

Coastal Markers



Volume 12, Issue 3

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Spring 2009

Secretary of State Presents \$7.3M Tidelands Check



Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann presented a Tidelands check for \$7.3 million to the CMR on Dec. 15, 2008. Pictured, from left to right, are state Rep. Jeffrey Guice, state Sen. David Baria, state Rep. Hank Zuber, Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, DMR Executive Director Dr. William Walker, state Rep. Randall Patterson, state Rep. Richard Bennett, state Rep. Frank Hamilton and state Rep. Roger Ishee.

Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann presented a check for \$7,321,138 to the Commission on Marine Resources (CMR) at a ceremony held at the Secretary of State's office in Gulfport Dec. 15, 2008. The dollars are generated from Tidelands leases and assessments.

The Tidelands lease revenue was collected on tidelands leases on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2008. 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 the casino's capital investment.

"This tidelands check is crucial to Mississippi Gulf Coast citizens," says Hosemann. "And I am happy to report the amount of this check is more than double the check from 2007."

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.

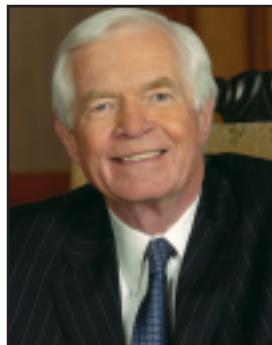
As Secretary of State, Hosemann negotiates tidelands leases on behalf of the

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.

See Tidelands Check, page 4

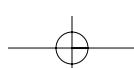
10th annual Smart Growth Conference to be held May 12-13; U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran will deliver the keynote address.

See page 3 for full story.



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www.dmr.ms.gov



Director's Notes

Dr. William Walker

The call came in to the DMR's Marine Patrol dispatch at 7:32 a.m. March 20. A barge had hit the Popp's Ferry

Bridge and collapsed a span on the south end, sending a car into Biloxi's Back Bay. Within 12 minutes Marine Patrol was at the scene. By 8 a.m., eight marine patrol officers in four boats were working in concert with Biloxi Police and Fire departments and other first responders to rescue the bridge tender trapped on the bridge.

The accident, fortunately, resulted in no injuries or casualties, and is being investigated by the U.S. Coast Guard who has jurisdiction in this case since the tugboat pushing the eight barges was a commercial documented vessel.

As construction crews worked to repair the bridge in the weeks following the accident, Marine Patrol's role shifted from emergency response to boating safety—establishing and enforcing a "Designated Marine Safety Zone," a no wake zone for the waters of the Back Bay of Biloxi within 500 feet of the centerline of the Popp's Ferry Bridge. Marine Patrol officers patrolled the area 24-7 to ensure the safety of the workers, the structure being repaired and the boaters approaching the bridge construction area.

Since creating an excessive wake in a no wake zone is subject to fines ranging from \$100-\$500 plus court fees, marine patrol officers flagged down approaching boaters before they reached the no-wake zone area to let them know that it was in effect. Marine Patrol also conducted interviews with local TV and newspaper reporters to help raise awareness about the no wake zone in effect, which ended when the bridge reopened to traffic April 25.

As the leading marine law enforcement agency within the state of Mississippi, Marine Patrol works hand-in-hand with other emergency responders to enhance the safety and quality of life in the marine community. Their response to the Popp's Ferry Bridge collision is just one example of this.

Executive Director



July 2-5th, 2009
Point Cadet, Biloxi, Miss.

FREE
BOAT & WATER SAFETY
CLASSES
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

LOCATIONS
Biloxi, Miss.

Bolton State Office Building
 1141 Bayview Avenue

Bay St. Louis, Miss.
 Mississippi Power Company Auditorium
 Highway 90

Gautier, Miss.
 Recreational Leadership Building
 MGCCC Jackson County Campus

	DATES		
	B.S.L.	Biloxi	Gautier
June	6.....	13.....	20.....
July	11.....	18.....	25.....
Aug.	1.....	8.....	15.....
Sept.	12.....	19.....	26.....
Oct.	3.....	10.....	17.....

Pre-registration is required. Call DMR's Marine Patrol at (228) 523-4134.

Thanks!

Thanks to all those who contributed to this issue of Coastal Markers.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Linda Wakefield | Melanie Lane |
| Dr. Fred Deegen | Jeff Davis |
| Kerwin Cuevas | Donnie Armes |
| Amy Taylor | Richard Cooley |
| Traci Floyd | Joe Jewell |
| Darrin Stewart | Ruth Posadas |
| Jeff Clark | Susan Perkins |
| Michaela Hill | Tina Shumate |
| Dave Ruple | Leslie Young |
| Rick Ranew | Dorothy Daniel |
| Ali Rupp | |



10th annual Smart Growth Conference to be held May 12-13

The 10th annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference will be held May 12-13, 2009, at the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi. Conference attendees will learn about possible solutions to build sustainable communities, spur economic development and improve the quality of life in southern Mississippi.

The conference is hosted by the DMR Office of Coastal Management and Planning's Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and conference partners, Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce and Mississippi Gulf Coast Business Council.

CRMP's mission is to develop a plan to sustain Mississippi's coastal resources while providing a healthy economy in the region.

The conference will feature speakers and breakout sessions, including topics such as sustainable development; heritage tourism; green building; working waterfronts; livable, walkable communities; and resiliency.

"We are excited to host this 10th annual event," said Tina Shumate, director of the Office of Coastal Management and Planning. "We hope that you all will join us in celebrating 10 years of resilient and sustainable Smart Growth."

This multidisciplinary event draws elected officials, city and county staff, contractors, developers, bankers, planners, zoning officials, realtors and appraisers, engineers, landowners, industry, students, federal and state agencies, boards of supervisors, lawyers, private and corporate entities, environmentalists, resource managers and others committed to rebuilding the Gulf Coast.

Real estate agents can earn five to 10 hours of continuing education credit and appraisers four hours by attending the conference. Receipts will be provided to all other professions (such as engineers, teachers and architects) to submit for credit to their respective organizations.

U.S. Senator Thad Cochran to Speak at 10th Annual Smart Growth Conference

U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran will deliver the keynote address at the 10th annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference to be held May 12-13 at the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi. Cochran will speak on the first day of the event.

He was elected to the Senate in 1978, becoming the first Republican in over 100 years to win a statewide election in Mississippi. He currently serves as ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee and the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. He also serves as a member of the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee and the Rules Committee. After his home state of Mississippi was hit by the worst natural disaster in the history of the U.S., Cochran used his role as the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee to advance legislation providing over \$87 billion in supplemental federal assistance to the states affected by the storm. A native of Pontotoc, Miss., Sen. Cochran earned his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Mississippi. He and his wife, the former Rose Clayton of New Albany, Miss., have two children and three grandchildren.

DMR hosts annual Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference

More than 80 shellfish industry regulators and representatives attended the 2009 Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference (GSASSC), hosted by DMR April 13-16 at the Gulf Hills Hotel and Conference Center in Ocean Springs, Miss. The GSASSC is an opportunity for industry representatives and state and federal regulators to come together to share research findings and to discuss topics of interest to the shellfish industry. GSASSC includes representatives along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts from Texas to North Carolina. Topics discussed included research supporting oysters as a cancer-fighting food, the use of side-scan sonar in reef assessment and enhancement, and the *Vibrio vulnificus* bacterium.

Converting Rigs to Reef



A submerged decommissioned oil platform can provide two to three acres of habitat for marine invertebrates and fish.

The DMR, Minerals Management Service (MMS) and oil/gas companies are working together to utilize decommissioned oil and gas platforms for offshore artificial reef development known as Rigs to Reef.

Title II of the National Fishing Enhancement Act of 1984 and the National Marine Fisheries Service published a National Artificial Reef Plan, which in turn opened the door for federal support for offshore artificial reef projects. Standing behind the National Artificial Reef Plan, the MMS developed the Rigs to Reef project to stimulate the reuse of production platforms for offshore artificial habitat.

Oil and gas platforms that are no longer in production are required by the MMS lease agreement to be taken from the marine environment and be properly disposed of within one year after production

ceases. Rigs to Reef offers a conservation-minded alternative for disposal of the platform versus an onshore discarding and meaningless demise. The average platform jacket can provide two to three acres of habitat for marine invertebrates and fishes. These submerged platform jackets can provide a home for thousands of marine species, annually creating a high-density area with complex food chains.

Mississippi's reef managers are working together with oil/gas companies to create premier habitat for fish stocks in the Northern Gulf of Mexico by taking advantage of the Rigs to Reef program. Rigs to Reef is beneficial for both the marine organisms who inhabit these reef systems and the fishermen who seek out some of the highly prized fish of commercial and recreational value.

Finfish regulations update

On Dec. 1, 2008, new size limits went into effect for gray triggerfish and greater amberjack taken from Mississippi waters, along with several other commercial and recreational regulation changes.

The minimum size limit for gray triggerfish for recreational and commercial fishermen changed to 14 inches fork length.

The minimum size limit for greater amberjack for recreational fishermen changed to 30 inches fork length. Also, for-hire vessel captains and crew are now prohibited from retaining a recreational

bag limit of greater amberjack.

In addition, recreational and commercial fishermen are now prohibited from retaining sandbar and silky sharks, with the exception that commercial fishermen may retain sandbar sharks if they are issued a fisheries research permit by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service.

Another new regulation requires that any person or company selling or transporting for sale any species of fish that

Tidelands Check

continued from page 1

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 CMR. Since 1990, the Secretary of State's Office has collected more than \$67 million in tidelands leases.

"It's great to see the return of pre-Katrina levels of Tidelands funding," says DMR Executive Director Dr. William Walker, who accepted the check on behalf of the CMR. "These funds are all spent in coastal Mississippi, and they go a long way in helping to move our recovery effort forward. On behalf of the residents of coastal Mississippi, I'd like to genuinely thank the Mississippi Legislature for making these funds available."

EDRP II

Commercial Crab Data

The Emergency Disaster Recovery Program was started after Hurricane Katrina with federal money to help the commercial fishermen recover and help restart the seafood industry. The crab data program ran from April 16 to May 30, 2008 at which time eligible commercial crabbers had an opportunity to turn in 25 days' worth of trip tickets.

- * 52 participants in the three coastal counties
- * 5,513 total traps
- * 92 average traps per fisherman
- * 1,313 total trips
- *115,885 total pounds of crabs harvested
- *115,885 total pounds sold
- \$116,720.35 total value

"Once I stepped back and looked at the numbers it really opened my eyes to the hard work that the fishermen do to provide the public with fresh local seafood," said Darrin Stewart, projects officer, DMR Shrimp & Crab Bureau.

does not meet Mississippi state size limits or for which the season is closed must possess valid documentation from the state or country of origin evidencing that the fish were legally harvested.



Photo: Christina Mohrman

Crabbers volunteer to help terrapins

The DMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau is reaching out to both recreational and commercial crab trap fishermen to address the incidental catch of diamondback terrapins.

Though not much is known about the current population status of this estuarine inhabitant, the diamondback terrapin is listed as a “species of concern” in Mississippi. Since crabs and terrapins often share the same habitat, terrapins can become inadvertently caught in crab traps.

A cooperative effort between the crab fishery and the DMR has begun to address accidental catch of diamondback terrapins. The DMR is assisting in the installation of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) in commercial crab traps at no cost to fishermen to help deter incidental catch. These TEDs are 2-inch by 6-inch rectangles of either plastic or stainless material and are installed in the funnels of the traps to prevent terrapins from entering the trap. Multiple studies have shown that when used in crab traps, TEDs do not affect legal crab harvest. To date, the DMR has installed 1,931 commercial traps with TEDs.

The DMR is also reaching out to recreational crabbers by distributing TEDs at local events and has provided 650 TEDs to recreational crabbers through outreach programs at the Jackson County Fair, Gautier Mullet Festival and Singing River Services, which provides vocational opportunities (including crab trap construction) to intellectually disabled residents.

“The Shrimp and Crab Bureau is pleased by the initial show of support and the voluntary cooperation from Mississippi’s crab fishery community in helping to prevent unnecessary capture of this turtle, while its status undergoes study,” said Shrimp and Crab Bureau Director Traci Floyd. “Contact us and we will be happy to help you rig your gear to prevent unintentional catch of diamondback terrapins.”

Going, going, gone

The My Wife II shrimp boat was deployed January 2009 to Fish Haven 12, south of Horn Island, as part of the Mississippi Artificial Reef Program and DMR Derelict Vessel Removal Program, which includes relocating vessels to provide habitat for fish off the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Vessels are prepped before sinking by pumping out all the oil, fuel and hydraulic fluid and securing material on board. This practice helps fishermen and conserves natural resources.



Photos: primofish.com and mgfb.org

2009 Marine Information Calendar features

The DMR held an art contest for third-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties for the annual marine information calendar. In an effort to generate interest and promote awareness of the value of our coastal resources, students were asked to create artwork illustrating the contest theme: "Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi's Coastal Resources." More than 1,400 entries from 31 schools were received. The winning artwork appears in the DMR 2009 calendar and is on display in the DMR's main lobby.

Thank you to the following schools for participating in the contest: Bay/Waveland Middle School, Bayou View Middle, Beach Elementary, Beauvoir Elementary, Cedar Lake Christian Academy, Coast Episcopal, D'Iberville Elementary, East Central Upper Elementary, Eastlawn Elementary, Escatawpa Elementary, Gorenflo Elementary, Harper McCaughan, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Lizana Elementary, Lopez Elementary, Magnolia Park Elementary, Martin Bluff Elementary, North Bay Elementary, Orange Grove Elementary, Our Lady of Fatima, Pass Christian Middle School, Popp's Ferry Elementary, Reeves Elementary, Second Street Elementary, South Hancock Elementary, St. Alphonsus Catholic School, St. James Elementary, St. Martin East Elementary, Taconi Elementary, Three Rivers Elementary and Vancleave Upper Elementary.

The calendar, which was printed through a grant from the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, highlights DMR programs and contains handy information such as tide information, sunrise and sunset times, moon phases, reef coordinates, size and possession limits, boating safety information, Mississippi saltwater fishing records and marine debris information.

The 2009 DMR marine information calendar is available online at www.dmr.ms.gov



January



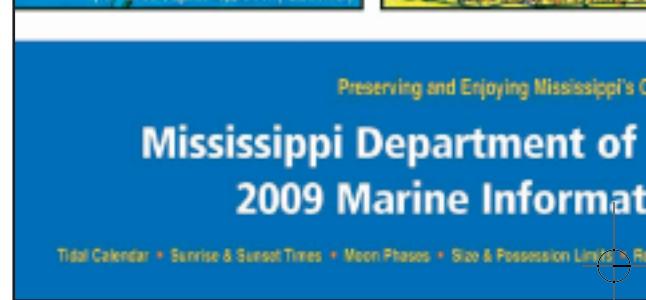
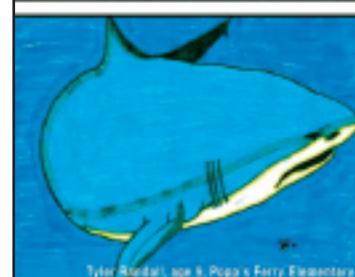
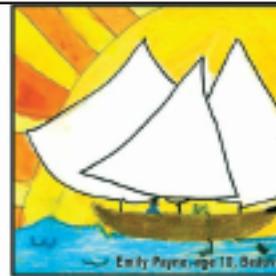
February



March



April

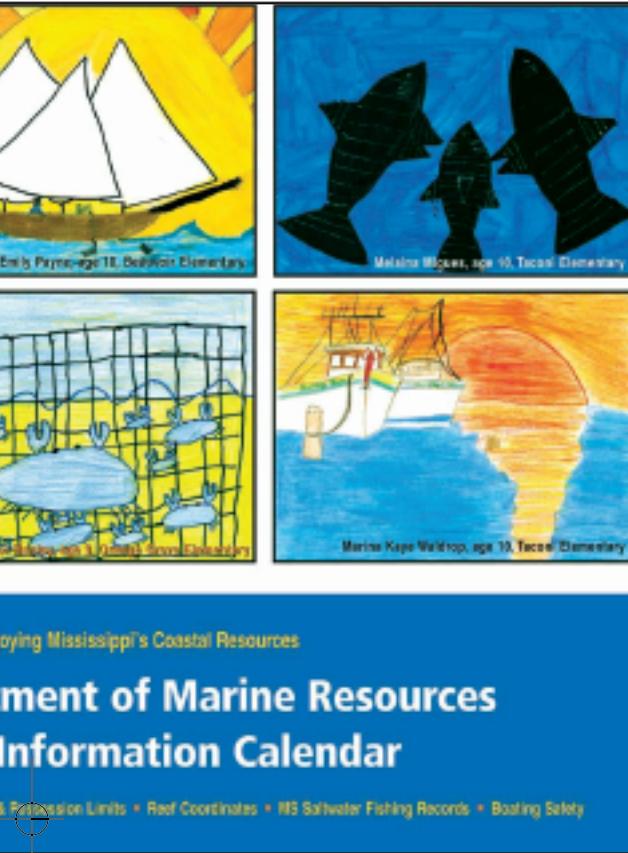


May



June

atures Coast students' winning artwork



September



October



July



November



August



December

And the winners are:

Front Cover:

- Andy Freeman, age 10, Taconi Elementary
- Emily Payne, age 10, Beauvoir Elementary
- Melaina Migues, age 10, Taconi Elementary
- Tyler Randall, age 9, Popp's Ferry Elementary
- Trevor Hanley, age 9, Orange Grove Elementary
- Marina Kaye Waldrop, age 10, Taconi Elementary

Back Cover:

- Conner Ferguson, age 11, Orange Grove Elementary
- Margaret Lee, age 10, North Bay Elementary
- Elizabeth Anderson, age 11, Reeves Elementary

Months:

- January, Sarah Janus, age 9, Our Lady of Fatima
- February, Ashton Bailey, age 10, Holy Trinity Catholic School
- March, Abbey Riley, age 10, South Hancock Elementary
- April, Terrell Jordan, age 9, Second Street Elementary
- May, Morgan Dubaz, age 11, Taconi Elementary
- June, Jessica Leonard, age 10, Taconi Elementary
- July, Brittany Wilkinson, age 10, South Hancock Elementary
- August, Emily Simons, age 8, St. Alphonsus Catholic School
- September, Maggie Russell, age 11, Popp's Ferry Elementary
- October, Orion Macias, age 8, Magnolia Park Elementary
- November, Harley Wilson, age 10, Beauvoir Elementary
- December, Rebecca Cuevas, age 9, Lizana Elementary

NERR Notes

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



Revised field guide a big hit across the Gulf

The DMR/Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) recently partnered with the Mississippi Coastal Preserves and Coastal Zone Management programs as well as Alabama's Weeks Bay Reserve to update and enlarge their "Field Guide to Selected Plants." The new book is entitled "Selected Plants of Coastal Mississippi and Alabama."

Jennifer Buchanan, education coordinator for the NERR stated, "Even though this book was created as a collaborative effort between Mississippi and Alabama, its usefulness extends along much of the northern Gulf of Mexico."

This 160-page guide highlights some of the most interesting plants found in our coastal habitats. Many plants of the savanna and saltmarshes, such as carnivorous plants including pitcher plants, sundews and butterworts, orchids, pine lilies and other

fire-dependent species, are still included in the book. However, additional plants, especially some more common to bottomland hardwood habitats, have been added to make this book more relevant to other coastal habitats that are not found on the Reserve. This book will also help you identify a variety of environmentally harmful invasive species that might be quietly creeping onto your property so that you can take action to stop their spread.

Check the Reserve's Web site (www.grandbaynerr.org) to find the nearest distribution site to you. You may pick up a copy of this free guide at the main DMR office in Biloxi or at the Reserve's office at 6005 Bayou Heron Road near Moss Point or at other distribution sites along the Coast. Since



The new book is entitled 'Selected Plants of Coastal Mississippi and Alabama.'

there is a limited supply, there is a limit of one book per family. The book will be available digitally soon on the NERR Web site.

Gulf Coast NERR Regional Training Collaboration

Increasing regional technical training opportunities is the focus of a subgrant recently awarded to the Grand Bay NERR on behalf of the Coastal Training Program (CTP) coordinators at NOAA's five Gulf of Mexico National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs). This award supports the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) Education Workgroup and will help increase the visibility of the Alliance. The collaborative approach will assist priority issue workgroups with outreach and training initiatives.

The proposal includes funding for three years to support a Gulf Regional CTP coordinator. This position will help the Gulf Coast NERR CTPs connect the needs of the Alliance Priority Issue Teams, the Gulf States and local communities. Additionally, this position will assist with the development and delivery of practical training opportunities that meet the information needs of target audiences. These activities will raise awareness of GOMA and critical Gulf issues, increase the application of technology and tools that are products of the Alliance priority issue teams, and provide professional technical forums to disseminate Alliance outcomes and initiatives.

Partners in this effort include Rookery Bay NERR, Apalachicola NERR, Weeks Bay NERR, Grand Bay NERR, Mission-Aransas NERR and the Weeks Bay Foundation. It is anticipated that some workshops will require coordination with NOAA partners, including the Coastal Services Center, Gulf Coast Service Center, Coastal Restoration Center, Sea Grant Programs and other state and federal programs that are involved with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is a partnership of the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, with the goal of significantly increasing regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico.

Coastal Preserves

Death gives life to Deer Island

The Coastal Preserves Program is charged with managing and maintaining its lands in a natural state to the fullest extent possible, thereby preserving their natural characteristics and ecological integrity. Following several inquiries concerning the status of the Deer Island forests, the Coastal Preserves Program would like to provide the following information regarding this valued coastal resource.

The natural cycles following severe storm events are evident along the entire Gulf Coast, and Deer Island is no exception. The forests of Deer Island were severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and even now, from a distance, look battered and bruised. However, the island is showing amazing resilience and the recovery is impressive. The live oaks are repairing their damaged branches and the slash pines are reseeded the understory.



Slash pine reseed in forest understory on Deer Island.

Although the many snags (standing dead trees) seem unappealing to us, they are of great ecological importance. Some ecologists have even said that dead trees “give life to the forest.” Dead trees provide food, shelter and nesting habitat for a wide range of species, including microbes, fungi, spiders, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Also, as a dead tree decays, it returns valuable nutrients to the soil, which can then be taken up by other trees and plants. Several more years will pass before most of the snags fall and the island begins to regain its aesthetic appeal. In the meantime, the dead trees will provide valuable habitat to many species that depend on this natural cycle of growth and decay for survival.

In addition, research scientists from the U.S. Forest Service currently are studying the genetics of the living trees remaining on the island. Pine



U.S. Forest Service collects pine cones on Deer Island to study differences between island and mainland trees.



Many mature pine trees survived the storm.

cones were collected from approximately 50 trees and DNA from the needles, and seeds will be extracted to compare the salinity tolerance between mainland and island pines. Resulting information from this study may be useful in silviculture and restoration practices. It is a tedious effort to collect the pine cones from island slash pines, which have very high crowns and few low-hanging branches.

Note: When visiting the island, please be aware of hazardous snags, as falling limbs and trunks can be extremely dangerous.

Seafood Safety Corner



Jeff Davis

The Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) has completed its fourth-quarter inspections. Fourth-quarter inspections are the most important inspections during the fiscal year. During this quarter, inspectors determine if seafood facilities will be re-certified.

Facilities are carefully inspected for possible Hazard Analysis and Critical

Control Points (HACCP) and Sanitation deficiencies that may be present. In order for a seafood facility to be re-certified, certain HACCP and Sanitation requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) must be met. According to NSSP regulations, a dealer shall have an acceptable HACCP Plan accepted by the Authority, have no critical deficiencies, have not more than two key deficiencies and not more than two other deficiencies.

Sanitation requirements state a dealer can have no critical deficiencies, not more than two key deficiencies and not more than three other deficiencies. The number of deficiencies allowed shall include carry-over deficiencies from an existing compliance schedule approved by the Authority and new deficiencies identified during the certification renewal inspection.



MARINE PATROL CITATIONS NOVEMBER 2008 — MARCH 2009

- Shrimp-3
- Crab-9
- Oyster-101
- Live Bait-0
- Net Fish-0
- Fishing-31
- Boat and Water Safety-65
- Miscellaneous-4

TOTAL-213

Joint Enforcement Agreement Program

The DMR Marine Patrol entered into a Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with the National Marine Fisheries Service on August 2001 for the purpose of conducting patrols in the Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) along with Mississippi Sound patrols and public service. A Joint Enforcement Agreement has been entered into every year since its inception.

During this 2008 JEA, officers conducted 16 Community Outreach Program functions utilizing 124 man hours at local seafood festivals, fishing tournaments, local harbors and marinas. Other civic functions enabled these officers to pass out pamphlets and answer questions concerning fishing rules and regulations in the Gulf State region.

Officer patrols conducted during this period resulted in the use of 3,708 man hours. There were 246 dockside and sea patrols accumulating 1,103 recreational contacts and 536 commercial contacts.

The Marine Patrol Division took upon the task of conducting the JEA program conscientiously and diligently during the past year. Marine Patrol looks forward to setting the same goals and achieving the same accomplishments during the upcoming program year. The presence of the patrol vessels along with the diligent effort of Marine Patrol officers in the EEZ have made a big impact on the compliance rate for the rules and regulations in that area. The main goal is to increase the compliance rate for the EEZ as well as in state waters. The public was very receptive to the program this past year. There was a lot of positive feedback during the course of the program, and Marine Patrol attributes this to the professional attitude and demeanor of its officers along with the support of its director and commission.

Marine Patrol helps rescue bridge tender

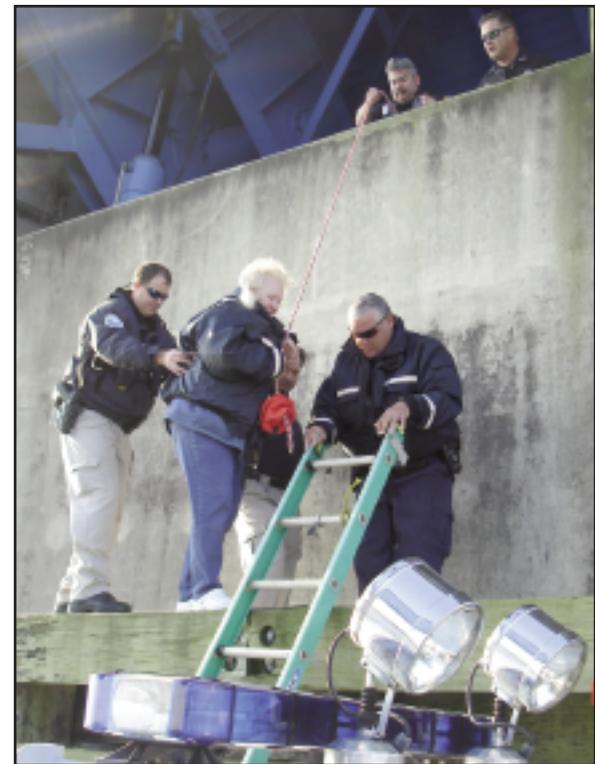


Photo: Vincent Creell/City of Biloxi

Marine Patrol officers Patrick Webb, Lt. David Dollar and Baron O'Grady assist the bridge tender, Margaret Johnson, to safety with officers from the Biloxi Police Department after a barge hit the Popp's Ferry bridge on March 20, 2009.



Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence

Spring brings science fair season

Thank you to all the DMR employees for judging the local school's science fairs. So far this year, DMR has had representatives at Magnolia Park Elementary School, Reeves Elementary School, St. Alphonsus Catholic School and the Miss. Regional VI science fairs. The faculty and the children appreciate your interest and expertise and taking the time out of your busy work schedules.

A St. Alphonsus student stands proud by his experiment.



Rebekah Ray, with the DMR Coastal Ecology Office, inspects a shark at St. Alphonsus Catholic.



St. Alphonsus students read while waiting for the judges to come around.



Jill Zednick, with the DMR Fisheries Office, listens to a student at Magnolia Park Elementary.



Jessica Brady-Rankin, with DMR Fisheries Office, laughs at the rat and cheese at St. Alphonsus Catholic.



Christine Murrell and Jessica Brady-Rankin, both with the DMR Fisheries Office, tally scores at the Magnolia Park Elementary School science fair.

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.

Debbie Belk	3/25/2002	Gretchen Grammer	1/13/2005
Jan Boyd	1/15/1998	Jeff Grant	2/1/2006
Willa Brantley	2/12/2004	James Herring	1/1/2003
Jed Bullard	1/1/2009	Lisa Damiano Jones	3/31/2008
Karen Carron	2/25/2002	Melanie Lane	1/1/2000
Leo Christie	3/17/1999	Richard May	1/1/2000
Jeff Clark	2/1/1999	Sandra Moore	2/18/2008
Jennifer Clark	2/16/2006	Baron O'Grady	1/1/2007
Ava Coleman	4/1/2007	Jeff Payne	1/1/2000
Jeff Davis	3/1/2002	Susan Perkins	1/1/2008
Wesley Devers	1/29/2001	Ruth Posadas	1/29/2009
Tom Doster	3/5/2007	Rhonda Price	1/1/1999
Janet Doucet	3/1/2002	James Sanders	3/26/2001
Doug Drieling	1/1/1995	Evelyn Thompson	3/12/2001
Rita Duvernay	1/1/1995	William Underwood	2/9/2009
Kerry Endris	1/1/1995	Courtney Warth	3/1/2008
Diane Roth Fisher	1/10/2000	Patrick Webb	3/15/2004



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Coastal Markers



DMR Calendar

May 12-13

Coastal Development Strategies
(Smart Growth) Conference,
IP Casino Resort Spa, Biloxi, MS
For details call Susan at (228) 523-4124
or Leslie at (228) 523-4123

May 16-22

National Safe Boating Week

May 19

Mississippi Commission on Marine
Resources meeting, Mississippi State
University Coastal Research and
Extension Center, 1815 Popp's Ferry
Road, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

June 16

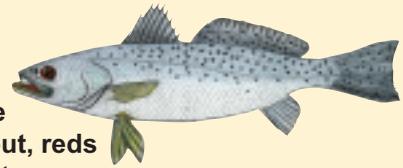
Mississippi Commission on Marine
Resources meeting, Mississippi State
University Coastal Research and
Extension Center, 1815 Popp's Ferry
Road, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

June 20

CCA Kids Fishing Rodeo
Children 5-13
Urie Pier, Gulfport
8 a.m. - noon
For details call Alberto Alvarez at
(228) 323-2323

Doc's Fishing Tip

This is the time of year that all front beach wade and pier fishermen have long been awaiting—that time when trout, reds and the rest of their nearshore entourage return to the shallows. Topwater baits and soft plastic jigs fished under a popping cork will produce excellent results with these gamesters; and live shrimp, once they become readily available, will be the preferred bait of many. Look for strong rising (or falling) tidal currents, and you will catch your fair share of fish this spring! - Dr. Fred Deegen



Smoked Oyster Casino

Smoke oysters on the half shell.
Top with garlic and butter.
Serve with Orange Sauce.

Orange Sauce:
1 cup white sugar
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup light corn syrup
1/2 cup frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed

Combine all ingredients in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes. Pour over smoked oysters and brown in the oven.

Reprinted from Get Hooked on Mississippi Oysters Recipe Book

