

**Minutes**  
**Coastal Committee**  
A. W. Jones Heritage Center  
610 Beachview Drive  
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

**January 31, 2020**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Attendees:**

**Committee Members**

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

**Board Members**

William Bagwell  
Dwight Davis  
Dwight Evans  
Joe Hatfield  
Duncan Johnson – Via Conference Call  
Ray Lambert  
Mark Mobley  
Billy New  
Mike Phelps  
Brother Stewart

**Guests**

Duane Harris  
Ed Meadows, AVOCET Group  
Charles McMillan, Georgia Conservancy  
Bart Gobeil, Georgia Conservancy  
Leah Dixon, Georgia Conservancy  
John Maddox, Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
Emily Ellison, St. Simons Land Trust  
Rena Ann Peck, Georgia River Network  
Michael Torras, Brunswick Landing Marina  
Ronny Just, Georgia Power  
Brant Lane, Hodges, Harbin Newberry & Tribble, Inc.  
John Burnette, Dover Bluff Club  
Fred Voigt, Jr., Dover Bluff Club  
Jim Renner, Southern Ionics Minerals

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson  
Josh Hildebrandt  
Melanie Johnson  
Cathy Barnette  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Cown  
Dave Crass  
Steve Friedman  
Doug Haymans  
Mark Whitney  
Jill Andrews  
Jan McKinnon  
Paul Medders  
Tyler Jones  
Ted Will  
Taylor Brown

Lauren Curry, Assistant Director

Zach Harris, HunterMaclean  
Clay Montague, Satilla Riverkeeper  
Wilton DeLoach, Dover Bluff Club

The January 31, 2020 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 the first item is action on proposed amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4. He further stated the amendments establish a new size limit for Shortfin Mako Sharks, a prohibition on the harvest of Oceanic Whitetip Sharks, and a requirement to use circle hooks when fishing for all species of shark, except when fishing with flies or artificial lures.

Director Haymans stated the proposal was presented to the public for comment and only one comment was received.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Yancey, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends the Board adopt the Resolution regarding the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4, as presented.

Director Haymans stated his second item is the nomination of a member to the Coastal Marshlands Protection and Shore Protection Committees.

Ms. Addison offered a nominee for discussion: Mr. Brad Brookshire from Richmond Hill, GA. She stated Mr. Brookshire is a Bryan county commissioner and is very familiar with the area. She further stated Mr. Brookshire understands the importance of protecting the coastal marshlands and shores.

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Lowe, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board approve the nomination of Mr. Brad Brookshire as a member of the Coastal Marshland Protection and Shore Protection Committees.

Director Haymans provided an update on the Bluefish, a popular recreational fish along the Atlantic coast. He stated the Bluefish is managed primarily by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and in cooperation with the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission. He further stated the most recent stock assessment stated the Bluefish are overfished but are not experiencing overfishing. In December, the Commission voted, in order to get the Bluefish out of the overfished category, to require

states to go to a three (3) fish limit for private anglers, and a five (5) fish limit for charter fishing, which is an 8.13% reduction for the state of Georgia.

Director Haymans stated he will apply for conservation equivalency, in the short term. He further stated he will request the Commissioner to sign an Administrative Order to close the season in March and April each year for the next three (3) years, in order to meet the 8.13% reduction.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.