

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in Mississippi and Alabama

Issues

- Although Mississippi and Alabama have limited coastlines, there are hundreds of miles of habitat along each of their bays and estuaries.
- Alabama and Mississippi each have commercial fishing industries yielding approximately \$450 million per year - targeting shrimp, crab, oyster, and finfish.
- Half a dozen hazardous waste and Superfund sites have released chemicals into the coastal zone, posing risk to these fisheries and their supporting habitats.



What we do

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources on behalf of the public. DARRP collaborates with federal, state, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as EPA), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to:

- protect coastal and marine natural resources;
- respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances;
- assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and
- restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

How we do it

DARRP acts as a trustee for natural resources to:

- work cooperatively with those responsible for the incident;
- develop innovative approaches and techniques for remediation and restoration;
- work with the public to select restoration options to compensate for injuries to natural resources; and
- design and implement or oversee natural resource restoration projects and monitor their success.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 10 acres of marine habitats in Mississippi (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 1 protection and restoration project in Mississippi.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 6 hazardous waste sites in Mississippi and Alabama.



Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, MS - see case highlights.



2007 DARRP Activities & Associated Restoration Sites

- ▲ Hazardous Waste Site
- Restoration Sites

Historic and ongoing case highlights

- Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, MS – Working cooperatively with co-trustees and U.S. Air Force Training Command, successfully integrated remediation and restoration of 2 sites and are monitoring restoration of salt marshes (*restoration photos on page 1*). DARRP was part of the winning team when Keesler accepted the Secretary of Defense Environmental Award in 2005 as DOD’s top installation for Environmental Restoration.
- U.S. Naval Construction Battalion, Gulfport, MS – Worked cooperatively with co-trustees, EPA, and U.S. Navy to remove dioxin contamination above levels of ecological risk at an off-base site. The area is currently being restored.
- Ciba-Geigy Corp., McIntosh, AL – Working cooperatively with co-trustees and providing technical support to EPA regarding site remediation in the Tombigbee River floodplain.
- Olin Corp., McIntosh, AL – Working cooperatively with co-trustees and providing technical support to EPA regarding site remediation in the Tombigbee River floodplain.

For further information about DARRP, please visit
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>

