



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES  
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ***DMR Offers Free Boating Safety Classes***

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) Boat and Water Safety classes are scheduled in the coastal counties: Jackson, Harrison, and Hancock. To reserve a spot in a class, please call the number next to the class you are interested in attending. Classes with fewer than 10 students will be cancelled, and students will have the option to attend the next available class.

### **Jackson County Classes**

**April 6, 2013** Lower Pascagoula WMA headquarters, (601) 783-2982, MDWFP, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

**May 11, 2013** Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Jackson County campus, Gautier, (228) 523-4134, MS DMR, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**June 8, 2013** Lower Pascagoula WMA headquarters, (601) 783- 2982, MDWFP, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

**July 27, 2013** Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Jackson County campus, Gautier, (228)523-4134, MS DMR, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### **Harrison County Classes**

**March 23, 2013** Bolton Building Biloxi, MS, (228) 523-4134, DMR, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**April 13, 2013** Red Creek WMA headquarters, (601) 783-2982, MDWFP, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**May 4, 2013** Bolton Building Biloxi, Ms, (228) 523-4134, DMR, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**June 15, 2013** Red Creek WMA headquarters, (601)783-2982, MDWFP, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**July 13, 2013** Bolton Building Biloxi, MS, (228) 523-4134, DMR, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**June 22, 2013** Bolton Building Biloxi, MS,(228) 523-4134, DMR, 8:30 a.m.-4p.m.

**August 3, 2013** Bolton Building Biloxi, MS, (228) 523-4134, DMR, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### **Hancock County Classes**

**April 20, 2013** Pass Christian Oyster Check Station Pass Christian Harbor, (228) 523-4134, DMR, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**May 18, 2013** Kiln Library, (601)783-2982, MDWFP, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**June 1, 2013** Pass Christian Oyster Check Station, Pass Christian Harbor, (228)523-4134, DMR, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**June 29, 2013** Kiln Library, (601)783-2982, MDWFP, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**July 20, 2013** Pass Christian Oyster Check Station, Pass Christian Harbor, (228)523-4134, DMR, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The DMR Marine Patrol-sponsored courses have been designed to effectively introduce topics such as boat registration, navigation rules, trailering, first aid response and weather watch into a comprehensive one-day class.

These programs and certification courses are conducted by the DMR free of charge, in the three coastal counties, year-round for the public and in the school systems. In the DMR's Boat and Water Safety presentation program, students learn the history of boat and water safety, the duties of the DMR's Marine Patrol, what to expect in the certification course and why there is a need.

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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 us online at [www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov).

#### **Did you know?**

- In order to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft in Mississippi, those born after June 30, 1980, are required to successfully complete an approved boating safety course and to have a certificate of satisfactory completion in their possession while in operation of the motorboat.
- In Mississippi, it is against the law for anyone under 12 years old to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft unless they possess a certificate and are accompanied by a parent, guardian or other person who is at least 21 years of age.
- A wearable type life jacket is required onboard for all persons underway on boats in Mississippi waters.
- Anyone riding or operating a personal watercraft in Mississippi waters must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved type 1, 2, or 3 Personal Flotation Device (PFD).
- Anyone who has not reached their 13th birthday must wear a PFD at all times when underway in a vessel under 26 feet in length.

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