



FOR RELEASE: July 16, 1999

Barney Congdon  
(504) 736-2595

Caryl Fagot  
(504) 736-2590

Anne-Berry Wade  
(202) 208-3985

#### MMS Issues Final Notice of Sale for Western Gulf of Mexico Sale 174

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) published the Final Notice of Sale for Western Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Sale 174 in today's [Federal Register](#). The sale will be held August 25, 1999, at the Hyatt Regency Conference Center (Cabildo Rooms), 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana.

This is the fourth sale in the Western Gulf of Mexico, and the eighth sale overall, in which blocks receiving bids in water depths of 200 meters or more are eligible for consideration under provisions of the Deep Water Royalty Relief Act. The Final Notice of Sale offers all blocks in water depths of less than 800 meters for a minimum bid of \$25.00 per acre. The minimum bid on blocks in water depths of 800 meters or deeper has been changed to \$37.50 per acre.

The Final Notice of Sale covers 3,647 available blocks encompassing about 19.86 million acres, in the Western GOM Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Planning Area offshore Texas and in deeper waters offshore Louisiana. Blocks in this sale are located from 9 to 200 miles offshore in water depths ranging from 8 meters to more than 3,000 meters. There are 2,122 blocks in water depths greater than 200 meters.

Sale 174 will be the 39th OCS lease sale involving the Western Gulf. Copies of the Final Notice of Sale are available from the Gulf Region's Public Information Office, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394, telephone (504) 736-2519 or 1-800-200-GULF. Supplemental documents may also be obtained from that office.

**Editor's Note:** Related statistical data can be found on the MMS website, at <http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/lseale/lseale.html>

#### Statistical Information (Sale 174)

##### Size:

3,647 Unleased blocks; 19.86 million acres

##### Primary Lease Terms:

5 Year - Water depths less than 400 meters - 1,697 Blocks  
8 Year - Water depths between 400 and 800 meters - 307 Blocks  
10 Year - Water depths 800 meters or deeper - 1,643 Blocks

##### Minimum Bids:

\$25.00 per acre or fraction thereof - Water depths less than 800 meters - 2,004 Blocks  
\$37.50 per acre or fraction thereof - Water depths 800 meters or deeper - 1,643 Blocks

##### Annual Rental Rates:

\$5.00 per acre or fraction thereof - Water depths less than 200 meters - 1,525 Blocks  
\$7.50 per acre or fraction thereof - Water depths 200 meters or deeper - 2,122 Blocks

##### Royalty Rates:

16 2/3% Royalty - Water depths less than 400 meters - 1,697 Blocks  
12 1/2% Royalty - Water depths 400 meters or deeper - 1,950 Blocks

##### Royalty Suspension Rates:

200 - 400 Meter Royalty Suspension Area - 172 Blocks  
400 - 800 Meter Royalty Suspension Area - 307 Blocks  
800 Meter and Greater Royalty Suspension Area - 1,643 Blocks

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

-MMS-GOM-

MMS's Website Address: [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)  
24 Hour Fax-on-Demand Service: 202-219-1703