COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES

COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 19, 2016
9:00 a.m.
Bolton State Building Auditorium
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Commission Members:

Richard Gollott, Chairman

Steve Bosarge, Vice Chairman

Mark Havard

Ron Harmon

Also Present:

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

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I would like to call this meeting to order and welcome everyone to our regular Commission meeting.

First order of business is the Pledge of Allegiance, and we will ask our new Commissioner, Mark Havard, to lead us in the pledge.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: At this time, we need to have our new Commissioner take the oath of office.

(Whereupon, the oath of office was given to Mark H. Havard, II, by the Court Reporter.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Now, we will have Commissioners Bosarge and Gollott take the oath.

(Whereupon, the oath of office was given to Steve Bosarge and Richard Gollott by the Court Reporter.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next, we have election of officers. Every year in July we elect officers. We will start the election with the Chairman, and, then, go to the Vice Chairman.

Are there any nominations for Chairman?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, I would like to nominate Richard Gollott as Chairman.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll second that motion.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion and a second.

Any other nominations for Chairman?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: If none, let's vote.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.

Thank you.

Now, do we have a motion for Vice Chairman?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, I would like to nominate Steve Bosarge as Vice Chairman.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: I will second that motion.

Any more nominations for Vice Chairman?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: If not, we need to vote.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.

Next, we have approval of the minutes.

Do we have a motion to approve the minutes, or have any modifications?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: So moved.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion.

Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: I'll second the 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 is approval of the agenda.

Do I have a motion to approve the agenda, or any modifications?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: I make a motion that we approve 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, we have the Executive Director's report.

JAMIE MILLER: Thank you, Chairman.

We have some special guests in the audience today that we want to recognize. When I call your name, I would like for you to come up and stand right here in front of the podium.

The Mississippi Region VI Science and Engineering Fair was held on March 1st, 2016, at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention Center in Biloxi. This includes schools from George, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson and Stone Counties.

As a result of that fair, we also award winners of what we call Excellence in Marine Sciences, and we have those award winners in our audience today.

I'm going to call their name and their Science Fair Project that was an award winner. When I call your name, just step up here and we are going to ask the Commissioners to take a picture with the winners.

Class I was Alden Morris from St. James Catholic Elementary. Her project was "The Effect of Wind and Water on Coastal Beach Erosion".

Class II was MacKenzie Valentine from Bayou View Elementary. Her project was "Is Plankton in Brickyard

Bayou Limited by a Dead Zone in the Summer?".

Class III winner was Kyle Bond from Stone County Middle. His project was "Underwater Robot".

Class IV winner was Caroline Wiygul, Ocean Springs High School. Her project was "The Effect of Various Mississippi Marsh Plants on Ammonia".

Class V winner was Skyllar Trosclair from St. Patrick Catholic High. Her project was "Salt or Sodium Chloride".

Come toward the center, and we are going to stand behind you.

I know people have phones. If the kids want to stay up here and parents get a picture, we can do that. Kids, come on back up real quick. Your parents put a lot of time and work into this. Let them get a picture.

I've got one more announcement. I would like to call to the front of the room Senior Master Sergeant Michael Strickland, if he is here. Come up to the front, Strickland.

Face the crowd and let me embarrass you for a second.

Senior Master Sergeant Michael Strickland has served the State of Mississippi as a Marine Patrol Officer since 2011.

Strickland is a Field Training Officer, an NRA

Small Arms Instructor, State Boating Safety Course Instructor and a NASBLA Seated Field Sobriety Instructor. NASBLA stands for National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

Senior Master Sergeant Strickland teaches Boating Safety Courses to the public, in an effort to establish safe boating habits among members of the community. He also participates in outreach events such as boat shows, fishing rodeos, safety days at local schools and career fairs.

In calendar year 2015, Strickland logged a total of four hundred and sixty-three hours of underway patrol, fourteen hundred and forty-seven vessel stops, twenty-nine boating safety related citations and sixty-two other criminal citations.

He led the agency in BUI arrests, having affected seventeen, and carries a hundred percent conviction rate.

Strickland also participated in search and rescue operations and related patrols, through MDMR's Joint Enforcement Agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Strickland became a NASBLA Seated Field Sobriety Instructor in 2013 and shortly thereafter laid the foundation for a BUI training program here at MDMR. He

has instructed refresher training for all Marine Patrol Officers every year since.

As a result of his dedication to his profession and our State, he has been selected as the Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

Congratulations Senior Master Sergeant Mike Strickland. I've got a plaque for you. I'm going to come around, and we will take one picture with you.

That concludes my report.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you, sir.

Next on the agenda is Office of Marine Patrol, Chris Caldwell.

CHRIS CALDWELL: Good morning Chairman, Commissioners, Director Miller, Legal Counsel.

I would like to welcome you aboard Commissioner Havard. I haven't had the opportunity to meet you yet.

Again, I'm Chris Caldwell. I'm the Captain of Investigations for Marine Patrol.

I'm going to start off by saying we are extremely proud of not just Mike Strickland, but he makes several officers that we've had that received awards for Officer of the Year. More that just the two that we have, all our officers are committed equally, as Mike Strickland is, and we are very grateful for their commitment to us.

The last three weeks, two weeks, have been a rough time to be a law enforcement officer, and we have done things a little different today.

I would ask that we take a moment to observe the sacrifice that has been made by the Dallas Police Officers and the Baton Rouge Police Officers to the general public and to our country.

If you would, join me for a moment of silence, please.

(Moment of silence observed.)

CHRIS CALDWELL: Thank you.

As mentioned earlier, I'm here to bring to you the Marine Patrol report for the month of June. As you can imagine, we are extremely busy.

I would like to point out that, in the month of June, we had three thousand two hundred and ninety-five stops, or contacts, with the public, bringing our numbers for 2016 way in elevation of what we had for 2015.

There is an influx of citizens using the resources in Mississippi and we are excited about that. We just have to ensure that they are doing it safely.

We did have three fatalities, in the month of June, two of which occurred by drowning, two separate incidents. Additionally, we had one vessel crash resulting in a fatality of a nineteen-year-old female.

With that being said and you having been provided the report earlier, I will try to answer any questions that you may have.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Just one comment. I watch and I read and I see -- at least, it appears to be more and more of these collisions, vessel-to-vessel collisions.

Is that just because we are more aware of it, or is there more of this happening?

CHRIS CALDWELL: Actually, that is a very good question, Commissioner.

As I mentioned earlier, there is obviously an influx of people getting out and utilizing the resources, and you can tell that by the difference between contacts last year and this year. Quite naturally, when you have that influx, there are going to be more vessel crashes and drowning and so forth and so on.

We try to do our best each day to implement the boating safety. We do our best to utilize discretion. We don't want to become the bad guy, but, at the same time, when you have that many members of the general public on the waters, there are going to be accidents.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Are there any ideas that maybe are being floated around to try to slow this down a little bit?

Right off the top of my head, I can't think of any, but there are no-wake zones and different things. Just seems like there are an awful lot.

I had a nephew that was involved in one where a boat ran over him. Luckily, nobody got hurt.

CHRIS CALDWELL: We have processes of no-wake zones that we have analyzed and issued permits for, but all in all the best thing we can do to suppress accidents is law enforcement presence. That is going to deter any type of negligence, or any type of alcohol use while boating.

I feel that my officers have done an excellent job this summer. They have been out there beating the bushes so to speak, and they are making contacts. We will just have to continue with what we are doing.

If there are any ideas, we will take anything that you approach us with.

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you.

CHRIS CALDWELL: Thank you, sir.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you, Chris.

CHRIS CALDWELL: Thank you, sir.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next is Office of Marine Fisheries, Ms. Traci Floyd.

TRACI FLOYD: Good morning Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, Director Miller, Mr. Morrison.

I'm Traci Floyd. I'm Deputy Director of the Fisheries office, and I will be representing Fisheries today.

First of all, congratulations on your reappointments Commissioners, and welcome to Commissioner Havard. We look forward to working with all of you.

First up on our agenda, we have the commercial quota status updates.

For Flounder, we are at eight thousand eight hundred and fifteen pounds landed of our seventy-four thousand pound quota.

For Red Drum, we are at thirty-nine thousand one hundred and seventy-one pounds landed of our sixty thousand pound quota. As you know, that's a three phase period quota. The second period closed yesterday. We will reopen on September 1st for the remainder of that quota.

For Spotted Seatrout, we are at forty-one thousand three hundred and twenty-five pounds out of fifty thousand pounds which is the quota.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: On Seatrout?

TRACI FLOYD: On Seatrout, yes, sir.

Next up we will have Finfish Bureau Director, Mr. Matt Hill. He will present the next two items which are action items. There will be an update to the

TailsnScales, and, then, size limits for Gag and Black Grouper.

MATT HILL: Thank you, Traci.

Good morning Director Miller and Commissioners.

I would like to welcome Commissioner Havard. We will be working a lot together, and I look forward to it.

I will try to be a little shorter than Joe is. He assures me he will be back next month. We will try to get through this as quickly as possible.

Title 22 Part 9 is updated language for the TailsnScales Program. We spent a lot of time on this. This is consideration for the final adoption.

CMR passed the Notice of Intent on June 21st. The paperwork was filed with the Secretary of State's office on June 22nd. It appeared on our web page also on June 22nd. Legal notice also appeared in the Sun Herald on July the 7th.

As previously stated, the Notice of Intent was published on June 22nd. The public comment period ran from June 22nd through July 18th, which is twenty-seven days. No public comments have been received.

This is kind of the working version. The strike throughs are the deleted language from some of the original and some of the discussions that we had at the second presentation of this. The highlighted yellow is

some of the added language that the Commissioners would like to see (indicating slide).

I'm going to go to the working version next, the clean version. This is what the clean version looks like. The main changes that we have in here, I will just read a few of them that were requested by the Commissioners (indicating slide):

"The Captain of the vessel is responsible for ensuring that someone onboard the vessel has obtained the appropriate reporting code from the MDMR."

We also added that one person per vessel shall be required to complete a vessel harvest report for any additional species through the TailsnScales system. This was at the instruction of the Commission.

I believe Commissioner Bosarge said he thought we got it right this time. Hopefully, we can get this through.

If the Commission desires, a motion for final adoption of regulatory changes to Title 22 Part 9 is required to put this into our regulations.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do I have a motion on this?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll make a motion for final adoption of regulatory changes to Title 22 Part 9.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Commissioner Bosarge

makes the motion.

Do we have a second?

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

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Mr. Harmon seconded the motion.

All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries unanimously.

MATT HILL: Thank you, Commissioners.

Our next item for consideration for final adoption is Title 22 Part 7. It's our recreational size changes to Gag and Black Grouper.

The reason we do this is we try to stay as consistent as possible with our Federal partners on bag and size limits. Not necessarily seasons, but, when it comes to bag and size limits, we try to follow their lead. It's for enforcement purposes and also for conservation purposes.

The CMR did pass a Notice of Intent on June 21st. The paperwork was also filed with the Secretary of State's office on June 22nd. This appeared on our web page as a

notice on June 22nd. The legal notice appeared in the Sun Herald on July the 7th.

The Notice of Intent was published on June 22nd, as I previously stated. The public comment period ran from June 22nd through July 18th, twenty-seven days. No public comments have been received.

This occurs in Chapter 8 Section 102 Subsection 102.10, Recreational Bag, Possession and Size limits.

Currently, the Gag and Black Grouper is at twenty-two inches. We struck through that, and would like to place it at twenty-four inches total length.

This is what the cleaned-up version will look like at twenty-four inch total length for both Gag and Black Grouper (indicating slide).

If the Commission so desires, a motion for final adoption for these regulatory changes to Title 22 Part 7 will be required.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER HARMON: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to make a motion for final adoption of regulatory changes to Title 22 Part 7.

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 unanimously.
MATT HILL: Thank you.
TRACI FLOYD: Next up we will have Finfish Scientist Mr. Jon Barr with a State record for your consideration.
JON BARR: Good morning Director Miller, Commissioners, Mr. Morrison.
We have one State record up this month. It's conventional tackle. It's a Scamp, Mycteroperca phenax. The old record is twenty-six pounds fifteen ounces. The new record is twenty-eight pounds four point three two ounces. The angler is Mr. Joey Antoon.
There is the Scamp, and there is Mr. Antoon with his fish (indicating photographs).
Motion to adopt.
COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll make a motion that we adopt the new State record.
COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: We have a motion.
Do we have a second?
COMMISSIONER HARMON: I'll second that motion.
COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion and a second.

All those in favor say aye.
(All in favor.)
COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?
(None opposed.)
COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Motion carries.
TRACI FLOYD: This concludes Marine Fisheries, unless you have any questions. Thank you.
COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Next is Finance report, Shavay Gaines.
SHAVAY GAINES: Good morning Commissioners, Director Miller, legal counsel.
I'm Shavay Gaines, the Director of Finance standing in for Kacey Williams today.
At the end of June, we had a State revenue of eight point one million and a total Agency revenue of twenty-seven point seven million.
We had a total State net income of a negative two point one million, and a total Agency net income of a negative two point eight million.
We are expecting money back from State appropriations, as well as other grants and reimbursements for the previous fiscal year. Hopefully, that will come in soon in the next couple of weeks, or months.
At the end of twelve months of fiscal year 2016, we have Operating Funds remaining budget of forty-four

point one percent, and Tidelands budget remaining of fourteen point four percent.
Are there any questions?
COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: It looks like we are doing really well.
SHAVAY GAINES: We are doing pretty good.
COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: Thank you.
SHAVAY GAINES: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Ms. Melissa Scallan.
MELISSA SCALLAN: Good morning Commissioners, Director Miller, Mr. Morrison.
I would like to welcome Mr. Havard to the Commission. We look forward to working with you.
The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources was mentioned sixty-five times in local, state and National media, since the June meeting of the CMR.
The items that got the most attention were the State fishing records, the boating accident in Hancock County, the mapping of Deer Island and probably the most popular was the Marine Patrol rescue of the dog that jumped over the I-110 bridge. We got a lot of good attention for that. We tried to get him here, but he was busy today.
Marine Patrol held two boat-and-water safety classes in June and certified thirty-eight students.

During fiscal year 2016, they held a total of twenty-one classes and certified nearly five hundred students which is up a good bit from last year. We hope that will continue.
Marine Patrol also participated in several marine events and community outreach programs, since the last meeting, including a Kids Fishing Camp, Operation Dry Water and several presentations on safety and conservation.
Mississippi Seafood is sponsoring two Coast chefs at the Natchez Food and Wine Festival in July. Chef Danie Rodriguez and Chef David Dickensauge will prepare dishes using Mississippi Seafood, at the festival. It's not a competition. It's just a presence for Mississippi Seafood. It's a good event. There are a few hundred people.
We do have a competition in August in New Orleans. Jackson Chef Alex Eaton will represent Mississippi at the Great American Seafood Cook-off. He is the chef at The Manship Wood Fired Grill in Jackson. We hope to bring home the trophy this year.
COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Melissa, do you think you will have some wild American shrimp in Natchez?
MELISSA SCALLAN: There better be some wild American shrimp in Natchez. I promise you there will be.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Thank you very much, Melissa.

MELISSA SCALLAN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Is there any other business to come before this Commission?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Any public comments?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: If not, I'm lost today. Can we get a motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER BOSARGE: I'll make a motion we adjourn, since I'm sitting in Shelby's spot.

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Do we have a second?

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

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: All those in favor say aye.

(All in favor.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Opposed?

(None opposed.)

COMMISSIONER GOLLOTT: Adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 9:38 o'clock, a.m., the July 19, 2016, meeting of the Commission on Marine Resources was concluded.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lucille Morgan, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the July 19, 2016, 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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