



**Mississippi  
Department of Marine Resources**

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# **Mississippi Department of Marine Resources**

**2009 Comprehensive Annual Report  
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2009**

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## **Mississippi Department of Marine Resources**

*Office of Marine Fisheries  
Office of Coastal Ecology  
Tidelands Trust Fund  
Office of Administrative Services  
Office of Marine Patrol  
Office of Coastal Management and Planning*

### **Annual Report Fiscal Year 2009 July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009**

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

**Commissioners  
Dr. Vernon Asper, Chairman  
Richard Gollott, Vice Chairman  
Steve Bosarge  
Shelby Drummond  
Jimmy Taylor**

*Fiscal Year 2009 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 toward 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 2009 have been focused on the continued rebuilding and revitalizing of the coast. Marine debris removal, wetlands habitat restoration and oyster reef revitalization, spotted seatrout 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, 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

1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, Mississippi 39530 • (228) 374-5000



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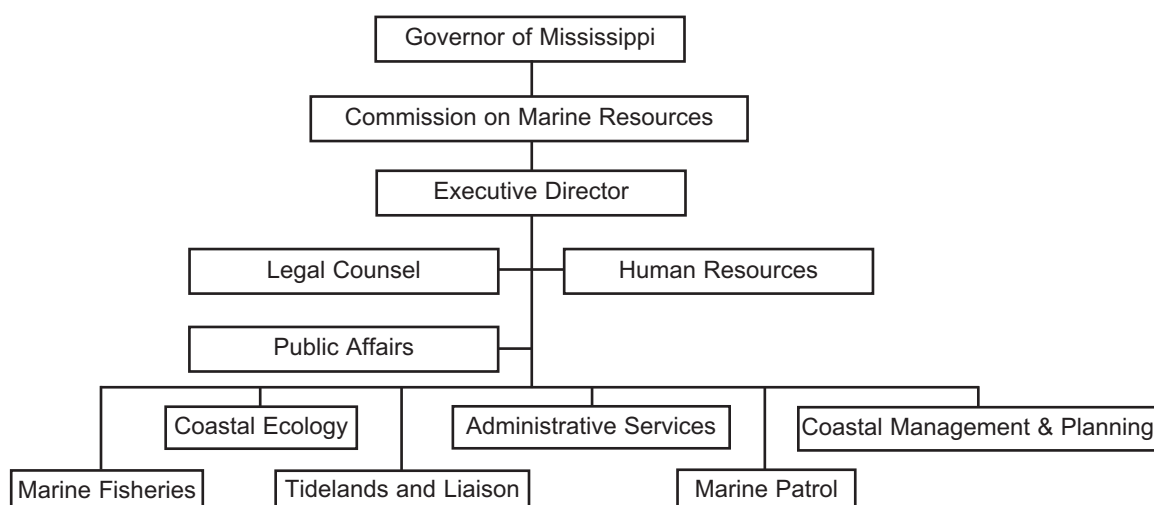


## Organizational Structure

The Department of Marine Resources' organizational structure is based on the legislative mandates assigned to the Commission and Department. In FY2009, the Department's organizational structure consisted of six major program areas: Marine Fisheries; Coastal Ecology; Tidelands and Liaison; Administrative Services; Marine Patrol; and Coastal Management and Planning.

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 Grand Bay 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 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 Marine Patrol Office provides law enforcement activities not only in Mississippi coastal waters and tidal tributaries but also assists the U.S. Coast Guard in law enforcement activities in federal waters. The Office of Coastal Management and Planning is responsible for the Comprehensive Resource Management Plan, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Geographical Information System initiative, the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area, Coastal Impact Assistance Program and Special Initiatives associated with activities delegated to the DMR by the Governor's Office.

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 FY2009, the Department's organizational structure was 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.

#### **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, flounder, red snapper, grouper, red drum and large coastal sharks.

Marine Fisheries personnel served on regional management committees of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, including Artificial Reef Task Force, Sheepshead Fishery Task Force, White Trout 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 and the State/Federal Fisheries Management Board. Marine Fisheries personnel also served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, its habitat committee and special shrimp committee.



Office Director Dale Diaz keeps Marine Fisheries afloat.



Shellfish Bureau Coordinator Scott Gordon, left, speaks at the Oyster Resource Seminar in November 2008. In fiscal year 2009, the Office of Marine Fisheries and partners kicked off a series of seminars aimed at enhancing familiarity between interested groups and increasing awareness of the programs, needs and opportunities that are relevant to marine research of Mississippi waters.

## ***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 University of Southern Mississippi's 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.



**Finfish Bureau  
Coordinator  
Michael 'Buck'  
Buchanan fillets a  
fish at the  
Mississippi Deep  
Sea Fishing  
Rodeo in July  
2008. DMR is  
among the  
sponsors of the  
annual event.**



**DMR Fisheries Technician Brandon Hall, left, watches as Fisheries Scientist Wesley Devers shows a couple of young anglers the spines on a pinfish at the Casting for Conservation Kid's Fishing Rodeo in Pascagoula in September 2008. The rodeo is one of three held across the Mississippi Coast in partnership with the Coastal Conservation Association of Mississippi and DMR.**

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

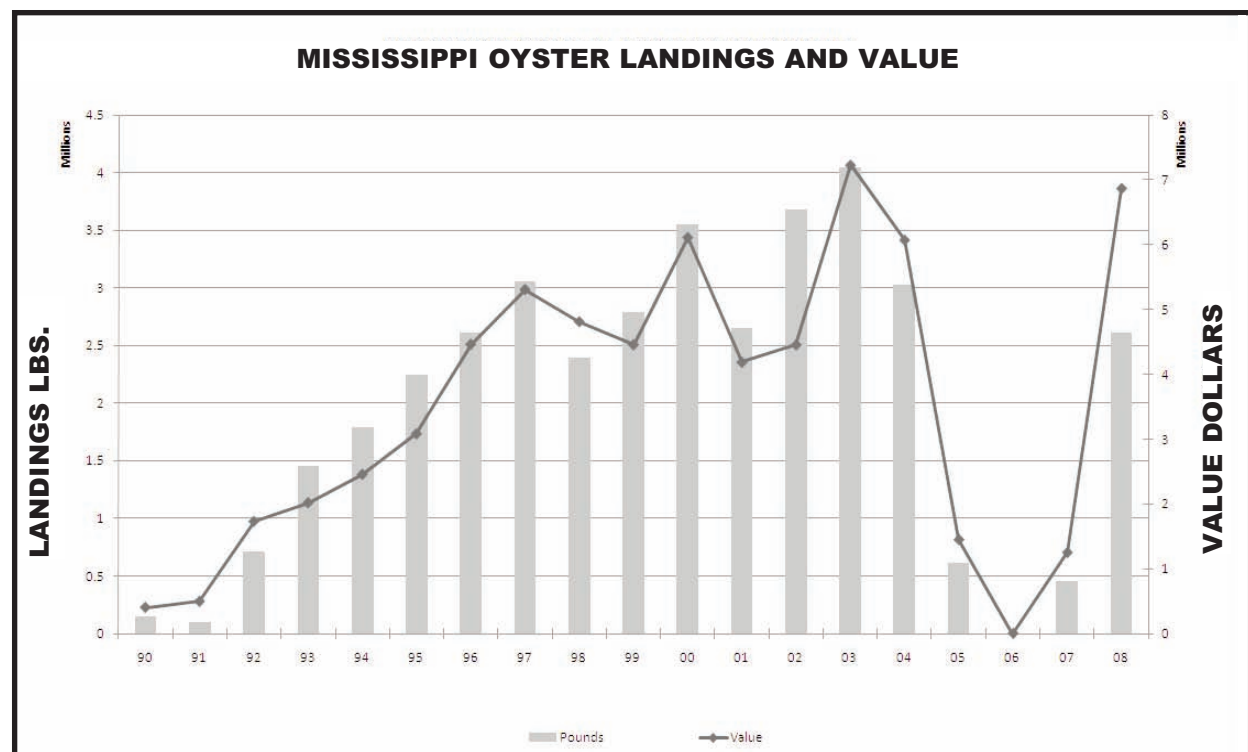
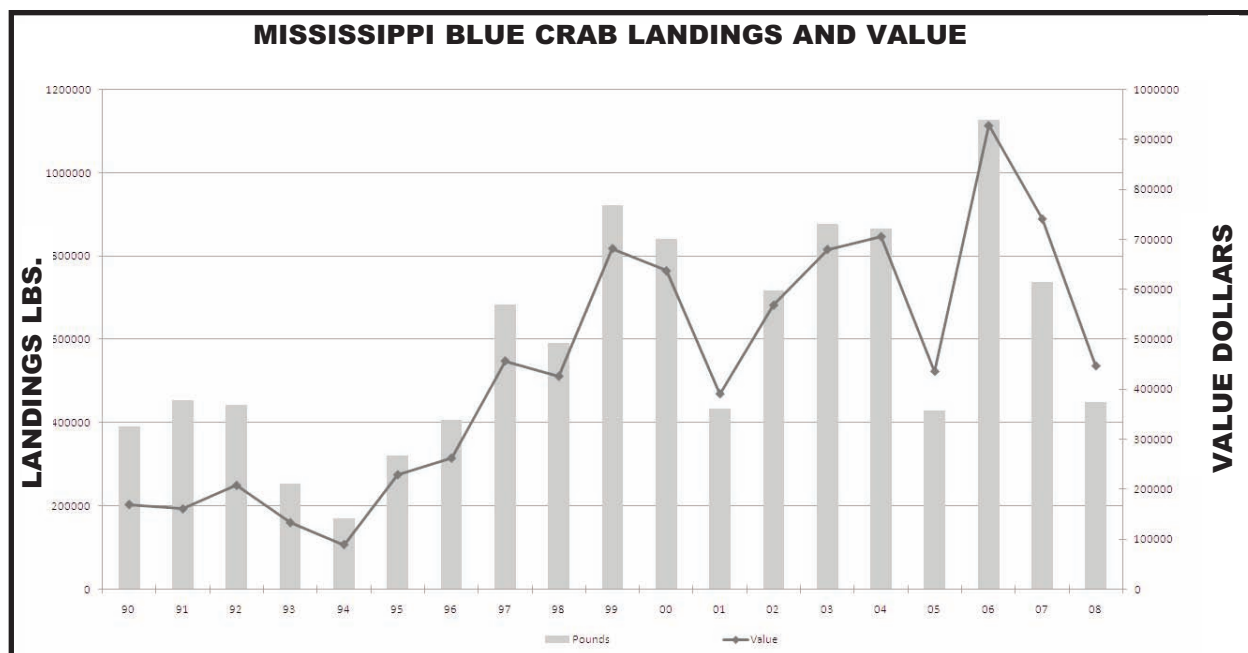
### ***Coordinator: Christine Murrell***

#### **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 implementing a trip ticket system for all fisheries.

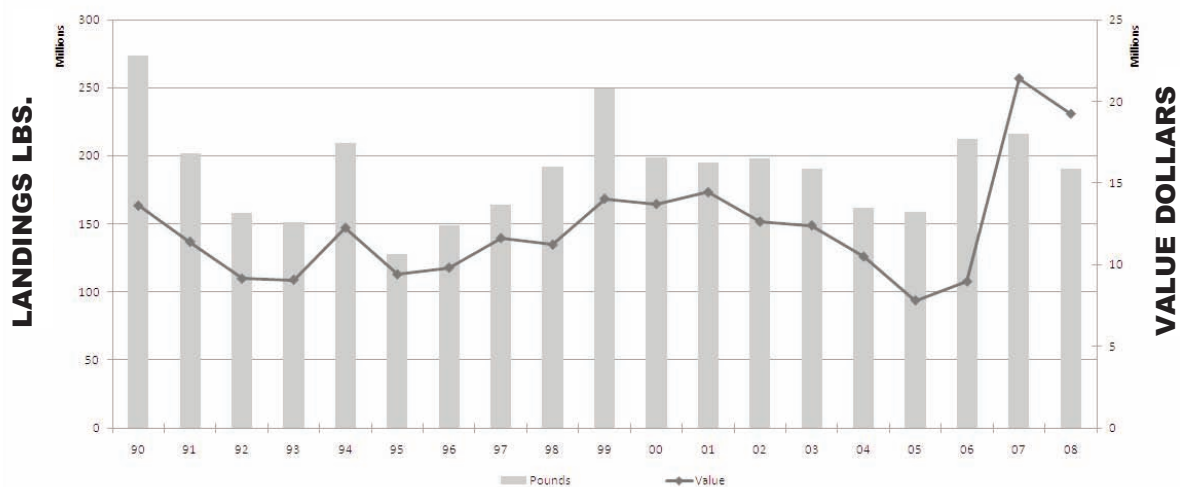
#### **Status:**

- Fisheries landings data were collected weekly and monthly according to schedule. The data were 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 were 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 is in place for the oyster fishery, live-bait fishery and commercial hook-and-line fishery. Data are being scanned into a database and transferred to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

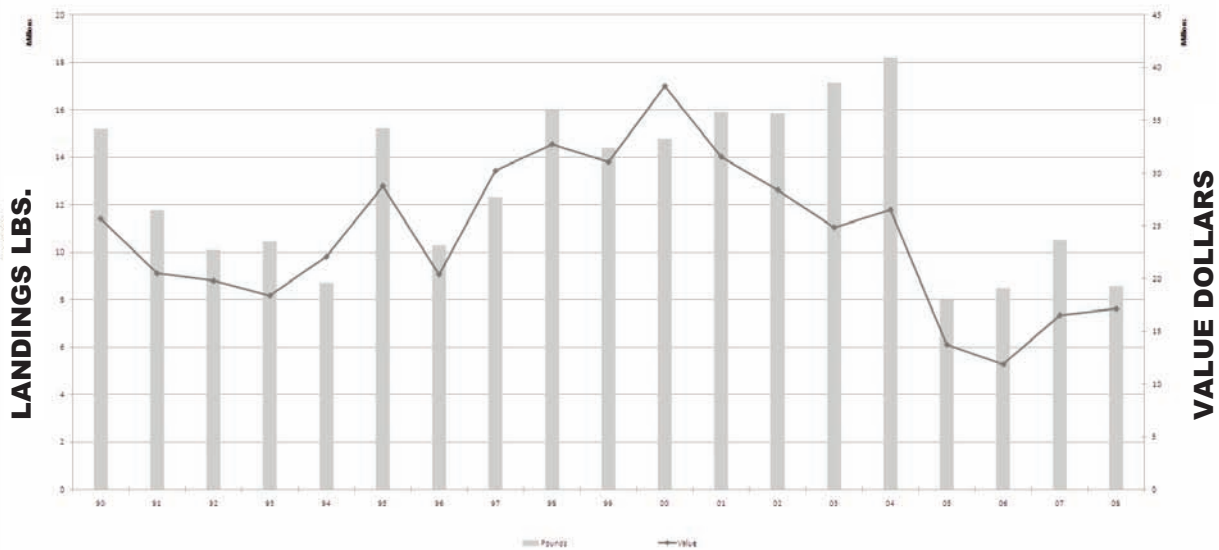




### MISSISSIPPI COMMERCIAL FINFISH LANDINGS AND VALUE



### MISSISSIPPI SHRIMP LANDINGS AND VALUE





## ***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 14 permitted offshore reefs encompassing 16,000 acres of water bottom. These reefs range in size from 3 acres 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 materials of design, such as Florida Limestone Pyramids and Reef Balls.
- Mississippi also has permitted 53 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.
- The Rigs to Reef Program offers conservation-minded alternatives for the platform, as opposed to onshore disposal with no subsequent habitat value. The average platform jacket can provide up to 2 to 3 acres of hard-bottom habitat for marine invertebrates and fishes, and these submerged platform jackets currently provide habitat for thousands of marine species. To date, Mississippi's Rigs to Reef Program includes eight permitted reef sites with 14 platform jackets. This habitat is beneficial to both the marine organisms that inhabit these reef systems and the commercial and recreational fishermen who seek the highly prized fish that can be found within this newly created ecosystem.

- Two methods used to monitor and update coordinates and orientation of past artificial reef material deployments are side-scan sonar, primarily used on offshore reefs, and sounding with a pole, primarily used on inshore reefs. All coordinates obtained from side-scan sonar and sounding can be found on the DMR 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.



The Artificial Reef Bureau deployed concrete Goliath Reef Balls for the first time in October 2008 in an attempt to rebuild Mississippi's artificial reef habitat. More than 300 reef balls were deployed in FH-1 and FH-2. The Goliath ball, the largest of its kind, measures 6 feet wide by 5 feet high and has a surface area of about 230 square feet. Each weighs 4,000 to 6,000 pounds.

## ***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 2,100 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.



## ***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.
- 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.
- Hold public workshop to exchange information relative to this project's goals and other aspects of sport fishery.

### **Status:**

Based on project results from the most recent annual report study period:

- Seasonal movement and growth of spotted seatrout were studied utilizing angler tagged and released spotted seatrout in Mississippi coastal waters. There were 54 tagged and none recaptured.
- Seasonal movement and growth of cobia were studied utilizing angler tagged and released cobia in the Gulf of Mexico. There were 575 tagged and 29 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 146 tagged and 20 recaptured.
- Public workshop was held in December and was attended by 27 members of the public.



**An angler releases a tagged tripletail in the western Mississippi Sound. (Photo courtesy of Doug Olander of Sport Fishing Magazine.)**



## ***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, in reporting 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 into its second year 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 three striped bass, two of which were outfitted with acoustic transmitters. The recreational fishing public has reported the lengths and weights of 31 striped bass caught in local tributaries to fisheries personnel.

**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

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

**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



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

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

#### **Objectives:**

- Obtain data for developing estimates of relative abundance and various life history parameters, including age-length relationships and spawning strategies, of adult/sub-adult spotted seatrout, sheepshead, sand seatrout, Atlantic croaker, striped mullet, Southern flounder, Southern kingfish, Gulf kingfish, black drum and red drum 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.
- Obtain supplemental data on seasonal abundance of red drum.
- Coordinate a series of workshops to exchange information regarding the recreational fishery in Mississippi and shark identification.

#### **Status:**

Based on results of the most recent annual report study period.

- Field sampling for spotted seatrout is accomplished through 120 gill net sets along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Two hundred and sixty (260) spotted seatrout were returned to the lab, otoliths removed for aging and sex, and length and weight obtained.
- Work is ongoing to collect length and age data for a variety of recreationally and commercially important species, including spotted seatrout, sheepshead, sand seatrout, Atlantic croaker, striped mullet, Southern flounder, Southern kingfish, Gulf kingfish, black drum and red drum.
- Work is ongoing to collect red drum abundance data utilizing alternative gear that has a more effective capture rate for this species.
- Shark sampling is ongoing. Five hundred and thirty-five (535) sharks and 67 rays of various species were captured and 354 were tagged; no recaptures have been reported.



## **Shellfish Program**

### **Coordinator: Scott Gordon**

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

- Manage and enhance 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 sub-area. 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 the 176 sampling stations in the Mississippi Sound. Approved areas are those 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:**

- The 2008-2009 commercial oyster season began Sept. 25, 2008, and ended March 17, 2009. A total of 16,444 boat trips harvested 385,946 sacks of oysters.
- Spring 2009 Cultch Plant — In April and May 2009, 14,330 cubic yards of limestone and 21,003 cubic yards of oyster shells were spread over 575 acres on Pass Christian, Henderson Point, Pass Marianne and St. Joe's reefs.
- Fall 2008 Cultch Plant — In August and September 2008, 24,444 cubic yards of limestone and 24,196 cubic yards of oyster shells were planted over 1,600 acres on the Pass Christian, Pass Marianne, Henderson Point and St. Joe's reefs.
- Conferences — Hosted the Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference on shellfish issues in Ocean Springs, Miss., and the Norovirus Workshop in Biloxi in April 2009. Participated in the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Oyster Technical Task Force meetings in December 2008 in Gulfport, Miss.
- Conducted square-meter dive sampling and resource assessments on major area reefs.
- Gathered data for growing-area sanitary survey for all areas.
- Collected 2,001 fecal coliform water samples and numerous phytoplankton samples from area shellfish growing waters.
- The shellfish staff completed delivery of the R/V Reef Keeper on Oct. 8, 2008.

**In Progress:**

- The shellfish staff is receiving bids for deploying oyster shells for the spring 2010 cultch plant.
- Mississippi Coastal Drainage Basin Meteorological Monitoring Stations provide continuous meteorological data on precipitation, temperature, wind speed and direction, solar radiation and atmospheric pressure. Shellfish Bureau staff has 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's National Weather Service (NOAA/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. The sites have been selected and the meteorological equipment and software have been delivered. A Memorandum of Agreement between DMR, Jackson State University and the Hancock County Utility Authority is waiting to be signed.
- DMR personnel are monitoring and assessing the recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast oyster resources.
- Surveyed, mapped and marked public reefs and potential cultivation and cultch planting sites. The DMR discussed potential areas to plant cultch material with various stakeholders, including harvesters. DMR staff on the Conservationist and Reef Keeper continue to map out the oyster reef areas to plant cultch material for the spring and fall plants in the western Mississippi Sound. These areas are 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.
- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to monitor and assist the recovery of Mississippi's commercial and recreational fisheries.

**Planned:**

- The Shellfish Bureau will schedule additional Oyster Stewardship Program meetings to continue to develop and implement an oyster stewardship program to better inform and promote the active involvement of oyster harvesters and the industry in harvest practices and other techniques that can be used to assist resource managers in the judicious utilization of oyster resources of the state. Harvesters and industry representatives will be heavily involved throughout the development and implementation process through meetings, surveys and individual contacts. Innovative methods of improving the resource potential will be investigated and implemented when feasible.
- Cultivate oyster reefs using the Conservationist. By towing large dredges with the bags removed over the reefs, existing shell material covered by sedimentation or debris is re-exposed to the setting of oyster larvae. This process also breaks up clusters of hooked mussels that have encrusted the oysters, allowing oysters additional space to feed and grow.





High-pressure hoses are used to spread oyster shells south of Pass Christian in August 2008 as part of the effort to rebuild Mississippi oyster reefs.



Shellfish  
Bureau Director  
Scott Gordon  
watches over  
the May 2009  
cultch plant  
south of Pass  
Christian.



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

### ***Coordinator: Traci M. 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 shrimp 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 (GSMFC/NMFS) Emergency 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 NMFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 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, and the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and 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 324 trawl samples were collected this year as part of the shrimp monitoring and other programs, including sampling in response to the 2008 Bonnet Carré Spillway opening. The data collection program includes monitoring surface and bottom hydrological parameters (i.e., salinity, temperature and dissolved oxygen) at each trawling station.
- A toll-free Mississippi Shrimp Information Hotline is set up at 1-866-WE TRAWL (1-866-938-7295) to provide 24-hour access to season/area openings and closures. Over 600 calls have been received since its inception.
- A newsletter entitled "Shrimping the Sound" was sent to all fishermen who purchased any type 2007-2008 Mississippi shrimp license. The newly initiated newsletter contained information on the 2009 shrimp sampling, changes in bycatch reduction device (BRD) and turtle excluder device requirements, EDRP II data, GSMFC mail survey and training opportunities offered by DMR and GCRL.

- Inspection of live-bait shrimp dealers, as well as licensing and reporting of 17 facilities, 17 live-bait vessels and 12 live-bait transport vehicles. The Live Bait Program includes compilation and analysis of monthly Confidential Dealer Reports.
- 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 ongoing efforts and coordination of the GSMFC/NMFS Emergency Disaster Recovery Program for working cooperatively with fishermen on the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program and the fisheries monitoring programs.
- On Oct., 29, 2008 the Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program received the first-place 2008 Gulf Guardian Award, presented by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation. The Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program includes mapping and recording the number of lost traps recovered, where they were collected and incidental catch (species captured other than crabs). During the 2009 fiscal year, DMR staff picked up 1,074 traps, of which the majority was in response to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. To date, over 18,500 derelict traps have been collected and recycled along the Mississippi Coast, mainly through cooperation with crab fishermen and the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.
- Initiated, organized and was instrumental in the production of the Mississippi Seafood Heritage DVD, “. . . a life on the water . . .,” in cooperation with the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Program. As seafood industry icons of coastal Mississippi are growing older and/or pursuing other ways to support their families, their personal stories and a large part of Mississippi's coastal seafood community story were being lost. This effort has begun to recapture cultural heritage largely lost with the Biloxi Seafood and Maritime Museum in Hurricane Katrina and recognizes the need to preserve quickly disappearing histories of the Mississippi seafood industry, with special note of when Biloxi was “Seafood Capital of the World,” and shares perspectives on the future.
- Initiated the DMR Multi-Agency Seminar Series to enhance familiarity between interested groups and increase awareness and opportunities related to Mississippi marine research. The first two seminars, “Managing Mississippi's Oyster Reefs and Associated Environmental Monitoring” and “Hypoxia in the Mississippi Bight,” were held to the benefit of coastal resource agency cooperators as well as interested members of the public.
- Carry on development and maintenance of the Real-Time Hydrological Monitoring Program at 12 marine sites along the Coast. The data are updated hourly and are available to the public and resource managers through the DMR Web site ([dmr.ms.gov](http://dmr.ms.gov)). Data, which includes salinity, temperature and gage height at selected sites, are used in making decisions regarding opening and closing of seasons, determining effects of storms and identifying hazardous conditions.
- Issuance of Saltwater Scientific Collection Permits. Recipients of Special Permits must first submit an application. Once the applicant is approved worthy of merit and issued a permit, a complete report of collection or harvesting activity must be submitted to the DMR. Thirty-four (34) Special Permits have been issued over the past year.

- Coordination of the 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.
- Administration and work of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Monitoring Program. Includes program supervision and trawl sampling.
- Implementation of the GSMFC/NOAA Fishery Emergency Disaster Recovery Program (EDRP) Phase I and II, 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, as well as additions made to the Mississippi Hydrological Monitoring Program and Monitoring and Controlling Invasive Species.

The Shrimp and Crab Bureau works 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 continues to provide increasing benefits to Mississippi's marine resources and also to those individuals and communities that depend on them.



**Fisheries  
Projects Officer  
Darrin Stewart  
installs  
Diamondback  
Terrapin  
Excluder  
Devices (TEDs)  
in the traps of  
a commercial  
crab fisherman.**





Mississippi Seafood Heritage DVD subject Lydia Seymour, center, poses with Shrimp and Crab Bureau Director Traci Floyd, Fisheries Scientist Bill Richardson and film producer Lynn Rabren after sharing her historical seafood industry knowledge.



Fisheries Technician Rudy Balius pulls in a sunrise shrimp trawl sample to help determine the Mississippi shrimp season opening date.



Fisheries Scientist Rick Burris separates the shrimp catch from a trawl sample as part of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Monitoring Program.

## ***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 and certifying product recalls and embargo according to state and federal instituted protocols and procedures.
- 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 Protection 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 5,030. Examples are as follows:

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

- 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).
- Distributed seafood safety packets and *Vibrio* education materials, pamphlets, brochures and other educational materials on post-harvest processing of oysters and seafood safety to the Mississippi seafood industry, community colleges, universities and city libraries in the southwestern part of the state as part of the Public Outreach Program on Seafood Safety. Distribution locations: **Columbia** — General Hospital, Columbia Public Library; **Tylertown** — Walthall County General Hospital, Forrest General; **McComb** — Southwest Regional Medical Center, McComb Public Library; **Meadville** — Franklin County Public Library, Franklin County Memorial Hospital; **Natchez** — George W. Armstrong Library, Natchez Community Hospital, Regional Medical Center; **Lumberton** — Lumberton Library.
- Co-sponsored a bi-annual Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and Sanitation training course for the industry in December 2008 and February 2009.
- Hosted Norovirus Workshop for the state regulators in June 2009. Workshop was attended by four state employees and one federal agency representative for a total of 27 participants.
- Translated and printed into Vietnamese and Spanish the brochure "How to Start a Seafood Business" as part of the educational and promotional materials for Mississippi Seafood Industry.
- Participated in the *Vibrio vulnificus* Education subcommittee meeting in Olive Branch, Miss., held Sept. 8-10, 2008.
- Participated in the *Vibrio vulnificus* Education Committee Meeting of the ISSC in Manchester, N.H., held May 5, 2009.
- New seafood officer presented an overview of the Seafood Technology's Public Outreach Program at the DMR Marine Fisheries bi-annual meeting.
- Participated in the following events for promotional, educational and public outreach, working together with the DMR Seafood Marketing Program. A food safety booth was set up at 15 public outreach 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. Events included 2008 Biloxi Seafood Festival, 2008 Gautier Mullet Festival, 2008 Jackson County Trade Fair, 2008 Derelict Crab Trap Program, 2009 Jackson Trade Expo, 2009 Mississippi Science Fair, 2009 Celebrate the Gulf, 2009 Biloxi Crawfish Festival, 2009 Billy Creel Boat Show, 2009 Tourism Week (Hancock County and Jackson County).
- Distributed the following educational materials for the Mississippi and Gulf Coast oyster industry: flyer on "Post-Harvest Processing Technologies for Oysters"; poster on "Post-Harvest Processing Technologies for Oysters"; brochure on "Available Technologies for Post-Harvest Processing of Oysters"; fact sheet on "Post-Harvest Oyster Processing Technologies"; volumes 1 and 2 of the oyster cookbook; and norovirus information cards.

- Implemented the ISSC-adapted NSSP articles on Foodborne Illness Outbreak due to norovirus illness outbreak and implemented control strategies approved by the ISSC 2007 Biennial Conference on recall procedures.
- Participated in several conference calls and meetings with the ISSC, U.S. Food and Drug Administration and different state regulatory agencies regarding the shellfish recalls due to norovirus outbreak events in January, February and March 2009.
- Ongoing research on the analysis of imported seafood in collaboration with Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center.
- Provided Mississippi oysters for cancer research at the Louisiana State University's research on acrylamides in oysters. Analysis showed acrylamides from oysters to kill cancer cells.
- Ongoing implementation of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* control measures and technical assistance to seafood dealers and processors on their HACCP Plans.
- Distributed copies of the seafood business guide "How to Start a Seafood Business in Southern Mississippi" and seafood business brochure "How to Start a Seafood Business." Distributed seafood safety packets (in three languages) to hospitals, medical health clinics, doctor's offices and libraries on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.
- 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 total of 39 certified seafood 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 . . . . .	20
Crab . . . . .	11
Oyster . . . . .	27

**Total number of seafood sanitation/processing permits: . . . 58\***

\*These 58 permits represent 517 inspected seafood units.





**Seafood Officer Jeff Davis checks water temperature during a seafood processing facility inspection.**



**Seafood Technology Bureau Director Ruth Posadas takes notes of comments and concerns presented at a norovirus workshop held in June 2009 to address ways to educate the public and curb the spread of norovirus through consumption of shellfish.**



**Seafood Officer Jessica Rankin shows off the Fishy Prize Wheel at its debut during the March 2009 Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival in Pass Christian.**



**Marine Fisheries Technician Mai Dang stocks brochures at the Seafood Technology Booth at the May 2009 Billy Creel Memorial Wooden Boat Show in Biloxi.**



## ***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 Act (CZMA) 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 the 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 Banking Interagency Review Team (MBIRT).

#### **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 all over 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.

In 2009, the Office of Coastal Ecology co-sponsored the annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference.



**Director Jan Boyd manages the Office of Coastal Ecology.**

## ***Wetlands Permitting Program***

### ***Coordinator: Willa Brantley***

#### **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, the 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 during which 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 verifies 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. Permitting staff also recommend mitigation, as appropriate, to compensate for wetlands loss.

For Coastal Zone Consistency determinations, applications for USACE Section 404 and Section 10 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:**

Bureau staff members attended several training courses, workshops and conferences throughout the year, including Wetland Plant Identification, Introduction to ArcGIS, Coastal Applications of ArcGIS, Public Issues and Conflict Management, and the Coastal Development Strategies Conference.

On Jan. 27-28, 2009, the Office of Coastal Ecology hosted its counterparts from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Restoration and Management for a two-day Coastal Management Strategies Workshop. The goal was to foster communication and cooperation between the regulatory branches of the state agencies and to share successful strategies for improving service to the regulated community within the Coastal Zone. Presenters shared information about the organizational structures of the two offices, regulatory procedures, streamlining efforts, and the use of technology in wetlands permitting. Other participating agencies included the USACE and DMR's Office of Marine Patrol, which continues to greatly assist the Wetlands Permitting Bureau in coastal zone management, particularly in the area of enforcement.

One staff member, Jennifer Wittmann, serves on the Mitigation Banking Interagency Review Team (MBIRT). As a member of the team she reviews proposed Mitigation Banking Instruments, inspects proposed and existing banks and participates in credit release surveys for mitigation banks servicing the USACE Mobile District.

Another staff member, Jana Guynes, completed training toward becoming a master naturalist. She will complete required volunteer hours in the near future and will then be fully certified.

Several members of the staff participated as science fair judges at local schools and we continue to make an effort to assist other DMR bureaus and offices in the overall mission of protecting our coastal habitats and resources.

### **Permits issued:**

Consistencies . . . . .	54
MMS OCS/NMFS Consistencies . . . . .	39
After-the-fact Consistencies . . . . .	5
Consistency Modifications . . . . .	1
Direct Federal Consistencies . . . . .	7
Direct Federal Consistency Modifications . . . . .	3
Emergency Orders . . . . .	1
Exclusions . . . . .	12
After-the-fact Exclusions . . . . .	0
General Permits . . . . .	308
General Permit Modifications . . . . .	69
General Permit Extensions . . . . .	11
General Permit Modification/ After-the-fact . . . . .	2
After-the-fact General Permit . . . . .	5
Permits . . . . .	19
Permit Modifications . . . . .	11
Permit Extensions . . . . .	6
After-the-fact Permits . . . . .	6

Waivers .....	64
Waiver Modifications .....	4
Waiver Extension .....	7
After-the-fact Waiver .....	3
Reviews .....	200
Violations .....	133
<b>Total: .....</b>	<b>970</b>



**Coastal Resource Management Specialist Jana Guynes flags the shoreline during a site visit as part of the coastal permit application process.**



**Coastal Resource Management Specialist Rebekah Ray takes depth measurements during a site visit.**





## **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.

#### **Objectives:**

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 approaches to protection and restoration of wetlands along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

#### **Status:**

Since Katrina, the removal of storm debris and the control of non-native, invasive species, particularly giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*), Chinese tallowtree (*Triadica sebifera*), cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*), Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), have been the priority issues for Coastal Preserves land management. With the help of FEMA and many other agencies, the majority of the wetland storm debris has been removed. However, there are still substantial amounts of upland debris that could not be removed under the funding provided for storm recovery. The CPP is seeking the funding needed to remove this upland debris. The program is also working very hard to minimize the damage caused by non-native invasive species. The CPP continues to pursue an aggressive program to map and treat the most heavily infested areas. The CPP has partnered with the Office of Marine Fisheries to fund regular patrols of all the coastal waterways searching for and treating aquatic invasive species, primarily giant salvinia, common salvinia and water hyacinth. A Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant was recently approved that will help continue to fund this effort for the next two years. CPP staff also attended steering committee meetings for the newly formed Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) for the State of Mississippi. The CWMA will help the CPP utilize its resources more efficiently and hopefully make more significant progress in combating invasive plants.

CPP staff continues to work with various partners to develop coastal restoration projects. CPP is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the Mississippi Coastal Improvement Plan (MSCIP), which includes many ecosystem restoration projects. CPP is also working with the USACE and other partners to find ways to replace the material lost from the Deer Island marsh restoration site during Katrina and bring the site elevation back up to the original project design. Currently, a contractor working on a Jackson County dredging project is renourishing the site. CPP expects to get a total of 30,000 cubic yards of material from this effort, which is about half of what is needed to repair the site. This effort has inspired the formation of a Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Group (BUG) for coastal Mississippi. The BUG

group had three formal meetings during FY2009 and is composed of representatives of many different state and federal agencies, as well as congressional staff and local groups. Other restoration activities include a 40-acre prescribed burn on a 400-acre longleaf pine/wiregrass savanna restoration project in the Dantzler Unit of the Pascagoula River Coastal Preserve and an additional 12,000 vegetative plantings on the Deer Island Marsh Restoration site.

The CPP made improvements to three of its public access projects. The walking trail on the Twelve Oaks Unit of the Old Fort Bayou Coastal Preserve was extended from a quarter mile to a half mile. A new trail, seven-tenths of a mile, was created out of fireline on the Dantzler Unit of the Pascagoula River Coastal Preserve. This trail work was accomplished with the help of a volunteer group from the Cornerstone Baptist Church of Cumberland, Md. In addition to the trail work, a damaged observation deck on the Hellmer's Lane Unit of the Davis Bayou Coastal Preserve was repaired. The CPP continues to work with the Mississippi Audubon Society, the City of Moss Point and the Mississippi Department of Transportation on the development of a nature trail along the East Pascagoula River.

CPP outreach accomplishments during this period included leading a field trip of Pearl River Community College biology students in the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve; giving powerpoint presentations to the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society meeting; the Louisiana/Mississippi Coastal Management Strategies Workshop; the Grand Bay NERR Wetlands and Water Quality workshop; reprinting the Coastal Preserve informational brochure; and developing a dedicated full-page spread in DMR's Coastal Markers newsletter to highlight Coastal Preserves accomplishments. The CPP also partnered with the Grand Bay NERR on a wetland plant identification course for training wetland regulators and other natural resource professionals. There were 22 attendees representing 13 different agencies and groups. This course has been conducted several times over the past eight years and requests for it have continued to increase.

Currently, the state has title to approximately 35,309 acres of critical Coastal Preserve habitat. The National Park Service's Gulf Islands National Seashore and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service'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 are now protected. The CPP continues to pursue additional acquisitions.





**New dredge material is placed on Deer Island as part of the Deer Island Marsh Restoration Project.**



**Giant salvinia grows among bulrush along the Pascagoula River.**



**In FY 2009, Coastal Preserves began a prescribed burn project that will revitalize 400 acres on the Dantzler Unit of the Pascagoula River Coastal Preserve.**



Construction has been completed on the new Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center, which will open in fall 2009.

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

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

The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) is an 18,500-acre reserve comprising state land and water and several thousand acres within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) located in Jackson County, Miss. The reserve staff facilitates 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 state agency for this federal/state partnership 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. The Grand Bay NERR is one of 27 reserves within the federal estuarine research reserves system.

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 DMR 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:**

- 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.
- Empower resource managers and decision-makers to make informed management decisions by providing science-based information and skill building opportunities.
- 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:**

- Continued collaborating research with the Environmental Cooperative Science Center through Jackson State University and Florida A & M University.
- Completing construction of the new \$7 million Reserve facility, the Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center.
- Continued Reserve weather and water-quality monitoring.

- Co-sponsored the annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference.
- Participated in the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair.
- Conducted presentations and field trips for various civic and school groups.
- Sponsored and facilitated a variety of Coastal Training Program workshops, including a Wetland Delineation, Wetland Restoration, Wetland Identification and Wetlands and Water Quality.
- Hosted nationally renowned botanist Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock to teach a class on wetland vegetation.
- Participated in the planning of the Alabama-Mississippi Bays and Bayous Symposium.
- Conducted outreach education programs at local schools.
- Continued a Nekton Sampling Program to evaluate the current status of Reserve fishes.
- Continued conservation planning work for the salt marsh topminnow in the northern Gulf of Mexico.
- Monitored the occurrence of invasive species, including cactus moth.
- Participated in Gulf of Mexico Alliance Priority Issue Teams and received funding for Alliance-related projects.
- 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.
- Hosted two graduate research fellows.
- Continued atmospheric mercury monitoring with NOAA.
- Collaborates with scientists from across the country on approximately 50 research projects at the Reserve focusing on coastal management issues.



***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.

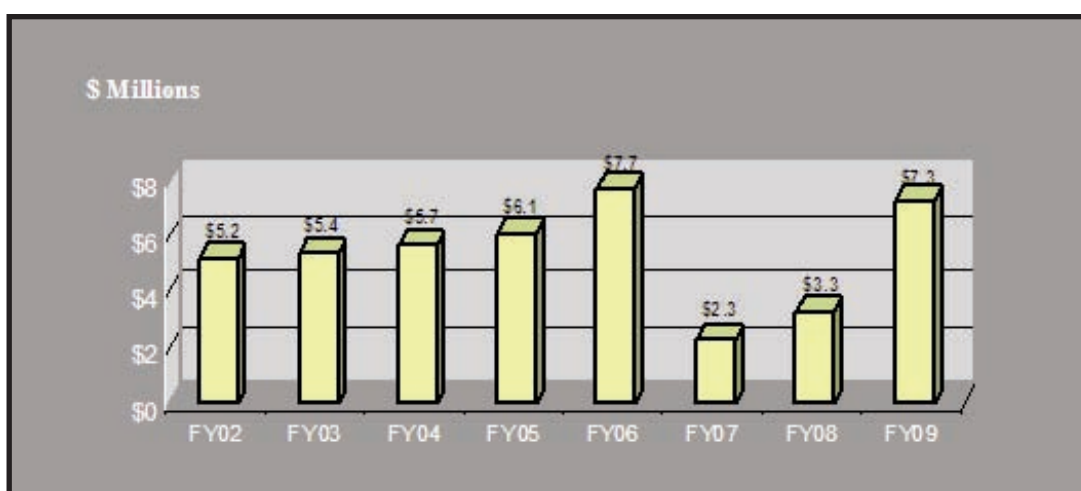
## Status:

The DMR Tidelands and Liaison Office disbursed funds for the following categories of projects:

- Deer Island Bond Payment
- Department of Marine Resources Management and Matching
- Public Access Projects

**Total Funds Disbursed for FY2009: \$7.3 million**

## Funding History:



The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office presented a Tidelands check for \$7.3 million to the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources on Dec. 15, 2008. Pictured, from left to right, are state Rep. Jeffrey Guice, state Sen. David Baria, state Rep. Hank Zuber, Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, Department of Marine Resources Executive Director Dr. William Walker, state Rep. Randall Patterson, state Rep. Richard Bennett, state Rep. Frank Hamilton and state Rep. Roger Ishee.

## ***License Sales***

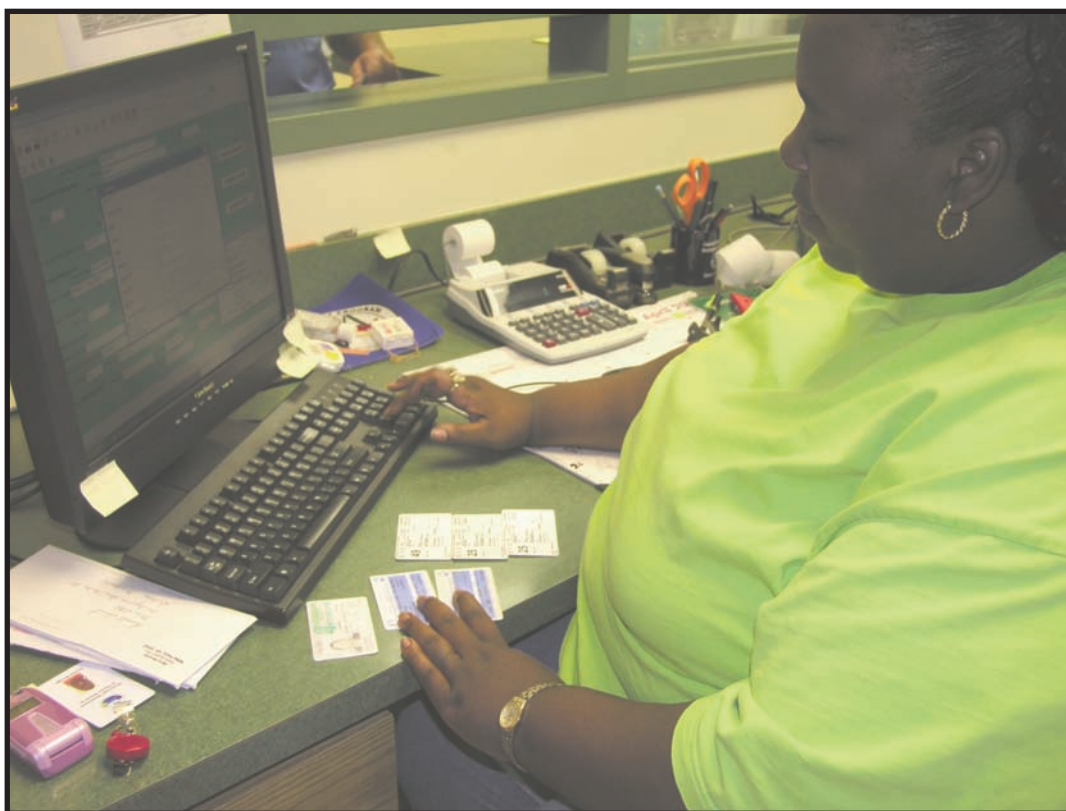
### ***Coordinator: Russell Doucet***

#### **Objectives:**

It is the objective of the license sales department to maintain the fishing license system; to set up accounts and subsequent license orders; to maintain account balances by agent, license type and license number; to ensure timely depositing of all license revenues; and to keep 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 final 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 regularly communicate with the public. 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.



**Administrative Services Assistant Crystal Morgan helps a customer purchase a saltwater fishing license.**

## FISCAL YEAR 2009 LICENSE SALES

**License Type .....# SOLD .....\$ AMOUNT**

### Resident Licenses

Captain's License .....	310 .....	\$3,100.00
Charter/Fishing/Party Boat .....	79 .....	\$15,800.00
Crab .....	137 .....	\$10,275.00
Crab for Shrimp/Oyster .....	58 .....	\$4,350.00
Fishing Boat License .....	142 .....	\$14,200.00
Interstate Commerce .....	320 .....	\$6,400.00
Interstate Commerce for Charter Boats .....	49 .....	\$980.00
Live Bait License-Boat .....	21 .....	\$2,310.00
Live Bait License-Dealer .....	22 .....	\$1,100.00
Menhaden Boat & Net .....	8 .....	\$1,200.00
Menhaden Processor .....	1 .....	\$500.00
Oyster Dredging .....	189 .....	\$20,790.00
Oyster Tonging .....	49 .....	\$2,940.00
Recreational Crab .....	603 .....	\$3,015.00
Recreational Oyster .....	18 .....	\$180.00
Recreational Shrimp .....	292 .....	\$4,380.00
Resident Commercial Hook & Line/Vessel Gig .....	292 .....	\$29,200.00
Residential Commercial Hook & Line/Fisherman/Gig .....	178 .....	\$17,800.00
Seafood Processor .....	0 .....	\$0.00
Seafood Dealer .....	218 .....	\$21,800.00
Resident EEL Fishing License .....	0 .....	\$0.00
Seafood Transport .....	12 .....	\$1,200.00
Shrimp/Captain 30-45' .....	127 .....	\$10,795.00
Shrimp/Captain 46' over .....	203 .....	\$22,330.00
Shrimp/Captain under 30' .....	125 .....	\$7,500.00
Saltwater Minnow .....	11 .....	\$550.00
<b>Total Resident License Sales .....</b>	<b>3,464 .....</b>	<b>\$202,695.00</b>

### Louisiana Resident Licenses

Louisiana Resident Commercial Crab .....	2 .....	\$1,320.00
Louisiana Resident Gear (1 trawl) .....	2 .....	\$200.00
Louisiana Resident Menhaden/Vessel/Comm + Named Captain .....	3 .....	\$8,070.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Dredging .....	14 .....	\$14,980.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Dredging w/current MS Shrimp License .....	0 .....	\$0.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Harvester .....	0 .....	\$0.00
Louisiana Resident Recreational Crab .....	32 .....	\$1,280.00
Louisiana Resident Recreational Shrimp .....	3 .....	\$300.00
Louisiana Resident Seafood Dealer .....	19 .....	\$21,850.00
Louisiana Resident Seafood Dealer Vehicle .....	59 .....	\$1,770.00
Louisiana Resident Shrimp (1 Trawl) + Captain License .....	0 .....	\$0.00



Louisiana Resident Shrimp (2 Trawl) + Captain License	31	\$24,800.00
Louisiana Resident Commercial Oyster Tonging	2	\$2,220.00
<b>Total Louisiana Resident License Sales</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>\$76,790.00</b>

#### Alabama Licenses

Alabama Charter Boat 7-25 people	0	\$0.00
Alabama Oyster Dredging	79	\$16,590.00
Alabama Oyster Tonging	50	\$5,500.00
Alabama Minnow License	1	\$101.00
Alabama Seafood Dealer	16	\$4,000.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain 30'-45'	22	\$1,870.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain 46' over	73	\$8,030.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain under 30'	1	\$60.00
Alabama Charter Boat 6 or fewer people	0	\$0.00
Alabama Crab	24	\$4,800.00
<b>Total Alabama Resident License Sales</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>\$40,951.00</b>

#### All Other States

Crab for Shrimp/Oyster Boats	2	\$400.00
Nonresident Charter Boat	1	\$200.00
Fishing Boat	14	\$4,200.00
Hook/Line/Vessell	0	\$0.00
Hook/Line/Fisherman/Gig	2	\$800.00
Recreational Crab	19	\$95.00
Recreational Shrimp	0	\$0.00
Seafood Dealer	4	\$800.00
Shrimp 30'-45' Out-of-State + Captain License	4	\$460.00
Shrimp over 45' + Captain License	53	\$11,130.00
Shrimp under 30' + Captain License	0	\$0.00
Texas Commercial Shrimp	1	\$1,125.00
Florida Seafood Dealer License	1	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Other License Sales</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>\$20,210.0</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,998</b>	<b>\$340,646.00</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: Alan McArthur***

#### **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 FY2009:

- Supported 150-plus personnel and more than 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 off-site backups to secure the agency's data. Procured more state-of-the-art servers and storage to enable electronic backups and to provide data and processing redundancy.
- Continued use of Help Desk management software that enables agency employees to submit, review and manage service requests to ITB.
- Provided database development and management services.
- Provided customer service to all agency employees as well as local, state and federal agencies.
- Began working towards a complete overhaul of the intranet and Internet.



**DMR Programmer Analysts Shannon Rojas, left, and Melissa Faircloth keep the DMR staff computers up-to-date and running smoothly.**

## ***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 audit and 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 FY09:

Number of equipment items on inventory beginning July 1, 2008 .....	2,509
Cost of additions to inventory .....	\$1,672,866.87
Cost of deletions to inventory .....	\$1,019,188.45
Number of items on inventory as of June 30, 2009 .....	1,818
Number of buildings on inventory as of June 30, 2009 .....	17
Beginning balance of all inventory items as of July 1, 2008 .....	\$8,882,129.46
Ending balance of all inventory items as of June 30, 2009 .....	\$9,713,839.10



**The Shellfish Bureau's Reef Keeper was added to the DMR fleet in FY09 and was paid for utilizing Emergency Disaster Relief Program funds.**



**The DMR Marine Patrol added The Mississippi to its fleet utilizing federal funds.**



## ***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 FY09:

P-1 approval obtained from state purchasing . . . . .20

Purchase orders issued . . . . .1,983

Conducted formal bid openings . . . . .11

General Service contracts processed . . . . .49

State Personnel Board contracts processed . . . . .8

Amount of expenditures made with procurement cards . . . . \$237,567.73

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.



**From left, Karen Carron, Janet Doucet and Purchasing Coordinator Beth Roberts ensure all DMR purchases follow state purchasing regulations.**





## ***Accounting: Coordinator: Kara Vesa***

### **Objectives:**

It is the objective of the accounting department to maintain all financial records for the DMR 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 FY09:

- Processed 2,999 payment vouchers.
- Sixty-seven payrolls processed for an average of 173 employees each month; reviewed and input data from timesheets into payroll system.
- Approximately \$5 million in Special Fund revenues were deposited in the treasury through 143 receipt transactions.
- Federal grant accounting was performed on approximately 55 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 \$22 million.
- Approximately 270 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 the 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 will also 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 22 inland pump-outs with three under construction. There were seven pump-outs installed on the coast, since all were lost to Hurricane Katrina. A pump-out boat operated by Mitchell Marine has been in operation since the hurricane to pump out vessels until more pump-outs come on line. 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 eight new pump-outs and most of them will be 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. The budget for fiscal year 2009 was \$120,000 for coastal and \$54,000 for inland. The program is currently undergoing reauthorization for six more years.



A pump-out boat purchased after Hurricane Katrina with funds allocated under the Clean Vessel Act Program provides pump-out services in the three coastal counties and the barrier islands.



## ***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:**

During this year, 17 vessels were removed under the Derelict Vessel Removal Program. Hurricanes Gustav and Ike created numerous new derelict vessels, which will be addressed in the FY2010. As a result of these storms, approximately 10 additional derelict vessels of various sizes have been identified and are in various stages of the removal process. Since inception of the Derelict Vessel Removal Program in May 1998, the program has removed 222 vessels from the waterways of Harrison, Hancock and Jackson counties.



The Tiger Shark, a 70-foot steel hull vessel, was run aground 10 yards off Biloxi's Front Beach. The derelict vessel was removed, cleaned and used for artificial reef material.



## ***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, 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 FY2009, 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 36 public education, community outreach and marine-related events across South Mississippi. About 27,346 people visited the DMR exhibits and obtained DMR information at these events. Public Affairs distributed about 99,535 brochures to the public.

During FY2009, Public Affairs printed eight individual publications (quantity of 76,250) and one individual educational/outreach item (quantity of 5,000), for a total of 81,250 items. Among the items produced were 40,000 copies of the Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing: Rules and Regulations, 4,000 Marine Litter Activity Folders for children and 15,000 Saltwater Fish Common to Mississippi fish identification posters.



Two major educational outreach programs organized and coordinated by DMR Public Affairs are the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, held every year in the fall 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.

The year 2008 marked the 20th anniversary of the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup. More than 2,224 volunteers picked up 139,941 pounds of trash at more than 50 sites along 173 miles of beaches and shorelines in the three Coast counties. More than 1,400 entries from 31 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 2009 calendar.

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

### **Publications:**

- Three 12-page issues of Coastal Markers, the DMR's external newsletter
- 2009-2010 Guide to Saltwater Fishing Rules and Regulations book
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources 2009 Marine Information Calendar (includes tide charts, sunrise/sunset times, moon phases, size/possession limits, reef coordinates, Mississippi saltwater fishing state records, boating safety information, student artwork)
- Saltwater Fish Common to Mississippi poster
- Marine Litter Activity Folders, revised and reprinted
- Annual report

### **Educational/Outreach Item:**

- Recycled paper bags, newly designed and printed, which contain easy guidelines on how to become a good steward of our coastal resources

### **Media and Community Relations:**

Public Affairs produced and disseminated 105 news releases, pitched story ideas and responded to media inquiries that resulted in more than 415 articles published in 15 local, national and international news publications, more than 50 television news broadcasts, numerous radio news reports and Web site postings. Public Affairs staff reported more than 550 conversations with media contacts in FY09.

DMR Public Affairs staff served on various local, state, regional and national public education and community outreach task forces, panels and committees, such as the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, Public Relations Association of Mississippi, and as state coordinator for Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup. The DMR Public Relations director was

appointed to serve on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Outreach and Education Advisory Panel and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Outreach subcommittee.

In FY2010, Public Affairs will print a marine information calendar, 2010-2011 Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing Rules and Regulations and pocket guide to size and possession limits, including new Spanish and Vietnamese translations of the guide. Under development are printing of educational items; coastal resources student art contest; a DMR general brochure; and a brochure about Mississippi's fishing line recycling program.



Public Relations Representative Lisa Damiano Jones explains how turtle excluder devices work to a young visitor at the Gulf Islands National Seashore Earth Day celebration held in April.

Public Relations Representative Shelly Becker sets up a sign in Biloxi pointing the way to Hiller Park, one of the new cleanup sites added in 2008 and a lunch site for the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup volunteers. The year 2008 marked the event's 20th anniversary.







**Public Relations Director Lauren Thompson, center, chairs the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, the organizing group for the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup and represents the state as coordinator of the International Coastal Cleanup. The DMR is the lead agency for the event, and the task force comprises representatives of state and local government, lawmakers, corporations, environmental interest groups and community organizations.**



**Public Relations Representatives Shelly Becker, left, and Lisa Damiano Jones represent DMR Public Affairs at the Mississippi State Capitol to promote the agency and its goals to members of the public and state lawmakers.**

## ***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 grants and contracts review; 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.

#### **FY2009 Accomplishments:**

- Increased participation in the DMR/Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Intern Program and provided DMR Interns to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.
- Conducted New Employee Orientation for all new employees, contract workers and Marine Reserve officers.
- Maintained an active recruitment network with local WIN Job Centers, Mississippi colleges and universities, Stennis Space Center and Keesler Air Force Base.
- Networked with the Mississippi State Personnel Board to develop a diversity recruitment package for the DMR.
- Continued to monitor the DMR's personnel expenditures for compliance and cost continuation.
- Restructured the functions of the Human Resources Office to ensure more efficient services to DMR employees and the public.
- Conducted annual comprehensive salary survey in order to keep the DMR unique job classifications' starting salaries competitive with the labor market for comparable jobs.
- Maintained the agency's organizational chart.
- Provided guidance to the DMR 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, e.g., PERS On The Go, CPR, Driver Safety Training and Employee Assistance Program training sessions.
- Aggressively participated in the challenges associated with implementing a human resources management system.
- Created a new job classification series for the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) to better reflect the job duties of the NERR employees.
- Implemented a DMR Employee Assistance Program that provides counseling services, educational programs and referrals at no cost to the employee.
- Developed a new employee orientation video and reconfigured employee orientation handbook.
- Secured legislative approval for the creation of a marine law enforcement cadet/trainee job classification that is non-state service; created the new job description.
- Sponsored two blood drives.
- Took an active role in the Marine Law Enforcement Reserve Unit program.
- Maintained 100 percent compliance with the state's performance appraisal system.
- Secured electronic versions of all employee's performance management documents and job content questionnaires, developed file key for electronic storage of these documents, and stored all documents on a secure Human Resources site on the DMR server.
- Developed and implemented a Human Resources Web page, an electronic DMR application and an electronic way in which people can submit their resume via the DMR Web site; began posting all recruitment notices on the DMR Web site.
- Expanded the DMR Classification and Compensation Plan to include DMR specific office directors, bureau directors and staff officers.

### **FY2010 Challenges:**

- Recertify all field staff in CPR and First Aid; train at least two DMR staff persons to eliminate having to contract out this training.
- Implement an expanded training program for all employees regarding DMR policies and state personnel policies.
- Petition the State Personnel Board to consider creating a pay differential for DMR employees based on the cost of living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, similar to the per diem allowed by the state for different parts of the state.

- Develop and implement an electronic file key and work with IT staff to put all HR work files on a secure section of the server that is backed up each night.
- Begin work to electronically store all employee files on the secure HR server and electronically attach all personnel file information to the employee record in Abra.
- Continue to refine the DMR Educational Benchmark system and secure approval of new programmatic benchmarks by the State Personnel Board.
- Go live with Abra, a state-of-the-art human resources management system.
- Transfer staff at the NERR into the new NERR job descriptions.
- Develop and implement programs and activities designed to enhance professional development and retention of DMR employees.
- Design and implement a bona fide Employee Recognition and Rewards Program.



**Human Resources Director Dorothy Daniel, center, and staff members Sandra Moore, left, and Libby Denyer ensure DMR worked steadily in FY09 to get the Human Resources Department online and expand inhouse training for DMR employees.**

**Lead Systems Administrator Al Walburtin gives blood at a Red Cross blood drive coordinated by DMR Human Resources at the Bolton Building in Biloxi on Nov. 25, 2009.**







## ***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. He has worked 22 years for the State of Mississippi and has accumulated a total of 31 years of law enforcement experience. He is chairman of the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel for the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, and a member of the Law Enforcement Committee for the Gulf States Marine Commission. 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 State of Mississippi.
- 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:**

- Thirty-three officers and five lieutenants provided 24-hour patrols.
- Made 802 cases (violations).
- Conducted 6,439 compliance checks.
- Rendered public assistance to 85 mariners in distress.

- Answered 555 complaint calls.
- Patrolled 41 marine events.
- Investigated 28 boating accidents.



**Lt. Jimmy Hester, left, and Lt. Col. Rusty Pittman run the engines for the Marine Patrol airboat. The airboat, paid for through a federal grant, was instrumental in the rescue of a man and his son who were stranded in a duck pond off the Pearl River when the tide went out in December 2008.**

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

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

On July 1, 2007, 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 to inspect turtle excluder devices (TEDs) and bycatch reduction devices (BRDs).
- Investigate all allegations of turtle harvest.
- Inspect seafood dealer landings and individual fish quotas (IFQs).

#### **Status:**

##### **DMR Marine Patrol Statistics Totals**

Vessel Checks - Commercial .....	411
Vessel Checks - Recreational .....	1,093
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Commercial .....	688
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Recreational .....	1,944
Fishery Violations - Federal .....	38
Fishery Violations - State .....	70
Fishery Warnings .....	17
Shore Patrol Hours .....	1,336
Offshore Patrol Vessel Hours .....	1,824
<b>Total Man Hours .....</b>	<b>6,448</b>



**A boater was stopped with these undersized and over-the-limit red snapper and prohibited shark species.**



**Marine Patrol  
Officer John  
Grimsley  
performs a  
routine JEA  
boarding.**



## ***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, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) 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:**

- First agency in Mississippi to obtain and operate new statewide 700/800 radio system.
- Provided day and night dispatch for Marine Patrol.
- Prepared monthly commission reports.
- Processed 802 issued citations.
- Obtained and completed APCO training for two dispatchers.
- Received 302 public service requests and 253 reports of illegal activity, dispatched officers to 28 boat accidents and recorded 41 special marine events.



- Recorded and logged 6,439 stops made by officers on regular patrols.
- Alerted Public Affairs Bureau to media inquiries and after-hours emergencies.
- Logged in 20,392 boat hours by officers on regular patrols.
- Enrolled students in 32 boat and water safety classes.



**Marine Patrol Dispatcher Michelle Shumake ensures a quick response to emergency calls.**

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

### ***Supervisor: Lt. Richard Cooley***

Lt. Richard Cooley, whose primary job is as training coordinator and emergency response officer, 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.

#### **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.
- To provide the general public with direct exposure to boating safety information and literature through a series of public outreach programs and presentations that 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:**

- Conducted 29 boating safety classes in FY2009, resulting in the certification of 387 persons.
- Permitted and/or assisted in 25 Marine Events.
- Attended Hurricane Response drill/exercise at Gulfport Air Guard Emergency Operations Center.
- Attended the Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana Hurricane Conference in Biloxi.
- Attended the Mississippi Civil Defense and Emergency Management Association ALL Hazards Seminar in Biloxi.
- Insured National Incident Management System (NIMS) training required for all Marine Patrol personnel was updated within required timeframe to certify DMR as NIMS compliant as required by FEMA.



**Marine Patrol Officer G.S. Saucier conducts a Boat and Water Safety class for students at East Hancock Elementary School.**

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

### ***Coordinator: Lt. 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 and increase their value of service to the public.

#### **Status:**

- Conducted four days of firearms qualifications.
- Conducted one day of firearms cleaning and inspection.
- Four officers completed IMPACT Port Security Training in Gulfport.
- Two officers attended Remington 870 Shotgun Armorer Class.
- Four officers attended U.S. Justice Department Basic Gang School.
- Six officers attended BUI Class.
- One officer attended Mississippi State Personnel Board Basic Supervisory Class.
- Twenty -five officers completed FATS training at Biloxi Police Department.
- One officer completed NRA Hand Gun Shotgun Instructor Class in Gulfport
- Eight officers completed National Incident Management Systems Incident Command System (NIMS ICS) 300 training.
- Four officers completed NIMS ICS 400 training.
- 10 officers completed NIMS ICS 800 training.



## ***Dive Team***

### ***Dive Team Leader: Master Sgt. Tommy Jennings***

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:**

- July 2009, divers assisted the U.S. Coast Guard in the search of a man overboard in the Mississippi Sound near Cat Island.
- August 2009, divers assisted Mississippi Highway Patrol with a vehicle fatality when a car was in the water at the 8-mile marker westbound on Interstate 10.
- September 2008, divers assisted the U.S. Coast Guard with debris removal after Hurricanes Ike and Gustav. Divers also assisted the Jackson County Sheriff's Office with the removal of a vehicle at one of the public boat ramps after Hurricane Gustav.
- October 2008 through May 2009, the Dive Team did in-service training and certified five new divers with the intent to expand Dive Team personnel.
- June 2009, divers conducted 80 dives for the DMR Shellfish division for square-meter sampling.





Members of the Marine Patrol Dive Team perform offshore training during the summer of 2009.

## **Reserve Unit**

### **Designee: Sgt. Patrick Levine**

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:**

- Reserve officers assisted in 200 regular patrols.
- Assisted in 11 major Marine Events:
  - Christmas on the Water
  - Opening day of shrimp season
  - Opening day of oyster season
  - Fourth of July
  - Smokin' the Sound
  - Smokin' the Lake
  - Thunder on the Bay
  - Blessing of the Fleet
  - Governor's Convention
  - Opening day of snapper season
  - Mardi Gras parades (Biloxi and D'Iberville locations)
- As of Sept. 15, 2009, the Marine Patrol Reserve Unit has a total of 20 active Reserve officers.
- Training conducted (approximately 50 hours)
  - Handcuffing techniques
  - Drug identification
  - Fish identification
  - Boat and water safety course
  - Dispatch training
  - Pressure point control tactics
  - Pepper spray training
  - Firearms safety and qualifications

**Approximate hours served for FY 2009 .....1,500**



**Reserve Officer Tamra Carrol, right, practices handcuffing techniques with Marine Patrol Officer Dawson Love.**

## ***Coastal Management and Planning Office***

### ***Office Director: Tina Shumate***

The overall objective of the Office of Coastal Management and Planning 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 Office of Coastal Management and Planning. 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 Area (NHA). The mission of the Mississippi Gulf Coast NHA is to continue growth of the economy by using 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 CIAP 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 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 the 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 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 the 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 10th annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference was held May 12-13, 2009, at the Imperial Palace Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi, Miss. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce and the Gulf Coast Business Council partnered with this program on the conference.
- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning has been meeting with all 11 coastal cities and the six coastal counties concerning their needs on recovery post-Hurricane Katrina.
- The staff is on the Governor's Recovery Commission's 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 Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Management Plan was delivered to the Department of Interior in February 2005. The Environmental Assessment has been out for public review. There were no adverse comments. The National Park Service forwarded the Management Plan and Environmental Assessment was sent to the Secretary of the Interior for signature and was signed as complete on Sept. 22, 2008.
- 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 (MGCNHA). A Web site has been developed and more than 8,000 copies of Heritage Happenings, the quarterly newsletter of the MGCNHA, have been distributed.
- MGCNHA staff is on the City of D'Iberville's Historical Society.
- MGCNHA was placed on the Governor's Recovery Commission's Heritage Tourism.
- The MGCNHA continues to partner 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 Office of Coastal Management and Planning won a Blue Pencil Award from the National Association of Government Communicators and a Lantern Award from the Southern Public Relations Federation for its smart growth marketing efforts.
- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning is administering the CIAP. Grants from this program total \$120 million for the six coastal counties of Mississippi.
- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning 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 Office of Coastal Management and Planning serves on the Land Trust for the MS Coastal Plain Board of Directors.
- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning has set the 11th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference to be held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi, Miss., May 12-13, 2010.





The Office of Coastal Management and Planning debuts a clip from its Mississippi Seafood Heritage DVD at the 10th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference in May 2009.



Mississippi Educational Television's 'Mississippi Roads' host Walt Grayson talks about how communities can use heritage resources to promote tourism while, from left, Mississippi Sen. Deborah Dawkins, Harrison County Supervisor Connie Rockco and Mississippi Rep. Hank Zuber listen at the 10th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference in May 2009.

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

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
Amberjack, Greater	113 lb. 13.6 oz.	08/10/08	William Oubre
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
Black Driftfish	15 lb. 7.2 oz.	08/13/07	Lenny Maiolatesi
Bluefish	16 lb. 6 oz.	00/00/84	Joe Krebs
Bonefish	4 oz.	11/04/99	Scott Floyd
Bonnethead	7 lb. 14.07 oz.	07/27/08	Doug Borries
Brotula, Bearded	17 lb. 3 oz.	07/04/08	Jack Paul Edwards IV
Burrfish, Striped	1 lb. 4 oz.	06/07/08	Joe Davis Sr.
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	2 lb. 2.2 oz.	06/08/08	Hylar Krebs
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, Blackbar	2 lb. 13 oz.	02/08/08	Lenny Maiolatesi
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	37 lb. 4 oz.	08/24/07	Steve Strickland
Flounder, Southern	10 lb. 4.66 oz.	03/03/07	Karen A. Good
Frogfish, Ocellated	6 lb.	08/10/08	Adam Perrigin
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	16 lb. 7 oz.	11/09/07	Leonard Maiolatesi Sr.
Grouper, Warsaw	250 lb.	07/17/04	Paul Gallop
Grouper, Yellowedge	32 lb.	08/10/08	James Necaise III
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. 4.8 oz.	08/17/07	Tommy O'Brien
Hogfish, Spotfin	10.4 oz.	06/01/08	Thomas Riley Hunt
Houndfish	1 lb. 0.01 oz.	07/03/08	Wes Harvey
Jack, Almaco	32 lb. 10.56 oz.	09/30/06	Donald Simmons Jr.
Jack, Black	16 lb. 4.8 oz.	08/03/07	Dennis L. Henry
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. 15.182 oz.	05/18/08	Keith J. Broussard
Kingfish, Southern	1 lb. 14 oz.	11/12/85	Scott A. Walter
Ladyfish	3 lb. 9.28 oz.	09/30/08	Chris Hill
Leatherjacket	3.34 oz.	07/29/08	Dick Wilson
Little Tunny (Bonito)	29 lb. 8.8 oz.	04/15/94	Jean A. Thornton
Longtail Bass	5 lb. 6.4 oz.	07/12/07	Lenny Maiolatesi
Lookdown	2 lb. 9.6 oz.	06/04/06	Scott Floyd

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
Mackerel, King	64 lb. 8 oz.	11/19/99	Dan Abshire Jr.
Mackerel, Spanish	8 lb.	00/00/84	Ron Dillistone
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. 14.99 oz.	06/15/08	Carlton Neal
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	9.6 oz.	06/25/08	Mark Alan Ros Jr.
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. 9.6 oz.	03/12/09	Chris Denton
Seatrout, Spotted	10 lb. 7.66 oz.	05/13/08	Eric T. Quave
Scorpionfish, Spinycheek	3 lb. 2 oz.	08/30/07	Doug Upton
Scorpionfish, Spotted	2 lb. 2.24 oz.	08/22/04	Dick E. Wilson
Shark, Atlantic Sharpnose	6 lb. 4 oz.	06/02/09	Donald Armes Jr.
Shark, Blacknose	14 lb. 13 oz.	07/03/08	Jordan Mathews
Shark, Blacktip	98 lb. 9.6 oz.	04/20/05	Thomas W. Barnes
Shark, Finetooth	11 lb. 7.9 oz.	06/28/08	Phillip M. Mercer
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, Tiger	90 lb. 15.2 oz.	06/02/09	Derek Palmer
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	6 lb. 0.32 oz.	06/25/08	Tommy O'Brien
Soapfish, Whitespotted	4.48 oz.	07/02/05	Scott Floyd
Spadefish, Atlantic	8 lb. 1.0 oz.	05/15/03	Destin P. O'Brien



<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ANGLER</b>
Stingray, Southern	158 lb. 1.6 oz.	07/04/07	Rick Grimstead
Swordfish	75 lb.	08/26/07	Lorenzo Owen
Tilefish	10 lb. 3.2 oz.	06/24/07	Brandan Langlinias
Tilefish, Goldface	2 lb. 15 oz.	11/09/07	Leonard Maiolatesi Sr.
Tilefish, Sand	2 lb. 1 oz.	02/08/08	Leonard Maiolatesi
Tomtate	12.96 oz.	05/01/04	Stephen E. Wilson
Tarpon	167 lb.	05/19/01	Dr. Keith Goodfellow
Trigger, Gray	9 lb. 7.33 oz.	08/05/07	Matthew L. Larmore
Trigger, Ocean	1 lb. 6.56 oz.	06/12/04	Stacy Scott
Trigger, Queen	7 lb. 6.4 oz.	07/21/07	Brandon Bosarge
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



**Greater Amberjack (left)**  
**(*Seriola dumerili*)**  
**113 pounds, 13.6 ounces**  
**William Oubre of Vancleave**



**Ocellated Frogfish (right)**  
**(*Antennarius ocellatus*)**  
**6 pounds**  
**Adam Perrigin of Ocean Springs**

## **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. 10.86 oz.	07/23/08	Doug Borries
Chub, Yellow	4 lb. 4.8 oz.	08/10/08	Rick Lauman
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)	12 lb. 0.49 oz.	08/11/07	Jordan Mathews
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	3 lb. 12.8 oz.	10/03/08	Rick Laumen
Runner, Blue	5 lb. 5.6 oz.	08/10/08	Rick Lauman
Runner, Rainbow	5 lb. 9.28 oz.	07/31/03	Dwayne Armes
Seatrout, Sand	1 lb. 0.96 oz.	11/18/07	Doug Borries
Seatrout, Spotted	6 lb. .8 oz.	05/11/09	Rick Lauman
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	5 lb. 12.65 oz.	06/26/08	Doug Borries
Snapper, Red	12 lb. 2.9 oz.	06/02/09	Doug Borries
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.	08/12/02	Nick Curcione



**Florida Pompano**  
**(*Trachinotus carolinus*)**  
**3 pounds, 12.8 ounces**  
**Rick Laumen of Ocean Springs**

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

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Price, Rhonda	Essential Skills For Grant Professionals	Portland, OR	Federal	\$1,135
Buchanan, Jennifer	Nat'l Marine Educators One World Conf	Savannah, GA	Federal	\$1,912
Thompson, Lauren	SPRF Conference	Destin, FL	Other	\$745
Becker, Shelly	SPRFConference	Destin, FL	Other	\$750
Perkin, Susan	SPRF Conference	Destin, FL	Federal	\$759
Walker, Bill	GOMA Team Meeting	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$683
Wakefield, Linda	LA Food Service Expo	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$699
Jackson, Irvin	LA Food Service Expo	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$743
Shumate, Tina	GOMA Meeting	Tampa, FL	Other	\$913
Price, Rhonda	GOMA Meeting	Tampa, FL	Other	\$903
Perret, Corky	America's Energy Coast Leadership	Woodlands, TX	Other	\$358
Wakefield, Linda	Florida Restaurant and Lodging Show	Orlando, FL	Other	\$335
Walker, Bill	GOMA/NOAA Grant Mtg	Corpus Christi, TX	Other	\$1,806
Hanisko, Marian	Gov's Action Plan Implementation	Corpus Christi, TX	Federal	\$841
Richardson, Bill	BTRAP Invasive Rapid Assessment	Galliano, LA	Other	\$385
Stewart, Darrin	BTRAP Invasive Rapid Assessment	Galliano, LA	Other	\$160
Brainard, Mike	BTRAP Invasive Rapid Assessment	Galliano, LA	Other	\$360
Posadas, Ruth	ISSC <i>Vibrio</i> Education Sub-Comm Mtg	Memphis, TN	Other	\$739
Perret, Corky	Foodservice Expo	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$260
Walker, Bill	Gulf of Mexico Foundation Meeting	Point Clear, AL	Other	\$918
Shumate, Tina	Restore America's Estuaries	Providence, RI	Other	\$1,783
Larsen, Grant	Restore America's Estuaries	Providence, RI	Other	\$1,783
Perret, Corky	American Fisheries Society Annual Mtg	Ottawa, Canada	Other	\$2,210
Walker, Jake	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	Galliano, LA	Federal	\$175
Walker, Jake	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	Pensacola, FL	Federal	\$24
Walker, Jake	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	Weeks Bay, AL	Federal	\$141
Shumate, Tina	ANHA Mtg Blue Ridge Heritage Area	Asheville, NC	Federal	\$864
Gollott, Leslie	ANHA Mtg Blue Ridge Heritage Area	Asheville, NC	Federal	\$872
Perkins, Susan	ANHA Mtg Blue Ridge Heritage Area	Asheville, NC	Federal	\$872
Larsen, Grant	ANHA Mtg Blue Ridge Heritage Area	Asheville, NC	Federal	\$872
Price, Rhonda	States Org Boating Assoc '08 Conf	Norfolk, VA	Federal	\$1,372
Buchanan, Mike	GSMFC Annual Mtg / Edrp Workshop	Key Largo, FL	Federal	\$133
Armes, Donnie	GULF States Annual Mtg	Key Largo, FL	Federal	\$743
Buchanan, Jennifer	NERRS National Meeting	Monterey, CA	Federal	\$1,673
Hanisko, Marian	NERRS National Meeting	Monterey, CA	Federal	\$1,655
Ruple, Dave	NERRS Annual Meeting	Monterey, CA	Federal	\$1,869
Boyd, Jan	Coastal States Organization Annual Mtg	Point Clear, AL	Federal	\$818
Perret, Corky	Gulf State Marine Fisheries Comm Mtg	Key Largo, FL	Other	\$980
Walker, Bill	Mote Marine Lab Tour/Gulf States Mtg	Key Largo, FL	Other	\$2,433
Stewart, Darrin	Cardiff Teleform System Certification	San Francisco, CA	Other	\$775
Lane, Melanie	Cardiff Teleform System Certification	San Francisco, CA	Other	\$2,408
Murrell, Christine	Gulf Of Mexico Port Sampler's Mtg	New Orleans, LA	Federal	\$106
Perret, Corky	U.S. Army Corps Workshop	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$259
Walker, Mike	11th Annual CZM Regional Mtg	Austin, TX	Federal	\$941
Gollott, Leslie	Gulf Guardian	New Orleans, LA	Federal	\$255
Perkins, Susan	Gulf Guardian	New Orleans, LA	Federal	\$225
Shumate, Tine	Coastal States Organization	Fairhope, AL	Federal	\$253
Larsen, Grant	Coastal States Organization	Fairhope, AL	Federal	\$253
Buchanan, Mike	Int'l Bonefish & Tarpon Symposium	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Other	\$1,148
Floyd, Traci	GSMFC 59th Annual Mtg	Key Largo, FL	Other	\$413
Diaz, Dale	GSMFC Semi-Annual Mtg	Key Largo, FL	Other	\$233
Walker, Bill	Gulf of Mexico Program/Gulf Guardian	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$614
Diaz, Dale	Gulf of Mexico Program/Gulf Guardian	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$238
Ziegler, Joe	Submerged Lands Mgmt Conference	Traverse City, MI	Other	\$2,330



<b>Employee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Burris, Rick	Gulf Of Mexico Program/Gulf Guardian	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$83
Diaz, Dale	Gulf Council Mtg	Mobile, AL	Other	\$24
Richardson, Bill	Gulf Of Mexico Program/Gulf Guardian	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$269
Floyd, Traci	NMFS BRD Workshop	Tampa, FL	Other	\$532
Jordan, Ron	Food Srv Constr Plan Review Training	Macon, GA	Other	\$451
Shumate, Tina	Se Region Nat'l Heritage Area Mtg	Atlanta, GA	Federal	\$416
Gollott, Leslie	SE Region Nat'l Heritage Area Mtg	Atlanta, GA	Federal	\$416
Perkins, Susan	SE Region Nat'l Heritage Area Mtg	Atlanta, GA	Federal	\$416
Walker, Bill	Gulf Of Mexico Govnrs Alliance/USCE	Baltimore / DC	Other	\$2,455
Perret, Corky	America's Energy Coast Forum	Washington, DC	Other	\$886
Perret, Corky	Engineering/Cstl Restoration/Boat Show	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$247
Price, Rhonda	GOMA Mtg	Apalachicola, FL	Federal	\$474
Larsen, Grant	GOMA Mtg	Apalachicola, FL	Federal	\$474
Shumate, Tina	GOMA Mtg	Apalachicola, FL	Federal	\$474
Perret, Corky	Gulf Oyster Industry Council Annual Mtg	Washington, DC	Other	\$1,859
Boyd, Jan L.	Ocean & Coastal Program Mgt's Mtg	Washington, DC	Federal	\$2,032
Clark, Jeff	Ocean & Coastal Program Mgt's Mtg	Washington, DC	Federal	\$1,896
Wakefield, Linda	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, MA	Other	\$1,993
Jackson, Irvin	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, MA	Other	\$2,472
Pittman, Rusty	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, MA	Other	\$2,246
Armes, Donnie	Int'l Boston Seafood Show	Boston, MA	Other	\$2,235
Walters, Christine	NERR Technician Training Workshop	Myrtle Beach, SC	Federal	\$473
Thompson, Lauren	International Coastal Cleanup Conf	Washington, DC	Other	\$1,066
Burris, Rick	SFA Coordinators Mtg	Charleston, SC	Federal	\$746
Price, Rhonda	USFWS Annual Coordinators Mtg	Charleston, SC	Federal	\$966
Strange, Tom	Coastal Geo Tools 2009	Myrtle Beach, SC	Other	\$40
Chesnut, Sandy	P&J Oyster V. LA Dept Of Health	Baton Rouge, LA	Other	\$198
Randall, Bradley	Int'l Conference On Shellfish Restoration	Charleston, SC	Other	\$1,083
Chesnut, Sandy	Ocean & Coastal Program Mgt's Mtg	Washington, DC	Federal	\$1,697
Runnels, Joseph	Ocean & Coastal Program Mgt's Mtg	Washington, DC	Federal	\$1,644
Shumate, Tina	AEC Task Force Meeting GOMA	New Orleans, LA	Federal	\$349
Price, Rhonda	AEC Task Force Meeting GOMA	New Orleans, LA	Federal	\$313
Shumate, Tina	Coastal Geo Tools Conference	Myrtle Beach, SC	Federal	\$1,226
Larsen, Grant	Coastal Geo Tools Conference	Myrtle Beach, SC	Federal	\$1,218
Jewell, Joe	Diversion Summit	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$447
Floyd, Traci	Nat'l Shellfish Assoc Annual Meeting	Savannah, GA	Other	\$1,896
Diaz, Dale	Gulf States Annual Spring Mtg	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$440
Chataginer, Walter	Gulf States Marine Fisheries	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$560
Walker, Bill	GOMA Mgmt Team/Fed Wrkgrouop Mtg	Pensacola, FL	Other	\$535
Shumate, Tina	Coastal Zone '09	Boston, MA	Federal	\$497
Larsen, Grant	Coastal Zone '09	Boston, MA	Federal	\$497
Walker, Bill	Coastal Zone '09	Boston, MA	Federal	\$497
Hanisko, Marian	Coastal Training Program Sector Mtg	Corpus Christi, TX	Federal	\$1,077
Perret, Corky	America's Energy Coast Task Force	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$286
Walters, Christine	Gulf Of Mexico Alliance Nutrient Criteria	New Orleans, LA	Federal	\$515
Walker, Bill	Mote Marine Laboratory-Fish Hatchery	Sarasota, FL	Other	\$1,017
Walker, Bill	COE Water Diversion Summit	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$1,212
Perret, Corky	Diversion Summit	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$486
Walker, Bill	NOAA State Ldrshp/Congr. Delegation	Washington, DC	Other	\$1,538
Hanisko, Marian	Gulf Of Mexico Cstal Training Prgm	Apalachicola, FL	Other	\$127
Perret, Corky	Gulf State Marine Fisheries Comm Mtg	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$311
Walker, Bill	NOAA Stimulus Mtg	Mobile, AL	Other	\$84
Walker, Bill	GOMA Planning Mtg	Slidell, LA	Other	\$87
Shumate, Tina	Alliance Of Nat'l Heritage Board Mtg	Lafayette, LA	Federal	\$550
Gollott, Leslie	Alliance Of Nat'l Heritage Board Mtg	Lafayette, LA	Federal	\$550
Perkins, Susan	Alliance Of Nat'l Heritage Board Mtg	Lafayette, LA	Federal	\$550

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Walker, Bill	Gulf Of Mexico Alliance Mtg	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$122
Walker, Bill	EPA GULF Program Business Council	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$77
Randall, Bradley	Harmful Algal Bloom Workshop	St Petersburg, FL	Other	\$745
Wakefield, Linda	Nat'l Restaurant Assoc Show	Chicago, IL	Other	\$2,100
Jackson, Irvin	Nat'l Restaurant Assoc Show	Chicago, IL	Other	\$2,172
Pittman, Rusty	Nat'l Restaurant Assoc. Show	Chicago, IL	Other	\$2,157
Armes, Donnie	Nat'l Restaurant Assoc. Show	Chicago, IL	Other	\$2,154
Walker, Bill	Dept Of Interior Hearing/Meeting	New Orleans, LA	Other	\$291
Posadas, Ruth	ISSC Education Committee Mtg	Manchester, NH	Other	\$969
Shumate, Tina	'09 Northern Gulf Institute Annual Conf.	Mobile, AL	Federal	\$408
Larsen, Grant	'09 Northern Gulf Institute Annual Conf.	Mobile, AL	Federal	\$372
Daniell, Dorothy	EEOC Seminar	Orange Beach, AL	Other	\$817
Price, Rhonda	NGI Conference	Mobile, AL	Federal	\$158
Broussard, Kristina	Gulf States Harmful Algae Wrkshp	St Petersburg, FL	Other	\$1,127
Wakefield, Linda	Southwest Food Service Expo	Dallas, TX	Other	\$1,400
Jackson, Irvin	Southwest Food Service Expo	Dallas, TX	Other	\$1,400
Diaz, Dale	ISSC <i>Vibrio</i> Mgmt Committee	Manchester, NH	Other	\$1,193
Price, Rhonda	Sustaining Unique Cultures	Lake Charles, LA	Federal	\$232
Shumate, Tina	Sustaining Unique Cultures	Lake Charles, LA	Federal	\$232
Price, Rhonda	Grants Certification Mgmt Training	Portland, OR	Federal	\$1,552
Walker, Bill	COE Civil Works Review Board	Washington, DC	Other	\$1,088
Walker, Bill	Capitol Hill Oceans Week	Washington, DC	Other	\$2,510
Jackson, Irvin	Annual Central Park MS Picnic	New York, NY	Other	\$1,044
Wakefield, Linda	Annual Central Park MS Picnic	New York, NY	Other	\$1,048
				\$119,608

**Total Out of State Travel Cost . . . . . \$119,608**