

Alison Whitlock

Audio Clip Transcript:

“All our boat operators were local shrimpers and fisherman and they repeatedly said to me that not only were they happy to be part of it because they were getting paid, but they were learning. They had spent their whole lives down there in the Gulf and they were learning the birds for the first time. They were learning the role of the birds, gaining a whole new appreciation for their own backyard. And so a lot of the folks were out there doing stuff—they didn’t know what the birds were—but the Service biologists, they knew what the birds were, and these guys were loving it. And so I think that we brought a whole new appreciation for the whole ecosystem—not just what we can pull out of it to eat, but what makes up the whole ecosystem. Those folks are going to stay there and work the rest of their lives, and their children and their grandchildren; they’re going to have a whole new appreciation and knowledge of what they’ve got.”