



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

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 17, 1991, #91-17

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SALE 144, BEAUFORT SEA
CALL FOR INFORMATION AND NOMINATIONS
AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE
AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has issued a Call for Information and Nominations and Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Beaufort Sea Lease Sale 144, tentatively scheduled for late 1993.

Purpose of the Call

The Call and Notice of Intent are early steps in the Area Evaluation and Decision Process. The Call is issued to ensure that all interests and concerns regarding Sale 144 are communicated to MMS for future decisions in the leasing process. This Call does not indicate a preliminary decision to lease in the area.

Information submitted in response to this Call will be used for several purposes:

- To further identify areas of potential hydrocarbon production;
- To analyze environmental conditions and potential use conflicts in and near the Call area;
- To initiate the scoping process used in preparation of the EIS designed to involve Federal, State, and local governments, and other interested parties in aiding MMS in determining significant issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS.

General Information

The Call covers approximately 29.5 million acres or approximately 5,420 blocks. The area is located 3 to 140 miles off Alaska's arctic coast in water depths ranging from 7 to 3,200 feet although a majority of the area is less than 300 feet deep.

The MMS has conducted 239 environmental, social, and economic studies about the effects of offshore petroleum exploration on the human and marine environment. Of these, 61 are exclusive to the Beaufort Sea Planning Area.

Where to Send Comments

Comments are sought from all interested parties about particular geological, environmental, biological, archaeological, or socioeconomic conditions or conflicts, or other information which might bear upon the potential leasing and development of this particular area. Comments, including the original Call map with indications of interest, should be submitted to:

**Minerals Management Service
Alaska OCS Region
Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment
949 East 36th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4302
(907) 261-4080**

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