

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Musgrove: Deadline for Federal Relief for Shrimp Industry is June 20**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today reminded participants in Mississippi's shrimp industry that the deadline for federal shrimp disaster relief is Friday, June 20, 2003. Last month, Musgrove announced the plan for distributing funds from the state's \$1,003,307 share of the Congressional Fisheries Disaster Relief Fund.

"I want to encourage shrimpers, boat captains and businesses involved in the shrimping industry to apply for these funds," Musgrove said. "This relief plays an important role in the support of the shrimping industry and the economy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast."

Mississippi shrimp industry participants may qualify for funding by completing an application and by providing the following information:

- A valid approved state photo identification and social security number/tax identification number;
- A Mississippi commercial shrimp license in 2001 and/or 2002;
- Income tax documentation showing that over 50 percent of income comes from commercial shrimp fishing or receipts from licensed Mississippi dealers and processors illustrating a minimum of 5,000 pounds of shrimp landed in Mississippi in 2001 and/or 2002.

Applications and copies of supporting documentation will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., through June 20, 2003 at the DMR office, located in the Bolton State Office Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi. For more information call the DMR at (228) 374-5000.

In February 2003, Congress appropriated \$35 million in funds to aid the shrimping industry, which has been hard hit by declining prices due to the increasing amount and low price of imported shrimp and higher operating costs. Funds were allotted to states based on the volume of shrimp produced by each state. Mississippi's portion of the \$17.5 million allotted for the Gulf of Mexico states is about \$1 million.

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The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at [www.dmr.state.ms.us](http://www.dmr.state.ms.us) <<http://www.dmr.state.ms.us>>.

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