

THE CENTER FOR ORAL HISTORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
of
THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Recording Log

Interviewee: William Walker, resident of Mississippi, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

Interviewer: Stephanie Scull-DeArme

Date of recording: February 27, 2012

Recording format/notes: Recorded digitally in one file at Dr. Walker's office at MDMR.

Recording length:

Location: Dr. Walker's office at MDMR in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Subjects/Topics: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi Legislature, permits, regulations, Hurricane Katrina, oysters, Bonnet Carré Spillway, freshwater diversion, oyster larvae, oyster spat, cultch, oyster reefs, finfish, shrimp, seafood industry's infrastructure, FEMA, MEMA, shrimpers, NOAA, Emergency Disaster Relief Program, relaying/reseeding oysters, importance of marshes, sea life nursery habitats, Hurricane Rita, BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, tar balls, sampling tissues of sea life, issues regarding safe-to-eat-seafood, oil-eating bacteria, natural oil seeps in marine environment, natural resource damage assessment, national media, imported shrimp, testing Gulf of Mexico's seafood, Corexit oil dispersant, necropsies of marine animals, pros and cons of drilling for oil in the US, Mineral Management Service, enforcement of regulations, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement, marsh/wetlands, BP's Vessels of Opportunity, federal fisheries failures requested for Mississippi oysters, shrimp, and crabs, restoring fisheries to health, favorite seafood.

Time/ Counter	Topic
0:01:03.2	Personal history
0:08:41.8	Vision for the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)
0:12:39.5	Six offices of the MDMR
0:13:53.9	Walker's philosophy for the MDMR
0:14:54.9	Typical workday as executive director of MDMR
0:16:28.6	Contact with Mississippi Legislature
0:17:23.1	Permits

0:12:42.1	Hurricane Katrina, 2005
0:19:50.8	Oysters
0:20:40.5	Bonnet Carré Spillway freshwater diversion, oysters
0:21:24.9	Oyster larvae, spat, reefs
0:22:03.7	Finfish, shrimp, crabs, seafood industry's infrastructure after Katrina
0:23:56.3	Building an oyster reef, cultch
0:33:32.5	MDMR, FEMA, MEMA collaborated to clean Katrina's debris from Mississippi Sound
0:37:37.4	Typical Mississippi shrimpers
0:39:27.2	MDMR's help for seafood industry after Katrina, NOAA EDRP (Emergency Disaster Relief Program)
0:40:24.1	Reseeding oyster reefs after Katrina
0:41:35.6	Marshes, nursery habitat for sea life
0:41:59.9	Hurricane Rita, 2005
0:43:36.8	BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster's effects on sea life
0:45:29.9	Mississippi oysters, tar balls
0:45:49.3	Sampling tissues of sea life
0:46:27.1	Mississippi marine resources safe to eat
0:47:16.3	Naturally occurring, oil-eating bacteria
0:48:13.1	Natural resource damage assessment, long-term effects of BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster
0:48:55.9	Short-term, acute effects of BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster
0:50:00.9	Public perception of seafood, national media's influence
0:51:56.5	Imported shrimp, safety-to-eat issues

0:52:25.9	Testing Gulf of Mexico's seafood
0:53:09.1	Effects of Corexit oil dispersant on seafood and consumers of seafood
0:56:17.8	Necropsies on dead marine animals
0:58:38.4	Consequences of 100 oil spills like BP Deepwater Horizon's, pros and cons of drilling for oil in the US
1:01:57.8	Regulations, Mineral Management Service
1:03:12.8	MDMR's enforcement of regulations
1:03:47.7	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement
1:05:04.3	Oil-eating bacteria, natural oil seeps in Gulf of Mexico
1:07:10.5	Habitat for flourishing populations of shrimp and crabs, creating marshlands
1:10:31.4	Mitigating effects of marshes on hurricanes' damages to mainlands
1:12:36.6	BP's Vessels of Opportunity
1:13:36.30	MDMR's work following BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, testing seafood
1:15:24.3	Tar balls versus crude oil
1:19:31.0	Bonnet Carré Spillway, freshwater diversion effects on Mississippi's oysters
1:20:30.3	Oyster reefs and shrimp in Mississippi should be declared a federal fisheries failure
1:21:29.5	Landings of shrimp caught in Mississippi's waters
1:22:10.4	Crabs in Mississippi should be declared a federal fisheries failure
1:23:58.5	MDMR hopes to hire fishermen to help restore some fisheries
1:25:01.5	Relaying oysters
1:26:54.0	Dr. Walker's favorite seafood meal