

Minutes
Coastal Resources Committee
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

August 30, 2017

Attending:

Committee Members

Nancy Addison, Chairwoman
Bill Jones
Aaron McWhorter
Bodine Sinyard
Miki Thomaston
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

William Bagwell
Dwight Davis – Via Conference Call
Dwight Evans
Ray Lambert
Mark Mobley
Mike Phelps
Matt Sawhill
Brother Stewart
Philip Watt – Via Conference Call

Guests

Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau
Duncan Hughes, Soque River Watershed Association
Darrel Snyder, Georgia Power
Bill Hodges, HHNT
Blake Ravlerson, Georgia Farm Bureau
Leigh Elkins, Vinson Institute
Lea Dixon, Georgia Conservancy
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

Staff Members

Walter Rabon
Terry West
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Rusty Garrison
Col. Eddie Henderson
James Hamilton
Spud Woodward
John Bowers
Steve Friedman
Maj. Thomas Barnard
Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver
Stephen Adams
Sam O'Neal
Doug Haymans
John Martin
Richie Golden
Michael Chadwell
Robin Freeman
Bola Akande
Farida Lammari
Sirisha Ramireddy
VJ Nandiraju
Bola Akande
Rick Lavender
Allison Asbrock
Jenifer Wisniewski
Linda May
Linda He
Thom Litts
Heidi Ferguson
Bill Hover
Alan Isler
Richard Dunn

Lauren Curry
Sydney Brogden
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hays
Dika Kuoh
Chuck Mueller
Erin Ruoff
Sarah Visser
Laura Williams

The August 30, 2017 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Duncan Johnson.

Chairman Johnson called on Nancy Addison, Chairman of the Coastal Committee. Ms. Addison called on Doug Haymans, Policy Coordinator for the Coastal Resources Division, to present the proposed amendments to Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5.

Mr. Haymans stated that Georgia participates in the National Coastal Zone Management Program network and receives approximately \$2 million annually from Congress through NOAA. He further stated that annually, the Coastal Incentive Grant Program (CIG) passes through roughly \$800,000 to local governments to the 11 coastal county area, academia, and state agencies with the exception of the DNR. He added that \$19 million in CIGs have been awarded to date and that grant recipients spent an additional \$38 million on jobs, goods, and services.

Mr. Haymans stated that today he brings an action item to adopt the resolution approving the amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description. He further stated that the Board is authorizing the new themes of the grant program and this is needed to publish to the public that the grants are available. He added that he requests favorable consideration of the item as presented.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Sinyard and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Coastal Incentive Grant Program Description, Chapter 391-2-5, as presented.

Ms. Addison called on Doug Haymans, Policy Coordinator for the Coastal Resources Division, for a briefing on the proposed amendments to Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4 and Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3.

Mr. Haymans stated that this rule change is slightly unusual because both the Coastal Resources Division's rules and Wildlife Resources Division's rules are affected. He further stated that this will update both saltwater and freshwater fishing regulations in regards to commercial fishing. He added

that commercial fishing in Georgia generates roughly \$15 million in ex-vessel value and \$40 million in economic impact to coastal communities.

Mr. Haymans stated that CRD has been monitoring commercial landings since 1989. He further stated that shrimp, crab, and shellfish dominate the catch by value with shrimping being the number one. He added that federally managed quotas are partially based on reported landings and under or non-reported landings can result in lower quotas.

Mr. Haymans stated that there are roughly \$1,700 licenses sold in Georgia with the majority being saltwater licenses. He further stated that there are 127 crabbers permitted, 21 cast nets permitted, and 261 trawlers permitted. He added that 935 shrimpers check a voluntary box that says they shrimp, but only 180 that actually report shrimp landings.

Mr. Haymans stated that in the last few years they created a letter of authorization to tighten down on some of the smaller fisheries. He further stated that they had 100 people check the box for shad, 140 apply for a free letter of authorization, but only 53 report shad landings. He added that through the Board rule, with help from the House Bill 208 that passed last session, they are trying to tighten down on the universe of folks who are in commercial fisheries and who would be responsible for reporting.

Mr. Haymans stated in House Bill 208, they created a “Seafood Dealer” license and authorized “Species endorsements.” He further stated that the seafood dealer license creates a true universe of entities dealing with all species landed in Georgia and provides a validation method for expected reports. He added that the species endorsements authorizes the Board to create endorsements and that requiring endorsements allows CRD to identify expected harvesters.

Mr. Haymans stated that this Board rule will modify the definition of “Seafood Dealer” to align to the legislative definition. He further stated that the rule will define “landed” as a means to bring fish to shore in this state, regardless of the jurisdiction from which they were taken or harvested. He added that it removes some duplicate wording to shorten the rule.

Mr. Haymans stated that the rule also includes a couple of housekeeping items to update some other definitions needed for clarity. He further stated that they consolidated the list of commercial fishing species endorsements as much as possible. He added that the licenses will be \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents.

Mr. Haymans stated that House Bill 208 created a Trawler Crew License which means that one crew can have a license and each individual member does not need one. He further stated that for freshwater fishing, there is a Lake Seminole gill endorsement, Catfish Basket endorsement, and Freshwater Mussel endorsement. He added that the catfish basket endorsement was added and is not in the packet in front of you.

Mr. Haymans stated that the public notice will go out tomorrow, there will be a public meeting in Brunswick in September, public comment period will close on October 2, and he will return to the Board for action on October 25.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.