

MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Bolton Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Commission Members:

Ronnie Daniels, Chairman
Natalie Guess, Vice Chairman
Cammack "Cam" Roberds

Also Present:

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

1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Good morning everybody.
2 Welcome to our September 21st DMR Commission on Marine
3 Resources meeting.

4 Today, I would like to welcome Secretary of
5 State, Michael Watson. He is joining us today.

6 MICHAEL WATSON: I am glad to be here.

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I would also like to ask
8 him, if he doesn't mind, to lead us in our Pledge of
9 Allegiance.

10 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you for that,
12 Secretary.

13 Joe, would you like to lead us in prayer this
14 morning?

15 JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes, I would.

16 Before we start the prayer, if I could, we had a
17 young lady, Ms. Dorothy Pope, who worked with Service
18 Master here and she was part of the staff there and she
19 passed away last Thursday, September the 16th.

20 The family, in lieu of flowers, they had asked
21 if anybody would like to, to do a monetary donation to
22 help with the funeral expense.

23 She was the sweetest thing in the world. A
24 sweet young lady.

25 Donations can be made at the Capitol Police over

1 here when you come in the door, if anybody would like to
2 do that. She was just one of the sweetest ladies in the
3 world.

4 Also, we've got the family of Mr. Tommy Jennings
5 here today. We want to still remember him and remember
6 the family. He was a great man. We loved him.

7 Let's go to the Lord in prayer.

8 Our Heavenly Father, we thank you so much.
9 Lord, we are so blessed just to have you as our leader, as
10 our Savior, as the one who gives us the opportunity to do
11 the things that we do every day.

12 Lord, we ask that you take each and every one of
13 the young men and women that work at the agency here and
14 lead them and guide and direct them to be able to do the
15 things as you would have it done, not the way we would do
16 it, Lord.

17 Please take this Commission and give them the
18 strength to do what they need to do and the wisdom to do
19 what they need to do to make this agency a better place.

20 Lord, we thank you for everything. We thank you
21 for your son and, Lord, we thank you most of all for us
22 having the ability to be saved and have everlasting life.

23 We ask this in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Joe.

25 Approval of minutes from August 17th meeting.

1 Do we have any discussion on that?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do I have a motion to
4 approve the minutes?

5 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make a motion.

6 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second it.

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All those in favor?

8 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

11 Motion passes.

12 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Approval of today's
13 agenda.

14 Do we have a motion to approve the agenda?

15 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make a motion.

16 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second that motion.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All those in favor?

18 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

21 Motion passes.

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Director, we will turn it
23 over to you.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS: Daphne Moore was promoted to
25 Marine Patrol Senior Master Sergeant.

1 Jada Whittington was promoted to Master Sergeant
2 in Marine Patrol.

3 Jacob Johnson was promoted to Marine Patrol
4 Sergeant.

5 Chis Spurlin was one of our contractors and is
6 now a Technician with the Finfish Bureau.

7 Thanks to all of them, and it is always great to
8 promote people inside the agency.

9 I don't think we have any contracts.

10 Just a real quick thing on the agency update, a
11 couple of things that are going on.

12 If you haven't noticed, when you come in the
13 front doors, the main front doors, there is a new license
14 agency. That is where we sell licenses, now. You don't
15 have to go up to the second floor anymore. We have a
16 beautiful area there. You can go in and it is now run by
17 Marine Patrol. You can come in and buy your license there
18 and you never have to go up the stairs, or anything else.

19 That is great. It is operational right now. It
20 is a beautiful area, if you haven't seen it.

21 Also, before the next Commission meeting, our
22 reception area will now be on the second floor, but it
23 will be where you come in off the elevator. You can either
24 come up the steps, or come off the elevator, and we will
25 have a receptionist sitting there and be able to help you

1 to do whatever you need to do to get to anyone in the
2 Department of Marine Resources.

3 After Ida, we had a couple of little issues. We
4 looked at it and thank goodness the good Lord was gracious
5 to us and we didn't have hardly any trouble, just a few
6 minor little things that happened to us.

7 In response to the impacts that Hurricane Ida
8 had on the Louisiana seafood industry, the agency used its
9 statutory authority under Mississippi Code 33-15-31 to
10 allow Louisiana commercial fishermen to offload their
11 catch with the Mississippi seafood dealers/processors
12 without having to obtain a seafood transport license
13 through December the 31st, 2021.

14 This really helps them and it helps us, and it
15 is a good thing. It is a neighborly thing to do and we
16 are glad to do it.

17 The agency also made provision to allow licensed
18 Louisiana charter boat captains and passenger fishing
19 outside of the Mississippi territorial waters to launch
20 and land in Mississippi ports through December the 31st,
21 due to the loss of the infrastructure in Louisiana.

22 It's a thing that we should do. When one of our
23 neighboring states, or anyone, has a problem, we need to
24 take care of them as much as we possibly can. This helps
25 them and it even helps us, too. I don't want to be greedy

1 in this thing, but it helps us, too, because our
2 processors are able to continue and it helps them be able
3 to work.

4 We appreciate that, that we were able to do it.
5 Reminder that October the 12th is our next
6 meeting. Not the third, but it will be the second
7 Tuesday. That has been changed and make sure that
8 everybody understands that.

9 We are doing a couple of other things.

10 Traci has sent the paperwork back and hopefully
11 we will be getting it back shortly with a final answer on
12 the CARES Act as to when we can start distributing it.

13 The 2019 Bonnet Carre Funds, we are also working
14 on it. It is sitting with the Budget Department and
15 United States government. We are waiting on them to give
16 us some kind of approval to go forward with it.

17 The people at the Department of Marine Resources
18 have done their part to be able to make it work. We are
19 just trying to see if we can get it through the bureaucracy
20 up in Washington and be able to get things moving forward.

21 We are going to have a couple of meetings this
22 next month on some things that are going on with the
23 Bonnet Carre and, also, with the Mid-Breton Sound.

24 The Secretary of State is having some meetings
25 and we appreciate that, sir, and inviting us to do that.

1 We are going to be able to discuss this and meet and talk
2 about what is going to happen and what possibilities are
3 there.

4 The biggest thing in that, is the Mid-Breton
5 Sound Diversion something good, or bad.

6 we don't know. None of us really know a hundred
7 percent, now. We are doing a lot of studies with it. We
8 are doing a study with USM and Mississippi State
9 University to be able to tell us what the actual movement
10 of the water would be.

11 we are also looking at it to be able to find out
12 what the actual water we need to be able to have the right
13 salinity and things for the oysters mainly. That is the
14 main thing that we are trying to be able to regrow because
15 the others things are growing. The shrimp, the crabs and
16 all are growing and the finfish, but we need to be able to
17 do something to be able to find out what we need. What is
18 going to happen. What could happen if the Bonnet Carre.
19 what could happen at this. We are working on that.

20 Secretary of State, we thank you so much for
21 that and we appreciate you.

22 By the way, he is going to give us a big check
23 this afternoon.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Good. We like those.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS: At 1:30, I think.

1 Is that right?

2 MICHAEL WATSON: Yes, sir.

3 JOE SPRAGGINS: The Secretary of State is going
4 to present us with a Tidelands check. We appreciate that,
5 sir.

6 I won't disclose the amount because that is your
7 business. So I will let you do that.

8 MICHAEL WATSON: I haven't signed it yet.

9 JOE SPRAGGINS: Well, I'll be quiet until I get
10 it.

11 That will give us an idea of where we are.

12 The other thing is Actions Update from prior
13 meetings.

14 SANDY CHESNUT: At the August meeting, there were
15 two motions to recommend to the Director that Part 10 and
16 Part 11 be forwarded to the Secretary of State's Office
17 for final adoption, and there were two motions to the
18 Executive Director to send Part 12 and Part 16 to the
19 Secretary of State's Office for Notice of Intent.

20 There was also a motion to recommend that the
21 Executive Director approve the State Saltwater Finfish
22 records. One for Conventional Record for James Landers.
23 Another for Youth Record for Riley Armes.

24 The Director approved all of those motions as
25 recommended.

1 Then, there was a pending item that we kept
2 having to move forward because we were having problems
3 getting all of the parties together.

4 A meeting with all of the parties was held on
5 August the 17th. Mrs. Barclay offered to pay the five
6 hundred dollar fine that was previously recommended to be
7 paid by the contractor, Mr. Benward. All parties were in
8 agreement with this arrangement.

9 The Director approved the five hundred fine to
10 be paid by the Barclays. He approved the after-the-fact
11 authorization for the existing boathouse and authorization
12 for the proposed boathouse.

13 That is all we have.

14 JOE SPRAGGINS: Any questions, Commissioners?

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: No, sir.

16 JOE SPRAGGINS: With your permission, sir, I
17 would like to go ahead. We have a resolution for Mr.
18 Tommy Jennings and I would like to go ahead and read that
19 resolution into the minutes, and we have some copies of
20 the resolution for the family.

21 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

22 RESOLUTION NO. 09212021-01

23 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of
24 Marine Resources, is a duly constituted
25 governmental entity, created to serve

1 the Great State of Mississippi, and
2 acknowledges contributions to the
3 betterment of the fisheries of the Gulf
4 of Mexico through significant biological,
5 industrial, legislative enforcement, or
6 administrative activities; and
7 WHEREAS, Thomas "Tommy" Jennings, Jr.,
8 devoted twenty-seven (27) years of his
9 life to law enforcement; and
10 WHEREAS, Officer Jennings began his law
11 enforcement career and State service in
12 1994 with the Hancock County Sheriff's
13 Office; and
14 WHEREAS, Officer Jennings served as a
15 Marine Patrol Officer with the
16 Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
17 for twenty-one (21) years working his way
18 up the rank to Senior Master Sergeant; and
19 WHEREAS, Officer Jennings served on
20 numerous special teams during his law
21 enforcement career, which included SWAT,
22 Narcotics, Dive Team, Field Training
23 Officer and FBI Certified Range Instructor;
24 and
25 WHEREAS, Officer Jennings was best known

1 for teaching high level skills and in
2 doing so was described by many officers
3 as making them “feel safe”; and
4 WHEREAS, Officer Jennings was the
5 recipient of the Mississippi Life
6 Saving Award bestowed by the Governor
7 of the State of Mississippi; and
8 WHEREAS, Officer Jennings went to be
9 with the Lord on July 20, 2021;
10 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
11 the Mississippi Department of Marine
12 Resources recognizes and appreciates
13 the long valuable career and service
14 of Thomas “Tommy” Jennings, Jr., to the
15 enhancement, protection and conservation
16 of marine resources for the State of
17 Mississippi.
18 DONE AND RESOLVED, in this duly
19 constituted and executed resolution, on
20 this the 21st day of September 2021.
21 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE
22 RESOURCES.
23 Joe Spraggins, Executive Director
24 (Copies of Resolution given to the
25 Jennings family.)

1 JOE SPRAGGINS: Mr. Jennings was one of the
2 nicest men you will ever meet.

3 Officer Jennings, I remember he went through a
4 time there when I was trying to get certified as enhanced
5 carry. He went through that with me and I was like, man,
6 how can you do this, because he looked at me and he said,
7 all I want to do is be the enemy because you ain't going
8 to hit me.

9 He was a great guy, great person. You never saw
10 him when he didn't have a smile on his face. You never
11 saw him when he wasn't trying to do something for
12 somebody. Never saw a second in his life when he wasn't
13 being the light of hope for everybody.

14 I know y'all miss him. We miss him. God bless
15 each of you.

16 KYLE WILKERSON: Are we ready, sir?

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes, sir.

18 JOE SPRAGGINS: wait. We got ahead of ourselves.
19 We have Commissioners report.

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We don't have anything
21 today.

22 It is all you, Chief.

23 KYLE WILKERSON: well, the Director summed it up.

24 Me and Tommy came up together. There is not a
25 day goes by that I don't think about him.

1 Let's get started. The report this month, once
2 again, is just like every other month.

3 These men and women who work with you and me
4 have been busting their butts. They work really hard at
5 their job and they do a phenominal job.

6 Nothing really stands out to me on any type of
7 citation. We have had several that are on the list, as
8 you can see.

9 I think we had over a thousand contacts this
10 month, also, which is very good this time of year. It is
11 starting to wind down just a little bit. It really never
12 winds down for Marine Patrol, but it is slowing down just
13 a tad.

14 If any of y'all have a question pertaining to
15 any citations, feel free to ask.

16 Also, I would like to say that we had one
17 drowning. One man was ejected off the I-110 bridge. We
18 assisted. Darkness came in and we stayed on site until we
19 found him at 3:00 a.m. that morning. With Marine Patrol
20 and volunteers from Mobile, we were able to locate him and
21 have closure for the family.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS: Chief, I would like to commend
23 every one of those. You stayed there. You didn't give
24 up.

25 KYLE WILKERSON: That's right.

1 JOE SPRAGGINS: And we thank you for it.

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you for that, Chief
3 Kyle.

4 Do the Commissioners have any questions on
5 citations on the report?

6 (No response.)

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you. Y'all keep up
8 the good work.

9 KYLE WILKERSON: Thank you, sir.

10 we have a few more items. I'm going to leave it
11 to Captain Strickland who is going to talk about Title 22.
12 I am going to give the floor to him.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I tell you what, Chief,
14 before we get started with all of that, does the family
15 have anything they would like to say?

16 MS. JENNINGS: Thank you. I can't say any more
17 because I can't stop crying.

18 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank y'all for coming
19 out. He was a great man and we were honored to have him
20 with us.

21 All right, Chief.

22 MICHAEL STRICKLAND: Good morning Director,
23 Commissioners, Ms. Chesnut.

24 I would also like to say thank y'all to the
25 Commission for taking the time to set aside this morning

1 to honor Tommy.

2 Title 22, Part 12, is up for final adoption.

3 On August the 17th, 2021, the Commission
4 recommended to the Executive Director that the new format
5 and changes to Title 22, Part 12, be sent to the Secretary
6 of State's Office for Notice of Intent.

7 Th Executive Director approved the
8 recommendation and the proposed regulation was filed with
9 the Secretary of State's Office on August 23rd, 2021.

10 The notice of the proposed regulation was
11 published in the Sun Herald on September 3rd, 2021,

12 Notice of the proposed regulation was also
13 posted on the MDMR website on August 26th, 2021.

14 As you see here, we have copies of the website
15 notification and, also, the Affidavit of Publication from
16 the Sun Herald (indicating slide).

17 Public comments were due to the Mississippi
18 Department of Marine Resources by 5:00 p.m. on September
19 17th, 2021. We received no public comments.

20 We would request a motion to recommend to the
21 Executive Director that the proposed changes to Title 22,
22 Part 12, be forwarded to the Secretary of State's Office
23 for final adoption.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have any questions
25 on that?

1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have a motion to
3 approve?

4 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I make a motion to
5 recommend to the Executive Director.

6 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second.

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We have a motion and a
8 second.

9 All those in favor?

10 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

13 Motion passes.

14 MICHAEL STRICKLAND: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

16 MICHAEL STRICKLAND: Second was Title 22, Part
17 16, pertaining to boat and water safety for final
18 adoption, as well.

19 On August the 17th, 2021, the Commission
20 recommended to the Executive Director that the new format
21 and changes to Title 22, Part 16, be sent to the Secretary
22 of State's Office for Notice of Intent.

23 The Executive Director approved the
24 recommendation and the proposed regulation as filed with
25 the Secretary of State's Office on August 23rd, 2021.

1 Notice of the proposed regulation was published
2 in the Sun Herald on September 3rd, 2021, and the notice of
3 proposed regulation was also posted on the Mississippi
4 Department of Marine Resources website on August 26th,
5 2021.

6 You can see the Mississippi Department of Marine
7 Resources website notice and, also, the affidavit for the
8 Sun Herald publication.

9 Public comments were due to the Mississippi
10 Department of Marine Resources by 5:00 p.m. on September
11 17th, 2021. No public comments were received.

12 I would like to recommend a motion to the
13 Executive Director that the proposed changes to Title 22,
14 Part 16, be forwarded to the Secretary of State's Office
15 for final adoption.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have any questions
17 on this one?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll make a motion for the
20 recommendation to the Director.

21 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second.

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All those in favor?

23 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

1 Motion passes.

2 MICHAEL STRICKLAND: Thank you.

3 At this time, I would like to bring up
4 Lieutenant Colonel Gex who will present the proposed no
5 wake zone.

6 BRYCE GEX: In mid July, I received a proposal
7 from the City of Biloxi for an extension of a no wake zone
8 and, in the same area, the addition of a new no wake zone
9 proposed.

10 This is an overview shot of the Popp's Ferry
11 Causeway and the bridge at Popp's Ferry. You can see
12 right here the convergence of two channels which is the
13 reason for the proposed no wake zones, the addition of all
14 of the public access areas along the causeway, private
15 marinas and so forth (indicating photograph).

16 Thanks to the IT Department. They did a drone
17 flyover for us just to give us a shot. This is coming
18 from the Grasshopper Island area up one of the channels
19 towards the south. You can see all of the public access
20 areas that are going to eventually be involved in this,
21 right there being the boat ramp (video playing).

22 The language in the proposal that the City of
23 Biloxi gave us was the boat ramp has a State applied no
24 wake zone of a hundred linear feet in all directions.

25 They would like to extend that State applied no

1 wake zone for two hundred feet each direction of the
2 public boat ramp facility, and there is a request for an
3 additional three hundred linear feet from the bridge span
4 right there (indicating video).

5 Again, you can see all of the public access
6 areas with the new restaurant in the area, fishing piers,
7 walking piers and Anatole Bay's marina will be involved
8 (indicating video).

9 Affects to boaters:

10 vessels traveling from the proposed two hundred
11 feet north of the public boat ramp to the proposed two
12 hundred feet south of the public boat ramp will be at idle
13 speed for no more than one minute and twelve seconds.
14 Very minimal impact.

15 vessels traveling from the proposed three
16 hundred feet west of the drawbridge to the proposed three
17 hundred feet east of the drawbridge will be at idle speed
18 for right at one minute and fifty-eight seconds. Also,
19 minimal impact.

20 special considerations in the area:

21 There is a kayak rental vendor that just popped
22 up at the northwestern abutment of the Popp's Ferry bridge
23 right near the restaurant.

24 Residents of Anatole Bay and their personal
25 property, their moored vessels that are in the area in the

1 marina. Kids also dive off of that pier and swim and that
2 kind of stuff in the area.

3 One thing to consider is commercial barge
4 traffic is going to have to maintain their course and
5 speed in order to stay maneuverable in the area and not hit
6 the bridge. We have had that happen several times where
7 they have hit the dolphins at the bridge. That is
8 something to keep consideration of.

9 Recreational public utilizing the public
10 accesses along the causeway. I showed you all of the
11 walking areas and the fishing piers and so forth.

12 I mentioned the convergence of two channels
13 making it a high traffic area.

14 This is just a Google Earth that shows the
15 affected area shaded in red. Again, you can see the
16 Anatole Bay marina, the kayak rental place is there with
17 the restaurant and, of course, there is the public boat
18 ramp area.

19 The Office of Marine Patrol recommends the
20 establishment of a no wake zone for the specified
21 location, based upon the proximity of the convergence of
22 the two channels in relation to the public access areas in
23 which people fish, boat and socialize.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have any questions
25 on this one?

1 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I've got a quick question.
2 The shaded areas west of actually the bridge
3 shows it stopping short of the marina.

4 Does it continue further to the west than the
5 shaded area?

6 BRYCE GEX: I got the letter from Ms. Rachel
7 Quave from the City of Biloxi and I spoke to her on the
8 phone. That is something to consider and you guys can
9 discuss extending this, but, in order to include all of
10 the marina, it would be almost double what they are asking
11 for. You would have to go another six hundred feet to
12 include all of the marina.

13 Again, that is just minimal affect to the
14 boaters. We are talking about probably another fifty
15 seconds at idle speed, but, as you know, operating any
16 vessel, when they come down right here off of planing
17 speed, or begin to accelerate the planing speed, they are
18 going to get the worse possible wakes there in the marina.
19 We do receive calls all year about wakes in that area.

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That was going to be my
21 question, if we have had any complaints.

22 BRYCE GEX: Yes, sir. They will come from the
23 new restaurant, the kayak dealer and Anatole Bay.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: My thoughts on it, if we
25 are going to go ahead and do that, I would say let's

1 extend it and give a little more protection to the whole
2 area there.

3 BRYCE GEX: Ms. Quave expressed interest in doing
4 that. At the time, I don't think they pulled up the maps
5 and looked at everything from an overview position, but
6 when I mentioned it to her, she would appreciate me
7 mentioning it to you guys today.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS: Do we need to go back to the City
9 and ask them to extend theirs to make that change?

10 SANDY CHESNUT: Yes. I think they need to send
11 an amended request, and, then, we can bring it up next
12 month.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: So we need to table this
14 until next month and get a new request from them.

15 BRYCE GEX: I can handle getting that done.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All right. Let's do that.
17 We will table this one until next month.

18 BRYCE GEX: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we need to have a
20 motion to table it?

21 SANDY CHESNUT: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll make the motion to
23 table the no wake proposal until next month.

24 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second that motion.

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Motion and a second.

1 All those in favor?

2 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

5 Thank you, Bryce.

6 BRYCE GEX: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Coastal Resources.

8 Before you get started, if anybody has public
9 comment, TJ is in the back of the room. Please turn your
10 request into him.

11 JENNIFER WITTMANN: Good morning.

12 I have just a couple of real quick announcements
13 that I wanted to go over, and, then, Mr. Davis is out of
14 the office today so I will also be presenting for Title
15 22, Part 19.

16 First thing is that on September 29th from 9:00
17 to 12:00 at the Mississippi State Extension Center our
18 office is offering an Alternative Bulkhead training for
19 contractors. This is living shorelines.

20 We are going to have experts speak about
21 engineering, permitting, tidelands and the biological
22 positive affects that living shorelines can have on our
23 fish and finfish communities.

24 Secondly, after Hurricane Ida, all of the
25 Coastal Preserves trails have been inspected by staff and

1 all of that is open to the public again. We had some
2 minor damage, but not anything that we weren't able to
3 take care of in house.

4 Then, finally, any structures that were damaged
5 during Hurricane Zeta last year, property owners have
6 until October 28th of this year to submit an application
7 with the fee waived to rebuild previously authorized
8 structures.

9 Our Public Affairs office has put this back out
10 on Facebook so that people are aware. It was something
11 that was really popular right the storm, but, now, we are
12 almost a year out and we wanted to be sure that everybody
13 was aware of that upcoming deadline; applications without
14 the fee submitted by October 28th of this year, and we will
15 give them a permit so they can rebuild in the same
16 footprint.

17 With that, we are on to Title 22, Part 19, Rules
18 and Regulations for the Use of State-Owned Coastal
19 Preserve Areas.

20 The changes to Title 22, Part 19, include
21 removing wording that was already covered in Mississippi
22 Code and referencing applicable statutory, or regulatory,
23 authorities.

24 We have updated the chapter structure and format
25 to the "Rules" and "Sources" which conforms to the format

1 prescribed by the Secretary of State's Office, and there
2 were no substantive changes to Title 22, Part 19.

3 with that, staff would make the recommendation
4 to the Executive Director that the new format and changes
5 to Title 22, Part 19, be forwarded to the Secretary of
6 State's Office for Notice of Intent.

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Have we got any questions
8 on that?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have a motion?

11 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make the motion.

12 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second that.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All those in favor?

14 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

17 Motion passes.

18 JENNIFER WITTMANN: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

20 GREG CHRISTODOULOU: Good morning everyone.

21 Greg Christodoulou. I will be presenting a
22 permit extension by the agency.

23 It is located in the Mississippi Sound adjacent
24 to Round Island. That is in a Special Use Restoration
25 Area S-6.

1 This is the extension of the Round Island
2 Beneficial Use Permit, Round Island Beneficial Use area.

3 Some of you know and maybe some folks aren't
4 aware that State Statute 49-27-61 allows for any projects
5 that exceed twenty-five hundred cubic yards of dredging
6 have to be first considered for beneficial use.

7 Our office is charged with trying to find areas
8 to do these beneficial use areas to help create tidal
9 marsh habitat and additional Coastal habitats.

10 This is one of the sites. This permit was
11 approved almost ten years ago. The applicant is
12 requesting to extend the existing permit for two years
13 until January 4th, 2024, and this permit authorized the
14 fill of approximately eight hundred acres of state-owned
15 waterbottoms.

16 This is how it shows up on the aerial.

17 This was a photo of the site when it was first
18 filled. You can see there is no vegetation on the
19 material yet.

20 This is a picture from just a few months back.
21 You have some marsh coming in there, but you also have
22 still a lot of open-water habitat.

23 What has happened is that material has
24 consolidated down and there are additional areas that can
25 be used to hold material, and it is in Jackson County

1 which is the primary where we have a lot of dredge
2 projects because of the industrial sites, Chevron,
3 Ingalls, VT Halter, industries like that.

4 On December 11th, 2011, the Commission approved
5 applicant's variance request, use plan change and permit
6 to fill eight hundred acres of Coastal wetlands.

7 Then, on August 11th of this year we received a
8 request for a two-year extension to the permit.

9 Based on review and evaluation, staff recommends
10 approval of the applicant's request to extend the permit
11 for an additional two years until January 4th of 2024.

12 This will be the last extension that we can have
13 for this permit because permits can have a maximum of a
14 ten-year life expectancy, and, then, have up to a two-year
15 extension. So this will be the last go-round for this
16 one.

17 Motion to recommend approval of the request for
18 a two-year extension and establish the eight hundred acre
19 BU site.

20 Any questions?

21 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I don't think we have any.
22 Do we have a motion to approve?

23 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make a motion.

24 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second that motion.

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All those in favor?

1 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

4 Motion passes.

5 GREG CHRISTODOULOU: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

7 Next up is Leslie Brewer, Finance and
8 Administration.

9 LESLIE BREWER: Good morning Director,
10 Commissioners, legal.

11 My name is Leslie Brewer, CFO. I will be
12 presenting the financials for August 31st, 2021.

13 At the end of August, our State Revenue was
14 three point two million. Our Agency Revenue was three
15 point four million.

16 Our State Net Income was two point four million
17 and our Total Agency Net Income was one point seven
18 million.

19 In our second month of 2022, we have ninety-
20 eight point six percent of our budget remaining for the
21 agency, and, then, our Tidlands is at ninety-seven
22 percent of our budget.

23 Does anyone have any questions?

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: No, ma'am. I don't know
25 how y'all keep up with all of these numbers, but I'm glad

1 you are doing it and not me.

2 LESLIE BREWER: All day long.

3 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

4 LESLIE BREWER: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Ms. Charmaine.

6 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND: Good morning

7 Commissioners, Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

8 The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
9 was mentioned twenty-seven times in local, state and
10 national media since the August MACMR meeting.

11 News items included Red Snapper season closing,
12 the public meeting for the Oyster Management and Recovery
13 Strategic Plan and allowing Louisiana charter boats to
14 launch from Mississippi.

15 Travis Williams in the Artificial Reef Bureau
16 for the Office of Marine Fisheries gave a presentation to
17 Biloxi Rotary on August 17th at Mary Mahoney's.

18 Karen Clark and IT intern Nathan Blackledge
19 presented on an apple snail removal mapping project at the
20 Mississippi Association of Spatial Technologies bimonthly
21 meeting on August 13th.

22 Karen Clark and Willa Brantley recorded a
23 session on August 18th about using satellite imagery in
24 wetland management. The recording will be presented at
25 the international conference, Planet Explore 2021, to be

1 held in October.

2 On August 13th, NERR staff took Mississippi
3 Public Broadcasting on a tour of the estuary to film for
4 their series, "Mississippi Roads". The episode will
5 feature the Grand Bay NERR, and the premiere date has not
6 yet been set.

7 The August Adventure Quencher at the NERR
8 featured the Raptor Road Show on August 14th. The NERR
9 partnered with Mobile County Public School's Environmental
10 Studies Center for the annual Raptor Road Show. The show
11 brings raptors native to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for
12 the NERR community to have an up-close educational
13 encounter which includes owls, hawks and a bald eagle.

14 On August 25th, Avery Beck and Jennifer Cumbest
15 hosted a school group of Hancock County students for a
16 field trip at the NERR. The students explored the
17 boardwalk looking for specimens to look at under a
18 microscope, looked for frogs and plants in the pond in
19 front of the building and made art mandalas with pressed
20 plants.

21 On September 14th, the Grand Bay NERR held their
22 virtual Grand Bay Community Collaborative to work on the
23 new management plan for the next five years. The
24 Collaborative is the NERR's main advisory committee and is
25 made up of a variety of stakeholders from various local

1 agencies, local teachers, university researchers,
2 community members from the Friends of the Grand Bay NERR
3 and representatives from other non-governmental
4 organizations.

5 Lastly, the agency sponsored and had a booth at
6 the Biloxi Seafood Festival held September 11th and 12th.
7 MDMR staff handed out our publications, fish ruler
8 stickers, fish posters and various items promoting
9 Mississippi Seafood to children and adults who visited our
10 booth.

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Charmaine.

12 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND: Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Marine Fisheries.

14 ERIK BROUSSARD: Good morning Commissioners.

15 Before we get to the Office of Marine Fisheries,
16 I wanted to give a quick update on a public hearing we had
17 last week.

18 Last Tuesday, September 14th, we had a public
19 hearing on our oyster restoration and resiliency plan. We
20 had about twenty-six attendees both virtual and in person.

21 The document had been out for public comment
22 since June. To date, we received a little over forty
23 comments.

24 we will be wrapping it up and getting a final
25 draft out to the public and the Commission shortly.

1 I just wanted to give an update on that.
2 Jonathan Barr is going to be doing state
3 records.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you for the update.

5 JONATHAN BARR: Good morning.

6 We have two potential State records for your
7 consideration this morning.

8 The first one is an all tackle record. It is a
9 spearfish record. It is a Lionfish, Pterois volitans.

10 The old record is two pounds five point four
11 ounces. The new record is two pounds twelve point nine
12 eight ounces. The angler is Mr. Joseph Triplett.

13 There is the fish. You get the see the size
14 comparison. That is a behemith. That is about four-and-
15 a-half centimeters shy of the world record. So that is
16 pretty cool (indicating photograph).

17 That is Mr. Triplett with the fish (indicating
18 photograph).

19 The second one is Youth Conventional record, a
20 Cownose Ray, Rhinoptera bonasus. This is a new submission
21 for the Youth category. It is twenty-two pounds eleven
22 point zero four ounces. The angler is Mr. Rodie Armes.

23 There is the Cownose Ray and there is Mr. Rodie
24 with the fish (indicating photographs).

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I think that kid has

1 probably got more state records than anybody else, doesn't
2 he?

3 JONATHAN BARR: They go hard on them. That's for
4 sure.

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I love seeing these.
6 These are good.

7 Have we got a motion to approve these?

8 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I make a motion.

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second it.
10 All those in favor?

11 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

14 Motion passes.

15 JONATHAN BARR: Thank y'all.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Jonathan.

17 JOE SPRAGGINS: TJ, any public comments?

18 TJ MORAN: None.

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Any other business from
20 our Commissioners?

21 (No Response.)

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Secretary, we would like
23 to thank you for coming out today.

24 Do you have anything you would like to say?

25 MICHAEL WATSON: Keep up the good work. I'll

1 give you some money later.

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We are looking forward to
3 it.

4 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I just wanted to mention
5 we had an invitational tournament last weekend and tagged
6 twenty-two tripletail, and we appreciate the sponsorship
7 from the Gulf Coast Research Lab in sponsoring the tags.

8 I want to say one of our own, Mr. Erik
9 Broussard, actually won the tournament and his son
10 Zachary, when he received that tag, was a sight to see.

11 I just wanted to say I appreciate y'all coming
12 out and being a part of it.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Was that a tag-and-release
14 tournament?

15 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: There were two divisions.
16 We had a tag-and-release, and, then, a two-fish aggregate.
17 Twenty-two Triple Tail tagged and released in one day.

18 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: That's great. We haven't
19 had many of them over on the west side this year, but the
20 research Southern Mississippi is doing on those fish is
21 some pretty cool stuff.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS: One thing real quick.

23 Rick, how many days of Red Snapper season have
24 we had this year?

25 RICK BURRIS: I'm not sure. I believe there is

1 somewhere around seventy so far.

2 JOE SPRAGGINS: Seventy days?

3 RICK BURRIS: Yes, sir.

4 JOE SPRAGGINS: We had a great season for Red
5 Snapper and that has been for the last three years, or
6 four, years we have had that number?

7 RICK BURRIS: With the exception of 2020 during
8 the pandemic, yes, sir. If you take that out, we are
9 sitting on average.

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

11 Do we have a motion to adjourn?

12 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll make a motion.

13 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second.

14 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

15 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Everyone have a good day.

19 (Whereupon, at 9:53 o'clock a.m. the September
20 21, 2021, meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Commission
21 on Marine Resources was concluded.)

22

23

24

25

CERTIFICATE

1
2
3 I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
4 do hereby certify that the above and foregoing thirty-six
5 pages, including this page, is a true and correct
6 transcript of the September 21, 2021, meeting of the
7 Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources, as
8 taken by me at the time and place heretofore stated in the
9 aforementioned matter in shorthand, with electronic
10 verification, and later reduced to typewritten form to the
11 best of my skill and ability; and, further, that I am not
12 a relative, employee, or agent, of any of the parties
13 thereto, nor financially interested in the cause.

14
15
16 S/ _____

17 LUCILLE MORGAN, CSR 1251

18 COURT REPORTER
19
20
21
22
23
24
25