COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, May 27, 2020
9:00 a.m.
Special Session Webinar via Zoom

Commission Members:

Mark Havard, Chairman
Steve Bosarge
Richard Gollott
Natalie Guess

Also Present:

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

Lucille Morgan, CSR 1251
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COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Let's call the meeting to
order for Special Session for Commission on Marine
Resources Wednesday, May 27th, at 9:00 o'clock.

First off, we would like to start off by getting
approval for the agenda.

Can I get a motion to approve the agenda?

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Commissioner Gollott, I
will make that motion.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have a motion.

Do I have a second to approve the agenda?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Commissioner Guess, second.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Commissioner, can we add one
thing to the agenda?

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Sure.

What have you got?

JOE SPRAGGINS: Where it says “Extension of
Commercial Fishing Licenses”, I want to put in there the
charter boat fishermen that are ending in April, or May,
that couldn't get theirs renewed and if they are ending
before the end of June, that they could get extended until
the end of June to be able to get theirs.

It is just to be able to keep them so they could
keep going.

Could we change that to “Extend the Commercial
Fishing and Charter Boat Licenses”?
They are month-by-month. It depends on the day that they redid theirs. It will only be a handful of them.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I don’t see a problem with that.

Do you want to put that under C.2?

JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes, we can just put it under C.2 and make it Charter Boat Licenses Extended to the End of June.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Do I have a motion to approve the amended agenda?

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I’ll make that motion, Gollott.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Do I have a second to approve?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Commissioner Guess, I'll second.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have a motion and a second.

All those in favor say aye and, if you would, say your name, and, then, your aye.

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Commissioner Guess, aye.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Bosarge, aye.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Gollott, aye.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Havard, aye.
Motion moves.
That brings us to Executive Director's Report.

JOE SPRAGGINS: We've got Item Number 1 which is the Extension of Commercial Fishing Licenses until 30 June 2020.

Sandy, would you go ahead and go over that real quick?

SANDY CHESNUT: Yes.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Brady, is the PowerPoint there? She can just talk though it. That's okay.

SANDY CHESNUT: Of course, the item on the agenda is Extension of Commercial Fishing Licenses Expiration Date.

The background information is, pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated 49-15-29(2) all commercial licenses expire on April 30th following the date of issuance.

On April 1st, Governor Reeves issued Executive Order 1466 establishing a Shelter-In-Place Order through April 20th for the State of Mississippi.

On April the 10th, the Commission extended the expiration date of commercial licenses to May 31st, 2020, in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated 33-15-31(b).

Of course, the Governor has extended his
shelter-in-place, or safer-at-home, orders to deal with the pandemic and the Mississippi shrimp season opens May 28th, 2020, and many shrimpers stay on the water for weeks on each trip.

In accordance with the Governor’s Executive Orders, the DMR will begin the process of returning to work on June 1st, 2020, and will begin issuing licenses at the Bolton Building on a limited basis beginning June 1st.

In order to afford the commercial fishermen ample opportunity to obtain their commercial licenses within the limited availability starting June 1st, the MDMR is requesting that the license expiration date be extended for an additional thirty days.

The required motion, or requested motion, would be to extend the expiration date of commercial licenses to June 30th, 2020, in order to comply with the continuing mandates of the Executive Orders issued by Governor Reeves pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Any questions?

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I don’t think there are any questions.

Can I get a motion?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Commissioner Guess, I'll make the motion.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Bosarge will second.
COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say aye.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Gollott, aye.

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Guess, aye.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Bosarge, aye.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Havard, aye.

Motion moves.

SANDY CHESNUT: For the item that was added to the agenda, it is the same rationale as was stated for the commercial fishing licenses, but for the charter boat licenses that expired prior to June 2020, the DMR is requesting that those licenses be extended to June 30th, 2020, as well.

I just need a motion to that effect.

JOE SPRAGGINS: These are by day. If you bought it on the 15th day of June, it will end the 15th day of June, or the 14th of June. This is just to be able to give them allowance to the end of June to come in and get theirs.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Gollott will make that motion.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have a motion.

Do I have a second?

COMMISSIONER GUESS: Guess, second.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have a motion and a
second.

All those in favor say aye.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT:  Gollott, aye.

COMMISSIONER GUESS:  Guess, aye.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE:  Bosarge, aye.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD:  Havard, aye.

Motion moves.

That brings us down to the Commissioners Report.

Do any of the Commissioners have anything they would like to discuss?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER HAVARD:  Any other business out there that we want to discuss?

JOE SPRAGGINS:  Just one quick thing, we did get all of the payouts put in the system pretty much. We only had just a couple that had not come in and signed their agreement, as far as the oyster and the crab fishermen. Some people should start getting their check this next week.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD:  Very good. We appreciate you expediting that.

It was nice to see enforcement out on the water over the past weekend. I know it was rough, but it was nice to see them in full effect trying to protect our resource. So thanks to you guys.
Other than that, do we have any public comments?

JOE SPRAGGINS: No public comments.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a motion to end the meeting?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: So moved, Mr. Chairman, Bosarge.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Gollott seconds it.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say aye.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Gollott, aye.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Bosarge, aye.

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Havard, aye.

I think we might have lost Natalie.

Motion moves.

Y'all be careful and be safe out there, and thanks for y'all's time.
CERTIFICATE

I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter, to hereby certify that the above and foregoing 8 pages, including this page, are a true and correct transcription of the Webinar by Zoom of the May 27, 2020, Special Session of the Commission on Marine Resources, 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.

S/ ________________________________

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