



**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**  
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## **News Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***2010 Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup Snares 347 Traps for Recycling***

BILOXI, Miss. – During the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' (DMR) Shrimp and Crab Bureau's 2010 Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup, a total of 347 derelict crab traps were removed from Mississippi waters to be recycled at a Coast scrap-metal facility. The cleanup was held Jan. 28-30, 2010, in waters within a trap-gear closure area a half-mile of the main shoreline.

All Mississippi crab trap license holders were notified to remove their active traps from the closure area the week of Jan. 21-27, in advance of the cleanup. There were 140 volunteers registered in advance to help with the effort, although the Shrimp and Crab Bureau noted that high winds and cold conditions kept some volunteers from full participation. This type of cleanup works best in the winter months as low winter tides expose the derelict traps.

Volunteers turned in the derelict traps at three sites along the coast: Pascagoula Point (188 traps), Ocean Springs Harbor (116 traps) and Bayou Caddy Marina (43 traps). Volunteers also submitted data cards with information on where traps were recovered and what was in them. This information will be compiled by program partners at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Lab.

"We are very pleased with the efforts of all of our volunteers and partners who worked together with DMR braving the cold to help restore our marine resources," said DMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau Director Traci Floyd.

The Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program is funded through a grant from the Fish America Foundation in partnership with the Brunswick Public Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center for Community-based Habitat Restoration. The program has removed and recycled over 18,200 derelict crab traps from Mississippi's waters since its inception in 2000.

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. Visit the DMR online at [www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov).

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**Photo credits: Photos courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources**



**Photo cutline (10-12-LDJ Photo A): Darrin Stewart of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources tosses a derelict crab trap into the recycling dumpster in Pascagoula during the 2010 Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup.**



**Photo cutline (10-12-LDJ Photo B): Kristina Broussard of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources cleans up derelict crab traps from a kayak in Davis Bayou in Jackson County as part of the 2010 Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup.**



**Photo cutline (10-12-LDJ Photo C): Cleanup volunteer Logan Stokes, 13, cleaned up crab traps with his grandfather, commercial crab fisherman Wain Rogers.**

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