

Federal agency releases draft EIS on Beaufort Sea

A draft Environmental Impact Statement that outlines petroleum leasing proposals for federal Sale No. 97 in the Beaufort Sea is available from the Minerals Management Service.

The sale is tentatively scheduled for January 1988.

MMS officials say the area consists of 3,930 blocks encompassing about 21 million acres three to 160 miles off Alaska's north coast.

Water depth ranges from seven to 650 feet in most of the area, with a small portion reaching to about 3,280 feet, according to the officials.

There have been three previous

federal lease sales in the Beaufort: Sale BF in December 1979; Sale 71 in October 1982; and Sale 87 in August 1984.

Leases issued in those encompass more than 1.9 million acres and generated more than \$2 billion, according to the Interior Department agency.

Copies of the draft EIS are available in the Minerals Management Service's library in Anchorage, phone 261-4435; or by writing to Minerals Management Service, Alaska OCS Region, 949 E. 36th Ave., Anchorage 99508-4302, Attention: Library.