

## STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

## COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Bolton Building Auditorium

1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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**COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

Ronnie Daniels  
Jonathan McLendon  
Jason Osborne  
Cammack "Cam" Roberds

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Joe Spraggins, Director  
Sandy Chesnut, Esquire  
Steven Eckert, Esquire

**REPORTED BY:**

Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich  
mburdine@sbmreporting.com

1 RONNIE DANIELS:

2 All right. Good morning, ladies and  
3 gentlemen. Welcome to the Tuesday, December 19th  
4 Mississippi Advisory Commission meeting.

5 This morning, I'm going to ask the  
6 General if he'd lead us in the Pledge of  
7 Allegiance.

8 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

9 RONNIE DANIELS:

10 What's that they say? It doesn't matter  
11 how you start. It's all about how you finish.

12 JOE SPRAGGINS:

13 I knew it didn't look like the American  
14 flag I know.

15 RONNIE DANIELS:

16 Joe, you mind leading us in prayer, as  
17 well?

18 (Moment of prayer.)

19 RONNIE DANIELS:

20 Thank you, Joe.

21 November 21st minutes, do we have any  
22 discussion on those minutes?

23 (No response.)

24 RONNIE DANIELS:

25 Do we have a motion to approve?

1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 I'll make a motion to approve the  
3 minutes.

4 RONNIE DANIELS:

5 I'll second that.

6 All in favor?

7 (Unanimous vote.)

8 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

9 All right. Do we have any discussion on  
10 today's agenda?

11 (No response.)

12 RONNIE DANIELS:

13 Motion to approve?

14 CAM ROBERDS:

15 I'll make a motion to approve the  
16 agenda.

17 JASON OSBORNE:

18 I'll second.

19 RONNIE DANIELS:

20 All in favor?

21 (Unanimous vote.)

22 RONNIE DANIELS:

23 All right. Mr. Joe, we're going to turn  
24 it over to you.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS:

1 All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 Before we start -- we'll start out with  
3 the employment contracts, and I'm not going to try  
4 to read all of them for you, but you can see the  
5 names up there that were -- we have three new  
6 hires and then several promotions there, if you  
7 can see those.

8 Anybody got any questions on any one of  
9 them?

10 JASON OSBORNE:

11 No. It's just the list up there is  
12 different than the one on our screen.

13 JOE SPRAGGINS:

14 And I don't think that's what those --

15 BRADY SMITH:

16 There's a late addition on there.

17 RONNIE DANIELS:

18 Oh, there's one additional.

19 CAM ROBERDS:

20 Myrick.

21 JOE SPRAGGINS:

22 Okay. What was the additional?

23 CAM ROBERDS:

24 Myrick, Nicholas.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS:

1                   Okay. All right. Any questions on  
2 those?

3                   (No response.)

4                   JOE SPRAGGINS:

5                   All right. No procurement contracts.

6                   And agency update: We will go to the  
7 Bonnet Carré, and out of Bonnet Carré right now,  
8 we have about -- had 70 -- all 72 of the charters  
9 have been sent final payments, so everybody is  
10 paid up in the charter boat.

11                   We are emerging seafood technologies.  
12 We've got about 3,694,000, and we are working on  
13 that as we talk and getting the program together.

14                   As far as our fisheries, as far -- let's  
15 see. I was trying to see if I had that in front  
16 of me. Here we go. 27 of the 31 signed dealers'  
17 agreements have been sent final payment, so that's  
18 been done. 217 of 288 signed commercial fishermen  
19 agreements sent to base payment, and 60 agreements  
20 are still in process, but I think that's been  
21 updated since then because I know I signed at  
22 least 50 in the last two days so I think we're  
23 pretty close on that.

24                   Additional commercial fishermen payments  
25 based on trip ticket losses and process and --

1 hopefully, we will get that out sometime in  
2 January.

3 Any questions on the Bonnet Carré?

4 (No response.)

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6 All right. Legislative session starts  
7 January 2nd. We'll have four months of this year,  
8 so it doesn't end till May. So I don't think we  
9 will see anything happening very important in the  
10 very first part of it because they first have to  
11 start picking who's going to be chairmen and what  
12 committees they're going to be on and everything  
13 else. And so once we get through that, we'll  
14 hopefully have a little bit of understanding.

15 Our goal is to -- we're not having a  
16 legislative update this year like we normally do  
17 for the pure reason, two things: Number 1, I'm  
18 trying to get everything to the governor's office  
19 about what we want to do; and Number 2 is I need  
20 to know who the chairmen are so we can start  
21 meeting with them and talk to them about it.

22 So hopefully, what we'll plan on doing  
23 is, sometime mid to late January, have a meeting  
24 in Jackson and invite y'all, if you would like to  
25 come, and we'll sit down with them at either a

1 lunch or dinner or something and go over our  
2 legislative, what we want to do.

3 Any questions on that?

4 (No responses.)

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6 All right. As far as holidays, we'll be  
7 closed Monday and Tuesday of next week for  
8 Christmas and Christmas -- the day after, and then  
9 we will be closed on January 1st.

10 The next Commission meeting is scheduled  
11 for Tuesday, January 16th at 9:00 a.m. Any  
12 problem with that?

13 RONNIE DANIELS:

14 I don't think so.

15 JOE SPRAGGINS:

16 We're good.

17 All right. Derelict vessels, I have --  
18 a total of 129 derelict vessel cases have been  
19 reported; 83 have been removed; 46 are pending and  
20 five are in court orders at this time.

21 And also, we did receive -- we're trying  
22 to just work out the details with GOMA. It was  
23 about \$1.5 million in federal money to be able to  
24 use for that, so hopefully, we won't have to use  
25 as much state money.

1 Any questions on any of those?

2 (No response.)

3 JOE SPRAGGINS:

4 All right. As far as anything else for  
5 the agency, I think we're moving along. We're in  
6 the comment period as far as the on-bottom leases,  
7 and so if anybody has comments, they need to send  
8 them in. And then we will go back and review that  
9 and then we'll decide which way to go from that  
10 point.

11 No contracts have been leased at this  
12 time. We're just basically looking at what people  
13 are asking for and where they're at and then we  
14 have got to go back somehow and be able to justify  
15 that they have the financial means to do this and  
16 also that they have the experience, you know,  
17 which we just questioned on the initial RFP. So  
18 we will have to go back and look at those and  
19 we'll look at it and see how we operate.

20 But -- so if you've got any -- anybody  
21 has any comments or anything else, please send  
22 them in because we would like to see what they  
23 have to say about it, and hopefully get something  
24 working by the first part of next year to be able  
25 to sit down and go over that.



1 Any questions? If not, that's all I  
2 have and I'll turn it over to agency update from  
3 the prior meeting.

4 SANDY CHESNUT:

5 Okay. At the November meeting, the  
6 Commission recommended and the Director approved  
7 the following: For the Executive Director to  
8 establish a crab trap closure in public waters for  
9 the purpose of conducting a derelict crab trap  
10 cleanup for 10 days in 2024. The closure area and  
11 dates will be based on stakeholder feedback.

12 Then there was a motion to recommend  
13 notice of intent for regulatory changes to  
14 Chapter 8, Title 22, Part 9, and I know those --  
15 that went out and that will be discussed later in  
16 the program.

17 And then we had a motion to recommend  
18 approval of the state saltwater finfish records  
19 for conventional tackle, for Florida pompano, five  
20 pounds, .64 ounces for Stefanson Smith; and an  
21 Irish pompano, 5.9 ounces for Cecily O'Brien.

22 And that is it.

23 RONNIE DANIELS:

24 Thank you, Ms. Sandy.

25 SANDY CHESNUT:

1                   You're welcome.

2       JOE SPRAGGINS:

3                   All right. And I think that's the only  
4       thing we have as far as the Director's report.

5       RONNIE DANIELS:

6                   All right. Thank you, Joe.

7                   Do any of our commissioners have  
8       anything to report today?

9                   (No response.)

10       RONNIE DANIELS:

11                   All right. Quiet month.

12       RONNIE DANIELS:

13                   Next up, we're going to have office of  
14       marine patrol. We've got Captain Freeman filling  
15       in for Chief Wilkerson.

16       WILL FREEMAN:

17                   Good morning. The month of December --  
18       excuse me, the month of November, you can notice  
19       some of the citation numbers are up. I know there  
20       was a question perhaps about the number of overall  
21       citations, and there has been an increase in about  
22       20 percent in the total number of stops made in  
23       the two fiscal years already.

24                   So I think if you have any questions  
25       about why the citation numbers are up -- I'm not

1 saying it's going to be a proportionate increase,  
2 but the number of stops are up, and you would  
3 expect the number of citations to be up as well.

4 JASON OSBORNE:

5 Yeah. And just -- I think I was the one  
6 that asked the question, and I apologize because I  
7 guess I didn't -- hadn't really focused on it at  
8 previous meetings to see the trend.

9 WILL FREEMAN:

10 Yes, sir.

11 JASON OSBORNE:

12 But when we're seeing FY23 year to  
13 date -- so the timetables are the same, right?

14 WILL FREEMAN:

15 Yes, sir.

16 JASON OSBORNE:

17 So it's not six months versus 12 months?

18 WILL FREEMAN:

19 That's correct.

20 JASON OSBORNE:

21 Is there anything that you feel like we  
22 could be doing to help you better in this or --  
23 educating the public or --

24 WILL FREEMAN:

25 That may be a discussion that's better

1 held with Colonel Wilkerson.

2 JASON OSBORNE:

3 Okay.

4 WILL FREEMAN:

5 Yeah.

6 JASON OSBORNE:

7 Perfect. Well, if you would, let him  
8 know that we're willing to talk to him and if  
9 there's support that you guys need or something we  
10 can be doing to help in that because that's a  
11 pretty big increase. And I don't know what the  
12 difference is between '23 and '24, but that seems  
13 a little crazy, so -- but thank you.

14 WILL FREEMAN:

15 Any other questions?

16 (No response.)

17 WILL FREEMAN:

18 Thank you.

19 RONNIE DANIELS:

20 All right.

21 Next up, we're going to have Ms. Leslie  
22 Brewer, Finance and Administration.

23 LESLIE BREWER:

24 Good morning, everybody. I'm presenting  
25 the financials for November 30th, 2023.

1           At the end of the month, state revenue  
2 was 4.2 million. Agency revenue was 19.1 million.

3           State net income was 1.4 million, and  
4 agency net income is 5.3 million.

5           It's a pretty normal month. After five  
6 months, we have 94.6 percent of the budget  
7 remaining for operations, and Tidelands is at  
8 75 percent.

9           Anybody have any questions?

10          RONNIE DANIELS:

11           No, ma'am. Thank you.

12          LESLIE BREWER:

13           Thanks.

14          CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

15           Good morning. The Mississippi  
16 Department of Marine Resources had eight media  
17 mentions since the November MACMR meeting.

18           News items included the dedication of  
19 Gollott Island, Mississippi granting private  
20 leases for oyster reefs and the upcoming closing  
21 of shrimp season in Mississippi waters.

22           The Office of Marine Patrol took part in  
23 the Sea Santa Sail-a-bration with the City of Long  
24 Beach on December 2nd, and Alicia Carron with the  
25 Shellfish Bureau hosted the virtual oyster

1 harvester training class on December 12th with a  
2 total of nine participants.

3 We just also released our latest issue  
4 of *Coastal Markers*. I put that in the back. And  
5 we are expecting our delivery of calendars today,  
6 so those will be out on the Coast by Friday.

7 RONNIE DANIELS:

8 Those are hot items.

9 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

10 Very hot item, yes.

11 RONNIE DANIELS:

12 I've been getting phone calls too.

13 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

14 Lots of phone calls, so -- but they will  
15 be out. We have all the teams ready to distribute  
16 them, so they will be out by Friday.

17 Thank you.

18 RONNIE DANIELS:

19 All right. Marine Fisheries, Trevor.

20 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

21 Good morning, Commissioners, Director.  
22 I think we're setting a pace on brevity today.

23 RONNIE DANIELS:

24 We're moving.

25 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

1 All right. So this is going to be the  
2 final adoption of the offshore landing permit that  
3 we discussed in the previous month. So as y'all  
4 are aware, November 21st, 2023, y'all recommended  
5 to the Executive Director to move forward with the  
6 notice of intent on Title 22, Part 9 changes. We  
7 processed that and were able to get it to the  
8 Secretary of State's office that day.

9 So just to briefly touch back over the  
10 regulation itself that we went over, the high  
11 points here, it's essentially anyone outside of  
12 those currently listed as disabled and under 16  
13 that have to possess this fishing license that  
14 will be an annual license that will run out  
15 December 31st, so it's basically going to be a  
16 yearly offshore license.

17 We're trying to identify, and to a  
18 degree, have a good number on the number of  
19 offshore fishing participants in our waters and be  
20 able to ask them specific questions within an  
21 effort survey that we're piloting out this year,  
22 similar to what Louisiana has done over the last  
23 eight or so years.

24 The -- you will be able to obtain this  
25 license through our website solely. There will be

1 a call option, of course, and you'll be able to  
2 get it through us without having to pay any fee at  
3 all, so it will be zero dollars. When you call,  
4 it will be to one of our employees in Marine  
5 Fisheries, basically the same folks that take the  
6 Tails and Scales calls, so you'll always have  
7 somebody there to answer the phone and get you on  
8 the list and get you out fishing that day.

9 And the species that we're including  
10 here basically any species of snapper, amberjack,  
11 grouper, triggerfish and cobia included. The only  
12 exceptions being made here is for mangrove snapper  
13 for those that are harvested within a line formed  
14 by the Intercoastal Waterway, simply because of  
15 the large-scale nature of our in-shore mangrove  
16 fishery in those inner harbors and everything  
17 else, especially this year.

18 So like I said, we got the regulation  
19 out to the Secretary of State pretty quick. The  
20 notice of the proposed regulation was published in  
21 the *Sun Herald* on the 24th, and the notice of the  
22 proposed regulation was posted on our website that  
23 day, on the 21st, and here is copies of all three  
24 of those.

25 And then, checked the e-mail this



1 morning. I haven't got any mail or anything else  
2 like that. I did get a couple of calls from folks  
3 just asking for clarifying information, but no  
4 public comments have been received to date.

5 And with that, I will take any questions  
6 you may have, and then we will just need to move  
7 forward with final adoption, have a motion for it  
8 should y'all be good with it.

9 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

10 Real quick, Trevor, like, where do like  
11 young kids and the people with disabilities, even  
12 lifetime licenses come into play with this?

13 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

14 So I copied over the regulation that  
15 was -- as it was written from the previous  
16 meeting. What we did add in there was an excerpt  
17 of a state statute, basically referencing the  
18 statute that explicitly outlines disability and  
19 under 16 and who's not required to have a license,  
20 so in this case, they would -- that falls the same  
21 way.

22 The difference will be that those who  
23 have a lifetime license or those who have the  
24 senior exempt lifetime license will need to get  
25 this license annually.

1           And that will be more of an education  
2 side of the thing, right? They haven't had to  
3 deal with a situation like this, nor are we going  
4 to, you know, think that they're going to have to,  
5 you know, move on to this and adopt it pretty  
6 quickly. We understand the challenge that may be  
7 ahead with them understanding it.

8           And realistically, this is all for the  
9 effort survey, to try to get an answer. And we  
10 have a pretty good idea at least of the percentage  
11 of folks that fall within the under 16 category.  
12 The disability is less known, but we know it's a  
13 small percentage, so we can have that one.

14           The trouble is, is on the senior exempt  
15 and the lifetime, those people are likely avid  
16 fishermen to a degree. They likely go  
17 proportionally more than most of the others, and  
18 we certainly want to be able to get the  
19 information from them and have them accounted for  
20 within the overall population, so that's why we've  
21 got that where we want them to have it every year  
22 too. That's kind of how it falls out.

23 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

24           Thank you.

25 RONNIE DANIELS:

1 I'm sorry. I may have missed this --  
2 and I wasn't here last month -- what is the  
3 process again for getting this?

4 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

5 So it's going to be housed on our  
6 website to be able to access and essentially, it's  
7 going to be a -- either through Survey 123 or a  
8 PDF submission form, essentially kind of how we've  
9 done applications in the past for Bonnet Carré and  
10 anything else like that. We're working with IT on  
11 finalizing the form and everything now. But that  
12 will be the process to get it.

13 At that point, you will be able to get  
14 the temporary number, the proof, and then we will  
15 be able to send out a hard card or anything else  
16 to folks for them to have it. But it's going to  
17 be housed on our website and if folks don't have  
18 access to the internet or can't get it from our  
19 website, there will a number to call and that  
20 number will go straight to one of the employees in  
21 the Finfish Bureau to be able to answer in-house.

22 And just like with Tails and Scales,  
23 right, we expect that we're going to get a rush of  
24 calls between that April and May time period,  
25 essentially when folks are first learning about

1 this and learning about the requirement and  
2 snapper season is coming up. And just like we  
3 have done in the past years, I mean, we answer  
4 calls at 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. when we get them.  
5 And when folks don't answer, they just leave voice  
6 mails, and we get them taken care of and get them  
7 on the water as soon as possible.

8 RONNIE DANIELS:

9 I assume there will be some type of  
10 banner or something on Tails and Scales reminding  
11 people?

12 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

13 Yeah. We'll have a banner, likely some  
14 front-end. If you'll remember logging onto the  
15 app in the last two or three years, there's  
16 updating your contact information because you want  
17 to receive text messages of your trip  
18 authorization number, all that kind of stuff, same  
19 kind of application likely will be here to remind  
20 anglers of what's going on and where they can go  
21 to get it and there will be a live link on the app  
22 itself to be able to select and get onto this to  
23 be able to get on the permit as well. So that's  
24 kind of how we're trying to go down.

25 And there will be likely a fair amount

1 of -- at least information that's going to the  
2 public on this and the effort survey itself  
3 because there's going to be a lot of folks getting  
4 contacted here in the next four or five months for  
5 effort questions and everything else, including,  
6 you know, any one of y'all on the commission who  
7 hold a recreational license. I mean, everybody is  
8 going to be -- there's going to be a lot more  
9 contact this time for the effort survey.

10 RONNIE DANIELS:

11 And just be to be clear for people, this  
12 is in the fishermen's favor because we've had such  
13 skewed numbers on that effort which has translated  
14 into problems with our snapper quota.

15 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

16 Yeah. So the intent of this is to not  
17 be burdensome to any degree to the angler. It's  
18 our best step forward to try to gather more  
19 accurate recreational measures, which not only  
20 will help us with the snapper side of things,  
21 right -- we've got Tails and Scales which provides  
22 us great information -- but what this does is  
23 allows us to have more uniformity across the Gulf  
24 when it comes to Gulf-wide assessments on the  
25 federal level, but also at the same time be able

1 to get better estimates for our inshore species,  
2 like spotted seatrout, red drum, sheepshead,  
3 flounder, so that we have a better idea of how  
4 those fisheries are cycling year in and year out  
5 and really get a better handle on what's going on  
6 on the fishery independent side instead of having  
7 to rely so heavily on our -- the fishery  
8 independent side for most of our assessments and  
9 everything else. So we're really advancing the  
10 fishery dependent side with this one.

11 CAM ROBERDS:

12 So essentially, the folks, the fishermen  
13 that hold the reef permit will get the same type  
14 of survey call for, you know, fish, for what they  
15 have caught or if they have fished, but it will  
16 just be that group of people, so you're separated  
17 from the inshore, sort of the mass of people that  
18 hold a license. It's just for these folks?

19 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

20 Yeah. So we've been going through the  
21 design stage of the effort survey over the last  
22 two months and essentially, what we're doing is  
23 separating out regions or sections for the  
24 anglers, so you have got coastal and non-coastal,  
25 which are split by the upper -- the lower two

1 counties here in a row. That's going to be  
2 coastal. Non-coastal is going to be up above.  
3 We've got out of state, which for us is usually  
4 around 10 percent across the board.

5 And then you'll have these individuals  
6 who hold the offshore permit, and essentially  
7 their effort and everything else will be  
8 constrained to their population, rather than  
9 expanded across the entirety of the coastal,  
10 non-coastal and out-of-state folks. So it really  
11 just isolates your groups to be able to make sure  
12 you're accounting for them in a more accurate  
13 manner, rather than taking what their activity is  
14 and spreading it across everybody.

15 JOE SPRAGGINS:

16 And one thing, you know, we're going to  
17 treat this just like he said, like Tails and  
18 Scales. I mean, you know, you have got to walk a  
19 little bit before you run with it.

20 We will put it out. People will --  
21 obviously, some are not going to know about it.  
22 Some won't get the message in time. They'll go  
23 fishing. If they're caught -- if the Marine  
24 Patrol pulls them over, they will give them a  
25 "hey, this is what you need to do for the future."

1 We'll do that for a year at least and then work it  
2 out.

3 But everything that they do, this is  
4 going to help the fishermen because instead of  
5 having 80,000, we might have 18,000. I don't  
6 know. I'm just throwing a number out there. But  
7 when we survey off of that 18-, compared to 80-,  
8 then that's going to skew the numbers a lot  
9 more -- closer to where they're supposed to be and  
10 not out here in the left field somewhere.

11 Is that right, Trevor?

12 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

13 Yes. It will probably end up being  
14 around 10,000 individuals that are within this  
15 frame. So if you think about it, instead of  
16 having one amberjack that accounts for  
17 300,000 pounds of harvest, we'll have one  
18 amberjack that is directly reflected on the  
19 individuals within that group so it won't blow up  
20 the numbers nearly as much.

21 And that's kind of where this whole  
22 thing is getting to, is adopting LA Creel in its  
23 totality to try to really get down to a system  
24 that works for us in our state and it's been  
25 proven in another state as well.



1                   And if Alabama moves alongside there,  
2 we'll basically have over half of the Gulf States  
3 operating in a similar manner, which will allow  
4 for some consistency on the federal side and our  
5 federal species.

6                   JOE SPRAGGINS:

7                   And this is at no cost.

8                   RONNIE DANIELS:

9                   Yeah. And I think that the key to this  
10 thing is education to the people that are going to  
11 have to get it and letting them know, this is  
12 beneficial to you. I know you and I have had  
13 talks about this, as well as others. A lot of  
14 times these guys can't see the forest for the  
15 trees because they think we're just being more  
16 obtrusive and we're wanting something else from  
17 them, but this is all for our benefit in the long  
18 run.

19                  TREVOR MONCRIEF:

20                  Yeah. Yeah. We have never been in the  
21 business of trying to create overly burdensome  
22 regulations or anything else like that. We've  
23 always been more of keeping it simple and trying  
24 to do it the right way the first time, and this is  
25 just an example of that. We're getting the

1 opportunity to move forward with the program on  
2 the state side and be able to direct it a little  
3 bit more, rather than, you know, having to follow  
4 federal program guidelines. And this is a step we  
5 can take, we think, that's going to relieve a  
6 little of burden on the anglers and allow us to  
7 get the information that we need without having to  
8 be overly intrusive or asking them just a ton of  
9 questions all the time or mandating any  
10 hail-in/hail-out, anything else like that. I  
11 think it is the optimal solution for the time that  
12 we're in.

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 And the time frame of this data, is it  
15 going to be a year, two years before you think it  
16 could be implemented?

17 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

18 Generally, we try to give it at least  
19 three when it comes to this kind of stuff. Now,  
20 when it comes to calibration and timeline for  
21 assessments and everything else, you're talking  
22 about what will likely have to be an expedited  
23 one. We're trying to push for not moving forward  
24 so hastily with federal assessments and coming up  
25 with new catch advice for a lot of these federal

1 species because it's just not -- it's not ending  
2 well for anybody in the fishery across the board,  
3 recreational, commercial, any stakeholder  
4 whatsoever.

5 But in all likelihood, it's a multiyear  
6 process. There will be some side-by-side that  
7 occurs. Whether it's a year or more or anything  
8 else like that, that will have to be a discussion  
9 with all the groups that are in play. But we'll  
10 start using the estimates as soon as we possibly  
11 can on the state side to gather better  
12 information.

13 The federal side is where the rubber  
14 meets the road when it comes to the SEDAR process  
15 and assessments and the species that are under a  
16 lot heavier management regimes and everything  
17 else. That's kind of where the process gets a  
18 little tough. But certainly, having multiple  
19 states in the Gulf that are all conducting a  
20 similar survey is going to be very helpful to  
21 essentially where we are now with five states,  
22 five separate surveys and an overall federal  
23 survey that just can't be calibrated across in a  
24 manner that's able to be reconciled.

25 RONNIE DANIELS:

1 All right. No more questions. I like  
2 it.

3 Do we have a motion to approve?

4 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

5 I will make the motion.

6 RONNIE DANIELS:

7 I'll second that.

8 All in favor?

9 (Unanimous vote.)

10 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

11 Thank y'all.

12 RONNIE DANIELS:

13 Thank you, Trevor.

14 All right. Let's see. No more state  
15 records this month. I missed out on that one.

16 JOE SPRAGGINS:

17 You were deer hunting.

18 RONNIE DANIELS:

19 Yeah. Well, I like that time in the  
20 woods with my kids. That's important to me.

21 All right. Do we have any other  
22 business? No public comments?

23 JOE SPRAGGINS:

24 No.

25 RONNIE DANIELS:

1                   Almost record time.

2                   Do we have a motion to adjourn?

3   CAM ROBERDS:

4                   I will make a motion to adjourn.

5   RONNIE DANIELS:

6                   I'll second that one too.

7                   All in favor?

8                   (Unanimous vote.)

9   RONNIE DANIELS:

10                  Everyone have a Merry Christmas.

11                  (Adjourned at 9:29 a.m.)

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**CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER**

1  
2 I, MELISSA BURDINE-RODOLFICH, Court Reporter  
3 and Notary Public, in and for the County of  
4 Harrison, State of Mississippi, hereby certify that  
5 the foregoing pages, and including this page,  
6 contain a true and correct copy of my stenotype  
7 notes and/or electronic tape recording of the  
8 public meeting witness, as taken by me at the time  
9 and place heretofore stated, to the best of my  
10 skill and ability.

11 I further certify that I am not in the employ  
12 of, or related to, any counsel or party in this  
13 matter, and have no interest, monetary or  
14 otherwise, in the final outcome of the proceedings.

15 Witness my signature and seal, this the

16 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

17  
18 /s/ Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich

19  
20 Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich  
21 My Commission Expires 4/28/24  
22  
23  
24  
25