The damages to the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) natural resources due to 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 GOM federal and state waters to commercial and recreational fishing and closures of beach resources to human uses due to 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 Recreational Shrimping, Crabbing and Oystering, long-term baseline economic information about the sector is compiled from various secondary sources.

Fig. 1. Number of Mississippi recreational shrimpers, 2000-2010. Sources of data: Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

Fig. 2. Number of Mississippi recreational oystermen, 2000-2010. Sources of data: Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

Fig. 3. Number of Mississippi recreational crabbers, 2000-2010. Sources of data: Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.