

Prioritizing MMS Marine Mineral Projects...Is there a Need?

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Mid/South Atlantic Sand Management
Working Group Meeting
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The Magic of Numbers

9 MMS Employees

+

15 Years

=

90 Environmental & Site Specific Studies

**22 Negotiated Agreements for the Use of OCS
Sand**

**30,328,700 Cubic Yards of OCS Sand
Conveyed**



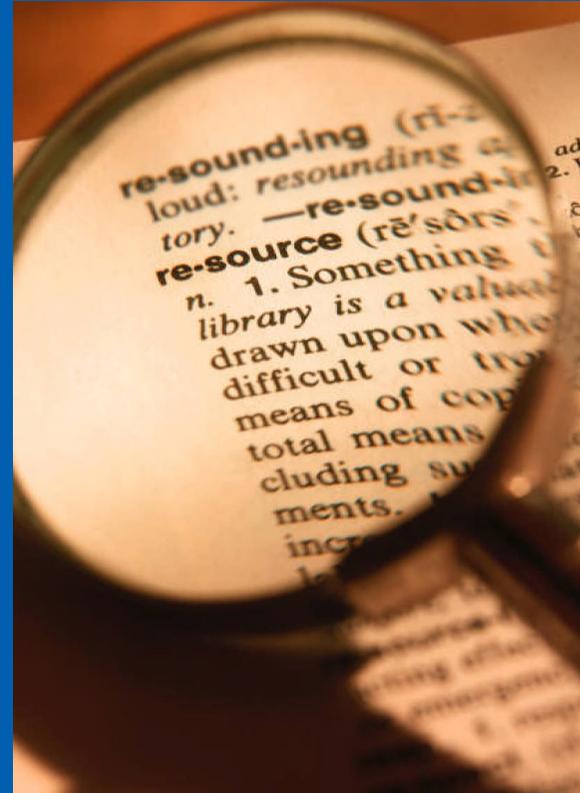
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Some Numbers are Growing

- MMS currently has:
 - 20 beach nourishment projects in various phases
 - 9 Environmental Studies
 - 9 Cooperative Agreements
 - 5 CMI Studies
- Greater Project Complexity
- Increased Project Partners
- More detailed Environmental Compliance
- Increased need for OCS sand

Some Numbers are Smaller

- State sand resources are diminishing
- More projects means less time available for each project
- Less people to focus on each project
- MMS is no longer funding site specific research
- Less time for detail oriented coordination



And Lastly, The Volume of Sand on Beaches

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Negotiated Agreement Stips

- MMS is dedicated to ensuring Negotiated Agreement Stipulations are met, such as:
 - Turtle Take Tracking
 - Dredge Report Submission
 - Post-Project Completion Reports
- If negotiated agreement stipulations are not met, MMS has the ability to assess civil penalties and delay future projects until those requirements are met.

Turtle Take Tracking

- Turtle take accountability and reporting to NMFS and FWS is being done by the ACOE for all joint projects as required by law
- Disconnect between locality who has the responsibility of the MMS Negotiated Agreement stipulations, the ACOE who is responsible for turtle take compliance, the dredge contractor and the MMS
- MMS is committed to ensuring that turtle takes and their subsequent information is relayed to MMS in a timely manner by the responsible party.

Dredge Report Submission

- In order to ensure the accuracy of the dredge location relative to the borrow area specifications and the volume of take
 - Electronic Positioning Information, Operational, Production, Survey Activity and Volume Data are required to be submitted to the MMS on a weekly basis
 - MMS has established a user friendly e-mail address so that dredge information can be sent directly to the Marine Minerals Program dredgeinfo@mms.gov

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Post-Project Completion Reports

- Following completion of all activities within the OCS borrow area the applicant and/or federal agency, with the dredge operator must submit to the MMS
 - Complete Operational Data Set including:
 - Dredgehead Tracklines
 - Cut Slope Angles
 - Cut Depth
 - An outline of any deviations from the original construction plan

MMS Recognizes ...

- Part of the MMS mission is to manage the U.S.'s mineral resources, including sand and gravel, on the outer continental shelf
- Each project needs the full attention of a MMP project lead and a BEA project lead
- Each project requires comprehensive environmental review
- There is a possibility of Sand Wars
- There is a possibility of multi-use conflicts
- Communication is the Key

MMS is Currently Developing

- An organizational structure that supports projects
- Processes for planning, executing, and controlling to ensure that we are able to implement strategies effectively and efficiently
- A priority system to ensure project completion and success
- A communication plan to improve communication between MMS and stakeholders which Renee will present next.

QUESTIONS???



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