

Here is a draft of the resolution that was approved unanimously by the Commission on Marine Resources.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING PLANNING FOR A MISSISSIPPI OYSTER AQUACULTURE &
CONSERVATION CENTER AND RELATED FACILITIES
AT POINT CADET, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI**

Whereas, the Mayor of Biloxi has requested the Commission on Marine Resources to authorize the Department of Marine Resources to participate in joint planning with the City of Biloxi ("City"), Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning and University of Southern Mississippi (collectively, "IHL") and the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi ("Secretary of State") to establish facilities for a Mississippi Oyster Aquaculture & Conservation Center, a Mississippi Seafood Marketplace, and a public off-loading dock for aquaculture and natural-reef Mississippi oysters, and other marine-related facilities, in the currently unoccupied "green space" adjacent to the Point Cadet Marina in Biloxi, on land jointly owned by the City, State and IHL, depicted on the attached aerial photo; and

Whereas, as part of the project, the Mayor is proposing improvements and expansions to the current IHL (Gulf Coast Research Lab-USM) pier for research vessels at the Point Cadet Marina in order to upgrade and expand that facility for research vessels and to add a public off-loading dock for oystermen to offload fresh oysters from natural reefs and aquaculture farms, without an off-loading fee; and

Whereas, the proposed the Oyster Aquaculture & Conservation Center would be within the vacant land adjacent to the offloading ramp and IHL research vessel pier at Point Cadet Marina; and

Whereas, the Seafood Marketplace would be located either within the vacant "green space" or on other vacant upland adjacent to the western side of the Point Cadet Marina, and the Seafood Marketplace would market and sell Mississippi wild-caught and aquaculture seafood, showcasing Mississippi oysters in particular; and

Whereas, the joint planning and applications for funding would include other marine-related facilities on or adjacent to the "green space", including public access boardwalks on the waterfront perimeter and a Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Tournament & Conservation Center with open-air pavilion and upgrades to the berthing docks in the Point Cadet Marina; and

Whereas, the Mayor of Biloxi has requested the Commission of Marine Resources to authorize the staff of the Department of Marine Resources to work with the City, IHL and Secretary of State on preliminary site and building planning and on applying for grant applications and/or legislation for potential federal, state and local funding sources for the project and/or matching funds for federal, state, or local grants for the project; and

Whereas, the three owners of the subject property (State, IHL, and City), are jointly receiving significant income as landlords of tenants of upland property adjacent to the vacant "green space", and some of that income could be dedicated to funding aspects of the proposed projects; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission on Marine Resources that:

Section One. The Commission hereby authorizes and directs the Executive Director of the Department of Marine Resources and his staff to work with the City, IHL and Secretary of State in site and facility planning and applications for grants, legislation, and/or other funding to establish facilities on, and adjacent to, the vacant "green space" at Point Cadet in Biloxi, which is adjacent to Point Cadet Marina depicted on the attached aerial photo, in order to provide a public oyster offloading ramp free of any offloading fee, the Mississippi Oyster Aquaculture & Conservation Center, the Mississippi Seafood Marketplace, the Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Tournament & Conservation Center with open-air pavilion, and public boardwalks along the waterfront, and related facilities, and to report back to the Commission progress regarding these efforts.

Section Two. This resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after adoption.

Attachment: Aerial photo of Point Cadet Marina and environs, Biloxi, MS

Point Cadet Marina

