

Coastal Markers



Volume 5, Issue 1

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Summer 2001

Shrimp season opens with more boats, rough seas

■ Shrimpers reported average harvests of good-sized shrimp

Shrimp season officially opened in Mississippi territorial waters on June 5 at 6 a.m. and although the rough seas kept some of the smaller boats at dock and capsized others, 796 shrimp boats came out on opening day to test the shrimping waters. That's 70 more shrimp boats than were counted in Mississippi waters on last year's opening day.

The Department of Marine Resources' (DMR) marine fisheries staff completed an aerial survey of the shrimp boats to determine the total number of vessels on the water, as well as the distribution of boats in the Mississippi Sound and adjacent areas.

The majority of boats were congregated in the inside waters of Cat and Ship islands, which provided some protection from the wind. Vessels were also plentiful in Biloxi Channel near the mouth of productive Biloxi Bay.

"Despite opening week weather conditions that made shrimping difficult, the 2001



The DMR conducted an aerial survey, counting 796 shrimping vessels in Mississippi waters on the opening day of shrimp season. Some smaller boats stayed at dock because of rough seas.

shrimping season appears to be off to a good start with average harvests of good sized-shrimp being reported," said Traci Floyd, biologist with the DMR's Shrimp and Crab Bureau. "This year we've seen the same favorable conditions that helped make last season so successful – low rainfall and high springtime temperatures."

The DMR's Marine Patrol was out in full force starting at 6 p.m. the night before

opening day, working 'round the clock to ensure a smooth shrimp season opening. Marine Patrol boats responded to four confirmed capsizings and three boats in distress that Marine Patrol towed to safe harbor, and arrested four shrimpers for using oversized trawls. Prior to the shrimp season opening, the DMR's Marine Patrol is sued more than 30 citations for shrimping during closed season.

The excessive rainfall associated with Tropical Storm Allison on June 11, caused large numbers of sub-legal brown shrimp to move into traditional shrimping grounds of the Mississippi Sound. The areas that closed on June 15, at 6 a.m., include all waters west of the Gulfport Ship Channel. Additionally, east of the Gulfport Ship

See SHRIMP SEASON, page 8

New fishing regulations book now available

A Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing Rules and Regulations 2001 - 2002



The 2001-2002 edition of "A Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing Rules and Regulations," which incorporates new and revised saltwater fishing regulations for the state of Mississippi, is now available at the DMR. The DMR's office is located at 1141 Bayview Ave., Suite 101, Biloxi.

For a free copy, please contact the public affairs office at (228) 374-5000 or stop by the DMR. Copies will also be available at the DMR's booth at the 53rd Annual Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo at the Rice Pavilion in Gulfport, June 29-July 4, where the DMR will be selling recreational fishing licenses. All recreational fishing licenses expire June 30.

This year's fishing regulations book cover illustration, drawn by Joe Jewell, depicts a fisherman tonging for oysters. Jewell is a member of the DMR's Office of Marine Fisheries staff.

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Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

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Director's Notes

Glen Carpenter



As the 2001 Mississippi shrimp season gets under way, the air will soon be filled with the pungent aroma of the cuisine that characterizes the Coast—boiled shrimp and crabs, new potatoes and corn-on-the-cob.

Predicting the success of any shrimp season is always a risky proposition. But, a warm and dry spring is usually a good sign for the shrimp fisherman, because it allows the young, developing crustaceans to stay out of harm's way in the protection of coastal marshes.

Recreational anglers, too, can look forward to their annual big event as the Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo gets under way on the Fourth of July weekend. The same environmental conditions that promise good shrimping also give the hook and line fisherman plenty of reasons to get excited. Migratory pelagic species like sharks, Spanish and king mackerel, cobia, bonito, rainbow and blue runners, bluefish and others will be plentiful around the barrier islands; and trout, reds, flounder and other favorites should abound in near-shore waters. All in all, it looks like a great time for fishing.

On behalf of the Commission on Marine Resources, I want to wish each and every one of you good fishing, a bountiful harvest and a safe return to port.

Executive Director

Boat and Water Safety Course Schedule (July-Sept. 2001)

- **July 7**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **July 12-13**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.
- **July 14**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **July 16-17**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6-9 p.m.
- **July 21**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **July 25-26**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6-9 p.m.
- **July 28**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2292 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Aug. 1-3**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2292 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 6-9 p.m.
- **Aug. 4**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Aug. 9-10**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.
- **Aug. 11**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Aug. 13-14**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6-9 p.m.
- **Aug. 18**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Aug. 22-23**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6-9 p.m.
- **Aug. 25**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Aug. 29-30**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 6-9 p.m.
- **Sept. 5-6**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 6-9 p.m.

See SCHEDULE, page 6

If you did not receive this issue of Coastal Markers in the mail and would like to be placed on the mailing list, please fill out below and mail to: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Office of Public Affairs, 1141 Bayview Ave., Suite 101, Biloxi, MS 39530; call (228) 374-5022, ext. 5062; or e-mail susan.perkins@dmr.state.ms.us.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

MANAGING YOUR MARINE RESOURCES TODAY FOR A SOUND TOMORROW.

2000-2001 OYSTER SEASON:

Environmental factors, management practices boost harvest

Mississippi public oyster reefs closed to harvest on May 11, 2001, officially ending the 2000-2001 oyster season. This season's sack total was 380,231 sacks, which nearly equaled last season's 32-year record harvest of 410,903 sacks.

This season marks the eighth year in a row that Mississippi oyster season sack totals exceeded 200,000 sacks and was the third highest in 30 years.

"We were fortunate again this year to have relatively few closures related to river stage and rainfall," said DMR Shellfish Program Coordinator Scott Gordon.

Sustaining this production level requires favorable environmental conditions and the implementation of good management practices with a proactive management approach. Two such proactive methods used by the DMR are the following:

1. *Cultivation*— pulling unbagged



The DMR distributed about 3500 cubic yards of cultch material (oyster shell) in the Henderson Point area, about two to three miles south of Pass Christian, on May 16-17, to boost oyster productivity and enhance fishing opportunities in south Mississippi.

dredges over existing reefs, exposing and breaking up old reefs and clusters to enhance spat set and harvesting opportunities. At press time, the DMR's 65-foot vessel *Conservationist* started a scheduled three-week detail to cultivate the Kittiwake (Long Beach) Reef, Buoy Reef, First Key

and Umbrella Reef.

2. *Reef Creation*— planting suitable cultch material (oyster shell) for oysters to set on in areas favorable for oyster production.

The most recent cultch plant was completed on May 17, 2001. This 50-acre cultch plant site is located about two miles southwest of the Pass Christian Harbor. About 3,500 cubic yards of oyster shell were planted at a total cost of about \$85,000. This cultch plant was funded entirely with shell retention fees collected from fishermen and processors.

"Using the shell retention

fees to fund future cultch plants allows the oyster industry to help do its part to sustain the valuable oyster resource of Mississippi," Gordon said.

The DMR is planning additional cultch plants for this fall.

More than 200 attend second annual CRMP conference

The Coastal Development Strategies Conference hosted by the DMR's Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) on April 17-18, proved to be a valuable experience for coastal decision makers. Vendors and sponsors representing CRMP partnerships also contributed to the two-day affair.

The focus of the CRMP conference was to bring together developers, landowners, mortgage lenders, planners, landscape designers, home sellers and home buyers on the Mississippi Coast and assist them in working together to meet the needs of their communities in economic opportunities and conservation efforts.

"This second annual conference was a fine example of the concern and interest of the issues as represented by the diversity of the more than 200 conference attendees, ranging from federal and state government agencies, universities, concerned citizens, real estate companies, and developers," said Tina Shumate, CRMP Program Coordi-

nator. Conference participants, from Mississippi, Texas, Alabama and Florida shared the concern of developing a sustainable economy in an environmentally sound manner.

by the nationally known landscape architect, Randall Arendt of Rhode Island. Following the presentation of "Design and Management of an Experimental Beach

Landscape" by Dr. Pete Melby of MSU, the day concluded with a *Star-Ship* Dinner Cruise including dancing the night away on the top deck. A power-packed day two featured Tom Schueler from the Center for Watershed Protection, in Maryland, presentations on conservation design and sustainability development and case studies.

"The conference provided one of the most interesting and unmatched opportunities to look at alternative methods to handle the pressures

placed on the natural resources of coastal Mississippi as economic and population growth continues to explode in the coastal areas," Shumate said.

Work is in progress for conference 2002 and you will not want to miss it!

CRMP on the road...

The Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) has been invited by NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston, South Carolina, to be in the Coastal Showcase at the Coastal Zone 2001 Conference to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, in mid-July. CRMP will be one of 50 coastal management tools on display.

"This two-day conference hosted by CRMP provided the opportunity for all interested to determine the future of the coast," Shumate said.

Followed by introductions, welcomes and keynote speaker, the participants settled into working on conservation design presented

DMR receives Keep Mississippi Beautiful award

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) was honored in Jackson recently for its role in coordinating the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, which takes place each year on the third Saturday in September in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup. Lauren Thompson, the DMR's public relations director, was presented with a prestigious Outstanding Community Achievement award at the Keep Mississippi Beautiful/People Against Litter ninth annual awards luncheon at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson April 17.

"This award represents the efforts of the Department of Marine Resources, the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, and the thousands of volunteers who cared enough about their environment to come out, take action, and make a difference by cleaning up the shorelines and waterways of the Mississippi Gulf Coast," Thompson said.

The event raises public awareness about the issues of litter and marine debris. More than 2,940 volunteers picked up 2,740 bags of trash totaling 34 tons along about 70 miles of Coastal waterways in Hancock, Harrison

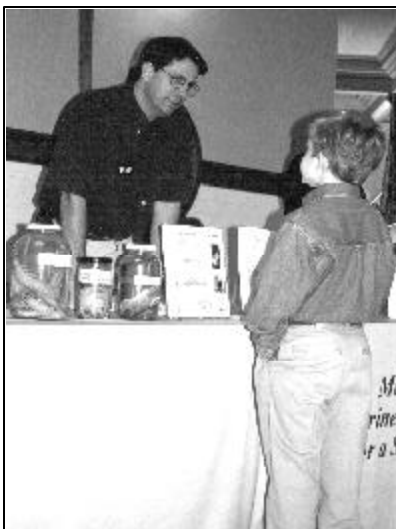


DMR Public Relations Director, Lauren Thompson, center, accepts an Outstanding Community Achievement award on behalf of the DMR and Marine Debris Task Force for their efforts in coordinating the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, from Nevie McArthur, left, vice chairman of Keep Mississippi Beautiful's board and Barbara Dorr, right, executive director of Keep Mississippi Beautiful, at the annual awards luncheon in Jackson.

and Jackson counties. Volunteers collect data, which is compiled and submitted to the Center for Marine Conservation for analysis.

This year's Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is set for Saturday, September 15, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For more information or to volunteer contact the DMR at (228) 374-5000.

Capitol Day



DMR Shellfish biologist Dale Diaz (left) greets a DMR exhibit visitor at the state Capitol in Jackson on March 13. Capitol Day is an opportunity for state agencies to showcase what they do and to familiarize legislators and other visitors with their missions and goals.

Marine Patrol Citation Totals

(January-May 2001)

Shrimp	24
Crab	14
Oyster	61
Commercial Net Fishing	8
Live Bait	2
Miscellaneous seafood	2
Recreational Fishing	155
Boat and Water Safety	209
Marine Litter	4
Miscellaneous	57

Boat and Water Safety Statistics

(January-May 2001)

Classes held	38
Students Certified	359
Special events	36
Boating accidents	14
Fatalities	4

Sound Advice

Lt. Frank Wescovich



Well, the summer is here, and the boating season is in full-swing. Everyone should have had ample time to check out their equipment and ensure that everything is operating smoothly. But, welcome to the real world. The average Billy Bob boater has now made several trips, and in all likelihood is still having some problems. These problems, seemingly insignificant after successfully returning to port, are usually forgotten until they pop up again in the middle of the next trip. This can be as simple as a loose wire or corroded battery cable. The engine fails to start, so Billy Bob jiggles and moves the bundle of wires laying awash in the oily bilge water. Voila, she fires right up. He happily puts her in gear and goes merrily on his way, never giving a second thought to at least three things that he is overlooking that have the potential for a major problem:

1. *Where is the loose connection? Could it cause a spark and ignite any gas fumes that might accumulate in the bilge area?* Loose electrical connections cause resistance, which in turn causes heat to build up at the joint. This has the potential to melt insulation from nearby wires and cause a fire.

2. *Why is there so much water in the bilge? Couldn't possibly be a leak, or could it? Oh well, the automatic bilge pump will kick on any time now, or will it?*

3. *Why is there so much oil in the bilge? Could it be the sign of a significant oil leak that could result in catastrophic engine failure? Could it be the result of poor housekeeping left over from the last oil change?*

These are the types of situations that happen every day in the world of boating. Complacent boating is dangerous boating. Keep on your toes, and take decisive action to correct these little problems before they have the chance to turn into big ones.

Remember: **SAFE BOATING IS NO ACCIDENT.**

Lt. Frank Wescovich oversees the DMR's Boat and Water Safety Program. He can be reached at (228) 432-2820.

Experts from across region attend shellfish conference

Shellfish experts from across the region were on the coast April 23-25, for the 2001 Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference (GSASSC). The conference was held at the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino in Biloxi.

“Due to overwhelming participation and to the many professional speakers, this year’s conference turned out to be one of the largest conferences to date,” said Corky Perret, DMR Marine Fisheries Director. “The DMR would like to thank all of the participants, sponsors, and dedicated employees who helped to make this year’s Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference a great success.”

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.



Sixth-grader Haley Moon (left), who presented her research topic, “Bivalves suck it up!” to the experts at the Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference, joins DMR Executive Director Glen Carpenter (right) in the conference schooner race. Moon was one of the Excellence in Marine Science Award winners at the Region VI Science Fair, held in February.

Some of the topics presented at this conference were *Vibrio vulnificus*, post-harvest treatment, harmful algae blooms, surveys of

oyster reefs, hydrographic surveys of shellfish growing waters and oyster trip ticket programs.

A schooner race, featuring replicas of historic Biloxi oyster schooners, was also held as part of the conference, as well as a victory celebration seafood dinner.

Organizations that helped sponsor the event were the DMR, Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association, Gulf of Mexico Program, The Gulf Oyster Industry Council, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation Inc. and Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference.

Each state rotates hosting the event. Next year Alabama will be stepping up to the plate to host the 2002 Gulf & South Atlantic

States Shellfish Conference.
Good Luck, Alabama!

DMR seeks partners to help expand seafood marketing effort

After its successful debut as an exhibitor at the International Boston Seafood Show (IBSS) in March in Boston, Mass., the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) already has plans to increase Mississippi’s presence at IBSS 2002, by expanding its exhibit space from 100 to 200 square feet and inviting Coast seafood businesses to join the DMR as exhibitors at next year’s event. The DMR has also announced that it will exhibit at the International West Coast Seafood Show October 7 – 9 in Los Angeles.

IBSS brings seafood industry buyers and sellers together under one roof for three days of networking and product sourcing. There were 750 exhibitors and 1,294 booths at this year’s IBSS, which drew more than 14,000 attendees representing over 80 countries.

About 1,500 attendees stopped by the DMR booth to inquire about Mississippi seafood. The DMR booth was manned by Irvin Jackson, coordinator of the DMR’s Seafood Marketing Program; Lauren Thompson, the DMR’s public relations director and



Irvin Jackson (left), DMR’s Seafood Marketing Program Coordinator, and DMR Marine Biologist, Tom Van Devender (right), man the DMR’s Seafood Marketing Program booth at the International Boston Seafood Show in Boston, Mass., in March in an effort to promote Mississippi’s seafood industry.

Tom Van Devender, a senior marine biologist with the DMR. They distributed 750 copies of the Mississippi Seafood Industry Directory (a listing of Mississippi’s seafood and seafood-related businesses), 1,000 Seafood: South Mississippi Style recipe books, 1,280 potholders bearing the “Get Hooked on Mississippi Seafood” logo, 600 MS Seafood Safety brochures, 400 MS Seafood Industry fact sheets and 200 DMR general brochures.

“Our participation in the show was a tremendous success,” said Irvin Jackson, coordinator of the DMR’s Seafood Marketing Program. “Many buyers who stopped by our booth were eager to learn about Mississippi’s seafood industry. It accomplished our mission, which is to get the word out on the national and international level that we do have a quality seafood industry in Mississippi.”

The Seafood Marketing Program is a result of the State Legislature authorizing the DMR, in fiscal year 1999, to develop programs to enhance the marketing of the state’s recreational and commercial marine

resources, under Section 49-15-307 of the Mississippi Code.

Coast seafood businesses interested in finding out how they can exhibit at the 2002 International Boston Seafood Show March 12-14, 2002, can contact Irvin Jackson, DMR Seafood Marketing Program coordinator, at (228) 374-5000.

GBNERR programs focus on research, education

The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR) is at an exciting place in its development. New educational programs and materials are being developed, and a research and monitoring program designed to collect baseline environmental data from the reserve's aquatic habitats has been initiated. These programs will be used

our nation's valuable coastal resources for future generations.

Although the GBNERR focuses mainly on local and regional research and educational needs, the reserve also participates in many systemwide programs that provide the individual reserves with common research standards and educational goals. (There are now 26 National Estuarine Research Reserves.) In order to achieve its goals for estuarine education and



Jennifer Buchanan, Education Coordinator for the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and Aaron Russell, DMR Office Director of Administrative Services, encourage Picayune Middle School students to pursue a career in coastal management.

research, the GBNERR partners with other DMR programs, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Estuarine Reserves Division (ERD), state and federal agencies and nonprofit entities. The reserve is managed by the DMR and a Reserve Management Board (RMB). The RMB members include representatives of the DMR, Secretary of State's (SOS) Office, Mississippi State University, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the chair of the reserve's Citizen Advisory Committee. Local citizens, educators and researchers are also given the opportunity to serve on reserve planning committees that meet periodically to discuss and make recommendations for the design and implementa-

tion of GBNERR's educational, outreach and research program elements.

Funding for the GBNERR is provided by NOAA's ERD and the SOS's Tidelands Fund. NOAA personnel coordinate regularly with the reserve's staff to monitor the development and implementation of NOAA-mandated programs, such as the System-Wide Monitoring Program and the Coastal Decision Maker Workshops.

The Estuarine Scene...

Join us on Sept. 15 for the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup. Volunteers who want to help clean the GBNERR will meet at the GBNERR office at 8 a.m. Call Jennifer Buchanan at (228) 475-7047 for details.



Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's new exhibit at the recent CRMP workshop targeted coastal decision makers.

to gather and disseminate research findings and pertinent information about coastal issues to other researchers, coastal decision-makers, educators and other members of the public. This information will then be used to develop policy and laws for sustaining

Record breakers!



Dr. Keith Goodfellow set a new state record for tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*) on May 19, 2001. The 167-pound fish was caught east of Chandeleur Island in about 18 feet of water.



Robert Landingham set a new state record for yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) on June 9, 2001. The 205.8-pound fish was caught about 112 miles south of Biloxi.

SCHEDULE, continued from page 2

- **Sept. 8**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Sept. 13-14**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6-9 p.m.
- **Sept. 15**, Bolton Building Auditorium, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Sept. 20-21**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2992 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, 6-9 p.m.
- **Sept. 22**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **Sept. 26-27**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, U.S. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6-9 p.m.
- **Sept. 29**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Call the DMR Boat and Water Safety Bureau at (228) 435-1332 for more details.



Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence

DMR Seafood Technology Bureau employees complete FDA training



Ruth Posadas



Scott Newsom

Ruth Posadas and Scott Newsom of the Seafood Technology Bureau completed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's "Applied Concepts in Sanitation Surveys of Shellfish Growing Areas" course, held May 8-11, in New Orleans.

Posadas also completed the Association of Food and Drug Officials/Seafood Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Alliance's basic course in seafood HACCP theory and practical application, held Feb. 27, in Greensboro, Ala.

Flowers receives APCO certification

State Marine Patrol dispatcher Misty Flowers completed the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials' (APCO) emergency telecommunications course at the Hattiesburg Police Department Training Academy and received certification in March.



Misty Flowers

APCO is a nonprofit professional organization dedicated to the enhancement of public safety communications.

State Marine Patrol officers attend marine theft investigation training

More than 70 officers from Coast law enforcement agencies completed a two-day class on marine theft investigation held at the DMR office in Biloxi on March 1 and 2.

Among those in attendance were State Marine Patrol officers Charlie Vyles, Chester Van Devender, Chris Mask, Frank Wescovich, Jeffery Payne, Jerry Fountain, Joey Moran, John Grimsley, Kyle Wilkerson, Martin Holloway, Mike Siler, R.T. May IV, Stanley Hamilton, Tommy Jennings, William Stover, Bill Collins and Marine Patrol Director Terry Bakker.

"The purpose of the training was to instruct law enforcement officers in the proper way to check hull numbers, conduct accident scene investigations and how to find rightful owners of stolen marine equipment," said Marine Patrol Director Terry Bakker. "This class is also helpful in educating the officers, as well as insurance agents, in how to detect insurance fraud."

Give and Gain



DMR employees donated 1,293 items of clothing during the "Give and Gain: Clothe America Campaign." First Lady Melanie Musgrove chaired the campaign in the state of Mississippi. State agencies in Mississippi donated about 35,000 pounds of clothing. The clothing was donated to local charities. GAIN laundry detergent sponsored the nationwide clothing drive.

Happy Anniversary!

These anniversaries mark employees' years of service with the Department of Marine Resources and the state of Mississippi.

(7/1/80) George Wright Sr.	(7/15/99) Brady Trahan
(6/21/83) Bill Collins	(8/1/99) Susan Perkins
(8/1/86) Mike Buchanan	(9/1/99) Robert Hilbun
(8/25/86) Judy Bosarge	(9/1/99) Aaron Russell
(6/15/90) Christine Johnson	(9/15/99) Erick Porche
(7/8/90) Joey Moran	(9/15/99) Joe Roach
(7/31/90) Dorothy Daniel	(9/15/99) Al Warburton
(7/1/91) David Rose	(6/1/00) Rudy Balius
(7/1/91) Frank Wescovich	(6/1/00) Kathreen Dilag
(7/7/92) Charles Vyles	(6/1/00) Jude LeDoux
(6/28/93) Jimmy Hester	(6/1/00) Lauren Thompson
(7/1/93) Linda McCarthy	(8/1/00) Daryl Jones
(7/25/96) Corky Perret	(9/1/00) Don Baxter
(7/1/97) John Grimsley	(9/1/00) Allison Felsher
(7/21/97) Joe Ziegler	(9/1/00) Alan McArthur
(8/1/97) Scott Newsom	(9/1/00) Tina Shumate
(8/25/97) Marty Jones	(9/1/00) Tiffany Toft
(9/1/98) Lori Lewis	(9/9/00) Matt Hill
(9/1/98) Kenny Melvin	(9/18/00) Jerry Brashier
(7/1/99) Leah Bray	(9/18/00) Stan Weidman
(7/15/99) Michaela Hill	

We thank them for their dedicated service to the management of our marine resources.



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Calendar of Events

June 29-July 4

53rd Annual Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, Rice Pavilion, Jones Park, Gulfport. For more information, call (228) 863-2713.

July 17

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

August 21

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

September 12

CRMP meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

September 15

Mississippi Coastal Cleanup; call (228) 374-5022, ext. 5226 or ext. 5062 for details.

September 18

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

September 29

Celebrate the Gulf, A Marine Education Festival, Pass Christian Harbor, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Doc's Fishing Tips

Fred Deegen, Ph.D., Deputy Director

Red snapper are smart fish that often will not hit a terminal rig with a lot of hardware and a short leader. So, when rigging for them, try using a longer leader of monofilament or wire for better success.

Mississippi Coastal Cleanup

September 15
8 a.m.-11 a.m.

SHRIMP SEASON, continued from page 1

Channel, all waters north of the Intracoastal Waterway closed.

The Shrimp and Crab Bureau staff will continue to monitor these areas and open the waters as soon as the shrimp meet the legal minimum size of 68 shrimp per pound.