

Minutes

Coastal Committee

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

October 22, 2019

Attendees:

Committee Members

Nancy Addison (Acting Chair)
Tim Lowe
Paul Shailendra – Via Conference Call
Miki Thomaston
Dee Yancey
Bodine Sinyard, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Mark Mobley
Billy New
Brother Stewart

Guests

Bryan Tolar, Tolar Capitol Partners
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Leah Dixon, Georgia Conservancy
Jennette Gayer, Environment Georgia

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Melanie Johnson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Courtney Hall
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Jill Andrews
Taylor Brown
Major Mike England
Richie Golden
Rhonda Henslee
Ashley Moon, CIA
Vonnetta Pryor
Lt. Chad Welch
Tim Wright

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller

The October 22, 2019 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Bodine Sinyard, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Sinyard called on Nancy Addison, Acting Chair of the Coastal Committee in the absence of Chairman Rob Leebern and Vice Chairman Bill Jones. Ms Addison called on Jill Andrews, Chief of Coastal Management, for a briefing on the proposed amendment to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4.

Ms. Andrews stated oyster mariculture is seen as a way to revitalize the shellfish industry, however it was not permissive in existing law. In May 2019, Governor Kemp signed House Bill 501, which called for mariculture development that is compatible with the environment and other public uses of coastal waters. O.C.G.A. 27-4 was amended to include permitting, closed-season harvest, subtidal water bottoms leasing, performance bonds, seed importation, and enforcement.

She further stated House Bill 501 authorizes the Board to promulgate rules to develop and cultivate the shellfish industry, including shellfish seed size, seed importation, lease terms and siting criteria.

Ms. Andrews stated the Shellfish and Mariculture Advisory Panel provides input and advice to CRD regarding the management of shellfish mariculture. She added the panel has been instrumental in the development of the proposed rules.

Ms. Andrews stated the Shellfish and Mariculture Advisory Panel will continue to develop a lottery system for subtidal leases; review permit and Operational Plan requirements; discuss production standards for new leaseholders; and provide input on rule for closed-season (summer) harvest of oysters. She further stated the panel will locate 3-5 subtidal leases for the 1st lottery. She added the panel will offer 3-5 new intertidal leases for clams or wild oysters.

Ms. Andrews stated public notice of the proposed rule-making will begin on October 22, 2019; a public meeting will be held in Brunswick on November 6, 2019; and the public comment period closes on November 21, 2019. She added the plan will be brought back for final action at the December board meeting and will be effective on March 1, 2020.

Ms. Addison called on Jill Andrews for an update on the Golden Ray.

Ms. Andrews updated the board on the oiled shoreline; lightering; salvage plans (coming in mid-November); and a recent fire on board (Deck 7).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.