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### **The Sailfish: A Biloxi icon**

The infrastructure of the seafood industry on the Gulf Coast looks a lot different now. Even though shrimping is still a strong part of Biloxi's economy, factories no longer outline Point Cadet and whistles are no longer heard signaling employees to work. However, there is a piece of history that still charts the waters to show visitors how important this industry has been to Mississippi — the Biloxi Shrimping Trip.

The 70-minute "Living Marine Adventure Cruise" aboard the Sailfish takes guests for a ride down the harbor channel between the mainland and Deer Island for an outdoor classroom expedition. While a 16-foot trawl is dragged along the bottom of the Mississippi Sound, guests learn various facts about shrimp such as: How many legs does a shrimp have? How many eggs can a shrimp lay? How fast do shrimp grow?

Once the trawl is pulled up, another lesson begins on the content of the catch, which many times is a mixture of brown or white shrimp, blue crabs, flounder, stingrays, oysterfish, squid, pufferfish, and more.

The Biloxi Shrimping Trip sails twice a day, seven days a week, and is currently owned and captained by Michael and Brandy Moore, who took over the operation in 2007 from longtime owners Corrie and Virginia Eleuterius.

Although business owners have changed throughout the years, the same vessel has been used since 1953 when Captain Louis Gorenflo had the Sailfish built for harbor tours that showed historic sites and seafood factories along Point Cadet. Eventually, Gorenflo began dropping a "try trawl" by hand and the shrimp catch became a permanent addition to the harbor cruise.

Michael says Gorenflo was "doing ecotourism before ecotourism was cool."

"This boat is a Biloxi icon," Michael said. "One of the most rewarding things for me is when I end a shift for the day and I'm shutting everything down, you'll hear someone pass by and say, 'Man, I was on that boat for a marine biology trip when I was at Biloxi High.' When you look over, you see he's 70 years old. Before you know it, you'll see that

same guy a couple days later bringing his grandkid to take a trip on the Sailfish.”

Taryn Pratt, Media Relations for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau, says the Biloxi Shrimping Trip is a great learning experience for visitors because many people who vacation here don't realize that Biloxi was once known as the Seafood Capital of the World.

“It's really great to have something here that's both educational and fun that tells people not only about the shrimping history here on the Coast, but gets them excited about the industry,” Pratt said. “Everyone I know that has taken the trip loves it.”

For more information, visit [biloxishrimpingtrip.com](http://biloxishrimpingtrip.com).

**This story is part of the Gulf Coast Seafood Fall Shrimp Celebration**, *a campaign by the Mississippi Hospitality & Restaurant Association and its partners Gulf Seafood Trace and the Gulf Seafood Marketing Coalition to promote area restaurants serving traceable Gulf shrimp. Visit [gulfshrimptales.com](http://gulfshrimptales.com) to learn more about Gulf shrimp and the celebration.*