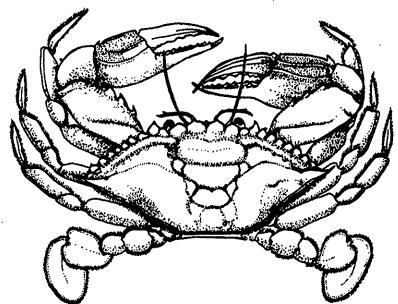
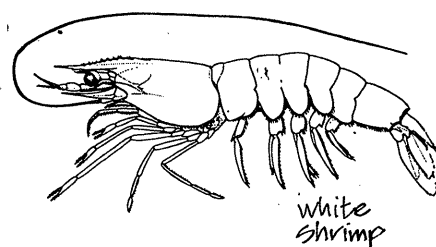
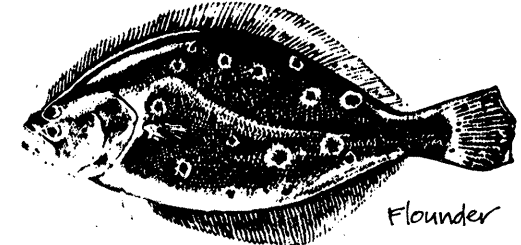
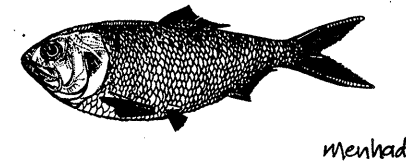
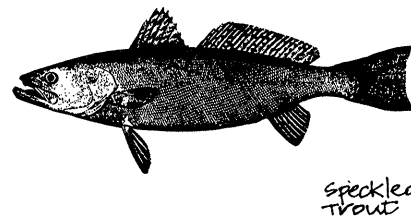
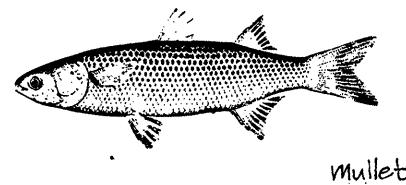
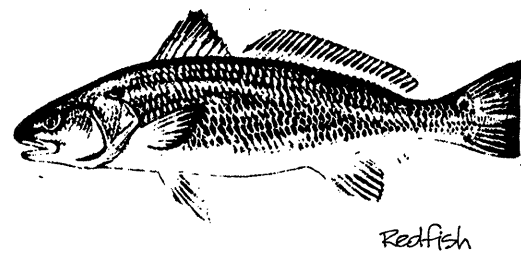


**NATIVE SHELLFISH**



**SALTWATER FISH**



Although a number of different types of mammals exist along the Gulf Coast, very few mammals exist within the city proper. Those that are frequently sighted include squirrels, muskrats, nutria, opossum, armadillos, raccoons, and offshore, the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin, more commonly known as the porpoise.

Of all the fauna that exist within the Biloxi area, the following have been identified as threatened or endangered species: the brown pelican, the white pelican, the least tern, American alligator, and the Mississippi sandhill crane.

**Climate** - Biloxi is located in what is known as the coastal climatic division of Mississippi. A pleasant temperature exists most of the year and is one of the most enjoyable assets of the city. The average monthly high is 82 degrees in August, while the winter low averages 54 degrees. Winters are relatively mild, and in the summers most waterfront areas enjoy pleasant Gulf breezes. Rainfall along the coast is of the shower type; prolonged rains are not frequent and generally occur in the winter time. Summer is generally the wettest season, although abundant rainfall from one quarter of an inch to five inches may occur in any of the four seasons. The highest monthly average rainfall is in July at 7.7 inches, while the lowest is in October with an average of 2.3 inches. The annual average rainfall is about 4.8 inches. Snow or sleet has fallen on Biloxi on very rare occasions.

Prevailing winds in the Biloxi area are from the southeast in the summer and from the northwest during the winter months. The speed of the wind is generally under 10 miles an hour except during storms. Wind speeds of 45 miles an hour or more are estimated to occur at intervals of about every 2 years. Extreme wind speeds of over 90 miles an hour occur only at intervals of about every 50 years. Water areas, however, have a marked effect on extreme wind speeds. In large bodies of water, the extreme wind speeds may be as much as 30 miles an hour greater than those a short distance inland.

**Recorded Incidence of Destructive Hurricanes: (East Central Gulf Coast)**

Year	Incidence
1722	
1732	
1736	
1831	
1855	
1869	
1888	
1893	(2000 deaths; LA-MS-AL; Seafood fleet and canneries destroyed in Biloxi)
1901	
1915	(original Biloxi Yacht Club destroyed)
1916	(Point Cadet and Back Bay severely damaged)
1947	(Biloxi Waterfront heavily affected)
1957	
1964	
1965	
1969	"Camille": Direct hit at Pass Christian (over 200 deaths; \$ millions of damage)
1979	Frederic (most severe at Mobile)

Over the last century, the Mississippi Gulf Coast has received one direct hit from a major hurricane. This obviously was Camille in 1969. This storm surpassed all other records in winds, pressure, tides and damage. It carried an unbelievable tide of 22 feet above normal and most severe winds reaching 200 miles an hour. The Biloxi area has been on a periphery of several major storms during the last century. Over this time, the frequency of being affected by hurricanes reaching landfall within 100 miles of Biloxi is about every 10 to 15 years. On rare occasions waterspouts of tornadic origin make landfall in or near the Biloxi area.

Tides in the Gulf Coast region of Mississippi occur twice a day. Tide changes range normally from 1 to 2 1/2 feet (mean = 1.8 ft.).

**Manmade Environment**

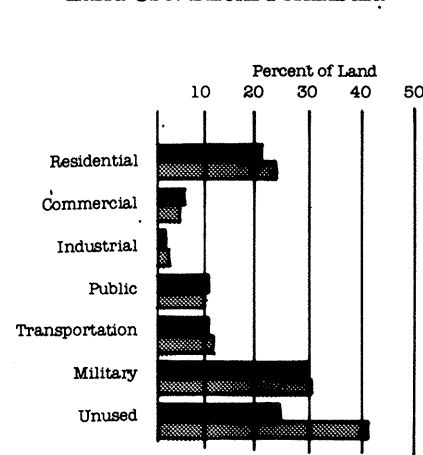
According to the city's latest comprehensive land use plan, the largest major land usage on the Biloxi peninsula is by Keesler Air Force Base, comprising approximately 30% of the total peninsula area. The next largest type of usage is residential, approximately 23% of the total land area. Residential areas obviously are found throughout the various neighborhoods of the community. The next largest users according to the plan, are transportation at 12%, and public and semi-public uses at about 7%.

Major economic activities reflect dispersed land usage. The largest land mass for commercial purposes is Edgewater Mall, in westernmost Biloxi. Other commercial activities are scattered throughout the community: near the downtown area, along Pass Road and in the resort areas of West Biloxi. Commercial uses make up 6% of the total land area. Industrial uses surprisingly make up a little over 1% of the total land area.

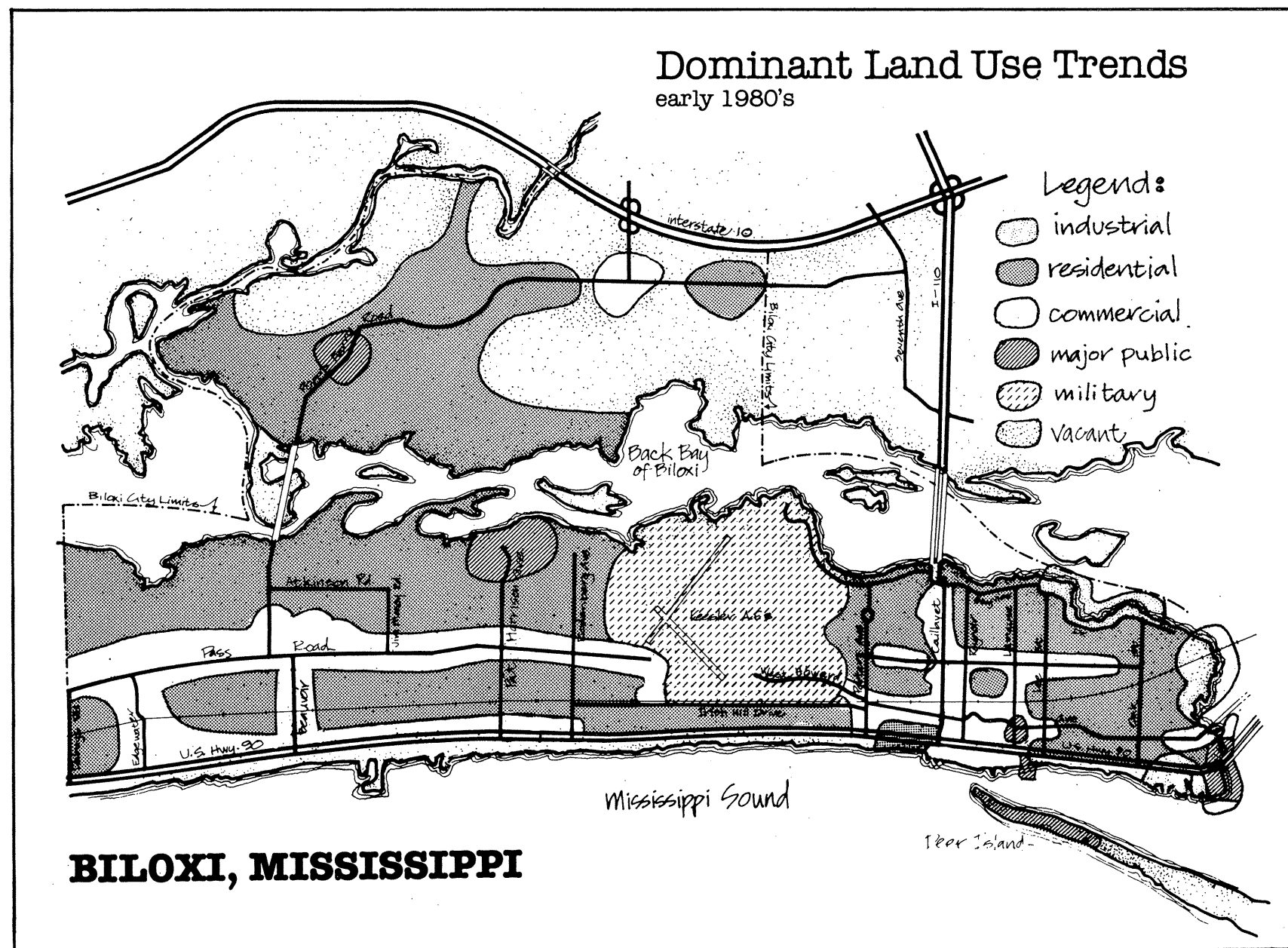
Approximately one-fourth of the city within the peninsula area is unused or undeveloped. This is a somewhat small figure in comparison to similar cities.

Land uses in the recently-annexed area north of Back Bay are dominated by residential development, and to much a lesser extent, by small-scale commercial and public uses. A great deal of the North Biloxi

Land Use: Biloxi Peninsula



Source: Adapted from B.F.V. Land Use Element 1979 Comprehensive Plan



area is undeveloped. Land use patterns within the city, overall, reflect several obvious needs.

- 1) Residential opportunities on the peninsula are somewhat limited and thus opportunities for larger-scale residential developments across the bay, as well as redevelopment on the peninsula, should be investigated.
- 2) Commercial patterns are somewhat heavy compared with other cities in the vicinity. Commercial uses tend to range from 3 to 5 percent. In Biloxi, the scattered pattern of commercial development shows that some misuse or underutilization of commercial properties might exist.
- 3) It's surprising that industrial areas occupy so little space. The major industrial employer, as far as manufacturers and processing are concerned, is the seafood industry. It appears that additional spaces are needed for industrial growth. The city has long turned to the water for its resources for industrial development. It appears now that industrial development efforts should include additional waterside industrial sites.

Some recent land development trends may help to address some of the problems identified above. Since the beginning of 1981, over 200 single family homes have either been constructed or renovated. Most of the new construction is taking place in the area north of the Bay or in westernmost Biloxi. Remodeling efforts seemed to have been concentrated in the eastern third of the Biloxi peninsula. Nearly 800 multi-family units have been constructed since 1980. Most of these are located near Highway 90 or in extreme western Biloxi.

Since the beginning of 1981, over 80 new commercial developments have taken place in Biloxi. Most of these were developed to house personal or professional services. Industrial activity was almost nil. Over the last 3 years only five small industrial projects have been undertaken, three of these dealing with the seafood industry. New commercial activity has been concentrated in west Biloxi near Edgewater Mall, to a lesser extent on the West Beach near the resort area, and to an even smaller extent around the downtown area near the Central Beach. A small amount of commercial activity has been generated near the east end on Highway 90. The new industrial concerns are all located on Biloxi's eastern end.

Major public facilities which serve the waterfront include the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor (141 slips) and Commercial Harbor (51 slips) located at Central Beach. On Point Cadet is the Point Cadet Plaza, (formerly the hangar at the Coast Guard base that existed on the very eastern end.) Associated with the Plaza building is a barracks building currently being renovated for the proposed Gulf Coast Seafood Industry Museum.

South of Highway 90 below the Point Cadet Plaza is a complex operated by agencies of the State of Mississippi. The complex includes Gulf Marine Park, a state park, with pavilion and pier facilities, and the newly-opened J. L. Scott Marine Education Center operated by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning through the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. Research facilities also exist near the education center on the southern portion of the site.

Also on the eastern end is the Clay Point Industrial Park, which contains properties developed by the Harrison County Development Commission. In addition, there are several adjacent industrial properties owned by the City of Biloxi and the Biloxi Port Commission. This is where the largest concentration of industry in the city is currently located.

Most governmental offices of the city, county and federal government are concentrated in downtown Biloxi near the Central Beach. The facilities include: city hall, the city hall annex, the county's second judicial district courthouse, the federal building, the main post office and various other public offices. Also included in this area is the Saenger Theater for the Performing Arts, Biloxi Library and Cultural Center, across the street from city hall. Municipal school facilities provide school buildings and recreation areas for each of the major neighborhoods within Biloxi.

Other than the sand beach, only one large community-scale park (Hiller Park) exists within the Biloxi peninsula, although a number of neighborhood parks exist. Hiller Park is located near the Back Bay, west of the Veteran Administration's property and Keesler Air Force Base. A smaller community-type recreational complex has been constructed in the North Bay area on Pops Ferry Road. Included with the park facilities (that are now under construction) is a branch library and fire station. Fire stations serve most of the major neighborhoods in Biloxi and are adequately equipped with personnel and equipment. Police and other safety operations are managed centrally at the city's Public Safety Headquarters on west Howard Avenue.