



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers Needed: DMR Announces 2010 Crab Trap Area Closure and Derelict Trap Cleanup

BILOXI, Miss. –The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Shrimp and Crab Bureau has set dates for removal of crab traps from Mississippi waters and needs volunteers to help with the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program Cleanup, which is scheduled for late January 2010.

The schedule for removal of crab traps from within all Mississippi territorial bays and bayous and within a half mile of the main shoreline is as follows:

- **Jan. 21-27, 2010**—Move only your own active traps from within the trap closure area boundary (harvest allowed while moving traps). *All traps remaining in the closure area will be considered derelict and will be removed and recycled. It is illegal to purposely interfere with traps not licensed to you unless it is during DMR-approved trap cleanup days by registered volunteers.*
- **Jan. 28-30, 2010**—Registered volunteers may remove remaining derelict traps from within the closure area boundary.
- **Jan. 30, 2010**—Drop off derelict traps at DMR sites for recycling (9 a.m.-2 p.m.) at Pascagoula Point, Ocean Springs Harbor or Bayou Caddy.
- **Jan. 31, 2010**—All active traps may be returned to Mississippi territorial waters within a half mile of the main shoreline.

Volunteers interested in participating in the 2010 Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program must fill out a registration form, which can be found on the DMR Web site: www.dmr.ms.gov or the DMR office at 1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi. **Training will be provided January 14 at 6 p.m. on the first floor at the DMR office.** For details, call the DMR Shrimp and Crab Bureau at 228-374-5000.

The Mississippi Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program is funded through a grant from the FishAmerica Foundation in partnership with the Brunswick Public Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center for Community-based Habitat Restoration. The program has removed and recycled nearly 18,000 derelict crab traps from Mississippi's waters since its inception in 2000.

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.

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