

Minutes

Coastal Committee

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

May 22, 2012

Attending:

Committee Members

Mark Smith, Vice Chairman
Duncan Johnson
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Loyce Turner
Jim Walters
Philip Wilheit, Jr.
Philip Watt, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

William Bagwell
Dennis Billew
Bill Carruth
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Ray Lambert
Mark Mobley
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Daniel Groce, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Company
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Dave Crass
Kyle Pearson
Steve Friedman
Lauren Curry
Linda MacGregor
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Ben Stowers
Cathy Barnette
Carolyn Belcher
Steven Hatfield
Keith Bentley
Mary Walker
Amanda Schraner
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

The May 22, 2012 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Philip Watt. Chairman Watt called on Mark Smith, Vice Chairman of the Coastal Committee.

Mr. Smith called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division (CRD) for two presentations.

Director Woodward stated that the first item was a briefing on the proposed amendments to Rules for Coastal Marshlands Protection, Chapter 391-2-3. He further stated that during the 2012 Legislative Session, the Georgia General Assembly passed Senate Bill 319, and Governor Deal subsequently signed it into law during early May. He added that Senate Bill 319 amended the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act (CMPA) to allow occupancy of a live-aboard for 90 days during a calendar year.

Director Woodward stated that prior to this amendment, the CMPA limited live-aboard occupancy to 30 days in a calendar year. He further stated that Chapter 391-2-3 references the 30-day value in several locations. He added that the proposed amendments will change 30 to 90 in all of those locations.

Director Woodward stated that Senate Bill 319 also changed the definition of a live aboard in the CMPA, the Protection of Tidewaters Act and the Right of Passage Act. He further stated that Chapter 391-2-3 includes a definition of live-aboard, and that the proposed amendments will change this definition to be the same as in statute.

Director Woodward stated that because the proposed amendments are intended to harmonize statute and rule, they are considered a minimal change. He further stated that he proposed a minimal public participation plan, with public comments being received through June 15, 2012. He added that that proposed amendments would be presented to the Board for final action at the June 27 meeting.

Director Woodward stated that the next item was an update on the 2012 Commercial Shad Fishing Season. His PowerPoint presentation included a graph of the reported harvest in all rivers from 1990 through 2012. Other topics included Shad Fishery Management, a review of the 2010 amendments to Rule 391-2-4-.02, ongoing reported harvest and effort, population status and exploitation rates, new monitoring surveys, and future sampling.

Director Woodward gave an update on opening food shrimp season in Georgia on May 30, indicating that this was earlier than normal. He showed a graph on white shrimp abundance determined from the ecological monitoring trawl survey, and a graph showing shrimp trawler license sales from 1979 through 2011.

Director Woodward gave an update on grant funds received from NOAA for coastal community post disaster recovery planning. He stated that the Coastal Resources Division would be working with GEMA and FEMA to give local governments on the coast the toolbox needed to help them recover in the event of a hurricane or other disaster.

There being no further information, the meeting was adjourned.