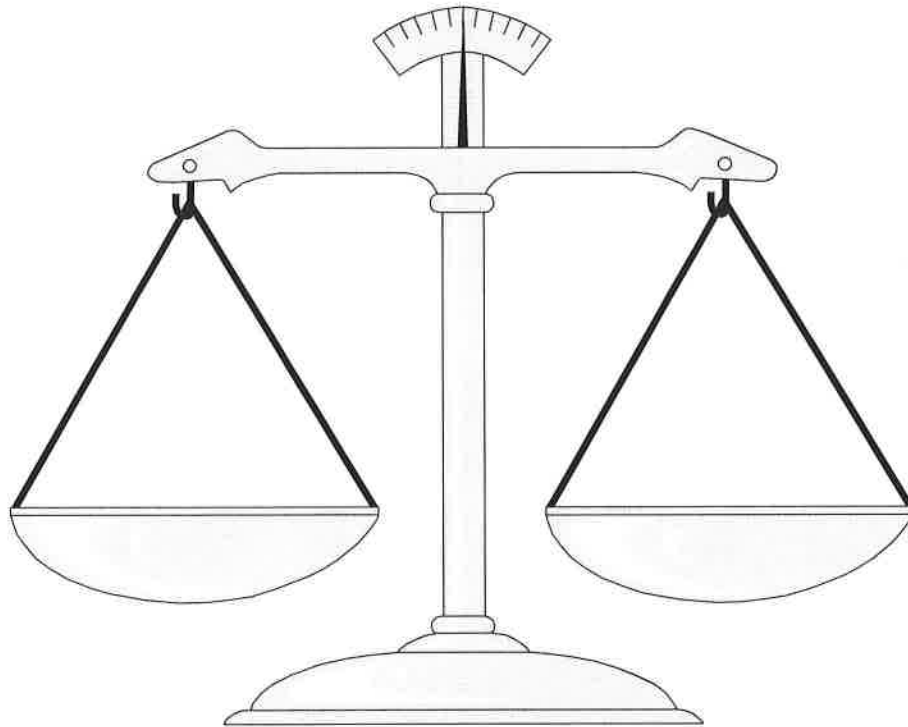


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COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

## COMMISSION MEETING

June 21, 2011

**N.J. Soroie, CSR, P.O. Box 2102, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521  
(228) 467-2199**



COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

MEETING OF COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

June 21, 2011

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TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING OF COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES AT  
BOLTON STATE BUILDING, PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, 1141 BAYVIEW  
AVENUE, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI, ON THE 21ST DAY OF JUNE 2011  
COMMENCING AT 9:00 A.M. AND REPORTED BY NORMA JEAN LADNER  
SOROE, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER.  
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COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

DR. VERNON ASPER, Chairman  
RICHARD GOLLOTT  
SHELEY DRUMMOND  
STEVE BOSARGE  
JIMMY TAYLOR

ALSO PRESENT:

WALTER J. CHATAGNIER, Acting Executive Director DMR  
JOSEPH R. RUNNELS, ESQ., Asst. Attorney General  
SANDY CHESNUT, ESQ., Asst. Attorney General

is approved as amended.

D. Public Comments

DR. ASPER: We'll now move on to the time of  
public comments. We only have one letter filled out here for  
public comments.

And we're going to really try and enforce our  
three minute ruling.

MR. SCIALACCI: This shouldn't take much longer  
than a half hour, Doc.

Commissioners, Ms. Chesnut, I'm here speaking on  
behalf of our CEO and chairman of the board Joe Von Rosenberg  
for Omega Protein.

He basically wrote this letter to Dr. Walker.  
And I will read this letter for the commissioners.

(Reading) Dear Dr. Walker, on May 18, 2011, one  
of Omega Protein's fishing vessels, the SANDY POINT, was  
involved in a collision with another vessel in the Gulfport  
Ship Channel near Ship Island.

The collision resulted in the sinking of the  
vessel. Thirteen members of the ship's crew were fortunately  
rescued. However, three crew members died aboard the vessel.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you  
and the dedicated work performed by the employees of  
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. Minutes after the  
collision, our staff contacted Omega Protein personnel,

A. Call to Order

DR. ASPER: Good morning. I'd like to welcome  
everybody to the regular June meeting of the Mississippi  
Commission on Marine Resources. It's great to have everybody  
here.

B. Approval of Minutes Commission Meeting - May 17, 2011

DR. ASPER: There is an agenda before us. And  
before we get into that, we have the minutes distributed. Are  
there any corrections to the minutes? Is there a motion to  
approve as presented?

MR. GOLLOTT: Motion to approve, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DRUMMOND: Second.

DR. ASPER: Those in favor say aye. And so the  
minutes are approved.

C. Approval of Agenda

DR. ASPER: The agenda, I understand we have  
some changes?

MR. CHATAGNIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Item H-3,  
bureau of wetland permitting, (a) and (b), those need to be  
pulled off the agenda.

DR. ASPER: Are there any other changes? Is  
there a motion to approve the agenda as amended?

MR. DRUMMOND: So moved.

MR. GOLLOTT: Second.

DR. ASPER: Those in favor say aye. The agenda

notified us of the incident.

Marine patrol immediately participated in the  
rescue efforts of the 13 crew members who managed to escape the  
sinking ship.

During search and rescue efforts for the three  
missing crew members, marine patrol searched tirelessly  
throughout the night and over the course of the next several  
days, including sending divers to search the damaged vessel.

These divers put their lives in danger as they  
searched the wreckage for survivors, battling adverse sea  
conditions in almost no visibility under water.

Marine patrol monitored and secured the incident  
site and kept our staff informed of the situation on a  
continual basis.

The service these men provided and their  
dedication to their job was invaluable, allowing us to keep the  
victims' families informed of the progress and the attempts  
made in the rescuing of the three missing men.

As efforts transitioned from search and rescue  
to recovery, these men provided the critical information needed  
to retrieve the bodies of our lost crew members.

On behalf of the entire Omega Protein family, I  
wish to thank your staff for their service and dedication in  
making this difficult situation manageable. Please accept our  
heartfelt gratitude to your team on a job well done.

1 Sincerely, Joseph L. Von Rosenberg III. (End  
2 reading)  
3 DR. ASPER: Thank you, Rick. And our  
4 condolences, of course, go to the families of those who were  
5 lost and our best wishes to everybody involved in that tragedy.  
6 Thank you.  
7 We've got two more here, one from Mark Stewart  
8 and one from Catfish.  
9 Would you rather talk now or after the shrimp  
10 report?  
11 MR. MILLER: It doesn't matter. Whatever y'all  
12 want to do, sir. If y'all want us to step aboard, we'll step  
13 aboard and talk to you. We ain't got no problems.  
14 If you want to go with the shrimp report first,  
15 Stewart said, go ahead.  
16 DR. ASPER: Would you rather do that?  
17 MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.  
18 DR. ASPER: Fine. We'll bring you back up after  
19 that, that way you can go --  
20 MR. MILLER: Thanks.  
21 DR. ASPER: Because some of your questions may  
22 be answered in that report.  
23 MR. MILLER: It truly might be, because that's  
24 why some of us are here.  
25 MR. CHATAGNIER: All right. Executive

5

1 director's report.  
2 E. Executive Director's Report  
3 MR. CHATAGNIER: Everything looks good.  
4 F. Marine Patrol  
5 2. Marine Patrol Report  
6 DR. ASPER: Marine patrol.  
7 MR. PITTMAN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,  
8 commissioners, Colonel Chatagnier, Sandy.  
9 You have a report in in front of you.  
10 You'll notice our saltwater fishing license  
11 citations went down from the month before. We did have an  
12 increase in our boat and water safety violations. Got a few  
13 without the life jackets, PFDs, and several children under 12,  
14 12 and under, without life jackets on, and several reckless  
15 operation, negligent operation citations, mostly no-wake zone  
16 violations.  
17 We had one boat and water safety class,  
18 certified 15 students.  
19 And the boating accident in May that Rick just  
20 talked about with the SANDY POINT and three fatalities.  
21 We did have all of our dive team out there for  
22 two days searching. And one of our divers did get in harm's  
23 way when he got entangled in a net, and that's when we called  
24 off dive operations until the salvage crew got there.  
25 Special events, we had six. Presentations and

6

1 outreach, we had two.  
2 And on our JEA totals, we had 43 patrols, 671  
3 man hours, 456 contacts, and one state citation issued.  
4 Any questions?  
5 DR. ASPER: Any questions for Rusty? Okay.  
6 MR. PITTMAN: Thank you.  
7 DR. ASPER: We'll move on to fisheries. Dale  
8 Diaz.  
9 G. Marine Fisheries  
10 MR. DIAZ: Good morning, Dr. Asper,  
11 commissioners, Ms. Chesnut, Chief Chatagnier.  
12 I wanted to mention just a couple of things  
13 before I start calling the staff up.  
14 One is I want to recognize the shrimp and crab  
15 bureau, Traci and her staff. They worked really hard putting  
16 together a Shrimping the Sound newsletter that was sent out in  
17 y'all's mailout.  
18 This is something that we send out to everybody  
19 that purchased a commercial shrimp license prior to shrimp  
20 season. And it's our effort to try to communicate better with  
21 people in the shrimp industry.  
22 I know Commissioner Bosarge had asked us a  
23 couple of years ago to try to do some extra efforts to relay  
24 information to the shrimp fishery, and this is one of the  
25 things we're doing. We plan on continuing that.

7

1 And thank you, Traci, and shrimp and crab staff  
2 for your hard work.  
3 MR. BOSARGE: Thank you, Traci. It's good  
4 information and I read it cover to cover, and I'm sure most  
5 people do. Thank you.  
6 MR. DIAZ: And we'll keep that up  
7 I also wanted to mention that we've been  
8 working, the fisheries staff has been working with the legal  
9 team and marine patrol to develop a draft crab trip ticket form  
10 and a draft crab ticket manual.  
11 We have been developing this over the course of  
12 the last month or so. And we plan on having these things in a  
13 pretty good draft form here in the next couple of days. And  
14 we're going to have a couple opportunities for folks in the  
15 crab industry to come in and give input.  
16 First, we're going to have a crab task force  
17 meeting on July 7 at 3:00 p.m. for the crab task force, and  
18 we're going to show them the draft ticket and the draft manual  
19 and get some comment and input from them.  
20 And after that, we're going to have a meeting on  
21 July 12 at 4:00 p.m. for crab fishermen and crab processors so  
22 they can have a chance to give us some input on those forms,  
23 also.  
24 So we'll be seeking some input. And we'll  
25 report back to you next month. And we will be ready to bring

8

1 you something at the August meeting as the motion indicated a  
2 couple of months ago.

3 With that, first up for marine fisheries is  
4 going to be Erick Porche, and he's got some state records.

5 3. State Records

6 MR. PORCHE: Good morning. We just have two  
7 records this month. Both of them are conventional tackle.

8 The first one is for a creole fish. It's a  
9 first time entry, paranthias furcifer. It's a new record of 1  
10 pound 8.69 ounces caught by Cecily O'Brien.

11 MR. TAYLOR: What's the difference from this and  
12 a red snapper? Most people would think this was a juvenile red  
13 snapper.

14 MR. PORCHE: First of all, this is in the  
15 grouper family. One of the big things that you can look at and  
16 you can see in this picture here is if you look at the dorsal  
17 fin, you've got this really pretty yellow stripe up on the  
18 dorsal. The axle spot on the pectoral fin isn't nearly  
19 distinct as it is on a red snapper either. And you've got a  
20 much more forked caudal fin. That will be the easiest way to  
21 identify the two.

22 The easiest is to look for the yellow.

23 And Mrs. O'Brien and her fish.

24 The second one is for bigeye tuna, thunnus  
25 obesus. It's also a new record, first time entry, of 92 pounds

1 is Lake Pontchartrain. Here is the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and  
2 the Bonnet Carre Spillway goes right into Lake Pontchartrain.

3 We were able to go over to the Bonnet Carre and  
4 actually see the structure. In my entire career, I've never  
5 been over there when it was operating, so this was a very good  
6 opportunity to actually see the structure. And it's pretty  
7 impressive. Three hundred fifty gates total. There's 20 pins  
8 to each gate. And it's a 7,000 foot structure.

9 The design capacity is for flow of 250,000 cubic  
10 feet per second. And at the maximum, it got up to a total of  
11 316,000 cubic feet per second.

12 Here is a closed bay which there was a little  
13 gap in between there. You can see the water flowing through.

14 And with the bays opened, and I was lucky enough  
15 in this picture to catch -- see on the very corner there, that  
16 happens to be a silver carp. And Dale Diaz, he noticed just as  
17 we got up there, within 50 yards of the shoreline, about one of  
18 these was jumping every minute. And so we do have silver carp  
19 that have been introduced on the Pontchartrain side of the  
20 spillway.

21 I thought this was a pretty impressive picture.  
22 This is with all 320 bays open out of the -- I'm sorry -- 330  
23 out of the 350 total. So that was a pretty impressive picture.

24 And to the left there, that's the Pontchartrain  
25 side.

1 2.88 ounces, caught by Stacy Combs. And Mr. Combs and his  
2 tuna.

3 Any questions?

4 DR. ASPER: Is there a motion to approve these  
5 records?

6 MR. DRUMMOND: I make a motion to approve these  
7 new records.

8 MR. BOSARGE: So second.

9 DR. ASPER: Those in favor say aye. Those  
10 records are approved. Congratulations to the anglers.

11 MR. PORCHE: Thank you very much.

12 4. Bonnet Carre Update

13 MR. DIAZ: Next up for marine fisheries, Scott  
14 Gordon is going to give an update on the Bonnet Carre Spillway.

15 MR. GORDON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,  
16 commissioners, Sandy, Colonel Chatagnier.

17 I'm happy to report that the Bonnet Carre  
18 Spillway was totally closed as of yesterday. We had a total  
19 of I believe it was 330 gates that they had open during the  
20 event. And they closed the very last one yesterday.

21 This is the same background information that I  
22 gave to the commission last month with the update that it did  
23 close yesterday.

24 And to familiarize you with the locations of the  
25 spillway, here is the Mississippi River coming down. And here

1 And on the right is the Mississippi River side.

2 And we did have a picture from 2008, the last  
3 time they had opened it. It was an astronaut picture, and so I  
4 searched for another one, and sure enough, they took another  
5 picture for this year. And this is from May 17, and you can  
6 see the Mississippi River coming down through here. Here is  
7 the City of New Orleans. And the spillway is designed to  
8 protect the City of New Orleans.

9 We were also looking at some satellite imagery  
10 and had to go back to June 18. And we've had all these clouds  
11 around, but we haven't been able to get the precipitation out  
12 of them that we would like.

13 Again, this is Lake Pontchartrain here. You can  
14 you see the Bonnet Carre Spillway is down in the southwest  
15 corner of Lake Pontchartrain, and then it flows through the  
16 Rigolets and across Lake Borgne. And here is St. Louis Bay,  
17 Cat Island, Ship, Horn. And we did see -- throughout this we  
18 did see plumes of water that -- or turbidity that seemed to get  
19 as far as the Belle Fountain Point area.

20 And again, this is the Mississippi River gauge  
21 at New Orleans. Formerly they called it the Carrollton gauge.  
22 And they were able to maintain with the addition of opening up  
23 the Morganza Spillway a 17 foot stage in New Orleans. So they  
24 were cutting it fairly close there.

25 When we went over to the Bonnet Carre Spillway,

1 we happened to go over the Mississippi River just south of the  
2 spillway, and I was able to get this picture of the levee.  
3 This is the Mississippi River is over on the left-hand side,  
4 and you can see the water level here. And down below, you can  
5 see the road. And I thought it was interesting to see the  
6 school buses.

7           So that's one of the reasons why it was  
8 important for them to open up the Bonnet Carre Spillway to keep  
9 all of these areas from flooding.

10           This is looking at the Bonnet Carre Spillway  
11 operation from when it first opened up in early May until it  
12 was closed yesterday.

13           And this is flow. The flow is going to be the  
14 blue lines here. And that's in cubic feet per second. And  
15 then the red lines are going to be number of bays open. So it  
16 only got up to 330 bays open.

17           And even though you might look back and say,  
18 well, there were other years they opened up all 350 bays, you  
19 know, so there were more substantial openings, this was still  
20 pretty substantial because they were above the design flow or  
21 the design capacity for the structure.

22           Again, it opened up on the 9th of May and closed  
23 the 20th of June.

24           It was operated a total of by my calculations 42  
25 days. There were 316,000 cubic feet per second. And I think

13

1 spillway opened, we were in the neighborhood of around eight  
2 parts per thousand, and it dropped down to I know the lowest  
3 that I've seen it was .4 parts per thousand. That's drinkable  
4 water.

5           Merrill Shell Bank Light, it dropped down also  
6 as low.

7           As you can see here, we had a lot of  
8 fluctuations, and that's where the tidal -- the tides were  
9 moving in and they were moving the higher salinity offshore  
10 waters mixing in with the fresher waters.

11           And then as the event continued, you saw less  
12 fluctuation there because we had fresh water throughout the  
13 entire area.

14           So as they had started to close the spillway,  
15 you can see the fluctuations became even greater. So that  
16 water is being mixed.

17           And this is Gulfport Light. We got down to  
18 maybe about two parts per thousand. And that was a pretty  
19 drastic decrease.

20           East Ship Island Light, we saw there was even  
21 some effects there.

22           And East Ship Island Light, it was good that  
23 they have a DO meter on there, as well, and we did have some  
24 oxygen problems in there towards the end of May, first part of  
25 June and about the second week in June.

15

1 to put that into some kind of real -- something I could wrap my  
2 head around, that was the equivalent of approximately 3.6  
3 Olympic size swimming pools per second going across the  
4 spillway.

5           The average flow was 210,000 cubic feet per  
6 second. And the total volume was 8.654 thousand daily second  
7 feet. I've seen this put in different terms. The second date  
8 feet, that would be the number of cubic feet per second that  
9 goes through the structure in an entire day.

10           Also from my calculations I estimated the total  
11 discharge to be 5.6 trillion gallons of water. And again, to  
12 put that back in the Olympic swimming pool realm, it would be  
13 8.5 million Olympic size swimming pools. Or it would have been  
14 enough water to fill the entire Mississippi Sound to a depth of  
15 14 and a half feet. I believe that includes Alabama waters, as  
16 well.

17           We had a lot of constant recorder instruments  
18 that have been in place over the years. But they've been very  
19 helpful in this. And the main ones we're going to be looking  
20 at is the Rigolets, St. Joe, Merrill Shell Bank, Gulfport  
21 Light, and East Ship Island.

22           And at the Rigolets, you can see this is the  
23 salinity. The salinity dropped off pretty drastically from  
24 about between four and five down to one and even below.

25           And at St. Joseph Island Light, before the

14

1           This is not really pertaining to the Bonnet  
2 Carre, but this is one of the rivers that we normally would  
3 deal with. This is the Pearl River gauge at Pearl river,  
4 Louisiana.

5           And the little triangles on here, this is the  
6 main daily statistic over a 14 year period. And we have been  
7 well below that. The current river stage is somewhere around  
8 four foot. And that's one of the things that has really helped  
9 us.

10           Dealing with the flood situation when we are  
11 under an extreme drought, we didn't have the same effect that  
12 we would have seen if the rivers had been up towards their  
13 normal levels because that's additional fresh water moving in.  
14 Since they weren't contributing as much to the fresh water that  
15 we saw from the Bonnet Carre, I believe that's one of the  
16 things that may have helped us.

17           Oysters. We've been sampling the oyster reef  
18 areas, and we have seen mortalities range from early on from  
19 about six percent mortalities all the way up to 95 percent.  
20 And I imagine we'll probably have, especially around the St.  
21 Joe reef area which is our furthest reef to the west, I would  
22 expect us to see 100 percent mortalities there.

23           We were seeing oysters in some of the areas.  
24 They were feeding early on. As the fresh water moved in, they  
25 stopped feeding. And they were swollen up. They couldn't

16

1 close their shells. In fact, one of the biologists said a lot  
2 of those oysters were dead and they just didn't know it yet.

3           So we have some of these were live oysters in  
4 here. You can see the color is still pretty good. But then we  
5 had some that were dead in the shell which one of the guys  
6 referred to fondly as zombie oysters. You can see that that's  
7 pretty disappointing to see that there.

8           And we would also find a lot of these empty  
9 shells that were fresh dead. The inside of the shells were  
10 still clean, you know, the meat had already -- something had  
11 gotten in there and eaten out the meat of them. But we've got  
12 at least three of them here in this picture.

13           I'm hoping this video will work. This is one  
14 that we took on the Bonnet Carre Spillway. And let's see how  
15 good your eye is, see if you can catch the silver carp jumping  
16 in there. We're making it a little easier for you.

17           It's a short video.

18           (Video was played.)

19           MR. GORDON: That's looking towards Lake  
20 Pontchartrain and the railroad bridge, and that's back towards  
21 the spillway structure.

22           You can see that's a several foot drop from the  
23 Mississippi River down to the actual spillway structure itself.  
24 So that's what it's trying to meant to level out.

25           When we saw these fish we were able to get this

17

1 video and take one of the pictures, I contacted the Mississippi  
2 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks and spoke with the  
3 head of their freshwater fisheries division and informed him of  
4 what they might have to be dealing with.

5           My concern would be this getting into the Pearl  
6 River system and also into the St. Louis Bay and the Wolf and  
7 Jourdan Rivers.

8           So the carp that we were seeing is this silver  
9 carp right here. And I know they're saying the salinity  
10 tolerance is low, four parts per thousand, we certainly had  
11 below that, in some of the other literature that we had looked  
12 at, there was indications they could handle as high as seven  
13 parts per thousand.

14           Okay. Some of the seen or expected effects that  
15 we should expect, many of the mobile species, shrimp, finfish,  
16 and crabs should be able to continue moving ahead of diverted  
17 floodwaters. And Traci Floyd is going to be speaking  
18 specifically about shrimp in her next presentation.

19           There have been reports of reduced crab harvest  
20 in the western Mississippi Sound, increased mortalities of  
21 larval stages and young unable to escape. Significant  
22 mortalities of oysters and other sessile benthic marine or  
23 estuarine species in the western Mississippi Sound.

24           This is a good thing. Increased mortalities of  
25 the predatory oyster drill. We've had a problem with that on

18

1 some of our western reefs. And it looks like this fresh water  
2 is going to be able to control them.

3           The extreme drought conditions along the coast  
4 have helped through the lower than average river flows, the  
5 increased nutrient load, phytoplankton blooms, and lower oxygen  
6 levels. That's something that we will be closely following  
7 throughout the summer.

8           Possible permanent introduction of invasive  
9 species into coastal rivers and streams, and a delayed or  
10 setback coastal restoration activities, and salinities  
11 gradually returning to normal levels.

12           And we will continue to identify and monitor  
13 areas over the next several months and document any potential  
14 impacts.

15           Any questions?

16           DR. ASPER: Thank you, Scott. Any questions?

17           MR. DRUMMOND: Where was the school bus? Is  
18 that New Orleans?

19           MR. GORDON: No. That was just to the south.  
20 I'm not sure of the little town, but it was just to the south  
21 of Bonnet Carre. It was the first little town there. I'm not  
22 real familiar with New Orleans.

23           DR. ASPER: Just to be clear, so far we haven't  
24 seen the silver carp in Mississippi waters yet.

25           MR. GORDON: Not as of yet. And I hope we

19

1 don't. As fun as it looks on some of those videos, I'd rather  
2 we not have it here.

3           MR. GOLLOTT: Scott, what about the tonging  
4 reefs? Have y'all looked at that?

5           MR. GORDON: Yes, sir. We were seeing  
6 mortalities on just about all of our reefs. And we did have  
7 salinities as low as I believe about one part per thousand on  
8 there. And so we're going to continue our monitoring. I think  
9 that fared maybe a little better than some of the other reefs.

10           DR. ASPER: Thank you, Scott.

11           MR. DIAZ: And last up for marine fisheries,  
12 Traci Floyd has a shrimp season report.

13           5. Shrimp Season Report

14           MS. FLOYD: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,  
15 commissioners, chief, and Sandy.

16           This is the shrimp season report.

17           Mississippi shrimping grounds opened May 25 at  
18 6:00 a.m. when sampling showed that shrimp had reached the  
19 legal size of 68 count per pound.

20           Based on records going back to Year 1975, this  
21 is the earliest opening, as we typically open in June.

22           Since April 30 and in preparation for the coming  
23 season, we have sold 453 resident commercial shrimping  
24 licenses, 134 nonresident commercial, 117 resident  
25 recreational, and one nonresident recreational.

20

1 In our aerial survey on opening day, we counted  
2 162 boats. And, of course, these are recreational, commercial,  
3 nonresident, and resident.

4 And most of those boats were congregated around  
5 Horn Island. And as you can see, this continues our downward  
6 trend in effort in the fishery.

7 This is a look at our historic nine shrimp  
8 sampling stations. We did do some additional sampling that is  
9 ongoing in response to the Bonnet Carre opening.

10 But in advance of the fresh water coming into  
11 Mississippi, we were catching excellent numbers of brown shrimp  
12 at all of our stations. And as the fresh water came in, we  
13 continued to see that at all of our stations.

14 The only exception is at Stations 5 and 6 the  
15 week of June 8 we did have some low dissolved oxygen levels  
16 that Scott mentioned in his presentation around Ship Island,  
17 but we did not catch any shrimp that week at those two  
18 stations. We did, however, catch hardhead catfish, croaker,  
19 and blue crabs.

20 So this is a look at the opening by week. As I  
21 said, May 25, we had 162 boats counted. That week, in the DMR  
22 sample, the size of the average brown shrimp was 55 count.  
23 Fishermen reported to us fair to good numbers of 41-50s to over  
24 70 count size shrimp.

25 The next week June 1, our flight showed 29 boats  
21

1 This final column over here is 2011. What we're  
2 looking at are the six years since Katrina since we've seen  
3 that decrease in effort.

4 So in 2011 for brown shrimp, this blue number  
5 down here, over 900,000 pounds of brown shrimp landed in the  
6 first two weeks at our Biloxi dealers. Over 267,000 pounds of  
7 white shrimp.

8 And when you look at these six years for those  
9 two weeks, 2011 is in second place behind 2007 which you may  
10 recall is a very good year.

11 MR. TAYLOR: What was the effort in 2007, the  
12 number of boats? Could you back up a slide? Three hundred as  
13 compared to 162.

14 MS. FLOYD: So about half.

15 MR. TAYLOR: Seems like the number of boats are  
16 catching (inaudible) shrimp per boat.

17 MS. FLOYD: Also, to look at the size of the  
18 brown shrimp where the majority was landed for these six years,  
19 you see they're either in the 41-50 or 51-60 range. And for  
20 2011, that's where the majority lie and follow that trend.

21 This is just another way to look at those  
22 numbers. The red bar represents the brown shrimp. The blue  
23 bar represents the white shrimp. Here is 2011 and second as  
24 far as landings for these first two weeks behind 2007.

25 And I would be happy to answer any questions you  
23

1 working. The DMR samples showed an average brown shrimp of 61  
2 count. Fishermen reporting fair catches of 41-50s to 61-70  
3 count shrimp.

4 And for June 8, the next week, we saw more  
5 boats. And 62. About a third of those were working over in  
6 the western Sound. And that week, the average brown shrimp was  
7 57 count. And our samples of those seven historical stations  
8 and fishermen working the entire Sound told us that shrimp were  
9 thick that week, meaning very good harvest, 41-50s to over 70  
10 count.

11 And then last week June 15, we counted 16 boats.  
12 In the DMR sample, the average brown shrimp was 62 count.  
13 Fishermen reporting fair to good numbers depending on where  
14 they're working of 41-50s to over 70 count shrimp.

15 And interspersed in the brown shrimp catches are  
16 very nice white shrimp, 21-25s and larger, continue to be  
17 there, and last week we did see some of the small white shrimp  
18 showing up.

19 So this is just a look at landings since  
20 January, very preliminary, of course. But so far for  
21 Mississippi, all species heads on, a little under two million  
22 pounds.

23 And we broke that down further to look at just  
24 the first two weeks of shrimp season. And this is based on  
25 landings reported by our Biloxi dealers.

1 may have.

2 MR. BOSARGE: I guess by opening it earlier it  
3 appears that it hasn't hurt anything, but it did allow our  
4 fishermen to produce some pretty good shrimp from what I see.  
5 Is that what you --

6 MS. FLOYD: Yes, sir, I agree.

7 DR. ASPER: Traci, do you have any idea why the  
8 shrimp are a little bit small this year? Does it have anything  
9 to do with the fresh water, does it have anything to do with  
10 the opening early? Do you have any ideas on that?

11 MS. FLOYD: We did open it a bit early. And if  
12 you have your shrimp newsletter there, if you look on Page 2,  
13 you see that we had different peaks of post-larval shrimp. And  
14 as those grow and move offshore, you will see that.

15 So we do have small shrimp still. It's an early  
16 opening. But typically we do see smaller shrimp to the west.  
17 That's what we're seeing this year. But, of course, the Bonnet  
18 Carre could have an impact.

19 MR. GOLLOTT: Traci, what you're saying that  
20 maybe the Bonnet Carre has pushed some of those smaller shrimp  
21 out of Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne into the Mississippi  
22 Sound.

23 MS. FLOYD: It's possible, yes.

24 DR. ASPER: Anything else for Traci?

25 PERSON IN AUDIENCE: We have a question over



1 here.

2 DR. ASPER: We have two gentlemen who have  
3 submitted requests to make comments, so we'll take those in  
4 turn. Catfish and then Mark come to the podium.

5 You have three minutes, so just try to keep your  
6 comments concise.

7 MR. STEWART: Mark Stewart, commercial  
8 fisherman.

9 I think that something else may be wrong that  
10 hasn't been mentioned here today about the BP oil spill.

11 Yes, the season opened early. The shrimp were  
12 small. But it's not early any more, and the shrimp are very  
13 small, what few are there. They're very scarce.

14 And these reports for these landings in  
15 Mississippi are very deceptive. These shrimp haven't come from  
16 Mississippi. These shrimp are coming from Louisiana and the  
17 Gulf. There were a few caught here like the second week of the  
18 opening. They were very small. Where the 40-50s were caught  
19 at, I guess I don't know what I'm doing because I haven't seen  
20 any, or either the factories are getting me on the count. I  
21 don't know what it is.

22 I got 50-60s, very few 60-70s and 70-80s.  
23 That's what I've caught in Mississippi.

24 Opening day of the season, I had to go back to  
25 Louisiana because I didn't catch any. The second week, I did

25

1 shrimp around here, might have some of them made 40-50s this  
2 week, what few are there, but as far as opening and all, there  
3 were no 40-50s caught in Mississippi.

4 And also these landing reports here, I don't  
5 like it. It's false information. And I don't know how to  
6 classify this false information. But I feel the need for trip  
7 tickets in our industry in the State of Mississippi once again,  
8 you know.

9 I haven't heard a word about any assessment of  
10 any oil spill damages that we're seeing from shrimp season.  
11 I'm very disappointed in that. That's all I have to say.

12 DR. ASPER: Thanks, Mark.

13 Traci, are we still sampling the shrimp for  
14 traces of the hydrocarbons?

15 MS. FLOYD: Yes. That is ongoing indefinitely.  
16 And you can find those results on our web page updated monthly.

17 I did want to respond to what Mr. Stewart said.  
18 Yes, we do have Louisiana shrimp reported in those landings,  
19 but what our port agents tell us and what we've seen over the  
20 years is this is indicative of the shrimp season throughout the  
21 Sound.

22 So we do look at those landings that way.

23 And also the 40-50 count shrimp were reported  
24 more to the east, and some of those are sold in Alabama. So I  
25 just wanted to note that, as well.

27

1 catch some. But right now, the shrimp aren't there. Where are  
2 they at right now?

3 As far as these good catches and landings last  
4 week or two, I don't know of them. They're not here. And the  
5 shrimp are still small. And the season, by this time we should  
6 be looking at 36-40s to 26-30s under these islands, and they're  
7 not there.

8 There's nothing there, you know.

9 MR. BOSARGE: I tend to agree with you on some  
10 points. But there have been some good catches in the eastern  
11 Sound and still are. And like --

12 MR. STEWART: Yes, toward Alabama. I know.

13 MR. BOSARGE: And you have to wonder why these  
14 shrimp are quite small, maybe -- whatever, we don't know, oil  
15 spill, fresh water, whatever, they are running I agree smaller  
16 than normal. I was just proud to see that there were some.

17 MR. STEWART: Right. I was, too. But there  
18 wasn't in the beginning for me. You know, the boats under  
19 Horn Island just catch a few shrimp for about half a day, and  
20 they were gone. Cat Island where I was at, Gulfport, you  
21 couldn't have made a po-boy around there. Not even one. And  
22 the shrimp were very small on top of it.

23 Yes, the fresh water did come after that and  
24 pushed the shrimp out, you know. It did do that.

25 But these reports right here of 40-50 count

26

1 MR. MILLER: How y'all doing today? My name is  
2 James Miller a.k. Catfish.

3 I'm disappointed today. I get up here and  
4 listen about the oysters real quick. Nothing was said about  
5 the oil spill, what they done to our oysters before the fresh  
6 water got to them.

7 You can go back and play some of my videos. I  
8 stayed on top them oyster reefs for six weeks after the oil  
9 spill, and it wasn't very nice.

10 Them oysters was killed by that oil. And I'm  
11 here to say that and living proof because I stayed out there.

12 And I'm full of hydrocarbons, too. I've had  
13 blood tests done to me. I'm doing a detox right now from the  
14 VOO program. I've been deathly sick. I've been going to a  
15 detox person, seeing her pretty frequently.

16 But my big issue today, Richard Gollott, is  
17 about our shrimp prices. Who controls our shrimp prices in  
18 Mississippi across the board? Why are they so staggeringly low  
19 right now? Forty cents, 30 cents, 55 cents, 65 cents. I've  
20 caught 60,000 pounds of shrimp in about five weeks. I'm a hell  
21 of a fisherman.

22 But I want to know why I got ripped off \$17,000  
23 in five weeks on my produce here in Mississippi where I landed  
24 it.

25 And you know, you being a dealer and a processor

28

1 -- and we want to know how do y'all set y'all's prices, being a  
2 board member -- I'm coming for some advice here, and I'm  
3 seeking, because everyone I've caught, I talked to Dean  
4 Blanchard, the biggest processor down there that buys shrimp  
5 for Grand Isle, he's disturbed now because we're going to be  
6 marching on Capitol Hill tomorrow about shrimp prices.

7 This is true and live. We might be burning a  
8 petroleum flag out there tomorrow, too, if something don't be  
9 done here shortly in our life.

10 But who's controlling this, Mr. Richard, our  
11 price setting on our brown shrimp and white shrimp in  
12 Mississippi? Can you give me some advice, please?

13 MR. GOLLOTT: No.

14 MR. MILLER: Well, you're on our board, Mr.  
15 Richard, and you should have the brain -- I'm a fisherman that  
16 sells my shrimp to you. And I just want to know who sets our  
17 prices. You're a processor. We sell our shrimp to you. I'm  
18 begging the difference. Who sets the prices?

19 I watched the Alaska King crabbers. They all  
20 sit at a table and set the price before they leave the dock.

21 Why we have the lowest prices on our shrimp?  
22 I'm begging you, tell me. You're a processor. You buy my  
23 shrimp. Who sets the prices?

24 I can't work for 35 cents a pound, sir. You're  
25 driving me in the ground while you drive a Rolls-Royce and I

29

1 dealer on the coast? Have y'all talked to him personally? I  
2 talk to him every day.

3 This dude buys millions of pounds of shrimp  
4 daily. I'm not kidding you.

5 MR. BOSARGE: I know. You asked the question,  
6 and I was --

7 MR. MILLER: And I want a really answer. Don't  
8 fog me with some foreign shrimp. We live in America.

9 MR. BOSARGE: But that's what sets our price,  
10 Catfish. That's what sets our price. And we're working on  
11 trying to differentiate domestic shrimp from imported shrimp.

12 MR. MILLER: You're telling me that Vietnam,  
13 Thailand, Ecuador, Brazil controls my white shrimp price at my  
14 dock that I unload here in Mississippi; right?

15 DR. ASPER: Okay. I believe we've reached the  
16 end of this discussion.

17 MR. MILLER: Mr. Vernon --

18 DR. ASPER: It's a matter of opinion. It's --

19 MR. MILLER: I didn't come for an opinion, Mr.  
20 Vernon. I come to get some literature on who's setting the  
21 prices in Mississippi on our brown shrimp and white shrimp; and  
22 the landings, they're wrong. I know y'all don't even want me  
23 up here. Y'all hate me coming here.

24 But I'm sorry because I'm a concerned citizen  
25 about our prices and what we're doing today to our industry.

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1 drive a Doodle Bug.

2 You want to go outside and look? I pull my  
3 truck on the side of yours, and you'll say you're right, sir.

4 I want to know who's setting the -- do you have  
5 any input, Mr. Bosarge?

6 MR. BOSARGE: I can't answer your question. I  
7 can only speculate.

8 MR. MILLER: Well, speculate, because I'm  
9 speculating, too, and I call people, I'm getting angry, and I  
10 can't get anywhere.

11 Who in Mississippi processors are setting these  
12 prices on these shrimp? That's all I need to know.

13 MR. BOSARGE: You know, Catfish, you've got to  
14 believe that it's a market -- the price is set by the market,  
15 supply and demand.

16 And as you know, I'm also a board member on  
17 (inaudible). And prices on small shrimp, that's going to be a  
18 tough nut to crack in that they can raise them so much cheaper  
19 than catch them. And because we're only ten percent of the  
20 market, you know, there's not a lot of room to bump that price.  
21 I was really surprised at the price what it was when we  
22 started.

23 MR. MILLER: You got to be kidding me. Have you  
24 talked to Dean Blanchard?

25 Have you talked to Dean Blanchard, the biggest

30

1 And you people up there's got all the good answers. But we're  
2 living in the water, and we're seeing and living. You know why  
3 our brown shrimp ain't growing?

4 DR. ASPER: Catfish, your time is up.

5 (Several people speaking at one time.)

6 DR. ASPER: Let me say just for the record,  
7 Catfish, that we do not hate having you here. We really enjoy  
8 having you here because you keep everybody honest. You bring a  
9 perspective --

10 (Several people speaking at one time.)

11 DR. ASPER: We appreciate your input. But we've  
12 heard your comments. We understand that there is a price issue  
13 out there. Believe me, we would like to see the highest price  
14 we possibly can as an agency because we pride ourselves in  
15 being able to make the very best use of this resource that we  
16 can. And we're not trying to hurt anybody. We're trying to do  
17 the very best job we can.

18 Okay. Thank you very much.

19 We'll move on now to I believe coastal ecology.  
20 Are we through with fisheries, Dale?

21 MR. DIAZ: Yes, sir.

22 H. Coastal Ecology

23 MR. BOYD: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,  
24 commissioners, Chief Chatagnier, Ms. Chesnut.

25 Coastal ecology only has one nonaction item for

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1 you this morning. George Ramseur is going to give you an  
2 update on our beneficial use program.

3 2. Program Status

4 a. Update on Mississippi Beneficial Use Program

5 MR. RAMSEUR: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,  
6 commissioners, Ms. Chesnut, Chief Chatagnier.

7 Okay. I need a little technical assistance  
8 here.

9 Okay. I want to tell you a little bit about our  
10 current use of dredge material here in Mississippi. I saw a  
11 cup the other day that said Rigs to Reefs program. I thought  
12 we needed our own slogan, so for now that's Muck to Marshes  
13 program.

14 A lot of what's driving the current efforts with  
15 beneficial use of dredge material in Mississippi derive from  
16 what we call the BU law, the beneficial use law.

17 There have been several changes in the law over  
18 the years. This print is pretty small, but I highlighted in  
19 red the changes that became effective a year ago.

20 Essentially now when dredging over 2500 cubic  
21 yards of material in Mississippi, it's required that that  
22 material go to beneficial use if the material is suitable and  
23 there is a beneficial use project that the material can be  
24 placed in.

25 This recent change to the law was put together

33

1 talk about in a minute.

2 Okay. So why build marsh? One reason here in  
3 Mississippi, it's the best use of our main material which is  
4 for lack of a better term muck once you dredge it up. You  
5 can't put this material out on the barrier islands. You can't  
6 put it in environments that are sandy like the beaches or  
7 anything like that. It takes a lot of effort to deal with this  
8 kind of material.

9 Essentially what we've been doing so far is  
10 building containment structures, putting material in the  
11 middle, and then growing marsh because that's what the  
12 material, the soils are most suited for. But marsh is also one  
13 of the most productive habitats we can work with.

14 And so it helps us get these projects permitted  
15 when we're talking about taking waterbottoms and converting  
16 them to another use, particularly NOAA/NMFS is a lot happier to  
17 see us going to a higher value habitat like marsh.

18 We had a presentation from NOAA/NMFS at the BUG  
19 meeting we had this month. Texas, Port of Houston, Galveston,  
20 has been working on this stuff about 20 years. And we're  
21 trying to learn as much as we can from that program because  
22 they've gone through some pretty radical changes since they  
23 started with conventional structures like I was talking about,  
24 a dike filled with material growing marsh. Now they're doing  
25 entirely different things, and we'll also talk about that, as

35

1 by the beneficial use group which is called the BUG which is  
2 now meeting here at DMR second Tuesday of every month, and it's  
3 composed of a whole range of folks that I've listed the  
4 attendees to date up there, but we have representatives from  
5 ports, from our Senate and Congressional offices, all the  
6 agencies working in the area.

7 And so it's a truly inter-agency collaborative  
8 kind of group.

9 Why beneficial use? I just threw a couple of  
10 pictures together. This is Deer Island in 1850. And as you  
11 know, it doesn't look a whole lot like this now. This  
12 eventually became what they call Little Deer Island and then  
13 disappeared altogether. But we'll see some more shots of Deer  
14 Island that show quite a bit of land loss, not only since 1850,  
15 but since 1950.

16 Here is a shot of Fort St. Joe in Hancock  
17 County. This is land loss here since 1957. So you've got 150,  
18 175 feet of coastal loss here.

19 The whole idea is that until fairly recently,  
20 most of the time we dredged, the material either went to a  
21 landfill or went in the deep water. And so we dug it out of  
22 the nearshore system, and we then hauled it completely away.

23 Now the idea is to try to keep this material  
24 right here in the coastline and use it to rebuild coastal  
25 margins like this and to do other things with it which we'll

34

1 well.

2 So we've got a good mentor here from the very  
3 large program in Texas, and these are just a few slides that  
4 Rusty Swaford showed us the other week.

5 Among other things, it's frequently said that  
6 built marshes are not as productive as natural marshes. And  
7 that's probably true, although their data seems to indicate  
8 that they may be 70 percent of a natural marsh and maybe 12 to  
9 150 times as productive as the open bay that was replaced.

10 I also want to say that I don't think anybody  
11 has measured a built marsh that's 100 years old. So, we've got  
12 some that are a couple decades old. But I think you can't  
13 really tell what the long term is going to be.

14 Some of the productivity stuff from the Texas  
15 marshes, it's been said by Zimmerman and other folks at NOAA  
16 that the marsh edge is the important part, that sort of active  
17 eroding and accreting edge of the marsh.

18 And this is just some numbers of brown shrimp.  
19 And you see right here inside from the edge you've got your  
20 thick density of brown shrimp. Same for blue crabs, very close  
21 to the edge of this system. This is open water on the right,  
22 and this is the marsh.

23 So we kind of have to have a balance of marsh  
24 edge that's breaking down and providing this habitat. At the  
25 same time, we can't let it break down and disappear. And a lot

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1 of our shoreline where we have beach or bulkheads or that sort  
2 of thing, if the marsh breaks down all the way to the bulkhead,  
3 then you just got open water and you got to start from scratch.

4           So one of the strategies we have in mind is that  
5 we'll periodically rebuild some of these marshes. But we'll  
6 also talk about that for the end of this.

7           This is just some more of the work NOAA has  
8 done. This kind of is a plan on one of the beneficial use  
9 sites. And this is an edge data and elevation survey that just  
10 tells more about how much of that critical edge is in the  
11 project and what their elevations are.

12           Work so far for us, I want to be clear that the  
13 program we're talking about here, although DMR and Mobile Corps  
14 are basically the co-sponsors of the beneficial use group, we  
15 are focusing as DMR primarily on all the private dredging that  
16 goes on in Mississippi, private commercial. The Corps is  
17 totally in charge of navigation dredging, although they are  
18 working very closely and I think very hard to maximize their  
19 beneficial use.

20           But just private commercial dredging in  
21 Mississippi this year we're set to break through two million  
22 cubic yards of material. And we're really going to be  
23 challenged year to year in just being able to have enough --  
24 being able to accommodate all that material.

25           But the main work we've done so far really

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1 with the Corps, we have gotten this dike repaired. So this  
2 project is now ready to take new dredge material. We'll get  
3 the elevations up in there, and then we'll plant more marsh.  
4 This is just way more open water than we want in there. We  
5 want some open water, but not that much.

6           By the way, this is the MISIP project to restore  
7 Deer Island that the Corps has implemented. You know, they  
8 restored the west end of the island and then the entire four  
9 miles they pumped up this 200 foot wide berm, that's the width  
10 on top, and this is to protect and restore the south shoreline  
11 of Deer.

12           I mentioned that Mobile Corps is being very  
13 proactive with beneficial use. The way the design worked out,  
14 there's this large lagoon out to the south between the original  
15 shoreline and the berm, and they're looking very closely at  
16 putting the next cycle of Biloxi channel maintenance into this  
17 lagoon and putting more marsh in there. If they're able to do  
18 that, that's going to put us a long way towards sort of the  
19 greater goal which is restoring Deer Island to about its 1850  
20 footprint.

21           The next thing we have planned out there, you  
22 all approved a permit for this meeting before last, but this is  
23 an expansion -- this is the existing Deer Island marsh that we  
24 looked at a minute ago. We're proposing about a 30 acre  
25 expansion to the west. And so that will be the first project

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1 revolves around Deer Island. This is a shot back in early  
2 2000. And BU efforts have been going on between Mobile and DMR  
3 since early 2000, and they kind of got knocked off track during  
4 Katrina, and we really got them back on about 2008 when we  
5 started having the BUG meetings.

6           But this is Deer Island before any beneficial  
7 use project. One thing to note, the earlier 1850 picture of  
8 Deer Island showed it extending all the way out. This is  
9 fairly recent. These yellow lines are 1957 and 1980 or  
10 thereabouts, and this shows where Little Deer used to be. And,  
11 of course, none of that is there, and you still see some loss  
12 of shoreline there on Deer.

13           Really, the first major beneficial use project  
14 in Mississippi, the Corps put this in, and they've now turned  
15 it over to us to manage, but this is what's referred to as the  
16 204 site. It is about 50 acres marsh habitat. Trouble is it  
17 didn't get real well vegetated before Ivan, Cindy, Katrina,  
18 Gustav. This is what it looked like after Katrina, and this is  
19 actually a barge out here working to reopen the access channel.  
20 They're getting ready to put about 30,000 yards of sandy  
21 material out of Graveline Bayou right on this corner.

22           But this project, this whole containment dike is  
23 blown out, and it's basically short of the target for making  
24 marsh as a result of Katrina.

25           Now, this is a real recent view. In conjunction

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1 where we have dug in and actually run the permit as DMR and are  
2 working with private industry to expand marsh here on the north  
3 side of Deer Island.

4           We've also got plans to go ahead and eventually  
5 rebuild that east tip. This is just a sketch that shows where  
6 we would need some wave protection here. That would be a dike  
7 of some sort. This shows the original Deer Island marsh  
8 expansion I just showed you, and then the Corps' beach  
9 restoration runs right down here.

10           So you can see with the exception of this blue  
11 area, we're moving along in the restoration of the island back  
12 to its 1850 footprint.

13           This is a similar concept for Round Island. You  
14 can see a fine yellow line in there which represents about the  
15 1957 footprint. But roughly we are looking at possibly using  
16 up to a million yards of sandy material which is pretty rare  
17 for Mississippi to try and rebuild this island. The black  
18 would be wave protection we'd need to add. Green is some  
19 riprap that's already there associated with Round Island  
20 Lighthouse project.

21           But that's just the type of thing we're looking  
22 at doing.

23           The problem is we're very limited in how much of  
24 this kind of area is available because of Gulf Sturgeon  
25 habitat. If we really get going in trying to capture a million

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1 or two million yards of material every year, we're going to run  
2 out of these places pretty quickly.

3 MR. DRUMMOND: Is that black area there, has  
4 that been placed on it?

5 MR. RAMSEUR: No, this is proposed right here.  
6 The green is in place. But otherwise, it's just this green and  
7 then what you see on the photograph.

8 We figure Round Island's got two more storms in  
9 it, and then it's probably going to be under water.

10 MR. TAYLOR: What is the depth of that lagoon  
11 behind Deer Island?

12 MR. RAMSEUR: It's about four feet deep in the  
13 middle right now.

14 Some of the other things we're going to need to  
15 work on, this is lower Escatawpa River. This the 613 bridge  
16 right here. Pelican Landing is right up here.

17 This is a current shot of that. Here is the  
18 Pascagoula River right here.

19 Now, look at -- there it is. That's 1958. We  
20 estimate we've lost four to five hundred acres of marsh just  
21 right here in this area since 1958. Various things have gone  
22 on. The main channel of the Escatawpa got dredged. But you  
23 can have a combination of hydraulics from channel dredging.  
24 You could have subsidence due to other reasons.

25 One way or another, we know that we have lost a

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1 lot of material in here, and this is not a place that's suited  
2 to go in and put a dike and load a bunch of material in.

3 Now, the way Texas is handling situations like  
4 this when you first see a slide of it, it looks like something  
5 that would be illegal in wetlands here. But it's actually  
6 this is the kind of thing we're trying to learn from them, not  
7 going on just sort of our initial ideas.

8 And let me see if this will go ahead and load.  
9 Close to the last slide, I guess it's worn out.

10 Well, the next and last slide is a picture of  
11 the 30 inch pipe in Texas pumping dredge material directly into  
12 open water areas in the middle of a big marsh. And as Rusty  
13 Swaford from NOAA said, if you walked into his office ten years  
14 ago and showed him that picture, he would have run you out of  
15 the office.

16 What they realize now that putting this material  
17 into these subsiding marshes in an uncontained way is actually  
18 the best way to fix them. You can't, of course, go with no  
19 containment or protection say on Deer Island because you've got  
20 too much wave energy. But in places like this, and we've got  
21 literally thousands of acres in Mississippi of marsh that are  
22 subsiding that we can restore and enhance by pumping material  
23 into them.

24 So one of the things we really need to do in  
25 terms of developing a program is come up with capacity and

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1 methods for both collecting dredge material from a lot of the  
2 small jobs that people haul away with trucks, we'd like to come  
3 up with staging areas for that material. And then we need  
4 capacity to be able to take that material out and pump it into  
5 places like Escatawpa that so desperately need it.

6 So I would say long term based on what we've  
7 seen in the last few years, as I say, we've got a million or  
8 two million yards of very fine grain material and maybe another  
9 20 or 30 percent of that in sand that's easier to deal with  
10 that's going to be coming down the pike every year.

11 So any support for funding requests or  
12 legislation to support this effort, I would appreciate your  
13 support on it.

14 Any questions?

15 DR. ASPER: George, there was an article on the  
16 front page of the paper, one of the sections of the paper this  
17 morning, about sea level rise, that new study (inaudible). At  
18 that rate, since 1950, when you showed the first picture, the  
19 sea level has gone up roughly six inches.

20 Do you ever feel like you're fighting a losing  
21 battle here?

22 The subsidence in sea level rise, are these  
23 projects really going to do a good job? I'm just playing the  
24 devil's advocate here because I really think what you're doing  
25 is great and necessary. But it's also pretty frustrating.

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1 MR. RAMSEUR: Well, that's a great question  
2 because that's really precisely one of the goals with this is  
3 to -- you can actually -- marsh is dependent on the particulars  
4 can accrete and keep up with sea level rise to an extent. But  
5 we can actually, the ones that are not keeping up, we can  
6 actually build them up particularly with this pumping method.  
7 And then also on other projects, like the  
8 containment one at Deer Island that we have a permit pending  
9 for, we actually are setting up sort of a chenier like -- some  
10 high ground on the back side so that if it starts getting  
11 overwashed a lot we'll have material automatically eroding into  
12 the marsh.

13 And again, that's one of those things that  
14 normally people think about being a bad thing, you've got to  
15 put up a silt fence. But those things need material. They can  
16 accrete by collecting total suspended solids in the water.  
17 They can accrete by just creating plant mass from nutrients,  
18 and in other words, they can grow their elevation some. But  
19 they seem to need a combination of all that, trapping sediment  
20 that's in the water, growing, and then getting mineral sediment  
21 in. And it's a little different for each system.

22 And, you know, we're going to learn a whole lot  
23 in this process. But this is the best shot we have at keeping  
24 -- particularly where we have marsh and there's no retreat  
25 zone, say where you've got the beach and Highway 90, normally

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1 marshes will also tend to move up slope as the water comes up,  
2 and if you've got bulkheads or other built environment, they  
3 can't do that.

4 So we're kind of focusing on state owned areas  
5 that -- where we kind of have a little more control on the land  
6 side where we can both build the marshes up and also maybe  
7 provide a room for them to slide up slope.

8 DR. ASPER: Anything else?

9 MR. RAMSEUR: Thank you very much.

10 DR. ASPER: I believe that finishes up the  
11 coastal ecology. Are we finished with the agenda?

12 We have the financial report.

13 PERSON IN AUDIENCE: Just come sit up there and  
14 ignore me and act like I didn't ask to say something. I want  
15 to know why the fishermen only get three minutes to speak about  
16 several issues that are very important, should be to this  
17 board, but they -- y'all won't let us speak of it. Three  
18 minutes. Who makes these rules up?

19 (Comments from audience.)

20 DR. ASPER: You've had your say. We'll talk  
21 about it offline.

22 J. Administrative Services

23 2. Financial Report

24 MS. VESA: Today's report reflects the status of  
25 our budget as of May 31, 2011. Our budget remained at

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1 BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

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6 COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE  
7

8 I, Norma Jean Ladner Soroe, Certified Shorthand  
9 Reporter, do hereby certify that to the best of my skill and  
10 ability I have reported the meeting of the Commission on Marine  
11 Resources and that the foregoing 46 pages constitute a true  
12 transcription of said meeting held on the 21st day of June  
13 2011.

14 I do further certify that my certificate annexed  
15 hereto applies only to the original and certified transcript.  
16 The undersigned assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of  
17 any reproduced copies not made under my control and direction.

18 Witness my signature this the 11th day of July 2011.

19  
20 

21 Norma Jean Ladner Soroe, CSR #1297  
22 Certified Shorthand Reporter  
23  
24  
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1 \$6,266,493. Our funds remaining are zero. We have spent our  
2 budget. And tidelands funds have all been obligated this year.

3 Are there any questions today?

4 DR. ASPER: Thank you, Kara.

5 Are there any other agenda items? Is there a  
6 motion to adjourn?

7 MR. GOLLOTT: I make a motion to adjourn.

8 MR. DRUMMOND: I second the motion.

9 DR. ASPER: Those in favor say aye. We're  
10 adjourned.

11 (Meeting adjourned 10:10 a.m.)  
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