

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

January 27, 2010

Attending:

Committee Members

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Bill Archer
Dennis Billew
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Mabel Jenkins
Phyllis Johnson
Loyce Turner
Jim Walters
Bill Carruth, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Dwight Davis
Earl Barrs
Warren Budd
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Ray Lambert
Jim Tysinger
Philip Watt

Visitors

Honorable Brian Kemp, Secretary of State
Honorable Chip Pearson, State Senator, District 51
Alvin Townley, Boy Scouts of America
Scott Sorrels, Boy Scouts of America
Donna Yeomans, Senator Pearson's Assistant
Tracy Bonds, Aiken Grading
Shannon McGhee, Attorney General's Office
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Stone Workman

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Allen Barnes
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Marlin Gottschalk
Dave Crass
Doug Haymans
Thomas Barnard
Terry West
Jeff Weaver
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Tim Banks
Megan Gray
Lacey Avery
John Martin
Vonetta Pryor
Mike Harris
Mark Whitney
Wally Woods
Sally Winchester
Homer Bryson
Walter Rabon
Lynn Barfield
Connie Buck
Linda Patrick
Emily Hitchcock
Hellen Harris
Mary Ann Evans

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Susan Holmes

Daryl Kirby, Georgia Outdoor News

Waldo Bradley

Andy Fleming, Friends of Georgia State Parks

Shirl Parsons, Georgia Wildlife Federation

Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club

Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company

Lindsay Averett, Oglethorpe Power Company

Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation

Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation

Patrick Pilkington, Tyson Foods

Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia

Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce

Sally Bethea, Upper Chattahoochee RiverKeeper

Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

The January 27, 2010 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Bill Carruth. Chairman Carruth called on Tom Wheeler, Chairman of the Coastal Committee.

Mr. Wheeler called on Spud Woodward, Director of Coastal Resources Division (CRD). Director Woodward stated that the first agenda item would be final action on the proposed amendments to the Coastal Marshlands Protection Regulations, Annual Marina Lease Rate Adjustment, Chapter 391-2-3-.04.

Director Woodward stated that the purpose of the proposed amendments is to establish the procedure that the Coastal Marshlands Protection Committee (CMPC) will use to adjust the annual waterbottoms lease fee for marina facilities. He further stated that the proposed changes were requested in response to House Bill 170, which was passed during last year's Legislative Session. He added that House Bill 170 set the annual lease fee at \$1,000.00 per acre and required the Board to determine the method to adjust those fees on an annual basis.

Director Woodward stated that the proposed amendments would establish a basis for annual adjustment of the marina lease fee using the Consumer Price Index – Less Food and Energy. He further explained that the CMPC would use this procedure to adjust the annual marine lease fee on or before May 1 of each calendar year.

A motion was made by Mr. Archer, seconded by Mr. Turner and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to accept the proposed amendments to the Coastal Marshlands Protection Regulations, Annual Marina Lease Rate Adjustment, Chapter 391-2-3-.04. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Director Woodward called on Doug Haymans, Constituent Services Program Supervisor, for a briefing on the proposed amendments to Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Saltwater Finfishing, Chapter 391-2-4-.04.

Mr. Haymans highlighted the background information on the proposed amendments. He stated that on August 21, 2008, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), of which Georgia is a member state, approved and adopted the first Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks. He further stated that the impetus for development of this plan was the fact that coordinated state-federal management is essential for establishing healthy self-sustaining populations of Atlantic Coastal Sharks. He added that CRD staff provided technical expertise during the development of this plan, and Georgia has a representative on the ASMFC Coastal Sharks Advisory Panel. He further added that federal law requires that states comply with the terms and conditions of interstate fishery management plans promulgated by ASMFC.

Mr. Haymans stated that the purpose of the proposed amendments is to assure Georgia's full compliance with the Interstate Shark Plan and to protect shark populations from overfishing. He further stated that shark fishing is a popular recreational activity in coastal Georgia, yet many shark species are highly vulnerable to overfishing.

Mr. Haymans stated that during the January 2009 meeting, the Board amended this Rule to bring Georgia shark fishing regulations into compliance with the Interstate Shark Plan. He further stated that since that time, the ASMFC Interstate Shark Plan Review Team indicated that the amended Rule did not completely address all the elements of the Interstate Shark Plan. He added that these proposed amendments will clarify any ambiguity and eliminate inconsistencies in shark management between state and federal jurisdictions, thereby increasing compliance and simplifying conservation law enforcement.

Mr. Haymans stated that the primary features of the proposed amendments are: (1) the creation of a "handline" definition; (2) a requirement for those individuals acting as commercial dealers of sharks caught in state waters to purchase a federal commercial shark dealer permit; and (3) specifying that only rod and reel or handline can be used to recreationally fish for sharks.

Mr. Haymans stated that there would be no adverse economic impact in regard to the proposed amendments.

Mr. Haymans stated that the proposed amendments would be public noticed on January 28 and that the written comment period would end March 4. He further stated that the proposed amendments would be presented for action at the Board Meeting on March 24.

Director Woodward briefed the Board on the seafood harvest during 2009, the National Saltwater Angler Registry, the status of the Coastal Regional Headquarters renovation, and the Interim Rule closure prohibiting the harvest of Red Snapper.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.