



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Tate Reeves
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Joe Spraggins, Executive Director

December 19, 2023

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) and the Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources, I present to you the MDMR 2023 fiscal year annual report. We thank you for your continued support of the activities and programs we deliver to enhance, protect and conserve Mississippi's marine resources. It is our intention to remain transparent and accountable to you and the taxpayers of Mississippi through our efforts.

This annual report covers all aspects of our agency and contains valuable information about our work and its impact on marine resources. The agency continues to work with local, state and federal partners to deliver programs that benefit the citizens, tourists and industry stakeholders on the Gulf Coast. We have made great progress over the years, but there is always work to be done.

In FY23, MDMR received a total of \$12,455,247 from the Tidelands Trust Fund and projects spanned the three coastal counties. Through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) funds, the MDMR was able to distribute \$25,615,993 across the Mississippi Gulf Coast for projects and activities for the purposes of coastal protection, including conservation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection and infrastructure directly affected by coastal wetland losses.

Additionally, the agency also received NOAA's approval on MDMR's \$21 million 2019 Mississippi Bonnet Carré Spillway Fisheries Disaster Recovery Program to assist in the recovery efforts of Mississippi fisheries in the aftermath of the catastrophic twice opening of the spillway in 2019.

We take pride in our work, and it shows. We believe a healthy environment will provide for a healthy economy. Our goal is to enhance, protect and conserve the marine interests of Mississippi and we will continue to work to achieve this goal every day. This essential work would not have been possible without your support. We look forward to many successes together as we manage Mississippi's marine resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Spraggins".

Joe Spraggins, Brigadier General (Retired) USAF