



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

July 15, 2025



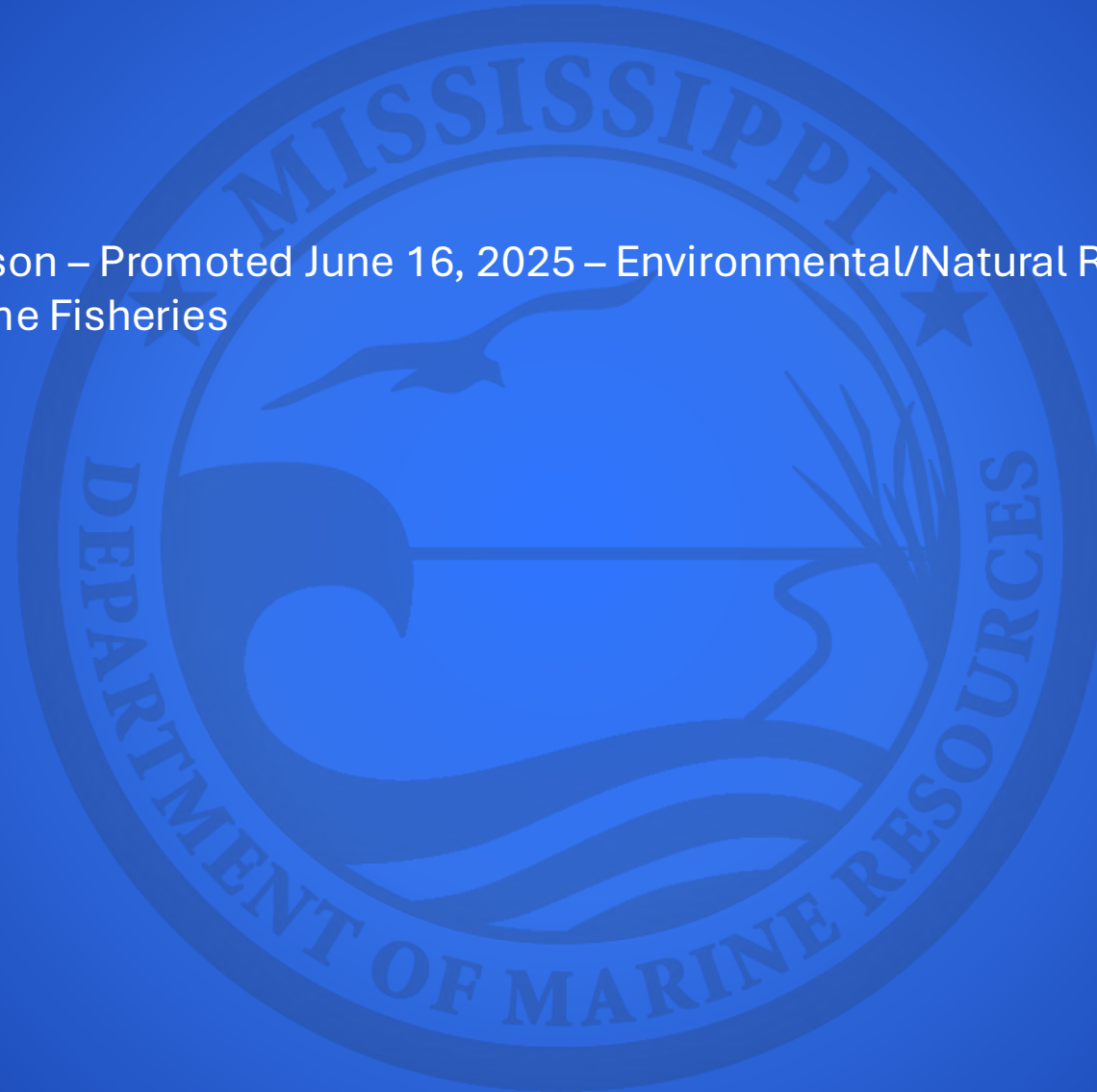
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Employment, Contracts and Procurement Updates July 15, 2025

Employment Updates

Promotions:

- Dawn Thompson – Promoted June 16, 2025 – Environmental/Natural Resources Specialist II – Office of Marine Fisheries



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Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

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Actions Update for the July 15, 2025 Commission Meeting

Discussed at the June 2025 meeting:

The Commission recommended and the Director approved:

- A motion to recommend to the Executive Director that proposed changes to Title 22, Part 23 Mississippi Coastal Program be sent to the Secretary of State's Office for Notice of Intent.
- A motion to recommend to the Executive Director that the proposed changes to Title 22, Part 6 for Live Bait Activities be filed with the Secretary of State's Office for final adoption with the proposed effective date to be 30 days from filing.

- Motion to approve the following State Saltwater Finfish Record:

Almaco Jack (*Seriola rivoliana*)
40 lbs. 15.2 oz. – Tim Shivers



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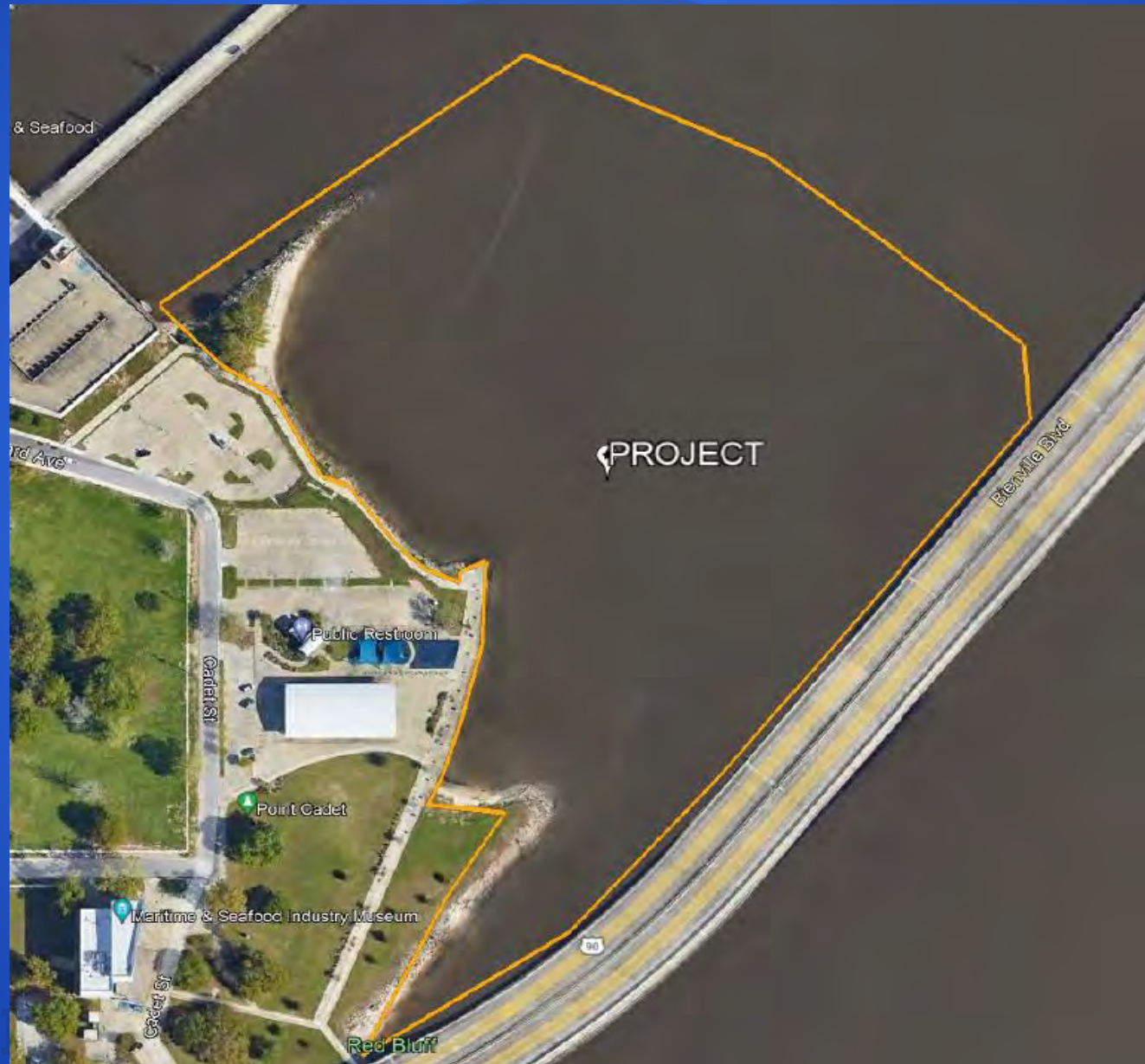
**Request for Permit by:
City of Biloxi
DMR24-000035**

- **Location: Point Cadet, near Cadet Street and HWY 90 bridge, Biloxi Bay, Harrison County**
- **Use District: (G) General Use District**
- **Agent: BMA, Patrick Mooney**
- **Project Purpose/Need: Create habitat for the growth and development of commercial and recreational marine species**

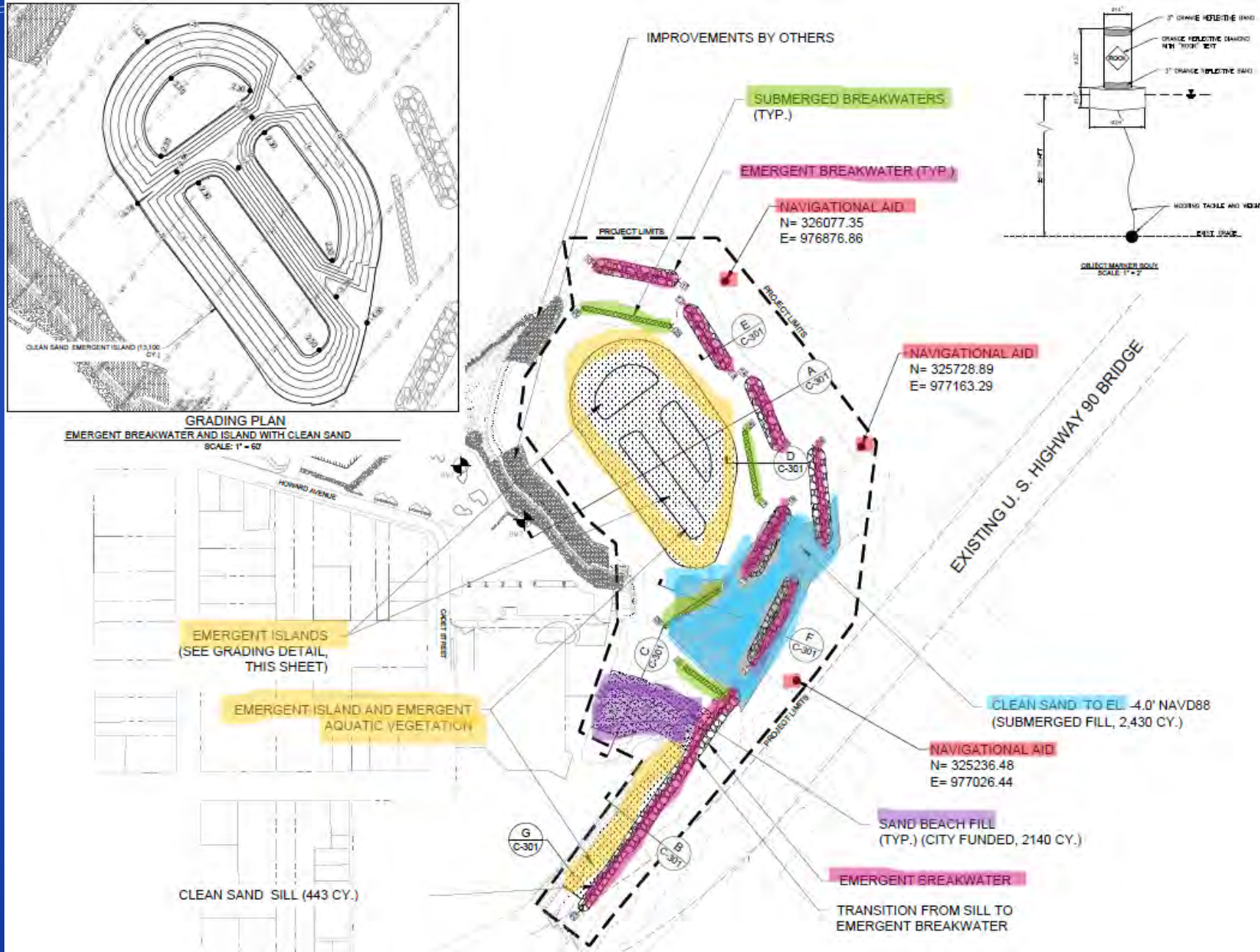
Project Description

- **Filling of Coastal Wetlands**
 - 6.51 acres of unvegetated waterbottoms
 - Tidal emergent marsh and high marsh
 - Island habitat
 - Fill to eliminate a low spot
 - Sand beach
 - Submerged and emergent breakwaters
 - Structures should not exceed height of 2.8' NAVD88

Project Location



Project Diagram



Variance Requests

- **Title 22, Part 23 (MS Coastal Program):**
 - Chapter 8, Section 114.01 “Permanent filling of coastal wetlands below the mean high tide line because of potential adverse and cumulative environmental impacts is not authorized.”
- **Justification:**
 - Chapter 8, Section 118.01 “The impacts on Coastal Wetlands would be no worse than if the requirements were followed.”

Public and Agency Notice and Comments

- **Public Notice**

- Notification of the proposed project appeared in The Sun Herald on May 18 & 25, June 1, 2025
- Notification of the proposed project appeared on the MDMR website from May 16 to June 4, 2025

Public and Agency Notice and Comments

- Inquiry for consideration of 'Glass Half Full' or similar alternative
- Concerns for sources of funding for project

Public and Agency Notice and Comments

- **MDEQ: No comments received**
- **MDAH: No comments received**
- **MS SOS: A rent exempt lease will be required**

Staff Recommendation

- The staff of the Department of Marine Resources has conducted a thorough evaluation of the project and has made findings on the decision factors in accordance with Title 22, Part 23 (Mississippi Coastal Program). The project would serve a higher public interest by:
 - Creating nearshore habitat along the MS Gulf Coast
 - Providing additional storm protection for tangent properties
 - Facilitating the growth and development of valuable commercial and recreational marine species
 - Increasing public recreational opportunities

Staff Recommendation Cont'd

- Therefore, staff requests a motion that the Commission recommend to the Executive Director:
 - Approve the requested Variance
 - Approve the Permit as requested
 - Condition the Permit to contain the following:
 - Submission of adaptive management plan to be reviewed by MDMR staff prior to construction
 - Coordination with US Coast Guard for necessary navigational aids at project location
 - The project area should be inspected for the presence of SAV during the growing season prior to implementation of the project. The survey report should be submitted to MDMR Wetlands Permitting staff at least 30 days prior to project commencement. If SAV is found in the project area, a final review and approval by MDMR staff should be required prior to project commencement



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G-1b

Title 22 Part 23

THE MISSISSIPPI COASTAL PROGRAM Updates and Reorganization Final Adoption

June 2025 Commission Meeting

Notice of Intent

- On June 17, 2025, the Advisory Commission recommended to the Executive Director that the proposed updates to Title 22, Part 23 be sent to the MS Secretary of State's Office for Notice of Intent.
- The Executive Director approved the recommendation, and the Notice of Intent for proposed amendment to existing rules was filed with the SOS office on June 17, 2025.

Publication of Proposed Regulation

- Notice of the proposed amendment was published in the Sun Herald on June 22, 2025.
- Notice of the proposed regulations was also posted on the MDMR website starting on June 18, 2025.



SOS APA Form 001

Mississippi Secretary of State
125 South Congress St. • P. Box 136, Jackson, MS 39202-0136

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES NOTICE FILING

CONTACT PERSON Title:	TELEPHONE NUMBER Area Code-Number:
CITY	STATE ZIP
MAILING ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS
NAME OF AGENCY	NAME OF AGENCY

Short explanation of rule/amendment/pepeal and reasons for proposing rule/amendment/pepeal. To provide for the regulation of certain activities within the Coastal Zone and associated waters, with respect to the conservation and protection of the biological integrity of the Coastal Wetlands and to provide suitable sites for water-dependent industries for the use of those industries in the marine or estuarine environment. This will update some regulations and modify the Coastal Wetlands Act. The current state statute includes eliminating requirements covered by statute. Specific legal authority authorizing the proposed rule/amendment/pepeal is 20-15-621 and 49-15-15.

List all rules, amendments, or repeals proposed by the proposed rule/NA

ORAL PROCEEDING:

An oral proceeding is scheduled for this rule on _____ Date _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

Presently, an oral proceeding is not scheduled on this rule.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

Economic impact statement not required for this rule. Concise summary of economic impact statement attached.

TEMPORARY RULES	PROPOSED ACTION ON RULES	FINAL ACTION ON RULES
<input type="checkbox"/> Original filed <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (if applicable) To be in effect in _____ days <input type="checkbox"/> Effective date: <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately upon filing <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Action proposed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment to existing rule(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Repeal of existing rule(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption by reference Proposed final effective date: <input type="checkbox"/> 30 days after filing <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted with no changes in text <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted with changes <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted by reference <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Repeal adopted as proposed Effective date: <input type="checkbox"/> 30 days after filing <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____

Printed name and Title of person authorized to file rule: John Sprague, Executive Director
Signature of person authorized to file rule: _____

OFFICIAL FILING STAMP	DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE OFFICIAL FILING STAMP	OFFICIAL FILING STAMP
	FILED JUN 17 2025 MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE	
Accepted for filing by _____	Accepted for filing by <u>John Sprague</u>	Accepted for filing by _____

The entire text of the Proposed Rule including the text of any rule being amended or changed is attached.

Marine Emergencies | Follow Us

[CONTACT US](#)

SEAFOOD LABELING LAW AGENCY INFO OFFICES OUTREACH PROGRAMS GO FISHING

Title 22 – Part 23 – Proposed Changes

Public Notices / June 18, 2025

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) does hereby give public notice that on June 17, 2025 at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources (MACMR), the Commission recommended approval of and the Executive Director approved a Notice of Intent to update, modify and change below listed sections of Title 22 Part 23 Rules and Regulations for the Coastal Wetlands Protection Law and the Mississippi Coastal Program. Said Notice of Intent was filed with the Mississippi Secretary of State's office on June 17, 2025. A complete copy of Title 22 Part 23 and the proposed changes are available at www.dmr.ms.gov. Public comments on the proposed regulation changes will be accepted through Monday July 14, 2025. All comments should be mailed to the MDMR, Attn: Willa Brantley, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530 or emailed to: publiccomments@dmr.ms.gov and delivered by 5:00 PM on Monday July 14, 2025.

Short explanation of rule/amendment/pepeal and reason(s) for proposing rule/amendment/pepeal:

TITLE 22 - MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES PART 23 THE MISSISSIPPI COASTAL PROGRAM, updated several Coastal Wetlands Use Plan designations, adjusted dredging requirements to reflect a commonly approved variance, removed information specific to responsibilities under the federal Coastal Wetlands Management Act, and limited the geographical area where state agency actions are subject to review for consistency with the MS Coastal Program. Specific legal authority authorizing the promulgation of rule: Mississippi Code Ann. § 49-15-15, APA, § 23-43-1.101 *et seq.*

For a complete description of the proposed changes, please click the download link below.

[DOWNLOAD PDF](#)

MDMR Website Notice

Job Details
 Order Number: IPL0245732
 Classification: Legals & Public Notices
 Package: BLX - Legal Ads
 Order Cost: \$71.37

Account Details
 DEPT OF MARINE RESOURCES IP
 1141 BAYVIEW AVENUE SUITE 101
 BILOXI, MS 39530
 228-374-5000
accounts.payable@dmr.ms.gov
 DEPT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Schedule for ad number IPL02457320
 Sun Jun 22, 2025
 SunHerald (Biloxi) Print Publication
 All Zones

LEGAL NOTICE

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) does hereby give public notice that on June 17, 2025 at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources (MACMR), the Commission recommended approval of and the Executive Director approved a Notice of Intent to update, modify and change below listed sections of Title 22 Part 23 Rules and Regulations for the Coastal Wetlands Protection Law and the Mississippi Coastal Program. Said Notice of Intent was filed with the Mississippi Secretary of State's office on June 17, 2025. A complete copy of Title 22 Part 23 and the proposed changes are available at www.dmr.ms.gov. Public comments on the proposed regulation changes will be accepted through Monday July 14, 2025. All comments should be mailed to the MDMR, Attn: Willa Brantley, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530 or emailed to: publiccomments@dmr.ms.gov and delivered by 5:00 PM on Monday July 14, 2025.

SOS NOI Notice

Sun Herald Notice

Public Comments

No public comments were received



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The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The seal contains the text "MISSISSIPPI" at the top and "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a stylized illustration of a fish, possibly a blue crab, with its legs and claws visible. The seal is set against a dark blue background with light blue wavy lines at the top.

Final Adoption

Staff requests a motion that the Commission recommend to the Executive Director that the proposed regulation be filed with the SOS's office for Final Adoption with the effective date to be 30 days from filing.

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Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

July 15, 2025



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Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Agency Financial Results
as of June 30, 2025

Key Metrics:

- State Revenue of \$6.8M
- Agency Revenue of \$73.8M
- State Net Loss of (\$1.3M)
- Agency Net Income of \$19.6M

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Income Statement - Fiscal Year 2025

As of June 30, 2025

	Federal : GOMESA PHII: NFWF:		Operating		
	State	Non-Federal:	Subtotal	Tidelands	Total DMR
Revenue:					
Off-road Fuel Tax	3,050,000	-	3,050,000	-	3,050,000
Federal/NonFederal Grants	-	11,117,904	11,117,904	-	11,117,904
Sales Revenue	1,650,726	-	1,650,726	-	1,650,726
Indirect Cost Recovery	1,508,694	-	1,508,694	-	1,508,694
Other Revenue	628,751	43,459,499	44,088,250	12,444,815	56,533,065
Current Budget Year Revenue:	6,838,170	54,577,402	61,415,573	12,444,815	73,860,388
Expenditures:					
Salaries, Wages, Fringe	6,702,118	4,129,497	10,831,615	1,287,818	12,119,433
Travel	45,534	62,258	107,791	47,052	154,844
Contractual Services	1,033,360	2,921,047	3,954,406	884,490	4,838,897
Commodities	347,086	863,720	1,210,806	324,169	1,534,975
Other than Equipment	-	5,437	5,437	2,795	8,232
Equipment	63,266	264,321	327,587	165,971	493,558
Vehicles	28,848	49,975	78,823	-	78,823
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	1,237	29,231,407	29,232,645	5,716,146	34,948,790
Current Budget Year Expenditures:	8,221,448	37,527,662	45,749,110	8,428,441	54,177,551
Current Budget Year Net Income/(Loss):	\$ (1,383,278)	\$ 17,049,740	\$ 15,666,463	\$ 4,016,374	\$ 19,682,837

Financial Budget Comparison

- After twelve months of Fiscal Year 2025:

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
2025 Budget Comparison
As of June 30, 2025

	<i>Actual Year to Date Expenditures</i>			<i>Budget Year Totals</i>			<i>Percent Remaining</i>		
	Operating	Tidelands	Total	Operating	Tidelands	Total	Operating	Tidelands	Total
Expenditures:									
Salaries, Wages, Fringe	\$ 10,831,615	\$ 1,287,818	\$ 12,119,433	\$ 12,740,312	\$ 1,511,991	\$ 14,252,303	15.0%	14.8%	15.0%
Travel	107,791	47,052	154,844	140,314	61,000	201,314	23.2%	22.9%	23.1%
Contractual Services	3,954,406	884,490	4,838,897	13,134,081	1,651,000	14,785,081	69.9%	46.4%	67.3%
Commodities	1,210,806	324,169	1,534,975	6,035,425	360,000	6,395,425	79.9%	10.0%	76.0%
Other than Equipment	5,437	2,795	8,232	10,000	100,000	110,000	45.6%	97.2%	92.5%
Equipment	327,587	165,971	493,558	600,000	223,000	823,000	45.4%	25.6%	40.0%
Vehicles	78,823	-	78,823	200,000	216,000	416,000	60.6%	100.0%	81.1%
Wireless Devices	-	-	-	6,250	-	6,250	100.0%	-	100.0%
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	29,232,645	5,716,146	34,948,790	227,518,762	7,577,009	235,095,771	87.2%	24.6%	85.1%
Total Expenditures:	\$ 45,749,110	\$ 8,428,441	\$ 54,177,551	\$ 260,385,144	\$ 11,700,000	\$ 272,085,144	82.4%	28.0%	80.1%

- Operating Funds have 82.4% of Budget remaining
- Tidelands Trust Fund has 28.0% of Budget remaining



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Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

July 15, 2025

Southeastern Law Enforcement Explorer Academy



HSSM Club Paws Summer Day Camp



STEMFest at INFINITY Science Center



Advanced Seed Production Training Program



Governor's Saltwater Fishing Classic



MS Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo





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State Saltwater Finfish Records

Trevor Moncrief

July 22, 2025

The seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is a circular emblem. It features a central illustration of a seagull 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.

Conventional Tackle

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Conventional Tackle Fishing Record

Gray Snapper
Lutjanus griseus

Old Record: 15 lbs. 7.79 oz.

New Record: 15 lbs. 9.6 oz.

Angler: Timothy Kennedy



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All Tackle

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All Tackle Fishing Record

Permit

Trachinotus falcatus

Old Record: 11 lbs. 11.20 oz.

New Record: 14 lbs. 3.2 oz.

Angler: Mike Aucoin

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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 reeds. 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 Record

Bonnethead
Sphyrna tiburo

New Record: 8 lbs. 15.2 oz.

Angler: Riley Armes


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The seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a blue background, depicting a white fish (likely a catfish) swimming upwards. The shield is flanked by two white stalks of rice. Above the shield, the word "MISSISSIPPI" is written in a semi-circle. Below the shield, the words "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" are written in a semi-circle. The entire seal is rendered in a lighter blue color against the dark blue background of the slide.

Required Action:
Motion to recommend the approval of the
State Records

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Grand Bay NERR

Teacher Workshops at the NERR



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Let's Get Batty!

Guest speaker: Mandy Rigsby with MSU CREC with assistance from Emmett Carstens (NERR)

Topic: Overview on bats and local bat research at the NERR.

Teachers built bat boxes to take home.

Teachers: 7

“I got... High level research in animal science. A new outlook on bats. So much research, which I LOVE!”





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Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE)

Enkindled in Ecology

Heard from 10 different NERR staff

Teachers learned about fire ecology, habitat restoration, and impacts in uplands and estuary

Teachers: 9

“I got... A wealth of background knowledge. Some motivation to implement new activities/tools into my classes.”

“I got... The BEST workshop I have ever attended.”





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GulfSeeLife!

Speakers: Dr. Richard Buchholz and Kayleigh Mazariegos with University of Mississippi
www.gulfseelife.org

Topic: GulfSeeLife app introduction, classroom application, and practice.

Teachers: 21 over 2 days





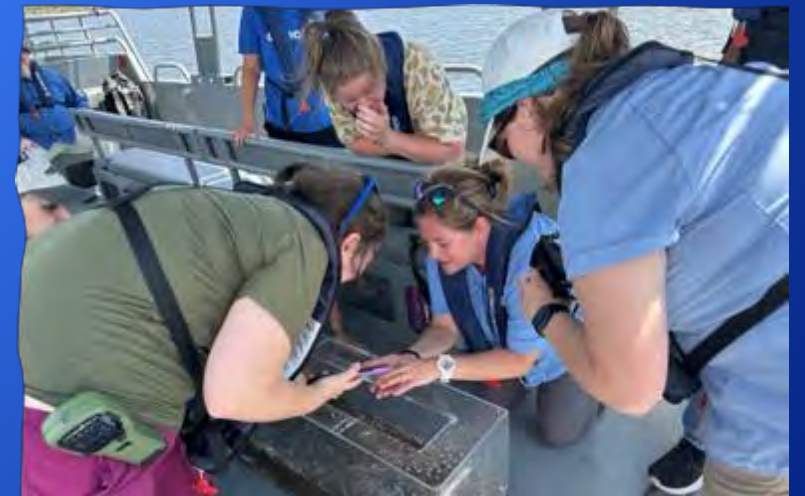
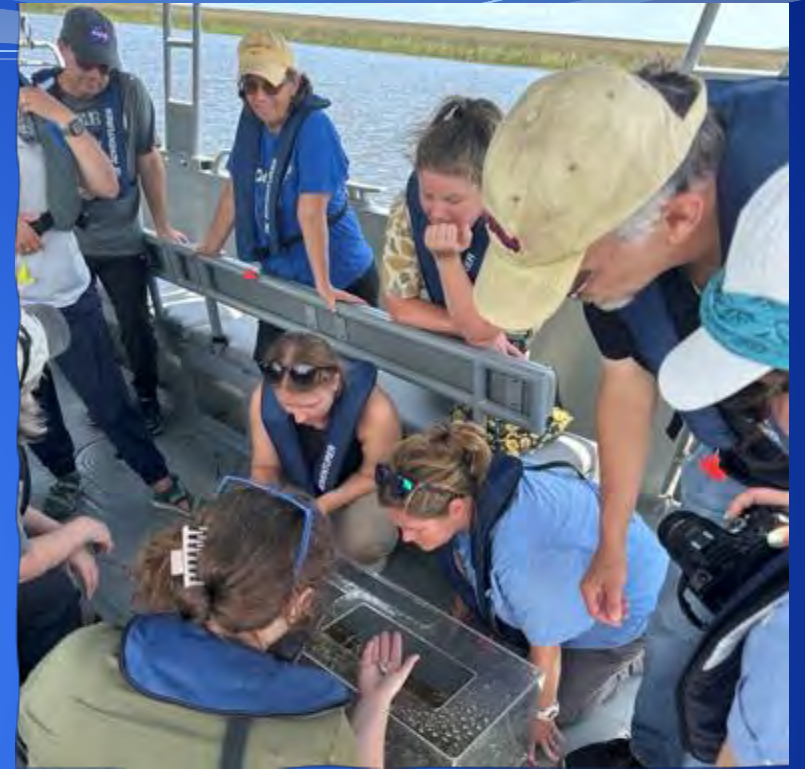
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GulfSeeLife!

“I got... An interesting new app to use in the classroom and a better understanding of Grand Bay NERR.”

“I got...To walk the trail and notice local flora and fauna and identify several plant species, some of which are invasive. To take a boat tour and trawl for marine species. A totally educational and fun experience. A tool, GulfSeeLife to use in creating awareness of species in our environment.”





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