MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 19, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Bolton Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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Commission Members:

Ronnie Daniels, Chairman
Jonathan McClendon
Cammack (Cam) Roberds

Also Present:

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

Lucille Morgan, CSR 1251
COURT REPORTER
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COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the July 19\textsuperscript{th}, 2022, Commission meeting. We will go ahead and get this thing started now.

I would like to ask Commissioner Roberds to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Joe, you weren’t here last month.

You want to lead us in our prayer today?

JOE SPRAGGINS: Sure.

Lord, we ask if you would please take each and every one of us and lead, guide and direct us. Lord, give us the knowledge and give this Commission and give this agency the knowledge to do what you would have done for the fisheries and for the estuary of the Gulf of Mexico.

Lord, we thank you for everything. We just ask that you take us, lead, guide and direct us. That is in Jesus Christ’s name. Amen.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Director.

Minutes for June 21\textsuperscript{st}.

Do we have any discussion on those minutes?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do I have a motion to approve?

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I’ll make a motion to
approve the minutes.

    COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that.

All those in favor?

    COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.
    COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.
    COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.
    COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Joe, do we have some

changes to today’s agenda?

    JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes, sir.

    I would recommend that we do two things.

    Number one we need to add an election of

officers and we can do that at this point. It is supposed

to be A.3, but we can have an election of officers, and,

then, under Marine Patrol we need to add a no wake zone.

    COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Okay.
    JOE SPRAGGINS: We can do election of officers

at the end, if you want to.

    Do you want to just put it at the very end?

    That way it wouldn’t mess up the schedule.

    COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We will do that.
    JOE SPRAGGINS: We will just put it under Other

Business.

    COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That will work. We will
do that as M.1.

    With the changes, do we have a motion to approve
today's agenda?

COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Motion to approve.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I’ll second.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: It is all yours Director.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Once again, summertime is here and we are having a good time. It has been beautiful weather so far. We have had some good fishing going on and a lot of people have been enjoying themselves.

The biggest problem is we have had five dollars a gallon for fuel. It is hard to go out and have too much fun.

We are working on a couple of things.

Employment and Contracts, could you pull that up?

The first three on there, Lambert, Reid and Ross, they were all people that were working with us before under contract and because we have a new law -- it is a situation under ObamaCare. ObamaCare says that if you work over a certain amount of hours -- I am not going to try to say exactly what it is because every time I look at it, it is something different, but long story short, if
it is over X amount of hours as a part-time person, we have to offer them insurance of some type.

    Well, to do that the State would have to pay a lot of money. What we are doing now is we are trying to find people full-time jobs and they were working under contract full time and we just were able to find some State full-time jobs for them. Those three have been with us, but are moving forward (indicating slide).

    We've got two new hires, Cameron Keys and Hailey Nason. They will be in law enforcement.

    We also have some promotions. Kristina Broussard has been promoted to the Seafood Technology Bureau Director, Sierra Ortiz has been promoted to ENRS III and Jason Rider has been promoted to Shellfish Bureau Director.

    We also got to bring everyone up to minimum at least on July the 1st. It is called SEC squared and SEC Squared is a new program that the State has for its personnel and how we pay them. We were able to bring everybody up to at least the minimum. Some people not very much, or anything at all, but for some people it was a good raise, and we are working on other raises as we are talking.

    There is a thing called Market and that is basically what the market is for the State of Mississippi
for the people working in these type fields and we are trying to get people to that point. That is our goal. It is going to take us a little while. We can’t do it overnight. We are working hard on it.

I don’t think we had any new contracts.

As far as anything else for the Agency Update, let me go over here and get Crystal’s notes.

Gulf Council. We have a new Gulf Council appointment. Leann Bosarge has been our appointee for the last nine years. We had to put a new person on the council because she could not be on there anymore, and Michael McDermott is our new appointee.

I don’t know if you know Michael, but Michael is a local attorney here and he is an avid fisherman and he is going to be a great asset, I believe, to the Commission and he will be on our Gulf Council Commission. He will be one of the three, myself, him and Dale Diaz, representing the State of Mississippi and, of course, Rick Burris backs me up.

We’ve got an auction that is going on. I tell you what, the pandemic if it did nothing else it gave us time to get a lot of stuff together. We’ve got an auction of a bunch of old equipment and other stuff up at Lyman.

As a matter of fact, yesterday and today and tomorrow, if you want to go see it, it is in the middle of
the day from 9:00 to 3:00. You can go up there and look at it.

    We've got all kinds of equipment. There is everything from a weedeater to a boat, or a truck, or anything else that is up there.

    We are going to do a silent auction with that. It is a sealed bid and you have to put your name in.

    We will close that on the 8th.

    Is that right, Patrick?

    PATRICK LEVINE: August 9th.

    JOE SPRAGGINS: It closes on August the 9th.

    We have a thing now called Derelict Vessels. The legislature put in legislation this past year. We had derelict vessels before, but it was limited to where we could only touch it if it was impeding a waterway, or it was leaking some type of fuel, or something, oil, or whatever.

    Now they have given us permission to move anything that is in the waterway system. We have the funds to do it and we are going out and we are working with them and anybody who knows where there is a derelict vessel, or something, and you want to have it moved, or see if we can get it removed, what we will do is we will go look at it and we will take pictures of it. We ask you, if you could take pictures of it and send it to us
and we will fill out a form.

It is online. You can go online at the DMR website and be able to figure out how to fill it out, whatever we need to do, or either you can make a phone call, but we want to get these derelict vessels out of the water.

It is amazing. Since we started this and have the authority, a lot of people are moving them because when we told them they are going to have to pay for it, if we move them, they are getting a different opinion on it now. So far we haven’t had to move that many of them; only a few of them. Some of them are working with us. Some have been there for years and they haven’t done anything about it, and they are working with us to be able to get their stuff moved.

We are not trying to hurt anyone. We are not trying to take anyone’s vessel, but we want to get them out of the water when they are derelict and if they are causing problems.

If it is across from your house and you live on the Bay, or something, and they’ve got four, or five, boats that are sunk in front of you, it doesn’t look very good, plus it is just not good. We want to get them out of there.

We are going to give you an opportunity to do it
yourself. If you don’t want to do it, we will do it ourselves, and, then, we will give you an opportunity to pay it back.

It is a way to do it, but we want to make it work. So far we have made tremendous strides with that and I appreciate the team working hard on it.

Neshoba County Fair. If you haven’t been there, you ought to go. It is amazing. It is the last week of this month that we will be there and we have a thing called Coast Day and it will be on the 28th day of July. That is where they give us the whole morning from 8:00 o’clock until noon that we have the area there in Neshoba County where all of the political speeches are made and they let us have that whole area, the Gulf Coast.

We go in and you can put up your tents, little popup tents and you can give away anything in the world you want to give away to sell your agency, to sell your business, to sell anything that you have about South Mississippi.

It cannot be a casino and it cannot be alcohol. You can’t do those two. Those are the only two things they won’t let us do up there.

If you have a business like charter boats, or anything else, and you want to go up there, the City of Gulfport is doing something different this year because it
has always been trouble getting your tents and all there. If you will bring them to the City of Gulfport by Monday, next Monday, they will take them from 8:00 to 4:00 in Gulfport.

    They will take them and put them in a trailer. They are going to take them to Neshoba for you. They will bring them to the fairgrounds, they will help you unload it and put it up, and, then, they will help you load it back up and put it back in there and take it back home for you the next day.

    It is a no-brainer. If you want to do it, this is a great time.

    Right now, we have about thirty different companies that are going to be there from South Mississippi, and we would enjoy having everyone there that can come.

    The night before, we have what we call the Red Clay and Sand Mixer. Basically, it is the Coast and we invite people to come there. We will have about five hundred that we will feed seafood that night.

    We are trying to sell our seafood products. We are trying to sell the products to tell everyone across the State of Mississippi and everywhere else that Mississippi seafood is some of the best in the world and is still great. We want people to know that.
How do you do it?

You go out there and you go to them. You don't ask them to come to you. You go to them first.

We are going to them and trying to find places across the State to do that, and we are selling our products as the seafood for South Mississippi.

We want people, more than anything, to eat fresh grown South Mississippi seafood. We want them to eat the food that is coming out of our Gulf, not out of some other country. We want you to understand how great it is and this is the way we do it.

If you are interested, let me know and we will help you any way we can.

USDA Processors. If you are not aware of that, we have a program now. We have a little over one point five million dollars that is in there for the processors to help pay back for the pandemic where you had to buy extra equipment, or whatever it is, to operate your business. It is out now.

When does it close, Traci?

TRACI FLOYD: August 16.

JOE SPRAGGINS: The 16th of August it closes. We need you to get there and put your paperwork in and see who qualifies. Right now we have one person that has qualified, one company.
Right?

TRACI FLOYD: Yes, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS: So we need to get some other people out there looking at it and be able to get your money.

You had to be a seafood processor.

Right?

TRACI FLOYD: Yes, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS: There are a lot of ways of saying you are a processor, but you had to be a processor and have that license, I believe.

Is that correct?

TRACI FLOYD: Yes, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Make sure you get out and do what you need to do there.

Bonnet Carre. We haven't had any update. We are still trying to get that through. We sent some stuff back to NOAA. Let's hope that we will get that soon.

Actions Update, Sandy.

SANDY CHESNUT: At the June 2022 meeting the Commission recommended and the Director approved the following motions:

The Permit, Variance and Use Plan Change for DEQ for the Living Shoreline Extension in Hancock County.

The changes to Title 22, Part 18, for Special
Permits was forwarded to the Secretary of State's Office for final adoption.

We had three saltwater finfish records:

Conventional Tackle, Blackberry Rosefish by John Wright.

All Tackle was Bigeye by Harley Havard and Unicorn Tilefish by Brandon Powell.

That's it.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Any questions on those?

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: No, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Other than that, I don’t think we have anything else. Let's move on.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Joe.

Commissioners Report.

Do any of our Commissioners have anything today?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I’ve got one point I would like to touch on. I learned a new term over the past couple of months and it is called refund gasoline. It is basically the gasoline equivalent of off-road diesel. With gas prices the way that they are, it is something that I think could be very beneficial to commercial fishermen and charter boats as well.

I have asked Joe to kind of take a look into it and help me out with it, and we’ve got a couple of our
legislators looking into it.

The process is already there. It is in place, but, at this point, it is fairly inefficient and kind of inaccessible.

We are going to, over the next couple of months, hopefully try to find a way to make this more accessible to our fishermen out there.

JOE SPRAGGINS: I talked to several legislators last week about it up there and we talked about what we could do and couldn’t.

Some of them understood what we were talking about. Some did not and they are looking at it, too.

I have asked them to go back in and let's find out what it does, would it affect the agency in any way, what it would do.

We do get an off-road fuel tax and the question was is that part of the off-road fuel tax that we get.

I don’t know, and we are trying to find out what it is. We are looking into it. It is something like a company has to apply to do it, and, then, when they apply to do it, they have to advertise that they are doing it.

So I asked the question. The first thing out of my mouth was, well, why not have everybody at the fuel docks on the water do it, and they said they may be doing it. They are just not advertising it.
I don’t know. We are looking into it.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Well, that is part of that inaccessible part. There is just not a lot of information out there and I didn’t know it existed three months ago, but hopefully we can get something put together. Lord knows we need help with these gas prices right now.

Thank you for giving me a few minutes on that. We will move on to Marine Patrol. Chief.

KYLE WILKERSON: Good morning.

Looking at the June report of citations, there are a good many citations there, but me just looking into it historically, compliance is up. People are getting the message and they are doing right it looks to me just looking at reports every month.

Nothing really jumps out at me. We did check over twenty-four hundred contacts for the month of June. That is a lot of people checked for the amount of citations that we write.

One fatality. Unfortunately a man drowned this month. I hate to bring those up. I like the ones when everybody is playing right and no one passes away from any type of water incident.

Other than that, I will field any questions you have on any of these citations that I can.
JOE SPRAGGINS: I would just like to say one thing and I may have missed it. I was doing something else.

The weekend of the 4th of July, we had quite a few stops.

KYLE WILKERSON: Yes, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS: We were one hundred percent compliant?

KYLE WILKERSON: One hundred percent, yes, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS: One hundred percent compliant.

KYLE WILKERSON: And that is what I'm getting at. People are very compliant and that is what we strive for.

We don’t like writing citations. We just want everybody to be compliant, do their best.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Since the start of snapper season, we had four.

Is that right?

KYLE WILKERSON: Yes, sir. As a matter of fact, it was four no Tails n’ Scales and maybe one possession of undersize snapper. By far one of the best starters we have had.

JOE SPRAGGINS: What I’m trying to get at with this for everybody, it is how great that the Tails n’ Scales works and how great our law enforcement is about enforcing it and looking at it.
We do over ten percent, and that is about double what anybody else does in the Gulf of Mexico.

KYLE WILKERSON: Yes, sir. We are at eleven point five right now.

JOE SPRAGGINS: And that is over double what most everybody else does, as far as the amount of checks that we do.

KYLE WILKERSON: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Wow. That is great.

COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Chief, what are most of the shrimping violations for?

KYLE WILKERSON: The shrimping violations?

COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Yes.

KYLE WILKERSON: Well, there are not many, as you can tell. I haven’t delved into that, Commissioner. Let me look at it a little bit more, but if I was a betting man, it would be just -- I think one is a live bait citation and all that stuff.

COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Got you. Thank you.

KYLE WILKERSON: If you guys are ready for the no wake zone presentation, I will let Deputy Chief Gex come up and run it by you.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Sounds great. Thank you.

BRYCE GEX: Good morning everybody.

It is a small presentation this month for a no
wake zone proposal for Fort Bayou and surrounding areas.

It is divided into four different legs. The first being right at the mouth. That first leg is two thousand feet long.

They have two smaller legs. Leg two and leg three that are specific to the Marina Cantina area, that fairly new restaurant. They have marine events there and they bring in a lot of customers, a lot of boaters.

Then, the fourth leg is just an extension of the already existing State no wake zone that exists around the bridge and the boat ramp that is underneath the bridge.

Affects to boaters. I will go back to the map in a minute, but leg one vessels traveling from the proposed coordinates will be at idle speed for nearly five minutes; four minutes and fifty-seven seconds. In the summertime heat, that is a long time to be at idle speed.

Leg two and leg three, those two are the smallest legs and they are specific to the Marine Cantina area. Vessels will be traveling from the proposed coordinates on leg two for three minutes and fourteen seconds, and leg three vessels will be traveling from the proposed coordinates at idle speed for one minute and thirty-three seconds.

I believe that is the main intent of this no wake zone is right around the Marina Cantina restaurant
and boaters near the houses.

Leg four by the bridge and the already existing boat ramp, they will be at idle speed for three minutes and twenty-two seconds.

Special considerations. Leg one, due to the length of the requested zone -- as I said it is some two thousand feet long -- its proximity to open water traffic and environmental conditions and width of the bayou -- at its narrowest point it is four hundred feet across there.

If you are in the middle of the bayou, you are more than double the State's recommendation for wake mitigation.

Legs two and three, due to high traffic in the area and proximity to multiple residences, it is recommended.

Leg four will be an extension of a State required no wake zone due to the public boat ramp, and it is recommended.

The Office of Marine Patrol did not recommend leg one.

Staff's recommendation. The Office of Marine Patrol recommends the establishment of a no wake zone for the three specified locations, based on normal operation and vessel speed in relation to the public access areas in which people fish, boat and socialize.
There are a few restaurants. There is Aunt Jenny's catfish house that is right there. There is a small pier where there are several boats that dock on the south end of that bridge. I am assuming that is why they included leg four.

Like I said, it is already a no wake zone. They are just asking to extend it past that area where those boats are tied up. It is right under the bridge.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I need to make sure my mike it turned on.

BRYCE GEX: I think the main objective was legs two and three nearest the Marina Cantina restaurant. Those bayous are very tight in there and the events that they are bringing boaters to the restaurant for, there is a lot of traffic in and out of those bayous near those homes.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Have y'all got anything?

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I dove off of this one more than I really wanted to, to be honest with you, but I would agree with what the recommendation is. Number one is just too much, too long, and, then, you are only encompassing some of the residential property and you have all that other property that you wouldn't encompass.

Two, three and four make the most sense for this situation.
BRYCE GEX: As you are coming from open water in the Bay and you make that bend into the mouth of Fort Bayou, when you are coming down to meet that no wake zone, you are creating more of a wake problem in coming down to meet that no wake zone in that area.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Personally, my feelings on it are two and three. That looks pretty tight. There is obviously going to be a lot of people getting on and off of boats in there. I would be in favor of recommending two and three, not necessarily four.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Sir, if I could, if y'all would look at two and three as you said, and, then, let us continue to look at four and see what we think about it. How about that?

Would that be okay?

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Tweak that a little bit?

JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I would like to make a motion to go ahead and approve two and three and table four. We will continue to dig into that one a little bit.

BRYCE GEX: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I’ll second that motion.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.
COMMISSIONER MCCLENDON: Aye.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Sounds good.
Coastal Resources. Ms. Willa.
How are you doing today?
WILLA BRANTLEY: Good. Thank you.

I have a really quick presentation just on our numbers for the first six months of this year. We report to NOAA every six months our number of activities and actions that we have taken, consistency determinations we have made. I like to bring those numbers, once we put them together and show to the Commission the total number of what we do. You see so little of what we do get presented here.

As you can see here, we had a total of four hundred and sixty-seven actions. Three hundred and ninety-four of those were either regulated actions at the State level, or at the Federal level, requiring a Coastal Zone Consistency Determination (indicating slide).

Between reviews of projects that are sent in through the mail to us just to answer whether they need a permit, or not, and pre-application meetings, we had fifty-six of those.

We had a total of seventeen violations reported. I know that you are concerned about violations so I wanted to break that number down just a little bit.
Eleven of that seventeen were not violations, when staff got out and looked at the sites.

Four were slight violations where maybe they didn’t have silt fencing up to control fill that they had brought in to upland areas. They were corrected by the property owner just by putting up silt fencing.

Two of those were actually projects where people had started building structures without a permit, and we were able to stop the work, get it permitted correctly, didn’t require any restoration and the Director was able to approve those on an after-the-fact basis. They qualified for general permits.

I put up the first half of the last four years just so you can see the numbers. Obviously we had a drop there in 2020, but mainly we remained steady. We came up quite a bit last year and we are almost at the same amount this year (indicating slide).

We did go down a bit in number of actual regulated activities, but we went back up in number of reviews and pre-application meetings.

Then, of course, as you can see in our reported violations that we investigated, but not necessarily the number of actual violations, it didn’t really go up.

If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.
WILLA BRANTLEY: That is just our bulk reporting. That is why I went through and looked at each one to see was it actually a violation, how did it get resolved.

WILLA BRANTLEY: Again, even those where they had started work qualified for a general permit so it wasn’t a huge project. They just didn’t know that they needed a permit for whatever reason.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: The outreach. I have seen a few of the things that we talked about putting out reminding people. It is good to see that getting out there.

WILLA BRANTLEY: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

WILLA BRANTLEY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Next up, Finance and Administration.

LESLEY BREWER: Good morning Director, Commissioners, legal.

I’m Leslie Brewer CFO. I will be presenting the financials for the year end, June the 30th.

At the end of June, our State Revenue was five point seven million. Our Total Revenue was fifty-three point two million.
Our Net Income for the State was a negative eight seventy-one. We will get our appropriation probably in September to cover that deficit.

Our Agency Net Income is twenty-three million. That left us with seventy-six point two percent of our Budget remaining for the Operating Budget, and, then, Tidelands had forty-two point three remaining.

Does anyone have any questions?

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I don't believe so. Thank you.

LESLIE BREWER: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Ms. Charmaine.

CHARMAINE SCHERMUND: Good morning Commissioners, Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources was mentioned fourteen times in local, state and national media since the June MACMR meeting.

News items included GOMESA projects announced by Governor Reeves, legislative changes with derelict vessels beginning July 1st, the USDA relief grant applications opening July 1st and Boat and Water Safety classes offered by the Office of Marine Patrol.

Marine Patrol participated in the Fire Academy for kids with the Biloxi Fire Department, as well as the Stay Safe and Play at the Children’s Park in Ocean
Springs.

Both Marine Patrol and National Heritage Area took part in Paddle the Bay at Henderson Point Park.

Sierra Ortiz with the Office of Coastal Resource Management gave presentations at both USM Gulf Coast Research Lab’s Island Adventure Camps on June 21st and July 5th.

The Office of Marine Fisheries Finfish Bureau's Trevor Moncrief and Megan Fleming each gave a presentation to GCRL’s Angler Camps on June 28th and July 13th respectively.

Megan also presented to the Viking Village Summer Camp at Bayou View Elementary on June 21st.

Madison Parker in the Shellfish Bureau gave a second presentation on July 14th to the children attending the Human Society's Club Paws Summer Day Camp.

Michael Reid of the Lyman Aquaculture Hatchery assisted the City of D'Iberville with the Mississippi Bass Federation Fishing Tournament.

The Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo was held July 1st through the 4th. The agency was on hand each day at the fishing rodeo distributing our rules and regulations publication, fish ruler stickers, fish posters and other informational pieces to the public.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.
CHARMAINE SCHERMUND: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: A lot going on in July. Here is what everybody wants to hear about.
TREVOR MONCRIEF: I don't have a presentation for y'all today on snapper season. Staff has been working diligently to close out all of the expired trips and get everything together, run the analysis and right now we sitting at eighty-one thousand four hundred pounds of harvest for the first portion of the season. That is fifty-three point seven percent of our ACL. There is still about seventy thousand pounds left.

A little bit lower than what we have seen in the past couple of years. As we talked about earlier, gas prices have a lot to do with it. The first week we saw proportional effort to what we have seen the last few years with about twenty to thirty thousand pounds harvested.

It really dropped off on the second weekend and everything after that. We have been pretty much on a similar trajectory every weekend.

We really didn't see a spike July 4th in participation. I think folks are just -- it is just hitting them hard a little bit. We are not seeing as much effort.

Internal discussions we had about the reopening
date. We went through the past and kind of how we projected everything out. We are looking at August the 12th as the potential reopening date this year and we expect that will get us to Labor Day. If the effort stays low, it could extend beyond that similar to last year.

I will take any questions y'all have.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do you have any idea when we will verify that reopening date?

TREVOR MONCRIEF: It will be the Director’s ultimate decision.

JOE SPRAGGINS: What I’m going to do is the staff has to give me their hundred percent recommendation. We talked about it. They wanted to keep it closed for about a month. So this will be a month, if we do that because we closed on the 10th of July and it is an effort for two things. To take all the effort off the fish for a little bit and give them a little break and let them start schooling back together and do what they need to do.

We will probably look at that. I think it is going to be pretty firm. I don’t have a problem, if the staff doesn’t.

It is up to y’all. If you tell me that the 12th is a good day, we will open the 12th. That’s fine with me. I don’t care. I just want to get it open. I would like to get it out as quick as possible so we can let people
know, especially if they have a charter, or anything else.

Also, another thing while we are on this.

Is it Grouper that is not going to open?

TREVOR MONCRIEF: Amberjack.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Amberjack is not going to open
the 1st of August. It is probably going to be the 1st of
September.

That way, hopefully, we will have snapper still
and we will be able to fish snapper and Amberjack at the
same time and that will help, especially with the ones
going out because they can catch more fish. That is just
something that we are looking at.

Unless y’all have a problem, Rick, or Matt, or
Trevor, we will just say August the 12th.

TREVOR MONCRIEF: Okay.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That sounds great. That
gives folks something to plan on.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Do we know why they moved
it from August 1 to September, the Amberjack?

JOE SPRAGGINS: Trevor, you can talk a whole lot
more about that.

TREVOR MONCRIEF: The most recent assessment for
Amberjack, they haven’t responded to any of the management
changes that have occurred in the past, the drops in the
bag limit, the size limit, the season changes, the fishing
gear changes. There hasn't been a response and there has been low recruitment in that fishery for years on end now. It is to the point where action needs to be taken again.

Deliberation in the council centered around -- they have shifted bag limits in the past, but really they centered in on drops in the season length and one of the things we are proponents of is trying to keep that season length within a single wave of how the harvest is estimated, and that pushes it from an August 1st start date to September 1st to October 31st.

It is really the next best step to watch progression to see if we can mitigate additional mortality on the fishery.

They proposed an emergency rule and we are waiting on that notification to come from NOAA and we will be able to have it solid then, but the council did pass an emergency rule shifting the season to that date, and, then, it will have to be reevaluated after a hundred and eighty days when the emergency rule time is out and they will have to deliberate on what the next year season will be.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Thanks, Trevor.

JOE SPRAGGINS: As a matter of fact, it hasn’t been signed by the secretary yet, has it?

TREVOR MONCRIEF: Not to my knowledge.
JOE SPRAGGINS: It has to be signed by the secretary.
If not, does it revert back?

TREVOR MONCRIEF: If nothing goes through, then, it is status quo. It would open up August 1st. I would imagine we are going to be seeing something from the agency within a couple of weeks.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Any more questions?
(No response.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Trevor.
We are going to move on to Other Business and we are going to take care of what we missed at the beginning. We will hold our election of officers now.

Every year we elect officers. We start the elections with chairman, and, then, go to the vice chairman.

At this point, I would like to ask are there any nominations for chairman?
Somebody has got to nominate somebody.

JOE SPRAGGINS: One of the three of you has to nominate one of you.

COMMISSIONER MCCLENDON: I will nominate Ronnie Daniels.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Are there any other nominations for chairman?
No. We've got to do the motion on that first. Right?
Sorry y'all. I'm looking at a piece of paper trying to figure this out.
SANDY CHESNUT: Yes. Go ahead and close that motion.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Can we make a motion to nominate me as chairman?
COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I make a motion to nominate Ronnie as chairman.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have a second?
COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Second.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have any other nominations for chairman?
(No response.)
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: They don't need a motion on that, Sandy, if there are no other nominations?
SANDY CHESNUT: Yes.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?
SANDY CHESNUT: Wait. You have got to close the nominations.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor aye?
COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.
COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.
COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Other nominations for chairman, we do not have any.

SANDY CHESNUT: No.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Is there a motion to close the nominations?

I'll make that motion.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second the motion.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER MCCLENDON: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We got that figured out. Now let's do vice chairman.

I would like to nominate Commissioner Roberds as vice chairman.

COMMISSIONER MCCLENDON: I'll second the motion.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER MCCLENDON: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have any other nominations for vice chairman?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I will make the motion to close the nominations.
COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I’ll second the motion.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That was a lot more painful than I thought it was going to be, but we got through it.

Do we have any other business?

JOE SPRAGGINS: We have one.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We will move into our public comments.

Mr. Ramsey, I'm sorry we missed you earlier. We will get you in here now.

We will have Mr. Gilbert Ramsey with a comment on special use.

GILBERT RAMSEY: Good morning.

Well, I just recently started a LLC. It is called Follow Me, LLC, and it's international market.

Right now I'm here to discuss a state introduction for navigational access and accessibility.

I went to the Harrison County Board of Supervisors and introduced it for a special use permit in DeSoto National Forest. DeSoto National Forest location, CC Road and White Plains Road, District One.
That location, I used to enjoy when I was a child. I have been in the community since 1967.

They have a park down the river y'all initiated at Riverside Park in D'Iberville. We put a handicap accessibility location there for disabled people and Mississippi Land Trust offered me two hundred acres there to do outreaches.

I'm telling you this for a reason. We are going further up river to enjoy coming down river for our patrons.

I have a BP contract, enhanced for recreation, and I have a veteran bottled water company I'm launching, donating houses and dormitories from the proceeds.

I'm introducing this to the Biloxi City Council in a few minutes, with Mr. Bellman and rehabilitation service and everybody, Boys and Girls Club and everybody.

I'm coming out of the woods, in other words. I'm helping us out. New industries. New markets. New economic development options.

I have been working on this since 2013.

I love you ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. Joe, I would like to be introduced to General Hopkins and General Jeff Hammott has waited on me and the University of Southern Mississippi to handle this appropriately.

Thank you very much for your assistance and
direction. Have a blessed day.

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I make a motion to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER MCCLENDON: I'll second that.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

COMMISSIONER MCCLENDON: Aye.

COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We are adjourned.

(At 9:48 o'clock, a.m., the July 19, 2022, meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources was concluded.)
CERTIFICATE

I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing thirty-six pages, including this page, is a true and correct transcript of the July 19, 2022, meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources, as taken by me in the aforementioned matter in shorthand, with electronic verification, and later reduced to typewritten form 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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