

Phase I Early Restoration Plan



April 2012

MISSISSIPPI ARTIFICIAL REEF HABITAT

GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mississippi Artificial Reef project will deploy material that will enhance nearshore artificial reefs in the coastal waters of Mississippi. Nearshore artificial reefs provide valuable hardbottom habitat with foraging and shelter sites for smaller encrusting organisms. Currently there are 67 existing reef areas that are each approximately three acres in size. The project aims at increasing habitat while enhancing the existing reefs. At present, approximately half of the existing reef areas have a low profile and consist of crushed concrete or limestone. Approximately 100 acres of crushed, clean concrete will be added to the 201-acres of existing reef areas.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) hopes to use clean, crushed concrete recovered from Katrina rubble to provide additional reef material. Each of the reefs will be three acres in size and four to six inches thick. More than 100,000 cubic yards of clean material will be deployed over the course of the project.

MDEQ will partner with other state agencies and the university system in order to implement these projects using our own experts to understand, restore, and monitor the reefs. We envision deployment of reef material in early fall of 2012 in order to coincide with the natural life cycles.

RESOURCE BENEFITS

The Mississippi Artificial Reef habitat project will restore injured shallow-water resources and fragile estuaries in the Mississippi Sound, resulting from exposure to oil, dispersant, and/or response activities undertaken to prevent, minimize, or remediate oiling from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

These reefs will restore and enhance the habitat of smaller organisms mainly consisting of small crustaceans and mollusks, such as juvenile shrimp, crab and oysters that live on the reef and in the sediment (secondary productivity). Through the enhancement of the current reefs and the additions to them, the project will increase the overall productivity of the reefs, which is the base of the food web.

ESTIMATED COSTS

Total estimated project costs are \$2.6 million.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Mississippi's Existing Nearshore Artificial Reefs

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