Commission on Marine Resources

November 19, 2019
Employment, Contracts and Procurement Updates
November 19, 2019
Employment Updates

• 11.01.19 – Michael Brochard – NERR Resource Specialist II
# Contracts and Procurements for November 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currently Advertised Procurements</th>
<th>Office Requesting</th>
<th>Procurement Method</th>
<th>Estimated Amount</th>
<th>Commodity / Service Description</th>
<th>Board Approval</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine Fisheries</td>
<td>Request for Applications</td>
<td>$47,279.88</td>
<td>Off-Bottom Aquaculture Contract Worker</td>
<td>OPSCR Staff Approval</td>
<td>100% OBOA</td>
<td></td>
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• On Oct 28, 2019, The Commission conducted a Work Session to discuss the proposed language that was presented at the September 17, 2019 Commission meeting.

• A motion was made at the Work Session to take the proposed language establishing a penalty matrix for administrative actions out for Notice of Intent.
104 Suspension or revocation of licenses or regulatory program requirements such as but not limited to, endorsements, tags, permits or similar provisions may be commenced in addition to seeking administrative penalties.

105 The Commission may suspend or revoke regulatory program requirements established by the Commission, such as but not limited to, endorsements, tags, permits, or similar provisions for violations related to that particular program in accordance with the following schedule:

- For 1\textsuperscript{st} offenses, a suspension for up to 3 months;
- For 2\textsuperscript{nd} offenses, a suspension for up to 6 months;
- For 3\textsuperscript{rd} offenses, a suspension of up to 1 year;
- For 4\textsuperscript{th} and subsequent offenses, a suspension for up to 2 years or revocation.

Suspensions shall be scheduled for a time period coinciding with the particular fishing season in which the offense is related.
If the violation is deemed to be so egregious as to warrant a suspension outside of the penalty matrix, the Commission, by unanimous vote, may impose a suspension outside of the above matrix by skipping to the next level. (For example, if it’s a 1st offense that is deemed to be so egregious as to warrant a suspension outside of the penalty matrix stated above, the Commission, by unanimous vote, may impose a suspension for up to 6 months as allowed under the 2nd offense tier.)

In the event that a violator does not pay the administrative penalty assessed by the Commission in full within twenty-four (24) months, the Commission may, by majority vote, indefinitely suspend the endorsement, tag, permit or similar regulatory program requirement related to the violation until such time as the penalty is paid in full.
Required Action

- Motion for staff to take the proposed language establishing a penalty matrix for administrative actions out for Notice of Intent.
Request for Permit Extension by:
V.T. Halter Marine Inc.
File: DMR-050058

- Location: Bayou Casotte, 900 Bayou Casotte Parkway in Pascagoula, Jackson County, MS
- Use District: (I) Industrial Development Use District
Project Description

• The applicant is requesting to extend an existing maintenance dredging permit for two (2) years until February 9, 2022. The previous Permit authorized:
  • Maintenance Dredging
  • Approximately 117,995 cubic yards of material from Bayou Casotte at seven (7) locations
Project Chronology

- **February 9, 2010:** CMR approved applicant’s request to dredge approximately 117,995 cubic yards of material

- **October 3, 2019:** Applicant submitted a request for a two (2) year extension to the Permit
Recommendation

• Based upon departmental review and evaluation, staff recommends that the CMR approve the applicant’s request to extend the Permit for an additional two (2) years (February 9, 2022).
Request for Permit by:
City of Waveland
File: DMR-180143

- Location: Mississippi Sound on Beach Boulevard in Waveland, Hancock County, MS
- Use District: (G) General Use District
- Project Purpose/Need:
  - To provide access to the beach for people in wheelchairs or with other access limitations
- Agent: Compton Engineering, Inc.
Project Description

- **Fill**
  - 0.14 acre of coastal wetlands, of which:
    - 0.02 acre unvegetated waterbottoms
    - 0.12 acre previously filled sand beach
Project Description

PROPOSED ACCESS RAMP - PLAN

PROPOSED ACCESS RAMP - SECTION

PROPOSED ACCESS RAMP - ELEVATION
The applicant has requested variances:

- Chapter VIII, Section 2, Part III.O.1. of the MCP.
  - Permanent filling of Coastal Wetlands because of potential adverse and cumulative environmental impacts is discouraged.

- Miss. Admin. Code Title 22, Part 23, Chapter 8, Section 114.01
  - Permanent filling of coastal wetlands below the mean high tide line because of potential adverse and cumulative environmental impacts is not authorized

These variance requests were justified under Ch. VII, Sect. 2, Part I.E.2.c.iii. and Miss. Admin. Code Title 22, Part 23, Chapter 8, Section 118.04

- The activity requires a waterfront location, there is a significant public benefit in the activity and a public hearing was held on October 29, 2019
Public and Agency Notification

- Notification of this project appeared in The Sun Herald on October 6, October 13, and October 20, 2019, and in the Sea Coast Echo on October 5, October 12, and October 19, 2019.

- A public hearing was held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Waveland City Hall located at 301 Coleman Avenue, Waveland, Mississippi.
  - One public comment was received concerning the material the walkway and ramp will be made out of.
- MDEQ: Reviewing the Project
- MDAH: No Objection
- MS SOS: There is an existing Tidelands Lease that includes the stated use and purpose of this addition
- MS DWFP: No Comments
Recommendation

Based upon departmental review and evaluation based on the decision factors in Ch. 8, Sect. 2, Part I.E.2. of the MCP, it has been determined that the project will have a significant public benefit. Therefore, staff recommends that the CMR approve the variance request and issue the requested permit, contingent on Water Quality Certification from MDEQ.
Violation/ATF General Permit by:
Keith Ladner
File: DMR-110118

- Location: Jourdan River at 3064 Palmetto Lane, Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, MS

- Use District: (G) General Use District
Project Description

• Existing Structures
  • Boathouse:
    • Authorized - 24’ x 12.5’
    • Constructed - 24’ x 17’
  • Pier:
    • Authorized - 13’ x 11.5’
    • Constructed - 16’ x 14’
Project Description

- Requested structures:
  - Floating pier - 8’ x 5’
  - Bulkhead – 45 linear feet of bulkhead reconstructed in the same footprint
Project Chronology

- **July 23, 2019**: An application to reconstruct a bulkhead was submitted.

- **August 28, 2019**: A site visit was performed that revealed previously permitted structures were constructed out of compliance.

- **August 29, 2019**: The agent was contacted and an After-the-Fact application was requested.

- **September 26, 2019**: After-the-fact application was received.
Potential Penalty Range

- Violation discovered: August 28, 2019
- Violation duration: 28 days
- Maximum potential fine for residential: $14,000 (minimum $50)
- Recommended Fine:
  - No fine is recommended
- Decision Factors:
  - No previous violations
  - Cooperative
  - Could have been authorized under the General Permit Guidelines
Recommendation

- Grant after-the-fact authorization because the project would have been authorized by a General Permit if the applicant had submitted an application prior to completing the structures.
Key Metrics:

- State Revenue of $3.7M
- Agency Revenue of $17.6M
- State Net Income of $1.7M
- Agency Net Income of $9.9M
Financial Budget Comparison

- After four months of Fiscal Year 2020:
  - Operating Funds have 86.4% of Budget remaining
  - Tidelands Trust Fund has 87.8% of Budget remaining
Title 22 Part 7: Commercial Tarpon Regulations
Final Adoption

Joe Jewell
November 19, 2019
Background

• At the September 17, 2019 CMR meeting, the following motion was passed:
  • **Motion**: To proceed with a Notice of Intent for regulatory changes to Title 22 Part 7 Chapter 9 to add Paragraph 114 prohibiting the harvest or possession of an Atlantic Tarpon for commercial purposes.

• At the October 15, 2019 CMR meeting this item was removed from the agenda.
CMR Passed Notice of Intent on September 17, 2019

Notice of Intent filed with the SOS on September 17, 2019

September 18, 2019
MDMR Web Page Notice

Legal Notice Appeared in the Sun Herald on September 20, 2019.
Public Comments on Title 22 Part 7

- Public comment period: September 18, 2019 through October 14, 2019 – 27 Days.
- No public comments were received.
It shall be unlawful for any commercial fisherman to harvest or possess an Atlantic Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*) within Mississippi waters.
Required:

A motion to proceed with Final Adoption for regulatory changes to Title 22 Part 7 Chapter 9 – unlawful for any commercial fisherman to catch or possess an Atlantic Tarpon (Megalops atlanticus) within Mississippi waters.
Title 22 Part 7: Commercial Shark Fishery Final Adoption

Trevor Moncrief
November 19, 2019
At the October 15, 2019 CMR meeting, the following motion was passed regarding a commercial shark fishery:

- Motion - To proceed with a Notice of Intent for regulatory changes to Title 22 Part 7 Chapter 9 regarding the development of a commercial shark fishery
CMR Passed Notice of Intent on October 15, 2019

Notice of Intent filed with the SOS on October 15, 2019

October 16, 2019
MDMR Web Page Notice

Legal Notice Appeared in the Sun Herald on October 18, 2019
Public Comments on Title 22 Part 7

- Public comment period: October 15, 2019 through November 8, 2019 – 25 Days
- No public comments were received
Title 22 Part 7 Chapter 9 Commercial Size, Possession and Catch Limits

100

100.28 Small Coastal Sharks – twenty-five (25) inches total length
100.29 Large Coastal Sharks – thirty-seven (37) inches total length
Title 22 Part 7 Chapter 9

Title 22 Part 7 Chapter 9 Commercial Size, Possession and Catch Limits

102 The practice of “finning”, that is, removing only the fins and returning the remainder of the shark to the sea is unlawful.

103 It shall be unlawful for any commercial fishermen to possess any Cobia smaller than thirty-three (33) inches fork length or to possess more than a daily bag limit of two (2) Cobia per person.

104 It shall be unlawful for any commercial fisherman, person, firm or corporation, to sell, barter or trade any species of reef fish (identified in Chapter 09 Sections 100.08 through 100.25) without possessing the proper federal permits and/or licenses required by the NOAA Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan and complying with any other conditions set forth by federal or state regulations for the management of the identified reef fish.

105 It shall be unlawful for any commercial fisherman, person, firm or corporation, to possess or harvest from Mississippi territorial waters, in excess of three thousand pounds (3,000) of King Mackerel, per vessel, per trip, per day.

106 It shall be unlawful for person, firm, or corporation to sell or purchase the following species of billfish without the proper federal documentation: Blue Marlin (Makaira nigricans), White Marlin (Tetrapturus albidus), and Sailfish (Istiophorus platypterus).
113 Beginning January 1, 2020, any individual or vessel commercially harvesting small coastal or large coastal sharks in Mississippi’s territorial waters must possess a MDMR shark endorsement (10.00) in addition to a current applicable harvester license. In addition, all individuals applying for a shark endorsement must be a Mississippi resident and present documentation of the successful completion of a MDMR approved shark identification exam and protected species safe handling workshop. The open season in Mississippi territorial waters for the commercial harvest of sharks shall run concurrent with federal shark seasons for the Western Gulf of Mexico Sub-Region.

113.01 The practice of “finning”, that is, removing only the fins and returning the remainder of the shark to the sea is unlawful. All sharks commercially harvested in Mississippi state territorial waters must be landed in whole form with fins naturally attached by at least some portion of uncut skin. Sharks may be gutted prior to landing.

113.02 It shall be unlawful for any commercial fisherman to possess a daily bag limit of more than twenty-five (25) small and large coastal sharks in aggregate per vessel per day.
Required:

A motion to proceed with Final Adoption for regulatory changes to Title 22 Part 7 Chapter 9 regarding the development of a commercial shark fishery.
Charter For-hire Reporting Program

Matt Hill
November 19, 2019
At the September, 17 2019 CMR Meeting, the following motion was passed regarding the Charter For-hire (CFH) reporting program:

- Motion: For Fisheries staff to come back to the October CMR meeting with recommendations regarding a Charter For-hire reporting program.

This presentation will outline potential options and considerations for a Charter For-hire reporting program.
CFH Survey Options

• Recommendation for reporting system to be similar to the Southeast Region Headboat Survey – participating vessels can report electronically
• Reported trip information: trip date, departure time, return time, number of anglers, fish harvested, fish released
CFH Survey Options

Voluntary reporting
- Participating captains can report requested information by the end of each week
- Trip information may be validated by recreational fisheries surveys already in place (MRIP)
- CFH survey method would be very similar to current MRIP Charter For-hire survey

Mandatory reporting
- Hail in/hail out for each trip
- Captains must report requested trip information by the end of each week
- If trip information is not reported, participant will not be able to access CFH survey system until requested trip information has been reported
- Trip information can be validated through dockside sampling and current MRIP Charter For-hire survey methods
CFH App Projected Costs

Summarized Projected Annual Budget - CFH Survey

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<tr>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$150,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidental Cost</td>
<td>$5,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Development</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$335,673</strong></td>
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- Personnel includes two full time staff along with five partially-funded staff
- Application and maintenance costs derived after consultations with MDMR IT
- All costs, with the exception of development, would be annually recurring
CFH Survey Considerations

- Logbook option allowing captains to see trip information for all previous trips
- Voluntary reporting will likely provide incomplete trip information which is less reliable
- Current MRIP survey provides trip information on Charter For-hire fishing trips
- Voluntary reporting would be more difficult to validate
- Mandatory reporting allows validation, produces reliable information and creates catch histories for users
Action: CMR to direct staff on how to proceed