

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

News Release

Contact: Melissa Scallan Phone: 228-523-4124

13-104-MMS Oct. 8, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oyster reefs to reopen Wednesday

BILOXI, Miss. – Oyster reefs that were closed Oct. 3 due to the threat of Tropical Storm Karen will reopen Wednesday, officials with the Department of Marine Resources said Tuesday.

Those areas include:

Area II "A" - Conditionally Approved Waters - This area includes northern portions of the Pass Christian and Henderson Point reefs and Hornets reef.

Area II "B" - Conditionally Approved Waters - This area includes Waveland and St. Stanislaus reefs.

Area II "C" - Conditionally Approved Waters - and its subdivisions of 2 "E," 2 "F," and 2 "G," which includes southern portions of the Pass Christian and Henderson Point reefs and northern portions of the Pass Marianne and Telegraph reefs.

Area II "D" Conditionally Approved Waters - This area includes the public reefs in St. Louis Bay, between the U.S. Highway 90 bridge and the CSX railroad bridge.

The reefs open at legal sunrise, and check-out time is 3 p.m. each day. The daily limit for tonging is 12 sacks.

When reefs open for commercial dredging Oct. 14, the initial daily limit will be 20 sacks.

This is in accordance with The Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources, Title 22, Part 1 and the "Order Opening the 2013-2014 Limited 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 <u>www.dmr.ms.gov</u>.

—END—