



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
1141 Bayview Avenue, Suite 101, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Photo Release

Contact: Lauren Thompson
Phone: (228) 374-5000

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Marine Debris Task Force Receives Governor's Award for Cleanup Efforts



Photo A (LST-04-150A): Biloxi, Miss. – Governor Haley Barbour recently honored the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force with a 2004 Governor's Take Pride Appreciation Award to recognize the members' longstanding collaboration to coordinate and sponsor the annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, which rids Mississippi's beaches and shorelines of marine debris and engages citizens in hands-on volunteer stewardship. Pictured from left: Dr. William Walker, Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources; DMR Public Relations Director Lauren Thompson, Chair of the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force; and Robbie Wilbur, State Director of Take Pride in America. Thompson accepted the plaque from Wilbur on behalf of the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force during the Oct. 19 Commission on Marine Resources meeting in the auditorium of the Bolton State Office Building in Biloxi. The Governor's Take Pride Appreciation Award is presented by governors to the group or individual volunteer in their state that best promotes the mission of Take Pride in America. Take Pride in America is a national initiative to enhance and expand volunteer stewardship of our parks, wildlife refuges, forests, recreation areas, beaches and shorelines, and cultural and historical sites.



Photo B (LST-04B-150B): Biloxi, Miss. – Governor Haley Barbour recently honored the Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force with a 2004 Governor’s Take Pride Appreciation Award to recognize the members’ longstanding collaboration to coordinate and sponsor the annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, which rids Mississippi’s beaches and shorelines of marine debris and engages citizens in hands-on volunteer stewardship. The Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force is made up of representatives from 25 government, military, academic and environmental organizations and businesses. Pictured from left: Front row, Cherie Schulz, Naval Construction Battalion Center; Diane Cantrell, National Marine Fisheries Service; Ellis Cuevas, Sea Coast Echo; Betsy Ashman, Hancock Insurance; Pamela Piper, The Home Depot; Middle row: Cindy Simmons, Harrison County Beautification; Victor Gonzalez, Naval Construction Battalion Center; Mississippi Marine Debris Task Force Chair Lauren Thompson, Department of Marine Resources; Susan Perkins, Department of Marine Resources; Cheryl Oliver, Mississippi Air National Guard CRTC - Gulfport; Ronda Powell, Jackson County Solid Waste. Back row: Jo Ann Casey, Mississippi Air National Guard CRTC - Gulfport; Marti Schuman, Department of Marine Resources; Dave Burrage, Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center; Darlene Underwood, Hancock County Chamber of Commerce; Take Pride in America State Director Robbie Wilbur, Department of Environmental Quality; and Christine Johnson, Department of Marine Resources.

Not pictured: Alan Lane, BFI; Linda Hughes, Cellular South; Carole Williams-Keenze, Chevron Pascagoula Refinery; Pam McNair, Disposall Inc.; Brian May and Jennifer Buchanan, Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Faye Walmsley, Gulf Islands National Seashore; Bobby Weaver, Harrison County Sand Beach Department; George Daniel and Tony Cofresi, Keesler Air Force Base; John Grigsby, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium; Tony Streno, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; Tom Sarros, Naval Station Pascagoula; Chris LaGarde, Office of Congressman Gene Taylor; Robin Dozier, Office of the Mississippi Secretary of State; and Bob Taylor, Rosa Carpenter and Scott Carpenter, Outback Steakhouse.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.state.ms.us.

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