

# OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN THE SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL

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As of December 1997, 615 million barrels of oil and 845 billion cubic feet of gas have been produced from oil and gas fields in the federal waters of the Santa Barbara Channel. The Minerals Management Service, a bureau within the Department of the Interior, manages these fields. Eight producing fields are located in this part of the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Region (POCSR): Carpinteria Offshore, Dos Cuadras, Hondo, Hueneme, Pescado, Pitas Point, Santa Clara, and Sockeye. The Pitas Point field is a gas field; the others are oil fields. The Dos Cuadras field has produced the most oil, 242 million barrels, and the Hondo field has produced the most gas, 300 billion cubic feet. Production in the POCSR began in June 1968, from the Carpinteria Offshore field. The Pescado field was the last field to go on production, in December 1993.

Average daily oil production in December 1997 from these Santa Barbara Channel fields was 95,000 barrels per day. Average daily gas production in December 1997 was 194 million cubic feet per day. All of the production comes from Tertiary sandstones and fractured cherts. The Repetto formation has produced more oil and gas than any other formation.

Four companies operate 15 platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel portion of the POCSR: Chevron U.S.A., Exxon Corporation, Nuevo Energy Company, and Pacific

Offshore Operators, Inc. The platforms are installed in water depths ranging from 95 to 1,198 feet. Oil and gas are sent to shore via pipeline. Gas is occasionally flared at the platforms. On a clear day, all of these platforms are visible from the mainland. The four platforms nearest to the Channel Islands are located in the Point Hueneme and Santa Clara units. None of these platforms are within the marine sanctuary.

More than 600 production and service wells have been drilled in these eight fields. The shallowest, and the deepest production well, 328 and 17,947 feet below sea level, respectively, are both in the Carpinteria Offshore field, but neither produces oil or gas at this time. Vertical, directional, horizontal, and multi-lateral wells have been drilled. Well H-3, producing from the Hondo field, has produced almost 30 million barrels of oil, which makes it the most prolific oil producer in California, and possibly the lower 48 states.

Of the 39 leases in the Santa Barbara Channel, nine, in the Cavern Point, Gato Canyon, and Sword units, are currently undeveloped.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties have been collected from production in the Santa Barbara Channel portion of the POCSR. Some of these funds have been allocated through the Land and Water Conservation Fund to support local parks and other recreational facilities.