



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SIERRA CLUB STATEMENT REGARDING COURT'S FAILURE TO GRANT AN INJUNCTION AGAINST LEASE SALE

LESLIE MARCH, CHAIR OF THE DELTA (LOUISIANA) CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

We commend Governor Blanco for her strong stance on Lease Sale 200 and we are disappointed that Judge Engelhardt did not grant her request to block the sale of offshore leases scheduled for tomorrow. The Minerals Management Service has not fully evaluated the past, present and future impacts of offshore drilling on Louisiana's coast. We have learned a lot about how offshore oil and gas activities damage fragile coastal areas, and in Katrina and Rita we lost out on the protection that robust healthy wetlands might have provided – yet we continue to allow these destructive activities to occur. Allowing the lease sale to go forward prior to a full assessment of future impact sends a message that we continue to do business as usual in coastal Louisiana. The money that MMS will spend on conducting the lease sale would be better spent on conducting a full assessment of the direct and cumulative impacts of offshore oil and gas development on Louisiana's coastal wetlands.

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The Sierra Club's 750,000 members work together to protect communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Delta (Louisiana) chapter of the Sierra Club has more than 3,500 members and has been active in local conservation projects for more than 30 years. For more information, contact the organization's website: www.louisiana.sierraclub.org.