

COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

SPECIAL SESSION

January 24, 2019  
MDMR 6<sup>th</sup> Executive Conference Room  
1141 Bayview Avenue  
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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Commission Members:

Steve Bosarge, Chairman

Ronald Daniels

Richard Gollott

Natalie Guess

Mark Havard

Also Present:

Joe Spraggins, Executive Director DMR

Sandy Chesnut, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

1           JOE SPRAGGINS: We are good. We've got  
2 everybody online, except Commissioner Gollott is here with  
3 us.

4           So I think we are ready to go, sir, if you would  
5 like to go ahead and call the meeting to order.

6           COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. Sounds good,  
7 Mr. Joe. Glad everybody could make it.

8           Richard, glad you were close enough you could  
9 just drop in. That's good.

10          All right. We will call the meeting to order.

11          First up on the agenda would be the approval of  
12 the agenda.

13          Has everybody looked at the agenda, and do we  
14 have a motion for approval?

15          COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I make a  
16 motion that we approve the agenda.

17          COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. We have a  
18 motion by Richard.

19          Do we have a second?

20          COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I'll second the motion.

21          JOE SPRAGGINS: Is that mark?

22          COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Yes, sir.

23          COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We've got a motion by  
24 Richard and a second by Mark.

25          All those in favor aye.

1 (All in favor.)

2 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed like sign.

3 (None opposed.)

4 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries.

5 All right. Next up is the Gear Task Force  
6 recommendations, Mr. Rick Burris.

7 RICK BURRIS: Thank you, Commissioner Bosarge.

8 First, I want to say good morning to all the  
9 Commissioners, Director Spraggins and Ms. Chesnut.

10 Today I'm going to be giving you an update on  
11 the Gear Task Force and the results, or recommendations,  
12 that came out of our meeting.

13 Just a brief overview.

14 The Task Force met on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the  
15 following goals:

16 To define current gears and to develop  
17 definitions that will provide clarity for stakeholders,  
18 fisheries managers and enforcement, regarding current  
19 regulations.

20 We discussed a few administrative procedures,  
21 before we moved through.

22 I was elected Chairman which is why I am  
23 presenting this to you today, Commissioner Guess was  
24 elected Vice Chairman, and all voting and non-voting  
25 members were present.

1           The following items were discussed by the task  
2 force:

3           The definition of entanglement.

4           The definition of entrapment.

5           The definition of a haul seine.

6           This presentation will outline the actions and  
7 the recommendations of the Gear Task Force regarding these  
8 items.

9           The task force developed definitions, developed  
10 the following definitions through much discussion and  
11 input from all of the members that were present, and the  
12 following motions were made and adopted unanimously by the  
13 task force:

14           Number one, define entanglement as entanglement.  
15 A method in which fish are primarily ensnared, or  
16 entangled, by the gills, or other boney projections,  
17 through interaction with gear.

18           Number two, define entrapment as entrapment. A  
19 method in which fish are primarily surrounded and  
20 confined, not entangled by the gills, or other boney  
21 projections, within a space through interaction with gear.

22           Number three, define haul seine as haul seine.  
23 A net set vertically in the water column and pulled by  
24 hand, or by power, to capture fish by entrapment through  
25 encircling and confining fish within itself, the shore, or

1 bank, as a result of mesh size and construction. Haul  
2 seines shall be constructed of a mesh size not to exceed  
3 fifteen-sixteenths inches bar and one and seven-eighths  
4 inch stretch, and shall not be constructed of  
5 monofilament.

6 As I mentioned, these were discussed at length  
7 by the task force and adopted unanimously.

8 The task force, then, made a motion that we  
9 present these definitions to the Commission to be added in  
10 the regulation, and that would need to be added into Title  
11 22, Part 8, Chapter 4, which lists definitions for terms  
12 found throughout all of our other titles and parts.

13 The next two slides, I am going to read those  
14 into the record where those additions of the definitions  
15 need to be made.

16 The first one will be in Title 22, Part 8,  
17 Chapter 4. It would be the definition of entanglement,  
18 and it would read:

19 "Number 116, Entanglement.

20 "A method in which fish are primarily  
21 ensnared, or entangled, by the gills, or  
22 other boney projections, through interaction  
23 with gear."

24 The next one that would be added would be  
25 entrapment:

1           “Number 117, Entrapment.

2           “A method in which fish are primarily  
3           surrounded and confined, not entangled  
4           by the gills, or other boney projections,  
5           within a space through interaction with  
6           gear.”

7           Now, adding those two into the list of  
8           definitions is going to renumber the whole chapter from  
9           that point forward, so I’m not going to read those  
10          renumbering changes into the record, but I will read the  
11          next definition that we added which is haul seine.

12          Haul seine will be added to Section 124, and it  
13          would read:

14          “Haul seine.

15          “A net set vertically in the water column  
16          and pulled by hand, or by power, to capture  
17          fish by entrapment through encircling and  
18          confining fish within itself, the shore, or  
19          bank, as a result of mesh size and  
20          construction.

21          “Haul seines shall be constructed of a mesh  
22          size not to exceed fifteen-sixteenths inch  
23          bar and one inch and seven-eighths stretch,  
24          and shall not be constructed of monofilament.”

25          As I said, the rest of the changes to Title 22,

1 Part 8, Chapter 4, will just be a renumbering of the  
2 definitions that are already in there, so I will go  
3 through that pretty quickly.

4 We addressed those definitions, and, then, the  
5 Gear Task Force also provided recommendations to modify  
6 Title 22, Part 5, Chapter 4, to include the words "haul  
7 seine", since we defined it before that, and, then, made a  
8 motion I present these changes to the Commission.

9 The additions would be to Title 22, Part 5,  
10 Chapter 4, Commercial Net Closure Areas and Gear Size  
11 Restrictions, and it would start at Section 100, and it  
12 would read:

13 "It shall be unlawful for any person, firm,  
14 or corporation, to catch, take, or carry  
15 away, any saltwater fish by, or with any  
16 gill nets, trammel nets, purse seines,  
17 seines" -- we will then add the words  
18 "haul seines" -- it will continue reading --  
19 "fish traps, except permitted eel traps,  
20 or any other like contrivances, in the  
21 territorial waters of the State of  
22 Mississippi within twelve hundred feet of  
23 any public pier, or any pier owned and  
24 operated by hotels, or motels, for the  
25 use of their patrons and guests for

1 swimming and fishing, or any harbor, or  
2 within twelve hundred feet of shoreline  
3 of Deer Island.”

4 The next addition will be Section 101, and it  
5 reads:

6 “It shall be unlawful for any person, firm,  
7 or corporation, to catch, take, or carry  
8 away, any saltwater fish by, or with, any  
9 gill nets, trammel nets, purse seines,  
10 seines” -- we will then add the words  
11 “haul seines” -- it will continue reading --  
12 “fish traps and other like contrivances,  
13 except permitted eel traps in the following  
14 areas of the State of Mississippi.”

15 Chapter 4, then, goes on to define the closure  
16 areas.

17 The next change that we made was to Section  
18 100.10 where it will read:

19 “It shall be unlawful for any person, firm,  
20 or corporation, to leave a gill net,  
21 trammel net, purse seine, seine -- we added  
22 the words “haul seine” -- “or any other net,  
23 like contrivance, governed by the  
24 restrictions set forth in this part,  
25 unattended in the waters of this state.”



1           The task force, then, agreed that we strike  
2 through the following language, so this will be struck  
3 through:

4           “And at least one person shall be required  
5 to stand by within one boat length of the  
6 boat using said net at all times the net  
7 is in the water.”

8           So that is struck through, and it will continue  
9 to read:

10          “It shall further be unlawful for any  
11 person, firm, or corporation, to use, or  
12 have in their possession, a gill net,  
13 trammel net, seine -- we added the words  
14 “haul seine” -- “or like contrivance, on  
15 the waters of this state without a visible  
16 buoy attached every one hundred feet  
17 clearly marked with the license number,  
18 or owner’s full name, thereon.”

19          Those were the recommendations of the task  
20 force, and they motioned for me to bring these  
21 recommendations to the Commission for your approval, if  
22 you choose to accept them.

23          Before we move any further, are there any  
24 questions?

25          COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I have one, Rick.

1 RICK BURRIS: Yes, sir.

2 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: What is the difference?  
3 I can read this, but what is the law now and  
4 what are we actually changing and what is it going to  
5 affect?

6 RICK BURRIS: The task force defined the gear  
7 type, haul seine, and added it into the closure areas that  
8 were previously used by gill and trammel nets, seines, and  
9 purse seines.

10 The gear type has been defined and it has been  
11 added to be included with those other nets, net types.

12 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Is Cat Island in the  
13 original area defined?

14 In other words, is it illegal to use a gill net  
15 and all that stuff around Cat Island now, without this  
16 change?

17 JOE JEWELL: Well, one mile within Cat Island,  
18 gill nets were. The haul seines were not.

19 JOE SPRAGGINS: But, now, are they by this, I  
20 guess, is what he is asking.

21 It didn't change that, did it?

22 RICK BURRIS: No, sir. It didn't change any.  
23 It defined the gear type and put it in the regulations.

24 JOE JEWELL: So the issue that sort of led up to  
25 all of this was -- seine is included in here. There are

1 multiple types of seines. There are all kinds of  
2 different seines, including haul seines, but what was  
3 happening was they were modifying the actual equipment so  
4 they no longer met what most people generally understood  
5 as a haul seine.

6 So the task force recommended a very specific  
7 definition of haul seine to be included in all these  
8 sections.

9 SANDY CHESNUT: The current restrictions are  
10 currently in 101.04, and those restrictions and areas are  
11 not changed by this proposal.

12 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: So, basically, Richard, I  
13 guess to answer your question, what it did was it defined  
14 what a haul seine is and no longer can something that  
15 mimics a haul seine possibly be used at Cat Island, or  
16 anywhere else, and it basically -- in other words, it  
17 ensures that during that seven-month closure, of course,  
18 there won't be anything allowed, but, when it is open, the  
19 only gear that will be allowed will be -- in other words,  
20 no gill nets, but, now, the haul seine has been defined  
21 and it will be an allowable gear type.

22 Do you see what I'm saying?

23 In other words, we got rid of everything else,  
24 except for -- and I think there are only two haul seines  
25 in the State of Mississippi right now. Anyhow, that is

1 basically what it did.

2 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Steve, I can read it, and  
3 I understand what you are saying, but I just want to ask  
4 this question just to get it off my chest.

5 will this change any pogeey fishing, shrimp  
6 fishing, or any other commercial fishing, except for  
7 finfish?

8 JOE SPRAGGINS: No, sir.

9 RICK BURRIS: No, sir.

10 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Okay.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS: And, once again, I want  
12 everybody to understand. The mission here was to define  
13 gear, and that was the only thing was to define gear, and  
14 that is what they did with these first three phases of it.  
15 I just want to clarify that.

16 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, sir, that's correct.  
17 Do we have any more questions for Rick?

18 JOE SPRAGGINS: We do have people, a couple of  
19 them from the public here.

20 Anybody for public comment?

21 FROM THE FLOOR: I commented at the task force  
22 meeting.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS: Okay. That's all right.

24 I just wanted to let you know, sir, we did have  
25 a couple.

1 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right.  
2 Do we have any public comment from them, Mr.  
3 Joe?

4 JOE SPRAGGINS: No, sir, no public comment.

5 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. Good deal.  
6 Do we have any more questions for Rick?  
7 (No response.)

8 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: These were the  
9 recommendations from the task force, and I was privileged  
10 enough to be able to get on it through a conference call  
11 and I must say I was really pleased with the way it was  
12 conducted and the results that came out of it. It was a  
13 good discussion, and I think everybody came to pretty much  
14 the same conclusion and the most of the votes were  
15 unanimous.

16 I guess my question would be to Joe.

17 These recommendations were brought forward.

18 Now, what would be the motion we need to accept  
19 these recommendations?

20 JOE JEWELL: Well, because these are regulatory,  
21 these will require regulatory changes to parts five and  
22 eight.

23 The motion would have to be to proceed with a  
24 Notice of Intent.

25 what Rick is going to do for your convenience,

1 now, is to read the motions that would be required for us  
2 to take action. He will read it into the record, so all  
3 of y'all can hear it.

4 JOE SPRAGGINS: Read them one at a time, so they  
5 can vote on them each.

6 RICK BURRIS: Yes, sir.

7 we will have two separate motions. Like we  
8 said, if the CMR chooses to accept the task force  
9 recommendations, then, you can make these motions.

10 The first motion would be a motion to proceed  
11 with Notice of Intent for regulatory changes to Title 22,  
12 Part 8, Chapter 4, regarding the addition of new  
13 definitions developed by the Gear Task Force.

14 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right, Rick. Let's  
15 do -- first, I think we need a motion -- I think. Maybe  
16 I'm wrong -- before we do the motion for actually Notice  
17 of Intent, a motion to accept the recommendations from the  
18 Gear Task Force.

19 Do you think?

20 JOE JEWELL: Yes.

21 RICK BURRIS: Yes, sir.

22 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: So do I have a motion to  
23 accept the recommendations from the Gear Task Force?

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would  
25 like to --

1           COMMISSIONER GUESS: (Interposing) I'll make  
2 the motion.

3           JOE SPRAGGINS: Okay. One of you.

4           JOE JEWELL: I think I heard Mark first.

5           COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I  
6 would like to make a motion that we approve the  
7 recommendations of the Gear Task Force, at this time.

8           COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. We have a  
9 motion by Mark.

10          Do we have a second for Mark's motion?

11          COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that.

12          COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. Seconded by  
13 Commissioner Daniels.

14          Any further discussion?

15          (No response.)

16          COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor aye.

17          (All in favor.)

18          COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed like sign.

19          (None opposed.)

20          COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries.

21          All right. If you would, Rick, read the first  
22 motion.

23          RICK BURRIS: Okay. So, then, you would need a  
24 motion to proceed with a Notice of Intent for regulatory  
25 changes to Title 22, Part 8, Chapter 4, regarding the

1 addition of new definitions developed by the Gear Task  
2 Force.

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right.

4 Do we have somebody that wants to make that  
5 motion?

6 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Go ahead, Natalie.

7 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make the motion.

8 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a motion by  
9 Natalie.

10 Do we have a second for Natalie's motion?

11 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I'll second Natalie's  
12 motion.

13 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. Mark seconded  
14 Natalie's motion.

15 Do we have any further discussion?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor aye.

18 (All in favor.)

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed like sign.

20 (None opposed.)

21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries.

22 All right. Continue on, Rick.

23 RICK BURRIS: The next motion would be a motion  
24 to proceed with a Notice of Intent for regulatory changes  
25 to Title 22, Part 5, Chapter 4, regarding the inclusion of



1 haul seine in regulation and modification to language in  
2 subsection 101.10.

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right.

4 Anybody want to make that motion?

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll make that motion.

6 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. I think that  
7 was Mark.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS: It was Ronnie.

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: It was Ronnie.

10 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Okay. Ronnie made the  
11 motion.

12 Do we have a second for Ronnie's motion?

13 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I'll second the motion.  
14 This is Mark.

15 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. Mark  
16 seconded.

17 Any further discussion?

18 (No response.)

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor aye.

20 (All in favor.)

21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed like sign.

22 (None opposed.)

23 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries.

24 All right.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sir, if I might, what this will

1 mean, we will now go out. Joe and them will put together  
2 a Notice of Intent which will hit the street today, and we  
3 will go forward with that, but this will take a minimum of  
4 twenty-five days.

5 what I would like to do is go ahead, if y'all  
6 would, if you didn't have an objection to it, with setting  
7 a public hearing for the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February so, if  
8 anybody wanted to come to a public hearing and talk about  
9 it, that we would have that and it would not delay the  
10 process.

11 I just ask if y'all would entertain that?

12 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, sir. I don't see a  
13 problem. I think it's probably wise to go ahead and put  
14 it in place. We probably won't have that many people  
15 attend, but, yes, sir.

16 JOE SPRAGGINS: Well, sir, we would need a  
17 motion on that, if you could, stating that we would go  
18 ahead and have a public a hearing on the 13<sup>th</sup>, if that is  
19 all right with you, sir, if someone would make that.

20 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right.

21 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I'll make  
22 that motion.

23 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. Commissioner  
24 Gollott makes a motion for the public hearing.

25 I think you said on February the 13<sup>th</sup>?

1           JOE SPRAGGINS: Right.

2           We will set the time, I guess, if we can, at a  
3 later date.

4           MATT HILL: Commissioner Bosarge, this is Matt.  
5 I hate to interject, but we have two other meetings on the  
6 13<sup>th</sup> that are already scheduled for the Charter Task Force  
7 and for a NOAA reporting meeting.

8           JOE SPRAGGINS: We can do it on the 14<sup>th</sup>, if  
9 y'all want to change it to the 14<sup>th</sup>. We could do it on the  
10 14<sup>th</sup>, if that's okay. We just have to give twenty days,  
11 and that is the only thing. We have to give twenty days.

12           COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Okay. well --

13           COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: (Interposing) Is it  
14 possible we could have it on the same day, I mean, just  
15 give it a different time and they would be there anyhow?

16           MATT HILL: Absolutely. I have no problem with  
17 that. I believe these meetings start around 6:00 o'clock  
18 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, the other two that we have scheduled, so any  
19 other time would work for us.

20           JOE SPRAGGINS: To be able to allow, sir, for  
21 anybody from outside, we try to do it after 5:00 o'clock,  
22 if that is possible. It may interfere with that.

23           Could we do it on the 14<sup>th</sup>?

24           COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Sure.

25           JOE SPRAGGINS: would you mind modifying your

1 motion to the 14<sup>th</sup>, sir?

2 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: No.

3 I will modify my motion to the 14<sup>th</sup>.

4 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. We have a  
5 modified motion.

6 Do we still have a second for that motion?

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a motion and a  
9 second.

10 Any further discussion?

11 JOE SPRAGGINS: Who was the second, please?

12 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Mark.

13 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor  
14 signify by aye.

15 (All in favor.)

16 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed like sign.

17 (None opposed.)

18 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries.

19 Is there anything else on that, Rick?

20 RICK BURRIS: No, sir. That's it. Thank you  
21 very much.

22 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. Good deal.  
23 That was simple enough.

24 Moving on to D on the agenda, I wanted to go  
25 ahead and try to get this down while we were doing this

1 meeting, and I don't have much information in front of me,  
2 but we can try to get this done, hopefully, easy enough.

3 It was to establish the three oversight  
4 committees, and I think we talked about this briefly.

5 It was a Financial Oversight Committee, a  
6 Contract Review Committee and a Program Review Committee.

7 We actually named some members. I don't know  
8 that we have to stick with those names.

9 I would just like to go ahead and try to  
10 establish these committees, and, then, if we could, before  
11 it was myself and Mark Havard on the Financial Oversight  
12 Committee, on Contract Review, it was Natalie and Mark,  
13 and, then, Program Review was going to be Richard and  
14 Ronnie.

15 I think Richard had some reservations with that.  
16 Richard, what are your feelings, now?

17 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I think I'm all right,  
18 now. Maybe we can hang in there.

19 When will the meetings be, or do they have to be  
20 called?

21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes. We will have to set  
22 them up, and I would like to see the meetings -- try to  
23 meet two times in a year, if possible, and, then, also  
24 have the option, if something comes up, that we could  
25 still meet as needed.

1 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Okay.

2 JOE SPRAGGINS: Would those meetings be called  
3 by me, sir?

4 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Wouldn't the chairman be  
6 the proper person to call the meeting?

7 JOE SPRAGGINS: It's really not a scheduled --  
8 it's only a committee meeting and because of that, only  
9 two can be in it.

10 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Correct.

11 what I would see is that, Joe, you are the one  
12 going through all the contract reviews and programs and  
13 the same with financial, so at some point -- in other  
14 words, let's have it to where we don't have nine months of  
15 stuff stacked up that we need to review. If we could, at  
16 least, get it twice a year where we can look at what  
17 happened maybe in the first six months and what happens in  
18 the last six months, or five months and four months.

19 You see what I'm saying?

20 And we are going to have to kind of somewhat  
21 leave that up to you, as to the amount. You know what  
22 times of the year things get busy, like, when the  
23 Tidelands, in other words, all that stuff comes. There  
24 are a lot of contracts there, a lot of stuff going on.

25 So I'm going to leave it up to your discretion

1 as to when these meetings may need to take place, but, as  
2 long as we have two of them within the calendar year.

3 JOE SPRAGGINS: That's fine with me, sir, and my  
4 recommendation, if you would entertain it, would be that I  
5 would get with the committee members of the Commission and  
6 set up a time to have these meetings twice a year at a  
7 minimum, or any other time that we deem necessary by the  
8 Commission, or myself.

9 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. Yes, sir.  
10 That sounds good.

11 Does anybody have any questions?

12 In other words, I think is kind of -- should be  
13 standard operating procedure within reason. I think that  
14 these committees are already in place in most of the state  
15 government entities.

16 Anyhow, are there any questions, or do you want  
17 me to go ahead and make a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Steve, this is Mark.

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I don't have any questions  
21 necessarily. I just am very familiar with the government  
22 and the state's stringent rules about getting RP's and  
23 procuring different things, I guess, different items that  
24 the department might need and the financials. I know that  
25 the State auditors are going over that very thoroughly.

1           I think it is a good idea that we stay in the  
2 loop, but, from an auditing standpoint, there is no way  
3 that either, or all, of us could go in there and perform a  
4 good audit where we could actually rely on the results and  
5 feel that we have done a thorough job.

6           I think the overview part of it is fine, but  
7 actually digging into the auditing process that goes on, I  
8 don't know that we have time in a day to fully get a clear  
9 grasp of what is going on during these auditing  
10 procedures, but I do think it is a good option for us to  
11 have to be briefed on, and I think that it is just as well  
12 as having ones that are involved briefed on it, as well as  
13 having the whole Commission briefed on what is going on.

14           That way, we feel that we have comfort that the  
15 audits are going as they should be and we are familiar so  
16 we can talk to it if need be, but actually as far as doing  
17 an audit, I don't think there is any possible way that we  
18 have time to get through that.

19           COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I agree with you a  
20 hundred percent, Mark. Neither am I qualified, nor do I  
21 want to get into auditing the DMR, no, by no means.

22           I think that if there is an issue that is  
23 brought to one of us's attention, then, maybe we could go  
24 and ask questions about that particular issue, but, as far  
25 as going in and trying to audit the DMR, no, I don't have



1 any intentions of that.

2 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: That is way above my pay  
4 level.

5 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: And we all have -- you  
6 know, we all have good interest in, I guess, our -- let me  
7 see what I'm trying to say. I guess our expertise is all  
8 in kind of different areas, so I think we all feel that if  
9 the department, or anybody, needs our expertise, we have  
10 no problem with providing them that service, or trying to  
11 help out in any way. I'm not trying to say that we won't  
12 help out. I'm just saying I don't know that we need to  
13 get too deep into the procedures that are going on.

14 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: No. That's correct.  
15 That's correct and, like I say, it's just oversight.

16 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: That's right.

17 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: What I see as oversight,  
18 oversight is basically if somebody identifies a problem,  
19 then, you have the capability of investigating that  
20 problem and coming up with a conclusion, or an answer.  
21 That is more like what I see as oversight.

22 I don't really see us getting into the nuts and  
23 bolts of the everyday operations of the DMR; neither do I  
24 have the desire, or the time, for that.

25 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: We are all on the same

1 page. I just wanted to get clarity there and make sure  
2 that we are all on the same page.

3 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sandy has a question, I think.

4 SANDY CHESNUT: Commissioners, I can put  
5 together an order establishing these committees, but, in  
6 looking at the description of the committees, what I would  
7 suggest is instead of saying the purpose of this committee  
8 is to closely monitor the financial status, I would change  
9 "closely monitored", to "review". That's for the  
10 Financial Oversight Committee.

11 The Contract Review, I would take out "monitor  
12 and", and just leave it with "review".

13 Also, in the Contract Review Committee, the  
14 committee will primarily review contracts with a value in  
15 excess of ten thousand dollars. Where it says "to  
16 determine the necessity", I would say also there "and  
17 review the necessity of the contract".

18 That would take the responsibility of the  
19 Commission out of it, as for trying to approve those  
20 contracts.

21 I would just suggest those changes, before I  
22 prepare an order.

23 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Sandy, since I don't have  
24 any of that in front of me and I don't really have a means  
25 of -- in other words, I was going to do just a brief

1 motion, but, let's see. I'm trying to think if it would -  
2 - how can we accomplish this today, Sandy, and it come out  
3 as you want it?

4 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sir, if I could, unless it is  
5 something that you want done immediately right now, we  
6 could possibly, if you would, just make a motion that the  
7 staff, that we bring you at the February meeting the  
8 information of each of the committees and what it is and  
9 the people in the committees, all the information about  
10 when they will meet, just kind of an overall order, and  
11 let y'all approve it in the February meeting which is only  
12 a few weeks away, if that would be okay.

13 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, sir, that's fine.

14 All right. Well, then, I will make the motion  
15 that staff come back to us in the February meeting with a  
16 plan to set up these three committees and, I guess,  
17 populate them.

18 JOE SPRAGGINS: Right, and I guess an order of  
19 how it would operate, and we can put that all in there.

20 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Correct.

21 All right. I'll make that motion.

22 Do we have a second for that motion?

23 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second it.

24 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I think I heard Natalie.

25 All right. Natalie seconds.

1 Any further discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor aye.

4 (All in favor.)

5 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed like sign.

6 (None opposed.)

7 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Motion carries.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sir, I will continue, if it is  
9 all right, giving an update of the contracts and  
10 everything monthly, if that is okay with y'all.

11 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, sir, Mr. Joe. That  
12 is mighty fine with me.

13 JOE SPRAGGINS: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We are on other business.  
15 Does anybody have any other business they would  
16 like to discuss?

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: No, but I would just like  
18 to say this Gear Task Force, putting it together with the  
19 right folks and everybody sitting around making good sound  
20 decisions, just goes to show what can happen if we put the  
21 right folks around the table talking about really what is  
22 going on. I commend the Gear Task Force for the outcome  
23 that they were able to achieve in their first meeting.

24 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, I agree.

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I would have to say you

1 beat me to it. I was going to commend them as well. I  
2 was there for that meeting, and that was run very well and  
3 everyone participated very respectfully.

4 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, I agree. I thought  
5 it went very well. Most of it was common sense decisions,  
6 at least, to me, and everybody had an input and we came  
7 out with a consensus, but yes, it was very good. I hope  
8 that we have the same results from all the task forces.

9 All right. Any other comments?

10 JOE SPRAGGINS: Please tell Ms. Sandra we've got  
11 her in our prayers.

12 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right, Mr. Joe.  
13 Thank you, sir. I think we are doing good right now.  
14 They have got her going in the right direction, so it is  
15 all good.

16 Any public comment?

17 (No response.)

18 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Joe, anybody in the room  
19 there?

20 JOE SPRAGGINS: No one raised their hand.

21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. Good deal.  
22 That does it.

23 Do I have a motion to adjourn?

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll make that motion.

25 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I'll second it.

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COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We have a motion and a  
second.

All those in favor aye.

(All in favor.)

JOE SPRAGGINS: Thank y'all.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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2  
3 I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter,  
4 do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true  
5 and correct transcription of the audio recording of the  
6 January 24, 2019, special session of the Commission on  
7 Marine Resources, to the best of my skill and ability;  
8 and, further, that I am not a relative, employee, or  
9 agent, of any of the parties thereto, nor financially  
10 interested in the cause.  
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14 COURT REPORTER  
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