

Minutes

Coastal Committee

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

August 26, 2013

Attending:

Committee Members

Phyllis Johnson, Chairman
Mark Smith, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Duncan Johnson
Philip Wilheit
Dee Yancey
Rob Leebern, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Dwight Davis
Ray Lambert
Paul Shailendra
Philip Watt

Visitors

Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
John Worley, University of Georgia
Melony Wilson, University of Georgia
Craig Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Lauren Joy, Southern Environmental Law Center
Gordon Rogers, Flint Riverkeeper
Charles Griffin, Georgia Pork Producers Association
Terry Danforth, Georgia Pork Producers Association
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Juliet Cohen, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Greg Blount, Troutman Sanders
Justin Wong, Troutman Sanders
Gina Rogers, Georgia Wildlife Federation
Todd Holbrook, Georgia Wildlife Federation
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power
Deb Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Daniel Johnson, ARC
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Company

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Eddie Henderson
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curry
Zachary Harris
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Doralyn Kirkland
Russ Pennington
Terry West
Michael Chadwell
Doug Haymans
John Bowers
John Biagi
Jac Capp
Keith Bentley
Jeff Cown
Mary Walker

The August 26, 2013 meeting of the Coastal Committee was called to order by Chairman Rob Leebern.

Chairman Leebern called on Phyllis Johnson, Chairman of the Coastal Committee, who called on Spud Woodward, Director of the Coastal Resources Division, to present an action item.

Director Woodward stated he was presenting the proposed amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.18.

Director Woodward stated Georgia receives funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to fund the Georgia Coastal Management Program. He further stated the Georgia Coastal Management Program allocates a portion of its federal funding to fund Coastal Incentive Grants (CIG) to eligible local governments and academic institutions.

Director Woodward stated the CRD staff works with the Coastal Advisory Council to determine funding themes for the grant. He further stated the 2014-2015 funding themes are “Oceans and Wetlands,” “Public Access and Land Conservation,” “Sustainable Communities,” and “Disaster Resiliency and Coastal Hazards.”

Director Woodward stated he would request the Committee recommend that the Board approve the item, as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Coastal Incentive Grant Program, Chapter 391-2-5-.01 through 391-2-5-.18, as presented.

Director Woodward called on Doug Haymans, Policy Coordinator, to give a briefing on the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Saltwater Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-2-4 and Fishing Regulations, Chapter 391-4-3.

Mr. Haymans stated the proposed amendments primary features were as follows:

- **391-4-3-.01, Eel Fishing** is being amended to require a marked, non-green float be attached to each trap and to change the minimum size from 6 in. to 9 in.
- **391-4-3-.02, Shad Fishing** is being amended to close the Ogeechee River to commercial shad fishing.
- **391-4-3-.03, Sound/Beach Boundaries** is being amended to repeal the requirement that DNR mark the terminus of sound/beach boundaries and now must provide GPS coordinates for each terminus of the sound/beach boundary.
- **391-4-3-.04, Saltwater Fishing** is being amended to remove closed seasons for amberjack, bluefish, cobia, spanish mackerel, and tarpon; to repeal the minimum length limit for Atlanta croaker and spot; and increase the minimum length limit for black drum to 14 in.

- **391-2-4-.13, Commercial Fishing for Catfish in Saltwater** is being amended to require a marked, non-green colored float be attached to each trap.
- **391-2-4-.16, Saltwater Fishing Guide and Saltwater Fishing Pier Operator Reporting Requirements** is being adopted to establish methods and timing of reporting if required by the Department.
- **391-4-3-.10, Commercial Fishing** is being repealed to avoid duplicity.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Haymans about the commercial fishermen on the Ogeechee River.

Mr. Haymans stated for the past decade only one commercial fisherman has fished the Ogeechee and for the past two years this individual has only reported catches from the Altamaha River.

Mr. Haymans stated CRD would be holding a public hearing on the proposed amendments on September 9 and 10 in Brunswick, Georgia. He further stated the proposed rule will be brought back to the Board for action at the October 22, 2013 Board Meeting.

Chairman Johnson called on Director Woodward for his division update.

Director Woodward gave an update on the three day red snapper mini season and announced that Coast Fest would be held on October 5 at the CRD headquarters in Brunswick, Georgia.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.