

MISSISSIPPI RESTORATION REVIEW

A publication about MS Gulf Coast restoration news from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

SPRING 2017

NFWF HIGHLIGHT: ROUND ISLAND

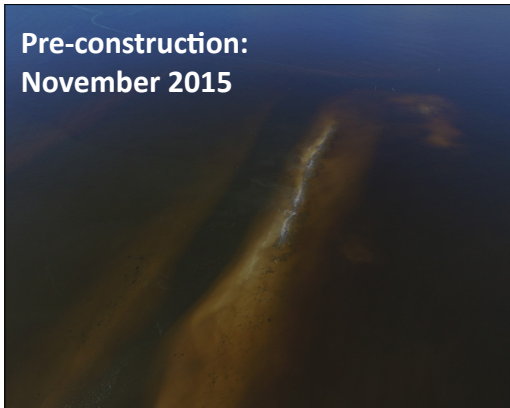
The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) are **warning boaters to stay clear of the Round Island Marsh Restoration construction project near Pascagoula due to loose materials that could be dangerous if walked on.**

This project was highlighted in the June 2016 issue of the MDEQ Gulf Coast restoration newsletter, however a significant amount of work has been completed to date (see progress pictures below). The initial phase of marsh creation at Round Island is complete. A sand berm was created and filled with dredge spoils from the Pascagoula Channel as the initial step in creating a new marsh habitat for the Mississippi Coast. The majority of the material in the area is very loose. There are areas that appear to be solid surfaces where the top material is crusted over, however, the material below is very loose and cannot support the weight of a person. All of the area inside of the berm can be

very dangerous and is not intended for public use at this time. Round Island remains an active construction site and is posted as such (Danger – Construction Area – Keep Out). Until the material inside of the berm dries out and can hold the weight of a person, public access to the island is off limits.

The \$8 million Round Island Marsh Restoration project is being funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. It is part of a \$21 million Utilization of Dredge Material for Marsh Restoration Project which identifies Beneficial Use (BU) material from dredging activities and then finds suitable sites to receive that BU material to restore marsh in areas that have seen degradation over the past decades and were especially affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The overall project includes plans for sites in all three coastal counties.

Pre-construction:
November 2015



July 2016



August 2016



November 2016



January 2017



February 2017



WWW.RESTORE.MS



NRDA HIGHLIGHT: POPP'S FERRY CAUSEWAY PARK

The Popp's Ferry Causeway Park project will improve a portion of the Popp's Ferry Causeway Park in Back Bay, owned by the City of Biloxi. The intent is to restore lost recreational use. The estimated cost for this project is \$4.2 million, and it will be completed in March 2018.

The project will update and construct amenities which will allow visitors to fish, crab and observe nature. Plans include construction of an interpretive center, nature trails, shoreline stabilization, boardwalks, fishing piers, a marsh overlook pier, a kayak rental and bait shop, and an ADA-compliant kayak launch. Visit www.restore.ms for more information.



RESTORE HIGHLIGHT: SEA GRANT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM

MDEQ is soliciting proposals in the support of MDEQ's Sea Grant Education and Outreach (EOE) Grant Program. This program is funded through the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council under the Council-Selected Restoration Component (RESTORE Bucket 2). This program is included on the Funded Priorities List, which was approved on December 9, 2015.

The primary goal of this Program is to fund education, outreach, and extension programs to provide information regarding how upland restoration and conservation work provides benefits to connected downstream estuarine and marine ecosystems. This project will fund activities aimed at relaying the ecosystem benefits of upstream land conservation, habitat restoration, and water quality restoration to the public including younger generations of scientists and stakeholders.

In November 2019, MDEQ anticipates hosting the "Connecting Upstream Land Conservation and Restoration to Downstream Systems" conference. This conference will be free and open to the public, and it will provide interested parties the opportunity to learn more about a particular field of study, as well as provide an interactive space for the exchange of ideas and collaboration.

MDEQ will accept proposals through May 1, 2017. Visit www.restore.ms for more information.



BEACH OUTFALLS CHALLENGE UPDATE

Registration for the Beach Outfalls Challenge closed on March 31, 2017. On May 19, 2017, the semifinalist's videos will be posted to the Beach Outfalls Challenge website for public voting. The finalists will be announced on June 8, 2017, and the Beach Outfalls Showcase will be held later that month.

To connect with the Beach Outfalls Challenge, follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/BeachOutfallsChallenge) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/BeachOutfallsChallenge).



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

<p>MARCH 31 REGISTRATION CLOSES</p> <p>APRIL 14 DESIGN SUBMISSIONS DUE</p> <p>APRIL 15 - 19 DESIGN SUBMISSIONS REVIEWED BY MDEQ</p> <p>APRIL 20 - 29 DESIGN SUBMISSIONS REVIEWED BY JUDGES</p>	<p>MAY 1 SEMIFINALISTS ANNOUNCED</p> <p>MAY 16 VIDEO SUBMISSIONS DUE FOR PUBLIC VOTING</p> <p>MAY 19 - JUNE 4 PUBLIC VOTING PERIOD</p> <p>JUNE 8 ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS</p> <p>LATE JUNE BEACH OUTFALLS CHALLENGE SHOWCASE</p>
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