

# Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, Inc.

## Activity Report for the Period October 8 thru November 12, 2015

### Activity Summary

During this period there was 1 reef trip to deploy FADs in FH-13 on the Mike Jenner Tug and the Barataria Bay Pogie Boat. On October 30, a carpet FAD was deployed on the Mike Jenner Tug and 15 Noodle FADs were deployed on the Barataria Bay Pogie Boat.

**150610 Barataria Bay 552F13**

**Video:** <https://youtu.be/PXgxYH2oTc>

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

[Gallery](#)

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

The first dive was to deploy a Carpet FAD on the Mike Jenner Tug. Skip Roberts performed the honors and tied it to the hand rail on the top of the wheel house but visibility was poor and no observations were conducted. Following that dive two vessels, the Primofish & the Southern Spear-It (Bob Shivers) were setup on top of the Barataria Bay Pogie Boat to deploy 15 Noodle FADs constructed by J.R. Titmus of Ocean Springs. Bob Brown also donated a small bicycle to the project deploying it on the top of the wheel house. Six divers deployed the FADs to the hand rails around the vessel. The FADs had been taken to the Biloxi Seafood Festival where several people signed their names on them paying \$1 each which helped fund the project. Jason Jones was one of the signers and he was also present for this deployment. The FADs were made from foam swimming pool Noodles. They had rope pushed thru horizontally at several points to offer some additional growth substrate and expanding spray insulation foam was used on the interior. A rope was fed vertically thru the Noodle leaving about 5-10 feet out the bottom to tie to the structure. The pressure of water depth ended up compressing the Noodles considerably as shown in the video. Although the visibility was poor, some observations revealed that both Carpet FADs deployed on July 4 had disappeared probably due to the Gale Force Winds experienced the week before. The attaching rope was severed about 10-20 feet up. Also the American Flag that was deployed on September 5 was missing, apparently pulled off of the mast which was still present. The mast is tapered and there was concern at the time of deployment of it pulling off the top. A replacement will be made later and holes will be drilled into the mast to circumvent the problem of the taper. Fish observations still showed quite a population of baitfish (Cigar Minnows & Blue Runners). Also a small lionfish and a large Goliath Grouper was seen swimming past an opening in the vessel (jump to 5:00 in the video). The fish was inside the vessel and disappeared within despite efforts to locate him again. A loggerhead sea turtle was sighted on the surface. On the way in, we came across someone else's FAD that had broke loose and floating in the tide line. Very similar to our carpet FADs but using black construction fabric instead of burlap. There is a picture in the Gallery.

