

## **HISTORY OF THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

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The Minerals Management Service is sponsoring a project involving faculty and students at Louisiana State University, the University of Arizona, the University of the Houston, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette to study and document the evolution of the offshore oil and gas industry in Louisiana in an objective and comprehensive way. The goals of the investigators are to:

- Document the strategies and objectives of the companies or firms involved.
- Ascertain the cumulative effects of offshore development on the coastal landscape, and community and family relationships.
- Describe how technology and managerial innovations enabled development of reservoirs in deeper and deeper water depths.
- Study how the policies and regulations of the government agencies with responsibilities in state and the federal jurisdictions were developed.
- Explore how these aspects of the story were related and affected each other

While the study uses a mix of methodologies, considerable effort will focus on the collection and analysis of oral histories and life stories. This reflects the study's goal of telling the story from the perspective of those who made the industry, who "lived it," and who now look back at the trials and accomplishments from a new century's circumstances and expectations. Collecting and archiving these stories is timely. Many of the industry's pioneers are elderly. Their knowledge and experience, sparsely represented in existing sources, should not go unrecorded. The presentation will describe the project and its origins in the MMS Environmental Studies Program.

## **OIL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH ARKANSAS 1921-2001**

**John G. Ragsdale, 122 Neel Avenue, El Dorado, Arkansas 71730-5340**

We will discuss the historic discovery of oil in south Arkansas in 1921 and the subsequent production of oil through the year of 2001.

There will be references to the development of oil in the counties where oil production was established, the relative magnitude of the oil produced in each county. There will be a map showing the counties which had oil production and there will be a chart to indicate annual production during the time from discovery in 1921 through the total oil produced in 2001.