

Precautionary Closure of Portions of Mississippi Marine Waters To All Commercial and Recreational Fishing, Effective Immediately

BILOXI, Miss. – The executive directors of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, in an abundance of caution, are closing a certain portion of Mississippi's territorial marine waters, **effective immediately**, to all commercial and recreational fishing, including all species of finfish, crabs, shrimp and oysters.

The closed area includes those territorial marine waters of the State of Mississippi lying east of 88 degrees 40 minutes west longitude and south of the CSX Railroad, excluding Graveline Bayou and its tributaries. Any individuals retaining any marine species from this closed area will be required to immediately return them to the waters.

This precautionary closure is a result of the presence of oil in this general area and the potential impacts of the oil on Mississippi's coastal marine resources. The continuous monitoring of this situation is to ensure public safety and protection of Mississippi's coastal resources.

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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