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Commission on Marine Resources December Meeting

December 18, 2018

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Contracts over $10,000.00 since July 2018						
2							
3	Contract Worker Contracts						
4	Employee	Office	Amount	Term	Board Approval (if needed)	Funding Source	
5	Dale Diaz	Executive Office	$27,861.65	01.01.2019 - 06.30.2019	OPSCR Staff Approval	100% Restoration Funds	
6	McKenna Koons	Fisheries - Finfish	$27,709.11	12.13.2018 - 08.31.2019	New Procurement, no board action required	100% NOAA grant	
7	Joshua Lambert	Lyman Hatchery	$50,522.44	07.01.2018 - 06.30.2019	OPSCR Staff Approval	100% Tidelands	
8	Kevin Landry	Pass Christian Hatchery	$58,184.83	07.01.2018 - 06.30.2019	New Procurement, no board action required	70% Restoration / 30% Gulf States	
9	Marie Lewis	CRR	$28,233.92	07.01.2018 - 06.30.2019	OPSCR Staff Approval	50% USFWS grant / 50% Tidelands	
10	Nadine Ross	Fisheries - Finfish	$42,026.56	07.01.2018 - 06.30.2019	OPSCR Staff Approval	100% Gulf States	
11	Brady Smith	Information Technology	$39,990.90	07.24.2019 - 07.23.2019	New Procurement, no board action required	100% State funds	
12							
13	Commodity Contracts						
14	Vendor	Procurement Method	Amount	Term	Board Approval	Funding Source	Commodity/Service Description
15	J&W Marine Enterprises, Inc	Reverse Auction	$199,999.00	07.06.2018 - 07.05.2019	OPTFM	100% Bonnet Carre Disaster grant	Furnish and deploy oyster shell
16	Ponchartrain Material Corp	Reverse Auction	$399,999.00	07.26.2018 - 07.25.2018	OPTFM	100% Bonnet Carre Disaster grant	Furnish and deploy approved cultch material
17	Maverick Boat Group, Inc	Invitation for Bids	$124,261.73	09.06.2018 - 09.05.2019	PPRB	100% JEA	Cobia 344CC offshore vessel used by Marine Patrol
18	Crystal Seafood, Inc	Exemption	$641,376.00 Contract value is total	12.06.2018 - 12.05.2019	PPRB	100% Bonnet Carre Disaster grant	Purchase sacks of oysters. Contract value will be for all dealer/processors.
19	Jerry Forte Seafood (dba)	Exemption	sack limit.	12.06.2018 - 12.05.2019	PPRB	100% Bonnet Carre Disaster grant	Purchase sacks of oysters. Contract value will be for all dealer/processors.
20							
21							
22	Service Contracts						
23	Vendor	Procurement Method	Amount	Term	Board Approval	Funding Source	Commodity/Service Description
24	MS State University	IHL Exemption	$159,465.63 (over 3 year period)	07.01.2018 - 06.30.2019	PPRB	70% NOAA grant / 30% Tidelands	Final renewal exercised with MSU to extend contract for the sevrices of Dr. Mark Woodry
25	J.E. Borries, Inc	Invitation for Bids	$225,000.00	12.05.2018 - 12.06.2019	PPRB	100% Bonnet Carre Disaster grant	Use of barges for the oyster relay
26							
27	Currently Advertised Procurements						
28	Office Requesting	Procurement Method	Estimated Amount	Commodity/Service Description	Board Approval	Funding Source	
29	Marine Fisheries, Artificial Reef Bureau	Reverse Auction	$85,000.00	One (1) boat 27-30 ft	OPTFM	Bond	
30	Marine Patrol	Reverse Auction	$118,000.00	Two (2) Boats 25-27 ft	OPTFM	JEA	
31	Coastal Zone Management, Coastal Preserves	Request for Proposals	unknown	Small Parcel Vegitation Treatment	PPRB	NOAA grant	
32	Executive Office	Invitation for Bids	unknown	Beach Storm Water Outfalls, Pha	BOB/PPRB	GOMESA Funds	

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2018 New Hires

EMPLOYEE NAME	Last Name	First Name	PIN NO	JOB TITLE	OFFICE	DMR DOH	TIME WITH DMR	STATUS
Bui, Lucky N.	Bui	Lucky	160	DMR-MP Ofcr I	Marine Patrol	10/8/18	0 Years, 2 Months	State
Byers, Bradly C.	Byers	Bradly	808	DMR-MP Ofcr II	Marine Patrol	5/21/18	0 Years, 6 Months	State
Carron, Alicia M.	Carron	Alicia	153	DMR-Marine Fish Sc IV	Marine Fisheries	5/16/18	0 Years, 6 Months	X14
Cossey Jr., Ronnie G.	Cossey Jr.	Gene	5022	DMR-Marine Fish Tech IV	Marine Fisheries	5/1/18	0 Years, 7 Months	X14
Heaton, Andrew	Heaton	Andrew	5136	DMR-NERR Res Spec III	GBNERR	12/1/18	0 Years, 0 Months	X14
Johnson, Clifford N.	Johnson	Noah	5076	DMR-Marine Fish Tech V	Marine Fisheries	6/18/18	0 Years, 5 Months	X14
Kinnard, Richard L.	Kinnard	Rick	130	DMR-Marine Mgr I	F & A	2/26/18	0 Years, 9 Months	X14
Lazarus-Garton, Robin L.	Lazarus-Garton	Robin	144	Accountant/Auditor I, Prof	F & A	10/15/18	0 Years, 1 Months	X14
Moncrief, Trevor D.	Moncrief	Trevor	5062	DMR-Marine Fish Sc V	Marine Fisheries	1/1/18	0 Years, 11 Months	X14
Moore, Jane E.	Moore	Elizabeth	5165	DMR-NERR Res Spec I	GBNERR	8/20/18	0 Years, 3 Months	X14
Moran, Tommy J.	Moran	T.J.	38	DMR-Marine Mgr II	Executive Office	05/21/18	0 Years, 6 Months	X16
Murphy, Matthew J.	Murphy	Matthew	137	DMR-Coastal Res Mgt Spec I	CRM	7/9/18	0 Years, 5 Months	X14
Payne, Kaitlyn A.	Payne	Kaitlyn	880	Emergency Tele I	Marine Patrol	8/20/18	0 Years, 3 Months	State
Peacock, Brock H.	Peacock	Brock	139	DMR-Coastal Res Mgt Spec I	CRM	5/16/18	0 Years, 6 Months	X14
Pettigrew, Jake	Pettigrew	Jake	5144	DMR-Coastal Res Mgt Spec II	CRM	9/1/18	0 Years, 3 Months	X14
Quave Jr., David G.	Quave Jr.	David	159	DMR-MP Ofcr I	Marine Patrol	10/8/18	0 Years, 2 Months	State
Saucier, Jason P.	Saucier	Jason	20	DMR-Biol Prog Coord	Marine Fisheries	5/16/18	0 Years, 6 Months	State
Snawder, Jason M.	Snawder	Jason	134	DMR-Marine Fish Sc IV	CSO Programs	4/1/18	0 Years, 8 Months	X14
Timbs, Jeremy R.	Timbs	Jeremy	5167	DMR-Marine Fish Sc III	Marine Fisheries	10/3/18	0 Years, 2 Months	X14
Walker, Courtney J.	Walker	Courtney	5021	DMR-Marine Fish Tech III	Marine Fisheries	5/1/18	0 Years, 7 Months	X14
Waters, Joshua G.	Waters	Joshua	5052	DMR-Marine Fish Sc II	Marine Fisheries	5/21/18	0 Years, 6 Months	X14
Weatherly, William R.	Weatherly	Russell	97	DMR-Marine Admor III	Executive Office	6/1/18	0 Years, 6 Months	X16
Wicker, RoxAnn R.	Wicker	RoxAnn	5154	DMR-Marine Admor I	F & A	11/5/18	0 Years, 1 Months	X14

2018 New Hires - Contractors

Hart, Joyce L.	Hart	Joyce			Exec	4/5/18		
Spurlin, Chris	Spurlin	Chris			Finfish	4/16/18		
Reese, Tammy M.	Reese	Tammy			Aquaculture	5/1/18		
Jagolta, Katya A.	Jagolta	Katya			Finfish	11/26/18		
Koons, McKenna	Koons	McKenna			NERR	12/12/18		

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MDMR Administrative Penalties

Failure to Report Spotted Seatrout Landings

Investigation

- Sales receipts provided by Alabama Marine Resources Division revealed thousands of pounds of Spotted Seatrout sold in Alabama that were never reported on Mississippi Trip Tickets during the spring commercial season
- The sales receipts indicated Mississippi licensed commercial fisherman were selling their own catch directly to Alabama dealers

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Update

- Marine Patrol interviewed the fisherman to investigate non-compliance.
- Interviews resulted in an additional 28,663 pounds of Spotted Seatrout submitted to the Mississippi Trip Ticket Program

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MDMR Administrative Penalties

In the Matter of Logan Stokes

Cause No. 2018-008

Failure to Report Spotted Seatrout Landings

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In the Matter of Logan Stokes

- On or about September 29, 2018, the Notice of Violation was served on Logan Stokes by Marine Patrol Officer Steve Trosclair.
- On or about October 15, 2018, MDMR received a written response from Mr. Stokes.

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Evaluation by the Executive Director

- Logan Stokes possesses a valid Mississippi Spotted Seatrout Endorsement and a Fresh Products Permit.
- Logan Stokes sold 1,547 lbs of Spotted Seatrout to Bryant Products Inc. in Bayou LaBatre, Alabama between February 1, 2018 and April 27, 2018.
- As of May 15, 2018, Logan Stokes had reported 912 lbs of Spotted Seatrout on Mississippi Trip Tickets.

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Administrative Penalty

- Fine in the amount of $1,587.00
- Upon payment of $635.00 within 45 days of the Commission's final decision, and
- Have no new fishing violations in any jurisdiction for a period of one year
- The remaining $955.00 will be forgiven.

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Action by Commission

- The Commission may accept, reject, and/or modify the Executive Director's recommendation upon motion.

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Petition for Reconsideration by

MS Commercial Fisheries United

Commission's Options

- Grant or deny the Petition for Reconsideration without further argument.
- Request a response from the DMR prior to making a final disposition.
- Set the matter for an evidentiary hearing.
- Make such further order as it deems appropriate under the circumstances.

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MDMR Response

MCFU asserts that they have standing to bring this Petition based upon submitting comments.

"The [MCFU] supports the revocation of fishing endorsements, tags or permits for bad actors in all sectors of MS's saltwater fisheries; however, we recommend that the Commission consider adopting additional language to the proposed regulation to ensure that only violations directly related to the regulatory program that revocations are sought are included and clearly articulated."

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- MCFU comments expressed 2 concerns:
- That the regulation could be used to justify the revocation of SST endorsements for violations that are not directly related to the SST regulatory program. And
- That the CMR would use this regulation change to revoke SST endorsements for those individuals who late reported in the Spring 2018 season.
- MCFU then stated again "MSCFU fully supports the revocation of any and all endorsements for the willful violations of fishing regulations on the water." But then stated, "For the record, MSCFU opposes this proposed regulation as currently written."

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MCFU's 2 concerns have been addressed:

- The wording of the proposed regulation complies with MSFCU's request for language that revocations are "for violations related to the particular program".

- The new regulation was not in effect when the Spring 2018 late reporting violations occurred and was not used for those violations.

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MCFU's Petition Raises 2 New Concerns

- (1) The regulation violates the 14th Amendment
- In support of their argument, MCFU cites several cases dealing with the establishment of new violations and the vagueness of the wording of the new violations.

- The changes to Title 22, Part 20 do not establish any new offenses. The fishermen know what is expected of them under the current statutes and regs.
- "The mere fact that one can conceive of some impermissible applications of a statute is not sufficient to render it susceptible to an overbreadth challenge." *U.S. v Williams*, 553 US 285 (2008)

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- (2) MCMR did not authorize staff to bring forth recommendations to grant the MCMR authority to revoke all endorsements, tags, permits or similar provisions under Title 22, Part 20.

- In support of their argument, MCFU cites “portions” of the transcript.

- However, when the transcript is read in its totality it is clear that the MCMR had 2 options before them and voted to adopt the option to revise Title 22, Part 20.

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Commission Options

- Grant the Petition for Reconsideration and request staff to bring back additional language regarding the revocation provisions for the CMR's consideration.
- Deny the Petition for Reconsideration and keep the language as is.
- Request an Attorney General's opinion as to Petitioner's standing to bring forth the Petition and as to the validity of the regulation as is.

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Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Coastal Resources Management

December 2018

Request for Permit by:
City of Ocean Springs
File: DMR-170335

- Location: Man-made canal adjacent to Fort Bayou in Ocean Springs, Jackson County, MS.
- Use District: (G) General Use District
- Agent: Compton Engineering
- Project Purpose/Need: Maintenance Dredging to:
  - Restore safe navigable depths to adjacent owners
  - Restore safe navigable depths and improved access to a public boat launch

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Project Description

- Dredge: Approximately 2,250 cubic yards
  - Approved upland disposal (No BU required)
- Dredging Impacts to SAV: Approximately 34 sq ft
  - Proposed Mitigation
    - Restore approximately 600 square feet of marsh and adjacent waterbottoms by removing storm debris that has caused shading impacts
- Variance from MCP to the Guidelines for Regulated Activities
  - Ch. VIII, Sect. 2, Part III.G.2.
    - Alignments shall avoid shellfish beds, areas of submerged and emergent vegetation and archaeological and historical sites."

Project Description

continued

- Variance request justified under Ch. VIII, Sect. 2, Part I.E.2.b.ii.
  - Impacts to public access and adverse environmental impacts have been minimized
  - There is significant public benefit in the activity
  - A public hearing will be held
  - The general public and governmental entities were notified

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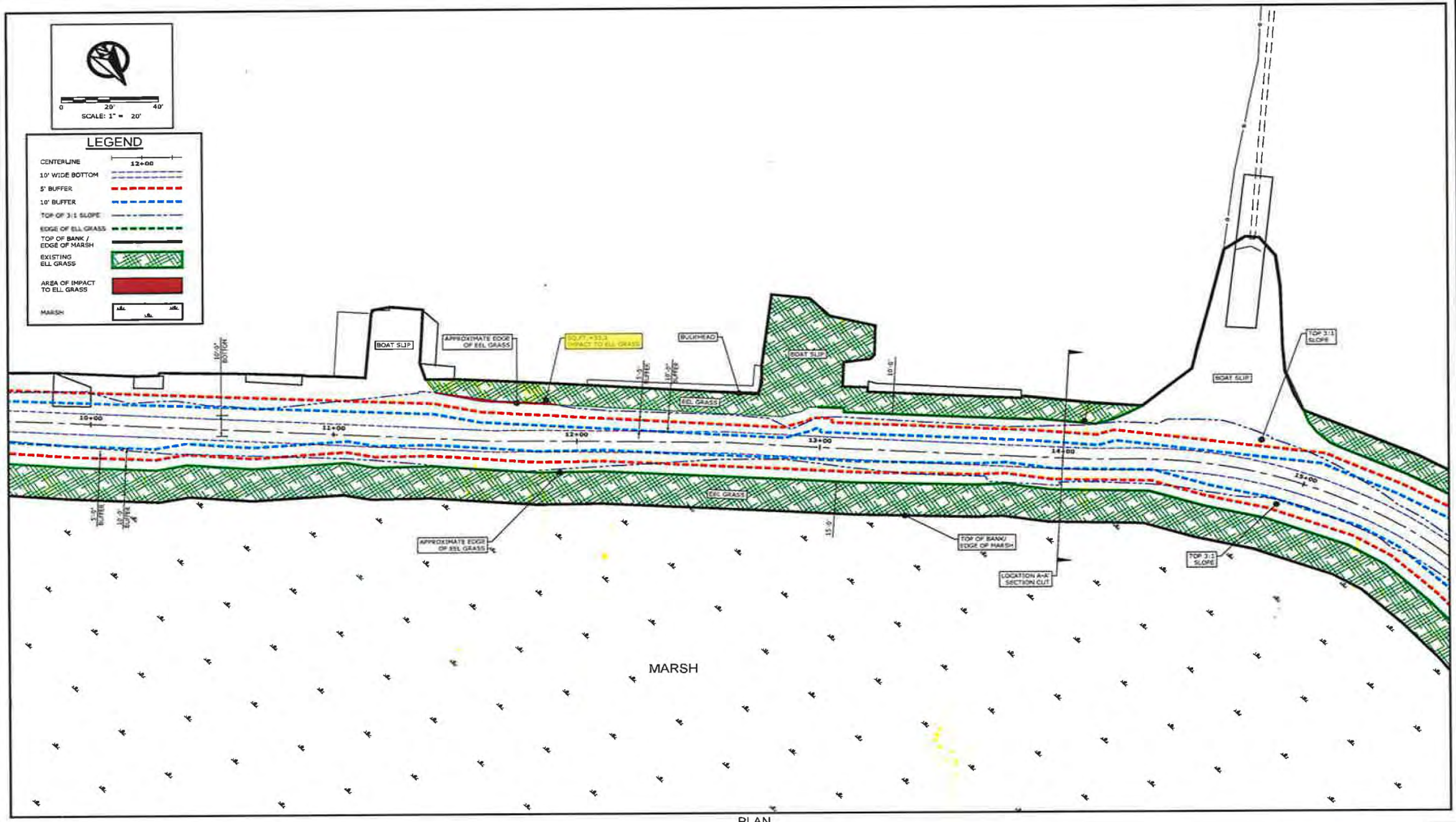
COMPTON ENGINEERING, INC.
Engineering, Surveying, and Environmental Services
156 Nixon Street
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530
Phone: (228) 432-2133 Fax: (228) 432-8149
E-mail: compton@comptonengineering.com

Site: Ft Bayou Dredging Project
Cumberland Road
Ocean Springs, MS

Figure Title: **Aerial Imagery** (Map Source: MyTopo Map Pass. Photo Date: September 9, 2012)

Appendix ID:
A



PLAN

COMPTON ENGINEERING, INC.
Engineering, Surveying, and Environmental Services
1706 Convent Avenue
Pascagoula, Mississippi 39567
Phone: (228) 762-3970 Fax: (228) 769-9079
E-mail: compton@comptonengineering.com

CITY OF OCEAN SPRINGS
FORT BAYOU CHANNEL DREDGING

PROPOSED CHANNEL AND BUFFER

SCALE: AS NOTED
JOB NO.: 215-039.006
DATE: MARCH 2018
DESIGN.: LDM
DWG. BY: JDL
CHK.:
APVD.:

C1.3
SHEET OF

DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	APVD
01/05/16	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	LDM	
05/15/17	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	JDL	
03/13/17	ISSUED FOR REVIEW	JDL	

Public and Agency Notification

- Notification of this project appeared in *The Sun Herald* on December 2, 9, and 16, 2018.
  - No public comments have been received to date
- A public hearing was held on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ocean Springs City Hall located at 1018 Porter Avenue in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.
  - No public comments received
- MS DEQ: Currently reviewing the project
- MS DAH: No objections
- MS DWFP: No comments
- MS SOS: No objection with following conditions:
  - Approval of mitigation plan by DMR and USACE
  - Removal of storm debris will not cause unacceptable damage to the mitigation site and if damage occurs will be repaired pursuant to mitigation plan
  - Monitoring plan acceptable to DMR and USACE

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Recommendation

- The staff of the Department of Marine Resources has conducted a thorough evaluation of the project and has made findings on the decision factors in accordance with Chapter VIII, Section 2, Part I.E.2. of the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP). These findings have been provided to the Commissioners. Based on the results of these findings, it has been determined that the project is consistent with the MCP because it will have a significant public benefit by providing safe navigational depths and increased public access to the water. Therefore, staff recommends that the Commission approve the requested variance and issue the Permit contingent on 401 Water Quality Certification from MDEQ and that the submitted mitigation plan be implemented and followed.

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Seagrass Monitoring

Paul F. Mickle Ph.D.
Chief Scientific Officer
The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Background

- **Presentation a response from CMR Motion: Propose a monitoring program budget for seagrasses around Cat Island and expand from there.**
- Present spatial options for monitoring by price
- Present possible funding streams and their funding timelines

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Seagrass Monitoring Methodologies

- Highly standardized and well known
- Currently conducted
  - Florida
  - Alabama
  - Texas
  - National Seashore Barrier Islands
  - Chandeleur Islands

A Seagrass Monitoring Approach for the Gulf of Mexico

Developed by:

Lawrence Handley
Scientist Emeritus, USGS

Catherine Lockwood
Geographer, CNL World

Kathryn Spear
Ecologist, USGS

Mark Finkbeiner
GISP, NOAA

W. Judson Kenworthy
Retired NOAA

For
The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)
Gulf Star Award 2017
Habitat Resources Team

June 2018

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
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Monitoring Program Types

- Tier 1: System-wide mapping using digital imagery
  - Characterizes distribution over large spatial scales
  - Performed every ~5 years
  - Requires aerial imagery acquisition, orthorectifying imagery, ground truthing, image delineation and interpretation
  - Imagery acquisition
  - Post-processing
  - Cat Island cost ~ $100,000
  - Whole Sound ~ $300,000+

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Monitoring Program Types

- Tier 2: Rapid assessment annual field surveys using fixed locations
  - Characterized abiotic and biotic parameters of the ecosystem
  - Finer scale than Tier 1
  - Stations selected using a stratified random design
  - Involves annual surveys at fixed stations for seagrass percent cover by species, canopy height, water depth, water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, light availability (photosynthetically active radiation-PAR)
  - Cores for biomass and/or dormant seed densities (post processing additional cost)
  - Cat Island cost ~ $25,000
  - Whole Sound ~ $75,000+

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Monitoring Program Types

- Tier 3: Permanent transects for location-intensive monitoring
  - Enables identification of finer-scale changes and hypothesis-driven questions
  - Finest scale resolution of tiered approach
  - Cat Island cost ~ Question dependent
  - Whole Sound ~ Question dependent

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Funding

- Work with GOMA and GSMFC to acquire funding
  - Tidelands
  - GOMESA
  - NOAA
  - USFS
  - USACE
  - NGOs
    - PEW Charitable Trust
    - Ocean Foundation
    - Ecowatch
    - Etc.

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Questions

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Mississippi
Department of Marine Resources

Agency Financial Results

as of November 30, 2018

Commission on Marine Resources
December 18, 2018

Key Metrics:

- State Revenue of $4.1M
- Agency Revenue of $16.1M
- State Net Income of $1.3M
- Agency Net Income of $7.9M

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
Income Statement - Fiscal Year 2019
As of November 30, 2018

	State	Federal : NFWF:	Operating Subtotal	Tidelands	Total DMR
Revenue:					
Transfer in from Other Governments	-	-	-	10,000,000	10,000,000
Off-road Fuel Tax	3,050,000	-	3,050,000	-	3,050,000
Federal/NonFederal Grants	3,200	1,827,371	1,830,571	-	1,830,571
Sales Revenue	406,163	-	406,163	1,125	407,288
Indirect Cost Recovery	277,612	-	277,612	-	277,612
Other Revenue	371,680	71,742	443,422	129,063	572,485
Current Budget Year Revenue:	4,108,655	1,899,113	6,007,768	10,130,188	16,137,957
Expenditures:					
Salaries, Wages, Fringe	2,131,366	888,448	3,019,814	412,124	3,431,939
Travel	11,289	20,472	31,761	12,604	44,365
Contractual Services	277,090	627,827	904,917	352,246	1,257,163
Commodities	137,285	666,161	803,447	84,511	887,957
Other than Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment	183,785	39,112	222,897	14,949	237,846
Vehicles	-	4,049	4,049	-	4,049
Wireless Devices	351	433	785	274	1,058
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	23,667	841,467	865,134	1,477,167	2,342,301
Current Budget Year Expenditures:	2,764,834	3,087,969	5,852,803	2,353,875	8,206,678
Current Budget Year Net Income/(Loss):	$ 1,343,821	$ (1,188,855)	$ 154,965	$ 7,776,313	$ 7,931,278

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Financial Budget Comparison

- After five months of Fiscal Year 2019:

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
2019 Budget Comparison
As of November 30, 2018

	Actual Year to Date Expenditures			*Budget Year Totals*			*Percent Remaining*		
	Operating	**Tidelands**	**Total**	**Operating**	**Tidelands**	**Total**	**Operating**	**Tidelands**	**Total**
Expenditures:									
Salaries, Wages, Fringe	$ 3,019,814	$ 412,124	$ 3,431,939	$ 10,897,765	$ 1,012,526	$ 11,910,291	72.3%	59.3%	71.2%
Travel	31,761	12,604	44,365	325,487	30,000	355,487	90.2%	58.0%	87.5%
Contractual Services	904,917	352,246	1,257,163	9,601,848	1,627,590	11,229,438	90.6%	78.4%	88.8%
Commodities	803,447	84,511	887,957	2,055,674	450,000	2,505,674	60.9%	81.2%	64.6%
Equipment	222,897	14,949	237,846	1,109,408	225,000	1,334,408	79.9%	93.4%	82.2%
Vehicles	4,049	-	4,049	170,000	-	170,000	97.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Wireless Devices	785	274	1,058	6,250	500	6,750	87.4%	0.0%	84.3%
Subsidies, Loans, and Grants	865,134	1,477,167	2,342,301	14,756,150	6,654,384	21,410,534	94.1%	77.8%	89.1%
Total Expenditures:	$ 5,852,803	$ 2,353,875	$ 8,206,678	$ 38,992,667	$ 10,000,000	$ 48,992,667	85.0%	76.5%	83.2%

- Operating Funds have 85.0% of Budget remaining
- Tidelands Trust Fund has 76.5% of Budget remaining

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Management Recommendations for Spotted Seatrout SPR Increase

Matt Hill

December 18, 2018

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Background

- In order to increase SPR, fishing mortality (F) must be reduced
  - Need to reduce fishing mortality in the fishery
- CMR adopted a 20% SPR target for the Spotted Seatrout fishery
- Management options to accelerate meeting this target

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Management Options

- Status quo
- Minimum size changes
- Seasonal closures
- Per person bag limit changes
- Recreational quotas/TAC
- Vessel bag limits
- Size limit slots
- Gear restrictions
- Area closures

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Minimum Size/Bag limit Changes

- 15-inch commercial minimum size limit
- Increase minimum size limit
- Bag limit change from 15 fish to 10 fish per person
- Vessel bag limit
- Vessel bag limit with allowances
- Fish per person bag limit with allowances

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Size Limit Slots

- A strategy that Florida has done
  - 5 fish with one over 20 inches per person
- 15 fish per person 15 inches and one over 20 inches
- 15 fish per person 16 inches and one over 20 inches
- 10 fish per person 15 inches and one over 20 inches
- Other options recommended by the Commission

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Gear Restrictions

- Prohibit treble hooks
- Prohibit multiple rigs
- Line material requirements
- Other options recommended by the Commission

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Seasonal and Area Closures

- Possible recreational closures (Spawning Period April/May)
- Potential area closures (North of CSX, specific bays, environmental closures)
- Other options recommended by the Commission

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Recreational Quotas/TAC

- Set a yield (kg) and close the recreational fishery when it is reached
- Set a quota base on landings history
- Monitoring strategy
  - Projection (year prior/historical)
  - In-season monitoring

$F_{\%SPR}$ Scenario	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Five-year change (%)
14	556,549	534,052	536,750	538,486	538,789	-3%
16	498,340	517,992	535,893	543,314	545,526	9%
18	449,501	498,142	529,943	543,873	548,787	18%
20	**407,979**	**476,442**	**520,118**	**540,671**	**548,811**	**26%**
22	372,228	454,075	507,480	534,316	545,942	32%
24	341,090	431,740	492,871	525,400	540,554	37%

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Questions?

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2019 Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program

Rick Burris

December 18, 2018

K.2.

Mississippi State Statute

49-15-84.1. Closed season for use of crab traps; removal of abandoned traps.

(1) The commission may establish a closed season for the use of crab traps in the public waters of this state. The commission may designate the closed season as not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days per year. Any crab trap remaining in the public waters after the expiration to the seventh day of a closed season may be considered as abandoned under the regulations established by the commission.

(2) The commission shall adopt rules to govern the removal and disposal of abandoned crab traps as necessary to enhance: (a) The conservation and management of crab resources; (b) Boating safety; (c) The cleanliness of the beds and bottoms of the public waters of the state; and (d) Enforcement of this chapter.

(3) Abandoned crab traps are litter and are subject to immediate removal and disposal

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Title 22 Part 4
Rules and Regulations for the Taking of Crabs in the State of Mississippi

Chapter 08 Closed Seasons

100 The MCMR may establish a closed season or seasons for the use of crab traps in the public waters of this state. The MCMR may designate the closed season as not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days per year. Any crab trap remaining in the public waters after the expiration to the seventh day of a closed season shall be considered abandoned and can be removed for proper disposal. The first seven days of the closed season shall be a period of time for crab fishermen to remove traps from the water; however, during this time harvest of crabs caught in traps is prohibited. The MCMR shall publish the season closure dates and areas in a closing order to the general public.

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What is a derelict trap?

Derelict traps are defined as lost traps, which are typically un-buoyed or unmarked and <u>not actively fished</u>.

- Navigational hazards
- Continue to “ghost fish”
- Cause user group conflicts

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Previous Derelict Trap Removal Efforts

CLEAN UP YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF TRAPS
1999-2002	2,447
2003*	1,818
2004*	856
2007*	11,150
2008*	1,259
2009*	438
2010*	431
2011	108
2012	122
2013*	281
2014	14
2015	78
2016*	2,542
2017	85
2018	42
Total	21,671

* Clean up events

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Closure Dates and Cleanup Logistics

- Crab Trap closure for all coastal waters February 7-16
- Fishermen would have first seven days of closure to remove their own traps from the closure areas
- Trap removal would be allowed February 14-16
- Cleanup will be open to volunteers from the general public
- All licensed crab fishermen will be notified ahead of closure
- Trap drop-off sites will be located at Bayou Caddy, Ocean Springs Harbor, Pascagoula

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Required

Motion:
Approval to establish a closed season for the use of crab traps in the public waters of this state for the purpose of conducting a derelict crab trap clean-up from February 7-16, 2019.

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