

Date - 12/18/2008

**Memorandum of Agreement  
Between The  
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
And  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY**

I. Background

Oil and gas production has occurred in the Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), including Alaska, the Gulf of Mexico and Southern California. The potential effects of exploration and development are being addressed through the Minerals Management Service's (MMS) environmental assessment process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) (as amended), other Federal legislation, and the MMS Environmental Studies Program (ESP).

To ensure that MMS's ESP continues to meet its mandate under the OCSLA, the ESP includes process-oriented studies in addition to monitoring and descriptive studies in order to increase predictive capabilities to support management decisions. Studies and research must continue to be conducted in an impartial, scientific manner. The results of these efforts should be recognized by the various interest groups, as well as the scientific community, as unbiased findings of experts. While quality scientific information should be accepted regardless of origin of the research, scientific information collected for leasing, exploration, and development decisions tends to be more readily accepted by the local and regional populace if the studies are conducted by well known and scientifically respected local experts and institutions. Because MMS and the states have distinct, but complementary, roles in the process that leads to decisions, scientific information is needed by MMS, and the State of Louisiana and localities potentially affected by OCS operation.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to set out the general terms for continuing the Coastal Marine Institute (CMI) program at Louisiana State University (LSU). With this Agreement, MMS will identify the most important local research needs in the context of the OCS Program. The Coastal Marine Institute program will use the highly qualified, scientific expertise at local levels to:

1. collect and disseminate environmental information needed for OCS energy and mineral decisions;
2. address local and regional OCS related environmental and resource issues of mutual interest.
3. strengthen the MMS-LSU-State partnerships in addressing OCS oil and gas information needs.

To address some of these concerns and share the cost for research of mutual interest, MMS and the State are entering into a fourth 5-year Agreement to continue the established CMI at LSU. Louisiana was selected as the location for this CMI because of its' proximity to a major oil and

gas producing area offshore of the United States (Gulf of Mexico). LSU is uniquely suited to participate by virtue of its flagship status within the State and by its nationally recognized scope and depth of marine and coastal expertise relevant to the broad range of OCS program information needs.

### III. Objectives

The objectives of the Agreement are to:

- respond to MMS, State and local scientific information needs and interests with local scientific expertise of national caliber in relevant disciplines and found at a major public university in an active OCS region;
- broaden recognition and comprehension of study results through performance, and presentation of findings by a highly credible local scientific research institution;
- improve existing scientific research capabilities by promoting innovative projects relevant to OCS resource management issues;
- use the interdisciplinary environment of a research university to foster process oriented scientific studies, needed technologies and concepts, and syntheses of scientific information that will benefit environmental and resource management;
- promote consensus between MMS and the state of Louisiana regarding the important environmental research needs relevant to the OCS Program; and
- reduce the costs to LSU and MMS of obtaining resource management information by co-funding research activities.

### IV. Scope of the Agreement

#### 1. CMI Program Development and Direction

##### A. Program Direction

Program direction will take into consideration the ESP mandate (OCSLA as Amended, 1978: 43 USC 1346 Section 20). It will also consider requirements contained in 30 CFR Chapter II, Subchapter B, Subpart M, Section 256.82 Environmental Studies as well as appropriate documents which assess information needs associated with OCS energy and mineral resource development activities.

The MMS's responsibility for OCS energy and mineral resources is so comprehensive that the research may include socioeconomic effects, effects upon adjacent environments, and effects associated with mineral resources other than oil and gas. However, program development activities should assure that the research program balance matches the relative importance of MMS's information needs. These needs are overwhelmingly determined by the fact that the Gulf Region is a major area of oil and gas activity. Information dissemination and outreach activities should also be considered in the overall program.

##### B. Study Area and Topics.

The study area generally will be limited to the Gulf of Mexico Region with a strong emphasis on

coastal areas and State and Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico. When warranted by specific information needs or study design, research outside of the Gulf Region may be proposed so long as it clearly increases the utility of the resulting information. Discipline topics may include the environmental, social, and economic effects of oil, gas, alternative energy and marine mineral development on the OCS.

### C. Annual Cycle of Events

The Annual Cycle of Events will adhere to the following approximate timing:

August	Notice of Financial Assistance – Call for Proposals
December	Proposal review completed. Recommendations for award initiated.
March	Cooperative Agreement awards for individual studies completed.

## 2. Coastal Marine Institute Program Management.

### A. Coastal Marine Institute Management

LSU will designate a CMI Director who will be the primary contact with MMS and will have sufficient authority to coordinate the resources of LSU to accomplish all studies within the scope of this agreement. The CMI Director will be, at a minimum, a tenured faculty member, Research Center Director, or Dean of a School. The CMI Director will report to the LSU Coastal Research Council Executive Committee that is managed by the Coastal Sustainability Agenda within the Office of Research and Economic Development. The CMI Director is responsible for ensuring proper notification and explanation of MMS and State information needs to university investigators; promote interdisciplinary research approaches to issues associated with those needs; ensure that inter-study coordination and synthesis of results takes place among MMS, State, and LSU participants. The cooperative agreement for CMI Management will specify details for additional CMI resources to perform these coordination functions such as meetings, workshops, and web-based activities.

### B. CMI Steering Committee

The MMS, State and LSU will have jointly constituted a CMI Steering Committee which will include:

- 1) Two MMS members; and
- 2) Two LSU members, one of whom will be the CMI Director and another member of the Coastal Research Council Executive Committee;
- 3) Two State of Louisiana members; one representing the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities (GOCA) and the other from the Department of Natural Resources.

The purpose of the CMI Steering Committee is to ensure that issues of mutual interest among MMS, LSU, and the State are identified so they can be incorporated into CMI research program.

It will be the responsibility of the State and LSU members of the CMI Steering Committee to ensure that the issues/concerns of the appropriate State agencies with coastal and marine resources responsibilities are duly considered as possible research topics. Representatives of these State agencies are encouraged to attend the CMI Steering Committee meetings. The TSC then provides proposal reviews and with other external peer reviews recommendations and internal MMS reviews, MMS will make the decision on which projects are funded. The CMI *Director* will coordinate the activities and schedule of the CMI Steering Committee.

All study proposals will be reviewed by the CMI Steering Committee as to scientific merit and applicability to information needs of MMS and the State. The MMS representatives will provide guidance to ensure that issues addressed by proposals are consistent with the MMS mission and appropriately coordinated with the long range planning of the ESP.

The MOA will be reviewed annually to determine if the program is meeting the needs of MMS, The State, and LSU. The MMS Scientific Committee and other experts may assist in this review.

### C. Press Releases and News Media Contacts

LSU will inform MMS as early as possible of planned press announcements, planned news media contacts, and planned public presentations concerning findings and results of research. All planned press releases and planned news media contacts which include discussion of MMS programs or policies will be reviewed by MMS prior to release.

### V. Financial Management

1. This MOA is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties of this MOA will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and procedures.

2. This Agreement establishes the intent of MMS and the State of Louisiana, through Louisiana State University to cost share research on a one dollar for one dollar contribution. Cost sharing is on the basis of the total costs across the program. In any fiscal year, the collective CMI match commitments must equal or exceed MMS contributions. The CMI match may include other projects funded by the state to LSU that meet the mutual interest of science needs according to study area and topics of this MOU. MMS may consider a partial waiver of match requirements on an exceptional, individual project basis, which will adjust the total match across the program. All cost sharing and matching funding will comply with the criteria and procedures detailed in accordance with applicable OMB Circulars and other Federal regulations.

3. All funds will be obligated through individual Cooperative Agreements for approved research including workshops and educational activities.

### VI. Effective Date, Modifications, and Termination

This MOA will become effective on the date when the last party signs the agreement and will

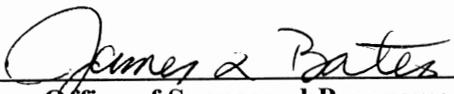
remain in effect for 5 years. Modifications may be requested by any of the parties and will become effective only when acknowledged in writing by all parties.

This MOA may be terminated at any time by any of the parties upon ninety (90) day written notice to the other parties. Notice of termination shall be directed to the parties whose signatures appear on the signature page. The termination of the MOA should not affect the validity or duration of projects initiated prior to such termination.

SIGNATURE PAGE

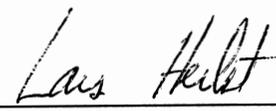
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
Between The  
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
And  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Signatures below certify understanding of and agreement to the provisions  
of this Memorandum of Agreement effective through September 30, 2012:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Sponsored Programs, LSU 12/18/08  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Vice Chancellor, ORED, Coastal Sustainability Agenda, LSU 12/18/08  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development, LSU 12/18/08  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Director 12-22-08  
Date  
Mr. Lars Herbst