

Mississippi EARLY RESTORATION  
Round 1 projects  
Monitoring Data Information Package

Mississippi's Oyster Cultch Restoration Project



January 2015

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## Oyster Cultch Project

### Project Description

This project was proposed to restore and enhance approximately 1,430 acres of the oyster cultch areas that cover approximately 12,000 acres of the Mississippi Sound. Cultch material (oyster shell, limestone) was deployed at a rate of 100 cubic yards per acre with adjustments for site conditions as needed. More than 140,000 cubic yards of material was deployed for this project.

### Status Update

- Side-scan images were obtained previous to deployment and after deployment to confirm acreages deployed. 1430 acres were deployed as per the executed contract.
- One year of monitoring of oyster density and size using standard quadrat sampling and one-minute dredge tows at randomly selected locations in the areas enhanced with cultch material.
- The use of basket and tray sampling to obtain information on all secondary productivity on these reefs has commenced. Two monitoring events occurred in 2014 and samples are still being processed in the laboratory. Data on taxonomy and biomass are expected in Spring 2015.

Below is the summary of the monitoring schedule.

### Included in package

1. Map of locations of cultch deployment and monitoring sites [File name: MS ER Oyster Cultch Project\_Deployment and Monitoring Sites]
2. Pre- and Post- side scan images of parcels deployed are available upon request. Files are very large and require special transfer.
3. Three spreadsheets for quadrat and dredge tow sampling (ReadMe tab includes description of fields and codes) File names:
  - a) MDEQER\_Oyster cultch project\_dredge tows\_Fall 2014\_Data\_validated
  - b) MDEQER\_Oyster cultch project\_dredge tows\_Spring 2014\_Data\_validated
  - c) MDEQER\_Oyster cultch project\_quadrat samples\_June 2014\_Data\_validated

**DWH ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT - ATTORNEY CLIENT COMMUNICATION**

Oyster Cultch Project Monitoring Event Schedule

Monitoring Event		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2020
			<b>Phase 1</b>			<b>Phase 2</b>			
Deployment		*Fall Deployed reef (200+ Acres)	*Spring deployed Reef (1230 Acres)	*Fall deployed Reef (enhanced 237 acres of which were previously covered)					
Spatial Extent Survey – Side-scan	<b>FALL deployed reef</b>	*Pre-Completed Sept 2012	*Post-Completed March 2013 Parcel 8			Scheduled side-scan event			Scheduled side-scan event
	<b>SPRING deployed reef</b>		*Pre-Completed March 2013 *Post – Completed Oct 2013						
	<b>FALL deployed reef</b>			*Pre-Completed June -July 2014 *Post- Completed Sept-Oct 2014					
Biological Monitoring-Quadrats (4 events – 30 sites)				*Completed May - June 2014		May/June		May/June	May/June
Biological Monitoring-Dredge Tows – (8 events – 30 sites)				*Completed May 2014 *Completed Oct 2014		May & Oct		May & Oct	May & Oct
Biological Monitoring – All Secondary Productivity (7 total events)				*Deployed May 2014, retrieved July 2014 *Deployed Aug 2014, retrieved Oct 2014	May/June & Aug/Oct	May/June & Aug/Oct	May/June		