

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources **and Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, Inc.**

Activity Report for the Period **January 14, 2005 through June 9, 2005**

Summary

During this period, there was 1 reef construction trip. On May 20, the towboat, *Kay A. Eckstein*, was deployed on the southeast end of Fish Haven 13. This three-deck level, 150-foot 6,300-hp Mississippi River towboat was donated, prepared and deployed at no cost from Marquette Transportation Company, Inc. The contractor, Pearl River Navigation cut the wheel house off to stay within permit requirements of navigational clearance.

History

On May 23 1999 an engine room fire erupted on the *Kay A. Eckstein*. The vessel was proceeding upriver in the Mississippi River, near St. Francisville, La pushing 29 barges. All 10 crewmembers aboard the vessel were safely evacuated. Due to the 40,000 gallons of diesel fuel on board at the time of the incident, the fire continued for 12 hours, and the vessel sank near the bank of the river as a result of the water burden created during fire-fighting. The vessel was re-floated, and after completing an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the fire, Marquette Transportation agreed to fund the expense associated with cleaning and preparing the hull as a reef donation and the cost of transporting the vessel to the deployment site.

050520 M/V Kay Eckstein, 431FH13

Position: Bow 29° 59.554'N / 88°29.707'W

Stern 29° 59.550'N / 88°29.675'W

On May 20, DMR met the Pearl River Navigation tugs Trouper and John Ouzts on location at 8:30 am. Around 9:00 am the tug John Ouzts started pumping water in the hull of the *Kay Eckstein* and at 10:45 am the tug sank. The stern went down first then the bow came down immediately after. The surrounding water depth was 88'. The tug is setting upright at an east west orientation with the bow facing west. Clearance over the stern was 78' and the bow had 50'.







