DIRECT EMPLOYMENT IMPACTS OF COMMERCIAL FISHING IN COASTAL MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES, 2001-2013

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Introduction

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. 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 GOM federal and state waters to commercial and recreational fishing and closures of beach resources to human uses due to GOMOS will alter the recreation, consumption and production decisions of residents and tourists in affected communities.

Economic Models

In order to understand the magnitude of the potential economic impacts of the GOMOS to commercial fishing in the coastal counties, multi-year baseline economic information about the sector is compiled from various secondary sources. The Mississippi Coastal counties include Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties.
These long-term baseline secondary data will be used to determine the duration of the economic impacts of the massive technological disaster. Econometric analysis of these data will be conducted to determine the rate of economic recovery and measure the economic damages to these affected economic sectors.

Commercial fishing corresponds to economic sectors 114111 (Finfish Fishing) and 114112 (Shellfish Fishing) in the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS, 2014). Finfish Fishing comprises establishments primarily engaged in the commercial catching or taking of finfish (e.g., bluefish, salmon, trout, tuna) from their natural habitat. 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.

**Direct Employment Impacts**

The direct employment impacts created by the commercial fishing sector were compiled from the Economic Modeling Specialists (EMSI, 2014) website. The number of jobs includes the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) employees reported by employees, non-QCEW employees, self-employed and extended proprietors.

The non-QCEW employees include military jobs, railroad jobs, many nonprofit and religious workers, certain salespersons, miscellaneous Federal Government and some other government workers. The self-employed include people who consider self-employment to be a significant part of their income or time spent working. Extended proprietors cover the same types of jobs as the “Self-Employed”, but these jobs represent miscellaneous labor income for persons who do not consider it a primary job.

![Commercial Fishing Jobs in Hancock County Mississippi](image)

*Figure 1.*

Source of raw data: EMSI (2014).
Figure 2.
Source of raw data: EMSI (2014).

Figure 3.
Source of raw data: EMSI (2014).
Figure 4.
Source of raw data: EMSI (2014).

Figure 5.
Source of raw data: EMSI (2014).
Selected References


Posadas, Benedict C. And Benedict Kit A. Posadas, Jr. 2013. License and Size Profiles of Mississippi Seafood, and Commercial and Recreational Fishing Sectors. Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Bulletin 1206, Mississippi State, Mississippi.

Posadas, Benedict C. And Benedict Kit A. Posadas, Jr. 2013. Estimation of the Baseline for the Assessment of the Economic Impacts of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill to the Mississippi Commercial Fishing Sector. Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station Bulletin 1204, Mississippi State, Mississippi.

Economic Recovery References listed at http://curis.msstate.edu/economicrecoveryreferences.html