



## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***Some oyster reefs closing Thursday; Dredging season ends Friday***

BILOXI, Miss. – Several oyster reefs will close to all harvest at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, and remain closed until further notice because of the stage of the Pearl River in Pearl River, Louisiana, officials with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources announced Thursday.

The areas that will be closed are:

**Area I "B" Conditionally Approved Waters** - This area includes St. Josephs' or St. Joes' Reef

**Area II "A" Conditionally Approved Waters** - This area includes northern portions of the Pass Christian and Henderson Point reefs and Hornets reefs.

**Area II "B" Conditionally Approved Waters** - This area includes St. Stanislaus and Waveland reefs.

**Area II "D" Conditionally Approved Waters** - This area includes the public reefs in St. Louis Bay, between the U.S. 90 bridge and the CSX Railroad bridge.

Officials also announced that the limited oyster season will close to dredging on Friday, Feb. 7, at 4 p.m. This dredging closure does not affect the limited oyster season for harvest by tonging; however the MDMR has reached its limit on non-resident licenses for commercial tonging, and no more will be sold.

These orders are in accordance with the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources Title 22, Part 1 and the "Order Opening the 2013-2014 Limited Mississippi Oyster Season in Certain Waters Classified as Approved or Conditionally Approved by the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources and Placing Certain Restrictions on Oyster Harvesting Activities."

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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