Mississippi
Department of Marine Resources

2008 Comprehensive Annual Report
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Office of Marine Fisheries
Office of Coastal Ecology
Tidelands Trust Fund
Office of Administrative Services
Office of Marine Patrol
Office of Coastal Management and Planning

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008
July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

Executive Director
Dr. William W. Walker

Commissioners
Dr. Vernon Asper, Chairman
Richard Gollott, Vice Chairman
Shelby Drummond
Oliver Sahuque
Jimmy Taylor

Fiscal Year 2008 Comprehensive Annual Report prepared by the Department of Marine Resources, Office of the Executive Director, with contributions from staff.

Mission Statement

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.

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MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Dear Governor Barbour and Members of the Legislature:

We would like to thank you for the continued support you have provided towards the wise stewardship of the state's valuable coastal and marine resources—the mission of the Department of Marine Resources.

Your support has been vital in helping the department meet the current challenges presented in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Much of the department's efforts in 2008 have been focused on the continued rebuilding and revitalizing of the coast. Marine debris removal, wetlands habitat restoration and oyster reef revitalization, spotted seatrout stock enhancement and facilitation of infrastructure rebuilding and repair are but a few of the key initiatives encompassed within the larger scope of revitalizing the coast.

Our staff along with the agency's many state and federal partners – the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, NASA's Stennis Space Center, the Naval Research Laboratory, Mississippi State University, the University of Mississippi, Jackson State University, the EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Archives and History – are all to be commended for their hard work in helping to meet the department's goals and objectives.

As a team, we will strive to continue to rebuild, restore and revitalize the Mississippi Gulf Coast and especially its barrier islands, coastal wetlands and estuarine environs and associated fisheries habitats.

We are now, as we have always been, committed to this mission; and we will continue to manage the state's marine resources today for a sound tomorrow.

Respectfully,

Dr. William W. Walker, Executive Director
Department of Marine Resources

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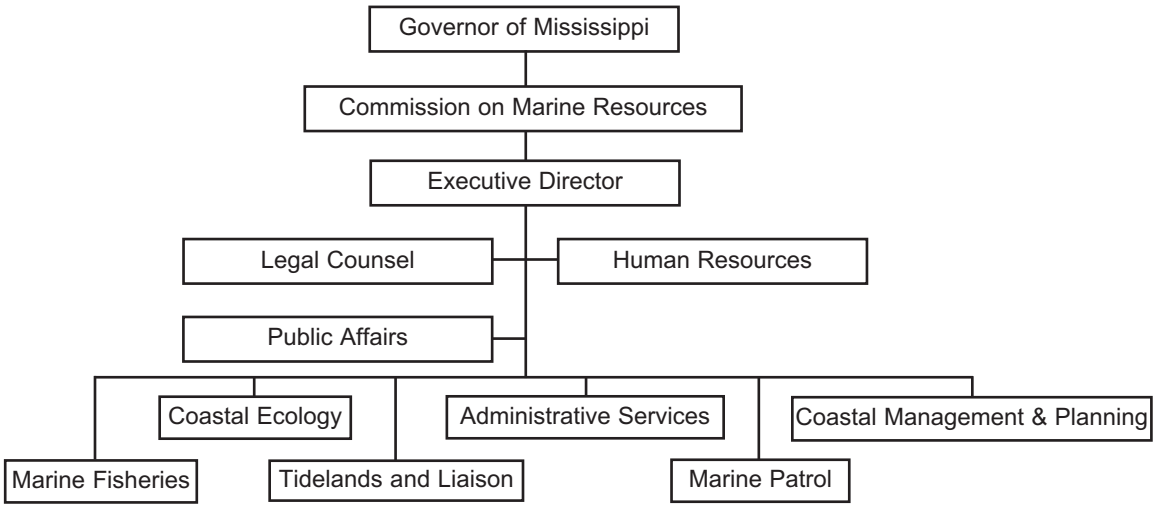
Organizational Structure

The Department of Marine Resources' organizational structure is based on the legislative mandates assigned to the Commission and Department. In FY2008, the Department's organizational structure consisted of six major program areas: Marine Fisheries; Coastal Ecology; Tidelands and Liaison; Administrative Services; Marine Patrol; and Coastal Management and Planning.

The Marine Fisheries Office includes the management and regulation of shrimp and crab, shellfish, seafood processing plants, finfish and artificial reefs. The Coastal Ecology Office includes the management and regulation of the coastal preserves, wetlands permitting and the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Tidelands Trust Fund receives proposals from public entities for management and public access projects, provides oversight in the evaluation of these projects and the financial accounting of the funds. The Administrative Services Office includes the directorate, seafood marketing, derelict vessel identification and removal, marine debris removal, human resources, public affairs, information technology, grants and contracts, property management and inventory, fleet management, procurement, accounting and financial management. The Marine Patrol Office provides law enforcement activities not only in Mississippi coastal waters and tidal tributaries but also assists the U.S. Coast Guard in law enforcement activities in federal waters. The Office of Coastal Management and Planning is responsible for the Comprehensive Resource Manangement Plan, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Geographical Information System initiative, the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area, Coastal Impact Assistance Program and Special Initiatives associated with activities delegated to the DMR by the Governor's Office.

The Department of Marine Resources will continue to enhance its interaction with other state, regional and national entities to improve planning and program operations, to maximize available resources and to ensure the future of Mississippi's valuable marine resources. The executive director will continue to review programmatic needs and modify the Department's organizational structure as needed when new mandates are added to its charter. During FY2008, the Department's organizational structure was as follows:



The following narratives provide a brief description of each of the above-referenced programs and the principal accomplishments of each during the past fiscal year, underscoring what the Department hopes to accomplish in the coming year.

Marine Fisheries Office
Marine Fisheries Management
Office Director: Dale A. Diaz

The Office of Marine Fisheries provides for the effective management of the state's marine fisheries, including oysters, shrimp, crabs, spotted seatrout, red drum, menhaden and mullet, in addition to other commercially and recreationally important species. The program includes conservation and overall management of living marine organisms through research and data collection as modified by relevant social, economic and biological factors. The Office of Marine Fisheries utilizes the most appropriate methods for management, including but not limited to regulating harvesting, habitat enhancement, water quality monitoring for molluscan shellfish harvesting, setting of catch limits and seasons, and seafood safety inspections of processing and distribution facilities.

Objectives:

Marine Fisheries projects and activities coordinated through the Office of Marine Fisheries include:

- Design and initiate projects for the collection and analysis of data required for population dynamics estimates and other projects related to fisheries management.
- Develop scientifically based management recommendations.
- Monitor the condition of fish stocks and the fisheries that depend upon them.
- Provide information transfer and liaison activities with regional fisheries management entities and others.
- Provide technical support to the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources in developing fishery management plans, amendments, stock assessments and technical analysis.
- Provide a representative to serve on fisheries-related boards, committees and panels, as may be required.
- Provide for administrative services, general maintenance, funding sources and other fisheries management support services as may be required.
- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to monitor and assist the recovery of Mississippi's commercial and recreational fisheries.

Status:

Public notices were published for opening and closing of the commercial seasons for shrimp, oysters, king mackerel, spotted seatrout, red snapper, red drum and large coastal sharks.

Marine Fisheries personnel served on regional management committees of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, including Artificial Reef Task Force, Sheepshead Fishery Task Force, Flounder Fishery Task Force, Blue Crab Task Force, Fisheries Information Network Committee, Data Management and Recreational Fishery Subcommittees, Technical Coordinating Committee, Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species, Southeastern Aquatic Resource Partnership, Harrison County Development Committee and the State/Federal Fisheries Management Board. Marine Fisheries personnel also served on Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, its Habitat committee and special shrimp committee.

DMR Marine Fisheries and partners kicked off a new monofilament recycling program to encourage Mississippi fishermen to recycle used fishing line.

Finfish Program
Coordinator: Michael Buchanan

The goals of the Finfish Program include conserving and revitalizing marine finfish and supporting habitats within optimal levels as modified by relevant social, economic and biological factors; providing scientific information, including biological life history and catch statistics for commercial and recreational finfish for effective management; and providing oversight, enhancement and development of reef habitat in Mississippi and adjacent federal waters.

Objectives:

- Collect commercial fisheries landings statistics.
- Collect recreational fisheries landings statistics.
- Monitor finfish populations through independent sampling methods.
- Develop and coordinate, with other state and federal agencies, independent projects on ecological requirements and biological life history information on important finfish species.

Status:

- The marine finfish program provides management information through an ongoing commercial fisheries statistics program. Data is collected monthly from dealers' reported catch. In addition, there is an ongoing effort to institute a trip ticket system in cooperation with Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC).
- Catch and effort information on the recreational sector is being collected, in cooperation with GSMFC, through the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey on a bimonthly basis.
- Independent data on finfish populations is being collected through a combination of gill net and trawl samples in Mississippi's major estuaries.
- Several projects have been developed in cooperation with the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory to obtain information on life history parameters and essential fish habitat of important finfish.
- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to monitor and assist the recovery of Mississippi's commercial and recreational fisheries.

DMR Finfish Bureau Director Michael 'Buck' Buchanan, center, shows a young angler how to identify some common Gulf fish at the Coastal Conservation Association of Mississippi's Casting for Conservation Children's fishing rodeo, co-sponsored by DMR in June 2008.

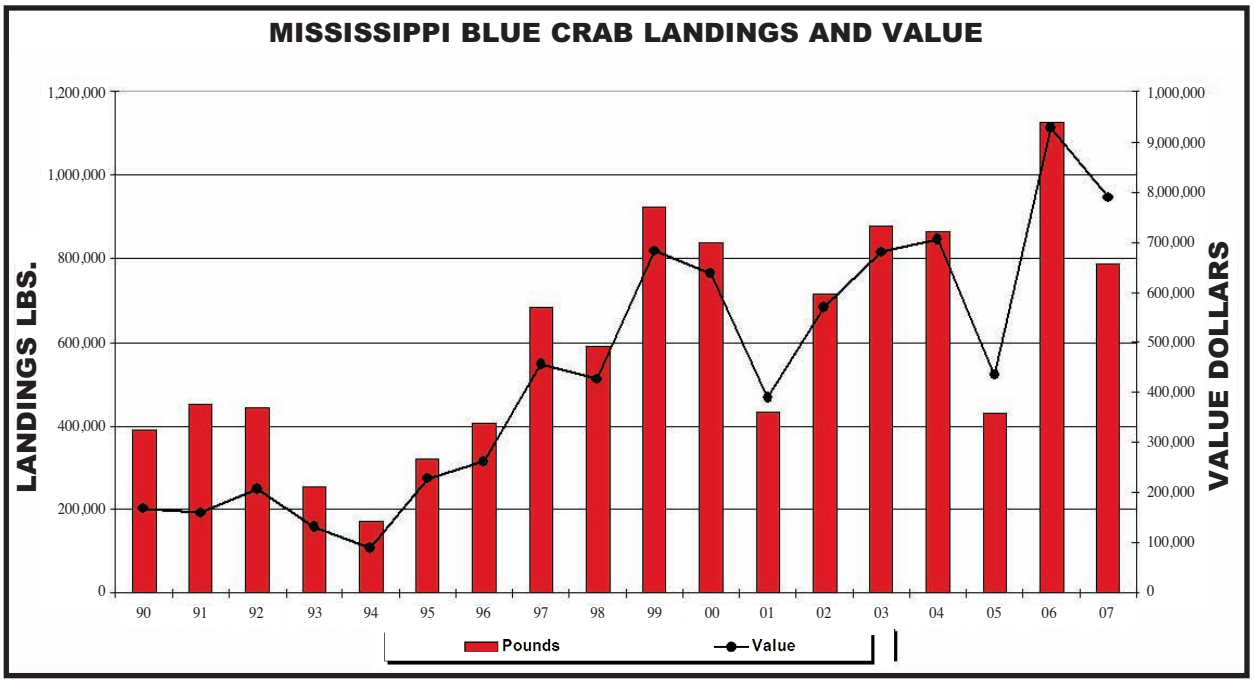
Marine Commercial Fisheries Statistics Coordinator: Christine Murrell

Objectives:

- Collect commercial fisheries landings and catch data for Mississippi in a timely manner.
- Collect biological data for selected commercially important finfish species.
- Obtain boat trip information and biological statistics on migratory pelagic and reef fishes such as red snapper, grouper and amberjack and collect otoliths from red snapper.
- Continue process of implementing a trip ticket system for all fisheries.

Status:

- Fisheries landings data were collected weekly and monthly according to schedule. The data were processed, edited and submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in accordance with established data handling procedures. Fisheries landings data is an important part of the fisheries management process, both as an indicator of potential population changes and as a gauge of the success of existing fisheries regulations and practices.
- Biological data for selected commercially important finfish species were collected from the major seafood dealers along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The information will be used in the development of various fishery management plans, both on a state and regional level.
- Information for selected pelagic and reef fishes was collected from the major landing sites for selected species on a monthly basis. This information was submitted to the NMFS for inclusion in its Trip Information System. This data is used by both state and federal fisheries managers to properly manage these valuable resources.
- A trip ticket system is in place for the oyster fishery, live-bait fishery and commercial hook-and-line fishery. Data are being scanned into a database and transferred to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.


MISSISSIPPI BLUE CRAB LANDINGS AND VALUE
LANDINGS LBS.
VALUE DOLLARS
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1,000,000
800,000
600,000
400,000
200,000
0
1,000,000
9,000,000
8,000,000
700,000
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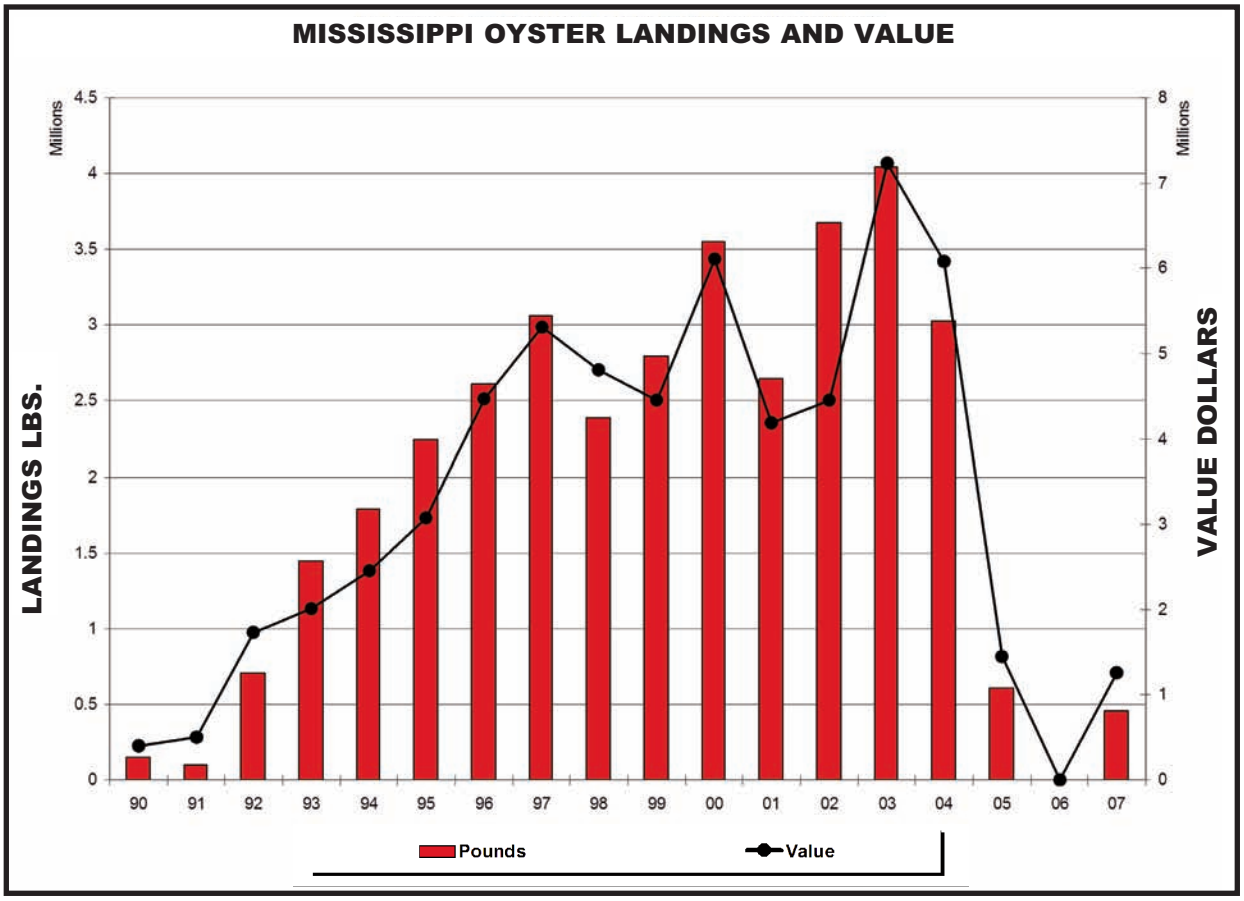
MISSISSIPPI OYSTER LANDINGS AND VALUE
LANDINGS LBS.
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VALUE DOLLARS
Millions
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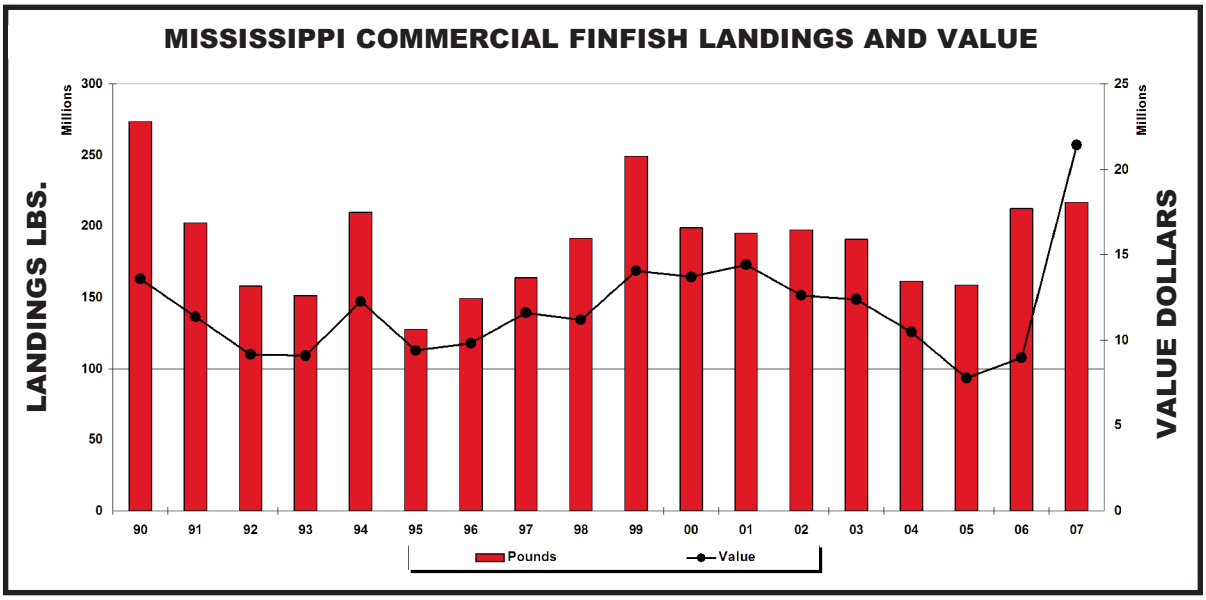
MISSISSIPPI COMMERCIAL FINFISH LANDINGS AND VALUE
LANDINGS LBS.
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250
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VALUE DOLLARS
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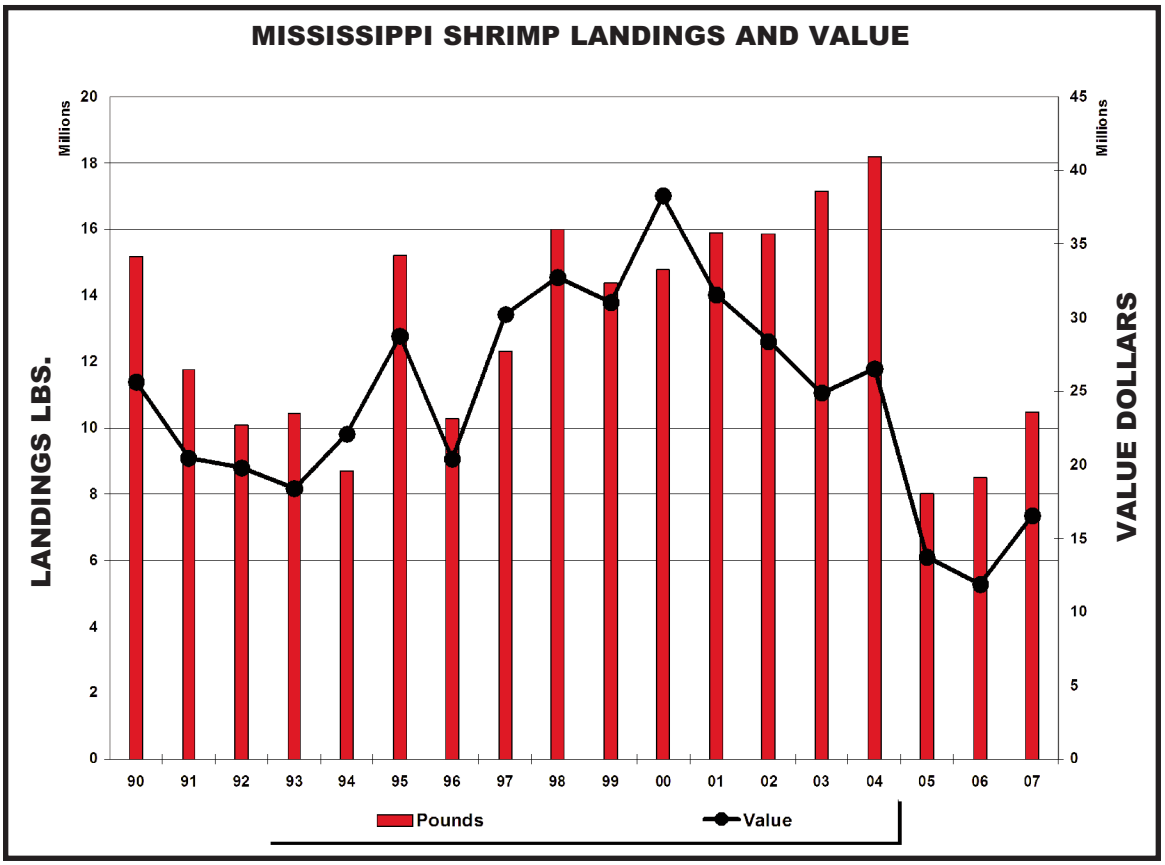
MISSISSIPPI SHRIMP LANDINGS AND VALUE
LANDINGS LBS.
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VALUE DOLLARS
Millions
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00
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05
06
07
Pounds
Value

Mississippi Artificial Reef Program
Coordinator: Kerwin Cuevas

Objectives:

- Develop and enhance nearshore and offshore reef habitats in accordance with Mississippi's Artificial Reef Plan.
- Update coordinates and orientation of past artificial reef material deployments within Mississippi's marine waters and adjacent federal waters.
- Provide the DMR Web administrator with coordinates of reef material, reef orientation, maps and charts, so that a Web page can be updated and maintained for the fishing community to access.
- Within the framework of Mississippi's Artificial Reef Plan, identify areas conducive to artificial reef development and enhancement both nearshore and offshore.
- Monitor artificial reef development in Mississippi's marine waters and adjacent federal waters.
- Obtain artificial reef material from state, federal and private entities through donations.

Status:

- Currently, Mississippi has 14 permitted offshore reefs encompassing 16,000 acres of water bottom. These reefs range in size from 3 acres to 10,000 acres. To date, the material used for offshore reefs consists of concrete rubble, steel-hull vessels (including barges), armored personnel carriers and materials of design, such as Florida Limestone Pyramids and Reef Balls.
- Mississippi also has permitted 53 nearshore artificial reef sites. These reefs are located inshore, where fishermen in small vessels, wade fishermen and pier fishermen can take advantage of the fish that inhabit these reefs. The materials of the nearshore reefs consist of limestone, concrete rubble (when water depth allows), crushed concrete and oyster shells. The nearshore reefs are deployed at strategic times of the year when optimum oyster spat will settle for future growth of the reef.
- The Rigs to Reef Program offers conservation-minded alternatives for the platform, as opposed to onshore disposal with no subsequent habitat value. The average platform jacket can provide up to 2 to 3 acres of hard bottom habitat for marine invertebrates and fishes, and these submerged platform jackets currently provide habitat for thousands of marine species. To date, Mississippi's Rigs to Reef Program includes eight permitted reef sites with 14 platform jackets. This habitat is beneficial to both the marine organisms that inhabit these reef systems and the commercial and recreational fishermen who seek the highly prized fish that can be found within this newly created ecosystem.

- Two methods used to monitor and update coordinates and orientation of past artificial reef material deployments are side-scan sonar, primarily used on offshore reefs, and sounding with a pole, primarily used on inshore reefs. All coordinates obtained from side-scan sonar and sounding can be found on the DMR Web site and are available to the general public. Maps are available from the Artificial Reef Program upon request.

- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to restore and diversify nearshore and offshore ecosystems through the creation of low-profile shallow-water and offshore deep-water artificial reef habitats.

Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to restore and diversify nearshore and offshore ecosystems through artificial reef habitats. Shown here is limestone being deployed near Urie Pier in Gulfport.

The Artificial Reef Bureau worked with Apache Corporation to deploy Main Pass 290 rig jacket for an offshore artificial reef.

Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) Coordinator: Michael Buchanan

Objectives:

- Conduct the MRFSS survey in Mississippi for shore, charter and private modes.
- Provide a timely and reliable database on marine recreational fishing activity.
- Identify notable changes in recreational catch and effort trends.
- Collect biological information on selected important finfish species.
- Evaluate the long-term implications of management measures.
- Conduct weekly telephone interviews of charter boat operators in Mississippi.

Status:

Recreational fisheries information was collected daily through surveys. There were over 1,900 recreational fishermen interviewed in these combined modes. The data was processed, edited and submitted to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) in a timely manner. The information gathered from the survey provides a continuous standardized database of marine recreational catch, effort and participation. This data gives the various fisheries councils information necessary to make wise management decisions. Pressure estimates were also submitted to the GSMFC according to schedule. These estimates, along with historical productivity, are used to estimate the number of assignments needed to achieve a given quota for each month. Through these assignments, all month and wave quotas were successfully met.

The MRFSS program also includes a telephone survey of the charter boat fishery. This was conducted through weekly telephone interviews of charter boat operators in Mississippi. The number of telephone interviews was based on a random selection of 10 percent of the charter boats in Mississippi. The data was entered and sent to the GSMFC on a weekly basis. GSMFC uses this information to obtain more precise effort estimates for the charter and headboat sectors.

DMR Fisheries Technician Jeff Grant collects angler information through the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey.

Sport Fish Tag and Release in Mississippi Coastal Waters and Adjacent Gulf of Mexico Coordinator: J. Read Hendon

Objectives:

- Continue the angler-cooperative tag and release of spotted seatrout in Mississippi coastal waters specifically to obtain data on the seasonal movement patterns of fish of legal size.
- Continue the angler-cooperative tag and release of cobia in Mississippi coastal waters and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico in order to obtain additional data on seasonal movement patterns of this fish.
- Continue the angler-cooperative tag and release of tripletail in Mississippi coastal waters and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico in order to obtain data on seasonal movement patterns of this fish.
- Continue the angler-cooperative tag and release of gray snapper in Mississippi coastal waters to obtain data on the seasonal movement patterns of this fish.
- Hold public workshop to exchange information relative to this project's goals and other aspects of sport fishery.

Status:

Based on project results from the most recent annual report study period:

- Seasonal movement and growth of spotted seatrout were studied utilizing angler tagged and released spotted seatrout in Mississippi coastal waters. There were 41 tagged and none recaptured.
- Seasonal movement and growth of cobia were studied utilizing angler tagged and released cobia in the Gulf of Mexico. There were 732 tagged and 52 recaptured. Similar trends of movement were observed in these recaptured fish as in other years.
- Seasonal movement and growth of tripletail were studied utilizing angler tagged and released tripletail in Mississippi coastal waters and adjacent Gulf of Mexico waters. There were 182 tagged and 33 recaptured.
- Seasonal movement and growth of gray snapper were studied utilizing angler tagged and released gray snapper in Mississippi coastal waters and adjacent Gulf of Mexico waters. There were 24 tagged and two recaptured.
- Public workshop was held in January and was attended by 50 members of the public.

A juvenile tripletail is tagged as part of the Sport Fish Tag and Release program.

Striped Bass Restoration Coordinator: Larry Nicholson

Objectives:

- Monitor habitat use patterns of striped bass by tracking acoustically tagged fish.
- Involve anglers, through a public relations effort, in reporting all tagged fish or catches of untagged striped bass and the location of capture.
- Independently sample coastal tributaries with electro-fishing to obtain abundance estimates of striped bass in coastal waters.

Status:

The striped bass monitoring project is ongoing and the equipment to tag and track striped bass has been ordered. The public has been informed through the media, posters and workshops that their help is needed in obtaining striped bass data. Independent sampling has yielded minimal results; however, with the new electro-fishing equipment and utilization of information on striped bass distribution by the public, results are expected to improve.

Sport Fish Studies in Mississippi Coastal Waters Coordinator: Read Hendon

Objectives:

- Obtain data for developing estimates of relative abundance and various life history parameters, including age-length relationships and spawning strategies, of adult/sub-adult spotted seatrout and sheepshead in Mississippi coastal waters.

- Monitor the population of adult/sub-adult spotted seatrout in Mississippi coastal waters using protocols established in previously completed work.

- Tag local shark species for population estimates and movement patterns.

- Coordinate a series of workshops to exchange information regarding the recreational fishery in Mississippi and shark identification.

Status:

Based on results of the most recent annual report study period.

- Field sampling for spotted seatrout is accomplished through 120 gill net sets along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Two hundred forty-two spotted seatrout were returned to the lab, otoliths removed for aging and sex, and length and weight obtained.

- Work is ongoing to collect sheepshead samples through a variety of independent sampling techniques (gill net, trawl and hook and line). Ninety-six fish were returned to the laboratory and processed.

- Shark sampling is ongoing. Six hundred thirty-nine sharks of various species were captured and 428 were tagged; four recaptures have been reported. The shark identification guide has been published and shark identification workshops were held at USM's Gulf Coast Research Lab (GCRL). Marine enforcement and charter boat captains attended these workshops. This guide is also available on the DMR Web site.

Gulf Coast Research Lab researchers perform shark sampling in the Biloxi Bay.

Shellfish Program
Coordinator: Scott Gordon

The Shellfish Bureau of DMR is responsible for the management of Mississippi's marine shellfish resources with two primary functions:

- Manage and enhance the resource.
- Maintain compliance with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference's National Shellfish Sanitation Program (ISSC/NSSP) Model Ordinance requirements for shellfish-growing waters.

Oysters, as sessile filter feeders, are subject to the influence of environmental conditions to a greater extent than motile species. Consequently, oyster landings can change dramatically from year to year according to those conditions. In addition to fluctuations in the amount of rainfall, problems with upland discharge can render oyster-growing areas closed to harvest. During the oyster season and throughout the year, field sampling trips are made to stations strategically located throughout the oyster reef areas to collect water samples that are analyzed for fecal coliform content.

Opening and closing of reef areas is based primarily on the levels of fecal coliform in the water column at the time of sampling. Oyster reefs in certain areas must be closed after significant rainfall or river stage events until it can be determined that the water quality has improved sufficiently to allow harvesting to resume. To accomplish this, multiple stations are sampled in each reef area or sub-area. Samples must be obtained from each area and analyzed before an area can be reopened for harvest following a closure. Water quality samples are also obtained throughout the year to properly classify shellfish-growing waters.

The Shellfish Sanitation Program is one of the agency's most labor-intensive efforts, requiring almost daily routine water-quality sampling and laboratory analysis of samples for fecal coliform bacteria. The data is used to properly classify oyster-growing waters in accordance with NSSP guidelines and to provide necessary justification for reopening oyster reefs following rainfall and/or river discharge events that degrade water quality to levels requiring that reefs be closed to protect the health of the consumers.

For areas to be classified as "Approved," the geometric mean fecal coliform level most probable number (MPN) cannot exceed 14, and not more than 10 percent of the samples taken can exceed an MPN of 43. Additionally, U.S. Food and Drug Administration requirements also specify minimum sampling frequencies at each of the 176 sampling stations in the Mississippi Sound. Approved areas are those in which water quality does not degrade after any rainfall and/or corresponding river discharge.

Areas classified as "Conditionally Approved" are subject to frequent openings and closures due to rainfall or river stage. Along with monitoring the water quality of the oyster reefs, other work performed on the reefs involves revitalization efforts such as reef cultivation, oyster relaying and the planting of cultch material.

Objectives:

- Maintain program compliance with the NSSP.
- Map Mississippi's oyster reefs.
- Survey potential cultivation sites and cultch planting sites.
- Cultivate oyster reefs.
- Deposit oyster cultch material.
- Assess reef areas.
- Work with other agencies to improve water quality.
- Educate harvesters and the public on shellfish issues.

Status:

- The 2007-2008 commercial oyster season began Sept. 5, 2007, and ended May 10, 2008. A total of 5,427 boat trips harvested 115,611 sacks of oysters.
- Spring 2007 — Limestone cultch plant, 38,017 cubic yards over 380 acres on Telegraph reef; oyster shell, 18,306 over 200 acres on Pass Marianne reef and the Nature Conservancy; oyster plant, 438 cubic yards over 5 acres in Bay of St. Louis.
- Fall 2007 — Limestone cultch plant, 22,594 cubic yards of limestone on Henderson Point and Telegraph reefs over 215 acres.
- The Spring 2008 cultch plant was postponed to the fall due to the opening of the Bonnet Carré Spillway.
- Oyster Stewardship Program — The Shellfish Bureau held an Oyster Stewardship Program Meeting on Oct. 2, 2007. Discussions centered around the 2007-2008 Mississippi oyster season. Selected harvesters and dealers were invited to go out on the R/V Conservationist to see the condition of the reefs. They were encouraged to relate that information to everyone at the Stewardship meeting. The necessity for culling their catch was also discussed.
- The Shellfish Bureau met with Mississippi oyster harvesters and signed contracts with 152 fishermen for the EDRP II oyster relay program, which began March 17, 2008, and finished April 11, 2008. Harvesters were allowed to harvest 40 sacks per day from Biloxi Bay. The sacks were loaded onto barges and relayed for seed stock to the western Mississippi Sound. A total of 68,365 sacks were harvested.
- Participated in the Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference concerning shellfish issues in New Orleans and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Oyster Technical Task Force meetings in Tampa Bay and Key Largo.

- Conducted square-meter dive sampling and resource assessments on major area reefs.

- Gathered data for growing area sanitary survey for all areas.

- Collected 2,279 fecal coliform water samples and numerous phytoplankton samples from area shellfish growing waters.

- Conducted a survey of commercial oyster harvesters for their suggestions of ideas on environmentally friendly harvest practices. Their ideas were incorporated into a brochure, printed both in English and Vietnamese. These brochures were then distributed back to commercial harvesters, to facilitate information sharing on good stewardship of Mississippi's public oyster reefs.

In Progress:

- The shellfish staff is receiving bids for deploying oyster shells for the fall 2008 cultch plant and completing sanitary surveys for areas III and V. The R/V Reef Keeper continues to be built and should be delivered in early October 2008.

- Mississippi Coastal Drainage Basin Meteorological Monitoring Stations provide continuous meteorological data on precipitation, temperature, wind speed and direction, solar radiation and atmospheric pressure. Shellfish Bureau staff has met with representatives of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and had telephone conversations with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service (NOAA/NWS) to discuss the proper selection and possible placement of the meteorological monitoring stations in areas not yet addressed through the existing real-time recording meteorological systems operated by those or other entities. Numerous meteorological equipment and software is being researched as suggested from these discussions. A future meeting will be scheduled next quarter with various entities to finalize equipment and software selections and station placement.

- DMR personnel are monitoring and assessing the recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast oyster resources.

- Surveyed, mapped and marked public reefs and potential cultivation and cultch planting sites. The DMR discussed potential areas to plant cultch material with various stakeholders, including harvesters. DMR staff on the vessel Conservationist mapped out five areas with a total of 1,650 acres to plant cultch material for the spring and fall plants in the western Mississippi Sound. These areas were identified by using side-scan sonar, cane poles, GPS and ArcPad GIS. DMR staff submitted paperwork for the Army Corps of Engineers nationwide permit for the cultch plants. PVC poles were placed on the areas where DMR staff relayed oysters.

- Emergency Disaster Recovery Program funds are being utilized to monitor and assist the recovery of Mississippi's commercial and recreational fisheries.

Planned:

- Oyster Stewardship Program — The Shellfish Bureau will schedule additional Oyster Stewardship Program Meetings to continue to develop and implement an oyster stewardship program to better inform and promote the active involvement of oyster harvesters and the industry in harvest practices and other techniques that can be used to assist resource managers in the judicious utilization of oyster resources of the state. Harvesters and industry representatives will be heavily involved throughout the development and implementation process through meetings, surveys and individual contacts. Innovative methods of improving the resource potential will be investigated and implemented when feasible.

- Oyster reef cultivation with Conservationist — By towing large dredges with the bags removed over the reefs, existing shell material covered by sedimentation or debris is re-exposed to the setting of oyster larvae. This process also breaks up clusters of hooked mussels which have encrusted the oysters, allowing oysters additional space to feed and grow.

An oyster harvester empties a sack of oysters onto a barge in April 2008 during the spring Oyster Relay Program.

Shrimp and Crab Program Coordinator: Traci Floyd

The Shrimp and Crab Program conserves and revitalizes Mississippi's shrimp and crab resource and supports habitat in order to ensure balanced and sustained utilization and maintaining stewardship of living marine resources for commercial and recreational fisheries at optimal levels as modified by social, economic and biological factors.

Objectives:

The Shrimp and Crab Bureau provides management of the state's commercial and recreational shrimp and crab fisheries. Cooperation and coordination with adjoining state agencies, as well as regional and federal fishery management authorities, are integral to the success of shrimp and crab management activities. The program includes monitoring and assessment of the shrimp and crab fisheries, coordination of the Mississippi Crab Task Force, issuance of Scientific Collection Permits, inspections and reporting of the live-bait industry, Real Time Hydrological Monitoring Program, coordination of grants with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Monitoring Program, the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission/National Marine Fisheries Service Emergency (GSMFC/NMFS) Disaster (Hurricane Katrina) Recovery Program.

The shrimp and crab fisheries are managed by the setting of seasons, gear regulations and implementation of other related management measures as required. Shrimp and Crab Bureau personnel work cooperatively with federal agencies, including the NMFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, GSMFC and the U.S. Geological Survey. Cooperating state agencies include the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, and the Mississippi State University Extension Service, as well as neighboring state marine resource management agencies.

Status:

- Monitoring of shrimp populations provides data on shrimp growth and survival allowing the bureau to make well-informed management assessments. Approximately 280 trawl samples were collected this year as part of the shrimp monitoring and other programs, including sampling in response to the 2008 Bonnet Carré Spillway opening. The data collection program includes monitoring surface and bottom hydrological parameters (i.e., salinity, temperature and dissolved oxygen) at each trawling station.

- A toll-free Mississippi Shrimp Information Hotline has been set up at 1-866-WE TRAWL (1-866-938-7295).

- Inspection of live-bait shrimp vessels and facilities, licensing and reporting. The Live Bait Program includes monthly Confidential Dealer Reports as well as inspection and licensing of these facilities (e.g., vessels, tanks and transport vehicles).

- Continuation of the Mississippi Crab Task Force in order to allow the various marine resource user groups to provide input and voice concerns on fishery management and

research activities. The task force has worked in the ongoing efforts and coordination of the GSMFC/NMFS Emergency Disaster Recovery Program for working cooperatively with fishermen on the Derelict Crab Trap Removal and recycling and the fisheries monitoring programs.

- Carry on development and maintenance of the Real-Time Hydrological Monitoring Program at nine marine sites along the Coast. The data are updated hourly and are available to the public and resource managers through the DMR Web site (dmr.ms.gov). Data, which includes salinity, temperature and gage height at selected sites, are used in making decisions regarding opening and closing of seasons, determining effects of storms and identifying hazardous conditions.

- Issuance of Saltwater Scientific Collection Permits. Recipients of Special Permits must first submit an application. Once applicant is approved worthy of merit and issued a permit, a complete report of collection or harvesting activity must be submitted to the DMR. Twenty-six (26) Special Permits have been issued over the past year.

- Coordination of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration Grants. Current studies include DMR Artificial Reef Program, Sport Fish Studies, Sport Fish Tag and Release and Striped Bass Population Monitoring.

- The Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program includes mapping and recording the number of traps, where they were collected and bycatch (species capture other than crabs). To date, over 17,000 derelict traps have been collected and recycled along the Mississippi Coast, mainly through cooperation with crab fishermen and the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

- Administration and work of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Monitoring Program. Includes program supervision and trawl sampling.

- Implementation of the GSMFC/NOAA Fishery Emergency Disaster Recovery Program (EDRP) Phase I and II, which received funding Sept. 1, 2006, has been a dominant activity for the Shrimp and Crab Bureau in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Bureau jobs under the program are Restore and Enhance Marsh Edge Habitat, Enhanced Derelict Crab Trap Gear Removal, Shrimp and Blue Crab Fishery Recovery and Monitoring System, as well as additions made to the Mississippi Hydrological Monitoring Program and Monitoring Controlling Invasive Species.

The Shrimp and Crab Bureau staff work closely with state and federal agencies, marine resources user groups, fishermen and the public and strives to promote, conserve and regulate these fisheries based on the best available biological, social and economic data available. The issuance of special collection permits is done in a manner that protects marine resources while allowing research and development to occur. Hydrological parameter instruments and stations are monitored and maintained to allow optimum data availability. Sport Fish Restoration coordination closely monitors grants to ensure that each is achieving pre-established goals. The Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program has been a successful cooperative effort, as fishermen continue to work side by side with Shrimp and Crab Bureau staff to remove marine debris. The Interjurisdictional Fisheries Monitoring Program is administered based on criteria agreed upon and utilized by all Gulf states. The GSMFC/NOAA Hurricane Katrina Fishery

Recovery Disaster Program continues to provide increasing benefits to Mississippi's marine resources but also to those individuals and communities that depend on them.

DMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau Director Traci Floyd and Fisheries Scientist Rick Burris prepare derelict crab traps, recovered from marine waters by commercial fishermen, to be sent for recycling.

Fisheries Technician Rudy Balius installs dockside signs to remind boaters of penalties for stealing crab traps.

Fisheries Projects Officer Darrin Stewart explains trip ticket forms to shrimp fishers as part of EDRP Fisheries Monitoring.

Fisheries Scientist Bill Richardson prepares to seine sample in search of marine invasive species.

Seafood Technology Program
Coordinator: Ruth Alviola-Posadas

Objectives:

- Ensure that suitable sanitary conditions exist for processing and distribution of seafood in Mississippi.
- Assist the seafood industry in compliance with sanitation rules and regulations, and provide technical assistance to the Mississippi seafood industry.
- Conduct regulatory inspections of shellfish processing and transporting facilities to determine compliance with state and federal sanitation and health safety regulations.
- Provide technical advice to the Mississippi seafood processing industry to aid in compliance with seafood sanitation and health safety regulations.
- Provide technical advice to the seafood processing industry regarding new technologies and new products that provide added value, new markets, employment opportunities and economic enhancement for the seafood industry.
- Provide technical advice to those interested in aquaculture and aid in expanding economic and employment opportunities.
- Provide technical expertise in investigating reports of food-borne illness and certifying product recalls and embargo according to state and federal instituted protocols and procedures.
- Undertake research projects in line with seafood technical surveys; promotion of Mississippi seafood; seafood safety education and sanitation training in line with the goals of the Mississippi seafood industry to disseminate information and educate consumers and food handlers in the seafood industry.
- Provide advice and support for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce regarding aquaculture regulatory matters.
- Participate and provide assistance to the Mississippi Food Safety Task Force in promoting food safety education to the public through participation in public fairs, public meetings and events.

Status:

The total number of technical assistance actions provided was 4,300. Examples are as follows:

- Provided oyster dealers, crab and shrimp processors and retail stores with new seafood manuals, including regulations and a technical assistance packet.

- Provided seafood processors with a copy of the new changes in the Model Ordinance that was adapted during the Biennial conference of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference's National Shellfish Sanitation Program (ISSC/NSSP).

- Provided pamphlets, brochures and other educational materials on post-harvest processing of oysters and seafood safety to the Mississippi seafood industry, community colleges, universities and city libraries.

- Co-sponsored a bi-annual Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and Sanitation training course for the industry in December 2007 and April 2008.

- Hosted FDA Training Course on Plant Sanitation Procedures for the state regulators and the industry in January 2008.

- Reprinted all oyster post-harvest processing educational and promotional materials, including the poster, brochure, fact sheet, flyer and cookbook, for distribution to the different states and state *Vibrio* education coordinators at different meetings, conventions, conferences, trade shows, workshops, festivals and training events.

- Participated in the Biennial Meeting of the ISSC at Albuquerque, N.M., held Aug.11-17, 2007.

- Participated in the *Vibrio vulnificus* education subcommittee meeting at St. Louis, Mo., held April 1-3, 2008.

- Provided the industry and the public with ISSC's brochure "The Risk of Eating Raw Oysters and *Vibrio vulnificus*" during fairs and seafood festivals along the coast and the "Shellfish Harvesting Video: The Safe Handling of Shellstock, Overboard Discharge and No-Discharge Zones."

- Participated in the following events for promotional, educational and public outreach, working together with the DMR Seafood Marketing Program. A food safety booth was set up at all these events where packets of pamphlets, handouts, brochures, fact sheets, recent news articles on seafood safety and new post-harvest processing technologies materials were given out:

  — 15 public outreach events from July 2007 to June 2008

  — Year 1 of a four-year research grant project "EDRP II: Seafood testing."

- Distributed the following educational materials for the Mississippi and Gulf Coast oyster industry:

  — Flyer on "Post-Harvest Processing Technologies for Oysters."

  — Poster on "Post-Harvest Processing Technologies for Oysters."

  — Brochure on "Available Technologies for Post-Harvest Processing of Oysters."

— Fact sheet on “Post-Harvest Oyster Processing Technologies.”
— Volume 1 of an oyster cookbook.

- Distributed copies of the seafood business guide “How to Start a Seafood Business in Southern Mississippi” and seafood business brochure “How to Start a Seafood Business.”

- Distributed seafood safety packets to 78 hospitals, medical health clinics and doctor’s offices on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

- Published and distributed a cookbook, “Oyster Recipes, Vol. 2,” for marketing promotions of oysters as a value-added product.

- Prepared sanitation labels and posters in Spanish and Vietnamese and distributed to the Mississippi seafood industry.

- Sent semiannual mail-outs to certified Mississippi seafood dealers about industry concerns and food safety, including updated 2007 ISSC Model Ordinance, and other educational materials and fact sheets (35 seafood dealers).

- Ongoing assistance to the newly recertified seafood dealers and processors.

- Assisted old and new seafood dealers in their certification and permitting of operations, for a grand total of 35 certified seafood dealers.

- Implemented FDA-ISSC *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* control measures that took effect June 20, 2008. Changes in the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Plan of every certified seafood dealer were examined, changed and signed. Mail-outs of regulations also were done.

- Assisted two Mississippi seafood dealers in the FDA certification of oyster post-harvest processing operations.

Types of Seafood Facilities Permitted	**Number**
Shrimp	19
Crab	10
Oyster	25

Total number of seafood sanitation/processing permits: . . . 54*

*These 54 permits represent 515 inspected seafood units.

Seafood Technology staff oversees the disposal of recalled oysters in March 2008.

Bureau Director Ruth Posadas shows a young visitor literature on seafood safety at the DMR Seafood Technology booth at the 2007 Jackson County Fair in Pascagoula.

Seafood Officer Jeff Davis inspects a shrimp processing plant.

Coastal Ecology Office
Office Director: Jan Boyd

Objectives:

Implementation of the Mississippi Coastal Program is the primary responsibility of the Office of Coastal Ecology. The Mississippi Coastal Program was legislatively mandated in Section 51-15-6 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 and approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under the provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972. In addition to coastal management responsibilities, Coastal Ecology also administers the Coastal Preserves Program, the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Grand Bay NERR), Wetlands Permitting and other special projects.

The Coastal Ecology Office also:

- Implements and evaluates Coastal Zone projects and programs.
- Implements the Mississippi Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program (CZMA Section 6217).
- Develops and maintains grants and programs for DMR for marine resource management and protection.
- Provides technical assistance to other DMR operations, other state agencies and local governmental bodies.
- Tracks state and federal legislation pertaining to coastal and marine resource management.
- Inspects historical permit files for compliance with mitigation requirements and tracks permits through a database.
- Reviews mitigation required for unavoidable impacts for new permits.
- Represents the agency on the Mitigation Bank Review Team.

Status:

The DMR receives annual funding from NOAA to meet coastal management objectives. These funds are used to provide personnel salaries and administrative support, purchase equipment and cover required office expenses and travel. Coastal management staff participates in various public outreach and education efforts and provides comments to local news media concerning coastal management issues when requested through the Public Affairs Bureau.

One of the agency's conservation efforts, the Coastal Preserves Program, involves acquiring, protecting and enhancing tidal wetlands along the coast. The Grand Bay NERR in Jackson County is further facilitating wetland research and education by making its resources available to researchers from all over the country. Many federal, state and local agencies are participating in this program, as well as community organizations, economic development interests and local environmental groups.

Wetlands Permitting Program
Coordinator: Willa Henriksen

Objectives:

The Permitting staff administers the regulatory program under the Coastal Wetlands Protection Act and reviews proposed projects for Coastal Zone Consistency determinations under NOAA Federal Consistency guidelines in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Under the regulatory program, DMR provides information on the Coastal Wetlands Protection Act to the public, evaluates applications for proposed Coastal Wetland impacts, reviews comments from state, federal and local agencies and from the general public, and conducts on-site inspections of proposed project locations. Applications are evaluated in accordance with the Guidelines for Regulated Activities and Decision Factors as stated in the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP). Information gathered during the review is compiled and a DMR recommendation is made to the Commission on Marine Resources to issue, condition or deny major permits. Some activities may require a variance from the Guidelines or the Wetlands Use Plan. If so, staff compiles the necessary data to make such evaluations. Staff members also conduct many pre-application meetings where they give advice to applicants and review potential wetland alterations before an application is filed. This may necessitate an on-site inspection and/or considerable office review time. Permitting staff also verify compliance of permitted activities and investigate potential wetlands violations as well as violations of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 jurisdictional wetlands. Permitting staff also recommends mitigation, as appropriate, to compensate for wetlands loss.

For Coastal Zone Consistency determinations, applications for USACE Section 404 permits within the three coastal counties of Hancock, Harrison and Jackson and in the Federal Outer Continental Shelf area in the Gulf of Mexico are reviewed for consistency with the Guidelines in the MCP in a similar manner as described above. These reviews are also coordinated with other state and local agencies.

Status:

Consistencies 71

MMS OCS/NMFS Consistencies 44

After-the-fact Consistencies 2

Consistency Modifications 7

Exclusions 12

After-the-fact Exclusions 1

General Permits 301

General Permit Modifications 62

General Permit Extensions 6

General Permit Modification/ After-the-fact 5

After-the-fact General Permit 9

Permits 24

Permit Modifications 14

Permit Extensions 4

Waivers 43

Waiver Modifications 2

Waiver Extension 1

After-the-fact Waiver 1

Reviews 159

Violations 168

Total: 936

Greg Christodoulou of the DMR's Wetlands Permitting Bureau conducts an initial site visit on a permit application.

Coastal Preserves Program
Coordinator: Jeff Clark

The Coastal Preserves Program (CPP) was developed in 1992 to acquire, protect and manage Mississippi's remaining coastal wetland ecosystems. The state has identified 20 Coastal Preserve sites of important coastal wetland habitat and associated uplands. Acquired lands are managed to safeguard and protect their natural characteristics, ecological integrity, environmental functions and economic and recreational values for the benefit of all Mississippi residents. The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office is an active partner in the program.

Objectives:

The objectives of the CPP are to acquire land within the state's 20 Coastal Preserve areas, protect sensitive coastal habitats, coordinate biological surveys and assessments and develop individual Coastal Preserve management plans. This program is also charged with developing a public outreach and education program to increase public awareness and interest in Mississippi's coastal wetlands, develop partnerships with federal, state and local agencies, and identify alternative approaches to protection and restoration of wetlands along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Status:

Currently, the state has title to approximately 35,242 acres of critical Coastal Preserve habitat. The National Park Service's Gulf Islands National Seashore and U.S. Fish and Wildlife's National Wildlife Refuges own and manage an additional 10,000 acres within the Coastal Preserve boundaries. More than 44,000 of the 72,000 acres identified as critical Coastal Preserve habitat are now protected. The program continues to pursue additional acquisitions.

During FY2008, the CPP focused its efforts on minimizing the damage caused by the most serious invasive plant species on the CPP lands and waterways: Giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), Chinese tallowtree (*Triadica sebiferum*), and cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*). The control techniques used on these species were prescribed fire, mechanical removal and herbicide applications. The majority of this work occurred on three heavily infested sites totaling nearly 300 acres, but numerous smaller infestations were also treated. The program worked closely with federal, state and local partners to develop habitat restoration projects involving the beneficial use of dredge material. The program worked with the Gulf Coast Conservation Corps to remove hurricane debris by hand from areas too sensitive for machinery, to help with invasive species control and to help replant portions of the Deer Island Marsh Restoration Project. The program worked with the Nature Conservancy, the Conservation Fund, the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain, various grant programs and others to identify and acquire conservation properties on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. A Katrina-damaged boardwalk in the Hancock County Marsh Coastal Preserve was repaired and work has begun on repairing damage to other CPP trails. CPP staff conducted numerous presentations and field trips on the importance and value of the natural resources in our coastal wetlands.

Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock instructs DMR staff, regulatory staff from other agencies and educators on how to identify wetland plant species.

Gulf Coast Conservation Corps members plant marsh and dune vegetation as part of the Deer Island Marsh Restoration Project.

The Grand Bay NERR is constructing a new $7 million reserve facility, the Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center.

A pair of kayakers tour the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve NERR Manager: David Ruple

The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) is an 18,500-acre reserve comprising state land and water and several thousand acres within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) located in Jackson County, Miss. The reserve staff facilitates many engaging programs, including those addressing coastal stewardship, applied and basic estuarine research, coastal training, habitat monitoring, education, public interpretation and outreach. The DMR serves as lead state agency for this federal/state partnership reserve, interacting with the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Estuarine Reserves Division on program development and grant management. The Grand Bay NERR is one of 27 reserves within the federal estuarine research reserves system.

In addition to the DMR partnership with NOAA, local reserve management partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Grand Bay NWR, the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office, the Nature Conservancy, the University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State University and a Citizens Advisory Committee. Through its diverse programs and its local, federal and reserve system partnerships, the Grand Bay NERR provides a powerful tool for the DMR and the citizens of Mississippi to aid in the protection of not only Mississippi's natural and heritage resources but also those of the entire Gulf of Mexico region.

Objectives:

- Protect representative estuaries along the nation's coastline.
- Develop partnerships to jointly manage and protect coastal wetlands.
- Conduct informed management and stewardship of reserve properties.
- Achieve scientific understanding through developing a comprehensive research program.
- Facilitate educational programs that translate scientific research into meaningful information to the general public and stakeholders.

Status:

- Continued the educational partnership with the Gulf Coast Research Lab's J.L. Scott Marine Education Center.
- Continued co-sponsoring research with the Environmental Cooperative Science Center through Jackson State University that includes a new on-site program coordinator.
- Began construction of the new $7 million reserve facility, Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center.
- Upgraded the equipment of the System Wide Monitoring Program that provides both water quality and weather monitoring equipment, adding telemetry systems that provide near real-time data.

- Co-sponsored the annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference.
- Participated in the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair, Renew our Rivers, Wild Wings Ecotourism Festival, Celebrate the Gulf and the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup planning task forces.
- Conducted presentations and field trips for various civic and school groups.
- Sponsored and facilitated a variety of Coastal Training Program workshops, including a Funding Fair, Wetland Delineation Living Shorelines, Wetland Identification, Wetland Permitting, Hydric Soils, Coastal Applications and Coastal Inundation.
- Hosted nationally renowned botanist Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock to teach a class on wetland vegetation.
- Participated in the planning of the Alabama-Mississippi Bays and Bayous Symposium.
- Recruited and mentored several schools for EstuaryLive.
- Continued a Nekton Sampling Program to evaluate the current status of reserve fishes.
- Continued conservation planning work for the salt marsh topminnow in the northern Gulf of Mexico.
- Established a new Web site for the reserve, www.grandbaynerr.org.
- Continued SAV monitoring.
- Participated in Gulf of Mexico Alliance Priority Issue Teams and received funding for Alliance-related projects.
- Completed a Site Profile, characterizing the flora and fauna of the reserve.
- Continued a study to evaluate the growth and productivity of intertidal oysters at the reserve.
- Collaborated with Louisiana State University and the University of Southern Illinois on a study to evaluate changes in coastal plant communities relating to sea level rise and impacts from hurricanes.

Tidelands and Liaison Office
Tidelands Grant Management
Coordinator: Joe Ziegler

Objectives:

Section 29-15-9 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 (Annotated), which establishes the Tidelands Trust Fund, specifies:

"Any funds derived from lease rentals of tidelands and submerged lands, except those funds derived from mineral leases, or funds previously specifically designated to be applied to other agencies, shall be transferred to the special fund. However, funds derived from lease rentals may be used to cover the administrative cost incurred by the Secretary of State. Any remaining funds derived from lease rentals shall be disbursed pro rata to the local taxing authorities for the replacement of lost ad valorum taxes, if any. Then, any remaining funds shall be disbursed to the commission for new and extra programs of tidelands management, such as conservation, reclamation, preservation, acquisition, education or the enhancement of public access to the public trust tidelands or public improvement projects as they relate to those lands."

Section 29-15-10 of the Mississippi Code of 1972 (Annotated), which established the Public Trust Tidelands Assessments Fund, specifies:

"There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to be known as the Public Trust Tidelands Assessments Fund. The purpose of the fund is to ensure that monies derived from the public trust tidelands assessments shall be used for the benefit of preserving and protecting the tidelands and submerged lands found within the three (3) most southern counties of the state. One (1) specific purpose of the fund is to ensure that the annual payment made by the state for the purchase of Deer Island shall continue uninterrupted until the purchase transaction is completed."

Funds paid pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection may be appropriated by the Legislature in an amount necessary to cover the administrative cost incurred by the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources. Any remaining funds shall be disbursed by the commission for new and extra programs of tidelands management, such as conservation, reclamation, preservation, acquisition, education or the enhancement of public access to the public trust tidelands or public improvement projects as they relate to those lands.

The Department of Marine Resources shall make funds available for the purpose of using such funds as a match or leverage for federal or other funds that are available for the designated tidelands project.

Status:

The DMR Tidelands & Liaison Office disbursed funds for the following categories of projects:

- Deer Island Bond Payment
- Department of Marine Resources Programs and Matching
- Management
- Public Access Projects

Total Funds Disbursed for FY2008: $3.3 million

Secretary of State Eric Clark presents the FY2008 Tidelands checks. Pictured, from left, state Rep. Steven Palazzo, DMR Chief of Staff Joe Ziegler, state Rep. Randall Patterson, state Rep. Roger Ishee, state Sen. Billy Hewes III, DMR Executive Director Dr. William Walker, Secretary of State Eric Clark and state Rep. Michael Janus.

License Sales
Coordinator: Russell Doucet

Objectives:

It is the objective of the license sales department to maintain the fishing license system; to set up accounts and subsequent license orders; to maintain account balances by agent, license type and license number; to ensure timely depositing of all license revenues; and to keep accounting for overall sales data by license type.

Status:

The Administrative Services Office is responsible for selling commercial marine licenses and resident fresh and saltwater licenses. License sales personnel are busiest during the final quarter of the fiscal year, as all commercial licenses expire on April 30. Recreational licenses expire one year from date of purchase. In addition to selling licenses on a daily basis, license sales personnel communicate with the public on a regular basis. Providing accurate information to the public is important when dealing with regulatory matters such as the opening and closing dates of various fishing seasons, catch limits on the fisheries and license requirements. The consequence of error can be great.

DMR License Agent Russell Doucet sells saltwater fishing licenses and answers questions with a smile.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 LICENSE SALES

License Type	# SOLD	$ AMOUNT
Resident Licenses		
Captain's License	155	$1,550.00
Charter/Fishing/Party Boat	76	$15,200.00
Crab	154	$11,550.00
Crab for Shrimp/Oyster	62	$4,650.00
Fishing Boat License	145	$14,500.00
Interstate Commerce	253	$5,060.00
Interstate Commerce for Charter Boats	46	$920.00
Live Bait License-Boat	15	$1,650.00
Live Bait License-Dealer	15	$750.00
Menhaden Boat & Net	8	$1,200.00
Menhaden Processor	1	$500.00
Oyster Dredging	222	$24,420.00
Oyster Tonging	65	$3,900.00
Recreational Crab	487	$2,435.00
Recreational Oyster	20	$200.00
Recreational Shrimp	293	$4,395.00
Resident Commercial Hook & Line/Vessel Gig	128	$12,800.00
Residential Commercial Hook & Line/Fisherman/Gig	203	$20,300.00
Seafood Dealer	177	$17,700.00
Resident Eel Fishing License	0	$0.00
Seafood Transport	15	$1,500.00
Shrimp/Captain 30-45'	144	$12,240.00
Shrimp/Captain 46' over	221	$24,310.00
Shrimp/Captain under 30'	125	$7,500.00
Total Resident License Sales	**3,030**	**$189,230.00**
Louisiana Resident Licenses		
Louisiana Resident Commercial Crab.	2	$1,320.00
Louisiana Resident Gear (1 trawl).	1	$100.00
Louisiana Resident Menhaden/Vessel/Comm + Named Captain	0	$0.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Dredging	1	$1,070.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Dredging w/current MS Shrimp License	1	$200.00
Louisiana Resident Oyster Harvester	1	$400.00
Louisiana Resident Recreational Crab	22	$880.00
Louisiana Resident Recreational Shrimp	0	$0.00
Louisiana Resident Seafood Dealer	14	$16,100.00
Louisiana Resident Seafood Dealer Vehicle	39	$1,170.00
Louisiana Resident Shrimp (1 Trawl) + Captain License.	0	$0.00
Louisiana Resident Shrimp (2 Trawl) + Captain License.	33	$26,400.00
Total Louisiana Resident License Sales	**114**	**$47,640.00**

Alabama Licenses

Alabama Charter Boat 7-25 people.	0	$0.00
Alabama Oyster Dredging	34	$7,140.00
Alabama Oyster Tonging	45	$4,950.00
Alabama Minnow License	0	$0.00
Alabama Seafood Dealer	10	$2,500.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain 30'-45'	22	$1,870.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain 46' over	61	$6,710.00
Alabama Shrimp/Captain under 30'	2	$120.00
Alabama Charter Boat 6 or fewer people	0	$0.00
Alabama Crab	13	$2,600.00
Total Alabama Resident License Sales	**187**	**$25,890.00**

All Other States

Crab for Shrimp/Oyster Boats	0	$0.00
Nonresident Charter Boat	5	$1,000.00
Fishing Boat	17	$5,100.00
Hook/Line/Vessell	1	$400.00
Hook/Line/Fisherman/Gig	3	$1,200.00
Recreational Crab	9	$45.00
Recreational Shrimp	2	$60.00
Seafood Dealer	9	$1,800.00
Shrimp 30'-45' Out-of-State + Captain License	5	$800.00
Shrimp over 45' +Captain License	53	$11,130.00
Shrimp under 30' + Captain License	0	$0.00
Texas Commercial Shrimp.	0	$0.00
Total Other States License Sales	**104**	**$21,535.00**
GRAND TOTAL	**3,435**	**$284,295.00**

Residents from other states are assessed the identical license fees that Mississippi residents are charged to conduct similar activities in those states as provided under Section 49-15-30 of the Mississippi Code.

Information Technology Coordinator: Alan McArthur

Objectives:

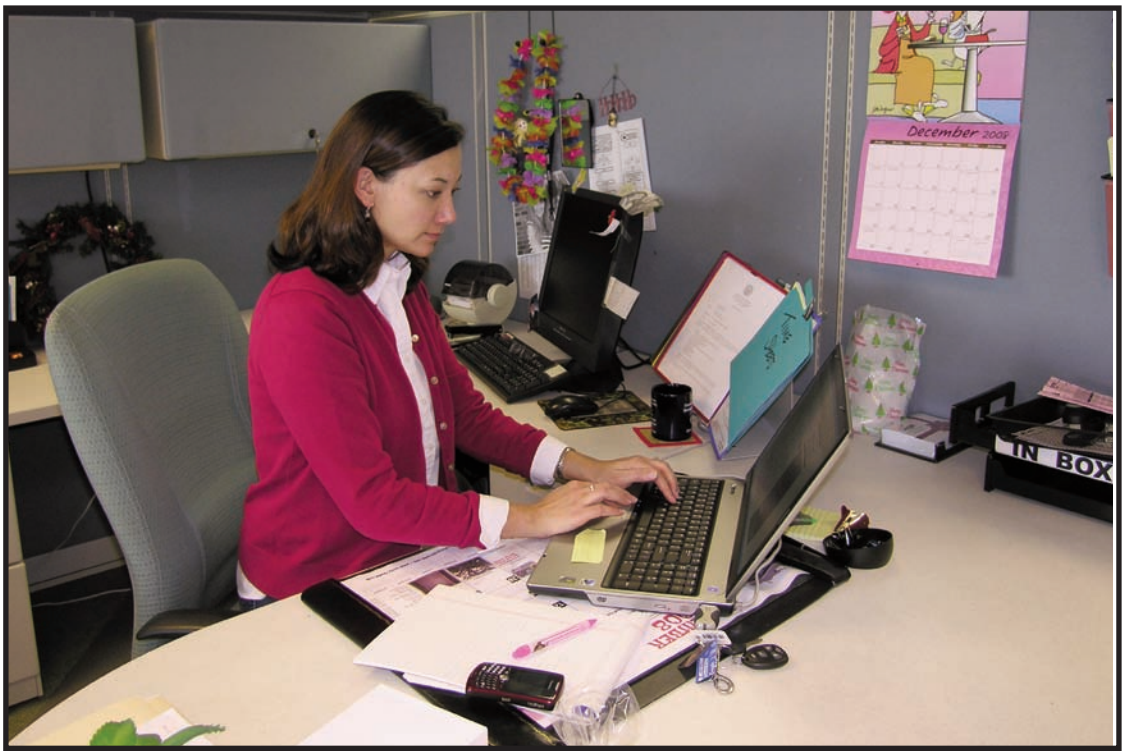
The Information Technology Bureau (ITB) Program exists to aid policymakers and programmatic personnel in accomplishing their tasks and to support the business goals of the agency. To accomplish this, vast amounts of data are both available and required. Computer technology provides the method to store, access and apply the information available to the task at hand. Each office of the DMR requires ITB services to accomplish the following goals and objectives:

- Network maintenance and administration.
- Hardware and software purchase and maintenance.
- Database development and management.
- Internet, intranet and e-mail management and maintenance.
- Web site(s) development, management and maintenance.

Status:

The following accomplishments highlight the work of the program during FY2008:

- Supported 150-plus personnel and more than 250 computers, laptops, servers, printers and storage devices.
- Supported the agency phone system and voice mail.
- Supported the e-mail service that makes e-mail available through the Internet at all times.
- Supported Blackberry cell phones, making communications easier and more convenient for agency employees.
- Established procedures for off-site backups to secure the agency's data. Began working towards procuring more state-of-the-art servers and storage to enable electronic backups and to provide data and processing redundancy.
- Continued use of Help Desk management software that enables agency employees to submit, review and manage service requests to ITB.
- Provided Web development services.
- Provided database development and management services.
- Provided customer service to all agency employees.



DMR Programmer Analyst Kimberly Denz keeps the department Web site updated and running smoothly.

Property Management Coordinator: Leo Christie

Objectives:

It is the objective of the Property Management Program to maintain accountability for all state property items under the Department of Marine Resources management, to submit all required reports to the Office of Property and to assist with the annual property audit and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) report as pertains to acquisition/disposal. The Property Management Program also maintains all pool vehicles to ensure their operational readiness at all times.

Status:

An overview of property inventory activities in FY08:

Number of equipment items on inventory beginning July 1, 2007 2,308

Cost of additions to inventory $2,154,101.03

Cost of deletions to inventory $1,201,365.20

Number of items on inventory as of June 30, 2008 2,509

Number of buildings on inventory as of June 30, 2008 17

Beginning balance of all inventory items as of July 1, 2007 . . . . . .$7,882,520.90

Ending balance of all inventory items as of June 30, 2008 . . . . . .$8,882,129.46

This 42-foot GEO Hydrofoil Catamaran was acquired for the Artificial Reef Bureau to be used for hydro-acoustic surveying and monitoring of artificial reefs.

Purchasing Coordinator: Beth Roberts

Objectives:

The Purchasing Program objectives are to cooperate with the Office of Purchasing and Travel and other regulatory agencies in complying with all Mississippi purchasing rules and regulations, assist employees within the agency in all aspects of purchasing and promote competition among vendors, thereby reducing costs.

Status:

An overview of purchasing activities in FY08:

P-1 approval obtained from state purchasing 20

Purchase orders issued 1,908

Conducted formal bid openings 15

General Service contracts processed 66

State Personnel Board contracts processed 4

Amount of expenditures made with procurement cards $181,621

Purchasing continues to be dedicated to supporting the various programs provided by the DMR through the procurement of equipment, supplies and contractual services in a timely manner.

From left, Purchasing Coordinator Beth Roberts, Janet Doucet and Karen Carron ensure all DMR purchases follow state purchasing regulations.

Accounting:
Coordinator: Kara Vesa

Objectives:

It is the objective of the accounting department to maintain all financial records for the DMR to include accounts payable, accounts receivable, revenue support systems, general ledgers, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) financial reporting, payroll, budget/appropriation assistance, bank reconciliations, cash management, etc.

Status:

An overview of property accounting activities in FY08:

- Processed 3,924 payment vouchers.
- Sixty-seven payrolls processed for an average of 168 employees each month; reviewed and input data from timesheets into payroll system.
- Special fund revenues in excess of $8 million were deposited in the treasury through approximately 120 receipt transactions.
- Federal grant accounting was performed on approximately 50 various grants through the Department of Interior, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Joint Enforcement Agreement. This resulted in revenues totaling over $24 million.
- Approximately 270 travel packets reviewed, processed and approved for payment.

Clean Vessel Act
Coordinator: Rhonda Price

The Clean Vessel Act Program's mission is to enhance, protect and conserve the coastal resources of Mississippi through the installation and maintenance of pump-outs. The grant is provided by the Department of Marine Resources in cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program. It is a cost reimbursable grant that pays for 75 percent of the cost to install pump-outs or pump-out boats.

Objectives:
The program objectives are to monitor the maintenance and operations of marinas that have installed pump-outs at their facility, making sure they provide adequate service to the public in concert with the agreements of the grant. Outreach programs will also be initiated to promote public awareness about nonpoint source pollution and the Clean Vessel Act Program. The program also plans to increase the number of pump-outs located throughout Mississippi.

Status:

To date there are 20 inland pump-outs with four under construction. There were 25 pump-outs installed on the coast but all were lost to Hurricane Katrina. Because there were no functioning pump-outs along the coast, the DMR commissioned Mississippi's first pump-out boat, which is operated by Mitchell Marine. Since the storm the pump-out boat has been a great asset to boaters local and transit. New funds allocated for the coastal program will re-establish at least eight new pump-outs and most of them will be slip-to-slip designs, which will allow boaters leasing those slips a more convenient and expeditious way to pump out their boats. The pump-out boat was purchased with funds allocated under the Clean Vessel Act Program. The budget for fiscal year 2008 was $120,000 for coastal and $108,000 for inland. The program is currently undergoing reauthorization for six more years.

A pump-out boat was purchased with funds allocated under the Clean Vessel Act Program to provide pump-out services in the three coastal counties and the barrier islands.

Derelict Vessel Removal Coordinator: Irvin Jackson

Objectives:

The principal objectives of this program are to enforce state laws through removal and disposal of derelict vessels, thereby, protecting our environment and keeping our coastal wetlands and navigable waterways safe for use by the general public. Tidelands Trust Funds are requested each year to achieve these objectives.

Status:

FY2008 continued to be a challenging year for the program. Hurricane Katrina created numerous derelict vessels that caused health and safety issues as well as hazards to navigation. The Derelict Vessel Removal Program has worked closely with the U.S. Coast Guard and FEMA to remove many of these vessels under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Others were handled by private owners and their insurance companies.

During this year, eight vessels were removed under the Derelict Vessel Removal Program. In addition to this, approximately 15 derelict vessels of various sizes were removed under the Marine Debris Removal Mission with the U.S. Coast Guard and funded by FEMA. The Marine Debris Removal Mission has now ended and the U.S. Coast Guard is demobilizing and performing final administrative closeouts. Hurricanes Gustav and Ike have created numerous new derelict vessels, which will be addressed in FY09. Since inception of the Derelict Vessel Removal Program in May 1998, the program has removed 178 vessels from the waterways of Harrison, Hancock and Jackson counties.

Examples of derelict vessels that were removed from Mississippi waters.

Public Affairs Program
Coordinator: Lauren Thompson

Through a proactive program of community outreach, education, public information, and legislative and media relations, Public Affairs promotes awareness of the Department of Marine Resources, its roles, responsibilities and programs in balancing economic interests with enhancing, protecting, managing and conserving Mississippi's marine resources.

Objectives:

- Enthusiastically support and promote the Department's mission both externally and internally.
- Accurately report on departmental program activities and disseminate this information to the citizens and guests of the Mississippi Gulf Coast in a timely manner.
- Continually improve the public's perception of the Department by responding promptly and thoroughly to public requests for information.
- Maintain open lines of communications within the Department and between the DMR and Mississippi citizens, legislators, agencies and media.
- Proactively handle crisis communications for the Department, such as boating accidents, fish kills and controversial issues, and respond promptly to media inquiries.
- Plan and schedule DMR events and participation in outreach activities, partnering with public and private entities whenever possible.
- Develop timely, newsworthy, effective, high-quality deliverables that promote the missions of Marine Fisheries, Coastal Ecology and Marine Patrol and educate the public.
- Ensure all DMR programs are promoted effectively to maximize news coverage in order to keep the public informed.

Status:

In fiscal year 2008, the Public Affairs staff reached large volumes of diverse audiences through producing a variety of marine environment publications and displays, organizing media coverage of DMR programs, coordinating educational outreach activities with Coast schools and DMR partners and participating in 36 public education, community outreach and marine-related events across South Mississippi. About 32,230 people visited the DMR exhibits and obtained DMR information at these events. Public Affairs distributed about 106,220 brochures to the public.

During fiscal year 2008, Public Affairs printed 12 individual publications (quantity of 119,300) and 10 individual educational/outreach items (quantity of 99,500) for a total of 218,800 items. Among the items produced were 40,000 copies of "A Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing: Rules and Regulations," 10,000 pocket guides to size and possession limits, 10,000 copies of

the educational activity book for children “CoastWorks,” and 10,000 copies of “Mississippi Boater’s Guide.”

Two major educational outreach programs organized and coordinated by DMR Public Affairs are the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, held every year in the fall in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup, and the annual calendar contest, which solicits art entries from area schoolchildren to spotlight in the “Marine Information Calendar.”

During the 2007 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, more than 3,483 volunteers picked up 58,830 pounds of trash at 55 sites along 156 miles of beaches and shorelines in the three Coast counties. More than 1,300 entries from 30 schools were submitted to the DMR calendar art contest. Students in grades 3 through 6 were asked to create artwork illustrating the contest theme, “Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi’s Coastal Resources.” The winning artwork was featured in the 2008 calendar.

Public Affairs also plans and promotes, with Grand Bay NERR and partners, Celebrate the Gulf, a free festival that features hands-on exhibits addressing marine and estuarine environmental issues and recreational and commercial activities associated with the Gulf.

Publications:

- Two 12-page issues of Coastal Markers, DMR external newsletter
- 2008-2009 Guide to Saltwater Fishing Rules and Regulations book
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources 2008 Marine Information Calendar (includes tide charts, sunrise/sunset times, moon phases, size/possession limits, reef coordinates, Mississippi saltwater fishing state records, boating safety information, student artwork)
- Mississippi Boater’s Guide (includes equipment checklist, pump-out locations, marine litter sticker), revised and reprinted
- CoastWorks: A student activity book about Mississippi’s Coastal Resources, reprinted
- Pocket Guide: Mississippi Saltwater Recreational Fishing Size & Possession Limits, revised and reprinted
- Gone Crabbing
- Gone Shrimping
- Gone Oystering
- Annual report

Educational/Outreach Items:

- Recycled denim pencils with DMR phone number/Web site
- Marine Patrol boating safety/emergency phone number key fobs
- Fish measuring ruler stickers, revised and reprinted
- Jr. Marine Patrol stickers
- Pens with DMR phone number/Web site
- Bookmarks with boater's pledge to protect fish habitat
- Marine litter regulation stickers
- Turtle stickers with marine debris message
- Marine Patrol boater safety whistles
- Can You Identify These Marine Resources? wooden rulers

Media and Community Relations:

Public affairs produced and disseminated 127 news releases, pitched story ideas and responded to media inquiries that resulted in 692 articles published in 14 local, national and international news publications and Web sites, more than 50 television news broadcasts and numerous radio news reports. Public Affairs staff reported more than 313 conversations with media contacts in FY08.

For its role as state coordinator of the 2007 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, DMR Public Affairs accepted on behalf of DMR and its partners a first-place Keep Mississippi Beautiful award in the State category at an awards luncheon in Jackson in April 2008 and a KMB Partnership Award. This is the eighth consecutive year the DMR has received Keep Mississippi Beautiful awards.

DMR Public Affairs staff served on various local, state, regional and national public education and community outreach task forces, panels and committees, such as the National Marine Debris Advisory Panel, Gulf of Mexico Alliance workshop planning team, Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, Ocean Today Kiosk pilot project workgroup, Public Relations Association of Mississippi, and as state coordinator for Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.

In FY2009, Public Affairs will print a marine information calendar, 2009-2010 Guide to Mississippi Saltwater Fishing Rules and Regulations and pocket guide to size and possession limits. Under development are printing of educational items, including an eco-friendly recycled paper bag with environmental stewardship message; coastal resources student art contest; and a brochure about Mississippi's fishing line recycling program, launched in May 2008.

DMR Public Relations Director Lauren Thompson hands out saltwater fish posters as artist Marty Wilson signs his artwork at Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival in Pass Christian.

DMR Public Relations Representative Lisa Damiano Jones explains the 'Stash Your Trash' game to a participant at Earth Day 2008 at Gulf Islands National Seashore in Ocean Springs.

Public Relations Representative Shelly Becker greets a young visitor at the DMR booth at the Moss Point River Jamboree at Riverfront Park.

Human Resources Management Coordinator: Dorothy L. Daniel

Objectives:

The Human Resources Office is dedicated to providing human resources services to both internal and external customers in the areas of grants and contracts review; recruitment; selection; retention; classification; compensation; organizational structure; staffing management; personnel budgeting; professional development training; benefits administration, including cafeteria plan enrollment, leave policy interpretation and Workers' Compensation administration; personnel records management; human resources compliance with applicable state and federal laws; job content questionnaire and performance appraisal review; and oversight of discipline, grievance and appeals. The Human Resources staff strives to provide these functions in a manner that reflects high standards of excellence and timeliness, is accurate and cost effective, is provided in a courteous fashion and is legally defensible.

FY2008 Accomplishments:

- Increased participation in the DMR/Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Intern Program.
- Conducted New Employee Orientation for all new employees.
- Maintained an active recruitment network with local WIN Job Centers, Mississippi colleges and universities, Stennis Space Center and Keesler Air Force Base.
- Networked with CareerBuilder to provide the DMR with a diversity recruitment package; networked with the Mississippi State Personnel Board to develop a diversity recruitment package for the DMR.
- Continued to monitor the DMR's personnel expenditures for compliance and cost continuation.
- Restructured the functions of the Human Resources Office to ensure more efficient services to DMR employees and the public.
- Conducted annual comprehensive salary survey in order to keep the DMR unique job classifications' starting salaries competitive with the labor market for comparable jobs.
- Maintained the agency's organizational chart.
- Provided guidance to the DMR employee-driven Insurance Committee and facilitated its activities in conducting an employee benefits needs assessment for supplemental insurance products and Cafeteria Plan Enrollment.
- Actively participated in several human resources professional organizations, training activities and professional development seminars.

- Conducted and/or sponsored numerous in-house professional development trainings.

- Aggressively participated in the challenges associated with implementing a human resources management system.

- Facilitated the validation of the three new levels for the DMR's existing professional classifications, i.e., DMR-Seafood Officer V; DMR-Coastal Resource Management Specialist V; and DMR-Marine Fisheries Scientist V. Facilitated the validation of the DMR-Chief of Staff and DMR-Deputy Director classifications.

FY2009 Challenges:

- Recertify all field staff in CPR and First Aid; train at least two DMR staff persons to eliminate having to contract out this training.

- Develop a unique classification series for the research and education activities performed at the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), validate the job descriptions and secure approval by the State Personnel Board for implementation.

- Implement a DMR Employee Assistance Program that provides counseling services, educational programs and referrals at no cost to the employee.

- Develop creative ways to increase the DMR's diversity recruitment program.

- Develop a new employee orientation video and implement an expanded training program for all employees regarding DMR policies and state personnel policies.

- Secure legislative approval for the creation of a marine law enforcement cadet/trainee job classification that is non-state service.

- Petition the State Personnel Board to consider creating a pay differential for DMR employees based on the cost of living on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, similar to the per diem allowed by the state for different parts of the state.

- Develop and implement an electronic file key and work with IT staff to put all HR work files on a secure section of the server that is backed up each night.

- Continue to refine the DMR Educational Benchmark system and secure approval of new programmatic benchmarks by the State Personnel Board.

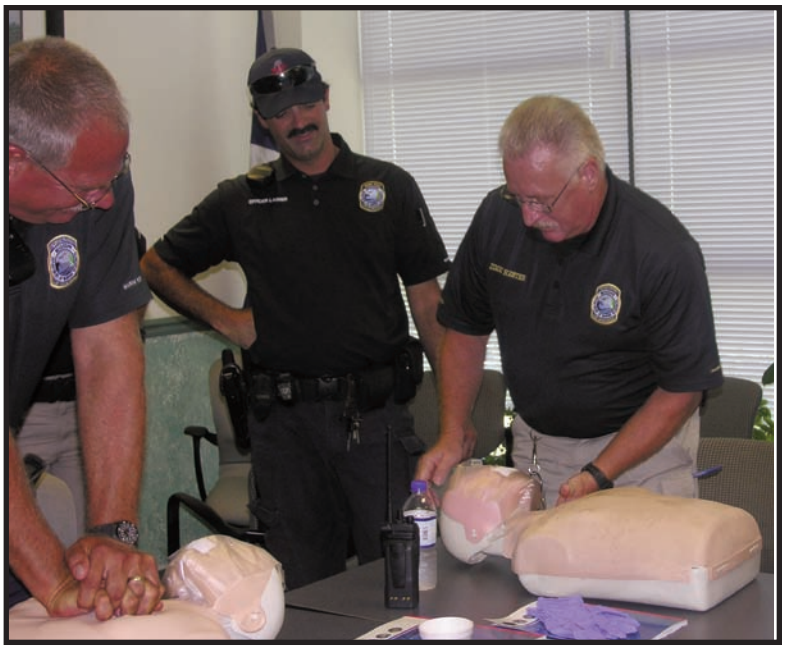
- Expand the DMR/Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Intern program to include providing interns for the various programs at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

- Develop and implement programs and activities designed to enhance professional development and retention of DMR employees.

- Expand the DMR Classification and Compensation Plan to include DMR specific classifications for upper-level management.

- Go online with ABRA, DMR's human resources management system.
- Conduct time and attendance training; provide performance appraisal refresher course for managers and supervisors.
- Form an internal policy committee to update all DMR personnel policies.
- Update the human resources procedures manual.

From left, Lauren Clark and Sandra Moore work closely with DMR staff to ensure employment policies are closely followed.



Marine Patrol officers participate in one of the CPR training classes coordinated by Human Resources.

Marine Patrol
Chief of Enforcement: Col. Walter Chataginer

Col. Walter J. Chataginer Sr. assumed the responsibility of chief of Marine Patrol in November 2005. He was granted the official title of chief of the State Marine Patrol on Jan. 1, 2006. He started his law enforcement career with the Biloxi Police Department in 1979 and later transferred to the Bureau of Marine Resources in 1988. Col. Chataginer worked for the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks when the Bureau was dissolved. In 1999, he joined the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. He has worked 21 years for the State of Mississippi and has accumulated a total of 30 years of law enforcement experience. He is chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee for the Gulf States Marine Commission, as well as a seated member on the Law Enforcement Advisory Panel for the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. Col. Chataginer also sits on the Law Enforcement panel for the ISSC organization.

The Marine Patrol continues to provide marine enforcement of federal and state laws and the ordinances of the Commission on Marine Resources for the protection, propagation preservation and conservation of Mississippi's seafood, aquatic life and associated coastal wetland habitats. Marine Patrol also carries out the enforcement of state and federal laws pertaining to boating safety and provides emergency assistance to marine boaters.

Objectives:

- Enhance the safety and quality of life in the marine community through the enforcement of federal, state and CMR ordinance law.
- Serve as the leading marine law enforcement agency within the state of Mississippi.
- Minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and the environmental impact on coastal and marine waters.
- Provide both emergency and nonemergency assistance to the public.
- Provide 24-hour marine law enforcement.
- Continue to provide forefront leadership and expertise in marine law enforcement.

Status:

- Thirty officers and five lieutenants provided 24-hour patrols.
- Made 676 cases (violations).
- Conducted 5,689 compliance checks.
- Rendered public assistance to 138 mariners in distress.
- Answered 433 complaint calls.

- Patrolled 22 marine events.
- Investigated 17 boating accidents.

Two Marine Patrol boats patrol the waters during the opening day of the 2007 shrimp season on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) Coordinator: Lt. Donald Armes

On July 1, 2007, the Department of Marine Resources entered into agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide law enforcement of federal regulations in both state and federal waters. All patrols were conducted by Marine Patrol officers on an overtime basis.

Objectives:

- Increase voluntary compliance of the user groups.
- Increase contact with recreational and commercial fishermen.
- Detect and apprehend mutilation of shark species.
- Increase boardings of commercial shrimp vessels.
- Detect and apprehend blatant violators fishing with dysfunctional turtle excluder devices (TEDs) and bycatch reduction devices (BRDs).
- Investigate all allegations of turtle harvest.
- Inspect dealers and commercial vessels landings.

Status:

DMR Marine Patrol StatisticsTotals

Vessel Checks - Commercial	611
Vessel Checks - Recreational	1,502
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Commercial	947
Saltwater Harvesters Checked - Recreational	2,807
Fishery Violations - Federal	29
Fishery Violations - State	83
Fishery Warnings	27
Shore Patrol Hours	2,141
Offshore Patrol Vessel Hours	2,338
Total Man Hours	**7,657**

This goliath grouper is a protected species. The violation brought a $1,500 fine.

These fillets of red snapper led to a federal case against the violator. All fish, except for bait and oceanic migratory species, taken from state and federal waters must have heads and fins intact through landing.

Telecommunications
Supervisor: Amy Taylor

The Marine Patrol Telecommunications Bureau provides day and night dispatch and serves as a communications link between the general public, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and the Marine Patrol officers in the field. Program responsibilities include monitoring the telecommunications network for emergency response, changing weather conditions and marine violations, transmitting messages between law enforcement field officers and other public safety agencies, exchanging information with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as required and maintaining constant radio contact with field personnel in order to maximize officer safety. The Telecommunications Bureau continues to work closely and coordinate with Marine Patrol management and field personnel in order to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and environmental impact on coastal and marine waters.

Objectives:

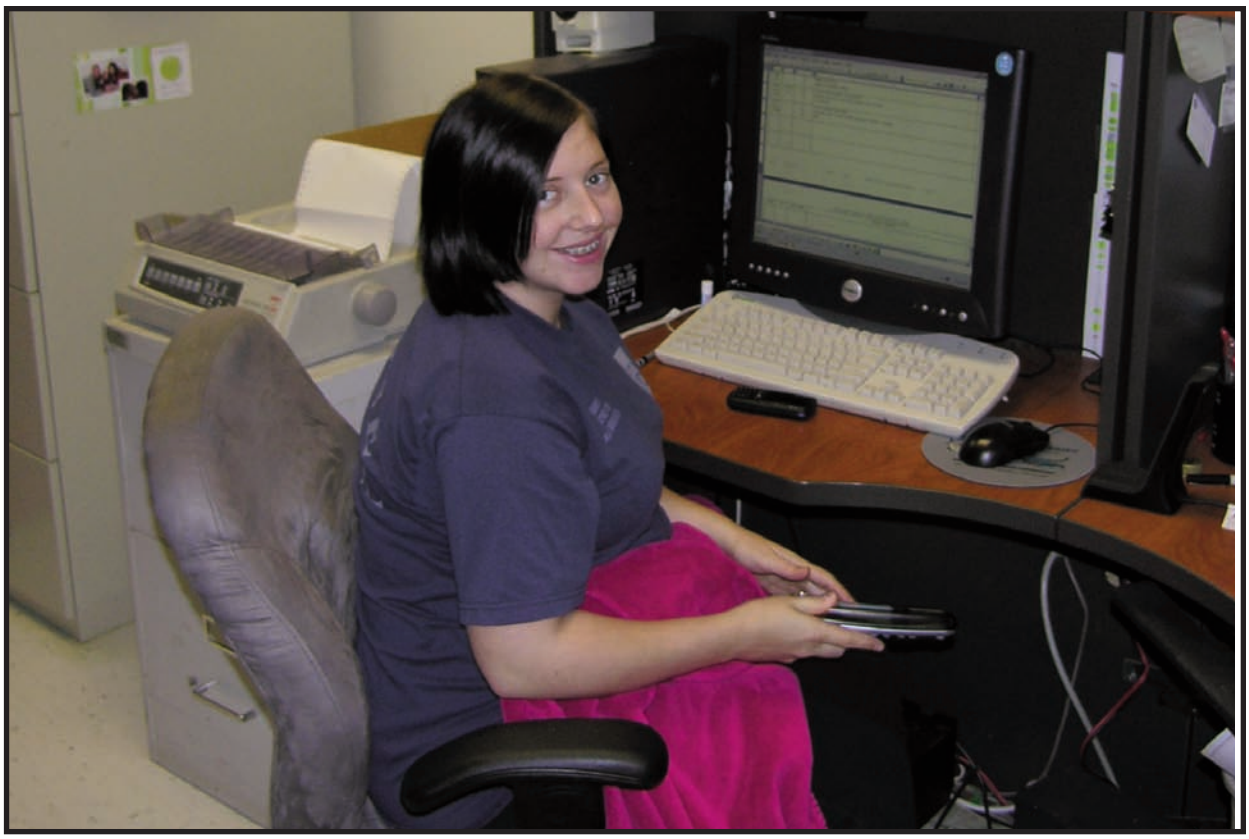
- Maintain day and night radio communications for law enforcement and emergency response purposes, monitor weather conditions, coordinate with other public safety agencies and operate NCIC as needed.
- Determine and dispatch the most appropriate and best-equipped personnel to emergency calls and illegal activity by location and nature of call.
- Track all citations, fine payments, stops, boating accidents, miscellaneous complaints and public safety calls in order to determine how to best utilize resources.
- Procurement and maintenance of most-updated radio communications equipment.
- Coordinate with management, Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and local agencies to ensure proper coverage in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.
- Maintain well-trained communications staff and get certification for in-house instructors for dispatch and law enforcement personnel.

Status:

- First agency in Mississippi to obtain and operate new statewide 700/800 radio system.
- Provided day and night dispatch for Marine Patrol.
- Prepared monthly commission reports.
- Processed 762 issued citations.
- Obtained and completed NECI training for one dispatcher and CPR training for three dispatchers.
- Received 303 public service requests and 287 reports of illegal activity, dispatched officers

to 34 boat accidents and recorded 23 special marine events.

- Recorded and logged 7,033 stops made by officers on regular patrols.
- Alerted Public Affairs Bureau to media inquiries and after-hours emergencies.
- Logged in 15,195 boat hours by officers on regular patrols.
- Enrolled students in 39 boat and water safety classes.



Marine Patrol Dispatcher Stephanie Roberts logs patrol data from an officer in the field.

Boat and Water Safety
Supervisor: Lt. Richard Cooley

Lt. Richard Cooley, whose primary job is as training coordinator and emergency response officer, is also responsible for several other programs, including public education, public outreach and presentations, emergency response and Homeland Security coordination, and coordination of local marine events.

Objectives:

- To provide nationally accredited and readily available boating safety education classes to the general public, so as to ultimately reduce the number and severity of boating accidents that occur.

- To provide the general public with direct exposure to boating safety information and literature through a series of public outreach programs and presentations that are conducted throughout the three coastal counties of Mississippi.

- To provide an emergency response coordination officer 24/7, which allows effective liaison and coordination with other state and local response agencies and ensures timely and correct emergency response to Homeland Security incidents, oil pollution incidents and other environmental emergencies that occur in our area.

- To coordinate planning and oversight of local marine events, including the issuance of permits for the many marine events that are conducted in our area.

Status:

- Conducted 42 boating safety classes in the year 2008, resulting in the certification of 463 persons.

- Permitted 11 Marine Events.

- Attended Hurricane Response drill/exercise at Gulfport MEMA Emergency Operations Center.

- Attended the Mississippi-Alabama Hurricane Conference in Mobile.

- Attended the Mississippi Civil Defense and Emergency Management Association Seminar in Jackson.

- Ensured that the National Incident Management System (NIMS) training required for all Marine Patrol personnel was updated within required time frame to certify DMR as NIMS compliant as required by FEMA.

In-Service Training
Coordinator: Lt. Richard Cooley

A Marine Patrol Training Program was started in August 2001 to provide a standard training curriculum for all new officers, continued education of veteran officers and training necessary for reserve officers.

Objectives:

- Conduct realistic officer survival training sessions in order to enhance chances of officer survival.
- Conduct annual in-service training as necessary as technology expands, hazards increase and laws change.
- Conduct in-service training classes for new recruits.
- Send officers to a variety of outside schools to broaden their knowledge of threats and increase their value of service to the public.

Status:

- Four days of firearms qualifications were conducted, one of which included officer recovery drills.
- Conducted two days of firearms cleaning and inspection.

Officer Christina Young performs a training exercise at the shooting range.

- Conducted one day of open firearms practice.
- Two officers completed Survival Spanish for Uniformed Officers at the Regional Counter Drug Training Academy at the Meridian Naval Air Station.
- Reserve officers were familiarized with M-4 rifles at firearms qualification.
- Four officers completed M-4 Rifle Familiarization, Training, and Qualifications.
- Four firearms instructors assisted in Gulfport Police Department's patrol rifle class.
- Four firearms instructors received continued Firearms Instructor Development training in Gulfport.
- 35 officers completed National Incident Management System's Incident Command System (NIMS ICS) 100 training.
- 35 officers completed NIMS ICS 200 training.
- 35 officers completed NIMS ICS 700 training.
- 10 officers completed NIMS ICS 800 training.

Dive Team
Dive Team Leader: Lt. Richard Cooley

The Marine Patrol Dive Team was organized in August 2002 to expand Marine Patrol's capabilities and service to the public and to provide assistance to other agencies.

Objectives:

- The constant education of Marine Patrol divers.
- Cross training with all dive teams in the three coastal counties.
- Rescue when possible those victims within the "golden hour."
- Recovery of drowning victims when diver risk does not outweigh diver safety.

Status:

- Divers conducted 111 dives for shellfish in July 2007.
- Divers conducted 96 dives for shellfish in April 2008.
- Divers trained with members of the Hancock County Dive Team in May 2008.
- Divers participated in a detail for the U.S. Coast Guard in May 2008.
- Divers participated in three missing person searches.
- Divers participated in a weapons search in Jackson County.
- Divers recovered two vehicles in Hancock County.
- Divers were called out by Bay St. Louis Police Department to conduct a search on New Year's Eve.

The Marine Patrol Dive Team conducts a search and rescue in the Bay of St. Louis in March 2008.

Reserve Unit
Designee: Sgt. Patrick Levine

State Statute 49-15-21 established a Marine Patrol Reserve Unit in 1985 to assist the enforcement officers in the performance of their duties. The Marine Patrol Reserve Unit was transferred and placed under the executive director of the Department of Marine Resources in March 2002.

Objectives:

- Assist with regular patrols.
- Assist with all major marine events.
- Obtain sufficient Marine Patrol Reserve members to meet any patrol needs.
- Train as necessary to assist the Marine Patrol officers in the field.

Status:

- Assisted in patrols of all major marine events.
- Provided assistance for the opening of shrimp season.
- Provided assistance for the boat races.
- Reserve officers regularly assisted in patrols.
- Conducted two days of Firearms Qualifications.

Coastal Management and Planning Office
Office Director: Tina Shumate

The overall objective of the Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) process is to build the capacity of state and local governments to manage and protect coastal wetlands and marine resources in Mississippi. The objective will be accomplished through coordinating agency efforts, developing the necessary partnerships among public and private entities and integrating wetland protection and management into the lifestyle of the coastal community. The overall mission is "to develop a plan to sustain Mississippi's coastal resources and to provide for a healthy economy in the coastal area."

The work focuses on four principal objectives as described below. There are four programs within the CRMP. The first is a planning assistance program to assist the 11 coastal cities and six coastal counties with planning needs for their regions. The second is a smart growth program. This program is designed to assist the six-county region with education on smart growth. The program began with the Storm Water Toolbox. The third program is the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Designation. This program is the newest. The idea is to continue growth of the economy by using natural resources, heritage and recreational and historical assets in the six-county region. The fourth program is the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP). Grants from CIAP total $120 million for the six coastal counties of Mississippi.

Objectives:

- Advancing science and technology for evaluating, protecting and restoring wetland health.
- Developing plans and management tools for the protection of wetland resources by state and local government.
- Facilitating the development of watershed stakeholder partnerships.
- Improving public access to and education about wetland information.

Status and activities:

- Creation and continued updates to internal and external Internet mapping service. Updates include most up-to-date aerial imagery, Hurricane Katrina-related recovery/educational data, pertinent data related to internal natural resource protection and informative data.
- Responded to requests for coastal-related geospatial data from federal, state, city, NGO and private stakeholders and partners. These data requests had an average deliverable data size of 6.2 GB. Delivery method included e-mail, DVD, external hard drive and FTP site.
- Initiated and administered the collaborative effort to improve and enhance the collection, assimilation, use, reporting capacity and analysis of natural resource/wetland impact data amassed for the Coastal Zone of Mississippi. This process will greatly improve the capacity of DMR to quickly and efficiently respond to the many statistics-based performance measure inquiries and questions regarding the habitat and land-use changes and trends occurring on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

- Initiated and administered the current effort to locate, scan and georectify historical aerial imagery dating back to the 1940s for the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

- Continued in-house revision of the CRMP Potential Land Development Suitability Model. Current revisions include input from hazard-related data produced in response to Hurricane Katrina, as well as inputs related to smart growth principles and practices to decrease impacts to natural areas, increase housing density and make more efficient use of existing infrastructure.

- Active participant in multiple federal projects related to geospatial information for the Mississippi Gulf Coast, including topics associated with marine debris, oil spill/hazard response, habitat classification, coastal restoration and invasive species, among others.

- Increased capacity to serve DMR, stakeholders and the general public in the collection and hard-copy display of geospatial data and data products with the acquisition of Thales Mobile Mapper mobile GIS platform/GPS and large format plotter.

- The ninth annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference-Smart Growth was held at the Saenger Theatre on May 9-10, 2008. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce partnered with this program on the conference.

- The Smart Growth Department/CRMP has been meeting with all 11 coastal cities and the six coastal counties concerning their needs on recovery post-Hurricane Katrina. The CRMP is a connector for the cities and counties on funding on recovery. Funds came from the U.S. Department of Labor to the Department of Interior.

- The staff is on the Governor's Recovery Commission Environmental and Tourism committees.

- The staff is on the Ocean Springs, Gulfport and Biloxi Smart Growth committees.

- The staff of Coastal Management and Planning is partnering on an annual basis with Mississippi/Alabama Sea Grant for the Bays & Bayous Conference in November.

- The staff has completed the NOAA/CIAP-funded Mississippi Gulf Coast Storm Water Management Toolbox and handed out storm drain markers to the three coastal counties and 11 cities for use in post-Hurricane Katrina recovery.

- The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Management Plan was delivered to the Department of Interior in February 2005. The Environmental Assessment has been out for public review. There were no adverse comments. The National Park Service forwarded the Management Plan and Environmental Assessment was sent to the Secretary of the Interior for signature and was signed as complete on Sept. 22, 2008.

- Designation of the six lower counties of Mississippi as the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Designation continues as a major player/partner in the recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The program will assist the Mississippi Gulf Coast in becoming a Tier One Tourist Destination with a Strong Sense of Place.

- Heritage unit has released its branding on the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area (MGCNHA). A Web site is ongoing along with the first Heritage Newsletter.

- In May 2006, the MGCNHA staff was honored by the State of Mississippi House of Representatives for the achievements and actions pre- and post-Hurricane Katrina.

- In August 2006, MGCNHA staff was honored by the Mississippi Heritage Trust. A resolution was given to the office commending the staff's efforts on restoration and securing funding for the six southern counties of Mississippi.

- In October 2006, MGCNHA staff was honored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Board of Trustees for the creation of the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage area along with the staff's critical role in rebuilding the Gulf Coast heritage tourism industry as the area recovers from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina.

- MGCNHA staff is on the City of D'Iberville's Historical Society.

- MGCNHA was placed on the Governor's Recovery Commission's Heritage Tourism.

- MGCNHA was also a partner in Tourism Cares Funding that was given in grants to the six coastal counties.

- The MGCNHA is now partnering with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History concerning the Hurricane Relief Grant Program for Preservation. The MGCNHA was a major player in obtaining the funding for this grant program.

- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning won second place under Government with the Gulf of Mexico EPA Program.

- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning is administering the CIAP. Grants from this program total $120 million for the six coastal counties of Mississippi.

- The MGCNHA partnered with the Alliance of National Heritage for an International Conference on Heritage Development held June 2007 in Detroit, Mich.

- The National Alliance of Heritage Areas 2007 Board of Directors meeting was held on the Coast and hosted by the CRMP.

- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning is also the chair of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Resiliency Working Group along with co-chair of the Coastal States Organization Resiliency Team.

- The Office of Coastal Management and Planning has recently been named to the Land Trust for the MS Coastal Plain Board of Directors.

- The CRMP/Office of Coastal Management and Planning has set the 10th annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference to be held at the IP Casino and Spa in Biloxi for May 12-13, 2009.

U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker speaks on opening day of the ninth annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference at the Saenger Theatre in Biloxi on May 9, 2008.

Mississippi's Official Saltwater Conventional Tackle Records

SPECIES	WEIGHT		DATE	ANGLER
Amberjack, Greater	106 lb.	14.72 oz.	07/19/06	Donald Simmons Jr.
Amberjack, Lesser	5 lb.	8 oz.	05/24/04	Jack Paul Edwards IV
Barracuda, Great	50 lb.	1 oz.	08/01/05	Tommy O'Brien
Bigeye	2 lb.	1.12 oz.	08/28/04	Jeffrey Newbury
Black Driftfish	15 lb.	7.2 oz.	08/13/07	Lenny Maiolatesi
Bluefish	16 lb.	6 oz.	00/00/84	Joe Krebs
Bonefish		4 oz.	11/04/99	Scott Floyd
Brotula, Bearded	13 lb.		06/24/07	Robert Marcellus
Burrfish, Striped	1 lb.	3.2 oz.	06/09/06	Mary Lou Hatcher-Davis
Catfish, Hardhead	3 lb.	.32 oz.	06/08/05	Josh Holmes
Catfish, Gafftopsail	9 lb.	9.92 oz.	08/26/00	Shane Ardis
Chub, Yellow	9 lb.	10 oz.	07/30/92	Melvin Raymond Jr.
Cobia	106 lb.	13 oz.	05/02/96	Randy McDaniel
Croaker, Atlantic	4 lb.	12 oz.	11/11/90	Tom Pellegrin
Cubbyu	2 lb.	6.72 oz.	05/28/05	John Smith
Cutlassfish, Atlantic	1 lb.	4.48 oz.	07/02/06	Terry Adams
Dolphin	62 lb.		1981/1985	D.L.. Siegel/Leo Muldoon
Dolphin, Pompano	1 lb.	.80 oz.	05/22/05	Tom O'Brien
Drum, Black	70 lb.	5.00 oz.	03/12/05	Eddie Hansen
Drum, Blackbar	2 lb.	13 oz.	02/08/08	Lenny Maiolatesi
Drum, Red	44 lb.		1970/1973	L.E.. Renike/J. Hughes
Eel, Conger	12 lb.	8.2 oz.	08/03/02	Stephen E. Wilson
Eel, King Snake	37 lb.	4 oz.	08/24/07	Steve Strickland
Flounder, Southern	10 lb.	4.66 oz.	03/03/07	Karen A. Good
Gag	58 lb.	4.8 oz	08/21/01	Kenny Kuhn
Grouper, Black	11 lb.	0.16 oz.	03/24/01	Michael L. Allen
Grouper, Red	14 lb.	8 oz.	04/29/07	Brian Pelton
Grouper, Snowy	16 lb.	7 oz.	11/09/07	Leonard Maiolatesi Sr.
Grouper, Warsaw	250 lb.		07/17/04	Paul Gallop
Grouper, Yellowedge	28 lb.	6.56 oz.	06/17/05	Kevin Brun
Grouper (unclass.)	47 lb.	14.2 oz.	00/00/80	Dr. Kenneth Ramsey
Gulf Toadfish	2 lb.		02/18/02	Marty Wilson
Hind, Rock	3 lb.	4.8 oz.	08/17/07	Tommy O'Brien
Jack, Almaco	32 lb.	10.56 oz.	09/30/06	Donald Simmons Jr.
Jack, Black	16 lb.	4.8 oz.	08/03/07	Dennis L. Henry
Jack, Crevalle	48 lb.	0.5 oz	07/19/85	Brian D. Pelton
Jack, Horse-eye	22 lb.	15.52 oz.	06/11/04	Justin Russell
Kingfish, Gulf	1 lb.	15.182 oz.	05/12/07	Keith J. Broussard
Kingfish, Southern	1 lb.	14 oz.	11/12/85	Scott A. Walter
Ladyfish	3 lb.	7.35 oz.	08/26/03	John Townsend
Little Tunny (Bonito)	29 lb.	8.8 oz.	04/15/94	Jean A. Thornton
Longtail Bass	5 lb	6.4 oz.	07/12/07	Lenny Maiolatesi
Lookdown	2 lb.	9.6 oz.	06/04/06	Scott Floyd
Mackerel, King	64 lb.	8 oz.	11/19/99	Dan Abshire Jr.
Mackerel, Spanish	8 lb.		00/00/84	Ron Dillistone
Marlin, Blue	1,054 lb.	9.6 oz.	06/07/02	Barry D. Carr

SPECIES	WEIGHT	DATE	ANGLER
Marlin, White	80 lb. 3.2 oz.	09/15/00	Joseph Guidry
Moonfish, Atlantic	1 lb. 14.38 oz.	06/05/06	Scott Floyd
Moray, Blacktail	5 lb. 11.84 oz.	07/04/05	Dick Wilson
Moray, Purplemouth	3 lb. 1 oz.	07/04/03	Dick Wilson
Moray, Reticulate	6 lb. 15.84 oz.	08/06/04	Stephen E. Wilson
Oilfish	50 lb. 0.32 oz.	03/24/02	Kenneth Saxman
Permit	2 lb. 4 oz.	08/29/06	Jonathan David Floyd
Pigfish	1 lb. 1.76 oz.	08/28/04	Lorielyn Newbury
Pinfish	3 lb. 5.6 oz.	09/04/92	William D. Fountain
Porgy, Longspined	9.92 oz.	06/06/04	Stephen Wilson
Porgy, Red	3 lb. 11.68 oz.	06/22/07	Donald L. Bosarge II
Porgy, Whitebone	2 lb. 5 oz.	07/02/04	Jack Paul Edwards
Pompano, African	36 lb. 4 oz.	06/23/97	Lawrence F. Pichon
Pompano, Florida	4 lb. 15.7 oz.	02/09/02	Jack Alexander
Puffer, Smooth	5 lb. .04 oz.	05/06/00	Shawn Hyter
Remora	5 lb. 5 oz.	07/02/06	Ross Maxwell
Runner, Blue	7 lb. 2.08 oz	06/18/05	Justin Russell
Runner, Rainbow	18 lb. 12 oz.	07/30/94	Paul A. Parnigoni
Sailfish	62 lb.	00/00/63	Eddie Jones
Scamp	24 lb. 0.48 oz.	05/25/01	Doug Nelson Jr.
Sea Bass, Bank	9.28 oz.	07/02/06	Jeffrey Newbury
Sea Bass, Rock	14.72 oz.	08/20/92	Robert Bell
Searobin, Bighead	1 lb. .32 oz.	05/24/05	David Hise Jr.
Seatrout, Sand	6 lb. 4 oz.	00/00/77	Wayne Roch
Seatrout, Spotted	10 lb. 7.66 oz.	05/13/08	Eric T. Quave
Scorpionfish, Spinycheek	3 lb. 2 oz.	08/30/07	Doug Upton
Scorpionfish, Spotted	2 lb. 2.24 oz.	08/22/04	Dick E. Wilson
Shark, Blacktip	98 lb. 9.6 oz.	04/20/05	Thomas W. Barnes
Shark, Great Hammerhead	436 lb. 14 oz.	07/05/02	Robert J. Garrett
Shark, Nurse	98 lb. 7 oz.	07/03/06	Tony Delatorre
Shark, Scalloped Hammerhead	268 lb.	08/08/98	Warren V. Jones
Shark, Sandbar	125 lb. 8 oz.	12/16/06	Strom Smith
Shark, Spinner	159 lb. 4.80 oz.	06/04/04	Carlton Neal
Shark (unclass.)	885 lb.	00/00/83	Bruce Bartling
Sharksucker	2 lb. 15.20 oz.	10/03/04	Michael “Buck” Buchanan
Sheepshead	19 lb. 10 oz.	00/00/66	Roy Groue Jr.
Silver Perch	4 oz.	05/18/02	Samantha Goodfellow
Smooth Dogfish	18 lb. 14.4 oz.	06/24/07	Leonard Maiolatesi
Snapper, Dog	15 lb.	07/10/04	Chris Russell
Snapper, Gray	13 lb. 12 oz.	07/03/04	Tom O'Brien
Snapper, Lane	8 lb. 3.2 oz.	08/25/01	Stephen E. Wilson
Snapper, Red	37 lb. 11.2 oz.	08/24/95	John J. Bullock
Snapper, Vermillion	4 lb. 11 oz.	08/25/01	Gary Heffner
Snapper, Yellowtail	4 lb. 9.92 oz.	06/05/05	Justin Russell
Soapfish, Whitespotted	4.48 oz.	07/02/05	Scott Floyd
Spadefish, Atlantic	8 lb. 1.0 oz.	05/15/03	Destin P. O'Brien
Stingray, Southern	158 lb. 1.6 oz.	07/04/07	Rick Grimstead
Swordfish	75 lb.	08/26/07	Lorenzo Owen
Tilefish	10 lb. 3.2 oz.	06/24/07	Brandan Langlinias
Tilefish, Goldface	2 lb. 15 oz.	11/09/07	Leonard Maiolatesi Sr.
Tilefish, Sand	2 lb. 1 oz.	02/08/08	Leonard Maiolatesi
Tomtate	12.96 oz.	05/01/04	Stephen E. Wilson
Tarpon	167 lb.	05/19/01	Dr. Keith Goodfellow

SPECIES	WEIGHT		DATE	ANGLER
Trigger, Gray	9 lb.	7.33 oz.	08/05/07	Matthew L. Larmore
Trigger, Ocean	1 lb.	6.56 oz.	06/12/04	Stacy Scott
Trigger, Queen	7 lb.	6.4 oz.	07/21/07	Brandon Bosarge
Tripletail	37 lb.	12 oz.	00/00/72	B. Gibson
Tuna, Blackfin	33 lb.		05/04/00	John Tillman
Tuna, Bluefin	837 lb.	1.6 oz.	06/11/99	Bob Struwe
Tuna, Skipjack	26 lb.	4 oz.	06/21/03	Thomas L. Reynolds III
Tuna, Yellowfin	205 lb.	12.8 oz.	06/09/01	Robert Landingham
Wahoo	111 lb.	3.2 oz.	05/16/98	Jeffery A. Lee

Sand Tilefish
(*Malacanthus plumieri*)
2 pounds, 1 ounce
Lenny Maiolatesi of Ocean Springs

Spinycheek Scorpionfish
(*Neomerinthe hemingwayi*)
3 pounds, 2 ounce
Doug Upton of Edwards, Miss.

Mississippi's Official Saltwater Fly-Fishing Tackle Records

SPECIES	WEIGHT	DATE	ANGLER
Amberjack, Greater	15 lb. 8.48 oz.	05/03/03	Ivan Strayham
Bluefish	2 lb. 1.44 oz.	06/02/02	Robert L. Brodie
Chub, Yellow	1 lb. 14.72 oz.	07/15/04	Dwayne Armes
Cobia	41 lb. 13.6 oz.	08/23/03	Thomas L. Herrington
Dolphin	3 lb. 11 oz.	07/04/02	Ivan Strayham
Drum, Black	41 lb. 8 oz.	06/04/05	Matt Carpenter
Drum, Red	32 lb. 8.0 oz.	12/21/03	Stan Gartman
Flounder, Southern	2 lb. 7.5 oz.	10/25/02	Richard Sheffield
Jack, Crevalle	28 lb. 15.36 oz.	07/25/05	Dwayne Armes
Ladyfish	3 lb. 4.32 oz.	08/23/03	Thomas L. Herrington
Little Tunny (Bonito)	12 lb. 0.49 oz.	08/11/07	Jordan Mathews
Lookdown	1 lb. 0.8 oz.	05/22/04	Robert J. Raynor
Mackerel, King	5 lb. 3.2 oz.	06/16/02	Reed Guice
Mackerel, Spanish	5 lb. 1.60 oz.	07/24/04	Dwayne Armes
Pinfish	13.44 oz.	07/15/04	Dwayne Armes
Pompano, Florida	2 lb. 1.1 oz.	10/04/06	Tom Herrington
Runner, Blue	1 lb. 8.8 oz.	07/31/03	Dwayne Armes
Runner, Rainbow	5 lb. 9.28 oz.	07/31/03	Dwayne Armes
Seatrout, Sand	1 lb. 0.96 oz.	11/18/07	Doug Borries
Seatrout, Spotted	5 lb. 4.8 oz.	06/25/06	Steve Coignet
Shark, Atlantic Sharpnose	9 lb. 4.48 oz.	06/03/05	Dwayne Armes
Shark, Blacktip	34 lb. 10.9 oz.	06/10/07	Dwayne Armes
Sharksucker	1 lb. 4.64 oz.	06/03/05	Dwayne Armes
Sheepshead	7 lb. 12.00 oz.	02/05/05	Matt Carpenter
Snapper, Gray	2 lb. 7.52 oz.	06/02/02	Robert L. Brodie
Snapper, Red	5 lb. 0.2 oz.	06/25/02	Reed Guice
Spadefish, Atlantic	3 lb. 13.3 oz.	06/16/02	Reed Guice
Tripletail	10 lb. 1.6 oz.	07/17/03	Reed Guice
Tuna, Blackfin	9 lb. 14.4 oz.	8/12/02	Nick Curcione

Sand Seatrout
(*Cynoscion arenarius*)
1 lb., 0.96 oz.
Doug Borries of Ocean Springs

Out-of-State Travel Activities

Employee	Destination	Purpose	Cost	Funding
Jeffrey Clark	Portland, OR	2007 Coastal Zone Meeting	$1,119	Other
George Ramseur	St. Petersburg, FL	Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting	$537	Other
George Ramseur	Portland, OR	2007 Coastal Zone Meeting	$1,230	Other
Rhonda Price	St. Petersburg, FL	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Workshop	$343	Federal
Marian Hanisko	Portland, OR	2007 Coastal Zone Meeting	$1,352	Federal
Rhonda Price	Portland, OR	2007 Coastal Zone Meeting	$2,028	Federal
Alison Rupp	San Jose, CA	ESA/SER Joint Meeting	$2,550	Other
Charles Robertson	San Jose, CA	ESA/SER Joint Meeting	$2,428	Other
Michael Buchanan	St. Petersburg, FL	Committee for Improving Reef Fishing	$1,254	Other
William Perret	St. Petersburg, FL	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Workshop	$465	Other
Ruth Posadas	Albuquerque, NM	2007 ISSC Biennial Meeting	$1,405	Other
Joseph Jewell	Albuquerque, NM	2007 ISSC Biennial Meeting	$1,259	Other
William Walker	St. Petersburg, FL	Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting	$1,152	Other
Scott Gordon	Albuquerque, NM	2007 ISSC Biennial Meeting	$1,220	Other
David Ruple	St. Petersburg, FL	Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting	$438	Federal
Jeffrey Clark	St. Petersburg, FL	Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting	$387	Other
William Walker	Mobile, AL	COE Change of Command	$397	Other
William Walker	Portland, OR/Wash, DC	2007 Coastal Zone/Congress Visits	$4,875	Other
Joseph Ziegler	Philadelphia, PA	ALEX 34th Annual Meeting	$1,718	Other
William Perret	New Orleans, LA	Louisiana Seafood Expo	$192	Other
Kerwin Cuevas	San Francisco, CA	American Fisheries Society Meeting	$1,050	Federal
James Sanders	San Francisco, CA	American Fisheries Society Meeting	$1,013	Federal
Dale Diaz	Albuquerque, NM	2007 ISSC Biennial Meeting	$1,249	Other
William Perret	Albuquerque, NM	2007 ISSC Biennial Meeting	$1,412	Other
William Richardson	Millersville, MD	Status of Diamondback Terrain Mtg	$614	Other
Brittany Breazeale	Destin, FL	Scuba Certification	$216	Other
Joseph Ziegler	New Orleans, LA	2007 Louisiana Restaurant Assoc Mtg	$399	Other
William Perret	San Francisco, CA	American Fisheries Society Meeting	$1,473	Other
Jana Guynes	Fairhope, AL	Wetland Identification/Delineation Course	$727	Federal
Rebekah Ray	Fairhope, AL	Wetland Identification/Delineation Course	$754	Federal
James Davis	Fairhope, AL	Wetland Identification/Delineation Course	$767	Federal
Rhonda Price	Coeur D'Alene, ID	South Organization of Boating Access	$1,621	Federal
Richard Burrais	Lakewood, CO	Federal Assist Basic Grants Mgmt	$1,171	Federal
Jan Boyd	Woods Hole, MA	Coastal States Annual Meeting	$1,502	Federal
Michael Brainard	Santa Fe, NM	Applying for Federal Grants/Cooperative	$923	Other
Travis Williams	Cleveland, OH	34th Annual Natural Areas Conference	$1,277	Other
Jeffrey Clark	Cleveland, OH	34th Annual Natural Areas Conference	$1,363	Other
George Ramseur	Cleveland, OH	34th Annual Natural Areas Conference	$1,307	Other
Alison Rupp	Cleveland, OH	34th Annual Natural Areas Conference	$1,317	Other
Donald Armes	Point Clear, Al	Gulf States Fisheries Commission Mtg	$342	Other
Walter Chataginer	Point Clear, Al	Gulf States Fisheries Commission Mtg	$335	Other
Christopher May	Shepherdstown, WV	23rd Annual NERRA-NERRS Meeting	$897	Federal
Marian Hanisko	Shepherdstown, WV	23rd Annual NERRA-NERRS Meeting	$841	Federal
Jennifer Buchanan	Shepherdstown, WV	23rd Annual NERRA-NERRS Meeting	$612	Federal
David Ruple	Shepherdstown, WV	23rd Annual NERRA-NERRS Meeting	$715	Federal
William Walker	Washington, DC	Magnuson Workshop	$2,444	Other
Matthew Kasovich	Athens, TX	Wreck Penetration Class & Training	$235	Other
Scott Anderson	Athens, TX	Wreck Penetration Class & Training	$235	Other
John Ewing	Athens, TX	Wreck Penetration Class & Training	$235	Other
Gretchen Grammer	Apalachicola Bay, FL	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	$188	Federal
Greg Christodoulou	Ocean City, MD	Watersheds and Wetlands Workshop	$1,467	Federal
Ronald Cole	Ocean City, MD	Watersheds and Wetlands Workshop	$1,819	Federal
Jacob Walker	Weeks Bay, AL	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	$188	Federal
William Richardson	Point Clear, Al	58th Annual GSMFC Meeting	$198	Federal

Employee	Destination	Purpose	Cost	Funding
Michael Walker	Lafayette, LA	Southern & Carribbean Regional Meeting	$446	Federal
Tina Shumate	Lafayette, LA	Southern & Carribbean Regional Meeting	$687	Federal
Rhonda Price	Lafayette, LA	Southern & Carribbean Regional Meeting	$518	Federal
Dale Diaz	Point Clear, Al	Gulf States Fisheries Commission Mtg	$475	Other
Chrisopher May	Providence, RI	Estuarine Research Federation 2007	$2,511	Federal
Joseph Ziegler	Williamsburg, VA	Submerged Lands 2007	$2,095	Other
William Walker	Tampa, FL	Gulf of Mexico Program PRB Meeting	$1,516	Other
Rhonda Price	Corpus Christie, TX	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Resilience Mtg	$708	Federal
Richard Burris	Gulf Shores, Al	Federal Assistance Grants Meeting	$108	Federal
Donald Armes	St. Petersburg, FL	Owen & Sons NOAA Office JEA Mtg	$239	Federal
Dale Diaz	Tampa, FL	US Dept of Interior/GOMA Meeting	$897	Other
William Perret	New Orleans, LA	Americas Energy Coast Forum	$52	Other
William Perret	New Orleans, LA	International Work Boat Show	$343	Other
William Perret	Tampa, FL	US Dept of Interior/GOMA Meeting	$902	Other
William Walker	Point Clear, Al	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Meeting	$283	Other
William Walker	Baton Rouge, LA	Americas Energy Coast Forum	$262	Other
Dale Diaz	New Iberia, LA	Pick up Artificial Reef Vessel	$150	Other
Rhonda Price	Seattle, WA	NOAA Federal Grants Update	$1,215	Federal
William Perret	Washington, DC	Gulf Oyster Industry Council Meeting	$1,963	Other
Traci Floyd	New Orleans, LA	National Workboat Show	$13	Other
Kerwin Cuevas	New Iberia, LA	Vessel Inspection	$183	Other
James Sanders	New Iberia, LA	Vessel Inspection	$183	Other
William Perret	New Iberia, LA	Vessel Inspection	$146	Other
Jacob Walker	Apalachicola Bay, FL	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	$188	Federal
Jacob Walker	Cocodrie, LA	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	$260	Federal
David Ruple	Tallahassee, FL	Northern Gulf Institute Advisory Meeting	$127	Federal
William Walker	Washington, DC	Congressional/USDA Meeting	$1,623	Other
Jay McIlwain	Gulf Shores, Al	Basic Wildland Firefighter Training	$388	Federal
Thomas Strange	Gulf Shores, Al	Basic Wildland Firefighter Training	$363	Federal
Marian Hanisko	New Orleans, LA	Risk Wise Education Partnership	$402	Federal
Rhonda Price	New Orleans, LA	Risk Wise Education Partnership	$402	Federal
Christine Walters	Myrtle Beach, SC	2008 Technical Training Workshop	$323	Federal
William Walker	New Orleans, LA	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Meeting	$99	Other
William Walker	Washington, DC	Gulf Oyster Council Meeting	$1,816	Other
Dale Diaz	Tampa, FL	Gulf Council Meeting	$754	Other
Jacob Walker	McAllen, TX	Partners in Flight Conference	$854	Federal
Jan Boyd	Washington, DC	Ocean & Coastal Program Managers Mtg	$2,348	Federal
David Ruple	Jacksonville, Fl	Sapelo NERR 312 Evaluation	$790	Federal
David Ruple	Washington, DC	Ocean & Coastal Program Managers Mtg	$1,475	Federal
Marian Hanisko	Washington, DC	Ocean & Coastal Program Managers Mtg	$1,134	Federal
Joseph Runnels	Washington, DC	Ocean & Coastal Program Managers Mtg	$1,641	Federal
William Perret	Washington, DC	Southern Shrimp Alliance	$1,080	Other
Richard Burris	Houma, LA	Louisiana Crab Trap Clean-up	$151	Other
Rhonda Price	Orlando, FL	2008 Marina Hurricane Symposium	$737	Federal
Donald Armes	Galveston, TX	58th Annual Fisheries Commission Mtg	$683	Federal
Walter Chataginer	Galveston, TX	58th Annual Fisheries Commission Mtg	$683	Other
Jan Boyd	Galveston, TX	58th Annual Fisheries Commission Mtg	$370	Federal
Jeffrey Clark	Galveston, TX	58th Annual Fisheries Commission Mtg	$365	Federal
Grant Larsen	Austin, TX	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Meeting	$1,052	Federal
William Richardson	Houma, LA	LA Derelict Crab Trap Clean-up	$152	Other
Williams Richardson	Charleston, SC	Regional Diamondback Terrapin Workshop	$758	Other
Ruth Posadas	St. Louis, MO	ISSC Vibrio Education Committee Mtg	$445	Other
Traci Floyd	Galveston, TX	58th Annual Fisheries Commission Mtg	$164	Other
Gretchen Grammer	Pensacola, FL	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	$288	Federal
Jacob Walker	Pensacola, FL	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	$288	Federal
James Sanders	Baton Rouge, LA	Gulf Council Meeting	$219	Other
Kerwin Cuevas	Baton Rouge, LA	Gulf Council Meeting	$219	Other

Employee	Destination	Purpose	Cost	Funding
Michael Buchanan	Baton Rouge, LA	Gulf Council Meeting	$219	Other
Rhonda Price	Mobile, AL	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Meeting	$175	Federal
Brandon Hall	New Iberia, LA	Receive Artificial Reef Vessel	$83	Other
James Sanders	New Iberia, LA	Receive Artificial Reef Vessel	$83	Other
Kerwin Cuevas	New Iberia, LA	Receive Artificial Reef Vessel	$83	Other
William Walker	New Orleans, LA	US Army Corps of Engineers CERB Mtg	$421	Other
Jacob Walker	Golden Meadow, LA	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	$178	Federal
William Richardson	New Iberia, LA	Receive Artificial Reef Vessel	$82	Other
Sally Richards	Chicago, IL	National Restaurant Assoc Trade Show	$2,380	Other
Linda Wakefield	Chicago, IL	National Restaurant Assoc Trade Show	$2,440	Other
Irvin Jackson	Chicago, IL	National Restaurant Assoc Trade Show	$2,427	Other
Dale Diaz	Baton Rouge, LA	Gulf Council Meeting	$428	Other
William Walker	Baton Rouge, LA	Gulf Council Meeting/GOMA Meeting	$1,158	Other
James Davis	Fairhope, AL	Hydric Soils Workshop	$390	Federal
Greg Christodoulou	Fairhope, AL	Hydric Soils Workshop	$290	Federal
Rebekah Ray	Fairhope, AL	Hydric Soils Workshop	$406	Federal
Jana Guynes	Fairhope, AL	Hydric Soils Workshop	$414	Federal
Christine Walters	St. Petersburg, FL	Gulf of Mexico Monitoring Forum	$727	Federal
Linda Wakefield	Washington, DC	Annual NOAA MS Seafood Promotion	$662	Other
Irvin Jackson	Washington, DC	Annual NOAA MS Seafood Promotion	$707	Other
William Walker	Atlanta, GA	Department of Interior Meeting	$637	Other
Jennifer Clark	Shepherdstown, WV	Mitigation Banking Interagency Training	$316	Federal
Jeffrey Davis	New Orleans, LA	2008 Gulf Atlantic States Shellfish Conf	$543	Other
Kristina Broussard	New Orleans, LA	2008 Gulf Atlantic States Shellfish Conf	$423	Other
Joseph Leonard	New Orleans, LA	2008 Gulf Atlantic States Shellfish Conf	$214	Other
Rhonda Price	New Orleans, LA	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Restoration Mtg	$263	Other
Grant Larsen	New Orleans, LA	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Restoration Mtg	$300	Other
Rhonda Price	Spanish Fort, AL	AL Resiliency Workshop	$15	Federal
Dale Diaz	Houston, TX	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Fishery Council	$389	Other
Tina Shumate	New Orleans, LA	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Restoration Mtg	$264	Other
Jacob Walker	Weeks Bay, AL	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	$141	Federal
Dale Diaz	New Orleans, LA	Gulf Atlantic Shellfish Conference	$359	Other
Jacob Walker	Golden Meadow, LA	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	$144	Federal
William Walker	Washington, DC	Gulf Oyster Council Meeting	$1,620	Other
William Walker	New Orleans, LA	Gulf of Mexico Alliance Meeting	$128	Other
Tina Shumate	New Orleans, LA	Presidents Forum on Coastal Challenges	$276	Other
Jacob Walker	Pensacola, FL	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	$485	Federal
William Perret	Washington, DC	NOAA Fisheries Meeting	$675	Other
Irvin Jackson	Houston, TX	Southwest Foodservice Expo	$1,316	Other
Linda Wakefield	Houston, TX	Southwest Foodservice Expo	$1,316	Other
Gretchen Grammer	Pensacola, FL	Fundulus Jenkinsi Sampling	$483	Federal

Total Out of State Travel Cost $119,851

Mississippi
Department of Marine Resources

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