



# Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

2011 Comprehensive Annual Report  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2011

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**Mississippi  
Department of Marine Resources**

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## **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 2011  
July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011**

**Executive Director  
Dr. William W. Walker**

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

*Fiscal Year 2011 Comprehensive Annual Report prepared by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Office of the Executive Director, with contributions from staff.*

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### **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**

DECEMBER 20, 2011

Dear Governor Barbour and Members of the Legislature:

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Department of Marine Resources' programs focused on the wise stewardship of Mississippi's valuable coastal and marine resources. Because of your support, our marine resources, except for oysters, are strong and healthy.

The last several years have presented both challenges and opportunities to Coastal Mississippi and our marine resources. Hurricane Katrina completely destroyed our offshore artificial reefs and our oyster resource, and significantly damaged habitat critical to our shrimp, crab and finfish populations. Then, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill caused significant damage to our marine resources, some of which may not be fully realized for years. And, just when our oysters had fully recovered from Katrina, the Mississippi River flood completely decimated them again.

However, such adversity often breeds opportunity, and that is clearly the case here. Katrina essentially wiped Coastal Mississippi clean, giving us the opportunity to step back and ask, "How do we want Coastal Mississippi to look and function 25 years from now, and what do we have to do tomorrow, next week, and next year to ensure that our vision of today becomes the reality of the future?" Coastal Mississippians, from elected officials to the public at large, responded, working together to put together a plan for a stronger, smarter and more resilient future Coastal Mississippi than what we were prior to Katrina, and restoration and rebuilding efforts currently under way reflect that vision.

The oil spill and flood presented similar opportunities. Opportunities to partner and collaborate to better prepare ourselves for future threats and assaults. As a Team, we will continue to restore and revitalize Coastal Mississippi and its barrier islands, coastal wetlands, and estuarine environments, to increase consumer confidence in our seafood and resources, and to ensure a viable, sustainable economy that is so vital to our entire state.

We are now, as we have always been, committed to our mission of protecting, conserving and enhancing the Marine Resources of Mississippi, and with your continued help, we will continue to manage our marine resources today for a sound tomorrow.

Respectfully,

Dr. William W. Walker, Executive Director  
 Department of Marine Resources  
 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, Mississippi 39530 • (228) 374-5000



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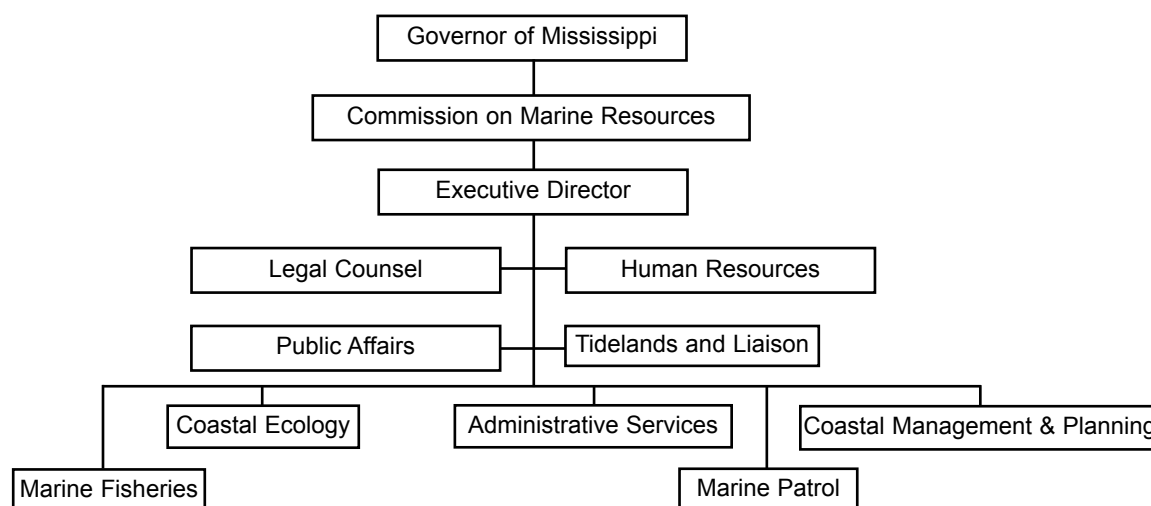


## Organizational Structure

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' (MDMR) organizational structure is based on the legislative mandates assigned to the Commission and Department. In FY2011, 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 MDMR by the Governor's Office.

The Mississippi 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 FY2011, 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 Marine Fisheries Office 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 Marine Fisheries Office 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 Marine Fisheries Office 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.
- Deepwater 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:**

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.



## **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: ongoing collection of tissue samples to assure public of seafood safety. All samples were collected in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.



**MDMR Fisheries Scientist Wesley Devers measures a red drum for the Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring program.**



## **Marine Commercial Fisheries Statistics**

### **Coordinator: Christine Murrell**

#### **Objectives:**

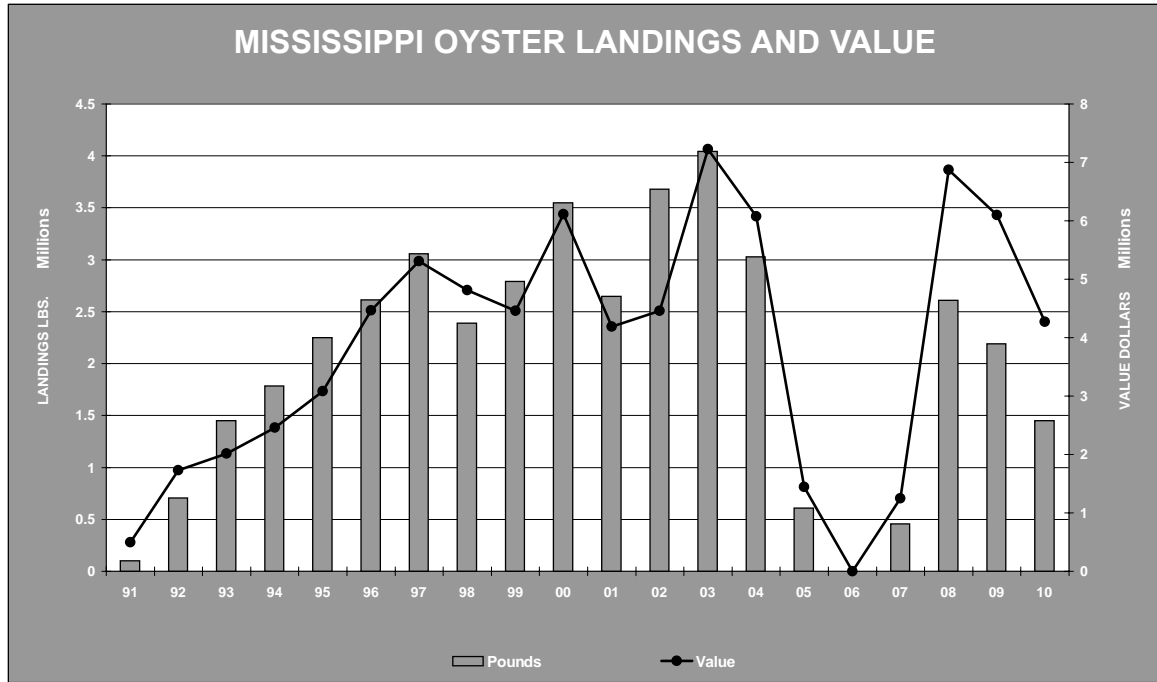
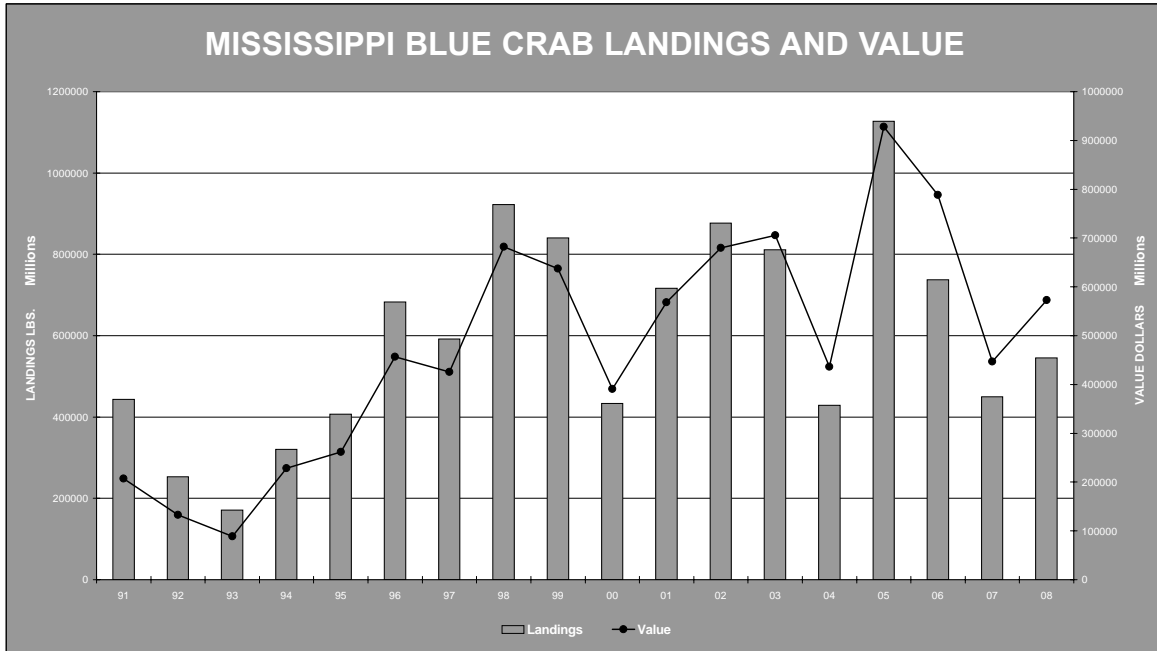
- Collect commercial fisheries landings and catch data for Mississippi in a timely manner.
- Collect biological data for selected commercially important finfish species.
- Obtain boat trip information and biological statistics on migratory pelagic and reef fish such as red snapper, grouper and amberjack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

#### **Status:**

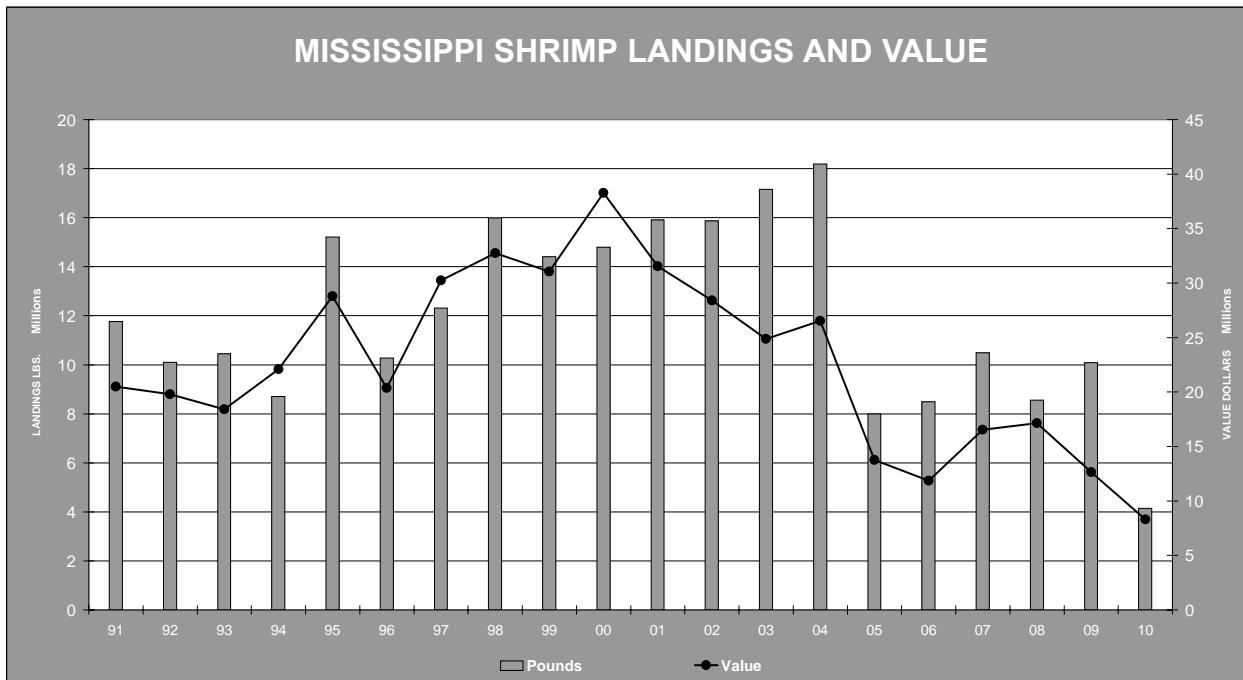
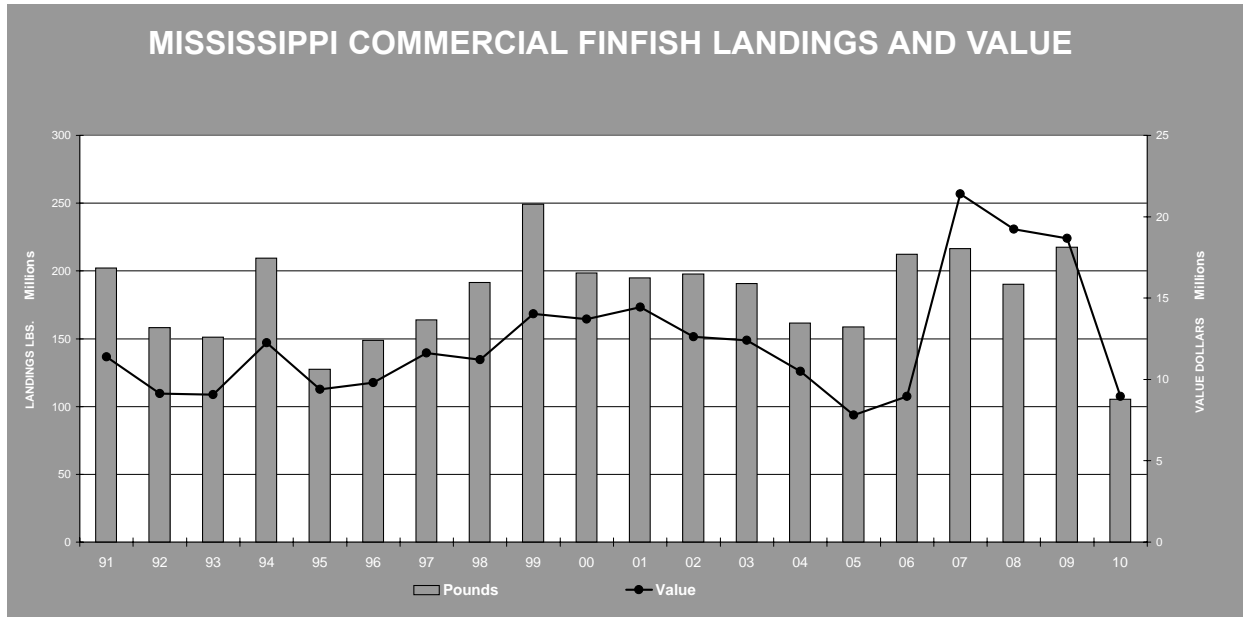
- Fisheries landings data were collected weekly and monthly according to schedule. The data were processed, edited and submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in accordance with established data handling procedures. Fisheries landings data is an important part of the fisheries management 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.



**MDMR Fisheries Scientist Christine Murrell collects commercial landings information at a local seafood retailer.**









**MDMR Fisheries Scientist Erick Porche removes fish from a gillnet during an interjurisdictional sample trip.**



## **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 MDMR 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 three 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 10 deployments—nine deployments of concrete culverts (approximately 900 culverts) and one deployment of a steel-hull vessel.
- 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 two to three 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 MDMR 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.



**On March 11, 2011, concrete culverts were deployed on Fish Haven 13, which is located 23 miles south of Pascagoula.**



## ***Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)***

### ***Coordinator: Michael Buchanan***

#### **Objectives:**

- Conduct the MRFSS 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 2,000 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. The GSMFC uses this information to obtain more precise effort estimates for the charter and head boat sectors.



**MDMR Fisheries Scientist Brittany Chudzik conducts a recreational fishing survey with a local angler at the Ocean Springs Harbor.**



## ***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 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 cobia were studied utilizing angler tagged and released cobia in the Gulf of Mexico. There were 178 tagged and 14 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.
- A public workshop was held in November and was attended by 75 members of the public.





## **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 2010 culture season started with 1,000,000 Gulf Race Striped Bass fry, which were stocked in the Spring of 2010 into eight half-acre ponds at the Lyman Fish Hatchery. The fish remained in the ponds until they attained a minimum size exceeding 25mm at which time they were harvested. Approximately 70,000 of the phase I fingerlings were returned to Florida as compensation for supplying the fry and 47,000 were restocked into rearing ponds at Lyman for phase II culture. The remaining 166,000 fish were stocked into our coastal rivers. The phase II fingerlings grew rapidly in spite of pond water temperatures in excess of 30 C. Phase II fingerlings remained in the ponds until late October or early November. They were harvested and 20,000 tagged with T-Bar anchor tags. Sonic tags were also surgically implanted in five select fingerlings to facilitate tracking, which is part of the continuing effort to restore the striped bass population.

# STRIPERS

IN SOUTH MISSISSIPPI



**PLEASE REPORT**

Help restore the coastal striped bass population. Please **REPORT ALL STRIPED BASS** caught. Contact the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory at:

Phone: **228.872.4610**  
Email: [larry.nicholson@usm.edu](mailto:larry.nicholson@usm.edu)  
or mail to:

**WE NEED YOUR HELP...**  
Restoring Striped Bass



**GULF COAST RESEARCH LABORATORY**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
**GCRL Striped Bass Program**  
3600 Gollott Road • Ocean Springs, MS 39564

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



## ***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.

### **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. One hundred and ninety-four (194) 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 forty-three (143) were captured in this study.
- Shark sampling is ongoing. Four hundred and eighty-three (483) sharks and 30 rays of various species were captured and 193 were tagged; four recaptures have been reported.



Photo courtesy of Doug Olander

**Doug Olander gets ready to release a tagged tripletail into Mississippi waters.**



Photo courtesy of Brian Keil

**Brian Keil catches a tagged cobia in Mississippi waters.**

## **Shellfish Program**

### **Coordinator: Scott Gordon**

The Shellfish Program of MDMR 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 2010-2011 commercial oyster season began Nov. 8, 2010, and ended April 30, 2011. A total of 5,064 boat trips harvested 41,253 sacks of oysters.
- Fall 2010 Cultch Plant — Was postponed due to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The spring oyster shell plant began April 19 and closed April 29 due to the opening of the Bonnet Carre' spillway. A total of 17,606 yards of oyster shells were spread over 175 acres.
- Conferences — Participated in the Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference on shellfish issues in Tallahassee, Fla. Participated in the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Oyster Technical Task Force meeting in Galveston, Texas. Presented at the International Shellfish Restoration Conference in Charleston; Natural Resource Disaster Assessment, Louisiana Oyster Industry Convention and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance in New Orleans. Staff also completed Phytoplankton Monitoring Network training at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Lab in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.
- Conducted square-meter dive sampling and resource assessments on major area reefs.
- Gathered data for growing-area sanitary survey for all areas.
- Collected 1,621 fecal coliform water samples and from area shellfish growing waters.

The Shellfish Bureau staff collect two phytoplankton samples twice per month. The first sample location is the northern most point of the Pass Christian Oyster Reef and the second sample is located at the southernmost perimeter of the reef. The plankton tow is three minutes using a 20 micron mesh plankton net. Environmental water quality data is recorded during each sample trip including: air and water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity. Sample analysis is conducted in house. Qualitative analysis is recorded. In the event of a bloom, quantitative analysis will be conducted to determine possible toxicity levels. Personnel investigate possible toxic blooms reported by credible sources primarily adjacent state agencies, federal agencies, local health agencies, and academic institutions.

The Natural Resource Disaster Assessment team has partnered with MDEQ, NOAA, MDMR and BP contractors to use established scientific techniques to assess possible damage to the oyster resource from the oil spill. A seventy-page draft of sampling protocols was developed as a result of tri-weekly teleconferences and daily end-of-the-day meetings with representatives from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. This plan was used to identify areas of concern from the oil spill and to determine possible long-term damage to the oyster reefs. The various components include larvae, sediment, water quality, disease, and condition index and tissue samples. Qualitative, quantitative, and mortality data is also enumerated. Currently these protocols are being utilized and sampling will continue.

The Research Vessel (R/V) *Reef Keeper* and R/V *Stewardship* continue to sample the NRDA sites, collect Interjurisdictional samples and began the 60-site intensive reef analysis. The mission of these trips was to determine the condition and present status of the oyster reefs. Staff is also collecting oyster tissues samples for the seafood safety program with MDEQ.

### **In Progress:**

- The shellfish staff received bids during the summer for deploying oyster cultch material for the Fall 2011 cultch plants, which began Aug. 2, 2011.
- Mississippi Coastal Drainage Basin Meteorological Monitoring Stations provide continuous meteorological data on precipitation, temperature, wind speed and direction, solar radiation and atmospheric pressure. Shellfish Program staff met with representatives of the MDEQ 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.
- MDMR personnel are monitoring and assessing the recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast oyster resources.
- Surveyed, mapped and marked public reefs and potential cultivation and cultch planting sites. The MDMR discussed potential areas to plant cultch material with various stakeholders, including harvesters. MDMR staff on the R/V *Conservationist* and R/V *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. MDMR staff submitted paperwork for the Army Corps of Engineers' nationwide permit for the cultch plants. PVC poles were placed on the areas where MDMR 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 Program 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.
- The Shellfish Program will cultivate oyster reefs using the R/V *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.



Technicians from the Shellfish Program check the condition of oysters.





## ***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 Program 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 Program 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 Center, as well as neighboring state marine resource management agencies.

#### **Status:**

- Monitoring of shrimp populations provides data on shrimp growth and survival allowing the program to make well-informed management assessments. Approximately 330 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 and the opening of the 2011 Bonnet Carré Spillway. The data collection program includes monitoring surface and bottom hydrological parameters (i.e., salinity, temperature and dissolved oxygen) at each trawling station. The effects of the Bonnet Carré Spillway opening (from May 9 to June 20) to Mississippi's blue crab fishery are currently being analyzed in order to determine if the decrease in landings will be considered a federal fisheries injury or disaster.
- A toll-free Mississippi Shrimp Information Hotline is set up at 1-866-WE TRAWL (1-866-938-7295) to provide 24-hour access to season/area openings and closures. Over 1000 calls have been received since its inception.
- The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources (CMR) passed a new trawl door size regulation for Mississippi territorial waters, which took effect on May 20, 2011. The previous

6 feet by 34 inches maximum trawl door requirement was increased to 8 feet by 43 inches, which is consistent with Louisiana requirements. This new regulation allows fishermen to cross state lines without changing doors.

- A newsletter entitled “Shrimping the Sound” was sent to all fishermen who purchased a commercial 2010-2011 shrimp license. The second edition of the newsletter contained information on the 2011 shrimp sampling, MDMR’s response to increased sea turtle mortalities, Seafood Safety Update, changes in trawl door size requirements, the Gulf Safe Seafood Marketing Program and trade adjustment assistance through Sea Grant/MSU Extension Service.
- Inspection of live-bait shrimp dealers, as well as licensing and reporting of 15 facilities, 17 live-bait vessels and nine 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.
- Continued the MDMR Multi-Agency Seminar Series to enhance familiarity between interested groups and increase awareness and opportunities related to Mississippi marine research. This year’s seminar, “Mississippi Living Shorelines,” was 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 MDMR Web site ([dmr.ms.gov](http://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 MDMR. Forty-one Special Permits were issued over the past year.
- Coordination of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Grants. Current studies include MDMR 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 Program in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Program 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 turtles in the Mississippi Sound 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 program was able to secure TEDs (Turtle Excluder Devices) for installation in Mississippi skimmer shrimp trawls. A total of 364 TEDs were distributed to fishermen over the course of FY2011. The MDMR, in conjunction with local NOAA fisheries personnel, held three training sessions on how to properly install TED's into skimmer nets with 45 fishermen attending these events, which also included directions on how to handle fisheries interactions with sea turtles. Staff was on-board several Mississippi shrimp vessels to observe and record any interactions with sea turtles during each trip. So far, 31 trips have been taken, with only four interactions with sea turtles, all four were released unharmed. Shrimp and Crab personnel have been involved with eight aerial surveys of fishing effort in the Mississippi Sound and adjacent waters.
- The Shrimp and Crab Program Director was embedded in the Mobile, Alabama Deepwater Horizon Incident Command Center representing the agency and protecting Mississippi's marine resources through the Environmental Planning sector. Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill response consisted of bi-weekly and monthly shrimp and crab tissue sampling by county as well as weekly aerial reconnaissance and sentinel water sampling as oil entered the Mississippi sound. Staff coordinated response sampling with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Mississippi National Guard, Mississippi State University, the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA, EPA, and BP. 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. Once eligible for reopening by EPA, NOAA, FDA standards, 17 crab and 22 shrimp tissues samples were taken according to protocol. Reopening tissue samples were sensory tested by NOAA's Pascagoula, Mississippi, Laboratory and were chemically tested by an FDA Laboratory in Maryland. All of the Mississippi samples passed both the sensory and the chemical screening.
- Issued the MDMR Seafood Safety Newsletter in response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in order to get the results out to the public and ensure them that Mississippi seafood is safe for consumption. Copies of the newsletter were mailed to all commercial fishermen. The Shrimp and Crab Program continues to update the on-going sampling efforts and results through the MDMR's Web site on a monthly basis.

The Shrimp and Crab Program 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 available. 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 Program 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.



**Shrimp and Crab Program Director Traci Floyd joins the U.S. Coast Guard on environmental monitoring flights over the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster site.**



**Shrimp and Crab Program Fisheries Scientist Rick Burris works up blue crab tissue for seafood safety testing.**



**Shrimp and Crab Program Projects Officer Darrin Stewart, left, and Fisheries Technician Rudy Balius conduct trawling for seafood safety testing samples.**



**Shrimp and Crab Program Fisheries Scientist Bill Richardson proudly displays fresh, natural and delicious wild-caught "Gulf Safe" shrimp at the 2011 Great Mississippi Seafood Cook-off in Biloxi.**

## ***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 5,831. Examples are as follows:

- Provided technical assistance to oyster dealers, crab and shrimp processors processors in the implementation of the new Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Plans and the new US-FDA bi-annual evaluations and inspections of their facilities due to the public request of more inspections due to the oil spill.

- Provided seafood processors with a copy of the new changes in the Model Ordinance that were adopted during the 2009 Biennial Conference of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference's National Shellfish Sanitation Program (ISSC/NSSP) published in 2010.
- Distributed seafood safety packets and *Vibrio* education materials, pamphlets, brochures and other educational materials on post-harvest processing of oysters and seafood safety to the Mississippi seafood industry and to the community as part of the Public Outreach Program on Seafood Safety during festivals, fairs, conferences, seminars, workshops and field days of some schools in the three coastal counties, and Hattiesburg.
- Hosted Gulf States' Director's meeting to talk about *Vibrio* management plans that was implemented in 2011 with other Gulf States as mandated by the ISSC and agreed upon by the FDA.
- Participated in the *Vibrio* Management Plan meetings and conference calls with other stakeholders of the seafood industry.
- Conducted 17 public outreach events from July 2010 through June 2011. Acquired new equipment for public outreach purposes, which included a new trailer purchased to carry more materials and supplies from the office to venues.
- Participated in 10 foodborne case investigations on *Vibrio cholera*, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, *Vibrio vulnificus* and *Norovirus* cases associated eating seafood.
- Implemented the ISSC adapted NSSP articles on Foodborne Illness Outbreak due to *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. Implemented control strategies approved by the ISSC 2007 Biennial Conference on recall procedures.
- Conducted 126 technical assistance visits in 29 counties; 400 regulatory quarterly inspections; follow-up inspections and water quality sampling of sources of processing water for seafood operations. Ongoing assistance to the newly recertified seafood dealers and processors.
- Sent semiannual mail-outs to certified Mississippi seafood dealers about industry concerns and food safety, including updated 2009 ISSC Model Ordinance, and other educational materials and fact sheets (33 certified seafood dealers).
- Assisted old and new seafood dealers in the certification and permitting of operations.
- Tested available imported commercial seafood species from retail markets in the three coastal counties of Mississippi for the five pathogens that can cause foodborne illnesses in people. They are: *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Escherichia coli*, *Vibrio* species, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*. The project was funded by EDRP II.
- Received three printed publications from the collaborative survey work done with Mississippi State University:
  - Economic Damages of Hurricane Gustav to Seafood Processors and Dealers, Marinas, and Livebait Dealers in Coastal Mississippi.

- Consumer Preferences for Postharvest Processed Raw Oyster Products in Coastal Mississippi.
- Consumer Preferences for Postharvest Processed Raw Oyster Products in Southern California.

<b>Types of Seafood Facilities Permitted</b>	<b>Number</b>
Shrimp .....	17
Crab .....	9
Oyster .....	22

**Total number of seafood sanitation/processing permits: . . . 48\***

\*These 48 permits represent 510 inspected seafood units.



**The Seafood Safety Technology Program holds meetings that 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.**





## **Coastal Ecology Office**

### **Office Director: Jan Boyd**

#### **Objectives:**

Implementation of the Mississippi Coastal Program is the primary responsibility of the Coastal Ecology Office. 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 MDMR for marine resource management and protection.
- Provides technical assistance to other MDMR 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 MDMR 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 Program.

One of the agency's conservation efforts, the Coastal Preserves Program, involves acquiring, protecting and enhancing tidal wetlands along the coast. The Grand Bay NERR 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 2011, the Coastal Ecology Office co-sponsored the annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference.



## **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 Administration's (NOAA) Federal Consistency Guidelines in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Under the regulatory program, MDMR 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 an MDMR 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:**

Program staff members attended several training courses, workshops, and conferences throughout the year, including Wetland Plant Identification, the Bays and Bayous Symposium, the National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference, the Coastal Development Strategies Conference held by MDMR's Office of Coastal Management and Planning, a workshop on submerged aquatic vegetation, the Association of State Wetland Managers Annual Meeting, a federal consistency workshop, the International Submerged Lands Management Conference webinar series, a photo geo-tagging workshop, an environmental law forum, and Public Issues and Conflict Management.

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.

Program staff also continues to conduct pre-application meetings. These meetings afford a chance for prospective applicants to sit down with representatives from MDMR 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 65 of these pre-application meetings.

Several members of the staff participated as science fair judges at local schools and we continue to make an effort to assist other programs and offices at MDMR in the overall mission of protecting our coastal habitats and resources, including the Deer Island Restoration Project and the Beneficial Use Group.

**Permits issued:**

Consistencies .....	46
Consistency Modifications.....	7
Direct Federal Consistencies .....	21
Direct Federal Consistency Modifications .....	5
Emergency Orders .....	7
Exclusions .....	14
Exclusion Modifications .....	3
Exclusion Extension .....	2
General Permits .....	224
General Permit Modifications .....	51
General Permit Extensions .....	12
General Permit After-the-fact .....	6
Permits .....	15
Permit Modifications .....	9
Permit Extensions .....	4
Waivers .....	49
Waiver Modifications .....	3



Waiver Extension .....	5
Reviews .....	165
NWP Reviews .....	17
Violations .....	90
<b>Total:.....</b>	<b>755</b>



**Jeremy Overstreet with MDMR's Permitting Program places flags for a bulkhead location.**





## **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:**

The focus of the CPP 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.

The CPP continues to pursue an aggressive program to map and treat all areas infested with invasive species. With funding through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) staff used boats and airplanes to search over 1601 river miles for the presence of aquatic invasive species. AIS staff have managed to keep *Salvinia molesta* (giant salvinia) populations along the lower Pascagoula River under control since 2005. Through invasive species outreach activities, AIS staff has received several calls reporting the presence of invasive species. AIS staff reports these sighting to the USGS Non-indigenous Aquatic Species website, which is a central repository for spatially referenced biogeographic accounts of non-indigenous aquatic species in the USA. With funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program, CPP treated 304 acres of coastal forest infested with *Triadaca sebifera* (Chinese tallow trees; also known as popcorn trees) in the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve. Chinese tallow tree is one of CPP's top two terrestrial invasive plants; *Imperata cylindrica* (cogon grass) is the other. These 304 acres were estimated to contain approximately 60,000 tallow trees and were quickly becoming a virtual monoculture. Clearcast herbicide was applied in the late summer of 2010 by helicopter. Initial data collection indicates a kill rate of 97percent on the tallow trees with no significant mortality among native species. The CPP will continue to monitor this area, but these preliminary results show great promise in the program being able to manage tallow tree infestations in remote, inaccessible and sensitive areas. In addition, 4064 Chinese tallow trees were hand sprayed with herbicide on two other preserve sites totaling just 25 acres.

In 2011, most of CPP's habitat restoration activities were again focused on the Deer Island Coastal Preserve. The CPP worked closely with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), Mobile

District, in the development of several Mississippi Coastal Improvement Program (MSCIP) coastal restoration projects. Two of these projects, which began construction in fall 2010, are the restoration of the west end of Deer Island and a beach renourishment project along the south side of the island. The west end project will restore around 88 acres of beach, dune and maritime forest habitat. The south side beach renourishment will restore about a 101 acres of beach and dune habitats. In addition, the south side project created a 98 acre lagoon between the newly pumped material and the island, which will ultimately be restored to tidal marsh. The sand pumping part of these projects was completed in late spring 2011. Planting of native species (300,000 plants) will begin on the west end project in October 2011 and will be completed by early 2012. The CPP and the ACE also repaired the breach on the Deer Island Marsh Restoration Project located on the northeast end of the island. Another MSCIP project completed in 2011 is the restoration of 15 acres of tidal marsh habitat near the entrance to Bayou Caddy. The CPP worked with MDMR 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 Project using recycled oyster shells in wire mesh bags. The CPP and Marine Fisheries have applied for additional funding to extend this oyster breakwater another 1000 feet. The 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.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission and the CPP successfully conducted three prescribed burns totaling 400 acres on the Dantzier Unit of the Pascagoula River Coastal Preserve, south of I-10 and north of Hwy 90. The main objective of these controlled burns was to reduce the heavy fuel loads present on these public lands that are immediately adjacent to densely populated areas (urban-wildland interface). Additionally, these prescribed fires help to control Chinese tallow tree infestations and to aid in overall habitat restoration efforts for this site.

The CPP Staff continues to develop and lead the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Group (BUG). The BUG is designed to be pro-active 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 to repair Katrina damage to the Deer Island Marsh Restoration Project (DIMRP). There are currently four dredging projects in advanced planning or permitting stages that intend to place their dredged material in the current DIMRP. The BUG staff is also working on getting additional sites permitted for dredge material placement. In December of 2010, public meetings were held in each on Mississippi's three coastal counties in order to update the catalog of volumes, types and locations of dredge materials. Research is ongoing regarding material delivery/handling as well as innovative methods and strategies for protecting beneficially placed dredged material.

Although thousands of tons of storm debris have been removed from the Coastal Preserves sites since Hurricane Katrina, large amounts of debris remain in some areas and requires additional cleanup activities and resources. On April 21, 2011, volunteers from MDMR, Mississippi Power and the local casinos gathered for an Earth Day cleanup on the Deer Island Coastal Preserve. About 1.6 tons of mostly large items such as refrigerators, ice chests, and construction foam were removed from the island. On April 29-30, 2011, another clean-up event was held at the Heron Bay Unit. A partnership between the CPP, Mississippi Powers' Renew our Rivers Program and the Mississippi Wildlife Federations' Habitat Stewards Program removed approximately 13 tons of man-made debris from the site. Volunteers from the Gulfport Naval Construction Battalion Center worked April 29 and volunteers from the NWF Habitat Stewards Program participated on April 30. Additionally, volunteers assisted with removal of



invasive Chinese tallow trees, as well as, planting native marsh grasses. These grasses were planted in areas that had been damaged by several years of heavy debris lying on the marsh surface. AIS staff has begun mapping marine debris (mostly leftover debris from Katrina) along the coastal waterways. During their surveys in 2011, 41 sites with marine debris (including 22 derelict vessels) were identified, photographed and mapped.

Coastal Preserves outreach activities include presentations to the Coastal Roots Program, National Wildlife Federation's Habitat Stewards Program, Mississippi State University's Community Restoration Program, MDEQ Basin Team meetings—for Pascagoula, Coastal Streams, and Lower Pearl River—and at a Living Shorelines workshop. CPP staff also guided four field trips of biology students from Pearl River Community College. Staff provided a display and educational materials on coastal habitats, restoration, and flora and fauna at Capital Day in Jackson, Mississippi to help educate state legislators about the functions of the MDMR. Other outreach activities include co-sponsoring with the Grand Bay NERR a wetland plant identification workshop. The CPP continues to work with the Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership on the development of a Deer Island Blueway and other coastal public access projects with the Junior Trails Committee. The walking bridge at the Hellmer's Lane Unit of the Davis Bayou Coastal Preserve that was destroyed by Katrina was reconstructed by college engineering students, which opens the site up to public access once again. Invasive species outreach activities in 2011 included a flyer for *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* (silver carp). AIS staff also distributed information on invasive species and marine debris at the annual Earth Day cleanup of Deer Island. Forty-four "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" signs were distributed to boat ramps and marinas in the coastal area. Five hundred "Invasive Lionfish – Report All Sightings With Location" decals were printed and distributed to fishermen, dive shops and charter boat captains to help increase awareness of this potential new invasive species. Invasive species information was added to MDMR's Web page at <http://www.dmr.ms.gov/misc/invasives/> and an email address, [report.invasive@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:report.invasive@dmr.ms.gov), was created to facilitate invasive species reporting by the public.

The CPP staff served on the Mississippi Coastal Improvement Program (MSCIP) Team, the state's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (NOAA program), 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. The CPP staff also served on the Integrated Natural Resource Management Planning Team for Stennis Space Center and the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion Center (Seabees) in Gulfport. The CPP staff worked with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and the Coastal Bird Conservation Program on shorebird surveys; with the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on marsh bird surveys; with Mississippi State University landscape architects on a Deer Island tree planting project; with a University of South Alabama researcher on monitoring of the Deer Island Marsh Restoration Project; and with a Master Naturalist group to plant vegetation on the newly restored Deer Island West End Breach Project.

The CPP also partnered with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Mississippi Wildlife Federation, Natural Capital Development and local conservation partners, including the Mississippi Sandhill Crane and Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuges and the Land Trust for Mississippi Coastal Plain, to kick off the Habitat Stewards Program in Coastal Mississippi. The two-year pilot project is a natural outgrowth of the NWF's initial response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Small groups of volunteers serve as local "friends" groups on specific tracts of conservation land along the Mississippi Coast. Volunteer habitat stewards are trained and

supported as they conduct various services, such as clearing and monitoring trail conditions, cleaning up litter and ensuring safe conditions for visitors, observing wildlife, documenting human use of public lands and treating and monitoring invasive species. Thus, volunteer habitat stewards will enhance wildlife habitat and help improve people's connection with important conservation areas and nature.

During 2011, the program acquired seven tracts of land totaling 477 acres. Total acreage as of June 30, 2011, is 36,331 acres of state-owned lands managed by the CPP. 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 more than 64 percent of the 72,000 acres proposed for acquisition in the original 20 coastal preserves.



**Mississippi Forestry Commission personnel is conducting a prescribed burn in the Pascagoula River Coastal Preserve. A total of 400 acres were burned over several days.**

## **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 stateline. The site includes a variety of wetland types, including tidal estuary and non-tidal wetlands that encompass 18,500-acres. The NERR supports a high diverse community of plants and animals and includes one of the largest estuarine systems along the Mississippi Coast. The MDMR 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. 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 NERR provides a powerful tool for the MDMR 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 NERR 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 MDMR 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 mission of the Grand Bay NERR 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.
- Address local issues relating to habitat protection, climate change and water quality.

**Status:**

- Continued collaborating research with the Environmental Cooperative Science Center through Jackson State University and Florida A & M University.
- Utilizing and maintaining the 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 Stormwater/Rainwater Management Workshop, Public Issues and Conflict Management, Communicate with Water Words That Work, GIS Tools for Strategic Conservation Planning, Coupled Ecological-Societal Systems Modeling Workshop.
- Hosted nationally renowned botanist Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock to teach a class on wetland vegetation.
- Co-sponsor of 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 NERR.
- Initiated a project to evaluate 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.



- Atmospheric mercury monitoring project with NOAA and MDEQ, including intensive monitoring effort this summer, which involved 25 scientists and additional monitoring from airplanes and weather balloons.
- Collaborates with scientists from across the country on approximately 50 research projects at the reserve focusing on coastal management issues.
- Continued coordinating with MDMR and MDEQ in relation to Deepwater Horizon incident, at NERR and throughout Jackson County.



**Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve scientists, Will Underwood and Gretchen Grammer, collect water samples at the reserve.**



**Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve scientist Tom Strange uses survey equipment to measure erosion rates at the reserve.**





## **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 Mississippi 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.

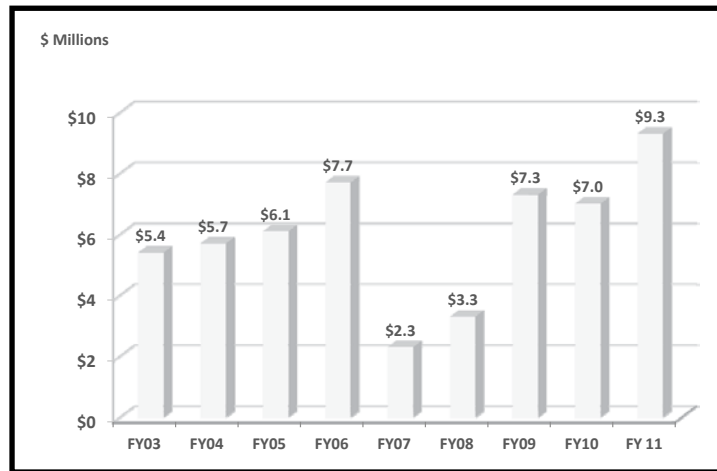
**Status:**

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

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

**Total Funds Disbursed for FY2011: \$9.3 million**

**Funding History:**



The Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office presented a Tidelands check for more than \$7 million to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) on Dec. 6, 2010. Pictured are (from left to right): state Sen. David Baria, MDMR Office of Coastal Management and Planning Director Tina Shumate, state Rep. Richard Bennett, state Rep. Billy Broomfield, Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, state Sen. Billy Hewes, state Rep. Scott DeLano, state Rep. Randall Patterson, state Sen. Tommy Moffatt, and state Rep. Brandon Jones.



## ***License Sales***

### **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 recreational 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.



**A Mississippi saltwater fishing license is required for anyone to harvest fish in coastal and marine waters except anyone under the age of 16 or anyone who is 100 percent disabled.**

**FISCAL YEAR 2011 LICENSE SALES**

**License Type . . . . . # SOLD . . . . . \$ AMOUNT**

**Resident Licenses**

Captains License .....	96	\$960.00
Charter/Fishing/Party Boat .....	98	\$19,600.00
Crab .....	280	\$21,000.00
Crab for Shrimp/Oyster .....	84	\$6,300.00
Fishing Boat License .....	154	\$15,400.00
Interstate Commerce .....	350	\$7,000.00
Interstate Commerce for Charter Boats .....	49	\$980.00
Live Bait License-Boat.....	21	\$2,310.00
Live Bait License-Dealer .....	15	\$750.00
Menhaden Boat & Net.....	8	\$1,200.00
Menhaden Processor .....	1	\$500.00
Oyster Dredging .....	294	\$32,340.00
Oyster Tonging .....	119	\$7,140.00
Recreational Crab.....	596	\$2,980.00
Recreational Oyster.....	24	\$240.00
Recreational Shrimp.....	271	\$4,065.00
Resident Commercial Hook & Line/Vessel Gig .....	387	\$38,700.00
Residential Commercial Hook & Line/Fisherman/Gig .....	616	\$61,600.00
Seafood Dealer.....	161	\$16,100.00
Saltwater Minnow .....	20	\$1,000.00
Seafood Transport.....	10	\$1,000.00
Shrimp/Captain 30-45'.....	161	\$13,685.00
Shrimp/Captain 46' over .....	215	\$23,650.00
Shrimp/Captain under 30'.....	191	\$11,460.00

**Total Resident License Sales .....4,221 .....\$289,960.00**

**Louisiana Resident Licenses**

Louisiana Resident Commercial Crab .....	4	\$2,640.00
Louisiana Resident Gear (1 trawl).....	8	\$800.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Dredging.....	6	\$6,420.00
Louisiana Resident Recreational Crab.....	30	\$1,800.00
Louisiana Resident Recreational Shrimp .....	3	\$300.00
Louisiana Resident Seafood Dealer.....	10	\$11,500.00
Louisiana Resident Seafood Dealer Vehicle .....	39	\$1,170.00
Louisiana Resident Charter Boat 6 or fewer .....	2	\$2,000.00
Louisiana Resident Shrimp (2 Trawl) + Captain License .....	47	\$37,600.00

**Total Louisiana Resident License Sales .....149 .....\$64,230.00**

## Other Licenses

Alabama Charter Boat 7-25 people		
Oyster Dredging .....	120	\$25,200.00
Oyster TONGING .....	124	\$13,640.00
Alabama Seafood Dealer .....	8	\$3,208.00
Alabama Gill/Trammel Net .....	1	\$2,500.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain 30'-45' .....	32	\$4,832.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain 46' over .....	97	\$19,497.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain under 30' .....	6	\$606.00
Alabama Saltwater Minnow .....	1	\$101.00
Crab Trap Pots .....	38	\$7,600.00
Fishing Boat .....	23	\$6,900.00
Hook/Line/Fisherman/Vessell .....	2	\$800.00
Hook/Line/Fisherman/Gig .....	5	\$2,000.00
Recreational Crab .....	18	\$90.00
Recreational Shrimp .....	1	\$30.00
Seafood Dealer .....	10	\$2,000.00
Shrimp 30'-45' Out-of-State + Captain License .....	8	\$1,280.00
Shrimp over 45' +Captain License .....	51	\$10,710.00
Shrimp under 30' + Captain License .....	5	\$550.00
Florida Resident Fishing Boat .....	3	\$1,905.00
<b>Total Other License Sales .....</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>\$103,449.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL .....</b>	<b>4,923</b>	<b>\$457,639.00</b>

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 MDMR 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 FY2011:

- Supported 150-plus personnel and more than 250 computers, laptops, servers, printers and storage devices.
- Supported the agency phone system and voice mail.
- Upgraded the e-mail service that makes e-mail available through the Internet at all times.
- Supported smart 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.
- Redesigned and continue working towards a complete overhaul of the intranet and Internet.



## **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 Mississippi 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 it 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 FY2011:

Number of equipment items on inventory beginning July 1, 2010 .....	1806
Cost of additions to inventory .....	\$1,436,744.36
Cost of deletions to inventory .....	\$897,400.52
Number of items on inventory as of June 30, 2011 .....	1,864
Number of buildings on inventory as of June 30, 2011 .....	16
Beginning balance of all inventory items as of July 1, 2010 .....	\$10,550,649.26
Ending balance of all inventory items as of June 30, 2011 .....	\$11,099,670.10







# **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 FY2011:

P-1 approval obtained from state purchasing .....	9
Purchase orders issued .....	1,266
Conducted bid openings .....	11
Contracts processed .....	70
State Personnel Board contracts processed .....	3
Amount of expenditures made with procurement cards .....	\$262,649.77

Purchasing continues to be dedicated to supporting the various programs provided by the MDMR 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 MDMR 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 FY2011:

- Processed 2,833 payment vouchers.
- Sixty-four payrolls processed for an average of 190 employees each month; reviewed and input data from timesheets into payroll system.
- Approximately \$57.6 million in Special Fund revenues were deposited in the treasury through 154 receipt transactions.
- Federal grant accounting was performed on approximately 108 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 \$17.2 million.
- Approximately 322 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, six vessels were removed under the Derelict Vessel Removal Program. This figure includes one derelict steel hull fishing vessel that was cleaned and sunk for use in the Artificial Reef Program. Approximately 10 additional derelict vessels of various sizes have been identified and are in various stages of the removal process. Since inception of the Derelict Vessel Removal Program in May 1998, the program has removed 241 vessels from the waterways of Harrison, Hancock and Jackson counties.



**This derelict vessel was removed from a canal in Shoreline Park located in Hancock County.**





## **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 Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), 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 MDMR 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 MDMR 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, Marine Patrol and Coastal Management and Planning; and educate the public.
- Ensure all MDMR programs are promoted effectively to maximize news coverage and keep the public informed.

#### **Status:**

During FY2011, in addition to everyday outreach responsibilities, day-to-day operations for the Public Affairs Program continued to include the following as a result of the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the May 2011 opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway: 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; developing and distributing news releases to media and stakeholders regarding the incidents stated above; responding to hundreds of media and public inquiries related to updates concerning these incidents; arranging interviews with the media and MDMR personnel on seafood testing and safety and other oil spill-related issues and on the impact of the freshwater inundation on Mississippi's marine resources.

In FY2011, the Public Affairs staff reached large volumes of diverse audiences through producing a variety of marine environment publications and displays, organizing media coverage of MDMR programs, coordinating educational outreach activities with Coast schools and MDMR partners and participating in 48 public education, community outreach and marine-

related events across South Mississippi. About 55,656 people visited the MDMR exhibits and obtained MDMR information at these events. Public Affairs distributed about 107,864 brochures to the public.

During FY2011, Public Affairs printed 11 individual publications (quantity of 146,000) and 11 individual educational/outreach item (quantity of 92,800), for a total of 238,800 items. Among the items produced were 40,000 copies of the 2011-2012 Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing: Rules and Regulations; 15,000 Mississippi Saltwater Recreational Fishing: Size & Possession Limits pocket guides and 13,000 Marine Information Calendars.

A boating safety display was also produced identifying the various types of personal flotation devices and promoting the importance of wearing a life jacket.

To promote environmental stewardship, two major educational outreach programs are organized and coordinated by MDMR 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 22nd annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup was held in October 2010. More than 1,900 volunteers picked up 1,433 bags of trash, including 66 bags of recyclables, along 144 miles of Coastal waterways in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup focused on inland areas and waterways, and expanded its reach through its partnership with Mississippi Power's Renew Our Rivers program, removing large debris from sensitive marsh areas including remnants of homes left there since Hurricane Katrina. All told, volunteers collected 140,163 pounds of trash, including 544 tires, at more than 55 cleanup sites.

Public Affairs held the 10th annual calendar art contest for third- through sixth-grade elementary school students to raise awareness of the importance of Mississippi's coastal resources. The winning artwork was featured in the 2011 MDMR "Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi's Coastal Resources" 12-month marine information calendar and displayed in public areas throughout the year. Over 1,500 students participated from 35 schools, including three home schools. The calendar includes useful information for fishermen and boaters, such as tides, sunrise/sunsets, moon phases, artificial reef coordinates, bag and possession limits, marine debris degradation timeline, emergency contact numbers, boating safety, Clean Vessel Act, Sport Fish Restoration Program, importance of wetlands, Coastal Preserves program, and Mississippi Coastal Cleanup. The calendar was printed in early December and Public Affairs coordinated distribution of the 13,000 free calendars to the public through numerous distribution sites in the three coastal counties including bait shops, and mailed calendars to Coastal Markers subscribers.

Public Affairs also plans and promotes, with the Grand Bay NERR and partners, Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival, a free event held in the spring 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:**

- Three 12-page issues of Coastal Markers, the MDMR's external newsletter
- 2011-2012 Guide to Saltwater Fishing: Rules and Regulations book



- MDMR 2011 Marine Information Calendar
- Fish ruler sticker, revised and reprinted
- Marine Litter Activity Folder, revised and reprinted
- Mississippi Saltwater Recreational Fishing: Size & Possession Limits pocket guides
- Annual report, compiled and printed
- Coastworks activity book, revised and reprinted
- Mississippi Saltwater Fish Identification Poster, revised and reprinted

#### **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
- Marine Patrol floating key fobs imprinted with emergency response number for boaters, reprinted
- Jr. Marine Patrol stickers and clean environment stickers, reprinted
- T-shirt color-ons promoting boating safety and color-ons promoting clean waterways
- Wooden rulers with educational information for children, reprinted
- Boater's pledge bookmarks containing environmental stewardship messages, reprinted
- Recycled denim pencils with MDMR contact information and Web site, reprinted
- Clear blue pens with MDMR contact information and Web site, reprinted

#### **Media and Community Relations:**

Public Affairs produced and disseminated 108 news releases, pitched story ideas and responded to media inquiries that resulted in more than 500 articles published in local, national and international news publications, about 158 local television news broadcasts, and innumerable national and international television and radio news reports and Web site postings related to the MDMR's role in the oil spill recovery effort. Public Affairs staff reported more than 1,300 conversations with media contacts in FY2011, with an increase in calls and media coverage in response to the oil spill and the opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway.

MDMR Public Affairs staff served on various local, state and regional 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 MDMR Public Relations director continued to serve on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Outreach and Education Advisory Panel and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Outreach subcommittee.



**MDMR Public Relations Director Lauren Thompson, left, assists Dr. Susan Rees, second from left, MsCIP program manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with the Deer Island restoration kick-off ceremony held on Deer Island Sept. 21, 2010.**



**Public Relations Representative Shelly Becker, left, helps children play the "Stash Your Trash" game at the Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival in Pass Christian.**



**Public Relations Representative Jennifer Leirer, left, provides information to state Representative Dirk Dedeaux at the MDMR exhibit at Capitol Day in Jackson.**



## ***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.

### **FY2011 Accomplishments:**

- Maintained compliance of personnel budget and expenditures required by Appropriation Bill and the Mississippi State Personnel Board (MSPB).
- Trained managers and supervisors on the new MSPB competency-based Performance Development System (PDS) and implemented new review system for employees.
- Prepared and implemented MEMA's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for MDMR.
- Provided guidance to the MDMR 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.
- Identified two in-house trainers to assist with annual training classes; 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.)
- Coordinated MDMR Wellness Program in conjunction with MSPB Wellness Initiative, including on-site screenings for heart disease and skin cancer.
- Broadened scope of participation in the MDMR/Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) Intern Program by providing MDMR interns to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, NOAA Library, Walter Anderson Museum, Institute for Marine Mammal Studies and the Greenhouse at MGCCC. Prepared presentation for the MGCCC Intern Coordinator, Dr. Lena Melton, to present at MDMR Capitol Day.
- Conducted New Employee Orientation for all new employees, contract workers and Marine Patrol Reserve officers.
- Hosted two on-site Red Cross sponsored blood drives.

- Actively participated in several human resources professional organizations, training activities and professional development seminars (MSPB, MAPA, SHRM, HHHRA, and EEOC.)

**FY2012 Challenges:**

- Maintain continued compliance of personnel budget and expenditures required by Appropriation Bill and the Mississippi State Personnel Board (MSPB).
- Attend training for new recruiting system (NEOGOV) and implement on-line process for job posting, application review, and hiring.
- Utilize PDS system to develop and implement programs and activities designed to enhance professional development and retention of MDMR employees.
- Host and coordinate Basic Supervisory Course at the Bolton Building location for MDMR supervisors and other co-located state agencies.
- Implement Marine Patrol Officer career ladder promotions.
- Continue coordination and participation in the MDMR/Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Intern Program by providing MDMR interns to area organizations.
- Reconfigure Human Resources' Web page on the MDMR intranet to allow employees to access human resource information, policies and forms.
- Conduct review of supplemental benefit plans and on-line enrollment options. Organize employee communication meetings to present details of benefit plans, contact information, and employee premiums.
- Continue participation in Wellness Initiative by sponsoring on-site events, health screenings and Employee Assistance Program topics.
- Attend Human Resource-related training seminars and participate in local Human Resource networking events.
- Coordinate Red Cross-sponsored blood drives periodically throughout the year.



**Spring 2011 MDMR interns and mentors.**



**MDMR Human Resources Team, from left, Personnel Officer Sandra Moore and Human Resources Director Christy Royals.**





## **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 33 years of law enforcement experience. He is a member of the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel for the 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 Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (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-one officers, six lieutenants and two captains provided 24-hour patrols.
- Made 734 cases (violations).
- Conducted 7,600 compliance checks.
- Rendered public assistance to 85 mariners in distress.

- Answered 488 complaint calls.
- Patrolled 27 marine events.
- Investigated 27 boating accidents and four non-boating related drownings.



**Col. Walter Chatagner, Chief of Enforcement of the MDMR Office of Marine Patrol, has accumulated a total of 33 years of law enforcement experience.**



## **Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA)**

### **Coordinator: Lt. Donald Armes**

On July 1, 2010, the Mississippi 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.

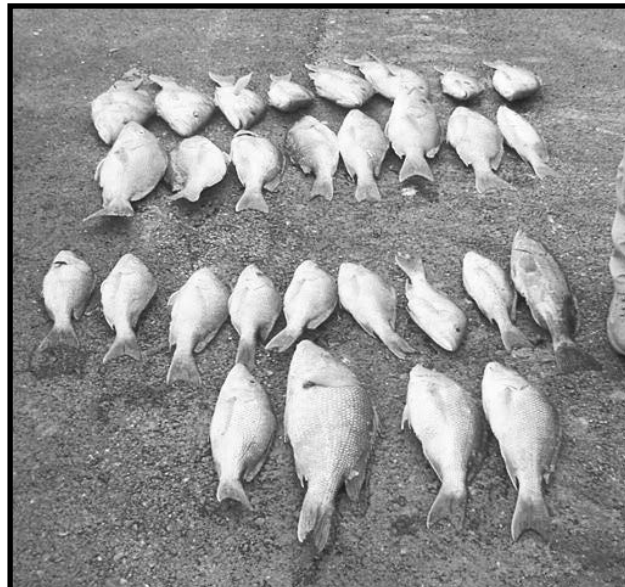
#### **Objectives:**

- 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:**

##### **MDMR Marine Patrol Statistics Totals**

Vessel Checks - Commercial .....	.388
Vessel Checks - Recreational .....	1,294
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Commercial .....	.742
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Recreational .....	2,511
Fishery Violations - Federal .....	10
Fishery Violations - State .....	.60
Fishery Warnings .....	.6
Shore Patrol Hours .....	1,331
Offshore Patrol Vessel Hours .....	2,028.25
Total Man Hours .....	7,387



**During the 2011 fiscal year, Marine Patrol officers seized 23 over-the-limit red snapper (top photo) and 28 red snapper that did not meet the minimum size requirement of 16 inches.**



## **Telecommunications**

### **Supervisor: Amy Taylor**

The Marine Patrol Telecommunications Program 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 Program 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 734 issued citations.
- Received 263 public service requests and 225 reports of illegal activity, dispatched officers to 27 boat accidents, four non-boating related drownings, and recorded 27 special marine events.
- Recorded and logged 7,600 stops made by officers on regular patrols.

- Alerted Public Affairs Program to media inquiries and after-hours emergencies.
- Logged in 18,505.5 boat hours by officers on regular patrols.
- Enrolled students in 16 boat and water safety classes.



**Marine Patrol Dispatcher Michelle Shumake answers distress calls and communicates with officers in the field.**

## ***Boat and Water Safety***

### ***Supervisor: Lt. Patrick Levine***

Lt. Patrick Levine, 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 13 boating safety classes in FY2011, resulting in the certification of 267 persons.
- Permitted and/or assisted in 25 Marine Events.
- Attended the Gulf States Hurricane Conference in New Orleans.
- Ensured that National Incident Management System (NIMS) training required for all Marine Patrol personnel was updated within required timeframe to certify MDMR as NIMS compliant as required by FEMA.



## ***In-Service Training***

### ***Coordinator: Lt. Patrick Levine***

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.





## ***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:**

- December 2011, Marine Patrol Dive Team assisted U.S. Coast Guard in a body recovery of a commercial shrimper tangled in his net.
- March 2011, Marine Patrol Dive Team recovered the body of a construction worker who drowned in a bayou off Madagascar Street in Bay St. Louis.
- May 2011, Marine Patrol Dive Team assisted the U.S. Coast Guard in the recovery of three bodies trapped in a pogy boat that sunk south of Ship Island.
- June 2011, Marine Patrol Dive Team recovered a body of a man in the Ocean Springs Harbor after he fell off a boat.



Members of the MDMR Marine Patrol Dive Team at the Small Craft Harbor in Biloxi. Pictured from left to right: Patrick Webb, Curtis Culpepper, Wade Dominey, Johnny Ladner, Tommy Jennings, Matt Kasovich, Scott Saucier, Mike Yonce (kneeling); not pictured, Bryce Gex.

## **Reserve Unit**

### **Designee: Lt. 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 Mississippi 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 10 major Marine Events:
  - Christmas on the Water (Biloxi, Gulfport, Moss Point)
  - Opening day of shrimp season
  - Opening day of oyster season
  - Fourth of July four different displays
  - Smokin' the Sound
  - Smokin' the Lake
  - Thunder on the Bay
  - Blessing of the Fleet
  - Opening day of snapper season
  - Mardi Gras parades (Biloxi, D'Iberville and Pass Christian locations)
- As of June 30, 2011, the Marine Patrol Reserve Unit has a total of 25 active Reserve officers.
- Training conducted (approximately 50 hours)
  - Handcuffing techniques
  - Drug identification
  - Boat and water safety course
  - Dispatch training
  - Pressure point control tactics
  - Pepper spray training
  - Firearms safety and qualifications

**Approximate hours served for FY 2011 .....1,441.75**



## **Coastal Management and Planning Office**

### **Office Director: Tina Shumate**

The overall objective of the Coastal Management and Planning Office 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 Coastal Management and Planning Office. 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 MDMR 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 MDMR, 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 12th annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference was held May 11-12, 2011, at the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi. The Gulf Coast Business Council and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce partnered with this program on the conference.
- The Coastal Management and Planning Office 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 Coastal Management and Planning Office 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 Coastal Management and Planning Office is administering the CIAP. Grants from this program total \$120 million for the six coastal counties of Mississippi.
- The Coastal Management and Planning Office 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 Coastal Management and Planning Office serves on the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain Board of Directors.
- The Coastal Management and Planning Office is planning the 13th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference to be held in the fall of 2012 in Biloxi.



**MDMR Executive Director William Walker opens the Coastal Development Strategies Conference with a welcome to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and an update on state projects.**



**Tracie Sempier with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Coastal Community Resilience Team, talks about the newly released Mississippi Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards.**



**Susan Perkins, MDMR marine administrator, promotes the 11th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference at the annual Capitol Day event in Jackson.**



## **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 Mississippi 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 2011 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**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
Amberjack, Greater	114 lb. 3.2 oz.	03/18/11	Troy Helwig
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
Creolefish	1 lb. 8.69 oz.	05/08/11	Cecily O'Brien
Croaker, Atlantic	2 lb. 12 oz.	11/11/90	Tom Pellegrin
Cubbyu	2 lb. 6.72 oz.	05/28/05	John Smith
Dolphin	62 lb.	1981/85	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.	1970/73	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, Marbled	12 lb. 8 oz.	12/03/10	Phillip King, Jr.
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 Necaize 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	74 lb. 1.6 oz.	11/20/09	Barrett McMullan
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

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
Moray, Blacktail	5 lb. 11.84 oz.	07/04/05	Dick Wilson
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.
Scrawled Filefish	4.8 oz.	06/11/11	Derrick Saucier
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. 8.56 oz.	03/13/11	Pete Atwood
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	173 lb. 12 oz.	10/19/10	Dwayne L. Armes
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	5 lb. 1 oz.	10/11/01	David Kuehn
Snapper, Yellowtail	7 lb. 3.52 oz.	06/10/11	Jacob Edwards-Faucette
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	14 lb. 8 oz.	06/12/11	Mike Salvetti
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

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
Trigger, Gray	9 lb. 7.33 oz.	08/05/07	Matthew L. Larmore
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. 0.8 oz.	05/07/11	Mark Herrmann
Tuna, Bluefin	837 lb. 1.6 oz.	06/11/99	Bob Struwe
Tuna, Bigeye	93 lb. 5.6 oz.	06/05/11	Zach Joseph
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



**King Mackerel**  
*(Scomberomorus cavalla)* 74 pounds,  
 1.6 ounces  
 Barrett McMullan of Ocean Isle Beach,  
 North Carolina



**Tiger shark**  
*(Galeocerdo cuvieri)*  
 173 pounds, 12 ounces  
 Dwayne L. Armes of Pass Christian

## **Mississippi's Official Saltwater Fly-Fishing Tackle Records**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
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. 0.49oz.	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 Lauman
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, Lemon	11 lb. 15 oz.	10/15/01	Don Abrams
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

## Out-of-State Travel Activities

Funding:

O = Other

F = Federal

<i>Employee</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Armes, Donald	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, Maine	O	\$1,878.22
Armes, Donald	American Food Fair	Chicago, Ill.	O	\$2,469.48
Boyd, Jan	Coastal States Organization Membership Mtg	Monterey, Calif.	F	\$2,429.00
Boyd, Jan	Ocean & Coastal Program Manager's Mtg	Washington, DC	F	\$2,211.45
Brainard, Michael	Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute Mtg	San Juan, Puerto Rico	O	\$1,454.64
Brantley, Willa	Assoc of State Wetlands Mgrs Coordination Mtg	Shepherdstown, W.Va.	F	\$1,542.42
Brantley, Willa	Coastal Zone Mgmt Program Gulf Of Mexico Reg. Mtg	Tallahassee, Fla.	F	\$290.06
Broussard, Erik	McMoRan Oil & Gas Meeting	Houston, Texas	F	\$944.26
Broussard, Erik	McMoRan Oil & Gas Meeting	Houston, Texas	O	\$112.93
Broussard, Kristina	Gulf & S. Atlantic Shellfish Conf.	Orange Beach, Ala.	O	\$360.13
Broussard, Kristina	Alabama-Mississippi Bays & Bayous Symposium	Mobile, Ala.	O	\$10.00
Buchanan, Jennifer	Nat'l Marine Educators Association Annual Mtg	Boston, Maine	O	\$800.00
Buchanan, Jennifer	Nat'l Marine Educators Assn	Gatlinburg, Tenn.	F	\$1,343.50
Buchanan, Jennifer	NERR Annual Meeting	Shepherdstown, W.Va.	F	\$1,198.64
Buchanan, Jennifer	NERR Annual Meeting	Shepherdstown, W.Va.	O	\$201.83
Burris, Richard	Mgmt Concepts Grant Training	Boston, Maine	F	\$1,285.58
Burris, Richard	Mgmt Concepts Grant Training	Wilmington, N.C.	F	\$736.20
Burris, Richard	Mgmt Concepts Grant Training	Boston, Maine	O	\$428.54
Burris, Richard	Mgmt Concepts Grant Training	Wilmington, N.C.	O	\$245.41
Chataginer, Walter	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	Houston, Texas	O	\$495.66
Clark, Jeffrey	Ocean & Coastal Program Managers Mtg	Washington, DC	F	\$1,631.66
Clark, Jeffrey	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Mtg	Clearwater, Fla.	O	\$553.58
Clark, Lauren	Attend Grant Writing Class	Orlando, Fla.	F	\$625.52
Clark, Lauren	Alliance NHA Spring Meeting	Augusta, Ga.	O	\$604.65
Clark, Lauren	Attend Grant Writing Class	Orlando, Fla.	O	\$625.52
Cole, Ronald	Assoc of State Wetlands Mgrs Coordination Mtg	Shepherdstown, W.Va.	F	\$1,630.30
Cressman, Kimberly	SWMP Tech Training	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	F	\$213.72
Cuevas, Kerwin	GSMFC Annual Mtg	Clearwater, Fla.	O	\$383.86
Cuevas, Kerwin	McMoRan Oil & Gas Meeting	Houston, Texas	F	\$1,146.22
Cuevas, Kerwin	GSMFC 61st Annual Spring Mtg	Houston, Texas	O	\$669.83
Cuevas, Kerwin	Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute Mtg	San Juan, Puerto Rico	O	\$2,311.80
Cuevas, Kerwin	ASMFC-GSMFC Artificial Reef Committees	St Petersburg, Fla.	F	\$313.80
Cuevas, Kerwin	McMoRan Oil & Gas Meeting	Houston, Texas	O	\$315.76
Davis, James	Assoc of State Wetlands Mgrs Coordination Mtg	Shepherdstown, W.Va.	F	\$1,542.07
Diaz, Dale	GSMFC Annual Mtg	Clearwater, Fla.	O	\$160.97
Diaz, Dale	Assn of Food & Drug Officials of Southern States	Gatlinburg, Tenn.	O	\$1,025.60
Diaz, Dale	GSMFC Annual Spring Meeting	Houston, Texas	O	\$595.38
Diaz, Dale	Gulf & South Atlantic States Shellfish Conf	Orange Beach, Ala.	O	\$357.68
Diaz, Dale	Gulf Council Meeting	Orange Beach, Ala.	O	\$265.81
Diaz, Dale	National Symposium on Water Access 2010	Portland, Maine	O	\$877.49
Diaz, Dale	Demystifying Seafood	Washington, DC	O	\$1,139.14
Floyd, Traci	Oil Spill Response Workshop	Baton Rouge, La.	O	\$512.26
Floyd, Traci	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Mtg	Clearwater, Fla.	O	\$960.36
Floyd, Traci	Gulf States Fisheries Commission Annual Mtg	Houston, Texas	O	\$1,243.13
Floyd, Traci	GSDAFF Smalltooth Sawfish Stakeholder Workshop	Tampa, Fla.	O	\$333.70
Goldman Jennifer	Louisiana Food Service Expo	New Orleans, La.	O	\$547.88
Gollott, Leslie	Attend Grant Writing Class	Orlando, Fla.	F	\$743.43
Gollott, Leslie	Louisiana Food Service Expo	New Orleans, La.	O	\$848.79
Gollott, Leslie	Attend Grant Writing Class	Orlando, Fla.	O	\$743.43
Gordon, John	Int'l Conference on Shellfish Restoration	Charleston, S.C.	O	\$366.53
Gordon, John	Gulf & South Atlantic Shellfish Conf.	Orange Beach, Ala.	O	\$690.00
Grammer, Gretchen	NERRS/NERRA Annual Meeting	Shepherdstown, W.Va.	F	\$1,109.28
Grote, Paul	Gulf States Hurricane Council	New Orleans, La.	O	\$433.94
Grote, Paul	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, Maine	O	\$371.80
Grote, Paul	Boston Seafood Show	Boston, Maine	O	\$1,510.76
Grote, Paul	American Food Fair	Chicago, Ill.	O	\$2,484.70
Hill, Daniel	Beaufort Lab	New Bern, N.C.	O	\$601.28
Huisman, Avia	GOMACTp Meeting	Apalachicola, Fla.	O	\$770.54
Huisman, Avia	NERR Annual Meeting	Shepherdstown, W.Va.	F	\$731.28
Jackson, Irvin	Louisiana Food Service Expo	New Orleans, La.	O	\$744.91
Jackson, Irvin	American Culinary Fed. SE Conference	Atlanta, Ga.	O	\$1,431.77
Jackson, Irvin	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, Maine	O	\$2,044.53
Jackson, Irvin	Charleston Food & Wine Festival	Charleston, S.C.	O	\$1,769.72
Jackson, Irvin	American Food Fair	Chicago, Ill.	O	\$2,428.84
Jackson, Irvin	Southwest Food Service Expo	Dallas, Texas	O	\$1,250.00

<i>Employee</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Jackson, Irvin	American Culinary Federation Conf	New Orleans, La.	O	\$663.25
Jewell, Joseph	ISSC & VMC Mtg	Orland, Fla.	O	\$40.00
Larsen, Jere G.	Working Waterways & Waterfronts	Portland, Maine	F	\$983.75
Lipscomb, Roy	Gulf & South Atlantic Shellfish Conf.	Orange Beach, Ala.	O	\$360.87
Mcilwain, Julius	Restore Americas Fisheries	Galveston, Texas	F	\$625.90
Mitchell, John	Gulf & South Atlantic Shellfish Conf.	Orange Beach, Ala.	O	\$462.45
Moore, Lynn Rae	Assoc of State Wetlands Mgrs Coordination Mtg	Shepherdstown, W.Va.	F	\$1,542.36
Overstreet, Jeremy	Assoc of State Wetlands Mgrs Coordination Mtg	Shepherdstown, W.Va.	F	\$1,855.66
Perkins, Susan	Coastal Zone 2011	Chicago, Ill.	F	\$20.00
Perkins, Susan	Attend Grant Writing Class	Orlando, Fla.	F	\$624.52
Perkins, Susan	ACT Meeting	Pensacola, Fla.	F	\$387.94
Perkins, Susan	Working Waterways & Waterfronts	Portland, Maine	F	\$1,403.88
Perkins, Susan	Alliance NHA Spring Meeting	Augusta, Ga.	O	\$589.65
Perkins, Susan	Coastal Zone 2011	Chicago, Ill.	O	\$20.00
Perkins, Susan	Attend Grant Writing Class	Orlando, Fla.	O	\$624.52
Perret, William	Gulf Oyster Industry Council	Washington, DC	O	\$312.40
Posadas, Ruth	Gulf & South Atlantic States Shellfish Conf	Orange Beach, Ala.	O	\$695.17
Price, Rhonda	Coastal Community Resilience Oil Spill Reponse	Anchorage, Alaska	F	\$3,285.63
Price, Rhonda	Int'l Boatyard & Marina Conf.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	F	\$1,470.98
Price, Rhonda	Alabama-Mississippi Bays & Bayous	Mobile, Ala.	F	\$301.06
Price, Rhonda	Gulf Coast Ecosystems Restoration Task Force	New Orleans, La.	F	\$273.69
Price, Rhonda	States Organization For Boat Access Mtg	Park City, Utah	F	\$1,774.01
Price, Rhonda	ACT Meeting	Pensacola, Fla.	F	\$387.94
Price, Rhonda	Working Wate Front Symposium	Portland, Maine	F	\$1,731.92
Price, Rhonda	GOMA Coastal Community Resilience Team Mtg	Spanish Fort, Ala.	F	\$109.20
Ramseur, George	Effects of Sea Level Rise Mgmt Wkshop	Apalachicola, Fla.	O	\$376.02
Ramseur, George	Gulf of Mexico Sea Level Rise Project	Silver Springs, Md.	O	\$1,063.24
Randall, Bradley	NRDA Oyster Trustees Mtg	New Orleans, La.	O	\$331.06
Ray, Rebekah	Coastal Zone Mgmt Program Gulf Of Mexico Reg. Mtg	Tallahassee, Fla.	F	\$94.30
Rider, Jason	Charleston Food & Wine Festival	Charleston, S.C.	O	\$465.11
Rider, Jason	Gulf Seafood Marketing Coalition	New Orleans, La.	O	\$291.46
Rider, Jason	American Culinary Federation SE Conference	Atlanta, Ga.	O	\$462.40
Rider, Jason	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, Maine	O	\$325.80
Rider, Jason	American Food Fair	Chicago, Ill.	O	\$353.30
Rider, Jason	Demystifying Gulf Seafood/Smithsonian Institute	Washington, DC	O	\$384.80
Runnels, Joseph	Ocean & Coastal Program Managers Mtg	Washington, DC	F	\$1,666.45
Ruple, David	Ecological Effects of SLR In Northern Gulf	Apalachicola, Fla.	F	\$356.62
Ruple, David	312 Evaluation	Myrtle Beach, S.C.	F	\$926.36
Ruple, David	Regional Network Of Marine Protected Areas	Naples, Fla.	F	\$63.78
Ruple, David	Nerrs/Nerra Annual Mtg	Shepardstown, W.Va.	F	\$1,014.78
Ruple, David	NERRA, NERRS & NOAA Coastal Program Mtgs	Washington, DC	F	\$1,627.05
Sapet, Mario	Gulf States Hurrican Council	New Orleans, La.	O	\$436.89
Shumate, Tina	Coastal Community Resilience Oil Spill Response	Anchorage, Alaska	F	\$3,342.94
Shumate, Tina	Coastal Zone 2011	Chicago, Ill.	F	\$536.00
Shumate, Tina	Alabama-Mississippi Bays & Bayous	Mobile, Ala.	F	\$330.44
Shumate, Tina	Deltas 2010	New Orleans, La.	F	\$1,400.10
Shumate, Tina	Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force	New Orleans, La.	F	\$307.29
Shumate, Tina	ACT Meeting	Pensacola, Fla.	F	\$387.94
Shumate, Tina	Task Force Mtg	Pensacola, Fla.	F	\$233.25
Shumate, Tina	Working Waterways & Waterfronts	Portland, Maine	F	\$983.75
Shumate, Tina	GOMACoastal Community Resilience Team Mtg	Spanish Fort, Ala.	F	\$121.60
Shumate, Tina	Alliance Nha Spring Meeting	Augusta, Ga.	O	\$589.65
Shumate, Tina	Coastal Zone 2011	Chicago, Ill.	O	\$536.00
Shumate, Tina	Louisiana Food Service Expo	New Orleans, La.	O	\$514.34
Shumate, Tina	Gulf Coast Task Force	Washington, DC	O	\$1,560.68
Strange, Thomas	Society of Conservation GIS	Monterey, Calif.	F	\$1,138.50
Thompson, Lauren	Int'l Marine Debris Conference	Honolulu, Hawaii	O	\$2,361.85
Underwood, William	Restore Americas Estuaries Conference	Galveston, Texas	F	\$625.90
Underwood, William	NERR Annual Mtg	Shepardstown, W.Va.	F	\$1,037.36
Wakefield, Linda	Louisiana Food Service Expo	New Orleans, La.	O	\$546.60
Wakefield, Linda	Louisiana Food Service Expo	New Orleans, La.	O	\$53.40
Wakefield, Linda	American Culinary Federation SE Conf.	Atlanta, Ga.	O	\$1,427.10
Wakefield, Linda	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, Maine	O	\$1,795.68
Wakefield, Linda	Charleston Food And Wine Festival	Charleston, S.C.	O	\$1,754.31
Wakefield, Linda	American Food Fair	Chicago, Ill.	O	\$2,435.04
Wakefield, Linda	Southwest Food Service Expo	Dallas, Texas	O	\$1,250.00
Wakefield, Linda	American Culinary Federation Conference	New Orleans, La.	O	\$697.80
Walker, Michael	Gulf of Mexico Regional CZM Mtg	Tallahassee, Fla.	F	\$339.66
Walker, William	Coastal States Organization Annual Mtg	Monterey, Calif.	F	\$696.80
Walker, William	NOAA Meeting	Tampa, Fla.	O	\$269.80
Walker, William	DOI/USGS Meeting	Atlanta, Ga.	O	\$1,440.56
Walker, William	USACE/Science Advisory Board Mtg	Coral Gables, Fla.	O	\$2,630.68
Walker, William	Oil Spill Research	New Orleans, La.	O	\$75.81



<i>Employee</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Walker, William	GCERTF Meeting	Pensacola, Fla.	O	\$490.29
Walker, William	NOAA Science Advisory Board Mtg	Sarasota, Fla.	O	\$1,213.24
Walker, William	Gulf Of Mexico Alliance	Washington, DC	O	\$1,350.54
Walker, William	Regional Ocean Partnerships & GOMA	Washington, DC	O	\$928.72
Walker, William	Congressional Hearing	Washington, DC	O	\$1,126.46
Walker, William	GOMA	Washington, DC	O	\$947.82
Walker, William	Nat'l Conf On Science, Policy & Environment	Washington, DC	O	\$1,860.40
Walker, William	Corp of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board	Washington, DC	O	\$1,135.45
Walker, William	Gulf of Mexico Research Institute-Research Board	Washington, DC	O	\$1,302.96
Walker, William	Obama's Nat'l Ocean Councils Governance Committee	Washington, DC	O	\$1,623.56
Walker, William	Gulf of Mexico Meeting/NOAA	Washington, DC	O	\$1,654.24
Walker, William	CMSP Workshop	Washington, DC	O	\$421.30
Wittmann, Jennifer	Nat'l Mitigation & Ecosystem Banking Conf.	Baltimore, Md.	F	\$1,251.21
Wittmann, Jennifer	MBIRT Meetings & MSPA Meetings	Mobile, Ala.	F	\$10.00
Wittmann, Jennifer	Bays & Bayous Symposium	Mobile, Ala.	F	\$20.00
Ziegler, Joseph	Natl Hotel Motel Show	Chicago, Ill.	O	\$3,005.08

**Total Out of State Travel Cost .....\$128,936.84**

