



ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

March 17, 2026



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Employment, Contracts and Procurement Updates March 17, 2026

Employment Updates

New Hires:

- David May – Started on February 28, 2026 – Environmental/Natural Resources Specialist III – Office of Marine Fisheries

Promotions:

- Brianna Andrews – Promoted on March 1, 2026 – Environmental/Natural Resources Specialist III – Grand Bay NERR
- Cameron Hodge – Promoted on March 1, 2026 – Rank Cadet to Private – Office of Marine Patrol
- Jacob O’Neal – Promoted on March 1, 2026 – Rank Cadet to Private – Office of Marine Patrol
- Bryan Drieling – Promoted on March 16, 2026 – Law Enforcement Officer III – Sergeant – Office of Marine Patrol
- Wyatt Webb – Promoted on March 16, 2026 – Law Enforcement Officer III – Master Sergeant – Office of Marine Patrol



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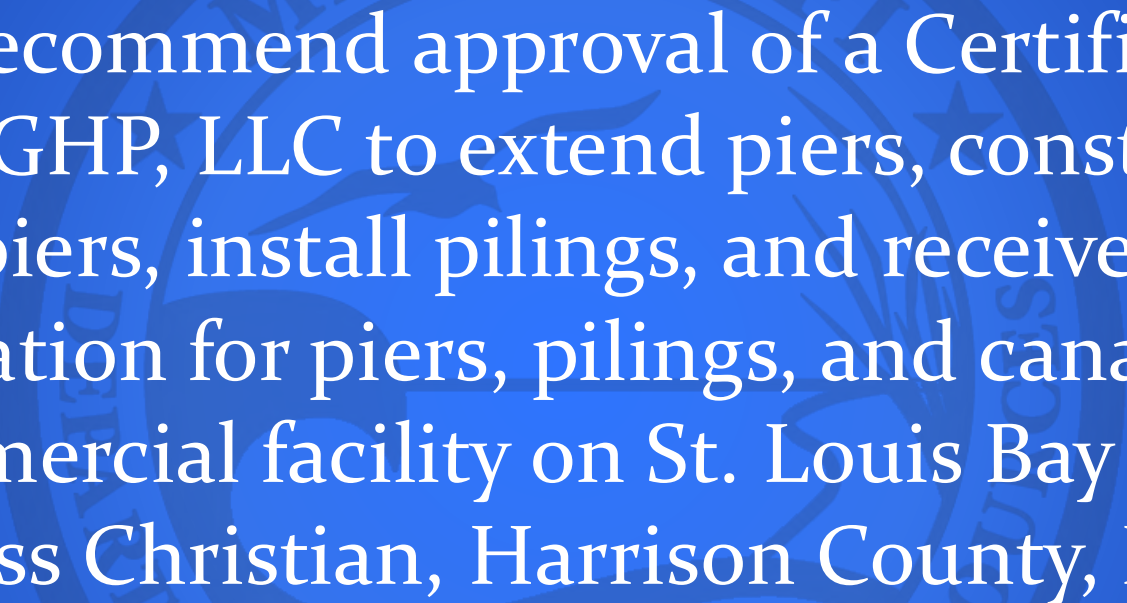
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Actions Update for the March 17, 2026 MACMR Meeting

Discussed at the Feb 2026 meeting:

The Commission recommended and the Director approved:

- Motion to recommend approval of a No Wake Zone for the residential canals and bayous of Garden Isle in Bay St. Louis, MS with signage being provided by the City of Bay St. Louis.
- Motion to recommend approval for a permit to Marti Cockrell to construct a living shoreline consisting of nine breakwaters and native plantings in the MS Sound, Ocean Springs, Jackson County, MS.

- 
- The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The seal contains the text "MISSISSIPPI" at the top and "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" at the bottom. In the center, there is a depiction of a fish and waves.
- Motion to recommend approval of a Certificate of Waiver to TGHP, LLC to extend piers, construct additional piers, install pilings, and receive after-the-fact certification for piers, pilings, and canal excavation with a commercial facility on St. Louis Bay and Mallini Bayou in Pass Christian, Harrison County, MS



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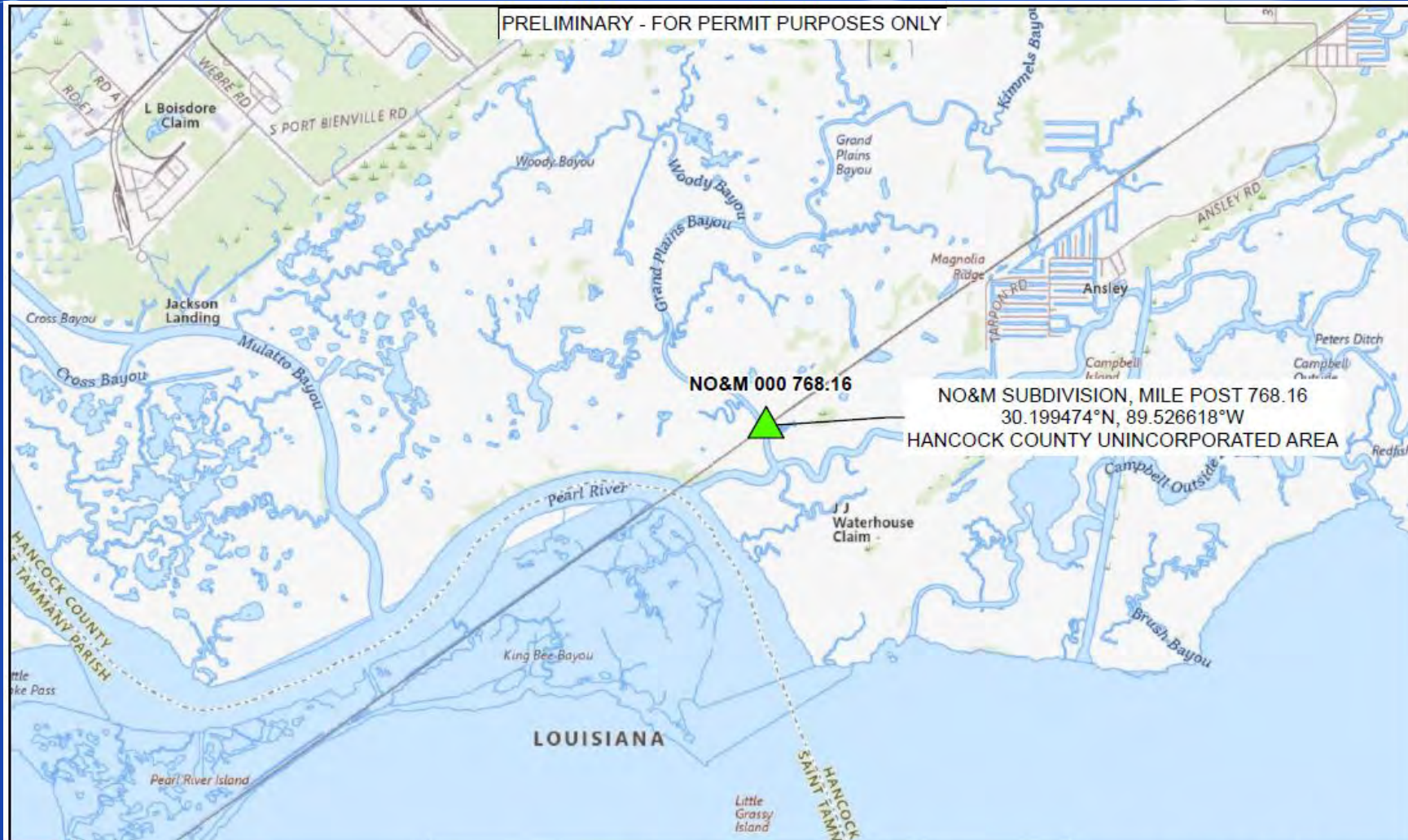
**Request for Certificate of Waiver by:
CSX Transportation, Inc
DMR25-000447**

- **Location: Grand Plains Bayou, near Pearl River, Hancock County**
- **Use District: (P) Preservation Use District**
- **Agent: HDR Engineering, Inc**
- **Project Purpose/Need:**
 - **Provide public and environmental safety by ensuring existing rail infrastructure is safe, reliable, and properly maintained**

Project Description

- **Expand existing railway bridge**
 - From 120 feet in length by 40 feet in width
 - To 144 feet in length by 44 feet in width
- **Place 0.0481 acre of riprap in unvegetated Coastal Wetlands for shoreline stabilization**

Project Location



0 4,000 8,000
Feet

[CSX]

HDR
HDR Engineering, Inc.



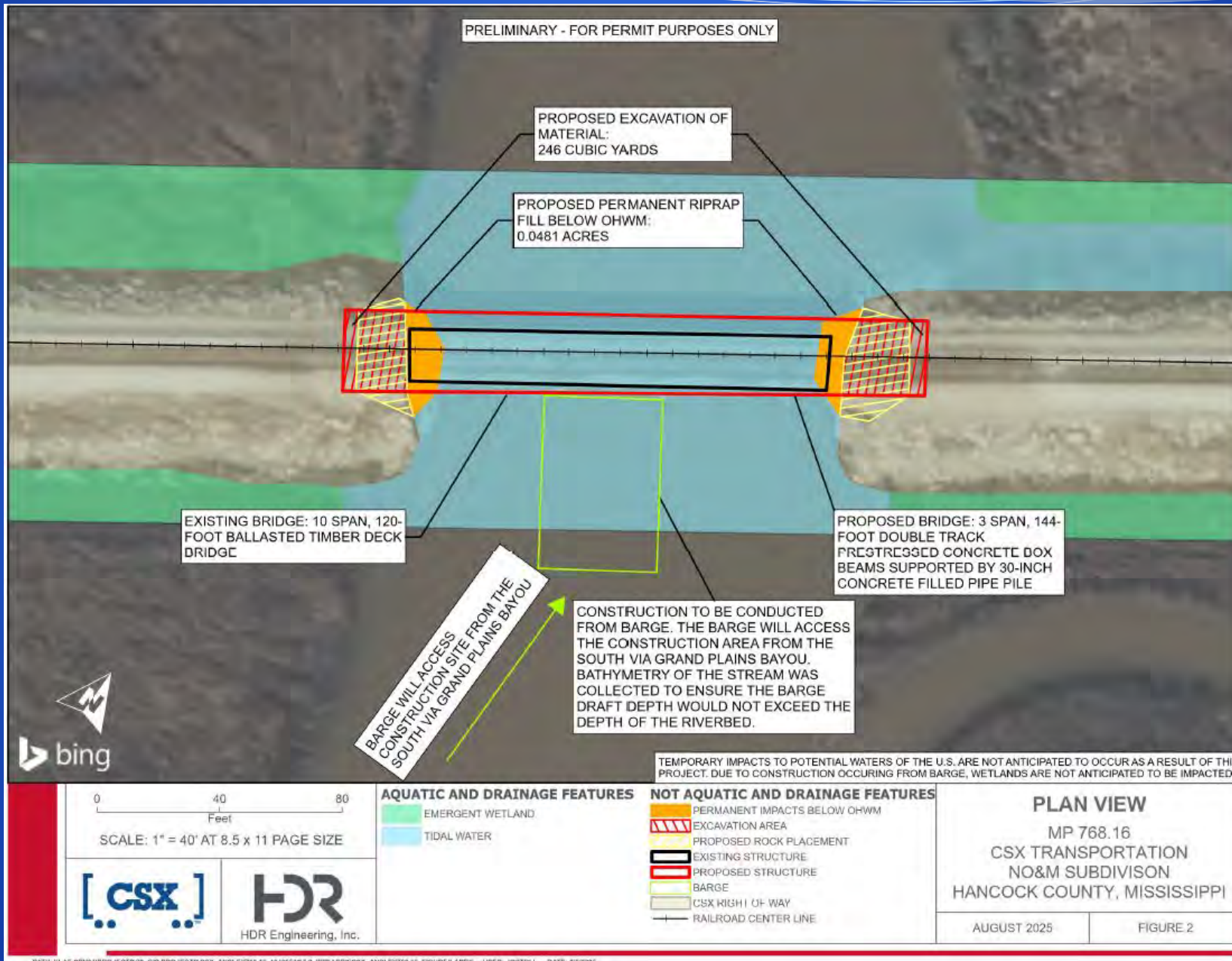
VICINITY MAP

MP 768.16
CSX TRANSPORTATION
NO&M SUBDIVISON
HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

AUGUST 2025

FIGURE 1

Project Diagram



Coastal Wetlands Use Plan

- The applicant is requesting a Use Plan Change from Preservation (P) District to a Special Use District (S-6) for the proposed project area.
 - The applicant justifies this request under 22 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 23 (MS Coastal Program) Rule 7.3.A
 - A: “No significant environmental impacts would occur as a result of the use allowed; no feasible, alternative sites in the use designation being requested are available; the general public and governmental entities were notified of the activity; no significant conflicts with surrounding uses or public access to Coastal Wetlands would occur; and the activity does not adversely affect the public interest in protecting Coastal Wetlands.”
- Staff also determined that there was likely a mistake in the original drafting of the Coastal Wetlands Use Plan; the existing railway path should have been excluded from the Preservation District when the Use Districts were designated

Public and Agency Notices

- **Public Notice**

- Notification of the proposed project appeared in The Sun Herald on October 26, 2025, and February 15, 22, and March 1, 2026
- Notification of the proposed project appeared on the MDMR website from October 23 through November 10, 2025, and February 13 through March 2, 2026.
 - No public comments were received
- MDEQ: No comments received
- MDAH: Requested that condition be included that all ground disturbance be monitored by a qualified archeologist
- MS SOS: “The project area is located on public trust tidelands and submerged lands. The bridge falls within the area authorized for use as an easement by the authorities above, therefore, the activities to upgrade, repair and maintain the easement are authorized by law.”

Staff Recommendation

- **The staff of the Department of Marine Resources has conducted a thorough evaluation of the project and has made findings on the decision factors in accordance with Title 22, Part 23 (Mississippi Coastal Program). The project would serve a higher public interest by:**
 - **Providing public and environmental safety by ensuring existing rail infrastructure is safe, reliable, and properly maintained**
- **Therefore, staff requests a motion that the Commission recommend to the Executive Director:**
 - **Approve the requested Use Plan Change**
 - **Approve the Certificate of Waiver as requested**



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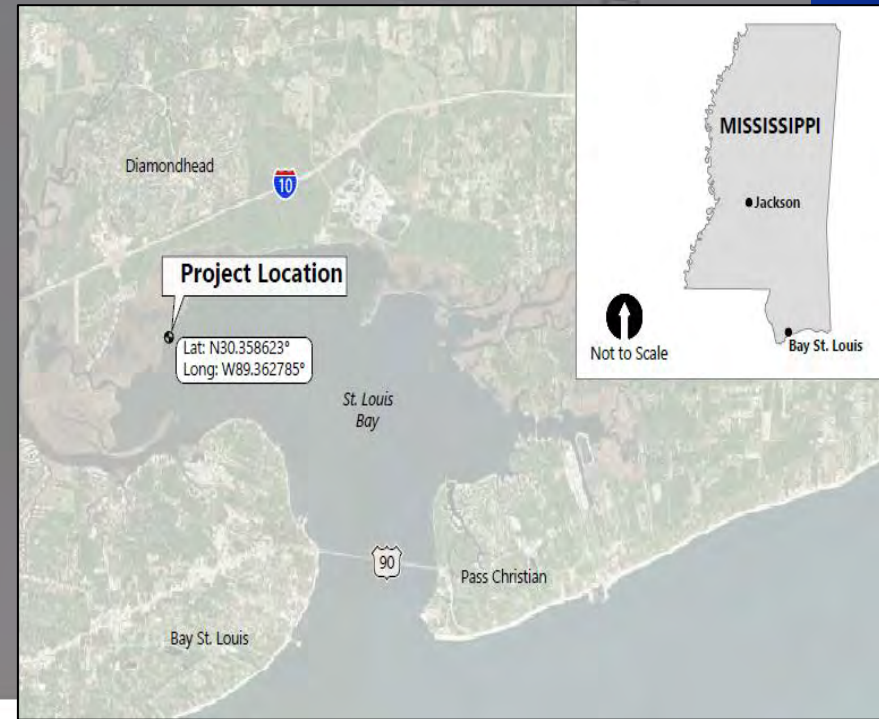
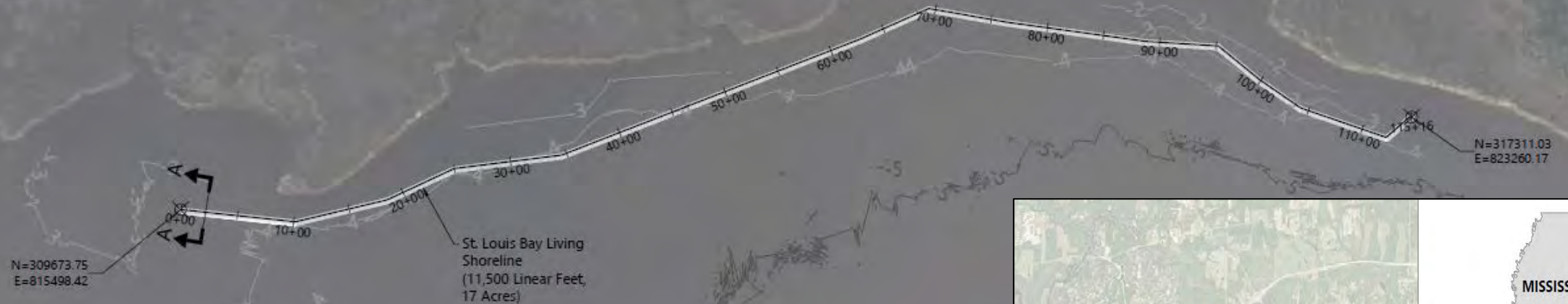
**Request for Permit by:
Mississippi Department Environmental Quality
DMR25-000631**

- **Location: St. Louis Bay, Diamondhead, Hancock County**
- **Use District: (G) General Use District**
- **Agent: Anchor QEA**
- **Project Purpose/Need: Restore natural resources injured by the DWH Oil Spill, enhance benthic secondary productivity, and reduce shoreline erosion by wave attenuation**

Project Description

- **Filling of 17 acres of unvegetated Coastal Wetlands for the Construction of living shoreline/breakwater structures**
 - 11,500 linear feet along the shoreline
 - 500-foot segments, 30-foot gaps between segments
 - Rock and/or bioengineered materials
 - Crest elevations will not exceed +3.0 feet MLLW

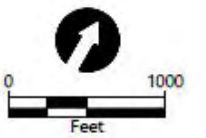
Project Location



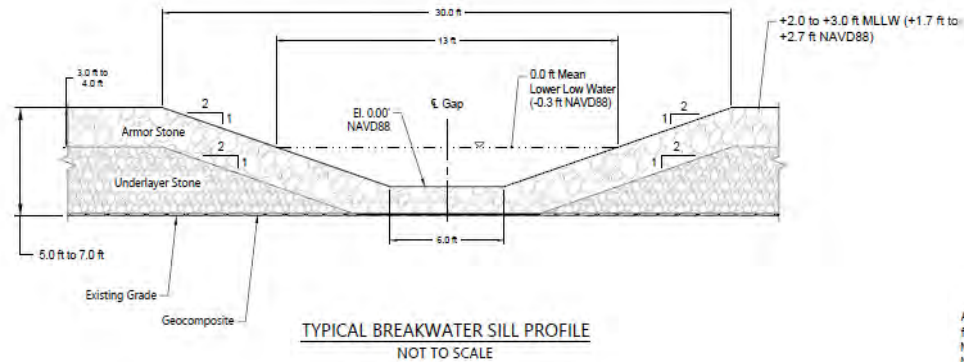
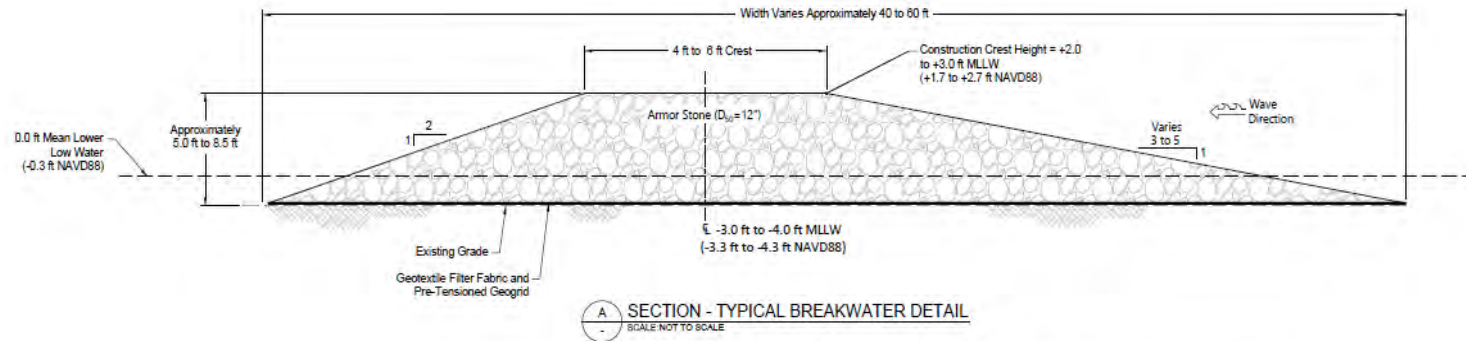
SOURCE: Aerial imagery is from Bing maps. Bathymetric data provided by DIMCO survey dated August 31, 2023.
HORIZONTAL DATUM: Mississippi State Plane East Zone, North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83), U.S. Survey Feet
VERTICAL DATUM: Mean Lower Low Water

LEGEND:

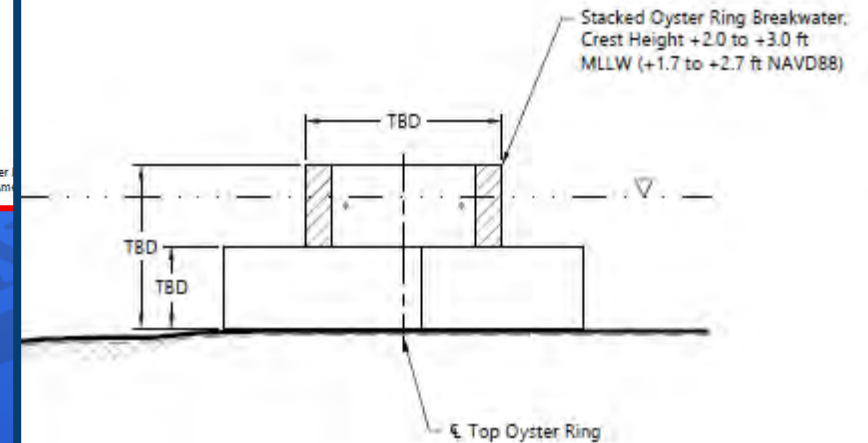
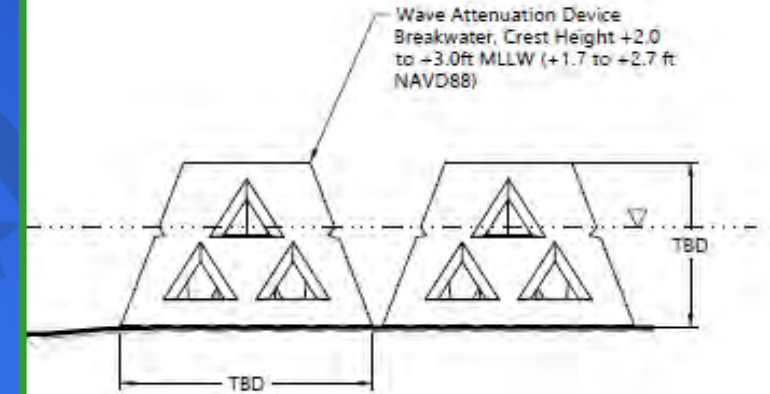
- Existing Contours (1' and 5')
- Breakwater Alignment
- Cross Section Location (See Figures 4, 5, and 6)
- Breakwater Centerline



Project Diagrams



Abbreviations:
ft: foot
MLLW: mean lower
NAVD88: North Am



Coastal Wetlands Use Plan

- The proposed project is allowable within the General Use District but the applicant is requesting a change to the Coastal Wetlands Use Plan in the footprint of the proposed project to a Special Use District: S-6 for Restoration and Enhancement Areas
 - Justified under 22 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 23 (MS Coastal Program) Rule 7.3.B
 - “There is a significant public benefit in the activity; impacts to public access and adverse environmental impacts have been minimized; the general public and governmental entities were notified of the project; and a public hearing was held.”

Variance Requests

- **22 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 23 (MS Coastal Program), Rule 8.15.A**
 - Permanent filling of coastal wetlands below the OHWM is not authorized
 - **Justification: Rule 8.19.A**
 - The applicant states that the impacts on Coastal Wetlands would be no worse than if the requirements were followed because the filling of Coastal Wetlands is being conducted to support ecological restoration, which will provide a net positive environmental impact.

Public Notice and Hearing

- **Public Notice**
 - Notification of the proposed project appeared in The Sun Herald on February 8, 15, and 22, 2026
 - Notification of the proposed project appeared on the MDMR website from February 5 through 23, 2026
 - No comments received
- **Public Hearing on February 26, 2026**
 - No public comments received

Agency Comments

- **MDEQ: No comments received**
- **MDAH:**
 - **A submerged cultural resource survey was completed and submitted to MDAH**
 - **MDAH stated they have no objections as long as areas with potential resources were avoided**
 - **MDEQ designed the project to avoid any potential resources**
- **MS SOS: Stated that a rent-exempt lease is required**

Staff Recommendation

- The staff of the Department of Marine Resources has conducted a thorough evaluation of the project and has made findings on the decision factors in accordance with Title 22, Part 23 (Mississippi Coastal Program). The project would serve a higher public interest by:
 - Restoring benthic secondary productivity for bivalve mollusks, annelid worms, shrimp, and crabs
 - Reducing shoreline erosion and protecting coastal salt marsh habitat by wave attenuation
 - Increasing recreational and commercial fishing opportunities

Staff Recommendation Cont'd

- Therefore, staff requests a motion that the Commission recommend to the Executive Director:
 - Approve the requested Variance
 - Approve the requested Use Plan Change
 - Approve the Permit as requested
 - Condition the Permit to contain the following:
 - Submission of adaptive management plan to be reviewed by MDMR staff prior to construction
 - Coordination with US Coast Guard for necessary navigational aids at project location
 - The project area should be inspected for the presence of SAV during the growing season prior to implementation of the project. The survey report should be submitted to MDMR Wetlands Permitting staff at least 30 days prior to project commencement. If SAV is found in the project area, a final review and approval by MDMR staff should be required prior to project commencement



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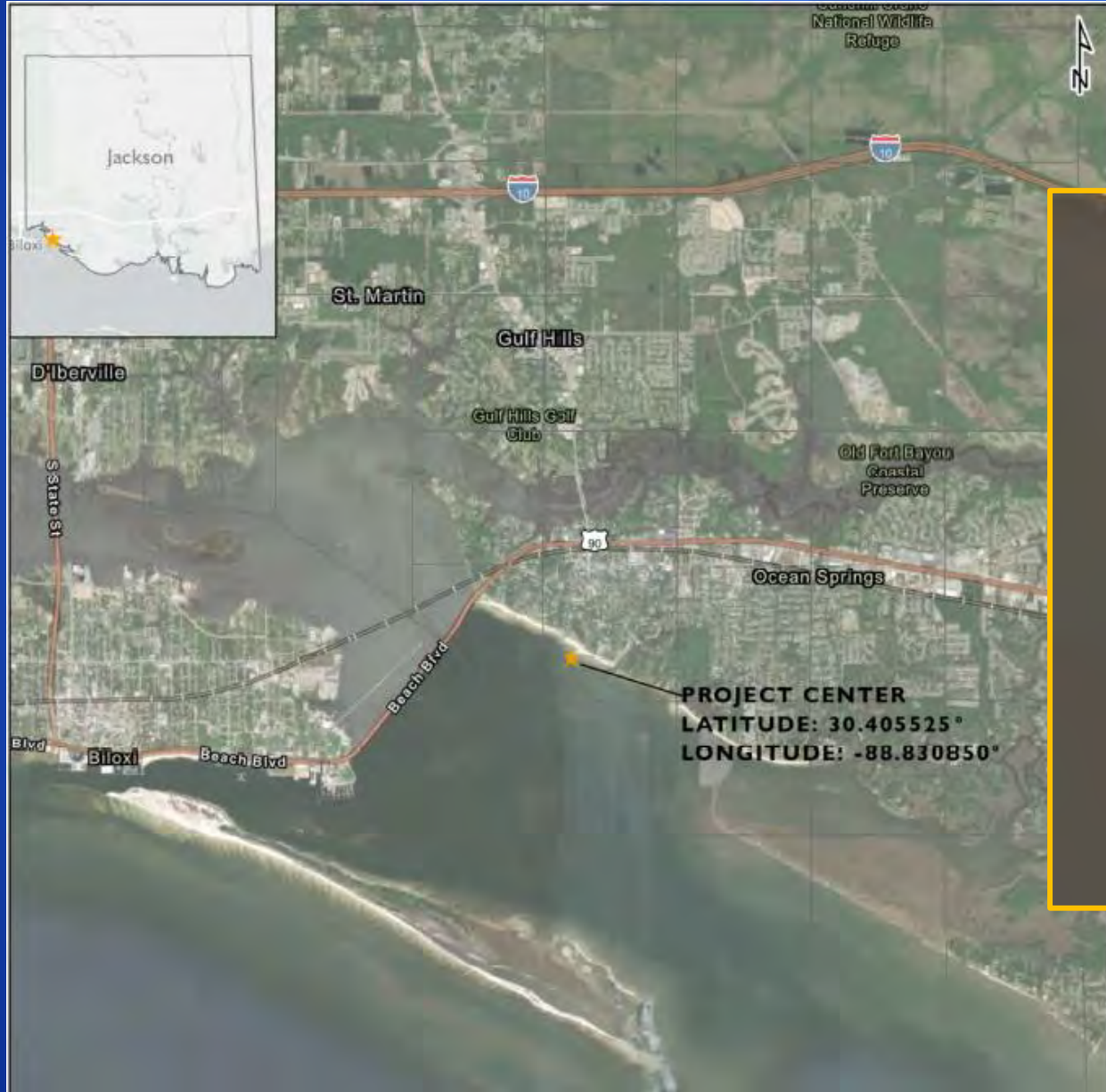
**Request for Certificate of Waiver by:
City of Ocean Springs
DMR25-000276**

- **Location: MS Sound, 400 Front Beach Dr, Ocean Springs, Jackson County, MS**
- **Use District: (C) Commercial Fishing, Recreational Marina, and Dockside Gaming District**
- **Agent: Cypress Environment & Infrastructure**
- **Project Purpose/Need: To utilize a long-vacant site to enhance recreational opportunities as a waterfront park for the coastal community**

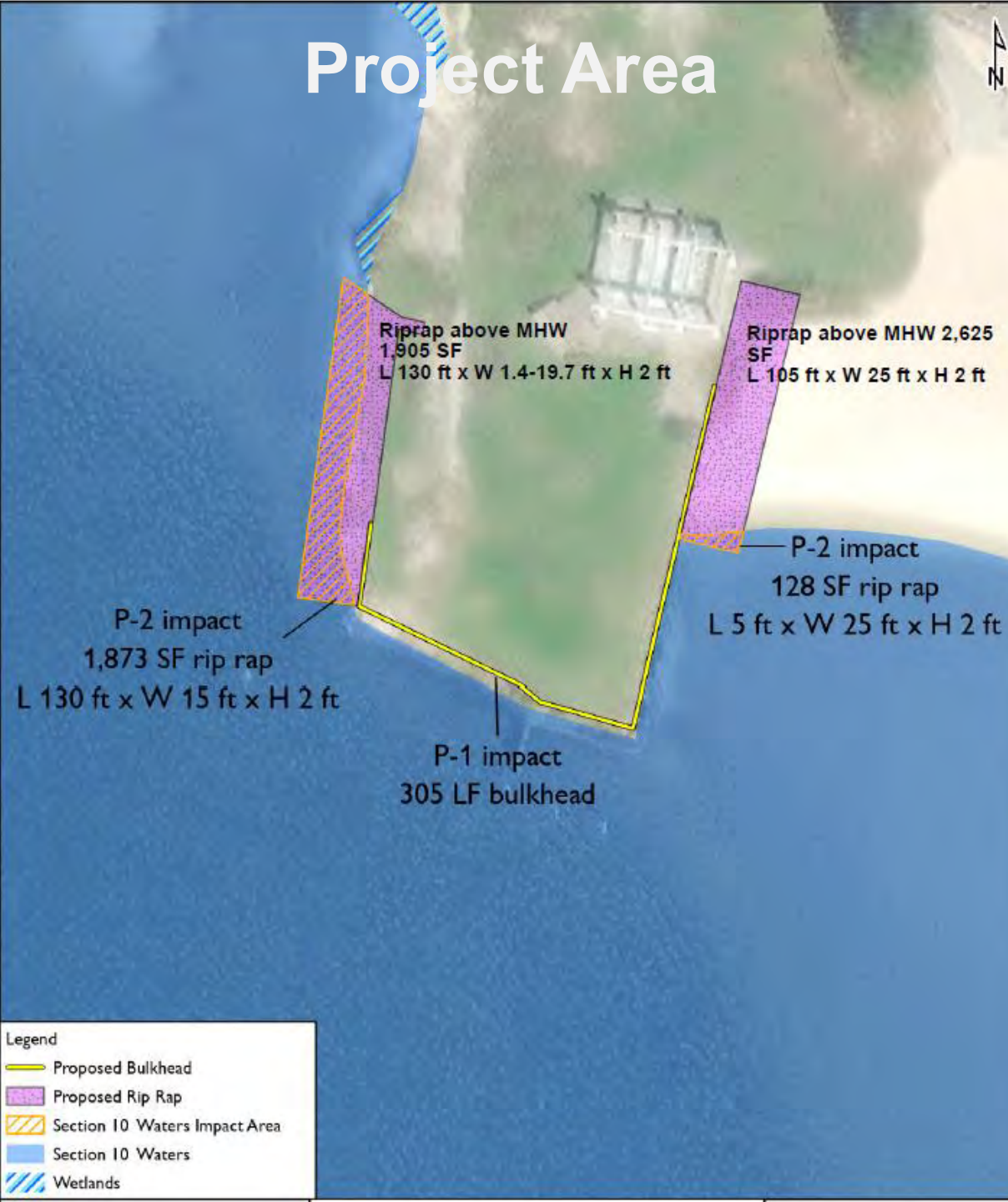
Project Description

- **Reconstruction of a bulkhead 305 ft in length**
- **Filling of approximately 4,626 square feet of unvegetated Coastal Wetlands for the placement of riprap bank stabilization**
- **Removal of debris**

Project Location



Project Area



Coastal Wetlands Use Plan

- The proposed project is allowable within the (C) Commercial Fishing, Recreational Marina, and Dockside Gaming District

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Variance Requests

- **Title 22, Part 23 (MS Coastal Program):**
 - **Rule 8.15.A “Permanent filling of coastal wetlands below the ordinary high water mark is not authorized”**
- **Justification:**
 - **Rule 8.19.D “The activity requires a waterfront location; there is a significant public benefit in the activity; and a public hearing has been conducted.”**
 - **The existing site poses a safety concern and risk of avulsion of material due to the failing bulkhead. The project will resolve safety issues, prevent erosion, and provide public use and recreational amenities for the community**

Public and Agency Notice and Comments

• Public Notice

- Notification of the proposed project appeared in The Sun Herald on January 11, 2026.
- Notification of the proposed project appeared on the MDMR website on January 06 through January 26, 2026.
 - No public comments were received
 - A public hearing was held on January 27th at the Ocean Springs Civic Center.
 - No public comments were received
- MDEQ: No comments were submitted
- MDAH: No comments were submitted
- MDMR Fisheries: No comments were submitted
- MS SOS: Stated that a rent-exempt Public Trust Tidelands Lease will be required.

Staff Recommendation

- The staff of the Department of Marine Resources has conducted a thorough evaluation of the project and has made findings on the decision factors in accordance with Title 22, Part 23 (Mississippi Coastal Program). The project would serve a higher public interest by:
 - Relieving safety concerns associated with the property as existing, preventing erosion, and providing access to a waterfront park for recreational use
- Therefore, staff requests a motion that the Commission recommend to the Executive Director:
 - Approve the requested Variance
 - Approve the Certificate of Waiver as requested



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Pass Christian Middle School Career Fair



4-H Goes Fishing at West Hancock Elementary School



Cooper Wrightson-Finfish Job Shadow



CCA Reef Coordination Project at St. Patrick High School



Striped Bass Release with Ocean Springs High School



Homeschool Wednesday – Water at INFINITY Science Center



Observer Training for Phenological Monitoring at Gulf Shores



Mississippi Regions I and VI Science and Engineering Fair





SPEND A DAY OF FREE FAMILY FUN IN THE PASS!

Saturday, April 11 • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
War Memorial Park in Pass Christian
(Held in conjunction with Art in the Pass.)
Free signed poster by contest winner.

- Live animals
- Over 35 coastal resources exhibits
- Caricature artists
- Teacher resources
- Student Science Showcase
- Snaparazzi photobooth

For more information, visit grandbaynerr.org/celebrate-the-gulf,
email celebrate.gulf@dmr.ms.gov or call 228-523-4005.



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Update on Filet Possession

Marine Fisheries

K.1.

Title 22 Part 03 Chapter 05

Rule 5.1 Filet Regulations

A. It is unlawful for commercial or recreational fishermen to possess fish with heads, tails or flesh removed until delivered to the final destination; however, fish may be eviscerated, scaled or have gills removed.

B. Any charter or recreational fishing boat fishing within or outside of Mississippi territorial waters over twenty-four (24) hours before returning to land and filing a float plan with the Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) may possess filleted fish in Mississippi waters. Fishermen may not possess more than a single day's bag limit for any species, except licensed charter vessels exercising the exemptions described in Chapter 6 of this Part. Said float plan must be received and filed with the MDMR prior to departure and during the regular operating hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and a copy of which must be on board said vessel for the duration of the trip. Said float plan must be submitted on forms provided by the MDMR, signed by the applicant and official accepting the float plan; and must contain the following information:

1. Name of the applicant
2. Owner of the vessel
3. Name of the vessel captain
4. Official vessel registration number
5. Description of the vessel
6. Date, time and location of departure
7. Destination(s)
8. Anticipated date, time, and location of return

The background features a large, semi-transparent seal of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. The seal is circular and contains the text "MISSISSIPPI" at the top and "DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES" at the bottom. In the center, there is a stylized illustration of a fish, possibly a bluefish, swimming in waves. Two stars are positioned on either side of the fish.

Action Needed-

Motion to recommend Notice of
Intent for regulatory changes to
Title 22 Part 03



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