



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

December 16, 2025



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Employment, Contracts and Procurement Updates December 16, 2025

Employment Updates

New Hires:

- Connor Allen – Started on November 21, 2025 – Contractor – Office of Marine Fisheries
- Ian Jackson – Started on November 3, 2025 – Environmental/Natural Resources Specialist II – Office of Marine Fisheries

Promotions:

- Jacob Strickland – Promoted on December 16, 2025 – Master Sergeant – Office of Marine Patrol



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

December 16, 2025



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Actions Update for the December 16, 2025 Commission Meeting

Discussed at the November 2025 meeting:
The Commission recommended and the Director approved:

- Motion to recommend approval of the following State Saltwater Finfish Records:

- a. Conventional Tackle:

- 1. Rock Hind (*Epinephelus adscensionis*) – 4 lbs. 4.80 oz.
– Nicholas Lewelling

- b. Youth Conventional Tackle:

- 1. Silver Perch (*Bairdiella chrysoura*) – 0 lbs. 3.52 oz.
– Cresson Vancleave

- 2. Gulf Hake (*Urophycis cirrata*) – 6 lbs. 0 oz.
– James Williams

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

December 16, 2025

**Request for Federal Consistency Review by:
Keesler Air Force Base
DMR25-000445**

- **Location: Back Bay Biloxi, from Keesler Air Force Base (KAFB) Shoreline to VA Medical Center (VAMC) Shoreline, Harrison County, MS**
- **Use District: (G) General Use District**
- **Agent: Mississippi State University – Eric Sparks**
- **Project Purpose/Need: Create a living shoreline along the Keesler AFB and the Veterans hospital to prevent high rates of erosion due to wind-driven waves and boat wakes. This project will stabilize the shoreline.**

Project Description

- **Fill of Coastal Wetlands for the installation of a 1.35-mile-long breakwater for a living shoreline**
 - **The breakwaters are 100 feet long, 9 feet wide at the base, and 4 feet tall**
 - **Maximum of 30 feet from mean high water with approximately 25 feet between each breakwater**
 - **Crest height at maximum 1-foot above MHW**
 - **Maximum of 8,195 cubic yards of rip rap with 2,021 cubic yards of total rip rap to be placed above MHW**
 - **1.5 acres for total fill**

Project Location



Project Area



This project proposes the installation of a total of 74 rip rap breakwaters that are 100 ft long, 9 ft wide at the base, and 4 ft tall (or a maximum of 1 ft above MHW). The breakwaters will be placed a maximum of 30 ft from MHW with approximately 25 ft between each breakwater. In locations with clam beds, the breakwater placement will be adjusted to avoid the clam beds. The project encompasses 1.35 miles "as the crow flies" of shoreline of the Keesler AFB and VA properties (63 breakwaters) as well as 0.25 mi of the marsh island nearest the Keesler marina (11 breakwaters). This project requires a maximum of 8195 yd³ of riprap with 2021 yd³ of the total rip rap above MHW. No fill is required for the project.

Variance Request

- **22 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 23 (MS Coastal Program):**
 - Rule 8.15.A “Permanent filling of coastal wetlands below the OHWM is not authorized.”
- **Justification:**
 - Rule 8.19.A “The impacts on Coastal Wetlands would be no worse than if the requirements were followed.”
 - The overall intent of this project is to reduce shoreline erosion and enhance shoreline vegetation that provides immense amount of ecosystem services for coastal Mississippi.

Public and Agency Notice and Comments

- **Public Notice**

- Notification of the proposed project appeared in The Sun Herald on September 28, October 5, & October 12, 2025
- Notification of the proposed project appeared on the MDMR website from September 25 through October 20, 2025
- No public comments were received

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Public and Agency Notice and Comments

- **MDEQ: No comments**
- **MDAH: No comments**
- **MDWFP: No comments**
- **MS SOS: A rent exempt lease will be required**
- **MDMR Fisheries: No comments**
- **MDMR Office of Marine Patrol: No comments**
- **City of Biloxi: No comments**

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:
 - Protection of existing marsh habitat, providing additional shoreline protection for KAFB
- Therefore, staff requests a motion that the Commission recommend to the Executive Director:
 - Approve the requested Variance
 - Certify the proposed project to be consistent with the Mississippi Coastal Program as requested



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

December 16, 2025



Pathways 2 Possibilities





Ocean Springs High School Aquaculture Program

ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Leadership Mississippi





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

December 16, 2025



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Grand Bay NERR

Report from the 2025 Star Party!



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Record Star Party !

Attendance: 405
Weather: *Perfect*
Stars: *Too many to count*
Meteor Sitings: *Dozens!*
Owls Heard: *Many*
Family Photos Taken: 144
Crafts Made: 253



Countless Family Memories !



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Our Visitors Enjoyed the Interpretive Center





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Cornhole & Owl Walks



© Nancy McKown, 2017



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Five Kinds of Soup !





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Family Photos with Santa





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

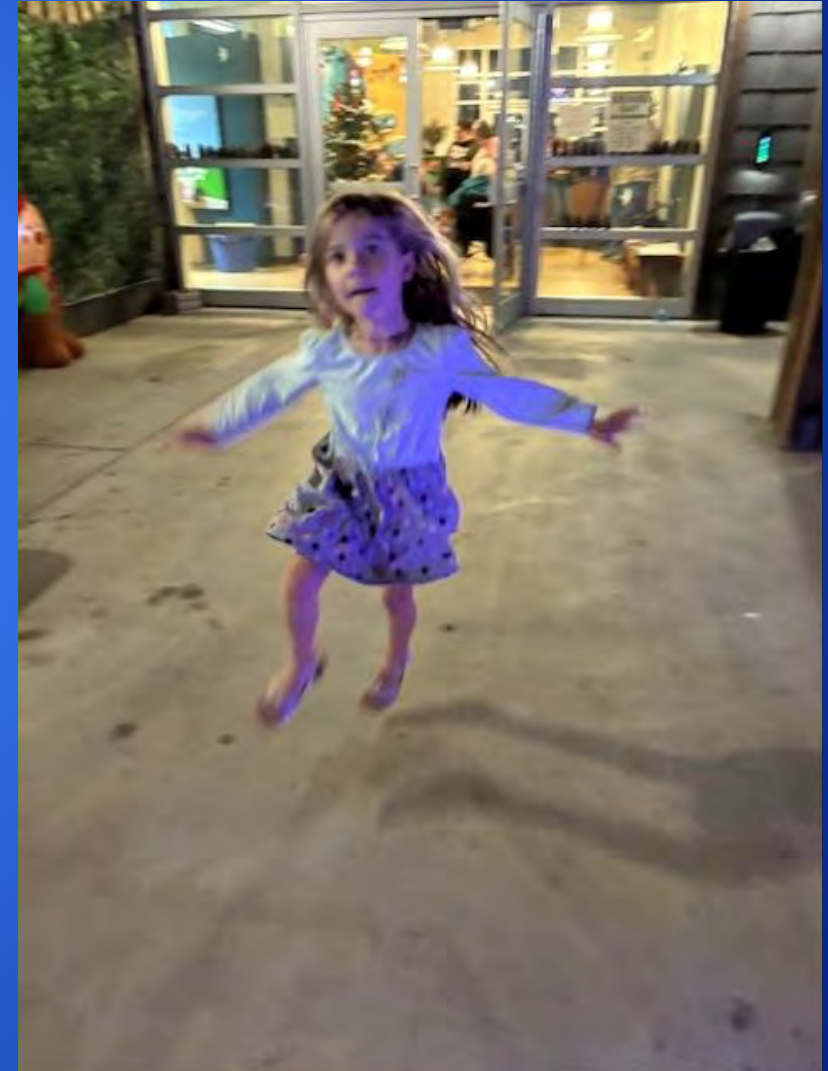
Mrs. Claus Storytime





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Ice Your Own Cookie Table





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

'Make a NERR Ornament' Crafting





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

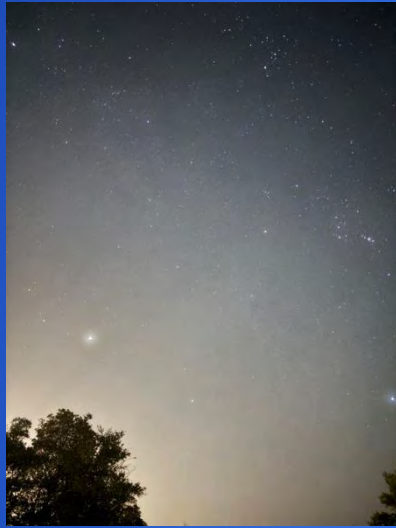
Employee/Volunteer Sweater Contest





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Hay Rides & Star Gazing





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

The Star of the Night: The Stars!







ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE







ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Time to Make Family Memories





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Education Team Made it Happen





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

With the Help of Many!

Staff: 17

Volunteers: 14

Volunteer Hours: 72.5

Marine Patrol Officers: 4

Hours: 20

And a very nice night!





ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

December 16, 2025