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Sea Coast Echo  
Waste Management



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## Coastal Cleanup Nets 3,484 Bags of Trash

Boaters and land-based volunteers flocked to Mississippi's beaches, islands and waterways to pick up marine debris at **57** designated cleanup sites during the 19th annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, part of the International Coastal Cleanup—the world's largest single-day volunteer effort to clean up the marine environment. More than **3,400** volunteers picked up **3,484** bags of trash along **159** miles of Coastal waterways in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties and the Barrier Islands during the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup.

Volunteers collected **53,840** pounds of trash—that's *more than 27 tons* of marine debris—including **7** dump truckloads of marine debris too large to fit in trash bags, such as the two refrigerators found on Belle Fontaine Beach. Other items collected were: a baby stroller, car batteries, a motorcycle, a toilet seat, tires, a cash register, an inflatable tent, a car muffler, thousands of cigarette butts, a breathalyzer, a computer circuit board, an above ground pool, fireworks, tires, and a sofa. There was a 6-foot dead alligator reported and 12 dead fish entangled in debris. The most peculiar item reported was a ladies purse filled with rocks, checks and credit cards, found in Bayou Heron, which belonged to a victim of a robbery in Grand Bay, Ala. Although rough waters and low visibility kept the DMR Fisheries Dive Team from conducting an underwater cleanup of the pier at West Ship Island, the six volunteers headed to Cat Island and cleaned a mile of shoreline.

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup—in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC)—takes place each year on the third Saturday in September. Hundreds of thousands of people across the world spend three hours combing the beaches and waterways to pick up trash that pollutes our waters, harms marine life, hampers tourism and poses health risks to beach-goers. During last year's ICC about 350,000 volunteers worldwide removed debris from nearly 35,000 miles of shoreline spanning 68 different nations. They collected 7 million pounds of debris.

Sixty percent of the debris found during the 2006 Mississippi Coastal Cleanup came from shoreline and recreational activities such as beach picnics, festivals, sporting events, and general littering. The source of most debris is human activity. At this year's cleanup, green-and-white cardboard boxes for recyclables donated by Waste Management were placed at each cleanup site so that the thousands of plastic bottles of water that were handed out to volunteers could be collected and recycled.

"Man-made debris in our marine waters poses serious threats to marine wildlife, navigation and our communities," said Lauren Thompson, state coordinator of the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup and public relations director for the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. "It's amazing that most of the trash in our waterways in Mississippi and worldwide comes from land-based activities."

The mission of the International Coastal Cleanup is to remove debris from shorelines, bayous, bays, rivers, waterways and beaches; collect valuable information on the amount and types of debris collected; educate people on the issue of marine debris; and use the data collected to affect positive change. Volunteers clean beaches and collect information on what they find, using the International Coastal Cleanup Data Card, so that sources of marine debris can be targeted for education or pollution prevention campaigns. State coordinators mail the data cards to the Ocean Conservancy in Washington, D.C. where the data is tabulated. Over the years, data from the cleanups have been used to enact local, state, national, and even international legislation and agreements.

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## MS Coastal Cleanup Results--page 2 of 3

After the cleanup, Jennifer Blake and Chris Hein of Bonefish Grill and 20 staff of the Biloxi restaurant provided a free lunch of shrimp po-boys, chips and bottled water to more than **1,400** volunteers between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. In Hancock County, the Office of Congressman Gene Taylor and the Bay St. Louis Rotary Club treated volunteers to hotdogs and drinks at a cookout held at the foot of Garfield Ladner Memorial Pier and Coleman Ave. at the beach in Waveland while Brook's BB's Snowballs provided snowballs. In Jackson County, **1,000** volunteers received a free lunch of brisket and pulled-pork sandwiches, sides and drinks at The Shed Barbeque in Ocean Springs courtesy of The Shed and Chevron.

"Thousands of volunteers donated their time on a Saturday morning to come out and clean up the shoreline, islands and marine waters of South Mississippi, sharing in a worldwide effort to make our oceans and waterways safer and healthier for people and wildlife, and free from the hazards of marine debris," Thompson said. "This was a massive team effort and its success was due to the hard work of the Department of Marine Resources staff, Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force members, cleanup coordinators, zone captains, volunteers and the generosity of our sponsors."

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup is sponsored by the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force, which is made up of representatives from Allied Waste Services; Ashman & Son Construction; Bonefish Grill; Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; Domain Furnishing & Décor; Eco-Tours of South Mississippi; Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Gulf Islands National Seashore; Hancock County Chamber of Commerce; Hard Rock Cafe; Harrison County Beautification; Harrison County Sand Beach Dept.; Jackson County Solid Waste; Keesler Air Force Base; Mississippi Air National Guard CRTC-Gulfport; Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium; Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center; Naval Construction Battalion Center; Office of Congressman Gene Taylor; Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State; Rotary International District 6840; Sea Coast Echo and Waste Management.

Co-sponsors (in-kind donations) include: Allen Beverages, Inc.; The Bay Press; Beverage Association of Mississippi; Cellular South; City of Biloxi; City of Pascagoula; Coast Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.; Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Consolidated; Delta Sanitation of Mississippi, LLC; Desporte's Biloxi Paper Company; The Dive Shop; Hancock County Board of Supervisors; Jackson County Chamber of Commerce; K99FM, Magic 93.7, 92.5 Hallelujah, and News Radio 104.9; Keep Mississippi Beautiful; Kmart; Knight-Abbey Commercial Printing & Direct Mail; Lamar Advertising of South Mississippi; Macland Disposal Inc.; Mississippi Department of Transportation; Mississippi Media; Ocean Conservancy; Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce; Outback Steakhouse; The Shed Barbeque; Ship Island Excursions; The Sun Herald; WLOX-TV 13.

The cleanup site statistics for Harrison, Hancock, Jackson counties and the Barrier Islands are as follows:

<b>Harrison County:</b>	<b>1,668 volunteers collected 1,685 bags of trash</b>
Biloxi Lighthouse	299 volunteers and 159 bags
Biloxi—Rodenberg Ave. east	134 volunteers and 161 bags
Keegan Bayou (Back Bay)	55 volunteers and 31 bags
DeBuys-Cowan-Lorraine Road	189 volunteers and 140 bags
Gulfport—west of Island View	260 volunteers and 275 bags
Deer Island	25 volunteers and 71 bags
D'Iberville Boat Launch	26 volunteers and 110 bags
Fountain Pier	25 volunteers and 110 bags
KAFB Marina	16 volunteers and 10 bags
Forrest Avenue Pier	3 volunteers and 11 bags
Gulfport Lake	awaiting report
Kremer Landing	48 volunteers and 43 bags
James Hill Park	200 volunteers and 150 bags
Long Beach Harbor west	170 volunteers and 250 bags
Pass Christian Harbor	155 volunteers and 135 bags
Lower Turkey Creek	63 volunteers and 29 bags

**Hancock County: 264 volunteers collected 355 bags of trash**

•Diamondhead Community	22 volunteers and 19 bags
•Kiln Community, Hwy 603	7 volunteers and 17 bags
•Garden Isles	8 volunteers and 18 bags
•Hwy 90, Blue Meadow (Main Street) to Drinkwater Dr.	10volunteers and 15 bags
•Beach Blvd. mouth of the Jourdan River to Hwy. 90	19 volunteers and 38 bags
•Beach Blvd. Hwy. 90 to Bookter St.	70 volunteers and 50 bags
•Beach Blvd. Bookter St. to Bay Oaks Dr.	25 volunteers and 20 bags
•Beach Blvd, Bay Oaks Drive to Coleman Ave., Waveland	45 volunteers and 56 bags
•Coleman Ave. to Buccaneer State Park	35 volunteers and 62 bags
•Beach Blvd., Buccaneer State Park to Pointset Ave.	15 volunteers and 34 bags
•Beach Blvd., Pointset Ave., to the mouth of Bayou Cadet	5 volunteers and 16 bags
•Beach Blvd. loor St., Waveland	3 volunteers and 10 bags

**Jackson County: 1,411 volunteers collected 1,340 bags of trash**

•Bluff Creek	7 volunteers and 10 bags
•Pollock Ferry Landing	2 volunteers and 2 bags
•Belle Fontaine Beach	212 volunteers and 60 bags
•Davis Bayou (GINS)	70 volunteers and 15 bags
•East Beach	85 volunteers and 95 bags
•Fort Bayou Boat Launch	15 volunteers and 14 bags
•Front Beach	232 volunteers and 230 bags
•Graveline Bayou Pier & Boat Launch	17 volunteers and 40 bags
•Gulf Park Estates Public Pier	104 volunteers and 82 bags
•Gautier City Park	29 volunteers and 10 bags
•Graveline Road/Shepard State Park	58 volunteers and 46 bags
•Pine Island (West Pascagoula River)	3 volunteers and 10 bags
• Indian Point/Sioux Bayou	29 volunteers and 10 bags
• West Pascagoula River Bridge	32 volunteers and 35 bags
•Hwy 63 Boat Ramp	72 volunteers and 105 bags
•I-10 Boat Launch	42 volunteers and 70 bags
•The Riverfront (Moss Point)	73 volunteers and 70 bags
•I.G. Levy Park	4 volunteers and 5 bags
•Old Spanish Fort	4 volunteers and 5 bags
•Pascagoula Beach	280 volunteers and 300 bags
•The River Park	33 volunteers and 70 bags
•Round Island	4 volunteers and 20 bags
•Grand Bay NERR (Bayou Heron)	25 volunteers and 40 bags

**Barrier Islands: \*91 volunteers collected 111 bags of trash \*(#volunteers and #bags are preliminary,**

Horn Island	10 volunteers and 8 bags	<b>boaters still calling in results)</b>
West Ship Island	73 volunteers and 83 bags	(No reports in for Petit Bois, East Ship and
Cat Island	8 volunteers and 20 bags	Sand islands)

**LST-07-77A.jpg: A father and son team transport marine debris from Bayou Heron in their kayaks as part of the Grand Bay NERR portion of the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup held Sept. 15.**

**LST-07-77B.jpg: At Keegan Bayou in Biloxi, Nathaniel West, left, and Richard Stitt, right, discover a piece of a \$100 bill. The two were among the 55 volunteers from the Naval Construction Training Center at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport who filled two dump trucks with debris, including a cash register pulled from the bayou during the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup held Sept. 15, 2007.**

**LST-07-77C.jpg: DEQ employee Nick Gatian, a volunteer at the Bayou Heron site in Jackson County, emerges from the marsh with an armful of trash. More than 3,400 volunteers picked up 27 tons of trash along 159 miles of coastline in South Mississippi during the Sept. 15 International Coastal Cleanup.**