



# **Mississippi Department of Marine Resources**

**2007 Comprehensive Annual Report  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007**

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## **Mississippi Department of Marine Resources**

*Office of Marine Fisheries  
Office of Coastal Ecology  
Office of Marine Patrol  
Office of Administrative Services*

### **Annual Report Fiscal Year 2007 July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007**

**Executive Director  
Dr. William W. Walker**

**Commissioners  
Dr. Vernon Asper, Chairman  
Richard Gollott, Vice Chairman  
Shelby Drummond  
Oliver Sahuque  
Jimmy Taylor**

*Fiscal Year 2007 Comprehensive Annual Report prepared by the  
Department of Marine Resources, Office of the Executive Director,  
with contributions from staff.*

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### ***Mission Statement***

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.

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MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Dear Governor Barbour and Members of the Legislature:

We would like to thank you for the continued support you have provided towards the wise stewardship of the state's valuable coastal and marine resources—the mission of the Department of Marine Resources.

Your support has been vital in helping the department meet the current challenges presented in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Much of the department's efforts in 2007 have been focused on the continued rebuilding and revitalizing the coast. Marine debris removal, wetlands habitat restoration and oyster reef revitalization, spotted sea trout stock enhancement and facilitation of infrastructure rebuilding and repair are but a few of the key initiatives encompassed within the larger scope of revitalizing the coast.

Our staff along with the agency's many state and federal partners – the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, NASA's Stennis Space Center, the Naval Research Laboratory, Mississippi State University, the University of Mississippi, Jackson State University, the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Archives and History – are all to be commended for their hard work in helping to meet the department's goals and objectives.

As a team, we will strive to continue to rebuild, restore and revitalize the Mississippi Gulf Coast and especially its barrier islands, coastal wetlands and estuarine environs and associated fisheries habitats.

We are now, as we have always been, committed to this mission; and we will continue to manage the state's marine resources today for a sound tomorrow.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William W. Walker".

Dr. William W. Walker, Executive Director  
Department of Marine Resources

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# ***Table of Contents***

<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</b>	iii
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b>	1
<b>MARINE FISHERIES OFFICE</b>	
Marine Fisheries Management	3
Finfish Program	5
Marine Commercial Fisheries Statistics	7
Mississippi Artificial Reef Program	11
Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey	13
Sport Fish Tag and Release In Mississippi Coastal Waters and Adjacent Gulf of Mexico	15
Striped Bass Restoration	17
Sport Fish Studies in Mississippi Coastal Waters	19
Shellfish Program	21
Shrimp and Crab Program	25
Seafood Technology Program	29
<b>COASTAL ECOLOGY OFFICE</b>	33
Wetlands Permitting Program	35
Coastal Preserves Program	37
Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve	39
<b>MARINE PATROL</b>	41
Joint Enforcement Agreement	43
Telecommunications	45
Boat and Water Safety	47
In-Service Training	49
Dive Team	51
Reserve Unit	53
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICE</b>	
License Sales	55
Information Technology	59
Property Management	61
Purchasing	63
Accounting	65
Clean Vessel Act	67
<b>DIRECTORATE OFFICE</b>	
Derelict Vessel Removal	69
Public Affairs Program	71
Human Resources Management	75
<b>TIDELANDS AND LIAISON OFFICE</b>	
Tidelands Grant Management	77
<b>COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	79
<b>MISSISSIPPI'S OFFICIAL SALTWATER SPORTFISHING RECORDS</b>	83
<b>OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL ACTIVITIES</b>	87

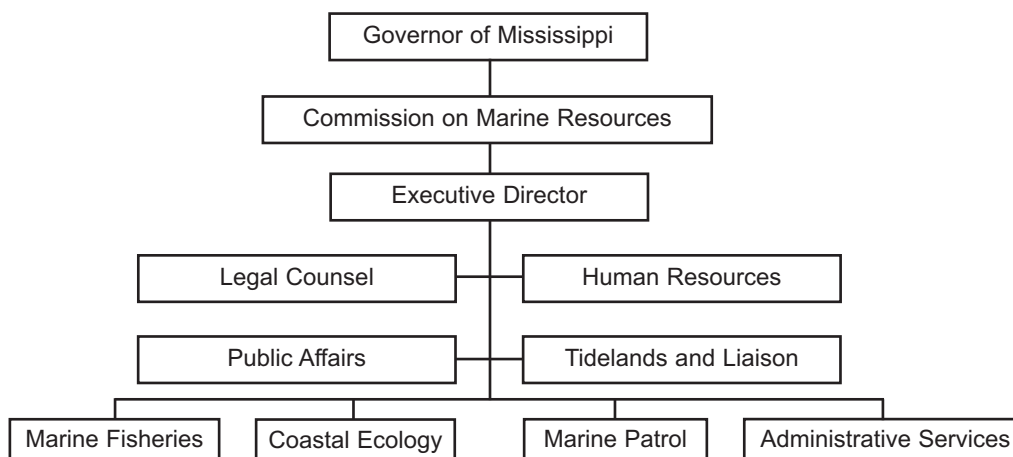


## Organizational Structure

The Department of Marine Resources' organizational structure is based on the legislative mandates assigned to the Commission and Department. In FY2007, the Department's organizational structure consisted of five major program areas: Marine Fisheries; Coastal Ecology; Tidelands and Liaison; Marine Patrol; and Administrative Services.

The Marine Fisheries Office includes the management and regulation of shrimp and crab, shellfish, seafood processing plants, finfish and artificial reefs. The Coastal Ecology Office includes the management and regulation of the coastal preserves, wetlands permitting, and the National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Tidelands Trust Fund receives proposals from public entities for management and public access projects, provides oversight in the evaluation of these projects and the financial accounting of the funds. The Marine Patrol Office provides law enforcement activities not only in Mississippi coastal waters and tidal tributaries but assists the U.S. Coast Guard in law enforcement activities in federal waters. The Administrative Services Office includes the directorate, seafood marketing, derelict vessel identification and removal, marine debris removal, human resources, public affairs, information technology, grants and contracts, property management and inventory, fleet management, procurement, accounting and financial management.

The Department of Marine Resources will continue to enhance its interaction with other state, regional and national entities to improve planning and program operations, to maximize available resources, and to ensure the future of Mississippi's valuable marine resources. The Executive Director will continue to review programmatic needs and modify the Department's organizational structure as needed when new mandates are added to its charter. During FY2007, the Department's organizational structure is as follows:



The following narratives provide a brief description of each of the above-referenced programs and the principal accomplishments of each during the past fiscal year, underscoring what the Department hopes to accomplish in the coming year.





## ***Marine Fisheries Office***

### ***Marine Fisheries Management***

#### ***Office Director: Dale A. Diaz***

The Office of Marine Fisheries provides for the effective management of the state's marine fisheries, including oysters, shrimp, crabs, spotted seatrout, red drum, menhaden and mullet in addition to other commercially and recreationally important species. The program includes conservation and overall management of living marine organisms through research and data collection as modified by relevant social, economic and biological factors. The Office of Marine Fisheries utilizes the most appropriate methods for management, including but not limited to regulating harvesting, habitat enhancement, water quality monitoring for molluscan shellfish harvesting, setting of catch limits and seasons, and seafood safety inspections of processing and distribution facilities.



**Dale Diaz is director of DMR's Marine Fisheries Office.**

#### **Objectives:**

Marine Fisheries projects and activities coordinated through the Office of Marine Fisheries include:

- Design and initiate projects for the collection and analysis of data required for population dynamics estimates, and other projects related to fisheries management.
- Develop scientifically based management recommendations.
- Monitor the condition of fish stocks and the fisheries that depend upon them.
- Provide information transfer and liaison activities with regional fisheries management entities and others.
- Provide technical support to the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources in developing fishery management plans, amendments, stock assessments and technical analysis.
- Provide a representative to serve on fisheries-related boards, committees and panels, as may be required.
- Provide for administrative services, general maintenance, funding sources and other fisheries management support services as may be required.
- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to monitor and assist the recovery of Mississippi's commercial and recreational fisheries.

**Status:**

Public notices were published for opening and closing of the commercial seasons for shrimp, oysters, king mackerel, spotted seatrout, red snapper, red drum and large coastal sharks. Marine Fisheries personnel served on regional management activities of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), including Artificial Reef Task Force, Sheepshead Fishery Task Force, Flounder Fishery Task Force, Blue Crab Task Force, Fisheries Information Network Committee, Data Management and Recreational Fishery Subcommittees, Technical Coordinating Committee, Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species, Southeastern Aquatic Resource Partnership, Harrison County Development Committee and the State/Federal Fisheries Management Board. Marine Fisheries personnel also served on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, its Habitat committee and special shrimp committee.



Seated in back, from left: DMR Marine Fisheries Staffers Sally Richards, Mai Dang and Bill Richardson assist commercial fishermen in signing up for the fisheries monitoring and assessment program, funded through the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Emergency Disaster Recovery Program.

## ***Finfish Program***

***Coordinator: Michael Buchanan***

The goals of the finfish program include conserving and revitalizing marine finfish and supporting habitats within optimal levels as modified by relevant social, economic, and biological factors; providing scientific information, including biological life history and catch statistics for commercial and recreational finfish for effective management; and providing oversight, enhancement and development of reef habitat in Mississippi and adjacent federal waters.

### **Objectives:**

- Collect commercial fisheries landings statistics.
- Collect recreational fisheries landings statistics.
- Monitor finfish populations through independent sampling methods.
- Develop and coordinate, with other state and federal agencies, independent projects on ecological requirements and biological life history information on important finfish species.

### **Status:**

- The marine finfish program provides management information through an ongoing commercial fisheries statistics program. Data is collected monthly from dealers' reported catch. In addition, there is an ongoing effort to institute a trip ticket system in cooperation with Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC).
- Catch and effort information on the recreational sector is being collected, in cooperation with GSMFC, through the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey on a bimonthly basis.
- Independent data on finfish populations is being collected through a combination of gill net and trawl samples in Mississippi's major estuaries.
- Several projects have been developed in cooperation with the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory to obtain information on life history parameters and essential fish habitat of important finfish.
- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to monitor and assist the recovery of Mississippi's commercial and recreational fisheries.



Jason Brandt, a graduate student attending Mississippi State University and interning with DMR, is shown with a spotted seatrout while working on independent sampling.

## ***Marine Commercial Fisheries Statistics***

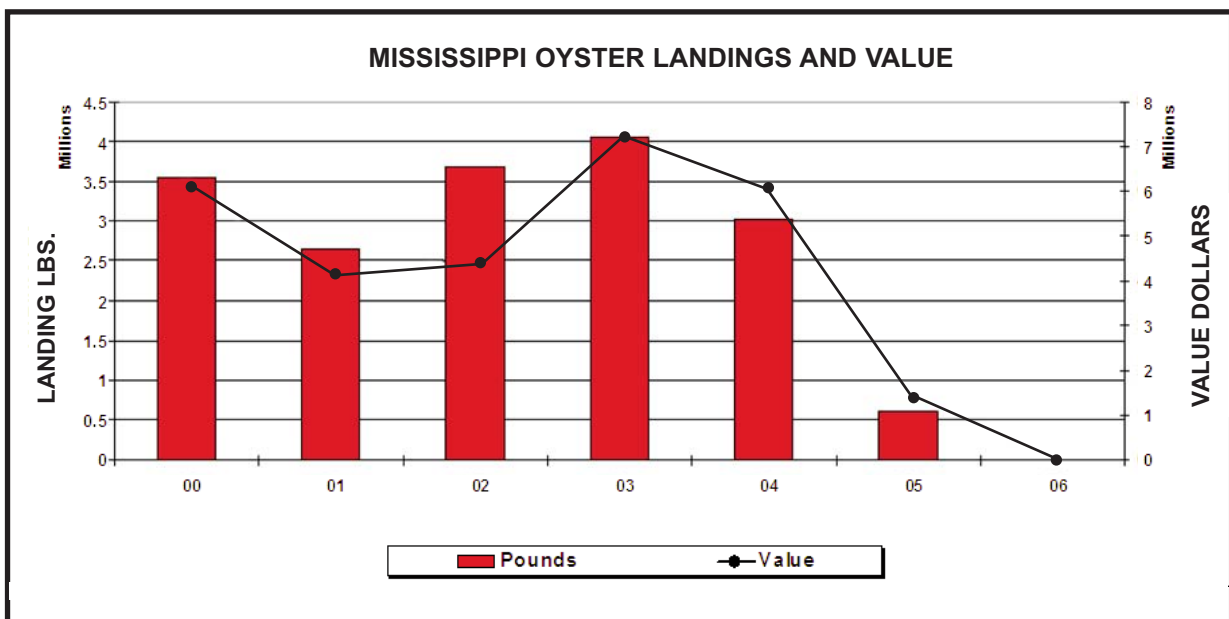
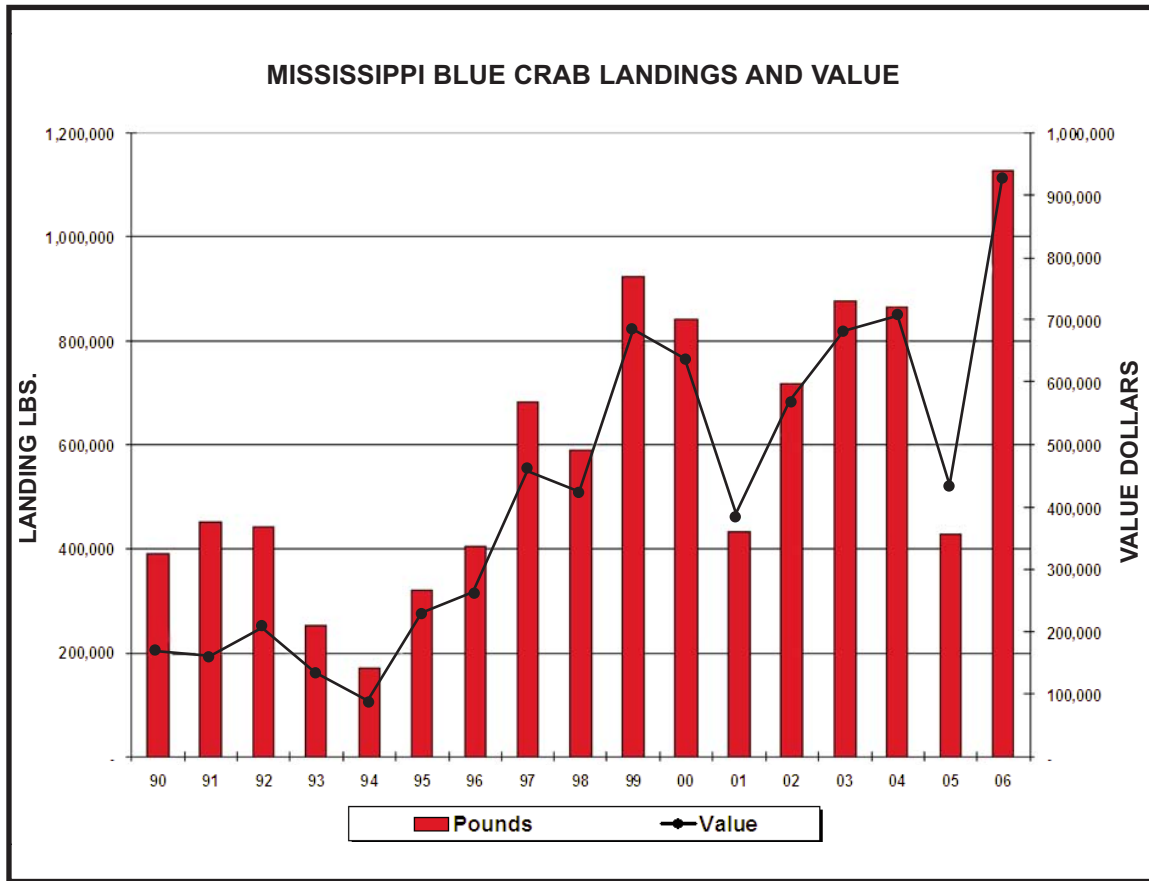
### ***Coordinator: Christine Murrell***

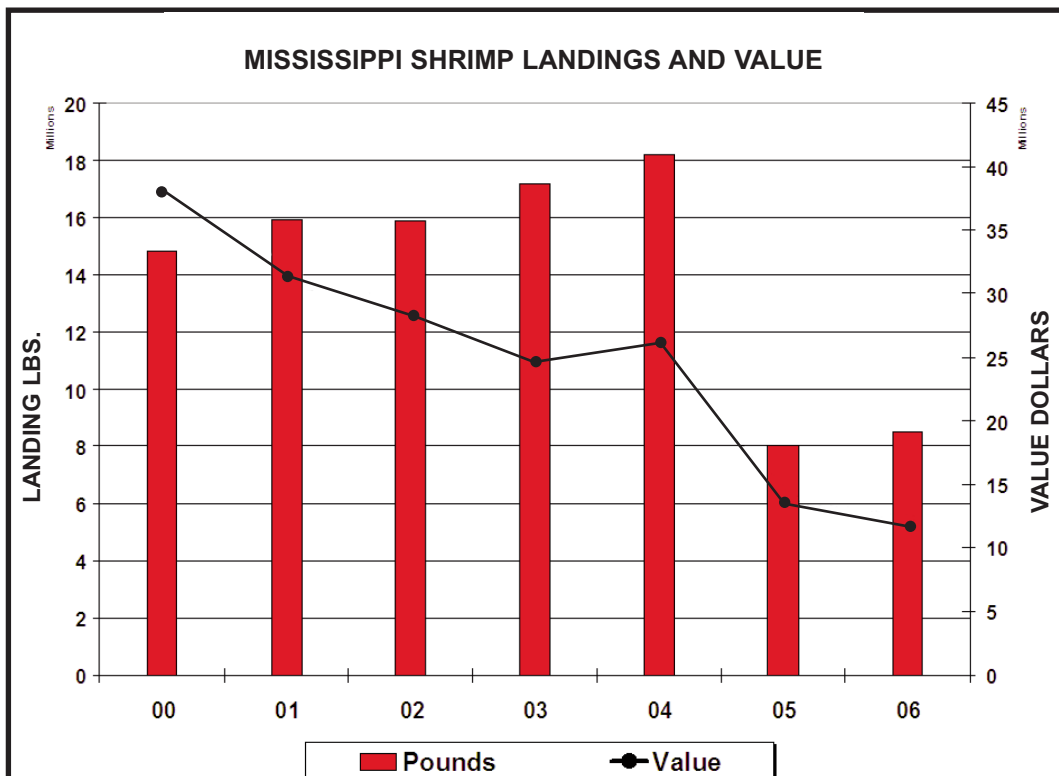
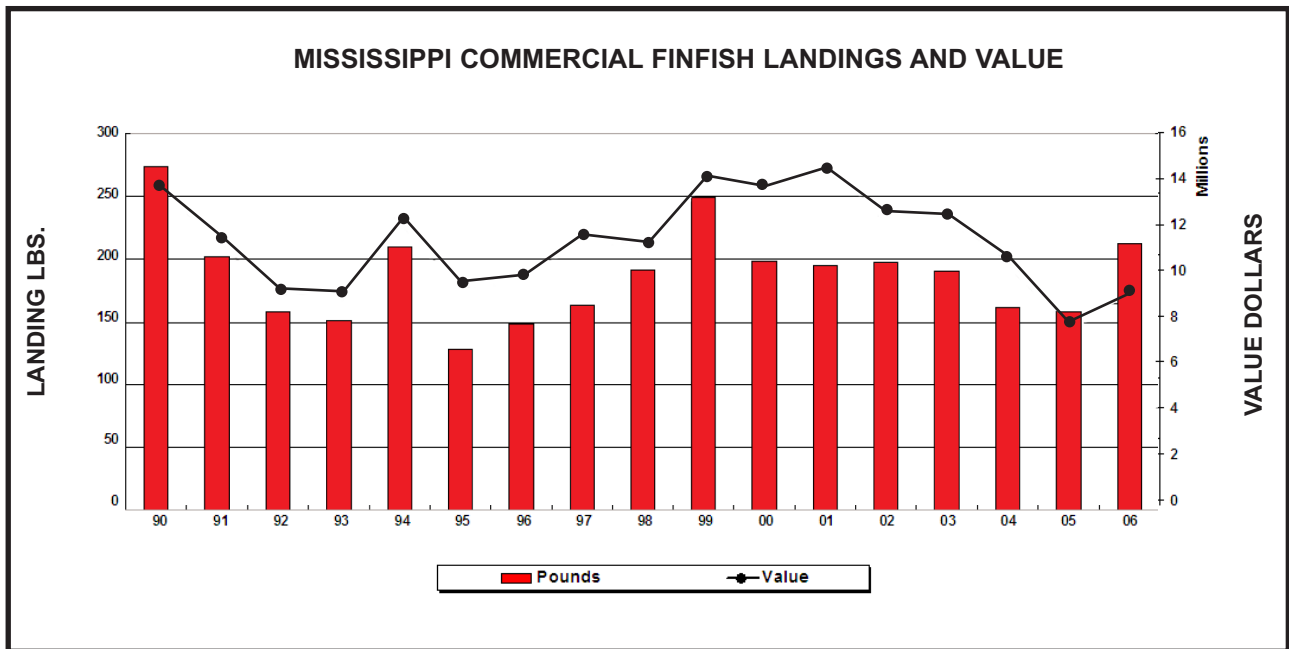
#### **Objectives:**

- Collect commercial fisheries landings and catch data for Mississippi in a timely manner.
- Collect biological data for selected commercially important finfish species.
- Obtain boat trip information and biological statistics on migratory pelagic and reef fishes such as red snapper, grouper and amberjack and collect otoliths from red snapper.
- Continue process of fully implementing a Trip Ticket System.

#### **Status:**

- Fisheries landings data was collected weekly and monthly according to schedule. The data was processed, edited and submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in accordance with established data handling procedures. Fisheries landings data is an important part of the fisheries management process, both as an indicator of potential population changes and as a gauge of the success of existing fisheries regulations and practices.
- Biological data for selected commercially important finfish species was collected from the major seafood dealers along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The information will be used in the development of various fishery management plans, both on a state and regional level.
- Information for selected pelagic and reef fishes was collected from the major landing sites for selected species on a monthly basis. This information was submitted to the NMFS for inclusion in its Trip Information System. This data is used by both state and federal fisheries managers to properly manage these valuable resources.
- A Trip Ticket System was developed for the oyster fishery, live bait fishery and commercial hook-and-line fishery. Data is being scanned into database and transferred to Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.









## ***Mississippi Artificial Reef Program***

### ***Coordinator: Kerwin Cuevas***

#### **Objectives:**

- Develop and enhance nearshore and offshore reef habitats in accordance with Mississippi's Artificial Reef Plan.
- Update coordinates and orientation of past artificial reef material deployments within Mississippi's marine waters and adjacent federal waters.
- Provide the DMR Web administrator with coordinates of reef material, reef orientation, maps and charts, so that a Web page can be updated and maintained for the fishing community to access.
- Within the framework of Mississippi's Artificial Reef Plan, identify areas conducive to artificial reef development and enhancement both nearshore and offshore.
- Monitor artificial reef development in Mississippi's marine waters and adjacent federal waters.
- Obtain artificial reef material from state, federal and private entities through donations.

#### **Status:**

- Currently, Mississippi has 23 permitted offshore reefs encompassing approximately 18,000 acres of water bottoms. These reefs range in size from one acre to 10,000 acres. To date, the material used for offshore reefs consists of concrete rubble, steel-hull vessels (including barges), armored personnel carriers and oil rig living quarters and oil rig jackets.
- Mississippi has also permitted 45 nearshore artificial reef sites. These reefs are located inshore, where fishermen in small vessels, wade fishermen and pier fishermen can take advantage of the fish that inhabit these reefs. The materials of the nearshore reefs consist of limestone, concrete rubble (when water depth allows), crushed concrete and oyster shells. The nearshore reefs are deployed at strategic times of the year when optimum oyster spat will settle for future growth of the reef.
- Two methods used to monitor and update coordinates and orientation of past artificial reef material deployments are: 1) side-scan sonar, primarily used on offshore reefs; and 2) sounding with a pole, primarily on inshore reefs. All coordinates obtained from side-scan sonar and sounding can be found on the DMR's Web site and are available to the general public. Maps are available from the artificial reef program upon request.
- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to restore and diversify nearshore and offshore ecosystems through the creation of low-profile shallow water and offshore deep water artificial reef habitats.



Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to restore and diversify nearshore and offshore ecosystems through artificial reef habitats. Shown here are Florida limestone pyramids deployed on Fish Haven 2 located about 25 miles south of Biloxi.



DMR works with oil and gas companies in the Gulf of Mexico to deploy rig jackets to use as artificial reefs.

## ***Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS)***

### ***Coordinator: Michael Buchanan***

#### **Objectives:**

- Conduct the MRFSS survey in Mississippi for shore, charter and private modes.
- Provide a timely and reliable database on marine recreational fishing activity.
- Identify notable changes in recreational catch and effort trends.
- Collect biological information on selected important finfish species.
- Evaluate the long-term implications of management measures.
- Conduct weekly telephone interviews of charter boat operators in Mississippi.

#### **Status:**

Recreational fisheries information was collected daily through surveys. There were over 1,900 recreational fishermen interviewed in these combined modes. The data was processed, edited and submitted to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) in a timely manner. The information gathered from the survey provides a continuous standardized database of marine recreational catch, effort and participation. This data gives the various fisheries councils information necessary to make wise management decisions. Pressure estimates were also submitted to the GSMFC according to schedule. These estimates along with historical productivity are used to estimate the number of assignments needed to achieve a given quota for each month. Through these assignments, all month and wave quotas were successfully met.

The MRFSS program also includes a telephone survey of the charter boat fishery. This was conducted through weekly telephone interviews of charter boat operators in Mississippi. The number of telephone interviews was based on a random selection of 10 percent of the charter boats in Mississippi. The data was entered and sent to the GSMFC on a weekly basis. GSMFC uses this information to obtain more precise effort estimates for the charter and headboat sectors.



**Jeff Grant and Jamie Herring, DMR Fisheries technicians, collect angler information through the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey.**

# ***Sport Fish Tag and Release in Mississippi Coastal Waters and Adjacent Gulf of Mexico***

***Coordinator: J. Read Hendon***

## **Objectives:**

- Continue the angler-cooperative tag and release of spotted seatrout in Mississippi coastal waters specifically to obtain data on the seasonal movement patterns of fish of legal size (14 inches and larger).
- Continue the angler-cooperative tag and release of cobia in Mississippi coastal waters and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico in order to obtain additional data on seasonal movement patterns of this fish.
- Continue the angler-cooperative tag and release of tripletail in Mississippi coastal waters and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico in order to obtain data on seasonal movement patterns of this fish.
- Continue the angler-cooperative tag and release of gray snapper in Mississippi coastal waters to obtain data on the seasonal movement patterns of this fish.
- Hold public workshop to exchange information relative to this project's goals and other aspects of sport fishery.

## **Status:**

- Seasonal movement and growth of spotted seatrout were studied utilizing angler tagged and released in Mississippi coastal waters. There were 41 tagged and none recaptured. Similar trends of limited movement were observed in the recaptured fish as in other years.
- Seasonal movement and growth of cobia were studied utilizing angler tagged and released cobia in the Gulf of Mexico. There were 732 tagged and 52 recaptured. Similar trends of movement were observed in these recaptured fish as in other years.
- Seasonal movement and growth of tripletail were studied utilizing angler tagged and released tripletail in Mississippi coastal waters and adjacent Gulf of Mexico waters. There were 182 tagged and 33 recaptured.
- Seasonal movement and growth of gray snapper were studied utilizing angler tagged and released gray snapper in Mississippi coastal waters and adjacent Gulf of Mexico waters. There were 24 tagged and two recaptured.
- Public workshop was held in January and was attended by 50 members of the public.





Angler Brian Keil from the Gainesville, Fla. Fishing Club holds a tagged cobia.

## **Striped Bass Restoration**

### **Coordinator: Larry Nicholson**

#### **Objectives:**

- Monitor habitat use patterns of striped bass by tracking acoustically tagged fish.
- Involve anglers, through a public relations effort, to report all tagged fish or catches of untagged striped bass and the location of capture.
- Independently sample coastal tributaries with electro-fishing to obtain abundance estimates of striped bass in coastal waters.

#### **Status:**

The striped bass monitoring project is ongoing and the equipment to tag and track striped bass has been ordered. The public has been informed through the media, posters and workshops that their help is needed in obtaining striped bass data. Independent sampling has yielded minimal results; however, with the new electro-fishing equipment and utilization of information on striped bass distribution by the public, results are expected to improve.

# STRIPERS

IN SOUTH MISSISSIPPI



**PLEASE REPORT**

Help restore the coastal striped bass population. Please **REPORT ALL STRIPED BASS** caught. Contact the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory at:

Phone: **228.872.4610**  
Email: [larry.nicholson@usm.edu](mailto:larry.nicholson@usm.edu)  
or mail to:



**GULF COAST  
RESEARCH LABORATORY**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI  
**GCRL Striped Bass Program**  
3600 Gollott Road • Ocean Springs, MS 39564

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**WE NEED  
YOUR HELP...**  
Restoring  
Striped Bass





## ***Sport Fish Studies in Mississippi Coastal Waters***

### ***Coordinator: Read Hendon***

#### **Objectives:**

- Obtain data for the development of estimates of relative abundance and various life history parameters, including age-length relationships and spawning strategies, of adult/sub-adult spotted seatrout and sheepshead in Mississippi coastal waters.
- Monitor the population of adult/sub-adult spotted seatrout in Mississippi coastal waters using protocols established in previously completed work.
- Tag local shark species for population estimates and movement patterns.
- Develop shark identification guide.
- Coordinate a series of workshops to provide for exchange of information regarding the recreational fishery in Mississippi and shark identification.

#### **Status:**

Field sampling for spotted seatrout is accomplished through 120 gill net sets along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Two hundred forty-two spotted seatrout were returned to the lab, otoliths removed for aging and sex, and length and weight obtained.

Work is ongoing to collect sheepshead samples through a variety of independent sampling techniques (gill net, trawl and hook and line). Ninety-six fish were returned to the laboratory and processed.

Shark sampling is ongoing. Six hundred thirty-nine sharks of various species were captured and 428 were tagged; four recaptures have been reported. The shark identification guide has been published and shark identification workshops were held at Gulf Coast Research Lab (GCRL). Marine enforcement and charter boat captains attended these workshops. This guide is also available on the DMR Web site.



## ***Shellfish Program***

### ***Coordinator: Scott Gordon***

The Shellfish Bureau of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is responsible for the management of Mississippi's marine shellfish resources with two primary functions:

- Manage and rebuild the resource.
- Maintain compliance with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference's National Shellfish Sanitation Program (ISSC/NSSP) Model Ordinance requirements for shellfish-growing waters.

Oysters, as sessile filter feeders, are subject to the influence of environmental conditions to a greater extent than motile species. Consequently, oyster landings can change dramatically from year to year according to those conditions. In addition to fluctuations in the amount of rainfall, problems with upland discharge can render oyster-growing areas closed to harvest. During the oyster season and throughout the year, field sampling trips are made to stations strategically located throughout the oyster reef areas to collect water samples that are analyzed for fecal coliform content.

Opening and closing of reef areas is based primarily on the levels of fecal coliform in the water column at the time of sampling. Oyster reefs in certain areas must be closed after significant rainfall or river stage events until it can be determined that the water quality has improved sufficiently to allow harvesting to resume. To accomplish this, multiple stations are sampled in each reef area or subarea. Samples must be obtained from each area and analyzed before an area can be reopened for harvest following a closure. Water quality samples are also obtained throughout the year to properly classify shellfish-growing waters.

The Shellfish Sanitation Program is one of the agency's most labor-intensive efforts, requiring almost daily routine water-quality sampling and laboratory analysis of samples for fecal coliform bacteria. The data is used to properly classify oyster-growing waters in accordance with NSSP guidelines and to provide necessary justification for reopening oyster reefs following rainfall and/or river discharge events that degrade water quality to levels requiring that reefs be closed to protect the health of the consumers.

For areas to be classified as Approved, the geometric mean fecal coliform level most probable number (MPN) cannot exceed 14 and not more than 10 percent of the samples taken can exceed an MPN of 43. Additionally, U.S. Food and Drug Administration requirements also specify minimum sampling frequencies at each of nearly 170 sampling stations in the Mississippi Sound. Approved areas are areas in which water quality does not degrade after any rainfall and/or corresponding river discharge.

Areas classified as Conditionally Approved are subject to frequent openings and closures due to rainfall or river stage. Along with monitoring the water quality of the oyster reefs, other work performed on the reefs involves revitalization efforts such as reef cultivation, oyster relaying and the planting of cultch material.

**Objectives:**

- Maintain program compliance with the NSSP.
- Map Mississippi's oyster reefs.
- Survey potential cultivation sites and cultch planting sites.
- Cultivate oyster reefs.
- Deposit oyster cultch material.
- Assess reef areas.
- Work with other agencies to improve water quality.
- Educate harvesters and the public on shellfish issues.

**Status:**

- Hurricane Katrina destroyed over 90 percent of Mississippi's oyster crop in the western reefs. Consequently, the 2006-2007 season was again closed to conserve the remaining oyster resource and restore the reefs. However in Area VIII B to the east, a limited oyster season was opened with a harvest of 325 sacks.
- Surveyed potential cultivation and cultch planting sites.
- Since Hurricane Katrina the DMR Shellfish Bureau has rehabilitated a thousand acres of oyster reefs using 93,730 cubic yards of cultch material.
- Oyster reef restoration using Hurricane Katrina disaster relief funds:
  - Fall 2006 — Limestone cultch plant, 9,351.68 cubic yards over 125 acres at Henderson Point and Pass Christian.
  - Spring 2007 — Limestone cultch plant, 38,017 cubic yards over 380 acres at Telegraph Reef; oyster shell, 18,306 cubic yards on 200 acres at Pass Marianne and Nature Conservancy; oyster plant, 438 cubic yards over five acres in St. Louis Bay.
- Cultivating oyster reefs and relaying oysters – During this period, an oyster relaying project utilizing Mississippi commercial oyster fishermen was conducted. A meeting was held in Biloxi with prospective oyster fishermen, outlining the work to be performed and setting the necessary ground rules for this project. A total of 135 commercial Mississippi oyster fishermen signed contracts to participate in the program, while only about 80 vessels actually participated through December 2006. Additionally, a contract was bid out for a company to provide barges, tugboats and all necessary equipment to load oysters onto the barges from the fishermen and deploy the oysters onto areas selected by the DMR. This was a very successful program, which was favorably received by the fishermen. Through January 2007, the fishermen were able to work 29 days, relaying about 75,059 sacks of live oysters. The daily sack limit per vessel for this relay program was 40 sacks. The fishermen

were paid \$20 for each sack of oysters they harvested. The \$20 per sack price was selected after inquiries as to the average value of oysters in neighboring states, which ranged as high as \$31 per sack. Little culling was required, the only requirements being that it must be a legal sack (1.98 cubic feet) and that only oysters or shell with oysters may be relayed with no more than a 10% allowance for dead shells. Sacks were counted and checked by DMR personnel. After the barge was loaded with oysters, the oysters and shell were deployed by the contractor under the supervision of DMR personnel onto reef areas to the west.

- Mississippi Coastal Drainage Basin Meteorological Monitoring Stations that provide continuous meteorological data on precipitation, temperature, wind speed and direction, solar radiation and atmospheric pressure – Met with representatives of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and had telephone conversations with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) to discuss the proper selection and possible placement of the meteorological monitoring stations in areas not yet addressed through the existing real-time recording meteorological systems operated by those or other entities. Researched numerous meteorological equipment and software as suggested from these discussions. A future meeting will be scheduled next quarter with various entities to finalize equipment and software selections and station placement.
- Monitoring and assessment of oyster restoration activities – DMR personnel will monitor and assess the recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast oyster resources. Research for the development of bid specifications was conducted for the research/dive vessel to be purchased under this project. Additionally, during the Oyster Relay Project, all sacks of oyster seed were visually inspected by DMR staff to determine the size and quality before they were loaded on the barges. Random sacks were set aside and measured by a standard sack measure basket to validate correct volumes.
- Surveying, mapping and marking of public reefs and potential cultivation and cultch planting sites – The DMR discussed with various stakeholders about potential areas to plant cultch material. This included harvesters, commissioners and DMR staff. The DMR staff on the vessel Conservationist mapped out five areas with a total of 570 acres to plant cultch material for the spring plant in the western Mississippi Sound. These areas were identified by using side-scan sonar, cane poles, GPS and ArcPad GIS. DMR staff submitted paperwork for the Army Corps of Engineers nationwide permit for the cultch plants. PVC poles were placed on the areas where DMR staff relayed oysters.
- Conducted a survey of commercial oyster harvesters for their suggestions of ideas on environmentally friendly harvest practices. Their ideas were incorporated into a brochure, printed both in English and Vietnamese. These brochures were then distributed back to commercial harvesters, to facilitate information sharing on good stewardship of Mississippi's public oyster reefs.
- Participated in the Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference concerning shellfish issues in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Conducted square meter dive sampling and resource assessments on major area reefs.

- Gathered data for growing area sanitary survey for all areas.
- Collected 1,694 fecal coliform water samples and numerous phytoplankton samples from area shellfish growing waters.
- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to monitor and assist the recovery of Mississippi's commercial and recreational fisheries.



**DMR Seafood Officer Jeff Davis verifies the number of oyster sacks received from a vessel for the oyster relay project.**



## ***Shrimp and Crab Program***

### ***Coordinator: Traci Floyd***

The Shrimp and Crab Program conserves and revitalizes Mississippi's shrimp and crab resource and supports habitat, in order to ensure balanced and sustained utilization and maintaining stewardship of living marine resources for commercial and recreational fisheries at optimal levels as modified by social, economic and biological factors.

#### **Objectives:**

The Shrimp and Crab Bureau provides management of the state's commercial and recreational shrimp and crab fisheries. Cooperation and coordination with adjoining state agencies, as well as regional and federal fishery management authorities, are integral to the success of shrimp and crab management activities. The program includes monitoring and assessment of the shrimp and crab fisheries, coordination of the Mississippi Crab Task Force, issuance of Scientific Collection Permits, inspections and reporting of the live bait industry, Real Time Hydrological Monitoring Program, coordination of grants with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Monitoring Program, the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission/National Marine Fisheries Service Disaster (Hurricane Katrina) Recovery Program. The shrimp and crab fisheries are managed by the setting of seasons, gear regulations and implementation of other related management measures as required. Shrimp and Crab Bureau personnel work cooperatively with federal agencies including the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) and the U.S. Geological Survey. Cooperating state agencies include the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Mississippi State University Extension Service, as well as neighboring state marine resource management agencies.

#### **Status:**

- Monitoring of shrimp populations provides data on shrimp growth and survival allowing the bureau to make well-informed management assessments. Approximately 220 trawl samples were collected this year as part of the shrimp monitoring program. The data collection program includes monitoring surface and bottom hydrological parameters (i.e., salinity, temperature and dissolved oxygen) at each trawling station.
- Inspection of live bait shrimp vessels and facilities, licensing and reporting. The Live Bait Program includes monthly Confidential Dealer Reports as well as inspection and licensing of these facilities (e.g., vessels, tanks and transport vehicles).
- Continuation of the Mississippi Crab Task Force in order to allow the various marine resource user groups to provide input and voice concerns on fishery management and research activities. The task force has worked in the planning of the GSMFC/NMFS Emergency Disaster Recovery Program for working cooperatively with fishermen on derelict crab trap removal and recycling and fisheries monitoring program.



- Carry on development and maintenance of the Real-Time Hydrological Monitoring Program at seven marine sites along the Coast. The data is updated hourly and is available to the public and resource managers through the DMR Web site. Data, which includes salinity, temperature and stage at selected sites, is used in making decisions regarding opening and closing of seasons, effects of storms and identifying hazardous conditions. All seven sites were destroyed in Hurricane Katrina but were restored within months with help from co-operators U.S. Geological Survey. Two additional sites have been added, greatly expanding our ability to monitor the marine environment.
- Issuance of Saltwater Scientific Collection Permits. Recipients of Special Permits must first submit an application. Once applicant is approved worthy of merit and issued a permit, a complete report of collection or harvesting activity must be submitted to the DMR. Over 30 Special Permits have been issued over the past year.
- Coordination of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Grants. Current studies include: DMR Artificial Reef Program, Sport Fish Studies, Sport Fish Tag and Release, and Striped Bass Population Monitoring.
- The Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program includes mapping and recording the number of traps, where they were collected and bycatch (species capture other than crabs). To date, over 16,000 derelict traps have been collected and recycled along the Mississippi Coast, mainly through cooperation with crab fishermen and the USM Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.
- Administration and work of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Monitoring Program. Includes program supervision and trawl sampling.
- Implementation of the GSMFC/NOAA Fishery Recovery Disaster Program, which received funding Sept. 1, 2006, has been a dominant activity for the Shrimp and Crab Bureau in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Bureau jobs under the program are: Restore and Enhance Marsh Edge Habitat, Enhanced Derelict Crab Trap Gear Removal, Shrimp and Blue Crab Fishery Recovery and Monitoring System, and additions made to the Mississippi Hydrological Monitoring Program and Monitoring and Controlling Invasive Species.

The Shrimp and Crab Bureau staff work closely with state and federal agencies, marine resources user groups, fishermen and the public and strives to promote, conserve and regulate these fisheries based on the best available biological, social and economic data available. The issuance of special collection permits is done in a manner that protects marine resources while allowing research and development to occur. Hydrological parameter instruments and stations are monitored and maintained to allow optimum data availability. Sport Fish Restoration coordination closely monitors grants to ensure that each is achieving pre-established goals. The Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program has been a successful cooperative effort, as fishermen continue to work side by side with Shrimp and Crab Bureau staff to remove marine debris. The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Monitoring Program is administered based on criteria agreed upon and utilized by all Gulf states. The GSMFC/NOAA Hurricane Katrina Fishery Recovery Disaster Program has been planned to provide increasing benefits to Mississippi's marine resources but also to those individuals and communities that depend on them.



**Bureau Director Traci Floyd displays a nice Mississippi blue crab.**



**Fisheries Scientist Rick Burris inspects new hydrological monitoring instrumentation installed at Popp's Ferry.**



**Inspector Designee Darrin Stewart inspects a new live-bait shrimp camp in Hancock County.**



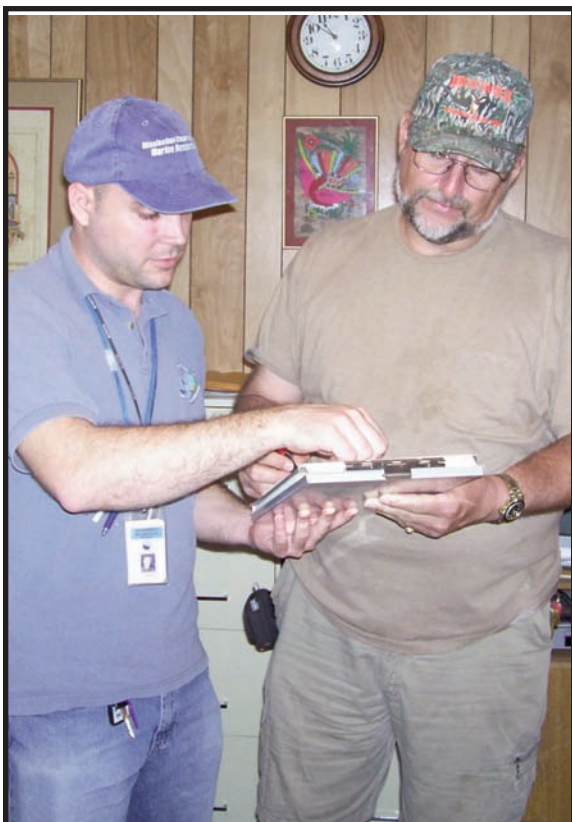
**Fisheries Scientist Bill Richardson explains use of shrimping gear to middle school students.**



**A commercial crab fisherman turns in derelict crab traps to be recycled during the 2007 Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup.**



**Fisheries Technician Rudy Balias shows how new TED-equipped crab traps prevent terrapin capture.**



**Seafood Officer Jeff Davis briefs seafood dealer Carl Drieling about the completed inspection form to recertify his seafood business operations.**



**Individually quick-frozen (IQF) oysters in covered plastic trays are being boxed at the postharvest processing (PHP) plant in Pass Christian by oyster PHP dealer Crystal Seas Seafood. IQF oysters are made to pass through nitrogen or carbon dioxide tunnels for freezing. These oysters are processed to deliver quality of product, increased shelf life, taste, convenience and peace of mind on food safety.**



## ***Seafood Technology Program***

### ***Coordinator: Ruth Alviola-Posadas***

#### **Objectives:**

- Ensure that suitable sanitary conditions exist for processing and distribution of seafood in Mississippi.
- Assist the seafood industry in compliance with sanitation rules and regulations, and provide technical assistance to the Mississippi seafood industry.
- Conduct regulatory inspections of shellfish processing and transporting facilities to determine compliance with state and federal sanitation and health safety regulations.
- Provide technical advice to the Mississippi seafood processing industry to aid in compliance with seafood sanitation and health safety regulations.
- Provide technical advice to the seafood processing industry regarding new technologies and new products that provide added value, new markets, employment opportunities and economic enhancement for the seafood industry.
- Provide technical advice to those interested in aquaculture and aid in expanding economic and employment opportunities.
- Provide technical expertise in investigating reports of food-borne illness.
- Undertake research projects in line with seafood technical surveys, promotion of Mississippi seafood, seafood safety education and sanitation training in line with the goals of the Mississippi seafood industry to disseminate information and educate consumers and food handlers in the seafood industry.
- Provide advice and support for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce regarding aquaculture regulatory matters.
- Participate and provide assistance to the Mississippi Food Safety Task Force in promoting food safety education to the public through participation in public fairs, public meetings and events.

#### **Status:**

The total number of technical assistance actions provided was 4,250. Examples are as follows:

- Provided oyster dealers with new seafood manuals including regulations and a technical assistance packet to crab and shrimp processors and retail stores.

- Provided seafood processors with a copy of the new changes in the Model Ordinance that was adapted during the Biennial conference of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference's National Shellfish Sanitation Program (ISSC/NSSP).
- Provided pamphlets, brochures and other educational materials on post-harvest processing of oysters and seafood safety available for the Mississippi seafood industry.
- Provided the ISSC with brochures on "The Risk of Eating Raw Oysters and *Vibrio vulnificus*," and brochures to the industry and to the public.
- Co-sponsored a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and Sanitation training course for the industry in April 2007 (22 participants) in Pascagoula.
- Reproduction of all oyster post-harvest processing educational and promotional materials including the poster, brochure, fact sheet, flyer and cookbook for distribution to the different states and state *Vibrio* education coordinators at different meetings, conventions, conferences, trade shows, workshops, festivals and training events:
  - Participated in the Biennial Meeting of the ISSC at Albuquerque, N.M., on Aug.11-17, 2005.
  - Participated in the *Vibrio vulnificus* education subcommittee meeting at Albuquerque, N.M., on April 29, 2007.
- Participated in the following events for promotional, educational and public outreach work together with the DMR Seafood Marketing Program. A food safety booth was set up at all these events where packets of pamphlets, handouts, brochures, fact sheets, recent news articles on seafood safety and new post-harvest processing technologies materials were given out:
  - 12 Public Outreach events from July 2006 – June 2007
  - Year I research grant project "Consumer Market Research of VAP and PHP Oyster Products to Increase Gulf Oyster Consumption and Reduce *V. vulnificus* Related Illnesses" from the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation, Inc.
- Reproduced, reprinted and distributed the following educational materials for the Mississippi and Gulf Coast oyster industry:
  - A flyer on "Post-Harvest Processing Technologies for Oysters."
  - A poster on "Post-Harvest Processing Technologies for Oysters."
  - A brochure on "Available Technologies for Post-Harvest Processing of Oysters."
  - A fact sheet on "Post-Harvest Oyster Processing Technologies."
  - Volume 1 of an oyster cookbook.

- Published a seafood guide, “How to Start a Seafood Business in Southern Mississippi,” in April 2007 (4,000 copies).
- Published a seafood business brochure, “How to Start a Seafood Business” in May 2007 (10,000 copies).
- Distributed seafood safety packets to 78 hospitals, medical health clinics and doctor’s offices on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.
- Development of Volume 2 oyster recipes for an Oyster value-added product project.
- Prepared sanitation labels and posters in Spanish and Vietnamese and distributed to the Mississippi seafood industry.
- Semiannual mail-outs to certified Mississippi seafood dealers about industry concerns and food safety, including updated 2002 ISSC Model Ordinance and other educational materials and fact sheets (41 seafood dealers).
- Ongoing assistance to the newly recertified seafood dealers and processors.
- Assisted old and new seafood dealers in their certification and permitting of operations, for a grand total of 51 oyster dealers.
- Assisted two Mississippi seafood dealers in the FDA certification of oyster post-harvest processing operations.

<b>Types of Seafood Facilities Permitted</b>	<b>Number</b>
Shrimp .....	18
Crab .....	10
Oyster .....	23

**Total number of seafood sanitation/processing permits: . . . 51\***

\*These 51 permits represent 506 inspected seafood units.



The Seafood Technology booth at Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival showcases the ever-popular seafood cookbooks. The included recipes are tried and true.



## ***Coastal Ecology Office***

### ***Office Director: Jan Boyd***

#### **Objectives:**

Implementation of the Mississippi Coastal Program is the primary responsibility of the Office of Coastal Ecology. The Mississippi Coastal Program was legislatively mandated in Section 51-15-6 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 and approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under the provisions of the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Act of 1972. In addition to coastal management responsibilities, Coastal Ecology also administers the Coastal Preserves Program, the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Grand Bay NERR), Wetlands Permitting, and other special projects.

The Coastal Ecology Office also:

- Implements and evaluates Coastal Zone projects and programs.
- Implements the Mississippi Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program (CZMA Section 6217).
- Develops and maintains grants and programs for DMR for marine resource management and protection.
- Provides technical assistance to other DMR operations, other state agencies and local governmental bodies.
- Tracks state and federal legislation pertaining to coastal and marine resource management.
- Inspects historical permit files for compliance with mitigation requirements and tracks permits through a database.
- Reviews mitigation required for unavoidable impacts for new permits.
- Represents the agency on the Mitigation Bank Review Team.

#### **Status:**

The DMR receives annual funding from NOAA to meet coastal management objectives. These funds are used to provide personnel salaries and administrative support, purchase equipment and cover required office expenses and travel. Coastal management staff participates in various public outreach and education efforts and provides comments to local news media concerning coastal management issues when requested through the Public Affairs Bureau.

One of the agency's conservation efforts, the Coastal Preserves Program, involves acquiring, protecting and enhancing tidal wetlands along the coast. The Grand Bay NERR in Jackson County is further facilitating wetland research and education by making its resources available to researchers from throughout the country. Many federal, state and local agencies are participating in this program, as well as community organizations, economic development interests and local environmental groups.





## ***Wetlands Permitting Program***

### ***Director: Willa Henriksen***

#### **Objectives:**

The Permitting staff administers the regulatory program under the Coastal Wetlands Protection Act and reviews proposed projects for Coastal Zone Consistency determinations under NOAA Federal Consistency guidelines in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Under the regulatory program, DMR provides information on the Coastal Wetlands Protection Act to the public, evaluates applications for proposed Coastal Wetland impacts, reviews comments from state, federal and local agencies and from the general public, and conducts on-site inspections of proposed project locations. Applications are evaluated in accordance with the Guidelines for Regulated Activities and Decision Factors as stated in the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP). Information gathered during the review is compiled and a DMR recommendation is made to the Commission on Marine Resources to issue, condition or deny major permits. Some activities may require a variance from the Guidelines or the Wetlands Use Plan. If so, staff compiles the necessary data to make such evaluations. Staff members also conduct many pre-application meetings where they give advice to applicants and review potential wetland alterations before an application is filed. This may necessitate an on-site inspection and/or considerable office review time. Permitting staff also verify compliance of permitted activities and investigate potential wetlands violations as well as violations of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 jurisdictional wetlands. The Permitting staff also recommends mitigation, as appropriate, to compensate for wetlands loss.

For Coastal Zone Consistency determinations, applications for USACE Section 404 permits within the three coastal counties of Hancock, Harrison and Jackson and in the Federal Outer Continental Shelf area in the Gulf of Mexico are reviewed for consistency with the Guidelines in the MCP in a similar manner as described above. These reviews are also coordinated with other state and local agencies.

#### **Status:**

- 66 Consistencies
- 58 MMS OCS/NMFS Consistencies
- 3 After the Fact Consistencies
- 4 Exclusions
- 194 General Permits
- 28 General Permit Modifications
- 11 General Permit Extensions
- 4 After the Fact General Permits



A permit was approved by the Commission on Marine Resources for a new casino development at this site of a former casino that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

- 26 Permits
- 4 Permit Modifications
- 2 Permit Extensions
- 4 After the Fact Permits
- 5 Individual Extensions
- 61 Waivers
- 3 Waiver Modifications
- 6 Waiver Extensions
- 3 After the Fact Waivers
- 93 Reviews
- 124 Violations
- 1 Emergency Order Modification



**Giant salvinia covers a canal off the Pascagoula River.**



**Volunteers help clean up storm debris from Deer Island.**

## ***Coastal Preserves Program***

### ***Coordinator: Jeff Clark***

The Coastal Preserves Program (CPP) was developed in 1992 to acquire, protect and manage Mississippi's remaining coastal wetland ecosystems. The state has identified 20 Coastal Preserve sites of important coastal wetland habitat and associated uplands. Acquired lands are managed to safeguard and protect their natural characteristics, ecological integrity, environmental functions and economic and recreational values for the benefit of all Mississippi residents. The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office is an active partner in the program.

The objectives of the CPP are to acquire land within the state's 20 Coastal Preserve areas, protect sensitive coastal habitats, coordinate biological surveys and assessments and develop individual Coastal Preserve management plans. This program is also charged with developing a public outreach and education program to increase public awareness and interest in Mississippi's coastal wetlands, develop partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, and identify alternative approaches to protection and restoration of wetlands along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

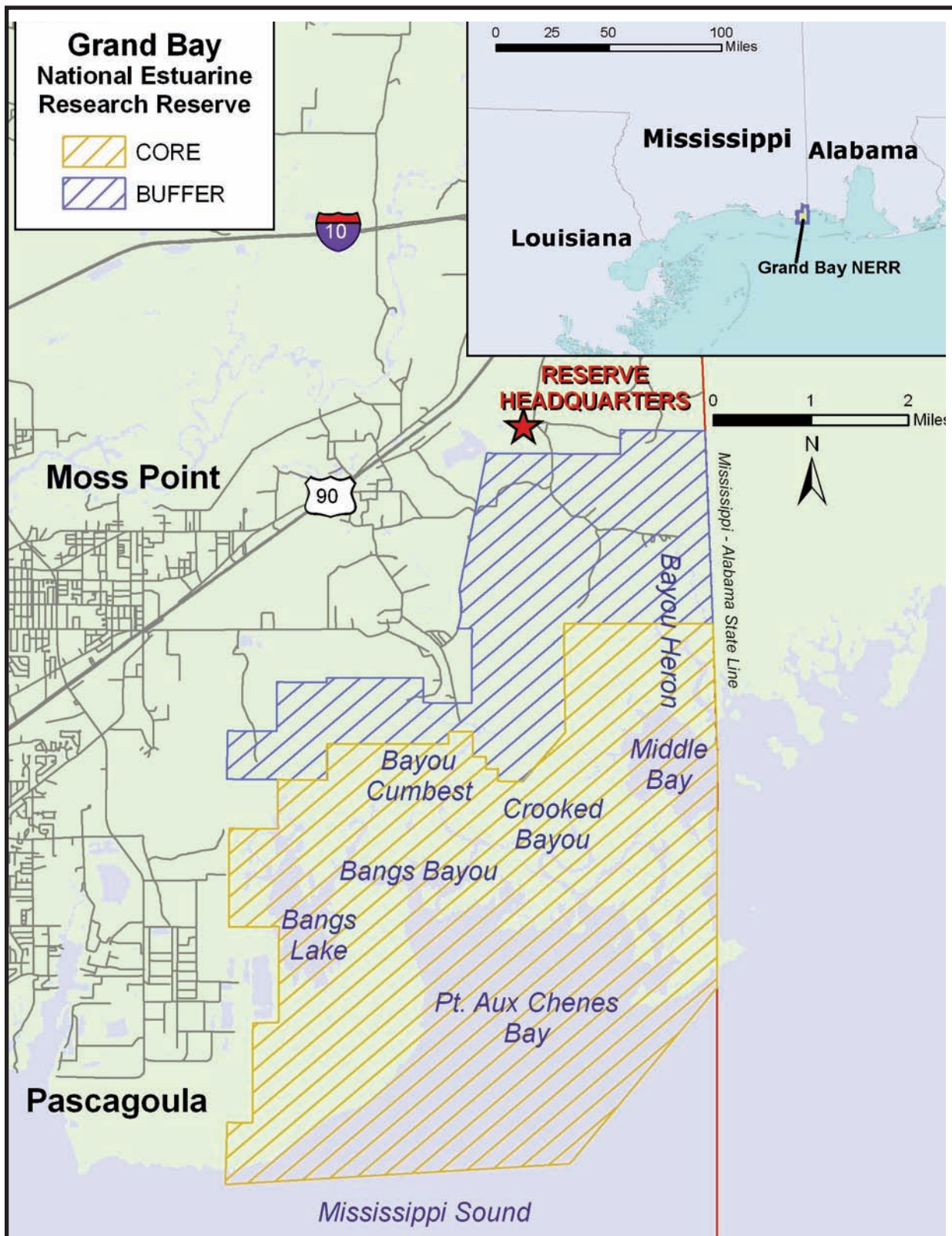
#### **Status:**

Currently, the state has title to approximately 34,884 acres of critical Coastal Preserve habitat. The National Park Service's Gulf Islands National Seashore and U.S. Fish and Wildlife's National Wildlife Refuges own and manage an additional 10,000 acres within the Coastal Preserve boundaries. More than 44,000 of the 72,000 acres identified as critical Coastal Preserve habitat is now protected. The program continues to pursue additional acquisitions.

During FY2007, the CPP has expended much effort in recovering from the impacts of Hurricane Katrina. The program is working closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to remove hazardous hurricane debris from several sites within the Coastal Preserves. The program is also working with volunteers to remove debris from areas deemed too sensitive for heavy machinery. Since the hurricane non-native, invasive species, particularly Giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), Chinese tallowtree (*Triadica sebiferum*), cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*), Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), have greatly increased in abundance. The program is working very hard to minimize the damage caused by these non-native species. We are pursuing an aggressive herbicide program to treat the most heavily infested and sensitive areas. Biological monitoring and habitat restoration activities continue, though most preserves' activities post-Katrina have focused on damage assessment and debris cleanup. Coastal Preserves is working to develop restoration plans and secure funding for restoration activities.

During FY2007, the CPP conducted numerous presentations and field trips on the importance and value of the natural resources in our coastal wetlands. The program partnered with the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to sponsor a wetland plant identification course for state and federal agency personnel. The program is an active partner in the Pascagoula River Basin Alliance, the Pascagoula River Basin Management Team and the Coastal Mississippi Fire Management Cooperative. The development of four public access projects (trails) is on hold until these areas can be cleared of hazardous trees and debris.





## ***Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve***

### ***NERR Manager: David Ruple***

The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Grand Bay NERR), is an 18,500-acre reserve comprised of DMR land and water and the southeastern lands of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) located within Mississippi. The staff members of the reserve facilitate many engaging programs including those addressing coastal stewardship, applied and basic estuarine research, coastal training, habitat monitoring, education, public interpretation and outreach. The DMR serves as lead agency for the reserve, interacting with the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Estuarine Reserves Division, on program development and grant management.

In addition to the DMR partnership with NOAA, local reserve management partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Grand Bay NWR, the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, the Nature Conservancy, the University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State University and a Citizens Advisory Committee. Through its diverse programs and its local, federal and reserve system partnerships, the Grand Bay NERR provides a powerful tool for the Department of Marine Resources and the citizens of Mississippi to aid in the protection of not only Mississippi's natural and heritage resources but also those of the entire Gulf of Mexico region.

#### **Objectives of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System:**

- Protect representative estuaries along the nation's coastline.
- Develop partnerships to jointly manage and protect coastal wetlands.
- Conduct informed management and stewardship of reserve properties.
- Achieve scientific understanding through developing a comprehensive research program.
- Facilitate educational programs that translate scientific research into meaningful information to the general public and stakeholders.

#### **Status of Grand Bay's Program:**

- Continued the educational partnership with the Gulf Coast Research Lab's J.L. Scott Marine Education Center.
- Continued co-sponsoring research with the Environmental Cooperative Science Center through Jackson State University that includes a new on-site program coordinator.
- Redesigned and requested bids for the new reserve facilities, Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center.
- Upgraded the equipment of the System Wide Monitoring Program that provides both water quality and weather monitoring equipment, including one pilot site that provides near real-time data.

- Co-sponsored the annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference.
- Participated in the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair, Renew our Rivers, Wild Wings Ecotourism Festival and Celebrate the Gulf planning task forces.
- Conducted presentations for various civic and environmental organizations.
- Sponsored and facilitated a variety of Coastal Training Program workshops, including a three-part series entitled Money Matters! Maximize Funding for Coastal Resource Projects and a workshop facilitated by the State Floodplain Managers entitled “New Approaches to Floodplain Management for Coastal Communities.”
- Hosted nationally renowned botanist Dr. Robert Mullenbrock to teach a class on wetland vegetation.
- Participated in the planning of the Alabama-Mississippi Bays and Bayous Symposium.
- Recruited and mentored several schools for EstuaryLive.
- Established a Salt Panne Ecology Research Cooperative and completed sampling of the fauna and flora of the Reserve’s salt pannes.
- Continued a Nekton Sampling Program to evaluate the current status of reserve fishes.
- Continued conservation planning work for the saltmarsh topminnow in the northern Gulf of Mexico.
- Established a collaborative project with colleagues at the University of Georgia to study the ecology and conservation of secretive marsh birds.
- Helped design and implement a NERRS-wide Community Education Survey.
- Continued to build up our GIS program and established a Seagrass Monitoring Study.
- Completed a Site Profile, characterizing the flora and fauna of the reserve.
- Continued a study to evaluate the growth and productivity of intertidal oysters at the reserve.
- Collaborated with Louisiana State University and the University of Southern Illinois on a study to evaluate changes in coastal plant communities relating to sea level rise and impacts from hurricanes.

## ***Marine Patrol***

### ***Chief of Enforcement: Col. Walter Chataginer***

Col. Walter J. Chataginer Sr. assumed the responsibility of chief of Marine Patrol in November 2005. He was granted the official title of chief of the State Marine Patrol on Jan. 1, 2006. He started his law enforcement career with the Biloxi Police Department in 1979 and later transferred to the Bureau of Marine Resources in 1988. Col. Chataginer worked for the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks when the Bureau was dissolved. In 1999, he joined the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. Col. Chataginer has enjoyed working 20 years for the State of Mississippi and has accumulated a total of 29 years of law enforcement experience. He is chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee for the Gulf States Marine Commission, as well as a seated member on the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel for the Fisheries Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. Col. Chataginer also sits on the Law Enforcement panel for the ISSC organization.

The Marine Patrol continues to provide marine enforcement of federal and state laws and the ordinances of the Commission on Marine Resources for the protection, propagation preservation and conservation of Mississippi's seafood, aquatic life and associated coastal wetland habitats. Marine Patrol also carries out the enforcement of state and federal laws pertaining to boating safety and provides emergency assistance to marine boaters.

#### **Objectives:**

- Enhance the safety and quality of life in the marine community through the enforcement of federal, state and CMR ordinance law.
- Serve as the leading marine law enforcement agency within the Mississippi Coastal Zone.
- Minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and the environmental impact on coastal and marine waters.
- Provide both emergency and nonemergency assistance to the public.
- Provide 24-hour marine law enforcement.
- Continue to provide forefront leadership and expertise in marine law enforcement.

#### **Status:**

- Twenty-nine officers and four lieutenants provided 24-hour patrols.
- Made 762 cases (violations).
- Conducted 7,033 compliance checks.
- Rendered public assistance to 102 mariners in distress.
- Answered 488 complaint calls.



- Patrolled 23 marine events.
- Investigated 34 boating accidents.
- Acquired 1 new patrol vessels.



**Officer John Grimsley patrols the Mississippi Sound in a new 24-foot boat.**

## ***Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA)***

### ***Coordinator: Lt. Donald Armes***

On Sept. 1, 2006, the Department of Marine Resources entered into agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide law enforcement of federal regulations in both state and federal waters. All patrols were conducted by Marine Patrol officers on an overtime basis.

#### **Objectives:**

- Increase voluntary compliance of the user groups.
- Increase contact with recreational and commercial fishermen.
- Detect and apprehend mutilation of shark species.
- Increase boardings of commercial shrimp vessels.
- Detect and apprehend blatant violators fishing with dysfunctional turtle excluder devices and bycatch reduction devices.
- Investigate all allegations of turtle harvest.
- Inspect dealers and commercial vessels landings.

#### **Status:**

<b>DMR Marine Patrol Statistics</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Vessel Checks - Commercial . . . . .	.298
Vessel Checks - Recreational . . . . .	1,387
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Commercial . . . . .	.657
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Recreational . . . . .	2,664
Fishery Violations - Federal . . . . .	.12
Fishery Violations - State . . . . .	.58
Fishery Warnings . . . . .	.15
Shore Patrol Hours . . . . .	.773
Offshore Patrol Vessel Hours . . . . .	1,947
Total Man Hours . . . . .	6,513



Officers Justin Amacker and John Ladner confiscate illegal sharks.

## ***Telecommunications***

### ***Supervisor: Amy Taylor***

The Marine Patrol Telecommunications Bureau provides day and night dispatch and serves as a communications link between the general public, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and the Marine Patrol officers in the field. Program responsibilities include monitoring the telecommunications network for emergency response, changing weather conditions and marine violations, transmitting messages between law enforcement field officers and other public safety agencies, exchanging information with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), as required, and maintaining constant radio contact with field personnel in order to maximize officer safety. The Telecommunications Bureau continues to work closely and coordinate with Marine Patrol management and field personnel in order to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and environmental impact on coastal and marine waters.

#### **Objectives:**

- Maintain day and night radio communications for law enforcement and emergency response purposes, monitor weather conditions, coordinate with other public safety agencies and operate NCIC as needed.
- Determine and dispatch the most appropriate and best-equipped personnel to emergency calls and illegal activity by location and nature of call.
- Track all citations, fine payments, stops, boating accidents, miscellaneous complaints and public safety calls in order to determine how to best utilize resources.
- Procurement and maintenance of most-updated radio communications equipment.
- Coordinate with management and local agencies to ensure proper coverage in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.
- Maintain well-trained communications staff and get certification for in-house instructors for dispatch and law enforcement personnel.

#### **Status:**

- Obtained approval to purchase new radio system for Marine Patrol.
- Provided day and night dispatch for Marine Patrol.
- Prepared monthly commission reports.
- Processed 1,096 issued citations.
- Obtained and completed NECI training for three dispatchers.
- Received 447 public service requests and reports of illegal activity, dispatched officers to 24 boat accidents and recorded 18 special marine events.



- Recorded and logged 5,072 stops made by officers on regular patrols.
- Alerted Public Affairs Bureau to media inquiries and after-hours emergencies.
- Successfully completed NCIC audit.
- Enrolled students in 12 boat and water safety classes.



Marine Patrol Dispatcher Craig Brown patiently waits for calls while on duty.

## ***Boat and Water Safety***

### ***Supervisor: Lt. Frank Wescovich***

Lt. Frank Wescovich, whose primary job is the boating safety supervisor, is also responsible for several other programs, including public education, public outreach and presentations, emergency response and Homeland Security coordination, and coordination of local marine events.

We are pleased to report that boating safety classes are back in operation after being shut down for more than a year after Katrina destroyed our boating safety complex.

#### **Objectives:**

- To provide nationally accredited and readily available boating safety education classes to the general public, so as to ultimately reduce the number and severity of boating accidents that occur in our area.
- To provide the general public with direct exposure to boating safety information and literature through a series of public outreach programs and presentations which are conducted throughout the three coastal counties of Mississippi.
- To provide an emergency response coordination officer 24/7, which allows effective liaison and coordination with other state and local response agencies and ensures timely and correct emergency response to Homeland Security incidents, oil pollution incidents and other environmental emergencies that occur in our area.
- To coordinate planning and oversight of local marine events, including the issuance of permits for the many marine events that are conducted in our area.

#### **Status:**

##### **Boating Education:**

DMR Marine Patrol's Boating Safety Program is operated from the fifth floor of the Bolton Building at 1141 Bayview Ave. in Biloxi.

- Conducted 31 boating safety classes in the year 2007, resulting in the certification of 386 persons.

##### **Public Outreach and Presentations:**

- Conducted seven public outreach programs/presentations with a total of 375 participants.

##### **Emergency Response and Homeland Security:**

- Received 48 reports of pollution incidents through the Mississippi Office of Emergency Management from USCG National Response Center. These reports were investigated and the necessary follow-up action was taken.

- Attended Hurricane Response and Homeland Security drill/exercise at Jackson MEMA Emergency Operations Center.
- Attended joint federal/state Homeland Security exercise for the Port of Gulfport.
- Insured National Incident Management System training required for all Marine Patrol personnel was completed within required timeframe to certify DMR as NIMS compliant as required by FEMA.



From left, Officers Jack Ewing, Patrick Webb, Jeffrey Payne and Patrick Carron patrol Horn Island.

## ***In-Service Training***

### ***Coordinator: Sr. Msgt. Richard Cooley***

A Marine Patrol Training Program was started in August 2001 to provide a standard training curriculum for all new officers, continued education of veteran officers and training necessary for reserve officers.

#### **Objectives:**

- Conduct realistic officer survival training sessions in order to enhance chances of officer survival.
- Conduct annual in-service training as necessary as technology expands, hazards increase and laws change.
- Conduct in-service training classes for new recruits.
- Send officers to a variety of outside schools to broaden their knowledge of threats increasing their value of service to the public.

#### **Status:**

- Three officers completed the Asian Organized Crime class at the Regional Counter Drug Training Academy at the Meridian Naval Air Station.
- Two officers completed NRA Patrol Rifle Instructor class at the State Academy in Pearl.
- Two fire arms instructors completed TEAM ONE Advanced Fire Arms Three Gun Instructor Class at the Gulfport Firing Range.
- One officer completed day Remington Shotgun Armorer class in Nashville, Tenn.
- Four officers completed Federal Fisheries Boarding class with the Coast Guard.
- One officer completed Intoxilyzer 8000 class.
- Two officers completed a grant writing workshop.
- Nine officers completed Interview and Interrogation class at the Regional Counter Drug Training Academy at the Meridian Naval Air Station.
- Five officers completed METH Lab Safety class at the Regional Counter Drug Training Academy at the Meridian Naval Air Station.
- Thirteen officers completed Survival Spanish for Uniformed Officers at the Regional Counter Drug Training Academy at the Meridian Naval Air Station.



- Two officers completed Video Techniques for Law Enforcement Officers at the Regional Counter Drug Training Academy at the Meridian Naval Air Station.
- Three officers completed Intelligent Fundamentals for Law Enforcement at the Regional Counter Drug Training Academy at the Meridian Naval Air Station.
- Two officers completed Patrol Officers Response to Street Drugs at the Regional Counter Drug Training Academy at the Meridian Naval Air Station.
- Thirty officers completed DMR Fish Identification class.
- Two officers completed Bushmaster Rifle Armorer class at the Blackwater Training Center in North Carolina.
- Thirty-four officers completed M-4 Rifle Familiarization, Training, and Qualifications.
- Five officers completed GLOCK Armorer Class.
- Eleven officers completed a Fred Pryor “Dealing with Difficult People” seminar.
- Seven officers completed a Fred Pryor “Managing Multiple Priorities, Projects, and Deadlines” seminar.
- One officer completed First Aid and CPR Instructor Course.
- Two officers completed Microsoft Excel Computer class.
- Eight officers completed BUI Class with Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.
- One officer completed the State Law Enforcement Academy in Pearl.



**Officers Christina Young and Kyle Wilkerson perform a training exercise at the shooting range.**

## ***Dive Team***

### ***Dive Team Leader: Sr. Msgt. Richard Cooley***

The Marine Patrol Dive Team was organized in August 2002 to expand Marine Patrol's capabilities and service to the public and to provide assistance to other agencies.

#### **Objectives:**

- The constant education of Marine Patrol divers.
- Cross training with all dive teams in the three coastal counties.
- Rescue when possible those victims within the "golden hour."
- Recovery of drowning victims when diver risk does not outweigh diver safety.

#### **Status:**

- Participated in both days of diving at the Bay St. Louis Bridge construction collapse. More of our dive team members dove than from any other team those two days.
- Divers assisted in the investigation and recovery of a capsized vessel in Biloxi Bay.
- Three more divers completed Wreck Penetration Class.
- Divers recovered a vehicle in Gulfport Lake.
- The Dive Team assisted in the investigation of a capsized vessel and drowning south of Pascagoula.
- Divers recovered a wrecked vehicle from a creek off Ceasar Nicaise Road in Hancock County and searched the water for victims.



**Officer Matt Kasovich during  
dive training exercises.**



## ***Reserve Unit***

***Designee: Sr. Msgt. Richard Cooley***

State Statute 49-15-21 established a Marine Patrol Reserve Unit in 1985 to assist the enforcement officers in the performance of their duties. The Marine Patrol Reserve Unit was transferred and placed under the executive director of the Department of Marine Resources in March 2002.

### **Objectives:**

- Assist with regular patrols.
- Assist with all major marine events.
- Obtain sufficient Marine Patrol Reserve members to meet any Patrol needs.
- Train as necessary to assist the Marine Patrol officers in the field.

### **Status:**

- Assisted in patrols of all major marine events.
- One officer was hired on as a Marine Patrol officer.
- Provided assistance for the opening of shrimp season.
- Provided assistance for the boat races.
- Reserve officers regularly assisted in patrols.
- Conducted two days of Fire Arms Qualifications.



## ***License Sales***

***Coordinator: Russell Doucet***

### **Objectives:**

It is the objective of the license sales department to maintain the fishing license system; to set up accounts and subsequent license orders; maintain account balances by agent, license type and license number; timely depositing of all license revenues; and accounting for overall sales data by license type.

### **Status:**

The Administrative Services Office is responsible for selling commercial marine licenses and resident fresh and saltwater licenses. License sales personnel are busiest during the second quarter of the fiscal year, as all commercial licenses expire on April 30. Recreational licenses expire one year from date of purchase. In addition to selling licenses on a daily basis, license sales personnel communicate with the public on a regular basis. Providing accurate information to the public is important when dealing with regulatory matters such as the opening and closing dates of various fishing seasons, catch limits on the fisheries and license requirements. The consequence of error can be great.



**DMR License Agent Russell Doucet communicates accurate information to the public every day.**

## FISCAL YEAR 2007 LICENSE SALES

License Type	# SOLD	\$ AMOUNT
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### Resident Licenses

Captain's License	.41	\$410.00
Charter/Fishing/Party Boat	.83	\$16,600.00
Crab	.153	\$11,475.00
Crab for Shrimp/Oyster	.64	\$4,800.00
Fishing Boat License	.126	\$12,600.00
Interstate Commerce	.272	\$5,440.00
Interstate Commerce for Charter Boats	.59	\$1,180.00
Live Bait License-Boat	.13	\$1,430.00
Live Bait License-Dealer	.13	\$650.00
Menhaden Boat & Net	.8	\$1,200.00
Menhaden Processor	.1	\$500.00
Oyster Dredging	.25	\$2,750.00
Oyster Tonging	.18	\$1,080.00
Recreational Crab	.504	\$2,520.00
Recreational Oyster	.16	\$160.00
Recreational Shrimp	.264	\$3,960.00
Resident Commercial Hook & Line/Vessel Gig	.105	\$10,500.00
Residential Commercial Hook & Line/Fisherman/Gig	.147	\$14,700.00
Seafood Processor	.56	\$11,200.00
Seafood Dealer	.149	\$14,900.00
Resident Eel Fishing License	.1	\$100.00
Seafood Transport	.16	\$1,600.00
Shrimp/Captain 30-45'	.147	\$12,495.00
Shrimp/Captain 46' over	.218	\$23,980.00
Shrimp/Captain under 30'	.108	\$6,480.00

<b>Total Resident License Sales</b>	<b>.2,607</b>	<b>\$162,710.00</b>
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### Louisiana Resident Licenses

Louisiana Resident Commercial Crab	.1	\$660.00
Louisiana Resident Gear (1 trawl)	.0	\$0.00
Louisiana Resident Menhaden/Vessel/Comm + Named Captain	.2	\$5,380.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Dredging	.0	\$0.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Dredging w/current MS Shrimp License	.0	\$0.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Harvester	.0	\$0.00
Louisiana Resident Recreational Crab	.13	\$520.00
Louisiana Resident Recreational Shrimp	.1	\$100.00
Louisiana Resident Seafood Dealer	.16	\$18,400.00
Louisiana Resident Seafood Dealer Vehicle	.48	\$1,440.00
Louisiana Resident Shrimp (1 Trawl) + Captain License	.1	\$700.00

Louisiana Resident Shrimp (2 Trawl) + Captain License. ....	20	.....	\$16,000.00
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<b>Total Louisianasna Resident License Sales .....</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>\$43,200.00</b>
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#### Alabama Licenses

Alabama Charter Boat 7-25 people. ....	1	.....	\$300.00
Alabama Oyster Dredging .....	0	.....	\$0.00
Alabama Oyster Tonging .....	2	.....	\$220.00
Alabama Minnow License .....	2	.....	\$202.00
Alabama Seafood Dealer .....	8	.....	\$2,000.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain 30'-45' .....	29	.....	\$2,465.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain 46' over .....	70	.....	\$7,700.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain under 30' .....	4	.....	\$240.00
Alabama Charter Boat 6 or fewer people .....	2	.....	\$400.00
Alabama Crab .....	11	.....	\$2,200.00

<b>Total Alabama Resident License Sales .....</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>\$15,727.00</b>
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#### All Other States

Crab for Shrimp/Oyster Boats .....	0	.....	\$0.00
Nonresident Charter Boat .....	3	.....	\$600.00
Fishing Boat .....	13	.....	\$3,900.00
Hook/Line/Vessell .....	1	.....	\$400.00
Hook/Line/Fisherman/Gig .....	2	.....	\$800.00
Recreational Crab .....	5	.....	\$25.00
Recreational Shrimp .....	2	.....	\$60.00
Seafood Dealer .....	10	.....	\$2,000.00
Shrimp 30'-45' Out-of-State + Captain License .....	12	.....	\$1,920.00
Shrimp over 45' +Captain License .....	50	.....	\$10,500.00
Shrimp under 30' + Captain License .....	1	.....	\$110.00
Texas Commercial Shrimp. ....	0	.....	\$0.00

<b>Total Other License Sales .....</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>\$20,315.00</b>
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<b>GRAND TOTAL .....</b>	<b>2,937</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>\$241,952.00</b>
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Residents from other states are assessed the identical license fees that Mississippi residents are charged to conduct similar activities in those states as provided under Section 49-15-30 of the Mississippi Code.





## ***Information Technology***

### ***Coordinator: Sylvia Knight***

#### **Objectives:**

The Information Technology Bureau (ITB) Program exists to aid policymakers and programmatic personnel in accomplishing their tasks and to support the business goals of the agency. To accomplish this, vast amounts of data are both available and required. Computer technology provides the method to store, access and apply the information available to the task at hand. Each office of the DMR requires ITB services to accomplish the following goals and objectives:

- Network maintenance and administration.
- Hardware and software purchase and maintenance.
- Database development and management.
- Internet, intranet and e-mail management and maintenance.
- Web site(s) development, management and maintenance.

#### **Status:**

The following accomplishments highlight the work of the program during FY 2007:

- Supported 150 plus personnel and over 250 computers, laptops, servers, printers and storage devices.
- Supported the agency phone system and voice mail.
- Supported the e-mail service that makes e-mail available through the Internet at all times.
- Supported Blackberry cell phones making communications easier and more convenient for agency employees.
- Established procedures for offsite backups to secure the agency's data. Began working towards procuring more state-of-the-art servers and storage to enable electronic backups and to provide data and processing redundancy.
- Worked with ITS to install a DS3 line in the Bolton Building which now provides the agency with approximately ten times the bandwidth than what was available with the T1 line.
- Installed new Help Desk management software that enables agency employees to submit, review and manage service requests to ITB.
- Provided Web development services.

- Provided database development and management services.
- Provided customer service to all agency employees.



**Al Warburton is the lead systems administrator for Information Technology at DMR.**

## ***Property Management***

### ***Coordinator: Leo Christie***

#### **Objectives:**

It is the objective of the Property Management Program to maintain accountability for all state property items under the Department of Marine Resources management, to submit all required reports to the Office of Property and to assist with the annual property Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) report as pertains to acquisition/disposal. The Property Management Program also maintains all pool vehicles to ensure their operational readiness at all times.

#### **Status:**

An overview of property inventory activities in FY07:

Number of equipment items on inventory beginning July 1, 2006 .....	2,488
Cost of additions to inventory .....	\$1,224,446.41
Cost of deletions to inventory .....	\$1,365,841.36
Number of items on inventory as of June 30, 2007 .....	2,308
Number of buildings on inventory as of June 30, 2007 .....	17
Beginning balance of all inventory items as of July 1, 2006 .....	\$7,952,145.69
Ending balance of all inventory items as of June 30, 2007 .....	\$7,882,520.90

Katrina losses were processed during FY 2007 during the first annual audit by Jackson since the hurricane. The Lyman fish hatchery was added to equipment records in April 2007.



Above is new equipment acquired for the Lyman fish hatchery by Leo Christie, DMR property officer.



## ***Purchasing***

### ***Coordinator: Beth Roberts***

#### **Objectives:**

The Purchasing Program objectives are to cooperate with the Office of Purchasing and Travel and other regulatory agencies in complying with all Mississippi purchasing rules and regulations, assist employees within the agency in all aspects of purchasing and promote competition among vendors, thereby reducing costs.

#### **Status:**

An overview of purchasing activities in FY07:

P-1 approval obtained from state purchasing	.37
Purchase orders issued	1,600
Conducted formal bid openings	14
General service contracts processed	60
State Personnel Board contracts processed	7
Amount of expenditures made with procurement cards	\$173,083

Purchasing continues to be dedicated to supporting the various programs provided by the DMR through the procurement of equipment, supplies and contractual services in a timely manner.



Janet Doucet and Karen Carron coordinate purchases for DMR offices.





## **Accounting:**

### **Coordinator: Kara Vesa**

#### **Objectives:**

It is the objective of the accounting department to maintain all financial records for the department to include accounts payable, accounts receivable, revenue support systems, general ledgers, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) financial reporting, payroll, budget/appropriation assistance, bank reconciliations, cash management, etc.

#### **Status:**

An overview of property accounting activities in FY07:

- Processed 3,526 payment vouchers.
- Seventy-one payrolls processed for an average of 168 employees each month; review and input data from timesheets into payroll system.
- Special fund revenues in excess of \$4 million were deposited in the treasury through approximately 180 receipt transactions.
- Federal grant accounting was performed on approximately 50 various grants through the Department of Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Joint Enforcement Agreement. This resulted in revenues totaling over \$15 million.
- Over 275 travel packets reviewed, processed and approved for payment.



## ***Clean Vessel Act***

### ***Coordinator: Rhonda Price***

The Clean Vessel Act Program's mission is to enhance, protect and conserve the coastal resources of Mississippi through the installation and maintenance of pump-outs. The grant is provided by the Department of Marine Resources in cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program. It is a cost reimbursable grant that pays for 75 percent of the cost to install pump-outs or pump-out boats.

#### **Objectives:**

The program objectives are to monitor the maintenance and operations of marinas that have installed pump-outs at their facility, making sure they provide adequate service to the public in concert with the agreements of the grant. Outreach programs also will be initiated to promote public awareness about nonpoint source pollution and the Clean Vessel Act Program. The program also plans to increase the number of pump-outs located throughout Mississippi.

#### **Status:**

To date there are 20 inland pump-outs with six under construction. There were 25 pump-outs installed on the coast, but all were lost to Hurricane Katrina. Since there were no functioning pump-outs along the coast, the DMR commissioned Mississippi's first pump-out boat, which is operated by Mitchell Marine. Since the storm the pump-out boat has been a great asset to boaters local and transit. New funds allocated for the coastal program will re-establish at least six new pump-outs and most of them being slip-to-slip designs, which will allow boaters leasing those slips a more convenient and expeditious way to pump out their boats. The pump-out boat was purchased with funds allocated under the Clean Vessel Act Program and our budget for fiscal year 2007 was \$119,000 for coastal and \$108,000 for inland. The program is currently undergoing reauthorization for six more years.



A stand-alone unit is hooked up to the hydrant at a dock using a slip-to-slip pump-out.



A stand-alone slip-to-slip pump-out unit located in the middle of the dock provides the boater with a convenient method of pumping out.



## ***Derelict Vessel Removal***

### ***Coordinator: Irvin Jackson***

#### **Objectives:**

The principal objectives of this program are to enforce state laws through removal and disposal of derelict vessels, thereby, protecting our environment and keeping our coastal wetlands and navigable waterways safe for use by the general public. Tidelands Trust Funds are requested each year to achieve these objectives.

#### **Status:**

FY2007 continued to be a challenging year for our program. Hurricane Katrina created numerous derelict vessels that caused health and safety issues as well as hazards to navigation. The Derelict Vessel Removal Program has worked closely with the U.S. Coast Guard and FEMA to remove many of these vessels under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Others were handled by private owners and their insurance companies.

During the year, five vessels were removed under the Derelict Vessel Removal Program. In addition to this, approximately 50 derelict vessels of various sizes have been removed under the Marine Debris Removal Mission with the U.S. Coast Guard and funded by FEMA. Since inception of the Derelict Vessel Removal Program in May 1998, we have removed 175 vessels from the waterways of Harrison, Hancock and Jackson counties.

**Examples of derelict vessels  
in the Mississippi waters.**





## ***Public Affairs Program***

### ***Coordinator: Lauren Thompson***

Through a proactive program of community outreach, education, public information, and legislative and media relations, Public Affairs promotes awareness of the Department of Marine Resources, its roles, responsibilities and programs in balancing economic interests with enhancing, protecting, managing and conserving Mississippi's marine resources.

#### **Objectives:**

- Enthusiastically support and promote the Department's mission both externally and internally.
- Accurately report on departmental program activities and disseminate this information to the citizens and guests of the Mississippi Gulf Coast in a timely manner.
- Continually improve the public's perception of the Department by responding promptly and thoroughly to public requests for information.
- Maintain open lines of communications within the Department and between the DMR and Mississippi citizens, legislators, agencies and media.
- Proactively handle crisis communications for the Department, such as, boating accidents or fish kills, and controversial issues, and respond promptly to media inquiries.
- Plan and schedule DMR events and participation in outreach activities, partnering with public and private entities whenever possible.
- Develop timely, newsworthy, effective, high-quality deliverables that promote the missions of Marine Fisheries, Coastal Ecology and Marine Patrol and educate the public.
- Ensure all DMR programs are promoted effectively to maximize news coverage in order to keep the public informed.

#### **Status:**

In fiscal year 2007, the Public Affairs staff reached large volumes of diverse audiences through producing a variety of marine environment publications and displays, organizing media coverage of DMR programs, coordinating educational outreach activities with Coast schools and DMR partners and participating in 43 public education, community outreach and marine-related events across South Mississippi. About 26,000 people visited the DMR exhibits and obtained DMR information at these events. Public Affairs distributed about 98,600 brochures to the public.

During fiscal year 2007, Public Affairs printed 12 individual publications (quantity of 117,800) and 10 individual educational/outreach items (quantity of 60,500) for a total of 178,300 items. Among the items produced were 40,000 copies of "A Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing: Rules and Regulations," 10,000 pocket guides to size and possession limits, 7,500 copies of



the educational activity book for children “CoastWorks,” 3,000 folders of education activity material to teach children the dangers of marine debris and 20,000 saltwater fish identification posters.

DMR Public Affairs also partnered with the Clarion-Ledger and Newspapers in Education to produce an Earth Day 2007 tabloid, which was distributed to schools and at Earth Day events. The 20-page publication taught children about different ways to protect their environment and how students can make a difference.

Two major educational outreach programs organized and coordinated by DMR Public Affairs are the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, held every year in September in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup, and the annual calendar contest, which solicits art entries from area schoolchildren to spotlight in the Marine Information Calendar.

During the 2006 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, more than 3,200 volunteers picked up 63,000 pounds of trash at 43 sites along 147 miles of beaches and shorelines in the three Coast counties. More than 990 entries from 37 schools were submitted to the DMR calendar art contest. Students in grades 3 through 6 were asked to create artwork illustrating the contest theme: “Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi’s Coastal Resources.” The winning artwork was featured in the 2007 calendar.

Public Affairs also plans and promotes with Grand Bay NERR and partners, Celebrate the Gulf, a free festival that features hands-on exhibits addressing marine and estuarine environmental issues and recreational and commercial activities associated with the Gulf.

### **Publications:**

- Four 12-page issues of Coastal Markers, DMR external newsletter
- 2007-2008 Guide to Saltwater Fishing Rules and Regulations book
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources 2007 Marine Information Calendar (includes tide charts, sunrise/sunset times, moon phases, size/possession limits, reef coordinates, MS saltwater fishing state records, boating safety information, student artwork)
- Mississippi Boater’s Guide (includes equipment checklist, pump-out locations, marine litter sticker), reprinted
- CoastWorks: A student activity book about Mississippi’s Coastal Resources, reprinted
- Pocket Guide: Mississippi Saltwater Recreational Fishing Size & Possession Limits, reprinted twice
- Annual report
- Saltwater fish identification posters
- Marine Debris Awareness student activity folders

**Educational/Outreach Items:**

- Recycled denim pencils with DMR phone number/Web site
- Marine Patrol boating safety/emergency phone number key fobs
- Fish measuring ruler stickers, reprinted
- Jr. Marine Patrol stickers
- Pens with DMR phone number/Web site
- Bookmarks with boater's pledge to protect fish habitat
- Marine debris awareness plastic litter bags
- Turtle stickers with marine debris message
- Marine Patrol boater safety whistles
- Can You Identify these Marine Resources? wooden rulers

**Media Coverage:**

Public affairs produced and disseminated 101 news releases and responded to media inquiries that resulted in 522 articles published in 19 local, national and international news publications and Web sites, more than 28 television news broadcasts and numerous radio news reports. Public Affairs staff reported more than 350 conversations with media contacts in FY07.

For its role as state coordinator of the 2006 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, DMR Public Affairs accepted on behalf of DMR and its partners a Keep Mississippi Beautiful award in the State category at an awards luncheon in Jackson in April 2007 and a KMB Partnership Award. This is the seventh consecutive year the DMR has received Keep Mississippi Beautiful awards.

Nationally, DMR Public Affairs received two 2007 Blue Pencil Awards for the 2006 "Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi's Coastal Resources" Marine Information Calendar and the Coastal Markers newsletter at the annual National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) Communications School held in April 2007 in Oak Brook, Ill.

DMR Public Affairs served on various local, state, regional and national public education and community outreach task forces, panels and committees such as the National Marine Debris Advisory Panel, Gulf of Mexico Alliance workshop planning team, Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Marine Debris Project, and as state coordinator for Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.

In FY 2008, Public Affairs will print a marine information calendar, Boating Safety/Clean Vessel Act brochure, fish measuring ruler stickers, and pocket guide to size and possession limits. Under development are reprinting of educational items, coastal resources student art contest and promotion of a fishing line recycling program expected to launch in FY 2008.



**DMR Public Relations Director Lauren Thompson updates local media on progress of marine debris removal in the Mississippi Sound.**



**DMR Public Relations representatives Marti Schuman and Susan Perkins distribute brochures to legislators during Capitol Day in Jackson.**

# ***Human Resources Management***

## ***Coordinator: Dorothy L. Daniel***

### **Objectives:**

The Human Resources Office is dedicated to providing human resources services to both internal and external customers in the areas of recruitment; selection; retention; classification; compensation; organizational structure; staffing management; personnel budgeting; professional development training; benefits administration, including cafeteria plan enrollment, leave policy interpretation and Workers' Compensation administration; personnel records management; human resources compliance with applicable state and federal laws; job content questionnaire and performance appraisal review; and oversight of discipline, grievance and appeals. The human resources staff strives to provide these functions in a manner that reflects high standards of excellence and timeliness, is accurate and cost effective, is provided in a courteous fashion and is legally defensible.

### **FY 2007 Accomplishments:**

- Revived the DMR/Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Intern Program in the aftermath of Katrina.
- Conducted New Employee Orientation for all new employees.
- Maintained an active recruitment network with local WIN Job Centers, Mississippi Colleges and Universities, Stennis Space Center and Keesler Air Force Base.
- Re-obtained 100% compliance with the State Performance Appraisal Review system, as is required by law after all electronic files were lost as a result of Hurricane Katrina.
- Expanded each of the three professional classification series to include a fifth level in order to increase employee retention.
- Continued to monitor the DMR's personnel expenditures for compliance and cost continuation.
- Conducted annual comprehensive salary survey in order to keep the DMR's unique job classifications' starting salaries competitive with the labor market for comparable jobs.
- Provided guidance to the DMR's employee-driven Insurance Committee, and facilitated its activities in conducting an employee benefits needs assessment for supplemental insurance products and Cafeteria Plan Enrollment.
- Actively participated in several human resources professional organizations, training activities and professional development seminars.
- Conducted and/or sponsored numerous in-house professional development trainings.
- Provided oversight of a comprehensive audit of the DMR human resources management system.



- Conducted a comprehensive audit of all DMR personnel policies.

### **FY 2008 Challenges:**

- Research and develop a unique classification series for the research and education activities performed at the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR); validate the job descriptions; and secure approval by the State Personnel Board for implementation.
- Solicit the assistance of the State Personnel Board and other interested parties in the DMR's efforts to recruit for diversity.
- Continue to refine the DMR Educational Benchmark system and secure approval by the State Personnel Board of new programmatic benchmarks.
- Facilitate the validation of the three new levels of classification for the DMR's existing professional classifications, i.e., DMR-Seafood Officer V; DMR-Coastal Resource Management Specialist V; and DMR-Marine Fisheries Scientist V. Facilitate the validation of the DMR-Chief of Staff and DMR-Deputy Director classifications.
- Expand the DMR/MGCCC Intern program.
- Develop and implement programs and activities designed to enhance professional development and retention of DMR employees.
- Expand the DMR Classification and Compensation Plan to include DMR specific classifications for upper-level management.
- Work with information technology personnel to implement the DMR's human resources management system (ABRA).
- Convene a committee to review and update DMR personnel policies.
- Update the human resources policy manual.
- Provide administrative oversight for the Marine Patrol Reserve program.



**Personnel Officer Sandra Moore, Human Resources Director Dorothy Daniel and Personnel Officer Lauren Clark keep things on the up-and-up in Human Resources.**

**Tidelands and Liaison Office**  
**Tidelands Grant Management**  
**Coordinator: Joe Ziegler**

**Objectives:**

Section 29-15-9 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 (Annotated), which establishes the Tidelands Trust Fund, specifies:

***“Any funds derived from lease rentals of tidelands and submerged lands, except those funds derived from mineral leases, or funds previously specifically designated to be applied to other agencies, shall be transferred to the special fund. However, funds derived from lease rentals may be used to cover the administrative cost incurred by the Secretary of State. Any remaining funds derived from lease rentals shall be disbursed pro rata to the local taxing authorities for the replacement of lost ad valorem taxes, if any. Then, any remaining funds shall be disbursed to the commission for new and extra programs of tidelands management, such as conservation, reclamation, preservation, acquisition, education or the enhancement of public access to the public trust tidelands or public improvement projects as they relate to those lands.”***

Section 29-15-10 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 (Annotated), which established the Public Trust Tidelands Assessments Fund, specifies:

***“There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to be known as the Public Trust Tidelands Assessments Fund. The purpose of the fund is to ensure that monies derived from the public trust tidelands assessments shall be used for the benefit of preserving and protecting the tidelands and submerged lands found within the three (3) most southern counties of the state. One (1) specific purpose of the fund is to ensure that the annual payment made by the state for the purchase of Deer Island shall continue uninterrupted until the purchase transaction is completed.”***

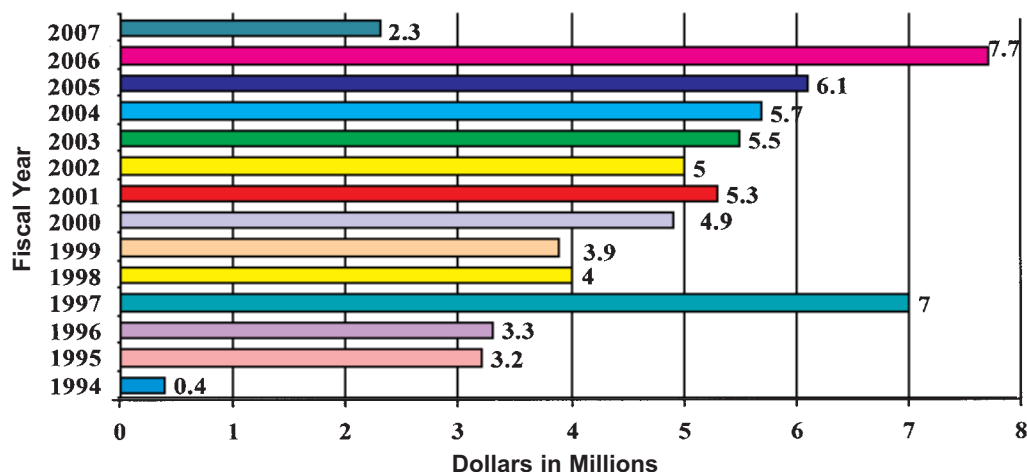
Funds paid pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection may be appropriated by the Legislature in an amount necessary to cover the administrative cost incurred by the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources. Any remaining funds shall be disbursed by the commission for new and extra programs of tidelands management, such as conservation, reclamation, preservation, acquisition, education or the enhancement of public access to the public trust tidelands or public improvement projects as they relate to those lands.

The Department of Marine Resources shall make funds available for the purpose of using such funds as a match or leverage for federal or other funds that are available for the designated tidelands project.



## Status:

The following chart depicts Tidelands funding distribution by fiscal year since the program's inception:



## Tidelands Fiscal Year 2007

The DMR Tidelands & Liaison Office disbursed funds for the following categories of projects.

- Deer Island Bond Payment
- Marine Studies and Project Initiatives

**Total Funds Disbursed: \$2.3 million**



From left, state Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Biloxi, DMR Chief of Staff Joe Ziegler, state Rep. Randall Patterson, D-Biloxi, state Rep. Roger Ishee, R-Gulfport, state Sen. Billy Hewes III, DMR Executive Director William Walker, Secretary of State Eric Clark and state Rep. Michael Janus, R-Biloxi.

# ***Comprehensive Resource Management Plan***

## ***Coordinator: Tina Shumate***

The overall objective of the Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) process is to build the capacity of state and local governments to manage and protect coastal wetlands and marine resources in Mississippi. The objective will be accomplished through coordinating agency efforts, developing the necessary partnerships among public and private entities, and integrating wetland protection and management into the lifestyle of the coastal community. The overall mission is “to develop a plan to sustain Mississippi’s coastal resources and to provide for a healthy economy in the coastal area.”

The work focuses on four principal objectives as described below. There are four programs within the CRMP. The first is a planning assistance program to assist the 11 coastal cities and six coastal counties with planning needs for their regions. The second is a smart growth program. This program is designed to assist the six-county region with education on smart growth. The program began with the Storm Water Toolbox. The third program is the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Designation. This program is the newest of the programs. The idea is to continue growth of the economy by use of the natural resources, heritage, and recreational and historical assets in the six-county region. The fourth program is the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). Grants from this program total \$120 million for the six coastal counties of Mississippi.

### **Objectives:**

- Advancing science and technology for evaluating, protecting and restoring wetland health.
- Developing plans and management tools for the protection of wetland resources by state and local government.
- Facilitating the development of watershed stakeholder partnerships.
- Improving public access to and education about wetland information.

### **Status and activities:**

- Creation and continued updates to internal and external Internet mapping service. Updates include most up-to-date aerial imagery, Hurricane Katrina-related recovery/educational data, pertinent data related to internal natural resource protection and informative data.
- Responded to over a hundred requests for coastal-related geospatial data from federal, state, city, NGO and private stakeholders and partners. These data requests had an average deliverable data size of 6.2 GB. Delivery method included e-mail, DVD, external hard drive and FTP site.
- Initiated and administered the collaborative effort to improve and enhance the collection, assimilation, use, reporting capacity and analysis of natural resource/wetland impact data amassed for the Coastal Zone of Mississippi. This process will greatly improve the capacity of DMR to quickly and efficiently respond to the many statistics-based performance

measure inquiries and questions regarding the habitat and land-use changes and trends occurring on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

- Initiated and administered the current effort to locate, scan and georectify historical aerial imagery dating back to the 1940s for the Mississippi Gulf Coast.
- Continued in-house revision of the CRMP Potential Land Development Suitability Model. Current revisions include input from hazard-related data produced in response to Hurricane Katrina, as well as inputs related to smart growth principles and practices to decrease impacts to natural areas, increase housing density and make more efficient use of existing infrastructure.
- Active participant in multiple federal projects related to geospatial information for the Mississippi Gulf Coast including topics associated with marine debris, oil spill/hazard response, habitat classification, coastal restoration and invasive species, among others.
- Increased capacity to serve DMR, stakeholders and the general public in the collection and hard-copy display of geospatial data and data products with the acquisition of Thales Mobile Mapper mobile GIS platform/GPS and large format plotter.
- The eighth annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference-Smart Growth was held at the IP Hotel and Resort in Biloxi on May 9-10, 2007. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce is partnering with this program on the conference.
- The Smart Growth Department/CRMP has been meeting with all 11 coastal cities and the six coastal counties concerning their needs on recovery post-Hurricane Katrina. The CRMP is a connector for the cities and counties on funding on recovery. Funds came from the U.S. Department of Labor to the Department of Interior.
- The staff is on the Governor's Recovery Commission Environmental and Tourism committees.
- The staff is on the Ocean Springs, Gulfport and Biloxi Smart Growth committees.
- The Staff of Coastal Management and Planning is partnering on an annual basis with Mississippi/Alabama Sea Grant for the Bays & Bayous Conference in November.
- The staff has completed the NOAA/CIAP-funded Mississippi Gulf Coast Storm Water Management Toolbox and handed out storm drain markers to the three coastal counties and 11 cities for use in post-Hurricane Katrina recovery.
- The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Management Plan was delivered to the Department of Interior in February 2005 and was accepted and approved in April 2006. The Environmental Assessment has been out for public review. There were no adverse comments. The National Park Service will be forwarding the document to the Secretary of the Interior for signature and the document will be deemed complete for the heritage area.

- Designation of the six lower counties of Mississippi as the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Designation continues as a major player/partner in the recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The program will assist the Mississippi Gulf Coast in becoming a Tier One Tourist Destination with a Strong Sense of Place.
- Heritage unit has released its branding on the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area. A Web site is up.
- In May 2006, the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area staff was honored by the State of Mississippi House of Representatives for the achievements and actions pre- and post-Hurricane Katrina.
- In August 2006, The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area staff was honored by the Mississippi Heritage Trust. A resolution was given to the office commending the staff's efforts on restoration and securing funding for the six southern counties of Mississippi.
- In October 2006, The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area staff was honored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees for the creation of the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage area along with the staff's critical role in rebuilding the Gulf Coast heritage tourism industry as the area recovers from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina.
- The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area staff is on the City of D'Iberville's Historical Society.
- The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area was placed on the Governor's Recovery Commission's Heritage Tourism.
- The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area was also a partner in Tourism Cares Funding that was given in grants to the six coastal counties.
- The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area (MGCNHA) is now partnering with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History concerning the Hurricane Relief Grant Program for Preservation. The MGCNHA was a major player in obtaining the funding for this grant program.
- The CRMP is administering the CIAP. Grants from this program total \$120 million for the six coastal counties of Mississippi.
- The MGCNHA partnered with the Alliance of National Heritage for an International Conference on Heritage Development held June 2007 in Detroit, Mich.
- The National Alliance of Heritage Areas 2007 Board of Directors meeting was held on the Coast and hosted by the CRMP.
- The CRMP is also the chair of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Resiliency Working Group along with co-chair of the Coastal States Organization Resiliency Team.
- The CRMP has recently been named to the Land Trust for the MS Coastal Plain Board of Directors.



**Sen. Deborah Dawkins (right) introduces Gov. Haley Barbour at the eighth annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference, held May 9-10, 2007, in Biloxi.**

## **Mississippi's Official Saltwater Conventional Tackle Records**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
Amberjack, Greater	106 lb. 14.72 oz.	07/19/06	Donald Simmons Jr.
Amberjack, Lesser	5 lb. 8 oz.	05/24/04	Jack Paul Edwards, IV
Barracuda, Great	50 lb. 1 oz.	08/01/05	Tommy O'Brien
Bigeye	2 lb. 1.12 oz.	08/28/04	Jeffrey Newbury
Bluefish	16 lb. 6 oz.	00/00/84	Joe Krebs
Bonefish	4 oz.	11/04/99	Scott Floyd
Brotula, Bearded	13 lb.	06/24/07	Robert Marcellus
Burrfish, Striped	1 lb. 3.2 oz.	06/09/06	Mary Lou Hatcher-Davis
Catfish, Hardhead	3 lb. .32 oz.	06/08/05	Josh Holmes
Catfish, Gafftopsail	9 lb. 9.92 oz.	08/26/00	Shane Ardis
Chub, Yellow	9 lb. 10 oz.	07/30/92	Melvin Raymond Jr.
Cobia	106 lb. 13 oz.	05/02/96	Randy McDaniel
Croaker, Atlantic	4 lb. 12 oz.	11/11/90	Tom Pellegrin
Cubbyu	2 lb. 6.72 oz.	05/28/05	John Smith
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	1 lb. 4.48 oz.	07/02/06	Terry Adams
Dolphin	62 lb.	1981/1985	D.L. Siegel/Leo Muldoon
Dolphin, Pompano	1 lb. .80 oz.	05/22/05	Tom O'Brien
Drum , Black	70 lb. 5.00 oz.	03/12/05	Eddie Hansen
Drum, Red	44 lb.	1970/1973	L.E. Renike/J. Hughes
Eel, Conger	12 lb. 8.2 oz.	08/03/02	Stephen E. Wilson
Eel, King Snake	23 lb. 12.8 oz.	05/08/04	Billy Bell
Flounder, Southern	10 lb. 4.66 oz.	03/03/07	Karen A. Good
Gag	58 lb. 4.8 oz.	08/21/01	Kenny Kuhn
Grouper, Black	11 lb. 0.16 oz.	03/24/01	Michael L. Allen
Grouper, Red	14 lb. 8 oz.	04/29/07	Brian Pelton
Grouper, Snowy	6 lb. 6.1 oz.	09/16/06	Doug Nelson Jr.
Grouper, Warsaw	250 lb.	07/17/04	Paul Gallop
Grouper, Yellowedge	28 lb. 6.56 oz.	06/17/05	Kevin Brun
Grouper (unclass.)	47 lb. 14.2 oz.	00/00/80	Dr. Kenneth Ramsey
Gulf Toadfish	2 lb.	02/18/02	Marty Wilson
Hind, Rock	3 lb. 2 oz.	08/04/02	Stephan E. Wilson
Jack, Almaco	32 lb. 10.56 oz.	09/30/06	Donald Simmons Jr.
Jack, Crevalle	48 lb. 0.5 oz.	07/19/85	Brian D. Pelton
Jack, Horse-eye	22 lb. 15.52 oz.	06/11/04	Justin Russell
Kingfish, Gulf	1 lb. 14.72 oz.	05/12/07	Ronnie L. Williams
Kingfish, Southern	1 lb. 14 oz.	11/12/85	Scott A. Walter
Ladyfish	3 lb. 7.35 oz.	08/26/03	John Townsend
Little Tunny (Bonito)	29 lb. 8.8 oz.	04/15/94	Jean A. Thornton
Lookdown	2 lb. 9.6 oz.	06/04/06	Scott Floyd
Mackerel, King	64 lb. 8 oz.	11/19/99	Dan Abshire Jr.
Mackerel, Spanish	8 lb.	00/00/84	Ron Dillistone



<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>		<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
Marlin, Blue	1,054 lb.	9.6 oz.	06/07/02	Barry D. Carr
Marlin, White	80 lb.	3.2 oz.	09/15/00	Joseph Guidry
Moonfish, Atlantic	1 lb.	14.38 oz.	06/05/06	Scott Floyd
Moray, Blacktail	5 lb.	11.84 oz.	07/04/05	Dick Wilson
Moray, Purplemouth	3 lb.	1 oz.	07/04/03	Dick Wilson
Moray, Reticulate	6 lb.	15.84 oz.	08/06/04	Stephen E. Wilson
Oilfish	50 lb.	0.32 oz.	03/24/02	Kenneth Saxman
Permit	2 lb.	4 oz.	08/29/06	Jonathan David Floyd
Pigfish	1 lb.	1.76 oz.	08/28/04	Lorielyn Newbury
Pinfish	3 lb.	5.6 oz.	09/04/92	William D. Fountain
Porgy, Longspined		9.92 oz.	06/06/04	Stephen Wilson
Porgy, Red	3 lb.	11.68 oz.	06/22/07	Donald L. Bosarge II
Porgy, Whitebone	2 lb.	5 oz.	07/02/04	Jack Paul Edwards
Pompano, African	36 lb.	4 oz.	06/23/97	Lawrence F. Pichon
Pompano, Florida	4 lb.	15.7 oz.	02/09/02	Jack Alexander
Puffer, Smooth	5 lb.	.04 oz.	05/06/00	Shawn Hyter
Remora	5 lb.	5 oz.	07/02/06	Ross Maxwell
Runner, Blue	7 lb.	2.08 oz.	06/18/05	Justin Russell
Runner, Rainbow	18 lb.	12 oz.	07/30/94	Paul A. Parnigoni
Sailfish	62 lb.		00/00/63	Eddie Jones
Scamp	24 lb.	0.48 oz.	05/25/01	Doug Nelson Jr.
Sea Bass, Bank		9.28 oz.	07/02/06	Jeffrey Newbury
Sea Bass, Rock		14.72 oz.	08/20/92	Robert Bell
Searobin, Bighead	1 lb.	.32 oz.	05/24/05	David Hise Jr.
Seatrout, Sand	6 lb.	4 oz.	00/00/77	Wayne Roch
Seatrout, Spotted	10 lb.	6 oz.	00/00/73	Francis Creel
Scorpionfish, Spinycheek	2 lb.	15.84 oz.	05/02/03	Marty Wilson
Scorpionfish, Spotted	2 lb.	2.24 oz.	08/22/04	Dick E. Wilson
Shark, Blacktip	98 lb.	9.6 oz.	04/20/05	Thomas W. Barnes
Shark, Great Hammerhead	436 lb.	14 oz.	07/05/02	Robert J. Garrett
Shark, Nurse	98 lb.	7 oz.	07/03/06	Tony Delatorre
Shark, Scalloped Hammerhead	268 lb.		08/08/98	Warren V. Jones
Shark, Sandbar	125 lb.	8 oz.	12/16/06	Strom Smith
Shark, Spinner	159 lb.	4.80 oz.	06/04/04	Carlton Neal
Shark (unclass.)	885 lb.		00/00/83	Bruce Bartling
Sharksucker	2 lb.	15.20 oz.	10/03/04	Michael "Buck" Buchanan
Sheepshead	19 lb.	10 oz.	00/00/66	Roy Groue Jr.
Silver Perch		4 oz.	05/18/02	Samantha Goodfellow
Smooth Dogfish	18 lb.	14.4 oz.	06/24/07	Leonard Maiolatesi
Snapper, Dog	15 lb.		07/10/04	Chris Russell
Snapper, Gray	13 lb.	12 oz.	07/03/04	Tom O'Brien
Snapper, Lane	8 lb.	3.2 oz.	08/25/01	Stephen E. Wilson
Snapper, Red	37 lb.	11.2 oz.	08/24/95	John J. Bullock
Snapper, Vermillion	4 lb.	11 oz.	08/25/01	Gary Heffner
Snapper, Yellowtail	4 lb.	9.92 oz.	06/05/05	Justin Russell

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>		<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
Soapfish, Whitespotted	4.48 oz.		07/02/05	Scott Floyd
Spadefish, Atlantic	8 lb.	1.0 oz.	05/15/03	Destin P. O'Brien
Stingray, Southern	145 lb.	1.6 oz.	05/06/05	Barry K. Deshamp
Swordfish	75 lb.		08/26/07	Lorenzo Owen
Tilefish	10 lb.	3.2 oz.	06/24/07	Brandan Langlinias
Tomtate		12.96 oz.	05/01/04	Stephen E. Wilson
Tarpon	167 lb.		05/19/01	Dr. Keith Goodfellow
Trigger, Gray	8 lb.	13.12 oz.	08/23/03	Josh Brown
Trigger, Ocean	1 lb.	6.56 oz.	06/12/04	Stacy Scott
Tripletail	37 lb.	12 oz.	00/00/72	B. Gibson
Tuna, Blackfin	33 lb.		05/04/00	John Tillman
Tuna, Bluefin	837 lb.	1.6 oz.	06/11/99	Bob Struwe
Tuna, Skipjack	26 lb.	4 oz.	06/21/03	Thomas L. Reynolds, III
Tuna, Yellowfin	205 lb.	12.8 oz.	06/09/01	Robert Landingham
Wahoo	111 lb.	3.2 oz.	05/16/98	Jeffery A. Lee



**Southern Flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*)**  
**10 lbs. 4.66 oz.**  
**Karen A. Good of Gautier**



**Sandbar Shark (*Carcharhinus plumbeus*)**  
**125 lbs. 8 oz.**  
**Strom Smith of Gulfport**

## **Mississippi's Official Saltwater Fly Fishing Tackle Records**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>		<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
Amberjack, Greater	15 lb.	8.48 oz.	05/03/03	Ivan Strayham
Bluefish	2 lb.	1.44 oz.	06/02/02	Robert L. Brodie
Chub, Yellow	1 lb.	14.72 oz.	07/15/04	Dwayne Armes
Cobia	41 lb.	13.6 oz.	08/23/03	Thomas L. Herrington
Dolphin	3 lb.	11 oz.	07/04/02	Ivan Strayham
Drum, Black	41 lb.	8 oz.	06/04/05	Matt Carpenter
Drum, Red	32 lb.	8.0 oz.	12/21/03	Stan Gartman
Flounder, Southern	2 lb.	7.5 oz.	10/25/02	Richard Sheffield
Jack, Crevalle	28 lb.	15.36 oz.	07/25/05	Dwayne Armes
Ladyfish	3 lb.	4.32 oz.	08/23/03	Thomas L. Herrington
Little Tunny (Bonito)	10 lb.	5 oz.	07/04/02	Ivan Strayham
Lookdown	1 lb.	0.8 oz.	05/22/04	Robert J. Raynor
Mackerel, King	5 lb.	3.2 oz.	06/16/02	Reed Guice
Mackerel, Spanish	5 lb.	1.60 oz.	07/24/04	Dwayne Armes
Pinfish		13.44 oz.	07/15/04	Dwayne Armes
Pompano, Florida	2 lb.	1.1 oz.	10/04/06	Tom Herrington
Runner, Blue	1 lb.	8.8 oz.	07/31/03	Dwayne Armes
Runner, Rainbow	5 lb.	9.28 oz.	07/31/03	Dwayne Armes
Seatrout, Spotted	5 lb.	4.8 oz.	06/25/06	Steve Coignet
Shark, Atlantic Sharpnose	9 lb.	4.48 oz.	06/03/05	Dwayne Armes
Shark, Blacktip	34 lb.	10.9 oz.	06/10/07	Dwayne Armes
Sharksucker	1 lb.	4.64 oz.	06/03/05	Dwayne Armes
Sheepshead	7 lb.	12.00 oz.	02/05/05	Matt Carpenter
Snapper, Gray	2 lb.	7.52 oz.	06/02/02	Robert L. Brodie
Snapper, Red	5 lb.	0.2 oz.	06/25/02	Reed Guice
Spadefish, Atlantic	3 lb.	13.3 oz.	06/16/02	Reed Guice
Tripletail	10 lb.	1.6 oz.	07/17/03	Reed Guice
Tuna, Blackfin	9 lb.	14.4 oz.	8/12/2002	Nick Curcione

## ***Out-of-State Travel Activities***

<b><i>Employee</i></b>	<b><i>Destination</i></b>	<b><i>Purpose</i></b>	<b><i>Cost</i></b>	<b><i>Funding</i></b>
Jennifer Buchanan	New York, NY	National Marine Educators Meeting	\$657	Federal
Richard Cooley	Nashville, TN	Remington Field Training – Shotgun	\$591	Other
William Walker	New Orleans/Washington	Gulf of Mexico Alliance/Mobile Corps	\$1,658	Other
Grant Larsen	New Orleans	GOMA Action Plan Implementation	\$368	Other
Kristina Broussard	Brunswick, GA	HACCPHACCP Training/Segment 2	\$236	Other
Kara Vesa	Atlanta, GA	Meet with USFWS	\$768	Federal
Joseph Ziegler	New Orleans, LA	Louisiana Food Expo	\$364	Other
Scott Gordon	New Bern, NC	Gulf & South Atlantic States Shellfish	\$ 14	Other
Jan Welker	New Bern, NC	Gulf & South Atlantic States Shellfish	\$202	Other
Ruth Posadas	New Bern, NC	Gulf & South Atlantic States Shellfish	\$577	Federal
Walter Chataginer	Houston, TX	IFQ Meeting	\$222	Other
Rhonda Price	New Orleans, LA	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Action Plan	\$16	Federal
Rhonda Price	Atlanta, GA	USFWS Meeting	\$880	Federal
Joseph Roach	Bayou La Batre, AL	Oyster Tong/Rack Pickup	\$155	Other
Traci Floyd	Atlanta, GA	USFWS Grants Work Session	\$744	Other
William Walker	Tampa, FL	NMFS Meeting/Mote Aquaculture Tour	\$1,002	Other
Michael Buchanan	Lake Placid, NY	AFS 136th Annual Meeting	\$1,348	Federal
Kerwin Cuevas	Lake Placid, NY	AFS 136th Annual Meeting	\$1,188	Federal
Kristina Broussard	Baton Rouge, LA	AFDO Sanitation Control Procedures	\$150	Other
Rhonda Price	Tampa, FL	States ORG Boaters Association	\$581	Federal
Jan Boyd	Mount Vernon, WA	Coastal States Organization Meeting	\$1,999	Federal
Ruth Posadas	Memphis, TN	Aquaculture HACCP Training	\$87	Other
Tina Shumate	Lackawanna, PA	Alliance National Heritage Board of Dir	\$1,436	Federal
Marcia Garcia	Lackawanna, PA	Alliance National Heritage Board of Dir	\$1,436	Federal
Grant Larsen	Lackawanna, PA	Alliance National Heritage Board of Dir	\$1,436	Federal
Ruth Posadas	Atlanta, GA	ISSC Bibrio Vulmificus Meeting	\$123	Other
Allison Legget	Huntsville, AL	SE Aquatic Habitat Plan Workshop	\$249	Other
Christopher May	Huron, OH	NERRS/NERRA Annual Meeting	\$1,118	Federal
Bradley Randall	New Bern, NC	Gulf & Atlantic State Shellfish Conference	\$651	Other
Marian Dicas	Huron, OH	NERRS/NERRA Annual Meeting	\$1,708	Federal
William Perret	Atlanta, GA	National Shellfish Strategic Planning	\$209	Other
Dale Diaz	Atlanta, GA	National Shellfish Strategic Planning	\$209	Other
Joseph Ziegler	Red Bank, NJ	Int'l Submerged Lands Management	\$1,837	Other
Dale Diaz	Atlanta, GA	National Shellfish Community Meeting	\$337	Other
William Walker	New Orleans, LA	Gulf of Mexico Program Meeting	\$861	Other
William Perret	Atlanta, GA	National Shellfish Community Meeting	\$288	Other
Brittany Breazeale	Huntsville, AL	SARP Workshop	\$351	Other
William Walker	New Orleans, LA	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Meeting	\$345	Other
Walter Chataginer	New Orleans, LA	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Meeting	\$25	Other
Jennifer Buchanan	Huron, OH	NERRS/NERRA Annual Meeting	\$1,273	Federal
David Rice	New Orleans, LA	Natl Conf on Coastal & Estuarine Habitat	\$612	Other
Alison Legget	New Orleans, LA	Natl Conf on Coastal & Estuarine Habitat	\$591	Other
Christopher May	New Orleans, LA	Natl Conf on Coastal & Estuarine Habitat	\$519	Federal
Bill Richardson	New Orleans, LA	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Meeting	\$122	Other
David Ruple	Huron, OH	NERRS Annual Meeting	\$1,096	Federal
David Ruple	New Orleans, LA	Gulf of Mexico Alliance	\$453	Federal
Rhonda Price	New Orleans, LA	Regional Restoration Team Meeting	\$97	Federal
Donald Arnes	Cocoa, FL	Pick Up Air Boat	\$341	Other
Rusty Pittman	Cocoa, FL	Pick Up Air Boat	\$341	Other
Alison Legget	Charleston, SC	9th Annual Southern/Caribbean Meeting	\$1,235	Other
William Walker	New Orleans, LA	Natl Conf on Coastal & Estuarine Habitat	\$811	Other
William Walker	Mobile, AL	Northern Gulf Symposium	\$11	Other
Ruth Posadas	San Antonio, TX	Seafood Science & Technology Society	\$120	Other
Christine Walters	Myrtle Beach, SC	2007 NERR Technician Training	\$255	Federal
Willa Henriksen	Charleston, SC	9th Annual Southern/Caribbean Meeting	\$1,234	Federal
Tina Shumate	Sacramento, CA	6th Annual New Partners Smart Growth	\$1,053	Federal
Marcia Garcia	Sacramento, CA	6th Annual New Partners Smart Growth	\$1,021	Federal
Grant Larsen	Sacramento, CA	6th Annual New Partners Smart Growth	\$1,021	Federal
Christine Walters	Gulf Breeze, FL	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Nutrients Criteria	\$148	Federal
Melanie Lane	Palm Springs, CA	Cardiff Connections 2007	\$1,312	Other
William Walker	Tallahassee, FL	Florida DEP Meeting	\$163	Other

William Perret	Washington, DC	Gulf Oyster Industry/Congressional Mtg	\$1,832	Other
Jan Boyd	Washington, DC	Ocean & Coastal Program Managers Mtg	\$1,716	Federal
Jeffrey Clark	Washington, DC	Ocean & Coastal Program Managers Mtg	\$1,660	Other
Marian Dicas	Staatsburg, NY	NERRS Stewardship/Coastal Training	\$1,122	Federal
William Walker	Washington, DC	Congressional Office Visits	\$240	Other
Chris Mask	Moyock, NC	Bushmaster Weapons Training	\$233	Other
Kyle Wilkerson	Moyock, NC	Bushmaster Weapons Training	\$233	Other
Jennifer Buchanan	New Orleans, LA	Coastal Estuarine Habitat Restoration	\$197	Federal
Bradley Randall	Charleston, SC	Shellfish Restoration Conference	\$885	Other
Gretchen Waggy	Thibodaux, LA	Fundulus Jenkinsi Site Determination	\$105	Federal
Rhonda Price	Orlando, FL	Marina Hurricane Preparedness Symp	\$1,098	Federal
Joseph Runnels	Washington, DC	Coastal States Org/Program Mgrs Mtg	\$1,536	Federal
Willa Henriksen	Washington, DC	Coastal States Org Spring Membership	\$421	Federal
William Walker	Washington, DC	Congressional Office Visits	\$925	Other
Sandra Chestnut	Washington, DC	Coastal States Org/Program Mgrs Mtg	\$1,509	Federal
William Perret	Washington, DC	Gulf Shrimp Industry Congressional Mtg	\$1,065	Other
David Ruple	Washington, DC	Coastal States Org/Program Mgrs Mtg	\$1,520	Federal
William Perret	Galveston, TX	Texas A&M Sea Turtle Restoration	\$229	Other
Rhonda Price	Mobile, AL	Gulf of Mexico Foundation Meeting	\$107	Federal
Jacob Walker	Thibodaux, LA	Fundulus Jenkinsi Site Determination	\$115	Federal
Traci Floyd	Barataria Bay, LA	LA Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup	\$213	Other
Bill Richardson	Barataria Bay, LA	LA Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup	\$204	Other
Marian Dicas	Chesapeake Bay, VA	Chesapeake Bay NERR 312 Evaluation	\$1,499	Federal
Rhonda Price	Las Vegas, NV	Federal Grants Update 2007	\$1,016	Federal
Jennifer Buchanan	Homer, AK	NERR Winter Education Sector Meeting	\$200	Federal
William Perret	San Diego, CA	NOAA/State Fisheries Directors Meeting	\$1,030	Other
Dale Diaz	San Diego, CA	NOAA/State Fisheries Directors Meeting	\$977	Other
Dale Diaz	Norfolk, VA	Natl Symposium on Water Access	\$304	Other
Ruth Posadas	Albuquerque, NM	ISSC Meeting	\$437	Other
Jacob Walker	Apalachicola, FL	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	\$236	Federal
Dale Diaz	Destin, FL	Gulf Council Meeting	\$428	Other
Jan Boyd	Pensacola, FL	Stewardship Partners Mtg/Longleaf	\$169	Federal
Walter Chataginer	Tallahassee, FL	JEA Meeting	\$188	Other
Jacob Walker	Weeks Bay, AL	Fundulus Jenkinsi Field Work	\$164	Federal
Jacob Walker	Lumcon-Chauvin, LA	Fundulus Jenkinsi Field Sampling	\$332	Federal
Rhonda Price	Louisville, KY	SE Region Annual Coordinators Mtg	\$375	Federal
Ruth Posadas	Lake Charles, LA	Federation of Fly Fishers Gulf Coast Expo	\$166	Other
Bradley Randall	San Antonio, TX	World Aquaculture 2007	\$639	Other
William Walker	San Diego, CA	NOAA Meeting	\$835	Other
Jacob Walker	Apalachicola, FL	Fundulus Jenkinsi Site Determination	\$113	Federal
Sandra Chestnut	Las Vegas, NV	National Wetlands Conference	\$968	Federal
Joseph Runnels	Las Vegas, NV	National Wetlands Conference	\$968	Federal
Traci Floyd	Louisville, KY	USF&WS SE Federal Assistance Mtg	\$1,415	Federal
Joseph Jewell	Norfolk, VA	Waterways/Waterfronts Natl Symposium	\$991	Other
Kerwin Cuevas	Houston, TX	Rowan Company Rigs to Reef Meeting	\$541	Federal
Rhonda Price	Virginia Beach, VA	USF&WS BIG and CVA Workshop	\$694	Federal
Jennifer Clark	Sacramento, CA	Society of Wetlands Scientists Annual Mtg	\$2,257	Federal
Charles Robertson	Sacramento, CA	Society of Wetlands Scientists Annual Mtg	\$2,257	Federal
Willa Henriksen	Sacramento, CA	Society of Wetlands Scientists Annual Mtg	\$2,257	Federal
Dale Diaz	Atlanta, GA	Gulf States Emergency Disaster Relief Mtg	\$724	Other
William Walker	Washington, DC	JOCI Meeting	\$1,468	Other
Dale Diaz	Baltimore, MD	2007 Working Waterfront Site Visits	\$1,540	Other
William Walker	Atlanta, GA	Fisheries Supplemental Meeting	\$ 720	Other
William Walker	Washington, DC	Congressional and Federal Office Visits	\$2,757	Other
William Walker	New Orleans, LA; Austin, TX	Fisheries Mgt Council/Gulf Alliance Mtg	\$740	Other
Scott Gordon	Corpus Christi, TX	Gulf and South Atlantic States Conference	\$540	Other
William Perret	New Orleans, LA	Natural Resources Economics/Policy	\$244	Other
Dale Diaz	New Orleans, LA	Gulf Council Meeting	\$243	Other
William Walker	St. Petersburg, FL	Gulf of Mexico Governor's Alliance Mtg	\$263	Other
William Walker	Washington, DC	Congressional Office Visits	\$1,604	Other

**Total Out of State Travel Cost .....\$90,319**





**Mississippi  
Department of Marine Resources**

**1141 Bayview Avenue  
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