

# Coastal Markers



Volume 12, Issue 4

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Summer 2009

## 2009 Mississippi shrimp season opens in two phases

The 2009 Mississippi shrimp season kicked off in late June, bringing the latest opening on record due to early spring rainfall. However, nice size shrimp were landed.

The season officially opened in Mississippi territorial waters south of the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) on June 25, with reports of small to average-size shrimp and low catch volumes, but the July 7 opening of waters north of the ICW brought nice size brown shrimp despite bad weather dampening turnouts.

On June 25, about 230 shrimping vessels were counted for the partial opening. The majority of boats were congregated on the inside west tip of Horn Island south of the ICW, where they were catching low numbers of 60/70-count brown shrimp.

For the full opening July 7, only an estimated 212 vessels turned out, but small catches of nice brown shrimp

(36/40s and 40/50s) mixed with a few 16/20 white shrimp were reportedly caught intermittently throughout the Mississippi Sound.

The 80th Biloxi Blessing of the Fleet on June 7 brought about 80 vessels. DMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau Director Traci Floyd served on the Blessing committee, the first time DMR has been represented.

"It was a wonderful experience," Floyd said. "It was heartening to see the great love and dedication of Coast residents, and especially Coast shrimpers, for their heritage."

As of July 20, the number of commercial resident shrimp licenses sold was 416. The number of out-of-state commercial shrimp licenses sold was 177.

**See Shrimp Season, page 3**

Illustration: Joe Jewell



Hang Nguyen, a student at Xavier University of Louisiana, helps her parents sell shrimp off their boat, the Sea Quest, at the commercial docks west of the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor.



A local shrimping family sorts shrimp dockside at the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor.

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Coastal Markers is a publication of the

**Mississippi Department of Marine Resources**

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

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*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.*

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Director's Notes

*Dr. William Walker*

Following the hurricanes of 2005, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was directed by Congress to conduct an analysis and recommend improvements in coastal Mississippi that would reduce hurricane and storm surge, reverse impacts of saltwater intrusion, preserve fish and wildlife and their habitats, prevent shoreline erosion and other related water resource purposes. This effort, known as the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program (MsCIP), has been conducted in partnership with the DMR, other state, federal and local agencies, and the general public. The vision for the MsCIP is a coastal Mississippi that is more resilient and less susceptible to risk from hurricane and storm surge.

The program is being coordinated to be consistent with the State's Coastal Restoration Initiative which includes: implementation of breakwater structures for surge protection; Deer Island restoration to pre-1900 footprint; barrier island restoration to pre-Camille conditions; restoration of 10,000 acres of coastal marshes, beaches, and forests; restoration of historical water flow to coastal watersheds; submerged aquatic vegetation restoration; and oyster reef restoration and enhancement.

In May 2007, \$107 million was appropriated by Congress to fund 15 interim projects. Several of the projects are already under way or completed. Recently, Congress appropriated \$439 million to restore the barrier islands. Restoration of the barrier islands is a critical component of the MsCIP plan because these islands not only help reduce storm damage to the mainland, but also protect the ecological integrity of the Mississippi Sound. There are still about a half billion dollars in projects awaiting final approval of the MsCIP plan.

Completion of all the MsCIP projects will take many years, but thanks to the efforts of Gov. Barbour; our Congressional delegation; our local, state and federal partners; and all the others who have contributed to this project; we can leave a stronger Mississippi Coast to our children and our children's children.

Executive Director

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**CALL 228-374-5000**

**Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing**

**Rules and Regulations**



**2009-2010**

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

**FREE**  
**BOAT & WATER SAFETY CLASSES**  
**9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**LOCATIONS**  
**Biloxi, Miss.**

Bolton State Office Building  
1141 Bayview Avenue

**Bay St. Louis, Miss.**

Mississippi Power Company Auditorium  
Highway 90

**Gautier, Miss.**

Recreational Leadership Building  
MGCCC Jackson County Campus

**DATES**

	<b>B.S.L.</b>	<b>Biloxi</b>	<b>Gautier</b>
<b>Aug.</b> .....	1.....	8.....	15
<b>Sept.</b> .....	12.....	19.....	26
<b>Oct.</b> .....	3.....	10.....	17

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

**Thanks!**

**Thanks to all those who contributed to this issue of Coastal Markers.**

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Linda Wakefield | Jeff Davis        |
| Dr. Fred Deegen | Jessica Rankin    |
| Kerwin Cuevas   | Joe Jewell        |
| Amy Taylor      | Ruth Posadas      |
| Traci Floyd     | Susan Perkins     |
| Darrin Stewart  | Tina Shumate      |
| Jeff Clark      | Leslie Young      |
| Bill Richardson | Dorothy Daniel    |
| Dave Ruple      | Mike Walker       |
| Sandra Moore    | Jennifer Buchanan |
| Rusty Pittman   | Irvin Jackson     |

# Shrimp Season

continued from pg. 1

Shrimp season closes at midnight Dec. 31, 2009, except south of the Intracoastal Waterway. In addition, all state waters close to shrimping activities except live-bait shrimping at midnight, April 30, 2010.

The legal minimum size for shrimp in Mississippi is 68 shrimp per pound. This minimum average size is used as a standard for determining the opening date. Certain areas may be closed to shrimping activity if sampling indicates that a large number of small shrimp have moved into a particular area.

All regulations set by the DMR are to be in full force and effect, and all boats engaged in catching or transporting shrimp in or from the waters of Mississippi must be legally licensed.

For the latest updates on the Mississippi shrimp fishery, call the toll-free Shrimp Information Hotline 1-866-We Trawl (866-938-7295).



DMR Office of Coastal Management and Planning Director Tina Shumate presents Mississippi Sen. Deborah Dawkins with a crystal bowl commemorating the 10th year of the Coastal Development Strategies Conference.



## Coastal Development Strategies Conference: DMR celebrates 10 years of smart growth

More than 400 attendees learned about green building, heritage tourism and how to apply smart growth principles in their communities at the 10th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference on May 12-13 at the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi. The DMR's Office of Coastal Management and Planning, with the Gulf Coast Business Council and Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, hosted the event.

A new heritage video project, documenting the oral histories of the seafood industry, kicked off day one of the conference, followed by Starkville Mayor Dan Camp's presentation about how he transformed an industrial neighborhood into a smart growth community. Gulf Coast Business Council's Brian Sanderson talked about historical trends that have shaped the Coast's economy, and breakout sessions covered topics ranging from sustainable building concepts to FEMA's Community Rating System and StormSmart Coasts Network.

On day two of the conference, Mississippi Sen. Billy Hewes and Mississippi Rep. Hank Zuber updated the audience on new and pending state legislation. ETV's "Mississippi Roads" host Walt Grayson shared stories of how local communities have used historic and cultural resources to promote tourism, and University of Southern Mississippi's Dr. Marie Danforth, Dr. Amy Young and graduate students Danielle Cook and Lynn Funkhouser presented new archaeological findings at the Moran site, the oldest known French Colonial cemetery in the United States.

Following the last conference session, attendees were transported to the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in eastern Jackson County, Miss., to the newly constructed Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center, designed for Gold LEED Certification. Participants toured the facility and the grounds and had the opportunity to talk to the designers of the building and reserve staff.

The 11th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference will be held May 12-13, 2010, in Biloxi. Information about the event will be posted in upcoming months at [www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov).



Chris Mask



Tommy Jennings

## DMR Marine Patrol Rescues Boater After Sailboat Capsizes in Bay St. Louis

Marine Patrol officers rescued a boater from the water and brought two others to shore when a sailboat capsized due to inclement weather Tuesday, July 7, 2009, in waters near Bay St. Louis, Miss.

Marine Patrol Officers Chris Mask and Tommy Jennings responded to a call from the Hancock County Sheriff's Department at about 5:53 p.m. reporting that a sailboat had capsized in the waters between the CSX Railroad bridge and Highway 90. Upon arriving on the scene, the officers found one capsized sailboat and another smaller sailboat, which did not capsize, floating nearby. The officers pulled one boater, Chris Arcement, from the water. Arcement had a minor laceration, but refused medical attention. Mask and Jennings brought Arcement and the two passengers of the uncapsized sailboat to shore. All three men, counselors at St. Stanislaus College in Bay St. Louis, were wearing life jackets.



Boaters move to safety after Marine Patrol rescued them in Bay St. Louis.

Photo: Dwayne Bremer/The Sea Coast Echo

# Grand Bay NERR publishes bird guide to the reserve

In keeping with its tradition of creating user-friendly field guides to our coastal resources, the Grand Bay NERR has just released a new guide book designed to help birders locate selected birds found in and near the reserve. "Selected Birds of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and Vicinity" was written by the NERR staff to help visitors to the reserve and other similar coastal habitats more easily locate some of coastal Mississippi's most interesting birds.

This book provides the reader with descriptions of several important coastal habitats and suggests areas where the selected birds may be found. A checklist of all the birds that have been documented in the reserve is also included in the book.

All the photographs of birds that are found in the book were donated almost entirely by amateur and professional members

of Mississippi's community of birders. The remaining pictures were donated by staff members and friends who were interested in helping with our project. These

generous photographers have made it possible for the NERR to distribute this book free of charge to birders, teachers, researchers and other visitors to the reserve. The NERR thanks all the photographers: Larry Basden, Tom

Carlisle, Olivia Graves, Michael Gray, Dave Hawkins, Alan Hinkel, George Housley, Jr., Danny Johnson, Pamela Johnson, Donna McDonald-Bailey, Sharon Milligan, Joseph L. Ravita, Jeff Rester, Eric Soehren, Bill Stripling, Paula Waggy, Joan White-Spunner Dixon and Michael Woodruff. A very special thank you also goes to Laura Tolar, the graphic artist for this project, whose extra special artistic touch contributed to the great visual appeal of this book.

If you would like a copy of this book, please contact Jennifer Buchanan, NERR education coordinator, at [jen.buchanan@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:jen.buchanan@dmr.ms.gov). The books cannot be mailed within the local area, but distribution points will be set up throughout the region where you can pick one up. There is a limit of one book per family. This book will also be available soon at Grand Bay NERR's Web site, [www.grandbaynerr.org](http://www.grandbaynerr.org) in the publications section.




**MARINE PATROL CITATIONS**  
**APRIL 2009 — JUNE 2009**  
 Shrimp-8  
 Crab-6  
 Oyster-2  
 Live Bait-0  
 Net Fish-0  
 Fishing-84  
 Miscellaneous Seafood-3  
 Boat and Water Safety-105  
 Marine Litter-3  
 Miscellaneous-17  
**TOTAL-228**



Photos: primofish.com and mgfb.org

## Tribute to Frank A. Taylor

A 45-foot retired fishing vessel was deployed as the Frank Taylor Reef on May 30 in Fish Haven 12 near Chandeleur Island. The vessel was deployed as part of the DMR Mississippi Artificial Reef Program in partnership with the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks whose mission is to restore, monitor and enhance offshore habitat. NOAA representative Sean Pfarrer and his son Charles, a student at St. Patrick's High School, also assisted with the endeavor. Charles did the honor of starting the flooding process. The reef is named in memory of Frank A. Taylor (Nov. 10, 1978-Oct. 24, 2007). It was deployed by Gulfstream on behalf of Frank's family and friends. As the reef develops, it will become a living tribute to his life and love of the water.



Irvin Jackson receives a Certificate of Merit from Captain Stanton, U.S.C.G.

## Jackson honored by Coast Guard

Derelict Vessel Removal Program Director Irvin Jackson recently received the U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Merit for his outstanding contribution to the Marine Debris Removal mission. Jackson was presented the award by Commander Edwin M. Stanton of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Mobile at the April 21, 2009, meeting of the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources.

The marine debris operations were the first-ever joint effort among the Coast Guard, FEMA and the State of Mississippi for marine debris removal under the National Response Plan, with FEMA funding over \$264 million for a long-term Hurricane Katrina recovery project. The project covered the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast and over 292 square miles of the Mississippi Sound.

Jackson led the team comprising numerous state and federal agencies responsible for identifying all coast waterways in need of debris removal. He assisted the Coast Guard with prioritizing the waters and awarded 13 major marine debris removal contracts resulting in the removal of 390,000 cubic yards of debris and 182 damaged vessels from Mississippi Coast waterways.



Photo: primofish.com and mgfb.org

The Tiger Shark, a derelict shrimp boat removed from the Mississippi Sound just off the beach in Biloxi, sinks into the water about 15 miles south of Horn Island. The vessel was deployed July 9, 2009, at Fish Haven 13 to create new artificial fish habitat.

## Tiger Shark becomes fish habitat

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' (DMR) Derelict Vessel Removal Program and Artificial Reef Bureau have combined efforts with the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks (MGFB) to enhance fish habitat in the Mississippi Gulf. On Thursday, July 9, 2009, the DMR and MGFB deployed the Tiger Shark shrimp boat to the southeast of Fish Haven 13, about 15 miles south of Horn Island, to be used as artificial fish habitat.

The Tiger Shark had been stranded in the Mississippi Sound just off the Biloxi beach near the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor since the beginning of the year. The derelict vessel was removed about mid-June by a private contractor, who then cleaned and prepped it for deployment. A derelict vessel is a marine vessel that is no longer operational, has been abandoned by its owner and is sunk and posing a hazard to navigation.

Before a vessel can be deployed, all fuel, oil, engines and any wood must be removed and the vessel pressure-washed. It is then inspected to be sure there are no remaining hazardous materials.

To deploy the Tiger Shark, holes were cut along the water line and wood patches placed over the holes. The boat was then pulled to the site in Fish Haven 13, where the patches were removed to allow water to overtake the boat. It took about 45 minutes for the Tiger Shark to sink.

"This vessel will create an excellent fishing and diving reef," said Kerwin

Cuevas, director of DMR's Artificial Reef Bureau. "It's great to work with Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks and the Derelict Vessel Removal Program to further reef development in Mississippi."

The DMR's Derelict Vessel Removal Program was created to record all derelict vessels within the coastal wetlands, prioritize the removal of each and contract for the removal and disposal of the vessel in order to restore the coastal wetlands to a natural state, enhance the environment, enable safe navigation and remove harmful substances from the coastal waters. Since May 1998, the program has removed about 190 vessels.

"Since 2002, 43 derelict vessels have been used to create artificial reef habitat," said Derelict Vessel Removal Program Director Irvin Jackson. "It's a pleasure to work with the Artificial Reef Bureau and MGFB to help turn these vessels into something useful and beneficial for our Coast."

The DMR's Derelict Vessel Removal Program and MGFB shared the \$32,000 cost of removing, cleaning and deploying the Tiger Shark.

About 90 percent of Mississippi's artificial reefs were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. More than 60 percent of those reefs have been rebuilt. Currently, DMR and MGFB are working on inshore reef deployment, using cultch material around boat ramps, fishing piers and deepwater markers to help build those habitats.

## NOAA funds CZMA

DMR, as Mississippi's federally approved state coastal zone management program, receives funding from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) annually for Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) administration and enhancement of Mississippi's coastal resources. The DMR's Office of Coastal Ecology has implemented four projects under NOAA funding.

Through one ongoing CZMA Section 309 Coastal Enhancement project, a local consultant was selected to update the inventory of and assess needed enhancements to Mississippi's coastal public access sites in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. A management plan is the ultimate goal for this project, providing analysis of current public access sites, their viability and future development prospects and recommendations.

A second CZMA Section 309 project was initiated this past spring to provide technical and practical support to communities within Mississippi's coastal area, with the aim to enhance community participation in the Community Rating System (CRS), a voluntary component of the National Flood Insurance Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A local consultant was selected to review each community's flood mitigation plan and provide assistance to each coastal community in the identification and implementation of additional flood mitigation methods, thereby achieving additional flood insurance premium discounts for resident homeowners in those coastal communities.

DMR has awarded two subgrants to wastewater districts in Hancock and Jackson counties for facility planning towards expansion of existing wastewater collection lines, with the goal of replacing 933 individual septic systems within watersheds flowing into the Mississippi Sound. These subgrants are available through CZMA Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program and are a key factor in abating coastal nonpoint pollution along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



The field crew takes a much needed break from their work in the Grand Bay NERR marshes along Middle Bayou.



Students identify and measure light levels reflected from salt panne vegetation at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

## Grand Bay NERR collects data from sky and on land

In June, the Environmental Cooperative Science Center (ECSC) and Grand Bay NERR, in partnership with the National Coastal Data Development Center, conducted a flyover to collect hyperspectral imagery for the entire reserve. The imagery collected at Grand Bay NERR is important because it is one of the largest continuous coverage hyperspectral datasets in the Gulf of Mexico region and is the only dataset that covers an entire National Estuarine Research Reserve in the United States.

Hyperspectral imaging, a type of aerial photography, collects large amounts of data in both the visible and non-visible range (ultraviolet and infrared); this data is used to identify unique signatures, such as fingerprints, for vegetation, water, etc. The data can be used in many applications such as defining the location and range of various plant species, predicting the habitat that aquatic and terrestrial organisms may use, and evaluating ecosystem health.

Students, faculty and staff from five ECSC partner universities (Bethune-Cookman, Creighton, Florida A&M, Jackson State, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln) and NERR staff collected field data relating to water quality, plant distribution and light conditions throughout the reserve in conjunction with the imagery collection. The data, along with long-term monitoring information collected by NERR staff, will be used for a variety of upcoming projects. For example, a detailed vegetation map will be developed for tidal marsh areas of the reserve. In addition, information from this project is critical to planning future research efforts and developing management plans in the face of increasing sea level rise.

The ECSC is part of the NOAA Education Partnership Program and was established to address ecological and coastal management issues at National Estuarine Research Reserves and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The program provides opportunities for underrepresented students and advances collaborative research in the NOAA-related sciences. The Grand Bay NERR has worked in collaborations with the ECSC for eight years.

# New Human Resources Web page launched

The DMR's Human Resources (HR) Web page is now up and running. HR staff started working on the page in January in an effort to recruit more potential candidates for future employment with DMR.

Human Resources Office Director Dorothy Daniel, along with Lauren Clark and Sandra Moore worked on the design and concept, and Kimberly Denz from the Information Technology Bureau helped tweak the final product and publish it on the DMR's Web site.

The HR page advertises all positions open for recruitment and offers a "Resume" link where candidates submit their resume, which will be stored on the server and downloaded into the new human resources management system called ABRA. The HR Web page also has a link to the new DMR job application. If the job title requires the applicant to complete a state job application, the "Recruitment Notice" has a link to the State Personnel Board's Web site, where the applicant can click on the automated state job application.

The HR page also features a slideshow of DMR staff at work, in everything from research to outreach events, to show how diverse and exciting the jobs at the DMR are.



L to R: Internship Coordinator Dr. Lena Melton, Irma Collins, Joshua Mathis, Marion Richardson, Michael Crawford, Matt Sukiennik and Erik Robinson. Not pictured: Amber Rashid, (who was back for the third time, each with great success!) Martina Wilson, Courtney Riley and Krystal Powell.

## DMR and GCRL staff mentor 10 MGCCC interns spring semester

DMR and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) Internship Program have shared a symbiotic relationship for five years, where a select group of MGCCC students are matched with DMR professionals to work on a wide variety of programs and projects. The goal of this internship program is to assist in the development of interns' personal, professional and academic competencies. The University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) has participated in the program with great success for the last two semesters. This on-the-job experience provides an intern with valuable insights into the exciting possibilities of furthering their education and career development and provides professional development for DMR and GCRL professionals through their mentoring of the interns' activities.

During the spring 2009 semester 10 MGCCC interns worked closely with eight mentors in various programs. GCRL mentored seven of the 10 interns in various fields, while the remaining three interns were mentored by DMR employees. Dr. Lena Melton, MGCCC intern coordinator, and the DMR Human Resources Office closely monitored the program throughout the semester. Interns participating in the spring semester were Marion Richardson, Joshua Mathis, Michael Crawford, Erik Robinson, Irma Collins, Krystal Powell, Courtney Riley, Amber Rashid, Matt Sukiennik and Martina Wilson. Spring semester mentors included Dr. Sheila Brown, Dr. Jinx Campbell, Joyce Shaw, Harriet Perry, Dr. Eric Saillant, and Dr. Richard Heard, from the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Traci Floyd and Darrin Stewart both from the DMR's Shrimp and Crab Bureau, and Jeffrey Payne from DMR's Marine Patrol Office.

After the interns completed orientation on January 28, 2009, they began working with their mentors once a week for at least three hours. The interns kept a journal summarizing all the work performed and were required to write an abstract and protocol of their semester at the DMR/GCRL. A final meeting of mentors and interns was held on April 30, 2009 during which interns made their presentations. Students who successfully complete the intern program receive a letter grade higher in the course taught by the professor who recommended them for the program.



## Grand Bay NERR hosts tour of new eco-friendly Coastal Resources Center

On May 13, Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference participants got a behind-the-scenes tour of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's (NERR) new Coastal Resources Center. Architects representing the building's design team from Lord, Aeck and Sargent and Studio South were on-site to conduct tours and answer questions about the facility. Visitors learned about many of the energy-efficient and conservation strategies featured in the new building, which include (but are not limited to) the following elements:

**1. Building design and orientation.** The new building is physically located within the footprint of previous developments on the site. This design feature minimizes impacts to undisturbed natural habitats. The building is also oriented to make use of natural light and reduce staff dependency on artificial light. Exterior lights are on timers, and interior lights have motion sensors installed so that lights turn off and on as people enter and leave classrooms and offices.

**2. Construction materials.** Recycled materials, local lumber and sustainable wood (bamboo) furniture are used throughout the building to

reduce the carbon footprint of the facility. Low volatile organic compound (VOC) products such as paint and carpet emit reduced levels of odors and pollutants, thus improving the work environment for building occupants.

**3. Stormwater management.** Cisterns collect water that runs off the roof during rain events. This water is used to flush toilets throughout the building. Pervious surfaces are also installed in the parking area as well as the sidewalk adjacent to the building. Pervious materials capture water and allow it to seep into the ground, thereby reducing the amount of stormwater that runs across the landscape.

**4. Landscaping.** The landscape plan for the facility incorporates the use of native plants and grasses. Native plants typically require less maintenance than exotics. These plants are naturally able to withstand draughts and pests, and this feature reduces demands for irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides.

**5. Firewise.** Since the Coastal Resources Center is located in the midst of a pine savanna, which is maintained through the use of prescribed fire, the construction and landscape features of the facility are designed to withstand the effects of fire. A metal roof, on-site fire suppression system (water tank) and a landscape plan that includes defensible



Guests enjoy pecan pie and orange juice while touring the NERR.

space and fire-resistant vegetation help decrease the facility's susceptibility to fire.

After construction is complete, the Coastal Resources Center will be evaluated for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. This certification process measures how well a building performs in the following categories: energy savings, water efficiency, carbon dioxide emissions reductions, improved indoor environmental quality and stewardship of natural resources. The staff of the Coastal Resources Center hopes to achieve gold certification, which is the second-highest level of certification in the program.

To learn more about the Grand Bay NERR's Coastal Resources Center, please visit the reserve's Web site at [www.grandbaynerr.org](http://www.grandbaynerr.org).



Far left: Hoppy Allred, center white shirt, Studio South Architects, Ocean Springs, touring the exterior of the new Grand Bay NERR Coastal Resources Center.

Joe Greco, center grey shirt, Lord, Aeck and Sargent Architects, Atlanta, Ga., touring the lobby and interpretative area (before exhibit installation) at the Center.

## Deer Island Beneficial Use Project

Beginning in 2003, DMR, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Biloxi partnered to restore 50 acres of Deer Island using dredge material from the Biloxi navigation channel. By the spring of 2005, the dredge material had consolidated and the site was planted with smooth cordgrass, saltmarsh cordgrass and black needlerush.

Approximately 25 percent of the dredge material and 50 percent of the plants on Deer Island were lost during Hurricane Katrina. Since that time Coastal Preserves has been working to identify opportunities to use material from local dredging projects to restore the site back to its original target elevation. Currently, sandy material from the dredging of Graveline Bayou is being used. Once the target elevation is reached, the site will be replanted. Coastal Preserves is working with several state and federal agencies and other partners to develop a Beneficial Use Group with the goal of ensuring that whenever good-quality dredge material is available, it will be used to restore coastal habitat.



2008 aerial photo of the Deer Island Beneficial Use of Dredged Material marsh restoration project.



Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock explains the identifying characteristics of a wetland plant species.

## Wetland Plant Identification Course

The Mississippi Coastal Preserves Program and the Grand Bay NERR's Coastal Training Program sponsored a course May 4-7 on "Wetland Plant Identification in Coastal Mississippi." The 3 1/2 day field course focused on the identification of plants that commonly occur in the different wetlands of coastal Mississippi. Participants learned general plant identification principles along with an emphasis on diagnostic field characteristics for each species. Many of these field characteristics are not found in typical field guides or taxonomy books, but allow for rapid identification of plants to the species level. The 22 attendees included state and federal wetland regulatory staff as well as private environmental consultants and educators.

The instructor for the course was Robert H. Mohlenbrock, Ph.D., of Biotic Consultants Inc. Mohlenbrock is a nationally acclaimed expert on plant identification. He was a distinguished professor at Southern Illinois University for 33 years and served as chair of the Botany Department for 12 years. He has published more than 50 books on plants including a 14-volume set on the flora of Illinois.

This training was funded through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

# Seafood Safety Corner



Jeff Davis



Jessica Rankin

Jedidiah Bullard with the DMR Fisheries Office teaches a young Gulf attendant how to throw a cast net.



Summer is upon us and the members of the Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) are currently conducting quarterly inspections. Since oyster season is closed during the summer months, it is the perfect opportunity for seafood dealers and processors to make modifications and maintain their facilities. The members of the STB would like to remind seafood dealers and processors about the maintenance of coolers during the summer months. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) guidelines recommend coolers be monitored two times a day if oysters are stored in the cooler. Backup coolers are a good investment in case your primary cooler fails. Always verify that your backup unit is clean and operational. The recommended temperature that oysters should be kept at is 45 degrees Fahrenheit or below. Cooler thermometers should be calibrated every six months in order to verify that correct readings are being taken.

STB staff attended several public outreach events this quarter reaching over 3,000 people. April 4 was the annual Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival in Pass Christian. The Marine Fisheries' tent had educational interactive games such as the fishy prize wheel, throw the net and catch a fish, and demonstrations that included how to fillet a fish and proper hand-washing techniques. April was also Crawfish Festival time. *Vibrio vulnificus* information packets, along with other seafood safety information, were dispersed reaching an estimated 200 people. STB staff also attended the Hancock County Tourism Day event on May 11. Attendance was high and included people from all over, some from as far away as Canada. May 16 was the annual Billy Creel Wooden Boat show at the Schooner Pier complex in Biloxi. This event educated a large maritime audience about seafood safety, the risk of *Vibrio vulnificus* in the summer months, and the

importance of boat and water safety. Thanks go out to all the following people who helped make these events possible: Rudy Balius, Buck Buchanan, Jedidiah Bullard, Tamra Carrell, Mai Dang, Libby Denyer, Dale Diaz, Melanie Lane, Ruth Posadas, Sally Richards and Bill Richardson.

On June 2, the STB and the DMR Shellfish Bureau held a workshop discussing norovirus. The workshop focused on how to prevent outbreaks, how to educate the public about the safety risk and how to contain outbreaks. The workshop saw a large participation from members of DMR and from the Department of Health. The STB will be hosting a norovirus workshop that will be open to the public in September. For more information, contact Jessica Rankin with the Seafood Technology Bureau at [jessica.rankin@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:jessica.rankin@dmr.ms.gov) or by phone at 228-523-4095.



*Bait Box .....	228-219-3817	.....2815 Front St., Pascagoula
Bay Marina.....	228-466-4970	.....100 Bay Marina Dr., Bay St. Louis
Bayshore Bait Camp.....	228-861-3083	.....3540 Bayshore Dr., D'Iberville
Bordages .....	228-341-5220	.....6149 Central Ave., Bay St. Louis
Brady's.....	228-864-5338	.....860 E. Pier Road, Gulfport
CC's .....	228-218-7614	.....5303 Ladner St., Pascagoula
Dog River Bait .....	228-219-3862	.....4415 Denny Ave., Moss Point
Fort Bayou .....	228-875-6252	.....1022 Legion Lane, Ocean Springs
Gulfport Harbor.....	228-248-2248	.....1193 20th Ave., Gulfport
La France.....	228-467-9180	.....3200 Anselv Road, Bay St. Louis
*Light House Bait.....	228-396-8846	.....6532 St. Martin St., Biloxi
M & M .....	228-218-0130	.....417 Denny Ave., Pascagoula
Marine Mart.....	228-875-0072	.....1320 Harbor Dr., Ocean Springs
Mary Walker.....	228-497-3141	.....3308 Mary Walker Dr., Gautier
*Rachel's Widows Walk.....	228-475-4885	.....5542 Main St., Moss Point
Tucei's.....	228-497-6743	.....3300 Oak St., Gautier
Who Zat.....		.....5600 Washington Ave., Ocean Springs
*New to the industry.		

"The number of live bait camps on the Mississippi Coast has increased by four this year for a total of 17 with three of the four being newcomers to the industry. These new camps are a nice addition and should further assist recreational fishermen. It's also nice to see the number of camps continue to rise since Katrina which I think reflects the resilience of the people here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast," said DMR projects officer Darrin Stewart of the Shrimp and Crab Bureau above with Julie Noble, manager of Light House Bait in Biloxi.



# Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence

## Perret to receive GSMFC award

William S. "Corky" Perret, who recently retired as DMR's Deputy Director, was selected in March by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) to receive the prestigious Charles H. Lyles Award.

The Charles H. Lyles Award is presented yearly by the GSMFC to an individual, agency or organization active in marine fisheries whose careers and contributions to Gulf fisheries are worthy of being labeled "fishery giants." Perret will join the prestigious elite group of congressmen, scientists, administrators, enforcement, businessmen and fishermen who have received this award. "I have always been fortunate enough to be associat-

ed with good, energetic people," said Perret.

Perret's career has spanned over four decades. He worked for the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries for 30 years, culminating his time there in 1995 as the assistant secretary in charge of all fisheries, both freshwater and marine.

He then came to DMR as director of Marine Fisheries. He held that position until about two years ago, when he advanced to deputy director of DMR. He is a longtime member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

Perret will be presented with the award during the October meeting of the GSMFC.



Corky Perret was selected in March by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) to receive the prestigious Charles H. Lyles Award.

***In the last issue of Coastal Markers, the anniversaries listed only reflected the DMR hiring date, not years of service with the State of Mississippi. The following DMR employees were left off the anniversary list: Donny Armes 1/16/85, Stephanie Boyer 8/3/06, Steve Breland 2/1/89, Rusty Pittman 3/1/90, Rocky Southern 1/1/95, Amy Taylor 3/1/98, Tom Van Devender 2/1/90, and Mike Yonce, 4/1/98.***

## *Happy Anniversary!*

*These anniversaries mark employees' years of service with DMR and the state of Mississippi.*

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

Scott Gordon.....7/1/1985	Lauren Thompson.....6/1/2000
Russell Doucet.....4/11/1985	Jennifer Buchanan.....5/5/2001
Tiny Chataginer .....5/1/1988	Joyce Gagliano .....5/1/2001
David Dollar .....4/1/1989	Grant Larsen.....6/25/2001
Christine Murrell.....6/15/1990	Robin Zantow.....6/1/2002
Dorothy Daniel.....7/31/1990	Bill Walker.....7/8/2002
David Rose .....7/1/1991	Marian Hanisko.....7/1/2003
Jimmy Hester.....6/24/1993	Bradley Randall .....5/1/2004
John Grimsley.....7/1/1997	Tim Broder.....6/14/2004
Joe Ziegler.....7/21/1997	Will Freeman.....7/1/2005
Joe Gex.....4/1/1998	Christina Young .....7/1/2005
Mike Yonce.....4/1/1998	Kristina Broussard .....5/1/2006
Michaela Hill .....7/15/1999	Scott Saucier .....5/1/1996
Rudy Balius.....6/1/2000	

## Murrell Completes CPM Project



Christine Murrell has completed the first levels of the Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program and her project, "Implementing a Healthy Mississippi Worksite Wellness Program at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources," was selected as a "model project." There is only one other CPM participant at the DMR who has received this designation, and that was Irvin Jackson in 2003 for developing the Mississippi Saltwater Sportfishing Guide.

State employees interested in starting the CPM program, should talk to their supervisor and contact Jennifer Sledge at the State Personnel Board's Training Office. The main number is 601-359-1406.



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## Save the Date! October 17, 2009

Mississippi Coastal Cleanup [www.mscoastalcleanup.org](http://www.mscoastalcleanup.org)

### DMR Calendar

#### August 18

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center  
1815 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

#### September 12

CCA Kids Fishing Rodeo  
Children 5-13, 8 a.m. - noon  
River Park, Pascagoula  
For details call Alberto Alvarez at (228) 323-2323

#### September 15

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center  
1815 Popp's Ferry Road, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

#### September 26

National Estuaries Day

#### October 17

Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, 8 a.m.-11 a.m.  
More than 60 cleanup sites coastwide  
Details: Call (228) 374-5000 or visit [www.mscoastalcleanup.org](http://www.mscoastalcleanup.org)

### Doc's Fishing Tip

In the heat of summer, front beach trout anglers, bait fishermen and plug-casters alike will often find the best fishing develops before the sun clears the horizon. This is especially true if that time coincides with a strongly moving tide. A rising tide usually provides for longer prime fishing as the fish are pushed farther inshore by the moving waters. On the ebb, action can be fast and furious, but usually of short duration. Either way, look to the predawn hours for some of the day's best fishing. - Dr. Fred Deegen



### Eggplant Casserole with Shrimp

- 1 lb. Mississippi Gulf shrimp (boiled and peeled)
- 3 eggplants, peeled and diced
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 stalks of celery
- 8 oz. cheddar cheese, cubed
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 8 oz. ham, diced
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 packs of Ritz crackers, crushed



Boil eggplant and drain. Saute onions and celery. Mix all ingredients, salt and pepper to taste. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-60 minutes.

*Reprinted from DMR's Get Hooked on Mississippi Shrimp Recipe Book  
Recipe by Irvin Jackson*



To receive your  
Coastal Markers  
via e-mail, contact  
[lauren.thompson@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:lauren.thompson@dmr.ms.gov)