

# Mississippi Artificial Reef Habitat Early Restoration

## Phase I Early Restoration

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) implemented the Mississippi Artificial Reef Habitat Phase I Early Restoration Project to help restore natural resources of the Gulf following the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill (Spill). Valued at \$2.6 million, the Artificial Reef Habitat project enhanced existing nearshore reefs within Mississippi waters. The hard bottom provided valuable nearshore habitat and shelter sites for small crustaceans and mollusks, as well as juvenile shrimp, crab and oysters that live on the reef and in the sediment.

During the fall of 2012 and spring of 2013, barges equipped with a large crane and an attached clamshell bucket were used to hoist crushed, domestic limestone and place it on the existing reefs in coastal waters. A total of 28,530 cubic yards of the limestone cultch were deployed on 47 of the 67 artificial reef locations in Jackson, Harrison and Hancock counties.

Secondary productivity monitoring of this project is complete; data are available at <https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>.

Funding for this project is the result of an April 21, 2011 negotiated commitment from BP to provide \$1 billion for early restoration Gulf wide. When negotiated, the agreement was the largest of its kind. Of the \$1 billion, Mississippi was allocated \$100 million. More information about this project and other restoration efforts can be reviewed at [www.restore.ms](http://www.restore.ms).



Existing artificial reef areas (each approximately three acres in size) enhanced with clean, crushed limestone.



### Mississippi's Existing Nearshore Artificial Reefs

- |                             |                                  |                              |                                     |                                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Oak Street Reef          | 15. Walmart Reef                 | 29. VA Hospital Reef         | 43. South Deer Island Barge Reef    | 57. Gulf Park Estates Pier Reef      |
| 2. St. Claire Reef          | 16. Jeff Davis Ave. Pier Reef    | 30. Courthouse Rd. Pier Reef | 44. Joe Thornton Hull Reef          | 58. Bellefontaine Reef               |
| 3. Waveland Rubble Reef 2   | 17. Long Beach Harbor Jetty Reef | 31. Tegarden Reef            | 45. Spoil Island South Reef         | 59. Graveline Reef                   |
| 4. Monroe Street Reef       | 18. Long Beach Harbor Pier Reef  | 32. Naval Hospital Reef      | 46. Fort Bayou Reef                 | 60. Pascagoula River Reef Site 3     |
| 5. Amer. Legion Launch Reef | 19. USM Reef                     | 33. Legacy Towers Reef       | 47. Spoil Island North Reef         | 61. Pascagoula River Reef Site 4     |
| 6. Amer. Legion Pier Reef   | 20. Long Beach East Reef         | 34. Broadwater Harbor Reef   | 48. Old Highway 90 Bridge Reef West | 62. Pascagoula West River Mouth Reef |
| 7. Cedar Point Reef         | 21. Fournier Ave. Reef           | 35. Whitehouse Reef          | 49. East Biloxi Channel Reef        | 63. Round Island Jetty               |
| 8. Square Handkerchief Key  | 22. Charles Walker Pier          | 36. Keesler Harbor Reef      | 50. Old Highway 90 Bridge Reef East | 64. Pascagoula River Reef Site 1     |
| 9. BSL Train Bridge Reef    | 23. Urie Pier North              | 37. Goat Island Reef         | 51. Katrina Key Reef                | 65. Pascagoula Front Beach Reef      |
| 10. Mellini Point Reef      | 24. Urie Pier South              | 38. d'Iberville Marina Reef  | 52. Ocean Springs Comm. Pier Reef   | 66. Pascagoula Municipal Pier        |
| 11. Pass Harbor Pier Reef   | 25. Moses Pier Reef              | 39. d'Iberville Bridge Reef  | 53. Deer Island North Reef          | 67. Waveland Pier Reef               |
| 12. Lang Ave. Reef          | 26. Thornton Ave. Reef           | 40. Biloxi Harbor Reef       | 54. Ocean Springs Pier Reef         |                                      |
| 13. Japonica Drive Reef     | 27. Kelly Ave. Reef              | 41. Keesler Rubble Reef      | 55. Ocean Springs Harbor Pier Reef  |                                      |
| 14. Emerald Street Reef     | 28. Hewes Avenue Reef            | 42. Kuhn Street Pier Reef    | 56. Gulf Park Estates Reef          |                                      |

