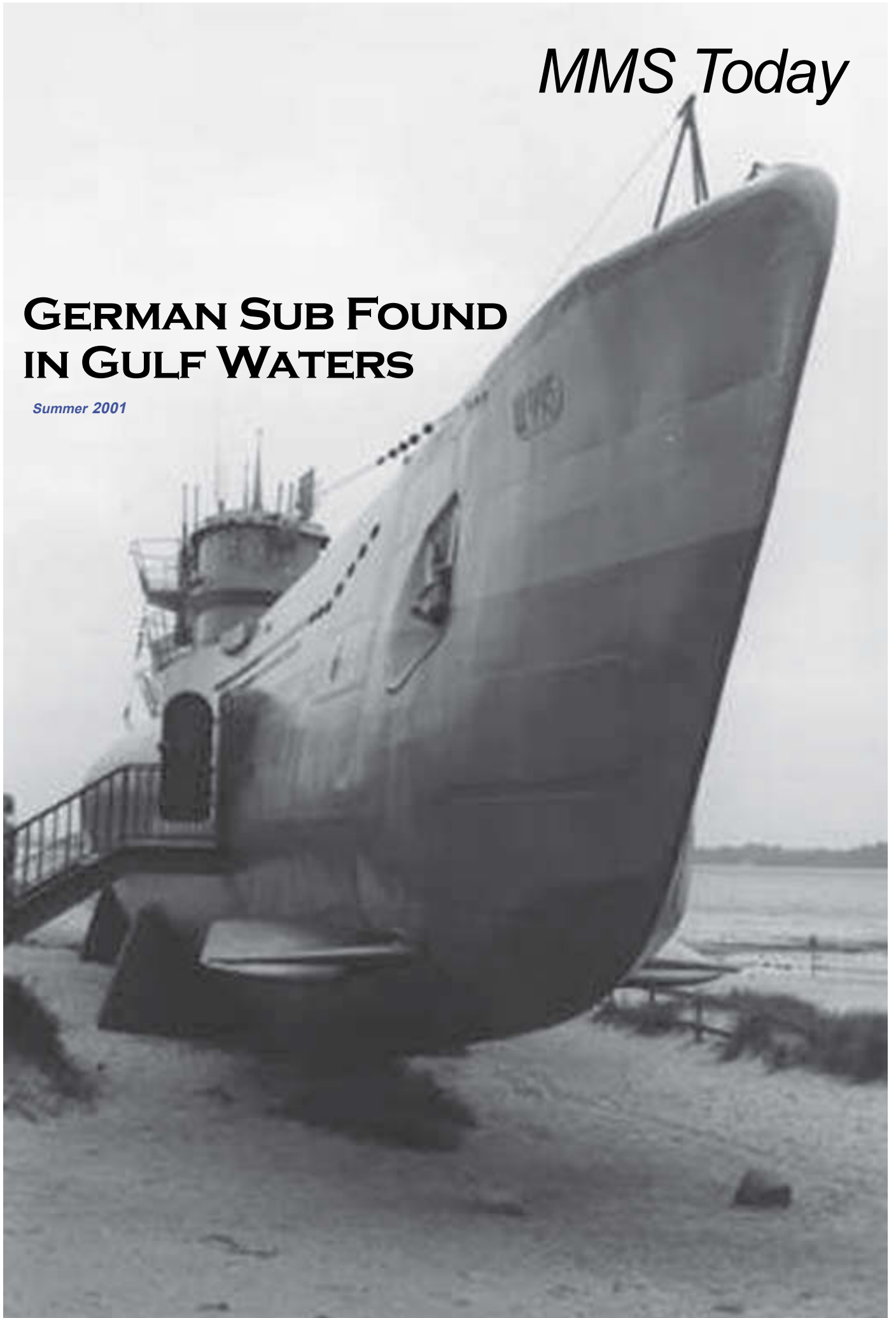


*MMS Today*

# **GERMAN SUB FOUND IN GULF WATERS**

*Summer 2001*



# Working to Implement the President's National Energy Policy

*Following are excerpts from Secretary Norton's June 6 testimony to the House Resources Committee on the role energy resources on public lands are expected to play in the President's National Energy Policy.*

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, it is a pleasure to be here to discuss the National Energy Policy report and the Department of the Interior's role in carrying out the President's policy.

In my short tenure as Secretary, I have spent a substantial amount of time studying the issues surrounding our nation's energy policy. I have been concerned by the seriousness of the long-term energy problems facing our country, and also amazed by the ingenuity of U.S. citizens and companies that allows us to produce energy with minimal impact on our environment and wildlife.

What has become clear is that each of us is striving to attain the same goal—a secure energy supply while protecting the environment. I believe the President's energy plan will increase energy production while we also improve our environment.

The need for a national energy policy becomes clear when you look at the numbers. Over the next 20 years, U.S. oil consumption is projected to grow by over 6 million barrels per day. If U.S. oil production follows the same historical pattern of the last 10 years, it will decline by 1.5 million barrels per day. U.S. national gas consumption has been projected to grow by over 50 percent in the same time period while production will grow by only 14 percent if it grows at the rate of the last 10 years. Our U.S. energy production is not keeping up with our growing consumption, creating an ever-increasing gap between domestic supply and demand.

A large portion of the United States' energy reserves are contained in the lands and offshore areas managed by federal agencies. The Department of the Interior manages energy production on all federal lands, which provide nearly 30 percent of annual national energy production.

In the year 2000, 32 percent of oil and 35 percent of natural gas were produced from federal lands. Federal lands are also estimated to contain significant undiscovered domestic energy resources.

Since a vital portion of our energy development occurs on federal lands, I am going to tailor my remarks today to Interior's energy policy implementation plans on federal lands.

**Federal Onshore Lands:** The Congress, in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, directed the Department to study the impediments to federal onshore oil and gas exploration and development and then review the results with full public

consultation. The Department will expedite completion of this study. As appropriate, Interior will consider making changes to land-use plans based on the findings of the study.

**The Outer Continental Shelf:** The outer continental shelf (OCS) encompasses 1.76 billion acres. As you know, Congress has designated about 610 million acres off limits to leasing on the OCS, which has been extended by Presidential action through 2012.

For available OCS areas, it is imperative that the variety of federal and state statutes, regulations, and executive orders are clear to ensure effective and efficient environmentally sound development. For this reason, the President has directed the Departments of the Interior and Commerce to reexamine the current federal, legal, and policy regime surrounding energy-related activities in the coastal zone and on the OCS to determine if any changes are needed.

Although significant technological breakthroughs have allowed for more deepwater production, substantial economic risks remain.

The Deep Water Royalty Relief Act of 1995, which granted variable royalty reductions for new leases in deep water, contributed to much of the increase in deepwater leasing in the central and western Gulf of Mexico over the last five years.

Similar incentives could help spur development in other technological frontiers like deep natural gas. The President has directed us to continue to explore opportunities for royalty reductions, consistent with a fair return to the public, in areas where production might not otherwise occur.

**The Alaska North Slope:** I had the opportunity to go to Alaska in March to visit the North Slope, talk to the local citizens, and learn about current and potential future energy and environmental issues in the region.

**Alaska National Wildlife Refuge:** The President is proposing to open a small fraction of the 19 million acres in ANWR for oil exploration, using the most high-tech, environmentally responsible methods. The President and I both believe that oil and gas development can successfully coexist with wildlife in Alaska's arctic region.

Our support for enactment of authority to lease oil and gas resources in ANWR is a prime example of the Department's dual commitment to energy development and environmental conservation. We recognize that the ecological resources of the refuge are unique and precious. We must respect and conserve this wealth for future generations of Americans. However, because of advances in



Secretary Gail Norton

technology, we are now able to proceed with exploratory work with very little long-term effect.

The President and I know that there is a long history of debate surrounding opening ANWR to energy development. However, we believe that new technologies enable us to conduct environmentally safe oil and gas exploration and production. Any legislation must contain adequate safeguards to protect wildlife and other environmental values.

## Enhanced and Renewable Energy Resources

**Enhanced Oil and Gas Recovery from Existing Wells:** From 30 to 70 percent of oil, and 10 to 20 percent of natural gas, is not recovered in normal field development. It is estimated that enhanced oil recovery techniques, through new technologies, could add about 60 billion barrels of oil nationwide through increased use of existing, not new, oil fields. This translates into more energy supply with fewer environmental effects because enhanced recovery does not require drilling in new areas. For this reason, the President has directed both the Departments of Energy and the Interior to promote enhanced oil and gas recovery from existing wells through new technology.

And finally, while the challenge facing us is significant, it is not insurmountable. By building on new 21st century technologies, this country can produce ample domestic resources while enhancing and protecting the environment. I look forward to working with this Committee and others in Congress to implement Interior's pieces of the President's National Energy Policy.

# Villere Reggio: Rigs-To-Reef Pioneer Retires

by G. Ed Richardson

A pioneer in the Rigs-to-Reef initiative, Villere Reggio retired after 33 years of Federal service. The Louisiana native, who was an outdoor recreation planner for MMS, began his career with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in 1969 in Atlanta, Ga. He came to the Bureau of Land Management's New Orleans office in 1976 and continued to work in the area at the MMS's Gulf of Mexico regional office until his retirement.

Villere strove to understand how offshore structures affected conservation and recreation issues. The second part of his quest was to do something positive about it. His career meant more to him than just producing another environmental document. He became personally involved.

One of his key achievements had to do with decommissioned rigs.

"As a kid I used to fish around those structures," he said, "and I always thought what a shame to remove them. Let's keep them. Recycle them."

Villere often stressed that the rigs-to-reef idea benefits everyone.

"Oil and gas companies save a portion of the cost of having to take the structures back to shore," he explained. "Fishermen benefit, and so do the fish. Entire ecosystems develop around these artificial reefs. These structures provide excellent artificial habitats for feeding and breeding, thus attracting and increasing the numbers of fish and fisherman in the Gulf."

Hal Osburn, director of the Texas Artificial Reef Program, echoed similar thoughts: "Artificial reefs are like an oasis in the desert. They increase viable habitat and improve biodiversity."

Villere's efforts, along with those of other rigs-to-reef proponents, led to the enactment by Congress of the National Fishing Enhancement Act of 1984 and the Louisiana Fishing Enhancement Act. Today, there are more than 125 obsolete structures serving as thriving artificial habitats, many off the coast of his home state.

"When you have the opportunity to create something positive for people and the environment, why not take advantage of it?" he asked. "Why not keep it going?"

During his career, the results of Villere's dedication were seen in other areas. He was a leader in developing the "Take Pride GulfWide" initiative,



photo by Walter Bonora

**Villere Reggio's** Louisiana roots go back 250 years to Francois Marie Reggio, the first of his ancestors to arrive from France in 1751. "My great-great-great grandfather, Jacques Phillipe Villere, was the first native-born governor of Louisiana. In part because of my heritage, I've always felt a certain kinship to my state and I saw the rigs-to-reef concept as a way to do something positive for Louisiana."

which organized the Fourchon Beach Cleanup, a successful annual part of the national beachsweep program. He also proposed a study to determine the impact of platforms on trans-Gulf bird migrations. To date, scientists have noted that some birds use the platforms as refuge from storms and as rest areas.

He developed MMS's Conservation Award for Respecting the Environment which is presented annually to offshore energy companies for their outstanding efforts in supporting Interior Department's broader conservation goals. Also his contributions to preparing environmental impact statements were significant.

Chris Oynes, MMS's Gulf of Mexico regional director states "Villere's personal example of commitment and environmental dedication served as a guiding light for MMS as an agency and to many of us personally over many years. He leaves a strong legacy and it was my honor to have served with him."

The sentiment from his peers is that "Villere helped make MMS a better place."



photo by Gregory S. Boland

The Rigs-to-Reef initiative has created artificial habitats around offshore platform legs structures, and recreational outlets for divers and fishermen.



MMS exhibits are an effective tool in the communications process.

## On the Road with the National Exhibit

by Walter Bonora

This summer in San Antonio, Texas, several members of the Minerals Management Service will staff the agency's national exhibit at the annual convention of the National Conference of State Legislatures. This event is just one of many that provides the agency the opportunity to inform thousands of people across the country of the agency's mission.

The San Antonio conference marks the fourth national event where MMS has exhibited this year.

For years the agency has exhibited at science fairs and national state legislature conferences around the country bringing MMS' message to the public. By doing this, the agency is able to convey valuable information about its work.

"Our exhibits are an important tool in the communication process because they convey valuable information," said Nicolette Humphries, manager of the national exhibit program. The of-

face of public affairs, which manages the program, develops a theme appropriate for each audience.

Humphries added, "the state legislatures' exhibit focuses on the benefits MMS delivers to each state like mineral revenues collected and distributed annually to the states through the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

With a variety of science posters depicting MMS environmental studies and brochures promoting the agency's mission and its safety and regulatory processes, visitors at the exhibits are given a keen insight into the world of MMS.

"Each event attracts a unique audience," said Humphries. Those who visit the booth may speak one-on-one with an MMS professional and discuss firsthand successes and challenges of the agency.

"People are curious," observed S. Dian Lawhon, public affairs chief in Washington, "most have never heard of our

agency and are interested in knowing how much money we collect in revenues; how those revenues benefit the taxpayer; how we manage the offshore oil and gas industry and what we are doing to protect the environment."

The exhibits are designed and staffed by a team of public affairs employees as well as subject matter experts, from the agency's national and regional offices.

"It would be impossible to present a balanced message without the combined efforts of the MMS offices in Denver, Anchorage, Camarillo, New Orleans, Herndon and Washington D.C.," added Humphries.

# New Financial System On-Line in October

by Barbara Desiderio

On October 1, the Minerals Revenue Management program turns on its new financial management system – the system that collects, accounts for, and distributes more than \$7 billion per year in revenues from mineral production on federal and Indian lands. The new financial system is a major accomplishment resulting from MRM's ongoing reengineering and positions the agency to meet its goal to provide revenue recipients with access to their money within 24 hours.

Implementation of the new system benefits the Department, the minerals industry, states, and tribes. To increase efficiency and in response to its industry customers, MRM streamlined, combined or deleted many of the forms required to report production and royalty. States, which share in revenues collected by MRM and Indians, for whom MRM provides accounting and compliance services, will also benefit from faster information and access to revenue.

MRM and its reengineering partner, Accenture, developed the new state-of-the-art financial system based to the extent possible on commercially available, "off-the-shelf" software.

Turning on the new system is a major first step. But, as Lucy Querques Denett, MRM's associate director, cautions, "We can't assume that the new system will be error-free on October 1. This next year will be a stressful one since the systems have to come up and operate and industry has to be ready to report under them."

To enable a smooth transition, MRM continues to meet with industry and address their concerns. New reporter handbooks have been published on the web and were distributed in CD-ROM version to reporters earlier this summer. MRM has set up an aggressive schedule over the next few months to train more than 1400 industry representatives in many locations across the country.

The next issue of MMS Today will feature an article on MRM's compliance reengineering initiative.

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## Groundbreaking held for MRM's Annex

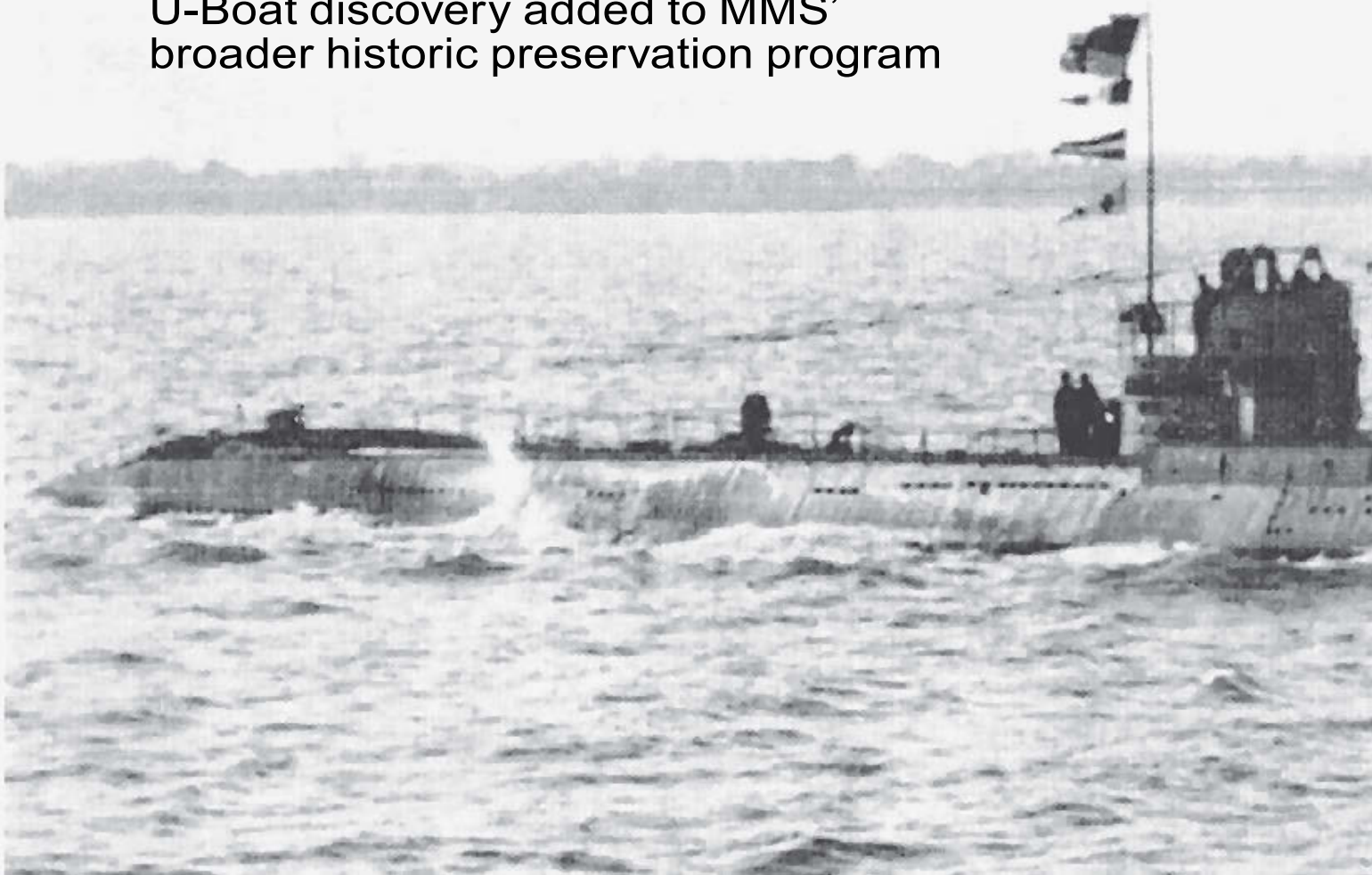


**Robert E. Brown**, MMS associate director for Administration and Budget and **Donald Sant**, deputy associate director for Minerals Revenue Management, hold a silver shovel they used in the official groundbreaking for MRM's Building 85 Annex at the Denver Federal Center. The \$1.7 million building will provide offices for an estimated 90 employees. Construction will take about 18 months.

MRM staff photo

# Joint Effort Yields

## U-Boat discovery added to MMS' broader historic preservation program



*Gulf Region staff article*

Nearly a mile below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico lies a sobering reminder of how close the Second World War came to the shores of Louisiana.

A mere 45 miles from the mouth of the Mississippi River, the U-166, the only German submarine sunk in the Gulf of Mexico, rests in the crater it created when it was sent to the bottom by a depth charge in the summer of 1942.

Its discovery and confirmation last May came as a result of a required MMS shallow hazard and archaeological survey of the seafloor prior to construction of a proposed gas pipeline by BP and Shell Oil.

The joint BP and Shell gas pipeline survey employed a high-tech, unmanned submarine operated by C & C Technologies, Inc of Lafayette, Louisiana.

Rob Church and Dan Warren, C & C's marine archaeologists, were the first scientists to review the high-resolution sonar data, which covered an area where two wrecks were already known to exist from an earlier 1986 Shell survey. The first of

these wrecks was believed to be the passenger ship *SS Robert E. Lee*, which was sunk by the U-166 on July 30, 1942.

The second, smaller target had remained unidentified until Church and Warren realized that it had roughly the same size and appearance as the only German U-boat known to have been lost in the Gulf.

The U-166, however, was supposed to lie over a hundred miles to the west where it had supposedly been sunk by a US Coast Guard aircraft. It was not until Church and Warren obtained from the National Archives the captured logbook of another German submarine, the U-171, that they realized that it was likely this one, not the U-166, that the Coast Guard had bombed, but missed.

A US Navy sub-chaser, which was accompanying the *Robert E. Lee*, apparently destroyed the U-166 without realizing it.

When BP and Shell first realized the significance of their discovery, they shared the information with MMS and invited archaeologists Jack Irion and Rik Anuskiewicz of

MMS to accompany them on a reconnaissance of the wreck site using a video camera mounted on a remotely operated vehicle.

For six decades, the sub's only other visitors have been the few marine organisms that can survive the crushing pressure and eternal darkness nearly a mile below the surface. "It was just like stepping back in history 59 years," said Anuskiewicz.

The video images confirmed Church and Warren's research and interpretations. The U-166 had been found at last. The video clearly showed the U-166's conning tower and armament, which included a 105 mm gun on the forward deck and two anti-aircraft guns mounted behind the conning tower. The forward 50 feet of the bow was found lying 400 feet away with a large indentation in the deck suggesting the impact from an explosive depth charge.

The news of the discovery solved a 59-year old mystery and ended decades of fruitless searching in what proved to be the wrong area of the Gulf of Mexico.

# World War II Relic

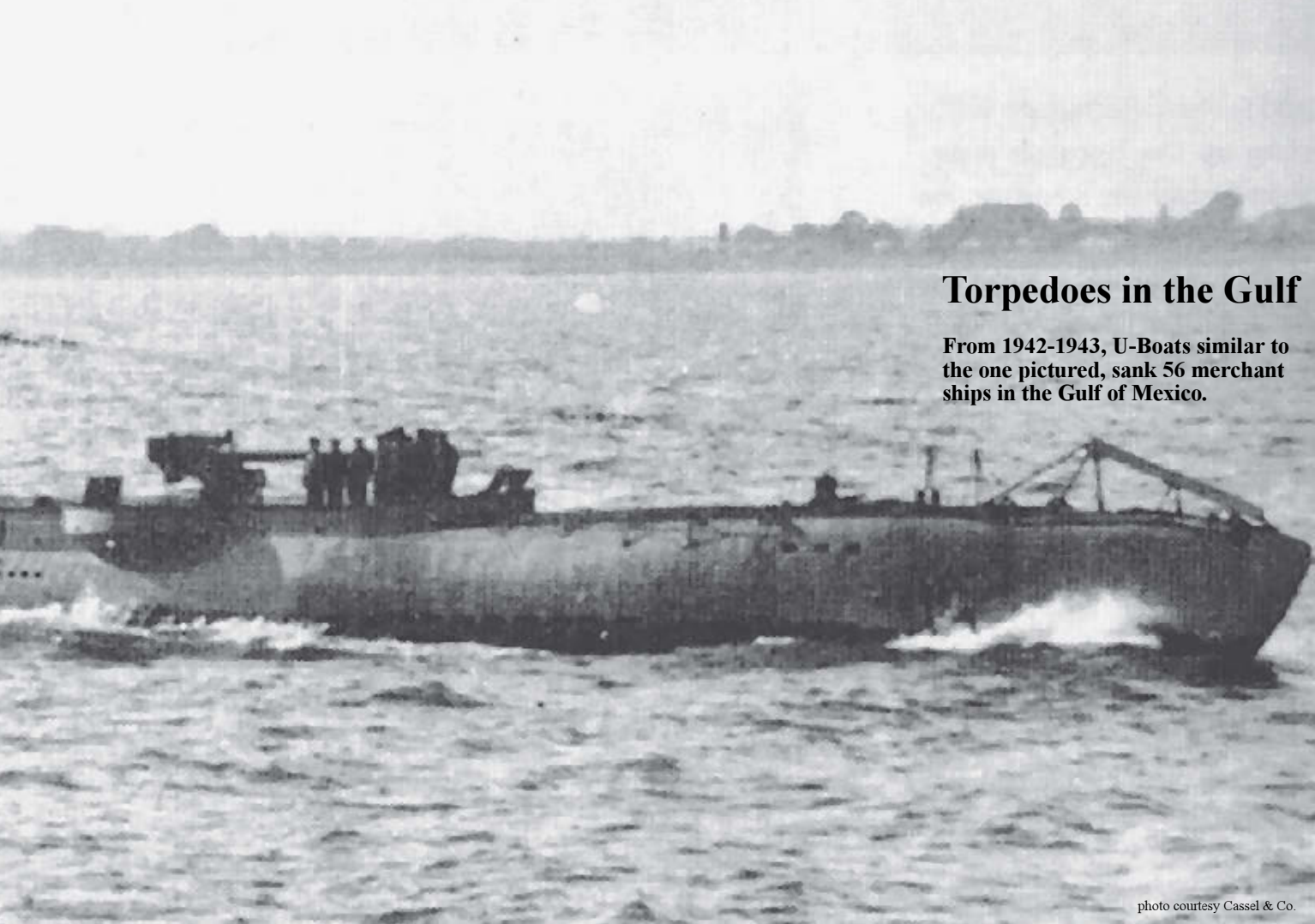


photo courtesy Cassel & Co.

## Torpedoes in the Gulf

**From 1942-1943, U-Boats similar to the one pictured, sank 56 merchant ships in the Gulf of Mexico.**

However, it is unlikely that this discovery, or many others that have been made in the waters of the outer continental shelf, would have occurred without MMS regulations and oversight.

The agency is required by law to consider the effects of all its actions, including lease sales, studies, and permits, on the cultural heritage of the United States. To meet this responsibility, it requires the oil and gas industry to conduct marine surveys to search for shipwrecks and has, on staff, archaeologists trained to review the geophysical reports submitted by the oil and gas industry.

The MMS reviews nearly 1,700 planned wells and pipelines every year for their potential effect on archaeological sites on the outer continental shelf.

Over a hundred shipwrecks have been discovered on the floor of the Gulf of Mexico as a result of this regulatory requirement. While many of the wrecks are either local fishing and shrimp boats, crewboats, and other modern wrecks, over

a dozen other casualties of World War II by the 24 known U-boats that patrolled the Gulf have been found.

Older shipwrecks have also been identified and studied, including the passenger steamer *New York*, sunk in 1846, and the Civil War Union gunboat USS *Hatteras*. Just last year, the MMS listed the side-wheel steamer *Josephine* to the National Register of Historic Places, an official list maintained by the Federal Government of the nation's most important historical sites.

"What makes the *Josephine* absolutely unique," said MMS archaeologist David Ball, "is its incredible state of preservation. The paddle-wheels are still mounted on the iron hull."

Although MMS archaeologists aren't new to fascinating deep-sea finds, witnessing the discovery of a U-boat on the bottom was still a once in a lifetime experience.

Irion added: "This site is so unusual because it tells the whole story of the war in the Gulf. On the one hand is the predator, the U-166, and nearby is its last victim, the

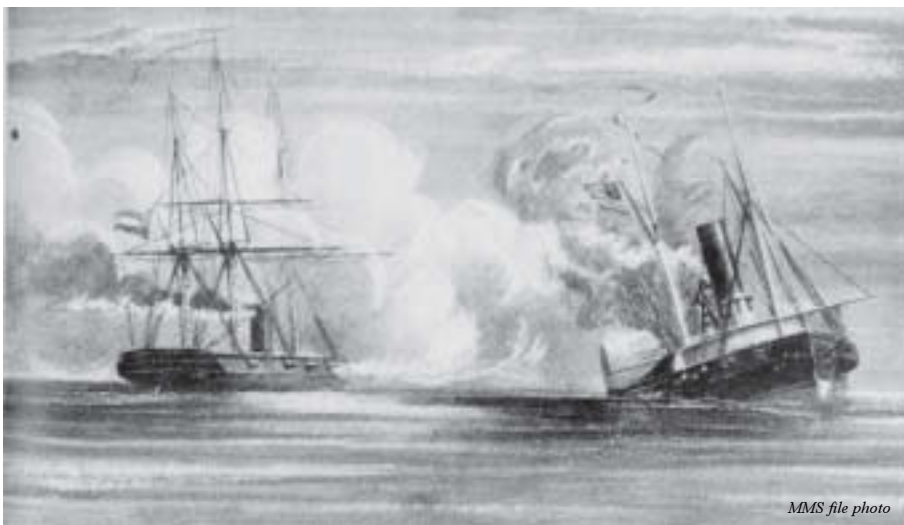
*Robert E. Lee*. We even saw the *Lee*'s lifeboats that were deployed as the ship was sinking."

As a result of this important discovery, BP and Shell have re-routed their proposed pipeline around the site, a standard means of preserving historic sites from harm during construction.

"We direct industry to avoid possible historic sites every day," Anuskiewicz said "but a German submarine definitely got our attention."

Immediately after taking part in the U-boat investigation, MMS archaeologists notified the US Navy Historical Center of the discovery. They, in turn, notified the German Embassy and Military Attaché. Since the remains of the U-166's 52 crewmen are still on board, the German government has declared the site to be a war grave and has requested that it remain undisturbed.

*(A more in-depth look at the agency's historic preservation program follows.)*

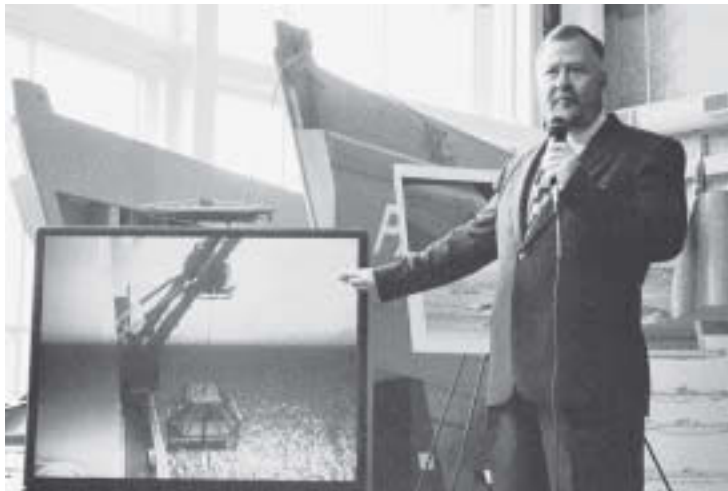


MMS file photo

Civil War Union gunboat *USS Hatteras*, (right) sunk by the *CSS Alabama* off the coast of Texas in 1863. The *Hatteras* is the only shipwreck on the outer continental shelf listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

## MMS Active in Historic Preservation Program

by Jack Irion



Irion narrates a video presentation of the U-Boat discovery at a June press conference in New Orleans. Pictured on the video screen is the remotely operated vehicles used to video tape the sub.

MMS file photo

The archaeological work conducted by the MMS and other scientists in the Gulf of Mexico contributes to our understanding of how our nation developed by studying the technology that fostered the growth of the United States.

For several millennia, ships were the most sophisticated machines on earth. They have shaped history by expanding trade and waging war, spreading ideas (and sometimes plague), and discovering and colonizing new lands.

At the same time, the crews of these ships lived in closed societies, with traditions, beliefs, vocabularies, and hierarchies that set them apart from those on shore. When one of these ships met with disaster at sea or sank as a result of war, its remains literally became a time capsule, preserving clues to the story of our past.

When archaeologists excavate a shipwreck under water, they read these clues

to form a picture of what it was like to live on a ship that sank hundreds of years ago. In that sense, shipwrecks are special archaeological sites because, unlike sites on land, everything on board was in use during a single moment in time.

Because of this, the study of shipwreck sites has contributed to the understanding of broader issues of human history, and helps us to understand better who we are by telling us where we have been.

The MMS has taken part in the study of some of the most historically significant wrecks in the Gulf.

Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to ensure that our nation's historical and archaeological relics are not lost through neglect or inadvertently destroyed by activities permitted or funded by federal agencies. Specifically, MMS is required



A 17th century bronze cannon was found in 12 feet of water in Matagorda Bay, Texas. This significant archaeological find in North American waters was discovered by a team from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in 1992.

Scientists from MMS participated in this important project during the excavation and gained insight into how wrecks of a similar age might appear in federal waters.

The cannon was from the French vessel *Belle*, the smallest of four ships sailed by French explorer de La Salle searching for the mouth of the Mississippi River in 1684. The *Belle* is the oldest French colonial shipwreck found in the New World.

to ensure that activities it funds or permits, like environmental studies or lease sales, do not damage archaeological sites in the federal outer continental shelf.

These discoveries are most likely to be either prehistoric Native American sites dating from the time at the end of the last Ice Age, or historic shipwrecks.

The oil and gas industry is required to conduct surveys in areas where the sites are likely to be found.

The data collected are reviewed by archaeologists, who write reports on their findings for submittal to the MMS.

Archaeologists working for MMS use these reports to review applications from industry to drill wells or construct pipelines.



## MMS Announces Prequalification Guidelines For Royalty In-Kind Crude Oil Sales

MMS has new guidelines for mandatory prequalification of bidders that will streamline the process for upcoming royalty-in-kind crude oil sales.

Three federal RIK crude oil sales are being scheduled for this summer, two in the Gulf of Mexico and one in Wyoming. One of the Gulf of Mexico sales will be exclusively for eligible, small refiners. To participate in any of these sales, prospective bidders will be required to be prequalified.

Invitations For Offer to participate in the Gulf of Mexico sales are scheduled to be issued in July and in August for the Wyoming sale.

"Like the prequalification process that often expedites domestic real estate transactions, our new re-

quirements will add certain assurances while expediting the process for both MMS and competing bidders," said Lucy Querques Denett, associate director for Minerals Revenue Management.

The prequalification process consists of three steps: submitting financial documentation to MMS to obtain a line of credit, demonstrating market experience and responsibility as a bidder and signing the MMS Base Contract - RIK Crude Oil General Terms and Conditions.

Information about prequalification is available on MMS's Internet website at [www.mrm.mms.gov/rikweb/OilPreQualInst.htm](http://www.mrm.mms.gov/rikweb/OilPreQualInst.htm).

For additional information and assistance contact Larry Cobb at (303) 275-7294.

## Norton Makes Key Alaska Appointments

Interior Secretary Gale Norton recently announced that Camden Toohey will serve as special assistant to the Secretary for Alaska and Drue Pearce as senior advisor to the Secretary for Alaskan Affairs.

"Camden Toohey is a true son of the great state of Alaska," Norton said.

"In many ways, his experiences growing up in a mining camp, being home schooled and managing a family-owned business give him a broad perspective on the wide array of challenges we face as stewards of Alaska's public lands."

Toohey will assist in managing and protecting Alaska's nearly 270 million acres of Interior Department land - nearly three-quarters of the state.

He will also assist with the renewal of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and a potential pipeline for natural gas.

Since 1996, Toohey has served as Executive Director of Arctic Power, a non-profit organization supporting economic development for Alaska and energy security for America. From 1987 until 1996, Toohey was professional assistant to the Alaska Senate Finance Committee.

A graduate of the University of Washington in business administration, he also studied international business at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

Pearce, the former president of the Alaska State Senate, will oversee Interior's broad range of responsibilities to the citizens and lands in the nation's largest state.

"I'm gratified Drue Pearce will join our Administration," President Bush said. "It will be good to have her experience and perspective on ways to protect Alaska's many special places and her advice on issues important to our nation."

Pearce was first elected to the Alaska Senate in 1988. She has served as Senate president twice. Pearce has chaired the Senate Rules Committee, and twice co-chaired the Senate Finance Committee.

Prior to the Senate, she served two terms in the Alaska House of Representatives.

"I look forward to Drue's guidance on the many challenges and opportunities before the Interior Department," said Norton. "Drue's legislative experience, her extraordinary sense of Alaska issues and her expertise at building broad consensus will pay enormous dividends for Alaska, for America and for the 270 million acres of Alaska land our Department manages and protects."

## GovWorks Honored

At a time when many federal agencies are looking for innovative ways to automate and mobilize their workforce, government managers are seeking wireless solutions to streamline business processes and bring more value to public service.

GovWorks, a franchise fund established at the Department of the Interior, was honored recently by the General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Supply Service as a Value-Added Service Partner for their total mobility program, E-connected Intelligence Remote Operations (EIRO).

MMS's franchise fund is a specialized acquisition center for the federal government and was established more than five years ago by the Office of Management and Budget.

"GovWorks is proud to partner with GSA," said Bob Brown, MMS associate director for administration and budget, who oversees GovWorks operations. "We look forward to working with the organization to provide federal agencies with quality solutions that allow their employees the flexibility to be totally mobile."

The EIRO partnership will provide significant benefits for federal agencies. Specifically, it will maximize the organizations' core competencies, assure compliance with strict government acquisition regulations, and most importantly, achieve time and cost-savings for the federal taxpayer.

"We're always looking for new and creative ways to do our job and ultimately serve the taxpayer," said David Sutfin, GovWorks chief.

GovWorks acquisition services will include requirement development, proposal analysis, and order placement and administration.

Generating better service and an innovative environment for procurement, franchise funds such as GovWorks improve operating efficiencies within the Federal government.

--Beth Owen

# Agency Conducts Beaufort Sea Monitoring Project

The Minerals Management Service is operating four meteorological stations along the coast of the Beaufort Sea in Alaska. (see map below). The meteorological stations will collect data on wind speed, wind direction, barometric pressure, relative humidity, solar radiation, and air temperature over a two year period from January 2001 until January 2003. Surface water temperature data will be collected at two sites during the open water season, if feasible.

The objective of this study is to collect and analyze meteorological data along the coastline of the Beaufort Sea in the vicinity of proposed offshore oil and gas development. Those areas include the Northstar and Liberty Oil and Gas Development Projects. This study will develop a wind time series for sensitivity testing of MMS's nearshore and general regional circulation and trajectory models for the Beaufort Sea. The data will also support other models and data collection efforts being supported by MMS for the Beaufort Sea.



Map of the area



**In the  
Next Issue:  
A report on  
the continuing  
sperm whale  
studies**

photo by Simon Ingram

## MMS Environmental Studies Program



MMS file photo

The agency is committed to protecting the marine environment

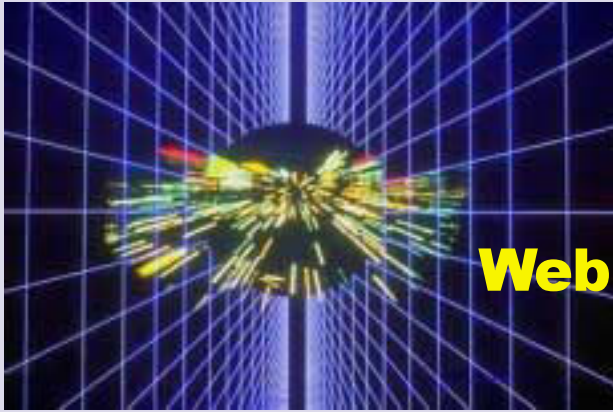
The Environmental Studies Program began in 1973 as a means to gather environmental, social and economic science information to support decision-making concerning the offshore oil and gas program.

There are three general goals for the program:

- to identify information needed for assessment and management of environmental impacts on the human, marine and coastal environments in federal offshore waters and potentially affected coastal areas;

- to predict impacts on the marine biota which may result from chronic, low level pollution or large spills associated with OCS production; and
- to monitor human, marine and coastal environments to provide necessary information for identification of significant changes in the quality and productivity of these environments.

For a complete list of environmental studies see our website at [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov) then link to offshore and the environmental program.



## Web World: [mms.gov](http://mms.gov)

Check our websites for valuable information about our agency. Offshore, Minerals Revenue Management, environmental studies, lease sales, latest press releases, and more.

Go to [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov) and navigate from there.

*(Alecia Skinner serves as an MMS pagemaster and helped design web world)*

### Key Links

[www.mrm.mms.gov/](http://www.mrm.mms.gov/) (Minerals Revenue Management site)

[www.mms.gov/offshore/](http://www.mms.gov/offshore/) (Offshore Minerals Management site)

[www.mms.gov/ooc/newweb/ooc.html](http://www.mms.gov/ooc/newweb/ooc.html) (Communications site)

[www.mms.gov/library/](http://www.mms.gov/library/) (MMS Library)

## Barros Named Alaska Federal Employee of the Year

by Robin Cacy



Barros (center) receives plaque from Anchorage mayor George Weurch, left, and Alaska's Lieutenant governor Fran Ulmer, (right)

Every year, the Anchorage Federal Executive Association honors all federal employees and recognizes those who exemplify the best of all of us.

Albert Barros, the community liaison for the MMS Alaska Region, was recently named the Federal Employee of the Year for Alaska.

He works closely with coastal villages and tribal governments that may be affected by MMS projects, and has been an advocate for government-to-government consultations.

Albert was nominated for establishing the Internship for Native Student Training and Education Program between Department of the Interior and the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

INSTEP gives Alaska native college students experience with federal agencies and has the goal of bringing more Alaska natives into federal service.

He competed against 14 other nominees from agencies throughout Alaska.

The independent, non-federal panel of judges included two former Alaska

governors including former Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel and other distinguished Alaskans.

Bringing his experience with similar programs in the lower 48 states, Barros established contacts at UAA in the Office of Native Student Services. He worked with the university to outline a course of study, sought out federal agencies interested in hiring student interns, and helped screen students to assure that they were placed with agencies that would meet both parties' needs.

After setting up the program, Barros hit the streets speaking at UAA student forums, and other gatherings of native students to familiarize them with the program and its benefits.

As a result of his efforts, seven students took part in the DOI pilot program during 2000 and five of the seven were offered continuing jobs with DOI agencies.

In 2001, UAA hopes to double the number of students and expand to other agencies outside DOI.

Barros was born in Anchorage and is a member of the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho. Prior to coming to Alaska, Barros worked for the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Park Service, and served on his tribal council.

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