

Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, Inc.

Activity Report for the Period February 12 thru June 11, 2015

Activity Summary

During this period there was 1 construction trip and 3 reef surveys. On June 10, the Barataria Bay Pogey Boat was deployed in FH-13. On March 8, an inspection dive was made on FAD1 in FH-13. On April 24, Pyramids 130926B were visited in FH-13. On May 29, the Jumbo Barge in FH-7 was visited and it was discovered that FAD2 had sunk to the bottom. On June 1, a trip was made to FH-7 to repair FAD2.

150610 Barataria Bay 552F13

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

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

Gallery: http://gallery.primofish.com/2015/Fishing_Diving/MGFB/Deployments/150610_Baratia-Bay_Nick_Jess_Jessy_Pam/

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources contracted Reefmakers from Orange Beach, Alabama to deploy the Pogey Boat "Barataria Bay" which was donated by Omega Protein. Water started flowing into the vessel at about 10am and she eventually sunk at about 12:10PM CST. Thirty minutes later a dive was made to inspect the results. Accompanying me was Nick & Jessica Morgan. The vessel landed upright in 88 feet of water. Measurements indicated a minimum depth of 53 feet with the top of the wheelhouse at 56 feet. The bow was at 68 feet and the stern was at 78 feet. The deck behind the wheelhouse measured 60 feet. FADs were attached to the reef but one was jammed inside the vessel. It was pulled out but the buoy did not seem to have much buoyancy. Otherwise things look very promising for this reef. A "Grouper Reef" consisting of 3 saucers was mounted on the center of the vessel. We were fortunate to have good visibility on the reef. Only the top and bottom 10 feet of the water column was murky. Some good benchmark video was obtained for future comparison. Click the above youtube link to view it, or visit <http://mgfb.org>.

Other Work:

Due to the close proximity of this deployment work to our monthly meeting, there was not enough time to assemble all the report data for all the other work before the meeting. It was recognized that this deployment should take priority over the survey work so this missing information is expected for next month's meeting. However, the work information is summarized as follows.



Following the deployment, a visit was also made to the Mike Jenner Tug Boat nearby in FH-13. It is doing well.

Visits were made to FAD1 on March 8 and June 10. It was interesting to see very little life on FAD1 during the March visit when the water was cold but was exploding with Cigar Minnows and Red Snapper on the June 10 visit.

Visits were made to the FH-7 Jumbo Barge and FAD2 on May 29 and FAD2 was discovered collapsed on the bottom. Air was added to the FAD but a sizable leak was noted trailing from it. Therefore a repair trip was made on June 1. Surprisingly, FAD2 was floating and functional. The repair FAD was attached to it and air added. The FAD is doing very well attracting cigar minnows, juvenile amberjack, and red snapper.

A visit was made to Pyramid Cluster 130926B on April 24. Conditions were not too good, but the reef is being utilized by red snapper.