

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, January 5, 2006

Chairman Wayne Sagrera presiding.

Terry Denmon
Earl King
Frederic Miller
Patrick Morrow
Henry Mouton
Robert Samanie, III

Secretary Dwight Landreneau was also present.

Chairman Sagrera called for a motion for approval of the **December 8, 2005 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Samanie. The motion passed with no opposition.

There were no **Commission Special Announcements** for this month.

Before beginning with the **Enforcement & Aviation Reports/December** by Lt. Col. Keith LaCaze he wanted to make a presentation. Three agents were being recognized for service provided during Hurricane Katrina in getting an out-of-state officer out of New Orleans. Lt. Col. LaCaze then asked Senior Agent Troy Parker to come and tell the story. In recognition of Senior Agents Troy Parker, Ryan Brasher and Jason Gernados' efforts, the Sheriff of Manatee County sent a letter to the Governors of Florida and Louisiana expressing appreciation for service provided. Lt. Col. LaCaze then presented each agent with a Distinguished Service Medal. Continuing with the reports, it was stated a total of 901 citations and 103 written warnings were issued and agents helped with 61 public assists during the month. The weather was right for hunting and the number of hunters went up during December. There was very good hunter success in waterfowl and deer hunting. The boating accident report showed 6 for the month which brought the total for the year to 141. For December, there were four injuries and five fatalities. The five fatalities occurred in Jefferson, St. Mary and St. Martin Parishes. The Aviation Report had a total of 93.4 hours for all planes. Lt. Col. LaCaze then talked about several News Releases and these included night hunting activity, road hunting violation, illegal drugs and a bald eagle shot in Grant Parish.

Report on 2005 Discover Louisiana Hunting Weekend was given by Mr. Bo Boehringer.

This program was the newest recruitment tool the Department was offering to bring unlicensed hunters into the sport and buying licenses to help boost those numbers. In July 2005, the Commission approved the Thanksgiving weekends as the Discover Louisiana Hunting Weekend for 2005, 2006 and 2007. A committee of Department employees began meeting to make this information available to a large number of people. Mr. Boehringer expressed his appreciation to all the divisions within the Department that worked on the program. The first steps were to develop a website and organize a public awareness campaign to get the word out. A presentation was shown at this point which included slides on the website, the online access form to download the permit, a frequently asked question page, places to hunt if a person did not have access to private or leased lands, and access to hunter education information. The next slide showed the sponsorship from numerous partners that helped carry the message to the public. One of the requirements to participate in the program was for a novice hunter to be partnered with a licensed Louisiana hunter. Ways to spread the word was by creating a flyer, having an ad in the hunting regulations pamphlet, the Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate Outdoors Section distributed on September 25, September-October issue of the Louisiana Conservationist Magazine, a tri-fold brochure, press releases and broadcast appearances. The response resulted in over 22,000 website home page visits with 94 permits issued for this first year of the program. Mr. Boehringer stated they were not happy with the number of participants for the first year, but hoped to build on that for the 2006 and 2007 seasons. One interesting statistic was that out-of-state residents took advantage of the program more than residents. He reminded everyone that this program allowed for a one time only permit and those that participate would be required to buy a license if they want to hunt in future years. Answers to a post-event questionnaire was then discussed noting deer hunting was the prime choice for hunting and most participated on two out of the three days offered (Friday and Saturday). Comments received noted participants were very appreciative of the opportunity. Summarizing, a lot of the leg work has been completed for future years and it was anticipated participation would increase.

Mr. Don Puckett handled the next item, **Consideration of Hunting Seasons and Regulations Protocol**. He stated that at the last meeting a proposed protocol was discussed and was placed on this agenda for adoption if the Commission wished. Commissioner Denmon asked if staff could introduce amendments. Mr. Puckett stated staff could recommend amendments to the Commission and only Commissioners could propose amendments to the regulations. Commissioner Denmon asked Mr. Puckett to clarify that in the protocol. Mr. Puckett verbally amended the protocol by noting that "Commission members may introduce amendments and staff may recommend amendments". Several Commissioners acknowledged they were in agreement with the change. Mr. Puckett asked for an oral motion to amend the protocol. Commissioner Denmon made a motion to accept the change and it was seconded by Commissioner Miller. The motion passed with no opposition. Then Commissioner King made a motion to formally accept the protocol as drafted with the change included. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Commissioner King thanked Mr. Puckett

for developing the protocol since it would allow optimum participation for all interested parties. (See Attachment A for Protocol)

2007/2008 Hunting Season Amendments began with Mr. Dave Moreland stating he wanted to give a brief overview of what the staff would recommend for the 2006-07 season.

The general hunting season dates and deer season dates printed in the pamphlet would be presented with no changes. Orleans Parish has been closed to hunting in the past, but staff has observed depredation with deer and hogs following Hurricane Katrina. They were working with the Parish Council and Bayou Sauvage Refuge and it was hoped Orleans would open to deer hunting by some method to control the population. Staff has been looking very intently at lower Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes and some openings have occurred in response to heavy browsing on native habitat and citrus farms since the hurricane. Mr. Moreland reminded the Commission that a Hammond native expressed his desire to use a draw loc device for disabled persons. Staff has no objection as long as it was for disabled hunters with a crossbow permit and those maybe over 60 years of age. Another change related to hunter orange requirement would be to require hunter orange on portable ground blinds. Mr. Jimmy Anthony was checking with the regions for changes to the wildlife management areas. Hunter efforts for this year increased from 28,500 to 30,600 and the total deer harvest was 2,689 which averaged 1 deer killed per 11 hunter efforts. A special youth deer hunt was established on the South Farm of Sherburne WMA and a special youth duck hunt occurred on the North Farm and Mr. Moreland thanked Commissioners Denmon and Morrow for providing materials for these hunts. The duck hunts were successful with all but one hunter taking their limit. The deer hunts were very successful as well, commented Mr. Moreland. He then noted there may be a few changes on the WMAs such as having an early squirrel dog season on Fort Polk WMA. Commissioner Miller asked about the tagging program. Mr. Moreland stated staff may recommend a season limit of deer, 3 antlered bucks and 3 antlerless deer. He added they have been working with the licensing section to develop a deer tag transaction through Point of Sale. If the Point of Sale cannot be accomplished for this year, staff would still recommend the 3 and 3 deer limit. Chairman Sagrera stated there was a paper license system in place now, and wondered if there was an estimate on having tags. Mr. Moreland stated all of the paper and machines would have to be replaced and this was being looked into. For this year, there may have to be an honor system and Mr. Moreland felt the hunting clubs and private landowners would regulate the 3 buck harvest. Commissioner Mouton stated with the majority of hunters having a cell phone, there was no need for an 800 number and this could save the Department that expense.

Notice of Intent - Spotted Seatrout Regulations - Recreational Bag Limit (Calcasieu Area) was handled by Commissioner Henry Mouton. He stated about a year ago he began receiving phone calls from recreational fishermen from the Big Lake area that wanted to reduce the bag limit. Other callers wanted this reduction statewide, but Commissioner Mouton stated he was only wanting to look at the area defined in the rule that allows only 2 fish over 25 inches. He felt he has never seen the support for a reduction as he has now. The long term effect of leaving more fish in the lake was not known, but it could only help. The proposal was to reduce the limit in the Big Lake area from 25 fish down to 15 fish and

only 2 of those fish taken can be 25 inches or longer. Commissioner Mouton then made a motion to go forward with the Notice of Intent to reduce the limit of speckled trout on Big Lake as outlined. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. Commissioner Morrow asked if the restriction should be statewide or are there less fish in the Calcasieu Lake area as opposed to the eastern portion of the State. He added he has received comments both for and against the 15 fish limit only on Calcasieu Lake. Chairman Sagrera asked if the Department would like to comment. Mr. John Roussel stated the Department was prepared to provide biological data on the issue. Information is collected statewide which includes the Calcasieu Lake and there are good indicators whether there are any differences between the areas. The sample size is quite small and this makes it difficult to pick out Calcasieu Lake and feel comfortable to compare that with other areas. Commissioner Mouton stated that the guides from southeast Louisiana are trying to rebuild their businesses and homes and the different bay systems should be managed on its own. Commissioner Morrow felt it appropriate to place the issue on the table and then urge the public to come forward with their thoughts on whether to isolate one area or expand statewide. Commissioner Miller stated he joins with Commissioner Mouton and has what was left of a camp and boat on the west side of Big Lake. The support in northwest Louisiana was overwhelming. He then commented he has been badgered for the last 5 or 6 years wondering why this has not been done. The purpose was to put the issue on the table for discussion and allow the public the opportunity to make comments and let the Commission know the extent of their comments. Commissioner Samanie stated he would like to hear the biological presentation. Mr. Roussel strongly suggested that the Department's information be provided upfront.

Mr. Harry Blanchet began the presentation giving the Department's mission. The area of discussion was the Department's Coastal Study Area 7 which goes from Freshwater Bayou to Louisiana-Texas border. The type of sampling in Calcasieu Lake was listed. The next slide was on spotted seatrout statewide landings and this showed that they varied between 6 million and 8 million pounds with a record of 12 million pounds total for 2000. Then shown was a statewide female recruitment from 1980 to 2003 chart which varied around the 10 million fish mark. Mr. Blanchet then discussed unweighted transitional spawning potential ratio and spawning biomass. Next graph showed the 5 different sized panels of experimental gill nets used on Calcasieu Lake since 1988 and compared it to the long term mean. Then the presentation switched to harvest data and statewide bag distribution over the last 5 years. About 50 percent of anglers are harvesting 4 spotted seatrout and about 22-23 percent are taking 1 fish. If the bag limit was reduced to 15 fish, the peak of 36 percent was at the limit, with 50 percent still taking 4 fish and the average catch per unit effort was 5.5 fish. The last graph shown was on the estimated harvest reduction at various bag limits with no other changes. Commissioner Morrow asked if the projection of harvest would go from 19 percent at the 25 fish limit to 36 percent at the 15 bag limit. Mr. Blanchet answered yes, assuming that everyone was obeying the law. He added that there was nothing in the presentation that said this change was a biological necessity at this point. Commissioner Samanie asked if the SPR levels for spotted seatrout were close to the borderline. Mr. Blanchet stated they were close to the conservation standards which meant you do not want to go below that level for any length of time. Another thing to look

at besides the low SPR was there was a relatively high spawning biomass. Commissioner Morrow asked if there was a biological reason for a creel reduction in any other part of the state. Mr. Blanchet answered no. Commissioner Miller asked if carrying capacity for spotted seatrout was being reached with the downward trend in SPR and the higher levels of biomass. Mr. Blanchet commented that was a tough question to answer, noting there was a limit on what the environment can carry. His concern was the marsh habitat which served as nursery areas and the significant changes that have occurred in the last 50 years. Then Commissioner Miller commented that he has observed resource managers give statistics and make comments and not take any action until there was a crash. He added that from a conservationist standpoint, he was not willing to wait, but would like to see action taken that had a forward look to it.

Chairman Sagrera then noted Mr. Rich Donaldson, Mr. Gus Schram, III, Mr. Bobby Stansel, Mr. Will Drost, and Mr. Guy Stansel did not wish to speak but was in favor of the proposal. Then he called on those that did wish to speak.

Mr. Chas Drost, Vice-President Elect of Lake Charles Board of CCA, stated there has been a lot of proactive talk in favor of the proposal. They made a resolution which expressed their support and sent it to the State Board of CCA. He then asked that the proposal be passed.

Mr. Rick Hagel, a Texas resident, stated he moved from Port O'Connor and built a camp in Hackberry because of the fishing. Over the last 2 or 3 years, he commented a guide and two customers were lucky to boat 30 fish in a trip. Mr. Hagel added that you cannot continue to suck a resource dry. Commissioner Morrow asked Mr. Hagel if fishermen from Texas crossed into Louisiana since there was a larger creel limit. Mr. Hagel stated the reason fishermen came to Calcasieu Lake was due to the larger fish. Most of the fish being caught in Texas average 15 inches, but in Calcasieu the general rule was 18 to 20 inch fish. It was the quality of the fish and not so much the quantity.

Mr. Nelson Roth, President of CCA, stated they were pleased with the motion on the table and noted CCA Louisiana supported the reduction to 15 the trout creel in southwest Louisiana. At the request of Lake Charles CCA, the State Board has surveyed the members and found an overwhelming majority support.

Mr. Erik Rue, operator for Calcasieu Charter Service, expressed his support. He agreed with Commissioner Miller's statement that this was a "forward looking deal". He then asked for the Commission to pass the proposal.

Mr. Kirk Stansel, part owner of Hackberry Rod and Gun with his brothers, stated they were in support of the proposal. He added they surveyed their customers and found an overwhelming support for the 15 fish limit. Most of their customers come not to fill their ice chests, but to have a good time. He then read a quote from an article in the Louisiana Sportsman magazine. Mr. Stansel then asked the Commission to be proactive for the resource.

Mr. Allen Singletary, resident of Calcasieu Parish, began by thanking the Commission for implementing the trout size restriction. He also asked the Commission to be proactive. Mr. Singletary felt there was no downside to reducing the limit to 15. The restriction was needed for those who want to overharvest. He noted that when he began fishing and guiding on Big Lake, there were only 3 or 4 other boats, but now there are 300 or 400 boats out there. Mr. Singletary hoped the Commission would pass the proposal.

Mrs. Mary Poe, owner and operator with her husband of Big Lake Guide Service, stated they have been associated with CCA in an effort to promote conservation in Louisiana. However, she was concerned with the direction of the local chapter and the 15 fish limit. Mrs. Poe then stated she was opposed to the 15 fish limit unless it was done statewide. Calcasieu Lake and Sabine Lake were hit hard by Hurricane Rita and this has resulted in lots of guides no longer in operation. Boat launches, marinas and local motels were not available at this time. Mrs. Poe felt a reduction would give a lot of out-of-state and in-state fishermen the wrong impression about the fisheries. She believed the best effort should be to clean up the debris in Calcasieu Lake and address coastal restoration. To move the issue through just for Calcasieu Lake was wrong, but Mrs. Poe commented she would not be opposed if it was statewide. Commissioner Morrow asked Mrs. Poe if they have found their customers come for the sport of catching a limit or for the meat. Mrs. Poe answered it was both and added Louisiana residents were more interested in catching their limits. Commissioner Morrow then asked if customers were happy with the 2 fish over 25 inch restriction. Mrs. Poe stated most customers do not know there is a size limit for trout and they depend on the guides to give them that information. Commissioner Morrow asked, on an average trip, what would be the take for a guide and 2 fishermen. Mrs. Poe stated there are a lot of factors to consider, but on a good day the limit can be caught.

Mr. Jeff Poe, owner and operator of Big Lake Guide Service, stated the fish began biting about a week before Hurricane Rita and limits were caught. Since the storm, there has not been as many trips. Opening weekend of duck season was when they reopened their business and they have been catching their limits. Mr. Poe agreed with his wife that the 15 fish limit would not bother him, but he did not want it to happen just to him. He did not think there was much difference in the size of fish being caught in Calcasieu and those being taken in Venice or Lake Pontchartrain. Then Mr. Poe asked if he trailered his boat to the Mermentau and fished the rigs would he be able to catch 25 fish. Commissioner Miller answered it was a matter of where you land the fish as to how many you can have legally. Commissioner King asked if there were areas of the lake not fishable due to debris. Mr. Poe stated there are obstructions, but all of the lake was open.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Sagrera called for a vote on the motion by Commissioner Mouton and second by Commissioner Miller. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to amend a Rule, LAC 76:VII.341, modifying the recreational daily take and possession limit in a defined area within Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), R.S. 56:325.1(A), and R.S. 56:326.3.

Title 76 WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§341. Spotted Seatrout Management Measures

* * * *

È C. Recreational Regulations. Within those areas of the state, including coastal territorial waters, south of Interstate 10 from its junction at the Texas-Louisiana boundary eastward to its junction with Louisiana Highway 171, south to Highway 14, and then south to Holmwood, and then south on Highway 27 through Gibbstown south to Louisiana Highway 82 at Creole and south on Highway 82 to Oak Grove, and then due south to the western shore of the Mermentau River, following this shoreline south to the junction with the Gulf of Mexico, and then due south to the limit of the state territorial sea, ~~of the daily take and possession limit of 25 fish currently set out at R.S. 56:325.1A.(2)(b),~~ under the authority of the provisions of R.S.56:325.1(A), the daily take and possession limit shall be 15 fish, regardless of where taken, with no more than two (2) spotted seatrout exceeding twenty-five inches (25") total length. Those spotted seatrout exceeding 25 inches in length shall be considered as part of the daily recreational ~~bag limit~~ take and possession limit.

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), LR 32: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested parties may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to March 6, 2006.

In accordance with Act #1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Wayne J. Sagrera
Chairman

Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season was the first agenda item for Mr. Harry Blanchet. These action items were similar to those passed by the Commission last year. The recreational red snapper season is managed cooperatively with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service. The seasons were set for Federal waters and typically Louisiana waters has concurrent seasons which allows for more effective enforcement. Mr. Blanchet then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Samanie made a motion to accept the Resolution as read and it was seconded by Commissioner Mouton. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency are made a part of the record.)

Resolution

2006 Recreational Red Snapper Season
January 5, 2006

WHEREAS, the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council), and

WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore, and

WHEREAS, NMFS has put into place a regulatory amendment under the framework procedure of the reef fish fishery management plan that establishes a recreational red snapper quota equal to the recreational allocation, and authorizes the closure of the fishery for the remainder of the fishing year (=calendar year) in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico when the quota is reached or is projected to be reached, and

WHEREAS, the Gulf Council recommended to NMFS that the 2006 recreational quota for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico be set at 4.47 million pounds, and

WHEREAS, NMFS has closed the recreational fishing season for red snapper effective midnight October 31, 2005 until April 21, 2006 by reducing the bag limit to zero in the EEZ off of Louisiana for that time period, and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has enacted a closure in Louisiana state waters consistent with the EEZ closure which is preferable as it assists in enforcement of fishery rules, and

WHEREAS, in order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 2006 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 allow the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby establishes the 2006 season for the recreational harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the recreational red snapper season when he is informed by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the recreational red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been filled or is projected to be filled, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission also hereby authorizes the Secretary to modify the opening and closing dates in State waters if he is notified that the opening and closing of Federal waters are other than those specified in this Declaration of Emergency, and to open an additional recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened an additional recreational season, and to close such

season when he is informed that the recreational quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all applicable rules regarding red snapper harvest including size, daily take and possession limits established by the Commission shall be in effect during the open season hereby established, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Declaration of Emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2006 recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Wayne J. Sagrera, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2006 Recreational Red Snapper Season

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council). Regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore. Rules were established by NMFS to close recreational harvest season in the EEZ off of Louisiana effective midnight October 31, 2005 until 12:01 am April 21, 2006 by reducing the bag limit to zero, and NMFS requested that consistent regulations be established in Louisiana waters. NMFS typically requests consistent regulations in order to enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

In order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 2006 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B), the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:967 which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish; the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby sets the following seasons for recreational harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters:

The season for the recreational fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will remain closed until 12:01 am April 21, 2006 by reducing the bag limit to zero for that time period. The season will open at 12:01 a.m. April 21, 2006 and continue until midnight October 31, 2006.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the recreational red snapper season when he is informed by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the recreational red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been filled or is projected to be filled.

The Commission also hereby authorizes the Secretary to modify the opening and closing dates in State waters if he is notified that the opening and closing of Federal waters are other than those specified in this Declaration of Emergency, and to open an additional recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened an additional recreational season, and to close such season when he is informed that the recreational quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled.

Effective with the recreational red snapper season closure, no person, except those who possess a Class 1 or Class 2 commercial red snapper license issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish and who are legally taking red snapper during an open commercial season, shall possess any red snapper whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters.

Wayne J. Sagrera
Chairman

Next item for Mr. Blanchet was a **Declaration of Emergency - Reef Fish (including Red Snapper) Commercial Seasons and Trip Limits**. He stated the only difference from last year was the National Marine Fisheries Service established a 6,000 pound trip limit for commercial grouper harvest for this coming year. The Resolution gives the Secretary the authority to change the commercial trip limits if any reef fish species are adjusted during the season. Mr. Blanchet then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. A motion was made by Commissioner King and seconded by Commissioner Miller to accept the Resolution as read. This motion passed unanimously.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

2006 REEF FISH (INCLUDING RED SNAPPER) COMMERCIAL SEASONS AND TRIP LIMITS

January 5, 2006

- WHEREAS, the reef fish complex is composed of several groups of species that inhabit marine waters off the coast of Louisiana, including red snapper, other species of snappers, groupers, amberjacks, triggerfishes, grunts, wrasses, sea basses, tilefishes and porgies, with the species listed in LAC 76:VII.335, and
- WHEREAS, the reef fish fisheries are cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council), and
- WHEREAS, some species such as the red snapper are managed with species-specific seasons, while others are managed as species groups, such as the shallow-water and deep-water groupers and tilefishes, and
- WHEREAS, some of these species groups have trip limit regulations for commercial harvesters, which may change over the course of the season, and
- WHEREAS, NMFS recently promulgated a rule establishing a 6,000 pound commercial trip and possession limit for shallow-water and deep-water groupers combined, and
- WHEREAS, rules are established by NMFS, to provide for commercial harvest seasons for red snapper in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and
- WHEREAS, commercial quotas have been established for some of these species groups, which have the potential to be filled during the course of the fishing year, and
- WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and
- WHEREAS, the NMFS and the Gulf Council regularly request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to implement consistent regulations in Louisiana state waters which are preferable as they assist in enforcement of fishery rules, and
- WHEREAS, in order to enact regulations in a timely manner, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 allow the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons and all rules and regulations pursuant thereto, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:326.3 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby establishes the 2006 seasons for commercial harvest of reef fish including red snapper in Louisiana state waters as described in the attached Declaration of Emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to close the 2006 commercial red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters when he is informed by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that the designated portions of the commercial red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico have been filled, or are projected to be filled, for each set of seasons, and such closure order shall close the season until the date set for the re-opening of the commercial red snapper season in Federal waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the opening and closing dates for the commercial red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters if he is informed by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the season dates for the commercial harvest of red snapper in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico as set out herein have been modified, and that the Regional Administrator of NMFS requests that the seasons be modified in Louisiana state waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the season for the commercial harvest of any species or group of species of fishes listed in LAC 76:VII.335, and to re-open and re-close these seasons in Louisiana state waters if he is informed by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the same season has been modified in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and that the Regional Administrator of NMFS requests that the season be modified in Louisiana state waters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to modify commercial trip or possession limits for the commercial harvest of any species or group of species of fishes listed in LAC 76:VII.335 in Louisiana state waters if he is informed by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the same commercial trip or possession limit has been established or modified in the federal waters

of the Gulf of Mexico, and that the Regional Administrator of NMFS requests that the trip or possession limit be modified in Louisiana state waters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all applicable rules regarding reef fish harvest, including possession limits, permit requirements and size limits established by the Commission shall be in effect during the open seasons hereby established, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Declaration of Emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Declaration of Emergency setting 2006 commercial reef fish seasons in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Wayne J. Sagrera, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2006 Reef Fish (Including Red Snapper) Commercial Seasons and Trip Limits

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B), the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:967 which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, and R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

Red snapper commercial seasons: The 2006 seasons for the commercial harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters are as follows: the first commercial fishing season for red snapper will open at 12 noon on February 1, 2006, and remain open until 12:00 noon on February 10. This pattern will continue each month until two-thirds of the 2005 commercial quota for red snapper is harvested. The second commercial red snapper season will open at 12 noon on October 1, 2006, and remain open until 12 noon on October 10, and will also continue in this format each month until the entire 2006 quota is harvested.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to close the 2006 commercial red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters when he is

informed by the Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that the designated portions of the commercial red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico have been filled, or are projected to be filled, for each set of seasons, and such closure order shall close the season until the date set for the re-opening of the commercial red snapper season in Federal waters. All applicable rules regarding red snapper harvest including trip limits, permit requirements, and size limits, established by the Commission shall be in effect during the open seasons hereby established.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the opening and closing dates for the commercial red snapper season in Louisiana state waters if he is informed by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the season dates for the commercial harvest of red snapper in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico as set out herein have been modified, and that the Regional Administrator of NMFS requests that the season be modified in Louisiana state waters.

Commercial Trip and Possession Limits for Reef Fish: The commercial trip and possession limit for deep-water and shallow-water grouper combined (black, misty, Warsaw, red, snowy, yellowedge, yellowfin and yellowmouth groupers, red hind, rock hind, speckled hind, gag and scamp), shall be 6,000 pounds per vessel. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to establish and modify trip and possession limits for the commercial harvest of any species or group of species of the fishes listed in LAC 76:VII.335, Reef Fish – Harvest Regulations, in Louisiana state waters if he is informed by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the applicable trip or possession limit has been established for the Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and if he is requested by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the State of Louisiana enact compatible regulations in Louisiana state waters.

Effective with any commercial trip or possession limit under this emergency rule, no person shall commercially harvest, possess, purchase, exchange, barter, trade, sell, or attempt to purchase, exchange, barter, trade or sell the affected species or group of species, whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters in excess of such established commercial trip or possession limit.

Commercial Seasons for Reef Fish: In addition to the seasons set forth above for the commercial harvest of red snapper, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to close the season for the commercial harvest of any species or group of species of the fishes listed in LAC 76:VII.335, Reef Fish – Harvest Regulations, in Louisiana state waters if he is informed by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the applicable commercial quota has been harvested in the Gulf of Mexico, and if he is requested by the Regional Administrator of NMFS that the State of Louisiana enact compatible regulations in Louisiana state waters.

The Commission also hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to re-open and close the commercial seasons described here in

Louisiana state waters if he is informed by NMFS that the season dates for the commercial harvest of these fish species in the Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico as set out herein have been modified, and that NMFS requests that the season be modified in Louisiana state waters.

Effective with seasonal closures under this Emergency Rule, no person shall commercially harvest, possess, purchase, exchange, barter, trade, sell, or attempt to purchase, exchange, barter, trade, or sell the affected species of fish, whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters. Also effective with this closure, no person shall possess the affected species of fish in excess of a daily bag limit, which may only be in possession during the open recreational season by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Nothing shall prohibit the possession or sale of fish by a commercial dealer if legally taken prior to the closure providing that all commercial dealers possessing such fish taken legally prior to the closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6.

Wayne J. Sagrera
Chairman

The last item for Mr. Harry Blanchet was a **Declaration of Emergency - King Mackerel Commercial Season**. This action was very similar to last year's in setting the season which is done on an annual basis. Mr. Blanchet then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Hearing no questions, Commissioner Samanie made a motion to accept the Resolution as read. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion and it unanimously passed.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

2006 COMMERCIAL KING MACKEREL SEASON

January 5, 2006

WHEREAS, the king mackerel fishery in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council), and

WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U. S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore, and

WHEREAS, NMFS requests consistent regulations in Louisiana state waters, which are preferable as they assist in enforcement of fishery rules, and

WHEREAS, the 2006 commercial king mackerel season in EEZ waters is scheduled to open on July 1, 2006, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 49:953(B) allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons by emergency rule and R.S. 49:967 allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set finfish seasons and all rules and regulations pursuant thereto by emergency rule, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and R.S. 56:326.3 provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby establishes the 2006 season for commercial harvest of king mackerel in Louisiana state waters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or is projected to be harvested, such closure order shall close the season until 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2007, which is the date expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2007 commercial king mackerel season in Federal waters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission also authorizes the Secretary to open additional commercial king mackerel seasons in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened such additional seasons and to close such seasons when he is informed that the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all applicable rules regarding the commercial king mackerel harvest including trip and size limits established by the Commission shall be in effect during the open season hereby established, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Declaration of Emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Declaration of Emergency setting

the 2006 commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Wayne J. Sagrera, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2006 Commercial King Mackerel Season

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B), the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:967 which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons and all rules and regulations pursuant thereto by emergency rule, and R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and 56:326.3 which provide that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish; the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby sets the following season for the commercial harvest of king mackerel in Louisiana state waters:

The commercial season for king mackerel in Louisiana state waters will open at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2006 and remain open until the allotted portion of the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or projected to be harvested.

The Commission grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or is projected to be harvested, such closure order shall close the season until 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2007, which is the date expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2007 commercial king mackerel season in Federal waters.

The Commission also authorizes the Secretary to open additional commercial king mackerel seasons in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened such additional seasons and to close such seasons when he is informed that the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled.

Effective with seasonal closures under this Emergency Rule, no person shall commercially harvest, possess, purchase, exchange, barter, trade, sell, or attempt to purchase, exchange, barter, trade, or sell king mackerel, whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters. Also effective with this closure, no person shall

possess king mackerel in excess of a daily bag limit, which may only be in possession during the open recreational season by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Nothing shall prohibit the possession or sale of fish by a commercial dealer if legally taken prior to the closure providing that all commercial dealers possessing such fish taken legally prior to the closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6.

Wayne J. Sagrera
Chairman

Chairman Sagrera then announced that former Commission Member Houston Foret was attending the meeting.

Consideration of Offshore Territorial Sea Shrimp Closure was handled by Mr. Marty Bourgeois. The proposed action would close to shrimping a portion of state outside waters from eastern shore of Atchafalaya River at Eugene Island to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal effective Monday, January 9, 2006 at 6 a.m. Sampling indicate white shrimp overwintering in these outside waters average smaller than the legal 100 count per pound. Mr. Bourgeois anticipated small shrimp would continue to recruit to those waters and growth would be slow. The Resolution would authorize the Secretary to close if necessary any remaining outside waters if biological, technical or enforcement situations arise and to reopen any areas closed to shrimping when the closure was no longer needed.

This Resolution would also authorize the Secretary to open special seasons for the harvest of white shrimp in inside waters when it would not impact small brown shrimp. Chairman Sagrera asked Mr. Bourgeois to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. A motion to accept the Resolution as read was made by Commissioner Morrow and it was seconded by Commissioner King. Commissioner Samanie requested that Enforcement be aggressive in their patrols on the 100 count law within the open areas. Hearing no further comments, the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Resolution and Declaration of
Emergency are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

2006 Closure of State Outside Waters to Shrimping
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
January 5, 2006

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the open shrimp seasons for all or part of the state waters shall be fixed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission,
and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the Commission shall also have the right to set special seasons for all or part of the state waters, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the Commission shall have the authority to open or close outside waters by zone each year as it deems appropriate upon inspection of and based upon technical and biological data which indicates that marketable shrimp, in sufficient quantities, are available for harvest, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides that the possession count on saltwater white shrimp for each cargo lot shall average no more than 100 (whole specimens) count per pound, except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and

WHEREAS, in state outside waters, water temperatures remain below 15 degrees Centigrade and the growth rate of white shrimp is therefore slow, and

WHEREAS, current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in a portion of state outside waters average smaller than 100 possession count and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters during the remainder of winter and early spring, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby order a closure to shrimping in that portion of state outside waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal at longitude 92° 18' 33" W to the eastern shore of the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel red buoy line, at 6 a.m. on Monday, January 9, 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of remaining state outside waters, if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open special seasons for the harvest of white shrimp in any portion of the State's inside waters where such a season would not detrimentally impact developing brown shrimp populations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Declaration of Emergency closing state outside waters is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Wayne J. Sagrera, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

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 have the authority to open or close state outside waters to shrimping by zone each year as it deems appropriate, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby orders a closure to shrimping in that portion of state outside waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal at longitude 92° 18' 33" W to the eastern shore of the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel red buoy line. This closure is effective at 6 a.m., Monday, January 9, 2006.

R.S. 56:498 provides that the possession count on saltwater white shrimp for each cargo lot shall average no more than 100 (whole specimens) count per pound except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December. Current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in this portion of state outside waters do not average 100 possession count and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters. This action is being taken to protect these small white shrimp and provide them the opportunity to grow to a larger and more valuable size.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of remaining state outside waters, if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so or if enforcement problems develop, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary; and hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open and close special shrimp seasons in any portion of state inside waters where such a season would not detrimentally impact developing brown shrimp populations.

Wayne J. Sagrera
Chairman

Consideration of Resolution Regarding Correspondence and Public Statement began with Mr. Don Puckett reminding the Commission that they requested he draft a Resolution

on correspondence from Commission members and on behalf of the Commission as well as public statements. The first part of the draft was modified due to conversations with some of the members. Initially, there was to be no reference to Commission membership in the letterhead itself, but it could be included in the body of a letter. Commissioner King contacted Mr. Puckett and stated there were instances when he was corresponding to an individual on Commission business where it was important that he be identified as a Commissioner. It was modified due to this conversation. Chairman Sagrera asked Mr. Puckett to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Denmon stated he has participated in a number of organizations and asked if there was a case where a Chairman would sign a document that was not approved by the Commission. Mr. Puckett replied that all documents signed by the Chairman are authorized and directed by the full Commission. Hearing no further questions, Commissioner Miller made a motion to accept the Resolution as read. Commissioner Denmon seconded the motion and it 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
January 5, 2006

WHEREAS, it is important that it be clear to the public and the press when this Commission has taken a position on a matter of public interest.

WHEREAS, it is important that when such a position has been taken that that position be clearly understood by the public and the press.

WHEREAS, it is equally important that it be clear to the public and the press when this Commission has not taken a position on a matter of public interest.

WHEREAS, additionally, individual Commission members are frequently called upon to comment upon matters that are under the jurisdiction of this Commission.

WHEREAS, it is the objective or desire of this Commission that those Commission members be free to do so, but in a manner that makes it clear that they are speaking as individual Commission members.

WHEREAS, in order to accomplish these ends, procedures should be established.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission does hereby adopt the following procedures:

1. (a) All correspondence from or on behalf of this Commission shall be signed and sent out only by the Chairman or his designee, and only following a directive or a resolution from the full Commission authorizing or directing same. No individual Commission member shall use official Commission letterhead unless directed to do so by the Chairman.

(b) An individual Commission member may create personal letterhead stationery that identifies him as "Member, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission" if the use of such letterhead is coupled with the following disclaimer: "The views presented are my own and do not necessarily represent those of the Commission or the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries." or words to that effect. Any such letterhead stationery is to be used solely in connection with matters which are under the jurisdiction of the Commission; and in no instance shall such letterhead stationery be used on personal matters or matters outside the jurisdiction of the Commission. In no instance shall any individual Commission member use letterhead stationery identifying himself as "Commissioner". In no instance shall any individual Commission member create or use stationery which purports to represent the entire Commission, unless directed to do so by the Commission at the direction of its Chairman.

2. Individual Commission members are encouraged to respond to the public or the press when queried about matters under the jurisdiction of the Commission. However, such comments should be accompanied by a statement to the effect that the view expressed is solely that of the individual Commission member, and not of the Commission, unless the individual Commission member is restating an official position taken by the Commission at a regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting.

This Resolution shall govern the actions of all Commission members and shall remain in full force and effect unless and until rescinded or modified.

Wayne J. Sagrera, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman began with Commissioner Miller nominating Commissioner Denmon for the Chairmanship of the Commission for 2006. Hearing no other nominations, Commissioner Denmon was elected by acclamation. Then Commissioner Samanie nominated Commissioner King for Vice-Chairman for 2006. Hearing no other nominations, Commissioner King was elected by acclamation.

Commissioner Denmon then stated that on behalf of all of the Commissioners, he wanted to present a plaque to Chairman Sagrera in appreciation for his year of service as Chairman. Chairman Sagrera thanked the members and stated it was an honor to serve.

Following discussion on the timeframe for setting the spring shrimp season, the Commissioners agreed to hold the **May 2006 Meeting** on Thursday, May 4, 2006, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Sagrera asked for **Public Comments** and none were heard.

There being no further business, Commissioner King made a motion to **Adjourn** the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Miller.

Dwight Landreneau
Secretary

DL:scf

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
JANUARY 5, 2006

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