

Coastal Markers

NEWSLETTER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES



Volume 8, Issue 4

Spring 2005

Smart Growth Conference set for May 16-18

Continuing to work together as a region to balance conservation efforts and economic growth will be the focus of the sixth annual Smart Growth Coastal Development Strategies Conference, May 16-18 at Grand Casino Biloxi, Bayview Convention Center. The Comprehensive Resource Management Plan (CRMP) is hosting the event in association with CRMP stakeholders and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce.

CRMP is a program within the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR). CRMP's mission is to develop a plan to sustain Mississippi's coastal resources while providing a healthy economy in the region.

"Economic development and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive activities," said Gov. Haley Barbour. "They can and should move forward together. DMR's Coastal Development Strategies Conference brings together those experts necessary to ensure that economic development in South Mississippi is achieved in an environmentally friendly fashion."

The conference's keynote speaker Parris N. Glendening is the former governor of Maryland and the president of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute. As governor,



Planning for the Coast's economic future with its natural resources in mind will ensure a stable habitat for native species like the Brown Pelican.

one of his primary agenda items was Smart Growth. He led the creation of a groundbreaking smart growth initiative that

focused on using the entire \$23 billion state budget as an incentive for smart growth.

The regional smart growth conference is designed for contractors, economic developers, bankers, planners, real estate professionals, landowners, industry, teachers and students, federal and state agencies, mayors, city council members, county boards of supervisors, lawyers, private and corporate entities, engineers, resource managers and citizens.

"This annual regional conference for the Mississippi Gulf Coast provides ideas, processes and opportunities to address quality of life issues for the region," said DMR Executive Director William Walker. "Each of the six southern Mississippi counties are experiencing tremendous growth, and we all face the challenge of conserving our vital natural resources while meeting the demands for a healthy economy and a growing population."

Topics of interest to Mississippi's six-county region are: Conservation Planning; Developers Can Become the Communities' Leading Conservationist; Smart Growth 101; Smart Growth Coastal Communities; Coastal Environmental Policies: The

See CONFERENCE, page 2

DMR receives \$1.5 million grant to restore oyster reefs damaged by Hurricane Ivan

The DMR was recently approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for an award of \$1,551,876 from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) in support of "Mississippi's Hurricane Ivan Shellfish Restoration and Enhancement Project." This is a portion of the \$9 million appropriated by Congress to assist the states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana in recovering from the damage

to oyster reefs caused by Hurricane Ivan.

Hurricane Ivan caused oyster mortalities and degradation of important oyster habitat through sedimentation and covering reefs with vegetation and debris. These funds will help to restore and enhance shellfish habitat on Mississippi's public oyster reefs damaged as a result of Hurricane Ivan.

The majority of funds will go into
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Director's Notes

Dr. William Walker

Spring has indeed sprung early this year, and with summer just around the corner there is no better time of the year along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



Commercial fishermen are putting the wraps on another successful oyster season and gearing up for the coming shrimp season while sports fishermen are already enjoying the action along the front beaches and offshore barrier islands. In short, a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed Coast has shaken off the winter doldrums and come alive with activity.

Here at the Department of Marine Resources we too are busy planning and budgeting for a new fiscal year as we continue with the day to day routine of managing our coastal resources. Whether we focus on patrolling the state's marine waters for vessels in distress or checking for seafood law violations, teaching boat and water safety classes, deploying new artificial reef materials, removing derelict vessels from our waters, inspecting potential wetlands permit sites or revitalizing oyster reefs, all these activities seem to peak in the spring.

Fortunately, interest in outdoor recreation also reaches its highest this time of year, and the opportunities for that along the Coast are almost endless – boating, sailing, beachcombing, swimming, sunbathing or fishing.

And, just in time for spring fishing season, the DMR in collaboration with Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, has developed a new fish measuring ruler sticker that you can stick on your boat or cooler to measure your catch. The sticker contains size and possession limits and GPS coordinates for inshore and offshore artificial fishing reefs. Anglers can pick up a free fish ruler sticker at the DMR office in Biloxi.

Executive Director

**Boat and Water Safety
Course Schedule
(April 2005)**



All classes are free. Preregistration is required. Class dates are subject to change. For details, call the DMR Boat and Water Safety Bureau at (228) 435-1332. Class schedules are posted monthly on the DMR's Web site at www.dmr.state.ms.us. Click on Marine Patrol, then select Boat and Water Safety and click on Schedule for Classes.

- **April 12-13**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 300 Hwy. 90, Bay St. Louis, 6-9 p.m.
- **April 16**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2326 Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- **April 18-19**, Mississippi Power Co. Auditorium, 2326 Telephone Road, Pascagoula, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

**CONFERENCE, continued
from page 1**

National Perspective; Environmental Stewardship in Development, Implementing Smart Growth Principles: Progress, Partnerships & Pearl River County; Overcoming Obstacles to Smart Growth; Web-Based Tool - Conventional, New Urbanist and Conservation Development Scenarios; Heritage Areas Raise Local Consciousness and Utility; Real Estate Smart Growth Principles; Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area "We Have Only Begun"; National Heritage Areas and the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and Heritage Development: A Growing Industry.

"The Mississippi Gulf Coast's National Heritage Area designation is something we can all be proud of," said DMR/CRMP Director Tina Shumate. "The designation of the Mississippi Gulf Coast as a National Heritage Area has great national significance. The six coastal counties have a story to tell on a national level. This will be the start of heritage tourism for this region."

Cost of the conference is \$125 (\$50 for students). Elected officials will be admitted for free with their completed registration form.

For more information or to register for this year's conference, contact the DMR at (228) 374-5000 or visit the DMR online at www.dmr.state.ms.us.

DMR exhibit brings the Gulf Coast to the Capitol

Mississippi state senators, representatives, other lawmakers, Capitol employees and visitors had a chance on Feb. 24 to learn more about the Department of Marine Resources. More than 200 people visited the DMR's exhibit in the Capitol's rotunda in Jackson.

Educational materials about fishing regulations, Coastal Preserves, common saltwater fish, shrimping, oystering, law enforcement, the Comprehensive Resource Management Plan, seafood marketing and marine law enforcement were distributed to everyone who stopped by the DMR booth.

Capitol Day is a day that any state department or state interest group can exhibit in the rotunda of the state capitol. The days are scheduled throughout the legislative session to give each exhibitor equal space and time to make an impression on legislators.

"Capitol Day is an excellent opportunity to acquaint new legislators with the DMR and our mission," said DMR Chief of Staff Joe Ziegler. "This year's Capitol Day was a great success."



From left: DMR Executive Director William Walker, State Sen. Tommy Gollott and DMR Chief of Staff Joe Ziegler.

Mississippi's Second Clean Marina



From left, Palace Casino Marina Manager Mark Pickich, Cherie Arceneaux, Mississippi Clean Marina Coordinator, and Keith Crosby, Palace Casino CEO, hold up a Clean Marina flag at a designation ceremony on Feb. 15. The Palace Casino Marina in Biloxi was designated a Mississippi Clean Marina as part of the Mississippi Clean Marina Program. The Clean Marina Program, a cooperative effort of Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and other partners, is a voluntary program that encourages marina operators to adopt best management practices for sewage handling, fuel management, solid waste management, vessel cleaning and repair, storm water management, staff training and boater education to help reduce water pollution and erosion in state waterways. An evaluation team visits the marina to determine that the marina has met all necessary requirements to become certified as a Clean Marina. The Mississippi program is one of only 12 in the nation.

GRANT, continued from page 1

depositing cultch material (e.g., shell, limestone and crushed concrete) on the reefs. Remaining funds will be used to survey, map and mark reefs; cultivate oyster reefs and relay oysters; and maintain weather stations used to monitor environmental conditions. Additionally, an oyster stewardship project will be expanded and further developed to promote active involvement of oyster harvesters and the industry in harvest practices and other techniques that can be used to assist resource managers in the wise utilization of oyster resources of the state. This project began Feb. 1, 2005 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2007.

"This project is expected to be very beneficial to individual oyster harvesters, the oyster industry and consumers of Mississippi oysters," said Scott Gordon, shellfish bureau director. "The benefits of this project should be seen for many years to come."

The DMR is responsible for managing approximately 12,000 acres of Mississippi oyster reefs for public health and safety as well as ensuring renewable oyster resources.



Celebrate
Earth Day
April 22



Young marine scientists awarded for excellence

The DMR presented five local students with the DMR Excellence in Marine Sciences Award at the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair held February 23 at the Mississippi Coast Convention Center in Biloxi. This is the tenth year the DMR has sponsored the award.

The DMR's Excellence in Marine Sciences Award was established to encourage local students to develop research projects involving Mississippi's coastal resources. With this award, the DMR hopes to encourage students to identify and find solutions to the Coast's environmental problems. Each winner received a certificate and monetary award.

The award is presented by the DMR to outstanding Region VI science fair entries that deal with a marine-related issue. In consideration for the award, all project titles are reviewed and each student with a marine-related project is interviewed and questioned about his or her project. Finally, DMR judges rate the eligible projects and the ratings are compiled to determine the overall winners.

Class II entries represent students in grades four through six, Class III entries represent students in grades seven and eight and Class V entries represent students in grades eleven and twelve.

Winners of this year's Excellence in Marine Sciences Award, in order of class, were:

- **Skyler Flowers**, age 9, Pecan Park Elementary, for his "Basin Investigator" Class II entry (tie);

- **Kelly Webb**, age 9, Pecan Park Elementary, for her "How Do You Keep Warm If You Fall in the Water?" Class II entry (tie);

- **Christopher Peterson**, age 13, Ocean Springs Middle School, for his "An Analysis of the Settlement of the barnacle *Balanus eburneus* as Affected by Sunlight?" Class III entry;

- **Lindsey Marie Peresich**, age 17, Mercy Cross High School, for her "The Effects of *Uniola paniculata* and *Bitter panica* on the Stabilization of Sand Dunes" Class V entry (tie); and

- **Nicole Rosetti**, age 18, Mercy Cross High School, for her "Effects of Various Chemical Agents on *Imperata cylindrica*" Class V entry (tie).

"Once again we had more excellent projects than awards to hand out," said Jennifer Buchanan, education coordinator at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources/Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. "Our winners this year demonstrated to us that they have the skills necessary to identify and research issues affecting Mississippi's coastal resources. We applaud them for their outstanding efforts."



Skyler Flowers and Kelly Webb, both students at Pecan Park Elementary in Ocean Springs.



From left: Christopher Peterson, a student at Ocean Springs Middle School, Lindsey Marie Peresich and Nicole Rosetti, both students at Mercy Cross High School.

DMR participates in Louisiana crab trap cleanup



DMR Marine Fisheries staffers joined Gulf Coast Research Laboratory at Louisiana's second annual derelict crab trap cleanup on March 5 in Cocodrie. About 3,245 derelict crab traps were recovered. Several agencies, university students and local fishermen from south Louisiana also helped in the cleanup. DMR staff have volunteered for cleanups in Alabama, Louisiana and Texas, in addition to the successful ongoing cleanup in Mississippi. (Photo at left: DMR Biological Program Coordinator Bradley Randall. Photo at right: From left, DMR Marine Fisheries Scientists Traci Floyd, Jude LeDoux and Bill Richardson.



Marine Patrol busts gill netters

The DMR's State Marine Patrol conducted a stakeout in the waters of east Jackson County overnight and into the early morning hours of January 28 that resulted in the arrest of two individuals for gill netting within a half-mile of the shoreline and the confiscation of 800 feet of illegal gill net. The Marine Patrol officers retrieved about 250 pounds of redfish, speckled trout and flounder from the nets.

Officers Paul Grote and Scott Chatham took



State Marine Patrol Officers Scott Chatham, left, and Paul Grote with the confiscated gill net and fish.

cover at about 8:30 p.m. January 27 and waited until 5:30 a.m. January 28 when two individuals came and retrieved nets within Southwest Bayou. Both men were charged with an unattended gill net, setting a gill net within a half-mile of shoreline, possession of a monofilament gill net, and one of the men was also charged with operating a commercial fishing vessel without running lights. The fine ranges for these offenses are as follows: unattended gill net (\$100-\$500), setting a gill net within a half-mile of shoreline (\$2000-\$4000), possession of a monofilament gill net (\$100-\$500), and operating a commercial fishing vessel without lights (\$250-\$500).

Billy Stork of Gautier pled guilty and was fined \$2400. The other individual's name is being withheld pending prosecution.

Since Mississippi's monofilament net ban passed in 1998, Marine Patrol officers have removed more than 45 miles of illegal monofilament netting from Mississippi's marine waters.

"This just shows the commitment and dedication of our marine patrol officers to conduct an all-night stakeout under the harshest of conditions in our mission to protect our coastal resources," State Marine Patrol Chief of Enforcement George Wright said.



May 8 is the 13th anniversary of the Mississippi Coastal Preserves Program.

Marine Patrol Citation Totals

(January-March 2005)

Shrimp	0
Crab	5
Oyster	64
Commercial Net Fishing	6
Live Bait	0
Miscellaneous Seafood	8
Recreational Fishing	4
Boat and Water Safety	15
Marine Litter	0
Miscellaneous	10

Boat and Water Safety Statistics

(January-March 2005)

Classes held	8
Students certified	99
Outreach events	0
Presentations	12
Boat inspections	16
Boating accidents	1
Fatalities	0

Sound Advice

Lt. Frank Wescovich



In this issue of *Coastal Markers* I will answer some questions that are frequently asked by people calling the DMR Boating Safety staff.

Question: What equipment do I need on my boat?

Answer: Equipment requirements vary according to the class of boat. Generally, all boats are required to carry a United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. In addition, all boats 16 feet and over in length are required to carry a throwable device such as a buoyant cushion or ring buoy. Boats of closed construction, having enclosed bilges or storage compartments, and powered by gasoline engines are required to carry a USCG approved fire extinguisher. Boats used in the Mississippi Sound and lower bays and rivers leading into the Sound are required to carry USCG Approved signaling devices such as flares or other distress signals. All boats are required to have proper navigation lights when operated at night or during other periods of reduced visibility. All boats that are motorized and all sailboats are required to have a valid boat registration on board while being operated on the waters of the State. These are the very basic requirements. For further info you can contact us at (228) 432-2820.

Question: What type of license do I need to operate my boat?

Answer: The USCG requires a Coast Guard license to operate vessels that carry passengers for hire. The State does not require a license, but requires persons born after June 30, 1980 to be certified by taking an approved Boater Safety Course before they are allowed to operate a vessel on waters of the State of Mississippi. Persons operating

See SOUND ADVICE, page 9

Marker Madness:

Volunteers mark storm drains, help



A volunteer places a marker at a storm drain in Pass Christian.

DMR/CRMP distributed 1,000 storm drain markers to Coast cities and counties during Marker Madness. Throughout the month of March, volunteers placed storm drain markers on storm drains at targeted locations as a way to educate the public about the link between the storm drain system and water quality and promote voluntary action for pollution prevention.

“We are grateful to all of the coastal cities and counties and their willingness to work together collectively to implement the storm drain marking program,” said Marcia Garcia, staff officer in the DMR’s CRMP Bureau and coordinator of Marker Madness. “By having volunteers throughout the community place the actual markers on the storm drains, it will increase public awareness of storm water pollutants and their path to water bodies.”



A boy scout troop in Pascagoula participates in Marker Madness.



A Mercy Cross High School student applies adhesive to a storm drain marker.

Storm drain inlets were marked with a four-inch round marker of durable plastic with the wording,

THAT
to the volunteers, the cities and counties of Hancock County, Harrison County, Biloxi, Diamondhead, D’Iberville, Gulfport, Moss Point, Ocean Springs, Pascagoula, J.L. Scott Marine Education Center, Mexico Program, DMR/Grand Bay Reserve, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and the University of Mississippi at Hattiesburg.



Dr. Sheila Brown, J.L. Scott Aquarium’s Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence scientist and coordinator of educational programs places a storm drain marker on the J.L. Scott Aquarium’s property.



Volunteers prepare the storm drain site for marker placement in Pass Christian.



Volunteers were recognized for their efforts.

educate about stormwater pollution



“No Dumping. Drains to Gulf.” The markers are impact resistant and are coated with UV inhibitors to prevent fading. The markers were affixed to the drains, using a nontoxic adhesive. CRMP had gained additional Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds as part of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Stormwater Management Toolbox to assist the cities and counties with the implementation of their respective stormwater management plans through the marker project.

CRMP recognized more than 100 volunteers who participated in Marker Madness at a special event on March 19 at J.L. Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium in Biloxi. The event included educational exhibits and a special presentation of the Watershed Harmony puppets.

Contrary to popular belief, most storm drains are not connected to treatment systems. Whatever enters the storm drains is discharged directly—untreated—into our local waterways. Each time it rains, water washed over our streets, yards and driveways picks up pollutants such as yard waste and street litter along the way. Where does it go? It flows directly into our storm drains. This runoff may contain pollutants such as pet waste, cigarette butts and other litter, lawn chemicals, oil and other toxins, which can pollute our water, clog culverts and pipes, and lead to flooding.



Jenell Tompkins, Hancock County storm drain marking coordinator, picks up the storm drain markers to be placed throughout Hancock County, Bay St. Louis, Waveland and Diamondhead.

THANKS
 to the following cities and Marker Madness sponsors:
 Jackson County, Bay St. Louis, Gautier, Gulfport, Long Beach, Pass Christian, Waveland, and Aquarium, EPA - Gulf of Mexico National Estuarine Research Reserve, DMR/CRMP, Environmental Quality and Ashley Elementary School, a fair winner.



Boy scouts with Troop 209 place a marker on a Gulfport storm drain.



Volunteers sign in at Marker Madness event March 19.



Organized during a special event held at the J.L. Scott Aquarium in Biloxi on March 19.



DMR's GBNERR Education Coordinator Jennifer Buchanan and a volunteer test stormwater at the March 19 event.



Grand Bay NERR hosts visitor use workshop

The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's (GBNERR) Coastal Training Program hosted a workshop March 1-2 titled, "Managing Visitor Use in Coastal and Marine Protected Areas." This two-day event was facilitated by staff from the NOAA Coastal Services Center at the DMR office in Biloxi. Guest speakers included Theresa Coble, Forestry Professor at Stephen F. Austin State University; Cynthia App, Communications Professor at Pensacola Junior College; Gail Bishop, Chief of Interpretation at Gulf Islands National Seashore; and Cynthia Ramseur of The Nature Conservancy. Thirty-two people representing eleven different agencies and organizations participated in the workshop.

Attendees were engaged in a process to help them identify local visitor use management issues, select appropriate indicators and standards for monitoring purposes, and pinpoint management tactics to help overcome the issues. Materials for this workshop came from the book, *Maintaining the Quality of Park Resources and Visitor Experiences: A Handbook for Managers*, of which Theresa Coble was a co-author. The main objectives of the



DMR Projects Officer Joan Murphy (standing) presents the results of a group activity, concerning the implementation of management tactics to address adverse visitor use impacts in coastal areas.

workshop were to increase recognition of the need for and utility of visitor use planning and management, familiarize the audience with the visitor use management (VUM) process, and apply the VUM process to local/regional issues.

National researchers meeting held on Coast

The staff of the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR) recently hosted its first National Research Coordinators Meeting at the Gulf Hills Resort and Conference Center in Ocean Springs, Miss., Feb. 16-20. The meeting is an annual conference hosted at various NERR sites around the country, designed to promote professional development, idea sharing and the development of new research programs.

Twenty-six research coordinators representing each of the NERR sites from across the country, several staff from the Estuarine Reserves Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and about 40 scientists



Participants at the research coordinators meeting.

attended the meeting.

Meeting topics included the development of a habitat and land use classification system; field tests of monitoring proposals to track emergent marsh vegetation and submerged aquatic vegetation; a review of the current system-

wide monitoring program which focuses on water quality, weather conditions, and nutrients found at each reserve; and discussion of performance measures to evaluate the success of the research program, both at each site and as a national system.

GBNERR Graduate Research Fellow Megan Hughes presented an overview of her research of land bird migrant use of shell midden habitats at Grand Bay. GBNERR Graduate Research Fellow Zhijun Liu discussed the development of a hydrology model for the reserve.

The meeting concluded with a boat tour of the GBNERR, as well as a driving tour of the terrestrial areas.



Seafood Safety Corner

Mississippi Certifies First Oyster IQF Processor

Through a cooperative effort with the DMR Seafood Technology Bureau and Mississippi State University-Coastal Research and Extension Center (MSU-CREC), Crystal

Seas Seafood of Pass Christian has become the first Mississippi certified shellfish processor to apply for a certification to process oysters using the Individually Quick Frozen (IQF) technology.

The IQF method of processing oysters, first applied in 1989, requires freezing the oysters to extend shelf life and to decrease *Vibrio vulnificus* to non-detectable levels.

Vibrio vulnificus is a naturally occurring bacteria that may adversely impact consumers with certain underlying health conditions.

The MSU-CREC Seafood Experimental Laboratory is handling the validation testing of the post-harvest processing (PHP) technology. The oysters used for the validation testing were brought to the laboratory in Pascagoula for priming the live oysters and later harvested to be individually quick-frozen or post-harvest processed.

Technical Assistance

The DMR Seafood Technology Bureau provides technical assistance to all Mississippi seafood dealers and processors. Dealers or processors wanting to make changes to their operations must contact any of the DMR seafood officers during their regular inspections or by calling them at (228) 374-5000. Before adopting new procedures, validation testing of the procedures may be necessary.

Re-certification inspections have started and will end by April 30 in time for the next fiscal year to start. A total of 87 Mississippi permitted seafood dealers are up for renewal of their certification to operate a seafood processing business in Mississippi. All Seafood Dealers' licenses need to be renewed by the end of April. Seafood dealers need to take advantage of the HACCP and Sanitation Control Procedures' Training being offered by Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge in the coming months. For more information, call Jeff Davis in the DMR's Seafood Technology Bureau at (228) 374-5000.



Ruth Posadas



Bill Morgan of Crystal Seas Seafood of Pass Christian holds the finished IQF product on top of a cardboard box. These cardboard trays are sealed and stacked inside the shipping boxes. There are 12 oysters per cardboard tray.



An employee prepares to collect the cardboard trays of frozen oysters coming out of the IQF machine tunnel.

SOUND ADVICE, continued from page 5

rental vessels, such as personal watercraft rented from our beach vendors along the Coast, are not required to have this certification.

Question: I live in Louisiana, have a Louisiana Boater Safety Card, have my boat registered in Louisiana, and am planning a trip to Mississippi. Do I need anything additional in order to use my boat in Mississippi?

Answer: You are allowed to use your boat for up to 60 days continuously in Mississippi as long as it is properly registered in another state. Your boater safety certification will be recognized as long as it is issued by an organization recognized by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators.

Question: How many people can I carry on my boat?

Answer: If your boat is of recent manufacture, it should have an installed capacity plate which will tell you the total allowable weight of persons and gear. It will also give the maximum allowable horsepower rating of the motor for the boat. In absence of this capacity plate, a rough rule of thumb formula is; Length of the vessel times width of the vessel divided by 15. This calculation will give you a fairly accurate estimate of the number of persons your boat can safely carry. This is based on a vessel of open construction and an average weight of 150 pounds per person.

These are just a few of the most commonly asked questions about boating on Mississippi waters. If you have a question you would like answered, please call DMR Boating Safety at (228) 432-2820.

Remember: Wear your life jacket. Life jackets save lives. Safe boating is no accident.

Lt. Frank Wescovich oversees the DMR's Boat and Water Safety Program. He can be reached at (228) 432-2820 or (228) 435-1332.

Boy Scouts scour Deer Island for debris

Boy Scout Troop 322 of Greenwell Springs, La. went on a camping trip to Deer Island Nov. 20-22, 2004. The troop consisted of 14 senior scouts and four leaders. As a community service project, the scouts picked up 18 bags of trash on the west end of the island. They were able to completely eradicate the beach areas of trash during their trip.

Scouts participating in the cleanup were Sean Bailey, Kyle Barber, Tyler Brossett, Robert Clary, Brandon Colletti, Josh Devillier, Lance Dodson, Anastasia Garner, Justan Hood, Nicholas Polk, Jonathan Vignes, Tony Vince and Tyler Ward. Scout leaders were Janell Barber, Randall Brinkuis, S.J. Colletti and Mike Devillier.

The DMR Coastal Preserves Program presented the scouts with certificates of appreciation for their hard work and wise stewardship of the island. Deer Island became a part of the Mississippi Coastal Preserves Program on May 24, 2002. The Coastal Preserves Program is a joint program of the DMR and the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office.



Boy Scout Troop 322 collected 18 bags of trash on Deer Island.

Boy Scout Troop 322 accepts certificates of appreciation from the DMR Coastal Preserves Program for cleaning up the west end of Deer Island during a November camping trip. The scouts were recognized for their dedication to protecting Mississippi's coastal resources.



Seafood Marketing Program attends 23rd annual IBSS

The DMR exhibited at the 23rd Annual International Boston Seafood Show (IBSS), held March 13-15 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. Attended by more than 80 countries, this trade exposition touches on every aspect of the nation's seafood industry.

The IBSS is the largest of its kind on the North American continent and hosts over 750 leading industry businesses, in addition to several hundred smaller seafood and seafood-related businesses. About 40,000 prospective seafood customers and buyers from around the world attended the big event.

DMR's Mississippi Seafood Marketing display booth reached over 3,500 prospective seafood customers during the three-day event. Visitors received copies



Seafood Marketing Program Special Projects Officer Linda Bullard gets the DMR exhibit ready for the opening day of the IBSS. This is the fifth year the DMR has attended the event.

of the DMR's Mississippi seafood business directory, Mississippi seafood recipe book, recipe cards, and other Mississippi seafood promotional items.

This year's co-exhibitor with the

Mississippi Seafood Marketing Program was Crystal Seas Seafood.

Seafood businesses interested in exhibiting with the DMR's Mississippi Seafood Marketing Program at the 2006 International Boston Seafood Show, or providing promotional materials for distribution should contact Irvin Jackson, Seafood Marketing Program Manager, at (228) 374-5022, extension 5016, or Linda Bullard, DMR's Mississippi Seafood Marketing Program Special Projects Officer, at extension 5289. For more information about the International Boston Seafood Show, visit

www.bostonseafood.com.

For more information about the Mississippi Seafood Marketing Program, visit www.dmr.state.ms.us.



Take a Bow

Recognizing employees commitment to excellence

DMR employees lend their expertise to local science fairs



DMR Coastal Resource Management Specialist Willa Henriksen and GBNERR Coastal Training Specialist Marian Dicas judge science projects.

Seventeen DMR employees served as volunteers at science fairs in 2005. Their participation contributed greatly to the success of these events. Thanks to their efforts, the Department of Marine Resources judged several science fairs this year, including the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair held February 23, in which 15 DMR staffers volunteered. In addition, the DMR judged more than 100 marine-science related projects and presented our Excellence in Marine Science Awards to five deserving students at the regional science fair.

The following DMR employees volunteered and served as science fair judges this year: Christine Johnson, Traci Floyd, Rhonda Price, Annie Nguyen, Tom Van Devender, Jennifer Buchanan (who also oversaw the Excellence in Marine Science Awards and project safety inspections at the Region VI science fair), Bradley Ennis, Marian Dicas, Ruth Posadas, Caree Crosby, Joshua Skidmore, Lauren Bass, Willa Henriksen, Dr. Fred Deegen, Kerwin Cuevas and Rick Ranew.

Kara Vesa also served as a volunteer, conducting safety inspections of science fair projects at the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair held Feb. 23.

DMR volunteers judged five science fairs, including Nativity BVM Elementary in Biloxi, Escatawpa Elementary, North Woolmarket Elementary/Middle School, Magnolia Park Elementary in Ocean Springs and the Region VI Science and Engineering Fair at the MS Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in Biloxi. DMR volunteers also judged, selected winners and presented certificates and monetary awards to the winners of the DMR's Excellence in Marine Science Awards at the Region VI science fair.

Davis completes online FDA training

Seafood Officer Jeff Davis recently completed 10 courses online, including classes on bioterrorism, food labeling, food law for state regulators, processing plant inspections and the basics of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Office of Regulatory Affairs partnered with EduNeering to make the courses available online.



Jeff Davis

FDA is able to offer an online curriculum of more than 100 courses through EduNeering. EduNeering provides learning solutions for businesses, including life science and food.

Lane attends software conference

Marine Fisheries Special Projects Officer Melanie Lane, attended the Verity Customer Connections 2005 Conference March 13-15, in Miami Beach, Florida. The conference focused on demonstrating and celebrating the success of Verity customers through the implementation of its software solutions. A multi-track series of educational sessions were held to increase the customers' awareness of new technology that is taking place and what software solutions are available to meet those needs. The DMR implemented Verity TeleForm as its business process software solution for oyster/finfish trip tickets in January 2000.



Melanie Lane

Happy Anniversary!

These anniversaries mark employees' years of service with the Department of Marine Resources and the state of Mississippi.

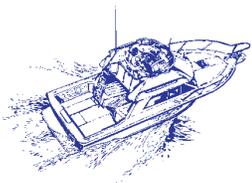
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (4/1/77) Dr. Fred Deegen | (5/1/04) Bradley Randall |
| (4/1/89) David Dollar | (6/1/00) Rudy Balias |
| (4/1/98) Bryce Gex | (6/1/00) Jude LeDoux |
| (4/1/98) Mike Yonce | (6/1/00) Lauren Thompson |
| (4/1/04) Leslie Kelly | (6/1/02) Lauren Bass |
| (4/11/88) Russell Doucet | (6/1/02) Robin Zantow |
| (4/19/04) Caree Crosby | (6/14/04) Tim Broder |
| (4/20/04) Danny Ross | (6/15/90) Christine Johnson |
| (5/1/88) Walter Chataginer | (6/24/93) Jimmy Hester |
| (5/1/01) Joyce Gagliano | (6/25/01) Grant Larsen |
| (5/1/01) Jennifer Buchanan | |

We thank them for their dedicated service to the management of our marine resources.



**Mississippi Department
of Marine Resources**
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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National Safe Boating Week May 21-27

DMR Calendar

April 14

Comprehensive Resource Management Plan Meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 10 a.m.

April 19

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

May 16-18

6th Annual Coastal Development Strategies Conference, Grand Casino Biloxi Bayview Convention Center. For more information, call (228) 374-5000.

May 24

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

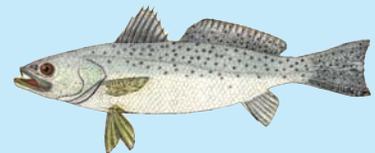
June 21

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources meeting, Bolton Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, 9 a.m.

*May is
American
Wetlands
Month.*



Doc's Fishing Tip



Spring is an excellent time for fishing topwater baits for trout in coastal shallows. Big female trout will move in with the rising tides to feed along the guts and gullies that run parallel to the front beach. Cast a topwater offering into their path, and you could hook up with one of these gamesters.

Fishing a couple of hours or so before the predicted high tide during the early morning or late evening hours from the first quarter moon to the full moon and again from the last quarter moon to the new moon will give you the best chance of fishing success. And using a big floater—like the venerable Zara Spook—will increase your chances of catching a really big one.

*Fred Deegen, Ph.D., Deputy Director
Fish illustration by Joe Jewell*