



## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***MDMR Marine Patrol Responds to Call, Finds Group Weathering Storm on Deer Island***

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) Marine Patrol received a call at 8:58 a.m. today reporting that a group of people had been camping on Deer Island overnight and had not been heard from. At 9:32 a.m., Marine Patrol arrived on Deer Island and found the campers--seven children and nine adults--on the south side, east end of the island.

Marine Patrol Officers Paul Elmore and Mike Strickland brought the seven children, whose ages ranged from eight to 13, to Biloxi Small Craft Harbor where Marine Patrol Officer Rocky Southern and American Medical Response were on site. The nine adult campers followed in a camper's personal boat. Fourteen of the 16 campers were taken to Biloxi Regional and Ocean Springs hospitals for evaluation. All but one of the campers have been released.

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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