



MEDIA CONTACT:
Allison Buchanan
The Focus Group
abuchanan@focusgroupms.com
Cell: (228) 596-3192

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mississippi Sound Coalition Provides Powerful New Comments to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

For assets related to this release visit this [Dropbox link](#).

(GULFPORT, Miss., April 6, 2025) – On April 3, 2025, the Mississippi Sound Coalition (MSSC) provided powerful and insightful new commentary to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Coalition prepared the document linked below in response to the Corps' invitation for comments on the occasion of the Mississippi River Commission's annual **high water inspection trip** March 30-April 4.

The Coalition's comments represent fresh clarity into ways in which the Corps' future actions can provide relief from the increasingly negative effects of intrusive Mississippi River water on the Mississippi Sound Estuary affecting the economy and way of life of Mississippians.

During the high-profile event each year, the Corps hosts members of the Mississippi River Commission on an excursion down the river on its motor vessel named "Mississippi," conducting public hearings along the way. According to an Army Corps Press Release, *"All hearings are open to the public and will provide a platform for community members to hear directly from the Mississippi River Commission and engage in discussions about the river."*

The Corps provided an alternative option for public input with an invitation for comments, to which the Coalition thoroughly responded. The comments document is worth the read by anyone interested in MSSC's continuing efforts to save the Mississippi Sound estuary from the harmful effects of Mississippi water intrusion into the Sound.

"For instance, the Commission should replace the Bonnet Carré and Morganza Spillways with state-of-the-art structures that open simultaneously to avoid harm to fishing grounds in both states," said Gerald Blessey, Manager of the Mississippi Sound Coalition.

[Click Here to Read MSSC's Comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

STATEMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI SOUND COALITION TO THE MISSISSIPPI
RIVER COMMISSION - ANNUAL HIGHWATER INSPECTION

April 3, 2025

The members and associate members of the Mississippi Sound Coalition are local governments within Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson County, Mississippi; non-profit organizations representing commercial fishermen and tourism businesses; and individual citizens, with the mission of restoring and protecting the ecosystem of the Mississippi Sound estuary and the way of life and economies of coastal communities that depend on it.¹ The Mississippi Sound Coalition seeks win-win solutions to the challenges facing the Sound, based on good science and fair public policy. The Coalition's scientific research, public education, and advocacy focus on avoiding where possible or mitigating where necessary harm to the Mississippi Sound caused by federal management of the Mississippi River & Tributaries Project, including the Bonnet Carré Spillway.

The Mississippi Sound Coalition urges the Commission to use its authority to address three critical issues. As set out below, operation of the Bonnet Carré Spillway in flood years like 2011 and 2019 has caused extreme adverse effects on the fisheries and natural resources of the Mississippi Sound with cascading damage to the local economy, especially in seafood and tourism businesses. In addition, other proposed diversions of Mississippi River water must be managed to prevent damage to the Mississippi Sound. Finally, the hypoxic "dead zone" caused by nutrient pollution in the Mississippi has now been documented to extend to the east of the Mississippi, adjacent to the Mississippi Sound.

The Mississippi Sound Coalition appreciates the Commission's solicitation of concerns and ideas regarding the Mississippi River system and its management; we hope the realities identified in these comments will be acknowledged and addressed as part of the Commission's ongoing river management.

¹ Members of the Coalition include Harrison County, Hancock County, the cities of Biloxi, D'Iberville, Gulfport, Long Beach, Pass Christian, Diamondhead, Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Ocean Springs, Gautier, Pascagoula, and non-profits the Mississippi Hotel & Lodging Association and the Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United, Inc.

The Coalition recommends that those who have supporting comments email them to MRC@usace.army.mil or mail them to the attention of the Mississippi River Commission at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, MS 39183.

###

MISSISSIPPI SOUND COALITION (MSSC)

The Mississippi Sound Coalition's mission is to restore and protect the ecosystem of the Mississippi Sound estuary and the way of life and economies of coastal communities that depend on it, based on good science and fair public policy. We seek win-win solutions, preferably by negotiated agreements and legislation, but, when necessary, members who chose to be parties engage in litigation in support of our Mission. Our scientific research, public education, and advocacy are focused primarily on ways and means to avoid or mitigate harm to the Mississippi Sound caused by the Bonnet Carré Spillway and other negative impacts.

The Coalition provides public education on the subject, and, if necessary, engages in litigation. Members of the Coalition include Harrison County, Hancock County, the Mississippi cities of Biloxi, D'Iberville, Gulfport, Long Beach, Pass Christian, Diamondhead, Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Ocean Springs, Gautier, Pascagoula, the Mississippi Hotel & Lodging Association and Mississippi Commercial Fisheries United.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Allison Buchanan

The Focus Group

Cell: (228) 596-3192

abuchanan@focusgroupms.com

Website: SaveOurSoundMS.org

Follow Mississippi Sound Coalition on Social Media

Facebook: Facebook.com/SaveOurSoundMiss

X (formerly Twitter): Twitter.com/SaveOurSoundMS

Instagram: Instagram.com/SaveOurSoundMS

LinkedIn: LinkedIn.com/Company/Save-Our-Sound-MS

TikTok: Tiktok.com/@saveoursoundms

YouTube: Youtube.com/@SaveOurSoundMS