

**ORGANIZED SEAFOOD ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA**  
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April 7, 2008

Donald Silawsky  
Office of Petroleum Reserves  
U.S. Dept. of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585-0301

Dear Mr. Silawsky:

The purpose of this letter is to express our opposition to the citing of a Strategic Petroleum reserve in a salt dome that would require excavating the salt from the dome at Richton, Mississippi. The Organized Seafood Association of Alabama is a nonprofit organization that represents the commercial fishing and processing industries of Alabama. Review of the strategy to develop and operate the dome has left us with concerns that the program can have several negative impacts on the fishery resources our members depend on for their livelihood. These are:

1. The Gulf of Mexico has only one tide per 24 hours with a rise and fall of only one to two feet. These tides are not swift, therefore no strong circulation. The salt pump site in the Gulf is too close to the inshore waters (Mississippi Sound) to the north where the Gulf tides run through small passes and where you do find swift tides which can suck the high salinity water into the brackish inshore waters. These brackish waters are the source of initial life of over 90 percent of our Gulf and inshore fishery resources.
2. The plan to use fresh water from the Pascagoula River for the salt removal creates an additional problem to number one; it will reduce the flow of fresh water to Mississippi Sound thus compounding the influx of salty water from the Gulf.
3. Assume the saltier Gulf waters do not enter the Sound. There still will be the risk to the young marine life as they enter the Gulf waters with a higher than normal salt content.

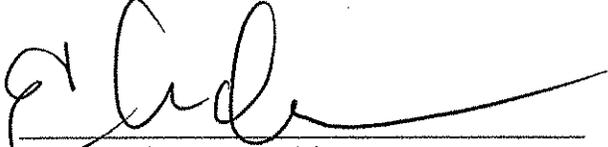
When analyzing fisheries at different sites along coasts care has to be taken that the species harvested and landed at each site is compared. You can have a negative impact at a site and not recognize the fact because the impacted species may not be harvested at the same intensity as elsewhere.

Our last comment is in view of the economic changes since Congress authorized the increase in the oil reserve. Shouldn't the DOE approach Congress with a request to

put this project on hold until there is stability in the oil market?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this program.

Sincerely,



Ernie Anderson, President

cc: Senator Richard Shelby  
Senator Jeff Sessions  
Congressman Jo Bonner