

PUBLIC NOTICE

Efforts are under way to clean up our coastal waters. These efforts are being coordinated through the United States Coast Guard with support from the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

All users of our coastal waters are encouraged to exercise extreme caution when in or on our waterways. Our recent hurricanes have only compounded the potential for the public to encounter new and dangerous conditions in our waterways. Boaters need to keep in mind that waterways that were once freely navigated may now hold hidden dangers just below the surface. Individuals entering Mississippi coastal waters also need to be aware that debris may be encountered and that the water bottoms may have changed and potentially pockets of deep water may be encountered.

The cleanup of our waterways will not be an easy task. It is anticipated that even after the conclusion of formal cleanup operations debris and obstructions will still pose a hazard to anyone venturing in or on our waterways.

If you encounter hidden conditions that pose a threat to the public, please contact the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Marine Patrol at (228) 523-4134 or the United States Coast Guard at (251) 441-5201 and provide specific information so that the type and location of the hazard may be identified.

Even without hurricanes, obstructions may occur or known hazards may drift to unknown locations. Be aware that areas that are clear today may hold new challenges tomorrow. Be cautious. Be Safe.