

Coastal Markers



Volume 5, Issue 3

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Winter 2002

Secretary of State presents Tidelands check to CMR

■ *More than \$5.2 million returned to Gulf Coast*

Mississippi Secretary of State Dr. Eric Clark presented the Commission on Marine Resources with a check for \$5,234,640.98 to be used for FY2002 Tidelands Trust Fund projects at a ceremony held Nov. 14, at Moses Pier in Gulfport.

The Commission on Marine Resources distributed this year's tidelands funds in December. The money will be used for projects in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties.

The Tidelands Trust Fund Program is supported by funds derived from the lease rentals of tidelands

and submerged lands. Revenues are collected by the Office of Secretary of State, appropriated by the state legislature and administered by the CMR. All tidelands projects are reviewed, evaluated and recommended annually by the CMR, as mandated by Section 25-15-9 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

FY2002 Tidelands projects include:

City of Bay St. Louis – Ulman Avenue Pier
City of Biloxi – Lighthouse Restoration
City of Gulfport – Courthouse Road Boat



Secretary of State Dr. Eric Clark presents the CMR with the FY2002 Tidelands Trust Fund check to be used for projects in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. (From left: DMR Chief of Staff Joe Ziegler, Secretary of State Eric Clark, DMR Executive Director Glen Carpenter and CMR Chairman Dr. Vernon Asper).

Launch Area-Phase II, Moses Pier Improvement

City of Long Beach – FY2002 Harbor Improvements

City of Moss Point – Waterfront Development: Pelican Landing

City of Ocean Springs – Fort Bayou Boat Ramp

City of Pascagoula – Reclamation and Conservation Round Island Lighthouse Beach

City of Pass Christian – Harbor Improvements

City of Waveland – Pier Expansion/Related Improvements

Hancock County Board of Supervisors – Bayou Caddy Marina, Clermont Harbor Pier, Curtis Johnson, Dunbar, McCleod Park

Harrison County Board of Supervisors – Popp's Ferry Causeway

Jackson County Board of Supervisors – St. Martin Bayou – Phase II, Ocean Springs Harbor, Graveline Bayou Dredging – Phase II

D'Iberville Port Commission – Fountain Beach Public Access and Habitat Learning Center

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

Mississippi Maritime Museum

USM – Cedar Point Nature & Wildlife Preserve & Interpretation Center

Restoration West End of Deer Island

Hancock County Low-Profile Reef

Harrison County Low-Profile Reef

Jackson County Low-Profile Reef

The Capitol Comes to the Coast

From left: DMR Fisheries Staff Officer Joe Jewell, DMR Executive Director Glen Carpenter, Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, DMR Chief of Staff Joe Ziegler and DMR Coastal Ecology Director Daryl Jones visit in Bay St. Louis during Capitol for a Day on Nov. 27, 2001.



Inside this issue...

| | |
|--|----------|
| Boat and Water Safety Class Schedule..... | 2 |
| Mapping data released..... | 3 |
| Derelict vessel becomes reef..... | 3 |
| Marine Patrol Citation Totals..... | 4 |
| Southern flounder..... | 5 |
| Environmental workshop..... | 6 |
| Calendar of Events..... | 8 |
| Doc's Fishing Tips..... | 8 |

Coastal Markers is a publication of the



**Mississippi Department
of Marine Resources**

1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101
Biloxi, MS 39530
(228) 374-5000
www.dmr.state.ms.us

State of Mississippi

Ronnie Musgrove
Governor

**Mississippi Commission on
Marine Resources**

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

Rickey J. Hemba, Vice Chairman
Recreational Sports Fisherman

Oliver Sahuque
Commercial Fisherman

Edna K. Boone
Nonseafood Industry

Mikel C. Gusa
Charter Boat Operator

Rudy A. Lesso
Commercial Seafood Processor

Harry "Chip" McArthur III
Commissioner on Wildlife, Fisheries
and Parks, Fifth Congressional
District

Glen H. Carpenter
Executive Director

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

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

Susan Lepoma Perkins
Writer/Editor/Graphic Designer

Marti Schuman
Writer/Editor

Lauren S. Thompson
Writer/Editor

This publication was funded in part 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.

Director's Notes

Glen Carpenter



My first year at the helm of the Department of Marine Resources was a good one filled with many challenges and opportunities to make strides toward being wise stewards of Mississippi's valuable marine resources. For example, we were able to begin development of one of the nation's first mitigation compliance programs, and we continued to make strides in ridding our nearshore waters of derelict vessels that pose a hazard to navigation, creating new offshore artificial reef habitats for snapper, grouper and other bottom-dwelling fishes. Nearshore nursery areas, too, continue to be incorporated into the state's Coastal Preserves Program to help ensure the continued viability of our fisheries stocks.

We have also processed nearly 700 individual and general wetlands permit applications and instructed hundreds of boaters in boat and water safety, making our coastal waters safer for all water sports enthusiasts.

Commercial shrimp and oyster harvests were bountiful in 2001, and the outlook for the immediate future of these fisheries is bright as well. In cooperation with our close partners at Stennis Space Center, the Naval Research Laboratory and the EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Office, progress on the Northern Gulf Littoral Initiative has continued, and the results of these efforts are now available on the Internet.

In the midst of the holidays, it is often difficult to think about work-related matters, but we should all count the fruits of our labors among the many blessings that the year has brought us. I offer each and every one of you my sincerest wishes for a happy holiday season for you and your families.

Executive Director

**Boat and Water Safety Course
Schedule (Jan.-March 2002)**

- Jan. 12**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Jan. 19**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Jan. 21-22**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Jan. 24-25**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Jan. 28-29**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Feb. 2**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Feb. 4-5**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Feb. 9**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Feb. 11-12**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Feb. 14-15**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Feb. 16**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Feb. 18-19**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- Feb. 23**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- March 2**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- March 4-5**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- March 9**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- March 11-12**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6-9 p.m.
- March 16**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- March 21-22**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- March 25-26**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
- March 30**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

A very special thanks to the following contributors to this issue of Coastal Markers: Judy Bosarge, Leah Bray, Dorothy Daniel, Traci Floyd, Matt Hill, Corky Perret, Ruth Posadas, Bill Richardson, Tina Shumate, Amy Taylor and Frank Wescovich.

CRMP releases coastal mapping data to public

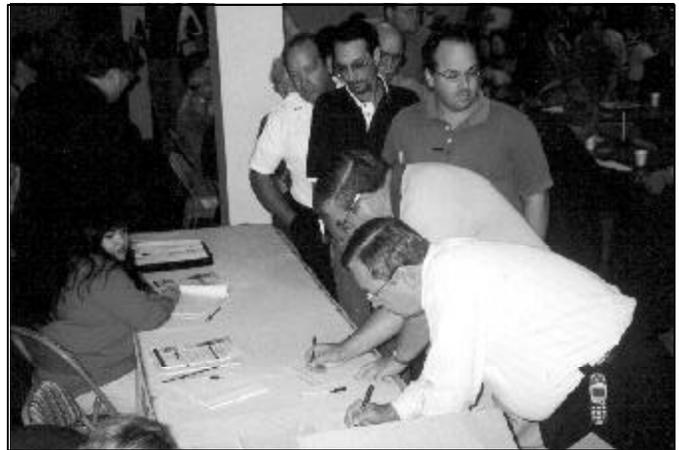
Coastal development is about to get smarter thanks to a tool developed by the Department of Marine Resources' (DMR) Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP). CRMP released a land use suitability model at its Nov. 14 meeting.

This model, a series of maps and data illustrating land use and land cover in the three coastal counties and their watersheds, is a non-regulatory tool to assist developers in determining the best areas for growth by helping them locate environmentally sensitive areas. The model, available on CD-ROM, provides city and county governments, planners, realtors and others with data highlighting county boundaries, soil types, flood zones, hydrologic areas, utility districts and transportation corridors and other important information.

"By bringing decision-makers together, not only can we save the unique coastal resources of Mississippi, but we can also build a more responsible community," said

Tina Shumate, DMR's Comprehensive Resource Management Plan director.

CRMP is a special management plan designed to address environmental impacts from rapid growth and economic development along the Mississippi Gulf Coast through education in land-use planning. Within the CRMP, stakeholders from Jackson, Harrison, Hancock, George, Stone and Pearl River counties of Mississippi partner to develop new conservation and economic growth planning tools. The group is dedicated to maintaining the unique history, culture and beautiful setting of our coast while exploring



Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) members sign for their copies of the land use suitability model CD-ROMs at the November CRMP meeting.

options and providing a forum for topics related to smart growth.

The next CRMP meeting will be held Jan. 16, in the Bolton Building auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, at 10 a.m.

Derelict vessels become artificial fishing reefs



The Department of Marine Resources and the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks sank a 150-foot steel-hull vessel about 15 miles south of Petit Bois Island on Dec. 7, 2001, creating an artificial fishing reef that will benefit many generations of saltwater sportsmen.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks turned a 150-foot metal boat into an artificial fishing reef on Dec. 7, 2001, in Fish Haven 13, about 15 miles south of Petit Bois Island. The derelict vessel was transported from Bayou Portage in Pass Christian. This is the second derelict vessel to be used as an artificial reef through the program. The first one, a 235-foot barge, was sunk in Fish Haven 2 on Nov. 13.

"Through a joint effort with the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, the Derelict Vessel Removal Program was able to turn a navigational hazard into an artificial reef, enhancing recreational fishing along the Gulf Coast," said Irvin Jackson, DMR Derelict Vessel Removal Program manager.

The DMR's Derelict Vessel Removal Program paid for the cost of cleaning and preparing the vessel for removal. The Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks provided for transporting the vessel and sinking it in its designated area. GulfStream Marine of Biloxi removed, cleaned, transported and sank the vessel.



This 235-foot barge was deployed at Fish Haven 2 on Nov. 13.

The Derelict Vessel Removal Program is funded annually through the Tidelands Trust Fund Program. The Tidelands Trust Fund Program consists of funds derived from the lease rentals of tidelands and submerged lands. Revenues are collected by the Office of Secretary of State, appropriated by the state legislature and administered by the Commission on Marine Resources.

Fifty derelict vessels have been removed from tideland waterways along the Mississippi Gulf Coast within Harrison, Jackson and Hancock counties since the Derelict Vessel Program's initiation in May 1998. An additional 16 barges as well as four fishing boats have been identified for removal over the next six months for possible use as artificial fishing reefs.

Winter low tides aid Department in derelict crab trap removal

Winter is here, and the DMR is gearing up for the removal of derelict crab traps along the Gulf Coast.

Derelict crab traps are defined as traps, which are un-buoyed, unmarked, and not actively fished. These traps are abandoned or lost due to uncontrollable environmental factors, inadvertent clipping of float lines by propellers and theft. The DMR uses the low tides of winter to locate these abandoned crab traps as they can be easily spotted in the shallow

waters. The DMR retrieved and recycled 1,842 traps since the project began in January 2000.

“Removing these traps benefits our coastal and estuarine environments and provides safer navigational waters for rec-



Derelict crab traps are a navigational hazard to boaters and interfere with shrimp and oyster harvesting.

reational boaters and recreational and commercial fishermen,” said DMR biologist Bill Richardson.

If you know of areas with large numbers of derelict traps, please contact Bill Richardson at (228) 374-5000.

Sound Advice

Lt. Frank Wescovich



Even though the weather has been unpredictable this season, you can be sure that the winter cold is right around the corner. With this cold weather comes a whole

new realm of problems for boaters. Being out and about on the water this time of year can be significantly more dangerous than other times. If you don't plan ahead, you could find yourself in some serious difficulty. The following brief tips should help make your outings safer and more enjoyable:

1. First and foremost, wear your lifejacket. Drowning remains the number one cause of death in boating accidents whatever the season.

2. Dress for the anticipated weather. Hypothermia will creep up on you before you realize what is happening.

3. Have your boat properly equipped. Prudent boat operation in cold weather requires much more equipment than warm weather operation.

4. Keep abreast of the weather. Winter weather doesn't usually change as fast as it does in the summer, but the changes are usually not for the better.

5. Know your boat and its capabilities and limitations. A boat that was marginally suited for ventures to the offshore islands in the summer is definitely not a wise choice for the same trip in the winter.

6. Be sure to have some form of reliable communications onboard. VHF radiotelephone or cellular phone would be a good choice.

7. File a float plan. Tell a reliable friend, neighbor or relative where you are going and when you plan to return. Don't deviate from your filed plan.

8. Let common sense rule. Try to recall previous trips and any difficulties or problems you might have encountered.

Remember:

SAFE BOATING IS NO ACCIDENT.

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

Record Breaker!



Coast angler, Michael L. Allen of Biloxi, set a new Mississippi saltwater sportfishing record with an 11-pound 0.16-ounce Black Grouper caught while bottom fishing March 24 about 82 miles south of Biloxi. The fish was caught in approximately 270 feet of water using a jig for bait. The Commission on Marine Resources certified the new record during its November 15 meeting.

Have you “Gone Shrimping, Gone Crabbing and Gone Oystering” with the DMR?

These three brochures are now available at the Department of Marine Resources. Pick up yours today!

Marine Patrol Citation Totals

(September-November 2001)

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Shrimp | 8 |
| Crab | 18 |
| Oyster | 28 |
| Commercial Net Fishing | 4 |
| Live Bait | 0 |
| Miscellaneous Seafood | 11 |
| Recreational Fishing | 120 |
| Boat and Water Safety | 56 |
| Marine Litter | 2 |
| Miscellaneous | 2 |

Boat and Water Safety Statistics

(September-November 2001)

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Classes held | 14 |
| Students certified | 100 |
| Outreach events | 19 |
| Boating accidents | 15 |
| Fatalities | 0 |

Southern flounder, a popular Mississippi delicacy

The familiar glow of lanterns dotting the shoreline along Highway 90 has vanished along with the warm months of summer and fall. The lights, from anglers pursuing the popular flatfish known as the southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*), have gone out because colder water temperatures have caused the flounder to move seaward and begin to spawn.

The spawning season for these flatfish normally occurs from October through December. The flounder larvae remain offshore through metamorphosis. They begin their life looking like most any other fish until metamorphosis begins. This process starts when the flounder is 4 millimeters long and is complete when the fish reaches 23 millimeters in length. Many changes occur during this period with the most interesting being the migration of the right eye to the left side of the body.

This migration of the eye begins when the flounder is about 7 millimeters in length, and by the time it reaches 16 millimeters, the right eye has fully migrated; both eyes are present on the left side.

Juveniles migrate into the bays and estuaries from January through March and remain there throughout their growth and development. Generally, all southern flounders are sexually mature by the time they reach 14 inches total length. A 14-inch southern flounder weighs a little over a pound.

The southern flounder, like other flatfish, is a bottom-dweller. It has two very distinct sides—a white side and a darker side. The darker side helps it blend in with its habitat, which is most often a muddy substrate. The flounder's eyes, which constantly watch the activity in the water column above, are found

on the darker side of the fish. The southern flounder has razor sharp teeth and lightning-like quickness that allows it to be a successful predator.

The southern flounder is sought after because of its excellent quality as a food fish. Combine this quality with its abundance and size, and it is easy to see why it is the principle component of the flounder catch around the Gulf. The current Mississippi state record is 9 pounds 15 ounces.

Anglers pursue southern flounder using several different methods. The two most popular methods are gigging and hook and line. No matter what method is used, you are sure to have fun in your pursuit of the southern flounder. Your reward will be one of the best tasting fish the Gulf has to offer.

DMR staff participates in Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) is made up of five states whose coastal waters are the Gulf of Mexico: Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. The main function of the Commission is to serve as a forum for discussion of various issues and programs of marine fishery management, industry and research and to develop coordinated policy to address those issues for the betterment of the resource.

The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program promotes cooperative development of fisheries research and management. Task forces and subcommittees made up of resource managers, biologists, law enforcement and commercial and recreational representatives from each Gulf state work together toward a common goal.

DMR Marine Fisheries Director Corky Perret currently serves as proxy for Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissioner and DMR Executive Director Glen H. Carpenter. Perret is also on the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) which consists of top scientists from each Gulf state who provide advice to GSMFC as needed. Tom Van Devender, DMR Marine Fisheries Division Director, also serves on the TCC as well as the Data Management Subcommittee, which recently voted to supply agents

with detailed line drawings and biological key material to differentiate between Gulf and southern flounders in order to separate landings of the two species in the future.

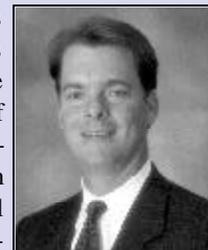
DMR Fisheries Biologist Traci Floyd serves on the Crab Subcommittee which has finalized a regional Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan (approved by the GSMFC November 1, 2001) and is working to secure a multi-agency initiative to address the Gulf-wide derelict crab trap problem. To review the Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan or to get more information about the GSMFC, log on to www.gsmfc.org.

Other DMR staff active in GSMFC include the following: Fisheries Biologist Christine Johnson represents Mississippi on the Commercial Fisheries Information Network, Fisheries Biologist Kerwin Cuevas serves on the Recreational Fisheries Information Network and Finfish Program Coordinator Mike Buchanan sits on the Artificial Reef Subcommittee. Staff Officer Jan Boyd represents the DMR Coastal Ecology Office on the Habitat Subcommittee. Marine Patrol Director Terry Bakker serves on the Law Enforcement Subcommittee.

The 52nd Annual spring meeting of the GSMFC will be held March 18-20, in Biloxi. Call (228) 875-5912 for details.

Sen. Hewes elected vice chairman of the GSMFC

Sen. Billy Hewes III of Gulfport was elected second vice chairman of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) at its fall meeting in New Orleans.



Walter J. Blessey and DMR Marine Fisheries Director William "Corky" Perret will also serve as Mississippi representatives on the commission.

The GSMFC was established by public law and ratified in July 1949 by the governors of the five Gulf states. The Commission's main objective is the conservation and wise utilization of the fishery resources of the Gulf of Mexico. It has historically been the main instrument in coordinating fishery research in the Gulf. The GSMFC's headquarters are in Ocean Springs, Miss.

"We are indeed fortunate to have Sen. Hewes in this position," said DMR Marine Fisheries Director Corky Perret. "He has a wealth of knowledge on marine fisheries and habitat issues, which will serve the commission well."

Hewes was selected as the Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Conservation Legislator of the Year.

DMR exhibits at International Seafood Show in L.A.

The DMR was one of more than 375 exhibitors representing trade associations, government agencies and seafood businesses at the International West Coast Seafood Show held October 7 – 9 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The show was the first event held at the convention center since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. More than 5,000 seafood industry professionals from the United States and abroad attended the event to network, sample seafood products, source, compare and shop for seafood and seafood technology.

About 725 attendees stopped by

the DMR booth to inquire about Mississippi seafood. The DMR booth was manned by Irvin Jackson, director of the DMR's Seafood Marketing Program; Derek Frank, director of administrative services; Lauren Thompson, the DMR's public relations director and Tom Van Devender, a senior marine biologist with the DMR. They distributed 500 copies of the Mississippi Seafood Industry Directory (a listing of seafood-related businesses, bait shops and marinas), 700 "Seafood: South Mississippi Style" recipe books, 640 potholders, 200 MS Seafood



David Gautier (left) and Warren Gautier (right) of Pascagoula Ice & Freezer Co. talk with DMR Executive Director Glen Carpenter (center) who stopped by their booth at the International West Coast Seafood Show held Oct. 7-9 in Los Angeles.

Safety brochures, 200 MS Seafood Industry fact sheets and 200 DMR general brochures. DMR Executive Director Glen Carpenter also attended the event.

The DMR launched its Seafood Marketing Program, "Get Hooked on Mississippi Seafood" last fall and published a recipe book to help promote Mississippi's \$400 million seafood industry and increase its visibility internationally. Since that time it has distributed more than 10,000 cookbooks at trade shows and special events.

In March, the DMR produced a Missis-

sippi seafood industry directory, which has been handed out to more than 3,000 people, including attendees at the International Boston Seafood Show and International West Coast Seafood Show.

According to Diversified Business Communications of Portland, Maine, organizer of the International West Coast Seafood Show, 70 percent of visitors at last year's seafood show reported they found new products or companies and 90 percent of attendees had purchasing authority.

The Seafood Marketing Program is a result of the state legislature authorizing the DMR, in fiscal year 1999, 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.

"This program will be of great benefit to introduce others to quality Mississippi seafood products," said Glen Carpenter, the DMR's executive director. "It will benefit both seafood consumers and the processing sector, along with the fishermen who work so hard to bring these delicacies to our tables."

Coastal decision-makers attend environmental workshop

Attendees at the "Introductory Environmental Impact Assessment for Local Governments in Coastal Mississippi" workshop learned how to avoid environmental dilemmas on Nov. 7 at Pelican Landing in Moss Point. Sponsored by the DMR's Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR) and its partners, the workshop targeted local and county government planners and managers whose actions may impact Mississippi's coastal environments.

Participants in the workshop were introduced to the tools needed to make preliminary environmental assessments and informed resource management decisions about coastal resources. They also learned how to estimate environmental damages associated with proposed projects and minimize or eliminate damages with these projects within their own agency's permitting processes.

At the Coastal Decision-maker workshop, GBNERR's staff and its partners distributed



At a recent workshop, GBNERR introduced local decision-makers to the environmental assessment tools needed to balance conservation with the planning of future developments.

up-to-date, scientific information to elected officials, land-use planners, regulators, natural resource managers and private citizens to help them make informed decisions about issues affecting the nation's coastal areas, allowing for economic growth while main-

taining the integrity of coastal habitats.

"Coastal decision-makers can achieve a balance of conservation and coastal development by routinely performing environmental assessments and incorporating the best environmental management practices into all project phases including design, construction and maintenance," said DMR GBNERR Education Coordinator Jennifer Buchanan.

The GBNERR is located near the community of Pecan in southeast Jackson County and includes wild lands and waterways from Bangs Lake to the Alabama state line. A major goal of the reserve is to provide for research coordination and dissemination of scientific data to the community and local decision-makers to provide sound information on which to base management decisions. The 18,000-acre reserve is home to several rare or endangered plant and animal species and serves as an essential nursery habitat for numerous important commercial and recreational fish species.



Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence

Murphy participates in pilot program

Recently, the staff of the Mississippi State Personnel Board's (SPB) Office of Training invited 24 state agencies, including the DMR, to select a person on their staff to participate in a pilot program for an Administrative Support Certification Program, which was held October 8 – 10, 2001. Joan Murphy was selected to represent the DMR. The purpose of the pilot program was for the participants to evaluate the training content and format of the program prior to finalizing the course curriculum. Murphy gave the training session a "thumbs up."



Joan Murphy

"We are pleased that the DMR was invited to participate in this pilot," said Dorothy Daniel, DMR human resources director. "We know that Joan's articulate assessment will help the staff of the SPB's Office of Training formalize the Administrative Assistant Certification program."

The SPB's Office of Training develops and provides professional development training programs for state government employees. The Administrative Support Certification Program is designed to provide administrative support personnel with training in areas such as advanced interpersonal communications, time and work management, customer service, written communications and problem solving.

Marine Patrol attends federal training

Marine Patrol officers Kyle Wilkerson, Mike Siler, Jeffery Payne, Mike Yonce and Dennis Bankston attended the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Brunswick, Ga., for advanced marine training.

The FLETC is the nucleus of advanced training for 72 different federal agencies. Officers attending the FLETC learn more about plotting, charting, boardings and custody proceedings on marine waters.

Because of the events of Sept. 11, more DMR officers will be attending the FLETC to assist the agency in homeland defense preparations.

Posadas completes HACCP sanitation control procedures course

DMR Seafood Technology Bureau director Ruth Posadas completed the Association of Food and Drug Officials/Seafood Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Alliance's basic course in Sanitation Control Procedures for processing fish and fisheries products. The course was held in September in Baton Rouge, La.



Ruth Posadas

Coastal Preserves hosts plant ID class



From left: DMR staffers Clay Cromwell, Tim Blocker, Allison Felsher, Angela Culpepper, Andrea Zenone, Grant Larsen, Jeff Clark, Danielle Johnson, Leah Bray, Cindy Henderson and Rita Burrell participated in Dr. Bob Mohlenbrock's plant identification course. (Not pictured: Paul Ncaise and Kathreen Dilag).

In October, DMR's Coastal Preserves Program sponsored a Wetlands Plant Identification course for its coastal ecology staff and other state and federal employees. Dr. Bob Mohlenbrock, a retired college professor who has written more than 50 books on plant identification and botany instructed the class. The 25 participants spent 3 ½ days in several different habitat types including areas in Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Dantzer Coastal Preserve, Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge, and DeSoto National Forest Tuxachanie Trail, learning to identify almost every plant along the ditches in these habitats.

Special thanks to Dr. "Bob" for instructing the class and to EPA Region IV for providing funding for the workshop.

Happy Anniversary!

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1/16/85) Donnie Armes | (1/1/00) Andy Ryals |
| (1/1/91) Clay Boulet | (1/1/00) John Siler |
| (1/15/98) Jan Boyd | (1/1/95) Rocky Southern |
| (1/1/95) Gerald Chatham | (1/1/00) William Stover |
| (1/1/95) Phyllis Davis | (2/1/89) Steve Breland |
| (1/29/01) Wesley Devers | (2/1/99) Jeff Clark |
| (1/1/90) Dale Diaz | (2/1/90) Tom Van Devender |
| (1/1/95) Doug Drieling | (2/1/76) Chester Van Devender |
| (1/1/95) Rita Duvernay | (3/17/99) Leo Christie |
| (1/1/95) Kerry Endris | (3/1/90) Rusty Pittman |
| (1/1/95) Olin Gunter | (3/26/79) Terry Bakker |
| (1/1/00) Melanie Lane | (3/26/01) Jimmy Sanders |
| (1/1/00) R.T. May | (3/1/00) Bryan Shrader |
| (1/1/00) Jeffery Payne | (3/12/01) Tom Strange |
| (1/29/01) Ruth Posadas | (3/1/98) Amy Taylor |
| (1/1/99) Rhonda Price | (3/12/01) Evelyn Thompson |
| (1/10/00) Diane Roth | |

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



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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 144
BILOXI, MS 39530

Calendar of Events

January 15

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

January 16

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

February 19

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

February 28

Capitol Day exhibit, Jackson

March 19

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

March 20

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

April 23-25

Coastal Development Strategies Conference, Pelican Landing Conference and Convention Center, Moss Point, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Call Tina Shumate or Marcia Garcia at (228) 374-5000 to register.

Doc's Fishing Tips

Fred Deegen, Ph.D., Deputy Director

Fishing lighter lines in clear waters unquestionably gets you more strikes than fishing a heavier line. So, for best results, fish the lightest line that you can.

Capitol Day

The Department of Marine Resources encourages legislators and Capitol staffers to stop by the DMR's exhibit in the rotunda on Feb. 28, 2002.

Learn more about the DMR and its projects and programs and south Mississippi's coastal resources.



We look forward to seeing you!