's environmental studies program, and represented MMS on the Council's Ocean Studies Board project on improving the use of science in decision making for coastal issues. He has participated in training missions with Russian environmental regulators in northwest Siberia and on Sakhalin Island. He also worked as a meteorologist with the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, working on air quality modeling and assessments. Mr. Goll holds a Bachelors Degree in Meteorology and Oceanography and a Masters Degree in air pollution meteorology, both from the University of Michigan.

### **Timothy R. Holder**

Mr. Holder has been a Contracting Officer's Technical Representative for economic studies and economist writing economic impact analysis for Environmental Impact Statements for the MMS, Alaska OCS Region, since 1990. Previously, he was a coordinator of local, state, and federal agencies and interest groups for leasing OCS for gold mining near Nome, Alaska, for the MMS. Prior to joining the MMS in 1988, he was a Coastal Management Planner for Nome, Alaska, and has held the position of urban planner/economist for various consultants, regional planning agencies, and local government in the Portland, Oregon, and Detroit, Michigan, areas. He received his B.A. in Economics from Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, in 1968, and his Master of Urban Planning from Wayne State University, Detroit, in 1974.

### **Warren L. Horowitz**

Mr. Horowitz is an Oceanographer with the Environmental Studies Section, Alaska OCS Region. He is responsible for formulating and recommending environmental studies in support of leasing oil and gas resources. He develops statements of work for funded studies and oversees environmental studies as an MMS Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR). Disciplinary areas of expertise include geographic information systems and modeling applications for sea ice mapping, coastal oil spill trajectory models, spatial databases of oil and gas activities, and marine meteorology.



## **James J. Kendall**

Dr. James J. Kendall coordinates the Environmental Studies Program (ESP) of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) and serves as Executive Secretary to the OCS Scientific Committee. The MMS ESP is tasked with providing the environmental and socioeconomic information necessary for MMS to make informed decisions concerning offshore oil and gas and marine minerals activities. Prior to joining the MMS Headquarters Office, Dr. Kendall served as the ESP Studies Chief for the MMS Gulf of Mexico OCS Regional Office in New Orleans, Louisiana. He received his bachelor's degree in biology from Old Dominion University and his Ph.D. in oceanography from Texas A&M University. He has conducted marine research in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, and Red Sea.

## **Ronald J. Lai**

Dr. Lai is a physical scientist in Environmental Sciences Branch in Herndon Office, Virginia, and is program coordinator for the Physical Oceanography and Air Quality research. He assists in the smooth and efficient running of the Environmental Studies Program. He serves in the Technical Proposal Evaluation Committee (TPEC) to award the contracts and oversees the progress of the funded studies. He also serves as the Branch's technical liaison with other federal agencies on physical science research and develops a joint program as needed.

## **Alexis Lugo-Fernandez**

Dr. Lugo-Fernandez is an Oceanographer in the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

## **Harry Luton**

Dr. Luton is the Gulf of Mexico OCS Region's Sociologist for MMS's Environmental Studies Program. His University of Michigan Ph.D. dissertation is on an Eskimo whaling community in northern Alaska. Dr. Luton worked for the Agency in Alaska writing social and subsistence sections of Environmental Impact Statements and Statements of Work for socioeconomic studies. He has worked in Headquarters in the Environmental Studies Branch. For the last eight years he has developing



socioeconomic studies in the Gulf and on serving as a Contracting Officer's Technical Representative.

### **Charles W. Monnett**

Dr. Monnett is a Marine Ecologist, Environmental Studies Section, Alaska OCS Region. He is responsible for formulating and recommending environmental studies in support of the MMS OCS leasing program. He develops statements of work for funded studies and oversees projects as MMS Contracting Officer's Technical Representative.

### **Richard D. Newman**

Mr. Newman is a Physical Oceanographer, Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Region, Environmental Studies Section. He is responsible for recommending environmental studies in support of the MMS environmental studies program, developing statements of work for funded studies, and overseeing projects as MMS Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, as well as working in the development of environmental impact statements and other NEPA documents.

### **Chris Oynes**

Mr. Oynes is the Regional Director, Gulf of Mexico/Atlantic OCS Region. He has been the Regional Director since 1993 and thus has overseen the doubling of OCS oil production from the Gulf during that time. Mr. Oynes has previously served as the Deputy Regional Director in the Gulf Region for 7 years and prior to that, he was the Chief of the Leasing Management Division for the MMS in its Headquarters office in Washington, DC. Mr. Oynes' career with the Department of the Interior began in 1975 as a mineral law specialist with the Bureau of Land Management.

### **Fred Piltz**

Dr. Piltz is the Senior Environmental Scientist, Pacific OCS Region. He is responsible for the planning, implementation, and management of the environmental studies for the Pacific OCS Region. Prior to his current position, he worked in applied environmental impact assessment research as both a taxonomic consultant and field scientist in Southern California

and in the Straits of Magellan, Chile. His research experience includes laboratory work on the effects of heavy metals on marine organisms, effects of oil spills on intertidal invertebrates, and effects of municipal sewage outfalls on benthic invertebrate communities.

### **Dick Prentki**

Dr. Prentki is an Oceanographer in the Environmental Studies Section, Alaska OCS Region. His responsibilities include developing and providing technical oversight for physical and chemical oceanographic studies in the Alaska environmental studies portion of the MMS ESP. Dr. Prentki has been with the Alaska OCS Region since 1981, first in the Environmental Assessment Section and then in the Environmental Studies Section.

### **Pasqual F. Roscigno**

Dr. Pat Roscigno is the Chief, Environmental Sciences Section, and Gulf of Mexico OCS Region. He is responsible for managing the Gulf of Mexico OCS Regions' ESP. The Gulf studies support OCS management decisions for the Western, Central, and Eastern Planning Areas of the Gulf. Prior to his current position, he served as the Supervisor for the Gulf's Studies Plan Coordination Unit.

### **Paul Stang**

Mr. Stang has been MMS's Alaska OCS Regional Supervisor for Leasing and Environment since July 1997. He oversees the region's leasing, environmental studies, and environmental assessment activities. Previously, he managed branches in MMS Headquarters with responsibilities for lease sales, development of MMS's 5-year leasing program, and long term planning. From 1977-1984, before coming to MMS, Mr. Stang handled a variety of offshore oil and gas and coastal zone management issues for the Department of the Interior's Office of Policy Analysis. Prior to that, he headed projects on coastal zone management, interdisciplinary ocean research, and undersea science and technology development for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency and deep ocean technology development for the Navy's Deep Submergence Systems Program.

## **Steve Treacy**

Mr. Treacy is Senior Wildlife Biologist, Environmental Studies Section, Alaska OCS Region. He has been responsible for development of Statements of Work and contract administration on many upper trophic species, particularly large whales. Since 1987, he has also been in charge of MMS's inhouse study, Bowhead Whale Aerial Survey Project (BWASP). As BWASP Research Manager and Principal Investigator, he writes and publishes a detailed annual report analyzing each fall migration of bowhead whales across the Alaskan Beaufort Sea.

## **Lynette L. Vesco**

Ms. Vesco is the Acting Regional Supervisor, Office of Environmental Evaluation, Pacific OCS Region. She is responsible for managing all aspects of the Environmental Evaluation Program for the MMS Pacific OCS Region, which includes preparing environmental reviews and analyses for the OCS oil and gas activities, ensuring compliance with environmental conditions of project approval, planning and managing the environmental studies program, and communicating with affected customers. She is also responsible for certain lease management functions such as lease adjudication and company financial responsibility. Lynnette has an M.A. in marine biology, and conducted research in rocky intertidal communities for many years.

## **William Waskes**

Mr. Waskes is an Oceanographer in the Leasing Division, Sand and Gravel Section. He is responsible for supporting the division's Environmental Coordinator in formulating and recommending biological studies in support of negotiating leases for the use of Federal sand for beach and coastal restoration efforts. He oversees consultations with NOAA Fisheries and Fish and Wildlife Service on essential fish habitat and threatened and endangered species. He assists in the development of NEPA documents and environmental stipulations for negotiated sand leases.

## **Kate Wedemeyer**

Ms. Wedemeyer is a Fisheries Oceanographer in the Alaska Environmental Studies office. She is responsible for recommending and overseeing fisheries studies related to Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing activities as an MMS Contracting Officer's Technical Representative. She also oversees a number of physical oceanography and contaminant study contracts. She has been responsible for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) analyses and inter-agency coordination on the recent Multi-year Beaufort Sea and Cook Inlet oil and gas lease sale EIS's for the Alaska office.

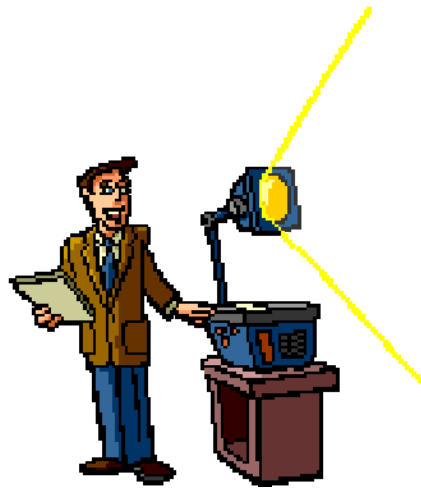
## **Richard F. Wilermann**

Mr. Wildermann is the Chief, Environmental Division. He provides oversight, policy guidance, and direction for all Offshore environmental issues, including the Environmental Studies Program, environmental analysis activities, and compliance with environmental laws and regulations. He has been with the OCS Program since 1978.

## **Dee Williams**

Dr. Williams is a Sociocultural Specialist for the Alaska Region of Minerals Management Service. He is responsible for preparing and administering Alaska offshore sociocultural research as Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, and for developing new research designs and anticipated study needs. He has a broad international and intercultural background in development studies and resource management consulting, with many publications in academic journals and book presses.

# *Presenters for the OCS Scientific Committee Meeting*



**New Orleans, Louisiana  
April 21-23, 2004**

## Arthur E. Gary

Arthur E. Gary (Art) is Deputy Director of the Department of the Interior's Ethics Office, Office of the Solicitor. Mr. Gary has been employed by the Federal Government for nineteen years, sixteen of which with Interior. He served as a staff attorney in the Division of General Law for twelve years, concentrating on such areas as ethics, administrative law and procedure, appropriations, Federal Advisory Committee Act, Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Acts, Federal Records Act, and personnel law. During this period Mr. Gary served in a variety of roles, including chairing a multi-agency task force to assist FERC in revision of rule on ex parte communications in adjudications, participating on a GSA task force to revise the government-wide FACA regulations, and serving as staff counsel to the Endangered Species Exemption Committee for the Northern Spotted Owl decision. Prior to beginning his position in the Ethics Office, Mr. Gary managed the Trust Policies and Procedures project, part of the Department's ongoing efforts to improve how it manages its trust responsibility for American Indians.

Mr. Gary earned a B.A. in American Government from the University of Virginia, and a J.D. from the College of William and Mary. He is a member of the New York bar, having tried a brief, unsuccessful, yet amusing run at breaking into entertainment law in New York City immediately after law school, while he was young and poor.

## Lawrence J. Rouse

Dr. Rouse is Associate Professor and chair of the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences at Louisiana State University. His research interests are in coastal and shelf circulation, estuarine-shelf exchange, and remote sensing analysis of these processes. He is a member of the Coastal Studies Institute and director of the Coastal Marine Institute at LSU.