

NEWS RELEASE

MS Dept. of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi 39530



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24-12-CWS
March 13, 2024

Contact: Charmaine Schmermund
Phone: 228-523-4156

MDMR releases 2024 Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program results

BILOXI, Miss. – In February 2024, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) held a public cleanup collecting 398 derelict crab traps with the help of 91 public volunteers and crab fishermen.

The final number of traps recovered, as well as number of volunteers, during the derelict crab trap cleanup days held February 22-24 are as follows:

Collection Site	Traps recovered	Site Volunteers
Bayou Caddy Boat Launch	46	19
Ocean Springs Harbor	132	46
Pascagoula Point Park	220	26
Total	398	91

The 2024 program was made possible by funding from the Mississippi Tidelands Trust Fund and by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law administered through NOAA, Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. The MDMR would like to commend the efforts of everyone who gave their time to come out this year and help make it a success.

MDMR would also like to recognize the partnership with Owens Scrap Metal for the donation of construction dumpsters, Mississippi State University Coastal Extension Center staff and the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Lab Center for Fisheries Research and Development staff for their direct assistance in removal of derelict traps.

The Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Removal program began in 1999. Through community engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, this program has facilitated the removal of over 22,400 traps from Mississippi waters to date. This

NEWS RELEASE

MS Dept. of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi 39530



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

program has been successful due to continued input and assistance from commercial and recreational crab fishermen, who not only participate in the cleanup but also remove their active traps from the cleanup area in advance to differentiate between actively fished traps and those which are derelict.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at dmr.ms.gov.

—END—