

Wildlife Tourism and the Gulf Coast Economy

Based on a recent [Economic Study](#) by [Datu Research](#) | 2013

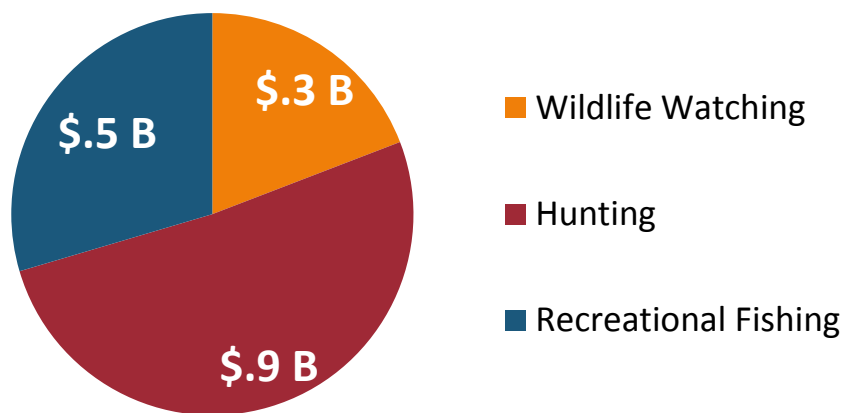
Mississippi



Wildlife tourism is a vital component of the Mississippi economy

Millions of tourists come to Mississippi every year to experience the natural wonders of our state. The tourism industry in general—which includes hotels, restaurants, retail and tour guides—provides more than **26,000 jobs** in Mississippi. *Wildlife* tourism (focused on wildlife watching, hunting and fishing) generates nearly **\$2 billion** in spending every year.

Wildlife Tourism Expenditures (\$billions), by Sector



Tourism depends on a healthy environment

Wildlife tourism relies on the natural beauty of Mississippi, which in turn relies on thriving ecosystems. Repairing the damage to these ecosystems caused by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the channelization of the Mississippi River is critical to maintaining and growing this critical sector of Mississippi's economy.

Wildlife tourism matters to Mississippi

- The state's three coastal counties host **875 wildlife tourism-related businesses**.
- Mississippi state and local governments generate nearly **\$200 million in tax revenue** from wildlife tourism, a sum that could pay salaries of more than 6,700 firefighters.
- Over **1.9 million wildlife tourists** visit Mississippi every year.



Restoring Our Environment Restores Our Economy

The RESTORE Act dedicates fines paid by parties responsible for the oil spill to restoration in Mississippi and the other Gulf states. This is an unprecedented opportunity to bolster our state's natural resources and the industries that depend on them.