

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 9:00 a.m.,

Bolton Building Auditorium

1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Ronnie Daniels
Jonathan McLendon
Cammack "Cam" Roberds

ALSO PRESENT:

Joe Spraggins (Appearing Remotely)
Patrick Levine
Sandy Chesnut, Esquire
Steven Eckert, Esquire

REPORTED BY:

Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich
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1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

2 Good morning, everyone. Thank y'all for
3 joining us today for the September 20th MCMR
4 meeting this morning. We're going to go ahead and
5 call the meeting to order now. I'm going to ask
6 Commissioner Roberds to lead us in the pledge of
7 allegiance.

8 (Pledge of allegiance was recited.)

9 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

10 Thank you, Cam.

11 All right. So Director Spraggins is
12 with us today remotely. He's listening in and he
13 has the ability to talk.

14 Joe, are you there?

15 JOE SPRAGGINS:

16 I'm here listening. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

18 All right. Good. We've got you all
19 logged in.

20 We're going to have Patrick Levine
21 sitting in his spot today. Patrick, would you
22 mind leading us in a prayer this morning?

23 (Moment of prayer.)

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

25 All right. So a little bit of

1 housekeeping first thing -- do we need to make a
2 motion to table this, Ms. Sandy?

3 SANDY CHESNUT:

4 Yes, we do.

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

6 All right. So the minutes from
7 August 18th are not ready. They will be ready by
8 the next meeting.

9 I'm going to ask for a motion to table
10 the approval of the minutes until the October
11 meeting.

12 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS:

13 I will make a motion to table the
14 minutes.

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

16 I will second that.

17 All in favor?

18 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS:

19 Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON:

21 Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

23 Aye.

24 Next up is the Approval of the Agenda.

25 We're going to ask to make a change to the agenda

1 today. We're going to have to move the October
2 meeting, and we're going to put that in under M,
3 Other Business. We will deal with that whenever
4 we get there.

5 Can I get a motion to add the meeting
6 change for October to M?

7 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON:

8 I will make that motion.

9 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS:

10 I'll second.

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

12 All in favor?

13 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS:

14 Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON:

16 Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

18 Aye.

19 Do we still need to approve the agenda
20 now?

21 SANDY CHESNUT:

22 Yes, approve it as amended.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

24 Okay. Can I get a motion to approve the
25 agenda as amended?

1 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS:

2 I will make that motion.

3 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON:

4 I will second it.

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

6 All in favor?

7 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS:

8 Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON:

10 Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

12 Aye.

13 We got all that out of the way. That
14 was painless.

15 You're going to handle Joe's part. I'm
16 going to turn it over to Patrick.

17 PATRICK LEVINE:

18 Well, good morning. Thank you for the
19 opportunity to fill in today. As always, it's
20 been a busy month at the Department of Marine
21 Resources, and we will be able to share a few
22 things that are going on and some of things that
23 are coming up.

24 And before we get started, as you
25 mentioned, Director Spraggins is online, and he

1 wants to share with everybody remotely. So
2 Director Spraggins, you take the floor.

3 JOE SPRAGGINS:

4 Yeah. Thank you, Patrick. And first,
5 you know, what I'd like to do, I would like to ask
6 that -- you know, for a special thing to happen at
7 the end of the service today. September 3rd, we
8 lost a great icon in the State of Mississippi and
9 a great person that was part of the fisheries for
10 South Mississippi, Mr. Victor Mavar.

11 And Mr. Victor was not just a processor,
12 not just a person in the fishery world. He was
13 also a great person that worked and served our
14 country, and he last worked and served the State
15 of Mississippi and the Gulf Coast. He was an icon
16 here, and he, you know, had a lot of things
17 that -- in fact, we can read forever and talk
18 about him forever for what he's done. But I can
19 tell you right now, that I learned oyster 101 from
20 him because the man was amazing at what he could
21 tell me about what was going on and how we got to
22 the situation we're in and what we can do to
23 change it, and he was extremely graceful to tell
24 me that.

25 Also, you know, he was also a head of

1 the American Shrimp Processors Association and he
2 served two terms as the president. And, you know,
3 he went to the Merchant Marine Academy, served our
4 country there and then went to the Korean War.

5 And I just wanted to ask if we could possibly at
6 the end of this meeting close our meeting in honor
7 of Mr. Victor Mavar.

8 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

9 I think that sounds like a great idea,
10 Joe.

11 JOE SPRAGGINS:

12 Okay. Patrick, I will turn it back over
13 to you.

14 PATRICK LEVINE:

15 Well, thank you for sharing that. And,
16 you know, when you think about Mr. Victor and his
17 guidance that he has given us, just an amazing
18 amount of knowledge and wealth of knowledge in
19 resources and we're thankful for that.

20 You know, we've had a few things go on.
21 And we mentioned last month about the derelict
22 vessel program, and we wanted to update on that
23 again today. Since we started tracking derelict
24 vessels, we've had a total of 55 that have been
25 reported to us. Total of 55 that have been

1 reported to us. The good news is most of them,
2 the owner is taking care of it; 32 of them have
3 been removed. And so just making phone calls,
4 making contacts, knocking on doors, working with
5 our derelict vessel folks, our legal team, writing
6 letters and notifying the public, it's amazing
7 that 32 of them have been moved.

8 Twenty-three of them are still pending,
9 and of those 23, 10 of them already have court
10 dates set up, ready to go. And so maybe we can
11 encourage folks. Not that we want to penalize or
12 fine anybody. We don't want anybody to have a lot
13 of stress, but what we want to do is clean up the
14 Mississippi Gulf Coast. And we don't want to hurt
15 anybody in the process or hinder anybody. We just
16 want to encourage them to get those vessels picked
17 up, get them moved. And if we sit down and have
18 conversations, that goes a long way. We want to
19 help out. And so really good things that are
20 happening there.

21 And you know, huge kudos to our legal
22 staff and to some of our team. There is a vessel
23 in Ocean Springs off of Washington Avenue. If you
24 look over there, the Captain Ben, the first one
25 that went to court and we received a court order

1 to remove that vessel. So it's our very first one
2 that we're walking out the process of -- using the
3 funding that was provided by the legislature to
4 get that vessel moving, so we're excited about
5 that, that we're paving a way to clean up the Gulf
6 Coast.

7 And it's a team effort. When you think
8 about these derelict vessels, it's one thing to,
9 you know, have the legislation, to have the
10 funding, to have the resources, to have the court
11 order. Well, then it's going to take the team of
12 folks that are out there to say, I'm willing to
13 get out there and move that boat.

14 And so if you're interested in being on
15 a list to bid on removing some of these derelict
16 vessels, contact our procurement office, talk to
17 them, get on the list, and then that way, whenever
18 we need help getting them out, you can be on that
19 contact list because we want that to happen.

20 So super thankful for everybody that's
21 working on the derelict vessels and look forward
22 to cleaning up the Coast.

23 You know, snapper season, we're going to
24 talk about snapper season in K just a little bit.
25 It looks like Matt is ready.

1 MATT HILL:

2 No.

3 PATRICK LEVINE:

4 We'll do it in K. Okay. We're going to
5 do it in K. We're going to talk about snapper
6 season, but it's been a great year. And I know a
7 lot of folks have been reaching out to us and
8 saying when is snapper season, when is it going to
9 close, when is it going to end. Well, we're going
10 to hear about that in K here in just a little bit.

11 Last month, we mentioned the surplus
12 auction that we had. Good news is, not only did
13 we put a lot of things out on bid, a lot of those
14 things have been paid for and a lot of that stuff
15 has been picked up. And so we have a few more
16 items that need to be picked up, but for the most
17 part all of our surplus assets have been picked up
18 and taken care of, and, you know, just a fantastic
19 opportunity to be able to clean up and also put
20 some funding back here at the agency.

21 I had the opportunity the other day to
22 go to the Biloxi Seafood Festival. And I know
23 that it's going to be mentioned later on, but
24 walking around the festival, the most popular
25 booth that they had there was the DMR booth and

1 lots of people asking questions. And so many of
2 our staff members here at the DMR volunteered to
3 work that booth, and they did a fantastic job. I
4 mean, they looked professional. They represented
5 the agency well.

6 I know that there was a need and a lot
7 of our staff stepped up and said, you know what,
8 I'll go over there and hang out. And they did a
9 phenomenal job, so thank you to everybody at DMR
10 that stepped up and helped out with that because
11 that was a huge, huge thing to be able to promote
12 the agency, promote the resources we have on the
13 Coast.

14 September 24th, just around the corner
15 here in a couple of days, it's going be National
16 Estuaries Day, and the NERR is going to be having
17 a fun day out there from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
18 People have the opportunity to see the facility,
19 to look at the estuary that's out there. There
20 are some boat rides that are available on the
21 Miss NERR and you have to RSVP to do that. So if
22 you're interested in being a part of National
23 Estuaries Day, be sure to a contact the NERR,
24 especially if you want to sign up to go on a boat
25 ride that day. It's coming up.

1 And, you know, the marine patrol guys,
2 they are back in the back, Chief and his team.
3 The boating season, you know, historically, it's
4 always said that it runs from, you know, Memorial
5 Day to Labor Day, and from Memorial Day to Labor
6 Day, those marine patrol officers, I'm telling
7 you, when you throw in boating safety, when you
8 throw in snapper season, when you throw in shrimp
9 season, when you throw in all the things that are
10 going on at once, it's a lot of work and a little
11 bit of play.

12 And, you know, I just want to say thank
13 you to them for the hard work that they've been
14 putting in, because there's been a lot of
15 sleepless nights, a lot of hard days. And, you
16 know, Labor Day marks what we traditionally call
17 the end of the boating season. They've done a
18 phenomenal job. I know Chief will share in just a
19 little bit.

20 And as a reminder, if anybody has a
21 comment, public comment that they would like to
22 share, TJ is back in the back. And so if anybody
23 has a public comment that they would like to put
24 in, be sure to see TJ and he will get it turned in
25 and so that's what I have so far on the director's

1 reports.

2 You know, our team, it's growing and I'm
3 thankful that our team grows. We have some new
4 employees that have come on board. We have Anna
5 Gamblin. She is an environmental/natural
6 resources specialist I, a permitter with the
7 Coastal Resources. Chaz Newman, he's going to be
8 an environmental/natural resources specialist I in
9 Coastal Resources. Roy Carrell is GIS specialist
10 I. I know Roy is over there on the side helping
11 us out today and thankful that Roy is here.
12 Jarred Perry, a compliance officer with Marine
13 Fisheries.

14 And then we have a few promotions, you
15 know, and so many people here deserve promotions.
16 We have had a few of them. Sandra Bilbo was
17 promoted to environmental/natural resource
18 specialist team lead out at the NERR. Brett James
19 was promoted to an environmental/natural resource
20 specialist II, and Daniel Koushel was promoted to
21 a natural resources specialist II in Coastal
22 Resources.

23 So not only are we adding to our team,
24 but we're able to promote some of our team and we
25 are excited about that. So quite a few things

1 that are going on.

2 And Traci, will you happen to have an
3 update for us on the USDA Processors Grant?

4 TRACI FLOYD:

5 Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
6 Commissioners, Patrick and legal team.

7 So we are preparing the final payout of
8 agreements that will be signed by the eligible
9 applicants and issuing approvals. Just to recap:
10 The process was open for applications July 1st
11 through August 16th. We had only four people
12 found ineligible. We had 11 eligible. Three of
13 those were catfish Processors. So hopefully,
14 within the next month or so we'll see some
15 results, some payouts.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

17 Good job. Y'all got that one quick.
18 Three years --

19 TRACI FLOYD:

20 Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

22 And that one seems like it was in
23 overdrive. That's great.

24 TRACI FLOYD:

25 Thank you.

1 PATRICK LEVINE:

2 Thank you, Traci.

3 Rick, can you give us an update on the
4 Bonnet Carre?

5 RICK BURRIS:

6 Well, Commissioner Daniels, you did a
7 pretty good job, but, yeah, I think I mentioned to
8 y'all last month that we did receive some comments
9 from OMB through NOAA. We've addressed those
10 comments and sent them back. They were relatively
11 mild, really easy, just kind of minor things. We
12 fixed those up, sent them back, so, I mean, I
13 couldn't tell you what's going to happen, but
14 hopefully that's the end of it. That's the update
15 I have right now.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

17 Thank you. Y'all keep up the good work.

18 PATRICK LEVINE:

19 Thank you, Rick.

20 Now we have Action Updates from the last
21 meeting.

22 SANDY CHESNUT:

23 At the last meeting, the commission
24 recommended and the director approved the
25 following motions: The requested variance and

1 wetlands permit contingent upon clearance from
2 MDEQ for the City of Biloxi to reconstruct the
3 Lighthouse Pier and install a jetty in the
4 Mississippi Sound south of the intersection of
5 U.S. 90 and Porter Avenue in Biloxi.

6 And the approval of the following:

7 State saltwater youth finfish records,
8 conventional tackle is leatherjack and fly fishing
9 record for ladyfish, and both of those by Rodie
10 Armes. And that's it.

11 PATRICK LEVINE:

12 Well, thank you. Thank you for those
13 updates.

14 And I know I was in the hallway the
15 other day and I think I saw Mr. Armes maybe even
16 bringing another one that we will be seeing
17 possibly next month. That little guy, I'll tell
18 you, he's doing a lot of fishing and breaking a
19 lot of records, so that's super exciting to pass
20 that heritage on.

21 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

22 It looks like he's got two here today.

23 PATRICK LEVINE:

24 And I think he'll have some more next
25 month.

1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

2 That's awesome. You know, Patrick, I
3 just want to touch on -- I don't know if everybody
4 understands how great that legislation was on the
5 derelict vessels. And, you know, thank you to
6 everyone in the department that worked on getting
7 that through. And thank you to our legislators in
8 Jackson for making that happen. That's a big, big
9 win for the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

10 PATRICK LEVINE:

11 Absolutely, it is. It is huge. And
12 it's really neat whenever you see those vessels,
13 that process occurs and just to make things look a
14 lot better out there.

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

16 Well, you know, I mean, we had one in my
17 neighborhood. And I'm on the board for the
18 neighborhood and I was always getting the calls,
19 why isn't DMR doing something about this. And it
20 was nice to finally be able to say, hang on, it's
21 coming, let's see what happens. And that thing
22 was out of the water like that as soon as the
23 owners were getting phone calls from the
24 department.

25 PATRICK LEVINE:

1 That's right.

2 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

3 And it was cool to see that unfold.

4 PATRICK LEVINE:

5 Well, you know, if you're listening
6 online or you're in the meeting and somebody has a
7 derelict vessel, you can go to our website,
8 dmr.ms.gov, go to programs, derelict vessel, and
9 there is a vessel of concern report. We encourage
10 the public, keep putting those vessels in there,
11 and we get to it as we can. We can't do them all
12 overnight, but we are listening and looking at
13 every case and we want to continue to do that.

14 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

15 Making progress is what it's all about.

16 All right. Thank you. Joe, do you have
17 anything else on that before we move on?

18 JOE SPRAGGINS:

19 No, I don't. Thank y'all very much.

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

21 Commissioners' Reports, do any of our
22 commissioners have anything that they --

23 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON:

24 Yeah. So special thanks to Traci and
25 Rick and the team for being able to get those

1 processors grants turned around.

2 Just a quick idea of what's going on in
3 the domestic shrimp business. You know, in my
4 20 years, it's been about the worst that I've seen
5 it. So you've got the vessels who are out there
6 paying twice as much for diesel as they were last
7 year, and the shrimp prices actually fell. You
8 know, depending on the size, some were in the
9 neighborhood of 50 to 75 percent. So, you know,
10 every little bit we can get out for this season
11 certainly helps alleviate some inventory pressure
12 and allows us to go back to buying some product.

13 There are processors all over the Coast,
14 large, small, who are essentially ceasing
15 operations for a period of a week or two. And
16 there is, you know, just a limited availability
17 for people who are actually buying and processing
18 shrimp right now. So a big struggle along the
19 Gulf Coast. I think Louisiana is having a meeting
20 today and they are trying to double down on their
21 import labeling and marketing efforts. So, you
22 know, it takes everybody, and what you guys did
23 was extremely important and we thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

25 Cam?

1 MR. ROBERDS:

2 (Shaking head negatively.)

3 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

4 Office of Marine Patrol, Chief.

5 I want to go ahead and tell you before
6 you get started, I got stopped myself on the way
7 in to the harbor the other day. And very pleasant
8 stop, checked everything out, everything was good.
9 He was courteous and professional and got
10 everything done and moved on. It was nice to see
11 them out there.

12 KYLE WILKERSON:

13 Well, very good. That's what we strive
14 for, Commissioner, being respectful to the public.
15 We want to -- we treat people like we want to be
16 treated. And, you know, we're citizens just like
17 everybody else, and we have to live with these
18 people, you and all the commissioners and me. And
19 we have to strive to be treated like we wanted to
20 be treated -- treat people like we want to be
21 treated.

22 And I would like to say -- start this in
23 saying that -- thank you for the kind words,
24 especially with the stop, and Patrick, giving kind
25 words to marine patrol. We don't do it for that,

1 but it goes a long way when people see that and we
2 like that.

3 Now, in saying that, I want to -- I want
4 to talk a little bit about marine patrol before I
5 get into the citation report. And as you may not
6 know, we work in operation with a national
7 operation called Dry Water, Operation Dry Water.
8 It normally -- it culminates around, I would say,
9 Fourth of July weekend, and it's strictly -- we
10 mainly look for boating under the influence
11 citations.

12 We had a very active year this year.
13 Actually, in saying that, we were actually
14 nominated to be the middle-sized agency of the
15 year. They nominated us for that. Matter of
16 fact, we're going to receive that award in New
17 Hampshire at the end of the month. And that means
18 a lot because we're looking at multiple hundreds
19 of agencies that participate in this, and we were
20 able to bring forth our best effort in doing this
21 and helping, you know, the boating public.

22 Also Corporal Dylan Kessen, he was
23 nominated for officer of the year for NASBLA. I'm
24 sorry. I didn't tell you what it was for. NASBLA
25 is the National Association of State Boating and

1 Law Enforcement Administrators. They're the one
2 that presents these awards, and it's a big deal.
3 It's a big deal.

4 I would like to read the award we
5 received. It's says: Operation Dry Water,
6 Mississippi Department of Marine Resources,
7 Officer of the Year. This certifies the award to
8 Corporal Dylan Kessen for exemplary dedication and
9 professionalism during the preparation and
10 execution of 2022 Operation Dry Water Campaign.
11 Thanks to your efforts, you are making a
12 difference in recently -- recreational boating
13 safety by rising awareness -- excuse me, by
14 raising awareness about the dangers of boating
15 under the influence and by removing impaired
16 operators from the nation's waterways, protecting
17 the community you serve.

18 That means a lot. Dylan, would you
19 please come up here?

20 DYLAN KESSEN:

21 Thanks, Chief.

22 KYLE WILKERSON:

23 Dylan, he is a hard charger. He is
24 going to go far. I see him being the chief about
25 20 years from now. But he's going to be -- thank

1 you, Dylan.

2 DYLAN KESSEN:

3 Thank you, Chief. I appreciate you.

4 KYLE WILKERSON:

5 All right. Enough of that. I'm very
6 proud of our people. As they say, the men make
7 the man and that is the truth. They make my
8 job -- I love coming to work every day because
9 I've got a bunch of great personnel. This agency
10 is awesome, and I have been here a long time.

11 In saying that, we had a relatively mild
12 August. Nothing just jumps out at us. I mean, it
13 was pretty self-explanatory.

14 Let me see how many stops we had. I
15 think -- I want to say we had roughly 1,900 stops
16 that month. These people are really pushing
17 forward and they're striving to be best in doing
18 their job.

19 We had a couple of accidents that -- a
20 few injuries, nothing major. No one passed away,
21 which is awesome. We strive for that. We try to
22 keep everybody in check with that. But other than
23 that, everything looks in line.

24 If you have any questions, please feel
25 free.

1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

2 I don't know why this just popped up to
3 me, but whenever I was looking at the crab stuff,
4 it got me to thinking. I know there has been a
5 lot of -- you know, we've come out this month
6 where there's a lot of crabs around the islands.
7 Do they have to have a crabbing license to catch
8 them with dip nets or pick them up and have them
9 in their possession or is that just if you're
10 running traps?

11 KYLE WILKERSON:

12 That's just if you're trapping them.

13 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

14 That's what I thought.

15 KYLE WILKERSON:

16 But you have to go by the limits and all
17 that stuff also. You can't just be picking them
18 up. You have to go by the size limit and creel
19 and all that.

20 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

21 Okay.

22 KYLE WILKERSON:

23 Anyone? Anyone?

24 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

25 All right. That's it. Thank you.

1 KYLE WILKERSON:

2 Thank you, sir. And once again, thank
3 you for the kind words.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

5 All right. We're going to move on down
6 to I, Ms. Leslie, for Finance and Administration.

7 LESLIE BREWER:

8 Good morning, everyone. I'm Leslie
9 Brewer, CFO. I'll be presenting the financials
10 for the month ending August 31st.

11 At the end of August, our state revenue
12 was 3.2 million. Our agency revenue was 3.3
13 million. Our state net income, 2.4 and our agency
14 net income was 1 million.

15 At the end of August, we had
16 98.3 percent of our budget remaining for the
17 agency and 98.2 for Tidelands.

18 Does anybody have any questions?

19 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

20 I don't think so. Thank you.

21 All right. Ms. Charmaine.

22 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

23 Good morning.

24 The Mississippi Department of Marine
25 Resources was mentioned 18 times in local, state

1 and national media since the August MACMR meeting.
2 News items included how to find boat launches on
3 the Mississippi Gulf Coast using our website,
4 marine patrol keeping boaters safe during the
5 Labor Day weekend and, in this month's issue of
6 Mississippi Living Magazine, Senior Master
7 Sergeant Daphne Moore and Senior Master Sergeant
8 Jada Whittington were featured in the article
9 "Women on Patrol," which highlighted the officers
10 and the great job they do for our agency.

11 Marine Patrol participated in the City
12 of Gulfport's Children's Health and Wellness Fair
13 at the Lyman Community Center on August 27th and
14 the St. Patrick High School Career and College
15 Fair on September 14th.

16 The final 2022 Off-Bottom Oyster
17 Aquaculture Training Program class was held on
18 Saturday, September 10, at the Biloxi Small Craft
19 Harbor. Before the class traveled to the
20 aquaculture training park, a seed counting
21 tutorial was held to show them how to properly
22 count and weigh their seed oysters. All eight
23 members of the training program were present at
24 the class and each member was allotted
25 approximately 9,000 seed oysters each. The class

1 then traveled to the training park where they
2 deployed their seed oysters into their first
3 aquaculture cage.

4 The Lyman Aquaculture Hatchery at MDMR
5 took part in the Sawyer Brooks Memorial Fishing
6 Tournament on August 20th by assisting in holding
7 and releasing over 100 live bass back to the
8 Jourdan River waters after weigh-in.

9 The Grand Bay NERR had an active summer
10 of community outreach and programming. Over the
11 summer, they hosted USM's Barrier Island Ecology
12 class for a field trip and debris cleanup, where
13 students collected 350 pounds of debris. NERR
14 education staff hosted two teacher workshops for
15 local teachers. The NERR's Coastal Training
16 Program also led an invasive species workshop for
17 local natural resources and land managers.
18 Several kayaking trips also occurred with "Paddle
19 the Gulf" and Dauphin Island Sea Lab's marine
20 biology classes. The NERR hosted two boater
21 safety classes led by Lieutenant Jeff Payne.

22 The NERR was also invited to speak for
23 several summer library programs, themed "Oceans of
24 Possibilities," where they taught groups about the
25 estuary. They went to the Margaret Sherry Library

1 in Biloxi, the Kiln Public Library and eight
2 libraries in the Jackson-George County library
3 system.

4 The agency sponsored the Biloxi Seafood
5 Festival and featured a booth at the festival,
6 which was held September 10th and 11th. We had
7 hundreds of visitors at our booth where MDMR staff
8 handed out our publications, fish ruler stickers,
9 fish posters and various items promoting
10 Mississippi seafood.

11 And we launched our annual photo contest
12 where the winning photos will be used in the
13 agency's 2023 calendar. We ask that submitted
14 photos depict an aspect of the marine resources
15 available on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, including
16 recreational and commercial fishing, Coastal
17 reserves, marine plant and animal life, marsh
18 areas, boating and Mississippi seafood. The
19 deadline to submit entries is Friday,
20 October 28th, and they can e-mailed to
21 publicaffairs@dmr.ms.gov.

22 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

23 A lot going on this month.

24 CHARMAINE SCHMERMUND:

25 Yeah, been busy.

1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

2 That's great.

3 Marine Fisheries, the Rodie Armes' show.
4 You want to go first or are we going to do that
5 first?

6 MATT HILL:

7 No. I'm going to go. Trevor is on baby
8 duty, so y'all get me. He just had a newborn.

9 We have two records. Both of them will
10 be the youth records. You know this young man,
11 Mr. Rodie Armes. The first one is a redfin
12 needlefish. It's a new record at 2.9 ounces.
13 Here's a picture of the needlefish and here's a
14 picture of Rodie with the needlefish.

15 The second is a youth fly fishing
16 record, the hardhead catfish. It's also a new
17 record of one pound, 3.5 ounces. And again, Rodie
18 Armes. There's the catfish. And he's learning
19 how to pose well, so there he is.

20 So currently, the staff gives a motion
21 to recommend adoption of the new state records --
22 or we need a motion.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

24 Do we have a motion to approve the
25 records?

1 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS:

2 I will make a motion.

3 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON:

4 I'll second it.

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

6 All in favor?

7 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS:

8 Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON:

10 Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

12 Aye.

13 MATT HILL:

14 So we're done, right?

15 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

16 You ain't going to leave that easy.

17 MATT HILL:

18 Just a brief red snapper report. Today
19 is the 84th day that the season has been open. As
20 of today, we have -- our estimated harvest is
21 103,305 pounds, which represents 68.2 percent of
22 our current ACL. So that's where we stand. It's
23 been slow going as of late, but that's the current
24 snapper report.

25 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

1 We have got some room left.

2 MATT HILL:

3 We have got some room.

4 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

5 What about our speckled trout
6 assessment?

7 MATT HILL:

8 The assessment has been done. It is
9 completed. We sent it out for peer review. We
10 had some very good reviews come back. The State
11 of Louisiana gave us one. Alabama gave us one,
12 and North Carolina participated this time. And it
13 was a little different review, so we're going
14 through that, but we want to make sure that we
15 address all of the -- when you send it out like
16 that, you want to make sure that you address all
17 of their concerns. They didn't have any major
18 concerns. Just gave us a few things to think
19 about.

20 So we should be presenting that here
21 sooner than later. I'm hoping by the end of this
22 month, we will have the reviews taken into
23 consideration and any corrections made that we
24 feel like need to be made and be well on our way
25 to bring that to the Commission.

1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

2 Okay. Thank you.

3 MATT HILL:

4 All right.

5 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

6 Any other questions?

7 (No response.)

8 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

9 All right. So Other Business, we need
10 to ask that we move the October 18th meeting to
11 October 11th. We will need a motion to make that
12 change. If no one has any objections, I'll make
13 the motion to move the meeting.

14 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS:

15 I'll second.

16 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

17 All right.

18 All in favor?

19 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS:

20 Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON:

22 Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

24 Aye.

25 All right. So we will not meet on

1 October 18th. We will meet on October 11th right
2 here.

3 And do we have any other business?

4 SANDY CHESNUT:

5 Ronnie, the time will stay the same,
6 correct?

7 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

8 Yes, it will still be 9:00 a.m.

9 All right. I'm not hearing any other
10 business. We do have a public comment today, Mr.
11 Gilbert Ramsey.

12 GILBERT RAMSEY:

13 Good morning. Well, recently I shot
14 Mr. James Davis an e-mail. He's in your permit
15 office, resource management, to introduce my
16 special use permit for Deer Island. Well, the
17 application is on file on y'all's website.

18 Is it appropriate for what I'm
19 introducing? What I'm introducing is a paraplegic
20 opportunity like they do in Grand Bay over there.
21 They have a mobility opportunity with wheelchairs.
22 They have a dropping ramp boat that they have
23 access for in Grand Bay.

24 We need that over here to associate them
25 near the VA so we take them to Deer Island. I

1 have this for us out of a BP contract, Project
2 1273, Enhancement Recreation. The money is
3 available. They have been waiting on me to
4 partner up. We're collaborating with the
5 university and VA and y'all, with the Mississippi
6 Development Authority to assist with tourism.

7 I have this because the tourism, the
8 market -- because it's fixing to eliminate because
9 of Labor Day, we want to initiate more economic
10 development work for development opportunities
11 with Mississippi Development Rehabilitation
12 Service and with other venues.

13 So here we go, Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm
14 here for y'all's direction. Mr. Joe knows about
15 me. Mr. Aspen knows about me. Governor Barbour
16 remembers me. They all know me. And I'm going to
17 Washington with another idea with the Red Cross.
18 Have patience, I'm with y'all. I'm purchasing 80
19 acres north of Ocean Springs, organic garden to
20 feed the homeless. We have a veteran bottled
21 water company we're launching, donating houses to
22 use as dormitories. We're coming out of the
23 woods. I'm honored to do this for our hospitality
24 state and represent it appropriately. Thank you
25 very much.

1 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

2 All right. Thank you, Mr. Ramsey.

3 That's all the public comments we had.

4 So I would like to take a minute and touch on what
5 Joe mentioned earlier. We would like to dedicate
6 today's meeting in memory of Mr. Victor Mavar. He
7 was a great loss for the Mississippi Gulf Coast
8 and seafood industry, so we would like to dedicate
9 today's meeting to him before we adjourn.

10 All right. We're going to make a motion
11 to adjourn.

12 MR. ROBERDS:

13 I'll make a motion.

14 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

15 I will second that.

16 All in favor?

17 COMMISSIONER ROBERDS:

18 Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER McCLENDON:

20 Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

22 Aye.

23 Thank you, folks.

24 (Meeting adjourned at the 9:36 a.m.)

25

CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

1
2 I, MELISSA BURDINE-RODOLFICH, Court Reporter
3 and Notary Public, in and for the County of
4 Harrison, State of Mississippi, hereby certify that
5 the foregoing pages, and including this page,
6 contain a true and correct copy of my stenotype
7 notes and/or electronic tape recording of the
8 testimony of the witness, as taken by me at the
9 time and place heretofore stated, to the best of my
10 skill and ability.

11 I further certify that I am not in the employ
12 of, or related to, any counsel or party in this
13 matter, and have no interest, monetary or
14 otherwise, in the final outcome of the proceedings.

15 Witness my signature and seal, this the
16 _____ day of _____, 2022.

17
18 _____
19
20 Melissa Burdine-Rodolfich
21 My Commission Expires 4/28/24
22
23
24
25