



**Mississippi  
Department of Marine Resources**

**2012 Comprehensive Annual Report  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012**

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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 2012  
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

Executive Director  
Dr. William W. Walker

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

*Fiscal Year 2012 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

Dear Governor Bryant and Members of the Legislature:

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Department of Marine Resources' programs, which focus on the conservation 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 myriad challenges to Coastal Mississippi and our marine resources. Hurricane Katrina completely destroyed our offshore artificial reefs and our oyster resources, 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. Additionally, just when our oysters had finally fully recovered from Katrina, the Great Mississippi River Flood of 2011 nearly decimated them again. However, adversity breeds opportunity. Because of your support, DMR has seen much success in many areas of focus, including continued effort to revitalize our oyster fishery through cultch planting, artificial reef enhancement and restoration of our barrier islands.

Substantial effort has been made to restore Mississippi's valuable oyster fishery through cultch plants that—since Katrina—have dispersed over 281,000 cubic yards of limestone and oyster shell over 5,021 acres on the St. Joes, Pass Marianne, Telegraph, Henderson Point and Pass Christian Reefs.

Since the decimation of nearly 100 percent of Mississippi's artificial reefs in 2005, the Artificial Reef Bureau has managed to restore nearly 100 percent of Mississippi's inshore and offshore artificial reefs. Mississippi's artificial reefs provide valuable marine fish habitat, help to reduce shoreline erosion and are estimated to have an economic value of over 78 million dollars annually.

Tremendous progress has also been made toward restoration of the Deer Island Coastal Preserve through partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and through DMR's Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program. Comprehensive restoration of Ship Island is also underway through partnership with the Corps and the National Parks Service. Both Ship Island and Deer Island serve as critical barriers of protection to the Mississippi coastline.

As a Team, we will continue to restore and revitalize Coastal Mississippi 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Danny Guice Jr.".

Danny Guice Jr., Interim Executive Director  
Department of Marine Resources

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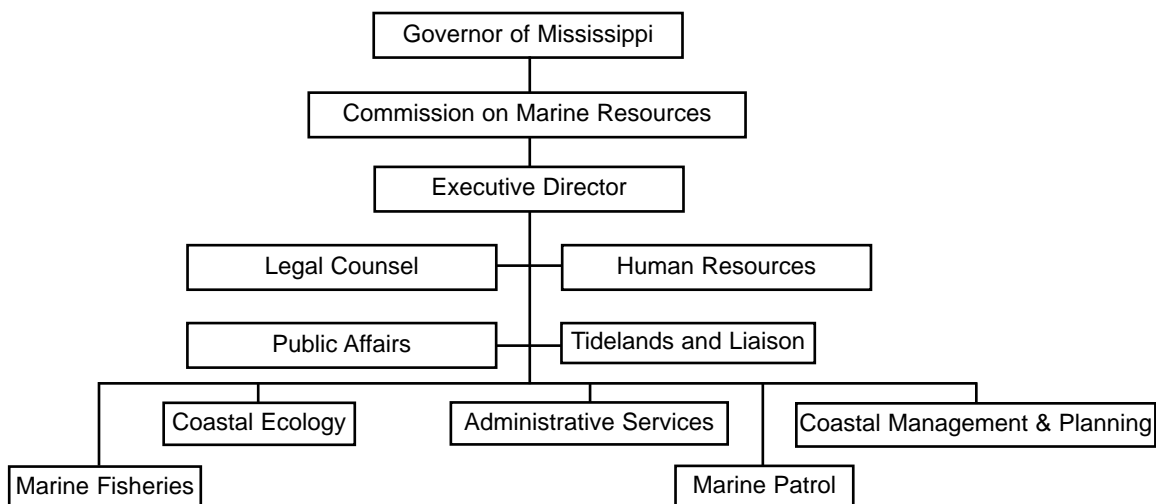


## Organizational Structure

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' (MDMR) organizational structure is based on the legislative mandates assigned to the Commission and Department. In FY2012, 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 FY2012, the Department's organizational structure was as follows:



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





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

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

**Objectives:**

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

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

**Status:**

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.
- 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 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:**

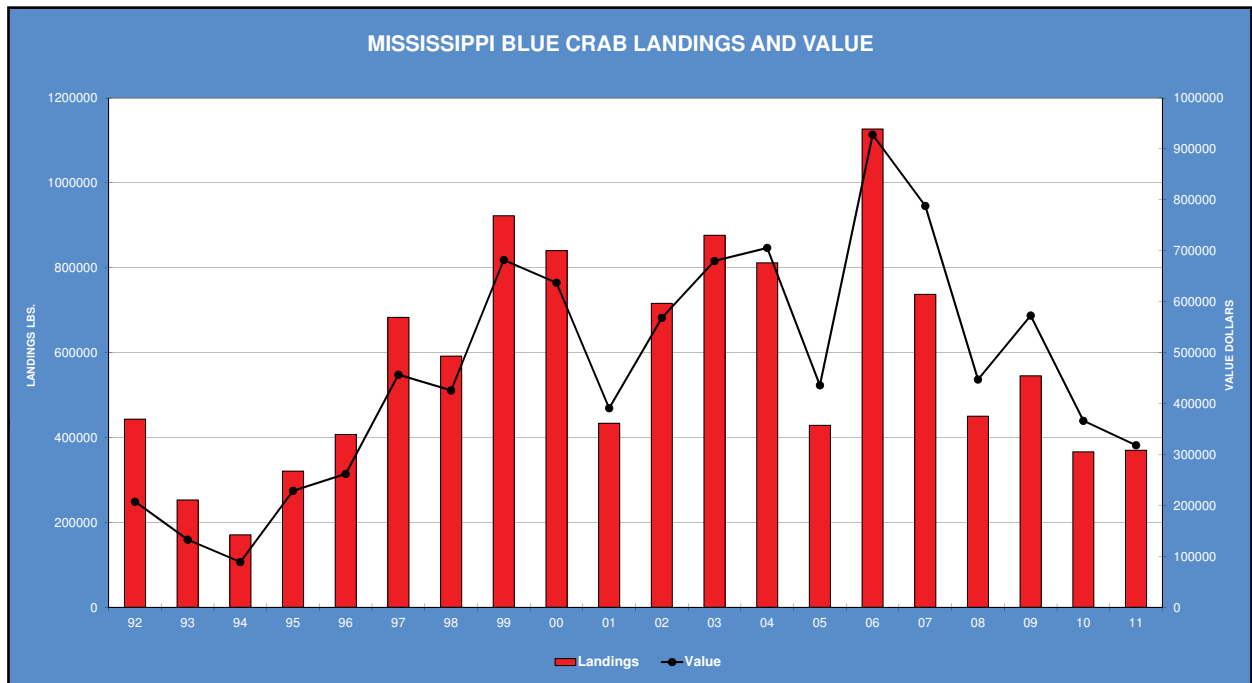
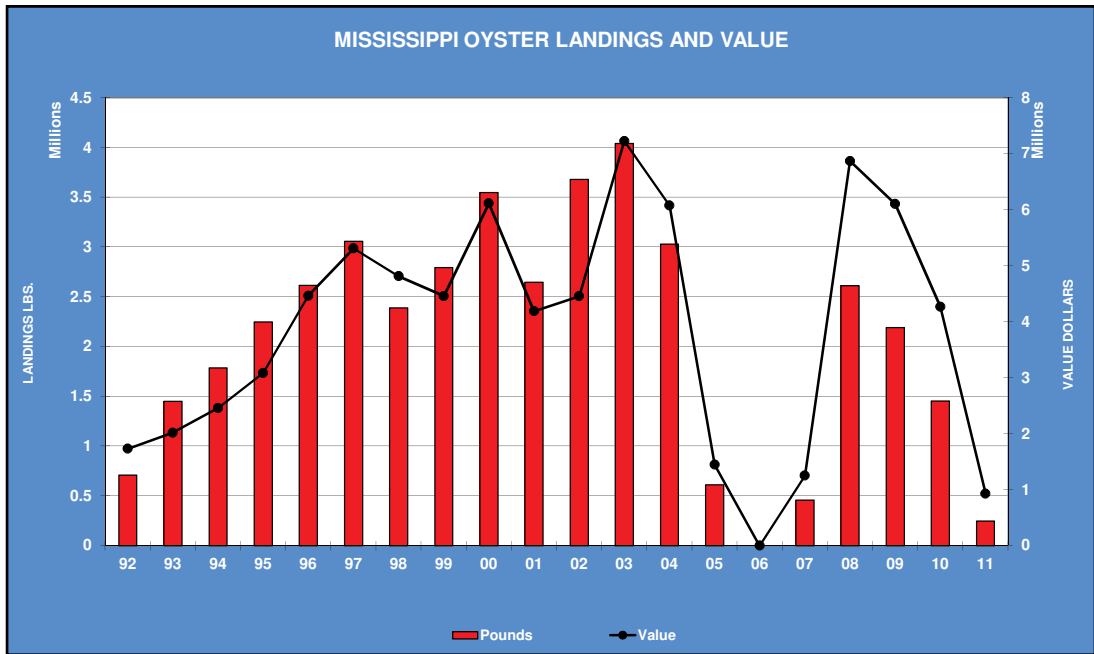
- Collect commercial fisheries landings and catch data for Mississippi in a timely manner.
- Collect biological data for selected commercially important finfish species.
- Obtain boat trip information and biological statistics on migratory pelagic and reef fish such as red snapper, grouper and amberjack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

#### **Status:**

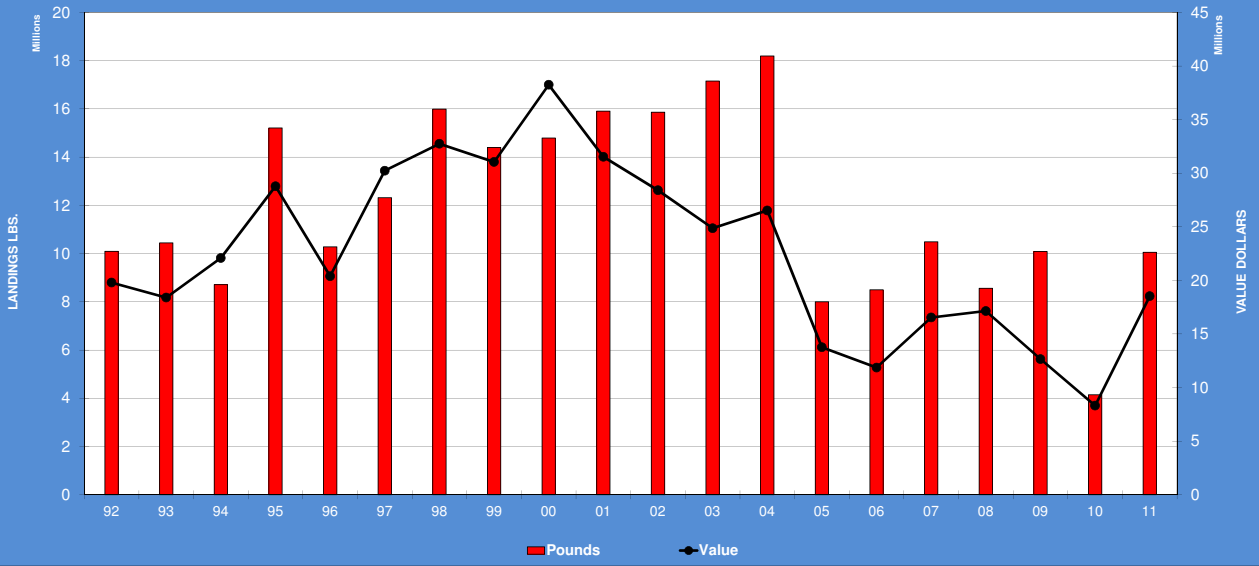
- Fisheries landings data were collected weekly and monthly according to schedule. The data were processed, edited and submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in accordance with established data handling procedures. Fisheries landings data is an important part of the fisheries management 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 program for all fisheries began in February 2012. The only exception being shrimp dealers/processors who could choose to participate in the program or have their landings information collected by a port agent. Dealers and/or fishermen submit paper or electronic trip tickets on a monthly basis. Data are scanned into a database and transferred to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Finfish Information Network.



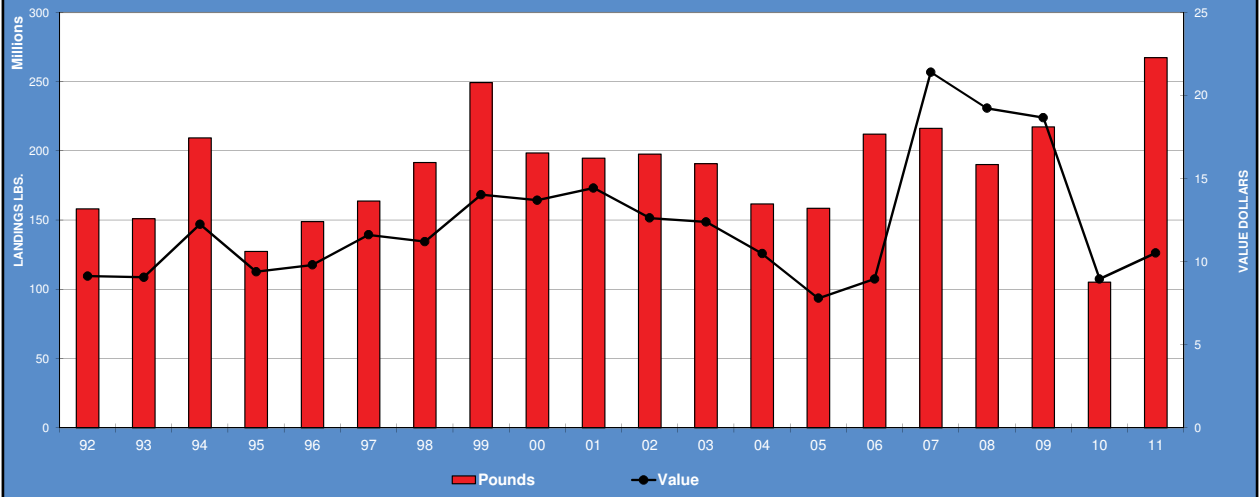
**MDMR Fisheries Scientist Christine Murrell collects commercial landings information at a local seafood retailer.**



### MISSISSIPPI SHRIMP LANDINGS AND VALUE



### MISSISSIPPI COMMERCIAL FINFISH LANDINGS AND VALUE







**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 15 permitted offshore reefs encompassing 16,000 acres of water bottom. These reefs range in size from eight 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.



**NASA's BRT (Big Round Thing) was deployed on Fish Haven 13, which is located 23 miles south of Pascagoula.**

## **Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)**

### **Coordinator: Michael Buchanan**

#### **Objectives:**

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

#### **Status:**

Recreational fisheries information was collected daily through surveys. There were more than 2,000 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 MRIP program also includes a telephone survey of the charter boat fishery. This was conducted through weekly telephone interviews of charter boat operators in Mississippi. 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 Marine Fisheries Technician, Mai Dang surveys a fisherman to collect important fisheries data.**

*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 421 tagged and 31 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 299 tagged and 29 recaptured.
- A public workshop was held in December and was attended by 75 members of the public.



## Striped Bass Restoration

### **Principal Investigator: Larry Nicholson**

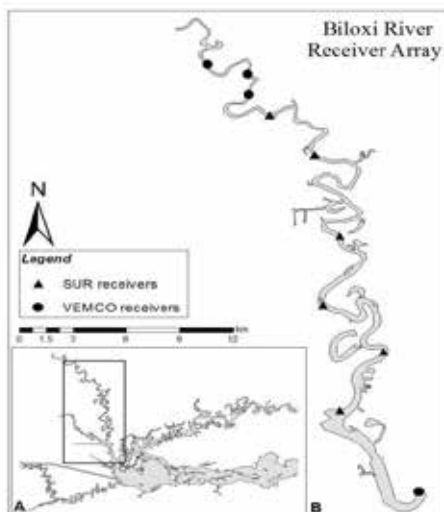
#### **Objectives:**

- Rear Gulf Race Striped Bass to 50mm and 150mm fingerlings to stock in coastal tributaries of Mississippi in order to continue the restoration of the striped bass population that was decimated in the late 1940s and early 1950s.
- Monitor habitat use patterns of striped bass by tracking acoustically tagged fish.
- Encourage recreational anglers through a public relations effort to report all striped bass (tagged or untagged) caught.
- Sample coastal tributaries with assorted sampling gear and techniques to obtain abundance estimates of striped bass in coastal waters.

#### **Status:**

The 2012 culture season started with approximately 1,000,000 Gulf Race Striped Bass fry. The fry were stocked in March and April into eight half-acre ponds at DMR's Lyman Fish Hatchery. The fish remained in the ponds until they attained a minimum size exceeding 50mm at which time they were harvested. The phase I fingerlings were released into all of Mississippi's major coastal tributaries from the Pearl to the Pascagoula River. Approximately 40,000 phase I fingerlings were restocked into the ponds for phase II culture.

The phase II fingerlings grew rapidly (150mm or larger) despite pond water temperatures in excess of 30 C. The striped bass remained in the ponds until November. The advanced fingerlings were harvested and 17,394 tagged with t-bar anchor tags. In addition to the t-bar tags, sonic tags were also surgically implanted in 17 select fingerlings, which were released in the Biloxi River. The sonic tags enable project personnel to use acoustic telemetry techniques to determine both long term and short term habitat utilization. These data will help delineate both long and short term seasonal habitat usage.







## *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-nine (199) spotted seatrout were returned to the lab, otoliths removed for aging and sex, and length and weight obtained.
- Work is ongoing to collect length and age data for a variety of recreationally and commercially important species, including spotted seatrout, sheepshead, sand seatrout, Atlantic croaker, striped mullet, Southern flounder, Southern kingfish, Gulf kingfish, black drum and red drum.
- Work is ongoing to collect red drum abundance data utilizing alternative gear that has a more effective capture rate for this species. One hundred and fifty-one (151) were captured in this study.
- Shark sampling is ongoing. Nine hundred and thirty-two (932) sharks and 42 rays of various species were captured and 623 were tagged.



Photo Courtesy of Jarrid Cecil

Jarrid Cecil, of Biloxi, with a tagged tripletail



Photo Courtesy of Jim Franks (GCRL)

Jason Lemus with a tagged cobia

## **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 and maintain area classification.

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. Classified area must also be sampled a minimum of six times per year while the area is opened to harvest in order to maintain area classification.

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:**

- Due to the opening of the Bonnet Carre Spillway in the spring of 2011, many oysters were killed by the flooding. As a result, the 2011-2012 commercial oyster season was a failure with only 65 sacks of oysters being harvested.
- Fall 2011 Cultch Plant —A total of 64,000 yards of limestone cultch material was spread over 1,043 acres.
- Conferences — Participated in the Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference on shellfish issues in Savannah, GA.
- Conducted hydrographic survey of the St. Louis Bay area in conjunction with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and MDEQ.
- Conducted square-meter dive sampling and resource assessments on major area reefs.
- Gathered data for growing-area sanitary survey for all areas.
- Collected 1,561 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 MDMR 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:**

- 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. One station has been installed at the Waveland Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- 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 and the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies.

#### **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, 2011) to Mississippi's blue crab fishery resulted in a decrease in landings of nearly 50%. A request for federal fisheries injury or disaster has been submitted to NMFS.
- 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 1500 calls have been received since its inception averaging around 500 per year.



- A newsletter entitled “Shrimping the Sound” was sent to all resident fishermen who purchased a commercial 2011-2012 shrimp license. The third edition of the newsletter contained information on the 2011 shrimp sampling, MDMR’s new trip ticket program, activities to decrease sea turtle interactions and related public comment information, Seafood Safety Update, free web marketing opportunities, vessel safety improvement suggestions and the Capital Construction Fund for Fisherman.
- 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 Trip Ticket Reports.
- Continuation of the Mississippi Crab Task Force in order to encourage 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 seminars, “Spotted Sea Trout in Mississippi” and “Gentle Giants,” (manatees, sturgeon, whale sharks and tarpon) were held to the benefit of coastal resource agency cooperators as well as interested members of the public.
- Operation 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. Twenty seven 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, trawl sampling, data analysis and reporting.
- 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.

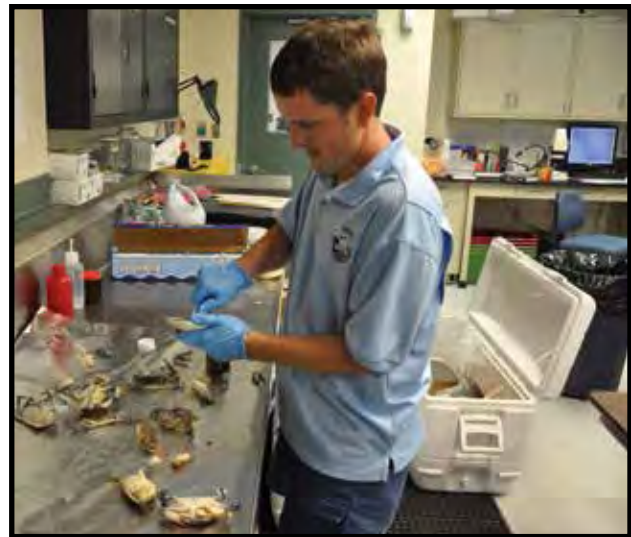
- Responded to unusually high number of sea turtles in the Mississippi Sound by obtaining a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to help reduce sea turtle interaction in the shrimp fishery. With funds from the NFWF, the shrimp and crab program was able to secure TEDs (Turtle Excluder Devices) for installation in Mississippi skimmer shrimp trawls. A total of 384 TEDs have been distributed to fishermen. Shrimp and Crab personnel have lead 31 aerial surveys to monitor fishing, boating and dredging effort in the Mississippi Sound and adjacent waters since the mass strandings began. The Bureau also maintains the Endangered Species Act Section 6 Agreement with NMFS to address sea turtle issues in the state. A sea turtle conservation and management plan was drafted and submitted to NMFS under the agreement. TED measurement angle meters and instruction sheets were mailed out to current resident commercial shrimp license holders (475) to make sure their gear is properly positioned. Each shrimper also received NOAA instructional TED DVDs -translated into Vietnamese, reproduced and mailed by Shrimp and Crab Bureau. Work also includes issuance of permits to the Institute of Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) for rehabilitation and tagging/ tracking of those rehabilitated sea turtles, and assisting IMMS in the release of sea turtles .
- Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (DWH) response consists of monthly shrimp and crab tissue sampling by county to ensure that Mississippi seafood is free of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and safe for consumption. Staff coordinates response sampling with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. To date, none of the total 534 seafood samples, including shrimp, crab, finfish and oyster have been found to contain PAH concentrations above the FDA levels of concern.
- The MDMR Seafood Safety Newsletter is maintained online 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. 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 Bureau has submitted a number of detailed DWH Restoration Projects to benefit shrimp and crab fisheries (which are under review) and participated in public workshops to help fishermen and the public understand and join in the recovery process.
- 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 & Crab Projects Officer Darrin Stewart inspects the live bait shrimp tanks at Biloxi Boardwalk.**



**During sampling, Shrimp & Crab Program Director Traci Floyd displays a sizable white shrimp typical in Mississippi.**



**Shrimp & Crab Fisheries Scientist Rick Burris prepares blue crab tissue for seafood safety testing.**



**Shrimp & Crab Fisheries Scientist Bill Richardson releases a satellite-tagged Kemp's ridley sea turtle, rehabilitated by IMMS after being caught on an angler's hook.**



**Shrimp & Crab Technician Rudy Balius uses a winch to set trawl sampling gear, while advertising the Mississippi Shrimp Information Hotline.**

# **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 technical 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 during festivals, county fairs, public fairs, public meetings and events.

### **Status:**

The total number of technical assistance actions provided was 4,787. Examples are as follows:

- Provided technical assistance to oyster dealers, crab and shrimp processors in the implementation of the new Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Plans.

- Provide assistance to the US-FDA bi-annual evaluations and inspections of randomly selected facilities due to public request of more inspections after the oil spill in 2010
- Provide regular updates to seafood dealers and processors with copies of new changes in the Model Ordinance most recently have included changes to Time-and Temperature regulations during harvest, receiving, processing, storage and transport of oysters.
- 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.
- Participated in the *Vibrio Management Plan* meetings and conference calls with other stakeholders of the seafood industry.
- Conducted 41 public outreach events from July 2011 through June 2012.
- Participated in 3 foodborne case investigations on *Vibrio cholera*, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio vulnificus* cases associated with eating seafood.
- Participated in 2 recall cases of oysters. The Korean Oysters were recalled due to incompliance issues. The Louisiana voluntary oyster recall was due to Norovirus.
- Conducted 289 regulatory inspections; follow-up inspections and water quality sampling sources of processing water for seafood operations. Also provide ongoing assistance to the newly certified seafood dealers and processors.
- The Seafood Technology Bureau continues to do technical assistance and support to Mississippi seafood processing facilities and retail seafood markets. The STB support collaborative inspections with the US-Food and Drug Administration in the continuing effort to assure the seafood being sold is safe for consumption.
- Staff attended “Words that Work” workshop in January 2012 sponsored by MDMR-GBNERR.
- Assisted old and new seafood dealers in the certification and permitting of operations.
- Received a final report from Mississippi State University-Coastal Research and Extension Center, on the testing available imported commercial seafood species from retail markets in the three coastal counties of Mississippi then submitted to the EDRP II project 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.

<b>Types of Seafood Facilities Permitted.....</b>	<b>Number</b>
Shrimp.....	15
Crab.....	8
Oyster.....	22
<b>Total number of seafood sanitation/processing permits: .....</b>	<b>45*</b>

\*These 45 permits represent 510 inspected seafood units..



The Seafood Officers of the Seafood Technology Bureau conduct regulatory quarterly inspections to ensure that the Mississippi Shellfish Sanitation Program is compliant to federal and state regulations.



## **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 2012, 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 a 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:**

Bureau staff members attended several training courses, workshops, and conferences throughout the reporting period, including the Coastal Zone 2011 Conference in Chicago, GIS training, a workshop on legal takings, the America's Energy Coast Wetlands Forum, wetland delineation training, invasive species training and the 404-10 Group Conference where Willa Brantley also participated as a speaker.

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.

Two staff members, Willa Brantley and James Davis, serve as members of the Beneficial Use Group. This is a multi-agency group which seeks to identify and permit locations along the MS Gulf Coast where dredged material can be beneficially used to restore tidal marsh and

barrier island habitats that have been significantly degraded or destroyed over time. During the reporting period Willa and James participated in a trip to visit several ongoing beneficial use restoration projects in Louisiana. They were able to visit several beneficial use sites and observe different techniques for habitat restoration and creation and to discuss beneficial use permitting issues with their Louisiana counterparts as well as representatives from several federal agencies who also participated in the trip and site visits.

Bureau 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 55 of these pre-application meetings.

**Permits issued:**

Consistencies .....	39
Consistency Modifications .....	2
Direct Federal Consistencies .....	20
Direct Federal Consistency Modifications .....	2
Emergency Orders .....	0
Exclusions .....	7
Exclusion Modifications .....	3
Exclusion Extension .....	1
General Permits .....	223
General Permit Modifications .....	49
General Permit Extensions.....	14
General Permit After-the-fact.....	5
Permits .....	15
Permit Modifications .....	14
Permit Extensions .....	3

Permit After-the-fact .....	3
Waivers.....	72
Waiver Modifications .....	8
Waiver Extension .....	5
Waiver After-the-fact.....	1
Reviews.....	120
NWP Reviews .....	14
Violations.....	34
<b>Total:.....</b>	<b>654</b>



**Coastal Resources Management Specialist Ron Cole takes measurements during a site visit.**



## **Coastal Preserves Program**

### **Bureau Director: 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 is also 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:**

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 1497 river miles for the presence of aquatic invasive species. As a result of these efforts, a new area of giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) was discovered to the north of Farragut Lake, Pascagoula River. Also water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) was discovered for the first time in Buzzard Bayou and Moon Lake off Pascagoula River and in Bernard Bayou off the Biloxi River. A new infestation of Chinese tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) and cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) were discovered on Deer Island. Control measures were initiated immediately on all these new sightings. All herbicide applications were applied in accordance with all State and Federal Laws. The new water hyacinth population in Bernard Bayou was removed manually, i.e., more than 100 plants were dipped out of the water using nets. AIS staff collected samples from 11 Asian tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) turned in by local fishermen and sent the samples to a lab doing population genetics analyses of this invasive species. The AIS staff is also working with other state agencies to finalize the State of Mississippi Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (MAISMP). AIS staff participated in the following meetings: National Invasive Species Awareness Week in Washington, DC; Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species in Mobile, AL; the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council in Auburn, AL; and the Mississippi Bight Lionfish Response Unit.

Most of CPP's habitat restoration activities were again focused on the Deer Island Coastal Preserve. CPP worked closely with the Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District in the development of several Mississippi Coastal Improvement Program (MSCIP) coastal restoration projects. Two of these projects 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 80 acres of beach, dune and maritime forest habitat. The south side beach renourishment will restore about a 120 acres of beach and dune habitats. In addition, the south side project created a lagoon between the newly pumped material and the island, which will ultimately be used to

rebuild approximately 100 acres of tidal marsh. The sand pumping part of these projects was completed in late spring 2011. About 300,000 native grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees were planted on the west end project during the fall and winter of 2011-12. Despite the dry conditions during the spring and early summer of 2012, these plantings have survived and appear to be thriving. In addition, a new 50 acre Beneficial Use of Dredged Material project began construction in June 2012. This project is a partnership with the Port of Gulfport to use material dredged from the harbor expansion to restore tidal marsh along the northeast side of Deer Island. This project is immediately adjacent to the BU project constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 2003. About 130,000 cubic yards of the dredged material from the Port was used to repair damage done to the Corps project by Hurricane Katrina. CPP has also acquired additional funds from the USFWS Coastal Program to plant vegetation on this newly placed dredged material. Two hundred and thirty-nine acres have been restored to Deer Island over the past 9 years. Establishing diverse maritime habitats in these restoration areas will protect against wind and wave erosion as well as provide areas to support local wildlife and nesting birds. During the spring and summer of 2012, the west end restoration area and the south beach restoration area had large numbers of nesting least terns and black skimmers as well as a few nesting snowy plovers, Wilson's plovers and one loggerhead sea turtle nest. These areas also had hundreds of gulls, terns, pelicans, egrets, willets and other birds using the areas for foraging and resting. Other management activities during this reporting period include a 280 acre prescribed burn conducted on the Delisle Unit of the Wolf River Coastal Preserve. This burn was the first on this unit in more than 30 years. The burn was conducted by the Mississippi Forestry Commission with assistance from CPP staff. The main objective of the burn was to reduce the buildup of hazardous fuels (e.g., woody debris and duff) that could threaten nearby residences if ignited in a wildfire. The burn also provided ecological benefits by cleaning up much of the downed trees and storm debris from Katrina and by reducing the dense shrub layer that was impeding the growth of many savanna grasses, orchids, and pitcher plants.

CPP staff continue to oversee the Mississippi Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program (MS-BU). Four dredging projects have completed placement of material in the 50 acre Deer Island Marsh Restoration project site (DIMR1) that began in 2003. The four approved projects are replacing interior sediments lost in Katrina in 2005, i.e., restoring the original project elevation. During this reporting period, approximately 130,000 cubic yards of dredged material have been added to the DIMR1 site. The Port of Gulfport began construction of containment dikes for a 50 acre expansion cell (DIMR2) in June. The DIMR2 is a pre-permitted project capable of accepting material over a period of ten years. The initial dredge material placement will be done using dredged material from the Port of Gulfport expansion. DIMR2 will become primarily an estuarine tidal marsh with some beach and dune habitat. The MS-BU Group continues to meet monthly.

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. Volunteers gathered once again in southeastern Hancock County in an effort to remove what was left of the Katrina storm debris from a unit of the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve near the community of Ansley. A partnership of CPP, MS Power's Renew our Rivers Program, Coast Electric Power Association, and the Gulfport Naval Construction Battalion Center (Seabees) removed 41,500 pounds or 20.75 tons of debris from the 10 acre site. All of the debris, which was mostly treated lumber and manmade materials, filled seven 30 cubic yard dumpsters. Six large utility poles were also pulled off of the site as well as a large fiberglass boat cabin. This cleanup was the third on this site in the

past year and a half with a total of over 65 tons of debris removed from the area. All of the large debris has now been removed from this site. The CPP also partnered with volunteers from Mississippi Power Company, the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino, and the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino for the Annual Earth Day Clean-up of Deer Island. Approximately 120 volunteers removed 2.5 tons of debris from the island including cans and bottles, Styrofoam, treated lumber, plastics, and various other items. In addition, Renew Our Rivers cleanups in Back Bay Biloxi and the Biloxi River Coastal Preserve netted 5.1 tons of debris and 5.5 tons in the Pascagoula River Coastal Preserve. A cleanup by the Habitat Stewards on the Indian Point Unit of the Pascagoula River Coastal Preserve netted about 20 cubic yards of debris and trash.

CPP staff established a marsh bird monitoring program for Coastal Preserves. Surveys included 9 marsh complexes with a total of 25 routes and 212 sample stations. In addition, staff participated in shorebird surveys for the Mississippi barrier islands; yellow rail surveys on the Mississippi Sandhill Crane and the Grand Bay NWRs; and beach nesting bird surveys on Deer Island. CPP staff has also been involved in the protection and monitoring of loggerhead sea turtle nests in the Graveline Bayou Coastal Preserve and the Deer Island Coastal Preserve. The CPP continues to partner 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, on 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. Since July 2011, small groups of Habitat Stewards have helped maintain trails in the Wolf River Coastal Preserve, the Pascagoula River Marsh Coastal Preserve and the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve. Habitat Stewards also repaired a boardwalk on the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve and planted trees and shrubs on the Pascagoula River Coastal Preserve. Habitat Stewards also repaired a boardwalk on the Bell's Ferry Unit of the Wolf River Coastal Preserve and planted 50 trees (provided by the Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension Service) on the Ansley Unit of the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve. In addition, CPP is partnering with Hancock County and NASA Stennis Space Center on a nature trail that runs through the Upper Pearl River Unit of the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve and connects to the new NASA Infinity Science Center. Coastal Preserves is also partnering with the City of Moss Point and the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain on a nature trail in the Bennett Bayou Unit of the Pascagoula River Coastal Preserve. Both trails are currently in the final design phases.

CPP outreach activities include presentations on the preserves and its activities to the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Land Conservation Cooperative; Gautier City Council, the Gulf Hills Garden Club, the Indian Point Community, and the Pass Christian Habitat Stewards group. CPP also publishes 2-3 articles on the program's activities in each DMR's Quarterly Newsletter (Coastal Markers). Six hundred "Invasive Tiger Shrimp" decals were produced and distributed to all licensed shrimp fisherman and seafood processors to help raise awareness of this new invasive species and to encourage reporting of all sightings. Forty-five "Invasive Lionfish" decals were distributed to local dive shops. Staff also fielded several calls from journalists and



the public about the Asian tiger shrimp. A field trip to Deer Island with a WLOX-TV reporter was conducted by CPP staff to highlight the island restoration efforts. Another field trip to Deer Island was conducted by CPP staff during the Gulf of Mexico Regional CZM Program Meeting held in Ocean Springs. Other outreach activities include participation in Capital Day at Jackson; EcoRocks event at the Hard Rock Casino; updating of the CPP brochure; and conducting nature walks on the 12 Oaks Unit of the Old Fort Bayou Coastal Preserve and the Delisle Unit of the Wolf River Coastal Preserve.

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. 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. CPP staff worked with the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and the Coastal Bird Conservation Program on shorebird surveys; with the Grand Bay NERR on marsh bird surveys; with Mississippi State University landscape architects on a Deer Island tree planting project; and with a University of South Alabama researcher on monitoring of the Deer Island Marsh Restoration Project. CPP staff also attended a Living Marine Resources Workshop, Longleaf Pine Management Workshop, Marshbird Monitoring Workshop, Wild Pig Management Workshop, Wetland Delineator Training, and Wildland Firefighter Refresher Course and Pack Test.

During 2012, the program acquired two tracts of land totaling 69 acres. *Total acreage as of June 30, 2012 is 36,400 acres of State-owned lands managed by the Coastal Preserves Program.* The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service manages 3,300 acres at Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, manages 6,486 acres within Cat, Ship, Horn, and Petit Bois Islands. Collectively this includes more than 64% of the 72,000 acres proposed for acquisition in the state's 20 Coastal Preserves.



**Figure 1. 300,000 native plants were planted on the 80 acre MSCIP Deer Island West End Restoration Project.**

## **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 U.S. Department of Commerce 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, habitat monitoring, 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 NOAA 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 addressed through the NERR programs included habitat, climate change 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.
- Maintained public use of the Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center.
- Continued reserve weather, nutrient and water-quality monitoring.
- Co-sponsored the annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference.
- Conducted presentations and field trips for various civic and school groups.
- Sponsored and facilitated a variety of Coastal Training Program workshops, including Collaborative Learning, DMR Spring Science Seminar-Gentile Giants, Planning for the Future in Jackson County-Sea Level Rise and Changing Coastal Conditions, Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise in the northern Gulf of Mexico, and Disaster Response Plan.
- Conducted outreach education programs at local schools.
- Continued a Fish Sampling Program to evaluate the current status of reserve fishes.
- Completed conservation planning work for the salt marsh topminnow in the northern Gulf of Mexico.
- Treated invasive species at NERR.
- Completed a project to evaluate NERR and NWR for suitable endangered Mississippi Sandhill Crane habitat.
- Continued work on a habitat risk assessment study correlating rates of development in three watersheds with water quality.
- Hosted two graduate research fellows.
- Continued atmospheric mercury monitoring project with NOAA and MDEQ.
- 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 on NRDA restoration planning.
- Co-organized the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair.
- Co-organized the award-winning Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival.
- Completed a NOAA B-WET Grant that included the development of a place-based curriculum entitled “Connecting Students to the Pascagoula River—A Coastal Watershed Curriculum”.

- Collaborated with USM to design and implement teacher workshops.
- Presented at the annual National Marine Educators Assn Conference.
- Initiated planning in coordination with USFWS personnel to enhance access for prescribed burning and invasive species control.
- Installed and began monitoring Surface Elevation Tables and began implementation of NERRs sentinel site concept.
- Continued a marsh bird monitoring program to track population trends.
- Initiated yellow rail monitoring program at Grand Bay and Sandhill Crane NWR.
- Initiated planning for establishment of vertical control on Reserve.
- Continued efforts to map important habitats on the Reserve.
- Initiated work to develop Disaster Response plans for Grand Bay NERR and other 4 NERRs in Gulf of Mexico.
- Continued erosion monitoring efforts.
- Continued submerged aquatic vegetation monitoring and mapping.
- Initiated fine scale bathymetric mapping of Reserve waters.



**Attendees at Grand Bay NERR's CTP Beyond Pipes and Ponds workshop.**



Collaboration of attendees at Grand Bay NERR's CTP Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment workshop.



NERR staff measuring subsidence and accretion of marsh elevation at NERR, part of a broader sentinel site program to measure impacts of sea level rise in our nation's estuaries.

## **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:**

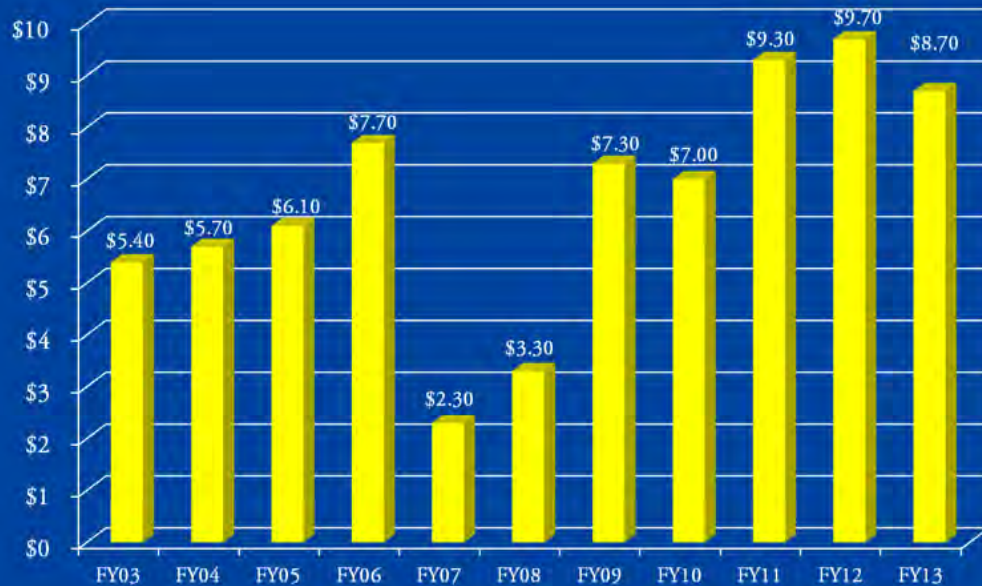
The MDMR Tidelands and Liaison Office disbursed funds for the following categories of projects:

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

Total Funds Disbursed for FY201: \$9.7 million



# Tidelands Funding History



The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office presented a Tidelands check for \$9,707,662 million to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) on Dec. 1, 2011. Pictured are (from left to right): MDMR Executive Director Bill Walker, state Rep. Richard Bennett, state Sen. Tommy Gollott, state Rep. John Read, state Rep. Sonya Williams-Barnes, state Rep. Greg Haney, state Rep. Billy Broomfield, Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, state Rep. Timmy Ladner, state Rep. Randall Patterson, state Rep. Casey Eure, state Rep. Carolyn Crawford, state Rep. Charles Busby and state Rep. Sean Tindell.

## **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 2012 LICENSE SALES**

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

### **Resident Licenses**

Recreational Shrimp .....	315 .....	\$4,725.00
Recreational Oyster .....	9 .....	\$90.00
Oyster TONGING + Capt License Oyster.....	89 .....	\$5,340.00
Comm Crab/Traps Pots .....	189 .....	\$14,175.00
Oyster Dredging + Capt License Oyster.....	276 .....	\$30,360.00
Fishing Boat License .....	151 .....	\$15,100.00
Live Bait License-Dealer.....	16 .....	\$800.00
Interstate Commerce .....	284 .....	\$5,680.00
Seafood Dealer and Processor .....	199 .....	\$19,900.00
Resident Commercial Hook & Line/Vessel.....	285 .....	\$28,500.00
Menhaden Processor .....	1 .....	\$500.00
Menhaden Boat and Net.....	8 .....	\$1,200.00
Live Bait License-Boat.....	15 .....	\$1,650.00
Mississippi Captain License .....	81 .....	\$810.00
Resident Commercial Hook & Line/Fisherman.....	489 .....	\$48,900.00
Seafood Transport .....	7 .....	\$700.00
Shrimp/Captain under 30' .....	148 .....	\$8,880.00
Shrimp/Captain 30'-45' .....	140 .....	\$11,900.00
Shrimp/Captain over 45' .....	205 .....	\$22,550.00
Fishing Boat-Charter, Party .....	97 .....	\$19,400.00
MS Recreational Crab License.....	670 .....	\$3,350.00
Crab License for Shrimpers.....	67 .....	\$5,025.00
Interstate Commerce for Charter Boats.....	52 .....	\$1,040.00
MS Resident Saltwater Minnow.....	15 .....	\$750.00
Fresh Product Permit.....	501 .....	\$-

**Total Resident License Sales .....4309 ..... \$251,325.00**

### **Louisiana Resident Licenses**

Louisiana Menhaden/Vessel/comm.....	2 .....	\$5,380.00
Louisiana Resident commercial Oyster Dredging .....	5 .....	\$5,350.00
Louisiana Resident Commercial Crab .....	2 .....	\$1,320.00
Louisiana Resident Recreational Shrimp .....	3 .....	\$300.00
Louisiana Resident Seafood Dealer .....	17 .....	\$19,550.00
Louisiana Resident Gear (1 Trawl).....	2 .....	\$200.00
Louisiana Resident Commercial Fisher.....	1 .....	\$460.00
Louisiana Resident Shrimp (2 Trawl).....	45 .....	\$36,000.00
Louisiana Charter Boat 6 or Fewer People .....	1 .....	\$1,000.00
Louisiana Recreational Crab .....	40 .....	\$2,400.00
Louisiana Resident Comm Seafood Dealer Vessel.....	67 .....	\$2,010.00
Louisiana Crab License for Shrimpers .....	1 .....	\$660.00

**Total Louisiana Resident License Sales .....186 ..... \$74,630.00**

## Other Licenses

Oyster TONGING + Capt License Oyster Out of State .....	46	\$5,060.00
Oyster Dredging + Capt License Oyster Out of State .....	73	\$15,330.00
Shrimp under 30' Out of State + Capt .....	5	\$550.00
Shrimp 30' to 45' Out-of-State + Capt .....	5	\$800.00
Shrimp over 45' Out-of-State + Capt .....	43	\$9,030.00
Recreational Shrimp .....	2	\$60.00
Crab Traps/Pots Out-of-State .....	26	\$5,200.00
Fishing Boat Out of State .....	7	\$2,100.00
Non-Resident Comm Hook & Line/Vessel.....	5	\$2,000.00
Alabama Seafood Dealer .....	17	\$6,817.00
Non-Resident Comm Hook & Line/Fisherman .....	7	\$2,800.00
Alabama Charter Boat 6 or Fewer People.....	1	\$401.00
Florida Seafood Dealer's License .....	2	\$2,000.00
Non-Resident Seafood Dealer.....	3	\$600.00
Non-Resident Recreational Crab.....	30	\$150.00
Florida Resident Fishing Boat License .....	4	\$2,540.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain under 30'.....	3	\$303.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain 30' to 45' .....	28	\$4,228.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain over 45' .....	76	\$15,276.00
Al Resident Comm Seafood Dealer Vehicle .....	30	\$3,030.00
<b>Total Other License Sales.....</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>\$78,275.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL.....</b>	<b>4908</b>	<b>\$404,230.00</b>



## *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 FY2012:

- 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 launched new agency website.



**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 FY2012:

Number of equipment items on inventory beginning July 1, 2011 .....	1854
Cost of additions to inventory .....	\$796,467.18
Cost of deletions to inventory .....	\$480,272.68
Number of items on inventory as of June 30, 2012 .....	1,897
Number of buildings on inventory as of June 30, 2012 .....	17
Beginning balance of all inventory items as of July 1, 2011 .....	\$11,099,670.10
Ending balance of all inventory items as of June 30, 2012 .....	\$11,421,413.61



**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 FY2012:

P-1 approval obtained from state purchasing .....	11
Purchase orders issued.....	1,483
Conducted bid openings.....	10
Contracts processed.....	61
State Personnel Board contracts processed .....	5
Amount of expenditures made with procurement cards .....	\$449,405.67

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 FY2012:

- Processed 2,833 payment vouchers.
- Seventy-four payrolls processed for an average of 184 employees each month; reviewed and input data from timesheets into payroll system.
- Approximately \$36.7 million in Special Fund revenues were deposited in the treasury through 134 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 \$21.8 million.
- Approximately 305 travel packets reviewed, processed and approved for payment.



## *Derelict Vessel Removal*

### **Coordinator: Irvin Jackson**

#### **Objectives:**

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

#### **Status:**

During this year 10 vessels were removed under the Derelict Vessel Removal program. Approximately 15 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 currently removed 254 vessels from the waterways of Harrison, Hancock and Jackson counties.



**This derelict vessel was removed from a canal on Texas Street in Bay St. Louis, MS.**



## **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:**

In FY2012, 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 66 public education, community outreach and marine-related events across South Mississippi. About 29,581 people visited the MDMR exhibits and obtained MDMR information at these events. Public Affairs distributed about 132,935 brochures to the public.

During FY2012, Public Affairs printed 9 individual publications (quantity of 132,000) and 10 individual educational/outreach item (quantity of 36,000), for a total of 168,000 items. Among the items produced were 40,000 copies of the 2012-2013 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.

To promote environmental stewardship, two major educational outreach programs are organized and coordinated by MDMR Public Affairs. The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is held each 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 23rd annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup was held in October 2011. More than 2,900 volunteers picked up 2,130 bags of trash, including 55 bags of recyclables, along 163 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. All told, volunteers collected 121,697 pounds of trash, including 171 tires, at more than 75 cleanup sites.

Public Affairs held the 12th 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 2012 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 33 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:**

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

- Magnets to educate the public about marine debris and Mississippi Coastal Cleanup
- 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 currency and newsprint pencils with MDMR contact information and Web site, reprinted
- Clear blue pens with MDMR contact information and Web site, reprinted

### **Media & Community Relations:**

Public Affairs produced and disseminated 100 news releases, pitched story ideas and responded to media inquiries that resulted in more than 450 articles published in local, national and international news publications, about 67 local television news broadcasts, numerous radio news reports and Web site postings. Public Affairs staff reported more than 750 conversations with media contacts in FY2012.

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, center, accepts a Keep Mississippi Beautiful Partnership Award, along with other community partners, during the KMB Awards Luncheon in Jackson.***



***(Left Picture) MDMR Public Relations Representative Jennifer Leirer exhibits a booth at the State Capitol in January 2012 for Capitol Day.***

***(Right Picture) Syneathia Lett, Public Relations Representative at MDMR, assists with a marine debris activity at Celebrate the Gulf in March 2012.***



# **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.

## **FY2012 Accomplishments:**

- Maintained compliance of personnel budget and expenditures required by Appropriation Bill and the Mississippi State Personnel Board (MSPB).
- Implemented new MSPB competency-based Performance Development System (PDS) and completed first annual review process with new PDS system.
- Attended training for new recruiting system (NEOGOV) and implemented on-line process for job posting, application review, and hiring.
- 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.
- Hosted and coordinated Basic Supervisory Course at the Bolton Building location for MDMR supervisors and other co-located state agencies.
- Implemented Marine Patrol Officers career ladder promotions.
- Coordinated MDMR Wellness Program in conjunction with MSPB Wellness Initiative, including flu shots and on-site screenings for high blood pressure and skin cancer.
- Managed 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. (*Picture of Spring 2012 Interns and Mentors included on next page.*)
- Conducted New Employee Orientation for all new employees, contract workers and Marine Reserve officers.
- Updated Human Resources' Web page on the MDMR intranet to allow employees to access human resource information, policies and forms.

- Hosted three on-site Red Cross sponsored blood drives (spring, summer and winter.)
- Actively participated in several human resources professional organizations, training activities and professional development seminars offered by MSPB, MAPA, SHRM, and GCHRA.

### **FY2013 Challenges:**

- Maintained compliance of personnel budget and expenditures required by Appropriation Bill and the Mississippi State Personnel Board (MSPB).
- Utilize PDS system to develop and implement programs and activities designed to enhance professional development and retention of MDMR employees.
- Continue coordination and participation in the MDMR/Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Intern Program by providing MDMR interns to area organizations.
- Communicate details of benefit plans, contact information, and employee premiums for annual Benefits Open Enrollment process.
- Expand 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 Resources networking events.
- Coordinate Red Cross-sponsored blood drives periodically throughout the year.



**Spring 2012 Mentors and Interns**

## **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 25 years for the State of Mississippi and has accumulated a total of 34 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 (MCMR) 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 MCMR 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 829 cases (violations).
- Conducted 8,721 compliance checks.
- Rendered public assistance to 89 mariners in distress.

- Answered 532 complaint calls.
- Patrolled 24 marine events.
- Investigated 33 boating accidents and five non-boating related drownings.



**Col. Walter Chataginer, Chief of Enforcement of the MDMR Office of Marine Patrol, has accumulated a total of 34 years of law enforcement experience**

# **Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA)**

## **Coordinator: Capt. Donald Armes**

On July 1, 2011, the Department of Marine Resources entered into agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide law enforcement of federal regulations in both state and federal waters. All patrols were conducted by Marine Patrol officers on an overtime basis.

### **Objectives:**

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

### **Status:**

#### **DMR Marine Patrol Statistics Totals**

Vessel Checks - Commercial.....	539
Vessel Checks - Recreational.....	1,352
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Commercial.....	1,027
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Recreational.....	2,617
Fishery Violations - Federal.....	10
Fishery Violations - State.....	106
Fishery Warnings.....	8
Shore Patrol Hours .....	1,484
Offshore Patrol Vessel Hours .....	2,396.20
Total Man Hours .....	8,823



**A Fisherman violates the Individual Fish Quota with these Red Snapper.**



**Possession of Atlantic Angel Sharks, a prohibited species.**

## *Telecommunications*

### **Supervisor: Amy Taylor**

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

#### **Objectives:**

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

#### **Status:**

- First agency in Mississippi to obtain and operate statewide 700/800 radio system.
- Provided day and night dispatch for Marine Patrol.
- Prepared monthly commission reports.
- Processed 829 issued citations.
- Received 300 public service requests and 232 reports of illegal activity, dispatched officers to 33 boat accidents, 5 non boating related drownings, and recorded 24 special marine events.
- Recorded and logged 8721 stops made by officers on regular patrols.



- Alerted Public Affairs Bureau to media inquiries and after-hours emergencies.
- Logged in 18,324 boat hours by officers on regular patrols.
- Enrolled students in 15 boat and water safety classes.



**Marine Patrol Dispatcher Marianne Loftis 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 20 boating safety classes in FY2012, resulting in the certification of 346 persons.
- Permitted and/or assisted in 17 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.
- Provided continuing education for Marine Patrol Officers.



## *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. Thomas 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:**

- July 2011 Marine Patrol diver assisted the the Hancock County Sheriff's Department in the recovery of the body of a drowning victim of Waveland beach.
- July 2011 Marine Patrol divers retrieved two submerged vehicle at the Kramer Marine Boat ramp in Gulfport.
- May 2012 Marine Patrol divers assisted the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks with the retrieval of a body on the Jordan River from a boating accident.
- June 2012 Marine Patrol divers assisted Hancock County Sheriff's Department in an evidence retrieval dive.



Members of the MDMR Marine Patrol Dive Team at the Small Craft Harbor in Biloxi. Pictured from left to right: Patrick Webb, Curtis Culpepper (retired), Wade Domine, 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, 2012, the Marine Patrol Reserve Unit has a total of 24 active Reserve officers.
- Training conducted (approximately 70 hours)
  - Handcuffing techniques
  - Interview and Interrogation
  - Boat and water safety course
  - Dispatch training
  - Pressure point control tactics
  - Pepper spray training
  - Firearms safety and qualifications

**Approximate hours served for FY 2012 .....2,914.15**





## **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 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 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 16,000 copies of Heritage Happenings, the quarterly newsletter of the MGCNHA, have been distributed.
- The MGCNHA continues to partner with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for preservation.
- 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 \$98 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 and on the Gulf Coast Business Council.
- The Coastal Management and Planning Office is planning the 14th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference to be held in the fall of 2013 in Biloxi.



**Susan Perkins, MDMR Staff Officer, educates visitors to the state capitol about the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area (MGCNHA) at the annual Capitol Day event in Jackson. The MGCNHA's new exhibit features a monitor to present video presentations about the heritage of the Gulf Coast (i.e., seafood industry, net-making, timber industry).**

The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area (MGCNHA) produces a quarterly newsletter and other educational materials highlighting heritage related events and projects for distribution to tourists and residents. A new rack card available at the DMR, visitor centers and attractions along the Gulf Coast introduces the MGCNHA's participation in the Passport to Your National Parks® program. The program, launched in 1986, encourages visitation to all of America's national parks and National Heritage Areas. Visitors collect cancellation stamps from each site visited in a booklet that may be purchased at any National Park. There are 21 cancellation stations within the MGCNHA.



**Grant Larsen, MDMR Staff Officer, creates a map in support of one of the agency's programs.**

## *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. 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 2012 was \$120,000 for coastal and \$54,000 for inland.



*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	13 lb.	8.64 oz.	04/29/12	Austin Fox
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
Cutlassfish Atlantic	2 lb.	9.44 oz.	07/16/11	Jonathan Stanley
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 Necaie 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

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>		<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
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
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.	7.18 oz.	05/17/12	Breanna Gray
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



<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
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
Whitespotted Soapfish	6.2 oz.	07/20/11	David Kuehn



*(Top Picture) Thomas Dempsey of Mobile, Ala. broke the state fly fishing tackle record for Black Drum with a 58-pound fish on December 24, 2011.*

*(Left Picture) Chris Temple of Peachtree City, Ga. broke the state conventional tackle record for Bigeye Tuna with a 203-pound, 14-ounce fish on July 11, 2011.*

## **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
Catfish, Hardhead	1 lb. 10 oz.	08/10/11	Jordan Matthews
Chub, Yellow	6 lb. 5 oz.	08/13/11	Doug Borries
Cobia	41 lb. 13.6 oz.	08/23/03	Thomas L. Herrington
Dolphin	3 lb. 11 oz.	07/04/02	Ivan Strayham
Drum, Black	58 lb. 0 oz.	12/24/11	Thomas Dempsey
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. 7 oz.	08/11/11	Don Abrams
Little Tunny (Bonito)	12 lb. 15.04oz.	08/05/11	Dwayne Armes
Lookdown	1 lb. 0.8 oz.	05/22/04	Robert J. Raynor
Mackerel, King	27 lb. 6.4 oz.	08/11/09	Doug Borries
Mackerel, Spanish	5 lb. 1.60 oz.	07/24/04	Dwayne Armes
Mullet, Striped	4 lb. 4.77 oz.	01/19/10	Don Rainey
Pinfish	13.44 oz.	07/15/04	Dwayne Armes
Pompano, Florida	3 lb. 12.8 oz.	10/03/08	Rick Laumen
Remora	2 lb. 13.76 oz.	07/21/09	Dwayne Armes
Runner, Blue	5 lb. 5.6 oz.	08/10/08	Rick Lauman
Runner, Rainbow	5 lb. 9.28 oz.	07/31/03	Dwayne Armes
Seatrout, Sand	1 lb. 0.96 oz.	11/18/07	Doug Borries
Seatrout, Spotted	6 lb. .8 oz.	05/11/09	Rick Lauman
Shark, Atlantic Sharpnose	10 lb. 6.24 oz.	07/21/09	Dwayne Armes
Shark, Blacktip	55 lb. 0.32 oz.	07/16/09	Doug Borries
Shark, Finetooth	19 lb. 1.92 oz.	07/01/09	Doug Borries
Shark, Lemon	11 lb. 15 oz.	10/15/11	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

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Armes Donald H. Jr.	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, MA	O	\$2,001.05
Armes Donald H. Jr.	2012 NRA Chicago Show	Chicago, IL	O	\$2,600.56
Armes Dwayne L.	Federal Academy	Brunswick, GA	O	\$115.20
Baker, Katie	Univ Of Arizona Marsh Bird Wrkshop	Yuma, AZ	F	\$625.30
Boyd Jan L.	Aligning State & NOAA Capacities	Silver Spring, MD	F	\$1,807.39
Boyd Jan L.	Coastal States Organization-41St Membership Mtg	Kennebunk, ME	F	\$2,160.83
Boyd Jan L.	Annual Ocean & Coastal Program Managers Mtg	Washington, DC	F	\$2,019.86
Brantley Willa J.	Coastal Zone Conference	Chicago, IL	F	\$409.40
Brantley Willa J.	Louisiana Beneficial Use Trip	Lafayette, LA	F	\$153.66
Breazeale Brittany Tyler	Southeastern Assoc Of Fish & Wildlife Agencies	Nashville, TN	A	(\$1,296.04)
Broussard Kristina R.	NRDA Quadrant/Sediment Sampling Plan Training	New Orleans, LA	O	\$41.00
Broussard Kristina R.	EPA/GOMA Harmful Algal Bloom Training	Layton, FL	O	\$424.14
Buchanan Jennifer M.	GOMA All Hands Mtg	New Orleans, LA	F	\$191.24
Buchanan Jennifer M.	NEERS/NERRA Nat'l Meeting 2011	Ponte Vedra, FL	F	\$643.93
Buchanan Jennifer M.	Nat'l Marine Educator's Mtg	Anchorage, AK	F	\$2,300.30
Buchanan Jennifer M.	Gulf of Mexico Climate Outreach Workshop	New Orleans, LA	F	\$454.63
Burris Richard E.	Mgmt Concepts Grants Training	San Francisco, CA	F	\$1,019.27
Burris Richard E.	International Fly Tackle Dealer Show	New Orleans, LA	F	\$208.48
Burris Richard E.	Mgmt Concepts Grants Training	Denver, CO	F	\$1,358.02
Burris Richard E.	USFWS SE Federal Assistance Coordinators Mtg	Pensacola, FL	F	\$535.19
Chataginer Walter J. Sr.	Seafood Expo	New Orleans, LA	O	\$422.06
Chataginer Walter J. Sr.	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, MA	O	\$1,987.00
Chataginer Walter J. Sr.	2012 NRA Chicago Show	Chicago, IL	O	\$2,657.85
Chesnut Sandra R	Annual Ocean & Coastal Program Managers Mtg	Washington, DC	F	\$1,704.34
Chudzik, Brittany	Otolith Processor Training Workshop	St Petersburg, FL	O	\$439.20
Clark Lauren L.	Alliance Of Nat'l Heritage Meeting	Charlottesville, VA	F	\$417.20
Clark Lauren L.	Great American Cook Off	New Orleans, LA	F	\$269.53
Clark Lauren L.	Alliance of Nat'l Heritage Fall Mtg	Jim Thorpe, PA	F	\$764.62
Clark Lauren L.	Management Concepts	Seattle, WA	F	\$1,559.72
Cressman Kimberly A.	SWMP Tech Training Workshop	Pawleys Island, SA	F	\$250.47
Cuevas Kerwin J.	Save The Blue	New Orleans, LA	O	\$252.27
Cuevas Kerwin J.	GSMFC 62nd Annual Mtg	New Orleans, LA	O	\$139.40
Cuevas Kerwin J.	4th Decommissioning & Abandonment Summit	Houston, TX	O	\$504.43
Davis James D.	Louisiana Beneficial Use Trip	Lafayette, LA	F	\$157.76
Degeorge Leo D.	Federal Academy	Brunswick, GA	O	\$115.20
Diaz Dale A.	GSMFC Annual State Director's Mtg	Sarasota, FL	O	\$630.20
Diaz Dale A.	ISSC Biennial Mtg	Seattle, WA	O	\$1,723.76
Diaz Dale A.	Gulf Council Meeting	Austin, TX	O	\$1,003.42
Diaz Dale A.	Great Ameican Cookoff	New Orleans, LA	O	\$400.65
Diaz Dale A.	Gulf Guardian Award Ceremonies	New Orleans, LA	O	\$197.19
Diaz Dale A.	2012 Walk on the Hill	Washington, DC	O	\$1,896.91
Diaz Dale A.	Gulf of Mexico Fishery Mgmt Council Mtg	Mobile, AL	O	\$34.00
Diaz Dale A.	Kemps Ridley Stakeholders Mtg	College Station, TX	O	\$1,372.02
Floyd Traci M.	USFWS SE Federal Assistance Coordinators Mtg	Pensacola, FL	F	\$612.48
Goff, Brooke	2012 Int'l Restaurant & Food Srv Show Of NY	New York, NY	O	\$361.20
Goff, Brooke	2012 NRA Chicago Show	Chicago, IL	O	\$497.70
Goff, Brooke	MS Picnic In Central Park	New York, NY	O	\$251.20
Gollott Leslie R.	Great American Cook Off	New Orleans, LA	F	\$436.35
Gollott Leslie R.	Alliance of Nat'l Heritage Fall Mtg	Jim Thorpe, PA	F	\$762.42
Gollott Leslie R.	Management Concepts	Seattle, WA	F	\$1,625.67
Gordon John S. Sr.	ISSC 2011 Biennial Meeting	Seattle, WA	O	\$1,565.72
Gordon John S. Sr.	Gulf & South Atlantic States Shellfish Conf	Jacksonville, FL	O	\$975.00
Grote Paul D.	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, MA	O	\$2,047.65
Grote Paul D.	2012 NRA Chicago Show	Chicago, IL	O	\$2,587.46
Huisman Avia J.	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Annual Mtg	New Orleans, LA	O	\$523.30
Huisman Avia J.	NEERS/NERRA Nat'l Meeting 2011	Point Verdra, FL	F	\$636.16
Huisman Avia J.	Climate Community of Prac Mtg + Wtr Words Wrkshp	New Orleans, LA	F	\$542.76

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Jackson Irvin	MS Seafood Celebration @ Viking Cooking School	Jackson, MS	À	(\$77.76)
Jackson Irvin W. III	ACF Regional Conference	Winston Salem, NY	O	\$1,285.98
Jackson Irvin W. III	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, MA	O	\$2,261.99
Jackson Irvin W. III	2012 Int'l Restaurant & Food Srv Show of NY	New York, NY	O	\$2,047.14
Jackson Irvin W. III	2012 NRA Chicago Show	Chicago, IL	O	\$2,519.60
Jackson Irvin W. III	MS Picnic in Central Park	New York, NY	O	\$2,616.60
Jackson Irvin W. III	2012 Southwest Food Show	Dallas, TX	O	\$1,242.00
Jewell Joseph D.	Gulf & S Atlantic States Shellfish Conf	Savannah, GA	O	\$469.20
Jewell Joseph D.	SE & SW State Shellfish Program Managers Mtg	Tallahassee, FL	O	\$450.90
Jewell Joseph D.	Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conf	Seattle, WA	O	\$451.60
Jewell Joseph D.	FL Oyster Reconditioning/Dealers/Processors Mtg	Apalachicola, FL	O	\$177.50
Jewell Joseph D.	ISSC Executive Board Mtg	Charlotte, NC	O	\$910.01
Jewell Joseph D.	ISSC Executive Board Mtg	Charlotte, NC	O	\$45.00
Kasovich Matthew W.	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, MA	O	\$2,003.61
Leggett Alison H.	Marsh Bird Training Workshop	Yuma, AZ	F	\$1,178.45
Leirer Jennifer	How to Communicate Tactfully/Professionally	Metairie, LA	O	\$302.97
Perkins Susan	Alliance Nat'l Heritage Area Mtg	Charlottesville, VA	F	\$417.20
Perkins Susan	Coastal Zone	Chicago, IL	F	\$448.31
Perkins Susan	Alliance Of Nat'l Heritage Fall Mtg	Jim Thorpe, PA	F	\$763.70
Perkins Susan	Southern Public Relations Federation Conf	Point Clear, AL	F	\$126.92
Perkins Susan	11th Annual New Partners For Smart Growth	San Diego, CA	F	\$1,081.00
Perret, William	ISSC Biennial Mtg	Seattle, WA	O	\$505.00
Perret, William	GSMFC Directors Mtg	Muscle Shoals, AL	F	\$367.80
Perret, William	Gulf Oyster Industry Council	Washington, DC	O	\$408.60
Perret, William	Gulf & S. Atlantic States Shellfish Conf	Savanna, GA	O	\$463.20
Perret, William	GSMFC Annual State Directors Meeting	Sarasota, FL	O	\$587.20
Posadas Ruth	ISSC Biennial Mtg	Seattle, WA	O	\$2,081.88
Posadas Ruth	Globe 2012	Vancouver, Canada	F	\$2,689.47
Price Rhonda	Natural Hazards Mitigation Assoc Practitioners Mtg	Broomfield, CO	F	\$362.60
Price Rhonda	Oceans '11 MTS/IEEE Conference	Kona, HI	F	\$3,950.70
Price Rhonda	Resiliency Index Facilitators Training	Lafayette, LA	F	\$200.84
Price Rhonda	USFWS Fiscal Mtg/GOMA All Hands Mtg	New Orleans, LA	F	\$319.80
Price Rhonda	Great American Seafood Cookoff	New Orleans, LA	F	\$452.94
Price Rhonda	SOBA Meeting	Lacrosse, WA	F	\$995.11
Price Rhonda	Slamm Mtg For St Andrew Bay	San Rosa Beach, FL	F	\$391.44
Price Rhonda	Gulf Summit 2011	Houston, TX	F	\$2,223.62
Price Rhonda	GOMA Community Resilience Training Wrkshop	St Petersburg, FL	F	\$600.11
Price Rhonda	Gulf of Mexico Climate Outreach Community of Prac.	New Orleans, LA	F	\$600.22
Price Rhonda	2012 SE-WSFR Coordinator Mtg	Pensacola, FL	F	\$388.93
Price Rhonda	America's Wetland Resilient Community Forum	New Orleans, LA	F	\$608.98
Price Rhonda	Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands	Corpus Christi, TX	F	\$650.80
Ramseur George S. Jr.	State of the Coast Conference	New Orleans, LA	F	\$650.00
Ranew Richard A. Jr.	2011 NSTA Area Conference	New Orleans, LA	F	\$751.89
Rankin Jessica R.	Globe 2012	Vancouver, Canada	F	\$2,627.01
Ray Rebekah R.	Coastal Zone Conference	Chicago, IL	F	\$1,257.49
Richardson William L.	62nd Annual Gulf States Marine Fisheries Comm. Mtg	New Orleans, LA	O	\$240.77
Rider Jason J	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, MA	O	\$469.70
Rider Jason J	ACF Regional Conference	Winston Salem, NC	O	\$1,332.51
Rider Jason J	2012 Int'l Restaurant & Food SRVS show of NY	New York, NY	O	\$2,414.85
Rider Jason J	2012 NRA Chicago Show	Chicago, IL	O	\$2,590.18
Rider Jason J	MS Picnic In Central Park	New York, NY	O	\$2,703.20
Rider Jason J	2012 Southwest Food Show	Dallas, TX	O	\$1,242.00
Royals Christy R.	Strategies for Effective Performance Evaluations	Arlington, VA	O	\$1,435.29
Runnels Joseph Arnold Jr	Interstate Shellfish Shippers Conf	Seattle, WA	O	\$2,053.38
Ruple David L.	Gulf of Mexico Alliance	New Orleans, LA	F	\$190.36
Ruple David L.	NERRS/NERRA Annual Mtg	Ponte Verda, FL	F	\$697.13
Ruple David L.	Vulnerability Assessment Training	St Petersburg, FL	F	\$782.86
Ruple David L.	Annual NOAA Coastal Program Mgrs Mtg/NERRA Brd Mtg	Washington, DC	F	\$1,625.29
Sapet Mario III	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, MA	O	\$1,971.01
Shumate Sheila	Coastal Zone	Chicago, IL	F	\$473.31
Shumate Sheila	Oceans 11 Mts/IEEE Conference	Kona, HI	F	\$1,482.72
Shumate Sheila	GOMA Meeting	New Orleans, LA	F	\$361.76
Shumate Sheila	Great American Seafood Cook Off	New Orleans, LA	F	\$246.93
Shumate Sheila	CZM	Silver Springs, MD	O	\$1,728.89
Shumate Sheila	Alliance of Nat'l Heritage Fall Mtg	Jim Thorpe, PA	F	\$974.70
Shumate Sheila	State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit	Houston, TX	F	\$2,285.51

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Shumate Sheila	11th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth	San Diego, CA	F	\$2,160.84
Shumate Sheila	2012 SE Land Conservation Conf	St Simons Island, GA	F	\$846.33
Shumate Sheila	Alliance Nat'l Heritage Mtg	Charlottesville, VA	F	\$1,705.97
Shumate Sheila	Gulf of Mexico Climate Outreach Community Prac.	New Orleans, LA	F	\$554.38
Shumate Sheila	America's Wetland Resilient Community Forum	New Orleans, LA	F	\$818.85
Shumate Sheila	Gulf of Mexico Alliance all Hands	Corpus Christi, TX	F	\$336.80
Shumate Sheila Tina H	Neshoba County Fair	Philadelphia, MS	Â	(\$1,436.72)
Strange Thomas P.	GOMA	New Orleans, LA	F	\$233.56
Strange Thomas P.	2011 NERRS/NERRA Annual Mtg	St Augustine, FL	F	\$614.31
Strange Thomas P.	Nat'l Spatial Reference System Training	Fredericksburg, VA	F	\$1,358.18
Underwood William V.	2011 NERRS/NERRA Annual Mtg	St Augustine, FL	F	\$618.10
Underwood William V.	Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis Course	St Petersburg, FL	F	\$732.74
Underwood William V.	Nat'l Spatial Reference System Training	Fredericksburg, VA	F	\$1,754.28
Vesa Kara	SE Region Annual Federal Coordinators Mtg	Pensacola, FL	F	\$306.24
Walker Michael F.	LA Seafood Expo	New Orleans, LA	F	\$25.00
Walker Michael F.	NOAA/CPD & CZMP Mtgs	New Orleans, LA	F	\$8.00
Walker William W.	Current Oil Spill Activities & Restoration Efforts	Buras, LA	O	\$116.97
Walker William W.	Gulf of Mexico Governor's Alliance	New Orleans, LA	O	\$49.40
Walker William W.	GOMA All Hands Mtg	New Orleans, LA	O	\$1,309.06
Walker William W.	USACOE MSCIP	Mobile, AL	O	\$35.46
Walker William W.	Meet w/Gov. Jindal's Staff (Garrett Graves)	New Orleans, LA	O	\$51.90
Walker William W.	Nat'l Oceans Council Governance Coordinating Mtg	Washington, DC	O	\$1,534.20
Walker William W.	USACOE-EAB Meeting	Omaha, NE	O	\$1,030.71
Walker William W.	BP Sustainability Roundtable	New Orleans, LA	O	\$311.78
Walker William W.	Gulf of Mexico Summit	Houston, TX	O	\$1,908.37
Walker William W.	Corps of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board	Washington, DC	O	\$1,148.09
Walker William W.	Mtg w/Congressman Palazzo & Staff	Washington, DC	O	\$1,162.36
Walker William W.	Gulf Oyster Industry Mtg	Washington, DC	O	\$2,732.02
Walker William W.	Joint Ocean Commission Initiative Leadership Council	Annapolis, MA	O	\$725.70
Walker William W.	DC Oceans Frontiers Mtg	Washington, DC	O	\$1,295.54
Walker William W.	Gulf of Mexico Alliance 2012 All Hands Mtg	Corpus Christi, TX	O	\$1,289.40
Walker William W.	Gulf Coast Restoration Summit	Destin, FL	O	\$1,048.64
Williams Daniel T.	Marsh Bird Monitoring Training Workshop	Yuma, AZ	O	\$1,132.77
Wittmann Jennifer C.	Bi-Monthly IRT Mtgs	Mobile, AL	F	\$12.00
Zednick Jill M.	FD242 Sanitary Surveys of Shellfish Growing Areas	Austin, TX	O	\$1,786.20
Ziegler Joseph C. Jr.	Christening Ceremony/Tour Marine Vssl Secretariat	New Orleans, LA	O	\$352.27

**Total Out of State Travel Cost**

**\$151,927.28**



**Mississippi  
Department of Marine Resources**

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