

## STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES  
COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 9:00 a.m.,  
City of Biloxi, Council Boardroom, Second Floor,  
140 Lameuse Street, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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**COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

**REPORTED BY:**

Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich  
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1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 We want to welcome everybody to the  
3 Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine  
4 Resources, Tuesday, January 20th.

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

7 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

8 CAM ROBERDS:

9 Thank you, Commissioner.

10 Director, would you like to lead us in a  
11 prayer?

12 JOE SPRAGGINS:

13 Let's go to the Lord, please, and thank  
14 him for everything that he has done for us.

15 (Moment of prayer.)

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 Next up, it looks like we have a -- have  
18 a motion to move the February meeting to Tuesday,  
19 February 10th.

20 Do we have a motion for that?

21 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

22 I'll make a motion.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS:

24 Unless y'all want to do it on Mardi  
25 Gras.

1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 No. I'm -- where I'm standing, I'll  
3 need this motion.

4 MATTHEW MAYFIELD:

5 I'll second.

6 CAM ROBERDS:

7 All those in favor?

8 (Unanimous vote.)

9 CAM ROBERDS:

10 Next up is approval of the minutes. Do  
11 we have any questions?

12 Has everybody had an opportunity to  
13 review the minutes?

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

15 MATTHEW MAYFIELD:

16 Motion to approve.

17 JASON OSBORNE:

18 Second.

19 CAM ROBERDS:

20 All in favor?

21 (Unanimous vote.)

22 CAM ROBERDS:

23 The agenda is up next. Do we have a  
24 motion to approve today's agenda?

25 RONNIE DANIELS:

1 Motion.

2 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

3 Second.

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5 All in favor?

6 (Unanimous vote.)

7 CAM ROBERDS:

8 All right. Director, it's all yours.

9 JOE SPRAGGINS:

10 All right. Let's see. First thing: If  
11 you have any public comment, TJ is in the back, so  
12 make sure he gets a copy of it if you need that.

13 We are going to move along and start  
14 with the oyster season and our update on it. And  
15 right now, we're at 26,925 sacks have been  
16 harvested, and we're averaging about 455 sacks a  
17 day. Most of them are coming out of areas II A  
18 and II F.

19 A total of 166 licenses have been sold  
20 to date, including 10 recreational, 82 in-state  
21 commercial dredge, 34 in-state commercial tong, 35  
22 out-of-state tong and five out-of-state dredge.

23 We opened the season on the 13th of  
24 October, and right now, you know, we're closed due  
25 to the rain the last few -- the last week, and

1 hopefully -- they're doing tests today and maybe  
2 we'll be able to open by tomorrow.

3 And so the good thing about that, if you  
4 want to -- you know, we are at 25-, 26-, almost  
5 27,000 sacks. That's the largest amount that we  
6 have had since 2019. That is the largest amount  
7 of sacks of oysters that have been harvested in  
8 Mississippi since 2019.

9 So that tells you something. We're  
10 getting there. Team, thank you. Thank everybody.  
11 Thank the whole team there, you know. Eric,  
12 Jason, Ellen, all of you, you're all doing a great  
13 job. We thank y'all for what you do.

14 And it's still 15 sacks for tonging and  
15 20 sacks for the dredge and three sacks per person  
16 recreation vessel in seven days.

17 It looks like that, you know, we've got  
18 a wide range of sizes and everything, but I think  
19 we're doing good. So any questions on the oyster  
20 season? Hopefully, we will be able to keep it  
21 going. Our plan is at least March, I think. Is  
22 that right? And hopefully, we'll be able to keep  
23 it going in the March, April time frame, somewhere  
24 along in there. But this time of year, obviously,  
25 we get into rains and we get into some issues and

1 so we'll see.

2 All right. On-bottom oyster lease  
3 program, it's still on hold. You know, we still  
4 haven't heard from the judge as to whether or  
5 not -- what we can or can't do, so we're just  
6 reverting back to the old way of doing business  
7 prior to the last year's legislation. And so if  
8 it -- whatever the process was, you know, with the  
9 property that was there that was before, that's  
10 still in effect, but -- and if they have a license  
11 of anything -- if you have leased the properties  
12 prior to last year, you know, then, it's not a  
13 problem. We're still good and we'll be able to  
14 continue.

15 All right. And we do have a new bill  
16 coming up in that. We'll talk about it in a  
17 minute.

18 The 2019-'20 Bonnet Carré, there's no  
19 real big update on it, but we're getting close.  
20 Everybody is getting paid. I think this second  
21 round of the '20 -- the 2020, I think we have paid  
22 the majority of those people, too, and so that's  
23 worked out pretty good. So I think we're getting  
24 there. And we were able to go back and adjust  
25 some of that to where we could do it by the boat,

1 I think. Is that right, Rick?

2 RICK BURRIS:

3 Yeah. Just real quick. We're trying to  
4 get to where we can pay per license rather than  
5 per individual or per boat. We're waiting on NOAA  
6 to approve that, but as soon as they approve it,  
7 then we can --

8 JOE SPRAGGINS:

9 Okay. Yeah. And if we can get that  
10 done, that's going to help to be able to get some  
11 more -- you know, to be able to get some more  
12 money to the fishermen.

13 All right. Legislative update: House  
14 Bill 602 is back in effect again. It has been  
15 introduced in -- several times and I think there  
16 is even a House Bill 601 and -- but it's basically  
17 talking about how we're going to do labeling and  
18 what we're going to do with labeling.

19 And the Senate also has a bill in -- I'm  
20 not sure what the number is or if they've even put  
21 a number on it yet, but for the same thing. And  
22 we're working with the Labeling Task Force and  
23 we're trying to -- the Seafood Marketing Task  
24 Force and we're trying to come up with a way about  
25 how to make this work to where people, whether

1 they're in a restaurant, whether they're in a  
2 grocery store, or whether they're a market,  
3 whatever they do, how can we do something to help  
4 them be able to state whether it's domestic or  
5 import. And that's what we're working on.

6 And right now, it's going pretty good.  
7 And we have got a lot -- we've got a great group  
8 that's working with us. One of the things that  
9 we're going to try to do -- and Rochelle with  
10 Visit Mississippi is going to try to help us. And  
11 one of the things we're going to try to do with  
12 that is to come up and do some kind of campaign,  
13 and it will be a campaign that will be separate  
14 from legislation.

15 But we're going to try to do a campaign  
16 to be able to go out and help market people,  
17 restaurants, seafood stores, you know, markets,  
18 even the grocery stores how to help market them  
19 and how to help them be able to do -- if they are  
20 serving Gulf of America seafood. If they're  
21 serving Gulf of America, that's what we want and  
22 then Mississippi seafood. So we're going to try  
23 hard. I think everybody is on board with it.

24 Any questions on that part of that one?

25 CAM ROBERDS:

1                   No, sir.

2           JOE SPRAGGINS:

3                   All right. The on-bottom oyster leases,  
4           again, we have that bill in the House and the  
5           Senate. I'm not sure the numbers on them right  
6           now. They just all got dropped last week. I'm  
7           not even sure if they have numbers on some of  
8           them.

9                   But those bills will be introduced and  
10          looked at. What we're going to do is basically  
11          talk about how to meet what the judge told us,  
12          Number 1. The judge told us it's  
13          unconstitutional. All right. It's  
14          unconstitutional. We couldn't do that.

15                  But I'm going to fight hard. I don't  
16          know. My goal is to fight with -- hard as I can  
17          to be able to say that we're going to get Pass  
18          Marianne, Pass Christian, Henderson Point, St.  
19          Joe. We're going to keep those. That's going to  
20          be my goal. My goal is to keep every one of those  
21          and then let's lease the other.

22                  You know, Telegraph, we're not using  
23          anyway. Okay? I don't have a problem with that.  
24          And some other areas out there, I don't have a  
25          problem with that. Let's find a way to make this

1 work, and I think we can because we know now that  
2 we have capability of harvesting enough oysters to  
3 keep our fishermen going, so let's keep going with  
4 it and that's a good thing, I think, we can do.

5 Any questions on that one?

6 CAM ROBERDS:

7 No, sir.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS:

9 The other two bills that are in, I know  
10 one of them is we're trying to find a way to pay  
11 reserve officers during times that we need them  
12 the most, and I'm talking holidays like the Fourth  
13 of July and Memorial Day and that type stuff.  
14 This is something new to this Legislature because  
15 I don't think there is another state agency that  
16 has reserve officers, so we're trying to work that  
17 one.

18 Patrick, I'm missing one. What's the  
19 last one?

20 PATRICK LEVINE:

21 The exemption.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS:

23 Huh?

24 PATRICK LEVINE:

25 The notification.

1 JOE SPRAGGINS:

2 Oh, yeah. I've got it. I've got it.

3 It's to where if you buy a license from  
4 DMR that we don't have to -- if somebody asks for  
5 public record, that we don't have to give your  
6 information out other than your name and that's  
7 basically it.

8 Wildlife has this. We tried to get it  
9 through last year. For some reason or another, it  
10 didn't want to go, but we're going to push it hard  
11 this year because basically we need to follow in  
12 line with Wildlife and others to where that if  
13 somebody asks for public records that y'all don't  
14 have to give them your address or your telephone  
15 number or anything like that. And I hope we will  
16 get that done. Any questions?

17 (No response.)

18 JOE SPRAGGINS:

19 Other than that, the Legislature is wide  
20 open. I tell you what, I was talking to some of  
21 them Sunday and they don't -- what's next? I  
22 don't know. They seem to be jumping in there and  
23 (demonstrating) I'm going to pass one thing and  
24 move on. And they do it, and that's where they're  
25 at right now.

1           You know, one thing they did do right  
2 off the bat, the Senate passed things to make  
3 PERS -- to help make sure that it's still in  
4 solvent waters, I would say, and that's another  
5 thing we'll look at.

6           All right. We've got Task Force. We  
7 met -- we're going to meet again -- we met on  
8 January 12th. We're going to try to meet again  
9 on, I think, the 9th or something like that of  
10 February and -- but we're also meeting in between  
11 there, back and forth on that. So we're going to  
12 keep doing that and the task force is working and,  
13 hopefully, we will get something done.

14           The Gulf of Mexico Fishery -- it's not  
15 the Gulf of Mexico. It's Gulf Fisheries  
16 Management Council now because they took out  
17 "Mexico" in it. They didn't put it Gulf of  
18 America. They made it Gulf Council, is the way it  
19 is now.

20           And we meet January 26th through 29th in  
21 New Orleans. First time we're going to have a  
22 three-day meeting rather than a four-day meeting,  
23 so that's going to be good and help us all out a  
24 little bit, and, hopefully, we will get some  
25 things done.

1           We're working with the other states to  
2 be able to help us do something and, hopefully, we  
3 can get the allocation raised as far as our  
4 snapper this year. And we're working with other  
5 states to see what we can do and I think we can  
6 maybe have a little bit of a chance of getting  
7 that done.

8           And let's see. Our next Mississippi  
9 Seafood Task Force meeting -- I got that already.

10           Our next Commission meeting, we got it.  
11 Y'all already talked about it.

12           Our upcoming holiday closure is  
13 President's Day on Monday, February the 16th, so  
14 we'll be closed that day.

15           One other thing we've got -- is Traci  
16 here?

17 CRYSTAL MATTA:

18           No.

19 JOE SPRAGGINS:

20           Traci is not here, but Traci -- Traci  
21 Floyd is retiring and -- Traci is retiring and  
22 she's had over 25 years. She was the director of  
23 Fisheries for us which is a very, very important  
24 job, and we want to thank Traci. I was hoping  
25 she'd be here so we could, but we'll get her next

1 month. How about that? She's not going to leave  
2 till, what, about April, I think, or something  
3 like that and -- but we'll get her next month.

4 But we did go out and we did a search  
5 because we knew this was coming and we needed a  
6 new person to take over as the head of Fisheries,  
7 and I'm proud to say that Trevor Moncrief in the  
8 back back there -- Trevor will be our new director  
9 of Fisheries.

10 And I tell you, he brings a lot of  
11 knowledge. I know he's not but -- he's a young  
12 man in his 30s, but I tell you what, he's  
13 brilliant in what he does and he brings a lot of  
14 knowledge to the table, brings a lot of  
15 credibility because of his stance as being the  
16 head of the SSC.

17 And, you know, I remember when we were  
18 trying to get him on the SSC, I was told, you  
19 know, he just don't have enough experience. He  
20 just don't know enough to do that. He shouldn't  
21 be -- you know, he's too young. He doesn't do  
22 this. Now every one of them is praising him and  
23 they're saying that he is one of best that we've  
24 ever had on the SSC.

25 So, Trevor, thank you. We look forward

1 to be -- working with you, and I know that you  
2 will take over right where Traci is at and move  
3 this thing -- continue moving it forward, so we  
4 appreciate that.

5 All right. One other thing --

6 JASON OSBORNE:

7 I've just got one quick question.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS:

9 All right.

10 JASON OSBORNE:

11 So I've heard the expression that you  
12 take a haircut if you get a pay cut. Is that why  
13 he got his head shaved?

14 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

15 That's called being too confident in my  
16 haircutting abilities myself.

17 JOE SPRAGGINS:

18 You see what happens when I did it.  
19 Hey, I cut my own hair. Look. Trevor, you better  
20 go to a barber because look at me.

21 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

22 Yes.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS:

24 All right. Now, anybody watch the  
25 football game last night?

1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 Half of it.

3 JOE SPRAGGINS:

4 Half of it? Boy, you missed a good  
5 football game. I tell you what, that was probably  
6 one of the most exciting national championships  
7 I've seen in a long time.

8 But you know what's exciting to me?  
9 I've never been an Indiana Hoosiers fan, you know.  
10 I didn't even really know who they were. I just  
11 heard the name. I knew they was good in  
12 basketball for a long time, but I didn't know  
13 anything else other than that. But that's a team  
14 that was brought together with a bunch of misfits.

15 They're going to do a movie on it. You  
16 watch out. It's coming. They're going to do a  
17 movie.

18 But it was a bunch of misfits. And when  
19 I say "misfits," that's what the people in the  
20 sports world want to call them because they were  
21 all two- and three-stars. They wasn't four- and  
22 five-star football players. They had zero -- and  
23 I say zero five-star players on that team and only  
24 seven four-star players on that team. Now 90  
25 players and --

1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 Is that Miami or Indiana you're talking  
3 about?

4 JOE SPRAGGINS:

5 Indiana.

6 CAM ROBERDS:

7 Okay.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS:

9 You know, Miami had about all four- or  
10 five-stars.

11 But Indiana had -- on that team, they  
12 had nothing. And the quarterback came out of high  
13 school as a two-star -- and by the way, Miami is  
14 where he lived -- and walked on to Miami and Miami  
15 really didn't want him. And he wound up being the  
16 Heisman Trophy winner this year, so it just tells  
17 you, you know, it's all teamwork and that's what  
18 it was all about.

19 It's all about team work because you had  
20 90 players playing together and when 11 of them  
21 was on the field, they had each other's cover.  
22 They were not worried about it. They were going  
23 to be there for each other. They wanted to do it.  
24 They put the heart into it.

25 And it brought me back to have some kind

1 of proudness for college football again because  
2 I'm about up to here (indicating) with the NIL  
3 and, you know, all the stuff that they're doing  
4 paying the players millions of dollars.

5 And you know, it goes to prove -- I  
6 don't know what Indiana's NIL budget was, but it  
7 couldn't have been much, you know, not with those.  
8 The highest paid person on there was probably the  
9 quarterback and he probably wasn't making  
10 a million dollars a year.

11 And -- but you sit back and think about  
12 that. Here's all these teams that are paying  
13 millions on top of millions on top of millions to  
14 each player.

15 And I got tickled. They was Number 80.  
16 I don't know if you watched the ball game last  
17 night. Number 80, and I don't remember the kid's  
18 name. Wide receiver was a three-star coming out  
19 of high school. All season, he did not drop a  
20 pass. The whole season, he did not drop a pass  
21 and he made two of the best receptions last night  
22 that you could have ever made. I mean, falling  
23 backwards and catching it.

24 But the point I'm getting at is: The  
25 five-stars aren't any better. The four-, the

1 three-stars and the two-stars are just as good.

2 And that's what -- what am I getting at  
3 here is what you want to know, right? Well, what  
4 I want you to know is that you don't have to have  
5 a Ph.D. to do a great job in whatever you're  
6 doing. You can take your expertise and you can  
7 take it and move forward and you can get forward  
8 to where you need to go.

9 And this team that we have right now,  
10 most every one of them have a degree in some form,  
11 but you don't have to. You can get there. All  
12 you've got to do is put your effort behind it and  
13 believe in yourself. If you believe in yourself,  
14 you can get there, and that's what happened last  
15 night in college football. They believed in their  
16 self.

17 So for Indiana, let's go Hoosiers.  
18 That's my report.

19 CAM ROBERDS:

20 Thank you, Director. I didn't make it  
21 past half time, but I certainly will watch it when  
22 it comes on repeat. I can promise you.

23 I think we've got to go to the  
24 actions --

25 JOE SPRAGGINS:

1 Oh, I forgot something. No. I forgot  
2 something else too.

3 We've got 231 derelict vessels; 199 have  
4 been removed; 32 are pending. And I did forget,  
5 Sandy, and Steven --

6 SANDY CHESNUT:

7 We need to do employment contracts.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS:

9 Oh, do I have that?

10 SANDY CHESNUT:

11 Yeah.

12 JOE SPRAGGINS:

13 Well, see, it's not on my thing right  
14 there. Employment contracts. You can see them up  
15 there.

16 Caroline Webb, Bri'Ana Asher there. I  
17 can't see it from here. My screen is out. But  
18 anyway, what's -- oh, they're doing -- Marine  
19 Patrol. They're doing dispatch with us.

20 And then we've got Andrew Heaton, who is  
21 a -- I can't see it from here -- promoting to  
22 Environmental/Natural Resource Specialist.

23 Sorry about that. That's what I get for  
24 not having that sheet in front of me.

25 Now, Sandy, can we get -- Steven.

1 STEVEN ECKERT:

2 Good morning, Director and  
3 Commissioners. Regarding -- discussed at our 2025  
4 meeting, the Commission recommended and the  
5 Director approved a motion to approve Keesler Air  
6 Force Base's requested variance and to certify its  
7 proposed project to be consistent with the  
8 Mississippi Coastal Program.

9 That's a project where -- there's going  
10 to fill coastal wetlands with about 1.5 acres of  
11 total fill and it's going to be 1.35 miles long of  
12 living shoreline with those breakwaters being  
13 100 feet long, nine feet wide at the base, four  
14 feet tall by 30 feet in between. And they are  
15 going to exceed about a foot out of the water from  
16 the mean high water mark. It's going to add about  
17 8,200 cubic yards of riprap of total fill with a  
18 little over 2,000 cubic yards to be above the mean  
19 high water.

20 And that's all of the actions update we  
21 have for today.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS:

23 Okay. Any questions?

24 CAM ROBERDS:

25 No.

1 JOE SPRAGGINS:

2 Now I think I'm officially through.

3 CAM ROBERDS:

4 Thank you. Any of the Commissioners  
5 have anything to report on today?

6 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

7 Do we have any idea where the shrimp  
8 landings are for last year, maybe through  
9 November? Just curious.

10 JOE SPRAGGINS:

11 Rick, do y'all have any idea on that?  
12 Is Jason here?

13 JASON SACUIER:

14 Can you hear me? Can you hear me?

15 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

16 Yep.

17 JASON SAUCIER:

18 I'm going to pull this up. Bear with me  
19 one minute. We do have landings through November.  
20 Actually, we have it through December. Just bear  
21 with me for one minute.

22 So for 2025, we saw 5.3 or close to  
23 5.4 million pounds landed and that was at a value  
24 of a little over \$11 million, so that's up from  
25 the previous two years. We saw a value of 7 and a

1 half and 7.7 in '24 and '23.

2 So if we look back a little bit further,  
3 it's a lot -- a lot lower than what we would have  
4 seen about 10 years ago. We've seen a consistent  
5 trend down. But if you look at the value,  
6 quantity was the same in '24 and it was a little  
7 bit lower than '23, but the value has increased a  
8 lot. So we're seeing an average price per pound  
9 that's increased in 2025. That's the main  
10 difference.

11 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

12 Great. Thank you.

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 I've got one quick question, I think,  
15 probably for the director of -- the new director  
16 of Fisheries, if I had to guess. The new director  
17 of Fisheries.

18 JASON OSBORNE:

19 Trevor.

20 He's not even paying attention.

21 CAM ROBERDS:

22 And look, we brought up a couple, a few  
23 months ago, I think it was -- I was asking about a  
24 float plan on the recreational side. And I think  
25 we're a little bit -- we didn't know exactly what

1 it was, but I think we did confirm that it was  
2 commercial only. And I saw -- and it may be --  
3 and I apologize for not researching this before I  
4 came in here, but did Louisiana just pass a new  
5 filet or float plan for recreational fishermen?  
6 Is anybody aware of that?

7 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

8 Yes. It's charter-based, not  
9 commercial-based, the float plan. So essentially,  
10 what it is, is the two-day limit, multi-day limit  
11 for our state has to be conducted under a valid  
12 charter license and it's usually within our state  
13 waters.

14 When people file a float plan to go out  
15 to Chandeleur or somewhere else, they're filing a  
16 float plan to be able to possess filets; but by  
17 regulation, you can't have more than a single-day  
18 possession limit of fish on your vessel.

19 Now, Louisiana's, they actually tailored  
20 theirs back a little bit. They had filet  
21 regulations. They had daily possession limits,  
22 and they were up to three days. Those  
23 stipulations were -- is that you had to launch  
24 from a launch in Louisiana that was south of  
25 Highway 90 and have a receipt of staying at a camp

1 or going on a charter vessel, right, because they  
2 have to have passenger licenses associated with a  
3 charter vessel. The charter doesn't cover all of  
4 them. So those individuals could hold up to three  
5 days if they met those stipulations. What they  
6 did was roll that back to a minimum of two days  
7 with the same stipulations, I believe.

8 CAM ROBERDS:

9 So is that inclusive of any recreational  
10 or did you say only commercial? It does include  
11 recreational?

12 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

13 It does include recreational, but the --  
14 there are qualifiers that they have to launch from  
15 a -- they have to go from a launch that is south  
16 of 90 in Louisiana, and they have to have a  
17 receipt or evidence of staying at a multi-day  
18 camp. So you can't have somebody that's out on a  
19 boat having two days and then come back with no  
20 receipt or anything else. So there's a burden of  
21 proof that's put on the individuals that are  
22 holding two days' worth of possession.

23 CAM ROBERDS:

24 And they're actually filing a plan and  
25 permitting that prior to them leaving the launch

1 site, I would think?

2 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

3 Oh, I'm not sure on their float plan  
4 side of things, whether it's a pre-approval  
5 process or what or whether they leave it on the  
6 back end to show that they've got evidence and  
7 receipt and everything else.

8 I'll be -- can contact Mr. Adriance over  
9 there or anybody else to get a little bit more  
10 specifics about that.

11 CAM ROBERDS:

12 Yeah. I mean, I was just very  
13 interested in the possibility of having a -- even  
14 if it's a one limit -- one-bag limit in the state  
15 for the guys that do -- that are the recreational  
16 folks that run out to the camps and come back.  
17 It's a -- very much of a burden to try to come  
18 back to -- you know, to land and clean the fish  
19 and deal with all that.

20 So I don't know. I just would love to  
21 look at it again with you guys.

22 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

23 Yeah. Well, what we'll do, if the  
24 Director is okay with it, next month, we'll come  
25 up. We'll have a presentation of our current

1 regulations. We'll have some regulations from the  
2 other states that deal with multi-day limits, kind  
3 of give an overall look at it and then we'll have  
4 a discussion about it.

5 CAM ROBERDS:

6 That would be fantastic. Thanks,  
7 Trevor. Appreciate it.

8 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

9 Yep.

10 CAM ROBERDS:

11 All right. Next up, Chief Wilkerson on  
12 the Marine Patrol report.

13 KYLE WILKERSON:

14 Good morning. How is everybody doing?  
15 Everybody have a good December? Everybody got --  
16 gain a little weight? I know I did.

17 I would like to say, start off with -- I  
18 think we have a good call with Trevor. He is  
19 a good -- we like him in Marine Patrol. He's  
20 going to work well with us.

21 Now, getting into the report itself --  
22 oh, also, the analogy of the football stuff there,  
23 Director, you know, we don't watch nothing but  
24 SEC. You know that, right? We don't watch all  
25 that other stuff?

1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 No Big 10.

3 RONNIE DANIELS:

4 I'm with you. I thought they canceled  
5 the game when Ole Miss didn't make it there. I  
6 didn't even know it was on last night.

7 JOE SPRAGGINS:

8 I tell you what, I don't think anybody  
9 in the SEC wanted any of that.

10 KYLE WILKERSON:

11 You're right.

12 Well, looking at the report itself,  
13 being December, pretty common. Little light. The  
14 officers were out there, working really hard and  
15 doing their due diligence with their job.  
16 Everybody was off either hunting or off with  
17 relatives.

18 There was very low boat traffic. Even  
19 the boat count, the stops was cut in half for that  
20 month, and that's normally the case in January and  
21 February. When we start getting into the spring,  
22 that's when we'll kick up and start getting those  
23 big numbers again.

24 Nothing in the report jumps out. Like I  
25 said, it's pretty light.

1           The officers, the men and women are out  
2 there still doing their job. I will take any  
3 questions.

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5           Any questions for Chief?

6 RONNIE DANIELS:

7           No.

8 CAM ROBERDS:

9           I really appreciate the update, man.  
10 Stay warm, please.

11 KYLE WILKERSON:

12           Thank you.

13           All right. Moving on down to  
14 Ms. Brantley, Wetlands Permitting 2025 update.

15 WILLA BRANTLEY:

16           Good morning. I just have a quick  
17 update on our yearly numbers from 2025.

18           As far as our total actions, we have  
19 finished 808 actions, including 636 that are  
20 either regulated activities at the state level or  
21 federal actions that we receive for coastal zone  
22 consistency.

23           We carried out 131 reviews of projects,  
24 either just by the potential applicant sending us  
25 the project proposal or reviewing it on paper or

1 actually having a meeting with the proposed  
2 applicants to talk about the upcoming project.

3 We had 41 violations that were reported.

4 This is just a comparison of the last  
5 two years. You can see our numbers are pretty  
6 steady. We did go down a tiny bit on our  
7 regulated activities and consistencies, but we  
8 went up on our reviews and pre-application  
9 meetings and, thankfully, went down a little bit  
10 on violations.

11 And for details on the violations, we  
12 had actually 18 violations that once we got out to  
13 the field were actual violations. The rest were  
14 non-violations when we got out to the site. None  
15 of those had to be presented to the Commission.  
16 We didn't have any fines assessed this year.  
17 Twelve of those were projects that we would have  
18 approved if they had turned in an application  
19 prior to starting work on the project, so those  
20 were approved by the Director through  
21 after-the-fact permits.

22 And six had to be resolved by the  
23 property owner themselves. That usually involved  
24 some minor vegetation destruction. Typically,  
25 they are told to leave it alone. It grows back on

1 its own.

2 And then I wanted to cover the days that  
3 it takes us to -- from receipt of an application  
4 to issuance of the permit, and our average this  
5 year was 25 days and that includes everything,  
6 even our long-term projects that can take months.

7 So our goal for our general permits that  
8 we issue for small projects on behalf of the Corps  
9 of Engineers is under 30 days, so we definitely  
10 met that goal and exceeded it this year.

11 So if you have any questions, I will be  
12 happy to answer those.

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 Any questions?

15 (No response.)

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 All right. Thank you, Ms. Willa.  
18 Appreciate it.

19 WILLA BRANTLEY:

20 Thanks.

21 CAM ROBERDS:

22 It looks like we're down to finance and  
23 administration for a financial statement, Ms.  
24 Brewer.

25 LESLIE BREWER:

1           Good morning, everybody. I'm presenting  
2 the financials for the end of December 31st of  
3 2025.

4           At the end of December, we had a state  
5 revenue of 4.8 million. Agency revenue was  
6 17 million.

7           State net income of 708,000, and agency  
8 net income of negative 6.5 million. As y'all know  
9 from prior years, we don't get our appropriations  
10 until after the year is over, so this is typical.

11          Next slide.

12          After six months of Fiscal Year '26, we  
13 had 92.5 percent of the budget remaining and  
14 35.1 percent of the Tidelands budget.

15          Any questions?

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17          Any questions on the financials?

18          (No response.)

19 CAM ROBERDS:

20          All right. Thank you. Appreciate it.

21          Ms. Charmaine, Public Affairs.

22 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

23          Good morning. The Mississippi  
24 Department of Marine Resources had six media  
25 mentions since the December MACMR meeting. New

1 items included the annual shrimp season closure  
2 north of the ICW and the poster and T-shirt  
3 contest for our annual Celebrate the Gulf Marine  
4 Education Festival.

5 The Mississippi Seafood Marketing  
6 Program participated in the inaugural Christmas on  
7 the Avenue in downtown Biloxi on December 19th  
8 with a booth and decorated Christmas trees. The  
9 event featured over 100 Christmas trees sponsored  
10 by local businesses, organizations and families,  
11 which lined the Vieux Marche. The multi-day event  
12 also featured a golf cart parade, concert and  
13 lighting of the trees.

14 The cooking team cooked for the Bernard  
15 Blackwell All Star High School football game at  
16 the CRTC dining facility on December 18th.

17 And MDMR's Capitol Day is coming up and  
18 is scheduled for February 4th where we will have  
19 staff on hand and our informational publications  
20 for anyone who would like to stop by and know  
21 about our agency. We will be in the rotunda  
22 alongside the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,  
23 Fisheries and Parks.

24 CAM ROBERDS:

25 All right. Thank you very much. Any

1 questions for Ms. Charmaine?

2 RONNIE DANIELS:

3 Charmaine, I just want to say thank you  
4 for the help with Kids Fishing 101. We've got the  
5 boat show coming up, and I'm lucky enough to host  
6 the free kids event that we run about 2- to 400  
7 kids through every year. And Charmaine is always  
8 a big help and the Department and each part of the  
9 Department that comes out and helps out with that.  
10 It's a big hit. Thank y'all.

11 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

12 We're always happy to help, and we  
13 always see it's a great turnout every year.

14 RONNIE DANIELS:

15 I appreciate it.

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 It is. It always looks stacked every  
18 time I go over there. There's always kids waiting  
19 in line interested in some free giveaways. Rod  
20 and reels, too, right?

21 RONNIE DANIELS:

22 Oh, yeah. They all leave -- we've got  
23 some great sponsors. They all get a rod and reel  
24 and a bag full of other goodies. And they learn a  
25 lot while they're there, right? And we're

1 planting seeds with that program because we see  
2 kids that may not otherwise put a hand on a rod  
3 and reel sometimes, you know. And we teach them a  
4 little bit and send them home with just enough  
5 where they can go fishing in their backyard if  
6 they want to.

7 JOE SPRAGGINS:

8 Jason wants to know if he's young  
9 enough.

10 RONNIE DANIELS:

11 Oh, yeah. We'll run him through for  
12 sure.

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 Thank you.

15 All right. Skipping down to an update  
16 on stormwater work, Ms. Gray.

17 AYESHA GRAY:

18 Good morning. All right. So y'all may  
19 remember that I was here back in May and I talked  
20 about some of our stormwater projects, and so I  
21 just wanted to give an update on that and unveil  
22 our new website.

23 So just to give a summary, there is  
24 about five projects ongoing right now. Now, most  
25 of these are -- these are grants that were

1 obtained by us outside of our normal operations  
2 grants for the NERR.

3 So it started with the EPA stormwater  
4 projects. That's the project that we worked on at  
5 Kreole Elementary, and that project, Phase 1 has  
6 been completed and we're moving into Phase 2.

7 That's also a partnership with Coastal, and so I  
8 really value that the NERR is able to partner with  
9 the Coastal program. These are two NOAA programs,  
10 and it's great to be able to leverage the  
11 resources across both.

12 Then there is -- we're looking at what  
13 Phase 3 of that project might be, and we know that  
14 Lyman Elementary in Gulfport is an elementary  
15 school with a lot of stormwater problems, and so  
16 we've been talking to them, looking at that  
17 project as well.

18 Now, NOAA Stormwater Park, this was an  
19 external grant that we got. That has been  
20 completed. It resulted in the planning for what  
21 we're calling a stormwater park and this is a  
22 six-acre property in Moss Point.

23 So now, the next phase of that is the  
24 City is looking at acquisition of the property,  
25 and DEQ is one of the partners that's looking at

1 the implementation for this. So that's pending  
2 but moving along quite nicely.

3 We also have a NFWF project called  
4 "Renaturalization of Historic Streams," and that  
5 project is also moving along. And then we have  
6 one that we're a sub to with USM, Mitigating Flood  
7 Risks, and that one has a lot of community  
8 interaction, which is our role and what we're  
9 helping USM with.

10 So all of these together make -- how do  
11 I do this. Can you advance it?

12 BRADY SMITH:

13 Will you stay a little closer to the  
14 microphone?

15 AYESHA GRAY:

16 I can.

17 Will you advance the slide for me?

18 Thank you.

19 This -- so what we've done, as part of  
20 the NOAA Stormwater Project, there was a website  
21 development that was part of that so that we could  
22 present the projects. And we were able to broaden  
23 that to encompass all of our projects, so we have  
24 a new website that we have developed. It's called  
25 RiverCityFloodReady.com, and this is going to act

1 as a central hub for all of our projects to be  
2 able to give information to the communities where  
3 they can learn about the projects. It also  
4 provides an opportunity for them to give feedback  
5 to us, to know when community meetings are, to  
6 know what happens and to just keep everyone  
7 informed. And this is really a partner and a  
8 community resource for everyone.

9 Next slide.

10 And so as part of this, we developed a  
11 logo so that the website would have an identity,  
12 so that we would have -- you know, these projects  
13 working on this problem would have an identity,  
14 and that logo was developed in-house by Jessica  
15 Woodall, who is a new staff member at the NERR.

16 And the website is going to have  
17 education resources and also preparedness  
18 resources.

19 Next slide.

20 And then it's really our home for each  
21 of the projects, so there's a drop down. This is  
22 just one, the NFWF project. And so by clicking on  
23 that and looking at the different projects, you  
24 can kind of thumb through kind of what we're doing  
25 on each one.

1 Next slide.

2 And then it also is -- it connects  
3 community members. So an important function of  
4 the Grand Bay NERR is to act as a hub for partners  
5 to come together, and we thought these projects  
6 made a perfect opportunity for this. There was a  
7 lot of people working on different stormwater.  
8 The County is working on it. MSU is working on  
9 it, USM, but they weren't really coming together.

10 So what we did at the NERR is created a  
11 group, Connecting to Improve Stormwater  
12 Management, the CISM group, and bringing all these  
13 different groups with the help of the Mayor of  
14 Moss Point, meeting at the city hall and just  
15 talking about our projects and looking for  
16 different ways that we can leverage. And, again,  
17 this website is giving a hub for those meetings  
18 and information.

19 Next slide.

20 So we have upcoming events. In  
21 February, we have a community design team meeting,  
22 so what this is, these are community members at  
23 Moss Point. So there is a select group of folks  
24 that have participated in a lot of our community  
25 meetings that give a lot of good feedback, and so

1 we have a smaller group and they're going to help  
2 us with these designs as we go along so we can  
3 know what is important to them and what isn't  
4 important to them and how to design things.

5 And then in March, there's going to be a  
6 big community meeting that is part of the USM  
7 project, Mitigating Flood Risks.

8 And in April, Phase 2, which is the  
9 planting at Kreole, so we'll do more maintenance  
10 and planting on the Kreole stormwater project. By  
11 then, the other stormwater elements that Coastal  
12 is working on will be completed and we will be  
13 working on that with the school.

14 And we have hats and stickers that were  
15 funded by NOAA that we're able to give away to  
16 sort of promote these ideas to the community.

17 And that's all I have. Any questions?

18 CAM ROBERDS:

19 What a great program. I was just  
20 thinking not only does it have the curb appeal but  
21 the functionality of just -- excuse me. You  
22 mentioned the flooding prevention but also putting  
23 the water back in the permeable surface. Instead  
24 of going out to the Gulf or streams and  
25 contaminating, you're stopping that before it gets

1 close, so it's very important.

2 AYESHA GRAY:

3 That's right. And that is one of the  
4 reasons that DEQ is so interested in stormwater  
5 projects, is that nutrients that are coming off of  
6 people's lawns or just in the streets, those are  
7 going to get captured by these projects before  
8 they ever get to the Gulf. So these projects are  
9 really -- it's not just about flooding. It's also  
10 about nutrient reduction.

11 CAM ROBERDS:

12 The more we develop our coastline, the  
13 less green spaces we have so we're creating  
14 runoffs, so it's very important.

15 I appreciate the update. Thank you.

16 Does anybody have any questions?

17 JASON OSBORNE:

18 That logo is great.

19 AYESHA GRAY:

20 Thank you.

21 JASON OSBORNE:

22 And also it seems that Moss Point is a  
23 hot mess because all these projects are in Moss  
24 Point.

25 AYESHA GRAY:

1           Yeah. Moss Point has such difficulty  
2 with flooding that there are folks that can't get  
3 to a regular job because they can't get out of  
4 their driveway often enough, you know. Those  
5 kinds of things are happening there. And that  
6 street flooding, it's a nuisance, but it's -- some  
7 of it has to do with the gray infrastructure. And  
8 Moss Point has had problems since Katrina.

9           They lost a lot of their records, which  
10 were paper records during Katrina, so the planning  
11 and things like when the Mayor -- when Mr. Knight  
12 went in there and started working on that, they  
13 discovered that a lot of records were gone and  
14 that a lot of the maintenance of those ditches and  
15 culverts and things like that just hadn't been  
16 done or hadn't gotten done, lack of money,  
17 whatever reason.

18           And so there is a problem both in the  
19 gray infrastructure, which Jackson County mostly  
20 works on; but what we pointed out to them is that  
21 by incorporating these green infrastructure  
22 components with that, that we can get those other  
23 benefits, the beautification benefits, the  
24 nutrient reduction benefits and things like that  
25 and they can work.

1           So, yeah, absolutely, Moss Point right  
2 now is kind of an all-hands-on-deck city, but a  
3 lot of those little cities: Gulfport, Ocean  
4 Springs, they all have different flooding  
5 problems. I'm sure y'all all are aware of that  
6 street flooding in Pascagoula and other places,  
7 where these components would be helpful as well.

8           And so our thought is that as we're  
9 working on this and as we're expanding, we're  
10 creating ideas and examples that we can take to  
11 those other cities as well.

12 JASON OSBORNE:

13           Good job.

14 AYESHA GRAY:

15           Thank you.

16 JOE SPRAGGINS:

17           Yeah. Moss Point is a growing city,  
18 and -- if you look at it, and Mayor Knight has  
19 done a great job over there. I mean, he has asked  
20 us to help him in numerous ways. And Ayesha and  
21 them have worked with him a lot on some things in  
22 being able to marry some of our money and the  
23 federal money and other things to be able to do it  
24 and it has really come a long way.

25           But I tell you what, I won't be

1 surprised, probably another five years and you  
2 won't know Moss Point as you do today because it's  
3 going to be -- the way they've been doing the  
4 waterfront, the way they've been doing all the  
5 area around it, they're really making it a nice  
6 area over there. Good luck. Thank you for  
7 helping.

8 AYESHA GRAY:

9 Yeah. I agree with that. It's good to  
10 be a part of it. Thank you.

11 CAM ROBERDS:

12 Great. Thanks.

13 Okay. Well, do we have any other  
14 business?

15 No public comments?

16 TJ MORAN:

17 (Shaking head negatively.)

18 CAM ROBERDS:

19 All right. Well, I appreciate  
20 everybody.

21 Do we have a motion to close?

22 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

23 Motion.

24 RONNIE DANIELS:

25 Second.

1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 All in favor?

3 (Unanimous vote.)

4 (Adjourned at 9:47 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 hearing(s), 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

6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.



Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich

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