Commission on Marine Resources

July 16, 2019
Employment, Contracts and Procurement Updates
July 16, 2019
## Contracts and Procurements for July 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Procurement Method</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Commodity/Service Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>USM Work Order #24</td>
<td>IHL/Exempt</td>
<td>$33,680.00</td>
<td>07.01.2019 – 08.31.2019</td>
<td>100% Tidelands</td>
<td>Shellfish Sanitation Compliance</td>
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<td>100% Bonnet Carre</td>
<td>Blue Crab CPUE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Information Technology & Geographic Information Systems Report

Karen Clark
July 16, 2019
The Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award ceremony was held on July 10, 2019 at the annual Esri User Conference. The awards are given to organizations using GIS to improve our world. These organizations set new precedents throughout the GIS community. Our agency stood out from more than 100,000 organizations and is featured at www.esri.com/sag-award. SAG Award recipients represent 0.01% of Esri users globally.
Other SAG Winners

- Department of Mineral Resources of Thailand
  - Search and Rescue
- The United Nations
  - Sustainable Development
- Columbia University
  - Open Data for marine geoscience
Example Projects

- Data Collection Apps
- Dashboards
- Interactive Maps on DMR Website
- Aerial Photos
- Elevation Models
- Habitat Mapping & Monitoring

These projects were developed in-house by the IT/GIS Team at no additional cost to the State/Agency.
Questions?
Cat Island Enhanced Patrol
• Background

- SOS Hoseman committed funding for ATV and Contract Worker for land-based patrols of state owned property (Coastal Preserve system)

- Historically, MP has conducted patrols only from water
Section 100 states:

“All motorized vehicles, motorcycles, personal water craft, airboats, hovercrafts, vessels and aircraft or airplanes are prohibited in public owned Mississippi Coastal Preserves emergent vegetation and adjoining surrounding land areas, except those vessels operated by the MDMR or otherwise permitted pursuant to this Part”
Letter sent to Landowners

- During June 2019, the following letter was sent to all landowners explaining the anticipated enforcement of Title 22, Part 19
June 26, 2019

Re: Bayou Marie Ridge Subdivision, Cat Island, Harrison County, MS

This letter is to inform you of ownership changes on portions of Cat Island. Two maps detailing the location of property belonging to the State of Mississippi are attached (the private property is shaded green, the state property is shaded red and the unshaded areas are federal property that is part of Gulf Island National Seashore). The state property part of the Public Trust Tidelands and as such shall be preserved and maintained in the Coastal Preserves System of the State of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Coastal Preserves Bureau has placed several "no motorized vehicle" signs where existing trails leave privately-owned property and enter state-owned property. Chapter 03, Section 100 of Title 22, Part 10 states, "All motorized vehicles, motorcycles, personal water craft, airboats, hovercrafts, vessels and aircraft or dockappains are prohibited in publicly owned Mississippi Coastal Preserves emergent vegetation and adjoining surrounding land areas, except those vessels operated by the MDMR or otherwise permitted pursuant to this Part."

The Coastal Preserves Program is dedicated to preserving, restoring and managing state-owned coastal wetlands to perpetuate their natural features and ecological integrity,

as well as their social and economic values for the benefit of present and future generations.

Should you have any questions please contact me at jennifer.willmann@dmr.ms.gov or 228-523-4111.

Jennifer C. Willmann
Director, Bureau of Coastal Preserves

Enclosures

cc: Raymond Carter, SOS
Kyle Wilkinson, Deputy Chief, Marine Patrol
Tails n Scales Enforcement Trip Data

Completed Tails n Scales trips: 3,806
Vessels checked: 420
Unregistered trips requiring enforcement action: 23
Seized Red Snapper: 112

Marine Patrol has verified 11.0% (420 vessels) of the 3,806 completed trips through the Tails n Scales program YTD. 94.5% of the 420 vessels checked have been in compliance leaving only a 5.5% non-compliance rate.
Updates to Title 22, Part 19

- Chapter 1: Introductions
- Chapter 2: Justification and Authority
- Chapter 3: General
  - Users will be responsible for damages to facilities and natural resources. MDMR is not responsible for damage to private property or accidents
  - Open from 1 hour before sunrise until 1 hour after sunset except Deer Island and Cat Island which are open 24 hours/day
  - Any Coastal Preserve may be closed for management or safety reasons
Chapter 4: Camping

- Camping on Deer Island and Cat Island is limited to 7 days (longer with prior approval). Camping on other preserves requires prior approval.
- Campfires are permitted on sandy areas of Deer and Cat Island and vegetation can’t be cut down for fires.

Chapter 5: Boating

- Houseboat mooring is limited to 7 days (longer with prior approval).
- Boaters must abide by existing boating regulations.
Chapter 6: Hunting, Trapping, Fishing and Wildlife

- All people should abide by existing hunting and fishing regulations
- Hunting is not allowed within any city limits or within 600 feet of a nature trail
- Permanent blinds and stands cannot be constructed on Coastal Preserves
- Feeders and harassment of wildlife are not allowed
- Trapping requires prior approval from Coastal Preserves
- Releasing animals on Coastal Preserves requires prior approval from Coastal Preserves and MDWFP
• Chapter 7: Coastal Preserve Property
  • Plants and soils cannot be removed without prior approval
  • No dumping, homesteading, metal detectors, posting of signs, advertising, etc. on Coastal Preserves
  • Dogs must be on leashes
  • Historic site shall not be disturbed
• Chapter 8: Vehicle Use
  • No motorized vehicles except law enforcement, emergency personnel and MDMR
  • Bikes are allowed on trails only

• Chapter 9: Firearms, Fireworks and Explosives
  • Persons with proper credentials may carry handguns
  • Firearm use is restricted to hunting
  • Explosives are prohibited
• Chapter 10: Letters of Permission
  • Special Events, extended camping, research, etc. require prior approval from Coastal Preserves

• Chapter 11: Penalties
  • In accordance with MS Code §49-15-63

• Chapter 12: Chapters and Subchapters Declared Separable

• Chapter 13: Administrative Procedures Act
Required:
A Motion to Proceed with Notice of Intent to Adopt Title 22, Part 19
MDQDWHGIl spill Restoration
Chris Wells, Director, Office of Restoration
Deepwater Horizon Restoration Funding streams

RESTORE

NRDA

NFWF-CBF

Civil Settlement
Ecological focus
Funding is allocated by resource
Work through TIG
Driven by Oil Pollution Act
Projects require long-term performance monitoring
Phase IV
Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries

$30,000,000
Building: living shorelines, subtidal reef, intertidal reef

Where:
Grand Bay
Graveline Bay
Back Bay of Biloxi and Vicinity
St. Louis Bay
Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries

Overview

Deer Island

Conceptual project design features represent generalized areas and are subject to refinement.
Deer Island **90–acre high relief Subtidal Reef**

Project Goal is

Restoration of lost Benthic Secondary Productivity
Figure 3.2
Deer Island Subtidal Reef

Legend:
- Bathymetric Contours in Feet (1' Interval)
- No Reef Material Elsewhere Shallower than -2' Contour
- Potential Reef Placement - Antes Depron 14' to 28' - MLLW inside Project Boundary


HORIZONTAL DATUM: Orthodrap Plate East, MADE; U.S. Survey Feet
VERTICAL DATUM: Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW)

Note: The proposed subtidal reef is located approximately 440' south of the Federal Navigation Channel and 200' west of the current reef project.
Proposed Cooperative Agreement Between MDEQ and MDMR

• Per the Consent Decree for the settlement with BP, the project requires a minimum of 5 years of post-construction performance monitoring, which will be made publicly available

• MDEQ is required to conduct biological monitoring of invertebrate infauna and epifauna biomass

• In order to meet the monitoring and project requirements, it is necessary to protect the project area from commercial and recreational harvesting and relay for the duration of the monitoring period (“Harvesting Moratorium”)

• To meet the Project Goals and to comply with the project requirements, MDEQ requests reef protection for a minimum of 5 years post construction or until end of monitoring period, which could be extended by no more than 2 years if performance criteria are not met

• Protection would be achieved through a Cooperative Agreement between MDEQ and MDMR approving the Harvesting Moratorium
Prohibit commercial and recreational shellfish harvesting and indirect harvest by relay in the project area.

Minimum 5 year post-construction harvesting moratorium to allow for required monitoring.

Extend the harvesting moratorium for an additional 2 years, if the performance criteria are not met within 5 years.
MDEQ RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Project Implementation**
- Notify MCMR/MDMR of date of completion of construction.
- **Post-Construction Monitoring**
- Obligated by Consent Decree and Project Restoration Plan to perform post-construction biological monitoring for a minimum of 5 years.
- After 5 years, notify the MCMR/MDMR of the necessity for an additional 2 year monitoring period.
- Provide periodic monitoring reports as conducted, but no less than 3 years and 5 years post-construction.
MCMR/MDMR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Enforce a 5 year post-construction harvesting moratorium – to include commercial and recreational harvest and relay activities.
- Extend the harvesting moratorium for an additional 2 year period in the performance criteria outlined in Table 1 is not met within 5 years.
Request for Permit by:
MS Department of Environmental Quality
File: DMR-190166

- Location: Just north of Deer Island in the Mississippi Sound, Harrison County, MS.

- Use District: Mostly (P) Preservation District with a bit of (G) General Use District and (S1) Special Use – Natural and Artificial Oyster Reefs

- Project Purpose/Need:
  - NRDA Early Restoration Project
    - Support secondary productivity

- Agent: Alane Young, Covington Civil and Environmental, LLC
Project Description

- Subtidal reef creation:
- Approximately 90 acres in the Mississippi Sound
Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW)

Reef Material (Width and Length Varies Depending on Water Depth)

Soft Sediments

Depth of Refusal or Hard Bottom

Minimum Clearance 2.0'

0.2' to 3.0'

Typical Subtidal Reef Detail
Not to Scale
The applicant has requested a variance to Chapter VIII, Section 2, Part III.O.1. of the MCP. Permanent filling of Coastal Wetlands because of potential adverse and cumulative environmental impacts is discouraged.

This variance request was justified under Ch. VIII, Sect. 2, Part I.E.2.c.i.

The Impacts on Coastal Wetlands would be no worse than if the guidelines were followed.
Public and Agency Notification

- Notification of this project appeared in *The Sun Herald* on December 23 and December 30, 2018, and January 6, 2019.
  - One public comment was received concerning the proposed location for the project

- **MS DMR:**
  - **Coastal Preserves:**
    - Approved the request to work within the riparian zone of Deer Island contingent on certain conditions
  - **Marine Fisheries:**
    - The project will positively impact the existing Joe Thornton Hull reef
    - MDMR and MDEQ should establish a formal agreement on what will happen to the site once the project and study is completed
Public and Agency Notification

- MS DEQ: Issued 401 Water Quality Certification on March 18, 2019
- MS DAH: Requested additional information on where the 45,000 cubic yards of cultch material would come from and what it would consist of
- MS SOS: No comment
- MS DWFP: If BMPs are implemented the proposed project likely poses no threat to listed species or their habitats
Recommendation

- Based upon departmental review and evaluation based on the decision factors in Ch. 8, Sect. 2, Part I.E.2. of the MCP, it has been determined that the project will have a significant public benefit. Therefore, staff recommends that the CMR approve the variance request and issue the requested permit with the following conditions:
  - The project area should be re-checked for the presence of SAV during the growing season prior to implementation of the project.
  - The survey report should be submitted to the Bureau of Wetlands Permitting at least 30 days prior to project commencement.
  - If SAV is found in the project area, a final review and approval by MDMR staff should be required prior to project commencement.
  - A final as-built diagram should be provided to the Bureau of Coastal Preserves within 90 days of construction completion.
  - Clearance from MDAH should be provided to the Bureau of Wetlands Permitting prior to commencement of construction.
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Agency Financial Results

as of June 30, 2019

Commission on Marine Resources
July 16, 2019
Key Metrics:

- **State Revenue of $31.8M**
  - Waiting on Appropriations of $1M from Treasury
- **Agency Revenue of $50.3M**
- **State Net Income of $19.8M**
- **Agency Net Income of $20.7M**

### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

**Income Statement - Fiscal Year 2019**

As of June 30, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>NFWF</th>
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<td>Wireless Devices</td>
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<td><strong>Current Budget Year Net Income/(Loss):</strong></td>
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<td>(592,658)</td>
<td>$19,287,219</td>
<td>$1,416,995</td>
<td>$20,704,213</td>
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Financial Budget Comparison

- After twelve months of Fiscal Year 2019:
  - Operating Funds have 53.3% of Budget remaining
  - Tidelands Trust Fund has 38.4% of Budget remaining

### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
### 2019 Budget Comparison
### As of June 30, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Operating</th>
<th>Tidelands</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries, Wages, Fringe</td>
<td>$7,693,241</td>
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<td>Subsidies, Loans, and Grants</td>
<td>4,136,597</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditures:</strong></td>
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<td>$9,031,896</td>
<td>$29,602,746</td>
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<table>
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<td><strong>Percent Remaining</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7.2%</strong></td>
<td><strong>37.6%</strong></td>
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- Operating: 29.7% of Budget Remaining
- Tidelands: 7.2% of Budget Remaining

July 16, 2019
MDMR/USGS Gauge at St. Joe, MS

Salinity

Temperature

--- Provisional Data Subject to Revision ---
Western Sound Freshwater Algal Bloom

• An algal bloom, first reported to MDMR on June 12 in the Western MS Sound was identified as a freshwater blue green algae, *Dolichospermum* spp.

• On June 14 samples were sent to the NOAA Phytoplankton Monitoring Network in Charleston, SC, for testing of microcystin. Results indicated a concentration below the WHO’s and the EPA’s guidelines for drinking water and recreational contact.

• Samples collected from the western Sound on June 19 contained *Dolichospermum* spp. and *Microcystis*, a producer of microcystin.

• On June 22, MDEQ issued its first set of beach closures for Hancock County. Additional closures of beaches east to Gulfport Central Beach have been issued.

• From June 24 to 26, the MDMR HAB Response Team received and analyzed 81 samples from the Mississippi Sound and beaches. An additional seven samples were shipped to NOAA for analysis of saxitoxins. The results received on June 28 indicate that all samples analyzed were below the limit of quantification.

• From July 1 to July 15, MDMR and MDEQ worked closely to monitor for the presence of cyanobacteria both near shore and off shore. *Microcystis* continued to persist within most samples collected.
MDMR Shellfish Preliminary Field Data

Oyster Mortality by Reef for Week of July 9, 2019

Total Number of Oysters

- 100% at Pass Christian Dredging
- 95% at Pass Christian Tonging
- 100% at Pass Balance
- 87% at St. Joe
- 100% at St. Shoals

Legend:
- Blue: Live
- Red: Dead

Oyster Mortality

- Henderson Point
- Pass Christian Dredging
- Pass Christian Tonging
- Pass Marianne
- St. Joe
- St. Stanislaus

Oyster Reef

Percent Mortality (%) vs. Number of Days Since Initial Bonnet Carre Opening (2/27/2019)

Map: Shellfish Growing Areas - Western Mississippi Sound

Areas I, II, III, IV, V, etc., marked with varying symbols and colors.
MDMR Crab Impacts

Mississippi Blue Crab Landings vs. 5-year Average

**Preliminary Data**

**Enhance ★ Protect ★ Conserve**
MDMR Shrimp Impacts

Mississippi Shrimp Landings vs. 5-year Average

**Preliminary Data**

- Jan-19: -22%
- Feb-19: -25%
- Mar-19: -93%
- Apr-19: -59%
- May-19: 19%
- Jun-19: 59%

Legend:
- Prev 5-Year Average
- 2019 Landings

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE
QUESTIONS?
2019 Mississippi EFP Red Snapper Mid-Season Update

Commission of Marine Resources Meeting
Trevor Moncrief
July 16, 2019

K.2.
2019 Mid-Season Update (PR only)

2018 (Prior to July 9\textsuperscript{th} closure)
- Harvest: 80,546 pounds
- Number Fish Harvested: 13,226
- Average Weight: 6.09
- Trips: 3,360
- Effort: 3.02 Anglers/Vessel/Trip
- Harvest: 1.30 Fish/Angler/Trip

2019 (Prior to July 8\textsuperscript{th} closure)
- Total Harvest: 96,092 pounds
- Number Fish Harvested: 17,664
- Average Weight: 5.44 pounds
- Trips: 3,480
- Effort: 3.87 Anglers/Vessel/Trip
- Harvest: 1.31 Fish/Angler/Trip
QUESTIONS?
State Saltwater Finfish Record

Matt Hill
June 19, 2019
Youth Division: Conventional Tackle
Youth Saltwater Fishing Record

Gray Snapper
*Lutjanus griseus*

New Record: 11 lbs. 15.2 oz.

Angler: Hudson Havard
Required:
Motion to Adopt New State Record