NEWS RELEASE

MS Dept. of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi 39530

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15-88-MMS
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ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Shrimp season north of ICW to close

BILOXI, Miss. – Officials with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources announced Tuesday that all waters north of the Intracoastal Waterway in Mississippi territorial waters will be closed to shrimping at 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1, 2016.

All other Mississippi territorial waters remain open to shrimping. Regulations regarding shrimping are still in effect, and all boats engaged in catching or transporting shrimp in or from waters in Mississippi must be legally licensed.

A map of the affected areas is attached.

For more information, call the MDMR at 228-374-5000 or the Mississippi Shrimp Information Hotline at 1-866-938-7295.

MDMR officials also announced Tuesday that the commercial fishing season for Red Drum *(Sciaenops ocellatus)* will open at 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1, 2016. The annual total allowable catch for commercial landings of Red Drum will be 60,000 pounds from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.

The commercial total allowable catch for the fishing season will be divided into three four-month periods: Jan. 1-April 30, 20,000 pounds; May 1-Aug. 31, 20,000 pounds; Sept. 1-Dec. 31, 20,000 pounds.

If the commercial total allowable catch is not met or is exceeded in any time period, the pounds shall be added to or subtracted from the next time period.
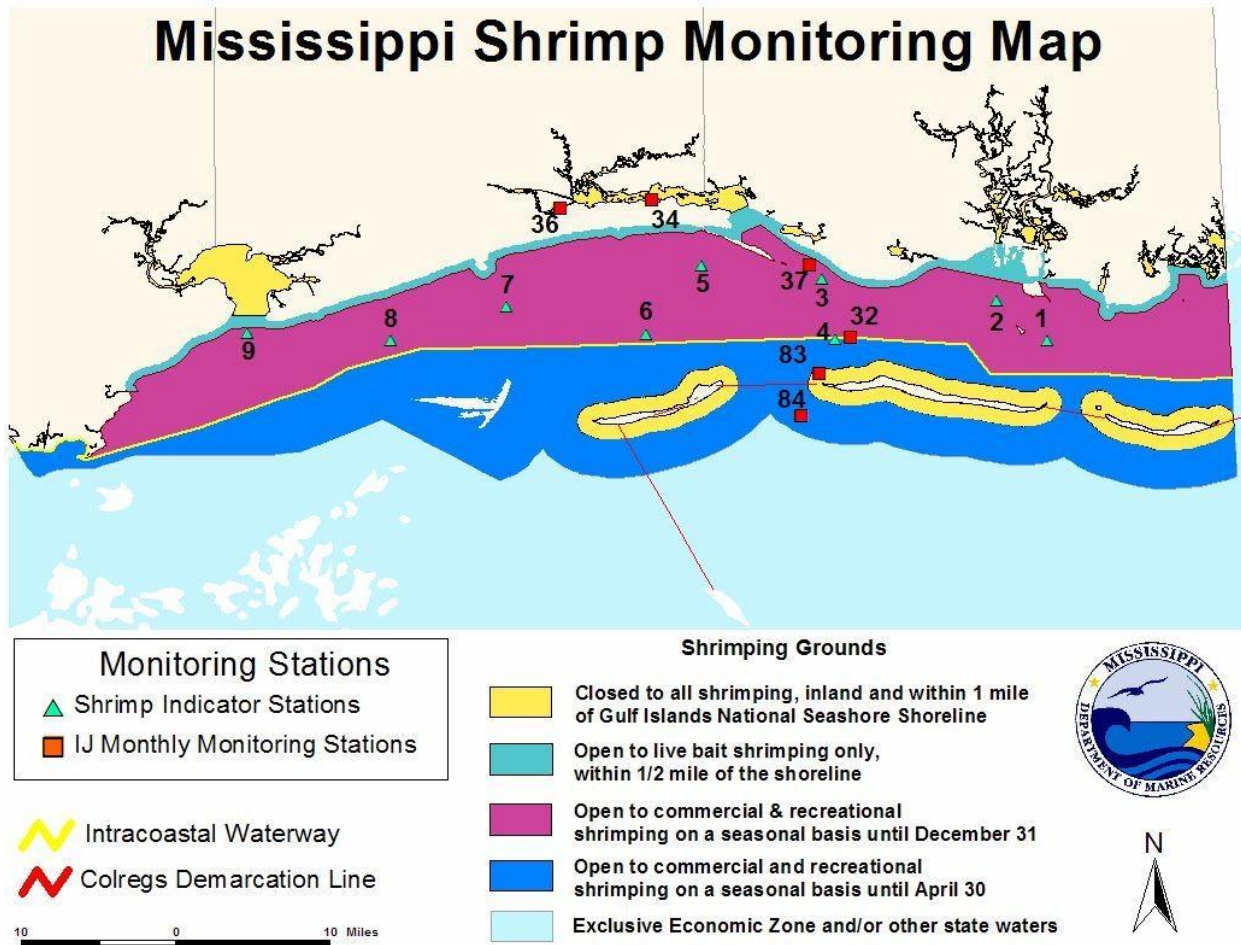
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The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at dmr.ms.gov.

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