

## Tour #1: MISSISSIPPI MARINE AQUACULTURE

Date: March 7

8 am – 6 pm

Cost: \$135

This tour will depart the Marriott at 8 am and travel to Ocean Springs, MS to visit the University of Southern Mississippi's Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center. Founded in 2006, the Center aims to promote the development of technology for production of commercially and recreationally important marine organisms. Investigations focus on the production of species of economic importance in the Gulf of Mexico region in closed, recirculating systems. The Center is located on a 225-acre site and consists of approximately 100,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of culture and research space devoted to live feed, broodstock, hatchery, and nursery/growout systems. On-going projects focus on spotted seatrout, tripletail, oysters, blue crabs, Atlantic croaker, and red snapper as well as copepod production technology in joint projects with federal, state, and private organizations. The Center's research capabilities include state of the art laboratories conducting research in nutrition, genetics, disease, and reproductive physiology of aquaculture species.

Lunch: Shed BBQ

Following lunch, the tour will travel to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources' Lyman Aquaculture Center. The Center is located on 280 acres in Harrison County near Gulfport and features 14 lined half-acre ponds and 10 earthen ponds of various sizes. Historical activities focused on culturing freshwater gamefish species such as largemouth bass and centrarchids for stocking, but since 2008 projects involving public and private partnerships have aimed to develop pond-based aquaculture of estuarine and marine species including spotted seatrout, blue crab, Gulf striped bass, and red drum.

### Itinerary:

8am – depart Marriott

9:45 – 10am – arrive GCRL

10-noon - tour

Noon – 2 pm – Lunch

2 pm – depart for Lyman

2:45 – arrive Lyman

2:45 – 4pm – tour Lyman

4 pm – depart for New Orleans

5:30 pm – arrive at Marriott