



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DMR Offers \$5,500 Grants for Schools Affected by Katrina

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' (DMR) Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) announces an "Environmental Stewardship Program" to assist elementary schools affected by Hurricane Katrina in the three coastal counties. Qualified school's principals are encouraged to participate by submitting proof of destruction and a project proposal totaling \$5,500, such as a bird watching corner, herb garden, freshwater or seawater aquarium, or mini-butterfly garden. Complete proposals are due by April 30 and the grants are expected to be available school years 2011-12 and 2012-13.

A total of 18 grants will be given away, nine grants per assigned year. Grant recipients will be announced as soon as the Coastal Impact Assistance Plan (CIAP) funds are released. Each funded project shall be finished by the end of six to nine months from the time granted depending upon the project. Upon completion, students and teachers will present their project to the DMR's STB research staff.

For a grant application and more information call Ruth Posadas or Jessica Rankin at 228-374-5000. The DMR looks forward to each school's involvement in this educational outreach program funded by the State of Mississippi. The stewardship program is a stepping stone that will lead young people to a continued involvement in community activities for the recovery and renewal of Mississippi Coast.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

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