

Elvis the egret, Emeril promote Mississippi Gulf Safe seafood



The DMR Seafood Marketing Program has kicked off a campaign to promote Mississippi Gulf Safe Seafood that has included an egret named Elvis and celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse.

The Gulf Safe Seafood campaign is an ongoing awareness drive to send out the message that Gulf seafood remains safe, is only harvested from open, regulated waters, is tested extensively and is of the highest quality. As part of the campaign, DMR has printed the Mississippi Seafood Industry Directory and a 2011 calendar featuring recipes using Gulf Safe Seafood.

The message can be seen throughout Mississippi and across the country on billboards, banners, posters and restaurant tabletop displays, as well as in television and magazine ads in the Newcomers and Visitors Guide for South Mississippi, Parents and Kids Magazine, Gulf Coast Angler and Gulfscapes. Gulf Safe Seafood brochures explain the seafood testing and sampling process and show how Mississippi seafood compares to the FDA levels of concern for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

A Name the Gulf Safe Egret contest tapped Coast children ages 12 and under to find a name for the shrimp-eating snowy egret featured on 13 Mississippi Gulf Safe Seafood billboards across the Coast. Tyler Fulmer, 11, of Biloxi and Conner Smothers, 12, of Diamondhead both submitted the winning entry, "Elvis."

The Seafood Marketing Program has taken the Gulf Safe message to local events—including the Great Mississippi Seafood Cook-Off, Gulf Coast Charter Boat Challenge, Cruisin' the Coast, Chefs of the Coast, the Billfish Rendezvous, the Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo's Fourth of July in Fall, the Peter Anderson Festival, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Blues Festival, the Biloxi Seafood Festival, Christmas in the Pass, the Gautier Mullet Festival and the Blessing of the Fleet—as well as on the road to Chicago, Boston, New Orleans, Oklahoma City, Baltimore, Houston, Baton Rouge, and to such events as the annual Viking Classic golf tournament in Madison, Miss., where Lagasse and other professional chefs used Gulf Safe Wild-Caught Mississippi Shrimp in culinary demonstrations.

The Seafood Marketing Program also joined forces with the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, Mississippi Gulf Coast Tourism, Bass Pro and Branson AirExpress to host a Mississippi Gulf Coast Seafood Cookout and press conference at the Branson, Mo., airport in September.

Plans for 2011 include printing a new recipe book for Gulf Safe Seafood and attending many trade shows and festivals, including the American Culinary

Federation conferences in Atlanta, New Orleans and Dallas; the Charleston, S.C., Food and Wine Expo; the International Boston Seafood Show; the Biloxi Crawfish Festival; the National Restaurant Association's American Food Fair in Chicago; the Biloxi Shrimp Festival and Blessing of the Fleet; the Southwest Foodservice Expo in Dallas; the Louisiana Restaurant Association Expo and the Great American Seafood Cook-Off in New Orleans; the Oklahoma Restaurant and Convention Expo in Oklahoma City; the Mid-Atlantic Food, Beverage and Lodging Expo in Baltimore; and many others.



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www.dmr.ms.gov



Director's Notes

Dr. William Walker

If you live in South Mississippi, you've probably been hearing a lot lately about a process called NRDA, the Natural Resource Damage

Assessment, which is well

under way in Mississippi and our fellow Gulf states. NRDA is not about BP personal claims, but about restoring the natural resources of the Gulf Coast. The goal of NRDA is threefold: 1) to quantify the injuries suffered as a result of the BP oil spill; 2) to determine the amount of restoration necessary to restore our natural resources to their condition prior to the spill; and 3) to develop an appropriate restoration plan.

Public meetings to discuss and explain NRDA have already begun, and there will be more opportunities for public involvement throughout this process to solicit comments and input on the restoration plan. Public meetings were held in Texas and Louisiana in October and in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida in November. About 50 people attended the Mississippi meeting in Long Beach led by Trudy Fisher, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), who gave an overview of NRDA and discussed MDEQ's role as Mississippi's Natural Resources Trustee, which gives the agency the authority to seek compensation for restoration of Mississippi's natural resources. Three federal agencies (Commerce, Interior and Defense) and five affected states (Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi and Texas) are co-trustees in the NRDA.

NOAA's role in NRDA began on April 20, 2010, in the hours immediately following the report of an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon mobile drilling unit. By mid-May, NOAA and its partners—including MDMR and MDEQ, the two state agencies appointed by Gov. Barbour to lead the oil spill response in Mississippi—had formed more than a dozen technical working groups devoted to assessing damages to various types of natural resources. MDMR and MDEQ personnel were among those collecting samples from state line to state line to have a baseline against which to assess damages to our natural resources.

The rigorous scientific studies necessary to prove injury to resources and services (and withstand scrutiny in a court of law) may take years to implement and complete. But the NRDA process ensures an objective and cost-effective assessment of injuries—and that the public's resources are fully addressed. Public input is a vital part of this process. For more information on the NRDA in Mississippi visit www.deq.state.ms.us/NRDA.


Executive Director



MARINE PATROL CITATIONS

AUGUST 2010 — DECEMBER 2010

Shrimp-1

Crab-9

Oyster-16

Live Bait-0

Net Fish-0

Fishing-97

Miscellaneous Seafood-0

Boat and Water Safety-75

Marine Litter-4

Miscellaneous-19

TOTAL-221

JEA

Marine Patrol officers working under the Joint Enforcement Agreement with NOAA conducted 430 patrols in federal waters involving 7,381 man hours resulting in 2,469 contacts from October 2009 through October 2010.

Thanks!

**to those who contributed to
this issue of Coastal Markers:**

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The Office of Delbert Hosemann, Mississippi Secretary of State, presented a tidelands check for more than \$7 million to the DMR on Dec. 6, 2010. Pictured are (from left to right): state Sen. David Baria, DMR Office of Coastal Management and Planning Director Tina Shumate, state Rep. Richard Bennett, state Rep. Billy Broomfield, Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, state Sen. Billy Hewes, state Rep. Scott DeLano, state Rep. Randall Patterson, state Sen. Tommy Moffatt, and state Rep. Brandon Jones.

Secretary of State returns more than \$9 million to Gulf Coast from tidelands leases and new assessment collections

Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann presented a check for \$7,607,668.28 to the DMR at a ceremony held Dec. 6, 2010, at the Secretary of State's Office in Gulfport. The total amount returned to the Gulf Coast from 2010 tidelands leases and assessments is \$9,302,962.28.

Shortly after the Gulf oil spill this spring, the Secretary of State was able to make an advance payment of \$1,695,294 to the DMR to use for emergency disaster response. The check delivered by Hosemann on Dec. 6 represented the balance of more than \$7.6 million.

The tidelands lease revenue was collected on leases on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2010. The Tidelands Assessment revenue is a result of House Bill 44, passed in the 2005 Fifth Extraordinary Session. That bill allowed land-based casinos on the Coast and required them to pay a tidelands assessment, which is based on a casino's capital investment.

"The tidelands check is a crucial component of preserving the culture of the Mississippi Gulf Coast," said Hosemann. "The Mississippi State Legislature and the Secretary of State's Office are committed to maximizing the benefit of our state-owned lands and the preservation of our coastal areas. This \$9,302,962 is an integral part of ensuring that goal."

The people of Mississippi own the public trust tidelands, the

land covered by water at high tide. Rent is collected by the Secretary of State's Office from tidelands leaseholders, including casinos. As Secretary of State, Hosemann negotiates tidelands leases on behalf of the state. Traditionally, the Mississippi Legislature appropriates the lease revenue for specific projects. Rent is collected from tidelands leaseholders by the Secretary of State and then returned to the DMR at the end of the fiscal year.

The Tidelands Trust Fund Program consists of funds derived from the lease rentals of tidelands and submerged lands. Revenues collected by the Secretary of State's Office are appropriated by the state legislature and administered by the DMR. Since 1990, the Secretary of State's Office has collected more than \$85 million in tidelands leases.

"Tidelands Trust funds provide for public access projects that allow citizens and visitors to coastal Mississippi to better access and utilize Mississippi's marine resources, provide educational programs and enhance management capabilities within the coastal region of Mississippi," said DMR Executive Director Dr. William Walker. "The funds are awarded annually to a variety of recipients, including cities, counties, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and state agencies. I thank the Mississippi Legislature for providing these funds to implement these worthy projects."

Coastal Cleanup nets 1,433 bags of trash

More than 1,900 volunteers scoured Mississippi's bays, bayous and rivers picking up marine debris at 55 designated cleanup sites during the 22nd annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, part of the International Coastal Cleanup—the world's largest volunteer effort to clean up the marine environment. During the 2010 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, 1,983 volunteers picked up 1,433 bags of trash, including 66 bags of recyclables, along 144 miles of Coastal waterways in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties as well as one site in Pearl River County. The cleanup is organized by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force. The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup refocused its efforts to clean inland areas and waterways instead of beaches and barrier islands and expanded its reach through its partnership with Mississippi Power's Renew Our Rivers program, cleaning three sites on the days leading up to the cleanup and two additional sites on cleanup day.

All told, 1,983 volunteers collected 140,163 pounds of trash including 544 tires—that's 70 tons of marine debris. This included items too large to fit in trash bags such as household appliances and remnants of homes and piers washed away during Katrina. More than 31 tons of Katrina debris was removed from the Hancock County marshlands alone using heavy equipment as part of the Renew Our Rivers program. Other items found were: IV bag, parking barricade, car door, shotgun shells, cigarette filters, beer bottles, weight-lifting equipment, construction material, gun range target, couch, rolls of carpet and padding, cooler, vacuum cleaners, toilet, part of a boat, mattress, propane tanks, pressure washer, bicycle, baseball bat, boat motor, TV set, desks and artifacts from St. Clare's Church and school lost in Katrina, and a portable meth lab, which was dismantled by the Hancock County Sheriff's Department. There were four animal entanglements reported in Harrison County and three in Jackson County. As

part of a coastal cleanup pilot project, volunteers collecting trash at four sites in Harrison County separated out and filled 66 bags with recyclable items.

During the ICC, hundreds of thousands of people across the world spend three hours combing the beaches and waterways to pick up trash that pollutes our waters, harms marine life, hampers tourism and poses health risks to beachgoers. During last year's ICC about 500,000 volunteers worldwide removed debris from more than 14,800 miles of shoreline spanning 108 different nations. They collected 7.4 million pounds of debris.

"Mississippians value their coastal resources now more than ever before," said Lauren Thompson, state coordinator of the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup and public relations director for the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. "Our coastal shoreline and waterways are cleaner and safer for all to enjoy thanks to the good stewardship of more than 1,900 volunteers who devoted their free time to picking up debris."

The mission of the International Coastal Cleanup is to remove debris from shorelines, bayous, bays, rivers, waterways and beaches; collect valuable information on the amount and types of debris collected; educate people on the issue of marine debris; and use the data collected to effect positive change. Volunteers clean beaches and collect information on what they find, using the International Coastal Cleanup Data Card, so that sources of marine debris can be targeted for education or pollution prevention campaigns. State coordinators mail the data cards to the Ocean Conservancy in Washington, D.C., where the data is tabulated. Over the years, data from the cleanups have been used to enact local, state, national, and even international legislation and agreements.

After the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, Bob Taylor, owner of the High Cotton Grill, Half Shell Oyster House and Southern Flavor Events, treated 400 volunteers to a free lunch of hot dogs, ham-



Sung Kwon of Biloxi fills out her data card as her husband collects debris at Keegan Bayou in Biloxi.

burgers, chips, fruit and cold drinks served by their staff from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ken Combs Pier parking area at Courthouse Road and Highway 90 in Gulfport. Sysco, Gulf Coast Produce, Sara Lee, Cabot Cheese and Coast Coca-Cola Bottling Co. also provided food and drink for the event. All volunteers filling out a data card identifying the types of debris collected received a meal ticket for the free lunch at the pier and a re-usable fold-up tote from Chevron Pascagoula Refinery.

In Hancock County, the Office of Congressman Gene Taylor and the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club treated volunteers to hot dogs at a cookout held at the Depot District in Bay St. Louis while Brooks BB's Snowballs provided snowballs. In Jackson County, more than 700 volunteers received a free barbecue lunch of pulled pork and beef brisket, chips and drinks at the Estuarine Education Center at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Gautier courtesy of The Shed Barbeque & Blues Joint. Volunteers who cleaned the beach and filled out data cards, documenting what litters our shores and waterways, received a re-usable fold-up tote, compliments of Chevron Pascagoula Refinery.

"Without our partners, sponsors and volunteers this event wouldn't happen," Thompson said. "The Department of Marine Resources would like to thank the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, our sponsors, and the cleanup coordinators, zone captains, and volunteers who came out in full force to participate in this educational and prevention effort on behalf of our marine environment."



Members of the U.S. Navy pull tires from the woods during the Renew Our Rivers cleanup at Turkey Creek in Gulfport as a partnered effort with the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup. Volunteers found more than 400 tires dumped in the woods off Rippy Road.



Students of Our Lady Academy Honor Society and Pass Christian High School Jaynie Kergosien, Sarah Anderson, Erin Gibson, Renee Hotard, Ali Goscinski, Hannah Wikoff, Courtney Geroux, Kendell Ritten and Holly Raymond clean the Sycamore Street marsh area in Bay St. Louis.

Photo courtesy of Sarah Underwood

2010 STATISTICS

1,983 volunteers
140,163 pounds of debris
144 miles cleaned
1,433 bags filled
55 designated sites

Harrison County
 740 volunteers
 536 bags of trash
 16 sites

Hancock County
 323 volunteers
 355 bags of trash
 17 sites

Jackson County
 805 volunteers
 542 bags of trash
 21 sites

Pearl River County
 115 volunteers
 2 tons of trash
 1 site

Peculiar Items Found
 IV bag
 Parking barricade
 Car door
 Shotgun shells
 Beer bottles
 Weight-lifting equipment
 Portable meth lab

2010 SPONSORS

SEA TURTLE:

BP; Chevron Pascagoula Refinery;
 High Cotton Grill; Mississippi
 Department of Environmental Quality;
 Mississippi Department of Marine
 Resources; Mississippi Power

SHARK:

Beverage Association of Mississippi;
 Cable One Advertising; Delta
 Sanitation of Mississippi, LLC;
 Mississippi Media; Ocean
 Conservancy; The Shed Barbeque &
 Blues Joint; The Sun Herald;
 Waste Management

DOLPHIN:

Allen Beverages, Inc.; Coast Coca-
 Cola Bottling Co., Inc.; Coca-Cola
 Bottling Co., Consolidated; Domino's
 Pizza; Fisher Safety; Gulf Coast
 Produce; Kimberly-Clark Corporation,
 Professional Division; Lamar
 Advertising-Mississippi Gulf Coast;
 Milner Rental Center; Sara Lee;
 Sysco Foods

COBIA:

Biloxi-D'Iberville Press; K99FM, Magic
 93.7, 92.5 The Beat and News Radio
 104.9; Keep Mississippi Beautiful;
 Knight Abbey Printing & Direct Mail;
 Ocean Springs Gazette; Sea Coast
 Echo; WLOX-TV 13

MULLET:

Academy Sports + Outdoors; Ashman
 & Son, LLC Contractors; BB's Bar-B-Que
 & Snak Shak; Cabot Cheese;
 Coast Electric; The Dive Shop;
 Fayard & Sons;
 Shawnee (Okla.) Senior Center

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is made possible by the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, which includes representatives from Ashman & Son, LLC Contractors; Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; City of Biloxi; City of Gulfport; City of Moss Point; City of Ocean Springs; City of Pascagoula; Coastal Rivers; Delbert Hosemann, Secretary of State; DMR Marine Patrol; Eco-Tours of South Mississippi; Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Gulf Islands National Seashore; Hancock County Beautification Committee; Hancock County Board of Supervisors; Hancock County Chamber of Commerce; Hancock County Solid Waste; Harrison County Beautification Commission; Harrison County Board of Supervisors; Harrison County Sand Beach Department; Harrison County Sheriff's Department; Harrison County Utility Authority; Heritage Trails Partnership; Jackson County Board of Supervisors; Jackson County Chamber of Commerce; Jackson County Solid Waste Department; Jackson County 4-H Club; Keep Mississippi Beautiful; Keesler Air Force Base; Mississippi Air National Guard CRTC-Gulfport; Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium; Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service; Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; Mississippi Power; Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center; Naval Construction Battalion Center; North Gulfport Community Land Trust; Office of Congressman Gene Taylor; Renew Our Rivers; Rotary International District 6840; Sea Coast Echo; University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Coast Research Laboratory; Waste Management.

2011 Marine Information Calendar features

The annual DMR calendar is available again. The featured artwork was selected from over 1,500 entries submitted by third- through sixth-grade students from 35 schools, including three home schools, in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. Students were asked to create artwork following the theme “Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi’s Coastal Resources.” The 2011 calendar showcases imaginative artwork and includes useful marine information such as tide information, sunrise and sunset times, moon phases, reef coordinates, size and possession limits and information on boating safety, Mississippi saltwater fishing records and marine debris.

Thank you to the following schools for participating in the contest: Beach Elementary, Bel-Aire Elementary, Cedar Lake Christian Academy, Crossroads Elementary, D’Iberville Elementary, East Central Upper Elementary, Eastlawn Elementary, Escatawpa Elementary, Gautier Elementary, Gorenflo Elementary, Jeff Davis Elementary, Harper McCaughan Elementary, Lizana Elementary, Magnolia Park Elementary, North Bay Biloxi, North Bay Hancock County, Oak Park Elementary, Orange Grove Elementary, Our Lady of Fatima, Pass Christian Middle School, Resurrection Catholic School, Saucier Elementary, Singing River Elementary, St. James Elementary, St. John Elementary, St. Martin Lower Elementary, St. Martin Upper Elementary, Taconi Elementary, Three Rivers Elementary, Vancleave Upper Elementary, West Hancock Elementary, Westminster Academy and three home schools.

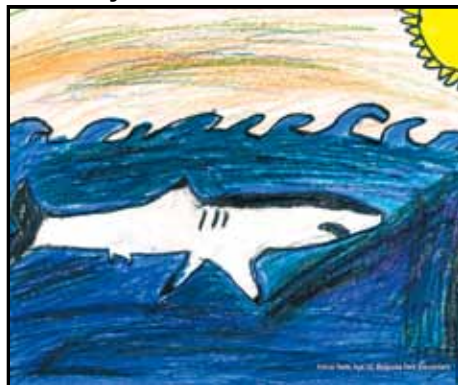
The calendar was printed through grants from the Sport Fish Restoration and the Tidelands Trust Fund Program.



January



February



March



April

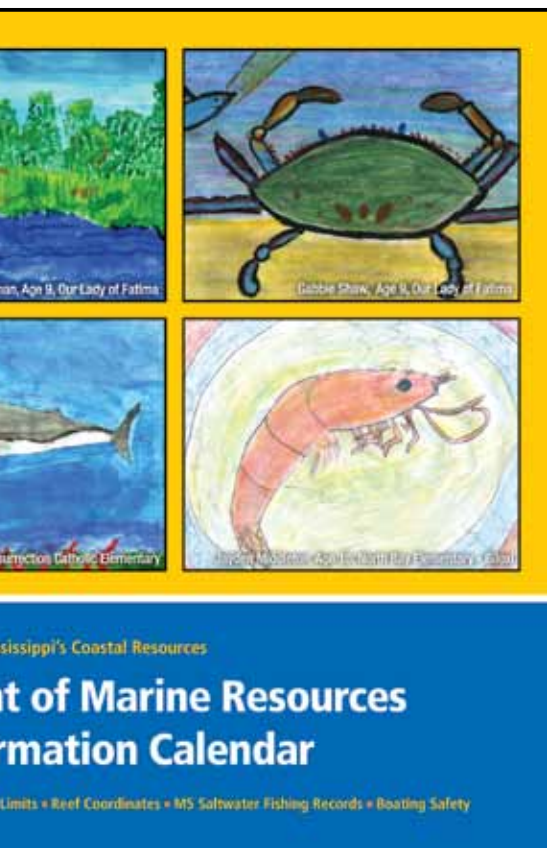


May



June

Features Coast students' winning artwork



September



October



July



November



August



December

Winners of the 2011 calendar art contest are as follows:

Months:

- January, Elora Pierce, age 11, home-schooled, Bay St. Louis
- February, Jonah McCarra, age 11, home-schooled, Moss Point
- March, Kelcie Teale, age 10, Magnolia Park Elementary
- April, Cassidy Davillier, age 11, Pass Christian Middle School
- May, Sarah Janus, age 11, Our Lady of Fatima
- June, Heath Schmidt, age 9, Our Lady of Fatima
- July, Layton Miller, age 8, Eastlawn Elementary
- August, Riley Brockman, age 8, Magnolia Park Elementary
- September, Caroline Leonard, age 8, Oak Park Elementary
- October, Christopher Fagan, age 11, North Bay Elementary - Hancock County
- November, Elizabeth Speed, age 9, Jeff Davis Elementary
- December, Reid Pierce, age 8, home-schooled, Bay St. Louis

Front Cover:

- Joey Green, age 9, Resurrection Catholic Elementary
- Cecilia Bowman, age 9, Our Lady of Fatima
- Gabbie Shaw, age 9, Our Lady of Fatima
- Summer Childs, age 12, Pass Christian Middle School
- Jarrett Green, age 11, Resurrection Catholic School
- Jayden Middleton, age 10, North Bay Elementary - Biloxi

Back Cover:

- Victoria Carson, age 10, North Bay Elementary - Biloxi
- Justin Barber, age 9, Orange Grove Elementary



Elevation monitoring gear installed at Grand Bay NERR

Grand Bay NERR and NOAA National Geodetic Survey Office staff began installing a system of instruments that will help measure the rates of elevation change in Mississippi's coastal wetlands. With funding from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the Reserve has installed surface elevation tables (SETs), a tidal station and a continuously operating reference station (CORS). Through a complex series of measurements and recording, scientists will be able to determine the precise elevation of the marsh surface and, over a longer period, determine rates of accretion (marsh building) or subsidence (sinking of marsh) and potential rise or fall of water levels along the coast.

Marsh elevations and sea levels change over broad geographic areas as well as over time. Measuring these changes and predicting their future impacts are difficult. Scientists working at the Grand Bay Reserve have recently begun installing equipment to make measuring these changes possible. During the spring, scientists from Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi installed a tide station at the

Bayou Heron boat launch. This station allows scientists to measure average local sea level to better understand sea level rise effects on local habitats found at the NERR. This summer, a group of researchers from the University of Southern Mississippi installed a CORS at the Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center in southeast Jackson County. A CORS is simply a high-tech, very precise version of the GPS units drivers use in their cars. During the late summer, scientists installed 15 SETs across the Grand Bay NERR. SETs measure changes in local marsh elevation, but placing several throughout different habitats will allow coastal managers to better understand how different habitats may respond to projected changes in sea level rise as well as storm events such as hurricanes.

The effects of storm events such as hurricanes, sea level rise and coastal land elevation changes are difficult to understand and predict in the future. However, the variety of scientific data collected using tide stations, CORS and SETs will allow reserve scientists to provide sound information to coastal land managers to make more informed decisions regarding response to predicted sea level rise. In



Tom Stadler of the NERR, left, and Philippe Hensel of NOAA install one of 15 surface elevation tables at the Grand Bay NERR.

addition, these data will allow for improved coastal inundation, or flood maps, and allow for the development of better mitigation and adaptation strategies in the face of increasing sea levels in the coming decades, and are critical for developing adaptation strategies for living on the coast.

National Estuaries Day was celebrated on September 25, 2010

National Estuaries Day is an annual celebration of estuaries—those dynamic coastal areas where rivers meet the sea. Celebrated on the last Saturday in September, National Estuaries Day activities provide wonderful opportunities for community members and visitors to learn more about these important coastal ecosystems and to learn how they can help protect them. This year, a year when many of the estuaries of the northern Gulf of Mexico had been impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, celebrating the importance of maintaining healthy estuaries was especially relevant.

Because National Estuaries Day is celebrated on the same day as National Public Lands Day, the largest one-day environmental volunteer effort in the United States, the Grand Bay Reserve partnered with the Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge to host a day of fun and volunteer opportunities that included the dedication of the newly expanded Oak Grove Birding Trail, a guided bird walk, a kayak adventure through the estuary and a stewardship activity that involved volunteers pulling up invasive popcorn trees located adjacent to the birding trail.

Coastal Preserves

Heron Bay Coastal Preserve gets a cleanup

Although hundreds of tons of debris have been removed from the Coastal Preserves sites, debris remains in some areas and requires additional cleanup activities and resources. On Oct. 13, 2010, volunteers gathered in southeastern Hancock County in an effort to remove storm debris from a unit of the Heron Bay Coastal Preserve near the community of Ansley, Miss. With the combined effort of a partnership between Mississippi Power's Renew our Rivers Program and Coast Electric Power Association, volunteers removed a total of 31.1 tons of debris from the 10-acre site. The material removed included seven dumpster loads of man-made materials, two boats, 20 utility poles, and various large debris items such as propane tanks and water heaters.

At top: DMR Coastal Resource Management Specialist Ali Leggett hands over debris at the Heron Bay Preserve.

At bottom: The Heron Bay Preserve is littered with debris left over from storms.



Army Corps of Engineers takes on preserves projects

In fall 2010, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District, began work on Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program (MSCIP) projects located in two of the Mississippi Coastal Preserves: the Deer Island West End Breach Project and the Bayou Caddy Ecosystem Restoration Project. Upon completion, the Deer Island project will restore 86 acres of beach, dune and maritime forest habitat. This project is the first of several on Deer Island, which will ultimately restore around 300 acres of the island's habitats that have been lost through erosion over the past 100 years. The Bayou Caddy project will restore 18 acres of beach and tidal marsh habitat. This project is also an example of beneficially using dredged material from channel maintenance to restore coastal habitats. The Coastal Preserves Program, through the interagency Mississippi Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program, is working hard to find additional projects that take advantage of this coastal resource.

The Deer Island West End Breach Restoration project is the first of the MSCIP projects to restore the island to its pre-1900 historical footprint.



The Bayou Caddy Ecosystem Restoration project is an example of using dredge material to restore coastal habitat.





Seafood Safety Corner



Jeff Davis



Jessica Rankin

The Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) has been inspecting local seafood processing facilities to ensure that Mississippi seafood is safe to consume. More than ever, the STB is tasked with making sure that seafood safety is a priority. After the oil spill, the STB staff attended and participated in the workshop titled "HOW" to Assure Safe Gulf Seafood. The acronym "HOW" stands for "Harvest from Open Waters." The workshop was held in Biloxi and was hosted by the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center under the Association of Food and Drug Officials in cooperation with Dr. Steve Otwell of Florida State University. The purpose of this workshop was to train individuals how to recognize tainted seafood products and prevent them from entering the market. Regulatory authorities and members of the seafood industry attended this workshop and obtained a better understanding of how to recognize tainted product.

Following this workshop, FDA and DMR seafood officers conducted quarterly inspections of local seafood processing plants and found no evidence of tainted product. Other bureaus within DMR continue to sample oysters, shrimp and fish from several areas in the Mississippi Sound. All samples are analyzed at NOAA laboratories in Pascagoula and MSU laboratories in Starkville. Currently, no Mississippi seafood products have been found to be contaminated. In order to maintain the safety of Mississippi seafood, seafood officers want to remind all seafood dealers and processors to verify that all products purchased from fishermen are harvested from open waters.

In the past few months, the STB has been occupied with promoting seafood safety and Gulf Safe Seafood products.

During July, the STB attended two health fairs – the Biloxi Annual Children's Health Fair at Edgewater Mall and the New Bethel Baptist Church's Health Fair in downtown Biloxi. Many local health organizations provided important research regarding health-related issues, while numerous organizations also gave talks on local and nationwide health issues. An environmental expo held in Moss Point invited the STB to have a booth at the event. Expo speakers talked about the environmental effects of the oil spill in the Gulf and coastal Mississippi and how individuals can assist with environmental care. More than 300 people attended. The STB Stewardship and Public Outreach programs help promote Mississippi seafood and seafood safety to help change public perception of Gulf seafood products.

Other recent events the STB attended include the Biloxi Seafood Festival and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Blues and Heritage Festival where seafood safety information was distributed. Seafood safety education and promotion are keys to regaining consumer confidence in Gulf seafood consumption. On Sept. 29 and 30, STB staff gave presentations to the Boys and Girls Club of Biloxi. Subjects discussed were different species of fish, shrimp and crab. Students had the chance to engage in an active learning process by answering trivia questions using the famous Fishy Prize Wheel. Other events that the STB attended include the Gautier Mullet Festival and Jackson County Fair in Pascagoula. For more information or to volunteer for upcoming events, contact Jessica Rankin with the Seafood Technology Bureau at jessica.rankin@dmr.ms.gov or by phone at 228-523-4095.

A Pascagoula fisherman reads seafood safety information given to him by the Seafood Technology Bureau.



Members of the Mississippi seafood industry learned firsthand the different sensory characteristics of seafood, crude, diesel and oxidized oil in varying concentrations during a workshop held at the MSU Coastal Research and Extension Center on Aug. 26, 2010. The workshop aimed to provide dealers and processors with additional evidence to help improve buyer confidence in the safety of Mississippi seafood and public welfare.





Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence



Marine Patrol Officer Patrick Carron received a certificate commending him for performing above and beyond his duties from DMR Executive Director Bill Walker at the December Commission on Marine Resources meeting. Carron was off duty in Florida when he spotted a man who had been reported missing from Mississippi. He contacted the authorities in charge of the search, and the man was located within hours of Carron's call.

Coastal Management and Planning Staff Officers Susan Perkins and Grant Larsen and DMR Programmer Analyst Kimberly Denz received a national award for their hard work designing the Mississippi Gulf Coast Heritage Web site.



CMP receives Top National Heritage Website award

MSGulfCoastHeritage.org has been recognized as a 2010 Top National Heritage Website by online reference resource Juggle.com for its historical information access and engaging area preservation initiatives.

This year's recipients applied creative design, innovative Web technology and helpful resources to make finding information easier for heritage area visitors. The 2010 winners were selected for their dedication to preserving heritage area history and culture through outstanding Web portals.

The Juggle.com government awards editors hand selected this year's Top National Heritage Area Website Award recipients by evaluating a variety of site features and functionality, including usability, historically accurate and engaging content, helpful travel resources for the area's tourist destinations, and the inclusion of interactive features.

Award recipients receive a feature page on Juggle.com that includes an interview with one of the individuals responsible for maintaining or managing each Web site. For the Mississippi Gulf Coast's feature, visit <http://www.juggle.com/mississippi-gulf-coast-national-heritage-area>.

Belleville, Ill.-based Juggle.com is an online encyclopedia and reference resource featuring facts, articles, images, biographies and statistics covering thousands of popular topics. For more information on Juggle and other topics, visit www.juggle.com

Happy Anniversary!

These anniversaries mark employees' years of service with DMR and the State of Mississippi. We thank them for their dedicated service to the management of our marine resources.

Irvin Jackson	10/12/98	Jay McIlwain	11/19/07
Barbara Synowiez	10/01/99	Tom Strange	11/19/07
Paul Grote	10/01/00	Patrick Carron	11/01/09
Scott Anderson	10/01/01	Debbie Snawder	11/30/09
Jack Ewing	10/01/01	Kerwin Cuevas	12/02/96
Ron Jordan	10/15/10	Traci Floyd	12/01/97
Leslie Gollott	10/01/02	Mike Walker	12/01/97
Teresa Stadler	10/18/04	Joe Jewell	12/08/97
Jake Walker	10/09/06	Brandon Hall	12/01/98
Lauren Clark	10/01/07	Mario Sapet	12/22/03
Paul Elmore	10/01/09	Brittany Chudzik	12/13/04
Bryan Wallace	08/01/02	Curtis Culpepper	12/19/05
Kara Vesa	11/01/96	Matt Kasovich	12/19/05
Tina Johnson	11/01/97	Tony Tremonte	12/19/05
Bill Richardson	11/01/98	Wade Dominey	12/29/05
Beth Roberts	11/01/99	John Ladner	12/29/05
Scott Chatham	11/01/00	Ali Leggett	12/29/05
Tommy Jennings	11/01/00	Robin Vaughn	12/23/06
Chris Mask	11/01/00	Shelly Becker	12/01/07
Kyle Wilkerson	11/01/00	Crystal Morgan	12/18/07
Tamra Carrell	11/03/04	Mai Dang	12/22/07
Kimberly Denz	11/08/04		



Mississippi Department
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DMR Calendar

February 15

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, 9 a.m. Location TBA.

March 15

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, 9 a.m. Location TBA.

April 2

Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival, War Memorial Park, Pass Christian, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

April 19

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, 9 a.m. Location TBA.

April 22

Earth Day

May 11-12

12th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference, Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. For more information contact Susan Perkins at susan.perkins@dmr.ms.gov or 228-523-4124.



Go Green

To receive your Coastal Markers via e-mail, contact lauren.thompson@dmr.ms.gov

Doc's Fishing Tip

Trolling area bays and backwaters during the colder months offers some of the best fishing of the year for big speckled trout if you know how to go about it. Live cocahoe minnows slowly dragged just above the bottom bring good results for many, but soft plastic jigs similarly presented will also catch their fair share of fish. Focus on the deeper waters along the curves and bends of the bayou for best results. If you can find a sandbar or oyster shoal near the edge of such deeper areas, so much the better. Besides trout, you can also expect to hook up with overwintering reds, flounder and, later in the season, monster black drum (although bottom fishing is usually more productive with these brutes).

Good Luck and Good Fishing! — Dr. Fred Deegen



Illustration: Joe Jewell

Mississippi Gulf Shrimp & Remoulade Sauce

Boiled or sauteed Mississippi Gulf shrimp, peeled
4-5 tbsp. Country Dijon mustard (no substitutes)
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1 boiled egg, chopped
1/8 cup onion, finely chopped
1 tbsp. ketchup
1 tbsp. grated horseradish (not the mayonnaise type)

Mix all ingredients and serve over cooked Mississippi Gulf shrimp.

Reprinted from DMR's *Get Hooked on Mississippi Shrimp Recipe Book*
Recipe by Roxanne Russell

