

Coastal Markers



Volume 6, Issue 2

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Fall 2002

Walker joins DMR as new Executive Director

■ *Walker brings more than 30 years of experience to agency*

William W. Walker has joined the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) as its new Executive Director. Gov. Ronnie Musgrove announced his appointment to the position July 8 at a press conference held at the auditorium of the Bolton State Office Building in Biloxi where the DMR is located.

"I am delighted to serve as the executive director of the DMR and to work with the citizens of Mississippi to continue to conserve and enhance the state's marine resources for their use and enjoyment for years to come," said DMR Executive Director William Walker.

Walker received his B.S. in botany and microbiology from Southeastern Louisiana University and his M.S. and Ph.D. in soil microbiology and biochemistry from Mississippi State University.

He is presently employed by the U.S. En-



Gov. Ronnie Musgrove (right) welcomes Dr. William W. Walker (left) to the Department of Marine Resources at a press conference held July 8, in Biloxi.

vironmental Protection Agency and is serving as a Legislative Fellow in the Office of Sen. Trent Lott in Washington, DC.

Prior to his service in the federal system,

Walker completed a 28-year career at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM)— Gulf Coast Research Laboratory where he served as Associate Director and was instrumental in building a variety of environmental toxicology programs.

Walker has served as adjunct faculty at USM and the University of Mississippi, is a member of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences and numerous national societies and is well published in national and international scientific journals.

The DMR is responsible for Marine Fisheries Management, Coastal Ecology, Wetlands Permitting, Marine Patrol, Coastal Zone Management, Coastal Preserves, the National Estuarine Research Reserve, Seafood Plant Certification, Boat and Water Safety, Derelict Vessel Act Administration and Tidelands Act Administration.

Hemba named Commission chairman

■ *Mikel Gusa selected as CMR vice-chairman*

The Commission on Marine Resources (CMR) selected Rickey J. Hemba as its new chairman in a unanimous vote at its July 16 meeting. Hemba succeeds Dr. Vernon Asper.

The CMR is composed of five members appointed by the governor for four-year terms to represent the following areas: commercial seafood processor, nonprofit environmental organization, charter boat operator, recreational fisherman and commercial fisherman.

Hemba represents recreational fishermen and Jackson County on the CMR and has



Rickey J. Hemba

served as vice-chairman before being selected as chairman. Mikel C. Gusa, who represents charter boat operators and Harrison County, was selected as the new vice-chairman.

Hemba, a Poplarville native, practices law in Ocean Springs. He is an avid boater and sport fisherman and is a United States Coast Guard-licensed captain.

For upcoming Commission on Marine Resources meetings, see DMR Calendar on page 8. The CMR meets the third Tuesday of each month.

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Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101
Biloxi, MS 39530
(228) 374-5000

www.dmr.state.ms.us

State of Mississippi

Ronnie Musgrove
Governor

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources

Rickey J. Hemba, Chairman
Recreational Sports Fisherman

Mikel C. Gusa, Vice Chairman
Charter Boat Operator

Vernon Asper, Ph.D.
Nonprofit Environmental Organization

Oliver Sahuque
Commercial Fisherman

Rudy A. Lesso
Commercial Seafood Processor

William W. Walker, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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Deputy Director Fred Deegen, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief

Susan Lepoma Perkins
Writer/Editor/Graphic Designer

Marti Schuman
Writer/Editor

Lauren S. Thompson
Writer/Editor

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Director's Notes

Dr. Fred Deegen



Even as the seasons change so too does the climate here at the Department of Marine Resources. In a few short weeks, the staff will welcome its new executive director, Dr. Bill Walker, as he begins his full-time appointment here.

Bill is no stranger to me since we worked closely together many years ago when I first joined the Department and when he was still a research scientist and administrator at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs.

I know him to be a personable, highly competent individual with a keen sense of appreciation of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and its resources from the perspective of someone who calls the Coast home.

After serving as a special advisor on marine fisheries issues to Sen. Trent Lott in Washington, I am certain he is also finely attuned to marine resources management issues from a regional, national and global perspective. There can be little doubt that we are lucky and privileged to have someone with Bill Walker's considerable experience and credentials guide this agency.

Under his capable leadership, I feel certain the department will continue to mature and evolve to better serve you. I am confident too that having Dr. Walker at the helm will strengthen this agency's ability to be good stewards of the marine fisheries and sensitive wetlands that characterize our coastal environment.

Deputy Director

**REGISTER NOW FOR THE
21ST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
SUBMERGED LANDS MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE**

Oct. 14-18, 2002
Isle of Capri Resort
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Call (228) 374-5022, ext. 5303
or visit the DMR Web site at
www.dmr.state.ms.us

**Boat and Water Safety Course
Schedule (Oct.-Dec. 2002)**

- Oct. 8-9, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6-9 p.m.
- Oct. 12, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Oct. 19, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Gulfport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Oct. 21-22, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.
- Oct. 24-25, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6-9 p.m.
- Oct. 26, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Nov. 2, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Nov. 5-6, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Gulfport, 6-9 p.m.
- Nov. 9, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Nov. 14-15, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6-9 p.m.
- Nov. 20-21, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6-9 p.m.
- Nov. 23, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Nov. 26-27, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.
- Nov. 30, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Gulfport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Dec. 2-3, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.
- Dec. 4-5, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Gulfport, 6-9 p.m.
- Dec. 7, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Dec. 12-13, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6-9 p.m.
- Dec. 14, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Dec. 18-19, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6-9 p.m.
- Dec. 21, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Dec. 28, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Gulfport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Call the DMR Boat and Water Safety Bureau at (228) 435-1332 for more details. All classes are free.

A very special thanks to the following employees who contributed to this issue of Coastal Markers: Jeff Clark, Dorothy Daniel, Dale Diaz, Monica Fragello, Marcia Garcia, Matt Hill, Jude LeDoux, Christine Popwell, Ruth Posadas, Amy Taylor, Mike Walker and Frank Wescovich.

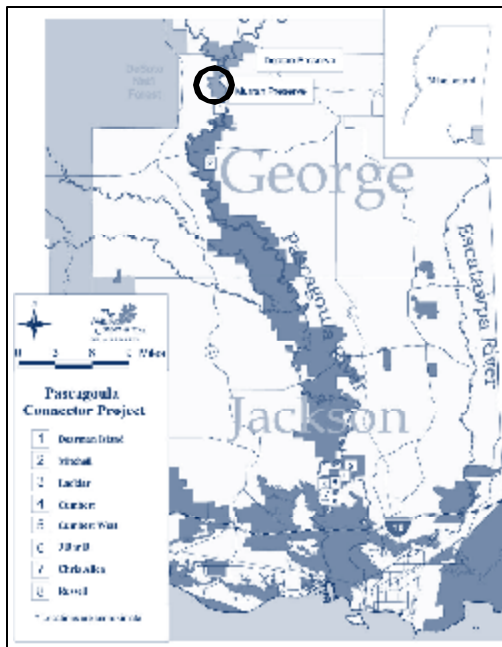
NEMO workshop focuses on nonpoint source pollution

The DMR and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality collaborated on a Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) workshop at D'Iberville City Hall September 18- 19 aimed at municipal officials and planners.

NEMO is an education program that addresses water quality through land use and natural resource planning. NEMO is focused on the explanation of nonpoint sources and their link to different land uses. Particular attention is paid to the role of impervious, or paved, surfaces in the transport and concentration of pollutants.

NEMO outlines a three-tiered strategy of natural resource-based planning, site design and the use of storm water best management practices that towns can use to address their land use and cope with nonpoint source pollution. NEMO is an educational program that municipalities can use to assist them in meeting the public education requirements of their Phase II Storm Water permit.

Coastal Preserves helps to acquire Murrah property



The circled area on this map shows the location of the Murrah Preserve. With the addition of the Murrah Preserve, about 70,000 acres along the Pascagoula River are now managed and protected by state and federal agencies.

The Nature Conservancy of Mississippi (TNC) will dedicate the Herman Murrah Preserve on Oct. 30, 2002. The 1600-acre preserve, located along the upper Pascagoula River, is a significant addition to efforts to create a contiguous corridor of protected conservation lands along the main stem of the Pascagoula River. With this addition, nearly 70,000 acres along the Pascagoula River are managed and protected by state and federal agencies.

The acquisition of the Murrah Preserve lands was achieved through a partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, the Mississippi Secretary of State, the DMR, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. The Murrah Preserve will be managed by TNC. The DMR manages Mississippi's Coastal Preserves.

New tool available for reducing impacts on water resources

The long-term success of the DMR's Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) depends on the concept of partnerships and the commitment of partnerships. By using the skills, resources and energies of the CRMP, a Mississippi Gulf Coast Storm Water Management Toolbox is being developed to address nonpoint source pollution issues for Mississippi's three coastal counties and 11 coastal cities.

The Toolbox is designed to be used for the identification stage of EPA's Storm Water Phase II program and to assist these jurisdictions in meeting the March 10, 2003 deadline for obtaining a permit under the EPA Phase II Program Requirements. Each county and city was provided a copy of the toolbox for use in developing their respective storm water management plans. The project objectives also include improving water quality and addressing water quantity issues.

Six minimum controls for the permitting process include: 1) public education and outreach on storm water impacts, 2) public involvement and participation, 3) illicit connection and discharge detection and elimination, 4) construction site runoff control,

5) post-construction storm water management in development and redevelopment and 6) pollution prevention and good housekeeping of municipal operations.

With funding for the project provided by the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), the CRMP staff and consulting companies of engineers, scientists and planners met with CRMP partner, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, which is the regulatory agency that will be issuing the permits.

"By coordinating our agencies' efforts, assisting communities through education and development of this new tool, we share the commitment of the partnerships. And in a broader sense, I think I would be safe in saying, we are also addressing the concerns of smart growth and sustainability, growing bigger, smarter and better," said Marcia Garcia, CRMP Staff Officer overseeing the Toolbox development.

The DMR's CRMP is a non-regulatory program of federal, state, county and local governments and agencies, non-profit corporations, real estate professionals and developers, bankers, economic developers and concerned citizens making a unified effort to

enhance collaboration for planned development and natural resource management. CRMP meetings are open to the general public and new members are welcome.

The next CRMP meeting is December 12 at 10 a.m. in the Commission Room at the Mississippi Department of Resources on Bayview Avenue in Biloxi.



GIS Day 2002

Join us on Nov. 20, 2002 at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for GIS Day 2002. CRMP invites schools, businesses and the general public to attend to learn more about Geographic Information Systems.

For details, call:
(228) 374-5022, ext. 5053.

Capt. Terry On Patrol



Marine Patrol's latest addition to the fleet, the Capt. Terry, was acquired with Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) federal funds with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Law Enforcement (OLE). The JEA with NOAA/OLE and the DMR went into effect August 2001 to provide enforcement of all federal and state laws pertaining to fisheries in state and federal waters. In Fiscal Year 2002, Marine Patrol conducted 850 commercial vessel checks and 1,564 recreational vessel checks under the JEA and issued 84 commercial and recreational fishery violations. Marine Patrol officers worked a total of 4,600 JEA man-hours while off-duty, which is paid for with federal funds.

Mississippi marinas required to have pump-out facilities

Beginning Oct. 1, 2002, all designated Mississippi marinas must have fully functioning pump-out stations or dump stations for proper disposal of all vessel wastes, as required by Ordinance 10.003, Section 2 of the Marine Litter Act of 1989. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) will be enforcing this ordinance, which was amended in 1997. Marinas have five years to comply with the new law.

The DMR has sent letters and a copy of the ordinance to marina owners, notifying them of the enforcement. All establishments calling themselves marinas, which provide services and wharfage to three or more boats as defined in the Mississippi Coastal Program regulations, will be receiving the notice. Violation of the act carries a fine of \$500 for the first offense and can increase daily until compliance is met. A second offense carries a \$10,000 fine.

The CVA program provides grant assistance to marinas for the installation of pump-out and dump stations.

If you are a marina owner and do not have a pump-out, please contact the DMR Clean Vessel Act (CVA) coordinator at (228) 374-5022, ext. 5098, for information about the CVA program.

Marine Patrol Citation Totals

*Fiscal Year 2002

Shrimp	83
Crab	45
Oyster	115
Commercial Net Fishing	10
Live Bait	5
Miscellaneous Seafood	18
Recreational Fishing	332
Boat and Water Safety	310
Marine Litter	3
Miscellaneous	18

*July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.

Boat and Water Safety Statistics

Fiscal Year 2002

Classes held	82
Students certified	955
Outreach events	38
Presentations	16
Boating accidents	46
Fatalities	2

Sound Advice

Lt. Frank Wescovich



Here we are at the end of another summer of boating on the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast. As the cooler temperatures approach and we button up the canvas on

our boats, we are faced with another potentially dangerous problem that is often overlooked. Reports of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning are on the rise, especially in the boating community.

CO is a tasteless, odorless, colorless gas produced by internal combustion engines and all open flame-producing devices such as stoves, heaters and charcoal grills. Because the weight of CO is about the same as air, it tends to distribute itself throughout a given space and cannot be expected to rise or fall like some other gases. Hence, the unwary person can easily be exposed to dangerous and even fatal levels of CO and never realize it. The early onset symptoms of dizziness, nausea and feeling lightheaded can be confused with the symptoms of seasickness in the marine environment.

The U.S. Coast Guard has recently issued recalls on boats for design problems in the exhaust and ventilation systems that allow CO to build up to a dangerous level in enclosed spaces. There is also an issue of fatal CO poisonings that have happened to persons who hold on to swim platforms on the back of boats while the boat is under way. This is called "teak surfing" and is itself a very dangerous act, even without considering the possibility of CO poisoning. There have also been Coast Guard recalls issued to relocate exhaust openings that are near swim platforms.

CO inhibits the blood's capacity to carry oxygen. Hemoglobin in the bloodstream readily accepts CO—even over the life giving oxygen atoms (as much as 200 times as readily as oxygen) forming a toxic compound known as carboxyhemoglobin (COHb.) By replacing oxygen with COHb in our blood, our bodies poison themselves by cutting off the needed oxygen to our organs and cells, causing various

See SOUND ADVICE, page 6

Cultch plant to boost oyster productivity



DMR Shellfish Program Coordinator Scott Gordon (front) operates one of the high pressure hoses, used to deploy cultch material on the designated oyster reef site. The DMR distributed nearly 3,950 cubic yards of shell material Sept. 5, about five miles south of Pass Christian.

The DMR distributed about 3,950 cubic yards of cultch material Sept. 5, 2002, on Telegraph Reef to enhance oyster production and increase oyster reef acreage by about 80 acres. This, in turn, should boost oyster productivity and also enhance finfishing opportunities in south Mississippi.

Cultch material consists of oyster shells or other suitable material that provides a clean surface for oyster larvae to attach. The site, located about five miles south of Pass Christian, was selected following input from oyster harvesters and on-site investigations of bottom type and other environmental factors. The \$100,000 cultch plant was funded entirely by oyster harvesters and oyster dealers, through shell retention fees collected by the DMR on each sack of oysters harvested in Mississippi.

Shrimp Season UPDATE:

The 2002-2003 shrimp season turned out to be a rather productive one despite the problems that were experienced with weather conditions in early June. Landings for June through July 2002 were down slightly at 3,728,000 lbs. (heads on) compared to 4,356,000 lbs. for the same months in 2001.

The presence of white shrimp (*Litopenaeus setiferus*) has also helped increase production for local shrimpers. However; the major issue for the fishery is the price of shrimp being lower due to imported shrimp. With all the rain we have received, the majority of shrimp being caught now are offshore. Adult shrimp tend to move offshore to higher salinity ranges. Fall landings tend to drop as the year progresses. Sampling trips in the Mississippi Sound have shown many small shrimp are still flowing out of the estuaries, which could provide late season catches for some shrimpers.

Construction begins on new inshore artificial reefs

The DMR in conjunction with Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks has begun constructing 18 new inshore artificial reef sites and enhancing six existing inshore artificial reef sites in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. This will bring the total number of inshore reefs in the three Coast counties to 44.

The inshore reefs are located at the end of piers and near boat ramps and inshore areas where small boats and wade fishermen can access them.

The reefs will provide a hard bottom that will diversify habitat and, therefore, increase species diversity and richness. Matthews Marine is the contractor deploying the reef material, which consists of 9,000 cubic yards of limestone. State tidelands funds will pay for the construction.

GPS locations for the new sites will soon be posted on the DMR Web site at www.dmr.state.ms.us and the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks Web site at www.mgfb.com. For more information, contact the DMR at (228) 374-5000.

Next issue: Results of the 2002 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup

MRFSS info aids fishery management

The DMR is collecting recreational fisheries information daily along the Mississippi Gulf Coast using the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS). The data collected provides a continuous standardized database of marine recreational catch, effort and participation.

The state and the federal fishery management council use the information to assist in wise management decisions. In Mississippi, the responsibility of collecting this important data falls on the shoulders of the DMR MRFSS interviewer team. These interviewers have been selected primarily for their skills in fish identification and communication.

Along with accurately identifying fish, a MRFSS interviewer must be able to approach strangers with little reluctance, conduct interviews in a professional manner and complete all necessary forms accurately and in a timely manner. Interviewers receive their assignments at the beginning of each month along with a quota of interviews that must be met by the end of the month. Each assignment consists of a primary interview site and one of three target modes.

The three modes consist of shore, party/charter and private/rental. The interviewer is required to visit the primary site on the date given, and upon arrival he is to deter-

mine the likelihood of obtaining one interview per hour. If the interviewer determines that he cannot obtain one interview per hour then he visits the next closest site containing the target mode.

An interviewer may spend up to eight hours at a site in an attempt to obtain up to 30 surveys. A survey consists of the interviewer obtaining weights and measures of the angler's fish and running through a set of questions with the angler to establish catch, effort and participation. Most anglers are very cooperative and give the interviewer all the time needed to complete the survey. This type of cooperation from our recreational anglers is the key to obtaining a quality interview.

The information that has been provided through the interview and the analysis of catch has been very beneficial in making marine fisheries management decisions. These decisions help to protect and enhance marine recreational fisheries for current and future generations. "The MRFSS team would just like to take this opportunity to thank all of the anglers that have participated in the survey and let them know that they are playing a significant role in marine fisheries management," said DMR interviewer Matt Hill.



Seafood Safety Corner

The Seafood Technology Bureau has been catapulted from spring training sessions to a summer of routine inspections, standardization inspections, technical assistance projects and the documentation project of the post-harvest treatment of oysters. The Bureau has been inundated with requests of start-up projects such as the opening of seafood retail stores along the Coast and four new processing plants, three of which are oyster processing plants and one crab processing plant. Most of the inquiries concern the requirements needed to start a new seafood retail store, a new seafood plant, how to be a seafood dealer and the associated rules and regulations.

The state of Mississippi has declared September "Food Safety Month." The Food Safety Task Force held a Food Security Symposium at the Mississippi Farm Bureau in Jackson, Miss. on Sept. 25, 2002. This symposium discussed such topics as prevention of food-related terrorist attacks, advice that the different regulatory agencies will give to the industry and responses of the industry and regulatory agencies to food security. The symposium targeted food pro-

cessors, wholesalers, retailers, consumers, local, state and federal officials and educators.

The Seafood Technology Bureau, in a continuing effort to help our seafood dealers, offered another Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and Sanitation Training Course in cooperation with Mississippi State University's (MSU) Cooperative Extension Program under the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Course Certification Program. The training was held Sept. 23-25, 2002 at the MSU Seafood Laboratory in Pascagoula, Miss. The training, which is open to all who are interested in attending, is directed toward assisting new seafood dealers who have new employees and are developing HACCP plans for their facilities.

The Mississippi oyster season opened on Sept. 4, 2002 in selected areas. The Mississippi oyster seafood dealers have been busy preparing for the start of the regular season scheduled to open early in October. The DMR seafood officers have been busy as well, completing water analysis of the water sources of seafood processing facilities and conducting routine and follow-up inspections for the third quarter of the year. This is to ensure water quality for all permitted processing plants for the processing of oysters, crabs, shrimp and other seafood.



Ruth Posadas

SOUND ADVICE continued from page 4

amounts of damage depending on exposure. The bottom line is awareness. This problem has resulted in fatalities. Check out your boat for potential problems. Also be aware that other boats in close proximity to yours may be emitting dangerous levels of CO that can enter your boat. There has been a lot of controversy concerning the use of CO detectors in the marine environment. Most of the literature says that they are usually ineffective at detecting dangerous levels aboard boats and are fraught with false alarms. Detector manufacturers are presently attempting to develop better sensors for their instruments, but the bottom line is still being vigilant and on the lookout for problems around you.

Remember:

SAFE BOATING IS NO ACCIDENT!

Lt. Frank Wescovich oversees the DMR's Boat and Water Safety Program. He can be reached at (228) 432-2820 or (228) 435-1332.

Shrimpers must have permit to fish in federal waters

Shrimp vessel owners and operators who intend to fish for shrimp in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico must obtain a commercial vessel permit through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The regulations became effective Sept. 7, 2002, and owners and operators of shrimp vessels who intend to harvest shrimp from federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico must comply with the new permit requirement by **Dec. 5, 2002.**

An application fee of \$50 will be charged to obtain an initial federal Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery permit. The non-transferable permit will be valid for one year from the date of issue unless it is revoked, suspended, or modified, or if the vessel is sold. Although a permit will be issued on an annual basis, an application for its renewal will only be required every two years. Completed permit applications need to be submitted at least 30 days prior to the date on which the applicant wants to have the permit made effective.

To apply for a permit, contact the NMFS Permits Office at (727) 570-5326.

DMR recognizes dealers for cooperation

The DMR presented certificates of appreciation to four wholesale-retail seafood dealers along the Mississippi Gulf Coast for their contribution to fisheries research.

Certificates were awarded to Phillip Horn of Clark Seafood Co., Inc. in Pascagoula, Phyllis Devers of O'Sullivan and Sons Seafood Co. in Pascagoula, Junie Desporte of Desporte and Sons Seafood, Inc. in Biloxi, and Michael D. Sevel of Boat Fresh Seafood in Gulfport.

The DMR depends on the cooperation of dealers like these to acquire information on the fish that are being sold commercially. For example, DMR personnel extract small calcified "hard-parts" in the inner ear of the fish called *otoliths* (also known as ear



DMR marine fisheries scientist Jude LeDoux (right) presents a certificate of appreciation to Phillip Horn (left) of Clark Seafood Co., Inc. Horn was one of four seafood dealers recognized for contributing to fisheries research.

bones), which can show the age and growth rates of a species.



Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence

DMR employees recognized for service

Twenty-seven DMR employees recently received the Longevity Service Award for their years of service to the State of Mississippi. The program is administered by the Mississippi State Personnel Board, which issues eligible employees engraved certificates signed by the governor and the agency head. Employees also receive a service award pin for 10, 20 or 30 years of service.

The following DMR employees received this award:

Donald Armes, 17 years; Terry Bakker, 22 years; Judy Bosarge, 15 years; Clay Boulet, 11 years; Mike Brainard, 11 years; Steve Breland, 12 years; Mike Buchanan, 15 years; Walter Chataginer, 13 years; Bill Collins, 18 years; Dorothy Daniel, 11 years; Pat Daughdrill, 27 years; Dr. Fred Deegen, 24 years; Dale Diaz, 12 years; David Dollar, 12 years; Russell Doucet, 13 years; Scott Gordon, 16 years; Stanley Hamilton, 18 years; Christine Johnson, 11 years; Iris Lofland, 13 years; Joey Moran, 14 years; Claude Pittman, 11 years; Veda Powell, 14 years; David Rose, 10 years; Chester Van Devender, 25 years; Tom Van Devender, 11 years; Frank Wescovich, 10 years; and George Wright Sr., 21 years.

DMR Public Affairs staff wins SPRF awards



Marti Schuman (left) and Susan Perkins (right). (NOT PICTURED: Lauren Thompson).

Public Affairs staff members Susan Perkins, Marti Schuman and Lauren Thompson won three Southern Public Relations Federation (SPRF) Lantern Certificates of Achievement at the SPRF conference, held July 25-26, in New Orleans.

The staff received awards for the 2001 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, the Coastal Markers newsletter and the DMR Comprehensive Resource Management Plan Data Release Press Kit.

The Lantern Awards are given each year by the Southern Public Relations Federation to recognize projects, programs, and productions that display outstanding strategy, creativity, and production skills across the southeast U.S.

Marine Patrol officers complete training

For the first time in Marine Patrol history, all Marine Patrol field officers have attended the Marine Law Enforcement Training Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Brunswick, Ga.

The FLETC is the nucleus of advanced training for 72 different federal agencies. Program topics include the following: aids to navigation, air/sea operations, boarding procedures, boat handling, chart interpretation, crew overboard, engineering casualties, fire and damage control, GPS and DGPS, radar, marine communications, marlinspike seamanship, meteorology/heavy weather operations, nautical terminology, piloting and dead reckoning, preventive maintenance; pursuit, stop and approach, rules of the road, safety and emergency equipment and survival swimming.

Open enrollment



DMR administrative services employee Tina Johnson (left) goes over cafeteria plan enrollment with DMR fisheries biologist Jeff Davis during open enrollment at the DMR on Sept. 20, 2002. Open enrollment is the opportunity for DMR employees to meet with supplemental insurance agents and review different insurance options. It is held once a year. A committee of employees meets prior to open enrollment to review insurance products and decide which products best suit the needs of agency employees.

Happy Anniversary!

These anniversaries mark employees' years of service with the Department of Marine Resources and the state of Mississippi.

(10/1/83) Stanley Hamilton	(11/1/00) Scott Chatham
(10/1/99) Leah Bray	(11/1/00) Monica Fragello
(10/1/99) Barbara Synowicz	(11/1/00) Tommy Jennings
(10/1/00) Paul Grote	(11/1/00) Chris Mask
(10/1/01) Scott Anderson	(11/1/00) Josh Rowell
(10/1/01) Jack Ewing	(11/1/00) Kyle Wilkerson
(10/1/01) Patrick Levine	(11/1/01) Charles Taylor
(10/1/01) Glen Wieck	(11/3/00) Annie Nguyen
(10/8/97) Derek Frank	(11/8/99) Alice Taylor
(10/8/01) Buddy Goff	(12/1/88) Iris Lofland
(10/8/01) Jim Sartin	(12/1/90) Mike Brainard
(10/12/98) Irvin Jackson	(12/1/97) Traci Floyd
(10/12/98) Doug Stringer	(12/1/97) Mike Walker
(10/15/01) Ron Jordan	(12/1/98) Brandon Hall
(10/16/74) Pat Daughdrill	(12/2/96) Kerwin Cuevas
(11/1/96) Kara Vesa	(12/6/99) Tim Blocker
(11/1/97) Tina Johnson	(12/8/97) Joe Jewell
(11/1/98) Marcia Garcia	(12/15/97) Roxanne Russell
(11/1/98) Bill Richardson	(12/30/96) Dennis Bankston
(11/1/99) Beth Roberts	

We thank them for their dedicated service to the management of our marine resources.

Visit the DMR online at
www.dmr.state.ms.us



**Mississippi Department
of Marine Resources**
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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DMR Calendar

October 14-18

Submerged Lands Management Conference, Isle of Capri Resort, Biloxi. For details, call (228) 374-5022, ext. 5303.

October 18

National Water Quality Monitoring Day. For details on how to be a water quality monitor on National Water Quality Monitoring Day, call DMR Public Affairs at (228) 374-5000.

October 24

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

November 19 (tentative)

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

November 20

GIS Day, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For details, call (228) 374-5022, ext. 5053.

December 12

Comprehensive Resource Management Plan meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 10 a.m.

Doc's Fishing Tips

Fred Deegen, Ph.D., Deputy Director

Fall is the best time for catching stripers in Mississippi bays and backwaters. Silver spoons and other reflective baits that mimic shad or menhaden are excellent choices for striper fishing this time of year. Locate a sand bar near a bend in the river; anchor just below it, and cast your spoon upcurrent, retrieving it across the bar. Then hang on!

If you did not receive this issue of Coastal Markers in the mail and would like to be placed on the mailing list, please fill out below and mail to: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Office of Public Affairs, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, MS 39530; call (228) 374-5022, ext. 5062; or e-mail susan.perkins@dmr.state.ms.us.

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