

MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, June 21, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Bolton Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Commission Members:

Ronnie Daniels, Chairman
Jonathan McClendon
Cammack (Cam) Roberds

Also Present:

Patrick Levine, Chief Operating Officer MDMR
Sandy Chesnut, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Ladies and gentlemen,
2 welcome to the June 21st, 2022, Mississippi Advisory
3 Commission on Marine Resources meeting. Thank you to
4 everyone for being here.

5 I would like to recognize Chris Vignes with
6 Senator Wicker's office. Thank you for coming out and
7 joining us today, Chris.

8 We are going to call this meeting to order.
9 I will lead us in our Pledge of Allegiance
10 today.

11 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

12 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We've got Patrick Levine
13 sitting in for the Director today. The Director is
14 watching online. He had to be out of town for some stuff
15 today.

16 I am going to ask Patrick if he will lead us in
17 our prayer today.

18 PATRICK LEVINE: Father, we do thank you and we
19 praise you for the opportunity to be here today to make
20 decisions for maintaining this beautiful Mississippi Gulf
21 Coast and, Father, we ask that you give us wisdom and
22 guidance, that you would lead us and that we would follow.

23 Lord, we ask that you protect our fishermen, our
24 patrol officers out on the water, for those that are out
25 enjoying the great resources we have and that you keep

1 them same.

2 Lord, that you would help us to see the resource
3 become bountiful and that it would be great.

4 We say thank you in Jesus's name. Amen.

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Patrick.

6 Minutes from May 17th, 2022.

7 Do we have a motion to approve the minutes?

8 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll make a motion.

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that.

10 All those in favor?

11 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

14 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We are going to have a
15 small change to today's agenda. We are going to be
16 removing F.2 from the agenda today.

17 With the removal of F.2, do I have a motion to
18 approve the agenda?

19 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: I'll make the motion.

20 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second it.

21 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

22 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

25 I will turn it over to you, Mr. Patrick.

1 PATRICK LEVINE: Good morning.

2 I tell you it has been another productive month
3 at the Department of Marine Resources. Often we look at
4 our team and are so excited to see the people that are
5 coming onboard, that are being promoted within, that want
6 to be a part of the team, and we have a couple of
7 employment updates this morning.

8 First up, you see Chris Graham, Austin Burmaster
9 and William Larsen. Those guys have been contractors with
10 us for some time now and we had the opportunity to bring
11 them onboard full time. We are excited about that.

12 Katie Nelson is a new hire in Coastal Resource
13 Management. We are excited about that.

14 In Marine Patrol, it is always exciting when you
15 see the promotions that occur. Donovan Dawsey, Curtis
16 Norfleet, Michael Fitts are all being promoted in the
17 Office of Marine Patrol. I tell you those guys are doing
18 a good job. They are doing a lot of good work out there
19 on the water like everybody else.

20 Michele Williams, she recently was promoted to
21 Human Resources Officer. I know that she has been working
22 extremely hard in Coastal Resources and she had the
23 opportunity to go forth and help the agency as a whole by
24 transferring to Human Resources.

25 Even more recently, Kristina Broussard has been

1 promoted to an Environmental Natural Resources Supervisor
2 position and she is going to be over the Seafood
3 Technology Bureau. We are excited for Kristina.

4 Jason Rider was promoted to an Environmental
5 Natural Resources Supervisor, also, being the Shellfish
6 Bureau Director.

7 We are excited for them, and, then, we have our
8 summer interns. It is so great that every year so many of
9 our interns get the opportunity to be introduced to the
10 Department of Marine Resources, the things that we get to
11 be a part of on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and you see
12 all of those interns written down below (indicating
13 slide).

14 The other day I had one of them walk up to me
15 and she said, "Mr. Patrick, what are the chances that when
16 I finish my internship I could possibly be on the team of
17 the DMR?"

18 That says a lot for the people that she is
19 working with, the departments that she is working with and
20 for the other employees that at the end of this internship
21 they look forward to possibly being a part of this team.
22 We are thankful for them and where it may lead in the
23 future.

24 We are thankful for all of the employees that we
25 have working, thankful for the interns and the difference

1 that they are making.

2 As mentioned before, Director Spraggins is
3 online. He may have the opportunity to share with us in a
4 little bit.

5 If you are here and you need to fill out a
6 public comment form, fill out that public comment form
7 located on the back table and hand it to Crystal Matta up
8 here on the front row.

9 Crystal raise your hand real quick.

10 CRYSTAL MATTA: Yes, sir.

11 PATRICK LEVINE: If you have a public comment
12 form, please be sure to get those filled out and brought
13 to her.

14 There are a few deadlines coming up that we need
15 to be aware of.

16 The first one is the Tidelands applications.
17 The Tidelands applications are due in no later than July
18 the 1st at 5:00 p.m.

19 If you have questions about that, you can reach
20 out to Sonja and she will be glad to talk you through a
21 Tidelands application, but that is going to be due July
22 the 1st.

23 GOMESA applications, the same thing. The GOMESA
24 applications are open. There are applications that are
25 located on the Department of Marine Resources website and

1 that application process is going to close on July the 1st.

2 Now, for those that may have applications that
3 have been put in in the past and maybe you need to make
4 some upgrades on the projects, or make some changes, be
5 sure to notify Russell. Notify us and let us know of the
6 changes that you have on your application, your previous
7 application, and, then, if you have a new project that you
8 want to submit, now is the time because that is going to
9 close on July the 1st. Be sure to check on that.

10 It was mentioned last month about the
11 legislation that is going into effect and one of the
12 pieces of legislation that is going into effect pertains
13 to derelict vessels and the removal of derelict vessels in
14 the three coastal counties.

15 The legislature gave us the funding to remove
16 derelict vessels and the authority to walk through the
17 process of removing derelict vessels.

18 Now, we are going to need a little bit of help.
19 If y'all know of anybody in the community that would be
20 interested in being a part of the team by being put on a
21 list that is going to go out for bids to remove derelict
22 vessels, reach out to our Finance Office and ask them to
23 make sure your name is on the list to remove derelict
24 vessels because there are quite a few that are out there
25 that are going to have to be removed very, very soon.

1 Make sure you get your name on that list and if
2 y'all know anybody, you can give us those names and phone
3 numbers and we will reach out to them because we are going
4 to need some help accomplishing that goal.

5 If you have any questions on it, you can reach
6 out to Russell weatherly and he can help you out.

7 Another thing that is on the horizon and it may
8 be a few weeks is that the agency has been in the process
9 of going through all of its surplus equipment. One thing
10 about it is we have boat engines and boats that they get a
11 little tired, a little worn out and we have been storing
12 those up. The same thing for vehicles. We have a few
13 vehicles. We have some ATV's and different equipment that
14 it has expired its shelf life here at the DMR.

15 In the weeks and in the next couple of months to
16 come, be looking for us to have an auction where we are
17 going to be notifying the public that we will be getting
18 rid of some of that surplus equipment.

19 One of the things that a lot of people are
20 excited about right now is Snapper Season. It is amazing
21 that we have a few days left in season number one and
22 already I started getting messages and phone calls from
23 people asking me what is the second season going to look
24 like, and I can't say that I really know. I am going to
25 leave that up to Traci and her team.

1 We do know this much. There have been one
2 thousand eight hundred and forty-two completed Tails n'
3 Scales trips.

4 Can you believe that Marine Patrol has checked
5 two hundred of those, for over ten percent?

6 That is ten point eight percent of the vessels
7 that go out get checked. I don't know about y'all, but if
8 were leaving my house and I knew that the Jackson County
9 Sheriff's Department was going to stop me ten percent of
10 the time, I would probably drive a little bit slower
11 because your odds are extremely high that you are going to
12 get checked.

13 what is really great and hats off and kudos to
14 our fishermen here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, of the
15 two hundred vessels checked only four of them were
16 noncompliant. Only four of them were noncompliant. Put
17 it this way in percentage. That is two thousandths of a
18 percent.

19 Thank you to the people on the Mississippi Gulf
20 Coast for valuing the resource we have in Red Snapper and
21 making sure that we have that resource there in the
22 future.

23 Of our ACL, thirty-three point seven percent of
24 the ACL has been met with an estimated catch of fifty-one
25 thousand sixty-three pounds.

1 I don't know if Fisheries will mention it later,
2 but the first season will close July the 4th at midnight,
3 and I know that people are expecting a second season and
4 we will be able to report on that later on, depending on
5 the catch and what it looks like, but, right now, we are
6 at thirty-three point seven percent of our ACL. We will
7 see what the future brings.

8 There is a lot that is going on at the DMR. We
9 will be closed on the 4th of July, on Independence Day, and
10 we will be back to work ready to go on Tuesday, July the
11 5th.

12 That is all I have, sir.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

14 Are you going to touch on the processor's grant
15 and the Bonnet Carre?

16 PATRICK LEVINE: We are going to get Traci Floyd
17 to come up and update us on the processor's grant.

18 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Okay.

19 TRACI FLOYD: Good morning Mr. Chairman,
20 Commissioners, Patrick, Sandy, distinguished guests.

21 We will begin accepting online applications on
22 July 1st. It will run through August 16th. This will be
23 for costs incurred January 27th, 2020, through December
24 31st, 2021, related to COVID, and there is a listing of
25 what those can be on our website.

1 You will just need basic information, license
2 number, contact info and, of course, proof of your loss.

3 If you have any questions, call me, Erik
4 Broussard, or the Seafood Technology team.

5 PATRICK LEVINE: Now, is that going to be a paper
6 application, or is it going to be an online application?

7 TRACI FLOYD: It is online, but, if you need
8 assistance, we are happy to help you here at the office.

9 PATRICK LEVINE: That is exciting. July the 1st
10 we are going to get this going.

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

12 TRACI FLOYD: Thank you.

13 PATRICK LEVINE: We don't have any update on the
14 Bonnet Carre. Nothing to say there, as before.

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Such a speedy process.

16 PATRICK LEVINE: It is a speedy process.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: It is moving too fast for
18 an update on it.

19 PATRICK LEVINE: I am thankful that Chris is here
20 and maybe he can help us out a little bit.

21 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes.

22 PATRICK LEVINE: Sandy is going to give us some
23 actions update from prior meetings.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Ms. Sandy.

25 SANDY CHESNUT: The Commission recommended and

1 the Director approved the following motions at the May
2 meeting:

3 Variance and Coastal Zone Consistency for
4 Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission for excavation,
5 riprap, piers, four mooring dolphins and dredging.

6 Variance and permit for Huntington Ingalls for
7 continual maintenance dredging and new dredging with the
8 condition that the applicant be required to use a MDMR
9 approved Beneficial Use Site.

10 Variance and issuance of a Certificate of
11 Exclusion for Jackson County Port Authority for dredging,
12 also with the condition that they be required to use the
13 Beneficial Use Site, if available.

14 Variance and permit for Harrison County Sand
15 Beach Authority for beach renourishment consisting of
16 fill, borrow pits, repair of outfall structures and a ten-
17 year permit for maintenance.

18 Permit for the MDMR to create an oyster reef of
19 up to fifty-seven point five acres in the St. Louis Bay in
20 Harrison County.

21 Proposed changes to Title 22, Part 18, for
22 Special Permits was forwarded to the Secretary of State's
23 Office for Notice of Intent.

24 There were two Saltwater Finfish records; Rock
25 Hind by Trey Tinkle and Smooth Puffer by Phillip Overman.

1 That's it.

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Ms. Sandy.

3 SANDY CHESNUT: You are welcome.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: It looks like that is all
5 for the Director's Report.

6 Patrick, you did a great job today. Thank you.

7 PATRICK LEVINE: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioners Report.

9 Do we have anything from any of our
10 Commissioners?

11 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I was just going to report
12 on what I was telling the Chief a little while ago. I got
13 pulled over, stopped, or just checked, last Wednesday and
14 the staff was super nice and willing to have a good and
15 easy conversation. We got through it really quick and it
16 was a good experience.

17 Keep up the good work, Chief.

18 KYLE WILKERSON: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Great. That is always
20 good to hear.

21 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: I just want to give an
22 update on what kinds of issues our fishermen are facing
23 this year, just to give you an idea.

24 The first quarter imported shrimp totals are up
25 over seventy-three million pounds, all the way to six

1 hundred and thirty-three million pounds just for the first
2 quarter alone.

3 At American Shrimp Processors, we are estimating
4 that the imported shrimp that are coming in are going to
5 reach over two billion pounds into the United States here
6 alone and we are also estimating consumption at one point
7 five billion pounds. That is a lot of excess inventory.

8 Now, to put all of that into perspective, the
9 entire amount of landings from the Gulf of Mexico,
10 according to NOAA, were only seventy-three million pounds
11 last year. The increase in the first quarter is
12 equivalent to the entire landings for all of 2021 for the
13 Gulf of Mexico.

14 These guys are also out there paying twice as
15 much for fuel as they paid in years past and they are
16 getting about thirty percent less for the product.

17 There are issues all the way around. We ask you
18 to continue supporting our fishermen here and to continue
19 asking the restaurants to make sure that the shrimp you
20 are eating are domestic.

21 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Very good. It is hard to
22 beat a shrimp fresh out of the Gulf.

23 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Also, the American
24 Shrimp Processors is asking USDA to participate in the
25 Commodity Procurement Program.

1 We appreciate the support Senator Wicker has
2 given our fishermen in the past and we ask for continued
3 support for that.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.
5 Marine Patrol. Chief.

6 KYLE WILKERSON: Good morning Commissioners,
7 legal, Mr. Levine.

8 May is normally our kickoff of the busy season,
9 but normally it is always busy.

10 Memorial Day weekend went well. No one was
11 hurt. There were a few minor injuries, but not one
12 succumbed to those injuries. Everything went well with
13 that.

14 Marine Patrol checked over twenty-four hundred
15 people not so much that weekend, but I'm sure that was an
16 accumulation of that weekend, most of it.

17 Once again, snapper went well. People were very
18 compliant. Just for this month of May, we only had one
19 possession of undersize Red Snapper and one no Tails n'
20 scales. The other two fall under June.

21 Everybody is playing well and everything is
22 going really smoothly. Let me knock on wood.

23 Other than that, it is pretty self explanatory.

24 If you have any questions, I will field them at
25 this time.

1 I would like to say this, first. I know we are
2 doing well. May was very smooth. June is very smooth
3 right now. Let's just make sure July, 4th of July weekend,
4 everybody has a good time and is very diligent on safety
5 and just be very careful out there, but also enjoy
6 yourselves.

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I think one thing to
8 remind people of, seeing seven alcohol-related incidents
9 here, the 4th of July is coming up and you have got to be
10 careful out there.

11 KYLE WILKERSON: Exactly, and we will be out
12 there. We will be looking for that.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes, sir.

14 Thank you. Y'all keep up the good work.

15 KYLE WILKERSON: Thank y'all.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Coastal Resources
17 Management.

18 GREG CHRISTODOULOU: Good morning everyone.

19 Greg Christodoulou, Coastal. I will be
20 presenting the only agenda item today for Coastal.

21 This is a permit request by the Mississippi
22 Department of Environmental Quality. It is part of one of
23 the Restore projects from the BP oil spill.

24 It is located along the Hancock County shoreline
25 from Bayou Bolan east to Bayou Caddy. It is in the

1 Preservation Use District and the agent is FC&E
2 Engineering.

3 Impacts associated with this project are
4 approximately seventeen acres of unvegetated waterbottom
5 fill and that will be taken up by riprap breakwaters.

6 They will have gaps in them to allow water to
7 pass through, approximately twenty-five foot gaps between
8 each section.

9 The applicant has requested a variance from
10 Mississippi Coastal Program and also a Use Plan change.

11 They want to go from a Preservation Use District
12 to a Special Use-Restoration District, and they have
13 justified the variances and the use plan.

14 Here is an outline just showing the area. The
15 whole system is one point seven miles. It is going to be
16 very similar to the breakwater that was constructed in the
17 earlier round of the Restore Project that went from the
18 Pearl River to Bayou Bolan, to this point right here.
19 That project was much larger. It was almost six miles;
20 Five point nine miles (indicating slide).

21 This one is smaller. It runs one point five
22 miles from Bayou Bolan east to Bayou Caddy where the Corps
23 of Engineers breakwater structure is, and, then, there
24 will be a smaller two tenths of a mile portion right here
25 at the mouth of Bayou Caddy (indicating slide).

1 Again, this is showing the project location. It
2 is not going to be a perfectly straight line. It is going
3 to meander a little bit because they are using the
4 contours. They are trying to keep this structure in
5 depths of three to six feet of water. They are not
6 putting it in deep water. They are putting it just a few
7 hundred feet off of the shoreline so it is more effective
8 protecting the shoreline.

9 Also, another benefit associated with this is
10 the secondary productivity. All the attachment sites will
11 provide for algae, barnacles, oysters, muscles and in turn
12 attracting other species, crabs and fish, both
13 recreational and commercially important species.

14 Here is kind of a profile and side view, cross
15 sectional view of the breakwater structure. At the top it
16 will be fifteen feet wide. At the most, only about two-
17 and-a-half feet will be exposed above the waterline
18 (indicating slide).

19 The project was placed on public notice. We
20 received no comments during the public notice, as well as
21 the public hearing, as far as the justifications go, and
22 there were no comments from the public hearing as well.

23 DEQ is reviewing the project.

24 Archives and History has requested a cultural
25 resource survey.

1 wildlife, Fisheries and Parks submitted no
2 comments.

3 A rent-exempt Public Trust Tidelands Lease will
4 be required from the Secretary of State's Office.

5 The staff has reviewed the project and based on
6 the project, results of the findings is that it will serve
7 a higher public purpose by reducing the impacts to the
8 marsh.

9 By the way, the earlier project, the one that is
10 already in place now, they have seen an eighty-five
11 percent reduction in the loss of the marsh in those
12 sections and in some areas there has been some marshes
13 accreted as well.

14 Also, like I mentioned, the structures will
15 provide many attachment spots for invertebrates and algae.

16 Staff requests that the Commission make a motion
17 that the Commission recommend to the Executive Director
18 approval of the variance and the Use Plan change, along
19 with contingent on clearance from MDEQ and Archives.

20 Any questions, I will do what I can.

21 If you've got really specific stuff, the
22 engineering folks are here to answer those.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I don't have a question,
24 but I can tell you that is basically right there in my
25 backyard and seeing what has happened with the initial

1 part of that, it has been great. It has done wonders for
2 the fishing.

3 You can see areas over there where that marsh
4 has started creeping its way out towards the rocks as
5 opposed to us losing it as fast as we have.

6 I think it is a great project, really good for
7 Hancock County.

8 Any questions?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll make a motion to
11 approve the staff's recommendation.

12 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second the motion.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

14 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Greg.

18 GREG CHRISTODOULOU: Thank y'all.

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Ms. Leslie, Office of
20 Finance and Administration.

21 LESLIE BREWER: Good morning everyone.

22 I'm Leslie Brewer, CFO. I will be presenting
23 the financials for the month ended May 31st, 2022.

24 At the end of May our State Revenue was five
25 point four million. Our State Net Income was a negative

1 six hundred and twenty-one thousand.

2 Out Total Agency Net Income was twenty-six point
3 one million and our Total Agency Revenue was fifty-two
4 point four.

5 We did get our GOMESA funding for May of twenty-
6 nine point four million and we are still waiting on our
7 state appropriations to cover that state deficit.

8 After eleven months of fiscal year 2022, we have
9 seventy-eight point seven percent of our Operating Budget
10 remaining, and, then, Tidelands has fifty-two point three
11 percent.

12 Does anyone have any questions?

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: No ma'am. Thank you.

14 LESLIE BREWER: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Public Affairs, Ms.

16 Charmaine.

17 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND: Good morning everyone.

18 The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
19 was mentioned thirty-nine times in local, state and
20 national media since the May MACMR meeting.

21 News items included shrimp season opening, Red
22 Snapper season opening, Commissioner McClendon's
23 appointment to the Commission, USDA grant applications
24 opening July 1st and boater safety with summer underway.

25 The Office of Marine Patrol has participated in

1 numerous events since the last meeting. These events
2 include Career Days at Gulfport Central Middle School and
3 Anniston Elementary School, National Maritime Day in
4 Pascagoula, Boating Safety Day at West Marine, the City of
5 Gulfport Kids Fishing program, and boat and water safety
6 presentations at Long Beach Library and each of the eight
7 locations of the Jackson-George Regional Library System.

8 The Shellfish Bureau's Jason Rider and Ellen
9 Coffin gave a presentation on oyster aquaculture at the
10 East Central Library and Madison Parker, also in the
11 Shellfish Bureau, gave a presentation at the Humane
12 Society of South Mississippi's Club Paws Summer Day Camp
13 and Viking Village Summer Camp at Bayou View Elementary
14 School.

15 Michael Lee at the Lyman Aquaculture Hatchery
16 set up a table for Ocean Springs CTE Career Summer Camp
17 discussing aquaculture and our agency's work at the
18 hatchery.

19 The Shrimp and Crab Bureau participated in Sand
20 Jam 2022 - Turtle Up Mississippi in Ocean Springs where
21 hundreds of visitors stopped by to learn about
22 Mississippi's wildlife and habitats.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Charmaine.

24 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Before we get into Marine

1 Fisheries, we had one other omission on the agenda that we
2 didn't mention earlier. We just found out about it a few
3 minutes ago. We are going to need to remove K.2 from the
4 agenda today as well.

5 We are going to do one, and, then, skip right
6 over to three.

7 Jason.

8 SANDY CHESNUT: If you would make a motion for
9 that.

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'm sorry.

11 Do we have a motion to remove K.2?

12 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: I'll make a motion.

13 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second it.

14 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

15 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Jason.

19 JASON SAUCIER: Good morning.

20 I will be presenting today for final adoption
21 Title 22, Part 18, Rules and Regulations for Special
22 Permits.

23 On May 17th, the Mississippi Advisory Commission
24 on Marine Resources recommended to the Executive Director
25 that the new format and changes to Part 18 be sent to the

1 Secretary of State's Office for Notice of Intent.

2 The Executive Director approved the
3 recommendation and the Notice of Intent for the proposed
4 regulation was filed with the Secretary of State's Office
5 on May 23rd.

6 The Notice of the proposed regulation was
7 published in The Sun Herald on May 25th and the Notice was
8 also posted on our website on May 26th.

9 To the left there, that is the Notice of Intent
10 filing with the Secretary of State's Office, there is the
11 public notice link and page on our website and the
12 affidavit of publication with The Sun Herald (indicating
13 slide).

14 No public comments have been received to date
15 and the proposed regulation will be filed with the
16 Secretary of State's Office for final adoption. The
17 proposed effective date for the revised regulation will be
18 thirty days from filing.

19 I will take any questions you have.

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Any questions?

21 (No response.)

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We don't need a motion on
23 this, do we?

24 SANDY CHESNUT: Yes, you need a motion for final
25 adoption.

1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll make the motion for
2 final adoption.

3 Do we have a second?

4 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: I'll second the motion

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All those in favor?

6 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

9 JASON SAUCIER: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

11 We are going to skip K.2.

12 Artificial Reef Update.

13 TRAVIS WILLIAMS: Good morning Commissioners, Mr.
14 Levine, Ms. Chesnut.

15 I just wanted to give y'all a brief update on
16 some of the things our program has been working on. I'm
17 Travis Williams. I'm the Artificial Reef Bureau Director.

18 Over the last couple of months we have been
19 working on a few things. I wanted to bring some of them
20 to y'all's attention in case you may have seen some
21 releases.

22 This first slide here is of the R/V Hermes.
23 This was a vessel that was donated by GCRL's program in
24 Ocean Springs.

25 Just a little bit of history. The vessel was

1 built in 1955 by Kremer Marine out of Gulfport. It was an
2 important part of their field excursions with numerous
3 research projects.

4 This vessel was donated to the Mississippi Gulf
5 Fishing Banks last year. Their organization cleaned the
6 vessel and prepped it for deployment, and, then, on May
7 the 18th, our agency deployed the vessel on FH-2 which is
8 just approximately eighteen miles south of Pascagoula.

9 I've got a video here of the deployment. I
10 don't know if it will play, but the video was provided by
11 Mr. Cole Mavar who was out there on behalf of the
12 contractor.

13 Everything went well with that day with the
14 deployment. The vessel did rest upright on bottom. Some
15 of the divers went down afterwards. As you can see from
16 the drone video, it was a pretty good day for the
17 deployment and everything.

18 At our staging facility over off of Reichold
19 road in Gulfport, we like to accept a lot of secondary-use
20 materials, typically concrete culverts from drainage
21 projects, stuff like that. Last month we received a
22 contract to put this material out.

23 We did five deployments, five barge loads which
24 over eight thousand tons of the secondary-use concrete.

25 Like I mentioned, it is mostly culverts,

1 manholes, box culverts and poles. We were able to create
2 six new sites on FH-13 and we enhanced two existing sites
3 with these materials.

4 From the photos, you can kind of see how they
5 load the barge, and, then, actually here are some photos
6 for the deployments.

7 It was a full day for the barge to get out
8 there, and it took them a few hours to unload.

9 Any questions?

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That looks great. I like
11 seeing more habitats being introduced for them out there.

12 Any questions?

13 (No response.)

14 TRAVIS WILLIAMS: Thank y'all.

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

16 TREVOR MONCRIEF: Good morning Commissioners, Mr.
17 Levine, Ms. Chesnut.

18 I will be talking about the Spotted Seatrout
19 Endorsement, giving y'all an update.

20 As y'all are aware, the endorsement
21 qualifications changed with the adoption of Title 22, Part
22 3. It had an effective date of May the 1st, 2022.

23 We have observed an increase in our overall
24 endorsements. We've got fifty-two total with twenty-six
25 of those occurring since the promulgation of the new

1 regulation.

2 The following presentation will outline the
3 current landings for the fishery and potential approaches
4 to ensure the quota is met while also maintaining the
5 consistency within the fishery.

6 Since we've got a couple of new Commissioners,
7 we will go back through the past with the endorsement
8 history.

9 It was established in 2014. The original rule
10 was to have proof of five thousand dollars in seafood
11 sales in any consecutive twelve months and that
12 endorsement was valid for three years after the date of
13 purchase.

14 In 2019, this was updated to the twenty percent
15 income requirement with it being verified through the Trip
16 Ticket Program -- that was an important addition to the
17 regulation -- and was valid for one calendar year, January
18 through December, and we also promulgated the hardship
19 clause associated with it.

20 In 2022, the new regulation starting May 1st is a
21 thousand dollars in finfish sales, or five thousand
22 dollars in seafood product, once again verified through
23 the Trip Ticket Program. It is valid for one calendar
24 year, January through December, and the hardship could be
25 considered based on sales one year prior to the hardship's

1 onset.

2 Our landings to date are twelve thousand three
3 hundred and forty-one pounds.

4 Once again, we've got fifty-two total Spotted
5 Seatrout Endorsements.

6 If you look at this figure on the right, we had
7 a fair amount of landings occur in the month of February,
8 higher than what we normally see, depressed landings
9 through March and April, and, then, in May which is
10 typically a bigger month for us we saw that increase in
11 landings.

12 We do think the number of endorsements is having
13 a positive affect on the amount of landings, but, if we
14 forecast this through time, it is unsure whether we are
15 going to truly meet the quota this year, or not, and, of
16 course, we've got a few more months to really fine tune
17 it, but right now it looks like we are going to be landing
18 anywhere between thirty-five and forty-five thousand
19 pounds.

20 With that, we are going to continue to evaluate
21 and project the trends that are in the fishery and
22 determine if we need to make future alterations to the
23 endorsement qualifications.

24 I know Director Spraggins in on here. A couple
25 of the options we have looked at so far; one is to make

1 sure the fishermen know about the hardship clause and make
2 use of that should they fall under that qualification.
3 Another one is to take the current regulations that we
4 have in place, the thousand dollars of finfish and take
5 that back in time to let them qualify for a year. We have
6 also talked about the possibility of adding in new
7 entrance into the fishery.

8 Now, those last two are going to take changes to
9 regulation and it is going to take a little bit of
10 thought, but we are looking at the landings, we are
11 keeping all this stuff in mind and, once again, the goal
12 is for us to meet the quota for this fishery and maintain
13 the consistency within the fishery.

14 we still think the seventy-five total
15 endorsements is the number for us to reach, based on the
16 history in the fishery and that is kind of the goal that
17 we a looking at.

18 Just a few more participants and a few more
19 landings and I think we will be right back on track on
20 where this fishery needs to be.

21 with that, I will take any questions.

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: what about the hardship
23 clause?

24 Can you give an example of that for people who
25 don't understand what that is there for?

1 TREVOR MONCRIEF: Yes. The hardship clause is
2 meant to be there just in case a fisherman runs into
3 anything that is outside of their power, anything that
4 would be a negative affect on their ability to be able to
5 participate in the fishery.

6 Sickness is a common one that we see. If you
7 come down with a sickness and are unable to go.

8 I think we have had a couple that have come in
9 with boats being in the yard for a year, or being taken
10 up.

11 It is kind of a broad range and essentially it
12 comes down to things that affect your ability to be able
13 to participate in the fishery that are uncontrollable by
14 you.

15 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Have we exceeded our total
16 landings to date in comparison to last year at this time?

17 TREVOR MONCRIEF: No, but it's -- we are a little
18 bit higher, I think, at this point, if I go back and think
19 about it, but if you recall the affects that we had within
20 the pandemic and the year after along with the Bonnet
21 Carre spillway in 2019, this fishery has been operating in
22 -- it has been pretty chaotic over the last few years. It
23 is hard to really judge this year to previous years and
24 really that seventy-five is anchored on the last five
25 years and primarily based in 2016 when there was primarily

1 a hook-and-line fishery.

2 That is where we get that seventy-five number
3 from and we feel comfortable that is the number of
4 participants that will keep this fishery consistent over
5 time.

6 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Jonathan, have you got
7 anything?

8 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: No. I'm good.

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

10 TREVOR MONCRIEF: I will be up here for the next
11 one.

12 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: This is my favorite one.
13 I like these.

14 TREVOR MONCRIEF: We've got three finfish
15 records.

16 The first one is conventional tackle. It is a
17 Blackbelly Rosefish. I am not going to throw that
18 scientific name out there. It is a new record. We
19 haven't had this fish yet. It is two pounds eleven point
20 two ounces. The angler is Mr. John Wright.

21 Here is a picture of the fish and here is a
22 picture of the angler with the fish.

23 The next one we have is an all tackle record.
24 It is a Bigeye, *Priacanthus arenatus*. The old record was
25 two pounds one point twelve ounces. The new record is two

1 pounds eleven point five two ounces. The angler is Harley
2 Havard.

3 Here is a picture of the fish and here is a
4 picture of the angler with the fish.

5 The last one we've got for you is an all tackle
6 fishing record for the Unicorn Filefish, Aluterus
7 monoceros. The old record was one pound two point zero
8 six ounces. The new record is five pounds nine point
9 eight ounces. The angler is Mr. Brandon Powell.

10 Here is a picture of the fish. It is a real
11 pretty one. There is a picture of the angler with the
12 fish.

13 All we need is a motion to recommend the
14 adoption of the new state records.

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have a motion?

16 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: I'll make the motion.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that.

18 All those in favor?

19 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

23 TREVOR MONCRIEF: Do you want me to touch on
24 snapper season?

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes.

1 TREVOR MONCRIEF: Mr. Levine nailed it. It has
2 been a pretty good season so far for everybody.

3 We had a large amount of effort occur in the
4 first weekend, specifically that Saturday. It was one of
5 the top five days we've had in the fishery. We did see a
6 stark decrease in effort after that from the averages from
7 the last couple of years. I suspect that gas prices have
8 a pretty good affect on those individuals going out.

9 For the reopening what we will likely do, as we
10 always have, is evaluate the landings after July 4th, see
11 where it is, and we will try to coincide our openings to
12 maximize the days where other federal species are open and
13 also to make sure that we make it to that Labor Day mark
14 like we have always intended to.

15 To add on to the Marine Patrol side of things,
16 in the last couple of years our Fisheries staff has gone
17 away from having a call center that is based out of state
18 to taking that burden on ourselves and having Round Robin
19 cell phones. They go through our Marine Fisheries staff.

20 This year with that large amount of effort and
21 everything else opening weekend, we only got four calls
22 from fishermen and a couple of those were 5:00 a.m., but
23 four calls is a record. Usually we get a dozen, or more,
24 on the opening weekend.

25 I think we have really been able to get the

1 fishermen participating in the app and doing it well, and
2 it is really showing to be a team effort across the agency
3 and also to our anglers participating.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That is really good, but
5 that app is pretty simple. Once you get in there and do
6 it one time, it is nothing to it.

7 TREVOR MONCRIEF: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Have we got any other
9 business today?

10 (No response.)

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Did we have any public
12 comments?

13 PATRICK LEVINE: No public comments.

14 A thought. As we go out today, echoing what
15 Chief said, as we are looking at Independence Day weekend,
16 we want to encourage people to be safe, but I was just
17 thinking about those men and women that are out there
18 making sure we maintain those freedoms.

19 while we are out on the boat and enjoying the
20 resources that we have, make sure we go out and thank
21 those men and women that are out there still protecting
22 our freedoms while we are out there celebrating and
23 enjoying the fishing and swimming and boating.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Absolutely.

25 Do we have a motion to adjourn?

1 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll make a motion to
2 adjourn.

3 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that.
4 All those in favor?

5 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you everyone.

9 (At 9:44 o'clock, a.m., the June 21, 2022,
10 meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine
11 Resources was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

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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 June 21, 2022, 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 COURT REPORTER
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