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# Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

January 24, 2025



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# Employment, Contracts and Procurement Updates January 21, 2025

# Employment Updates

## New Hires:

- Joshua Williams – Started January 6, 2025 – Specialized Trades Worker II – Facilities Operations
- Jessica Woodall – Started January 10, 2025 – Environmental/Natural Resources Specialist II – Grand Bay NERR
- Randy Wilson – Started January 16, 2025 – Environmental/Natural Resources Specialist Supervisor – Office of Coastal Resources Management

## Promotions:

- Kyle McDonald – Promoted December 16, 2024 – Law Enforcement Officer II, Corporal – Office of Marine Patrol

# Contracts and Procurements for December 2024

<b>Service Contracts</b>					
<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Procurement Method</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Commodity/Service Description</u>
Breakwater Marine	Invitation for Bids	\$4,950,500.00	6 months	RESTORE	Deer Island Chenier and Beneficial Use Cell Project



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# Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Agency Financial Results  
as of December 31, 2024

Key Metrics:

- State Revenue of \$4.4M
- Agency Revenue of \$20.4M
- State Net Income of \$822K
- Agency Net Income of (\$3.3M)

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**  
**Income Statement - Fiscal Year 2025**  
**As of December 31, 2024**

	<b>Federal :</b>				
	<b>GOMESA</b>				
	<b>PHII:</b>				
	<b>NFWF:</b>		<b>Operating</b>		
	<u>State</u>	<u>Non-Federal:</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>Tidelands</u>	<u>Total DMR</u>
<b>Revenue:</b>					
Off-road Fuel Tax	3,050,000	-	3,050,000	-	3,050,000
Federal/NonFederal Grants	-	2,639,739	2,639,739	-	2,639,739
Sales Revenue	679,252	-	679,252	-	679,252
Indirect Cost Recovery	522,741	-	522,741	-	522,741
Other Revenue	226,326	1,720,804	1,947,130	11,608,797	13,555,927
<b>Current Budget Year Revenue:</b>	<b>4,478,319</b>	<b>4,360,544</b>	<b>8,838,862</b>	<b>11,608,797</b>	<b>20,447,659</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>					
Salaries, Wages, Fringe	2,930,627	1,930,909	4,861,535	599,329	5,460,865
Travel	9,759	38,786	48,545	33,025	81,570
Contractual Services	531,255	1,530,598	2,061,854	282,636	2,344,489
Commodities	142,641	710,179	852,820	114,484	967,304
Equipment	13,439	187,361	200,800	87,490	288,290
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	187	11,709,128	11,709,316	2,884,806	14,594,121
<b>Current Budget Year Expenditures:</b>	<b>3,655,349</b>	<b>16,106,961</b>	<b>19,762,310</b>	<b>4,004,565</b>	<b>23,766,875</b>
<b>Current Budget Year Net Income/(Loss):</b>	<b>\$ 822,970</b>	<b>\$ (11,746,418)</b>	<b>\$ (10,923,448)</b>	<b>\$ 7,604,231</b>	<b>\$ (3,319,216)</b>

# Financial Budget Comparison

- After six months of Fiscal Year 2025:

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES									
2025 Budget Comparison									
As of December 31, 2024									
	<i>Actual Year to Date Expenditures</i>			<i>Budget Year Totals</i>			<i>Percent Remaining</i>		
	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Tidelands</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Tidelands</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Tidelands</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>									
Salaries, Wages, Fringe	\$ 4,861,535	\$ 599,329	\$ 5,460,865	\$ 12,740,312	\$ 1,511,991	\$ 14,252,303	61.8%	60.4%	61.7%
Travel	48,545	33,025	81,570	140,314	61,000	201,314	65.4%	45.9%	59.5%
Contractual Services	2,061,854	282,636	2,344,489	13,134,081	1,651,000	14,785,081	84.3%	82.9%	84.1%
Commodities	852,820	114,484	967,304	6,035,425	360,000	6,395,425	85.9%	68.2%	84.9%
Other than Equipment	-	2,795	2,795	5,000	100,000	105,000	100.0%	97.2%	97.3%
Equipment	200,800	87,490	288,290	600,000	223,000	823,000	66.5%	60.8%	65.0%
Vehicles	27,441	-	27,441	200,000	216,000	416,000	86.3%	100.0%	93.4%
Wireless Devices	-	-	-	6,250	-	6,250	100.0%	-	100.0%
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	11,709,316	2,884,806	14,594,121	227,523,762	7,577,009	235,100,771	94.9%	61.9%	93.8%
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$ 19,762,310</b>	<b>\$ 4,004,565</b>	<b>\$ 23,766,875</b>	<b>\$ 260,385,144</b>	<b>\$ 11,700,000</b>	<b>\$ 272,085,144</b>	<b>92.4%</b>	<b>65.8%</b>	<b>91.3%</b>

- Operating Funds have 92.4% of Budget remaining
- Tidelands Trust Fund has 65.8% of Budget remaining





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# 2025 Oyster Season Update

Jason Rider  
Shellfish Bureau Director

K.1.

# 2024 December Season

- **Season Dates**

- Season opened on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>
- Closed on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>

- **Location**

- Western Reefs
- All Permitted Areas in the Western MS Sound

- **Gear Type**

- Tongs
- Dredges

- **Daily Harvest Quota:**

- Tongs 15 sacks per boat/per day
- Dredge 20 sacks per boat/per day
- Recreational 3 sacks per boat/per 7-day period

- **Total Number of Sack Harvested: 4,069**



# November/December Summary

- Season Sack Harvested: 4069
- Average Sacks per Day: 176
- Total Licenses sold to date: 145
  - Recreational 5
  - In State Commercial Dredge: 75
  - In State Commercial Tong: 29
  - Out of State Tong: 12
  - Out of State Dredge: 1
- Number of Licenses harvesting: 54
  - Approx Tongers per Day: 10
  - Approx Dredgers per Day: 19
- Main Area Fished: 2A and 2F



# January Season

## Season Dates

Season opened on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>

## Location

Western Reefs

All Permitted Areas in the Western MS Sound

## Gear Type

Tongs

Dredges

## Daily Harvest Quota:

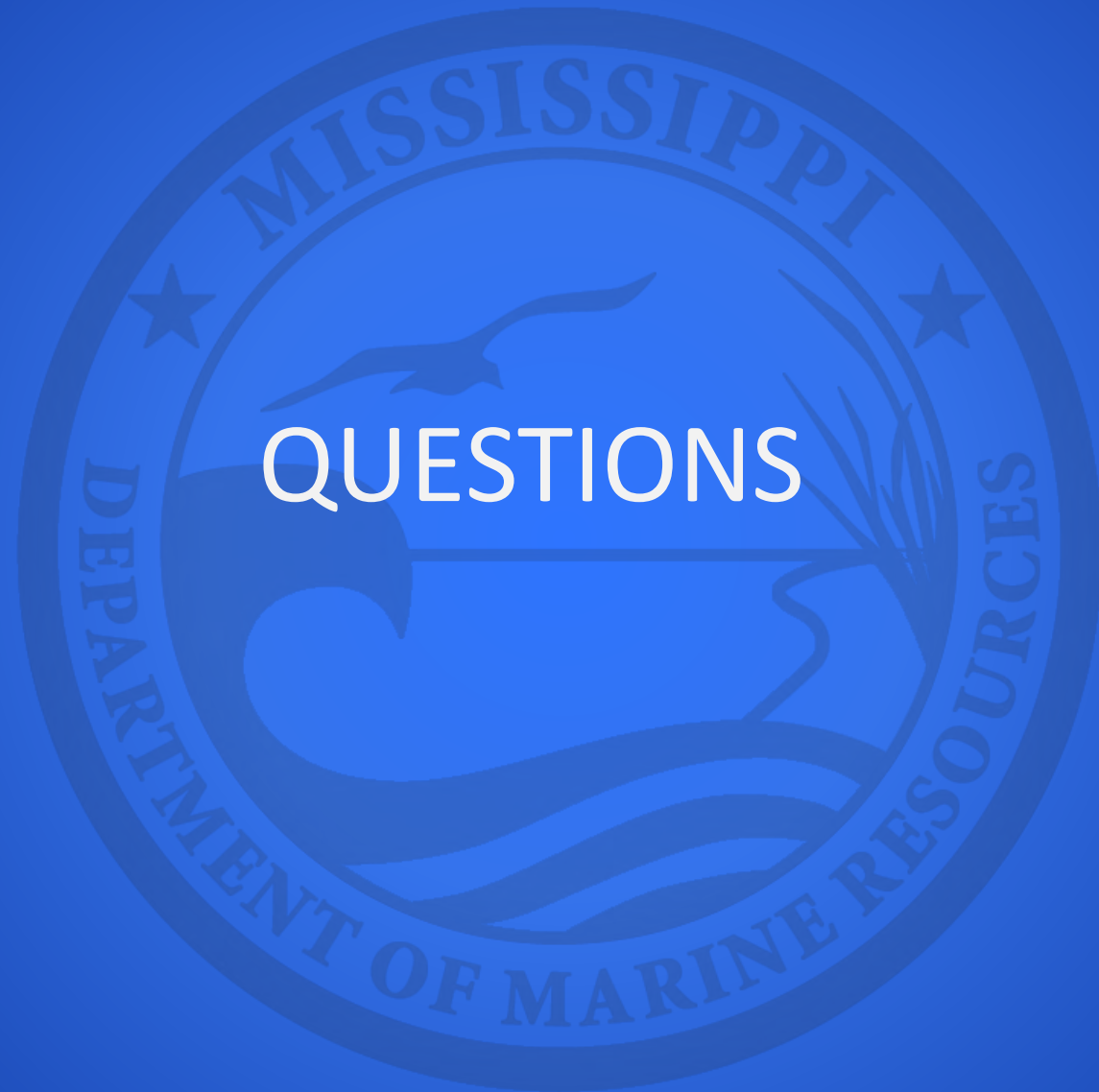
Tongs

10 sacks per boat/per day

Dredge

15 sacks per boat/per day

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# QUESTIONS

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# Observations of Snook in Mississippi

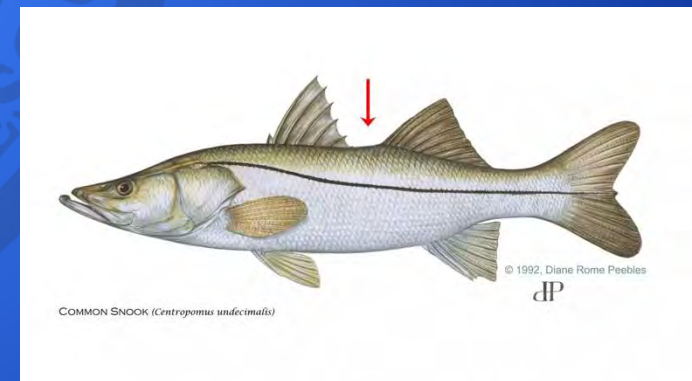
Trevor Moncrief  
January 21, 2025

K.2.



# Snook Background

- Sub-tropical inshore habitat
  - Mangroves, beaches, seagrass
  - Limited survival < 60°F, freshwater tolerant
- Concentration - Coastal Florida south of Big Bend and Southern Texas to Brazil
- Protandric hermaphrodites, beginning life as male with some transitioning to female ~20 inches
- Excellent table fare, highly targeted by recreational anglers in Florida



# Reported Catches

- Initial report recorded by MDMR staff occurred in 2017
  - Fish caught and released in Pascagoula, approximately 17"
  - Museum records revealed an observation from Bayou Caddy in 1937
- Since 2017, staff from MDMR and GCRL CFRD have received increasing reports each year
  - Ranges of sizes, from juveniles in cast nets to fish ~12-14" limited to the Pascagoula basin
- In the past 18 months compiled 16 observations in total
  - Two submitted for state records
  - One angler catching two Snook on different days
  - One report of a 10-pound individual harvested
  - Multiple throughout Biloxi Bay
- Occurrences increased Alabama, with similar increase in observations since 2017



# Potential Theories for Increased Occurrences

- Larval Displacement from native range
  - Large scale event such as a hurricane
  - Occurrences of juveniles that steadily decrease over time in the absence of events
- Established local population
  - Occurred through larval displacement or slow range expansion
  - Increasing occurrence as more individuals become spawning capable
  - Thermal refuge likely holds bulk of individuals in Winter months

# Considerations for ACMR

- Range expansion could lead to a larger fishery in the area in the future
- Potential for freeze conditions could make any regulation ineffective for long term sustainability
- MDMR staff will continue to monitor and encourage anglers to report catches



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# State Saltwater Finfish Records

Trevor Moncrief

January 21, 2024

K.3.

The seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is a circular emblem. It features a central illustration of a bird in flight over a body of water with waves. The text "MISSISSIPPI" is arched across the top, and "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" is arched across the bottom. Two stars are positioned on either side of the central image.

# Conventional Tackle

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# Conventional Tackle

Common Snook

*Centropomus undecimalis*

New Record: 0 lbs. 15.36 oz.

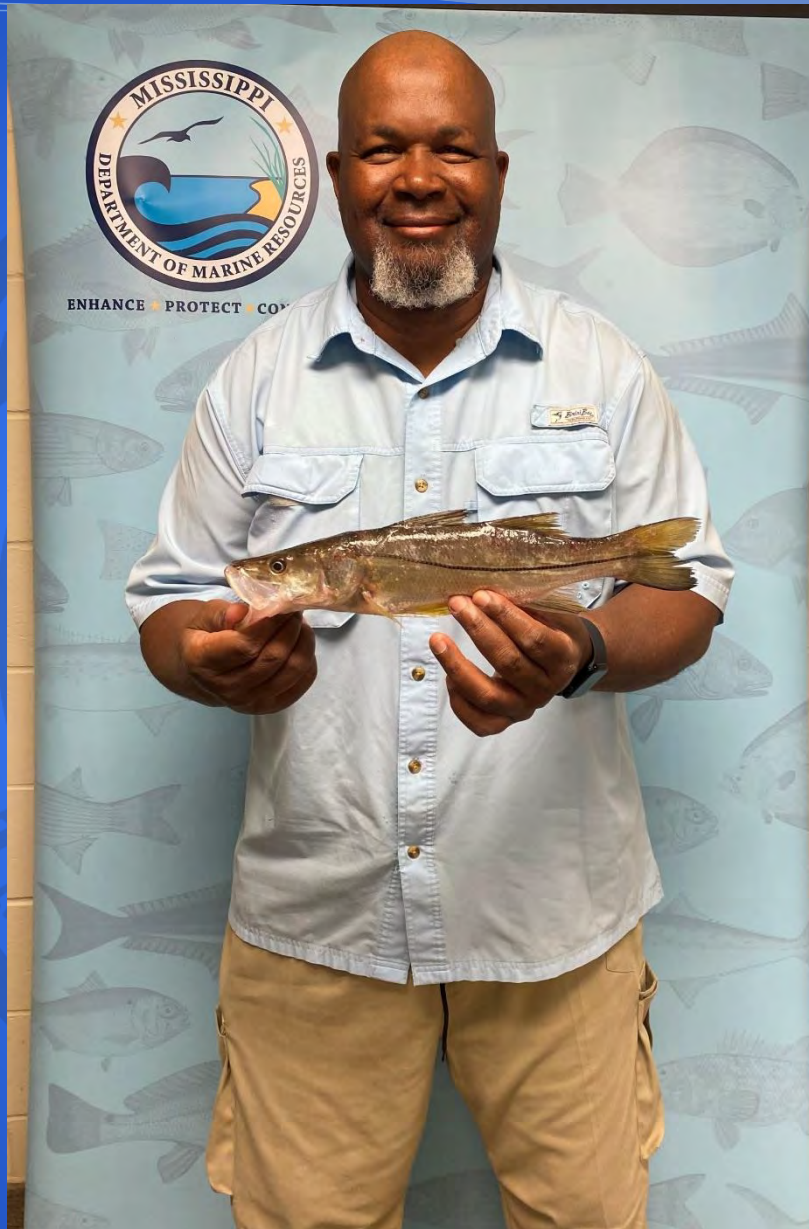
Angler: Vince Wray

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The seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is a circular emblem. It features a central illustration of a bird in flight over a body of water with waves. The text "MISSISSIPPI" is arched across the top, and "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" is arched across the bottom. Two stars are positioned on either side of the central illustration.

# Youth Conventional Tackle

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# Youth Conventional Tackle

Common Snook

*Centropomus undecimalis*

New Record: 0 lbs. 8.96 oz.

Angler: Zachary Broussard



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The seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is centered in the background. It features a circular border with the text "MISSISSIPPI" at the top and "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" at the bottom. Inside the circle, there is a depiction of a bird in flight over a body of water with waves, and a palm frond on the right side. Two stars are positioned on either side of the top text.

# Motion to Recommend Adoption of New State Records

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