

COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 16, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Bolton Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Commission Members:

Mark Havard, Vice Chairman

Ronald Daniels

Richard Gollott

Natalie Guess

Also Present:

Joe Spraggins, Executive Director DMR
Sandy Chesnut, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Good morning everyone.
2 I would like to call the Commission on Marine
3 Resources meeting to order, April 16th, 2019.

4 I would like to start off by reciting The Pledge
5 of Allegiance and I would like to ask Chief Davis to lead
6 us in The Pledge of Allegiance.

7 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

8 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Let's take a quick moment
9 of silence and let's remember Sandra Bosarge. She is back
10 at the hospital. Let's take a moment of silence.

11 (Moment of silence observed.)

12 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Okay. Let's start with
13 some approval of the minutes.

14 We postponed getting approval of the minutes
15 from the February 19, 2019, meeting because we had not had
16 time to go through the minutes, and I think we have all
17 had time, at this point, to go through the minutes and
18 make sure they are accurate and that we agree.

19 Can I get a motion to approve the minutes from
20 February's meeting?

21 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

22 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a second?

23 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second it.

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All approved say aye.

25 (All in favor.)

1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Objections?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

4 Number two, can I get approval of the special
5 session minutes from March the 1st?

6 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Is there a second?

8 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second it.

9 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor aye.
10 (All in favor.)

11 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed?

12 (None opposed.)

13 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion passed.

14 Can I get a motion for approval of the March
15 19th, 2019, minutes?

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll make that motion.

17 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I'll second it, Mr.
18 Chairman.

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor say
20 aye.

21 (All in favor.)

22 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed?

23 (None opposed.)

24 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We need to recognize
25 Senator Seymour who is in our audience today. I would

1 like to welcome him and thank him for attending our April
2 meeting.

3 Next on the agenda is approval of the agenda.

4 Can I get a motion to approve today's agenda?

5 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make a motion.

6 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a second?

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that.

8 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say

9 aye.

10 (All in favor.)

11 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed?

12 (None opposed.)

13 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

14 Now, for the Executive Director's report.

15 JOE SPRAGGINS: Thank you, sir.

16 Just a couple of things going on today. One of
17 the things is they are putting some hydrographic dye out
18 into the area around the 22nd day of April in Biloxi.

19 So, if you see that and you see the water
20 turning a little bit, make sure that they don't get too
21 upset with it. It is a test that they are doing.

22 Joe, is there anything else you would like to
23 say on that, as far as what we are doing with it?

24 JOE JEWELL: No. I think that describes it
25 accurately. We are going to be doing a test of effluent

1 from Keegan Bayou and its affects on Biloxi Bay, the lower
2 Bay area, and that is the purpose and the goal of the dye
3 test.

4 JOE SPRAGGINS: I just want to alert the public
5 of that so if something was to happen.

6 I think we are going to do a press release, if
7 it hasn't already gone.

8 The annual program evaluation report, The
9 Mississippi Shellfish Program, we have packets for the
10 Commissioners for that. It was a very good report.

11 The National Heritage Area Program audit, we
12 also have folders for you for that that we will give you,
13 and it was a very good audit there, also.

14 We are glad that we are getting these audits and
15 we are glad that the agency is being looked at and, also,
16 that we are coming out as doing what we should do.

17 Employment contracts. Christopher Cochrane in
18 Oyster Aquaculture, he is a contractor. He came onboard
19 the 25th and he is helping us over there.

20 Next slide. As you can see the agenda there is
21 what we have. We have J and W Marine who did a reverse
22 auction and that was to furnish and deploy oyster shells,
23 and most of those are going to be over in the are around
24 Pascagoula where we took all the shell from this year and
25 the oysters, and, then, some in Biloxi. We are going to

1 replenish that with shell, but that was done by reverse
2 auction.

3 Then, we have Spat-Tech which has been approved
4 for the three million dollars. We have a meeting with
5 them. I have a meeting with them tomorrow, and we will
6 look at that and basically decide how we are going forward
7 with that contract. It hasn't been signed yet.

8 We have also Cypress Environmental which is
9 doing a three-year contract with us to help us on some
10 risk assessment.

11 Then, the very last one, we have a request for
12 applications for a Finfish contract worker and that is out
13 right now.

14 Next slide. Legislative update. Obviously, if
15 you remember, we got one bill passed. You think about how
16 many bills get passed in the legislature every year. It's
17 not that many compared to how many are brought in, but the
18 point is that we did get one passed and that was a bill to
19 be able to charge to have a license for off-bottom oyster
20 harvesting.

21 In the past, we did not have a way of being able
22 to give a license for the boats for that. Now, we will
23 have that capability.

24 I think it will be signed maybe this week is
25 what it said on the governor's desk, and what it is

1 basically going to do is we will be able to charge fifty
2 dollars for a boat in state and a hundred dollars for a
3 boat out of state that is doing off-bottom.

4 It is the same thing that we charge for somebody
5 that is doing tonging, or somebody that is doing dredging.

6 It is just a matter of changing the way it is
7 done because the off-bottom is different. It's not
8 tonging and it's not dredging. It is baskets. So it is a
9 little bit different deal and something that happened
10 there.

11 The other thing is I think Paul has a briefing
12 that we would like to give real quick on alternative
13 bulkheads.

14 If we could turn it over to him for a few
15 seconds.

16 PAUL MICKLE: Good morning Commissioners,
17 Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

18 I appreciate addressing this this morning. This
19 is just a light briefing on a new program that the agency
20 has launched. It is very creative and a culmination of
21 really all the offices in our agency. I have really tried
22 to reach out and get information on building this program
23 to all of our offices, and everybody seems to be onboard
24 outside the agency and inside the agency.

25 You know me. I like to actually complicate

1 things very much as a scientist. This program is actually
2 very intricate, but I'm just doing a short briefing, and
3 there is much more to come, as we move forward in the
4 program itself.

5 A little bit of background. This is not a
6 regulatory tool. This is a completely voluntary program.
7 It is just a program being launched by our agency
8 addressing some seafood production capabilities that we
9 really would like to see our bays really perform as they
10 did historically seventy, eighty, ninety years ago, and
11 I'm talking about Bay St. Louis and Back Bay itself.

12 This is an image here of Back Bay, and really
13 the Alternative Bulkhead Design Program is going to talk
14 about really the direct link between really the old
15 designs of bulkheads themselves. Bulkheads are not bad
16 things. There are just new ways of doing them that make
17 more seafood of shrimp, crabs and fish. So we really want
18 to talk about these new ways of doing things (indicating
19 slide).

20 This is an image here. The dark spots are
21 private landowner bulkheads and that is really only what
22 this program addresses (indicating slide).

23 The commercial side, there are very different
24 needs for commercial bulkheads.

25 I really want to take on and show in this slide

1 here where the private landowners over the last seven
2 years have put in a lot of traditional bulkheads, and you
3 can see we have really lost more than thirteen percent in
4 Back Bay of our natural shoreline from these bulkheads.

5 In a national movement, we have seen just all
6 across the country for these living shorelines to come on
7 line as these new designs are allowing marsh grasses to be
8 incorporated in the designs themselves which harbor more
9 production, as far as shrimp, crab and fish.

10 I have put this slide up to y'all on multiple
11 occasions showing the habitat types by seafood production.

12 Seagrass is our highest production type of
13 habitat which I have presented to you before.

14 Next is marsh, oyster reef are very high
15 production, and production, I'm talking about everything
16 that we like to catch and eat.

17 Also, these lower values, the muddy bottom,
18 sandy bottom and intertidal beach, traditional bulkheads
19 usually create muddy bottom adjacent to them and you are
20 removing the marsh grass and those higher production
21 habitat types.

22 When that occurs, you actually have habitat
23 shifting. You have a loss of ecosystem services. Water
24 quality declines. Biological production loss. Large
25 amount of literature supporting this trend.

1 This is a manuscript put out by Lowe and
2 Peterson about four years ago showing all these species we
3 love to eat and fish for, Blue Crab, Brown Shrimp, Gulf
4 Killifish and Spot, showing "IN" is this naturally intact
5 shoreline, and, then, the other side of the spectrum is
6 completely urbanized so that really hardened shoreline.

7 When you go from natural to more hardened
8 shoreline, you see decreasing values in catch-per-unit
9 effort of these species.

10 When you have the habitat shift, it is very well
11 documented scientifically that you lose that overall
12 production value that we have talked about in the past and
13 here today.

14 The program itself. The main objective of this
15 program is to give marine contractors, specifically marine
16 contractors the specialized skillset to provide shoreline
17 stabilization needs to private landowners, or homeowners,
18 while regenerating our marsh production to historic roles.

19 Just to say again, this is not a regulatory
20 program and this is aimed at private landowners of giving
21 them these new options behind their homes and properties
22 to have this increased habitat type more present on their
23 shorelines.

24 The program itself has been developed into three
25 phrases.

1 Phase one is the certification course and
2 initial design creation. That is where we actually are
3 going to teach a course out of the agency itself to marine
4 contractors, NGO's, the public, anyone who wants to come
5 to these courses, and we are going to teach the way of
6 these new designs to them.

7 We are hoping the marine contractors learn these
8 new skills. They create a niche in their marketplace.
9 The economy is very hot right now and they are approaching
10 me wanting this. So that is why I think this is going to
11 work without a regulatory recommendation to y'all, or any
12 of us getting involved in the regulatory side.

13 Phase two is the design implementation and
14 permitting assistance, and that is really coming up with
15 these designs for the contractors to push and get very
16 familiar with and confident in and also allow them -- take
17 away all those permitting unknowns that seem to be scaring
18 new types of things coming into the mix nowadays.

19 Phase three is the last part of monitoring and
20 promotion. We want to do biological monitoring. I want
21 hardcore data showing that these new shorelines are
22 actually producing more fish, shrimp and crabs as the data
23 from previous studies have shown.

24 Then, overall promotion. We want to make sure
25 the public is very well educated on this issue and know

1 that these new bulkhead types -- the bulkheads, what we
2 have done in the past aren't bad. It's just there is a
3 new way of doing them and these new ways create this newer
4 type of production.

5 will marine contractors do alternative bulkhead
6 designs?

7 will they do it?

8 well, from who I have talked to, every bulkhead
9 builder I have reached out to has said, yes, they would
10 really like to do this.

11 They public is onboard. I really haven't hit
12 that brick wall when something new -- when I'm really
13 trying to push something new that I usually hit, both from
14 the regulatory side, the funding side, the biological
15 side, the research side. All the doors are open right
16 now, and the marine contractors are actually very eager
17 for this. These are new techniques for them. It's free
18 training to them. There are more tools for contractors to
19 promote.

20 If you have ever built a house and worked with a
21 contractor, they like to give you a lot of options and run
22 it up on you a little bit. Right?

23 So, if we give them a bunch of options, they are
24 going to push this for us. I firmly believe that.

25 Contractors who are certified will have that

1 niche in a competitive market. The homeowners will demand
2 them, after being educated and exposed to the benefits.
3 Actually, maybe increasing home values as you show that
4 you are catching more shrimp, crab and fish than your
5 neighbors who have that old type of bulkhead.

6 Permitting unknowns will be removed from the
7 certified contractors, and they will be confident in these
8 new tools they have from the building material and the
9 permitting side.

10 Remember, removing that unknown increases the
11 business model, and that is what I'm learning to push
12 certain program types to help our sustainability.

13 Here is a collage that I tried to make and I
14 literally just placed these pictures here and that is the
15 extent of my artistic capability, but I just wanted to
16 show -- you can see it quite clear on your screen -- that
17 I'm not pushing a couple of types of design. These are
18 dozens and dozens and dozens of new types, very
19 diversified strategies to incorporate these marsh grasses
20 into designs (indicating slide).

21 From what I have learned and had discussions
22 with, the Secretary of State will give about six feet from
23 existing shorelines to do these types of things. So all
24 of that has been taken care of and the contractors can now
25 have that much to play with, when they start incorporating

1 these designs when we teach them these designs.

2 Obviously, hopefully I brought on the point of
3 this shoreline here that has been put in in front of an
4 old bulkhead, has actually saved the bulkhead from failing
5 because the water is no longer lapping against it,
6 removing material behind it and causing it to fail which
7 is more than ninety percent why bulkheads actually fail,
8 when material starts coming up from underneath it
9 (indicating slide).

10 This shoreline has been put in out to six feet
11 out and all this secondary production is now created of
12 creating that marsh habitat which I showed on multiple
13 occasions, the high production value.

14 There is an oyster structure here; all these
15 different types. It is really endless.

16 I would like to go into more designs but, again,
17 the program is new. I am really launching it today to
18 show you all this and, as more of these designs come
19 online, I will get more and more excited about it. I'm
20 sure we can discuss it more and show which of these
21 designs are most successful and obviously has that overall
22 value to show the homeowner that these actually work.

23 So measuring success.

24 We never want to launch a program and have it
25 fail.

1 Just to provide these bullet points on what this
2 agency will be watching to show that it works, or maybe it
3 doesn't work.

4 Phase three will ensure the biological
5 monitoring and outreach be presented in these alternative
6 bulkheads as they are being installed.

7 Spatial monitoring in Bay St. Louis and Back Bay
8 to see these trends and alternative bulkheads versus
9 traditional bulkheads are going.

10 Then, site specific monitoring of production.

11 And, then, my dream is in ten years to actually
12 really see the overall Mississippi Sound as our bays start
13 performing as they did a hundred years ago.

14 We actually see it in our current monitoring
15 programs that Fisheries has of the recreational and
16 commercial landings, as well as the independent
17 monitoring. We are actually seeing this production coming
18 out of our bays as it used to.

19 Where we are in the process.

20 RFQ's, or request for qualifications for
21 engineering and a batonist. I wanted this program to have
22 an engineering component and a batonist component, not
23 together, but separately, and working together with the
24 agency driving the decisions.

25 So we advertised for each, and I can actually

1 announce today that we have acquired Anchor, LLC, for the
2 engineering part, and Eric Sparks for the Batonist part.

3 So we will have a batonist expert with marsh
4 grasses, as well as an engineering firm that has had
5 experience in this in the past on a national scale. We
6 can start incorporating these designs in the State of
7 Mississippi.

8 We have had successes in Mississippi before with
9 alternative bulkhead designs and living shorelines. It
10 has just been on a very small scale. I'm ready to go all
11 in and go big on these bays that we have.

12 May through October of this year, we will
13 developing the certification course and also the early
14 design creation.

15 Next we will actually teach the certification
16 course, hopefully by the end of this year and phase two
17 and three which I briefed you on will be initiated next
18 year and we will be in full swing by the end of 2020 for
19 all three phrases.

20 That is it.

21 Are there any questions, or comments, to this
22 point?

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'm just curious.

24 what is the price comparison?

25 PAUL MICKLE: The price comparison, I have been

1 told, is comparable. It really depends on what type of
2 alternative bulkhead design you actually want and need,
3 but the whole focus of this program from the beginning to
4 end is to make it competitive with traditional bulkheads,
5 pricing as well as permitting. If you can't get a permit,
6 you are not getting anywhere and you are just wasting
7 money on design.

8 So really to make traditional bulkheads a thing
9 of the past, you have to make every aspect of alternative
10 bulkhead designs easier, better and cheaper, and we are
11 taking that into account as we develop this program and
12 these designs.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER GUESS: It is really exciting.
15 Thanks, Paul.

16 PAUL MICKLE: Thank you very much.

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Thank you, Paul. That
18 looks good.

19 JOE SPRAGGINS: All right. Just a couple more
20 things, sir.

21 The outfalls, if you haven't had a chance to
22 ride down the beach, two of them are under construction
23 now. So they are there being constructed. If you get a
24 chance to go down and look at them, the Blind Tiger area
25 over there, I guess, would be a good way to go to it and

1 look at it from there, but you can see them, and they will
2 be constructed. Hopefully, we will get that done soon.

3 The governor is coming down to look at them
4 today. He wants to see what is going on.

5 The other thing is we have State of the Coast
6 coming up, and that is our annual thing that we do,
7 basically talk about what is going on with DMR and the
8 State of the Coast and our aquaculture.

9 That is going to be in conjunction with MEMA's
10 Preparedness conference this year. We have joined in with
11 MEMA, and we are going to do this on the 6th of May.

12 That morning it will start out and we will do
13 State of the Coast and it will go all the way through the
14 whole day, but MEMA will start midday and we will have the
15 start of the MEMA conference, also, and they will have a
16 big reception that night.

17 We would love to have you there, if you can come
18 and enjoy some time with us, and I think you will see a
19 lot of good things going on. This is a good way for us to
20 join together as two agencies, and I think it is going to
21 work great.

22 That is all I have, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Very good.

24 Let's move on to Commissioners report.

25 Anybody got any good reports they want to talk

1 about?

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I've got a question. I
3 had asked a while back interest in possibly implementing a
4 spear fishing record system for Mississippi.

5 Do we have any information on that yet?

6 JOE SPRAGGINS: We do have some information.
7 Joe and them had put together some stuff. We just haven't
8 put it out yet, and I wanted basically to bring it up
9 today, but we can get that to you.

10 Joe, do you want to talk about it, or should we
11 just get the information to the Commissioners?

12 JOE JEWELL: Commissioner Daniels is correct.
13 You did approach us about establishing some alternative
14 records.

15 we did an internal review, including input from
16 legal. We had that information ready.

17 I think the way the process works with the
18 Commission at this point, if you want that presented for
19 the Commission for their review, you would have to make a
20 motion to ask us to come back at the next meeting with the
21 data that we have so the Commission can review.

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Can we go ahead and make
23 that motion and take a look at that next month?

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I would like to make a

1 motion to have staff come back with information on
2 implementing a spearfishing records division of our
3 records.

4 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: State records?

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: State records, yes.

6 JOE SPRAGGINS: Commissioner, before we go any
7 further on that, if I could, just spearfishing, or do you
8 want to look at any other than hook-and-line?

9 JOE JEWELL: The staff has made several
10 alternatives that includes several options that can be
11 considered by the Commission at the May meeting, if the
12 motion passes.

13 I think spearfishing is a little specific. If
14 you just say motion for Marine Fisheries staff to bring
15 back options for the Commission to consider for new state
16 records, new state record category, it would be general
17 enough for the Commission to consider a lot of different
18 options at that point.

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes. We've got some
20 other things getting more popular nowadays, bowfishing and
21 whatnot. So I would certainly be open to looking at all
22 the possibilities there.

23 JOE JEWELL: We have that information available.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Okay. So, if we could
25 change spearfishing to alternative fishing records.

1 Let's do fishing records other than hook-and-
2 line because currently that is all we've got -- right, Joe
3 -- is hook-and-line records?

4 JOE JEWELL: Well, it's the fly fishing
5 category, too.

6 I would probably just end it at additional
7 fishing records, and, then, put categories after records
8 and it will cover everything.

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Okay.
10 Can we do that, Sandy?

11 JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes. Just cut it off at records
12 there would be what you would say and leave that "other
13 than hook-and-line" out.

14 JOE JEWELL: Yes, if you could leave all the
15 rest of it off --

16 JOE SPRAGGINS: (Interposing) That way, it
17 would give us -- they could bring you a broad way of
18 looking at it.

19 How about that?

20 JOE JEWELL: It would be so general at that
21 point, it would encompass all the options that we have
22 available now.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Okay.

24 I would like to make a motion for staff to come
25 back at the May Commission meeting with information on

1 implementing additional fishing records.

2 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I'll second that, Mr.
3 Chairman.

4 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say
5 aye.

6 (All in favor.)

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those against?

8 (None opposed.)

9 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion passed.

10 JOE JEWELL: The motion on the board says
11 "information for".

12 I think the motion was "information on
13 implementing."

14 Is that correct?

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes. That is correct.

16 JOE JEWELL: Thank you.

17 JOE SPRAGGINS: Modify that with no problem.

18 Sandy, do we have to do another motion because
19 of that?

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That's what I actually
21 said, I believe.

22 SANDY CHESNUT: No, sir. The intent remains the
23 same. So it's fine.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Any other Commissioners

1 got any reports?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have one quick thing.
4 Department of Marine Resources sponsors the CCA
5 every year for Casting for Conservation. They handed out
6 five to seven hundred poles over the past few weeks. A
7 lot of kids involved. It is a very good event, and I
8 would like to thank the CCA for being a part of that and
9 leading that way.

10 If there are no more Commissioner reports, let's
11 move on to Office of Marine Patrol, Chief Keith Davis.

12 KEITH DAVIS: Good morning.

13 The report is in front of you. It is a pretty
14 straight forward report again this month. Not a whole lot
15 of activity.

16 One thing I would like to point out is we did
17 receive a report of a gill net and officers responded with
18 negative results.

19 The next big item we had was we had five reports
20 of dead dolphins across the Coast. Those have been turned
21 over to IMMS, and we reached out to IMMS yesterday and
22 learned that necropsies have not been conducted on the
23 animals. However, there are allegations of one suspicious
24 death that they plan to look at further, but there are
25 just not enough details to give you any more information

1 on that today. Hopefully, we will have something next
2 month, if something comes out of that suspicious death.

3 We had a report of a dead sea turtle, but it has
4 been later determined that it was not a sea turtle. It
5 was some other type of species.

6 Other than that, is there anything else in the
7 report that you are concerned with?

8 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Did they ever find out from
9 last month's dolphin that was found?

10 wasn't there one, or three, last month?

11 That was turned over to IMMS, too.

12 Right?

13 KEITH DAVIS: That's correct, and IMMS normally
14 reports back to us if there is an issue with the dolphins.

15 As I said, we have been in contact with them on
16 all of these deaths, and there is just nothing yet.

17 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Seems to me over the past
19 few months this is happening more and more and more.

20 Is that what you guys are seeing and reporting,
21 as well?

22 KEITH DAVIS: We are. However, again, IMMS
23 leads those and there are just no details that would lead
24 us to believe that anything out of the ordinary is
25 occurring, at this point.

1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Very good.

2 KEITH DAVIS: The other thing I wanted to point
3 out was the operation "Stow it. Don't throw it" campaign
4 is underway and going really well.

5 To date, we have conducted a hundred and twenty-
6 two courtesy inspections of vessels at the boat launches.
7 So I think that program is being well received.

8 Everyone that we come in contact with at the
9 boat launches is extremely happy that they are not
10 receiving a citation, that they are given the chance to
11 get into compliance with the law.

12 I would ask the Commission to help us out with
13 that program and spread the word that we are going to
14 really crack down on litter in the waters this year.

15 We just want people to get in compliance. I
16 said on the news the other day, it's not about giving a
17 lot of tickets, but it is about keeping litter out of the
18 waterways.

19 So, if you could help us out with your
20 constituents on that.

21 Other than that, that's all I have. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I would like to commend
23 you Keith Davis on the interview with WLOX the other day.
24 I know that that is not an easy thing to do is to be right
25 in front of the camera, all eyes on me, but you

1 represented the department very well. Thank you for that.

2 KEITH DAVIS: Thank you very much.

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. Let's move on
4 to Item G, Mr. Jan Boyd.

5 JAN BOYD: Good morning Commissioners, Director
6 Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

7 We have one action item for your consideration
8 this morning and Matt Murphy will be presenting it.

9 MATT MURPHY: Good morning Commission.

10 My name is Matt Murphy, and I have a Permit
11 Extension by Bosarge Boats.

12 They are on Bayou Casotte in Pascagoula. It is
13 in the Industrial Use District, and the agent is Compton
14 Engineering.

15 These are all previously permitted activities
16 that includes dredging as well as construction of a
17 bulkhead.

18 Lastly, there is wetland fill, as well as
19 wetland excavation being done.

20 Here is the project location on Bayou Casotte.
21 This is probably kind of hard to tell, but this is the
22 diagram (indicating slide).

23 The blue here and here is dredging. The green
24 here is and along there is excavation, and, then, the
25 brown here is the fill, and, then, the bulkhead is running

1 across (indicating slide).

2 In February of 2014, the project was presented
3 to the CMR and it was approved as recommended.

4 Then, last month Bosarge Boats requested an
5 extension to the permit.

6 Based upon departmental review and evaluation,
7 the staff recommends that the CMR approve the applicant's
8 request.

9 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Does anybody have any
10 questions regarding this?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a motion?

13 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I will make
14 a motion that we approve this project.

15 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a second?

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that motion.

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say
18 aye.

19 (All in favor.)

20 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those not in favor?

21 (None opposed.)

22 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

23 MATT MURPHY: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. It looks like
25 we are moving to Item H, Office of Coastal Restoration and

1 Resiliency, George Ramseur.

2 JOE SPRAGGINS: There is nothing, no report.

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Nothing.

4 All right. Let's move on to Finance, Office of
5 Finance and Administration, Ms. Gaines.

6 SHAVAY GAINES: Good morning Director Spraggins,
7 Commissioners, Ms. Chesnut.

8 My name is Shavay Gaines, and I will be
9 presenting the financials for March the 31st, 2019.

10 At the end of March, our State Revenue was four
11 point eight million. Our Total Agency Revenue was twenty
12 point six million.

13 Our State Net Income was a negative six sixty-
14 two thousand. Our Total Agency Net Income was three point
15 seven million.

16 We are still waiting on our one million dollars
17 of appropriations from the state.

18 After nine months of the fiscal year 2019, our
19 Operating Fund has a seventy point one percent budget
20 remaining and our Tidelands Trust Fund has forty-seven
21 point eight percent of our budget remaining.

22 Any questions?

23 JOE SPRAGGINS: Might I had that we are not
24 broke. Even though it looks that way, we are waiting on
25 money, as Shavay said, from the state and, also, we get

1 back money from the Federal where we do it ahead of time,
2 and, then, get the money back.

3 Is that correct?

4 SHAVAY GAINES: Yes.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS: We are not operating in a
6 deficit. So I just wanted you to know.

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Ms. Gaines, are you
8 comfortable where the numbers are at?

9 SHAVAY GAINES: I will be more comfortable in
10 about a month, or two, when we can finish assessing the
11 system here. So I defer my answer to then.

12 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. Thank you.
13 Item J, Public Affairs, Ms. Charmaine.

14 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND: Good morning
15 Commissioners, Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

16 The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
17 was mentioned twenty-four times in local, state and
18 national media since the March CMR meeting.

19 Popular news items included the Off-Bottom
20 Oyster Aquaculture Program, Marine Patrol's Anti-Litter
21 Campaign and the announcement of Mississippi's Red Snapper
22 Season.

23 Marine Patrol taught three boat-and-water safety
24 classes and certified fifty-eight students. So far in
25 fiscal year 19, officers have taught eighteen classes and

1 certified three hundred and seventy-five students.

2 Since the March meeting, Marine Patrol
3 participated in Hancock Middle School's Share Fair Career
4 Day, the chambers Touch-A-Truck event in Long Beach and an
5 Earth Day Celebration in Gautier.

6 Avery Sward and her committee did a wonderful
7 job putting on this year's Celebrate the Gulf Marine
8 Education Festival. Hundreds of attendees joined us at
9 War Memorial Park in Pass Christian for over thirty-five
10 environmental booths, the Raptor show, Kids Fishing Rodeo,
11 Student Science Showcase and many other fun and
12 educational activities.

13 Fisheries staff participated in the sixty-ninth
14 annual Spring Meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries
15 Commission in New Orleans last month. Committee work
16 included Data Management, Blue Crab, Menhaden, as well as
17 an Oyster Resource special session.

18 Joe Jewell, Traci Floyd, Erik Broussard, Charlie
19 Robertson, Darrin Stewart, Carly Somerset and Trevor
20 Moncrief contributed at the meeting.

21 Shrimp and Crab Bureau Biological Program
22 Coordinator Jason Saucier presented the Mississippi Shrimp
23 Season Update at the American Shrimp Processors meeting in
24 Biloxi and shared with industry leaders information about
25 the shrimp fishery status and conditions contributing to

1 the coming season.

2 Finfish Bureau's Megan Fleming presented
3 information on a 2019 Mississippi Recreational Red Snapper
4 Season at the Center for Fisheries Research and
5 Development Workshop Fisheries Fun Day at the Gulf Coast
6 Research Laboratory.

7 The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage
8 Area has been making check presentations to all the
9 Heritage Community Grant recipients, as well as taking
10 part in the Ishee Exhibit opening, the Preserving of the
11 Recent Past conference and the Gulf Coast Outpost
12 Collaboration.

13 The Office of Public Affairs attended the
14 Seafood Expo North America in Boston March 17th through the
15 19th.

16 During the expo, our agency represented the
17 Mississippi Seafood program helping to promote the
18 benefits of domestic seafood from our Mississippi Gulf
19 Coast.

20 Our booth also included Crystal Seas Seafood,
21 Gulf Pride Enterprises, C. F. Gollott and Son Seafood as
22 they marketed to new customers, maintained relationships
23 with current customers and helped represent Mississippi
24 seafood.

25 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Is that it?

1 CHARMAINE schmermund: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: That was good. Thank you.
3 Let's move on to Item K, Office of Marine
4 Fisheries, Mr. Joe JEWELL.

5 JOE JEWELL: Thank you, Commissioner Havard.
6 We have five items this morning for the
7 Commission's consideration, including three regulatory
8 items.

9 The first two items are Final Adoption notices
10 and Mr. Trevor Moncrief will be presenting those.

11 TREVOR MONCRIEF: Good morning Commissioners,
12 Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

13 As Joe said, we've got two Final Adoption items.
14 The first one is going to be for Spanish
15 Mackerel, Hogfish and Swordfish, and this is a Federal
16 compliance presentation.

17 As you recall, in the March meeting, CMR passed
18 a motion to proceed with a Notice of Intent for Regulatory
19 Changes to Title 22, Part 7, Chapters 8 and 9, regarding
20 changes to Spanish Mackerel, Hogfish and Swordfish size
21 limits for Federal compliance.

22 CMR passed Notice of Intent on March the 19th.
23 We also filed the Notice of Intent with the Secretary of
24 State and posted notice on the DMR web page on the 19th.
25 Legal notice appeared in the Sun Herald on March 21st.

1 We have received no public comments to date on
2 this item.

3 You will recall that change will take place in
4 Title 22, Part 7, Chapter 8.

5 In 102.14, we will add Spanish Mackerel
6 (*Scomberomorus maculatus*) which will be twelve inches fork
7 length.

8 we added, for consistency, the scientific name
9 of King Mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*).

10 After that, we changed all subsections to match.

11 we see that 102.25, Hogfish (*Lachnolaimus*
12 *maximus*) changes from twelve to fourteen inches fork
13 length, and we also added 102.28, Swordfish (*Xiphias*
14 *gladius*), forty-seven inches as measured from the tip of
15 the lower jaw to the fork of the tail so that is the lower
16 jaw fork length.

17 Title 22, Part 7, Chapter 9, the changes
18 included 100.06, Spanish Mackerel, which is changed from
19 fourteen to twelve inches fork length.

20 100.23, Hogfish, we added in the scientific name
21 (*Lachnolaimus maximus*). It changes from twelve inches to
22 fourteen inches fork length.

23 what will be required is a motion to proceed
24 with final adoption for regulatory changes to Title 22,
25 Part 7, Chapters 8 and 9, regarding changes to Spanish

1 Mackerel, Hogfish and Swordfish size limits for Federal
2 compliance.

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. Can we get a
4 motion?

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll make a motion to
6 proceed with final adoption for regulatory changes to
7 Title 22, Part 7, Chapters 8 and 9, regarding changes to
8 Spanish Mackerel, Hogfish and Swordfish size limits for
9 Federal compliance.

10 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: We have a motion.
11 Can I get a second to the motion?

12 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I'll second that motion,
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say
15 aye.

16 (All in favor.)

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed?

18 (None opposed.)

19 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion carried.

20 Moving on to Number 2, Final Adoption of Title
21 22, Part 7, Tarpon Recommendations, Trevor again.

22 TREVOR MONCRIEF: This follows the same format
23 as the last presentation.

24 Once again, in last month's meeting, CMR passed
25 a motion to proceed with a Notice of Intent for regulatory

1 changes to Title 22, Part 7, Chapter 8, regarding the size
2 limit, bag limit and catch requirements for Atlantic
3 Tarpon.

4 After it was passed, we filed a Notice of Intent
5 with the Secretary of State, we posted a notice on the
6 MDMR web page, and, then, the legal notice appeared in The
7 Sun Herald on the 21st.

8 Once again, we have received no public comments
9 to date on this item.

10 The changes will occur in Title 22, Part 7,
11 Chapter 8.

12 So 100, 100.21:

13 "It shall be unlawful for recreational
14 fishermen to possess more than one Atlantic
15 Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*) per vessel
16 per day."

17 102, 102.28:

18 "Atlantic Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*),
19 seventy-five inches fork length."

20 Then, 105:

21 "It shall be unlawful for any fisherman
22 to remove an Atlantic Tarpon (*Megalops*
23 *atlanticus*) over the length of forty
24 inches from the water, unless the intent
25 is to harvest within the limits defined

1 in sections 100 and 102 of this chapter.”

2 what will be required is a motion to proceed
3 with final adoption for regulatory changes to Title 22,
4 Part 7, Chapter 8, regarding the size limit, bag limit and
5 catch requirements for Atlantic Tarpon.

6 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Very good.

7 Thank you, Trevor.

8 Can I get a motion?

9 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make a motion.

10 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: We have a motion as
11 written.

12 Can I get a second?

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that.

14 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say
15 aye.

16 (All in favor.)

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed like sign.

18 (None opposed.)

19 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion carries.

20 JOE JEWELL: Thank you.

21 Our next presentation will be done by Mr. Erik
22 Broussard for closing of the 2019 Oyster Season.

23 ERIK BROUSSARD: Good morning Commissioners,
24 Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

25 I have an update on the closing of the 2018-2019

1 oyster season.

2 In February, there was a motion to give the
3 Executive Director the authority to open the season, not
4 to extend past March 30th.

5 Unfortunately, the conditions did not allow that
6 to happen. Once we reached March 30th, the motion required
7 for the season to close. So this is a mere formality.

8 The Commission opens the season in September
9 with a motion. So they would need to close the season
10 with a motion today.

11 Just a quick background on the season. It was
12 very short. It was open seven days, harvesting about
13 thirty-eight hundred sacks. That is the Western Sound.
14 Just the Western Sound, thirty-eight hundred sacks.

15 what would be needed is a motion to close the
16 2018-2019 oyster season Wednesday, April 17th, 2019.

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. Would someone
18 like to make that motion?

19 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I'll make
20 that motion.

21 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a second to the
22 motion?

23 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second it.

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say
25 aye.

1 (All in favor.)

2 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed like sign.

3 (None opposed.)

4 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

5 ERIK BROUSSARD: Thank you.

6 JOE JEWELL: Next up is a presentation on
7 Amendment 50A by Ms. Carly Somerset.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS: Commission, a couple of things
9 on this. 50A is one of the things also that we are going
10 to brief during the time for State of the Coast, and we
11 wanted y'all to understand about this.

12 It has not been signed by the Secretary yet. So
13 that is the reason we haven't made any announcement on it,
14 but we wanted you to understand it.

15 CARLY SOMERSET: Good morning Commissioners.

16 As Joe and Director Spraggins said, this is just
17 a briefing on Amendments 50A: State Management Program for
18 Recreational Red Snapper and, also, 50C: Mississippi
19 Management for Recreational Red Snapper.

20 The Gulf Council met recently, April the 1st
21 through the 4th, at the IP where they took final action on
22 Reef Fish Amendment 50A: State Management for Recreational
23 Red Snapper.

24 Fifty is the overall programmatic amendment that
25 has information relevant to all five of the Gulf States,

1 and, then, each state has their own individual state
2 amendments, 50B through 50F.

3 To clarify, final action means that Amendment 50
4 was passed by the Gulf Council and, as Director Spraggins
5 said, this also has to go through the process to the
6 Secretary of Commerce before implementation.

7 Some specifics relating to the overall Amendment
8 50A.

9 The Council chose to delegate management
10 authority of the private angling component of the
11 recreational Red Snapper fishery to each state.

12 The Federal for-hire sector will still be
13 federally managed.

14 Each state has been allocated a portion of the
15 overall recreational quota.

16 The suggested management changes within the
17 amendments, again, will be sent to the Secretary of
18 Commerce for approval prior to implementation.

19 Specifically relating to Mississippi's Amendment
20 50C, 50C delegates authority to the State of Mississippi
21 to manage the recreational fishing sector of Red Snapper
22 in Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico adjacent to
23 Mississippi territorial waters.

24 Mississippi will receive three point five five
25 percent of allocation of the recreational quota. This is

1 beginning in 2020. This year we are still in our exempted
2 fishing permit season.

3 Then, for this year, 2019 Red Snapper season,
4 our recreational quota is a hundred and fifty-one thousand
5 five hundred and eighty-four pounds as granted through the
6 EFP.

7 Any questions?

8 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I think it's great that
9 they are turning it over to the states to manage, but one
10 thing that we cannot forget is we have got to have a reef
11 in place to attract these fish, to keep these fish in our
12 waters. Let's continue the efforts on building our reefs
13 out in our waters. Thank you.

14 CARLY SOMERSET: Thank you.

15 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sir, if I could, I would just
16 like to commend the team on a heck of a job. I tell you
17 what, they did a great job working on that. They have
18 worked on this for several years now. Carly and Matt and
19 Joe and Paul, the whole team has just worked a fantastic
20 job, and I just want to thank them.

21 JOE JEWELL: Thank you, Director.

22 Our final presentation will be done by Mr.
23 Charlie Robertson. It's on the Bonnet Carre Spillway.

24 CHARLIE ROBERTSON: Good morning everyone.

25 My name is Charlie Robertson with the Shellfish

1 Bureau. I hope my voice cooperates for this presentation.

2 I know everybody is curious to hear some
3 information about the Bonnet Carre Spillway. We have been
4 monitoring it for the last few months, or a little over a
5 month now, and we are continuing to monitor.

6 This is just an informational update. We will
7 have a little bit of data in here that we can share, but
8 we really don't have any final data sets to make any kind
9 of conclusions at this point.

10 Before we go too much into this year's opening,
11 it is kind of important, I think, to look back at some of
12 the historical openings. I'm going to give you a little
13 bit of a context on the history of the Bonnet Carre
14 Spillway.

15 The spillway became operational in 1931. The
16 first time it was opened was in 1937, so a few years
17 later.

18 Since it's operational and beginning capacity,
19 it has opened at least once every decade, except for
20 during the 1960's.

21 Looking back at that operational date and going
22 all the way until 2007, we calculated that it has been
23 opened on the average of once every nine point six years.
24 That is from operational until 2007.

25 Now, however, if you look at more recent times

1 and go back to 2008 until present, it opens on average of
2 once every two point four years.

3 It is trending towards opening more frequently
4 and that is not necessarily a good thing for us here in
5 Mississippi.

6 I'm sure you guys are all familiar with the 2011
7 Bonnet Carre Spillway. It had pretty devastating effects
8 in Mississippi on marine resources. It was actually
9 commercial fisheries failure that was declared during that
10 opening.

11 we had about an eighty-five percent loss that we
12 calculated on our oyster resources and about a fifty
13 percent reduction in landings of Blue Crab, during the
14 time that the spillway was open.

15 Again, looking at the more recent years, the
16 spillway has been opened three times in the last four
17 years.

18 Going back to the last two openings, 2016 and
19 2018, these were open during the colder months fortunately
20 and I think those colder temperatures really minimized the
21 effects that we saw to our marine resources. We didn't
22 really observe too many negative effects during those two
23 openings.

24 Some of the things that are really important to
25 take into consideration with each spillway opening is the

1 duration of the fresh water that we get from the spillway
2 and the water temperatures that we are seeing at that time
3 of year. Depending on the time of year, the water
4 temperatures will be much lower, or higher. Those are
5 very important factors to the biology of the moisture.

6 At those lower temperatures, the oysters are
7 able to withstand a lot more environmental changes. Their
8 metabolism is a lot slower so it allows them the ability
9 to close up and kind of wait out any adverse conditions
10 that they may experience.

11 One of the best analogies I guess to make to
12 kind of drive this point home is when you are catching
13 oysters, you put an oyster in a cooler right after you
14 catch it and it can stay there for a couple of weeks,
15 maybe two, maybe three weeks at most because it is kept at
16 low temperatures.

17 On the flip side of it, if you have an oyster
18 and it is on the deck of your boat in July, or August, or
19 so, it may only last one day before that oyster will die,
20 and that is due entirely to the temperature.

21 Going to what we looked at this year initially,
22 our initial assessments show that we have seen some
23 negative impacts to resources. However, like I said
24 before, we are still collecting data. We have teams in
25 the field today collecting more data. So we can't really

1 make a quantitative conclusion yet on what we are seeing.

2 The purpose of this graph here is to look at the
3 last five spillway openings, just to kind of give you a
4 comparison of volume and duration, and we have overlaid
5 them side-by-side so you can really kind of see the
6 magnitude of each of the events compared to each other
7 (indicating slide).

8 The first thing you notice, obviously, is that
9 the 2011 spillway that is indicated in blue is a lot
10 larger than some of the most recent ones.

11 Then, looking at the 2008, 2016 and 2018
12 spillway openings -- those are the ones in the yellow,
13 orange and gray -- relatively speaking, a bit smaller than
14 the one we are looking at now which kind of falls kind of
15 in between (indicating slide).

16 we have calculated and we estimate that this
17 year's opening is about two-thirds of the volume of water
18 that was released during the 2011 opening.

19 Again, going back to the temperature, I have
20 noted in the legend if you look to the top right-hand
21 corner of this graph, you've got the months, or the period
22 in which the spillway gates opened for each of these
23 events.

24 This year you can see we were open March,
25 February and April, as opposed to the 2011 event which was

1 during May and June when you really see the temperatures
2 starting to slack.

3 This is some of the water quality data that we
4 were able to pull from our St. Joe Light hydrology station
5 that is operated by the Department of Marine Resources and
6 the USGS. This is essentially the ground zero station for
7 our Mississippi waters to the Bonnet Carre Spillway.

8 I guess the magic number that we are looking at
9 here, if you look at the graph on the left, is the twenty
10 degree Celsius line. That is about the magic number for
11 where the oysters like to maintain below that level. That
12 gives them the ability to close their shells for more
13 prolonged periods to withstand any adverse conditions as I
14 talked about previously.

15 You will notice during the majority of this
16 spillway, we were kind of operating down here in about the
17 sixteen degree range and that is good. Like I said, it
18 gives them a little bit more ability to close for more
19 prolonged times to withstand those adverse conditions.

20 The adverse conditions that they would be
21 closing up for would be the salinity, in this case. If
22 you look over to the right, the graph shows that the
23 salinity has dropped and is pretty much maintained below
24 one part per thousand for almost the entire duration of
25 the spillway opening.

1 It opened on February 27th and you will note that
2 we didn't see salinities down to one part per thousand
3 until about a week after the opening. So there is a bit
4 of a lag affect. It takes about a week for the water from
5 the spillway to move through the lake, through the bayous
6 and into our waters where our oyster reefs are, and it
7 will also take a little bit of time for those waters to
8 leave, as well, once the spillway closes.

9 This graph is meant to kind of show you the
10 effects from the Pearl River that we have also seen. The
11 Pearl River is the main provider for the fresh water into
12 the bays and estuaries around our oyster reefs in the
13 Western Mississippi Sound.

14 It has maintained above flood stage for the
15 majority of the time since December. If you look at it,
16 the flood stage is fourteen. We have maintained the
17 majority of the time over, and, then, the other times we
18 have been well above our management criteria. So this is
19 one of the reasons why we weren't able to open the reefs
20 in the Western Sound.

21 Then, the red star I have on there just to kind
22 of indicate. You can see that we've got the Pearl River
23 flooding leading up to the spillway event and, as soon as
24 the Pearl River started to finally give us a little bit of
25 a break, that is about when the Bonnet Carre Spillway

1 peaked, and so we didn't really catch a break there.

2 This map is showing our monitoring stations that
3 we have in the western Mississippi Sound. Like I said, we
4 have staff out in the field today collecting samples at
5 all of these locations.

6 we are collecting trawl data for our finfish and
7 invertebrates. We are collecting gill net data for
8 finfish. We are using our one-minute dredge tows to
9 collect oyster data. We are also collecting phytoplankton
10 chlorophyll A samples, as well a hydrology and general
11 water quality parameters throughout the western Sound. So
12 we will have a lot of data to look at, at the end of this
13 opening, once we can conclude our monitoring.

14 This is just a snapshot at our oyster data. I
15 really don't want to get too in detail on this, but I just
16 wanted to show you what we have collected so far.

17 You can see in black indicates the live oysters,
18 and, then, the dead oysters, or mortality, that we have
19 seen are indicated in the two, light gray and dark gray,
20 areas.

21 Typically we don't really see recent dead
22 oysters this time of year. So that is one indicator that
23 we are seeing some impacts from this spillway event. The
24 recent dead oysters are oysters that have a white, or
25 clean, oyster shell inside. They don't typically have

1 very much biofouling and, at times, you will see meat, or
2 tissue, still intact inside the shell.

3 This is some satellite imagery. It is kind of
4 tough to see on this big screen. Hopefully, you guys can
5 see a little better now, but, if you look at the March 6th
6 date, this is kind of the beginning stages when we started
7 to see the influx of the freshwater from the Bonnet Carre
8 spillway, and you can see the sediment plume is extending
9 out to the waters south of Pass Christian and a little bit
10 to the west of the western most tip of Cat Island.

11 We move forward a couple of weeks to March 20th
12 and you will see that that sediment plume has extended
13 much further to the east. It looks like it is going out
14 to about the Biloxi beach areas and to the western tip of
15 Ship Island. So this is a pretty large area that is
16 affected by this freshwater.

17 Then, this is a more recent snapshot from last
18 week, April 11th. At this point, the flow rate of the
19 water coming through the spillway is diminished
20 significantly, and we are still seeing the effects of the
21 water, but, I think, looking at this image, you can kind
22 of see that the sediment isn't as dense, or maybe had a
23 little bit of a weaker influence from that water coming
24 through and it is kind of starting to dissipate a little
25 bit.

1 Again, like I said, we are out collecting data.
2 We are still monitoring this spillway. It will be
3 probably another week, or so, before we see that water
4 fully move out and we will stop seeing the effects from
5 it.

6 we are still going to collect data, before we
7 make any kind of final assessments and we can really give
8 the qualified impacts that we have had.

9 Thank you guys. I will be glad to try and
10 answer any questions y'all have.

11 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. Thank you,
12 Charlie.

13 JOE JEWELL: If there are no questions, that
14 concludes the presentations by Marine Fisheries.

15 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So if we have no other
16 business and no public comment, can I get a motion to
17 adjourn?

18 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I will be
19 proud to make the motion that we adjourn.

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I will second that
21 motion.

22 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say
23 aye.

24 (All in favor.)

25 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed?

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(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

Meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 10:02 o'clock, a.m., the April 16, 2019, meeting of the Commission on Marine Resources was concluded.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
4 do hereby certify that the above and foregoing 50 pages,
5 including this page, is a true and correct transcript of
6 the April 16, 2019, meeting of the Commission on Marine
7 Resources, as taken by me at the time and place heretofore
8 stated in the aforementioned matter in shorthand, with
9 electronic verification, and later reduced to typewritten
10 form to the best of my skill and ability; and, further,
11 that I am not a relative, employee, or agent, of any of
12 the parties thereto, nor financially interested in the
13 cause.

14
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16 _____
17 COURT REPORTER
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