



## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

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# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### *Oyster Reefs Close Due to Inclement Weather*

BILOXI, Miss. – Officials with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources announced Monday that all oyster reefs will close at 4 p.m. because of hazardous weather conditions.

South Mississippi is under a Winter Storm Watch issued by the National Weather Service in New Orleans, and the area likely will get freezing rain, sleet and possibly snow beginning Monday night through Tuesday evening and possibly Wednesday.

Oyster reefs likely will re-open at legal sunrise Thursday, Jan. 30, unless the winter storm produces excessive rainfall or rising river stages. Call the Oyster Hotline at 228-374-5167 or 1-800-385-5902 for the latest information.

This order is in accordance with the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources regulation Title 22, Part 1 and the "Order Opening the 2013-2014 Limited Mississippi Oyster Season in Certain Waters Classified as Approved or Conditionally Approved by the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources, and Placing Certain Restrictions on Oyster Harvesting Activities.

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](http://www.dmr.ms.gov).

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