The damages to the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) natural resources due to the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill (GOMOS) will take some time to be cleaned up, and the restoration period to get the resources back to their original pre-GOMOS status is still indefinite. In the meantime, the production of goods and services by economic sectors located in the GOM states will be adversely affected, leading to possible reduction in the levels of economic activity, employment and personal income, and tax revenues. The closures of significant portions of federal and state GOM waters to commercial and recreational fishing and closures of beach resources to human uses due to the GOMOS altered the recreation and consumption decisions of residents and tourists in affected communities.

In order to understand the magnitude of the potential economic impacts of the GOMOS to Menhaden Fishing in the coastal counties, multi-year baseline economic information about the sector is compiled from various secondary sources.

Commercial Menhaden Fishing corresponds to economic sector 114111 in the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). Menhaden Fishing comprises establishments primarily engaged in the commercial catching or taking of menhaden from their natural habitat.

The annual Mississippi menhaden landings (in million pounds) and landing values (in million dollars at current prices) from 2000 to 2010 are shown in Fig. 1. The number of menhaden boat and net licenses issued to resident and non-resident commercial fishermen from 2000 to 2010 are shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 1. Mississippi commercial menhaden landings, 2000-2010. Source of raw data: NOAA Fisheries.

Fig. 2. Mississippi commercial menhaden licenses, 2000-2010. Source of raw data: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

Literature Cited:

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. 2000-2010. Annual Reports. Biloxi, Mississippi.
