



## **Mississippi Department of Marine Resources LEP/Title VI Non-Discrimination Plan**

### **Policy and Assurances**

As a recipient of federal funding, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) strives to fully comply with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Executive Order 13166 was issued in 2000, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency" which set out guidelines for entities receiving federal funds and the requirements related to Title VI. A Limited English Proficient (LEP) person is defined as any person who does not speak English as their primary language and has a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English and is over the age of 5 years old.

The MDMR's goal is to provide equal access to all program and activities offered by the agency regardless of participants' proficiency in the English language.

### **Title VI Coordinator Responsibilities**

The MDMR's Title VI Coordinator's responsibilities include assisting the agency in ensuring compliance with Title VI. This may include:

- Reviewing the four factor LEP analysis to ensure MDMR is providing meaningful access to services. This will include:
  - Number and percentage of Mississippi residents that may require LEP services for commercial and recreational activities,
  - Frequency of requests and complaints for LEP services, to include language and programs,
  - Nature and importance of the services provided by MDMR, and
  - Reasonable costs and resources available to provide LEP services.

### **Voluntary Compliance Efforts**

The MDMR is committed to engaging in activities to ensure the needs of LEP residents are met and that they have equal access to our programming and knowledge of regulations and laws that may affect them in the commercial industries and in recreational activities. The MDMR has numerous publications that are published in Vietnamese. These publications are available in person at the MDMR offices and are posted on the MDMR website.

## Demographics Data

The following charts are from the 2015 Limited English Proficiency Federal Interagency Website (lep.gov). For the purposes of these charts, LEP persons were defined as individuals five years and over who speak a language other than English at home and who have indicated that they speak English less than very well (LVW). The chart breaks down the top five languages spoken with the remaining languages in a sixth category called “Other Asian Languages”.

### State of Mississippi

Total LEP (LVW): 44,013

| Language          | Spanish | Vietnamese | Chinese | French | Hindi | Other Asian Languages |
|-------------------|---------|------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| Raw Count LEP LVW | 29,469  | 3,928      | 2,166   | 974    | 899   | 126                   |
| % LEP LVW         | 67      | 9          | 5       | 2      | 2     |                       |

The total population of Mississippi was 2,987,895 in 2019. The total population of LEP households in the state of Mississippi is 44,013, which is 1.5% of the population. 1.0% are Spanish speaking and 0.13% are Vietnamese speaking.

### Harrison County

Total LEP (LVW): 4,934

| Language          | Spanish | Vietnamese | Chinese | French | Hindi | Other Asian Languages |
|-------------------|---------|------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| Raw Count LEP LVW | 2,371   | 1,713      | 126     | 88     | 81    | 555                   |
| % LEP LVW         | 48      | 35         | 2       | 2      | 2     | 11                    |

The total population for Harrison County Mississippi was 205,027 in 2017. The total population of LEP households in Harrison County, Mississippi is 4,934, which is 2.4% of the population. 1.1% are Spanish speaking and 0.8% are Vietnamese speaking.

### Hancock County

Total LEP (LVW): 588

| Language          | Spanish | Vietnamese | Chinese | French | Hindi | Other Asian Languages |
|-------------------|---------|------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| Raw Count LEP LVW | 208     | 86         | 104     | 11     | 0     | 126                   |
| % LEP LVW         | 35      | 15         | 18      | 2      |       | 21                    |

The total population for Hancock County, Mississippi was 41,908 in 2015. The total population of LEP households in Hancock County, Mississippi is 588, which is 1.4% of the population. 0.5 % are Spanish speaking and 0.2% are Vietnamese speaking.

### Jackson County

Total LEP (LVW): 3,687

| Language          | Spanish | Vietnamese | Chinese | French | Hindi | Other Asian Languages |
|-------------------|---------|------------|---------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
| Raw Count LEP LVW | 1,912   | 1,044      | 161     | 26     | 0     | 0                     |
| % LEP LVW         | 52      | 28         | 4       | .7     |       |                       |

The total population for Jackson County, Mississippi was 142,152 in 2017. The total population of LEP households in Jackson County, Mississippi is 3,687, which is 2.6% of the population. 1.3% are Spanish speaking and 0.7% are Vietnamese speaking.

However, based upon experience in the marine resources environment, the MDMR estimates that there is a higher percentage of Vietnamese speaking commercial and recreational fishermen meeting the definition of LEP. Accordingly, the MDMR is committed to providing targeted services to the Vietnamese LEP community.

**Complaint and/or Accommodation Process**

Complaints may be filed by anyone who believes they have been discriminated against, harassed or precluded from participation in any MDMR program based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, low-income status or LEP. A complaint may be made orally or in writing by utilizing the MDMR Discrimination Complaint Form.

A request for accommodation, including but not limited to a request for translation of written or verbal communication, based upon LEP may be made orally or in writing utilizing the MDMR ADA Accommodations Request form.

If you have questions or need these services, please contact:

Patrick Levine, MDMR Chief Operations Officer  
1141 Bayview Ave.  
Biloxi, MS 39530  
Email: Patrick.levine@dmr.ms.gov  
Telephone: (228)374-5000

  
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MDMR Executive Director

5-31-2024  
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Date