

COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, August 20, 2019
9:00 a.m.
Bolton Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Commission Members:

Mark Havard, Chairman
Ronald Daniels, Vice Chairman
Steve Bosarge
Richard Gollott
Natalie Guess

Also Present:

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

1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I would like to call the
2 meeting to order, the Commission on Marine Resources
3 meeting August 20th, 2019.

4 I would like to start off by asking Commissioner
5 Gollott to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Thank you Commissioner
8 Gollott for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

9 One of the charter boat captains had an accident
10 over the weekend.

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: During the moment of
12 silence, we would like to keep in mind Theophile
13 Bourgeois, Bourgeois Charters. He was a, from all
14 accounts, bigger than life charter member out of Louisiana
15 that had a really good business over there, and ended with
16 a tragic accident over the weekend where he ended up
17 ultimately losing his life.

18 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: At this time, let's take a
19 moment of silence.

20 (Moment of silence observed.)

21 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Item B, approval of the
22 minutes.

23 Do we have approval of the minutes for July 16,
24 2019?

25 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I make a

1 motion that we approve the minutes.

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that motion.

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

5 (All in favor.)

6 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those opposed say nay.

7 (None opposed.)

8 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

9 Now, we start off with approval for the agenda
10 for today.

11 Can I get a motion to approve the agenda as
12 written?

13 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll make a motion.

14 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll second the motion.

15 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: We've got a motion and a
16 second.

17 All those in favor say aye.

18 (All in favor.)

19 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those opposed say nay.

20 (None opposed.)

21 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion moved.

22 Item D, Executive Director's report.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes, sir. Thank you very much.

24 Just a couple of things this morning.

25 we have some employment contracts and, if we can

1 pull up?

2 while we are waiting on that to happen, I will
3 just give you a couple of other things that are going on.

4 Tomorrow I will go to -- well, I leave tonight,
5 and, then, be there tomorrow morning at the Mississippi
6 River Commission to talk to them about what the effects of
7 the Bonnet Carre are. Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann
8 and I are going to brief them together and talk to them
9 about what our effects are and what we see.

10 Hopefully, we will be able to get the
11 information over to them and get them to look at a couple
12 of things. One of the things that we are trying to get
13 them to look at is a hydrological study of what would
14 happen if you opened up the Morganza. What would happen.
15 What would it do. What would it do down the Atchafalaya
16 and those areas.

17 We are going to look at that, and that is one of
18 the main things we are doing.

19 As far as Bonnet Carre, Reed is still with us
20 and he is in the back. I see him, and USM is still
21 helping us. We are still doing the water sampling every
22 day, and Joe and them will give a briefing on that in a
23 few minutes, and I don't want to get too deep into it.

24 We are also talking about the losses that we
25 have. We still have the losses that we have seen in the

1 past. I don't think anything has changed. We are at
2 about sixty percent, as far as the shrimp, for the year,
3 and we are probably eighty percent for the brown shrimp.

4 The brown shrimp have really taken a hit on it.
5 The oysters and crabs are pretty much the same as we
6 talked about before.

7 Also, the algae is there. If anybody has got
8 any questions, the algae is still out there. We are doing
9 tests every day with it, and the algae is showing up.
10 Even though you don't see the blue-green water, it doesn't
11 mean the algae is not there.

12 They are doing the tests and we running it every
13 day. We are going to continue that until the end of this
14 month.

15 At the end of this month, we will reassess where
16 we are and we will reassess how many tests we need to do
17 and what we need to do to continue.

18 We still have not found anything that I know of
19 that has affected the seafood side of it, but, of course,
20 it is up to DEQ as far as the water quality whether they
21 have a water warning, or not. It is up to them. We will
22 continue to do that.

23 One quick thing is we have an economic study
24 that we are doing right now. It is on the Bonnet Carre,
25 and Scott Levanway is here with his company.

1 where is Scott?

2 SCOTT LEVANWAY: (Indicating).

3 JOE SPRAGGINS: Scott, I appreciate you, and he
4 is going around and meeting with all the people across the
5 Coast and trying to find out if there is anything that
6 anyone has any type of economic loss in this recent Bonnet
7 Carre.

8 This is something we are going to be able to
9 send back to the governor. We are going to give him a
10 report sometime around the middle of next month as a shot
11 in the dark of where we are now, and, then, we are going
12 to continue this for about eight to ten months to be able
13 to make sure we have a track record to be able to prove
14 any loss that we have.

15 Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith is pushing very hard to
16 be able to get us some money for that, and we are trying
17 to get her information to able to fight for it. So that
18 is what we are looking at with that.

19 Now, we do have our employment. Sorry about
20 that. Here we go now, the employment contracts. Next
21 slide, please.

22 Hugh Bodden is the Facilities Manager at the
23 NERR. He is our new guy.

24 Next one. We have a couple of contracts there
25 with the NERR.

1 We have some captains we are looking at for the
2 hundred-ton master captains. We went out on that, and I
3 think that they are in the process of looking at it and
4 getting approval on maybe giving a contract to have two,
5 or three, of them on standby to be able to use if they are
6 needed.

7 Marine Patrol. We are doing a reverse auction
8 for some engines. That is for that Port Security, and we
9 are buying six engines for that.

10 The only other thing I have, sir, is Kimberly, I
11 think, is going to give an update on the Larry Ryan
12 Administrative Penalty.

13 KIM PAPANIA: Is Mr. Ryan here today at the
14 meeting?

15 (No response.)

16 KIM PAPANIA: Commissioners, you asked me last
17 month to set up a payment plan with Mr. Larry Ryan. I
18 have spoken to him. However, he is not at the Commission
19 meeting today.

20 I would ask if you guys would just allow me to
21 go ahead and file an enforcement action in Chancery Court
22 in Pascagoula to collect the fines for the Spotted
23 Seatrout, pursuant to Mississippi Code Annotated 49-15-
24 450.

25 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Will you need a motion for

1 that?

2 KIM PAPANIA: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: It is pretty unfortunate
4 that we have given a large amount of time for these guys
5 to pay these fines and they have been unwilling, or
6 unable, to do so.

7 COMMISSIONER GUESS: Kim, can I just ask, y'all
8 were not able to get together to set up some type of
9 payment plan, or he was supposed to be here?

10 KIM PAPANIA: I spoke to him. However, I did
11 receive information that he has collected income from
12 fishing, since the Spotted Seatrout investigation closed
13 and he has not paid anything on the fine, so we were not
14 able to agree on a monthly payment for Mr. Ryan.

15 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Do we have a motion?

16 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: What are we trying to do
17 here?

18 KIM PAPANIA: Mississippi Code Annotated 49-15-
19 415 allows for the Commission to allow me to file for an
20 enforcement action in Pascagoula Chancery Court because
21 you did order fines against Mr. Ryan for the Spotted
22 Seatrout violations because he has not paid those and you
23 consistently granted him additional time to do that. It
24 just allows me to file enforcement in Pascagoula Chancery
25 Court to recover those fines that the Commission ordered

1 last September.

2 The Court will look at his income documents, if
3 you request them to, and set up a payment plan that he can
4 afford. It will just give me another avenue to make sure
5 that those fines are collected for the DMR.

6 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: He is just not coming in
7 and talking to you at all?

8 KIM PAPANIA: I have spoken to him. He is just
9 not paying anything at all.

10 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: If I understand
11 correctly, what we did was a civil fine?

12 KIM PAPANIA: It was an Administrative Penalty.

13 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Correct, which is a civil
14 penalty.

15 KIM PAPANIA: Yes, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: So if we go to the Court
17 to try to enforce it, would that be still civil, or would
18 that be criminal?

19 KIM PAPANIA: It would still be civil.

20 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: The authority that you
22 need, how would you like it?

23 How would you word it?

24 KIM PAPANIA: Under Mississippi Code Annotated
25 49-15-415, the Commission has the authority to give

1 permission for me to present this and file it in
2 Pascagoula Chancery Court.

3 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: What is the fine?

4 KIM PAPANIA: Ten thousand dollars.

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: So we had a large fine,
6 you have proof that he has made income off of fisheries
7 since then and we have not had one dollar paid.

8 Correct?

9 KIM PAPANIA: That's correct.

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: And the others have paid?

11 KIM PAPANIA: Sorry. I didn't hear you.

12 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I said and the others
13 have, or in the process of paying, that were fined?

14 KIM PAPANIA: That is correct.

15 I have had to file enforcement on one other.

16 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Could you type that on
17 the board, the motion that you would like to have to give
18 you the authority to do this?

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Just out of curiosity,
20 have you we ever done a ten thousand dollar fine?

21 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sandy, I think the Commissioner
22 had asked the question have we ever done a ten thousand
23 dollar fine before in these cases?

24 SANDY CHESNUT: Not that I am aware of.

25 JOE JEWELL: I can help answer that. My memory

1 recalls we have done that one time before. It was a
2 Coastal Wetlands permit fine that occurred.

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you, Mr. Joe.

4 KIM PAPANIA: The reason he was fined such a
5 large amount -- that was the largest fine. We based the
6 fine amount on the -- we did a dollar per pound over what
7 they did not report. So his was, I think, close to
8 thirty-something thousand, maybe thirty-three, or thirty-
9 four thousand, pounds.

10 The highest you can go for Administrative
11 Penalties under the statute is ten thousand dollars per
12 fine.

13 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, ma'am, that is
14 correct, and I think the violation was late reporting of
15 Trip Tickets.

16 Correct?

17 KIM PAPANIA: That's correct, of thirty-four
18 thousand pounds of Spotted Seatrout.

19 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I make the
20 motion that we pass this regulation to let legal collect
21 this money. If we don't help legal and enforce our laws,
22 there is no sense in us being here. I will make the
23 motion that we go ahead with this with legal.

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Do I have a second?

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I will second that

1 motion.

2 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say
3 aye.

4 (Commissioner Daniels, Commissioner Gollott,
5 Commissioner Guess, Commissioner Havard in
6 favor.)

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed nay.

8 (Commissioner Bosarge opposed.)

9 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion so moved.

10 JOE SPRAGGINS: Is that it, Kimberly?

11 KIM PAPANIA: Yes, that's it. Thank you.

12 JOE SPRAGGINS: All right. Sir, that is my
13 report, unless you have any questions.

14 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I don't think we have any
15 questions at this time. I appreciate that.

16 Now, to the Commissioners Report.

17 Commissioner Gollott, do you have anything?

18 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I don't have anything.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Commissioner Daniels?

21 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes. I've got one thing
22 I would like to bring up and this actually just hit me
23 walking in this morning, and I have already spoken to a
24 couple of people here about it.

25 On my way in, I noticed a recycling bin in the

1 main hallway there with a lot of plastic water bottles in
2 it.

3 One of the things that hit me is at the end of
4 the day whenever we come in off of our boats, probably I'm
5 going to say ninety-five percent of what we are throwing
6 away is all recyclable materials, water bottles, aluminum
7 cans, sandwich bags.

8 The one thing that we don't have at any of the
9 harbors is recycling bins. All of this stuff is going
10 straight into a garbage can and going to a landfill.

11 I would like to see if we, as a department,
12 could work between Waste Management and the harbors to get
13 some of those accessible.

14 I know Chief Davis has been working on a trash
15 program, and I think Commissioner Guess would be a good
16 one to bring in on this and see if we can be a little more
17 responsible with some of this trash that we are getting
18 rid of.

19 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I think that is a great
20 idea, Commissioner Daniels. Do a little bit of homework
21 on that and figure out if there is something we can
22 implement.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we need to ask the
24 staff to do anything?

25 JOE SPRAGGINS: why don't you just ask the staff

1 to go ahead and put together something?

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: At this time, I would
3 like to ask the staff to put together some type of
4 proposal for the framework on how we can move forward with
5 implementing this.

6 JOE SPRAGGINS: That is for implementing some
7 type of recycle bins at the harbors?

8 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Yes.

9 JOE SPRAGGINS: And at the boat launches?

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Harbors and boat launches
11 along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

12 SANDY CHESNUT: Commissioner Daniels, I would
13 suggest that you make that as a directive to the staff and
14 give them a certain time frame, like maybe two or three
15 months to report back.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: If we could get a report
17 back on that by November, that would be great.

18 SANDY CHESNUT: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Let's ask the staff what
20 time limit do they think it would take them to do this,
21 this report.

22 what staff will be doing it?

23 JOE SPRAGGINS: That would be a situation that
24 we will probably work with Charmaine and them working on
25 it and, also, I think more than anything, sir, we will

1 just need to have some time.

2 If you will give us two months, I think we can
3 do it. Just say give us two months to be able to look
4 back at it and come back to you with an idea of how we can
5 do things because we need to go back and do research. We
6 can get Marine Patrol involved and others involved to find
7 out what we can do.

8 We will just sit down and we will staff it and
9 put it together and get back with you in two months, if
10 that is okay.

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That sounds great.

12 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Was that a motion from
13 Commissioner Daniels?

14 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: She is writing the
15 directive on the board.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Let's change that to
17 October -- that will give us two months -- instead of
18 November.

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do you want to specify
20 what part of the staff you want to look at this?

21 JOE SPRAGGINS: No, sir. I will handle that.

22 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Okay.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS: Make sure you put boat launches
24 on there, too, not just harbors.

25 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Commissioner Daniels, do

1 you want to read that for us?

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: The directive for the
3 staff is for DMR staff to report back to the Commission by
4 October Commissioner meeting on the possibility of working
5 with waste Management for a recycling program in the
6 harbors and boat launches along the Mississippi Gulf
7 Coast.

8 KEITH DAVIS: Director, we are specifying Waste
9 Management, but I would like to bring to the Commission's
10 attention that counties have different waste companies
11 collecting trash, so you probably want to generalize that
12 a little bit.

13 JOE SPRAGGINS: We don't want to say a company.
14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Well, any specific
16 company, yes. Thank you, Chief.

17 with a waste management company.

18 would that work?

19 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: That broadens it out a
20 little bit.

21 All right. We have a directive, so we have to
22 take a vote on that.

23 Do we have a second?

24 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I will second it.

25 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: We have a second.

1 All those in favor say aye.

2 (All in favor.)

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those opposed say nay.

4 (None opposed.)

5 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion so moves.

6 We are still on the Commissioners report.

7 Commissioner Guess, do you have anything that
8 you would like to share?

9 COMMISSIONER GUESS: No.

10 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Commissioner Bosarge?

11 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: No, sir.

12 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Let's move on to the next
13 agenda item.

14 Next up on the agenda is Office of Marine
15 Patrol, Chief Keith Davis.

16 KEITH DAVIS: Good morning.

17 In the report for this month's enforcement
18 activity, I would like to point out that a couple of
19 oyster violations were issued this past month. One was
20 for possession of expired oysters and the other one was
21 for possession of adulterated oysters.

22 The adulterated oysters was pretty egregious in
23 the fact that the seafood dealer was storing raw oysters
24 with raw chicken and raw beef. That was a pretty
25 dangerous situation for someone to consume.

1 Other than those two violations, there was a
2 recreational crab violation issued for over the limit of
3 recreational crab traps.

4 A recap, or update, on the enforcement as far as
5 Red Snapper. To date, thirty-one citations have been
6 issued for no Tails n' Scales. We have checked a total of
7 five hundred and eight trips and seized a hundred and
8 thirty-seven fish.

9 That concludes my report, unless there are some
10 questions.

11 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Very good. I know we have
12 had a successful snapper season over the summer and you
13 guys have been present all up and down the Coast. We
14 appreciate that.

15 One thing. I was watching the news a couple of
16 weeks ago and you guys' dive team goes and does a job that
17 nobody wants to do.

18 KEITH DAVIS: Including me.

19 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Including you. They are
20 going in the waters. It is dangerous waters already, and,
21 then, they are going to search for something that they
22 hope that they don't find. It is just a very unpleasant
23 thing.

24 Kudos to your dive team that helps on recovery
25 efforts out there. That is a big deal.

1 KEITH DAVIS: Thank you so much.

2 To that point, I do want to remind the public
3 that the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security has
4 provided us with a tremendous amount of sonar equipment.

5 In the unfortunate case in Gulfport last month
6 with the three children, we were able to bring closure to
7 that family very quickly as a response.

8 That equipment that we received from Homeland
9 Security is state of the art equipment and it is available
10 to the entire State of Mississippi, in terms of recovering
11 individuals who are under water.

12 We would like to point that out, that Homeland
13 Security gave us that.

14 Thank you so much.

15 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Thank you, Chief Davis.

16 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sir, if I could real quick, I
17 would just like to give a big round of applause to the
18 Marine Patrol. They have really, really worked hard this
19 summer.

20 I tell you what, we have seen it and you see
21 them out there every day and you watch them, and you are
22 right. That is not just one time that they have had to do
23 this. It is numerous times.

24 Thank you for recognizing that and our Marine
25 Patrol, thank y'all for what you do.

1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Next up on the agenda is
2 Office of Coastal Resources Management, Mr. Jan Boyd.

3 JAN BOYD: Good morning Mr. Chairman,
4 Commissioners, Director Spraggins, legal.

5 We have one action item for your consideration
6 this morning and Jennifer Wittmann will be presenting
7 that.

8 JENNIFER WITTMANN: Good morning everyone.

9 I am Jennifer Wittmann, as Jan said, and I will
10 be presenting the final adoption for Title 22, Part 19,
11 Rules and Regulations for the Use of the State Owned
12 Coastal Preserve Areas.

13 The Notice of Intent was presented to the
14 Commission at the July meeting and the following motion
15 was passed:

16 A motion to proceed with the Notice
17 of Intent to adopt changes to Title
18 22, Part 19.

19 That notice was filed with the Secretary of
20 State's office on July the 17th, it was placed on public
21 notice on the DMR web page on July the 17th, and, then, it
22 appeared in The Sun Herald on July 21st.

23 In response to those notices, we received three
24 public comments. Two were from individuals. Both had
25 concerns about Chapter 6, Section 101, which was in

1 regards to hunting within the City limits, and the third
2 was from Audubon Mississippi and it was favorable for the
3 rules and regulations, but they also suggested some
4 changes.

5 within the Commission portal, you have copies of
6 three comment letters.

7 In response to the comments that we received
8 from the two individuals, we have made the decision to
9 update Chapter 6, Section 101, to say:

10 "Any CPA property lying within the City
11 limits is closed to hunting, unless
12 otherwise provided through City
13 ordinance."

14 I know that several of the municipalities on the
15 Coast have specifically addressed hunting inside the City
16 limits. Most do have a prohibition against firearms, but
17 there are opportunities to move forward with other types
18 of hunting that do not include the discharge of a firearm.

19 Commissioner Gollott had concerns about the
20 fireworks displays for the City of Biloxi. Prior to going
21 on public notice, I worked with legal counsel and with
22 Marine Patrol, and what we decided to do was change that
23 and say that pursuant to Title 22, Part 16, any marine
24 event within the riparian zone of a Coastal Preserve Area
25 that was permitted through Marine Patrol was exempt from

1 the regulations that prohibited explosives.

2 we felt like that didn't ask any of the
3 municipalities to come in and get a second authorization
4 from DMR. If they were already going to be working with
5 Marine Patrol to have their fireworks shows, or their
6 event permits, that we felt like that would suffice for
7 what we needed from a Coastal Preserves standpoint.

8 what would be required would be a motion for
9 final adoption of Title 22, Part 19, with the changes to
10 Chapter 6, Section 101.

11 I will be happy to answer any questions.

12 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Do we have any questions?

13 (No response.)

14 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Ms. Jennifer, I would like
15 to thank you for addressing the concerns over the
16 fireworks because that is a big concern and an activity
17 that takes place here locally that we all enjoy.

18 At this time, do I have a motion for final
19 adoption of Title 22, Part 19?

20 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I will make a motion for
21 final adoption of Title 22, Part 19.

22 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have a motion.

23 Do I have a second?

24 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I will second it, Mr.
25 Chairman.

1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: We've got a second.

2 All those in favor say aye.

3 (All in favor.)

4 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those opposed say nay.

5 (None opposed.)

6 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion so moved.

7 JOE SPRAGGINS: Chairman, if I could real quick,
8 Coastal has done a great job, too, and we don't want to
9 let them by.

10 People don't notice every day. They have been
11 fighting this thing called Salvinia. It is an issue that
12 is going on over in the eastern part of the state, and
13 they have been fighting that day in and day out.

14 It is an invasive species that has come in and
15 we just can't get -- we would love to be able -- I think
16 it is kudzu in the water. That's what I call it.

17 Y'all have done a great job. I know you are
18 trying hard and, Jan, thank y'all and your group.

19 JAN BOYD: Thank you.

20 JENNIFER WITTMANN: Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Jennifer, also, I would
22 like to say there was an issue brought to my attention
23 about the SAV in existing channels where channels have
24 filled in.

25 We, as an organization, need to work on that

1 because I understand it is stopping a lot of the dredging
2 of these smaller channels because they have filled in and
3 the SAV, the grasses have grown in the channels and, now,
4 because it is essential fish habitat, we are not allowed
5 to go in there and dredge that. We have got to work on
6 that.

7 JENNIFER WITTMANN: That is something that willa
8 and the permitting staff are addressing currently.

9 She is not here today to speak to that, but we
10 definitely know that it is a problem, especially in some
11 of these historically maintained navigation channels that
12 for whatever reason may not have been maintained. If it
13 was because of a storm, or an event like that, then, we
14 have some additional sedimentation, and, then, some of
15 those areas are becoming vegetated, but we know that there
16 is some work to be done and we are taking steps to
17 hopefully get that cleared up.

18 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Good. If we can help,
19 let us know, please.

20 JENNIFER WITTMANN: We certainly will. Thank
21 you.

22 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Thank you.

23 Let's go to H, Office of Coastal Restoration and
24 Resiliency, Mr. George Ramseur.

25 JOE SPRAGGINS: I don't think they have a report

1 this month, but I do want to thank y'all, too, George,
2 because I see y'all out there every day.

3 we don't realize the heritage work and the
4 things that are going on in that section and, also, the
5 preservation that they are doing by looking at restoring
6 the things that we have on the Gulf Coast.

7 we want to thank y'all. we appreciate your
8 work.

9 GEORGE RAMSEUR: Thank you, Joe.

10 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Very Good.

11 It looks like the next item on the agenda is
12 Office of Finance and Administration, Ms. Leslie Brewer.

13 LESLIE BREWER: Good morning.

14 My name is Leslie Brewer, CFO. I will be
15 presenting the agency's financials for the month ending
16 July 31st, 2019.

17 At the end of July, we have State Revenue of
18 three million and Total Agency Revenue also of three
19 million.

20 Our State Net Income was two point seven and
21 Total Agency Net Income was two point five million.

22 After a month of fiscal year 2020, we have
23 ninety-nine point three percent of the Operating Budget
24 remaining, while Tidelands Budget is also at ninety-nine
25 point three percent.

1 Does anybody have any questions?

2 JOE SPRAGGINS: Once again, thank you.

3 Leslie stepped up to the plate. She has only
4 been here a few months, but she stepped up to the plate.

5 The other thing is they just closed the year
6 out, and I tell you what, if you don't know what closing
7 the year out in state government is, it is a tough job,
8 and that whole group has worked hard to make sure that we
9 were compliant one hundred percent on the things that we
10 are doing.

11 Just to give you an idea. We ask for audits.
12 We don't wait for audits. We ask for audits.

13 You know why?

14 Because we want everybody to look at us and tell
15 us whether we are a hundred percent right, or wrong.

16 LESLIE BREWER: Absolutely.

17 JOE SPRAGGINS: And that is what we are after.
18 We are straight out.

19 If there is an agency that needs to come audit
20 us, we are more than glad to let you do it.

21 LESLIE BREWER: My staff has worked very hard,
22 yes. They have been at it. We are all done. We are
23 excited.

24 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Close of the fiscal year
25 and you coming into a new job, that is drinking out of a

1 fire hose is the terminology that I use.

2 LESLIE BREWER: Yes, it is a lot of learn.
3 Every day is a new learning experience.

4 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: It is rather difficult,
5 so we appreciate the extra effort you and your staff have
6 put forward.

7 LESLIE BREWER: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: That moves us on to Item
9 J, Ms. Charmaine.

10 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND: Good morning
11 Commissioners, Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut.

12 The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
13 was mentioned forty-seven times in local, state and
14 national media, since the July CMR meeting. Popular news
15 items included the effects of the Bonnet Carre Spillway in
16 Mississippi, the algal blooms and the reopening of Red
17 Snapper season.

18 Marine Patrol taught two boat-and-water safety
19 classes and certified sixty-five students. So far in
20 fiscal year 20, officers have taught two classes and
21 certified sixty-five students. Since the July meeting,
22 Marine Patrol presented at a safety meeting and
23 participated in Career Day at Vancleave High School.

24 The Office of Coastal Restoration and Resiliency
25 took part in the Weeks Bay Reserve Tonsmeire Resource

1 Center workshop in Alabama and National Park Service
2 training in Atlanta, Georgia.

3 The Office of Marine Fisheries Shellfish and
4 Seafood Technology Bureaus participated in the Gulf and
5 South Atlantic Shellfish Conference in Savannah, Georgia,
6 on August 5th through the 7th. Rick Burris, Ruth Posadas,
7 Jeff Davis, Charlie Robertson and Jason Rider shared
8 status presentations on Mississippi's shellfish
9 management, regulation and education programs.

10 Shrimp and Crab Bureau's Jason Saucier applied
11 his expertise to population assessment work at the Gulf
12 States Marine Fisheries Commission's "Gulf of Mexico Blue
13 Crab Data Exploration Workshop", August 13th through the
14 14th in Biloxi.

15 On July 18th, Kristina Broussard of the Shellfish
16 Bureau took part in the Harrison County Chamber of
17 Commerce breakfast. She answered questions regarding the
18 algal bloom. Kristina also took part in a discussion on
19 water issues affecting the Coast on July 30th at Ocean
20 Springs Library. The event was a question-and-answer
21 session with scientists about water contact advisories,
22 harmful algal blooms, bacteria and red tide.

23 Office of Marine Fisheries Marine Administrator
24 Rick Burris shared current information with the public at
25 the D'Iberville Mississippi Sound Forum on July 23rd, the

1 Pass Christian Rotary Club on July 30th and Leadership
2 Jackson County on August 1st.

3 Mississippi Seafood and agency staff
4 participated in the first-ever One Coast Day at the
5 Neshoba County Fair on August 1st. Many agencies and
6 organizations from the Gulf Coast attended One Coast Day
7 to promote everything our coast has to offer.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS: One other thing, too, with that,
9 you know Neshoba this year, there were five hundred and
10 something at the dinner that night that we helped support,
11 and that was for getting the word across of our seafood in
12 Mississippi, and that is what it was all about.

13 The other thing is the team came in there and
14 they gave out quite a bit of little fans that we had.
15 They were water-filled fans that were very, very
16 inexpensive, but they had "Marine Resources" on it and our
17 shellfish and it talked about our seafood marketing, and
18 it was a great deal.

19 Was it a thousand, right at it, of the fans?

20 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND: Yes, a thousand.

21 JOE SPRAGGINS: So it was a great job. They do
22 a good job. Thank y'all.

23 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND: Thank you.

24 JOE SPRAGGINS: While we are at it, there are a
25 couple more that are not on here and I just don't want to

1 leave departments out. I want to get them, but we also
2 have HR that does a great job, and thank y'all Christy and
3 Sandra for what you are doing. They put in every day a
4 whole lot of work for us.

5 Tidelands Group, if you didn't know that, we've
6 got a few things coming in. We've got the new groups
7 going out right now. We just had the 2021 Tidelands
8 requests come in, so we are working on it.

9 GOMESA, I met with the governor last week and we
10 are about to announce the new round of GOMESA. Those guys
11 are doing a great job, the ones in those groups. Thank
12 you.

13 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Very good. We appreciate
14 that.

15 It moves us on to Office of Marine Fisheries,
16 Mr. Joe Jewell.

17 JOE JEWELL: Good morning Commissioners.

18 Mr. Havard, I would like to acknowledge and
19 welcome you to your new position as Chairman of the Marine
20 Commission. I know you will do a very good job in that
21 role.

22 Marine Fisheries has two items for your
23 consideration this morning.

24 First is an update on the Bonnet Carre Spillway.
25 That will be done by Ms. Traci Floyd, and, then, the State

1 saltwater fishing records, and we've got a couple of
2 records in the new categories the Commission adopted.

3 Before we move into the agenda, I want to
4 welcome Rick up to the podium. He would like to give the
5 Commission an update on a couple of items the Commission
6 voted on and expressed interest in.

7 Rick.

8 RICK BURRIS: Good morning Mr. Chairman,
9 Commissioners, Director, Counsel.

10 There are a couple of things I want to update
11 the Commission on.

12 First, if you will remember several months ago,
13 the Commission asked that we work with the Gulf Coast
14 Research Lab to establish a Red Drum and Spotted Seatrout
15 tagging program.

16 It has taken a little bit of time and we have
17 jumped through hurdles. We have gotten approval from Fish
18 and Wildlife Service to amend their current project. They
19 have started their recruitment process, getting anglers to
20 start participating.

21 I just talked with the research lab this
22 morning. They have plenty of Spotted Seatrout tags, but
23 they had to order the Red Drum tags, so it is going to
24 take a few weeks to get those in, but they are in the
25 recruitment process trying to get anglers to come and

1 start participating.

2 Once they get those tags in, the effort will
3 begin to increase.

4 Do y'all have any questions?

5 JOE SPRAGGINS: Rick, tell them who they need to
6 contact, if they want to be a part of that.

7 RICK BURRIS: If you will contact the Gulf Coast
8 Research Lab, Jim Franks, his number is 872-4202. He is
9 the Project Manager on that project.

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I think right now is
11 probably a very critical time for tagging some of these
12 fish so we know where they ultimately end up moving. You
13 know, we've got a lot of theories on how many fish got
14 pushed over here by this freshwater.

15 I would be curious to see how many of them move
16 back to the west, Lake Borgne, Lake Pontchartrain as this
17 stuff clears up.

18 I think having this going and having people
19 participating in it right now is a very critical time for
20 successful data on this.

21 RICK BURRIS: Yes. Like I said, they have the
22 Spotted Seatrout tags already from a previous project.
23 So, if you want to go ahead and get some of those, you
24 can, and the Red Drum tags will be in soon.

25 The next item, Red Snapper season.

1 Just to give you an update for the private
2 recreational season component, they are currently the only
3 season that is open, or the only component that is open.
4 The preliminary estimated harvest is approximately a
5 hundred and twenty-seven thousand a hundred and eight
6 pounds of fish. That leaves us twenty-one thousand three
7 hundred and ninety-nine pounds from the ACL which is the
8 target that we are trying to reach.

9 what we would like to recommend is to keep
10 approximately fifteen thousand pounds of fish available
11 for the Labor Day weekend.

12 what we think we need to do, or what are
13 requesting is that we close down the snapper season for
14 the private recreational component this Saturday night at
15 11:59, and, then, reopen Labor Day weekend. That should
16 give us enough to get through that holiday weekend, and
17 everybody can fish through Monday. We just want to give
18 you an update on that.

19 Does anybody have any questions?

20 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I think we are good.

21 RICK BURRIS: All right. That's all I've got.
22 Thank y'all.

23 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Thank you.

24 TRACI FLOYD: Good morning Mr. Chairman,
25 Commissioners, Director Spraggins, Ms. Chesnut, Ms.

1 Papania.

2 I'm Traci Floyd, and this is the Bonnet Carre
3 spillway update.

4 Just to recount, the first opening was historic
5 in that it was the first consecutive year opening and it
6 was from February 27th through April 11th, or forty-four
7 days.

8 The maximum gates open were two hundred and six.
9 The maximum flow was two hundred and thirteen thousand
10 cubic feet per second.

11 The second opening was historic as well, in that
12 it was the first time the spillway had opened twice in one
13 year. It was open May 10th through July 27th, or seventy-
14 nine days. It was open a total of one hundred and twenty-
15 three days.

16 The maximum gates open, one hundred and sixty-
17 eight. The maximum flow, one hundred and sixty-one
18 thousand cubic feet per second.

19 For that first opening, the overall estimated
20 volume of freshwater released was nearly four trillion
21 gallons, and for the second opening over six trillion
22 gallons.

23 Here we are looking at our shared MDMR U.S.
24 Geological Survey gauge at St. Joe, Mississippi, and, as
25 far as salinity, you can see at the end of February

1 beginning of March, the salinity dropped down below two
2 parts per thousand and stayed that way for the duration of
3 the event.

4 Moving into the second opening, closer to zero
5 parts per thousand, until we had that storm surge from
6 Hurricane Barry July 10th through about the 15th, and, then,
7 of course, when the spillway reopened July 27th the
8 salinity returns to normal, or typical.

9 As far as harmful algal blooms, our Response
10 Team has analyzed eight hundred and fifty-two water
11 samples from June 12th to August 16th.

12 Microcystis continues to persist within most
13 samples collected.

14 Of course, we work closely with MDEQ and monitor
15 for the presence of cyanobacteria near and offshore.

16 Of course, Mississippi beaches are monitored by
17 DEQ and are currently under water contact advisories.

18 Water samples for microcystins, or cyanotoxin,
19 have come back below the EPA's recommended value for
20 recreational contact.

21 Of course, we are testing the seafood, seafood
22 samples from a variety of finfish species. Shrimp and
23 blue crab have been analyzed for cyanotoxins. So far none
24 were detected above the Method Detection Limit in meat
25 samples for these species.

1 This is MDMR shellfish preliminary field data.
2 We are looking at oyster mortality in the western reefs,
3 in that first graph. Through July 30th, we were at, or
4 very near to, a hundred percent mortalities (indicating
5 graph).

6 The second graph on the bottom there shows that
7 as the number of days the spillway was open increased so
8 too did our percent mortality of oysters.

9 You have seen this graph before as well. We are
10 looking at 2019 blue crab landings. That is in red,
11 versus the five-year average in blue. The new data from
12 July shows we are down thirty-nine percent. June was down
13 twenty-one percent.

14 Again, looking at the five-year average in blue
15 and shrimp landings this year in red, you will recall we
16 opened June 20th, and for June and July we are down
17 approximately sixty percent, as Director Spraggins
18 mentioned, and also for the brown shrimp down eighty
19 percent.

20 Finally, here is the recent MODIS satellite
21 imagery from the 16th. You can still see some salinity,
22 but I wanted to point out that large harmful algal bloom
23 over there on the east side of Lake Pontchartrain clearly
24 visible.

25 with that, I appreciate any comments.

1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Do we have any comments at
2 this time?

3 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank y'all for the work
4 that you have done monitoring this and staying on top of
5 it. It has certainly been a fiasco, and I know y'all have
6 put in a lot of time and effort staying on top of this,
7 the whole department has.

8 TRACI FLOYD: Thank you.

9 JOE SPRAGGINS: I would just like to thank the
10 whole staff for doing that.

11 Joe, you and your group have done an outstanding
12 job. They have worked extra, extra, extra hours this
13 summer doing this for us, and they have done a lot of
14 tests.

15 Kristina and your group, you have come out here
16 on the weekends. You have done things and you have worked
17 hard. When everybody else was having fun, y'all were out
18 here working hard trying to decide this.

19 They have trained themselves now and sent
20 themselves to school. They have gone to school. They
21 have trained themselves and, as soon as we get this lab
22 done next year, we will be able to do all these tests
23 right here at DMR. We will not have to send anything out.

24 I just want to thank the Marine Fisheries staff.

25 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Mr. Matt Hill is going to

1 bring something exciting to talk about, some records here.

2 Tell us about them, Matt.

3 MATT HILL: It is actually a pleasure to get to
4 do this again this month. Obviously, we are going to have
5 some youth records, and we have a few more the Commission
6 will be interested in, so we will get right into it.

7 These are obviously the State saltwater Finfish
8 records.

9 The first will be a Youth Division consisting of
10 conventional tackle. We had a Ladyfish brought in. The
11 new record is one pound fourteen point five eight ounces.
12 This fish was harvested by Mr. Rodie Arms.

13 Here is the picture of the fish. Here is the
14 picture of young Rodie with the fish.

15 Our next one is a Crevalle Jack. A new record
16 set also at twenty-five pounds six point four ounces. The
17 angler is also Mr. Rodie Armes.

18 Here is a picture of the fish. Here is a
19 picture of Rodie with the fish.

20 Like I said, this has been very exciting for our
21 staff, when these children come in. It has been a very
22 rewarding experience.

23 Moving on to the conventional tackle records, we
24 do have a new Atlantic Tarpon record. This record has
25 stood since 2001. The old record was a hundred and sixty-

1 seven pounds. Our new record would be one hundred eighty-
2 five pounds eight point eight ounces. The angler was Mr.
3 Don Ruiz.

4 I would like to point out this fish was measured
5 at Long Beach Harbor with a seventy-eight inch fork
6 length. We had two of our biologists down there to verify
7 this.

8 Here is a picture of the fish hanging. Here is
9 a picture of Mr. Ruiz with the fish.

10 We also have one more into our new category, the
11 all tackle category. The method of take was a spear for
12 this fish. It is a Permit, and it established a new
13 record of nine pounds fifteen point six ounces. The
14 angler is Mr. Sean Cook.

15 Here is the picture of the fish itself, and a
16 picture of Mr. Cook holding the fish.

17 If there are no questions, what is required is a
18 motion to adopt all of the new state records presented.

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I will make that motion.

20 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Do we have a second for
21 the motion for the new records?

22 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I will second it.

23 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: We have a motion and a
24 second.

25 All those in favor say aye.

1 (All in favor.)

2 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed say nay.

3 (None opposed.)

4 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Motion so moved.

5 MATT HILL: Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Matt, I have one
7 question.

8 How old do you think that Tarpon was?

9 MATT HILL: The fish has been frozen at GCRL,
10 since it has been processed and actually today they are
11 currently thawing it out and they are fixing to try to
12 figure out some things like that, the age of the fish
13 obviously, sex it. They are going to try some new tagging
14 techniques on it, while they have this fish.

15 We worked it out with them. Hopefully by the
16 next meeting, we can have those answers, but this
17 afternoon they are going to begin working on that
18 particular specimen.

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: All right. Thank you.

20 MATT HILL: Yes, sir.

21 JOE JEWELL: That concludes Marine Fisheries, if
22 there are no other questions.

23 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Thank you guys.

24 I think that brings us to letter L, other
25 business.

1 Do we have any other business today?

2 (No response.)

3 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Doesn't look like we do.

4 That brings us to M, Public Comments. Looks like we
5 have two public comments.

6 The first one is Mr. Clarence Seymour.

7 CLARENCE SEYMOUR: I would like to thank the
8 Commission for having us today. Sorry I didn't bring my
9 collar. It kind of was a short notice on my meeting
10 today. I was working on a boat.

11 The Commission, the law enforcement and the
12 resource management of the State of Mississippi here this
13 summer was flawless. These guys worked their tails off
14 this year.

15 Mr. Spraggins is correct. They did an
16 outstanding job.

17 I'm not going to take much of your time. I was
18 over in New Orleans at the Gulf Council meeting Wednesday
19 at public testimony.

20 what was brought to my attention that you guys
21 might be very interested in was that the Panama City fleet
22 -- I think it was fifteen maybe, or eighteen, guys came
23 from Panama City and their problem is like ours. They are
24 having a hard time getting their Corps of Engineers and
25 NOAA permits through for reef development after Michael.

1 We are in the same ballpark as they are here in
2 Mississippi. Katrina wiped our wrecks out, silted them
3 in. FH6 has hardly no show at all anymore.

4 As a private angler is really why I'm here, not
5 a charter guy, but I am out on the water so much every day
6 and everybody is using the waters, and I would like for
7 the private anglers and the shrimpers and all the
8 commercial fishermen, that we all share this resource and
9 bottom that we have.

10 We see the shrimping fleet out there at Fish
11 Haven 13, too. They know where it is.

12 We've got tons of rubble that needs to go down
13 inshore, offshore, and I think the consensus is that the
14 citizens of Mississippi would like to all get along and
15 make sure that all of this stuff makes it to the bottom,
16 before we lose funding and such because Ingalls is
17 donating plenty of rubble. The CCA is wanting to give us
18 a hundred thousand dollars for development.

19 I think, as citizens of Mississippi, we are
20 asking if there is somehow, or another, we can figure out
21 a way to get with NOAA and the Corps of Engineers and
22 let's get this stuff on the bottom and lets everybody just
23 figure out a good way to do it.

24 Any questions?

25 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, sir, and I think to

1 answer your question, it is just like to said. A lot of
2 what has been put out there is no longer there. It is
3 silted in.

4 CLARENCE SEYMOUR: Yes, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: In an effort, I'm with
6 you. We all need to work together. We all want fish
7 havens. We all need more places to fish. We need to be
8 sure to put these fish havens especially on the bottom
9 that is firm enough to take it that to where we don't
10 waste our money; put it there and five years later it is
11 gone.

12 Yes, we all need to work together to try to find
13 the right places to build these reefs where it is less
14 intrusive on commercial fishing, but also good bottom
15 where when you put the structure there, it will stay
16 there. It will be a fishing reef for years to come.

17 CLARENCE SEYMOUR: Yes, I totally agree.

18 I think that what we are missing is that the
19 private angler does not understand what the bottom means
20 to the shrimping industry.

21 I totally get it. I have talked to folks about
22 it and explained to them that just because we want to
23 throw a bunch of rubble on the bottom doesn't mean it is
24 all ours. There are nets that have got to be caught.

25 we have still got to supply the country with

1 shrimp. It is the number one shrimp catching area in the
2 world right here, and we are not bringing any more from
3 Vietnam.

4 I'm with you, Commissioner Bosarge, definitely.
5 I think it can happen.

6 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I think we got that, Mr.
7 Seymour. I think we all agree that there needs to be some
8 additional reef sources out there to catch these fish,
9 these reef fish that are coming from the west to us and to
10 the east to us. I appreciate your time.

11 CLARENCE SEYMOUR: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: It looks like we have one
13 more comment here.

14 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I think Dr. Mickle had
15 his hand up.

16 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Yes, Dr. Mickle.

17 PAUL MICKLE: Thank you, Chairman.

18 I just wanted to address Commissioner Bosarge's
19 suggestion and concern about soft bottoms.

20 The NFWF grant that we have for reef fish we
21 acquired, we are in Phase 4, beginning Phase 4 next year.
22 They did a bottom scan of the entire offshore area, the
23 study area, which is the fish havens and the artificial
24 reefs, and they have actually identified those hard spots
25 and soft spots. They have done an analysis.

1 Just to give you information, we have those
2 tools to do a lot better job. We didn't have that
3 information in the past. We have those tools to address
4 the concerns about those soft spots.

5 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: That is good. Thank you.

6 I think, if we put everybody in the same room,
7 most of those fishermen, they can tell you where those
8 hard spots and soft spots are because that is where they
9 work.

10 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Thank you, Dr. Mickle.

11 I think we have one more public comment, Mr.
12 Peter Cowart (phonetic).

13 PETER COWART: Thank you. I appreciate your
14 time in letting me speak here. I will be brief.

15 I am in the 2019 Off-Bottom Aquaculture Training
16 Program here through the DMR.

17 Once we get through our training and do our
18 first grow out, we will have the opportunity to get into a
19 state lease for our own oyster harvesting.

20 I know the governor has put money aside to help
21 everybody get started on this and, in doing so, we have
22 looked around. Currently, we have the Deer Island site
23 and there is a Round Island site that is kind of on the
24 books that I don't think is fully developed yet. Those
25 two areas are good and we appreciate them.

1 Doing this oyster harvesting, it is kind of
2 difficult in deep water, anything over five foot, six,
3 seven, eight or nine foot which is what a lot of this is,
4 especially at the Round Island site.

5 Of course, we are looking around. Me and my
6 son-in-law are kind of teaming up on this. We are both in
7 the program.

8 In researching an area that we found that is
9 good and, of course, we go out with our little salinity
10 testers as everybody has been doing here lately trying to
11 see what is going on, and there is an area to the east
12 just this side of the Alabama line out there, but it is in
13 the NERR Coastal Preserve.

14 I know that area. That Coastal Preserve as it
15 is written states that no commercial activity is supposed
16 to occur there.

17 Of course, at present there are crab pots and
18 commercial fishing and shrimping and everything all in
19 that boundary area of the NERR.

20 So my question to the Commission here is I'm
21 trying to see if there is any way, being that there is
22 already commercial activity there and being enforced
23 through DMR and stuff, if we could find a way to let us
24 use that area for off-bottom oyster harvesting.

25 That is my question, if there is some way that

1 we could make that -- I don't know if it would be a
2 variance, or what the legal part is, but that is my
3 question, if we can do off-bottom oyster harvesting out
4 there.

5 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I think the Director can
6 talk to that just a little bit.

7 JOE SPRAGGINS: Well, just by coincidence, we
8 met on it yesterday. We met with Joe and them, and we are
9 working on it and Jan, I think, is working on some stuff
10 with it.

11 We are looking at it. We are looking at that
12 area and we are trying to decide if that is a viable
13 option, is there something we can do to be able to utilize
14 that area because we need more areas to be able to do off-
15 bottom.

16 PETER COWART: Correct.

17 JOE SPRAGGINS: We are working to try to come up
18 with an answer to it.

19 I can tell you right now water quality is one
20 thing. We are going to have to look at it and decide what
21 we can do and will it work.

22 We are definitely looking at it, and we will
23 keep you up to speed on what we are doing, but any areas
24 that we can, we are open. We are open to any areas that
25 we can do off-bottom.

1 Also, real quick. I met with a group yesterday
2 with Kelly Lucas, Dr. Kelly Lucas, and we are still
3 working on trying to develop a process to where you can do
4 it in deeper water. It would be the State of Mississippi
5 owning the device through USM, and they would own a device
6 that will raise and lower those baskets remote control.
7 So we could work on something to be able to work that.

8 I think that is going to be the future for us
9 because being able to do that, you can go in deeper water,
10 you can be able to do the things you are looking at, but
11 we are here to help you any way we can. We appreciate it.

12 PETER COWART: Well, I appreciate it, and thank
13 y'all for your time.

14 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, sir. I agree with
15 you on that Bayou Cumbest, Bayou Heron, Grand Bay NERR
16 area. That has been the ideal place for that.

17 As a matter of fact, right across the state line
18 for years and years there was lot of that oyster
19 aquaculture that took place there.

20 So, yes, if there is a way to work with Grand
21 Bay NERR, then, that would be great because it is a good
22 place. It would be a great place. It has already been
23 done there. So I would think that it should not be that
24 hard, but we will do what we can.

25 PETER COWART: All right. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Thank you very much for
2 bringing your concerns to the table.

3 I think at this time, is there any other
4 business that we have out there?

5 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would
6 like to make a motion that we adjourn.

7 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: I have a motion to
8 adjourn.

9 Do I have a second?

10 COMMISSIONER GUESS: I'll second the motion.

11 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: All those in favor say
12 aye.

13 (All in favor.)

14 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: Opposed say nay.

15 (None opposed.)

16 COMMISSIONER HAVARD: So moved.

17 (Whereupon, at 10:02 o'clock, a.m., the August
18 20, 2019, meeting of the Commission on Marine Resources
19 was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

1
2
3 I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
4 do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true
5 and correct transcript of the August 20, 2019, meeting of
6 the Commission on Marine Resources, as taken by me at the
7 time and place heretofore stated in the aforementioned
8 matter in shorthand, with electronic verification, and
9 later reduced to typewritten form to the best of my skill
10 and ability; and, further, that I am not a relative,
11 employee, or agent, of any of the parties thereto, nor
12 financially interested in the cause.

13
14
15 s/ _____

16 COURT REPORTER
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