

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, August 19, 9:01 a.m.,
Biloxi City Hall, Second Floor
140 Lameuse Street, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Joe Spraggins
Sandy Chesnut, Esquire
Steven Eckert, Esquire

REPORTED BY:

Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich
mburdine@sbmreporting.com

1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I
3 want to call to order the Mississippi Advisory
4 Commission on Marine Resources for Tuesday,
5 August 19th, 2025.

6 Commissioner Daniels, will you lead us
7 in the Pledge of Allegiance, please?

8 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

9 CAM ROBERDS:

10 General, would you like to lead us in
11 the prayer this morning?

12 JOE SPRAGGINS:

13 Okay. Got a quick -- let's go to the
14 Lord in prayer.

15 (Moment of Prayer.)

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 Do we have any questions on the approval
18 of the minutes for July 15th?

19 If not, do we have a motion?

20 RONNIE DANIELS:

21 Motion.

22 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

23 Second.

24 CAM ROBERDS:

25 All those in favor?

1 (Unanimous vote.)

2 CAM ROBERDS:

3 Have we had an opportunity to look at
4 the agenda and do we have any questions on the
5 agenda?

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

7 MATTHEW MAYFIELD:

8 Motion to approve.

9 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

10 Second.

11 CAM ROBERDS:

12 All in favor?

13 (Unanimous vote.)

14 CAM ROBERDS:

15 All right. Executive Director, your
16 turn.

17 JOE SPRAGGINS:

18 All right. I'm not sure if I've got
19 this -- oh, there it goes.

20 All right. So we've got a couple of
21 things that we want to talk about. First off, if
22 you have any public comments, TJ is in the back
23 somewhere. Get with TJ so he can get it to us,
24 and we'll be able to move forward with that.

25 Seafood labeling law, right now, we're

1 still moving forward with that. What the
2 situation is, is we're still trying to put our
3 task force together. I would like to have a task
4 force meeting and get some rules put together.
5 And once we get some rules put together with the
6 task force meeting and -- then we will turn around
7 and start getting more specific about what you
8 can -- what you need to do.

9 Now, I have talked to a lot of different
10 places, whether it's restaurants, whether it's
11 grocery stores, whether it's processors, people
12 selling seafood. If you're trying, if you're
13 trying at all to be able to help us to say whether
14 it is imported or domestic, that's what we're
15 after right now. Just keep trying.

16 Anything that you can do to move forward
17 that way and say that it is either imported or
18 domestic, our goal is to get it all done where
19 it's publicized very good in every restaurant,
20 every grocery store, every market, everywhere we
21 do, but it's going to take us a little time to run
22 with it, you know, before we can do that, so give
23 us time.

24 And if you're one of those individuals
25 that has a restaurant or a market or a

1 restaurant -- or excuse me, a grocery store or
2 something to that effect, please try every way you
3 can to label your seafood the way it should be.
4 It's either imported or domestic product. And
5 then we will work with you and get you the exact
6 details in the near future.

7 Any questions on that, Commissioners?

8 (No questions.)

9 JOE SPRAGGINS:

10 All right. Update on the on-bottom
11 oyster lease program, well, yesterday, the judge
12 made a ruling and he made a ruling that there
13 would be a preliminary injunction. And it would
14 be a preliminary injunction on being able to do
15 any on-bottom leases, and the reason was it was
16 unconstitutional because of the United States
17 Fourth Amendment.

18 And it's basically, Number 1, you know,
19 it said that it could be only Mississippi
20 residents and because it could only be Mississippi
21 residents and we were doing it outside of the
22 State of Mississippi, that was not constitutional.

23 So what we're doing, we're -- we will --
24 I have no idea where it's going from here. I can
25 tell you that we will do at this point is we will

1 continue to operate as if we have in the -- you
2 know, the last 15 years. We will continue to
3 operate in the same way we've been doing it.

4 So whenever we have oyster season, what
5 we will look at is we will go back and our
6 scientists will go back and be able to give me
7 data and as soon as it's -- the conditions are
8 right -- we're talking the water and talking
9 everything else. As soon as everything is good
10 and as soon as we think it's safe to do it, we'll
11 open up oyster season. We'll open up oyster
12 season on 100 percent of our property and -- of
13 what we can -- we feel like is a -- there is
14 enough oysters there to do so.

15 We'll do a preliminary look at it. We
16 will look at the oyster reefs. We'll go back and
17 see what each one of them has on it. We will come
18 back, hopefully, I would think September, October
19 at the latest, that we will have some kind of idea
20 of when -- we will usually try to open up our
21 oyster season.

22 And as soon as we get everything put
23 together there, we will pick the areas. You know,
24 I would think most all of the Western Sound will
25 probably be open and part of the Eastern Sound

1 will probably be open, so we will do that. We
2 will try to set a sack limit. We will try to do
3 the same thing that we've done all the -- in the
4 last 25 years or whatever. And we will try to get
5 it back and we will try to get our oystermen back
6 fishing.

7 Any questions?

8 (No response.)

9 JOE SPRAGGINS:

10 Okay. 2019, 2020 Bonnet Carré update,
11 there is no new updates on '19 right now.

12 The Bonnet Carré, we have approximately
13 3 million in the 2020. Eligible applicants are --
14 were notified of the application process through
15 e-mail, postcard and press release and social
16 media, public information meeting and text
17 messages.

18 Applications opened May 2nd and closed
19 June 30th. 275 applications were submitted and
20 staff is still reviewing some of those.

21 Once again, a little bit -- if you don't
22 know, the reason we're here right now is
23 they're -- they shut down the Bolton Building to
24 be -- do testing and see if there is anything --
25 there was some issues that we had with some mold

1 in the building at one time, and we're trying to
2 be able to mitigate that to make sure where it's
3 at.

4 So our -- my whole agency is scattered,
5 so we're scattered all over the Coast right now.
6 So to be able to have some kind of sense in how
7 quick we'll get something done, it might be a
8 little bit slower, but I promise you, every one of
9 them is going to work as hard as they can to get
10 things done as quick as possible for you and -- so
11 that won't be holding up anything. So we'll let
12 you know as soon as we can get you some
13 information on the 2020 Bonnet Carré as to when
14 that will happen.

15 Is there any questions on that?

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 No, sir.

18 JOE SPRAGGINS:

19 All right. If you had -- Neshoba County
20 Fair last -- a couple weeks ago, July 30th, over
21 600 people showed up that night for our seafood
22 festival, so that -- our event. The Gulf Coast
23 event was seafood, had over 600 people and about
24 90 percent of them were not from the Gulf Coast.
25 That's what was great, because we got to show our

1 seafood and how great our seafood is all across
2 the State of Mississippi and people from a lot of
3 places.

4 So I want to thank everybody, the whole
5 team that was part of that. They worked hard and
6 the cooking team and everyone else that worked
7 with it. And I want to thank them all and I just
8 thank the -- it's called the Red Clay and Sand
9 Mixer.

10 And I appreciate that every year. This
11 is our sixth year or fifth year or something that
12 we've done that and it went from about 25 people
13 to 600, so that tells you how much it's growing
14 every year.

15 So maybe next year -- I think it's going
16 to be in June next year instead of August, so next
17 year maybe if you want to go to the Red Clay and
18 Sand Mixer, you can come up to Neshoba County and
19 see what we're talking about.

20 Any questions?

21 (No response.)

22 JOE SPRAGGINS:

23 All right. We have Gulf Council next
24 week. I'll be in San Antonio, so we start on the
25 24th and go all the way through to the 28th.

1 29th, we'll be coming home. I'll be coming home
2 on the 27th.

3 But, basically, it's looking at a couple
4 of things, nothing major there. You know, as far
5 as the Gulf Council and what we're doing there
6 that affects us, the main thing that we're looking
7 at right now is still our snapper season and how
8 much we're going to have and the allocation that
9 we'll have.

10 So what we're working on with them is
11 we're going to -- we're still doing MS Creel,
12 which is running right along the MRIP, and we're
13 trying to do that same test, so -- as we do all
14 year, and, hopefully, we'll get something done and
15 things will move forward with that. And we're
16 hoping that we will be able to raise our
17 allocation next year.

18 Any questions?

19 CAM ROBERDS:

20 No, sir.

21 JOE SPRAGGINS:

22 All right. If you didn't know it -- I
23 don't want to mention it, but I've got to -- next
24 Friday, anniversary of Katrina. You know, I don't
25 like mentioning bad things, but, you know, it's

1 20 years. It's the 20-year anniversary of
2 Katrina, so there will be a lot of events going on
3 and a lot of things happening, so, you know, just
4 thank the good Lord that he's given us 20 years.

5 Just thank Him that He has let us have
6 20 years to rebuild because we started out -- I
7 remember very much that right after that storm
8 that we thought about it and our question was how
9 long it was going to take us. You know, we were
10 sitting at 10 years minimum. Well, 10 years was
11 nowhere near enough. We're still rebuilding and
12 here it is 20 years from -- now.

13 So just thank the good Lord that we've
14 had this 20 years without a major, major storm.
15 We've had some storms, but nothing major and
16 hopefully we can get 20 more years if we could.

17 We will be closed on Labor Day, the 1st
18 of September, for a holiday.

19 The Biloxi Seafood Festival is
20 September 13th at Biloxi Town Green here, so we
21 will be supporting that and please come by if you
22 get a chance and see what's going on with the
23 seafood festival. It's always great to have that.

24 Our next Commission meeting is scheduled
25 for Tuesday, September 16th at 9:00 a.m. I have

1 no idea where it will be, you know. As soon as I
2 find out what we're going to do about the
3 building, I will let you know. The building, if
4 we're back in it, we'll do that.

5 If we're not, we'll have another
6 location. We'll find something, and it might be
7 one of those times where we go to Hancock County,
8 you know. We try to do that once a year anyway,
9 so we might just plan on doing something like
10 that, or either Jackson County. So we'll look it
11 up and see what we can do.

12 All right. Derelict vessels update, we
13 have 212 vessel cases that have been reported; 188
14 have been removed; 24 are pending and five have
15 received court orders.

16 Any questions on that?

17 (No response.)

18 JOE SPRAGGINS:

19 Let's see. And if not -- I don't know
20 if there is anything else. If there is, I'll
21 think of it in a minute.

22 But, then, we'll just go to the actions
23 update.

24 Well, I'll tell you what, how about
25 employment contracts? Do we have any employment

1 contracts?

2 And we've got two, Elizabeth Kinnard and
3 Victoria Le, and both of them have just started
4 with us. One in the licensing department and the
5 other one in the office. We're glad to have both
6 of them on.

7 All right. How about actions update
8 from the prior meeting?

9 STEVEN ECKERT:

10 Good morning, Commissioners and
11 Director. Discussed at the July 2025 meeting, the
12 Commission recommended and the Director approved a
13 motion to approve the permit and requested
14 variances for the City of Biloxi's Point Cadet
15 project to fill six and a half acres of water
16 bottoms, tidal marsh and sand beach. And that
17 included conditions for a management plan,
18 coordination with the Coast Guard and the
19 inspection for subaquatic vegetation.

20 Also, there was a motion to recommend
21 the proposed changes to Title 22, Part 23,
22 Mississippi Coastal Program to be filed with the
23 Secretary of State for final adoption.

24 And, finally, there were three finfish
25 records approved for Timothy Kennedy's 15-pound,

1 9.6-ounce gray snapper; Mike Aucoin's 14-pound,
2 3.2-ounce permit; and Riley Armes' eight-pound,
3 15.2-ounce bonnethead.

4 And that concludes our action items for
5 today.

6 JOE SPRAGGINS:

7 Okay. We don't have to do any motions
8 or anything like that, do we?

9 STEVEN ECKERT:

10 No, sir.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS:

12 All right. Mr. Chairman, with that,
13 that's my report.

14 CAM ROBERDS:

15 All right, sir. Thank you for the
16 update, Director.

17 Moving down, do any Commissioners have
18 anything they would like to report today?

19 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

20 No, sir.

21 CAM ROBERDS:

22 Okay. Well, it looks like Chief
23 Wilkerson is in the house to give us a report on
24 citations.

25 KYLE WILKERSON:

1 Well, this is kind of awkward. Do you
2 need me to sit down?

3 Well, I would like to say, I kind of
4 like this venue. It's awful nice. It's a little
5 different than the Commission room.

6 I want to commend all the bureaus for
7 the DMR on the smooth work they did, the extra,
8 you know, work they did to get out of that
9 building. And we're back to work. We never lost
10 a step, Director, so just to let you know that.

11 All right. Let's talk about this ole
12 report. Now, this -- the Fourth of July weekend
13 is in this the report. As you can see, the
14 numbers are pretty hefty. I will say that it went
15 smooth. It can go smooth. I mean, it's -- we had
16 one accident. One young man was injured. He lost
17 his arm, but they were able to reattach it.

18 Other than that, we were looking at --
19 we checked 2,600 people that day or actually that
20 month but I would say half those were on the
21 Fourth of July weekend. You know what I'm saying?

22 But we're looking at -- we had five
23 Tails and Scales violations. That's to be
24 expected, you know. People just forget and
25 sometimes it just doesn't go through and that's

1 what happens.

2 But other than that, I mean, the report
3 speaks for itself. I can't -- we can talk about
4 it later if you want to, but I can't talk about it
5 in this forum.

6 JOE SPRAGGINS:

7 All right. Yeah. Thank you.

8 And one thing, too, the licenses now --
9 if you want to buy a license for -- you know,
10 especially a commercial license, whatever, tell
11 them where, exactly where it's at.

12 KYLE WILKERSON:

13 It's going to be at the Pass
14 Christian -- the old check station, oyster check
15 station, right there up top where you used to get
16 the tags. You can get your license there now.

17 Also, I would like to say we have Labor
18 Day rolling in, and it's going to be -- I guess it
19 will be --

20 JOE SPRAGGINS:

21 But it will be normal hours?

22 KYLE WILKERSON:

23 Sir?

24 JOE SPRAGGINS:

25 It will be normal hours?

1 KYLE WILKERSON:

2 Normal hours, yes, sir. From 8:00 to
3 4:30 or 5:00. I'm not sure, but there will be two
4 -- we have two ladies up there ready to sell some
5 licenses.

6 CAM ROBERDS:

7 Thank you, Chief.

8 Anybody got any questions?

9 (No response.)

10 CAM ROBERDS:

11 Appreciate the update and appreciate
12 everything you guys are doing, you and your team.
13 Thank you.

14 KYLE WILKERSON:

15 Yes, sir. Thank you.

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 All right. Moving down, it looks like
18 Ms. Willa Brantley with the wetlands permitting
19 update.

20 WILLA BRANTLEY:

21 Good morning. I just have a real quick
22 update on our numbers for the first half of 2025.
23 I just like to come and show you all of the work
24 that we're doing. So few actually get presented
25 to you, but we want to tell you all the work we've

1 done in the six months.

2 We have total actions of 454; 374 of
3 those were things that we directly regulate or we
4 review for Coastal Zone consistency; 52 reviews
5 and/or pre-application meetings. We have 28
6 violations reported in the six months, and I have
7 some more details on that on the next slide.

8 This is comparing the last three years
9 just to see our numbers, how they either go up or
10 down. They had gone down a little bit the last
11 couple of years. We're back up this year into --
12 in our number of total actions.

13 As you see, 28 violations. We
14 definitely have a little bit of detail. We have
15 some with no violations, some that were covered by
16 after-the-fact application -- after-the-fact
17 permits, which means what the person did or built
18 met the guidelines. They just didn't get a permit
19 first and we were able to authorize it after the
20 fact as it was.

21 We had only four that were restored by
22 the property owners voluntarily. That usually
23 means they had some fill that got into the water
24 or the marsh and it had to be removed. And if it
25 was marsh, we usually just let it regrow

1 naturally. It usually just comes back fine on its
2 own.

3 So out of that 28, only four were what
4 we would call significant violations and none of
5 those were even very large. They usually are like
6 a fringe marsh, just a few feet of marsh gets
7 impacted.

8 So if you have any questions, I will be
9 happy to answer those.

10 CAM ROBERDS:

11 Any questions of Ms. Willa?

12 No. All right.

13 Well, thank you. Appreciate that.

14 WILLA BRANTLEY:

15 Thank you.

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 It looks like we have a Jackson County
18 Board of Supervisors applicant for Ms. Katie
19 Nelson.

20 KATIE NELSON:

21 Okay. Good morning, everyone.

22 This morning, I will discuss the permit
23 application for the Jackson County Board of
24 Supervisors. The location of the project is in
25 between Canty Street and Communy Avenue in

1 Pascagoula. The project is located in the General
2 Use District.

3 The agent assisting the County is Lisa
4 Morrison with Neel-Schaffer, and she is actually
5 here today just in case you guys have any
6 questions for her.

7 The purpose and need for the project is
8 to improve drainage and reduce flooding for
9 members of the community that live and travel near
10 to the project area.

11 The County is requesting to fill Coastal
12 wetlands for drainage improvements totaling
13 185 square feet, which includes 10 square feet of
14 vegetated water bottoms and 175 square feet of
15 unvegetated water bottoms.

16 The proposed impacts include
17 installation of a culvert structure at Canty
18 Street and placement of riprap around the culvert
19 structure for stabilization.

20 For the unavoidable impacts to coastal
21 wetlands, the applicant is requesting a variance,
22 which will be discussed in a later slide.

23 There are non-wetland elements to the
24 project that include installation of a box culvert
25 to connect the new culvert at Canty Street and the

1 existing culvert at Communy Avenue for rerouting
2 the stormwater and placement -- excuse me, and
3 replacement of existing sidewalk near the project
4 area along Canty Street.

5 This is the project location. The red
6 star indicates where the coastal wetlands will be
7 impacted by the culvert and riprap at Canty
8 Street. The blue star indicates the location of
9 the existing outfall, and this is what the -- the
10 proposed culvert at Canty Street will connect to
11 at Communy Avenue. And the yellow line shows
12 where the non-wetland impact, the box culvert will
13 connect the proposed outfall and the existing
14 outfall.

15 This map shows the receiving waters for
16 both areas. The water body at Communy Avenue is
17 known as Ford Pond. Presently, Ford Pond gets
18 inundated with stormwater runoff during rain
19 events. The water body can only hold so much, so
20 the stormwater from Ford Pond does eventually flow
21 out into Lake Yazoo, but it has to pass under
22 Ingalls before it reaches that water body.

23 On the other hand, the proposed culvert
24 at Canty Street will lead into Communy Bayou,
25 which can hold more water and leads directly to

1 the Pascagoula River.

2 By rerouting some of this stormwater
3 that flows into Ford Pond to Communy Bayou,
4 residents in the area will experience less
5 flooding. The proposed project is expected to
6 reduce the flood elevation by approximately 19 to
7 20 inches.

8 This slide shows the project plans. On
9 the left side of the slide are the plans for the
10 culvert at Canty Street. The right side of the
11 slide shows the proposed box culverts that would
12 connect to Communy Avenue culverts.

13 Because of the unavoidable impacts to
14 coastal wetlands, the applicant has requested a
15 variance to the Mississippi Coastal Program for
16 filling below the mean high tide line.

17 The County justifies the variance to the
18 requirement by stating that there are no feasible
19 alternative sites or construction techniques.
20 There is significant public benefit in the
21 activity, and a public hearing has been held.

22 For the unavoidable impacts to
23 unvegetated and vegetated Coastal wetlands, the
24 applicant proposes to remove and relocate the
25 impacted to tidal marsh vegetation, which is,

1 again, approximately 10 square feet, to adjacent
2 tidal marsh outside of the construction zone. The
3 marsh vegetation will then be spread over a
4 30-square-foot area and allowed to regrow
5 naturally.

6 For the public notice and Agency
7 comments, the public notice for the project was
8 published in the *Sun Herald* on July 6th, 13th and
9 20th of this year. Notification of the project
10 also appeared on our website from July 8th through
11 July 25th. No public comments were received.

12 A public hearing was held Thursday, July
13 24th, and we did receive one comment, but it was
14 in favor of the project.

15 Agency comments we received, MDEQ
16 submitted no comments. MDAH, that's Mississippi
17 Department of Archives and History, this is
18 information that I received from the agent. She
19 said that a Culture Resource Survey was performed
20 and submitted to MDAH. MDAH requested more
21 information and the agent responded with that
22 additional information, and they are awaiting a
23 final letter from MDAH. And the Mississippi
24 Secretary of State stated that a rent-exempt lease
25 will be required.

1 The staff has conducted a thorough
2 evaluation of the project, and based on decision
3 factors in the Mississippi Coastal Program, the
4 project will serve a higher public interest by
5 improving drainage and reducing flooding for
6 individuals that live and travel Canty Street and
7 Communy Avenue in Pascagoula.

8 Therefore, staff requests a motion that
9 the Commission recommend to the Executive Director
10 to approve the requested variance and approve the
11 permit as requested.

12 Are there any questions?

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 It looks like a minimal impact to the
15 wetlands in comparison to the majority of the
16 projects going down the road. You know, trying to
17 keep those houses from getting flooded is a
18 minimal impact, in my opinion.

19 Any questions?

20 Commissioner Daniels, I think, was
21 trying to get something.

22 RONNIE DANIELS:

23 No. I was trying to figure out how to
24 make the light come on.

25 I like it. It looks good to me. I make

1 a motion.

2 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

3 I'll second.

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5 All in favor?

6 (Unanimous vote.)

7 CAM ROBERDS:

8 Opposed?

9 (None opposed.)

10 CAM ROBERDS:

11 All right. Appreciate it.

12 Moving down, Public Affairs.

13 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

14 Good morning. The Mississippi

15 Department of Marine Resources had 24 media
16 mentions since the July MACMR meeting.

17 News items included Mississippi's
18 seafood labeling law, MDMR's partnership with USM
19 for the mobile oyster hatchery, MDMR offering the
20 free Basic Seafood HACCP workshop, July fish
21 records and the derelict vessels that have been
22 removed in coastal Mississippi waters.

23 Marine Patrol participated in the Back
24 to School Fair in Orange Grove on August 2nd.

25 Brianna Andrews and Jennifer Cumbest

1 from the Grand Bay NERR took part in the Citizens
2 for a Better Grand Bay Summer Kids program at the
3 Grand Bay Community Center on July 15th.

4 Coastal Resources Management's Randy
5 Wilson, Allison Faggard and Kaitlyn Payne gave a
6 presentation to the kids at the Humane Society of
7 South Mississippi's Club Paws Summer Day Camp on
8 July 16th.

9 Thomas Butera in Coastal Resources
10 Management and Megan Fleming and MaCayla Dixon in
11 the Office of Marine Fisheries Finfish Bureau
12 participated alongside MDEQ and the Mississippi
13 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for
14 the Pascagoula River Clean-Up held August 2nd.

15 The Office of Marine Fisheries hosted
16 USM's Summer Field Program on Marine Biology
17 Careers at the Bolton Building on July 18th.
18 Auditorium presentations were given by MDMR staff
19 from each bureau, as well as laboratory tours and
20 demonstrations.

21 The Artificial Reef Bureau participated
22 in the Mississippi Ag and Outdoor Expo July 25th
23 through the 27th in Jackson. Bureau staff were on
24 hand each day answering questions and distributing
25 rules and regulations, fish ruler stickers, fish

1 posters and other informational pieces to the
2 public.

3 Hatchery Bureau Director Michael Lee
4 hosted a Fish Hatchery Tour with the MSU
5 Veterinary Program on August 11th. CSO Rick
6 Burris gave a presentation to the GulfSeelife
7 scholars on August 13th at the Bolton Building.

8 At the National American Fisheries
9 Society meeting in San Antonio, August 10th
10 through 14th, Eric Gigli in the Finfish Bureau
11 presented "Atlantic Tripletail Migratory Patterns
12 Uncovered through Innovative Satellite Tagging
13 Method" and "Cobia Migratory Patterns Uncovered
14 through Innovative Satellite Tagging Method."
15 James Klein, also in the Finfish Bureau,
16 presented, "How MRIP and Mississippi Creel
17 Methodologies Differentially Shape Harvest
18 Estimates."

19 On July 30th, the agency cooking team
20 served Gulf-fresh Mississippi seafood to an
21 estimated 600 guests at the Neshoba County Fair.

22 Mississippi Seafood also attended the
23 Great American Seafood Cook-off in New Orleans on
24 August 2nd. Chef Jon Davis with City Grocery in
25 Oxford represented Mississippi after winning the

1 Mississippi Seafood Cookoff in May. He competed
2 against chefs from 13 other states. Chef Jon did
3 an amazing job with his dish; however, Tennessee
4 took home the win.

5 CAM ROBERDS:

6 Y'all have been busy, Ms. Charmaine.
7 Thank you. Appreciate the update.

8 It looks like we've got a finfish
9 record, Trevor.

10 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

11 Yeah. We've got one for you today.

12 So conventional tackle record, it's a
13 conger eel. The old record was 12 pounds. This
14 new one shattered it at 30 pounds. The angler is
15 Brandon Hogue.

16 If I may say so, if we had the ugliest
17 fish record, this would definitely be in the top
18 five. Hell of a fish.

19 That's Brandon with the fish. As you
20 can see, it's there in all its glory.

21 So we just need a motion to approve the
22 new state record.

23 CAM ROBERDS:

24 That came from some kind of deep-looking
25 water.

1 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

2 Oh, yeah.

3 CAM ROBERDS:

4 Wow. Does anyone have a --

5 RONNIE DANIELS:

6 I'll make the motion.

7 JASON OSBORNE:

8 I'll second that.

9 CAM ROBERDS:

10 All in favor.

11 (Unanimous vote.)

12 CAM ROBERDS:

13 Well, do we have any other business?

14 JOE SPRAGGINS:

15 Yeah. I'm going to have to walk out
16 here in just a second, but before I go -- I know
17 y'all have another public comment here.

18 Is Mr. Livingston here? I don't think
19 he is.

20 Anyway, oyster task force, let's put it
21 together. Let's get it together as some -- guys.
22 You know, I know there is some oystermen in here
23 and everything. Ryan, I see you. Let's get the
24 oyster task force put together and let's get with
25 Jason and them and let us have a meeting because

1 we need to develop and decide what we want to do
2 in the next few months. Right now, we don't know
3 where we're going with this, but I tell you what,
4 I know where we're going right now. We're going
5 to continue doing as we've done.

6 And so what we need to do is we need to
7 get this task force together, and, you know, I
8 think that was something that we didn't do a very
9 good job of last time, so let's try not to make
10 that mistake twice and let's move forward and
11 let's get this oyster task force headed.

12 And, Jason, will y'all go -- you know,
13 spearhead that? I know that we had -- in the
14 past, it was maybe a statement that it was
15 basically for them to call a meeting. Well, I
16 want us to be proactive and call that meeting.
17 Okay. So let's move forward with that. All
18 right.

19 CAM ROBERDS:

20 Thank you, Director.

21 JOE SPRAGGINS:

22 All right. I've got to run.

23 CAM ROBERDS:

24 All right. Well, we have got one public
25 comment. It looks like Mr. Clarence Seymour.

1 If you would, just state your name and
2 city and three minutes.

3 CLARENCE SEYMOUR:

4 Captain Clarence Seymour, Ocean Springs,
5 Mississippi. 27 years federally-permitted charter
6 boat and also an avid angler of the Mississippi
7 Gulf Coast all my life.

8 I know everybody is kind of ready to go.
9 I'll make it quick.

10 I want to thank the staff of the
11 Artificial Bureau and the Executive Director for
12 all the great work they're doing to help us with
13 the artificial reef programs. It's been a --
14 in-shore reefs have been striving, but we did lose
15 a lot of structure from Katrina that we haven't
16 quite got all of it yet.

17 And I think that -- we meet, the Fishing
18 Banks, every month, so -- with Emily and Travis
19 and they keep us up to date on all the great
20 development.

21 But the short story I wanted to tell
22 y'all is the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks was
23 established in 1969. I was three years old, so
24 that was the year of Camille.

25 They put down boxcars, delivered these

1 ships, but it was not the state-of-the-art
2 equipment and barges that we have now and all the
3 old culverts. But short story is, we had so many
4 oil rigs back there in the day, so -- this is
5 where it comes from the old timers about reef
6 development. We had so many oil rigs down
7 Chandelier, off of Horn Island and everywhere.

8 The reef development program kind of got
9 pushed aside because the shrimping industry was so
10 demanding over the bottom. The bottom is what the
11 shrimpers have to have to catch shrimp.

12 If you see three to four shrimp boats
13 out of Bayou La Batre or Biloxi Coast off the
14 Gulfport of America right now, you're lucky. You
15 have to look at the AIS to see exactly where
16 they're at.

17 So the bottom is important to them. The
18 bottom is important to the private angler sector
19 and anybody who wants to enjoy any in-shore or
20 offshore artificial reefs.

21 But we're all here to thank the Agency
22 for the great work they're doing, and the yard is
23 full right. Now we're waiting on funding, but
24 it's coming. I just want everybody to know we
25 appreciate the great work the staff and the Agency

1 does. Thank you.

2 CAM ROBERDS:

3 Thank you, Mr. Seymour.

4 Anybody got anything for --

5 PATRICK LEVINE:

6 You know I'm going to make a comment. I
7 had an opportunity to go the other day. Gulf
8 Fishing Banks had a fundraiser, and, you know,
9 Clarence brought up a good point that day. He
10 said, we have to start investing in the next
11 generation of people that care about artificial
12 reefs.

13 And so thank you for the comments to the
14 Agency, but also thank you for what you are doing,
15 and Ralph and the rest of the team, to try to make
16 sure that we have investments made in the
17 resources for the future, so thank you to y'all
18 also.

19 CAM ROBERDS:

20 Thank you, gentlemen.

21 I also want to say thank you for the --
22 to the City of Biloxi for allowing us to use their
23 boardroom, so we really appreciate that. I don't
24 know where we would be meeting today if it wasn't
25 for this.

1 But that being said, do we have any more
2 questions from the Commission?

3 (No response.)

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5 All right. Do we have a motion to
6 close?

7 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

8 I will make a motion.

9 RONNIE DANIELS:

10 Second.

11 CAM ROBERDS:

12 All in favor?

13 (Unanimous vote.)

14 Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

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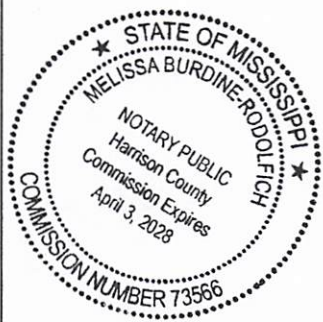
CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

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 10th day of September, 2025.

Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich



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