

COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 16, 2019  
9:00 a.m.  
Bolton Building Auditorium  
1141 Bayview Avenue  
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

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Commission Members:

Mark Havard, Vice Chairman

Ronald Daniels

Richard Gollott

Natalie Guess

Also Present:

Joe Spraggins, Executive Director DMR  
Sandy Chesnut, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

1           COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Good morning everyone.  
2           I would like to call the Commission on Marine  
3 Resources meeting to order, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

4           I would like to start off by reciting The Pledge  
5 of Allegiance and I would like to ask Chief Davis to lead  
6 us in The Pledge of Allegiance.

7           (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

8           COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Let's take a quick moment  
9 of silence and let's remember Sandra Bosarge. She is back  
10 at the hospital. Let's take a moment of silence.

11          (Moment of silence observed.)

12          COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Okay. Let's start with  
13 some approval of the minutes.

14          We postponed getting approval of the minutes  
15 from the February 19, 2019, meeting because we had not had  
16 time to go through the minutes, and I think we have all  
17 had time, at this point, to go through the minutes and  
18 make sure they are accurate and that we agree.

19          Can I get a motion to approve the minutes from  
20 February's meeting?

21          COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

22          COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a second?

23          COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second it.

24          COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All approved say aye.

25          (All in favor.)

1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Objections?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

4 Number two, can I get approval of the special  
5 session minutes from March the 1<sup>st</sup>?

6 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Is there a second?

8 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second it.

9 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor aye.  
10 (All in favor.)

11 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed?

12 (None opposed.)

13 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion passed.

14 Can I get a motion for approval of the March  
15 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, minutes?

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll make that motion.

17 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I'll second it, Mr.  
18 Chairman.

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All those in favor say  
20 aye.

21 (All in favor.)

22 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Opposed?

23 (None opposed.)

24 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We need to recognize  
25 Senator Seymour who is in our audience today. I would

1 like to welcome him and thank him for attending our April  
2 meeting.

3 Next on the agenda is approval of the agenda.

4 Can I get a motion to approve today's agenda?

5 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make a motion.

6 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a second?

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that.

8 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say  
9 aye.

10 (All in favor.)

11 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed?

12 (None opposed.)

13 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

14 Now, for the Executive Director's report.

15 JOE SPRAGGINS: Thank you, sir.

16 Just a couple of things going on today. One of  
17 the things is they are putting some hydrographic dye out  
18 into the area around the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April in Biloxi.

19 So, if you see that and you see the water  
20 turning a little bit, make sure that they don't get too  
21 upset with it. It is a test that they are doing.

22 Joe, is there anything else you would like to  
23 say on that, as far as what we are doing with it?

24 JOE JEWELL: No. I think that describes it  
25 accurately. We are going to be doing a test of effluent

1 from Keegan Bayou and its affects on Biloxi Bay, the lower  
2 Bay area, and that is the purpose and the goal of the dye  
3 test.

4           JOE SPRAGGINS: I just want to alert the public  
5 of that so if something was to happen.

6           I think we are going to do a press release, if  
7 it hasn't already gone.

8           The annual program evaluation report, The  
9 Mississippi Shellfish Program, we have packets for the  
10 Commissioners for that. It was a very good report.

11           The National Heritage Area Program audit, we  
12 also have folders for you for that that we will give you,  
13 and it was a very good audit there, also.

14           We are glad that we are getting these audits and  
15 we are glad that the agency is being looked at and, also,  
16 that we are coming out as doing what we should do.

17           Employment contracts. Christopher Cochrane in  
18 Oyster Aquaculture, he is a contractor. He came onboard  
19 the 25<sup>th</sup> and he is helping us over there.

20           Next slide. As you can see the agenda there is  
21 what we have. We have J and W Marine who did a reverse  
22 auction and that was to furnish and deploy oyster shells,  
23 and most of those are going to be over in the are around  
24 Pascagoula where we took all the shell from this year and  
25 the oysters, and, then, some in Biloxi. We are going to

1 replenish that with shell, but that was done by reverse  
2 auction.

3 Then, we have Spat-Tech which has been approved  
4 for the three million dollars. We have a meeting with  
5 them. I have a meeting with them tomorrow, and we will  
6 look at that and basically decide how we are going forward  
7 with that contract. It hasn't been signed yet.

8 We have also Cypress Environmental which is  
9 doing a three-year contract with us to help us on some  
10 risk assessment.

11 Then, the very last one, we have a request for  
12 applications for a Finfish contract worker and that is out  
13 right now.

14 Next slide. Legislative update. Obviously, if  
15 you remember, we got one bill passed. You think about how  
16 many bills get passed in the legislature every year. It's  
17 not that many compared to how many are brought in, but the  
18 point is that we did get one passed and that was a bill to  
19 be able to charge to have a license for off-bottom oyster  
20 harvesting.

21 In the past, we did not have a way of being able  
22 to give a license for the boats for that. Now, we will  
23 have that capability.

24 I think it will be signed maybe this week is  
25 what it said on the governor's desk, and what it is

1 basically going to do is we will be able to charge fifty  
2 dollars for a boat in state and a hundred dollars for a  
3 boat out of state that is doing off-bottom.

4 It is the same thing that we charge for somebody  
5 that is doing tonging, or somebody that is doing dredging.

6 It is just a matter of changing the way it is  
7 done because the off-bottom is different. It's not  
8 tonging and it's not dredging. It is baskets. So it is a  
9 little bit different deal and something that happened  
10 there.

11 The other thing is I think Paul has a briefing  
12 that we would like to give real quick on alternative  
13 bulkheads.

14 If we could turn it over to him for a few  
15 seconds.

16 PAUL MICKLE: Good morning Commissioners,  
17 Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

18 I appreciate addressing this this morning. This  
19 is just a light briefing on a new program that the agency  
20 has launched. It is very creative and a culmination of  
21 really all the offices in our agency. I have really tried  
22 to reach out and get information on building this program  
23 to all of our offices, and everybody seems to be onboard  
24 outside the agency and inside the agency.

25 You know me. I like to actually complicate

1 things very much as a scientist. This program is actually  
2 very intricate, but I'm just doing a short briefing, and  
3 there is much more to come, as we move forward in the  
4 program itself.

5 A little bit of background. This is not a  
6 regulatory tool. This is a completely voluntary program.  
7 It is just a program being launched by our agency  
8 addressing some seafood production capabilities that we  
9 really would like to see our bays really perform as they  
10 did historically seventy, eighty, ninety years ago, and  
11 I'm talking about Bay St. Louis and Back Bay itself.

12 This is an image here of Back Bay, and really  
13 the Alternative Bulkhead Design Program is going to talk  
14 about really the direct link between really the old  
15 designs of bulkheads themselves. Bulkheads are not bad  
16 things. There are just new ways of doing them that make  
17 more seafood of shrimp, crabs and fish. So we really want  
18 to talk about these new ways of doing things (indicating  
19 slide).

20 This is an image here. The dark spots are  
21 private landowner bulkheads and that is really only what  
22 this program addresses (indicating slide).

23 The commercial side, there are very different  
24 needs for commercial bulkheads.

25 I really want to take on and show in this slide



1 here where the private landowners over the last seven  
2 years have put in a lot of traditional bulkheads, and you  
3 can see we have really lost more than thirteen percent in  
4 Back Bay of our natural shoreline from these bulkheads.

5 In a national movement, we have seen just all  
6 across the country for these living shorelines to come on  
7 line as these new designs are allowing marsh grasses to be  
8 incorporated in the designs themselves which harbor more  
9 production, as far as shrimp, crab and fish.

10 I have put this slide up to y'all on multiple  
11 occasions showing the habitat types by seafood production.

12 Seagrass is our highest production type of  
13 habitat which I have presented to you before.

14 Next is marsh, oyster reef are very high  
15 production, and production, I'm talking about everything  
16 that we like to catch and eat.

17 Also, these lower values, the muddy bottom,  
18 sandy bottom and intertidal beach, traditional bulkheads  
19 usually create muddy bottom adjacent to them and you are  
20 removing the marsh grass and those higher production  
21 habitat types.

22 When that occurs, you actually have habitat  
23 shifting. You have a loss of ecosystem services. Water  
24 quality declines. Biological production loss. Large  
25 amount of literature supporting this trend.

1           This is a manuscript put out by Lowe and  
2 Peterson about four years ago showing all these species we  
3 love to eat and fish for, Blue Crab, Brown Shrimp, Gulf  
4 Killifish and Spot, showing "IN" is this naturally intact  
5 shoreline, and, then, the other side of the spectrum is  
6 completely urbanized so that really hardened shoreline.

7           When you go from natural to more hardened  
8 shoreline, you see decreasing values in catch-per-unit  
9 effort of these species.

10           When you have the habitat shift, it is very well  
11 documented scientifically that you lose that overall  
12 production value that we have talked about in the past and  
13 here today.

14           The program itself. The main objective of this  
15 program is to give marine contractors, specifically marine  
16 contractors the specialized skillset to provide shoreline  
17 stabilization needs to private landowners, or homeowners,  
18 while regenerating our marsh production to historic roles.

19           Just to say again, this is not a regulatory  
20 program and this is aimed at private landowners of giving  
21 them these new options behind their homes and properties  
22 to have this increased habitat type more present on their  
23 shorelines.

24           The program itself has been developed into three  
25 phrases.

1           Phase one is the certification course and  
2 initial design creation. That is where we actually are  
3 going to teach a course out of the agency itself to marine  
4 contractors, NGO's, the public, anyone who wants to come  
5 to these courses, and we are going to teach the way of  
6 these new designs to them.

7           We are hoping the marine contractors learn these  
8 new skills. They create a niche in their marketplace.  
9 The economy is very hot right now and they are approaching  
10 me wanting this. So that is why I think this is going to  
11 work without a regulatory recommendation to y'all, or any  
12 of us getting involved in the regulatory side.

13           Phase two is the design implementation and  
14 permitting assistance, and that is really coming up with  
15 these designs for the contractors to push and get very  
16 familiar with and confident in and also allow them -- take  
17 away all those permitting unknowns that seem to be scaring  
18 new types of things coming into the mix nowadays.

19           Phase three is the last part of monitoring and  
20 promotion. We want to do biological monitoring. I want  
21 hardcore data showing that these new shorelines are  
22 actually producing more fish, shrimp and crabs as the data  
23 from previous studies have shown.

24           Then, overall promotion. We want to make sure  
25 the public is very well educated on this issue and know

1 that these new bulkhead types -- the bulkheads, what we  
2 have done in the past aren't bad. It's just there is a  
3 new way of doing them and these new ways create this newer  
4 type of production.

5 will marine contractors do alternative bulkhead  
6 designs?

7 will they do it?

8 well, from who I have talked to, every bulkhead  
9 builder I have reached out to has said, yes, they would  
10 really like to do this.

11 They public is onboard. I really haven't hit  
12 that brick wall when something new -- when I'm really  
13 trying to push something new that I usually hit, both from  
14 the regulatory side, the funding side, the biological  
15 side, the research side. All the doors are open right  
16 now, and the marine contractors are actually very eager  
17 for this. These are new techniques for them. It's free  
18 training to them. There are more tools for contractors to  
19 promote.

20 If you have ever built a house and worked with a  
21 contractor, they like to give you a lot of options and run  
22 it up on you a little bit. Right?

23 So, if we give them a bunch of options, they are  
24 going to push this for us. I firmly believe that.

25 Contractors who are certified will have that

1 niche in a competitive market. The homeowners will demand  
2 them, after being educated and exposed to the benefits.  
3 Actually, maybe increasing home values as you show that  
4 you are catching more shrimp, crab and fish than your  
5 neighbors who have that old type of bulkhead.

6 Permitting unknowns will be removed from the  
7 certified contractors, and they will be confident in these  
8 new tools they have from the building material and the  
9 permitting side.

10 Remember, removing that unknown increases the  
11 business model, and that is what I'm learning to push  
12 certain program types to help our sustainability.

13 Here is a collage that I tried to make and I  
14 literally just placed these pictures here and that is the  
15 extent of my artistic capability, but I just wanted to  
16 show -- you can see it quite clear on your screen -- that  
17 I'm not pushing a couple of types of design. These are  
18 dozens and dozens and dozens of new types, very  
19 diversified strategies to incorporate these marsh grasses  
20 into designs (indicating slide).

21 From what I have learned and had discussions  
22 with, the Secretary of State will give about six feet from  
23 existing shorelines to do these types of things. So all  
24 of that has been taken care of and the contractors can now  
25 have that much to play with, when they start incorporating

1 these designs when we teach them these designs.

2 Obviously, hopefully I brought on the point of  
3 this shoreline here that has been put in in front of an  
4 old bulkhead, has actually saved the bulkhead from failing  
5 because the water is no longer lapping against it,  
6 removing material behind it and causing it to fail which  
7 is more than ninety percent why bulkheads actually fail,  
8 when material starts coming up from underneath it  
9 (indicating slide).

10 This shoreline has been put in out to six feet  
11 out and all this secondary production is now created of  
12 creating that marsh habitat which I showed on multiple  
13 occasions, the high production value.

14 There is an oyster structure here; all these  
15 different types. It is really endless.

16 I would like to go into more designs but, again,  
17 the program is new. I am really launching it today to  
18 show you all this and, as more of these designs come  
19 online, I will get more and more excited about it. I'm  
20 sure we can discuss it more and show which of these  
21 designs are most successful and obviously has that overall  
22 value to show the homeowner that these actually work.

23 So measuring success.

24 We never want to launch a program and have it  
25 fail.

1           Just to provide these bullet points on what this  
2 agency will be watching to show that it works, or maybe it  
3 doesn't work.

4           Phase three will ensure the biological  
5 monitoring and outreach be presented in these alternative  
6 bulkheads as they are being installed.

7           Spatial monitoring in Bay St. Louis and Back Bay  
8 to see these trends and alternative bulkheads versus  
9 traditional bulkheads are going.

10          Then, site specific monitoring of production.

11          And, then, my dream is in ten years to actually  
12 really see the overall Mississippi Sound as our bays start  
13 performing as they did a hundred years ago.

14          We actually see it in our current monitoring  
15 programs that Fisheries has of the recreational and  
16 commercial landings, as well as the independent  
17 monitoring. We are actually seeing this production coming  
18 out of our bays as it used to.

19          Where we are in the process.

20          RFQ's, or request for qualifications for  
21 engineering and a batonist. I wanted this program to have  
22 an engineering component and a batonist component, not  
23 together, but separately, and working together with the  
24 agency driving the decisions.

25          So we advertised for each, and I can actually

1 announce today that we have acquired Anchor, LLC, for the  
2 engineering part, and Eric Sparks for the Batonist part.

3 So we will have a batonist expert with marsh  
4 grasses, as well as an engineering firm that has had  
5 experience in this in the past on a national scale. We  
6 can start incorporating these designs in the state of  
7 Mississippi.

8 We have had successes in Mississippi before with  
9 alternative bulkhead designs and living shorelines. It  
10 has just been on a very small scale. I'm ready to go all  
11 in and go big on these bays that we have.

12 May through October of this year, we will  
13 developing the certification course and also the early  
14 design creation.

15 Next we will actually teach the certification  
16 course, hopefully by the end of this year and phase two  
17 and three which I briefed you on will be initiated next  
18 year and we will be in full swing by the end of 2020 for  
19 all three phrases.

20 That is it.

21 Are there any questions, or comments, to this  
22 point?

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'm just curious.

24 what is the price comparison?

25 PAUL MICKLE: The price comparison, I have been



1 told, is comparable. It really depends on what type of  
2 alternative bulkhead design you actually want and need,  
3 but the whole focus of this program from the beginning to  
4 end is to make it competitive with traditional bulkheads,  
5 pricing as well as permitting. If you can't get a permit,  
6 you are not getting anywhere and you are just wasting  
7 money on design.

8 So really to make traditional bulkheads a thing  
9 of the past, you have to make every aspect of alternative  
10 bulkhead designs easier, better and cheaper, and we are  
11 taking that into account as we develop this program and  
12 these designs.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER GUESS: It is really exciting.  
15 Thanks, Paul.

16 PAUL MICKLE: Thank you very much.

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Thank you, Paul. That  
18 looks good.

19 JOE SPRAGGINS: All right. Just a couple more  
20 things, sir.

21 The outfalls, if you haven't had a chance to  
22 ride down the beach, two of them are under construction  
23 now. So they are there being constructed. If you get a  
24 chance to go down and look at them, the Blind Tiger area  
25 over there, I guess, would be a good way to go to it and

1 look at it from there, but you can see them, and they will  
2 be constructed. Hopefully, we will get that done soon.

3 The governor is coming down to look at them  
4 today. He wants to see what is going on.

5 The other thing is we have State of the Coast  
6 coming up, and that is our annual thing that we do,  
7 basically talk about what is going on with DMR and the  
8 State of the Coast and our aquaculture.

9 That is going to be in conjunction with MEMA's  
10 Preparedness conference this year. We have joined in with  
11 MEMA, and we are going to do this on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May.

12 That morning it will start out and we will do  
13 State of the Coast and it will go all the way through the  
14 whole day, but MEMA will start midday and we will have the  
15 start of the MEMA conference, also, and they will have a  
16 big reception that night.

17 We would love to have you there, if you can come  
18 and enjoy some time with us, and I think you will see a  
19 lot of good things going on. This is a good way for us to  
20 join together as two agencies, and I think it is going to  
21 work great.

22 That is all I have, sir.

23 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Very good.

24 Let's move on to Commissioners report.

25 Anybody got any good reports they want to talk

1 about?

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I've got a question. I  
3 had asked a while back interest in possibly implementing a  
4 spear fishing record system for Mississippi.

5 Do we have any information on that yet?

6 JOE SPRAGGINS: We do have some information.  
7 Joe and them had put together some stuff. We just haven't  
8 put it out yet, and I wanted basically to bring it up  
9 today, but we can get that to you.

10 Joe, do you want to talk about it, or should we  
11 just get the information to the Commissioners?

12 JOE JEWELL: Commissioner Daniels is correct.  
13 You did approach us about establishing some alternative  
14 records.

15 we did an internal review, including input from  
16 legal. We had that information ready.

17 I think the way the process works with the  
18 Commission at this point, if you want that presented for  
19 the Commission for their review, you would have to make a  
20 motion to ask us to come back at the next meeting with the  
21 data that we have so the Commission can review.

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Can we go ahead and make  
23 that motion and take a look at that next month?

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I would like to make a

1 motion to have staff come back with information on  
2 implementing a spearfishing records division of our  
3 records.

4 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: State records?

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: State records, yes.

6 JOE SPRAGGINS: Commissioner, before we go any  
7 further on that, if I could, just spearfishing, or do you  
8 want to look at any other than hook-and-line?

9 JOE JEWELL: The staff has made several  
10 alternatives that includes several options that can be  
11 considered by the Commission at the May meeting, if the  
12 motion passes.

13 I think spearfishing is a little specific. If  
14 you just say motion for Marine Fisheries staff to bring  
15 back options for the Commission to consider for new state  
16 records, new state record category, it would be general  
17 enough for the Commission to consider a lot of different  
18 options at that point.

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes. We've got some  
20 other things getting more popular nowadays, bowfishing and  
21 whatnot. So I would certainly be open to looking at all  
22 the possibilities there.

23 JOE JEWELL: We have that information available.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Okay. So, if we could  
25 change spearfishing to alternative fishing records.

1           Let's do fishing records other than hook-and-  
2 line because currently that is all we've got -- right, Joe  
3 -- is hook-and-line records?

4           JOE JEWELL: Well, it's the fly fishing  
5 category, too.

6           I would probably just end it at additional  
7 fishing records, and, then, put categories after records  
8 and it will cover everything.

9           COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Okay.  
10          Can we do that, Sandy?

11          JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes. Just cut it off at records  
12 there would be what you would say and leave that "other  
13 than hook-and-line" out.

14          JOE JEWELL: Yes, if you could leave all the  
15 rest of it off --

16          JOE SPRAGGINS: (Interposing) That way, it  
17 would give us -- they could bring you a broad way of  
18 looking at it.

19          How about that?

20          JOE JEWELL: It would be so general at that  
21 point, it would encompass all the options that we have  
22 available now.

23          COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Okay.

24          I would like to make a motion for staff to come  
25 back at the May Commission meeting with information on

1 implementing additional fishing records.

2 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I'll second that, Mr.  
3 Chairman.

4 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say  
5 aye.

6 (All in favor.)

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those against?

8 (None opposed.)

9 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion passed.

10 JOE JEWELL: The motion on the board says  
11 "information for".

12 I think the motion was "information on  
13 implementing."

14 Is that correct?

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes. That is correct.

16 JOE JEWELL: Thank you.

17 JOE SPRAGGINS: Modify that with no problem.

18 Sandy, do we have to do another motion because  
19 of that?

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That's what I actually  
21 said, I believe.

22 SANDY CHESNUT: No, sir. The intent remains the  
23 same. So it's fine.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Any other Commissioners

1 got any reports?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have one quick thing.  
4 Department of Marine Resources sponsors the CCA  
5 every year for Casting for Conservation. They handed out  
6 five to seven hundred poles over the past few weeks. A  
7 lot of kids involved. It is a very good event, and I  
8 would like to thank the CCA for being a part of that and  
9 leading that way.

10 If there are no more Commissioner reports, let's  
11 move on to Office of Marine Patrol, Chief Keith Davis.

12 KEITH DAVIS: Good morning.

13 The report is in front of you. It is a pretty  
14 straight forward report again this month. Not a whole lot  
15 of activity.

16 One thing I would like to point out is we did  
17 receive a report of a gill net and officers responded with  
18 negative results.

19 The next big item we had was we had five reports  
20 of dead dolphins across the Coast. Those have been turned  
21 over to IMMS, and we reached out to IMMS yesterday and  
22 learned that necropsies have not been conducted on the  
23 animals. However, there are allegations of one suspicious  
24 death that they plan to look at further, but there are  
25 just not enough details to give you any more information

1 on that today. Hopefully, we will have something next  
2 month, if something comes out of that suspicious death.

3 We had a report of a dead sea turtle, but it has  
4 been later determined that it was not a sea turtle. It  
5 was some other type of species.

6 Other than that, is there anything else in the  
7 report that you are concerned with?

8 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Did they ever find out from  
9 last month's dolphin that was found?

10 wasn't there one, or three, last month?

11 That was turned over to IMMS, too.

12 Right?

13 KEITH DAVIS: That's correct, and IMMS normally  
14 reports back to us if there is an issue with the dolphins.

15 As I said, we have been in contact with them on  
16 all of these deaths, and there is just nothing yet.

17 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Seems to me over the past  
19 few months this is happening more and more and more.

20 Is that what you guys are seeing and reporting,  
21 as well?

22 KEITH DAVIS: We are. However, again, IMMS  
23 leads those and there are just no details that would lead  
24 us to believe that anything out of the ordinary is  
25 occurring, at this point.



1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Very good.

2 KEITH DAVIS: The other thing I wanted to point  
3 out was the operation "Stow it. Don't throw it" campaign  
4 is underway and going really well.

5 To date, we have conducted a hundred and twenty-  
6 two courtesy inspections of vessels at the boat launches.  
7 So I think that program is being well received.

8 Everyone that we come in contact with at the  
9 boat launches is extremely happy that they are not  
10 receiving a citation, that they are given the chance to  
11 get into compliance with the law.

12 I would ask the Commission to help us out with  
13 that program and spread the word that we are going to  
14 really crack down on litter in the waters this year.

15 We just want people to get in compliance. I  
16 said on the news the other day, it's not about giving a  
17 lot of tickets, but it is about keeping litter out of the  
18 waterways.

19 So, if you could help us out with your  
20 constituents on that.

21 Other than that, that's all I have. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I would like to commend  
23 you Keith Davis on the interview with WLOX the other day.  
24 I know that that is not an easy thing to do is to be right  
25 in front of the camera, all eyes on me, but you

1 represented the department very well. Thank you for that.

2 KEITH DAVIS: Thank you very much.

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. Let's move on  
4 to Item G, Mr. Jan Boyd.

5 JAN BOYD: Good morning Commissioners, Director  
6 Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

7 We have one action item for your consideration  
8 this morning and Matt Murphy will be presenting it.

9 MATT MURPHY: Good morning Commission.

10 My name is Matt Murphy, and I have a Permit  
11 Extension by Bosarge Boats.

12 They are on Bayou Casotte in Pascagoula. It is  
13 in the Industrial Use District, and the agent is Compton  
14 Engineering.

15 These are all previously permitted activities  
16 that includes dredging as well as construction of a  
17 bulkhead.

18 Lastly, there is wetland fill, as well as  
19 wetland excavation being done.

20 Here is the project location on Bayou Casotte.  
21 This is probably kind of hard to tell, but this is the  
22 diagram (indicating slide).

23 The blue here and here is dredging. The green  
24 here is and along there is excavation, and, then, the  
25 brown here is the fill, and, then, the bulkhead is running

1 across (indicating slide).

2 In February of 2014, the project was presented  
3 to the CMR and it was approved as recommended.

4 Then, last month Bosarge Boats requested an  
5 extension to the permit.

6 Based upon departmental review and evaluation,  
7 the staff recommends that the CMR approve the applicant's  
8 request.

9 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Does anybody have any  
10 questions regarding this?

11 (No response.)

12 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a motion?

13 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I will make  
14 a motion that we approve this project.

15 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a second?

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that motion.

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say  
18 aye.

19 (All in favor.)

20 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those not in favor?

21 (None opposed.)

22 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

23 MATT MURPHY: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. It looks like  
25 we are moving to Item H, Office of Coastal Restoration and

1 Resiliency, George Ramseur.

2 JOE SPRAGGINS: There is nothing, no report.

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Nothing.

4 All right. Let's move on to Finance, Office of  
5 Finance and Administration, Ms. Gaines.

6 SHAVAY GAINES: Good morning Director Spraggins,  
7 Commissioners, Ms. Chesnut.

8 My name is Shavay Gaines, and I will be  
9 presenting the financials for March the 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

10 At the end of March, our State Revenue was four  
11 point eight million. Our Total Agency Revenue was twenty  
12 point six million.

13 Our State Net Income was a negative six sixty-  
14 two thousand. Our Total Agency Net Income was three point  
15 seven million.

16 We are still waiting on our one million dollars  
17 of appropriations from the state.

18 After nine months of the fiscal year 2019, our  
19 Operating Fund has a seventy point one percent budget  
20 remaining and our Tidelands Trust Fund has forty-seven  
21 point eight percent of our budget remaining.

22 Any questions?

23 JOE SPRAGGINS: Might I had that we are not  
24 broke. Even though it looks that way, we are waiting on  
25 money, as Shavay said, from the state and, also, we get

1 back money from the Federal where we do it ahead of time,  
2 and, then, get the money back.

3 Is that correct?

4 SHAVAY GAINES: Yes.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS: We are not operating in a  
6 deficit. So I just wanted you to know.

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Ms. Gaines, are you  
8 comfortable where the numbers are at?

9 SHAVAY GAINES: I will be more comfortable in  
10 about a month, or two, when we can finish assessing the  
11 system here. So I defer my answer to then.

12 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. Thank you.  
13 Item J, Public Affairs, Ms. Charmaine.

14 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND: Good morning  
15 Commissioners, Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

16 The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources  
17 was mentioned twenty-four times in local, state and  
18 national media since the March CMR meeting.

19 Popular news items included the Off-Bottom  
20 Oyster Aquaculture Program, Marine Patrol's Anti-Litter  
21 Campaign and the announcement of Mississippi's Red Snapper  
22 Season.

23 Marine Patrol taught three boat-and-water safety  
24 classes and certified fifty-eight students. So far in  
25 fiscal year 19, officers have taught eighteen classes and

1 certified three hundred and seventy-five students.

2 Since the March meeting, Marine Patrol  
3 participated in Hancock Middle School's Share Fair Career  
4 Day, the chambers Touch-A-Truck event in Long Beach and an  
5 Earth Day Celebration in Gautier.

6 Avery Sward and her committee did a wonderful  
7 job putting on this year's Celebrate the Gulf Marine  
8 Education Festival. Hundreds of attendees joined us at  
9 War Memorial Park in Pass Christian for over thirty-five  
10 environmental booths, the Raptor show, Kids Fishing Rodeo,  
11 Student Science Showcase and many other fun and  
12 educational activities.

13 Fisheries staff participated in the sixty-ninth  
14 annual Spring Meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries  
15 Commission in New Orleans last month. Committee work  
16 included Data Management, Blue Crab, Menhaden, as well as  
17 an Oyster Resource special session.

18 Joe Jewell, Traci Floyd, Erik Broussard, Charlie  
19 Robertson, Darrin Stewart, Carly Somerset and Trevor  
20 Moncrief contributed at the meeting.

21 Shrimp and Crab Bureau Biological Program  
22 Coordinator Jason Saucier presented the Mississippi Shrimp  
23 Season Update at the American Shrimp Processors meeting in  
24 Biloxi and shared with industry leaders information about  
25 the shrimp fishery status and conditions contributing to

1 the coming season.

2 Finfish Bureau's Megan Fleming presented  
3 information on a 2019 Mississippi Recreational Red Snapper  
4 Season at the Center for Fisheries Research and  
5 Development Workshop Fisheries Fun Day at the Gulf Coast  
6 Research Laboratory.

7 The Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage  
8 Area has been making check presentations to all the  
9 Heritage Community Grant recipients, as well as taking  
10 part in the Ishee Exhibit opening, the Preserving of the  
11 Recent Past conference and the Gulf Coast Outpost  
12 Collaboration.

13 The Office of Public Affairs attended the  
14 Seafood Expo North America in Boston March 17<sup>th</sup> through the  
15 19<sup>th</sup>.

16 During the expo, our agency represented the  
17 Mississippi Seafood program helping to promote the  
18 benefits of domestic seafood from our Mississippi Gulf  
19 Coast.

20 Our booth also included Crystal Seas Seafood,  
21 Gulf Pride Enterprises, C. F. Gollott and Son Seafood as  
22 they marketed to new customers, maintained relationships  
23 with current customers and helped represent Mississippi  
24 seafood.

25 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Is that it?

1 CHARMAINE schmermund: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: That was good. Thank you.  
3 Let's move on to Item K, Office of Marine  
4 Fisheries, Mr. Joe JEWELL.

5 JOE JEWELL: Thank you, Commissioner Havard.  
6 We have five items this morning for the  
7 Commission's consideration, including three regulatory  
8 items.

9 The first two items are Final Adoption notices  
10 and Mr. Trevor Moncrief will be presenting those.

11 TREVOR MONCRIEF: Good morning Commissioners,  
12 Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

13 As Joe said, we've got two Final Adoption items.  
14 The first one is going to be for Spanish  
15 Mackerel, Hogfish and Swordfish, and this is a Federal  
16 compliance presentation.

17 As you recall, in the March meeting, CMR passed  
18 a motion to proceed with a Notice of Intent for Regulatory  
19 Changes to Title 22, Part 7, Chapters 8 and 9, regarding  
20 changes to Spanish Mackerel, Hogfish and Swordfish size  
21 limits for Federal compliance.

22 CMR passed Notice of Intent on March the 19<sup>th</sup>.  
23 We also filed the Notice of Intent with the Secretary of  
24 State and posted notice on the DMR web page on the 19<sup>th</sup>.  
25 Legal notice appeared in the Sun Herald on March 21<sup>st</sup>.



1           We have received no public comments to date on  
2 this item.

3           You will recall that change will take place in  
4 Title 22, Part 7, Chapter 8.

5           In 102.14, we will add Spanish Mackerel  
6 (*Scomberomorus maculatus*) which will be twelve inches fork  
7 length.

8           we added, for consistency, the scientific name  
9 of King Mackerel (*Scomberomorus cavalla*).

10          After that, we changed all subsections to match.

11          we see that 102.25, Hogfish (*Lachnolaimus*  
12 *maximus*) changes from twelve to fourteen inches fork  
13 length, and we also added 102.28, Swordfish (*Xiphias*  
14 *gladius*), forty-seven inches as measured from the tip of  
15 the lower jaw to the fork of the tail so that is the lower  
16 jaw fork length.

17          Title 22, Part 7, Chapter 9, the changes  
18 included 100.06, Spanish Mackerel, which is changed from  
19 fourteen to twelve inches fork length.

20          100.23, Hogfish, we added in the scientific name  
21 (*Lachnolaimus maximus*). It changes from twelve inches to  
22 fourteen inches fork length.

23          what will be required is a motion to proceed  
24 with final adoption for regulatory changes to Title 22,  
25 Part 7, Chapters 8 and 9, regarding changes to Spanish

1 Mackerel, Hogfish and Swordfish size limits for Federal  
2 compliance.

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. Can we get a  
4 motion?

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll make a motion to  
6 proceed with final adoption for regulatory changes to  
7 Title 22, Part 7, Chapters 8 and 9, regarding changes to  
8 Spanish Mackerel, Hogfish and Swordfish size limits for  
9 Federal compliance.

10 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: We have a motion.  
11 Can I get a second to the motion?

12 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I'll second that motion,  
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say  
15 aye.

16 (All in favor.)

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed?

18 (None opposed.)

19 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion carried.

20 Moving on to Number 2, Final Adoption of Title  
21 22, Part 7, Tarpon Recommendations, Trevor again.

22 TREVOR MONCRIEF: This follows the same format  
23 as the last presentation.

24 Once again, in last month's meeting, CMR passed  
25 a motion to proceed with a Notice of Intent for regulatory

1 changes to Title 22, Part 7, Chapter 8, regarding the size  
2 limit, bag limit and catch requirements for Atlantic  
3 Tarpon.

4 After it was passed, we filed a Notice of Intent  
5 with the Secretary of State, we posted a notice on the  
6 MDMR web page, and, then, the legal notice appeared in The  
7 Sun Herald on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

8 Once again, we have received no public comments  
9 to date on this item.

10 The changes will occur in Title 22, Part 7,  
11 Chapter 8.

12 So 100, 100.21:

13 "It shall be unlawful for recreational  
14 fishermen to possess more than one Atlantic  
15 Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*) per vessel  
16 per day."

17 102, 102.28:

18 "Atlantic Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*),  
19 seventy-five inches fork length."

20 Then, 105:

21 "It shall be unlawful for any fisherman  
22 to remove an Atlantic Tarpon (*Megalops*  
23 *atlanticus*) over the length of forty  
24 inches from the water, unless the intent  
25 is to harvest within the limits defined

1 in sections 100 and 102 of this chapter.”

2 what will be required is a motion to proceed  
3 with final adoption for regulatory changes to Title 22,  
4 Part 7, Chapter 8, regarding the size limit, bag limit and  
5 catch requirements for Atlantic Tarpon.

6 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Very good.

7 Thank you, Trevor.

8 Can I get a motion?

9 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make a motion.

10 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: We have a motion as  
11 written.

12 Can I get a second?

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that.

14 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say  
15 aye.

16 (All in favor.)

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed like sign.

18 (None opposed.)

19 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion carries.

20 JOE JEWELL: Thank you.

21 Our next presentation will be done by Mr. Erik  
22 Broussard for closing of the 2019 Oyster Season.

23 ERIK BROUSSARD: Good morning Commissioners,  
24 Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

25 I have an update on the closing of the 2018-2019

1 oyster season.

2 In February, there was a motion to give the  
3 Executive Director the authority to open the season, not  
4 to extend past March 30<sup>th</sup>.

5 Unfortunately, the conditions did not allow that  
6 to happen. Once we reached March 30<sup>th</sup>, the motion required  
7 for the season to close. So this is a mere formality.

8 The Commission opens the season in September  
9 with a motion. So they would need to close the season  
10 with a motion today.

11 Just a quick background on the season. It was  
12 very short. It was open seven days, harvesting about  
13 thirty-eight hundred sacks. That is the Western Sound.  
14 Just the Western Sound, thirty-eight hundred sacks.

15 what would be needed is a motion to close the  
16 2018-2019 oyster season Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

17 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. Would someone  
18 like to make that motion?

19 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I'll make  
20 that motion.

21 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Can I get a second to the  
22 motion?

23 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second it.

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say  
25 aye.

1 (All in favor.)

2 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed like sign.

3 (None opposed.)

4 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

5 ERIK BROUSSARD: Thank you.

6 JOE JEWELL: Next up is a presentation on  
7 Amendment 50A by Ms. Carly Somerset.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS: Commission, a couple of things  
9 on this. 50A is one of the things also that we are going  
10 to brief during the time for State of the Coast, and we  
11 wanted y'all to understand about this.

12 It has not been signed by the Secretary yet. So  
13 that is the reason we haven't made any announcement on it,  
14 but we wanted you to understand it.

15 CARLY SOMERSET: Good morning Commissioners.

16 As Joe and Director Spraggins said, this is just  
17 a briefing on Amendments 50A: State Management Program for  
18 Recreational Red Snapper and, also, 50C: Mississippi  
19 Management for Recreational Red Snapper.

20 The Gulf Council met recently, April the 1<sup>st</sup>  
21 through the 4<sup>th</sup>, at the IP where they took final action on  
22 Reef Fish Amendment 50A: State Management for Recreational  
23 Red Snapper.

24 Fifty is the overall programmatic amendment that  
25 has information relevant to all five of the Gulf States,

1 and, then, each state has their own individual state  
2 amendments, 50B through 50F.

3 To clarify, final action means that Amendment 50  
4 was passed by the Gulf Council and, as Director Spraggins  
5 said, this also has to go through the process to the  
6 Secretary of Commerce before implementation.

7 Some specifics relating to the overall Amendment  
8 50A.

9 The Council chose to delegate management  
10 authority of the private angling component of the  
11 recreational Red Snapper fishery to each state.

12 The Federal for-hire sector will still be  
13 federally managed.

14 Each state has been allocated a portion of the  
15 overall recreational quota.

16 The suggested management changes within the  
17 amendments, again, will be sent to the Secretary of  
18 Commerce for approval prior to implementation.

19 Specifically relating to Mississippi's Amendment  
20 50C, 50C delegates authority to the State of Mississippi  
21 to manage the recreational fishing sector of Red Snapper  
22 in Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico adjacent to  
23 Mississippi territorial waters.

24 Mississippi will receive three point five five  
25 percent of allocation of the recreational quota. This is

1 beginning in 2020. This year we are still in our exempted  
2 fishing permit season.

3 Then, for this year, 2019 Red Snapper season,  
4 our recreational quota is a hundred and fifty-one thousand  
5 five hundred and eighty-four pounds as granted through the  
6 EFP.

7 Any questions?

8 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I think it's great that  
9 they are turning it over to the states to manage, but one  
10 thing that we cannot forget is we have got to have a reef  
11 in place to attract these fish, to keep these fish in our  
12 waters. Let's continue the efforts on building our reefs  
13 out in our waters. Thank you.

14 CARLY SOMERSET: Thank you.

15 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sir, if I could, I would just  
16 like to commend the team on a heck of a job. I tell you  
17 what, they did a great job working on that. They have  
18 worked on this for several years now. Carly and Matt and  
19 Joe and Paul, the whole team has just worked a fantastic  
20 job, and I just want to thank them.

21 JOE JEWELL: Thank you, Director.

22 Our final presentation will be done by Mr.  
23 Charlie Robertson. It's on the Bonnet Carre Spillway.

24 CHARLIE ROBERTSON: Good morning everyone.

25 My name is Charlie Robertson with the Shellfish



1 Bureau. I hope my voice cooperates for this presentation.

2 I know everybody is curious to hear some  
3 information about the Bonnet Carre Spillway. We have been  
4 monitoring it for the last few months, or a little over a  
5 month now, and we are continuing to monitor.

6 This is just an informational update. We will  
7 have a little bit of data in here that we can share, but  
8 we really don't have any final data sets to make any kind  
9 of conclusions at this point.

10 Before we go too much into this year's opening,  
11 it is kind of important, I think, to look back at some of  
12 the historical openings. I'm going to give you a little  
13 bit of a context on the history of the Bonnet Carre  
14 Spillway.

15 The spillway became operational in 1931. The  
16 first time it was opened was in 1937, so a few years  
17 later.

18 Since it's operational and beginning capacity,  
19 it has opened at least once every decade, except for  
20 during the 1960's.

21 Looking back at that operational date and going  
22 all the way until 2007, we calculated that it has been  
23 opened on the average of once every nine point six years.  
24 That is from operational until 2007.

25 Now, however, if you look at more recent times

1 and go back to 2008 until present, it opens on average of  
2 once every two point four years.

3 It is trending towards opening more frequently  
4 and that is not necessarily a good thing for us here in  
5 Mississippi.

6 I'm sure you guys are all familiar with the 2011  
7 Bonnet Carre Spillway. It had pretty devastating effects  
8 in Mississippi on marine resources. It was actually  
9 commercial fisheries failure that was declared during that  
10 opening.

11 we had about an eighty-five percent loss that we  
12 calculated on our oyster resources and about a fifty  
13 percent reduction in landings of Blue Crab, during the  
14 time that the spillway was open.

15 Again, looking at the more recent years, the  
16 spillway has been opened three times in the last four  
17 years.

18 Going back to the last two openings, 2016 and  
19 2018, these were open during the colder months fortunately  
20 and I think those colder temperatures really minimized the  
21 effects that we saw to our marine resources. We didn't  
22 really observe too many negative effects during those two  
23 openings.

24 Some of the things that are really important to  
25 take into consideration with each spillway opening is the

1 duration of the fresh water that we get from the spillway  
2 and the water temperatures that we are seeing at that time  
3 of year. Depending on the time of year, the water  
4 temperatures will be much lower, or higher. Those are  
5 very important factors to the biology of the moisture.

6 At those lower temperatures, the oysters are  
7 able to withstand a lot more environmental changes. Their  
8 metabolism is a lot slower so it allows them the ability  
9 to close up and kind of wait out any adverse conditions  
10 that they may experience.

11 One of the best analogies I guess to make to  
12 kind of drive this point home is when you are catching  
13 oysters, you put an oyster in a cooler right after you  
14 catch it and it can stay there for a couple of weeks,  
15 maybe two, maybe three weeks at most because it is kept at  
16 low temperatures.

17 On the flip side of it, if you have an oyster  
18 and it is on the deck of your boat in July, or August, or  
19 so, it may only last one day before that oyster will die,  
20 and that is due entirely to the temperature.

21 Going to what we looked at this year initially,  
22 our initial assessments show that we have seen some  
23 negative impacts to resources. However, like I said  
24 before, we are still collecting data. We have teams in  
25 the field today collecting more data. So we can't really

1 make a quantitative conclusion yet on what we are seeing.

2 The purpose of this graph here is to look at the  
3 last five spillway openings, just to kind of give you a  
4 comparison of volume and duration, and we have overlaid  
5 them side-by-side so you can really kind of see the  
6 magnitude of each of the events compared to each other  
7 (indicating slide).

8 The first thing you notice, obviously, is that  
9 the 2011 spillway that is indicated in blue is a lot  
10 larger than some of the most recent ones.

11 Then, looking at the 2008, 2016 and 2018  
12 spillway openings -- those are the ones in the yellow,  
13 orange and gray -- relatively speaking, a bit smaller than  
14 the one we are looking at now which kind of falls kind of  
15 in between (indicating slide).

16 we have calculated and we estimate that this  
17 year's opening is about two-thirds of the volume of water  
18 that was released during the 2011 opening.

19 Again, going back to the temperature, I have  
20 noted in the legend if you look to the top right-hand  
21 corner of this graph, you've got the months, or the period  
22 in which the spillway gates opened for each of these  
23 events.

24 This year you can see we were open March,  
25 February and April, as opposed to the 2011 event which was

1 during May and June when you really see the temperatures  
2 starting to slack.

3 This is some of the water quality data that we  
4 were able to pull from our St. Joe Light hydrology station  
5 that is operated by the Department of Marine Resources and  
6 the USGS. This is essentially the ground zero station for  
7 our Mississippi waters to the Bonnet Carre Spillway.

8 I guess the magic number that we are looking at  
9 here, if you look at the graph on the left, is the twenty  
10 degree Celsius line. That is about the magic number for  
11 where the oysters like to maintain below that level. That  
12 gives them the ability to close their shells for more  
13 prolonged periods to withstand any adverse conditions as I  
14 talked about previously.

15 You will notice during the majority of this  
16 spillway, we were kind of operating down here in about the  
17 sixteen degree range and that is good. Like I said, it  
18 gives them a little bit more ability to close for more  
19 prolonged times to withstand those adverse conditions.

20 The adverse conditions that they would be  
21 closing up for would be the salinity, in this case. If  
22 you look over to the right, the graph shows that the  
23 salinity has dropped and is pretty much maintained below  
24 one part per thousand for almost the entire duration of  
25 the spillway opening.

1           It opened on February 27<sup>th</sup> and you will note that  
2 we didn't see salinities down to one part per thousand  
3 until about a week after the opening. So there is a bit  
4 of a lag affect. It takes about a week for the water from  
5 the spillway to move through the lake, through the bayous  
6 and into our waters where our oyster reefs are, and it  
7 will also take a little bit of time for those waters to  
8 leave, as well, once the spillway closes.

9           This graph is meant to kind of show you the  
10 effects from the Pearl River that we have also seen. The  
11 Pearl River is the main provider for the fresh water into  
12 the bays and estuaries around our oyster reefs in the  
13 Western Mississippi Sound.

14           It has maintained above flood stage for the  
15 majority of the time since December. If you look at it,  
16 the flood stage is fourteen. We have maintained the  
17 majority of the time over, and, then, the other times we  
18 have been well above our management criteria. So this is  
19 one of the reasons why we weren't able to open the reefs  
20 in the Western Sound.

21           Then, the red star I have on there just to kind  
22 of indicate. You can see that we've got the Pearl River  
23 flooding leading up to the spillway event and, as soon as  
24 the Pearl River started to finally give us a little bit of  
25 a break, that is about when the Bonnet Carre Spillway

1 peaked, and so we didn't really catch a break there.

2 This map is showing our monitoring stations that  
3 we have in the western Mississippi Sound. Like I said, we  
4 have staff out in the field today collecting samples at  
5 all of these locations.

6 we are collecting trawl data for our finfish and  
7 invertebrates. We are collecting gill net data for  
8 finfish. We are using our one-minute dredge tows to  
9 collect oyster data. We are also collecting phytoplankton  
10 chlorophyll A samples, as well a hydrology and general  
11 water quality parameters throughout the western Sound. So  
12 we will have a lot of data to look at, at the end of this  
13 opening, once we can conclude our monitoring.

14 This is just a snapshot at our oyster data. I  
15 really don't want to get too in detail on this, but I just  
16 wanted to show you what we have collected so far.

17 You can see in black indicates the live oysters,  
18 and, then, the dead oysters, or mortality, that we have  
19 seen are indicated in the two, light gray and dark gray,  
20 areas.

21 Typically we don't really see recent dead  
22 oysters this time of year. So that is one indicator that  
23 we are seeing some impacts from this spillway event. The  
24 recent dead oysters are oysters that have a white, or  
25 clean, oyster shell inside. They don't typically have





1           Again, like I said, we are out collecting data.  
2 We are still monitoring this spillway. It will be  
3 probably another week, or so, before we see that water  
4 fully move out and we will stop seeing the effects from  
5 it.

6           we are still going to collect data, before we  
7 make any kind of final assessments and we can really give  
8 the qualified impacts that we have had.

9           Thank you guys. I will be glad to try and  
10 answer any questions y'all have.

11           COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All right. Thank you,  
12 Charlie.

13           JOE JEWELL: If there are no questions, that  
14 concludes the presentations by Marine Fisheries.

15           COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So if we have no other  
16 business and no public comment, can I get a motion to  
17 adjourn?

18           COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I will be  
19 proud to make the motion that we adjourn.

20           COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I will second that  
21 motion.

22           COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say  
23 aye.

24           (All in favor.)

25           COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed?

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(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

Meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 10:02 o'clock, a.m., the April 16, 2019, meeting of the Commission on Marine Resources was concluded.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter,  
4 do hereby certify that the above and foregoing 50 pages,  
5 including this page, is a true and correct transcript of  
6 the April 16, 2019, meeting of the Commission on Marine  
7 Resources, as taken by me at the time and place heretofore  
8 stated in the aforementioned matter in shorthand, with  
9 electronic verification, and later reduced to typewritten  
10 form to the best of my skill and ability; and, further,  
11 that I am not a relative, employee, or agent, of any of  
12 the parties thereto, nor financially interested in the  
13 cause.

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17 COURT REPORTER  
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