Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Office of Marine Fisheries
Office of Coastal Ecology
Tidelands Trust Fund
Office of Administrative Services
Office of Marine Patrol
Office of Coastal Management and Planning

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2010
July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

Executive Director
Dr. William W. Walker

Commissioners
Dr. Vernon Asper, Chairman
Richard Gollott, Vice Chairman
Steve Bosarge
Shelby Drummond
Jimmy Taylor

Fiscal Year 2010 Comprehensive Annual Report prepared by the Department of Marine Resources, Office of the Executive Director, with contributions from staff.

Mission Statement

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes.

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Mississippi
Department of Marine Resources

2010 Comprehensive Annual Report
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010

MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Dear Governor Barbour and Members of the Legislature:

We would like to thank you for the continued support you have provided toward the wise stewardship of the state's valuable coastal and marine resources—the mission of the Department of Marine Resources.

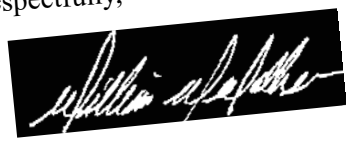
Your support has been vital in helping the department meet the current challenges presented in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon incident. Since the oil spill, much of the department's efforts have been focused on ensuring public safety and health through extensive testing and sampling of the Mississippi Sound and seafood.

Our staff along with the agency's many state and federal partners –the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Mississippi Department of Health, the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Office, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Mississippi National Guard, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission – are all to be commended for their hard work in helping respond to the oil spill.

As a team, we will strive to continue to restore and revitalize the Mississippi Gulf Coast and especially its barrier islands, coastal wetlands and estuarine environs and associated fisheries habitats, and to increase consumer confidence in our seafood and resources through continued extensive testing and open communication with the public concerning results and what they mean to consumer safety.

We are now, as we have always been, committed to this mission; and we will continue to manage the state's marine resources today for a sound tomorrow.

Respectfully,



Dr. William W. Walker, Executive Director
Department of Marine Resources

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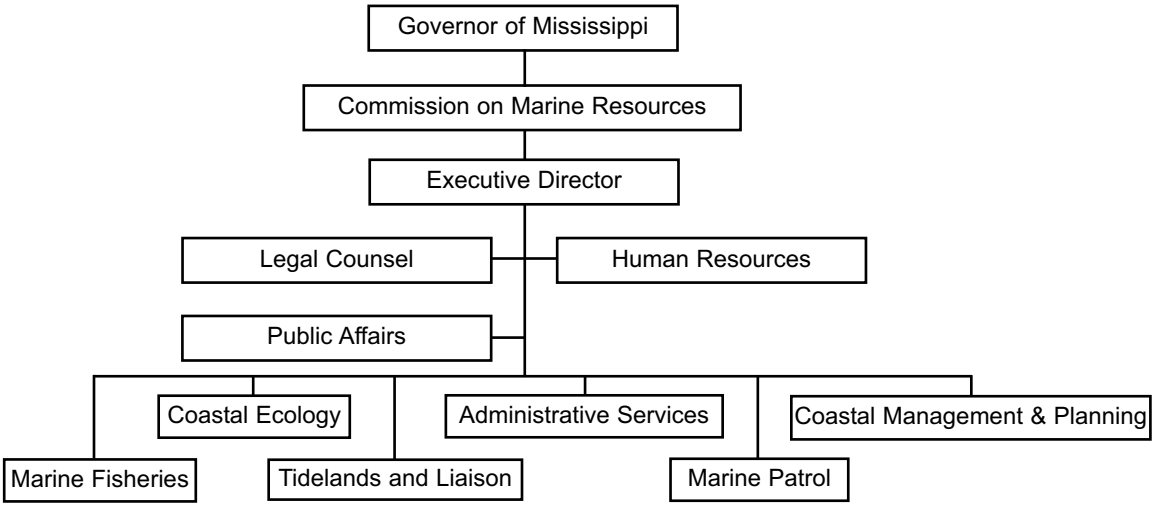
Organizational Structure

The Department of Marine Resources' organizational structure is based on the legislative mandates assigned to the Commission and Department. In FY2010, the Department's organizational structure consisted of six major program areas: Marine Fisheries; Coastal Ecology; Tidelands and Liaison; Administrative Services; Marine Patrol; and Coastal Management and Planning.

The Marine Fisheries Office includes the management and regulation of shrimp and crab, shellfish, seafood processing plants, finfish and artificial reefs. The Coastal Ecology Office includes the management and regulation of the coastal preserves, wetlands permitting and the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Tidelands Trust Fund receives proposals from public entities for management and public access projects, provides oversight in the evaluation of these projects and the financial accounting of the funds. The Administrative Services Office includes the directorate, seafood marketing, derelict vessel identification and removal, marine debris removal, human resources, public affairs, information technology, grants and contracts, property management and inventory, fleet management, procurement, accounting and financial management. The Marine Patrol Office provides law enforcement activities not only in Mississippi coastal waters and tidal tributaries but also assists the U.S. Coast Guard in law enforcement activities in federal waters. The Office of Coastal Management and Planning is responsible for the Comprehensive Resource Management Plan, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Geographical Information System initiative, the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area, Coastal Impact Assistance Program and Special Initiatives associated with activities delegated to the DMR by the Governor's Office.

The Department of Marine Resources will continue to enhance its interaction with other state, regional and national entities to improve planning and program operations, to maximize available resources and to ensure the future of Mississippi's valuable marine resources. The executive director will continue to review programmatic needs and modify the Department's organizational structure as needed when new mandates are added to its charter. During FY2010, the Department's organizational structure was as follows:



The following narratives provide a brief description of each of the above-referenced programs and the principal accomplishments of each during the past fiscal year, underscoring what the Department hopes to accomplish in the coming year.

Marine Fisheries Office
Marine Fisheries Management
Office Director: Dale A. Diaz

The Office of Marine Fisheries provides for the effective management of the state's marine fisheries, including oysters, shrimp, crabs, spotted seatrout, red drum, menhaden and mullet, in addition to other commercially and recreationally important species. The program includes conservation and overall management of living marine organisms through research and data collection as modified by relevant social, economic and biological factors. The Office of Marine Fisheries utilizes the most appropriate methods for management, including but not limited to regulating harvesting, habitat enhancement, water quality monitoring for molluscan shellfish harvesting, setting of catch limits and seasons, and seafood safety inspections of processing and distribution facilities.

Objectives:

Marine Fisheries projects and activities coordinated through the Office of Marine Fisheries include:

- Design and initiate projects for the collection and analysis of data required for population dynamics estimates and other projects related to fisheries management.
- Develop scientifically based management recommendations.
- Monitor the condition of fish stocks and the fisheries that depend upon them.
- Provide information transfer and liaison activities with regional fisheries management entities and others.
- Provide technical support to the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources in developing fishery management plans, amendments, stock assessments and technical analysis.
- Deep Water Horizon response in support of seafood safety sampling, monitoring, testing and outreach.
- Provide a representative to serve on fisheries-related boards, committees and panels, as may be required.
- Provide for administrative services, general maintenance, funding sources and other fisheries management support services as may be required.
- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to monitor and assist the recovery of Mississippi's commercial and recreational fisheries.

Status:

Ongoing oil response duties include: collecting baseline tissue samples from shrimp, fish, crabs, and oysters; collecting water and sediment samples for hydrocarbon analysis; ongoing collection of tissue samples to assure public of seafood safety. All samples were collected in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

Public notices were published for opening and closing of the commercial seasons for shrimp, oysters, spotted seatrout, flounder, red snapper, grouper, red drum and large coastal sharks.

Marine Fisheries personnel served on regional management committees of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, including Artificial Reef Task Force, Outreach Subcommittee, Menhaden Advisory Committee, White Trout Fishery Task Force, Blue Crab Task Force, Fisheries Information Network Committee, Data Management and Recreational Fishery Subcommittees, Technical Coordinating Committee, Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species, Southeastern Aquatic Resource Partnership and the State/Federal Fisheries Management Board. Marine Fisheries personnel also served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, its habitat committee and special shrimp committee.

DMR Fisheries Technician Steve Breland performs a hydrology test during oil spill response testing.

Finfish Program
Coordinator: Michael Buchanan

The goals of the Finfish Program include conserving and revitalizing marine finfish and supporting habitats within optimal levels as modified by relevant social, economic and biological factors; providing scientific information, including biological life history and catch statistics for commercial and recreational finfish for effective management; and providing oversight, enhancement and development of reef habitat in Mississippi and adjacent federal waters.

Objectives:

- Collect commercial fisheries landings statistics.
- Collect recreational fisheries landings statistics.
- Monitor finfish populations through independent sampling methods.
- Develop and coordinate, with other state and federal agencies, independent projects on ecological requirements and biological life history information on important finfish species.

Status:

- The Finfish Program provides management information through an ongoing commercial fisheries statistics program. Data is collected monthly from dealers' reported catch. In addition, there is an ongoing effort to institute a trip ticket system in cooperation with Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC).
- Catch and effort information on the recreational sector is being collected, in cooperation with GSMFC, through the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey on a bimonthly basis.
- Independent data on finfish populations are being collected through a combination of gill net and trawl samples in Mississippi's major estuaries.
- Several projects have been developed in cooperation with the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory to obtain information on life history parameters and essential fish habitat of important finfish.
- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to monitor and assist the recovery of Mississippi's commercial and recreational fisheries.
- Emergency oil response duties included: collecting baseline tissue samples from various species of commercially and recreationally important fish; collecting water and sediment samples for hydrocarbon analysis; ongoing collection of tissue samples to assure public of seafood safety. All samples were collected in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

DMR Fisheries Scientist Matt Hill takes a tissue sample from a fish as part of DMR's effort to monitor the effects of the oil spill on seafood in Mississippi waters.

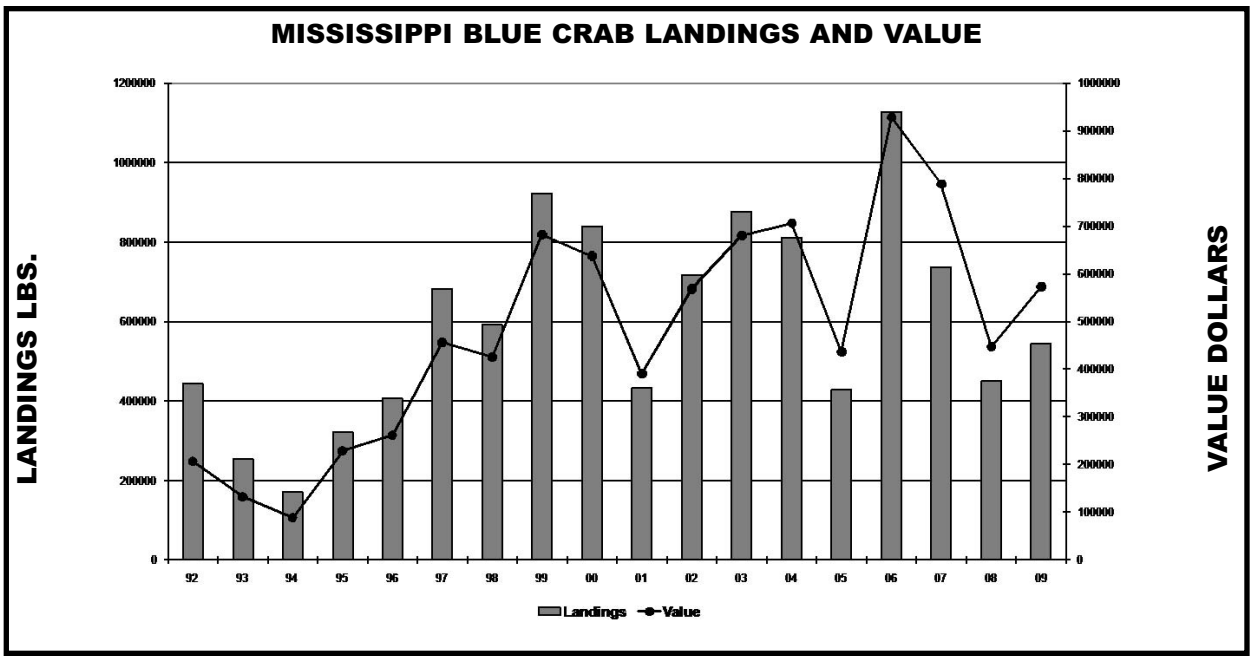
Marine Commercial Fisheries Statistics Coordinator: Christine Murrell

Objectives:

- Collect commercial fisheries landings and catch data for Mississippi in a timely manner.
- Collect biological data for selected commercially important finfish species.
- Obtain boat trip information and biological statistics on migratory pelagic and reef fish such as red snapper, grouper and amberjack and collect otoliths from red snapper.
- Continue process of implementing a trip ticket system for all fisheries.

Status:

- Fisheries landings data were collected weekly and monthly according to schedule. The data were processed, edited and submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in accordance with established data handling procedures. Fisheries landings data is an important part of the fisheries management process, both as an indicator of potential population changes and as a gauge of the success of existing fisheries regulations and practices.
- Biological data for selected commercially important finfish species were collected from the major seafood dealers along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The information will be used in the development of various fishery management plans, both on a state and regional level.
- Information for selected pelagic and reef fishes was collected from the major landing sites for selected species on a monthly basis. This information was submitted to the NMFS for inclusion in its Trip Information System. This data is used by both state and federal fisheries managers to properly manage these valuable resources.
- A trip ticket system is in place for the oyster fishery, live-bait fishery and commercial hook-and-line fishery. Data are being scanned into a database and transferred to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Finfish Information Network.


MISSISSIPPI BLUE CRAB LANDINGS AND VALUE
LANDINGS LBS.
VALUE DOLLARS
1200000
1000000
800000
600000
400000
200000
0
1000000
900000
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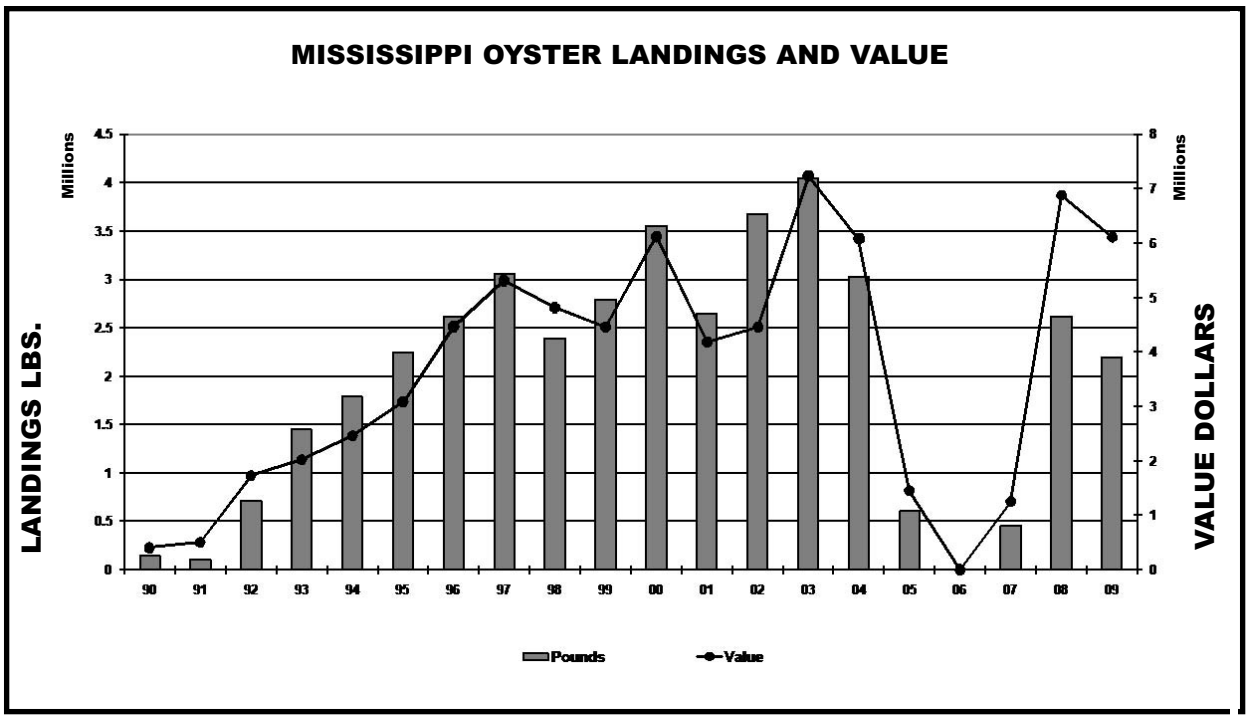
92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09
Landings
Value


MISSISSIPPI OYSTER LANDINGS AND VALUE
LANDINGS LBS.
Millions
4.5
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3.5
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
VALUE DOLLARS
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2
1
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Pounds
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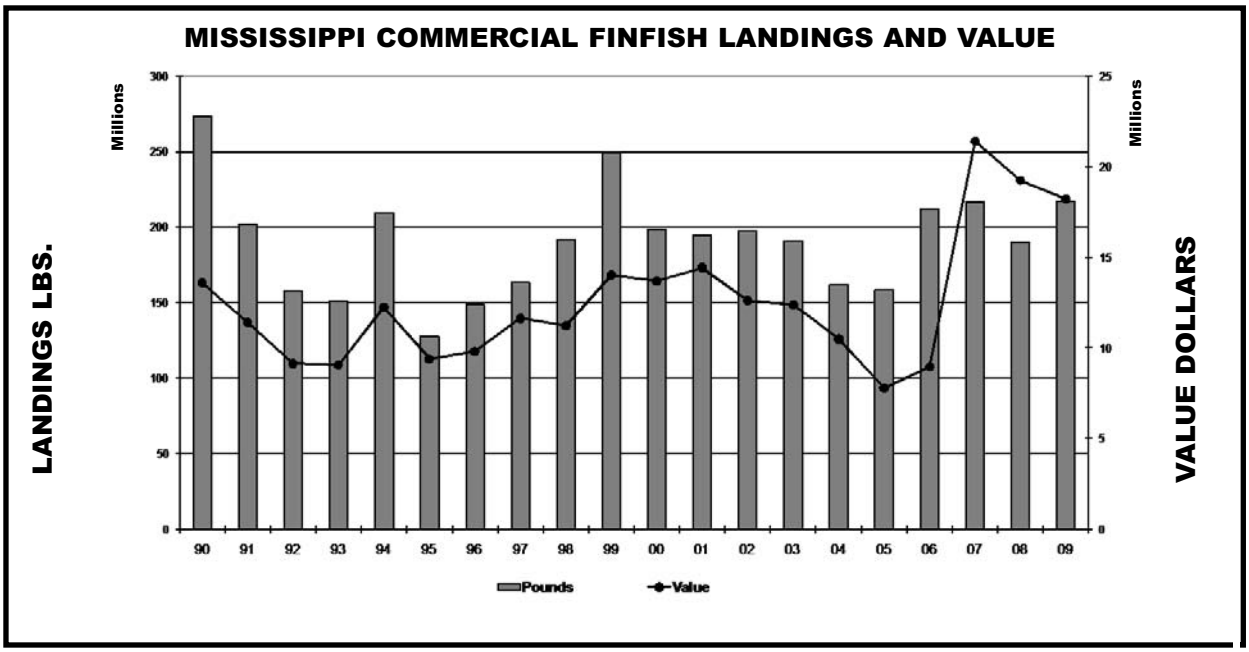
MISSISSIPPI COMMERCIAL FINFISH LANDINGS AND VALUE
LANDINGS LBS.
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Millions
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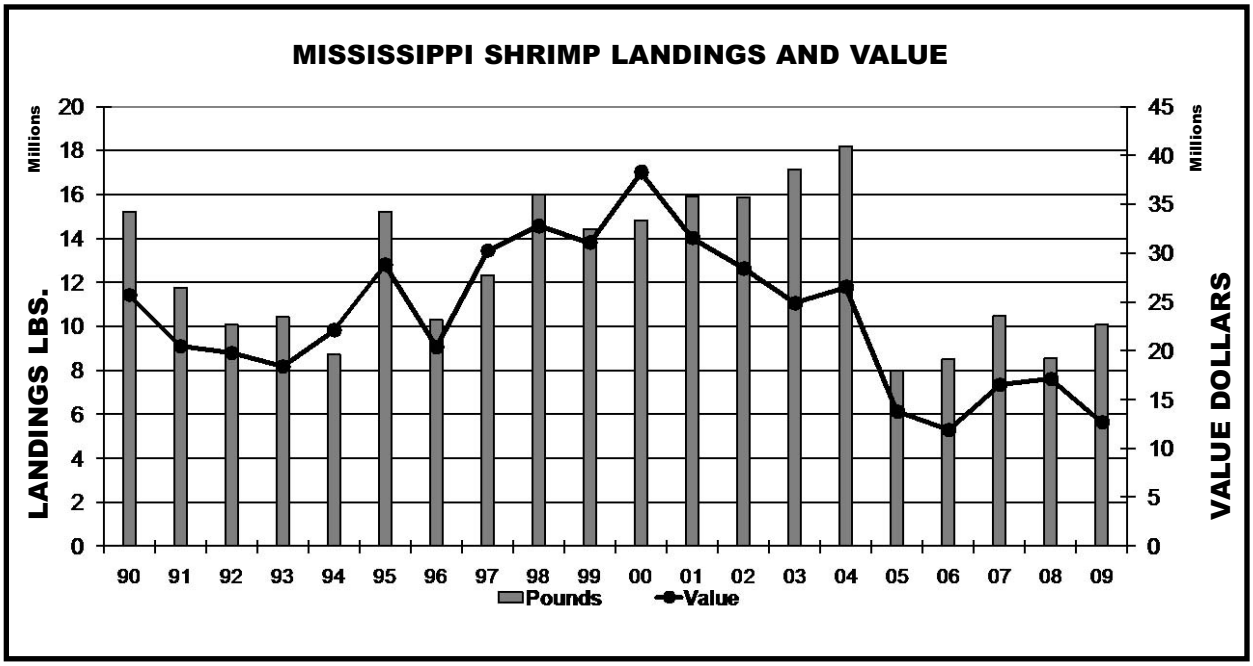
MISSISSIPPI SHRIMP LANDINGS AND VALUE
LANDINGS LBS.
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90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09
Pounds
Value

Mississippi Artificial Reef Program
Coordinator: Kerwin Cuevas

Objectives:

- Develop and enhance nearshore and offshore reef habitats in accordance with Mississippi's Artificial Reef Plan.
- Update coordinates and orientation of past artificial reef material deployments within Mississippi's marine waters and adjacent federal waters.
- Provide the DMR Web administrator with coordinates of reef material, reef orientation, maps and charts, so that a Web page can be updated and maintained for the fishing community to access.
- Within the framework of Mississippi's Artificial Reef Plan, identify areas conducive to artificial reef development and enhancement both nearshore and offshore.
- Monitor artificial reef development in Mississippi's marine waters and adjacent federal waters.
- Obtain artificial reef material from state, federal and private entities through donations.

Status:

- Currently, Mississippi has 14 permitted offshore reefs encompassing 16,000 acres of water bottom. These reefs range in size from 3 acres to 10,000 acres. To date, the material used for offshore reefs consists of concrete rubble, steel-hull vessels (including barges), armored personnel carriers and materials of design, such as Florida Limestone Pyramids and Reef Balls. During this fiscal year, there were a total of 44 deployments—17 deployments of concrete culverts (approximately 1,700 culverts), four deployments of Reef Balls (total of 230 individual Reef Balls), 17 deployments of Bay Balls (total of 550 individual Bay Balls) and six deployments of steel-hull vessels.
- Mississippi also has permitted 67 nearshore artificial reef sites. These reefs are located inshore, where fishermen in small vessels, wade fishermen and pier fishermen can take advantage of the fish that inhabit these reefs. The materials of the nearshore reefs consist of limestone, concrete rubble (when water depth allows), crushed concrete and oyster shells. The nearshore reefs are deployed at strategic times of the year when optimum oyster spat will settle for future growth of the reef.
- The Rigs to Reef Program offers conservation-minded alternatives for the platform, as opposed to onshore disposal with no subsequent habitat value. The average platform jacket can provide up to 2 to 3 acres of hard bottom habitat for marine invertebrates and fishes, and these submerged platform jackets currently provide habitat for thousands of marine species. To date, Mississippi's Rigs to Reef Program includes eight permitted reef sites with 14 platform jackets. This habitat is beneficial to both the marine organisms that inhabit these reef systems and the commercial and recreational fishermen who seek the highly prized fish that can be found within this newly created ecosystem.

- Two methods used to monitor and update coordinates and orientation of past artificial reef material deployments are side-scan sonar, primarily used on offshore reefs, and sounding with a pole, primarily used on inshore reefs. All coordinates obtained from side-scan sonar and sounding can be found on the DMR Web site and are available to the general public. Maps are available from the Artificial Reef Program upon request.

- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to restore and diversify nearshore and offshore ecosystems through the creation of low-profile shallow-water and offshore deep-water artificial reef habitats.

Crushed limestone is spread along the water just off the Ocean Springs Chester M. McPhearson Jr. community pier in July 2009 as part of the effort to restore artificial reef habitat destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. By early 2010, Mississippi's inshore artificial reefs had been restored to more than 100 percent.

Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) Coordinator: Michael Buchanan

Objectives:

- Conduct the MRFSS survey in Mississippi for shore, charter and private modes.
- Provide a timely and reliable database on marine recreational fishing activity.
- Identify notable changes in recreational catch and effort trends.
- Collect biological information on selected important finfish species.
- Evaluate the long-term implications of management measures.
- Conduct weekly telephone interviews of charter boat operators in Mississippi.

Status:

Recreational fisheries information was collected daily through surveys. There were more than 2,100 recreational fishermen interviewed in these combined modes. The data was processed, edited and submitted to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) in a timely manner. The information gathered from the survey provides a continuous standardized database of marine recreational catch, effort and participation. This data gives the various fisheries councils information necessary to make wise management decisions. Pressure estimates were also submitted to the GSMFC according to schedule. These estimates, along with historical productivity, are used to estimate the number of assignments needed to achieve a given quota for each month. Through these assignments, all month and wave quotas were successfully met.

The MRFSS program also includes a telephone survey of the charter boat fishery. This was conducted through weekly telephone interviews of charter boat operators in Mississippi. From January to May, the number of telephone interviews was based on a random selection of 10 percent of the charter boats in Mississippi. In response to the Deep Horizon oil spill, the National Marine Fisheries Service requested improvements in the timeliness and quantity of recreational data. As a result, beginning in June 2010, the number of telephone interviews was increased from 10 percent to 40 percent of the Mississippi charter boat fleet. The data was entered and sent to the GSMFC on a weekly basis. The GSMFC uses this information to obtain more precise effort estimates for the charter and head boat sectors.

Marine Fisheries Technicians Jeff Grant, left, and Jamie Herring measure and weigh a fish during a MRFSS interview to collect data on angler catches.

Sport Fish Tag and Release in Mississippi Coastal Waters and Adjacent Gulf of Mexico Coordinator: J. Read Hendon

Objectives:

- Continue the angler-cooperative tag and release of spotted seatrout in Mississippi coastal waters specifically to obtain data on the seasonal movement patterns of fish of legal size.
- Continue the angler-cooperative tag and release of cobia in Mississippi coastal waters and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico in order to obtain additional data on seasonal movement patterns of this fish.
- Continue the angler-cooperative tag and release of tripletail in Mississippi coastal waters and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico in order to obtain data on seasonal movement patterns of this fish.
- Hold public workshop to exchange information relative to this project's goals and other aspects of sport fishery.

Status:

Based on project results from the most recent annual report study period:

- Seasonal movement and growth of spotted seatrout were studied utilizing angler tagged and released spotted seatrout in Mississippi coastal waters. There were 122 tagged and three recaptured. Recapture information is consistent with other studies indicating spotted seatrout generally stay in the same geographic area.
- Seasonal movement and growth of cobia were studied utilizing angler tagged and released cobia in the Gulf of Mexico. There were 472 tagged and 26 recaptured. Similar trends of movement were observed in these recaptured fish as in other years.
- Seasonal movement and growth of tripletail were studied utilizing angler tagged and released tripletail in Mississippi coastal waters and adjacent Gulf of Mexico waters. There were 305 tagged and 290 recaptured.
- Public workshop was held in December and was attended by 72 members of the public.

Read Hendon of the USM Gulf Coast Research Lab releases a tagged juvenile cobia into the Mississippi Sound.

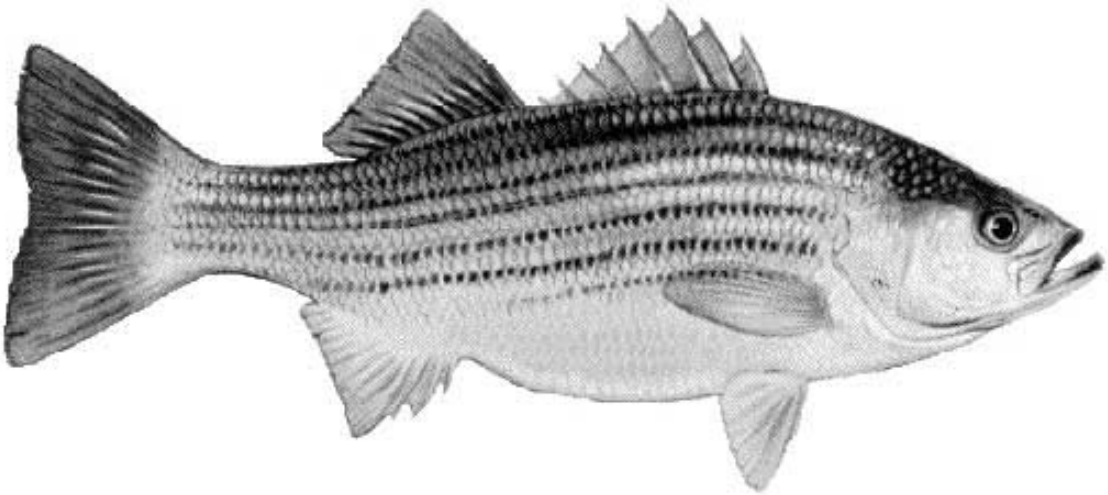
Striped Bass Restoration
Coordinator: Larry Nicholson

Objectives:

- Monitor habitat use patterns of striped bass by tracking acoustically tagged fish.
- Involve anglers, through a public relations effort, in reporting all tagged fish or catches of untagged striped bass and the location of capture.
- Independently sample coastal tributaries with gill nets and electro-fishing to obtain abundance estimates of striped bass in coastal waters.

Status:

The striped bass project utilizes nets and electro-fishing to obtain abundance estimates of striped bass in coastal waters. The public has been informed through the media, posters and workshops that their help is needed in obtaining striped bass data. Independent sampling has yielded four striped bass, two of which were outfitted with acoustic transmitters. The limited acoustic tracking data indicate that striped bass prefer the lower estuaries in the winter months and move into cooler river water in the summer months. The recreational fishing public has reported the lengths and weights of 86 striped bass caught in local tributaries to fisheries personnel over the last two years.



Sport Fish Studies in Mississippi Coastal Waters
Coordinator: J. Read Hendon

Objectives:

- Obtain data for developing estimates of relative abundance and various life history parameters, including age-length relationships and spawning strategies, of adult/sub-adult spotted seatrout, sheepshead, sand seatrout, Atlantic croaker, striped mullet, Southern flounder, Southern kingfish, Gulf kingfish, black drum and red drum in Mississippi coastal waters.

- Monitor the population of adult/sub-adult spotted seatrout in Mississippi coastal waters using protocols established in previously completed work.

- Tag local shark species for population estimates and movement patterns.

- Obtain supplemental data on seasonal abundance of red drum.

- Coordinate a series of workshops to exchange information regarding the recreational fishery in Mississippi and shark identification.

Status:

Based on results of the most recent annual report study period:

- Field sampling for spotted seatrout is accomplished through 120 gill net sets along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Two hundred and five (205) spotted seatrout were returned to the lab, otoliths removed for aging and sex, and length and weight obtained.

- Work is ongoing to collect length and age data for a variety of recreationally and commercially important species, including spotted seatrout, sheepshead, sand seatrout, Atlantic croaker, striped mullet, Southern flounder, Southern kingfish, Gulf kingfish, black drum and red drum.

- Work is ongoing to collect red drum abundance data utilizing alternative gear that has a more effective capture rate for this species. One hundred and fifty three (153) were captured in this study.

- Shark sampling is ongoing. Four hundred and forty-nine (449) sharks and 11 rays of various species were captured and 28 were tagged; six recaptures have been reported.

A juvenile spinner shark is tagged for study.

Shellfish Program
Coordinator: Scott Gordon

The Shellfish Bureau of DMR is responsible for the management of Mississippi's marine shellfish resources with two primary functions:

- Manage and enhance the resource.
- Maintain compliance with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference's National Shellfish Sanitation Program (ISSC/NSSP) Model Ordinance requirements for shellfish-growing waters.

Oysters, as sessile filter feeders, are subject to the influence of environmental conditions to a greater extent than motile species. Consequently, oyster landings can change dramatically from year to year according to those conditions. In addition to fluctuations in the amount of rainfall, problems with upland discharge can render oyster-growing areas closed to harvest. During the oyster season and throughout the year, field sampling trips are made to stations strategically located throughout the oyster reef areas to collect water samples that are analyzed for fecal coliform content.

Opening and closing of reef areas is based primarily on the levels of fecal coliform in the water column at the time of sampling. Oyster reefs in certain areas must be closed after significant rainfall or river stage events until it can be determined that the water quality has improved sufficiently to allow harvesting to resume. To accomplish this, multiple stations are sampled in each reef area or sub-area. Samples must be obtained from each area and analyzed before an area can be reopened for harvest following a closure. Water quality samples are also obtained throughout the year to properly classify shellfish-growing waters.

The Shellfish Sanitation Program is one of the agency's most labor-intensive efforts, requiring almost daily routine water quality sampling and laboratory analysis of samples for fecal coliform bacteria. The data is used to properly classify oyster-growing waters in accordance with NSSP guidelines and to provide necessary justification for reopening oyster reefs following rainfall and/or river discharge events that degrade water quality to levels requiring that reefs be closed to protect the health of the consumers.

For areas to be classified as "Approved," the geometric mean fecal coliform level most probable number (MPN) cannot exceed 14, and not more than 10 percent of the samples taken can exceed an MPN of 43. Additionally, U.S. Food and Drug Administration requirements also specify minimum sampling frequencies at each of the 176 sampling stations in the Mississippi Sound. Approved areas are those in which water quality does not degrade after any rainfall and/or corresponding river discharge.

Areas classified as "Conditionally Approved" are subject to frequent openings and closures due to rainfall or river stage. Along with monitoring the water quality of the oyster reefs, other work performed on the reefs involves revitalization efforts such as reef cultivation, oyster relaying and the planting of cultch material.

Objectives:

- Maintain program compliance with the NSSP.
- Map Mississippi's oyster reefs.
- Survey potential cultivation sites and cultch planting sites.
- Cultivate oyster reefs.
- Deposit oyster cultch material.
- Assess reef areas.
- Work with other agencies to improve water quality.
- Educate harvesters and the public on shellfish issues.

Status:

- The 2009-2010 commercial oyster season began Sept. 11, 2009, and ended April 1, 2010. A total of 9,941 boat trips harvested 199,568 sacks of oysters.
- Fall 2009 Cultch Plant — In August 2009, 23,588 cubic yards of limestone were spread over 500 acres on Pass Christian and Henderson Point reefs.
- Conferences — Attended the Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference on shellfish issues in Orange Beach, Ala. Participated in the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Oyster Technical Task Force meeting in New Orleans, La.
- Conducted square-meter dive sampling and resource assessments on major area reefs.
- Gathered data for growing-area sanitary survey for all areas.
- Collected 2,013 fecal coliform water samples and 21 phytoplankton samples from area shellfish-growing waters.

In Progress:

- The shellfish staff received bids for deploying oyster cultch material for the spring 2010 cultch plant but was cancelled due to the oil spill in the Gulf.
- Mississippi Coastal Drainage Basin Meteorological Monitoring Stations provide continuous meteorological data on precipitation, temperature, wind speed and direction, solar radiation and atmospheric pressure. Shellfish Bureau staff have met with representatives of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and had telephone conversations with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service (NOAA/NWS) to discuss the proper selection and possible placement of the meteorological monitoring stations in areas not yet addressed through the

existing real-time recording meteorological systems operated by those or other entities. The sites have been selected and the meteorological equipment and software have been delivered.

- DMR personnel are monitoring and assessing the recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast oyster resources.

- The Shellfish Bureau surveyed, mapped and marked public reefs and potential cultivation and cultch planting sites. The DMR discussed potential areas to plant cultch material with various stakeholders, including harvesters. DMR staff on the Conservationist and Reef Keeper continue to map out the oyster reef areas to plant cultch material for the spring and fall plants in the western Mississippi Sound. These areas are identified by using side-scan sonar, cane poles, GPS and ArcPad GIS. DMR staff submitted paperwork for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' nationwide permit for the cultch plants. PVC poles were placed on the areas where DMR staff relayed oysters.

- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to monitor and assist the recovery of Mississippi's commercial and recreational fisheries.

Planned:

- The Shellfish Bureau will schedule additional Oyster Stewardship Program meetings to continue to develop and implement an oyster stewardship program to better inform and promote the active involvement of oyster harvesters and the industry in harvest practices and other techniques that can be used to assist resource managers in the judicious utilization of oyster resources of the state. Harvesters and industry representatives will be heavily involved throughout the development and implementation process through meetings, surveys and individual contacts. Innovative methods of improving the resource potential will be investigated and implemented when feasible.

- Cultivate oyster reefs using the Conservationist. By towing large dredges with the bags removed over the reefs, existing shell material covered by sedimentation or debris is re-exposed to the setting of oyster larvae. This process also breaks up clusters of hooked mussels that have encrusted the oysters, allowing oysters additional space to feed and grow.

High-pressure hoses are used to spread oyster shells in August 2009 as part of the effort to rebuild Mississippi oyster reefs.

Shellfish Technician Steve Breland takes an oyster tissue sample.

Shrimp and Crab Program
Coordinator: Traci M. Floyd

The Shrimp and Crab Program conserves and revitalizes Mississippi's shrimp and crab resource and supports habitat in order to ensure balanced and sustained utilization, and maintains stewardship of living marine resources for commercial and recreational fisheries at optimal levels as modified by social, economic and biological factors.

Objectives:

The Shrimp and Crab Bureau provides management of the state's commercial and recreational shrimp and crab fisheries. Cooperation and coordination with adjoining state agencies, as well as regional and federal fishery management authorities, are integral to the success of shrimp and crab management activities. The program includes monitoring and assessment of the shrimp and crab fisheries, coordination of the Mississippi Crab Task Force, issuance of Scientific Collection Permits, inspections and reporting of the live-bait shrimp industry, Real Time Hydrological Monitoring Program, coordination of grants with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Monitoring Program, the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission/National Marine Fisheries Service (GSMFC/NMFS) Emergency Disaster (Hurricane Katrina) Recovery Program.

The shrimp and crab fisheries are managed by the setting of seasons, gear regulations and implementation of other related management measures as required. Shrimp and Crab Bureau personnel work cooperatively with federal agencies, including the NMFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, GSMFC and the U.S. Geological Survey. Cooperating state agencies include the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL), Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, and the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Service, as well as neighboring state marine resource management agencies.

Status:

- Monitoring of shrimp populations provides data on shrimp growth and survival allowing the bureau to make well-informed management assessments. Approximately 275 trawl samples were collected this year as part of the shrimp monitoring and other programs, including sampling in response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The data collection program includes monitoring surface and bottom hydrological parameters (i.e., salinity, temperature and dissolved oxygen) at each trawling station.

- A toll-free Mississippi Shrimp Information Hotline is set up at 1-866-WE TRAWL (866-938-7295) to provide 24-hour access to season/area openings and closures. Over 900 calls have been received since its inception.

- Inspection of live-bait shrimp dealers, as well as licensing and reporting of 16 facilities, 16 live-bait vessels and seven live-bait transport vehicles. The Live Bait Program includes compilation and analysis of monthly Confidential Dealer Reports.

- Continuation of the Mississippi Crab Task Force in order to allow the various marine resource user groups to provide input and voice concerns on fishery management and research activities. The task force has worked in the ongoing efforts and coordination of the GSMFC/NMFS Emergency Disaster Recovery Program for working cooperatively with fishermen on the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program and the fisheries monitoring programs.

- In October 2009, the Shrimp and Crab Bureau was awarded a $31,000 grant from the Fish America Foundation in partnership with the Brunswick Public Foundation and the NOAA Restoration Center for Community-based Habitat Restoration to fund the Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program. The 2010 Derelict Crab Trap Clean-Up was held in late January 2010, during which 70 volunteers picked up 347 abandoned traps. Since the ongoing program's inception in 1999, more than 18,500 derelict traps have been collected and recycled along the Mississippi Coast, mainly through cooperation with crab fishermen and the GCRL.

- Continued the DMR Multi-Agency Seminar Series to enhance familiarity between interested groups and increase awareness and opportunities related to Mississippi marine research. Three seminars, "Harmful Algal Blooms," "Mississippi Invasive Species" and "Mississippi Artificial Reefs and Reef Fish Studies," were held to the benefit of coastal resource agency cooperators as well as interested members of the public.

- Carry on development and maintenance of the Real-Time Hydrological Monitoring Program at 12 marine sites along the Coast. The data are updated hourly and are available to the public and resource managers through the DMR Web site (DMR.ms.gov). Data, which includes salinity, temperature and gage height at selected sites, are used in making decisions regarding opening and closing of seasons, determining effects of storms and identifying hazardous conditions.

- Issuance of Saltwater Scientific Collection Permits. Recipients of Special Permits must first submit an application. Once the applicant is approved worthy of merit and issued a permit, a complete report of collection or harvesting activity must be submitted to the DMR. Twenty-nine (29) Special Permits have been issued over the past year.

- Coordination of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Grants. Current studies include DMR Artificial Reef Program, Sport Fish Studies, Sport Fish Tag and Release and Striped Bass Population Monitoring.

- Administration and work of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Monitoring Program. Includes program supervision and trawl sampling.

- Implementation of the GSMFC/NOAA Fishery Emergency Disaster Recovery Program (EDRP) Phase I and II, which received funding Sept. 1, 2006, has been a dominant activity for the Shrimp and Crab Bureau in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Bureau jobs under the program include Restore and Enhance Marsh Edge Habitat, Enhanced Derelict Crab Trap Gear Removal, Shrimp and Blue Crab Fishery Recovery and Monitoring System, as well as additions made to the Mississippi Hydrological Monitoring Program and Monitoring and Controlling Invasive Species.

- Responded to unusually high number of sea turtle strandings in the Mississippi Sound in 2010 by obtaining a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to help reduce sea turtle interaction in the shrimp fishery. With funds from the NFWF, the Shrimp and Crab Bureau was able to secure turtle excluder devices (TEDs) for installation in Mississippi skimmer shrimp trawls.

- Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill response consisted of bi-weekly shrimp and crab tissue sampling by county, as well as weekly aerial reconnaissance and sentinel water sampling as patches of oil entered the Mississippi Sound. Baseline or background samples were collected in April and May before the spill reached Mississippi waters as part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment. Precautionary fishery closures were implemented in areas when significant visible oil was observed on the surface. No tissue or water analyses were required to close an area. Staff coordinated response sampling with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Mississippi National Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency and BP. The Shrimp and Crab Bureau director was deployed at the Mobile, Ala., Deepwater Horizon Incident Command Center starting April 29. She was active in the Environmental Planning Section protecting sensitive areas through development of boom strategies and shoreline cleanup policies.

The Shrimp and Crab Bureau works closely with state and federal agencies, marine resources user groups, fishermen and the public and strives to promote, conserve and regulate these fisheries based on the best available biological, social and economic data. The issuance of special collection permits is done in a manner that protects marine resources while allowing research and development to occur. Hydrological parameter instruments and stations are monitored and maintained to allow optimum data availability. Sport Fish Restoration coordination closely monitors grants to ensure that each is achieving pre-established goals. The Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program has been a successful cooperative effort, as fishermen continue to work side by side with Shrimp and Crab Bureau staff to remove marine debris. The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Monitoring Program is administered based on criteria agreed upon and utilized by all Gulf states. The GSMFC/NOAA Hurricane Katrina Fishery Recovery Disaster Program continues to provide increasing benefits to Mississippi's marine resources and also to those individuals and communities that depend on them.

DMR Executive Director Bill Walker, right, presents the Mississippi Recycling Coalition's Special Recognition Award to Shrimp and Crab Bureau Director Traci Floyd for the Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program.

Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program volunteer Logan Stokes, 13, of Jackson County, Miss., contributes five to the total 349 crab traps removed and recycled in the Fish America grant 2010 volunteer cleanup.

Special Projects Officer Darrin Stewart departs on a Civil Air Patrol flight as part of Deepwater Horizon oil spill response monitoring.

At right, Fisheries Scientist Rick Burris, left, distributes free TED gear to Mississippi shrimpers as part of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant to help decrease fishery sea turtle interactions.

At left, Fisheries Scientist Bill Richardson, right, displays nice size Mississippi brown shrimp during sampling to determine season opening date, while Fisheries Technician Rudy Balius readies gear for the next trawl.

Seafood Technology Program
Coordinator: Ruth Alviola-Posadas

Objectives:

- Ensure that suitable sanitary conditions exist for processing and distribution of seafood in Mississippi.
- Assist the seafood industry in compliance with sanitation rules and regulations, and provide technical assistance to the Mississippi seafood industry.
- Conduct regulatory inspections of shellfish processing and transporting facilities to determine compliance with state and federal sanitation and health safety regulations.
- Provide technical advice to the Mississippi seafood processing industry to aid in compliance with seafood sanitation and health safety regulations.
- Provide technical advice to the seafood processing industry regarding new technologies and new products that provide added value, new markets, employment opportunities and economic enhancement for the seafood industry.
- Provide technical advice to those interested in aquaculture and aid in expanding economic and employment opportunities.
- Provide technical expertise in investigating reports of food-borne illness and certifying product recalls and embargo according to state and federal instituted protocols and procedures.
- Undertake research projects in line with seafood technical surveys; promotion of Mississippi seafood; seafood safety education and sanitation training in line with the goals of the Mississippi seafood industry to disseminate information and educate consumers and food handlers in the seafood industry.
- Provide advice and support for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce regarding aquaculture regulatory matters.
- Participate and provide assistance to the Mississippi Food Protection Task Force in promoting food safety education to the public through participation in public fairs, public meetings and events.

Status:

The total number of technical assistance actions provided was 7,748. Examples are as follows::

- Provided oyster dealers, crab and shrimp processors and retail stores with new seafood manuals, including regulations and a technical assistance packet.

- Participated and conducted food-borne illness trace-back investigations in association with eating raw oysters in the month of April 2010 with Louisiana oysters implicated to norovirus infection. Trace-back investigations were in collaboration with the Mississippi Department of Health Environmental Group and the Epidemiology Department, other states' Shellfish authorities and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

- Provided seafood processors with a copy of the new changes in the Model Ordinance that was adopted during the Biennial Conference of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference's National Shellfish Sanitation Program (ISSC/NSSP).

- Distributed seafood safety packets and *Vibrio* education materials, pamphlets, brochures and other educational materials on post-harvest processing of oysters to the Mississippi seafood industry and educators.

- Hosted *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio vulnificus* State Management Plan Workshop for the Gulf State Directors and Managers in January 2010. Workshop was attended by 13 participants.

- Translated and printed into Vietnamese and Spanish the pocket brochure "Mississippi Saltwater Recreational Fishing: Size and Possession Limits" as part of the educational materials for Mississippi Seafood Industry.

- Participated in the *Vibrio vulnificus* Education Committee Meeting of the ISSC in Manchester, N.H., held October 2009.

- Participated in the Mississippi Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Planning /Workgroups' meeting in Jackson, Miss., in 2010.

- Participated in the following events for promotional, educational and public outreach, working together with the DMR Seafood Marketing Program. A food safety booth was set up at 15 public outreach events where packets of pamphlets, handouts, brochures, fact sheets, recent news articles on seafood safety and new post-harvest processing technologies materials were given out. Events attended were:
  Hinds County — Jackson Trade Expo in Jackson, Miss., April 6-8, 2010
  Jackson County — Gautier Mullet Festival, October 2009; Jackson County Trade Fair, October 2009, Coastal Stewardship Field Day (Gulf of Mexico Alliance), a weekend workshop and a collaboration with J.L. Scott Marine Education Center, Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory on April 17, 2010; First Jackson County Blessing of the Fleet on May 15, 2010.
  Harrison County — Biloxi Seafood Festival (April 2009); Celebrate the Gulf at Pass Christian, Miss., April 10, 2010; Biloxi Crawfish Festival, April 16-25, 2010; Coastal Development Strategies Conference, May 12-13, 2010; Asian Health Fair, May 2010; Nativity Science Fair, May 2010.
  Stone County — 2010 Water Field Day, Stone Elementary School, May 11, 2010.
  Coast wide — 2009 Tourism Week (Hancock County and Jackson County); 2010 Derelict Crab Trap Program; 2010 Mississippi Science Fair.

- Regulatory and courtesy inspections of affected seafood businesses during the oil spill: May (seven counties, 28 Inspections) and June (seven counties with 41 inspections).

- Distributed oil-related educational materials on seafood safety and seafood promotions in the southern counties of the state (Harrison, Jackson, Hancock, Pearl River, Hinds, Sunflower, Simpson, Rankin) as part of the Public Outreach Program on Seafood Safety.

- Implemented the ISSC-adapted NSSP articles on Foodborne Illness Outbreak due to norovirus illness outbreak and implemented control strategies approved by the ISSC 2007 Biennial Conference on recall procedures. Ongoing implementation of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* control measures and technical assistance to seafood dealers and processors on their HACCP Plans.

- Bureau staff attended training for personnel advancement:
  — Training on Sanitation Control Procedures in Baton Rouge, La., March 1, 2010, sponsored by the Association of Food and Drug Officials.
  — Louisiana Oyster Industry Convention in Kenner, La., March 20, 2010, sponsored by the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association.
  — Workshop on Constructing Living Shorelines in Alabama and Mississippi in Moss Point, Miss., March 17-18, 2010.
  — Training on HAACP Plant Sanitation sponsored by the Northeastern States, conducted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in Boston, Mass., March 10-12, 2010.
  — OIL SPILL: Seafood Safety Management through Sensory Training in Pascagoula, Miss., May 2010.

- Ongoing research on the analysis of imported seafood in collaboration with Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center.

- Acquired new equipment and tools for the use of the bureau's operations:
  — Materials for the audio/visual library on seafood technology and seafood safety
  — Laboratory equipment and supplies for seafood testing activities
  — Received four laptop donations from the FDA for training purposes.

- Ongoing assistance to the newly recertified seafood dealers and processors. Assisted old and new seafood dealers in their certification and permitting of operations, for a total of 55 certifications issued.

Types of Seafood Facilities Permitted	**Number**
Shrimp	19
Crab	9
Oyster	27

Total number of seafood sanitation/processing permits: . . . 55*

*These 55 permits represent 514 inspected seafood units.

Seafood Technology Bureau Technician Mai Dang, right, performs dockside interviews with seafood harvesters.

Seafood Officer Jessica Rankin, left, teaches students at D'Iberville Elementary School about marine life during the school's celebration for being awarded a Blue Ribbon as one of the top schools in the nation.

Seafood Officer Jeff Davis checks proper hand-washing procedures during a seafood processing plant inspection.

Seafood Technology Bureau Director Ruth Posadas, right, distributes information on seafood safety at the Biloxi Crawfish Festival in April 2010.

Coastal Ecology Office
Office Director: Jan Boyd

Objectives:

Implementation of the Mississippi Coastal Program is the primary responsibility of the Office of Coastal Ecology. The Mississippi Coastal Program was legislatively mandated in Section 51-15-6 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 and approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under the provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972. In addition to coastal management responsibilities, Coastal Ecology also administers the Coastal Preserves Program, the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Grand Bay NERR), Wetlands Permitting and other special projects.

The Coastal Ecology Office also:

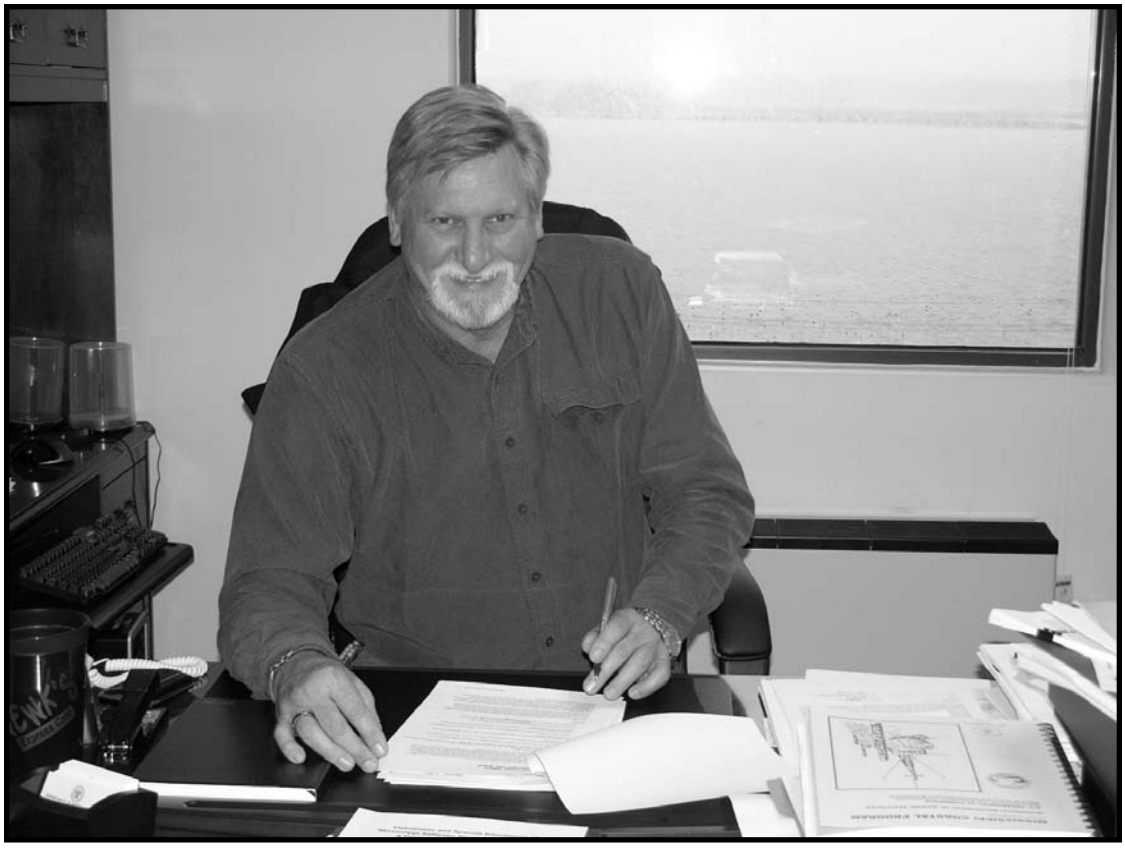
- Implements and evaluates Coastal Zone projects and programs.
- Implements the Mississippi Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program (CZMA Section 6217).
- Develops and maintains grants and programs for the DMR for marine resource management and protection.
- Provides technical assistance to other DMR operations, other state agencies and local governmental bodies.
- Tracks state and federal legislation pertaining to coastal and marine resource management.
- Inspects historical permit files for compliance with mitigation requirements and tracks permits through a database.
- Reviews mitigation required for unavoidable impacts for new permits.
- Represents the agency on the Mitigation Banking Interagency Review Team (MBIRT).

Status:

The DMR receives annual funding from NOAA to meet coastal management objectives. These funds are used to provide personnel salaries and administrative support, purchase equipment and cover required office expenses and travel. Coastal management staff participate in various public outreach and education efforts and provide comments to local news media concerning coastal management issues when requested through the Public Affairs Bureau.

One of the agency's conservation efforts, the Coastal Preserves Program, involves acquiring, protecting and enhancing tidal wetlands along the coast. The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Jackson County is further facilitating wetland research and education by making its resources available to researchers from all over the country. Many federal, state and local agencies are participating in this program, as well as community organizations, economic development interests and local environmental groups.

In 2010, the Office of Coastal Ecology co-sponsored the annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference.



Director Jan Boyd manages the Office of Coastal Ecology.

Wetlands Permitting Program
Coordinator: Willa Brantley

Objectives:

The Permitting staff administers the regulatory program under the Coastal Wetlands Protection Act and reviews proposed projects for Coastal Zone Consistency determinations under National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminstration's (NOAA) Federal Consistency Guidelines in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Under the regulatory program, DMR provides information on the Coastal Wetlands Protection Act to the public, evaluates applications for proposed Coastal Wetland impacts, reviews comments from state, federal and local agencies and from the general public, and conducts on-site inspections of proposed project locations. Applications are evaluated in accordance with the Guidelines for Regulated Activities and Decision Factors as stated in the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP). Information gathered during the review is compiled and a DMR recommendation is made to the Commission on Marine Resources to issue, condition or deny major permits. Some activities may require a variance from the Guidelines or the Wetlands Use Plan. If so, staff compiles the necessary data to make such evaluations. Staff members also conduct many pre-application meetings where they give advice to applicants and review potential wetland alterations before an application is filed. This may necessitate an on-site inspection and/or considerable office review time. Permitting staff also verify compliance of permitted activities and investigate potential wetlands violations as well as violations of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 jurisdictional wetlands. Permitting staff also recommend mitigation, as appropriate, to compensate for wetlands loss.

For Coastal Zone Consistency determinations, applications for USACE Section 404 and Section 10 permits within the three coastal counties of Hancock, Harrison and Jackson and in the Federal Outer Continental Shelf area in the Gulf of Mexico are reviewed for consistency with the Guidelines in the MCP in a similar manner as described above. These reviews are also coordinated with other state and local agencies.

Status:

Bureau staff members attended several training courses, workshops and conferences throughout the year, including Remote Sensing for Spatial Analysts, Advanced Problems in Hydric Soil Evaluation, a field class on submerged aquatic vegetation identification, Ecological Restoration of Coastal Habitats, Responsible Site Design, Wetland Plant Identification, HAZWOPER Training, the Society of Wetland Scientists annual conference, the Coastal Development Strategies Conference, and web-based seminars on riparian/littoral rights issues and climate change.

Bureau Director Willa Brantley also participated as a presenter at two workshops. The first was entitled Constructing Living Shorelines in Alabama and Mississippi. The goal of this workshop was to educate marine contractors, environmental consultants and waterfront property owners about alternatives to armoring shorelines for erosion control. A vendor fair was held in conjunction with the workshop and many products were demonstrated. Other participating and sponsoring agencies included the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ),

Mississippi Secretary of State, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS), NOAA and several other state and federal agencies. The second workshop was entitled Wetlands and Water Quality: Regulating Construction Impacts in Coastal Areas. The goal of this workshop was to educate developers, environmental consultants and local government officials about the wetland regulatory process in coastal Mississippi. Other participating agencies included the MDEQ, Mississippi Secretary of State, USACE and FWS.

Two staff members, Jennifer Wittmann and Greg Christodoulou, serve on the Interagency Review Team (IRT). As members of this team, they review proposed Mitigation Banking Instruments, inspect proposed and existing banks and participate in credit release surveys for mitigation banks servicing the Corps of Engineers Mobile District and other mitigation banks serving Mississippi's Coastal Zone. Jennifer and Greg attended the National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference in Austin, Texas, in May. This conference was sponsored by several federal agencies, in addition to mitigation banking companies.

Three staff members, Jennifer Wittmann, James Davis and Rebekah Ray, completed training toward becoming master naturalists. They will complete required volunteer hours in the near future and will then be fully certified.

Bureau staff also continue to conduct pre-application meetings. These meetings afford a chance for prospective applicants to sit down with representatives from the DMR and other state and federal agencies to discuss potential projects before an application is submitted and sometimes involve extensive site evaluation. This practice has continued to help potential applicants understand the regulatory process and relevant environmental regulations and contributes to a smoother and less time-consuming evaluation process with impacts avoided and minimized from the start. Staff conducted approximately 50 of these pre-application meetings.

Staff also played a part in responding to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, spending time at the Incident Command Center in Mobile, Ala., and participating at daily meetings at Emergency Operations Centers in both Harrison and Jackson counties.

Several members of the staff participated as science fair judges at local schools, and Wetlands Permitting continues to make an effort to assist other bureaus and offices at DMR in the overall mission of protecting our coastal habitats and resources, including the Deer Island Restoration Project.

Permits issued:

Consistencies 41

MMS OCS/NMFS Consistencies 25

After-the-fact Consistencies 3

Consistency Modifications 6

Direct Federal Consistencies 15

Direct Federal Consistency Modifications 2

Emergency Orders 7

Emergency Order Modifications 1

Exclusions 9

Exclusion Modifications 2

After-the-fact Exclusion Modifications 1

General Permits 285

General Permit Modifications 51

General Permit Extensions 7

General Permit Modification/ After-the-fact 1

After-the-fact General Permit 3

Permits 17

Permit Modifications 11

Permit Extensions 4

After-the-fact Permits 6

Waivers 53

Waiver Modifications 2

Waiver Extension 4

After-the-fact Waiver 1

Reviews 178

Violations 123

Total: 858

Wetlands Permitting staff members Ron Cole, left, and James Davis perform a site visit.

Wetlands Permitting staff members Ron Cole, left, and Rebekah Ray measure the width of a pier to see if it is in compliance with regulations.

Coastal Preserves Program
Coordinator: Jeff Clark

The Coastal Preserves Program (CPP) was developed in 1992 to acquire, protect and manage Mississippi's remaining coastal wetland ecosystems. The state has identified 20 Coastal Preserve sites of important coastal wetland habitat and associated uplands. Acquired lands are managed to safeguard and protect their natural characteristics, ecological integrity, environmental functions and economic and recreational values for the benefit of all Mississippi residents. The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office is an active partner in the program.

Objectives:

The objectives of the CPP are to acquire land within the state's 20 Coastal Preserve areas, protect sensitive coastal habitats, coordinate biological surveys and assessments and develop individual Coastal Preserve management plans. This program also is charged with developing a public outreach and education program to increase public awareness and interest in Mississippi's coastal wetlands, develop partnerships with federal, state and local agencies and identify approaches to protection and restoration of wetlands along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Status:

Coastal Preserves staff continue to work on preserve-specific management plans; however, the focus since Katrina has been to get as much on-the-ground management done as possible. Katrina reset the successional clock for much of the Coastal Preserves forests and opened the door to invasion by non-native species. CPP has worked hard to get these areas back on the right trajectory to a "natural" recovery by minimizing the damage caused by the spread of non-native invasive species such as Chinese tallowtree, cogongrass, water hyacinth and giant salvinia. CPP continues to pursue an aggressive program to map and treat all areas infested with invasives. During 2010, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) staff used boats and airplanes to search more than 1,500 river miles for the presence of aquatic invasive species. Only very small and sporadic pockets of giant salvinia were found and were manually removed or treated with herbicides. An extensive population of water hyacinth (about 3-5 acres) was located on the Pascagoula River and was treated with aquatic herbicides. AIS staff also was approved for a $27,000 grant through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to purchase a remote-controlled, unmanned aerial vehicle with a camera platform to help survey tidal marsh areas virtually inaccessible by conventional methods. Coastal Preserves also received a $57,000 grant from the FWS to treat Chinese tallowtree, cogongrass and other terrestrial invasive species on 300-plus acres of CPP lands.

In 2010, most of CPP's habitat restoration activities were focused on the Deer Island Coastal Preserve. CPP worked closely with the Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, in the development of several Mississippi Coastal Improvement Program (MSCIP) coastal restoration projects. One of these projects, which began construction in fall 2010, is the restoration of the west end of Deer Island. This project will restore about 80 acres of beach, dune and maritime forest habitat. Another MSCIP project started in the fall of 2010 is restoring 15 acres of tidal marsh habitat near the entrance to Bayou Caddy. The program also worked with DMR Marine Fisheries to get a $20,000 grant from the NOAA Gulf of Mexico Community-based Restoration Partnership to help protect 800 linear feet of shoreline along the Deer Island Marsh Restoration

Site using recycled oyster shells in wire mesh bags. Staff conducted a 30-acre prescribed burn on Deer Island to remove scattered debris and stimulate slash pine regeneration in an area where nearly 100 percent of the pine trees had been killed by Katrina. CPP is also working with two Mississippi State University (MSU) landscape architects to assess different vegetative planting strategies to be used during the restoration of Deer Island.

Staff continue to develop and lead the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Group (BUG). The BUG is designed to be proactive in working with contractors to find ways to use dredged material to restore coastal habitat. BUG has made significant progress this year in lining up dredged material that will be used in 2011 to repair Katrina damage to the Deer Island Marsh Restoration Site. In addition, CPP staff serve on the Gulf of Mexico Alliance's (GOMA) Habitat, Conservation and Restoration Team, GOMA Ecosystem Integration and Assessment Priority Action Team, Gulf State's Marine Fisheries Commission and the Pascagoula River Basin Alliance. CPP staff also serves on the Integrated Natural Resource Management Planning Team for Stennis Space Center and the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center (Seabees) in Gulfport.

The Program partnered with volunteers from Mississippi Power Company, the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and several other coast businesses and agencies on Earth Day (April 22), in an effort to clean up debris on Deer Island. Volunteers removed approximately 40 cubic yards of debris from the island, including foam products, treated lumber, plastics and various other items. The partners intend to make this island cleanup effort an annual spring event in addition to the fall Mississippi Coastal Cleanup. During the fall Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, staff and volunteers from the Renew Our Rivers program removed more than 31 tons of storm debris from a 10 acre site in the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve and 3.5 tons from the Deer Island Coastal Preserve.

During 2010, CPP staff participated in Coastal Bird Conservation surveys, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Piping Plover surveys, Gopher Tortoise surveys on the Ward Bayou WMA and North American Amphibian Monitoring Program surveys. Staff also partnered with the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) to survey secretive marsh birds in the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve. Staff is also working with a University of South Alabama graduate student to collect data on the Deer Island Marsh Restoration Site to assess how well this man-made (restored) marsh mimics the adjacent natural marsh.

Program staff are involved in the Mississippi Canyon 252 Incident Response (BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill). Two staff members served as representatives of DMR at the Mobile, Ala., Unified Command Center. Another staff member attended daily meetings of the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center. Program staff also conducted secretive marsh bird surveys in association with Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) activities and have also participated in Oiled Wildlife surveys. Staff are also participating in the Mississippi NRDA Technical Working Group.

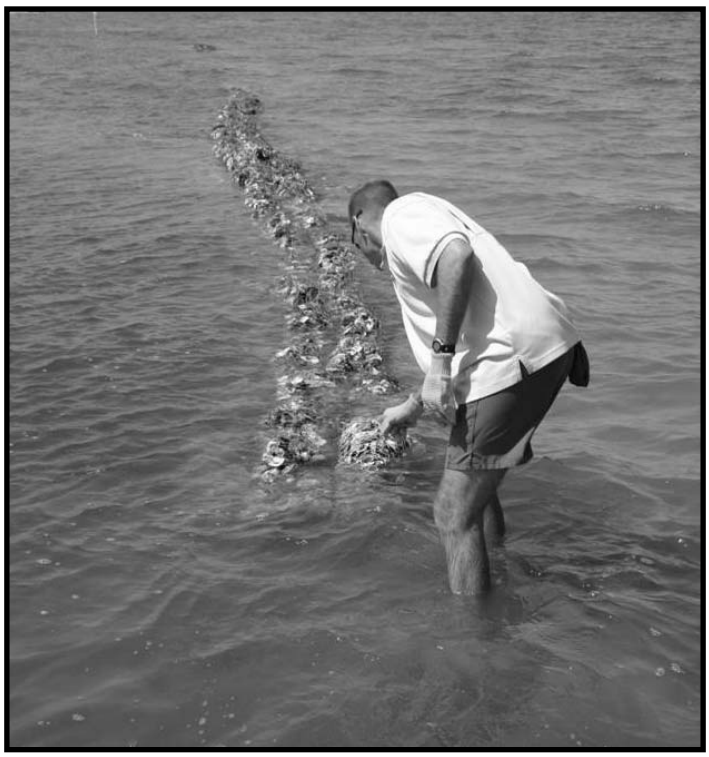
Outreach activities during 2010 included publication of "Effects of Hurricane Katrina on an Incipient Population of Giant Salvinia in the Lower Pascagoula" in the journal Gulf and Caribbean Research Vol. 22. Presentations about the AIS program and its accomplishments were delivered before the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council meeting in Orange Beach, Ala., and to Gulf South Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species. Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers signs were printed and distribution started to all boat ramps and marinas in the

coastal area. CPP staff gave a presentation at a Living Shorelines workshop. In addition, CPP staff conducted demonstrations of the EnviroScape Watershed Model at eight Jackson County Public Libraries. CPP staff also conducted three field trips with biology students from Pearl River Community College. Coastal Preserves and DMR also helped support the first annual Battle on the Bayou, a kayak/canoe race on Old Fort Bayou organized by South Coast Paddling, the Shed Barbeque and Blues Joint, Gulf Hills Resort and many others. The Coastal Preserves Twelve Oaks Nature Trail is one of the stops along the Old Fort Bayou Blueway. The program also is working with the Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership to establish a Deer Island Blueway. The program also co-sponsored a wetland plant identification class with the Grand Bay NERR.

During 2010, CPP worked on creating a nature trail on the Bell's Ferry Unit of the Wolf River Coastal Preserve. A low ground pressure gyrotrac was used to cut the trail, and boardwalks were built to cross two bayhead drains. A low-impact parking area is under construction. Thirty volunteers from Madonna University in Michigan helped clean up and add additional trail to the Coastal Preserves Twelve Oaks Nature Trail in Ocean Springs. CPP staff also served on the Hancock County Scenic Byways, Greenways and Blueways Committee.

During 2010, the program acquired six tracts totaling 678 acres. **Total acreage as of December 2010 is 35,987 acres of state-owned lands managed by the Coastal Preserves Program.** The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service manages 3,300 acres at Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, manages 6,486 acres within Cat, Ship, Horn and Petit Bois islands. Collectively this includes 64 percent of the 72,000 acres proposed for acquisition in the original 20 coastal preserves. During 2010, Coastal Preserves was also approved for a $2.4 million land acquisition grant from NOAA Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program to purchase a portion of Cat Island. This acquisition is currently in process.

The Coastal Preserves Program partnered with Mississippi Power and Renew our Rivers for a spring cleanup on Deer Island.



The Coastal Preserves Program and the DMR Shellfish Bureau worked together to create a berm/breakwater of oyster shell bound in metal mesh bags along the northern shore of Deer Island to protect the shoreline from erosion.

The Coastal Preserves Program is distributing to all coastal marinas and boat ramps signs that explain how stop the spread of aquatic hitchhikers.

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve NERR Manager: David Ruple

The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) is a large, relatively intact area of coastal wetlands in southeastern Jackson County, adjacent to the Mississippi-Alabama state line. The site includes a variety of wetland types, including tidal estuary and non-tidal wetlands that encompass 18,500-acres. The NERR supports a highly diverse community of plants and animals and includes one of the largest estuarine systems along the Mississippi Coast. The DMR operates the NERR, which is one of 28 such reserves nationwide and is part of the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). This Mississippi NERR was designated in 1999. The NERR is operated in close partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), and a multi-organizational advisory board. Through its diverse programs and its local, federal and reserve system partnerships, the Grand Bay NERR provides a powerful tool for the DMR and the citizens of Mississippi to aid in the protection of not only Mississippi's natural and heritage resources but also those of the entire Gulf of Mexico region. The reserve staff facilitates many engaging programs, including those addressing coastal stewardship, applied and basic estuarine research, coastal training, habitat monitoring, education, public interpretation and outreach. The DMR serves as lead state agency for this federal/state partnership reserve, interacting with the U.S. Estuarine Reserves Division on program development and grant management. The Grand Bay NERR is one of 27 reserves within the federal estuarine research reserves system.

The mission of the reserve program is to: practice and promote stewardship of coasts and estuaries through innovative research, education and training using a place-based system of protected areas. The reserves provide a local approach to national priorities. Priority coastal management issues included land use, habitat loss and alteration and water quality.

Objectives:

- Protect representative estuaries along the nation's coastline.
- Develop partnerships to jointly manage and protect coastal wetlands.
- Conduct informed management and stewardship of reserve properties.
- Empower resource managers and decision-makers to make informed management decisions by providing science-based information and skill building opportunities.
- Achieve scientific understanding through implementing a comprehensive research program, including facilitating the use of the reserve as a living laboratory and encouraging use by visiting researchers.
- Facilitate educational programs that translate scientific research into meaningful information to the general public and stakeholders.

Status:

- Continued collaborating research with the Environmental Cooperative Science Center through Jackson State University and Florida A & M University.
- Utilizing and maintaining the new Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center.
- Continued reserve weather, nutrient and water-quality monitoring.
- Co-sponsored the annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference.
- Participated in the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair.
- Conducted presentations and field trips for various civic and school groups.
- Sponsored and facilitated a variety of Coastal Training Program workshops, including Wetland Delineation, Wetland Restoration, Wetland Identification and Wetlands, Water Quality, Living Shorelines and GIS.
- Hosted nationally renowned botanist Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock to teach a class on wetland vegetation.
- Co-sponsored the Alabama-Mississippi Bays and Bayous Symposium.
- Conducted outreach education programs at local schools.
- Continued a Nekton Sampling Program to evaluate the current status of Reserve fishes.
- Continued conservation planning work for the salt marsh topminnow in the northern Gulf of Mexico.
- Monitored the occurrence of invasive species, including cactus moth.
- Treated invasive species at the NERR.
- Initiated a project to evaluate the NERR and NWR for suitable endangered Mississippi sandhill crane habitat.
- Began work on a habitat risk assessment study correlating rates of development in three watersheds with water quality.
- Participated in Gulf of Mexico Alliance Priority Issue Teams and received funding for Alliance-related projects.
- Collaborated with the University of Southern Illinois on a study to evaluate changes in coastal plant communities relating to sea-level rise and impacts from hurricanes.
- Hosted two graduate research fellows.

- Worked with NOAA and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality on an atmospheric mercury monitoring project, including intensive monitoring effort this summer which involved 25 scientists and additional monitoring from airplanes and weather balloons.

- Hosted national meeting for NERRS education and stewardship coordinators.

- Collaborated with scientists from across the country on approximately 50 research projects at the reserve focusing on coastal management issues.

- Conducted extensive biological and physical monitoring work in relation to Deepwater Horizon incident, at the NERR and throughout Jackson County.

The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and National Wildlife Reserve dedicated the newly built Coastal Resources Center during a ceremony December 2009.

NERR Manager Dave Ruple, left, and NOAA Director Jane Lubchenco discuss one of the interactive models in the Coastal Resources Center's interpretive exhibit during the NOAA chief's visit to the reserve in November 2009.

Tidelands and Liaison Office Tidelands Grant Management Coordinator: Joe Ziegler

Objectives:

Section 29-15-9 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 (Annotated), which establishes the Tidelands Trust Fund, specifies:

"Any funds derived from lease rentals of tidelands and submerged lands, except those funds derived from mineral leases, or funds previously specifically designated to be applied to other agencies, shall be transferred to the special fund. However, funds derived from lease rentals may be used to cover the administrative cost incurred by the Secretary of State. Any remaining funds derived from lease rentals shall be disbursed pro rata to the local taxing authorities for the replacement of lost *ad valorem* taxes, if any. Then, any remaining funds shall be disbursed to the commission for new and extra programs of tidelands management, such as conservation, reclamation, preservation, acquisition, education or the enhancement of public access to the public trust tidelands or public improvement projects as they relate to those lands."

Section 29-15-10 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 (Annotated), which established the Public Trust Tidelands Assessments Fund, specifies:

"There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to be known as the Public Trust Tidelands Assessments Fund. The purpose of the fund is to ensure that monies derived from the public trust tidelands assessments shall be used for the benefit of preserving and protecting the tidelands and submerged lands found within the three (3) most southern counties of the state. One (1) specific purpose of the fund is to ensure that the annual payment made by the state for the purchase of Deer Island shall continue uninterrupted until the purchase transaction is completed."

Funds paid pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection may be appropriated by the Legislature in an amount necessary to cover the administrative cost incurred by the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources. Any remaining funds shall be disbursed by the commission for new and extra programs of tidelands management, such as conservation, reclamation, preservation, acquisition, education or the enhancement of public access to the public trust tidelands or public improvement projects as they relate to those lands.

The Department of Marine Resources shall make funds available for the purpose of using such funds as a match or leverage for federal or other funds that are available for the designated tidelands project.

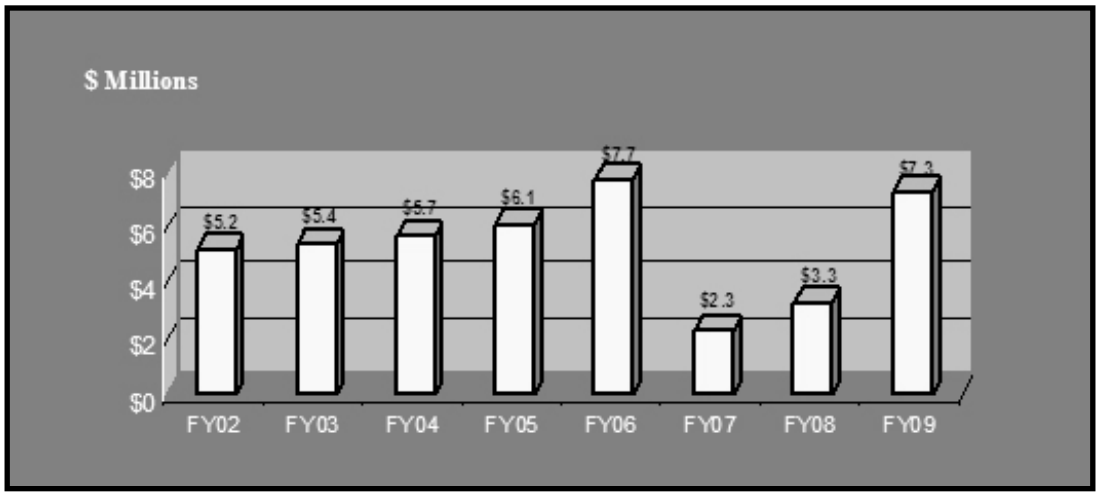
Status:

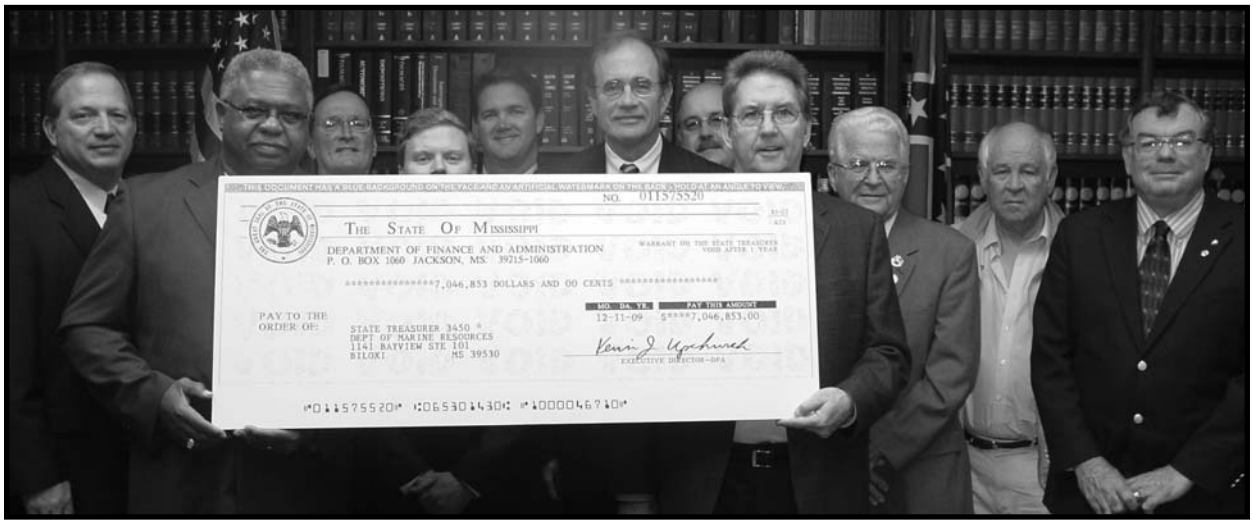
The DMR Tidelands and Liaison Office disbursed funds for the following categories of projects:

- Deer Island Bond Payment
- Department of Marine Resources Management and Matching
- Public Access Projects

Total Funds Disbursed for FY2010: $7.04 million

Funding History:





The Office of Delbert Hosemann, Mississippi Secretary of State, presented a Tidelands check for more than $7 million to the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources on Dec. 16, 2009. Pictured are: front row from left to right, state Rep. Billy Broomfield, state Rep. Brandon Jones, Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, and state Rep. Randall Patterson; back row, left to right, state Rep. Jeffrey Guice, Department of Marine Resources Executive Director Dr. William Walker, state Rep. Scott Delano, state Rep. Richard Bennett, state Rep. Roger Ishee, state Sen. Tommy Dickerson and Nature Conservancy Field Representative Mike Murphy.

License Sales
Coordinator: Russell Doucet

Objectives:

It is the objective of the license sales department to maintain the fishing license system; to set up accounts and subsequent license orders; to maintain account balances by agent, license type and license number; to ensure timely depositing of all license revenues; and to keep accounting for overall sales data by license type.

Status:

The Administrative Services Office is responsible for selling commercial marine licenses and resident fresh and saltwater licenses. License sales personnel are busiest during the final quarter of the fiscal year, as all commercial licenses expire on April 30. Recreational licenses expire one year from date of purchase. In addition to selling licenses on a daily basis, license sales personnel regularly communicate with the public. Providing accurate information to the public is important when dealing with regulatory matters such as the opening and closing dates of various fishing seasons, catch limits on the fisheries and license requirements. The consequence of error can be great.

Licensing Coordinator Russell Doucet answers questions for a oyster harvest license holder.

FISCAL YEAR 2010 LICENSE SALES

License Type	# SOLD	$ AMOUNT
Resident Licenses		
Captain's License	189	$1,890.00
Charter/Fishing/Party Boat	99	$19,800.00
Crab	249	$18,675.00
Crab for Shrimp/Oyster	93	$6,975.00
Fishing Boat License	156	$15,600.00
Interstate Commerce	264	$5,280.00
Interstate Commerce for Charter Boats	58	$1,160.00
Live Bait License-Boat	18	$1,980.00
Live Bait License-Dealer	17	$850.00
Menhaden Boat & Net	9	$1,350.00
Menhaden Processor	1	$500.00
Oyster Dredging	503	$55,330.00
Oyster Tonging	128	$7,680.00
Recreational Crab	549	$2,745.00
Recreational Oyster	10	$100.00
Recreational Shrimp	276	$4,140.00
Resident Commercial Hook & Line/Vessel Gig	312	$31,200.00
Residential Commercial Hook & Line/Fisherman/Gig	404	$40,400.00
Seafood Dealer/Processor	217	$21,700.00
Seafood Transport	11	$1,100.00
Shrimp/Captain under 30'	235	$14,100.00
Shrimp/Captain 30-45'	189	$16,065.00
Shrimp/Captain 46' over	212	$23,320.00
Saltwater Minnow	17	$850.00
Total Resident License Sales	**4,216**	**$292,790.00**

Louisiana Resident Licenses		
Louisiana Resident Charter Boat (6 or fewer people)	1	$1,000.00
Louisiana Resident Commercial Crab.	7	$4,620.00
Louisiana Resident Menhaden/Vessel/Comm + Named Captain	11	$29,590.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Dredging	24	$25,680.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Tonging	2	$2,220.00
Louisiana Resident Recreational Crab	42	$1,680.00
Louisiana Resident Recreational Shrimp	3	$300.00
Louisiana Resident Seafood Dealer	13	$14,950.00
Louisiana Resident Seafood Dealer Vehicle	43	$1,290.00
Louisiana Resident Shrimp (1 Trawl) + Captain License	2	$1,400.00
Louisiana Resident Shrimp (2 Trawl) + Captain License	30	$24,000.00
Total Louisiana Resident License Sales	**1,787**	**$106,730.00**

Alabama Licenses

Alabama Resident Minnow License	1	$101.00
Alabama Resident Seafood Dealer	14	$3,500.00
Alabama Resident Shrimp/Captain under 30'	5	$300.00
Alabama Resident Shrimp/Captain 30'-45'	13	$1,105.00
Alabama Resident Shrimp/Captain 46' over	54	$5,940.00
Total Alabama Resident License Sales	**87**	**$10,946.00**

All Other States

Nonresident Charter Boat	2	$400.00
Nonresident Commercial Crab Trap/Pots	35	$7,000
Nonresident Crab for Shrimp/Oyster Boats	1	$200.00
Nonresident Fishing Boat	16	$4,800.00
Nonresident Hook/Line/Vessel	2	$800.00
Nonresident Hook/Line/Fisherman/Gig	4	$1,600.00
Nonresident Oyster Dredging + Captain License	201	$42,210.00
Nonresident Oyster Tonging + Captain License	162	$17,820.00
Nonresident Recreational Crab	17	$85.00
Nonresident Seafood Dealer	5	$1,000.00
Nonresident Shrimp/Captain under 30'	1	$110.00
Nonresident Shrimp/Captain 30'-45'	6	$960.00
Nonresident Shrimp/Captain 46' over	40	$8,400.00
Nonresident Texas Commercial Oyster	1	$1,680.00
Total Other License Sales	**493**	**$87,065.00**
GRAND TOTAL	**6,583**	**$497,531.00**

Residents from other states are assessed the identical license fees that Mississippi residents are charged to conduct similar activities in those states as provided under Section 49-15-30 of the Mississippi Code.

Information Technology Coordinator: Alan McArthur

Objectives:

The Information Technology Bureau (ITB) Program exists to aid policymakers and programmatic personnel in accomplishing their tasks and to support the business goals of the agency. To accomplish this, vast amounts of data are both available and required. Computer technology provides the method to store, access and apply the information available to the task at hand. Each office of the DMR requires ITB services to accomplish the following goals and objectives:

- Network maintenance and administration.
- Hardware and software purchase and maintenance.
- Database development and management.
- Internet, intranet and e-mail management and maintenance.
- Web site(s) development, management and maintenance.

Status:

The following accomplishments highlight the work of the program during FY2010:

- Supported 150-plus personnel and more than 250 computers, laptops, servers, printers and storage devices.
- Supported the agency phone system and voice mail.
- Supported the e-mail service that makes e-mail available through the Internet at all times.
- Supported Blackberry cell phones, making communications easier and more convenient for agency employees.
- Established off-site backups to secure the agency's data. Procured more state-of-the-art servers and storage to enable electronic backups and to provide data and processing redundancy.
- Continued use of Help Desk management software that enables agency employees to submit, review and manage service requests to ITB.
- Provided database development and management services.
- Provided customer service to all agency employees as well as local, state and federal agencies.
- Continued working towards a complete overhaul of the intranet and Internet.

Lead Systems Administrator Shannon Rojas keeps the DMR computers and network running smoothly.

Property Management Coordinator: Leo Christie

Objectives:

It is the objective of the Property Management Program to maintain accountability for all state property items under the Department of Marine Resources management, to submit all required reports to the Office of Property and to assist with the annual property audit and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) report as pertains to acquisition/disposal. The Property Management Program also maintains all pool vehicles to ensure their operational readiness at all times.

Status:

An overview of property inventory activities in FY2010:

Number of equipment items on inventory beginning July 1, 2009 1,806

Cost of additions to inventory $1,016,022.14

Cost of deletions to inventory $406,832.50

Number of items on inventory as of June 30, 2010 1,864

Number of buildings on inventory as of June 30, 2010 15

Beginning balance of all inventory items as of July 1, 2009 . . . . . .$9,705,300.10

Ending balance of all inventory items as of June 30, 2010 . . . . . .$10,550,649.26

Purchasing
Coordinator: Beth Roberts

Objectives:

The Purchasing Program objectives are to cooperate with the Office of Purchasing and Travel and other regulatory agencies in complying with all Mississippi purchasing rules and regulations, assist employees within the agency in all aspects of purchasing and promote competition among vendors, thereby reducing costs.

Status:

An overview of purchasing activities in FY2010:

P-1 approval obtained from state purchasing 15

Purchase orders issued 1,686

Conducted bid openings 12

Contracts processed 77

State Personnel Board contracts processed 4

Amount of expenditures made with procurement cards $326,903.82

Purchasing continues to be dedicated to supporting the various programs provided by the DMR through the procurement of equipment, supplies and contractual services in a timely manner.

Accounting:
Coordinator: Kara Vesa

Objectives:

It is the objective of the accounting department to maintain all financial records for the DMR to include accounts payable, accounts receivable, revenue support systems, general ledgers, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) financial reporting, payroll, budget/appropriation assistance, bank reconciliations, cash management, etc.

Status:

An overview of property accounting activities in FY2010:

- Processed 2,523 payment vouchers.
- Sixty-four payrolls processed for an average of 190 employees each month; reviewed and input data from timesheets into payroll system.
- Approximately $91 million in Special Fund revenues were deposited in the treasury through 159 receipt transactions.
- Federal grant accounting was performed on approximately 76 various grants through the Department of Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Joint Enforcement Agreement. This resulted in revenues totaling over $27 million.
- Approximately 306 travel packets reviewed, processed and approved for payment.

Derelict Vessel Removal
Coordinator: Irvin Jackson

Objectives:

The principal objectives of this program are to enforce state laws through removal and disposal of derelict vessels, thereby, protecting our environment and keeping our coastal wetlands and navigable waterways safe for use by the general public. Tidelands Trust Funds are requested each year to achieve these objectives.

Status:

During this year, 10 vessels were removed under the Derelict Vessel Removal Program. Approximately 10 additional derelict vessels of various sizes have been identified and are in various stages of the removal process. As a result of the BP oil spill in April 2010, no derelict vessels were removed during May and June. Since inception of the Derelict Vessel Removal Program in May 1998, 235 vessels have been removed from the waterways of Harrison, Hancock and Jackson counties.

This derelict vessel, the Lucky Vinh, was removed from the Industrial Canal in Gulfport.

Public Affairs Program
Coordinator: Lauren Thompson

Through a proactive program of community outreach, education, public information, and legislative and media relations, Public Affairs promotes awareness of the Department of Marine Resources, its roles, responsibilities and programs in balancing economic interests with enhancing, protecting, managing and conserving Mississippi's marine resources.

Objectives:

- Enthusiastically support and promote the Department's mission both externally and internally.
- Accurately report on departmental program activities and disseminate this information to the citizens and guests of the Mississippi Gulf Coast in a timely manner.
- Continually improve the public's perception of the Department by responding promptly and thoroughly to public requests for information.
- Maintain open lines of communications within the Department and between the DMR and Mississippi citizens, legislators, agencies and media.
- Proactively handle crisis communications for the Department, such as boating accidents, fish kills and controversial issues, and respond promptly to media inquiries.
- Plan and schedule DMR events and participation in outreach activities, partnering with public and private entities whenever possible.
- Develop timely, newsworthy, effective, high-quality deliverables that promote the missions of Marine Fisheries, Coastal Ecology and Marine Patrol and educate the public.
- Ensure all DMR programs are promoted effectively to maximize news coverage and keep the public informed.

Status:

During FY2010, in addition to everyday outreach responsibilities, day-to-day operations for the Public Affairs Bureau expanded to include the following, as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill: developing fishing closure signs posted at public piers and boat launches; reviewing direct mailings being sent out by Fisheries staff to inform Mississippi fishermen on various subjects such as what to do if they hook a sea turtle and mandatory crab trap removal in closed waters; developing and distributing news releases to media and stakeholders regarding state response to oil spill; coordinating pre-spill volunteer beach cleanup with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ); responding to hundreds of media and public inquiries related to oil spill; conducting interviews with the media on fishing closures/openings, seafood testing, etc.; coordinating public information on oil spill response with MEMA, MDEQ, National Guard, BP, the Mississippi Department of Health and the U.S. Coast Guard; coordinating press conferences with Gov. Barbour's office, scheduling boat trips and flyovers for media. In addition, Public Affairs also responded to phone calls from licensed Mississippi commercial fishermen interested in BP's Vessels of Opportunity program and passed their information along to BP. Also, Public Affairs attended daily operations brief meetings of the Mississippi Joint Information Center and participated in regular joint-agency PIO meetings.

In FY2010, the Public Affairs staff reached large volumes of diverse audiences through producing a variety of marine environment publications and displays, organizing media coverage of DMR programs, coordinating educational outreach activities with Coast schools and DMR partners and participating in 43 public education, community outreach and marine-related events across South Mississippi. About 35,000 people visited the DMR exhibits and obtained DMR information at these events. Public Affairs distributed about 104,265 brochures to the public.

During FY2010, Public Affairs printed 16 individual publications (quantity of 122,000) and nine individual educational/outreach item (quantity of 62,500), for a total of 184,500 items. Among the items produced were 40,000 copies of the 2010-2011 Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing: Rules and Regulations; 5,000 copies of the new Mississippi Monofilament Recycling Program brochure; and 250 copies each of Spanish and Vietnamese translations of the Mississippi Saltwater Recreational Fishing: Size & Possession Limits pocket guides.

To promote environmental stewardship, two major educational outreach programs are organized and coordinated by DMR Public Affairs. The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is held every year in the fall in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup, and the annual calendar contest solicits art entries about our coastal resources from area schoolchildren to spotlight in the Marine Information Calendar.

The year 2009 marked the 21st annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup. More than 3,200 volunteers picked up 46,873 pounds of trash at more than 66 sites along 190 miles of beaches and shorelines in the three Coast counties. More than 1,895 entries from 32 schools were submitted to the DMR calendar art contest. Students in grades 3 through 6 were asked to create artwork illustrating the contest theme, “Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi’s Coastal Resources.” The winning artwork was featured in the 2010 calendar and displayed in public areas throughout the year.

Public Affairs also plans and promotes, with the Grand Bay NERR and partners, Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival, a free event that features hands-on exhibits addressing marine and estuarine environmental issues and recreational and commercial activities associated with the Gulf. The event attracts about 3,000 people annually.

Publications:

- Four 12-page issues of Coastal Markers, the DMR’s external newsletter
- 2010-2011 Guide to Saltwater Fishing: Rules and Regulations book
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources 2010 Marine Information Calendar (includes tide charts, sunrise/sunset times, moon phases, size/possession limits, reef coordinates, Mississippi saltwater fishing state records, boating safety information, student artwork)
- Marine Litter Activity Folders, revised and reprinted
- Coastworks student activity book, reprinted
- Fish ruler sticker, revised and reprinted
- Spanish and Vietnamese translations of the Mississippi Saltwater Recreational Fishing: Size & Possession Limits pocket guides

- Mississippi Monofilament Recycling Program brochure, developed, designed and printed
- Mississippi Boater's Guide, revised and reprinted
- Annual report, compiled and printed

Educational/Outreach Item:

- Recycled paper bags imprinted with environmental stewardship message, reprinted
- Marine litter stickers containing marine litter regulation and required on all boats, small and large, reprinted
- Recycled denim pencils with DMR contact information and Web site, reprinted
- Clear blue pens with DMR contact information and Web site, reprinted
- Marine Patrol floating key fobs imprinted with emergency response number for boaters, reprinted
- Wooden rulers with educational information for children, reprinted
- DMR whistles for boating safety classes, reprinted
- Boater's pledge bookmarks containing environmental stewardship messages, reprinted

Media and Community Relations:

Public Affairs produced and disseminated 168 news releases, pitched story ideas and responded to media inquiries that resulted in more than a thousand articles published in at least 20 local, national and international news publications, about 250 local television news broadcasts, and innumerable national and international television and radio news reports and Web site postings related to the DMR's role in the oil spill recovery effort. Public Affairs staff reported more than a thousand conversations with media contacts in FY2010, with a noticeable increase in calls and media coverage in response to the oil spill.

DMR Public Affairs staff served on various local, state, regional and national public education and community outreach task forces, panels and committees, such as the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, Public Relations Association of Mississippi, and as state coordinator for Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. The DMR Public Relations director was appointed to serve on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Outreach and Education Advisory Panel and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Outreach subcommittee and served, along with the MDEQ communications director, as lead external affairs PIO for the state of Mississippi for Gulf Coast oil spill response.

In FY2010, Public Affairs will print a marine information calendar, 2011-2012 Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing Rules and Regulations and pocket guide to size and possession limits, Marine Litter Awareness Activity Pack, Coastworks marine resources activity books and Saltwater Fish Common to Mississippi identification poster. Under development are printing of educational items; coastal resources student art contest; and planning of the 2010 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup.

Public Relations Representative Shelly Becker, center, helps a visitor at the DMR booth during the 2010 Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival in Pass Christian in April.

From left, Public Relations Representatives Lisa Damiano Jones, Jennifer Leirer and Shelly Becker staff the DMR booth at the Oceans '09 conference in Biloxi in October 2009.

DMR Public Relations Director Lauren Thompson, left, talks with U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker, center, and DMR Executive Director Bill Walker about plans to restore the barrier islands during a tour of Ship Island in August 2009.

Human Resources Management Coordinator: Christy Royals

Objectives:

The Human Resources Office is dedicated to providing human resources services to both internal and external customers in the following areas: recruitment and selection; staffing management; retention; job classification; compensation; organizational structure; contracts review; personnel budgeting and compliance; professional development training; benefits administration; leave policy interpretation; Workers' Compensation administration; personnel records management; human resources compliance with applicable state and federal laws; job content questionnaire and performance review; and oversight of employee discipline process. The Human Resources staff strives to deliver these services in a courteous and timely manner with a high standard of excellence, accuracy, and cost efficiency.

FY2010 Accomplishments:

- Recruited, hired and trained new Human Resources (HR) director, completing the transition of HR responsibilities and leadership by end of fiscal year.
- Provided assistance and guidance for Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Disaster by tracking HAZWOPER training and establishing procedures for capturing all hours worked in response to the oil spill, including overtime and compensatory time.
- Increased participation in the DMR/Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Intern Program and provided DMR interns to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and NOAA Library.
- Conducted New Employee Orientation for all new employees, contract workers and Marine Patrol Reserve officers.
- Ensured continued compliance of personnel expenditures required by Appropriation Bill and Mississippi State Personnel Board (MSPB) to maintain personnel expenditures.
- Conducted regional annual comprehensive salary survey to help maintain competitive starting salaries for the DMR's unique job classifications.
- Provided guidance to the DMR employee-led Insurance Committee and facilitated its activities in conducting an employee benefits needs assessment for supplemental insurance products and coordinating the Annual Benefits Open Enrollment.
- Began process to identify and document all HR processes to develop an HR Procedures Manual.
- Actively participated in several human resources professional organizations, training activities and professional development seminars (MSPB, MAPA, SHRM, HHHRA, and EEOC.)

- Conducted and/or sponsored in-house training courses, including CPR, Driver Safety and Employee Assistance Program topics (e.g., Stress Management, Work-Life Balance, etc.)

- Created new job classification series for the DMR management positions; expanded the DMR Classification and Compensation Plan to include DMR specific office directors, bureau directors and staff officers.

- Developed a new employee orientation presentation and reconfigured employee orientation handbook.

- Streamlined HR electronic filing system and coordinated with Information Technology staff to store all HR work files on a secure server location which is backed up nightly.

- Sponsored two blood drives.

- Supported the Marine Law Enforcement Reserve Unit program with on-boarding new recruits.

FY2011 Challenges:

- Train, communicate and implement new MSPB competency-based Performance Development System (PDS) to replace PAR.

- Expand electronic filing system on the secure HR server and attach all personnel file information to the employee record in Abra HRIS.

- Prepare and implement MEMA's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for DMR.

- Implement an online Annual Benefits Open Enrollment process.

- Develop and implement programs and activities designed to enhance professional development and retention of DMR employees.

- Reconfigure Human Resources Web page on the DMR intranet to allow employees to access HR information, policies and forms.

- Update and finalize DMR Policies and Procedures Manual.

- Coordinate DMR Wellness Program in conjunction with MSPB Wellness Initiative.

- Transfer staff at the NERR into the new NERR job descriptions.

- Explore alternative recruitment options to expand pool of applicants.

- Work with Biloxi Regional to utilize more health screening services (i.e. on-site hearing checks, regular skin cancer checks, etc.).

- Continue organizing Employee Assistance Program workshops through new provider MEACares.

- Organize retirement sessions for all DMR employees.
- Continue to participate with Red Cross by sponsoring blood drives periodically throughout the year.

DMR Human Resources Team, from left, Personnel Officer Sandra Moore, HR Director Christy Royals and HR Administrative Assistant Libby Denyer.

Spring 2010 DMR interns and mentors.

Marine Patrol
Chief of Enforcement: Col. Walter Chataginer

Col. Walter J. Chataginer Sr. assumed the responsibility of chief of Marine Patrol in November 2005. He was granted the official title of chief of the State Marine Patrol on Jan. 1, 2006. He started his law enforcement career with the Biloxi Police Department in 1979 and later transferred to the Bureau of Marine Resources in 1988. Col. Chataginer worked for the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks when the Bureau was dissolved. In 1999, he joined the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. He has worked 23 years for the State of Mississippi and has accumulated a total of 32 years of law enforcement experience. He is chairman of the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel for the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, and a member of the Law Enforcement Committee for the Gulf States Marine Commission. Col. Chataginer also sits on the Law Enforcement panel for the ISSC organization.

The Marine Patrol continues to provide marine enforcement of federal and state laws and the ordinances of the Commission on Marine Resources (CMR) for the protection, propagation, preservation and conservation of Mississippi's seafood, aquatic life and associated coastal wetland habitats. Marine Patrol also carries out the enforcement of state and federal laws pertaining to boating safety and provides emergency assistance to marine boaters.

Objectives:

- Enhance the safety and quality of life in the marine community through the enforcement of federal, state and CMR ordinance law.
- Serve as the leading marine law enforcement agency within the State of Mississippi.
- Minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and the environmental impact on coastal and marine waters.
- Provide both emergency and nonemergency assistance to the public.
- Provide 24-hour marine law enforcement.
- Continue to provide forefront leadership and expertise in marine law enforcement.

Status:

- Thirty-three officers and five lieutenants provided 24-hour patrols.
- Made 810 cases (violations).
- Conducted 7,170 compliance checks.
- Rendered public assistance to 79 mariners in distress.

- Answered 574 complaint calls.
- Patrolled 38 marine events.
- Investigated 32 boating accidents.

Col. Walter Chataginer, right, director of the DMR Office of Marine Patrol, shows U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker where to navigate during a tour to the barrier islands in August 2009.

Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) Coordinator: Lt. Donald Armes

On July 1, 2009, the Department of Marine Resources entered into agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide law enforcement of federal regulations in both state and federal waters. All patrols were conducted by Marine Patrol officers on an overtime basis.

Objectives:

- Increase voluntary compliance of the user groups.
- Increase contact with recreational and commercial fishermen.
- Detect and apprehend mutilation of shark species.
- Increase boardings of commercial shrimp vessels to inspect turtle excluder devices (TEDs) and bycatch reduction devices (BRDs).
- Investigate all allegations of turtle harvest.
- Inspect seafood dealer landings and individual fish quotas (IFQs).

Status:

DMR Marine Patrol Statistics Totals

Vessel Checks - Commercial	447
Vessel Checks - Recreational	1,143
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Commercial	821
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Recreational	1,991
Fishery Violations - Federal	20
Fishery Violations - State	65
Fishery Warnings	17
Shore Patrol Hours	1,834.5
Offshore Patrol Vessel Hours	2,273.5
Total Man Hours	**7,5448**

A boater was stopped with these over-the-limit cobia.

The practice of finning sharks, which is removing only the fins and returning the remainder of the shark to the water, is illegal.

Telecommunications
Supervisor: Amy Taylor

The Marine Patrol Telecommunications Bureau provides day and night dispatch and serves as a communications link between the general public, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and the Marine Patrol officers in the field. Program responsibilities include monitoring the telecommunications network for emergency response, changing weather conditions and marine violations, transmitting messages between law enforcement field officers and other public safety agencies, exchanging information with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as required and maintaining constant radio contact with field personnel in order to maximize officer safety. The Telecommunications Bureau continues to work closely and coordinate with Marine Patrol management and field personnel in order to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and environmental impact on coastal and marine waters.

Objectives:

- Maintain day and night radio communications for law enforcement and emergency response purposes, monitor weather conditions, coordinate with other public safety agencies and operate NCIC as needed.
- Determine and dispatch the most appropriate and best-equipped personnel to emergency calls and illegal activity by location and nature of call.
- Track all citations, fine payments, stops, boating accidents, miscellaneous complaints and public safety calls in order to determine how to best utilize resources.
- Procurement and maintenance of most-updated radio communications equipment.
- Coordinate with management, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and local agencies to ensure proper coverage in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.
- Maintain well-trained communications staff and get certification for in-house instructors for dispatch and law enforcement personnel.

Status:

- First agency in Mississippi to obtain and operate statewide 700/800 radio system.
- Provided day and night dispatch for Marine Patrol.
- Prepared monthly commission reports.
- Processed 810 issued citations.
- Provided 24-hour dispatch during oil spill crisis.
- Received 298 public service requests and 266 reports of illegal activity, dispatched officers to 32 boat accidents, two non-boating related drownings, and recorded 38 special marine events.

- Recorded and logged 7,170 stops made by officers on regular patrols.
- Alerted Public Affairs Bureau to media inquiries and after-hours emergencies.
- Logged in 18,877.5 boat hours by officers on regular patrols.
- Enrolled students in 23 boat and water safety classes.

Marine Patrol Dispatcher Jacob Winborn answers distress calls and communicates with officers in the field.

Boat and Water Safety
Supervisor: Lt. Richard Cooley

Lt. Richard Cooley, whose primary job is as training coordinator and emergency response officer, is also responsible for several other programs, including public education, public outreach and presentations, emergency response and Homeland Security coordination, and coordination of local marine events.

Objectives:

- To provide nationally accredited and readily available boating safety education classes to the general public, so as to ultimately reduce the number and severity of boating accidents that occur.

- To provide the general public with direct exposure to boating safety information and literature through a series of public outreach programs and presentations that are conducted throughout the three coastal counties of Mississippi.

- To provide an emergency response coordination officer 24/7, which allows effective liaison and coordination with other state and local response agencies and ensures timely and correct emergency response to Homeland Security incidents, oil pollution incidents and other environmental emergencies that occur in our area.

- To coordinate planning and oversight of local marine events, including the issuance of permits for the many marine events that are conducted in our area.

Status:

- Conducted 15 boating safety classes in FY2010, resulting in the certification of 220 persons.

- Permitted and/or assisted in 16 Marine Events.

- Ensured that National Incident Management System (NIMS) training required for all Marine Patrol personnel was updated within required timeframe to certify DMR as NIMS compliant as required by FEMA.

In-Service Training
Coordinator: Lt. Richard Cooley

A Marine Patrol Training Program was started in August 2001 to provide a standard training curriculum for all new officers, continued education of veteran officers and training necessary for Reserve officers.

Objectives:

- Conduct realistic officer survival training sessions in order to enhance chances of officer survival.
- Conduct annual in-service training as necessary as technology expands, hazards increase and laws change.
- Conduct in-service training classes for new recruits.
- Send officers to a variety of outside schools to broaden their knowledge of threats and increase their value of service to the public.

Status:

- Conducted two days of firearms qualifications.
- Thirty-two officers completed HAZWOPER training.
- Four officers completed GLOCK Hand Gun Armorer Class.
- Ten officers completed Swift Water Rescue Class.

Officer Christina Young performs a training exercise at the shooting range.

Dive Team
Dive Team Leader: Master Sgt. Tommy Jennings

The Marine Patrol Dive Team was organized in August 2002 to expand Marine Patrol's capabilities and service to the public and to provide assistance to other agencies.

Objectives:

- The constant education of Marine Patrol divers.
- Cross training with all dive teams in the three coastal counties.
- Rescue when possible those victims within the "golden hour."
- Recovery of drowning victims when diver risk does not outweigh diver safety.

Status:

- October 2009, Marine Patrol Dive Team assisted the Hancock County Sheriff's Office by finding evidence in a felony investigation.
- December 2009, Marine Patrol Dive Team assisted the Bay St. Louis Police Department by finding evidence in a felony investigation.
- February 2010, Marine Patrol Dive Team assisted the Jackson County Sheriff's Office by searching inland waters for a suicide victim.
- May 2010, Marine Patrol Dive Team performed 106 dives for the DMR Shellfish division taking square-meter samples of the oyster reefs.
- June 2010, Marine Patrol Dive Team conducted 16 dives from Alabama to Louisiana along the state line searching for oil plumes from the Deep Water Horizon oil spill.

Members of the Marine Patrol Dive Team perform offshore training during the summer of 2009.

Reserve Unit
Designee: Master Sgt. Patrick Levine

State Statute 49-15-21 established a Marine Patrol Reserve Unit in 1985 to assist the enforcement officers in the performance of their duties. The Marine Patrol Reserve Unit was transferred and placed under the executive director of the Department of Marine Resources in March 2002.

Objectives:

- Assist with regular patrols.
- Assist with all major marine events.
- Obtain sufficient Marine Patrol Reserve members to meet any patrol needs.
- Train as necessary to assist the Marine Patrol officers in the field.

Status:

- Reserve officers assisted in 200 regular patrols.
- Assisted in 11 major Marine Events:
  – Christmas on the Water
  – Opening day of shrimp season
  – Opening day of oyster season
  – Fourth of July
  – Smokin' the Sound
  – Smokin' the Lake
  – Thunder on the Bay
  – Blessing of the Fleet
  – Governor's Convention
  – Opening day of snapper season
  – Mardi Gras parades (Biloxi and D'Iberville locations)
- As of September 2010, the Marine Patrol Reserve Unit has 21 active Reserve officers.
- Training conducted (approximately 50 hours)
  – Handcuffing techniques
  – Drug identification
  – Fish identification
  – Boat and water safety course
  – Dispatch training
  – Pressure point control tactics
  – Pepper spray training
  – Firearms safety and qualifications

Approximate hours served for FY 2010 2,500

Coastal Management and Planning Office
Office Director: Tina Shumate

The overall objective of the Office of Coastal Management and Planning is to build the capacity of state and local governments to manage and protect coastal wetlands and marine resources in Mississippi. The objective will be accomplished through coordinating agency efforts, developing the necessary partnerships among public and private entities and integrating wetland protection and management into the lifestyle of the coastal community. The overall mission is "to develop a plan to sustain Mississippi's coastal resources and to provide for a healthy economy in the coastal area."

The work focuses on four principal objectives as described below. There are four programs within the Office of Coastal Management and Planning. The first is a planning assistance program to assist the 11 coastal cities and six coastal counties with planning needs for their regions. The second is a smart growth program. This program is designed to assist the six-county region with education on smart growth. The program began with the Storm Water Toolbox. The third program is the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area (NHA). The mission of the Mississippi Gulf Coast NHA is to continue growth of the economy by using natural resources, heritage, and recreational and historical assets in the six-county region. The fourth program is the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). Grants from CIAP total $120 million for the six coastal counties of Mississippi.

Objectives:

- Advancing science and technology for evaluating, protecting and restoring wetlands health.
- Developing plans and management tools for the protection of wetlands resources by state and local government.
- Facilitating the development of watershed stakeholder partnerships.
- Improving public access to and education about wetlands information.

Status and activities:

- Creation and continued updates to internal and external Internet mapping service. Updates include most up-to-date aerial imagery, Hurricane Katrina-related recovery/educational data, pertinent data related to internal natural resource protection and informative data.
- Responded to requests for coastal-related geospatial data from federal, state, city, NGO and private stakeholders and partners. These data requests had an average deliverable data size of 6.2 GB. Delivery method included e-mail, DVD, external hard drive and FTP site.
- Initiated and administered the collaborative effort to improve and enhance the collection, assimilation, use, reporting capacity and analysis of natural resource/wetland impact data amassed for the Coastal Zone of Mississippi. This process will greatly improve the capacity of the DMR to quickly and efficiently respond to the many statistics-based performance

measure inquiries and questions regarding the habitat and land-use changes and trends occurring on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

- Initiated and administered the current effort to locate, scan and georectify historical aerial imagery dating back to the 1940s for the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

- Continued in-house revision of the Potential Land Development Suitability Model. Current revisions include input from hazard-related data produced in response to Hurricane Katrina, as well as inputs related to smart growth principles and practices to decrease impacts to natural areas, increase housing density and make more efficient use of existing infrastructure.

- Active participant in multiple federal projects related to geospatial information for the Mississippi Gulf Coast, including topics associated with marine debris, oil spill/hazard response, habitat classification, coastal restoration and invasive species, among others.

- Increased capacity to serve the DMR, stakeholders and the general public in the collection and hard-copy display of geospatial data and data products with the acquisition of Thales Mobile Mapper mobile GIS platform/GPS and large format plotter.

- The 11th annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference was held May 12-13, 2010, at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum Convention Center in Biloxi. The Gulf Coast Business Council partnered with this program on the conference.

- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning has been meeting with all 11 coastal cities and the six coastal counties concerning their needs on recovery post-Hurricane Katrina.

- The staff is on the Governor's Recovery Commission's Environmental and Tourism committees.

- The staff is on the Ocean Springs, Gulfport and Biloxi Smart Growth committees.

- The staff of Coastal Management and Planning is partnering on an annual basis with Mississippi/Alabama Sea Grant for the Bays & Bayous Conference in November.

- The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Management Plan was delivered to the Department of Interior in February 2005. The Environmental Assessment has been out for public review. There were no adverse comments. The National Park Service forwarded the Management Plan and Environmental Assessment was sent to the Secretary of the Interior for signature and was signed as complete on Sept. 22, 2008.

- Designation of the six lower counties of Mississippi as the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Designation continues as a major player/partner in the recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The program will assist the Mississippi Gulf Coast in becoming a Tier One Tourist Destination with a Strong Sense of Place.

- Heritage unit has released its branding on the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area (MGCNHA). A Web site has been developed and more than 8,000 copies of Heritage

Happenings, the quarterly newsletter of the MGCNHA, have been distributed.

- MGCNHA staff is on the City of D'Iberville's Historical Society.
- MGCNHA was placed on the Governor's Recovery Commission's Heritage Tourism.
- The MGCNHA continues to partner with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History concerning the Hurricane Relief Grant Program for Preservation. The MGCNHA was a major player in obtaining the funding for this grant program.
- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning won a Blue Pencil Award from the National Association of Government Communicators and a Lantern Award from the Southern Public Relations Federation for its smart growth marketing efforts.
- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning is administering the CIAP. Grants from this program total $120 million for the six coastal counties of Mississippi.
- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning is also the chair of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Resiliency Working Group along with co-chair of the Coastal States Organization Resiliency Team.
- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning serves on the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain Board of Directors.
- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning has set the 12th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference to be held May 11-12, 2011, at the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi.

The restoration of a national landmark sailing vessel using salvaged oak trees downed during Katrina was one of the topics discussed at the 11th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference.

Mississippi Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant talks to attendees of the 11th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference about the potential Coastal impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Clean Vessel Act
Coordinator: Rhonda Price

The Clean Vessel Act Program's mission is to enhance, protect and conserve the coastal resources of Mississippi through the installation and maintenance of pump-outs. The grant is provided by the Department of Marine Resources in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program. It is a cost-reimbursable grant that pays for 75 percent of the cost to install pump-outs or pump-out boats.

Objectives:

The program objectives are to monitor the maintenance and operations of marinas that have installed pump-outs at their facility, making sure they provide adequate service to the public in concert with the agreements of the grant. Outreach programs will also be initiated to promote public awareness about nonpoint source pollution and the Clean Vessel Act Program. The program also plans to increase the number of pump-outs located throughout Mississippi.

Status:

To date there are 25 inland pump-outs with three under construction. There were seven pump-outs installed on the coast, since all were lost to Hurricane Katrina. A pump-out boat operated by Mitchell Marine is in operation to pump out vessels until more pump-outs come on line. Since the storm, the pump-out boat has been a great asset to boaters local and transit. New funds allocated for the coastal program will re-establish at least eight new pump-outs and most of them will be slip-to-slip designs, which will allow boaters leasing those slips a more convenient and expeditious way to pump out their boats. The pump-out boat was purchased with funds allocated under the Clean Vessel Act Program. The budget for fiscal year 2010 was $120,000 for coastal and $54,000 for inland. The program is currently undergoing reauthorization for six more years.

A standalone slip-to-slip pump-out unit provides boaters with a convenient method of pumping out.

Mississippi's Official Saltwater Conventional Tackle Records

SPECIES	WEIGHT		DATE	ANGLER
Amberjack, Greater	113 lb.	13.6 oz.	08/10/08	William Oubre
Amberjack, Lesser	5 lb.	8 oz.	05/24/04	Jack Paul Edwards IV
Barracuda, Great	50 lb.	1 oz.	08/01/05	Tommy O'Brien
Bigeye	2 lb.	1.12 oz.	08/28/04	Jeffrey Newbury
Black Driftfish	15 lb	7.2 oz.	08/13/07	Lenny Maiolatesi
Bluefish	16 lb.	6 oz.	00/00/84	Joe Krebs
Bonefish		4 oz.	11/04/99	Scott Floyd
Bonnethead	8 lb.	0 oz.	07/04/09	Ryan Dewayne Smith
Brotula, Bearded	17 lb.	3 oz.	07/04/08	Jack Paul Edwards IV
Burrfish, Striped	1 lb.	4 oz.	06/07/08	Joe Davis Sr.
Catfish, Hardhead	3 lb.	.32 oz.	06/08/05	Josh Holmes
Catfish, Gafftopsail	9 lb.	9.92 oz.	08/26/00	Shane Ardis
Chub, Yellow	9 lb.	10 oz.	07/30/92	Melvin Raymond Jr.
Cobia	106 lb.	13 oz.	05/02/96	Randy McDaniel
Croaker, Atlantic	4 lb.	12 oz.	11/11/90	Tom Pellegrin
Cubbyu	2 lb.	6.72 oz.	05/28/05	John Smith
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	2 lb.	2.2 oz.	06/08/08	Hyler Krebs
Dolphin	62 lb.		1981/1985	D.L. Siegel/Leo Muldoon
Dolphin, Pompano	1 lb.	.80 oz.	05/22/05	Tom O'Brien
Drum , Black	70 lb.	5.00 oz.	03/12/05	Eddie Hansen
Drum, Blackbar	2 lb	13 oz.	02/08/08	Lenny Maiolatesi
Drum, Red	44 lb.		1970/1973	L.E. Renike/J. Hughes
Eel, Conger	12 lb.	8.2 oz.	08/03/02	Stephen E. Wilson
Eel, King Snake	37 lb	4 oz.	08/24/07	Steve Strickland
Flounder, Southern	10 lb.	4.66 oz.	03/03/07	Karen A. Good
Frogfish, Ocellated	6 lb.		08/10/08	Adam Perrigin
Gag	58 lb.	4.8 oz	08/21/01	Kenny Kuhn
Grouper, Black	11 lb.	0.16 oz.	03/24/01	Michael L. Allen
Grouper, Red	14 lb.	8 oz.	04/29/07	Brian Pelton
Grouper, Snowy	24 lb.	3.2 oz.	02/19/10	William A. Scarborough Jr.
Grouper, Warsaw	250 lb.		07/17/04	Paul Gallop
Grouper, Yellowedge	32 lb.		08/10/08	James Necaise III
Grouper (unclass.)	47 lb.	14.2 oz.	00/00/80	Dr. Kenneth Ramsey
Hind, Rock	3 lb.	4.8 oz.	08/17/07	Tommy O'Brien
Hogfish, Spotfin		10.4 oz.	06/01/08	Thomas Riley Hunt
Houndfish	1 lb.	0.01 oz.	07/03/08	Wes Harvey
Jack, Almaco	32 lb.	10.56 oz.	09/30/06	Donald Simmons Jr.
Jack, Black	16 lb.	4.8 oz.	08/03/07	Dennis L. Henry
Jack, Crevalle	48 lb.	0.5 oz	07/19/85	Brian D. Pelton
Jack, Horse-eye	22 lb.	15.52 oz.	06/11/04	Justin Russell
Kingfish, Gulf	1 lb.	15.36 oz.	06/21/09	Tony Fimiano
Kingfish, Southern	1 lb.	14 oz.	11/12/85	Scott A. Walter
Ladyfish	3 lb.	9.28 oz.	09/30/08	Chris Hill
Leatherjacket		3.34 oz.	07/29/08	Dick Wilson
Little Tunny (Bonito)	29 lb.	8.8 oz.	04/15/94	Jean A. Thornton
Longtail Bass	5 lb	6.4 oz.	07/12/07	Lenny Maiolatesi
Lookdown	2 lb.	9.6 oz.	06/04/06	Scott Floyd
Mackerel, King	64 lb.	8 oz.	11/19/99	Dan Abshire Jr.
Mackerel, Spanish	8 lb.		00/00/84	Ron Dillistone
Marlin, Blue	1,054 lb.	9.6 oz.	06/07/02	Barry D. Carr
Marlin, White	80 lb.	3.2 oz.	09/15/00	Joseph Guidry
Moonfish, Atlantic	1 lb.	14.38 oz.	06/05/06	Scott Floyd
Moray, Blacktail	5 lb.	11.84 oz.	07/04/05	Dick Wilson

SPECIES	WEIGHT		DATE	ANGLER
Moray, Purplemouth	3 lb.	1 oz.	07/04/03	Dick Wilson
Moray, Reticulate	6 lb.	15.84 oz.	08/06/04	Stephen E. Wilson
Oilfish	50 lb.	0.32 oz.	03/24/02	Kenneth Saxman
Permit	2 lb.	4 oz.	08/29/06	Jonathan David Floyd
Pigfish	1 lb.	1.76 oz.	08/28/04	Lorielyn Newbury
Pinfish	3 lb.	5.6 oz.	09/04/92	William D. Fountain
Porgy, Longspined		9.92 oz.	06/06/04	Stephen Wilson
Porgy, Red	3 lb.	11.68 oz.	06/22/07	Donald L. Bosarge II
Porgy, Whitebone	2 lb.	5 oz.	07/02/04	Jack Paul Edwards
Pompano, African	36 lb.	4 oz.	06/23/97	Lawrence F. Pichon
Pompano, Florida	4 lb.	15.7 oz.	02/09/02	Jack Alexander
Puffer, Smooth	5 lb.	.04 oz.	05/06/00	Shawn Hyter
Remora	5 lb.	5 oz.	07/02/06	Ross Maxwell
Runner, Blue	7 lb.	14.99 oz	06/15/08	Carlton Neal
Runner, Rainbow	18 lb.	12 oz.	07/30/94	Paul A. Parnigoni
Sailfish	62 lb.		00/00/63	Eddie Jones
Scamp	24 lb.	0.48 oz.	05/25/01	Doug Nelson Jr.
Sea Bass, Bank		9.6 oz.	06/25/08	Mark Alan Ros Jr.
Sea Bass, Rock		14.72 oz.	08/20/92	Robert Bell
Searobin, Bighead	1 lb.	.32 oz.	05/24/05	David Hise Jr.
Seatrout, Sand	6 lb.	9.6 oz.	03/12/09	Chris Denton
Seatrout, Spotted	10 lb.	7.66 oz.	05/13/08	Eric T. Quave
Scorpionfish, Spinycheek	3 lb.	2 oz.	08/30/07	Doug Upton
Scorpionfish, Spotted	2 lb.	2.24 oz.	08/22/04	Dick E. Wilson
Shark, Atlantic Sharpnose	10 lb.	4.16 oz.	07/21/09	Donald Armes Jr.
Shark, Blacknose	20 lb.	13 oz.	07/03/09	Andrew B. Odom
Shark, Blacktip	98 lb.	9.6 oz.	04/20/05	Thomas W. Barnes
Shark, Bull	130 lb.	7.36 oz.	06/12/09	Lane Russell
Shark, Finetooth	22 lb.	9.66 oz.	07/19/09	Nickolas Vaughn
Shark, Great Hammerhead	436 lb.	14 oz.	07/05/02	Robert J. Garrett
Shark, Nurse	98 lb.	7 oz.	07/03/06	Tony Delatorre
Shark, Scalloped Hammerhead	268 lb.		08/08/98	Warren V. Jones
Shark, Sandbar	125 lb.	8 oz.	12/16/06	Strom Smith
Shark, Spinner	159 lb.	4.80 oz.	06/04/04	Carlton Neal
Shark, Tiger	120 lb.	12.8 oz.	06/22/09	Tanya Rae Mills
Shark (unclass.)	885 lb.		00/00/83	Bruce Bartling
Sharksucker	2 lb.	15.20 oz.	10/03/04	Michael "Buck" Buchanan
Sheepshead	19 lb.	10 oz.	00/00/66	Roy Groue Jr.
Silver Perch		4 oz.	05/18/02	Samantha Goodfellow
Smooth Dogfish	18 lb.	14.4 oz.	06/24/07	Leonard Maiolatesi
Snapper, Dog	15 lb.		07/10/04	Chris Russell
Snapper, Gray	13 lb.	12 oz.	07/03/04	Tom O'Brien
Snapper, Lane	8 lb.	3.2 oz.	08/25/01	Stephen E. Wilson
Snapper, Red	37 lb.	11.2 oz.	08/24/95	John J. Bullock
Snapper, Vermillion	4 lb.	11 oz.	08/25/01	Gary Heffner
Snapper, Yellowtail	6 lb.	0.32 oz.	06/25/08	Tommy O'Brien
Soapfish, Whitespotted		4.48 oz.	07/02/05	Scott Floyd
Spadefish, Atlantic	8 lb.	1.0 oz.	05/15/03	Destin P. O'Brien
Stingray, Southern	158 lb.	1.6 oz.	07/04/07	Rick Grimstead
Swordfish	75 lb.		08/26/07	Lorenzo Owen
Tilefish	10 lb.	3.2 oz.	06/24/07	Brandan Langlinias
Tilefish, Goldface	2 lb.	15 oz.	11/09/07	Leonard Maiolatesi Sr.
Tilefish, Sand	2 lb.	1 oz.	02/08/08	Leonard Maiolatesi
Toadfish, Gulf	2 lb.		02/18/02	Marty Wilson
Toadfish, Leopard	1 lb.	5 oz.	07/02/09	Michael Fournier Jr.
Tomtate		12.96 oz.	05/01/04	Stephen E. Wilson
Tarpon	167 lb.		05/19/01	Dr. Keith Goodfellow
Trigger, Gray	9 lb.	7.33 oz.	08/05/07	Matthew L. Larmore

SPECIES	WEIGHT		DATE	ANGLER
Trigger, Ocean	3 lb.	2.8 oz.	05/16/09	Lee Westmoreland
Trigger, Queen	7 lb.	6.4 oz.	07/21/07	Brandon Bosarge
Tripletail	37 lb.	12 oz.	00/00/72	B. Gibson
Tuna, Blackfin	33 lb.		05/04/00	John Tillman
Tuna, Bluefin	837 lb.	1.6 oz.	06/11/99	Bob Struwe
Tuna, Skipjack	26 lb.	4 oz.	06/21/03	Thomas L. Reynolds III
Tuna, Yellowfin	205 lb.	12.8 oz.	06/09/01	Robert Landingham
Wahoo	111 lb.	3.2 oz.	05/16/98	Jeffery A. Lee

Bonnethead (left)
(*Sphyrna tiburo*)
8 pounds
Ryan Dewayne Smith of Gulfport

Tiger shark (right)
(*Galeocerdo cuvieri*)
120 pounds, 12.8 ounces
Tanya Rae Mills of Biloxi

Mississippi's Official Saltwater Fly-Fishing Tackle Records

SPECIES	WEIGHT		DATE	ANGLER
Amberjack, Greater	26 lb.	7.36 oz.	09/01/09	Doug Borries
Bluefish	2 lb.	10.86 oz.	07/23/08	Doug Borries
Chub, Yellow	4 lb.	4.8 oz.	08/10/08	Rick Lauman
Cobia	41 lb.	13.6 oz.	08/23/03	Thomas L. Herrington
Dolphin	3 lb.	11 oz.	07/04/02	Ivan Strayham
Drum, Black	41 lb.	8 oz.	06/04/05	Matt Carpenter
Drum, Red	32 lb.	8.0 oz.	12/21/03	Stan Gartman
Flounder, Southern	2 lb.	12.8 oz.	10/29/09	Doug Borries
Hind, Rock	1 lb.	5.44 oz.	09/01/09	Doug Borries
Jack, Crevalle	28 lb.	15.36 oz.	07/25/05	Dwayne Armes
Ladyfish	3 lb.	4.32 oz.	08/23/03	Thomas L. Herrington
Little Tunny (Bonito)	12 lb.	0.49 oz.	08/11/07	Jordan Mathews
Lookdown	1 lb.	0.8 oz.	05/22/04	Robert J. Raynor
Mackerel, King	27 lb.	6.4 oz.	08/11/09	Doug Borries
Mackerel, Spanish	5 lb.	1.60 oz.	07/24/04	Dwayne Armes
Mullet, Striped	4 lb.	4.77 oz.	01/19/10	Don Rainey
Pinfish		13.44 oz.	07/15/04	Dwayne Armes
Pompano, Florida	3 lb.	12.8 oz.	10/03/08	Rick Laumen
Remora	2 lb.	13.76 oz.	07/21/09	Dwayne Armes
Runner, Blue	5 lb.	5.6 oz.	08/10/08	Rick Lauman
Runner, Rainbow	5 lb.	9.28 oz.	07/31/03	Dwayne Armes
Seatrout, Sand	1 lb.	0.96 oz.	11/18/07	Doug Borries
Seatrout, Spotted	6 lb.	.8 oz.	05/11/09	Rick Lauman
Shark, Atlantic Sharpnose	10 lb.	6.24 oz.	07/21/09	Dwayne Armes
Shark, Blacktip	55 lb.	0.32 oz.	07/16/09	Doug Borries
Shark, Finetooth	19 lb.	1.92 oz.	07/01/09	Doug Borries
Shark, Spinner	106 lb.	.8 oz.	08/11/09	Doug Borries
Sharksucker	1 lb.	4.64 oz.	06/03/05	Dwayne Armes
Sheepshead	7 lb.	12.00 oz.	02/05/05	Matt Carpenter
Snapper, Gray	5 lb.	12.65 oz.	06/26/08	Doug Borries
Snapper, Lane	1 lb.	8.8 oz.	08/11/09	Doug Borries
Snapper, Red	12 lb.	2.9 oz.	06/02/09	Doug Borries
Snapper, Vermillion	2 lb.	5.12 oz.	09/01/09	Doug Borries
Spadefish, Atlantic	3 lb.	13.3 oz.	06/16/02	Reed Guice
Tripletail	16 lb.	11.84 oz.	08/24/09	Gray Parker
Tuna, Blackfin	9 lb.	14.4 oz.	08/12/02	Nick Curcione
Tuna, Yellowfin	13 lb.	12.96 oz.	09/01/09	Doug Borries

Greater Amberjack
(*Seriola dumerili*)
26 pounds, 7.36 ounces
Doug Borries of Ocean Springs

Out-of-State Travel Activities

Employee	Purpose	Destination	Funding	Cost
Shumate, Tina	Coastal Zone '09	Boston	Federal	$1,608.55
McDonnell, Daniel	Louisiana Food Service Expo	New Orleans	Other	$135.13
Larsen, Grant	Coastal Zone '09 Conference	Boston	Federal	$1,582.55
Chesnut, Sandy	Coastal Zone '09 Conference	Boston	Federal	$1,586.75
Jackson, Irvin	Louisiana Food Service Expo	New Orleans	Other	$684.47
Cuevas, Kerwin	6th Int'l Fisheries Observer Monitoring	Portland, Maine	Other	$762.37
Wakefield, Linda	Louisiana Food Service Expo	New Orleans	Other	$631.29
Price, Rhonda	Coastal Zone '09	Boston	Federal	$1,644.55
Walker, Bill	Ecosystem Based Mgmt Session	Washington, D.C.	Other	$1,488.74
Shumate, Tina	Gulf Of Mexico Alliance	Mobile, Ala.	Federal	$528.28
Price, Rhonda	Gulf Mexico Alliance	Mobile, Ala.	Federal	$583.00
Posadas, Ruth	Agricultural & Applied Economics Assoc.	Milwaukee	Other	$383.00
Floyd, Traci	GEO Shipyard	New Iberia, La.	Other	$139.19
Richardson, Bill	GEO Shipyard	New Iberia, La.	Other	$150.59
Stewart, Darrin	GEO Shipyard	New Iberia, La.	Other	$150.29
Ziegler, Joe	Louisiana Food Service Expo	New Orleans	Other	$434.62
Walker, Bill	Coastal Zone '09 Conference	Boston	Other	$497.93
Diaz, Dale	Great American Seafood Cook Off	New Orleans	Other	$713.97
Walker, Bill	USGS Meeting	Atlanta	Other	$837.88
Brainard, Mike	Int'l Fisheries Observer/Monitoring Conf	Portland, Maine	Other	$819.77
Gordon, Scott	ISSC	Manchester, N.H.	Other	$789.56
Jewell, Joe	ISSC	Manchester, N.H.	Other	$899.81
Posadas, Ruth	ISSC	Manchester, N.H.	Other	$1,507.83
Diaz, Dale	ISSC	Manchester, N.H.	Other	$1,002.98
Diaz, Dale	NOAA State Directors Meeting	San Antonio, Texas	Other	$357.40
Wakefield, Linda	America's Food & Beverage Show	Miami	Other	$1,419.18
Jackson, Irvin	America's Food & Beverage Show	Miami	Other	$1,455.04
Murrell, Christine	Gulf of Mexico Port Samplers Meeting	Panama City	Federal	$318.63
Gollott, Leslie	Mng Federal Grants/Coop. Agreements	San Diego	Federal	$1,534.91
Diaz, Dale	Gulf Council Mtg	Orange Beach, Ala.	Other	$214.23
Walker, Bill	Gov's Action Plan & Integration Wkshop	Mobile, Ala.	Other	$845.30
Ruple, Dave	NERRS Annual Mtg	San Diego	Federal	$1,196.13
Clark, Lauren	Mng Federal Grants/Coop. Agreements	San Diego	Federal	$1,409.91
Price, Rhonda	America's Energy Coast	Baton Rouge, La.	Federal	$240.57
Shumate, Tina	America's Energy Coast	Baton Rouge, La.	Federal	$221.13
Larsen, Grant	America's Energy Coast	Baton Rouge, La.	Federal	$221.13
Clark, Jeff	MS Barrier Islands Multi-Agency Wrkgrp	Mobile, Ala.	Other	$16.00
McIlwain, Jay	Manatee Workshop	Baton Rouge, La.	Federal	$176.54
Walker, Bill	MSCIP Acq. & Restoration/USACOE	Mobile, Ala.	Other	$77.30
Price, Rhonda	Nat'l Boating Access Conf (SOBA)	Corpus Christi, Texas	Federal	$1,484.99
Burris, Rick	GEO Shipyard	New Iberia, La.	Other	$210.67
Richardson, Bill	GEO Shipyard	New Iberia, La.	Other	$209.88
Diaz, Dale	GEO Shipyard	New Iberia, La.	Other	$219.99
Armes, Donnie	America's Food & Beverage Show	Miami	Other	$1,436.92
Pittman, Rusty	America's Food & Beverage Show f	Miami	Other	$1,447.87
Perret, Corky	NOAA State Directors Meeting	San Antonio, Texas	Other	$357.40
Boyd, Jan	Coastal States Organization	Charleston, S.C.	Federal	$1,363.66
Buchanan, Jennifer	NERRS National Annual Mtg	San Diego	Federal	$1,257.00
Walker, Bill	LA Gov's Ofc Staff Mtg-Garret Graves	Baton Rouge, La.	Other	$204.05
Hanisko, Marian	Wetland Plant Identification Class	Lacombe/Slidell, La.	Other	$695.19
Walker, Bill	Coastal America Conference	Blaine, Wash.	Other	$598.90
Walker, Bill	NOAA State Directors Meeting	San Antonio, Texas	Other	$1,321.55
Walker, Bill	EPA Hypoxia Task Force Mtg	Des Moines, Iowa	Other	$1,457.57
Hanisko, Marian	NERRS Annual Mtg	San Diego	Federal	$314.91
Price, Rhonda	Coastal America	Blaine, Wash.	Federal	$1,437.16
Shumate, Tina	America's Energy Coast Policy Forum	Washington, D.C.	Federal	$1,108.04

Employee	Purpose	Destination	Funding	Cost
Price, Rhonda	America's Energy Coast Policy Forum	Washington, D.C.	Federal	$1,108.04
Walker, Bill	Office of Mgmt & Budget Presentation	Washington, D.C.	Other	$1,306.08
Shumate, Tina	Coastal America	Blaine, Wash.	Federal	$1,676.76
Burris, Rick	Grants Mgmt Concepts Training	Phoenix, Ariz.	Federal	$797.12
Ehmen, Brenna	Plant Identification Class	Lacombe, La.	Federal	$414.40
Underwood, Will	Fall Wetland Plant Identification Course	Lacombe, La.	Federal	$608.69
Walker, Bill	Army Corps of Engineers EAB Meeting	Washington, D.C.	Other	$2,586.55
Underwood, Will	'09 NERR Mtg	San Diego	Federal	$1,450.20
Strange, Tom	Wetland Remote Sensing & Mapping	Lafayette, La.	Federal	$368.66
Strange, Tom	Wetland Photo Interpretation	Lafayette, La.	Federal	$301.76
Walker, Bill	Interagency Ocean Policy TF Mtg	New Orleans	Other	$356.70
Walker, Bill	PIANC Mtg	New Orleans	Other	$791.14
Walker, Bill	Senate Subcommittee Mtg	Washington, D.C.	Other	$1,735.30
Ramseur, George	Presc. Fire Workshop	Tallahassee, Fla.	Other	$664.61
Walker, Bill	USACOE Meeting	Mobile, Ala.	Other	$75.65
Ziegler, Joe	America’s Food & Beverage Show	Miami	Other	$1,947.08
Walker, Bill	Sea Level Rise & Inundation Workshop	Leesburg, Va.	Other	$1,107.36
Walker, Bill	Science to Solutions Workshop	Des Moines, Iowa	Other	$736.55
Floyd, Traci	Diamondback Terrapin Workshop	Wilmington, N.C.	Other	$486.36
Richardson, Bill	Diamondback Terrapin Workshop	Wilmington, N.C.	Other	$561.72
Walker, Bill	Regional Governance Mtg	New Orleans	Other	$75.90
Cuevas, Kerwin	Florida Artificial Reef Summit	Cocoa Beach, Fla.	Other	$1,091.18
Perret, Corky	2010 Gulf Oyster Industry Council	Washington, D.C.	Other	$351.20
Walker, Bill	Principals Group	Washington, D.C.	Other	$1,891.09
Diaz, Dale	Annual Walk On The Hill Mtgs	Washington, D.C.	Other	$2,226.71
Duvernay, Rita	Trade Expo	Jackson, Miss.	Other	$142.60
Denyer, Libby	SPB	Jackson, Miss.	Other	$23.23
Ruple, Dave	Gulf Of Mexico Alliance	Mobile, Ala.	Federal	$34.00
Floyd, Traci	2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting	Portland, Oregon	Federal	$1,098.00
Burris, Rick	2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting	Portland, Oregon	Federal	$1,028.73
Daniel, Dorothy	HR Legal Summit	Jackson, Miss.	Other	$9.72
Price, Rhonda	Nat'l Hurricane Conference	Orlando, Fla.	Federal	$1,004.12
Walker, Jake	Black & Yellow Rail Survey Techniques	Lake Jackson, Texas	Federal	$159.60
Shumate, Tina	Sea Level Rise Conference	Corpus Christi, Texas	Federal	$1,323.65
Price, Rhonda	Sea Level Rise Conference	Corpus Christi, Texas	Federal	$1,331.65
Jackson, Irvin	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston	Other	$2,097.86
Wakefield, Linda	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston	Other	$1,818.04
Grote, Paul	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston	Other	$1,841.38
Armes, Donnie	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston	Other	$1,812.44
Clark, Jeff	Coastal States Organization Meetings	Washington, D.C.	Federal	$323.80
Chesnut, Sandy	Ocean & Coastal Program Mgrs Mtg	Washington, D.C.	Federal	$323.80
Boyd, Jan	Ocean & Coastal Program Mgrs Mtg	Washington, D.C.	Federal	$431.30
Rankin, Jessica	Shellfish Plant Sanitation Training	Boston	Other	$1,562.62
Moore, Sandra	SHRM Annual HR Conference	Jackson, Miss.	Other	$18.60
Christodoulou, Greg	Nat'l Mitigation/Ecosystem Banking Conf	Austin, Texas	Federal	$1,115.27
Wittmann, Jennifer	Nat'l Mitigation/Ecosystem Banking Conf	Austin, Texas	Federal	$1,224.85
Walters, Christine	2010 NERR Technician Training Wkshp	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	Federal	$950.13
Cuevas, Kerwin	MS American Fisheries Society Mtg	Vicksburg	Other	$45.00
Buchanan, Mike	MS American Fisheries Society Mtg	Vicksburg	Other	$45.00
Sanders, Jimmy	MS American Fisheries Society Mtg	Vicksburg	Other	$45.00
Hill, Matt	MS American Fisheries Society Mtg	Vicksburg	Other	$45.00
Rankin, Jessica	Sanitation Control Procedures Training	Baton Rouge, La.	Other	$204.80
Walker, Bill	USACE Environmental Advisory Board	Mobile, Ala.	Other	$1,521.84
Shumate, Tina	Minerals Mgt Mtg-States CIAP Issues	Washington, D.C.	Federal	$1,096.80
Ruple, Dave	NOAA Environmental Science Cntr Mtg	Jacksonville, Fla.	Federal	$767.77
Ruple, Dave	NOAA Funded Mtg on Coastal Issues	----	Federal	$337.30
Diaz, Dale	Gulf Council Meeting	Mobile, Ala.	Other	$25.68
Walker, Bill	Sea Level Rise Conference	Corpus Christi, Texas	Other	$1,909.41

Employee	Purpose	Destination	Funding	Cost
Walker, Bill	EPA Hypoxia TF Mtg/Congress Visits	Washington, D.C.	Other	$2,413.04
Price, Rhonda	USFWS Coordinator Mtg	Jackson, Miss.	Federal	$99.00
Armes, Donnie	GSMF Annual Spring Mtg	Orange Beach, Ala.	Federal	$239.50
Chataginer, Walter	GSMF Annual Spring Mtg	Orange Beach, Ala.	Other	$413.30
Jewell, Joe	ISSC Vibrio Mgmt Conference Mtg	Denver	Other	$241.50
Stadler, Teresa	NOAA Financial Assistance Workshop	Silver Spring, Md.	Federal	$1,019.43
Walker, Bill	Mtg: Coop. Events Between MS&LA	New Orleans	Other	$68.40
Shumate, Tina	Mtg w/MS & Other States	Washington, D.C.	Federal	$1,161.11
Gunter, Olin	Gulf States Marine Fisheries	Orange Beach, Ala.	Federal	$232.50
Diaz, Dale	Gulf States Marine Fisheries	Orange Beach, Ala.	Other	$165.33
Pugh, Kristin	Gulf of Mexico Sea Level Rise	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Federal	$731.80
Price, Rhonda	Gulf of Mexico Sea Level Rise	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Federal	$1,529.78
Shumate, Tina	Gulf of Mexico Sea Level Rise	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Federal	$1,723.62
Price, Rhonda	ACT Meeting	Pensacola, Fla.	Federal	$239.98
Cuevas, Kerwin	Gulf States Marine Fisheries	Orange Beach, Ala.	Other	$241.63
Shumate, Tina	ACT Meeting	Pensacola, Fla.	Federal	$244.98
Richardson, Bill	Gulf States Marine Fisheries	Orange Beach, Ala.	Other	$353.10
Floyd, Traci	Gulf States Marine Fisheries	Orange Beach, Ala.	Other	$384.61
Walker, Bill	Packard Foundation Mtg	New Orleans	Other	$372.51
Cuevas, Kerwin	GOMA-Decomm./Abandonment Summit	Houston, Texas	Other	$1,216.47
Perkins, Susan	GOMA Meeting	St Petersburg, Fla.	Federal	$974.04
Walker, Bill	Environmental Advisory Board	Alexandria, Va.	Other	$1,291.92
Vesa, Kara	2010 Financial Assistance Workshop	Silver Spring, Md.	Federal	$1,072.85
Jackson, Irvin	American Food Fair - NRA Show	Chicago	Other	$2,171.42
Wakefield, Linda	American Food Fair - NRA Show	Chicago	Other	$2,113.44
Armed, Donnie	American Food Fair - NRA Show	Chicago	Other	$2,165.56
Pittman, Rusty	American Food Fair - NRA Show	Chicago	Other	$324.30
Dollar, David J.	---	St Petersburg, Fla.	Other	$165.41
Gunter, Olin	NOAA Meeting	Miami	Federal	$571.80
Walker, Bill	CSO/NOAA Meeting	Washington, D.C.	Other	$821.16
Shumate, Tina	America's Energy Coast	Galveston, Texas	Federal	$751.90
Diaz, Dale	Gulf Council Mtg	Galveston, Texas	Other	$234.60
Chesnut, Sandy	Gunn & Harris vs. MS SOS	Baton Rouge, La.	Federal	$54.00
Price, Rhonda	Governors Hurricane Conference	Ft Lauderdale, Fla.	Federal	$1,407.86
Diaz, Dale	State & Federal Meeting	New Orleans	Other	$215.78
Grote, Paul	American Food Fair - NRA Show	Chicago	Other	$3,143.07
Ranew, Rick	My Coast School Presentation	Alexandria, La.	Other	$185.73
Ray, Rebekah	Society Of Wetland Scientists Mtg	Salt Lake City, Utah	Federal	$1,527.00
Jackson, Irvin	SW Food Service Expo	Houston, Texas	Other	$1,400.00
Wakefield, Linda	SW Food Service Expo	Houston, Texas	Other	$1,400.00
Wittmann, Jennifer	IRT Meetings	Mobile, Ala.	Federal	$10.00
Ramseur, George	FEMA/Coast Guard @ Sector Mobile	Baton Rouge, La.	Federal	$485.91
Jewell, Joe	State of the Coast Conference	Baton Rouge, La.	Other	$376.62
Shumate, Tina	Climate Change Workshop	Jackson, Miss.	Federal	$15.95
Huisman, Avia	GOMA CTP - Living Shorelines Wkshop	Pensacola, Fla.	Federal	$214.14

Total Out of State Travel Cost $128,936.84

Mississippi
Department of Marine Resources

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