

Coastal Markers



Volume 14, Issue 4

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Summer 2011

2011 Mississippi shrimp season opens earlier than usual with rough seas

Mississippi's shrimp season opened to windy conditions and choppy waters at 6 a.m., May 25, the earliest shrimp season on record. Shrimp season opens in Mississippi territorial waters when sampling shows shrimp have reached the 68-count-per-pound state statute requirement. According to the DMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau's aerial count, 162 shrimp boats were observed in Mississippi waters. Included were 48 boats located north of Horn Island, 25 south of Horn Island and 28 along Belle Fontaine.

Reports of shrimp caught throughout the morning were predominantly 40/50-count brown shrimp with nice large white shrimp mixed in. Since then, brown shrimp catches have been running 50/60 count and smaller.

"Salinity levels are dropping in the western Sound as a result of the Bonnet Carré spillway openings to relieve Mississippi River flooding. The few shrimpers who worked the far western state waters today reported small catches of 70/80 count shrimp," said Traci Floyd, director of the DMR's Shrimp and Crab Bureau.

The DMR's Marine Patrol was out on the water at 6 a.m. on May 25 with six boats and 12 officers.

"Shrimp season started slow and the weather could have been better, but we



didn't experience any calls for rescue; everything went pretty smoothly," said Col. Walter Chataginer, DMR Marine Patrol's Chief of Enforcement. "All shrimp boats checked were in compliance."

As of June 22, the number of resident commercial shrimp licenses sold was 459 and the number for out-of-state was 143.

Recreational and commercial shrimp season will close at midnight, Dec. 31, 2011, north of the Intracoastal Waterway, and at midnight, April 30, 2012, south of the Intracoastal Waterway. Live-bait shrimping is open year round.

See Shrimp Season, page 3

On opening day nice brown shrimp were caught in abundance even though the waters were choppy.

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Precautions aim to save sea turtles

With reports of unusually high numbers of sea turtle sightings and strandings in Mississippi since early 2010, the DMR has been taking a proactive approach to ensure the safety of this endangered species. **See page 4 for full story.**



Coastal Markers is a publication of the

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of Marine Resources**

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**Coastal Markers is produced by
the Office of Public Affairs**

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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 DMR ONLINE
www.dmr.ms.gov



Director's Notes

Dr. William Walker

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has been working with federal, state and private partners for nearly a decade to promote the use of dredged material and concrete rubble for coastal land and habitat restoration.

An important part of this effort was the development of the 2002 Long-Term Comprehensive Master Plan for Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material Along Coastal Mississippi (Master Plan), which was contracted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District. This plan helped steer the early development of a beneficial use program at DMR.

Following Hurricane Katrina, the beneficial use concept attracted additional public and agency attention, which is now being focused through the Beneficial Use Group (BUG) that formed in 2008. Now meeting monthly at the DMR office in Biloxi, the BUG is co-chaired by the Corps, and includes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, NOAA/National Marine Fisheries, DMR and MDEQ as well as Senate, Congressional and Mississippi Secretary of State representation. Local ports and other private stakeholders are also encouraged to attend.

One of the key actions of the BUG was to pass new legislation in 2010 that requires the beneficial use of dredge material in many situations. To help meet the intent of this law, the BUG and DMR have developed sites at Deer Island in Harrison County and Greenwood Island in Jackson County capable of accepting dredged material. New beneficial use sites are being identified in an updated Master Plan, which is due out this fall. Several of these sites are already in the process of seeking permits.

Estimates are that as many as 10,000 acres of Mississippi's coastal wetlands and islands have been lost since 1950. The Mississippi Beneficial Use Program, in conjunction with the BUG will continue working to ensure that our state's valuable dredged materials are used to help restore and protect these critically important resources.


Executive Director



MARINE PATROL CITATIONS

MARCH 2011 — MAY 2011

Shrimp-1

Crab-4

Oyster-8

Live Bait-0

Net Fish-0

Fishing-42

Miscellaneous Seafood-1

Boat and Water Safety-145

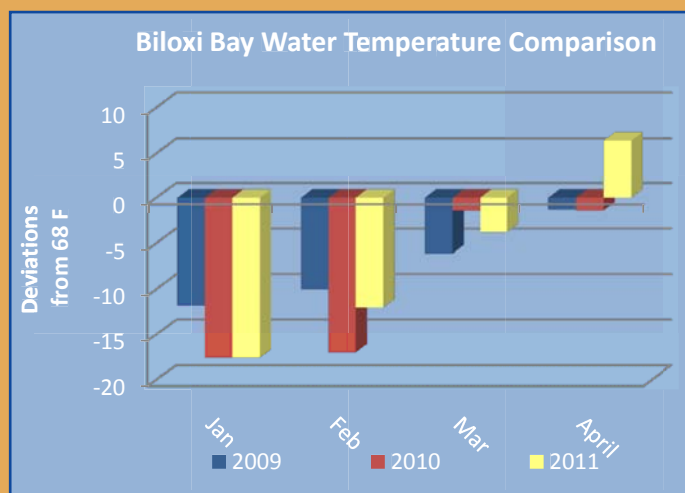
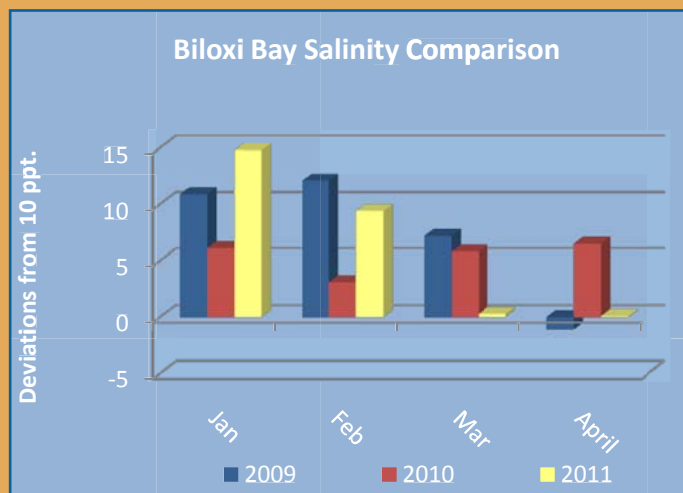
Marine Litter-5

Miscellaneous-5

TOTAL-211

**Thanks to all who
contributed to this issue of
Coastal Markers!**

Traci Floyd, Darrin Stewart,
Tommy Jennings, Rusty Pittman,
Dave Ruple, Jeff Clark,
Ruth Posadas, Jessica Rankin,
Jeff Davis, Mike Walker,
Sandra Moore, Amy Taylor,
Dr. Fred Deegen, Susan Perkins,
Dr. Lena Melton, Scott Gordon



The DMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau along with the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's (GCRL) Center for Fisheries Development began annual extensive sampling for brown shrimp in the Mississippi Sound. The sampling was necessary for DMR's fisheries scientists to determine the exact date for the opening of the 2011 shrimp season. GCRL pulls plankton nets in the Back Bay looking for brown shrimp post larvae, which is the stage of the shrimp's life cycle when it is extremely small (less than 25 mm or 0.98 inches), while DMR staff pulls trawls coastwide to find juvenile (26-40 mm or 1.02-1.57 inches) and adult brown shrimp (greater than 41 mm or 1.62 inches). In order for a shrimp to be of legal size (68 count), it must be approximately 100 mm (3.94 inches) long. The brown shrimp season's opening date can be determined when the majority of the shrimp are of that legal size. Environmental factors such as salinity, water temperature, rainfall and moon phase are also considered when setting the opening of the season. It has been found that the optimum growing conditions for brown shrimp occur when the salinities are above 10 parts per thousand and water temperatures are greater than 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

River water impacts Sound

The Bonnet Carré Spillway was opened on May 9, 2011, as a flood control measure to divert water from the Mississippi River to Lake Pontchartrain and eventually to the Mississippi Sound and was closed on June 20. The spillway is located on the Mississippi River in St. Charles Parish, 32.8 miles upriver from New Orleans.

The river water entering the Mississippi Sound is expected to have many effects on the marine life and habitat. Many of the mobile species, such as shrimp, finfish and

crab, should be able to continue moving ahead of diverted waters. Other effects that have been observed or are expected include: significant mortalities of oysters; increased nutrient load leading to phytoplankton blooms and lower oxygen levels; possible permanent introduction of invasive species; and delay or setback of coastal restoration activities.

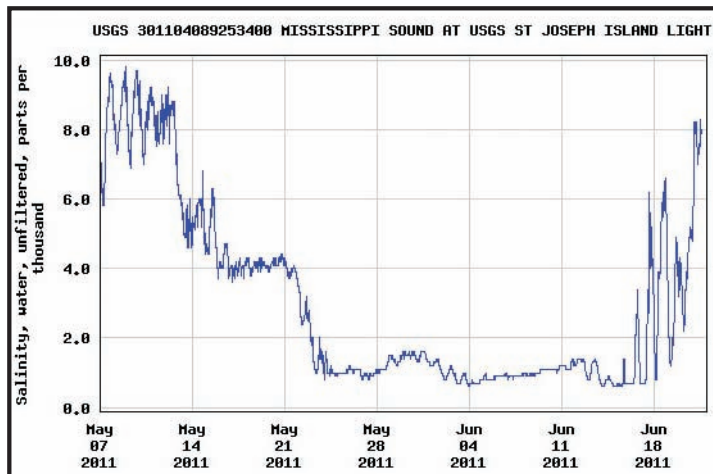
"The DMR will continue to identify and monitor affected areas over the next several months and document any potential impacts from this historic event," said Scott Gordon, Shellfish Bureau Director.

The Bonnet Carré Spillway is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

through the Mississippi Rivers and Tributaries Project.

Below left, the Bonnet Carré Spillway, located on the Mississippi River, is a 7,000-foot concrete weir with a design flow of 250,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). This event produced a maximum estimated flow of 316,000 cfs with only 330 out of the 350 bays opened.

The effects of the Bonnet Carré Spillway on salinity levels in the western Mississippi Sound is documented at St. Joseph Island Light monitoring station. Useful hydrology information is located on the DMR Web site: <http://www.dmr.state.ms.us/Fisheries/Hydrological/realtime-data.htm>.



Graph courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

Precautions aim to save sea turtles

Starting in July 2010, the DMR Office of Marine Fisheries, through funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, began distributing turtle excluder devices (TEDs) to licensed shrimp fishermen who utilize skimmer trawls. As of June 2011, 362 TEDs have been distributed to 181 Mississippi shrimp vessels. Training sessions were held on how to properly install TEDs and included directions on how to handle interactions with sea turtles. As a precautionary measure, trawling times were reduced for vessels using skimmer trawls from 55 minutes to 30 minutes starting June 20, 2010, and ending on October 30, 2010.

DMR personnel continue trips onboard commercial and live-bait shrimp vessels to observe and record any interactions with sea turtles. During the 28 trips taken to date, four interactions with sea turtles (all in 2010) were observed and all four were released unharmed. DMR staff will continue the trip observer program with the shrimp industry to document TED effectiveness.

Sea turtle information mail-outs have been sent to 66,332 recreational and 2,092 commercial fishermen to increase public awareness. Information includes proper handling, disentanglement and resuscitation techniques in case of a sea turtle interaction. All live sea turtles in need of medical attention were taken to the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies where they were rehabilitated and later released.

If you observe a stranded sea turtle, or any serious interaction between sea turtles and fishing gear, please contact the NOAA Fisheries Service stranding hot line at 228-

369-3839 or call the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies at 888-SOS-DOLPHIN (888-767-3657).

Darrin Stewart with DMR's Shrimp and Crab Bureau prepares to go on a fly over with the Civil Air Patrol for observation.



Marine Patrol Divers assist Coast Guard

On May 19, 2011, Marine Patrol Dive Team Leader Tommy Jennings and Marine Patrol Officers Scott Saucier, Johnny Ladner, Bryce Gex and Biloxi Police Department diver Butch Windom assisted the U.S. Coast Guard with a search for three people missing in the Mississippi Sound following a collision between the Eurys London, a 660-foot container ship, and the Sandy Point, a 163-foot Omega Protein fishing vessel. The collision occurred about eight miles south of Gulfport between Cat Island and Ship Island. Following the collision the Sandy Point sank with 16 persons aboard. A pilot boat rescued 11 people from the water and transferred them to the fishing vessel Frosty Morn. Two crewmembers of the Sandy Point were able to make it safely to the Eurys London, but three of the Sandy Point crewmembers remained missing.

After a day and a half of diving, the conditions became too rough and the boat's nets had covered the boat and trapped Officer Jennings. Because of advanced training in diving in enclosed spaces, Jennings was able to cut himself free from the net and surface to safety. At that point, the dive was suspended and a salvage dive team with specialized equipment was called by Omega Protein to complete the search and recovery mission. The three men were found in the crew quarters of the Sandy Point.

The Marine Patrol Dive Team has been in existence since 2002 and was organized to expand Marine Patrol's capabilities and service to the public and to provide assistance to other agencies. Since July 2010, Marine Patrol divers have rescued and/or recovered seven people.

The objectives of the Dive Team are as follows: the constant education of Marine Patrol divers; cross training with all dive teams in the three coastal counties; rescue, when possible, those victims within the "golden hour"; and recovery of drowning victims when diver risk does not outweigh diver safety.



Members of the DMR Marine Patrol Dive Team at the Small Craft Harbor in Biloxi. Pictured from left to right: Patrick Webb, Curtis Culpepper, Wade Dominey, Johnny Ladner, Tommy Jennings, Matt Kasovich, Scott Saucier, Mike Yonce (kneeling); not pictured, Bryce Gex.

2010-2011 oyster season ended in May



The 2010-2011 oyster season was open for tonging only for preservation purposes.

Opened: November 8, 2010
Total trips: 5,302
Total sacks: 43,719
Sack limit per trip: 10
Average sacks per trip: 9
Closed: May 12, 2011

Live bait camps open in the three coastal counties

Far right, a fisherman gathers his gear at the La France bait shop in Hancock County.

Darrin Stewart with DMR's Shrimp and Crab Bureau checks the bait tanks at Dog River Live Bait shop in Jackson County.



CMR sets new shrimping trawl door size for Mississippi

The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources (CMR) passed a new trawl door size regulation for Mississippi territorial waters that took effect May 20, 2011. The previous 6-foot-by-34-inch trawl door requirement has been increased to allow up to 8-foot-by-43-inch doors, which is consistent with Louisiana requirements. This allows fishermen to cross state lines without changing doors, which can be labor intensive. It will also relieve the monetary burden of needing two sets of doors to cross state lines.

For current openings and closings of Mississippi's shrimping grounds, call the toll-free 24-hour Mississippi Shrimp Information Hotline at 1-866-We Trawl (1-866-938-7295).

2011-2012 MISSISSIPPI LICENSED LIVE BAIT DEALERS



	Phone Number	Location
Hancock County		
Bay Marina	228-466-4970	100 Bay Marina Dr., Bay St. Louis
La France Fish Camp	228-467-9180	3200 Ansely Rd., Bay St. Louis
Harrison County		
Biloxi Harbor Bait	228-326-5639	Biloxi Small Craft Harbor
Brady's Bait House	228-864-5338	860 E. Pier Rd., Gulfport
Crabby's Bait +Tackle	228-323-2894	9492 Central Ave., D'Iberville
The Tackle Box	228-234-5961	720 S. Cleveland Ave., Long Beach
Jackson County		
Bait Box	228-826-4947	2815 Front St., Pascagoula
CC's Bait Shop	228-218-7614	5303 Ladner St., Pascagoula
Dog River Live Bait	228-990-5644	4415 Denny Ave., Moss Point
Fort Bayou Bait Shop	228-875-6252	1022 Legion Ln., Ocean Springs
Ocean Springs Marine Mart	228-875-0072	1320 Harbor Dr., Ocean Springs
Mary Walker Marina	228-497-3141	3308 Mary Walker Dr., Gautier
Tucei's Fish Camp	228-497-6743	3300 Oak St., Gautier
Who Zat	228-218-5158	5600 Washington Rd., Ocean Springs

Mississippi Coastal Cleanup set for Oct. 15

This summer, the Department of Marine Resources' Public Affairs Bureau and Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force will begin gearing up for the 23rd annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup. The Task Force meets monthly, beginning in July, to plan the cleanup event, which takes place every year on the third Saturday in October. The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is part of the International Coastal Cleanup, which is the world's largest volunteer effort to clean up the marine environment. This year's Mississippi Coastal Cleanup will be held on Oct. 15.



11,332 Cigarette butts collected.

That's enough to fill 566 packs of cigarettes!

"The annual International Coastal Cleanup transforms shorelines in Mississippi and all over the world," said Lauren Thompson, DMR public relations director and chair of the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force.

Students from Hinds County Community College in Jackson drove over three hours to help clean up Kremer Landing in Gulfport, one of 55 sites cleaned during the 2010 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup.



"The data collected over the years by thousands of cleanup volunteers in Mississippi and millions worldwide is then used to enact major changes on behalf of the marine environment."

**557 Tires collected.
That's enough to
outfit 139 cars!**

Volunteers fill out International Coastal Cleanup data cards that provide valuable information about the amount and types of debris collected so that sources of marine debris can be targeted for education or pollution-prevention campaigns, such as Mississippi's fishing line recycling program, which began in 2008. Over time, collected cleanup data has led to changes in legislation throughout local, state and federal government as well as global agreements and changes in corporate practices.

Ocean Conservancy, the lead organizer of the International Coastal Cleanup, has just released its findings for the 2010 cleanup. Volunteers in coastal Mississippi picked up over 11,000 cigarette butts; 5,414 glass bottles; 4,185 food wrappers and containers; 3,729 plastic bags; 3,706 plastic lids and caps; 3,328 plastic bottles; 3,233 beverage cans; 2,241 paper bags;



1,769 disposable plates and utensils; and 1,044 pieces of building material. And these are just the Top 10 items collected in Mississippi. Worldwide, about 2 million cigarette butts and filters and almost 1 million plastic bags were collected. For more results from the 2010 International Coastal Cleanup, go to www.coastal-cleanup.org and click on the report, Tracking Trash.

A whopping 9 million volunteers have cleaned 145 million pounds of trash from coastal waterways during 25 years of the International Coastal Cleanup effort. You can be part of this powerful movement by getting involved in the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup! **To find out how to volunteer for this year's cleanup, visit the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Web site, www.mscoastalcleanup.org.**

**You can help keep
Mississippi's pristine
coastlines clean year round
by adopting these
five easy habits:**

- 1. CAN IT!** Use a trash can with a lid to prevent fly-away litter from reaching our vulnerable shorelines.
- 2. STOW IT!** Don't throw litter from your boat; keep trash in an on-board receptacle and dispose of it properly.
- 3. BUTT OUT!** Use an ashtray instead of tossing cigarette butts on the ground or from your boat.
- 4. REUSE IT!** Quit throwing away plastic bottles and shopping bags; instead, use reusable bottles and bags.
- 5. RECYCLE IT!** It's easy to recycle; get into the habit.

TOP 10 DEBRIS ITEMS FOUND DURING 2010 MISSISSIPPI COASTAL CLEANUP

These items account for 84 percent of all debris items collected during the cleanup!

1

11,332
cigarette
butts



2

5,414
glass
bottles



3

4,185
food
wrappers
or food
containers



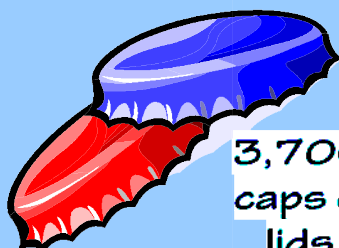
4

3,729
plastic
bags



5

3,706
caps &
lids



6

3,328
plastic
beverage
bottles



10

1,044
building
material
items



8

2,241
paper
bags



7

3,233
beverage
cans



9

1,769
disposable
cups,
plates &
utensils



Sources: Ocean Conservancy, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

NERR Notes

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



Dr. Mohlenbrock leads 10th year of plant identification workshops

Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock, left, discusses *Carex* species with the Advanced Plant Identification class at Ward Bayou.

For the 10th consecutive year, nationally renowned botanist Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock celebrated the return of spring in his favorite part of the country, coastal Mississippi. The plant biodiversity of the Coastal Plain region is the highest in the U. S. and provides him an excellent classroom within which to share the rapid field plant identification techniques he has perfected over his 60-plus year career.

Dressed for adventure in khaki field clothes and mud boots, he spent the week of April 11 leading 45 eager participants through two plant workshops and a public plant walk.

The first workshop of the week was a two-day specialized course, Advanced Plant Identification: *Carex*, *Xyris*, *Rhynchospora*, and *Juncus*. This workshop was targeted toward botanists and other environmental professionals who struggle with identifying plant species within these difficult groups (the handbook he developed for this workshop can be downloaded from the Reserve's Web site, www.grandbaynerr.org, in the Resources section). On the afternoon of the second day, the group got a special treat; a last-minute addition to the schedule brought them to the

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Jackson County campus where they found a *Juncus* that has not yet been recorded in Mississippi, *Juncus dudleyi*.

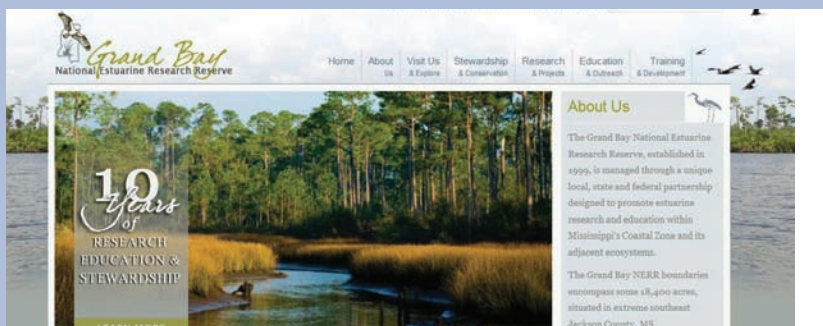
Workshop two, Field Plant Identification Techniques: Wetland and Transitional Habitats of Coastal Mississippi, can be described as an entire semester of botany condensed into three days. New and returning students sign up year after year for this intensive introduction to plant identification.



DMR Coastal Preserves Bureau Director Jeff Clark, left, and Dr. Mohlenbrock work together in the Advanced Plant Identification workshop to identify a *Carex* plant.

Reserve debuts redesigned Web site

The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) is proud to announce the launch of their newly redesigned Web site. With an updated look and new user-friendly features, www.grandbaynerr.org is the best source of information for upcoming events, research and newsworthy activities at the Reserve.





Tons of debris removed from Heron Bay

A two-day cleanup event was held at the Heron Bay Unit of the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve property in Ansley in southern Hancock County, April 29 and 30. A partnership between Mississippi Powers' Renew our Rivers Program and the Mississippi Wildlife Federations' Habitat Stewards Program removed approximately 13 tons of man-made debris from the site. Thirty volunteers from the Gulfport Naval Construction Battalion Center were in attendance during the April 29 effort and stewardship volunteers from the three coastal counties participated on April 30. Additionally, volunteers assisted with removal of invasive Chinese tallowtree as well as planting of native marsh grasses. These grasses were planted in areas that had been damaged by several years of heavy debris lying on the marsh surface.

MFC and DMR conduct prescribed burns at Pascagoula River Coastal Preserve



Over three separate days in December and January 2010-11, the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the DMR successfully conducted a prescribed fire on 400 acres of the Dantzer Unit of the Pascagoula River Coastal Preserve, south of Interstate 10 and north of U.S. Highway 90. The main objective of this controlled burn was to reduce the heavy fuel loads present on these public lands that are immediately adjacent to populated areas. Additionally, these prescribed fires help to control Chinese tallowtree infestations and to aid in overall habitat restoration efforts. By using prescribed fire, managers can effectively decrease the risk of catastrophic wildfire, decrease the risk of falling trees and promote the healthy regeneration of native species, which thrive in these fire-dependent habitats.



Seafood Safety Corner



Jeff Davis



Jessica Rankin

The Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) participated in six public outreach events this spring, including Celebrate the Gulf and Art in the Pass, which were held jointly at War Memorial Park in Pass Christian on April 2. STB Seafood Officer Jessica Rankin ran an interactive station and introduced kids to the Fishy Prize Wheel demo kit where children answered questions about marine species in the Gulf of Mexico. Kids also participated in a fish painting activity. Laboratory test results of Mississippi marine commercial seafood species and updated seafood safety brochures were distributed to the public. These events have grown steadily in the years since Hurricane Katrina and the demand for new displays and participation from school children and adults has been encouraging.

Currently, the STB is conducting second-quarter inspections of seafood processing facilities. Inspections consist of reviewing both the sanitary condition of each facility and their processing records. These records are part of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) program implemented in the seafood processing industry.

In the late 1970s, food industries adopted the HACCP program, and it was internationally recognized as the best system for ensuring food safety. HACCP requires a small team to develop a plan for its facility's operation. The team consists of anyone from the business owner to an employee who handles the food. Health risks for each step of the food production process are considered. When each step is incorporated into the plan, measures are put in place and followed to prevent the food from being contaminated.

In January 2011, the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC) *Vibrio* Management Committee (VMC)

reviewed *Vibrio vulnificus* cases from 2009 and 2010. It was determined that the percentage of cases averaged from both years did not meet the achieved illness reduction rate. Because of this factor, the VMC recommended that additional measures be taken to reduce *Vibrio* illness rates. These measures include establishing additional temperature controls during November and April in the Gulf States; requiring dealer HACCP plans to include records that demonstrate compliance with time and temperature controls; requiring harvesters to maintain records documenting compliance with refrigeration requirements; and requiring harvesters to identify and correct any compliance issue that could impede effective application of controls. Consequently, certified oyster shellstock shippers and shucker-packers will have their HACCP plans and records updated to ensure these guidelines are followed.

With summer and hurricane season upon us, the STB staff would like to remind all certified seafood dealers and processors to check their refrigeration units and verify that these are maintained properly. Certain foods must be maintained at proper temperatures to avoid bacterial contamination; oysters are required to be maintained at 45 degrees Fahrenheit or below. In the case of refrigeration unit malfunction or break down, it is good practice to have a backup unit available to safely store your food products.



Over 3,000 attended Celebrate the Gulf this year. Children decorated clay marine life at the DMR Seafood Safety tent.

DMR to host regional CZM meeting

DMR continues preparation to host the Gulf States Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program regional meeting in fall 2011. The DMR Office of Coastal Ecology also has two projects ongoing under the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) funding.

During the CZM regional meeting, the five Gulf State CZM Programs will review current issues affecting their respective states and the Gulf, as well as covering federal issues and updates with NOAA's Office of Ocean & Coastal Resource Management staff.

Phase III of the Public Access project continues with the ongoing update of the inventory and assessment of possible enhancements to Mississippi's coastal public access sites. An online GIS map detailing the inventory locations is available on DMR's Web site at <http://gis.smpdd.com/dmrpublicaccess>. A management plan is the ultimate goal for this project, providing analysis of current public access sites, their viability and future development prospects.

Another CZMA project, Coastal Hazards Mitigation, continues with Phase II of a three-year timeline and will provide technical and practical support to communities within Mississippi's coastal zone, with the aim to enhance community participation in the Community Rating System (CRS), a voluntary component of the National Flood Insurance Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A local consultant has reviewed each community's flood mitigation plan and is providing assistance to each coastal community in the identification and implementation of additional flood mitigation methods, thereby achieving additional flood insurance premium discounts for resident homeowners.

DMR, as Mississippi's federally approved state coastal zone management program, receives funding from NOAA annually for CZMA administration and enhancement of Mississippi's coastal resources.



Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence

Susan Lepoma Perkins, APR, marine administrator with the DMR's Office of Coastal Management and Planning, was recently recognized by the Mississippi Beach Chapter of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi (PRAM) with the 2011 Rex E. Kelly Professional Achievement Award. The award recognizes an individual for professionalism and for efforts in enhancing the role of the public relations practitioner. The award was developed by the chapter in 2001 to honor Rex E. Kelly, who was the first recipient of the award. Perkins was also the chapter's nominee for PRAM's State Professional Achievement Award.

PRAM Mississippi Beach Chapter President Keith Guillot presents Susan Lepoma Perkins, APR, the Rex E. Kelly Professional Achievement Award during the chapter's June meeting.



The spring semester mentor program participants and facilitators gathered for a luncheon at the Gulf Coast Research Lab to review student's completed projects. Pictured from left to right: Christy Royals, Cody Jones, Sandra Moore, Debbie Belk, Chad Allen, Carly Somerset, Jennifer Martello, Dr. Eric Saillant, Josh Cortner, Chris Marshall, Dale Diaz and Dr. Lena Melton.



Sandra Moore, Personnel Officer II in the Human Resources Bureau, progresses with the Human Resources Certification Program.

Sandra Moore, Personnel Officer II with the Human Resources Bureau, has completed the first two of five modules of the Human Resources Certification Program (HRCP). The HRCP is presented by the Mississippi State Personnel Board and is designed to develop a well-trained body of human resources practitioners within Mississippi state government by providing a comprehensive training program specifically tailored to human resources professionals at both the technical and managerial levels. The final module is scheduled for February 2012.

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.

David Dollar.....	04/01/89	Jill Zednick.....	05/19/08
Russell Doucet	04/11/88	Rudy Balias	06/01/00
Bryce Gex.....	04/01/98	Timothy Broder	06/14/04
Mike Yonce	04/01/98	Rick Burris	06/20/07
Kristina Broussard	05/01/06	Jimmy Hester	06/24/93
Walter Chataginer.....	05/01/88	Grant Larsen	06/25/01
Leo DeGeorge.....	05/12/10	Christine Murrell	06/15/90
Melissa Faircloth	05/19/09	George Ramseur.....	06/01/07
Avia Huisman	05/17/10	Jessica Rankin	06/16/08
Shannon Rojas.....	05/01/08	Lauren Thompson	06/01/00
Scott Saucier	05/01/06	Robin Zantow	06/01/02
Darrin Stewart	05/01/08		



Mississippi Department
of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 144
BILOXI, MS 39530



Volunteer! Oct. 15, 2011

www.mscoastalcleanup.org

DMR Calendar

July 19

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

August 16

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

September 20

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

September 24

National Estuaries Day

October 15

23rd Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup
8 a.m.-11 a.m., coastwide. For information, call 228-374-5000.

October 18

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



Doc's Fishing Tip

This time of year, many experienced anglers will turn to live shrimp for all but guaranteed results with speckled trout and other front beach gamesters. Shrimp can be freelined (fished directly on the hook with little or no added weight) for good results. Better yet, they can also be hooked and suspended from about 18 to 24 inches beneath a popping cork. Crisply snapping the rod tip every so often creates a popping sound and surface commotion that imitates feeding trout. And this combination will ring the dinner bell for any fish cruising nearby. Just wait for the cork to sink, set the hook with a smooth upswing of the rod, and hang on!

Until Next Time, Good Fishin' — Dr. Fred Deegen

Shrimp Spaghetti

2 14.5 oz. cans diced tomatoes
2 8 oz. cans tomato sauce
1 10 oz. can diced Rotel and green chilies
1 medium-sized jar spaghetti sauce
5 lbs. peeled Mississippi Gulf shrimp
1/2 lb. salt meat (cut small)
1 large onion
1 medium bell pepper
1 tsp. chopped garlic
1 tsp. sugar
1/2 cup water (more or less)
Salt and pepper to taste
Tabasco to taste
2 tbsp. oil



Add all ingredients from cans into large sauce pan. Cut salt meat in small pieces and fry in oil until light brown. Add onions and saute for about 2 minutes. Add to sauce and cook for about 1 hour. Add shrimp and cook 30 minutes longer. Serve over your favorite pasta.

Reprinted from DMR's *Get Hooked on Mississippi Seafood Recipe Book*
Recipe by Linda McCarthy