



## Media Advisory

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

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### MMS to Hold Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 198

**NEW ORLEANS** – The U.S. Department of the Interior’s Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold its upcoming oil and gas lease sale in downtown New Orleans on March 15. The annual sale will cover the Central Gulf of Mexico (GOM) planning area.

Lease Sale 198 encompasses 4,040 unleased blocks covering approximately 21.3 million acres in the Central GOM Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area offshore Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The blocks are located from three to more than 210 miles offshore, in water depths of four to more than 3,400 meters. MMS estimates the lease sale could result in the production of 276 to 654 million barrels of oil and 1.59 to 3.30 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

**Who:** Director of Minerals Management Service Johnnie Burton

**What:** Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 198

**When:** Wednesday, March 15, 2006  
9:00 a.m.

**Where:** The Hilton New Orleans Riverside  
Napoleon Ballroom  
Two Poydras Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70140

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

\*\*\*MMS: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America\*\*\*