Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

March 16, 2021
Employment, Contracts and Procurement Updates
March 16, 2021
Employment Updates

• Joshua Waters – DMR Marine Fisheries Scientist, III – 02.16.21
• Katherine Ramon – Grants Administrator I – 02.16.21
• Chris Pickering – DMR Biological Program Coordinator – 02.16.21
• Jennifer Wilder – Permitter V – 03.01.21
• Matt Kasovich – Senior Master Sergeant – 03.01.21
• Dylan Kessen – Corporal – 03.01.21
• Kaitlyn Payne – Dispatcher III – 03.01.21
• Debbie Griffin – Dispatch Supervisor – 03.08.21
• Erin Smyth – Permitter II – 03.16.21
Discussed at the February 2021 meeting:

- Jackson County Board of Supervisors’ request for 2-yr extension of previously permitted maintenance dredging of Davis and Stark Bayous in Ocean Springs, MS.

- MDMR’s request for Permit and Use Plan Change contingent upon water quality certification from MDEQ, to allow for commercial off-bottom oyster aquaculture, South of Deer Island, in Harrison County, MS.

- Commission recommended approval of the requests.
- Director approved the requests.
Request for Permit Modification by:
MS Department of Environmental Quality
File: DMR21-000121

- Location: Western shoreline of Point Aux Chenes Bay and the banks of Bangs Bayou east of Pascagoula, Jackson County
- Use District: (P) Preservation and (G) General Use Districts
- Project Purpose/Need:
  - NRDA Early Restoration Project
    - Support secondary productivity
- Agent: Alane Young, Covington Civil and Environmental, LLC
Project Description

- Subtidal reef creation:
  - Approximately 6.5 acres in Point Aux Chenes Bay
    - Relocation proposed due to Hurricane Zeta

- Intertidal reef creation:
  - Approximately 3 acres in Bangs Bayou
    - Currently under construction
Originally permitted footprint
Proposed modified locations
Typical Subtidal Reef Detail

Not to Scale
Under construction –
No changes proposed
Typical Intertidal Reef Detail
Not to Scale
The applicant was granted 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. VIII, Sect. 2, Part I.E.2.c.i. and Miss. Admin. Code Title 22, Part 23, Chapter 8, Section 118.01
  - The Impacts on Coastal Wetlands would be no worse than if the guidelines were followed.
Public and Agency Notification

- Notification of this project appeared in *The Sun Herald* on February 28, March 7, and March 14, 2021.

- One public comment has been received to date
  - Not deep enough to achieve 2’ clearance at extreme low winter tides
  - Relocation to achieve the clearance would be ½ mile east of the shoreline and in a legal shrimping area
  - Proposed project will create an extreme hazard to navigation and present an unacceptable high risk to life and limb
  - Who will inspect and repair the markers that will be placed at completion of construction?
  - Should construct a breakwater instead, to reduce erosion of the marsh shoreline
This project will create essential habitat for both recreational and commercially viable species.
Moving the footprint further from the shoreline into the main water access for this area poses a greater potential conflict with fishermen.
Serious consideration should be made for potential damage to vessels, restriction in area use by the public, and potential human injury.
Concerns were raised about the clearance not being enough during all tidal cycles and weather conditions.
These reefs will need to be clearly marked in order to prevent damage or injury.
Overall the project provides a resource benefit, but safety measures (marking and maintaining) need to be clearly outlined before the project proceeds.
Public and Agency Notification

- MDMR NERR: Stated no comments
- MDEQ: 401 Water Quality Certification was issued on August 19, 2019, modification not required
- MDAH: No objections, new survey not required
- MS SOS: The project will require a rent exempt lease
- MDWFP: No comments to date
Recommendation

- Based upon departmental review and evaluation based on the decision factors in the MCP, it has been determined that the project will have a significant public benefit. Therefore, staff recommends that the CMR approve the request for modification with the following additional condition:
  - Marking of the reefs and the plan for maintaining the markings must be approved by MDMR prior to completion of the project.
Mississippi
Department of Marine Resources
Agency Financial Results
as of February 28, 2021
Key Metrics:

- State Revenue of $4.1M
- Agency Revenue of $14.7M
- State Net Income of $22K
- Agency Net Income of -$387K

### Income Statement - Fiscal Year 2021

#### As of February 28, 2021

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Federal</th>
<th>Operating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GOMESA PHIL</td>
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<td><strong>Revenue:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Current Budget Year Revenue:</strong></td>
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<td>3,198,429</td>
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| **Expenditures:**   |         |           |          |           |           |
| Salaries, Wages, Fringe | 5,381,950 | 1,942,817 | 616,747 | 5,998,697 |
| Travel              | 3,403   |           | 3,403   | 3,403   |
| Contractual Services | 1,317,715 | 882,297 | 278,182 | 1,595,897 |
| Commodities         | 328,963 | 137,987 | 17,182 | 346,145 |
| Other than Equipment |          |           |          |          |
| Equipment           | 120,420 | 120,420 |          |          |
| Vehicles            | 34,734  | 34,734   |          |          |
| Wireless Devices    |          |          |          |          |
| Subsidies, Loans, and Grants | 3,261,754 | 3,781,837 | 3,261,754 | 7,043,591 |
| **Subtotal:**       | 10,969,021 | 4,173,864 |          |          |
| **Current Budget Year Expenditures:** | 4,077,393 | 6,891,628 |          |          |
| **Current Budget Year Net Income/(Loss):** | **$ 22,853** | **$ (3,693,199)** | **$ (3,670,347)** | **$ 3,283,036** | **$ (387,310)** |
Financial Budget Comparison

- After eight months of Fiscal Year 2021:
  - Operating Funds have 78.8% of Budget remaining
  - Tidelands Trust Fund has 43.2% of Budget remaining

### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
2021 Budget Comparison
As of February 28, 2021

<table>
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<th>Expenditures:</th>
<th>Actual Year to Date Expenditures</th>
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