STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 9:11 a.m.,

D'Iberville City Hall,

10383 Auto Mall Parkway

D'Iberville, Mississippi 39540

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Ronnie Daniels
Matthew Mayfield
Jonathan McLendon
Jason Osborne (Via Zoom)
Cam Roberds

ALSO PRESENT:

Joe Spraggins
Sandy Chesnut, Esquire
Steven Eckert, Esquire

REPORTED BY:

Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich
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E-X-H-I-B-I-T-S

Exhibit 1, Statement of William Kenny,
In Re: Violation Number V26-000009/DMR26-00298
104 Good Street, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

CAM ROBERDS:

Hello, everyone. Thank you for attending the Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources for August 19th at the D'Iberville city board room.

I want to call to order the meeting, and then also clarify that Jason Osborne is going to be online with us via Zoom.

Do you have us, Jason?

JOE SPRAGGINS:

I guess he's online.

CAM ROBERDS:

Commissioner Osborne is going to be online.

There he is.

All right. Let's move into the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Daniels, will you lead us, please?

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. Thank you, Commissioner.

General, would you like to lead us in a moment of silence, please?

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Yeah. And, you know, before we go into

this, I want everybody to just think about it. You know, as bad as I hate to say the word, we're in the hot time of the year. And let's all be careful and, you know, make sure that we're ready, make sure that we've done everything we can do to prepare ourselves and maybe the good Lord will spare us and no issues this year. And I'm not going to mention the word because it always jinxes me, so, you know, we'll -- I think everybody knows what I'm talking about.

And also, I want to tell you to caution everybody. Caution your loved ones and your friends and all about when you're getting into the water and you have a cut on your leg or you have any type of, you know, scrape or anything else, be very careful, especially around boat launches. Boat launches seem to be one of the places that it's happening right now to where the vibrio is in the brackish water. And so we need to -- you need to look at it.

And, Number 1, if you do that, when you get through, just take some peroxide or some alcohol or whatever and clean that cut out, area out when you get out of the water. That will give you a lot better chance of being able to prevent

this.

But we've had over 20 cases right now, and we need to -- you know, luckily, we have not had anyone die from it. Between Florida and Louisiana, seven have, so let's just keep ourselves -- you know, understand what's going on out there. Be careful and watch out for your kids more than anything, your grandkids, you know, because they're not -- but they're not the ones that's getting it as much as the adults right now, so be careful with it and understand where we're at. Okay?

Let's go to the Lord in prayer.

(Moment of prayer.)

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. Thank you, Director.

All right. Moving to the approval of the minutes. Has every -- ma'am?

SANDY CHESNUT:

Election of the officers.

CAM ROBERDS:

I moved that down below the approval of the minutes.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

You've got to do it so we can get it on

the --

SANDY CHESNUT:

It's on the agenda -- on the amended agenda you didn't get a copy of, so it's on the agenda now. It's the third --

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Oh, it's on the agenda in the wrong place.

CAM ROBERDS:

Okay. Y'all want to go ahead and do it --

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Let's do it as it is. Just do it as it is.

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. We're going to move into the election of the officers.

So first, I want to take nominations for a chairman, a new chairman. Do we have any nominations for that?

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Y'all don't be silent.

CAM ROBERDS:

I'll make a nomination to -- Jonathan McLendon.

RONNIE DANIELS:

I'll second that.

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. Well, let's take a -- we need to take a vote on the nomination. So all in favor?

(Unanimous vote.)

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. Now we've got to move on --

JOE SPRAGGINS:

You didn't say anything. What's the matter?

CAM ROBERDS:

Now we have to move on to a vote for the actual position.

So do we have a -- do we have a vote for Jonathan McLendon for the chairman?

All in favor?

(Unanimous vote.)

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. Thank you, Commissioner McLendon.

All right. So moving on, do we have any nominations for a vice chairman?

RONNIE DANIELS:

I'll nominate Matthew Mayfield.

CAM ROBERDS:

I'll second.

All right. All in favor of the nomination?

(Unanimous vote).

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. Moving on to a vote for the -- for the vice chairman, Commissioner Mayfield. All in favor?

(Unanimous vote.)

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. I think we got through it.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Just -- and we've changed that to the next meeting.

CAM ROBERDS:

Okay. Good.

SANDY CHESNUT:

Yes.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

So we don't want to dump it on them right now.

CAM ROBERDS:

Immediate. I'm just kidding.

All right. Thanks, everyone.

All right. So moving on to the approval of the minutes. Has everyone had an opportunity to review and are there any questions?

RONNIE DANIELS:

Motion.

JONATHAN MCLENDON:

Second.

CAM ROBERDS:

All in favor?

(Unanimous vote.)

CAM ROBERDS:

Okay. Perfect.

All right. To the agenda, we're going to move into the approval of the agenda, but we do have a -- we're going to have to make an adjustment here. So I want to make a motion to approve the agenda to add an executive session for the possible litigation, and we're going to move that -- that executive session down to G.2. and the remainder of the resource management will go to G.2.

Do we have any questions on that? If not, do we have a motion?

MATTHEW MAYFIELD:

Motion.

RONNIE DANIELS:

Second.

CAM ROBERDS:

All in favor?

(Unanimous vote.)

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. So with that being said, that's the approval of the agenda and the amendment, so we'll go into the Executive Director's report. Director, it's all yours.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Okay. TJ, come here a minute.

But -- all right. Yeah. We've got a couple of things here on the Director's report.

First off, we need to go into the employment contracts. And we can do the employment contracts. Well, next slide, please.

Okay. And we see the ones on employment contracts and what we have. And we have Madison Parker, and Madison -- I don't know if she's in here or not, but Madison has been moved to an Environment Natural Resources Specialist III. Madison was one of our interns several years ago and she came to us as an intern out of University

of Southern Mississippi and then wound up going to work in CZM, I think, and then after that, she went to Fisheries. So great to be able to move her up.

Reed Verdin is promoted to Law Enforcement II. He's a corporal. Caleb Vick is also Law Enforcement III. He's a staff sergeant now, so it's always great to be able to, you know, raise -- bring our law enforcement up and see them move forward. And these guys started out as cadets, I guess, and basically go to school and then being able to be officers.

And we've got another one, Michelle Williams. Michelle Williams is now the human resources manager. She is taking Christy's place. Christy is staying with us for a little while. She's going to hang with us till the end of the year to help us, and Christy is going to be allowing us to -- she's helping Michelle be able to navigate, you know, how to move forward in this.

And we appreciate Christy, first off. Thank you, Christy, for the years of service. What have you got? Fourteen? Fifteen? Sixteen?

CHRISTY ROYALS:

Sixteen and a half.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Long time with us and we appreciate that. And Christy is wanting -- she's going to retire and see if she can't enjoy some life, you know, and -- because of -- it's time in life to have fun, and so we wish her the very best in everything that she does.

And we welcome Michelle in the job and we know that she'll do a good job, and thank you for staying with us to help us, Christy.

Any questions on that?

Okay. If not, we don't have any contracts. Right?

Okay. So Bolton building, I got an update yesterday. It looks like we may be October now before we move up anymore. We're in the Bolton building as we speak right now. Ninety percent of the agency -- or 80 percent is in the Bolton building, about 80 percent all jammed up in Fisheries and other places. And so we're able to be able to get back and not have to pay the rent every month, and that is a great thing.

But I was told yesterday that they're a

little bit behind on the contract and it looks like the fifth and sixth floor is probably going to be somewhere around -- not September but maybe October, so we're talking another month and a half or something like that before we'll be able to get in there and be able to get back full-fledged where we're at.

And then when we would do that, they'll also -- there will still be roof -- they're redoing the roof, and so there will still be work there, but we'll get there.

You can still come meet with us. You can still come to the Bolton building and meet with us and talk to us about what you need. We have obviously -- Ayesha and them are still out at the NERR and will stay there. And then we have some -- Rhonda's group and Heritage and all and they are at the -- what's the name of that -- Charnley House. They're over at the Charnley House.

And then we've got some people still down in Pass Christian with law enforcement and other things that are working out of different buildings, but we'll make it. We'll get there.

Any questions?

(No response.)

JOE SPRAGGINS:

We're going to have a good building when we get it.

2019, 2020 Bonnet Carré, everything is fine. We're waiting on just a couple of things, you know. We had asked to convert some money from one pot of money to another, and we're waiting on NOAA to give us that permission to be able to do that. Right now, we're looking at a little over $2 million that we're going to move and we're going to move it into seafood marketing. And that's what it's going to be. It's going to be marketing for seafood, and we're going to help -- roll out this new campaign that we're doing that we're working with Coastal Mississippi and we're working with Visit Mississippi and we're working with the secretary -- with Ag.

We're all rolling out this big campaign, and the campaign is going to be -- what we're going to be able to do is, basically, if you're serving domestic seafood as the majority of what you're serving, you're going to get some type of symbols or whatever to put in your office -- in your buildings, in your restaurants, in your, you

know, markets, whatever. And then we're just pushing hard, and we're going to advertise. We're going to have billboards up.

We're going to have -- when you come into Mississippi in any one of the major areas, tributaries coming in, it's going to say something about Mississippi seafood, and we're going to talk about the seafood.

And we're going to have this for Cruisin' the Coast, now. So we're doing a soft opening of this for Cruisin' the Coast, so this is going to be a big thing if we get it done.

We have some seed money to be able to get that done prior to NOAA approving the other. But the project that we're looking at is a $9 million five-year project, so it's a big project that we're doing. And we're putting this into Mississippi seafood.

We're doing this for two to three reasons. Number 1, we need to take care of our fishermen. We need to make sure that they have a job to do and they are able to sell their fish and their shrimp and their oysters and their crabs and everything and be able to get the good market for it.

Number 2, we want you to eat domestic. We want you to eat the good food and not eat the trash that's coming from other countries. And I had a -- I talked maybe a little bit about it, but -- I don't know if it's on my calendar or not, about the USDA meeting. It's not, is it? But just -- I'll bring it up now. I was in Washington last Sunday and Monday and Tuesday and I met with the USDA and we talked about what we're going to be able to do and how we're going to be able to help people to be able to keep this industry going in Mississippi.

And one of the things that we talked about was what -- was our shrimp processors. Our shrimp processors, especially, are having some issues right now with EPA and it's the water quality and it's going into the Mississippi Sound or into the bays or whatever. And it's a large amount of money that they're going to try to do something to basically -- it's going to get to a point -- we keep pushing back, pushing back, but they keep pushing the processors to be able to put some type of purification system in.

And Jonathan can probably talk a lot about that, but -- and what we're trying to do is

we're trying to do something to be able to help all of them. So one of the things we're looking at is a seafood industrial park, and one -- the seafood industrial park will be north of I-10 if we get to do it. And it will be where we can take our processors and all, move them north of I-10. And we'll take, you know, the crab processers, shrimp processers, even the oyster processers and all and the fish and we can move it north of I-10 and we can build a filtration system to be able to take care of that product that's going in and be able to take that and even sell it for fertilizer maybe or some other type and be able -- as a byproduct and not waste it.

And then turn around and -- when we have shrimp hulls, we can be able to take that and keep them from having to take the shrimp hulls into a landfill and do a process of them and be able to sell that process to maybe build some cold storage so we'll have cold storage for everybody, you know, to help out. Y'all all know how we're hurting for that on the Coast.

And a large amount of our seafood is trucked in and not brought in just to the dock. It's brought in to a dock somewhere, I understand,

but a lot of it's trucked in. So this will be something, too, and get them north of the interstate. It will help the processors if we get this done. It will help them because they will be able to now not -- they won't have to worry about, Number 1, hurricanes as much. When we have a hurricane on the Coast or something of any type, then -- or bad weather, it shuts them down for months -- days to months and that's time lost and everything is done, you know. It costs them money. This way, maybe it will be a limited amount, is what it would be.

Number 2, is the cost of insurance for us. It's killing them. And, you know, the insurance to have a process place right here on the Coast is killing them. And so those two things -- and then we'll be able to have quicker in and out because they'll have direct access to 49 to 67 to, you know, all the -- Interstate 10 and everything else and it will be quick movement on stuff.

So USDA, as they said the other day, we had no idea what was going on in South Mississippi until I came up, and they said that they were definitely going to try to help us. So they're

going to try to help us to be able to put something together and we appreciate that.

So if you talk to your congressmen, you talk to your senators, talk up -- about getting USDA to help us, all right, because this will be a huge thing. If we do this, Mississippi could come back to being the seafood capitol of the world. And if we do this, they could come back and we could bring things in from Alabama and from Louisiana and all and do it -- processing right here.

So I didn't mean to get on a long thing there, but it was a great meeting. I met with the Undersecretary and we talked about it. And we met with a lot of the key staff and I tell you, it was just a great meeting on what's going on and so, hopefully, we'll get something done there.

Any questions?

CAM ROBERDS:

No.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

August 16th through 18th, that was what I was just talking about. I didn't see it on the agenda, but that was what we were just talking about. That was the meeting.

And Commissioner Gipson is the one who asked me to go up there with him, and so we brought a group of people up and it was a good meeting up there.

All right. MDMR is closed on September 7th for Labor Day.

September 10th and 11, we have a GOAA annual meeting and that's in Fairhope. And we'll go there and there will be several people from the agency that will be there to be able to look at different projects that they do.

And September 7th -- 12th is the 45th Annual Biloxi Seafood Festival at the lawn on Harrah's -- at Harrah's, is there. We're a key sponsor for that. So if you want to have a good time, I'm sure there will be a lot of seafood out there and a lot of fun to be able to go and enjoy it.

Seafood Task Force, we met on the 10th and we're going to meet again next month. And one of the things that we're doing is basically getting everything set up to be able to do just what we're talking about with the task force itself of being able to get this big push out with the initial soft push being Cruisin' the Coast

because we get 100,000 people. You don't get 100,000 people every day in South Mississippi that want to just see something different, so we're going to get a lot there. And so we're pushing for that.

And one of the things that we're doing, we're still cooking for that, and, you know, we'll do the cooking at a couple of places there at the -- I guess it's called Cruisin' Central, you know, where they check in. And then we'll be on the Town Green on Wednesday, I think. That Wednesday, we'll be at Town Green from about 10:00 to 1:00 or somewhere in that frame and being about -- and we're going to put boiled shrimp out again and we're going to give them boiled shrimp and, you know, tell them about how great it is. And then tell them where they can go buy it and then see if we can't get them a cooler to go fill it up. So we're going to try to do everything we can to get people buying that.

But Cruisin' is a big thing and we'll enjoy that. And once again, we're a title sponsor for Cruisin' again this year, so that's the first week of October, I think, 7th through 12th or something. But it will be a good time, a lot of

fun. And I talked to Woody the other day and he said they're above where they were last year, so now they're expecting a lot more than 10,000 cars. It ought to be a good time.

Any questions?

CAM ROBERDS:

(Shakes head negatively.)

JOE SPRAGGINS:

All right. Let's see. September 14th is the next meeting.

The next Commission meeting is Tuesday, the 15th, September 15th at 9:00 a.m. Right now, we'll keep it here until we decide what we're going to do with the building if that's okay with everybody.

CAM ROBERDS:

(Nodding head affirmatively.)

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Foundation scholarships, we had two Foundation scholarships that were given out this year. And I don't have the names, but it was two family members that were given a scholarship and they were given a $5,000 scholarship to study for some form of marine science and -- you know, so that's a good thing. So we were able to do that

and hopefully next year we'll be able to expand that a little bit and be able to give more scholarships.

I want to -- I talked to the Foundation board about it and we're trying to tweak some things on it, but one of the things I want to bring in is accounting, HR, other things that we do in the agency. We have to have those too. We need them just as much as we need scientists and all, so why not help with scholarships? So that's what we're looking at.

Any questions?

CAM ROBERDS:

No, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

All right. Red snapper season, for the first time in four years, we're opened back up. We'll open it up on the 4th of September and we'll close on the 7th of September. We have a little -- around 18,000 pounds still that we feel that we can catch and we'll see where we're at with that, depending on the weather and what the good Lord gives us, what will amount to that.

But, hopefully, this is something that we're getting to move forward and, hopefully, next

year, we'll have even more allocation and -- you know, to be able to do that. And we need to thank Trevor because Trevor Moncrief is fighting for us every day on the SSC to help us get that, and he's going to fight a battle in September for us again with it, so we need to thank him.

Not only is he the head -- he's now over Fisheries, but he's also doing that for us, so we appreciate that. And we need to keep that battle going.

But I hope everybody has a chance to get out and go do a little snapper fishing for that -- another time and we'll see where we're at. If there's any left over, we'll continue for another weekend or something.

Any questions?

(No response.)

JOE SPRAGGINS:

All right. One other thing, we had to close speckled trout -- commercial speckled trout season. We closed last night and it's because, you know, we have reached our quota. And that's something we need to look at in the future.

But any questions on that? You've got to hit that button on the top.

RONNIE DANIELS:

Can't hardly get it. I got it.

How long has it been since we've raised the quota or done anything with that quota?

JOE SPRAGGINS:

All right. Come on, Matt. You the man. I want to say it's '15, '16. What was it?

MATT HILL:

Yeah. You know it's serious now. I got it coming.

Yeah. We raised it in 2015. We -- initially, the quota was set at 35,000 pounds in 1996. We raised it in 2012 or '13 to 40,000 pounds, and that was just because of an anomaly. We were trying to -- the season used to start on October 1st. We were working to start with the calendar year, so we had to do a little creative math. We raised it at that time for that.

And then -- in '15 and -- I believe it started in '16, somewhere in that ballpark, we raised it to 50,000 pounds, so it's been -- like I said, it's only been truly raised one time since 1996 since its inception, and that's kind of where we are with that.

And then there were all -- you know, if

you want to get into some of the other, but obviously, there has been some fluctuations in the fishery, but we were consistently catching our quota for a little while. And then we had a lot of participants in there, so endorsements were created. We had several iterations of how to implement these endorsements. I can't say that any of them have been very successful. We made a few mistakes, so that's another consideration that we have been looking at. But, yes, we have only raised it significantly one time since 1996.

RONNIE DANIELS:

You know, we've been bouncing around this subject since I became a commissioner and trying to find the sweet spot on it. And in my opinion, there is two goals here. Number 1, let the commercial fishermen do what they do.

MATT HILL:

Yep.

RONNIE DANIELS:

You know, let them catch fish, let them make money.

And, Number 2, having the opportunity for fresh, local-caught speckled trout on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for our seafood markets and

our restaurant. Our spawning ratio is good.

MATT HILL:

Yes.

RONNIE DANIELS:

Our fishery is good. And these guys are -- I mean, they're a very small percentage of the overall catch.

MATT HILL:

Yes.

RONNIE DANIELS:

I would not be opposed to doing an increase on the quota, keeping it open -- you know, if we can keep it open for them all year long, I think that would be great.

And with the spike in endorsements, maybe we need to tweak that a little bit more as well.

MATT HILL:

Yes. So the endorsements -- and, I mean, in all transparency, Ronnie and I have talked about this a few times. But we did a fairly thorough analysis here recently and the endorsements all -- we've had -- we've got 155 right now. That's the highest we have ever had since the endorsements have been put into place.

We truly only had -- when we started the endorsements, you know, we always felt like this was about a 65- to 70-person fishery. That's what it could support at that time. The numbers are showing that. We have around -- between 50 and 60 people catching all of the quota, so you basically have 100 -- I hate to use the word "latent" endorsements, but you do have about 100 people that are not taking advantage of the endorsement there.

But in also saying that, when you get rid of those endorsements, it's really not going to make a difference because they're not -- they're not participating in the fishery. But the reasoning behind the endorsements was to knock some of the people down in the fishery to get it back to these guys that are truly trying to supplement their income. A lot of these guys participate in other fisheries. When you look at the numbers, several of them have other licenses, crab licenses, shrimp licenses. It kind of runs the gamut, so there -- it's a seasonal thing.

Everybody up here knows at this point it's extremely difficult to make it in the seafood industry by doing just one thing, so that's kind

of where this came from. And the time that we were in there, we were also having some other issues, so it's definitely a consideration of raising the quota. It's just how much do you raise it, what is the goal, and to get the endorsement back down to where we originally intended it to be.

So -- and, also, to keep in mind, the price of the products have gone up, especially when you're talking about some of the fisheries. I feel like they have leveled off, is what we've seen. But to qualify for these endorsements, you're having to catch less quantity, so that was a big thing too. How much quantity, how many trips would it take these guys and that's where some of the initial numbers were based off of. They're a little skewed now, but that's just a little bit of history on how we got here.

But for the last two years, we have met the quota and we met it fairly easy. Last year, if I'm remembering correctly, we closed at the end of June or early July. We have just currently closed, so we got about another 45 days. So, obviously, the goal of spanning it throughout the year, we're not doing a very good job of it right

now and we just need to figure out how to -- the best path forward to try to get these guys some more days.

RONNIE DANIELS:

You know, commercial fishermen, even charter boat captains, it's a bunch of pieces of the whole pie. Right?

MATT HILL:

That's right.

RONNIE DANIELS:

That's what it takes to put it together.

MATT HILL:

Yep.

RONNIE DANIELS:

I don't think anybody has ever made a living off of speckled trout alone.

MATT HILL:

That's correct.

RONNIE DANIELS:

These guys work hard and they have been getting kicked for 10 or 12 years between environmental, you know, everything else.

I would be in favor of -- I think the projections of going up to 70,000 pounds would give us, it looks like, a full year, correct?

MATT HILL:

Yeah. So if you get -- and these are, you know, just based off the peak trajectory that we've had in the last two years. And I know all of y'all fish and y'all understand that at any point this can turn around. I mean, we're -- this is the best fishing we've had since I can remember. I mean, there's nothing with the quota that's going to necessarily change that. There's nothing -- maybe with some of the recreational fishery, they're going to have a little bit more of an impact, but Mother Nature is going to catch up with us eventually.

But for the time being, I mean, if we used the trajectory for the last two years, 60,000 pounds looks like it would get us about 300 days. Right now, we're at 200 days. 50,000 pounds is getting us about 200 days of fishing. 60,000 looks like it will get us about 300 days, and 70,000 would get us approximately the entire year based on the last two years of the participation and catch rates.

RONNIE DANIELS:

You know, I think you couple that with ensuring that the commercial fishermen have got a

hand in it, true commercial fishermen that are doing multiple things, move that qualifier up a little bit, see if we can't get that tweaked to the right place too.

MATT HILL:

Yeah. And like I said, it wouldn't really affect the guys that we're seeing. I mean, if -- right now, there is -- I don't know if everybody is familiar with it, but it is a $1,000 finfish threshold in the trip ticket system. We're fairly lenient on that. We allow the year before and the year of, so we actually allow them to fish into it, which has worked. I mean, I think we should continue to do that.

And a $5,000 overall seafood product, so that also allows your crabbers and your shrimpers that are dabbling in it to continue to be able to do that.

My recommendation would be to not change the $5,000, but to definitely look at the finfish -- the finfish threshold and possibly raise it. And like I said, a lot of it has to do with when that threshold was set, the prices were lower. I mean, we're talking about several years ago and now the prices are higher. It necessarily

wouldn't change the quantity of finfish that they were selling. It's just like everything else, the price per pound has gone up.

RONNIE DANIELS:

Just -- I'm sorry. Just for clarify, it's not "and." It's "or" on that new qualifier?

MATT HILL:

It's "or," that's correct.

RONNIE DANIELS:

If they reach either one?

MATT HILL:

Either one.

JONATHAN MCLENDON:

And I know that, you know, this is, of course, a staple on the Gulf Coast menus and it may kind of sound counterintuitive, but the -- you know, like if we're only supplying speckled trout to these local restaurants for 200 days a year, the remaining, you know, 160 days of the year, then they're going to have to go out and find a substitute. And there is a good chance that that substitute is some type of imported product that is then going to turn around and put price pressure on the speckled trout. Like, is that a concern of the fishermen?

MATT HILL:

That is a concern, and that's actually a concern that myself and several of us in this room have talked about, Trevor, Eric, Rick, in particular. We have started seeing it come back on menus. We've seen it as lunch specials. Several of the Fayards are doing it. And I was in the Rack House a few weeks ago. That was actually one of the fish you could get with your dinner. I mean, it was -- I haven't seen that in a long time.

But in also saying that, I do know that some of these -- our seafood dealers have prepared. They understand that -- they knew that we were going to close. We -- our trip ticket staff does a very good job of communicating with them, so some of the product that is still available is local because they do freeze it. It is not a fresh product, but they prepare for the fall months when they know that we're going to close.

So, yes, we still do have product. Do we have more imported product coming at that time? Probably, just to fill it. But our dealers have adjusted, but, obviously, with the new push that

Director Spraggins has been leading, obviously, I mean, we want fresh, domestic product throughout the year. And at the current rate, to do that, we would have to make some changes to this quota.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

You know, one thing that we used to do and it was almost every time you walked into a restaurant in South Mississippi, it was catch of the day and it was fresh. And I have seen that several times in South Mississippi this year that I walk in and they were able to do the catch of the day and it was speckled trout. And that's a good thing.

I mean, it may be snapper when snapper season is going and, you know, it can be cobia or anything else. But the point I'm getting at is this is a fishery that South Mississippi is known for and to have it on the menu for the catch of the day and to have it fresh -- I mean, a lot of these places, I've seen several here in Mississippi recently that will not serve anything but what is fresh that they can get the night before or whatever, you know, for the catch of the day. And now, they're not going to do it, and so we're going to take it away from our people to be

able to actually eat that wonderful fresh fish if we don't do something with it.

RONNIE DANIELS:

Hey, can we bring stuffed crabs back too? I don't ever see them anywhere. I used to love those things.

One last thing, our 15-inch limit is what got us to where we, right?

MATT HILL:

That's correct.

RONNIE DANIELS:

We're right at the target that we set for our SPR. We all see how great the fishing is. It's always been a question in the corner of the room.

MATT HILL:

And like I say, you know, in full transparency, again -- I mean, I try to be as open -- I think Ronnie was a part of that at that point. Rick continuously makes fun of me about it and he is right.

So we went down to the 13 inches in 2008 as -- at the end of the recreational fishery. It was a mistake. We paid for it. We had to dig ourself out of a hole. The percent SPR fell into

the single digits for a while.

And at that time, the actual commercial fishermen and the dealers came to us and said they do not want to go to 13 inches. They want to stay at 14 inches. They had no desire. They said that was not a marketable fish. Just leave us alone. Leave us at 14 inches. So eight years passed, and we did get it raised back up to where it needed to be at with the current 15-inch size limit.

We only did it for the recreational fishery. We left the commercial fishery out of there. A lot of it was out of spite just because they took the initiative and said they would rather stay at the 14 inches, so I'm like, well, I'm not going to penalize them. And we had the Commission on board at that time, so we left it at 14 inches.

There was no real resource reason or biological reason to do that. It was out of principal and a lot of it was on my part, but it is time. There is very little pushback. We've talked to the dealers. We've talked to the fishermen. There's no reason not to make them even again to move that to the 15-inch. That's what they're seeing. They're saying less than

five percent of the fish coming into the dealers sold from the fishermen are less than 15 inches, so that would be also a consideration to make the size limit even across the board now.

RONNIE DANIELS:

I think those are three good points. There's plenty of 15-inch fish out there. We see it every day.

MATT HILL:

Yeah.

RONNIE DANIELS:

So can we -- do we --

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Yeah. Commissioner, I think from what I've heard here -- unless there is any more comments that y'all want to make on it, I think that y'all would need to ask the staff -- it's not on the agenda to be able to do any motions or anything but maybe ask the staff to come back and give you, next meeting, an update.

And I think the three things that I'm hearing here are maybe raising the quota, of what it would do to raise the quota in commercial speckled trout. Number 2, the limit, the size limit, do we look at 15 inches to match up and see

what that would do? And, Number 3, is the -- what it takes to qualify, the qualifications as to whether we need to change that and the numbers.

Is that correct, Commissioner?

RONNIE DANIELS:

Yes. I'll make that request.

CAM ROBERDS:

Yeah.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

All right. Do we have -- do we need a motion on that to do that?

SANDY CHESNUT:

Yes.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

All right. If y'all can make a motion for us to do that, I'd appreciate it.

JONATHAN MCLENDON:

I'll make the motion.

RONNIE DANIELS:

Second.

CAM ROBERDS:

All in favor?

(Unanimous vote.)

RONNIE DANIELS:

Thank you.

CAM ROBERDS:

Thank you.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Thanks, Matt.

SANDY CHESNUT:

Just to be clear, this is going to have to go out on notice of intent because this is going to be a regulation change. But they're going to bring it back at the next meeting with their proposed recommended changes and then you guys will vote on that. Okay?

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Okay.

MATT HILL:

And then we'll have a 30-day process after that?

SANDY CHESNUT:

Right. It will go out on a 30-day comment period and then it will be brought back to the next Commission meeting for vote on final adoption.

RONNIE DANIELS:

So that will be October.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Matt.

MATT HILL:

Thank you.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

All right. A couple of other quick things and then I'm going to turn it over to you, sir.

Let's see where I'm at. We had 264 derelict vessel cases that have been reported. Right now, 230 have been removed; 34 are pending removal; and we have three that are in court orders.

Any questions on that?

(No response.)

JOE SPRAGGINS:

And once again, we're leading the Gulf in this and it's amazing what they're doing. And we appreciate their efforts on it.

Next thing is actions update.

SANDY CHESNUT:

Okay. At the July meeting, the Commission recommended and the Director approved after-the-fact certification of piers and boathouses, as they were already constructed, by William Kenny. They also required removal of the unauthorized fill that was not approved under the

general permit by October 19th, 2026.

There was a second motion in that matter to fine the homeowner and the contractor a total of $2,850 with both the homeowner and contractor splitting that amount 50/50.

The other motion was to recommend approval of a state saltwater finfish record for a youth conventional tackle for a bonnethead shark, 8 pounds, 11.2 ounces for a Jackson Callender, and that's it.

CAM ROBERDS:

You ready? You done, Director?

JOE SPRAGGINS:

I am.

CAM ROBERDS:

All right.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

All right. So that's everything. We got -- we don't have to make a motion on none of that, right?

SANDY CHESNUT:

No, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

I was waiting on a motion. I'm sorry. All right. Well, sir, I appreciate it. Sorry for

taking up so much time, but --

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. Thank you, Director.

Lots of good information as always. And I, you know, truly can attest to -- our trout fishery has been phenomenal. It really has, so it's been really good.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

One last thing. I can't do this without thanking Jonathan McLendon for helping me and giving me a lot of the wisdom and everything else to go forward with this seafood industrial park.

JONATHAN MCLENDON:

Well, General, I just bring you a problem and you and the good folks of the DMR here put a lot of thought and effort behind this.

But, you know, I mean, really, I see it going on in other areas of the country and I firmly believe it, you know, that Mississippi has the ability as the other states to continue. You know, everybody wants the glory. Nobody wants to deal with all the problems. So this is a benefit to the entire Gulf Coast and I think it's got the opportunity to turn into something really special.

CAM ROBERDS:

Well, I feel the push has been -- has definitely been warranted because, you know, first order of business walking into a restaurant, you know, you're looking at the menu, whether it's the fish or, you know, the local -- the shrimp and it's domestic now. I just feel like there is a lot of people on board, so it's making an impact. I mean, there is no doubt.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Well, you know -- I keep running my mouth, but, you know, back in 2024, when they tested the shrimp on the Coast in the Mississippi area, 16, I think, or 18 percent of the restaurants were serving Gulf. They did it in 2026 and there was 64 percent serving it. It is catching up. People are looking at it.

CAM ROBERDS:

Okay. Great. All right.

Okay. Moving on, do any of the Commissioners have anything they want to report on today?

(No response.)

CAM ROBERDS:

Good. All right.

Well, I guess we'll move down to Chief

Wilkerson for the report on citations.

KYLE WILKERSON:

Good morning.

CAM ROBERDS:

Morning, Chief.

KYLE WILKERSON:

Glad to have you back, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Thank you.

KYLE WILKERSON:

I'm glad you got home safely.

All right. This report is going to kind of look at the July citation report and everything, as you know. And as we all know, July 1st was -- the probable cause law went into effect. We were able to write 72 boat and water safety citations that month with probable cause. So, I mean, the violations are out there. They'll always be out there. We do boat and water safety checks. We always use probable cause. All right.

There was also 52 fisheries citations written for that month, so the men and women of Marine Patrol have been very busy. They do a phenomenal job. They make my job easy sometimes and hard sometimes, but mostly easy.

Other than that, nothing jumps out at me. As we all know, one incident happened on July 4th. We can't talk about that, as you know, the drowning. So other than that, I can field any questions.

CAM ROBERDS:

Any questions for Chief?

JOE SPRAGGINS:

I just want to thank y'all. I know y'all were out in force, and I know you put a lot of effort in the situation on July 4th and we appreciate everything, you know.

By the way, can I -- real quick, we work with National Park Service, and National Park Service is -- and I went over and met with them and we talked about what we could do and what we could help, you know, to be able to have more enforcement and all.

And, Chief, you might want to expound on this. On Labor Day weekend now, you're going to have officers on the ground on Horn Island.

KYLE WILKERSON:

Yes. Yes. My reserve officers are going to be walking the beaches at high capacity hours and all that stuff during the -- I think

they start at noon. They're going to stay out there past dark. They will be walking beaches and just talking with folks and presenting enforcement or -- normally, if somebody sees somebody in uniform, they don't do crazy stuff, you know. That's our whole premise of doing it. They will write citations, if that's the case. All my reserves are certified so they can also write citations. They will also be being paid to do it on contract.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

And I thank for -- the Senate and House and the Governor for allowing us to have -- to be able to pay our reserve in special things like this.

KYLE WILKERSON:

Yes. But we're going to be out there.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

And I think this is going to be huge. Talking to the National Park Service, it really changed their idea of what they were going to do with the islands on holidays. I mean, I won't go into it because I don't want to bring up something that they didn't already publicize or anything else --

KYLE WILKERSON:

Yes, sir.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

-- but there was some things that they were looking at that they felt like they were going to have to do, but because the State of Mississippi stepped up and said, we will help and we will do something, it changed everything about how they were able to do stuff. So thank y'all.

KYLE WILKERSON:

Yes.

CAM ROBERDS:

Any questions for Chief?

(No response.)

CAM ROBERDS:

Thank you for the report.

KYLE WILKERSON:

Thank you.

JONATHAN MCLENDON:

Thanks, Chief.

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. Okay. Moving down, it looks like per the amended agenda, we're going to move in an executive session.

Do we have a motion to move into that

executive session for the potential litigation?

RONNIE DANIELS:

Motion.

JONATHAN MCLENDON:

Second.

CAM ROBERDS:

All in favor?

(Unanimous vote.)

CAM ROBERDS:

All right.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

We'll be back in just a few minutes.

(Off the record.)

STEVEN ECKERT:

Upon the motion, Mississippi Advisory Commission of Marine Resources has entered into executive session.

(Commission enters into executive session.)

CAM ROBERDS:

Good? Okay. Well, we want to close executive session and open back up into regular session. Do we have a motion?

MATTHEW MAYFIELD:

Motion.

RONNIE DANIELS:

Second.

CAM ROBERDS:

All in favor?

(Unanimous vote.)

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. The reason for this was for the procedural --

SANDY CHESNUT:

If you want me to, I can give just a briefing of the executive session. I can do that.

CAM ROBERDS:

Okay. Yes, please, ma'am.

SANDY CHESNUT:

Okay. And Ronnie made the second motion.

All right. So the -- a motion was made to go into executive session to discuss prospective litigation, and that was made by Ronnie and it was seconded by Commissioner McLendon.

Once inside the room, a motion was made by Commissioner Daniels to open the executive session and that was seconded by Matt Mayfield.

There was a lot of discussion about procedural issues surrounding prospective

litigation. There was no motions and/or decisions made regarding the subject matter discussed.

The motion was made by Ronnie to close the executive session and go back into regular session and that was seconded by Commissioner McLendon.

And then the motion was made to open back in regular session by Commissioner Mayfield and seconded by Commissioner Daniels, so I think we've got it all --

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. Thank you for the explanation. Yeah, there was a lot going on here.

All right. Moving down to the Office of Resource Management, Ms. Willa.

WILLA BRANTLEY:

Good morning. I have a presentation on a petition for reconsideration by Lamulle Construction. The location is on the Jourdan River at 104 Good Street in Bay St. Louis. It's a General Use District.

Just as a reminder, the project was presented to the Commission last month on July 21st. An after-the-fact approval was granted for existing boat houses and piers that were

constructed out of compliance with Mr. Kenny's issued permit. But the property owner and the permittee, William Kenny, and the contractor responsible for the construction of the structures, which was the Lamulle Construction, were issued fines in the amount of $1,425 each. And Lamulle has petitioned for a reconsideration of that decision.

So the Commission now has four options for your advisory motion. You can make a final -- you can recommend a final disposition of the petition by either granting or denying the requested action without further argument. You can request a response from DMR staff prior to making that final disposition. The matter can be set for an evidentiary hearing or the matter -- you can make such further order as you deem appropriate under the circumstances.

So at this point, I believe we need a motion for which of those four.

SANDY CHESNUT:

Not necessarily a motion.

WILLA BRANTLEY:

Oh, okay.

SANDY CHESNUT:

There doesn't have to be a motion. They can just decide which one they want.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Okay. Well, I think what we need to do is discuss some issues that we have with this, and so, Sandy, do you want to lead us in what we're doing here?

SANDY CHESNUT:

Yeah, sure.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Sandy, would you lead us into a discussion on what we --

SANDY CHESNUT:

Yes.

So, unfortunately, the procedures that were followed in recommending and issuing the fines in this case were not the correct procedures that should have been followed. The Legislature changed the law several years after the role of the Commission was changed to advisory, but the previous law that was in place was followed in this case. So there are notice and opportunity for responses provided in the new law that are not included in the old law.

So at this time, the Department would

request that the Commission recommend to the Director that the motion regarding the fines made at the July 19th meeting be rescinded and allow the staff to proceed under the correct procedures.

If that motion passes, the matter will be brought back before the Commission at a later date following the new procedures.

Do you have any questions?

JONATHAN MCLENDON:

I make a motion to rescind the previous one.

CAM ROBERDS:

I'll second.

All in favor?

(Unanimous vote.)

SANDY CHESNUT:

That was -- who seconded?

CAM ROBERDS:

I did.

SANDY CHESNUT:

You did.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Okay. And now, you know, what we will do is we'll follow the procedures that we're supposed to have done and that will be -- Sandy,

would you mind briefing those procedures?

SANDY CHESNUT:

Those procedures are in 49-15-401. Basically, anytime there is a violation under Coastal wetlands, Coastal wetlands was included in administrative procedures for these violation procedures. Then a complaint will be made in writing to the property owner and in this case also the contractor. The complaint will be filed with the Director. The Director will review the complaint and then the staff will send the -- or deliver a copy of the complaint and any supporting documents to the alleged violators, along with the request that they respond to the allegations within 30 days.

And then, if there is a recommended fine, that will also be included. The new statute provides for fines of up to $10,000 per violation, so it's a big change from what we've had before.

So -- and then once that process goes through, the Director will make the decision or his designee, which in this case would probably be the Commission, to come in and consider the alleged fines. In the Commission meeting, the Commission would make their recommendation to the

Director and then the Director will make the final decision.

There is also provisions in this statute for informal settlement conferences that wasn't provided before. There is also provisions for evidentiary hearings, appeals and things like that, so it's a very long, drawn-out process, but, you know, that's what we have and that's what we're going to follow.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

First off, I apologize for not following the rules. As the Executive Director, I'm responsible for that, so we will follow the rules and we will move forward. This is the first time we've had one of these cases since the statute had changed, and so it was something that -- brought to us, but we will now go back and correct things.

Nothing wrong with making a mistake, and nothing wrong with learning a lesson. I'm not going to learn that one twice, either one of them. So, you know, we made this mistake and we'll remove it and we will go forward. And now we will give due process what it should have, and that's the way we should do things.

And, you know, I just -- I apologize to

the two -- the homeowner and to the contractor for what we -- doing it wrong, but we will correct it and do it right. And we will give y'all your correct time to do what you need to do to be able to respond.

CAM ROBERDS:

Thank you, Director.

We do have a public comment regarding this, the discussion, from Jacob Lamulle.

Sir, just state your name and then your city and then you have three minutes.

JACOB LAMULLE:

Should I come up to the podium?

CAM ROBERDS:

If you can, yeah, if you can make it.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

If you can.

CAM ROBERDS:

If not, we can pass you a microphone.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

All right. We can get the mic. Hey. Hey, sir, just stay right where you're at. We can get the mic to you. I'm sorry.

JACOB LAMULLE:

Okay. Thank you.

All right. Hello. Good morning, Commissioners, Director. My name is Jacob Lamulle with Lamulle Construction. Thank you for taking our petition so promptly. We appreciate it.

I would have had Mr. Kenny here today -- and I wanted to and he wanted to be here, but he couldn't because of a prior work obligation, so he asked me to hand a signed statement. May I provide you guys copies of that?

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Okay.

And, Sandy, we can put this statement on record; is that correct?

SANDY CHESNUT:

Yes. Anything submitted to the Commission will be on the public record.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

And we'll get a copy to her so she can have it, if you don't mind.

SANDY CHESNUT:

Yeah. Thank you.

JACOB LAMULLE:

I want to be clear about what we're asking here because it's really narrow. We're not asking that the Commission add anything to

Mr. Kenny or to change his fine. That's entirely the Commission's business. We're only asking that the portion assessed to Lamulle be rescinded.

The reason is, in the record you made on July 21st, Mr. Kenny told you the exceedence was his and he added on as he went, that he never showed us the full scope of the project and that he filled out the applications and put our names on them himself.

When the Director offered him the full fine that day, he accepted. His statement in front of you today says he stands by that. His acceptance isn't a request to double his fine or -- yeah. It's the record showing where responsibility for this violation lies.

Our filing on this project, the modification I submitted at Mr. Kenny's direction, as a favor, I drew myself. I did it deliberately within the 2,000 square foot limit. The construction beyond it came from scope he has acknowledged he withheld from us.

I'll say it plainly. None of us are ever going to take a client's word that they have the permits without the documents in our hands.

That's a lesson I learned the hard way.

I own it. What I would ask the Commission to consider is that the penalty follow the man who made the decision and withheld the plans.

On the statement that we've had previous compliance issues, no record of any prior issues was identified at the meeting or since, and we are aware of none. Our family has done this work on this Coast since 1947. That's four generations. That name is the reason why I filed the petition. It's not over $1,400. It isn't the money.

We have taken this seriously. We've strengthened our practices, our protocols, and we'll keep helping to get Good Street into compliance.

We respect this Commission and the department staff and we ask only that the fine follow the record.

Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions.

RONNIE DANIELS:

So I've got two comments. Number 1, whenever this does come back, I would like to see a list of any infractions from Lamulle and the dates on them.

My big question from Lamulle in not

knowing what they -- how did you know where to put the pilings?

JACOB LAMULLE:

I'm sorry. What was the question?

RONNIE DANIELS:

How did you know where to put the pilings?

JACOB LAMULLE:

I, myself, would have to answer that in writing. I wasn't involved in placing the pilings themselves or construction on the project beyond doing a very minor role in the permitting.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Commissioners, I think we ought to table this.

RONNIE DANIELS:

Okay.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

And I think we should table this to give them the time to do what they need to do on what we're doing on the new process and then let's ask those questions if we have them at that time, sir, if you don't mind.

JACOB LAMULLE:

Sounds good.

RONNIE DANIELS:

Yes, sir.

JACOB LAMULLE:

Okay.

CAM ROBERDS:

Well, thank you.

JACOB LAMULLE:

Thank you, guys.

CAM ROBERDS:

Ms. Charmaine, Public Affairs.

CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

Good morning. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources had 27 media mentions since the July MACMR meeting. News items included red snapper and other season openings, last month's fish record and the agency returning to the Bolton Building.

Director Spraggins gave a presentation at the Justice Court Judges conference in Biloxi on July 22nd.

Rick Burris gave a presentation at the Waynesboro Rotary Club on July 9th.

Shellfish Bureau Director, Jason Rider gave a briefing at the Integrated Ocean Observing System Association in Washington, DC on July 24th.

The Office of Marine Fisheries hosted the USM Summer Field Program Marine Biology class on July 29th, where they listened to presentations and visited the Fisheries labs. Fisheries staff Ellen Coffin, Meghan Fleming, Emily Satterfield and Blake Stringfellow participated in Workforce Wednesday at Bay High School on August 5th.

Randy Wilson, Coastal Preserves Director in Coastal Resources Management, gave a presentation at the Southeast Mississippi Learn and Burn in Saucier on July 30th.

Marine Patrol participated in the City of Gulfport's back to school bash in Orange Grove on August 1st.

The NERR's Emmett Carstens participated in the Pine Belt Master Gardeners meeting in Hattiesburg on August 5th.

And Mississippi Seafood also attended the Great American Seafood Cookoff in New Orleans on July 25th. Chef Dalton Ferguson with Elvie's in Jackson represented Mississippi after winning the Mississippi Seafood Cookoff in May. At the Great American Cookoff, he competed against chefs from 12 other states. And Chef Dalton did an amazing job with his dish. However, Massachusetts

took home the win.

CAM ROBERDS:

Cool. Thank you very much. Great times. Appreciate that.

Any questions?

(No response.)

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. Thank you.

All right. Moving down to, it looks like, Josh Waters with another -- or Trevor -- another bonnethead. This is a hot fish to be breaking records with, it looks like, lately.

TREVOR MONCRIEF:

Oh, yeah. So Josh will present it here in a minute. I just wanted to state -- so we had a record come in last month for bonnethead. Y'all approved it. It went through.

We were notified by a member of the public that they thought that record was incorrect, that there was a larger one, which prompted us to review our records, go back through. We did realize that Riley Armes did have that record in July. The fish was slightly larger.

So, you know, as we always do, we went

back through everything, double checked everything, made sure it was good. It happened when we were basically redoing and revamping the entire records web page. Mistakes happen. We have corrected it and we wanted to acknowledge it here. Everything should be good, and, luckily, we've got a brand new record this month to override both of them. So I'll let Josh go ahead with it.

JOSH WATERS:

Morning, Director, Commissioners.

Just like Trevor said, just one youth conventional this month, and it is a bonnethead again. Old record was 8 pounds, 15.2 ounces. The new record, 10 pounds, 13.44 ounces. Angler was Ben Cain. Here's a picture of the shark and here is Mr. Cain holding the shark.

That's the only record for the month, so just required action: Motion to recommend the approval of the state records.

CAM ROBERDS:

Thank you, Josh. Do we have a motion to approve?

RONNIE DANIELS:

Motion.

MATTHEW MAYFIELD:

Second.

CAM ROBERDS:

All in favor?

(Unanimous vote.)

CAM ROBERDS:

Thanks, Josh. Appreciate it.

JOSH WATERS:

Thank y'all.

CAM ROBERDS:

Wow. Okay. And is there any other business or any -- we had our one comment.

JOE SPRAGGINS:

Just like to thank the City of D'Iberville for allowing us to use this. And I know they had an issue with it, but they made it pretty comfortable in here. So I would like to thank the Mayor and the City, you know, for taking care of us the best they could with this and it's definitely worked out good.

CAM ROBERDS:

All right. I guess with that being said, do we have a motion to close?

JONATHAN MCLENDON:

Motion.

MATTHEW MAYFIELD:

Second.

CAM ROBERDS:

All in favor?

(Unanimous vote.)

CAM ROBERDS:

Thanks, everybody.

(Exhibit 1 was marked.)

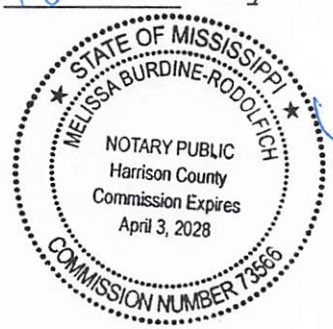
(Adjourned at 10:43 a.m.)

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 10th day of September, 2026.



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

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM (BILLY) KENNY

Re: Violation No. V26-000009 / DMR26-000298 — 104 Good Street, Bay St. Louis, MS

To the Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources and the Executive Director:

I am the owner of 104 Good Street. I could not attend today's meeting because of work obligations, and I asked that this signed statement be presented for me. I wanted to be here.

I stand by everything I told the Commission on July 21. This project and every choice about it were mine. I handled my own permitting. I expanded the project as I went along, and I did not show Lamulle Construction the full scope of what I was doing. I told them I had my permits, and they took me at my word. I filled out the applications and put their name on them myself. Their only permitting involvement was submitting one modification through my own account, at my request, as a favor — and that filing was within the permit limits.

When the Executive Director offered at the July 21 meeting to assess the entire fine to me, I accepted, and I stand by that acceptance today. The responsibility for this violation is mine. Lamulle Construction dealt with me honestly and in good faith from the beginning — they were the most transparent contractor I interviewed, which is why I chose them.

I respectfully ask the Commission and the Executive Director to rescind the portion of the fine assessed to Lamulle Construction. Nothing about this violation should rest on their name. It rests on me.

Signed: Billy Kenny Date: 8/19/2026

William (Billy) Kenny

104 Good Street, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

