

TAKE PRIDE GULFWIDE



1989 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup: Summary Report

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1989 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup

On September 23, 1989, 1,760 volunteers collected an estimated 31 tons of trash from approximately 100 miles of Mississippi beaches and shorelines. Areas cleaned were five barrier islands – including the only two barrier islands in the Gulf of Mexico designated wilderness by the National Park Service, two nearshore islands and mainland shorelines in all three Mississippi coastal counties.

The objectives of the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup were

- to encourage residents and visitors throughout the coastal community to participate in a coordinated, hands-on project to clean up Mississippi shores;
- to participate in a national research project in an effort to learn more about the kinds, amounts and sources of trash in marine environments;
- to foster understanding of the effects of tossed and lost trash on marine animals, environments and activities; and
- to increase the public's awareness of the value of and need for stewardship of coastal and marine environments and resources.

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup has evolved from a 1987 effort organized by Gail Bishop of the Gulf Islands National Seashore, Dianne Hunt of the Bureau of Marine Resources and Jim Franks, then BMR and now with the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. In 1987 100 volunteers removed 275 bags of trash from Horn and West Ship islands. In 1988 the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium joined GINS and BMR representatives in spearheading organization of the Mississippi Marine Trash Task Force and establishing a coastwide cleanup. The 1989 cleanup included support, services and volunteers from federal, state and local governments and agencies, industries, businesses, churches, school groups, civic and social clubs, scouts, the military, families and individuals.

Volunteers scoured Mississippi shorelines for three or more hours on September 23, bagging trash and using data cards provided by the Center for Marine Conservation to inventory at least one bag per two-person team. Mississippi data on kinds and amounts of trash will be compiled by the national Center for Marine Conservation for inclusion in the center's national marine debris data base. Preliminary analysis of data recorded by volunteers on Petit Bois, Horn and West Ship islands shows that approximately 63 percent of the trash collected on those Mississippi barrier islands was comprised of plastics or styrofoam-like material and four of the six most frequently recorded items were directly related to beverage consumption. In a breakdown by specific items, the six items most frequently reported were metal beverage cans, plastic caps and lids, plastic pieces, plastic beverage bottles, glass beverage bottles and styrofoam-like cups.

Based on estimates of 20 pounds per bag of trash, Mississippi volunteers picked up an average of 620 pounds of trash per mile in 1989. In 1988 they removed an estimated 1.5 tons per mile, more than in any other states except Georgia and Texas. Cleanup officials attributed the high volume of trash per mile in 1988 to the fact that much of the cleanup targeted undeveloped barrier islands which have limited access, are not routinely cleaned, and would have large amounts of debris

accumulating over time. The drop in pounds per mile is, in part, a reflection of the inclusion in 1989 of routinely maintained mainland beaches in the cleanup.

Accomplishments of the 1989 cleanup include

- 1,760 citizens participating in the 1989 cleanup, an increase of more than 46 percent over the 1988 effort;
- increase of mainland shorelines included in the cleanup through involvement of cities and counties and the accompanying increase in participation by children, youth and adults unable to participate in island cleanup;
- adoption by groups, families and individuals of 64 of the 65 miles of barrier and nearshore island beaches through establishment of an Adopt-A-Beach program sponsored cooperatively by the National Park Service and the Mississippi Marine Trash Task Force. Adopters agreed to clean their adopted section three times during the one year adoption period, provide their own transportation to the island and transport of trash from the island. In spite of high winds and rough seas on September 23 and rainy conditions on September 30, volunteer boaters cleaned parts or all of 47 sections of the 64 adopted one-mile sections. Although not included in the September 23 total, a number of adopters who were unable to reach the islands during the cleanup later cleaned their sections the first fair weather weekend in October. Large, privately owned boats and a barge were also volunteered for trash removal;
- assembly of exhibits and displays;
- implementation of education efforts. Sea Grant/Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's Project Marine Discovery field trip program will have reached more than 15,000 students and teachers during the 1989-90 academic year through inclusion of marine litter information in the program. A joint Scranton Museum/Task Force project sponsored by the Mississippi Power Foundation has developed an elementary school marine debris awareness program and placed video tapes, learning activities and other curriculum resource materials in school media centers for the use of teachers in 95 public and private schools in the state's six southernmost counties. Project organizers are now seeking volunteers to conduct complementing presentations in elementary classrooms at the request of participating teachers;
- public education about the Mississippi Marine Litter Act of 1989, passed as a result of public concern aroused by removal of 45 tons of trash from 30 miles of shoreline in the 1988 cleanup. The law is the first in the nation specifically addressing marine litter at the state level.
- production of a video documenting the 1988 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup;
- visible support of cleanup goals by agency and organization leaders – including Secretary of State Dick Molpus, honorary co-chair with 93-year-old Margaret Bryant, also known as "Auntie Litter."

Contributors

Chevron U.S.A. Inc.
Friends of the Islands
Mobil Exploration and Producing U. S., Inc.
Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc.
Waste Management of Mississippi, Inc.
Gulf Coast Waste & Disposal, Inc.
Chevron Exploration and Production Southeast Region
Mississippi Power Company
Colle Towing
Biloxi Hilton
Blom's Creative Signs
Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Ocean Springs
Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Gulfport
Sailfish Harbor and Shrimping Tour
Pan Isles, Inc.
Eastern National Parks and Monument Association
McDonald's, Gautier
Hardee's, Gautier
Singing River Ice Company
Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce
Lil Ray's, Waveland
Merchants Bank and Trust Co.
Hancock Bank
Peoples Bank
Moss Point Glove Company
U. S. Coast Guard, Pascagoula and Gulfport Stations

Mississippi Marine Trash Task Force

1988-1989 Representatives:

**Dianne Hunt, Bureau of Marine Resources of the Department
of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks**

Jim Epting, Chevron U.S.A. Inc.

Terese Collins, City of Biloxi

Walter Aycock, Friends of the Islands

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Gail Bishop, Gulf Islands National Seashore

Ellis Cuevas, Hancock County Chamber of Commerce

Connie Rockco, Harrison County Beautification Commission

Linda Skupien, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium

Tom Boone, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

Karen Mitchell, National Marine Fisheries Service

Margaret Bretz, Office of the Secretary of State

Annie Mai Jamison, Pascagoula Keep America Beautiful

Dave Ruple, Scranton Museum

1989 Area Coordinators

Jackson County	
David Grimes, Planning Department.....	769-3056
Harrison County	
Connie Rockco.....	392-9536
Hancock County (All county and cities' beaches)	
Ellis Cuevas.....	467-5473
Pascagoula	
Annie Mal Jamison.....	762-8443
Pat Wilson.....	762-4423
Ocean Springs	
Lawrence Lapointe.....	875-0122
Bill Fitzgerald.....	875-7900
.....	875-0710
Biloxi (Mainland)	
Tommy Hebert.....	435-6292
Biloxi (Deer Island)	
Terese Collins.....	435-6320
Jim Franks.....	872-4202
d'Iberville	
Albert Jacquet.....	392-7966
Gulfport	
Jo Rollins.....	896-8164
Long Beach	
Lane Pierce.....	863-1554
Pass Christian	
Paul Bode.....	452-2760
Round Island	
Dave Ruple.....	762-1020
Gulf Islands National Seashore	
(Petit Bois, Horn, East and West Ship, Davis Bayou)	
Doug Hunt.....	875-0074
Gail Bishop	
Cat Island	
Dianne Hunt.....	385-5860

Cleanup Zone Totals

	People	Bags
Jackson County		
Gulf Park Estates	158	57
Belle Fontaine	60	130
Pascagoula		
River Park	30	105
Beach Boulevard-Point	1	12
Ocean Springs		
East and Front Beaches	87	106
Biloxi (Mainland)	160	140
Biloxi (Deer Island)	140	425
Gulfport	98	150
Long Beach	53	61
Pass Christian	66	112
Hancock County		
(All county and city beaches)	317	500
Round Island	36	81
Gulf Islands National Seashore		
Petit Bois Island	57	147
Horn Island	134	309
East Ship	26	76
West Ship	127	181
Davis Bayou	58	21
Cat Island	141	487
Other	11	
TOTAL	<u>1760</u>	<u>3100</u>

For the Record

	9/23/89			9/24/88			10/87		
	People	Bags	Miles	People	Bags	Miles	People	Bags	Miles
Jackson County									
Gulf Park Estates	158	57		80	65		ND	ND	
Belle Fontaine	60	130		41	51		ND	ND	
Pascagoula									
River Park	30	105		ND	ND		ND	ND	
Beach Boulevard-Point	1	12		4	15		ND	ND	
Ocean Springs									
East and Front Beaches	87	106		117	121		ND	ND	
Biloxi (Mainland)	160	140		37	24		ND	ND	
Biloxi (Deer Island)	140	425		217	393		ND	ND	
Gulfport	98	150		28	47		ND	ND	
Long Beach	53	61		10	10		ND	ND	
Pass Christian	66	112		ND	ND		ND	ND	
Hancock County									
(All county and city beaches)	317	500		235	700.*		ND	ND	
Round Island	36	81		ND	ND		ND	ND	
Gulf Islands National Seashore									
Petit Bois Island	57	147	7	67	350	ND	0	0	0
Horn Island	134	309	13	148	918	ND	30	41	5
East Ship	26	76	2.5	46	137	3.0	0	0	0
West Ship	127	181	5	116	247	7.0	70	213	5
Davis Bayou	58	21	1	8	18	0.5	15	21	1
Cat Island	141	487		47	161		ND	ND	ND
Other	11								
TOTAL	<u>1760</u>	<u>3100</u>		<u>1201</u>	<u>3242</u>		<u>115</u>	<u>275</u>	

*Estimated 20 lbs per bag. 11 tons unbagged weighed and reported from Hancock County in 1988. Although unbagged items from other counties and from barrier islands were not weighed or totaled, estimates indicated more than two additional tons collected bringing estimated 1988 total to more than 45 tons.