

Coastal Markers



Volume 12, Issue 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Summer 2008

2008 Shrimp Season Tripping and Trawling

The 2008 shrimp season officially opened in Mississippi territorial waters at 6 a.m. June 17, with reports of average-size shrimp and catch volumes, but the outlook remains good for the rest of the season.

DMR Fisheries staff was on the water conducting interviews and surveying shrimp boats the morning of opening day. About 308 commercial and recreational shrimp boats came out to work the opening day, which is about equal to the last two years.

Currently, the number of commercial resident shrimp licenses sold is 404, up 48 from last year. The number of out-of-state commercial shrimp licenses sold is 144, up 24 from 2007.

The majority of boats were congregated inside of Horn Island along the Intracoastal Waterway and the west end of Petit Bois, where they were catching fair to good numbers of 40/50-count brown shrimp. Other boats were working around Cat Island and West Ship Island.

“With the high cost of fuel, many fishermen decided to wait until they had more information on how the season would be,” said DMR’s Shrimp and Crab Bureau Director Traci Floyd. “Those that did head out onto the waters agreed that location was key to success. Great reports were coming from the area inside Horn Island along the Intracoastal Waterway.”



DMR Marine Patrol is out in full force on opening day of shrimp season. Marine Patrol Officer RT May boards a shrimp boat to inspect the beautiful shrimp and gear.



Marine Patrol Officer RT May prepares to board a shrimp vessel on opening day of shrimp season June 17.

SPEC Update

By Dr. Fred Deegen

The Seatrout Population Enhancement Cooperative (SPEC) is in its fourth year. The project is being carried out at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory’s Cedar Point campus in Ocean Springs adjacent to the Gulf Islands National Seashore.

See page 7 for full story.



Inside this issue...

2007-08 Oyster Season Summary . . .	3
Smart Growth Conference	4
Bonnet Carré Opens	4
Aquatic Invasive Plant Patrol	5
SPEC Update	7
NERR Facilities Progress	8
Fuel Efficiency Workshop Held	9
Deer Island Gets Greener	10
Seafood Recipe: Shrimp Dip	12

Coastal Markers is a publication of the

**Mississippi Department
of Marine Resources**
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530
(228) 374-5000
dmr.ms.gov

State of Mississippi
Haley Barbour
Governor

**Mississippi Commission on
Marine Resources**

Vernon Asper, Ph.D., Chairman
*Nonprofit Environmental
Organization*

Richard Gollott, Vice Chairman
Commercial Seafood Processor

Shelby Drummond
Recreational Sports Fisherman

Steve Bosarge
Commercial Fisherman

Jimmy Taylor
Charter Boat Operator

William W. Walker, Ph.D.
Executive Director

William S. "Corky" Perret
Deputy Director

**Coastal Markers is produced by
the Office of Public Affairs**

Lauren S. Thompson
Editor-in-Chief

Shelly Becker
Graphic Designer

Lisa Damiano Jones
Editor

This publication was funded through a federal grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

VISIT DMR ONLINE
dmr.ms.gov

Director's Notes

Dr. William Walker



Saltwater anglers have been beating a path to our door here at the Department of Marine Resources lately to have their fish weighed at our Fisheries lab as potential state record breakers.

This summer, the Commission on Marine Resources certified more than a dozen state saltwater sportfishing records, which included everything from a greater amberjack and a gray snapper to a finetooth shark.

If you like to fish and want to get in on the action, you can visit the DMR Web site and download the latest maps and GPS locations for Mississippi's inshore reefs and offshore artificial reefs at <http://dmr.ms.gov/Fisheries/Reefs/artificial-reefs.htm>. There are more than 50 inshore fishing reefs and 15 offshore permitted artificial reefs with more habitat on the horizon.

Mississippi's offshore reefs cover about 16,000 acres and range in size from 3 to 1,000 acres. While sites north of the barrier islands consist of concrete rubble, sites south of the barrier islands consist of concrete culverts, steel hull vessels, and "Florida Limestone" artificial reef pyramids.

In 2007, the DMR received federal funds from the Emergency Disaster Recovery Program (EDRP). The DMR's Artificial Reef Bureau is using the funds from EDRP for a five-year restoration project for both inshore and offshore artificial reef sites to help speed the recovery of Mississippi's artificial reef habitat, which took such a big hit from Hurricane Katrina.

And Mississippi's fish habitat will continue to improve and grow this fall when the DMR, working in conjunction with Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, deploys 315 Goliath reef balls at Fish Havens 1 and 2, about 10 to 12 miles south of Horn Island. The unusual structures are 4,500-pound concrete domes that resemble giant bee hives or Swiss cheese balls and will provide habitat for fish such as red snapper, grouper and triggerfish. The project is being paid for through grant money from the National Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation and EDRP funds.

Executive Director



Saturday, Oct. 18
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
www.mscoastalcleanup.org

Free Boating Safety Classes
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sept. 27: Biloxi, Bolton Building
1141 Bayview Ave.

Oct. 11: Biloxi, Bolton Building
1141 Bayview Ave.

Oct. 18: Bay St. Louis
Mississippi Power Auditorium
300 Hwy. 90

Oct. 25: Pascagoula
Mississippi Power Auditorium
2326 Telephone Road

Pre-registration is required.
Call DMR's Marine Patrol at
(228) 523-4134 to register.

Thanks!

**to those who contributed to
this issue of Coastal Markers:**

Jan Boyd
Rick Burris
Jeff Clark
Dorothy Daniel
Jeff Davis
Dr. Fred Deegen
Wesley Devers
Traci Floyd
Scott Gordon
Susan Perkins
Rusty Pittman
Ruth Posadas
Bradley Randall
David Ruple
Ali Rupp
Amy Taylor
Linda Wakefield



2007-2008 Oyster Season Summary

The 2007-2008 Mississippi oyster season opened Sep. 5, 2007, and closed May 10, 2008. A total of 5,427 boat trips participated in harvesting 115,611 sacks of oysters.

After careful monitoring and vigorous cultch planting, DMR Shellfish staff recommended a limited opening of some reefs previously closed due to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. These reefs located just south of Pass Christian were closed for two seasons after an estimated 95 percent of the legal, market-size oysters were destroyed. An initial sack limit of 20 per boat also was set.

In August 2007, oyster fishermen and processors were invited aboard the DMR Research Vessel Conservationist to sample the oyster reefs at their favorite spots. The sampling agreed with the previous conclusions of the DMR staff that there were some harvestable resource and a lot of undersize oysters. The season started out slow, because the fishermen were not sure how the resource was going to hold out after Katrina. It took a while for them to find the prime areas, but oysters continued to grow throughout the season.

“By the end of the season, we were able to open some areas that needed some time to grow and increased the sack limit to 50 sacks per day for dredge boats and eight sacks for tongers,” said DMR Biological Program Coordinator Bradley Randall. “By next season we should be able to open up some of the cultch plant areas for harvest.”

The DMR Shellfish Bureau will continue rebuilding the reefs with cultch plants, which begin in August 2008.



Scientists Wesley Devers and Erick Porche secure the monofilament recycling tube at the Forrest Avenue pier in Biloxi.

Monofilament Recycling reels in used fishing line

DMR has begun a new monofilament fishing line recycling program along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The program aims to reduce the amount of used and discarded fishing line that ends up in the environment.

Monofilament fishing line causes almost 50 percent of all entanglement deaths in marine life. Of the top three entangling items recovered in coastal cleanups worldwide, monofilament fishing line accounts for 65 percent. In the last three Mississippi Coastal Cleanups, 2,248 pieces of fishing line were recovered.

Monofilament can wrap around an animal, slowing its movement and exhausting it, inhibiting its feeding and making it easy prey for predators. Line can amputate a limb or flipper due to constriction. It can cut into the skin, causing fatal infections. Entanglement can lead to starvation if an animal becomes tangled in a tree or other fixed object, and can cause air-breathing aquatic animals such as sea turtles and marine mammals to drown if they become tangled to a fixed object under water.

Improperly discarded monofilament fishing line can also endanger human lives and property. The line can entangle scuba divers, posing a drowning risk. Also boaters risk entanglement of their propellers and blockage of bilge pumps and intake valves. This can lead to severe damage to seals and motors.

DMR has installed 41 outdoor tubes and 12 indoor boxes at public piers, boat launches and bait shops in the three coastal counties for fishermen to dispose of their fishing line. More outdoor tubes are planned for areas that have a high usage rate and for areas that are being repaired from Hurricane Katrina damage. DMR staff check all tubes on a bi-monthly basis. The used line is recovered and then shipped to the recycler, Pure Fishing America.

Once the monofilament line reaches the recycling center it is cut into small pieces and melted down. The melted monofilament is then sold to plastic product manufacturers who use the material to make various items, such as fishing line spools, freshwater fish habitats and even toys. Recycled monofilament is never used to make new fishing line.

Smart Growth Conference draws 400 attendees

Citizens, business and community leaders converged at the Saenger Theatre in Biloxi on May 5-6 for the ninth annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference. About 400 attended the two-day event to learn and share ideas, experiences and challenges for sustainable development across the region. The conference was hosted by DMR's Office of Coastal Management and Planning and partner, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce.

On the first day of the conference, U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker spoke about the importance of heritage preservation as the Mississippi Gulf Coast's economy continues to grow. National author and historian Dr. Douglas Brinkley talked about cultural differences in responding and rebounding from Hurricane Katrina. Other topics included Preserve America, insurance strategies, engaging citizens to sustain Coast communities, long-term energy strategies and housing, transportation and land use.

Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant addressed the audience at lunch on the second day, discussing the importance of community involvement in the future plans for development along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The second day also introduced conference attendees to the archaeological findings of University of Southern Mississippi's Drs. Marie Danforth and Amy Young and their students, who have been conducting studies on the skeletal remains and artifacts found at the Moran site in Biloxi. Dubbed the "Jamestown of the Gulf Coast," the site may be one of the oldest French colonial cemeteries in North America. The audience also learned about the transfer of development rights, comprehensive plans and regional housing solutions for the work force and sustainable practices in the rebuilding of the Coast.

Conference participants were invited to an interactive afternoon session of the Governors' Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) Community Resilience Group. The session provided an overview of GOMA and solicited input on its proposed actions.

Following the conference, CDM and DMR hosted a golf tournament at Gulf Hills Golf Club in Ocean Springs on May 7. Proceeds from the tournament were donated to the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain.



Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant (right) was the featured luncheon speaker on the second day of the ninth annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference. Lunch and afternoon breakout sessions were held at the Sacred Heart Center in Biloxi. Also pictured are Scott Walker (left), field representative for the Office of U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker; Dr. William Walker, DMR executive director; and Mississippi Sen. Deborah Dawkins.



U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker helped kick off the ninth annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference on May 5 at the Saenger Theatre in Biloxi.



Photo courtesy of USACE

2008 Bonnet Carré Spillway opening

Bonnet Carré Spillway Opens

The Bonnet Carré Spillway was opened from April 11 to May 9. During the 28-day opening, over 3 million DSF (day, second, feet) of Mississippi River freshwater was diverted through 160 gates. The increase was necessary due to the rise of the Mississippi River resulting from record snowfall.

The spillway, which lowers the river's volume at New Orleans by diverting water into Lake Pontchartrain, has been opened nine times since the 7,000-foot-long control structure was completed in 1931.

DMR and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory continue to cooperatively monitor the western Mississippi Sound to determine what effects the 2008 opening may have on Mississippi's marine resources.

DMR's Aquatic Invasive Plant Patrol Protects Mississippi Coastal Waterways

DMR is taking action to prevent the costly and detrimental effects of aquatic invasive plants. A new pilot program was developed as a result of the giant salvinia outbreak on Pascagoula River in Spring 2005 and learning firsthand how quickly an invasive aquatic plant can take over in South Mississippi.

Aquatic invasive plants spread rapidly and are considered a major threat to the health of our coastal rivers and estuaries. Problematic aquatic plants of the three coastal counties include giant salvinia, common salvinia, water hyacinth, Eurasian water milfoil, alligator weed, torpedo grass, giant reed and others. The ecological and economic impacts of these aquatic pests can be quite serious. For example, when giant salvinia forms dense mats up to several feet thick and chokes waterways, boating becomes difficult or impossible, and fish, waterfowl and other native species either leave the area or die.

The excess vegetation also provides ideal habitat for mosquitos as well as increasing the potential for flooding.

This project, a joint effort between DMR Marine Fisheries and the Coastal Preserves Program, began in early 2006 as an emergency response to find and control any giant salvinia in the Pascagoula River remaining after Hurricane Katrina. The tidal surge and increased salinity during the storm had reduced but not eliminated the infestation, and surviving plants were quickly multiplying and re-invading the area. As a result of this effort, the post-Katrina giant salvinia population was reduced from an estimated 5 acres in March 2006 to a periodic occurrence of just an isolated plant or two today.

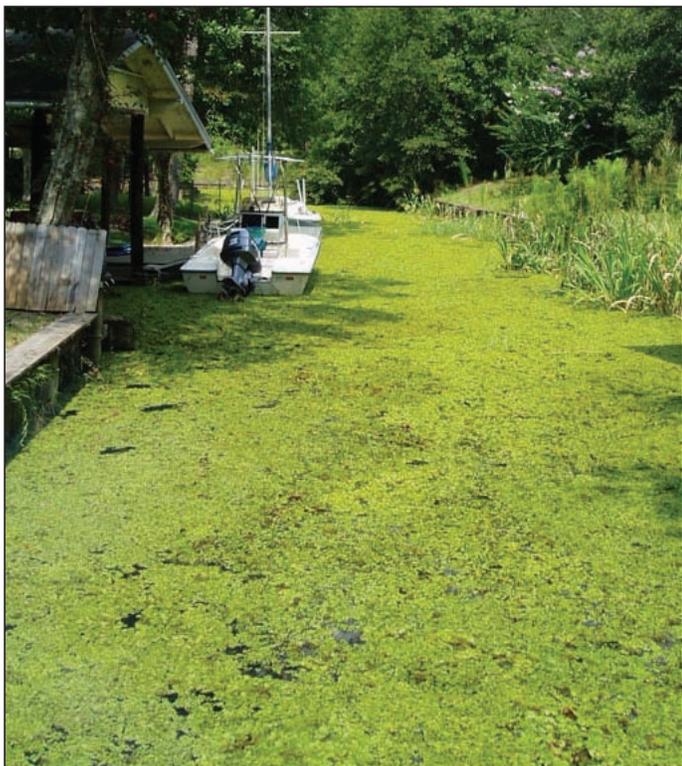
In 2007 the aquatic invasive plant project was expanded to protect all public waterways on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. A boat, truck and spray equipment were purchased and two part-time contract

employees were assigned to the project. Using systematic, regular patrols of our coastal waterways and EPA-approved herbicides, new infestations are being detected early and managed cost-effectively.

Known areas of aquatic invasive vegetation currently being managed by the DMR include common salvinia and water hyacinth in the Pearl River basin and giant salvinia and water hyacinth in the Pascagoula River basin. To date, over 2,500 shoreline miles have been surveyed for aquatic invasive vegetation.

When these invasive plants are found, information about the population is mapped into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database and either sprayed with herbicide or physically removed when possible. Periodic low-altitude aerial surveys coupled with inspections of ditches and creeks at roadway intersections are used to detect invasive plants in areas inaccessible by boat.

BEFORE



Giant Salvinia in a canal off the Pascagoula River, August 2005.

AFTER



The same canal after management in May 2006.

Live-Bait Shrimp Dealers Ready for 2008-09 Fishing Season



DMR Fisheries Scientist Rick Burris inspects a live-bait boat in D'Iberville.

Thirteen live-bait shrimp dealers have been inspected and licensed to do business for 2008-2009. The number of licensed camps is still down from the original 28 that operated before Hurricane Katrina; however, there are many live-bait opportunities for recreational anglers along the coast.

“All of the major estuary systems in our three coastal counties, including Bay St. Louis, Biloxi Bay and the Pascagoula River, currently provide access to live-bait camps,” said Rick Burris, DMR Fisheries scientist. “With the number of live-bait camps spread out along the coast, our recreational fishermen should be in good shape this fishing season.”

LICENSED LIVE-BAIT DEALERS

Jackson County

Fort Bayou Bait, Ocean Springs
875-6252
Marine Mart, Ocean Springs
875-0072
Who Zat, Ocean Springs
218-5154
Mary Walker Marina, Gautier
497-3141
Tucei's, Gautier, 497-6743
CC's Bait Shop, Pascagoula
623-4752
Dog River Marina, Moss Point
990-5644

Harrison County

Brady's Bait House, Gulfport
864-5338
Gulfport Harbor Bait, Gulfport
248-2248
David's Fish Camp, D'Iberville
392-1304

Hancock County

Bay Marina, Bay St. Louis
466-4970
Bordages Marina, Bay St. Louis
341-5220
La France, Bay St. Louis
467-9180



MARINE PATROL CITATIONS

JANUARY - JUNE 2008

Shrimp-7
Crab-16
Oyster-35
Live Bait-1
Net Fish-0
Miscellaneous Seafood-2
Fishing-72
Boat and Water Safety-160
Marine Litter-5
Miscellaneous-54

TOTAL-352

DMR Receives Keep Mississippi Beautiful Award for 2007 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup

DMR received two awards at the 15th annual Keep Mississippi Beautiful (KMB) awards luncheon May 9 at the Country Club of Jackson. DMR accepted the First Place Award in the State Government category for the 2007 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup and a Partnership Award.

The KMB Statewide Awards Program recognizes those individuals, groups, companies and government agencies who, through ongoing efforts, are utilizing public/private partnerships to improve their community's waste-handling practices and its environment. KMB received 25 entries in this year's awards program.

The 2007 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup was held Sept. 15 in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup—the world's largest single-day volunteer effort to clean up the marine environment. More than 3,483 volunteers participated in the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, picking up 3,527 bags of trash along 156 miles of Coastal waterways in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties and the Barrier Islands. For more information, visit www.mscoastalcleanup.org.



DMR Public Relations Director Lauren Thompson, right, receives two Keep Mississippi Beautiful (KMB) awards from KMB Board of Directors Chairperson Stephanie Hutchins.

SPEC Update

The Seatrout Population Enhancement Cooperative (SPEC) is currently entering its fourth year. After several severe setbacks including Hurricane Katrina which resulted in the total loss of equipment and broodstock, not to mention more than a year's work, SPEC is finally on track again. In fact the program will move into its new, permanent home in the Aquaculture Visitor's Center at the Thad Cochran Center for Marine Aquaculture on the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) Cedar Point Campus this fall.

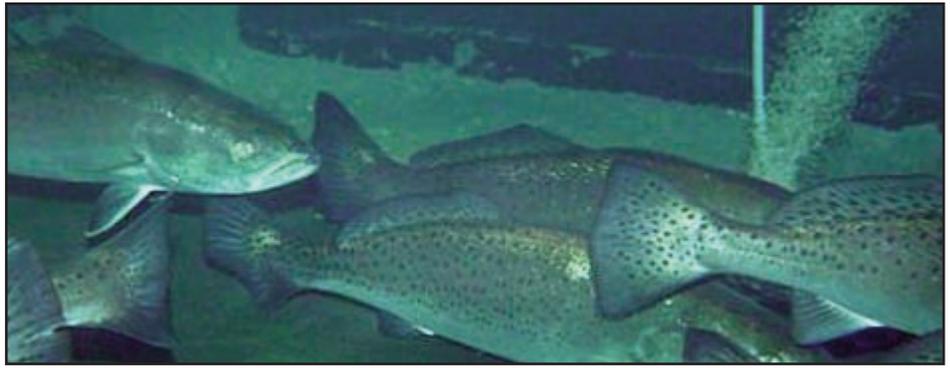
A joint effort between DMR and GCRL, this program is designed to evaluate the feasibility of culturing spotted seatrout and to help researchers better understand the biology of this important species. If successful, it also holds promise for improved fishing for thousands of avid Mississippi speckled trout fishermen. The project is being carried out at the Cedar Point campus, adjacent to the Gulf Islands National Seashore.

In 2007, the project resulted in the release of some 14,000 tagged fish into the waters of Davis Bayou and Old Fort Bayou in Harrison and Jackson counties. An additional 14,000 fish were also released this year. Most recently, broodstock were captured from Hancock County waters for stock enhancement work scheduled to begin next year.

Capturing mature adult fish to serve as broodstock was relatively easy. Getting the fish to spawn in captivity was quite another matter. The fish are first acclimated to their new home in a 20-foot diameter tank and trained to accept dead shrimp and fish to eat. Once this is accomplished, the day length and temperature are manipulated to make the fish think that spawning season has arrived.

Eggs are released into the water column and collected in automatic egg collectors that resemble a skimmer basket in a swimming pool. The eggs are then transferred to smaller tanks where they will hatch into barely visible larvae.

As all this is going on, researchers

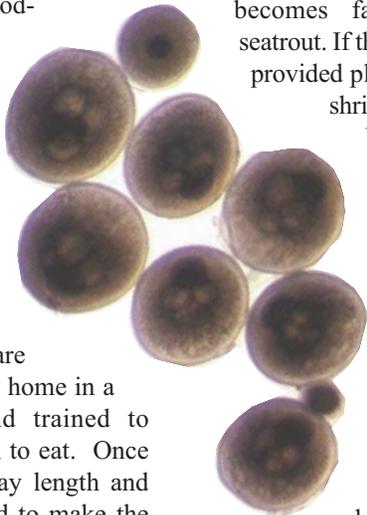


Adult male and 10 female spotted seatrout broodstock are maintained in a temperature and photo-period-controlled spawning tank.



GCRL fisheries biologist Angelos Apeitos releases spotted seatrout fingerlings into the waters of Davis Bayou.

BELOW: Spotted seatrout eggs shortly after spawning.

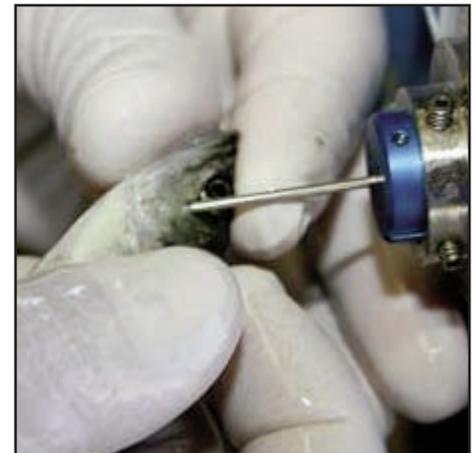


simultaneously grow rotifers and *Artemia* (brine shrimp or sea monkeys) as food for the developing larvae. The fish are born with a yolk-sac attached, and this will provide their nutrition for a day or so. Once the yolk-sac is consumed, the animals begin to actively seek out other sources of food.

Basically anything small enough to eat becomes fair game, even other seatrout. If the ravenous larvae are not provided plenty of rotifers and brine shrimp to eat, cannibalism becomes a big problem.

In as little as 20 days or so, the fish will reach a size of nearly an inch. At this point, the fry will be transitioned to a diet of pelletized, commercial fish food, which they will be fed by automatic feeders until they are large enough to be tagged and released. It takes about 90 days to produce a 4-inch fingerling that is big enough to be tagged.

Magnetic detection wands must be used by creel survey clerks to check spotted seatrout caught by anglers for the presence of these small tags. The information obtained will help researchers determine the survival, growth rate and migration



Fingerling being tagged with coded-wire tag prior to release.

patterns of the released fish as well as evaluate the overall effectiveness of the stock enhancement program.

The tagged fish are then retained for a brief time to make sure they are in good health. Then they are transported to the release site in specially designed tanks and released into the waters of the bayou through a long hose.

If all goes well, the first of these stocked fish should already be entering the fishery to the benefit of all Mississippi Gulf Coast anglers who enjoy catching this popular species. —Dr. Fred Deegen

NERR Notes

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



NERR facilities progress

Progress continues on the construction of the Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center, future headquarters of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). Partial funding for the facility was secured in 2004, but funding shortages, a hurricane and high construction costs delayed the start of construction until October 2007.

Now walls are up, plumbing and electricity are being installed and the roof and windows are in. Reserve Manager David Ruple said, "Reserve staff have been planning for permanent facilities for five years now, and finally it looks like it will happen."

The staff has occupied temporary office trailers on Bayou Heron Road in eastern Jackson County since 2001.

"We have expanded our educational programming, training and research greatly over the past several years and it will be wonderful to have state of the art facilities in which to conduct these activities in the future," Ruple said.

The building will not only provide space for research and educational opportunities, but will also have a modest public interpretative area and a dormitory for visiting researchers. The national exhibit firm of Taylor Studios from Rantoul, Ill., is designing the exhibit area, and they should complete installation of exhibits near the same time as the building construction is complete, in early 2009.

The new facility is targeted for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold-Level Certification, which means it will adhere to the strict set of energy and water saving criteria set by the U.S. Green Building Council www.usgbc.org. In this new day of energy consciousness, the reserve is attempting to take every step possible to conserve energy and use sustainable products.

The goal of the architects was to design a building not only with environmentally friendly or "green" features and a minimal impact on the landscape, but also with elements inherent to coastal structures, such as low-slung roofs, deep porches and a one-story wood-framed structure elevated on pilings.

"Everything about the design of this project, including both the actual construction process and its operational life, was approached with a great deal of sensitivity toward its environmental impact," said Hoppy Allred of Studio South Architects in Pascagoula. "Every decision along the way—from the building's orientation on the site, to the mechanical/plumbing systems selected, even down to the



Red cedar boards to be used in new NERR facilities.



Jay McIlwain, NERR staff, operates a portable saw mill, making use of red cedar on construction site.



Rod Cooke Construction places the roof on the Coastal Resources Center in Jackson County.

manufacturing processes and the transportation of the materials incorporated—was made from the Grand Bay NERR's standpoint of us having a responsibility to protect our natural resources."

Fishermen and DMR work together to recover 1,259 derelict crab traps for recycling

DMR and the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) contracted with resident commercial crab fishermen to remove derelict traps in the three coastal counties March 17-21, 2008. To be eligible for the program, crab fishermen had to be licensed commercially for the license years 2004-2005 or 2005-2006, hold a current crab license and show proof of Mississippi residency.

Mississippi's season for crab traps closed March 9 and reopened March 22. Licensed crab fishermen were allowed to remove their traps from the water during the first seven days of the closure. After March 15, any trap remaining in public water was considered derelict and subject to removal.

Thirty-four commercial crabbers participated, removing 1,097 traps from

coastal Mississippi. Also, the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and DMR staff removed 162 derelict traps from the bio-reserve. Since the Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program's inception in 2001, more than 17,000 traps have been recycled.

A joint effort by the DMR and GCRL, the cleanup was funded by NOAA's Emergency Disaster Recovery Program Phase II and administered by Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. One of the primary objectives of the grant is to work cooperatively with the fishing industry to restore the marine environment in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.



In Pascagoula, DMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau Director Traci Floyd, right, and DMR fisheries scientist, Rick Burris prepare derelict crab traps, recovered from marine waters by commercial fishermen, to be sent for recycling.



About 125 commercial shrimp fishermen gather for discussions about new alternatives and gear that will help reduce fuel consumption.

DMR holds fuel efficiency workshop for shrimpers

In response to rising fuel costs, DMR hosted a workshop for Mississippi shrimpers May 28 at the D'Iberville Civic Center to inform the industry of alternative gear that has been shown to reduce fuel consumption. About 125 local commercial shrimp fishermen attended. Gary Graham of Texas A & M University and Capt. Louis Stephenson, a commercial shrimper, provided the results of a study on the use of a chambered trawl door that could reduce fuel consumption. Another potential fuel saver discussed was the use of Sapphire trawl webbing that reduces drag, thus reducing fuel consumption.



Edward "Danny" Ross May 20, 1947 to May 6, 2008

DMR Fisheries Technician Edward "Danny" Ross unexpectedly passed away May 6 after spending the day doing what he loved best—fishing. He was a lifetime Mississippi Gulf Coast resident and commercial fisherman before beginning his second career as a captain and oysterman at the DMR. Ross was a dedicated worker who was eager to learn about marine biology and new technology. He was a devoted family man who was loved by friends, co-workers and fellow fishermen. We will all miss his mischievous smile, laughter and dedication to others.

Seafood Safety Corner



Jeff Davis

Summer has arrived and DMR's Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) is preparing for second quarter inspections of seafood processors. During each inspection, a DMR Seafood Officer reviews the sanitary condition of the facility and any applicable Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) records.

According to a University of Florida publication, the concept of HACCP was originally developed in the 1960s by the Pillsbury Company while working with NASA and U.S. Army Laboratories to provide safe food for space expeditions. In the late 1970s, other food industries adopted the program and it was recognized internationally as the best system for ensuring food safety. HACCP requires a small team to develop a plan for their facility's operation. The team can consist of anyone ranging from the owner of the facility to an employee that handles the food. The team considers what health risks are involved with each individual step of the food handling process, then incorporates preventative measures with each step into the plan. This way, proper steps can be followed to prevent the food from becoming contaminated.

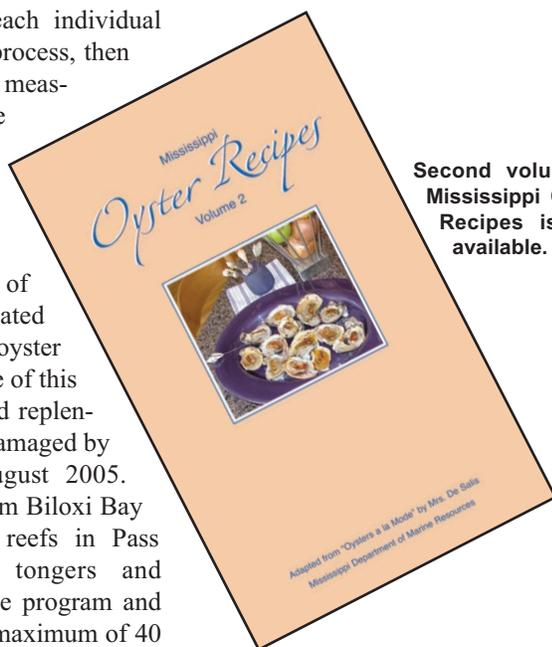
During March and April of this year, the STB participated in the Shellfish Bureau's oyster relay program. The purpose of this program was to restore and replenish oyster reefs that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Oysters were harvested from Biloxi Bay and were transported to reefs in Pass Christian. Both oyster tongers and dredgers participated in the program and were allowed to harvest a maximum of 40

sacks per day. An estimated 125 boats worked each day and a total of 68,365 sacks were harvested.

With summer and hurricane season upon us, the STB staff would like to remind all certified seafood dealers and processors to check their refrigeration units and verify that these are maintained properly. Certain foods must be maintained at proper temperatures to avoid bacterial contamination. Oysters are required to be maintained at 45 degrees F or below. Just in case a refrigeration unit malfunctions or breaks down, it is good practice to have a backup unit available to safely store your food products.

Working to promote oysters, the STB is proud to share the second volume of Mississippi Oyster Recipes. This cookbook is adapted from the original book of Mrs. DeSalis's "Oysters a la Mode," published in 1888. It is a new addition to the promotional materials for the oyster industry. This cookbook is available at the DMR office at the Bolton State Building on Bayview Avenue in Biloxi.

Finally, the DMR Web site now features STB programs, staff, related agency links, rules and regulations, and cookbook information. The link for the Web page is <http://www.dmr.ms.gov/Fisheries/Seafood-Technology>.



Second volume of Mississippi Oyster Recipes is now available.



GCCC staff kayak vegetation to the north-eastern corner of Deer Island to plant to help to decrease erosion by stabilizing the soil.

Deer Island gets greener

Deer Island is a little greener after the Department of Marine Resources Coastal Preserves Program together with the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) and the Gulf Coast Conservation Corps (GCCC) replanted marsh and dune vegetation on a 40-acre restoration site located at the northeastern corner of the island. The restoration area created in 2002 sustained damage following four major storm events in which the interior portion was scoured by high water and intense wave energy.

Staff at the GCRL nursery grew approximately 5,500 individual plants from native seed stock to use in this project. These plants were then transported to the island and planted by GCCC and DMR staff on June 4 through 13. Approximately 30 individuals participated in the effort. Once established, the vegetation planted will help to decrease erosion by stabilizing the soil and therefore protecting the island's valued resources.

An additional planting will occur in the fall of 2008 to plant the remaining material provided by GCRL. Funding for this project was provided through the Coastal Improvement Assistance Program (CIAP) to support the beneficial use of dredge material.



Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence



Marine Patrol officer honored

Marine Patrol Officer John White was selected as the HEADWAE Student Honoree for the 2007-2008 academic year.

HEADWAE, or Higher Education Appreciation Day,

Working for Academic Excellence, honors academically talented students and faculty members of Mississippi's higher education institutions who have made outstanding contributions in promoting academic excellence. The Appreciation Day was held in February in Jackson and hosted by the state Legislature.



DMR Staff Officer Susan Perkins accepts Lantern award from SPRF President Sabrina McLaughlin at the SPRF Conference.

DMR Wins Public Relations Award

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Office of Coastal Management and Planning received a Lantern Award at the annual Southern Public Relations Federation (SPRF) Conference held July 27-29, in Sandestin, Fla. The Lantern Awards competition recognizes public relations projects, programs and productions across the Gulf South that display outstanding strategy, creativity and production skills with certificates of merit, awards of excellence and the Lantern Award, the highest award given.

DMR Staff Officer Susan Lepoma Perkins, APR, won a Lantern Award for DMR's "Mississippi Gulf Coast ... on the Move: Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference Press Kit."

A panel of judges from Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, reviewed 249 entries in 25 categories and selected the winners. Only 15 percent of the entries were presented Lantern Awards.

Broussard nominated

On March 28 at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, DMR Seafood Officer Kristina Broussard was nominated for the "Top 10 Business People Under 40" sponsored by the Journal of South Mississippi Business.



Happy Anniversary!

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (4/1/89) David Dollar | (6/1/00) Lauren Thompson |
| (4/1/98) Bryce Gex | (6/1/00) Rudy Balius |
| (4/1/98) Michael Yonce | (6/1/02) Robin Zantow |
| (4/11/88) Russell Doucet | (6/1/07) George Ramseur |
| (5/1/88) Walter Chataginer | (6/1/07) Mark Boyles |
| (5/1/01) Joyce Gagliano | (6/15/90) Christine Murrell |
| (5/1/01) Jennifer Buchanan | (6/16/08) Jessica Brady |
| (5/1/04) Bradley Randall | (6/16/08) Susan Shumake |
| (5/1/06) Kristina Broussard | (6/20/07) Rick Burris |
| (5/1/06) Gerald Saucier | (6/24/93) Red Hester |
| (5/1/08) Shannon Smith | (6/25/01) Grant Larsen |
| (5/1/08) Darrin Stewart | |
| (5/19/08) Jill Zednick | |

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

