



**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**  
1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

## Media Advisory

Contact: Melissa Scallan  
Phone: 228-523-4124

15-28-MMS  
May 8, 2015

### *State of Our Coast conference set Wednesday*

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources will hold its inaugural conference, “State of Our Coast: Moving Forward Together,” from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, 2015.

Speakers include MDMR Executive Director Jamie Miller, Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann and LSU professor Rex Caffey, Ph.D.

Participants also will hear updates on red snapper season and the Governor’s Oyster Council.

The conference will be held at the Golden Nugget Casino, 151 Beach Blvd., Biloxi

An agenda for the conference is attached.

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).

—END—



*State of Our Coast  
Moving Forward Together*

Wednesday, May 13, 2015  
Morning Session



7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Registration & Coffee

9:00 a.m.-9:25 a.m. Introductions & Welcome  
*Jamie Miller, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources*

9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Tidelands and Coastal Preservation  
*Delbert Hosemann, Mississippi Secretary of State*

10:05a.m.-10:20 a.m. We Happy Few  
*Walker Foster, Vice President of Government Contracts VT Halter Marine*

10:25 a.m.-10:40 a.m. Changes in Habitats and Life Styles in Hancock County  
*Jerry Boos, Local Gulf Coast Historian*

10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Creating Opportunities Through Nature Based Tourism  
*Malcolm White, Director of Visit Mississippi Mississippi Development Authority*

11:00 a.m.-11:20 a.m. BREAK

11:25 a.m.-11:40 a.m. Research.....Fishing for Answers  
*Dr. Kelly Lucas, Chief Scientific Officer, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources*

11:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Mississippi's NEWF Planning Project  
*Tom Strange, Natural Resource Scientist Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration, LLC*  
*Dr. Robert Kröger, Chief Scientific Officer Covington Civil & Environmental, LLC.*

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. LUNCH with keynote speaker Dr. Rex Caffey  
Economics and Ecosystem Services  
*Dr. Rex H. Caffey is a Professor of Natural Resource Economics in the LSU Department of Agricultural Economics*

*State of Our Coast  
Moving Forward Together*

Wednesday, May 13, 2015  
Afternoon Session



1:15 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Panel - Restoring Our Gulf  
*Jamie Miller, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources*  
*Gary Rikard, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality*  
*Justin Ehrenwerth, Restore Council*  
*Chuck Wilson, Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative*  
*Laura Bowie, Gulf of Mexico Alliance*

2:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m. Question and Answer

2:20 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Panel - Cross State Partnership for Restoration  
*George Ramseur, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources*  
*Carl Ferraro, AL Department of Conservation & Natural Resources*  
*Frank Cole, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources*

3:00 p.m.-3:10 p.m. Question and Answer

3:10 p.m.-3:30 p.m. BREAK

3:30 p.m.-3:50 p.m. Panel - Red Snapper Update  
*Matt Hill, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources*  
*Chris Blankenship, AL Department of Conservation & Natural Resources*  
*Dr. Robert Leaf, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory*  
*Dale Diaz, Gulf Council*

3:50 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Question and Answer

4:00 p.m.-4:20 p.m. Panel - Governor's Oyster Council Update  
*Jamie Miller, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources*  
*Dane Dennis, Council Chairman*  
*Alan Sudduth, Committee Co-chairman*  
*Tish Williams, Committee Co-chairman*  
*Clay Wagner, Committee Co-chairman*

4:20 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Question and Answer

4:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m. Closing  
*Jamie Miller, Executive Director*  
*Mississippi Department of Marine Resources*