



# MISSISSIPPI COASTAL CLEANUP PROGRAM

## 2024 SPRING 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!

### Request a Bin Initiative



**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 must 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, and data collection materials.

So far in 2024, Request a Bin volunteers have collected 347.13 lbs. of litter in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties.



[REQUEST A BIN INFO](#)

### Ballpark Clean Sweep

Win the game against Litter! After the **Woolmarket Youth Baseball & Softball All-Star Softball Tournament**, come together for a post-tournament cleanup to keep our community clean.

This cleanup will be held at **16520 Switzer Park Rd, Biloxi, MS**, on **Sunday, May 19th, 2024** from **8:00-11:00 AM**.



[BALLPARK CLEAN SWEEP](#)



[Register now!](#)



## Inland Cleanups

The **Mississippi Inland Cleanup Program** traveled to Kemper, Newton, and Clarke counties to remove a total of **39 pounds** of litter!

We'd like to highlight **Kemper County Lake Campground** and **Clarkco State Park** for having such **clean public areas**! Volunteers in Clarke County cleaned the public road leading up to the Park entrance and their hard work helped to remove a total of **32.6 pounds** of litter, including aluminum cans, food wrappers, cigarette butts, glass bottles, and take-out bags and containers.



**MS INLAND  
CLEANUP PROGRAM**



## 4-H Club Learns about Litter and Microplastics!

The Harrison County 4-H Club learned about litter and what they can do to make a difference. They then learned about microplastics while participating in a water filtering and microscope-viewing activity.

"Mississippi 4-H is proud to offer programs and growth opportunities that put the heads, hearts, hands, and health of Mississippi's youth to work learning and applying the essential elements of the 4-H program: belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity." - MS State University Extension <https://extension.msstate.edu/4-h>





# We have joined the Mississippi Sound Estuary Program!

The Mississippi Sound Estuary Program (MSEP) is a non-regulatory program that partners with local organizations and community leaders to promote conservation and restoration of Mississippi Sound and its watershed. Its primary goal is to encourage community-driven conservation, restoration, and stewardship of Mississippi Sound. The program aims to develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan through the Management Conference, which is comprised of three advisory committees, the executive committee, and MSEP staff. The plan will guide stakeholders in preserving, restoring, and stewarding estuarine environments.

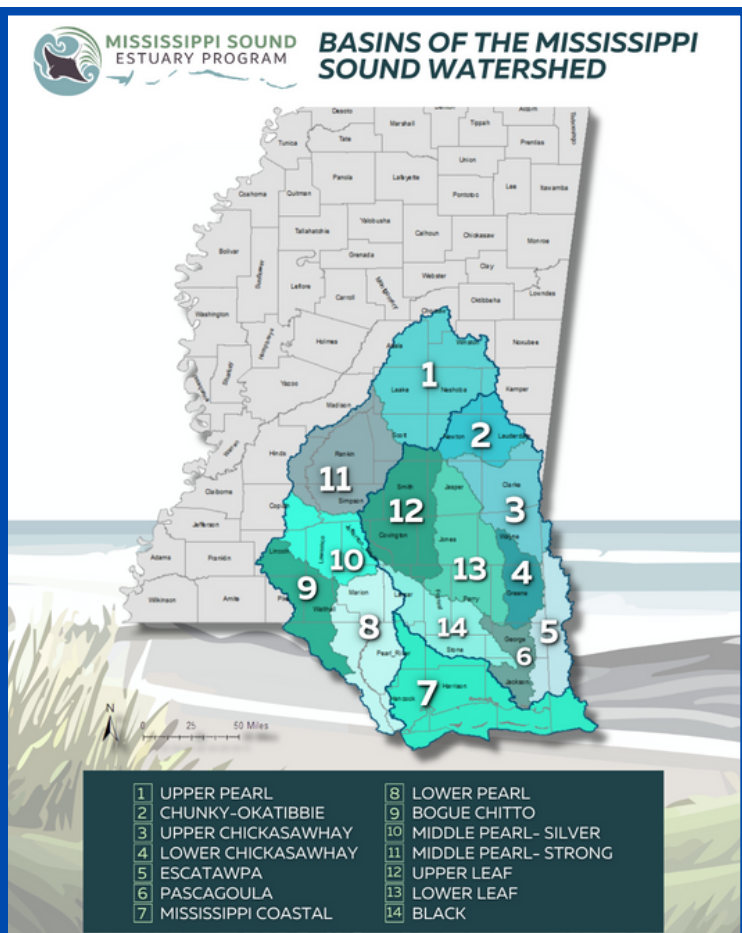
MISSISSIPPI SOUND  
ESTUARY PROGRAM



MISSISSIPPI SOUND  
ESTUARY PROGRAM

*The Mississippi Sound Estuary Watershed is made up of three smaller watersheds, the Pascagoula, Pearl River, and Mississippi Coastal, containing 14 smaller water basins and is also part of the larger South Atlantic-Gulf watershed.*

*It neighbors the Mississippi River Basin, the largest watershed in North America*



## Upcoming Events

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

**May 19th, 2024**

*Ballpark Clean Sweep Cleanup*

@ Woolmarket Youth Baseball and Softball Fields, Biloxi, MS

**July 6th, 2024**

*Star-Spangled Cleanup*

@ multiple cleanup sites across the MS coast.

**October 19th, 2024**

*Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Event*

@ multiple cleanup sites across the MS coast.

*\*\* Please note that all events are subject to cancellation & most events have a backup date.*



EVENT CALENDAR



**June 8th, 2024 is**

**WORLD OCEAN DAY!**

On World Ocean Day, people around our blue planet celebrate and honor our one shared ocean, that connects us all.

## What is an Estuary?



**Fresh and Salt Water**

**Ideal Habitat**

**Seasonal Variations**

**Breeding Ground**

An estuary is a partially enclosed body of water where fresh water from rivers mixes with salt water from the ocean/gulf/sea. This mix of fresh and salt water is known as "brackish" water.

Shallow waters allow sunlight to reach all levels of the water, providing an ideal habitat for many plant and animal species.

Heavily influenced by tides, factors such as temperature, turbidity, salinity, depth, and flow can all change daily. These fluctuations result in seasonal variations in fish communities.

Estuaries often provide the perfect conditions for nurseries for a wide variety of fish and other animals before they make their way out to sea. Due to this, many migratory fishes and birds utilize estuaries as seasonal breeding grounds.

# Introducing Our New Coordinator!



## EVELYN McQueen

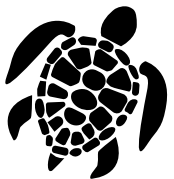
Our new Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Program and Mississippi Inland Cleanup Program Coordinator!

**While earning her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Western Governors University, many of her research assignments explored natural living and the environment. This ultimately led her to the decision to earn her master's degree in environmental science from Louisiana State University. She has five years of experience as a high school chemistry teacher and retains her education license. She completed her master's thesis on Microplastic Abundance in the Northern Gulf of Mexico and looks forward to continuing her research with Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center.**

*Become a MSCCP Top Sponsors!*



Interested in being a sponsor? Checkout our website and click the "Donate" tab for more information!



FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



[www.mscoastalcleanup.org](http://www.mscoastalcleanup.org)