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 fully 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.

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

Commercial oystering corresponds to economic sector 114112 or 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 eastern oyster commercial landings and landing values shown in the following figures were compiled from the NOAA Fisheries Service website.

The scientific name of eastern oyster is *Crassostrea virginica*. Texas Parks and Wildlife report that eastern oysters are abundant in shallow saltwater bays, lagoons and estuaries, in water 8 to 25 ft. deep and between 28 and 90 degrees F.

The suppliers of seafood products registered in Mississippi MarketMaker can be found by clicking this link - http://webapps.marketmaker.illinois.edu/marketmaker/#MS/food/productsearch/22695,2772,28. By expanding the search area into other Gulf states and other sectors, more suppliers will be listed.
Fig. 1

Annual Commercial Eastern Oyster Landings and Landing Values in the Gulf of Mexico States

Fig. 2

Average Ex-vessel Prices of Commercial Eastern Oyster in the Gulf of Mexico States
Fig. 3

Annual Commercial Eastern Oyster Landings and Landing Values in Alabama

Fig. 4

Annual Commercial Eastern Oyster Landings and Landing Values in Florida

Fig. 4

Annual Commercial Eastern Oyster Landings and Landing Values in Louisiana