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 GOMOS to Commercial Crabbing in the coastal counties, multi-year baseline economic information about the sector is compiled from various secondary sources.

Commercial Crabbing corresponds to economic sector 114112 (Shellfish Fishing) in the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). Shellfish Fishing comprises establishments primarily engaged in the commercial catching or taking of shellfish (e.g., clams, crabs, lobsters, mussels, oysters, sea urchins, shrimp) from their natural habitat.

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

Literature Cited:

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