



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

News Release

Contact: Jennifer Goldman Leirer
Phone: (228) 523-4101

11-100-JGL
Sept. 26, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DMR Announces 2012 Marine Information Calendar Art Contest for Coast Students

BILOXI, Miss. - In an effort to generate an interest in our coastal resources and to promote the awareness of their value, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) is holding its 11th annual student art contest for third- through sixth-graders in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. The winning entries will be featured in the DMR's 2012 Marine Information Calendar and the original artwork will be on public display.

The theme of the contest is "Preserving and Enjoying Mississippi's Coastal Resources." Students may choose from among the following topics to be included in the calendar:

- **January:** Estuaries/Wetland Habitats (pitcher plant bogs, pine savannas, Great Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets, etc.)
- **February:** Marinas, boats docked in harbor (sailboats, sportfishing boats, etc.)
- **March:** Saltwater fishing/deep sea fishing, SHARKS!
- **April:** Boat and Water Safety (people boating or on Jet Skis wearing lifejackets)
- **May:** People fishing / floundering near Deer Island or enjoying the island recreationally
- **June:** Shrimp boats, Blessing of the Fleet, shrimp in general
- **July:** Reeling in a record-breaking saltwater fish (Red Snapper, Cobia, shark, etc.), offshore artificial reefs
- **August:** Blue Crabs, crabbing with drop nets
- **September:** Kids fishing off piers, wade fishing, or cast netting
- **October:** Mississippi Coastal Cleanup (people cleaning beaches or wildlife entangled in debris such as birds in fishing line, sea turtles and six-pack ring)
- **November:** Schooners, oyster tongers, oysters in general
- **December:** Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area (Coast landmarks such as Biloxi Lighthouse, Fort Massachusetts on Ship Island or the landing of D'Iberville)

—MORE—

DMR Calendar Contest—Page 2 of 2

Entry size is 8 ½" x 11" horizontal on paper. Any medium may be used (e.g. colored pencil, acrylics, charcoal, pastels, collage, water color, etc.) Please include on the **BACK** of the artwork, the month selected, artist's name (spelled correctly and legibly), age, grade, and school name (if applicable). MDMR may request you send a photo of the student for news releases if your student's artwork is selected.

Teachers should submit all student entries in one package to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, c/o Public Affairs, 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, MS 39530. Include teacher's name, phone number and e-mail address in package. For more information about the contest, contact Jennifer Leirer at (228) 374-5000 or Jennifer.leirer@dmr.ms.gov.

The deadline for entries is 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21, 2011. Thanks for participating!

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. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

—END—