

NEWS RELEASE

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jubilee occurring in Mississippi Sound; Seafood safe to eat, but people should use caution

BILOXI, Miss. – Officials with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources have confirmed that a jubilee is occurring in the Mississippi Sound due to weather conditions.

On Wednesday, several different species of finfish, as well as shrimp, crabs and eels were found near the Gulfport and Long Beach harbors. By early Thursday, shrimp, crabs and eels began washing up onshore from the Broadwater in Biloxi to west of the Pass Christian Harbor. There were no finfish found on the shore Thursday morning.

MDMR scientists analyzed water samples Wednesday at various locations and found that the main cause was low oxygen. There was no indication of a toxic algal bloom.

"A jubilee occurs when the water is extremely warm and the waters are calm with very little wind, causing the oxygen levels in shallow water to drop to lethal levels" said Matt Hill, director of MDMR's Finfish Bureau. "This will continue as long as these conditions exist."

Scientists will continue to take water samples Thursday.

Many people gather along the beach to collect the seafood that washes onshore during a jubilee. Typically, the seafood collected during a jubilee is safe to eat; however, people still need to be cautious.

"Currently our samples don't indicate that there are toxins present in the water, so the seafood likely is safe," Hill said. "However, the seafood still should be handled, stored and cooked properly. Also, if any seafood is dead, and it looks like it's been dead for awhile, it's best not to eat it."

Hill also said that people need to remember they must have the proper license in order to possess the seafood. Also, all size and possession limits still apply to any seafood picked up on the beach.

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