

Coastal Markers



Volume 4, Issue 3

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Spring 2001

Carpenter joins DMR as new Executive Director

■ *Carpenter brings enthusiasm, spirit of cooperation to agency*

If there is one word that describes the new Executive Director of the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), it is "enthusiastic." Executive Director Glen Carpenter joined the DMR in December 2000 and has really hit the ground running. Already, he has brought his staff to Jackson to meet with Gov. Ronnie Musgrove and has met with staff members to discuss the present status, history and the future of agency programs and projects.

"The most exciting observation I have made since coming to work at the DMR is the professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication of its employees," said DMR Executive Director Glen Carpenter. "It is a privilege to work with them, and I know that we, as an agency, will accomplish anything we decide we want to accomplish."

As Executive Director of the DMR, Carpenter oversees an agency responsible for Marine Fisheries Management, Coastal Ecology, Wetlands Permitting, Marine Pa-



Glen Carpenter

trol, 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.

"The future of the DMR is limited only by our vision of where we want the future to lead and our will to do what it takes to get

there," Carpenter said. "As long as we persistently pursue a spirit of cooperation and collaboration with all of our partners, we will be able to accomplish all of our goals."

Carpenter holds a B.S. degree in Geological Oceanography from the University of Washington and an M.S. in Physical Oceanography and Meteorology from the Naval Post Graduate School.

He was previously the Director of the GIS and Remote Sensing Laboratory for the Center of Higher Learning at Stennis Space Center. Carpenter has also served as the Director of Education for the Lincoln Technical Institute, was a Master Instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy and was an Oceanographer on the USS John F. Kennedy.

Carpenter served as Assistant Operations Officer at the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Center and Joint Typhoon Warning Center in Agana, Guam, was the Ship Superintendent/Diving Officer of the Long Beach Ship Yard in Long Beach, Calif., and was the Program Manager of the Fighter/Airborne Early Warning Wing Pacific.

Mississippi oyster season moving right along

Mississippi oyster season has been in full swing for about five months. As of Jan. 24, 2001, the season sack total was 255,906, which is greater than what was harvested at that time last oyster season. Last year on Jan. 24, the sack total was 211,564.

This year's high production is attributed to new reef acreage created by recent cultch plants; cultivation of reef areas, which enhances productivity; hard work and persistence on the part of oyster harvesters; and flexibility of management given to the Commission on Marine Resources and the DMR by the legislature. Currently the DMR shellfish staff is planning cultch plants

(shell plants) for spring 2001. This is one of several methods DMR uses to try to enhance Mississippi oyster production. Shell retention fees collected from commercial oyster harvesters and oyster processors and dealers will be used to fund a large portion of this year's cultch plants.

"We are actively pursuing industry input in regard to preferred site locations for upcoming cultch plants," said Dale Diaz, Shellfish Biologist. "When it comes to knowledge of our oyster resources, there is no better source than the people making a living in the industry."

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**Mississippi Department
of Marine Resources**

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Executive Director

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Director's Notes

Glen Carpenter



Several months ago, I was both privileged and honored to be appointed Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources by Gov. Musgrove. First the Commission on Marine Resources and now, the Governor, have given me their vote of confidence to lead the agency, and I want to assure you that I will do so to the best of my ability.

The importance of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and its natural marine resources to the state and to the nation cannot be overstated, and your trust in us to manage these resources wisely is taken very seriously.

Over the past several months, I have come to appreciate each and every staff member of the DMR for the professionalism and enthusiasm they bring to work with them each day. As all of you already know, the DMR consists of a dedicated group of biologists, ecologists, Marine Patrol officers, administrators and support personnel charged with the wise stewardship of this state's valuable marine and coastal resources. That they have done a good job in the past is evident from the health and vitality of those resources today. That they will be provided the needed tools, work environment and encouragement to continue to do a good job in the future is my pledge to both you and to them.

**Boat and Water Safety Course
Schedule (March 2001)**

- **March 3**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **March 7-8**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.
- **March 10**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2292 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **March 14-15**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2292 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 6-9 p.m.
- **March 17**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **March 24**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **March 27-29**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6-9 p.m.
- **March 31**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**UPDATE: 2000-2001
Shrimp Season**

The 2000-2001 shrimp season has turned out to be a rather productive one, despite several unusual conditions: low rainfall, high salinity and the occurrence of large numbers of native and non-native jellyfish. Comparisons of shrimp landings from 1998-2000 for the months June to December show that Mississippi landings are slightly above average at 7.438 million lbs. (heads-off).

On December 31, 2000 the DMR closed state waters north of the Intercoastal Waterway. This closure is to provide safe growing grounds for young shrimp. The DMR will continue to monitor the 2000-2001 shrimp season throughout the year.

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., Suite 101, Biloxi, MS 39530; call (228) 374-5022, ext. 5062; or e-mail susan.perkins@dmr.state.ms.us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

MANAGING YOUR MARINE RESOURCES TODAY FOR A SOUND TOMORROW.

Side-scan sonar enhances reef, derelict vessel programs

Side-scan sonar is an effective process of imaging large areas of the Mississippi seafloor. The DMR uses the side-scan sonar images to monitor and assess artificial reefs, oyster reefs and verification of derelict vessels hidden under water.

The side-scan sonar operates by an acoustic imaging device that provides wide area, large-scale pictures of the seafloor. The system consists of a recording device, an underwater sensor (towfish) and a cable connecting the two. In operation, the side-scan sonar recorder charges capacitors in the towfish through the tow cable. On command from the recorder this stored power is dumped to the transducers, which emit the acoustic pulse that propagates out through the water. Then, over a very short period of time (milliseconds), the returning echoes from the seafloor are received by the transducers, amplified on a time-varied gain curve and transmitted up the tow cable to the recorder. The recorder further processes these signals, digitizes them, calculates the proper position for them in the final record, pixel by pixel, and then prints these echoes on a screen.

The data collected allows the DMR to plot exactly where certain material or objects are located. The side-scan sonar system uses a Global Positioning System (GPS) interface, which is logged directly onto the sonar record. This data can then be processed in the office or in the field to determine the exact location (depending on GPS error) of

the material or objects scanned.

The side-scan sonar data allows the DMR to calculate the relief (height) of material scanned by measuring the shadow of the object scanned. Any solid object that inclines from the bottom of the seafloor will reflect more energy back to the towfish than the surrounding area. The area immediately

behind the object will be insonified to a lesser degree and therefore reflect less energy. This image is referred to as a *shadow*. This shadow can be measured and an accurate height from the bottom can be determined. Over time, new data can be compared to existing data to determine movement and subsidence rate of materials.

This information obtained by side-scan sonar is vital to Mississippi's Artificial Reef Program. The DMR works with the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks through Tideland Grants for artificial reef construction. Monitoring existing and past deployments, obtaining accurate GPS coordinates and creating maps for Mississippi fishermen is another benefit of this program.

Information collected by side-scan sonar



EdgeTech's 560A Series side-scan sonar unit allows imaging of large areas of the Mississippi seafloor.

is crucial in evaluating cultch plants for oyster reef development. The data collected gives an accurate picture before and after a newly planted site. This can be useful in developing different deployment methods for cultch plantings as well as determining bottom types best for reef development.

The Derelict Vessel Program uses the side-scan sonar system to locate derelict vessels, which may be extremely hazardous to navigation. The sonar allows the DMR to verify that derelict vessels have been removed or to mark vessels that have not. The system also locates derelict crab traps and other marine debris that could damage marine vessels. The side-scan sonar provides accurate and vital information to numerous programs at the
See *SIDE-SCAN*, page 4

Coastal Development Strategies Conference to be held April 17-18

The DMR's Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) is hosting "A Coastal Development Strategies Conference," April 17-18, 2001, at the Biloxi Grand Casino Bayview Hotel.

Designed for landowners, developers, mortgage lenders, planners, landscape designers, real estate professionals, homebuyers and home sellers, the conference is designed to assist in economic opportunities and conservation success for those working together to meet the needs of local communities within Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River, George and Stone counties.

National speaker Randall Arendt, a land-use planner, site designer, author, lecturer and an advocate of "conservation plan-

ning," will be featured on the first day of the conference. Tom Schuler, a nationally known expert on watersheds, will be featured on the second day. Other guests will include environmental experts and authors. Case studies will also be presented.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit DMR's Coastal Ecology "Information Center" and have a first-hand look at a CRMP Geographic Information System (GIS) Workstation. The DMR, Coastal Preserves Program, Permitting Bureau and Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve will have manned exhibits for information gathering.

A unique partnership of vendors will display products and services ranging from the latest in remote sensing, planning systems,

preservation and commerce initiative to general computing consulting and state of the art high-tech equipment and systems. All sessions begin at 9 a.m.

The registration fee for the two-day event is \$125 until March 1, 2001. The deadline for registration will end on March 9, with a \$25 late fee. Early registration is encouraged. Seating is limited to 250 persons. The registration fee includes breakfasts, breaks, lunches for the two days and a special evening cruise on the StarShip Cruise Line on the first day of the conference. The cruise begins at 6 p.m. and includes dinner and live music.

Call Tina Shumate or Marcia Garcia at (228) 374-5000 for more information.

Marine Patrol assists in escorting USS Cole to Ingalls Shipbuilding



The Marine Patrol vessel, the *Captain Moose*, assisted in the escort flotilla for the guided missile destroyer *USS Cole* on the heavy-lift vessel *Blue Marlin*, upon its entry to U.S. and Mississippi waters on Dec. 13, 2000. Sgt. Olin Gunter and Pvt. Mike Siler piloted the *Captain Moose* and Lt. Walter Chatagner Jr. and Pvt. Andy Ryals piloted the *Captain Crunch*, the DMR's contribution to the security escort of vessels from several area jurisdictions that kept watch as the *Cole* made its way to Litton Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula for repairs.

New ordinance establishes special permit regulations

On Jan. 16, 2001, the CMR signed into law a new ordinance, No. 18.000, to establish special permit regulations. Special permits to be governed by this ordinance will include Marine Scientific Collection Permits, Nonprofit Organization Harvesters Permits, Marine Brood Stock Collection Permits and Experimental Gear/Underutilized Species Permits.

"Some of the important aspects of this law are that it allows the DMR to send an observer aboard to monitor collection activities and requires that a complete written report of all collection activities be submitted to the DMR within 90 days of the expiration of the permit," said DMR Marine Fisheries Biologist Traci Floyd, who administers Special Permits for Mississippi's marine waters.

The CMR is authorized by Sections 49-15-15(o), 49-15-36(4), 79-22-15(4) and 57-15-10(1) of the Mississippi Code of 1972 (annotated) to issue and regulate these permits.

Marine Patrol Citation Totals (January-December 2000)	
Shrimp	121
Crab	51
Oyster	93
Commercial Fishing	7
Live Bait	52
Recreational Fishing	641
Boat and Water Safety	584
Marine Litter	12
Miscellaneous	71

SIDE-SCAN, continued from page 3

DMR. Uses include monitoring artificial reefs, producing maps of reef deployments, collecting data to improve oyster reefs and locating debris to ensure safe navigation for marine vessels.

Sound Advice

Lt. Frank Wescovich



Now that spring is just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about breaking out the old boat and doing some serious fishing. There are some important safety issues to consider if you don't want to spoil your first outing.

One of the greatest problems that shows up on the first trip in springtime is engine failure due to bad gas. We all have the tendency to put our boat away for the winter with no thought of treating or draining the fuel system. While the boat sits idle for a few months, strange things start to happen to the fuel. Moisture can form corrosive deposits in the fuel tank and carburetor. Varnish and other impurities can also build up. These deposits will dislodge when you first crank up your motor and usually re-deposit themselves in the tiny jets and passages of your fuel system. This can lead to total engine failure or poor engine performance at best. The easiest way to prevent this from happening is to add fuel stabilizer to your fuel tank when laying the boat up for the winter. This gas treatment is widely available at auto parts and marine stores. A couple of bucks spent before the fact is a lot better than having to spend a lot of bucks to correct the problem after the fact.

Another problem that shows up on boats after an extended storage is a weak or dead battery. Marine batteries take a beating in normal use. Their charging systems are notorious for not being able to keep a battery in tip-top condition while the boat is being frequently used, much less getting it back to proper charge after an extended storage. Ideally, the battery should have been removed from the boat while it was in storage and placed on a trickle charger. This keeps the charge topped off and prevents the battery from going completely dead. Allowing a battery to become completely discharged is very hard on the battery. Batteries that have been

See, *Sound Advice*, page 8

DMR launches Seafood Marketing Program

In fiscal year 1999, the State legislature authorized the DMR to develop programs to enhance the marketing of the state's recreational and commercial marine resources, under Section 49-15-307 of the Mississippi Code. As part of that authority, the DMR is implementing a Seafood Marketing Program to promote Mississippi seafood businesses and increase the industry's visibility at a local, regional and international level.

The marketing campaign's slogan: "Get Hooked on Mississippi Seafood" and logo will appear on all publications and promotional materials associated with the program. The centerpiece of the marketing effort is the development of a directory of Mississippi's seafood and seafood-related businesses, including processors, wholesalers, distributors and seafood market suppliers. The directory will be distributed to interested buyers and others at major seafood industry trade shows and other events.

Another key component of the promotional effort will be the DMR's exhibit booth at the International Boston Seafood Show (IBSS) March 27-29, 2001, where it will distribute the Mississippi seafood directory of suppliers and promote Mississippi seafood. IBSS is the largest trade-only seafood show in North America. It delivers the glo-

bal seafood market with more than 20 percent of the attendees representing international buyers. Last year's event drew more than 14,000 attendees, including top buyers from all major purchasing categories. Ac-

Get Hooked on



Mississippi Seafood

ording to Diversified Business Communications, the event's organizer, 85 percent of those attending last year's event found new products or companies.

In October, the DMR mailed out letters to 140 Coast seafood businesses informing them about the new Seafood Marketing Program and requesting information about their

businesses to be included in the directory free of charge. The directory will be published in March 2001.

The Seafood Marketing Program is funded by the state and there is no charge to seafood-related businesses that want to be included in this directory. At present, the DMR is researching possibilities to obtain any available federal grants that could further its efforts in the seafood marketing arena. It has also become a member of the National Fisheries Institute, which is a non-profit trade association.

The DMR is also in the process of developing additional pamphlets and promotional items to support and market Mississippi seafood businesses. Last September, the DMR published its first recipe book, "Seafood: South Mississippi Style," as part of the marketing program.

"Many coastal states such as Florida, Louisiana and Texas, currently have substantial seafood marketing programs," said Irvin Jackson, director of the DMR's new Seafood Marketing Program. "We feel this will at least put us on the map and help support an important Mississippi resource. We also want to work with our seafood businesses to determine marketing strategies that will best support them and enhance the industry in Mississippi as a whole."

DMR hosts Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Conference April 23-25

The DMR will be hosting the 2001 Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Conference (GSASC) April 23-25, at the Imperial Palace Casino and Hotel in Biloxi.

The GSASC is an opportunity for industry representatives and state and federal

regulators to come together to share research findings and to discuss topics of interest to the shellfish industry. A schooner race, featuring replicas of historic Biloxi oyster schooners used around the turn of the century, will also take place as part of this year's conference, as well as a victory celebration seafood dinner.

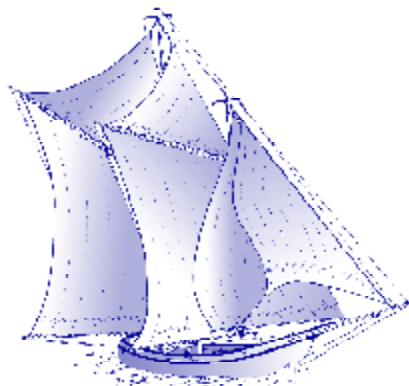
"The Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference is an excellent forum for industry, government and academia to discuss shellfish activities affecting oysters and clam resources," said Corky Perret, DMR Marine Fisheries Director. "The DMR looks forward to hosting this important event."

A registration fee of \$40 will be charged per person to attend the conference. Please contact Melanie Lane at (228) 374-5022, ext.

5399, for more information about the conference, or download a registration form at www.dmr.state.ms.us/Fisheries/Registration%20Form.pdf. Registration forms must be mailed to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, c/o Melanie Lane, 1141 Bayview Ave., Suite 101, Biloxi, MS 39530. Checks should be made payable to DMR-GSASC.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Imperial Palace Hotel in Biloxi at 1-800-436-3000 and asking for Agent Red. Mention the Gulf and South Atlantic Shellfish Conference for a conference room rate of \$55 per night.

Room reservations for the conference must be made by April 1, 2001. Reservations after that date will be made on a space and rate available basis.



Coastal waterways offer floating fun for all

Coastal Mississippi has several streams suitable for floating. Although these streams do not offer the excitement of the fast-flowing whitewaters located to our north, they do offer the floater a beauty and grandeur that is hard to beat. Majestic swamps, bottomland hardwoods, salt marshes, rivers, bayous and even the off-shore barrier islands can be explored by a paddler (dependent, of course, on the paddler's degree of experience).



Coastal Mississippi has several streams suitable for floating. Floating can be fun for the whole family when done responsibly.

Mississippi's Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve along with Mississippi's other Coastal Preserves and Wildlife Refuges contain excellent public waterways on which to float. Some of the most popular of these waterways are the Pearl River, the Wolf River (recently dedicated by the state as a Scenic Stream), Red Creek, Black Creek (a portion has been federally designated as a Wild and Scenic River), the Escatawpa and Pascagoula rivers and Bayou Cumbest.

It is important to note that although these waterways are public, much of the properties located adjacent to them are not. It is the paddler's responsibility to be familiar with the public lands located along the waterways that are suitable for landing on and exploring. Paddlers should not venture onto private property without first obtaining permission from the owners.

To ensure that your float trip is enjoyable and that the natural resources remain clean and intact, the following practices should be followed when you are floating on a coastal waterway:

- **Always wear a life jacket;**
- **Be familiar with your watercraft;**
- **Be familiar with the waterway you are floating;**

Obtain a quad or navigational map of the area that you are going to float. Coastal streams often have many meandering branches that you could easily become disoriented on. Pre-setting your hand-held GPS unit with known coordinates of access sites could be very helpful to you if you get lost.

- **File a float plan with a family member or neighbor;**
- **Be aware and cautious of wild animals;**
- **Do not feed the animals:** Feeding the animals can cause them to lose their fear of humans and encourage them to go too close to the watercraft;
- **Pack out all trash that you pack in:** Do not throw your trash into the water or onto the land. Littering is against the law, and you will be ticketed;

• **Be responsible when nature calls:** This is very important! Follow these steps to

protect the waterway from being contaminated with human waste. If possible, bring along a large coffee can or plastic container with a tightly fitting plastic lid to use as a portable potty. Make sure you secure the used can in your canoe so that it does not spill into the boat or the waterway.

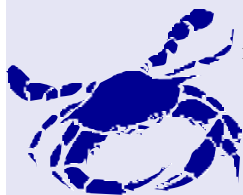
If you do not have a portable potty, find a secluded spot at least 200 feet away from the water source including wetlands. Using a small trowel, dig a small hole about 4 inches deep and 3 inches across.

If you are just urinating, the hole is not necessary. Deposit your waste and cover. Cover the hole with dirt, leaves and possibly a rock or stick to prevent other adventurers from stepping on it. Do not bury the toilet paper or other products. Instead deposit the trash into a small plastic bag that can be sealed, and dispose of it later in a proper trash receptacle;

- **Do not drink the water;**
- **Only build fires below the high tide mark:** Do not build fires in the woods or when burn bans are in effect. Put out the fire completely before you leave, and cover it with dirt and sand so that it does not leave a "scar." Use only fallen firewood;
- **Carry a first aid kit and a cellular phone;**
- **Be an ethical boater;**
- **Respect the property of others.**

Remember, if you follow these few simple rules, you should be able to have a safe and enjoyable trip while enjoying and protecting Mississippi's important coastal resources.

Recreational crab trap license to be required May 1



The CMR approved in its December meeting a change to the crabbing ordinance requiring recreational crab fishermen using traps to purchase a license. The change to Crabbing Ordinance No. 4.007(I) goes into effect May 1, 2001. **The new license applies only to recreational crab-**

bers fishing with traps. A recreational license for crabbing with drop nets or other non-trap gear is not required.

"The recreational crab trap license will provide valuable fishing data to be used in the management of Mississippi's blue crab resource," said DMR biologist, Traci Floyd. "For that reason, this license was recommended by the Mississippi Blue Crab Task Force and is supported by Gulf Coast Re-

search Laboratory crustacean biologists."

Other Gulf states requiring licenses for recreational crab trap fishing include: Texas, Louisiana, and Florida.

The license costs \$5 and is available at the DMR, 1141 Bayview Ave., Suite 101, Biloxi, Miss. For more information about the changes to Crabbing Ordinance No. 4.007(I), please contact the DMR at (228) 374-5000.



Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence

Fisheries staff complete seafood inspection, sanitation control procedures courses



Biologist Scott Newsom (from left), Staff Officer Joe Jewell, Sr. Environmental Technician Charles Bergmann and Seafood Technology Bureau Director Ruth Posadas recently completed training in seafood plant inspection and sanitation control procedures.

DMR Marine Fisheries Staff Officer Joe Jewell, Biologist Scott Newsom and Sr. Environmental Technician Charles Bergmann attended a training session on Sanitation Control Procedures in Bayou La Batre, Ala, on Jan. 24. The course was de-

veloped by the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) and was designed to aid people in developing the skills necessary to prepare Standard Sanitation Operating Procedures (SSOP) for use in a seafood processing facility and to build a monitoring program for the SSOPs to be used. A certificate will be issued to each of the attendees.

Jewell, Newsom and Seafood Technology Bureau Director Ruth Posadas also completed an FDA Seafood Inspector course (FD 1040A; Basic Shellfish Plant Sanitation), on Feb. 2, as part of the training requirements to become a State Standardized Officer. This course covered the basics of conducting a shellfish plant inspection.

Jewell, Posadas and Bergmann also completed the FD 2041A Shellfish State Standardization Officer training course, a more in-depth look at conducting shellfish plant inspections.

Christie receives NPMA certifications



Leo Christie

DMR Property Officer Leo Christie earned certifications as a Certified Professional Property Administrator and as a Certified Professional Property Specialist under the National Prop-

erty Management Association (NPMA) certification program.

The NPMA sets the national standard for property and asset management professionals. The NPMA certification program focuses on the basic knowledge, advanced strategies and latest innovations of the asset management profession.

Collins receives Media 100 Editor I Certification

Bob Collins, an employee in the Public Affairs Bureau, completed an intensive two-day course at the National Institute for the Study of Digital Media at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, for certification as a Media 100 Editor I.



Bob Collins

The Media 100 system is a digital, computer-based, non-linear video editing system that Collins uses to turn recorded video into video programs such as TV commercials and promotional programs for use in exhibits at special events the Public Affairs Bureau attends. The video programs help visually illustrate the many aspects of the DMR to the public.

Diver certifications benefit DMR shellfish program



Biologists Traci Floyd (from left), Brady Trahan, Bill Richardson, Erick Porche and Dale Diaz will contribute to the Oyster Bureau's Dive Sampling Program.

Marine Fisheries biologists participated in PADI Open Water Diver Certification Courses as part of the Mississippi Shellfish Restoration and Enhancement Project.

"Thanks to this training, DMR will have a larger pool of biologists available to assist in determining the health of Mississippi's Oyster Reefs and the success of cultch and shell planting activities," said DMR Dive Program Coordinator Christine Johnson.

Happy Anniversary!

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

- (4/1/77) Dr. Fred Deegen
- (4/1/85) Scott Gordon
- (4/1/87) Veda Powell
- (4/11/88) Russell Doucet
- (5/1/88) Walter Chataginer
- (4/1/89) David Dollar
- (3/1/90) Claude Pittman
- (3/1/98) Amy Taylor
- (4/1/98) Bryce Gex
- (4/1/98) Michael Yonce
- (5/1/98) Marc Foster
- (3/17/99) Leo Christie
- (3/1/00) Bryan Shrader
- (4/1/00) Paul Necaice
- (5/15/00) Scott Floyd

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



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Calendar of Events

March 20

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

April 12

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

April 17-18

Coastal Development Strategies Conference, Biloxi Grand's Bayview Hotel. Call Tina Shumate or Marcia Garcia at (228) 374-5000 for more information.

April 23-25

Gulf and South Atlantic States Conference, Imperial Palace Casino and Hotel, Biloxi. Call Melanie Lane at (228) 374-5000 for more information.

May 15

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

June 19

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

Doc's Fishing Tips

Fred Deegen, Ph.D., Deputy Director

Look for king mackerel around edges and drift lines that occur where two currents meet or clash. You can sometimes find such areas by looking for changes in the color of the water or watching for sargassum or other seaweeds floating in windrows.

SOUND ADVICE, continued from page 4

completely discharged seldom make a total recovery after recharging. So if your battery was not maintained and charged over the winter, you might give serious thought to replacing it before you venture out on your first voyage of the season.

Remember: **SAFE BOATING IS NO ACCIDENT!**

Frank Wescovich is director of DMR's Boat and Water Safety Program and a lieutenant in the State Marine Patrol. He can be reached at (228) 432-2820.