

NEWS RELEASE

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**16-47-MMS
July 7, 2016**

**Contact: Melissa Scallan
Phone: 228-523-4124**

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

MDMR Marine Patrol arrests two on assault charges

BILOXI, Miss. – Two men were arrested on assault charges this week by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Marine Patrol.

Duane "Cruz" Down, 19, was arrested Thursday, July 7, and Michael Holley Jr, 25, was arrested Wednesday, July 6. Both were arrested on aggravated assault charges.

Marine Patrol Chief Keith Davis said his office received a complaint on Sunday, June 26, that Down and Holley physically assaulted people at Grasshopper Island in Biloxi. After an investigation, Harrison County Justice Court Judge Albert Fountain issued warrants for Down and Holley's arrest.

"This type of activity at our tributaries, sandbars and barrier islands cannot and will not be tolerated," Davis said. "Families go to these areas for recreation and should feel comfortable. Marine Patrol and our local partners will continue to increase patrols of this island and others looking for unruly violators."

Davis asked that anyone else who was assaulted that day on Grasshopper Island or witnessed the assaults call Marine Patrol at 228-523-4134. He also encouraged anyone who experiences problems on the water or on the islands to contact his office and report it.

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.

—END—