

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

**March 23, 2010**

**Attending:**

Committee Members

Bill Archer, Chairman  
Earl Barrs  
Gene Bishop  
Mabel Jenkins  
Phyllis Johnson  
Loyce Turner  
Jim Walters  
Tom Wheeler  
Steven Woodruff  
Jenny Lynn Bradley, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Dennis Billew  
Warren Budd  
Bill Carruth  
Dwight Davis  
Joe Hatfield  
Walter Hudson  
Ray Lambert

Visitors

Dr. Mark Risse, Driftmier Engineering Center, UGA  
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Andrew Schock, The Conservation Fund  
Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy  
Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce  
Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation  
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition  
Bettie Sleeth, Homebuilders Association of Georgia  
Helen Tapp, Trust for Public Land

Staff Members

Chris Clark  
Allen Barnes  
Paul Burkhalter  
Todd Holbrook  
Spud Woodward  
Dave Crass  
Marlin Gottschalk  
Terry West  
Paul Nelson  
Jim Ussery  
Doralyn Kirkland  
Linda MacGregor  
Thomas Barnard  
John Bowers  
Steve Friedman  
Emily Hitchcock  
Lauren Curry  
Homer Bryson  
Tami Morris  
Mark Whitney  
Connie Buck  
Mike England  
Jeff Weaver  
Mary Ann Evans  
Hellen Harris

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Mark Dickerson, Mountain Conservation Trust

Jim Kidd, Trout Unlimited

Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation

Will Wingate, Georgia Conservancy

The March 23, 2010 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Jenny Lynn Bradley. Chairman Bradley called on Bill Archer, Chairman of the Coastal Committee.

Mr. Archer called on Spud Woodward, Director, Coastal Resources Division (CRD), for presentation of the proposed amendments to Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Saltwater Finfishing, Chapter 391-2-4-.04.

Director Woodward stated that before he presents the action item, he would like to introduce his new Executive Assistant, Tami Morris, who is an 11 year veteran with CRD, having formerly worked with the Ecological Services Section before moving into her new position in the director's office.

Director Woodward stated that the Committee and Board had been briefed on the proposed amendments to Saltwater Finfishing at the January 27 meeting and the proposed amendments had been public noticed for written comment on January 29. He further stated that only one written comment was received, and it came from a commercial seafood dealer from McIntosh County who supported the dealer permit requirement. He added that the proposed amendments would establish a definition for handlines, restrict recreational harvest of sharks to handlines and rod and reel only, and require a Federal commercial shark dealer permit for all dealers of sharks caught in Georgia waters. He further added that these amendments would bring the State of Georgia into compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks.

Director Woodward requested that the Committee favorably consider the proposed amendments and recommend to the Board adoption of the Resolution approving the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Dr. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Johnson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Saltwater Finfishing, Chapter 391-2-4-.04. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Director Woodward stated that CRD had been notified of a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program award in the amount of \$1,537,425.00 to acquire 6,800 acres along the Altamaha River, a tract that is referred to as Rayonier Altamaha Phase II. He further stated that the award was based on a proposal produced in collaboration with the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) and the Real Estate Unit, working with numerous partners such as The Nature Conservancy and the United States Marine Corps. He added that upon acquisition of this property, a 22-mile long area of Altamaha River frontage and a total of 14,000 acres would be protected.

Director Woodward stated that the property to be acquired contains extremely valuable and unique habitats including areas of old sand ridges that become isolated during periods of high river flow. He further stated that these islands have plant communities similar to a maritime forest on barrier islands. He added that Georgia was eligible to receive the funding by virtue of its participation in the Coastal Management Program.

Director Woodward gave a briefing on the affects of the abnormally cold winter on marine life on the coast, particularly shrimp and spotted sea trout. He also described a cooperative outreach program with the Coastal Conservation Association and other angler-support conservation groups to encourage anglers to voluntarily release spotted sea trout over 18 inches during the spawning season.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.