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# Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

November 21, 2023



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# Employment Updates

## New-Hires:

- Thomas Butera – ENRS I – November 16, 2023 – Office of Coastal Resources Management – Wetlands Bureau
- Anthony Stringfellow – ENRS II – November 16, 2023 – Office of Marine Fisheries – Shellfish Bureau



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# Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

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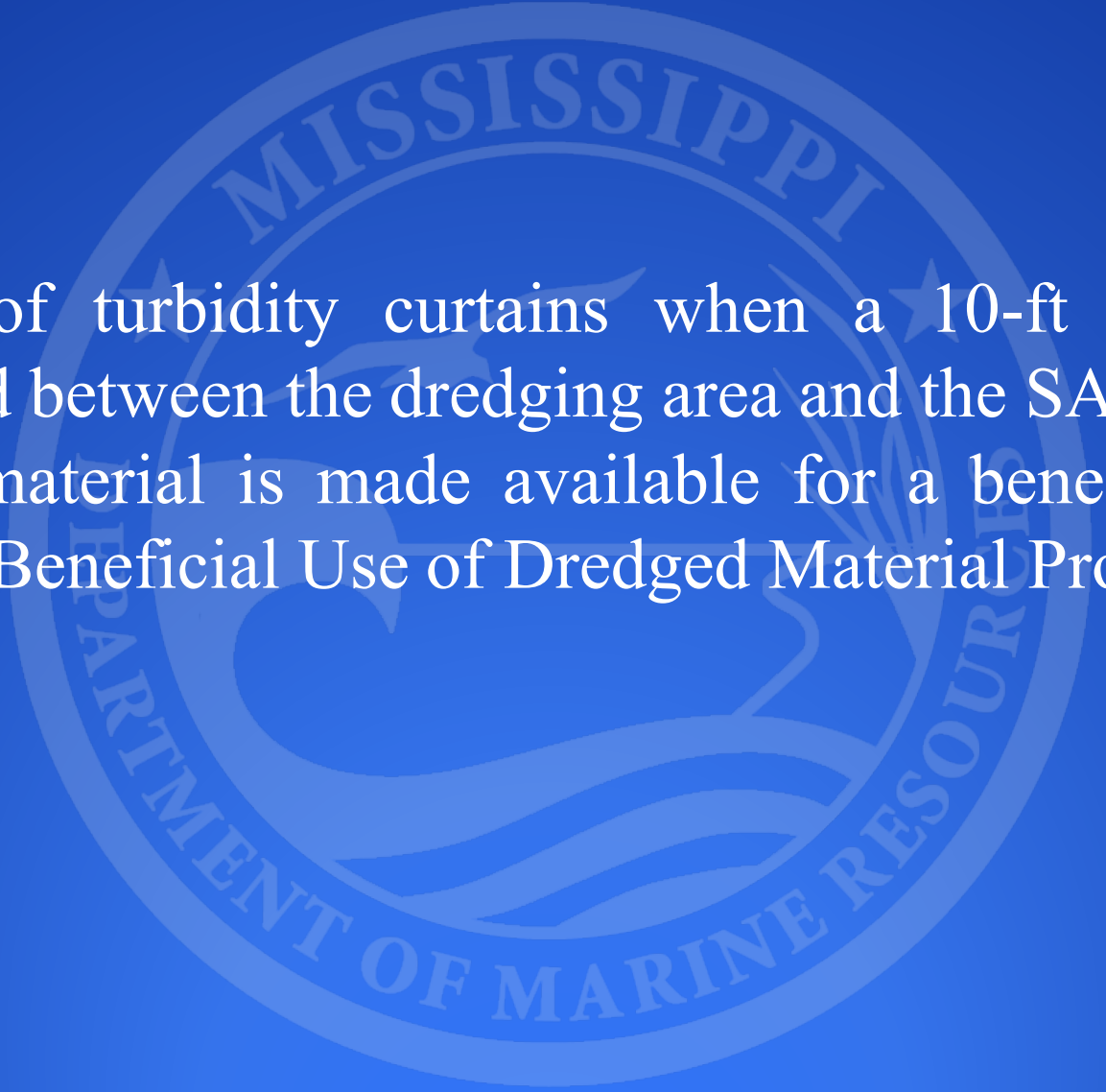
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# Actions Update for November 21, 2023 Commission Meeting



# Discussed at the October 2023 meeting:

- The Commission recommended and the Director approved the following motions:
- Motion to recommend approval of variance and permit:
  - 1) The Jackson County Board of Supervisors' request for variance and permit requesting authorization to dredge an unnamed tributary to Bayou Porteaux near Solano Circle in Jackson County, Mississippi.  
Approval of the permit is contingent upon:

- 
- The logo of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is a circular seal. It features a central figure of a fish, possibly a bluefish, swimming upwards. The fish is surrounded by stylized waves at the bottom. The words "MISSISSIPPI" and "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" are inscribed around the perimeter of the seal. There are two stars on either side of the word "MISSISSIPPI".
- The use of turbidity curtains when a 10-ft buffer cannot be maintained between the dredging area and the SAV.
  - Dredged material is made available for a beneficial use through MDMR's Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program.

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# Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Agency Financial Results  
as of October 31, 2023

Key Metrics:

- State Revenue of \$3.7M
- Agency Revenue of \$17.3M
- State Net Income of \$1.6M
- Agency Net Income of \$8.9M

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**  
**Income Statement - Fiscal Year 2024**  
**As of October 31, 2023**

	<b>Federal :</b>				
	<b>GOMESA</b>				
	<b>PHII:</b>				
	<b>NFWF:</b>	<b>Operating</b>			
	<u>State</u>	<u>Non-Federal:</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>Tidelands</u>	
				<u>Total DMR</u>	
<b>Revenue:</b>					
Off-road Fuel Tax	3,050,000	-	3,050,000	-	3,050,000
Federal/NonFederal Grants	21,130	688,866	709,995	-	709,995
Sales Revenue	419,555	-	419,555	-	419,555
Indirect Cost Recovery	213,483	-	213,483	-	213,483
Other Revenue	86,877	1,193,959	1,280,835	11,684,636	12,965,471
<b>Current Budget Year Revenue:</b>	<b>3,791,044</b>	<b>1,882,824</b>	<b>5,673,868</b>	<b>11,684,636</b>	<b>17,358,504</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>					
Salaries, Wages, Fringe	1,823,068	1,099,378	2,922,447	336,924	3,259,370
Travel	13,075	10,133	23,208	8,088	31,295
Contractual Services	96,278	331,517	427,794	212,814	640,609
Commodities	96,511	945,947	1,042,457	53,833	1,096,291
Other than Equipment	-	4,850	4,850	-	4,850
Equipment	111,161	35,319	146,481	8,874	155,355
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	653	2,296,480	2,297,133	903,375	3,200,508
<b>Current Budget Year Expenditures:</b>	<b>2,140,746</b>	<b>4,723,624</b>	<b>6,864,370</b>	<b>1,523,908</b>	<b>8,388,278</b>
<b>Current Budget Year Net Income/(Loss):</b>	<b>\$ 1,650,298</b>	<b>\$ (2,840,799)</b>	<b>\$ (1,190,502)</b>	<b>\$ 10,160,728</b>	<b>\$ 8,970,227</b>

# Financial Budget Comparison

- After four months of Fiscal Year 2024:

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**  
**2024 Budget Comparison**  
**As of October 31, 2023**

	<i>Actual Year to Date Expenditures</i>			<i>Budget Year Totals</i>			<i>Percent Remaining</i>		
	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Tidelands</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Tidelands</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Tidelands</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>									
Salaries, Wages, Fringe	\$ 2,922,447	\$ 336,924	\$ 3,259,370	\$ 15,093,165	\$ 1,304,662	\$ 16,397,827	80.6%	74.2%	80.1%
Travel	23,208	8,088	31,295	213,093	25,000	238,093	89.1%	67.6%	86.9%
Contractual Services	427,794	212,814	640,609	13,643,311	1,651,000	15,294,311	96.9%	87.1%	95.8%
Commodities	1,042,457	53,833	1,096,291	3,923,349	360,000	4,283,349	73.4%	85.0%	74.4%
Other than Equipment	4,850	-	4,850	100,000	20,000	120,000	95.2%	100.0%	96.0%
Equipment	146,481	8,874	155,355	988,317	280,000	1,268,317	85.2%	96.8%	87.8%
Vehicles	-	-	-	-	150,000	150,000	-	100.0%	100.0%
Wireless Devices	-	-	-	6,250	-	6,250	100.0%	-	100.0%
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	2,297,133	903,375	3,200,508	165,690,342	8,664,585	174,354,927	98.6%	89.6%	98.2%
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$ 6,864,370</b>	<b>\$ 1,523,908</b>	<b>\$ 8,388,278</b>	<b>\$ 199,657,827</b>	<b>\$ 12,455,247</b>	<b>\$ 212,113,074</b>	<b>96.6%</b>	<b>87.8%</b>	<b>96.0%</b>

- Operating Funds have 96.6% of Budget remaining
- Tidelands Trust Fund has 87.8% of Budget remaining



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# Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

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# Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

## FY2025 Tidelands Trust Fund

### Legislative Forum



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# Tidelands Trust Fund

## FY2025 Proposal Results

86 APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED  
\$36,751,193.49

46 Public Access  
\$28,060,354.97

25 Submitted by Cities  
\$15,920,085.47

14 Submitted by Counties  
\$9,785,787.50

7 Miscellaneous  
\$2,354,482.00

40 TIDELANDS MANAGEMENT  
\$8,690,838.52

22 Submitted by MDMR  
\$5,382,689.00

13 Submitted by Universities  
\$3,003,499.52

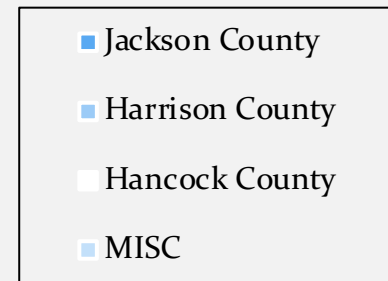
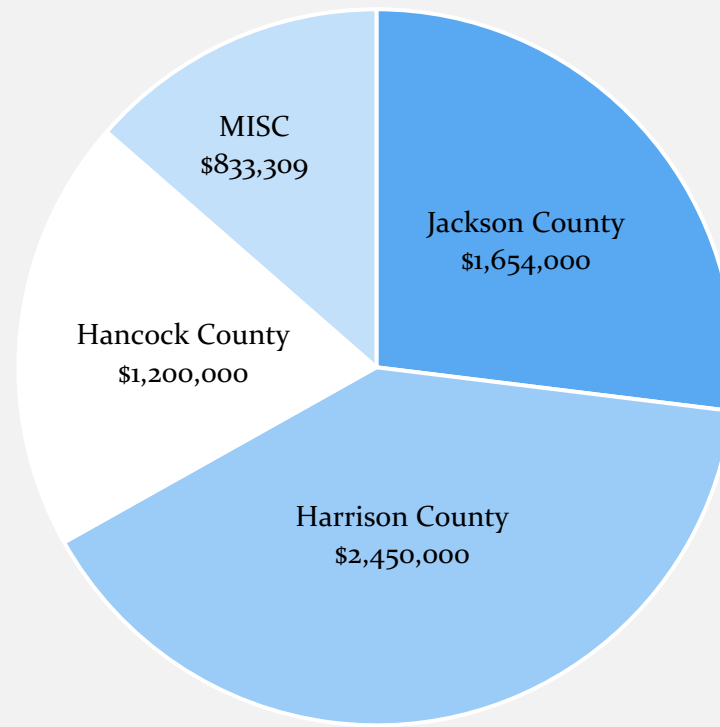
5 Miscellaneous  
\$304,650.00

*Appropriated for FY2024: \$11,455,247.00*

# FY24 Public Access Awarded

## \$6,128,309

### Public Access Awards

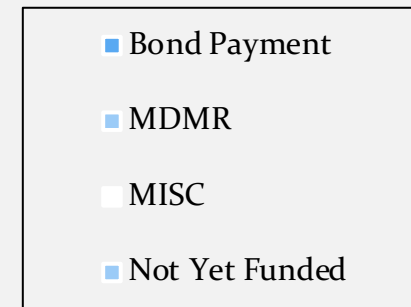
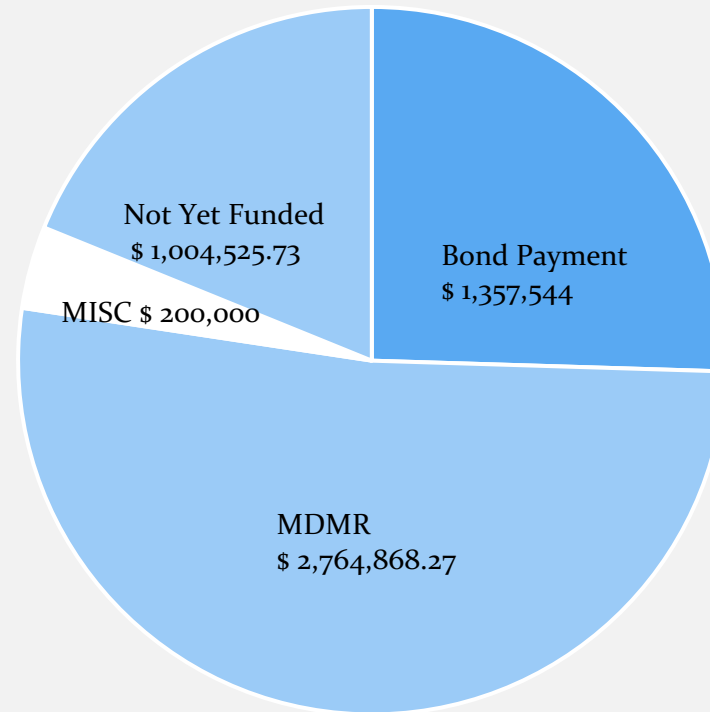


# FY24 Managed Projects and Bond Payment Awarded

\$ 3,969,394.00 Managed Projects

\$ 1,357,544 Bond Payment

## FY24 Awards







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# Tidelands FY2026 Schedule

Date	Description
May 31, 2024	Request for Proposals
July 1, 2024	Deadline for Proposals
July - Aug 2024	Compliance Review
September - October 2024	Merit Review
November 2024	Recommendations and CMR Approval of Ranked Proposals
December 2024	Legislative Forum
January 2025	Projects/Report to Legislature
April 2025	FY2026 Appropriations
November 2025	Check from SOS Office
November - December 2025	Projects Awarded



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Jason Saucier  
November 21, 2023

K.1.

# Previous MDMR Derelict Trap Removal and Recycling Efforts



CLEAN UP YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAPS
1999-2002	2,447
2003*	1,818
2004*	856
2007*	11,150
2008*	1,259
2009	438
2010*	431
2011	108
2012	122
2013*	281
2014	14
2015	78
2016*	2,542
2017	145
2018	42
2019*	267
2020	8
2021*	347
2022	18
2023	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,409</b>

\* Volunteer clean up event occurred



# Previous Closure Area



# Historical Crab Trap Closure Dates

- §49-15-84.1 Closed season for use of crab traps; removal of abandoned traps.
  - Closure must be no less than 10 days and no more than 30 days
  - Any trap remaining after 7<sup>th</sup> day of closure considered abandoned
- Closure dates will be selected based on:
  - Stakeholder feedback
  - Improving volunteer participation
  - Tidal cycle

Year	closure dates
2003	January 14-25
2004	March 14-21 (Hancock) March 22-27 (Harrison) March 28 - April 3 (Jackson)
2007	June 6-12
2008	March 9-21
2010	January 21-30
2013	February 14-23
2016	April 5-14
2019	February 7-16
2021	January 21-30

# Proposed Closure Dates and Clean-up Logistics

- Proposed crab trap closure for all territorial waters within one-half mile of the mainland shoreline for 10 days between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>
- Crab fishermen would have first seven days of closure to remove their own traps from the closed waters
- Derelict trap removal would be allowed by volunteers during the last 3 days of the 10-day closure
- All licensed crab fishermen will be notified ahead of closure by postcard mail-outs, legal notice, press release and social media posts
- Trap drop-off sites will be located at Bayou Caddy, Ocean Springs Harbor, and Pascagoula Point Park
- All recovered traps will be recycled

**2021 MISSISSIPPI DERELICT CRAB TRAP REMOVAL PROGRAM**

## NOTICE

**JANUARY 21-31**

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) will conduct a crab trap gear closure from Thursday, January 21, at 6 a.m. until Sunday, January 31, at 6 a.m. **The closure area will be defined as all waters located within one-half mile of the mainland shoreline to include Deer Island and all bays, bayous and rivers.** State waters beyond the one-half mile will remain open.

During the first seven days, crab fishermen may remove their own traps from closure areas. Crab traps remaining in the water after Wednesday, January 27, are considered derelict. Derelict traps will be removed Thursday, January 28, through Saturday, January 30, and properly disposed at designated sites.

**REMINDER: IT IS ILLEGAL TO REMOVE TRAPS NOT LICENSED TO YOU OUTSIDE OF THE APPROVED TRAP REMOVAL DATES. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

For more information, contact the MDMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau at (228) 374-5000 or visit our website at [dmr.ms.gov/shrimpcrab](http://dmr.ms.gov/shrimpcrab).

## NEWS RELEASE

MS Dept. of Marine Resources  
1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi 39530

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**20-XX-CWS**  
December 21, 2020

Contact: Charmaine Schnermund  
Phone: 228-523-4156

**MDMR announces crab trap closure January 21-31**

BILOXI, Miss. – In an effort to remove derelict crab traps from state waters, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) will conduct a crab trap closure for commercial and recreational crab fishermen in Mississippi territorial waters within one-half mile of the mainland shoreline and Deer Island from the Alabama/Mississippi border to the Mississippi/Louisiana border. The closure will run from 6 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 21, until 6 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021.

The schedule for the removal of crab traps is as follows:

- **Jan. 21 – 27** – All commercial and recreational crab fishermen must use this time to remove their own traps from closure areas in Mississippi territorial waters. As a reminder, it is illegal to remove traps licensed to another person outside of the approved trap removal dates. This will be strictly enforced.
- **Jan. 28 – 30** – All traps remaining in the water will be considered derelict and will be removed and recycled. Volunteers may remove remaining traps from all state waters during these dates. Derelict traps may be dropped off at MDMR designated sites for recycling from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Point Park in Pascagoula, Ocean Springs Harbor and Pleasure Street Boat Launch in Bay St. Louis.
- **Jan. 31** – Beginning at 6 a.m., all active traps may be returned to Mississippi territorial waters and crab fishing may resume.

The Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program has removed and recycled almost 22,000 traps since its inception in 1999. Volunteers interested in participating in this year's program can contact the MDMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau at (228) 374-5000 for more information.



## Staff recommendation:

For the Executive Director to establish a crab trap closure in public waters for the purpose of conducting a derelict crab trap clean-up for 10 days in 2024. Closure area and dates will be based on stakeholder feedback.





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# Regulatory Changes to Title 22 Part 09 – Offshore Landing Permit

Trevor Moncrief  
November 21, 2023

K.2.

# Background

- Current MRIP FES design
  - Address based
  - Multiple limitations
- Management need
  - Removals are of utmost importance to understand regulatory effectiveness, angler success, and trends in fisheries over time
  - Recreational harvest estimates scale productivity in assessments
- Primary goal
  - Create a universe of offshore anglers to aid in the estimation of effort and harvest of offshore/federally managed species pertinent to Mississippi
- States currently employing similar efforts
  - LA, AL, FL

# Direct Use of Offshore Landing Permit

- Implementation of pilot recreational survey – MS Creel
  - Modeled after LA Creel
  - Effort estimates derived from call-outs and emails to license frame
  - Pilot begins January 2024
  - Full implementation potentially 2025
- Important next steps
  - Stakeholder engagement/awareness
  - Planned comparisons and analyses
  - Transitioning all recreational time series



# Title 22 Part 9 Chapter 8 Recreational Reporting Requirements

**Rule 8.4 Recreational Offshore Landing Permit.** Any person, except those persons currently exempt from purchasing a recreational fishing license, possessing any one of the below fish species or species groups on board a vessel taken from within or outside of Mississippi territorial waters shall be required to have obtained and have in their immediate possession a recreational offshore landing permit. Any person on a trip aboard a charter vessel, who pays a fee for that trip, is not required to have this permit, but the permit is required for owner of the licensed charter vessel. Permits may be obtained at no cost from the Department, or authorized method, by persons who hold any valid license authorizing the taking and possessing of saltwater species of fish. Permits shall be valid for the duration of the calendar year in which they were purchased, regardless of the duration of the valid recreational fishing license. Required species are as listed:

A. Reef fish species:

1. any species of snapper, excluding Mangrove Snapper harvested within a line formed by the Intercoastal Waterway;
2. Any species of amberjack;
3. Any species of grouper or hind;
4. Gray triggerfish;

B. Coastal pelagics:

1. Cobia

# Action Needed-

Motion to recommend Notice of  
Intent for regulatory changes to  
Title 22 Part 09



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# State Saltwater Fishing Record

Trevor Moncrief

November 21, 2023

K.3.



The seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is a circular emblem. It features a central illustration of a bird in flight over a body of water with waves. The text "MISSISSIPPI" is arched across the top, and "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" is arched across the bottom. Two stars are positioned on either side of the central image.

# Conventional Tackle

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# Conventional Tackle Fishing Record

Florida Pompano  
*Trachinotus carolinus*

Old Record: 4 lbs. 15.7 oz.

New Record: 5 lbs. 0.64 oz.

Angler: Stefanson Smith



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# Conventional Tackle Fishing Record

Irish Pompano

*Diapterus auratus*

New Record: 5.9 oz.

Angler: Cecily O'Brien



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The seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is centered in the background. It features a circular border with the text "MISSISSIPPI" at the top and "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" at the bottom, separated by two stars. The central image depicts a fish leaping from the water, with a stylized sun or wave above it.

Required:  
Motion to Adopt New State Records

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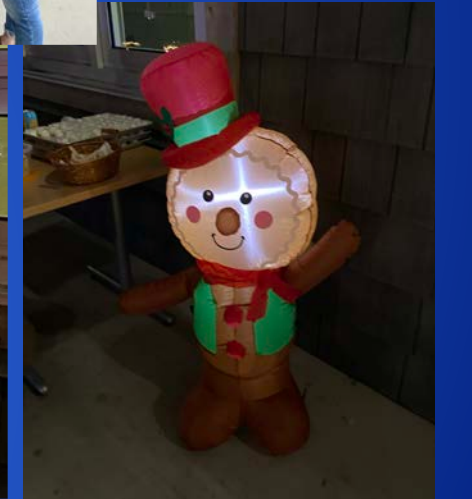
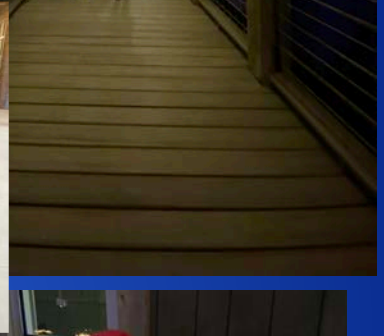
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Invites you to our Star Party!





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Hayrides! Star Gazing! Crafts! Owl Walks! Cookies! Soup! Santa! Oh my!!





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2019

2021





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2018



2022



2019



2021





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You are invited to join the Grand Bay NERR for our annual

# Star Party

Saturday

**December 9, 2023**

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm



**Free. Family. Fun!**



*Grand Bay*  
National Estuarine  
Research Reserve



Witness one of the largest meteor showers of the year, the **Geminids Meteor Shower!** We will also have an amazing night of free family fun!



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