



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

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News Desk Alert:

Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 166 Sets All Time Record for Number of Bids and Number of Tracts Bid On

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service announced at 10 a.m. today that it has received a record breaking 1,790 bids on 1,032 tracts offered in the Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 166.

Comparative Lease Sales

Sale 157	April 1996	1,381 bids on	924 tracts
Sale 22	December 1970	1,043 bids on	127 tracts
Sale 72	May 1983	1,015 bids on	656 tracts
Sale 113	March 1988	931 bids on	684 tracts
Sale 152	May 1995	880 bids on	588 tracts

Lease Sale 166 will take place tomorrow, March 5, 1997, at 9 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 500 Poydras Plaza, New Orleans, Louisiana.

MMS is the Federal agency that manages the Nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, and collects, accounts for, and disburses about \$4 billion yearly in revenues from offshore Federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands.

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