



## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***Mississippi Oyster Reef Areas to Close due to the Pearl River Stage Exceeding Management Plan Criteria***

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) announces the closing of Area II “E” Conditionally Approved Waters and Area II “F” Conditionally Approved Waters to the harvest of oysters , **effective at 4 p.m., Thursday, March 14, 2013**, due to Pearl River stage exceeding MDMR's management plan criteria for these areas. The management plan is designed to help ensure the quality of oysters and protect the public health.

- **Area II “E” Conditionally Approved Waters (closing)** – This area includes Square Handkerchief reef and southern portions of Henderson Point Reef.
- **Area II “F” Conditionally Approved Waters (closing)** – This area includes southern portions of the Pass Christian Reef.

All other current rules and regulations will remain in effect.

**For more information on the open and closed areas, call the MDMR’s 24-hour Oyster Information Hot Line at 228-374-5167 or 1-800-385-5902.**

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](http://www.dmr.ms.gov).

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