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Minerals Management Service  
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***NEWS RELEASE***

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**Gulf of Mexico Deep Water Oil and Gas Production Rises Dramatically**

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) announced today that production of offshore oil and gas in the deep water (greater than 1,000 ft deep) portion of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) reached an all-time high in 1998 and continues to escalate rapidly. Production of oil from the deep water has risen 279 percent in the last five years, and deep water gas production rose 252 percent.

According to MMS Director Walt Rosenbusch, "The 1998 increase is significant and of national importance. The rising amount of production coming from the deep water has great momentum and will continue to play a key role in our national energy strategy." Rosenbusch added, "While total domestic production of oil declined some 410,000 barrels a day from 1994 to 1998, the decline would have been nearly twice as large if the deep water production had not increased by 321,000 barrels a day."

From 1997 to 1998, oil production from the deep water in the GOM rose 47 percent. The production increase in 1998 was sustained by oil and gas company projects that began production in 1997 and 1998.

In 1999, eleven additional projects in the deep water of the GOM have begun or are scheduled to begin. The attached graphs illustrate the production increases and show the 1999 deep water projects.

MMS is the federal agency that manages the Nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf; 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 American Indian lands.

1999 Deep water GOM Projects					
Prospect Name	Operator	Area/Block	Production Start Up	Est. Oil Prod. (9/1/99)	Est. Gas Prod. (9/1/99)
Marlin	Amoco	VK 915	Oct-99	0	0
Allegheny	British Borneo	GC 254	October 1, 1999	0	0
Genesis	Chevron	GC 205	January 28, 1999	49,000 BOPD	52,000 MCFPD
Virgo	Elf	VK 823	Nov-99	0	0
Dulcimer	Mariner	GB 367	April 5, 1999	0 BOPD	58,000 MCFPD
Pluto	Mariner	MC 718	Oct-99	0	0
Angus	Shell	GC 113	September 5, 1999	0	0
Macaroni	Shell	GB 602	August 24, 1999	5,000 BOPD	8,000 MCFPD
Ursa	Shell	MC 810	March 8, 1999	47,100 BOPD	76,000 MCFPD
Gemini	Texaco	MC 292	May 28, 1999	2300 BOPD	115,000 MCFPD
Unnamed	Walter Oil and Gas	EW 1006	March 15, 1999	3500 BOPD	2500 MCFPD

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MMS Internet website address: <http://www.boem.gov>  
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