



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Office of Public Affairs

### **SPECIAL INFORMATION**

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## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Commemorative Posters Available**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS), Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, announces the availability of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act posters. The OCS Lands Act of 1953 established Federal jurisdiction over submerged lands on the OCS seaward of State boundaries. The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for the administration of mineral exploration and development of the OCS. The Secretary is empowered to grant leases to the highest qualified responsible bidder(s) on the basis of sealed competitive bids and to formulate such regulations as necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act.

The golden anniversary poster is of historical significance highlighting an era in the oil and gas industry. The poster explains that President Truman issued a proclamation declaring that the U.S. regarded natural resources of the subsoil and seabed of the OCS as a territory owned by the Nation. This occurred in 1945, and in 1947 the first well was drilled from a fixed platform offshore almost out of sight of land in Federal waters. Other significant events are listed by date under the goals of the OCS Lands Act, including first wells off the Atlantic (1978) and Pacific (1964) coasts, and in Alaska (2001).

The basic goals of the OCS Lands Act are to

1. Establish policies and procedures for managing the oil and natural gas resources of the OCS to achieve national economic and energy policy goals, ensure national security, reduce dependence on foreign sources, and maintain a favorable balance of payments in world trade;
2. Preserve, protect, and develop oil and natural gas resources in a manner consistent with (a) meeting Nation's energy needs; (b) balancing resource development with protection of the human, marine, and coastal environments; (c) ensuring a fair and equitable return on the resources; and (d) preserving and maintaining free enterprise competition; and
3. Encourage development of new and improved technology for energy resource production.

Included on the poster, are photographs and images depicting the industry in our ocean environment. Available at no charge, poster(s) can be obtained from the Minerals Management Service, Gulf of Mexico OCS Region, Attn: Public Information Office MS 5034, 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana 70123. Telephone orders will be accepted at 1-800-200-GULF, or fax orders at 504-736-2620, or through the MMS Internet Homepage <http://www.mms.gov>.

The Minerals Management Service is the federal agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in Federal offshore waters. The agency also collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands. MMS disbursed more than \$8 billion in FY 2003 and more than \$135 billion since the agency was created in 1982. Nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund annually for the acquisition and development of state and Federal park and recreation lands.

**MMS Main Website: [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)**  
**Gulf of Mexico Website: [www.gomr.mms.gov](http://www.gomr.mms.gov)**

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