

# Living Shorelines: A Permitting Guide for Mississippi Homeowners



# Contents

<b>Permitting Agencies .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Permit Application Checklist .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>DMR/USACE Joint Application .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Drawings .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Other Application Documents .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Tips to Submitting a Successful Permit Application.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Living Shorelines Resources.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Example Living Shorelines Permit Application .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Required Documentation</b>	
<b>DMR/USACE Joint Application Form .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Vicinity Map .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Cross-Section Plan .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Proposed Activities .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Environmental Assessment Guidelines .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Adjacent Property Owner Authorization Form .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Agent Authorization .....</b>	<b>19</b>

*The following is meant to be a permitting guide for homeowners who are interested in installing a living shoreline on their property in Mississippi.*

# Permitting Agencies

## *Initial Reviewers and Issuers of the General Permit*

Mississippi Department of  
Marine Resources (DMR)

1141 Bayview Avenue  
Biloxi, MS 39530  
(228) 374-50000  
<https://dmr.ms.gov/>



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
(USACE)

P.O. Box 2288  
Mobile, AL 36628-0001  
(251) 690-2658  
<https://www.usace.army.mil/>



## *Authorizer for Projects on Submerged Water Bottoms*

Secretary of State Public  
Lands Division

(601) 359-5156  
Fax: (601) 359-1461  
[https://www.sos.ms.gov/  
public-lands](https://www.sos.ms.gov/public-lands)



# Permit Application Checklist

*To apply for a living shoreline permit, the following documents must be completed and turned into the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, which will then distribute the application to the appropriate agencies (see previous page).*

1. DMR/USACE Joint Application
2. Drawings
3. Environmental Assessment
4. Agent Authorization (optional)
5. Adjacent Property Owner Authorization (if applicable)

## DMR/USACE Joint Application

### *Form requires:*

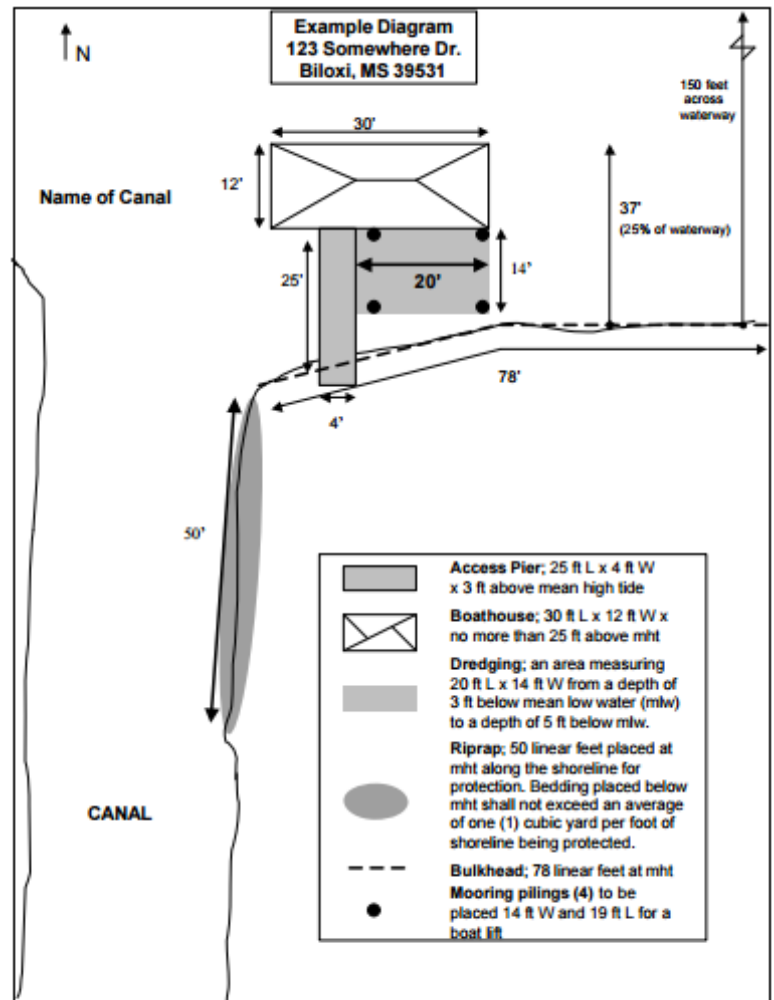
- ❖ General information about the permit applicant (e.g., name, address).
- ❖ Basic project information (e.g., location, materials).
- ❖ Includes drawings, environmental assessment, and agent authorization (optional).
- ❖ \$50 application fee for single-family residences.
- ❖ Can be found at the Mississippi DMR website: (<https://dmr.ms.gov/joint-application-form/>)

### *Where to Submit DMR/USACE Joint Application*

Applications must be submitted to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR). The MS DMR will then review the application and forward it to any necessary agencies for further review. Once the application is approved, either a general or nationwide permit will be granted.

# Drawings

- ❖ Includes a vicinity map, cross-section plan, and proposed activity drawings.
- ❖ Vicinity map shows the proposed activity location and includes a written description of how to get there from major landmarks or highways.
- ❖ Cross-section drawing should include mean high tide (MHT).
- ❖ Provides accurate drawings of the project site, with proposed activities shown in detail.
- ❖ All drawings must be to scale or include dimensions on the drawings.
- ❖ Must be on 8½-by-11-inch white paper.
- ❖ Can be made on the computer or by hand.



Sample drawing  
(Credit: DMR)

# Other Application Documents

## *Environmental Assessment*

- ❖ Provide a report or statement assessing environmental impacts of the proposed project.
- ❖ Address the proposed project's effects on the wetlands and the wildlife that depend on them.
- ❖ Provide a complete description of any measures to be taken to reduce detrimental effects to wetlands during and after the proposed activity.

## *Adjacent Property Owner Authorization*

- ❖ Required when proposed project is within 10 feet of an adjacent property.
- ❖ Applicant must provide a statement of permission and a diagram of proposed work with signatures from the adjacent property owners.

## *Agent Authorization*

- ❖ Optional document: Signed authorization is required if the applicant desires to have an agent or consultant act on his/her behalf for permit coordination.

*The above forms are to be submitted as part of the DMR/USACE Joint Application and can be found at <https://dmr.ms.gov/permitting/>.*

# Tips to Submitting a Successful Permit Application

## *Top 5 Mistakes that Lead to Permit Application Rejection*

1. Application does not contain a full, narrative description of the proposed project.
2. Drawings do not display the mean high tide (MHT).
3. Drawings are not on 8½-by-11-inch paper, in grayscale.
4. Application does not list longitude/latitude and section/township/range of the project site.
5. Drawings are not drawn to scale or they do not show accurate dimensions of proposed work.

## *Helpful Hints to Obtaining a Living Shoreline Permit*

### **START EARLY**

Be prepared to submit your permit application at least 90 days before construction is planned to begin.

### **BE PREPARED**

Schedule a pre-application meeting with DMR to clear up any questions and to address possible complications.

### **BE PATIENT**

The permit application may have to be approved by several agencies, so the approval process takes time.

# Living Shorelines Resources

*For additional information on living shoreline permitting:*

- ❖ <https://dmr.ms.gov/permitting/>
- ❖ [https://masglp.olemiss.edu/living\\_shorelines.pdf](https://masglp.olemiss.edu/living_shorelines.pdf)

## Example Living Shorelines Permit Application

*What remains of this guide is an example permit application that resulted in a permit being issued. The permit application contains the following documents:*

1. DMR/USACE joint application
2. Vicinity map
3. Cross-section drawing
4. Proposed activities drawing
5. Environmental assessment
6. Adjacent property owner authorization form
7. Agent authorization form



# Required Documentation: DMR/USACE Joint Application page 1

**JOINT APPLICATION AND NOTIFICATION**  
 U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES  
 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY/OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

This form is to be used for proposed activities in waters of the United States in Mississippi and for the erection of structures on suitable sites for water dependent industry. Note that some items, as indicated, apply only to projects located in the coastal area of Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties.

2. Applicant name, mailing address, phone number and email address: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Agent name, mailing address, phone number and email address: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 40px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div>		1. Date <u>07 07 2017</u> month day year  3. Official use only COE _____ DMR _____ DEQ _____ A95 _____ DATE RECEIVED _____
--	--	---

4. Project location  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Community MOSS POINT  
 Name of Waterway POSCATANUA RIVER Latitude \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude (if known) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Geographic location: Section S11 Township T75 Range R6W County TACKSON

5. Project description  
 New work  Maintenance work \_\_\_\_\_

**Dredging**

Channel	length _____	width _____	existing depth _____	proposed depth _____
Canal	length _____	width _____	existing depth _____	proposed depth _____
Boat Slip	length _____	width _____	existing depth _____	proposed depth _____
Marina	length _____	width _____	existing depth _____	proposed depth _____
Other-Mooring Basin	length _____	width _____	existing depth _____	proposed depth _____

Cubic yards of material to be removed \_\_\_\_\_ Type of material \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location of spoil disposal area \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dimensions of spoil area \_\_\_\_\_ Method of excavation \_\_\_\_\_  
 How will excavated material be contained? \_\_\_\_\_

**Construction of structures**

Bulkhead	Total length _____	Height above water _____
Pier	length _____	width _____ height _____
Boat Ramp	length _____	width _____ slope _____
Boat House	length _____	width _____ height _____

\_\_\_\_\_ Structures on designed sites for water dependent industry (Coastal area only). Explain in item 11 or include as attachment.  
 Other (explain): Installation of sand-filled gabion baskets along existing bulkhead.

**Filling**  
 Dimensions of fill area 64 gabions that are 3x3x3', each  
 Cubic yards of fill 61 Type of fill sand/topsoil  
 Other regulated activities (i.e. Seismic exploration, burning or clearing of marsh) Explain.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1

# Required Documentation: DMR/USACE Joint Application page 2

6. Additional information relating to the proposed activity  
Does project area contain any marsh vegetation? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   
(If yes, explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
Is any portion of the activity for which authorization is sought now complete? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   
(If yes, explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
Month and year activity took place \_\_\_\_\_  
If project is for maintenance work on existing structures or existing channels, describe legal authorization for the existing work. Provide permit number, dates or other form(s) of authorization. \_\_\_\_\_  
Has any agency denied approval for the activity described herein or for any activity that is directly related to the activity described herein?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  (If yes, explain) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Project schedule  
Proposed start date November 2017 Proposed completion date January 2018  
Expected completion date (or development timetable) for any projects dependent on the activity described herein. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Estimated cost of the project \$12,500.00

9. Describe the purpose of this project. Describe the relationship between this project and any secondary or future development the project is designed to support. This project will convert an existing millrace into a humid stream through the placement of sand-filled gabion baskets, allowing the growth of local marsh vegetation and hopefully the recruitment of oysters.  
Intended use: Private  Commercial \_\_\_\_\_ Public \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Describe the public benefits of the proposed activity and of the projects dependent on the proposed activity. Also describe the extent of public use of the proposed project. Gabion baskets will add aesthetic value, reduce localized erosion and scour, and encourage the growth and establishment of local flora & fauna.

11. Narrative Project Description:  
See attached project description.

2

# Required Documentation: DMR/USACE Joint Application page 3

12. Provide the names and addresses of the adjacent property owners. Also identify the property owners on the plan view of the drawing described in Attachment "A". (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

1. [REDACTED] 2. STATE DEPT. OF MARINE RESOURCES

13. List all approvals or certifications received or applied for from Federal, State and Local agencies for any structures, construction, discharges, deposits or other activities described in this application. Note that the signature in Item 14 certifies that application has been made to or that permits are not required from the following agencies. If permits are not required, place N/A in the space for Type Approval.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Type Approval</u>	<u>Application Date</u>	<u>Approval Date</u>
Dept. of Environmental Quality			
Dept. of Marine Resources			
Army Corps of Engineers			
City/County			
Other			

# Required Documentation: DMR/USACE Joint Application page 4

## 14. Certification and signatures

Application is hereby made for authorization to conduct the activities described herein. I agree to provide any additional information/data that may be necessary to provide reasonable assurance or evidence to show that the proposed project will comply with the applicable state water quality standards or other environmental protection standards both during construction and after the project is completed. I also agree to provide entry to the project site for inspectors from the environmental protection agencies for the purpose of making preliminary analyses of the site and monitoring permitted works. I certify that I am familiar with and responsible for the information contained in this application, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, such information is true, complete and accurate. I further certify that I am the owner of the property where the proposed project is located or that I have a legal interest in the property and that I have full legal authority to seek this permit.

U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willingly falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme or device a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

### Mississippi Coastal Program (Coastal area only)

I certify that the proposed project for which authorization is sought complies with the approved Mississippi Coastal Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the program.

  
Signature of Applicant or Agent

6-23-17  
Date

# Required Documentation: DMR/USACE Joint Application page 5

---

**15. Fees**

Payable to MS Dept. of Marine Resources  
\$50.00 Single-family residential application fee  
\$500.00 Commercial application fee  
Public notice fee may be required

Please include appropriate fees for all projects proposed in coastal areas of Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties.

---

**16. If project is in Hancock, Harrison or Jackson Counties, send one completed copy of this application form and appropriate fees listed in Item 15 to:**

Department of Marine Resources  
Bureau of Wetlands Permitting  
1141 Bayview Avenue  
Biloxi, MS 39530  
(228) 374-5000

If project **IS NOT** in Hancock, Harrison or Jackson Counties, send one completed copy of this application form to each agency listed below:

District Engineer  
Mobile District  
Attn: CESAM-RD  
P.O. Box 2288  
Mobile, AL 36628-0001

District Engineer  
Vicksburg District  
Regulatory Branch  
Attn: CEMVK-OD-F  
4155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

Director  
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Office of Pollution Control  
P.O. Box 10385  
Jackson, MS 39289

---

**17. In addition to the completed application form, the following attachments are required:****Attachment "A" Drawings**

Provide a vicinity map showing the location of the proposed site along with a written description of how to reach the site from major highways or landmarks. Provide accurate drawings of the project site with proposed activities shown in detail. All drawings must be to scale or with dimensions noted on drawings and must show a plan view and cross section or elevation. Use 8 1/2 x 11" white paper or drawing sheet attached.

**Attachment "B" Authorized Agent**

If applicant desires to have an agent or consultant act in his behalf for permit coordination, a signed authorization designating said agent must be provided with the application forms. The authorized agent named may sign the application forms and the consistency statement.

**Attachment "C" Environmental Assessment (Coastal Area Only)**

Provide an appropriate report or statement assessing environmental impacts of the proposed activity and the final project dependent on it. The project's effects on the wetlands and the effects on the life dependent on them should be addressed. Also provide a complete description of any measures to be taken to reduce detrimental offsite effects to the coastal wetlands during and after the proposed activity. Alternative analysis, minimization and mitigation information may be required to complete project evaluation.

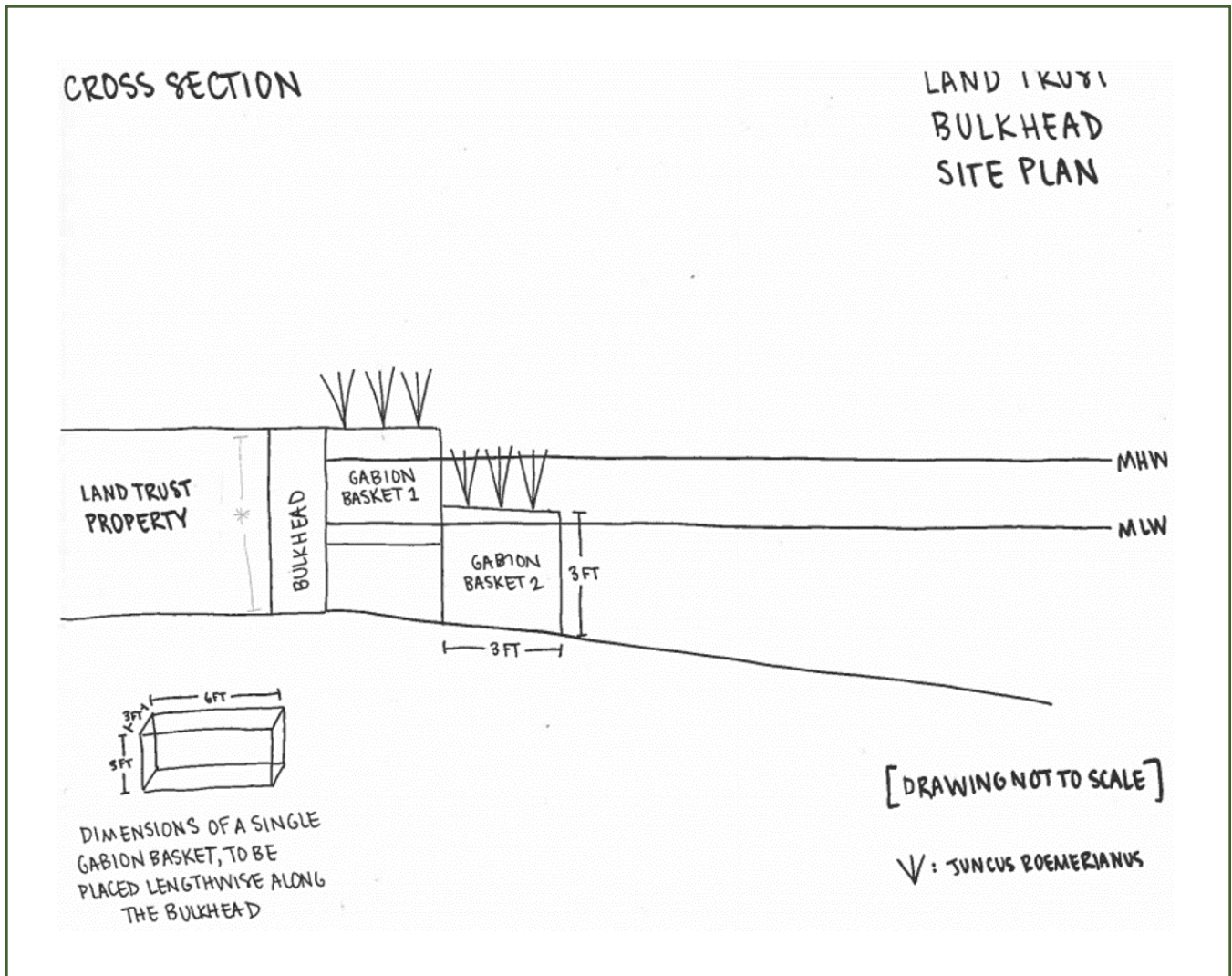
**Attachment "D" Variance or Revisions to Mississippi Coastal Program (Coastal area only)**

If the applicant is requesting a variance to the guidelines in Section 2, Part III or a revision to the Coastal Wetlands Use Plan in Section 2, Part IV of the Rules, Regulations, Guidelines and Procedures of the Mississippi Coastal Program, a request and justification must be provided.

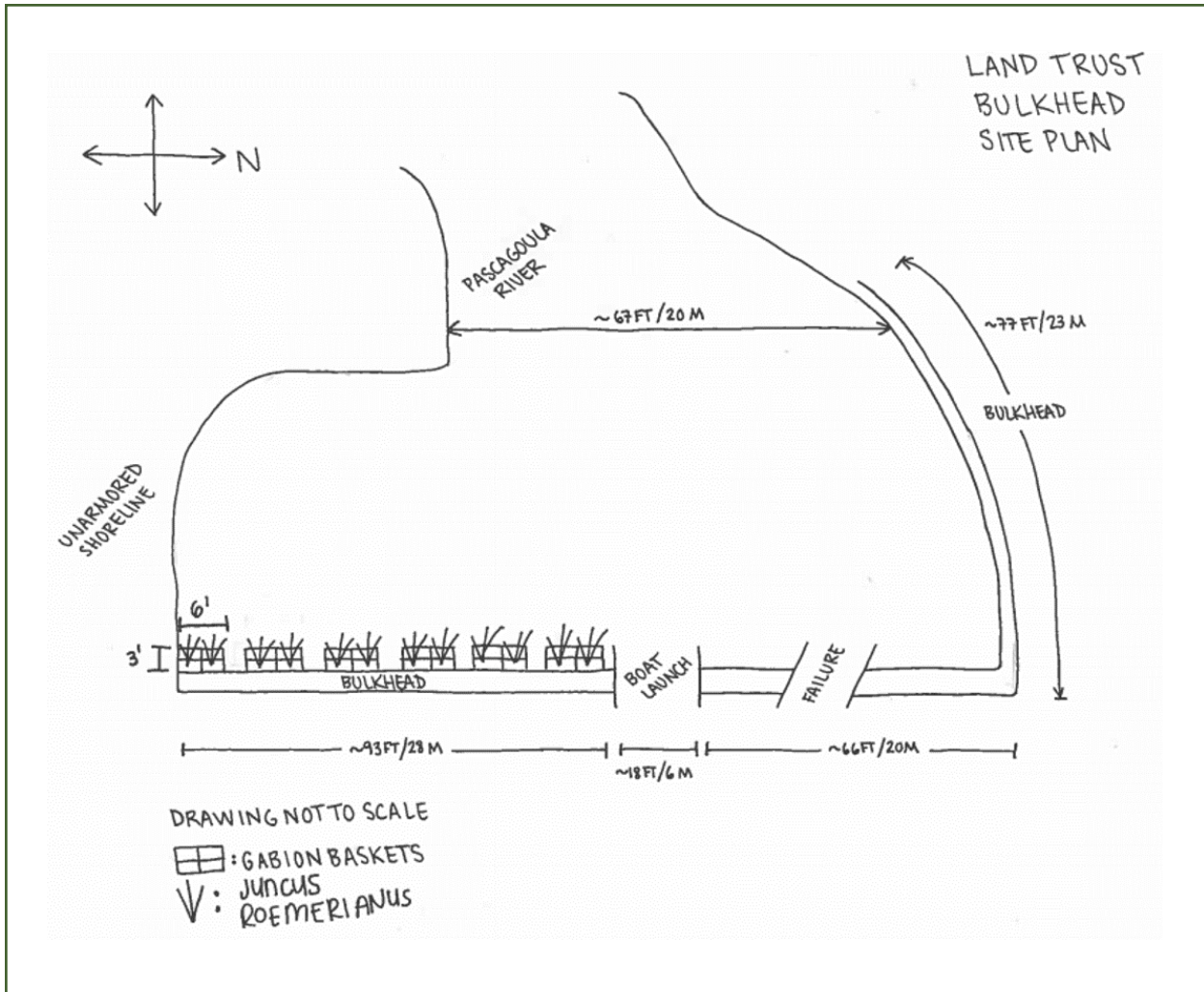
# Required Documentation: Vicinity Map



# Required Documentation: Cross-Section Plan



# Required Documentation: *Proposed Activities*





# Required Documentation: Environmental Assessment Guidelines

## 1. Project Description

- ❖ Define the project. Be specific and include dimensions. A clear description of the project will prevent delays.

## 2. Purpose and Need for the Project

- ❖ Demonstrate the need to be met by the proposed project.
- ❖ Describe any public benefit that will be provided.

## 3. Description and Comparison of Alternatives

- ❖ Describe off-site alternatives (other locations considered for the proposed project). Include impacts associated with these locations, illustrating both the quantity of impacts and the quality of the affected wetlands.
- ❖ Describe on-site alternatives (other project designs that were considered). Again, include impacts associated with these designs.
- ❖ Provide feasibility information for the rejected alternatives, along with the reasoning behind the choice of the proposed site/design.
- ❖ Demonstrate that impacts to wetlands have been avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

## 4. Description of the Affected Environment

- ❖ Describe the existing conditions of the proposed project site, including information on topography, hydrology, soils, vegetation, and wildlife use.
- ❖ Provide both the quantity and quality of all wetlands on-site, whether they are proposed to be impacted or avoided.

## 5. Project Impacts

- ❖ Describe how the proposed project would both directly and indirectly affect the biological integrity and productivity of coastal wetlands communities and ecosystems.
- ❖ Demonstrate whether the proposed activity would affect the following characteristics of coastal wetlands:
  - × The natural supply of sediment and nutrients to the coastal wetlands;
  - × The natural temperature regimes that are part of the ecosystem of coastal wetlands;
  - × Salinity regimes;
  - × Sediment transport processes;
  - × Water flow and natural circulation; and
  - × The long-term biological productivity of the coastal wetlands' ecosystem.

*Explain all measures that will be taken to reduce detrimental off-site effects to coastal wetlands during and after the proposed activity. Refer to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's Field Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control on Construction Sites in Mississippi for descriptions of acceptable best management practices.*

*Present the plan to mitigate for any unavoidable impacts. This plan should be based on the quantity, quality, and function of the impacted wetlands.*

# Required Documentation: Adjacent Property Owner Authorization Form

## Adjacent Property Owner Authorization

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DMR# \_\_\_\_\_  
*(For Office Use Only)*

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to construct the intended  
*(Print Applicant Name)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Project Description; examples: Pier, Boathouse, etc.)*

Within a distance of less than ten feet (10') of my adjacent property line as  
Shown in the signed attached diagram\*.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Adjacent Property Owner)*

Adjacent Property Information:

Applicant Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Adjacent Property Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Project Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\* Adjacent property owner **MUST** sign diagram of  
proposed project.

# Required Documentation: *Agent Authorization Form*



## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

### Agent Authorization

I authorize the person(s) and/or company listed below to act as my agent regarding the proposed project as described in the Joint Application and Notification at the location listed below:

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of agent)

\_\_\_\_\_ (location of project)

\_\_\_\_\_ (address)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (city, state, zip code)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (agent phone number)

\_\_\_\_\_ (print applicant name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (applicant signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Do you want the permit mailed to the agent? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No



Cover photo credits: Eric Sparks (top left), NOAA (top right), Eric Sparks (bottom left), North Carolina Coastal Federation (bottom right).

**Publication 3119** (POD-10-23)

**MASGC-17-067**

By Sara Martin, Extension Program Manager, Eric Sparks, Associate Extension Professor and Director, Nigel Temple, PhD student, and Daniel Firth, master's student, Coastal and Marine Extension Program..

*Copyright 2023 by Mississippi State University. All rights reserved. This publication may be copied and distributed without alteration for nonprofit educational purposes provided that credit is given to the Mississippi State University Extension Service.*

Produced by Agricultural Communications.

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. STEVE MARTIN, Interim Director