

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

RECEIPT

DATE: February 22, 2002

RECEIPT OF: 1) Reports on Striped Mullet, Black Drum, Sheepshead and Southern Flounder.

SENATE PRESIDENT (State Capitol/Senate Sub-Basement)

RECEIVED BY: *John Hainkel* 2/22/02

FOR SENATOR JOHN HAINKEL, SENATE PRESIDENT

HOUSE SPEAKER (State Capitol/1st Floor)

RECEIVED BY: *Ashley Woods* 2/22/02

FOR REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES DeWITT, HOUSE SPEAKER

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (State Capitol/Senate Sub-Basement)

RECEIVED BY: *Craig Romero* 2/22/02

FOR SENATOR CRAIG ROMERO, CHAIRMAN, SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (State Capitol/10th Floor)

RECEIVED BY: *Wilfred Pierre* 2/22/02

FOR REPRESENTATIVE WILFRED PIERRE, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
February 21, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

Honorable John J. Hainkel
Senate President
P.O. Box 94183
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable Craig Romero
Chairman of the Senate Committee
on Natural Resources
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable Charles DeWitt
Speaker of the House
P.O. Box 94062
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9062

Honorable Wilfred Pierre
Chairman of the House Committee
on Natural Resources
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Gentlemen:

In compliance with R.S. 56:325.4(D)1 and R.S. 56:333(G)1, enclosed are the annual reports on striped mullet, black drum, sheepshead and southern flounder which include stock assessments, bioprofiles and spawning potential ratios. Also included are comments received from peer review. These reports were adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its February 7, 2002 meeting.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

sch
Enclosures

Don, 2/21/02

Please review
attached letter. It
is the same as
last year. Make
changes as necessary
& then concur.
Thanks,
Susan

2/21/02


February 21, 2002

Honorable John J. Hainkel
Senate President
P.O. Box 94183
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable Craig Romero
Chairman of the Senate Committee
on Natural Resources
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable Charles DeWitt
Speaker of the House
P.O. Box 94062
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9062

Honorable Wilfred Pierre
Chairman of the House Committee
on Natural Resources
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Gentlemen:

In compliance with R.S. 56:325.4(D)1 and R.S. 56:333(G)1, enclosed are the annual reports on striped mullet, black drum, sheepshead and southern flounder which include stock assessments, bioprofiles and spawning potential ratios. Also included are comments received from peer review. These reports were adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its February 7, 2002 meeting.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

sch
Enclosures

Hawkins, Susan

From: Pausina, Randy
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2002 3:28 PM
To: Hawkins, Susan
Subject: letter

Karen says letter is good to go!

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2002

THOMAS M. GATTLE, JR.
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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

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

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
FEBRUARY 7, 2002

	Page
1. Roll Call	1
2. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2002	1
3. Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief	1
4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January	1
5. Boating Safety Report	3
6. Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt	4
7. Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure	6
8. Declaration of Emergency - Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation	10
9. Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead	13
10. Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Fill Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties	13
11. Division Report - Duck Season Report	17
12. Set June 2002 Meeting Date	18
13. Public Comments	18
14. Adjournment	19

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Chairman Thomas M. Gattle, Jr. presiding.

Bill Busbice
Terry Denmon
Lee Felterman
Tom Kelly
Wayne Sagrera

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

Commissioner Jerry Stone was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **January 3, 2002 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Denmon. The motion passed with no opposition.

Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief began with Major Keith LaCaze stating Agent Siragusa was with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A big objective for Operation Game Thief (OGT) was to raise funds to pay rewards for information leading to the arrest of poachers. Agent Siragusa has been involved in six different cases involving Federal Lacey Act violations where plea agreements were made and resulted in contributions of \$12,000 going to OGT's reward fund. Major LaCaze then stated OGT's Board of Directors and Citizens Advisory Committee decided to recognize Agent Siragusa. He then read the inscription on the plaque. Agent Siragusa appreciated the plaque and stated all investigations were joint efforts with Department agents. Chairman Gattle thanked Agent Siragusa for his efforts on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Busbice asked how much is annually given out in rewards? Major LaCaze states it averaged between \$7,000 and \$9,000 per year.

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

Region I - Minden - 101 citations and 5 warning.

Region II - Monroe - 85 citations and 2 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 134 citations and 5 warnings.

Region IV - Ferriday - 149 citations and 6 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 118 citations and 17 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 164 citations and 12 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 96 citations and 2 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 195 citations and 44 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 219 citations and 24 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 101 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 54 citations.

SWEP - 12 citations.

Refuge Patrol - 60 citations and 1 warning.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of January was 1,488. Also there were 118 warning citations issued statewide. Major LaCaze then explained a case on Larto Lake taking gamefish illegally. Agents observed an individual taking crappie and bream with hoop nets and then they found 588 crappie-packaged in separate bags. Restitution alone will be \$3,610 for the value of the fish.

The aviation report for January 2002 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 57.4 hours for enforcement and 29.2 hours for other divisions. Two citations were issued. A total of 14 hunter education courses were taught in January and 414 students received their certificates. Chairman Gattle then asked if any fatalities have occurred since the last time he asked? Major LaCaze thought there may have been one more self-inflicted accidental shooting in Region 8 area.

Commissioner Busbice introduced his son, Matthew, to the Commission and stated he is a sophomore at LSU, a good hunter and a good fisherman.

Lt. Col. Charlie Clark began his **Boating Safety Report** by stating one of the goals for the Enforcement Division was a reduction in boating accidents by 2 percent for the next year. One strategy to accomplish this was identification of problem areas historically such as the Florida parishes. A phenomenon has occurred this year that has never been seen in this state. But first, Lt. Col. Clark gave some statistics on boating. About 100 people were being lost on state waters each year during the late 70's and early 80's. Since that time, boat manufacturers, U.S. Coast Guard and Underwriters Laboratory have built better boats as well as having boating education and enforcement. This resulted in a vast reduction nationwide of people lost in boating accidents. Not many people associate danger with a boat, but in this state water is one of the most hostile environments and tool. Boating accidents have remained consistent over the last 10 years with approximately 200-250 each year. Different charts were explained by Lt. Col. Clark. Since January 1, 2002, there have been 10 fatal accidents in this State and all of those killed were hunters or fishermen. Lt. Col. Clark noted he wants to form a Blue Ribbon Coalition in the State. The regulations that are in place are inadequate, such as there is no law that says a recreational boater must stay to his right at all times. A National Survey indicated that 19 percent of boaters are not sure of what side you should pass on. He also wanted to empower peer groups to get the message to their participants that the rules of the road are regulations that needs to be abided and also the need to wear life jackets. Passengers in a boat need to make demands from their operators while in a boat. From this point on, agents will be looking at deviant behavior on the water. Finally, Lt. Col. Clark stated this was a broad overview showing where the Division is with boating. Next year they will try again for mandatory education at the Legislature. Chairman Gattle asked if Enforcement enforces the regulations put out by the Legislature? Lt. Col. Clark answered yes. Then Chairman Gattle asked if safety regulations can be set by the Commission? Lt. Col. Clark stated Title 34 allows the Commission to deal with equipment on boats, but feels the Commission does not have the power to mandate all boat operators to have safety education. Chairman Gattle asked who would have the authority to regulate passing on the right? Mr. Don Puckett stated he would have to look at the law. Commissioner Busbice asked if the Department is involved in liability determination and if agents

testify? Lt. Col. Clark stated they reconstruct accidents and they also testify in court. Then Commissioner Busbice asked if time of operation for jet skis could be regulated by the Commission? Lt. Col. Clark stated time of operation is already in State Law. Commissioner Kelly asked if an individual had contacted him on boating education? Lt. Col. Clark explained several ways people can be certified on boating safety. Commissioner Denmon asked if the conclusion was mandatory education and the requirement of a license? Lt. Col. Clark stated 22 states has some form of mandatory education, and that 13 to 18 percent of those involved in accidents have had some form of boating education. Commissioner Kelly stated he lives next door to the boat launch in Jeanerette and has witnessed several incidents involving jet skis and high speed boats. Lt. Col. Clark commented that the ratio of agents to boats is about 1 to 1200 and knows there is a need for public participation. Commissioner Felterman stated he knew some of the hunters that were killed and felt awareness and training is a long term answer. But he asked that all agent positions in Region 9 be filled or at least step up enforcement in the area.

A Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt was presented by Mr. Tommy Prickett. After promulgating the turkey rules, an oversight was discovered in the youth hunts. Last year was the first year for the youth hunts both on the WMAs and the National Wildlife Refuge. The oversight was not setting dates for the youth turkey hunt on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed dates for the hunt will be March 16 and 17. Hearing no public comments, Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Prickett to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Denmon made a motion to approve the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a hunting season in 2002 for turkeys, and

WHEREAS, authority to establish seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other rules and regulations for the hunting, taking and possession of any species of wild game birds is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:115, and

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for hunting by youth on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Declaration of Emergency establishing a youth turkey season on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge is hereby adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953B and 967D of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R. S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following Declaration of Emergency amending the 2002 Turkey Hunting Seasons:

Federal Lands Turkey Hunting Schedule

Kisatchie National Forest (KNF) turkey hunting schedule:
Caney Ranger District, March 23-April 7; all remaining KNF lands,

March 23-April 14 (including Catahoula and Red Dirt National Wildlife Management Preserves).

Indian Bayou Area (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), turkey hunting schedule: March 23 - 31, lottery hunt only on March 23-24 and March 25 - 27. Contact USCOE at 337-585-0856 for further information.

National Wildlife Refuges: Bogue Chitto NWR, March 23-April 21; Lake Ophelia NWR, March 23 - 25 (lottery only), March 30 - April 1 (lottery only), April 6 - 7; Tensas NWR, March 16-17 (youth lottery only), March 23 - April 21. Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for information regarding NWR hunts.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the youth turkey hunt on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge was not included in the 2002 Turkey Hunting Regulations, and the proposed date is prior to the opening of the regular turkey hunting season for Tensas National Wildlife Refuge.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

The first item handled by Mr. Marty Bourgeois was a **Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure**. The request is to close a portion of the Louisiana offshore territorial waters south of the inside/outside shrimp line, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard Navigational Light on the northwest shore of Caillou Boca. The closure would take effect at 6 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2002. Mr. Bourgeois also asked the Commission to reopen a portion of the closed waters from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel eastward to the Caillou Boca light on Monday, April 15, 2002 at 6 a.m. Sampling data indicates significant numbers of small, overwintering white shrimp are in the area and these counts are smaller than the legal size of 100 count per pound. It is anticipated additional white shrimp will recruit into these waters. Over the past 5 years, the Commission has considered similar recommendations. The closure will protect the small, overwintering white shrimp and will allow them the chance to reenter the bays and grow. Secretarial authority to reopen, close or open other seasons to shrimping was asked. Chairman Gattle asked how much territory is south of the inside/outside line. Mr. Bourgeois answered it was 3 miles from that line. Commissioner Felterman asked if April 15 was a given date or was it subject to change? Mr. Bourgeois stated historically significant numbers of large harvestable shrimp are

seen at that time. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Bourgeois to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly made a motion adopting the Resolution. Commissioner Felterman seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

2002 Offshore Shrimp Season Closure
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

February 7, 2002

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

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

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides the minimum legal count on saltwater white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and

WHEREAS, in the State's Territorial Waters, water temperatures remain below 20° Centigrade and the growth rate of white shrimp is therefore slow, and

WHEREAS, current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in a portion of the State's Territorial Waters do not average 100 count minimum size and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby order a closure to shrimping in that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the

Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W, at 6 a.m. on Monday, February 11, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel Buoy line to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W shall reopen to shrimping at 6 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of the remaining Territorial Waters, if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Declaration of Emergency closing the State's Territorial Waters is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons, and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall have the authority to open or close the State's offshore waters to shrimping, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby orders a closure to shrimping in that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W. This closure is effective at 6 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2002. The Commission also hereby orders that that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel Buoy Line, shall reopen to shrimping at 6 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2002.

R.S. 56:498 provides that the minimum legal count on white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound after the third Monday in December. Current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in this portion of the State's outside waters do not average 100 count minimum legal size and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters. This action is being taken to protect these small white shrimp and allow them the opportunity to grow to a more valuable size.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of the remaining Territorial Waters, if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary; and hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open special seasons for the harvest of white shrimp in any portion of the State's inshore waters where such a season would not detrimentally impact small brown shrimp.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

A Declaration of Emergency - Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation was the last item for Mr. Marty Bourgeois. This request was to extend the oyster season in a portion of the public seed grounds within the Bay Gardene Seed Reservation. Bay Gardene is a 2,900 acre area. This extension will allow for both sack and seed oyster harvesting in Bay Gardene until one-half hour after sunset, Wednesday, May 15, 2002. This bay has observed no fishing over the last 5 years, but there is a tremendous resource there. The latest assessment conducted shows about 38,000 barrels of seed oysters and 13,000 barrels of sack oysters available for harvest. An increase in culling time and poor meat yields were reasons why this area has not been harvested. Several reasons for the extension include: increasing the utilization of the resources and providing harvesters with increased economic opportunity. The Louisiana Oyster Task Force has approved the recommendation. Secretarial authority was also asked of the Commission. Chairman Gattle asked if this would be 30 days after the closure of the regular season? Mr. Bourgeois stated the Commission has authority to extend the season to May 15 each year. Commissioner Denmon asked Mr. Bourgeois to explain the first Be It Further Resolved on the Resolution. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Bourgeois to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Felterman made a motion accepting the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

Extension of 2002 Season on the Bay Gardene
Oyster Seed Reservation
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

February 7, 2002

WHEREAS, there is significant oyster resource in Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the resource has remained underutilized over the past five years, and

WHEREAS, oyster harvesting activities will substantially benefit the oyster resource by breaking apart dense oyster

clusters and providing increased opportunity for oyster growth, and

WHEREAS, high densities of hooked mussels fouling the Bay Gardene oyster resource have been recorded in recent years and exposure of these mussels from oyster harvesting activities will stimulate their consumption by predators, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the taking of oysters on natural reefs by setting the last day of the season to be no later than May fifteenth, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 states that the Commission shall consider the recommendations of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force when setting the last day of the season, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Oyster Task Force has requested that the Commission consider a season extension in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby extend the oyster season in the portion of the public oyster seed reservation, as described in the attached Declaration of Emergency, to one-half hour after sunset May 15, 2002, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency extending the oyster season in Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

Extension of 2002 Season on the Bay Gardene
Oyster Seed Reservation

In accordance with emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 49:967, and in accordance with R.S. 56:433B(1), which authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the taking of oysters on natural reefs by setting the last day of the season to be no later than May fifteenth, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declares that the oyster season in the portion of the public oyster seed reservation in Bay Gardene as described below shall be extended and shall close one-half hour after sunset May 15, 2002:

Beginning at the western end of Bayou Lost at latitude 29° 36' 03.9" N and longitude 89° 37' 49.9" W, thence in an easterly direction along the northern shoreline of Bayou Lost to the eastern most point at Black Bay at latitude 29° 36' 00.8" N and longitude 89° 36' 58.7" W and continuing ESE to the easterly most point of the island which borders Black Bay at latitude 29° 35' 49.2" N and longitude 89° 36' 30.7" W; then SSE to the most southeasterly point of an island (bordering Bay Crabe) at latitude 29° 34' 56.5" N, longitude 89° 36' 06.5" W; then WSW to a point along the southern shore of Bay Gardene at latitude 29° 34' 19.7" N, longitude 89° 37' 17.3" W; and continuing WSW to the south shore of Triple Pass at latitude 29° 33' 56.3" N, longitude 89° 38' 42.5" W; thence northerly across Triple Pass to 29° 34' 15.8" N, longitude 89° 38' 42.7" W; and continuing NNW to the northern most part of an island at latitude 29° 35' 12.9" N, longitude 89° 39' 04.6" W; then NE to a point near Pintail Point and bordering Bay la Fourche at latitude 29° 35' 45.6" N, longitude 89° 38' 15.0" W; then east to a point in northern Bay Gardene at latitude 29° 35' 47.5" N, longitude 89° 37' 44.2" W; and continuing northerly back to the point on the western end of Bayou Lost at latitude 29° 36' 03.9" N, longitude 89° 37' 49.9" W.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead was made by Mr. Joey Shepard. In 1995, the Legislature passed Act 1316 and this Act requires the Commission to provide an annual peered review report by March 1. This report must contain information on spawning potential, biological conditions and profiles for mullet, black drum, sheepshead and flounder. The stock assessments have been provided in the packets. Mr. Shepard also noted there have been no substantive changes to the methods used with the stock assessments from last year and no new data has been published to change the bioprofiles. Another year's worth of data has been added to the assessment. All spawning potential ratio values are above the Legislative requirement of 30 percent. Commissioner Kelly felt the harvest has shown an increase and suggested continuing on as they are now. Chairman Gattle asked if any action was necessary? Mr. Shepard asked the Commission to make an oral motion adopting the reports presented by the Department. Then the appropriate documents would be forwarded to the Legislature. Chairman Gattle asked for any questions or public comments and none were heard. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept the reports as presented. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Fill Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties was handled by Mr. Fred Whitrock. This item pertains to penalty provisions on dredging of materials from navigable waters within the State. Anyone who wants to do this activity must obtain a permit from the Department and pay a royalty to the Department of 20 cents per cubic yard. In this situation, J.P. and Sons had a permit to dredge a certain amount of materials, some of which they paid royalties on and some they did not. Also, after the permit expired, they dredged additional materials. J.P. and Sons has admitted to an internal problem and came to the Department hoping to correct the problem. Mr. Whitrock stated they have been very cooperative. A meeting was held with their Attorney and initially has agreed to pay all royalties, interest and a penalty of \$17,127.06. The total amount owed comes to about \$108,000. Mr. Whitrock then explained the two resolutions. The first would authorize the Department to assess the penalty against J.P. and Sons. The second, in the event this does not work out, grants the Department authority to place the company on demand and pursue all legal recourse necessary to collect these monies. Chairman Gattle stated he would like to see the company pay what they owe plus the penalty. Commissioner Busbice asked when was the 20 cents per

cubic yard fee enacted? Mr. Whitrock stated it was enacted in the mid-80's. Commissioner Felterman asked the location of the violation and was told it was in the Mississippi River. Chairman Gattle asked if the \$17,000 covered interest and cost? Mr. Whitrock answered no, it was solely penalty. Commissioner Busbice asked why was the penalty \$17,000? Mr. Whitrock answered the law gives the Commission authority to assess penalties such as \$1,000 per day for violation and dredging without a permit and the Commission could assess the fair market value of the material dredged. J.P. and Sons illegally dredged 152,000 cubic yards and the royalty on that amounts to \$30,000. But since they have been cooperating, the Department felt \$17,000 was an appropriate penalty. Commissioner Denmon asked how did the Department arrive at the \$17,000 penalty? Mr. Whitrock stated the amount equals to 50 percent of the amount illegally dredged plus the amount owed. Commissioner Denmon asked if this figure was negotiated with the company and were they willing to accept? Mr. Whitrock stated this was what was felt as a fair amount for a penalty. Chairman Gattle stated the first resolution would authorize the penalty assessment. Then he asked Mr. Whitrock to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

Before going on with the second resolution, Commissioner Busbice asked what is the retail value of fill material? Mr. Whitrock stated it was estimated to be \$1.50 per cubic yard. He added the law allows the Commission to set a schedule of royalty payments through rulemaking process. Commissioner Denmon asked how much income is received per year? Mr. Whitrock was told it is between \$500,000 and \$900,000 per year. Commissioner Busbice suggested they may want to consider an increase. Chairman Gattle asked who would be in charge of making a recommendation or answering questions on this from the Department? Mr. Patton answered it would be up to him to present it to the Commission, but first he would have to find an expert opinion to assist in deciding what was appropriate. Chairman Gattle asked this be looked into before the next meeting. Commissioner Busbice asked how many companies are operating at this time? Mr. Whitrock stated there are between 15 and 20 permits operating at any given time. Mr. Patton reminded the Members there is a Minerals Committee of the Commission and this would be an appropriate matter for them to consider. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Patton to prepare something for the Committee to discuss at a meeting within the next two months. Commissioner Busbice asked Mr. Patton to advise the

Commission of any other mineral related items that needed to be updated. Chairman Gattle stated the second resolution would authorize the Department to proceed against J.P. and Sons if all efforts fail. Mr. Whitrock then read the Therefore Be It Resolved. Commissioner Busbice made a motion adopting the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. The motion passed.

(The full text of the Resolutions
are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has determined that J.P. & Sons, Inc. has dredged approximately 394,222.4 cubic yards of fill material from the waters of the state without paying royalty to the Department as required by law and, for the dredging of 152,897.4 cubic yards of the total 394,222.4 cubic yards, without a permit, as is also required by law, and

WHEREAS, the amount of royalty due on the dredged material totals approximately \$78,844.48, with \$30,579.48 being the royalty due for the material dredged without a permit, plus interest and penalties, and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Department believes that a penalty of \$17,127.06 is appropriate under the circumstances for the dredging of the 152,897.4 cubic yards of fill material without a permit, but only in the event that J.P. & Sons agrees to pay all royalty due plus interest.

WHEREAS, the Department requests that the Commission assess a penalty in the amount of \$17,127.06 against J.P. & Sons for dredging the fill material without a permit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission assess a penalty in the amount of \$17,127.06 against J.P. & Sons for dredging fill material without a permit, but only in the event J.P. & Sons agrees to pay all royalty due plus interest and this assessed penalty.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

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

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has determined that J.P. & Sons, Inc. has dredged approximately 394,222.4 cubic yards of fill material from the waters of the state without paying royalty to the Department as required by law and, for some of the dredging, without a permit, as is also required by law, and

WHEREAS, the amount of royalty due on the dredged material totals approximately \$78,844.48 plus interest and penalties, and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Department has been unable to negotiate the payment of the outstanding amounts due and requests that the Commission authorize the Department to place demand upon J.P. & Sons, Inc. for the unpaid royalty, plus interest and penalty, and

WHEREAS, the Commission, by taking this action, in no way intends to preclude, and in fact encourages, discussions between J.P. & Sons, Inc. and the Department in an attempt to reach agreement on the payment of the royalty due, plus interest and penalty.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission authorizes the Department to place demand upon J.P. & Sons, Inc. and take all other action as necessary, including the filing of suit, against J.P. & Sons, Inc. for collection of all royalty due, along with interest and all penalties allowed by law, as well as all other remedies prescribed by law.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

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

Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Robert Helm to come forward and give the **Division Report - Duck Season Report**. A summary of the waterfowl season was given to each Commissioner and Mr. Helm hit on several high points of the report. This is the fifth consecutive year for a 60 day, 6 bird bag limit and it represents the most liberal regulations for ducks. The youth waterfowl hunting days were moved to the weekend before the first split of the season and it was well received. The opening of the goose season in the west zone was also moved prior to the duck season and most of the feedback was positive. This was the year for dramatic weather. The end of the drought occurred with Tropical Storm Allison dumping 10 to 25 inches of rain across the state in mid-summer. Then in late August and early September 10+ inches fell which messed up teal hunting especially for those in the marsh. After that, there were 7 weeks of no rain, followed by up to 15 inches of rain in late November through December. Extremely mild temperatures occurred in November and December, but this changed at Christmas when arctic air pushed through the state. This weather pattern was in contrast to what occurred in 2000. Results from the four surveys conducted were well below those of last year and well below those of the long term. In November, there were 1.6 million ducks and in December, these numbers went down. The January survey recorded 3.3 million ducks in the coastal zones and Catahoula Lake. Less than 200,000 mallards were counted in the January survey compared with over 900,000 last year and an average of 700,000. This same trend occurred with geese where there were 470,000 snow geese compared to 1.1 million last year, and 62,000 white fronts which was down 30 percent from last year. Overall duck hunting results were "real ugly", commented Mr. Helm. The southwest marshes and rice fields hunting success was very poor. The first split was better than the second split. Hunting improved a bit to the east in Terrebonne Parish and Atchafalaya Delta. On four of

the coastal WMAs where hunter bag checks were conducted, results showed hunter effort to be 3 ducks per effort. The mouth of the Mississippi River around Venice was another very good area. In central and northeast Louisiana, there was good habitat, but the birds were spread out. In this region, there was good hunting on opening weekends, otherwise, hunting was extremely poor. The areas of northwest Louisiana and Atchafalaya Basin had very poor hunting success. Catahoula Lake was good the first few weeks of the season then the lake was lost to flooding. Mr. Helm felt this was one of the least successful seasons in many years. He stated he has received more negative comments this year than ever before. What made this so difficult was last year was one of the best seasons ever and this year was so bad. The good news according to Mr. Helm is that things will get better with the weather returning to normal and migrations getting better. Chairman Gattle stated a lot of questions has been made on whether the overall population of the ducks were down and asked Mr. Helm to comment on this. Mr. Helm stated he felt the numbers were accurate and would not question them. Suggestions were that production of ducks was good from last summer and the Wing Bees study should verify that. Chairman Gattle asked if 60 day, 6 bird bag limit should stay in place? Mr. Helm answered that would be based on breeding populations and conditions of the wetlands this spring and summer. Chairman Gattle asked if the statute has been changed to allow Louisiana to go to the last Sunday in January next year as a choice without a penalty? Mr. Helm stated this was still in discussion. Commissioner Denmon asked if there is any information on harvest throughout the Mississippi Flyway for this year? Mr. Helm stated the results will not be available until this summer. Mr. Phil Bowman stated he talked with Iowa's Wildlife Director and he reported the birds were just showing up during the last week of their season. Commissioner Denmon stated, from comments he has received, the birds stopped further north at a time when the northern states seasons were ending. He thought because of this, the harvest numbers would be down. Mr. Helm agreed with him on that point.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **June 2002 Meeting** on Thursday, June 6, 2002 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked for any **Public Comments** and none were heard.

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



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 7, 2002

THOMAS M. GATTLE, JR.
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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

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

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (225) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
FEBRUARY 7, 2002

	Page
1. Roll Call	1
2. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2002	1
3. Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief	1
4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January	1
5. Boating Safety Report	3
6. Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt	4
7. Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure	6
8. Declaration of Emergency - Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation	10
9. Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead	13
10. Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Fill Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties	13
11. Division Report - Duck Season Report	17
12. Set June 2002 Meeting Date	18
13. Public Comments	18
14. Adjournment	19

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, February 7, 2002.

Chairman Thomas M. Gattle, Jr. presiding.

Bill Busbice
Terry Denmon
Lee Felterman
Tom Kelly
Wayne Sagrera

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

Commissioner Jerry Stone was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **January 3, 2002 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Denmon. The motion passed with no opposition.

Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief began with Major Keith LaCaze stating Agent Siragusa was with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A big objective for Operation Game Thief (OGT) was to raise funds to pay rewards for information leading to the arrest of poachers. Agent Siragusa has been involved in six different cases involving Federal Lacey Act violations where plea agreements were made and resulted in contributions of \$12,000 going to OGT's reward fund. Major LaCaze then stated OGT's Board of Directors and Citizens Advisory Committee decided to recognize Agent Siragusa. He then read the inscription on the plaque. Agent Siragusa appreciated the plaque and stated all investigations were joint efforts with Department agents. Chairman Gattle thanked Agent Siragusa for his efforts on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Busbice asked how much is annually given out in rewards? Major LaCaze states it averaged between \$7,000 and \$9,000 per year.

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

Region I - Minden - 101 citations and 5 warning.

Region II - Monroe - 85 citations and 2 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 134 citations and 5 warnings.

Region IV - Ferriday - 149 citations and 6 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 118 citations and 17 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 164 citations and 12 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 96 citations and 2 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 195 citations and 44 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 219 citations and 24 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 101 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 54 citations.

SWEP - 12 citations.

Refuge Patrol - 60 citations and 1 warning.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of January was 1,488. Also there were 118 warning citations issued statewide. Major LaCaze then explained a case on Larto Lake taking gamefish illegally. Agents observed an individual taking crappie and bream with hoop nets and then they found 588 crappie packaged in separate bags. Restitution alone will be \$3,610 for the value of the fish.

The aviation report for January 2002 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 57.4 hours for enforcement and 29.2 hours for other divisions. Two citations were issued. A total of 14 hunter education courses were taught in January and 414 students received their certificates. Chairman Gattle then asked if any fatalities have occurred since the last time he asked? Major LaCaze thought there may have been one more self-inflicted accidental shooting in Region 8 area.

Commissioner Busbice introduced his son, Matthew, to the Commission and stated he is a sophomore at LSU, a good hunter and a good fisherman.

Lt. Col. Charlie Clark began his **Boating Safety Report** by stating one of the goals for the Enforcement Division was a reduction in boating accidents by 2 percent for the next year. One strategy to accomplish this was identification of problem areas historically such as the Florida parishes. A phenomenon has occurred this year that has never been seen in this state. But first, Lt. Col. Clark gave some statistics on boating. About 100 people were being lost on state waters each year during the late 70's and early 80's. Since that time, boat manufacturers, U.S. Coast Guard and Underwriters Laboratory have built better boats as well as having boating education and enforcement. This resulted in a vast reduction nationwide of people lost in boating accidents. Not many people associate danger with a boat, but in this state water is one of the most hostile environments and tool. Boating accidents have remained consistent over the last 10 years with approximately 200-250 each year. Different charts were explained by Lt. Col. Clark. Since January 1, 2002, there have been 10 fatal accidents in this State and all of those killed were hunters or fishermen. Lt. Col. Clark noted he wants to form a Blue Ribbon Coalition in the State. The regulations that are in place are inadequate, such as there is no law that says a recreational boater must stay to his right at all times. A National Survey indicated that 19 percent of boaters are not sure of what side you should pass on. He also wanted to empower peer groups to get the message to their participants that the rules of the road are regulations that needs to be abided and also the need to wear life jackets. Passengers in a boat need to make demands from their operators while in a boat. From this point on, agents will be looking at deviant behavior on the water. Finally, Lt.-Col. Clark stated this was a broad overview showing where the Division is with boating. Next year they will try again for mandatory education at the Legislature. Chairman Gattle asked if Enforcement enforces the regulations put out by the Legislature? Lt. Col. Clark answered yes. Then Chairman Gattle asked if safety regulations can be set by the Commission? Lt. Col. Clark stated Title 34 allows the Commission to deal with equipment on boats, but feels the Commission does not have the power to mandate all boat operators to have safety education. Chairman Gattle asked who would have the authority to regulate passing on the right? Mr. Don Puckett stated he would have to look at the law. Commissioner Busbice asked if the Department is involved in liability determination and if agents

testify? Lt. Col. Clark stated they reconstruct accidents and they also testify in court. Then Commissioner Busbice asked if time of operation for jet skis could be regulated by the Commission? Lt. Col. Clark stated time of operation is already in State Law. Commissioner Kelly asked if an individual had contacted him on boating education? Lt. Col. Clark explained several ways people can be certified on boating safety. Commissioner Denmon asked if the conclusion was mandatory education and the requirement of a license? Lt. Col. Clark stated 22 states has some form of mandatory education, and that 13 to 18 percent of those involved in accidents have had some form of boating education. Commissioner Kelly stated he lives next door to the boat launch in Jeanerette and has witnessed several incidents involving jet skis and high speed boats. Lt. Col. Clark commented that the ratio of agents to boats is about 1 to 1200 and knows there is a need for public participation. Commissioner Felterman stated he knew some of the hunters that were killed and felt awareness and training is a long term answer. But he asked that all agent positions in Region 9 be filled or at least step up enforcement in the area.

A Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt was presented by Mr. Tommy Prickett. After promulgating the turkey rules, an oversight was discovered in the youth hunts. Last year was the first year for the youth hunts both on the WMAs and the National Wildlife Refuge. The oversight was not setting dates for the youth turkey hunt on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed dates for the hunt will be March 16 and 17. Hearing no public comments, Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Prickett to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Denmon made a motion to approve the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a hunting season in 2002 for turkeys, and

WHEREAS, authority to establish seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other rules and regulations for the hunting, taking and possession of any species of wild game birds is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:115, and

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for hunting by youth on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Declaration of Emergency establishing a youth turkey season on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge is hereby adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953B and 967D of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R. S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following Declaration of Emergency amending the 2002 Turkey Hunting Seasons:

Federal Lands Turkey Hunting Schedule

Kisatchie National Forest (KNF) turkey hunting schedule:
Caney Ranger District, March 23-April 7; all remaining KNF lands,

March 23-April 14 (including Catahoula and Red Dirt National Wildlife Management Preserves).

Indian Bayou Area (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), turkey hunting schedule: March 23 - 31, lottery hunt only on March 23-24 and March 25 - 27. Contact USCOE at 337-585-0856 for further information.

National Wildlife Refuges: Bogue Chitto NWR, March 23-April 21; Lake Ophelia NWR, March 23 - 25 (lottery only), March 30 - April 1 (lottery only), April 6 - 7; Tensas NWR, March 16-17 (youth lottery only), March 23 - April 21. Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for information regarding NWR hunts.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the youth turkey hunt on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge was not included in the 2002 Turkey Hunting Regulations, and the proposed date is prior to the opening of the regular turkey hunting season for Tensas National Wildlife Refuge.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

The first item handled by Mr. Marty Bourgeois was a **Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure**. The request is to close a portion of the Louisiana offshore territorial waters south of the inside/outside shrimp line, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard Navigational Light on the northwest shore of Caillou Boca. The closure would take effect at 6 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2002. Mr. Bourgeois also asked the Commission to reopen a portion of the closed waters from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel eastward to the Caillou Boca light on Monday, April 15, 2002 at 6 a.m. Sampling data indicates significant numbers of small, overwintering white shrimp are in the area and these counts are smaller than the legal size of 100 count per pound. It is anticipated additional white shrimp will recruit into these waters. Over the past 5 years, the Commission has considered similar recommendations. The closure will protect the small, overwintering white shrimp and will allow them the chance to reenter the bays and grow. Secretarial authority to reopen, close or open other seasons to shrimping was asked. Chairman Gattle asked how much territory is south of the inside/outside line. Mr. Bourgeois answered it was 3 miles from that line. Commissioner Felterman asked if April 15 was a given date or was it subject to change? Mr. Bourgeois stated historically significant numbers of large harvestable shrimp are

seen at that time. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Bourgeois to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly made a motion adopting the Resolution. Commissioner Felterman seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

2002 Offshore Shrimp Season Closure
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

February 7, 2002

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

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

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides the minimum legal count on saltwater white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and

WHEREAS, in the State's Territorial Waters, water temperatures remain below 20° Centigrade and the growth rate of white shrimp is therefore slow, and

WHEREAS, current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in a portion of the State's Territorial Waters do not average 100 count minimum size and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby order a closure to shrimping in that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the

Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W, at 6 a.m. on Monday, February 11, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel Buoy line to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W shall reopen to shrimping at 6 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of the remaining Territorial Waters, if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Declaration of Emergency closing the State's Territorial Waters is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons, and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall have the authority to open or close the State's offshore waters to shrimping, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby orders a closure to shrimping in that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W. This closure is effective at 6 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2002. The Commission also hereby orders that that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel Buoy Line, shall reopen to shrimping at 6 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2002.

R.S. 56:498 provides that the minimum legal count on white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound after the third Monday in December. Current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in this portion of the State's outside waters do not average 100 count minimum legal size and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters. This action is being taken to protect these small white shrimp and allow them the opportunity to grow to a more valuable size.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of the remaining Territorial Waters, if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary; and hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open special seasons for the harvest of white shrimp in any portion of the State's inshore waters where such a season would not detrimentally impact small brown shrimp.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

A Declaration of Emergency - Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation was the last item for Mr. Marty Bourgeois. This request was to extend the oyster season in a portion of the public seed grounds within the Bay Gardene Seed Reservation. Bay Gardene is a 2,900 acre area. This extension will allow for both sack and seed oyster harvesting in Bay Gardene until one-half hour after sunset, Wednesday, May 15, 2002. This bay has observed no fishing over the last 5 years, but there is a tremendous resource there. The latest assessment conducted shows about 38,000 barrels of seed oysters and 13,000 barrels of sack oysters available for harvest. An increase in culling time and poor meat yields were reasons why this area has not been harvested. Several reasons for the extension include: increasing the utilization of the resources and providing harvesters with increased economic opportunity. The Louisiana Oyster Task Force has approved the recommendation. Secretarial authority was also asked of the Commission. Chairman Gattle asked if this would be 30 days after the closure of the regular season? Mr. Bourgeois stated the Commission has authority to extend the season to May 15 each year. Commissioner Denmon asked Mr. Bourgeois to explain the first Be It Further Resolved on the Resolution. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Bourgeois to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Felterman made a motion accepting the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

Extension of 2002 Season on the Bay Gardene
Oyster Seed Reservation
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

February 7, 2002

WHEREAS, there is significant oyster resource in Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the resource has remained underutilized over the past five years, and

WHEREAS, oyster harvesting activities will substantially benefit the oyster resource by breaking apart dense oyster

clusters and providing increased opportunity for oyster growth, and

WHEREAS, high densities of hooked mussels fouling the Bay Gardene oyster resource have been recorded in recent years and exposure of these mussels from oyster harvesting activities will stimulate their consumption by predators, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the taking of oysters on natural reefs by setting the last day of the season to be no later than May fifteenth, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 states that the Commission shall consider the recommendations of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force when setting the last day of the season, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Oyster Task Force has requested that the Commission consider a season extension in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby extend the oyster season in the portion of the public oyster seed reservation, as described in the attached Declaration of Emergency, to one-half hour after sunset May 15, 2002, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency extending the oyster season in Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

Extension of 2002 Season on the Bay Gardene
Oyster Seed Reservation

In accordance with emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 49:967, and in accordance with R.S. 56:433B(1), which authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the taking of oysters on natural reefs by setting the last day of the season to be no later than May fifteenth, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declares that the oyster season in the portion of the public oyster seed reservation in Bay Gardene as described below shall be extended and shall close one-half hour after sunset May 15, 2002:

Beginning at the western end of Bayou Lost at latitude 29° 36' 03.9" N and longitude 89° 37' 49.9" W, thence in an easterly direction along the northern shoreline of Bayou Lost to the eastern most point at Black Bay at latitude 29° 36' 00.8" N and longitude 89° 36' 58.7" W and continuing ESE to the easterly most point of the island which borders Black Bay at latitude 29° 35' 49.2" N and longitude 89° 36' 30.7" W; then SSE to the most southeasterly point of an island (bordering Bay Crabe) at latitude 29° 34' 56.5" N, longitude 89° 36' 06.5" W; then WSW to a point along the southern shore of Bay Gardene at latitude 29° 34' 19.7" N, longitude 89° 37' 17.3" W; and continuing WSW to the south shore of Triple Pass at latitude 29° 33' 56.3" N, longitude 89° 38' 42.5" W; thence northerly across Triple Pass to 29° 34' 15.8" N, longitude 89° 38' 42.7" W; and continuing NNW to the northern most part of an island at latitude 29° 35' 12.9" N, longitude 89° 39' 04.6" W; then NE to a point near Pintail Point and bordering Bay la Fourche at latitude 29° 35' 45.6" N, longitude 89° 38' 15.0" W; then east to a point in northern Bay Gardene at latitude 29° 35' 47.5" N, longitude 89° 37' 44.2" W; and continuing northerly back to the point on the western end of Bayou Lost at latitude 29° 36' 03.9" N, longitude 89° 37' 49.9" W.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead was made by Mr. Joey Shepard. In 1995, the Legislature passed Act 1316 and this Act requires the Commission to provide an annual peered review report by March 1. This report must contain information on spawning potential, biological conditions and profiles for mullet, black drum, sheepshead and flounder. The stock assessments have been provided in the packets. Mr. Shepard also noted there have been no substantive changes to the methods used with the stock assessments from last year and no new data has been published to change the bioprofiles. Another year's worth of data has been added to the assessment. All spawning potential ratio values are above the Legislative requirement of 30 percent. Commissioner Kelly felt the harvest has shown an increase and suggested continuing on as they are now. Chairman Gattle asked if any action was necessary? Mr. Shepard asked the Commission to make an oral motion adopting the reports presented by the Department. Then the appropriate documents would be forwarded to the Legislature. Chairman Gattle asked for any questions or public comments and none were heard. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept the reports as presented. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Full Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties was handled by Mr. Fred Whitrock. This item pertains to penalty provisions on dredging of materials from navigable waters within the State. Anyone who wants to do this activity must obtain a permit from the Department and pay a royalty to the Department of 20 cents per cubic yard. In this situation, J.P. and Sons had a permit to dredge a certain amount of materials, some of which they paid royalties on and some they did not. Also, after the permit expired, they dredged additional materials. J.P. and Sons has admitted to an internal problem and came to the Department hoping to correct the problem. Mr. Whitrock stated they have been very cooperative. A meeting was held with their Attorney and initially has agreed to pay all royalties, interest and a penalty of \$17,127.06. The total amount owed comes to about \$108,000. Mr. Whitrock then explained the two resolutions. The first would authorize the Department to assess the penalty against J.P. and Sons. The second, in the event this does not work out, grants the Department authority to place the company on demand and pursue all legal recourse necessary to collect these monies. Chairman Gattle stated he would like to see the company pay what they owe plus the penalty. Commissioner Busbice asked when was the 20 cents per

cubic yard fee enacted? Mr. Whitrock stated it was enacted in the mid-80's. Commissioner Felterman asked the location of the violation and was told it was in the Mississippi River. Chairman Gattle asked if the \$17,000 covered interest and cost? Mr. Whitrock answered no, it was solely penalty. Commissioner Busbice asked why was the penalty \$17,000? Mr. Whitrock answered the law gives the Commission authority to assess penalties such as \$1,000 per day for violation and dredging without a permit and the Commission could assess the fair market value of the material dredged. J.P. and Sons illegally dredged 152,000 cubic yards and the royalty on that amounts to \$30,000. But since they have been cooperating, the Department felt \$17,000 was an appropriate penalty. Commissioner Denmon asked how did the Department arrive at the \$17,000 penalty? Mr. Whitrock stated the amount equals to 50 percent of the amount illegally dredged plus the amount owed. Commissioner Denmon asked if this figure was negotiated with the company and were they willing to accept? Mr. Whitrock stated this was what was felt as a fair amount for a penalty. Chairman Gattle stated the first resolution would authorize the penalty assessment. Then he asked Mr. Whitrock to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

Before going on with the second resolution, Commissioner Busbice asked what is the retail value of fill material? Mr. Whitrock stated it was estimated to be \$1.50 per cubic yard. He added the law allows the Commission to set a schedule of royalty payments through rulemaking process. Commissioner Denmon asked how much income is received per year? Mr. Whitrock was told it is between \$500,000 and \$900,000 per year. Commissioner Busbice suggested they may want to consider an increase. Chairman Gattle asked who would be in charge of making a recommendation or answering questions on this from the Department? Mr. Patton answered it would be up to him to present it to the Commission, but first he would have to find an expert opinion to assist in deciding what was appropriate. Chairman Gattle asked this be looked into before the next meeting. Commissioner Busbice asked how many companies are operating at this time? Mr. Whitrock stated there are between 15 and 20 permits operating at any given time. Mr. Patton reminded the Members there is a Minerals Committee of the Commission and this would be an appropriate matter for them to consider. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Patton to prepare something for the Committee to discuss at a meeting within the next two months. Commissioner Busbice asked Mr. Patton to advise the

Commission of any other mineral related items that needed to be updated. Chairman Gattle stated the second resolution would authorize the Department to proceed against J.P. and Sons if all efforts fail. Mr. Whitrock then read the Therefore Be It Resolved. Commissioner Busbice made a motion adopting the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. The motion passed.

(The full text of the Resolutions are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has determined that J.P. & Sons, Inc. has dredged approximately 394,222.4 cubic yards of fill material from the waters of the state without paying royalty to the Department as required by law and, for the dredging of 152,897.4 cubic yards of the total 394,222.4 cubic yards, without a permit, as is also required by law, and

WHEREAS, the amount of royalty due on the dredged material totals approximately \$78,844.48, with \$30,579.48 being the royalty due for the material dredged without a permit, plus interest and penalties, and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Department believes that a penalty of \$17,127.06 is appropriate under the circumstances for the dredging of the 152,897.4 cubic yards of fill material without a permit, but only in the event that J.P. & Sons agrees to pay all royalty due plus interest.

WHEREAS, the Department requests that the Commission assess a penalty in the amount of \$17,127.06 against J.P. & Sons for dredging the fill material without a permit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission assess a penalty in the amount of \$17,127.06 against J.P. & Sons for dredging fill material without a permit, but only in the event J.P. & Sons agrees to pay all royalty due plus interest and this assessed penalty.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

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

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has determined that J.P. & Sons, Inc. has dredged approximately 394,222.4 cubic yards of fill material from the waters of the state without paying royalty to the Department as required by law and, for some of the dredging, without a permit, as is also required by law, and

WHEREAS, the amount of royalty due on the dredged material totals approximately \$78,844.48 plus interest and penalties, and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Department has been unable to negotiate the payment of the outstanding amounts due and requests that the Commission authorize the Department to place demand upon J.P. & Sons, Inc. for the unpaid royalty, plus interest and penalty, and

WHEREAS, the Commission, by taking this action, in no way intends to preclude, and in fact encourages, discussions between J.P. & Sons, Inc. and the Department in an attempt to reach agreement on the payment of the royalty due, plus interest and penalty.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission authorizes the Department to place demand upon J.P. & Sons, Inc. and take all other action as necessary, including the filing of suit, against J.P. & Sons, Inc. for collection of all royalty due, along with interest and all penalties allowed by law, as well as all other remedies prescribed by law.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

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

Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Robert Helm to come forward and give the **Division Report - Duck Season Report**. A summary of the waterfowl season was given to each Commissioner and Mr. Helm hit on several high points of the report. This is the fifth consecutive year for a 60 day, 6 bird bag limit and it represents the most liberal regulations for ducks. The youth waterfowl hunting days were moved to the weekend before the first split of the season and it was well received. The opening of the goose season in the west zone was also moved prior to the duck season and most of the feedback was positive. This was the year for dramatic weather. The end of the drought occurred with Tropical Storm Allison dumping 10 to 25 inches of rain across the state in mid-summer. Then in late August and early September 10+ inches fell which messed up teal hunting especially for those in the marsh. After that, there were 7 weeks of no rain, followed by up to 15 inches of rain in late November through December. Extremely mild temperatures occurred in November and December, but this changed at Christmas when arctic air pushed through the state. This weather pattern was in contrast to what occurred in 2000. Results from the four surveys conducted were well below those of last year and well below those of the long term. In November, there were 1.6 million ducks and in December, these numbers went down. The January survey recorded 3.3 million ducks in the coastal zones and Catahoula Lake. Less than 200,000 mallards were counted in the January survey compared with over 900,000 last year and an average of 700,000. This same trend occurred with geese where there were 470,000 snow geese compared to 1.1 million last year, and 62,000 white fronts which was down 30 percent from last year. Overall duck hunting results were "real ugly", commented Mr. Helm. The southwest marshes and rice fields hunting success was very poor. The first split was better than the second split. Hunting improved a bit to the east in Terrebonne Parish and Atchafalaya Delta. On four of

the coastal WMAs where hunter bag checks were conducted, results showed hunter effort to be 3 ducks per effort. The mouth of the Mississippi River around Venice was another very good area. In central and northeast Louisiana, there was good habitat, but the birds were spread out. In this region, there was good hunting on opening weekends, otherwise, hunting was extremely poor. The areas of northwest Louisiana and Atchafalaya Basin had very poor hunting success. Catahoula Lake was good the first few weeks of the season then the lake was lost to flooding. Mr. Helm felt this was one of the least successful seasons in many years. He stated he has received more negative comments this year than ever before. What made this so difficult was last year was one of the best seasons ever and this year was so bad. The good news according to Mr. Helm is that things will get better with the weather returning to normal and migrations getting better. Chairman Gattle stated a lot of questions has been made on whether the overall population of the ducks were down and asked Mr. Helm to comment on this. Mr. Helm stated he felt the numbers were accurate and would not question them. Suggestions were that production of ducks was good from last summer and the Wing Bees study should verify that. Chairman Gattle asked if 60 day, 6 bird bag limit should stay in place? Mr. Helm answered that would be based on breeding populations and conditions of the wetlands this spring and summer. Chairman Gattle asked if the statute has been changed to allow Louisiana to go to the last Sunday in January next year as a choice without a penalty? Mr. Helm stated this was still in discussion. Commissioner Denmon asked if there is any information on harvest throughout the Mississippi Flyway for this year? Mr. Helm stated the results will not be available until this summer. Mr. Phil Bowman stated he talked with Iowa's Wildlife Director and he reported the birds were just showing up during the last week of their season. Commissioner Denmon stated, from comments he has received, the birds stopped further north at a time when the northern states seasons were ending. He thought because of this, the harvest numbers would be down. Mr. Helm agreed with him on that point.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **June 2002 Meeting** on Thursday, June 6, 2002 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked for any **Public Comments** and none were heard.

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


James M. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

Marianne,

Please review,

Thanks,

Susan

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Gattle, Jr. presiding.

-
- Terry Denmon
 - Lee Felterman
 - Tom Kelly
 - Wayne Sagrera

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

Commissioner Jerry Stone was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **January 3, 2002 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Denmon. The motion passed with no opposition.

Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief began with Major Keith LaCaze stating Agent Siragusa was with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A big objective for Operation Game Thief (OGT) was to raise funds to pay rewards for information leading to the arrest of poachers. Agent Siragusa has been involved in six different cases involving Federal Lacey Act violations where plea agreements were made and resulted in contributions of \$12,000 going to OGT's reward fund. Major LaCaze then stated OGT's Board of Directors and Citizens Advisory Committee decided to recognize Agent Siragusa. He then read the inscription on the plaque. Agent Siragusa appreciated the plaque and stated all investigations were joint efforts with Department agents. Chairman Gattle thanked Agent Siragusa for his efforts on behalf of the Commission. Commissioner Busbice asked how much is annually given out in rewards? Major LaCaze states it averaged between \$7,000 and \$9,000 per year.

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

Region I - Minden - 101 citations and 5 warning.

Region II - Monroe - 85 citations and 2 warnings.

Region III - Alexandria - 134 citations and 5 warnings.

Region IV - Ferriday - 149 citations and 6 warnings.

Region V - Lake Charles - 118 citations and 17 warnings.

Region VI - Opelousas - 164 citations and 12 warnings.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 96 citations and 2 warnings.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 195 citations and 44 warnings.

Region IX - Schriever - 219 citations and 24 warnings.

Oyster Strike Force - 101 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 54 citations.

SWEP - 12 citations.

Refuge Patrol - 60 citations and 1 warning.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of January was 1,488. Also there were 118 warning citations issued statewide. Major LaCaze then explained a case on Larto Lake taking gamefish illegally. Agents observed an individual taking crappie and bream with hoop nets and then they found 588 crappie packaged in separate bags. Restitution alone will be \$3,610 for the value of the fish.

The aviation report for January 2002 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 57.4 hours for enforcement and 29.2 hours for other divisions. Two citations were issued. A total of 14 hunter education courses were taught in January and 414 students received their certificates. Chairman Gattle then asked if any fatalities have occurred since the last time he asked? Major LaCaze thought there may have been one more self-inflicted accidental shooting in Region 8 area.

Commissioner Busbice introduced his son, Matthew, to the Commission and stated he is a sophomore at LSU, a good hunter and a good fisherman.

Lt. Col. Charlie Clark began his **Boating Safety Report** by stating one of the goals for the Enforcement Division was a reduction in boating accidents by 2 percent for the next year. One strategy to accomplish this was identification of problem areas historically such as the Florida parishes. A phenomenon has occurred this year that has never been seen in this state. But first, Lt. Col. Clark gave some statistics on boating. About 100 people were being lost on state waters each year during the late 70's and early 80's. Since that time, boat manufacturers, U.S. Coast Guard and Underwriters Laboratory have built better boats as well as having boating education and enforcement. This resulted in a vast reduction nationwide of people lost in boating accidents. Not many people associate danger with a boat, but in this state water is one of the most hostile environments and tool. Boating accidents have remained consistent over the last 10 years with approximately 200-250 each year. Different charts were explained by Lt. Col. Clark. Since January 1, 2002, there have been 10 fatal accidents in this State and all of those killed were hunters or fishermen. Lt. Col. Clark noted he wants to form a Blue Ribbon Coalition in the State. The regulations that are in place are inadequate, such as there is no law that says a recreational boater must stay to his right at all times. A National Survey indicated that 19 percent of boaters are not sure of what side you should pass on. He also wanted to empower peer groups to get the message to their participants that the rules of the road are regulations that needs to be abided and also the need to wear life jackets. Passengers in a boat need to make demands from their operators while in a boat. From this point on, agents will be looking at deviant behavior on the water. Finally, Lt. Col. Clark stated this was a broad overview showing where the Division is with boating. Next year they will try again for mandatory education at the Legislature. Chairman Gattle asked if Enforcement enforces the regulations put out by the Legislature? Lt. Col. Clark answered yes. Then Chairman Gattle asked if safety regulations can be set by the Commission? Lt. Col. Clark stated Title 34 allows the Commission to deal with equipment on boats, but feels the Commission does not have the power to mandate all boat operators to have safety education. Chairman Gattle asked who would have the authority to regulate passing on the right? Mr. Don Puckett stated he would have to look at the law. Commissioner Busbice asked if the Department is involved in liability determination and if agents

testify? Lt. Col. Clark stated they reconstruct accidents and they also testify in court. Then Commissioner Busbice asked if time of operation for jet skis could be regulated by the Commission? Lt. Col. Clark stated time of operation is already in State Law. Commissioner Kelly asked if an individual had contacted him on boating education? Lt. Col. Clark explained several ways people can be certified on boating safety. Commissioner Denmon asked if the conclusion was mandatory education and the requirement of a license? Lt. Col. Clark stated 22 states has some form of mandatory education, and that 13 to 18 percent of those involved in accidents have had some form of boating education. Commissioner Kelly stated he lives next door to the boat launch in Jeanerette and has witnessed several incidents involving jet skis and high speed boats. Lt. Col. Clark commented that the ratio of agents to boats is about 1 to 1200 and knows there is a need for public participation. Commissioner Felterman stated he knew some of the hunters that were killed and felt awareness and training is a long term answer. But he asked that all agent positions in Region 9 be filled or at least step up enforcement in the area.

A Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt was presented by Mr. Tommy Prickett. After promulgating the turkey rules, an oversight was discovered in the youth hunts. Last year was the first year for the youth hunts both on the WMAs and the National Wildlife Refuge. The oversight was not setting dates for the youth turkey hunt on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed dates for the hunt will be March 16 and 17. Hearing no public comments, Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Prickett to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Denmon made a motion to approve the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a hunting season in 2002 for turkeys, and

WHEREAS, authority to establish seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other rules and regulations for the hunting, taking and possession of any species of wild game birds is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:115, and

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for hunting by youth on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Declaration of Emergency establishing a youth turkey season on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge is hereby adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953B and 967D of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R. S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following Declaration of Emergency amending the 2002 Turkey Hunting Seasons:

Federal Lands Turkey Hunting Schedule

Kisatchie National Forest (KNF) turkey hunting schedule:
Caney Ranger District, March 23-April 7; all remaining KNF lands,

March 23-April 14 (including Catahoula and Red Dirt National Wildlife Management Preserves).

Indian Bayou Area (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), turkey hunting schedule: March 23 - 31, lottery hunt only on March 23-24 and March 25 - 27. Contact USCOE at 337-585-0856 for further information.

National Wildlife Refuges: Bogue Chitto NWR, March 23-April 21; Lake Ophelia NWR, March 23 - 25 (lottery only), March 30 - April 1 (lottery only), April 6 - 7; Tensas NWR, March 16-17 (youth lottery only), March 23 - April 21. Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for information regarding NWR hunts.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the youth turkey hunt on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge was not included in the 2002 Turkey Hunting Regulations, and the proposed date is prior to the opening of the regular turkey hunting season for Tensas National Wildlife Refuge.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

The first item handled by Mr. Marty Bourgeois was a **Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure**. The request is to close a portion of the Louisiana offshore territorial waters south of the inside/outside shrimp line, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard Navigational Light on the northwest shore of Caillou Boca. The closure would take effect at 6 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2002. Mr. Bourgeois also asked the Commission to reopen a portion of the closed waters from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel eastward to the Caillou Boca light on Monday, April 15, 2002 at 6 a.m. Sampling data indicates significant numbers of small, overwintering white shrimp are in the area and these counts are smaller than the legal size of 100 count per pound. It is anticipated additional white shrimp will recruit into these waters. Over the past 5 years, the Commission has considered similar recommendations. The closure will protect the small, overwintering white shrimp and will allow them the chance to reenter the bays and grow. Secretarial authority to reopen, close or open other seasons to shrimping was asked. Chairman Gattle asked how much territory is south of the inside/outside line. Mr. Bourgeois answered it was 3 miles from that line. Commissioner Felterman asked if April 15 was a given date or was it subject to change? Mr. Bourgeois stated historically significant numbers of large harvestable shrimp are

seen at that time. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Bourgeois to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly made a motion adopting the Resolution. Commissioner Felterman seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

2002 Offshore Shrimp Season Closure
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
February 7, 2002

- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the open shrimp seasons for all or part of the state waters shall be fixed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, and
- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the Commission shall have the authority to set special seasons for all or part of the state waters, and
- WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides the minimum legal count on saltwater white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and
- WHEREAS, in the State's Territorial Waters, water temperatures remain below 20° Centigrade and the growth rate of white shrimp is therefore slow, and
- WHEREAS, current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in a portion of the State's Territorial Waters do not average 100 count minimum size and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters, now
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby order a closure to shrimping in that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495,

from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W, at 6 a.m. on Monday, February 11, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel Buoy line to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W shall reopen to shrimping at 6 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of the remaining Territorial Waters, if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Declaration of Emergency closing the State's Territorial Waters is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons, and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall have the authority to open or close the State's offshore waters to shrimping, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby orders a closure to shrimping in that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W. This closure is effective at 6 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2002. The Commission also hereby orders that that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel Buoy Line, shall reopen to shrimping at 6 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2002.

R.S. 56:498 provides that the minimum legal count on white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound after the third Monday in December. Current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in this portion of the State's outside waters do not average 100 count minimum legal size and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters. This action is being taken to protect these small white shrimp and allow them the opportunity to grow to a more valuable size.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of the remaining Territorial Waters, if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary; and hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open special seasons for the harvest of white shrimp in any portion of the State's inshore waters where such a season would not detrimentally impact small brown shrimp.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

A Declaration of Emergency - Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation was the last item for Mr. Marty Bourgeois. This request was to extend the oyster season in a portion of the public seed grounds within the Bay Gardene Seed Reservation. Bay Gardene is a 2,900 acre area. This extension will allow for both sack and seed oyster harvesting in Bay Gardene until one-half hour after sunset, Wednesday, May 15, 2002. This bay has observed no fishing over the last 5 years, but there is a tremendous resource there. The latest assessment conducted shows about 38,000 barrels of seed oysters and 13,000 barrels of sack oysters available for harvest. An increase in culling time and poor meat yields were reasons why this area has not been harvested. Several reasons for the extension include: increasing the utilization of the resources and providing harvesters with increased economic opportunity. The Louisiana Oyster Task Force has approved the recommendation. Secretarial authority was also asked of the Commission. Chairman Gattle asked if this would be 30 days after the closure of the regular season? Mr. Bourgeois stated the Commission has authority to extend the season to May 15 each year. Commissioner Denmon asked Mr. Bourgeois to explain the first Be It Further Resolved on the Resolution. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Bourgeois to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Felterman made a motion accepting the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

Extension of 2002 Season on the Bay Gardene
Oyster Seed Reservation
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
February 7, 2002

WHEREAS, there is significant oyster resource in Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the resource has remained underutilized over the past five years, and

WHEREAS, oyster harvesting activities will substantially benefit the oyster resource by breaking apart dense oyster clusters and providing increased opportunity for oyster growth, and

WHEREAS, high densities of hooked mussels fouling the Bay Gardene oyster resource have been recorded in recent years and exposure of these mussels from oyster harvesting activities will stimulate their consumption by predators, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the taking of oysters on natural reefs by setting the last day of the season to be no later than May fifteenth, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 states that the Commission shall consider the recommendations of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force when setting the last day of the season, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Oyster Task Force has requested that the Commission consider a season extension in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby extend the oyster season in the portion of the public oyster seed reservation, as described in the attached Declaration of Emergency, to one-half hour after sunset May 15, 2002, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency extending the oyster season in Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

Extension of 2002 Season on the Bay Gardene
Oyster Seed Reservation

In accordance with emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 49:967, and in accordance with R.S. 56:433B(1), which authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the taking of oysters on natural reefs by setting the last day of the season to be no later than May fifteenth, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declares that the oyster season in the portion of the public oyster seed reservation in Bay Gardene as described below shall be extended and shall close one-half hour after sunset May 15, 2002:

Beginning at the western end of Bayou Lost at latitude 29° 36' 03.9" N and longitude 89° 37' 49.9" W, thence in an easterly direction along the northern shoreline of Bayou Lost to the eastern most point at Black Bay at latitude 29° 36' 00.8" N and longitude 89° 36' 58.7" W and continuing ESE to the easterly most point of the island which borders Black Bay at latitude 29° 35' 49.2" N and longitude 89° 36' 30.7" W; then SSE to the most southeasterly point of an island (bordering Bay Crabe) at latitude 29° 34' 56.5" N, longitude 89° 36' 06.5" W; then WSW to a point along the southern shore of Bay Gardene at latitude 29° 34' 19.7" N, longitude 89° 37' 17.3" W; and continuing WSW to the south shore of Triple Pass at latitude 29° 33' 56.3" N, longitude 89° 38' 42.5" W; thence northerly across Triple Pass to 29° 34' 15.8" N, longitude 89° 38' 42.7" W; and continuing NNW to the northern most part of an island at latitude 29° 35' 12.9" N, longitude 89° 39' 04.6" W; then NE to a point near Pintail Point and bordering Bay la Fourche at latitude 29° 35' 45.6" N, longitude 89° 38' 15.0" W; then east to a point in northern Bay Gardene at latitude 29° 35' 47.5" N, longitude 89° 37' 44.2" W; and continuing northerly back to the point on the western end of Bayou Lost at latitude 29° 36' 03.9" N, longitude 89° 37' 49.9" W.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead was made by Mr. Joey

Shepard. In 1995, the Legislature passed Act 1316 and this Act requires the Commission to provide an annual peer reviewed report by March 1. This report must contain information on spawning potential, biological conditions and profiles for mullet, black drum, sheepshead and flounder. The stock assessments have been provided in the packets. Mr. Shepard also noted there have been no substantive changes to the methods used with the stock assessments from last year and no new data has been published to change the bioprofiles. Another year's worth of data has been added to the assessment. All spawning potential ratio values are above the Legislative requirement of 30 percent. Commissioner Kelly felt the harvest has shown an increase and suggested continuing on as they are now. Chairman Gattle asked if any action was necessary? Mr. Shepard asked the Commission to make an oral motion adopting the reports presented by the Department. Then the appropriate documents would be forwarded to the Legislature. Chairman Gattle asked for any questions or public comments and none were heard. Commissioner Kelly made a motion to accept the reports as presented. Commissioner Sagrera seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Fill Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties was handled by Mr. Fred Whitrock. This item pertains to penalty provisions on dredging of materials from navigable waters within the State. Anyone who wants to do this activity must obtain a permit from the Department and pay a royalty to the Department of 20 cents per cubic yard. In this situation, J.P. and Sons had a permit to dredge a certain amount of materials, some of which they paid royalties on and some they did not. Also, after the permit expired, they dredged additional materials. J.P. and Sons has admitted to an internal problem and came to the Department hoping to correct the problem. Mr. Whitrock stated they have been very cooperative. A meeting was held with their Attorney and initially has agreed to pay all royalties, interest and a penalty of \$17,127.06. The total amount owed comes to about \$108,000. Mr. Whitrock then explained the two resolutions. The first would authorize the Department to assess the penalty against J.P. and Sons. The second, in the event this does not work out, grants the Department authority to place the company on demand and pursue all legal recourse necessary to collect these monies. Chairman Gattle stated he would like to see the company pay what they owe plus the penalty. Commissioner Busbice asked when was the 20 cents per cubic yard fee enacted? Mr. Whitrock stated it was enacted in the mid-80's. Commissioner Felterman asked the location of the

violation and was told it was in the Mississippi River. Chairman Gattle asked if the \$17,000 covered interest and cost? Mr. Whitrock answered no, it was solely penalty. Commissioner Busbice asked why was the penalty \$17,000? Mr. Whitrock answered the law gives the Commission authority to assess penalties such as \$1,000 per day for violation and dredging without a permit and the Commission could assess the fair market value of the material dredged. J.P. and Sons illegally dredged 152,000 cubic yards and the royalty on that amounts to \$30,000. But since they have been cooperating, the Department felt \$17,000 was an appropriate penalty. Commissioner Denmon asked how did the Department arrive at the \$17,000 penalty? Mr. Whitrock stated the amount equals to 50 percent of the amount illegally dredged plus the amount owed. Commissioner Denmon asked if this figure was negotiated with the company and were they willing to accept? Mr. Whitrock stated this was what was felt as a fair amount for a penalty. Chairman Gattle stated the first resolution would authorize the penalty assessment. Then he asked Mr. Whitrock to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Sagrera made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

Before going on with the second resolution, Commissioner Busbice asked what is the retail value of fill material? Mr. Whitrock stated it was estimated to be \$1.50 per cubic yard. He added the law allows the Commission to set a schedule of royalty payments through rulemaking process. Commissioner Denmon asked how much income is received per year? Mr. Whitrock was told it is between \$500,000 and \$900,000 per year. Commissioner Busbice suggested they may want to consider an increase. Chairman Gattle asked who would be in charge of making a recommendation or answering questions on this from the Department? Mr. Patton answered it would be up to him to present it to the Commission, but first he would have to find an expert opinion to assist in deciding what was appropriate. Chairman Gattle asked this be looked into before the next meeting. Commissioner Busbice asked how many companies are operating at this time? Mr. Whitrock stated there are between 15 and 20 permits operating at any given time. Mr. Patton reminded the Members there is a Minerals Committee of the Commission and this would be an appropriate matter for them to consider. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Patton to prepare something for the Committee to discuss at a meeting within the next two months. Commissioner Busbice asked Mr. Patton to advise the Commission of any other mineral related items that needed to be updated. Chairman Gattle stated the second resolution would

authorize the Department to proceed against J.P. and Sons if all efforts fail. Mr. Whitrock then read the Therefore Be It Resolved. Commissioner Busbice made a motion adopting the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Sagrera. The motion passed.

(The full text of the Resolutions are made a part of the record.)

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has determined that J.P. & Sons, Inc. has dredged approximately 394,222.4 cubic yards of fill material from the waters of the state without paying royalty to the Department as required by law and, for the dredging of 152,897.4 cubic yards of the total 394,222.4 cubic yards, without a permit, as is also required by law, and

WHEREAS, the amount of royalty due on the dredged material totals approximately \$78,844.48, with \$30,579.48 being the royalty due for the material dredged without a permit, plus interest and penalties, and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Department believes that a penalty of \$17,127.06 is appropriate under the circumstances for the dredging of the 152,897.4 cubic yards of fill material without a permit, but only in the event that J.P. & Sons agrees to pay all royalty due plus interest.

WHEREAS, the Department requests that the Commission assess a penalty in the amount of \$17,127.06 against J.P. & Sons for dredging the fill material without a permit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission assess a penalty in the amount of \$17,127.06 against J.P. & Sons for dredging fill material without a permit, but only in the event

J.P. & Sons agrees to pay all royalty due plus interest and this assessed penalty.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

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

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has determined that J.P. & Sons, Inc. has dredged approximately 394,222.4 cubic yards of fill material from the waters of the state without paying royalty to the Department as required by law and, for some of the dredging, without a permit, as is also required by law, and

WHEREAS, the amount of royalty due on the dredged material totals approximately \$78,844.48 plus interest and penalties, and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Department has been unable to negotiate the payment of the outstanding amounts due and requests that the Commission authorize the Department to place demand upon J.P. & Sons, Inc. for the unpaid royalty, plus interest and penalty, and

WHEREAS, the Commission, by taking this action, in no way intends to preclude, and in fact encourages, discussions between J.P. & Sons, Inc. and the Department in an attempt to reach agreement on the payment of the royalty due, plus interest and penalty.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission authorizes the Department to place demand upon J.P. & Sons, Inc. and take all other action as necessary, including the filing of suit, against J.P. & Sons, Inc. for collection of all royalty due, along with interest and all penalties

allowed by law, as well as all other remedies prescribed by law.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

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

Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Robert Helm to come forward and give the **Division Report - Duck Season Report**. A summary of the waterfowl season was given to each Commissioner and Mr. Helm hit on several high points of the report. This is the fifth consecutive year for a 60 day, 6 bird bag limit, and it represents the most liberal regulations for ducks. The youth waterfowl hunting days were moved to the weekend before the first split of the season and it was well received. The opening of the goose season in the west zone was also moved prior to the duck season and most of the feedback was positive. This was the year for dramatic weather. The end of the drought occurred with Tropical Storm Allison dumping 10 to 25 inches of rain across the state in mid-summer. Then in late August and early September 10+ inches fell which messed up teal hunting especially for those in the marsh. After that, there were 7 weeks of no rain, followed by up to 15 inches of rain in late November through December. Extremely mild temperatures occurred in November and December, but this changed at Christmas when arctic air pushed through the state. This weather pattern was in contrast to what occurred in 2000. Results from the four surveys conducted were well below those of last year and well below those of the long term. In November, there were 1.6 million ducks and in December, these numbers went down. The January survey recorded 3.3 million ducks in the coastal zones and Catahoula Lake. Less than 200,000 mallards were counted in the January survey compared with over 900,000 last year and an average of 700,000. This same trend occurred with geese where there were 470,000 snow geese compared to 1.1 million last year, and 62,000 white fronts which was down 30 percent from last year. Overall duck hunting results were "real ugly", commented Mr. Helm. The southwest marshes and rice fields hunting success was very poor. The first split was better than the second split. Hunting improved a bit to the east in Terrebonne Parish and Atchafalaya Delta. On four of the coastal WMAs where hunter bag checks were conducted, results showed hunter effort to be 3 ducks per effort. The mouth of the Mississippi River around Venice was another very good area. In central and northeast Louisiana, there was good habitat, but the birds were spread out. In this region, there was good hunting on

opening weekends, otherwise, hunting was extremely poor. The areas of northwest Louisiana and Atchafalaya Basin had very poor hunting success. Catahoula Lake was good the first few weeks of the season then the lake was lost to flooding. Mr. Helm felt this was one of the least successful seasons in many years. He stated he has received more negative comments this year than ever before. What made this so difficult was last year was one of the best seasons ever and this year was so bad. The good news according to Mr. Helm is that things will get better with the weather returning to normal and migrations getting better. Chairman Gattle stated a lot of questions has been made on whether the overall population of the ducks were down and asked Mr. Helm to comment on this. Mr. Helm stated he felt the numbers were accurate and would not question them. Suggestions were that production of ducks was good from last summer and the Wing Bees study should verify that. Chairman Gattle asked if 60 day, 6 bird bag limit should stay in place? Mr. Helm answered that would be based on breeding populations and conditions of the wetlands this spring and summer. Chairman Gattle asked if the statute has been changed to allow Louisiana to go to the last Sunday in January next year as a choice without a penalty? Mr. Helm stated this was still in discussion. Commissioner Denmon asked if there is any information on harvest throughout the Mississippi Flyway for this year? Mr. Helm stated the results will not be available until this summer. Mr. Phil Bowman stated he talked with Iowa's Wildlife Director and he reported the birds were just showing up during the last week of their season. Commissioner Denmon stated, from comments he has received, the birds stopped further north at a time when the northern states seasons were ending. He thought because of this, the harvest numbers would be down. Mr. Helm agreed with him on that point.

The Commissioners agreed to hold the **June 2002 Meeting** on Thursday, June 6, 2002 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Gattle then asked for any **Public Comments** and none were heard.

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

[Home](#) | [Entertainment](#)
[News](#) | [Obituaries](#)
[Sports](#) | [Marketplace](#)
[Business](#) | [Site Map](#)
[Classifieds](#) | [Weather](#)

The Advocate **ONLINE**

[Back to Index](#)

Published on 2/8/02

[E-mail this story to a friend](#)

LWFC official says boaters can expect tougher checks

By **JOE MACALUSO**
Advocate outdoors writer

Citing steady increases in boating accidents during the last 10 years and increases in the number of boating fatalities during the last four years, state Wildlife and Fisheries' Lt. Col. Charlie Clark said boaters can expect stepped-up enforcement patrols during the spring and summer months.

Clark, speaking at the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's monthly meeting Thursday, said the LDWF's Enforcement Division has gathered data to identify "hot spots" for boating traffic and accidents.

Clark specifically pointed to the high boat-traffic on the Florida Parishes rivers, notably the Blind, Tickfaw and Tchefuncte rivers and the Diversion Canal at the Blind River.

"If boating accidents were a disease we would be seeing an epidemic, and something needs to be done," Clark said.

He referred to a chart showing 133 boating accidents in 1990, dipped to a low of 108 in 1991, then jumped to a 10-year-high of 255 in 2000.

He said boating fatalities have dropped from highs as high as 70 a year in the early 1980s, then produced data for 1990-2000 showing 37 boating fatalities in 1990, a drop to 20 in 1992 then a climb to a 10-year-high of 48 in 2000.

Clark added that the state Hunter Education Course had produced results in terms of hunting accidents and related deaths.

"It's easy to make hunters aware because everyone knows there is danger with a gun, but, in Louisiana, water is the most hostile environment you'll ever find yourself in," Clark said.

Other than increased patrolling, Clark said a push will be made to enlist public help in reducing boating accidents, and promised another effort in the 2003 Legislative Session for a mandatory safe-boating course.

He said a safe-boating study guide will be added to the LDWF's Web site this spring.

"Our goals as a department is a reduction in boating accidents," Clark said. "It's one of the goals we identified at the beginning of the year."

In other action, State Waterfowl Study leader Robert Helm, in a report on the recently concluded duck season, described the season as "real ugly."

"We went from one of our best seasons (2000-01) to one of the worst this year," Helm said.

He cited unusually warm weather in the Midwest for a near 40 percent decline — from 5 million in January 2001 to 3.3 million last month — and for a drop from 1.2 million to 470,000 blue and snow geese in the state for the same two reporting months.

The LWFC also approved a March 16-17 youth lottery hunt for turkey in the Tensas National Wildlife Refuge; voted to close shrimping in state waters from Caillou Boca to Freshwater Bayou effective at 6 a.m. next Monday, and to reopen state waters to shrimping from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel east to Caillou Boca on April 15; and, extended the taking of sack and seed oysters from the 4,900-acre Bay Gardere area from April 15 through May 15.

The commission also voted to send the biological report on black drum, flounder, sheepshead and striped mullet to the State Legislature. State biologist Joey Shepard said stocks of the four species are meeting or exceeding requirements set by the Legislature.

The LWFC also honored U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agent Phil Siragusa for his work in the state-run Operation Game Thief; heard a report on legal action taken to recover \$108,000 from J.P. and Sons, Inc. to cover royalties, interest and penalties from a dredging operation; and, set June 6 for its meeting date for that month.

[Top of page](#)

SITE INDEX

HOME:	About Us Archives Help Search Site Map Subscribe
NEWS:	AP Wire Elections Health news Legislature Photo Gallery Police Briefs Religion School News Schools: Desegregation Science Smiley
SUBURBAN NEWS:	Acadiana Baker, Zachary, Felicianas Florida parishes River parishes Westside
WEATHER:	Current Weather
SPORTS:	ECHL hockey High school sports LSU sports Outdoors New Orleans Saints SEC FanaticZone Southern University Team Schedules
PEOPLE:	Obituaries Food Teen Stuff

ENTERTAINMENT: [Movies](#) | [TV Listings](#) | [Music](#) | [Books](#) | [Comics](#) | [Horoscopes](#) | [Crossword](#) | [Wordsearch](#) | [Software Reviews](#) | [Travel](#) | [Personals](#)

BUSINESS: [Briefs](#) | [Technobabble](#) | [Motley Fool](#)

OPINION: [Inside Report](#) | [Joan McKinney](#) | [Milford Fryer](#) | [Our Views](#) | [Perspective](#) | [Political Horizons](#)

ADVERTISING: [Advertise with Us](#) | [Advocate Advantages](#) | [Apartment Directory](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Display \(Graphical\) Ads](#) | [Employment Classifieds](#) | [La Job Market](#) | [Marketplace](#) | [Real Estate Classifieds](#) | [Wheels \(Automotive\) Section](#) | [Yellow Pages](#)

SPECIAL SECTIONS: [Millennium](#) | [Vacation](#) | [Weddings](#) | [World Wide Wanderers](#) | [Other Special Sections](#)

Copyright © 1995-2002, The Advocate, Capital City Press, All Rights Reserved.
Comments about our site, write: comments@theadvocate.com
[Advertise with us](#)

For information about newspaper jobs @ The Advocate - [click here](#)



COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, February 7, 2002
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

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

Mr. Chairman:

There are 6 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.
Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
February 7, 2002
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2002
3. Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief - Keith LaCaze & Winton Vidrine
4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January - Keith LaCaze
5. Boating Safety Report - Charlie Clark
6. Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt - Tommy Prickett
7. Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure - Marty Bourgeois
8. Declaration of Emergency - Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation - Marty Bourgeois
9. Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead - Joey Shepard
10. Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Fill Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties - Fred Whitrock
11. Division Report - Duck Season Report - Robert Helm
12. Set June 2002 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
February 7, 2002
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2002
3. Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief - Keith LaCaze & Winton Vidrine
4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January - Keith LaCaze
5. Boating Safety Report - Charlie Clark
6. Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt - Tommy Prickett
7. Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure - Marty Bourgeois
8. Declaration of Emergency - Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation - Marty Bourgeois
9. Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead - Joey Shepard
10. Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Fill Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties - Fred Whitrock
11. Division Report - Duck Season Report - Robert Helm
12. Set June 2002 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

JANUARY 2002

REGION 1:MINDEN
18 Agent positions

PARISHES: BIENVILLE, BOSSIER,
CADDO, CLAIBORNE,
WEBSTER

TOTAL CASES	101
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
12	Boating Safety
9	Angling W/O A Resident License
1	Angling W/O A License – Non-Resident
1	Fishing W/O A Resident Cane Pole License
1	Failure To Abide By Caddo Lake Yo-Yo Regs
7	Hunting W/O A Resident License
1	Failure To Abide By Commission R&R
11	Hunt From A Moving Vehicle
1	Hunt W/Unplugged Gun
5	Hunt, Stand, Or Loiter On Public Road
1	Possession Wild Quadruped W/O A Permit
1	Hunt MGB W/O A State Stamp
2	Hunt W/O A Resident Big Game License
4	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours
10	Hunt Deer From A Public Road
1	Take Illegal Deer Open Season

1	Field Possession Deer Meat W/O A Tag
12	Failure To Wear Hunter Orange
1	Violate MGB Federal Stamp Regulations
1	Hunt Ducks W/O A Federal Stamp
1	Hunt MGB W/Unplugged Gun
6	Hunt MGB Illegal Hours
3	Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot
1	Hunt MGB W/O A State Stamp
1	Hunt MGB W/O A State Hunting License
1	Littering
1	Operate ATV On Public Road
4	Discharge Firearm From Public Road

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
5	
2	Boating Safety
3	Failure To Wear Hunter Orange

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
2 woodducks; 28 lead shot shells; 2 rifles; 3 deer; 2 shotguns; 2 rod & reel combos; 2 yo-yo's; 1 resident hunting license; 1 live deer.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION I

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
12	Boating
00	Commercial Fishing
14	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
5	Miscellaneous
12	Recreational Fishing
57	State Hunting/Trapping
5	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 2:MONROE
20 Agent positions

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

TOTAL CASES	85
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Possession Of Spotted Fawn
1	Criminal Damage To State Property
1	Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia
1	Contributing To The Delinquency Of A Minor
1	Failure To Comply With Hunter Safety Regulations
1	Transport Completely Dressed MGB
1	Hunting Duck W/O Federal Duck Stamp
1	Resisting Arrest
1	Take Or Possess Non-game Bird
1	Hunt W/O Big Game License
1	Careless Operation
1	Possession Of Marijuana
1	Failure To Maintain Sex Identification
1	No Proof Of Insurance

1	Obstruction Of Justice
1	Expired Inspection Sticker
1	Driving Under Suspension
4	Failure To Wear Hunter's Orange
2	Fish Without Pole License
2	Hunt Deer Illegal Methods
3	Littering
3	Not Abiding By Rules and Regulations On WMA
3	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours
3	Take Illegal Deer In Open Season
4	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours
4	Possession Of Untagged Deer
4	Boating
5	Discharge Firearm From Public Road
5	Flight From An Officer
5	Hunt Deer From A Public Road
6	Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer
7	Hunt W/O Resident Hunting License
8	Hunt From Moving Vehicle

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 2	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Failure To Wear Hunter's Orange
1	Angle W/O Resident License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1-Spotlight, 1- Inter-arms .357 Cal. Pistol, 6-round ammunition, 1-Winchester Model 94 30-30 rifle, 1-Revelation 12 gauge shotgun, 1-spotlight, 1- marijuana cigarette, 1-box with rolling paper, 1-Tweezers, 1-Spotted Fawn Hide, 1- Q-beam spotlight, 1-22 caliber pistol, 5- Deer, 1-Egret, 1- 12 gauge shotgun, 1-38 caliber pistol, 1-Bolt Action Rifle 30-06 Remington.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2 (MONROE)

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

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
12	Public Assistance- Assisting Stranded Motorist and Boaters

REGION 3:ALEXANDRIA

**PARISHES:AVOUELLES, GRANT
NATCHITOCHEs
RAPIDES, SABINE
VERNON, WINN**

26 Agent positions

TOTAL CASES	134
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
13	Boating
12	Angling W/O A License In Possession
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
1	Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealers License
1	Failure To Maintain Records
1	Sell Fish W/O Retail Seafood License
1	Trap Or Sell FBA W/O Non-Resident License
1	Hunt MGB Illegal Hours
4	Hunt MGB W/O Federal Stamp
5	Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
6	Hunt W/O Resident License
3	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
6	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
3	Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours

5	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
3	Field Possession Of Deer Meat W/O Tag
10	Hunt Deer From Public Road
1	Take Illegal Deer Open Season
3	Discharge Firearm From Public Road
2	Hunt With Unplugged Gun
1	Hunt Raccoons Illegally
1	Hunt W/O Non-Resident Basic License
1	Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License
2	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours
1	Obtain License By Fraud
3	Hunt, Stand, Loiter From Public Road
1	Possession Of Buckshot Closed Deer Season
5	Hunt On WMA W/O WMA Hunting Permit
16	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations
2	Possession Alcohol Under Age – 11
9	Operate ATV On Public Road
3	Littering
1	DWI
1	Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road

1	Illegal Possession Of Marijuana
1	Reckless Operation Of Vehicle

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 5	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Boating
2	Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations
1	Hunt W/O Resident License
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1 rifle, 2 shotgun, 4 cans of beer, 11 doe deer, 1 ice chest, 11 packages of cut up deer, 2 raccoons, 2 beavers, 2 marijuana cigarettes, 1 10' boat.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
13	Boating
7	Commercial Fishing
10	Federal Migratory
3	Littering
4	Miscellaneous
12	Recreational Fishing

85	State Hunting/Trapping
5	Written Warnings
TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 4:FERRIDAY
24 Agent positions

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

TOTAL CASES	149
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
11	Boating Safety Violations
1	Fish w/o resident pole license
1	Fail to comply with bait taking regulations
2	Hunting w/o resident license
1	Hunting w/o non-resident license
6	Failure to abide by commission rules
22	Hunting from moving vehicle
7	Hunt wild quadrupeds illegal hours
6	Hunt from public road
2	Hunt w/o resident big game license
16	Hunt or take deer illegal hours
9	Hunt or take deer from public road
1	Hunt or take illegal deer open season
1	Possess over limit of deer
1	Possession of illegally taken deer
6	Fail comply w/hunters orange regulations

7	Hunt on DMAP lands w/o permit from owner/lessee
5	Hunt raccoons or opossums illegally
1	Take non-game quadrupeds c/s
1	Hunting ducks w/o federal stamp
1	Hunting with unsigned duck stamp
4	Hunting MGB illegal hours
1	Hunting MGB from moving vehicle
2	Possess Untagged MGB
1	Possession over the two day limit of MGB
1	Hunt MGB without state duck stamp
23	Not abiding by rules & regulations on WMA
1	Hunting WMA without permit
2	Resisting and officer
1	Simple assault on an officer
1	Illegal possession of marijuana
3	Illegal spot lighting from a public road
1	Other than wildlife & fisheries (possession of drug paraphernalia)

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	6	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1		Angling w/o license
1		Hunting w/o resident license
1		Hunt w/o resident big game license
3		Fail to comply w/hunters orange regulations

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
11 Ducks; 6 Deer; 26 Doves; 17 Coons; 2 Otters; 1 Rabbit; 1 Opossum; 8 Snipe; 10 Rifles; 2 Otters; 1 Muzzleloader; 1 Spotlight; 1 Dip Net; 1 Bag of Marijuana; 84 DMAP Tags & records.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4

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

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
5	Public Assistance

REGION 5: LAKE CHARLES
23 Agent positions

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

TOTAL CASES	118
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
29	Boating
17	Angling W/O A License
8	Angling W/O A License Non. Res.
1	Violate Recreational Gear License Requirement
2	Angling W/O Saltwater License Non. Res.
6	Take Or Poss. Overlimit of Red Drum On Water
2	Take Or Poss. O/L of Black Drum (recreational)
5	Chicot Lake (Use Yo/Yo Trigger Device)
2	Take Or Sell Comm. Fish Bait Species W/O Comm. License
1	Commercial Fishermen Sell to Consumer W/O Fresh Produce Lic.
1	Take Comm. Fish W/O Comm. Gear Lic.
2	Take Or Poss. Comm. Fish W/O Vessel Lic.
2	Failure To Maintain License
1	Buy Comm. Fish From Unlicensed Fisherman
1	Failure To Tag Sacked Or Containerized Oysters

1	Poss. Of Untagged/Improperly Tagged Oysters 10%
3	Hntg. W/O Res. License
3	Hntg. W/O Res. Big Game License
1	Failure To Wear Hunter's Orange
3	Hntg. From Moving Vehicle &/Or Aircraft
2	Hntg. Wild Quadrupeds &/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
4	Hunt Across Public Road Or Road Right Of Way
5	Hntg. MGB Illegal Hours
2	Hntg. MGB From A Vehicle
2	Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
2	Hntg. MGB W/Electronic Calling Device
2	Hntg. Ducks Closed Season
2	Poss. Overlimit Of Ducks
2	Hntg. MGB From Public Road
1	Operate ATV On Public Road
1	Flight From An Officer
2	Miscellaneous Federal Violations

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
4	Angling W/O A Res. License
1	Hntg. W/O A Res. License
1	Hntg. W/O A Res. Big Game License
1	Improper Running Lights
6	Failure To Comply W/PFD Req.
3	Improper Or No Fire Extinguisher
1	Failure To Comply W/Visual Distress Signals

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
64 redfish; 2 black drum; 2 catfish; \$903.25 for 1,217 lbs black drum and 1,387 lbs of sheephead; 14 sacks of oysters RTW; 4 rods; 4 reels; 2 rabbits; 3 woodcocks; 26 geese; 2 specklebelly; 8 ducks; 1 electronic caller; 2 exterior speakers; 3 geese calling tapes; 1 carrying bag; 5 lead shot shells; 3-12 ga. #1 buckshot shells; 1 rifle; 1 shotgun, 6-30/30 cartridges – 1 spent.; 3 ice chest

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
29	Boating
11	Commercial Fishing
19	Federal Migratory
0	Littering

2	Miscellaneous
41	Recreational Fishing
16	State Hunting/Trapping
17	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 6:OPELOUSAS**24 Agent positions**

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

TOTAL CASES	164
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
21	Boating
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
2	Hunt MGB W/O State Duck Stamp
1	Hunt Woodcock Closed Season
3	Hunt Snipe Closed Season
1	Take Overlimit Ducks
1	Wanton Waste
7	Hunt MGB Illegal Hours
5	Hunt Ducks W/O Federal Duck Stamp
5	Use Leadshot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
2	Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On WMA
3	Take Or Possess Of Other Non-Game Birds
6	Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
11	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
7	Hunt W/O Resident License

6	Angling W/O Resident License
4	Take Illegal Deer Open Season
11	Hunt From A Moving Vehicle
2	Hunt Deer From Public Road
7	Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours Or With Artificial Light
3	Hunt, Stand, Loiter From Public Road
3	Contributing To The Delinquency Of A Juvenile
1	Hunt MGB W/Unplugged Gun
1	Hunt Or Take Deer Illegally From Boat
3	Possession Of Untagged Deer
1	Hunt W/O Muzzleloader License
1	Hunt With Unplugged Gun
1	Littering
1	Driving W/O Operator's License
4	Hunt From Public Road
1	Failure To Maintain Sex Identification
1	Buy Or Sell Fur Bearing Animal W/O Buyers License
1	Trap Or Sell Fur Bearing Animal W/O Resident License
2	Hunt Wild Quadruped Illegal Hours Or With Artificial Light
9	Fail To Have Written Permission

9	Unlawfully Taking Oysters On Private Lease
1	Improper Log Sheet
2	Hunt MGB Over Baited Area
1	Take/Possess Game Fish Illegally
1	No Log Sheet
1	Take Grebe No Season
4	Fish W/O Resident Pole License
1	Criminal Mischief
1	Possession Of An Illegally Taken Deer
4	Take Illegal Deer Open Season

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 12	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Boating
2	Angling W/O License
2	Hunt W/O Resident License
2	Not Abiding By Rules and Regulations On WMA
1	Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
2	Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
1	Fish W/O Resident Pole License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
1 box 12 ga. Buckshot, 1 box .410 leadshot shells, 3 bait samples, 1 cast net, 1 squirrel, 1 rabbit, 1 357 magnum, 1 vehicle, 3 cleaned deer, 6 woodducks, 14 leadshot shells, 1 spent 20 ga. Shotgun shell, 4 deer, 7 rifles, 37 DMAP doe tags, DMAP records, 1 spotlight, 1 shotgun, 1 blue goose, 125 raccoons, 1 handwritten receipt, 1 black bass, 20 sacks of oysters, 2 oyster dredges.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
21	Boating
18	Commercial Fishing
30	Federal Migratory
1	Littering
9	Miscellaneous
12	Recreational Fishing
73	State Hunting/Trapping
12	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

REGION 7:BATON ROUGE

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

22 Agent positions

TOTAL CASES	96
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
6	Angling
4	Boating
5	Hunting W/O Basic License—Resident
3	Hunting W/O Big Game License—Resident
3	Hunting W/O W.M.A. Permit
17	Hunting Deer During Illegal Hours
15	Hunting Deer From A Moving Vehicle
17	Hunting Deer From A Public Road
4	Take Illegal Deer Open Season
2	Possession Of Un-Tagged Deer
5	Criminal Trespass
3	Flight From An Officer
5	Not Abiding By W.M.A. Rules And Regulations
2	Failure To Wear Hunters Orange
1	Selling F.B. A. W/O License

1	Hunting W/O Muzzleloader License
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Vessel License

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 2	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	Failure To Wear Hunter's Orange
1	No Basic Fishing License

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
6 deer, 8 rifles, 4 shotguns, and 1.45 caliber pistol.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
4	Boating
3	Commercial Fishing
-0-	Federal Migratory
-0-	Littering
8	Miscellaneous
6	Recreational Fishing
75	State Hunting/Trapping

2	Written Warnings
TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
1	Public Assistance Assist Motorist In Getting Gas—Ran Out On LA-22

00000

REGION 8:NEW ORLEANS
18 Agent positions

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

TOTAL CASES	195
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
53	Boating
10	Angling W/O A License
5	Angling W/O A License Non-Resident
3	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic.
2	Angling W/O Saltwater Lic Non-Resident
3	Take/Poss. O/L Red Drum
7	Poss. O/L of Red Drum In Excess of 27" (Recreational)
1	Commission Rules and Regs. Red Snapper
1	Commission Rules and Regs. Shark
2	Take or Possess over limit Blue Crab
1	Fail To Have Commercial Lic. In Poss.
2	Take or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Comm. Lic.
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O Comm. Gear Lic.
1	Take or Poss. Commercial Fish W/O Vessel Lic.
1	Sell and/or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's Lic.
1	Sell and/or Buy fish without a Retail Seafood Dealers License

5	Fail to Maintain Records
2	Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings
2	Removing Contents from Legal Crab Traps
3	Tending Crab Traps Illegal Hours
2	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
13	Take Oysters From Unapproved Area(Polluted)
1	Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester License
4	Fail To Land Oysters in Louisiana
1	Possess Wild Birds W/O A Lic
1	Unlawful Taking of Wild Birds
7	Failure to Abide By Commission Rules
2	Hunting From Moving Vehicle
6	Hunting W/Unplugged Gun
9	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
1	Possession of Wild Quadrupeds or Wild Birds W/O Permit
1	Hunt/Take Rabbits Illegal Rifle
4	Hunt or Take Deer Illegal Hours
1	Fail to Comply w/Hunters Orange Regulations
3	Hunting Ducks W/O Federal Stamp
2	Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun

1	Hunting MGB Over Baited Area
3	Hunting MGB From Moving Motorboat
4	Rallying MGB
2	Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
2	Hunting Coots Closed Season
5	Hunting Ducks Closed Season
1	Possess Over Limit of Ducks(Field Possession)
1	Hunting Gallinules Closed Season
2	Hunt MGB Without State Hunting License
4	Hunt on WMA without WMA Hunting Permit
1	Criminal Trespass
1	Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries
4	Violation of Sanitary Code-Chapter 9

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 44	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
35	Boating
2	Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
5	Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations on WMA
2	Hunt on WMA without WMA Hunting Permit

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
Returned to Water....Oyster Sacks(144)...Crabs(4boxes) Destroyed...Canvasback(3) Sold @ bid....Crabs(902 lbs sold @ bid for \$451.00) Donated....Mangrove Snapper(13)...Red Snapper (11)...Red Drum(28)...Oyster Sacks(35)...Rabbits(63)...Ducks(24)...Shark Fins(4 lbs.)...Coots(38)...Spotted Sea Trout(6)...Crabs(190 lbs)...Gallinules(3)...Dos Gris(2)...Nutrias(3)...Raccoons(2 dumped overboard) Hardware Confiscated...Whole Corn(1 lbs)...Casings(5)...Crab Traps(16)...Head lamp(1)...Rifle(5)...Shells(78)...Headlight(3)...Shotgun(16)...Dredge(5)... Vessel(1)...Rod & Reel(5)...Handheld Light(2)...Pocketknife(1)...Purchase Receipts(37)... Trip Tickets(6)...Flashlight(1)...Ice Chest(1)...Alien Commercial Lic(1)...Resident Lic(1)...Vessel(1)

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
53	Boating
39	Commercial Fishing
26	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
11	Miscellaneous
33	Recreational Fishing
33	State Hunting/Trapping
44	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
2	Public Assistance

REGION 9-SCHRIEVER**PARISHES:ASSUMPTION AND ST. JAMES****25 Agent positions****ST. JOHN, ST. MARY
TERREBONNE, LAFOURCHE
JEFFERSON-GRAND ISLE
LOWER ST. MARTIN**

TOTAL CASES	219
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
19	Boating
34	Angling Without A License
4	Angling Without A Non-Resident License
8	Angling Without Saltwater License
3	Angling Without Saltwater License Non-Resident
6	Take Over Limit Black Drum (Recreational)
1	Take Illegal Size Black Bass
13	Take Undersized Red Drum (Recreational)
17	Take Undersized Black Drum (Recreational)
1	Take Game Fish Illegal (Hoop Net)
1	Take Over Limit Freshwater Gamefish (Sac-A-Lait)
1	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
7	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial License
1	Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish
2	Illegal Possession Of Game Fish (Sac-A-Lait)

4	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License (Hoop Net)
3	Take Commercial Fish Without Commercial Gear License (Crab Trap)
6	Take Commercial Fish Without Vessel License
1	Buy Fish Without Wholesale/Retail/Dealer's License (Resident)
2	Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Fisherman
1	Theft Of Crab Trap
1	Fail To Comply With Stone Crab Requirements
4	Use Illegal Mesh Nets Freshwater (Gill Nets)
1	Failure To Mark Nets (Freshwater)
2	Failure To Have Written Permission
5	Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area (Polluted)
2	Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease
3	Fail To Cull Oysters In Proper Location
3	Possession Of Buckshot During Closed Deer Season
1	Take Over Limit Of Rabbits
5	Hunt Without Resident License
5	Failure To Abide By Commission Rules (DMAP Program)
3	Hunt From Moving Vehicle
1	Hunt With Unplugged Gun
5	Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer (Open Season)

6	Fail To Wear Hunter's Orange
3	Take Deer Illegal Hours
3	Take Deer From Public Road
9	Take Illegal Deer Open Season
1	Hunting MGB From Moving Motorboat
6	Transport Of Completely Dressed MGB
1	Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road
1	Not Abiding Rules And Regulations WMA (O/B Motor Over 25HP)
1	Not Abiding Rules And Regulations WMA (Hunt From Permanent Stand)
12	Not Abiding Rules And Regulations WMA (No Permit)

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 24	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
6	Boating
6	Angling Without A License
9	Angling Without Saltwater License
3	Hunt On WMA Without WMA Hunting Permit

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
2 sacks oysters, 8 completely dressed mgb, 13 rabbits, 744 lbs mixed commercial fish sold \$190.24, 7 lbs stone crab claws sold \$7, 96 black drum, 650 lbs crabs, 346 lbs crabs sold \$386.40, 18 red drum, 136 sac-a-lait, 42 bream, 10 sacks oysters, 1 ring neck duck, 6 deer, 41 bowfins, 2 boats, 1 motor (paper seizure), 1 truck (paper seizure), 3 crab traps, 20 gill nets, 4 hoop nets, 2 shotguns, 1 rifle, 2 oyster dredges, 5 doe tags, 4 dmap tags, 2 dmap kill records, 1 spotlight, various buckshot shells.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
19	Boating
46	Commercial Fishing
7	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
3	Miscellaneous
88	Recreational Fishing
56	State Hunting/Trapping
24	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
8	Public Assistance

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE
3 Agent positions

COASTAL WATERS

TOTAL CASES	101
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
8	Boating
11	Unlawfully Take Oysters Of Private Leases
3	Unlawfully Take Oysters Off State Water Bottoms
2	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial License
1	Take Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial Gear License In Possession
1	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel's License In Possession
1	Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester License
5	Violate Sanitary Code-Chapter 9-No Harvester Log
2	Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
6	Take Oysters From An Unapproved Area
4	Fail To Land Oysters In Louisiana
13	Failure To Have Written Permission
3	Fail To Cull Oysters In The Proper Location
9	Angling W/O A License-Resident
6	Angling W/O A Saltwater License-Resident
2	Angling W/O A Basic License Non-Resident

2	Angling W/O A Saltwater License-Non-Resident
10	Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum
3	Take Or Possess Over Limit Black Drum
3	Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum
1	Hunting W/O Residence License
3	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours Or With Artificial Light
2	Criminal Trespassing

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
250 sacks of oysters, 2 1/2 crates of blue crabs, 45 black drum, 6 red drum, 2 rabbits.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

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

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

TOTAL

SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT
8 Agent positions

STATEWIDE

TOTAL CASES	54
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
2	Take/Sell Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial Fisherman's License
2	Take Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial Gear License
2	Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
3	Buy/Sell Fish W/O A Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer's License
1	Fail To Maintain Records
1	Transport W/O Required License
1	Illegal Shipment OF Commercial Fish (no records of fish shipment)
2	Buy Commercial Fish From Unlicensed Fisherman
1	Fail To Report Commercial Fisheries Data
24	Sell Undersize Crabs 10%-19%
13	Possess Over 20% Undersize Crabs
1	Fail To Comply With Stone Crab Requirements
1	Violate Interstate Commerce Regulations

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
186 lbs of live crabs sold for \$148.80, 197 lbs. of #1 crabs sold for \$247.50, 7 pounds of stone crab claws sold for \$7.00 and 2640 lbs. of crabs returned-to-water.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Boating
54	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	12
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
4	Boating
1	Violation of Commission Rules And Regulations (sharks)
1	Sale of Commercial Fish W/O Wholesale Dealer License
1	Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
1	Violate Commission Rules And Regulations Red Snapper Overlimit
1	Violate Commission Rules And Regulations Possession Of Red Drum
2	Take Federally Controlled Fish Closed Season Red Snapper
1	No Federal Duck Stamp

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 0	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
0	

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION
59 red snapper, 1 pintail duck, and 2 sacks of oysters returned-to-water.

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

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

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
0	Public Assistance

**NOTE: BOATS CHECKED-140
HOURS RUNNING TIME-97**

REFUGE PATROL
8 Agent positions

**MARSH ISLAND,
ROCKEFELLER, STATE
WILDLIFE**

TOTAL CASES	60
TOTAL	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
10	Boating
6	Hunt From A Moving Vehicle
3	Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours With Artificial Light
3	Hunt Deer Closed Season
3	Hunt Deer Illegal Hours With Artificial Light
3	Hunt Deer From A Public Road
3	Not Abide By Rules And Regs. On WMA
11	Fail To Have Written Permission
11	Unlawfully Taking Oysters Off A Private Lease
4	Sanitary Code Violation Chapter 9
1	Take Or Possess Commercial Fish (Oysters) W/O A Vessel License
1	Possess Or Sell Undersize Crabs
1	Angling W/O A Basic License

WRITTEN WARNINGS:

TOTAL 1	DESCRIPTION OF CITATION
1	No Boat Registration Certification In Possession

1	No Boat Numbers
1	Angling W/O A Basic License
1	No Fire Extinguisher
1	Fail To Display Valid Certificate Decal

CONFISCATIONS:

CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION	
4 shotguns, 1 rifle, 2 headlights, 4 oyster dredges, 2 oyster boats, 64 redfish, 2 crates of crabs, 6 rabbits, and 227 sacks of oysters.	

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REFUGE PATROL

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
3	Boating
28	Commercial Fishing
0	Federal Migratory
0	Littering
3	Miscellaneous
8	Recreational Fishing
18	State Hunting/Trapping
5	Written Warnings

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

TOTAL	DESCRIPTION
3	Public Assistance (Assisted Stranded Vessels)

TOTAL CASES

-1488

NOTE: WRITTEN WARNINGS =118

NEWS RELEASE

Enforcement Agents from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries arrested a Larto man and seized 711 crappie and 54 bream on February 2, in connection with alleged game fish violations at Larto Lake in Catahoula Parish.

Austin Sanders, 51 was cited for taking game fish illegally and for taking or possessing over the limit of freshwater game fish after agents saw him in a boat, raising hoop nets in the lake near his residence.

After emptying the hoop nets, Sanders landed his boat and carried a white bucket up the shore to his residence. Sanders returned to his boat and was stopped by agents as he walked back up the shore, on a second trip, carrying two more white buckets containing crappie and bream.

Agents then obtained a search warrant in order to locate the contents of the first white bucket. Upon execution of the warrant, agents searched a small shed in the subjects yard and discovered an additional 41 fresh crappie and two freezers containing 588 whole, frozen crappie packaged in 41 separate plastic bags.

One 16-foot aluminum boat, one 25 horsepower outboard motor, three hoop nets and all the game fish were seized in connection with the violations.

If convicted of taking game fish illegally, Sanders could face a fine of \$400 to \$750, or up to 120 days in jail, or both, plus court costs and forfeiture of seized items. The penalty for taking/possessing over the limit of freshwater game fish carries a fine of \$100 to \$350 or up to 60 days in jail, or both, plus court costs.

Sanders was also served a civil restitution summons for \$3,610.36, for the value of the illegally taken fish.

Agents participating in the case were Sgt. Brian McDowell, Sr. Agent James Parish, Sr. Agent Robbie Roberts, Sr. Agent John Barker, Lt. Kenneth Hedrick, Sr. Agent Joe Tarver, Sr. Agent Charles Ward, Sr. Agent Bill Futrell, Sr. Agent Russ Kiser, and Sr. Agent Gary Neal.

For more information contact Major Keith LaCaze at lacaze_bk@wlf.state.la.us or (225) 765-2469.

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
JANUARY, 2002

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. - 33.0

185-Float - 9667Q
Hrs. - 35.3

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 18.3

Enforcement Hours - 57.4

Other Divisions - 29.2

Total Plane Use - 86.6

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

1-Not Abiding by Rules and Regulations on WMA

1-Take Commercial Fish Without Vessel License

2-Total

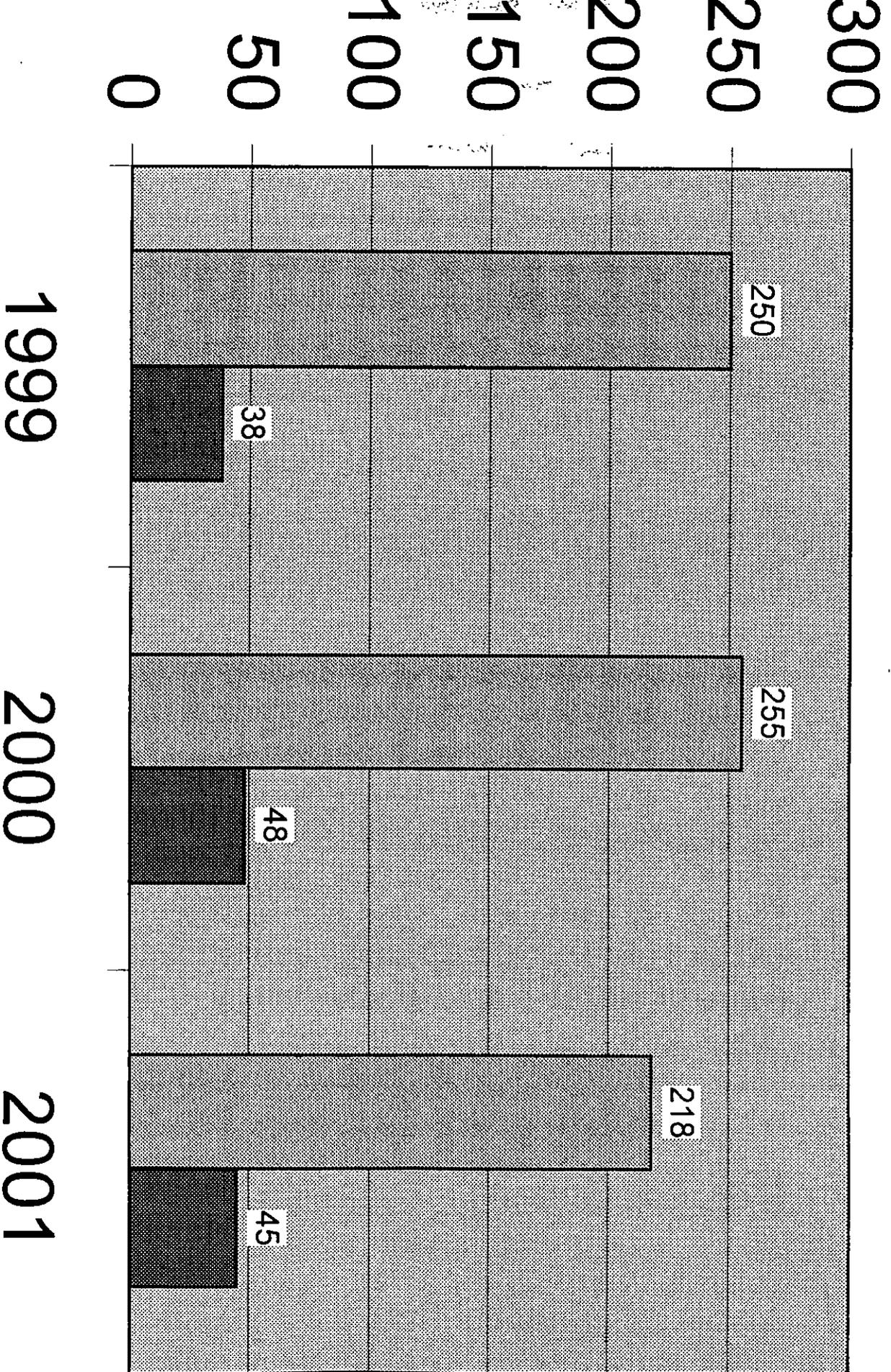
Confiscations: 4 Boxes of Crabs Returned to Water

MONTHLY REPORT
 ENFORCEMENT DIVISION - HUNTER EDUCATION SECTION
 DATE *January 2002*

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Total
Total Hunter Education Courses Taught Statewide									14
Total Students Certified Statewide in Hunter Education									414
Number Hunter Education Courses Taught by Volunteers	0	1	2	2		1		0	6
Number Hunter Education Courses Taught by Coordinators	2	2	0	1		2		1	8
Number Hunter Education Courses Assisted by Coordinator	0	0	0	0		0		0	0
Number Hunter Education Students Certified by Region	20	126	80	35		135		18	414
Bowhunter Education Courses Taught by Region	0	0	2	0		0		0	2
Number Bowhunter Education Students Certified by Region	0	0	61	0		0		0	61
Number Hunter Education Instructors Courses	0	0	0	0		0		0	0
Number Hunter Education Instructors Certified	0	0	0	0		0		0	0

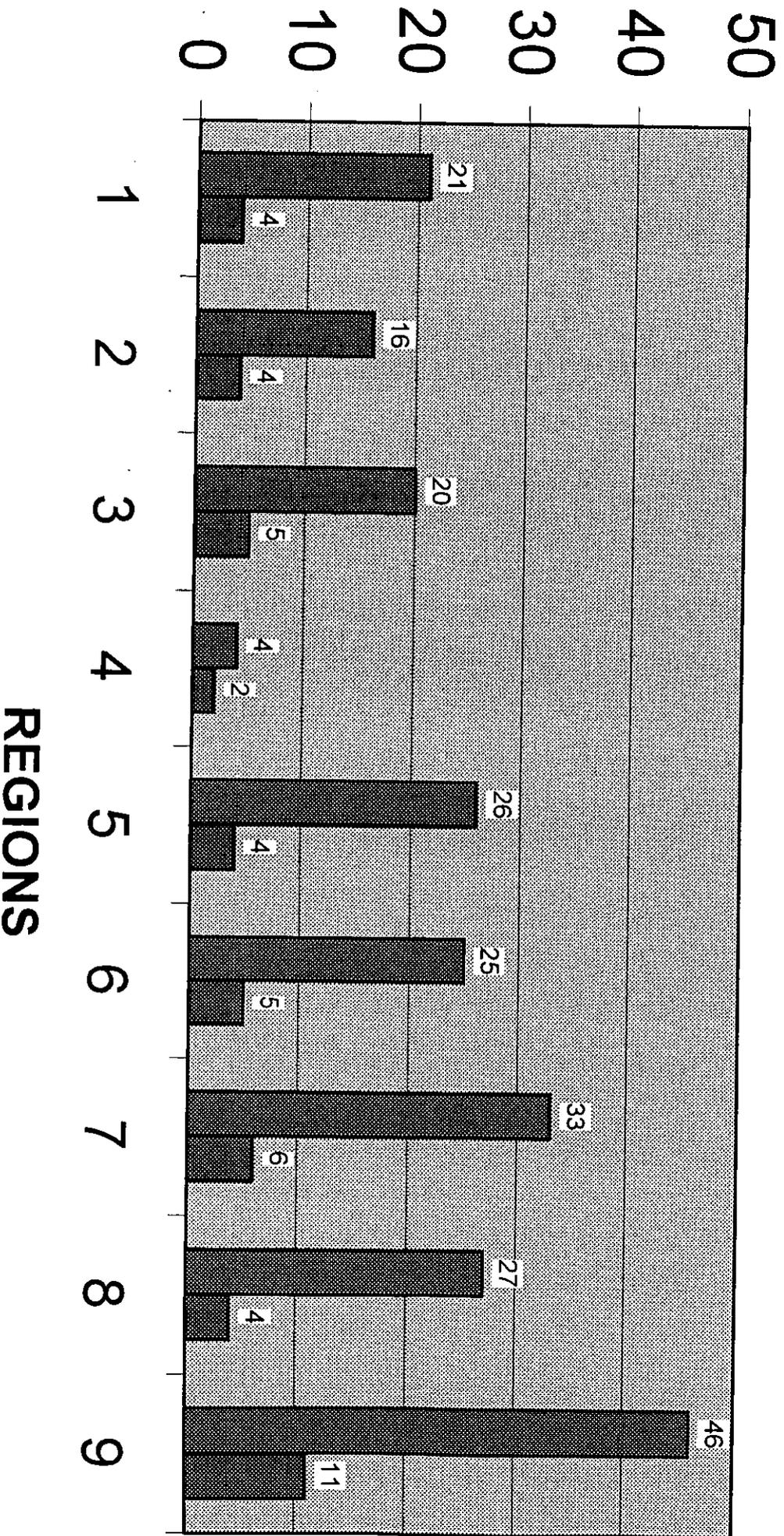
BOATING ACCIDENTS

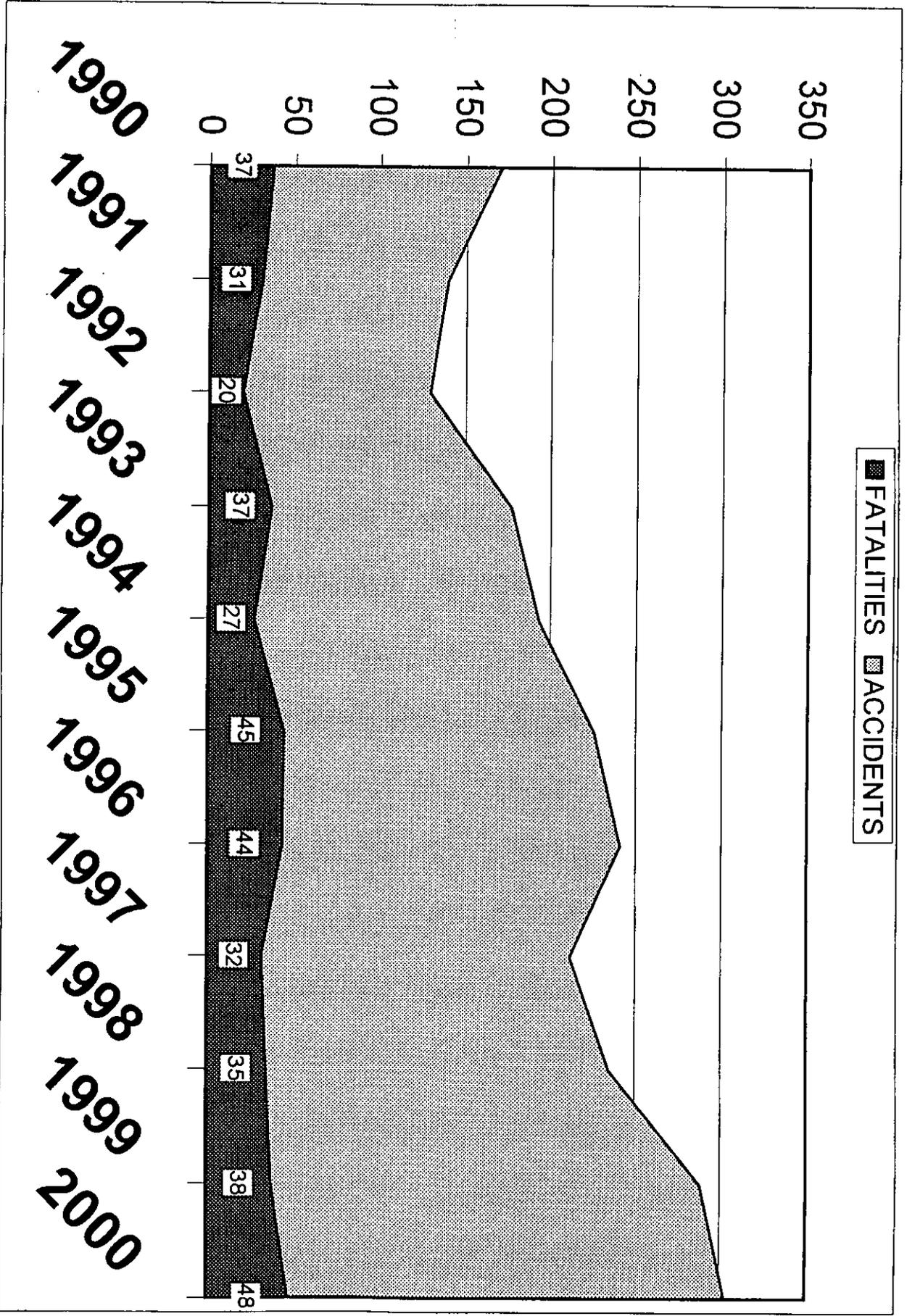
■ ACCIDENTS
■ FATALITIES



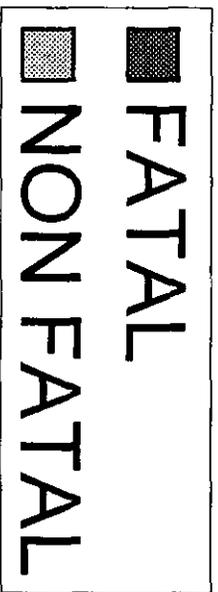
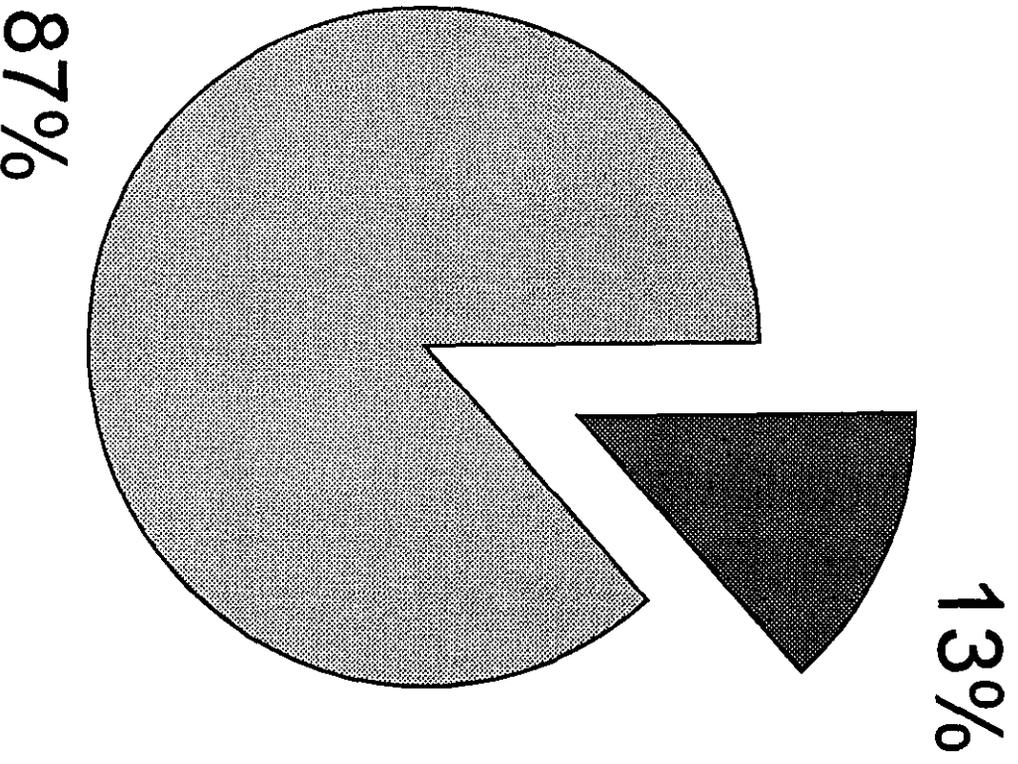
2001 BY REGION

■ ACCIDENTS ■ FATALITIES

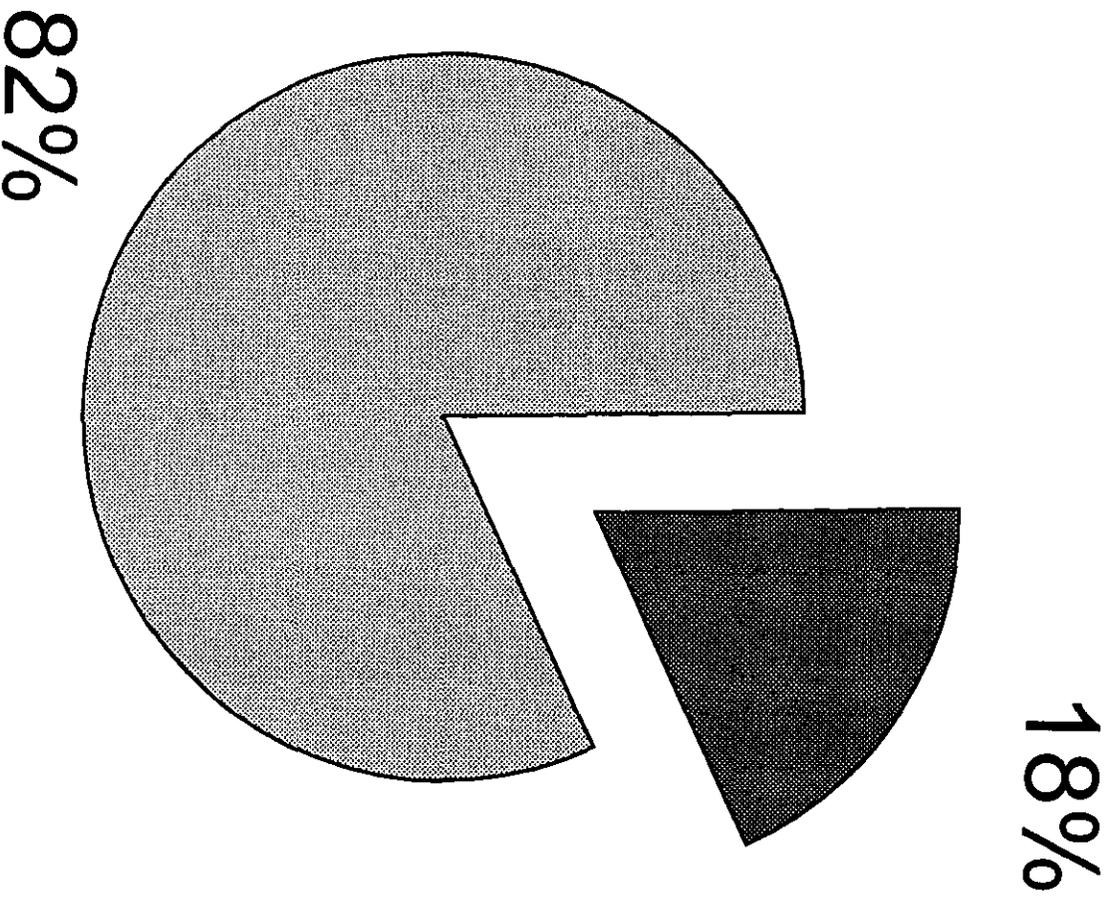




1999 TOTAL ACCIDENTS - 250

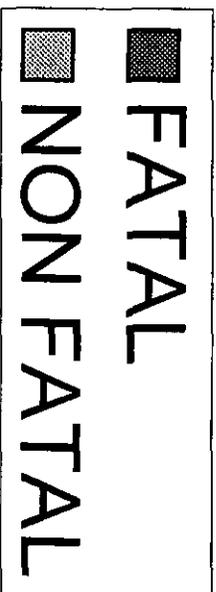
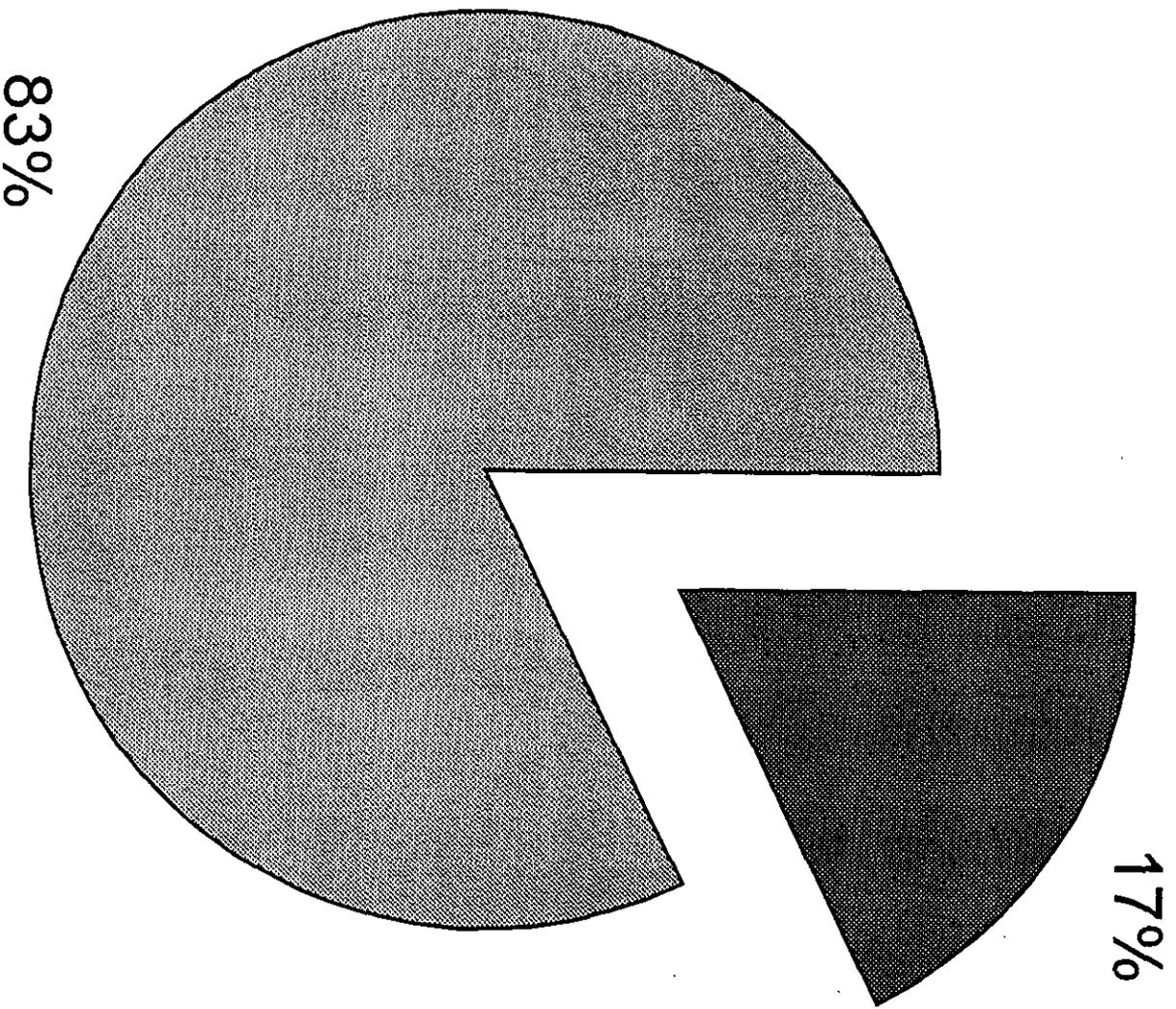


2000 TOTAL BOATING ACCIDENTS - 255

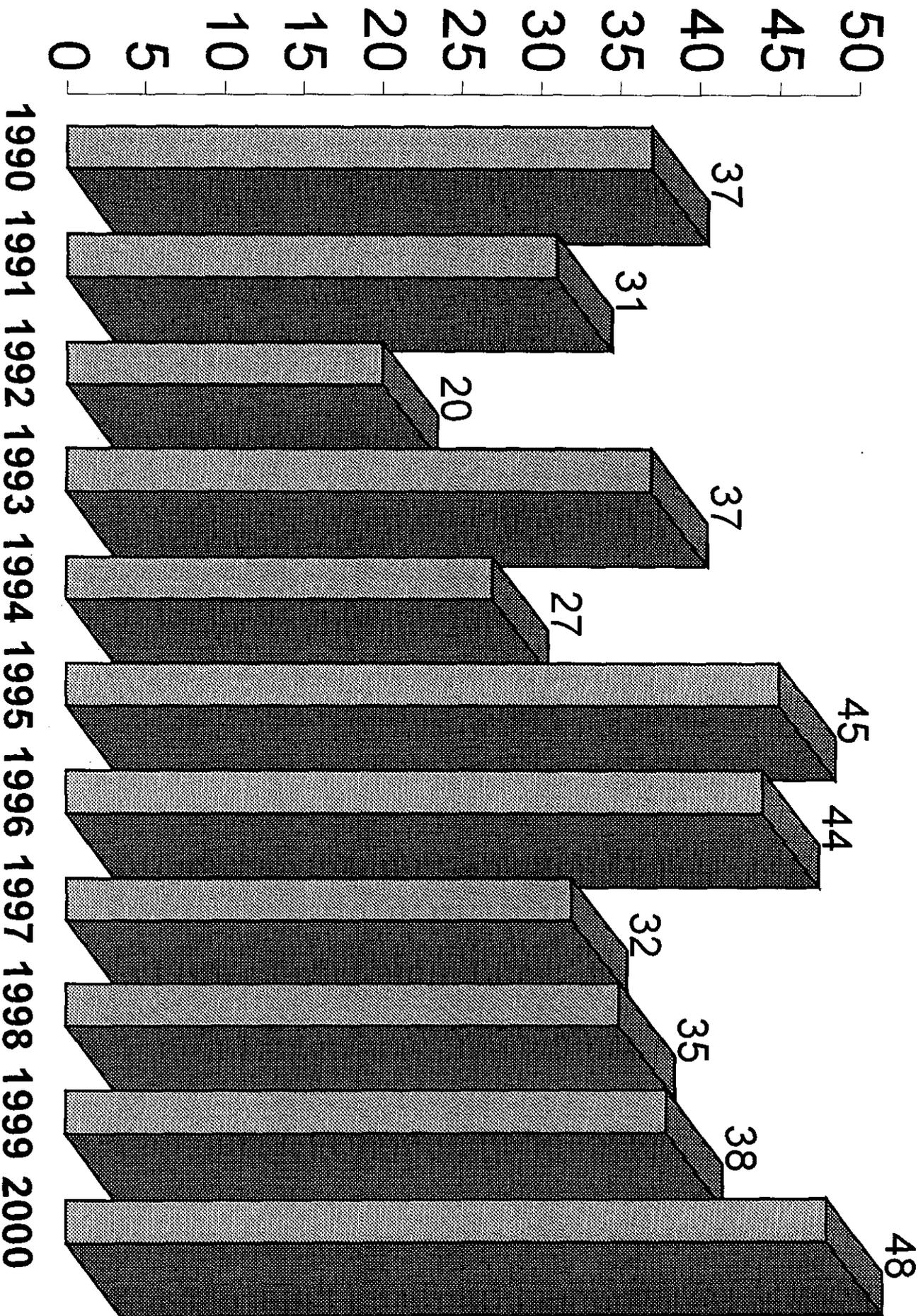


■ FATAL
□ NON FATAL

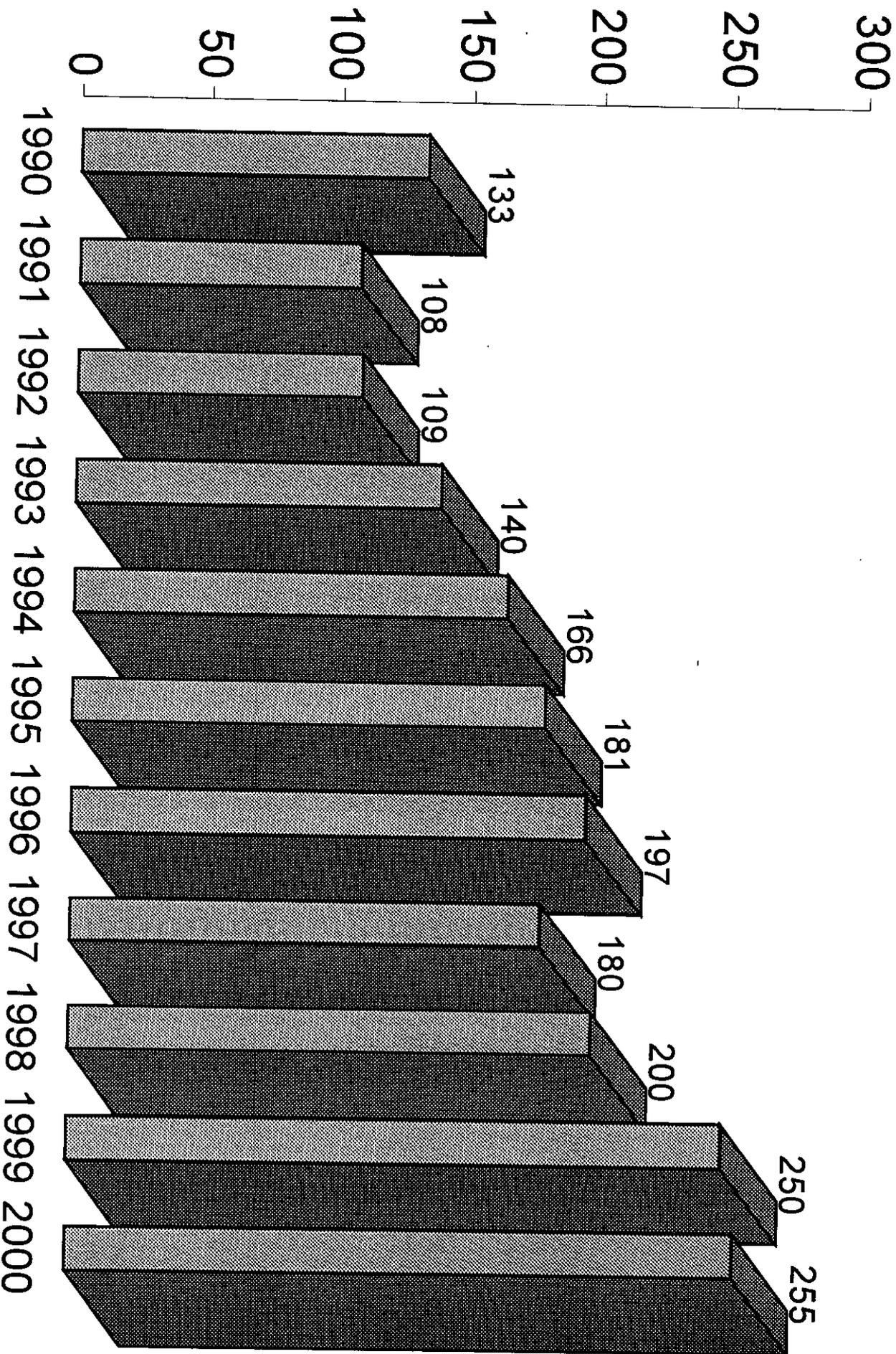
2001 TOTAL BOATING ACCIDENTS - 218

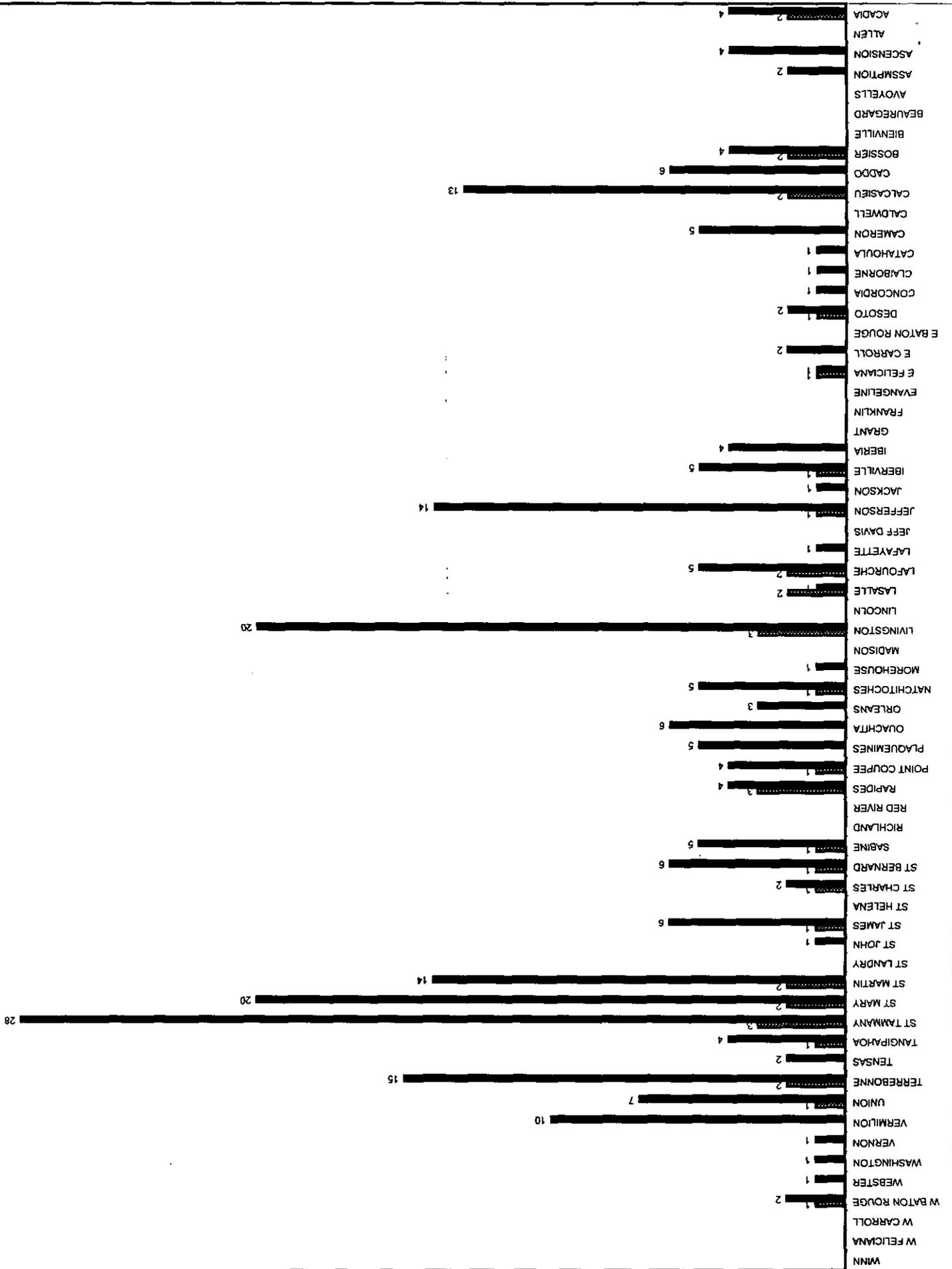


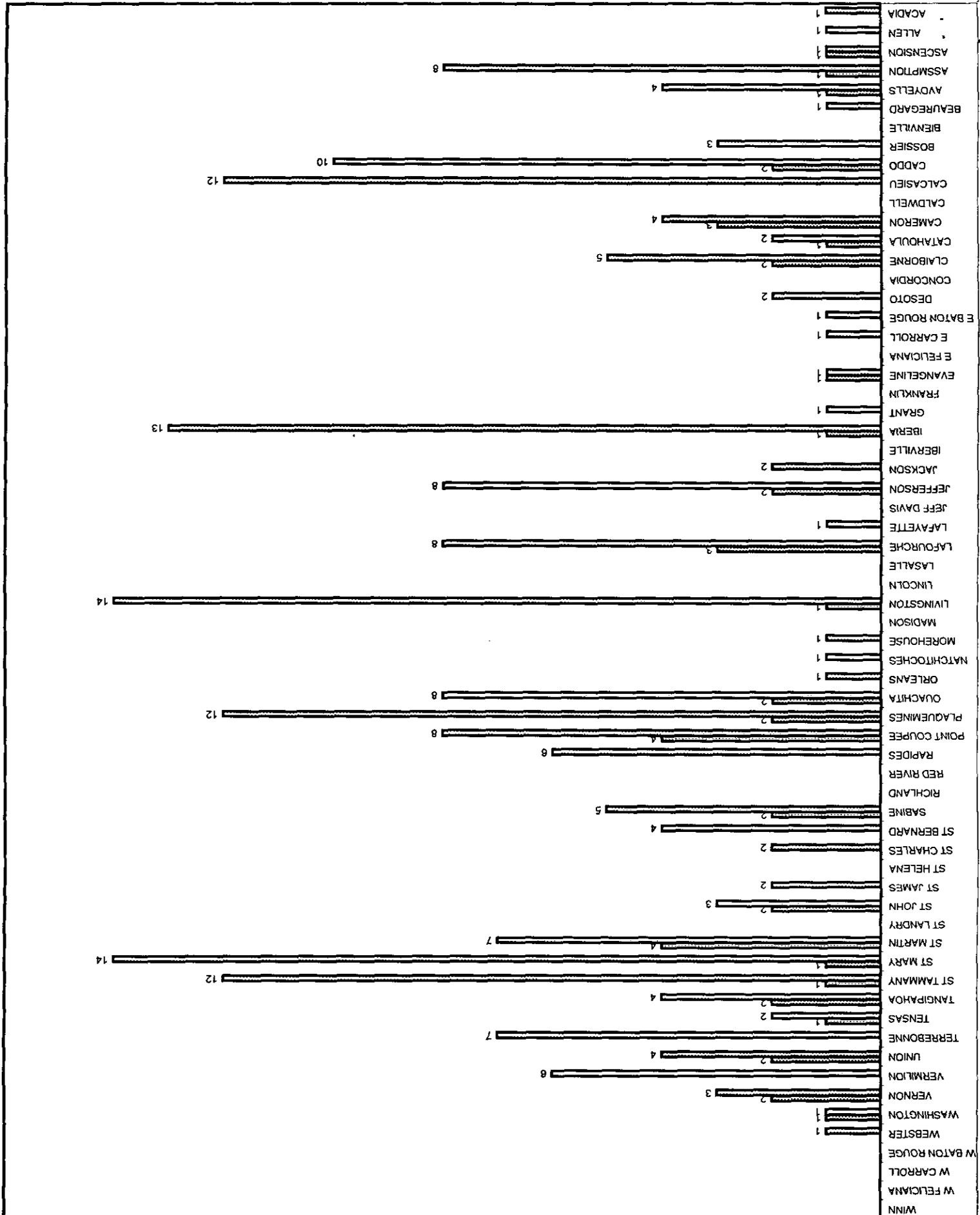
BOATING FATALITIES



BOATING ACCIDENTS

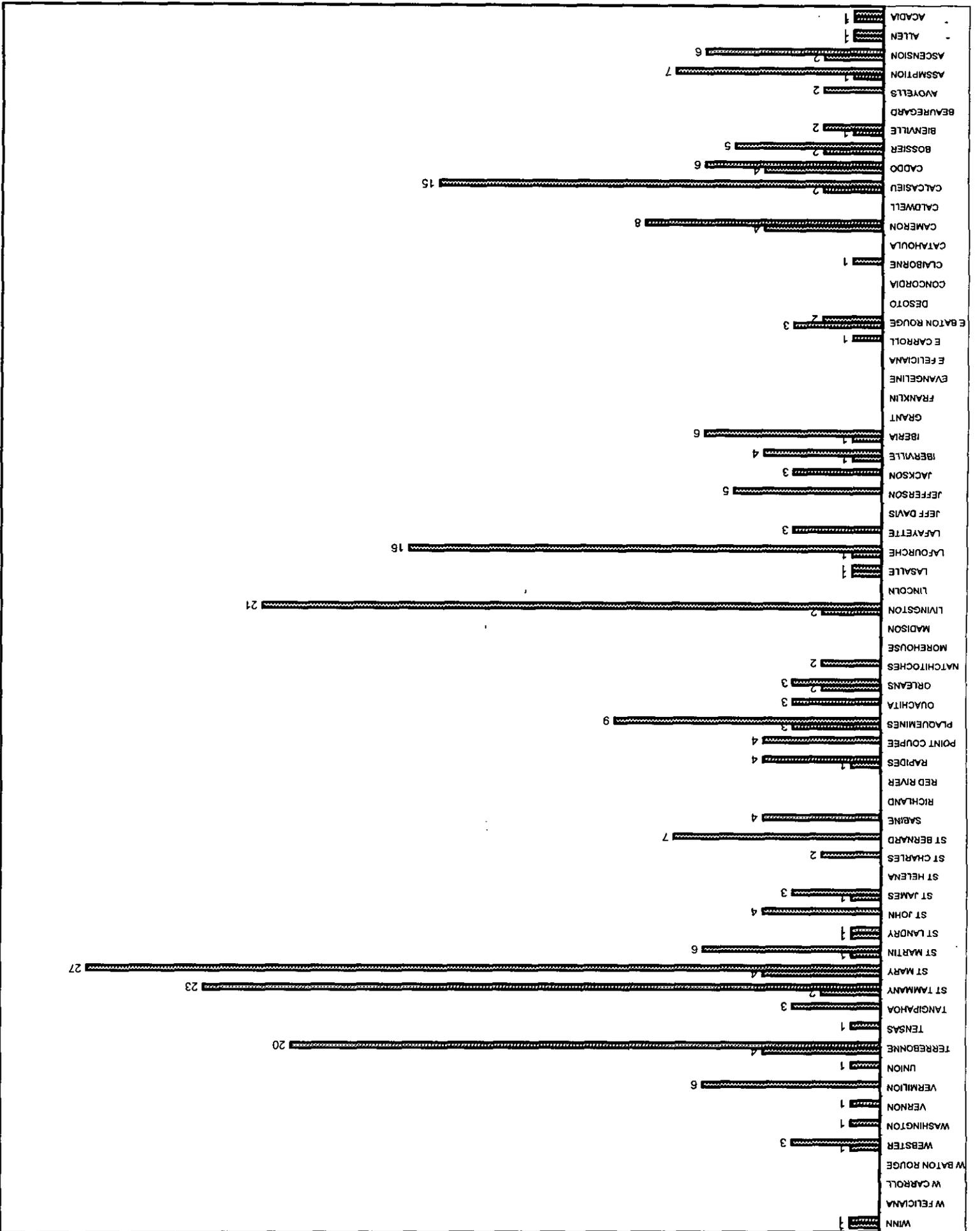






2001

ACCIDENTS FATALITIES



■ ACCIDENTS ■ FATALITIES

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

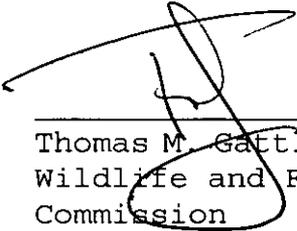
The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a hunting season in 2002 for turkeys, and

WHEREAS, authority to establish seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other rules and regulations for the hunting, taking and possession of any species of wild game birds is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:115, and

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for hunting by youth on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Declaration of Emergency establishing a youth turkey season on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge is hereby adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953B and 967D of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R. S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following Declaration of Emergency amending the 2002 Turkey Hunting Seasons:

Federal Lands Turkey Hunting Schedule

Kisatchie National Forest (KNF) turkey hunting schedule: Caney Ranger District, March 23-April 7; all remaining KNF lands, March 23-April 14 (including Catahoula and Red Dirt National Wildlife Management Preserves).

Indian Bayou Area (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), turkey hunting schedule: March 23 - 31, lottery hunt only on March 23-24 and March 25 - 27. Contact USCOE at 337-585-0856 for further information.

National Wildlife Refuges: Bogue Chitto NWR, March 23-April 21; Lake Ophelia NWR, March 23 - 25 (lottery only), March 30 - April 1 (lottery only), April 6 - 7; Tensas NWR, March 16-17 (youth lottery only), March 23 - April 21. Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for information regarding NWR hunts.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the youth

turkey hunt on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge was not included in the 2002 Turkey Hunting Regulations, and the proposed date is prior to the opening of the regular turkey hunting season for Tensas National Wildlife Refuge.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish a hunting season in 2002 for turkeys, and

WHEREAS, authority to establish seasons, bag limits, possession limits and other rules and regulations for the hunting, taking and possession of any species of wild game birds is vested in the Commission by R.S. 56:115, and

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for hunting by youth on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Declaration of Emergency establishing a youth turkey season on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge is hereby adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953B and 967D of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R. S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following Declaration of Emergency amending the 2002 Turkey Hunting Seasons:

Federal Lands Turkey Hunting Schedule

Kisatchie National Forest (KNF) turkey hunting schedule: Caney Ranger District, March 23-April 7; all remaining KNF lands, March 23-April 14 (including Catahoula and Red Dirt National Wildlife Management Preserves).

Indian Bayou Area (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), turkey hunting schedule: March 23 - 31, lottery hunt only on March 23-24 and March 25 - 27. Contact USCOE at 337-585-0856 for further information.

National Wildlife Refuges: Bogue Chitto NWR, March 23-April 21; Lake Ophelia NWR, March 23 - 25 (lottery only), March 30 - April 1 (lottery only), April 6 - 7; Tensas NWR, March 16-17 (youth lottery only), March 23 - April 21. Contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for information regarding NWR hunts.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the youth

turkey hunt on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge was not included in the 2002 Turkey Hunting Regulations, and the proposed date is prior to the opening of the regular turkey hunting season for Tensas National Wildlife Refuge.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

2002 Offshore Shrimp Season Closure
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
February 7, 2002

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

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

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides the minimum legal count on saltwater white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and

WHEREAS, in the State's Territorial Waters, water temperatures remain below 20° Centigrade and the growth rate of white shrimp is therefore slow, and

WHEREAS, current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in a portion of the State's Territorial Waters do not average 100 count minimum size and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby order a closure to shrimping in that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W, at 6 a.m. on Monday, February 11, 2002.

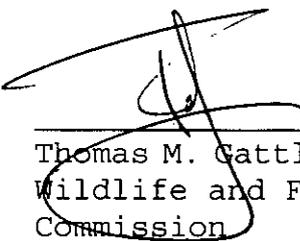
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel Buoy line to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude

29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W shall reopen to shrimping at 6 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of the remaining Territorial Waters, if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Declaration of Emergency closing the State's Territorial Waters is attached to and made a part of this resolution.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons, and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall have the authority to open or close the State's offshore waters to shrimping, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby orders a closure to shrimping in that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W. This closure is effective at 6 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2002. The Commission also hereby orders that that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel Buoy Line, shall reopen to shrimping at 6 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2002.

R.S. 56:498 provides that the minimum legal count on white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound after the third Monday in December. Current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in this portion of the State's outside waters do not average 100 count minimum legal size and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters. This action is being taken to protect these small white shrimp and allow them the opportunity to grow to a more valuable size.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of the remaining Territorial Waters, if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary; and hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open special seasons for the harvest of white shrimp in any portion of the State's inshore waters where such a season would not detrimentally impact small brown shrimp.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

2002 Offshore Shrimp Season Closure
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
February 7, 2002

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

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

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:498 provides the minimum legal count on saltwater white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October fifteenth through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and

WHEREAS, in the State's Territorial Waters, water temperatures remain below 20° Centigrade and the growth rate of white shrimp is therefore slow, and

WHEREAS, current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in a portion of the State's Territorial Waters do not average 100 count minimum size and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby order a closure to shrimping in that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W, at 6 a.m. on Monday, February 11, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel Buoy line to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude

29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W shall reopen to shrimping at 6 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2002.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of the remaining Territorial Waters, if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Declaration of Emergency closing the State's Territorial Waters is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons, and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall have the authority to open or close the State's offshore waters to shrimping, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby orders a closure to shrimping in that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the eastern shore of Freshwater Bayou to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W. This closure is effective at 6 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2002. The Commission also hereby orders that that portion of the State's Territorial Waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line as described in R.S. 56:495, from the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca at latitude 29° 03' 10" N and longitude 90° 50' 27" W to the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel Buoy Line, shall reopen to shrimping at 6 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2002.

R.S. 56:498 provides that the minimum legal count on white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound after the third Monday in December. Current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in this portion of the State's outside waters do not average 100 count minimum legal size and additional small white shrimp are expected to recruit to these waters. This action is being taken to protect these small white shrimp and allow them the opportunity to grow to a more valuable size.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close to shrimping, if necessary to protect small white shrimp, any part of the remaining Territorial Waters, if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, and to reopen any area closed to shrimping when the closure is no longer necessary; and hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open special seasons for the harvest of white shrimp in any portion of the State's inshore waters where such a season would not detrimentally impact small brown shrimp.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION
Extension of 2002 Season on the Bay Gardene
Oyster Seed Reservation
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
February 7, 2002

WHEREAS, there is significant oyster resource in Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the resource has remained underutilized over the past five years, and

WHEREAS, oyster harvesting activities will substantially benefit the oyster resource by breaking apart dense oyster clusters and providing increased opportunity for oyster growth, and

WHEREAS, high densities of hooked mussels fouling the Bay Gardene oyster resource have been recorded in recent years and exposure of these mussels from oyster harvesting activities will stimulate their consumption by predators, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the taking of oysters on natural reefs by setting the last day of the season to be no later than May fifteenth, and

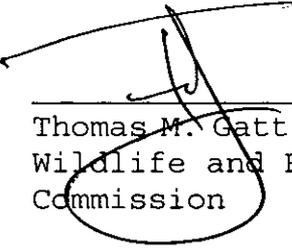
WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 states that the Commission shall consider the recommendations of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force when setting the last day of the season, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Oyster Task Force has requested that the Commission consider a season extension in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby extend the oyster season in the portion of the public oyster seed reservation, as described in the attached Declaration of Emergency, to one-half hour after sunset May 15, 2002, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency extending the oyster season in Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation is attached to and made a part of this resolution.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

Extension of 2002 Season on the Bay Gardene
Oyster Seed Reservation

In accordance with emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 49:967, and in accordance with R.S. 56:433B(1), which authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the taking of oysters on natural reefs by setting the last day of the season to be no later than May fifteenth, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declares that the oyster season in the portion of the public oyster seed reservation in Bay Gardene as described below shall be extended and shall close one-half hour after sunset May 15, 2002:

Beginning at the western end of Bayou Lost at latitude 29° 36' 03.9" N and longitude 89° 37' 49.9" W, thence in an easterly direction along the northern shoreline of Bayou Lost to the eastern most point at Black Bay at latitude 29° 36' 00.8" N and longitude 89° 36' 58.7" W and continuing ESE to the easterly most point of the island which borders Black Bay at latitude 29° 35' 49.2" N and longitude 89° 36' 30.7 W; then SSE to the most southeasterly point of an island (bordering Bay Crabe) at latitude 29° 34' 56.5" N, longitude 89° 36'

06.5" W; then WSW to a point along the southern shore of Bay Gardene at latitude 29° 34' 19.7" N, longitude 89° 37' 17.3" W; and continuing WSW to the south shore of Triple Pass at latitude 29° 33' 56.3" N, longitude 89° 38' 42.5" W; thence northerly across Triple Pass to 29° 34' 15.8" N, longitude 89° 38' 42.7" W; and continuing NNW to the northern most part of an island at latitude 29° 35' 12.9" N, longitude 89° 39' 04.6" W; then NE to a point near Pintail Point and bordering Bay la Fourche at latitude 29° 35' 45.6" N, longitude 89° 38' 15.0" W; then east to a point in northern Bay Gardene at latitude 29° 35' 47.5" N, longitude 89° 37' 44.2" W; and continuing northerly back to the point on the western end of Bayou Lost at latitude 29° 36' 03.9" N, longitude 89° 37' 49.9" W.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

Extension of 2002 Season on the Bay Gardene
Oyster Seed Reservation
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
February 7, 2002

WHEREAS, there is significant oyster resource in Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and the resource has remained underutilized over the past five years, and

WHEREAS, oyster harvesting activities will substantially benefit the oyster resource by breaking apart dense oyster clusters and providing increased opportunity for oyster growth, and

WHEREAS, high densities of hooked mussels fouling the Bay Gardene oyster resource have been recorded in recent years and exposure of these mussels from oyster harvesting activities will stimulate their consumption by predators, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the taking of oysters on natural reefs by setting the last day of the season to be no later than May fifteenth, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:433 states that the Commission shall consider the recommendations of the Louisiana Oyster Task Force when setting the last day of the season, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Oyster Task Force has requested that the Commission consider a season extension in the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby extend the oyster season in the portion of the public oyster seed reservation, as described in the attached Declaration of Emergency, to one-half hour after sunset May 15, 2002, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take emergency action if necessary, to close areas if oyster mortalities are occurring or to delay the season or close areas where significant spat catch has occurred with good probability of survival, or where it is found that there are excessive amounts of shell in seed oyster loads, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency extending the oyster season in Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., 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

Extension of 2002 Season on the Bay Gardene
Oyster Seed Reservation

In accordance with emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953(B) and 49:967, and in accordance with R.S. 56:433B(1), which authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to extend the taking of oysters on natural reefs by setting the last day of the season to be no later than May fifteenth, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declares that the oyster season in the portion of the public oyster seed reservation in Bay Gardene as described below shall be extended and shall close one-half hour after sunset May 15, 2002:

Beginning at the western end of Bayou Lost at latitude $29^{\circ} 36' 03.9''$ N and longitude $89^{\circ} 37' 49.9''$ W, thence in an easterly direction along the northern shoreline of Bayou Lost to the eastern most point at Black Bay at latitude $29^{\circ} 36' 00.8''$ N and longitude $89^{\circ} 36' 58.7''$ W and continuing ESE to the easterly most point of the island which borders Black Bay at latitude $29^{\circ} 35' 49.2''$ N and longitude $89^{\circ} 36' 30.7''$ W; then SSE to the most southeasterly point of an island (bordering Bay Crabe) at latitude $29^{\circ} 34' 56.5''$ N, longitude $89^{\circ} 36'$

06.5" W; then WSW to a point along the southern shore of Bay Gardene at latitude 29° 34' 19.7" N, longitude 89° 37' 17.3" W; and continuing WSW to the south shore of Triple Pass at latitude 29° 33' 56.3" N, longitude 89° 38' 42.5" W; thence northerly across Triple Pass to 29° 34' 15.8" N, longitude 89° 38' 42.7" W; and continuing NNW to the northern most part of an island at latitude 29° 35' 12.9" N, longitude 89° 39' 04.6" W; then NE to a point near Pintail Point and bordering Bay la Fourche at latitude 29° 35' 45.6" N, longitude 89° 38' 15.0" W; then east to a point in northern Bay Gardene at latitude 29° 35' 47.5" N, longitude 89° 37' 44.2" W; and continuing northerly back to the point on the western end of Bayou Lost at latitude 29° 36' 03.9" N, longitude 89° 37' 49.9" W.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

**Mr. Roy Williams
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600**

**Mr. Mike Murphy
Florida Marine Research Institute
100 8th Ave., SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5020**

**Mr. Vern Minton, Director
Alabama Dept. of Conservation
Marine Resources Division
Post Office Drawer 458
Gulf Shores, AL 36542**

**Mr. Glen H. Carpenter, Director
Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Ave., Suite 101
Biloxi, MS 39530**

**Mr. Hal Osborn, Policy Director
Coastal Fisheries Division
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744**

**Mr. Larry Simpson
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Post Office Box 726
Ocean Springs, MS 39564**

**Dr. Joe Powers, Regional Director
NMFS - SERO
9721 Executive Center Drive N.
St. Petersburg FL 33702**

**Dr. Richard Condrey
Louisiana State University
Coastal Fisheries Institute, CCEER
Wetlands Resources Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7503**

**Dr. Charles Wilson
Coastal Fisheries Institute
Center for Wetland Resources
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7503**

**Dr. Bruce Thompson
Coastal Fisheries Institute
Center for Wetland Resources
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7503**

**Dr. Robert L. Shipp
University of Alabama
Department of Marine Sciences
LSCB 25
Mobile, AL 36688-0002**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
(727) 570-5305; FAX(727)570-5583
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

JAN 22 2002

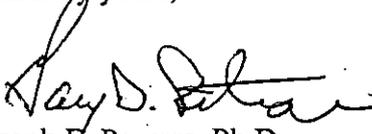
F/SER23:PE
SER 02-011

Mr. Randy Pausina
Finfish Programs Manager
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Dear Mr. Pausina:

My staff has reviewed your annual stock assessments on black drum, sheepshead, striped mullet and southern flounder and found them informative. We have no substantive comments, but suggest that you add information on minimum size limits for the respective species in the text to help the reader interpret the reports.

Sincerely yours,

for, 
Joseph H. Powers, Ph.D.
Acting Regional Administrator



Pausina, Randy

From: Murphy, Mike [Mike.Murphy@fwc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2002 3:59 PM
To: Randy Pausina (E-mail)
Subject: Annual stock assessments



Mike Murphy
(E-mail).vcf

Hello Randy,

The methodology for the sheepshead, striped mullet, southern flounder, and black drum assessments are consistent with the work you've done in the past. Accordingly our comments are the same as in past years.

Good luck with your Commission presentations,
Mike

Michael D. Murphy
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida Marine Research Institute
100 Eighth Ave. SE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5095
telephone: 727/896-8626 X4126 SUNCOM: 523-1011
FAX: 727/823-0166
email: mike.murphy@fwc.state.fl.us
www.floridamarine.org
<<Mike Murphy (E-mail).vcf>>



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

Coastal Fisheries Institute • Center for Coastal, Energy & Environmental Resources (formerly)
(Now School of Coast & Environment)

January 29, 2002

Randy Pausina
Marine Fisheries Division
Finfish Programs Manager
Louisiana Dept. Wildlife and Fisheries

Dear Randy,

I have been asked to review the draft stock assessment report for southern flounder. I have some experience with the species having done my master's thesis on the life history of southern flounder in Louisiana. The following are some general comments I have on the stock assessment draft.

When calculating natural mortality (Section 5.2) it is stated that the oldest southern flounder in Louisiana was aged at 7 yrs (Thompson, personal communication). The oldest southern flounder in Louisiana was actually aged at 8 yrs by Thompson and Fischer using sectioned sagittal otoliths. However, this should have little, if any effect on mortality rates.

The assumption that "the maximum age of southern flounder has been truncated due to fishing from 9 to 7 years" (Section 5.2) seems unrealistic. In a data set of 1,400 southern flounder sampled at fishing tournaments and commercial fish distributors throughout Louisiana (Coastal Fisheries Institute, LSU), only 2 fish were aged at 7 yrs and 2 fish at 8 yrs. No southern flounder has ever been accurately aged (using sectioned otoliths) at 9 yrs in Louisiana or the northern Gulf of Mexico in the published literature.

When estimating M, age 1 was assumed to be the age at 50% maturity. Our research indicated 50% maturity after reaching their first birth date with maturity being defined as the presence of vitelogenic oocytes. The presence of vitelogenic oocytes does not mean, however that these fish were spawning. Age 2 is probably a more realistic estimate at which 50% (or more) females are mature and spawning.

I hope these comments are of use to you.

Andrew J. Fischer
Research Associate III
Louisiana State University
Coastal Fisheries Institute

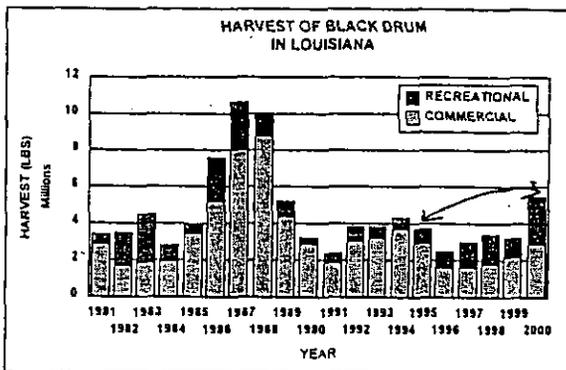
BLACK DRUM
SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM 2001 ASSESSMENT

This summary is intended to provide a quick reference of substantive changes in methods or corrections in this year's assessment from the 2001 assessment conducted for black drum.

- There are no substantive changes in methods from the 2001 assessment.

2002 DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2000 combined commercial and recreational harvest of 5,554,218 pounds was the highest recorded since 1996, but still lower than 1995 when harvest regulations went into effect (Act 1316).



- The results of YPR analysis indicate that if $M=0.1$ (the most conservative value within the range of estimates), the fishery prior to existing regulations (Act 1316) was operating above $F_{0.1}$ and below F_{MAX} with yield of 92% of maximum, and SPR at 42%. An M of 0.15 or 0.2 would indicate a more lightly fished stock with yield being 67% to 45% of maximum and with SPR being 56% to 67% respectively.

shouldn't this be 1988 instead of 1996; if not, the wording implies something else.

really, other than that - looks good

1/28

Randy Here is

3 one or a few questions
publications.

Rest are com,

Ch

CHuck

Wilson

LSU.

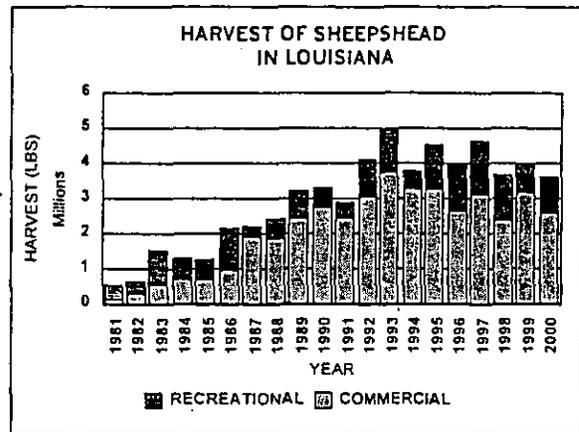
SHEEPSHEAD
SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM 2001 ASSESSMENT

This summary is intended to provide a quick reference of substantive changes in methods or corrections in this year's assessment from the 2001 assessment conducted for Sheepshead.

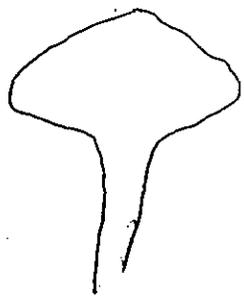
- There are no substantive changes in methods from the 2001 assessment.

2002 DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2000 combined commercial and recreational harvest of 3,636,978 pounds is the lowest since 1991, but not much different than the previous two years.
- The results of YPR analysis indicate that if $M=0.2$ (the most conservative value within the range of estimates), the fishery in the most recent years (1997 - 2000) was operating well below $F_{0.1}$ and F_{MAX} , with yield of 48% to 74% of maximum, and SPR at 54% to 72%. An M of 0.3 (the highest value examined) would indicate a more lightly fished stock with yield being 8% to 39% of maximum and with SPR being 72% to 94%.



- It should be noted that the method used in this assessment to determine the status of the stock, reflected in the estimates of disappearance, is not immediately sensitive to changes in regulations. It takes several years, depending on the longevity of the species, before the impact of changes in fishing mortality are realized.



SHEEPSHEAD 5.0 STOCK ASSESSMENT

This assessment uses yield-per-recruit (YPR), Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) and catch curve analyses to estimate the impact of fishing pressure on potential yield and the spawning potential of the sheephead stock in Louisiana waters. Estimates derived from YPR and SPR are based on information regarding the growth rate and spawning potential of the fish, and on estimates of the natural mortality rate (M) and fishing mortality rate (F) on the stock. Catch-curve analysis estimates disappearance rates (Z') from the fishery based on the relative abundance of each age class in the harvest. The results from this assessment provide a generalized approach towards estimating the impact of fishing on the spawning potential and potential yield of the fish stock. The spawning biomass of females is assumed to be the factor limiting the spawning potential of the stock; therefore, where possible, only data on female sheephead are used. Yield-per-recruit and SPR analysis, as with many other generalized assessments, should be used only as a guide until a more comprehensive assessment can be conducted.

In developing a stock assessment, the unit stock must be defined. While a unit stock is often represented by that portion of the population which is genetically similar, for our purpose, the most applicable definition seems to be one which considers the unit stock as that portion of the population which is either dependent on Louisiana waters, or which is available to Louisiana fishermen.

5.1 Growth

use Beckman et al. 1990

Von Bertalanffy growth parameters developed by Wilson et al. (1988) from fish harvested in Louisiana were used to calculate length and weight at age for female sheephead. The equations are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Female } L_t &= 447(1 - e^{-0.367(t+1.025)}) \\ \text{Female } W_t &= 2557(1 - e^{-0.220(t+3.237)})^{2.85} \end{aligned}$$

where, L_t = length at age t, W_t = weight at age t and t = age in years. Age at length is calculated as:

$$t = 1.025 + \ln(1 - L_t/446)/-0.367$$

5.2 Natural Mortality

Natural mortality is one part of total mortality (Z) and is the mortality due to all causes other than fishing. These include predation, disease, spawning stress, starvation, and old age. Typically, natural mortality is estimated, as it is difficult to directly measure, especially on exploited fish stocks where natural mortality and fishing mortality occur simultaneously. No direct measure of natural mortality for sheephead is available; therefore, several established estimation procedures were used

to derive an estimate. The procedures are presented below and are taken from Sparre and Venema (1992).

Pauly (1980) provides a method of estimating natural mortality from a set of parameters including the asymptotic length and growth rate of the fish, and the average water temperature of the environment. The growth parameters from the von Bertalanffy growth equation described in Section 5.1 and the mean annual water temperature, derived from readings from a set of four constant recorders located throughout the Barataria Bay system, were used in the calculation. The mean water temperature was 22.7°C for the period 1989 - 1992 (pers. comm., M. Kasprzak, 4/13/92). These values were incorporated into the length-based function of Pauly (1980):

$$\ln(M) = -0.0152 - 0.279 * \ln(L_{\infty}) + 0.6543 * \ln(K) + 0.463 * \ln(T)$$

where, $\ln(M)$ = natural log of natural mortality, $\ln(L_{\infty})$ = natural log of the asymptotic length, $\ln(K)$ = natural log of the growth coefficient and $\ln(T)$ = natural log of the mean annual temperature in degrees Celsius.

Use of Louisiana data on growth and water temperature applied to Pauly's function results in a natural mortality estimate of $M=0.4$.

Alagaraja (1984) and Hoenig (1983) provide methods of estimating M based on the fishes lifespan or longevity, and with the assumption that $M=Z$. Longevity is also difficult to determine for exploited fish stocks, since the age distribution is usually truncated by fishing, but these methods are as useful as any in providing provisional estimates of natural mortality. The functions described by Alagaraja (1984) are:

$$M1\% = -\ln(0.01)/T_m$$

$$M0.1\% = -\ln(0.001)/T_m$$

where, $M1\%$ and $M0.1\%$ are the natural mortality rates corresponding to 99% and 99.9% mortality, respectively, given a fishes lifespan (T_m) in years. Sheepshead in Louisiana have been aged to 20-years-old [Wilson et al. 1988]. If it is assumed that 99% or 99.9% of the fish die by age 20 then the corresponding natural mortality rates for $M1\%$ and $M0.1\%$ would be 0.2 and 0.35 respectively.

The function described by Hoenig(1983) is:

$$\ln(Z) = 1.46 - 1.01 * \ln(T_m)$$

where, when $M=Z$, longevity (T_m) can be defined as the maximum survival age. If we assume that the maximum age of sheepshead has been truncated due to fishing from 25 to 20 years, the resulting estimate of natural mortality, given $T_m=25$, would be 0.2.

Beckmann
et al.
(1991)

Another method of estimating M is described by Rikhter and Efanov (1976) and utilizes population age at sexual maturity. The function is:

$$M = 1.521 / (T_{m50\%}^{0.720}) - 0.155$$

where, $T_{m50\%}$ is the age at which 50% of the population is mature. Age 2 is assumed the age at 50% maturity for the sheepshead population [Wilson et al. 1988] resulting in an M of 0.77.

Reader and Wilson 1992

In summary, the estimated rates of natural mortality for sheepshead in Louisiana using a variety of estimation procedures are as follow:

Pauly (1980)	0.40
Alagaraja (1984)	0.20 and 0.35
Hoenig (1983)	0.20
Rikhter and Efanov (1976)	0.77

5.3 Disappearance Rates and Fishing Mortality

The disappearance rate (Z') from the fishery comprises the total mortality (natural + fishing) and some unknown rate of decreasing availability of the fish to the fishery. If the unknown rate of availability is small or nonexistent, then the disappearance rate will be a reasonable estimate of total mortality. However, if a large portion of the disappearance rate is due to fish not being available to the fishery, then assuming $Z'=Z$ will overestimate the impact of fishing.

An annual catch-at-age matrix was developed by applying the growth equation presented in Section 5.1 to the years where length frequency data for the commercial and recreational fishery was available (1994 - 2000). Length frequency data were obtained from the Trip Interview Program (TIP) for the commercial fishery, and from the National Marine Fisheries Services' (NMFS) Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) for the recreational fishery. Fish with lengths greater than the asymptotic length were not used in developing catch-at-age and therefore not used in estimating disappearance rates. The elimination of these fish reduces the number of large fish that are typically older fish used in estimating disappearance and produces a more conservative estimate. The data from both of the surveys did not distinguish between sexes, therefore we assumed for this assessment that all fish sampled were female. To calculate disappearance rates, we regressed the natural log of the catch-at-age, beginning with the age at full recruitment to the fishery. This method assumes that recruitment is constant and the fishery is in equilibrium. A range of natural mortality rates were used in the assessment. After reviewing estimates of M in Section 5.2, we chose not to assume either method of estimating M was better than another, but rather to present results for the range of estimates. The range of M was from 0.20 - 0.77. We chose to use an M of 0.2 as the lowest estimate of M since it was the lowest estimate derived from the methods examined. Resulting disappearance rates using an M of 0.2 indicated a SPR values well above 30%; therefore, assessing the impact of an upper range of M was of little value in evaluating the status of the stock. However,

Why not assume a 50:50 sex ratio?

5.4 Yield-per-Recruit

Yield-per-recruit and SPR analysis provide basic information on fish stock dynamics by estimating the impact of mortality on yield and the spawning potential of the stock. The results can be examined as to the sensitivity of natural and fishing mortality rates on yield and spawning potential.

The growth parameters described in Section 5.1, sexual maturity described in Section 5.2 and the age-specific selectivities described in Section 5.3 were incorporated into the yield-per-recruit and spawning potential analysis. Fecundity estimates were not available, therefore; mean weight at age was used in the estimation of spawning potential. Natural mortality rates of 0.2 and 0.3 were used in the analysis because they are on the lower end of the range of estimates and would provide the most conservative results. These rates are also used to describe the sensitivity of M on yield and spawning potential. The results are presented in Table 5.2, which contains estimates of F_{MAX} (fishing mortality rate that produces maximum yield), $F_{0.1}$ (fishing mortality rate representing 10% of the slope at the origin of a yield-per-recruit curve), $F_{20\%SPR}$ (fishing mortality that produces 20% SPR), $F_{30\%SPR}$ (fishing mortality that produces 30% SPR), and annual estimates of F from the disappearance rates calculated in Section 5.3.

SPC
Reader
+ Wilson
(1992)

5.5 Conservation Standards

Conservation standards are intended to protect the viability of a fish stock for future generations. These standards have historically been based on a number of biological measures of the dynamics of fish stocks, depending on the availability and adequacy of data. Conservation standards should be separated into two types: a conservation threshold which is entirely biologically based and, a conservation target which considers biological measures modified by relevant social, economic, and ecological factors. A conservation threshold is a biological baseline for the harvest of a fish stock and should not be exceeded. It is the highest level of fishing mortality that will ensure that recruitment overfishing will not occur. Beyond the conservation threshold, a conservation target may be set, providing for other management goals in the fishery. Such goals may include maximizing yield in weight or numbers of fish, economic benefits or profit, employment, or some other measurable goal. These targets should be set at a fishing mortality rate below that of the conservation threshold in order to ensure that the biological integrity of the stock is not damaged by fishing.

The spawning potential ratio (SPR) concept described by Goodyear (1989), is a species specific value expressed as the ratio of the spawning stock biomass (or egg production) per recruit (SSB/R) in a fished condition to the SSB/R in an unfished condition. The concept is based on the premise that below some level of SPR, recruitment would be expected to be reduced. Goodyear (1989), recommends that in the absence of sufficient data to provide a value specific to the stock in question an SPR of 20% be used as a threshold. Work on North Atlantic ground fisheries also resulted in the calculation of a threshold SPR of 20% (Gabriel et al. 1984, Gabriel 1985). An SPR

Sheepshead were lightly exploited until the early to mid-1980s when commercial harvest began to increase (Figure 5.3). Commercial landings have gone from 0.2 million pounds in the early 1980s to 2.4 - 3.7 million pounds in the 1990s. Landings have declined in the last seven years from a high of 3.7 million pounds in 1993 to 2.5 million pounds in 2000. Fishery dependent commercial data prior to 1991 was obtained from NMFS's General Canvass Landing Program, from 1991 through 1998 it was collected by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) Monthly Dealer Reports and from 1999 to present LDWF's Commercial Reporting Requirement "Trip Tickets" program is utilized to gather this type of data.

Harvest from the recreational fishery obtained through the NMFS'S MRFSS fluctuated from a low of 0.4 million pounds in 1981 to a high of 1.5 million pounds in 1997. Recreational harvest for the years examined (1981-2000), and were equal to those of the commercial fishery until 1987 when the commercial fishery began to expand (Figure 5.4). Mean catch-per-trip from the recreational fishery was calculated by selecting those trips that had sheepshead in their catch. The results are presented in Figure 5.5 along with 95% confidence limits around the mean. The catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) indices fluctuated with no indication of a long-term downward trend. CPUE was not statistically lower than any year. Fisheries dependent recreational landings data is collected through the NMFS's MRFSS and currently collected by LDWF Biologists.

Catch-per-effort data from the Department's, fishery-independent trammel net (750' - 1 5/8" inner, 6" outer wall) and small mesh bag seine (50' - 1/4" delta mesh) samples were calculated as follows:

$$\text{Mean CPUE} = (\exp (\sum \ln (\text{catch} + 1) / N)) - 1$$

where, catch is the total number caught in each set and, N is the number of samples taken annually. Trammel net and seine data were used for the period 1986-2001. Seine and trammel net CPUE fluctuated throughout the time period with no indication of a long-term downward trend; however, mean CPUE in seines for 2001 ranks amount the low CPUE years of 1990, 1991 and 1996 through 1998. Mean CPUE in trammel nets for 2001 fell below the high of 2000, but ranked the fifth highest for the sixteen years examined (Figure 5.7). ?

Rules for the commercial harvest of sheepshead changed on August 15, 1995 when Act 1316 of the 1995 Regular Legislative Session, the Marine Resources Conservation Act of 1995, became effective. This act outlawed the use of "set" gill nets or trammel nets in saltwater areas of Louisiana, and restricted sheepshead harvest by the use of "strike" nets to the period between the third Monday in October and March 1 of the following year. A "Restricted Species Permit" was required in order to harvest sheepshead, and several criteria were established in order to qualify for that permit. After March 1, 1997, all harvest by gill or trammel nets was banned, and legal commercial gear to harvest sheepshead is limited to trawls, set lines and hook and line. This set of regulations had the effect of reducing the harvest of sheepshead by this segment of the commercial fishing industry.

It should be noted that the following results of YPR and SPR analysis do not reflect the impact of current regulations described above. With this type of general assessment, it will take several years before the impact of regulations will be observed in the disappearance rates from the fishery.

The results of YPR analysis indicate that if $M=0.2$ (the most conservative value within the range of estimates), the fishery in the most recent years (1997-2000) was operating well below $F_{0.1}$ and F_{MAX} , with yield of 48% to 74% of maximum, and SPR at 54% to 72%. An M of 0.3 (the highest value examined) would indicate a more lightly fished stock with yield being 8% to 39% of maximum and with SPR being 72% to 94% (Table 5.2).

5.7 Research and Data Needs

Estimates of natural mortality used in the present assessment show wide variation. This variation reduces the reliability of the present assessment in providing an accurate prediction of the potential yield of the stock, and also reduces the confidence level of the present estimate of SPR. A more precise estimate of natural mortality would assist in both of these problems.

Annual sex specific age-length keys should continue to be developed to provide catch-at-age data necessary to conduct age-based population assessments. The department is in the process of collecting otoliths for development of annual age-length keys.

Sex specific fishery dependent length frequency data is essential in adequately partitioning catch from the fishery. There can be significant improvement in the accuracy of this assessment if sex is collected.

The relationship between wetlands losses or modifications and the continuation of fishery production within the state has been discussed by many authors. However, this relationship is likely to be different for the various fishery species. Understanding of this relationship for sheepshead should be an ongoing priority.

In the presence of changing regulations, fishery-dependent information is not a reliable source of data necessary to assess the status of a fish stock. However, such data ^{is} necessary to measure the effects of fishing on that stock. Consistent fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data sources, in a comprehensive monitoring plan, are essential to understanding the status of fishery stocks, and to identifying causes of changes in stock abundance. Present programs should be assessed for adequacy with respect to their ability to evaluate stock status, and modified or enhanced to optimize their capabilities.

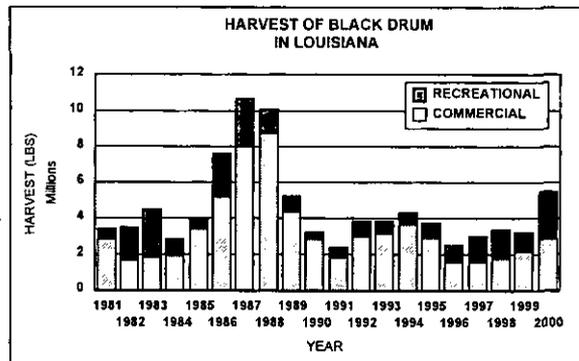
BLACK DRUM
SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM 2001 ASSESSMENT

This summary is intended to provide a quick reference of substantive changes in methods or corrections in this year's assessment from the 2001 assessment conducted for black drum.

- There are no substantive changes in methods from the 2001 assessment.

2002 DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2000 combined commercial and recreational harvest of 5,554,218 pounds was the highest recorded since 1996, but still lower than 1995 when harvest regulations went into effect (Act 1316).



- The results of YPR analysis indicate that if $M=0.1$ (the most conservative value within the range of estimates), the fishery prior to existing regulations (Act 1316) was operating above $F_{0.1}$ and below F_{MAX} with yield of 92% of maximum, and SPR at 42%. An M of 0.15 or 0.2 would indicate a more lightly fished stock with yield being 67% to 45% of maximum and with SPR being 56% to 67% respectively.

BLACK DRUM

5.0 STOCK ASSESSMENT

This assessment uses yield-per-recruit (YPR) and Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) to estimate the impact of fishing pressure on potential yield and the spawning potential of the black drum stock in Louisiana waters. Estimates derived from YPR and SPR are based on information regarding the growth rate and spawning potential of the fish, and on estimates of the natural mortality rate (M) and fishing mortality rate (F) on the stock. The results from this assessment provide a generalized approach towards estimating the impact of fishing on the spawning potential and potential yield of the fish stock. The spawning biomass of females is assumed to be the factor limiting the spawning potential of the stock; therefore, where possible, only data on female black drum are used. Yield-per-recruit and SPR analysis, as with many other generalized assessments, should be used only as a guide until a more comprehensive assessment can be conducted.

In developing a stock assessment, the unit stock must be defined. While a unit stock is often represented by that portion of the population which is genetically similar, for our purpose, the most applicable definition seems to be one which considers the unit stock as that portion of the population which is either dependent on Louisiana waters, or which is available to Louisiana fishermen.

5.1 Growth

Luquet et al. (1996) presents several growth equations for black drum. The one chosen for this assessment was developed by Geaghan and Garson (unpublished), and is a sloped asymptote model fitted to a von Bertalanffy growth equation. The data used by Geaghan and Garson (unpublished) was from Beckman et al. (1988) who used otolith sections in aging fish caught in Louisiana waters. The sloped asymptote model proved to fit the data better than did other equations. The equation is as follows:

$$L_t = (610 + 9.959 * t) * (1 - e^{-0.6226(t-0.1229)})$$

where, L_t = length at age t , and t = age in years.

The length-weight regression described by Beckman et al. (1988) from fish harvested in Louisiana was used in this assessment. The equation is as follows:

$$\log(W) = 3.05 * \log(FL) - 4.943$$

where, W = weight in grams, and FL = fork length in millimeters.

5.2 Natural Mortality

Natural mortality is one part of total mortality (Z) and is the mortality due to all causes other than fishing. These include predation, disease, spawning stress, starvation, and old age. Typically, natural mortality is estimated, as it is difficult to directly measure, especially on exploited fish stocks where natural mortality and fishing mortality occur simultaneously.

This assessment follows the former Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (1990) assessment in using a range of values for natural mortality (0.1, 0.15, 0.2) to evaluate the sensitivity of M on the resulting spawning stock.

5.3 Fishing Mortality

Fishing mortality estimates derived in the former Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (1990) assessment were used in this assessment to evaluate the impact of current fishing regulations on the spawning potential of the stock. The former assessment did not address the concept of spawning potential as a management measure. Only recently has this concept become widely used.

The former assessment used the growth equation described in Section 5.1 to develop annual catch-at-age tables.

5.4 Yield-per-Recruit

Yield-per-recruit and SPR analysis provides basic information about the dynamics of a fish stock by estimating the impact of mortality on yield and the spawning potential of the stock. The results can be examined as to the sensitivity of natural and fishing mortality rates on yield and spawning potential.

The growth parameters described in Section 5.1, the age-specific fishing mortality rates described in Section 5.3, and the natural mortality rates described in Section 5.2 were incorporated into the yield-per-recruit and spawning potential analysis. Fecundity estimates derived by Wilson et al. (1992) were used to estimate spawning potential. The equation is as follows:

$$\ln(\text{BF}) = 0.76 * \ln(\text{Age}) + 12.24$$

where, BF=batch fecundity. The results are presented in Table 5.1, which contains estimates of F_{MAX} (fishing mortality rate that produces maximum yield), $F_{0.1}$ (fishing mortality rate representing 10% of the slope at the origin of a yield-per-recruit curve), $F_{20\% \text{SPR}}$ (fishing mortality that produces 20% SPR), $F_{30\% \text{SPR}}$ (fishing mortality that produces 30% SPR), and estimates of F from Section 5.3.

5.5 Conservation Standards

Conservation standards are intended to protect the viability of a fish stock for future generations. These standards have historically been based on a number of biological measures of the dynamics of fish stocks, depending on the availability and adequacy of data. Conservation standards should be separated into two types: a conservation threshold which is entirely biologically based and, a conservation target which considers biological measures modified by relevant social, economic, and ecological factors. A conservation threshold is a biological baseline for the harvest of a fish stock and should not be exceeded. It is the highest level of fishing mortality that will ensure that recruitment overfishing will not occur. Beyond the conservation threshold, a conservation target may be set, providing for other management goals in the fishery. Such goals may include maximizing yield in weight or numbers of fish, economic benefits or profit, employment, or some other measurable goal. These targets should be set at a fishing mortality rate below that of the conservation threshold in order to ensure that the biological integrity of the stock is not damaged by fishing.

The spawning potential ratio (SPR) concept described by Goodyear (1989), is a species specific value expressed as the ratio of the spawning stock biomass (or egg production) per recruit (SSB/R) in a fished condition to the SSB/R in an unfished condition. The concept is based on the premise that below some level of SPR, recruitment will be reduced. Goodyear (1989), recommends that in the absence of sufficient data to provide a value specific to the stock in question an SPR of 20% be used as a threshold. Work on North Atlantic ground fisheries also resulted in the calculation of a threshold SPR of 20% (Gabriel et al. 1984, Gabriel 1985). An SPR of 20% has been recommended for Spanish and king mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service 1995), while an SPR of 8-13% has been demonstrated to be sufficient for gulf menhaden (Vaughan 1987). In earlier analyses of Louisiana spotted seatrout fisheries (Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 1991), an SPR threshold of 15% was recommended based on several years of data. Mace and Sissenwine (1993) examined 90 stocks of 27 species, and reported that the average replacement SPR for all these stocks was 18.7%, while the most resilient quarter of the stocks required a maximum of only 8.6%. These authors recommended that an SPR of 30% be maintained when there is no other basis for estimating the replacement level, as this level was sufficient in maintaining recruitment for 80% of the stocks examined. However, they noted that 30% may be overly conservative for an "average" stock, and reiterated the need for stock-specific evaluations of standards to enhance both safety and benefits in the fishery.

Sufficient information is not available to directly estimate a conservation threshold for black drum in Louisiana. However, the conservation target of 30% SPR established by the 1995 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature for black drum, southern flounder, sheepshead, and striped mullet appears to be adequate to maintain the black drum stock and prevent recruitment overfishing.

The use of any measure of the health of a fish stock as a perfect index is arguable. It is logical to conclude that growth overfishing should occur at a much lower fishing rate than that which would threaten recruitment. However, Mace and Sissenwine (1993) provide information to suggest that some stocks may have reduced recruitment at levels of fishing that would not reduce yield-per-recruit. The preferable position for making recommendations on appropriate levels of fishing for a stock is to base those recommendations on actual measures of spawning stock size and recruitment for both the species and fishery in question. This requires a base of information resulting from monitoring of both the stock and the fishery over a variety of conditions. Without this information, conservation standards may either underestimate or overestimate the potential of a fishery. If the potential is underestimated, society loses the economic and social benefits of the harvest. If the potential is overestimated and the fishery is allowed to operate beyond sustainable levels, society loses the benefits of a sustainable fishery, and recovery will require some period of rebuilding, when effort must be reduced from the non-sustainable levels (Hilborn and Walters, 1993). Some researchers have speculated that overharvest of some stocks may lead to their replacement in the ecosystem by other, often less preferred, stocks. The frequency of such replacements is unknown, and the cause of shifts in species predominance in an ecosystem is difficult to ascertain, even after the fact. Such a shift has been reported in the Georges Bank area, where prolonged, intense harvest of cod and haddock has been implicated in gradual increases in skate and spiny dogfish populations (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1993).

5.6 Status of the Stock

Black drum were lightly exploited until the early 1980s when commercial harvest began to increase dramatically (Figure 5.1). Commercial landings went from 0.4 million pounds in 1980 to 8.7 million pounds in 1988. Regulations implemented in 1989 reduced the commercial harvest to between 2 and 4 million pounds annually. Regulations implemented by Act 1316 in 1995 may have reduced harvest even further as evidenced from 1996 - 1999; however, landings are increasing, and approaching 1995 landing level. Commercial landings prior to 1991 was obtained from the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) General Canvass Landing Program, from 1991 through 1998 it was collected by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) Monthly Dealer Reports and from 1999 to present LDWF's "Trip Tickets" program is utilized to gather this type of data.

Harvest from the recreational fishery collected through the NMFS's Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey fluctuated, between 0.5 and 2.7 million pounds, for the years prior to regulation (1981-1988), and 0.4 to 2.7 million pounds post-regulations (Figure 5.2). Recreational harvest since regulations were implemented in 1989 have remained relatively stable through 1995. Recent harvest (1996-2000) shows an increasing trend. Mean catch-per-trip from the recreational fishery was calculated by selecting those trips that had black drum in their catch. The results are presented in Figure 5.3 along with 95% confidence limits around the mean. The catch-per-unit-effort

(CPUE) indices cycled throughout the period examined (1981-2000), with no indication of a long-term downward trend. The years 1985, 1991 and 1996 showed the lowest CPUE and only significantly lower than 1982, 1986, 1993, 1994, 1998, 1999 and 2000. Fisheries dependent recreational landings data is collected through the NMFS's Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey and currently collected by LDWF Biologists.

Catch-per-effort data from the Department's, fishery-independent trammel net (750' - 1 5/8" inner, 6" outer wall) and small mesh bag seine (50' - 1/4" delta mesh) samples were calculated as follows:

$$\text{Mean CPUE} = (\exp (\sum \ln (\text{catch} + 1) / N)) - 1$$

where, catch is the total number caught in each set and, N is the number of samples taken annually. Trammel net and seine data were used for the period 1986-2001. The CPUE fluctuates throughout the time period in both the seine and trammel net samples with no indication of a long-term downward trend (Figure 5.4 and 5.5). The year 1988 was the only year where CPUE in seines showed any significant difference at the 95% confidence level and only lower than 1986, 1992, 1996 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. Trammel net CPUE was highly variable throughout the period as indicated by the wide confidence limits associated with the years examined. The years 1986, 1988 and 1989 had the lowest CPUE, and only significantly lower than 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2000. Mean CPUE for 2001 was below the previous three years; although, the estimates are not significantly different.

Commercial harvest methods were changed on August 15, 1995 when Act 1316 of the 1995 Regular Legislative Session, the Marine Resources Conservation Act of 1995, became effective. This act outlawed the use of "set" gill nets or trammel nets in saltwater areas of Louisiana, and restricted black drum harvest by the use of "strike" nets to the period between the third Monday in October and March 1 of the following year. A "Restricted Species Permit" was required in order to harvest black drum, and several criteria were established in order to qualify for that permit. After March 1, 1997, all harvest by gill or trammel nets was banned, and legal commercial gear to harvest black drum was limited to trawl, set lines and hook and line. This set of regulations had the effect of reducing the harvest of black drum by this segment of the commercial fishing industry.

It should be noted that the following results of YPR and SPR analysis do not reflect the impact of current regulations described above. With this type of general assessment, it will take several years before the impact of regulations will be observed in the disappearance rates from the fishery.

The results of YPR analysis indicate that if $M=0.1$ (the most conservative value within the range of estimates), the fishery prior to existing regulations (Act 1316) was operating above $F_{0.1}$ and

below F_{MAX} with yield of 92% of maximum, and SPR at 42%. An M of 0.15 or 0.2 would indicate a more lightly fished stock with yield being 67% to 45% of maximum and with SPR being 56% to 67% respectively (Table 5.1).

5.7 Research and Data Needs

Estimates of natural mortality used in the present assessment show wide variation. This variation reduces the reliability of the present assessment in providing an accurate prediction of the potential yield of the stock, and also reduces the confidence level of the present estimate of SPR. A more precise estimate of natural mortality would assist in both of these problems.

Annual age-length keys should continue to be developed to provide catch-at-age data necessary to conduct age-based population assessments. The department is in the process of collecting otoliths for development of annual age-length keys.

The relationship between wetlands losses or modifications and the continuation of fishery production within the state has been discussed by many authors. However, this relationship is likely to be different for the various fishery species. Understanding this relationship for black drum should be an ongoing priority.

In the presence of changing regulations, fishery-dependent information is not a reliable source of data for assessing the status of a fish stock. However, such data are necessary to measure the effects of fishing on that stock. Consistent fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data sources, in a comprehensive monitoring plan, are essential to understanding the status of fishery stocks, and to identifying causes of changes in stock abundance. Present programs should be assessed for adequacy with respect to their ability to evaluate stock status, and modified or enhanced to optimize their capabilities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Beckman, D.W., C.A. Wilson, R.M. Parker, D.L. Nieland, and A.L. Stanley. 1988. Age structure, growth rates, and reproductive biology of black drum in the northern Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana. 1986- 87 Final Rept. to USDC, MARFIN
- Gabriel, W.L. 1985. Spawning stock biomass per recruit analysis for seven Northwest Atlantic demersal finfish species. NMFS-NEFC. Woods Hole Lab. Ref. Doc. 85-04.
- Gabriel, W.L., W.J. Overholtz, S.A. Murawski and R.K. Mayo. 1984. Spawning stock biomass per recruit analysis for seven Northwest Atlantic demersal finfish species, Spring, 1984. NMFS-NEFC Woods Hole Lab. Ref. Doc. 84-23.
- Geaghan, J. and G. Garson. Unpublished. Population dynamics and stock assessment of black drum, Louisiana waters. 1989 Rept. to chairman of Louisiana SASC and TWG.
- Goodyear, C. P. 1989. Spawning stock biomass per recruit: the biological basis for a fisheries management tool. ICCAT Working Document SCRS/89/82. 10p.
- Hilborn, R. and C. J. Walters. 1992. Quantitative Fisheries Stock Assessment: Choice, Dynamics and Uncertainty. Chapman and Hall, New York. 570 pp.
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. 1990. Black drum management plan. LDWF Fishery Management Plan, March 1990 (Draft).
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. 1991. A stock assessment for Louisiana spotted seatrout, (*Cynoscion nebulosus*). LDWF Fishery Management Plan Series, Number 3 (Draft).
- Luquet, C.P., R.H. Blanchet, D.R. Lavergne, D.W. Beckman, J.M. Wakeman and D.L. Nieland 1996. A biological and fisheries profile for black drum (*Pogonias cromis*) in Louisiana. La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Office of Fisheries. Fisheries Management Plan Series No. 7, Pt. 1.
- Mace, P.M. and M.P. Sissenwine. 1993. How much spawning per recruit is enough? pp. 101-118 in S. J. Smith, J. J. Hunt and D. Rivard (eds.) Risk Evaluation and Biological Reference Points for Fisheries Management. Can. Spec. Publ. Fish. Aq. Sci. 120. 442pp.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1993. Our Living Oceans: Report on the Status of U.S. Living Marine Resources, 1993. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-15. 156 pp.

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service 1995. 1995 Report of the mackerel stock assessment panel. Miami Lab.Con. MIA- 94/95-30 March 1995
- Vaughan, D.S. 1987. A stock assessment of the gulf menhaden, (*Brevoortia patronus*), fishery. NOAA NMFS Tech. Rep. 58, 18 pp.
- Wilson C.A., D.W. Beckman, D.L. Nieland, and A.L. Stanley. 1992. The variation of year-class strength and annual reproductive output of red drum, (*Sciaenops ocellatus*), and black drum, (*Pogonias cromis*), from the northern Gulf of Mexico. 1990- 91 Final Rept. to USDC, MARFIN

Table 5.1 - Results of Yield Per Recruit and SPR Analysis for Black Drum**M=0.1**

	F Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
Fmax	1.000	3.0259	1,889,656	21.80%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1	0.260	2.4809	4,668,498	53.87%	81.99%	
F20%	1.084	3.0223	1,733,321	20.00%	99.88%	
F30%	0.705	2.9862	2,599,982	30.00%	98.69%	
* Regulations	0.426	2.7925	3,655,175	42.18%	92.29%	Estimate

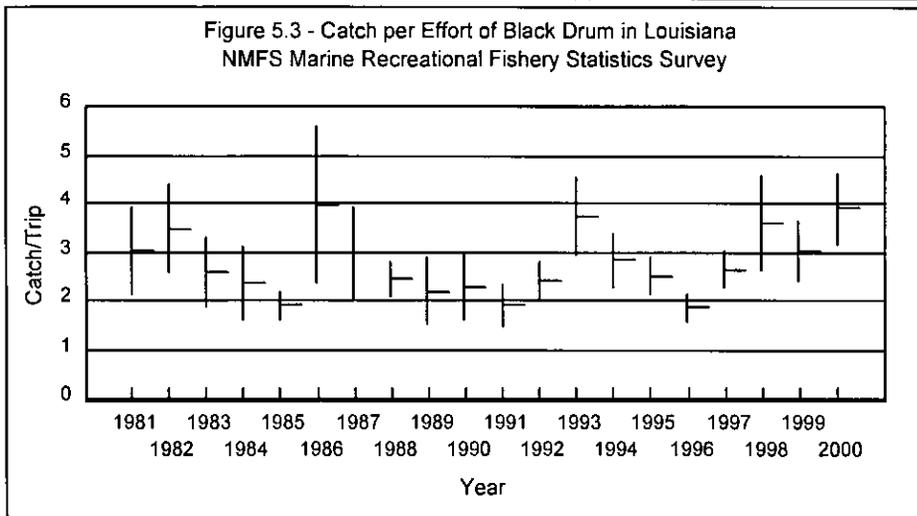
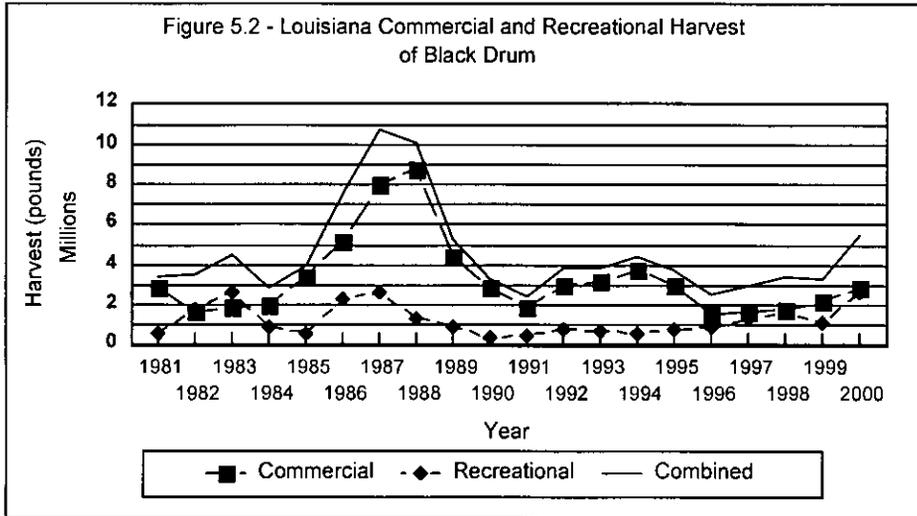
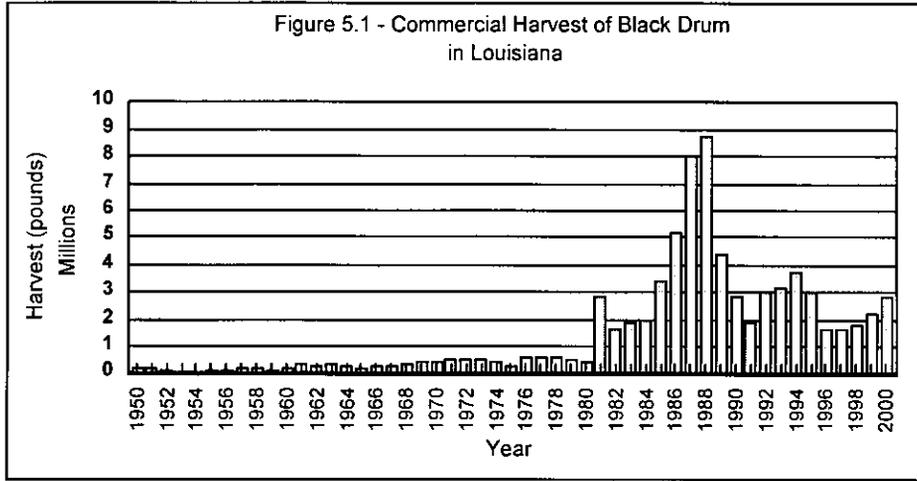
M=0.15

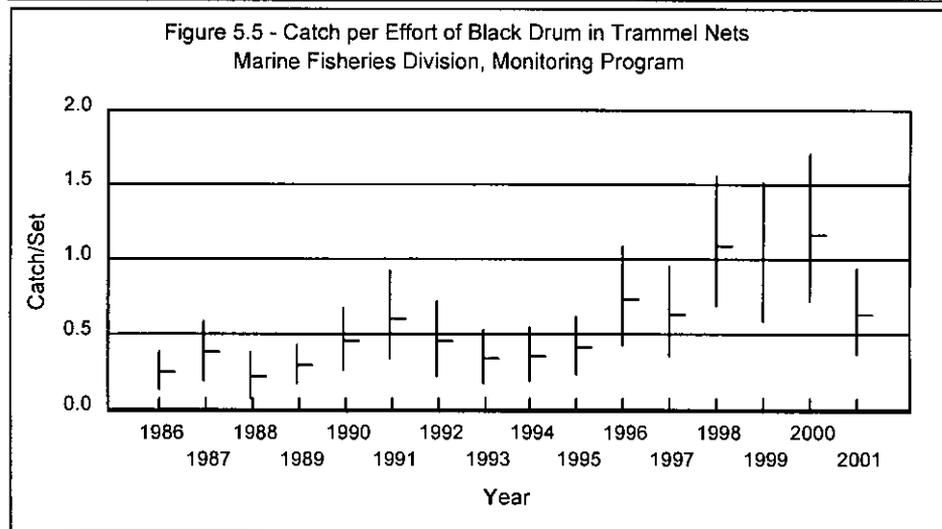
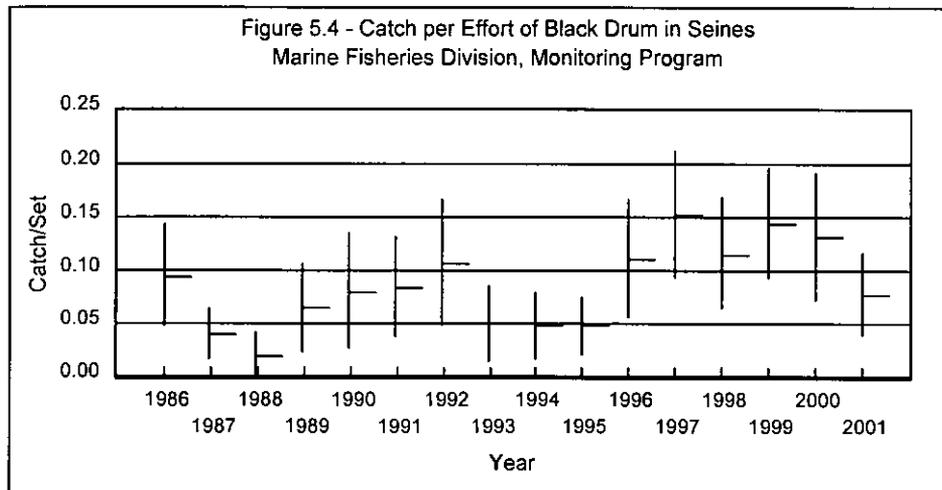
	F Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
Fmax	2.100	2.1766	426,128	10.85%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1	0.605	1.7506	1,704,392	43.40%	80.43%	
F20%	1.405	2.1260	785,399	20.00%	97.67%	
F30%	0.971	1.9981	1,178,098	30.00%	91.80%	
* Regulations	0.376	1.4562	2,201,492	56.06%	66.90%	Estimate

M=0.2

	F Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
Fmax	3.000	1.8019	134,357	6.51%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1	1.153	1.5197	625,337	30.32%	84.34%	
F20%	1.633	1.6709	412,499	20.00%	92.73%	
F30%	1.165	1.5248	618,749	30.00%	84.62%	
* Regulations	0.326	0.8173	1,375,910	66.71%	45.36%	Estimate

* Regulations prior to 1995 and Act 1316





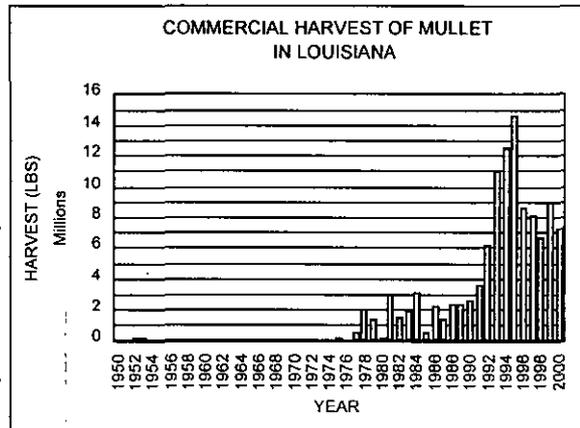
STRIPED MULLET
SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM 2001 ASSESSMENT

This summary is intended to provide a quick reference of substantive changes in methods or corrections in this year's assessment from the 2001 assessment conducted for striped mullet.

- There are no substantive changes in methods from the 2001 assessment.

2002 DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2000 commercial landing of 7.2 million pounds was below 1999's landing of 8.9 which was the highest harvest since regulations implemented in 1995.
- The results of YPR analysis indicate that if $M=0.3$ (the most conservative value within the range of estimates), the fishery prior to existing regulations was operating above $F_{0.1}$ and F_{MAX} with yield of 97% to 99% of maximum, and SPR at 31% to 37%. An M of 0.6 would indicate a more lightly fished stock with yield being 67% to 86% of maximum and with SPR being 62% to 73%.



- It should be noted that the method used in this assessment to determine the status of the stock, reflected in the estimates of disappearance, is not immediately sensitive to changes in regulations. It takes several years, depending on the longevity of the species, before the impact of changes in fishing mortality are realized.
- Legislation allowing the use of hoop nets in freshwater areas for taking mullet was legalized in 1999. The law required that no leads be used on the hoop nets, no harvest or possession of mullet from between the hours of official sunset and official sunrise, and mullet caught in the freshwater areas of the state could not be possessed by commercial fishermen in the saltwater areas of the state. Landings data through the Louisiana's Trip Ticket Program for the year 2000 indicate that 19,774 pounds of mullet were harvested by hoop nets. If landings in 2000 represent what can be expected to be harvested from hoop nets each year, hoop net landings will have little impact on fishing mortality rates and therefore SPR.
- Three legislative acts were passed in 2001: Act 51 defined certain portion of the Intracoastal waterway in Orleans Parish as saltwater and freshwater for the purposes of possessing regulated gear and allows the harvest of mullet in that area and to Lake Pontchartrain located south and east of the I-10 bridge; Act 116 statutorily created a mullet task force to advise LDWF on certain issues; and Act 147 adopted a three-strikes and you are out penalty system within the commercial mullet fishery

STRIPED MULLET

5.0 STOCK ASSESSMENT

This assessment uses yield per recruit (YPR), spawning potential ratio (SPR) and catch curve analyses to estimate the impact of current fishing pressure on the potential yield and the spawning potential of the Louisiana striped mullet stock. Estimates of YPR and SPR are based on knowledge of the growth of the fish, and on estimates of the natural mortality rate (M) and fishing pressure (F) on the stock. Catch curve analysis is used to estimate the disappearance rates (Z') from the fishery. The spawning biomass of females is assumed to be the factor limiting the spawning potential of the stock. Therefore, this analysis uses growth rates for female mullet, and considers the effects of fishing on the female portion of the stock. The results of this type of assessment provide a generalized approach for estimating the impact of fishing on the spawning potential and the potential yield of the fish stock. As with any assessment, the results are subject to the limitation of the data from which they are derived. The present analysis should be used only as guidance until more comprehensive analyses, using additional data collected consistently over an extended time span, can be conducted.

The definition of the unit stock must be considered in the development of a stock assessment. While a unit stock is often defined as that portion of the population which is genetically similar, for our purpose in this stock assessment, the most applicable definition seems to be one which considers the unit stock as that portion of the stock which is either dependent on Louisiana waters, or which is available to Louisiana fishermen. We recognize that the geographic distribution implicit in this definition of unit stock is likely to be different from the genetically based definition, given the wide geographic distribution and offshore spawning grounds of the species (Mapes *et al.* 1998). We chose to use this definition because it provides the best picture of the Louisiana fishery, and we do not have information with which to quantitatively define fishing mortality on a regional basis. Information from tagging studies along the west coast of Florida (Mahmoudi, 1991) indicate that once recruited to an estuary, mullet have a strong tendency to return to that estuary after spawning offshore. If this tendency is also expressed in Louisiana, then fishing mortality rates in one area of the state would primarily affect the abundance of the adult population in that area, and not in other areas, unless fishing mortality rates over the entire spawning pool were high enough to affect recruitment on a wide scale.

Estimates of fishing mortality are derived with the knowledge that the existing fishery is not evenly distributed over the entire state, but concentrated in the southeastern region, and mainly east of the Mississippi River (over 80% of the harvest is typically from that region). The analysis must assume that either the distribution of the fishery does not change, or that all fish in the state are equally available to the fishery for predictive yield calculations to be reasonably accurate. Without knowledge of movement of adult mullet over the entire year, it is difficult to infer how much of the

population is actually exposed to the fishery. Only that portion exposed to the fishery is described here. In order to reduce problems associated with variable growth rates and variable fishing pressures across the state, information for this assessment was limited to that collected from the easternmost part of the state (East of 90°W longitude).

For purposes of this assessment, we did not consider the effects of recreational harvest on the stock. The best information available at this time indicates that recreational harvest is relatively light, typically less than 200,000 pounds of fish per year (National Marine Fisheries Service, Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey, 1981-2000). Based on the sparse length frequency distribution of surveyed fish, most of the recreational harvest is at a size prior to entry into the commercial fishery. The available data suggest that inclusion of recreational harvest data would not have any appreciable effect on the analyses we used (Table 5.1).

This assessment uses a fishing year beginning in February of one year and running through January of the following year for analysis of fishery-dependent information. Thus, the 1998 fishing year, as defined for this report, consists of February 1998 through January 1999. This is to accommodate the existing season for commercial harvest, which runs from the 3rd Monday in October until the 3rd Monday of the following January. Harvest values are presented for each calendar year rather than fishing year for consistency with other reports.

5.1 Growth and Fecundity

Thompson *et al.* (1991) described growth of striped mullet from Louisiana waters. They found significant differences in growth rates between sexes of mullet, and in growth rates from different parts of the state. For this assessment, a von Bertalanffy growth equation was developed from aged samples of female striped mullet from East of the Mississippi River provided by Thompson (pers. comm.). Growth rates from this area were used since this area of the state provides the majority of the harvest. We reanalyzed these data, combining them with juveniles assigned to age 0 by length frequency analysis from Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) fishery-independent seine samples (Mapes *et al.* 1998, Figure 2.1). These data were used to estimate a three-parameter von Bertalanffy growth equation:

$$L_t = L_{\infty} * (1 - e^{-k(t-t_0)})$$

where L_t is the length at age (t) in years, L_{∞} is the maximum length, k is a parameter describing the rate of growth, and t_0 is the intercept of the function on the time axis. The function was estimated using nonlinear approximation procedure (SAS, 1987). The parameters derived from this method were: $L_{\infty}=453.9$, $k=0.332$, $t_0=-0.05$. These parameters were used in some methods of estimating natural mortality, and for yield estimation.

MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT
Draft - December 27, 2001

Samples were assigned ages through use of an age-length key developed from otolith aging of fish by Thompson (unpublished data) and LDWF's ongoing aging study. The age-length key categorized fish in increments of one-inch (25.4 mm) total length. Fish with only fork length measurements available were converted to total length using the equation provided by Thompson *et al.* (1991) ($TL=1.13*FL-3.40$, $r^2=.995$). Only data from female mullet was included (males, immature fish, and fish where sex was not recorded were all deleted). Data from purse seine samples from Mississippi waters, and from mullet in the Sabine (LA) Refuge impoundment were deleted from the LSU dataset, as the length/age relationships for these fish are expected to differ from the fish harvested in the ongoing Louisiana fishery. Most fishery-independent collections were deleted from the dataset for the same reason. However, the age distribution for 11-inch fish was derived from fishery-independent samples since no fishery-dependent ages were available for that size class. This size class represented less than one percent of the total harvest, so any error due to misassignment of ages should have minimal impact on the assessment. In all 3,580 female mullet were used in the development of the age-length-key (Table 5.2).

As noted earlier, the fishery is concentrated in the area east of the Mississippi River, and in the Mississippi River delta. Examination of fishery-dependent age-length keys and length-frequency samples from different areas of the state demonstrated substantial differences in length-frequency and in age-at-length between areas. Therefore only samples taken East of 90°W longitude were included in this assessment. Exclusion of the samples from the remainder of the state should provide a more accurate assessment of the potential yield of this area, where the majority of the fishery operates. Spawning potential ratio (SPR) estimates specifically calculated by this method would not be valid for the state as a whole, but should be more accurate representation of the status of the fished portion of the population in this region.

Fecundity is estimated from the length/fecundity relationship of Thompson *et al.* (1991) where:

$$\text{Fecundity}=5.6 \times 10^{-3}(\text{FL})^{3.18}$$

Fish were assumed to be sexually mature at age 2.

5.2 Natural Mortality

There was no change in the techniques used or the input parameters for estimation of natural mortality for striped mullet since the development of the 1997 and 1998 reports. The various estimates and the citation describing the methodology used to derive that estimate are listed below.

Citation	Input parameters	Natural Mortality estimate
Pauly (1980)	k =0.332 L _∞ =453.9 x̄ water temperature (°C)=22.7	M _{schooling fish} (est.*0.8)=0.56 M _{clupeids} (est.*0.6)=0.42
Hoenig (1983)	Age _(max) =10	M=0.42
Alagaraja (1984)	99% of fish die by Age 10 99.9 % of fish die by Age 10	M1%=0.46 M0.1%=0.69
Beverton and Holt (1959)	1.5 to 2.5 von Bertalanffy growth parameter (k), k=0.332	M=0.50-0.83

Two estimates of natural mortality (M) are available for striped mullet in the existing literature. Pauly (1980) cites Ih-Hsiu (1970) as reporting an M of 0.31 for male striped mullet from Taiwan. Mahmoudi (1991) estimated M as 0.30 using tagging data from southwest Florida.

Some investigators (Restrepo *et al.* 1991, Helser *et al.* 1992) have attempted to use a range of estimates of M and incorporate variation within this range as a variable in their analyses of other fish species. However, the selection of the range to be used, and the distribution of M estimates within that range remains arbitrary. We have chosen, rather, to select several point estimates of M, and to present the results of changes in the estimate. We have presented estimates based on M values of 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, and 0.6. This provides a feeling for the differences resulting from various estimates of M, without implying any additional precision.

In this report, an M of 0.3 is the most conservative estimate of natural mortality. This estimate may be low, based on the lack of mullet older than 10 years in the Western part of Louisiana, though there was no established mullet fishery in that area when the samples were taken. Using a low value of M results in higher estimates of F in the analysis. If the actual value is above estimates used here, estimates of fishing mortality from catch curve analysis will be lower than estimated here. Additionally estimates of spawning potential ratio at any level of fishing mortality would also be increased, and potential yield will be higher than estimated with that value. A low estimate of M would also increase the harvest age structure required to maximize yield, which could influence proposed size or gear regulations.

5.3 Disappearance Rates and Fishing Mortality

It must be recognized that any estimate of disappearance (Z') from the fishery includes both the total mortality while the fish is exposed to the fishery, and the availability of the fish to the gear. Availability as used here includes both changes in distribution or behavior of the fish that might change effectiveness of the fishery (e.g. migration, food preference, etc.), and size or other selectivity of the gear or fishery. The predominant gear in the Louisiana mullet fishery at the present time is a 3½ -4 inch stretch gill net, though some larger mesh sizes are occasionally used (see Mapes *et al.*, 1998). Gill nets are size selective for mullet, therefore estimates of disappearance likely reflect fishing mortality confounded by some degree of gear selectivity. For the present analysis, no estimation of gear selectivity or availability to capture was available for fish past full recruitment. Selectivity of younger fish is estimated from the method presented in Sparre and Venema (1992), using a linearized catch curve to determine the selectivity of fish not fully recruited to the fishery. The ratio of the observed catches to the expected catches at each age is the relative probability of capture or selectivity of the fishery. Selectivities for ages up to full age-at-recruitment were used to describe the relative fishing mortality to that point; for ages at or above full recruitment, selectivities are usually assumed to be 1 (100% selected).

Length frequency data from the mullet fishery, derived from Trip Intercept Program (TIP) sampling (LDWF unpubl. data), are available for the fishing years 1994-1999. These samples were aged, using an age-length key (Table 5.2). The relative selectivities for each age are as follows:

Ages	Relative selectivity
0	0
1	0.0011
2	0.0372
3	0.2616
4	0.7780
5 and over	1.0

Disappearance rates (Z') were derived by regression of the descending arm of the catch curve (Figures 5.1A-E). The resulting estimates of Z' are provided in table 5.3.

These estimates of Z' and relative selectivity could be confounded by variable sizes of cohorts within the fishery. Variation in cohort size could skew the estimate of Z' in either a positive or negative direction, depending on the distribution of the various cohorts within the fishery. Greater recruitment in the older year classes would provide a lower estimate of Z' , while if in younger ages, would provide an overestimate of the true value of Z . This uncertainty can only be addressed by use of several years of information on the fishery, and using estimates of Z based on specific cohorts rather than using annual estimates, that run across several cohorts.

5.4 Yield per Recruit

Yield per recruit (YPR) analysis provides basic information about the dynamics of a fish stock by estimating the impact of mortality rates on yield and spawning potential of the stock. The results can be examined as to the sensitivity of natural and fishing mortality rates on yield and spawning potential. The present yield per recruit (YPR) analysis is based on several assumptions. A fish is assumed to consistently recruit to any given fishery at a given age; that is, selectivity by age does not change over time. Partial recruitment of fish is estimated from the relative abundance of age 1 through age 4 fish in the TIP samples compared to age 5 and over fish, which are fully recruited. Once the fish are fully recruited to the fishery, fishing pressure is assumed to be at a constant rate. The present YPR analysis does not take into account any variation in growth rate or other factors which may affect the results. Use of YPR analysis requires:

- 1) information on natural and fishing mortality rates,
- 2) knowledge of the growth parameters of the fish.

Methods used for estimation of natural mortality (M) and fishing mortality (F) rates in this analysis are presented in Sections 5.2 and 5.3 above. The existing mullet fishery is mainly a roe fishery, targeting female fish (Thompson, 1989). Therefore, we have used the growth parameters for female mullet to calculate yield per recruit.

5.5 Conservation Standard

Conservation standards are based on one of a number of biological measures of the dynamics of fish stocks, that are intended to protect the viability of that stock for future generations. These standards have historically been based on different measures of the dynamics of fish stocks, depending on the data available, the needs of fishery and of the resource. Conservation standards should be separated into two types: a conservation threshold which is entirely biologically based, and a conservation target which considers biological measures modified by relevant social, economic, and ecological factors.

Conservation "thresholds" are intended to provide a biological baseline for harvest of a fish stock based on stock recruit relationships, or other biological parameters specific to the stock, if possible. This baseline standard, below which the stock should not be allowed to go, has been described as a "threshold" by some researchers, and has also been referred to as an "overfishing level" (GMFMC 1995). Beyond this "threshold", management "targets" may be set, which provide for other management goals in the fishery. Such goals may be in terms of yield in weight, yield in numbers of fish, catch rate per effort, harvest rate per effort, employment, profit, or some other goal. These targets must be set at a fishing rate below the "threshold" in order to ensure that the biological integrity of the stock is not unduly compromised by fishing.

MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT
Draft - December 27, 2001

Recently, use of a stock measure, spawning stock biomass per recruit (SSBR) or spawning potential ratio (SPR) has become widely used. This measure compares the estimated female spawning biomass of the stock that survive fishing with the estimated biomass of the stock under unfished conditions. The analysis does not take into account any density-dependent relationships due to the changes in the size of the fished stock. Using the Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) concept as developed by Gabriel et al. (1984) and refined by Goodyear (1991), a "threshold" value can be defined that provides a minimum spawning stock biomass (or egg production) per recruit, below which existing data cannot evaluate impacts to future recruitment, and below which the fishery should not be allowed to operate.

Ideally, "threshold" levels should be evaluated from information on the stock in question. However, the information base necessary to adequately describe this level is often not available. In such cases, it has been recommended by Goodyear (1989) that a spawning stock biomass per recruit (SSBR) or SPR of 20% be used as a "threshold" in absence of sufficient evidence to provide a standard specific to the stock in question. This standard is also based on work on North Atlantic groundfisheries (Gabriel et al. 1984, Gabriel, 1985). A SSBR of 35% has been recommended for Spanish mackerel, and 20% for king mackerel (GMFMC 1990, 1995). A SSBR of 8-13% has been demonstrated to be sufficient for Gulf menhaden (Vaughan 1987). In prior analyses of the Louisiana spotted seatrout fisheries (LDWF 1991), we recommended an SPR of 15% after analysis of several years of available data. Mace and Sissenwine (1993) examined 90 stocks of 27 species, and recommended that 30% SPR be maintained when there is no other basis for estimating the replacement level. That level is sufficient for 80% of the stocks considered by those authors. They also noted that 30% may be overly conservative for an "average" stock. The average replacement %SPR for the stocks they considered was 18.7% while the most resilient quarter of the stocks considered required a maximum FREP of 8.6% SPR. Three-quarters of the stocks required a maximum FREP of 27.1% SPR. In the prior assessment of striped mullet (Shepard et al., 1992), a SPR of 20% was recommended as the conservation standard for the Louisiana fishery. This standard was considered, rather than 30% SPR, due to several factors: the fishery is mainly prosecuted on the stocks of mullet east of the Mississippi River, and the estimate of SPR is based on only the fished stocks. The relatively unfished stocks to the west of the Mississippi River are only minimally considered in the assessment, with the result that the SPR ratios are underestimated.

Sufficient information is not available to directly estimate a conservation threshold for striped mullet in Louisiana. However, the conservation target of 30% SPR established by Act 1316 of the 1995 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature for black drum sheepshead, southern flounder and striped mullet appear to be adequate to maintain the striped mullet stock and prevent recruitment overfishing.

The use of any measure of health of a fish stock as a perfect index is arguable. Intuitively it seems more logical that growth overfishing would occur at a much lower fishing rate than would threaten recruitment. However, Mace and Sissenwine (1993) provide information to suggest that

some stocks may have reduced levels of recruitment at levels of fishing that would not reduce yield per recruit. The preferable position for making recommendations on appropriate levels of fishing for a stock is to base those recommendations on actual measures of spawning stock and recruitment for that species, in the same fishery. This requires a base of information on that fishery that requires monitoring of both the stock and the fishery over a variety of conditions. Without this information, inappropriate conservation standards may either underestimate or overestimate the potential of the fishery. If the potential is underestimated, the society loses the economic and social benefits of the harvest. If the potential is overestimated, the society also loses the benefits of a sustainable fishery, which must at least go through some period of rebuilding, when effort must be reduced from the non-sustainable levels (Hilborn and Walters, 1993). Some researchers have speculated that over-harvest of some stocks may lead to their replacement in the ecosystem by other, often less preferred stocks. The frequency of such an occurrence is unknown, and the cause of shifts in species dominance in an ecosystem may be difficult to ascertain, even after the fact. Such a shift does seem to have occurred over time in the Grand Banks area, where prolonged, intense harvest of cod and haddock have been implicated in gradual increases in skate and spiny dogfish populations (CUD - NEFSC 1993).

5.6 Status of the Stock

The trends in harvest for striped mullet in the Louisiana fishery have been reviewed by Mapes *et al.* (1998). Commercial landings prior to 1991 was obtained from NMFS's General Canvass Landing Program, from 1991 through 1998 landings was collected through the LDWF's Monthly Dealer Reports and from 1999 to present LDWF's Commercial Reporting Requirement "Trip Tickets" program is utilized to gather this type of data. Recreational landings was obtained through the NMFS's Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey. Harvest increased in the early 1990's, as the commercial roe fishery continued to develop (Figure 5.2). Harvest declined after 1995 as a direct result of regulations implemented August, 1995 eliminating the harvest of mullet outside of the period between the third Monday in October through the middle of the following January. Regulations also outlawed fishing for mullet at night, on weekends, in freshwater areas, and using gear other than strike gill nets. Legislation allowing the use of hoop nets in freshwater areas for taking mullet was legalized in 1999. The law required that no leads be used on the hoop nets, no harvest or possess of mullet from between the hours of official sunset and official sunrise, and mullet caught in the freshwater areas of the state could not be possessed by commercial fishermen in the saltwater areas of the state. Three legislative acts were passed in 2001: Act 51 defined certain portion of the Intracoastal waterway, from the overhead power lines at the Interharbor Navigation Canal east to the Rigolets, in Orleans Parish as saltwater and freshwater for the purposes of possessing regulated gear and allows the harvest of mullet in that area in addition to a portion of Lake Pontchartrain located south and east of the I-10 bridge as long as commercial fishing operations in these waters will not interfere with normal commercial traffic; Act 116 statutorily created a mullet task force to advise LDWF on certain issues; and Act 147 adopted a three-strikes and you are out

MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT
Draft - December 27, 2001

penalty system within the commercial mullet fishery: first conviction, one year permit suspension, second conviction two years suspension, third conviction lifetime permit ban.

Annual recruitment of mullet has been evaluated from fishery-independent seine and experimental gill net samples taken statewide since 1986. Catch/effort information are compiled for January through May of each year, and the abundance is measured as $\ln(\text{catch}/\text{effort})+1$. Seine catches of fish larger than young-of-the-year (>70 mm) are removed from the calculation of abundance indices (Figure 5.3). Gill net data from 2", 2.5", and 3" (5.08, 6.35, and 7.62 cm.) stretch mesh panels are used to provide relative abundance indices of mullet prior to harvest by legal saltwater commercial gears (Figures 5.4A-D).

Seine CPUE indices show higher mean catches of young-of-the-year (YOY) in the last six years examined (1996-2001). There appears to be no long term downward trend in YOY indices for the years examined. Gill net CPUE indices seem to cycle throughout the period examined with no long term downward trend. There is some question however, after reviewing the relatively consistent annual pattern of different mesh sizes, whether the gill net samples actually measure relative abundance or simply measure annual availability to the sampling gear. One would expect to find more annual variation between mesh sizes as fish grew and became increasingly available to the larger mesh size. The three mesh sizes, standardized to their mean, are presented in figure 5.4D. There does seem to be an annual pattern found between the mesh sizes with the last five years being relatively lower than previous years.

The results of YPR analysis indicate that if $M=0.3$ (the most conservative value within the range of estimates), the fishery prior to existing regulations was operating above $F_{0.1}$ and F_{MAX} with yield of 97% to 99% of maximum, and SPR at 31% to 37%. An M of 0.6 would indicate a more lightly fished stock with yield being 67% to 86% of maximum and with SPR being 62% to 73% (Table 5.4).

In all of these analyses, assumptions listed in prior sections of this report have a strong influence in the results. If M is actually near or above the upper end of the range considered here then increases in yield per recruit would be possible, and SPR would be above the minimum estimated values. Estimates of potential yield presented here do not account at all for potential extension of the fishery into areas of the state that do not now have a significant fishery. Any substantive change in geographic distribution of the fishery could substantially change the overall harvest levels.

Based on this generalized assessment, for all natural mortality rates examined, if fishing mortality rates continue at the current levels, then striped mullet are not being harvested at a rate that would drive the stock below the target SPR of 30% established by the Louisiana Legislature.

Legislation allowing the use of hoop nets in freshwater areas for taking mullet was legalized in 1999. Landings data through the Louisiana's Trip Ticket Program for the year 2000 indicate 19,774 pounds of mullet were harvested by hoop nets. If 2000 landings represent what can be expected to be harvested from hoop nets each year, hoop net landings will have little impact on fishing mortality rates and therefore SPR.

5.7 Research and Data Needs

As with any analysis, the accuracy of the assessment is dependent on the accuracy of the information on which it is based. The present analyses, along with the biological data presented by Mapes *et al.* (1998) identify several areas for research to address.

Estimates of natural mortality used in the present assessment are derived from general literature sources, and show wide variation. This variation reduces the potential of the present assessment to provide a precise prediction of the yield potential of the stock, and also reduces the confidence level of the present estimate of SPR. A more precise estimate of natural mortality, based on Louisiana data, would assist in both of these problems.

Definition of sub-populations based on migratory patterns would help define exploitation rates within different areas of the state. This may help managers develop area-specific management to optimize yield from a given stock, while protecting the stock from overharvest.

Recruitment mechanisms are poorly defined for the species. Mullet are recorded to spawn beyond the shelf break, in the central Gulf of Mexico. No genetically distinct stocks have been identified within the Gulf. However, lack of genetic distinctness does not necessarily mean that stocks are homogeneously mixed by spawning and recruitment mechanisms, only that populations are not so removed from each other that gene structure is identifiably different. Better understanding of recruitment mechanisms, merged with measurement of oceanographic or other driving forces could help in understanding the sub-genetic distinctiveness of mullet populations from different regions of the state of the Gulf of Mexico.

Factors that influence the year-class strength of mullet are essentially unknown. Investigation of these factors could help better define causes of inter-annual variation in abundance, and perhaps also the underlying stock-recruit relationships in the species.

The relationship between wetlands losses or modifications and the continuation of fishery production within the state has been discussed by many authors. However, this relationship is likely to be different for any of a suite of different species. Understanding of this relationship for mullet should be an ongoing priority.

MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT

Draft - December 27, 2001

In the presence of changing regulations, fishery-dependent information is not a reliable source of the data necessary to assess the status of a fish stock. However, such data is necessary to measure the effects of fishing on that stock. Consistent fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data sources, in a comprehensive monitoring plan, are essential to understanding the status of fishery stocks, and to identifying causes of changes in stock abundance. Present programs should be assessed for adequacy with respect to their ability to evaluate stock status, and modified or enhanced to optimize their capabilities.

Literature Cited

- Alagaraja, D. 1984. Simple methods for estimation of parameters for assessing exploited fish stocks. *Indian J. Fish.*, 31:177-208
- Beverton, R.J.H. and S.J. Holt, 1959. A review of the lifespans and mortality rates of fish in nature, and their relation to growth and other physiological characteristics. *In: G.E.W. Wolstenholme and M. O'Conner, (eds.) The Lifespan of Animals. CIBA Foundation, Colloquia on Ageing, Vol 5: 142-180.*
- Conservation and Utilization Division, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. 1993. Status of fishery resources off the Northeastern United States for 1993. NOAA Tech. Mem. NMFS-F/NEC-101. 140 pp.
- GMFMC 1995. Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS): Amendment 8 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. Draft of 10/25/95, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. 84 pp.+3 pp. appendix.
- Goodyear, P. 1995. Mean size at age: an evaluation of sampling strategies with simulated red grouper data. *Trans. Am. Fish. Soc.* 124(5):746-755.
- Helser, T. and R. E. Condrey. 1992. A Monte Carlo-based virtual population simulation for incorporating uncertainty into estimates of spawning potential ratios. Ph.D. Thesis (chapter), LSU, Baton Rouge. 26 pp. + 3 tab., 11 fig.
- Hilborn, R. and C. J. Walters 1992. *Quantitative Fisheries Stock Assessment: Choice, Dynamics and Uncertainty.* Chapman and Hall, N.Y. 570 pp.
- Hoenig, J.M. 1983. Empirical use of longevity data to estimate mortality rates. *Fish. Bull.* 81(4):898-903
- Leard, R., B. Mahmoudi, H. Blanchet, H. Lazauski, K. Spiller, M. Buchanan, C. Dyer and W. Keithly. 1995. The striped mullet fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, United States: A regional management plan. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Publ. No. 33.
- Mace, P.M. and M. P. Sissenwine. 1993. How much spawning per recruit is enough? *pp.* 101- 118 *in: S. J. Smith, J. J. Hunt and D. Rivard (eds.) Risk Evaluation and Biological Reference Points for Fisheries Management. Can. Spec. Publ. Fish. Aq. Sci.* 120. 442 pp.

MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT
Draft - December 27, 2001

- Mapes, K. A., R. Bejarano, J. F. Burdon and B. McManus. 1998. A biological and fisheries profile for striped mullet, *Mugil cephalus* in Louisiana. La. Dept. of Wildl. & Fish., Office of Fisheries, Fishery Management Plan Series No. 5, Part 1.
- Mahmoudi, B. 1989. Population assessment of black mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Final Report of Cooperative Agreement (MARFIN) NA86-WC-H-06138. 89 pp.
- Mahmoudi, B. 1991. Population assessment of black mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Final Report of Cooperative Agreement (MARFIN) NA90-WC-H-MF003. 69 pp.
- Mahmoudi, B. 1992. Update on black mullet stock assessment. Final report submitted to the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission. 58 pp.
- Mapes, K., R. Bejarano J. F. Burdon and L.B. Savoie. 1996. A biological and fisheries profile for striped mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) in Louisiana. La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Office of Fisheries. Fisheries Management Plan Series No. 5, Pt. 1. 83 pp.
- Pauly, D. 1980. On the interrelationships between natural mortality, growth parameters, and mean environmental temperature in 175 fish stocks. J. Cons. int. Explor. Mer 39(2):175- 192.
- Restrepo, V. R., J. E. Powers, and S. C. Turner. 1991. Incorporating uncertainty in VPA results via simulation. ICCAT Coll. Vol. Sci. Pap. 35(2)355-361.
- SAS, 1987. SAS/STAT guide for personal computers, Version 6 edition. SAS Inst., Cary, N.C. 1028 pp.
- Shepard, J.A., H. Blanchet, D. Johns and K. Mapes. 1992. A stock assessment and management plan for Louisiana striped mullet (*Mugil cephalus*). Ch. 4-8 in: A fisheries management plan for Louisiana striped mullet, (*Mugil cephalus*). 74 pp.
- Sparre, P. and S.C. Venema. 1992. Introduction to Tropical Fish Stock Assessment, Part 1 - Manual. FAO Fish. Tech. Pap. 306/1, Revision 1. 376 pp.
- Thompson, B. A., J. H. Render and R. L. Allen. 1989. Life history and population dynamics of commercially harvested striped mullet *Mugil cephalus* in coastal Louisiana. Final Report Board of Regents' Rockefeller Fund Interest Earnings Grant Program. Coastal Fisheries Institute. LSU-CFI-89-01. 80 pp.

MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT

Draft - December 27, 2001

Thompson, B. A., J. H. Render, R. L. Allen and D.L. Nieland. 1991. Fisheries independent characterization of population dynamics and life history of striped mullet in Louisiana. Final Report, MARFIN project NA90AA-H-MF-113. 92 pp.

Tung, Ih-Hsiu. 1970. Studies on the fishery biology of the grey mullet, *Mugil cephalus* Linnaeus, in Taiwan. pp. 497-504 in: J.C. Marr (ed.) The Kuroshio: a symposium on the Japan current. East-West Center Press, Honolulu. 614 pp.

MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT
 Draft - December 27, 2001

Table 5.1. Annual commercial and recreational harvest of mullet from Louisiana waters, expressed in pounds. Commercial harvest values from dealer landings reports, recreational harvest from NMFS MRFSS estimates of fish landed plus those discarded dead.

Year	Commercial Harvest (lbs.)	Recreational Harvest (lbs.)	Total Harvest (lbs.)	%Commercial
1981	3,051,461	564	3,052,025	99.98%
1982	1,533,452	16,546	1,549,998	98.93%
1983	1,886,654	0	1,886,654	100.00%
1984	3,157,215	2,793	3,160,008	99.91%
1985	579,297	7,505	586,802	98.72%
1986	2,277,713	52,921	2,330,634	97.73%
1987	1,439,425	0	1,439,425	100.00%
1988	2,367,106	105,878	2,472,984	95.72%
1989	2,413,768	75,287	2,489,055	96.98%
1990	2,645,927	296,113	2,942,040	89.94%
1991	3,563,137	26,303	3,589,440	99.27%
1992	6,214,532	121,274	6,335,806	98.09%
1993	11,026,497	185,015	11,211,512	98.35%
1994	12,560,261	97,511	12,657,772	99.23%
1995	14,545,610	89,551	14,635,161	99.39%
1996	8,658,881	217,807	8,876,688	97.55%
1997	8,082,591	127,594	8,824,069	98.55%
1998	6,675,574	15,459	6,691,033	99.77%
1999	8,954,299	48,767	9,003,066	99.46%
2000	7,252,017	85,602	7,337,619	98.83%

MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT
Draft - December 27, 2001

Table 5.2 - Age-at-Length distribution of female striped mullet used in age-length key development.

Length (inches)	Age										Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
10	18	67	7	1			1				94
11	2	76	52	12	3						145
12	9	105	153	87	18	5	1				378
13	12	110	251	195	79	22	2	3			674
14	12	74	200	225	131	34	9	3			688
15	4	46	137	151	89	41	10	9	1	1	489
16	1	49	116	122	67	26	8	1	1		391
17		30	100	111	55	18	4	2	1		321
18	1	6	47	71	34	11	5	1	1		177
19	1	2	16	47	32	7	4				109
20		1	3	15	23	14	6				62
21			1	3	4	4	2		2	1	17
22				2	3	4	5	1			15
23			1		3	2	3				9
24					5	3	3				11
All	60	566	1084	1042	546	191	63	20	6	2	3580

MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT
Draft - December 27, 2001

Table 5.3 Regression Output from the Estimation of Disappearance Rates

1994		1995	
	Regression Output:		Regression Output:
Constant	18.5503	Constant	19.224847
Std Err of Y Est	0.4624425	Std Err of Y Est	0.2586424
R Squared	0.9702872	R Squared	0.989781
No. of Observations	8	No. of Observations	7
Degrees of Freedom	6	Degrees of Freedom	5
X Coefficient(s)	-0.99882	X Coefficient(s)	-1.07565
Std Err of Coef.	0.0713564	Std Err of Coef.	0.0488788
1996		1997	
	Regression Output:		Regression Output:
Constant	18.566267	Constant	18.432739
Std Err of Y Est	0.156	Std Err of Y Est	0.1661209
R Squared	0.9959516	R Squared	0.9953224
No. of Observations	7	No. of Observations	7
Degrees of Freedom	5	Degrees of Freedom	5
X Coefficient(s)	-1.033969	X Coefficient(s)	-1.024001
Std Err of Coef.	0.0294812	Std Err of Coef.	0.0313939
1998		1999	
	Regression Output:		Regression Output:
Constant	18.855665	Constant	18.114605
Std Err of Y Est	0.4101676	Std Err of Y Est	0.5090718
R Squared	0.9778915	R Squared	0.95371
No. of Observations	7	No. of Observations	7
Degrees of Freedom	5	Degrees of Freedom	5
X Coefficient(s)	-1.152746	X Coefficient(s)	-0.976449
Std Err of Coef.	0.0775144	Std Err of Coef.	0.0962055
2000			
	Regression Output:		
Constant	17.448049		
Std Err of Y Est	0.6605562		
R Squared	0.911813		
No. of Observations	7		
Degrees of Freedom	5		
X Coefficient(s)	-0.897566		
Std Err of Coef.	0.1248334		

MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT
Draft - December 27, 2001

Table 5.4 - Results of Yield per Recruit and SPR Analysis for Mullet

M=0.3

	F - Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
F-max	0.5758	85.6013	432,921	38.24%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1	0.3020	78.9656	595,581	52.61%	92.25%	
F20%	2.0131	70.0656	226,433	20.00%	81.85%	
F30%	0.9119	82.7357	339,650	30.00%	96.65%	
1994	0.6988	85.0543	390,946	34.53%	99.36%	Estimate
1995	0.7757	84.3400	369,952	32.68%	98.53%	
1996	0.7340	84.7522	380,926	33.65%	99.01%	
1997	0.7240	84.8426	383,693	33.89%	99.11%	
1998	0.8527	83.4676	351,873	31.08%	97.51%	
1999	0.6764	85.2198	397,729	35.13%	99.55%	
2000	0.5976	85.5805	424,584	37.50%	99.98%	

M=0.4

	F - Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
F-max	0.7988	50.3253	245,293	40.68%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1	0.3822	45.8515	335,236	55.59%	91.11%	
F20%	3.8965	40.3205	120,602	20.00%	80.12%	
F30%	1.5759	47.5398	180,903	30.00%	94.47%	
1994	0.5988	49.6615	278,442	46.18%	98.68%	Estimate
1995	0.6757	50.1055	264,163	43.81%	99.56%	
1996	0.6340	49.9019	271,629	45.05%	99.16%	
1997	0.6240	49.8407	273,510	45.36%	99.04%	
1998	0.7527	50.2982	251,856	41.77%	99.95%	
1999	0.5764	49.4700	283,053	46.94%	98.30%	
2000	0.4976	48.4966	301,297	49.97%	96.37%	

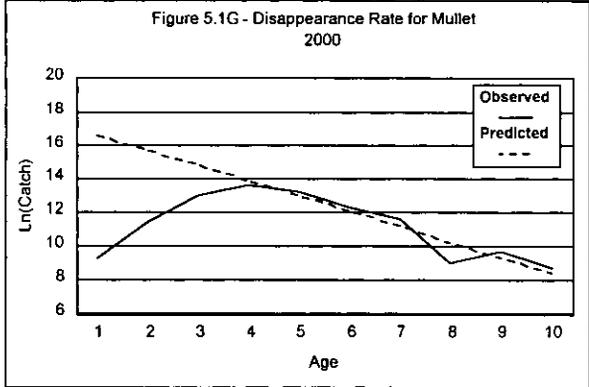
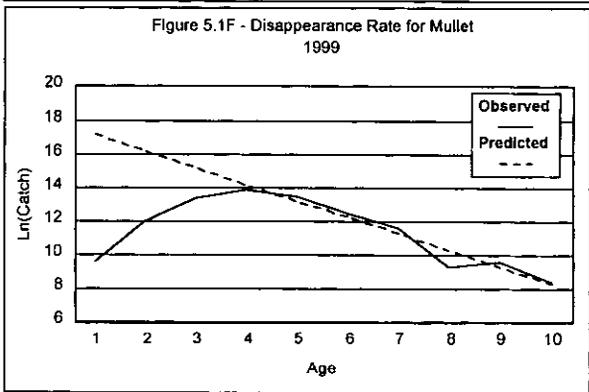
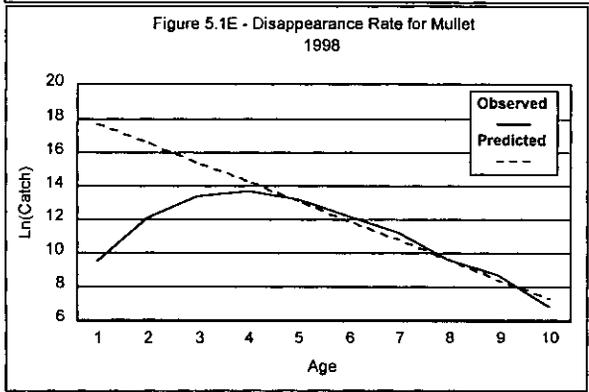
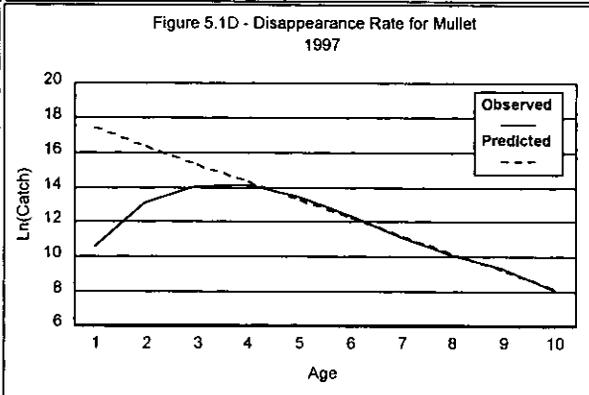
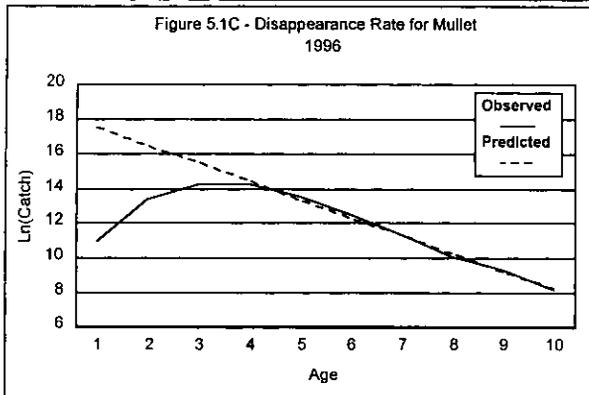
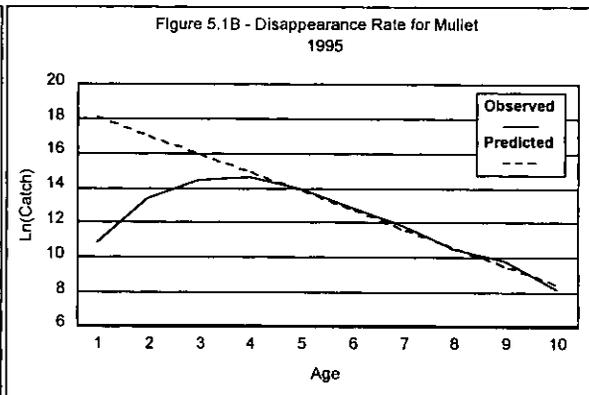
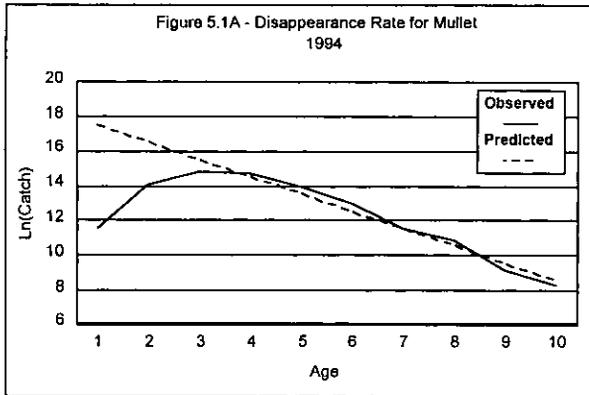
M=0.5

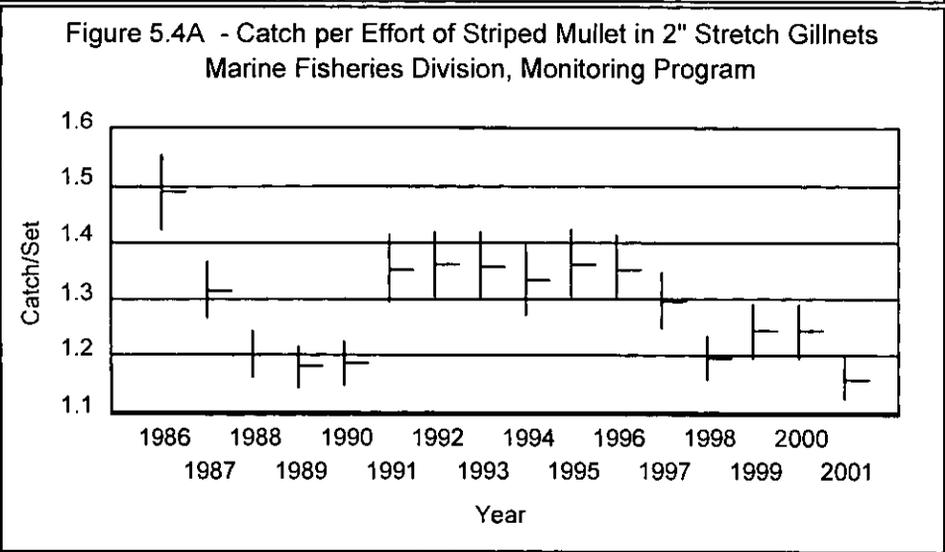
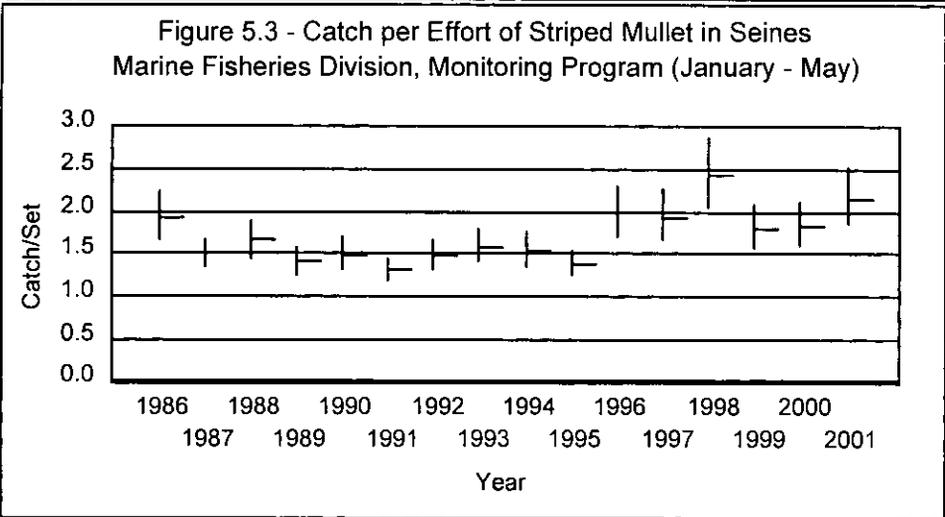
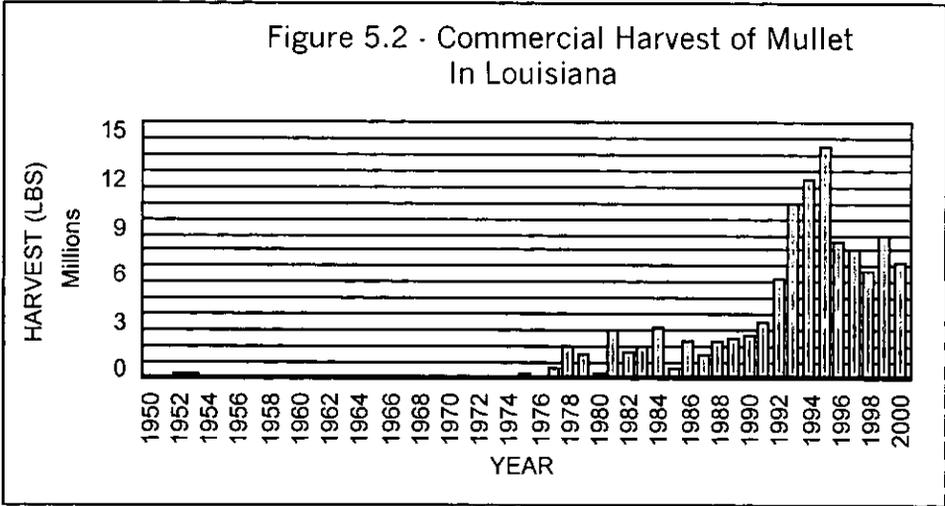
	F - Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
F-max	1.1147	30.9974	147,696	42.96%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1	0.4762	27.8648	202,144	58.80%	89.89%	
F20%	7.0888	24.9089	68,757	20.00%	80.36%	
F30%	2.7515	28.9557	103,136	30.00%	93.41%	
1994	0.4988	28.2032	198,980	57.88%	90.99%	Estimate
1995	0.5757	29.1325	189,265	55.05%	93.98%	
1996	0.5340	28.6675	194,346	56.53%	92.48%	
1997	0.5240	28.5430	195,625	56.90%	92.08%	
1998	0.6527	29.7944	180,884	52.62%	96.12%	
1999	0.4764	27.8680	202,114	58.79%	89.90%	
2000	0.3976	26.3846	214,512	62.40%	85.12%	

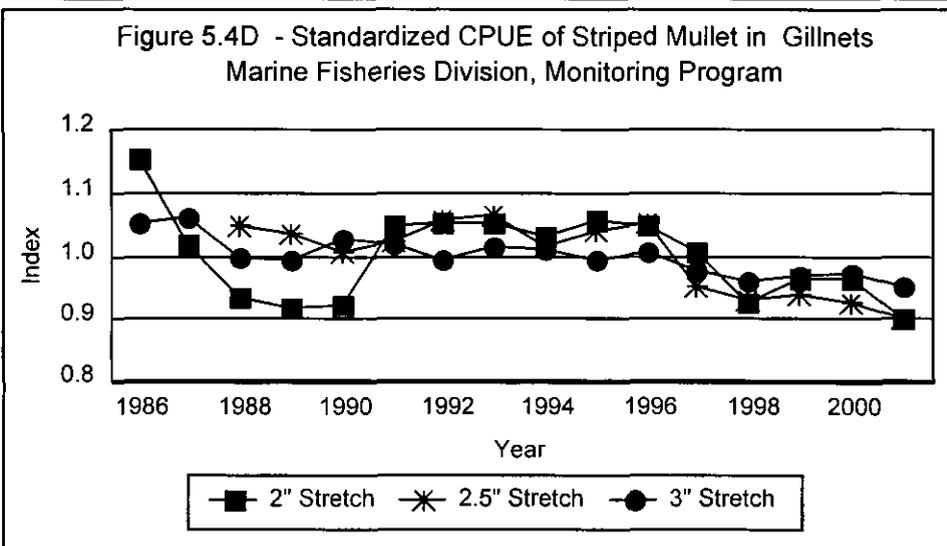
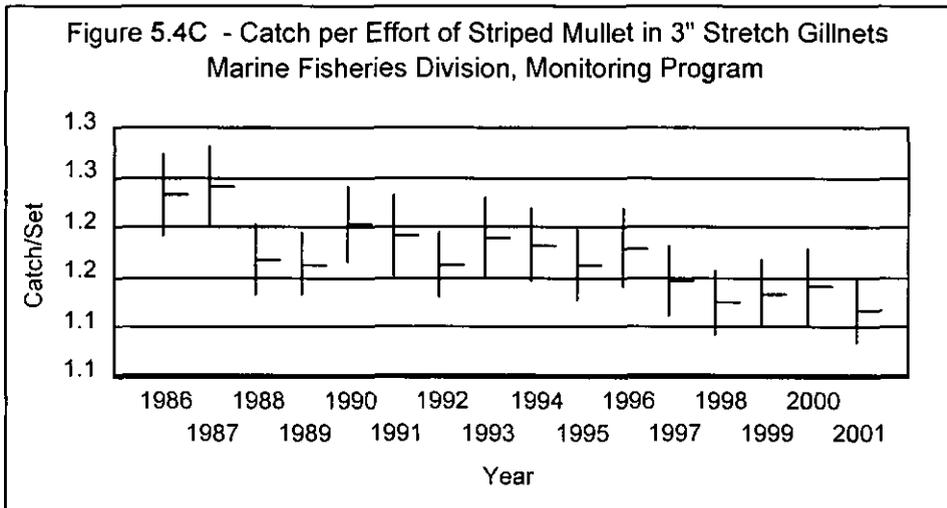
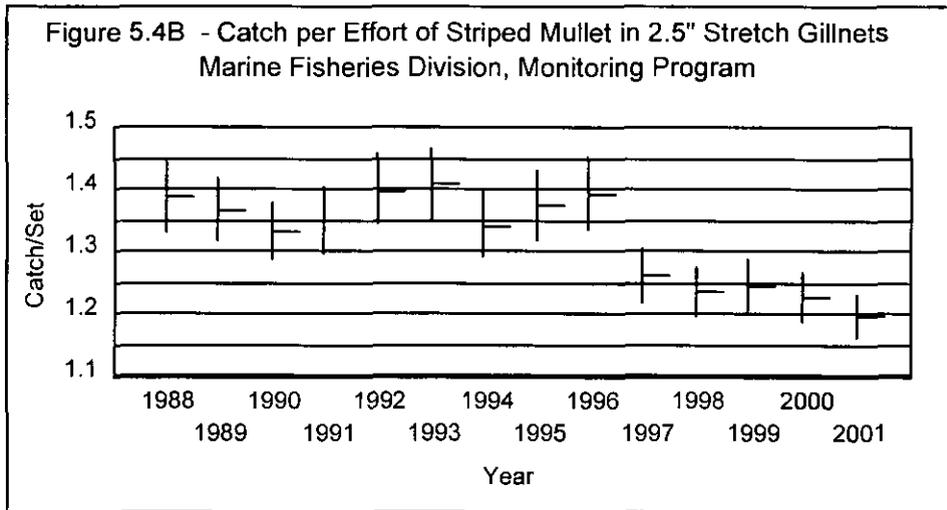
M=0.6

	F - Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
F-max	1.6415	19.8569	91,314	44.09%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1	0.5853	17.5289	128,195	61.89%	88.28%	
F20%	11.8316	16.1782	41,424	20.00%	81.47%	
F30%	4.6199	18.7160	62,137	30.00%	94.25%	
1994	0.3988	15.3822	142,695	68.89%	77.47%	Estimate
1995	0.4757	16.4377	136,084	65.70%	82.78%	
1996	0.4340	15.9010	139,542	67.37%	80.08%	
1997	0.4240	15.7604	140,413	67.79%	79.37%	
1998	0.5527	17.2466	130,374	62.95%	86.85%	
1999	0.3764	15.0160	144,827	69.92%	75.62%	
2000	0.2976	13.4534	153,254	73.99%	67.75%	

MULLET STOCK ASSESSMENT
Draft - December 27, 2001







DRAFT - December 26, 2001

SOUTHERN FLOUNDER
SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM 2001 ASSESSMENT

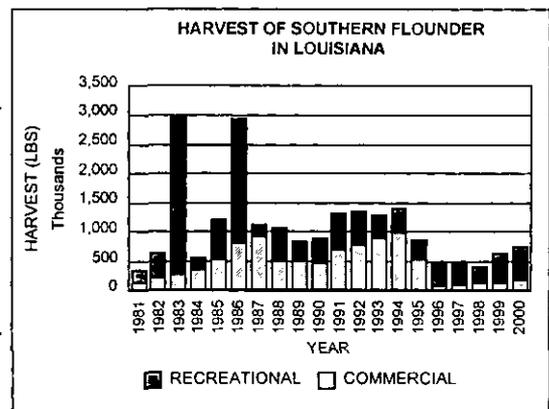
This summary is intended to provide a quick reference of substantive changes in methods or corrections in this year's assessment from the 2001 assessment conducted for southern flounder.

- There are no substantive changes in methods from the 2001 assessment.

2002 DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2000 combined commercial and recreational harvest of 767,958 pounds was an increase from the previous four years, but lower than landings from the mid 1980's to mid 1990's.

- The results of YPR analysis indicate that for the years assessed (1994-2000) if $M=0.5$ (the most conservative value within the range of estimates), the fishery prior to existing regulations was operating between $F_{0.1}$ and F_{MAX} , with yields of 93% to 95% of maximum and SPR at 28% to 30%. An M of 0.8 (the highest value within the range examined) would produce yields of 56% to 60% of maximum with SPR at 51% to 54%.



- It should be noted that the method used in this assessment to determine the status of the stock, reflected in the estimates of disappearance, is not immediately sensitive to changes in regulations. It takes several years, depending on the longevity of the species, before the impact of changes in fishing mortality are realized.

SOUTHERN FLOUNDER

5.0 STOCK ASSESSMENT

This assessment uses yield-per-recruit (YPR), Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) and catch curve analyses to estimate the impact of fishing pressure on potential yield and the spawning potential of the southern flounder stock in Louisiana waters. Estimates derived from YPR and SPR are based on information regarding the growth rate and spawning potential of the fish, and on estimates of the natural mortality rate (M) and fishing mortality rate (F) on the stock. Catch-curve analysis estimates disappearance rates (Z') from the fishery based on the relative abundance of each age class in the harvest. The results from this assessment provide a generalized approach towards estimating the impact of fishing on the spawning potential and potential yield of the fish stock. The spawning biomass of females is assumed to be the factor limiting the spawning potential of the stock; therefore, where possible, only data on female southern flounder are used. Yield-per-recruit and SPR analysis, as with many other generalized assessments, should be used only as a guide until a more comprehensive assessment can be conducted.

In developing a stock assessment, the unit stock must be defined. While a unit stock is often represented by that portion of the population which is genetically similar, for our purpose, the most applicable definition seems to be one which considers the unit stock as that portion of the population which is either dependent on Louisiana waters, or which is available to Louisiana fishermen.

5.1 Growth

Von Bertalanffy growth parameters were calculated for female southern flounder in Louisiana by using aged samples collected by Thompson (B. Thompson, Coastal Fisheries Institute, Louisiana State University, unpublished data) combined with juveniles assigned to age 0 (< 100 mm total length) by length frequency analysis from Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) fishery-independent trawl samples. From the combined data, a three-parameter von Bertalanffy growth equation was estimated using nonlinear approximation (SAS, 1987). The equation is as follows:

$$\text{Female } L_t = 509(1 - e^{-0.8846(t-0.0954)})$$

where, L_t = length at age t . A plot of the data and predicted growth is provided in Figure 5.1. A length-weight regression for female southern flounder was derived using fish collected in Louisiana by Thompson (unpublished data) and the LDWF fishery-independent surveys. The resulting output of the SAS regression analysis is presented in Table 5.1. The length-weight regression used is as follows:

$$\log W = 3.18369 * \log L - 5.386116$$

where, W = body weight in grams, and L = total length in millimeters. A plot of the data and predicted weight-at-length is provided in Figure 5.2.

5.2 Natural Mortality

Natural mortality is one part of total mortality (Z) and is the mortality due to all causes other than fishing. These include predation, disease, spawning stress, starvation, and old age. Typically, natural mortality is estimated as it is difficult to directly measure, especially on exploited fish stocks where natural mortality and fishing mortality occur simultaneously. No direct measure of natural mortality for southern flounder is available; therefore, several established estimation procedures were used to derive an estimate. The procedures are presented below and are taken from Sparre and Venema (1992).

Pauly (1980) provides a method of estimating natural mortality from a set of parameters including the asymptotic length and growth rate of the fish, and the average water temperature of the environment. The growth parameters from the von Bertalanffy growth equation described in Section 5.1 and the mean annual water temperature, derived from readings from a set of four constant recorders located throughout the Barataria Bay system, were used in the calculation. The mean water temperature was 22.7°C for the period 1989 - 1992 (pers. comm., M. Kasprzak, 4/13/92). These values were incorporated into the length-based function of Pauly (1980):

$$\ln(M) = -0.0152 - 0.279 * \ln(L_{\infty}) + 0.6543 * \ln(K) + 0.463 * \ln(T).$$

where, $\ln(M)$ = natural log of natural mortality, $\ln(L_{\infty})$ = natural log of the asymptotic length, $\ln(K)$ = natural log of the growth coefficient and $\ln(T)$ = natural log of the mean annual temperature in degrees Celsius.

Use of Louisiana data on growth and water temperature applied to Pauly's function results in a natural mortality estimate of $M=0.68$.

Alagaraja (1984) and Hoenig (1983) provide methods of estimating M based on the fish's lifespan or longevity with the assumption that $M=Z$. Longevity is also difficult to determine for exploited fish stocks, since the age distribution is usually truncated by fishing, but these methods are as useful as any in providing provisional estimates of natural mortality. The functions described by Alagaraja (1984) are:

$$\begin{aligned} M1\% &= -\ln(0.01)/T_m \\ M0.1\% &= -\ln(0.001)/T_m \end{aligned}$$

where, M1% and M0.1% are the natural mortality rates corresponding to 99% and 99.9% mortality, respectively, given a fish's lifespan (T_m) in years. Female southern flounder in Louisiana have been aged to 7-years-old (Thompson, personal communication). If it is assumed that 99% or 99.9% of the fish die by age 7 then corresponding natural mortality rates for M1% and M0.1% would be 0.66 and 0.99 respectively.

The function described by Hoenig(1983) is :

$$\ln(Z) = 1.46 - 1.01 * \ln(T_m)$$

where, when $M=Z$, longevity (T_m) can be defined as the maximum survival age. If we assume that the maximum age of southern flounder has been truncated due to fishing from 9 to 7 years, the

resulting estimate of natural mortality, given $T_m=7$, would be 0.60. However, if our assumption is incorrect and the maximum age is 9 years then the estimate of natural mortality would be 0.47.

Another method of estimating M is described by Rikhter and Efanov (1976) and utilizes population age at sexual maturity. The function is:

$$M = 1.521/(T_m 50\%^{0.720}) - 0.155$$

where, $T_m 50\%$ is the age at which 50% of the population is mature. Age 1 is assumed to be the age at 50% maturity, based on the length at sexual maturity found by several researchers (Adkins et al. 1996), and results in an M of 1.37. However, if 50% maturity occurs at age 2 rather than age 1, the estimate of natural mortality would be 0.77.

In summary, the estimated rates of natural mortality for southern flounder in Louisiana using a variety of estimation procedures are as follow:

Pauly (1980)	0.68
Alagaraja (1984)	0.66 and 0.99
Hoening (1983)	
1) Longevity 9 years	0.47
2) Longevity 7 years	0.60
Rikhter and Efanov (1976)	
1) 50% maturity age 1	1.37
2) 50% maturity age 2	0.77

5.3 Disappearance Rates and Fishing Mortality

The disappearance rate (Z') from the fishery comprises total mortality (natural + fishing) and some unknown rate of decreasing availability of the fish to the fishery. If the unknown rate of availability is small or nonexistent, then the disappearance rate will be a reasonable estimate of total mortality. However, if a large portion of the disappearance rate is due to fish not being available to the fishery, then assuming $Z'=Z$ will overestimate the impact of fishing.

An annual catch-at-age matrix was developed by applying a single age-length-key to the years where length frequency data for the commercial and recreational fishery was available (1994 - 2000). Length frequency data were obtained from the Trip Interview Program (TIP) for the commercial fishery, and from the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) for the recreational fishery. The data from both of the surveys did not distinguish between sexes, therefore we assumed for this assessment that all fish sampled were female ($n=2,641$). An age-length-key was developed from otolith aging of fish by Thompson (unpublished data) and LDWF's ongoing aging study. Twenty six hundred and forty one aged fish were used in the development of the age-length key (Table 5.2). To calculate disappearance rates, we regressed the natural log of the catch-at-age, beginning with the age at full recruitment to the fishery. This method assumes that recruitment is constant and the fishery is in equilibrium. A range of natural mortality rates were used in the assessment. After reviewing estimates of M in Section

5.2, we chose not to assume either method of estimating M was better than another, but rather to present results for the range of estimates. The range of M was from 0.47 - 1.37. We chose to use an M of 0.5 - 0.8 that encompass most of the estimates. Disappearance rates were calculated from the combined commercial and recreational catch-at-age data by year for 1994 - 2000. The calculated disappearance rates ranged from 1.27 to 1.33 (Table 5.3 and Figures 5.3A-G).

Catch-at-age from the fishery for the years 1994-2000 was used to derive age-specific selectivities to be used in yield-per-recruit analysis. The method presented in Sparre and Venema (1992) was used to develop selectivities. This method uses a linearized catch curve to determine the selectivity of fish not yet fully recruited to the fishery. The ratio of the observed catches to the expected catches at each age is the probability of capture or selectivity of the fishery at age. This selection ogive is then regressed in the equation:

$$\ln(1/S_t - 1) = T1 - T2 * t$$

where, S_t = the selectivity at age t, and T1 and T2 are constants corresponding to the intercept and slope of the regression. To develop theoretical or estimated selectivities at age the following equation is used:

$$S_t \text{ (estimate)} = 1 / (1 + \exp(T1 - T2 * t))$$

Selectivities for ages up to full age-at-recruitment were used to describe the relative fishing mortality to that point; for age at full recruitment and older, selectivities are assumed to be 1, or 100% selected. Selectivities are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{age 0} &= 0.0166 \\ \text{age 1} &= 0.8619 \\ \text{ages 2 and older} &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

5.4 Yield per Recruit

Yield-per-recruit and SPR analysis provide basic information on fish stock dynamics by estimating the impact of mortality on yield and the spawning potential of the stock. The results can be examined as to the sensitivity of natural and fishing mortality rates on yield and spawning potential.

The growth parameters described in Section 5.1, sexual maturity described in Section 5.2 and the age-specific selectivities described in Section 5.3 were incorporated into the yield-per-recruit and spawning potential analysis. Fecundity estimates were not available, therefore; mean weight at age was used in the estimation of spawning potential. Natural mortality rates of 0.5 to 0.8 by 0.1 were used in the analysis because they are on the lower end of the range of estimates and would provide the most conservative results. These rates are also used to describe the sensitivity of M on yield and spawning potential. The results are presented in Table 5.4, which contains estimates of F_{MAX} (fishing mortality rate that produces maximum yield), $F_{0.1}$ (fishing mortality rate representing 10% of the slope at the origin of a yield-per-recruit curve), $F_{20\%SPR}$ (fishing mortality that produces 20% SPR), $F_{30\%SPR}$ (fishing mortality that produces 30% SPR), and annual estimates of F from the disappearance rates calculated in Section 5.3.

5.5 Conservation Standards

Conservation standards are intended to protect the viability of a fish stock for future generations. These standards have historically been based on a number of biological measures of the dynamics of fish stocks, depending on the availability and adequacy of data. Conservation standards should be separated into two types: a conservation threshold which is entirely biologically based and, a conservation target which considers biological measures modified by relevant social, economic, and ecological factors. A conservation threshold is a biological baseline for the harvest of a fish stock and should not be exceeded. It is the highest level of fishing mortality that will ensure that recruitment overfishing will not occur. Beyond the conservation threshold, a conservation target may be set, providing for other management goals in the fishery. Such goals may include maximizing yield in weight or numbers of fish, economic benefits or profit, employment, or some other measurable goal. These targets should be set at a fishing mortality rate below that of the conservation threshold in order to ensure that the biological integrity of the stock is not damaged by fishing.

The spawning potential ratio (SPR) concept described by Goodyear (1989), is a species specific value expressed as the ratio of the spawning stock biomass (or egg production) per recruit (SSB/R) in a fished condition to the SSB/R in an unfished condition. The concept is based on the premise that below some level of SPR, recruitment will be reduced. Goodyear (1989), recommends that in the absence of sufficient data to provide a value specific to the stock in question an SPR of 20% be used as a threshold. Work on North Atlantic ground fisheries also resulted in the calculation of a threshold SPR of 20% (Gabriel et al. 1984, Gabriel 1985). An SPR of 20% has been recommended for Spanish and king mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service 1995), while an SPR of 8-13% has been demonstrated to be sufficient for gulf menhaden (Vaughan 1987). In earlier analyses of Louisiana spotted seatrout fisheries (Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 1991), an SPR threshold of 15% was recommended based on several years of data. Mace and Sissenwine (1993) examined 90 stocks of 27 species, and reported that the average replacement SPR for all these stocks was 18.7%, while the most resilient quarter of the stocks required a maximum of only 8.6%. These authors recommended that an SPR of 30% be maintained when there is no other basis for estimating the replacement level, as this level was sufficient in maintaining recruitment for 80% of the stocks examined. However, they noted that 30% may be overly conservative for an "average" stock, and reiterated the need for stock-specific evaluations of standards to enhance both safety and benefits in the fishery.

Sufficient information is not available to directly estimate a conservation threshold for southern flounder in Louisiana. However, the conservation target of 30% SPR established by the 1995 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature for black drum, southern flounder, sheepshead, and striped mullet appears to be adequate to maintain the southern flounder stock and prevent recruitment overfishing.

The use of any measure of the health of a fish stock as a perfect index is arguable. It is logical to conclude that growth overfishing should occur at a much lower fishing rate than that which would threaten recruitment. However, Mace and Sissenwine (1993) provide information to suggest that some stocks may have reduced recruitment at levels of fishing that would not reduce yield-per-

recruit. The preferable position for making recommendations on appropriate levels of fishing for a stock is to base those recommendations on actual measures of spawning stock size and recruitment for both the species and fishery in question. This requires a base of information resulting from monitoring of both the stock and the fishery over a variety of conditions. Without this information, conservation standards may either underestimate or overestimate the potential of a fishery. If the potential is underestimated, society loses the economic and social benefits of the harvest. If the potential is overestimated and the fishery is allowed to operate beyond sustainable levels, society loses the benefits of a sustainable fishery, and recovery will require some period of rebuilding, when effort must be reduced from the non-sustainable levels (Hilborn and Walters, 1993). Some researchers have speculated that overharvest of some stocks may lead to their replacement in the ecosystem by other, often less preferred, stocks. The frequency of such replacements is unknown, and the cause of shifts in species predominance in an ecosystem are difficult to ascertain, even after the fact. Such a shift has been reported in the Georges Bank area, where prolonged, intense harvest of cod and haddock has been implicated in gradual increases in skate and spiny dogfish populations (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1993).

5.6 Status of the Stock

Rules for the harvest of southern flounder have changed substantially over the last six years. Commercial harvest methods were changed on August 15, 1995 when Act 1316 of the 1995 Regular Legislative Session, the Marine Resources Conservation Act of 1995, became effective. This act outlawed the use of "set" gill nets or trammel nets in saltwater areas of Louisiana, and restricted flounder harvest by the use of "strike" nets to the period between the third Monday in October and March 1 of the following year. A "Restricted Species Permit" was required in order to harvest flounder, and several criteria were established in order to qualify for that permit. After March 1, 1997, all harvest by gill or trammel nets was banned, and commercial harvesters must utilize other legal commercial gear to harvest flounder. This set of regulations had the effect of substantially reducing the harvest of flounder by this segment of the commercial fishing industry.

A second set of regulations became effective on May 1, 1996. Recreational harvesters were restricted to a creel limit of ten (10) southern flounder, with one day's limit in possession. At the same time, the use of strike nets for the harvest of southern flounder was outlawed, and other commercial harvesters were limited to a possession limit of ten (10) fish per person aboard a commercial vessel. This set of regulations reduced the ability of some recreational harvesters to retain southern flounder, and also reduced the harvest potential of the commercial fishing industry.

In 1997, regulations were changed by Acts 1163 and 1352 of the 1997 Regular Legislative Session. Recreational and commercial harvesters continued to have daily take limit of 10 fish, but were allowed that take limit for each day on the water. Additionally, commercial shrimping vessels are limited to 100 pounds of southern flounder per shrimping trip.

In 1999, regulations were changed by Acts 220 of the 1999 Regular Legislative Session. The act eliminated the 100 pound harvest limit on commercial shrimping when southern flounder are harvested as by-catch. The Act became effective in August of 1999.

Commercial landings have fluctuated over the period 1950-2000 with the highest landings in the mid-1980s and mid-1990s at 0.94 and 0.97 million pounds, respectively (Figure 5.4). Regulatory measures implemented in 1995, 1996 and 1997 had much to do with the reduction in commercial harvest to 61,755 pounds in 1996, 94,898 pounds in 1997, 139,929 in 1998 and 140,124. Recreational landings were equal to or greater than those of the commercial fishery until 1991 when the commercial fishery began harvesting a greater percentage of the total harvest (Figure 5.5). As a result of the regulatory measures described above the recreational harvest was greater than the commercial harvest in 1996 - 2000. Fishery dependent commercial data prior to 1991 was obtained from NMFS's General Canvass Landing Program, from 1991 through 1998 it was collected by the LDWF's Monthly Dealer Reports and from 1999 to present LDWF's Commercial Reporting Requirement "Trip Tickets" program is utilized to gather this type of data.

Harvest from the recreational fishery has fluctuated for the years examined (1981-2000), and has been relatively stable since 1988. Mean catch-per-trip from the recreational fishery was calculated by selecting those trips that had southern flounder in the catch. The means with 95% confidence limits are presented in Figure 5.6. The catch-per-effort (CPUE) indices seem to cycle over the years examined, with 1987 having the lowest mean cpue. From a high in 1990 through 1995 cpue has shown a declining trend. Since 1995, cpue has remained stable at a little more than 1 fish per trip on average. Fisheries dependent recreational landings data is collected through the NMFS's MRFSS survey and currently collected by LDWF Biologists.

Catch-per-effort data from the Department's, fishery-independent trammel net (750' - 1 5/8" inner, 6" outer wall) and 16-foot flat otter trawl samples were calculated as follows:

$$\text{Mean CPUE} = (\exp (\sum \ln (\text{catch} + 1) / N)) - 1$$

where, catch is the total number caught in each set and, N is the number of samples taken annually. Trammel net data were used for the period 1986-2001, and 16-foot trawl data were used for the period 1967-2001. Trammel net samples are collected from October through March. In order to use the most recent data available to us in this report, trammel net CPUE was estimated for two periods (January-March and October-December). This allowed the use of 2001 data through December. CPUE estimates from trammel nets fluctuated throughout the period examined with 2001's October-December estimate being the lowest observed (Figure 5.7A-C). The large amount of variation in January - March samples for 1987 is due to small sample size (Figure 5.7A). Standardized CPUE estimates presented in Figure 5.7C indicate better than average catches in the latter half of the years examined; however, in the past two years cpue has been below average. Trawl data were used to provide an index of young-of-the-year recruitment. The long-term database provide by 16-foot trawl data shows how CPUE cycles over time and represent natural fluctuations in recruitment. Whatever the cause of the cyclic nature of the indices, no evidence from the 16-foot trawl data indicates a long-term downward trend in CPUE for southern flounder (Figure 5.8).

It should be noted that the following results of YPR and SPR analysis do not reflect the impact of current regulations described above. With this type of general assessment, it will take several years before the impact of regulations will be observed in the disappearance rates from the fishery.

The results of YPR analysis indicate that if $M=0.5$ (the most conservative value within the range of estimates), the fishery prior to existing regulations was operating between $F_{0.1}$ and F_{MAX} , with yields of 93% to 95% of maximum and SPR at 28% to 30%. An M of 0.8 (the highest value within the range examined) would produce yields of 56% to 60% of maximum with SPR at 51% to 54% (Table 5.4).

5.7 Research and Data Needs

Estimates of natural mortality used in the present assessment show wide variation. This variation reduces the reliability of the present assessment in providing an accurate prediction of the potential yield of the stock, and also reduces the confidence level of the present estimate of SPR. A more precise estimate of natural mortality would assist in both of these problems.

Annual sex specific age-length keys should continue to be developed to provide catch-at-age data necessary to conduct age-based population assessments. The department is in the process of collecting otoliths for development of annual age-length keys.

Sex specific fishery dependent length frequency data is essential in adequately partitioning catch from the fishery. In the case of flounder, males grow slower and do not get as large as females. There can be significant improvement in the accuracy of this assessment if sex is collected.

The relationship between wetlands losses or modifications and the continuation of fishery production within the state has been discussed by many authors. However, this relationship is likely to be different for the various fishery species. Understanding of this relationship for southern flounder should be an ongoing priority.

In the presence of changing regulations, fishery-dependent information is not a reliable source of data necessary to assess the status of a fish stock. However, such data is necessary to measure the effects of fishing on that stock. Consistent fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data sources, in a comprehensive monitoring plan, are essential to understanding the status of fishery stocks, and to identifying causes of changes in stock abundances. Present programs should be assessed for adequacy with respect to their ability to evaluate stock status, and modified or enhanced to optimize their capabilities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Adkins, G., S. Hein, P. Meier 1996. A biological and fisheries profile for southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*) in Louisiana. La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Office of Fisheries. Fisheries Management Plan Series No. 6, Pt. 1.
- Alagaraja, D., 1984. Simple methods for estimation of parameters for assessing exploited fish stocks. Indian J.fish., 31:177-208
- Gabriel, W.L. 1985. Spawning stock biomass per recruit analysis for seven Northwest Atlantic demersal finfish species. NMFS-NEFC. Woods Hole Lab. Ref. Doc. 85-04.
- Gabriel, W.L., W.J. Overholtz, S.A. Murawski and R.K. Mayo. 1984. Spawning stock biomass per recruit analysis for seven Northwest Atlantic demersal finfish species, Spring, 1984. NMFS-NEFC Woods Hole Lab. Ref. Doc. 84-23.
- Goodyear, C. P. 1989. Spawning stock biomass per recruit: the biological basis for a fisheries management tool. ICCAT Working Document SCRS/89/82. 10p.
- Hilborn, R. and C. J. Walters. 1992. Quantitative Fisheries Stock Assessment: Choice, Dynamics and Uncertainty. Chapman and Hall, New York. 570 pp.
- Hoening, J.M. 1983. Empirical use of longevity data to estimate mortality rates. Fish.Bull.NOAA/NMFS, 81(4):898-903
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. 1991. A stock assessment for Louisiana spotted seatrout, (*Cynoscion nebulosus*). LDWF Fishery Management Plan Series, Number 3 (Draft).
- Mace, P.M. and M.P. Sissenwine. 1993. How much spawning per recruit is enough? pp. 101-118 in S.J.Smith, J.J. Hunt and D. Rivard (eds.) Risk Evaluation and Biological Reference Points for Fisheries Management. Can. Spec. Publ. Fish. Aq. Sci. 120. 442pp.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1993. Our Living Oceans: Report on the Status of U.S. Living Marine Resources, 1993. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-15. 156 pp.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service 1995. 1995 Report of the mackerel stock assessment panel. Miami Lab.Con. MIA- 94/95-30 March 1995
- Pauly, D. 1980. On the interrelationships between natural mortality, growth parameters, and mean environmental temperature in 175 fish stocks. J. Cons. int. Explor. Mer 39(2)175-192.
- Rikhter, V.A. and V.N. Efanov, 1976. On one of the approaches to estimation of natural mortality of fish populations. ICNAF Res.Doc., 76/VI/8:12 p.

- SAS, 1987. SAS/STAT guide for personal computers, Version 6 edition. SAS Inst., Cary, N.C. 1028 pp.
- Sparre, P. and S.C. Venema 1992. Introduction to tropical fish stock assessment, Part 1-Manual. FAO Fish.Tech.Pap., (306) Rev.1:376 p.
- Vaughan, D.S. 1987. A stock assessment of the gulf menhaden, (*Brevoortia patronus*), fishery. NOAA NMFS Tech. Rep. 58, 18 pp.

Table 5.1 - SAS output from length-weight regression analysis

The SAS System

Model: MODEL1

Dependent Variable: LOG_W

Analysis of Variance

Source	DF	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F Value	Prob>F
Model	1	54.62048	54.62048	14726.405	0.0001
Error	966	3.58291	0.00371		
C Total	967	58.20339			
Root MSE		0.06090	R-square	0.9384	
Dep Mean		2.90704	Adj R-sq	0.9384	
C.V.		2.09497			

Parameter Estimates

Variable	DF	Parameter Estimate	Standard Error	T for H0: Parameter=0	Prob > T
INTERCEP	1	-5.386116	0.06836746	-78.782	0.0001
LOG_L	1	3.183690	0.02623508	121.352	0.0001

Table 5.2 - Age-at-length distribution of fish used in age-length key development.

Length (inches)	AGE								Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6	1	3							4
7	16	9	1						26
8	64	20	2						86
9	93	85	5						183
10	52	99	7	1					159
11	38	174	27	3			1		243
12	15	198	35	5					253
13	12	163	39	5					219
14	8	280	103	17			1		409
15	2	180	79	13	1				275
16		173	107	22	3				305
17	1	82	61	22	3				169
18	1	69	54	21	4	5		1	155
19	1	20	22	2	5	1			51
20		12	22	11	5				50
21	1	4	9	5	4				23
22		1	8	3	1		1		14
23			2	3	2	1	1		9
24				2	2	2			6
25				1					1
26				1					1
Total	305	1572	583	137	30	9	4	1	2641

Table 5.3 Regression Output from the Estimation of Disappearance Rates

1994		1995	
	Regression Output:		Regression Output:
Constant	14.915731	Constant	14.441602
Std Err of Y Est	0.2266308	Std Err of Y Est	0.2408644
R Squared	0.9943758	R Squared	0.9937897
No. of Observations	7	No. of Observations	7
Degrees of Freedom	5	Degrees of Freedom	5
X Coefficient(s)	-1.273414	X Coefficient(s)	-1.287563
Std Err of Coef.	0.0428292	Std Err of Coef.	0.0455191
1996		1997	
	Regression Output:		Regression Output:
Constant	13.727194	Constant	13.807823
Std Err of Y Est	0.3056498	Std Err of Y Est	0.3382599
R Squared	0.9906913	R Squared	0.9879663
No. of Observations	7	No. of Observations	7
Degrees of Freedom	5	Degrees of Freedom	5
X Coefficient(s)	-1.332462	X Coefficient(s)	-1.295175
Std Err of Coef.	0.0577624	Std Err of Coef.	0.0639251
1998		1999	
	Regression Output:		Regression Output:
Constant	13.657311	Constant	13.757746
Std Err of Y Est	0.2943606	Std Err of Y Est	0.2576577
R Squared	0.9907404	R Squared	0.9932828
No. of Observations	7	No. of Observations	7
Degrees of Freedom	5	Degrees of Freedom	5
X Coefficient(s)	-1.286675	X Coefficient(s)	-1.324009
Std Err of Coef.	0.0556289	Std Err of Coef.	0.0486927
2000			
	Regression Output:		
Constant	14.123687		
Std Err of Y Est	0.2306192		
R Squared	0.9941927		
No. of Observations	7		
Degrees of Freedom	5		
X Coefficient(s)	-1.275121		
Std Err of Coef.	0.0435829		

Table 5.4 Results of Yield per Recruit and SPR Analysis for Southern Flounder

M=0.5

	F Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
F-max =	2.0492	0.6364	0.3508	12.75%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1 =	0.5684	0.5584	1.0486	38.11%	87.74%	
F30% =	0.7836	0.5990	0.8256	30.00%	94.12%	
F20% =	1.2633	0.6301	0.5504	20.00%	99.00%	
1994 =	0.7734	0.5977	0.8341	30.31%	93.91%	Estimates
1995 =	0.7876	0.5995	0.8223	29.88%	94.20%	
1996 =	0.8325	0.6048	0.7866	28.58%	95.03%	
1997 =	0.7952	0.6005	0.8160	29.65%	94.35%	
1998 =	0.7867	0.5994	0.8230	29.91%	94.18%	
1999 =	0.8240	0.6039	0.7931	28.82%	94.89%	
2000 =	0.7751	0.5979	0.8327	30.26%	93.95%	

M=0.6

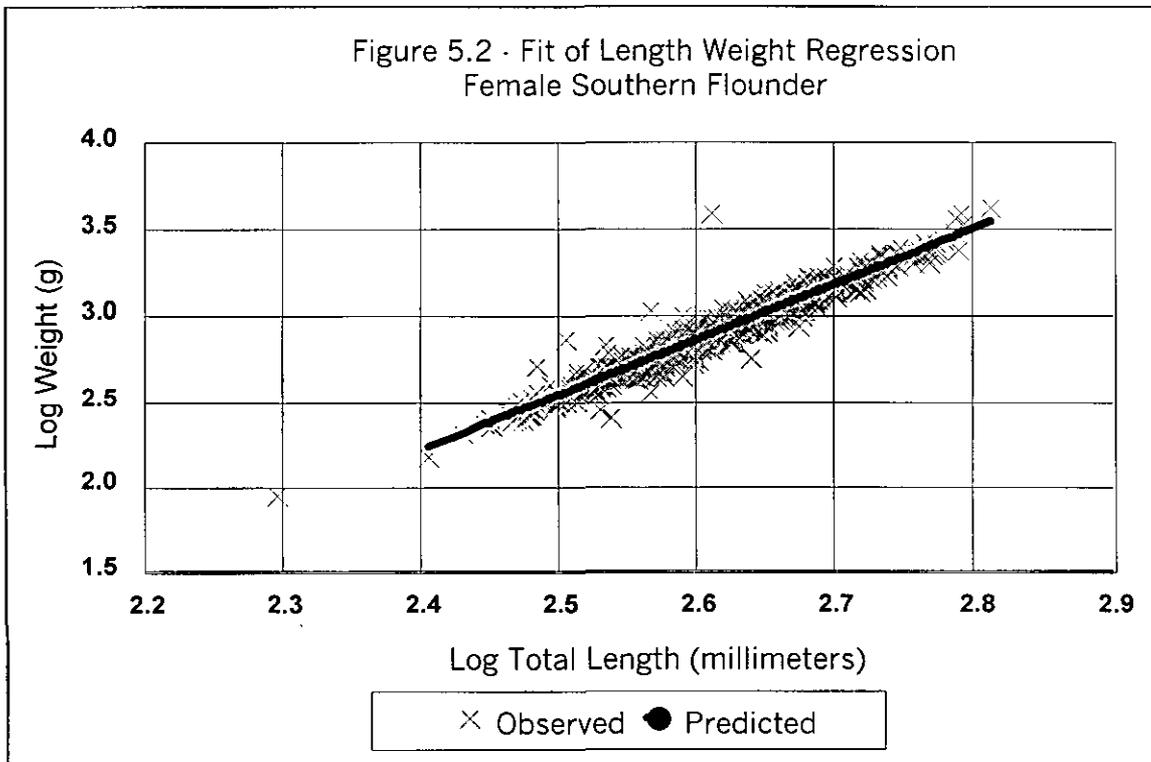
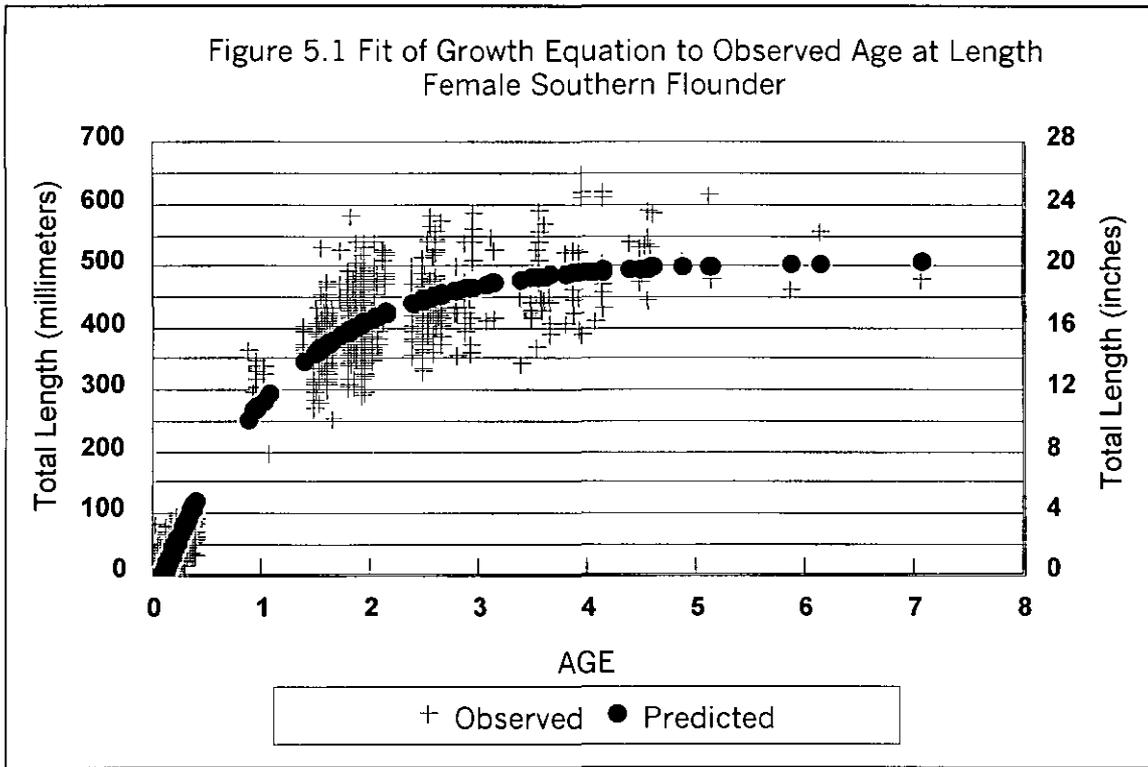
	F Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
F-max =	7.3434	0.5827	0.0882	4.46%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1 =	0.6884	0.4724	0.7377	37.32%	81.07%	
F30% =	0.9275	0.5065	0.5931	30.00%	86.92%	
F20% =	1.5153	0.5415	0.3954	20.00%	92.93%	
1994 =	0.6734	0.4695	0.7489	37.88%	80.57%	Estimates
1995 =	0.6876	0.4722	0.7383	37.35%	81.04%	
1996 =	0.7325	0.4803	0.7064	35.73%	82.43%	
1997 =	0.6952	0.4737	0.7327	37.06%	81.29%	
1998 =	0.6867	0.4720	0.7390	37.38%	81.01%	
1999 =	0.7240	0.4789	0.7122	36.03%	82.18%	
2000 =	0.6751	0.4698	0.7476	37.82%	80.63%	

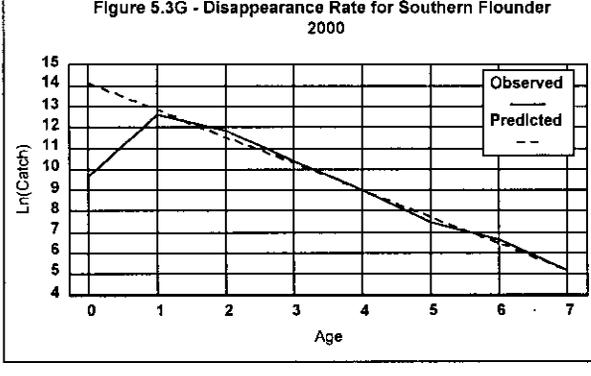
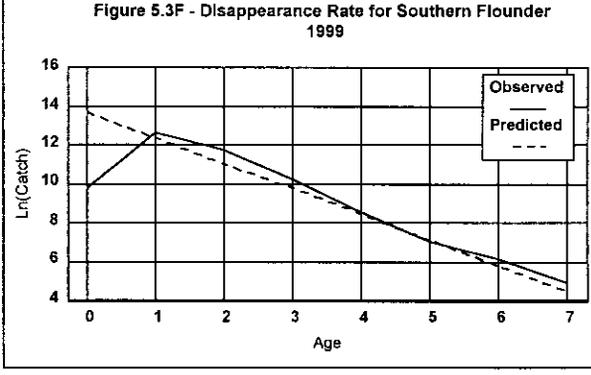
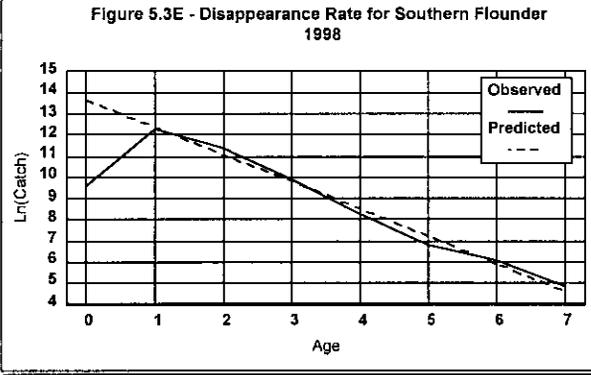
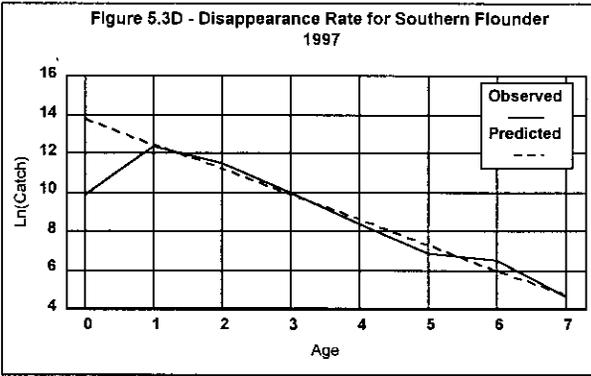
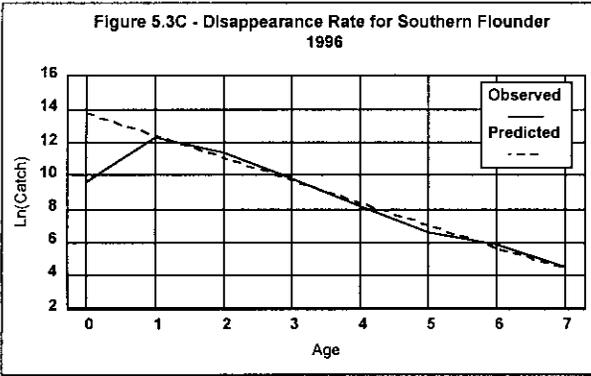
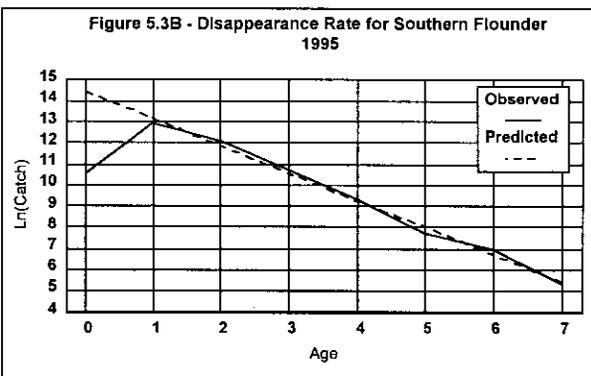
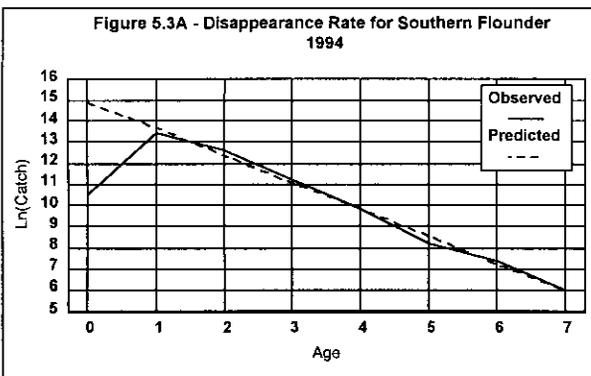
M=0.7

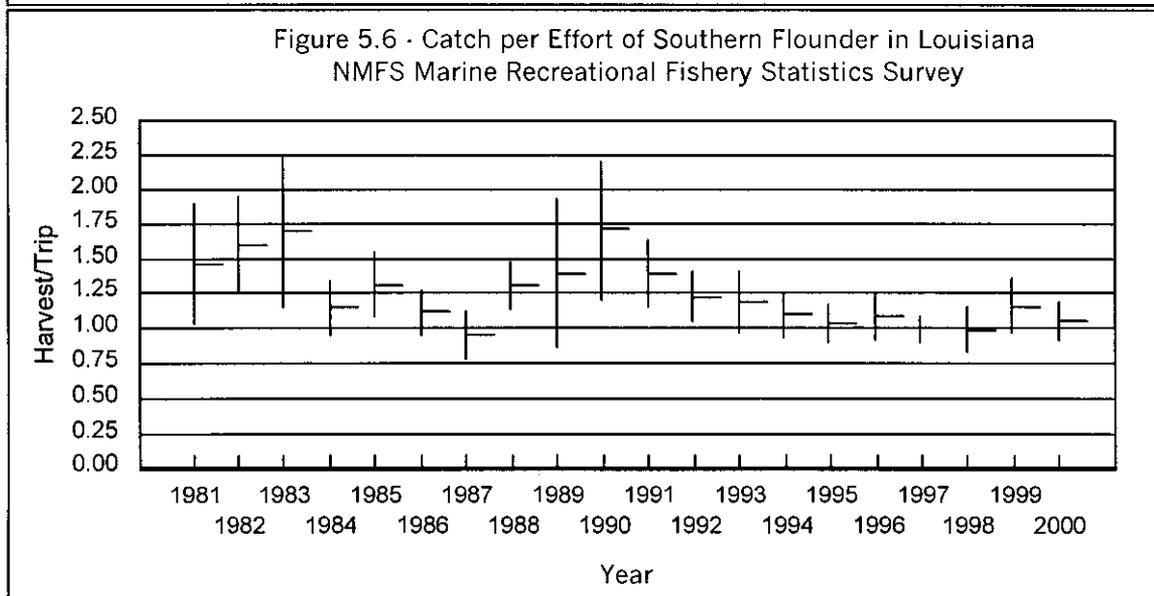
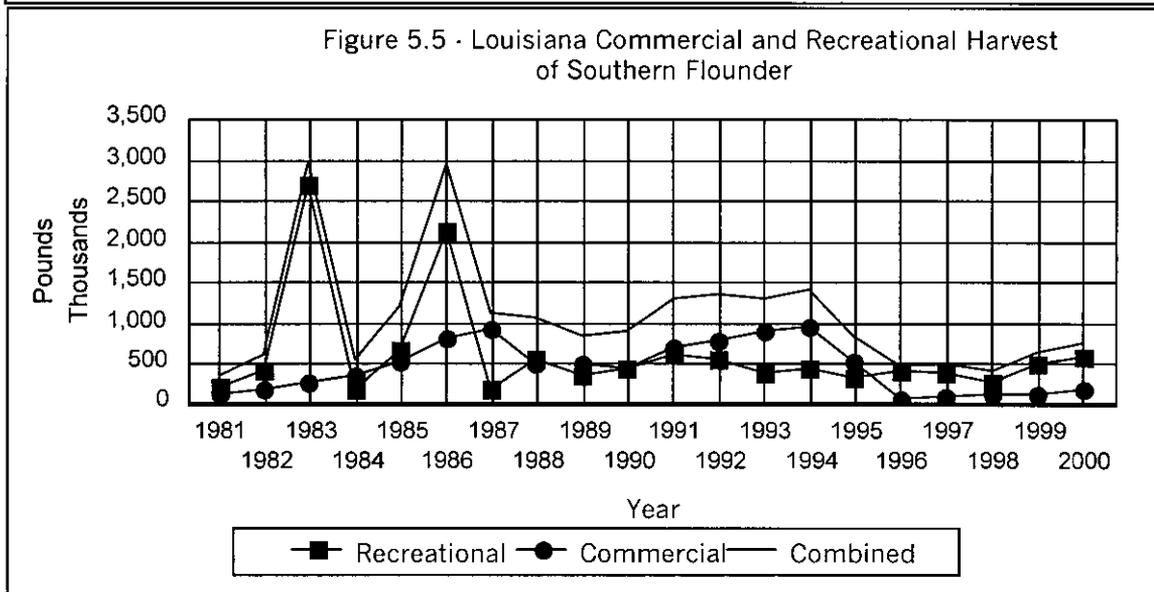
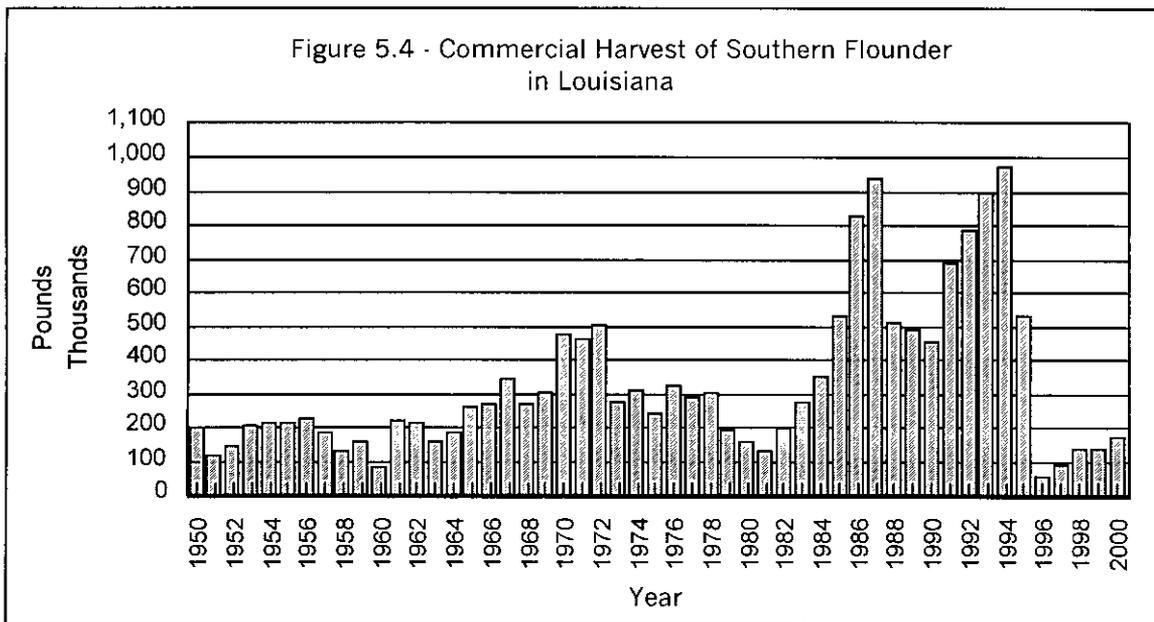
	F Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
F-max =	8.2121	0.5218	0.0700	4.80%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1 =	0.8213	0.4052	0.5357	36.71%	77.67%	
F30% =	1.0868	0.4341	0.4377	30.00%	83.20%	
F20% =	1.7964	0.4704	0.2918	20.00%	90.16%	
1994 =	0.5734	0.3589	0.6724	46.08%	68.79%	Estimates
1995 =	0.5876	0.3623	0.6629	45.43%	69.45%	
1996 =	0.6325	0.3725	0.6344	43.47%	71.39%	
1997 =	0.5952	0.3641	0.6579	45.09%	69.79%	
1998 =	0.5867	0.3621	0.6635	45.47%	69.41%	
1999 =	0.6240	0.3706	0.6396	43.83%	71.04%	
2000 =	0.5751	0.3593	0.6713	46.00%	68.87%	

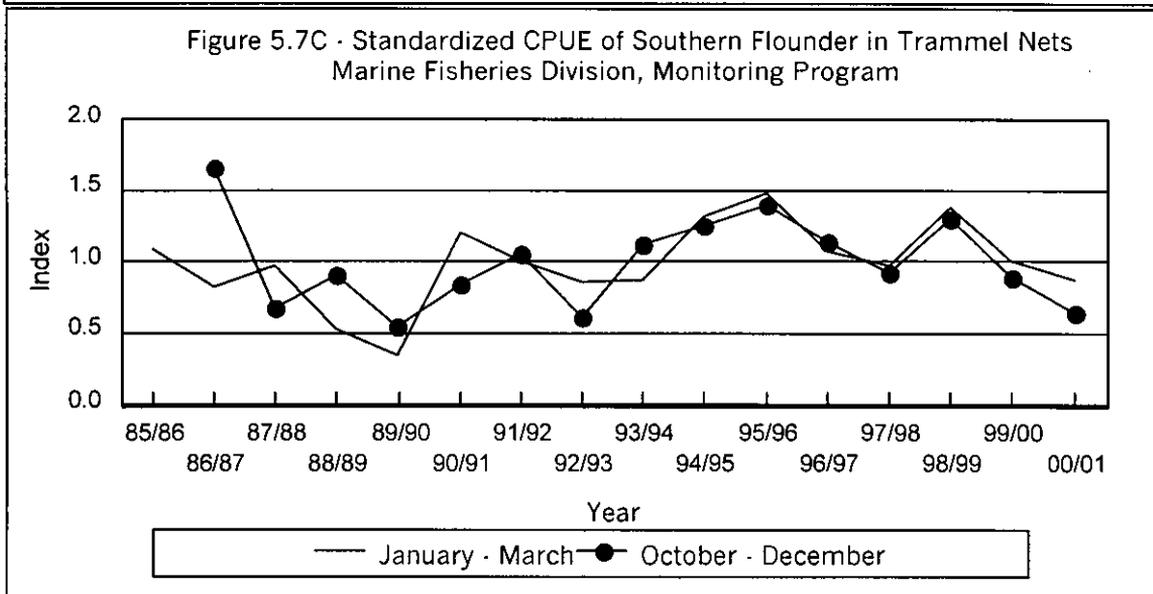
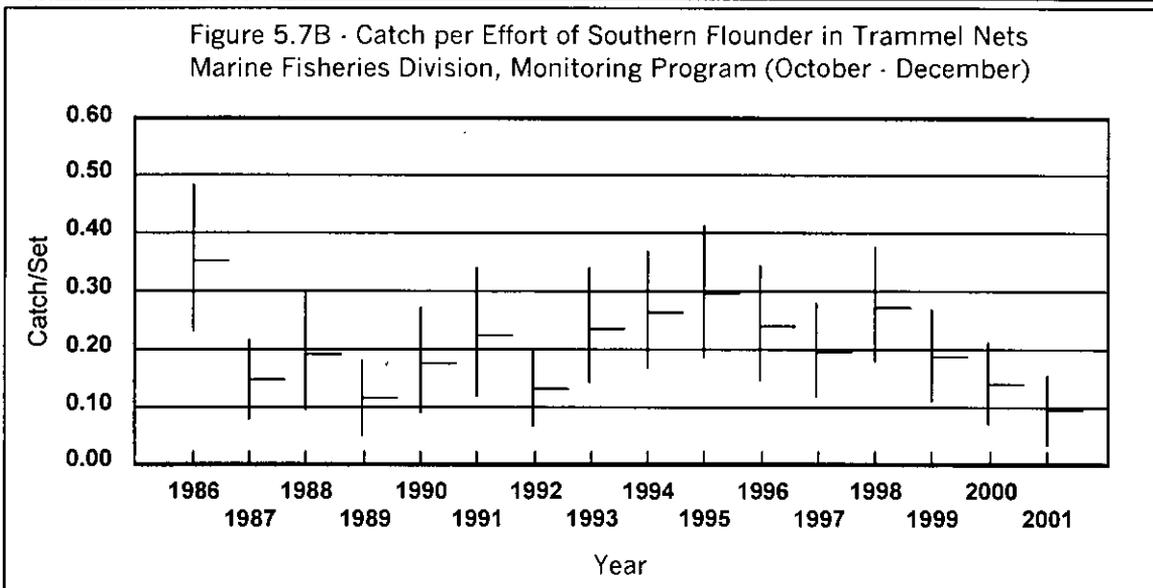
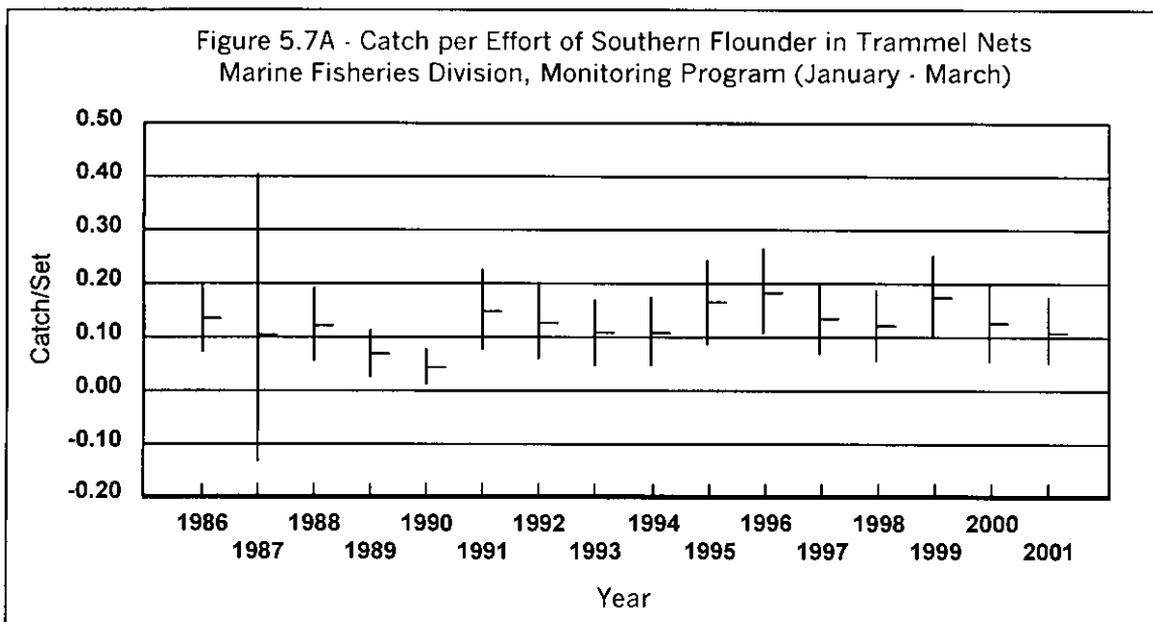
M=0.8

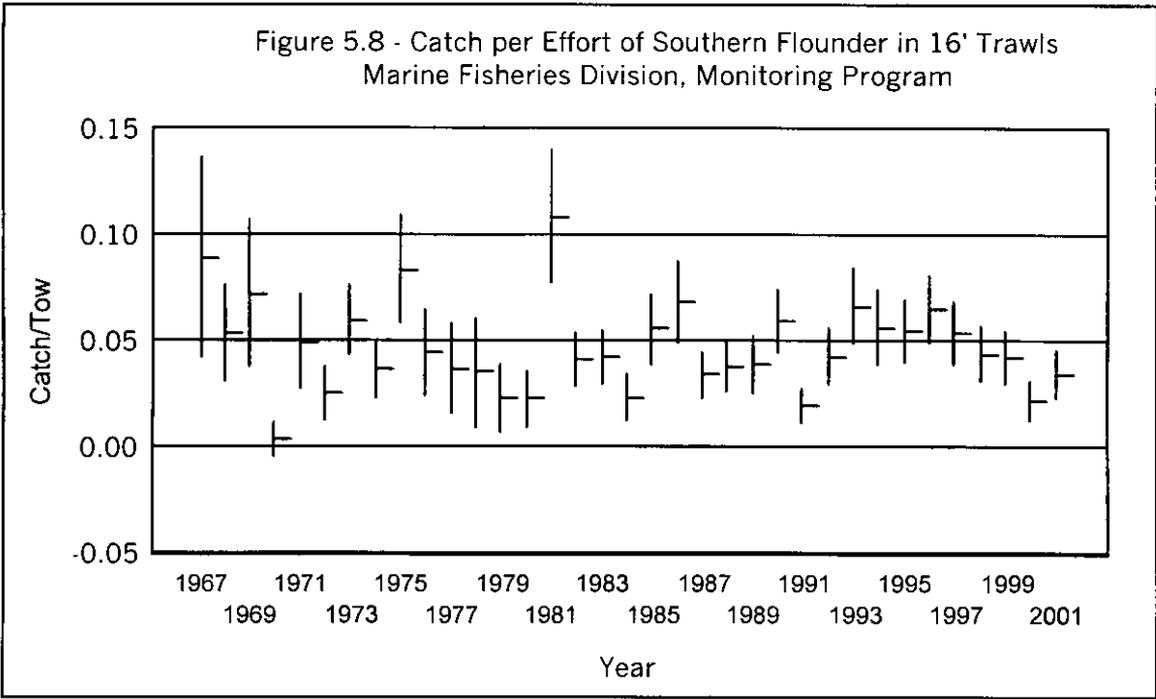
	F Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
F-max =	9.0072	0.4681	0.0568	5.15%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1 =	0.9725	0.3531	0.3976	36.08%	75.43%	
F30% =	1.2606	0.3775	0.3306	30.00%	80.64%	
F20% =	2.1047	0.4143	0.2204	20.00%	88.52%	
1994 =	0.4734	0.2661	0.6038	54.79%	56.84%	Estimates
1995 =	0.4876	0.2700	0.5953	54.02%	57.68%	
1996 =	0.5325	0.2816	0.5697	51.70%	60.17%	
1997 =	0.4952	0.2721	0.5908	53.61%	58.12%	
1998 =	0.4867	0.2698	0.5958	54.06%	57.63%	
1999 =	0.5240	0.2795	0.5744	52.12%	59.72%	
2000 =	0.4751	0.2666	0.6027	54.69%	56.95%	











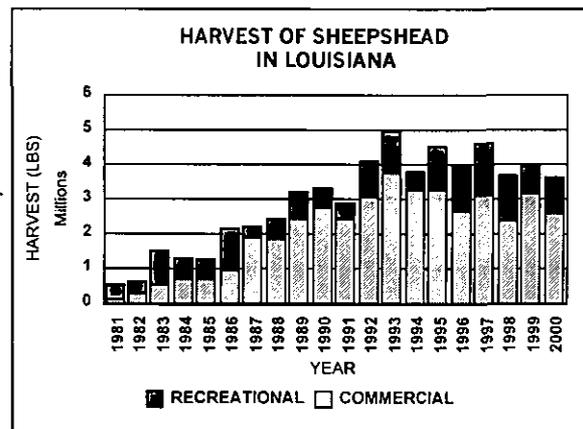
SHEEPSHEAD
SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM 2001 ASSESSMENT

This summary is intended to provide a quick reference of substantive changes in methods or corrections in this year's assessment from the 2001 assessment conducted for Sheepshead.

- There are no substantive changes in methods from the 2001 assessment.

2002 DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 2000 combined commercial and recreational harvest of 3,636,978 pounds is the lowest since 1991, but not much different than the previous two years.
- The results of YPR analysis indicate that if $M=0.2$ (the most conservative value within the range of estimates), the fishery in the most recent years (1997 - 2000) was operating well below $F_{0.1}$ and F_{MAX} , with yield of 48% to 74% of maximum, and SPR at 54% to 72%. An M of 0.3 (the highest value examined) would indicate a more lightly fished stock with yield being 8% to 39% of maximum and with SPR being 72% to 94%.
- It should be noted that the method used in this assessment to determine the status of the stock, reflected in the estimates of disappearance, is not immediately sensitive to changes in regulations. It takes several years, depending on the longevity of the species, before the impact of changes in fishing mortality are realized.



SHEEPSHEAD 5.0 STOCK ASSESSMENT

This assessment uses yield-per-recruit (YPR), Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) and catch curve analyses to estimate the impact of fishing pressure on potential yield and the spawning potential of the sheepshead stock in Louisiana waters. Estimates derived from YPR and SPR are based on information regarding the growth rate and spawning potential of the fish, and on estimates of the natural mortality rate (M) and fishing mortality rate (F) on the stock. Catch-curve analysis estimates disappearance rates (Z') from the fishery based on the relative abundance of each age class in the harvest. The results from this assessment provide a generalized approach towards estimating the impact of fishing on the spawning potential and potential yield of the fish stock. The spawning biomass of females is assumed to be the factor limiting the spawning potential of the stock; therefore, where possible, only data on female sheepshead are used. Yield-per-recruit and SPR analysis, as with many other generalized assessments, should be used only as a guide until a more comprehensive assessment can be conducted.

In developing a stock assessment, the unit stock must be defined. While a unit stock is often represented by that portion of the population which is genetically similar, for our purpose, the most applicable definition seems to be one which considers the unit stock as that portion of the population which is either dependent on Louisiana waters, or which is available to Louisiana fishermen.

5.1 Growth

Von Bertalanffy growth parameters developed by Wilson et al. (1988) from fish harvested in Louisiana were used to calculate length and weight at age for female sheepshead. The equations are as follows:

$$\text{Female } L_t = 446(1 - e^{-0.367(t+1.025)})$$

$$\text{Female } W_t = 2556(1 - e^{-0.220(t+3.231)})^3$$

where, L_t = length at age t, W_t = weight at age t and t = age in years. Age at length is calculated as:

$$t = 1.025 + \ln(1 - L_t/446)/-0.367$$

5.2 Natural Mortality

Natural mortality is one part of total mortality (Z) and is the mortality due to all causes other than fishing. These include predation, disease, spawning stress, starvation, and old age. Typically, natural mortality is estimated, as it is difficult to directly measure, especially on exploited fish stocks where natural mortality and fishing mortality occur simultaneously. No direct measure of natural mortality for sheepshead is available; therefore, several established estimation procedures were used

to derive an estimate. The procedures are presented below and are taken from Sparre and Venema (1992).

Pauly (1980) provides a method of estimating natural mortality from a set of parameters including the asymptotic length and growth rate of the fish, and the average water temperature of the environment. The growth parameters from the von Bertalanffy growth equation described in Section 5.1 and the mean annual water temperature, derived from readings from a set of four constant recorders located throughout the Barataria Bay system, were used in the calculation. The mean water temperature was 22.7°C for the period 1989 - 1992 (pers. comm., M. Kasprzak, 4/13/92). These values were incorporated into the length-based function of Pauly (1980):

$$\ln(M) = -0.0152 - 0.279 * \ln(L_{\infty}) + 0.6543 * \ln(K) + 0.463 * \ln(T)$$

where, $\ln(M)$ = natural log of natural mortality, $\ln(L_{\infty})$ = natural log of the asymptotic length, $\ln(K)$ = natural log of the growth coefficient and $\ln(T)$ = natural log of the mean annual temperature in degrees Celsius.

Use of Louisiana data on growth and water temperature applied to Pauly's function results in a natural mortality estimate of $M=0.4$.

Alagaraja (1984) and Hoenig (1983) provide methods of estimating M based on the fishes lifespan or longevity, and with the assumption that $M=Z$. Longevity is also difficult to determine for exploited fish stocks, since the age distribution is usually truncated by fishing, but these methods are as useful as any in providing provisional estimates of natural mortality. The functions described by Alagaraja (1984) are:

$$\begin{aligned} M1\% &= -\ln(0.01)/T_m \\ M0.1\% &= -\ln(0.001)/T_m \end{aligned}$$

where, $M1\%$ and $M0.1\%$ are the natural mortality rates corresponding to 99% and 99.9% mortality, respectively, given a fishes lifespan (T_m) in years. Sheepshead in Louisiana have been aged to 20-years-old (Wilson et al. 1988). If it is assumed that 99% or 99.9% of the fish die by age 20 then the corresponding natural mortality rates for $M1\%$ and $M0.1\%$ would be 0.2 and 0.35 respectively.

The function described by Hoenig(1983) is:

$$\ln(Z) = 1.46 - 1.01 * \ln(T_m)$$

where, when $M=Z$, longevity (T_m) can be defined as the maximum survival age. If we assume that the maximum age of sheepshead has been truncated due to fishing from 25 to 20 years, the resulting estimate of natural mortality, given $T_m=25$, would be 0.2.

Another method of estimating M is described by Rikhter and Efanov (1976) and utilizes population age at sexual maturity. The function is:

$$M = 1.521/(Tm50\%^{0.720}) - 0.155$$

where, Tm50% is the age at which 50% of the population is mature. Age 2 is assumed the age at 50% maturity for the sheephead population (Wilson et al. 1988) resulting in an M of 0.77.

In summary, the estimated rates of natural mortality for sheephead in Louisiana using a variety of estimation procedures are as follow:

Pauly (1980)	0.40
Alagaraja (1984)	0.20 and 0.35
Hoenig (1983)	0.20
Rikhter and Efanov (1976)	0.77

5.3 Disappearance Rates and Fishing Mortality

The disappearance rate (Z') from the fishery comprises the total mortality (natural + fishing) and some unknown rate of decreasing availability of the fish to the fishery. If the unknown rate of availability is small or nonexistent, then the disappearance rate will be a reasonable estimate of total mortality. However, if a large portion of the disappearance rate is due to fish not being available to the fishery, then assuming Z'=Z will overestimate the impact of fishing.

An annual catch-at-age matrix was developed by applying the growth equation presented in Section 5.1 to the years where length frequency data for the commercial and recreational fishery was available (1994 - 2000). Length frequency data were obtained from the Trip Interview Program (TIP) for the commercial fishery, and from the National Marine Fisheries Services' (NMFS) Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) for the recreational fishery. Fish with lengths greater than the asymptotic length were not used in developing catch-at-age and therefore not used in estimating disappearance rates. The elimination of these fish reduces the number of large fish that are typically older fish used in estimating disappearance and produces a more conservative estimate. The data from both of the surveys did not distinguish between sexes, therefore we assumed for this assessment that all fish sampled were female. To calculate disappearance rates, we regressed the natural log of the catch-at-age, beginning with the age at full recruitment to the fishery. This method assumes that recruitment is constant and the fishery is in equilibrium. A range of natural mortality rates were used in the assessment. After reviewing estimates of M in Section 5.2, we chose not to assume either method of estimating M was better than another, but rather to present results for the range of estimates. The range of M was from 0.20 - 0.77. We chose to use an M of 0.2 as the lowest estimate of M since it was the lowest estimate derived from the methods examined. Resulting disappearance rates using an M of 0.2 indicated a SPR values well above 30%; therefore, assessing the impact of an upper range of M was of little value in evaluating the status of the stock. However,

we did use an upper range of 0.3 to evaluate how a change in M impacted resulting yield and SPR. Disappearance rates were calculated from the combined commercial and recreational catch-at-age data by year for 1994 - 2000. The calculated disappearance rates ranged from 0.33 to 0.56 (Table 5.1 and Figures 5.1A-G).

Catch-at-age from the fishery for the years 1994-2000 was used to derive age-specific selectivities to be used in yield-per-recruit analysis. The method presented in Sparre and Venema (1992) was used to develop selectivities. This method uses a linearized catch curve to determine the selectivity of fish not yet fully recruited to the fishery. The ratio of the observed catches to the expected catches at each age is the probability of capture or selectivity of the fishery at age. This selection is then regressed in the equation:

$$\ln(1/S_t - 1) = T1 - T2 * t$$

where, S_t = the selectivity at age t , and $T1$ and $T2$ are constants corresponding to the intercept and slope of the regression. To develop theoretical or estimated selectivities at age the following equation is used.

$$S_t(\text{estimate}) = 1 / (1 + \exp(T1 - T2 * t))$$

Selectivities for ages up to full age-at-recruitment were used to describe the relative fishing mortality to that point; for age at full recruitment and older, selectivities are assumed to be 1, or 100% selected. Regulatory changes in the commercial fishery in 1995 and 1997 were evident in the selectivity patterns observed. Therefore, selectivities were grouped into 3 time periods to reflect those changes in the fishery. Prior to 1995, gillnets and trammel nets were fished in inshore waters of the state on primarily younger fish and were a significant contribution to the commercial landings of sheepshead. Currently, the fishery is primarily an otter trawl fishery on older fish in offshore waters and large bays and sounds. It is evident that the selectivity pattern in the most recent years are on older fish.

Selectivities are as follows:

Age	1994-1995	1996	1997-2000
0	0.00	0.00	0.00
1	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	0.03	0.03	0.02
3	0.36	0.13	0.07
4	1.00	0.68	0.23
5	1.00	1.00	0.55
6	1.00	1.00	0.92
7+	1.00	1.00	1.00

5.4 Yield-per-Recruit

Yield-per-recruit and SPR analysis provide basic information on fish stock dynamics by estimating the impact of mortality on yield and the spawning potential of the stock. The results can be examined as to the sensitivity of natural and fishing mortality rates on yield and spawning potential.

The growth parameters described in Section 5.1, sexual maturity described in Section 5.2 and the age-specific selectivities described in Section 5.3 were incorporated into the yield-per-recruit and spawning potential analysis. Fecundity estimates were not available, therefore; mean weight at age was used in the estimation of spawning potential. Natural mortality rates of 0.2 and 0.3 were used in the analysis because they are on the lower end of the range of estimates and would provide the most conservative results. These rates are also used to describe the sensitivity of M on yield and spawning potential. The results are presented in Table 5.2, which contains estimates of F_{MAX} (fishing mortality rate that produces maximum yield), $F_{0.1}$ (fishing mortality rate representing 10% of the slope at the origin of a yield-per-recruit curve), $F_{20\%SPR}$ (fishing mortality that produces 20% SPR), $F_{30\%SPR}$ (fishing mortality that produces 30% SPR), and annual estimates of F from the disappearance rates calculated in Section 5.3.

5.5 Conservation Standards

Conservation standards are intended to protect the viability of a fish stock for future generations. These standards have historically been based on a number of biological measures of the dynamics of fish stocks, depending on the availability and adequacy of data. Conservation standards should be separated into two types: a conservation threshold which is entirely biologically based and, a conservation target which considers biological measures modified by relevant social, economic, and ecological factors. A conservation threshold is a biological baseline for the harvest of a fish stock and should not be exceeded. It is the highest level of fishing mortality that will ensure that recruitment overfishing will not occur. Beyond the conservation threshold, a conservation target may be set, providing for other management goals in the fishery. Such goals may include maximizing yield in weight or numbers of fish, economic benefits or profit, employment, or some other measurable goal. These targets should be set at a fishing mortality rate below that of the conservation threshold in order to ensure that the biological integrity of the stock is not damaged by fishing.

The spawning potential ratio (SPR) concept described by Goodyear (1989), is a species specific value expressed as the ratio of the spawning stock biomass (or egg production) per recruit (SSB/R) in a fished condition to the SSB/R in an unfished condition. The concept is based on the premise that below some level of SPR, recruitment would be expected to be reduced. Goodyear (1989), recommends that in the absence of sufficient data to provide a value specific to the stock in question an SPR of 20% be used as a threshold. Work on North Atlantic ground fisheries also resulted in the calculation of a threshold SPR of 20% (Gabriel et al. 1984, Gabriel 1985). An SPR

of 20% has been recommended for Spanish and king mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service 1995), while an SPR of 8-13% has been demonstrated to be sufficient for gulf menhaden (Vaughan 1987). In earlier analyses of Louisiana spotted seatrout fisheries (Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 1991), an SPR threshold of 15% was recommended, based on several years of data. Mace and Sissenwine (1993) examined 90 stocks of 27 species, and reported that the average replacement SPR for all these stocks was 18.7%, while the most resilient quarter of the stocks required a maximum of only 8.6% SPR. These authors recommended an SPR of 30% be maintained when there is no other basis for estimating the replacement level, as this level was sufficient in maintaining recruitment for 80% of the stocks they examined. However, they noted that 30% may be overly conservative for an "average" stock, and reiterated the need for stock-specific evaluations of standards to enhance both safety and benefits in the fishery.

Sufficient information is not available to directly estimate a conservation threshold for sheepshead in Louisiana. However, the conservation target of 30% SPR established by the 1995 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature for black drum, sheepshead, southern flounder, and striped mullet appears to be adequate to maintain the sheepshead stock and prevent recruitment overfishing.

The use of any measure of the health of a fish stock as a perfect index is arguable.. It is logical to conclude that growth overfishing should occur at a much lower fishing rate than that which would threaten recruitment. However, Mace and Sissenwine (1993) provide information to suggest that some stocks may have reduced recruitment at levels of fishing that would not reduce yield-per-recruit. The preferable position for making recommendations on appropriate levels of fishing for a stock is to base those recommendations on actual measures of spawning stock size and recruitment for both the species and fishery in question. This requires a base of information resulting from monitoring of both the stock and the fishery over a variety of conditions. Without this information, conservation standards may either underestimate or overestimate the potential of a fishery. If the potential is underestimated, society loses the economic and social benefits of the harvest. If the potential is overestimated and the fishery is allowed to operate beyond sustainable levels, society loses the benefits of a sustainable fishery, and recovery will require some period of rebuilding, when effort must be reduced from the non-sustainable levels (Hilborn and Walters, 1993). Some researchers have speculated that overharvest of some stocks may lead to their replacement in the ecosystem by other, often less preferred, stocks. The frequency of such replacements is unknown, and the cause of shifts in species predominance in an ecosystem are difficult to ascertain, even after the fact. Such a shift has been reported in the Georges Bank area, where prolonged, intense harvest of cod and haddock has been implicated in gradual increases in skate and spiny dogfish populations (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1993).

5.6 Status of the Stock

Sheepshead were lightly exploited until the early to mid-1980s when commercial harvest began to increase (Figure 5.3). Commercial landings have gone from 0.2 million pounds in the early 1980s to 2.4 - 3.7 million pounds in the 1990s. Landings have declined in the last seven years from a high of 3.7 million pounds in 1993 to 2.5 million pounds in 2000. Fishery dependent commercial data prior to 1991 was obtained from NMFS's General Canvass Landing Program, from 1991 through 1998 it was collected by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' (LDWF) Monthly Dealer Reports and from 1999 to present LDWF's Commercial Reporting Requirement "Trip Tickets" program is utilized to gather this type of data.

Harvest from the recreational fishery obtained through the NMFS's MRFSS fluctuated from a low of 0.4 million pounds in 1981 to a high of 1.5 million pounds in 1997. Recreational harvest for the years examined (1981-2000), and were equal to those of the commercial fishery until 1987 when the commercial fishery began to expand (Figure 5.4). Mean catch-per-trip from the recreational fishery was calculated by selecting those trips that had sheepshead in their catch. The results are presented in Figure 5.5 along with 95% confidence limits around the mean. The catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) indices fluctuated with no indication of a long-term downward trend. CPUE was not statistically lower than any year. Fisheries dependent recreational landings data is collected through the NMFS's MRFSS and currently collected by LDWF Biologists.

Catch-per-effort data from the Department's, fishery-independent trammel net (750' - 1 5/8" inner, 6" outer wall) and small mesh bag seine (50' - 1/4" delta mesh) samples were calculated as follows:

$$\text{Mean CPUE} = (\exp (\sum \ln (\text{catch} + 1) / N)) - 1$$

where, catch is the total number caught in each set and, N is the number of samples taken annually. Trammel net and seine data were used for the period 1986-2001. Seine and trammel net CPUE fluctuated throughout the time period with no indication of a long-term downward trend; however, mean CPUE in seines for 2001 ranks amount the low CPUE years of 1990, 1991 and 1996 through 1998. Mean CPUE in trammel nets for 2001 fell below the high of 2000, but ranked the fifth highest for the sixteen years examined (Figure 5.7).

Rules for the commercial harvest of sheepshead changed on August 15, 1995 when Act 1316 of the 1995 Regular Legislative Session, the Marine Resources Conservation Act of 1995, became effective. This act outlawed the use of "set" gill nets or trammel nets in saltwater areas of Louisiana, and restricted sheepshead harvest by the use of "strike" nets to the period between the third Monday in October and March 1 of the following year. A "Restricted Species Permit" was required in order to harvest sheepshead, and several criteria were established in order to qualify for that permit. After March 1, 1997, all harvest by gill or trammel nets was banned, and legal commercial gear to harvest sheepshead is limited to trawls, set lines and hook and line. This set of regulations had the effect of reducing the harvest of sheepshead by this segment of the commercial fishing industry.

It should be noted that the following results of YPR and SPR analysis do not reflect the impact of current regulations described above. With this type of general assessment, it will take several years before the impact of regulations will be observed in the disappearance rates from the fishery.

The results of YPR analysis indicate that if $M=0.2$ (the most conservative value within the range of estimates), the fishery in the most recent years (1997-2000) was operating well below $F_{0.1}$ and F_{MAX} , with yield of 48% to 74% of maximum, and SPR at 54% to 72%. An M of 0.3 (the highest value examined) would indicate a more lightly fished stock with yield being 8% to 39% of maximum and with SPR being 72% to 94% (Table 5.2).

5.7 Research and Data Needs

Estimates of natural mortality used in the present assessment show wide variation. This variation reduces the reliability of the present assessment in providing an accurate prediction of the potential yield of the stock, and also reduces the confidence level of the present estimate of SPR. A more precise estimate of natural mortality would assist in both of these problems.

Annual sex specific age-length keys should continue to be developed to provide catch-at-age data necessary to conduct age-based population assessments. The department is in the process of collecting otoliths for development of annual age-length keys.

Sex specific fishery dependent length frequency data is essential in adequately partitioning catch from the fishery. There can be significant improvement in the accuracy of this assessment if sex is collected.

The relationship between wetlands losses or modifications and the continuation of fishery production within the state has been discussed by many authors. However, this relationship is likely to be different for the various fishery species. Understanding of this relationship for sheepshead should be an ongoing priority.

In the presence of changing regulations, fishery-dependent information is not a reliable source of data necessary to assess the status of a fish stock. However, such data is necessary to measure the effects of fishing on that stock. Consistent fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data sources, in a comprehensive monitoring plan, are essential to understanding the status of fishery stocks, and to identifying causes of changes in stock abundance. Present programs should be assessed for adequacy with respect to their ability to evaluate stock status, and modified or enhanced to optimize their capabilities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Alagaraja, D., 1984. Simple methods for estimation of parameters for assessing exploited fish stocks. *Indian J.fish.*, 31:177-208
- Gabriel, W.L. 1985. Spawning stock biomass per recruit analysis for seven Northwest Atlantic demersal finfish species. NMFS-NEFC. Woods Hole Lab. Ref. Doc. 85-04.
- Gabriel, W.L., W.J. Overholtz, S.A. Murawski and R.K. Mayo. 1984. Spawning stock biomass per recruit analysis for seven Northwest Atlantic demersal finfish species, Spring, 1984. NMFS-NEFC Woods Hole Lab. Ref. Doc. 84-23.
- Goodyear, C. P. 1989. Spawning stock biomass per recruit: the biological basis for a fisheries management tool. ICCAT Working Document SCRS/89/82. 10p.
- Hilborn, R. and C. J. Walters. 1992. *Quantitative Fisheries Stock Assessment: Choice, Dynamics and Uncertainty*. Chapman and Hall, New York. 570 pp.
- Hoenig, J.M. 1983. Empirical use of longevity data to estimate mortality rates. *Fish.Bull.NOAA/NMFS*, 81(4):898-903
- LDWF. 1991. A stock assessment for Louisiana spotted seatrout, *Cynoscion nebulosus*. LDWF Fishery Management Plan Series, Number 3 (Draft).
- Mace, P.M. and M.P. Sissenwine. 1993. How much spawning per recruit is enough? pp. 101-118 in S.J.Smith, J.J. Hunt and D. Rivard (eds.) *Risk Evaluation and Biological Reference Points for Fisheries Management*. Can. Spec. Publ. Fish. Aqu. Sci. 120. 442pp.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1993. *Our Living Oceans: Report on the Status of U.S. Living Marine Resources, 1993*. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-15. 156 pp.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service 1995. 1995 Report of the mackerel stock assessment panel. Miami Lab.Con. MIA- 94/95-30 March 1995
- Pauly, D. 1980. On the interrelationships between natural mortality, growth parameters, and mean environmental temperature in 175 fish stocks. *J. Cons. int. Explor. Mer* 39(2)175-192.
- Rikhter, V.A. and V.N. Efanov, 1976. On one of the approaches to estimation of natural mortality of fish populations. *ICNAF Res.Doc.*, 76/VI/8:12 p.

Sparre, P. and S.C. Venema 1992. Introduction to tropical fish stock assessment, Part 1-Manual. FAO Fish.Tech.Pap., (306) Rev.1:376 p.

Vaughan, D.S. 1987. A stock assessment of the gulf menhaden, *Brevoortia patronus*, fishery. NOAA NMFS Tech. Rep. 58, 18 pp.

Wilson, C. A. III, J. H. Render, and D. W. Beckman. 1988. The age structure and reproductive biology of sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*) landed in Louisiana. Final Report to Board of Regents, LSU-CFI. 49pp.

Table 5.1 Regression Output from the Estimation of Disappearance Rates

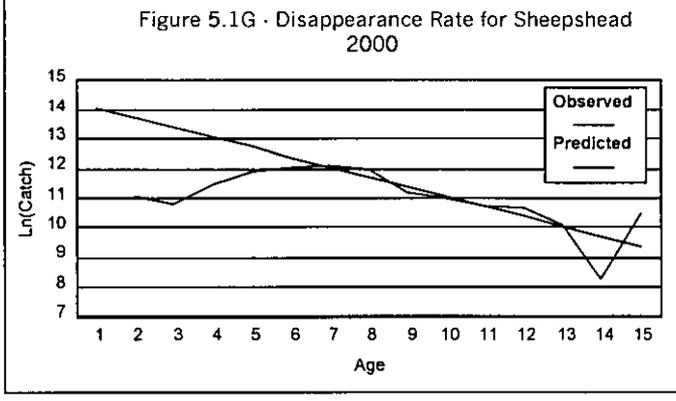
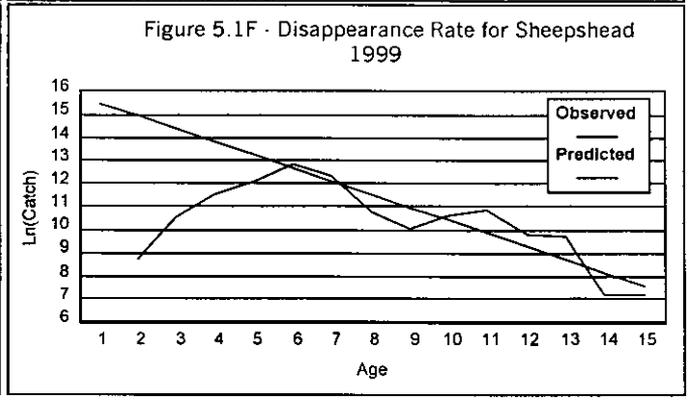
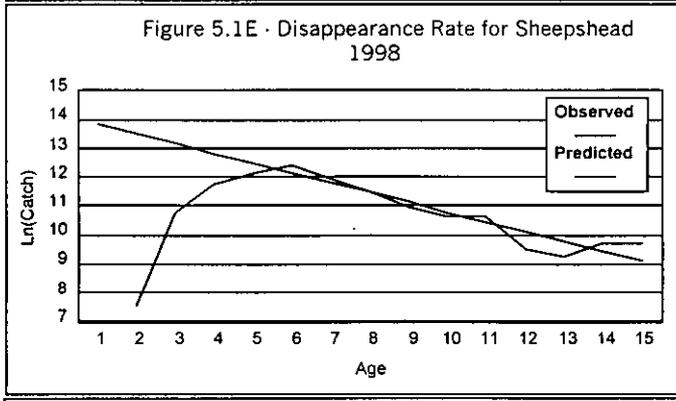
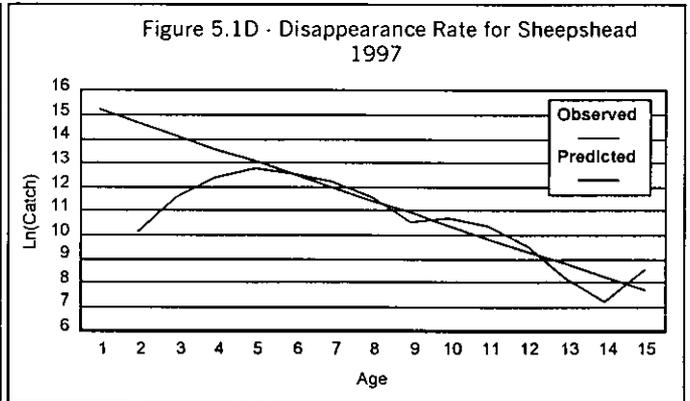
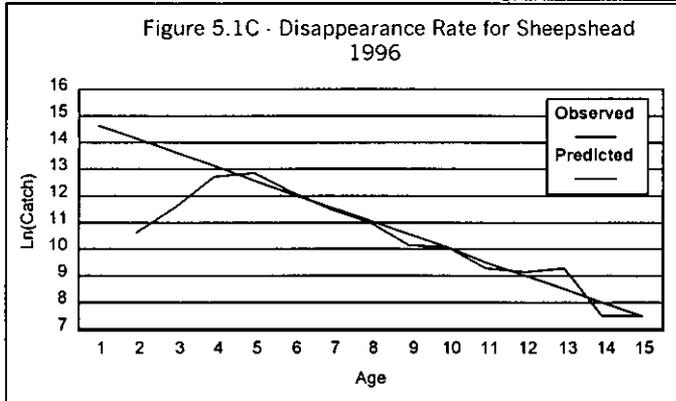
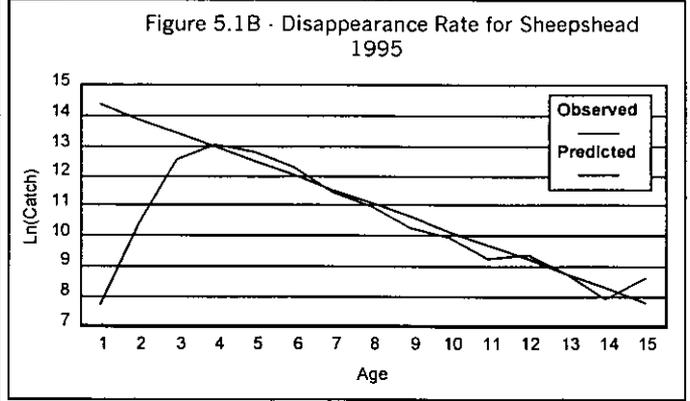
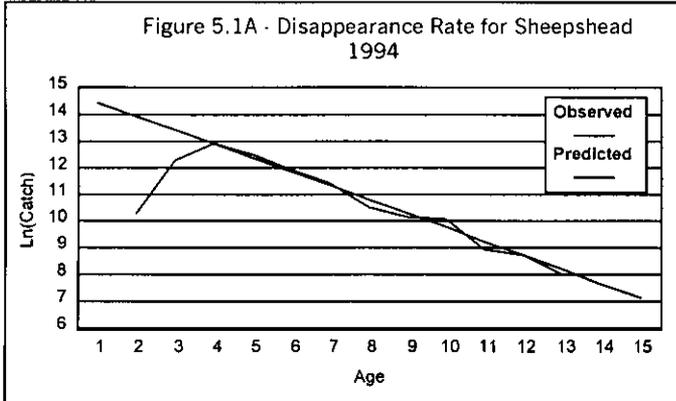
1994		1995	
Regression Output:		Regression Output:	
Constant	15.021596	Constant	14.850944
Std Err of Y Est	0.2345901	Std Err of Y Est	0.3675389
R Squared	0.9838147	R Squared	0.9588283
No. of Observations	11	No. of Observations	12
Degrees of Freedom	9	Degrees of Freedom	10
X Coefficient(s)	-0.523156	X Coefficient(s)	-0.469036
Std Err of Coef.	0.0223673	Std Err of Coef.	0.0307351
1996		1997	
Regression Output:		Regression Output:	
Constant	15.192015	Constant	15.761395
Std Err of Y Est	0.3653936	Std Err of Y Est	0.5768082
R Squared	0.9599547	R Squared	0.9134316
No. of Observations	11	No. of Observations	11
Degrees of Freedom	9	Degrees of Freedom	9
X Coefficient(s)	-0.511724	X Coefficient(s)	-0.535938
Std Err of Coef.	0.0348389	Std Err of Coef.	0.0549965
1998		1999	
Regression Output:		Regression Output:	
Constant	14.193558	Constant	16.063849
Std Err of Y Est	0.3972007	Std Err of Y Est	0.7846194
R Squared	0.8828408	R Squared	0.8414228
No. of Observations	10	No. of Observations	10
Degrees of Freedom	8	Degrees of Freedom	8
X Coefficient(s)	-0.339532	X Coefficient(s)	-0.562813
Std Err of Coef.	0.0437304	Std Err of Coef.	0.0863837
2000			
Regression Output:			
Constant	14.398424		
Std Err of Y Est	0.7004783		
R Squared	0.6610515		
No. of Observations	9		
Degrees of Freedom	7		
X Coefficient(s)	-0.334133		
Std Err of Coef.	0.0904314		

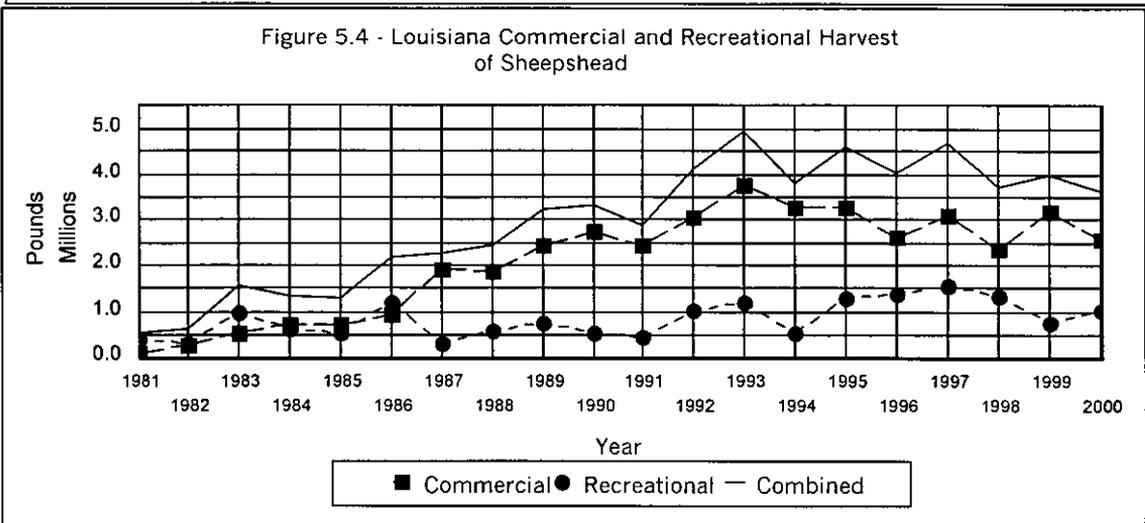
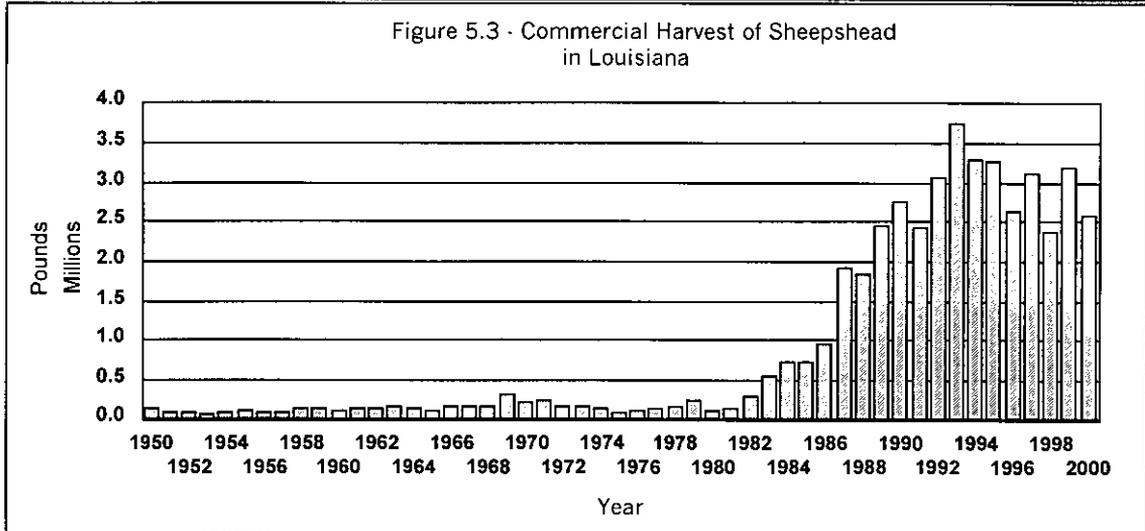
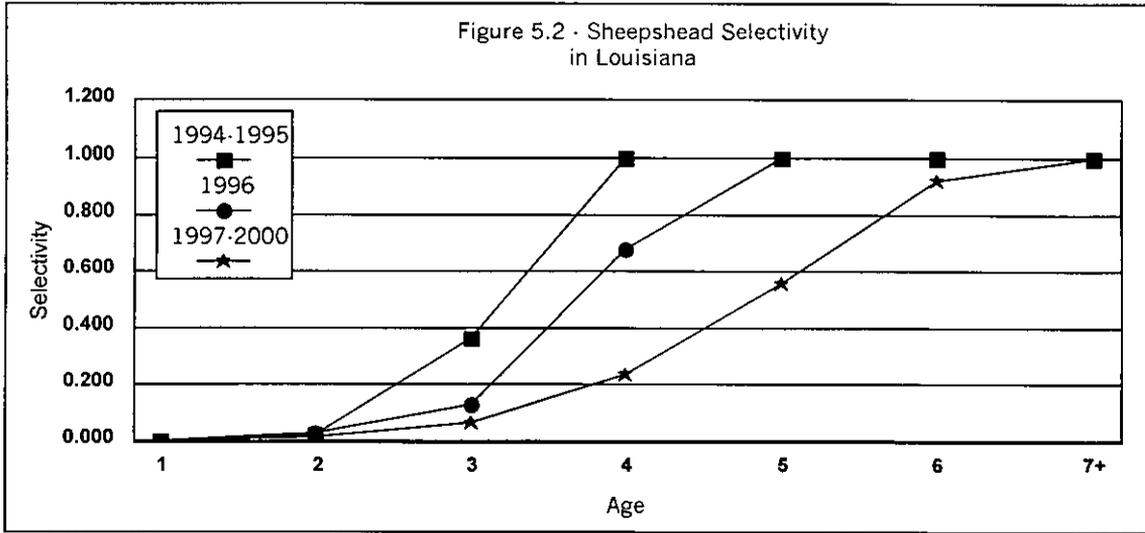
Table 5.2 - Results of Yield Per Recruit and SPR Analysis for Sheephead**M=0.2**

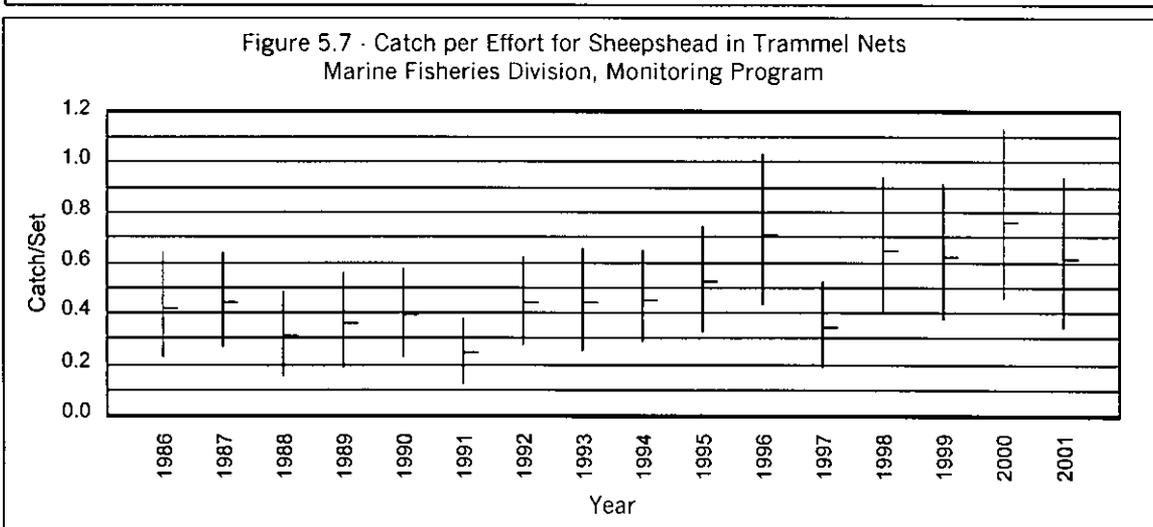
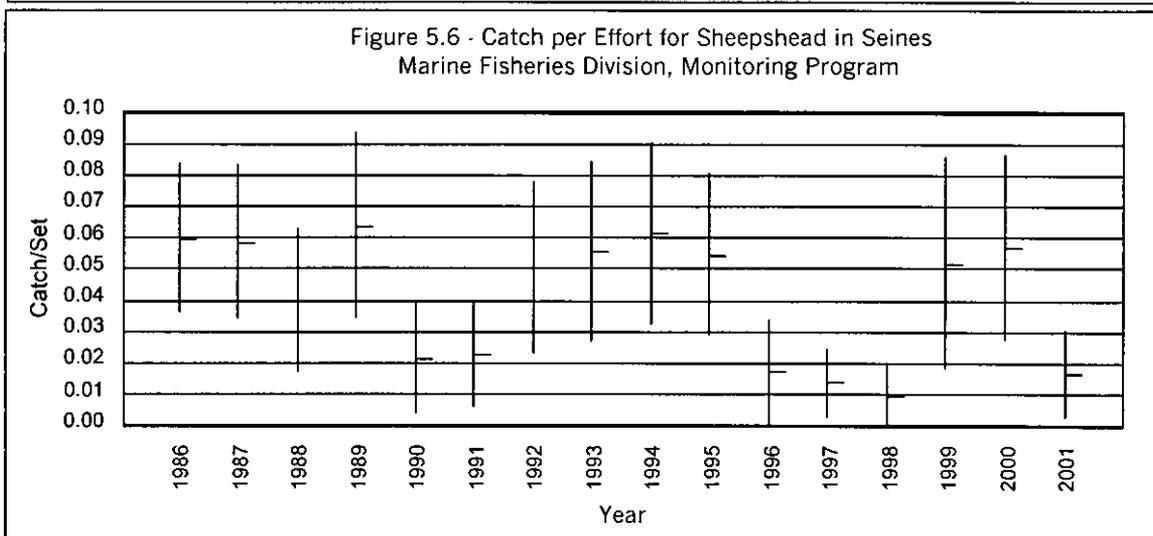
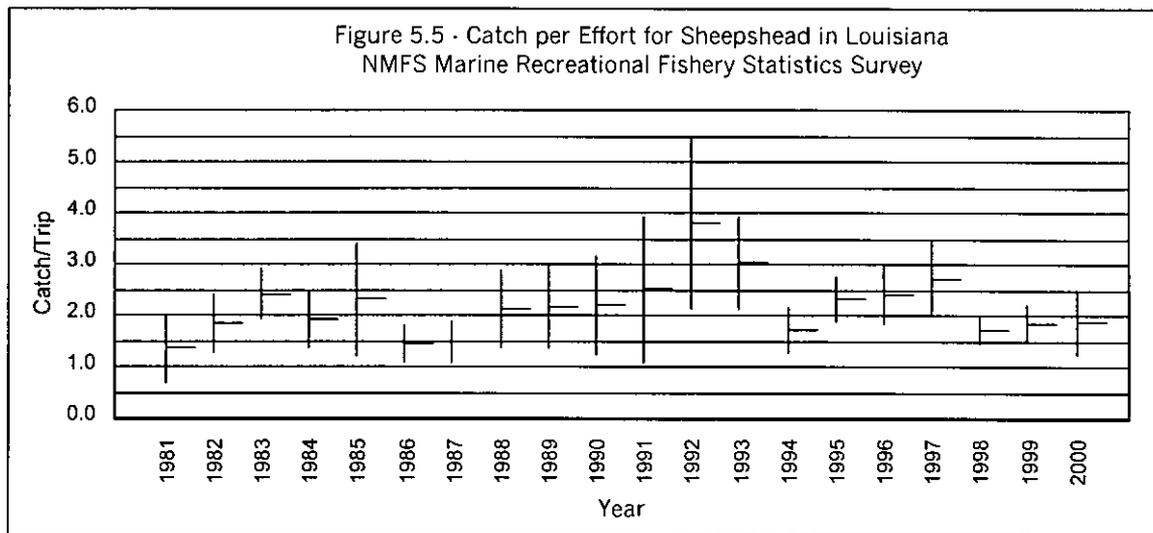
	F Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
Fmax =	61.6150	540.8262	605	11.57%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1 =	0.3422	394.1757	2,890	55.27%	72.88%	
F20% =	11.4052	537.8744	1,046	20.00%	99.45%	
F30% =	2.7621	519.2947	1,569	30.00%	96.02%	
1994 =	0.3232	438.9991	2,344	44.84%	81.21%	Estimates
1995 =	0.2690	416.3976	2,545	48.68%	77.03%	
1996 =	0.3117	416.9339	2,614	49.99%	77.78%	
1997 =	0.3359	392.0070	2,907	55.59%	72.48%	
1998 =	0.1395	271.2942	3,742	71.56%	50.16%	
1999 =	0.3628	400.8474	2,837	54.27%	74.12%	
2000 =	0.1341	262.2520	3,798	72.63%	48.49%	

M=0.3

	F Ratio	YPR	SPR	%SPR	%YPR	
Fmax =	53687092	448.1602	0	0.00%	100.00%	Benchmarks
F0.1 =	0.5492	238.4160	1,617	61.58%	53.20%	
F20% =	42.8268	393.4992	525	20.00%	87.80%	
F30% =	10.8050	367.3473	788	30.00%	81.97%	
1994 =	0.2232	212.5960	1,695	64.56%	52.48%	Estimates
1995 =	0.1690	183.3489	1,835	69.90%	45.26%	
1996 =	0.2117	188.6759	1,829	69.66%	42.10%	
1997 =	0.2359	168.6200	1,944	74.04%	37.62%	
1998 =	0.0395	46.7472	2,448	93.22%	10.43%	
1999 =	0.2628	178.0026	1,902	72.44%	39.72%	
2000 =	0.0341	40.2992	2,473	94.17%	8.99%	







RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA February 7, 2002.

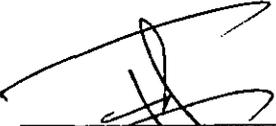
WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has determined that J.P. & Sons, Inc. has dredged approximately 394,222.4 cubic yards of fill material from the waters of the state without paying royalty to the Department as required by law and, for the dredging of 152,897.4 cubic yards of the total 394,222.4 cubic yards, without a permit, as is also required by law, and

WHEREAS, the amount of royalty due on the dredged material totals approximately \$78,844.48, with \$30,579.48 being the royalty due for the material dredged without a permit, plus interest and penalties, and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Department believes that a penalty of \$17,127.06 is appropriate under the circumstances for the dredging of the 152,897.4 cubic yards of fill material without a permit, but only in the event that J.P. & Sons agrees to pay all royalty due plus interest.

WHEREAS the Department requests that the Commission assess a penalty in the amount of \$17,127.06 against J.P. & Sons for dredging the fill material without a permit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission assess a penalty in the amount of \$17,127.06 against J.P. & Sons for dredging fill material without a permit, but only in the event J.P. & Sons agrees to pay all royalty due plus interest and this assessed penalty.



Thomas M. Gattie, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission



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

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has determined that J.P. & Sons, Inc. has dredged approximately 394,222.4 cubic yards of fill material from the waters of the state without paying royalty to the Department as required by law and, for some of the dredging, without a permit, as is also required by law, and

WHEREAS, the amount of royalty due on the dredged material totals approximately \$78,844.48, plus interest and penalties, and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Department has been unable to negotiate the payment of the outstanding amounts due and requests that the Commission authorize the Department to place demand upon J.P. & Sons, Inc. for the unpaid royalty, plus interest and penalty, and

WHEREAS, the Commission, by taking this action, in no way intends to preclude, and in-fact encourages, discussions between J.P. & Sons, Inc. and the Department in an attempt to reach agreement on the payment of the royalty due, plus interest and penalty.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission authorizes the Department to place demand upon J.P. & Son, Inc. and take all other action as necessary, including the filing of suit, against J.P. & Sons, Inc. for collection of all royalty due, along with interest and all penalties allowed by law, as well as all other remedies prescribed by law.



Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission



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

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has determined that J.P. & Sons, Inc. has dredged approximately 394,222.4 cubic yards of fill material from the waters of the state without paying royalty to the Department as required by law and, for some of the dredging, without a permit, as is also required by law, and

WHEREAS, the amount of royalty due on the dredged material totals approximately \$78,844.48, plus interest and penalties, and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Department has been unable to negotiate the payment of the outstanding amounts due and requests that the Commission authorize the Department to place demand upon J.P. & Sons, Inc. for the unpaid royalty, plus interest and penalty, and

WHEREAS, the Commission, by taking this action, in no way intends to preclude, and in-fact encourages, discussions between J.P. & Sons, Inc. and the Department in an attempt to reach agreement on the payment of the royalty due, plus interest and penalty.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission authorizes the Department to place demand upon J.P. & Son, Inc. and take all other action as necessary, including the filing of suit, against J.P. & Sons, Inc. for collection of all royalty due, along with interest and all penalties allowed by law, as well as all other remedies prescribed by law.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

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

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

February 7, 2002

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA February 7, 2002.

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has determined that J.P. & Sons, Inc. has dredged approximately 394,222.4 cubic yards of fill material from the waters of the state without paying royalty to the Department as required by law and, for the dredging of 152,897.4 cubic yards of the total 394,222.4 cubic yards, without a permit, as is also required by law, and

WHEREAS, the amount of royalty due on the dredged material totals approximately \$78,844.48, with \$30,579.48 being the royalty due for the material dredged without a permit, plus interest and penalties, and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Department believes that a penalty of \$17,127.06 is appropriate under the circumstances for the dredging of the 152,897.4 cubic yards of fill material without a permit, but only in the event that J.P. & Sons agrees to pay all royalty due plus interest.

WHEREAS the Department requests that the Commission assess a penalty in the amount of \$17,127.06 against J.P. & Sons for dredging the fill material without a permit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission assess a penalty in the amount of \$17,127.06 against J.P. & Sons for dredging fill material without a permit, but only in the event J.P. & Sons agrees to pay all royalty due plus interest and this assessed penalty.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr., Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

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

LOUISIANA'S WATERFOWL HABITAT AND HUNTING SEASON REPORT 2001-02

Prepared by Robert Helm, Waterfowl Program Manager, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
February 6, 2002

Season Dates and Regulations

	<u>West Zone</u>	<u>East Zone</u>
Ducks, Coots & Mergansers (60 day season)	Nov. 10 - Dec. 2 Dec. 15 - Jan. 20	Nov. 17 - Dec. 2 Dec. 8 - Jan. 20
Light Geese	Nov. 3 - Dec. 2 Dec. 15 - Feb. 8	Oct. 27 - Dec. 2 Dec. 8 - Jan. 25
Light Goose Conservation Order	Dec. 3 - Dec. 14 Feb. 9 - Mar. 10	Dec. 3 - Dec. 7 Jan. 26 - Mar. 10
White-Fronted Geese (86 day season)	Nov. 3 - Dec. 2 Dec. 15 - Feb. 8	Oct. 27 - Dec. 2 Dec. 8 - Jan. 25
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	Nov. 3-4	Nov. 10-11

Statewide

Canada Geese ¹ (9 day season)	Jan. 15 - 23
September Teal (16 day season)	Sept. 15 - 30

Shooting Hours and bag limits were the same as specified in the Federal Register for the Mississippi Flyway except that the daily bag limit for Canada geese was one.

¹ Closed in a small area of southwest Louisiana and a \$5 state permit required

Weather, Habitat and Waterfowl Populations

Breeding Habitat and Waterfowl Populations:

Drought conditions in south Louisiana during the winter of 2000-01 continued through the spring and early summer of 2001. The actual start of this drought can be traced back to the spring of 1998. Rainfall from January through May in 2001 was well below normal particularly in southern parishes. April and May ranked as the third driest 2 month total for this time period in more than 100 years. Drought conditions changed in early June when Tropical Storm Allison produced 10 to 20+ inches of rain across much of the state. Temporary and most semi-permanent wetlands in southern parishes were dry during the spring and early summer, providing a much reduced habitat base for nesting wood ducks. Rainfall across the northern half of the state was normal through the spring and wetland conditions were good. The number of nesting efforts in

Department nesting boxes were once again down substantially on WMA's located in the southern part of the state. Wood duck banding efforts were also hindered by the apparent low production with 681 ducks banded, the lowest number in the past 10 years. Along the coast many marsh ponds were dried and cracked by the drought in early spring, but there was good production of duck food plants on pond margins. Mottled duck nesting was enhanced by this additional habitat and production appeared to have been good. There was a concerted effort to band mottled ducks, but an abundance of shallow wetlands in late summer had birds widely dispersed. Consequently, 1,050 mottled ducks were banded, well below that of last summer (2,588) and the previous 5 year average (1,950).

Fall and Winter Habitat:

Heavy rains in late August and early September created an abundance of habitat statewide. More than 10 inches across southwestern parishes had many river/drainage systems in flood stage, similar to conditions of tropical Storm Francis in September 1998. This caused high water levels in coastal marshes and an abundance of sheet water in harvested rice fields. This extended period of high water levels had a detrimental impact on submerged aquatic vegetation in broad areas of southwest marshes. There was little moderation in the weather patterns this year as these excessive rains were followed by 6 to 7 weeks of essentially no rain from early October to late November. However, once again conditions changed dramatically during the remainder of November and through December with 4 week rainfall totals running from 10 to more than 15 inches over much of the state. Shallow water flooding of agriculture lands and back water flooding of most major river systems across the state persisted through the remainder of the hunting season. Louisiana's area-weighted cumulative rainfall this year was 69 inches, more than 10 inches above the annual mean; quite a change from the drought period of 1998-2000. Temperatures in November and through the first 3 weeks of December were mild across the state. Frontal systems were more westerly during this period. The winter weather pattern changed near Christmas and into January, as cold Arctic systems moved across the state producing temperatures in the teens during the first week of January. This mild winter was in stark contrast to last year when December 2000 was one of the five coldest Decembers on record.

Waterfowl Migrations and Harvests

Aerial surveys just prior to the September teal season were cancelled while in progress due to the New York tragedy, but teal appeared scattered over the abundant habitat with few noted in southwest marshes and Catahoula Lake (both with high water), but large scattered concentrations in flooded fields. Teal migrations appeared early this fall with large numbers reported during the September 1 dove season opener when rains had flooded many fields. The first cool front of the year occurred a few days before opening day followed by additional fronts during each of the remaining 2 weeks of the season. The last of these produced near record low temperatures (49 in BR) and should have caused teal migrations. Despite the favorable weather patterns during the 16 day season, hunting success was well below normal. Hunting was very good opening weekend in rice fields statewide and these areas continued to provide the best hunting during the remainder of the season, particularly on weekends. Southwest marshes were poor because of high water levels, with the best hunting here in pastures and other sites that would normally have been dry this time of year. Hunting on Catahoula Lake was also well below normal. Despite the near ideal timing of frontal systems during this season, teal appeared

less abundant and widely distributed over a larger habitat base. Hunter efforts also appeared less statewide, likely related to the reduced success and possibly the New York tragedy.

The estimate of 1.6 million total ducks recorded during the coastal zone survey in early November was well below the previous 5 year average (2.3 million), suggesting a delayed fall migration, related to mild weather patterns. The December survey estimate was 1.5 million ducks, basically unchanged from the prior survey conducted in November. This is about half the number of ducks recorded in December 2000 (3 million) and less than half of the long term average for December. Ducks were highly dispersed during the survey over the abundant habitat provided by late November rains. The mid-winter survey estimate in early January was 3.3 million ducks, well below the previous January survey (5 million) and the 5-year average (4.2 million). The number of mallards estimated in this survey (184,000) were particularly below that recorded during January 2000 (914,000) and the previous 5 year average (710,000). January mid-winter counts for light and white-fronted geese were 470,000 and 62,000, respectively, down 57% for light geese and 30 % for white-fronts compared to the previous year. This was the lowest count for light geese since 1993 and also was the lowest number of white fronts since 1984.

Duck hunting success in southwest coastal marshes was fair to good during the first split and poor during the second split, with a few isolated exceptions that had good hunting most of the season. Despite good habitat conditions in this region duck numbers remained low most of the season and a large decrease in harvest is anticipated from this traditional highest harvest area in the state. Gadwall and blue-winged teal were most common in the bag with less green-wings and mallards and more ring-necked ducks than normal. Duck hunting in southwest rice fields was also poor this winter with fewer birds spread out over abundant habitat. There was a noticeable reduction in hunter efforts in all of southwest Louisiana as many stopped hunting early in the season and others made less trips than normal. Goose hunting in this southwest region was good for white-fronts and poor for snow geese. Hunting quality improved along the central coast in Terrebonne parish and at the Atchafalya Delta, but even in this region hunters reported reduced numbers of ducks. Hunting in southeast coastal marshes was better during the first split than the second, but was poor overall. Duck harvests that declined greater than 50% compared to the previous year were reported by several clubs in this region. Exceptions to this were 4 coastal WMA's where hunters averaged almost 3 ducks per effort over the season. Gadwall and teal were the most common birds taken and there were less scaup, in contrast to last winter's high scaup numbers. Hunting at the mouth of the Mississippi River was once again good with large numbers of pintail and gadwall.

Wetland conditions in most of central and northeast Louisiana were good this winter with abundant flooded ag fields by late November. All major river systems in this region provided backwater flooding from mid-December through the remainder of the hunting season. January surveys in this portion of the state yielded estimates of 142,000 ducks and 147,000 geese, both well below estimates from the previous January (706,000 and 746,000 respectively). Hunting was fair on opening weekends and during the passage of the few frontal systems, but overall duck hunting was extremely poor in this region. Hunters in northwest Louisiana near the Red River system and in the Atchafalya Basin consistently reported much reduced hunting success. This region of the state is traditionally more dependent on mallards and wood ducks for a successful season and therefore a much reduced harvest is expected.

Waterfowl food production on Catahoula Lake this summer was improved over the drought conditions of the past 2 years, but with less millet. For the first time in the past 3 years,

we were unable to maintain water levels on the Lake within management guidelines throughout the hunting season. Heavy rains in late November and through December produced extremely high water levels from early December to the end of the hunting season. Waterfowl estimates during each of the 3 surveys from November to January were below average and peaked at 198,000 total ducks in early November. Hunting success was good during the first 2 weeks of the season, but declined quickly with the flood event that persisted through the remainder of the season.

Hunting Season Overview

The waterfowl hunting seasons and the habitat the birds used were shaped by extreme weather contrasts this year. Ten inches of rain in late August and September widely distributed teal, followed by 7 weeks of essentially no rain that changed abruptly with greater than 15 inches of rain in late November through December that produced an abundance of high quality wetland habitat. All of this was coupled with a mild winter here and also in the northern states of the flyway where snow cover was minimal. This weather pattern and good habitat through much of the flyway resulted in wide distribution of waterfowl and a delayed migration, particularly for mallards. Each of our aerial surveys provided waterfowl estimates well below average and hunter's comments throughout this season consistently verified these low waterfowl numbers. This was one of the least successful seasons in many years and a significant reduction in hunter participation and harvest is anticipated. A large decline in the proportion of mallards and green-winged teal and an increase in the proportional take of blue-wings and ring-necked ducks is expected.

Disease Events

No significant disease events were recorded.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2002</h1>						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS	NO. CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN	PERCENT DOLLARS PAID	PERCENT CASES PAID
FISCAL YEAR 1993-94								
July, 1993	25	\$21,039.00	(\$9,778.00)	29	\$4,855.00	\$2,545.00		
Aug., 1993	53	\$44,922.00	(\$1,137.00)	41	\$7,950.00	\$3,603.00		
Sept., 1993	42	\$137,635.00	(\$17,938.00)	35	\$6,783.00	\$3,048.00		
Oct., 1993	49	\$21,471.00	(\$11,282.00)	40	\$3,285.00	\$1,519.00		
Nov., 1993	57	\$31,207.00	(\$13,260.00)	32	\$3,053.00	\$2,845.00		
Dec., 1993	53	\$13,777.00		27	\$6,507.00	\$6,713.00		
Jan., 1994	38	\$18,918.00		32	\$4,423.00	\$2,831.00		
Feb., 1994	68	\$38,131.00	(\$8,238.00)	46	\$9,124.00	\$5,993.00		
Mar., 1994	38	\$22,739.00	(\$2,482.00)	51	\$10,854.00	\$6,796.00		
April, 1994	14	\$44,732.00	(\$1,404.00)	27	\$7,307.00	\$4,632.00		
May, 1994	10	\$4,504.00	(\$165.00)	7	\$5,447.00	\$3,808.00		
June, 1994	29	\$26,167.00	(\$2,986.00)	12	\$1,886.00	\$1,214.00		
Total FY 1994	476	\$425,242.00	(\$68,670.00)	379	\$71,474.00	\$45,547.00	27.5%	79.6%
FISCAL YEAR 1994-95								
July, 1994	17	\$2,127.00	(\$335.00)	23	\$2,101.00	\$1,437.00		
Aug., 1994	41	\$96,403.00	(\$3,035.00)	20	\$1,010.00	\$605.00		
Sept., 1994	34	\$14,614.00	(\$14,002.00)	26	\$2,596.00	\$2,342.00		
Oct., 1994	94	\$17,426.00	(\$8,677.00)	38	\$2,922.00	\$3,179.00		
Nov., 1994	43	\$103,592.00		45	\$3,992.00	\$2,803.00		
Dec., 1994	68	\$31,400.00		35	\$4,315.00	\$2,329.00		
Jan., 1995	55	\$27,601.00		52	\$7,493.00	\$4,921.00		
Feb., 1995	70	\$61,119.00		41	\$6,472.00	\$3,973.00		
Mar., 1995	31	\$25,072.00		44	\$8,315.00	\$4,737.00		
Apr., 1995	13	\$15,353.00		16	\$3,565.00	\$1,538.00		
May., 1995	23	\$11,632.00		16	\$4,315.00	\$654.00		
June 1995	45	\$31,008.00		18	\$2,630.00	\$1,025.00		
Total FY 1995	534	\$437,347.00	(\$26,049.00)	374	\$49,726.00	\$29,543.00	18.1%	70.0%
FISCAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1995	0	\$0.00						
Aug., 1995	46	\$17,425.00		27	\$9,028.00	\$1,729.00		
Sept., 1995	1	\$125.00		21	\$3,093.00	\$2,049.00		
Oct., 1995	122	\$206,244.00		29	\$2,720.00	\$1,161.00		
Nov., 1995	55	\$23,124.00		62	\$10,151.00	\$6,383.00		
Dec., 1995	50	\$18,607.26		32	\$4,780.66	\$2,802.76		
Jan., 1996	49	\$13,814.88	(\$15,296.45)	36	\$5,296.51	\$3,472.89		
Feb., 1996	50	\$14,716.97		38	\$5,777.53	\$3,416.91		
Mar., 1996	33	\$24,936.91		36	\$6,035.12	\$3,421.75		
Apr., 1996	30	\$11,006.66		36	\$7,173.12	\$2,711.54		
May., 1996	23	\$7,989.34		24	\$3,941.69	\$2,020.29		
June 1996	50	\$22,151.31		16	\$2,790.02	\$1,182.23		
Total FY 1996	509	\$360,141.33	(\$15,296.45)	357	\$60,786.65	\$30,350.37	25.3%	70.1%
FISCAL YEAR 1996-97								
July, 1996	40	\$71,894.13		32	\$5,249.93	\$2,947.96		
Aug., 1996	32	\$5,362.64		32	\$6,254.59	\$3,783.69		
Sept., 1996	41	\$7,210.00		29	\$2,259.96	\$1,326.58		
Oct., 1996	29	\$11,092.53		25	\$3,697.89	\$2,261.98		
Nov., 1996	20	\$10,009.10		22	\$1,624.63	\$698.02		
Dec., 1996	13	\$238,466.04		22	\$5,877.18	\$2,121.53		
Jan., 1997	27	\$11,755.22		17	\$4,393.30	\$2,377.09		
Feb., 1997	47	\$18,520.87		42	\$8,579.84	\$5,552.63		
Mar., 1997	26	\$13,434.02		27	\$4,999.59	\$2,757.67		
Apr., 1997	10	\$2,908.87		15	\$2,322.88	\$1,298.66		
May., 1997	20	\$11,682.70		15	\$5,198.91	\$1,399.21		
June 1997	5	\$8,036.58		10	\$2,335.24	\$765.34		
Total FY 1997	310	\$410,372.70	\$0.00	288	\$52,793.94	\$27,290.36	19.5%	92.9%
FISCAL YEAR 1997 - 98								
July, 1997	10	\$2,811.71		8	\$1,584.67	\$823.11		
Aug., 1997	14	\$8,741.30		8	\$1,496.49	\$779.14		
Sept., 1997	29	\$19,926.37		12	\$2,051.78	\$1,278.04		
Oct., 1997	12	\$4,716.81		23	\$3,184.83	\$2,063.89		
Nov., 1997	23	\$54,965.34		10	\$2,424.86	\$1,218.28		
Dec., 1997	25	\$36,881.09		15	\$4,376.97	\$2,775.66		
Jan., 1998	42	\$30,025.81		17	\$5,300.40	\$3,533.66		
Feb., 1998	37	\$31,164.95		29	\$22,961.69	\$8,501.18		
Mar., 1998	9	\$13,273.45		32	\$9,406.56	\$4,371.53		

Apr., 1998	10	\$5,628.21		10	\$2,602.62	\$1,279.77		
May., 1998	0	\$225.00		8	\$2,885.02	\$950.46		
June 1998	5	\$2,414.03		6	\$1,041.54	\$98.00		
Total FY 1998	216	\$210,774.07	\$0.00	178	\$59,317.43	\$27,672.72	41.3%	82.4%
FICAL YEAR 1998 - 99								
July, 1998	9	\$1,390.43		8	\$1,964.20	\$716.75		
Aug., 1998	10	\$2,240.70		10	\$1,048.28	\$372.47		
Sept., 1998	8	\$2,768.96		11	\$2,000.36	\$1,148.23		
Oct., 1998	22	\$28,704.85		14	\$1,860.17	\$807.48		
Nov., 1998	19	\$9,137.79		11	\$1,765.97	\$1,092.43		
Dec., 1998	23	\$11,959.10		27	\$4,441.02	\$2,040.71		
Jan., 1999	41	\$21,179.55		18	\$6,621.63	\$3,838.22		
Feb., 1999	45	\$26,236.24		41	\$12,119.09	\$6,923.61		
Mar., 1999	15	\$7,549.57		33	\$8,281.77	\$4,138.44		
Apr., 1999	9	\$8,013.54		14	\$3,035.82	\$1,388.41		
May., 1999	5	\$5,161.23		5	\$905.50	\$405.00		
June 1999	7	\$3,719.01		13	\$3,011.06	\$533.83		
Total FY 1999	213	\$128,060.97	\$0.00	205	\$47,054.87	\$23,405.58	55.0%	96.2%
FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000								
July, 1999	5	\$1,556.38		9	\$2,287.53	\$1,198.81		
Aug., 1999	10	\$2,510.83		15	\$2,455.38	\$513.73		
Sept., 1999	6	\$2,032.19	\$5,324.80	28	\$3,563.06	\$475.93		
Oct., 1999	11	\$4,452.31	\$567.75	25	\$2,775.48	\$557.41		
Nov., 1999	14	\$8,634.64		26	\$3,250.96	\$1,322.96		
Dec., 1999	24	\$15,891.96		19	\$3,862.76	\$2,126.27		
Jan., 2000	49	\$27,872.14		28	\$7,952.94	\$3,814.02		
Feb., 2000	21	\$11,039.59		30	\$10,159.24	\$6,216.42		
Mar., 2000	19	\$9,873.21		31	\$6,709.07	\$3,555.40		
Apr., 2000	12	\$7,897.70		17	\$2,932.41	\$1,512.54		
May, 2000	7	\$5,039.46	\$293.60	20	\$7,062.23	\$3,164.00		
June, 2000	16	\$14,566.88		18	\$5,766.59	\$1,852.12		
Total FY 2000	194	\$111,367.29	\$6,186.15	266	\$58,777.65	\$26,309.61	76%	137%
FISCAL YEAR 2000-01								
July, 2000	2	\$865.01		14	\$1,948.03	\$154.01		
Aug., 2000	20	\$15,837.60		17	\$3,302.27	\$1,063.92		
Sept., 2000	12	\$3,562.26		23	\$8,718.21	\$1,351.41		
Oct., 2000	18	\$122,696.24		29	\$7,457.98	\$490.16		
Nov., 2000	13	\$15,851.30		22	\$4,038.50	\$309.30		
Dec., 2000	40	\$30,234.92		24	\$7,189.98	\$462.13		
Jan., 2001	28	\$15,923.38		25	\$7,611.66	\$833.60		
Feb., 2001	35	\$20,181.39		30	\$18,568.12	\$1,917.82		
Mar., 2001	8	\$5,956.83		37	\$15,724.02	\$753.86		
Apr., 2001	20	\$24,145.82		22	\$4,856.39	\$225.93		
May 2001	4	\$1,677.36		20	\$3,700.77	\$313.58		
June 2001	3	\$932.20		31	\$8,433.81	\$346.90		
Total FY 2001	203	\$257,864.31	\$0.00	294	\$91,549.74	\$8,222.62	39%	145%
FISCAL YEAR 2001-02								
July, 2001	4	\$4,290.29		25	\$6,328.36	\$293.54		
Aug., 2001	6	\$9,452.69		18	\$2,984.52			
Sept., 2001	0	\$175.00		25	\$4,157.32	\$66.29		
Oct., 2001	15	\$6,439.06		18	\$3,174.66	\$67.32		
Nov., 2001	15	\$5,913.63		24	\$3,932.41	\$194.66		
Dec., 2001	36	\$21,868.88		20	\$5,384.19	\$502.17		
Jan., 2002	56	\$27,650.44		38	\$11,100.99	\$1,008.09		
Feb., 2002								
Mar., 2002								
Apr., 2002								
May, 2002								
June, 2002								
Total FY 2002	132	\$75,789.99	\$0.00	168	\$37,062.45	\$2,132.07	52%	127%

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
 CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT
 CURRENT MONTH
 01/01/2002 TO 01/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	56	\$27,625.44
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	1	\$25.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00

RESTITUTION ASSESSED	56	\$27,650.44
PAYMENTS	30	\$10,672.59-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	2	\$150.00-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	4	\$163.40-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	2	\$115.00-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	0	\$0.00
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	22	\$1,008.09-
OVERPAYMENTS	5	\$0.06
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	1	\$34.23
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	0	\$0.00
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	1	\$209.14-
WRITE-OFFS	2	\$0.13-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	0	\$0.00
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	0	\$0.00
DISMISSED BY D.A.	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00

 FOOTNOTE:

FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	1	\$132.50
--------------------------------	---	----------

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
 CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT
 FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
 07/01/2001 TO 01/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	132	\$75,339.99
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	18	\$450.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	\$0.00
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	132	\$75,789.99
PAYMENTS	79	\$27,364.61-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	9	\$2,231.81-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	14	\$2,435.93-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	14	\$4,655.10-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	26	\$675.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	45	\$2,132.07-
OVERPAYMENTS	7	\$1.93
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	4	\$344.94
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	0	\$0.00
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	\$0.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	1	\$209.14-
WRITE-OFFS	3	\$554.25-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	1	\$395.71-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	2	\$1,049.08-
DISMISSED BY D.A.	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00

 FOOTNOTE:

FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	1	\$132.50
--------------------------------	---	----------

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
 CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT
 INCEPTION TO DATE
 01/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	4,330	\$3,032,954.21
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	276	\$7,325.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	331	\$269,865.45-
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	138	\$58,209.82
=====		
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	4,330	\$2,828,623.58
PAYMENTS	2,907	\$595,384.71-
PAYMENTS AFTER PAST DUE NOTICE	24	\$3,928.51-
PAYMENTS AFTER REVOKED NOTICE	58	\$18,010.44-
PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	39	\$12,832.70-
PAYMENTS FROM HRG COST ASSESSED	149	\$3,900.00-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	2,042	\$254,227.30-
OVERPAYMENTS	60	\$89.30
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	57	\$11,620.13
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	14	\$31,747.30-
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	3	\$1,327.94
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	8	\$45,896.70
RETURNED CHECKS	1	\$61.75
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS		
DEBITS	3	\$55.00
CREDITS	13	\$10.22-
REASSESSMENTS		
DEBITS	21	\$6,881.15
CREDITS	63	\$36,913.30-
WRITE-OFFS	979	\$1,026,803.55-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	7	\$1,794.95-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	24	\$12,388.80-
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	65	\$150,318.29-
DISMISSED BY D.A.	0	\$0.00
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	2	\$559.32-
		=====
** TOTAL OUTSTANDING	331	\$745,736.16

 FOOTNOTE:

FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	38	\$106,941.70 *
--------------------------------	----	----------------

AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES

VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN	0	\$0.00
1 - 30 DAYS	0	\$0.00
31 - 60 DAYS	2	\$682.20
61 - 90 DAYS	3	\$8,106.04
91 - 120 DAYS	6	\$2,671.55
121 - 150 DAYS	6	\$3,885.95
151 - 180 DAYS	12	\$14,148.05
181 - 365 DAYS	77	\$81,396.83
OVER ONE YEAR	154	\$119,606.57
OVER TWO YEARS	135	\$75,022.27
OVER THREE YEARS	689	\$487,831.95

=====

** TOTAL AGING	1,084	\$793,351.41
----------------	-------	--------------

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES

COLLECTIONS WITH AGENCY:

CAN NOT BE INVOICED	18	\$9,894.48
CURRENT	30	\$13,342.07
1 - 30 DAYS	18	\$13,389.95
31 - 90 DAYS	13	\$6,013.34
91 - 180 DAYS	6	\$10,128.06
181 - 365 DAYS	29	\$30,450.64
OVER ONE YEAR	141	\$137,603.92

COLLECTIONS WITH PRIVATE COLLECTIONS FIRM:

1 - 90 DAYS	0	\$0.00
91 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	74	\$450,148.16

AMOUNT UNDER PROTEST:

1 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	2	\$74,765.54

=====

** TOTAL AGING	331	\$745,736.16
----------------	-----	--------------

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
 CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
 CURRENT MONTH
 01/01/2002-01/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	429	\$21,650.00
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	726	\$18,150.00
CREDITS	5	\$350.00-
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$39,450.00

PAID IN FULL	298	\$18,250.00-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	7	\$285.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	0	\$0.00
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	14	\$0.00
WRITE-OFFS	0	\$0.00
OVERPAYMENTS	1	\$50.00
REFUNDS	9	\$525.00
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	1	\$50.00
CREDITS	1	\$50.00-
VOIDS	12	\$600.00-
NOT GUILTY	12	\$650.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	26	\$1,300.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	3	\$150.00-

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
 CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
 FISCAL YEAR TO DATE
 07/01/2001-01/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	3,815	\$194,260.00
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	2,620	\$65,500.00
CREDITS	25	\$1,026.00-
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$258,734.00

		=====
PAID IN FULL	3,626	\$210,016.29-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	81	\$3,502.50-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	8	\$390.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	23	\$195.00-
WRITE-OFFS	5	\$195.00-
OVERPAYMENTS	3	\$53.79
REFUNDS	32	\$1,865.00
RETURNED CHECKS	4	\$125.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	4	\$40.00
CREDITS	1	\$0.85-
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	9	\$450.00
CREDITS	4	\$400.00-
VOIDS	159	\$7,950.00-
NOT GUILTY	88	\$4,450.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	73	\$3,650.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	16	\$800.00-
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	14	\$14.00

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
 CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT
 INCEPTION TO DATE
 01/31/2002

	# CASES	AMOUNT
FINES	93,871	\$4,772,037.07
HEARING COSTS		
DEBITS	23,639	\$591,137.80
CREDITS	26	\$8,391.00-
		=====
TOTAL DUE		\$5,354,783.87

PAID IN FULL	54,746	\$2,870,317.52-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	1,422	\$64,549.25-
ATTORNEY GENERAL COLLECTIONS	13	\$640.00-
ATTORNEY GENERAL FEES	28	\$320.00-
WRITE-OFFS	5	\$195.00-
OVERPAYMENTS	170	\$3,971.78
REFUNDS	233	\$11,244.81
RETURNED CHECKS	69	\$3,550.00
MISC CHANGES		
DEBITS	68	\$1,070.00
CREDITS	168	\$141.88-
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION		
DEBITS	173	\$9,950.00
CREDITS	25	\$1,550.00-
VOIDS	4,990	\$250,850.00-
NOT GUILTY	1,098	\$55,700.00-
DISMISSED BY ADMIN LAW	154	\$7,800.00-
DISMISSED BY ENFORCEMENT	16	\$800.00-
GUILTY/FINE WAIVED	144	\$7,250.00-
		=====
TOTAL OUTSTANDING		\$2,124,456.81

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES FROM CITATION DATE

COLLECTIONS WITH AGENCY:

CURRENT	213	\$10,700.00
1 - 30 DAYS	225	\$11,650.00
31 - 90 DAYS	467	\$24,050.00
91 - 180 DAYS	719	\$45,555.00
181 - 365 DAYS	1,385	\$97,120.50
OVER ONE YEAR	29,635	\$1,920,116.31

COLLECTIONS WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL:

1 - 90 DAYS	0	\$0.00
91 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	203	\$15,265.00

AMOUNT UNDER PROTEST:

1 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	0	\$0.00
OVER ONE YEAR	0	\$0.00

=====

** TOTAL AGING	32,847	\$2,124,456.81
----------------	--------	----------------

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES FROM HEARING DATE

PREHEARING	1,104	\$56,550.00
0 - 90 DAYS	1,975	\$106,555.00
91 - 180 DAYS	732	\$45,475.00
181 - 270 DAYS	815	\$60,395.50
271 - 365 DAYS	356	\$26,800.00
OVER ONE YEAR	27,865	\$1,828,681.31

=====

** TOTAL AGING	32,847	\$2,124,456.81
----------------	--------	----------------

SCHEDULE FOR FINAL RULES TO BE PUBLISHED IN STATE REGISTER

FEB-02 RULE - Recreational Electronic Licensing -
 Outdoor Press License

MAR-02 RULE - Oyster Harvest Area Grid System

MAY-02 RULE - Hunting Preserve Regulations

 RULE - Harvest of Mullet

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
225/765-2925

2002-032

1/31/02

AGENDA SET FOR FEB. 7 WILDLIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2002, in the Louisiana Room at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Building at 2000 Quail Drive in Baton Rouge. The agenda follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2002
3. Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief
4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January
5. Boating Safety Report
6. Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt
7. Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure
8. Declaration of Emergency - Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation
9. Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead
10. Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Fill Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties
11. Division Report - Duck Season Report
12. Set June 2002 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

EDITORS: For more information, contact Marianne Burke at 225/765-2925
(burke_mm@wlf.state.la.us).

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
225/765-2925

2002-033

1/31/02

LWFC BUDGET COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Budget Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet on Thursday, February 7, 2002, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM, will be to review the budget.

EDITORS: *For more information, contact Marianne Burke at 225/765-2925
(burke_mm@wlf.state.la.us)*

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
225/765-2925

2002-032

1/31/02

AGENDA SET FOR FEB. 7 WILDLIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2002, in the Louisiana Room at the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Building at 2000 Quail Drive in Baton Rouge. The agenda follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2002
3. Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief
4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January
5. Boating Safety Report
6. Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt
7. Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure
8. Declaration of Emergency - Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation
9. Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead

10. Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Full Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties

11. Division Report - Duck Season Report

12. Set June 2002 Meeting Date

13. Public Comments

14. Adjournment

***EDITORS: For more information, contact Marianne Burke at 225/765-2925
(burke_mm@wlf.state.la.us).***

TRANSACTION REPORT

P.01

JAN-31-02 THU 03:08 PM

DATE	START	RECEIVER	TX TIME	PAGES	TYPE	NOTE	M#	DP
JAN-31	03:07 PM	SEAFOOD MKTG BOARD	1' 11"	2	SEND	OK	942	

TOTAL : 1M 11S PAGES: 2

State of Louisiana



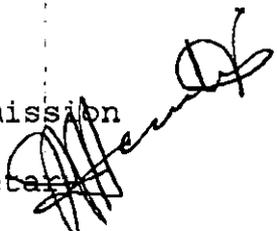
James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
January 28, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary 

SUBJECT: February Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 7, 2002, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

January 30, 2002

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: 

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 7, 2002, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2002
3. Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief
4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January
5. Boating Safety Report
6. Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt
7. Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure
8. Declaration of Emergency - Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation
9. Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead
10. Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Fill Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties
11. Division Report - Duck Season Report
12. Set June 2002 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

January 28, 2002

APPROVED: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a final stroke extending to the right, positioned over a horizontal line.

BUDGET COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Budget Committee of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet on Thursday, February 7, 2002, in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA. The meeting, scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM, will be to review the budget.

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
January 28, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: February Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 7, 2002, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2002

WINTON VIDRINE

3. Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief
4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January
5. Boating Safety Report

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

6. Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

7. Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure

Page 2
Commission Meeting
January 28, 2002

8. Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead

LEGAL SECTION

9. Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Fill Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties

DIVISION REPORT

- 10. Duck Season Report
- 11. Set June 2002 Meeting Date
- 12. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Ewell Smith
Division Chiefs
Marianne Burke

ITEM ADDED January 31, 2002

Declaration of Emergency - Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation

Hawkins, Susan

From: Foote, Karen
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2002 3:02 PM
To: Roussel, John E; Hawkins, Susan
Cc: Bourgeois, Martin; Luquet, Clarence; Banks, Patrick
Subject: February Commission meeting agenda

Please add the following Marine Fisheries agenda item to the February agenda:

Declaration of Emergency- Extension of 2002 Season on Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation- Martin Bourgeois

Thank you.

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Tom Gattle
Fax #: 318-559-1524
Subject: Commission Agenda
Date: January 28, 2002
Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please disregard the previous fax I sent earlier today and review this agenda, then give me a call.
Thank you.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806
Fax: 225-765-0948

, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: February Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 7, 2002, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2002

WINTON VIDRINE

3. Plaque Presentation to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa by Operation Game Thief
4. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January
5. Boating Safety Report

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

6. Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

7. Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure

Page 2
Commission Meeting
, 2002

8. Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead

LEGAL SECTION

9. Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Full Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties

DIVISION REPORT

- 10. Duck Season Report
- 11. Set June 2002 Meeting Date
- 12. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Ewell Smith
Division Chiefs
Marianne Burke

Hawkins, Susan

From: LaCaze, B "Keith"
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2002 2:25 PM
To: Hawkins, Susan
Cc: Vidrine, Winton; Jenkins, James
Subject: Agenda item, Commission meeting

Susan could you please place on Feb. 7 commission meeting agenda, presentation of plaque of appreciation from Operation Game Thief to Special Agent Phillip Siragusa? If so he will be here to accept and as for a place on the agenda we could do it just before the enforcement report. Please let me know. OGT President B. T. Chapman may be here to present. If so I will let you know about that. Thanks.

C O V E R

S H E E T



FAX

To: Tom Gattle
Fax #: 318-559-1524
Subject: Agenda
Date: January 28, 2002
Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please call me after you have reviewed the attached agenda. Thank you.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806
Fax: 225-765-0948

, 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: February Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 7, 2002, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 3, 2002

WINTON VIDRINE

3. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/January
4. Boating Safety Report

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

5. Declaration of Emergency - Tensas National Wildlife Refuge Turkey Youth Hunt

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

6. Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure
7. Presentation of Stock Assessments for Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder and Sheepshead

Page 2
Commission Meeting
, 2002

LEGAL SECTION

8. Authorization for Department Legal Action Against J.P. and Sons, Inc. for Full Material Royalties, Interest and Penalties

DIVISION REPORT

- 9. Duck Season Report
- 10. Set June 2002 Meeting Date
- 11. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Ewell Smith
Division Chiefs
Marianne Burke

added 1/25/2002 -

Winton -

Boating Safety

Report - Charlie

Clark

, 2002 11:52 AM

action against J.P. and Sons, Inc.
t and penalties."

facsimile (225) 703-3330
whitrock_fc@wlf.state.la.us

Hawkins, Susan

From: Foote, Karen
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2002 2:22 PM
To: Roussel, John E
Cc: Hawkins, Susan; Porch, Pat; Abbott, Janet; Bourgeois, Martin; Shepard, Joey; Pausina, Randy
Subject: Marine Fisheries Feb. 2002 agenda items

Per our conversations, the following are the Marine Fisheries items:

Consideration of Offshore Shrimp Closure- Martin Bourgeois

Presentation of Stock Assessments for Striped Mullet, Southern Flounder, Black Drum, Sheepshead- Joey Shepard

State of Louisiana



Indicate items to Pass on

Arnoldi O
 Myers QEM
 Anthony JH
 Helm RB
 Moreland AM
 Olinde FK
 Kimmel FK
 Ribbeck Governor
 Prickett —

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
January 2, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 7, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, January 17th any agenda items your office may have for the **Thursday, February 7th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on February 7th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
 Don Puckett
 Winton Vidrine
 Tommy Prickett ✓
 Bennie Fontenot
 Karen Foote
 Wynnette Kees
 Brandt Savoie
 Ewell Smith
 Marianne Burke

Items

- 1 Declaration of Emergency - Texas Duck Youth Turkey Hunt
- 2 Duck Season Report
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
January 2, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 7, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, January 17th any agenda items your office may have for the **Thursday, February 7th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on February 7th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie ✓
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

*Changes to Alligator Regulations
Noel Kinler*

[Signature]
Removed by Phil Bowman
1/24/2002

State of Louisiana



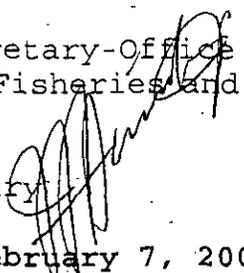
James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
January 2, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary 

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 7, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, January 17th any agenda items your office may have for the **Thursday, February 7th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on February 7th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine ✓
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
January 2, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 7, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, January 17th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, February 7th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on February 7th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke ✓

No agenda items for Public Information

Marianne Burke
1-14-02

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
- (225) 765-2800
January 2, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 7, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, January 17th any agenda items your office may have for the **Thursday, February 7th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on February 7th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot ✓
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

1/8/02
Dear Susan:
Inland Fisheries Division
has no items for the
Feb. Commission meeting agenda.
Sincerely,

Bennie

C. John Russell

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
January 2, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 7, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, January 17th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, February 7th Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on February 7th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

NOTHING TO SUBMIT
P

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
January 2, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - **February 7, 2002**

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, January 17th any agenda items your office may have for the **Thursday, February 7th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on February 7th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Tommy Prickett
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Brandt Savoie
Ewell Smith
Marianne Burke

TRANSACTION REPORT

P. 01

JAN-03-02 THU 04:28 PM

DATE	START	RECEIVER	TX TIME	PAGES	TYPE	NOTE	M#	DP
JAN-03	04:27 PM	SEAFOOD MKTG BOARD	44"	1	SEND	OK	926	

TOTAL : 44S PAGES: 1

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(225) 765-2800
January 2, 2002

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife,
Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries and Confidential
Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 7, 2002

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Thursday, January 17th any agenda items your office may have for the **Thursday, February 7th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on