

**ORDER BY THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES  
OPENING A 2015 SPECIAL MISSISSIPPI OYSTER DREDGING/RELAY SEASON  
FOR LICENSED MISSISSIPPI RESIDENTS IN CERTAIN AREAS, AND PLACING CERTAIN  
RESTRICTIONS ON OYSTER HARVESTING AND HANDLING ACTIVITIES.**

By virtue of the authority vested in the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources, under the provisions of Section §49-15-15 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources, in their regularly scheduled meeting of October 20, 2015, did hereby order that:

The 2015 Special Mississippi Oyster Dredging/Relay Season for Licensed Mississippi Residents shall open for the harvest/relay of oysters, beginning at legal sunrise, the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2015, for dredging/relay activities, by Mississippi residents only, in designated NRDA Areas located on the Pass Marianne Reef, located in Area II "G" Conditionally Approved Waters, and Areas II "H" and II "I" Approved Waters. These areas will open to harvest provided that they meet all criteria for opening as specified in Title 22 – MDMR - Part 1 Rules and Regulations for Shellfish Harvesting, Tagging, Landing, Unloading, Transporting, Relaying, Management, Area Classification, and other Shellfish Related Activities in the State, and the Leasing of Territorial Waters Under the Jurisdiction of the State of Mississippi, or its successor, for said respective waters, and under the special oyster season requirements set forth in this order and the 2015 - 2016 Mississippi Oyster Season. All 2015 - 2016 oyster seed/spat relay areas will remain closed to harvest until further notice. All other areas and waters of the State of Mississippi shall remain closed to the harvest of oysters. The 2015 Special Mississippi Oyster Dredging/Relay Season for Licensed Mississippi Residents shall close at 4:00 P.M., November 7, 2015.

There is no commercial sack limit for this 2015 Special Mississippi Oyster Dredging/Relay Season for Licensed Mississippi Residents. All oyster seed and spat (all oysters less than three inches) caught on designated NRDA Areas located on the Pass Marianne Reef must be retained and returned to the water at a site designated by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR). Maps and coordinates of the NRDA Areas located on the Pass Marianne Reef, as well as the selected relay site will be available at the MDMR oyster check stations.

Information with respect to open and closed areas may be obtained by calling the 24-hour Oyster Information Hotline at 1-228-374-5167 or 1-800-385-5902.

All rules set forth in regulations or state laws will be in full force and effect and it shall be unlawful to violate said provisions of said orders, regulations or laws. Violations of said orders, regulations, or laws shall be punishable in accordance with the provisions of §49-15-63 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated and/or the provision(s) of any specific section(s) of said code applying to the violation. Copies of Title 22, Part 1 or its successor and this Order will be available at the MDMR, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and at the designated check stations, as well as on the MDMR website - <http://dmr.ms.gov/> and <http://dmr.ms.gov/index.php/news-a-events/public-notice>.

**SIGNED THIS THE 22 DAY OF OCTOBER, 2015.**



Richard Gollott, Chairman

**MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES**