

MISSISSIPPI COASTAL CLEANUP PROGRAM

#### **2025 SUMMER NEWSLETTER**

Hi there! Welcome to the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program Seasonal Newsletter.

The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program (MSCCP) is an educational program that promotes the conservation of our local marine environment by influencing active stewardship within our community. This program is housed at the Mississippi State University's Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi, MS.

Check out what we've been up to!

# TAR-SPANGLED CLEANUP

On Saturday, July 5th, 158 volunteers braved the heat for our 2025 Star-Spangled Cleanup! This cleanup is aimed at removing remaining firework debris from the beaches before it can be washed or blown into the Mississippi Sound. During this time, we also have our beloved shorebirds nesting, making it a top priority to keep our beaches clean and free of debris. Overflowing trash bins and litter put chicks at risk for predation and entanglement.

During this cleanup, nearly 2,200 pounds of debris and trash were collected, filling over 204 bags. The top 5 items found were fireworks (6,316), plastic pieces (1,815), cigarette butts (944), food wrappers (652), and plastic beverage bottles (538).





### **CMEP TEACHER WORKSHOP**

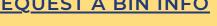
This June, MSCCP joined numerous other amazing programs in a Coastal and Marine Extension Program Teacher Workshop. During this workshop, MSCCP staff presented on our educational opportunities to a diverse group of teachers. They examined microplastics under a microscope and then headed outside for a short boat trip to Deer Island for nurdle patrol and a cleanup! 16 teachers braved the heat and collected 34 pounds of debris and trash.



Can't make it to one of our scheduled events? The MSCCP can provide groups with guidance and all the supplies they need to perform their very own cleanup. Our only requirement - volunteers <u>must</u> collect data! We do this at each of our cleanup events and we want to know how much and what types of trash you are picking up. Supplies provided include gloves, trash bags, trash grabbers, buckets, a first aid kit, hand sanitizer, hanging scale, and data collection materials.

So far in 2025, 209 Request a Bin volunteers have collected **807 lbs. of litter** in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties.

**REQUEST A BIN INFO** 





## **SMALL GROUP CLEANUPS**

This year, we have coordinated several small-scale cleanups with community partners, including the Harrison County 4-H Home School Club, Boardwalk Pipelines Gulf South Region, Marietta FUMC Youth Choir, and Pacacito Summer Camp. Through these efforts, 193 volunteers have removed 653 pounds of litter from Harrison County Beaches.

















## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Here are our upcoming events. All events have online registration volunteers must fill out prior to attending.

- Petit Bois Island Cleanup August 9<sup>th</sup> | Petit Bois Island
- Horn Island Cleanup September 12<sup>th</sup> | Horn Island
- Petit Bois Island Cleanup October 10 | Petit Bois Island
- Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Event October 18<sup>th</sup> | Locations across the MS Gulf Coast
- \*\* Please note, weather happens! Therefore, all events are subject to cancellation.





See you at the beach!



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