

Commissioner Rabon stated that the Outdoors Beyond Barriers Program added three new EcoRover all-terrain chairs to the fleet. He thanked NextEra and Mr. Jeff Andrews for donating the funds for these track chairs.

Commissioner Rabon stated the sponsorship total for the 2026 Weekend for Wildlife had already surpassed two million dollars. He thanked Lyndy Rogers, Executive Director of the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation, for her work.

Commissioner Rabon stated the State Wildlife Action Plan was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on November 12, 2025. He further stated that the Wildlife Resources Division's Wildlife Conservation Section engaged with over 100 organizations and stakeholder groups to revise the plan, which sets ambitious goals for Georgia's wildlife and habitats over the next decade.

Commissioner Rabon stated the renovations are ongoing at the GoFish Center in Perry, Georgia. He further stated that all outdoor aquariums have been drained and the fish are temporarily being housed in the on-site hatchery while the aquariums are thoroughly cleaned, re-sealed, and have acrylic polished. He added that while the outdoor portion of the center will be closed through January 9, 2026, other activities remain open for visitors, including the movie theater, casting pond, and newly renovated indoor exhibits.

Commissioner Rabon stated the Wildlife Resources Division is working to set five-year goals and strategic planning around wildlife, fisheries and hunter education. He further stated the goals of the plan are to centralize data collection to allow for a holistic view of the division's impact, set education goals and standards for the entire division, and brainstorm new ideas on working across sections. He added that the Education Planning Committee, comprised of staff from each of the four sections, met last month to start drafting the Five-Year Education Plan.

Commissioner Rabon stated the Wildlife Resources Division is working on revising Georgia's Deer Management Plan. He further stated the process of updating this document blends public involvement with the latest scientific information. He added that this ensures that deer management decisions are both rooted in science and reflect the desires of all Georgians. He stated the planning process included three public meetings, a self-paced virtual public meeting, a comprehensive public opinion survey, five citizen stakeholder committee meetings, and a steering committee meeting to develop the final recommendations.

Commissioner Rabon noted the newest edition of Coastlines magazine was available at the desk of each member. He stated that on November 10, 2025, the Coastal Resources Division, along with our counterparts in Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina, submitted the Exempted Fishing Permit request for Red Snapper to the U.S. Commerce Secretary. He further stated that the Coastal Resources Division has asked for a two-month red snapper season in 2026 with a mandatory reporting requirement for all participating anglers. He added that the development of the reporting