

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 9:11 a.m.,

Bolton Building Auditorium

1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Ronnie Daniels
Matthew Mayfield
Jonathan McLendon
Jason Osborne
Cammack "Cam" Roberds

ALSO PRESENT:

Joe Spraggins
Sandy Chesnut, Esquire
Steven Eckert, Esquire

REPORTED BY:

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1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the
3 Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine
4 Resources' Tuesday, July 15th meeting.

5 Commissioner McLendon, will you lead us
6 in the Pledge of Allegiance, please?

7 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

8 CAM ROBERDS:

9 Thank you.

10 Director, did you want to lead us in the
11 prayer, sir?

12 JOE SPRAGGINS:

13 Yeah. Before we go there, go to the
14 Lord, let's -- you know, we want to remember the
15 people in Florida -- I mean, in Texas out there.
16 We know what happened there, and, you know, we
17 understand the devastation of water, what it can
18 do for us and what it can do to us. And we know
19 that there is a lot of people hurting and, you
20 know, just keep them all in your prayers.

21 I talked to some people from that area
22 the other day, and they said that the outpour from
23 America has been unreal about bringing stuff to
24 them, so if you're doing anything, keep doing it.

25 Also, we need to keep our eyes and ears

1 open and hope and pray that this little
2 disturbance coming across Florida is not going to
3 amount to anything. This morning, I saw it
4 change. It was going (indicating) and I'm like,
5 uh-oh. I've seen those before, you know.

6 We just need to be prepared, so if
7 you -- it's the first one that we've had this year
8 that's anywhere close to the Gulf Coast and
9 Mississippi and just be aware of it and understand
10 that it can build and it can change in a moment's
11 notice.

12 Let's go the Lord in prayer.

13 (Moment of prayer.)

14 CAM ROBERDS:

15 Thank you, Director.

16 So we have the June 17th minutes. Does
17 anybody have any questions on those?

18 If not, do we have a motion?

19 JASON OSBORNE:

20 I make a motion.

21 RONNIE DANIELS:

22 Second.

23 CAM ROBERDS:

24 All those in favor?

25 (Unanimous vote.)

1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 All right. The approval of the agenda,
3 has everybody had an opportunity to review the
4 agenda, and do we have any questions on that?

5 If not, do we have a motion to approve?

6 JASON OSBORNE:

7 I make a motion.

8 RONNIE DANIELS:

9 Second.

10 CAM ROBERDS:

11 All those in favor?

12 (Unanimous vote.)

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 All right. Director, it looks like it's
15 all yours.

16 JOE SPRAGGINS:

17 Okay. If you have a public comment, TJ
18 is in the back, and please get them to him so we
19 can get them in the right place here for today.

20 First off, we'll start out with our
21 employment contracts and procurement. Dawn
22 Thompson is promoted in the Environment/Natural
23 Resources II Specialist. That's the only thing we
24 have as far as employment.

25 I don't think we have any contracts.

1 Right?

2 All right. Agency updates. Legislative
3 update, obviously, you know, everything has been
4 signed by the Governor. We're working on House
5 Bill 602. We're working on the others.

6 House Bill 602 has gone into effect, and
7 we're paying attention to what's going on. And if
8 you're not aware of it, that's the one that was
9 seafood labeling. And under that seafood
10 labeling, we're able to go around and look. And I
11 talked to quite a few people and not a single one
12 have I talked to that wasn't trying to do what's
13 right, so that's good.

14 Okay. We want everybody out there -- if
15 you're a processor, if you're a dealer, you know,
16 as far as a retailer or if you're a -- if you're
17 selling it on the side of the road or if you
18 are -- have it in your restaurants, whatever it
19 is, you know, we want you to understand that we're
20 here to try to help you, even the grocery stores.

21 The grocery stores seem to be one of the
22 biggest ones we're trying to get -- work with, and
23 what they're trying to do is trying to make sure
24 they just have it all right. And everybody is
25 trying to work.

1 And I've been to numerous restaurants
2 and they've -- most of them have either had a sign
3 that said that this is what we're working on or
4 either they were showing me something to say, hey,
5 here's what we've got sent to the people to be
6 able to print it. So it is something that's
7 coming out.

8 I know that it's going to take time, and
9 I know it's going to take more than, you know, a
10 week or two for everybody to get on board. As
11 long as you're trying, as long as you're trying to
12 do what's right, we're going to be fine with you
13 and so will the Ag. Ag will be the same way.
14 Commissioner Gipson is going to be the same way
15 with you and other parts of the State.

16 So just make sure that you're trying to
17 do what's right and not trying to deceive someone,
18 and if you're doing that, we're going to work with
19 you.

20 Any questions on that from the
21 Commissioners?

22 (No response.)

23 JOE SPRAGGINS:

24 As far as the other legislative update,
25 we're still waiting on -- as far as the on-bottom,

1 we're still waiting on some stuff to be able to --
2 Horne is still getting final answers. They're
3 still trying to get the final answers from the
4 people who applied as to whether or not -- to be
5 able to grade them out.

6 And so once we get that, then we'll look
7 at it. It's probably going to be September at the
8 earliest, if we get it -- if we're lucky at that
9 point. I don't even know if we'll be able to do
10 it by then, but it's just going to be able to put
11 stuff together. So I think we're fine. The
12 leases are still being worked, but we'll just see
13 where we go with that at that point.

14 Any questions on that?

15 (No response.)

16 JOE SPRAGGINS:

17 As far as 2019 and 2020 Bonnet Carré
18 update, no new updates on the '19. We just about
19 finished almost all the payouts to the commercial;
20 is that right, Tracy?

21 TRACI FLOYD:

22 Yes.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS:

24 We've got just a couple of them that
25 we're just trying to figure out maybe if

1 it's someone that had deceased and we're trying to
2 be able to find which family members and what they
3 ought to be able to pay, so that's the only thing
4 we're working on with that.

5 As far as the 2020, we -- \$3 million
6 awarded. We have applicants -- 275 applicants
7 that's submitted, and so we're currently going
8 through the applications on it. Now, this is just
9 for shrimp and oysters, commercial fishermen; is
10 that correct?

11 TRACI FLOYD:

12 (Nodding head affirmatively.)

13 JOE SPRAGGINS:

14 And so if you put your application in --
15 and I'm sure that Tracy and her office all will be
16 touching base with you about whether or not you
17 qualify. Some of them are pretty simple because
18 it was a license or something like that. But, you
19 know, the ones who had trip tickets, it would be
20 more of it, you know, the people who had trip
21 tickets and how much we're able to be able to work
22 and be able to pay them back.

23 Any questions on that? Hopefully, we'll
24 get that soon.

25 (No response.)

1 JOE SPRAGGINS:

2 All right. Let's see. Where are we at?
3 Oh, gosh.

4 Red snapper update, we're right at
5 4,000 pounds under. Right? Is that right, Matt?

6 MATT HILL:

7 Yes, sir.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS:

9 And Trevor?

10 So we're right at our 78,000 pounds, is
11 that right, somewhere in the neighborhood of
12 78,000 pounds that we've caught. We had a bumper
13 first weekend, 26,000 pounds in one weekend and
14 the last weekend was a bumper weekend again, about
15 another 13- 14,000, so it was, you know, two good
16 weekends.

17 We had some in the middle that -- but we
18 did get to where we thought we would. We was able
19 to go to July 6th. Right now, we'll have to look
20 at it. You know, I don't want to take the chance.
21 I don't want to go over.

22 And I don't know what we could do. I
23 was talking to Rick about it yesterday and
24 possible, could we do a day -- a weekend or
25 something that -- children only or something to

1 that effect in which we did last year, but we'll
2 just have to look after that. And that will
3 probably be in September if we do it, and so it
4 would be something that we would -- that you had
5 to be under a certain age to be able to do it, but
6 we'll look at that.

7 Any questions on it other than that?

8 Hopefully, next year, we will be --
9 we'll have it to the point to where we'll maybe be
10 close to double what we had or at least another
11 40- or 50,000.

12 CAM ROBERDS:

13 That was going to be my next question.
14 As we wrap up our season and then all the
15 neighboring states, obviously, are continuing to
16 have their season -- I'm sure mine and these guys'
17 phones are going to be ringing, but any idea or
18 indication for next year as far as ACL? Any kind
19 of a range maybe we could give them?

20 JOE SPRAGGINS:

21 You know, it's hard to say. I don't
22 want to tell somebody and get their hopes up.
23 We're doing the MS Creel, which is side by side
24 right now.

25 And, Rick, do you remember?

1 Come here, Trevor. Trevor knows it like
2 the back of his hand. Let's get him to tell you.

3 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

4 All right. So, obviously, we've been
5 talking to y'all for the last year and a half
6 about MS Creel, getting it off the ground. Y'all
7 have all gotten the calls, seen the information
8 about it. Really, there's two pathways that will
9 affect -- well, actually, there's three pathways
10 that will affect the future quotas going forward.
11 One is more of a long-term measure, the two are
12 the shorter term.

13 So one is the Director and the Gulf
14 Council have been working on provisions where, you
15 know, essentially if the entirety of the Gulf
16 isn't over their quota, which has been happening
17 pretty consistently with a fair amount of
18 underharvest in some of the states, essentially no
19 paybacks will have to be provided.

20 So if we're managing red snapper as a
21 Gulf stock as a whole and there's 4 million pounds
22 allocated and only 3 million pounds are there, but
23 we go over by, you know, 5,000 pounds, there
24 shouldn't be a payback because, overall, the stock
25 hasn't reached the overfishing limit or anything

1 else like that. So that's Measure Number 1.

2 Measure Number 2 is the calibration
3 between MS Creel and MRIP, and that's basically
4 going down the lines of the same method that
5 Louisiana did to map LA Creel back to what was the
6 past Coastal Household Telephone Survey versus
7 MRIP, which is what the quota derived is in from
8 the last assessment.

9 So that's essentially going through
10 getting MS Creel certified, which we've been
11 working with Alabama, going back and forth on
12 documentation. We've presented or provided
13 preliminary information of our documentation to
14 the feds with MRIP staff, gotten comments back,
15 made adjustments, matching up what Alabama is
16 having so we're planning on submitting the package
17 all together.

18 We are about probably a week away from
19 producing catch estimates all the way up through
20 this current period for MS Creel. We'll make
21 those comparisons back to what MRIP does and that
22 will essentially allow us to go with that second
23 path, so that's Path Number 2.

24 Path Number 3 is a long-term path, which
25 is essentially taking the newly derived estimates

1 from MS Creel, AL Creel, LA Creel, SRFS in Florida
2 and Texas, putting them into an assessment and
3 having new management advice come out for red
4 snapper fishery as a whole.

5 So that undertakes the SEDAR process.
6 That's new information going in. That's the
7 reconciliation of the entire time series and then
8 new management advice going in the form of the OFL
9 and ABC for the stock and the split-out across all
10 the ACLs.

11 So those are the three paths that will
12 adjust.

13 As far as giving you a percentage number
14 or where it might be as far as what the increase
15 will be, it's hard to tell. Our goal has always
16 been to push for at least 120- for the fishery
17 because that's where we feel like it should be at.
18 That's where it's performed optimally, and that's
19 kind of -- has been our stated goal for a while
20 and that should cover us for our main days,
21 Memorial Day to July 5th, and then trying to get
22 into Labor Day and a little bit after that.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS:

24 And, Trevor, tell me if I'm wrong, but
25 we're side by side for a year?

1 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

2 Yes.

3 JOE SPRAGGINS:

4 And then after, it will be put together
5 so it hopefully -- the dream is that we get it
6 before April of next year where we could be able
7 to change the allocation and say -- and this would
8 mainly affect Mississippi and Alabama and it
9 wouldn't affect anybody else in the Gulf, and it
10 would just say whether or not our allocation is
11 correct.

12 And I would -- the only thing that we're
13 shooting for, like I said, we're looking to try to
14 get to the 120- range, maybe the 140- if it goes
15 there. Once we get to that point, that will get
16 us back to where we used to be and where we used
17 to be where we felt that we were comfortable.

18 And at that point, when we're
19 comfortable with it at that -- you know, in
20 getting this, when you're talking 140-
21 130,000 pounds against 4 million, you know, it's
22 less than a four percent, you know. It's nothing
23 and -- you know, the factor is not even there.
24 The variables in any -- if you look at any
25 statistics, four percent is usually a variable,

1 any way around it. I mean, you know, just think
2 about -- you know all about elections. Think
3 about four percent. You wouldn't even worry about
4 it, would you?

5 JASON OSBORNE:

6 (Shaking head negatively.)

7 JOE SPRAGGINS:

8 And that -- so the point I'm getting at
9 is, that's where I get -- where we're talking
10 about and, you know, overall variable of
11 four percent, so, hopefully, they're going to
12 listen to us and, hopefully, they'll work with
13 you. It's worked out good.

14 And if we have Alabama, Mississippi,
15 Louisiana doing one way, it's going to be hard for
16 them to turn it down. It's going to be hard for
17 them to turn that down, you know, and say that,
18 well, it's not consistent. Because right now, we
19 have the Alabama, whatever it is, and we had our
20 Tails and Scales and Louisiana had theirs, but
21 that's the different ones and they, you know,
22 could throw hatchets at it.

23 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

24 Yeah.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS:

1 Well, they can't throw hatchets with
2 three the same way, and that's the reason we went
3 this way. And I wish they'd have told us years
4 ago that if this is the way they was going to buy
5 into, then we could have done this long ago and
6 saved all that money that we spent on Tails and
7 Scales, which is still the best program out there.

8 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

9 Yeah.

10 JOE SPRAGGINS:

11 But it doesn't matter, you know. Always
12 the star quarterback is not the one that gets
13 the -- signed Number 1 in the, you know, nation,
14 but that's okay.

15 But anything else, Trevor, on it? You
16 know, you think that there is a chance that we'll
17 probably -- hopefully, get the allocation changed
18 by April of next year?

19 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

20 I'll say that we'll have our ducks in a
21 row as far as documentation, comparisons and all
22 that stuff provided to them, and we'll hope that
23 the cooperative nature of us and the feds and the
24 newly formed, you know, goal of establishing a
25 closer cooperative relationship with them will pay

1 off in being a little bit more expeditious in
2 getting it done.

3 JOE SPRAGGINS:

4 Well, and as far as that first thing he
5 was talking about basically with the over -- the
6 overall quota, I don't think there's a state in
7 the Gulf that doesn't want to go to -- they're
8 fine with that. All of them are fine with it.

9 And what will happen there, that doesn't
10 mean that if we filled out -- if we find out that
11 Florida is half a million pounds under, you know,
12 and not going to make it, that we go and fish
13 another 100,000 pounds. No, that's not what we're
14 talking about.

15 What we're talking about is that if we
16 do -- like right now, if we were trying to do this
17 thing with the kids that next -- you know, in
18 September, maybe Labor Day weekend or something,
19 if we went -- instead of 4,000, we went to 6,000,
20 then we probably wouldn't have to pay that back
21 because it wasn't intentional to try to do
22 something.

23 That's going to be left up to the five
24 state directors to make that choice if that goes
25 through, and I think it will go through in a short

1 time.

2 And you're on the Commission with me.
3 Do you see any difference on that?

4 JASON OSBORNE:

5 No.

6 JOE SPRAGGINS:

7 But I think we'll do -- I think we'll
8 get there and -- but that's the Number 1 step.
9 Number 2 step is to be able to get our MS Creel
10 number, and the Number 3 step, then, is go back
11 and do as he said, to reallocate the whole Gulf
12 again and to say how many percent goes to which
13 state. And in that case, we may go from
14 three percent to five percent, you know, but
15 they're -- and then -- but we don't need but a
16 certain amount, so as long as we -- you know, if
17 it's -- if the 150,000 gets us to where we're more
18 than what we need, then we don't need to go any
19 higher than that.

20 JASON OSBORNE:

21 Right.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS:

23 Any more questions?

24 (No response.)

25 JOE SPRAGGINS:

1 Thank you, Trevor.

2 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

3 Yep.

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5 Thanks, Trevor.

6 JOE SPRAGGINS:

7 All right. Well, we had the Governor's
8 First Annual Saltwater Fishing Classic and that
9 was on the 24th, 25th of June at the Golden
10 Nugget.

11 And I tell you what, I can't thank David
12 Machado enough. David is on our commission with
13 the Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Marine
14 Foundation. He helped me set up all the boats and
15 everything for it. We had six different boats
16 that they donated their boats and -- the gentlemen
17 who -- that owned them and they donated the boats
18 to us. They donated their crews to us. They
19 donated the fuel to us, so we couldn't ask for
20 anything more than that.

21 And I tell you what, there's some pretty
22 nice boats, 68 foot and, you know, they were
23 pretty nice. Now I know how the rich people live.

24 But, anyway, we had about 36 fishermen.
25 And we don't have a total number right now, but

1 the biggest that we caught was a little over
2 20 pounds and we caught quite a few between 15 and
3 20. So it was a good deal, and I want to say
4 probably 60 snapper was caught in that group, but
5 had to get out in some deep water to do it. And
6 the ones that -- the big ones were caught in 170
7 foot of water fishing at 130 feet, so, you know,
8 we had to get on out to the Shelf.

9 CAM ROBERDS:

10 Yeah.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS:

12 And I tell you what, that's a few hours.
13 That's a little bit south of here, and -- but it
14 worked and we had a good time.

15 So far, we don't know, but I would say
16 that we'll probably be in the \$180,000 range of
17 how much we will clear out of it as far as the
18 Foundation, and so for the first Governor's
19 Classic, that's pretty good to get \$180,000,
20 around that number, for the Foundation and that
21 will get us started.

22 The first thing we're going to do with
23 that money, Number 1, is we're going to look at
24 scholarships. We're going to look at some
25 scholarships for some young men and women from

1 Mississippi that would like to go into marine
2 biology or marine science or some form of it
3 and -- because we need more of them and to be able
4 to help them and be able to give them scholarships
5 and do that, that would be fantastic. And so
6 that's what we're going to look at first.

7 And then after that, we're looking at
8 some other things, a lot of things to do with
9 kids. We want to teach kids how to fish and be
10 able to work with that and some other things that
11 we'll work on.

12 Any questions on the Governor's Classic?

13 (No response.)

14 JOE SPRAGGINS:

15 But we appreciate it. And Patrick is
16 not here, but Patrick was instrumental with us. I
17 tell you what, he worked his rear end off trying
18 to help us out here and do that, and he got a good
19 taste of what it's like to do something like that.
20 So him and Rick and all of them worked hard on it,
21 but -- and Crystal and Sharmin. And, Lord, I
22 don't want to put -- I better shut up. I'm going
23 to get in trouble because I'll leave somebody out,
24 and -- but, anyway, thank y'all.

25 Next one will be next year. We're

1 looking at June. Don't know the exact time.
2 We're trying to get on the Governor's calendar and
3 so whenever he can be there is what we're working
4 on.

5 Any questions on that?

6 (No response.)

7 JOE SPRAGGINS:

8 And for the -- I know a lot of y'all
9 helped us. Thank you very much. We appreciate
10 it. Y'all helped us a lot with the food and the
11 drinks and other things that were donated, and
12 thank y'all so much.

13 And even -- boy, I tell you what, I
14 don't know how good Ronnie Daniels is, but he is
15 just -- putting out a thing for a day of fishing
16 with him brought a pretty good deal of money and
17 somebody wanted it bad. Either they wanted to get
18 Ronnie in the water for some reason or something.
19 I don't know.

20 CAM ROBERDS:

21 They just wanted a high success rate.

22 RONNIE DANIELS:

23 That's it.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS:

25 But, anyway, thank y'all very much.

1 All right. Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo,
2 July 3rd through the 6th. We had a good turnout.
3 You know, it's getting more and more where people
4 are kind of like, okay, I've got this, but we had
5 a good turnout. And Charmaine, I'm sure, will
6 give us a little bit of update on that here in a
7 few minutes and -- when she gives her report, but
8 I appreciate everybody that worked hard at it.

9 I think the biggest thing I saw was a
10 shark; is that right? Is that the biggest thing
11 caught? Anybody in Fisheries know any different?
12 That was the biggest thing I saw. I don't know.

13 All right. We'll continue. Deer Island
14 fire. Well, the Fourth of July, we had more than
15 just fireworks, you know. And I can tell you that
16 it didn't do a whole lot of damage, you know.
17 It's two or three acres at the most, and it was
18 just mainly brush and, you know, some underbrush
19 and stuff that caught fire.

20 And it was -- it all had to do with the
21 way the winds were blowing and, you know, it was a
22 pretty good deal of wind and not necessarily that
23 the wind blew that over it, but it was the winds
24 that kept the fire building up.

25 And if you looked out there with the

1 cameras and everybody else, you thought that some
2 atomic bomb hit or something, you know, as much
3 fire was going up in the air, but it was put out
4 pretty quick.

5 And Jennifer and her group went out and
6 did a quick assessment of it, and we basically
7 closed the island for a day or so and then we
8 turned around and opened it back up. But it's
9 fine, and it doesn't cause any damage other
10 than -- you know, we burn there all the time. We
11 do controlled burns on a normal basis there and it
12 didn't do anything other than help us with a
13 little bit of a controlled burn.

14 And the group, the Boom Boom group and
15 the City of Biloxi, are working hard right now to
16 come up with any type of change that they might
17 want to look at. They're looking at moving it to
18 a different place or something, you know, east or
19 west a little bit or south a little bit, but
20 whatever it is.

21 And a lot of it is going to depend on
22 the winds, and they may have a program to where
23 they say, okay, if the winds are projected to be
24 this, this is where we're going. If the wind is
25 projected to be this, this is where we're going.

1 But it was all up in the news and
2 everything, two years in a row. Okay. But out of
3 the last 15, 20 years, how many? Three times,
4 and so come on. It's not that bad. We'll work at
5 it. Any questions on that?

6 Did y'all get your fire -- you know, if
7 you had some marshmallows, you'd have had a good
8 roast out there.

9 CAM ROBERDS:

10 Controlled burn.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS:

12 Yeah. It was a good controlled burn
13 that people got to look at.

14 All right. Let's see. Neshoba County
15 Fair, well, it will be the 30th of July and the
16 coolest time of the year and -- right? And it
17 will be in Neshoba. This year, we're still doing
18 the Red Clay and Sand Mixer where we do the
19 seafood and all. Last year, we had over 500
20 people that showed up from all over the place to
21 be able to come and eat our seafood and it was
22 fantastic, and I think we'll have that many or
23 more this year. It's a great deal.

24 If you're in Neshoba County on the 30th
25 of July, come by the Neshoba County Fair there.

1 And if you just go to the main area where the
2 arena is where they do the speaking and all,
3 you'll be able to find us because we're right
4 there. And it's a big event.

5 Everybody is welcome, and we'll have
6 some good seafood there. And I tell you what, I
7 think everybody will enjoy it and have a good
8 time. But it really does give us a chance to go
9 out and tell people in the central part of the
10 state and that come from other parts of the state,
11 too, that -- they come -- there's a lot of people
12 that go to that Neshoba County Fair.

13 And if you've never been, it's something
14 you ought to put on your bucket list, and it's a
15 lot of fun. A lot of things go on. And during
16 the election year, it's really good because you
17 get to hear everybody in the world tell their
18 stories, you know, but it's -- right now, it's
19 just a big event, and so if you get a chance --
20 it's a good way for us to advertise and be able to
21 advertise our Mississippi seafood and how good it
22 is and not have to spend a whole lot of money. So
23 that's the good part about it.

24 Any questions?

25 (No response.)

1 JOE SPRAGGINS:

2 Our next Commission meeting is the 19th
3 of August at 9:00 a.m. Any questions on that?
4 Anybody got any heartburn?

5 JASON OSBORNE:

6 (Shaking head negatively.)

7 JOE SPRAGGINS:

8 Okay. I'm getting close.

9 All right. Derelict vessels, we -- now
10 we have 200 that have been identified; 177 of that
11 200 have been removed; 23 are pending removal; and
12 eight we have already received court orders on.

13 So -- and I want to -- hats off to Roy
14 and Steven and the group because they did the
15 emergency move over on the Jourdan River right
16 before the Fourth of July and went in and moved
17 that boat that had sunk in the middle of the curve
18 there. And it was going to cause a lot of
19 problems, could have hurt somebody and caused
20 someone to, you know, get hurt bad, especially jet
21 skis and other things coming across there.

22 So they got in there in 24 hours. They
23 put -- went -- from the time that we talked to
24 them to the time that they had it out of the
25 water, it was less than 24 hours. That's pretty

1 good, and so we appreciate that. And Will
2 Ladner's group is the one who stepped up to us,
3 and Will did a great job. Thank you, Will, for
4 what you did.

5 All right. Let's see. Now, Sandy or
6 Steven, do we have any agency -- I mean, actions
7 updates?

8 STEVEN ECKERT:

9 Good morning, Commissioners and
10 Director.

11 We have, at the June 2025 meeting, the
12 Commission recommended and the Director approved a
13 motion to recommend the proposed changes to
14 Title 22, Part 23 to the Mississippi Coastal
15 Program be sent to the Secretary of State's Office
16 for notice of intent.

17 There was a second motion to recommend
18 to the Executive Director that the changes to
19 Title 22, Part 6 for the live bait activities be
20 filed with the Secretary of State's Office for
21 final adoption and the proposed effective date be
22 30 days from filing.

23 There was also a saltwater finfish
24 record with -- for an almaco jack of 40 pounds,
25 15.2 ounces for Mr. Tim Shivers.

1 And I apologize. That was my fault, I
2 think, on the slides. I had a carryover. I need
3 to update that for Mr. Tim Shivers. But that is
4 from last month's meeting.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6 Okay. Any questions?

7 We need -- we don't need a motion on any
8 of that or anything, right?

9 SANDY CHESNUT:

10 No.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS:

12 All right. Director, that's --
13 Commission, that's my report.

14 CAM ROBERDS:

15 Director, I appreciate it. A lot of --
16 a wealth of information there. Thank you, sir.

17 Down to Commissioners' report. Do any
18 of the Commissioners have anything they want to
19 report on today?

20 JASON OSBORNE:

21 No.

22 CAM ROBERDS:

23 All right. Well, we'll move on to the
24 report on citations from Office of Marine Patrol,
25 Chief Wilkerson.

1 KYLE WILKERSON:

2 Good morning. Listen, the Lord has
3 blessed us with some beautiful weather, right?

4 Not as hot, I don't think, so I think
5 last year was only like 200 degrees. What y'all
6 think?

7 Other than that, listen, June was a busy
8 month for us. I mean, we checked approximately
9 2,700 people. I'm not going to get into any
10 details about cases, but we seized an 800-foot
11 gillnet. We stopped an Alabama boat from stealing
12 Mississippi shrimp before shrimp season kicked
13 off. I mean, it was very busy.

14 Several citations. We had some oyster
15 citations. We had a -- some commercial activity
16 above the railroad bridge.

17 Listen, these people, these Marine
18 Patrol officers, they're proactive. They're not
19 reactive. They're out there looking and they're
20 working hard for you and they're working hard for
21 me and they do a phenomenal job and I cannot
22 praise them enough.

23 But I can field any question that you
24 have on it, but other than that, any details, we'd
25 have to talk privately.

1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 Any questions for Chief?

3 (No response.)

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5 Thank you so much. I think I -- we all
6 can agree with you guys are out there putting in
7 the work and we appreciate it.

8 KYLE WILKERSON:

9 Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

10 CAM ROBERDS:

11 All right. Moving down to Resources
12 Management, wetlands permitting. It looks like
13 Ms. Katie.

14 KATIE NELSON:

15 Sorry. I need to get situated. I
16 couldn't tell if the thingy was on or not.

17 All right. Good morning, everyone.
18 This morning, I will discuss a request for a
19 permit by the City of Biloxi.

20 The location of the project is Point
21 Cadet near Cadet Street and the Highway 90 Bridge
22 in Biloxi Bay. The project area is within the
23 General Use District.

24 The agent we've been working with on the
25 project is Patrick Mooney from BMA, who is here

1 today to help me answer any questions you all may
2 have at the end.

3 The purpose and need for the project is
4 to create habitat for the growth and development
5 of commercial and recreational marine species.

6 The City is requesting to fill 6.51
7 acres of unvegetated water bottoms for the
8 creation of tidal and emergent marsh and high
9 marsh island habitat, island habitat, fill to
10 eliminate a high spot -- excuse me, a low spot,
11 sand beach habitat and submerged and emergent
12 breakwaters. Also to note, the proposed
13 structures should not exceed height of 2.8 NAVD88.

14 Here is the proposed project location
15 and footprint. Again, it's at Point Cadet and the
16 Highway 90 bridge.

17 Here's the proposed project diagram. I
18 know it's a little busy, but I have color coded
19 the different impacts, so I will go through them.

20 Highlighted in yellow shows the island
21 and marsh creation. Highlighted in pink is the
22 emergent breakwater, and purple is the sand beach
23 creation. In blue shows the fill to eliminate the
24 low spot. Navigational aids in red on the
25 outskirts of the project area, and submerged

1 breakwaters are shown in green.

2 The City has requested a variance to one
3 of the requirements for regulated activities in
4 the Mississippi Coastal Program, and it justified
5 the variance by stating, the impacts would be no
6 less -- excuse me, would be no worse than if the
7 requirements were followed.

8 Public notices for the project, the
9 initial public notice was published in the *Sun*
10 *Herald* on May 18th and 25th, as well as June 1st
11 of this year. In addition to the *Sun Herald*, we
12 also posted it on our website from May 16th to
13 June 4th.

14 We did receive two public comments to
15 our public notice. The first commenter inquired
16 if consideration for a Glass Half Full project or
17 similar alternative -- a link was provided with
18 the comment, so after I looked at it, the Glass
19 Half Full project is, I think, primarily in New
20 Orleans and it takes recycled glass and converts
21 it into sand or gravel.

22 The Agent responded to this comment by
23 stating that they have reached out to the company,
24 but they, the company, is having a supply problem
25 and will not be able to contribute any recycled

1 sand for this project.

2 The second commenter has concerns about
3 the funding sources for this project. The Agent
4 responded by saying that the funding for this
5 project is coming from the National Fish and
6 Wildlife Foundation and stated that tax money
7 would not be utilized for the proposed project.

8 Additional comments, DEQ or MDAH did not
9 submit any comments during the comment period, and
10 then Secretary of State stated that a rent-exempt
11 lease will be required for the project area.

12 After a thorough evaluation of the
13 project based on the decision factors in the
14 Mississippi Coastal Program, it has been
15 determined that the project would serve a higher
16 public interest by creating nearshore habitat
17 along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, providing
18 additional storm protection for tangent
19 properties, facilitating the growth and
20 development of valuable commercial and
21 recreational marine species and increasing public
22 recreational opportunities.

23 Therefore, Staff requests a motion that
24 the Commission recommend to the Executive Director
25 to approve the requested variance, approve the

1 permit and condition the permit to contain the
2 following: Submission of an adaptive management
3 plan to be reviewed by MDMR staff prior to
4 construction, coordination with the US Coast Guard
5 for necessary navigational aids at the project
6 location and an SAV survey must be submitted prior
7 to implementation of the project, at least 30 days
8 prior to commencement.

9 And that is all. Do you guys have any
10 questions?

11 CAM ROBERDS:

12 That is quite a project going on right
13 there.

14 KATIE NELSON:

15 Yes. I can -- would you like me to go
16 back just so you can take a look at it again?

17 CAM ROBERDS:

18 No. I'm looking at it right now.

19 I do have a -- one or two quick
20 questions. The sand beach, is that -- it said for
21 recreational opportunity. Is that for people to
22 actually walk out on the beach and utilize it?

23 PATRICK MOONEY:

24 It is, yes, sir.

25 CAM ROBERDS:

1 That's cool. Okay. Cool. I like that.

2 That's pretty interesting.

3 And then the little islands will
4 actually have -- I think you said they'll have
5 actual marsh on top of them? That's how they'll
6 be stabilized?

7 KATIE NELSON:

8 Uh-huh. Vegetation plantings, both high
9 marsh and lower marsh.

10 JOE SPRAGGINS:

11 Might be some good fishing.

12 CAM ROBERDS:

13 Probably so.

14 RONNIE DANIELS:

15 That's what I was about to say. That
16 provides a lot of habitat for fish and fishermen
17 alike.

18 KATIE NELSON:

19 Yep.

20 JOE SPRAGGINS:

21 Be able to wade out on the sandbar and
22 fish.

23 CAM ROBERDS:

24 I've fished that area before, so that's
25 interesting for sure. That's a good wintertime

1 spot.

2 All right. Do we -- are there any other
3 questions?

4 If not, do we have a motion to take the
5 Staff's recommendation?

6 JASON OSBORNE:

7 Motion. I make the motion.

8 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

9 Second.

10 JOE SPRAGGINS:

11 All those in favor?

12 (Unanimous vote.)

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 Opposed?

15 (None opposed.)

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 All right. Thank you.

18 All right. It looks like Ms. Leslie
19 Brewer.

20 JOE SPRAGGINS:

21 No. Willa.

22 CAM ROBERDS:

23 Oh, Willa. I'm sorry. I skipped you.
24 Sorry about that.

25 WILLA BRANTLEY:

1 That's okay. Mine's going to be quick.

2 Okay. I have the final adoption
3 proposal for the Title 22, Part 23, the
4 Mississippi Coastal Program. This is the updates
5 and reorganization that I went over last month.

6 So on June 17th, the Advisory Commission
7 recommended to the Executive Director that the
8 proposed updates be sent to the Secretary of
9 State's office for notice of intent. The
10 Executive Director approved the recommendation,
11 and the notice of intent was sent to the Secretary
12 of State's office that same day on June 17th.

13 Notice of the proposed amendment was
14 published in the *Sun Herald* on June 22nd. Notice
15 of the proposed regulations were also posted on
16 the website starting on June 18th.

17 Here are the proofs. That one didn't
18 come out all the way, but that's the filing for
19 Secretary of State, the posting on the website
20 notice and the legal notice that went in the *Sun*
21 *Herald*. And no public comments were received.

22 So Staff requests a motion that the
23 Commission recommend to the Executive Director
24 that the proposed regulations be filed with the
25 Secretary of State's office for final adoption,

1 and the effective date would be 30 days from the
2 filing.

3 Any questions?

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5 Any questions, Commissioners?

6 (No response.)

7 CAM ROBERDS:

8 All right. Well, do we have a motion to
9 take the Staff's recommendation and recommend to
10 the Executive Director?

11 RONNIE DANIELS:

12 Motion.

13 JASON OSBORNE:

14 I second.

15 CAM ROBERDS:

16 All those in favor?

17 (Unanimous vote.)

18 CAM ROBERDS:

19 Opposed?

20 (None opposed.)

21 CAM ROBERDS:

22 Thank you, Ms. Willa.

23 WILLA BRANTLEY:

24 Thank you.

25 CAM ROBERDS:

1 All right. Now, we get to hear about
2 the accounting situation. Thank you.

3 LESLIE BREWER:

4 Good morning, everyone.

5 I'm presenting the financials for
6 June 30th, 2025. We're closing the year out with
7 state revenue of 6.8 million, agency revenue of
8 73.8 million.

9 State net loss of 1.3 million, which we
10 will get our appropriations probably September to
11 flip that around to positive, and then agency net
12 income of 19.6 million.

13 After 12 months, our operating budget is
14 82.4 percent of the budget and Tidelands is at
15 28 percent remaining.

16 Anybody got any questions?

17 CAM ROBERDS:

18 Questions?

19 (No response.)

20 CAM ROBERDS:

21 All right. Thank you very much,
22 Ms. Brewer.

23 CAM ROBERDS:

24 All right. Moving down to
25 Ms. Charmaine, Public Affairs.

1 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

2 Good morning.

3 CAM ROBERDS:

4 Morning.

5 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

6 The Mississippi Department of Marine
7 Resources had 46 media mentions since the June
8 MACMR meeting. News items included the closing of
9 red snapper season, the new seafood labeling law,
10 shrimp season opening, boat and water safety and
11 MDMR accepting proposals for GOMESA projects.

12 Marine Patrol participated in the
13 Pascagoula Fire Cubs program on June 18th and here
14 at the Southeastern Law Enforcement Explorer
15 Academy on June 26th.

16 Randy Wilson, Allison Faggard and
17 Kaitlyn Payne in Coastal Resources Management gave
18 a presentation to the kids at the Humane Society
19 of South Mississippi's Club Paws Summer Day Camp
20 on June 18th. Randy also gave a presentation at
21 the Biloxi Lions Club meeting on July 2nd to talk
22 about Deer Island.

23 Brianna Andrews and Jennifer Cumbest
24 from the Grand Bay NERR represented their offices
25 with educational booths for -- at the Summer

1 STEMFest at Infinity Science Center on July 12th,
2 this past weekend. Brianna and Jennifer also gave
3 an On the Road Program presentation to the Head
4 Start in Moss Point on June 23rd.

5 On June 21st, participants in the
6 Advanced Seed Production Training Program took a
7 deep dive into one of the most exciting stages of
8 hatchery work, harvesting pediveligers and setting
9 them into -- onto microcultch for their first step
10 toward becoming seed. On July 24th, Shellfish
11 Bureau Director Jason Rider attended and gave a
12 presentation at the Pearl River County Soil and
13 Water Conservation District Workshop.

14 MDMR staff and administration assisted
15 with the Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks,
16 Marine Foundation's inaugural Governor's Saltwater
17 Fishing Classic June 24th and 25th at the Golden
18 Nugget in Biloxi. Funds from this fishing
19 tournament will help with MDMR's future projects
20 and community outreach.

21 And the Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing
22 Rodeo was July 3rd through the 6th, and the Agency
23 was on hand each day at the fishing rodeo
24 distributing our rules and regulations
25 publications, fish ruler stickers, fish posters

1 and other informational pieces to the public.

2 It was a hot weekend.

3 CAM ROBERDS:

4 Wow. Lots of involvement. Thank you
5 for keeping us updated on everything that's going
6 on throughout the month. I appreciate that.

7 Any questions?

8 (No response.)

9 CAM ROBERDS:

10 All right. Thank you.

11 Trevor, it looks like we've got a stack
12 of three finfish records. Thank you.

13 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

14 Yeah. We've got a -- we've got an
15 impressive one to start off with, that's for sure.

16 So the first one is conventional tackle.
17 It's a gray snapper. The old record was 15
18 pounds, seven ounces. This one beat it out by
19 just a little bit at 15 pounds, 9.6 ounces, Mr.
20 Tim Kennedy. There is a picture of the fish, and
21 there is Mr. Kennedy with that fish. It was truly
22 a monster.

23 We have an all tackle record. We have a
24 permit. The old record was 11 pounds. The new
25 record is 14 pounds, 3.2 ounces, Mr. Mike Aucoin.

1 And there is a picture of the fish, Mr. Aucoin
2 with the fish. As you can see from the sticker,
3 he spearfished this one.

4 We have a youth conventional, a
5 bonnethead. It's a new record, eight pounds, 15.2
6 ounces. And it's Mr. Riley Armes, so we've got a
7 younger Armes starting to come into the fray,
8 potentially taking some records away from his
9 brother. Picture of the fish. Oh, sorry, ma'am,
10 sister. Riley with the fish.

11 Required action, I just need a motion to
12 recommend the approval of the state records.

13 JASON OSBORNE:

14 I make a motion.

15 RONNIE DANIELS:

16 Second.

17 CAM ROBERDS:

18 All those in favor?

19 (Unanimous vote.)

20 CAM ROBERDS:

21 Trevor, appreciate it.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS:

23 Brodie is in trouble.

24 CAM ROBERDS:

25 She's coming for him.

1 All right. It looks like the Grand Bay
2 NERR, Ms. Ayesha.

3 AYESHA GRAY:

4 Good morning.

5 I would like to introduce our new
6 education coordinator. I don't know how many of
7 you have met her in person before.

8 Start over. I'd like to introduce our
9 new education coordinator. I don't know how many
10 of you have met her. This is Ms. Jennifer
11 Cumbest, and she's going to present information
12 about the teacher workshops that we did this past
13 month.

14 JENNIFER CUMBEST:

15 Yeah. So we hosted our teacher
16 workshops at the NERR, so here's just a little
17 information.

18 So our first one was Let's Get Batty.
19 It's a bat workshop, so we partnered with Mandy
20 Rigsby out of MSU. And she did her master's
21 thesis out at the NERR doing bat research, so she
22 came and spoke to our teachers about just bats in
23 general and then told them about her specific
24 research.

25 And I let teachers build their own bat

1 boxes to then take home or their schools. So we
2 had seven teachers participate in this workshop.

3 And then I included just quotes at the
4 end. Part of my evaluation is like a
5 finish-this-sentence type thing, and so this
6 teacher said that she got a high level of research
7 and she really appreciated that.

8 And then we did our Teachers on the
9 Estuary workshop. This is a requirement through
10 our grant. It is a two-and-a-half-day workshop.
11 Teachers get 1.7 CEUs, so it's a pretty intensive
12 workshop. They got to hear from 10 different
13 staff members from the NERR.

14 We learned about fire ecology, habitat
15 restoration and the impacts of that in our upland
16 pine savanna habitat as well as how that impacts
17 our estuary.

18 We had nine total teachers, and our
19 teachers absolutely loved the workshop. They said
20 it was some of the best teacher -- professional
21 development that they have had.

22 And then we did two separate GulfSeeLife
23 workshops. I partnered with the creators of the
24 app so Dr. Richard Buchholz and Kayleigh
25 Mazariegos out of the University of Mississippi.

1 And they came down, gave the teachers an
2 introduction to the app, showed them how they
3 could use it, how they felt it was going to be
4 best applicable in their classrooms.

5 We had 21 total teachers over two days.
6 We took them out on our education vessel, did a
7 couple of trawls and collected some specimens for
8 our teachers to look at. We had some really cool
9 pulls. We fought salinity a little bit, but both
10 days we were able to capture some good stuff.

11 And the teachers were really jazzed
12 about being able to learn how to use this app in
13 the classroom, so hopefully we'll get some of that
14 going this year.

15 So any questions about that?

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 Excellent.

18 Is it true that bats eat mosquitoes?

19 JENNIFER CUMBEST:

20 It is. That is the main thing that bats
21 do for us here.

22 CAM ROBERDS:

23 It is. Okay. I'm going to have to
24 build a bat box or two at the house right now
25 because they're pretty bad.

1 JENNIFER CUMBEST:

2 Yeah. They eat -- they control our
3 insect population. That's the main thing they --

4 JOE SPRAGGINS:

5 I thought that was in honor of Crystal,
6 going batty, you know.

7 CRYSTAL MATTA:

8 That's on the record.

9 JOE SPRAGGINS:

10 And it needs to be. And it needs to be.

11 CRYSTAL MATTA:

12 Oh, my gosh.

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 Thank you very much. Appreciate you.

15 CRYSTAL MATTA:

16 Can you omit that from the record?

17 CAM ROBERDS:

18 Any other business to speak of or do we
19 have any public comments? I don't see any, so I
20 guess we can -- go ahead, sir.

21 JOE SPRAGGINS:

22 Before -- before we do, a couple of
23 things. First off, I just saw him in there, but I
24 don't know where he went. But, you know, we have
25 an elected official in the Agency now. Where's

1 Jared at? He just walked out, but Jared is the
2 new Councilman At-large in Wiggins, Mississippi,
3 so welcome, Jared, to the political world. So
4 we've got a politician in here, but he walked out.

5 The other thing is, I just wanted to
6 give you an update that I forgot a while ago. As
7 far as speckled trout, the commercial, we're about
8 to meet the quota and I think we'll probably meet
9 it this next month. Is that right, Rick?

10 RICK BURRIS:

11 (Nodding head affirmatively.)

12 JOE SPRAGGINS:

13 About 50,000 pounds that we'll meet.
14 And that's the first time that we've met it in
15 quite a few years, so that's a good thing for us
16 to be able to meet the quota and where we're at.

17 We talked about a possibility, should we
18 raise the quota or not, but, really, it doesn't
19 make that much difference for right now. And it's
20 a -- talking to the staff, they think it may be --
21 you know, because we haven't come close in the
22 last couple of years that we ought to wait and
23 look at another year and see where we're at before
24 we do anything with it.

25 So any questions on that?

1 (No response.)

2 JOE SPRAGGINS:

3 But redfish, we still have plenty left
4 in the 60,000, and, also, we have plenty left in
5 the flounder. So they have something to fish for,
6 but I just wanted to brief you on that and make
7 sure to update it.

8 CAM ROBERDS:

9 Thank you, Director.

10 All right. Without any public comments,
11 if anybody has anything else to speak of -- if
12 not, do we have a motion to adjourn?

13 RONNIE DANIELS:

14 Motion.

15 JASON OSBORNE:

16 Second.

17 CAM ROBERDS:

18 All those in favor?

19 (Unanimous vote.)

20 (Adjourned at 9:58 a.m.)

21

22

23

24

25

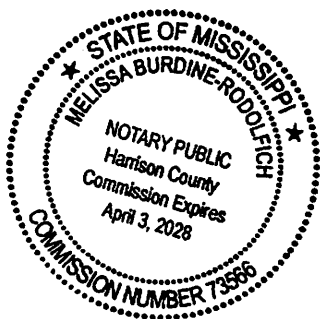
CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

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

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

Witness my signature and seal, this the 11th day of August, 2025.

Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich



Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich
My Commission Expires 4/03/28