

MEDIA ADVISORY

MS Dept. of Marine Resources
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Heritage Area to recognize Gulf Coast Outpost businesses in events across the Coast

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area will hold a series of events to recognize the first group of nature-based tourism businesses who have qualified for the Gulf Coast Outpost program.

The Gulf Coast Outpost program recognizes those businesses that are knowledgeable about the Coast's natural environment and takes steps to protect it by fostering environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation. The program is aimed at those companies whose primary business is dependent on the natural environment in Mississippi's six coastal counties. This includes eco tours, locally-owned outfitters, charter boat operators, tour guides, eco-lodges and agritourism entities.

The Gulf Coast Outpost business recognition program is part of the 2016 Nature-Based Tourism Plan for Coastal Mississippi. It was developed for the Heritage Area by stakeholders in the industry.

The MS Gulf Coast National Heritage Area is a program of the National Park Service that is managed by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

The event will be held at the following times and locations:

- Harrison County: Wednesday, Oct. 10, at 9:30 a.m. at the Biloxi Visitors Center
- Jackson County: Friday, Oct. 12, at 10 a.m. at the USM Marine Education Center
- Hancock County: Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 5 p.m. at the Hancock Chamber's After Hours Event at the Silver Slipper

For more information, visit msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov/ under the "Natural" tab.

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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