

MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 19, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Bolton Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Commission Members:

Ronnie Daniels, Chairman
Jonathan McClendon
Cammack (Cam) Roberds

Also Present:

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

1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Good morning ladies and
2 gentlemen. Welcome to the July 19th, 2022, Commission
3 meeting. We will go ahead and get this thing started now.

4 I would like to ask Commissioner Roberds to lead
5 us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Joe, you weren't here
8 last month.

9 You want to lead us in our prayer today?

10 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sure.

11 Lord, we ask if you would please take each and
12 every one of us and lead, guide and direct us. Lord, give
13 us the knowledge and give this Commission and give this
14 agency the knowledge to do what you would have done for
15 the fisheries and for the estuary of the Gulf of Mexico.

16 Lord, we thank you for everything. We just ask
17 that you take us, lead, guide and direct us. That is in
18 Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Director.

20 Minutes for June 21st.

21 Do we have any discussion on those minutes?

22 (No response.)

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do I have a motion to
24 approve?

25 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll make a motion to

1 approve the minutes.

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I'll second that.

3 All those in favor?

4 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Joe, do we have some
8 changes to today's agenda?

9 JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes, sir.

10 I would recommend that we do two things.

11 Number one we need to add an election of
12 officers and we can do that at this point. It is supposed
13 to be A.3, but we can have an election of officers, and,
14 then, under Marine Patrol we need to add a no wake zone.

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Okay.

16 JOE SPRAGGINS: We can do election of officers
17 at the end, if you want to.

18 Do you want to just put it at the very end?

19 That way it wouldn't mess up the schedule.

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We will do that.

21 JOE SPRAGGINS: We will just put it under Other
22 Business.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That will work. We will
24 do that as M.1.

25 with the changes, do we have a motion to approve

1 today's agenda?

2 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Motion to approve.

3 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

5 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: It is all yours Director.

9 JOE SPRAGGINS: Once again, summertime is here
10 and we are having a good time. It has been beautiful
11 weather so far. We have had some good fishing going on
12 and a lot of people have been enjoying themselves.

13 The biggest problem is we have had five dollars
14 a gallon for fuel. It is hard to go out and have too much
15 fun.

16 We are working on a couple of things.

17 Employment and Contracts, could you pull that
18 up?

19 The first three on there, Lambert, Reid and
20 Ross, they were all people that were working with us
21 before under contract and because we have a new law -- it
22 is a situation under ObamaCare. ObamaCare says that if
23 you work over a certain amount of hours -- I am not going
24 to try to say exactly what it is because every time I look
25 at it, it is something different, but long story short, if

1 it is over X amount of hours as a part-time person, we
2 have to offer them insurance of some type.

3 well, to do that the State would have to pay a
4 lot of money. what we are doing now is we are trying to
5 find people full-time jobs and they were working under
6 contract full time and we just were able to find some
7 state full-time jobs for them. Those three have been with
8 us, but are moving forward (indicating slide).

9 we've got two new hires, Cameron Keys and Hailey
10 Nason. They will be in law enforcement.

11 we also have some promotions. Kristina
12 Broussard has been promoted to the Seafood Technology
13 Bureau Director, Sierra Ortiz has been promoted to ENRS
14 III and Jason Rider has been promoted to Shellfish Bureau
15 Director.

16 we also got to bring everyone up to minimum at
17 least on July the 1st. It is called SEC squared and SEC
18 Squared is a new program that the State has for its
19 personnel and how we pay them. We were able to bring
20 everybody up to at least the minimum. Some people not
21 very much, or anything at all, but for some people it was
22 a good raise, and we are working on other raises as we are
23 talking.

24 There is a thing called Market and that is
25 basically what the market is for the State of Mississippi

1 for the people working in these type fields and we are
2 trying to get people to that point. That is our goal. It
3 is going to take us a little while. We can't do it
4 overnight. We are working hard on it.

5 I don't think we had any new contracts.

6 As far as anything else for the Agency Update,
7 let me go over here and get Crystal's notes.

8 Gulf Council. We have a new Gulf Council
9 appointment. Leann Bosarge has been our appointee for the
10 last nine years. We had to put a new person on the
11 council because she could not be on there anymore, and
12 Michael McDermott is our new appointee.

13 I don't know if you know Michael, but Michael is
14 a local attorney here and he is an avid fisherman and he
15 is going to be a great asset, I believe, to the Commission
16 and he will be on our Gulf Council Commission. He will be
17 one of the three, myself, him and Dale Diaz, representing
18 the State of Mississippi and, of course, Rick Burris backs
19 me up.

20 We've got an auction that is going on. I tell
21 you what, the pandemic if it did nothing else it gave us
22 time to get a lot of stuff together. We've got an auction
23 of a bunch of old equipment and other stuff up at Lyman.

24 As a matter of fact, yesterday and today and
25 tomorrow, if you want to go see it, it is in the middle of

1 the day from 9:00 to 3:00. You can go up there and look
2 at it.

3 we've got all kinds of equipment. There is
4 everything from a weed eater to a boat, or a truck, or
5 anything else that is up there.

6 we are going to do a silent auction with that.
7 It is a sealed bid and you have to put your name in.

8 we will close that on the 8th.

9 Is that right, Patrick?

10 PATRICK LEVINE: August 9th.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS: It closes on August the 9th.

12 we have a thing now called Derelict vessels.

13 The legislature put in legislation this past year. We had
14 derelict vessels before, but it was limited to where we
15 could only touch it if it was impeding a waterway, or it
16 was leaking some type of fuel, or something, oil, or
17 whatever.

18 Now they have given us permission to move
19 anything that is in the waterway system. We have the
20 funds to do it and we are going out and we are working
21 with them and anybody who knows where there is a derelict
22 vessel, or something, and you want to have it moved, or
23 see if we can get it removed, what we will do is we will
24 go look at it and we will take pictures of it. We ask
25 you, if you could take pictures of it and send it to us

1 and we will fill out a form.

2 It is online. You can go online at the DMR
3 website and be able to figure out how to fill it out,
4 whatever we need to do, or either you can make a phone
5 call, but we want to get these derelict vessels out of the
6 water.

7 It is amazing. Since we started this and have
8 the authority, a lot of people are moving them because
9 when we told them they are going to have to pay for it, if
10 we move them, they are getting a different opinion on it
11 now. So far we haven't had to move that many of them;
12 only a few of them. Some of them are working with us.
13 Some have been there for years and they haven't done
14 anything about it, and they are working with us to be able
15 to get their stuff moved.

16 We are not trying to hurt anyone. We are not
17 trying to take anyone's vessel, but we want to get them
18 out of the water when they are derelict and if they are
19 causing problems.

20 If it is across from your house and you live on
21 the Bay, or something, and they've got four, or five,
22 boats that are sunk in front of you, it doesn't look very
23 good, plus it is just not good. We want to get them out
24 of there.

25 We are going to give you an opportunity to do it

1 yourself. If you don't want to do it, we will do it
2 ourselves, and, then, we will give you an opportunity to
3 pay it back.

4 It is a way to do it, but we want to make it
5 work. So far we have made tremendous strides with that
6 and I appreciate the team working hard on it.

7 Neshoba County Fair. If you haven't been there,
8 you ought to go. It is amazing. It is the last week of
9 this month that we will be there and we have a thing
10 called Coast Day and it will be on the 28th day of July.
11 That is where they give us the whole morning from 8:00
12 o'clock until noon that we have the area there in Neshoba
13 County where all of the political speeches are made and
14 they let us have that whole area, the Gulf Coast.

15 We go in and you can put up your tents, little
16 popup tents and you can give away anything in the world
17 you want to give away to sell your agency, to sell your
18 business, to sell anything that you have about South
19 Mississippi.

20 It cannot be a casino and it cannot be alcohol.
21 You can't do those two. Those are the only two things
22 they won't let us do up there.

23 If you have a business like charter boats, or
24 anything else, and you want to go up there, the City of
25 Gulfport is doing something different this year because it

1 has always been trouble getting your tents and all there.
2 If you will bring them to the City of Gulfport by Monday,
3 next Monday, they will take them from 8:00 to 4:00 in
4 Gulfport.

5 They will take them and put them in a trailer.
6 They are going to take them to Neshoba for you. They will
7 bring them to the fairgrounds, they will help you unload
8 it and put it up, and, then, they will help you load it
9 back up and put it back in there and take it back home for
10 you the next day.

11 It is a no-brainer. If you want to do it, this
12 is a great time.

13 Right now, we have about thirty different
14 companies that are going to be there from South
15 Mississippi, and we would enjoy having everyone there that
16 can come.

17 The night before, we have what we call the Red
18 Clay and Sand Mixer. Basically, it is the Coast and we
19 invite people to come there. We will have about five
20 hundred that we will feed seafood that night.

21 We are trying to sell our seafood products. We
22 are trying to sell the products to tell everyone across
23 the State of Mississippi and everywhere else that
24 Mississippi seafood is some of the best in the world and
25 is still great. We want people to know that.

1 How do you do it?

2 You go out there and you go to them. You don't
3 ask them to come to you. You go to them first.

4 We are going to them and trying to find places
5 across the State to do that, and we are selling our
6 products as the seafood for South Mississippi.

7 We want people, more than anything, to eat fresh
8 grown South Mississippi seafood. We want them to eat the
9 food that is coming out of our Gulf, not out of some other
10 country. We want you to understand how great it is and
11 this is the way we do it.

12 If you are interested, let me know and we will
13 help you any way we can.

14 USDA Processors. If you are not aware of that,
15 we have a program now. We have a little over one point
16 five million dollars that is in there for the processors
17 to help pay back for the pandemic where you had to buy
18 extra equipment, or whatever it is, to operate your
19 business. It is out now.

20 When does it close, Traci?

21 TRACI FLOYD: August 16.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS: The 16th of August it closes. We
23 need you to get there and put your paperwork in and see
24 who qualifies. Right now we have one person that has
25 qualified, one company.

1 Right?

2 TRACI FLOYD: Yes, sir.

3 JOE SPRAGGINS: So we need to get some other
4 people out there looking at it and be able to get your
5 money.

6 You had to be a seafood processor.

7 Right?

8 TRACI FLOYD: Yes, sir.

9 JOE SPRAGGINS: There are a lot of ways of saying
10 you are a processor, but you had to be a processor and
11 have that license, I believe.

12 Is that correct?

13 TRACI FLOYD: Yes, sir.

14 JOE SPRAGGINS: Make sure you get out and do what
15 you need to do there.

16 Bonnet Carre. We haven't had any update. We
17 are still trying to get that through. We sent some stuff
18 back to NOAA. Let's hope that we will get that soon.

19 Actions Update, Sandy.

20 SANDY CHESNUT: At the June 2022 meeting the
21 Commission recommended and the Director approved the
22 following motions:

23 The Permit, Variance and Use Plan Change for DEQ
24 for the Living Shoreline Extension in Hancock County.

25 The changes to Title 22, Part 18, for Special

1 Permits was forwarded to the Secretary of State's Office
2 for final adoption.

3 We had three saltwater finfish records:
4 Conventional Tackle, Blackberry Rosefish by John
5 Wright.

6 All Tackle was Bigeye by Harley Havard and
7 Unicorn Tilefish by Brandon Powell.

8 That's it.

9 JOE SPRAGGINS: Any questions on those?

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: No, sir.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS: Other than that, I don't think we
12 have anything else. Let's move on.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Joe.

14 Commissioners Report.

15 Do any of our Commissioners have anything today?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I've got one point I would
18 like to touch on. I learned a new term over the past
19 couple of months and it is called refund gasoline. It is
20 basically the gasoline equivalent of off-road diesel.
21 With gas prices the way that they are, it is something
22 that I think could be very beneficial to commercial
23 fishermen and charter boats as well.

24 I have asked Joe to kind of take a look into it
25 and help me out with it, and we've got a couple of our

1 legislators looking into it.

2 The process is already there. It is in place,
3 but, at this point, it is fairly inefficient and kind of
4 inaccessible.

5 We are going to, over the next couple of months,
6 hopefully try to find a way to make this more accessible
7 to our fishermen out there.

8 JOE SPRAGGINS: I talked to several legislators
9 last week about it up there and we talked about what we
10 could do and couldn't.

11 Some of them understood what we were talking
12 about. Some did not and they are looking at it, too.

13 I have asked them to go back in and let's find
14 out what it does, would it affect the agency in any way,
15 what it would do.

16 We do get an off-road fuel tax and the question
17 was is that part of the off-road fuel tax that we get.

18 I don't know, and we are trying to find out what
19 it is. We are looking into it. It is something like a
20 company has to apply to do it, and, then, when they apply
21 to do it, they have to advertise that they are doing it.

22 So I asked the question. The first thing out of
23 my mouth was, well, why not have everybody at the fuel
24 docks on the water do it, and they said they may be doing
25 it. They are just not advertising it.

1 I don't know. We are looking into it.

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Well, that is part of that
3 inaccessible part. There is just not a lot of information
4 out there and I didn't know it existed three months ago,
5 but hopefully we can get something put together. Lord
6 knows we need help with these gas prices right now.

7 Thank you for giving me a few minutes on that.
8 We will move on to Marine Patrol.
9 Chief.

10 KYLE WILKERSON: Good morning.

11 Looking at the June report of citations, there
12 are a good many citations there, but me just looking into
13 it historically, compliance is up. People are getting the
14 message and they are doing right it looks to me just
15 looking at reports every month.

16 Nothing really jumps out at me. We did check
17 over twenty-four hundred contacts for the month of June.
18 That is a lot of people checked for the amount of
19 citations that we write.

20 One fatality. Unfortunately a man drowned this
21 month. I hate to bring those up. I like the ones when
22 everybody is playing right and no one passes away from any
23 type of water incident.

24 Other than that, I will field any questions you
25 have on any of these citations that I can.

1 JOE SPRAGGINS: I would just like to say one
2 thing and I may have missed it. I was doing something
3 else.

4 The weekend of the 4th of July, we had quite a
5 few stops.

6 KYLE WILKERSON: Yes, sir.

7 JOE SPRAGGINS: We were one hundred percent
8 compliant?

9 KYLE WILKERSON: One hundred percent, yes, sir.

10 JOE SPRAGGINS: One hundred percent compliant.

11 KYLE WILKERSON: And that is what I'm getting at.
12 People are very compliant and that is what we strive for.
13 We don't like writing citations. We just want everybody
14 to be compliant, do their best.

15 JOE SPRAGGINS: Since the start of snapper
16 season, we had four.

17 Is that right?

18 KYLE WILKERSON: Yes, sir. As a matter of fact,
19 it was four no Tails n' Scales and maybe one possession of
20 undersize snapper. By far one of the best starters we
21 have had.

22 JOE SPRAGGINS: What I'm trying to get at with
23 this for everybody, it is how great that the Tails n'
24 Scales works and how great our law enforcement is about
25 enforcing it and looking at it.

1 We do over ten percent, and that is about double
2 what anybody else does in the Gulf of Mexico.

3 KYLE WILKERSON: Yes, sir. We are at eleven
4 point five right now.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS: And that is over double what most
6 everybody else does, as far as the amount of checks that
7 we do.

8 KYLE WILKERSON: Yes, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Wow. That is great.

10 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Chief, what are most of
11 the shrimping violations for?

12 KYLE WILKERSON: The shrimping violations?

13 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Yes.

14 KYLE WILKERSON: Well, there are not many, as you
15 can tell. I haven't delved into that, Commissioner. Let
16 me look at it a little bit more, but if I was a betting
17 man, it would be just -- I think one is a live bait
18 citation and all that stuff.

19 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Got you. Thank you.

20 KYLE WILKERSON: If you guys are ready for the no
21 wake zone presentation, I will let Deputy Chief Gex come
22 up and run it by you.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Sounds great. Thank you.

24 BRYCE GEX: Good morning everybody.

25 It is a small presentation this month for a no

1 wake zone proposal for Fort Bayou and surrounding areas.

2 It is divided into four different legs. The
3 first being right at the mouth. That first leg is two
4 thousand feet long.

5 They have two smaller legs. Leg two and leg
6 three that are specific to the Marina Cantina area, that
7 fairly new restaurant. They have marine events there and
8 they bring in a lot of customers, a lot of boaters.

9 Then, the fourth leg is just an extension of the
10 already existing State no wake zone that exists around the
11 bridge and the boat ramp that is underneath the bridge.

12 Affects to boaters. I will go back to the map
13 in a minute, but leg one vessels traveling from the
14 proposed coordinates will be at idle speed for nearly five
15 minutes; four minutes and fifty-seven seconds. In the
16 summertime heat, that is a long time to be at idle speed.

17 Leg two and leg three, those two are the
18 smallest legs and they are specific to the Marine Cantina
19 area. Vessels will be traveling from the proposed
20 coordinates on leg two for three minutes and fourteen
21 seconds, and leg three vessels will be traveling from the
22 proposed coordinates at idle speed for one minute and
23 thirty-three seconds.

24 I believe that is the main intent of this no
25 wake zone is right around the Marina Cantina restaurant

1 and boaters near the houses.

2 Leg four by the bridge and the already existing
3 boat ramp, they will be at idle speed for three minutes
4 and twenty-two seconds.

5 special considerations. Leg one, due to the
6 length of the requested zone -- as I said it is some two
7 thousand feet long -- its proximity to open water traffic
8 and environmental conditions and width of the bayou -- at
9 its narrowest point it is four hundred feet across there.

10 If you are in the middle of the bayou, you are
11 more than double the State's recommendation for wake
12 mitigation.

13 Legs two and three, due to high traffic in the
14 area and proximity to multiple residences, it is
15 recommended.

16 Leg four will be an extension of a State
17 required no wake zone due to the public boat ramp, and it
18 is recommended.

19 The Office of Marine Patrol did not recommend
20 leg one.

21 Staff's recommendation. The Office of Marine
22 Patrol recommends the establishment of a no wake zone for
23 the three specified locations, based on normal operation
24 and vessel speed in relation to the public access areas in
25 which people fish, boat and socialize.

1 There are a few restaurants. There is Aunt
2 Jenny's catfish house that is right there. There is a
3 small pier where there are several boats that dock on the
4 south end of that bridge. I am assuming that is why they
5 included leg four.

6 Like I said, it is already a no wake zone. They
7 are just asking to extend it past that area where those
8 boats are tied up. It is right under the bridge.

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I need to make sure my
10 mike it turned on.

11 BRYCE GEX: I think the main objective was legs
12 two and three nearest the Marina Cantina restaurant.
13 Those bayous are very tight in there and the events that
14 they are bringing boaters to the restaurant for, there is
15 a lot of traffic in and out of those bayous near those
16 homes.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Have y'all got anything?

18 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I dove off of this one
19 more than I really wanted to, to be honest with you, but I
20 would agree with what the recommendation is. Number one
21 is just too much, too long, and, then, you are only
22 encompassing some of the residential property and you have
23 all that other property that you wouldn't encompass.

24 Two, three and four make the most sense for this
25 situation.

1 BRYCE GEX: As you are coming from open water in
2 the Bay and you make that bend into the mouth of Fort
3 Bayou, when you are coming down to meet that no wake zone,
4 you are creating more of a wake problem in coming down to
5 meet that no wake zone in that area.

6 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Personally, my feelings on
7 it are two and three. That looks pretty tight. There is
8 obviously going to be a lot of people getting on and off
9 of boats in there. I would be in favor of recommending
10 two and three, not necessarily four.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS: Sir, if I could, if y'all would
12 look at two and three as you said, and, then, let us
13 continue to look at four and see what we think about it.

14 How about that?

15 would that be okay?

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Tweak that a little bit?

17 JOE SPRAGGINS: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I would like to make a
19 motion to go ahead and approve two and three and table
20 four. We will continue to dig into that one a little bit.

21 BRYCE GEX: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second that motion.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

24 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Sounds good.

3 Coastal Resources. Ms. Willa.

4 How are you doing today?

5 WILLA BRANTLEY: Good. Thank you.

6 I have a really quick presentation just on our
7 numbers for the first six months of this year. We report
8 to NOAA every six months our number of activities and
9 actions that we have taken, consistency determinations we
10 have made. I like to bring those numbers, once we put
11 them together and show to the Commission the total number
12 of what we do. You see so little of what we do get
13 presented here.

14 As you can see here, we had a total of four
15 hundred and sixty-seven actions. Three hundred and
16 ninety-four of those were either regulated actions at the
17 State level, or at the Federal level, requiring a Coastal
18 Zone Consistency Determination (indicating slide).

19 Between reviews of projects that are sent in
20 through the mail to us just to answer whether they need a
21 permit, or not, and pre-application meetings, we had
22 fifty-six of those.

23 we had a total of seventeen violations reported.
24 I know that you are concerned about violations so I wanted
25 to break that number down just a little bit.

1 Eleven of that seventeen were not violations,
2 when staff got out and looked at the sites.

3 Four were slight violations where maybe they
4 didn't have silt fencing up to control fill that they had
5 brought in to upland areas. They were corrected by the
6 property owner just by putting up silt fencing.

7 Two of those were actually projects where people
8 had started building structures without a permit, and we
9 were able to stop the work, get it permitted correctly,
10 didn't require any restoration and the Director was able
11 to approve those on an after-the-fact basis. They
12 qualified for general permits.

13 I put up the first half of the last four years
14 just so you can see the numbers. Obviously we had a drop
15 there in 2020, but mainly we remained steady. We came up
16 quite a bit last year and we are almost at the same amount
17 this year (indicating slide).

18 We did go down a bit in number of actual
19 regulated activities, but we went back up in number of
20 reviews and pre-application meetings.

21 Then, of course, as you can see in our reported
22 violations that we investigated, but not necessarily the
23 number of actual violations, it didn't really go up.

24 If you have any questions, I will be happy to
25 answer them.

1 (Microphone is not turned on.)

2 WILLA BRANTLEY: That is just our bulk reporting.
3 That is why I went through and looked at each one to see
4 was it actually a violation, how did it get resolved.

5 (Microphone is not turned on.)

6 WILLA BRANTLEY: Again, even those where they had
7 started work qualified for a general permit so it wasn't a
8 huge project. They just didn't know that they needed a
9 permit for whatever reason.

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: The outreach. I have seen
11 a few of the things that we talked about putting out
12 reminding people. It is good to see that getting out
13 there.

14 WILLA BRANTLEY: Yes, sir.

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

16 WILLA BRANTLEY: Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Next up, Finance and
18 Administration.

19 LESLIE BREWER: Good morning Director,
20 Commissioners, legal.

21 I'm Leslie Brewer CFO. I will be presenting the
22 financials for the year end, June the 30th.

23 At the end of June, our State Revenue was five
24 point seven million. Our Total Revenue was fifty-three
25 point two million.

1 Our Net Income for the State was a negative
2 eight seventy-one. We will get our appropriation probably
3 in September to cover that deficit.

4 Our Agency Net Income is twenty-three million.

5 That left us with seventy-six point two percent
6 of our Budget remaining for the Operating Budget, and,
7 then, Tidelands had forty-two point three remaining.

8 Does anyone have any questions?

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I don't believe so. Thank
10 you.

11 LESLIE BREWER: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Ms. Charmaine.

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

15 The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
16 was mentioned fourteen times in local, state and national
17 media since the June MACMR meeting.

18 News items included GOMESA projects announced by
19 Governor Reeves, legislative changes with derelict vessels
20 beginning July 1st, the USDA relief grant applications
21 opening July 1st and Boat and Water Safety classes offered
22 by the Office of Marine Patrol.

23 Marine Patrol participated in the Fire Academy
24 for kids with the Biloxi Fire Department, as well as the
25 Stay Safe and Play at the Children's Park in Ocean

1 Springs.

2 Both Marine Patrol and National Heritage Area
3 took part in Paddle the Bay at Henderson Point Park.

4 Sierra Ortiz with the Office of Coastal Resource
5 Management gave presentations at both USM Gulf Coast
6 Research Lab's Island Adventure Camps on June 21st and July
7 5th.

8 The Office of Marine Fisheries Finfish Bureau's
9 Trevor Moncrief and Megan Fleming each gave a presentation
10 to GCRL's Angler Camps on June 28th and July 13th
11 respectively.

12 Megan also presented to the Viking Village
13 Summer Camp at Bayou View Elementary on June 21st.

14 Madison Parker in the Shellfish Bureau gave a
15 second presentation on July 14th to the children attending
16 the Human Society's Club Paws Summer Day Camp.

17 Michael Reid of the Lyman Aquaculture Hatchery
18 assisted the City of D'Iberville with the Mississippi Bass
19 Federation Fishing Tournament.

20 The Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo was held
21 July 1st through the 4th. The agency was on hand each day
22 at the fishing rodeo distributing our rules and
23 regulations publication, fish ruler stickers, fish posters
24 and other informational pieces to the public.

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you.

1 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: A lot going on in July.

3 Here is what everybody wants to hear about.

4 TREVOR MONCRIEF: I don't have a presentation for
5 y'all today on snapper season. Staff has been working
6 diligently to close out all of the expired trips and get
7 everything together, run the analysis and right now we
8 sitting at eighty-one thousand four hundred pounds of
9 harvest for the first portion of the season. That is
10 fifty-three point seven percent of our ACL. There is
11 still about seventy thousand pounds left.

12 A little bit lower than what we have seen in the
13 past couple of years. As we talked about earlier, gas
14 prices have a lot to do with it. The first week we saw
15 proportional effort to what we have seen the last few
16 years with about twenty to thirty thousand pounds
17 harvested.

18 It really dropped off on the second weekend and
19 everything after that. We have been pretty much on a
20 similar trajectory every weekend.

21 We really didn't see a spike July 4th in
22 participation. I think folks are just -- it is just
23 hitting them hard a little bit. We are not seeing as much
24 effort.

25 Internal discussions we had about the reopening

1 date. We went through the past and kind of how we
2 projected everything out. We are looking at August the
3 12th as the potential reopening date this year and we
4 expect that will get us to Labor Day. If the effort stays
5 low, it could extend beyond that similar to last year.

6 I will take any questions y'all have.

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do you have any idea when
8 we will verify that reopening date?

9 TREVOR MONCRIEF: It will be the Director's
10 ultimate decision.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS: What I'm going to do is the staff
12 has to give me their hundred percent recommendation. We
13 talked about it. They wanted to keep it closed for about
14 a month. So this will be a month, if we do that because
15 we closed on the 10th of July and it is an effort for two
16 things. To take all the effort off the fish for a little
17 bit and give them a little break and let them start
18 schooling back together and do what they need to do.

19 we will probably look at that. I think it is
20 going to be pretty firm. I don't have a problem, if the
21 staff doesn't.

22 It is up to y'all. If you tell me that the 12th
23 is a good day, we will open the 12th. That's fine with me.
24 I don't care. I just want to get it open. I would like
25 to get it out as quick as possible so we can let people

1 know, especially if they have a charter, or anything else.

2 Also, another thing while we are on this.

3 Is it Grouper that is not going to open?

4 TREVOR MONCRIEF: Amberjack.

5 JOE SPRAGGINS: Amberjack is not going to open
6 the 1st of August. It is probably going to be the 1st of
7 September.

8 That way, hopefully, we will have snapper still
9 and we will be able to fish snapper and Amberjack at the
10 same time and that will help, especially with the ones
11 going out because they can catch more fish. That is just
12 something that we are looking at.

13 Unless y'all have a problem, Rick, or Matt, or
14 Trevor, we will just say August the 12th.

15 TREVOR MONCRIEF: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That sounds great. That
17 gives folks something to plan on.

18 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Do we know why they moved
19 it from August 1 to September, the Amberjack?

20 JOE SPRAGGINS: Trevor, you can talk a whole lot
21 more about that.

22 TREVOR MONCRIEF: The most recent assessment for
23 Amberjack, they haven't responded to any of the management
24 changes that have occurred in the past, the drops in the
25 bag limit, the size limit, the season changes, the fishing

1 gear changes. There hasn't been a response and there has
2 been low recruitment in that fishery for years on end now.
3 It is to the point where action needs to be taken again.

4 Deliberation in the council centered around --
5 they have shifted bag limits in the past, but really they
6 centered in on drops in the season length and one of the
7 things we are proponents of is trying to keep that season
8 length within a single wave of how the harvest is
9 estimated, and that pushes it from an August 1st start date
10 to September 1st to October 31st.

11 It is really the next best step to watch
12 progression to see if we can mitigate additional mortality
13 on the fishery.

14 They proposed an emergency rule and we are
15 waiting on that notification to come from NOAA and we will
16 be able to have it solid then, but the council did pass an
17 emergency rule shifting the season to that date, and,
18 then, it will have to be reevaluated after a hundred and
19 eighty days when the emergency rule time is out and they
20 will have to deliberate on what the next year season will
21 be.

22 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Thanks, Trevor.

23 JOE SPRAGGINS: As a matter of fact, it hasn't
24 been signed by the secretary yet, has it?

25 TREVOR MONCRIEF: Not to my knowledge.

1 JOE SPRAGGINS: It has to be signed by the
2 secretary.

3 If not, does it revert back?

4 TREVOR MONCRIEF: If nothing goes through, then,
5 it is status quo. It would open up August 1st. I would
6 imagine we are going to be seeing something from the
7 agency within a couple of weeks.

8 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Any more questions?

9 (No response.)

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Thank you, Trevor.

11 We are going to move on to Other Business and we
12 are going to take care of what we missed at the beginning.
13 We will hold our election of officers now.

14 Every year we elect officers. We start the
15 elections with chairman, and, then, go to the vice
16 chairman.

17 At this point, I would like to ask are there any
18 nominations for chairman?

19 Somebody has got to nominate somebody.

20 JOE SPRAGGINS: One of the three of you has to
21 nominate one of you.

22 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: I will nominate Ronnie
23 Daniels.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Are there any other
25 nominations for chairman?

1 No. We've got to do the motion on that first.
2 Right?

3 Sorry y'all. I'm looking at a piece of paper
4 trying to figure this out.

5 SANDY CHESNUT: Yes. Go ahead and close that
6 motion.

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Can we make a motion to
8 nominate me as chairman?

9 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I make a motion to
10 nominate Ronnie as chairman.

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have a second?

12 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Second.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have any other
14 nominations for chairman?

15 (No response.)

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: They don't need a motion
17 on that, Sandy, if there are no other nominations?

18 SANDY CHESNUT: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

20 SANDY CHESNUT: wait. You have got to close the
21 nominations.

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor aye?

23 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Other nominations for
2 chairman, we do not have any.

3 SANDY CHESNUT: No.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Is there a motion to close
5 the nominations?

6 I'll make that motion.

7 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second the motion.

8 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

9 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We got that figured out.

13 Now let's do vice chairman.

14 I would like to nominate Commissioner Roberds as
15 vice chairman.

16 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: I'll second the motion.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

18 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Do we have any other
22 nominations for vice chairman?

23 (No response.)

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: I will make the motion to
25 close the nominations.

1 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I'll second the motion.

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

3 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: That was a lot more
7 painful than I thought it was going to be, but we got
8 through it.

9 Do we have any other business?

10 JOE SPRAGGINS: We have one.

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We will move into our
12 public comments.

13 Mr. Ramsey, I'm sorry we missed you earlier. We
14 will get you in here now.

15 We will have Mr. Gilbert Ramsey with a comment
16 on special use.

17 GILBERT RAMSEY: Good morning.

18 Well, I just recently started a LLC. It is
19 called Follow Me, LLC, and it's international market.

20 Right now I'm here to discuss a state
21 introduction for navigational access and accessibility.

22 I went to the Harrison County Board of
23 Supervisors and introduced it for a special use permit in
24 DeSoto National Forest. DeSoto National Forest location,
25 CC Road and White Plains Road, District One.

1 That location, I used to enjoy when I was a
2 child. I have been in the community since 1967.

3 They have a park down the river y'all initiated
4 at Riverside Park in D'Iberville. We put a handicap
5 accessibility location there for disabled people and
6 Mississippi Land Trust offered me two hundred acres there
7 to do outreaches.

8 I'm telling you this for a reason. We are going
9 further up river to enjoy coming down river for our
10 patrons.

11 I have a BP contract, enhanced for recreation,
12 and I have a veteran bottled water company I'm launching,
13 donating houses and dormitories from the proceeds.

14 I'm introducing this to the Biloxi City Council
15 in a few minutes, with Mr. Bellman and rehabilitation
16 service and everybody, Boys and Girls Club and everybody.

17 I'm coming out of the woods, in other words.
18 I'm helping us out. New industries. New markets. New
19 economic development options.

20 I have been working on this since 2013.

21 I love you ladies and gentlemen, and Mr. Joe, I
22 would like to be introduced to General Hopkins and General
23 Jeff Hammott has waited on me and the University of
24 Southern Mississippi to handle this appropriately.

25 Thank you very much for your assistance and

1 direction. Have a blessed day.

2 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: I make a motion to
3 adjourn.

4 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: I'll second that.

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: All in favor?

6 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS: We are adjourned.

10 (At 9:48 o'clock, a.m., the July 19, 2022,
11 meeting of the Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine
12 Resources was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

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3 I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter,
4 do hereby certify that the above and foregoing thirty-six
5 pages, including this page, is a true and correct
6 transcript of the July 19, 2022, meeting of the
7 Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources, as
8 taken by me in the aforementioned matter in shorthand,
9 with electronic verification, and later reduced to
10 typewritten form to the best of my skill and ability; and,
11 further, that I am not a relative, employee, or agent, of
12 any of the parties thereto, nor financially interested in
13 the cause.

14
15
16 s/ _____

17 COURT REPORTER
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