



## DMR responds to Gulf oil spill

The April 20, 2010, explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig and the ensuing oil spill kept DMR staff busy over Summer 2010. As the spill began to edge closer and closer to Mississippi state waters, DMR joined forces with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the U.S. Coast Guard to monitor the situation with 24-hour watches and to develop a contingency plan that included placing thousands of feet of boom around environmentally sensitive areas. Priority went to estuaries and marshes, which are the natural nursery areas for many kinds of marine life, including shrimp, crabs, oysters and fish.

While federal waters began closing to fishing activities on May 2, all Mississippi territorial waters remained open and oil-free until June 1, when DMR and MDEQ ordered a precautionary closure of a portion of Mississippi waters south of Jackson County due to the presence of oil near Petit Bois Island. In an effort to give Mississippi shrimpers the opportunity to work as much as possible before oil entered the Mississippi Sound, the DMR set an earlier opening for shrimp season for June 3 west of the East Biloxi Ship Channel.

Over the next few weeks, patches of oil began to creep into the Mississippi Sound, and by July 1, 97 percent of Mississippi marine waters were closed to all fishing activities.



Boom being placed at Grand Bay NERR to protect the estuary and marshes, which are the natural nursery areas for many kinds of marine life.

Throughout the entire disaster, DMR and MDEQ have diligently taken seafood tissue samples, which are sent to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory for analysis. Employing the most stringent analysis Gulf seafood has ever undergone, NOAA and the FDA tested for traces of hydrocarbons. All of the tissue samples that have been analyzed have been either non-detect for hydrocarbons or significantly below levels of concern set by the NOAA/FDA protocols.

With the cleanup efforts underway and due to the hard work of Mississippi fishermen working with the Vessels of Opportunity program, DMR and MDEQ

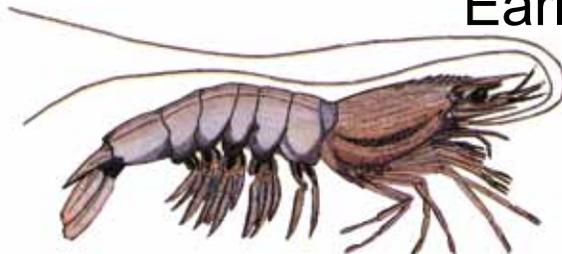
were able to open waters to live-bait shrimping and recreational catch-and-release fishing on July 19.

By the end of July, DMR and MDEQ were able to begin reopening Mississippi waters to commercial and recreational fin-fish and shrimp fishing, and by Aug. 6, all Mississippi waters were reopened to those fishing activities. Crabs and oysters were cleared at a later date due to a more complex testing process.

Illustration: Joe Jewell

### Early shrimp season opened June 3.

See page 3 for full story.



#### Inside this issue...

Early shrimp season .....	3
CMR selects officers .....	4
Marine Patrol activities .....	4
Grant to protect sea turtles .....	5
CZM project reviews .....	6
Ensuring public safety .....	6
Deer gets TLC .....	7
Algal blooms in Sound .....	7
NERR monitors effects of oil .....	8
Frog census .....	9
Seafood safety corner .....	10
Seafood recipe: Mississippi Gulf Shrimp Etouffee .....	12

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[www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov)**



**Director's Notes**

*Dr. William Walker*

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.

On Sept. 29, BP and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance announced plans for the implementation of BP's \$500 million Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GRI) to study the effects of the Deepwater Horizon incident and the potential associated impact on the environment and public health.

On May 24, BP announced the overall research program with the commitment to fund \$500 million over a 10-year period for scientific studies. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance will administer the GRI with the ability to execute contracts and provide the required program management support implementation for the remaining years of the 10-year program.

The objectives of the research will be to address the following five themes: 1) the physical distribution and ultimate fate of contaminants associated with the Deepwater Horizon incident; 2) the chemical evolution and biological degradation of the contaminants; 3) the environmental effects of the contaminants on Gulf of Mexico ecosystems, and the science of ecosystem recovery; 4) technology developments for improved detection, characterization, mitigation and remediation of offshore oil spills; and 5) integration of the previous four themes in the context of human health.

As co-chair of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Management Team, I am extremely excited that the Gulf of Mexico Alliance has this opportunity to join BP in this ground-breaking research initiative. The Alliance has worked for several years on priority issues such as water quality, habitat conservation, ecosystem integration and coastal community resilience. We believe the fundamental work provided by this research initiative will both inform and help direct work to ensure the viability of the Gulf Coast.

Executive Director



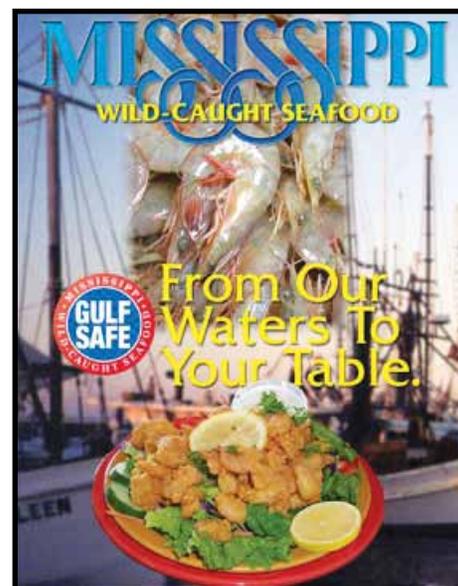
**MARINE PATROL CITATIONS**

**MAY 2010 — JULY 2010**

Shrimp-6  
Crab-13  
Oyster-4  
Live Bait-0  
Net Fish-0  
Fishing-107

Miscellaneous Seafood-1  
Boat and Water Safety-112  
Marine Litter-5  
Miscellaneous-4

**TOTAL-252**



**Thanks!**

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

Kristina Broussard	Joe Jewell
Linda Wakefield	Mike Walker
Dr. Fred Deegen	Ali Leggett
Amy Taylor	Christine Murrell
Traci Floyd	Stevie Lewis
Jeff Clark	Christy Royals
Dave Ruple	Rusty Pittman
Jeff Davis	Iris Duvernay
Jessica Rankin	



The shrimp vessel Sugar Babe trawls June 3, 2010, opening day of the 2010 Mississippi shrimp season. The boat's captain reported getting more than 27 baskets of 60/70-count brown shrimp in one drag.

## Early shrimp opening gives fishermen time on the water

This year's shrimp season opened early and included extended closures and extreme heat that kept landings low in Mississippi.

In an effort to give Mississippi shrimpers the opportunity to work as much as possible before oil made its way into the Mississippi Sound, the DMR set an early shrimp season opening west of the East Biloxi Ship for June 3. Stormy weather kept the number of boats down for the opening, but catches were good, with high numbers of 60/70-count brown shrimp and numerous reports of 40/50- and 50/60-count brown shrimp.

Shrimp tissue samples from across the Mississippi Sound were sent to be analyzed prior to the opening and have continued since the oil spill, and results have showed no detectable levels of hydrocarbons.

As DMR began precautionary closures and many shrimp boats were activated to participate in BP's Vessels of Opportunity program, the number of shrimpers on the water dwindled, and by July 1, all Mississippi waters were closed to all shrimping activities. Shrimp landings for June are usually about 1.5 million. This June, landings were only 186,000 pounds.

During what would have been the height of the season for brown shrimp, waters remained closed until

July 30, when waters north of the barrier islands were reopened to shrimp and finfish. On Aug. 3, waters south of the island were also opened.

"Low numbers of brown shrimp are typical around August, as brown shrimp season tends to cycle out and more white shrimp come into the Mississippi Sound. In addition, extreme hot temperatures and calm waters can cause low dissolved oxygen levels in some areas, causing fish kills and shrimp to move away from the area," said DMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau Director Traci Floyd.

DMR and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality continue to sample Mississippi waters and send seafood to be tested by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for traces of hydrocarbons and related toxins.

"We take seafood safety seriously, and any area of Mississippi's waters that were threatened by surface oil were closed purely as a precautionary measure," said DMR Marine Fisheries Office Director Dale Diaz. "Buffers were placed around threatened waters, and we worked closely with federal agencies on reopening the waters, only after areas were oil-free for a determined period of time and after sensory and chemical testing showed that seafood was not affected."



## CMR selects officers at July Meeting

**Shelby Drummond (L) of Jackson County will serve as CMR vice chairman and represents recreational sports fishermen. Dr. Vernon Asper serves as chairman and the nonprofit environmental organization representative.**

The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources (CMR) selected Dr. Vernon Asper of Hancock County as chairman, and Shelby Drummond of Jackson County as vice chairman at its July 20 meeting in Biloxi.

Dr. Vernon Asper serves on the CMR as nonprofit environmental organization representative, and Shelby Drummond represents recreational sports fishermen.

Asper is a professor in the Department of Marine Science at the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds a Ph.D. in marine geology and geophysics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a master's degree in oceanography from the University of Hawaii and a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Messiah College in Grantham, Pa.

Drummond retired from the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and U.S. Department of Commerce with 40 years of service. He served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Special Groundfish Scientific and Statistical Committee for 16 years and has published numerous scientific papers during his career. He also worked as vessel coordinator for the Southeast Fisheries Science Center as liaison between NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The CMR is composed of five members appointed by the governor for four-year terms to represent the following areas: commercial seafood processor, nonprofit environmental organization, charter boat operator, recreational fishermen and commercial fishermen.

## DMR Marine Patrol charges two with illegal gill-netting

The DMR Marine Patrol cited two Bay St. Louis men with illegal gill net and other related charges after receiving a call from a concerned citizen Friday, April 16, 2010.

About 10:45 a.m. April 16, Marine Patrol Officer Scott Anderson responded to a call stating that there were some illegal gill nets and fish entanglements in Bayou Caddy in Hancock County. After his arrival, Anderson observed two men removing a monofilament gill net with fish in it from the water into their boat. Anderson found about 35 pounds of red fish and 3 pounds of flounder in the boat.

One man was issued six citations; the other was issued four. Each man could face about \$10,000 in fines. The men were held at the Hancock County jail on \$3,000 bond each. Anderson was assisted by Marine Patrol Lt. Donnie Armes.

## Marine Patrol responds to boating accident off Industrial Seaway Canal

DMR Marine Patrol responded to a call from the Gulfport Police Department on July 29, 2010, of a boating accident in the Industrial Seaway Canal. A man was killed and a woman was injured in the accident.

DMR Marine Patrol received the call at 9:42 p.m. and when Marine Patrol officers arrived on the scene, there was one person with minor injuries, identified as Patti Schankin, and one person still missing. The missing boater was Schankin's husband, Raymond, of Gulfport.

DMR Marine Patrol officers John Grimsley and Bryce Gex along with Marine Patrol Lieutenants Jimmy Hester and David Dollar coordinated with the Gulfport Police Department and Gulfport Fire Department before beginning dive operations to determine in what area to begin their search for the missing boater.

At approximately 11:30 p.m., divers with the Gulfport Fire Department, with assistance from DMR Marine Patrol officers, recovered the body of Raymond Schankin. The victim's body was turned over to Harrison County Coroner Gary Hargrove.

According to DMR Marine Patrol, the 18-foot fiberglass boat struck a barge near U.S. Marine on the Industrial Seaway Canal.

# DMR using NFWF/BP grant to protect sea turtles in Mississippi Sound

DMR received a \$107,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in a partnership effort to protect sea turtle populations at risk from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. NFWF's Recovered Oil Fund for Wildlife was made possible with proceeds from BP's share of net revenue from oil recovered from the Deepwater Horizon site. The fund will support immediate actions to safeguard the populations of species most at risk from the Gulf oil spill, notably shorebirds, waterfowl, marsh birds and sea turtles.

"Since the Deepwater Horizon spill, the Mississippi Sound has seen an unusually high number of sea turtle sightings and strandings," said DMR Fisheries Director Dale Diaz. "We are grateful for the opportunity this grant provides to protect this at-risk and endangered population that has moved into our waters."

The DMR is taking many management actions through the Recovered Oil Fund for Wildlife to protect sea turtles in the Mississippi Sound, including the following:

- Conducting observer programs onboard shrimp vessels. DMR staff members will observe operations onboard traditional shrimp trawl vessels and skimmer trawl vessels.
- Offering free turtle excluder device (TED) gear and information on proper installation to commercial skimmer trawl shrimpers who volunteer to use TEDs in lieu of tow time restrictions. So far through this program, the DMR has given out 248 TEDs to 124 boats and is securing additional TEDs to distribute.
- Mailing to all commercial and recreational license holders literature, prepared by the NOAA Fisheries Service, about what to do in case of interaction with sea turtles. New license holders will be given literature when they purchase a license at the DMR office.
- Conducting seminars for commercial and recreational fishermen about how to avoid interaction with turtles and what to do if a turtle encounters their gear.

In addition to these measures, DMR reduced maximum tow times from 55 minutes to 30 minutes for vessels using skimmer trawls without TEDs.

Anyone who encounters a stranded or injured sea turtle or who snares a turtle with fishing gear should call the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies at 888-SOS-DOLPHIN (888-767-3657) or the NOAA Fisheries Service Stranding HOTLINE at 978-281-9351.



Dale Stevens of NOAA Fisheries shows commercial shrimp skimmer trawl fishermen how to prepare a turtle excluder device (TED) for installation at a training workshop sponsored by the DMR on July 30.



DMR Fisheries Scientist Rick Burris, left, gives turtle excluder device (TED) equipment to Mississippi commercial shrimp fishermen Robert A. and Robert J. Ross to install on their skimmer trawl gear. With money received from a Recovered Oil Fund for Wildlife grant, funded by BP and administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the DMR is offering free TED gear to commercial shrimp skimmer trawl fishermen who volunteer to use TEDs in lieu of tow time restrictions.

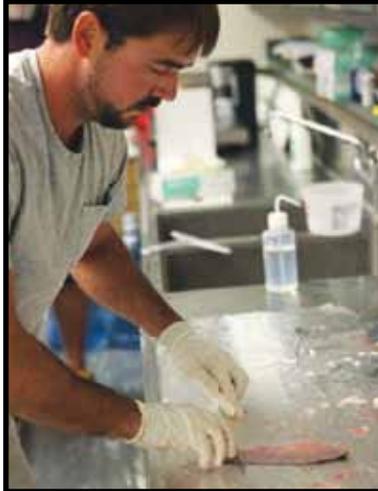
## On CZM roster: Public access, flood mitigation, project reviews

DMR, as Mississippi's federally approved state coastal zone management program, has three projects ongoing with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).

A consultant continues to update the inventory and assessment of possible enhancements to Mississippi's coastal public access sites in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. An online GIS map is available on DMR's Web site detailing the locations. A management plan is the ultimate goal for this project to provide analysis of current public access sites, their viability and future development prospects and recommendations.

A second CZMA project provides technical and practical support to communities within Mississippi's coastal area, 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 Administration. A local consultant has reviewed each community's flood mitigation plan and provides 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 in those coastal communities.

A third project is DMR's CZMA Section 309 Assessment & Strategy for 2011 – 2015. Prior 309 projects have been reviewed, current 309 enhancement tasks are assessed and a strategy will be developed for funding Section 309 projects for 2011 – 2015 grants in Mississippi's coastal zone from one or more of the following nine coastal zone enhancement areas of national significance: wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management plans, ocean resources, energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture. Once completed, NOAA will review and approve the five-year plan. This project is on schedule to complete by November 2010.



## Ensuring public safety

Since the beginning of the oil spill, DMR staff have continually sampled wildlife and marine animals to ensure public safety. Counter clockwise from top left, a bird's blood is taken to test for possible contaminants; Finfish Bureau Scientist Matt Hill fillets a fish for tissue sampling; edible tissue is removed from a blue crab for testing; Finfish Bureau Director Mike Buchanan prepares finfish samples; Shellfish Bureau Technician Steve Breland shucks the meat of an oyster for sampling.



On May 11, 2010, from left, Kenneth Yarrow of the Governor's Office, Richard Harrell of MDEQ, Lisa Houghton and Dawn Bobbitt of BP, MDEQ Executive Director Trudy Fisher, Patrick Sullivan of the Governor's Office, DMR Executive Director Bill Walker and DMR Chief of Staff Joe Ziegler prepare to board an U.S. Army plane for a flyover to view the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

# Deer Island gets TLC from casinos, Mississippi Power



Volunteers from DMR's Coastal Preserves Program, Mississippi Power and Mississippi Coast casinos and businesses clear the shoreline on Deer Island of debris during an April cleanup.

The DMR's Coastal Preserves Program partnered with volunteers with Mississippi Power, the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and several other coast businesses and agencies on April 22, 2010, in an effort to clean up debris on Deer Island.

"When it comes to environmental initiatives, both the Beau Rivage and Hard Rock lead by example, starting with their employees," said Tracy Heggins of Mississippi Power.

At the end of a beautiful day, these dedicated volunteers had removed approximately 40 cubic yards of debris from the island including foam products, treated lumber, plastics and various other items. The partners intend to make this island cleanup an annual event.

Deer Island is a favored recreational area for residents and tourists alike. It boasts the simple beauty of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and is a treasure to all who have walked its shore. With the combined resources and enthusiasm of this partnership, Coastal Preserves is able to ensure the island's health and beauty for generations to come.

## Algal blooms in the Mississippi Sound

Since the oil spill, the DMR has received reports of possible oil that were found to be large algal blooms of *Ceratium furca*, which is a nontoxic dinoflagellate common to our coastal waters. Diatoms and dinoflagellates, also known as phytoplankton, are microscopic, free-floating algae near the surface of the water that form the foundation of aquatic food chains. Oysters and other filter feeders are nutritionally dependent on marine phytoplankton such as *Ceratium furca*.

Algal blooms may occur when there is a change in environmental factors such as temperature, salinity, etc. As a result of these environmental changes, there is a rapid increase in the populated size of phytoplankton. Not all phytoplankton cause discoloration of the water; however *Ceratium furca* has deeply pigmented cells and in high density will change the water color to a rusty reddish-brown, as it did in these events. The discoloration of an algal bloom could easily be confused with the discoloration caused by oil deposits. Normally, the warmer months show a rise in phytoplankton abundance and diversity. These algal blooms are common and are of no threat to the general public. In fact, only 2 percent of the known species of marine phytoplankton are toxic to marine life.

Microscopic view of *Ceratium furca* enlarged to see the unique shape of the algal.

# NERR Notes

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



## Reserve monitors effects of oil spill

Like most natural resource offices located along the Gulf of Mexico, the Grand Bay NERR has been busy addressing multiple issues relating to the Deepwater Horizon incident since the end of April.

Staff initiated intensive baseline monitoring the last week of April to assess the current state of resources at the Reserve. As impacts from the incident are evaluated, these data will be utilized to compare the state of resources present pre- and post-incident. Work was accomplished in conjunction with local, state and federal entities, including the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, NOAA National Seafood Inspection Laboratory, Environmental Cooperative Science Center, Biodiversity Research Institute, Northern Gulf Institute and Unified Command Mobile Sector.

Information was collected to assess submerged aquatic vegetation, emergent marsh, diamondback terrapins, oysters, plankton, benthic invertebrates, macroinvertebrates, fish, shorebirds and marsh birds at the Reserve. Water quality and benthic samples were also routinely collected. Extensive photomonitoring efforts were initiated to document the state of resources and the presence of oil on the NERR. Records of oiled wildlife have also been documented. Some of these sampling efforts have been conducted by staff across the Mississippi Coast. Aerial photography has also been taken and will be used to assess potential damage to resources.

Reserve staff are also involved with the broader effort to evaluate the impacts from this incident across the entire Gulf of Mexico. Staff are active on committees that are establishing criteria to monitor oiling impacts on birds, seagrasses and diamondback terrapins. Other staff from the DMR and MDEQ are involved with establishing similar protocol for other species.

## Reserve launches volunteer program

Grand Bay Reserve has partnered with the HandsOn Gulf Coast Mississippi AmeriCorps program and the Mississippi AmeriCorps Program to develop a volunteer program for the Reserve. Volunteers to assist with education, research and stewardship activities are being recruited by Ellen “Stevie” Lewis, an AmeriCorps member from New Hampshire that will be with the Reserve for a one-year assignment term.

Lewis works diligently to recruit volunteers and then matches each potential volunteer’s skills and interests with new and ongoing projects of the Reserve staff. The program is being met with enthusiasm and success. Already over 400 hours have been logged in by volunteers during the short time the program has been active.

Stewardship volunteers are helping staff members eradicate invasive species from areas of ecological importance. University students from a variety of science programs as well as recent college graduates gain field and lab experience by helping out the Reserves’ researchers. Other volunteers find their niche assisting staff with the Reserve’s new Coastal Resources Center. One group of volunteers is actively planning and designing a new native plant butterfly garden for visitors to explore.

The new volunteer program has been a great addition to the opportunities that the Reserve has to offer to the public. Not only do the volunteers benefit the Reserve, but through this program, many people have discovered new hands-on ways to learn about and celebrate the resources of coastal Mississippi. We invite you to come and see the Reserve for yourself. “While you are here, talk to me about becoming a volunteer,” encourages Lewis. For more information, call 228-475-7047. The Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.



**NERR Projects Officer Jay McIlwain works closely with volunteers with the HandsOn Gulf Coast program.**

## Frog census?

### Populations surveyed in Hancock County

The Coastal Preserves Program has joined efforts to monitor frog populations in Hancock County through the guidance of the Mississippi Amphibian Monitoring Program (MAMP), directed by Kathy Shelton of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. MAMP is part of larger program to assess amphibian populations in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

A survey route containing 10 sites in southwestern Hancock County are monitored three times during the breeding season. The survey route is currently in its second year of monitoring. Populations are assessed by identifying frog calls, number of species and individuals heard, in addition to a set of standardized parameters to estimate species abundance.



This Gulf Coast Toad (*Bufo valliceps*) was found at the Bayou LaCroix Coastal Preserve in Hancock County.



From left, GCHTP Executive Director Jim Foster, Kathy Kosturock, DMR Coastal Resource Management Specialist Ali Leggett and Liz Smith-Incer stand at the mouth of Grand Bayou, Deer Island Coastal Preserve.

## The Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership: Creating a Deer Island Coastal Preserve Blueway

On a recent kayak excursion to Deer Island, representatives from the Coastal Preserves Program, U.S. Park Service and the Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership (GCHTP) explored the opportunity of creating a Deer Island Blueway highlighting the ecological, cultural and historical resources of the island.

“Developing the Deer Island Blueway will be an exciting achievement for our citizens and our visitors,” said GCHTP Executive Director Jim Foster.

The GCHTP is a collaborative effort on the Mississippi Gulf Coast whose vision is to build a safe, coastwide network of diverse trails that connect neighborhoods to businesses, schools, and green and blue spaces where everyone can enjoy scenic, historic, educational and natural areas.

# Seafood Safety Corner



Jeff Davis



Jessica Rankin

Members of the Seafood Technology Bureau (STB) are engaged in increasing regulatory inspections of seafood processing facilities. Due to the recent oil spill, many consumers are concerned about oil contaminating seafood. Mississippi took precautionary measures by closing certain waters to both recreational and commercial fishermen for a large part of the summer, and reopened them in late July and August to finfish, shrimp and crab only after intensive testing by DMR, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Oil contamination presents two kinds of risks: the presence of petroleum taint that renders seafood unfit for human consumption, and the presence of chemical hazards polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. As an added precaution, STB officers are conducting organoleptic (sensory evaluation) inspections and interviewing various seafood facilities. As of October 2010, no adulterated product has been noted in any of the processing plants, and all seafood is safe for consumption. STB officers stress that if any oil is detected in purchased product to please call the Seafood Technology Bureau at 228-374-5000. Samples will be collected and analyzed at the laboratory.

The number of public outreach and seafood safety education programs have increased in the past few months. The STB has been involved in many events on the coast and in northern Mississippi. In April, the STB attended the Jackson Trade show. The event lasted two days with a reception on the first night. During the reception, caterers and restaurants showcased their products including drinks and unique food dishes. The STB represented Mississippi seafood by serving post-harvest processed oysters to a very enthusiastic crowd. The

Fishy Prize Wheel was used to teach attendees about the local marine life and seafood safety.

Other events included the water field day event at Stone County Elementary school in Wiggins, hosted by the USDA Natural Resources Department. This is an annual event that teaches kids about the importance of responsible environmental stewardship. A total of 400 kids attended the event from Stone County Elementary School and Bardaman Street Christian Academy. In May, the DMR hosted the annual Coastal Development Conference at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum. The STB attended the event. Educational materials pertaining to *Vibrio vulnificus* and other seafood safety materials were distributed and the Giant Microbes display was also showcased. Special thanks go to Robin Vaughn and Mike Walker for all their assistance with recent outreach events. Without volunteers, the STB would not be able to spread its message of seafood safety to the public.

On July 17, STB attended the annual Children's Health Fair held at Edgewater Mall in Biloxi. There were many fun activities and health screenings available. Several doctors from around the coast and community services such as local fire and police departments were present. The Memorial Hospital van was also on site offering immunizations.



STB Technician Mai Dang, (right), makes her rounds inspecting shrimp boats at the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor.

## Christy Royals named new HR director



As a native of South Mississippi, Christy Royals had always hoped to find an opportunity allowing her to move back "home." Born in Hattiesburg and raised in Lumberton, she graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a bachelor's degree and decided to move to Dallas, Texas, to begin her career. After more than 20 years living and working in Dallas, she decided to relocate back to the South Mississippi area to be closer to family.

Royals was searching in the area for an HR position with an organization in which she would be able to interface directly with both management and employees.

"One of the main reasons I chose my career in human resources is that I really enjoy helping people achieve their highest potential," Royals said. "Working with management, I want to be a resource for them and provide direction on how to attract, motivate, reward, recognize and retain the best employees."

Royals joined the DMR on March 15, 2010, as assistant HR director, and became the HR director July 1, 2010, following the retirement of Dorothy Daniel.

"I am thrilled about this opportunity and look forward to working with everyone at the DMR," Royals said. "In the short time I have been here, I have seen the dynamic leadership team focused on fulfilling the organization's mission, especially during such a challenging time with the oil spill disaster. And everyone here has made me feel very welcome. I know the DMR employees are dedicated to their jobs and work hard every day to make a difference. I am very happy to be a part of it all."



# Take a Bow

Recognizing employees' commitment to excellence



Fisheries Scientist Jill Zednick has been chosen to present a paper at Restore America's Estuaries' National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration in November 2010 in Galveston, Texas. Her paper is titled "An Innovative Approach Using *Crassostrea virginica* Reefs in Reconstructing Shorelines of Barrier Islands Damaged by Hurricanes: Part of the DMR Deer Island Restoration Project."



Thanks to all the DMR employees for helping with the Casting for Conservation children's fishing rodeos. The last rodeo for the summer was Sept. 11 in Pascagoula. These children pictured above had a wonderful time at Courthouse Road Pier in Gulfport in June.



DMR Fisheries Staff Officer Joe Jewell and Fisheries Scientist Christine Murrell won first-place trophies for their age group at the Sweat 'n Oil 5K on June 19.

## Jewell, Murrell Sweat 'n Oil for Gulf Restoration

DMR Fisheries Staff Officer Joe Jewell and Fisheries Scientist Christine Murrell won first-place trophies for their age group at the Sweat 'n Oil 5K on June 19. All proceeds from the event went to the Gulf Restoration Network (GRN), with 75 percent of those funds benefitting GRN's mission of uniting and empowering people to protect and restore the natural resources of the Gulf of Mexico for future generations; and the remaining 25 percent to be given by GRN (along with other funds raised in support of the BP oil disaster) to the Gulf Coast Fund, working to support local community needs related to the disaster.

The Sweat 'n Oil 5K was originated by Will Crane, a Mississippi native, who is stationed 4,000 miles from the coast at an Army base in Fairbanks, Alaska. With the idea of "Healthy Body, Healthy Coast," Crane began enlisting the help of family and friends to make a difference raising money and awareness for the coastal oil spill cleanup efforts.

For more information about GRN, visit [www.healthygulf.org](http://www.healthygulf.org).

## 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.

Will Freeman .....	07/01/05	Sally Richards .....	08/18/03
Scott Gordon .....	07/01/85	Rebekah Ray .....	08/20/07
John Grimsley .....	07/01/97	Marty Jones .....	08/25/97
Bradley Randall .....	07/01/92	Thomas Baxter .....	09/01/00
David Rose .....	07/01/91	Alan McArthur .....	09/01/00
Christina Young .....	07/01/05	Kenny Melvin .....	09/01/98
Bill Walker .....	07/08/02	Tina Shumate .....	09/01/00
Michaela Hill .....	07/15/99	Linda Wakefield .....	09/01/01
Joe Ziegler .....	07/21/97	John White .....	09/01/03
Dave Ruple .....	07/23/90	Ron Cole .....	09/07/06
Jennifer Buchanan .....	08/01/86	Matt Hill .....	09/09/00
Michael Buchanan .....	08/01/86	Greg Christodoulou .....	09/15/06
Sandra Moore .....	08/01/07	Erick Porche .....	09/15/99
Erik Broussard .....	08/02/08	Joe Roach .....	09/15/99
Daniel Williams .....	08/06/07	Kay Rexroad .....	09/18/06
James Davis .....	08/13/07		



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

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**12th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference  
May 11 & 12, 2011**

**DMR Calendar**

**November 13-14**

Pass Christian's First annual Oyster Festival  
Pass Christian Harbor  
10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Saturday  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday  
Contact Renee Brooks at 228-342-2366  
for more information.

**November 15**

Mississippi Commission on Marine  
Resources meeting, MSU Extension Center,  
Popps Ferry Road  
Biloxi, 9 a.m.

**December 21**

Mississippi Commission on Marine  
Resources meeting, MSU Extension Center,  
Popps Ferry Road  
Biloxi, 9 a.m.



**Go Green**

To receive your Coastal Markers via e-mail,  
contact [lauren.thompson@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:lauren.thompson@dmr.ms.gov)

**Doc's Fishing Tip**

It's time for vast schools of red drum to make their appearance in Mississippi waters. The annual influx of these tackle-busters into the Sound heralds some of the best fishing of the year. Look for gulls diving and feeding on red minnows driven to the surface by the drum feeding below. Then cast a gold spoon into the fray and hang on for dear life. Reds in the 30-pound-class are not at all uncommon around here; and, on light tackle, one of these brutes will give you all the excitement you can handle....— Dr. Fred Deegen

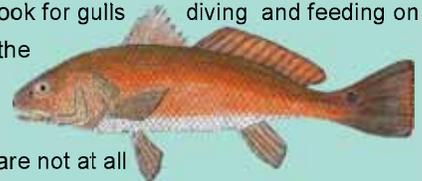


Illustration: Joe Jewell

**Biloxi Bay Potato Salad**

- 1 lb. small to medium boiled Mississippi Gulf Shrimp, cleaned and peeled
- 6 to 8 medium potatoes, boiled (don't overcook)
- 5 to 6 green onions, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, finely chopped
- 4 to 5 eggs, boiled and chopped
- 1 cup. sweet relish
- 1 tbsp. prepared mustard
- 1 cup salad dressing
- Cajun seasoning to taste
- Salt and pepper to taste



Boil potatoes whole, peel and cut into pieces, but not too small.  
Mix all ingredients and serve. Great served with gumbo.

Reprinted from DMR's *Get Hooked on Mississippi Shrimp Recipe Book*  
Recipe by Irvin Jackson