

## STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES  
COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 9:00 a.m.,

D'Iberville City Hall,

10383 Auto Mall Parkway

D'Iberville, Mississippi 39540

---

**COMMISSION MEMBERS:**Ronnie Daniels  
Jonathan McLendon  
Matthew Mayfield  
Jason Osborne (Via Teams)  
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, everybody. I would like  
3 to welcome you to the Mississippi Advisory  
4 Commission on Marine Resources for February 10th,  
5 2026.

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

8 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

9 CAM ROBERDS:

10 Thank you, Commissioner.

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

13 JOE SPRAGGINS:

14 Yeah. And before we go to prayer, we --  
15 you know, a lot of us are sitting down here and  
16 it's 70 degrees and having a good time. We're  
17 enjoying life. There's still a lot of people in  
18 North Mississippi and other parts of the United  
19 States that's still hurting bad from those storms  
20 that came through.

21 There's a lot of people still without  
22 power and there's a lot of people now about to  
23 catch another round of more stuff coming up in the  
24 northeast and especially that area, so let's keep  
25 them in our mind and keep them in our prayers.

1           And, you know, if there's a way to help  
2 them, let's try to help them. We know what it  
3 means. We've been there. We understand it. We  
4 know what it means whenever you're sitting in a  
5 situation where you've lost everything or you lost  
6 all your power or your house is torn up or  
7 anything else, and so just think about it and  
8 think about them.

9           (Moment of prayer.)

10 CAM ROBERDS:

11           All right. I want to say that  
12 Commissioner Osborne is with us via Teams.

13           Can you hear me, Commissioner?

14 JASON OSBORNE:

15           Yes.

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17           All right. Thank you.

18           All right. Moving on down to the  
19 minutes from January 26th. Has everybody had an  
20 opportunity to review and if so, do we have any  
21 questions?

22 RONNIE DANIELS:

23           Motion.

24 MATTHEW MAYFIELD:

25           Second.

1 CAM ROBERDS:

2 All in favor?

3 (Unanimous vote.)

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5 All righty. The approval of the agenda.  
6 Has everybody had an opportunity to review the  
7 agenda, and do we have any questions? If not, do  
8 we have a motion?

9 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

10 Motion to approve the agenda.

11 MATTHEW MAYFIELD:

12 Second.

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 All in favor?

15 (Unanimous vote.)

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 All right, Director.

18 JOE SPRAGGINS:

19 Okay. Well, first off, you know, if you  
20 have any public comments, Jason -- I mean --  
21 where's TJ? Is he in the back? Yeah. TJ's back  
22 there, so get with TJ and let's talk -- and get  
23 that information so we can try to get it -- please  
24 try to get it to us, if you can, before the --  
25 whatever it is on this on the agenda. If it's at

1 the end, that's one thing. Okay?

2 All right. Let's see. The employment  
3 contracts, we have Ashley Bosarge has started with  
4 the Environmental/Natural Resource Specialist II  
5 at the Grand Bay NERR. And we had a promotion,  
6 Trevor Moncrief. Where's Trevor? There he is  
7 back there. Trevor's our new chief of science --  
8 well, I guess the Director of Fisheries is the  
9 name of, isn't it? I didn't give him your job,  
10 did I? I started to call him chief scientific  
11 officer there for a second. I said, uh-oh, Rick  
12 ain't gonna like this, but, no, Trevor's a new  
13 Director of Fisheries and also welcome on board  
14 with that.

15 And then we got Cameron Keys, who's  
16 promoted in law enforcement to staff sergeant. And  
17 we got Dylan Kessen, who was promoted to senior  
18 master sergeant, so I don't know if either one  
19 of them are here or not, but always glad to have  
20 that. And we appreciate everybody being able to --  
21 new ones coming on and being able to promote within  
22 is always a great thing for us.

23 All right. Agency update. Oyster  
24 season. We got 29,966 sacks harvested. Averaging  
25 about 468 sacks a day. We had a little incident

1 last week and they was towing a boat out of the  
2 Pass Christian Harbor and needless to say, it sinks  
3 right on top of our reefs. Well, there was some  
4 oil sheen coming out of it and other things, so  
5 that caused some issues. But it -- you know, the  
6 reef was already shut down due to the water -- the  
7 amount of water, but it did cause some issues.

8 We put an emergency contract in and did  
9 an emergency contract and was able to move that  
10 boat yesterday and the boat is now out of the area,  
11 so we're doing tests.

12 And Erik, is there anything updated on  
13 the tests?

14 ERIK BROUSSARD:

15 Yeah. They're out sampling today, meat  
16 samples and water samples, so we're waiting for  
17 the results.

18 JOE SPRAGGINS:

19 Okay. We're just waiting on the -- we  
20 have to do a meat sample, too, and -- because  
21 there was something on top of the reef in a  
22 certain area there. We have to do a meat sample  
23 and we're having to do that, and I think  
24 Mississippi State's helping us with that.

25 And good news, we're about to have our

1 lab back open. Matter of fact, Kristina, how are  
2 we standing on that?

3 KRISTINA BROUSSARD:

4 Doing good so far.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6 All right. We're within a couple of  
7 days of having our labs back open, so we won't  
8 have to send any water tests or anything else over  
9 to Alabama. We'll be able to do that, so that's  
10 going to help us a whole lot whenever we get  
11 things back. So thank you for that.

12 But anyway, hopefully, we'll get this  
13 oyster season open back up for, you know, in the  
14 next day or so. We'll look at areas. There's  
15 certain areas that has to be closed because of  
16 where the boat was until we get all the tests back  
17 and then there's some other areas that we can look  
18 at.

19 So we'll look at whatever we have and we  
20 will open up anything that we can open up and then  
21 we will turn around and try to get the other open  
22 as quick as possible because we want to get you  
23 back in there fishing. We want you back fishing.

24 And I tell you what, you know -- is it  
25 illegal to advertise a restaurant? I won't say the

1 restaurant. I'll just tell you it's by the Hard  
2 Rock. All right? But they got dollar oysters on  
3 the half shell, and it's all -- this whole month.  
4 Well, we ain't going to have them there if we don't  
5 get them oystermen back out there catching them,  
6 are we? So let's get them back out there catching  
7 them so we'll have dollar oysters right there. I  
8 hadn't seen that in a long time, I tell you what,  
9 but -- so I don't get myself in trouble. Okay?

10 All right. But anyway, that's pretty  
11 good. And the oyster season is hopefully -- you  
12 know, we're nowhere near the 80,000 sacks that we  
13 want to get, but we're going to keep it open as  
14 long as we can and keep it done. Keep going and  
15 keep getting them as much as we possibly can. And  
16 maybe we'll get close to it. We'll see where we're  
17 at.

18 Any questions on that, Commissioners?

19 CAM ROBERDS:

20 No, sir.

21 JOE SPRAGGINS:

22 Okay. Let's see. I'm already ahead of  
23 that one.

24 All right. Update on on-bottom oyster  
25 lease program. We went to the Legislature a

1 couple weeks ago, last week, week or so. And,  
2 anyway, basically we had put in a bill. Last  
3 year, the legislation said that we had to lease  
4 80 percent and keep 20 percent.

5 We went back and talked to the  
6 Legislators and I said, look, guys, you know, this  
7 is not good. This is not what we need. Our  
8 oystermen are finding there's plenty of oysters  
9 out there. There's a lot to be done. Let's see  
10 if we can't change that and make it a lot better  
11 than what it was.

12 So we went back and we looked at it and  
13 we basically -- we took the areas and like  
14 Henderson Point, Pass Marianne, Pass Christian,  
15 both tong -- you know, the tonging and the  
16 dredging reefs and then we took part of St. Joe  
17 and all. And we looked at all these areas that we  
18 were harvesting, where we're harvesting now and so  
19 we said, okay, we're going to be able to go back  
20 and we asked the Legislature to pass it to say  
21 that we need at least this.

22 Well, in that, we were looking at it and  
23 we had -- there's areas out there that have always  
24 been there to be -- harvest you know, to be  
25 leased, somebody could lease. There's been areas

1 out there forever. And we were looking at St. Joe  
2 and we wasn't -- it wasn't a whole lot on the  
3 east -- on the western end of it, and so we was  
4 like, okay, we'll concede and we'll just take the  
5 half of it.

6 But after talking to some people and  
7 talking to some fishermen and talking to some staff  
8 and some others, it seemed like that, you know,  
9 this is just going to cause more of a problem than  
10 it is good, so why don't we just ask for all of  
11 St. Joe back and that way, we don't have to worry  
12 about this. All right? And so I went back.

13 And then at Stanislaus, St. Stanislaus,  
14 we said, you know, even though we're not fishing it  
15 very often and nobody's going up there, there is  
16 some resources up there because I asked the other  
17 day to go check and there was. And so we're going  
18 to ask back.

19 So what we're basically asking for -- and  
20 it hasn't been brought up yet. I've asked it to be  
21 brought up on the floor, and I don't know -- you  
22 know, it's all up to the Legislators to do it if  
23 they will, but I've asked to be brought up on the  
24 floor that we keep 100 percent of all the natural  
25 reefs, except for Telegraph. Telegraph, over half

1 of it's already leased anyway, and so keep all but  
2 Telegraph is what I'm asking for.

3 And I've talked to some fishermen and  
4 I've talked to some others, and everybody said,  
5 hey, that's fantastic, you know, if we can get  
6 that. You know, you never want to give up  
7 anything. I understand that. I understand y'all's  
8 point. You never want to give up anything at all,  
9 but that's one area that we're not using and we  
10 haven't used in a long time.

11 And these other areas where the -- we  
12 made a mistake, and the way I was able to put this  
13 back in is because I forgot to put the eastern side  
14 of the Gulf in there when I was talking to them.  
15 So now we've got the eastern side of the Gulf in  
16 there also, so, you know, we'll be able to take all  
17 of this.

18 So the whole point's going to be that  
19 everything -- if I get it passed through the House  
20 and Senate, everything that was natural reefs prior  
21 to 2021 -- I guess it would be, '22, everything  
22 that was natural reefs, except for St. -- except  
23 for Telegraph is what we're asking that they not  
24 allow anybody but the State of Mississippi to keep  
25 control, and so if that's -- that's what we're at.

1           Commissioners, y'all got questions or is  
2 there anything I can help you with it -- on it?

3           (No response.)

4           JOE SPRAGGINS:

5           Okay. We'll see what happens. I know  
6 we'll see where we at, but I can tell you now I've  
7 talked to a lot of the oystermen and talking to  
8 some of them in the situation, too, was -- we're  
9 lucky right now because we have plenty. Process  
10 is working. How we're doing this is working.  
11 What we're doing to build a process is working.  
12 We need to continue this. We need to continue it  
13 and we need to continue having the areas that are  
14 needed for our oystermen to be able to catch them.  
15 And, you know, I think that this would be a great  
16 thing if we can get it back to that point. I  
17 don't know if they're going to get there. I'm  
18 just telling you that's what I'm asking.

19           Okay. Now, let's see, 2019, 2020 Bonnet  
20 Carré, everything's pretty good on it. We're  
21 moving right along. We've just got a few things  
22 left and just a handful of -- a lot of them are  
23 ones that are being challenged in one way or the  
24 other and we're having to go back and get the  
25 courts to be able to rule on it, so most of the

1 stuff is worked out.

2 So I think that we're still trying to --  
3 Traci is not here, is she?

4 Trevor, do you know anything about the  
5 actual -- have we got the 2020 -- you know, the  
6 second phase of 2020? Have we started putting any  
7 of that out?

8 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

9 It's close. We've got some  
10 confirmation. We're just waiting on the official  
11 word to be able to move forward.

12 JOE SPRAGGINS:

13 That was to be able -- we went back and  
14 realized we had a little bit of extra money left,  
15 and so we decided what we would do is go back and  
16 then now -- not if you -- if you had three boats,  
17 we didn't just give you the license for one of  
18 them. We have -- we're going to try to do it for  
19 all three and so be able to give you funds for  
20 that. So we're trying to do that right now. So  
21 we'll see where we at, but I think it's going  
22 pretty good.

23 Any questions, Commissioners?

24 CAM ROBERDS:

25 No, sir.

1 JOE SPRAGGINS:

2 All right. Budget amendment for 2020  
3 grant was approved yesterday by NOAA. Oh, I've  
4 got that on my notes. I should have looked at it.  
5 All right. So it was approved by NOAA. So the  
6 amendment that we did to go back with it is  
7 approved by NOAA so we can go forward.

8 Legislative update. You know, we've got  
9 two or three different ones that are going on  
10 right now. Obviously, the oyster bill.

11 We also have a seafood labeling bill  
12 that's out there that we're working on, and the  
13 seafood labeling bill is -- we're trying to get it  
14 done. We did -- had a meeting yesterday and  
15 there's probably been -- my mic's not working?  
16 Nobody heard a thing I said. No wonder ain't  
17 nobody jumped up and shot -- said, what are you  
18 talking about. Is it on? Okay. Well, I had a  
19 red light a while ago.

20 Okay. All right. But the oyster, we're  
21 looking at that.

22 And so Marine Patrol bill to be able to  
23 pay Marine Patrol reserve officers during special  
24 times is going through. It's passed the House and  
25 the Senate. Hopefully, it'll go on.

1           Our public records to not have to give  
2 your information out if you buy a license and --  
3 or whatever we do at DMR, we're trying to get it  
4 passed. It has -- got it out of the House and it  
5 will go to the Senate.

6           Seafood labeling, we had a meeting  
7 yesterday and in the meeting yesterday, we did do  
8 some modifications. We will get those to  
9 Representative Anderson today and, hopefully, we  
10 can bring that up on the floor. He brought it out  
11 of committee, and we'll bring it up on the floor  
12 for an amendment to it and help do that.

13           Basically, what it's saying is that --  
14 that if you have a restaurant, that you have to  
15 put something either on the menu by the item that  
16 says it's either domestic or foreign -- or what we  
17 did we use? Imported. Not foreign. I want to  
18 use foreign. Imported. It's domestic or  
19 imported.

20           But you could also, if you have a large  
21 area in your thing, you could put a caption in the  
22 front of it that shows that -- it could say that  
23 shrimp is imported or shrimp is domestic or, you  
24 know, this is what -- whatever it is and we can  
25 put it on there, so we're trying to work with the

1 restaurants to be able to do it. A lot of them  
2 are really working hard.

3 And we're also trying to work with our  
4 grocery stores and our seafood markets to be able  
5 to do the same thing, but I think we're getting  
6 something headed in that direction.

7 But we got a couple other bills.  
8 There's some tidelands bills out there and some  
9 other things that are happening.

10 There's a bill about probable cause and  
11 it has passed the House and the Senate, so we're  
12 working on it, and we're not totally against the  
13 bill. What we just -- we'd love to have a few  
14 words changed in it. We'll see what we can do and  
15 we'll work with them and I think they'll work with  
16 us any way they can.

17 Any questions on the update?

18 CAM ROBERDS:

19 No, sir.

20 JOE SPRAGGINS:

21 All right. The Gulf of -- well, it's  
22 Gulf Council met last -- January 26th through 29th  
23 in New Orleans. Quite a good meeting and  
24 everything worked out. We are putting together  
25 some stuff.

1           One of the things that we're working on  
2     that we're trying to get done in the near future,  
3     and it's probably going to take a whole year to  
4     get it done if we can, but is to be able to when  
5     we take the red snapper and if a red snapper in  
6     the Gulf of America is 6 million pounds for  
7     recreational, as long as we don't exceed the ACL,  
8     then we can swap between states if one state needs  
9     some more than another one. So we can help that  
10    with states and we'll be able to swap that red  
11    snapper count back and forth, which would really  
12    help us until we can get our MS Creel, but we --  
13    that's what we're working on.

14           MS Creel is going forward. Trevor and  
15    them are having meetings and everything's going  
16    forward on it and so, hopefully, we'll get there  
17    soon and be able to get our MS Creel set up to  
18    where we'll get our allocations back to close to  
19    where it should be.

20           Any questions on that?

21           (No response.)

22    JOE SPRAGGINS:

23           All right. We've got a Seafood Task  
24    Force meeting. I think it's 2nd of March is when  
25    we'll have the next one.

1                   Next Commission meeting is scheduled for  
2 Tuesday, the 17th and that's -- any questions on  
3 that?

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5                   (Shakes head negatively.)

6 JOE SPRAGGINS:

7                   Okay. And right now, it's at Biloxi or  
8 we may come back here. It doesn't matter. I kind  
9 of like this set up. Pretty good, isn't it?

10 CAM ROBERDS:

11                   Yes, sir.

12 JOE SPRAGGINS:

13                   We need to thank Mayor Quave and the  
14 City too. We appreciate that. Y'all tell them  
15 how much we appreciate it.

16                   Holidays coming up, President's Day is  
17 the 16th, so we'll be taking the holiday there.

18                   And then we've got derelict vessels.  
19 I've got 234 derelict vessels that have been  
20 reported, and I'm not sure that's counting the one  
21 that we just took off the reef. But 201 have been  
22 removed. We've got 23 that are pending and two  
23 that we received court orders on, so that's  
24 looking pretty good.

25                   And how about actions update, prior

1 meeting?

2 STEVEN ECKERT:

3 From the prior meeting, we have none,  
4 sir.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6 Okay.

7 STEVEN ECKERT:

8 Very easy today.

9 JOE SPRAGGINS:

10 All right. Well, I think that's got  
11 everything. Crystal, did I forget anything?

12 All right. I think that's my report,  
13 sir.

14 CAM ROBERDS:

15 Thank you, Director. Lots of positive  
16 information there. Appreciate the update.

17 Commissioner's report, do any of the  
18 Commissioners have anything they want to report  
19 on?

20 RONNIE DANIELS:

21 I'd like to give a thank you. Charmaine,  
22 thank you for helping us put everything together  
23 at the Biloxi Boat Show this weekend. I was able  
24 to host Kids Fishing 101 again, and in two days,  
25 we saw over 200 kids. Thanks to CCA and Keesler

1 Federal, we gave them a lot of free goodies.  
2 Everybody left with a rod and reel. The  
3 department really showed up.

4 Marine patrol, thank y'all. Invasive  
5 species, Grand Bay NERR, to see the smiles on  
6 their face while they're in there learning  
7 something good about our environment is pretty  
8 cool. Grand Bay NERR is going to be at the Mobile  
9 Boat Show as well because they're so close to  
10 that, and we really appreciate y'all's help.

11 CAM ROBERDS:

12 Great job, Commissioner Daniels.  
13 Appreciate you guys, what you do for that -- those  
14 tournaments. That's great. The kids, I know they  
15 enjoy it.

16 RONNIE DANIELS:

17 And it's fun.

18 CAM ROBERDS:

19 Any other comments from the  
20 Commissioners?

21 JOE SPRAGGINS:

22 On that part that you were just talking  
23 about, Commissioner Daniels, I was talking to the  
24 Gulf -- our foundation and one of the things that  
25 we want to do is get with y'all and maybe with the

1 CCA and others and see if we can make this a  
2 little bit bigger event and do some more fishing.

3 I want to even look at -- Rick, I want  
4 to look at can we put some speckled trout and  
5 stuff into the ponds up at Lyman and be able to  
6 fish the ponds and teach them how to fish and do  
7 some things like that, so we want to get with you  
8 and --

9 RONNIE DANIELS:

10 That sounds great.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS:

12 Okay.

13 RONNIE DANIELS:

14 Thank you.

15 CAM ROBERDS:

16 All right. Moving on to Office of  
17 Marine Patrol, Chief Wilkerson.

18 KYLE WILKERSON:

19 Good morning, Commissioners, Director,  
20 Legal.

21 CAM ROBERDS:

22 Morning.

23 KYLE WILKERSON:

24 January was a busy month. We had -- I  
25 was looking at the stops earlier. We have gone

1 up. We doubled our stops on individuals,  
2 recreational and commercial. Nothing really jumps  
3 out at me that I need to discuss in this forum  
4 here.

5 So any type of question, you feel free  
6 to ask and I'll answer what I can.

7 CAM ROBERDS:

8 Any questions for Chief?

9 (No response.)

10 CAM ROBERDS:

11 All right. Well, I appreciate it, sir.

12 KYLE WILKERSON:

13 Thank you. Now, we have Deputy Chief  
14 Gex who's going to do, what -- a no wake zone  
15 proposal. Thank you.

16 BRYCE GEX:

17 Good morning, everybody.

18 CAM ROBERDS:

19 Morning.

20 BRYCE GEX:

21 So I have a very short presentation for  
22 a no wake proposal in the City of Bay St. Louis,  
23 Garden Isle.

24 I'm going to just go through the slides  
25 first and then we'll come back to the map for any

1 questions.

2 Y'all have a copy of the map? It's not  
3 on -- okay.

4 So if you look at the map, everything  
5 that's in -- highlighted in green, the two bayous,  
6 that's Edwards Bayou on the left side of the map,  
7 Watts Bayou on the right side of the map. Those  
8 were actually proposed correctly with coordinates  
9 beginning and ending.

10 And then everything that's highlighted  
11 in red are the man-made residential canals that  
12 attach to those bayous, and you can see the size  
13 difference between some of the residential canals  
14 and the main bayous that they're requesting. All  
15 of that's --

16 JOE SPRAGGINS:

17 Can you put that up on the slide there  
18 so people can see?

19 BRYCE GEX:

20 Oh, there it is. Got it.

21 So anyway, like I said, we're going to  
22 run through the slides first and I'll come back to  
23 it.

24 So, as I said, the Edwards Bayou, the  
25 effects to boaters: Boaters will be required to

1 operate at an idle speed for as much as 11 minutes  
2 and 30 seconds for the length considered in the  
3 resolution.

4 Watts Bayou, the boaters will be  
5 required to operate at an idle speed for as much  
6 as 10 minutes and 12 seconds for the length  
7 considered. We do this every time we have a  
8 boat -- or a no wake zone proposal. That way,  
9 during the summertime when it's hot, 100 degrees  
10 out, you guys know what the effects are to  
11 somebody going idle speed for that amount of time.

12 Some of the special considerations  
13 requested in the resolution, as I said, for  
14 consideration was all residential canals and  
15 offshoots. Some of these canals, now that homes  
16 are built on both sides of the canals, some of  
17 these narrow canals, they've got boat houses, boat  
18 lifts, locations for vessels to be moored, and it  
19 narrows those waterways in some places to 20 feet  
20 and all the conditions reducing the ability for  
21 wake mitigation in those areas.

22 Private property activities such as dock  
23 fishing, swimming, and launching provide for high  
24 risk of injury or property damage due to excessive  
25 wakes. We worked with Bay St. Louis city

1 government. Ms. Sandy talked to them on the phone  
2 and I had some e-mail threads with them where we  
3 advised them how they were going to propose this  
4 because we've never had one that wasn't just a  
5 length of a bayou starting and ending coordinates.  
6 They wanted the whole community and all waterways  
7 existing inside that community to be no wake.

8 Like I said, according to law, you have  
9 to give beginning and ending coordinates, but they  
10 asked for consideration for the residential canals  
11 that are very narrow anyway. You know, a  
12 considerate boat operator should operate no wake  
13 in there anyway.

14 Before I go to staff recommendations, if  
15 we want to go back to the map and y'all ask any  
16 questions.

17 CAM ROBERDS:

18 So not only does it -- would it include  
19 the green areas, but just all the tributaries?

20 JOE SPRAGGINS:

21 Y'all have got to help the deputy chief.  
22 He's about to --

23 BRYCE GEX:

24 Thank you, Brady.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS:

1 Y'all might have to give him a break.

2 CAM ROBERDS:

3 There it is.

4 BRYCE GEX:

5 Perfect.

6 JOE SPRAGGINS:

7 Wait. There you go. Thank you, Brady.

8 CAM ROBERDS:

9 Yeah. So it looks like that includes  
10 everything, right, the entire -- every --

11 BRYCE GEX:

12 Correct.

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 -- waterway that's navigable in that  
15 community?

16 BRYCE GEX:

17 Their initial intention was to give me  
18 four coordinates, like corner posts and consider  
19 every waterway inside the four corners. We've  
20 never had one like that proposed and it's not set  
21 up in law like that.

22 The law actually says, both in title and  
23 in statute, that there has to be beginning and  
24 ending coordinates.

25 And then the resolution goes on to say

1 that they would like consideration for all  
2 residential canals and offshoots is how they put  
3 it, and so --

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5 It looks like even the green areas of  
6 the main -- the main canal, that's pretty --  
7 that's a pretty narrow waterway as well.

8 BRYCE GEX:

9 That's correct. And so the Edwards  
10 Bayou Canal on the left side of the map it starts  
11 pretty close to Bay Marina. Bay Marina is going  
12 to already be -- because it's a public boat  
13 facility, it's already going to be a  
14 state-state-sponsored no wake zone, so it would  
15 begin there beyond Bay Marina's wake zone and go  
16 all the way to the mouth.

17 And I'm assuming that they're having  
18 issues with people not familiar with the area  
19 launching and going out to the mouth of the river.  
20 And then, likewise, coming back from boating off  
21 the river, they're running wakes through there and  
22 causing damage.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS:

24 What's the actual width that you have to  
25 be with no wake? You've got to be wider than

1       what?

2       BRYCE GEX:

3                   There's no minimum. We only list  
4       special considerations, and so special  
5       considerations in this is that it narrows to some  
6       points as little as 20 feet across. And people  
7       launching kayaks, launching vessels, swimming off  
8       their docks could easily get injured or damaged  
9       equipment.

10      RONNIE DANIELS:

11                   Who came -- did y'all put this together  
12      or did the City?

13      BRYCE GEX:

14                   The City put it together. We --

15      RONNIE DANIELS:

16                   I'm talking about the actual map.

17      BRYCE GEX:

18                   Oh, I put the map together.

19      RONNIE DANIELS:

20                   Okay.

21      BRYCE GEX:

22                   Yeah. It's just a Google Earth pull  
23      where I highlighted, for y'all's convenience, what  
24      we were looking at.

25      RONNIE DANIELS:

1                   It seems like a common sense issue here.

2   BRYCE GEX:

3                   It seems that way. All the residential  
4   canals, as you can see, they're much narrower  
5   than -- and there were man-made canals off of  
6   those main bayous. And now that there's so many  
7   residents across canals from one another, it  
8   narrows just by having a dock or a boat house or  
9   whatever.

10   CAM ROBERDS:

11                   Well, when you have families that are  
12   going to hang out on the docks, you don't want  
13   boats, you know, ripping.

14   BRYCE GEX:

15                   And we've received a lot of complaint  
16   calls. I think the Director took -- fielded some  
17   calls this summer about it. I have gotten some  
18   e-mails and some calls from city government over  
19   there, and they put this together in a resolution  
20   that I got last month.

21   JONATHAN MCLENDON:

22                   And I would imagine that some of these  
23   curves here with the -- with the houses built on  
24   the canals is very hard to see making a turn.

25   BRYCE GEX:

1 Correct.

2 JOE SPRAGGINS:

3 And then there are numerous entrances  
4 and exits to, I guess, the main canal.

5 BRYCE GEX:

6 And I believe this is going to be the  
7 first of several communities that are water-based  
8 communities built around canals and waterways --  
9 that we're probably going to be looking at more of  
10 this type of no wake zone proposal.

11 RONNIE DANIELS:

12 So we're -- my neighborhood, as you  
13 know, we're already looking at doing -- requesting  
14 the same type of thing.

15 BRYCE GEX:

16 Yes, yes.

17 RONNIE DANIELS:

18 So I'm 100 percent in favor of it.

19 BRYCE GEX:

20 All right. So with that -- let's see if  
21 I can not pass up the slide this time.

22 Staff's recommendation, the Office of  
23 Marine Patrol requests that the Commission  
24 recommend to the Director approval of the  
25 establishment of the no wake zone for the proposed

1 Garden Isle area in Bay St. Louis. This is based  
2 on normal operation and vessel speed in relation  
3 to public and private access areas in which people  
4 fish, swim, and socialize.

5 CAM ROBERDS:

6 All right.

7 SANDY CHESNUT:

8 Just a clarification, the -- I mean,  
9 it's a very technical thing, but they did request  
10 a minimum zone -- or minimum wake zone.

11 BRYCE GEX:

12 So, yes, ma'am, that -- they're -- I  
13 sent them a go-by that I send to all local  
14 governments that are requesting a no wake zone  
15 proposal. There's no language in any statute or  
16 title that designates anything a minimum wake  
17 zone. It's all no wake zones. And even in their  
18 e-mail threads, they titled it "no wake zone," but  
19 the resolution does read minimum wake zone. And  
20 so I believe it was just a mistake on their part  
21 listing it as a minimum.

22 SANDY CHESNUT:

23 Yeah.

24 And the other thing I want to point out  
25 is that in their resolution, they requested the

1 DMR to provide signage, and the DMR does not  
2 provide signage.

3 BRYCE GEX:

4 That's correct.

5 SANDY CHESNUT:

6 We need to make sure the motion doesn't  
7 support -- just what the resolution says.

8 BRYCE GEX:

9 Correct. Also, in the go-by, I provided  
10 links to both state statute and title where  
11 neither one of them provide for the DMR or the  
12 State to provide signage. It's the local  
13 government proposing the no wake zone. They're  
14 required to.

15 Now, the State, both Department of  
16 Wildlife and DMR, as well as the County and the  
17 City proposing it, all have enforcement authority,  
18 but the governing body that proposes it is  
19 responsible for the signage.

20 RONNIE DANIELS:

21 So are they required to put signage?  
22 Like Mississippi, if you're trespassing, a  
23 landowner isn't required to have a no trespassing  
24 sign, right?

25 BRYCE GEX:

1           So we can pass -- we can pass -- we can  
2 agree to the resolution and pass it today, but if  
3 the signage isn't present, then there's no  
4 expectation, in my opinion. For instance, if law  
5 enforcement were out there and there was no  
6 signage telling the public boaters to slow, then  
7 it's not necessarily a violation. It would be up  
8 to Bay St. Louis to post signage.

9           RONNIE DANIELS:

10           And my other question, being that we're  
11 passing it as a minimum wake zone, is that going  
12 to cause a problem for y'all in enforcement if you  
13 write a ticket?

14           BRYCE GEX:

15           No. We're not asking for a minimum.  
16 We're asking for a no wake zone.

17           RONNIE DANIELS:

18           Yeah. No, I hear you and I agree with  
19 that, but if I understand what Ms. Sandy just  
20 said, the resolution says minimum. Do we need to  
21 correct that before we approve it or is it going  
22 to cause a problem for y'all if y'all write a  
23 ticket?

24           CAM ROBERDS:

25           In the motion.

1 SANDY CHESNUT:

2 Yeah. In the motion that Bryce has  
3 recommended, it does say "no wake zone."

4 RONNIE DANIELS:

5 Okay.

6 SANDY CHESNUT:

7 So what we're saying is you requested a  
8 minimum wake zone, but we're approving a no wake  
9 zone.

10 RONNIE DANIELS:

11 Okay.

12 BRYCE GEX:

13 Yeah. I don't know who authored the  
14 resolution with the City. But I've been in  
15 contact with Mike Reso, who's with the city  
16 government and everything on our email threads was  
17 no wake zone proposal, so -- and the go-by that I  
18 gave them highlighted that it was a no wake zone  
19 and that we don't provide signage as I stated.

20 CAM ROBERDS:

21 We have any other questions?

22 If not, do we have a motion to approve  
23 with the no signage provided and as a no wake  
24 zone?

25 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

1 I'll make the motion.

2 RONNIE DANIELS:

3 I'll second.

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5 All in favor?

6 (Unanimous vote.)

7 BRYCE GEX:

8 Thank y'all.

9 CAM ROBERDS:

10 Thank you, Chief.

11 All right. Moving on down to --  
12 let's see -- Bureau of Wetlands Permitting,  
13 Ms. Cockrell or Jennifer.

14 JOE SPRAGGINS:

15 Jennifer's not here. Willa will do it.

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 Willa.

18 WILLA BRANTLEY:

19 Willa's here.

20 Yeah. Allison wasn't able to be here,  
21 so I'm filling in for her.

22 So let's see. We have a request for a  
23 permit by Ms. Marti Cockrell, and this is on --  
24 near Shearwater Drive in Ocean Springs. It's in a  
25 General Use district. The agent is Mississippi

1 State University.

2 The project purpose and need is to  
3 create a living shoreline to create -- to prevent  
4 high rates of erosion. They're having erosion due  
5 to wind-driven waves and boat wakes. The project  
6 will stabilize the shoreline and it will add to  
7 the existing essential fish habitat.

8 They are going to do some vegetation  
9 planting you'll see when I get to the diagrams.

10 If you remember, a few months ago, I did  
11 present a living shoreline waiver that was meant  
12 to cover most residential projects. This one has  
13 one aspect that is outside those limitations, so  
14 that's why this one is getting presented  
15 individually.

16 So the project proposes to fill coastal  
17 wetlands for the installation of a living  
18 shoreline consisting of nine breakwaters and  
19 vegetative plantings. Eight of the breakwaters  
20 will be 25 feet long. The ninth one will be 33  
21 feet long. All of them are seven feet wide at the  
22 base and 3.13 feet tall, which will be up to one  
23 foot above mean high water.

24 They'll be placed a maximum of 95 feet  
25 from mean high water and that's the part that puts

1 it outside of that waiver. The waiver limitation  
2 was 35 feet from mean high tide.

3 And they are going to be planting 7,159  
4 square feet of native marsh vegetation, and that  
5 will extend 22 feet approximately from the mean  
6 high water line.

7 So this is right next to Ocean Springs  
8 Harbor. You can see right there, this is the  
9 property. And the jetty that protects the harbor  
10 on this side is approximately 500 feet long. So  
11 they'll be going out 95 feet in relation to the  
12 existing jetty.

13 And if you can see, this is turned the  
14 other way, so here's the jetty. These are the  
15 breakwaters they're proposing and the off-white  
16 color is the planting area where they're going to  
17 plant marsh vegetation. It -- the jetties do  
18 approximately line up with the shoreline next to  
19 it that is hardened shoreline, and so you've  
20 had -- they have had some erosion back here. And  
21 the jetties will line up with the neighboring  
22 shoreline approximately.

23 This is a cross-section showing the jetty  
24 here, the base width and the height. And this  
25 shows how they're going to slope with the fill here

1 to make it the right elevation for planting that  
2 native marsh vegetation.

3 Okay. They did request a variance for  
4 the fill of coastal wetlands. This is what we gave  
5 the blanket waiver for, but like I said, since it  
6 doesn't fall within those guidelines, they need an  
7 individual variance to Rule 8.15.A, permanent  
8 filling of coastal wetlands below the ordinary high  
9 water mark is not authorized.

10 They've justified it under Rule 8.19.A  
11 that the impacts to coastal wetlands would be no  
12 worse than if the requirements were followed, and  
13 that's because the overall intent of the project is  
14 to reduce shoreline erosion through natural  
15 processes and enhance shoreline vegetation, which  
16 will provide essential fish habitat.

17 So the project went on public notice in  
18 the *Sun Herald* in December as required.  
19 Notification was posted on our website from  
20 December 11th to January 8th of 2026.

21 No public comments were received. We  
22 received no public comments from Department of  
23 Environmental Quality, Department of Archives and  
24 History, or the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries  
25 and Parks.

1           The Secretary of State's office stated  
2 that: Based upon our review of the application,  
3 the conditions for our authorization have been met.

4           And so staff recommends, after a thorough  
5 evaluation of the project and findings based on our  
6 decision factors, that the project would serve a  
7 higher public interest by protecting the shoreline  
8 and expanding the existing marsh habitat.

9 Therefore, we request a motion that the Commission  
10 recommend to the Executive Director to approve the  
11 requested variance and approve the permit as  
12 requested.

13           If you have any questions, I can answer  
14 those or a representative from their agent from  
15 Mississippi State is here.

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17           All right, Willa, thank you.

18           Any questions from the Commissioners?

19 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

20           No. And I think that that piece of  
21 marsh right there is pretty open to the bay, being  
22 on the east side of that jetty right there too.

23           And I was passing through Pensacola a  
24 couple weeks back and, I mean, Pensacola Bay was  
25 loaded with these types of living shorelines and

1 everything looked like it was really thriving.

2 WILLA BRANTLEY:

3 Yeah. We're excited to see more.

4 Mississippi State is really pushing these. They  
5 have a program with grants to help design them and  
6 do some survey work for the property owners, so  
7 it's really exciting to be able to get more of  
8 these out there.

9 CAM ROBERDS:

10 Director.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS:

12 Yeah. Just -- I don't know if my mic's  
13 on. There it goes.

14 Yeah. Just, you know, to talking about  
15 the living shorelines, Mississippi State, thank  
16 y'all so much for what you're doing with that.

17 And the new Blue Economy, the new Blue  
18 Economy that's being done by USM and all and,  
19 they're bringing in the four or five different  
20 contractors or companies that are looking at it,  
21 that is what it's all about, living shorelines.

22 And so if you get a chance, next  
23 Wednesday, they have it at -- the Gulf Blue  
24 meeting and, you know, go to it and meet these new  
25 contractors. We're going to have a briefing from

1 one of them coming up in another -- I think this  
2 week. I think it's Thursday, this week, we've got  
3 a briefing with one of them. But this is a good  
4 thing. Thank you.

5 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

6 Now, Willa, a quick question. So, like,  
7 being as how this is located, like is there extra  
8 force being exerted on that marsh by the placement  
9 of that jetty?

10 WILLA BRANTLEY:

11 Potentially. It really depends on how  
12 the waves are moving, which direction the waves  
13 are coming from and the shoreline movement.

14 It is having erosion. I mean, you can  
15 look at it and see that it's eroded back behind  
16 that hardened shoreline on the other side of it.  
17 So they are having erosion, and they really just  
18 want to use a natural process to fix that instead  
19 of hardening another section of shoreline.

20 CAM ROBERDS:

21 This is -- that is private -- all  
22 private property, right?

23 WILLA BRANTLEY:

24 Yes. Yes, sir.

25 CAM ROBERDS:

1           Yeah. Which, otherwise, without the --  
2   you know, the Mississippi State stepping up, they  
3   may not be able to even have an opportunity to do  
4   that.

5   WILLA BRANTLEY:

6           Correct.

7   CAM ROBERDS:

8           It's a lot of residential areas in my  
9   opinion, so I think it's a good --

10   WILLA BRANTLEY:

11           One thing I think that -- and they could  
12   answer this better than me probably, but one thing  
13   I think that they're able to do with their grants  
14   is to do a mean high tide survey, which can get  
15   very expensive and they have equipment that they  
16   can take out there and do that mean high tide  
17   survey, which the Secretary of State wants before  
18   the permit is written so that you can tell where  
19   the property changes from private to  
20   publicly-owned water bottoms. And that can be  
21   very expensive for private homeowners, so that  
22   makes a big difference in getting more people to  
23   do these projects than just fall back on riprap or  
24   a bulkhead.

25   CAM ROBERDS:

1 All right. Any other questions?

2 (No response.)

3 CAM ROBERDS:

4 All right. Do we have a motion?

5 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

6 I'll make the motion.

7 MATTHEW MAYFIELD:

8 I'll second.

9 CAM ROBERDS:

10 All in favor?

11 (Unanimous vote.)

12 CAM ROBERDS:

13 All right. Thank you, Ms. Willa.

14 WILLA BRANTLEY:

15 Thank you. All right.

16 Next up is the -- the Bay St. Louis,

17 TGHP. Ms. Alyssa.

18 ALYSSA TIMBS:

19 Yes. I am Alyssa, and I will be  
20 discussing a request for a certificate of waiver  
21 by TGHP LLC.

22 This project is located at 103 West  
23 Bayview Street near Henderson Point in Pass  
24 Christian. The current use district at the  
25 project location is C, for commercial fishing,

1 recreational marina, and dockside gaming. The  
2 agent for the applicant is EcoSolutions, Inc.

3 And the purpose of the project is to  
4 provide tourism and recreational activities  
5 associated with the restaurant and bar being  
6 developed at the property.

7 All right. So here's the location of the  
8 project over on Henderson Point. The project will  
9 take place on the bay side as well as in Mallini  
10 Bayou, and this site used to house the Pelican Cove  
11 Marina prior to Hurricane Katrina.

12 So I'm going to generally discuss what  
13 activities are being proposed, and I'll go over it  
14 in more detail on another slide. So the applicant  
15 is requesting a pier extension into the bay, and  
16 the reason they need this is to provide depth to  
17 accommodate a water taxi for passengers to travel  
18 across to Bay St. Louis. So they'll get on the  
19 water taxi at the property and it will ferry them  
20 over to Bay St. Louis.

21 The applicant is also requesting  
22 additional piers and pilings for boat lifts along  
23 Mallini Bayou for transient boat parking for  
24 customers, as well as storage of boats for day use  
25 rental and charter boats for fishing charters.

1 In addition, remnants of an old pier and pilings  
2 will be removed along the southeastern shoreline of  
3 the property in Mallini Bayou.

4 There are a few after-the-fact impacts  
5 that are being requested for approval, including  
6 the excavation of a canal which they needed to do  
7 to -- for a water intake system. This is going  
8 to be for their fire suppression sprinkler system  
9 for the restaurant and bar.

10 And the reason the system had to be  
11 designed with this canal is that there are no  
12 municipal water lines that run to the property, and  
13 the well on the property does not have the capacity  
14 to supply the water for the sprinkler system and it  
15 would be extremely costly to have the water lines  
16 installed out there.

17 And the pump has to be placed directly  
18 over water with -- the pump housing structure has  
19 to be located at least 15 feet from the waterway,  
20 according to Harrison County Development Code, so  
21 that's about the canal that was dug.

22 During our compliance check, the existing  
23 piers on the Bay were measured longer than  
24 previously authorized, so that extra length will  
25 need to be permitted. And then mooring pilings

1 were placed between the previously permitted finger  
2 piers, but those were not included on any previous  
3 permit.

4 And combining the existing structures and  
5 the proposed structures, the project footprint will  
6 be approximately 3,532 square feet over unvegetated  
7 water bottoms.

8 Just a little project history -- or  
9 recent history at this location. This applicant  
10 has received permits previously. In 2021, there  
11 was a permit to construct a bulkhead on Mallini  
12 Bayou and the construction of the finger piers and  
13 a covered pier within the bayou, so that's these  
14 parts.

15 And then in 2023, the applicant received  
16 a permit to build the pier and the terminal pier on  
17 the bay side as well as dredge out those slips on  
18 the bayou.

19 All right. So I know this is super busy,  
20 but I'm going to walk through the impacts.

21 So let's first talk about what's going to  
22 need some after-the-fact certification. So the  
23 existing pier -- this existing access pier and  
24 terminal pier were built about 20 and 10 feet  
25 longer than permitted, respectively, and then the

1 mooring pilings were placed between these finger  
2 piers. The finger piers were permitted, but the  
3 mooring piers were not in -- the mooring pilings  
4 were not included on that. And then the fire  
5 suppression canal that I discussed was excavated  
6 right here where that little blue mark is.

7 And the new proposed impacts are the  
8 extension of the pier. So this extension of the  
9 pier out here with a terminal pier and some mooring  
10 pilings, as well as removal of debris that will  
11 be -- there's the old existing remnants of a pier  
12 down here and then there are seven proposed finger  
13 piers to be placed here for boat parking. And if  
14 you want more details and dimensions, I can go  
15 through that.

16 So the proposed project is allowable  
17 within the C District.

18 The public notice appeared in the *Sun*  
19 *Herald* on October 27th, 2024 and January 4th, 2026.  
20 It was available on our website October 21st  
21 through November 11th in 2024 and then January 4th  
22 through January 19th, 2026. And the reason this  
23 project was placed on notice a second time is  
24 because additional proposed activities were added  
25 to the application.

1           So we did receive comments from four  
2 individuals, so I've summarized their concerns and  
3 then I'll discuss what the responses from the  
4 applicant and agent were.

5           So there were concerns about increased  
6 boat traffic and its effect on the ecology of the  
7 bayou and causing erosion.

8           The applicant responded stating that the  
9 site was previously developed as Pelican Cove dry  
10 stack marina before it was destroyed in Hurricane  
11 Katrina. That business was running at 100 percent  
12 capacity at the time with plenty of boat activity.  
13 And additionally, it sold fuel, which this facility  
14 will not do. The boat traffic associated with this  
15 project will likely not be as heavy as it was when  
16 the 200-boat dry stack marina was sited at this  
17 project location.

18           The applicant stated he intends to place  
19 no wake zone signs on his piers and is willing to  
20 place channel markers for navigation if needed and  
21 would have to receive separate authorization for  
22 those if they were found necessary.

23           In addition, vessels should be idling in  
24 close proximity to structures and other boats  
25 anyway, so there should not be excessive wakes

1 causing safety issues or erosion.

2 The bridge along Mallini Bayou restricts  
3 most other boat traffic, and this development  
4 should be seasonal, six to seven months out of the  
5 year, with periods of reduced traffic. The traffic  
6 associated with the water taxi will remain at the  
7 end of the pier extending into St. Louis Bay,  
8 keeping the much larger boat out of the bayou.

9 And the applicant states that the  
10 property has long been used by the public for  
11 fishing and, therefore, debris and trash has  
12 collected there. The applicant has cleaned this up  
13 and will continue to keep garbage out of the  
14 environment.

15 One commenter asked about refueling  
16 causing pollution in the bayou. There will be no  
17 sales of fuel on the site.

18 A commenter pointed out damage to the  
19 existing boardwalk that's over land on the  
20 property.

21 The applicant stated that the damage  
22 caused by the storm surge from Tropical Storm  
23 Francine will be corrected when pilings are driven  
24 for the restaurant.

25 And the applicant states that the

1 property has remained vacant for a long time and as  
2 he develops it, he will make sure it remains clean  
3 and well maintained and all structures will be  
4 built to Harrison County code specifications.

5 Okay. So commenters were also concerned  
6 that the pier extension will cause navigational  
7 complications with the adjacent public boat launch.  
8 The agent stated that the proposed pier addition is  
9 more than 70 feet from the boat ramp access pier  
10 and will have no adverse impact on the launch and  
11 recovery of boats at the adjacent boat ramp or  
12 access to Mallini Bayou.

13 The proposed structures will require a  
14 minor change of course for boats heading south from  
15 the boat ramp or north from Mallini Bayou, but St.  
16 Louis Bay is more than 10,000 feet wide at this  
17 location and there should be room for all boat  
18 traffic to maneuver safely. This proposed  
19 structure will extend 287 feet from the shore and  
20 is similar in length to other structures on that  
21 side of St. Louis Bay.

22 Commenters were concerned the finger  
23 piers will cause a hazard to navigation in the  
24 bayou. Those structures will not exceed the  
25 allowed 25 percent extension across the width of

1 the waterway.

2 One commenter asked what will be the use  
3 of the proposed boat slips. The applicant stated  
4 that the boat slips will be used as transient  
5 parking for customers as well as storage of boats  
6 owned by the applicant for a day use rental and  
7 charter boats for fishing charters.

8 And lastly, there was one comment in  
9 opposition to granting after-the-fact  
10 certification, and we do have state statute in  
11 Mississippi Code 49-27-51 that allows for  
12 after-the-fact authorization for work that has been  
13 conducted in accordance with our public policy.

14 For agency comments, MDEQ and MDAH, so  
15 Environmental Quality and Archives and History, did  
16 not submit any comments within the comment period.  
17 And the Secretary of State's office stated that  
18 some of the proposed structures fall outside of the  
19 area of the current tidelands lease and they will  
20 be amending that lease to include those.

21 So after evaluation of the project, using  
22 our decision factors, this project would serve a  
23 higher public interest by redeveloping a neglected  
24 property to a commercial business that will allow  
25 increased access to recreational activities and

1 coastal wetlands. Therefore, the staff requests a  
2 motion that the Commission recommend to the  
3 Executive Director to approve the after-the-fact  
4 impacts as requested and approve the certificate of  
5 waiver as requested.

6 And I know that was a lot. If y'all have  
7 any questions, I can try to answer them or the  
8 applicant is here, and I believe we also have a  
9 public comment.

10 CAM ROBERDS:

11 We do have one public comment. We want  
12 to go ahead and --

13 JOE SPRAGGINS:

14 Yeah. Go ahead.

15 CAM ROBERDS:

16 Okay. So we have one public comment,  
17 was Jill Fitzpatrick, I believe. Please just  
18 state your full name and then city and please --

19 JILL FITZPATRICK LAROUSSINI:

20 Good morning. Jill Fitzpatrick  
21 Laroussini, 439 1st Avenue. I'm directly across  
22 Mallini Bayou from the property in question.

23 The extension of that pier was said to  
24 be needed in order to navigate a boat to the end  
25 of the pier. From the time I was 14, I was

1 qualified to operate a boat, and I don't  
2 understand why another 100 feet is required to be  
3 able to deliver a payload of individuals in a  
4 boat. You either need a new boat captain or you  
5 need a new boat. It doesn't make any sense to me.

6 It seems -- I'm going to use the word  
7 "greedy." It seems quite greedy to extend the pier  
8 that far out. It either reflects poor planning or  
9 poor skills. I don't understand.

10 And I also question what contractor  
11 would do that kind of work because the pilings are  
12 in already.

13 So I was before this board -- you  
14 probably remember me -- in order to replace the  
15 groin that had been there for 50 years, and it  
16 took just under three years to get that work to be  
17 done. And I did everything that was asked of me,  
18 so I don't understand if there's a dual standard  
19 for residents versus businesses and I object to  
20 the after-the-act permitting. So that's pretty  
21 much all I have to say.

22 My neighbor who can't be here, who's  
23 directly across from where these finger piers are  
24 going to be, he has written a letter. And he has  
25 a good point about these 14 boat slips that will

1 project out into the bayou. I do have a concern  
2 for the safety and, you know, time will tell.  
3 We'll just see.

4 One thing I have observed since the  
5 additional pier pilings have been put out there  
6 unpermitted is that we don't have as many boats  
7 roaring through, not -- not observing the no wake  
8 zone. Any boat operator who sees structures  
9 should know to slow down, but that's not the case  
10 at that location.

11 The last piece, if you're going to sell  
12 alcohol and rent jet skis, that's going to be  
13 another interesting -- I've had 11 years in the  
14 emergency room and 10 years as a forensic nurse,  
15 so I have concerns. And that's it. Any questions  
16 for me?

17 CAM ROBERDS:

18 Any questions for Ms. Fitzpatrick?

19 No, ma'am. Thank you.

20 JILL FITZPATRICK LAROUSSINI:

21 You know, the tides, nothing's new about  
22 the tide. Nothing's new about the depth.

23 You had a question, sir?

24 JOE SPRAGGINS:

25 No. I just want to address one thing.

1 I'm not sure what we're talking about. There's no  
2 different standard between public and private or  
3 business because, matter of fact, we're probably  
4 more stringent with the business than anything.  
5 And we try to, you know, look at it a lot harder  
6 than what we would with your own private thing,  
7 so, I'm not sure what caused that. But, you know,  
8 I'll be glad to talk to you about it anytime  
9 because I don't know what caused you to take so  
10 long to get yours, but I'll be glad to talk to you  
11 about it.

12 JILL FITZPATRICK LAROUSSINI:

13 Thank you.

14 CAM ROBERDS:

15 Thank you.

16 RONNIE DANIELS:

17 Mr. Gennin, if I may, based on her  
18 comments, the extension on the pier -- I mean,  
19 I've launched at that launch before -- is it a  
20 depth thing with tides being able to get in there?  
21 Because I know it's very shallow coming out of  
22 that boat launch.

23 THOMAS GENNIN:

24 Yes. Thomas Gennin. I'm the developer  
25 of Tiger Beach.

1           And my neighbor, what she forgot to tell  
2 y'all is I don't know when she was permitted to  
3 extend her jetty on her property.

4           So if you look at Mallini Bayou -- can  
5 you -- Alyssa, can you pull that up -- there's a  
6 very little canal, Mallini Bayou. And, you know,  
7 this has been -- Willa mentioned the mean high  
8 tide study. That's the first thing that we did on  
9 this project and it took six months. And that's  
10 when DMR gave me permission to excavate the rock  
11 pile and that's the first thing we did. I didn't  
12 want to buy this land unless I could remove those  
13 rocks, which allows for now a beach and kayaks,  
14 jet skis, whatever.

15           But the DMR, if you look at the south  
16 side of this canal, that appears to be old. I  
17 think the jetty wall goes out further to the west.  
18 And you can see the sandbar. If you look south of  
19 the end of my pier, you can see, plain as day, a  
20 sand flat. Well, that flat, my son walked across  
21 the bayou. He's 13. He walked across the bayou  
22 during the north wind a couple weeks ago. Did not  
23 get his ankles wet. Okay?

24           I don't want to spend another 125 grand  
25 necessarily on extending this pier, but when that

1 jetty wall was extended on the south in the last  
2 three years that sand flat has gotten dramatically  
3 worse and it needs to be dredged. And I was told  
4 that, I mean, basically I'm going to have to  
5 dredge it if I want boat customers. The State has  
6 no money to dredge it.

7 So it's not about greed or whatever you  
8 just heard. It's about -- I mean, I have to  
9 extend the pier to accommodate any -- I mean, a  
10 30-foot center console even. So it's not a need.  
11 It's not a -- it's not a want. It's a need.

12 And this has been, I think -- I think  
13 Alyssa and I have been talking about this permit  
14 for over two years, so there's nothing -- it's  
15 just it is what it is at this point.

16 RONNIE DANIELS:

17 One other question I have while we've  
18 got you up here. Where's your parking going to  
19 be?

20 THOMAS GENNIN:

21 So parking, if you look at that map or  
22 the site -- you mean boat parking or automobiles?

23 RONNIE DANIELS:

24 No. Vehicle. And what I'm leading to  
25 with this is the limited parking for the boat

1 ramp. How are you going to -- are you going to  
2 put signs up or something to make sure that  
3 customers are in your parking and not the boat  
4 launch?

5 THOMAS GENNIN:

6 Let me see. So I'm not the best at  
7 this. The County just extended the paving and the  
8 County is going to extend the paving to the stop  
9 sign. And then my land can accommodate like 80  
10 cars.

11 RONNIE DANIELS:

12 Okay.

13 THOMAS GENNIN:

14 But I just did a deal with the other  
15 neighbor, my neighbor to the north. I'm going to  
16 lease part of his land for employees, charter  
17 captains, charter boat customers. They'll all be  
18 across the street.

19 We have -- and for the -- again, the --  
20 this is all hundreds of thousands of dollars worth  
21 of work over the water that can't even be insured.

22 But we have, I think, it's Paradise --  
23 Paradise Sports in Fort Walton and Panama City.  
24 They're going to send a parasailing boat over here  
25 this summer. We've got -- I mean, I can't even

1 keep up with the charter captains. My captain  
2 can't even manage the amount of people that want  
3 to fish out of here. He's offshore today on one  
4 of our boats. And so all of this is just based  
5 off of a demand, everything that we're asking for.

6 There was some confusion on the fire  
7 canal. My contractor, Gills Crane Service, they  
8 do work all in this area. They built the Bay  
9 St. Louis Marina. There was a mixup. He was told  
10 that if there was no vegetation present in front  
11 of the bulkhead, that we could remove the bulkhead  
12 when he dewatered it, so that -- and that was a  
13 fire marshal thing that I didn't -- and that  
14 was -- it's an ongoing battle. So that is where  
15 we are in a nutshell.

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17 Sounds like you already had the  
18 permitting for everything. You just -- like,  
19 he -- a couple extra piles here and the extension  
20 and a couple small things, but you already had a  
21 main permit in place.

22 THOMAS GENNIN:

23 We did. And Harrison County, they told  
24 me that anything that required a lease with the  
25 Secretary of State's office, to deal with the DMR

1 on the plans and the plans were -- I mean, I did  
2 the plans at my house on a graph -- on a two-foot  
3 graph paper. It was not a technical review, so,  
4 you know, when they -- these guys order pilings,  
5 they get 10 or 12 extra, and George just -- he  
6 drove like four extra pilings just because he had  
7 them. I don't -- I don't think anybody thought it  
8 was like, you know, we're going to come out here  
9 and measure this to the -- to the foot. I don't  
10 think it was like that. At least it appeared to  
11 be very relaxed.

12 CAM ROBERDS:

13 Then on Ronnie's comment, I will say I  
14 think that before you're going to be able to  
15 operate, the City is going to require you to have  
16 the amount of parking spaces you need --

17 THOMAS GENNIN:

18 Yes. In fact, they --

19 CAM ROBERDS:

20 -- and you're not going to be able to  
21 get a business license unless you have that, so --

22 THOMAS GENNIN:

23 Yeah. We have almost double the minimum  
24 from an automobile standpoint that is required by  
25 Harrison County. This is not the City of Pass

1 Christian. This is the unincorporated county.

2 That's another thing people don't  
3 realize. So it's -- the building codes are a lot  
4 different than they would be if it was Bay St.

5 Louis or Past Christian

6 JOE SPRAGGINS:

7 Got a question. You know, I'm looking  
8 at that slide and you're talking about your son  
9 walked across there. Is it -- is there any way to  
10 get a boat in that canal?

11 THOMAS GENNIN:

12 So he has a 17-foot Boston Whaler and he  
13 cannot go across that on low tide.

14 JOE SPRAGGINS:

15 So I'm looking at -- for your proposed  
16 pier.

17 THOMAS GENNIN:

18 Yes, sir.

19 JOE SPRAGGINS:

20 And I'm looking across there and that --  
21 I mean, I'm assuming -- I mean, maybe I'm doing  
22 wrong -- that that's sandbar?

23 THOMAS GENNIN:

24 It is absolutely a sandbar.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS:

1                   And you're saying the State has no money  
2 to do it?

3 THOMAS GENNIN:

4                   That's what I was told.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6                   All right. Jared, let's look at this.  
7 Is there a way that we can dredge that, because,  
8 obviously, it's -- my question is: Is there a way  
9 that we can dredge that out in that area there  
10 because it's not just helping him. It's going to  
11 help everybody behind there, you know, because how  
12 do they get into there? Is there homes behind  
13 there or anything?

14 THOMAS GENNIN:

15                   Yes, sir. So --

16 JOE SPRAGGINS:

17                   You know, how do we help these people  
18 out? That's what I want to do.

19 RONNIE DANIELS:

20                   That actually goes in and ties in to  
21 Mallini Bayou that comes all the way up through my  
22 neighborhood as well as a dead-end portion to the  
23 east of there as well. There are homes.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS:

25                   Now, to me, it's just silt built up.

1 It's just, you know, stuff has built up over time.  
2 Obviously, at one time, it was able to take a boat  
3 up and down that area.

4 THOMAS GENNIN:

5 Yes, sir. So I guess it was two year --  
6 two summers ago, I had a quad-engine 45-foot  
7 center console. And I've tried to find the video,  
8 but I pulled that boat into the canal and turned  
9 around at the bridge on 3rd Avenue and I actually  
10 left it there for the weekend. I cannot get --  
11 you cannot get much of anything through there now.

12 And it's -- and I'm not an environmental  
13 engineer, but the company that I've hired,  
14 EcoSolutions out of Daphne, Alabama, when Louis  
15 was there, he goes, look, he said, the fix is --  
16 you know, jetties have to be almost equal, right,  
17 apparently. And so where my little rock pile  
18 stops, that was all riprap from when they tore the  
19 bridge out after Hurricane Camille in 1969. The  
20 north side jetty needs to be as far as the south  
21 side jetty or you're always -- that sandbar will  
22 always form. It will be an ongoing issue  
23 forever.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS:

25 The other question I've got is -- you

1 building 100 extra feet out there, you're doing it  
2 because you have to and then -- you know, to be --  
3 THOMAS GENNIN:

4 Yes, sir.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6 -- do something?

7 If I can get that dredged out, is that  
8 going to eliminate you having to spend the money  
9 to do it and then the other people having to have  
10 objection to it or is it something we're going to  
11 continue with?

12 THOMAS GENNIN:

13 The boat that we have is a -- it's a  
14 single-diesel, a prop pocket, Coast Guard  
15 certified for 24 passengers and two crew. I don't  
16 know. I mean, it would have to be high tide.

17 JOE SPRAGGINS:

18 So it's not going to --

19 THOMAS GENNIN:

20 The canal is a separate issue from the  
21 water --

22 CAM ROBERDS:

23 Yeah. You'd have to go --

24 RONNIE DANIELS:

25 Not withstanding the sandbar at the

1 canal --

2 JOE SPRAGGINS:

3 Okay. You went by it -- more so, I'm  
4 looking at it as how do we help the people, but  
5 they're in that canal.

6 THOMAS GENNIN:

7 I'll tell you this, so Saturday we were  
8 on site. I had a full crew working and I met this  
9 couple from Baton Rouge and the wife said, she  
10 goes, you made my husband spend \$12,000 on a  
11 folding T-top and they have some twin -- you've  
12 probably seen the boat. It's a twin-engine,  
13 probably 27-foot hybrid, they call them. So the  
14 guy spent 12 grand on the T-top so he can get  
15 under the bridge because he lives right behind  
16 that little bridge. And they couldn't get out of  
17 the bayou, you know.

18 So she's like, what happened to the  
19 bayou? I said, it's filled in. It's -- I've  
20 watched it fill in for two years. And, you know,  
21 so -- I -- you know, I'm not --

22 JOE SPRAGGINS:

23 Every time I think I can do something, I  
24 find out I can't. Let me find a way and let me  
25 look at it.

1 THOMAS GENNIN:

2 Well, that would be a huge help. I  
3 don't know how that process works.

4 JOE SPRAGGINS:

5 Yeah. Well, I mean, if it's money, I  
6 can come up with money. If it's a -- if it's an  
7 environmental thing that I don't know about,  
8 that's another issue.

9 But, Jared, y'all look at that and tell  
10 me what it would take and what we would need to do  
11 because it's not -- it's not just for the business  
12 here. It's for everybody that has a house or  
13 anything that goes behind it. They ought to have  
14 the right to be able to get up out of there.

15 RONNIE DANIELS:

16 So I've got one other concern I'd like  
17 to address. First of all, let me say I grew up  
18 going in and out of this area whenever Annie's was  
19 there and the marina was there and I've got a lot  
20 of great memories and I'm happy to see that area  
21 being revitalized. I think it's a great project  
22 that you're bringing there, but -- not only with  
23 Mr. Gennin's rentals that he's planning on having,  
24 but there will be some boat traffic coming through  
25 there.

1           A couple years back, Director, if you  
2 remember, Marine Patrol and I went out just on the  
3 south side of the bridge, the Highway 90 bridge on  
4 the east side of the Bay there. There's a lot of  
5 riprap just under the water surface. I believe  
6 Bryce and I went out there and we bumped several  
7 pieces. We marked that a few years back. They're  
8 all gone. I would like to see getting that area  
9 remarked for multiple reasons. Outside of this, I  
10 still get two or three phone calls a year, people  
11 telling me they tore off a lower unit or tore up a  
12 prop.

13       JOE SPRAGGINS:

14           Chief, can you look into that? Chief  
15 Wilkerson, can you look into that? All right.  
16 Chief Wilkerson, can you look into that, what he's  
17 talking about?

18       CAM ROBERDS:

19           Yeah. The other -- the only other  
20 question I had was like you -- y'all wanted to  
21 provide the fire water from the bayou?

22       THOMAS GENNIN:

23           Yes, sir.

24       CAM ROBERDS:

25           And the county fire department's good

1 with that?

2 THOMAS GENNIN:

3 Well, so -- so yes and no. This has  
4 been about an 18-month delay. So we put the canal  
5 in per fire department -- or fire codes. There --  
6 I actually do have to bring a water line in.  
7 Harrison County, their civil engineer signed off  
8 on it last week. It took 12 weeks to get a permit  
9 to pay for this water line. We don't know what  
10 our water flow will be until they send a fire  
11 hydrant. Depending on the water flow, that will  
12 dictate what size, if any, that we would need for  
13 a booster pump.

14 CAM ROBERDS:

15 Gotcha.

16 THOMAS GENNIN:

17 This is something that's -- it's really  
18 unheard of. There's never been a building,  
19 definitely in Mississippi, that's ever tried to  
20 have a saltwater and a freshwater fire suppression  
21 system, and there's no exceptions to be made when  
22 it comes to -- you know that.

23 CAM ROBERDS:

24 Yeah, yeah, sure.

25 THOMAS GENNIN:

1 I mean, there's no exceptions with fire  
2 safety, so --

3 CAM ROBERDS:

4 I'm -- I was for it. I just think that,  
5 you know, any -- a little bit of less burden or  
6 cost. I mean, you're already going in the amount  
7 of money you put into a development, so I  
8 understand trying to service debt and everything  
9 else. A little bit of a break helps on that.

10 THOMAS GENNIN:

11 Yeah. So, you know, hopefully, we won't  
12 need -- you know, hopefully, this canal that we  
13 dug will end up being like jet ski storage or  
14 something. It gets really complicated.

15 And I think DEQ came out because their  
16 rules conflicted with the fire marshal rules. The  
17 fire marshal -- the canal that we dug is five feet  
18 deeper than the Mallini Bayou and it's got a  
19 concrete slab in the bottom and it's got all this  
20 stuff.

21 And DEQ comes out. I don't know when.  
22 It's been maybe three months ago. And they poked  
23 around with a stick and that little fire canal has  
24 about four feet of mud in it. So if that was my  
25 only source of fire suppression, it definitely

1 wouldn't pass.

2           When they kick the pump on, we would  
3 probably have a third of the flow that we thought  
4 we would have. And it -- my system's going to  
5 need about 600 gallons a minute, so if you can  
6 picture that amount of water and it's a very  
7 costly pump. The pump is over \$100,000 with zero  
8 warranty because it's saltwater.

9           So the whole thing has been pretty much  
10 a nightmare.

11 CAM ROBERDS:

12           Got you.

13 THOMAS GENNIN:

14           I mean, this has been one for the record  
15 books here.

16 CAM ROBERDS:

17           Understood. All right. Do we have any  
18 additional question for Mr. Thomas?

19 ALYSSA TIMBS:

20           Willa knows more about this area's  
21 project past than I do, so she was stating that  
22 that jetty that's on the south side was -- okay.  
23 Now our pointer is not working -- was permitted  
24 by -- to the City and they ended up running out of  
25 money, so they actually have a permit that they

1 can extend that jetty longer than it is. They  
2 just ran out of money, so, you know, if they could  
3 get the money to complete that, maybe that would  
4 help in the situation.

5 Also, I wanted to point out that in our  
6 regulations, we say that we would prefer for  
7 people to pier out rather than to dredge in, so  
8 if -- the agent and the applicant has stated that  
9 they need to get to depth with this pier extension  
10 and that is what would be preferred in our  
11 regulations, is that, you know, they would only  
12 impact the water bottoms by placing pilings  
13 instead of, you know, dredging sediment out of  
14 that area.

15 JOE SPRAGGINS:

16 The only thing I'm worried about,  
17 though, Alyssa, is that's a canal.

18 ALYSSA TIMBS:

19 Yeah. Dredging in that maintained area.  
20 I mean, anybody could get --

21 JOE SPRAGGINS:

22 Giving people access in and out of  
23 there, we -- they deserve that right. And so how  
24 do we do that?

25 ALYSSA TIMBS:

1                   Yes. And, I mean, so, you know, DMR,  
2 we -- besides beneficial use, we don't perform  
3 dredging, but we might would be able to get with  
4 the City or somebody to --

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6                   Well, we can get with the County.  
7 Harrison County, I think, owns that area, and we  
8 can get with Harrison County and get them to ask  
9 for a permit to do it and put in for a proposal  
10 and see if we can't help them with it. How about  
11 that?

12 ALYSSA TIMBS:

13                   Yeah. I mean, I'm not sure of all the  
14 logistics of it, but it can definitely be a  
15 conversation that's had.

16 JOE SPRAGGINS:

17                   And, you know, we can probably help with  
18 the funds on that.

19 ALYSSA TIMBS:

20                   Okay.

21 RONNIE DANIELS:

22                   Okay.

23 ALYSSA TIMBS:

24                   All right. So recommendation?

25 CAM ROBERDS:

1 Any other questions?

2 (No comments.)

3 RONNIE DANIELS:

4 I'll make the motion.

5 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

6 I'll second.

7 CAM ROBERDS:

8 All right. All those in favor?

9 (Unanimous vote.)

10 CAM ROBERDS:

11 Thank you.

12 ALYSSA TIMBS:

13 Thank you.

14 CAM ROBERDS:

15 Public affairs, Ms. Charmaine. Is she  
16 here?

17 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

18 Good morning.

19 CAM ROBERDS:

20 Morning.

21 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

22 The Mississippi Department of Marine  
23 Resources had two media mentions since the January  
24 MACMR meeting. News items included the closing of  
25 the recreational fishing season for red grouper.

1                   On January 20th, Shellfish Bureau  
2 Director Jason Ryder served on the panel for  
3 "Let's Talk Aquaculture: A Community  
4 Conversation" at the Mary C in Ocean Springs.

5                   At this weekend's Biloxi Boat Show, the  
6 Artificial Reef Bureau staffed the agency's public  
7 outreach booth each of the three days of the show  
8 at the Mississippi Coast Convention Center. They  
9 shared insight on fishing reefs and fisheries  
10 management as well as handling -- handing out MDMR  
11 informational materials.

12                   The Shrimp and Crab Bureau also  
13 participated in the weekend's boat show with a  
14 booth sharing information about the monofilament  
15 recycling program.

16                   Marine Patrol, Coastal Resources  
17 Management's Invasive Species Program and the  
18 Grand Bay NERR participated in the Kids 101  
19 Fishing Program during the boat show. Each group  
20 featured a table at the event and educated  
21 attendees about their respective roles and  
22 programs at MDMR.

23                   The following fishery scientists  
24 presented at the Mississippi/Alabama joint chapter  
25 meeting of the American Fisheries Society

1 February 4th through the 6th in Orange Beach:  
2 Melody Chaplin, Lindsey Hoye, James Klein, and  
3 Katherine Wright. Also representing the agency at  
4 the meeting were Megan Fleming and Josh Waters of  
5 the Finfish Bureau, and Michael Lee, Jason  
6 Snawder, and Delya Sims of the Hatchery Bureau.

7 Grand Bay NERR staff, Jennifer Cumbest  
8 and Brianna Andrews, participated in the job  
9 extravaganza on January 21st at the Jackson County  
10 Exceptional School. Emmett Carstens hosted  
11 observer training for phenological monitoring at  
12 the Weeks Bay NERR on January 31st.

13 The Seafood Technology Bureau's Becky  
14 Hargrove and Coastal Resource Management's Allison  
15 Faggard and Thomas Butera all served as science  
16 fair judges for St. Alphonsus School on  
17 February 5th.

18 On January 28th, Coastal Resources  
19 Management's Allison Faggard, Alicia Carron, and  
20 Kaitlyn Payne participated in Career Day at  
21 Gulfport Central Middle School.

22 And on February 4th, MDMR held our  
23 annual legislative reception the night before our  
24 agency's Capitol Day in Jackson, which allows our  
25 staff to meet with Legislators. And in the

1 morning at the Capitol, we were able to share the  
2 space with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,  
3 Fisheries, and Parks, and our staff met with  
4 Legislators, Capitol staff, and guests throughout  
5 the morning handing out informational pieces about  
6 our agency.

7 CAM ROBERDS:

8 All right. Thank you for the update.

9 Any questions for Ms. Charmaine?

10 JOE SPRAGGINS:

11 Just one thing. You know, having  
12 Capitol Day with Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks is  
13 a good thing because we're all good working  
14 together as a group. And, you know, the State of  
15 Mississippi, we are all basically, you know,  
16 separate agencies. We're only one of the two  
17 states in the Gulf that -- as the five that does  
18 that. But I tell you what, we work hand in hand  
19 and I appreciate Director Lynn Posey and that  
20 group for working with us, so thank you.

21 CAM ROBERDS:

22 All right. Appreciate it.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS:

24 We're going to do it again next year, I  
25 think.

1 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

2 That's the plan.

3 CAM ROBERDS:

4 All right. Looks like we got an update  
5 from Trevor on the multi-day limits and file  
6 possession.

7 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

8 All right. This is a follow-up from  
9 your request from the last meeting.

10 I will say before that that the oyster  
11 crew is on the water doing the water samples now.  
12 They're able to get out in between the fog and  
13 everything, so they should be back in by 11:30.

14 And then the Director mentioned the  
15 certification process with MS Creel. We had our  
16 first call with the NOAA statistical consultants.  
17 We basically went through 70 pages of  
18 documentation the staff compiled on it. They're  
19 all survey statisticians, so, obviously, those  
20 questions were fairly rigorous at times to try to  
21 get through.

22 Overall, the sentiment was positive.  
23 We're thinking that we're going to be able to get  
24 at least certification somewhat soon based on our  
25 correspondence with them. And I'd like to credit

1 Eric Gigli, Jeremy Timbs, James Klein, Josh  
2 Waters, Megan Fleming -- they did a bulk of the  
3 documentation work and analysis -- and then  
4 everybody on the staff that's been helping out  
5 with it. It's been a long process so far, short,  
6 but long. It looks like it's going to come to  
7 fruition soon.

8 CAM ROBERDS:

9 Nice.

10 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

11 All right. So this was just a request  
12 from the previous meeting to try to add some  
13 clarification. And this text is very small, but  
14 this is the written rule out of Title 22 Part 3.  
15 So not to have to read the exact thing out all the  
16 way through, but, essentially, it says it's  
17 unlawful for possession of fish with heads, tails,  
18 or flesh removed.

19 The exception here is that any charter  
20 or recreational fishing boat fishing outside  
21 Mississippi territorial waters, so that's a bold  
22 underline. So that's a clarification there to  
23 realize for the next conversation: But fishing  
24 outside Mississippi territorial waters over  
25 24 hours before returning to land and filing a

1 float plan with the Department may possess fileted  
2 fish in Mississippi waters.

3           Essentially, this was a Chandeleur rule  
4 for the most part that was exercised by  
5 individuals leaving from our waters out to  
6 Chandeleur, staying the night and coming back.  
7 That possession of fillets still only limited --  
8 was limited to a single-day possession limit  
9 because that's what's currently in our  
10 regulations. And then the -- basically, the float  
11 plan had all that information and had to be  
12 submitted by the -- to the DMR, all that kind of  
13 stuff.

14           So the next one is the multi-day side of  
15 things. So the multi-day possession exists here  
16 for license-for-hire vessels. That was a rule  
17 that was made, I think, in 2016, if I remember  
18 correctly.

19           So a license-for-hire vessel may obtain  
20 a two-day bag limit endorsement from the MDMR for  
21 a fee of \$100 per year. And that endorsement  
22 allows a vessel to possess a two-day bag limit,  
23 whole or filet of spotted sea trout, red drum,  
24 southern flounder under the following conditions.  
25 You see that first line, the endorsement only

1 applies while fishing in Mississippi territorial  
2 waters, so it's a charter boat fishing. Mainly,  
3 this is exercised around Cat Island and some of  
4 the others that are within there.

5 And the other qualifications, this one  
6 also has to be submitted to the DMR via a float  
7 plan and is actually signed off on by Marine  
8 Patrol and then provided back to them before  
9 engaging in the activity.

10 I will say there's another one that  
11 exists and it's the federal for-hire multi-day  
12 position -- possession limit. So that's  
13 federally-permitted charter boats that are allowed  
14 to engage in this activity. I think it's been  
15 extended to a 36-hour trip at least because there  
16 was some concern about boats taking 25-hour trips  
17 and having two days of possession, so I think they  
18 went through that conversation. That one's  
19 existed for a while on the federal-for-hire side.

20 So we looked at the other states.  
21 Really, the main one was what came up last time.  
22 It's Louisiana that has this allowance. It was  
23 passed by their legislature. It was actually  
24 amended here recently. So the Louisiana  
25 requirements, you must launch and land from a ramp

1 south of Highway 90. You must have proof of  
2 actively being on the water at a remote camp that  
3 can only be accessed by water, and that proof  
4 exists in receipt. Basically, it has to meet the  
5 department's discretion. So there's multiple  
6 forms that you can use, but it's up to the officer  
7 that's stopping to be able to determine whether  
8 it's valid or not.

9           And then they may possess up to the  
10 possession limit of fillets, and they must have  
11 sufficient skin for identification, must be  
12 segregated into separate containers, and must be  
13 within the filet size regulations, which just  
14 happened this year.

15           So each one is basically three inches,  
16 four inches under to account for the head length.  
17 And then of those filets that they have, I think  
18 up to 20 percent are allowed to be under just in  
19 case you're a bad filetman or you cut one in half  
20 or whatever else.

21           So, as you can see, I mean, that one's a  
22 little bit complex, right? That's a lot of moving  
23 parts. I think it creates a lot of -- a lot of  
24 questions on their law enforcement when it comes  
25 to trying to enforce this stuff and everything.

1           They cannot actively fish while in  
2 possession of more than the daily possession limit,  
3 so, essentially, it's when they're transiting back  
4 from their camp.

5           And if we look at other state  
6 regulations, I had a call out to Alabama. I looked  
7 through Florida and Texas' documentation. There's  
8 no multi-day bag limit allowances on the water. No  
9 filet possession allowances on the water. They do  
10 allow, which isn't part of the conversation we're  
11 having, but in transit, if someone is stopped on  
12 the road, typically the rule is you can have double  
13 the possession limit while you're traveling.

14           And really, that incident happens not  
15 very often and so if they do, it's just a  
16 reasonable excuse of, well, I have the catch in my  
17 cooler and the other party is going elsewhere,  
18 which is why I have it. And usually, it goes over  
19 pretty well.

20           And then the last one is there is a CFR  
21 allowance for personal consumption. It's one and a  
22 half pounds per person. This is essentially if  
23 you're staying on the water for a long period of  
24 time and you want to catch and then cook something  
25 while on the water, you've got a grill or something

1 else. You are -- within one and a half pounds per  
2 person, you're allowed to do that, but it applies  
3 to your bag limit. So whatever fish you select for  
4 cooking on the water has to be taken off the bag  
5 limit is how is -- how the language reads.

6 So that was just mainly all the  
7 information and the regulation. I figured we'd  
8 have a little bit of discussion here if y'all had  
9 any additional questions and if there was an intent  
10 to move forward with considering something like  
11 this, we'd bring up some options in the next  
12 meeting.

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 Yeah, the way I -- I appreciate the  
15 information, Number 1, Trevor. Thank you for  
16 looping us in on especially the neighboring  
17 states. But I feel like it's not a -- the  
18 multi-day for the recreational side isn't really  
19 that important. Just a single day limit  
20 regardless if you're two, three days and that way  
21 there's no interference with law enforcement  
22 trying to understand what the -- what they  
23 actually have, how many days they've been staying,  
24 you know, at a specific location. Simplicity, for  
25 sure, I would think, kind of like it was a little

1 bit difficult to, you know, go through all the  
2 Louisiana regulation, but that would be my  
3 opinion. A single day regardless just to keep it  
4 simple.

5 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

6 Okay.

7 CAM ROBERDS:

8 And, of course, it would be, you know,  
9 applied for, reviewed, approved. I don't think  
10 just anybody's going to go and fill it out. It  
11 would be something that would have to be -- it's a  
12 legit process.

13 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

14 Yeah.

15 RONNIE DANIELS:

16 So essentially, what you're saying is  
17 just one-day limit, want to be able to clean them  
18 while you're there. That way, whenever you're  
19 taking a boat ride in, throwing everything in the  
20 truck, you don't have to deal with all that once  
21 you get shoreside.

22 CAM ROBERDS:

23 Correct.

24 RONNIE DANIELS:

25 Yeah. That sounds pretty reasonable to

1 me.

2 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

3 So the likely avenue for that would be  
4 on that first one there where it says "fishing  
5 outside Mississippi territorial waters," it would  
6 be a area change, essentially, within that  
7 regulation that we'd probably consider.

8 And then before we bring it back, I'll  
9 sit down with Marine Patrol to make sure if there's  
10 any concerns they have or nuances that need to be  
11 included in there that they've seen over the past,  
12 we'll try to have that there.

13 RONNIE DANIELS:

14 Now, would that include -- would that  
15 include, let's say, a Chandeleur boat that's not  
16 going to Chandeleur? They're going to anchor up  
17 around Cat Island. Would they be able to do the  
18 same thing?

19 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

20 They should fall within that  
21 next for-hire with that practice, so they fall  
22 within that charter boat. This would be the --  
23 essentially the allowance of filet possession.

24 RONNIE DANIELS:

25 Oh, okay. I see it says charter and

1 recreational. I missed that on the first time.

2 Sorry.

3 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

4 So we would change that area  
5 designation. And then if there's any specific  
6 areas like keeping this practice to the islands,  
7 overnight camping at the islands, any specificity  
8 there, that would be part of the discussion.

9 JOE SPRAGGINS:

10 So if a -- I know we've got several more  
11 homes out on Cat Island than we've had in the  
12 past. And it seems to take more in the projection  
13 of coming, but -- so it would be private and  
14 recreation, if they want to be able to leave the  
15 harbor wherever -- wherever they want to leave  
16 from and they want to go out there and stay a  
17 couple of days, are they going to -- they're not  
18 going to be allowed to bring a two-day catch back,  
19 only a one-day catch?

20 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

21 That would be just a one-day catch. We  
22 would have to change -- we would have to amend  
23 that language to allow multi-day possession.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS:

25 And if somebody goes to the island and

1 camps out over the weekend, they can only have a  
2 one-day catch.

3 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

4 That's right.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6 That's the only thing that I have a  
7 problem with. I'm thinking about people that, you  
8 know, a recreational -- if -- how do we help out  
9 the people that are -- that are doing something  
10 that are entirely different? I mean, obviously,  
11 the majority of our fishermen are going out there  
12 and catching one day and coming home that day, you  
13 know, and -- but how do we look at something?  
14 That's what I -- that's the only question.

15 RONNIE DANIELS:

16 Is -- am I confused here? Without  
17 fillets, can you possess two days if you file the  
18 float plan?

19 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

20 No.

21 RONNIE DANIELS:

22 No. Okay.

23 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

24 No. That's where the --

25 JOE SPRAGGINS:

1                   One day in no matter what.

2           TREVOR MONCRIEF:

3                   Yeah. And a lot of that is new, so it's  
4           a balance between enforceability of a regulation  
5           and allowing that that of practice. Now, some of  
6           that can be curtailed with, you know, having the  
7           float plan, having some hail-in/hail-out scenarios  
8           so that they know who's there when.

9                   I would imagine that at some point we  
10          would start getting into the same realm as what the  
11          federal multi-day limits went into, which is what  
12          constitutes a multi-day trip. If you go out at,  
13          you know, noon on a Saturday and you're leaving at  
14          8:30 a.m. the next day, is that truly 24 hours? I  
15          mean, it is definitely over a span of two days. So  
16          that's just where some of that stuff starts to  
17          bleed into one another, and it gets difficult,  
18          especially on the Marine Patrol side, I think, when  
19          they have to deal with scenarios like that. So --

20          CAM ROBERDS:

21                   That was -- that was the only reason I  
22          was -- even mentioned like a one-day just because  
23          I know how difficult it would be for the -- you  
24          know, the --

25          JOE SPRAGGINS:

1           Yeah. My question would be, though, is  
2 there a way that -- and once again, maybe exactly  
3 what you're saying might be right. Okay?

4           And is there a way to look at it and --  
5 that if I wanted to go to the island and camp over  
6 the weekend and I was going to fish that I could  
7 have more than a one-day possession if I file  
8 something, if I had some way of saying something  
9 to the marine patrol and say before I went that  
10 this is what I do and, you know, is there a way to  
11 do something like that? I'm not talking about  
12 adding another license. I'm not talking about  
13 adding anything else. I'm just saying is there a  
14 way to look at this and, you know, maybe we can  
15 just look at it and we can discuss it.

16 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

17           Yeah.

18 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

19           I'm thinking you could probably do that  
20 with the Tails and Scales apps. Well, I mean  
21 people are using it already.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS:

23           Well, I mean --

24 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

25           Yes. On its face, yes. There -- as

1 we've learned from the last little while, there's  
2 a lot behind the scenes on that development of  
3 specific scenarios, and it really does -- it  
4 sounds like it's really simple, but usually that's  
5 a -- it's a few months of deliberation and getting  
6 the developer to get online and testing bugs and  
7 everything else like that.

8 Yes, logically, it would work. In  
9 practice, it would be a little bit difficult, but  
10 what I'll do is -- Director, we'll add that in as  
11 an option and we'll get with Marine Patrol on that  
12 side.

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 Yeah. Maybe with the Marine Patrol and  
15 see how difficult they think that would be to try  
16 to regulate.

17 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

18 Yep.

19 RONNIE DANIELS:

20 While we've got you up here, it sounds  
21 like we've got a little progress on our licensing.

22 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

23 Yeah. So we actually got an e-mail out  
24 from IT. The Director commented on it. We've got  
25 credit card availability at the license desk,

1       which is -- I know it seems --

2       RONNIE DANIELS:

3                     One bit at a time.

4       TREVOR MONCRIEF:

5                     -- like -- two steps more from what we  
6       had.

7       CAM ROBERDS:

8                     Great.

9       JOE SPRAGGINS:

10                    Hopefully, we'll have it online here  
11       before long.

12       TREVOR MONCRIEF:

13                    Hopefully.

14       CAM ROBERDS:

15                    Great. Appreciate it.

16       TREVOR MONCRIEF:

17                    Absolutely.

18       CAM ROBERDS:

19                    Thank you.

20                    All right. Yeah, it looks like we're  
21       moving on to public comments. We've got James  
22       Miller.

23       JOE SPRAGGINS:

24                    The man himself.

25       JAMES MILLER:

1 Hello, sir. James Miller from  
2 D'Iberville, Mississippi.

3 My concerns is down there at Pearl  
4 River. We need to lift it up the -- you know, the  
5 flood stage so we can work a little bit more.  
6 Find out what areas are good to work in so we can  
7 be compete-able with our Mississippi beautiful  
8 oysters we got out there because the longer we  
9 stay closed, we lose ourselves. Two or three  
10 weeks is just too long for us.

11 When we're getting ready to go back to  
12 the dock, Louisiana and the other, Texas has done  
13 sold the oysters to our buyers, so they don't want  
14 them. So, we got to be compete-able with the  
15 other states. Closing it down for two or three  
16 weeks is tough. I really take this seriously out  
17 there. I used to. Now, I'm really getting back  
18 into it again. I was -- been oystering since I've  
19 been seven years old.

20 I think things can change for us. The  
21 sampling areas we can work that's not contaminated  
22 to speed our process up and getting back on the  
23 right -- right structure of the road to get our  
24 industry back because we lost -- a lot of people  
25 don't want to work in industry no more. You know,

1 you can't work one week out of the month and  
2 expect to keep an employee. It's tough. You know  
3 what I mean?

4 I'm 60 years old. I work young guys and  
5 it's tough. I'm out there doing it myself now,  
6 but --

7 JOE SPRAGGINS:

8 I can tell you, Mr. Miller, we're trying  
9 to do everything we can. And I don't know -- I  
10 know we look at that water quality and what we  
11 have to do and I know that basically the FDA, I  
12 think, is the one who sets all of that for us.  
13 And we're trying to do everything we can.

14 Thank goodness -- getting our lab back  
15 will help us a lot quicker to where instead of  
16 having to send stuff off and wait two to three  
17 days before we get it back, maybe that will help  
18 some.

19 I know that -- the staff will tell you  
20 that I stay on them pretty hard, and I stay on  
21 pretty hard about, well, why aren't we sampling  
22 today? Why aren't we doing this? Why aren't we  
23 doing this? And the answer is -- and that,  
24 basically -- and maybe I'm speaking out of line  
25 here, but if I take too many bad samples, it could

1 possibly cause an issue in the future. In other  
2 words, if I go in there and sample it too many  
3 times and then turn it in and it all goes on  
4 record, then they could raise it now. Instead of  
5 11 feet, you got to 11 and a half feet, you got to  
6 go to 12 feet, you know -- or go down, excuse me,  
7 10 and a half feet.

8 JAMES MILLER:

9 All right. Let me give you an example.  
10 I'm glad you brought that up. You got a guy out  
11 of Bayou Caddy that lives off the same body of  
12 water out of Pearl River. His leases are right  
13 across the line there. He tags his oysters. He  
14 brings them back to Mississippi and he sells them.

15 JOE SPRAGGINS:

16 But I think that his mainly are --  
17 they're down in the Chandeleur area and a little  
18 bit behind there.

19 JAMES MILLER:

20 No. No, you're wrong. Go throw the jug  
21 overboard and follow the stream.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS:

23 But, I mean, if the water's closed, it's  
24 closed to him, too.

25 JAMES MILLER:

1                   No.

2       JOE SPRAGGINS:

3                   Okay.

4       JAMES MILLER:

5                   No.

6       JOE SPRAGGINS:

7                   And, I mean, seriously, that's the way  
8       it should be done. All right? I'm just putting  
9       it -- the way it should be, if the waters is  
10      closed in Mississippi, if we close the waters, it  
11      means it's closed to everybody, whether you got a  
12      private lease or you've got a -- not.

13      JAMES MILLER:

14                  Listen to me. I'm talking about  
15      Louisiana waters, right -- the same body of water  
16      right across the line.

17      JOE SPRAGGINS:

18                  I've asked that question and Trevor and  
19      them have talked to me about it. And I've asked  
20      that question, too, and I've been told that the  
21      Louisiana waters are closed more than ours.

22      JAMES MILLER:

23                  No. I beg to difference (sic).

24      JOE SPRAGGINS:

25                  You know, matter of fact, that -- if you

1 go to look at the Pearl River area coming out of  
2 Louisiana, it's almost five miles that it's closed  
3 there.

4 Am I speaking out of line here? Y'all  
5 help me. But, guys, am I telling the truth about  
6 what we came up with? Trevor, come here. I mean,  
7 I want to address these things because I don't want  
8 any miscommunications. Okay?

9 TREVOR MONCRIEF:

10 Yeah. The line from what we looked at  
11 is closed within 5.34 miles. That's the line off  
12 the Pearl River and they close whenever our  
13 outflow closes. So if you've got a specific area  
14 that it is, we're happy to look at it.

15 JOE SPRAGGINS:

16 Yeah. I mean, we'll look, you know.  
17 And once again, that's Louisiana. That's not us.

18 But the other thing is, too, though,  
19 that most of the season when you're open here,  
20 that area is closed. Is that not correct, Trevor?

21 JAMES MILLER:

22 You got your private leases,  
23 Mr. Spraggins. You know what I'm talking about.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS:

25 But, I mean, that area is closed,

1     though, as far as harvest. Is that not correct,  
2     Trevor?

3     TREVOR MONCRIEF:

4             So the way Louisiana operates versus us  
5     is basically a fixed closed season, and so, our  
6     season is prioritized around the historical time  
7     in which the season's been open and our fishermen  
8     have been harvesting. It also happens to be the  
9     time where we have the most rainfall, outflow  
10    events, stuff like that that has to be concerned.

11            And then the second part of that is just  
12    the general proximity of our reefs to civilization  
13    and an outflow that caused that concern and that  
14    that closure.

15            With those private leases that are down  
16    south Louisiana, most of those are 20-plus miles  
17    from any level of civilization or anything else  
18    like that, so, typically, they don't fall within  
19    that same jurisdiction, especially that five-mile  
20    line.

21            But like I said, if you got an area, let  
22    us know and we'll look into it.

23    JOE SPRAGGINS:

24            And we look and just like -- and today,  
25    I think, Mr. Miller, you'll figure that, you know,

1 when we talked about the possibility of what we  
2 could open, we will look at every area and, you  
3 know, they're not -- if there's a way that we can  
4 possibly do it, but the FDA gives us the rules of  
5 what we have to follow and I can't do anything  
6 against that.

7 JAMES MILLER:

8 Well, to be competitive in the market,  
9 you've got to tighten your belt up because other  
10 states are getting our sales.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS:

12 I know.

13 JAMES MILLER:

14 And it's leaving us to the dock. Okay?

15 JOE SPRAGGINS:

16 Well, and they -- the problem I've got  
17 right now is, obviously, we have had such sporadic  
18 oyster seasons since 2010 that we can't get  
19 ourself -- and that's one of the things that I  
20 think we need to do and I'm willing to put money  
21 in it to try to figure out how to do it, is to --  
22 how do we go out and get establishment with people  
23 to say that they'll buy our oysters, but they  
24 can't. They come back to us and say, well, we  
25 don't know if you're going to have them or not.

1 You know, I've got to be able to have something  
2 that I can depend on.

3 JAMES MILLER:

4 That's the key word right there.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6 And how do we get there? How do I help  
7 y'all get there? I want to help you. How do I  
8 help you?

9 JAMES MILLER:

10 You want to keep that reef open as much  
11 as you can.

12 JOE SPRAGGINS:

13 I know that, and I'm going to do  
14 everything I can.

15 JAMES MILLER:

16 I promise you. New sampling, you can  
17 sample and stay on top of it.

18 JOE SPRAGGINS:

19 We're going to do --

20 JAMES MILLER:

21 There's a lot of things could be changed  
22 differently because I sit at home twiddling my  
23 thumb thinking about why we ain't out sampling,  
24 why we ain't out walking -- dredging.

25 I mean, I used to -- when Dr. Walker was

1 in here, look, we got 280,000 sacks off that reef.

2 He never closed it. To be honest with you, I --

3 JOE SPRAGGINS:

4 I know. And I want to get us back to  
5 2005. I want to get us back before then to when  
6 we got 280- to 300,000.

7 JAMES MILLER:

8 Look, I love oystering and I just think  
9 that we can do things a little better with the lab  
10 opening back up and, you know --

11 JOE SPRAGGINS:

12 Well, it's going to speed things up.  
13 That's for sure.

14 JAMES MILLER:

15 Well, we just need to get back on track  
16 so we can be compete-able with our fresh,  
17 beautiful oysters out there. And I'm talking  
18 about we've millions of dollars of oysters on the  
19 ground out there.

20 JOE SPRAGGINS:

21 I know.

22 JAMES MILLER:

23 We ain't got chicken scratch.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS:

25 I know.

1 JAMES MILLER:

2 I've been everywhere.

3 JOE SPRAGGINS:

4 I know.

5 JAMES MILLER:

6 Wow. It will blow your mind.

7 JOE SPRAGGINS:

8 And let's get them.

9 JAMES MILLER:

10 Well, there's one other thing I got up  
11 here. We don't want no more new leasing, man.

12 JOE SPRAGGINS:

13 Huh?

14 JAMES MILLER:

15 We don't want no more new leasing for  
16 anybody. Our grounds out here, our public  
17 dredging grounds, we don't want no leasing, man.  
18 We oppose that.

19 JOE SPRAGGINS:

20 Well, there's leases already.

21 JAMES MILLER:

22 Well, they don't even work them. That's  
23 the problem.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS:

25 Once again, if they don't work it, it

1 ain't doing --

2 JAMES MILLER:

3 Why do they want more if they don't work  
4 the ones they got?

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6 Well, I don't know. I mean, and once --  
7 and I looked at this and I'll be honest with you.  
8 After -- I listened to y'all. I listened to the  
9 people talking to me about what's going on with  
10 the leases themselves. And then when they talked  
11 about St. Joe, I -- you know, my answer back to  
12 the Legislators was, guys, this is going to be a  
13 nightmare for me to be able to do anything with  
14 that because half of it's leased and half of it's  
15 not leased, you know. What's that going to do me?  
16 I need the whole thing to stay the way it was.

17 And but Telegraph, over half of it's  
18 already leased and so --

19 JAMES MILLER:

20 Yeah. There's some of it out there  
21 leased.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS:

23 A large part of it and I'm going to get  
24 Rick to -- Rick's going to pull up a slide for me.  
25 He's got one that can show you exactly what we're

1 talking about.

2 JAMES MILLER:

3 I look at it all the time.

4 JOE SPRAGGINS:

5 Yeah. But this -- to me, Telegraph  
6 is -- you know, that's in an area that we already  
7 have leases on. And if you can see it right there  
8 everything that -- Rick, tell me, is it in the  
9 orange that's already leased or not? The blue is  
10 already leased. The gray -- the gray is already  
11 leased and the orange is what we're saying would  
12 be up for lease.

13 JAMES MILLER:

14 You see all that gold right there?

15 JOE SPRAGGINS:

16 Yeah. It's gold.

17 JAMES MILLER:

18 From our side, there's so many beautiful  
19 oysters, it'll blow your mind right there.

20 JOE SPRAGGINS:

21 In Telegraph?

22 JAMES MILLER:

23 Man, look, you just come get on my boat.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS:

25 Hey. All right. Y'all need to talk

1 more sense to me about this.

2 JAMES MILLER:

3 I'll bring you on my boat with your  
4 crew.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS:

6 Hey. All right. Let me --

7 JAMES MILLER:

8 I'll bring you out there and I'll show  
9 you what you need to see.

10 JOE SPRAGGINS:

11 Mr. Miller, let me put it this way.  
12 Last year in November, I think it was November, or  
13 December, when we couldn't open up these other  
14 areas up here -- and I asked y'all, I said,  
15 y'all -- I told the staff, I said, open up  
16 Telegraph because at least it can be opened. I  
17 was told that they went out there and there wasn't  
18 an oyster, one, there.

19 JAMES MILLER:

20 All of them went to the east to the mud  
21 hole.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS:

23 I was told there wasn't an oyster, one.

24 JAMES MILLER:

25 Look, I went to the west a little ways

1 and good God almighty, look what -- look what God  
2 put on the ground.

3 JOE SPRAGGINS:

4 Right. I was told there wasn't an  
5 oyster, one, out there.

6 JAMES MILLER:

7 You know what I mean? It will blow your  
8 mind. And I've been all over there now since I've  
9 had time to look at the -- a body of water out  
10 there.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS:

12 One time in discussions that has come  
13 out of discussions about what -- leasing and they  
14 said, well, let them go to Telegraph if they want  
15 to lease it.

16 JAMES MILLER:

17 Once you start new leases, you're  
18 putting their foot to the threshold again. I just  
19 feel like as a -- that's my opinion. Okay?

20 JOE SPRAGGINS:

21 Well, I'm fighting all I can, but I tell  
22 you what, I believe that that blue up there that  
23 you see, if you catch all the oysters in the blue  
24 there, you're going to have more than you can  
25 sell.

1 JAMES MILLER:

2 I'm working on it. If I could sell  
3 them.

4 JOE SPRAGGINS:

5 No. I'm keeping it. All right. Thank  
6 you.

7 CAM ROBERDS:

8 Eighty to twenty percent lease to keep.  
9 And now we're at -- now you're just going to be  
10 probably at -- we're at 80/20, trying --

11 JOE SPRAGGINS:

12 Well, right now, what we're doing --  
13 you've got to think of the whole Mississippi Sound  
14 when you say of how much and when I -- it was  
15 80/20, but what they was trying to do was  
16 basically take a large amount of what we had as  
17 historical reefs.

18 Now we're back to saying no. We don't  
19 want to give up that historical reef. And I  
20 did -- you know, the only thing that I have  
21 conceded in at all is a part of what you see is in  
22 the gold up there, which is considered as part --  
23 that used to be historical reef.

24 And everything else that you see that's  
25 in the blue is historical reefs that we have had

1 over the last years that I looked at. The idea  
2 was to save all those historical reefs and be able  
3 to keep them for the -- fishermen, right, for our  
4 commercial fishermen and our private wrecks and  
5 all.

6 The -- managing Telegraph after it's  
7 already been half -- you know, a lot of it done is  
8 going to be a tough thing. That was what I used  
9 to be able to say why I needed to east and west  
10 side of St. Stanislaus -- of St. Joe, excuse me,  
11 was because it's going to be hard to manage it.  
12 It's going to be hard to manage half of it being  
13 one way and half of it another.

14 If you can see right now where the areas  
15 are at, it could be done, and, once again, I don't  
16 even know if the Legislators are going to go for  
17 this. I'm just bringing it to them. This is an  
18 amendment that I have sent to Representative  
19 Anderson to ask him to bring out on the floor.  
20 And if he brings it out on the floor and brings  
21 that amendment up and -- which I think he will, I  
22 don't -- I'm not going to speak for him, but I  
23 think he will -- then there's still discussion  
24 there. And, guys, there's still time. Okay?  
25 There's still time. There's still discussion

1       there.

2                   But I have been told from Day 1 that  
3 there's nothing on Telegraph. Okay?

4 CAM ROBERDS:

5                   Thank you, Director.

6                   All right. We have one more.

7 JOE SPRAGGINS:

8                   We got Mr. Bradley.

9 CAM ROBERDS:

10                   We got one more, Mr. Ryan Bradley. Full  
11 name and address, please.

12 RYAN BRADLEY:

13                   Yep. Ryan Bradley. I'm from Long Beach,  
14 Mississippi. I'm the director of Mississippi  
15 Commercial Fisheries United.

16                   You know, a couple things I wanted to  
17 address. You gave a lot of good updates today.  
18 We appreciate that, General, and thank you all,  
19 Commissioners, for taking interest in all these  
20 matters.

21                   Couple things that come up, you know,  
22 with the leasing of the oyster reefs. That's why  
23 a lot of these oyster guys are here today. I like  
24 to hear that we're kind of rolling back some of  
25 this proposal. I appreciate that, working with

1 us, hearing some of these concerns.

2 With the Telegraph Reef, I would just  
3 say I keep hearing that we've leased half of that  
4 and I just don't think that's correct, that we've  
5 leased half of Telegraph. We've leased around  
6 Telegraph. The actual natural historic reef, I  
7 don't think we've leased any of that and if we  
8 have, it's probably unlawful, so I would be  
9 careful about saying that we've leased half of  
10 Telegraph because it kind of embellishes that to  
11 the lawmakers.

12 JOE SPRAGGINS:

13 I'm going by what the map looks like.

14 RYAN BRADLEY:

15 It looks like it because we've gone all  
16 around it and leased it and but I don't think  
17 we've actually leased the actual natural historic  
18 reef, so just want to clarify on that.

19 But I've fished that reef before myself.  
20 I've dredged on it, probably less than 20 years  
21 ago, I would say. It was probably 2007, 2008-ish,  
22 I would say. That was some of the best oystering  
23 we've ever seen, beautiful coin, single oysters.  
24 So we know when that reef comes back, it can come  
25 back fast and it can come back strong, so I'm just

1 a little hesitant that we want to give that away  
2 because that can be a huge asset and resource for  
3 the State of Mississippi, so let's think about  
4 that.

5 And that leads me to another  
6 consideration. We've asked you before and I've  
7 talked with the chairman of the Oyster Task Force.  
8 Let's get that Oyster Task Force together so all of  
9 these issues that we're talking about here in this  
10 meeting and these public comments, let's get it in  
11 that Oyster Task Force meeting because just like  
12 the river stage and all the issues with the Pearl  
13 River, we want to see the data. Show the task  
14 force people the data on the river, the sampling.  
15 Let's look at it objectively and see if there's any  
16 wiggle room. If there's any room we can make it  
17 better, let's work with you to try to make that  
18 better because I think some of the guys bring up  
19 some good questions. You know, why is the  
20 Louisiana guys wide open down there when we're  
21 closed and they're impacted by the same river  
22 water? So, I think there's some legitimate  
23 questions there we can look at.

24 But, you know, we really have got to  
25 optimize the opening of these reefs. I can't

1 stress enough. We're losing so much market share.  
2 Every single day counts. I know you guys are doing  
3 the best job. The staff is doing a great job, but  
4 every single day counts, and when we miss one day  
5 on the oysters, that's the difference in a  
6 truckload of oysters being sold or not sold and our  
7 guys getting to go to work the next day.

8 And so just please do everything you can  
9 to get us optimized and get us opened as quickly --  
10 I know you guys are working hard. Glad to hear the  
11 lab's getting back. That's a big deal, the science  
12 lab over there so you can test these samples.

13 CAM ROBERDS:

14 All right, Mr. Bradley, we're running  
15 out of time, sir.

16 RYAN BRADLEY:

17 My three minutes.

18 JOE SPRAGGINS:

19 Let me make reference to a couple of  
20 things. Number 1, let's call the Oyster Task  
21 Force meeting as soon as we can. Okay? All  
22 right? Let's call one. Okay. We'll just call  
23 one, sit down and we'll go over everything we  
24 talked about.

25 Number 2, I will -- I will do everything

1 in my power to find a way to help y'all stay open  
2 as much as I possibly can. I can tell you that  
3 because I know that our biggest problem right now  
4 is that our buyers out there are saying that we  
5 just don't have consistency. We don't have enough  
6 consistency for us to be able to, you know -- how  
7 do I tell the Mike Cures and the Jennifer Jenkins  
8 and them not to buy from Louisiana or buy from  
9 Texas or whatever whenever we don't know if we're  
10 going to be able to supply what they need? I  
11 understand their points. I understand them  
12 100 percent and they have to do what they need to  
13 do.

14 How do we get there? I'm willing to put  
15 anything I can into it. I'm willing to put  
16 anything I can do. We are -- whatever we can do to  
17 find a way to come up with something to give us a  
18 more stable atmosphere to be able to put things  
19 out. That's what we need to do, and I'm willing to  
20 do that 100 percent, because -- and I will -- I  
21 will do some more research and I will look into it.

22 And, you know, I get told all the time  
23 about Telegraph. It's an hour drive and I'm not  
24 going down there unless I have to. I get told  
25 about other things. And, once again, right now and

1 what -- and I understand future could be -- mean  
2 different. Okay. I could understand that the  
3 future could be a different thing, but I also  
4 understand right now that if the waters are open,  
5 nobody's going there. They're going to go where  
6 the closest is so they can get their oysters and  
7 get them back to the dock as quick as possible.

8 Right now, we can't catch all we have.  
9 We got plenty right now to catch in a short  
10 period -- in a short area. Would it be something  
11 that if -- like, today, could Telegraph be open  
12 when this isn't? That's another point. Could it  
13 possibly be? And if that's the case, if we had the  
14 oysters down there and we had a capability of  
15 fishing it, would it be something? I'm going to  
16 talk about this. I'm going to look into it more.  
17 Okay.

18 RYAN BRADLEY:

19 Yeah. Yes, sir. I appreciate that. I  
20 know we're all working towards the same goals and  
21 we appreciate y'all. And you brought up some good  
22 points about the marketing. You know, what can we  
23 do for -- to market these oysters? We've got some  
24 great ideas for you. Maybe we can talk more about  
25 it at these task force --

1 JOE SPRAGGINS:

2 I'm all open. I'll do anything in the  
3 world I can to help you market. I was talking to  
4 a lot of the fishermen. There's -- some of the  
5 buyers aren't buying but so many days out of the  
6 week and they're saying they're having to sell  
7 them off the -- off the boat and they -- you know,  
8 getting a little bit more money but it's hard to  
9 do.

10 How do we go out and help you do that?  
11 How do we get out there and help you be able to  
12 sell them off your boat? How do we help them? Why  
13 don't we --

14 RYAN BRADLEY:

15 I don't know that that's the answer. It  
16 may be one of the solutions, but I think these  
17 casinos, we've got all these casinos, they love to  
18 have these Mississippi oysters and you could help  
19 them with the marketing.

20 JOE SPRAGGINS:

21 The other thing that we're doing, and I  
22 don't want to take up everybody's time, but we are  
23 putting a lot of money into a couple of areas to  
24 where we're building a -- basically, a seafood  
25 market area on the water in different towns.

1 D'Iberville being one that they're working hard at  
2 right here now, and Ocean Springs is another one  
3 they're working hard at. Maybe we look at some of  
4 that.

5 You know, that might be a perfect place  
6 that we could just say, hey, here's a place for you  
7 to sell them to. And we can get them and have it  
8 worked out to where they could come buy straight  
9 off the boat from you and have it right there.

10 Okay?

11 RYAN BRADLEY:

12 There's all kind of options there, but  
13 we're going to work on it.

14 And we appreciate y'all. We won't keep  
15 no more of your time. Thank you, everybody. Have  
16 a good day.

17 CAM ROBERDS:

18 That would be great.

19 Thank you. Great. Thanks, Ryan.

20 All right. Moving on, do we have any  
21 other business anybody wants to discuss?

22 (No response.)

23 CAM ROBERDS:

24 All right.

25 Well, I appreciate everybody coming out

1 for the CMR, and I would -- have a good week.

2 And do we have a motion to close?

3 JONATHAN MCLENDON:

4 Motion.

5 MATTHEW MAYFIELD:

6 Second.

7 CAM ROBERDS:

8 All in favor?

9 (Unanimous vote.)

10 (Adjourned at 10:50 a.m.)

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
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 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.



Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich

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