COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, August 18, 2015
9:00 a.m.
Bolton State Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Commission Members:

Richard Gollott, Chairman

Shelby Drummond, Vice Chairman

Steve Bosarge

Ron Harmon

Ernie Zimmerman

Also Present:

Jamie M. Miller, Executive Director DMR
Sandy Chestnut, Esq., Assistant Attorney General

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I call this meeting to order and welcome everyone to our August meeting.

First, I will ask Jamie to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next, we have approval of the minutes.

Do we have a motion to approve our minutes as written?

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: I make a motion to approve, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion.

Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a second.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.

Next, we have approval of the agenda.

Do we have any modifications?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: I make a motion to accept the agenda.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion.

Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: So seconded.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a second.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.

Next, is the Executive Director's report.

JAMIE MILLER: Thank you, Chairman Gollott. I've got a few items to report this morning.

First is Commissioner Zimmerman had requested that the agency follow up and do some outreach over vibrio and some of the concerns and treatments for vibrio for our fishermen and for the public. So we have taken a few steps.

First of all, I wanted to bring your attention to the website. On the front page of our website we now have a link that includes vibrio information; one is a flyer with information and one is a presentation.

We have not sent the flyer out to our commercial fishermen yet, but we plan to do that this week, and it just goes through the list of awareness of vibrio, and, then, some of the treatments, if you have an open wound, or if you are susceptible to vibrio virus.

The next is a presentation from the Department of Health that was given in June from Dr. Byers that includes a lot of good information about vibrio itself and year-to-year cases that are brought to their attention.

There are two documents on the website, now. One of those documents will be mailed to all the fishermen this week.

As I told you last meeting, Dr. Lucas participated in a Chamber of Commerce event where she and Dr. Byers and Jay Grimes from the Gulf Coast Research Lab presented information and also took questions.

We have been a part of the discussion, and we will continue to do that and make information more available through our website.

The next item I would like to mention is we just completed and submitted our fiscal year 2017 budget. Budgets were due to the Department of Finance and Administration at the end of July. We have completed that budget.

I have left a copy for each of you at the desk

here. We also have hard copies available at the table at the back of the room. If anyone is wishing to get a copy of our budget and our strategic plan, you are welcome to do that.

We also will make it available on the website. There will be a link on the front page of the website. If you want an electronic version of it, you can also get it there.

Next, the Commission committed to move our meetings around twice a year. We are in that time of year.

For the September meeting, I'm recommending that y'all consider, before we adjourn today, that we move the September meeting to Pascagoula to the Jackson County Board of Supervisors meeting room. We had met there last year about this time. I ask that you consider that today, that we move the September meeting to Jackson County.

Then, the October meeting we would like to move to Hancock County at the Hancock County Board of Supervisors meeting room.

Before we adjourn today, I would like to ask y'all to take that up.

Finally, I've got an introduction. As you know, we have two attorneys under contract with the Attorney General's office, Sandy Chestnut and Sean Morrison.

We have added another attorney, and I would like to ask her to stand up. Ms. Faye James joined us in August. Faye comes to us from the State Personnel Board where she served as Chief of Staff to their Executive Director. She is now an AG employee, but on contract with our agency. She brings a wealth of knowledge about contracting as in personnel issues. Obviously, she was the lead staff in that agency, and we are very fortunate to have her. I think she is very happy to be on the Coast working with us. We will make sure that everybody gets to meet her after the meeting. We are very happy to her.

Thank you, Faye, for being here.

FAYE JAMES: Thank you.

JAMIE MILLER: That's my report. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Jamie and Kelly, I would like to thank y'all for what you did. If we can save one person from getting this vibrio, this is all worth it.

I know that the gentleman in Hancock County is doing well, now, but he fought for life. I mean, he was on the borderline of dying from that. That's why it is so important for me to get it out to the fishermen so they understand.

Thank y'all for your work.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next up we have Marine

Patrol, Mr. Rusty Pittman.

RUSTY PITTMAN: Good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Director Miller, Ms. Chestnut.

You have the report in front of you. If you want to, we will go through it. I know Fisheries has a lengthy presentation today. We will kind of make this one short.

One thing I do want to mention is that on our JEA, Joint Enforcement Agreement Contract for the year 2014 and 2015, we completed it. All the paperwork was turned in, and our new contract has started. It started yesterday. We will go through the end of July of next year with it.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you, Rusty.

RUSTY PITTMAN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next, we have Joe Jewell, Marine Fisheries.

JOE JEWELL: Good morning Commissioners.

I would like to make the Commissioners aware, first, of the quarterly awards program that we initiated, in Marine Fisheries, a year ago in September. We recognize Marine Fisheries employees that provide exceptional service to the State of Mississippi and the Marine Resources.

I would like to call attention to Mr. Jeff Grant

that was awarded the service award this last quarter for April through June.

At the June Commission meeting, the Commission directed the staff to provide public notice to all commercial oyster fishermen for the upcoming August implementation of the dredge weight change from a hundred and forty-five to a hundred and fifteen.

I want to give the Commission notice that we did provide a postcard to all those commercial fishermen, and it was sent out in English, Vietnamese, and Spanish. That was accomplished this past week. We did do that.

Then, I want to recognize the Wellness Committee at the Department of Marine Resources and particularly Ms. Jessica Rankin that headed up the Cookies for Cancer Cure bake sale. All the money was donated to the American Cancer Society. They raised just over four hundred and seventy dollars. Over the past three years, they have raised just over twelve hundred dollars for a good cause.

Finally, I want to update the Commission on the current commercial quotas.

Red drum, the quota is fifty thousand. We are at forty-five thousand and ten pounds, or about ninety percent of the quota.

Spotted seatrout, the quota is fifty thousand. We are at twenty-four thousand three hundred and thirty,

or right at forty-eight percent of the quota.

Flounder is seventy-four thousand, and we are at seventeen thousand three hundred and sixteen pounds, or right at twenty-three percent of the quota.

With that, I will introduce Mr. Matt Hill who will be giving the final notice for the red drum.

MATT HILL: Good morning Commissioners, Director Miller, Sandy.

I'm going to go through the amendment to Title 22 Part 7. This is dealing with the increase in the red drum quota and the splitting of the seasons, as you had voted on at the last Commission meeting.

The CMR did pass a Notice of Intent on July 21st of 2015. It was officially filed with the Secretary of State's office on July 22nd, 2015.

We gave public notice on our MDMR web page, beginning July 23rd, ad you can see (indicating slide).

We also ran notice in the Sun Herald legals July 29th. Here's a copy of that (indicating slide).

The public comment period was open July 22nd through August 17th, and, to date, no public comments have been received on this proposed change.

I just want to refresh everybody on how this would read, if the Commission so desires.

Chapter 09 Commercial Size, Possession and Catch

Limits, Section 108.

"From and after October 1st, 2015, the annual TAC for commercial landings of Red Drum will be set at sixty thousand pounds. The TAC shall commence on January 1st and end on December 31st of each year. The commercial TAC for the fishing season shall be divided into three four-month periods as follows:

"January 1st through April 30th, twenty thousand pounds.

"May 1st through August 31st, twenty thousand pounds.

"September 1st through December 31st, twenty thousand pounds.

"In the event the commercial TAC is not met, or exceeded, in any time period, the pounds shall be added to the following time period."

What will be required, now, from the Commission is a motion for final adoption, if they so desire to keep these changes in Title 22 Part 7.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll make the to proceed with final adoption of Title 22 Part 7.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion.

What about a second?

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I will second the motion.

We have a motion and a second.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.

MATT HILL: Thank you.

JOE JEWELL: Next on the agenda is Title 22 Part 7, Spotted Seatrout Regulatory amendment. It's up for final adoption.

The Commission passed the Notice of Intent, on July the 21st. The following day, the Notice of Intent was filed with the Secretary of State's office. The public was given notice via the DMR web page, on July the 23rd. Legal notice was provided to the public, in the Sun Herald, on July the 29th.

Public comment period was July the 22nd through August the 17th. To date, no public comments have been received.

For the Commission's convenience, I will read the changes into the public record. As noted with the Administrative Procedures Act, all items that are crossed through are removed from the regulation and all those that are underlined are added to the regulation.

"From and after February 1, 2013, the annual

Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for commercial landings of Spotted Seatrout (Cynoscion nebulosus) will be set at fifty thousand pounds. The 2015 commercial fishing season for landing Spotted Seatrout shall commence on February 1, 2015, and end October 31, 2015, and each subsequent year thereafter. The commercial TAC for the fishing season shall be divided into two periods as follows:

"February 1st through May 31st, twenty-five thousand pounds.

"June 1st through October 31st, twenty-five thousand pounds.

"In the event the commercial TAC is not met, or exceeded, in the first period, February 1st through May 31st, the pounds shall be added to, or subtracted from, the second time period, June 1st through October 31st."

Action required by the commission is a motion to proceed with final adoption of the regulatory changes in Title 22 Part 7.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Yes. I will make the motion to proceed to final adoption of Title 22 Part 7, Spotted Seatrout Extension.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: I will second it.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a

second.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.

JOE JEWELL: Thank you, Commissioners.

Next on the agenda for the Commission's consideration is Title 22 Part 18, modifying the language of the Marine Scientific Collection Permit. The presenter will be Mr. Jason Saucier.

JASON SAUCIER: Good morning Commissioners, Director Miller and Sandy.

This morning I am presenting a proposal to amend the language of Title 22 Part 18 which are those regulations pertaining to the special collection permits.

The MDMR was founded in 1994. At that point in time is when we developed a lot of our regulations. We did not have a Coastal Preserves Program, nor a Grand Bay NERR, and those regulations were particularly focused on collection of marine species.

We are currently managing approximately thirty-nine thousand acres, including the preserves and the NERR, and we need to have the ability, in the regulations, to monitor those research activities that take place on those

wetlands and other lands that we manage. We have that statutory authority already, and we need to bring our regulations up to the same level.

Within this Title 22 Part 18, we do have four permits currently:

Chapter 4, Marine Scientific Collection Permit.

Chapter 5, Non-Profit Organization Harvesters Permit.

Chapter 6, Marine Brood Stock Collection Permit.

Chapter 7, Experimental Gear/Underutilized Species Permit.

I will now proceed into reading the proposed language. As you know, the Administrative Procedures Act requires that we read into the record any changes. All those underlined areas are proposed new language, and anything that has a strike through is proposed to be deleted.

Chapter 2 Section 106:

"It is the public policy of this state to favor the preservation of the natural state of the coastal wetlands and their ecosystems and to prevent the despoliation and destruction of them, pursuant to Mississippi Code 49-27-3."

Chapter 2 Section 107:

"The MCMR is vested with authority to adopt,

modify, or repeal, rules or regulations to utilize, manage, conserve, preserve and protect the flora, fauna, tidelands, coastal wetlands, coastal preserves, marine waters and any other matter pertaining to the marine resources under its jurisdiction, pursuant to Mississippi Code 49-15-304."

Moving on to Chapter 3 section 102, I'm not going to read everything. I will just focus on the areas where we are proposing changes.

We are proposing to remove marine organisms, and to broaden our authority to samples so that we do capture land-based activities:

"Possessing samples under the conditions of the permit."

Section 106:

"In the marine waters and state-managed areas under the territorial jurisdiction of the MDMR."

Moving down:

"All state-managed areas include those parcels acquired and managed by the MDMR's Coastal Preserves Program."

Section 107:

"The MDMR Marine Patrol Office, 228-523-4134, must be notified twenty-four hours in advance of the start of any research activity."

That language was changed to match the current protocol that we have for the Marine Patrol Office to be notified rather than Fisheries, when any activities take place.

Moving on to Chapter 4, we are proposing a change to the title and it will read, "Chapter 4 MDMR Scientific Research Permit." Reason being we are trying to be able to monitor and permit activities outside of just collection activities, sample collections.

Section 100:

"For the purpose of this permit, scientific research is defined as any research, monitoring, restoration, or collection activity, having potential direct, or indirect, impact to state-managed natural resources. When making the initial request in writing for an MDMR Scientific Research Permit, the applicant must include the following information on a form provided by the MDMR:"

Moving down to Section 100.02:

"Names of all persons that will be conducting field research activities under the provisions of the specific permit."

Section 100.03, we are adding "vehicles or vessels" to capture land-based activities, and we are changing collection to "research activities" to broaden

that base.

Section 100.04, we are excluding collection. So it will read:

"Including a schedule of activities, research methods, number and size of all gear to be used and frequency of activity by gear type."

Section 100.05:

"A map showing the geographical location of the research activities, with each location identified by coordinates."

That again, is to capture land-based, not just marine-based activities.

Section 101:

"A complete written report of all research activities must be submitted to the MDMR within thirty days following the expiration of the permit."

We are proposing to change from ninety to thirty to expedite that process. They are currently required to give a summary report of previous activity, before we are allowed to issue a new permit. In the interest of saving time and trying to get folks their renewed permits every year, we would like to get them in a little bit quicker so we can that turnaround time down.

Section 102:

"None of the samples collected under the

authority of the MDMR Scientific Research Permit are to be sold, bartered, traded, or consumed. Only applicants who can demonstrate a specific need for retaining samples as an integral part of the project will be authorized to retain samples."

Moving on to Chapter 5, at this point we are proposing some housecleaning items to fix some grammatical errors, update language, and make it consistent throughout the document.

"After review" will be omitted.

"Each application received will be reviewed by Office of Marine Fisheries personnel and a recommendation will be made to the Executive Director, or his designee, as to the validity of the permit request and if it has sufficient merit for issuance."

Section 104, the last sentence will read:

"The Executive Director will determine the total number of oysters the permittee will be allowed to harvest, under the conditions of the permit."

Chapter 6 Section 100:

"When making the initial request in writing for a Marine Brood Stock Collection Permit, the applicant must include the following information on a form provided by the MDMR."

Those are just some language changes to correct

it. That shows you the name of the permit. That's why we capitalized, and those grammatical errors will be fixed (indicating slide).

Section 101, we are capitalizing Marine Fisheries and, again, we are changing from ninety to thirty days.

Section 102, we are correcting Brood Stock as we did in Section 100.

Chapter 7 Section 101, we are capitalizing office so it will read:

"Submitted to the MDMR Office of Marine Fisheries within thirty days following the expiration date of the permit to include, but not limited to:"

What is required to move forward is a motion from the Commission to proceed with the Notice of Intent to amend Title 22 Part 18.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Let me ask you a question.

Why would you want to limit yourself to not being able to sell?

If you went out for Red Fish, or something, and you had a bunch of them, wouldn't it be good to sell it, instead it, instead of throwing it away?

Why would you want to limit yourself to not being able to sell what you collect?

JASON SAUCIER: The Special Collection Permit is specifically for research and other special collection activities, not commercial.

In a lot of these cases, we are limiting the permittee to only cases where they absolutely have to retain for research purposes because it's part of that project.

A lot of these cases, the vast majority of these permits are issued to research groups, and the only reason they need to retain is for data collection, and that's in the best interest of preserving that fishery.

COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: Actually, Richard, they shouldn't have any extra fish to sell. They've got a permit to capture so many specimens.

JASON SAUCIER: In most cases, they are not selling these.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have a motion on this?

COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: I make a motion, Mr. Chairman, that we proceed with the Notice of Intent to amend Title 22 Part 18.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I believe Ernie has a question.

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: We specify the amount of shrimp and oysters that are able to be taken, but we

fail to do that on the other species, Speckled Trout, or Red Fish.

Is there any reason that we did it that way?

JASON SAUCIER: It is designated on a case-by-case permit.

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: As needed?

JASON SAUCIER: As needed. If we do have a species that is not regulated in that way, we do actually spell it out as a condition of the permit.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We will need a second that motion.

COMMISSIONER HARMON: I'll second that motion, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a second.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries. Thank you.

JOE JEWELL: Thank you, Commissioners.

Next on the agenda for your consideration is modification and changes proposed to Title 22 Part 2, line change to the ICW. That presentation will be given by Mr. Rick Burris.

RICK BURRIS: Good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Director Miller, Ms. Chestnut.

I promise this is going to be a little bit shorter than the last one.

This morning I want to bring, for your consideration, amendment to Title 22 part 2, Rules and Regulations for Shrimping in the State of Mississippi. The focus here will be the definitions of the Intracoastal Waterway Boundary in the western Mississippi Sound as it pertains to shrimping.

After comparing the language in the State Statute Mississippi, Code 49-15-64.1 and our Title 22 Part 2 regulations, we noticed a distinct difference between the two as they reference completely different channels.

You have this language in front of you. So I won't read it to you. However, I will show it to you on the map.

This is a map of the western Mississippi Sound. If you are familiar with it -- I'm sure you are -- the Intracoastal Waterway runs parallel with the shoreline, but, when it gets to just south of Long Beach, the two channels split off.

The statutory channel recognized by State Statute is in the red here, and, then, the channel recognized by Regulation Title 22 Part 2 is here to the

south in the blue line (indicating map).

What we are wanting to do is keep the two languages consistent, and we recommend amending the language in Title 22 Part 2, amending this statutory boundary in Mississippi Code 49-15-64.1. As you are aware, the State Statute has precedence over regulations. So this red line, the statutory boundary is the one that is being enforced because the statute does have precedence.

I will show it to you separately, with the State boundary in there. This is the regulatory line and this is the State boundary. Every year we close shrimping north of the Intracoastal Waterway on December 31st.

With this regulatory boundary, all these waters up here are closed, and this is the only area that they actually can work per regulations; this little sliver right here, and, then, this area right here (indicating map).

With the statutory line, you can see they have a whole lot more room to work, when these waters are closed, roughly seventeen thousand acres. Like I said, this line is the one currently being enforced. So we are not changing anything enforcementwise (indicating map).

In summary, we are wanting to amend Title 22 Part 2 Chapter 4 Section 101 to reflect the language in

Mississippi Code 49-15-64.1. This will provide consistency in the language, better enforcement, and, like I said, an additional seventeen thousand acres open to shrimping, when waters north of the Intracoastal Waterway close.

I will read the proposed amendment into the record to Title 22 Part 2 Chapter 04. It begins at Section 101. As your heard earlier, the struck-through lines are deleted and the underlined words will be added to the regulation.

I will start where we start making changes:

"For the purpose of this section only, the portion of the Intracoastal Waterway that extends from a point south of Long Beach to a point south of Point Clear is described as follows:"

The previous channel is struck through and it begins:

"Begin at Marianne Channel Lighted Buoy 1, located approximately three miles north of West Point on Cat Island, thence extending southwesterly to Light 4P, thence southwesterly to Pass Marianne Wreck Light WR8A, thence southwesterly to Light 15P at the northernmost point of Merrill Coquille, thence southwesterly to Light 17P, thence southwesterly to St. Joseph Island Light 22, thence westerly to Lighthouse Point and continuing

westward, following the meandering of the shoreline to the boundary line of the state."

What will be required to proceed with this is a motion to proceed with Notice of Intent to amend Title 22 Part 2.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Any questions?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I will make the motion.

I appreciate what you are doing. That is going to help a lot.

I'll make the motion to proceed with Notice of Intent to amend Title 22 Part 2.

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: I second it.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a second.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.

RICK BURRIS: Thank you.

JOE JEWELL: Thank you, Commissioners.

For your final consideration today, we have state finfish records. Mr. Travis Williams will present those to you.

TRAVIS WILLIAMS: Good morning Chairman, Commissioners, Director Miller, Ms. Chestnut.

This morning we have two new State Saltwater fishing records. They are both conventional tackle.

The first record is a Gray Snapper, Mangrove Snapper, Lutjanus griseus. The old record was fourteen pounds seven ounces. The new proposed record is fifteen pounds seven point seven nine ounces. The angler is Mr. John Bullock.

There is the Mangrove Snapper and there is Mr. Bullock with his Mangrove Snapper (indicating photographs).

The second record we have today is the Fat Sleeper, Dormitator maculatus. This is a new record for us. The weight is one point zero five eight ounces. The angler is Mr. Kerry Hester.

There is a photo of the Fat Sleeper and there is one Mr. Happy Hester with his Fat Sleeper (indicating photographs).

What is required, now, is a motion to adopt these new State records.

COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: What is the old record?

TRAVIS WILLIAMS: For the Fat Sleeper?

COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: Yes.

TRAVIS WILLIAMS: It's a new record for us.

It's the first documented record we have on that species.

COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: So you don't have an old record?

TRAVIS WILLIAMS: No, sir.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have a motion?

COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: I was just wondering. what did he catch it on?

TRAVIS WILLIAMS: He actually, according to his application, caught it on hook and line. It was a rodeo submission, during the Fourth of July Deep Sea Rodeo.

COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: I'll make a motion, Mr. Chairman, that we accept these new records for the State of Mississippi.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion.

How about a second?

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: I'll second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a second.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries. Thank you.

TRAVIS WILLIAMS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next we have Mr. Joe Spraggins, Finance and Administration.

JOE SPRAGGINS: Good morning Commissioners, Director Miller, Ms. Chestnut.

We are starting a new fiscal year. July is our first month of it, and I will give you just a quick report on that.

As you can see, we have basically two point five million so far this year. We have ninety-nine percent left in Tidelands and ninety-six percent left in Operating Funds. About standard for where we should be.

Any questions?

(No response.)

JOE SPRAGGINS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you, Joe.

Melissa is next.

MELISSA SCALLAN: Good morning Commissioners, Director Miller and Ms. Chestnut.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources was mentioned twenty-seven time in local, state and national media, since the last Commission meeting.

Items of particular interest were the status of shrimp season and the opening of Red Snapper season in State waters.

I do want to point your attention to George Ramseur. George was one of the authors of an article published in the scientific journal *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* in which scientists designed a new onsite method for studying potential impacts that rising sea levels can have on vital wetlands. George was one of three, or four, authors on that article, and that article has gone quite a few places and received some national attention. We want to congratulate him on that.

We have participated in several events, since the last Commission meeting.

Seafood Marketing sponsored several chefs at the Natchez Food and Wine Festival, July 24th through the 26th, and they prepared dishes using wild-caught gulf seafood and which we promoted at that event.

We also were at the Great American Seafood Cook-off in New Orleans a couple of weeks ago. Ty Thames of Restaurant Tyler in Starkville represented us in this contest. He did not win, but he did very well. So we were happy with that.

The Grand Bay NERR has hosted several events, including the Gulf of Mexico Bird Monitoring meeting, a hands-on exhibit at Bellingrath Gardens for Kids Gulf Discovery Day, a meeting on the Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise, and a Gulf Regional Health Outreach

Professional Teacher Workshop that was also sponsored by USM.

So far this month, the NERR has hosted a Wilderness First Aid Coastal Training Workshop, as well as a workshop on Connecting Citizens to Scientists.

This Saturday, the NERR will hold an Adventure Quencher called "Owls of the Reserve" which will be held at night.

Our Marine Patrol has also been busy, since the last meeting. They have held four boat-and-water safety classes and sixty-eight students were certified.

Officers participated in several marine events, including the Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, July 4th fireworks, a boat parade and the Carl Leggett Fishing Rodeo.

Marine Patrol conducted seven community outreach events that focused on safety and conservation.

Four officers participated in dive training, in July. They were Chris Collins, Daphne Moore, Jeff Langlinais, and Randy Peterson.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you, Melissa.

MELISSA SCALLAN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have any other business to come before the Commission?

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to put a motion on the floor to move next

month's meeting, on September the 15th, to Jackson County at 10:00 a.m.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll second that motion.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a second.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.

Next we have public comments.

Does anyone have any public comments?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: With that, we have Shelby Drummond's favorite part.

Do we have a motion to adjourn?

SANDY CHESTNUT: Excuse me. Just one moment.

Do you want to go ahead and move the October meeting as well?

Jamie had suggested to go to Hancock County in October.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll make the motion that we move the October meeting to Hancock County at 10:00 a.m., instead of 9:00.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Second.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and second.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.

Now, Mr. Shelby Drummond.

COMMISSIONER DRUMMOND: Motion to adjourn, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do I have a second to the motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER ZIMMERMAN: Second.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Meeting is adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 9:42 o'clock, a.m., the August 18, 2015, meeting of the Commission on Marine Resources was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

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

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COURT REPORTER

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