

**Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
and Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, Inc.
Deployment Report for the Period of
June 9, 2006 to October 12, 2006**

Summary

During this period there were 10 reef deployments to FH-1, 2 and 13. Three deployments were steel hull vessels (deployed in FH-13) and 6 were concrete culverts (deployed in FH-1 and 2).

On June 24, 2006 DMR met the M/V Windward Century on site while towing tug “Gerald Corcoran” to deploy for artificial reef habitat. This vessel was donated to the Mississippi's artificial reef program by National Fisheries Restoration, and environmentally prepared/deployed by Gulfstream Enterprises Inc. The Department of Marine Resources Derelict Vessel Program funded 100% of cleaning and deployment of the “Gerald Corcoran”.

This reef is named after Mr. Gerald Corcoran who did so much for the marine resources of Mississippi. Please see the attached Bio.

060624 Tug “Gerald Corcoran”, 435 FH 13

Position: 29° 59.527'N / 88° 30.610'W

On June 24, 2006 DMR met the vessel “Windward Century” on location at 1:00 pm to deploy the 145’ Tug “Gerald Corcoran”. The vessel was anchored, seacock’s opened and the patches busted out. The surrounding water depth was 86’. The tug sunk upright at 1:40 pm and has a clearance over the hull of approximately 50’.



On September 9, 2006 two steel hull shrimp boats were deployed on FH-13. The “St. John” and “Tuan Phong”. The “St. John” was deployed northwest of the “Deer Island” and the “Tuan Phong” just north of the Borries Barge A and B. These steel hull vessels were damaged and sunk in Back Bay of Biloxi by Hurricane Katrina. The MDMR contracted Gulf Stream Enterprises, Inc. to clean and deploy these two vessels at no cost to MGFB.

060909 Shrimp boat “St. John” 436 FH-13

Position: 30° 00.387'N / 88° 30.898'W

On September 9, 2006 DMR met the vessel “Tara Darleene” on location towing St. John at 5:31 pm. The vessel was anchored, seacock’s opened and the patches busted out. The surrounding water depth was 84’. The vessel sunk upright at 6:00 pm and has a clearance over the hull of approximately 50’.



060909 Shrimp boat “Tuan Phong” 437 FH-13

Position: 30° 02.179'N / 88° 31.350'W

After the St. John sunk, the “Tara Darlene” towed Tuan Phong on location of FH 13. This 65’ steel hull vessel was put in position and sunk at 6:50 pm. The surrounding water depth is 72’. The hull sunk upright with a clearance over the hull of approximately 50’.



There were also 6 barge loads of concrete culverts. These culverts were approximately 3' to 5' in diameter and range from 4' to 8' in length. These were drainage culverts that were used to drain rain water from HWY to the beach. When Harrison County replaced them due to damage from Hurricane Katrina, the culverts were stored in Pass Christian Harbor for reef material, thanks to Willy Davis the harbor master. The culverts were loaded and deployed by Matthews Marine. One hundred percent Tidelands Trust Fund monies were utilized to deploy this material for habitat. Four loads were deployed in FH-2 and two loads were deployed in FH-1. Both reef areas were damaged Hurricane Katrina, but FH-2 was damaged the most. With these deployments and many many more, we can replenish the valuable habitat that was lost.

060911 Concrete Culverts Load # 1 438 FH-2

Position: 30° 05.210'N / 88° 33.934'W

On October 11, DMR met Tug "Blanch Marie" with Matthews Marine at FH-2 to deploy the 1st of 6 barge loads of concrete culverts that is being stored in Pass Christine Harbor. There were over 100 individuals deployed at this site. The surrounding water depth was 54' with a minimum clearance of 48'.



060915 Concrete Culverts Load # 2 439 FH-2

Position: 30° 05.087'N / 88° 33.933'W

On October 15, DMR met Tug "Blanch Marie" with Matthews Marine at FH-2 to deploy the 2nd of 6 barge loads of concrete culverts that is being stored in Pass Christine Harbor. There were over 100 individuals deployed at this site. The surrounding water depth was 54' with a minimum clearance of 48'.

060916 Concrete Culverts Load # 3 440 FH-1

Position: 30° 03.425'N / 88° 36.566'W

On October 16, DMR met Tug “Blanch Marie” with Matthews Marine at FH-1 to deploy the 3rd of 6 barge loads of concrete culverts that is being stored in Pass Christine Harbor. There were over 100 individuals deployed at this site. The surrounding water depth was 64’ with a minimum clearance of 58’.

060921 Concrete Culverts Load # 4 441 FH-1

Position: 30° 05.914'N / 88° 36.805'W

On October 21, DMR met Tug “Blanch Marie” with Matthews Marine at FH-1 to deploy the 4th of 6 barge loads of concrete culverts that is being stored in Pass Christine Harbor. There were over 100 individuals deployed at this site. The surrounding water depth was 62’ with a minimum clearance of 56’.

060927 Concrete Culverts Load # 5 442 FH-2

Position: 30° 04.925'N / 88° 33.105'W

On October 27, DMR met Tug “Blanch Marie” with Matthews Marine at FH-2 to deploy the 5th of 6 barge loads of concrete culverts that is being stored in Pass Christine Harbor. There were over 100 individuals deployed at this site. The surrounding water depth was 55’ with a minimum clearance of 49’.

060930 Concrete Culverts Load # 6 443 FH-2

Position: 30° 05.134'N / 88° 32.920'W

On October 30, DMR met Tug “Blanch Marie” with Matthews Marine at FH-2 to deploy the last load of 6 barge loads of concrete culverts that is being stored in Pass Christine Harbor. There were over 100 individuals deployed at this site. The surrounding water depth was 55’ with a minimum clearance of 49’.



GERALD C. CORCORAN

"Corky's energy, enthusiasm and dedication to our educational mission will always be remembered by our staff and the thousands of children and adults who learned more about our coastal environment from him," GCRL director Dr. Thomas D. McIlwain said after learning of this death.

He retired in 1990 after 18 years as Marine Education Center curator, but his association with the Laboratory began in 1958, when he began taking courses while stationed at Keesler Air Force Base.

"Operation Bootstrap" was a government program that enabled active duty military to attend a college of choice to complete their degree. After attending University of Southern Mississippi in this program, he graduated with a B.S. degree in Biology. He was a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and retired from the Air Force in 1971 as a senior master sergeant after 24 years of service. He was a "Master" instructor of electronics and taught many years at Keesler.

After his retirement, he once again became a full time student at USM. Upon receiving his Masters Degree in Science Education, Jerry assumed duties at the Marine Education Center.

Under his direction, the MEC&A grew from its humble beginnings in 1972 in a 2,000 sq. ft. metal building which served nearly 11,000 visitors a year to the 32,7000 sq. ft. J.L Scott Marine Education Center and Aquarium which opened in 1984 and hosts approximately 80,000 annually.

Jerry, a Pennsylvania native, and the son of teachers, had the ability to teach and explain complicated, scientific things in simple ways that won him kudos among colleagues and the public.

He wrote a graduate course "Marine Education for teachers" and taught it several years for USM. It was taught at night at the center and helped acquaint the teachers with many things that they could carry back to their classroom. He retired after 18 years as the MEC&A curator. He continued to give many talks to the local garden clubs, WLOX TV noon time show, and other civic organizations. His many beautiful slides of the flora and fauna were most appreciated by all who saw them. He was also recognized for his expertise of birds and reptiles.

Elizabeth Rooks, executive director of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation, remembers Corcoran's contributions to that organization and its principles. "He was really what you'd call a consummate conservationist." Rooks said. "Gerald didn't just focus on coast issues. He was involved in any conservation issue around the state." He was an active member and as first vice president and education chair. He was recognized as the federation's Conservation Educator of Year in 1977. He donated many of the crocheted afghans he made to the organization to assist its fund-raising efforts.

All of the specimens in the MEC were collected by Jerry and the staff. The Sea Squirt captained by Clyde Cannette and the Gulf Coast Researcher captained by Pat Ladnier were the boats from the GCRL used to go out into the Gulf of Mexico. A large trawl was used to drag and then haul up the specimens. They were transferred to aerated buckets and taken to the center where they were displayed. The MEC was the destination of many school groups where they learned how important it is to protect the sea life and its environment.

"Mr. Corcoran's enthusiasm for marine life and its habitat was contagious" said Will Ladnier. "I feel having the tugboat as an artificial reef bearing his name is a fitting tribute.