

**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**August 5, 2010**

**STEPHEN J. OATS  
CHAIRMAN**

**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting  
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.

For more information, call (225) 765-2806.

**AGENDA**  
**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
**BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**  
**AUGUST 5, 2010**

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, August 5, 2010

Chairman Stephen J. Oats presiding.

Ronny Graham  
Earl King, Jr.  
Patrick Morrow  
Stephen Sagrera  
Ann Taylor  
Mike Voisin

Secretary Robert Barham was also present.

Chairman Oats called for a motion for approval of the **July 8, 2010 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Voisin and seconded by Commissioner Morrow. The motion passed with no opposition.

There were no **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege** for this month.

**To receive and hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/July** began with Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze stating the activities for the month showed a total of 1395 citations and 493 written warnings issued and agents helped with 46 public assists. Activity for July focused on fishing and boating, reopen fishing in the oil impacted areas and an increase in commercial fishing east of the River. There were 17 boating accidents reported during July with 22 injuries and 4 fatalities. The fatalities occurred in Catahoula, Terrebonne and Madison Parishes. The Department's three planes flew a total of 66 hours for the month. News Releases discussed included the arrest of an individual for negligent homicide, the arrest of an individual on Blind River in Ascension Parish, rescue in Cameron Parish of 2 individuals, and the issuing of 142 citations on Whiskey Chitto for Scenic River violations (glass containers, littering problems, alcohol and drug usage). Lt. Col. LaCaze expressed appreciation to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation for donating about \$3,000 for the purchase of a Global Positioning Satellite camera. Commissioner Voisin asked about a News Release on

citing and arresting individuals for falsifying trip tickets. Lt. Col. LaCaze stated one individual submitted claims of catching crabs from the previous year and filed it with BP for reimbursement and the other individual agreed to conspire to support the claim documentation.

**To receive and hear Update on Oil Spill and Current Response Efforts** was handled by Secretary Robert Barham. If concrete was being poured into the well that day, the Secretary knew it was what everyone had been looking for. The response to the oil spill would change from a day to day reporting of oil or wildlife capture to an assessment. He advised there were 2 different issues for the public to know about; the first was toxic presence in the water and coastal environment and the other was viability of resources. The dispersants were still something no one knew what the results may be. With this time of year being the spawning season, it was not known what the fish embryos and eggs may do when they come in contact with the dispersants. Secretary Barham added they have negotiated with BP for a long range seafood assessment on the impacts but BP wants to fund a short term study (2 years) which was unacceptable to the Secretary. What staff fears was the unknown link in the food chain that may break the chain. Several proposals have been given to BP - one of which is a seafood safety test. Due to the pictures shown to the public, the seafood would have to be the most tested food in the country before the public felt it was safe and of good quality. Components to the seafood safety was certification, testing and marketing. Another issue to deal with was the collapse in license sales in the saltwater areas. A claim has been sent to BP to pay the Department for the difference between last years license sales and this years. He added it was not just the state money, but license sales are generally matched by federal government money. The Department would do testing on waterfowl and get some baseline information on tissues to make sure the waterfowl were not consuming anything. Then Secretary Barham bragged about the wildlife and fisheries biologists and the enforcement agents.

**To receive and consider Declaration of Emergency and Notice of Intent on Fisheries Closures due to Oil Spill** began with Mr. Marty Bourgeois asking the Commission to reaffirm the areas that were closed to recreational and commercial fishing. Two actions have occurred since the July Special Commission Meeting date. One was to reopen an area of the Mississippi River Delta to recreational fishing and the other opened an area east of the Mississippi River to commercial fishing except for crabbing and

the harvest of oysters. Maps of the areas closed for either recreational or commercial fishing were shown. Hearing no questions, Commissioner Voisin made a motion to accept the Declaration of Emergency. Commissioner Sagraera seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

#### DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Closure  
August 5, 2010

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953.B and R.S. 49:967.D of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:6.1, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby closes all commercial fishing, effective immediately August 5, 2010, in the following area:

That portion of state inside and outside waters east of the Mississippi River north of 29 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and south of the Mississippi/Louisiana state line from the Louisiana territorial sea boundary westward to 89 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state inside and outside waters north of 29 degrees 36 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude from the Louisiana territorial sea boundary westward to a line extending 1 mile westward from the western shore of the Chandeleur Islands, and that portion of state inside waters north of 29 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude from 89 degrees 09 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 89 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state inside waters north of 29 degrees 47 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 51 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 89 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 89 degrees 22 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state outside waters seaward of the inside/outside shrimp line from the mouth of Pass a Loutre at 29 degrees 12 minutes 40 seconds north latitude westward to the eastern shore of Oyster Bayou at 91 degrees 07 minutes 48 seconds west longitude, and that

portion of state inside waters south of the northern shore of Pass a Loutre and the Mississippi River Channel at 29 degrees 09 minutes 00 seconds north latitude westward to the southern shore of Red Pass at 89 degrees 28 minutes 13.4 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 30 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from the western shore of Grand Bayou westward to 89 degrees 52 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 35 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 89 degrees 52 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to the eastern shore of the Barataria Waterway, and that portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 18 minutes 30 seconds north latitude from the eastern shoreline of the Barataria Waterway westward to 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 16 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to the eastern shore of Bayou Lafourche, and that portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 12 minutes 50 seconds north latitude from the eastern shore of Bayou Lafourche westward to 90 degrees 17 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 21 minutes 42 seconds north latitude from the western shore of Grand Bayou Blue and 90 degrees 17 minutes 50 seconds west longitude westward to the eastern shore of Bayou Terrebonne, and that portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 21 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from the eastern shore of Bayou Terrebonne westward to the western shore of Bayou Petit Caillou, and that portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 13 minutes 12 seconds from the western shore of Bayou Petit Caillou and the Houma Navigation Canal red buoy line westward to the eastern shore of Oyster Bayou at 91 degrees 07 minutes 48 seconds west longitude. However, the commercial harvest of crabs and oysters is prohibited in that portion of state inside and outside waters east of the Mississippi River north of the northern shore of Pass a Loutre and 29 degrees 12 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and south of the northern shores of Lake Pontchartrain and Rigolets Pass and the Louisiana/Mississippi state line from the Louisiana territorial sea boundary westward to a line beginning along the U.S. Hwy 11 bridge in Lake Pontchartrain southward to 89 degrees 51 minutes 35 seconds west longitude, thence southward along 89 degrees 51 minutes 35 seconds west longitude to the southern shore of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, thence southeastward along the southern shore of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet to 89 degrees 42 minutes 32 seconds west longitude, thence southward along 89 degrees 42 minutes 32 seconds west longitude to 29 degrees 38 minutes 12

seconds north latitude, thence eastward along 29 degrees 38 minutes 12 seconds north latitude to Mozambique Point at 89 degrees 28 minutes 27.4 seconds west longitude, thence southward along the double-rig line as described in R.S. 56:495.1 to California Point at 29 degrees 27 minutes 21.7 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 31 minutes 19.7 seconds west longitude, thence southeastward to Sable Island at 29 degrees 24 minutes 03 seconds north latitude and 89 degrees 28 minutes 06 seconds west longitude, thence southward along 89 degrees 28 minutes 06 seconds west longitude to the eastern shore of the Mississippi River, thence southward along the eastern shore of the Mississippi River to the northern shore of Pass a Loutre.

Effective with the closure, no person shall take or possess or attempt to take any species of fish for commercial purposes from waters within the closed area. The possession, sale, barter, trade, or exchange of any fish or other aquatic life from the closed area during the closure is prohibited, except as provided herein. Recreational fishing shall be allowed in accordance with the provisions contained herein.

Except in those areas described below, recreational fishing is being allowed within the above described areas. The Environmental Protection Agency's nearshore water tests to date have shown no chemical contamination and this area will remain open subject to continual testing and monitoring, as this activity is not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Although recreational fishing will be allowed in portions of the commercially closed areas described in this declaration, certain delineated areas, including heavily oiled areas, areas associated with containment and absorbent boom and areas of active cleanup shall remain closed to recreational fishing. Those areas where recreational fishing shall remain closed are as follows: that portion of state inside and outside waters north of 29 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and south of the Mississippi/Louisiana state line from the Louisiana territorial sea boundary westward to 89 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state inside and outside waters north of 29 degrees 36 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude from the Louisiana territorial sea boundary westward to a line extending 1 mile westward from the western shore of the Chandeleur Islands, and that portion of state inside waters north of 29 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude from 89 degrees 09 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 89 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and that portion

of state inside and outside waters north of 29 degrees 18 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 22 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 89 degrees 48 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 89 degrees 52 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state inside waters north of 29 degrees 23 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 30 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 89 degrees 50 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to the eastern shore of the Barataria Waterway, and that portion of state inside and outside waters north of 29 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 11 minutes 40 seconds north latitude from 90 degrees 03 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 90 degrees 07 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state inside and outside waters north of 29 degrees 03 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 09 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 90 degrees 13 minutes 30 seconds west longitude and the western shore of Bayou Lafourche westward to 90 degrees 34 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state inside and outside waters north of 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 05 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from 90 degrees 37 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 90 degrees 58 minutes 00 seconds west longitude.

Recreational fishing shall include licensed charter boat guides, and shall authorize harvest of bait by wholesale/retail seafood dealers who hold a special bait dealers permit and who harvest bait for sale to recreational fishermen exclusively, pursuant to the provisions of LAC 76:VII.329. In those areas open to recreational fishing, the Commission and the Secretary advise as follows: That recreational fishermen use an abundance of caution when considering to fish in areas closed to commercial fishing, as oil may be present in those areas, which could present a risk of immediate skin contact or inhalation of air borne hydrocarbons. Avoid areas where oil is observed, respect oil cleanup and removal activities and stay clear of areas being protected by boom material. Smell and examine catch closely to ensure that there are no obvious oil or chemical residues. Recreational fishermen fishing in areas closed to commercial fishing do so at their own risk.

The Deepwater Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of Louisiana's coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to minimize the potential threats to fish and other

aquatic life.

This action is taken in coordination with Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. Governor Jindal in a declaration of emergency issued on April 29, 2010 stated in part that "a declaration that a state of emergency exists is appropriate due to the predicted impact of oil along the Louisiana coast leaking from the Deepwater Horizon which threatens the state's natural resources, including land, water, fish, wildlife, fowl and other birds, and likewise threatens the livelihoods of Louisiana's citizens living along the coast which increases the economic impact of this incident".

The Commission hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open, close, reopen-reclose, broaden or otherwise modify the areas closed and opened to fishing if biological, environmental and technical data indicate the need to do so, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein.

Stephen J. Oats  
Chairman

**To receive and consider Declaration of Emergency on Setting Opening Dates for the 2010 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season** was also presented by Mr. Marty Bourgeois. He began showing annual Louisiana shrimp landings comparing brown shrimp versus white shrimp against the long term mean from 1976 until 2009. Last year white shrimp landings totaled almost 77 million pounds with a dockside value of \$77 million. The next slide showed the three shrimp management zones. Next were slides on catch per unit effort for white shrimp in 16 foot trawls, Zone 1 was below last year but mean size was good); Zone 2 had about 40 per 16 minute trawl samples (mean size was about 93 mm); and Zone 3 had considerably lower than that seen in recent years, but the mean size was fairly good. Mr. Bourgeois then recommended opening all three shrimp management zones on Monday, August 16 at 6:00 AM. The Declaration of Emergency would set the closing dates for the fall shrimp season at sunset on December 22 but keep the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds open until March 31, 2011. The action would also give the Secretary authority to change the dates if there was a need to do so. Commissioner King made a motion to adopt the Declaration of Emergency and it was seconded by Commissioner Voisin. Commissioner Voisin asked about the closing date. Mr. Bourgeois noted it was to close on December 21. Hearing no further questions, the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2010 Fall Inshore Shrimp Season

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or parts of state inside waters and shall have the authority to open or close state outside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 2010 Fall Shrimp Season in inside waters to open as follows:

Shrimp Management Zone 1, that portion of Louisiana inside waters from the Mississippi-Louisiana state line to the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River, to open at 6:00 a.m. August 16, 2010, and

Shrimp Management Zone 2, that portion of state inside waters from the eastern shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, to open at 6:00 a.m. August 16, 2010, and

Shrimp Management Zone 3, that portion of state inside waters from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana-Texas state line, to open at 6:00 a.m. August 16, 2010.

The Commission also hereby sets the closing date for the 2010 Fall Shrimp Season in inside waters in Zones 1, 2 and 3 at official sunset December 21, 2010 except in the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described by the double-rig line (LA R.S. 56:495.1(A)2) which shall remain open until 6:00 a.m., March 31, 2011. The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the closing dates if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop and to close

and reopen all or parts of state inside and outside waters if significant numbers of small white shrimp are found in these waters.

Stephen J. Oats  
Chairman

**To receive and consider Declaration of Emergency for the 2010-2011 Oyster Season on Public Oyster Areas** was addressed by Mr. Patrick Banks. The management goals for the public oyster grounds is similar to the Department's mission to "manage and conserve and promote the wise use of the public oyster resource", to provide seed oysters for transplant to the private leases and to provide market sized oysters when available. The goals are obtained by biological sampling which included stock assessment, through habitat enhancement projects (cultch planting), recommend seasonal framework for the harvest of the resource, comment on harvest restrictions and enforce all of the Commission rules and legislative laws. The 2010 biological stock assessments were far below the long term averages for seed size oysters and sack sized oysters. Throughout the state there is a 24 percent increase in seed, but a 13 percent decrease in the market sized oysters which equaled to about 5 percent increase in the overall oyster stock. Coastal Study Area 1 held 17 percent of the seed stock and 18 percent of the market sized oyster stocks. Coastal Study Area 2 (Black Bay, Bay Gardene, Bay Crab areas) holds 15 percent of the seed and 8 percent of the sack. Coastal Study Area 3 (Barataria Basin) and Coastal Study Area 4 (Terrebonne, Timbalier area) holds less than 1 percent of the statewide stocks. Coastal Study Area 5 (Sister Lake, Lake Mechant and Lake Junop areas) has 22 percent of the seed oysters and 7 percent of the market sized stock. There was no information available for Coastal Study Area 6. Coastal Study Area 7 (Calcasieu Lake) held the most available seed (44 percent) and market sized (67 percent) oyster stocks. Next, Mr. Banks stated the Department's recommendations were presented to the Oyster Task Force and they agreed with the recommendation of a November opening. The season recommendations included: east of the River including Lake Borgne would be November 15-April 1; Hackberry Bay - November 15-21 except dates for the cultch plant within the Bay would be November 15-16; Little Lake November 15-April 1; Lake Chien and Lake Felicity November 15-16; Lake Mechant October 29-31 (the reason for the October opening is the Department of Health and Hospitals closure line goes into effect on November 1); Bay Junop November 15-21; Vermilion Bay area November 15-April 1; and Calcasieu Lake November 1-April 30 with a reduction of sacks per boat per day from 15 to 10. Closed

areas would include the 2009 cultch plants, Bay Gardene Public Seed Oyster Reservation, Baratavia Bay, Deep Lake, Lake Tambour, Sister Lake and Sabine Lake. Commissioner King asked if the oyster stock assessment indicated marketable oysters available for all of the coastal study areas. Mr. Banks stated yes, but not as high. Then Commissioner King asked what was the impact from the BP oil spill on the marketable oysters and he was told there was no direct mortality due to oiling but there has been mortality due to low salinity and high water temperatures in some of the areas. Commissioner King wondered if Mr. Banks was stating that there was no impact to the oyster industry from the BP oil spill. Mr. Banks stated he could not make that statement since oil and hydrocarbons were toxic to larvae and larvae had not been directly tested. He added that they looked at larval abundance by looking at spat catches and there have been very few spat catches this year which could be due to the oil or very low salinities. Additional assessments would occur through the month of October and if there was a need to delay the season, that can be done. Commissioner King asked that the Commission be kept informed of the assessments. Commissioner Voisin mentioned that Sabine Lake has been closed due to industrial pollution for a number of years. But with the current situation of low availability of oysters across the state and the reef acreage found in the lake, this would be a perfect year to open Sabine Lake after the Food and Drug Administration and Department of Health and Hospitals concurs. Commissioner Voisin understood there were differences of opinion in opening this area, but the Commission's role was to manage it for harvest. He then suggested that this issue be moved into a new coastal area and give the Secretary authority based on an assessment of Sabine Lake and concurrence from FDA and DHH. Commissioner Voisin knew that there would be a need for the resource and added that 6 of his competitors were closed, they were not able to harvest, get any resource or process. It was a critical time and a critical moment for the utilization of the resource from Sabine. Mr. Banks stated his reason for their recommendation was that in November 2008, an extensive survey was conducted in the lower third of the lake and about 1500 acres of reef was documented and about 1.3 million sacks of oysters existing on the reefs. A quantitative stock assessment has not been done since November 2008 largely due to the extensive work load. Mr. Banks felt, without knowing the resource this year, it was difficult to recommend a season in the lake as well as not having concurrence from the FDA and DHH. The Commission could readdress the issue at a later time and Mr. Banks stated he would come back to the Commission if they were able to do an assessment. The Commission also gives the Secretary authority

to open and close areas if substantial oyster resources were located. Commissioner Voisin asked where in the Declaration of Emergency did it give the Secretary the authority to go against the season recommendation. Mr. Banks read from the Declaration of Emergency. Mr. Don Puckett added that the language that Mr. Banks read would give the Secretary authority to open. Commissioner Voisin asked if the Secretary would open Sabine Lake once an assessment was made of the lake and Mr. Puckett answered yes. Hearing no further questions from the Commission, Commissioner Morrow made a motion to adopt the season recommendations as presented and it was seconded by Commissioner Voisin.

Mr. John Parker, representing Pearl Reef Oyster Company, stated he first bought oysters from Cameron in 1976 and was familiar with the problems in the area. The marketable sized oysters is about 240 oysters to a sack. About 3 years ago, hand dredging began which cultivated the reefs and now the sales in Cameron has increased. Mr. Parker suggested allowing 10 sacks from the east side of Cameron and 10 sacks from the west side. He hoped that the oysters from the west side would sell better this year since they were such large oysters. Ten sacks a day would not allow a fisherman to make ends meet and would limit him to fishing by himself which could be dangerous. If the west side was cultivated this year and next, it would make a more desirable product.

Chairman Oats asked if, even though there was no oiling on the oyster beds, there has been a tremendous impact from the activities and freshwater diversions to fend off the oil. Mr. Banks responded there are some impacts, but he was not able to quantify the impacts. Staff was working with the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process through NOAA. He felt there would be some impacts "down the road" once they were able to study it. Also, Mr. Banks felt that some of the measures to fight the oil spill have impacted private leaseholders ability to grow oysters. The public grounds has experienced low salinities, high water temperatures and oyster mortalities. Commissioner Voisin felt the Department could set the seasons for Calcasieu and Sabine this year, but that would not be the case next year in Calcasieu. He asked Mr. Banks if the maximum sack limit for Calcasieu was 25 and if there was substantial resource on the west side and he was told yes to both questions. Then Commissioner Voisin suggested opening the west side on October 1 with a 20 sack limit and then on November 1 open the east and west side with a 10 sack limit and asked if this would impact the resource. Mr. Banks mentioned the law says Calcasieu

must be opened between October 15 and November 1, but the suggestion to open the west side with a 15 sack limit would not create an issue biologically. Commissioner Voisin then asked about opening just the west side on October 15 with a 20 sack limit until November 15 and then move all of Calcasieu to a 10 sack limit. Again, Mr. Banks did not think there would be a biological issue, but asked that Enforcement be allowed to make a statement. Lt. Col. LaCaze also did not think there would be an issue as long as there were not differing sack limits. Commissioner Voisin then amended the motion to allow West Cove, Calcasieu Lake to open on October 15 with a 20 sack limit and the limit would be reduced to 10 sack limits on November 15 when the East Cove opens. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion. Commissioner Morrow thought the Calcasieu Lake area was to open on November 1. Commissioner Voisin explained that he wanted to move that date back to harvest the resource from the West Cove area which put it in line with the rest of the November 15 openings. The amended motion passed with no opposition. Chairman Oats then asked if there were any questions on the Declaration of Emergency as amended. Commissioner Voisin encouraged Secretary Barham to go out when the resource assessment was done in Sabine Lake so the state could take advantage of the product. The motion as amended also unanimously passed.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

#### DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

August 5, 2010

In accordance with the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, Louisiana Revised Statutes (R.S.) 49:953(B) and 967(D), and under the authority of R.S. 56:433, R.S. 56:435.1 and R.S. 56:435.1.1(D) notice is hereby given that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declare:

The 2010/2011 oyster season in the primary public oyster seed grounds east of the Mississippi River, as described in Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 76:VII.511 and LAC 76:VII.513, including the Lake Machias/Fortuna Sacking-Only Area of the public grounds which is generally Lake Fortuna and Lake

Machias to a line from Mozambique Point to Point Gardner to Grace Point at the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the Sacking-Only Area in the American Bay area which shall be that portion of the public grounds within Bay Long west of a line running generally north/south from a point at 29 degrees 31 minutes 13.78 seconds N latitude, 89 degrees 34 minutes 9.79 seconds W longitude to a point at 29 degrees 29 minutes 40.67 seconds N latitude, 89 degrees 34 minutes and 8.48 seconds W longitude, shall open one-half hour before sunrise on November 15, 2010 and shall close at one-half hour after official sunset on April 1, 2011, except for the Bay Gardene Public Oyster Seed Reservation, as described in R.S. 56:434.E, and the 2009 cultch plant areas in Black Bay and Three-Mile Bay within the following coordinates, which shall remain closed:

2009 Cultch Plant in Black Bay - Plaquemines Parish

1. 29 degrees 36 minutes 55.598 seconds N latitude  
89 degrees 32 minutes 30.482 seconds W longitude
2. 29 degrees 36 minutes 25.239 seconds N latitude  
89 degrees 32 minutes 12.858 seconds W longitude
3. 29 degrees 36 minutes 14.674 seconds N latitude  
89 degrees 32 minutes 47.070 seconds W longitude
4. 29 degrees 36 minutes 45.476 seconds N latitude  
89 degrees 33 minutes 02.681 seconds W longitude

2009 Cultch Plant in Three-Mile Bay - St. Bernard Parish

1. 30 degrees 01 minutes 15.884 seconds N latitude  
89 degrees 21 minutes 19.511 seconds W longitude
2. 30 degrees 01 minutes 34.630 seconds N latitude  
89 degrees 20 minutes 58.811 seconds W longitude
3. 30 degrees 01 minutes 11.418 seconds N latitude  
89 degrees 21 minutes 12.304 seconds W longitude
4. 30 degrees 01 minutes 29.772 seconds N latitude  
89 degrees 20 minutes 52.475 seconds W longitude

The oyster season in the Hackberry Bay Public Oyster Seed Reservation as described in R.S. 56:434.E shall open at one-half hour before sunrise on November 15, 2010 and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on November 21, 2010, except for the 2008

cultch plant within the following coordinates which shall open at one-half hour before sunrise on November 15, 2010 and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on November 16, 2010:

2008 Cultch Plant in Hackberry Bay - Jefferson/Lafourche Parish

1. 29 degrees 25 minutes 28.80 seconds N latitude  
90 degrees 01 minutes 17.11 seconds W longitude
2. 29 degrees 25 minutes 37.79 seconds N latitude  
90 degrees 00 minutes 55.39 seconds W longitude
3. 29 degrees 25 minutes 28.61 seconds N latitude  
90 degrees 00 minutes 50.44 seconds W longitude
4. 29 degrees 25 minutes 19.63 seconds N latitude  
90 degrees 01 minutes 12.17 seconds W longitude

The Little Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.521 shall open one-half hour before sunrise on November 15, 2010 and shall close one half-hour after sunset on April 1, 2011.

The Lake Chien and Lake Felicity Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.517 shall open one-half hour before sunrise on November 15, 2010 and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on November 16, 2010, except for the 2009 cultch plant in Lake Chien within the following coordinates, which shall remain closed:

2009 Cultch Plant in Lake Chien - Terrebonne Parish

1. 29 degrees 20 minutes 07.167 seconds N latitude  
90 degrees 26 minutes 07.493 seconds W longitude
2. 29 degrees 19 minutes 59.855 seconds N latitude  
90 degrees 26 minutes 08.985 seconds W longitude
3. 29 degrees 20 minutes 03.161 seconds N latitude  
90 degrees 26 minutes 23.849 seconds W longitude
4. 29 degrees 20 minutes 09.837 seconds N latitude  
90 degrees 26 minutes 22.538 seconds W longitude.

The Lake Mechant Public Oyster Seed Grounds as described in LAC 76:VII.517 shall open one-half hour before sunrise on

October 29, 2010 and shall close at one-half hour after sunset October 31, 2010.

The oyster season in the Bay Junop Public Oyster Seed Reservation as described in R.S. 56:434.E shall open one-half hour before sunrise on November 15, 2010 and shall close one-half hour after sunset on November 21, 2010,

The Vermilion/East and West Cote Blanche/Atchafalaya Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds, as described in LAC 76:VII.507 and LAC 76:VII.509, shall open one-half hour before sunrise on November 15, 2010 and shall close one half-hour after sunset on April 1, 2011.

The oyster season in the west cove portion of the Calcasieu Lake public oyster area (Department of Health and Hospitals harvest area 30), as described in R.S. 56:435.1.1, shall open one-half hour before sunrise on October 15, 2010 and shall close one half-hour after sunset on November 14, 2010. The sack limit during this time period is set at 20 sacks per vessel per day as provided for in R.S. 56:435.1.1. During this time, the east side of the Calcasieu Lake public oyster area (Department of Health and Hospitals harvest area 29) shall remain closed.

The oyster season in the Calcasieu Lake Public Oyster Area (Department of Health and Hospitals harvest areas 29 and 30), as described in R.S. 56:435.1.1, shall then reopen at one-half hour before sunrise on November 15, 2010 and shall close at one-half hour after sunset on April 30, 2011, except for the 2009 cultch plant within the following coordinates which shall remain closed:

2009 Cultch Plant in Calcasieu Lake - Cameron Parish

1. 29 degrees 50 minutes 36.930 seconds N latitude  
93 degrees 19 minutes 14.977 seconds W longitude
2. 29 degrees 50 minutes 33.787 seconds N latitude  
93 degrees 19 minutes 14.102 seconds W longitude
3. 29 degrees 50 minutes 34.266 seconds N latitude  
93 degrees 19 minutes 12.365 seconds W longitude
4. 29 degrees 50 minutes 31.840 seconds N latitude  
93 degrees 19 minutes 11.817 seconds W longitude
5. 29 degrees 50 minutes 32.893 seconds N latitude  
93 degrees 19 minutes 06.405 seconds W longitude

6. 29 degrees 50 minutes 34.263 seconds N latitude  
93 degrees 19 minutes 01.273 seconds W longitude
7. 29 degrees 50 minutes 39.274 seconds N latitude  
93 degrees 19 minutes 02.220 seconds W longitude
8. 29 degrees 50 minutes 39.047 seconds N latitude  
93 degrees 19 minutes 07.548 seconds W longitude

The sack limit for Calcasieu Lake during this time period is set at 10 sacks per vessel per day as provided for in R.S. 56:435.1.1. However, these conservation actions shall not supersede public health closures.

The following areas will remain closed for the entire 2010/2011 oyster season:

1. The Bay Gardene Public Oyster Seed Reservation (as described in R.S. 56:434.E);
2. The 2009 cultch plants as described above in Three-Mile Bay, Black Bay, Lake Chien, Sister Lake, and Calcasieu Lake;
3. Barataria Bay Public Oyster Seed Grounds (as described in LAC 76:VII.517);
4. Deep Lake Public Oyster Seed Grounds (as described in LAC 76:VII.517);
5. Lake Tambour Public Oyster Seed Grounds (as described in LAC 76:VII.517);
6. Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation (as described in R.S. 56:434.E); and
7. Sabine Lake Public Oyster Area (as described in R.S. 56:435.1).

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action as necessary to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of non-living reef material in seed oyster loads, or if oyster resources and/or reefs are being adversely impacted, or if enforcement problems are encountered.

The Secretary is authorized to take emergency action to reopen areas previously closed if the threat to the resource has ended, or may open areas if substantial oyster resources are located.

Notice of any opening, delaying or closing of a season will be made by public notice at least 72 hours prior to such action unless such closure is ordered by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals for public health concerns.

Stephen J. Oats  
Chairman

Mr. Harry Blanchet presented the next agenda item, **To receive and consider Declaration of Emergency to Open Commercial Spotted Seatrout Rod and Reel Fishery.** The action would open a season that Act 979 of the 2010 legislative session modified the seasonal framework for spotted seatrout. Chairman Oats asked if the commercial rod and reel license holders would be grandfathered in and Mr. Blanchet stated the license was issued on an annual basis. He added there were few holders but the license could be obtained if a person met certain criteria. Chairman Oats asked how many licenses were sold and he was told it was about 20. Hearing no questions, Commissioner Voisin made a motion to accept the Declaration of Emergency. Commissioner Sagraera seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

(The full text of the Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record.)

#### DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby exercise the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 49:967(D), and pursuant to their authority under R.S. 56:6(10), 56:6(25)(a), 56:325.3, and 56:326.3, adopts the Declaration of Emergency set forth below to set the opening date for the commercial harvest of spotted seatrout. These actions become effective on August 15, 2010, the effective date of Act 979.

Effective August 15, 2010, the commercial season for the

harvest of spotted seatrout shall open, and remain open until the maximum annual quota is reached, or on the date projected by the staff of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the quota will be reached.

The following modifications are established as a modification to the existing rules under the Louisiana Administrative Code Title 76 for harvest of spotted seatrout, in order to have consistent rules with the legislative rules established under the Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 56 by Act 979.

## **Title 76**

### **WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

#### **Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life**

##### **Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishing**

###### **§341. Spotted Seatrout Management Measures**

###### **A. Commercial Season; Quota; Permits**

1. The commercial season for spotted seatrout whether taken from within or without Louisiana state waters shall remain closed until January 2 of each year, when it shall open and remain open ~~through July 31 of each year, or until the maximum annual~~ quota is reached, or on the date projected by the staff of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the quota will be reached, whichever comes first. The commercial harvest or taking of spotted seatrout is prohibited during the period from sunset on Friday through sunrise on Monday, and there shall be no possession of spotted seatrout in excess of the recreational limit during the period between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

2.-3.d. ...

4. The commercial taking or commercial harvesting of spotted seatrout shall be prohibited within Louisiana waters west of the Mermentau River.

B. ...

C. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Act Number 157 of the 1991 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, R.S.56:6(25)(a); R.S. 56:306.5, R.S. 56:306.6, 56:325.1(A) and (B); R.S. 56:325.3; R.S. 56:326.3; Act 1316 of the 1995 Regular Legislative Session; and Act 1164 of the 2003 Regular Legislative Session.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 18:199 (February 1992), amended LR 22:238 (March 1996), LR 24:360 (February 1998), LR 26:2333 (October 2000), LR 30:1509 (July 2004), LR 30:2498 (November 2004), repromulgated LR 32:125 (January 2006), amended LR 32:1071 (June 2006).

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized and directed to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Declaration of Emergency, including but not limited to, the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government, and the effectuation of the provisions of this Declaration of Emergency for the duration of this season.

Stephen J. Oats  
Chairman

**To receive and consider Tentative Dates on Waterfowl Season and Public Comment on Canada Goose Closure Zone** began with Mr. Larry Reynolds stating the first part of the discussion would be the viewing of the Fish and Wildlife Service's status report video. The regulation process begins with the status report and would provide framework regulations. The mallard populations were 8.6 million and pond numbers in prairie Canada was 3.73 million. The recommendation for this season would be in the liberal zone with a 60 day season and a 6 duck limit. Mr. Reynolds noted "same as last year" was mentioned quite a number of times in the video. There was only one species change; the pintail population was at its highest since 1997 and settled at a lower latitude which resulted in higher production. The population level was not that different from last year but a new harvest strategy was implemented. The strategy now being used will close the season at 1.75 million pintails with no partial seasons possible and no daily bag limits greater than 2 per day. This strategy will allow for 2 pintails per day which was the only species change for ducks. Mr. Reynolds reminded everyone that the bag limits for scaup will be 2 for the entire season, 1 for canvasbacks for the full season, 3 for wood ducks, and 1 for mottled ducks. The season recommendations were the same as last year with calendar adjustments. The latest date to hunt under

the federal framework for this year will be January 30, 2011. The dates for the west zone will be November 13-December 5 and December 18-January 23 with youth waterfowl weekend being the weekend before the regular duck season. The east zone dates will be November 20-December 5 and December 18-January 30 with youth waterfowl being the weekend before. Daily bag limit would be 6 per day with no more than 4 mallards of which no more than 2 can be hens, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 pintails, 1 mottled duck, canvasback or black duck. Merganser limit will be 5 per day with no more than 2 hooded mergansers in addition to the daily duck bag limit. A bag limit for coots will be 15 per day. Possession limit for ducks, coots and mergansers will be twice the daily bag limit. Goose season recommendations would also be the same as last year with the one day calendar adjustment. It will include 72 days for light geese and white-fronted geese and corresponds with the duck season but closes on February 4 in the west zone. For the east zone, the goose season opens on a Monday in order for it to close the same Sunday as the east zone duck season. Bag limit is 2 white-fronts per day with possession limit of 4. Bag limit for Ross or snow geese would be 20 per day with no possession limit. When the Canada Goose season was open, the bag limit would be 2 dark geese with no more than 1 Canada goose. Canada Goose recommendation was for a 44 day season statewide from December 18-January 30 and this included eliminating the closure zone in southwest Louisiana that has been in effect since 1992. Conservation Order for light geese dates would open during the duck season splits and extend until March 13 with no bag or possession limits. Season dates for rails and gallinules would be December 13-January 5, with a bag limit of 15 per day for king and clapper, 25 per day for Sora and Virginia. Bag limit for gallinules would be 15. Snipe season would be November 6-December 10 and December 19-February 28 with a bag limit of 8 and possession limit of 16. Extended falconry for ducks, rails and gallinules would be November 6-February 4. Following the season recommendations, Mr. Reynolds talked on the Canada Goose closure zone. He stated it was over 700,000 acres in southwest Louisiana and the closure was implemented to protect a reintroduction effort of resident Giant Canada geese. The reintroduction effort did not establish a very large population of geese which was the goal. Resident Canada geese are abundant to overabundant in most of their range, but this is one of the few places that this was not true. Within the 700,000 acre closed area, there are sanctuaries that exists, such as the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area, Rockefeller Refuge, and a portion of Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. The reason to eliminate the closure zone was staff did not believe it was

necessary to protect resident giant Canada geese. This action would also reduce interest in additional closure zones. Last year, staff proposed to eliminate the closure zone, but the Commission felt there was not enough time for opposing interests to present their arguments. For 2009-2010, the Commission maintained the closure zone and directed Mr. Reynolds to get public comment. Mr. Reynolds noted he has collected public comments since March 2010 and attended the hunting season public hearings. There were 15 individual comments received, one from the Cameron Parish Police Jury and one from the Cameron Parish School Board. Fourteen comments were opposed eliminating the closure zone, 2 supported the issue and 1 "did not care". The reason for opposition was the small population which declined recently due to the hurricanes, the birds were tame and would not provide a hunting opportunity, there were plenty of other hunting opportunities (ducks, snow geese, white-fronted geese) in the area, and the local people enjoy watching the birds.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Morrow asked how many Canadian geese were in the flock in the closed area and Mr. Reynolds deferred to the locals who gave him estimates of 500 to 800. Chairman Oats asked if the shooting hours for Spanish Lake was the gentleman's agreement and he was told yes. Commissioner Voisin asked what was falconry? Mr. Reynolds explained that people will train falcons to hunt game birds which takes very few birds. He noted that the Department maintains a falcons license and those individuals were an extremely dedicated group. Hearing no further questions, Commissioner Voisin made a motion to approve as recommended. There being no second to the motion, Chairman Oats asked the wishes of the Commission. Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to approve the seasons as recommended except maintain the goose closure zone due to the public comments. Commissioner King seconded the motion.

Mr. Glenn Alexander stated the Canada goose closure zone has been in effect since the 1990's for the resident population of 500 to 800. These geese nest, live and stay there year round and during the spring their goslings come out and this was a big deal for the area. He then asked about the Canada goose survey done in southwest Louisiana and Mr. Reynolds stated that survey focused on the small migratory Canada geese. Hurricanes Rita and Ike came into the area and really hurt the goose population. Mr. Alexander wanted to protect the geese and did not think there was a reason to shoot them or a reason to change the closure zone.

Mr. Ted Joanen, wildlife consultant, stated he worked for the

Department for about 35 years at Rockefeller Refuge and one of his job duties was the Canada goose program. He voiced opposition to opening the season. There were about 3000 to 5000 resident Canada geese south of the Intercoastal that did not migrate. High predation rates and two hurricanes resulted in a tremendous loss and the population was down to about 500 birds. Instead of a season, Mr. Joanen felt the birds needed more protection until the population rebuilds. The birds being semi-domesticated would not give fair chase if hunting was allowed. By keeping the closure zone, the resident Canada geese would be protected and it would still afford hunting opportunities for the migrant birds that rarely go south of the Intercoastal Canal.

Hearing no further comments, the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution is made a part of the record.)

#### RESOLUTION

#### LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

August 5, 2010

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, August 5, 2010.

WHEREAS, public hearings have been held to discuss the status of waterfowl, including ducks, coots, and geese in Washington, D.C., and

WHEREAS, rules and regulations governing waterfowl season framework have been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff has presented recommendations for waterfowl including season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting seasons for waterfowl within the constraints of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service framework, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on this date, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby tentatively adopt the attached season dates, bag limits and shooting hours, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these tentative dates will be ratified

by Declaration of Emergency or Season rule unless significant changes are mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Secretary is hereby authorized and delegated the authority to take any and all steps necessary on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate these seasons as a Declaration of Emergency or Season rule; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these dates will be forwarded to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as regulations set for Louisiana's 2010-2011 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations.

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Stephen J. Oats, Chairman  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Mr. Larry Reynolds began the next agenda item, **To receive and consider Contingency Plan for Waterfowl Season due to Oil Spill**, by stating that he was tasked with developing a contingency plan due to effects from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Six public hearings were scheduled to notify the public of the Department's intention and contingency plan. The basis for the information conveyed at the public meetings was publicized on the Department's website and discussed at the meetings in Lake Charles, New Iberia, Abbeville, Houma, Jefferson and Alexandria. Attendance ranged from 14 in Jefferson to 41 in Abbeville. The major points conveyed was there will be a waterfowl season statewide, very little of Louisiana is oiled, it was expected there will be localized hunting closures due to oil and clean-up, additional closures may occur if impacts would get substantially worse (this may be closing areas not impacted in order to keep birds out of impacted areas), there would be a benefit to opening the waterfowl season and that would be increasing surveillance of oiled habitat and wildlife, and the risk of consuming harvested waterfowl was low. Mr. Reynolds did emphasize that the public should not eat oiled birds. He then noted that they have requested hunters assistance by using the wildlife hot line and phone number to report oiled habitat. Assistance has also been requested in collecting oiled birds. If a hunter does kill an oiled bird, it must be maintained in

the hunter's possession as part of his bag limit. As Secretary Barham noted, habitat assessments would continue as the hunting season approaches, communication would be maintained with Coast Guard and oil spill response in order to minimize hunting closures, test collected waterfowl to assess risks for human consumption and keep the public informed of changes. Mr. Reynolds then talked about the public comments received, but before going on he noted there were very few comments on the oil spill, but they had other comments. An individual's comment who represented several hunters wanted the Department to do all it can to keep the Coast Guard from over-restricting hunting areas. Another comment was to well publicize size and location closures, changes to hunting closures, bird collection, consumption advisories and hot line phone numbers on the Department's website and with local media. A general comment agreed upon by the public was that the Department had put together a good plan to address the issue. Even though he did not want to do the meetings due to the uncertainty of what has happened and still to happen, Mr. Reynolds felt this was a very positive experience for the Department and hunters.

**To receive and hear General Information Presentation on WMA Forest Management** was handled by Mr. Tommy Tuma. He began the presentation stating the Forestry Section was housed within the Wildlife Division and consisted of 9 crew members, 4 within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, 4 in the Gulf Coastal Plain and 1 administrative. The mission statement was to conserve, manage and enhance the Department's forest land ecosystem. Mr. Tuma explained that forest management was the alteration of current forest conditions to achieve another desired condition. The difference between the Department's forestry and industrial forestry was wildlife. The Forestry Section manages the 33 state owned WMAs with forested habitats which covers 428,000 acres. The Wildlife Action Plan chooses what the Forestry Section manages for such as deer, turkey, squirrel, bats, reptiles and song birds. These species need a place to live and some food which was the focus to manage the forests. Mr. Tuma explained the four steps in forest management. The first was inventory which involved going into the forest and find out what was in it, write a prescription for it, then do treatment work and follow that with post-treatment to make sure what was done was correct. Staff inventories about 60,000 acres per year. The prescription process begins by making a site visit to find out the inventory, then go out with a wildlife biologist to identify the wildlife needs, the prescription was developed and put on the internet for public review, and then a final document was prepared. It should be noted that the only constant in

forestry was that change was continually happening and the prescription should account for that change. There are 2 kinds of treatment, active management and passive management. Active management occurs through commercial timber harvest which was the only way treatments can be done without out of pocket expenses for the Department. The four harvest methods used are single tree select (mark individual trees), group select (1/5 to 2 acres in size), shelter wood (retain 15-20 trees per acre, provide seed source and shade) and clear cut (total removal) and are used to produce light. The Foresters look for 60 to 70 percent canopy cover which allows 30 to 40 percent light transmitting through the forest. Other duties of the Forestry Section staff was to review what was done on a WMA, were the desired results obtained and what can be done to change or fix the area if results were not obtained. New ideas were also tried by the staff. The staff has taught staff from Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee and helped with their forestry program. The harvest history showed 47,000 acres have been treated for a total income of \$7.5 million which includes in-kind service.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **December 2010 Meeting** on Thursday, December 2, 2010, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Next agenda item was to receive **Public Comments** and none were heard.

There being no further business, Chairman Oats **Adjourned** the meeting.

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Robert J. Barham  
Secretary

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