

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

December 6, 2012

ANN TAYLOR
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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

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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.
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AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
December 6, 2012

	Page
1. Roll Call	1
2. Approval of Minutes of November 1, 2012	1
3. Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege	1
4. To hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November	2
5. Presentation of the Shikar Safari Club International Agent of the Year Award	2
6. To Receive an Update on the Whooping Crane Project	2
7. To Receive and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Modify Existing Rules for the Commercial Harvest of Large Coastal Sharks	3
8. To Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Modify Existing Rules for the Commercial Harvest of Large Coastal Sharks	6
9. To Receive an Update on the July Reef Fish Harvest Regulations Notice of Intent	8
10. To Receive and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Closure Shrimping in Portions of State Outside Waters	9
11. To Receive a Presentation on Fish Assemblages on Artificial Reefs	13
12. Set April 2012 Meeting Date	13
13. Receive Public Comments	13
14. Executive Session to Discuss Prospective Litigation relative to return of Artificial Reef Fund Monies	14
15. Adjournment	14

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, December 6, 2012

Chairman Ann Taylor presiding.

Pat Manuel
Stephen Sagera
Ronny Graham
Billy Broussard
Will Drost
Mike Voisin

Secretary Robert Barham was also present.

Chairman Graham called for a motion for approval of the **November 1, 2012 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Voisin and seconded by Commissioner Broussard. The motion passed with no opposition.

For the agenda item, **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege**, Commissioner Voisin made a motion to add to the agenda “**Executive Session to Discuss Prospective Litigation relative to return of Artificial Reef Fund Monies**” after Public Comments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Graham and passed with no opposition.

Commissioner Voisin then asked for an update on Regional Management, relating specifically to Red Snapper. Randy Pausina, Assistant Secretary of Fisheries, answered the Monday and Tuesday is the State Directors meeting on Regional Management. In January the Gulf Council has called a special Reef Fish Committee meeting for Regional Management. Mr. Pausina suggested that we let the meetings happen, and we will present more information at the February Commission meeting. He stated that Gulf Council did move to begin implementation of Regional Management, which will begin the process. Mr. Pausina stated that even if everything moved forward, nothing could be implemented until 2014. Commissioner Voisin asked Secretary Barham about the coalition that was put together with Mississippi and Alabama. Secretary Barham stated that he has been in contact with the directors in those states, and they have all agreed to move forward jointly. After the first of the year all of the Gulf States, including Florida and Texas, will put together communication to bring to Washington stating that nine miles is the proper limit for all Gulf States to manage. Mr. Pausina added that there are actually two documents, a compact between all Gulf States, as well as a request to the feds. Commissioner Voisin asked about compliance once the Red Snapper season opens next year. Mr. Pausina stated that the season is not yet set, so technically we are not out of compliance. He restated that our staff will bring more information to the February meeting. Secretary Barham noted that Florida just voted to go non-compliant on Gag Grouper.

Commissioner Voisin asked for a mid-year financial update at the January meeting, including income, expenditures, and balances. Lois Azzarello, Undersecretary, confirmed that we will provide that information at the January Meeting.

Lt. Col. Joey Broussard stated, for the agenda item, **To hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November**, the departments planes flew a total of 91.8 aviation hours for the month. There were 5 boating accidents reported with 0 injuries and 1 fatality. Col. Broussard offered a comparison of boating incidents and fatalities this year versus this time in 2011. In 2011 there were 143 incidents by this time versus 135, and 36 fatalities by this time versus 29 in 2012. Overall, compared to 2011, boating accidents, injuries, and deaths are lower in 2012. Three news releases were discussed. The first was on a father and son arrested for deer hunting violations in Avoyelles Parish. The second was on two New Orleans men cited for red drum violations in Plaquemines Parish. They had over double the daily limit and undersized red drum. The final case was on two men sentenced in intentional concealment case in Plaquemines Parish. There were a total of 1721 cases, 548 written warnings issued during November and agents helped with 57 public assists.

Commissioner Voisin commented that the department was complimented by the FDA for their efforts in Oyster time and temperature requirements. Col. Broussard commented that there have been a lot more officers working on this statewide, and that the department has seen much success.

The next item, **Presentation of the Shikar Safari Club International Agent of the Year Award**, was handled by Lt. Col. Sammy Martin. The Shikar-Safari Club International Agent of the Year award recognizes an agent from each state for outstanding efforts in conservation law enforcement. This year's Officer of the Year award for Louisiana was presented to LDWF Captain Robert Buatt, 50, of Egan in Acadia Parish. Capt. Buatt is a 21 year veteran who has led his region with cases. Mr. Chris Kinsey of Shikar Safari Club International was present to present the award to Capt. Buatt.

The next item, **To Receive an Update on the Whooping Crane Project**, was handled by Mr. Bob Love. Mr. Love began by stating that the Whooping Crane is a Louisiana treasure that has been absent for over 60 years. Last week Louisiana received six male and eight female juvenile cranes, which were soft released into the coastal marsh. These new cranes doubled the population, as there are two left from the first cohort, and 12 left from the second. Mr. Love noted that private land owners are important to the success of the cranes. He recognized the sponsors of the project, Conoco Phillips, Chevron, Acadian Ambulance, and Louisiana Network. Mr. Love introduced and showed a commercial that has been produced to raise awareness of the cranes. He said that education workshops have been developed for middle and high school teachers to conduct in the classroom, as well as reward posters for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons illegally hunting or killing whooping cranes. Commissioner Voisin asked if the cranes reproduce. Mr. Love answered yes, that the goal is to have 130 birds and 25 nesting pairs. The cranes reach sexual maturity at 2-3 years of age, and 7-8 years is when

the highest rate of nesting success occurs. Mr. Love also noted that Louisiana is unique, as it has two million acres of contiguous habitat for the cranes.

The next two items, **To Receive and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Modify Existing Rules for the Commercial Harvest of Large Coastal Sharks, and To Receive and Consider a Notice of Intent to Modify Existing Rules for the Commercial Harvest of Large Coastal Sharks**, were handled by Mr. Harry Blanchet. Mr. Blanchet stated that these two items accomplish the same thing, but that the Declaration of Emergency is necessary for the upcoming season. These actions would change the limit from 33 to 36 sharks per vessel to be consistent with federal regulations. Commissioner Voisin clarified that the limit was being changed to 36, and then made a motion to pass the Declaration of Emergency. Commissioner Broussard seconded the motion. There being no further discussion 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

Shark Harvest Regulations - Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks

Commercial Possession Limit

The shark fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico are cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S.

Previously promulgated rules, 50 CFR 635.24(a)(2), by NMFS restricting the possession limit of commercially harvested sharks from the Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks group (great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse,

blacktip, bull, lemon, silky, spinner and tiger sharks) from 36 to 33 sharks in the Gulf of Mexico will expire effective January 1, 2013. 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 to coincide with the regulation set forth by NMFS, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted.

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 which allows the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set finfish seasons, R.S. 56:6(25)(a) and R.S. 56:326.3 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set possession limits, seasons, and daily take limits based upon biological and technical data for saltwater finfish taken or possessed in Louisiana waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby declares:

Persons possessing a commercial state shark permit but no federal shark permit shall not possess on any one day, or on any trip, or land from any trip, or sell, barter, trade, or exchange in excess of 36 sharks per vessel from the Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Species group (great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, nurse, blacktip, bull, lemon, silky, spinner

and tiger sharks), taken from Louisiana state waters during the 2013 season for the commercial harvest of Large Coastal Sharks. Persons possessing a commercial state shark permit shall not possess any sandbar sharks unless they also have in their name and in possession a valid federal shark research permit under 50 CFR 635.32(1). Those persons possessing a federal commercial directed or incidental limited access shark permit or federal shark research permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sharks are limited to daily take, trip and possession limits as specified in that federal permit. This Declaration of Emergency is effective with the opening of the 2013 season for the commercial harvest of Large Coastal Sharks in Louisiana state waters.

The Commission also hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to modify any provisions pursuant to this declaration of emergency when notified by NOAA Fisheries that changes have been made regarding the possession of Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Sharks in the Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein upon notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Such authority shall extend through January 31, 2014.

Ann L. Taylor

Chairman

Commissioner Voisin also made a motion to accept the Notice of Intent to Modify Existing Rules for the Commercial Harvest of Large Coastal Sharks. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broussard. There being no further discussion 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

Sharks and Sawfishes – Harvest Regulations

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (LAC 76:VII.357) modifying rules for the commercial harvest of shark, which are part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for shark set by the Commission. Authority of adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(10), R.S. 56:6(25) (a), R.S. 56:326(E) (2), R.S. 56:326.1, R.S. 56:326.3, R.S. 56:320.2(C), and R.S. 325.2(A). Said Rule is attached to and made a part of this Notice of Intent.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§357. Sharks and Sawfishes–Harvest Regulations

A - H.1 ...

2. Persons possessing a Commercial State Shark Permit but no Federal Shark permit shall not possess on any one day, or on any trip, or land from any trip, or sell, barter, trade, or exchange in excess of ~~33~~ 36 sharks per vessel from the large coastal species group, taken from Louisiana state waters. Persons possessing a Commercial State Shark Permit shall not possess any sandbar sharks unless they also have in their name and in possession a valid Federal Shark Research permit under 50CFR635.32(1).

H.3 - O...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(10), R.S. 56:326(E) (2), R.S. 56:326.1, R.S. 56:326.3, R.S. 56:320.2(C), and R.S. 325.2(A).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:543 (March 1999), amended LR 27:2267 (December 2001), LR 30:1507 (July 2004), LR 35:705 (April 2009), LR 39:

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to Jason Adriance, Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, or via e-mail to jadriance@wlf.la.gov prior to Thursday, February 7, 2013.

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 the 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.

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).

Ann L. Taylor

Chairman

Mr. Blanchet also handled the next agenda item, **To Receive an Update on the July Reef Fish Harvest Regulations Notice of Intent**. Mr. Blanchet stated that there are several changes that they would like to make to the Reef Fish Notice of Intent. In July a NOI was passed to include reporting requirements for the harvest of reef fish as part of the Recreational Offshore Landing Permit for Reef Fish species. Since publication of the NOI in the State Register there have been internal discussions that these are burdensome to recreational fishermen, so the department is proposing that the Recreational Offshore Landing Permit would still be required, but reporting would not be required, except for reporting of yellowfin tuna harvest, which would be an adequate test bed. There is language included to allow secretarial authority to open and close reef fish seasons with a Declaration of Emergency. Mr. Blanchet stated that we are proposing to not publish the final Rule of the July NOI in the State Register. If it is not published within one year it goes away; however, we can also publish it within a year or repromulgate a new NOI. No action is necessary if the Commission agrees with not publishing it as a final Rule. Commissioner Broussard asked if we are temporarily doing away with reef fish landing permits. Mr. Blanchet answered that they will still need the permit, but will not be required to do the reporting. Commissioner Broussard asked if requiring the permit will give an accurate estimate

on effort. Mr. Blanchet answered that it will not show the effort, but will provide a universe of who is fishing, which can then be sampled. Commissioner Broussard asked if this is specifically for reef fish as recognized by the feds, and Mr. Blanchet answered yes, that is how it was initially drafted. Mr. Blanchet stated that once we have a better handle from the reporting of yellowfin tuna we will have a better basis, moving forward, for any reporting requirements. Commissioner Broussard asked about trip reporting of yellowfin, and Mr. Blanchet stated that it would be done on the way back in, before hitting the dock. He also stated that the department is currently working with a third party developer to develop applications for several different methods of reporting. Commissioner Broussard asked for clarification on what is meant by “back to the dock”, and Mr. Blanchet stated that it must be done before the fish are offloaded. There being no further discussion Chairman Taylor clarified that no action needed to be taken, and Mr. Blanchet confirmed.

Mr. Marty Bourgeois handled the next agenda item, **To Receive and Consider a Declaration of Emergency to Close Shrimping in Portions of State Outside Waters.** Mr. Bourgeois stated that the department’s recommendation today asks that the Commission consider closing shrimping in waters seaward to three nautical miles, from Caillou Boca westward to Freshwater Bayou. This is where the department’s monitoring program provides a strong basis for understanding population dynamics. This action would become effective at official sunset on December 18th, but following notification to the Chairman, the Secretary could delay the closing date if needed. Mr. Bourgeois stated that it is not technically winter, and shrimp growth is still there, so there may be the possibility that we could delay the closure for a while to allow continued harvest. This DE also gives the Secretary authority to close any portion of additional state outside waters as needed, to reopen any closed areas as needed, and to open and close any special shrimp seasons in portions of state inside waters. With that Mr. Bourgeois welcomed any questions.

Commissioner Manuel asked why this is necessary, and why in that area. Mr. Bourgeois stated that there is a statute that states that the minimum possession size is 100 count/lb.; however, there is an exemption from October 15th through the third Monday in December. When the exemption expires the 100 count/lb. minimum possession size goes back into effect as a way to protect fishermen from overharvesting, and to allow the small shrimp to grow to a larger, more marketable size. Mr. Bourgeois added that the closure zone is where the largest numbers of small shrimp are found along the coast, although they are in other areas as well. Commissioner Broussard made a motion to accept the Declaration of Emergency, and Commissioner Drost seconded the motion.

Commissioner Voisin asked what the biologists are seeing as far as size with the warmer weather. Mr. Bourgeois stated that in the section of the closure area east of the Atchafalaya River, samples collected last week were 102 count/lb., three weeks ago the size was 106 count/lb., and two weeks ago 187 count/lb., so there are small shrimp there. Looking at the samples west of the Atchafalaya River, toward Freshwater Bayou, the shrimp are larger. Three

weeks ago they were 58 count/lb., last week they were right at 97 count/lb., and most recently 80 count/lb., so there may be an opportunity to delay the effective date in that area. Commissioner Voisin confirmed that the Declaration of Emergency would allow for the Secretary to delay the closure in that area after notifying the Chairman. Mr. Bourgeois stated that the closure would be on the 18th, and the Secretary is being given authority to delay that.

For Public Comments, David Chauvin was first to speak. Mr. Chauvin was against the proposal, citing recent trip ticket data that showed sizeable shrimp west of the Atchafalaya. Mr. Chauvin requested that the west side of the Atchafalaya remain open into January. Commissioner Voisin asked if he made a motion to keep the area from the Atchafalaya River west to Freshwater Bayou open until January 7th, would that satisfy what he is trying to accomplish. Mr. Chauvin stated that he would support that, but that he would like the whole area to stay open. Commissioner Manuel asked why, if the Secretary has authority to delay the closure, we wouldn't leave it as written in the Declaration of Emergency, and Commissioner Voisin answered that it would give the shrimpers security that they will be able to harvest until then. Chairman Taylor asked how quickly shrimp change size. Mr. Bourgeois answered that shrimp size is very dynamic, that it can change with the tide, which happens two times per day, as well as weather patterns. He noted that the department is taking weekly snapshots, but that shrimpers are seeing the changes daily. Commissioner Graham noted that if the shrimp stay large the Secretary will delay the closure, so it seems like the proposed Declaration of Emergency would suffice. Commissioner Voisin stated that he agrees, but that delaying the closure date would give the shrimpers security that it will stay open. He commented that the warmer waters will allow the shrimp to grow, or at least maintain their size. Commissioner Graham asked if, according to what he hears, shrimpers will continue to be able to harvest as long as the counts stay up. Mr. Bourgeois stated that if nothing changes the season will close on December 18th if left as is, but if the data indicate large enough shrimp, the Secretary may keep it open. Mr. Pausina added that the wisdom of the legislature when this statute was put in place was to protect the shrimp sizes for the current year, as this is the crop that will be harvested inshore later on. There was further discussion on the statute and technicalities.

Commissioner Voisin made a motion to adopt the Declaration of Emergency, altering that from the Atchafalaya west to Freshwater Bayou remain open until January 7, 2013. Commissioner Broussard seconded the motion. Mr. Ronny Anderson submitted a comment card stating that he supports open and closures as the data permits. Secretary Barham asked if the new closure date would still have the language stating that the Secretary would have the authority to close the season if the data permits. Commissioner Voisin clarified that everything will remain the same except for the closure date from the Atchafalaya west to Freshwater Bayou, and that the Secretary will have authority to do an emergency closure if necessary. There being no further discussion or comments, the Declaration of Emergency passed as amended.

(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

Partial Closure of State Outside Waters to Shrimping

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of 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 seaward a distance of three nautical miles, from the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at 90 degrees 50 minutes 27 seconds west longitude westward to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel red buoy line, effective at official sunset, Tuesday, December 18, 2012, and, 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 seaward a distance of three nautical miles from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel red buoy line westward to the western shore of

Freshwater Bayou Canal at 92 degrees 18 minutes 33 seconds west longitude, effective at official sunset, Monday, January 7, 2013.

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 average white shrimp size in certain portions of these state outside waters is slightly larger than 100 count per pound; however, historical data indicate that significant numbers of smaller size white shrimp occupying coastal lakes and bays migrate into these waters as water temperatures drop in conjunction with the onset of winter. 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 delay the closing date, if marketable quantities of shrimp are available for harvest, and to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of state 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 following notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission; 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 following notification to the Chairman of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Ann L. Taylor

Chair

The next item, **To Receive a Presentation on Fish Assemblages on Artificial Reefs**, was handled by Mr. Doug Peter. Mr. Pausina stated that this is a presentation that was given to the Gulf Council by Myron Fischer, but that he could not be here today. The video that will be shown is a very brief representation of the different forms of life that are on the artificial reefs, which most people probably are not aware of. A second video will also be shown that was produced by Apache Corporation which provides an idea of the value that some of the oil and gas companies feel the Artificial Reef Program provides. The structures shown in the first video range from 30-40 miles offshore.

After the videos were shown there was discussion about the artificial reefs. Chairman Taylor asked about developing more reefs closer to shore. Mr. Peter answered that we have a very good offshore reef program, but due to user interaction, navigational rules, and other things it is more difficult to develop reefs near shore, but that the department is looking into those options. This is a voluntary program, so if it is not cost beneficial for the companies who own the rigs it is difficult to gain participation. It would require user-group buy-in, agreements with the Coast Guard as far as marking requirements and determining what our long-term liability would be. Chairman Taylor noted that Alabama has several artificial reefs close to the shore and asked if we can model after them. Mr. Peter answered that we can look at other materials, but rigs are difficult. He noted that we have more pipelines off our shores.

The Commissioners set the April Commission Meeting on April 4, 2013.

For public comments Joe Macaluso told the Commission that next month he will provide an update on fish records, stating that 42 new fish have been entered into state records.

Mr. Francis Ernst, Jr. stated he has oyster leases in South Terrebonne, and that boats from Wilson's Oyster Company have been stealing oysters from him in an area that is closed to fishing. He stated that he has been unable to get help from WLF. Major Sammy Martin stated that the department has had a record number of cases this year, and that agents are working around the clock. He said that the policy is if an agent witnesses the crime a citation can be written, otherwise, you must file charges yourself. There was further discussion on the policy and crimes being committed. Commissioner Voisin stated that at the last Oyster Task Force meeting a letter was written to all coastal District Attorney's and there will be meetings held with them asking to prosecute violators to the full extent of the law. There was discussion on the issue and possible solutions. Mr. Willie Daisy also had the same problem as Mr. Ernst, but did not wish to speak, as everything had already been discussed.

Mrs. Kim Chauvin suggested that WLF meet with the shrimping industry on the nine mile boundary to discuss all the issues this would entail and to make sure that the shrimping industry has input in the issue. Mrs. Chauvin also asked if the department is aware of the boats that work with LGL with the recorders on the boats to determine where they are trawling at. Mr. Pausina confirmed that the department is aware of Bennie Callaway's group and that we work with them very closely, and their data is used to plan artificial reef areas. Mrs. Chauvin asked about reporting requirements for Red Snapper, asking how a management plan can be developed with no data, and the issue was discussed. Mrs. Chauvin expressed her belief that reporting requirements should be implemented before a year is up so that the pressure on the fishery can be best understood.

Next to comment was Randy Wilbanks who addressed the Commission concerning the recent change in the crappie limit in Lake D'Arbonne from 50 to 25. Mr. Wilbanks stated his concern that changes should be made on the recommendation of WLF biologists rather than upon the suggestion of a citizen. He commented that his opinion is that in this case the will of the people was ignored and asked that the Commission reconsider their decision.

Next to comment was Mr. Ronald Coco of Avoyelles Parish. Mr. Coco encouraged hunter safety programs, as recently two people have been shot, and one died in hunting accidents. He simply wanted to raise awareness of the importance of hunter safety.

There being no further public comments Commissioner Voisin moved to go into **Executive Session to Discuss Prospective Litigation relative to return of Artificial Reef Fund Monies**, and Commissioner Drost seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Reconvening from the Executive Session, Chairman Taylor stated that the Commissioners will take no action at this time. Commissioner Graham asked the department to provide a list of projects since inception and how much money has been spent, how much money is available now and what that money is projected to be allocated to.

Commissioner Voisin restated that he would like to see a mid-year financial report at the January meeting, including income, expenditures and balance.

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

Ann L. Taylor
Chairman