

Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, Inc.

Activity Report for the Period June 11 thru July 9, 2015

Activity Summary

During this period there was one FAD Deployment/Reef Monitoring Trip. On July 4, a trip was made to deploy 4 newly constructed FAD designs in FH-13 designated as FAD3a, FAD3b, FAD3c, and FAD3d. FAD3a was deployed on the Southern Star Shrimp Boat. FAD3b was deployed on nearby FAD1. FAD3c and FAD3d were deployed on the newly deployed Barataria Bay Pogy Boat. This report also covers some work from last months report that was omitted due to time constraints. Namely, a visit to the Mike Jenner Tug Boat in FH-13 on June 10, visits to FAD1 in FH-13 on March 8 & June 10, and a visit/repair trip to FAD2 in FH-7 on May 29 and June 1.

060624 Mike Jenner Reef 435F13

Position: 29°59.527'N / 88°29.610'W 87'

Video: <https://youtu.be/3qd2mwYZ3Uc>

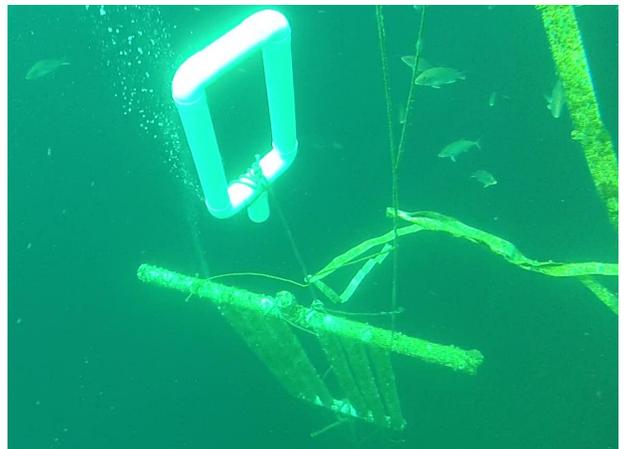
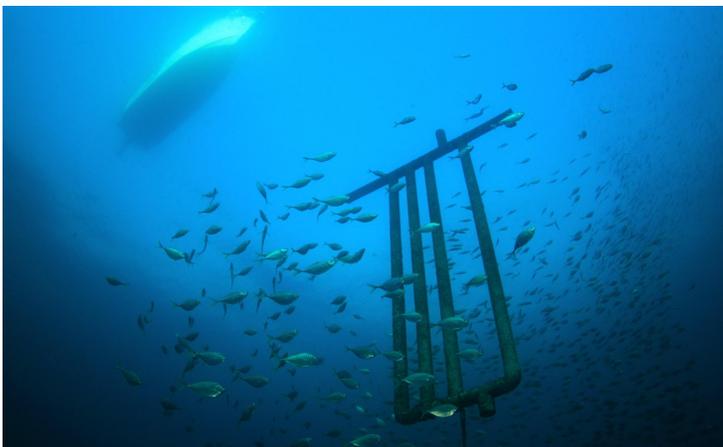
Trip Gallery

This 145' River Tug Boat is sitting upright in about 86' of water within FH-13. Deployed post Hurricane Katrina, this vessel offers the highest relief in FH-13 at about 52 feet of water clearance. Greeted on the initial descent was a healthy population of Spadefish, Mangroves, Moonfish, Hardtails, and Cigar Minnows. Upon reaching the structure there were Red Snapper, Triggerfish, Gag Grouper, Blue Angels (3), juvenile Amberjack, and Sheepshead. Invertebrate sightings included sea cucumbers and venomous bristle worms. On the Starboard Stern corner of the wheelhouse about a half dozen Cocoa Damsels, Soapfish, and Arrow Crabs were seen as well as the invasive sun coral *Tubastraea coccinea*. This is the first sighting of this species on any of our reefs. It is common much further out (70 miles) near the edge of the continental shelf. Last September a Spanish Hogfish was sighted on this reef which too was the first sighting on our reefs and usually are abundant out near the edge of the continental shelf. This fish was not seen on this visit. No invasive lionfish were sighted here but one was sighted on this day on nearby platform MO992. Also the message in a bottle mentioned from last September's visit is missing.

Visits to FAD1 & FAD2

Comparative visits were made to FAD1 (deployed August 10th) on [March 8](https://youtu.be/IUHqhtpPKuE) (<https://youtu.be/IUHqhtpPKuE>) and on [June 10](https://youtu.be/rPfUDSS1X7U) (<https://youtu.be/rPfUDSS1X7U>). Growth and encrustation continues on FAD1 but it was interesting to note that very few baitfish were seen on the cold water visit in March but it was booming on the June 10 visit.

On May 29, a visit was made to FAD2 on the Jumbo Barge in FH-7 (<https://youtu.be/QPEq-dHe-50>). The device was found sitting upright but on the bottom. Some air was added but a severe leak was noted so a repair trip was made on June 1 (https://youtu.be/sjX7haL0_wQ). A smaller FAD unit was tied to the top and air added to give it buoyancy. It was surprising to see FAD2 still floating in the upper water column despite the leak previously noted. FAD2 was deployed on October 29 and does not have as much growth as FAD1 but the barnacles are larger. FAD2 is proving effective in attracting Cigar Minnows and juvenile Amberjack which would otherwise be absent.



FAD3a, FAD3b, FAD3c, and FAD3d. [Trip Gallery](#)

A new design was implemented and called FAD3 since this is our third FAD construction attempt. The idea was taken from units that were seen in Destin earlier this year (See <https://youtu.be/npjSGnqGLyE>). The design is simple consisting of burlap material measuring about 5' X 8' and attached to a 1-1/2" Schedule 40 PVC Pipe. The unit is flown like a horizontal flag. It can be attached to a weight and used stand alone or attached to a wreck. In this case we are attaching to other material so we can easily find and monitor their progress. The material consisted of an 8' X 5' burlap attached to a 1-1/2" PVC pipe that is capped and sealed. A bridle was tied on and the unit could then be rolled up for convenient transport. Once onsite the appropriate amount of downline was added and the unit was rolled back up for transport down to the reef. The cost of each unit was about \$25 in material. The breakdown was as follows. Burlap, 60" wide at \$1.30 per foot or \$10.40 per FAD. PVC pipe 1-1/2" X 5' at \$4.14 per FAD, PVC Caps at \$1.58 each or \$3.16 per FAD, 100# Paracord at .16 per foot or \$1.60 per FAD, Cable Ties at .08 each or .40 per FAD. Downline is .10 per foot (1/4" Polypropylene).



FAD3a attached to 100331A Southern Star 526F13

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

Video: <https://youtu.be/gIHnU7siA6Y>

This 80' Shrimp Boat was deployed in about 76' of water within FH-13. FAD3a was attached to one of the cutoff masts that rise to about 56 feet. The FAD came up to about 35 feet. Depth measurements were also taken as follows, Bow Bottom washout at 82', Bow Pulpit 65', Wheelhouse Roof 60'. Fish observations included Spadefish, Cigar Minnows, TomTates, Red Snapper, and Mangrove Snapper.

FAD3b was attached to the top of nearby FAD1. **Video:** <https://youtu.be/wE0SWrBDNVA>

Depth readings of 82' at the bottom and 74' at the top of the Pyramid with a surrounding depth of 76 feet indicates subsidence into the bottom. FAD3b was recorded at 27 feet. Fish observations included Red Snapper, Spadefish, and Cigar Minnows. A good population of Sea Urchins were seen covering the Pyramid, an indication of healthy O2 levels. Red Snapper were readily swimming in and out of the Pyramid.

FAD3c & FAD3d attached to 150610 Barataria Bay 552F13

Video: <https://youtu.be/pFXo1s4gOCE>

The last two FADs were deployed on the Barataria Bay Pogy Boat. Visibility was not as good as it was at deployment but it was useable. FAD3c was attached to the Wheelhouse roof and rises to a depth of 30 feet. FAD3d was attached to the bow and rises to a depth of 23 feet. Depth measurements were 70' at the bow pulpit, 58' on the wheelhouse roof, and 62' on the back salon roof. All these measurements were about 2 feet deeper than at deployment but the tide was running about 2 feet above MLW at the time. Fish are beginning to show up on this 24 day old reef, mostly smaller year one red snapper and cigar minnows, but there were a few larger red snapper around the perimeter with one going into the wheelhouse as seen on the video @2:42. Worth mentioning is some unusual corrosion on the life ring rack on the port side @3:08.