

Minutes

Coastal Committee

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

April 26, 2011

Attending:

Committee Members

Phyllis Johnson, Chairman
Duncan Johnson
Rob Leebern
Mark Smith
Loyce Turner
Philip Wilheit
Earl Barrs, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Dennis Billew
Bill Carruth
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Ray Lambert
Philip Watt
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Kevin Green, Clean Air Campaign
Daniel Groce, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power
Maggie Lee, Freelance Reporter
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Todd Holbrook
Spud Woodward
Becky Kelley
Marlin Gottschalk
Dan Forster
Steve Friedman
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curry
Doug Haymans
Suzanne Burnes
Jeff Weaver
Ben Stowers
Homer Bryson
Candy Henderson
John Kilpatrick
Cathy Barnette
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

The April 26, 2011 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Earl Barrs.

Chairman Barrs called on Phyllis Johnson, Chairman, Coastal Committee. Mrs. Johnson called on Spud Woodward, Director, Coastal Resources Division (CRD) to present the first item for consideration.

Mr. Woodward stated that he would like to present the proposed amendment to Rules for Coastal Marshlands Protection, Chapter 391-2-3-.02 for consideration. He further stated that this was a housekeeping amendment and will establish an effective date and reference to the Coastal Stormwater Supplement to the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual 1st Edition, April 2009.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Leebern and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to accept the proposed amendment to Rules for Coastal Marshlands Protection, Chapter 391-3-2-.02. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Woodward called on Doug Haymans, Policy Coordinator at CRD, to present a briefing on federal fishery management. He stated that Mr. Haymans is his designee to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Mr. Haymans stated that the managing agency for federal fisheries is the U. S. Department of Commerce (USDOC). He further stated that under the UDDOC are the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), followed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). He added that the process is guided by a series of Congressional acts, most prominent being the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act.

Mr. Haymans stated that the Magnuson-Steven Act was passed in Congress in 1976 and:

- Expanded U. S. territorial waters from 12 to 200 miles offshore and created the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ);
- Established national standards for Federal fishery management;
- Created regional fishery management councils in each state to assure public and regulated community involvement, with each state having 3 voting members.

Mr. Haymans stated that several reauthorizations occurred in 2006 for overfished stocks or stocks approaching being overfished:

- End overfishing within 2 years of notification, effective July 2009;
- Establish annual catch limits with accountability measures by 2010 for overfished stocks and by 2011 for others;
- Implement use of limited access privilege programs (e.g. catch shares).

Mr. Haymans stated that a basic component of the federal fishery management process in the South Atlantic is the fish stock status determination, which is accomplished through the Southeast Data Assessment and Review (SEDAR), which consists of three parts: Data Workshop; Assessment Workshop; and Review Workshop. State, federal, and academic scientists along with fishermen participate in the Data and Assessment Workshop. A group of independent experts conducts the Review Workshop and determines whether the fish stock status determination is scientifically credible. After the Review Workshop, the fish stock status determination is provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the appropriate fishery management council. This group will then determine whether the results can be used to develop or amend a fishery management plan.

Mr. Haymans displayed a slide that described the process through a fishery management plan is created or amended. He emphasized that the public is involved in every step of the process.

Mr. Haymans displayed a chart showing the overfishing limits, allowable biological catch, and annual catch limits and explained how they are used in the federal fishery management process.

Mr. Haymans displayed slides of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC)-managed species, overfished snapper grouper species, and the Coastal Migratory Pelagics. (PowerPoint attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Woodward gave a briefing on the Tivoli Fishing Pier and Paddle Sports Launch Facility Opening, partnerships with Liberty and McIntosh Counties to improve boating access, and Title 27 Reform stakeholders meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.