



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Students assist with MDMR Deer Island Restoration Project

BILOXI, Miss. – "A very rewarding experience," is how student Edmund Harris described his alternative spring break plans. On Thursday, Feb. 28 students from Vermont gathered in Pass Christian to assist Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) employees with filling bags of recycled oyster shells for the Deer Island Restoration Project.

The student volunteers traveled to the Gulf Coast as part of their work with Johnson State College Break Away program, which focuses on environmental projects; over the next month the Coast will see more than 500 students who will volunteer through the same program.

The MDMR received a grant from the Gulf of Mexico Community-based Restoration Partnership (GCRP) to fund a part of the Deer Island Restoration Project. This project will help protect about 1600 linear feet of shoreline on the north side of Deer Island by creating a "living shoreline" using bags of recycled oyster shells and coconut fiber core logs.

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.

PHOTO CREDIT: Photo courtesy of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources



PHOTO A CAPTION: Students carry bags to be filled with recycled oyster shells



PHOTO B CAPTION: Break Away volunteer Edmund Harris fills bags to be used in MDMR's Deer Island Restoration Project

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