COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
9:00 a.m.
Bolton Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Commission Members:
Steve Bosarge, Chairman
Ron Harmon, Vice Chairman
Mark Havard
Jolynne Trapani

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

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I would like to call this meeting to order and welcome everyone to the January meeting of the Commission on Marine Resources. I would like to welcome Mr. Joe Spraggins onboard. We look forward to working with him and, hopefully, keep this thing sailing smoothly.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: The first item on the agenda is the Pledge of Allegiance. I'm going to ask Mr. Joe to lead us in that Pledge of Allegiance.

[The Pledge of Allegiance is recited.]

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: At this time, I have been asked to ask for a moment of silence to show support for the people that support this country and this agency. Thank you.

[The moment of silence observed.]

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Next on the agenda is approval of the minutes for the December 19th meeting. Do we have any changes to the minutes?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll make a motion that we approve the minutes for the December 19th meeting.

COMMISSIONER HARMON: So seconded, Mr. Chairman?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a motion that we approve the minutes for the December 19th meeting. Mr. Harmon, I'll make a motion that we approve the minutes for the December 19th meeting.

COMMISSIONER HARMON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we amend the agenda to put public comments before other business.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to add closed session to other business.

COMMISSIONER HARMON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to add closed session to other business.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We will move on to our Executive Director's report, Mr. Joe Spraggins.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Well, first off, it's an honor to be here and an honor to be in this position. I appreciate and thank you very much, the Commission and Governor, for allowing me to have this opportunity.

I can tell you, as the Agency, that we are in fantastic shape. We are going to work hard with that.

We've got great people here. Some of the greatest people in America work at this agency, and it is
just an honor to be here. It's an honor to serve you.
If we could, I want to bring up a little bit about the weather. Everybody called me about the weather this morning.
MEMA just put up a little directory for me.
Next slide, please.
That shows you a little overview of some things that are going on in the weather today. Just to give you an idea, if it is over in Texas, it is coming this way, but, if you are in north Mississippi, it is already here. It's a trough that is coming across there, and it is going to get a little nasty before the night is over.
Next slide, please.
That is north Mississippi and you can see the temperatures.
Next slide, please.
That is dangerous cold expected, as you can see there. We are not listed in it, but we will be shortly.
Next slide, please.
Now, that's what we are looking at precipitation for today, and you can see that we are in blue which is a chance that we can have some ice and snow on the roads and some things that are happening, and I want everybody to understand that.
Next slide, please.

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Last day, in terms of a commission meeting.
Before I bring him up, we are going to have a retirement party for Chief Pittman, on the 31st of this month, 11:30 at the Island View Casino. If you can, we would like for you to attend that.

Chief Pittman served this agency, in some capacity, for the last twenty-eight years. He has done that with dignity and respect to the seafood industry, and he leaves the agency. It is time for him to enjoy his life with his wife. That's what he has informed me he is going to do. He is not going to do anything else.

I have made a couple of recommendations for him that I think he needs to consider, but we will leave that up to him.

At this time, I would like Chief Pittman to come up and deliver the report.

RUSTY PITTMAN: Good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Ms. Sandy, Joe.

How are y'all doing this morning?
COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Doing good.

RUSTY PITTMAN: I wasn't prepared for this, to come up and do the report.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: That's all right. You always wing it pretty good.

RUSTY PITTMAN: When y'all said, “Please stand

Cold. We are talking wind chills down to five to ten degrees here tonight. It is unusual for south Mississippi.
Next slide, please.
That's going toward the Alabama line, a hard freeze. All of our area is covered in it.
Next slide, please.
There are the wind chills we talked about.
Next slide, please.
The biggest thing is the trough is coming in about 3:00 o'clock this afternoon and go just south of us. From about 5:00 this afternoon, it is going to get very bad. Please make sure each one of your departments are taking care of your stuff.
This little update was sent to me by MEMA.
Thank them for it.
That's all I have.
COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you, sir.
Everybody try to stay warm. I know all of us are wondering when this is going to end.
Up next is Office of Marine Patrol, Chief Davis.
KEITH DAVIS: Good morning. Today, we are going to step out of the norm just a little bit. I'm going to ask Assistant Chief Pittman to deliver the report to you this morning.

As some of you know, today is Chief Pittman's

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up when you are speaking to us”, I still remember those days.

If you will look at page two of the report, there are a couple of things I want to mention.
At the top of the page, it says, "No Transport License". It is actually no transport permit. It was two commercial fishermen from Alabama who didn't have a non-resident Mississippi license, or any transport permit. They were stopped as they entered Mississippi and were issued a citation for no transport permit.
We are still having undersized Spotted Seaturt violations. As you can see, we had five last month. One of the people who was ticketed for that also had ten over the limit of Spotted Sea.turtle.
Otherwise, in the report, there is not much to talk about.
I would like to say just a few things. I have enjoyed working here for the past twenty-eight years. I'm one of the lucky few that can say I really love my job. I enjoyed getting up every morning and coming to work, and hated to take off.
Some of the guys would say, "when are you going to take off, Chief?"
I would say, "I don't want to take off. I enjoy working."

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I have called in five times, in twenty-eight years, on sick days. The rest of the time I tried to be here.

I missed one opening of shrimp season, and that's when my mother passed away the night before. I was going to come to work that next day, but Chief George Wright told me, "No. You need to stay home."

I really have enjoyed working with y'all. I'm going to miss the guys. I'm going to miss this agency. It's been a family.

Good luck to y'all. Each one of you are doing a good job, and I know there are a lot of people standing behind you and praying for you.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'm going to tell you, Rusty, you are going to be missed here.

Richard and myself are probably the two that have been here the longest and been here the whole time with you, and you have always been that beacon of light. We have been through some times, between Dr. Walker and all the things that happened, but Rusty, just the experience that he's got.

I've been in meetings with him and there will be a question, "Oh, yes. Do you remember back in 1977, I think it was? Do you remember that case?"

I can't remember what happened yesterday. It's amazing.

You are going to be missed. Enjoy your retirement, and we are going to miss you.

Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

RUSTY PITTMAN: Thank you.

I will say one last thing. I think the most gratifying duty of this job is protecting the public and saving lives. When I saved three lives, back in the nineties, during oyster season --

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: (Interposing) There's that memory.

RUSTY PITTMAN: It was oyster season in January and the boat caught on fire, and I was able to get three people out of the water and get them in the harbor so they could get transported to the hospital. That was probably the most gratifying time, being able to save somebody's life.

People will say, "Well, where is your reward?" We don't expect rewards. We are not heroes. It's just the job that we do, doing that and protecting the marine resources, I really enjoyed and I still protect them. You are probably going to get plenty of calls from me.
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proposal because of the concentrated number of children that are on the property.

The day that I went out there, that is exactly what I found. Kids were playing everywhere. They go out on the research pier. Not only do children from the sea camp go out there, but also students at the campus who are doing research. They do research on this pier.

If you look here, they have a marina on the property. They do tours of vessels, and there are constantly vessels that are leaving the marina going out into the channel. There are kayaks that are out there. They have kayaks that the students can use on the property. They kayak out from the campus (indicating photograph).

The University of Southern Mississippi did a proposal to the Jackson County Board of Supervisors for a potential No-Wake Zone. It passed unanimously with the Jackson County Board of Supervisors. They sent the proposal to us, and they asked that we accept their proposal for a No-Wake Zone under Title 22, Part 16, Chapter 8.

We consider this property a precedent over other properties, considering the concentrated number of children. There are many people that use that facility, that use that property.

(here opposed.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries.

Thank you, Mr. Levine.

PATRICK LEVENE: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I think that does Office of Marine Patrol.

Now, it's Mr. Joe Jewell, Office of Marine Fisheries.

JOE JEWELL: Good morning Commissioners.

I would like to make a couple of comments, before we move into the agenda.

First, I would like to welcome Director Spraggins onboard. This is his first Commission meeting as the Director. I know that he is going to do a great job, and I look forward to working with him, as does the rest of the staff.

Next, I would like to recognize Mr. Rusty Pittman for all of the work that he has done for the Department of Marine Resources.

I met Mr. Pittman as a young biologist onboard the DMR just over twenty years ago. He served as a mentor for me, and Mr. George Wright, challenging me to learn the state statutes and the Commission rules and regulations to understand how our two offices work so closely together.

That No-Wake Zone would be one thousand five hundred feet. We timed it, and it is approximately three minutes thirty seconds for somebody to idle from this point to this point (indicating photograph).

If we were to pass a No-Wake Zone, Jackson County would be responsible for the signage on the property, not the Department of Marine Resources.

Today, I present to you and ask that you make a motion to consider this for a No-Wake Zone under Title 22, Part 16, Chapter 8.

What is your vote?

COMMISSIONER HAMMOND: I would like to make a motion that we adopt regulatory changes in accordance with Title 22, Part 16, Chapter 8.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a motion. Do we have a second for the motion?

COMMISSIONER HAMMOND: So seconded, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a motion and a second.

Any further discussion?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed?

There is often the sort of joke around the DMR that I'm the third, or fourth, attorney and that credit has to be put to Rusty and Mr. Wright for challenging me and tutoring me to see the Marine Patrol's perspective on law enforcement.

I do want to thank him and recognize Rusty for all the work and tutoring that he did for me over the years.

The Office of Marine Fisheries recognized Rusty for all of the work that he did, at our end-of-the-year awards program, by awarding him a Marine Leadership award.

I do want to say that we recognized Rusty and we appreciate him.

I agree with you, Chairman Bosarge. We are going to miss him tremendously and all that vast knowledge that he will take with him, but I'm sure there are a lot of Marine Patrol officers that will step up into that void.

Now, moving on to the agenda, we have two presentations for the Commission's review.

First, will be a Diamondback Terrapin Reporting System, we new app developed. This will be given by Mr. Harron wise.

HARRON WISE: Good morning Commissioners. Director, Ms. Chestnut.

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Today, I will be presenting an update on the Diamondback Terrapin Reporting System, to give a little bit of background information on the Mississippi Bonnet Carre Fisheries Disaster Recovery Program for the Blue Crab Fishery, which is job two.

Phase one was a Derelict Crab Trap Cleanup program that took place April 12th through April 14th, 2016. Eligible commercial crab trap fishermen were compensated for the derelict crab trap removal.

Phase two, which is the current phase of this project, is the Diamondback Terrapin Reporting System. The idea of this program was brought through the interactions with the Blue Crab Fisheries and Diamondback Terrapins.

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission wanted to create a program that would allow fishermen to record terrapin observations, while running their traps.

Mississippi is the current leader in the development of a Terrapin reporting system in the Gulf. This phase will allow fishermen to pilot the reporting system, and the information collected through the system will provide a better understanding of Diamondback Terrapin population and help determine local hot spots. The criteria for eligible fishermen were to have a license for the years 2011-2012 which was the year that the spillway was open, and at least one license for the years 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010.

The reporting system was created in house one hundred percent free, through collaborations of the Office of Marine Fisheries and IT and GIS.

The system is very user friendly, and is compatible with PCs, Androids and iPhones.

This is an example of what the survey looks like. The fishermen begin by inputting their license number into the system, and their first name and last name is automatically generated into the program (indicating slide).

Then, they proceed by putting in the number of traps that they are fishing, the soak time in hours, the start time, end time, and, then, the number of terrapins observed, if there were any observed. Zero can be inputted into the system (indicating slide).

For the map, if the fishermen are using their smartphone devices and the location services are turned on, the map will automatically put the pin, based on the G.P.S. location of the phone.

If they are not using the phone, or they are reporting back at their homes, they can simply click on the map and move the pin to where they were fishing, or where the Terrapin was observed.

There is a comment section beneath the map. If they want to give us any additional comments about their trip, they can fill it out. They don’t have to.

After they have completed filling out the survey, they simply put a check mark at the bottom of the screen, and the survey is immediately submitted to an online database that we can download and analyze immediately.

This is some of the data that has been collected through December of 2017 (indicating slide).

The reporting system officially went online October 19th, 2017. So far, we have had twenty-nine eligible participants register for the program, and three hundred fifty-five surveys have been submitted. You can see the concentration of the surveys over the Pascagoula rivers and the Graveline Bayou area, Biloxi Bay and Davis Bayou area, Gulfport, Bay St. Louis, and the Bayou Caddy and Heron Bay area (indicating map).

We expect the surveys to expand amongst the concentrations in the warmer months.

This map shows a hot spot location of where the Terrapins have been observed. So far, forty-six Terrapins have been observed, and Gautier and the Pascagoula area have had higher concentrations, since they have the warmer colors, followed by Bayou Caddy and the Heron Bay area.

It’s a little hard to see on the screen, but there are slightly warmer colors, and, then, in the Davis Bayou area, we have low interactions with the cool colors.

The other areas that you saw where we have had surveys submitted, they have reported zero interactions which is why there are no colors on the map.

We expect to see more observations, as we proceed into the year with the warmer months.

I would like to acknowledge all of our commercial crab trap fishermen that are participating in this program, the Blue Crab Task Force, and the agencies and the staff that have helped make this survey possible.

With that, I will take any questions.

COMMISSIONER BOSANGE: I'm on that Blue Crab Task Force. It's nice to see Mississippi take the lead on something for a change. A lot of times we're the last, but that's good.

Do we have any questions?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER BOSANGE: The terrapins, of course, it seems like the crab trap is the main gear that interacts with them, and it's good to see us getting some information and to have an app like that.

Who did all the programming, or whatever you
call it, to see this up?

Did we do it in agency, or did we have to hire
that out?

HARRON WISE: We did everything inside the
agency. The Office of Marine Fisheries envisioned what
the program would look like, and, then, the Office of IT
helped put all that together.

COMMISSIONER ROSARIO: We've got some smart
folks here. That's good.

Thank you, Harron.

HARRON WISE: Thank you, Commissioners.

JOE JEWELL: Thank you, you Harron.

Next for the Commission's review is a
presentation by Mr. Jack Husley on the Live Bait.

JACK HUSLEY: Good morning Chairman,
Commissioners, General Spraggins and Ms. Chestnut.

Today, I'm going to give the 2017 Live Bait
Report.

According to Title 22, Part 6, the DMR views the
live bait fishery as a service to recreational fishermen
to allow access to live bait year round.

In order to become a live bait dealer, you must
obtain and submit an application from the Department of
Marine Resources, and we have thirty days to come out and
inspect.

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Catcher vessels and transport vehicles must also
pass inspection to be permitted.

Here we have a couple of pictures of live bait
tanks at different live bait facilities.

As you can see, the picture on the left, this
tank has adequate water flow and it is equipped with both
spray bars and aerators. It also has rounded corners to
keep shrimp from congregating.

These tanks on the right are outside and they
have an awning over the top to keep the tanks in the
shade.

To the left we have a picture of some trail
boards. These are the maximum length of four feet.

We have an example of a live bait shrimp boat on
the right, and, as you can see on the top, they have the
name of the camp, as well as the words "LIVE BAIT". These
must be in block lettering and must be two inches in height
and a half inch wide and can be seen from both the port
and starboard side of the vessel.

Here we have an example of a Live Bait Dealer
Report. This is so DMR can keep up with the number of
purchasers, the number of live shrimp caught, the number
of live shrimp sold, pounds of dead shrimp sold, pounds of
chum sold, pounds of squid sold, as well as the number of
hard crabs sold.

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Live bait dealers who have a licensed live bait
catcher boat are allowed to shrimp twelve months out of
the year, allowed to shrimp inside the half mile of
shoresline, can catch and keep hundred count shrimp which
is more optimal for live bait. They are not allowed to
shrimp at night. Their tow times are limited to twenty-
five minutes, including pick up. Shrimp cannot be sold
for consumption, and they must report landings and sales
to the DMR monthly.

Here are the Live Bait Inspection Requirements:
The facility must be able to safely serve the
public.

You must have a Mississippi State sales tax
number and all privilege licenses.

You must have proper advertising signage that
can be seen from a public road, or waterway.

Tanks must have adequate water flow for optimal
survival of shrimp.

Tanks must also have rounded corners to keep the
shrimp from congregating.

Catcher vessels can have a maximum sixteen foot
trawl with four foot trawl boards. Their tanks must be
covered, and the boat must be clearly marked with "LIVE
BAIT", as well as the name of the camp in contrasting
colors.

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This is a bar graph of live bait shrimp
purchasers from 2001 to 2017. As you can see, in the
years 04, 05, 06, we have a decline. That is due to
natural disasters such as hurricane Katrina, as well as in
2010-2011, you can see the BP oil spill. The Fisheries
shut down, and that's what that is. The data for 2017-
2018 is preliminary through December 2017.

Live bait sales. The blue line indicates number
of shrimp caught, and the orange line indicates number of
shrimp sold. You can see the same trend lines here and
here, and most of the graphs are going to show those trend
lines (indicating graph).

Here is a graph of dead bait sales from 2001 to
2017. The blue line is the dead shrimp, and the orange
line is a combination of chum, squid and crabs. This data
is also preliminary through December 2017.

Here is a graph showing the number of licensed
live bait camps and vessels from 2001 to 2017. In 2001,
you can see that we have had as many as thirty-five camps
and, after Katrina, those numbers dropped drastically. As
you can see, since then, we have had an average of fifteen
camps and roughly thirteen to fourteen vessels.

2017-2018 licensed live bait camps.

So far this season we have had a total of
sixteen camps inspected and licensed.

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In Hancock County, we have had three, with a new one being Whites Bayou Bait Shop over off the Pearl River. In Harrison County, we have had four.

In Jackson County, I have had nine, with three new ones being opened in the past couple of years. The first one was CC's II over on Graveline Bayou, J&W Fish Camp over off the west river in Pascagoula, and Q&J Live Bait over in Moss Point.

Out of these sixteen camps, we have had eleven live bait vessels and ten transport vehicles licensed and inspected.

This is a map we have made showing the numbers of camps throughout the coast, just to give you an idea of where they are located, and it shows that they are pretty well spread so you can buy bait pretty much anywhere on the coast.

With that being said, do you have any questions?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I don't know if I have a question; maybe just one observation.

The live bait catcher boats have always been at that sixteen foot trailer size. Maybe Joe can answer the question, but my understanding always was that it was that way because of how they were allowed to work inside of the half mile where commercial boats are not allowed.

When I look at some of these live bait catcher boats and I look at the trailers on them, I have to wonder "sixteen feet?" They've got a lot of net there, a lot of width.

It concerns me somewhat in that if you are out past the half mile -- I don't know if you've got any live bait boats, now, but over our way, we've got a couple of boats that catch live bait that actually work outside the half mile. They pull wherever they want.

They are putting some different configurations in the way they build those nets, and it makes for a very large net. It's not that sixteen foot net that should be allowed inside that half mile.

That was my only concern, and I have mentioned this before, even with all nets, that circumference measurement. The State of Florida is the one that has done it and it works. In other words, you can configure a net any way you want, but you are only allowed so many feet circumference around the net. That is something we may need to look at.

I was hoping we would do that in the Shrimp Task Force. I don't know where to drive that point to, but, Joe, maybe you could see what you could come up with on that.

In other words, circumference measurement takes all the cheating out. Everybody is on the same level.
WILL A BRANTLEY: Good morning.

I'm going to try to keep this brief, but I do want to start out with a little overview of what the wetlands permitting office does because we have had three new Commissioners join us, since we have done any kind of overview of what our responsibilities are. I just want to give you a real brief overview of that.

Ultimately, our bureau has two different jobs that we do on a daily basis. One of those is to implement our state policy on the Coastal wetlands. That means that we regulate activities that impact the Coastal wetlands which is, in general, the publicly-owned lands below mean high tide out to three miles south of the barrier islands, and then, a few publicly-owned lands above mean high tide.

That's why you will see us present sometimes the projects on the sand beach, even those they are not out in the water.

COMMISSIONER RISARAGE: Not to interrupt you, but how far north does your jurisdiction go?

WILL A BRANTLEY: State jurisdiction is limited directly to those Coastal wetlands. We can exert our jurisdiction over anything that we feel indirectly impacts those Coastal wetlands.

For example, we have talked about regulating the resources.

Our State policy is based on Coastal wetlands Protection Act through the state legislature, and the Federal role is based on the Coastal Zone Management Act which was passed by the U.S. Congress.

I'm not going to go over all these numbers. You have these in your packet. The main things I wanted to point out are these totals and the information in red (indicating graph).

We've got all of the activities that we do for the year, and that was seven hundred and thirty-one actions that we brought to completion within the calendar year of 2017.

I color coded these. These are our standard, more complex and most complex (indicating graph).

The most complex category is the one that you see most often. All nineteen of these permits were presented to the Commission for your decision. Those are things that are above and beyond Staff's authority to approve on our own. We presented a handful of the violations that we weren't able to bring to you for resolution ourselves.

You actually saw thirty-eight percent of those in the permits and violations categories, and four percent of the total files and projects that we dealt with through the year were actually presented to the Commission.

Now, I want to give you just a four-year overview. I didn't go all the way back to Katrina. Again, the things I wanted to point out are here in red. Since 2014, which was kind of our low point after Katrina and the oil spill and all of those things, we have had a nineteen percent increase in total actions. Then, I wanted to point out that it is not our standard things that are going up. Those are actually on the way down.

Our more and most complex cases are the ones that are going up. That yellow level right there, as you can see, that's the major things that we deal with on a regular basis. Those are the general permits that we issue on behalf of both us and the Corps of Engineers. Those are the projects that are above general permit guidelines, but not quite to the point of the Commission needing to make the decision. They can still be considered relatively minor in nature.

Then, the most complex are going to be the ones that have definite impacts to our Coastal resources and usually will require some type of mitigation for those impacts.

I do want to give you an example of a violation that we were able to bring to conclusion without having to
bring it to the Commission. Greg Christodoulou was the project manager for this.

You see this shoreline over here on this side. This is on Old Fort Bayou. This side used to look the same. They came in and cleared all the land and brought in a lot of fill dirt, and it was running out into the bayou (indicating photograph).

What they ended up doing was constructing this retaining wall to hold back all of the fill that they had brought in and, because they had taken out that habitat along the shoreline, we had then slope the shoreline and remove all of the fill and replant and allow it to come in with native vegetation. Now, we've got this stabilized shoreline here, but it also has habitat like it had before they cleared it (indicating photograph).

We didn't have to bring this to the Commission. Greg was able to take care of that himself and bring it to a good resolution for all parties. I was just trying to give you that example of some things that you don't see that we do on a daily basis.

Very brief, but, if you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I remember when Jan and I had this conversation about bringing this presentation forward and, even for myself, it was amazing to see the number of permits and the number of issues that you guys deal with that we don't even know. You do a good job in being able to resolve most of them, without them having to come here.

WILLA BRANTLEY: Thank you.

One point that I did want to make, when things show up on these numbers, that's when we have closed the file. We have issued the permit. We have brought the violation to a resolution. We have sent the review letter that says whether they need a permit, or not.

Each of those numbers shows up on the same.

Something that the staff spent three hours on reviewing a file and sending a letter counts the same as the Port project that Jennifer presented a couple of months ago that she had worked on for eight years. Those numbers aren't all equal, even though they look very equal. That's why I broke them down into those standard and complexity levels.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Very good. Thank you, Willa.

WILLA BRANTLEY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Any further questions?

(NO RESPONSE)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Next is Ms. Kacey Williams, Office of Finance and Administration.

KACEY WILLIAMS: Good morning Commissioners, Director Spragins and Ms. Chestnut.

I just want to say that I look forward to the future of our agency and continued success with your leadership, General.

Chief Pittman, we are going to miss you and we sure hope that you come back to visit us.

RUSTY PITTMAN: Thank you.

KACEY WILLIAMS: These are the financial results as of December 31st, 2017.

At the end of December, our State Revenue was four point four million, and our Agency Revenue was fifteen point three million. Our Net Income was seven hundred and thirty thousand, and our Total Agency Net Income was six point five million.

After six months of this fiscal year 2018, we have seventy-four point nine percent of our Operating Budget remaining, and eighty-five point seven percent of our Tidelands Budget remaining.

We are still in very good shape, after six months.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Looks good.

KACEY WILLIAMS: Any questions?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Any questions?

(NO RESPONSE)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you, Kacey.

KACEY WILLIAMS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Next is Ms. Melissa. MELISSA SCALLAN: Good morning Commissioners, Director Spragins, Ms. Chestnut.

I would like to say, also, that I have worked with General Spragins in some capacity since 2005, and I have no doubt that he will do a fabulous job leading this agency.

Rusty was one of the people I met first, when I came to work here, and he has always been an asset to this agency, and we will miss him greatly, but I know that he will enjoy his retirement.

The agency was mentioned thirteen times in local, state and national media, since the December CMR meeting.

The most popular news item was the Marine Patrol rescues, during the recent cold weather.

We actually had a very informative story that Chief Davis did with WLOX about how to operate boats in warm weather, but we don't really know how to operate then in cold weather sometimes. That was very informative.

We haven't had very many events because of the holidays, but my office did attend the Mississippi
Association of Supervisors Mid-Winter Legislative Conference last week, and we handed out information about the agency and promotional items. We also provided some seafood for the annual Coast reception in Jackson last week.

Marine Patrol has held one boat and water safety class, since the last meeting. The class was held at St. Martin High School, and Marine Patrol certified twenty-eight students.

So far in fiscal year 18, Marine Patrol has held nine boat and water safety classes and certified a hundred and fifty-two students.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: That’s impressive. Thank you, Melissa.

MELISSA SCALLAN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Next is public comment. Do we have any public comments?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Seeing none, we will move on to other business.

COMMISSIONER HARMON: Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER HARMON: I would like to make a motion, please.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right.

COMMISSIONER HARMON: I would like to make a motion that we go into closed session to discuss the need for executive session to discuss pending litigation.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a motion.

Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER TRAPANI: I’ll make that motion to conclude our meeting today.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a motion. Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: So seconded, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed?

(No opposition.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you.

Rusty, we are going to miss you.

COMMISSIONER HARMON: I would like to call the meeting back to order. I appreciate you guys hanging around for us.

Sandy, would you report on the meeting?

SANDY CHESTNUT: Yes, sir.

At 9:54 a.m., a motion was made by Commissioner Harmon to go into closed session to discuss the need for executive session to discuss pending litigation. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Trapani.
CERTIFICATE

I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the January 16, 2018, meeting of the Commission on Marine Resources, as taken by me at the time and place heretofore stated in the aforementioned matter in shorthand, with electronic verification, and later reduced to typewritten form to the best of my skill and ability; and, further, that I am not a relative, employee, or agent, of any of the parties thereto, nor financially interested in the cause.

Lucille Morgan, CAS 1234
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