Coastal Markers

Volume 16, Issue 2 | Newsletter of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources | Fall 2012

The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources members are (from left) Shelby Drummond of Jackson County, representing recreational fishermen; Vice Chairman Jimmy Taylor of Harrison County, representing charter boat operators; Richard Gollott of Harrison County, representing commercial seafood processors; Steve Bosarge of Jackson County, representing commercial fishermen; and Chairman Dr. Vernon Asper of Hancock County, representing nonprofit environmental organizations.

Norma Jean Soroe, CSR, below left, performs the swearing in ceremony at the July 17 Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting in Biloxi. Left to right, Richard Gollott, Steve Bosarge and Shelby Drummond have all been reappointed by the Governor to the commission for another four-year term.

Three MCMR members sworn in, officers elected

The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources (MCMR) swore in three commissioners and elected officers for the new fiscal year at its July 17 meeting held at the Bolton State Office Building in Biloxi.

Reappointed members include Steve Bosarge of Jackson County, representing commercial fishermen; Richard Gollott of Harrison County, representing commercial seafood processors; and Shelby Drummond of Jackson County, representing recreational fishermen. Their terms will run July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2016. Also on the commission are Jimmy Taylor of Harrison County, representing charter boat operators, and Dr. Vernon Asper of Hancock County, representing nonprofit environmental organizations. During the meeting, MCMR members re-elected Dr. Vernon Asper as chairman and Jimmy Taylor as vice chairman.

The MCMR is composed of five members appointed by the Governor for four-year terms to represent the following areas: commercial seafood processors, nonprofit environmental organizations, charter boat operators, recreational fishermen and commercial fishermen.

Thousands of spotted seatrout released into waters of Bay St. Louis

See page 5 for story.

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Coastal Markers is a publication of the

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Richard Gollott
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This publication was funded through a federal grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

VISIT MDMR ONLINE
www.dmr.ms.gov

Director's Notes

Dr. William Walker

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and conference partners, Gulf Coast Business Council and Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, invite you to join us for the 13th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference November 7-8, 2012 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Biloxi.

This year's conference theme is The Economy and the Environment: Finding Harmony, and we will be welcoming Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant on the first day of the event to deliver the keynote address. We will also be joined by Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann and Mississippi Sen. Brice Wiggins. The conference is an opportunity to bring community and business leaders; city, county and state officials; planners; builders; nonprofit organizations; and everyone with an interest in our Gulf Coast together to network, share ideas and work together toward an economically and environmentally viable future.

Conference attendees will learn about our military installments such as Keesler Air Force Base and their dedication to the environmental stewardship of our area; the preservation of our heritage resources such as the Charnley House, designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright; Gulf Islands National Seashore: Past, Present and Future; the development of the Smart Growth Toolbox; an overview of the National Heritage Area program; the practical use of Geographic Information System (GIS); the Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership; the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport's Mississippi Gulf Coast Development Summit; local energy opportunities; and an update on all of the great things happening in Hancock County and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The conference is open to everyone and is free to attend. If you've already registered, we look forward to seeing you in November. If you haven't yet registered, I encourage you to be a part of this networking and educational opportunity. For more information, please contact Susan Perkins at (228) 523-4124 or e-mail susan.perkins@dmr.ms.gov.

Executive Director

Your purchase of a fishing license supports research and restoration that enhances fishing opportunities in coastal Mississippi.

24-Hour License Sales:
Call 1-800-5GO-HUNT
(1-800-546-4868)

Scan this to buy a license online.

ms.gov/gf/hunting

Activities of Marine Patrol officers working under the Joint Enforcement Agreement with NOAA from June 2012-September 2012

Patrols	186
Contacts	1,830
Sea hours	830
Man hours	2,752
State violations	41
Federal violations	13

MARINE PATROL CITATIONS
JUNE 2012-SEPTEMBER 2012

Shrimp-6
Crab-24
Oyster-0
Live Bait-0
Net Fish-0
Fishing-402
Miscellaneous Seafood-2
Boat and Water Safety-136
Marine Litter-3
Miscellaneous-11

TOTAL-584

Lyman Hatchery News

Hatchery and GCRL study bait crab aquaculture in ponds

Crawfish traps are one of the types of traps used to harvest bait crabs.

The MDMR's Lyman Fish Hatchery personnel and Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's (GCRL) crab team collaborated on a bait crab aquaculture study this past summer with great success. The project was funded through Tidelands Trust funds.

Larvae were hatched at the GCRL's blue crab hatchery and then moved to the Cedar Point facility for a short grow-out period. The 52-day-old juveniles were then stocked into two ponds at the Lyman Fish Hatchery. Each pond was stocked with 3,500 crabs and vegetation was allowed to grow, which helped reduce the amount of cannibalism among the crabs and to provide additional forage.

Harvesting began within 15 days from the time they were stocked. The crabs were fed only on weekends to encourage them into baited traps that were in use during weekdays. Crabs were harvested with three types of traps: minnow, crawfish, and crab, which promotes size variation of the crabs used for bait for various species of fish. Survival rate of 31 percent and 40 percent were achieved in the ponds and are among the highest for blue crab pond production.

The harvested crabs were placed in a chilled water holding system with a sand bottom, with water temperatures maintained in the low 50s. Keeping the temperatures low prevents molting and cannibalism, which allows the holding time to be increased without increased mortality. Crabs were held and given to participating fishermen with specialized permits. Each fisherman will provide feedback on the use of blue crabs as fishing bait.

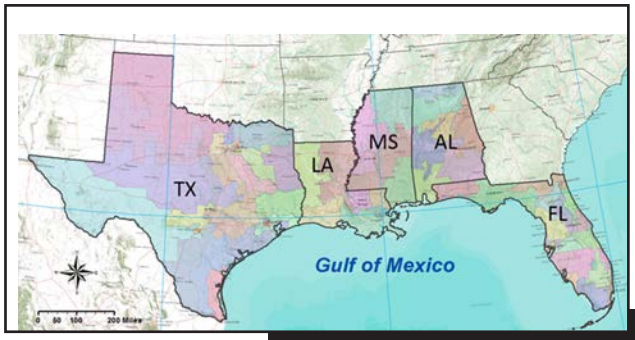
In addition, other information was collected on water quality parameters, growth rates, harvest methods and survivorship. The study has provided a better understanding of crab aquaculture in ponds.

Bait crabs are held in a chilled water system tank with a sand bottom to prevent molting and cannibalism.

Heavy vegetation is allowed to grow to reduce crab cannibalism.

Gulf Alliance

Smart Yard, Healthy Gulf campaign benefits local waterways



Smart Yard, Healthy Gulf is a public education campaign from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance that is designed to reduce fertilizers entering local waters by helping people make responsible lawn fertilizer decisions. Excess nutrients, such as those found in fertilizers and other chemicals, are often the source of areas of low oxygen in coastal Mississippi waters as well as the Gulf of Mexico. These areas of low oxygen are called Hypoxic or Dead Zones.

The Smart Yard, Healthy Gulf campaign encourages homeowners to apply the proper amount of fertilizer at the proper time(s) of the growing season to keep lawns looking vibrant, but also to save money and keep the waters of coastal Mississippi resilient and healthy, including Gulf seafood.

To have a "Smart Yard":

• Fertilize when grass is actively growing. In coastal Mississippi, mostly warm season grasses are grown that don't need fertilizer in the fall, winter and early spring. Wait until late spring or summer. Summertime is the right time to fertilize warm season grasses along the northern Gulf of Mexico. Some grasses are able to stay beautifully green without fertilizer, so find out if your lawn is able to thrive without any at all.

• Talk to a local gardening volunteer expert, known as a Master Gardener. A Master Gardener can help you determine what type of lawn you have and how much and how often your lawn needs fertilizer if at all.

The Smart Yard, Healthy Gulf campaign website is a great source of background information as well as tips and guidelines. It can be accessed at http://www.smartyardhealthygulf.com/. The website contains an online tool to assist with determining when to fertilize and how much to use. Also, guidelines for lawn care can be found on the website. Homeowners who participate in the Smart Yard, Healthy Gulf campaign receive yard signs to help encourage others in the area to do the same.

SMART YARD HEALTHY GULF

About the Gulf of Mexico Alliance: The Gulf of Mexico Alliance recognizes that the economy and quality of life for citizens of the Gulf are linked to its ecological health. As the result of a shared vision for a healthy and resilient Gulf of Mexico region, the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas formalized the Alliance in 2004. A not-for-profit organization, the Alliance's mission is to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf region by encouraging collaboration among government agencies, businesses, education providers and non-governmental organizations. Priority issues addressed by the Alliance include water quality, habitat conservation, ecosystem assessment, nutrient impacts, community resilience and environmental education. The Alliance supports the creation of a parallel Mexican Gulf Alliance and strongly encourages the continued pursuit of collaboration among countries in the region.

To learn more about the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, visit gulfofmexicoalliance.org.

Thousands of spotted seatrout released into waters of Bay St. Louis

Specially designed tagging stations are seen here in action during a mass tag and release event that resulted in some 40,000 spotted sea trout being released over a two day period.

Thousands of spotted seatrout fingerlings were released into the waters of St. Louis Bay, Merlin Necaise Boat Launch on the Wolf River and at the Cedar Point Boat Launch, Bay St. Louis in August 2012. The Seatrout Population Enhancement Cooperative (SPEC) is a partnership among the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL), and the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) of Mississippi since 2005.

The fish were produced at GCRL's Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center and, when roughly a month old, transferred to an aquaculture grow-out facility belonging to Aqua Green, LLC in Perkinston, Miss. While there, the fingerlings were tagged and were able to be weaned off of live feed.

In 2006, MDMR and GCRL produced the first-ever captive spawned and reared Mississippi spotted seatrout in indoor, low-water-use systems at GCRL's Cedar Point site in Ocean Springs. Additionally, 2006 saw the first-ever tagging and release of Mississippi spotted seatrout. The spotted seatrout is the most popular recreational catch in the Gulf of Mexico, and it is under considerable fishing pressure. As of the August release, a total of about 500,000 fingerlings have been released into Davis Bayou and Bay St. Louis.

AquaGreen is involved in the production of freshwater and marine finfish for food as well as for restoration purposes. Partnering with this private company made it possible to increase grow-out capabilities and share the burden of care for the fingerlings. This company is the only commercial inland producer of marine fish in the Gulf Coast region and employs recirculating aquaculture technologies coupled with novel wastewater management strategies. They produce a variety of finfish species to help in the restoration of coastal waters in Louisiana as well as Mississippi including spotted seatrout, red drum, cobia, southern flounder, Florida pompano and Atlantic croaker.

"We are honored to work with two excellent organizations to accomplish stock enhancement for future generations to come," Walter Boasso, president and CEO of AquaGreen said. "The future of long-term fisheries sustainability is in partnerships like this one between business, Gulf Coast Research Lab and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources."

Hester

Armes

DeGeorge

Thompson

Two men await rescue from MDMR's Marine Patrol after their vehicle was swept off the road in flood waters.

Photo courtesy of Pat Sullivan

Peterson

MDMR Marine Patrol rescues two men from flood waters of Wolf River

The MDMR's Marine Patrol rescued two men who had driven around a barricade and were swept off Cable Bridge Road in Harrison County due to rising flood waters of the Wolf River.

MDMR Marine Patrol responded to a request for assistance from the Lizana Fire Rescue and the Harrison County Sheriff's Department who had received a 911 call at 12:03 a.m. on Sept. 1. Marine Patrol Lt. Jimmy Hester, Marine Patrol Officers Dwayne Armes, Leo DeGeorge and Marine Patrol Reserve Officers Genesia Thompson and Randy Peterson responded and rescued the two individuals from the roof of their vehicle.

The victims were released to the Lizana Fire Rescue Department.

Coastal Zone Management Act

MDMR, as Mississippi's federally approved state coastal zone management program, receives funding from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) annually for Coastal Zone Management Act administration and enhancement of Mississippi's coastal resources. MDMR's Office of Coastal Ecology continues three projects under NOAA funding.

The final phase of the Public Access project is winding down and will provide final update data for the map and inventory, which are available on MDMR's website in the link to the Office of Coastal Ecology and within the Recreational Fishing link.

The Coastal Hazards Mitigation project continues with its final phase, providing technical assistance to coastal communities flood planning.

A third project initiated November 2011 has assessed and inventoried the hardened shoreline of Mississippi's coast; an alternative shoreline management guideline to promote sustainable shoreline alternatives to bulkheads in Mississippi's coastal waterways will be developed in a succeeding phase. It is scheduled to complete in 2013.

Saltwater Fishing records set and broken

John Mayne II of Pass Christian set a new state conventional record for Lemon Shark with an 83-pound, 2-ounce fish on June 30, 2012.

Don Abrams of Ocean Springs set a new state fly-fish record for Gulf Kingfish with a 1-pound, 4.7-ounce fish on July 25, 2012.

Paul Greenwood of Dallas, Texas broke the state record for Atlantic Sharpnose Shark with a 12-pound, 9.5-ounce fish on May 25, 2012.

Ronnie McMillan of Lucedale broke the state conventional record for Red Grouper with a 20-pound, 1.28-ounce fish on July 7, 2012.

Next phase of Katrina Key extension complete

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' (MDMR) Artificial Reef Bureau has completed another extension of the fishing reef, Katrina Key. The key has been extended westward by about 500 to 600 yards and divided into two segments. The segments will provide two gaps for current flow, which will allow additional foraging opportunities for fish.

Katrina Key is one of several well-known artificial reefs and keys in the Mississippi Sound that was created by the MDMR's Artificial Reef Bureau. It is located just south of Deer Island and serves to reduce shoreline erosion on the south side of Deer Island in addition to providing fish habitat. Katrina Key is also uniquely positioned to provide fishermen calmer waters and allow them to fish in adverse weather conditions.

In addition to these benefits, Katrina Key also provides a very unique vertical habitat throughout the water column for several important marine finfish species.

"This past spring we had reports of really nice speckled trout being caught along the reef," said Kerwin Cuevas, MDMR's Artificial Reef Bureau director. "There were a few six-pounders and several four- to five-pounders caught as well as white trout, ground mullet, red fish and Spanish mackerel."

Construction of Katrina Key began in 2007 and used material from the old Biloxi/Ocean Springs Highway 90 Bridge, which was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. The newly complete extension of the key came from the old Highway 90 Back Bay fishing bridge and old Back Bay Bridge in D'Iberville. Cultch materials such as limestone and oyster shells have also been deployed on the north and south side of the key to enhance habitat.

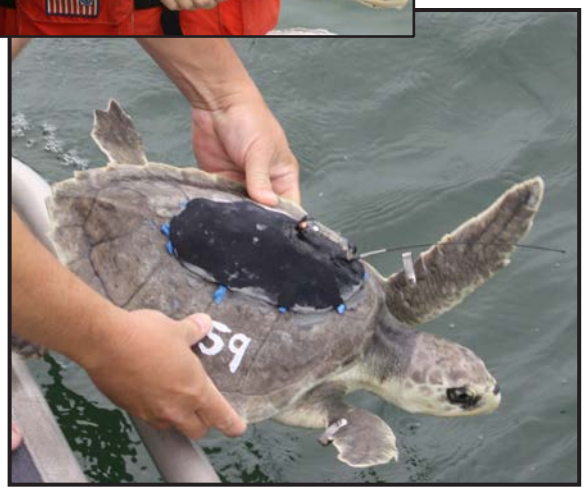
As material and funds become available, the MDMR's Artificial Reef Bureau, in conjunction with Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, will continue to place additional material on the western side of the key while maintaining gaps for current flow. Cultch material planting sites on both the north and south sides of the key will also be expanded.

In addition to MDMR's partnership with Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, Cuevas also credits the City of Biloxi, Commissioners on Marine Resources and Mississippi legislators as having been instrumental in Katrina Key's continuing improvement.

Katrina Key is one of 67 nearshore reefs spread along Hancock, Harrison and Jackson county shorelines. For more information about the Artificial Reef Bureau, or to download a map of nearshore and offshore reefs, visit dmr.ms.gov and click on the Marine Fisheries tab.

The MDMR Artificial Reef Bureau has extended Katrina Key westward by about 500 to 600 yards and divided it into two segments. The segments will provide two gaps for current flow, which will allow additional foraging opportunities for fish.

MCMR approves sea turtle study resolution



MDMR's Shrimp and Crab Fisheries Scientist Bill Richardson releases a Kemp's ridley turtle after a tracking device is attached.

The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources (MCMR) unanimously approved a sea turtle study resolution, which was presented to them for approval at the June 19, 2012, MCMR meeting.

The approved resolution was submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and requested a comprehensive Gulf of Mexico sea turtle population and distribution study to provide vital baseline data on the status of current sea turtle populations and to more fully investigate all possible causes of sea turtle mortality.

The sea turtle study resolution acknowledges that increased turtle strandings are occurring in the northern Gulf of Mexico states, and there is a need to explore all options because timing of increased strandings does not correlate with spatial distribution of shrimping effort. The resolution also acknowledges the numerous proactive precautionary measures that have been taken by the MDMR to address fisheries interactions, which may affect sea turtles in state waters.

Additionally, the sea turtle study resolution states that the MCMR's management of marine sea turtles is essential, and recognizes the need to know the status and distribution of the listed sea turtle species in the state and all Gulf of Mexico waters before federal regulations are enacted, which may severely impact shrimp fisheries and dependent communities within the Mississippi Coast region.

These signs are being placed at public piers along the Coast to help anglers who may have a sea turtle interaction. The signs are distributed by the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies with funding from the NOAA Emergency Disaster Recovery Program.

NERR Notes
Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

National Estuaries Day celebrated at the Reserve

Approximately 60 people from Mississippi, Alabama and Louisana ventured to the Grand Bay National Estuaries Research Reserve on Sept. 29 to celebrate National Estuaries Day. The focus of this year's event was threefold, 1) introduce people to our wonderful estuaries at the Reserve, 2) highlight clean energy and the Reserve's new solar panels and interpretative display and 3) salute the military. Two boats and one kayak tour of the Reserve were filled to capacity. People at the Interpretative Center enjoyed the exhibits, including a display monitor which provided information on the new solar power system recently installed. Clean energy vendors also shared information with visitors.

Celebrating National Estuaries Day included experiencing the interactive exhibits and Reserve boat tours at the NERR.

NERR hosts Wilderness First Aid courses

A series of Wilderness First Aid courses, hosted by the NERR this summer and fall, have ensured that over 60 coastal law enforcement officers, field biologists, and resource managers are trained in the hands-on skills needed in medical emergencies. Wilderness first aid teaches patient care and treatment when individuals are more than one hour away from hospital care. These situations can occur during disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, or when coastal resource biologists are working in remote locations.

The course teaches how to assess patients, treat common injuries and outdoor exposure, and emphasizes improvisation techniques that can be used when emergency supplies are unavailable. It also includes multiple hands-on scenario situations where students practice managing spinal injuries, splinting, and wound care. Jennifer Buchanan, NERR's Education Coordinator, described the course as, "The best and most thorough first aid course I've ever taken."

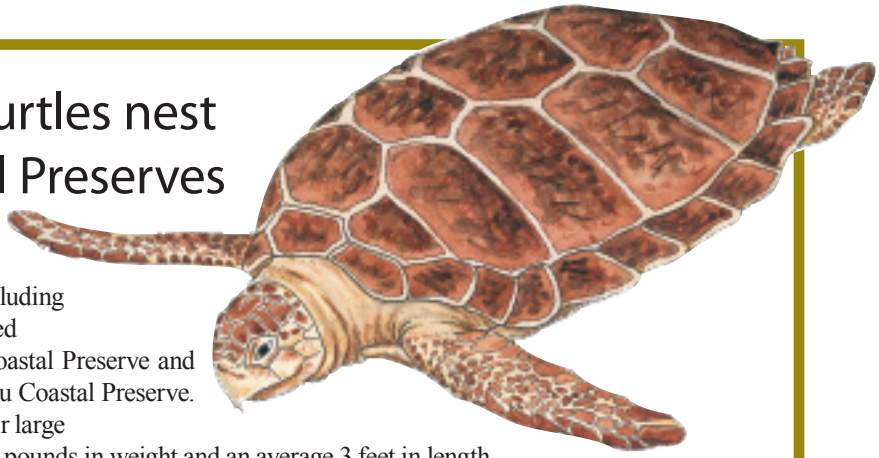
Mike Murphy, coastal field representative at The Nature Conservancy, said the Wilderness First Aid course was, "Easily the most useful short course I have ever taken. I completely revamped our first aid kit based on what I learned in this class."

The course is developed and taught by Outward Bound Wilderness Medicine and instructed by experienced wilderness guides who hold certifications in wilderness medicine and are NR-EMTs. More courses are planned for the future and are sponsored by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the NERR.

Students in the July 2012 Wilderness First Aid course, including several MDMR Marine Patrol officers, practice moving a patient out of harm's way.

Wilderness First Aid course participants learn wound care.

Loggerhead turtles nest on the Coastal Preserves



Several loggerhead turtle nests were found on the Mississippi Coast this year including one nest on the recently restored beaches of the Deer Island Coastal Preserve and another in the Graveline Bayou Coastal Preserve. Loggerheads, named after their large heads, grow to an average 250 pounds in weight and an average 3 feet in length. Peak nesting occurs in June and July and usually at night. They typically lay about 100 eggs per nest and average about four nests per season.

The nest on Deer Island was highly successful with 121 of 128 eggs hatching out, nearly 95 percent. Seventeen of the hatchlings ended up in the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, but were rescued by the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies and released south of the barrier islands. Unfortunately, the nest in Graveline Bayou Coastal Preserve was unsuccessful and none of the 109 eggs hatched out. However, this nest was the first reported for the summer in Mississippi and its discovery helped set forth a great response network of citizens, volunteers, and biologists to work on future nest sightings on the Mississippi Coast.

Institute for Marine Mammal Studies staff and volunteers mark loggerhead turtle nest on the Graveline Bayou Coastal Preserve.

Dredged material from the Port of Gulfport being pumped into the new tidal marsh restoration site on Deer Island. The Army Corps of Engineers project can be seen in the background.

Beneficial Use program kicks off with Deer Island projects

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Beneficial Use of Dredged Material program, in collaboration with the Port of Gulfport, is well on its way to completing the first major non-federal tidal marsh restoration project in the state. About 130,000 cubic yards of fine grained silts and clay dredged from the Port have been barged to Deer Island and pumped ashore to restore Katrina damage in a 50-acre marsh restoration site built by the Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, in 2003.

An additional 200,000 cubic yards of this Port material will be accommodated in a new 50-acre sister project constructed by the Port of Gulfport in July of this year and located immediately adjacent to the Corps project. Both beneficial use sites consist of containment or protection dikes that are pushed up from relatively coarse bottom sand around the perimeter of the project. Fine-grained dredged materials are then pumped behind the dikes and allowed to settle out. Normally, local marsh plants colonize the new material, but planting of marsh grasses may be conducted if needed to improve stability and enhance ecological functions.

Seafood Safety Corner

Jeff Davis

Jessica Rankin

The Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) contacted the seafood industry to inquire if any seafood dealers sustained damage to their facilities due to Hurricane Isaac. Some facilities are located near the water and can sustain flooding and other physical damage. Fortunately, most facilities were not severely damaged and a few did sustain minor flooding. The STB would like to remind all seafood dealers that if you received damage from Hurricane Isaac to please contact us at 228-374-5000. Information regarding the infrastructure of the facility and any damaged product will be collected and included in our damage assessment report.

In May 2012, the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) implemented new time-temperature regulations for the molluscan shellfish industry and the STB incorporated these changes into the hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plans of our certified seafood dealers. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted its annual evaluation of the STB inspection program during the months of July and August. The purpose of the evaluation was to ensure that Mississippi certified seafood dealers are abiding by the new time-temperature regulations enforced by the ISSC. Coincidentally, sanitation control procedures were also inspected and evaluated. The FDA reported that the STB passed the evaluation with flying colors. No major flaws were recognized with the program's HACCP changes and sanitation regulations. The STB would like to thank all certified dealers who were inspected by the FDA for making this possible and to keep up the good work. Producing a safe seafood product for today's consumer is a priority. Therefore, maintaining good records and sanitizing facilities will help ensure a safe product is generated.

In April, the STB participated in several school functions across south Mississippi including a Family Night Out event at Popp's Ferry Elementary and an Earth Day celebration at Gaston Point Elementary. The STB staff and Roy Lipscomb from the MDMR's Shellfish Bureau educated students on shellfish species in our coastal waters and about the importance of reduce, reuse, and recycle.

The STB staff attended several events held by schools in conjunction with the Environmental Stewardship Program, which assists elementary schools in the three coastal counties that were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Several of the award recipients took field trips to locations including the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Pascagoula River Audubon Center to learn about sustainability and being good stewards.

If you would like more information about upcoming events or more information about the STB outreach program, contact the STB's Outreach Coordinator: Jessica Rankin at Jessica.rankin@dmr.ms.gov or by phone at (228) 523-4095.

Pictured from left to right, MDMR Seafood Officer I Jessica Rankin, MDMR Shellfish State Standardized Officer Jeff Davis, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Shellfish Specialist David Wiggins conduct a hazard analysis and critical control point record review in one of the randomly selected seafood processing facilities in Mississippi. This is part of the annual State Shellfish Sanitation Program review by the FDA. The FDA chooses a number of processing plants that are regulated under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference. The annual evaluation will certify how the program is implemented in the state of Mississippi and that Mississippi is a responsible partner in the interstate commerce of molluscan shellfish.

Employees at Crystal Seas Seafood in Pass Christian shuck oysters during the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's program evaluation inspection in July 2012.

Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence

Seafood Officer Jessica Rankin (left) and Marine Fisheries Scientist Jill Zednick received a certificate of completion from the Food and Drug Administration for finishing the Shellfish Growing Waters course that was held in Austin, Texas.

Marine Fisheries Scientist Marty Jones (center) completed the state's Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program. The CPM is a training program built on the philosophy that the study of management can impact certain skills, attitudes, and behaviors which characterize successful management. Also pictured are Personnel Officer Sandra Moore, left, and Human Resources Director Christy Royals.

Seafood Officer Jeff Davis (left) accepts a certificate from Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Shellfish Specialist John Veazey for successfully completing the FDA standardization training course. Davis is the state standardized officer, which enables him to fully implement the National Shellfish Sanitation Program that regulates the landing, unloading, transporting, handling, processing, buying, selling, opening and storage of molluscan shellfish and shellfish-related activities for the state.

Happy Anniversary!

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

Mike Brainard	07/01/94
Steve Breland	07/01/94
Buck Buchanan	07/01/94
Iris Lofland	07/01/94
Christine Murrell	07/01/94
Donnie Armes	07/01/99
Walter Chataginer	07/01/99
Dale Diaz	07/01/99
David Dollar	07/01/99
Bryce Gex	07/01/99
John Grimsley	07/01/99
Olin Gunter	07/01/99
Jimmy Hester	07/01/99
Rusty Pittman	07/01/99
David Rose	07/01/99
Rocky Southern	07/01/99
Amy Taylor	07/01/99
Mike Yonce	07/01/99
Will Freeman	07/01/05
Christina Young	07/01/05
William Walker	07/08/02
John Mitchell	07/16/11
Joe Ziegler	07/21/97
Todd Curry	08/01/11
Erik Broussard	08/02/08
Travis Williams	08/06/07
James Davis	08/13/07
Sally Richards	08/18/03
Marty Jones	08/25/97
Don Baxter	09/01/00
Alan McArthur	09/01/00
Tina Shumate	09/01/00
Jennifer Leirer	09/01/11
Ron Cole	09/07/06
Matt Hill	09/09/00
Erick Porche	09/15/99
Joe Roach	09/15/99
Greg Christodoulou	09/15/06
Kay Rexroad	09/18/06
Jason Rider	09/19/11

Thanks!

to all who contributed to this issue of Coastal Markers:

Traci Floyd,
Amy Taylor, Donnie Armes,
David Rose, Laura Bowie,
Ruth Posadas, Rusty Pittman,
Joe Jewell, Mike Brainard,
Buck Buchanan, Dave Ruple,
Jeff Clark, Jessica Rankin,
Jeff Davis, Christy Royals,
Sandra Moore, Jill Zednick,
Brooke Goff

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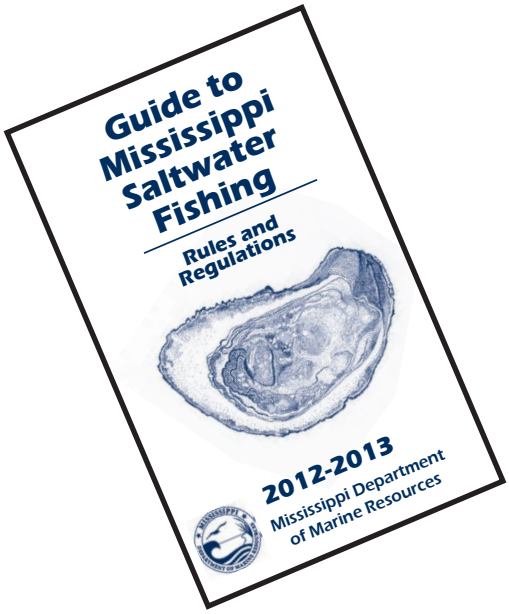
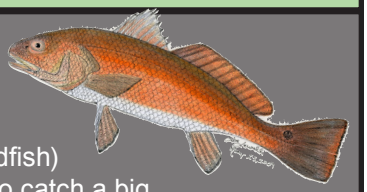


Pick up your free Rules & Regulations Guide

Available at bait camps, MDMR and wherever licenses are sold.

Doc's fishing tip



When most veteran anglers think of fall fishing along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, red drum (redfish) come to mind first. And there's no easier way to catch a big red in coastal shallows than by fishing a gold Johnson Sprite casting spoon. Look for tailing fish and cast the spoon just ahead of them. Allow the spoon to sink to the bottom and lift the rod tip upwards to bring it back to the surface again. Alternating these two actions makes the spoon flutter as it rises and drops, an action that really catches the attention of a hungry red. For that matter, a hungry trout, flounder or, in the bays and backwaters, a largemouth bass or striper, all fall for this bait...

Until next time, good fishing! — Dr. Fred Deegen

Illustration: Joe Jewell

MDMR Calendar

November 7-8
13th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Biloxi.
Contact Susan Perkins at 228-523-4124 or e-mail susan.perkins@dmr.ms.gov

November 20
Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting,
Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.

December 18
Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting,
Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.

January 15
Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting,
Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.

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

Go Green

Gulf Coast Flounder Almondine

6 Mississippi flounder fillets
1 c. Italian bread crumbs
1/4 lb. butter
1 c. almonds
3 tsp. lemon juice
Salt and pepper to taste
1 egg
1 c. milk

Salt and pepper the fillets. Add milk to egg and beat. Dip fillets in the egg mixture, then dredge in bread crumbs. Place fillets in buttered baking dish. Bake 20 minutes at 300 degrees. Melt butter in pan and add almonds until toasted. Remove from heat and add lemon juice. Pour mixture over fillets and bake another 10 minutes.

Reprinted from MDMR's Mississippi Gulf Fresh Seafood Recipe Book *Recipe by Irvin Jackson*