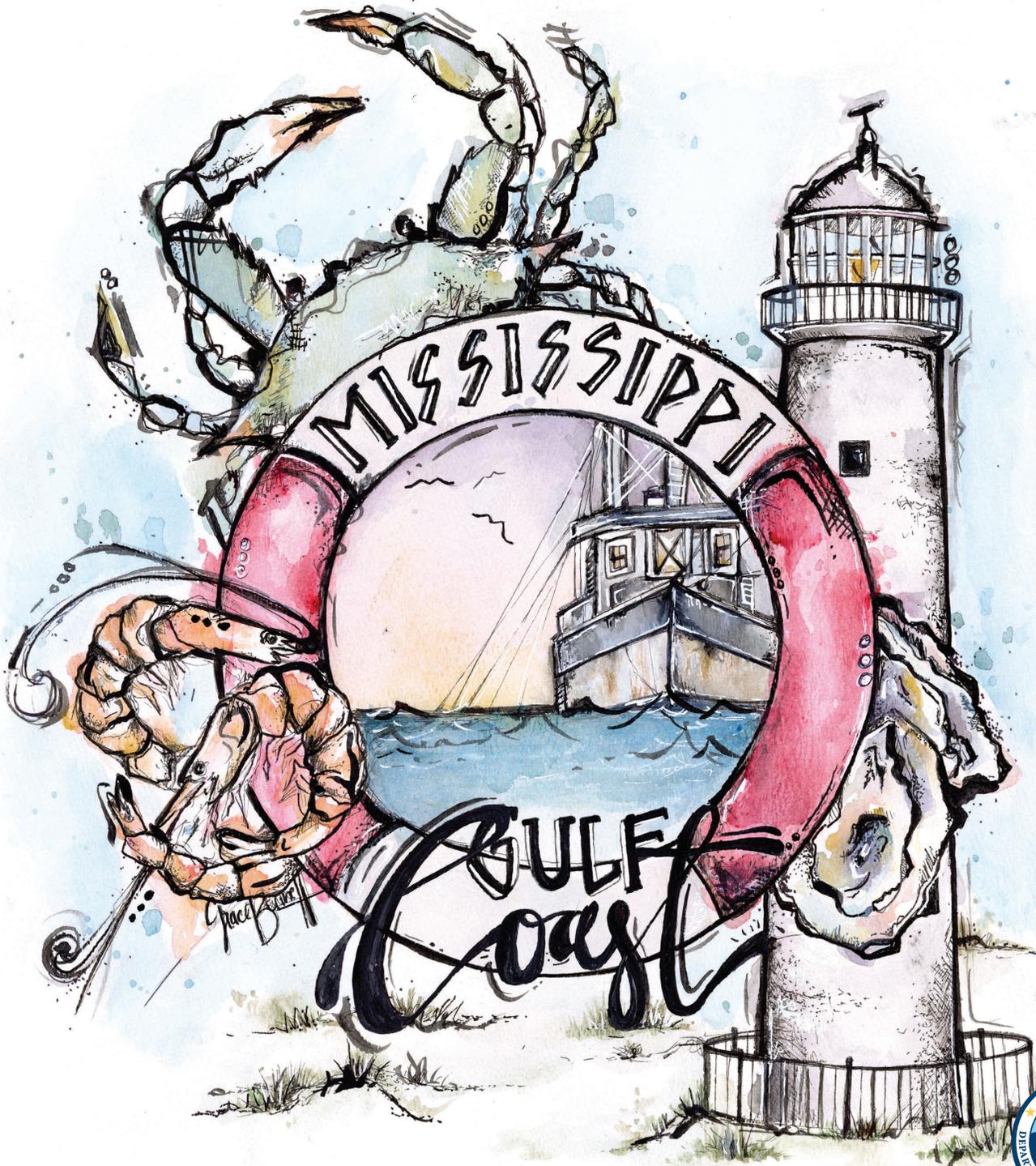


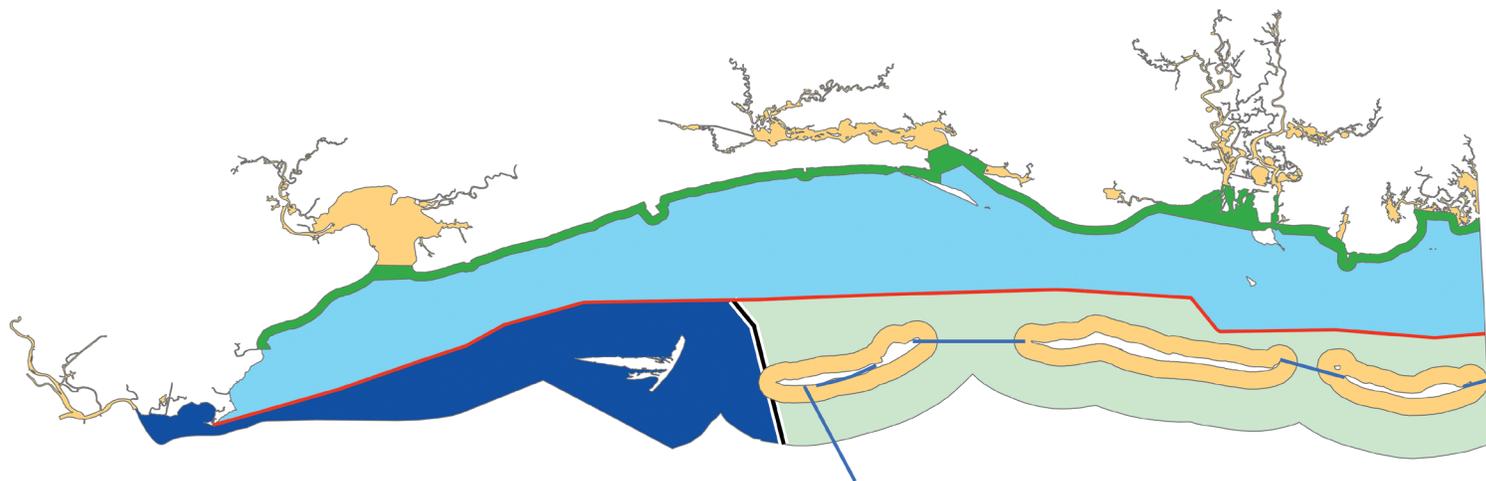
SHRIMPING *the* SOUND

A newsletter from the Shrimp and Crab Bureau at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources



MISSISSIPPI INSHORE AND TERRITORIAL SEAS SHRIMPING GROUNDS

For the most up-to-date information on the openings and closings of Mississippi's shrimping waters, please call the Mississippi Shrimp Information Hotline at (866) WE-TRAWL (938-7295).



- Closed to all shrimping, inland and within 1 mile of the Gulf Islands National Seashore Shoreline
- Open to Licensed live bait shrimping ONLY, within 1/2 mile of the shoreline
- Open to commercial & recreational shrimping on a seasonal basis until December 31
- Open to commercial & recreational shrimping on a seasonal basis until April 30
- Open to commercial & recreational shrimping on an annual basis

- Intracoastal Waterway
- Gulfport Ship Channel
- COLREGS Demarcation Line

SHRIMP SEASON OPENING DAY



REDUCING WINCH ENTANGLEMENTS WITH STATIONARY GUARDING

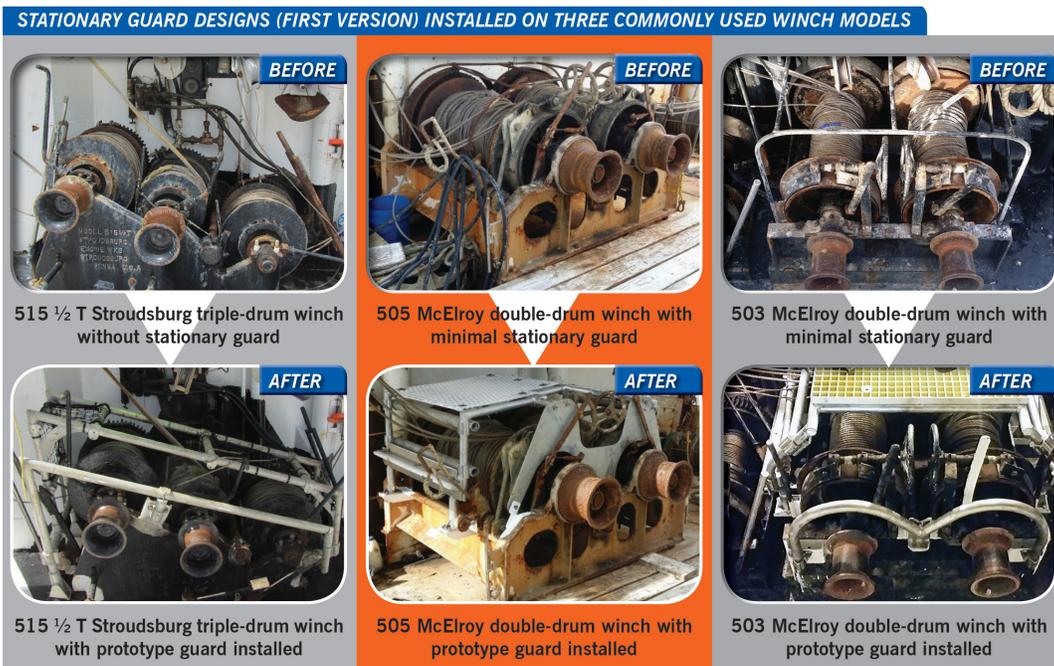
Commercial Fishing Safety Research and Design Program

BACKGROUND- The US Coast Guard approached National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) about an increase in the number of winch entanglement injuries being reported among commercial shrimp fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico. Using the NIOSH Commercial Fishing Incident Database (CFID), researchers at the Alaska Pacific Office began studying the incidence of shrimp winch entanglements and found a total of 35 severe work-related injuries, including eight fatal injuries, caused by deck winches reported in the Southern shrimp fleet from 2000-2011.¹

RESEARCH- Three of the most common drum winches used on Gulf of Mexico side-trawl shrimp vessels were identified through dock side surveys. The survey identified particular main-winches for guarding: the McElroy/Catchot 505, and 503 and the Stroudsburg 515 ½ T winches. NIOSH engineers designed standardized stationary guarding for each identified main-winch and built initial prototype guards for each model to be sea-tested.

NIOSH formed partnerships with boat owners to test the guard designs on each type of winch. The Gulf of Mexico shrimp fleet is diverse, both geographically and culturally. NIOSH sought to find boat owners from the various cultural groups to collaborate with the winch-guard testing. Three working side-trawl shrimp boats were chosen as test vessels operating out of Dulac, LA, Port Arthur, TX and Chauvin, LA.

ONGOING OUTPUTS- NIOSH has completed initial designs for stationary-winch guards for three of the most commonly used models of winches currently used by the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fleet. Through collaborations and partnerships with shrimper associations and safety groups, the successfully tested winch guard design plans will also be made available to shrimpers via various internet websites. NIOSH intends to release the information in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese to better reach the target audience. The refined designs, including material specifications and estimated building costs, are scheduled to be available without charge to fishermen.



If you are interested in learning more about NIOSH's work in the Gulf of Mexico, or if you want to become a partner in the research or dissemination efforts, please contact:

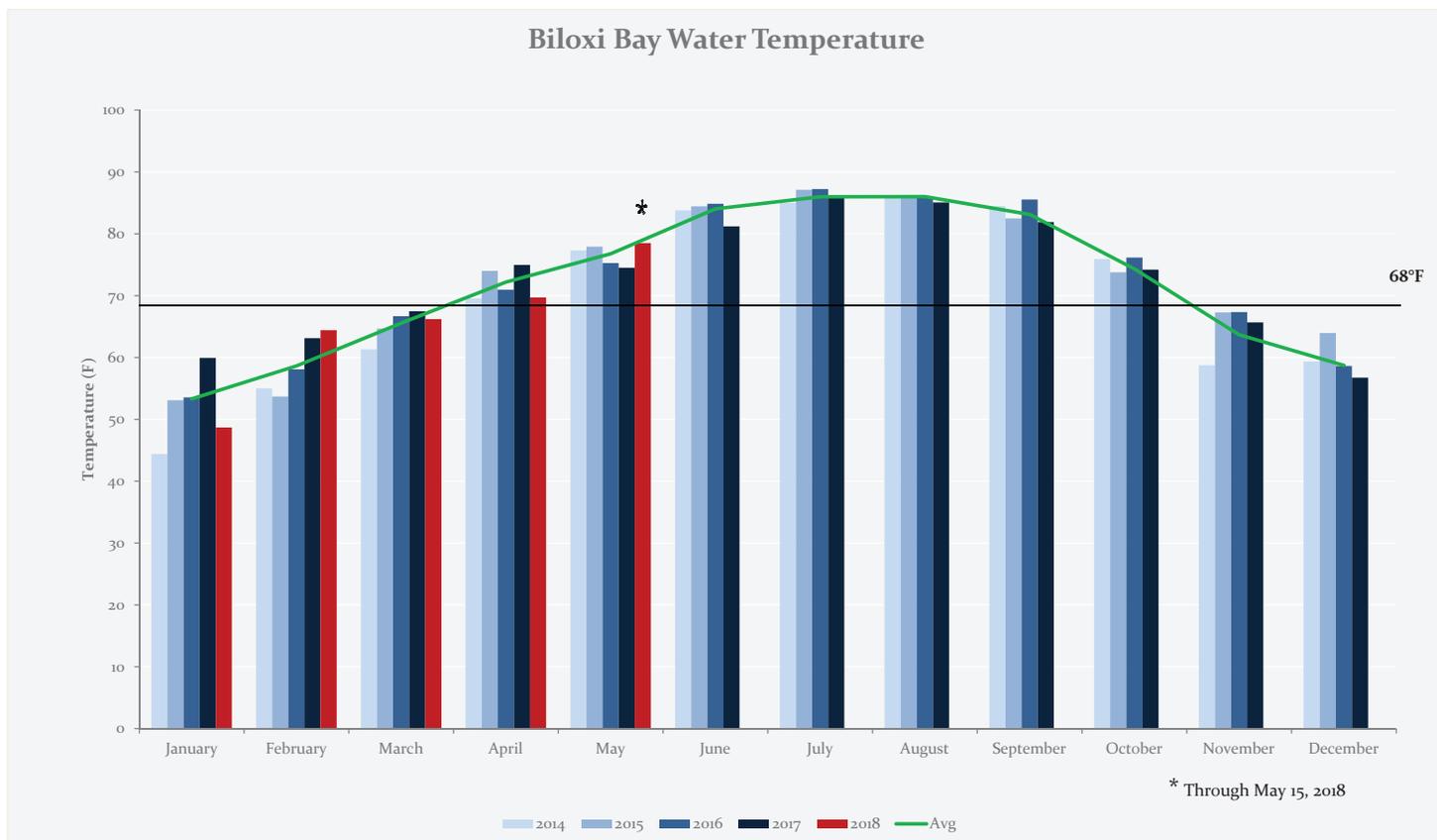
Mr. Chelsea Woodward | 509-354-8073 | ciw7@cdc.gov.
Commercial Fishing Safety Research and Design Program CDC, NIOSH, Western States Division
Spokane Research Laboratory

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fatal and Nonfatal Injuries Involving Fishing Vessel Winches — Southern Shrimp Fleet, United States, 2000–2011. MMWR 2013;62:157-160.

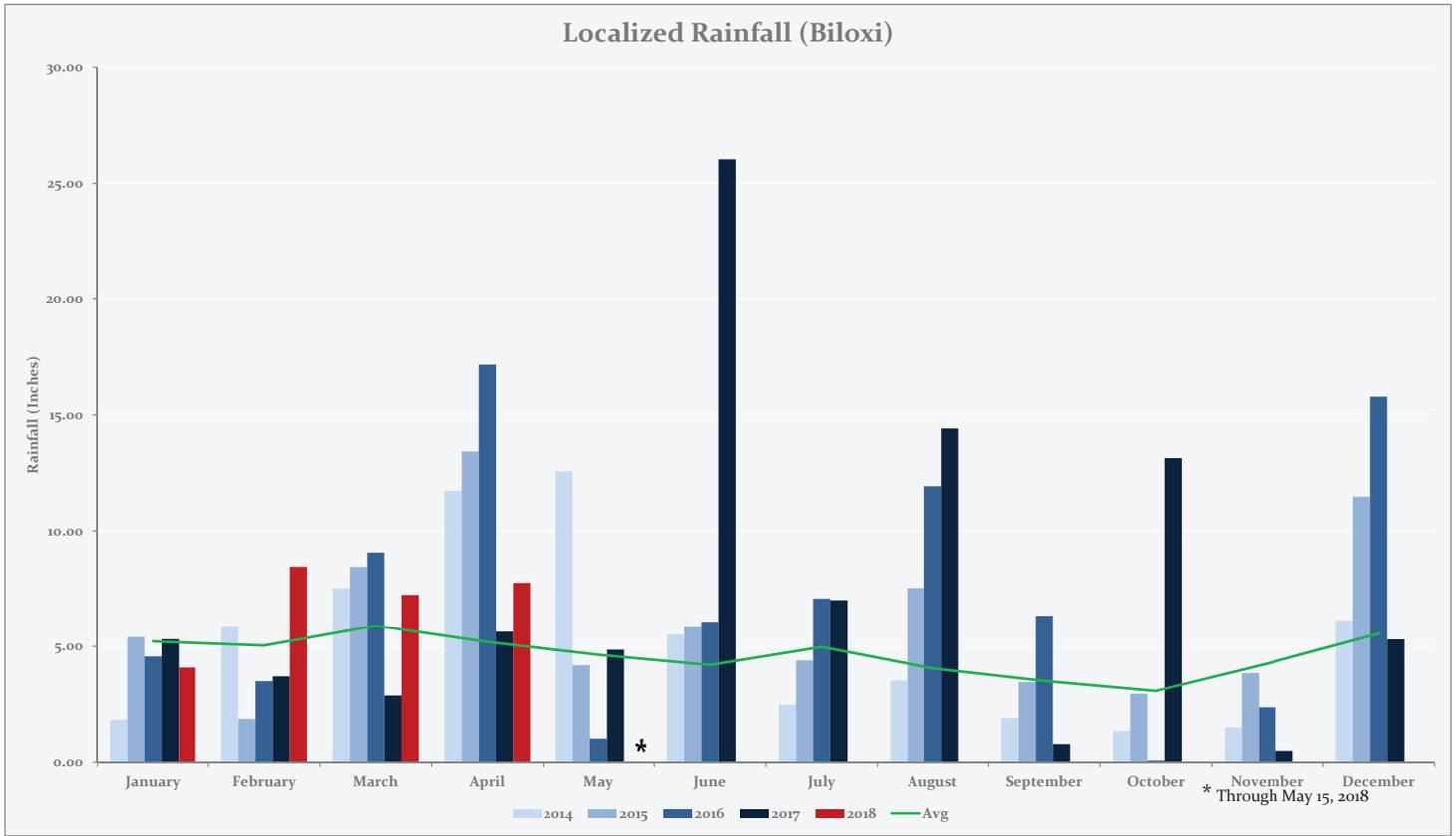
MDMR BEGINS SAMPLING FOR THE ANNUAL OPENING OF BROWN SHRIMP SEASON



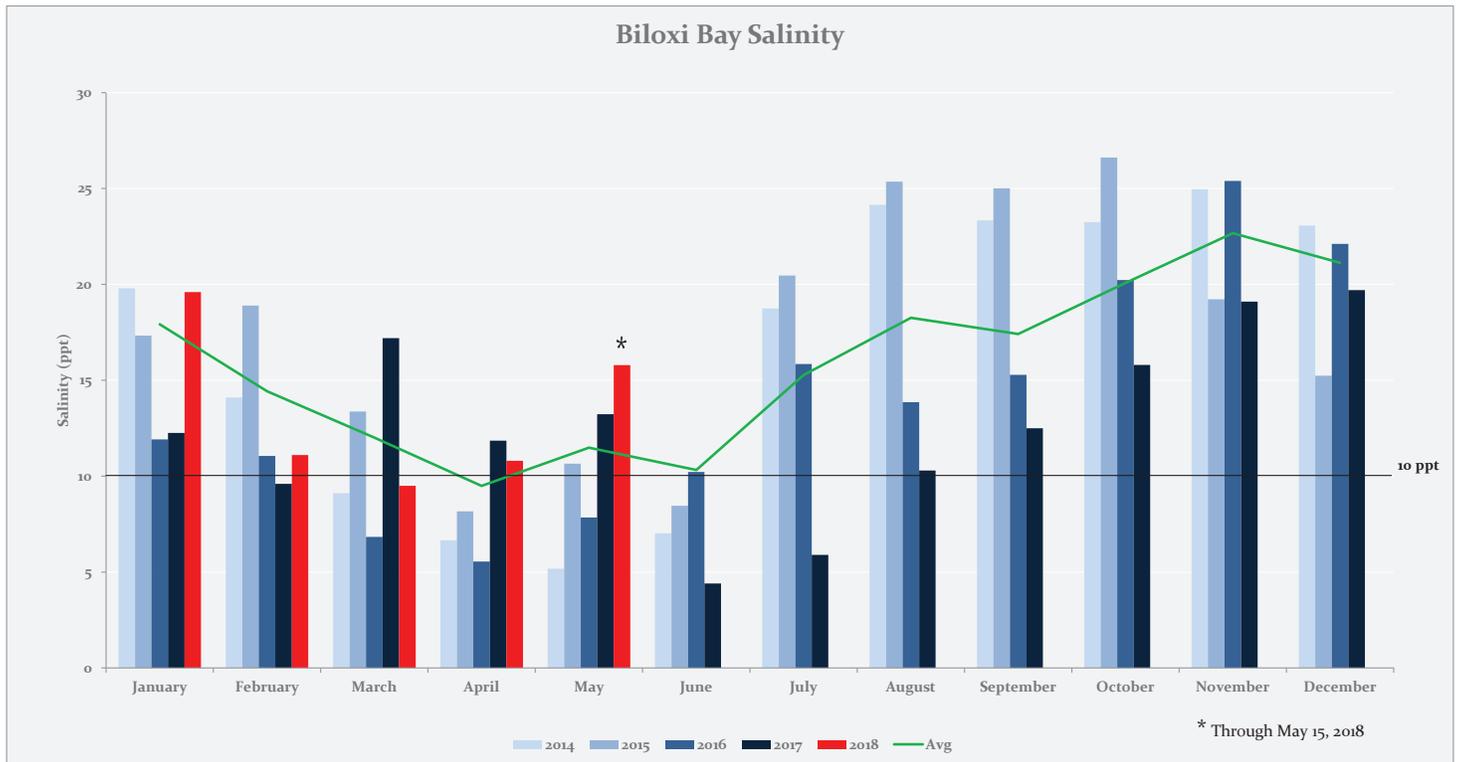
The MDMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau, along with the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's Center for Fisheries Development, recently began extensive sampling for brown shrimp in the Mississippi Sound. The sampling is necessary for MDMR's fisheries scientists to determine the exact date for the opening of the 2018 shrimp season. GCRL pulls plankton tows in the Back Bay looking for brown shrimp post larvae, which is the stage of the shrimp's life cycle when it is extremely small. MDMR staff pulls trawls coast-wide to find juvenile and adult brown shrimp. In order for a shrimp to be of legal size (68 count), it must be approximately 100 mm or 3.94 inches long. The brown shrimp season's opening date can be determined when the majority of the shrimp are of that legal size. Environmental factors such as salinity, water temperature, rainfall and moon phase are also considered when setting the opening of the season. It has been found that the optimum growing conditions for brown shrimp occur when the salinities are above 10 parts per thousand (ppt) and water temperatures are greater than 68 degrees Fahrenheit (°F).



▲ Figure 1. Biloxi Bay Water Temperature (January-May 2018)



▲ Figure 2. Monthly Rainfall for Biloxi Bay (January-May 2018)



▲ Figure 3. Biloxi Bay Salinity (January-May 2018)

REQUIRED FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN TRIP TICKET MONTHLY SUBMISSION FORM

A Fresh Product Permit (free permit) is required if you sell your catch to anyone other than a licensed seafood dealer or processor and/or transport your catch out of state. This is a reminder that while in possession of a Fresh Product Permit you must submit a Monthly Submission Form (see example on page 7) by the 10th of the following month indicating the number of trips taken, even if that number is zero. If you sell your catch to anyone other than a licensed seafood dealer or processor, and/or transport your catch out of state, you must fill out a trip ticket for each trip and send it in with your Monthly Submission Form. The important landing information you submit is strictly confidential and can only be viewed by you and employees of the MDMR designated as information confidentiality port reporters. Your reports are valuable to fisheries managers. The regulatory authority is provided below.

TITLE 22 PART 09 - RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STATISTICAL REPORTING AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF STATISTICAL DATA FOR MARINE FISHERIES IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

CHAPTER 05 FRESH PRODUCT PERMIT/SECONDARY FRESH PRODUCT PERMIT

100 A licensed commercial fisherman may only sell to a seafood dealer/processor. A validly licensed commercial fisherman may sell only their catch to a consumer if they have in their possession a fresh product permit obtained from the MDMR. A secondary fresh product permit may be obtained from the MDMR for a commercial fisherman's spouse or family member that will allow them to sell their catch to consumers while the commercial fisherman continues to fish. There will be no fee for this permit

CHAPTER 06 SEAFOOD REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

100 Each seafood dealer/processor is hereby required to complete Mississippi trip tickets provided by the MDMR. Commercial fishermen, who sell their catch to individuals other than a Mississippi dealer/processor or transport their catch out-of-state, are hereby required to complete Mississippi trip tickets provided by the MDMR and be in possession of a fresh product permit. A completed Mississippi trip ticket is only required for the initial point of sale of the seafood product. All trip tickets shall be returned to the MDMR or electronically submitted on or before the 10th of each month for actual transactions from every commercial fisherman during the preceding month. A trip ticket summary form that states the total trips taken in a given month shall be submitted by the 10th of each month by the seafood dealer/processor or commercial fisherman.

CHAPTER 13 SECTION 100 PENALTIES

Any unlawful act under this Part committed by any person, firm, or corporation shall be deemed a violation of the provisions of this Part and shall constitute a misdemeanor and upon conviction, said person shall be punished in accordance with Mississippi Code Ann. § 49.15.63, as amended, unless a penalty is specifically provided elsewhere in the Mississippi Code Ann. of 1972, as amended.

If you have any questions or need help, please contact the Trip Ticket Office at 228-374-5000.

EXAMPLE



**TRIP TICKET
MONTHLY SUBMISSION FORM**
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Trip Ticket Coordinator
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530
(228) 374-5000 or (800) 374-3449

This report must be submitted monthly in order to comply with the requirements of MS Title 22 Part 9 and rules and regulations adopted pursuant to those statutes. Completed trip tickets for the time period should accompany this form. DO NOT STAPLE TRIP TICKETS.

USE BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY

Fresh Product or Dealer License Number

License No.

1	0	0	0	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Current Date:

0	6	/	0	4	/	1	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Reporting Period

From:

0	5	/	0	1	/	1	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

No of tickets

0			
---	--	--	--

To:

0	5	/	3	1	/	1	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

By signing this document I hereby certify the following:

- the attached trip tickets represent all transactions of fish and shellfish obtained from anyone other than a licensed dealer for the reporting period described above.
 - all records (receipts) submitted in this report constitute all transactions required to be reported by law.
 - all the attached information is accurate and accounts for all actual business transactions required to be submitted in this report.
- I understand that providing false information may result in criminal consequences.

PRINT
Dealer/Processor or
Fisherman Name: John Doe

SIGNATURE
Licensed
Dealer/Processor or
Fisherman: *John Doe*

▲ Example of Monthly Trip Ticket

INVASIVE ASIAN TIGER SHRIMP WANTED

Asian Tiger Shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) is an invasive species which may pose environmental threats, such as spreading disease, aggression toward native shrimp and competition for food and habitat.



▲ photo credit: Lauren Evans, Ecotao Enterprises

▲ photo credit: Captain Benjamin Lopez, F/V Lady Monica, by Tony Reisinger

CHARACTERISTICS

- Distinct dark and light “tiger” striped pattern along their shell
- Can grow to more than 10 inches long and weigh more than a half-pound
- Smaller juveniles may occur in the bays and near the shore

REPORTING YOUR TIGER SHRIMP

STEP 1: Write down the trawl information

- Captain’s name and/or vessel name
- Date and time
- Location (latitude and longitude)
- Water depth

STEP 2: Freeze individual shrimp with head attached

Freeze separately in a plastic bag labeled with trawl information.

STEP 3: Arrange pick up

Call MDMR, 228.374.5000, or email report.invasive@dmr.ms.gov.



ANNUAL MEETING HELD APRIL 17-18 IN BILOXI

Members of the American Shrimp Processors Association (ASPA) from across Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina gathered for a productive and informative meeting at the Beau Rivage. Each year this meeting reviews the previous year and solidifies industry plans for the next year. The agenda included updates on legal, legislative, marketing and sustainability efforts, to state and federal (NOAA) data and forecasts, to shrimp processing equipment innovations and insights from the catfish industry.

“Families in U.S. shrimp communities across the Gulf and South Atlantic are elated that our Senators added traceability and real scrutiny of imported shrimp to the Omnibus Appropriations legislation...”

A notable highlight of the meeting was recognition and celebration of ASPA’s key role in obtaining inclusion of shrimp in the U.S. Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) through this year’s Congressional Omnibus Appropriations legislation.

SIMP requires traceability information on imported seafood from point of capture to point of first sale in the U.S. in order to thwart Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activity. Shrimp had been excluded when the legislation was first passed in December 2016, even though shrimp is the largest imported seafood product to the U.S.

“Families in U.S. shrimp communities across the Gulf and South Atlantic are elated that our Senators added traceability and real scrutiny of imported shrimp to the Omnibus Appropriations legislation,” noted Executive Director Dr. David Veal. “We applaud our entire Senate and House team for this win. We want to especially acknowledge the leadership role of Senator Thad Cochran, a true champion of Mississippi and the entire Gulf Region. We will miss him and wish him well in his retirement.”

THE ASSOCIATION GAVE THREE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS. *This award recognizes lifetime of achievement, dedication and service to the seafood industry.*

E. RICHARD GOLLOTT is Vice President of Golden Gulf Coast Packing Company, Inc. in Biloxi. Gollott directly attributes his move from oysters to shrimp to his strong connection with the Vietnamese culture that helped him define his successful business through the Vietnamese refugees from New Orleans that he employed with his company in Biloxi. Richard has devoted his life to preserving, maintaining and growing the Gollott family vocation that stems from his dedicated and hardworking seafood heritage; following in his grandfather, Armond George Gollott and father, Edgar Madison Gollott’s footsteps to lead the family business.

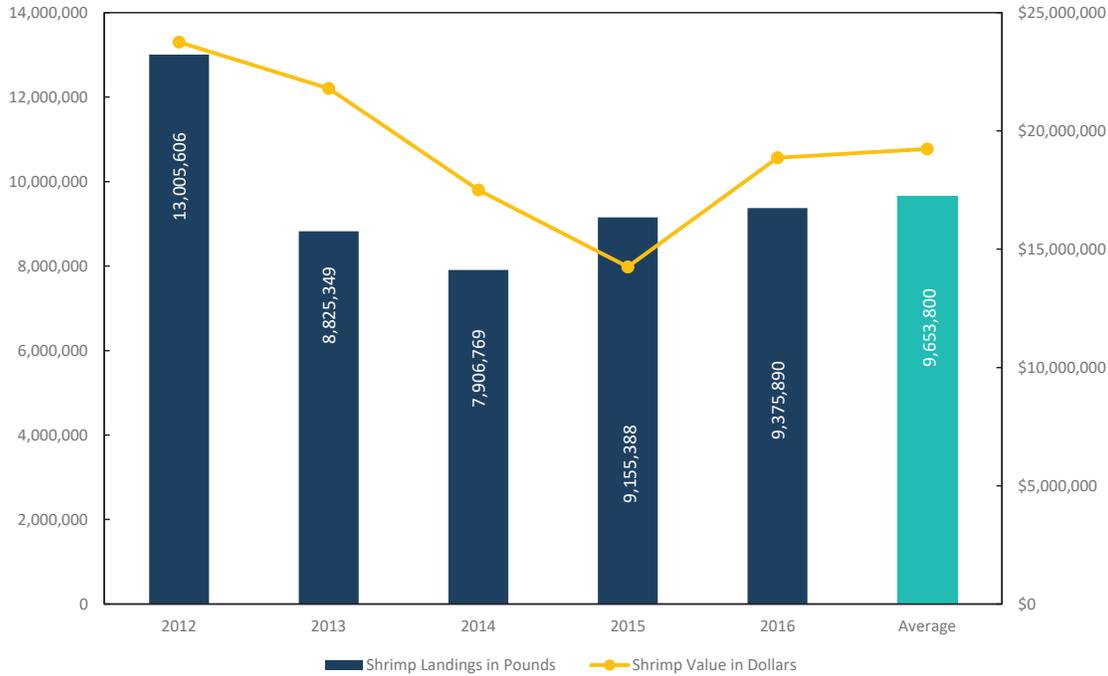
WILLIAM S. “CORKY” PERRET is an international expert in marine fisheries who began his career with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife at the marine laboratory on Grand Terre and progressed to become Assistant Secretary of Fisheries. Perret then moved over to Mississippi to serve at MDMR as Director of Marine Fisheries. He retired from MDMR as the Deputy Director in 2009, but continues to serve as a Board Member for the Gulf Seafood Institute. Perret said, “I first addressed ASPA in the late 1960s. ASPA has always been one of my most favorite groups to speak to.” Perret has over 30 years in the industry in Louisiana and 20 years in the industry in Mississippi and has addressed ASPA more times than any other person.

VICTOR V. MAVAR was the youngest son of immigrant entrepreneurs, John and Olivia Mavar. He joined the family business, Mavar Shrimp & Oyster Company after returning home from the Korean War. The company was at one time the largest canner of shrimp and oysters in the Gulf of Mexico. Mavar helped the company transition into the cat food market with its brand Kozy Kitten, which was acquired by H.J. Heinz Company in 1988. The company joined forces with Biloxi Freezing & Processing, Inc. in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina, to become Biloxi Freezing & Processing, Inc. – M&M Processing, LLC. Mavar served as President of ASPA for two terms. Mavar was unable to attend the meeting so his son, Mark Mavar (pictured), President of Biloxi Freezing & Processing, Inc., accepted the award on his behalf, saying “My dad loved the shrimp business and I thank all of y’all for doing this.”



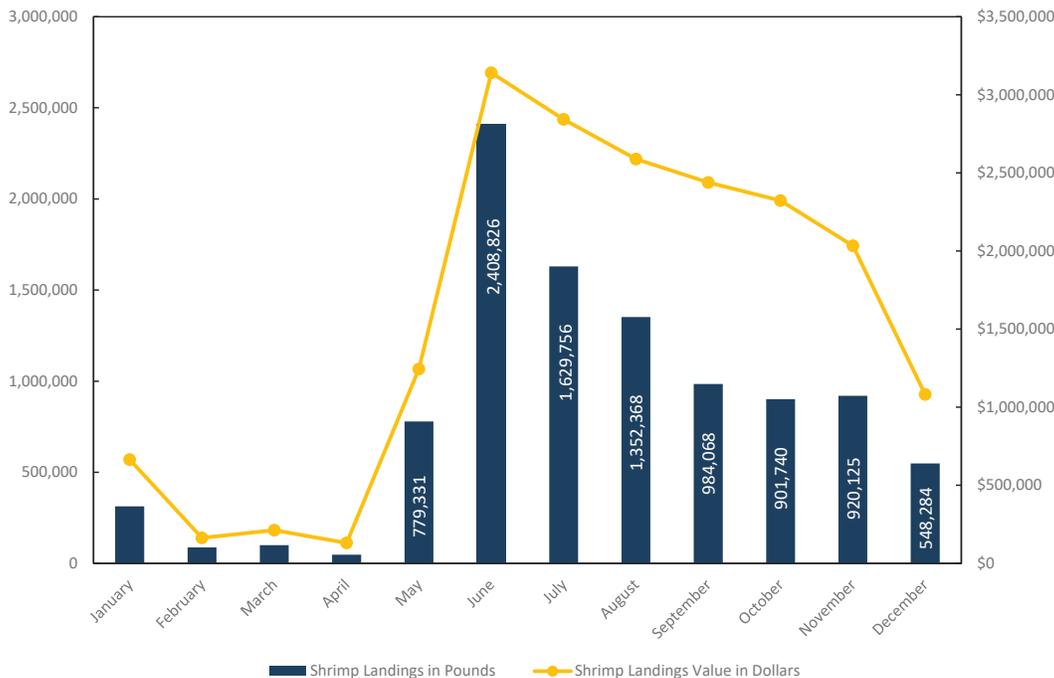
MISSISSIPPI SHRIMP LANDINGS 2012-2016

The blue bars represent the total number of pounds of shrimp landed (all species/ head-on) for the given year while the green bar represents the average shrimp landings over the same period. The yellow line represents the total value in dollars of shrimp landed. The year 2012 had the highest total weight of shrimp landed at 13 million pounds and also represents the highest value of shrimp at \$23,751,391.



2016 MISSISSIPPI SHRIMP LANDINGS BY MONTH

The blue bars represent the total pounds of shrimp landed (all species/head-on) each month in 2016 and the yellow line represents the value in dollars of those landings. The highest landings of shrimp in 2016 occurred in the month of June at 2,408,826 pounds, which also resulted in the highest monthly value for shrimp during the period at \$3,141,355.



2018 MARINE MAMMAL AUTHORIZATION CERTIFICATE

The shrimp fishery has been reclassified from a Category III to a Category II fishery under the Marine Mammal Protection Act by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. This means all commercial shrimp vessels must be registered and have an authorization certificate onboard. Commercial shrimpers with valid federal permits are automatically registered for the program. Commercial fishermen who believe they should be registered, but have not been or who want to verify they are registered in the NMFS Southeast Region, should contact the NMFS SERO MMAP Hotline at 727-209-5952.

For convenience, a copy of the certificate follows this article. More information can be found online at sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/marine_mammal_authorization_program/.

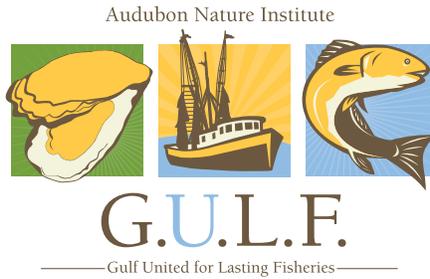
NOAA's NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) 2018 MARINE MAMMAL AUTHORIZATION CERTIFICATE

Authorization:

Pursuant to Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1387), the implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 229, and subject to the terms and conditions below, NMFS issues this Authorization Certificate, which, when presented in combination with a current and valid federal fishing permit, authorizes the taking of non-endangered marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing in Category I or II fisheries.

Terms and Conditions:

- **All incidental mortality or injury of marine mammals occurring in the course of commercial fishing operations must be reported to NMFS within 48 hours after the end of each fishing trip in which the incidental mortality or injury occurred.**
- This Authorization Certificate, or a photocopy, must be on board the vessel during commercial fishing operations.
- Authorization Certificate holders must comply with any applicable take reduction plans and emergency regulations.
- If requested to do so by NMFS or a designated contractor providing observer services to NMFS, an Authorization Certificate holder must take aboard an observer to accompany the vessel on fishing trips.
- When necessary to deter a marine mammal from damaging fishing gear, catch, other private property, or from endangering personal safety, the vessel owner, operator, or crew members may use measures which do not result in serious injury or mortality of the animal, as required by the deterrence provisions of the MMPA.
- A marine mammal may not be intentionally killed in the course of commercial fishing operations except where imminently necessary in self-defense or to protect the life of a person in immediate danger. Such lethal taking must be reported to NMFS within 48 hours. Any marine mammal incidentally taken must be immediately returned to the sea unless NMFS directs otherwise.
- This Authorization Certificate, or copy, must be made available upon request to any state or federal enforcement agent authorized to enforce the MMPA, any designated agent of NMFS, or any contractor providing observer services to NMFS.
- This certificate is not transferable. In the event of a change in vessel ownership, the Authorization Certificate is void and a new Authorization Certificate must be obtained by the new owner.
- If the registered vessel is sold or destroyed or is replaced by a new designated vessel, an authorization must be obtained for the new vessel.
- Any person who violates these Terms and Conditions, regulations under 50 CFR Part 229, or any provisions of Section 118 of the MMPA shall be subject to the penalties set forth in the MMPA.
- If there are changes in your mailing address or vessel ownership, notify the NMFS Southeast Region Protected Resources Division at 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL, 33701, (727) 209-5952, within 30 days.
- This certificate is valid from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018



AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE'S GULF UNITED FOR LASTING FISHERIES

G.U.L.F. is the sustainable seafood program out of Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans. Over the last several years, G.U.L.F. has been dedicated to promoting and advancing the sustainability of Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

Despite rigorous fisheries management in the U.S., many retail and foodservice companies have developed strict sourcing policies requiring third-party assurances of sustainability for seafood products. To meet this need, G.U.L.F. verifies that the marine resources of the Gulf of Mexico are fished responsibly, recognizing the needs of the environment and the people who depend on that environment for their livelihood. Through our work with MDMR and local fishermen in Mississippi, we have developed programs to assist fisheries in demonstrating sustainability, give a voice to our fishing culture and economy, and communicate the successes of our fisheries.

G.U.L.F.'S INITIATIVES:

G.U.L.F. Responsible Fisheries Management Certification - Seafood certification is valuable because it offers an objective and neutral assessment of a fishery and third-party certification is increasingly a requirement for products in the marketplace. Audubon G.U.L.F. has created the G.U.L.F. Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) Certification, designed to meet the needs of Gulf of Mexico fisheries.

Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) - Many retailers recognize that fisheries may face challenges in achieving certification for a variety of reasons. FIPs provide a tool for fisheries not certified to demonstrate sustainable practices and define steps for the fishery to improve sustainability and potentially achieve certification in the future. Visit our website at audubongulf.org/fips/mississippi-shrimp for details about the Mississippi Shrimp FIP.

WAYS TO BE INVOLVED IN SUSTAINABILITY:

TAKE A SURVEY	G.U.L.F. would like to gain more information about the voluntary use of Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs) in the MS shrimp fleet. These devices aren't mandatory and information about how often they are used is limited. A survey was created to gain better knowledge about the sustainability of the shrimp industry. Download the survey at audubongulf.org/BRD-survey-1.pdf to submit by email or mail. CLICK HERE to take the online survey.
JOIN A FIP	G.U.L.F. currently leads shrimp FIPs in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Contact us for more information on these projects or if you are interested in joining.
SKIMMER TRAWLS	Display a Tow Time decal on your vessel. While this may seem simple and not necessary, it is an easy step to demonstrate the industry's dedication and compliance with tow times until the results of the proposed rule for TEDs in skimmers is final. To receive a decal contact Laura Deighan at ldeighan@auduboninstitute.org or Rick Burris with MDMR at rick.burris@dmr.ms.gov .
OTTER TRAWLS	Schedule a courtesy gear check to have your TEDs checked while the vessel is still at the dock and ensure it is fully compliant. There is no penalty associated with these courtesy inspections and is another way to demonstrate the industry's commitment to sustainability. Courtesy checks can be scheduled through MDMR or contact G.U.L.F. to assist in arranging a time with NOAA or Sea Grant.

If you have any questions about G.U.L.F. or our projects, please contact Laura Deighan at ldeighan@auduboninstitute.org or 504-398-3188 or visit audubongulf.org.

GULF-WIDE BLUE CRAB TAGGING PROJECT

by Zachary Darnell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Coastal Sciences
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory

Researchers at the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Lab (GCRL), led by Dr. Zack Darnell, are tagging mature female blue crabs across the Gulf Coast. This project is a collaboration with state fisheries management agencies and commercial crabbers, with the goal of gaining a better understanding of crab migrations throughout the bays, bayous, estuaries, and offshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Female blue crabs migrate seaward to spawn, moving to the high salinity waters needed for the offspring to survive. When a crab is tagged, researchers record the location, date, and tag number. When that crab is later recaptured and reported, researchers can use the information on where it when it was caught to determine when it began the migration, how far and how fast the crab moved, and the route taken by the crab. This information is important for understanding blue crab migrations into and out of each states' fishable waters, and for ensuring the continued productivity of this valuable fishery.

Since March of 2016, over 13,000 female blue crabs have been tagged and released across the five Gulf states, and over 2800 of these have been recaptured and reported. Tagged crabs have been recaptured as far as 120 miles from where they were tagged. In Mississippi, 1885 crabs have been tagged and released, and 465 of these crabs have been recaptured. Crabs tagged in Mississippi have been recaptured in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama.

Tagging will continue through 2018 and potentially beyond. Tags are orange, printed plastic rectangles attached with wire wrapped around the lateral spines of the crabs. If you catch a tagged crab, please report it by calling 1-800-624-2857 or online at crabtags.org. A \$5 cash reward is being offered for each tagged crab that is reported. You do not have to return the crab to get the \$5 reward. An additional reward may be available if the crab is frozen for return to GCRL, for the first 500 crabs returned (GCRL personnel will come to you to pick up the frozen crab- please do not mail).

Additional commercial crabbers are being recruited to help tag crabs. **If you are interested in working with GCRL personnel to tag crabs, please contact Zack Darnell at 1-800-624-2857 or by email at zachary.darnell@usm.edu.**

REWARD

**IF CAUGHT, PLEASE REPORT
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
TO 1-800-624-2857 OR
CRABTAGS.ORG:**

- Tag Number
- Capture Date
- Capture Location (*GPS if possible*)
- Egg Mass/Sponge Color (*if present*)

REWARD INFORMATION:

- \$5-50 for each reported tagged crab
- Additional reward for a frozen crab with the tag still attached. A GCRL employee will pick up your crab (*first 500 returned crabs only*).





ENHANCE • PROTECT • CONSERVE

SHRIMP AND CRAB BUREAU

1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

The Honorable Phil Bryant, *Governor*

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Joe Spraggins, *Executive Director*

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

Steve Bosarge, *Chairman*
Commercial Fishermen

Ron Harmon, *Vice Chairman*
Charter Boat Operators

Jolynne Trapani
Nonprofit Environmental
Organizations

Richard Gollott, *Chairman*
Commercial Seafood Processors

Mark H. Havard, II
Recreational Sports Fishermen

COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS?

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Shrimp and Crab Bureau
228.374.5000

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OPEN AND CLOSED AREAS, CALL THE SHRIMP HOTLINE

1.866.WE.TRAWL or 1.866.938.7295



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Biloxi, MS 39530

