

# Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, Inc.

## Activity Report for the Period July 9 thru August 13, 2015

### Activity Summary

During this period there were 6 construction trips (one unsuccessful) and 1 reef monitoring trip. On July 13, Culverts were deployed on FH-2 and a dive was made on the St. Elmo. On July 17, Culverts were deployed in FH-1. On July 23, Culverts were deployed in FH-13 and a dive was made on the Southern Star. On July 25, a dive was made on Barge A in FH-1. On July 29, Culverts were deployed in FH-13 and dives were made on the Baratavia Bay & the Southern Star. On August 4, an attempt was made to deploy Culverts in FH-1, but the contractor ran the Barge aground at Horn Island and never made it to the site. Carpet FAD 3e was deployed on open bottom on top of a public marked GPS obstruction about 3 miles past Horn Island. On August 8, a monitoring trip was made to FH-2 and dives were made on the 060424 Capt Kevin 433F2 and 081002 Reef Balls 489F2. Also, carpet FADs 3f, 3g, and 3h were deployed on Culverts 150713a. On August 11, Culverts were deployed in FH-1. All material was deployed within the 9 mile State water boundaries and 2 reef sites were created with each barge load for a total of 10 new reef sites.

### Culvert Deployments

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources contracted with W.C.Fore of Gulfport to deploy Culverts that have been stock piled at the Seaway site for quite some time. A total of ten reef



sites were created so far within the 9 mile claimed State Waters within FH-1, FH-2, and FH-13. W.C. Fore utilized a 60' x 140' Barge pushed by 2 Tug Boats, the 50'x20' Anthony Taylor, and the 40'x24' Matthew/Nicole. Culverts were typically stacked 3 layers high by 3 rows deep on each end of the barge with smaller culverts inserted inside of larger ones. A large Track Hoe and a Sky Track equipped with a Fork Lift was used to offload the material. A buoy was placed by the DMR at their chosen location and the contractor did a good job of holding the barge in position next to the buoy as the material was offloaded resulting in a good concentration for the reef. Maximum relief appeared to be about 8 feet above the bottom. A GPS fix was taken on both sides of the barge where the material was being dumped and a center mark in between these two marks was used to report the locations as detailed here. There was one issue with the 150723a deployment. A high current caused the marker buoy to drift initially undetected so that material was not as concentrated. The "drift to" coordinates are listed below with the others.

**150713a Culverts 553F2 30°04.891'N/88°34.541'W 59' Depth (61'measured, tide 2.0-2.2' above mlw)**  
**150713b Culverts 554F2 30°04.889'N/88°34.715'W 59' Depth (61'measured, tide 2.0-2.2' above mlw)**  
**150717a Culverts 555F1 30°04.032'N/88°36.680'W 63' Depth (64'measured, tide 1.7-1.9' above mlw)**  
**150717b Culverts 556F1 30°03.951'N/88°36.550'W 64' Depth (65'measured, tide 1.9' above mlw)**  
**150723a Culverts 557F13 30°03.888'N/88°31.795'W 63' Depth (64'measured, tide 1.1' above mlw)**  
**this deployment drifted southwest to 30°03.849'N/88°31.848'W due to current dragging buoy**  
**150723b Culverts 558F13 30°03.889'N/88°32.241'W 67' Depth (68'measured, tide 1.0' above mlw)**  
**150729a Culverts 559F13 30°03.355'N/88°31.827'W 69' Depth (71'measured, tide 2.0' above mlw)**  
**150729b Culverts 560F13 30°03.306'N/88°32.060'W 68' Depth (70'measured, tide 2.0' above mlw)**  
**150811a Culverts 561F1 30°03.344'N/88°36.506'W 64' Depth (66'measured, tide 2.2' above mlw)**  
**150811b Culverts 562F1 30°03.199'N/88°36.801'W 64' Depth (66'measured, tide 2.2' above mlw)**

### 081011b St. Elmo Shrimp Boat 491F2

**Position: 30°04.820'N / 88°33.278'W**

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/vJa20qdEg68>

**One minute clip:** <https://youtu.be/e9oirhERS74>

This 70' Steel Hull Shrimp Boat washed ashore in Pass Christian Harbor during Hurricane Gustav in 2008. The Harbor had a lien on the Vessel and somehow obtained ownership and donated it to the DMR. The DMR Derelict Vessel Program paid 100% to recover the Vessel, environmentally clean it, and deploy it in FH-2. Previous visits were conducted on May 2, 2009, September 20, 2009, May 22, 2010, July 14, 2012, September 12, 2012, September 29, 2013, and August 31, 2014. The visit showed the reef to be performing well. However, compared to the late August visit from last year, no AJs or tropicals were noted. Also the descent FAD (Crab Pot) that was installed last year was missing. It looks like it was snagged and pulled loose at the top. It was replaced on this visit. The height measurements were about the same indicating some stable settling but also indicate some subsidence when compared to the surrounding depth reading of 58'. Measurements were taken as follows. Highest point 50', Stern Cage 51'-53', Stern Port Bottom 53', Stern Starboard Bottom 64', Wheel House Roof 54', Bottom Bow 67', Bow Pulpit 58'.

## **840701 Barge-A 21F1**

**Position: 30°03.605'N / 88°36.636'W 68' Depth**

**Video:** [https://youtu.be/qTY\\_ianeiiE](https://youtu.be/qTY_ianeiiE)

This 180' X 70' X 12' Barge was sunk in the Summer of 1984. Despite its age, the overall structure, including the deck, has held up very well. On November 8, 2001 the reef was augmented by concrete rubble, some of which landed on top of the barge. Due to its success, Reef Balls were deployed on top of the Deck as well as the surrounding area on October 6, 2009. There was poor visibility on this dive but that's how monitoring goes sometimes. This trip showed some first time deterioration of the deck but is still supporting the supplemental material. Observations were limited but showed some good schools of Mangrove Snapper, a pair of Spotfin Butterflies, and even a large Spider Crab.

## **100331A Southern Star 526F13 & Nearby FAD1 & FAD3b**

**Position: 30°02.082'N / 88°30.916'W 76' Depth**

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/Vgv-Rullww0>

**FAD1&FAD3b Video:** [https://youtu.be/ruf9K6L\\_BB0](https://youtu.be/ruf9K6L_BB0)

On July 23, a visit was made to the Southern Star Shrimp Boat which also has carpet FAD3a attached. Observations showed an exceptional population of Red Snapper and baitfish. Spadefish were observed scratching themselves on carpet FAD3a. After that dive a visit was made on nearby FAD1/FAD3b. FAD1 is a 10'x5' PVC Sewer Pipe FAD that was deployed on August 10, 2014. Carpet FAD3b was attached to the top of it on July 4. FAD1 has been underwater for about a year now and has significant barnacle encrustation and even some sea urchins attached. Cigar Minnows and Spadefish also thrive. The FADs are performing well. There was some carpet entanglement which may need to be addressed depending on future observations. Perhaps some small floatation on the tail edge of the carpet to keep it floating higher than the PVC pipe end.



## **150610 Barataria Bay 552F13**

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/qhPxMTOWz-Q>

**Position: 29°59.605'N 88°30.350'W Depth: 88' Min Depth: 53'**

**Bow: 29°59.614'N 88°30.348'W Stern: 29°59.586'N 88°30.361'W**

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources contracted Reefmakers from Orange Beach, Alabama and deployed the Pogy Boat "Barataria Bay" on June 10, 2015. This July 29, 2015 Visit showed the reef is off to a great start. The Reefmaker FADs were attracting Filefish on the vertical strands of rope. A significant concentration of Cigar Minnows were present as well. Carpet FADs 3c & 3d were deployed on July 4 and one of them became entangled on the Reefmaker FADs but was cleared and moved to a location farther forward. Some fouling of the carpet was noticed on FAD 3d but was minor. Some game size red snapper were also seen. A visit was also made to the Southern Star again. Not much change from the July 23 visit but did have some better visibility. There was no fouling of the carpet FAD. The video link is <https://youtu.be/E5nboy71Atk>

## **060424 Capt Kevin Shrimp Boat 433F2**

**Position: 30°05.099'N / 88°33.490'W**

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/JpWPVtFnzil>

Observations showed some nice red snapper, mangrove snapper, and sheepshead. In particular, some large Mangrove Snapper were observed going into the front hold. Depth measurements showed 55' on port stern corner, 57' on starboard stern corner, about 60' at the Stern Bottom, 40' to 37' on the mast rigging, but a small protruding piece at the highest point was at 33 feet. Not much different than previous measurements.

## **081002b Reef Balls 489F2**

**Position: 30°05.216'N / 88°33.280'W**

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/wCvSaUaYB4w>

The dive on the Capt Kevin showed some descent (not great) visibility on the bottom so it was decided to inspect the nearby Reef Balls. These Reef Balls were deployed on [October 2, 2008](#) a little north of the Capt Kevin and a little west of the Bill Walker Wreck. This visit showed them to still be producing well with a good population of Red and Mangrove Snapper, and Triggerfish. Also a Sea Turtle was encountered. At least one of the original descent FADs (Crab Pot Buoy) was still functioning.

## **FADs 3e, 3f, 3g, and 3h**

Four more carpet FADs were deployed during this period. These units were deployed using concrete blocks for anchors instead of tying them directly to structure. The first one was deployed in an open water area and the remaining were deployed on top of Culverts 150713a on August 8. The positions are as follows. FAD 3f 30°04.876'N/88°34.539'W, FAD 3g 30°04.898'N /88°34.541'W, FAD3h 30°04.882'N/88°34.538'W. There was a strong Southeast current.