

Minutes
Coastal Committee
Lake Blackshear Resort Conference Center
Ballroom C
2459-H US Highway 280 West
Cordele, GA 31015

December 4, 2019

Attendees:

Committee Members

Rob Leebern, Chair
Bill Jones, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Tim Lowe
Aaron McWhorter
Paul Shailendra
Miki Thomaston
Dee Yancey
Bodine Sinyard, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

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

Guests

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Urban Ag Council
Josh Hildebrandt, Office of the Governor
Jessica Rutledge, Flint Riverkeeper
Rena Ann Peck, Georgia River Network/Georgia River Trails

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Ted Will

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Chuck Mueller

The December 4, 2019 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Bodine Sinyard, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Sinyard called on Rob Leebern, Chairman of the Coastal Committee, who called on Doug Haymans, Director of the Coastal Resources Division.

Director Haymans stated that first item is proposed amendments to the Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4 (shellfish). The amendments will ensure Georgia's compliance with House Bill 501, which passed the Georgia General Assembly in 2019, and provides for the mariculture of shellfish in estuarine waters.

Director Haymans stated the amended Rule will incorporate the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance for the harvesting, processing and distribution of shellfish; enable the certification of shellfish seed hatcheries and nurseries; establish shellfish seed sizes; set health requirements for shellfish seed and shellfish seed importation; and establish criteria for the leasing of state-owned water bottoms.

Director Haymans stated the public comment period ended after the deadline for submission of the rule package, so the public comments were submitted under separate cover on November 27, 2019.

Mr. Leebern commented on the great work done by Director Haymans and the Coastal Resources Division staff. There were no questions and Mr. Leebern called for a motion to approve.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Addison, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board approve the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4.

Director Haymans stated his next item is a re-brief on the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4 (sharks). Since the September 24, 2019 meeting of the Board, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) passed an additional measure requiring the use of non-offset, corrodible, non-stainless steel circle hooks for the recreational harvest of sharks, except when using flies or artificial lures.

Director Haymans stated the first and second proposed amendments will ensure Georgia's compliance with changes to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks. As an ASMFC member, Georgia has an affirmative obligation to implement the management measure contained within this interstate fishery management plan. The third proposed amendment is a proactive change in response to the National Marine Fisheries Service listing of the Oceanic Whitetip Shark as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Director Haymans stated that written public comment will be received through Monday, January 6, 2020, and the item will be presented to the Board for consideration at the January 31, 2020 meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Director Haymans stated the final item is solicitation of nominations for appointment to the Coastal Marshlands Protection and Shore Protection Committees. He further stated Rick Garner's term has expired and he is not eligible for reappointment. Director Haymans added that with the Board's permission, he will provide public notice through the local newspapers and will solicit nominations at the January board meeting.

Mr. Leebern stated he would encourage all Board members to attend a CMPC/SPC meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.