

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

JANUARY 9, 2003

TERRY D. DENMON
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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

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

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 765-2806

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LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
JANUARY 9, 2003

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, January 9, 2003

Chairman Terry Denmon presiding.

Tom Kelly
Henry Mouton
Wayne Sagrera

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioners Bill Busbice, Lee Felterman and Jerry Stone were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Denmon welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Mouton to the meeting and noted he was from the Lafayette area. He then expressed condolences to Commissioner Felterman and his family on the passing of his Grandmother.

Chairman Denmon called for a motion for approval of the **December 5, 2002 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Sagrera and seconded by Commissioner Mouton. The motion passed with no opposition.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for December** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during December.

Region I - Minden - 86 citations and 8 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 115 citations and 1 warning.

Region III - Alexandria - 111 citations and 1 warning.

Region IV - Ferriday - 81 citations and 8 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 85 citations and 4 warnings.

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Region IX - Schriever - 83 citations and 4 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 21 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 26 citations.

SWEP - 24 citations.

Refuge Patrol - 30 citations and 1 warning.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of December was 1,076. Also there were 47 warning citations issued statewide.

The aviation report for December 2002 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 32.6 hours for enforcement and 31.3 hours for other divisions. Seven citations were issued.

Major LaCaze then reported on hunting accidents that have occurred resulting in several fatalities and an injury. Chairman Denmon stated a tragic accident occurred in the Monroe area within the past week. He then asked Major LaCaze about the 2 citations for illegally carrying a weapon? Major LaCaze stated it was either a convicted felon possessing a firearm or having a gun on a WMA during a closed season.

Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season was the first item presented by Mr. Randy Pausina. He noted he had three different Declarations of Emergency for the Commission's consideration. Also Mr. Pausina stated they are similar to the seasons that occurred the last 3 years. He began by reading the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution for the 2003 recreational red snapper season. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagraera. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

2003 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON

January 9, 2003

WHEREAS, the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana 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 2003 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, 2002 until April 21, 2003 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 2003 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, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby continues the recreational red snapper closure until 12:01 a.m., April 21, 2003, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the recreational red snapper season shall open at 12:01 a.m. on April 21 until midnight October 31, 2003, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to change the opening and closure dates of the recreational red snapper season if informed that the Federal dates are other than those specified in this resolution and attached declaration of emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to close the recreational red snapper season when he is informed 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, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open an additional recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters if he is later informed that the National Marine Fisheries Service has opened an additional recreational season and to close such season when he is informed 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 Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate such an emergency rule.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2003 Recreational Red Snapper Season

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the 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, 2002 until 12:01 a.m., April 21, 2003 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 2003 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 a.m., April 21, 2003 by reducing the bag limit to zero for that time period. The season will open at 12:01 a.m., April 21, 2003 and continue until midnight October 31, 2003. If the secretary is notified that the opening and closing of Federal seasons is changed, he is hereby

authorized to change the opening and closing dates for state waters accordingly.

Effective with the recreational red snapper season closure, any 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 not possess any red snapper whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

Next, Mr. Randy Pausina read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution for a **Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Commercial Season**. Chairman Denmon asked for public comments and none were heard. Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION

2003 COMMERCIAL RED SNAPPER SEASONS

January 9, 2003

WHEREAS, the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana is 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, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and

WHEREAS, rules will be established by NMFS, to provide for commercial harvest seasons for red snapper in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries receives notice from the Gulf Council and NMFS requesting 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 so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 2003 commercial 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 2003 seasons for commercial harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters as follows: the first commercial fishing season for red snapper will open at 12 noon on February 1, 2003, and remain open until 12:00 noon on February 10. This pattern will continue each month until two-thirds of the 2003 commercial quota for red snapper is harvested. The second commercial red snapper season will open at 12 noon on October 1, 2003, and remain open until 12 noon on October 10, and will also continue in this format each month until the entire 2003 quota is harvested. The minimum size limit for commercially harvested red snapper is 15 inches total length, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such closure order shall authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the 2003 commercial red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters when he is informed 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such closure order shall close the season until the date set for the re-opening of the commercial red snapper season in Federal waters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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, 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 the Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the opening 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, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003 commercial red snapper season in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2003 Commercial Red Snapper Seasons

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Marine Fisheries Services (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., generally three miles offshore. NMFS will provide rules for commercial harvest seasons for red snapper in the EEZ off of Louisiana. NMFS and the Gulf Council typically request consistent regulations in order to

enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

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 season for commercial harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters:

The season for the commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will open at 12 noon February 1, 2003. The commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana waters will close at 12 noon February 10, 2003, and thereafter open at 12 noon on the first of each month and close at 12 noon on the tenth of each month, for each month of 2003 until two-thirds (2/3) of the 2003 commercial red snapper quota for the 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 set the closing date for the commercial red snapper season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed that two-thirds (2/3) of the commercial red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or projected to be harvested, such closure order shall close the season until 12 noon October 1, 2003, which is the date expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2003 commercial red snapper season in Federal waters.

The season for the commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will re-open at 12 noon October 1, 2003. The commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana waters will close at 12 noon October 10, 2003, and thereafter open at 12 noon on the first of each month and close at 12 noon on the tenth of each month for each month of 2003, until the remainder of the 2003 commercial quota is harvested.

The Commission grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to set the closing date for the commercial red snapper season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed that the commercial red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or projected to be harvested; such closure order shall close the season until the date set for the opening of the year 2004 commercial red snapper season in Federal waters.

The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the opening 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.

Nothing herein shall preclude the legal harvest of red snapper by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Effective with any commercial closure, no person shall commercially harvest, transport, purchase, barter, trade, sell or attempt to purchase, barter, trade or sell red snapper. Effective with the closure, no person shall possess red snapper in excess of a daily bag limit. Provided however that fish in excess of the daily bag limit which were legally taken prior to the closure may be purchased, possessed, transported, and sold by a licensed wholesale/retail dealer if appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6 are properly maintained, and those other than wholesale/retail dealers may purchase such fish in excess of the daily bag limit from wholesale/retail dealers for their own use or for sale by a restaurant as prepared fish.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

On the last item, Mr. Randy Pausina read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution for the **Declaration of Emergency - King Mackerel Commercial Season** for 2003. Hearing no public comments, Chairman Denmon asked the pleasure of the Commission. Commissioner Mouton made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. This motion also passed without opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

2003 COMMERCIAL KING MACKEREL SEASON

January 9, 2003

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 2003 commercial king mackerel season in EEZ waters will open on July 1, 2003, 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. 56:326.3 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 2003 season for commercial harvest of king mackerel in Louisiana state waters to open at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 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 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 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, 2004, which is the date

expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2004 commercial king mackerel season in Federal waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission also authorizes the Secretary to open an additional commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened an additional season and to close such season 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 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 2003 commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2003 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 and trip limit 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, 2003 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, 2004, which is the date expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2004 commercial king mackerel season in Federal waters.

The Commission also authorizes the Secretary to open an additional commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened an additional season and to close such season 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.

Nothing herein shall preclude the legal harvest of king mackerel by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Effective with any closure, no person shall commercially harvest, transport, purchase, barter, trade, sell or attempt to purchase, barter, trade or sell king mackerel. Effective with the closure, no person shall possess king mackerel in excess of a daily bag limit. Provided however that fish in excess of the daily bag limit which were legally taken prior to the closure may be purchased, possessed, transported, and sold by a licensed wholesale/retail dealer if appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6 are properly maintained. Those other than wholesale/retail dealers may purchase such fish in excess of the daily bag limit from wholesale/retail dealers for their own use or for sale by a restaurant as prepared fish.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

The Public Information Section Quarterly Report was handled by Ms. Marianne Burke. This report would cover activities for the months of October through December. The video showed the publications of the Louisiana Conservationist November/December 2002 issue, the Louisiana Conservationist Calendar, Trapping Regulations Pamphlet, the Recreational Fishing Regulations Pamphlet and the Commercial Fishing Regulations Pamphlet. Media Coverage

included news on postponing the deer season, fish stocking, nutria season and a radio interview on the increase in fishing. Information requests from the front desk totaled 5,391 phone calls and 1,349 walk-ins. Requests to the Resource Library totaled 830 walk-ins, 355 e-mails, 236 phone calls and 30 mail-ins.

Wildlife Division Report on Elk Importation began with Mr. Tommy Prickett giving a brief history on a gentleman that had an Alternative Livestock License for a pen in Ouachita Parish. There were 44 elk in a 2 acre pen and this man decided there was not enough room for the animals. So he applied to Arkansas to open an alternative livestock pen in that state. The elk were moved to Arkansas without a permit being issued. The State of Arkansas issued citations and as part of the adjudication for the case, he was to pay \$3,000 in fines and had until December 31, 2002 to remove the elk from Arkansas or the State would euthanize the elk. The gentleman then contacted the Department of Agriculture & Forestry and this Department for permits to bring the elk back into Louisiana. However, both Departments passed prohibitions on importing animals into Louisiana due to Chronic Wasting Disease concerns. So this gentleman was denied a permit to return the elk to Louisiana. He then filed injunction papers to force the Departments to permit him to bring the elk back into Louisiana. The hearing was held on December 20 in Baton Rouge and the Judge ruled in the Department's favor on all counts. The individual's time ran out and the State of Arkansas allowed him to euthanize the elk himself. During the proceedings, it was noted that 2 of the elk escaped from the pen in Arkansas and came into Louisiana. If those elk are found, they will also be euthanized.

Mr. Dave Moreland gave a **Wildlife Division Report on Deer Season Update**. He began stating Areas 1 and 6 deer season are just getting cranked up, but in north Louisiana, the deer season is pretty much winding down. Overall the season has been good, but it started off on a bad note with two storms occurring during the October bow season. These storms created problems for people trying to plant food plots. Deer quality was up and improved with body weight and antler development good. On Sherburne if during the past season, the 6 point program would have been initiated, it would have protected only 40 percent of the 1 to 1-1/2 year old age class. But this year, the deer quality is better and it would have protected 70 percent. There has been a serious outbreak of blue tongue in southeast Louisiana and especially the Atchafalaya Basin area. During the managed hunts on Sherburne WMA, about 10 percent of the deer harvested showed signs of having the blue tongue virus.

In reference to the public hunts, weather was a bad factor during the early hunts. One instance of this was on Alexander State Forest, where 57 deer were killed in 2001 during the opening weekend of muzzleloader while this year only 7 were killed. Overall hunter success from the managed hunts will show the same number of deer due to extremely good weather. One point of interest Mr. Moreland noted was there were 3,000 less WMA permits sold this year which will result in a much less hunter effort. The statewide harvest survey should indicate 250,000 plus deer killed this year. A major effort has been made to initiate the Chronic Wasting Disease collection. Over 11,000 samples have been collected and shipped to Texas A&M and results should be received in about a month. Mr. Moreland added staff has started receiving public comments for the 2003-2004 hunting season. Chairman Denmon asked, what was the total number of WMA permits sold last year? Mr. Moreland stated during 2001, 41,298 WMA permits were sold. Then Chairman Denmon asked if the Department has heard from the tri-parish experiment the Commission established? Mr. Moreland stated enforcement agents made a few cases right at the beginning of the season. He added hunters from Area 6 are reporting their rut is very late and deer activity has been slow which may be a result of the blue tongue disease. The Chairman then asked if data has been assembled from the rut studies reported last year? Mr. Moreland stated the Area 6 study has been completed and the rut in the upper region occurs mid-January while the lower portion occurs early to mid-December and then a second peak in January. Mr. Tommy Prickett added, in reference to compliance in the tri-parish area, Colonel Vidrine may give a brief report at the next meeting after the conclusion of the season.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **May 2003 Meeting** on Thursday, May 1, 2003 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Denmon then asked for **Public Comments**. Commissioner Kelly asked the status of the campsites on the Maurepas Swamp area. Mr. Don Puckett stated the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals denied the Department's exception of venue upholding the trial judge's ruling on venue. The Department has gone to the State Supreme Court and they are entertaining the writ. If the Supreme Court rejects the exception, it will go to trial in St. John the Baptist Parish.

Mr. Terry Shelley stated a request from the Plaquemines Parish Government to open dog hunting on the east side was made in 1999.

He asked for the status of that request. A copy of the request was given to Chairman Denmon.

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



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, January 9, 2003

Chairman Terry Denmon presiding.

Tom Kelly
Henry Mouton
Wayne Sagrera

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioners Bill Busbice, Lee Felterman and Jerry Stone were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Denmon welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Mouton to the meeting and noted he was from the Lafayette area. He then expressed condolences to Commissioner Felterman and his family on the passing of his Grandmother.

Chairman Denmon called for a motion for approval of the **December 5, 2002 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Sagrera and seconded by Commissioner Mouton. The motion passed with no opposition.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for December** was given by Major Keith LaCaze. The following numbers of citations were issued during December:

Region I - Minden - 86 citations and 8 warnings.

Region II - Monroe - 115 citations and 1 warning.

Region III - Alexandria - 111 citations and 1 warning.

Region IV - Ferriday - 81 citations and 8 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 85 citations and 4 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 191 citations and 7 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 107 citations and 8 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 116 citations and 6 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 83 citations and 4 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 21 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 26 citations.

SWEP - 24 citations.

Refuge Patrol - 30 citations and 1 warning.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of December was 1,076. Also there were 47 warning citations issued statewide.

The aviation report for December 2002 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 32.6 hours for enforcement and 31.3 hours for other divisions. Seven citations were issued.

Major LaCaze then reported on hunting accidents that have occurred resulting in several fatalities and an injury. Chairman Denmon stated a tragic accident occurred in the Monroe area within the past week. He then asked Major LaCaze about the 2 citations for illegally carrying a weapon? Major LaCaze stated it was either a convicted felon possessing a firearm or having a gun on a WMA during a closed season.

Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season was the first item presented by Mr. Randy Pausina. He noted he had three different Declarations of Emergency for the Commission's consideration. Also Mr. Pausina stated they are similar to the seasons that occurred the last 3 years. He began by reading the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution for the 2003 recreational red snapper season. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. The motion passed with no opposition.

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RESOLUTION

2003 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON

January 9, 2003

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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 2003 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, 2002 until April 21, 2003 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 2003 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, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby continues the recreational red snapper closure until 12:01 a.m., April 21, 2003, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the recreational red snapper season shall open at 12:01 a.m. on April 21 until midnight October 31, 2003, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to change the opening and closure dates of the recreational red snapper season if informed that the Federal dates are other than those specified in this resolution and attached declaration of emergency, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to close the recreational red snapper season when he is informed 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, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open an additional recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters if he is later informed that the National Marine Fisheries Service has opened an additional recreational season and to close such season when he is informed 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 Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate such an emergency rule.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2003 Recreational Red Snapper Season

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the 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, 2002 until 12:01 a.m., April 21, 2003 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 2003 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 a.m., April 21, 2003 by reducing the bag limit to zero for that time period. The season will open at 12:01 a.m., April 21, 2003 and continue until midnight October 31, 2003. If the secretary is notified that the opening and closing of Federal seasons is changed, he is hereby

authorized to change the opening and closing dates for state waters accordingly.

Effective with the recreational red snapper season closure, any 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 not possess any red snapper whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

Next, Mr. Randy Pausina read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution for a **Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Commercial Season**. Chairman Denmon asked for public comments and none were heard. Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION

2003 COMMERCIAL RED SNAPPER SEASONS

January 9, 2003

WHEREAS, the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana is 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, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and

WHEREAS, rules will be established by NMFS, to provide for commercial harvest seasons for red snapper in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries receives notice from the Gulf Council and NMFS requesting 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 so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 2003 commercial 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 2003 seasons for commercial harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters as follows: the first commercial fishing season for red snapper will open at 12 noon on February 1, 2003, and remain open until 12:00 noon on February 10. This pattern will continue each month until two-thirds of the 2003 commercial quota for red snapper is harvested. The second commercial red snapper season will open at 12 noon on October 1, 2003, and remain open until 12 noon on October 10, and will also continue in this format each month until the entire 2003 quota is harvested. The minimum size limit for commercially harvested red snapper is 15 inches total length, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such closure order shall authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the 2003 commercial red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters when he is informed 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such closure order shall close the season until the date set for the re-opening of the commercial red snapper season in Federal waters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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, 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 the Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the opening 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, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003 commercial red snapper season in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2003 Commercial Red Snapper Seasons

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Marine Fisheries Services (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., generally three miles offshore. NMFS will provide rules for commercial harvest seasons for red snapper in the EEZ off of Louisiana. NMFS and the Gulf Council typically request consistent regulations in order to

enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

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 season for commercial harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters:

The season for the commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will open at 12 noon February 1, 2003. The commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana waters will close at 12 noon February 10, 2003, and thereafter open at 12 noon on the first of each month and close at 12 noon on the tenth of each month, for each month of 2003 until two-thirds (2/3) of the 2003 commercial red snapper quota for the 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 set the closing date for the commercial red snapper season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed that two-thirds (2/3) of the commercial red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or projected to be harvested, such closure order shall close the season until 12 noon October 1, 2003, which is the date expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2003 commercial red snapper season in Federal waters.

The season for the commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will re-open at 12 noon October 1, 2003. The commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana waters will close at 12 noon October 10, 2003, and thereafter open at 12 noon on the first of each month and close at 12 noon on the tenth of each month for each month of 2003, until the remainder of the 2003 commercial quota is harvested.

The Commission grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to set the closing date for the commercial red snapper season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed that the commercial red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or projected to be harvested; such closure order shall close the season until the date set for the opening of the year 2004 commercial red snapper season in Federal waters.

The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the opening 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.

Nothing herein shall preclude the legal harvest of red snapper by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Effective with any commercial closure, no person shall commercially harvest, transport, purchase, barter, trade, sell or attempt to purchase, barter, trade or sell red snapper. Effective with the closure, no person shall possess red snapper in excess of a daily bag limit. Provided however that fish in excess of the daily bag limit which were legally taken prior to the closure may be purchased, possessed, transported, and sold by a licensed wholesale/retail dealer if appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6 are properly maintained, and those other than wholesale/retail dealers may purchase such fish in excess of the daily bag limit from wholesale/retail dealers for their own use or for sale by a restaurant as prepared fish.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

On the last item, Mr. Randy Pausina read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution for the **Declaration of Emergency - King Mackerel Commercial Season** for 2003. Hearing no public comments, Chairman Denmon asked the pleasure of the Commission. Commissioner Mouton made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagraera. This motion also passed without opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

2003 COMMERCIAL KING MACKEREL SEASON

January 9, 2003

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 2003 commercial king mackerel season in EEZ waters will open on July 1, 2003, 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. 56:326.3 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 2003 season for commercial harvest of king mackerel in Louisiana state waters to open at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 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 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 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, 2004, which is the date

expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2004 commercial king mackerel season in Federal waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission also authorizes the Secretary to open an additional commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened an additional season and to close such season 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 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 2003 commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.

Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2003 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 and trip limit 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, 2003 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, 2004, which is the date expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2004 commercial king mackerel season in Federal waters.

The Commission also authorizes the Secretary to open an additional commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened an additional season and to close such season 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.

Nothing herein shall preclude the legal harvest of king mackerel by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Effective with any closure, no person shall commercially harvest, transport, purchase, barter, trade, sell or attempt to purchase, barter, trade or sell king mackerel. Effective with the closure, no person shall possess king mackerel in excess of a daily bag limit. Provided however that fish in excess of the daily bag limit which were legally taken prior to the closure may be purchased, possessed, transported, and sold by a licensed wholesale/retail dealer if appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6 are properly maintained. Those other than wholesale/retail dealers may purchase such fish in excess of the daily bag limit from wholesale/retail dealers for their own use or for sale by a restaurant as prepared fish.

Terry D. Denmon
Chairman

The **Public Information Section Quarterly Report** was handled by Ms. Marianne Burke. This report would cover activities for the months of October through December. The video showed the publications of the Louisiana Conservationist November/December 2002 issue, the Louisiana Conservationist Calendar, Trapping Regulations Pamphlet, the Recreational Fishing Regulations Pamphlet and the Commercial Fishing Regulations Pamphlet. Media Coverage

included news on postponing the deer season, fish stocking, nutria season and a radio interview on the increase in fishing. Information requests from the front desk totaled 5,391 phone calls and 1,349 walk-ins. Requests to the Resource Library totaled 830 walk-ins, 355 e-mails, 236 phone calls and 30 mail-ins.

Wildlife Division Report on Elk Importation began with Mr. Tommy Prickett giving a brief history on a gentleman that had an Alternative Livestock License for a pen in Ouachita Parish. There were 44 elk in a 2 acre pen and this man decided there was not enough room for the animals. So he applied to Arkansas to open an alternative livestock pen in that state. The elk were moved to Arkansas without a permit being issued. The State of Arkansas issued citations and as part of the adjudication for the case, he was to pay \$3,000 in fines and had until December 31, 2002 to remove the elk from Arkansas or the State would euthanize the elk. The gentleman then contacted the Department of Agriculture & Forestry and this Department for permits to bring the elk back into Louisiana. However, both Departments passed prohibitions on importing animals into Louisiana due to Chronic Wasting Disease concerns. So this gentleman was denied a permit to return the elk to Louisiana. He then filed injunction papers to force the Departments to permit him to bring the elk back into Louisiana. The hearing was held on December 20 in Baton Rouge and the Judge ruled in the Department's favor on all counts. The individual's time ran out and the State of Arkansas allowed him to euthanize the elk himself. During the proceedings, it was noted that 2 of the elk escaped from the pen in Arkansas and came into Louisiana. If those elk are found, they will also be euthanized.

Mr. Dave Moreland gave a **Wildlife Division Report on Deer Season Update**. He began stating Areas 1 and 6 deer season are just getting cranked up, but in north Louisiana, the deer season is pretty much winding down. Overall the season has been good, but it started off on a bad note with two storms occurring during the October bow season. These storms created problems for people trying to plant food plots. Deer quality was up and improved with body weight and antler development good. On Sherburne if during the past season, the 6 point program would have been initiated, it would have protected only 40 percent of the 1 to 1-1/2 year old age class. But this year, the deer quality is better and it would have protected 70 percent. There has been a serious outbreak of blue tongue in southeast Louisiana and especially the Atchafalaya Basin area. During the managed hunts on Sherburne WMA, about 10 percent of the deer harvested showed signs of having the blue tongue virus.

In reference to the public hunts, weather was a bad factor during the early hunts. One instance of this was on Alexander State Forest, where 57 deer were killed in 2001 during the opening weekend of muzzleloader while this year only 7 were killed. Overall hunter success from the managed hunts will show the same number of deer due to extremely good weather. One point of interest Mr. Moreland noted was there were 3,000 less WMA permits sold this year which will result in a much less hunter effort. The statewide harvest survey should indicate 250,000 plus deer killed this year. A major effort has been made to initiate the Chronic Wasting Disease collection. Over 11,000 samples have been collected and shipped to Texas A&M and results should be received in about a month. Mr. Moreland added staff has started receiving public comments for the 2003-2004 hunting season. Chairman Denmon asked, what was the total number of WMA permits sold last year? Mr. Moreland stated during 2001, 41,298 WMA permits were sold. Then Chairman Denmon asked if the Department has heard from the tri-parish experiment the Commission established? Mr. Moreland stated enforcement agents made a few cases right at the beginning of the season. He added hunters from Area 6 are reporting their rut is very late and deer activity has been slow which may be a result of the blue tongue disease. The Chairman then asked if data has been assembled from the rut studies reported last year? Mr. Moreland stated the Area 6 study has been completed and the rut in the upper region occurs mid-January while the lower portion occurs early to mid-December and then a second peak in January. Mr. Tommy Prickett added, in reference to compliance in the tri-parish area, Colonel Vidrine may give a brief report at the next meeting after the conclusion of the season.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **May 2003 Meeting** on Thursday, May 1, 2003 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Denmon then asked for **Public Comments**. Commissioner Kelly asked the status of the campsites on the Maurepas Swamp area. Mr. Don Puckett stated the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals denied the Department's exception of venue upholding the trial judge's ruling on venue. The Department has gone to the State Supreme Court and they are entertaining the writ. If the Supreme Court rejects the exception, it will go to trial in St. John the Baptist Parish.

Mr. Terry Shelley stated a request from the Plaquemines Parish Government to open dog hunting on the east side was made in 1999.

He asked for the status of that request. A copy of the request was given to Chairman Denmon.

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

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

It's bigger than last year, and that's good for our sport." Most of the top track and field schools from the Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas will have athletes in the meet. Among the top teams to watch are perennial Baton Rouge-area powers Catholic High, Southern Lab, Episcopal, Baton Rouge High

"Track and field is very healthy in Louisiana, and competitions like this only getting better all the time," Henry said. "There is a reason that this meet gets bigger every year, and it's because coaches are getting more kids to participate and they're bringing them to these meets. Track and field is very healthy in Louisiana, and competitions like this only

young standards in this meet or in a regional competition in the Carl Maddox Field House to get into the state meet. "It's more important than it has been," Henry said. "If you want to go to the state meet, you have to do it in this meet or Feb. 1. So I would think that's going to make things even more competitive."

Commercial, recreational dates set for red snapper fishermen

Friday, January 10, 2003 - The Advocate
By JOE MACALUSO
Advocate outdoors writer

Commercial red snapper fishermen were given the OK to get ready for a Feb. 1 opener to their spring season by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, but recreational saltwater anglers going after the same fish will have to wait until April 21 to take home the deep-water delicacy.

The commission's approval of the two Declarations of Emergency follows the guidelines for seasons set by the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The NMFS through the GMFMC established a 9.12 million-pound quota on red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico.

The commercial sector gets 51 percent of that quota (4.651 million pounds) and 49 percent, or 4.468 million pounds, are allotted to recreational fishermen.

Commercial fishermen are allowed to take two-third of their quota in a spring season and the remaining third in a fall season.

The LWFC approved the now standard first 10 days of each month beginning in February for the spring

commercial season, which continues into the first 10 days of succeeding months until the spring quota is filled. The fall season begins Oct. 1.

The recreational season runs April 21-Oct. 31 with a daily limit of four red snapper per angler with a minimum size of 16 inches long. Commercial fishermen have a 15-inch minimum size restriction.

If NMFS or the GMFMC changes red snapper regulations, stipulations noted in the declarations indicate the state will conform to those changes.

Another vote also opens the commercial king mackerel season on July 1.

The commission also heard a report from Wildlife Division administrator Tom Prickett about the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' successful defense of the state's ban on imported elk and deer.

The LWFC passed regulations barring the movement of elk and deer into the state in May 2002 as a measure to control the potential threat Chronic Wasting Disease could have on the state's wild and penned-up deer.

State Deer Study leader David Moreland also reported on what he said appears to be a successful deer season for state hunters.

"Overall deer quality is up. Body

weights are good, and antler development is good," Moreland told the commission.

He noted Area 6, which includes all southeastern parishes, was hit hard by Blue Tongue Disease, a virus he said claimed from 10-30 percent of the deer in certain areas in those parishes.

The LWFC also heard that Enforcement Division agents issued 1,076 citations and 47 written warnings in December. Among the citations were three for "hunting migratory game birds with a live decoy," a practice that has been banned for more than four decades in the United States.

The LWFC voted its May 2003 meeting for May 1 in Baton Rouge, and accepted a petition from Plaquemines Parish deer hunters to open the East Bank of the parish to deer hunting with or without dogs.

Current regulations make it a still-hunting-only area, while petitioner Terry Shelley from Belle Chasse said hunters on the west bank of the parish can use dogs to hunt deer.

Only four of the seven commissioners attended, including newly elected chairman Terry Denmon, Thomas Kelly, Wayne Segrera and newly appointed member Lafayette businessman Henry Mouton.

Toronto at Boston, 6 p.m.
Buffalo at Montreal, 6 p.m.
Florida at Washington, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Islanders, 6 p.m.
New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Nashville, 7:30 p.m.
Columbus at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Ottawa at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Vancouver at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

AUTO RACING

IROC

TINTON FALLS, N.J. — Lineup and schedule for the 2003 True Value International Race of Champions (IROC) series:

- Drivers**
Greg Biffle, NASCAR Busch Series
Mike Bliss, NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series
Kurt Busch, NASCAR Winston Cup
Helio Castroneves, Indy Racing League
Felipe Giaffone, IRL
Kevin Harvick, NASCAR Winston Cup
Sam Hornish, IRL
Jimmie Johnson, NASCAR Winston Cup
Steve Kinser, World of Outlaws
Danny Lasoski, World of Outlaws
Mark Martin, NASCAR Winston Cup
Ryan Newman, NASCAR Winston Cup
*Defending champion

Schedule
Feb. 14, Daytona Beach, Fla.
April 5, Talladega, Ala.
July 12, Joliet, Ill.
Aug. 2, Indianapolis

TRANSACTIONS

Thursday's Sports Transactions

BASEBALL

- American League**
CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Named Rick Ingallas West Coast scouting supervisor, Derek Valenzuela Southwest scouting supervisor and Chuck Fox Northeast area scout.
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Named Winston Uenas director of Dominican operations.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Signed C Mike Difelice to a minor league contract.
TEXAS RANGERS—Agreed to terms of Jim Rushton on a minor league contract with Oklahoma of the PCL.

National League

- ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to terms with Elmer Dessens on a two-year contract.

BASKETBALL

- Women's National Basketball Association**
LOS ANGELES SPARKS—Announced the resignation of Glenn McDonald, assistant coach.

FOOTBALL

- Arena Football League**
SAN JOSE SABERCATS—Signed DB Brandon Nash to a three-year contract.

HOCKEY

- National Hockey League**
NHL—Fined Montreal general manager Andre Savard \$50,000 and coach Michel Therrien \$25,000 as a result of their abuse of officials at the conclusion of a game against New Jersey on Jan. 7.
FLORIDA PANTHERS—Reassigned G Wade Flaherty to San Antonio of the AHL.
PHOENIX COYOTES—Recalled C Jeff Taffe from Springfield of the AHL.
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS—Recalled F Tomi Kostopoulos from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton of the AHL.
American Hockey League
SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE—Returned G Lance Leslie to Laredo of the CHL.
East Coast Hockey League
LOUISIANA ICEGATORS—Added G Cody Green to the roster.

Mississippi State hires Watts

By The Associated Press

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Former Michigan State offensive coordinator Morris Watts was hired Thursday by Mississippi State to fill the same position.

Bulldogs coach Jackie Sherrill also announced former Delta State coach Steve Campbell will take over as offensive line coach.

Both hirings had been widely reported since last month, but the

school made it official Thursday.

Watts, 64, will also coach quarterbacks. He has been offensive coordinator at Michigan State the past four seasons, and was interim head coach for the final three games last year after Bobby Williams was fired.

Michigan State averaged over 28 points per game last season.

In 2001, Watts was nominated for the Broyles Award, given to the nation's top assistant coach.

LATEST LINE

Favorite	NFL Points Saturday	Underdog	Favorite	NHL Goals even-1/2	Underdog
TENNESSEE	3 1/2 (44)	Pittsburgh	MARIST	2	Canisius
PHILADELPHIA	7 1/2 (39)	Atlanta	SIENA	5 1/2	Lona
TAMPA BAY	6 (39)	San Francisco	ST. PETER'S	8	Loyola Maryland
DAKOTA	5 1/2 (47)	NV Jets	Boston	even-1/2	BUFFALO
			CAROLINA	even-1/2	Washington
			New Jersey	1/2-1	FLORIDA
			MINNESOTA	1/2-1	Phoenix
			VANCOUVER	1-1 1/2	Columbus

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COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, January 9, 2003
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Terry Denmon (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Lee Felterman	<u>—</u>	<u>✓</u>
Bill Busbice	<u>—</u>	<u>✓</u>
Tom Kelly	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Wayne Sagera	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>
Jerry Stone	<u>—</u>	<u>✓</u>
Henry Mouton	<u>✓</u>	<u>—</u>

Mr. Chairman:

There are 4 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.
Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
January 9, 2003
10:00 AM

- ~~1.~~ Roll Call
- ~~2.~~ Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2002
- ~~3.~~ Enforcement & Aviation Reports/December - Keith LaCaze
- ~~4.~~ Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season - Randy Pausina
- ~~5.~~ Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Commercial Season - Randy Pausina
- ~~6.~~ Declaration of Emergency - King Mackerel Commercial Season - Randy Pausina
- ~~7.~~ Public Information Section Quarterly Report - Marianne Burke
- ~~8.~~ Wildlife Division Report on Elk Importation - Tommy Prickett
- ~~9.~~ Wildlife Division Report on Deer Season Update - Dave Moreland
- ~~10.~~ Set May 2003 Meeting Date
- ~~11.~~ Public Comments
12. Adjournment

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

DECEMBER 2002

REGION 1:MINDEN
20 Agent positions

PARISHES: BIENVILLE, BOSSIER,
CADDO, CLAIBORNE,
WEBSTER

TOTAL CASES	86
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
7	Boating Safety
3	Angling W/O Resident License
4	Hunting W/O Resident License
3	Hunt W/O Non-Resident License
3	Failure To Abide By Commission Rules & Regs
4	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
2	Hunt W/Unplugged Gun
4	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds (Other Than Deer) Illegal Hours
2	Hunt, Stand, Or Loiter On Public Road
1	Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
1	Hunt &/Or Take Squirrels W/Illegal Firearm
4	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
2	Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License
3	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours
6	Hunt Deer From Public Road
7	Take Illegal Deer Open Season

1	Possession Over Limit Deer
2	Possession Illegally Taken Deer
12	Failure To Wear Hunter Orange
4	Hunt Ducks W/O Federal Stamp
1	Hunt MGB W/Unplugged Gun
1	Possession Untagged MGB
1	Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Area
2	Hunt Ducks Closed Season
2	Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
2	Not Abiding By R&R On WMA
2	Discharge Firearm From Public Road

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 8	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Boating Safety
1	Angling W/O License
1	Hunt W/O Resident License
2	Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
1	Failure To Wear Hunter Orange
1	Not Abiding By R&R On WMA
1	Hunt On WMA W/O Hunting Permit

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
4 rifles; 10 lead shot shells; 9 ducks; 7 deer; 2 sets DMAP records; 23 unused DMAP tags; 2 shotguns	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 1

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
7	Boating
00	Commercial Fishing
11	Federal Migratory
00	Littering
4	Miscellaneous
3	Recreational Fishing
61	State Hunting/Trapping
8	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
00	Public Assistance

REGION 2:MONROE
20 Agent positions

**PARISHES: E. CARROLL, JACKSON,
 LINCOLN, MOREHOUSE
 QUACHITA, RICHLAND
 UNION, W. CARROLL**

TOTAL CASES	115
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
3	Boating
2	Possession of Marijuana
15	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
1	Hunt On WMA Without Permit
19	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours
23	Hunt Deer From Public Road
7	Discharge Firearm From Public Road
4	Angle W/O Resident License
2	Failure To Abide By Commission Rules (D.M.A.P.)
1	Hunt With Unplugged Gun
4	Hunt Deer With Illegal Weapon
1	Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road

4	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
2	Hunt W/O Resident License
6	Not Abiding By Rules and Regulations on WMA
2	Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer
7	Take Illegal Deer In Open Season
5	Hunt Ducks Illegal Hours
5	Fail To Wear Hunter Orange
2	Littering

WRITTEN WARNINGS: 1

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
9 – Deer , 1 – Marlin 22.Cal. Rifle, 1- Q-Beam Spotlight, 26- D.M.A.P. Tags, 5 - D.M.A.P. Records, 1- Rem. Rifle, 1- Mossberg Shotgun, 1- 30/30 Cal. West Point Rifle, 1- Winchester Model 1300, 12. Ga. Shotgun, 1- Bag of Marijuana, 1- 22cal. Rifle, 1 – 300 Cal. Rem. Rifle, 1- Win. 7mm Rifle.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2 (Monroe)

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
3	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
5	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
2	Miscellaneous
4	Recreational Fishing
99	State Hunting/Trapping
1	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
15	Public Assistance (Assisting Stranded Motorists and Boaters)

REGION 3: ALEXANDRIA

PARISHES: AVOYELLES, GRANT
 NATCHITOCHEs
 RAPIDES, SABINE
 VERNON, WINN

26 Agent positions

TOTAL CASES	111
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
7	Boating
2	Angling W/O A Resident License
2	Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
3	Hunt MGB Illegal Hours
2	Hunt MGB W/O Federal Stamp
2	Hunt Ducks Closed Season
1	Using Lead Shot
2	Hunt W/O Non-Resident License
1	Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License
6	Take Illegal Deer Open Season
4	Hunt Deer Illegal Method
8	Fail To Display Hunters Orange
8	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
2	Hunt Wild Quads Illegal Hours
11	Hunt Deer From Public Road
2	Hunt From Public Road

4	Hunt W/O Resident License
2	Hunt/Take Deer Illegal Hours
1	Bow Hunt W/O Bow License
1	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
3	Possession Of Illegal Taken Deer
2	Hunt, Stand, Loiter From Public Road
13	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations
3	Littering
1	Operate ATV On Public Road
11	Illegal Possession Of Marijuana
6	Illegal Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia
1	Felony Possession Of Marijuana

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 1	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Expired Boat Registration

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
9 deer, 3 shotguns, 3 rabbits, 6 marijuana cigarettes, 5 rifle, 2 ducks, 5 bags.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
7	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
10	Federal Migratory
3	Littering
19	Miscellaneous
2	Recreational Fishing
70	State Hunting/Trapping
1	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
9	Public Assistance

REGION 4:FERRIDAY
24 Agent positions

PARISHES: CALDWELL, CATAHOULA
CONCORDIA, FRANKLIN
LASALLE, MADISON, TENSAS

TOTAL CASES	81
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5	Hunt W/o Resident License
4	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
1	Hunt W/Unplugged Gun
2	Hunt From Public Road
1	Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Levee Road
2	Hunt w/o Resident Big Game license
6	Hunt Or Take Deer With Illegal Hours Or With Artificial Light
4	Hunt Deer From Public Road
2	Hunt Or Take Deer Illegally
1	Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer
1	Failure To Maintain Sex I.D.
7	Failure To Wear Hunters Orange
29	Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On Wma
1	Hunt on WMA w/o WMA permit
2	Littering
2	Criminal Trespass

1	Illegal Spotighting From Public Road
1	Flight From An Officer
2	Hunt W/O Federal Stamp
1	Hunt MGB W/Unplugged Gun
2	Hunt MGB From Vehicle
3	Hunt MGB W/Electronic Calling Device
1	Poss. Over Limit Of Geese (field possession)

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 8	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5	Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA
2	Hunt On WMA W/O A WMA Permit
1	Failure To Comply With Hunter Orange Regulation

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
3 specklebellys geese, 2 deer, 2 rifles, 1 light, 1 dove, and 2 coons.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Boating
0	Commercial Fishing
9	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
4	Miscellaneous
0	Recreational Fishing
66	State Hunting/Trapping
8	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 5:LAKE CHARLES
23 Agent positions

**PARISHES:ACADIA, ALLEN, BEAUREGARD
CALCASIEU, CAMERON
EVANGELINE, JEFF-DAVIS
VERMILION**

TOTAL CASES	85
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
11	Boating
2	Angling W/O Res. License
2	Angling W/O Non. Res. License
1	Take Or Poss. Game Fish Illegally - Perch
2	Take Or Poss. Undersize Black Drum (Rec)
2	Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly
1	Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester's License
6	Hntg. W/O A Res. License
2	Hntg. W/O Non. Res. License
8	Hntg. From Moving Vehicle &/Or Aircraft
5	Hntg. Wild Quadrapeds Illegal Hours
2	Hntg. W/Unplugged Gun
5	Hunt, Stand, Loiter From Public Road
1	Failure To Comply W/Hunter Safety Regulations
1	Take Squirrels Illegal Methods

5	Hntg. W/O Res. Big Game License
3	Failure To Wear Hunter's Orange
1	Take Bobcats Illegally
1	Hntg. Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp
2	Hntg. MGB W/Unplugged Gun
1	Hntg MGB W/O State Stamp
4	Hntg. MGB Illegal Hours
5	Use Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
1	Taking Ibis – No Season
1	Take Cranes – No Season
4	Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On WMA
2	Littering
1	Illegal Possession of Drugs Or Marijuana
2	Flight From An Officer
1	Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
4	
1	Hntg. W/O Res. Big Game License
1	Failure To Wear Hunter's Orange
2	Hunt On WMA W/O WMA Hunting Permit

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
3 rods; 3 reels; 1-12' xpress boat; 1 coleman ice chest; 2 u/s blackdrum; 2 blue catfish – rtw; 1 carp – rtw; 2 white perch – rtw; 1-6' cast net; 6 oyster tags; 1 trap; 6 squirrels; 3 woodducks; 2 mallards; 1 mottled duck; 1 shoveler; 1 ibis; 1 egret; 12 cleaned duck carcasses; 31 lead shot shells; 1 deer leg; 1 bob cat; 1-270 rifle hull; 1-243 spent cartridges; 5 rifles; 1 shotgun; 1 pellet rifle; 1 flashlight; marijuana; zigzag papers.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
11	Boating
3	Commercial Fishing
15	Federal Migratory
2	Littering
4	Miscellaneous
7	Recreational Fishing
39	State Hunting/Trapping
4	Written Warnings
4	Wildlife Management Area

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 6:OPELOUSAS
24 Agent positions

**PARISHES: IBERIA, IBERVILLE,
PT.COUPPEE,LAFAYETTE
ST.MARTIN,IBERIA
IBERVILLE,W.B.R.**

TOTAL CASES	191
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
39	Boating
3	Hunt W/O MGB State Stamp
10	Angling W/O License
11	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
19	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
1	Fish W/O Resident Pole License
7	Hunt On WMA W/O WMA Hunting Permit
4	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
2	Hunt With Unplugged Gun
7	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours OR With Artificial Light
1	Hunt On DMAP Land W/O Permit From Owner/Lessee
3	Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours Or With Artificial Light
2	Hunt Deer From Public Road
2	Hunt Ducks W/O Federal Duck Stamp
1	Fail To Report Commercial Fisheries Data

3	Fail To Maintain Records
2	Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season
2	Failure To Abide By Commission Rules
1	Field Possession Of Deer Meat W/O Tags
2	Fail To Maintain Sex Identification
1	Operate Vehicle While Intoxicated
1	Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle
8	Hunt W/O Resident License
4	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
6	Hunt MGB Illegal Hours
7	Using Leadshot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
2	Hunt Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp
3	Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road
9	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
8	Hunt From Public Road
1	Hunt Doves Closed Season
3	Hunt/Take Deer From A Boat
1	Operate ATV On Public Road
1	Possession Of Wild Quadruped Or Wild Birds W/O Permit
2	Possession Of Untagged Deer

1	Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs
1	Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
1	Fail To Comply With Hunter Safety Regulations
2	Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish
2	Violate Interstate Commerce Regulations
1	Transport W/O Required License
1	Overlimit Hooded Mergansers
1	Field Possession Of Freshly Killed MGB Closed Season
1	Fail To Tag Sacked/Containerized Oysters
1	Violate Sanitary Code

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 7	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Boating
2	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
3	Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On WMA
1	Hunt W/O Resident License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1 pintail drake, 5 trip tickets, 38 crates of crabs, 10 unmarked one-pint containers of oysters, 3 squirrels, 1 Q-Beam, 1 live doe deer, 3 doves, box of .22 shorts, 1 homemade lock on deer stand, 8 black bass, 9 deer, 1 deer loin, 1 set of antlers, 15 DMAP tags, 2 DMAP records, 1 teal, 2 woodducks, 1 mallard hen, 2 rifles, 1 headlight, 52 shotgun shells, 2 shotguns, 3 hooded mergansers.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
39	Boating
11	Commercial Fishing
20	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
34	Miscellaneous
15	Recreational Fishing
72	State Hunting/Trapping
7	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 7:BATON ROUGE

22 Agent positions

**PARISHES: ASCENSION, E.B. ROUGE,
E. FELICIANA, LIVINGSTON,
ST. HELENA, ST. TAMMANY,
TANGIPAHOA, WASHINGTON,
WEST FELICIANA**

TOTAL CASES	107
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
4	Boating
1	Angling w/o Resident License
1	Angling w/o Non.-Resident License
1	Violation of Sanitation Code
1	Fail to Tag Containerized Oysters
1	Commercial-Fail to Comply w/Permit Regulations (Carp)
2	Buy/Sell Fish w/o Wholesale/Retail Dealers License
5	Fail to Comply w/Hunter Orange Regulations
1	Fail to Comply with Hunter Safety Regulations
6	Hunt w/o Basic Resident License
6	Hunt w/o Resident Big Game License
1	Hunt w/Un-Plugged Gun
6	Hunt from a Moving Vehicle
10	Hunt Deer from a Moving Vehicle
3	Hunt from a Public Road

6	Hunt Deer from a Public Road
5	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours
11	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours
1	Take Deer from a Public Road
3	Take Illegal Deer Open Season
1	Possess Over Limit of Deer
15	Violate Rules and Regulations of W.M. A.
6	Hunt on W.M.A. w/o Permit
1	Littering
1	Hunt Ducks w/o Federal Stamp
3	Resisting an Officer
3	Possession of Firearm by a Convicted Felon
2	Illegal Carrying of a Weapon

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 8	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Boating
3	Failure to Comply with Hunter Orange Regualtions
1	Failure to Comply w/Self-Clearing Permit
1	Hunt w/o Non Resident License
1	Violate Rules and Regulations on W.M.A.

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
4 deer, 2 rabbits, 2 pints of oysters, 10 rifles, 2 handguns, 4 spotlights.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7

TOTAL 115	DESCRIPTION
4	Boating
5	Commercial Fishing
1	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
8	Miscellaneous
2	Recreational Fishing
86	State Hunting/Trapping
8	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
7	Public Assistance: <i>Assist Motorists</i>

REGION 8

18 Agent positions

PARISHES:
PLAQUEMINE, ST. BERNARD,
ORLEANS, JEFFERSON
ST. CHARLES

TOTAL CASES	116
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
18	Boating
22	Angling W/O A License
3	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident
6	Angling W/O Saltwater License
2	Angling W/O Saltwater License Non-Resident
1	Take/Poss. O/L Red Drum(On Water)
3	Poss. O/L of Red Drum In Excess of 27" (Recreational)
5	Fail to Have Fish Intact (Saltwater)
1	Take or Poss. Undersized Red Drum (Recreational) 16" Minimum
3	Take or Poss. Undersized Black Drum (Recreational) Commission Action
4	Take/Poss. O/L Spotted Seatrout (On Water)
3	Take or Poss. O/L Black Drum(Recreational) Commission Action
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O Comm. Gear License
6	Take or Poss. Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
1	Violate Crab Trap Escape Ring Requirements
3	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms

3	Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reef
1	Hunting W/O Resident License
1	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
3	Hunting Ducks W/O Federal Stamp
1	Hunting MGB with Unplugged Gun
3	Hunting MGB With Live Decoys
2	Hunting and/or Possess Ducks Other Than Teal During Teal Season
2	Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
1	Possess Over Limit of Ducks
1	Taking Robins – No Season
3	Hunt MGB Without State Duck Stamp
2	Hunting MGB From Public Road
1	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA
1	Hunt on WMA without WMA Hunting Permit
4	Lacey Act
1	Conspiracy(Federal)
2	Miscellaneous Federal Violations
1	Poss. Red Drum Illegally

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 6	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
3	Boating
1	Angling W/O A License
1	Angling W/O A Saltwater License
1	Take/Poss. O/L Spotted Seatrout(On Water)

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
<p>Returned to the water....Oyster Sacks(30) Destroyed...(1)...Cobia Donated...Deer(1)...Robins(3)...Red Drum(23)...Black Drum(32)...Bass(1)...Sheephead(9)...Ducks(6)...Hen(2)...Spotted Seatrout(109)...Red and Black Drum Fillets(11 one gallon bags)... Teal (16)...Lesser Scaup(1)...Pintail Drake(1)...Shoveler, Hen, Drake(2)...Fish fillets(7lbs.) Hardware Confiscated....Expert Steel Shot (24)...Spent Shells(33)...Asst. Shells(55)...Oyster Dredge(1)...Rod and Reel(2)...Ice Chest(1)...Rifle(1)...Deer Stand(2)...Bow(1)...Arrows(3)</p>

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
18	Boating
15	Commercial Fishing
18	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
10	Miscellaneous
50	Recreational Fishing
2	State Hunting/Trapping
6	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
7	Public Assistance

REGION 9: SCHRIEVER**25 Agent positions**

**PARISHES: ASSUMPTION, ST.
 JAMES, ST. JOHN, ST. MARY
 TERREBONNE, LAFOURCHE
 JEFFERSON-GRAND ISLE
 LOWER ST. MARTIN**

TOTAL CASES	83
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
13	Boating
9	Angling Without A License
2	Angling Without A Non-Resident License
5	Angling Without A Saltwater License
1	Fail to Have Saltwater Fish Intact
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
3	Take Undersized Red Drum (Recreational)
1	Take Undersized Black Drum (Recreational)
1	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
1	Fail To Maintain Records
3	Hunt Without Resident License
1	Hunt MGB Without State Stamp
2	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours (Rabbits)
2	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
2	Hunt From Public Road

1	Possess Over Limit Of Deer
6	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
2	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours With Artificial Light
1	Hunt Without Resident Big Game License
7	Hunt Without WMA Permit
1	Littering
2	Hunt MGB Illegal Hours
4	Use Lead Shot In Steel Shot Only
3	Possession Of Over Limit Ducks
1	Hunt MGB From Moving Motorboat
2	Hunt Ducks Without Federal Stamp
1	Hunt MGB Without State Stamp
2	Take Robins (No Season)
1	Hunt MGB With Unplugged Gun
1	Possess Untagged MGB
1	Hunt With Unsigned Federal Stamp

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 4	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
3	Boating
1	Hunt Without WMA Permit

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
3 lbs. fillet fish, 13 scaups, 1 spoonbill, 2 teal, 1 gadwall, 12 black drum, 7 red drum, 4 rabbits, 2 deer, 10 robins, 3 wood ducks, 1 squirrel, 3 hooded merganzers, 2 rods and reels, 1 federal duck stamp, 2 headlights and batteries, 2 d-map tags, 4 shotguns, various shot shells.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
13	Boating
1	Commercial Fishing
18	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
7	Miscellaneous
23	Recreational Fishing
20	State Hunting/Trapping
4	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
6	Public Assistance

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE
3 Agent positions

COASTAL WATERS

TOTAL CASES	21
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
3	Boating
1	Fail To Have Commercial Vessel License In Possession
1	Violate Escape Ring Requirements
1	Hunting W/O A Resident License
1	Hunting W/O A Resident Big Game License
2	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
2	Obstruction Of Justice
4	Violate Lacy Act
1	Conspiracy
1	Violate MGB Federal Stamp Requirements
2	Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
2	Hunting MGB Over Baited Area

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
None.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
3	Boating
2	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
12	Miscellaneous
0	Recreational Fishing
4	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

STATEWIDE

TOTAL CASES	26
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Overlimit Of Red Snapper
1	Tuna Permit Regulations
1	No Wholesale Retail Dealers License
1	Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O A Retail Seafood Dealers License
7	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Fail To Maintain Records Soft Shell Crabs Facility
1	Transport W/o Required License
2	Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fishing Shipping Regs.
1	Buy From Unlicensed Fisherman
2	Fail To Report Commercial Fish Data
3	Fail To Mark Oysters
3	Violation Sanitation Code
2	Violate Interstate Commerce Regulations

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
16 pints of oysters destroyed, 65 lbs. Of red snapper sold for \$1,260.00, 4,724 lbs. Of crabs sold for \$1,556.40.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Boating
26	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
0	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

S.W.E.P.
8 Agent positions

COASTAL WATERS

TOTAL CASES	24
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Violate Commission Rules And Regs. /Red Snapper
3	Fail To Have Saltwater Fish Intact
2	Violate Commission Regulations Take Or Possess Red Drum Federal Waters
1	Take Or Possess Oversized Red Drum
3	Take Or Possess Overlimit Of Black Drum
3	Take Or Possess Undersized Black Drum
1	Angling W/O A Basic Fishing License
1	Angling W/O A Basic Saltwater License
3	Take Or Possess Overlimit Of Red Drum
3	Use Saltwater Nets Illegally
3	Take Saltwater Commercial Fish Illegal Hours

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1 gill net, 1 boat, 39 red drum, 7 lbs. Of filets, 1 cobia, 3 red snapper, 4 gar fish, and 35 black drum.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR S.W.E.P.

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Boating
6	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
0	Miscellaneous
18	Recreational Fishing
0	State Hunting/Trapping
0	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REFUGE PATROL
8 Agent positions

MARSH ISLAND,
ROCKEFELLER, STATE
WILDLIFE

TOTAL CASES	30
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
8	Boating
1	Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA
1	Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum
1	Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs
1	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
1	Use Traps W/O Required Markings
1	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
1	Angling W/O A Basic License Non-Resident
1	Angling W/O A Saltwater License Non-Resident
1	Take Federally Controlled Fish Red Snapper Closed Season
1	Take Federally Controlled Fish Red Drum Closed Season
1	Failure To Keep Federally Controlled Fish Intact
2	Misc. Federal Violations: Placement Of Bait
3	Hunt MGB Ducks Over Bait
1	Use Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Only
1	Hunt Ducks W/O A Federal Stamp

1	Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
1	Hunt MGB W/O State Hunting License
1	Angling W/O A Basic License
1	Hunt W/O A Resident License

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Fail To Comply With Visual Distress Signals

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
74 lbs. Of red snapper, 2 lbs. of filets, 3 ducks, 31 lbs. of beeliners, 1 lb. Of white trout, 20 lbs. of grouper, 2 red drum, 5 lbs. of cobia filets, 4 lbs. of red drum filets, 2 lbs. of triggerfish filets, 3 duffel bags, 4 crab traps, 6 boxes of crabs and 87 lead shot gun shells.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REFUGE PATROL

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
8	Boating
4	Commercial Fishing
9	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
1	Miscellaneous
7	Recreational Fishing
1	State Hunting/Trapping

1	Written Warnings
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TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL CASES

-1076

NOTE: WRITTEN WARNINGS =47

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
DECEMBER, 2002

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. - 30.8

185-Float - 9667Q
Hrs. - 11.5

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 21.6

Enforcement Hours - 32.6

Other Divisions - 31.3

Total Plane Use - 63.9

Cases Made In Conjunction With Aircraft Use Resulted In Citations Issued For:

3-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours

3-Take Deer Illegally From Boat

1-Possession Overlimit of Deer

7-Total

Confiscations: 1-Rifle, 1-20 Gauge Shotgun, 2 (Doe) Deer

RESOLUTION

2003 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON

January 9, 2003

WHEREAS, the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana 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 2003 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, 2002 until April 21, 2003 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 2003 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, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby continues the recreational red snapper closure until 12:01 a.m., April 21, 2003, and

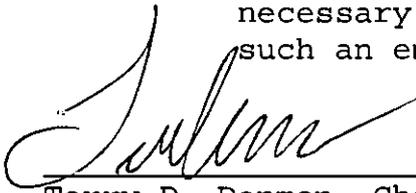
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the recreational red snapper season shall open at 12:01 a.m. on April 21 until midnight October 31, 2003, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to change the opening and closure dates of the recreational red snapper season if informed that the Federal dates are other than those specified in this resolution and attached declaration of emergency, and

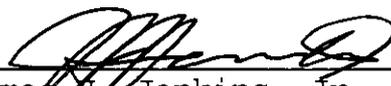
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to close the recreational red snapper season when he is informed that the recreational red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open an additional recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters if he is later informed that the National Marine Fisheries Service has opened an additional recreational season and to close such season when he is informed 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 Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate such an emergency rule.



Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2003 Recreational Red Snapper Season

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the 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, 2002 until 12:01 a.m., April 21, 2003 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 2003 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 a.m., April 21, 2003 by reducing the bag limit to zero for that time period. The season will open at 12:01 a.m., April 21, 2003 and continue until midnight October 31, 2003. If the secretary is notified that the opening and closing of Federal seasons is changed, he is hereby authorized to change the opening and closing dates for state waters accordingly.

Effective with the recreational red snapper season closure, any 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 not possess any red snapper whether taken from within or without Louisiana territorial waters.

Terry D. Denmon

Chairman

RESOLUTION

2003 COMMERCIAL RED SNAPPER SEASONS

January 9, 2003

WHEREAS, the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana is 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, regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., generally three miles offshore, and

WHEREAS, rules will be established by NMFS, to provide for commercial harvest seasons for red snapper in the EEZ off of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries receives notice from the Gulf Council and NMFS requesting 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 so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 2003 commercial 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 2003 seasons for commercial harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters as follows: the first commercial fishing season for red snapper will open at 12 noon on February 1, 2003, and remain open until 12:00 noon on February 10. This pattern will continue each month until two-thirds of the 2003 commercial quota for red snapper is harvested. The second commercial red snapper season will open at 12 noon on October 1, 2003, and remain open until 12 noon on

October 10, and will also continue in this format each month until the entire 2003 quota is harvested. The minimum size limit for commercially harvested red snapper is 15 inches total length, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such closure order shall authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the 2003 commercial red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters when he is informed 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

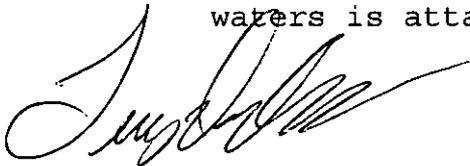
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such closure order shall close the season until the date set for the re-opening of the commercial red snapper season in Federal waters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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, 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 the Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the opening 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, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Declaration of Emergency setting the 2003 commercial red snapper season in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.



Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2003 Commercial Red Snapper Seasons

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Marine Fisheries Services (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., generally three miles offshore. NMFS will provide rules for commercial harvest seasons for red snapper in the EEZ off of Louisiana. NMFS and the Gulf Council typically request consistent regulations in order to enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

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 season for commercial harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters:

The season for the commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will open at 12 noon February 1, 2003. The commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana waters will close

at 12 noon February 10, 2003, and thereafter open at 12 noon on the first of each month and close at 12 noon on the tenth of each month, for each month of 2003 until two-thirds (2/3) of the 2003 commercial red snapper quota for the 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 set the closing date for the commercial red snapper season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed that two-thirds (2/3) of the commercial red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or projected to be harvested, such closure order shall close the season until 12 noon October 1, 2003, which is the date expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2003 commercial red snapper season in Federal waters.

The season for the commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will re-open at 12 noon October 1, 2003. The commercial fishery for red snapper in Louisiana waters will close at 12 noon October 10, 2003, and thereafter open at 12 noon on the first of each month and close at 12 noon on the tenth of each month for each month of 2003, until the remainder of the 2003 commercial quota is harvested.

The Commission grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to set the closing date for the commercial red snapper season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed that the commercial red snapper quota for the Gulf of

Mexico has been harvested or projected to be harvested; such closure order shall close the season until the date set for the opening of the year 2004 commercial red snapper season in Federal waters.

The Commission also grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to change the opening 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.

Nothing herein shall preclude the legal harvest of red snapper by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Effective with any commercial closure, no person shall commercially harvest, transport, purchase, barter, trade, sell or attempt to purchase, barter, trade or sell red snapper. Effective with the closure, no person shall possess red snapper in excess of a daily bag limit. Provided however that fish in excess of the daily bag limit which were legally taken prior to the closure may be purchased, possessed, transported, and sold by a licensed wholesale/retail dealer if appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6 are properly maintained, and those other than wholesale/retail dealers may purchase such fish in excess of the daily bag limit from wholesale/retail dealers for their own use or

for sale by a restaurant as prepared fish.

Terry D. Denmon

Chairman

RESOLUTION

2003 COMMERCIAL KING MACKEREL SEASON

January 9, 2003

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 2003 commercial king mackerel season in EEZ waters will open on July 1, 2003, 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. 56:326.3 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 2003 season for commercial harvest of king mackerel in Louisiana state waters to open at 12:01 a.m., July 1, 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

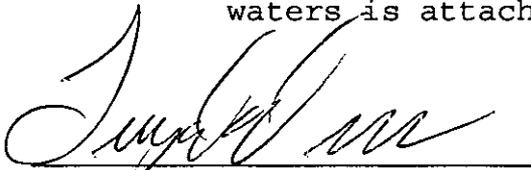
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters when he is informed by NMFS that the commercial king mackerel quota for the Western Gulf of

Mexico has been harvested or is projected to be harvested, such closure order shall close the season until 12:01 a.m., July 1, 2004, which is the date expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2004 commercial king mackerel season in Federal waters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission also authorizes the Secretary to open an additional commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened an additional season and to close such season 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 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 2003 commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters is attached to and made part of this resolution.


Terry D. Denmon, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission


James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2003 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 and trip limit 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, 2003 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, 2004, which is the date expected to be set for the re-opening of the 2004 commercial king

mackerel season in Federal waters.

The Commission also authorizes the Secretary to open an additional commercial king mackerel season in Louisiana state waters if he is informed that NMFS has opened an additional season and to close such season 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.

Nothing herein shall preclude the legal harvest of king mackerel by legally licensed recreational fishermen. Effective with any closure, no person shall commercially harvest, transport, purchase, barter, trade, sell or attempt to purchase, barter, trade or sell king mackerel. Effective with the closure, no person shall possess king mackerel in excess of a daily bag limit. Provided however that fish in excess of the daily bag limit which were legally taken prior to the closure may be purchased, possessed, transported, and sold by a licensed wholesale/retail dealer if appropriate records in accordance with R.S. 56:306.5 and R.S. 56:306.6 are properly maintained. Those other than wholesale/retail dealers may purchase such fish in excess of the daily bag limit from wholesale/retail dealers for their own use or for sale by a restaurant as prepared fish.

Terry D. Denmon

Chairman

Hawkins, Susan

From: Courtney, Joel
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2003 11:31 AM
To: Hawkins, Susan
Subject: Numbers from Public Information Commision Video

Information Requests

Front Desk (Main Lobby)

Phone Calls 5,391

Walk-Ins 1,349

LDWF Resource Library

Walk-Ins 830

Emails 355

Phone Calls 236

Mail 30

12. BOISE-VERNON (Owner: Boise-Cascade Co. — 54,269 acres)

Trapping: Same as outside.
Raccoon: Jan. 11-Feb. 9 (nighttime). Permit required from Lake Charles Regional Office.
13. BUCKHORN (Owner: LDWF — 8,955 acres)
Trapping: Dec. 2-Jan. 10.
Raccoon: Jan. 11-26 (nighttime).
14. CAMP BEAUREGARD (Owner: La. National Guard — 10,000 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside. Daily military clearance required.
15. DEWEY W. WILLS (Owner: LDWF — 60,276 acres)

Trapping: Dec. 3-23, all types of traps; Feb. 1-28 water sets only. Trapping prohibited in green tree reservoir and restricted area.
Raccoon: Jan. 11-26 (nighttime). May 1-Sept. 27 on Tuesday and Thursday only (nighttime chase only).
16. ELM HALL (Owner: LDWF — 2,831 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.
17. FORT POLK (Owners: U.S. Army & U.S. Forest Service — 109,855 acres)

Trapping: Same as outside. Trappers must register at Building #7654, North Fort Polk, and use self-clearing system.
18. GRASSY LAKE (Owner: LDWF — 13,297 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.
19. JACKSON-BIENVILLE (Owners: Willamette Industries et al — 32,000 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.
20. JOYCE (Owner: LDWF — 15,059 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.

21. LAKE BOEUF (Owner: LDWF — 786 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside; only by written agreement with LDWF, 2415 Darnall Rd., New Iberia, LA 70560.
22. LAKE RAMSEY (Owner: LDWF — 800 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside. Foot traffic only - all vehicles restricted to parish roads.

23. LITTLE RIVER (Owner: LDWF — 2,944 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.
Raccoon: Jan. 11-26 (nighttime). May 1-Sept. 27 on Tuesday and Thursday only (nighttime chase only).
24. LOGGY BAYOU (Owner: LDWF — 4,213 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.

25. MACHAC (Owner: LDWF — 8,325 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.
26. MARSH ISLAND REFUGE (Owner: LDWF — 70,000 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside; only by written agreement with LDWF, 2415 Darnall Rd., New Iberia, LA 70560.

27. MAUREPAS SWAMP (Owner: LDWF — 61,950 acres)
Trapping: same as outside.
28. OUACHITA (Owner: LDWF — 8,745 acres)
Trapping: Jan. 2-Feb. 28.

This public document was published at a total cost of \$1,386.40. Ten thousand copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$1,386.40. The total cost of all printings of this document including reprints is \$1,386.40. This document was published for Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898, by Division of Administration, Administrative Services, State Printing Office, to inform Louisiana residents of the rules and regulations concerning trapping, hunting, and other activities related to fur-bearing and their pelts. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to Louisiana R. S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Raccoon: Sept. 30-Oct. 13, Oct. 26-Nov. 17, Jan. 18-Feb. 2 (nighttime). Permit from Monroe Regional Office required.
29. PASS-A-LOUTRE (Owner: LDWF — 66,000 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside, only by written agreement with LDWF, 2415 Darnall Rd., New Iberia, LA 70560

30. PEARL RIVER (Owner: LDWF — 35,031 acres)
Trapping: Nov. 28-Feb. 12
Raccoon: Oct. 5-20, Jan. 13-26 (nighttime).
31. PEASON RIDGE (Owner: U.S. Army — 33,488 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside. Trappers must register at Building #7654, North Fort Polk, and use self-clearing system.

32. PLUM CREEK (Owner: Plum Creek Timber Co. — 25,480 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.
Raccoon: Jan. 11-30 (nighttime). Permit from Monroe Regional Office required.
33. POINTE-AUX-CHENES (Owner: LDWF — 30,037 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside, only by written agreement with LDWF, 2415 Darnall Rd., New Iberia, LA 70560

34. POMME DE TERRE (Owner: LDWF — 7,064 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.
35. RED RIVER (Owners: LDWF — 24,326 acres; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — 11,717 acres)
Trapping: Dec. 2-Jan. 10.

36. ROCKEFELLER REFUGE (Owner: LDWF — 84,000 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside; only by written agreement with LDWF, 5476 Grand Chenier Hwy., Grand Chenier, LA 70643.
37. RUSSELL SAGE (Owner: LDWF — 17,280 acres)
Trapping: Jan. 2-Feb. 28.
Raccoon: Sept. 30-Oct. 13, Oct. 26-Nov. 17, Jan. 18-Feb. 2 (nighttime). Permit from Monroe Regional Office required.

38. SABINE (Owners: International Paper Co., Boise-Cascade Co., et al — 14,780 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.
39. SABINE ISLAND (Owners: State of La. & Calcasieu Parish School Board — 8,103 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.

40. SALVADOR/TIMKEN (Owners: LDWF — 30,600 acres; Orleans City Park Improvement Assn. — 3,920 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside; only by written agreement with LDWF, 2415 Darnall Rd., New Iberia, LA 70560.
41. SANDY HOLLOW (Owners: LDWF — 3,515 acres; Tangipahoa Parish School Board — 181 acres)
Trapping: Closed.

42. SHERBURNE (Owners: LDWF — 11,780 acres; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service — 15,220 acres; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — 15,690 acres)
No commercial activity on Atchafalaya NWR except trapping.

Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance shall write to Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Trapping: Same as outside.
Raccoon: Jan. 11-26 (nighttime). Permit from WMA headquarters or Opelousas Regional Office required.
43. SICILY ISLAND HILLS (Owner: LDWF — 7,098 acres)
Trapping: Dec. 2-Jan. 10.
44. SODA LAKE (Owner: Caddo Levee District — 1,300 acres)
Trapping: Closed.

45. SPRING BAYOU (Owner: LDWF — 12,078 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.
46. STATE WILDLIFE REFUGE (Owner: LDWF — 13,000 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside; only by written agreement with LDWF, 2415 Darnall Rd., New Iberia, LA 70560

47. THISTLETHWAITE (Owner: Thistlethwaite Heirs — 11,100 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside. No trapping in restricted areas — see WMA map.
48. THREE RIVERS (Owners: LDWF — 23,222 acres; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — 1,085 acres)
Trapping: Dec. 2-Jan. 10.

49. TUNICA HILLS (Owner: LDWF — 5,358 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.
50. UNION (Owners: Plum Creek Timber Corp., La. Department of Corrections, et al — 12,852 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.

51. WEST BAY (Owners: Weyerhaeuser Co., Inc. — 63,511 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside.
Raccoon: Jan. 11-Feb. 9 (nighttime). Permit required from Lake Charles Regional Office.

52. WISNER (Owner: Edward Wisner Donation Advisory Committee — 21,621 acres)
Trapping: Same as outside. Private.

COASTWIDE NUTRIA CONTROL PROGRAM
For information on this program, contact Jeffrey Marx at (337)373-0032, 2415 Darnall Road, New Iberia, LA 70560

TRAPPERS, ALLIGATOR & RACCOON HUNTERS
When you purchase a \$25 trapping or alligator hunting license, you are investing in your future and the future of the Louisiana fur and alligator industry. Twenty dollars from every trapping and alligator hunting license is dedicated to a special fund. This fund is being used to achieve two major goals:

I. To provide for PUBLIC EDUCATION concerning the role of trapping and hunting in wildlife management.
II. To develop FUR AND ALLIGATOR MARKET STABILITY AND ENHANCEMENT through promotion and advertisement.

An 11-person council made up of trappers, alligator hunters and farmers, and land managers meets monthly with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to ensure the wise use of these funds.
The Fur and Alligator Advisory Council works to improve the future for fur and alligator resources, trappers, alligator hunters and farmers and the industry. For more information contact the Louisiana Fur and Alligator Advisory Council, 2415 Darnall Road, New Iberia, LA 70560.

LOUISIANA FUR AND ALLIGATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL
Darrell Dupont, Chairman
Dan Davis, Vice Chairman
Don Aycock
Frank Ellender
Tanya Sturman, Education/Promotion Coordinator
Mike Ragusa
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LOUISIANA Trapping Regulations 2002-2003



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES P.O. Box 98000 Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

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M.J. "Mike" Foster Jr.
Governor
James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
Thomas M. Gattile Jr., Chairman
Thomas E. Kelly
Wayne Sagrera
Dr. Jerry Stone



HELP STOP POACHING
800/442-2511
Call Operation Game Thief's toll free hotline any time of day or night.
Remember, a poacher is stealing from YOU.

FURBEARERS

The following animals are classified as furbearers: beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, river otter, red fox, raccoon and skunk.

2002-2003 SEASON

The trapping season will open STATEWIDE on November 20, 2002, and will close March 31, 2003.

Trapping season on management areas (See management areas.)

LICENSES REQUIRED

Trapper: No person shall set or run traps of any type to catch furbearers during the open trapping season without a current trapping license. No person shall sell pelts or carcasses of furbearers without a current trapping license. (This includes raccoon and/or opossum hunters selling pelts and/or meat.) Every fur trapper must at all times have his current trapping license in possession while trapping or selling pelts or carcasses.

Fur Buyer: No person shall buy whole nongame quadrupeds for the purpose of pelting, carcasses of furbearing animals, raw furs or skins from fur trappers, alligator hunters, alligator farmers, fur buyers or fur dealers and sell within the state without a current fur buyer's license in his possession while conducting business.

Fur Dealer: No person shall buy whole nongame quadrupeds for the purpose of pelting, carcasses of furbearing animals, raw furs or skins from fur trappers, alligator hunters, alligator farmers, fur buyers or fur dealers and ship or export these furs or skins from the state without a current fur dealer's license in his possession while conducting business.

LICENSES

Trapper:	under 15 yrs. of age.....\$5
	15 yrs. of age or older.....\$25
Non-Resident.....	\$200
Fur Buyer:	
Resident.....	\$25
Non-Resident.....	\$100
Fur Dealer:	
Resident (\$500 deposit required).....	\$150
Non-Resident (\$1,000 deposit required).....	\$300
Non-game Quadruped:	
Breeder.....	\$25
Exhibitor.....	\$10

CAPTIVE FURBEARERS

Licensed trappers may hold in captivity live furbearers during the open trapping season. Such animals must have been obtained by legal trapping methods. Such animals must be released or pelted by the last day of the open trapping season.

For detailed information on furbearer regulations and trapping, contact a local enforcement agent or one of the Fur and Refuge Division offices.

LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000 - Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225/765-2811)

LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
1600 Canal Street - New Orleans, LA 70112
(504/568-5885)

LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2415 Darnall Rd. - New Iberia, LA 70560
(337/373-0032)

Rockett Wildlife Refuge
5476 Grand Chemier Hwy. - Grand Chemier, LA 70643
(337/538-2165)

METHODS OF TAKING FURBEARERS

All animals listed as furbearers may be taken only during the open trapping season and only by means of a trap or snare. Nutria may also be taken by licensed trapper for fur and/or meat during the open season by the use of a rifle, only between the hours of sunrise and sunset.

Nutria may be taken recreationally Sept. 1 - Feb. 28 during legal shooting hours by any method with no limit, including WMAs. Pelting or selling of carcasses is illegal EXCEPT when taken by a licensed trapper during the trapping season.

No trap, snare or other device used to capture furbearers shall be set more than one day prior to the open trapping season. No traps shall remain set after the closing day of the trapping season. All traps must be checked daily and all traps must be removed from the trapping grounds the closing day of the trapping season.

Any type of trap with permanent teeth or insert teeth is illegal and cannot be used in Louisiana.

Furbearers can be taken only with traps. Firearms are illegal except as provided for to take nutria, coyote, raccoon and opossum, which may be taken with firearms as per provisions below.

The use of dogs to chase or take furbearers is illegal except as provided for when hunting raccoon, opossum, coyote, foxes and bobcats. Dogs may be used during the taking of nutria between the hours of sunrise and sunset, except during deer season where still hunting only is allowed and during turkey nesting season as determined by the Commission.

Pelting: No pelting during the closed trapping season shall be permitted at any time, except with department authorization. The sale of carcasses of nongame quadrupeds is prohibited during the closed trapping season, except with department authorization. These provisions do not apply to nongame quadrupeds raised on farms.

FOX, BOBCAT AND COYOTE

Foxes and bobcats may be run with dogs for "chase only" by licensed hunters. Foxes and bobcats can be taken only by trappers during the open trapping season. Holders of hunting licenses may take coyotes year round during legal daylight shooting hours. The running of coyotes with dogs is prohibited in all turkey hunting areas during the open turkey season. Coyote hunting is restricted to chase only during still hunting segments of the firearm season for deer.

RACCOON AND OPOSSUM HUNTING

NO CLOSED SEASON

Raccoon and opossum can be taken at night by one or more licensed hunters with one or more dogs and one .22 rimfire rifle. A licensed hunter may take raccoon or opossum with .22 rimfire or shotgun during daylight hours during the open rabbit season. Hunting from boats or motor vehicles is prohibited. No bag limit for nighttime or daytime raccoon or opossum hunting during the open trapping season except on certain WMAs as listed. The remainder of the year, raccoon and opossum bag limit for daytime or nighttime is one per person per day or night. No one who hunts raccoons or opossums as prescribed above shall pelt or sell skins or carcasses of raccoons and opossums taken during the open trapping season unless he is the holder of a valid trapper's license which shall be required in addition to his basic hunting license.

BOBCAT AND RIVER OTTER TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

To obtain federal approval to export bobcat and river otter outside the United States, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is required to ensure that only Louisiana trapped river otter and bobcat are tagged with Louisiana export tags. To accomplish this, a special possession tag will be made available to fur buyers.

A blue tag for river otter and a red tag for bobcat must be filled out by the trapper at the time the pelt is first sold. The information required includes trapper name, trapper license number, parish caught in and date trapped. No bobcat or river otter pelts shall be purchased from a trapper or be in the possession of a fur buyer or dealer without a possession tag until they are submitted to the department in exchange for export tags. Dealers shall not purchase bobcat or river otter pelts without an accompanying possession tag.

No bobcat or river otter pelt shall be shipped from the state without an export tag attached. Dealers will obtain export tags for bobcat and river otter by providing the department with one completed possession tag for each pelt to be shipped from the state. It shall be illegal to falsify possession tags or attach Louisiana export tags to out-of-state bobcat or river otter pelts. Once possession tags have been received and counted by department personnel, export tags will be mailed immediately. Trappers shipping bobcat or river otter out of state must provide completed possession tags to the department in order to receive export tags.

SHIPMENT OF RAW FURS OR ALLIGATOR SKINS

No fur trapper, alligator hunter, or fur dealer shall transport or ship raw fur or alligator skins out of the state without first obtaining an official out-of-state shipping tag from the department.

No fur buyer may transport or ship raw fur or skins out of the state except to a licensed non-resident fur dealer.

Severance Tax: There is levied a severance tax on all skins or hides taken from any furbearing animals or alligators, within the state, payable to the state through the department by the fur trapper, alligator hunter, or alligator farmer shipping or taking his own catch out-of-state or by the dealer shipping skins or hides out-of-state or tanning fur pelts or alligator skins in the state. A fur trapper, alligator hunter, or alligator farmer must pay this tax at the time the fur or skin is transported or shipped out-of-state. A fur dealer shipping or transporting fur pelts out-of-state or tanning fur pelts within the state must pay this tax within ten days following the department's annual audit. A fur dealer shipping or transporting alligator skins out-of-state or tanning alligator skins within the state must pay the severance tax at the time of shipment or prior to tanning.

The tax is as follows: beaver, bobcat, coyote, fox, muskrat, opossum, raccoon and skunk, one cent (.01) on each pelt; mink, river otter and alligator, twenty-five cents (.25) on each pelt or skin.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Trapping: Permits to take furbearers from WMAs may be obtained at regional offices when required. Self-clearing permit for trapping on the WMA is required. Other special trapping exceptions are listed under respective WMA season schedules. All traps must be run daily. Traps with teeth are illegal. On WMAs where permits are required, each trapper must submit an annual trapping report to the regional office where his permit was obtained. Non-compliance will result in forfeiture of trap-

ping privileges on WMAs. Permits may be obtained only between hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on normal working days at regional offices. Hunter orange is required when a deer gun season is in progress.

Raccoon Hunting (Experimental): Raccoon hunters with dogs must submit an annual report of their kill to the regional office for WMAs where permits are required. Self-clearing permit for raccoon hunting on the WMA is required. Non-compliance will result in forfeiture of hunting privileges on WMAs. A licensed hunter may take raccoon or opossum, one per person, during daylight hours only, during the open rabbit season on WMAs. No bag limit for nighttime or daytime raccoon or opossum hunting during the open trapping season except on certain WMAs as listed. Permits, when required, may be obtained at regional offices only between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on normal working days.

Requests for information on maps, permits and WMAs may be directed to any regional office or Fur & Refuge Division office: Region 1 - 1401 Talton St., Minden 71055 318/371-3050; Region 2 - 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe 71203 318/343-4044; Region 3 - 1995 Shevport Hwy., Pineville 71360 318/487-5885; Region 4 - P.O. Box 1640, Ferriday 71334 318/757-4571; Region 5 - 1213 N. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles 70601 337/491-2575; Region 6 - 5652 Hwy. 182, Opelousas 70570 337/948-0255; Region 7 - P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge 70898-9000 225/765-2360; New Orleans Fur & Refuge 504/568-5885; New Iberia Fur & Refuge 337/373-0032; Rockett Wildlife Refuge 337/538-2276.

TRAPPING SCHEDULE ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND REFUGES

- ALEXANDER STATE FOREST (Owner: La. Office of Forestry & La. Dept. of Natural Resources - 8,092 acres)**
Trapping: Closed
- ATCHAPALAYA DELTA (Owner: State of La. - 137,000 acres)**
Trapping: Same as outside; only by written agreement with LDWF, 2415 Darnall Road, New Iberia, LA 70560.
- ATTAKAPAS (Owner: State of La. - 26,300 acres)**
Trapping: Same as outside.
- BAYOU MACON (Owner: LDWF - 6,940 acres)**
Trapping: Same as outside.
- BAYOU PIERRE (Owner: LDWF - 1,400 acres)**
Trapping: Same as outside, EXCEPT waterfowl refuge closed to trapping.
- BEN'S CREEK (Owner: Cavenham Forest Industries Inc. - 13,113 acres)**
Trapping: Same as outside.
- BIG COLEWA BAYOU (Owner: LDWF - 910 acres)**
Raccoon: Jan. 11-26 (nighttime) Permit required from WMA supervisor.
- BIG LAKE (Owner: LDWF - 19,221 acres)**
Trapping: Dec. 2-Jan. 10.
- BLOXI (Owner: Biloxi Marsh Land Corp. - 39,583 acres)**
Trapping: Same as outside.
- BOBCAU (Owner: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - 32,471 acres)**
Trapping: Same as outside.
- BOELF (Owner: LDWF - 48,504 acres)**
Trapping: Dec. 2-Jan. 10.
- RACCOON (Owner: LDWF - 48,504 acres)**
Raccoon: Jan. 11-26 (nighttime).