

Commission on Marine Resources

COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 21, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Bolton State Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Commission Members:

- Richard Gollott, Chairman
Shelby Drummond, Vice Chairman
Steve Bosarge
Ron Harmon
Ernie Zimmerman

Also Present:

- Jamie M. Miller, Executive Director DMR
Sean Morrison, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

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1 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?
2 (None opposed.)
3 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.
4 SEAN MORRISON: Mr. Chairman.
5 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Yes, sir.
6 SEAN MORRISON: We may want to put the elections
7 on the agenda, as well. I don't believe they are already
8 on there.
9 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: It's already on it.
10 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: It's on there.
11 SEAN MORRISON: I'm sorry. I had an old
12 version.
13 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next, we have election of
14 officers. Every year in July, we elect officers. We
15 start the election with the chairman and we go to the vice
16 chairman.
17 Are there any nominations for chairman?
18 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
19 I would like to nominate you as chairman again,
20 if you would take it.
21 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you.
22 Do we have any more nominations?
23 (No response.)
24 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: With no more nominations,
25 nominations are closed.

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1 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Good morning. First of
2 all, we are going to have the Pledge of Allegiance. I
3 would like to ask Jamie to lead us in the pledge.
4 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was
5 recited.)
6 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next, we have approval of
7 the minutes.
8 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: So moved, Mr. Chairman.
9 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Second.
10 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a
11 second.
12 All those in favor say aye.
13 (All in favor.)
14 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion is carried.
15 Next, we have approval of the agenda.
16 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: I would like to make a
17 motion to approve, Mr. Chairman.
18 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion to
19 approve as written and read.
20 Do we have a second?
21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: So seconded.
22 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a
23 second.
24 All those in favor say aye.
25 (All in favor.)

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1 Do we have a second?
2 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: I second the motion, Mr.
3 Chairman.
4 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion made and
5 seconded.
6 All those in favor say aye.
7 (All in favor.)
8 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries. Thank
9 you.
10 Now, we open the nominations for vice chairman.
11 Do we have any nominations?
12 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I would like to nominate
13 Mr. Shelby Drummond as vice chairman.
14 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have any more
15 nominations?
16 (No response.)
17 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Nominations are closed,
18 at this time.
19 Do we have a second for the motion?
20 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: I'll second the motion.
21 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion has been made and
22 seconded.
23 All those in favor say aye.
24 (All in favor.)
25 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.

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1 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would
 2 like to take the time to thank y'all for what you've done
 3 as the Chairman and the Vice Chairman for the past year.
 4 You have done a good job. I think CMR as a whole, under
 5 your direction, Jamie's direction and our direction, is
 6 moving in the right direction. So thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you, Ernie.
 8 We have the Executive Director's report next.

9 JAMIE MILLER: Thank you, Chairman Gollott.
 10 I've got two items. One is the Governor's
 11 Oyster Council, the final report was delivered to the
 12 Governor at a press conference on June the 23rd. The
 13 Governor has had a chance to review that final report. He
 14 has contacted me on a few occasions. He has been very
 15 impressed with the work that was done. He thanked the
 16 volunteers and the staff, and I also want to thank
 17 everybody that was involved, that gave their time to
 18 develop the report and the recommendations.

19 The Governor also said that he is committed to
 20 working with our agency and the Commission to make the
 21 recommendations a reality. So we will continue to do
 22 that, moving forward. Our staff has already started to
 23 begin kind of a time line and next steps for us to
 24 consider.

25 The report is available on our website at

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1 Marine Patrol, Mr. Keith Davis.

2 RUSTY PITTMAN: Good morning Mr. Chairman,
 3 Commissioners, Director Miller, Mr. Morrison.
 4 You have the report in front of you for the past
 5 month, the month of June. There are a couple of things I
 6 do want to mention.

7 The first one, under "Oyster Violations", you
 8 see one that says "No Shellfish Repacker Certification".
 9 That was one our trip that four of our officers took to
 10 north Mississippi, checking seafood shops up there for
 11 compliance, and this particular shop was taking oysters
 12 out of gallons and repacking them in unmarked pints and
 13 quarts. His reasoning for it was he could make more money
 14 that way.

15 It was a good trip. The Chief is going to talk
 16 a little bit more about that. We did make contact with
 17 several seafood shops up there.

18 One other item I would like to mention that I
 19 really don't like to talk about it, but it is fatalities
 20 in the past year. If you notice, we had ten fatalities,
 21 compared to eight in 2014. The last two were drownings in
 22 the Wolf River at Merlin Necaise. The Chief is going to
 23 talk about that, too, where our dive team recovered the
 24 deceased.

25 Do you have any questions?

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1 www.dmr.ms.gov. It's on the front page. So we encourage
 2 people to go there and download it, or you can get a hard
 3 copy.

4 We have delivered the reports to all the coastal
 5 counties. You can get a hard copy of the report which
 6 looks like this at the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce
 7 building in Bay St. Louis, at Pass Christian City Hall,
 8 you can, of course, come here and get a copy of it, and in
 9 Jackson County, we've got them at Gautier City Hall
 10 (indicating document).

11 Secondly, the agency is just now in the final
 12 draft of its budget request for the 2017 fiscal year. We
 13 have been preparing that budget. The staff has been
 14 working very hard to get all of those numbers put
 15 together. As soon as it becomes final at the end of this
 16 month, we will make it available online, as well, on our
 17 website where the public and everyone can view that
 18 budget. We will also deliver hard copies to the
 19 legislative budget office, at the same time.

20 That will be fiscal year 2017 which begins July
 21 of 2016. So we are ahead of the calendar, but it will be
 22 forecasting what our budget with the agency will be
 23 involved in, in the next eighteen months to twenty-four
 24 months. Thank you for that.

25 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next up is Office of

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1 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: I have a question.

2 RUSTY PITTMAN: Yes, sir.

3 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: Under "Marine Litter
 4 Violations", the "Discharge of Hazardous Substance", what
 5 was the substance?

6 RUSTY PITTMAN: Oil. A shrimp boat was pumping
 7 oil out of the bilge.

8 If there are no more questions, I would like to
 9 ask Chief Davis to come up and do the recognition.

10 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you, Rusty.

11 RUSTY PITTMAN: Thank you.

12 KEITH DAVIS: Good morning Mr. Chairman,
 13 Director Miller, and other Commissioners.

14 As you can see in your packet, today is a day
 15 that we would like to pause and recognize those Marine
 16 Patrol Officers who are committed to the agency and our
 17 mission here at DMR. This has been a very busy summer for
 18 them, as they have shown through their efforts to carry
 19 out those commitments.

20 We would like to start out with recognizing one
 21 of our reserve officers who has decided he is going to
 22 retire and rest.

23 Officer Dawson Love started his career with the
 24 United States Air Force, working primarily in
 25 communications. After twenty-one years of service, he

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1 retired, becoming a civilian instructor with the United
2 States Air Force where he, again, retired in 2014.

3 Throughout his career, he understood the
4 importance of continuing education, and he went on to get
5 his Master's Degree with William Carey University and a
6 Ph.D. in Management.

7 In 1999, Dawson Love decided he wanted to
8 volunteer and he came to work here with the DMR Marine
9 Patrol Division. Since 1999, Officer Love has been
10 credited with assisting with enhancing the communications
11 division as a part-time dispatcher. His training and
12 passion to enhance communications assisted us with where
13 we are today, and I thank him for that.

14 In addition, he has also volunteered, on
15 average, a hundred and twenty hours per year. Volunteered
16 a hundred and twenty hours per year, in his spare time.

17 During his tenure as a Marine Patrol Officer,
18 Dawson could always be counted on. Even at a moment's
19 notice, he was always willing to come and assist us with
20 our goals and missions.

21 For the last seven years, Dawson served as the
22 Chief of Marine Patrol Reserve Unit and, today, I gladly
23 announce that he is ready to go home and spend time with
24 his family.

25 Sir, from my office, I say thank you for your

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1 service. Rest easy. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 KEITH DAVIS: The next recognition is several of
4 our officers on a few search and rescue efforts that we
5 have had this summer so far. I'm not going to go through
6 all of what is in your packet. If you have any questions
7 on that, obviously, we are here to answer those questions.

8 We also want to update you on where we are on
9 JEA, our current contract and overall review of the JEA.

10 Finally, we are going to talk a little bit about
11 the Cowart case. I know some of you had some questions on
12 what we were doing with recreational fishermen.

13 The first search and rescue happened on May 24th.
14 Chief Pittman already mentioned we had two kids that went
15 missing off the west end tip of Ship Island, and you have
16 all seen the news reports on that. That did not end the
17 way that we would like for those rescues to end, but
18 Marine Patrol was able to save one of the young men who
19 was clinging to a buoy west of Ship Island.

20 One thing that I would like to point out in this
21 slide is, on the night that these kids went missing, the
22 weather was extremely bad that night and, while we all
23 were at home safe in our houses, Marine Patrol, Park
24 Service and the Coast Guard were out looking for these
25 young men in deplorable conditions.

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1 Finally, as I mentioned before, on May 27th, we
2 recovered the body of Omar Gonzalez, with the assistance
3 of the United States Coast Guard and one of our local
4 charter boat fishermen who wishes to remain anonymous.

5 Then, on June 6th, a medical emergency call came
6 in to our communications division. This was a unique
7 call. It was the United States Coast Guard requesting our
8 assistant in Louisiana. A young man was having some heart
9 conditions and Louisiana had no one to respond, and the
10 Coast Guard was unable to respond quickly and asked if we
11 had anyone in the area. That particular day, Senior
12 Master Sargent Tommy Jennings was patrolling south of Ship
13 Island and was the closest vessel to that young man.

14 Subsequently, the gentleman succumbed to his
15 conditions, but I would like to point out that Marine
16 Patrol never gave up on him, and eventually brought him in
17 from the Isle au Pitre area to Pass Christian where he was
18 eventually pronounced dead, but I would like to point out
19 that Senior Master Sargent Tommy Jennings did a great job
20 on doing everything he could to save that man's life that
21 day.

22 I do want to mention that Sargent Jennings
23 demonstrated actions indicative of this agency's
24 commitment to protecting life on the waterways and should
25 be commended for a job well done. We will get to that in

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1 just a minute.

2 On June 16th, we received another call concerning
3 a possible capsized vessel. Those two victims, we found
4 early that morning on June 16th, and one of the highlights
5 on this slide that I would like to point out is that
6 utilizing our down-view sonar, dive team members were able
7 to recover both victims in what is being described to me
8 as record time of thirty-six minutes. They were able to
9 provide closure for both of those families and bring their
10 loved ones in.

11 Now, I want to take the time to specifically
12 recognize each member who was involved in these search and
13 rescues. We will reserve applause until the end.

14 Team leader, Bryce Gex.

15 Dive Commander, Senior Master Sargent Tommy
16 Jennings.

17 Senior Master Sargent Matt Kasovich.

18 Master Sargent Scott Anderson.

19 Corporal Chris Collins.

20 Private Jeff Langlinais.

21 Our support staff was:

22 Senior Master Sargent Scott Chatham.

23 Corporal Amanda Skok.

24 Our very own Commissioner, Harrison County Boat
25 Patrol Lieutenant Ron Harmon was out there that morning,

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1 as well.
 2 United States Coast Guard sent a boat out there.
 3 Lieutenant Mike Yonce.
 4 Captain of Patrol, Kyle Wilkerson.
 5 Dispatch Supervisor, Amy Taylor.
 6 Christine McQueen.
 7 Selena Burhorn.
 8 Micki McCellen.
 9 Daphne Moore.
 10 Chief Pittman, stand by. I know you think I
 11 missed you, but I didn't.

12 A year ago, Director Miller challenged me with
 13 making sure that our Marine Patrol is professional,
 14 courteous, and fair.

15 I would like to take the time to say to Director
 16 Miller that we are well on our way in Marine Patrol in
 17 doing that, and the reason why we are is the people I just
 18 mentioned in that slide.

19 At this time, I would like for them to stand and
 20 be recognized, including Lieutenant Ron Harmon with
 21 Harrison County Boat Patrol.

22 (Applause.)

23 KEITH DAVIS: These cases do not stop with the
 24 recovery. We have implemented an Investigative Division
 25 that has been committed and remains investigating these

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1 cases to ensure that it was truly an accident.

2 At this time, I would like to recognize Captain
 3 Chris Caldwell and Investigator Will Freeman for the work
 4 that they have done on ensuring that these were true
 5 accidents and not some crime that happened out there on
 6 the waterway.

7 Captain Chris Caldwell and Will Freeman.

8 (Applause.)

9 KEITH DAVIS: Finally, my little buddy standing
 10 here, Assistant Chief Rusty Pittman, he didn't know that I
 11 was going to sidebar and do this today, but Chief Pittman
 12 was the glue that held this place together and he has not
 13 received proper accolades for the work that he has done.
 14 without his leadership, we certainly could not do the
 15 things that we are able to do in Marine Patrol.

16 Please join me in congratulating Chief Pittman
 17 in the work that he has done.

18 (Applause.)

19 KEITH DAVIS: JEA Update. I'm not going to go
 20 through this entire slide, as you have been able to read,
 21 but, if you have any questions, please let me know. Those
 22 are the numbers that we have received from NOAA, as a
 23 result of our JEA contract.

24 As Chief Pittman mentioned briefly just a moment
 25 ago, we traveled to the north part of the state and that

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1 was in direct response to a seafood dealer approaching me
 2 early on and putting me on notice that Marine Patrol has
 3 not done a due diligence job in enforcing the laws that we
 4 enforce on the three coastal counties, in terms of seafood
 5 licenses.

6 We responded to that and we are now patrolling,
 7 or have a schedule to travel to the north part of the
 8 state to ensure that those businesses are following the
 9 same rules and regulations that the coastal counties are,
 10 and, as you can tell, we did have a lot of activity going
 11 on there.

12 Some feedback from that was we had numerous
 13 shops and market owners that thanked us for the added
 14 enforcement and they were able to provide us with some
 15 information that is going to be beneficial in the future,
 16 with us going after those individuals who are doing
 17 roadside sales of seafood.

18 We have also partnered with the USDA and they
 19 are going to travel with us to ensure that this seafood
 20 being sold on the roadside is safe for human consumption.

21 We are excited about where we are there and what
 22 the future holds, with that type of enforcement in the
 23 north part of our state.

24 The Cowart Case. I know you have seen this case
 25 in the news where we served a search warrant with the

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1 assistance of NOAA, U. S. Fish and Wildlife, Hancock
 2 County Sheriff's Office and some other partners.

3 This individual was identified last year as
 4 purchasing illegal seafood from recreational fishermen,
 5 and, with the leadership of our Criminal Investigations
 6 Division, we went after this individual and that has
 7 turned out to be a really good case, and it is currently
 8 pending court action in the U. S. Federal Court.

9 This case is still being investigated by our
 10 investigative team, as well as NOAA, and we do feel that
 11 some good things are going to come out of this case.

12 Any questions?

13 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Chief, let me say thank
 14 you on behalf of the Commission on Marine Resources,
 15 especially to the people you have recognized. Good job.
 16 Thank you.

17 KEITH DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Up next is Mr. Joe Jewel,
 19 Marine Fisheries.

20 JOE JEWELL: Good morning Commissioners.

21 Before I proceed into the agenda items for
 22 Marine Fisheries, I would like to give you a couple of
 23 updates.

24 The commercial quota for flounder is seventy-
 25 four thousand. To date, we have landed approximately

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1 twelve thousand, or sixteen percent.
 2 For red drum, the quota is fifty thousand. To
 3 date, we have landed forty-two thousand nine hundred and
 4 ninety-one pounds, or approximately eighty-six percent.
 5 For spotted seatrout, the quota limit is fifty
 6 thousand. To date, we have landed just over nineteen
 7 thousand pounds, or about thirty-eight percent.
 8 I want to give you a brief update on the shrimp
 9 season.
 10 As you know, we reopened the season north of
 11 Intracoastal on July the 13th. So far, from our dockside
 12 inspections, the shrimp being landed are a little bit
 13 larger than when we initially opened the season on June
 14 3rd. They are a little bit larger shrimp. They are
 15 reporting large numbers of white shrimp which is a little
 16 bit unusual for this time of the year. Most of your know,
 17 white shrimp usually start coming into the sound mid to
 18 late August.
 19 It has been an unusual season this year in a lot
 20 of different ways. We opened the season, like I said, on
 21 June 3rd, on a legal count of sixty-eight and had
 22 maintained sixty-eight and actually started getting larger
 23 shrimp, and, then, through our routine sampling, the count
 24 dropped below sixty-eight and we closed the season.
 25 The shrimp, early in the season, we feel that

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1 will read it into the public record.
 2 "Each seafood dealer/processor is hereby
 3 required to complete Mississippi trip tickets provided by
 4 the MDMR. Commercial fishermen who sell their catch to
 5 individuals other than a Mississippi dealer/processor are
 6 hereby required to complete Mississippi trip tickets
 7 provided by the MDMR and be in possession of a fresh
 8 product permit. A completed trip ticket shall only be
 9 required for the initial point of sale of the seafood
 10 product." -- if the item is underlined, that means it is
 11 new to the regulation. If it is crossed out, that means
 12 it is deleted -- "Commercial fishermen who sell their
 13 catch to anyone other than a Mississippi licensed
 14 dealer/processor, or transport their catch out of state,
 15 are required to purchase and possess a Dealer/Processor
 16 License and are required to comply with all regulations
 17 governing Mississippi dealer/processors. All trip tickets
 18 shall be returned to the MDMR, or electronically
 19 submitted, on or before the 10th of each month for actual
 20 transactions from every commercial fisherman during the
 21 preceding month. A trip ticket summary form that states
 22 the total trips taken in a given month shall be submitted
 23 by the 10th of each month by the seafood dealer/processor,
 24 or commercial fisherman. The fisherman is required to
 25 provide to the dealer complete and accurate information

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1 they probably were of multiple year classes, then, due to
 2 the early rainfall. As you know, this year we had an
 3 unusual amount of rainfall into the system that we haven't
 4 had that amount of rainfall and that prolonged amount of
 5 rainfall in quite some time, and we feel that had some
 6 impact into the system. This has been quite an unusual
 7 season for everyone. It has had an economic impact on the
 8 fishermen, the fisheries, the dealers, the processors, and
 9 it has just been a very tough time for everyone.
 10 with that being said, I will go into the main
 11 agenda items. First up is item one, Title 22 Part 9, a
 12 final adoption for your consideration.
 13 As you know, the Commission passed the Notice of
 14 Intent, on June 16th, 2015. The Notice was filed with the
 15 Secretary of State, Administrative Procedures Act, on June
 16 the 18th. We published Public Notice on the DMR web page,
 17 on June the 18th. We published a legal notice in the Sun
 18 Herald that appeared on June the 26th.
 19 The public comment period was June 16th through
 20 July the 20th. To date, no public comments have been
 21 received.
 22 I presented this as a Notice of Intent,
 23 Commissioners, at our last Commission meeting. Section
 24 102 will be completely eliminated from the title and part.
 25 This section will be modified, Section 101. I

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1 necessary for the completion of the fisherman portion of
 2 the trip ticket. This may include, but is not limited to,
 3 commercial fisherman's name, valid license number, date
 4 and area of harvest, trip and fishing time, proper vessel
 5 identification, gear, quantity, and size of gear used, and
 6 applicable mesh size, if any, of gear used, seafood
 7 dealer's name, date of purchase, dealer license number,
 8 port and county product was landed, species being
 9 purchased, weight or any other applicable standard,
 10 condition of product, count or market grade of purchased
 11 seafood product, and price paid per unit, pound or number,
 12 per species. The seafood dealer/processor, or fisherman,
 13 is required to verify the accuracy of the tickets by
 14 signing each ticket."
 15 We need a motion for final adoption.
 16 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll make the motion for
 17 final adoption of Title 22 Part 9.
 18 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion.
 19 Do we have a second?
 20 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Second.
 21 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: All those in favor say
 22 aye.
 23 (All in favor.)
 24 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?
 25 (None opposed.)

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1 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.
 2 JOE JEWELL: Thank you, Commissioners.
 3 The next agenda item is Title 22 Part 7, Spotted
 4 Seatrout Regulatory Adjustment, as it appears on the
 5 agenda.
 6 As y'all may recall, the Commission asked the
 7 staff to examine ways to help the commercial spotted
 8 seatrout fishermen more efficiently capture the fifty
 9 thousand pound quota.
 10 The staff examined the two primary controlling
 11 regulations, Title 22 Part 7 and Title 22 Part 5. We came
 12 up with really two recommendations.
 13 The current regulations that exist. There is a
 14 fourteen inch minimum length.
 15 There is a fifty thousand pound annual quota,
 16 beginning on February the 1st of each year.
 17 The season currently is divided into three four-
 18 month periods. Two active harvesting periods: February
 19 the 1st through May 31st, twenty-five thousand pounds, and
 20 June the 1st through September the 30th, there is an
 21 additional twenty-five thousand pounds, and there is one
 22 inactive period, October 1st through January 31st.
 23 The commercial fishermen must possess a current
 24 harvester's license and be in possession of the spotted
 25 seatrout endorsement.

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1 I'm not going to read all of this to you, but
 2 this is the section that requires them to have the
 3 endorsement and explains the three seasons (indicating
 4 slide).
 5 The options that we put forward before the
 6 Commission today are status quo, or increase the length of
 7 the second quota period to run through October 31st,
 8 allowing eligible commercial fishermen additional time, an
 9 additional month, to harvest the total annual quota.
 10 Should the Commission consider that, I will read
 11 into the public record that section of the regulation that
 12 it would change and the potential impacts of those
 13 changes. It would be to Title 22 Party 7 Chapter 09
 14 Section 109.
 15 "From and after February 1, 2013, the annual
 16 total allowable catch, TAC, for commercial landings of
 17 spotted seatrout, *Cynoscion nebulosus*, will be set at
 18 fifty thousand pounds. The 2015 commercial fishing season
 19 for landing Spotted Seatrout shall commence on February
 20 1st, 2015" -- and instead of ending on September the 30th --
 21 "and end on October 31st, 2015, and each subsequent year
 22 thereafter. The commercial TAC for the fishing season
 23 shall be divided into two periods as follows: February 1st
 24 through May 31st, twenty-five thousand pounds; June 1st
 25 through October 31st, twenty-five thousand pounds. In the

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1 event the commercial TAC is not met, or exceeded, in the
 2 first time period, February 1st through May 31st, the pounds
 3 shall be added to, or subtracted from, the second time
 4 period, June 1st through October 31st."
 5 Commissioner Bosarge.
 6 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes, sir. Let's talk
 7 about this just a little bit.
 8 JOE JEWELL: Sure.
 9 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: How did we manage to get
 10 from filling the quota so quick to where we are, now?
 11 We are at nineteen thousand pounds, and,
 12 normally, by this time of year, the season would be
 13 closed.
 14 what has changed?
 15 JOE JEWELL: There are several factors that
 16 played into that, but the primary factor that played into
 17 it that I think is the major contributing cause of that
 18 was the speckled trout endorsement.
 19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We don't have that many
 20 commercial fishermen that actually do hook-and-line. It's
 21 just not what they are used to in gear choice.
 22 I see what you're trying to do. By talking to
 23 most of the fishermen, they catch a good many trout in
 24 early spring when the water is still cool and there are
 25 not very many catfish around because they don't have much

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1 gear left that they can use to target that species.
 2 I'm just wondering if by extending the season
 3 maybe later in the year and the water cools off --
 4 because, as the water cools off, the catfish will move off
 5 -- maybe that will help.
 6 I guess my point is, if this doesn't help and we
 7 are not able to fulfill the quota, what are our options,
 8 then?
 9 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: And I feel the same way
 10 Steve does. We went from filling the quota in a month to,
 11 now, we are sitting here a year later not being able to
 12 meet the quota, and the only thing that changed, as you
 13 said, was the endorsement, and I question whether we made
 14 a wrong move, by doing that endorsement
 15 I read last month's minutes, and Chairman
 16 Gollott said that we aren't supplying the market with what
 17 they need.
 18 JOE JEWELL: I want to remind the Commission of
 19 a couple of things. The Commission set about putting in
 20 place the endorsement for one primary reason, and their
 21 concern was that there are a lot of fishermen that are
 22 participating in the commercial quota that were not true
 23 fishermen that were not in the fisheries as commercial
 24 fishermen. They are part-time fishermen for other
 25 reasons, and the Commission used the endorsement as a test

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1 for participation that it would be strictly, or primarily,
2 for those fishermen that were commercial fishermen as a
3 living. I want to remind the Commission of that.

4 What that did to the fisheries was it reduced
5 from just over four hundred participants in the spotted
6 seatrout fisheries down to about a hundred, just over a
7 hundred.

8 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: It did what it was
9 intended to do.

10 JOE JEWELL: Correct.

11 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I don't say it stopped
12 most of the illegal sale of speckled trout. I think it
13 stopped a lot of it. I think it changed the way the fish
14 are being sold now somewhat which we can work on that.

15 My point is, at some point in time, if we can't
16 harvest fifty thousand pounds from the commercial sector,
17 what is the estimate that the recreational side gets in a
18 year's time?

19 JOE JEWELL: As we sit, right now, I think what
20 I estimated was about thirty-eight percent.

21 We looked at other options. If you look at
22 Title 22 Part 7 -- when you look at the regulation which
23 the Commission has control over and can modify, Title 22
24 Part 7 deals with size and possession limits primarily,
25 and Title 22 Part 5 primarily deals with gear and area

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1 restrictions.

2 The Commission has in the past, and has in the
3 recent past dealt with Title 22 Part 5, and the
4 Commission, at that time, opted not to make alterations to
5 that regulation.

6 Now, for Title 22 Part 7, when staff reviewed
7 that regulation, we went through that regulation line-by-
8 line, and we felt that this time we would take the process
9 -- rather than a shotgun approach, we would take a step-
10 by-step approach, and we felt at this time the first step
11 we would do was try -- as Commissioner Bosarge pointed
12 out, it is primarily a cool water fishery and that the
13 best approach, right now, we would try to extend it at
14 least into the month of October where the water is cooler
15 and they have more opportunity to catch because they are
16 really not catching fish in the hot water months, right
17 now, and the first approach is to provide them the
18 opportunity to catch the fish while the fish are there,
19 and, if that doesn't work, we are ready to come forward
20 with other recommendations.

21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: That was my question.

22 To answer my question, where is the recreational
23 fishery at poundwise?

24 I'm curious.

25 Do you know that number?

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1 JOE JEWELL: I don't know that number offhand,
2 but I can get that number for you.

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: An estimate?

4 MATT HILL: It's roughly in the four hundred to
5 four hundred and fifty thousand pound range.

6 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I've never heard that
7 number. I'm just trying to be fair and equitable.

8 I agree with you. Hopefully, by extending the
9 season and the water getting cooler, it may give the
10 commercial fishermen a chance to use what gear they have
11 left to harvest a few more fish.

12 If that doesn't work, then, I would like to come
13 back and look at this again and see just what we can do.

14 JOE JEWELL: Sure.

15 I want to bring to the Commission's attention,
16 at the last Commission meeting, the Commission directed
17 the staff to come forward with recommendations for the
18 Commission to consider.

19 If you have noticed, I put the presentation
20 forward in a Notice of Intent format for the Commission's
21 convenience. If the Commission so chooses to direct the
22 staff to move forward with a Notice of Intent to modify
23 Title 22 Part 7 -- if the motion is going to be for us to
24 go forward with a Notice of Intent, the motion would have
25 to be made for the staff to proceed with a Notice of

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1 Intent to modify Title 22 Part 7, rather than an
2 amendment.

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Do we need to amend it,
4 first, Joe?

5 JOE JEWELL: It's essentially doing the same
6 thing, but, for the public record, the motion has to state
7 a Notice of Intent.

8 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have a motion?

9 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll make the motion to
10 amend Title 22 Part 7 and to bring it out for Notice of
11 Intent.

12 JOE JEWELL: Correct.

13 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have a second on
14 that?

15 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: And, at the end of the
16 year, after this extended season is up, to come back to us
17 and let's see if it helped.

18 JOE JEWELL: Well, as far as the process goes,
19 the Notice of Intent will go on file. We will do the
20 regulatory change and the Administrative Procedures Act.
21 We will file the Notice of Intent, within the next day, or
22 two. It has to go out for public comment for twenty-five
23 days, and, if we meet that requirement, we will come
24 before the Commission at the August meeting and propose
25 the final adoption. Then, it has to be on file for thirty

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1 days.
 2 If it meets that time frame, it will be open in
 3 October for that extension. If we can't meet that time
 4 frame, it won't be this year. It will have to be next
 5 year.
 6 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I understand.
 7 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion.
 8 Do we have a second?
 9 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: I'll second it, Mr.
 10 Chairman.
 11 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a
 12 second.
 13 All those in favor say aye.
 14 (All in favor.)
 15 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?
 16 (None opposed.)
 17 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.
 18 JOE JEWELL: Next up for the Commission's
 19 consideration is Title 22 Part 7, red drum quota increase,
 20 by Mr. Matt Hill.
 21 I want to point out a regulatory process for the
 22 Commission. Last time, the Commission voted on this as an
 23 action item to proceed, but, again, this was an item that
 24 wasn't on the agenda as a Notice of Intent.
 25 What Mr. Hill is going to provide for the

1 We currently have a fifty thousand pound annual
 2 quota beginning on January 1st of each year.
 3 The fishermen must possess current applicable
 4 harvester's license to commercially harvest.
 5 The current quota of fifty thousand pounds was
 6 implemented January 1st, 2014. Previously the quota was
 7 set at thirty-five thousand pounds, 1990 to 2013. The
 8 Mississippi commercial red drum fishery has met the quota
 9 in twelve years since implementation, 1991, 1993 to 1997,
 10 1999 to 2001, 2011, 2013 and 2014. You can see, in the
 11 recent years, we have been meeting the quota.
 12 The options that were presented to the
 13 Commission were status quo, to leave it at fifty thousand
 14 pounds, beginning January 1st and ending on December 31st.
 15 The next two options are highlighted because
 16 these are the two the Commission passed, that they voted
 17 on and passed at the last Commission meeting. They were
 18 to split the season into two six-month segments and, also,
 19 to increase the commercial red drum quota to sixty
 20 thousand pounds.
 21 We also discussed placing the red drum under the
 22 species endorsement, and it was felt that, at this time,
 23 this was probably not the path that we should go down, or
 24 a combination of any, or all three, options listed.
 25 If these changes are made, Title 22 Part 7

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1 Commission is the same presentation that the Commission
 2 approved and adopted at the last Commission meeting, but
 3 it is going to be in the Notice of Intent format.
 4 MATT HILL: Good morning Commissioners, Director
 5 Miller, Sean.
 6 Like Joe said, we did present this at the last
 7 Commission meeting. This was the commercial red drum
 8 quota update. It was voted on and passed by the
 9 Commission. However, it was not an action item. Now, we
 10 must bring this back to the Commission as a Notice of
 11 Intent.
 12 At the June Commission meeting, several options
 13 were presented to the Commission, concerning the
 14 commercial red drum quota.
 15 The Commission voted to amend Title 22 Part 7,
 16 and what we have decided to do is to make this issue an
 17 action item for this meeting, and, for this to take place,
 18 a Notice of Intent will be required, if the Commission so
 19 desires these changes.
 20 The first thing we are going to go over are the
 21 current Mississippi regulations.
 22 Currently, there is an eighteen inch minimum
 23 length.
 24 Fishermen may retain only one red drum over
 25 thirty inches.

1 Chapter 09 Section 108 would currently read:
 2 "From and after October 1, 2015, the annual
 3 total allowable catch, TAC, for commercial landings of red
 4 drum, *Sciaenops ocellatus*, will be set at sixty thousand
 5 pounds. The TAC shall commence on January 1 and end on
 6 December 31 of each year. The commercial TAC for the
 7 fishing season shall be divided into two six-month periods
 8 as follows: January 1st through June 30th, thirty thousand
 9 pounds; July 1st through December 31st, thirty thousand
 10 pounds. In the event the commercial TAC is not met, or
 11 exceeded, in the first time period, January 1st through
 12 June 30th, the pounds shall be added, or subtracted, to the
 13 second time period, July 1st through December 31st."
 14 This is very similar to what we do in the
 15 spotted seatrout commercial quota fishery.
 16 What will be required from the Commission, if
 17 they so desire, is a motion to amend Title 22 Part 7 and
 18 take it out for Notice of Intent to increase the
 19 commercial red drum quota to sixty thousand pounds and
 20 divide the commercial harvest season into two six-month
 21 periods.
 22 As I said, this was voted on and passed by the
 23 Commission, at the last Commission meeting. However, it
 24 was not an action item. It is an action item on the
 25 agenda and we are asking to take this out for Notice of

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1 Intent, at this meeting.

2 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Matt, the only question I

3 have is why don't we go ahead and divide this into three

4 four-month periods, instead of two six-month periods?

5 That way, if we have a problem in the future, it

6 will be already in there.

7 MATT HILL: That is an option. We could divide

8 it into three.

9 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I think it would be wise

10 to go ahead and divide it. Leave it like it is, but just

11 divide into --

12 MATT HILL: (Interposing) Into three twenty

13 thousand pound seasons?

14 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Yes, and, that way, if

15 you have a problem, you won't have to go back out for

16 notice and all that kind of stuff.

17 MATT HILL: So we would go January, February,

18 March and April, and, then, May, June, July and August,

19 and, then, September, October, November and December, in

20 twenty thousand pound increments.

21 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Matt, I have a couple

22 of things.

23 MATT HILL: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: First, I see none of

25 the data on the resource, in either one of these packets.

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1 The last time you were before us, I think when

2 we added ten or fifteen thousand pounds a year, or a year

3 and a half, ago to the redfish, you talked about the

4 escapement rate. We would shoot for thirty, and, at that

5 time, going up on the quota, you said that you expect it

6 to be, like, twenty-eight point six, if I'm not mistaken.

7 Is that correct?

8 MATT HILL: We would be right around twenty-

9 eight point six percent, but the commercial catch is

10 insignificant towards the escapement rate. The

11 recreational effort and harvest is what drives our

12 escapement rate. We are talking about a twenty thousand

13 increase versus a six hundred to seven hundred thousand

14 pound harvest in the recreational sector.

15 It's a drop in the bucket is what I'm saying.

16 There will be very little to no change in the escapement

17 rate.

18 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: The other thing that

19 I'm seeing in this is -- correct me if I'm wrong -- we are

20 trying to give the commercial fishermen their quota in

21 this. They are not meeting it presently, and we are

22 trying to give it to them, but I look at as a bird in the

23 hand is better than two in the bush. If they have a good

24 part of the year and everything is perfect for them to

25 catch in the beginning, when they meet twenty thousand

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1 pounds, they are not able to use any of the ending quota.

2 why don't we have it both ways where they can

3 get their sixty thousand pounds the first four months, if

4 it's available?

5 MATT HILL: Well, we have been approached by not

6 only the dealers. We have also been approached by the

7 fishermen, and the issue that we have had, especially in

8 the recent years, is the quota, especially the spotted

9 seatrout quota, before we had the problem for the last two

10 years, and the red drum quota have been met so early in

11 the season that we are talking about shutting them down in

12 May and June every year.

13 We all know that the crabbing has been down.

14 The oyster industry has suffered, in the last few years.

15 When it comes to the fall, when you get to the

16 holiday season, these fishermen, they have no way to make

17 a living. We are almost trying to save them from

18 themselves. We are trying to extend the season, not only

19 for them, but for the dealers, especially during the

20 holiday season. We get a lot of them around Thanksgiving

21 and December. These fishermen are struggling.

22 If we can somehow split these seasons and have

23 individual quotas per season, we would allow them to fish

24 later in the season and have a more steady income

25 throughout the entire year, and that was the basis for us

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1 doing this.

2 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: You think that's the

3 right way to do it?

4 I would rather go out in the first quarter of

5 the year and make a hundred thousand dollars than having

6 to work all year to make that same hundred thousand

7 dollars, if that makes sense.

8 MATT HILL: Well, the problem is, I think the

9 fishermen initially wanted to do that, but they also felt

10 like there were other things that they were going to be

11 able to do in the fall and the early winter months. The

12 last several years, that has just not worked out for them.

13 Bills were still coming due in September,

14 October, November and December, and they had no means of

15 income to pay these bills.

16 If we help them stretch these seasons out, at

17 least they will have the opportunity to catch these fish

18 at a later time.

19 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Plus, let me say this,

20 Matt. If they catch all the fish in the first two months,

21 or three months, the dealers will buy them, and, then,

22 they will ship them out of state and sell them and, later

23 on in the year, it won't do anybody any good.

24 Like Matt is saying, we are trying to sustain

25 this thing through the year so everybody can have them on

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1 their retail counters, plus the fishermen making money.
 2 MATT HILL: That has been our goal all along is
 3 to give the fishermen -- not only the fishermen, but also
 4 the dealers the access to these fish and the opportunity
 5 to continue for a constant revenue stream for as long a
 6 period of time as we can, and we feel like, now, that
 7 splitting these seasons up into some type of equal periods
 8 will allow for this.
 9 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: And you are okay with the
 10 three four-month seasons, instead of the two six-month
 11 seasons?
 12 MATT HILL: I am. Any type of split season, we
 13 can work around that. We would be for that.
 14 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have a motion?
 15 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll make the motion to
 16 amend Title 22 Part 7 to increase the red drum quota to
 17 sixty thousand pounds and to divide the commercial season
 18 into three four-month periods and to bring it out for
 19 Notice of Intent.
 20 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have a second?
 21 COMMISSIONER HARMON: I'll second the motion.
 22 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a
 23 second.
 24 All those in favor say aye.
 25 (All in favor.)

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1 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?
 2 (None opposed.)
 3 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.
 4 MATT HILL: I'm going to take a little bit more
 5 time on this one. I'm sure we will have a few questions
 6 on here.
 7 JAMIE MILLER: Matt, bring it up to the front
 8 and lean it on this table (indicating).
 9 MATT HILL: Okay.
 10 I would like to start off by saying we've had a
 11 lot of constructive criticism on this program. We are
 12 working diligently to try to correct some of these
 13 problems. As I will show, there were some things pointed
 14 out to us that we didn't realize. I think we had some
 15 tunnel vision on a few things, but we were advised to
 16 maybe look at the data in some different ways.
 17 We have taken that advice from different people
 18 in the community and we are going to be able to show you
 19 what we can actually do with this data and how this
 20 reporting system is working.
 21 As we all know, effective December 1st, 2014, the
 22 CMR adopted a regulatory modification to Title 22 Part 9
 23 Statistical Reporting and Confidentiality of Statistical
 24 Data for Marine Fisheries, requiring the mandatory
 25 reporting of red snapper landed in Mississippi.

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1 Following the directive given by the Commission,
 2 our staff began developing a reporting system for this
 3 purpose.
 4 The first thing we had to figure out was what
 5 did we want to know. We tried to keep this simple. It
 6 was the first year. There are definitely some other
 7 things that we would like to know, but, being the first
 8 year, we did try to keep it as simple as possible.
 9 The information we requested from our snapper
 10 fishermen were:
 11 The vessel owner/captain's name.
 12 The vessel owner/captain's email.
 13 The vessel registration number.
 14 The date of the trip.
 15 The number of anglers.
 16 The duration of trip in hours.
 17 The number of red snapper landed.
 18 And whether they landed these at a public, or
 19 private, access site.
 20 Several of these questions only require
 21 answering during the initial setup. You do not have to
 22 answer these questions, every time you got onto the
 23 program. You basically created a user profile and they
 24 were filled in for you.
 25 Once this was created, the information was saved

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1 automatically and it was automatically filled in, when the
 2 angler went back to create their trip.
 3 We developed the Tales N Scales reporting
 4 system. It had several options available. The most
 5 popular was definitely the electronic reporting. We had a
 6 smartphone app that was developed and we also had a web
 7 portal and we also had a call-in option which is available
 8 twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. It was there
 9 to answer any questions and to walk people through it, if
 10 they had some problems.
 11 On the right side here, this is a card that we
 12 made, a business card that we made and we handed out
 13 (indicating slide).
 14 With the advice of some people in the community,
 15 we developed signs. We have, now, hung them at all major
 16 marinas and boat launches. We have also given a smaller
 17 version of the sign to our bait and tackle shops to keep
 18 inside their shops.
 19 Everybody has been very receptive of these, and
 20 we have had many one-on-one conversations with the marina
 21 owners and the bait shop owners. We feel the longer the
 22 program goes on the higher the compliance rate will be
 23 which we will talk about shortly.
 24 Another portion of this program was the
 25 collection of the biological information. Our MDMR staff

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1 conducted surveys on a daily basis, during the ten-day
2 season, at sites that were predetermined to have the
3 highest probability of intercepting offshore fishing
4 trips. The surveyor's priority was to collect as many
5 lengths and weights of red snapper as possible. Otoliths
6 were also collected, if time permitted and the anglers had
7 no objections. Of course, when we did collect the
8 otoliths, we were able to determine the age structure of
9 the fish being harvested in the fishery.

10 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Just out of curiosity,
11 Matt, what was the average age?

12 Do you have that?

13 MATT HILL: We do not have them aged yet. We
14 are in the process of aging them. Hopefully, in the next
15 week, or two, we will have all of the ages and we can come
16 up with a mean age. That process takes a little bit more
17 time.

18 I do want to take a little time on this slide.
19 These are just the reported results for the 2015 season.
20 When we're talking about the 2015 season, we're talking
21 about the first ten days, when the private recreational
22 guys and the for-hire guys were able to fish together.

23 The reason that we did not go through the July
24 15th for-hire season is we had to have this information in.
25 We had to have the presentation in. The season was not

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1 over. So we chose to use the ten days, when everybody can
2 fish.

3 These are unadjusted results. We will get to
4 the adjusted results shortly and how we adjusted what we
5 got here.

6 Our total harvest was thirty thousand one
7 hundred and twenty-two pounds. We had an average weight
8 of six point zero nine pounds. We measured and weighed
9 close to four hundred fish which is pretty impressive.
10 Our average length was twenty-and-a-half inches. Trips
11 completed in the system were six hundred and thirty-seven.
12 Our effort was four point nine two anglers per vessel per
13 trip. That means that, on every trip that went out, you
14 had roughly five anglers on that trip. Our harvest rate
15 per angler was one point six six fish per angler per trip,
16 and, of course, we all know this year for the weather we
17 had, in our opinion, excellent conditions all ten days to
18 fish.

19 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Just comparing some of
20 the figures to what you had last year...?

21 MATT HILL: We're getting there.

22 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: You are going to get
23 there?

24 MATT HILL: We are going to get there,
25 unfortunately.

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1 what we did was we had to factor in
2 noncompliance rate. We know we did not have one hundred
3 percent of the universe participating in the system.

4 So we came up with an initial compliance rate
5 calculated at seventy-seven point eight percent. We also,
6 then, applied eleven point nine percent standard error to
7 that.

8 These adjusted rates, as you can see -- if we go
9 back to the slide before, the reported results were six
10 hundred and thirty-seven. The adjusted rates were seven
11 hundred and seventy-eight. Then, we applied eleven point
12 nine percent standard error. So we came up with plus or
13 minus ninety-two point six trips from this number. The
14 minimum number of trips is six hundred and eighty-five.
15 The maximum number is eight hundred and seventy.

16 Like I said, we did calculate a seventy-seven
17 point eight percent difference between reported trips and
18 visual surveys which we will get into shortly with an
19 eleven point nine percent standard error.

20 We were also able to apply these same statistics
21 to the total pounds. We had thirty-eight thousand seven
22 hundred and seventeen pounds, once we applied the
23 noncompliance rate. That gives us a minimum of thirty-
24 four thousand and some change, and a maximum of forty-
25 three thousand three hundred and some change.

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1 One thing I do want to point out here is, even
2 though there is some disagreement in the total numbers, we
3 do feel very comfortable with the trend that we saw.

4 As you see, Monday was the first day. It was a
5 little higher. Then, it starts sloughing off. Towards
6 the weekend, we went back up, and, then, we came back
7 down. We feel like our trends are where we want our
8 trends to be. We just may have to work on the actual
9 effort numbers and try to get those a little more accurate
10 (indicating slide).

11 I wanted to go back to the slide before because
12 I did forget to mention this. We had a request to look at
13 this by city, trips by city. We didn't quite have the
14 time to do that. We did have the time to break it down in
15 the county and, as you can see, the vast majority of the
16 trips did take place in Jackson County.

17 We were also surprised at the trip, the other,
18 and we dug into this a little bit deeper, and we found out
19 that these other trips which were roughly a hundred were
20 from areas, or counties, north of our three coastal
21 counties.

22 We did not do as good a job getting the word out
23 into these areas as we should have. We were criticized on
24 that. We are trying to fix this. We had tunnel vision.
25 We tried to concentrate on the three coastal counties,

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1 but, now, we are trying to correct that. As you can see,
2 they do make up a significant number of people coming down
3 from north of the three coastal counties.

4 Now, we are doing is breaking this down by zip
5 code and eventually we will get down to the City, and we
6 will have a little bit better data to go by, after that.
7 I did want to point that out.

8 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: Is this mostly charter
9 boat effort?

10 MATT HILL: No, it is not. This is mainly
11 private for-hire effort.

12 The charter boat guys, what we saw -- like I
13 said, we did not include a lot of their effort -- we
14 included all their effort in, in the first ten days, but
15 they had an extra thirty-five days. Like I said, we were
16 not able to put all this in because this presentation was
17 due before the season was over.

18 A lot of our charter for-hire guys waited until
19 after that rush in the first ten days, and we did see a
20 spike in for-hire trips, after June the 10th. Basically,
21 they had it to themselves out there and they took
22 advantage of that. The next time we present this, we will
23 have the for-hire data after those ten days.

24 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Matt, can I ask you a
25 question?

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1 MATT HILL: Yes, sir.

2 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Was there anybody
3 ticketed for noncompliance with the trip tickets?

4 MATT HILL: We had some what we call courtesy
5 citations. We decided, as an agency, to not ticket them,
6 but we decided to give them a courtesy citation. If they
7 were not signed up for the program and they did not have
8 the confirmation number, we allowed them -- I was given a
9 list, on a daily basis, saying these people had courtesy
10 citations, and I was able to go back in the system and see
11 if they did go back in there and register for a trip and
12 turn it out, and we did have a hundred percent compliance
13 on that.

14 At some point, we had a discussion that we will
15 stop doing the courtesy citations in the near future. We
16 think as the word gets out more and more that, at some
17 point, we do have to have some consequences to it, but
18 being the first year of the program, the agency felt it
19 was better to administer courtesy citations. We didn't
20 want people to get a sour taste in their mouth, and, like
21 I said, especially these guys from north of the three
22 coastal counties, we did not do a good job of getting the
23 word out up there, and it put them in a bad spot.

24 We decided to try to use education, first, but,
25 at some point in the near future, we will move away from

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1 courtesy citations and give standard citations to them.

2 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Matt, how many fishermen
3 did you actually intercept, or talk to, on the water?

4 MATT HILL: I believe Marine Patrol talked to
5 somewhere between eight and ten on the water, and, at the
6 docks, we talked to close to a hundred and fifty at the
7 docks validating, once they came in.

8 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: What was the ratio of the
9 people that knew about the system and ones that didn't?

10 MATT HILL: About fifty fifty is what we found
11 out. Just from some back-of-the-envelope calculations, it
12 was about half, but, once all of them were told, they were
13 all very willing to get on the system and participate.

14 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: When you showed the
15 counties, that made me feel a little better because, like
16 I told you, I've talked to a lot of people that fish and I
17 didn't come across any that knew about the system, but
18 they did all sign up and do their reporting of their
19 totals.

20 MATT HILL: That is correct.

21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: It must have done some
22 good.

23 MATT HILL: It did, and we were surprised.
24 After we had that conversation, that's the first thing I
25 said, let's do it by county and, frankly, we were

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1 surprised at the difference. We thought Harrison and
2 Jackson Counties would be a little closer, but the data
3 doesn't lie. We definitely had a significant increase of
4 vessels leaving out of Jackson County. We feel like we
5 may should focus our efforts there in the future.

6 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: well, it's closer to deep
7 water.

8 MATT HILL: That is correct, and that's
9 something that we also talked about is maybe we missed
10 some of those areas in our validation surveys. It's
11 easier for them to run south southeast and get in some of
12 those. That right there showed us that there is
13 definitely some improvement we can do on the validation.

14 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: There are always
15 improvements, but I'm glad to see what you are doing.
16 This is great. This is a good start.

17 MATT HILL: Once we talk about the validation,
18 we did do dockside interviews. We had at-sea observations
19 which we will get to shortly. We did look at the
20 enforcement reports. We had trailer counts at selected
21 docks. We did contact, through email messaging and phone
22 interviews, for expired trips not completed by anglers.
23 We had a lot of guys that signed up for a trip and went
24 out. They may have only gone once. They didn't report
25 their trip back. We gave them five to six days. If we

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1 didn't hear from them, we emailed them, or called them,
2 and we got that information from them.

3 I am happy to report that all reported trips
4 have been accounted for, at this time. We are very proud
5 of that.

6 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: Were trailer counts an
7 afterthought?

8 MATT HILL: Sir?

9 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: Were trailer counts an
10 afterthought?

11 What good does is that data?

12 MATT HILL: We just wanted to see that what we
13 looked at was -- we did make an assumption. Like, we
14 would go to west beach launch, and, if we saw double-axle
15 trailers, or trailers that we thought could go offshore,
16 we just counted them. It wasn't really anything
17 scientific about it. It was just more of an observation
18 saying we have fifty of these guys that we think went out,
19 and we just waited around to see them, and a lot of the
20 guys, to be honest with you, said, we just went to the
21 island.

22 It's some assumptions that you have to make, but
23 we feel like, in the future, that we can get away from
24 those assumptions, that we are going to have this universe
25 of actual fishermen through this program. This was just

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1 had a total of sixty-two vessels that were validated
2 through the plane and the vessel survey, and we had fifty-
3 two vessels sign up on our reporting system.

4 We did this day after day. First, what we tried
5 to do was come up with some quantitative comparisons from
6 2014 and 2015. We determined that the quantitative
7 comparisons were not possible because of the reporting
8 program differences between years and the Federal season
9 was not complete. The for-hire industry was able to fish
10 until July 15.

11 2014 was a voluntary system. We came up with
12 fifty-five thousand four hundred and sixty-five pounds
13 harvested, at seven point eight zero pound average weight.

14 In 2015, we came up with thirty-eight thousand
15 seven hundred and seventeen pounds harvested, with a six
16 point zero nine pound average weight.

17 There are several factors in that. Definitely
18 you can see there is a drop in the average weight. We
19 also had a drop in the anglers per trip per vessel.

20 We were up around six anglers per trip per
21 vessel, in 2014, and this year we were somewhere around
22 four and a half, but we also had a catch rate which was
23 lower. There is a two fish per person limit on red
24 snapper. Last year, they were catching close to one point
25 nine two snapper per angler per trip. This year we saw

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1 one way that we wanted to see the pressure at certain
2 docks during this time period.

3 Here's what we did. This is from Wednesday,
4 June the 3rd. I apologize. It's a little tough to see,
5 but the big E is what the plane could fly (indicating
6 slide).

7 We put the plane up in the air, and the yellow
8 dots represent the vessels that the plane saw and assume
9 were snapper fishing because of the areas that they were
10 fishing in (indicating slide).

11 The plane had a sixty mile maximum flight. It
12 could only run sixty miles south of the coastline. We
13 know there were people fishing further than that. So we
14 took our offshore vessel, we ran to these spots, and we
15 counted the vessels south of there, and, then, we added
16 them up (indicating slide).

17 We do have an area that we have talked about
18 over here. Now that we know that the majority of people
19 left out of Pascagoula, we do have an area right here that
20 we probably need to do a better job of. The plane
21 limitations and the fuel limitations that we had in our
22 vessel just didn't let us get these areas over here, and
23 we obviously know that there were vessels over there
24 (indicating slide).

25 with the data that we had on this Wednesday, we

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1 one point six six snapper per angler per trip. This all
2 contributed to the lower numbers.

3 However, we did start looking at our analysis of
4 uncertainty. There was a short season. We are talking
5 about a ten-day season. It's extremely difficult to
6 calculate variance from such a short season.

7 We do feel like, with the additional days from
8 the State season, the compliance and harvest values will
9 become much more accurate.

10 I don't want to get into a big statistics
11 conversation here, but the method that we were forced to
12 use, with the data set that we had, was percent standard
13 error which we came up with eleven point nine percent.

14 We would prefer to use the sum-of-squares
15 method. We feel like this method will probably increase
16 our harvest rate and increase our effort levels. However,
17 the data currently available only supports using a percent
18 standard error method, due to the short length of the
19 season, but we have determined that, as more data becomes
20 available, the sum-of-squares method will produce more
21 accurate levels.

22 We have a limited data set, right now, but we
23 feel like, in the future at the end of the State season,
24 we will be able to swap over to this method. It is our
25 preference to use this method. We feel that it will be

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1 much more accurate. One reason we feel it will be much
 2 more accurate is because we can come up with a weekday
 3 error and a weekend error, and we all know that the
 4 weekend trips -- we have much more weekend trips than
 5 weekday trips.

6 We just need some more time, and I think we can
 7 make these numbers where everybody will be a little more
 8 comfortable with them.

9 We definitely do have some concerns. This is
 10 all angler-supplied information, on the reporting system.

11 As we talked about before, we know there are
 12 vessels fishing outside of the flight path and vessel path
 13 which we cannot validate, at this time, but we are working
 14 on ways to validate these vessels.

15 There are a limited number of public access
 16 sites which support offshore landings.

17 One of the big problems we see is twenty-six
 18 point nine percent -- this came from our reporting system
 19 -- of Mississippi offshore anglers that reported landed at
 20 private access sites. We currently do not have access to
 21 these private access sites. We cannot go to somebody's
 22 home and survey them and measure and weigh their fish.
 23 However, we currently have a tidelands grant beginning
 24 which deals with private access site landings. The system
 25 has provided us with a universe to work with so that we

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1 can begin reaching out to these anglers, telling them how
 2 important it is for us to get their catch, in an effort to
 3 capture their data in the future.

4 This program will begin next year, and we should
 5 be able to get a better picture of the private access site
 6 catches.

7 I'm sure nobody has any questions.

8 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: You didn't get a search
 9 warrant to go to a private site?

10 MATT HILL: Now that we have the universe of
 11 these people and they have told us they land at private
 12 access sites, we are going to reach out to them through
 13 emails, calls, letters, and I think a lot of them will be
 14 receptive, once we tell them what we are trying to do, not
 15 all of them, but we do think a vast majority of them will
 16 work with us to allow us to, at least, come down there and
 17 weigh and measure their fish.

18 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: I think that will be
 19 real smart.

20 MATT HILL: We do have the program in place. We
 21 are just trying to get the universe as complete as
 22 possible, before we start the program.

23 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I notice you didn't point
 24 the finger quite all the way at me, when you talked about
 25 folks that are critical. I know we've had some lengthy

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1 conversations.

2 MATT HILL: Yes, sir.

3 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: The reason, from my
 4 standpoint, is it's data. It's data that can be used, and
 5 we need to make sure that our data is as correct as we can
 6 get it.

7 MATT HILL: Correct.

8 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I think for the first
 9 year of the mandatory reporting, we are on target. We are
 10 headed down the right course, but we've still got a long
 11 way to go.

12 MATT HILL: Correct.

13 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: You and I have had these
 14 conversations. I look at the data, and I wonder how
 15 accurate we are. It's hard to believe that we can have
 16 that much less poundage landed with the mandatory
 17 reporting, versus like we had in 2014, when it was
 18 voluntary.

19 I have a lot of questions, but we are doing
 20 good. We just need to make sure that everybody
 21 understands this is strictly preliminary. It's
 22 preliminary data.

23 MATT HILL: Correct.

24 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I think, now, the word is
 25 out. Most people know about this reporting system. I

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1 think next year we are going to see a true account of what
 2 is taking place.

3 MATT HILL: And that's we are asking for. We
 4 are asking for more years. We need a historical data set.
 5 The goal with this system is one day we will be able to
 6 predict, before the season, weekend effort, weekend
 7 harvest, weekday effort, weekday harvest, and we can
 8 project what our season should be. If we get a certain
 9 amount of pounds allocated to us, it will be our
 10 responsibility to say how many days are fishermen going to
 11 be able to fish.

12 That's what we are working towards, but it is
 13 going to take some time, and we think our biggest issue,
 14 now, is not the use of the program. Everybody that is
 15 using the program is extremely happy with the program.
 16 They understand it.

17 We know we missed some areas, and I will take
 18 that squarely on my shoulders. We know we definitely
 19 missed some areas north of the three coastal counties. We
 20 did very little there.

21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: We are learning.

22 MATT HILL: We are learning.

23 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: With the data, I have
 24 concerns because the poundage dropped and the size of the
 25 fish dropped.

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1 MATT HILL: Yes.
2 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: In other words, if you
3 look at that data and that data along, this is not good.
4 MATT HILL: No.
5 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: But I do believe that a
6 lot of it has to do with weather. Last year we had bad
7 weather. It was only seasoned anglers that most likely
8 went. There are so many things that play into what that
9 data says.
10 MATT HILL: Correct, and we had that
11 conversation. That was a lot of my concern.
12 One thing that we did not see is past that
13 sixty-mile range that we took the vessel out, we did not
14 see near as many vessels fishing out there as we did last
15 year. Last year we were counting up to twenty-four to
16 thirty vessels a day. This year we were counting ten to
17 twelve. I think you just had a lot of guys staying in
18 closer.
19 You had a lot of guys, the weather was perfect.
20 They probably never snapper fished in their life. They
21 didn't have the tackle, and they just wanted to take
22 advantage of the season. They caught smaller fish. They
23 caught their limit. They came home. I think we did have
24 a lot of that. We saw a lot of vessels, eighteen and
25 nineteen foot vessels that probably had no business being

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1 out there, but the weather was perfect.
2 Those are things. You can't really quantify
3 those, but those are things that we are going to have to
4 take into consideration at some point.
5 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I think it's a great
6 start. It's a good program. We will keep tweaking it.
7 MATT HILL: Yes, sir.
8 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you, Matt.
9 MATT HILL: Thank you.
10 JOE JEWELL: Thank you, Matt.
11 Commissioners, the final agenda item for your
12 consideration is State records. Mr. Jon Barr will do the
13 presentation.
14 JON BARR: Good morning Commissioners. Good
15 morning Director Miller and Mr. Morrison.
16 The new State Saltwater Fishing records, we have
17 two. We have conventional tackle and we also have fly
18 tackle.
19 For the conventional tackle, it's a Black
20 Driftfish, Hyperoglyphe bythites. The old record from
21 2007 is fifteen pounds seven point two zero ounces. The
22 new record is twenty-three pounds three point eight four
23 ounces. The angler was Mr. John Cuevas.
24 There is the Black Driftfish. There is Mr.
25 Cuevas with his fish (indicating photographs).

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1 The next one is Fly tackle. It's an Almaco
2 Jack, Seriola rivoliana. This is a new record listing.
3 It's four point four eight ounces. The angler is Mr. John
4 Reed Guice.
5 As stated in our regulations, there is a picture
6 of the fly and there's a picture of the fish. There is
7 Mr. Guice with his fish (indicating photographs).
8 I would like to request a motion to adopt these
9 new saltwater state records.
10 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I make a
11 motion to adopt these new records for the State of
12 Mississippi.
13 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion.
14 Do we have a second?
15 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: I'll second that.
16 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a
17 second.
18 All those in favor say aye.
19 (All in favor.)
20 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?
21 (None opposed.)
22 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: The motion carries.
23 At this time, I'll make a motion that we take a
24 ten-minute break.
25 (Whereupon, meeting stands in recess.)

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1 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I would like to call this
2 meeting back to order.
3 Next on the agenda we have Mr. Joe Spraggins.
4 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Mr. Chairman, if I
5 could, before we go to the next item, I would like to
6 amend the agenda to have the public comments -- I see we
7 have an executive session, and I would like to move L
8 before K-1 so that the public comments can go before we go
9 into executive session.
10 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion to amend
11 the agenda.
12 Do we have a second?
13 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: I second the motion, Mr.
14 Chairman.
15 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a
16 second.
17 All those in favor say aye.
18 (All in favor.)
19 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?
20 (None opposed.)
21 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.
22 Now, Mr. Joe Spraggins.
23 JOE SPRAGGINS: Good morning Commissioners,
24 Director Miller, Sean.
25 Kacey is out on maternity leave and about to

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1 have a little baby. I think that will come in the next
 2 few days.
 3 We are going help out with this, this morning,
 4 and give you a little idea.
 5 The State revenue that you see here is seven
 6 point three million. Appropriations have not been
 7 transferred to us, at this time, of one point one million.
 8 We did receive about eleven months of interest from the
 9 Treasury which is about two hundred and eighty K,
 10 somewhere in that neighborhood.
 11 The agency revenue to date, that's year to date
 12 was twenty-six million, right at twenty-seven million.
 13 State net income is negative two point three
 14 million, and I will give you a little brief explanation of
 15 that.
 16 Number one, there is one point one million that
 17 we have not received from the state, but they have it in
 18 appropriations and tell us not to worry about it. It is
 19 going to be fine and we are okay.
 20 The other part is about one point one five
 21 million, and that's spending cash on hand that we had
 22 obligated funds for. That was things like BP seafood
 23 funds and some coastal cleanup and other things that we
 24 were doing. That was obligated funds that were there
 25 which shows up as a negative because the funds were there

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1 before the fiscal year.
 2 Just to give you an idea, wildlife and Fisheries
 3 owes us about three hundred K which I'm sure they will get
 4 it to us before the end of next month.
 5 We have about three hundred K that is owed to us
 6 from JEA which is just a matter of getting it through the
 7 system, and about another twenty-five thousand for some
 8 interest money.
 9 If we had all the money that is owed to us and
 10 that will be coming in, in the next month, we would really
 11 be about seventy thousand to the good.
 12 That two point three million is just a number.
 13 It's not real factor. We're okay.
 14 On the next page, if you will look at it, you
 15 will see that we have about thirty-five percent left in
 16 our funds. That was at the end of the year, and the
 17 reason for that is because we have escalated funds, and
 18 that would be, basically, like our CIAP and our CZM and
 19 the NERR and other projects that are funded, a lot of
 20 them, to the end of the calendar year and, since our
 21 fiscal year ends the end of June, this money is there.
 22 That's why we still have thirty-five percent.
 23 It will be spent, between now and the end of the
 24 calendar year this year, but it will show up as we still
 25 have funds left at the end of 2015.

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1 Any questions?
 2 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you, Joe.
 3 JOE SPRAGGINS: Thank you.
 4 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next, we have Melissa's
 5 report.
 6 MELISSA SCALLAN: Good morning Commissioners,
 7 Director Miller, Mr. Morrison.
 8 Since the June meeting of the Commission, the
 9 agency has been mentioned a hundred and twelve times in
 10 local, state and national media. The items of particular
 11 interest were the closing of the waters north of the
 12 Intracoastal Waterway to shrimping, as well as the
 13 announcement of the opening of State waters for red
 14 snapper fishing.
 15 The agency helped with two press conferences,
 16 since the last meeting. We hosted the July 2nd press
 17 conference, in which Governor Phil Bryant, Attorney
 18 General Jim Hood, and DEQ Director Gary Rikard announced
 19 the historic settlement with BP over the oil spill that
 20 occurred in 2010. Local and State officials attended the
 21 press conference which also received media attention
 22 across this region and across the country.
 23 We hosted a press conference June 24th with
 24 Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann at the Maritime and
 25 Seafood Industry Museum. Director Miller and the

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1 Secretary of State announced the winner of the bid to
 2 construct the pier at Deer Island. Walters Diving and
 3 Marine in Pascagoula received that bid, and work should
 4 begin soon on that.
 5 Several employees participated in the
 6 Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo in Gulfport, over the
 7 July 4th weekend. That was a pretty big success, although
 8 we were rained out on Sunday.
 9 This weekend, we are sponsoring several chefs at
 10 the Natchez Food Festival, and we will also participate in
 11 the Great American Seafood Cook-off in New Orleans in
 12 August, and Chef Ty Thames of Restaurant Tyler in
 13 Starkville will represent Mississippi in the cook-off, and
 14 we intend to bring home that trophy again.
 15 The Office of Marine Patrol held three boat and
 16 water safety classes in June and certified fifty-six
 17 students. In fiscal year 2015, officers taught twenty-two
 18 classes and certified two hundred and seventy-eight
 19 students. Officers also participated in six outreach and
 20 special marine events, during June, which included the
 21 Redfish Tournament at Island View, the Police Kids Fishing
 22 Camp in Gulfport, St. Jude Fishing Rodeo, Pirate Day in
 23 the Bay, a fishing rodeo at the Boardwalk Marina, the
 24 movie production security at Gulfport Lake, boating safety
 25 outreach in Ocean Springs, and another safety day in Moss

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1 Point.

2 We also had a busy time at the NERR. Since the
3 last Commission meeting, NERR employees participated in
4 eleven outreach events in the last month, or so. They
5 included tours and kayaking activities at the facility,
6 workshops and events such as the Waterfest on the
7 Reservoir in Jackson which was sponsored by the Department
8 of Environmental Quality, and the NERR also sponsored a
9 workshop for sixteen teachers titled "Teachers on the
10 Estuary" which was the second of five workshops presented
11 across the Gulf of Mexico.

12 Any questions?

13 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you, Melissa.

14 MELISSA SCALLAN: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next, we have public
16 comments.

17 Mr. Earl Chavers, would you please come to the
18 podium and state your name?

19 EARL CHAVERS: Y'all will have to excuse me.
20 I'm kind of intimidated by you guys. I'm a commercial
21 fisherman.

22 First off, I would like to give you a little
23 background. I've been fishing since 1980, and I have
24 watched the Gulf come and go.

25 When I first started commercial fishing, I

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1 pull TEDs. We are. When the grass shows up, the TEDs
2 clog up. In ten minutes, or fifteen minutes, our doors go
3 together. We can't catch shrimp.

4 what's good for one man is good for all men. If
5 it's fair for a skimmer to not pull TEDs, it should be
6 fair for us not to pull TEDs, when the grass shows up. We
7 should be allowed to make our living.

8 I have already lost one boat, and I'm about to
9 lose my other boat. I would appreciate you guys standing
10 up for the fishermen. That's what we need. Thank you,
11 sir.

12 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Just to give you a little
13 bit of information, I was in New Orleans yesterday at a
14 meeting. It's a workshop for TEDs and skimmers. National
15 Marine Fisheries, they have a proposal, now, to put TEDs
16 in skimmers. It is going to be a little ways down the
17 road. They are doing a lot of testing, trying to figure
18 out which ones work the best and what the rules and
19 regulations are going to be.

20 The problem they are having, now, most TEDs have
21 a four-inch bar spacings, and the turtles that they have
22 been seeing with observer data and the skimmers, the
23 thickness of that turtle is three inches. So they are
24 looking at narrowing the bars.

25 They are doing a lot of testing, but it's

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1 worked on tuna boats and swordfish boats, and, then, the
2 Vietnamese came over and it was over fished. I lost that.
3 There wasn't no tuna fish and swordfish no more.

4 Now, I'm a shrimper. I fish almost every week
5 of every month of the year somewhere, but for the last
6 four, or five, years our State has let our shrimp go in
7 our bays. They say they opened the season too early.
8 That's not so.

9 I'm here to tell you today, sir, six weeks
10 before the season opened, I made five-minute tries in the
11 Bay. I made three of them. I had sixty pounds of shrimp.
12 All of them was ten, fifteen, sixteen twenties, thirty-one
13 thirty-fives, a handful of eighty hundreds.

14 The day the season opened, three miles off shore
15 is was eighty hundred shrimp. There was no shrimp in the
16 Bay left. I had forty-one boxes in two days. My deck
17 hands made three hundred dollars. That's the best they
18 have made this year so far.

19 Now, there's no shrimp in the Bay at all. It's
20 a desert. You can go out there and drag three hours.
21 There ain't no shrimp. I had ten pounds in two hours,
22 when they reopened the season. That itself tells you
23 there's no shrimp left.

24 Almost every year lately, the grass has been
25 here. I'm a trawler. Skimmer boats are not required to

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1 coming. It's just a little ways off.

2 It's hard to predict opening and closing the
3 seasons. We do the best we can. I have suggested before
4 to Joe Jewell that maybe we need to have an area south of
5 the Intracoastal Waterway that never closes.

6 EARL CHAVERS: Exactly, sir.

7 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: They do that in Alabama,
8 and, when they first did it, I said that's got to be the
9 craziest thing I've ever seen, but, as I watched it and I
10 saw what took place, it works. I would suggest that maybe
11 that is something we need to look at, an area south of the
12 Intracoastal Waterway.

13 EARL CHAVERS: That's exactly what needs to be
14 done, sir.

15 Also, if you look -- I've been doing this a long
16 time -- in the month of May when the moon gets full, the
17 shrimp are going to go out. They are heading south, sir.
18 About the time the moon gets full in June, there ain't no
19 shrimp left and that's a fact, sir. That's what God told
20 them to do.

21 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Last year was not the
22 norm. Last year the shrimp stayed in shore. They got big
23 in the sound and guys were able to catch good shrimp.

24 In other words, it's hard to predict. For us
25 and for the guys here at DMR, it's hard to predict.

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1 Leaving that area open, if those shrimp do move,
2 there's a place where these guys can work and they are off
3 far enough that I don't see it doing any harm.

4 I will talk to Joe, and we will see what we can
5 do.

6 EARL CHAVERS: Thank you very much, sir.

7 COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I think we have to have a
9 motion to go into executive session.

10 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I have
11 something I would like to bring up, and I talked with
12 Kelly a little bit earlier, some education on this vibrio.

13 We had a shrimper in Hancock County last week
14 that was hanging on for life.

15 I know we put out an oyster book and we put out
16 a shrimp book. I looked in the shrimp book and didn't see
17 anything on how to clean, or deal with, these cuts.

18 Is there something that we could do to try to
19 educate these people that may help these fishermen from
20 getting in this shape?

21 I know we are kind of getting in the medical
22 field and we probably don't want to do that, but it just
23 seems like we could do something. Working hand-in-hand
24 with these fishermen, there have got to be some right
25 things to do and wrong things to do that maybe would

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1 educate them on.

2 Do you have anything, Jamie?

3 Joe is coming up.

4 JOE JEWELL: Commissioner, we do have a pamphlet
5 dealing with vibrio that relates directly with shellfish,
6 and the Department of Health also has some additional
7 literature that they hand out.

8 We do have a program that we can develop some
9 literature.

10 Is there something specific that you have in
11 mind that's in addition to shellfish, outside of that?

12 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: As I said, Joe, I know
13 we put our oyster book out every year and our shrimp book,
14 and I looked in the shrimp book. I had it handy at the
15 house and looked through it, and I didn't see anything
16 addressing it, and it seems like that's where we would
17 address those types of things, in additional literature in
18 that book.

19 JOE JEWELL: The infections that are occurring,
20 now -- vibrio vulnificus is an ubiquitous organism that is
21 found primarily during the warm water times of the year.
22 It is a common occurring organism that is naturally
23 occurring. It is always there, but the recent infections
24 that are occurring are wound infections, and they are
25 usually occurring to individuals that have some sort of

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1 pre-occurring condition.

2 If the Commission is going to make a
3 recommendation to staff, we would ask for a little more
4 direction, specifically of content.

5 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: I'm more or less asking
6 the Executive Director to move forward with something that
7 is a community effort. I'm not asking for anything from
8 the Commission.

9 I just think it would be a good point of order
10 to look at and see if there is something we can do to help
11 these people having these problems.

12 KELLY LUCAS: Commissioner, we will be glad to
13 look at some ways that we can put more literature out
14 there so that these individual groups do recognize that
15 there are some issues and some things that they can do to
16 protect themselves.

17 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Thank you.

18 JAMIE MILLER: Commissioner Zimmerman, I
19 appreciate that concern. It has been an issue this summer
20 seemingly more than previous summers.

21 The media has covered it and I think it was in
22 June that Dr. Lucas participated in a Chamber of Commerce
23 event where we brought the Department of Health, this
24 agency, and the research lab, and had kind of an open
25 forum debate about vibrio and kind of the facts and

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1 dispelling some of the myths. It has been a topic of
2 conversation.

3 Surprisingly, there is plenty of literature out
4 there that we can incorporate into what we do and how we
5 communicate with our fishing community. I think that
6 would be the first step is that we would take advantage of
7 all the information already out there, make it more
8 available through our website, and also through
9 publications that we produce.

10 We will look at that closely and make sure that
11 we are getting the message out.

12 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: That's exactly what I'm
13 looking for. Thank you.

14 Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion, if
15 I could, to go into closed session to discuss the need for
16 executive session to discuss personnel matters.

17 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion.

18 Do we have a second?

19 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: I'll second the motion,
20 Mr. Chairman.

21 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a
22 second.

23 All those in favor say aye.

24 (All in favor.)

25 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.

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1 (Whereupon, meeting stands in recess.)
 2 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I call this meeting back
 3 to order, and I would entertain a motion to adjourn.
 4 COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I make a
 5 motion that we adjourn.
 6 SEAN MORRISON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
 7 read into the minutes the notes from the executive
 8 session.
 9 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I'm sorry. Go ahead,
 10 Sean.
 11 SEAN MORRISON: The Commission went into
 12 executive session to discuss personnel matters. All of
 13 the Commissioners were present, as well as the Executive
 14 Director and myself.
 15 At 11:00 a.m., Mr. Zimmerman moved to go into
 16 executive session to discuss personnel matters and that
 17 motion was seconded by Commissioner Bosarge.
 18 This was an informational session. No motions
 19 were made.
 20 At 11:15 a.m., Commissioner Drummond moved that
 21 we end the executive session and come back to the regular
 22 session. That motion was seconded by Commissioner
 23 Zimmerman. Thank you.
 24 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Shelby has made a motion
 25 we adjourn.

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1 Do we have a second?
 2 COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: So seconded.
 3 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a second.
 4 All those in favor say aye.
 5 (All in favor.)
 6 COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Adjourned.
 7 (Whereupon, at 11:26 o'clock, a.m., the July 21,
 8 2015, meeting of the Commission on Marine Resources was
 9 concluded.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

11 I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do
 12 hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and
 13 correct transcript of the July 21, 2015, meeting of the
 14 Commission on Marine Resources, as taken by me at the time
 15 and place heretofore stated in the aforementioned matter
 16 in shorthand, with electronic verification, and later
 17 reduced to typewritten form to the best of my skill and
 18 ability; and, further, that I am not a relative, employee,
 19 or agent, of any of the parties thereto, nor financially
 20 interested in the cause.

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