

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!

2025 ANNUAL COASTAL CLEANUP

On Saturday, October 18th, 954
volunteers joined in for the Annual
Coastal Cleanup! This cleanup is the
Mississippi portion of the Annual
International Coastal Cleanup. Volunteers
remove debris from the beaches before it
can be washed or blown into the
Mississippi Sound.

During this cleanup, nearly 1725 pounds of debris and trash were collected, filling over 199 bags. The top 5 items found were cigarette butts (9571), plastic pieces (4600), other uncategorized plastic waste (2239), food wrappers (1769), and paper (1618).



954 VOLUNTEERS

1724.5 LBS OF TRASH



REQUEST A B III

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, hanging scale, and data collection materials.

So far in 2025, **249 Request a Bin volunteers** have collected over **911 lbs. of litter** in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties.

REQUEST A BIN INFO

COASTAL CONNECTIONS

MSCCP collaborated with Coastal Connections to teach students about and let them explore microplastics and litter audits as part of their Coastal Resilience Audit. This audit is made up of numerous outdoor activities to help guide students in creating their very own environmental action project.

Students are always surprised by just how many microplastics they find in their water!



MONOFILAMENT RECYCLING PROJECT

DID YOU KNOW THAT
IMPROPERLY DISCARDED
FISHING LINE CAN HARM
MARINE LIFE, DAMAGE BOAT
PROPELLERS, AND EVEN
ENTANGLE DIVERS?

That is why the Mississippi Monofilament Recycling Program was launched by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) in 2008to reduce fishing line waste along the Gulf Coast. Recently, our team joined forces with MDMR to help empty all 28 monofilament recycling receptacles each month. We bring the contents back to the Coastal Research and Extension Center, where we analyze the waste using the Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol (ETAP) to better understand what is being thrown into these receptacles- everything from chip bags to clothing and cigarette butts.

In a few months, we will be deploying different end caps with varying sized holes to study the best way to reduce the amount of waste being placed inside the monofilament tubes. Keep an eye out along the coast for some of our new designs and please refrain from placing anything except monofilament into the receptacles.







THE MAJORITY OF TRASH COLLECTED IS PLASTIC!

For more information, contact
Keely Colinger
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INTRODUCING



As part of the EPA Trash Free Waters Art and Slogan Competition campaign, this new project aims to connect Mississippi high school students with the importance of *trash free waters* in their watersheds through a statewide competition.

The state has been divided into 7 regions with regional hubs to host this competition, and all high schools are eligible to participate. A winner will be chosen from each region to be showcased in a traveling exhibit, with one overall winner being showcased in MSCCP outreach materials and swag items for no less than 2 years. The winning student's school will also receive up to 10 water refill stations to be placed throughout the campus.

We are excited to see student entries and how the students connect with their local watersheds.

For more information and contest rules, click the link below.

MORE INFO













SPONSORSHIP LEVELS



- Logo on the MS Coastal Cleanup Program (MSCCP) website's sponsors tab(www.mscoastalcleanup.org).
- Logo on MSCCP Annual Cleanup t-shirts.
- Logo on annual MSCCP summary publication accessed broadly throughout MS coast &beyond.
- Individual thank you post on the MSCCP Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages.
- Logo on sponsor recognition on each newsletter, flyer, and email listserv



\$2,500 - \$4,999

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\$500 - \$1,199

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- Star-Spangled Cleanup July 11th 2026 | Locations across the MS Gulf Coast
- Annual Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Event October 17th 2026 Locations across the MS Gulf





See you wext year!



Did you know!

Despite common belief, plastic degradation timeframes do not predict when plastics fully biodegrade, but rather when they have completely degraded into micro and nano plastics, never fully degrading past this point.

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www.mscoastalcleanup.org







THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS!















