

LA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

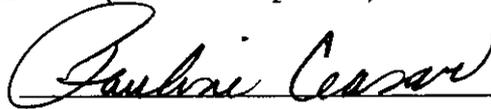
RECEIPT

DATE: February 25, 1994

RECEIPT OF: RED DRUM REPORT

SENATE PRESIDENT (State Capitol/Senate Sub-Basement)

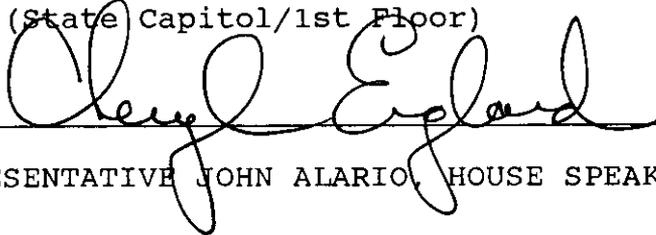
RECEIVED BY:



FOR SENATOR SAMUEL NUNEZ, SENATE PRESIDENT

HOUSE SPEAKER (State Capitol/1st Floor)

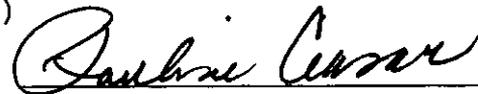
RECEIVED BY:



FOR REPRESENTATIVE JOHN ALARIO, HOUSE SPEAKER

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

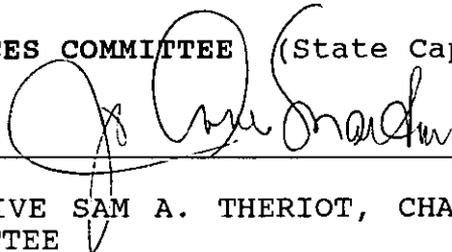
RECEIVED BY:



FOR SENATOR JOE McPHERSON, CHAIRMAN, SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

RECEIVED BY:



FOR REPRESENTATIVE SAM A. THERIOT, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State of Louisiana



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

February 23, 1994

Honorable Samuel Nunez
President of the Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable John Alario
Speaker of the House
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable Joe McPherson
Chairman, Senate Natural
Resources Committee
Post Office Box 44183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable Sam Theriot
Chairman, House Natural
Resources Committee
Post Office Box 44486
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to R.S. 56:6(27), enclosed herewith, please find the Department's Third Annual Report to the Commission on the Status of Red Drum dated February 3, 1994.

Pursuant to a majority vote at its February meeting, the Commission respectfully recommends to the Legislature that the status quo be maintained with no additional harvest or change in allocation, and that the status of game fish for red drum be maintained.

Red drum stocks are rebuilding. This is a direct result of Louisiana's management efforts and those of the other gulf states in conjunction with the Red Drum Operations Plan adopted by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) division of the United States Department of Commerce. Since the offshore red drum stocks in the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone and the inshore red drum stocks in State territorial waters are interdependent, it is of the utmost importance that cooperation among all the entities having responsibility for management parameters be maintained.

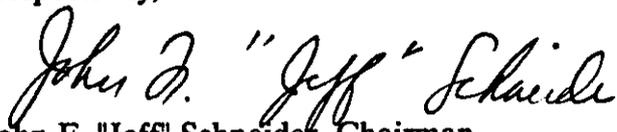
The Department's Report indicates that there may be sufficient recovery in the stocks to justify an additional harvest in our waters; however, since we are dealing with estimates there is a degree of risk and uncertainty associated with harvest availability. Since any unilateral action taken by Louisiana could seriously affect the cooperative efforts of all the

February 23, 1994
Page 2

gulf states, we believe that a comprehensive analysis, as recently recommended by the Regional Director of the Council and the Chairman of the Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel, is in order so that the effects of any management changes on the gulf-wide stocks can be evaluated by the Panel and the Council.

The success we and our sister states have enjoyed to this point has come about through a cooperative effort and we wish to continue this cooperation until the evidence is clearly compelling to warrant a change in Louisiana's conservation standards.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John F. 'Jeff' Schneider". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF RED DRUM DISCUSSION

February 3, 1994 Commission Meeting

Chairman Schneider: We have a lot of people that have come from a long distance, so if it's okay with the Commission, why don't we move the red drum report up to the next item, if there is no objection, so we can let these folks get on home hopefully by lunch time. Is that okay with everyone? Okay, we are going to take item number 8, Red Drum Report.

Mr. Harry Blanchet: As part of our presentation we are going to be showing some overheads, if ya'll. We are going to try to put them on the big screen up here, I don't know if you want to find some seats down there or whatever.

Chairman Schneider: Are you going to start that now?

Mr. Blanchet: There is a little introduction, but it is not going to be much before we start getting into it. Sorry about the confusion in the set up. The report that we have today is a report that is generated by the Department annually and provided to the Commission to fulfill the Commission's obligation to provide a report to the legislature on an annual basis describing the status of red drum. The Commission's report has to address 3 different parts and we will try to walk through those in the order in which they were listed in the legislation. The first part of that is a biological condition profile and stock assessment followed by a total allowable catch with probably allocation scenarios and then a detailed explanation of whether or not gamefish status should be continued. The Department's report does not address all aspects of all parts of the legislation, but basically addresses those parts that we feel qualified as biologists to give information on. To start off with the biological condition profile, before I get into that, I would like to go through a few definitions. We are going to be, I tried to keep this report as readable as possible and as a result there was some compromises that had to be made. We have some technical jargon in here and we have some relatively popular terminology. But I am going to try to, so that we can all kind of understand when we start rattling off, I will try to go through a few of our acronyms. Throughout the report there is discussion of SSBR, or spawning stock biomass per recruit, SPR, spawning potential ration, escapement. All three of those are indices that are used to measure a conservation standard, to try to measure fishing mortality rates on a stock and to compare existing fishing to some standard that has been set by a government group to try to maintain the health of that stock. When we look at a stock of fish, we look at it on the basis of a cohort of fish. That is, the fish that are spawned within a year, with red drum, the fish are spawned in September, October, early November of one year and so we take that as the beginning of our fishing year. So you will hear us talking about a fishing year, many of our graphs are put in terms of a fishing year because we look at it age 0 fish is going to be from the time the fish is born until September first of the next year. That is when he is age 1 and it goes on again. We take the same thing whether it is the fish or whether its the fishery, September first is a good time for the analysis to start a fishing year. And, so our analysis are all based on this fishing year concept. So, if you see a year 1991, that is almost universally fishing year that starts September 1st 1991 and will run through

August 31st, 1992. So, I just wanted to get that straight, so we are not using a calendar year, we are using a fishing year. The other thing we are talking about is fishing mortality rates. Fishing mortality rates is a measure of the intensity of the fishing pressure on a stock of fish in terms of the rate of harvest of the available stock. A fishing mortality rate might be set in different ranges for different stocks. You might have different mortality rates on an annual basis for red drum than you would for shrimp for instance. But given any stock of fish, there is a certain allowable range of fishing mortality rates. Now, that is all the definitions I am going to go through right now, but there is probably going to be one or two that I've forgotten and if I run across one of those in the presentation, I will try to address that when I get to it. First off, the bio profile. A lot of the bio profile information was based, was basically presented back in 1991 when we drafted a red drum management plan and it contained a compilation of all of the technical, semi-technical literature that had been generated on red drum to that date. The annual reports that we have generated in the last two years have updated some of that information, so there is only a few pieces of new information that have to be included this year. First one that I would like to address was some genetics work that was done at Texas A&M University and they have analyzed mitochondrial DNA from over a thousand fish in the Gulf of Mexico and also from the mid-Atlantic Ocean, middle Atlantic bite around the Carolinas. Essentially what they found for the Gulf of Mexico is that the Gulf of Mexico as we have known before seems to be working as a unit stock of fish that is the stock is well mixed, that there is not segregation within the Gulf of Mexico so we don't have two or three or more stocks that are independent of each other. One of the things that they note is a very high diversity of the genetics within the stock and they interpret that as to indicate that the stock is both large and genetically stable and that the populations of red drum had not been affected in terms of genetic variability or long term reproductive potential by any harvest to date. The other information that is new to us is some additional information on the purse seine age structure, the age structure of the offshore population as sampled by purse seine gear. It was the purse seine gear back in the mid 80's that gave us the first indication that there might be a problem with the offshore stock. Basically, the first samples from 1985, 86 showed that there were fewer young fish. Joey, you want to put up that first one? This essentially is the picture that was seen when the ages were sampled from that offshore purse seine fishery. There were a goodly number of middle aged fish in here from ages 11 through about age 16 or 20. We have marked the 1973 cohort here so that you can keep everything, I mean, as fish aging things are going to be shifting around a little bit. So we marked 1973 as a sort of index to track things by. Everything is on a percentage basis so for instance, in 1985-86 when these samples were taken, the 1973 cohort was about 11% of the total population. You will notice that the ages less than that are smaller. Now of course a lot of the juvenile redfish less than 4 years old or so are in the inshore, so you don't expect to see those in great numbers offshore. But as you get into the 8, 10, 12 year old fish, you would expect to see those fully recruited to the offshore fishery and the fact that those were in relatively low numbers is what caused the concern with this fishery. Dr. Goodyear, in his analysis in 1989 tried to figure out what was the cause of this decline in the numbers of fish moving to the offshore population. He found that he could not fully account for that decline. He said that some of it was due to increased fishing pressure in the inshore but that did not fully account for that decline in the younger ages of the fish. And that question was sort of left up

in the air and really has never been fully determined and may never be fully determined. But, basically this is what we had when the original stock assessment was done. Last year, there was some data that was available from 1990-91 and this was some more purse seine samples taken from the offshore stock as part of a morphin project done through LSU. These show more recruitment in these younger ages, you can see the 1985-87 year classes showing up in higher numbers especially. But the 1973 is starting to decline. Now remember all of this is on a percentage basis. There are going to be fewer 1973 fish out there than there was in 1985-86 because there has been some natural mortality and a little bit of fishing mortality going on since then. But essentially what you are seeing is you are seeing increasing numbers of these younger fish in the offshore population. You are starting to see a shift in the age structure of the offshore population. The latest data that was available is data from the 1991-92 purse seines. These data show a very strong recruitment in the offshore population especially the 1987, 86 year classes. The years after that are not fully recruited yet to the fishery. We are not even sure that the 1987 is fully recruited offshore. But you can see that you've got on a percentage basis, a lot of younger fish moving offshore. That 1973 is much much lower than it was in the prior graphs, that does not mean that it has declined a lot, it just means that some other more small fish are moving out there. All of these are on a proportional basis. Okay, so that is sort of the picture that we have right now of the offshore stock. On the inshore, our Department has been taking fishery independent samples of seines and trammel nets that provides some indices of recruitment to the inshore stock. Now this is set on a cohort basis and the solid line represents the catch effort of the very young juvenile fish the first fall of their life. So, for instance, the 1986 cohort is where we start, that was the first year that we had a statewide sampling program set up and so the 1986 cohort we have an index of just under 1 fish per unit effort in the seine samples. The next year, we are sampling that same fish with a different gear, the trammel nets and the trammel nets by looking at, by segregating the age 1 fish from the older fish that we find in those nets, we have an index of the abundance as age 1 at about the time they are entering the fishery. So this gives us a later index of the stock as it's entering the fishery. You will notice that the 1987 numbers are a little bit higher than 86 and 87 seems to have been a stronger cohort than the 1986 at least in some of the, for instance in the purse seine it shows up as being a little bit higher. 1989, I want you to notice, 1989 in December, we had a severe freeze. The seine samples, even prior to that freeze showed low recruitment to the inshore stocks and that was followed in 1990 the trammel net samples also showed low recruitment and not surprisingly there was relatively all of our analysis continue to demonstrate that that cohort was not a strong cohort. By contrast, the 1990 cohort is extremely strong by every measure that we've got and it has shown up in very good numbers in the recreational fishery as well. The 1990 cohort we will come to several times. There is some divergence in the last couple of years where the trammel nets seem to be indicating stronger cohorts than the initial seine samples. Because we have a relatively short data base, we are uncertain as to why those, there is that disparity between the two indices. But I tend to place more credence in the trammel net samples since they are taken about immediately prior to entry into the fishery. There is a lot of things that can happen between the time that fish enters the estuary and the time it enters the fishery. And, so I think what we are seeing is perhaps some increased survival due to the mild winters or some other factors like that. But we can't tie that down, it will probably be several

years before we can. So, at any rate, we took a look at this and basically we have compared this index to what the recreational fishermen catch as that fish becomes available to them. And we've found that there is a good correspondence between our indices and what the recreational harvest is. We are taking the recreational harvest as a third index of the stock size, of the recruitment. So, that for the years where we have comparable data, there seems to be a good correspondence between what we find in our samples and what the recreational harvest numbers are. So, again, 1990 shows up as an extremely strong year class, 1989 does not, 1987 was a slightly stronger than 1988. So, there seems to be some coherence to this. Again, it's an index that we can use in our analysis and Joey will get into this a little bit further down the road. The other information that was available was, this past year. Well, to go back a few years, in 1989, Phil Goodyear with National Marine Fisheries Service had done a gulfwide stock assessment on red drum as I mentioned before. In 1993, he updated that assessment. And, in that update of his assessment, he showed that there seems to be an increase in the escapement rate of the fish to the offshore waters in the most recent years of his analysis. This is important to us because when the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council initially developed its recommendations for red drum, it set an escapement goal, it requested that the Gulf states enact regulations that would allow 30% of the red drum to escape as would escape in an unfished condition. And, this was set as the management goal for the gulf states, this was the request of the Council and the Legislature in some of its actions, seems to have endorsed that goal and so we have taken that as a conservation standard and so escapement is what we are measuring things off of. One of the things, okay, Goodyear's stock assessment came out last March, it was reviewed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Stock Assessment Panel and that Stock Assessment Panel basically concurred with Goodyear's assessment of the characterization of the gulf stocks and it also included as part of it some of the information from our own Louisiana assessment that demonstrated some relatively high escapement values from the Louisiana inshore fishery to the offshore. Now that is getting into the stock assessment and so I am going to let Joey Shepard take it from there since he is the one that has done most of the work on the stock assessment itself.

Mr. Joey Shepard: Thank you, Harry. As Harry mentioned, prior to 1993, the only stock assessment that we had to compare ours to was Dr. Goodyear's 1989 assessment and in that assessment, he uses the purse seine data to accurately represent what the offshore population looks like and actually uses that in his assessment. Since then, as Harry mentioned also, in March of 1993, he conducted an assessment and presented it to the Stock Assessment Panel and we were a part of that also. In that particular assessment, he used the average fishing mortality rates from 1979 to 1983 to, and assume that those average fishing mortality rates occurred prior to 1979. He did that so that he could come up with where spawning stock biomass per recruit or spawning potential ratio was in 1980. You have to remember also that Dr. Goodyear's assessment is a gulfwide assessment. The assessment that we conduct is one for Louisiana. It is only that portion of the Gulf that is off of Louisiana. As we didn't in previous years we actually analyzed two different methods or we used two methodologies to look at the status of the stock of red drum. One is, as compared to last year, is Scenario 1 which assumes as Dr. Goodyear's 1989 assessment that the purse seine data actually represents or reflects the age structure of the population offshore. Scenario 2 is simply a virtual population analysis that uses catch at

age and has no ties to the purse seine data. It gives us two independent ways of looking at the status of the stock. With the exception of a few things, the assessment was done the same as it was done last year. One is that in further review of our data, we found that as Harry showed a little earlier, the trammel net data was a very good indicator of what recruitment was to the fishery. In previous years, we used a Ricker spawning recruit relationship to estimate what recruitment was and we found that this method by using the purse seine data, we could better index recruitment. So, we did that rather than using the Ricker spawning recruit relationship. We also in previous, in the previous assessment used Ricker spawning recruit relationship to project recruitment into the future. Rather than doing that this year, we looked at average, the average recruitment that occurred from 1972 to 1989. We did not use the 1990-91 high recruitment levels in the average. In this year's assessment also, we were not able to get the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Rec Survey in time to, to add it into this report and we'll talk a little bit about that what impact that will have as we go through this. Okay Harry. The Department's 94 assessment, as we did in the past, in order to look at what the impact of fishing has on the stock, we look at spawning potential ratios, spawning stock biomass per recruit. As you can see, this is the same trend as we found in previous assessments. We are currently somewhere above 40% from this assessment, we bottomed out in '88, '89 and as I mentioned we see the same, pretty much the same trends as we've seen in about the last two or three assessments. Okay Harry, give me the next one. We compare in a sense, try to look at the gulfwide assessment also to help us in looking at the results of our assessment and the results of the gulfwide assessment to see what kind of comparisons we can make between the two. Because what impacts in Louisiana occur should also occur in the gulfwide assessments. One of the problems is that, I say a problem, there is two ways actually that that the, that we measure the impact of regulations on a spawning biomass. Its just in the calculations of the two. One is that spawning stock biomass per recruit uses the biomass of the offshore adult population in the calculations. Spawning potential ratio actually uses the egg production of those fish offshore in the calculations. They're not exactly the same and the whole intent of this graph is just to show you that what ends up if you look at both of them and try to compare them, in that period of recovery which we see from 1989 forward, spawning potential ratio seems to lag spawning stock biomass per recruit by about two years. And the reason for this is that we're letting a lot of small fish offshore and they make up a large portion of the spawning biomass but they're not as fecund(?) as the older fish. So, once they grow into it, of course, you see where spawning potential ratio actually is much higher than spawning stock biomass per recruit. Both of them are very relative measures and under equilibrium conditions, if regulations continue over time then both of them would be equal. Okay Harry. So, what we did is basically just try and I realize this is kind of a tough graph to look at, but what we did was try to compare the different analysis that we're doing. Dr. Goodyear's 1989 assessment is in little boxes and his 1993 assessment is the one along the bottom. The Department's Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 are the top and middle there. The interesting things to note on this is that, Dr. Goodyear's assessment shows for the most part, the same rates of increase than does the Department's. We can see also there that the impacts we see in Louisiana also occurring in the gulfwide assessment. And again the purpose here is not to compare the actual levels because you have, if you remember again, that was a gulfwide assessment conducted by Dr. Goodyear, and the assessment on Louisiana's fishery by the Department. Okay Harry. So from

the analysis that we've conducted, we made a statement in the report and I am just read off of it. "The Department after a thorough review of available data on red drum feel that the results of the present 1994 assessment and simulations of future conditions best describes the status of the red drum stock in Louisiana. Based on this biological assessment as well as a review of Goodyear's 1993 gulfwide assessment and 1993 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's 1993 Stock Assessment Panel report, fishing mortality rates can be increased, so long as the conservation standard of 30% escapement is maintained. However, we suggest that changes in regulations should provide an incremental increase in fishing mortality rates and that regulations not be changed for a period of 3 to 5 years. This would allow the Department to better monitor the impact of the fishery resulting from regulatory changes, and minimize the risk of overshooting the target fishing mortality rates. Regulations could then be adjusted accordingly in the future to move gradually to a level of 30% rather than absorbing excess escapement in the first year." There has been some confusion as to exactly what we mean by not changing regulations for 3 to 5 years. I guess anything you write, it can be interpreted a little differently. What we mean by this is, if regulations are adjusted to increase fishing mortality rates, we would recommend that you don't increase them to a level that would, that would not produce 30% escapement, which is the standard. And that when those regulations are imposed, that they would not change for a period of 3 to 5 years. That gives the Department time to get data in to see exactly where we are. As Harry mentioned earlier, also, there is appears to be legislative intent and also federal intent to establish 30% escapement as the guideline for regulations. Okay Harry, give me the escapement figure. These are what we call equilibrium escapement rates, you can see, for instance, the real jump now. One thing that I have to explain on this is that that in 1987, for instance, if you look at Scenario 2, you do not have 60% escapement. Those are the result of regulations that will, if fishing mortality rates continue at the level you saw in 1987 for a period of 3 to 4 years, then those are the escapement rates you have in 3 or 4 years. What they best describe is the impact of regulations because they give you fishing mortality rates in a particular year. So, you can see after regulations went into effect for instance in 1988, I think that's when, when the regulations went into effect that pretty much cover the period we're in right now. Escapement rates have been very similar. They haven't really changed much. So fishing mortality rates haven't changed much. Okay. And, similarly if you look at cumulative fishing mortality rates on age 0 to 3 which are the fish that we determined to be in the inshore fishery, you can see that in 1987-88 when regulations actually went into effect and fishing mortality rates dropped down below a level that would achieve 30 and 50% which means regulations had a big impact on fishing mortality rates. Before we get into probable allocation scenarios, there is a couple of things we have to go over so that you understand as we go through this whole process. One is the relationship between the harvest and fishing mortality rates. In, on the left, there's, we use recruitment to that population of 3 million fish. On the right, we use recruitment at 6 million fish. We use fishing mortality rates that are the same in both cases. As a result you see that the estimated harvest is much different. Fishing mortality rates don't have to change for their, when there is a change in harvest. For example, you can't look at harvest and assume that fishing mortality rates have changed. Harvest could actually double in this case and fishing mortality rates not change at all and it's totally because of the abundance of fish. You have to remember that fishing mortality rates are the rate of removal of fish from the

population and because the population on the right is twice the size and the rates of removal are the same, then there's twice as much harvest. The other thing we looked at in determining what bag limits would be are is the National Rec Survey data and actually plotted the percent of the anglers that attained different bag limits. And this is pre-regulation, this is 1983 through 1986 and you can see it's pretty consistent. And, also, you can see that for the most part, 75% of the anglers catch less than 3 fish, or 3 fish or less. And that it levels off down toward the bottom and there's not a lot of fishermen that actually catch over the, over their 2 or 3 fish limit. And, if we look at the post-regulations then we see that the 5 fish bag limit, you can see where it comes in, in that it just sort of piles fishermen up right there at that 5 bag limit. Harry, can you overlay those two? If you overlay the two, you can see that there's not a lot of difference in the two except for that little hump there at 5 which was caused by regulations. But for the most part, there is just not a lot of fish, not a lot of fishermen that catch over 5 or 6 fish. Okay. There has also been, we've gotten a number of phone calls and there's been some confusion and we've seen some things that have been thrown around that are incorrect in reading a lot of the graphs that we presented in allocation scenarios. So, what I did was, when we deal with stock assessments, we deal with fish. We convert it to bag and bag limits and quotas because it's for regulation purposes. This is actually what we look at before we make the conversion, its in numbers of fish and you can just, as an example, this is 30%, the 30% escapement level if you should choose to increase fishing mortality rates to go to 30% and you allocate all of those to the recreational fishery, then you would be basically doubling the number of fish they caught. If you choose to give all of that, the excess to a commercial fishery for instance, then you would be looking at about 1.2 million fish. Okay Harry. And relating that to bags and a quota, you would be looking at a bag limit of about 135 fish if you gave it all to the recreational fishery or 3.6 million pounds of fish if you gave it all to the commercial fishery. And of course, you can pick anything in between there. For example, 400,000 pound quota, commercially you could go to 80 bag limit, just as an example. So these were presented to you in giving you different options and again this was at moving to the 30% level which we don't necessarily recommend, we recommend you make incremental increases in fishing mortality rates if you do. What we also have is what would be the results of moving to 50% escapement which and the only reason we picked that really is, it's sort of in between where we stand now and 30% and just to give you some perspective as to what would be the impact of going to that. And, for the most part, you would be adding, if you gave it again to the recreational fishery, you would be adding about 50% to their catch and if you gave it all to the commercial fishery, you would be adding about 550,000 fish. Okay Harry. And converting this to a bag limit and a commercial quota, again if you gave it all to the recreational fishery, you would be looking at a 20 fish bag limit and all to the commercial fishery, you would be looking at a 1.8 million pound quota. Okay Harry. That's all we have.

Chairman Schneider: Okay, thank you Harry, I guess we'll turn it over to the Commission now. Are there any questions from the Commission to Harry? I have one right quickly, where's Corky?

Mr. Blanchet: Washington.

Chairman Schneider: What's happening in Washington?

Mr. Blanchet: I don't know.

Mr. John Roussel: Corky is in Washington accepting an award that the Department won as a result of its Wallop-Breaux Boating Access Program. I think it's, Mr. Herring might can help me, but I think its a big association of the boating industry that awarded the Department and he's up there at their convention receiving that award along with a couple of other people from the Department.

Secretary Herring: Plus, he is meeting with Breaux on some things the International Association on some gun component parts that means a lot to us in federal aid. So, he is really up there serving about 2 or 3 purposes today and some national legislation plus receiving the awards. Thank you there for bringing that up.

Chairman Schneider: Okay, the floor is open for any Commission member who would like to ask a question.

Commissioner Mialjevich: May I?

Chairman Schneider: Certainly, go ahead.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Harry, last year when we had this meeting, I had asked the Department, you know ya'll were very cautious about the fish and I commend ya'll on being cautious and it was a different report from what I'm hearing today. From what you presented am I to understand that there is about 1.8 million pounds of fish out there that can be harvested and we will not harm the fishery? Is it fish or pounds, 1.8 million?

Mr. Blanchet: I believe you are talking about under the 50% escapement?

Commissioner Mialjevich: 50%, yes, not the 30%.

Mr. Blanchet: If you take the excess between what's presently being harvested and allocate all of that to the commercial side...

Commissioner Mialjevich: Well if you gave it to the 20 fish to the sports, it would still only be 1.8 million fish or pounds, right?

Mr. Blanchet: No, it would be less in terms of pounds because that would be a slightly smaller fish on the average. So, we have to, there is a difference in the size frequency between the commercial harvest and the recreational harvest and that's encountered for in that graph.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Oh, okay.

Mr. Blanchet: Yes, it's also, you see your commercial harvest there is under an 18 to 27 inch, your recreational harvest begins at 16 inch minimum size limit and it's allowed one fish over 27.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Okay, so that's why it makes it more?

Mr. Blanchet: Yes sir.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Okay, so then we do have a surplus of fish? What happens to them if nobody harvests them?

Mr. Blanchet: They'll eventually move offshore.

Commissioner Mialjevich: And then what?

Mr. Blanchet: Well, they'll contribute to the spawning stock offshore and it'll be bigger.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Will they, wouldn't mortality more or less start taking over, natural mortality?

Mr. Blanchet: Eventually, eventually there will be some sort of compensation when you reach very high levels of stock in any species, there is going to be compensation taking effect so that you would increase the mortality rates on the higher stock levels. That's how you, that's how you can allow fishing of any species actually is because there is that adjustment in the natural stock so that under low stock levels, there is more, more survival than under the high stock levels.

Commissioner Mialjevich: So today we heard a biological presentation, a stock assessment, a total allowable catch with a scenarios which we just talked about. Now on this, would the Department recommend a harvest of these fish?

Mr. Blanchet: I believe that is what we've done, is we've recommended...

Commissioner Mialjevich: I wanted to make it real clear.

Mr. Blanchet: What we've said, what we've said is there is an allowable catch there.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Ya'll recommend that somebody catch them?

Mr. Blanchet: Well, now this is just me speaking here, I am not a, if you look at how things get going, there is two different parts. There is someone to say how much you can catch and then there is the decision of whether you want to catch them or not. Okay? All I'm doing is, I am going to say that there is some that can be caught.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Okay, and then it's going to be up to the Commission to decide who catches them if anybody? Okay, well thank you that is all I wanted to ask.

Commissioner Gisclair: And, again I am going to get back where we are talking. 30% is the figure that we're using as far as using the states, feds, using 30% escapement.

Mr. Blanchet: Yes.

Commissioner Gisclair: These figures are using a 50% escapement?

Mr. Blanchet: Yes sir.

Commissioner Gisclair: And, I'm sure that you feel comfortable with a 50% escapement compared to a 30%.

Mr. Blanchet: Yes sir.

Commissioner Gisclair: And the stock continue improving being that high over 30%, another 20% is what I'm saying added to it the recruitment.

Mr. Blanchet: Yes sir.

Commissioner Gisclair: One other question and I asked you that a while ago and I think everything that was shown up here and I think you said the recruitment from '91, '90-91...

Mr. Blanchet: Yes sir, 1990-91.

Commissioner Gisclair: ... was not used in any of this?

Mr. Blanchet: It wasn't used in the forward assimilations, that's correct.

Commissioner Gisclair: The recruitment in '90-91, you know exactly what the recruitment was anyway, we had good recruitment?

Mr. Blanchet: Yes sir.

Commissioner Gisclair: It can only help the figures, it can't hurt the figures, is what I am saying.

Mr. Blanchet: One of the points I think we ought to make is that this recruitment from 1990 and '91 is not necessarily an on-going thing. I consider this a one time occurrence and not what you are going to see in a long term average. So what we are doing, is we are using long term averages rather than including those anomalous years to try to stay on the conservative side.

Commissioner Gisclair: But, we didn't have a poor recruitment in '90-91 that could bring it down. If anything, it could help bring it up, is what I am saying, those numbers

Mr. Blanchet: That is what our data shows now, yes sir.

Commissioner Gisclair: If in fact, and I am trying to figure out exactly, you saying that the bag limit compared to the commercial, I understand that the pounds differ, if a 1 million pound bag limit, let's say, I am just going to use this for example, and a 7, it would come out right around 7, right, to meet up?

Mr. Blanchet: One million pound quota?

Commissioner Gisclair: Quota would meet up with about a 7 fish bag limit?

Mr. Blanchet: Yes, that's what it shows on a 50%.

Commissioner Gisclair: Okay.

Mr. Blanchet: Again I wanted to emphasize what we're showing 50% is that its some sort of an intermediate, we are not necessarily recommending precisely 50%, but its a guideline.

Commissioner Gisclair: Okay, let's say if I was to use that there, 1 million pound to 7 fish, what would be the difference in the bag limit compared to the commercial. I'm saying, where would it be compared to the 16 inch fish compared to the 18 inch fish, would it help out, would it boost up the bag limit some or would it decrease the commercial catch some? As far as you said, there is a difference in numbers on the 1.8 million fish, 1.8 million pounds.

Mr. Blanchet: Okay.

Commissioner Mialjevich: He is trying to say if the commercial would get a million pound harvest, how many additional fish would the recreational?

Commissioner Gisclair: Right, you're saying its not half and half, correct?

Mr. Blanchet: Yes.

Commissioner Gisclair: Okay, you can't compute 1.8 million pounds and look at it from a commercial and the recreational end of it. What would be the difference is what I am saying?

Mr. Blanchet: I can't tell you right off hand, I can try to calculate that and give you an estimate of it.

Commissioner Gisclair: But I mean would it, would it jump another fish on the recreational end?

Mr. Blanchet: The 7 fish bag limit...

Commissioner Gisclair: Right.

Mr. Blanchet: Okay, would be that if you increase the recreational bag limit by 2, that is not going to give them an additional 2/5 more fish because as we showed, many people don't ever reach the bag limit.

Commissioner Gisclair: Right.

Mr. Blanchet: So, it's not a direct relationship that is easy to put out, we can calculate what the impact would be.

Commissioner Mialjevich: I need to ask Puckett a question, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Schneider can I ask the lawyer a question?

Chairman Schneider: Yes, go ahead.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Mr. Puckett, my understanding of what our charge here today being there is additional fish, is for us to decide on gamefish or not status, we can't decide on if sports get two fish and commercial get "x" number of pounds, can we? Isn't that going to be the legislature that has to do that?

Mr. Don Puckett: Mr. Mialjevich, you've got under the law, you've got the power now to affect a recreational bag limit and the size limit. Under the law, you do not have the power to affect whether or not it is commercial, in other words, that has got to be a statutory change. So, you could conceivably affect a recreational bag limit coupled with a recommendation as to changing gamefish status or maintaining the status quo.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Okay, that is what I wanted to know. Thank you.

Mr. Roussel: Mr. Chairman, I think I can, after discussing it with the guys, can answer the question they asked about the bag limit adjustment in its ball park just by roughly reading some graphs. If there was a million pound quota and an adjustment of the bag limit from 5 to 7, on the average that would increase the recreational harvest by approximately 150,000 fish per year. We could run that, but that takes us a little while, but that is reading it rough off the graph.

Commissioner Gisclair: That is what I am getting at, a number because since the commercial is a larger fish and rec is a smaller fish, you come up with a number and that is a ball park figure.

Mr. Roussel: And, to clarify now, the million pounds commercially would be roughly 250,000 fish. So, you would be giving 150,000 fish to one side, 250,000 fish to the other side but they two different sizes so they differ.

Commissioner Gisclair: Correct, okay that is what I wanted to know.

Commissioner Vujnovich: John, I would like to ask you if we lower the size limit on a redfish say to 12 or 13 inches, would that affect the fishing in any way, the redfish industry?

Mr. Roussel: The size limit is very, very critical and in fact its our collective opinion in the Department that the size limit that was implemented was the major reason why escapement rates were increased. Prior to our regulations, that red drum became available to the fishery as soon as he was big enough to bite on the hook and he stayed available until he moved offshore. With our 16 inch size limit, that fish has his whole first year he's protected. He's protected through the first peak fishing season which is usually in the fall. People identify fall fishing with redfish because he hasn't grown to 16 inches unless he is an extremely fast growing fish out of his cohort. So, we think that the size limit was the major contributor to the decrease in fishing mortality and consequently the increase in escapement rate. If there is going to be some

adjustments in the, in the size limits we would have to do some, a lot more analysis and a lot more looking at it and I think for example, if we opened up that window from 16 to 27 to something like 13 to 27, the bag limit probably wouldn't go up if it was all allocated to the recreational fishery and could possibly even go down because you are opening an opportunity to harvest that fish up in time and it makes quite a bit of difference, it appears by us looking at the pre-regulations to post-regulations.

Commissioner Vujnovich: Okay John, thank you, because the reason why I asked the question is, these young kids, say 5 or 6 years old and they go fishing and they get a 12 or 14 inch little redfish on the line, it breaks their heart when you tell them you got to through it back. Thank you.

Mr. Roussel: I understand.

Commissioner Gisclair: I've got one question?

Chairman Schneider: Go ahead Perry.

Commissioner Gisclair: John, before we get, I read through it, we sent this report out for peer review?

Mr. Roussel: Yes sir, if you recall last year, that was the first question Commissioner Jenkins asked about peer review, and if I recall my answer was, well it's not what us as scientist would call a scientific document, its not written that way and that is why we didn't send it out last year. But, based on his comments, I took it upon myself to send a copy to the Regional Director of NMFS, to the Chief Marine Fisheries Office in each Gulf State, all the members of the Gulf of Mexico Management Councils Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel and the Director of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, I think I covered everybody. And, we have received some responses and I think, Harry handed those out too? Okay, Harry has them to hand out. Now some of them didn't come in until this morning.

Commissioner Gisclair: We received how many out of what you sent out?

Mr. Roussel: I think it's about 5.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Do they concur with you?

Mr. Roussel: I'll let you make the judgement, they will all be in front of you.

Commissioner Mialjevich: I don't like to read much.

Mr. Roussel: I was, 5, so we got a return rate of about 1 out of 3 I guess, I think I sent it to 15 or 16 different, and that's in addition to, of course, it was peer reviewed within the Department. This was reviewed with the whole Marine Fisheries Division biological staff.

Commissioner Gisclair: Do you have, did you put anything together for each one, for each response is what I am saying? We have this up here and we are

privilege to this and nobody out here has what the response is. I mean would you go through one by one and just more or less see if they concur with you exactly what ...

Mr. Roussel: We can, Harry and Joey are ya'll prepared to do that? Do you want to go through each of the 5 responses?

Mr. Blanchet: It might take a while. I think I can try to condense it a little bit.

Mr. Roussel: Would ya'll like us to read it into the record the few that responded to it?

Commissioner Gisclair: I'm just saying, we have it here and this is a very volatile issue, I'm just saying I would like for the people out there to know exactly what the responses were, whether they pro or con. I don't have them either, this is the first time I'm getting them right now.

Mr. Blanchet: I can sort of summarize what some of them had said. A couple of people expressed some concerns over variation in the various indices that we used, that there might be some, in most cases, like with trammel net and seine data we used the average value and there is of course variation around that and they were concerned about what that variation is. It wasn't presented in the document so they couldn't easily evaluate it. Dr. Condrey suggested that some stochastic modeling be done that would try to evaluate the robustness of the model. Several people expressed a problem with our definitions of spawning stock biomass per recruit and spawning potential ratios. As we mentioned in our presentation, those are used in the analysis but our standards that we're measuring actually are escapement standards, so its kind of a technical point. But nevertheless, it is one that we need to have straight in terms of the gulf stock assessment. Another point that was made was that there is no clear understanding at the present time of the offshore age structure of the stock. As we pointed out in last year's report, and again in this year's report, in order to precisely tie down what this age structure is and what the size of the offshore stock is, there does need to be some sort of research to address that specific issue. We made a recommendation last year that there be an offshore tag recapture study similar to what was done by Scott Nichols and we continue to think that a study like that to characterize the stock age structure and to pin down the total biomass or number of fish offshore would be very, very useful. Oh, we were also complimented by a couple of people on being well quoted. Some, one reviewer commented that the rates of fishing and natural mortality were not given in the report. Again, I've just got to say it, it wasn't meant for technical review and that kind of technical information will be presented when we update our full stock assessments which we plan to do this year. But that kind of technical background, I didn't think that you guys were going to get much out of it and essentially what I tried to do with this report was keep it as closely as possible to what was required in the legislation. One other point that was made was that our report assumes that the fish leave the estuary at age 3 and asked if it was confirmed by seine, trammel net samples and essentially what that is is we are using the same method of evaluation of escapement as the National Marine Fisheries Service uses. So we are consistent in that.

Commissioner Mialjevich: I'm looking at this letter here that's in our package you handed us, it says that this Philip Goodyear, he received our copy in the mail and he received about 3 or 4 other copies of a draft copy, January 26, 1994, what is that?

Mr. Blanchet: There was several requests for copies prior to the final copy coming out.

Commissioner Mialjevich: And people were sending these drafts copies out for review?

Mr. Blanchet: I guess. I guess you would have to Dr. Goodyear about that.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Well, who sent this to him, these draft copies?

Mr. Blanchet: He didn't ask, he didn't tell me.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Was it the Department?

Mr. Blanchet: He didn't tell me who it was when I spoke with him.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Well let me ask this question, being I'm a Commissioner and I didn't get a draft copy, did you get one?

Commissioner Gisclair: No sir.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Did you get one?

Commissioner Vujnovich: No.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Did you get one, Mr. Schneider?

Chairman Schneider: Yes sir.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Did you send it to anybody?

Chairman Schneider: I sent it to a lot of people.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Why you didn't send me one?

Chairman Schneider: I told the Department to give you any information you requested.

Commissioner Mialjevich: In other words, you're going to send to certain people and don't worry about the other one then? I just don't appreciate that Mr. Schneider.

Chairman Schneider: I instructed Mr. Roussel to give you all the information you requested just like I got it, you can get it.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Well these other people didn't request it that you sent it to. I'm, as a Commissioner, I am going to ask you, any information

you send to anybody else, I would appreciate it if you would send one to me also and I make this on the record.

Chairman Schneider: I'll ask the Department to send it to you.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Well do it in some form that it's recorded or something like that because I know the next time I'm going to come up with this situation, you are going to say, I told them to do it and they didn't do it. There is all kind of cat and mouse games that can be played. But, I mean, tell the Department if you ask for it, to give it to you, wow, when you don't even know it exists.

Chairman Schneider: Do you have any more questions?

Commissioner Mialjevich: No, I guess not.

Chairman Schneider: Did ya'll get the response from Dr. Kemmerer, I got two pages, did ya'll get that?

Mr. Roussel: No, we got a response from Phil Goodyear who works for Dr. Kemmerer, but none from. Dr. Kemmerer was sent a copy and Dr. Goodyear was sent a copy but we only received a response from Dr. Goodyear.

Chairman Schneider: I think I provided all of those, copies of all of that to the members of the Commission and a copy of Dr. Goodyear's report and a copy of, so everybody is dealing with the same thing, a copy of Dr. Condrey. Who is Dr. Condrey, why don't you tell me who he is?

Mr. Roussel: Dr. Condrey?

Chairman Schneider: Yes.

Mr. Roussel: Professor over at LSU and Chairman of the Gulf Council Stock Assessment Panel and you have a response from him in the packet.

Chairman Schneider: And we have a report, a report by Dr. Clark. Who is Dr. Jerry Clark?

Mr. Roussel: Dr. Clark is former Assistant Secretary for the Office of Fisheries here.

Chairman Schneider: He was formerly your boss, had Corky's job?

Mr. Roussel: Yes.

Chairman Schneider: Okay.

Commissioner Mialjevich: How long has it been since either one of those individuals been working with redfish data. I know Richard's been writing a history of the shrimping industry or something. I think the last he did was that work, what, in 1980 or something?

Mr. Roussel: I couldn't answer that question accurately.

Chairman Schneider: Let me ask you a question about Chuck Wilson's data, ya'll apparently lean on that pretty heavily, tell me something about this purse seine activity out there. I wasn't aware that there were any purse seining going on out there, how's, is he going out there and purse seining redfish and then, what is he doing?

Mr. Roussel: No, well first of all you are incorrect in saying that we lean on the purse seine data. One scenario does, the other scenario does not.

Chairman Schneider: Okay, well you use it.

Mr. Roussel: Does not use purse seine data at all, does not use it at all so we got to get that clear. As I understand it, Dr. Wilson might even be in the audience and could clear represent his project, but he began collecting red drum in the purse seine back in '85-86 in conjunction with the purse seine fishery that was operating. When that purse seine fishery ceased to operate, he continued to work with the same types of vessels who were fishing for other fish. I can't really say personally whether they actually make sets targeting red drum since that fishery is closed, they operate of course under Scientific Collector's Permits. So, any changes in methodology I would not have first hand of, but reading his reports every year, every year, he does emphatically point out that he continues to think that he is sampling from the same population year after year after year.

Chairman Schneider: So, he is actually going out and setting the purse seine and catching the fish, then?

Mr. Roussel: Yes.

Chairman Schneider: And it's targeted at redfish?

Mr. Roussel: I can't, I can't answer that question if it's targeted at redfish because I'm not out there.

Chairman Schneider: What I'm trying to get at is this, is this a by-catch, is he getting by-catch from some of the purse seine activities and reporting it?

Mr. Roussel: I'm sure there is other fish caught in the associated with those sets, but to call it by-catch, I don't, I wouldn't go so far as to call it by-catch with the knowledge I have.

Chairman Schneider: Has Dr. Wilson's work been peer reviewed?

Mr. Roussel: I can't answer that question.

Chairman Schneider: Okay.

Mr. Blanchet: Dr. Wilson's work is presently in the process of being reviewed for publication I believe in fishery bulletin, in one of the very near future issues.

Mr. Roussel: Harry has informed me that that the question about whether the purse seine data is that Chuck collects is targeting red drum, it depends on the year. He has sampled those populations since '85-86 each year up through last year.

Chairman Schneider: Okay. Let me, I would like to read into the record some responses that I got from the National Marine Fisheries, from Dr. Andrew Kemmerer. I have two, I think ya'll have been provided with copies. It says:

"Dear Mr. Schneider,

Thank you for your letter of January 15, 1994 concerning the status of red drum in Louisiana waters. I have seen a copy of a draft report on the status of red drum, but given its very preliminary nature I do not believe it is appropriate for us to comment specifically on it. My understanding is that the Department plans to have the report peer reviewed which I strongly endorse. The only advice I can offer at this time is to proceed cautiously. Unquestionably red drum are rebuilding largely as a direct result of the management efforts by all the Gulf states and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Because of the cooperative nature of these management efforts, I would strongly encourage the Commission not make management changes which would increase fishing mortality without first reviewing the basis for an anticipated impact of these changes with the red drum Stock Assessment Panel of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. As you may know, our management plan for red drum currently requires a comprehensive assessment every two years. The last such assessment was in 1993 which means that the next scheduled assessment will not be until 1995. However, there is flexibility in the plan and I am more than willing to go to the Council and ask them to convene a special meeting of the Assessment Panel so that any anticipated impacts of changes in Louisiana red drum management can be evaluated from the perspective of the total Gulf program. I encourage you to consider this. We began the rebuilding of the red drum population cooperatively, and I believe it is important to continue to work together on this valuable resource. Again, thank you very much for your letter and invitation for comments."

Chairman Schneider: Second letter is February 2, 1994:

"Dear Mr. Schneider,

Thank you for your letter of January 31, 1994 and the revised draft of the report of red drum in Louisiana waters. Unfortunately I am unable to be more definitive about the report than I was in my letter of January 28, 1994. Under separate cover, Dr. Phil Goodyear of our Miami Laboratory is providing you with technical comments on this report. My concerns about the report echo those of Dr. Goodyear. There is simply not enough detail to give it a fair evaluation. This is not meant as a criticism of the authors as lack of detail is a common characteristic of many assessment reports. However, it does emphasize the need for the information to be reviewed by the Stock Assessment Panel. We need to know more about how the data were collected and analyzed, sample bias and most importantly, how everything integrates with other available information and with what the other states are doing. Again, I strongly urge you to proceed cautiously with any management change that increases fishing mortality. Red drum research and management began in earnest as a cooperative effort in the mid

1980's and it would be unfortunate to implement management measures that could jeopardize the success of the rebuilding program without the benefit of a fully and coordinating comprehensive analysis."

Commissioner Jones: Jeff...

Mr. Roussel: Mr. Schneider, I would appreciate having copies of those.

Chairman Schneider: Okay, go ahead Bert.

Commissioner Jones: Just for the record, I know myself, I've only spoken with Dr. Kemmerer, but he is the Regional Director?

Chairman Schneider: Right.

Commissioner Jones: Is that right John?

Mr. Roussel: Yes sir.

Commissioner Jones: For the National Marine Fisheries Service?

Mr. Roussel: Yes sir.

Commissioner Jones: Which is the Gulf region, is that correct?

Mr. Roussel: South, it's called the Southeast Region, correct.

Commissioner Jones: All right.

Chairman Schneider: Are you finished?

Commissioner Jones: Yes, I just wanted to clarify who he was...

Commissioner Mialjevich: Who he was?

Commissioner Jones: ...The importance of who he was.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Yes, he is the same guy that still contends TED's work and that they don't lose any shrimp. He has great creditability.

Chairman Schneider: Okay let's hold it down. I have another, I have another letter here from Dr. Clark.

"Dear Jeff:

I have reviewed the document titled "Third Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum" prepared by the staff of the Marine Fisheries Division of the Department. As the Assistant Secretary for Fisheries I oversaw and helped develop the Department's first extensive report on the status of red drum produced in 1991. The current document is an extension of the methods that we employed in the first report, and I continue to believe that the basic approach is appropriate.

I emphatically do not support, however, the staff's recommendation to allow an increase in the harvest of red drum at this time. There are a number of reasons for my position. Perhaps most disappointingly is the argument on page nine that the harvest should increase because if people in Louisiana are not allowed to harvest these fish now, these fish will be harvested offshore because the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council 'might' open the fishery in the future. To my knowledge, not one state in the Gulf, nor the National Marine Fisheries Service supports the staff's recommendation to add to Louisiana's harvest. I find it disingenuous on the staff's part to offer such an argument.

Next, the staff points out correctly that the original concern for red drum was raised when the offshore stocks were found to have severely depleted cohorts (year classes) that were later tied to overharvest from inshore. The current report relies heavily on the 1993 purse seine data that shows 76% of the offshore population less than 9 years old, whereas the same number never exceeded more than 28% in any previous year. My point is that this radical increase in young fish in one year's data over another is almost surely an artifact of the fact that the number of purse seine samples in recent years has declined and the data is simply less useful for drawing conclusions (it has higher variance). Why is there less concern that, according to the report, there were no schools seen in 1993 that averaged less than 9 years in age like they had seen in earlier years? Further, as is discussed in the report on page 7, Goodyear's 1993 assessment has an offshore population estimate significantly below the Department's. I believe that this difference should be resolved before you authorize any increase in the harvest rate.

It is also important to note that the Department's estimates of fishing mortality are almost always less than Goodyear's for individual years, and for one of the years the Department's estimate of escapement is almost 50 times Goodyear's estimate. This kind of variation in estimates should lead the authors to be cautious about their recommendations, and this does not seem to be the Department's approach.

At one point in the report it states: 'Much of the Department's uncertainty in the status of the stock as presented in last year's assessment has been resolved.' I believe that statements such as this are simply not supported by the data or the analysis in hand, especially given that other equally valid stock assessments have reached different conclusions.

I continue to believe that the Department is on the right track with their science. I think the stock assessment continues to improve, but I believe that the management conclusions being drawn from the research are inappropriate and do not adequately protect Louisiana's important natural resources. Without going too far along these lines, I would hope that Louisiana would not return to those days when everyone thought that fishing had little impact on the status of stocks, and people were more concerned about harvesting every fish that could be caught. I know the Commission has taken more than a little criticism over the last few years for its attempts to protect the state's resources, but I think it should do it once again and reject the Department's advice."

Chairman Schneider: Dr. Goodyear after you weed, wade through his letter simply states: "It is impossible to assess the accuracy of the estimates of the

current condition of the stock or the forecast that are presented in the document because of insufficient data...Although I can not corroborate the results of this particular analysis, the uncertainty is more related to the estimate of where we are at the moment which can not be evaluated with the data presented rather than whether general trend reported in the document is valid or not." So, I submit to ya'll and we can go through this piece by piece, but I submit to you that the peer review that I've received is asking us not to make any changes in the management regime until the Stock Assessment Panel has an opportunity to look at this and to assess the changes that ya'll have proposed and also to allow for a complete peer review of your information. I have had some conversations with probably, I don't know how many, a lot of these guys on this list here, and they are going to be sending stuff in they said, but they, the single biggest thing that they emphasized was that this is a cooperative effort amongst all the states. It was a gulfwide problem and it's a gulfwide solution. If we do what you recommend, then we'll be stopping to cooperate, we'll cease to cooperate with the rest of the Gulf states and we'll be seen as a renegade state trying to catch the fish. Hold it, I'm speaking. And the thing that points this all up, and I'm ashamed it's in the report, is the fact that we need to catch the fish before they get out there in the open Gulf so somebody else might catch it. And that's in this report and I tell you what, I am disgusted to see that in a report by this Department.

Mr. Roussel: Mr. Schneider, can I address it.

Chairman Schneider: I don't believe in that, I mean that's like shooting, that's like saying I will shoot this deer so somebody else won't have it.

Mr. Roussel: Can I address that?

Chairman Schneider: Yes you can.

Mr. Roussel: First of all the Department, that report in it does not contain any recommendation. It says that there is an allowable harvest and the reference to the fact that the EEZ may open is a statement of fact. It doesn't say that's a good reason to harvest them in Louisiana and if you read that in that report, I would gladly sit down with you and go through it because no one else got that impression that that was the reason.

Commissioner Gisclair: How did you get that reason?

Mr. Roussel: We say, we say there isn't, ...

Chairman Schneider: From talking to these experts.

Commissioner Gisclair: No, how did you draw that conclusion from that report, what you just said. I don't read that in the report the way you said. How did you draw that conclusion?

Chairman Schneider: It states, it states it clearly in there.

Commissioner Gisclair: Find it for me and see, how you get that conclusion?

Commissioner Jones: I think we are talking about a point of interpretation. Your point is well received by me, I'll be frank, I thought that it would indicated that we may have something out in the EEZ that would allow other people to catch it also.

Mr. Roussel: Well that very well can happen, but that's not the reason. We are saying the conservation standard is 30%.

Commissioner Jones: Right.

Chairman Schneider: Here it is right here. This excess if not utilized by the Louisiana fishery will continue to contribute to a very rapid build up of the offshore spawning stock. Any significant build up of the spawning stock, SSBR greater than 20% may result in the reopening of the red drum fishery in the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under the GMFMC Red Drum FMP. Increasing fishing mortality rates would allow Louisiana fishermen the opportunity to harvest this resources while it is within Louisiana waters. Now that clearly gives me the impression that we need to catch them first.

Commissioner Gisclair: That is a statement.

Chairman Schneider: That is an option.

Mr. Roussel: No.

Chairman Schneider: Well I'm sorry.

Commissioner Cormier: Can I ask, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Schneider: The Commission can talk and the staff can talk. We are going to have public input where you can talk. And if ya'll start causing trouble, we are going to have Winton and his boys remove you from this audience. You got that order Winton. Go ahead.

Commissioner Cormier: Tee John?

Commissioner Mialjevich: Yes.

Commissioner Cormier: Last year we spoke about a report. From this letter that was sent to Jeff, here, no to John, my mistake, it was sent to John.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Which one?

Commissioner Cormier: From Dr. Condrey.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Okay, Richard.

Commissioner Cormier: Richard Condrey. I am reading it, it says in that, on the first page, bottom paragraph, it is talking about a report and from reading that I am assuming that he is talking about a report to come out next year. Was that the one we were referring to, you and I, last year when this issue came up, we wanted, what ever happened to that report?

Commissioner Mialjevich: No, that wasn't it. The thing here that he is talking about is the offshore age structure. That has, we are talking about what's inshore, you understand? And, when I, you know this is cooperative effort between us and the federal government on red drum? They had a secretary decree that closed it down for 90 days, then they passed a law that was for a moratorium with no fishing in federal waters and the states could have did what they wanted. There was no cooperation, they said we are going to do it. But now, when it is the other hand, when our biologists data that was good enough to give gamefish status, good enough to have quotas on commercial fishermen, comes up and says they got fish to harvest. Now we need every Tom, Dick and Harry from Maine to California to dictate and say they not good enough now. You know, I don't know. We either going to get rid of this biology department and let's write letters to the Gulf Council and let them run this thing, or let's get rid of the Commission and let the biologists and the Department run the thing. I mean, they are only good when they're, you get my point, Mr. Cormier? The information is only good when it suits certain peoples purpose. And when they say the truth and they don't want to hear the truth, they go out and send reports that aren't even finished out to people that don't want to see it open, my God, the people on the Gulf Council, don't want it open. I was on the damn thing, the vote was 8 to 9, 7 to 6, it was sometimes even worse than that, anything against commercial fisheries. There is not a one, all of this is biased that they have here. We have a good biology department, we got good biologists at LSU and there is nothing wrong, there is additional fish out there and I never saw on any of these reports where they said there was not any fish out there to be harvested. All they're afraid is they did not see all the back up data and all this other antsy stuff, so I don't know what the problem is here today. It's clear to me, there is 1.8 million pounds out there to be harvested and I want somebody to catch it and I would like to see the sport people get a couple more fish and I would like to see a commercial fishery opened and I don't see what we got to argue about here. If the Federal Government don't like, that's tough.

Chairman Schneider: Are there any more questions, comments, Perry?

Commissioner Gisclair: Mr. Cormier?

Commissioner Cormier: Yes.

Commissioner Gisclair: The study you were talking about and I'm, I've got the minutes of last year's meeting, didn't have anything to do with that study. That was two completely different things. It says, Commissioner Cormier then suggested the legislature should order the Department to make a final study as to what can be feasible and gives all the answers needed. He then stated there was not enough information available. It wasn't that study you were referring to. I've got one question, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Schneider: Yes sir.

Commissioner Gisclair: And, I read in two of these letters here, one from Mr. Kemmerer and well the second one also, okay and both of them say the same thing. And it starts off the only advice I can offer at this time is to proceed cautiously. The next thing, again it says, again I strongly urge to proceed cautiously with any management change that increases fishing mortality. A 30%

escapement rate is the accepted rate, 30%. What we are basing our figures on is a 50%, I think we are being very cautious. I think we are being cautious.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Extremely.

Chairman Schneider: Any other comments, any other questions?

Commissioner Cormier: Without being or trying to open up another worm again, that comment that you were asking about, about the way they perceive this report, that's stated in this report, John, you refer to that, it was interpreted differently is what you said. Well, I want you to know that I received a phone call from a gentleman out around the New Orleans area. He called me and spoke to me by phone, he and I spoke lengthy on this report, I didn't receive it by the way, Tee John, he had a copy of it of course and he told me that he didn't want the shrimp, I mean the reds to go out offshore. That was his comment to me and I said, well I don't have a report, I can't talk to you about it, I don't know what it means, you know. But, and this guy also told me that he would like to see me do something about this report and go along with this report because he had been arrested and incarcerated twice and if I would legalize it, then that way he wouldn't have to do it illegal again. I am just telling you what the man told me. Now if the man wants to say who he is, I have no problem with he and I discussing it, I am sure he is in this audience today. I will not reveal his name of course but if he wants to, I mean, he wasn't embarrassed to tell me that he was incarcerated twice for illegal redfish and in essence, so he wasn't going to do it again, he just that he wanted me to make it legal now and I agree with him to keep the man from going to jail ...

Chairman Schneider: Well, we could make everything crime free by just changing the law.

Commissioner Jones: John, I would like to make one point here and that is, it does appear that the redfish is doing better.

Chairman Schneider: I think that is the main thing.

Commissioner Jones: And I think that we need to all applaud that. I think the reasons, the reasons that its doing better is that we as a Department and as a State are managing the resource better. I think its indicative of why its doing better and I feel that we need to continue in the opportunity to afford a full recovery. And, what little measures we've done, you can see the impact that it has had and we have seen basically a one year jump over last year, significant jump and I think it is due to the conservation measures that we have taken. And I think that the Department and the Commission need to be commended for that and I think that we're getting closer, but we're not there yet.

Mr. Roussel: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a statement too just to try to clear it up. The Department and we carefully...

Chairman Schneider: Ya'll hold it down out there.

Mr. Roussel: ...We carefully prepared this report. The Department does not specifically recommend anything. The Department has provided a report to

assist you with answering three questions that the legislature mandates you to answer. And, it's unfortunate that some people have taken our attempts to answer those three questions and try to, try to put reasons why we put certain things in the report, that's very unfortunate because the Department has a professional staff that spent long hours preparing this thing. And, I want you to recognize, I want everyone to recognize that this was our attempt to assist you with your charge, not to tell you what to do.

Chairman Schneider: Thank you. Have you seen this Red Drum Operations Plan before or is this the first time you've ever seen that?

Mr. Roussel: I've seen it.

Chairman Schneider: You've seen it? Okay.

Mr. Roussel: And we interact, I might mention one other thing, we interact with all the Gulf states on a regular basis and there are other states that are going through the process of adjusting their regulations, that you need, I don't know what their proposals are ...

Chairman Schneider: I think that as the redfish population improves, we're going to all look at it, is that not correct?

Mr. Roussel: But we're not a renegade, I think.

Chairman Schneider: I don't want to be a renegade and I'm afraid we'll be branded renegade if we break ranks and don't still cooperate with everybody else because this is a cooperative effort. I'm telling you, everybody I've talked to is saying let's stick together on this and do it right. Like Bert says, this is one of the few times that we've been able to bring a stock back as far as we've brought it back. We've got a sick patient and it's getting better and when it's just about well, I don't, you know, we're having some argument about how well it is, is what we are having. We're having a discussion and a disagreement about how well the patient is, but nobody is saying the patient is not getting better. The redfish population is getting better. But, you know, in my discussions with some of these folks, and I don't have there peer review, they said they were going to send it in later, they all emphasize the cooperative nature of this venture that we are trying to do because Louisiana is the king pin in the Gulf and we've got to do right here because it affects Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, everybody, it affects everybody. So, we got to do the right thing. Our decisions in this Commission is going to affect a lot of other people is what I'm trying to get at.

Mr. Roussel: And that's exactly what the statement that we made that I got, we got criticized for was trying to point out that it is interrelated, the Federal management, state management and all five Gulf states when I say state management, it's all interrelated and it's unfortunate and I'll take the blame for it giving the wrong impression, we'll be more careful next time in how we word it.

Chairman Schneider: Well, nobody is trying to blame anybody. Are there any more questions of John?

Commissioner Vujnovich: I would like to ask one question?

Chairman Schneider: Yes, Captain Pete.

Commissioner Vujnovich: John, all this redfish that we have in the water, did ya'll study what it's doing to the rest of the seafood in the water, like the little crabs, the little shrimp. I can tell ya'll, ladies and gentlemen and fellow Commissioners, I've been an oyster man since I was 12 years old. When I remember one day, Mr. (?) came on my boat, I dumped a dredge, and you could see nothing but little crabs, all kind of little animals crawling. He said, when you see this, he said the water's healthy. Today, I was out there last Saturday and Sunday, I caught six crabs in a dredge where 20 years ago, I use to catch 20 bushels if I wanted to pick them up. And the little stone crabs, I didn't see a one because my little granddaughter asked me, she said, they call me Dido, that's grandpa in Yugoslav, she said bring me some little stone crabs so I can put in my aquarium. And, believe it or not, two days fishing oysters, I could not catch one. So there is something out there that's eating all this stuff up. And, the pelicans I have never seen this in my life, brown pelicans, they had about a dozen of them. When I pushed the shells overboard, they were right there in front of the boat trying to get something to eat. I opened a couple of oysters for them, but they would not eat the oysters. So, gentlemen there is something wrong out there, that is all I can say.

Chairman Schneider: If there are no more questions, I guess we will take public comment at this time. When you come, they are trying to film this, and if you would like to come up, make sure that you give your name and address or who you represent and let's all display common courtesy and let them speak their peace. Everybody will get a chance to speak. Go ahead.

Mr. Jeff Angers: Thank you, sir. Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, my name is Jeff Angers and I'm the Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association and I'm here today to implore each of you to please not turn back the clock. You on this Commission and the members of the Legislature have endured much acrimony and controversy over the last 10 years because of the issue of redfish. And the public policy ramifications of your decision today are very serious. What has developed in Louisiana, we've all seen has been a billion plus dollar per year industry called the saltwater fishing industry. Certainly, certainly the economic impact that the popularly sought after redfish and speckled trout make a big impact there. We want to encourage you to stay the course, no change in the current law, no increase in the recreational bag limit and no commercial harvest either. The saltwater recreational fishery, we all know, helps Louisiana's economy and Mr. Chairman and members, based on the comments that you got today in writing from Dr. Kemmerer, the Regional Director of the Southeast Region of National Marine Fisheries, comments from the Chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, Dr. Goodyear, Dr. Condrey and Dr. Clark, I would like to encourage you please don't turn back the clock, let's keep the status quo. Thank you sir.

Chairman Schneider: Next, go ahead.

(Unidentified Speaker): ... commercial fisherman. First off, I don't know if Mississippi is a part of our Gulf, but they've been having a commercial

fishing industry for the since we closed ours as far as I know. Also, one of the main things that I hear and with the graphs that were shown we got a 70% escapement ratio, 70%, that is the highest number that we've seen in years. The lowest percentage was down to 10%. What people may or may not realize and Mr. Vujnovich, I'm not sure of your name sir, you hit the nail on the head, what's going on in the waters in Louisiana right now is the same thing that the nutrias did to our marshlands. The redfish are destroying everything in the water, they knee deep. We go out in different areas every day where we used to be able to set a net to catch sheepshead and black drum, we can't set them any more. Why? Because of the redfish. We can't, it doesn't make any sense. I mean, these men and they're being criticized as a biologist, okay, maybe I take it wrong, that's what I see. I'm only a fisherman, what do I know. We get pushed around like if we little garbage or something. But the point here is, you got a product that's destroying the other species right now. It needs to be harvested. I'm sorry if fellows can't go out and catch a few more fish. The problem with this is, you can have all the recreational fishermen all you want catching the redfish and they going to only catch a small percentage. Nobody wants to go out and just catch all the redfish. We the first ones that were affected by this ban, our families didn't have the right to eat what they normally did prior to it because it cost us money. It cost the state money because we stopped buying equipment that we fished them with. And, I strongly suggest that you consider for the first time in years what this commercial fishing industry means to the State of Louisiana, 50,000 jobs directly or indirectly are related to the commercial fishing industry. Have a good one.

Mr. Adley Dyson: My name is Adley Dyson, I live at 130 John Street, Cameron, Louisiana and I fish redfish with a rod and reel. I've got a license right here, this license cost me probably \$10. I can fish redfish with it. I got another license right here \$55, I got nine gear license for my 35 foot boat. I can't fish redfish. Now who's putting more money into the State, a man that buys nine \$30 license or a man that buys one \$10 license? Us, recreational fishermen, and I am a recreational fishermen with a rod and reel, I shrimp fish, I don't even fish fish you know to sale. We catch 8 million pounds a year recreational and I don't see no reason why we couldn't split these fish with the commercial fishermen and I think if we open the fisheries up and the fish get over caught where they dwindle down, let's close the whole thing. Let them build back up, let nobody catch them. When they build back up, you open it up again, let's be fair and impartial. That is fair and impartial. Another thing, this data was good enough to close the commercial redfishing, but it's not good enough to open it back up, yet it's the same data, was they wrong at first or are they wrong now? Either way, you've got the same problem. And, like this gentleman said, what does these fish eat? These fish eat shrimp and crabs and other little fish and when you build up one species, you got to take down another one because that is the balance of nature. One thing feeds off the other, we feed off other animals, I eat cows, pigs, fish, I mean, everybody is the same. We feed off other animals. These fish have got to eat something. And in Calcasieu Lake right now, they had a study, USL, I talked to the gentleman, him and his wife created this study. You went to school with this gentleman and they're trying to figure out why the blue crab dwindled down in Calcasieu Lake. We know why, the main predator on blue crabs is redfish and now redfishing is closed to commercial fishing. And these people that fish redfish, recreational fishermen,

I catch me a little crab, put him on my hook and I catch a redfish with it. That's all I got to say, thank you.

Mr. Eddie LeJeune: Hello, my name is Eddie LeJeune. We was talking about renegade, the state running a renegade. Well, the federal, when they shut it down, they shut it down for everybody, sport, commercial. We went a renegade years ago when we left it open for the sport fishermen to keep catching them and we were shut down completely. Thank you.

George Barasich: Members of the Commission, my name is George Barasich and I am here today in a dual capacity. I'm here today representing the Governor's Shrimp Task Force as a St. Bernard parish representative. I'm also here representing the United Commercial Fisherman's Association which is a newly formed organization to fight for fair and equitable laws and regulations to prevent the total collapse of our valuable commercial fishing industry. As appointed members of this Commission, it is your obligation or better yet your duty to make a quantitative as well as a qualitative decision on this redfish issue regardless of your personal views on the subject. Gentlemen, what we have here now is a renewable marketable resource that has regenerated itself to destructive proportions. You can no longer ignore or decide to wait any longer to see what is going to happen. The commercial fishing industry is an integral part of the economy of Louisiana. Therefore, by allowing a commercial harvest of this overabundant renewable resource, you will be affording some of our hard working citizens a chance to once again make some money and at the same time, help rejuvenate the state's economy. Gentlemen, not only do we have now more redfish than you shake a stick at, we also have two other resources that are starting to suffer because of the vast amounts of redfish that are feeding on them. That is the crabs and shrimp. Crab production is down 60 to 80% in some areas depending upon the redfish population. Reports from fishermen indicate that shrimp production was lowest in areas with high redfish populations. According to Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries reports last year, the redfish population was going to consume 274,000,000 pounds of food stock, mostly crabs and shrimp. Therefore if nothing is done to diminish this overwhelming stock that is present now this year, we can expect the food consumption rate of the redfish to at least double next year. That's over 500,000,000 pounds of food stock. With all the preceding factors considered, you must conclude that a commercial harvest is not only indicated but is absolutely necessary. During the Roemer administration, the commercial fishery industry was dealt many setbacks. Now, as we predicted, these setbacks are being felt throughout the Louisiana economy. I'm appealing to you now as the governing body deciding these questions controlling the fishing industry, to come together to manage the resource so everyone, that is recreational and commercial fishermen, can utilize the resource. I am at this time offering you my services as President of the United Commercial Fisherman's Association any information we have so you can make a fair decision. I also want to make one comment on that first gentlemen that came up, saying that the sport industry was much more powerful. Well, I did a little research on it, when you deduct the amount of freshwater fishermen and divide it between the saltwater fishermen, it isn't half as powerful economically as you shall think. And, the ripple effect that the commercial industry has on the state of Louisiana as far as jobs and everything else, far supersedes any, how we say, contrived figures that certain people came up with over a billion dollars plus. Thank you very much.

Mr. Pete Gerica: Pete Gerica, Lake Pontchartrain Fisherman's Association. I could see how this is divided up here, it is the same way it's been. That's side opposed, this side is for fairness. But let me tell ya'll one thing, when ya'll talking about putting me out of work and my people, the buck town fisherman, okay, city of New Orleans, most of the restaurants that the tourist come to Louisiana to eat food from, the seafood comes from my fishermen. We feed the tourist, we feed the consumers. There is far more consumers than there are recreational fishermen in this state and I think it is time the consumers gets his share of this product. Why should one group hog this fish any further. I mean, 9 million pounds last year just about, it's going to be about the same thing this year. If you do like the fair side said, give us a quota and give ya'll two more, that's another 2 million pounds for your side. How much more ya'll want? I know what the end result is, you want to see us gone like Florida wants to see us gone. But believe me, as long as this mans got air in his body, your goal will not be achieved.

Mr. T-Roy Borne: Hello, my name is T-Roy Borne from Leeville and everybody talks about like heritage and all these people from south Louisiana grow up living off the land. Their ancestors did it, theirs before them did it. It's just how you're raised. We ain't got big buildings and stuff to go get a job at. Either you work in the oil or they ain't go no more oil hardly to work. It's just seafood and if ya'll keep on putting more and more laws on the seafood, then we are going to be all on welfare and food stamps, all of us. And, ya'll got to realize all the people ya'll hurting in this. They got enough redfish, they said, okay, 50%, two redfish. You come down to Leeville anytime and you can go by John Boudreaux's motel and you can see the redfish that the sports catch. They make two and three trips a day, not of only there limit, no, 10, 15 and anybody from on bayou, Bayou Lafourche knows that. Why you think you see on TV, ya'll go fishing down on the bayou. It's not because they ain't got no fish, it's because they have fish. They have enough charter boats down there right now, they are almost out weighing the fishermen charging \$200 or \$300 a person. You think I am going to pay \$200 or \$300 a person if I can't catch my limit? Any reasonable person wouldn't. But I think we got to do something, something got to be done and I hope that ya'll pay attention to everybody that's talking up here and ya'll need to get a long better especially that man in the middle, you need to start jiving with the other people.

Ms. Linda Johnson: T-Roy is a hard act to follow. I've known him a while. Commission, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary, my name is Linda Johnson. I am with the Do You Care Coalition for Commercial Fishermen, we are located in Kenner, Louisiana. Our plight has always been federal, but boy have I missed the boat on this one, ya'll are just as destructive as the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. And I would like to talk to you about a really endangered species and that's the commercial fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico especially here in Louisiana. Your regulations have far extenuating circumstances to look at. You take food away from families. You take jobs away from husbands and fathers. We employ people. We contribute to the economy. We don't redistribute wealth, we create wealth for the State of Louisiana and we're treated like common criminals. We don't break laws, we want to work with you. We want you to work with us, we would like to come together and we would like to present a plan to ya'll, not to over capitalize on the resource but to redistribute the resource so that all people share in it equally. This after all is America and it should

be justice for all, not for the elite, not for those who can buy it, but for all people. Thank you.

Mr. Andy LeBlanc: My name is Andy LeBlanc, and I'm from Metairie, Louisiana and I tell you, I really had my eyes and ears opened here today. I just never realized what sea going pests the redfish were completely wiping out the crabs and the shrimp and everything else. It's a wonder we even had a viable fishery before gill nets arrived on the scene. It's really something. I just wonder what people did for a living before the blackened redfish became popular. I know darn good and well that before blackened redfish became a popular menu item, you could hardly give redfish away. In fact, I knew some commercial fishermen that use to leave redfish at shops on consignment because they weren't sure if they would be able to sell them. So, please, stay the course, let's not turn the clock back and remember, if you open it up, its just going to get shut down again. You are just going to be spinning your wheels. Let's make sure we know what we are doing and get some really reliable data to base our decisions on first. Thank you.

Mr. Henry Mouton: My name is Henry Mouton from Lafayette, Louisiana. I sit here and listen to a lot of this for many years and I've heard some comments today that I would kind of like to comment on. I hear being a commercial fisherman is in your heritage and it sounds like they are saying, since their grandfather and father and brother and uncle commercial fishermen, they are commercial fisherman. I grew up in an industry that my grandfather started a successful business, my uncle, my father, my brother were all involved in. But as the economy went bad in the mid-80's or early 80's, we had to sell out and I went to a different occupation. There is life after death, I found that out. I'm now involved in a couple of occupations that I did not go to school for, I made some bad financial errors, I recovered and moving forward. But I had to do it to continue a living. When they say about these guides charging \$300 a day per fishermen, well, I talked to a guide in Texas, Mr. Smokey Gaines about six months ago. Smokey told me when they came in and made gamefish redfish in Texas and trout gamefish, he says, boy I'm going to be out of business, he says. And then he started looking back and saying well, I guess I ought to become a guide. There is always high paying people that would come in and pay so I can take them fishing. Smokey said I lived in a run down house, I drove an old beat up pick up truck, we did what we could to get by. He says now that I've been a guide for the past eight to ten years, he said a bank was able to loan me enough money to send my oldest daughter to medical school. And I asked the banker point blank, would you let me sign this note with my previous employment. He said no. He said my life has gotten much better. So there is other things and I would much rather hire a guide that has been on the water all his life than some guy that claims he is a guide and hangs his shingle out today. The recreational fishermen voluntarily gave up fish because we want what is best for the resource. And, it is kind of like an infant child that you got to take care of them for everything they do because they can't do for themselves, they can't communicate with you. I've got a three week old son, he can't communicate with me. The child is sick, we take every precaution known to insure his healthiness and one of the comments I heard is, we are in a recovery period, but we have not fully recovered. I saw that happen two weeks ago when my 81 year old father had surgery and we thought he was on the road to recovery, and at two o'clock in the morning, I get a phone call to get my tail into the hospital, that they had to

rush him back into the emergency surgery to stop a bleeding problem. The reports have come back from the peer review that I have heard say that we need to move cautiously. The fish are starting to make a come back. They are a long way from recovered. We don't want to catch any more fish. We want the fish to recover. As trout, we voluntarily went from a 50 to a 25 fish limit to do what's best for the resource. That is what we are after. And we are not here to talk about economic impact, but if you want to, recreational fishing is a, saltwater recreational fishing is a big industry in Louisiana. There is some 250,000 licensed saltwater fishermen, that does not include those over 60 or those under 16. I've plenty friends of mine that have children under 16 and plenty friends of mine that are over 60 and it is a big industry. I've seen people hire people, a boat builder that I'm getting ready to do some business with, three years ago employed he and his son. Now he employs two other people. It's a big industry and we have got to sit there and take care of the resource. You know, if we are going to air, let's air in favor of the resource. It's too premature to sit after the fish are just starting to make a come back to go ahead and tear them apart. Yes, Mississippi does have a redfish harvest. I think their commercial quota is about 30,000 pounds. Last year, enforcement agents of this Department did a sting operation and arrested people hauling fish in from Mississippi and all of this, and there was like 25% more of the quota in Mississippi was hauled in Louisiana and no telling what Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Tennessee, Florida got. So, we got to work. And the recreational fishermen that break the law, they ought to have a ticket written and they ought to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. We've always stood for that, it doesn't matter who you are. You break the law, you pay the dues. And, gentlemen the only thing I can ask you is move cautiously, don't change anything. Yes, we need to teach our kids conservation, education is the key to it. If we tell them it's okay to go out and kill alligators out of season, they are going to do it. But if we tell them how important it is to take a fish and put it back in the water and let him swim away, how much more fun that is than throwing him on a filet board, that's important. And, the fish have started to make a come back, they are nowhere near what they used to be and we have got to take care of the fish. Thank you.

Chairman Schneider: Thank you. Next?

Ms. Sherry McConnell: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, my name is Sherry McConnell, I represent the Louisiana Restaurant Association. Our position has always been one of support of management of the species recognizing the sports industry as, sport fishing industry as a very valid and important one to our economy. However, we do represent the consumers in our view and those are consumers of not only tourist consumers but our own Louisiana residents. Our position has been to support the scientific data and at this point, however, at this point, we've got to look more closely at the scientific data in hopes that you will do the same thing. Our biologists are the ones that we supported in the past when we decided in fact to continue the redfish gamefish status with the understanding that this Commission was going to look at the status of the species with the consumer and all of those people that participate in this resource in mind. And, we would like to ask you if you are in fact considering the consumer, the Louisiana Restaurant tour and its patrons in mind. Thank you. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Chairman Schneider: Thank you, Sherry.

Mr. Ted Loupe: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen. We are here today, it's not to talk about the redfish, to see who is going to get the redfish. It's simple, it's best answered right here. Let me start with this. This is in the Baton Rouge paper, okay? Mr. Jimmy Jenkins was asked this question right here, can there be a viable commercial fishery and an equal viable recreational fishery? Right in the middle of his answer, I think we ought to set aside two saltwater species for recreational fishing, speckled trout and redfish. Mr. Schneider, that's the truth, not all that garbage you been reading us from these biologists. Ya'll want it all for yourselves, you know that, we know that. Let's cut the bull. All we ever asked for was our fair share, that's all we want. And as far as the peers that sent you these letters and all, first time I addressed these people in San Antonio, Texas when I had to go up there and talk to them about red snapper because they were fixing to make a crucial mistake, a crucial mistake by going back to the 11 inch law or the 13 inch law. This one biologist you're talking about did not even know what buoy fishing a long line was and he was going to tell us what we would do with our resource. In fact, when we had a meeting in New Orleans about four years ago, he swore up and down we had very limited numbers of 25 and 30 pound snappers left in the Gulf of Mexico. When any one of these snapper boats that know anything about it can go out there and catch all they want. He was right about one thing, they don't have it in Florida. They never had it in Florida because the fish they were catching were off the Louisiana coast being boated back to Florida and that's the truth not the garbage you're peeling out. Now, when all this came about a few years ago, there were no guidelines for what ya'll are doing right now. Today, there are guidelines and I would like to emphasize some of them and it's in your manual. Wildlife and Fisheries, Title 56, Saltwater Fishery Conservation and Management. "Recognizing that there are ever increasing numbers of both sport and commercial fishermen utilizing the waters of the state for recreational and commercial pursuits resulting in conflicts over limited space and competition for the same saltwater fish, and acknowledging that both the sport and commercial fishing industries are vital to the economy of the coastal region" something that ya'll have ignored. What hurts us in our coastal areas. We can't all be fish guides, sir. "and the entire state, the saltwater fishery standards for conservation and management of all species of saltwater finfish are hereby declared to be fair and in the best interest of the state." Something that side of this board has never been is fair. Now, I will go on a little further. Purposes, and I will just read the last statement, "if changes are required, these increases and decreases should be distributed among all fishermen in a fair and equitable manner that considers among other factors historical usage", historical usage? Historical usage, wait a minute. My grandfather used to sale redfish for seven cents back in 1930 something when there were not any recreational fishermen. Well, I'll be damn. "And showing that no historical user groups will be arbitrarily excluded". Oh, wait a minute, we are from Baton Rouge, we found there is redfish in Leeville, we don't want these people down in the coastal area to use it no more, so, we are going to make it a gamefish and we will have it just for ourselves. That's what has been done over the years sir not biologically, but what was better for you at the time. Let me ask a question out of curiosity. Ya'll want to play this game, why couldn't we have a big push by the shrimp industry, the crab industry this year, give ya'll the fish but from now on, anyone puts a net in the water to trawl with has to show 50% of his income comes from commercial fishing or he can't buy a sport trawl. How would you like that? Because the way you are going about it, this is where you are

headed. We want this, you want that, all we ever asked for was a fair share. Something ya'll have never relinquished. We not asking for all of it. Last year, recreational fishermen in this state caught 9 million pounds, but ya'll are so damn selfish and greedy, ya'll can't even give up one million. Tell me I'm lying, you can't because it's the truth and you know it. Let me go on a little further in your regulation, your, your by-laws you are suppose to abide by. "Saltwater Fishery Standard, sir. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various fishermen, such allocations to the extent practical shall be fair and equitable to all such fishermen." We are fishermen, none of this has been fair and it damn sure hasn't been equitable. "Reasonably calculated to promote conservation". I must admit some of that was done there. "Carried out in such a manner that no particular individual, corporation or other legal entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges". I hope you enjoyed your share because I damn sure didn't enjoy mine. "In the best interest of the citizens of Louisiana". You totally disregarded the rest of these people in the state, the elderly, the handicapped, that has not access to this fish. For your own greed, you have totally disregarded the rest of this state aside us. "Conservation and management measures shall where practical promote efficiency in the conservation and management of fishery resources except that no such measures shall have economic allocation as a sole purpose". Every time I come to these meetings, every time I come to them, all I hear is the recreational is worth a billion dollars. Sole purpose ya'll had intentionally was to promote recreational and to build it up at the cost of our livelihoods. Mr. Schneider, let's quit playing games, we just want one million pounds. We not asking for the 10 million ya'll can catch a year, all we want is one. If that is too much, so let it be. Maybe some one will pick up and go after the shrimp trawls when I am done. I thank you.

Mr. Andy Savant: How are ya'll doing? My name is Andy Savant, I fish out of Cypremort Point and I had to get up when I heard, I don't see him now, but that guy said he talked to a fisherman in New Orleans that couldn't even give away a redfish when it was legal. Well, I will tell you what, I'm a fishermen. I ain't never had to give nothing away, I could always sell my fish. That's food, that is stuff that people eat, that's stuff that God put in that water, not you, not no members on that board put that in that water. And as far as for fishing with your hooks, they had gill nets before they had hooks, buddy. Look back in your Bible days, God said throw your net on the side of the boat, not your hooks. Okay? And, when you are going to start taking away from my family, my little girl I am trying to raise, hell, I ain't putting myself in poverty, ya'll are putting us in poverty. And, I wish my Daddy was here to stand up because he might do something a little bit serious where he would go to jail for it because he had a bad temper for stuff like that, you know. And, I am a young commercial fisherman, I ain't been around for years and years and years. Mr. Pete, I can verify with you. My father-in-law is probably one of the oldest oyster fishermen in this country, his daddy was, come here from Italy. And, I say the same thing, redfish are eating everything in the water, everything. Okay? And, ya'll need to give us a break on it so I can raise my children with a little pride in myself and not have to hold my head down in shame or nothing else like that because I can't make a living because ya'll won't let me. You don't want me to fish your redfish, you don't want me to fish your speckled trout, I will sit at my house all day long, pay my salary and pay my bills.

Mr. Justin Schway: My name is Justin Schway, and I fish from Cypremort Point. And, this is what I look at, you say the commercial fishermen destroy the fishing industry and all that. Maybe it was, that was before we had laws like unattended nets. I got to sit out in the rain, in the cold, sitting on my nets to run them daily. I sleep out on my nets to run them, we got new laws, we got good laws, we don't have nets sitting out there in the water with rotten fish in them no more. I think we can fish these redfish and I think we got good enforcement agents that come out there and they check us. They check us weekly out there. I think ya'll need to let us fish them. Like they said, there is enough of them out there and everybody comes up here and says they want it change. That is where it started, with a change. They changed it to help it to grow. We haven't fished it in so long and every year they say it is not helping much, well what is destroying it if it is not helping much? Now this year, they tell us we got fish out there unreal, that we can fish. So all we asking is for that chance to let us fish it. Right here today, ya'll can change it for the sport fishing industry ya'll can give them a up on their limit right here today. But for ya'll to give it to us it has to go through legislation. Okay? Fine, at least give it to legislation and let them give a decision. Ya'll recommend to them for us, please, that is all we ask. All we want is a chance to fish the redfish. I shrimp and I can tell you, when I catch them in my TED wedged up in the (?), I take them out and I do eat them. And, they got four to five pounds of shrimp in each red I cut open. I see them destroying my second industry, shrimping. And, all I ask is just for ya'll to consider it and make that change. Thank ya'll.

An Unidentified Speaker: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary, members of the Commission, I'm really concerned. First of all, I would like to welcome all the new Commission Members, I used to know everybody up here and I haven't been involved very much in the last year so there is some new faces. But I'm really concerned about the way things are going. There was a time when this board sat before people and could talk about things and fair decisions were made. Obviously, it is not that way any more. But I think today I've heard some statements that's going to overcome what I think the end result of this is going to be. I'm real disappointed to know that Mr. Schneider is the only one that gets mail from Richard and Chuck, two boys that I know very well, very professional. But I don't think it is fair to use those letters and ask these other gentlemen to vote on them when you're the only one that has got them. And, if this is on record, I would like to submit that those two letters be taken off the record because you're the only that's got them in all fairness. I really think that some of the statements that were made today that made by some people on the recreational side that does not even, are not even aware of what's going to happen. Whenever we go back home and tell all of the recreational fishermen that you can catch more fish, your quota can be raised, well then why am I not getting them? Because somebody said, you don't you shouldn't get them because if we give you some we have to give the commercial some. Gentlemen, the recreational fishermen ain't going to stand for that, they are going to want their fish. I would like to commend our biologist, I know all three of those guys and most of the guys in the Department, excellent people. When the biology knocked me down five years ago when there was a shortage of redfish, we bit the bullet went to Baton Rouge, asked Governor Roemer shut it down for everybody. The recreational said no, we want our five. Ya'll quit but we want five. Now the data is in the favor of the fish, not in either damn group, excuse the

language. But the fish, there is plenty of fish. I really think that if you with what I have heard here today do not share these fish, this is what is going to happen. If you look worldwide, the people of the world today are tired of bullshit. They are fighting in countries all over. I've been before this Commission many a time and never rose my voice one time. But these people that are in here are not going to take it, you are not going to take it from them this time. Something bad is going to happen or the Governor is going to lose. But it's not going to be taken likely. Surely, I think that you know that, you are going to put 75% of the recreational fishermen to 90% on our side. That is what is going to happen because those boys are going fishing economically when the data is out and all the news is out, they going to say, well then I just want two or three more. Unless, I missed the data at 50% escapement, the creel can be 20, at 50%, 20 fish. Well if I go back home and tell recreational fishermen that you can catch 20, you are going to get the nasty letters, not me. Gentlemen, the only thing I'm asking you is to be fair. I really don't think Mr. Schneider has been fair by not sharing these letters with other Commissioners. I think it was unfair to correspond with Dr. Goodyear without sharing this information with other Commissioners. I don't, Jimmy and I were personal friends and he was a sneaky rascal, but I don't think he ever did that. I'm just asking you to please consider what you're doing, I'm asking you not to vote on it because the recreational fishermen back home are going to have a lot to say about it. Thank you very much.

Chairman Schneider: Thank you.

Commissioner Jones: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say, excuse me for a second and this is nothing personal because we have known each other through the years.

The Unidentified Speaker: Yes, Bert, I understand go ahead.

Commissioner Jones: But I take offense and I know my friend here probably wouldn't say what I'm going to say. But his doing his job, his researching his information that he has been given to him, him going to the powers to be in the fisheries industry is not being sneaky. It is being very thorough, it's being very good, it's gaining information that we may not have had prior to this, would not have had, had it not been for his initiative, his drive to know the truth, know the facts. So, bear in mind, everybody up here got these letters just as I did, this morning, everybody on this Commission. Personal correspondence to our Chairman from a personal request for peer review. That is not being sneaky, that is not going beyond the call of duty. That is doing his job as well as it can be done and I take offense for you indicating that it is being sneaky. So, I'm just going to tell you he is doing his job, he is looking seeking information so that he can make the best decision that he as one person can help make. And, I compliment his efforts and as everyone on this Commission will do also I'm sure for seeking information.

The Unidentified Speaker: Bert, like you said I would like, yes, we have know each other for years and of course I know where you stand on some issues. There is some issues I have heard you argue that I agreed with you 100% and I know that there are a lot of issues that you are concerned about. In all honesty you know that some of that is not fair, Bert. You know that some, you have to

be honest, some of, you can't give a man information right now after something has been talked about and expect him to vote on it unless I am missing the boat somewhere.

Commissioner Jones: Okay, I don't want to argue. I'm just taking the personal charge that I felt that you said. I appreciate you acknowledging mine and I'm just rebutting what I feel your charge was personally toward someone else. I stand to differ with you on that issue.

The Unidentified Speaker: Okay, Bert. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman Schneider: Thank you. And for the record, the Department, the Department and every member of this Commission, the Department and every member of this Commission has a copy of every letter that was written to me and I hope every letter that was written to the Department. I received five or six letters just now that I didn't know existed but written to the Department. And I'm not accusing the Department of keeping them secret. Some people wrote to me, some people wrote to all of us, we've all had personal letters, so it's not a question of keeping things secret. And, I can't provide every member with all my correspondence. It is up to each one of us to do our own research and then we come together and make these decisions. So I thank Bert and I thank the gentleman. Okay.

Mr. Richard Bronze: Mr. Chairman, members, my name is Richard Bronze, I represent the Louisiana Marine Trade Association. I just got this report and seeing some of the graphs that you have and I have a problem, I don't understand, I don't understand the graphs. They are talking about the escapement and we are talking about 70% escapement but we haven't talked anything about the population of the species. Is the population been devastated so much during those years in the 80's and during the freeze? Yes we are having a greater escapement but is that because we are not fishing them as hard recreationally and as hard commercially. So we are having escapement in these species, but what has been done to the population?

Mr. Lloyd Causey: I want to take issue with something the biologist said. Now they gave a lot of charts and graphs up here.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Who are you?

Mr. Lloyd Causey: Pardon?

Commissioner Mialjevich: Who are you?

Mr. Lloyd Causey: A citizen.

Commissioner Mialjevich: No, no, they asked the people to identify themselves.

Mr. Lloyd Causey: Lloyd Causey. Mr. Vujnovich asked about the size limits and the biologist instead of giving a factual answer gave an opinion. He said that they consider the size limits the primary reason for the greater escapement

and for the recovery of the redfish and I take issue with that. I don't think he can back it up with any facts. You have two things that happen, you have size limits and you have gamefish status and I think there is no way anybody can separate the two. I personally believe that the gamefish status is responsible for the great recovery and I challenge him to prove otherwise. I think most of his presentation was good but at that time all he did was issue an opinion. I just want to get that on the record. Thank you.

Chairman Schneider: Thank you.

Ms. Ruby Simon: Hi, my name is Ruby Simon. I'm the wife of a commercial fisherman and I would just like to make a couple of comments on something the gentleman said earlier. Mr. Bert Jones made a comment about the letter you received and he said he wanted to know what the rank of importance was of the man who sent the letter to you. Well, I feel that ya'll are only worried about peoples rank and how they stand in the community as far as status. I think that you suggested being a renegade, I think you are only scared of being a renegade to your own peers instead of the rest of us. I don't think ya'll pay attention to what the consumers want. I think you only pay attention to what you want and what your peers and your friends sportsmen wants. I think you should take a look at the regular people for a change. Thank you.

Chairman Schneider: Thank you.

Mr. Henry Truelove: Henry Truelove, ladies and gentlemen, Louisiana Fishermen for Fair Laws. Some of these things that ya'll read today that were read by Mr. Loupe, this Policy and Standards, I as one helped write some of those. The people of this State need this resource reopened. My uncle and some of my good friends, six years ago are in the ground. They are dead and gone, they will never catch another redfish. This Department is broke, you are out begging for money. I can't catch redfish, how can I help support the Department. When the Department came before us, when license were \$50 and we asked to raise it to \$250, the people in this audience, the commercial fishermen went up to \$250 a license to help the Department, to help study this problem. Gentlemen, for six years, eight hours, how ever long we have been out of the resource, it's time. You know it, I know it, the truth has got to come out. When we didn't have fish, we couldn't fish. Now we've got too many and we still can't fish. It is a never ending story. Government has got to work together with the people. We pay the taxes, we pay your salaries, we demand that you get the information so we can help you make the right decisions for the betterment of this State. I'm not worried about the offshore waters, I don't pay a license for offshore waters. The little people in this audience that I know of fish inshore, recreationally and commercially and I don't have an ax to grind with the sport fishermen either. I have a sport fishing license in my pocket. I enjoy sport fishing with my son catching redfish. Those people need some extra fish, their businesses are in trouble just as mine are. Mine is in more trouble because I can't fish. Facts, gentlemen, facts. When I bring money into this State in the community of Charenton, all we've got left down in Charenton is gambling. That is a sad scenario. I try to go to church and do what is right and keep a Christian attitude and it gets harder every time I come. I'm asking you gentlemen to search your hearts and do what is right for the people of Louisiana both recreationally and commercially. Thank you.

Mr. Merrill Schexnyder: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary, Board Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm Merrill Schexnyder, Vice-President of the Louisiana Association of Coastal Anglers. It's recreational sports fishing organization representing the 200+ thousand recreational fishermen and I just want to remind you that it was that group that came to this Department, to this Commission and ultimately to the Legislature some ten so years ago and said that the stock was in terrible shape both offshore and inshore and there was not much thought of us bringing that to you and asking you to do something about it. I didn't come from the fact that we weren't interested in the resource, it came from the fact that we were deeply interested in the resource. Since then with the help of the Department and science, we now have resource coming back. And the Louisiana Association of Coastal Anglers request that you not increase the harvest for the recreational fishermen at this time and continue the course of protecting the resource and study it. And since it is a resource that we share with the other gulf coast states to make sure that whatever you do, that we do it together so that we can assure the continued animals out in the water for us to harvest. Thank you.

Chairman Schneider: Thank you.

Mr. Ted Bollier: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I'm Ted Bollier from Lafayette, Louisiana. I'm a recreational fisherman. I see a lot of my friends here who are commercial fishermen from Cypremort Point and I commend you for the job that all of you are doing irregardless of this previous gentlemen's statement that you are being paid well, I don't think you are being paid unless I stand corrected.

Chairman Schneider: I have not gotten my check yet but you can send me one.

Mr. Ted Bollier: I wish I had one to send you. Please continue the good work, ya'll are doing an excellent job. Captain Pete, I am not picking on you, I'm not picking on anybody else, but, I think the subject should be brought up at this time. What's happening to our crabs perhaps or the crab is with the crab traps and not necessarily the redfish that we have such an abundance of because I'm not catching them. Thank you.

Chairman Schneider: Thank you.

Mr. Phil Ribbeck: Mr. Chairman, Commission, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Phil Ribbeck, I'm from Lake Charles, Louisiana and I've been following this proceeding for the past 20 years. Somewhere in the process I can recall a meeting either here in Baton Rouge or in New Orleans or Houma or one of the areas where the Wildlife and Fisheries Commissioner drew a line between commercial and sport fishermen and the issue has gotten wider and there is more problems being caused. You gentlemen have been appointed by the Governor to do your job with the tools that the State furnishes through taxes and so forth. I think you've done a good job, I am a, I can't call myself a sport fisherman, I'm just a fisherman. If the redfish are eating all of the shrimp, that's hard to believe because in my lifetime, I've seen the natural resources of Louisiana, clam shells, shrimp, whatever, decline. There is bound to be an answer and maybe some of the biologists that we have can give us some answer. We have a problem, we

have a terrific problem. The people of Louisiana have a tremendous problem, our natural resources have been depleted and our renewable resources are being depleted. We have to work together to get something done. Let's leave the people that have been appointed by the Governor and the biologists and whoever can take care of this, we may not agree with them, but let's do the best we can for the State of Louisiana. And, I want to commend the commercial fishermen for the years of taxes that they brought into Louisiana through oysters, shrimp, all of the seafood. Louisiana used to be one of the largest, that was our largest income was from seafood. Why, I mean there is bound to be some reason why the resources have diminished. Some of you make a living in it and let's work, let's all work together to get it back like it was before. Thank you very much.

Chairman Schneider: Thank you. It's one o'clock, Bert, do you want to, we need to wrap this up I think. Are there any other questions from any Commissioner?

Commissioner Gisclair: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Schneider: Yes sir.

Commissioner Gisclair: I've just got one question and I don't know maybe I'm looking at it the wrong way, I'm just going to ask this to you. What other resource of the State of Louisiana have as far as that the citizen can not share that resource equally or amongst themselves, not even equally? And, they do not have a shot at getting any percent of that resource what so ever and not everyone can get to it?

Chairman Schneider: I can't answer your question.

Commissioner Gisclair: Do you know any others, shrimp, crabs, oysters, I mean, everybody has a chance to get after it. Commercial fishermen and the recreational fishermen has a chance also to get after it.

Commissioner Jones: Largemouth bass.

Commissioner Gisclair: What's that?

Commissioner Jones: Largemouth bass.

Commissioner Gisclair: Because it is a gamefish, it's not, is the reason, it's a gamefish. But I'm saying that's a gamefish. But I'm saying the saltwater species of red drum redbait, after the facts that you've seen here today, now, if you want to go further and saying well you don't take your biologist, you don't take your people here, you don't take your staff's word, come fishing with me or some of these people out here and if we don't put you on a bunch of fish, I mean, there is something wrong. I mean the fish are there and after you seen what you've seen here today...

Chairman Schneider: I'm coming.

Commissioner Gisclair: ...and there's not a commercial fishermen in here that can get after a red drum unless you are a sports fisherman and it's a

resource of the State of Louisiana that they are being deprived of. Now I agree with you, I didn't make this argument when the figures were low, when there was a problem. But we are sitting up here today and they telling us there is not a problem, it's improving. They are using a 30% escapement, we saying that's fine, let's not even go close to 30% escapement, let's almost double that, let's go to 50% escapement and still we'll be able to give them a million pounds and the recs could still get an increase in the creel limit. Maybe they don't want an increase in the creel limit, that's so much the better, there is that much more fish for them later on. But I'm saying, in your hearts and after you look here today and look at these commercial fishermen here today that have no shot at getting to that redfish whatsoever unless we make a recommendation to the legislature to remove gamefish status and I think after today, looking at what you saw today, if you really search deep down, the decision that you should make is to recommend that we remove gamefish status to the legislature.

Chairman Schneider: You finished Perry? Okay, well I don't think there is any doubt that it's improving and like I say it's just a matter of where we think the patient is and you know, we are all part of the recovery process and I would like to thank the whole community. We've had a lot of cooperation in the past and I hope we have cooperation in the future because this is one species of fish that was in bad shape and it's coming back. And, I think everybody deserves a pat on the back for that.

An Unidentified Speaker: Mr. Chairman, may I answer his question please sir?

Chairman Schneider: No, we are not taking any more public comments, we are moving on to what's the pleasure of the Commission.

Commissioner Mialjevich: I need to talk to Mr. Roussel.

Chairman Schneider: Okay.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Mr. Roussel, or your biologist people? When we did the five fish creel limit, did ya'll have an idea of how many pounds or number of fish that was going to equate out to?

Mr. John Roussel: Yes, but you are making me rely on memory, so I don't know how accurate I'm going to be.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Was it close to 9 million pounds is what they are actually harvesting now?

Mr. John Roussel: It wasn't in pounds. Again, going back to what Joey said, we deal in numbers of fish and then, and it's two things really, it's numbers of fish and what ages those fish are when they are harvested. And then we expand from there to get to regulations or whatever.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Well let me rephrase the question. At the point in time, I'll wait, I'll wait, at the point in time that a five fish creel limit was recognized as the way to go for conservation for the recreational people, what was the anticipated, were ya'll anticipating or looking forward to 1993 and

seeing 9 million pounds of fish would be harvested or did you think that amount would have been less?

Mr. John Roussel: Its not, I wish there was a simple answer but let me try to give it as simple as I can. As Joey indicated with the same fishing mortality rate but different levels of recruitment that would equate to a totally different levels of harvest. So, 9 million pounds means nothing to me because that 9 million pounds is driven could be driven by the fact that you had a strong year class that moved into the legal size window and allowed them to harvest. That is not going to happen every year. So if I could answer your question on the basis of averages, if I recall when we first proposed the five fish bag limit, we were looking at on average an annual harvest of 600 and somewhat thousand fish recreationally. And, that's fish okay? If you, we could transfer that in, probably calculate what that would be in poundage, but again that's average, that's not, you are going to have some years way above that, you are going to have some years way below that depending on what recruitment levels are working their way through the fishery. I hope I answered your question.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Well, what I'm getting at is this, I hope I can find it quickly enough, from the Sea Grant I got a report, this is from 1993, June the 7th that the Louisiana harvest of redfish in '91 was in numbers, I guess it is, 736,000, '90, 662,000, '89, 931,000, and '88, 891,000. Well I was trying to equate what that meant next to this 9 million pounds. You know the two eyeballs in one fish, what they came out to pounds and I was wondering if at the time it was a five fish creel limit, ya'll were anticipating, I don't know may be it would have been a 7 million pound harvest of mixed sizes of fish, that is what I am trying to get at. Is the five fish creel limit that ya'll did, is the harvest as much or less than what you anticipating to accomplish with that five fish creel? I know I like to give ya'll some stumpers.

Mr. John Roussel: I will let one of these guys correct me if I am wrong, but I think the annual harvest under the current regulations is slightly in excess of what we would have predicted when we implemented the five fish bag limit.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Okay, and that hasn't caused any harm to the fishery, still we have about 1.8 million pounds. Now correct me if I am right or wrong because I don't want to say something wrong. The 1.8 million is pounds or fish?

Mr. John Roussel: You are reading off the graph there in terms ...

Commissioner Mialjevich: It's pounds right?

Mr. John Roussel: That's pounds, that's pounds and that equates to, I've got a graph, I've got a graph that we showed that we could tell you in numbers of fish. It's approximately a four pound average so if you divide that by four that will be close to it. But I can give you the actual number if you wait a minute.

Commissioner Mialjevich: I would like the number.

Mr. John Roussel: It would, the 1.8 million pounds would equate to 550,000 fish.

Commissioner Jones: Then it is less than four pounds?

Mr. John Roussel: It is less than four pounds, I said approximately four pounds. I knew it wasn't exact.

Commissioner Mialjevich: Okay, less than four pounds. All right. Well you know because I am just trying to see, I feel the same way Perry does, your data is good to me. I don't see any great discrepancies in your data. I don't see anybody to point it out any great discrepancies in your data other than they want to be cautious and my God, my last question would be, if it would be 30% escapement, not 50% like we are talking about now, what would be the harvest, it was how many thousand pounds, 36,000 or 3.6 million?

Mr. John Roussel: If it was all allocated to the commercial, it would be 3.6 million. Correct.

Commissioner Mialjevich: In other words, that is at 30% escapement, 3.6 million and we are talking about 1.8 which is about half of it. So, I think that's very cautious in my book. I just hope from what I heard read out that book that we don't vote the wrong way today and somebody put a lawsuit against actual Commissioners because I am going to do my job today. If they got fish to allocate, I am going to try and allocate it. Thank you.

Chairman Schneider: You finished?

Commissioner Mialjevich: Yes sir.

Chairman Schneider: Joe?

Secretary Herring: Mr. Chairman, if every one is finished on this, I would like to say something on the behalf of the staff of this Department. I have been with the Department a long time and I've watched it at other times when I wasn't with it. We have some of the best biologists in this nation working for this Department. We have some of the best enforcement people in the nation working for this Department. And not only that, we have some of the best support personnel and when I say support personnel, this gets down to a lot of the lower echelon people in different offices and personnel that we have here. We are well respected nationwide, we have a lot of our people and Corky is off today doing some stuff on a nationwide basis. We have a lot of our people recognized nationwide. In fact, we have a lady in our audience who was the second lady in over a hundred years that was elected President of the American Fisheries Society. That was a great honor for our state, Mrs. Janice Little sitting in our audience now who will give a report on some other things later on. We are very disappointed in this staff of someone or some group sending reports to other people and asking for comments against our personnel. We get calls from that, as I say our people work with other people in each state and all over this nation. But it's very embarrassing when someone does call someone and try to do other things and those people call back and want to know well what's going on in Louisiana. And this is, this goes on a lot. I think it is unfair to our

technical staff when these things happen. I did not have the privilege of seeing Mr. Clark's correspondence. I know that Mr. Clark was with this Department at one time and he did come from Texas and I know that from our personnel and our lower echelon staff, not the top echelon, that on some occasions our technical people would recommend one thing and he would take the side of the Texas people on our border state. I think that was very unfair for our Department and I would not take his recommendations at this time on this particular instance because of that. That is the only thing I want to say, I just want to clear up some things that we do have good technical personnel, we do have good enforcement personnel and it's very embarrassing sometime when our people try to go out and find some answers for this, nothing wrong with getting some consultant sometimes but at least our personnel should know sometimes when these things are happening and what happened this Department rather than try to do something to their back. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Mialjevich: You know Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Schneider: Well I would like to speak to that. There was nothing done by me or anybody else that I know behind anybody's back. I think we all perfectly free to go to any source that we want to get any information and input from anybody we want at any time. I think the whole United States is available to us. I intend to use anybody that I can to find out for my own self and my own educational process. I don't intend to discredit this Department at all in any kind of way, I don't think anybody at this table would. But I would encourage everybody to do some original research and find out some things on their own. I think that is what we are up here for. I think that is what we are up here for so we can make up our minds. Thank you. It is now 1:15 what do you gentlemen want to do?

Commissioner Gisclair: What about the other Commissioners, what are their feelings?

Commissioner Jones: Well, I think I have expressed my concerns. I think there are a lot of other concerns out there that we have. I think we've addressed the issue that the resource is rebounding. I think that it is doing better. I think that there are a lot of things out there that would not encourage me to reopen it for commercial take at this time. Certainly we don't have any rules or regulations enforce, we've found, I don't know how many illegal gill nets have we picked up since we have made it mandatory that we have to attend gill nets?

Col. Winton Vidrine: Several million.

Commissioner Jones: Several million, as stated by, several million feet. I acknowledge that this is not the preponderance of every one here, just as there are people that catch too many fish and bring them home as a recreational bag. It's easier to enforce these issues than to open the issue at this time. I think our resource is rebounding and if you want to know how I feel, I think, Tee John, is that I think that we need to proceed with caution. There has been recommended from other people and that's where I am coming from.

Commissioner Cormier: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Schneider: Go ahead J. B.

Commissioner Cormier: Unfortunately, Mr. Gisclair every year we have havoc with this issue. That seems to be the hottest issue that everybody seems to think that the state will live or die on the redfish issue. I think this Department should move to anticipate the possibility of having a large quota or a quota on redfish for the commercial fisherman. However, I will say this today, that my intent is to remain status quo. I will advise the Department that from this day forth, I tried to allude to that last year, that we have to look at not just the biological data, we have to look at the enforcement issue, how we're going to protect the resources. You can't just open anything and not have any type of accountability. There has to be accountability with everything because if you don't have accountability, you will have, you will go back to what you were. You will perish and for the sake of every man, no man or no lady will just arbitrarily leave a thousand dollars on the table with nobody looking. They will not, they will take it and we have to have accountability. And, that is what our enforcement agency is all about. The biological people, they do their biological datas and they advise us, I agree with that. But we must also consider the enforcement of these resources as well. And the Colonel just said there was over a million and some pounds, I mean a million and some feet of gill nets. How much, just two months ago, I wasn't at the last meeting, how much did we seize illegally redfish on Undercover Operation, just a little small one undercover operation.

Col. Winton Vidrine: 186,000, no, 182,181 pounds of redfish that was caught in Louisiana waters and transported to Mississippi and then back to Louisiana.

Commissioner Cormier: That operation that you're able to monitor, that was just one specific area, am I correct?

Col. Winton Vidrine: Correct.

Commissioner Cormier: Do you have your financial resources and the manpower to do the whole coastline, the whole state of Louisiana? All right, I think we need to move in the direction of having all this in place before we act and we can protect all concerns, the commercial as well as the recreational fishermen. The bottom line is the resources.

Commissioner Jones: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman?

(Someone in the audience talking.)

Chairman Schneider: Sir, you are out of order, sir, you are out of order. You are out of order, sir. Winton, get that guy. You are out of order. Tommy, take care of that gentleman would you?

Commissioner Jones: Thank you, Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman? I would like to make a motion please? I move that the Commission acknowledge the receipt of the Third Annual Report on the Status of the Red Drum in compliance of R.S. 56:6(27) and House Concurrent Resolution 277, 1991 Regular Session, of the Commission, through its Chairman, submit this report, answer the three required

questions, and recommend that the status quo be maintained with no additional harvest or change in allocation and that the status of gamefish for red drum be maintained.

Commissioner Cormier: I second it.

Chairman Schneider: Thank you Mr. Jones. It has been seconded by J. B.

Commissioner Mialjevich: I would like to make a substitute motion.

Chairman Schneider: Go ahead.

Commissioner Mialjevich: I would like to make a substitute motion that due to the excellent work of our biologists that there is 1.8 million pounds with 50% escapement to the Gulf, that we recommend to the Legislature to look at the feasibility of a commercial harvest of a million pounds and at the same time an additional two fish to the recreational fisherman.

Commissioner Vujnovich: I second it.

Chairman Schneider: Seconded by Captain Pete. We will vote on the substitute motion first. All in favor of the substitute motion raise your hand (Commissioner Mialjevich, Commissioner Gisclair and Commissioner Vujnovich); all those opposed likewise (Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Hanchey, Commissioner Cormier and Chairman Schneider). Vote on the original motion, all in favor of the original motion, raise your right hand (Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Hanchey, Commissioner Cormier and Chairman Schneider); all those opposed (Commissioner Mialjevich, Commissioner Vujnovich and Commissioner Gisclair). The motion carries. Gentlemen, I think it is time for lunch.

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶ 1
To Jeff Schneider	From Don Puckett	
Co. Please call don	Co. 10:20 a.m.	
Dept. in Susan w/comm	Phone # ts. 2/11/94	
Fax # (504) 878-2284	Fax # (504) 765-2971	

DRAFT
Not In Final Form

February 11, 1994

Honorable Samuel Nunez
President of the Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable John Alario
Speaker of the House
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable Joe McPherson
Chairman, Senate Natural
Resources Committee
Post Office Box 44183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable Sam Theriot
Chairman, House Natural
Resources Committee
Post Office Box 44486
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to R.S. 56:6(27), enclosed herewith, please find the Department's Third Annual Report to the Commission on the Status of Red Drum dated February 3, 1994.

Pursuant to a majority vote at its February meeting, the Commission respectfully recommends to the Legislature that the status quo be maintained with no additional harvest or change in allocation, and that the status of game fish for red drum be maintained.

Red drum stocks are rebuilding. We feel this is a direct result of Louisiana's management efforts and those of its sister States and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council). Management changes increasing fishing mortality should not be made without first reviewing the anticipated impact of these changes with the Red Drum Stock Assessment panel of the Council. The success we have enjoyed to this point has come about as a cooperative effort between the gulf States and the Council and we wish to continue that cooperation by maintaining the current level of harvest until a comprehensive analysis of increased harvest levels can be done. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Schneider
Chairman

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 3, 1994

**JOHN F. "JEFF" SCHNEIDER
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 (504) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
FEBRUARY 3, 1994

	Page
1. Roll Call	1
2. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 1994	1
3. Aircraft Report	1
4. Report on National Youth Hunter Education Challenge	1
5. Red Drum Report; Including Commission Recommendation to Legislature Regarding Game Fish Status	2
6. Notice of Intent - Modifications of Black Bass Regulations on Caney Creek Reservoir	13
7. Declaration of Emergency - Closure of Offshore Territorial Waters to Shrimp	15
8. Declaration of Emergency - Special Pink Shrimp Season in Breton & Chandeleur Sounds	18
9. Civil Restitution and Class 1 Update	20
10. Monthly Law Enforcement Report/January	20
11. Secretary's Report to the Commission	21
12. Set June 1994 Meeting Date	23
13. Public Comments	23
14. Adjournment	23

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, February 3, 1994

Chairman Jeff Schneider presiding.

Bert Jones
Peter Vujnovich
Jerald Hanchey
Perry Gisclair
Joseph B. Cormier
Tee John Mialjevich

Secretary Joe L. Herring was also present.

Chairman Schneider called for a motion for approval of the **January 6, 1994, Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Vujnovich and seconded by Commissioner Gisclair. The motion passed unanimously.

The **December Aircraft Report** was presented by Mr. Lee Caubarreaux. This report showed four pilots flew a total of 93.8 hours for the month, along with the breakdown for the different planes, the estimated cost, the actual cost and the Commission's method. Chairman Schneider asked to repeat what was stated on the AeroCommander.

Chairman Schneider acknowledged the presence of former Commission member Dale Vinet and thanked him for coming to the meeting.

A Report on the **National Youth Hunter Education Challenge** was given by Mr. Chester Carpenter. This competition was for young people aged 10 through 18 and sponsored by Hunter Education, Louisiana Volunteer Instructor Association and the National Rifle Association. Louisiana came away with Top Honors at the competition with the Caddo-Bossier Team taking first place in the Junior and Senior categories. The eight different categories of the competition and the reason for competing were explained by Mr. Carpenter and then a video on the State competition held in Woodworth, Louisiana was shown. Mr. Carpenter stated to the Commission that the Hunter Education Section operates with over 1,000 volunteers in teaching the courses and helping with this event. He then introduced Mr. Ed Tuggle, President of the Louisiana Volunteer Instructor Association, to the Commission. Mr. Tuggle reported the trip to the National Competition in Raton, New Mexico was cancelled, but postal matches were held in 11 states. Louisiana had 20 participants in these matches and 57 medals were taken. Louisiana's Junior Division placed in 7 of 9 events, and

the Senior Division, also placed in 7 of the 9 events. Then Mr. Tuggle recognized 2 members of the Caddo-Bossier team, Ms. Sharon Sullivan from the Junior Division and Mr. Russell Sullivan from the Senior Division. Also, recognized was Mr. Gary Sullivan, father of the two team members as well as a coach. Commissioner Jones complimented what the Education Section has done and noted how important it was to involve the youth. He then asked to try to continue the efforts. Secretary Herring stated the section, Mr. Tuggle and the youths have done a good job with this event every year and have brought a lot of honor for the State of Louisiana.

The Red Drum Report; Including Commission Recommendation to Legislature Regarding Game Fish Status was presented by Mr. Harry Blanchet. The report presented was prepared by the Department so the Commission could fulfill it's obligation of providing a report to the Legislature annually telling the status of red drum. Three different parts of the report were addressed, the biological condition profile and stock assessment, total allowable catch with probable allocation scenarios and detailed explanation of whether or not to continue gamefish status. Before going into detail, Mr. Blanchet explained several terms used within the report such as SSBR, SPR, cohort, fishing year and fishing mortality rates. The bio-profile contained in this report was an update to what was presented in 1991 with the draft of the red drum management plan. Genetics work performed at Texas A & M University analyzed mitochondrial DNA from fish in the Gulf of Mexico and mid-Atlantic Ocean. The fish in the Gulf of Mexico seem to be well mixed and there is not a segregation of stocks. A high diversity was noted in the genetics and was interpreted as being large and genetically stable. More new information obtained from purse seine was age structure. Purse seines from 1985 and 1986 showed problems with age structure of red drum and this data was the reason for concern with this fish. Data from 1990-1991 purse seine samples was available and revealed more recruitment in the younger aged fish. The latest data from 1991-92 purse seines showed a strong recruitment in the offshore population.

The inshore stock has been sampled with seines and trammel nets to show indices of recruitment. The 1987 numbers are higher than 1986 and it seems to have been a stronger cohort. In December 1989, there was a freeze but there was already a low recruitment in the seine samples prior to the freeze. The trammel samples for 1990 also showed a low recruitment. The 1990 cohort was extremely strong and has shown up in the recreational fishery. There appears to be a good correspondence between what was taken in the Department's samples and what the recreational harvest has been.

An increase in the escapement rate of red drum to the offshore waters has been found to occur in data taken by Dr. Phil Goodyear, with National Marine Fisheries Service, when he compared data from 1989 with that of 1993. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council set a management goal of 30% escapement rate for the red

drum for the gulf states and the Department has taken this and used it as a conservation standard.

Mr. Joey Shepard stated the only assessment prior to 1993 to compare Department's data with was Dr. Goodyear's 1989 assessment. Two methods looked at the status of the stock of red drum. Scenario 1 reflected the age structure from purse seine samples for the offshore population and Scenario 2 uses the catch-at-age population assessment. The stock assessment for this report was done the same as it was done last year except that the trammel net data was used instead of the Ricker spawning recruit relationship to determine recruitment and the average recruitment from 1972 to 1989 were used instead of the Ricker spawning recruit relationship to project recruitment into the future. Data from the National Marine Fisheries Service National Rec Survey was not included in this report. The impact of fishing on the stock showed the same trend as in previous years, which puts the percent spawning stock biomass/recruit above 40%. A comparison was made between the Gulfwide assessment for red drum and the Department's assessment because the impacts for Louisiana should affect the entire Gulf also. Dr. Goodyear's assessments showed the same rate of increase as the information from the Department. Mr. Shepard read a portion of the report and explained what the statement "not changing the regulations for 3 to 5 years" meant. With escapement rates remaining the same since the red drum regulations began fishing mortality rates has not changed much either. Harvest and fishing mortality rates were explained before getting into the probable allocation options. The National Rec Survey data was used to determine bag limits using the percent of anglers that attained different bag limits. This data showed there is not a lot of fishermen that catch over the 5 fish bag limit. Mr. Shepard discussed probable allocations for recreational and commercial fisherman based on 30% escapement and 50% escapement.

Chairman Schneider asked where was Mr. Corky Perret? Commissioner Mialjevich stated this report was very different from what was presented last year and asked if there were 1.8 million pounds of fish that could be harvested without harming the population, was the 1.8 million in fish or pounds, what would happen to the fish if they were not harvested, and would natural mortality take over? Then he asked, with the presentation given, would the Department recommend a harvest of the fish and if it would be up to the Commission to decide who would catch them, if anybody. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the 30% figure was what was being used by the federal and the state managers, and the second scenario was using the 50% escapement rate, can the stock continue to improve using the 50% instead of the 30%; were the 1990-91 recruitment figures used and would these numbers help or hurt the figures. Going on, Commissioner Gisclair asked if, for example, you have a 1 million pound quota would it be equal to a 7 bag limit, and what would be the difference in the bag limits for the recreational and the commercial fishermen? Commissioner

Mialjevich asked Mr. Don Puckett if the job of the Commission was to decide how many fish recreational and commercial fishermen would be allowed to harvest or was it for the legislature to decide. Mr. John Roussel commented if there was a 1 million pound quota and recreational fishermen could take 7 fish, this would raise the harvest of fish by 150,000 per year. Commissioner Vujnovich asked if the size limit on red drum was lowered, would it affect the industry in any way?

Commissioner Gisclair asked if the report had been sent out for peer review? Commissioner Mialjevich asked if the comments received concurred with the Department's report. Commissioner Gisclair asked if a compilation of the responses was put together and then requested each response be made public. Commissioner Mialjevich asked, from a letter from Philip Goodyear, what was meant by a draft report; were the draft copies sent out for review; and who sent the draft reports to Dr. Goodyear? Then he asked Commissioner Gisclair and Commissioner Vujnovich if they received draft copies of the report, to which they answered no. But Chairman Schneider acknowledged he received a draft report. Commissioner Mialjevich asked Chairman Schneider if he sent the draft report to anyone and why did he not send one to him. Chairman Schneider remarked he told the Department to send any information requested. Commissioner Mialjevich commented he did not appreciate Chairman Schneider's actions. Commissioner Mialjevich asked Chairman Schneider that any information he sent to anyone else also be sent to him. Chairman Schneider asked the Department had received a response from Dr. Kemmerer, and who were Dr. Condrey and Dr. Jerry Clark? Commissioner Mialjevich asked, how long had it been since any of those people worked with redfish data? Chairman Schneider asked about the purse seine activity and the data from Chuck Wilson, was he actually going out and setting the purse seines, was the species targeted redfish, was he getting by-catch from the purse seine activity and recording this catch, and had Dr. Wilson's work been peer reviewed? Chairman Schneider read into the record several responses he received. The first was from Dr. Kemmerer and read:

"Dear Mr. Schneider,

Thank you for your letter of January 15, 1994 concerning the status of red drum in Louisiana waters. I have seen a copy of a draft report on the status of red drum, but given its very preliminary nature I do not believe it is appropriate for us to comment specifically on it. My understanding is that the Department plans to have the report peer reviewed which I strongly endorse. The only advice I can offer at this time is to proceed cautiously. Unquestionably red drum are rebuilding largely as a direct result of the management efforts by all the Gulf states and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Because of the cooperative nature of these management efforts, I would strongly encourage the Commission not make management changes which would

increase fishing mortality without first reviewing the basis for an anticipated impact of these changes with the red drum Stock Assessment Panel of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. As you may know, our management plan for red drum currently requires a comprehensive assessment every two years. The last such assessment was in 1993 which means that the next scheduled assessment will not be until 1995. However, there is flexibility in the plan and I am more than willing to go to the Council and ask them to convene a special meeting of the Assessment Panel so that any anticipated impacts of changes in Louisiana red drum management can be evaluated from the perspective of the total Gulf program. I encourage you to consider this. We began the rebuilding of the red drum population cooperatively, and I believe it is important to continue to work together on this valuable resource. Again, thank you very much for your letter and invitation for comments."

Next, Chairman Schneider read a letter from Dr. Kemmerer dated February 2, 1994.

"Dear Mr. Schneider,

Thank you for your letter of January 31, 1994 and the revised draft of the report of red drum in Louisiana waters. Unfortunately I am unable to be more definitive about the report than I was in my letter of January 28, 1994. Under separate cover, Dr. Phil Goodyear of our Miami Laboratory is providing you with technical comments on this report. My concerns about the report echo those of Dr. Goodyear. There is simply not enough detail to give it a fair evaluation. This is not meant as a criticism of the authors as lack of detail is a common characteristic of many assessment reports. However, it does emphasize the need for the information to be reviewed by the Stock Assessment Panel. We need to know more about how the data were collected and analyzed, sample bias and most importantly, how everything integrates with other available information and with what the other states are doing. Again, I strongly urge you to proceed cautiously with any management change that increases fishing mortality. Red drum research and management began in earnest as a cooperative effort in the mid 1980's and it would be unfortunate to implement management measures that could jeopardize the success of the rebuilding program without the benefit of a fully and coordinating comprehensive analysis."

Commissioner Jones asked if Dr. Kemmerer was the Regional Director for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Gulf region? Then he stated he just wanted to clarify the importance of who he was. Commissioner Mialjevich stated Dr. Kemmerer was the same person that thinks TED's work and fishermen do not lose any shrimp. Going on, Chairman Schneider read a letter from Dr. Jerry Clark into the record.

"Dear Jeff:

I have reviewed the document titled "Third Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum" prepared by the staff of the Marine Fisheries Division of the Department. As the Assistant Secretary for Fisheries I oversaw and helped develop the Department's first extensive report on the status of red drum produced in 1991. The current document is an extension of the methods that we employed in the first report, and I continue to believe that the basic approach is appropriate.

I emphatically do not support, however, the staff's recommendation to allow an increase in the harvest of red drum at this time. There are a number of reasons for my position. Perhaps most disappointingly is the argument on page nine that the harvest should increase because if people in Louisiana are not allowed to harvest these fish now, these fish will be harvested offshore because the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council "might" open the fishery in the future. To my knowledge, not one state in the Gulf, nor the National Marine Fisheries Service supports the staff's recommendation to add to Louisiana's harvest. I find it disingenuous on the staff's part to offer such an argument.

Next, the staff points out correctly that the original concern for red drum was raised when the offshore stocks were found to have severely depleted cohorts (year classes) that were later tied to overharvest from inshore. The current report relies heavily on the 1993 purse seine data that shows 76% of the offshore population less than 9 years old, whereas the same number never exceeded more than 28% in any previous year. My point is that this radical increase in young fish in one year's data over another is almost surely an artifact of the fact that the number of purse seine samples in recent years has declined and the data is simply less useful for drawing conclusions (it has higher variance). Why is there less concern that, according to the report, there were no schools seen in 1993 that averaged less than 9 years in age like they had seen in earlier years? Further, as is discussed in the report on page 7, Goodyear's 1993 assessment has an offshore population estimate significantly below the Department's. I believe that this difference should be resolved before you authorize any increase in the harvest rate.

It is also important to note that the Department's estimates of fishing mortality are almost always less than Goodyear's for individual years, and for one of the years the Department's estimate of escapement is almost 50 times Goodyear's estimate. This kind of variation in estimates should lead the authors to be cautious about their recommendations, and this does not seem to be the Department's approach.

At one point in the report it states: "Much of the Department's uncertainty in the status of the stock as presented in last year's assessment has been resolved." I believe that statements such as this are simply not supported by the data or the

analysis in hand, especially given that other equally valid stock assessments have reached different conclusions.

I continue to believe that the Department is on the right track with their science. I think the stock assessment continues to improve, but I believe that the management conclusions being drawn from the research are inappropriate and do not adequately protect Louisiana's important natural resources. Without going too far along these lines, I would hope that Louisiana would not return to those days when everyone thought that fishing had little impact on the status of stocks, and people were more concerned about harvesting every fish that could be caught. I know the Commission has taken more than a little criticism over the last few years for its attempts to protect the state's resources, but I think it should do it once again and reject the Department's advice."

Then Chairman Schneider read a portion of Dr. Goodyear's letter which stated: "It is impossible to assess the accuracy of the estimates of the current condition of the stock or the forecast that are presented in the document because of insufficient data...Although I can not corroborate the results of this particular analysis, the uncertainty is more related to the estimate of where we are at the moment which can not be evaluated with the data presented rather than whether general trend reported in the document is valid or not." He then stated, from the peer review he had received, he was asked for changes not to be made until the Stock Assessment Panel could look at the report and assess the proposed changes. The biggest factor to look at was the red drum issue was a cooperative effort with the Gulf states and if changes were made, the cooperation between the states would stop. Then Chairman Schneider stated his displeasure in seeing a comment in the report about catching the fish before they go offshore so someone else would catch them. Commissioner Gisclair asked Chairman Schneider how he drew that conclusion, and then he asked for Chairman Schneider to find that comment in the report. Commissioner Jones stated he understood there would be fish in the EEZ that would allow other fishermen to catch also. Chairman Schneider read from the report where he made the interpretation.

Commissioner Cormier asked Commissioner Mialjevich if a statement from Dr. Condrey's letter was referring to a study that was discussed last year and whatever became of that study. Commissioner Mialjevich noted Dr. Condrey was referring to offshore age structure and the Commission was discussing the fish that are inshore. Continuing, Commissioner Mialjevich stated that now there is biological data that would allow the harvest of red drum, but the scientists that have reviewed this document do not agree with the data. Then he commented, from the report, there was 1.8 million pounds of fish to be caught and he would like to see the recreational fisherman get a couple more fish and the commercial fishery open. Commissioner Gisclair read to Commissioner Cormier excerpts from last years meeting about the study he asked about.

Then Commissioner Gisclair read to Chairman Schneider where two of the letters asked the Commission to "proceed cautiously" and stated, with using a 50% escapement rate, this was being very cautious. Commissioner Cormier commented he received a phone call from a gentlemen who told him he did not want to see the red drum go offshore and asked Commissioner Cormier to go along with the report so he would not be fined for illegal red drum again.

Commissioner Jones commented the redfish are doing better and the reason is the State and the Department are managing the resource better. He felt the management should continue so there would be a full recovery. Mr. Roussel stated the Department does not specifically recommend anything in the report, it only answers three questions that the legislature mandates. Chairman Schneider asked Mr. Roussel if he had seen the Red Drum Operation Plan before and, as the redfish population improve, would not all states change their regulations. Then Chairman Schneider stated he has been told to stick together with the other states and what Louisiana does would also affect Texas, Mississippi, Florida, and Alabama and it should be done right. Commissioner Vujnovich asked if there has been a study done to see what the redfish were doing to the other seafood in the waters. Then Chairman Schneider opened the discussion to public comments.

Mr. Jeff Angers, Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association, asked the Commission not to change the laws with no increase in recreational take and no commercial fishery.

An Unidentified Speaker stated Mississippi has been having a commercial fishery since Louisiana closed its waters. The 70% escapement rate occurring now was the highest in years. He agreed with Commissioner Vujnovich stating the redfish were destroying everything in the water and needed to be harvested. Then he suggested the Commission consider what the commercial fishing industry means to Louisiana.

Mr. Adley Dodson, Cameron, stated he fished redfish with a rod and reel. Then he asked who was putting more money into the State, recreational fishermen or commercial fishermen. He suggested splitting the fish with the commercial fishermen and if the population dwindles down, then close the fishery to all. The data was good enough to close the season, why was the data now not good enough to open it for the commercials?

Mr. Eddie LeJeune commented when the Federal government shut down the red drum fishery, it was shut down for the sport as well as the commercial. But Louisiana was a renegade when it allowed the recreational fishermen to catch red drum.

Mr. George Barasich, representing the Shrimp Task Force and the United Commercial Fisherman's Association, reminded the

Commission of their duty to make a quantitative and qualitative decision on this issue. Because of the abundance of redfish in the waters, two other stocks were suffering, namely crabs and shrimp stated Mr. Barasich. He also stated that a commercial harvest was needed and appealed to the Commission to manage the resource so everyone could utilize the resource.

Mr. Pete Gericca, Lake Pontchartrain Fisherman's Association, stated the commercial fishermen feed the tourist and the consumers and it was time for the consumer to get his share of the red drum stock.

Mr. T-Roy Borne, Leeville, commented the people from south Louisiana only have the land to make their living from and if more laws are placed on the seafood, then all these people would be on welfare and food stamps. He reported seeing recreational fishermen in his area catching 10 or 15 redfish per day and also stated something needed to be done.

Ms. Linda Johnson, with the Do You Care Coalition for Commercial Fishermen, stated the real endangered species now was the commercial fisherman in the Gulf of Mexico. She requested the Commission work with the commercial fishermen only to redistribute the resource so all could get an equal portion.

Mr. Andy LeBlanc, Metairie, stated he never realized what a pest the redfish were and wondered what people did for a living before the popularity of blackened redfish. He asked the Commission not to change the regulations and to get some reliable data before making a decision.

Mr. Henry Mouton, Lafayette, commented to the commercial fishermen that there is life after death. The recreational fishermen gave up fish voluntarily because they only want what is best for the resource. He also reported the recreational fishermen do not want to catch more fish, they want the fish to recover. Recreational fisheries is a big industry in this state, remarked Mr. Mouton, and it was too premature to take from the resource. He suggested the Commission move cautiously and not change anything.

Ms. Sherry McConnell, representing the Louisiana Restaurant Association, hoped the Commission would take a good look at the scientific data keeping the consumer in mind when making a decision.

Mr. Ted Loupe stated all the commercial fishermen have ever asked for was their fair share. He then read guidelines from Title 56 the Commission are to follow regarding Saltwater Fishery Conservation and Management. All the commercial fishermen have ever asked for was a fair share, not all of it. Going on, he then read a portion of the saltwater fishery standards also from Title

56 and asked the Commission to consider 1 million pounds for the commercial fishermen.

Mr. Andy Savant commented he has never had to give away any fish, he has always been able to sell his catch; the Commission was putting him in poverty; and the redfish were eating everything in the water.

Mr. Justin Schway, Cypremort Point fisherman, stated that with the new laws on unattended nets, the fishermen can fish for red drum and there was a need for the commercial fishermen to fish them. For the regulations to change, a recommendation needed to be made to the Legislature and Mr. Schway asked the Commission to make that recommendation and let the Legislature decide.

An Unidentified Speaker stated he was really concerned about the way things were going at the meeting when there was a time when people could sit together and fair decisions were made. He felt when the recreational fishermen found out their limits could have been raised but were not, the recreational fishermen were not going to stand for it. He stated if the Commission does not share the fish, the commercial fishermen would not take the situation lightly and 75% to 90% of the recreational fishermen would side with the commercial fishermen. He then asked the Commission to be fair and to consider what they were doing. Commissioner Jones stated he took offense to what was stated and the approach that Chairman Schneider took was all part of his job in a thorough manner. Chairman Schneider stated the staff and Commission had a copy of every letter written to him and to the Department and felt each person should do his own research.

Mr. Richard Bronze, representing the Louisiana Marine Trade Association, stated he did not understand the graphs on escapement and asked what has been done to the population.

Mr. Lloyd Causey stated he did not believe the biologists could produce evidence that the size limit was the main reason for the escapement and the recovery of redfish. He felt size limits and gamefish status could be separated.

Mrs. Ruby Simon, wife of a commercial fisherman, stated she felt the Commissioners were afraid of being a renegade only to their peers instead of the commercial fishermen. She felt the Commissioners should take a look at the regular people for a change.

Mr. Henry Truelove, Louisiana Fishermen for Fair Laws, commented the people of the state need the red drum resource reopened. He stated it was time for government to work with the people for the betterment of the State. He asked the members to do what was right for both recreational and commercial fishermen of Louisiana.

Mr. Earl Schexnyder, Louisiana Association of Coastal Anglers, reminded everyone that his organization was the one who came to the Commission, the Department and the Legislature to let them know the stock was in bad shape both in inshore and offshore waters. Now, with the resource coming back, the Louisiana Association of Coastal Anglers requested not to increase the bag limit for recreational fishermen and to continue protecting and studying the resource.

Mr. Ted Bollier, Lafayette, began by stating that all were doing their jobs well and asked them to continue the good work. Then to Commissioner Vujnovich he stated the problem with the crab population was the crab traps and not the redfish.

Mr. Phil Ribbeck, Lake Charles, stated he felt the Commission has done a good job. He noted Louisiana has a problem with natural resources having been depleted and the renewable resources being depleted. Then, he asked for all to work together and do what was best for Louisiana.

Chairman Schneider asked if there were any other questions. Commissioner Gisclair asked Chairman Schneider what other resource is there that the people of Louisiana can not share among themselves? He added the saltwater species of red drum was a resource of the state the fishermen were being deprived of. The problem is improving and he suggested opening the fisheries to allow a 50% escapement which would mean a 1 million pound commercial harvest and could increase the bag limit for the recreational fishermen. He then recommended removing the gamefish status to the legislature.

Chairman Schneider stated he knew the red drum fishery was improving and felt cooperation from all needed to continue. Commissioner Mialjevich asked Mr. Roussel if the staff knew the number of pounds the 5 fish creel limit would equal to, was it close to 9 million pounds? Then he asked did the staff anticipate seeing 9 million pounds of red drum being harvested in 1993? Was the harvest with the 5 fish creel limit what was anticipated or was it less? Was the 1.8 million figure in pounds or fish? Then Commissioner Mialjevich stated he agreed with Commissioner Gisclair that the Department's data was good. He asked if there was 30% escapement, what would be the harvest, how many thousands of pounds? He felt, if you compare the 1.8 million with 50% escapement to the 3.6 million with 30% escapement, that was being very cautious and commented if there was fish to be allocated, he was going to try to allocate them.

Secretary Herring stated on behalf of the staff, there are some of the best biologists, enforcement agents and support personnel working for the Department. The Department was well respected nationwide. He was very disappointed someone would send reports and request comments against the staff. The letter from Dr. Clark, Mr. Herring noted he did not have the opportunity to

see, and also stated he would not take Clarks recommendations on this subject.

Chairman Schneider commented everyone was free to go to any source they want to get any information and input they want at any time. He did not intend to discredit the Department in any way but encouraged all to do some research and find out things on their own. Then he asked the pleasure of the Commission?

Commissioner Jones stated there are a lot of other concerns out there, the issue of the resource rebounding has been addressed and felt there were things that would not encourage him to reopen the fishery to commercial fishing right now. He then asked how many illegal gill nets have been picked up since the law was changed on unattended nets? He stated to Commissioner Mialjevich that he felt the Commission should proceed with caution.

Commissioner Cormier stated the Department should move to anticipate the possibility of having a quota for the commercial fishermen, but he intended not to change the regulations. He then requested looking not only at the biological data, but also the enforcement issue and how the resources would be protected. He also stated there has to be some type of accountability. Asking Col. Vidrine, Commissioner Cormier wanted to know how much redfish was seized in an undercover operation two months ago, and did he have the funds and manpower to patrol the whole coast? The bottom line was the resources, according to Commissioner Cormier.

Commissioner Jones made a motion the Commission acknowledge the receipt of the Third Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum in compliance with R.S. 56:6(27) and HCR 277 and the Chairman submit the report and recommend the status quo be maintained with no additional harvest or change in allocation and the status of gamefish for red drum be maintained. Commissioner Cormier seconded the motion.

Commissioner Mialjevich made a substitute motion that, due to the excellent work of the biologist, there is 1.8 million available pounds with 50% escapement to the Gulf, that the Commission recommend to the legislature to look at the feasibility of a commercial harvest of 1 million pounds and add an additional two fish to the limit for recreational fishermen. Commissioner Vujnovich seconded the substitute motion. The vote for the substitute motion failed with Commissioner Mialjevich, Commissioner Gisclair and Commissioner Vujnovich voting for and Commissioner Hanchey, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Cormier and Chairman Schneider voting against. The original motion passed with Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Cormier, Commissioner Hanchey and Chairman Schneider voting for and Commissioner Vujnovich, Commissioner Mialjevich and Commissioner Gisclair voting against.

A Notice of Intent on Modifications of Black Bass Regulations on Caney Creek Reservoir was presented by Mr. Bennie Fontenot. The Notice of Intent would change the status from a quality lake to a trophy lake and this would increase the slot to a 15 - 19 inch slot and limit the number of bass above 19 inches to two fish. Caney Creek Reservoir was a premier bass lake so the question was why change the regulations if all was working well was asked. Mr. Fontenot answered with what the data shows the lake should produce even more big fish for the fishermen to catch. The Caney Lake Commission has passed a resolution requesting the change be made and the President of the Louisiana Black Bass Association was pleased when he knew of this possible change. He then introduced Mrs. Janice Little, District Fisheries Supervisor for Monroe and asked her to make a presentation.

Mrs. Little restated what Mr. Fontenot had asked; that Caney Creek Reservoir be changed from a quality lake to a trophy lake. Nine of the top 10 or 25 of the top 30 largemouth bass have come from Caney Creek Reservoir. There is the prediction of another state record bass to come from Caney this spring. Over 1,750,000 Florida bass have been stocked in the lake since 1986, 11% of the bass in the lake in 1991 were of the Florida strain. Continued stocking of this strain bass needs to be done in order to maintain or increase this level. The regulations that are in effect now went into effect in April 1991 in order to harvest the smaller sized bass. In the spring 1993, there was a large number of bass showing up in the 14 to 17 inch slot. A creel survey conducted on the lake in 1993 found the anglers were fishing for largemouth bass. The growth of the bass has increased since the stocking of threadfin shad. If the regulations on Caney were changed to a trophy lake, the bass would be protected for one year.

Commissioner Jones asked if a 19 inch fish was over 4 1/2 pounds? He then invited everyone to come visit Caney the first week of April when the Commission meeting was held there. A motion was made by Commissioner Jones to adopt the Notice of Intent and was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed with no opposition. Commissioner Jones noted this was the same lake in which the first release of grass carp was made and then asked what do grass carp bite?

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

NOTICE OF INTENT

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to change the classification of Caney Creek Reservoir from a "quality" lake to a "trophy" black bass lake.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§149. Black Bass Regulations-Daily Take and Size Limits

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission establishes a statewide daily take (creel limit) of 10 fish for black bass (Micropterus spp.). The possession limit shall be the same as the daily take on water and twice the daily take off water.

In addition, the Commission establishes special size and daily take regulations for black bass on the following waterbodies:

Concordia Lake (Concordia Parish), False River (Pointe Coupee' Parish) and Caney Creek Reservoir (Jackson Parish):

Size limit: 15 inch - 19 inch slot

Daily take: 8 fish of which no more than two fish may exceed 19 inches maximum total length.*

Possession limit: On water - Same as daily take.
Off water - Twice the daily take.

A 15 - 19 inch slot limit means that it is illegal to keep or possess a black bass whose maximum total length is between 15 inches and 19 inches, both measurements inclusive.

Lake Bartholomew (Morehouse and Ouachita parishes), Black Bayou Lake (Bossier Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Cross Lake (Caddo Parish), Lake Rodemacher (Rapides Parish) and Vernon Lake (Vernon Parish):

Size Limit: 14 inch - 17 inch slot

Daily Take: 8 fish - of which no more than four fish may exceed 17 inches maximum total length.*

Possession limit: On water - Same as daily take.
Off water - Twice the daily take.

A 14 - 17 inch slot limit means that it is illegal to keep or possess a black bass whose maximum total length is between 14 inches and 17 inches, both measurements inclusive.

*Maximum total length - The distance in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the most posterior point of the depressed caudal fin as measured with mouth closed on a flat surface.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25) (a), 325 (C), 326.3

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 14:364 (June 1988), amended LR 17:278 (March 1991), repromulgated LR 17:489 (May 1991), amended LR 17:1122 (November 1991), LR 20: .

Interested persons may submit written comments of the proposed rule to Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Inland Fish Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 5, 1994.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Chairman

A Declaration of Emergency for Closure of Offshore Territorial Waters to Shrimp was given by Mr. Brandt Savoie. This request was for a partial closure because some areas of the state still have marketable size shrimp available. He then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the Secretary has the authority to close any of the areas left open since the wording was not in the resolution, and did the Secretary already have the power to open or close offshore waters without Commission action? Mr. John Roussel stated since a resolution was passed by the Commission that gave the Secretary authority to reopen or close a season, this resolution would not nullify that action. He then asked Mr. Don Puckett if he was correct. Mr. Puckett stated it would not nullify the previous resolution. Commissioner Gisclair made a motion to amend the resolution to include the words "or close" twice. Commissioner Cormier asked Mr. Savoie to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution again with the amendment. A request for public comments was then called.

Mr. David Belsom, Lafitte, stated he was fishing seabobs that are 100 to the count and has not seen any white shrimp. The seabobs are at a marketable size.

Mr. Donald Lirette, Terrebonne Fisherman's Organization, stated the Department has not been able to present data to the Shrimp Task Force that warrants closing the waters. He also reminded the Commission that enforcement agents admitted not wanting to enforce a 100 count law. Mr. Lirette asked since there

was no biological or economic reason to close the season, then why close it? The seabob fishery could make or break fishermen in the Terrebonne parish area who use this fishery to make ends meet during the winter months. He felt the best answer to the problem was to enforce the 100 count rather than shut down the season.

Commissioner Cormier asked Mr. Savoie to read the Declaration of Emergency which may explain the question of biological data. Mr. Savoie stated the Department's data from the central area of the state showed the average count was 300 to the pound. The Department contends if the shrimp are that small, they should not be fished. Mr. Lirette remarked that seasons have been closed in the past for this same reason, but it has not produced an economic return.

Mr. Bolo Trosclair, Cameron, asked the Commission to consider the proposal from the Department to have certain areas open and others closed.

Mr. Adley Dodson, Cameron, stated he agreed with Mr. Trosclair and asked that Zone 3 be opened to fish seabobs and there was no white shrimp in the area.

Commissioner Gisclair made a motion to accept the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency and was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

1994 Offshore Shrimp Season Closure
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the open shrimp seasons for all or part of the state waters shall be fixed by the 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 white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October 15th through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and

WHEREAS, in the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, water temperatures have now dropped below 20 degrees centigrade which has slowed the growth rate of white shrimp in offshore waters, and

WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated on the third Monday in December, and

WHEREAS, closing a portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters will protect these small white shrimp and allow them the opportunity to grow to a more valuable size.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby close the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, from the beach out to three miles, by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, February 12, 1994.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open or close any special shrimp seasons or open or close the State's Offshore Territorial Waters when biological or technical data indicate the need to do so.

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

John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Chairman, Louisiana Wildlife &
Fisheries Commission

Joe L. Herring
Secretary, Louisiana Department
of Wildlife & 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, the Wildlife and Fisheries

Commission hereby orders a closure of that portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters from the beach out to three miles from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou effective at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, February 12, 1994. 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. Historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's outside waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated. 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 also hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open any special seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp in the State's Inshore Waters as indicated by technical data derived from the Department's ongoing shrimp monitoring program.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Chairman

A Declaration of Emergency for a Special Pink Shrimp Season in Breton & Chandeleur Sounds was also presented by Mr. Brandt Savoie. He stated this special season was done in the past and there has been good success when this occurred. He then read the Declaration of Emergency and the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Hearing no public comments, Commissioner Gisclair made a motion to accept the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Vujnovich and passed unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION

1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season
adopted by the
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
February 3, 1994 - Baton Rouge, LA

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set no less than two shrimp seasons each calendar year for all inside waters by zone, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 also authorizes the Commission to open or close outside waters and set special seasons, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 states the shrimp seasons shall be based on biological and technical data which indicates that marketable shrimp are available, and

WHEREAS, historical biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that harvestable amounts of pink shrimp are found in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds during the late winter and early spring period,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, to open in that area of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rules (Title 76, Part VII, Chapter 3, §307D), at sunset on Friday, February 18, 1994 and extend through sunrise March 31, 1994 and shall be restricted to night-time (sunset to sunrise) fishing only.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop. The Secretary is also hereby authorized to set any special inshore shrimp seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp, as indicated by technical data secured through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' shrimp sampling program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season and granting special powers to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Chairman, Louisiana Wildlife &
Fisheries Commission

Joe L. Herring
Secretary, Louisiana Department
of Wildlife & 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 fix no less than two open

seasons each year for all inside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set a Special Pink Shrimp Season to open in that area of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (Title 76, Part VII, Chapter 3, §307D) at sunset on Friday, February 18, 1994 and extend through sunrise March 31, 1994 and shall be restricted to night-time (sunset to sunrise) fishing only. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is also hereby authorized to close the Special Pink Shrimp Season if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop. The Secretary is also hereby authorized to close and reopen the shrimp season in the State's Territorial Sea and set any special inshore shrimp seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp, as indicated by technical data secured through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' shrimp sampling program.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Chairman

Civil Restitution and Class 1 Update computer printouts for the month of January were provided by Ms. Wynnette Kees. There were 38 civil restitution cases assessed for a value of \$18,918. Also, there were 32 payments received and this increased the revenues by \$4,423. Commissioner Jones asked if there was an update on the actions of the attorney with the delinquent cases, and had he filed any suits.

The Monthly Law Enforcement Report for January was given by Col. Winton Vidrine. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of January.

Region I - Minden - 89 citations.
Region II - Monroe - 82 citations.
Region III - Alexandria - 128 citations.
Region IV - Ferriday - 138 citations.
Region V - Lake Charles - 147 citations.
Region VI - Opelousas - 161 citations.
Region VII - Baton Rouge - 162 citations.
Region VIII - New Orleans - 210 citations.
Region IX - Thibodaux - 229 citations.
Oyster Strike Force - 19 citations.
Statewide Strike Force - 116 citations.

Offshore Boats (SWEP) - 85 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of January was 1,344. A letter of commendation was received by the Enforcement Division from National Marine Fisheries Service for their help in cases made which seized 21,000 pounds of snapper. Commissioner Cormier complimented the Enforcement Division for the outstanding job performed by the agents. Commissioner Jones asked, if a person has been convicted of a crime, would he be able to go right back into his business or would there a suspension in his licenses.

The Secretary's Report to the Commission was given by Secretary Herring. He began stating the Louisiana Wildlife Federation would be holding its annual convention February 25-27 at the Holiday Inn in Lake Charles. Resolutions passed at this meeting are passed on to the Commission and Legislature for action. Different topics discussed will include saltwater fishing, freshwater fishing, deer seasons, upland game and waterfowl. An invitation was extended to the Commissioners and general public to attend.

Early nesting of pelicans occurred on Queen Bess Island with all of the young being killed because of the inclement weather. A second nesting should occur. The bald eagle survey has begun this year. During January Mr. Larry McNease from Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge was selected as Mr. King of the Fur and Wildlife Festival in Cameron Parish. Also Mr. Johnnie Tarver attended the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, International Union of Conservation of Nature Meeting in Buenos Aires. Mr. Tarver went to the meeting to protect the interest of the harvesters and non-harvesters. Raccoon Island was being restored from damages due to Hurricane Andrew utilizing \$2.3 million of federal funds. This island is a popular nesting area for birds and a popular fishing area. The Department determined it needed more money to continue with the restoration and the Department of Natural Resources gave another \$200,000 to continue the restoration.

Caney Lake has been stocked with 8,000 grass carp thus far and an additional 4,000 was expected. The first attempt to stock the carp was not allowed because of undersized fish from the contract size. The second source of supply from Alabama was proving to a good source. Additional fish have been stocked in the Atchafalaya Basin with 296,100 channel catfish. Five thousand one hundred (5,100) of these came from Meridian National Fish Hatchery and the other 291,000 came from the State of Georgia.

The Aquatic Plant Section sprayed 82 acres during the month, maintained boat ramps in 28 parishes and also helped other personnel in fish sampling work.

Project WILD held three workshops with 55 participants; ten Hunter Education Courses were held with 866 students; one Skeet Shooting Course was held with 100 students; and one Aquatic Education Course with 32 students.

Secretary Herring then called on the Wildlife Division to give a summary of the hunting seasons for deer and waterfowl. Mr. Hugh Bateman thanked his staff for the excellent job during the season and also complimented the Enforcement Division for their work. Mr. Bateman felt the Deer Management Program was working and noted this year was an outstanding year for deer harvest.

Mr. Dave Moreland stated that overall there was a good deer season and harvest surveys would be sent out at the end of February. A slide of a non-typical buck taken on Big Lake WMA in January was shown as well as deer taken from Saline WMA, Russell Sage WMA and private lands involved with DMAP clubs. Then Mr. Moreland explained about the rut in each area of the state and stated again that overall it was a good season. Mr. Bateman added the Red River WMA and Three Rivers WMA had a record harvest, taking over 200 bucks in 9 days.

Mr. Robert Helm, waterfowl biologist, began by reviewing regulations for the waterfowl season. An extremely dry late summer and fall produced low water levels in the marshlands, but rains returned in late October and early November which improved the habitat condition. Coastal zone survey in November in the West Zone indicated 3.8 million ducks, which was well above the average. The water levels hurt the southwest during the first split. Population levels have remained unchanged during the winter period along the coastal zone. The southwest area from Calcasieu back to Texas was the best area and hunting success was good. The hunting in the northern part of the state was down more than 30% because of low water and a water hyacinth problem. The east had poor hunting success for the third year. Rice field hunting had improved this year. In the east zone, southeast marshes seemed to have a good first split, but low water made access tough. Lake Salvador area had poor hunting, Mississippi Delta was a good hunting area, central and northeast Louisiana had a dry winter and reduced habitat, and Catahoula Lake had a good hunting season early. There were record numbers of snow geese with success being real good. Commissioner Jones asked if there were still a lot of geese in the southwest? Commissioner Hanchey asked what was the problem with Pecan Island?

Concluding, Mr. Bateman advised the Commission the process of setting the 1994-95 hunting dates was beginning and the official notice of intent would be presented at the March Commission Meeting. After a 120 day public comment period, the Commission would have a final rule in July.

Commissioner Cormier asked Secretary Herring if 40% of the grass carp fingerlings were undersized?

Commissioner Jones made a motion the **June 1994 Meeting Date** be scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 1994 in the Baton Rouge office, beginning at 10:00 a.m. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed with no opposition.

Commissioner Cormier asked for **Public Comments** and none were heard.

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



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

JLH:sch

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, February 3, 1994

Chairman Jeff Schneider presiding.

Bert Jones
Peter Vujnovich
Jerald Hanchey
Perry Gisclair
Joseph B. Cormier
Tee John Mialjevich

Secretary Joe L. Herring was also present.

Chairman Schneider called for a motion for approval of the **January 6, 1994, Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Vujnovich and seconded by Commissioner Gisclair. The motion passed unanimously.

The December **Aircraft Report** was presented by Mr. Lee Caubarreaux. This report showed four pilots flew a total of 93.8 hours for the month along with the breakdown for the different planes, the estimated cost, the actual cost and the Commission's method. Chairman Schneider asked to repeat what ~~he~~ stated on the AeroCommander. *was*

Chairman Schneider acknowledged the presence of former Commission member Dale Vinet and thanked him for coming to the meeting.

A Report on ^{the} **National Youth Hunter Education Challenge** was given by Mr. Chester Carpenter. This competition was for young people aged 10 through 18 and sponsored by Hunter Education, Louisiana Volunteer Instructor Association and the National Rifle Association. Louisiana came away with Top Honors at the competition with the Caddo-Bossier Team taking first place in the Junior and Senior categories. The eight different categories of the competition and the reason for competing were explained by Mr. Carpenter and then a video on the State competition held in Woodworth, Louisiana was shown. Mr. Carpenter stated to the Commission that the Hunter Education Section operates with over 1,000 volunteers in teaching the courses and helping with this event. He then introduced Mr. Ed Tuggle, President of the Louisiana Volunteer Instructor Association, to the Commission. Mr. Tuggle reported the trip to the National Competition in Raton, New Mexico was cancelled, but postal matches were held in 11 states. Louisiana had 20 participants in these matches and 57 medals were taken. ~~the~~ Louisiana's Junior Division placed in 7 of 9 events,

and the Senior Division also placed in 7 of the 9 events. Then Mr. Tuggle recognized 2 members of the Caddo-Bossier team, Ms. Sharon Sullivan from the Junior Division and Mr. Russell Sullivan from the Senior Division. Also, recognized was Mr. Gary Sullivan, father of the two team members as well as a coach. Commissioner Jones complimented what the education has done and how important it was to involve the youth. He then asked to try to continue his efforts. Secretary Herring stated the section, Mr. Tuggle and the youths have done a good job with this event every year and has brought a lot of honor for the State of Louisiana. *Section Noted the have*

The Red Drum Report; Including Commission Recommendation to Legislature Regarding Game Fish Status was presented by Mr. Harry Blanchet. The report presented was prepared by the Department so the Commission could fulfill its obligation of providing a report to the Legislature annually telling the status of red drum. Three different parts of the report were addressed, the biological condition profile and stock assessment, total allowable catch with probable allocation scenarios and detailed explanation of whether or not to continue gamefish status. Before going into detail, Mr. Blanchet explained several terms used within the report such as SSBR, SPR, cohort, fishing year and fishing mortality rates. The bio-profile contained in this report was an update to what was presented in 1991 with the draft of the red drum management plan. Genetics work performed at Texas A & M University analyzed mitochondrial DNA from fish in the Gulf of Mexico and mid-Atlantic Ocean. The fish in the Gulf of Mexico seem to be well mixed and there is not a segregation of fish. A high diversity was noted in the genetics and was interpreted as being large and genetically stable. More new information obtained ~~was data~~ from purse seines age structure. Purse seines from 1985 and 1986 showed problems with age structure of red drum and this data was the reason for concern with this fish. Data from 1990-1991 purse seine samples was available and revealed more recruitment in the younger aged fish. The latest data from 1991-92 purse seines showed a strong recruitment in the offshore population. *Stocks*

The inshore stock has been ~~taken~~ ^{sampled} with seines and trammel nets to show indices of recruitment. The 1987 numbers are higher than 1986 and it seems to have been a stronger cohort. In December 1989, there was a freeze but there was already a low recruitment in the seine samples prior to the freeze. The trammel samples for 1990 also showed a low recruitment. The 1990 cohort was extremely strong and has shown up in the recreational fishery. There appears to be a good correspondence between what was taken in the Department's samples and what the recreational harvest has been. *was*

An increase in the escapement rate of red drum to the offshore waters has been found to occur in data taken by Dr. Phil Goodyear, with National Marine Fisheries Service, when he compared data from 1989 with that of 1993. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council set a management goal of 30% escapement rate for the red

drum for the gulf states and the Department has taken this and used it as a conservation standard.

Mr. Joey Shepard stated the only assessment prior to 1993 to compare Department's data with was Dr. Goodyear's 1989 assessment. Two methods were looked at the status of the stock of red drum. Scenario 1 reflected the age structure from purse seine samples for the offshore population and Scenario 2 uses the catch-at-age population assessment. The stock assessment for this report was done the same as it was done last year except that the trammel net data was used instead of the Ricker spawning recruit relationship to determine recruitment and the average recruitment from 1972 to 1989 were used instead of the Ricker spawning recruit relationship to project recruitment into the future. Data from the National Marine Fisheries Service National Rec Survey was not included in this report. The impact of fishing on the stock showed the same trend as in previous years, which puts the percent spawning stock biomass/recruit above 40%. A comparison was made between the Gulfwide assessment for red drum and the Department's assessment because the impacts for Louisiana should affect the entire Gulf also. Dr. Goodyear's assessments showed the same rate of increase as the information from the Department. Mr. Shepard read a portion of the report and explained what the statement "not changing the regulations for 3 to 5 years" meant. With escapement rates remaining the same since the red drum regulations began fishing mortality rates has not changed much either. Harvest and fishing mortality rates were explained before getting into the probable allocation options. The National Rec Survey data was used to determine bag limits using the percent of anglers that attained different bag limits. This data showed there is not a lot of fishermen that catch over the 5 bag limit. Mr. Shepard discussed probable allocations for recreational and commercial fisherman based on 30% escapement and 50% escapement.

Chairman Schneider asked where was Mr. Corky Perret? Commissioner Mialjevich stated this report was very different from what was presented last year and asked if there were 1.8 million pounds of fish that could be harvested without harming the population, was the 1.8 million in fish or pounds, what would happen to the fish if they were not harvested, and would natural mortality take over? Then he asked, with the presentation given, would the Department recommend a harvest of the fish and if it would be up to the Commission to decide who would catch them, if anybody. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the 30% figure was what was being used by the federal and the state, and the second scenario was using the 50% escapement rate, can the stock continue to improve using the 50% instead of the 30%; were the 1990-91 recruitment figures used and would these numbers help or hurt the figures. Going on, Commissioner Gisclair asked if, for example, you have a 1 million pound quota would it be equal to a 7 bag limit, and what would be the difference in the bag limits for the recreational and the commercial fishermen? Commissioner Mialjevich

where is the 1970 escapement data?

Fish

MANAGES

be

asked Mr. Don Puckett if the job of the Commission was to decide how many fish recreational and commercial fishermen would be allowed to harvest or was it for the legislature to ~~recommend~~. *decide* Mr. John Roussel commented if there was a 1 million pound quota and recreational fishermen could take 7 fish, this would raise the harvest of fish by 150,000 per year. Commissioner Vujnovich asked if the size limit on red drum was lowered, would it affect the industry in any way?

Commissioner Gisclair asked if the report had been sent out for peer review? Commissioner Mialjevich asked if the comments received concurred with the Department's report. Commissioner Gisclair asked if a compilation of the responses was put together and then requested each response be made public. Commissioner Mialjevich asked, from a letter from Philip Goodyear, what was meant by a draft report; were the draft copies sent out for review; and who sent the draft reports to Dr. Goodyear? ~~was it the Department.~~ Then he asked Commissioner Gisclair and Commissioner Vujnovich if they received draft copies of the report, to which they answered no. But Chairman Schneider acknowledged he received a draft report. Commissioner Mialjevich asked Chairman Schneider if he sent the draft report to anyone and why did ~~not~~ *(he)* send one to him. Chairman Schneider remarked he told the Department to send ~~you~~ any information ~~you~~ requested. Commissioner Mialjevich commented he did not appreciate Chairman Schneider's actions. Commissioner Mialjevich asked Chairman Schneider that any information he sent to anyone else ~~to also send a copy to him.~~ *be sent* Chairman Schneider asked the Department had received a response from Dr. Kemmerer ~~and who was~~ *and who was* Dr. Condrey and Dr. Jerry Clark? Commissioner Mialjevich asked how long had it been since any of those people worked with redfish data? Chairman Schneider asked about the purse seine activity and the data from Chuck Wilson, was he actually going out and setting the purse seines, was the species targeted ~~for~~ redfish, was he getting by-catch from the purse seine activity and recording this catch, and had Dr. Wilson's work been peer reviewed? Chairman Schneider read into the record several responses he received. The first was from Dr. Kemmerer and read:

"Dear Mr. Schneider,

Thank you for your letter of January 15, 1994 concerning the status of red drum in Louisiana waters. I have seen a copy of a draft report on the status of red drum, but given its very preliminary nature I do not believe it is appropriate for us to comment specifically on it. My understanding is that the Department plans to have the report peer reviewed which I strongly endorse. The only advice I can offer at this time is to proceed cautiously. Unquestionably red drum are rebuilding largely as a direct result of the management efforts by all the Gulf states and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Because of the cooperative nature of these management efforts, I would strongly encourage the Commission not make management changes which would

increase fishing mortality without first reviewing the basis for an anticipated impact of these changes with the red drum Stock Assessment Panel of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. As you may know, our management plan for red drum currently requires a comprehensive assessment every two years. The last such assessment was in 1993 which means that the next scheduled assessment will not be until 1995. However, there is flexibility in the plan and I am more than willing to go to the Council and ask them to convene a special meeting of the Assessment Panel so that any anticipated impacts of changes in Louisiana red drum management can be evaluated from the perspective of the total Gulf program. I encourage you to consider this. We began the rebuilding of the red drum population cooperatively, and I believe it is important to continue to work together on this valuable resource. Again, thank you very much for your letter and invitation for comments."

Next, Chairman Schneider read a letter from Dr. Kemmerer dated February 2, 1994.

"Dear Mr. Schneider,

Thank you for your letter of January 31, 1994 and the revised draft of the report of red drum in Louisiana waters. Unfortunately I am unable to be more definitive about the report than I was in my letter of January 28, 1994. Under separate cover, Dr. Phil Goodyear of our Miami Laboratory is providing you with technical comments on this report. My concerns about the report echo those of Dr. Goodyear. There is simply not enough detail to give it a fair evaluation. This is not meant as a criticism of the authors as lack of detail is a common characteristic of many assessment reports. However, it does emphasize the need for the information to be reviewed by the Stock Assessment Panel. We need to know more about how the data were collected and analyzed, sample bias and most importantly, how everything integrates with other available information and with what the other states are doing. Again, I strongly urge you to proceed cautiously with any management change that increases fishing mortality. Red drum research and management began in earnest as a cooperative effort in the mid 1980's and it would be unfortunate to implement management measures that could jeopardize the success of the rebuilding program without the benefit of a fully and coordinating comprehensive analysis."

Commissioner Jones asked if Dr. Kemmerer was the Regional Director for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Gulf region? Then he stated he just wanted to clarify the importance of who he was. Commissioner Mialjevich stated Dr. Kemmerer was the same person that thinks TED's work and fishermen do not loose any shrimp. *Done* Going on, Chairman Schneider read a letter from Dr. Jerry Clark into the record.

"Dear Jeff:

I have reviewed the document titled "Third Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum" prepared by the staff of the Marine Fisheries Division of the Department. As the Assistant Secretary for Fisheries I oversaw and helped develop the Department's first extensive report on the status of red drum produced in 1991. The current document is an extension of the methods that we employed in the first report, and I continue to believe that the basic approach is appropriate.

I emphatically do not support, however, the staff's recommendation to allow an increase in the harvest of red drum at this time. There are a number of reasons for my position. Perhaps most disappointingly is the argument on page nine that the harvest should increase because if people in Louisiana are not allowed to harvest these fish now, these fish will be harvested offshore because the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council "might" open the fishery in the future. To my knowledge, not one state in the Gulf, nor the National Marine Fisheries Service supports the staff's recommendation to add to Louisiana's harvest. I find it disingenuous on the staff's part to offer such an argument.

Next, the staff points out correctly that the original concern for red drum was raised when the offshore stocks were found to have severely depleted cohorts (year classes) that were later tied to overharvest from inshore. The current report relies heavily on the 1993 purse seine data that shows 76% of the offshore population less than 9 years old, whereas the same number never exceeded more than 28% in any previous year. My point is that this radical increase in young fish in one year's data over another is almost surely an artifact of the fact that the number of purse seine samples in recent years has declined and the data is simply less useful for drawing conclusions (it has higher variance). Why is there less concern that, according to the report, there were no schools seen in 1993 that averaged less than 9 years in age like they had seen in earlier years? Further, as is discussed in the report on page 7, Goodyear's 1993 assessment has an offshore population estimate significantly below the Department's. I believe that this difference should be resolved before you authorize any increase in the harvest rate.

It is also important to note that the Department's estimates of fishing mortality are almost always less than Goodyear's for individual years, and for one of the years the Department's estimate of escapement is almost 50 times Goodyear's estimate. This kind of variation in estimates should lead the authors to be cautious about their recommendations, and this does not seem to be the Department's approach.

At one point in the report it states: "Much of the Department's uncertainty in the status of the stock as presented in last year's assessment has been resolved." I believe that statements such as this are simply not supported by the data or the

analysis in hand, especially given that other equally valid stock assessments have reached different conclusions.

I continue to believe that the Department is on the right track with their science. I think the stock assessment continues to improve, but I believe that the management conclusions being drawn from the research are inappropriate and do not adequately protect Louisiana's important natural resources. Without going too far along these lines, I would hope that Louisiana would not return to those days when everyone thought that fishing had little impact on the status of stocks, and people were more concerned about harvesting every fish that could be caught. I know the Commission has taken more than a little criticism over the last few years for its attempts to protect the state's resources, but I think it should do it once again and reject the Department's advice."

Then Chairman Schneider read a portion of Dr. Goodyear's letter which stated: "It is impossible to assess the accuracy of the estimates of the current condition of the stock or the forecast that are presented in the document because of insufficient data...Although I can not corroborate the results of this particular analysis, the uncertainty is more related to the estimate of where we are at the moment which can not be evaluated with the data presented rather than whether general trend reported in the document is valid or not." He then stated, from the peer review he had received, he was asked for changes not to be made until the Stock Assessment Panel could look at the report and assess the proposed changes. The biggest factor to look at was the red drum issue was a cooperative effort with the Gulf states and if changes were made, the cooperation between the states would stop. Then Chairman Schneider stated his displeasure in seeing a comment in the report about catching the fish before they go offshore so someone else would catch them. ^{draw} Commissioner Gisclair asked Chairman Schneider how ~~did~~ he ~~draw~~ that conclusion and then he asked for Chairman Schneider to find that comment in the report. Commissioner Jones stated he understood there would be fish in the EEZ that would allow other fishermen to catch also. Chairman Schneider read from the report where he made the interpretation.

Commissioner Cormier asked Commissioner Mialjevich if a statement from Dr. Condrey's letter was referring to a study that was discussed last year and whatever became of that study. Commissioner Mialjevich noted Dr. Condrey was referring to offshore age structure and the Commission was discussing the fish that are inshore. Continuing, Commissioner Mialjevich stated that now there is biological data that would allow the harvest of red drum, but the scientists that have reviewed this document ~~does~~ not agree with the data. Then he commented, from the report, there was 1.8 million pounds of fish to be caught and he would ~~to see~~ ^{like} the recreational fisherman get a couple more fish and the commercial fishery open. Commissioner Gisclair read to Commissioner Cormier excerpts from last years meeting about the study he asked about.

Then Commissioner Gisclair read to Chairman Schneider where two of the letters asked the Commission to "proceed cautiously" and stated, with using a 50% escapement rate, this was being very cautious. Commissioner Cormier commented he received a phone call from a gentlemen who told him he did not want to see the red drum go offshore and asked Commissioner Cormier to go along with the report so he would not be fined for illegal red drum again.

is Commissioner Jones commented the redfish are doing better and the reason ~~being~~ the State and the Department are managing the resource better. He felt the management should continue so there would be a full recovery. Mr. Roussel stated the Department does not specifically recommend anything in the report, it only answers three questions that the legislature mandates. Chairman Schneider asked Mr. Roussel if he had seen the Red Drum Operation Plan before and as the redfish population improve, would not all states change their regulations. Then Chairman Schneider stated he has been told to stick together with the other states and what Louisiana does would affect Texas, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama and it should be done right. Commissioner Vujnovich asked if there has been a study done to see what the redfish were doing to the other seafood in the waters. Then Chairman Schneider opened the discussion to public comments. *and*

Also Mr. Jeff Angers, Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association, asked the Commission not to change the laws with no increase in recreational take and no commercial fishery.

An Unidentified Speaker stated Mississippi has been having a commercial fishery since Louisiana closed its waters. The 70% escapement rate occurring now was the highest in years. He agreed with Commissioner Vujnovich stating the redfish were destroying everything in the water and needed to be harvested. Then he suggested the Commission consider what the commercial fishing industry means to Louisiana.

Mr. Adley Dodson, Cameron, stated he fished redfish with a rod and reel then he asked who was putting more money into the State, recreational fishermen or commercial fishermen. He suggested splitting the fish with the commercial fishermen and if the population dwindles down, then close the fishery to all. The data was good enough to close the season, why was the data now not good enough to open it for the commercials?

Mr. Eddie LeJeune commented when the Federal government shut down the red drum fishery, it was shut down for the sport as well as the commercial. But Louisiana was a renegade when it allowed the recreational fishermen to catch red drum.

Mr. George Barasich, representing the Shrimp Task Force and the United Commercial Fisherman's Association, reminded the

Commission of their duty to make a quantitative and qualitative decision on this issue. Because of the abundance of redfish in the waters, two other stocks were suffering, namely crabs and shrimp stated Mr. Barasich. He also stated that a commercial harvest was needed and appealed to the Commission to manage the resource so everyone could utilize the resource.

Mr. Pete Gericca, Lake Pontchartrain Fisherman's Association, stated the commercial fishermen feed the tourist and the consumers and it was time for the consumer to get his share of the red drum stock.

Mr. T-Roy Borne, Leeville, commented the people from south Louisiana only have the land to make their living from and if more laws are placed on the seafood, then all these people would be on welfare and food stamps. He reported seeing recreational fishermen in his area catching 10 or 15 redfish per day and also stated something needed to be done.

Ms. Linda Johnson, with the Do You Care Coalition for Commercial Fishermen, stated the real endangered species now was the commercial fisherman in the Gulf of Mexico. She requested the Commission work with the commercial fishermen only to redistribute the resource so all could get an equal portion.

Mr. Andy LeBlanc, Metairie, stated he never realized what a pest the redfish were and wondered what people did for a living before the popularity of blacker redfish. He asked the Commission not to change the regulations and to get some reliable data before making a decision.

Mr. Henry Mouton, Lafayette, commented to the commercial fishermen that there is life after death. The recreational fishermen gave up fish voluntarily because they only want what is best for the resource. He also reported the recreational fishermen do not want to catch more fish, they want the fish to recover. Recreational fisheries is a big industry in this state, remarked Mr. Mouton, and it was too premature to take from the resource. He suggested the Commission move cautiously and not to change anything.

Ms. Sherry McConnell, representing the Louisiana Restaurant Association, hoped the Commission would take a good look at the scientific data keeping the consumer in mind when making a decision.

Mr. Ted Loupe stated all the commercial fishermen have ever asked for was their fair share. He then read guidelines from Title 56 the Commission are to follow regarding Saltwater Fishery Conservation and Management. Mr. Loupe asked why can not the shrimp industry or the crab industry to give the fish and that 50% of their income comes from commercial fishing. All the commercial

This does NOT MAKE SENSE.

fishermen have ever asked for was a fair share, not all of it. Going on, he then read a portion of the saltwater fishery standards also from Title 56 and asked the Commission to consider 1 million pounds for the commercial fishermen.

Mr. Andy Savant commented he has never had to give away any fish, he has always been able to sell his catch; the Commission was putting him in poverty; and the redfish were eating everything in the water.

Mr. Justin Schway, Cypremort Point fisherman, stated ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{that} new laws on unattended nets, the fishermen can fish for red drum and there was a need for the commercial fishermen to fish them. For the regulations to change, a recommendation needed to be made to the Legislature and Mr. Schway asked the Commission to make that recommendation and let the Legislature decide.

An Unidentified Speaker stated he was really concerned about the way things were going at the meeting when there was a time when people could sit together and fair decisions were made. He felt ~~when the recreational fishermen found out these limits could have~~ ^{their} been raised but were not, the recreational fishermen were not going to stand for it. He stated if the Commission does not share the fish, the commercial fishermen would not take the situation ~~likely~~ ^{lightly} and 75% to 90% of the recreational fishermen would side with the commercial fishermen. He then asked the Commission to be fair and ~~to consider what you were doing.~~ ^{they} Commissioner Jones stated he took offense to what was stated and the approach that Chairman Schneider took was all part of his job in a thorough manner. Chairman Schneider stated the staff and Commission had a copy of every letter written to him and to the Department and felt each person should do his own research.

Mr. Richard Bronze, representing ^{the} Louisiana Marine Trade Association, stated he did not understand the graphs on escapement and asked what has been done to the population.

Mr. Lloyd Causey stated he did not believe the biologists could produce evidence that the size limit was the main reason for the escapement and the recovery of redfish. He felt size limits and gamefish status could be separated.

Mrs. Ruby Simon, wife of a commercial fisherman, stated she felt the Commissioners were afraid of being a renegade only to their peers instead of the commercial fishermen. She felt the Commissioners should take a look at the regular people for a change.

Mr. Henry Truelove, Louisiana Fishermen for Fair Laws, commented the people of the state need the red drum resource reopened. He stated it was time for government to work with the people for the betterment of the State. He asked the members to do

what was right for both recreational and commercial fishermen of Louisiana.

Mr. Earl Schexnyder, Louisiana Association of Coastal Anglers, reminded everyone that his organization was the one who came to the Commission, the Department and the Legislature to let them know the stock was in bad shape both in inshore and offshore waters. Now with the resource coming back, the Louisiana Association of Coastal Anglers requested not to increase the bag limit for recreational fishermen and to continue protecting and studying the resource.

them Mr. Ted Bollier, Lafayette, began ^{by} stating that all were doing their jobs well and asked ~~to~~ to continue the good work. Then to Commissioner Vujnovich he stated the problem with the crab population was the crab traps and not the redfish.

Mr. Phil Ribbeck, Lake Charles, stated he felt the Commission has done a good job. He noted Louisiana has a problem with ~~the~~ natural resources having been depleted and the renewable resources being depleted. Then, he asked for all to work together and do what was best for Louisiana.

Chairman Schneider asked if there were any other questions. Commissioner Gisclair asked Chairman Schneider what other resource is there that the people of Louisiana can not share among themselves? *He added* ~~The~~ saltwater species of red drum was a resource of the state the fishermen were being deprived of. The problem is improving and ~~suggested~~ *he* suggested opening the fisheries to allow a 50% ^{commercial} escapement which would mean a 1 million pound harvest and could increase the bag limit for the recreational fishermen. He then recommended removing the gamefish status to the legislature.

Chairman Schneider stated he knew the red drum fishery was improving and felt cooperation from all needed to continue. Commissioner Mialjevich asked Mr. Roussel if the staff knew the number of pounds the 5 fish creel limit would equal to, was it close to 9 million pounds? Then he asked did the staff anticipate seeing 9 million pounds of red drum being harvested in 1993? Was the harvest with the 5 fish creel limit what was anticipated or was it less? Was the 1.8 million figure in pounds or fish? Then Commissioner Mialjevich stated he agreed with Commissioner Gisclair that the Department's data was good. He asked if there was 30% escapement, what would be the harvest, how many thousands of pounds? He felt, if you compare the 1.8 million with 50% escapement to the 3.6 million with 30% escapement, that was being very cautious and commented if there was fish to be allocated, he was going to try to allocate them.

Secretary Herring stated ~~that~~ on behalf of the staff, there are some of the best biologists, enforcement agents and support personnel working for the Department. The Department was well respected nationwide. He was very disappointed someone would send

reports and request comments against the staff. The letter from Dr. Clark, Mr. Herring noted he did not have the opportunity to see, and also stated he would not take ~~his~~ recommendations on this subject. *Mr. Clark did not take recommendations from State Biologist when he was with the Dept. He favored Texas fishing Biologist.*

Chairman Schneider commented everyone was free to go to any source they want to get any information and input they want at any time. He did not intend to discredit the Department in any way but encouraged all to do some research and find out things on their own. Then he asked the pleasure of the Commission?

Commissioner Jones stated there are a lot of other concerns out there, the issue of the resource ~~is~~ rebounding has been addressed and felt there were things that would not encourage him to reopen the fishery to commercial fishing right now. He then asked how many illegal gill nets have been picked up since the law was changed on unattended nets? He stated to Commissioner Mialjevich that he felt the Commission should proceed with caution.

Commissioner Cormier stated the Department should move to anticipate the possibility of having a quota for the commercial fishermen, but he intended not to change the regulations. He then requested looking not only at the biological data, but also the enforcement issue and how ~~would~~ the resources ~~be~~ protected. *would* He also stated there has to be some type of accountability. Asking Col. Vidrine, Commissioner Cormier wanted to know how much redfish was seized in an undercover operation two months ago, and did he have the funds and manpower to patrol the whole coast? The bottom line was the resources ~~according~~ to Commissioner Cormier.

Commissioner Jones made a motion the Commission acknowledge the receipt of the Third Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum in compliance with R.S. 56:6(27) and HCR 277 and the Chairman submit the report and recommend the status quo be maintained with no additional harvest or change in allocation and the status of gamefish for red drum be maintained. Commissioner Cormier seconded the motion.

Limit for Commissioner Mialjevich made a substitute motion that ~~due~~ *available* to the excellent work of the biologist, ~~that~~ there is 1.8 million pounds with 50% escapement to the Gulf, that the Commission recommend to the legislature to look at the feasibility of a commercial harvest of 1 million pounds and add an additional two ~~fish~~ to the recreational fishermen. Commissioner Vujnovich seconded the substitute motion. The vote for the substitute motion failed with Commissioner Mialjevich, Commissioner Gisclair and Commissioner Vujnovich voting for and Commissioner Hanchey, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Cormier and Chairman Schneider voting against. The original motion passed with Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Cormier, Commissioner Hanchey and Chairman Schneider voting for and Commissioner Vujnovich, Commissioner Mialjevich and Commissioner Gisclair voting against.

A Notice of Intent on **Modifications of Black Bass Regulations on Caney Creek Reservoir** was presented by Mr. Bennie Fontenot. The Notice of Intent would change the status from a quality lake to a trophy lake and this would increase the slot to a 15 - 19 inch slot and limit the number of bass above 19 inches to two fish. Caney Creek Reservoir was a premier bass lake so the question ~~of why~~ ^{was} change the regulations if all was working well was asked. Mr. Fontenot answered with what the data shows ^{the lake should produce} even more big fish for the fishermen to catch. The Caney Lake Commission has passed a resolution requesting the change be made and the President of the Louisiana Black Bass Association was pleased when he knew of this possible change. He then introduced Mrs. Janice Little, District Fisheries Supervisor for Monroe and asked her to make a presentation.

Mrs. Little restated what Mr. Fontenot had asked; that Caney Creek Reservoir be changed from a quality lake to a trophy lake. Nine of the top 10 or 25 of the top 30 largemouth bass have come from Caney Creek Reservoir. There is the prediction of another state record bass to come from Caney this spring. Over 1,750,000 Florida bass have been stocked in the lake since 1986, 11% of the bass in the lake in 1991 were of the Florida strain. Continued stocking of this strain bass needs to be done in order to maintain or increase this level. The regulations that are in effect now went into effect in April 1991 in order to harvest the smaller sized bass. In the spring 1993, there was a large number of bass showing up in the 14 to 17 inch slot. A creel survey conducted on the lake in 1993 found the anglers were fishing for largemouth bass. The growth of the bass has increased since the stocking of threadfin shad. If the regulations on Caney were changed to a trophy lake, the bass would be protected for one year.

Commissioner Jones asked if a 19 inch fish was over 4 1/2 pounds? He then invited everyone to come visit Caney the first week of April when the Commission meeting was held there. A motion was made by Commissioner Jones to adopt the Notice of Intent and was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed with no opposition. Commissioner Jones noted this was the same lake ^{in which} the first release of grass carp was made and then asked what do grass carp bite?

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

NOTICE OF INTENT

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to change the classification of Caney Creek Reservoir from a "quality" lake to a "trophy" black bass lake.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§149. Black Bass Regulations-Daily Take and Size Limits

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission establishes a statewide daily take (creel limit) of 10 fish for black bass (Micropterus spp.). The possession limit shall be the same as the daily take on water and twice the daily take off water.

In addition, the Commission establishes special size and daily take regulations for black bass on the following waterbodies:

Concordia Lake (Concordia Parish), False River (Pointe Coupee' Parish) and Caney Creek Reservoir (Jackson Parish):

Size limit: 15 inch - 19 inch slot

Daily take: 8 fish of which no more than two fish may exceed 19 inches maximum total length.*

Possession limit: On water - Same as daily take.
Off water - Twice the daily take.

A 15 - 19 inch slot limit means that it is illegal to keep or possess a black bass whose maximum total length is between 15 inches and 19 inches, both measurements inclusive.

Lake Bartholomew (Morehouse and Ouachita parishes), Black Bayou Lake (Bossier Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Cross Lake (Caddo Parish), Lake Rodemacher (Rapides Parish) and Vernon Lake (Vernon Parish):

Size Limit: 14 inch - 17 inch slot

Daily Take: 8 fish - of which no more than four fish may exceed 17 inches maximum total length.*

Possession limit: On water - Same as daily take.
Off water - Twice the daily take.

A 14 - 17 inch slot limit means that it is illegal to keep or possess a black bass whose maximum total length is between 14 inches and 17 inches, both measurements inclusive.

*Maximum total length - The distance in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the most posterior point of the depressed caudal fin as measured with mouth closed on a flat surface.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25)(a), 325 (C), 326.3

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 14:364 (June 1988), amended LR 17:278 (March 1991), repromulgated LR 17:489 (May 1991), amended LR 17:1122 (November 1991), LR 20: .

Interested persons may submit written comments of the proposed rule to Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Inland Fish Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 5, 1994.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Chairman

A Declaration of Emergency for **Closure of Offshore Territorial Waters to Shrimp** was given by Mr. Brandt Savoie. This request was for a partial closure because some areas of the state still have marketable size shrimp available. He then read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the Secretary has the authority to close any of the areas left open since the wording was not in the resolution, and did the Secretary already have the power to open or close offshore waters without Commission action? Mr. John Roussel stated since a resolution was passed by the Commission that gave the Secretary authority to reopen or close a season, this resolution would not nullify that action. He then asked Mr. Don Puckett if he was correct. Mr. Puckett stated it would not nullify the previous resolution. Commissioner Gisclair made a motion to amend the resolution to include the words "or close" twice. Commissioner Cormier asked Mr. Savoie to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution again with the amendment. A request for public comments was then called.

Mr. David Belson, Lafitte, stated he was fishing seabobs that are 100 to the count and has not seen any white shrimp. The seabobs are at a marketable size.

Mr. Donald Lirette, Terrebonne Fisherman's Organization, stated the Department has not been able to present data to the Shrimp Task Force that warrants closing the waters. He also reminded the Commission that enforcement agents admitted not wanting to enforce a 100 count law. Mr. Lirette asked since there

was no biological or economic reason to close the season, then why close it? The seabob fishery could make or break fishermen in the Terrebonne parish area ~~and use this fishery to make ends meet~~ *who* during the winter months. He felt the best answer to the problem was to enforce the 100 count rather than shut down the season.

Commissioner Cormier asked Mr. Savoie to read the Declaration of Emergency which may explain the question of biological data. Mr. Savoie stated the Department's data from the central area of the state showed the average count was 300 to the pound. The Department contends if the shrimp are that small, ~~then it~~ *they* should not be fished. Mr. Lirette remarked that seasons have been closed in the past for this same reason, but it has not produced an economic return.

Mr. Bolo Trosclair, Cameron, asked the Commission to consider the proposal from the Department to have certain areas open and others closed.

Mr. Adley Dodson, Cameron, stated he agreed with Mr. Trosclair and asked that Zone 3 ^{be} opened to fish seabobs and there was no white shrimp in the area.

Commissioner Gisclair made a motion to accept the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency and was seconded by Commissioner Jones. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

1994 Offshore Shrimp Season Closure
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the open shrimp seasons for all or part of the state waters shall be fixed by the 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 white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October 15th through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and

WHEREAS, in the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, water temperatures have now dropped below 20 degrees centigrade which has slowed the growth rate of white shrimp in offshore waters, and

WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated on the third Monday in December, and

WHEREAS, closing a portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters will protect these small white shrimp and allow them the opportunity to grow to a more valuable size.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby close the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, from the beach out to three miles, by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, February 12, 1994.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open or close any special shrimp seasons or open or close the State's Offshore Territorial Waters when biological or technical data indicate the need to do so.

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

John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Chairman, Louisiana Wildlife &
Fisheries Commission

Joe L. Herring
Secretary, Louisiana Department
of Wildlife & 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, the Wildlife and Fisheries

Commission hereby orders a closure of that portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters from the beach out to three miles from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou effective at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, February 12, 1994. 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. Historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's outside waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated. 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 also hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open any special seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp in the State's Inshore Waters as indicated by technical data derived from the Department's ongoing shrimp monitoring program.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Chairman

A Declaration of Emergency for a **Special Pink Shrimp Season in Breton & Chandeleur Sounds** was also presented by Mr. Brandt Savoie. He stated this special season was done in the past and there has been good success when this occurred. He then read the Declaration of Emergency and the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Hearing no public comments, Commissioner Gisclair made a motion to accept the Resolution and Declaration of Emergency. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Vujnovich and passed unanimously.

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

RESOLUTION

1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season
adopted by the
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
February 3, 1994 - Baton Rouge, LA

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set no less than two shrimp seasons each calendar year for all inside waters by zone, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 also authorizes the Commission to open or close outside waters and set special seasons, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 states the shrimp seasons shall be based on biological and technical data which indicates that marketable shrimp are available, and

WHEREAS, historical biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that harvestable amounts of pink shrimp are found in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds during the late winter and early spring period,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, to open in that area of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rules (Title 76, Part VII, Chapter 3, §307D), at sunset on Friday, February 18, 1994 and extend through sunrise March 31, 1994 and shall be restricted to night-time (sunset to sunrise) fishing only.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop. The Secretary is also hereby authorized to set any special inshore shrimp seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp, as indicated by technical data secured through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' shrimp sampling program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season and granting special powers to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Chairman, Louisiana Wildlife &
Fisheries Commission

Joe L. Herring
Secretary, Louisiana Department
of Wildlife & 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 fix no less than two open

seasons each year for all inside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set a Special Pink Shrimp Season to open in that area of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (Title 76, Part VII, Chapter 3, §307D) at sunset on Friday, February 18, 1994 and extend through sunrise March 31, 1994 and shall be restricted to night-time (sunset to sunrise) fishing only. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is also hereby authorized to close the Special Pink Shrimp Season if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop. The Secretary is also hereby authorized to close and reopen the shrimp season in the State's Territorial Sea and set any special inshore shrimp seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp, as indicated by technical data secured through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' shrimp sampling program.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider
Chairman

Civil Restitution and Class 1 Update computer printouts for the month of January were provided by Ms. Wynnette Kees. There were 38 civil restitution cases assessed for a value of \$18,918. Also, there were 32 payments received and this increased the revenues by \$4,423. Commissioner Jones asked if there was an update on the actions of the ~~legal staff~~ ^{ATTORNEY} with the delinquent cases, and had he filed any suits.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for January** was given by Col. Winton Vidrine. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of January.

- Region I - Minden - 89 citations.
- Region II - Monroe - 82 citations.
- Region III - Alexandria - 128 citations.
- Region IV - Ferriday - 138 citations.
- Region V - Lake Charles - 147 citations.
- Region VI - Opelousas - 161 citations.
- Region VII - Baton Rouge - 162 citations.
- Region VIII - New Orleans - 210 citations.
- Region IX - Thibodaux - 229 citations.
- Oyster Strike Force - 19 citations.
- Statewide Strike Force - 116 citations.

Offshore Boats (SWEP) - 85 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of January was 1,344. A letter of commendation was received by the Enforcement Division from National Marine Fisheries Service for their help in cases made which seized 21,000 pounds of snapper. Commissioner Cormier complimented the Enforcement Division for the outstanding job performed by the agents. Commissioner Jones asked, if a person has been convicted of a crime, would he be able to go right back into his business or would there a suspension in his licenses?

The **Secretary's Report** to the Commission was given by Secretary Herring. He began stating the Louisiana Wildlife Federation would be holding its annual convention February 25-27 at the Holiday Inn in Lake Charles. Resolutions passed at this meeting are passed on to the Commission and Legislature for action. Different topics discussed will include saltwater fishing, freshwater fishing, deer seasons, upland game and waterfowl. An invitation was extended to the Commissioners and general public to attend.

Early nesting of pelicans occurred on Queen Bess Island with all of the young being killed because of the inclement weather. A second nesting should occur. The bald eagle survey has begun this year. During January Mr. Larry McNease from Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge was selected as Mr. King of the Fur and Wildlife Festival in Cameron Parish. Also Mr. Johnnie Tarver attended the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, International Union of Conservation of Nature Meeting in Buenos Aires. Mr. Tarver went to the meeting to protect the interest of the harvesters and non-harvesters. Raccoon Island was being restored from damages due to Hurricane Andrew utilizing \$2.3 million of federal funds. This island is a popular nesting area for birds and a popular fishing area. The Department determined it needed more money to continue with the restoration and the Department of Natural Resources gave another \$200,000 to continue ~~with~~ the restoration.

Caney Lake has been stocked with 8,000 grass carp thus far and an additional 4,000 was expected. The first attempt to stock the carp was not allowed because of undersized fish from the contract ~~size price~~. The second source of supply from Alabama was proving to a good source. Additional fish have been stocked in the Atchafalaya Basin with 296,100 channel catfish and 5,100 of these came from Meridian National Fish Hatchery and the other 291,000 came from the State of Georgia.

The Aquatic Plant Section sprayed 82 acres during the month, maintained boat ramps in 28 parishes and ~~they~~ also helped other personnel in fish sampling work.

Project WILD held three workshops with 55 participants; ten Hunter Education Courses were held with 866 students; one Skeet Shooting Course was held with 100 students; and one Aquatic Education Course with 32 students.

Secretary Herring then called on the Wildlife Division to give a summary of the hunting seasons for deer and waterfowl. Mr. Hugh Bateman thanked his staff for the excellent job during the season and also complimented the Enforcement Division for their work. Mr. Bateman felt the Deer Management Program was working and noted this year was an outstanding year for deer harvest.

Mr. Dave Moreland stated that overall there was a good deer season and harvest surveys would be sent out at the end of February. A slide of a non-typical buck taken on Big Lake WMA in January was shown as well as deer taken from Saline WMA, Russell Sage WMA and private lands involved with DMAP clubs. Then Mr. Moreland explained about the rut in each area of the state ~~that occurred~~ and stated again that overall it was a good season. Mr. Bateman added the Red River WMA and Three Rivers WMA had a record harvest taking over 200 bucks in 9 days.

Mr. Robert Helm, waterfowl biologist, began by reviewing regulations for the waterfowl season. An extremely dry late summer and fall produced low water levels in the marshlands, but rains returned in late October and early November which improved the habitat condition. Coastal zone survey in November in the West Zone indicated 3.8 million ducks which was well above the average. The water levels hurt the southwest during the first split. Population levels have remained unchanged during the winter period along the coastal zone. The southwest area from Calcasieu back to Texas was the best area and hunting success was good. The hunting in the northern part of the state was down more than 30% because of low water and a water hyacinth problem. The east had poor hunting success for the third year. Rice field hunting had improved this year. In the east zone, southeast marshes seemed to have a good first split, but low water made access tough. Lake Salvador area had poor hunting, Mississippi Delta was a good hunting area, central and northeast Louisiana had a dry winter and reduced ~~the~~ habitat, and Catahoula Lake had a good hunting season early. *There were* record numbers of snow geese with success being real good. Commissioner Jones asked if there were still a lot of geese in the southwest? Commissioner Hanchey asked what was the problem with Pecan Island?

Concluding, Mr. Bateman advised the Commission the process of setting the 1994-95 hunting dates was beginning and the official notice of intent would be presented at the March Commission Meeting. After a 120 day public comment period, the Commission would have a final rule in July.

Commissioner Cormier asked Secretary Herring if 40% of the grass carp fingerlings were undersized?

Commissioner Jones made a motion the **June 1994 Meeting Date** be scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 1994 in the Baton Rouge office, beginning at 10:00 a.m. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed with no opposition.

Commissioner Cormier asked for **Public Comments** and none were heard.

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

Joe L. Herring
Secretary

JLH:sch

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, February 3, 1994
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Jeff Schneider (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	—
Bert Jones	<u>✓ (late)</u>	—
Perry Gisclair	<u>✓</u>	—
Tee John Mialjevich	<u>✓</u>	—
Joseph Cormier	<u>✓</u>	—
Jerald Hanchey	<u>✓</u>	—
Peter Vujnovich	<u>✓</u>	—

Mr. Chairman:

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

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
February 3, 1994
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 1994
3. Aircraft Report - Lee Caubarreaux
4. ^{12:30} Report on National Youth Hunter Education Challenge - Chester Carpenter
5. Notice of Intent - Modifications of Black Bass Regulations on Caney Creek Reservoir - Bennie Fontenot
6. Declaration of Emergency - Closure of Offshore Territorial Waters to Shrimp - Brandt Savoie
7. Declaration of Emergency - Special Pink Shrimp Season in Breton & Chandeleur Sounds - Brandt Savoie
8. Red Drum Report; Including Commission Recommendation to Legislature Regarding Gamefish Status - Harry Blanchet
9. Civil Restitution and Class 1 Update - Wynnette Kees
10. Monthly Law Enforcement Report/January - Winton Vidrine
11. Secretary's Report to the Commission - Joe Herring
12. Set June 1994 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

I - 000

I - 26

VHS Program
~~VIDEO TAP~~

CUMPTR
PRES.

V - 370

V - 555

VIDEO TAP I - 350
II - 000

V - 585

VII - 025

VI - 535

- LWF Annual
Meeting Convention
- Q Bass meeting
non-productive young fish
- bald eagle
- Larry McManis being
of fish & wildlife fest -
- Mr. T. going to Louisiana
- Racoon Island

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
February 3, 1994
10:00 AM

- ✓1. Roll Call
- ✓2. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 1994
- ✓3. Aircraft Report - Lee Caubarreaux
- ✓4. Report on National Youth Hunter Education Challenge - Chester Carpenter
- ✓5. Notice of Intent - Modifications of Black Bass Regulations on Caney Creek Reservoir - Bennie Fontenot
- ✓6. Declaration of Emergency - Closure of Offshore Territorial Waters to Shrimp - Brandt Savoie
- ✓7. Declaration of Emergency - Special Pink Shrimp Season in Breton & Chandeleur Sounds - Brandt Savoie
- ✓8. Red Drum Report; Including Commission Recommendation to Legislature Regarding Gamefish Status - Harry Blanchet
- ✓9. Civil Restitution and Class 1 Update - Wynnette Kees
- ✓10. Monthly Law Enforcement Report/January - Winton Vidrine
- ✓11. Secretary's Report to the Commission - Joe Herring
12. Set June 1994 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
February 3, 1994
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 1994
3. Aircraft Report - Lee Caubarreaux
4. Report on National Youth Hunter Education Challenge - Chester Carpenter
5. Notice of Intent - Modifications of Black Bass Regulations on Caney Creek Reservoir - Bennie Fontenot
6. Declaration of Emergency - Closure of Offshore Territorial Waters to Shrimp - Brandt Savoie
7. Declaration of Emergency - Special Pink Shrimp Season in Breton & Chandeleur Sounds - Brandt Savoie
8. Red Drum Report; Including Commission Recommendation to Legislature Regarding Gamefish Status - Harry Blanchet
9. Civil Restitution and Class 1 Update - Wynnette Kees
10. Monthly Law Enforcement Report/January - Winton Vidrine
11. Secretary's Report to the Commission - Joe Herring
12. Set June 1994 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment



Advocate staff photo by Tim Mueller

Kevin Prats, left, of Reggio and Clara Gerica of New Orleans protest the LWFC's redfish vote in front of the Governor's Mansion Thursday.

Status of redfish the same

By **JOE MACALUSO**
Advocate outdoors writer

Ignoring the pleas of a dozen outspoken saltwater commercial fishermen, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission voted to recommend that gamefish status for redfish be retained for another year.

Before the commission convened Thursday morning, some 40 commercial fishermen and their families gathered to protest the 1991 statute prohibiting a commercial catch of redfish. The same statute also calls for an annual biological review of the species and demands an annual report and recommendation from the LWFC to the Legislature by March 1.

Since 1988, redfish have been limited to a recreational catch only in Louisiana waters.

The LWFC's 4-3 vote — all three commercially-oriented members voted in the negative — came despite evidence from state biologists that redfish have made a substantial

□ See LWFC, Page 3D

CONTINUED FROM 1D

comeback since the mid-1980s when redfish stocks were considered low enough to put the species in peril in Gulf of Mexico waters.

According to the study by the Marine Fisheries Section of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, redfish stocks in Louisiana waters were sufficient enough to allow an increase in the current recreational limit of five fish per day and allow for a commercial harvest.

LDWF models showed recreational fishermen could catch seven fish a day and allow a commercial quota of 1 million pounds. The state biological team said those limits could be allowed and still maintain an escapement rate of 50 percent from state stocks to redfish offshore breeding stocks. A minimum of 30 percent is a recommended escapement rate from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The LDWF study showed an escapement rate of 69 percent. NMFS studies indicated an escapement rate as low as 8 percent in 1980 and 4 percent in 1990.

LWFC chairman Jeff Schneider from Ponchatoula said he asked fisheries scientists from NMFS, the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Council and LSU Coastal Studies to review the LDWF's findings. He said all scientists urged a cautious approach to any changes made in Louisiana's redfish catch.

Schneider also took exception to a line from the LDWF staff's report that read, "Increasing fishing mortality rates would allow Louisiana fishermen the opportunity to harvest this resource while it is within Louisiana waters."

"I'm ashamed this is in the report," Schneider said. "It makes it look like we should catch all the fish we can before they get offshore. As indicated, redfish is a Gulf-wide problem and will take a Gulf-wide solution. We do not want to be a renegade state."

Commission member Tee John Mialjevich, a former commercial shrimp, said it was obvious to him

that there were enough redfish to recommend the opening of a commercial season.

"We either have to get rid of our biologists or let the national people run this thing," Mialjevich said. "The (recreational fishermen) only use the (LDWF) data when it suits them. We have good biologists... and if the federal government doesn't like what they find, tough."

Commission member Bert Jones fired back it is "... obvious to me that the redfish is doing better because we're managing the resource better. The patient is doing better, but we just don't know how much better. I'm recommending we keep the current regulations."

When public comment was opened, at least 12 commercial fishermen made impassioned pleas for a season.

Pete Gerica, president of the Lake Pontchartrain Fisherman's Association and leader of the protest, said, "All we want is what's fair."

"There's got to be a balance. The recreational catch last year was 9 million pounds, and we get none. That's not fair, and that's not what the commission is charged to do. They're supposed to be fair and equitable in their decisions. This is an allocation decision and we believe we're getting cheated," Gerica said.

After the near three-hour discussion and subsequent vote, Gerica led his contingent of commercial fishermen to the Governor's Mansion to continue the protest.

Only Legislative action could give the commercial fishermen a season.

All other items on Thursday's agenda were passed by unanimous votes.

Included were notices of intent to change Caney Lake from a "quality" lake to a "trophy" lake in the Black Bass Management Program; to close the offshore shrimp season in two areas in state waters at 12:01 a.m.

Feb. 12; and, to open a special pink shrimp season in Breton and Chandeleur sounds at sunset Feb. 18.

The changes in Caney Lake were prompted by the catches of unusually large largemouth bass over the last four years on the 5,000-acre Jackson Parish impoundment. Nine of the state's top 10 fish have come from that lake.

The changes will move a non-take "slot" limit from 14-17 inches in the state's quality lake program to 15-19 inches in trophy lake regulations. Only two fish over 19 inches will be allowed in a daily creel.

The closure in the offshore shrimp season includes the areas from the Louisiana-Mississippi state line west to South Pass and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou. LDWF's surveys indicated white shrimp in those areas were over 100 to the pound, a limit for closure imposed by state law.

The LWFC also learned the LDWF Enforcement Division wrote a total of 1,344 citations in January.

It also voted to hold its June meeting on June 2 at the LDWF headquarters in Baton Rouge.

THE ORIGINAL BATON ROUGE!
GUN & KNIFE SHOW
 Baton Rouge Centreplex
FEBRUARY 26 & 27
 LAST SHOW IN BATON ROUGE BEFORE 15-DAY WAITING PERIOD BEGINS

Shoulda Used

Don't keep replacing or you might find



50 mo. warranty

\$29.95

NAPA Filters
 oil \$
 air \$
 most applications
 Item #s 21512-22098




4-Lamp System

\$55.95 each
 Item #s H4651, 56, 62, 63

AT MOST LOCATIONS: Toll-free
VISA
 Baton Rouge
 Cash/Check/Credit Cards Only. Coupon

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Public Comments

DATE: February 3, 1994

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

SUBJECT: _____

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Public Comments

DATE: February 3, 1994

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

SUBJECT: _____

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Public Comments

DATE: February 3, 1994

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

SUBJECT: _____

State of Louisiana



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800
January 18, 1994

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Joe L. Herring, Secretary

FROM: Lee Caubarreaux, Assistant Secretary *LC*

SUBJECT: Aviation Report - December 1993
Total hours listed are:

PILOT	TOTAL HOURS
G. Rackle -	42.2
B. Stamey -	16.8
M. Windham -	2.5
D. Clause -	32.3
TOTAL HOURS -	93.8

-0- No Flights

PLANE	FLIGHT HOURS	ESTIMATED ¹ COST(TOTAL)	ACTUAL ² COST(TOTAL)	COMMISSION METHOD
N61092 Amphib -	13.9	1,628.11	1,033.33	2,904.41
70365 Float-DC -	32.3	2,979.03	1,521.98	4,235.82
N2576K Float-MW -	2.5	321.43	248.26	
N9467Y 210 -	26.6	2,972.28	3,256.32	5,501.15
N223MS Partenavia -	18.5	2,906.72	1,429.87	5,040.88
N57266 Aero Commander -	0.0			
TOTALS	93.8	10,807.57	7,489.76	17,682.26

¹Estimated Cost is based on an historical average per flight hour.

²Actual Cost substitutes actual maintenance for the month for the average maintenance costs used in the previous figure. This is the only figure used in the calculation of estimated costs that varies significantly from month to month.

LGC:csg

cc: Debbie Unbehagen, Fiscal

**THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE STATUS OF RED DRUM**

prepared for

**Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman**

by

**Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Marine Fisheries Division
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

February 3, 1994

LDWF - Red Drum 1994

DEFINITIONS

Note: Some definitions are taken from Roberts et al. (1991).

Catch - the total number or pounds of fish captured from an area over some period of time. This includes fish that are caught but released or discarded instead of landed. The catch may take place in an area different from where the fish are landed.

Cohort - a group of fish spawned during a given period, usually within a year.

Escapement - a measure of the intensity of fishing on the inshore population of red drum. It is the ratio, expressed as a percent, of the number of fish present at age 4, compared to the number which would be present if no fishery was present. Escapement is calculated on a fishing year basis - that is, what the escapement would be if the fishing mortality rates present in a given year are present throughout the inshore life span of the fish. This methodology is used in both the NMFS and LDWF assessments.

Fishing mortality rates - a measurement of the rate of removal of fish from a population by fishing. Fishing mortality can be reported as either annual or instantaneous. Annual mortality is the percentage of fish dying in one year. Instantaneous is that percentage of fish dying at any one time. The acceptable rates of fishing mortality may vary from species to species.

Fishing year - an arbitrary 12-month period, beginning at approximately the average birth date of a cohort.

GMFMC - Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. An agency, established by the Federal Magnuson Act, which is charged with managing fisheries in the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico.

Harvest - the total number or pounds of fish caught and kept from an area over a period of time. Note that landings, catch, and harvest are different.

NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service. A branch of the Federal Government, within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, charged with developing and managing fisheries in concert with the Councils established under the Magnuson Act.

MRFSS - Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey. A national survey of marine recreational fishing activities, including Louisiana, which estimates angler harvest and catch on an annual basis since 1979.

SAP - Stock Assessment Panel. A technical committee of the GMFMC, charged with reviewing stock assessments of fish under the charge of the Council.

SPR - Spawning Potential Ratio. The ratio of the estimated egg producing ability of all the mature fish in a fished stock to the egg-producing ability that would exist if the stock were unfished.

SSBR - Spawning Stock Biomass per Recruit. The ratio of the total weight of mature fish in a fished stock to the total weight that would exist if the stock were unfished.

Year-class - The fish spawned and hatched in a given year, a "generation" of fish. For red drum, synonymous with "cohort."

INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with RS:56:6(27) and HCR 277 of the 1991 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature is required to prepare an annual report to the Legislature on red drum. The statute and HCR require the Commission to address three separate issues as follows:

- 1) Biological condition, profile and stock assessment
- 2) Total allowable catch with probable allocation scenarios
- 3) Detailed explanation of whether or not gamefish status should be continued.

This document is the third annual report prepared by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to provide the Commission with the information needed to fulfill their obligation as stated above. This report addresses each issue individually and uses the best data available to the Department at this time.

PROFILE, STOCK ASSESSMENT AND BIOLOGICAL CONDITION

A detailed profile and stock assessment document entitled "A Profile and Stock Assessment for Red Drum *Sciaenops ocellatus*, in Louisiana" was prepared by the Department in May, 1991 and presented to both the Commission and the Louisiana Legislature. This report updates that document and the two prior annual reports to the Commission

(LDWF 1992 and 1993) with additional data.

Biological Profile

The basic biological profile of the species was described in the draft "Biological and Fishery Profile of the Red Drum in Louisiana" (Hoese et al. 1991). Two studies were summarized last year which provided additional data. Further studies have become available since that time, and are summarized here.

Wilson et al. (1993 and personal communication) provided additional data on red drum collected from offshore purse seine samples, and hook and line snapper fishermen. Aged samples of red drum captured by purse seine first aroused concern in the mid-80's about the status of the offshore stock by noting the relatively low number of young and middle-aged fish in these samples. The data from recent years show significantly increased numbers of younger fishes (< age 9) in the offshore schools sampled by purse seines. Wilson et al. (1993) reported that in 1991-92, red drum less than 9 years old made up 76% of the population sampled, whereas in prior years, fish less than 9 years old ranged from 13-28% of the population sampled. Wilson et al. (1992 and 1993) also noted that this increased occurrence of younger fish seems independent from the schools of young fish (average school age <9) seen in some years. This data indicates strong recruitment to the offshore population of fish spawned in the mid- to late-1980's (Figures 1 and 2). The exact magnitude of these year-classes will probably not be known for some time, since they may still not be fully available

to the purse seine gear. Age at full recruitment to that gear is uncertain, but may be 6 - 10 years. Wilson et al. (1993) comment that age frequency distributions of red drum from purse seines differ between sets. They state that this is consistent with a non-homogeneous population which is segregated by age or size. They recorded fish as young as age-1 in offshore samples, and note that recruitment to the offshore population probably takes place at variable ages. They comment that this must be considered when evaluating escapement from inshore waters.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) provides a biennial assessment for the gulf-wide red drum stock as part of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) red drum fishery management plan. Goodyear (1993) provided this assessment, utilizing data through 1991. He noted an "escapement rate" of 46% gulf-wide in 1991, a significant improvement over prior years (Table 1).

Table 1. Estimates of gulf-wide escapement by year for Gulf of Mexico Red Drum, as reported by Goodyear (1993).

Year	79	80	81	82	83	84	
%Esc	4.415	8.505	17.72	12.127	6.085	6.035	
Year	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
%Esc	3.402	1.075	1.174	10.724	5.746	17.2	46.227

Note: from Goodyear, 1993, Table S-7

He also noted the discrepancies in estimated adult stock size based on VPA techniques compared to the offshore tag/recapture study of Nichols (1988).

Goodyear's (1993) analysis was reviewed by the GMFMC Red Drum

Stock Assessment Panel (SAP), a committee of scientists from across the Gulf. This Panel produced a report (SAP 1993) which noted the discrepancies in estimated adult stock size and spawning potential ratio (SPR) from independent analyses provided by Goodyear (1989a and 1993). The SAP (1993) report concluded that the present SPR is below 20%, gulf-wide, but is increasing. Projected gulf-wide escapement rate was over 40%, and the report estimated that the Gulf Council's management goal of 20% SPR (sic) would be reached by 1997. They also note that increased inshore and offshore abundances are to be expected with the attainment of the management goal, and that the States and Council need to maintain conservation standards.

The SAP (1993) report incorporated information from the LDWF 1993 Report on the Status of Red Drum, indicating escapement rates from Louisiana waters.

Gold et al. (1993a) presented information on genetic population structure of red drum in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Based on larger sample sizes than previous studies (Ramsey and Wakeman 1987; Bohlmeier and Gold 1991; Gold and Richardson 1991), this study found high levels of gene flow among all localities. Data presented did indicate weakly differentiated subpopulations occurring in the northern Gulf and along the Atlantic coast. Their data indicate that gene flow may be greater between nearby localities.

Gold et al. (1993b) also presented information on the temporal genetic variability of Gulf of Mexico red drum.

Their findings confirmed those of previous workers that the Gulf of Mexico red drum "form a single, randomly mating population." Their data indicate that existing populations of red drum have not been affected in terms of genetic variability or long-term adaptive potential. They interpret their data to indicate that the population is "both large and genetically stable."

Data on recruitment of juveniles into the Louisiana estuaries are annually developed by the Department's Finfish Monitoring Program (Figure 3). Initial estimates of recruitment for young-of-the-year juveniles, only a few inches long, are provided each fall by seine samples. Trammel nets are used to sample juveniles just over one year old (12-18 inches TL), which is near the time they enter the recreational fishery. These independent estimates are generally well correlated (Figure 4).

During 1986-93, estimates of recruitment for the 1985-93 year-classes from seine and trammel samples have varied between years (Figure 3). Estimates showed a relatively strong cohort in 1987, compared to 1985-88 year-classes. The initial estimates for the 1989 year class in seine samples during the Fall of 1989 indicated low recruitment relative to previous years. Numbers of age 1 fish in 1990 (1989 year-class) were also below average in trammel net samples. These low catch/effort indices were also reflected in reduced recreational catch for this cohort.

This year-class was followed by the 1990 cohort, one of the strongest yet seen in the monitoring program. By the fall of

1992, this cohort averaged 17-24 inches and 2-5 pounds. Recreational fishing success provided by the 1990 cohort was significantly better than average during the 1991-92 fishing year (September 1991-August 1992), according to information provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service ongoing Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) (Figure 4). This increased success was predicted in the 1992 red drum status report (LDWF 1992). In 1993, this cohort provided increased availability of larger (24-28 inch, 5-10 lb.) fish. However, this size fish typically represents a relatively small portion of the overall recreational harvest.

Initial (seine) estimates of the 1991 year-class indicated a year-class strength near average. Later (October-December 1992) trammel estimates indicated a higher year-class strength than the seine estimates. This may have been due to increased survival over the mild winter of 1991-92, or due to normal variation between the sampling regimes. This cohort recruited into the recreational fishery during fishing year 1992-93. If the trammel net (age-1) samples are accurate, this cohort should have provided recreational harvest higher than average during 1992-93. NMFS-MRFSS data is not presently available to verify this, but will be available during February, 1994.

Seine samples from the fall of 1992 provided the first estimate of the 1992 year-class strength. The data from these samples suggested that initial recruitment to the 1992 year-class may be below average. Based on this assessment of the 1992 year-class strength, numbers of available fish 16-19 inches TL would be

reduced in the 1993-94 fishing year. Trammel net samples from the fall of 1993 provide a higher index of abundance for this cohort than do the seine samples. As noted for the 1991 cohort, this may be due to increased survival over the mild winter of 1992-93, or due to normal variation between the sampling regimes. At the present time, we place more confidence in the trammel net samples as an index of fish recruiting to the fishery, as these samples are temporally closer to the size where they become available to the recreational fishery. Based on this index, the 1992 cohort should provide the third consecutive above-average recruitment to the fishery in 1993-94.

Seine samples from the fall of 1993 provide the first estimate of the 1993 year-class strength. Data from these samples suggest higher recruitment of early juveniles into the marshes than was noted in 1992. Again, these data must be viewed with caution, as other factors such as salinity regimes and severe freezes influence year-class strength prior to recruitment to the fishery in 1994-95.

Analyses have demonstrated a good correlation between the indices discussed above with availability of fish to the recreational fishery. At the present time (February, 1994), three strong cohorts (1990, 1991, and 1992) are available to the fishery. As a result, recent harvest levels of red drum are much higher than those seen in most years under the existing regulations. As these cohorts grow, and leave the estuarine environment, it is to be expected that recreational harvest levels will be reduced to levels similar to those seen between 1988-91. Because of the present abundance of red drum, any

unit of fishing effort will result in a higher harvest than in a typical year. However, this does not imply that fishing mortality rates are changing.

Stock Assessment

Prior to the Department's development of an assessment of Louisiana's red drum stock (LDWF, 1991), the most recent assessment for red drum was a gulf-wide assessment provided by Goodyear (1989a). The data summaries for this assessment were updated (Goodyear 1990, 1991). An update of his gulf-wide assessment was developed recently (Goodyear 1993). Goodyear's 1989 assessment is based on the assumption that the offshore purse seine data accurately represents the offshore age structure. His interpretation of the results was that a significant decline in recruitment to the offshore population occurred in the mid 1970's. He was unable to fully explain the cause of this decline but did in part attribute it to increased harvest levels of juvenile red drum during the mid to late 70's in estuarine or inshore areas. His assessment was similar in concept to the first scenario of the Department's analysis.

Goodyear's (1993) recent assessment included a VPA tuned with fishery-independent indices of abundance. Goodyear's (1993) estimates of spawning stock in 1979 were calculated by assuming that pre-1979 fishing mortality rates were equal to those operating in 1979-83. Under this assumption, the SPR in 1980 was 8%, and decreased to a low of 4% in 1990. He notes that this analysis may be very conservative, depending on the cause

of the deviation between estimates of spawning stock size in 1987-88 produced by the VPA analysis and the estimates of the spawning stock from Nichols (1988) tagging study.

Over the last three years, the Department has updated its original 1991 stock assessment on red drum (LDWF 1991) and has provided annual reports on the results (LDWF 1992 and 1993). These assessments use all data currently available to the Department to provide the most up-to-date and accurate estimates. This year's assessment does not include 1992-93 fishing year recreational harvest statistics since they will not be available in time to be incorporated into the assessment prior to the February 3, 1994 Commission meeting. Rather, the assessment database is virtually identical to last year with the advantage of being reviewed and utilized by the GMFMC Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel in April 1993, and the benefit of a NMFS gulf-wide assessment in 1993 (Goodyear 1993). Data included in this analysis, not available for the previous assessment include additional age frequency information for the adult offshore population (Wilson et al. 1993), and an additional year of the Department's fishery-independent sampling program. Preliminary data for the recreational harvest in the 1992-93 fishing year is expected from the NMFS MRFSS office shortly. When this data is received, it will be incorporated, and the analyses re-run, to evaluate any changes due to this information. Such changes would probably be confined to changes in the estimates of fishing mortality rates for recent (1991-92 and 1992-93) fishing years. The results are not likely to substantially

affect the results of these analyses, based on the present consistency of fishing mortality estimates under current regulations.

All analyses in this and all other Department assessments are based on a fishing year of September of one year, through August of the following year, since this coincides with fishing activities for the species, and nearly coincides with the onset of spawning. These "Fishing Years" are designated either as both years (e.g. 1991-92) or as the beginning calendar year (e.g. 1991).

1992 Assessment Methodology

The 1992 assessment was simply an update of the assessment contained in the red drum FMP final draft of May, 1991, adding two years of additional data (September 1990 - August 1992), and supporting evidence acquired since that assessment.

Scenario 1 relied on offshore purse seine samples to estimate the relative abundance of adult fish in the population.

Scenario 2 was based on a virtual population analysis (VPA) of Louisiana harvest at age data. It was independent of the purse seine age frequency data used in Scenario 1.

Estimates of future recruitment were based on an estimated average recruitment for the years 1984-86.

1993 Assessment Methodology

The methodology used in the 1993 assessment was identical to the 1992 assessment method with two exceptions. The prior assumptions of full recruitment to the purse seine gear prior to age 5 and constant recruitment to the population were not required. Historic recruitment estimates for both scenarios were developed by use of an age-structured analysis (VPA) for 1972-1985.

For Scenario 1, analyses of the 1991-1992 purse seine samples allowed us to estimate the number at age of adult fish based on the 1986 cohort at age 5. This was a distinct advantage over the 1992 Scenario 1 assessment, that relied on ages 2 to 4 year old fish being fully available to the purse seine gear. It is reasonable to assume that age 5 fish, which are mature, are more available to the gear. The 1993 VPA for Scenario 1 was based on the occurrence of red drum from the preliminary 1991 purse seine data for 1972-1985 cohorts in relation to the occurrence of the 1986 cohort. Recruitment for 1987-91 cohorts was based on the Ricker spawner-recruit relationship developed from estimates of recruitment and spawning stock size from the VPA.

Scenario 2 did not rely on constant recruitment as it did in the 1992 assessment. Recruitment estimates in Scenario 2 were developed by using the fishing mortality rate for age 5 fish in the 1986 cohort as a terminal fishing mortality rate for 1972-1985 cohorts. To estimate recruitment in Scenario 2 for 1987-1991, the 1993 assessment used catch per effort

by trammel nets from the Department's finfish monitoring program, indexed on 1986. This data was also used to calculate fishing mortality of age 1 fish for the 1986 cohort.

In both scenarios a Ricker spawner/recruit curve was developed based on the results of the VPA. This curve was used to forecast recruitment for simulations into the future.

1994 Assessment Methodology

Scenario 1 continues to rely on the validity of the purse seine age structure being an unbiased representation of the adult population. Scenario 2 continues to be a typical age-structured virtual population analysis that is independent of the purse seine age frequency data.

Methodology employed here is identical to last year (LDWF 1993) with the exception of the estimation of recruitment for Scenario 1 for the years 1987-91, and the projected recruitment levels beyond 1991 for Scenarios 1 and 2. For Scenario 1, the prior assessment relied on recruitment estimates derived from a Ricker spawner/recruit relationship to provide recruitment estimates in 1987-91. These estimates are now derived using the same methodology as is used in Scenario 2. A comparison of the Department's fishery independent trammel net samples to recreational harvest of age-1 fish provides evidence of a strong relationship (Figure 4) between catch/effort in the trammel nets and recreational harvest. Therefore, it appears to be a more reliable estimator of recruitment than the previously used Ricker recruit model.

This allows us to use the trammel net samples as an index to better estimate annual recruitment from 1987-91.

In the 1992 assessment, the Ricker spawner/recruit relationship was used to provide estimates of recruitment into the future for both scenarios. Unusually high recruitment levels observed in recent years (1990, 1991, and 1992 year classes) fall outside of the range of the data set previously used to calculate the Ricker spawner/recruit relationship. The recent estimates generated by the Ricker model are much lower than those observed from 1972-91, and do not seem realistic; therefore, recruitment was estimated as the mean of 1972-89 estimates and held constant for future projections. The recent years of high recruitment (1990 and 1991) are likely influenced by the 1989 freeze, and if so, they would not reflect long-term recruitment levels. Therefore, estimates for these years were not included in the long-term mean. Simulating future conditions without using the high levels of 1990 and 1991 recruitment in future projections is a more conservative approach.

The progression of changes in methodology since the original assessment in 1991, the addition of new data each year, and consistency of the results increases our confidence in the 1994 assessment.

Biological Condition (Status of the Stock)

The current status of the stock is based on the projected impact of 1991-1992 fishing levels on spawning stock biomass per recruit (SSBR) through the

year 2000. The results are depicted in Figure 7. The simulations under Scenarios 1 and 2 indicate that under 1991-92 fishing mortality rates, spawning stock biomass per recruit will increase over time, and that 1994 levels are above 40%. It has been suggested (Goodyear 1989b) that 20 to 40% be a biologically acceptable range of spawning stock biomass per recruit. Goodyear's (1993) gulf-wide stock assessment has estimated that an SPR of 20% will be reached at or before 1997. The uncertainty in the actual year that 20% will be reached is due to the uncertainty in the magnitude of the current spawning biomass. Goodyear's (1993) assessment was unable to resolve the difference in his estimated adult biomass and a higher estimate provided by the NMFS tagging study conducted in 1986 (Nichols 1988). The implication of the discrepancy is that 20% may be reached prior to 1997 but will be reached by 1997. At the point that 20% SPR is reached, the stock will no longer be overfished by definition, and the GMFMC SAP will be required to recommend an allowable biological catch (ABC) of red drum in Federal waters which will be the excess biomass beyond that which maintains 20% SPR (or SSBR). The GMFMC's overfishing criterion is 20% SSBR. Goodyear does not provide estimates or SSBR, but rather SPR. Trends in SPR will mimic trends in SSBR but will reach a given level (i.e. 20%) one or more years later if the red drum stock is in a period of recovery (period of increasing SSBR and/or SPR).

The Department, after a thorough review of available data on red drum, feels that the results of the present (1994) assessment and simulations of future

conditions best describes the status of the red drum stock in Louisiana. It should be noted that the Gulf-wide assessment prepared by Goodyear (1993) describes the status of the stock for the entire Gulf and that the Department's assessment best describes that portion off of Louisiana. The results of the assessments do not necessarily have to match, but increasing rates of escapement from Louisiana should be indicated in the Gulf-wide assessment.

Much of the Department's uncertainty in the status of the stock as presented in last year's assessment has been resolved. The analysis has been reviewed and utilized by the GMFMC SAP, and the NMFS gulf-wide assessment reflects a rapid rate of increase in SPR which is very similar to the Department's estimates. It is also reassuring that levels of recruitment since 1990 have been the highest observed since 1986 even though estimates of spawning stock biomass that produced those levels were at their lowest. This implies that either spawning stock biomass is not as low as Scenario 1 predicts or 20% SSBR is not the minimum threshold for recruitment overfishing or that there is very significant variation in recruitment at existing levels of SSBR. There continues to be substantial evidence that adequate spawning biomass exists to produce high levels of recruitment and the spawning stock biomass is continuing to increase at a rapid rate.

This assessment estimates the impact of current regulations in terms of fishing mortality rates. The fishing mortality rates resulting from current regulations have been very stable and appear to provide more than adequate

survival to maintain the spawning biomass for future recruitment (Figure 6). This is confirmed by data on the age frequencies of the adult offshore population. In 1991-92 the age structure is dominated by younger fish (76% of the population sampled), indicating the high rates of escapement from the inshore juvenile population under current regulations. Based on this biological assessment, as well as a review of Goodyear's 1993 gulf-wide assessment and the 1993 GMFMC's 1993 SAP report, fishing mortality rates can be increased, so long as the conservation standard of 30% escapement (=20% SSBR) is maintained. However, we recommend that any increases in fishing mortality rates be incremental and that the fishery not be permitted to absorb all of the allowed surplus escapement at one time. Surplus escapement is defined as the difference between current escapement levels of 69% and the conservation standard of 30%. This strategy would allow evaluation of the effects of each modification, so that the conservation standard would not inadvertently be overshoot by unforeseen changes in the fisheries, which might affect fishing mortality rates.

As in prior reports, we continue to recommend that research be conducted to provide more accurate estimates of the current status of the offshore spawning stock and consequently the allowable harvest.

TOTAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST WITH PROBABLE ALLOCATION SCENARIOS

The intent of this section is to provide guidance as to the allowable

harvest and provide a range of possible allocation options.

The GMFMC adopted 20% SSBR as the conservation standard for the red drum stocks of the Gulf of Mexico, and requested the States to enact rules to provide for 30% escapement to offshore waters, in order to achieve this standard. By reference, the state of Louisiana endorsed this standard, as it was included in Act 889, 1988 Regular Legislative session. A provision of that Act, which was to become effective September 1, 1991, authorized the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set a quota for commercial harvest of red drum, based on 30% escapement to offshore waters. This provision never became effective, since the section was repealed by Act 157, 1991 Regular Session. However, it does seem to have established legislative intent to endorse the conservation standard recommended by the Council.

Results of this assessment indicate that current SSBR for the red drum stock off Louisiana is well above 20%, and escapement rates are well above 30% (69% in recent years, Figure 6). Under current regulations there is some excess escapement to the offshore spawning stock. This excess, if not utilized by the Louisiana fishery, will continue to contribute to a very rapid build-up of the offshore spawning stock. Any significant build-up of the spawning stock (SSBR > 20%) may result in the re-opening of the red drum fishery in the Federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under the GMFMC red drum FMP. Increasing fishing mortality rates would allow Louisiana fishermen the opportunity to

harvest this resource while it is within Louisiana waters.

The present assessment indicates that fishing mortality rates may be increased to a point not to exceed the conservation standard of 30% escapement (20% SSBR). However, we suggest that changes in regulations should provide an incremental increase in fishing mortality rates and that regulations not be changed for a period of 3 to 5 years. This would allow the Department to better monitor the impact of the fishery resulting from regulatory changes, and minimizes the risk of overshooting the target fishing mortality rates. Regulations could then be adjusted accordingly in the future to move gradually to a level of 30% rather than absorbing excess escapement in the first year.

There are an infinite number of probable allocation scenarios, depending on the availability of suitable data and the method used to regulate the recreational fishery or a potential commercial fishery. The allocation scenarios presented here are intended only to provide guidance in estimating the impact varying the recreational bag limit and varying a potential commercial quota. There is little difference between the two assessment scenarios in terms of fishing mortality rates, therefore allowable harvest at any level of escapement would provide little difference in allocation options. A range of options is only presented for Assessment Scenario 1 to avoid redundancy. Allocation options provided in Figures 8 and 9 are projected to achieve 30% and 50% escapement respectively. While 30% escapement is the conservation standard, we noted above

that there is some benefit to approaching the target escapement rate incrementally. We have presented allocation options at 50% escapement to provide some perspective as to the differences that this criterion would have on potential harvest. The allocation options are constrained by escapement and based on no size limit change in the recreational fishery, and an 18-27 inch size limit in the commercial fishery. This size limit was in effect when the commercial fishery was closed. Any change in size limits from those mentioned above would require further simulation. It should also be noted that these simulations are based on recruitment being the average of 1972-89. High levels of recruitment after 1989 are assumed not to reflect average conditions and are not part of the estimates. Annual variations in recruitment will affect allowable harvest, but should average out over time. Years of high recruitment will provide higher than average allowable harvest, and vice versa.

GAMEFISH STATUS

The designation of "gamefish" as it relates to the current status of red drum is of little biological utility, but rather a social or political approach to the allocation aspect of management. Biologically, there is no difference between a fish harvested by rod and reel or that harvested in a net. The biological integrity of a fish resource is influenced by the number of fish harvested and the sizes (or ages) at which they are harvested. Size limits, bag limits and quotas are examples of biological tools typically used to control harvest and protect the

biological integrity of a fish resource. Gamefish status in and of itself does little to control total harvest or protect the biological integrity of the red drum stock, since it does not control the amount of effort expended or restrict the amount of time a fish is in the fishery.

We are not in a position to address non-biological aspects of gamefish; rather, simply to state that biologically, gamefish status is of little consequence as it relates to the present or future condition of Louisiana's red drum stock.

REFERENCES

- Bohlmeyer, D. A. and J. R. Gold. 1991. Genetic studies in marine fishes. II. A protein electrophoretic analysis of population structure in the red drum Sciaenops ocellatus. Mar. Biol. 108:197-206.
- Gold, J. R. and L. R. Richardson. 1991. Genetic studies in marine fishes. VI. An analysis of population structure in the red drum (Sciaenops ocellatus) using mitochondrial DNA. Fish. Res. 12:213-241.
- Gold, J. R., L. R. Richardson, C. Furman, and T. L. King. 1993a. Mitochondrial DNA differentiation and population structure in red drum (Sciaenops ocellatus) from the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Mar. Biol. 116:175-185.
- Gold, J. R., L. R. Richardson, T. L. King, and G. C. Matlock. 1993b. Temporal stability of nuclear gene (allozyme) and mitochondrial DNA genotypes among red drums from the Gulf of Mexico. Trans. Am. Fish. Soc. 122:659-668.
- Goodyear, C. P. 1989a. Status of the red drum stocks of the Gulf of Mexico, Report for 1990. NMFS/SEFC Contrib. CRD 88/89-14. 62pp.
- Goodyear, C. P. 1989b. Spawning stock biomass per recruit: the biological basis for a fisheries management tool. ICCAT Working Document SCRS/89/82. 10p.
- Goodyear, C. P. 1990. Status of the red drum stocks of the Gulf of Mexico. Report for 1990. NMFS/SEFC Contrib. MIA-89/90-26. 23pp.
- Goodyear, C. P. 1991. Status of the red drum stocks of the Gulf of Mexico. Report for 1991. NMFS/SEFC Contrib. MIA-90/91-87. 23p.
- Goodyear, C. P. 1993. Status of the red drum stocks of the Gulf of Mexico. Report for 1993. NMFS/SEFC Miami Lab. Contrib. MIA-92/93-47. 32p., Appendices A-S.
- Hoese, H. D., D. W. Beckman, R. H. Blanchet, D. Drullinger, and D. L. Nieland. 1991. A biological and fisheries profile of Louisiana red drum Sciaenops ocellatus. LDWF Fishery Management Plan Series, Number 4 Part 1 (Final Draft).
- LDWF. 1991. A stock assessment for Louisiana red drum, Sciaenops ocellatus. LDWF Fishery Management Plan Series, Number 4 Part 2 (Final Draft).
- LDWF. 1992. First Annual Report to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on the Status of Red Drum. March 13, 1992. mimeo. 13pp., 6 figs.

- LDWF. 1993. Second Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum. Prep. for La. Wildl. & Fish. Comm. Feb. 18, 1993. mimeo. 7pp., 9 figs.
- Nichols, S. 1988. An estimate of the size of the red drum spawning stock using mark/recapture. Tech. Rep. NMFS/SEFC, Pascagoula Lab, March 1988. 11 pp., 8 tab. 5 fig.
- Ramsey, P. R. and J. M. Wakeman. 1987. Population structure of Sciaenops ocellatus and Cynoscion nebulosus (Pisces:Sciaenidae): biochemical variation, genetic subdivision and dispersal. *Copeia* 1987:682-695.
- Roberts, K. J., J. W. Horst, J. E. Roussel, and J. A. Shepard. 1991. Defining Fisheries - A User's Glossary. LSU Sea Grant Publ., 21 pp.
- Stock Assessment Panel, 1993. Report of the fourth red drum stock assessment panel meeting. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and NMFS Southeast Fisheries Center. 4 pp., 6 figs.
- 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 and Age structure and reproductive potential of the northern Gulf of Mexico Offshore population of red drum not vulnerable to purse seine capture: the missing fish? LSU-CFI-92-2. CFI/LSU Final Report, 1990-1991 MARFIN Co-op Agreements NA90AA-H-MF724 and NA90AA-H-MF763. 40pp., 16 figs.
- Wilson, C. A., D. L. Nieland, and A. L. Stanley. 1993. 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. LSU-CFI-93-3. CFI/LSU Final Report, 1991-1992 MARFIN Co-op Agreement NA90AA-H-MF724. 37pp., 16 figs.

PURSE SEINE AGE FREQUENCY OF RED DRUM
1990 - 1991

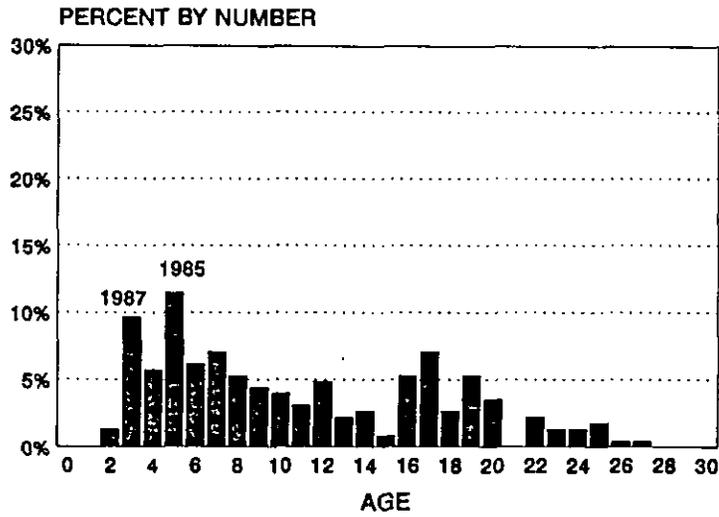


Figure 1. Purse seine age frequency, 1990-91. Data from Wilson et al. (1992 and pers. comm.).

PURSE SEINE AGE FREQUENCY OF RED DRUM
1991 - 1992

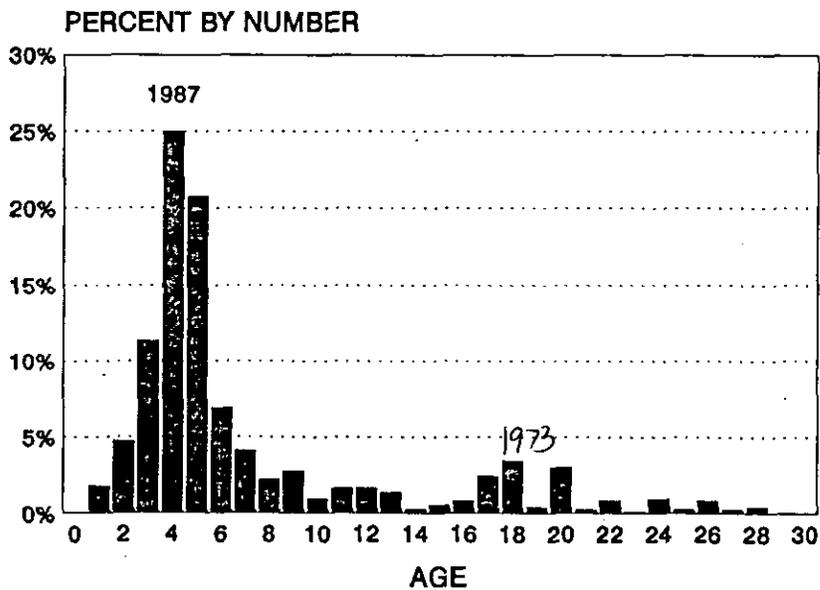


Figure 2. Purse seine age frequency, 1991-92. Data from Wilson et al. (1993 and pers. comm.)

Catch/Effort of Red Drum in Seines and Trammel Nets
by cohort
SEA = Oct - Dec

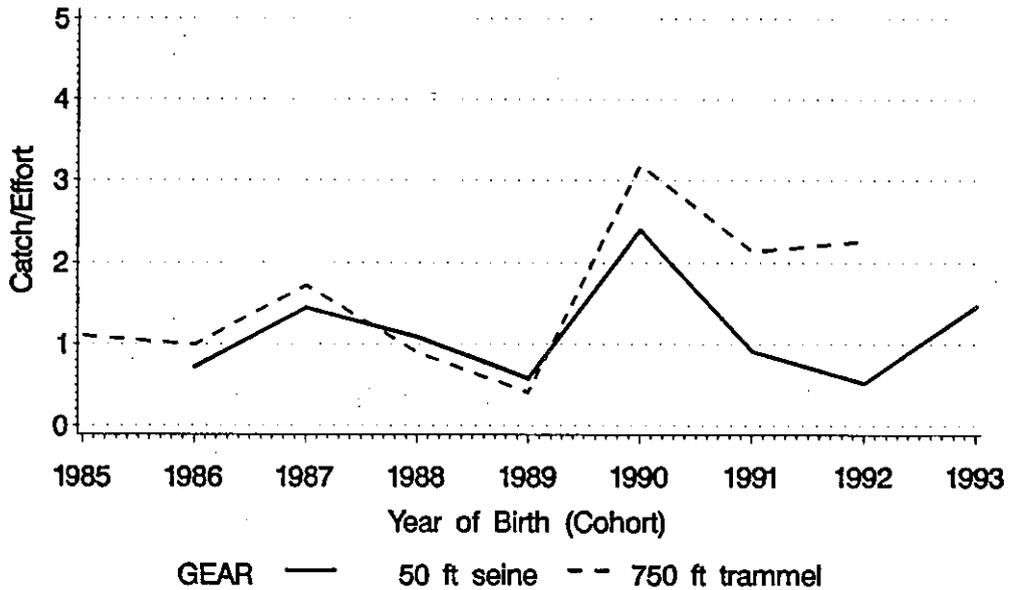


Figure 3. Mean catch per effort of red drum in LDWF seine and trammel net samples. Seine samples (solid line) are taken in the year of birth, trammel samples (dashed line) are taken in the year following birth.

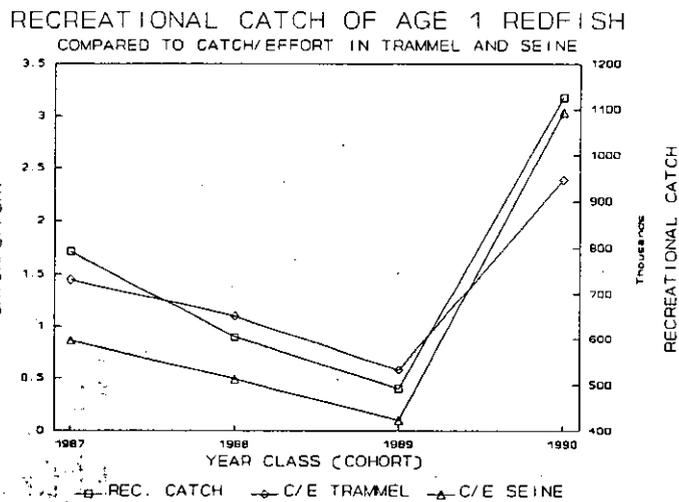


Figure 4. Recreational catch of age-1 fish compared to catch/effort of trammel and seine samples. 1990 cohort estimated by Oct-Dec '90 seines, Oct-Dec '91 trammels, and Sept '91-Aug '92 recreational harvest.

RED DRUM SPAWNING STOCK BIOMASS / RECRUIT CONTINUED FISHING AT 1991 LEVELS

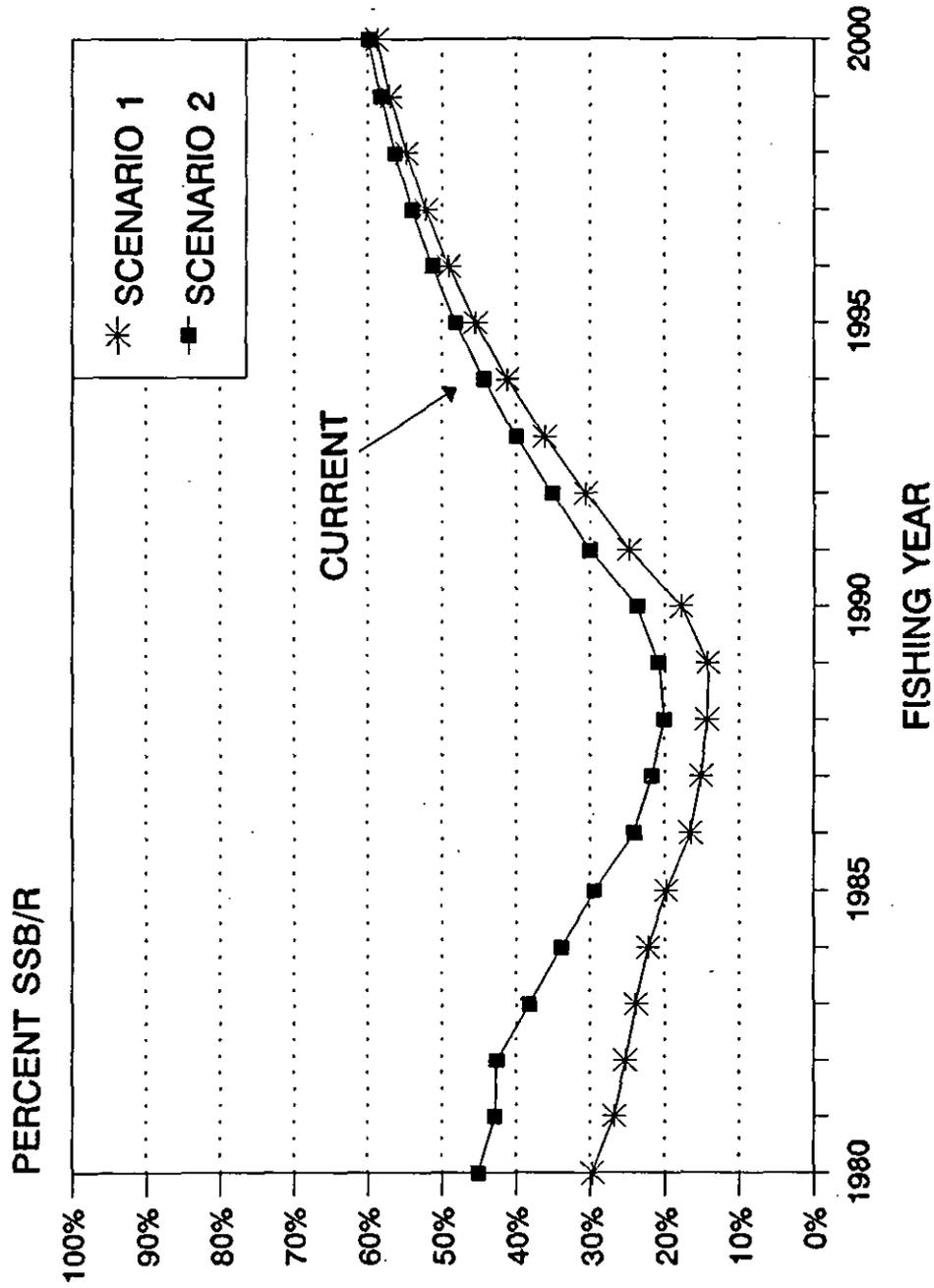


Figure 5. Spawning stock biomass per recruit for Scenario 1 and Scenario 2, with fishing mortality rates held at 1991 rates through 2000.

RED DRUM ESCAPEMENT RATES BY FISHING YEAR

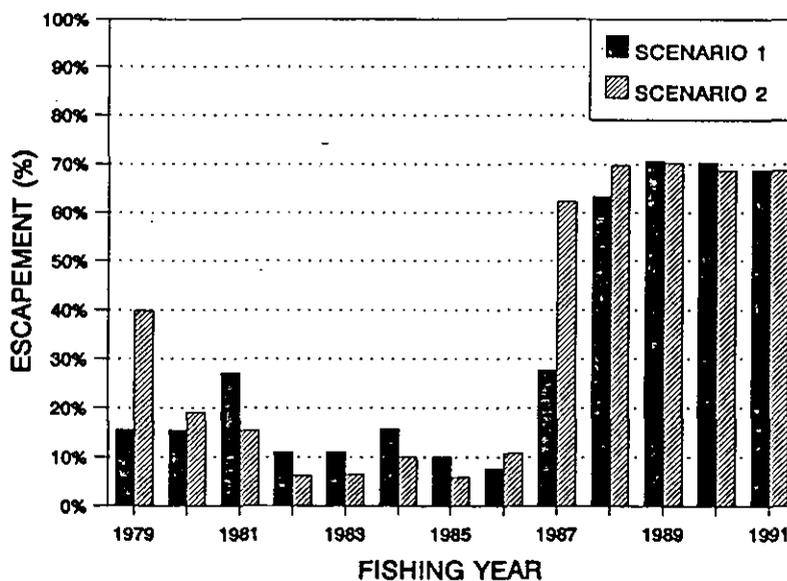


Figure 6. Estimates of historic escapement of red drum, by fishing year. Estimates are based on fishing rates from ages 0-3 within a given year.

CUMULATIVE FISHING MORTALITY RATES AGES 0 TO 3

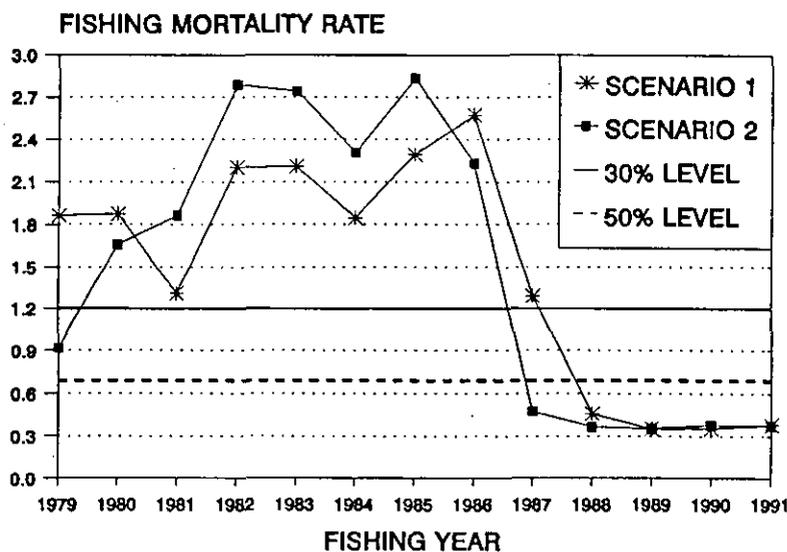


Figure 7. Cumulative fishing mortality rates by fishing year. Solid horizontal line represents the mortality rate that would provide 30% escapement, dashed line represents mortality that would provide 50% escapement.

**ALLOCATION OPTIONS CONSTRAINED TO 30% ESCAPEMENT
GIVEN A COMMERCIAL SIZE LIMIT OF 18 TO 27 INCHES**

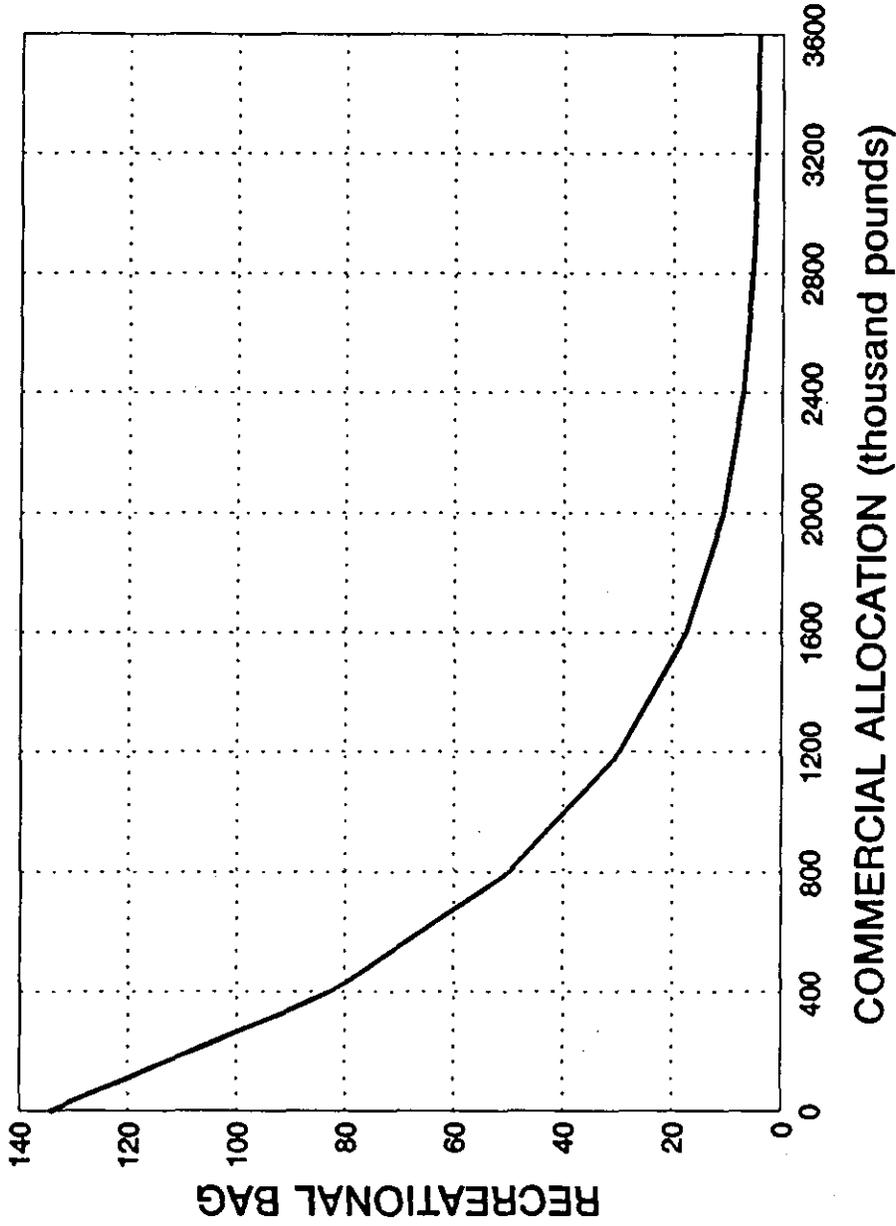


Figure 8. Estimated possible allocations in terms of recreational bag limits and potential commercial quotas within 30% escapement using Scenario 1. The curved line represents 30% escapement.

**ALLOCATION OPTIONS CONSTRAINED TO 50% ESCAPEMENT
GIVEN A COMMERCIAL SIZE LIMIT OF 18 TO 27 INCHES**

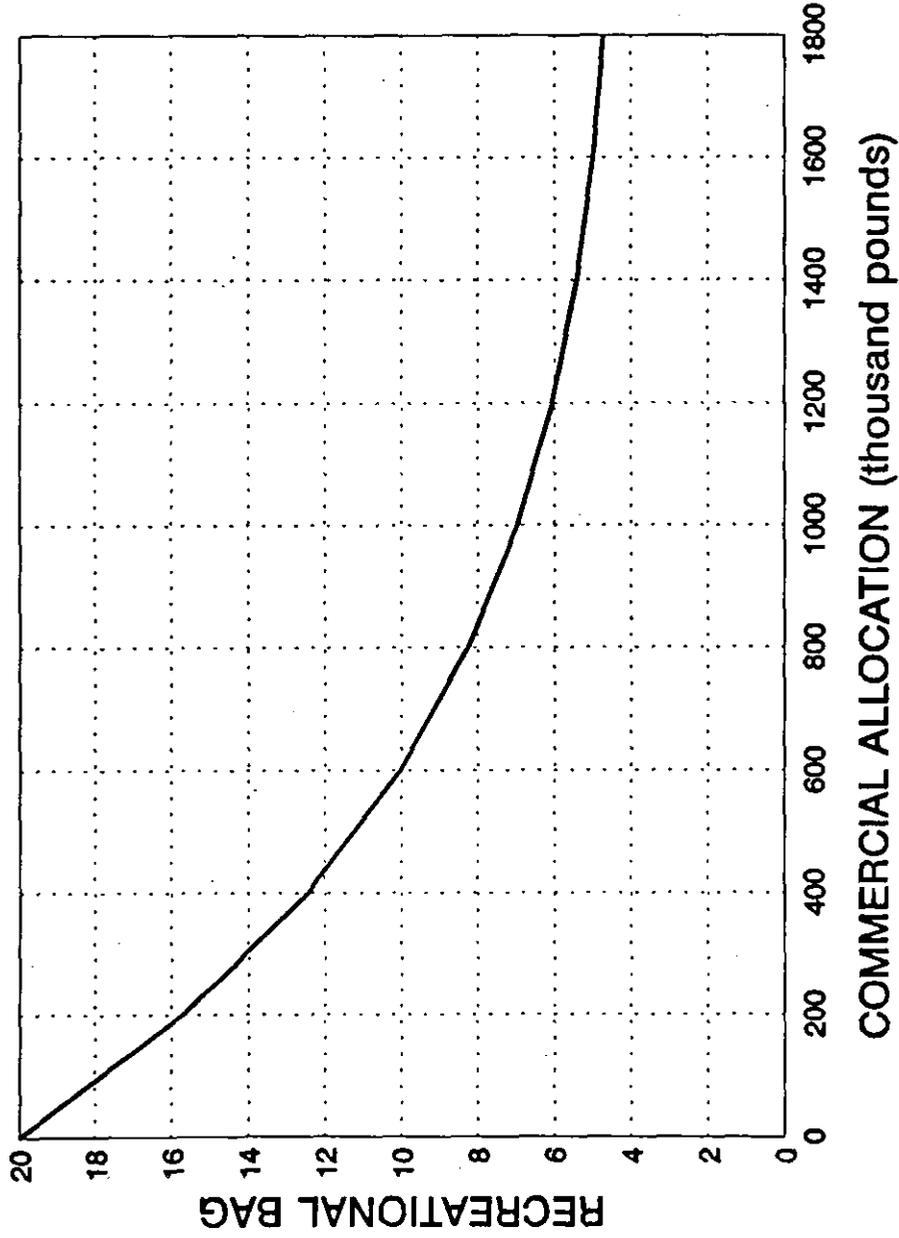


Figure 9. Estimated possible allocations in terms of recreational bag limits and potential commercial quotas within 50% escapement using Scenario 1. The curved line represents 50% escapement.

State of Louisiana



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

MEMORANDUM

TO: John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

FROM: John E. Roussel, Acting Administrator, Marine Fisheries 

RE: Transmittal of Red Drum Status Report

DATE: January 26, 1994

Enclosed is the third Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is obligated, by R.S. 56:6 (27) and HCR 277 of the 1991 Regular Session, to provide a report on red drum to the legislature. This report was developed by Department biologists to aid the Commission in fulfilling that requirement.

A copy of the report has been provided to the Department Attorney, Don Puckett, with a request to review the content of the report in light of the Commission's legal obligations to the legislature. Copies have also been sent out for peer review.

My staff and I will be available to you if there are any questions of concern not presented in the report. The report will be presented at the February 3, 1994 Commission meeting where questions concerning the report will be addressed.

JER/JAS/lar

Enclosure

c: Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Members
Joe L. Herring, Secretary
W.S. "Corky" Perret, Assistant Secretary, Office of Fisheries

P. O. Box 726
Ocean Springs, MS 39564
(601) 875-5912
(FAX) 875-6604



**Gulf States Marine
Fisheries Commission**

Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

February 2, 1994

Mr. John Roussel
Louisiana Department of
Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

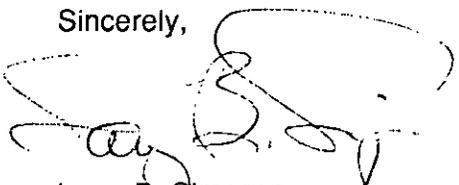
Dear John:

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) has received the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' *Third Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum Stocks in Louisiana*. This is an excellent report, perhaps the best that I have read. It is well-written, and unlike many such reports, it will be easily understood by persons who are not trained specialists in marine-fish stock assessments. You and your staff are to be congratulated.

We believe that the report accurately examines the management scenarios and the biological consequences of various harvest levels. We also believe that it is very conservative in that it excludes the recent highly successful recruitment years (1990, 1991, and 1992). The remaining decision is a socio-political/economic one that rightfully belongs to the commission and legislature.

The GSMFC greatly appreciates the opportunity to review this report. In future years, if possible, we would like to suggest that the report be circulated to our Stock Assessment Team which is made up of experts in each of the five Gulf States. They would probably be able to provide you with more specific comments. Thanks again for the report.

Sincerely,



Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

RLL/LBS:cdb

- Member States -

Texas

Louisiana

Mississippi

Alabama

Florida



Lawton Chiles
Governor

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Florida Marine Research Institute
100 Eighth Avenue S.E.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5095

Virginia B. Wetherell
Secretary

February 1, 1994

Mr. John E. Roussel
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Dear Mr. Roussel:

The conclusions drawn in the status report appear to be consistent with those presented by Dr. Phil Goodyear in his 1993 analyses of the status of red drum in the Gulf of Mexico. I had little time to review this report and get it back to you by 3 February. Since it was obviously written for a broad audience, it was impossible to review much of the technical aspects of the analyses using only the data provided. It isn't clear if Wilson's results indicating variation in the age of emigration are used in the analyses. Also, plots, such as that for trammel net catch/effort, have little value without some indication of the variation around each mean. The definition of SSBR should read 'the total weight of mature fish in the stock for a given level of recruitment'. SSBR doesn't imply a ratio of fished to unfished mature stock as SPR does. SPR and SSBR are sometimes confused in the text. As for the definition of SPR, I recommend replacing 'egg producing ability' with 'egg production' or 'SSBR'. It is interesting that recent recruitment levels are quite high when SSBR is at an all time low. Finally, while it does seem intuitively obvious that SSBR levels are increasing, given the current strict regulation of harvest, I don't think that the 'uncertainty in the status of the stock....has been resolved' (p.8). Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

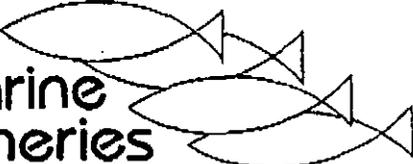
Sincerely,

Michael D. Murphy
Research Scientist
Florida Marine Research Institute

MDM/jlw

cc: Frank S. Kennedy, Jr.
Kenneth D. Haddad
Edwin W. Irby, Jr.

FILE: O:\DATA\MURPHY\LETTERS\LA_RED_DRUM



**Marine
Fisheries
Commission**

STATE OF FLORIDA

Chairman George R. McElvy, Crystal River
Vice-Chairman Robert O. Marston, M.D., Alachua
Commissioner Mitchell A. Newberger, Lutz
Commissioner Robert D. Woodward III, Tallahassee
Commissioner Patrick E. Geraghty, Ft. Myers
Commissioner Charles C. Kidd, Sr., Ph.D., P.E., Tallahassee
Commissioner Barbara C. Berish, Jacksonville

Executive Director
Russell S. Nelson, Ph.D.

February 1, 1994

Mr. John E. Roussel
Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

via fax

Dear Mr. Roussel:

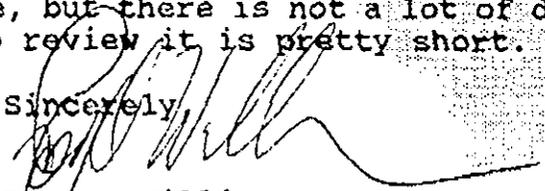
Your January 26 letter to our Executive Director, Russell Nelson, arrived today. Dr. Nelson is in Melbourne, Florida for a Commission meeting through the end of the week, and I will be joining him tomorrow morning. Consequently, it will not be possible for him to review the red drum stock assessment which you sent before you present it to your Commission on February 3.

In his absence, I have given it a cursory review and I have the following comments.

- 1) There is very little information within the report to evaluate the conclusions regarding escapement and potential bag limits and quotas.
- 2) The assessment is very dependent on the rate of fishing and the rate of natural mortality employed, but these rates do not appear to be given in the report and it is not stated how the rates were derived.
- 3) The report assumes fish leave the estuary at age 3 based on offshore purse seine catches. Is this confirmed by seine and trammel net samples?
- 4) It would be helpful to know what the present recreational catch distributions are. Are the bag limits suggested in Figures 8 and 9 realistic in Louisiana? The numbers seem very high.

I regret that I cannot give you more, but there is not a lot of data in the assessment and the lead time to review it is pretty short.

Sincerely,



Roy O. Williams
Assistant Executive Director

copy: Russell Nelson

January 29, 1994

John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dear Jeff:

I have reviewed the document titled "Third Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum" prepared by the staff of the Marine Fisheries Division of the Department. As the Assistant Secretary for Fisheries I oversaw and helped develop the Department's first extensive report on the status of red drum produced in 1991. The current document is an extension of the methods that we employed in the first report, and I continue to believe that the basic approach is appropriate.

I emphatically do not support, however, the staff's recommendation to allow an increase in the harvest of red drum at this time. There are a number of reasons for my position. Perhaps most disappointingly is the argument on page nine that the harvest should increase because if people in Louisiana are not allowed to harvest these fish now, these fish will be harvested offshore because the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council "might" open the fishery in the future. To my knowledge, not one state in the Gulf, nor the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) supports the staff's recommendation to add to Louisiana's harvest. I find it disingenuous on the staff's part to offer such an argument.

Next, the staff points out correctly that the original concern for red drum was raised when the offshore stocks were found to have severely depleted cohorts (year classes) that were later tied to overharvest from inshore. The current report relies heavily on the 1993 purse seine data that shows 76% of the offshore population less than 9 years old, whereas the same number never exceeded more than 28% in any previous year. My point is that this radical increase in young fish in one year's data over another is almost surely an artifact of the fact that the number of purse seine samples in recent years has declined and the data is simply less useful for drawing conclusions (it has higher variance). Why is there less concern that, according to the report, there were no schools seen in 1993 that averaged less than 9 years in age like they had seen in earlier years? Further, as is discussed in the report on page 7, Goodyear's 1993 assessment has an offshore population estimate significantly below the Department's. I believe that this difference should be resolved before you authorize any increase in the harvest rate.

It is also important to note that the Department's estimates of fishing mortality are almost always less than Goodyear's for individual years, and for one of the years the Department's estimate of escapement is almost 50 times Goodyear's estimate. This kind of variation in estimates should lead the authors to be cautious about their recommendations, and this does not seem to be the Department's approach.

At one point in the report it states: "Much of the Department's uncertainty in the status of the stock as presented in last year's assessment has been resolved." I believe that statements such

as this are simply not supported by the data or the analysis in hand, especially given that other equally valid stock assessments have reached different conclusions.

I continue to believe that the Department is on the right track with their science. I think the stock assessment continues to improve, but I believe that the management conclusions being drawn from the research are inappropriate and do not adequately protect Louisiana's important natural resources. Without going too far along these lines, I would hope that Louisiana would not return to those days when everyone thought that fishing had little impact on the status of stocks, and people were more concerned about harvesting every fish that could be caught. I know the Commission has taken more than a little criticism over the last few years for its attempts to protect the state's resources, but I think it should do it once again and reject the Department's advice.

Sincerely,

Jerry E. Clark

Jerry E. Clark, Ph.D.



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

Coastal Fisheries Institute

Center for Coastal, Energy & Environmental Resources

Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7503 • 504/388-6455 • FAX 504/388-~~6455~~ 6313

February 2, 1994

Mr. John E. Roussel, Acting Administrator
Marine Fisheries Division
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

Dear John:

Thank you for your request of January 26, 1994. Please accept this as a preliminary response, written in consideration of your need for a quick reply.

First, as Chairman of the Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel (RDSAP), I want the Department to know how very proud I was of the position of authority which Joey Shepard commanded at the fourth meeting of the RDSAP. Often during the course of deliberations the group would turn to Joey for the insight his analyses had given him into the Louisiana-based portion of the fishery. On several occasions I saw Joey and the chief federal stock assessment scientist studiously deliberating over past and future analyses. It is always a good feeling to see one of our own shine.

As per your Department's "Third Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum", I have two comments and one concern.

First, we do not have a clear understanding of the current offshore age structure. As recommended and detailed by the RDSAP in its 4th report, we need a repeat of the offshore tag-recapture studies to determine the current age structure of the population. Without this study we will not have quantitative data on the impact of the conservation measures taken in recent years by the states and federal authorities.

5/25/94 - Mr. John - Roussel?

Second, as we move towards recovery of this valuable resource, our population assessment and management models must become stochastic. We must explore how scientific uncertainty in parameter estimates affects our stock assessment and management recommendations. Once these stochastic models are developed, I urge that we continue to err on the side of the resource where there is an uncertainty which could affect the long-term abundance of the population. The last chapter in Tom Helser's dissertation shows one such stochastic approach and its implications for spotted seatrout. I would be very happy to work with Joey or any of your staff on such a refinement of your current model.

My concern is that some may misinterpret isolated portions of your document as a call for reduction in the current conservation measures. While the stocks appear to be recovering, it is the unanimous recommendation of the RDSAP that we hold a steady course and resist all efforts to reduce the current conservation measures until it is clear that the stocks are in an equilibrium state of recovery. In support of this position, I quote the unanimous recommendation on Acceptable Biological Catch from the "Report of the Fourth Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel Meeting".

"Based on the best available data, the Panel concludes that the spawning stock is currently below 20 percent SPR, but is increasing. The SPR increase is directly related to the conservation measures implemented by the states. The projected estimate of Gulf-wide escapement rate for 1993 is over 40 percent, and therefore, it appears that the 30 percent rate is being approached by most of the states. If this projected rate of escapement is maintained, the Council's goal of a 20 percent SPR will be attained by at least 1997. Given that the conservation measures are producing the desired results and that the current estimate of SPR is below the Council's definition of overfishing at 20 percent SPR, the Panel recommends that the ABC be set at zero. In view of the apparent rates of recovery of the stock the Panel expects that an ABC will be set which will provide an EEZ harvest in the near future (Figure 6).

We wish to point out to the states and the Council that the attainment of 20 percent SPR will result in increased inshore and offshore abundances. This is expected. The states and the Council must be prepared to maintain these high levels of abundance and to resist pressures to lessen their conservation standards."

J. E. Roussel
2/2/94
Page 3

Thank you again for this opportunity. I am at your service if I can be of any further assistance.

Warmest personal regards,



Richard Condrey
Chairman, Red Drum Stock
Assessment Panel and
Associate Professor
Coastal Fisheries Institute

— - RC/cf

cc: Wayne Swingle, Executive Director
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council



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

C. Phillip Goodyear
SEFSC
Miami Laboratory
Miami, FL 33149
February 1, 1994

Dr. John E. Roussel
Acting Administrator
Marine Fisheries Division
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Dear Dr. Roussel:

I recieved in the morning mail the copy of the "Third Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum" prepared by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Marine Fisheries Division which you sent me for review. In addition to your request were several other copies by mail or fax today from other parties also requesting comments. I understand from our telephone conversation that the most recent draft is denoted by the page footer "LDWF - Red Drum 1994". Each of the other copies displays the page footer "Draft-January 26, 1994 am". Cursory inspection suggests that each of the documents is the same; however, I only read the former in detail and the following comments ar based on that review

In general the document is well written and faithfully reflects the results of the NMFS assessments of the status of Gulf of Mexico red drum where they are cited. I would note, however, that the data of Table 1 which indicate a 46 percent escapement in 1991 were based on the terminal year of a VPA analysis. In such analyses the terminal year is the most poorly estimated. Consequently, future analyses may significantly revise the escapement estimates for 1991.

It is impossible to assess the accuracy of the estimates of the current condition of the stock or the forecasts that are presented in the document because insufficient detail is provided. However, in the section dealing with the biological condition of the stock (page 7), the authors distinguish between the concepts of SSBR and SPR and note that achievement of a ratio of fished to unfished SSBR equivalent to 20% will precede achievement of 20% SPR. This result is valid using the definition of SSBR and SPR given in the report.

However, at the time that the Gulf of Mexico Red Drum fisheries management plan was being drafted the term, SPR, had not yet been coined. In the draft of Amendment 1 to the Gulf of Mexico Red Drum fisheries management plan the spawning stock goal was to maintain a minimum level of 20 percent of the virgin stock size. The first of the SEFC assessments for Gulf of Mexico red drum (Goodyear 1987) pointed out that this definition was impossible to implement since the virgin condition could not be known. The spawning stock goal recommended by that assessment was based on a spawning stock biomass per recruit and the final wording of the Management Plan was modified



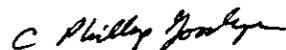
to reflect this change. The rationale for using SSBR was precisely defined in that assessment in terms that were later incorporated into the definition of SPR (Goodyear 1987, 1989b)]. Consequently, all of the estimates of the condition of the spawning stock of red drum that have been produced for the GFMFC and associated advice since 1987 have actually been based on SPR as defined in Goodyear (1989b) although that term has come into use only since its publication in 1989.

It is noteworthy that the increased adult stock size in recent years has also been associated with increased recruitment to the inshore fishery. Reference is made on page 4 to the conclusion in Goodyear (1989) that there was an apparent significant decline in recruitment to the offshore stock which occurred in the mid 1970's. About a third of that decline could be attributed to increased harvest of juveniles inshore, but the other two thirds of the decline were unexplainable given available data. One possible cause discussed in that assessment (Goodyear 1989) was that recruitment to the inshore population had declined as result of declines in the adult stock size. If so, then increases in the size of the adult stock should bring about increases in average annual recruitment of juveniles to the population. Although the recent data are insufficient to conclude that recruitment overfishing occurred before the management intervention of the mid 1980's, they do suggest that future inshore recruitment levels may exceed the pre-1990 levels if the spawning stock is permitted to rebuild. The implications of this possibility are not discussed in the document but should be addressed before significant increases in mortality are encouraged.

Although I cannot corroborate the results of this particular analysis, the uncertainty is more related to the estimate of where we are at the moment (which cannot be evaluated with the data presented), rather than whether general trend reported in the document is valid or not.

I hope that these comments are useful.

Sincerely,



C. Phillip Goodyear

cc. A. Kemmerer
J. Jenkins
J. Powers
B. Brown
J. Schneider

Note: The citations in the text correspond to those in the References given in the subject document except for the following:

Goodyear, C.P. 1987. Status of the Red Drum Stocks of the Gulf of Mexico. NMFS/SEFC Miami Lab. Contrib. CRD 86/87-34. 113 p.



1501-02(c) *file*
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Sent via rapifax

Southeast Regional Office
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Fixed to Foster

February 2, 1994 F/SE:AJK:dms

2/2/94

Mr. John F. Schneider
Chairman, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Route 1, Box 201
Loranger, LA 70446

John R. F.Y.D.
Regions 2/1/94

Dear Mr. Schneider:

Thank you for your letter of January 31, 1994, and the revised draft of the report on red drum in Louisiana waters.

Unfortunately, I am unable to be more definitive about the report than I was in my letter of January 28, 1994. Under separate cover, Dr. Phil Goodyear of our Miami Laboratory is providing you with technical comments on the report.

My concerns about the report echo those of Dr. Goodyear. There simply is not enough detail to give it a fair evaluation. This is not meant as a criticism of the authors, as lack of detail is a common characteristic of many assessment reports. However, it does emphasize the need for the information to be reviewed by the Stock Assessment Panel. We need to know more about how the data were collected and analyzed, sample bias, and most importantly how everything integrates with other available information, and with what the other states are doing.

Again, I strongly urge you to proceed cautiously with any management change that increases fishing mortality. Red drum research and management began in earnest as a cooperative effort in the mid-1980's, and it would be unfortunate to implement management measures that could jeopardize the success of the rebuilding program without benefit of fully a coordinated and comprehensive analysis.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew J. Kemmerer
Regional Director

cc: Corky Perret
F/SEC - Joseph Powers, Phil Goodyear





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

Southeast Regional Office
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

January 28, 1994 F/SE:AJK:dms
SER94-029

Mr. John F. Schneider
Chairman, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Route 1, Box 201
Loranger, LA 70446

Dear Mr. Schneider:

Thank you for your letter of January 15, 1994, concerning the status of red drum in Louisiana waters.

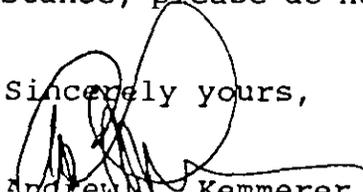
I have seen a copy of a draft report on the status of red drum, but given its very preliminary nature I do not believe it is appropriate for us to comment specifically on it. My understanding is that the Department plans to have the report peer reviewed, which I strongly endorse.

The only advice I can offer at this time is to proceed cautiously. Unquestionably, red drum are rebuilding largely as a direct result of the management efforts by all of the Gulf states and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Because of the cooperative nature of these management efforts, I would strongly encourage the Commission not make management changes which would increase fishing mortality without first reviewing the basis for and anticipated impact of these changes with the Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

As you may know, our management plan for red drum currently requires a comprehensive assessment every two years. The last such assessment was in 1993, which means that the next scheduled assessment will not be until 1995. However, there is flexibility in the plan and I am more than willing to go to the Council and ask them to convene a special meeting of the assessment panel so that any anticipated impacts of changes in Louisiana red drum management can be evaluated from the perspective of the total Gulf program. I encourage you to consider this. We began the rebuilding of the red drum population cooperatively and I believe it is important to continue to work together on this valuable resource.

Again, thank you very much for your letter and invitation for comments. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,


Andrew U. Kemmerer
Regional Director

REC'D

FEB 04 93

ASST. SECRETARY
OFFICE OF FISHERIES



GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Lincoln Center, Suite 331 • 5401 W. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, Florida 33609-2486 • 813/228-2815 • Fax 813/225-7015

January 21, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Andrew J. Kemmerer
FROM: Wayne E. Swingle 
SUBJECT: Red Drum Operations Plan

Attached is the plan for FY 1994.

WES:plb

Attachment

c: Thomas Wallin
Robert Shipp
Red Drum Management Committee, w/attachment
Technical Staff
Wayne Swingle, w/attachment
Albert Jonés, w/attachment
Richard Raulerson, w/attachment

h:\redrum\oper.ppt

RED DRUM FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

**OPERATIONS PLAN (#7)
1993/1994**

Background

The Fishery Management Plan for the Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico (FMP) was prepared by the Secretary of Commerce and implemented on December 19, 1986. The FMP was modified by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council by Amendment 1 implemented October 17, 1987. The amendment: (I) revised procedures for specifying total allowable catch (TAC); (II) established quotas and closure provisions for red drum taken in the recreational fishery and in directed commercial fisheries for other species; and (III) retained the resource assessment program (RAP) described in the FMP as a statement of research requirements for the fishery. Amendment 2 implemented June 28, 1988, set TAC at zero and prohibited harvest or possession of red drum from the EEZ. Amendment 3 implemented October, 1992 modified the TAC procedure to provide for stock assessments biennially, rather than annually.

Management Objectives
(See Operations Plan (#3) October, 1989)

Problems in the Fishery
(See Operations Plan (#3) October, 1989)

Ongoing Activities
(See Operations Plan (#3) October, 1989)

Completed 1992 - 1993 Activities

1. Draft a research protocol for determining the size of the offshore population, its age composition and fecundity levels (provided to GSMFC for action).
2. Collect samples of offshore population in central Gulf to determine age distribution (LSU).

1993 - 1994 Activities¹

1. Collect information for a SAFE report. (SERO) Date due 3/31/95.
2. Collect information for a stock assessment (SEFSC). Date due 3/31/95.

This is scheduled as Miami SEC4-94-03-01. Continue to develop stock assessment data base (C).

¹Stock Assessment and ABC evaluation changed to a biennial time period.

Research and Data Needs

Biological:

1. Random sampling of the stock and harvest is required for stock assessment. Direct aging for fish greater than 25 inches (TL) is needed for stock assessment because of the inadequacy of the age-length relationships at larger sizes. The random sampling of the offshore stock requires a period mark/recapture experiment as outlined in the Stock Assessment Panel's 1993 "Proposed Research Protocol for Red Drum Mark/Recapture and Age Composition Studies" (Appendix A).

The research priorities of the Third Stock Assessment Panel Report (listed below) are being addressed by the states and NMFS and these actions need to be continued.

2. Recruitment to the fishery should be monitored and the causes of variability assessed. This activity is central to an assessment of the adequacy of the Council's goal of a 20 percent spawning stock ratio.
3. The age distribution and abundance of the offshore red drum population should be monitored. It is an effective stock assessment tool for monitoring the effectiveness of stock recovery. The mark and recapture study conducted by NMFS in 1986 and 1987 should be repeated in 1995 and 1996. In addition, direct measure (by otolith analysis) of the age composition of the offshore population should be assessed. Based on the result of these analyses, the two studies should be repeated again in 2000 and 2001.
4. Estimates of fishing mortality rates on adult red drum should be determined (States).
5. Estimates of release mortality associated with various gears should be determined.

Social and Economic:

General

Analysis of the social and economic impacts of the FMP since its implementation (not possible in 1992).

Modeling

Anticipating future management decisions and their corresponding impacts on the fishery, the Socioeconomic Panel proposes to examine the following scenarios:

1. Different recovery rates by modeling:
 - a. the pre-FMP (1980-1986 period) escapement rate;
 - b. a 100% escapement rate with and without release mortality;

- c. a 60% escapement rate;
 - d. a 15% escapement rate.
2. Different allocations by modeling:
- a. the pre-FMP allocation between recreational and commercial users, between inshore and offshore recreational users, and between commercial gill netters and purse seiners;
 - b. three alternative allocations between recreational and commercial users, between inshore and offshore recreational users, and between commercial gill netters and purse seiners.

The pre-FMP scenario is taken as the baseline against which all the other scenarios will be compared. The other scenarios were chosen by the Socioeconomic Panel arbitrarily. The Socioeconomic Panel does not endorse any of the scenarios, but merely seeks to evaluate their potential consequences on the red drum fishery.

The assessment of the chosen scenarios involve sequential activities. First, the stock assessment group must estimate the physical response of the stock to each of the escapement rates. These estimates must be available to the economists (and sociologists) by March 31, 1992, in time to allow for analysis of the options. The economic (and sociological) analysis, in turn, must be completed by July 31, 1992, in order to allow sufficient time for the members of the Socioeconomic Panel to evaluate the analysis before they meet sometime in October, 1992.

Economics

Economic assessment of alternative state and federal management measures will require the following analyses and the collection of supporting data:

1. Supply and Demand - Analysis of supply and demand for each market class of red drum so as to provide estimates of consumer and producer surpluses for different regulatory scenarios. Supply considerations should include EEZ production by market class, state waters production by market class, imports by market class, and production from aquaculture by market class. Demand should be estimated for each commercial market class and for inshore and offshore recreational fishing by market classes.
2. Business Analysis - Cost and earnings studies should be conducted for the various businesses associated with recreational and commercial fishing including production, supply, processing and distribution activities (including aquaculture, if significant.). Both fixed and variable costs must be identified and measured, together with physical use rates for consumable variable expense items.
3. Methodology - Select and develop compatible methods of assessing both recreational and commercial demand and supply functions so as to be comparable is assessing marginal values in the allocation decision.

Sociology

In assessing the impacts of future changes and regulations to fishing communities, there is a need to generate baseline sociocultural data for the red drum fishery. By fishery here we mean "activities

through which people link themselves with aquatic environments and renewable resources" (Andersen 1982:18). A sociocultural data base for red drum can potentially be utilized in regulating other finfish fisheries. This is because the red drum fishery is a component of a multi-species complex in which both commercial and recreational fishers can be expected to move from one fishery to another. There is presently no species-specific red drum fishery as there are for shrimp or lobster (i.e., there is no definitive social and cultural framework which can be readily categorized as red drum determinant). Therefore, a description of commercial or recreational red drum fishermen is most realistically a description of various groups of fishermen which harvest a variety of finfish and shellfish in addition to red drum (Secretarial Plan, 1986). Because of the need to integrate economic and sociocultural concerns identification of variables which combine these concerns would be a most efficient use of best available data. Variable sets which effectively integrate the economic and social realm have been identified, and are described below (Flynn, 1983; SFI, 1987). These are central to the development of natural resource management plans. The variable sets include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Demographics - size, composition, and distribution of the fishery's occupational population residing in the study area, and populations of recreational users and tourists which determine employment and income effects;
2. Level of capitalization - amount of fishery-related materials, equipment, and services purchased in or invested in the study area/community relative to expenditures in the fishery as a whole and to all investment and expenditures in the area/ community studied;
3. Fiscal impacts - fishery-related taxes accruing to the local taxing jurisdiction, relative to other income;
4. Sociocultural data - non-economic fishery characteristics, such as cultural norms related to fishing, health and safety, subsistence, recreation, or the natural environment, community dependency on the fishery, lifestyle sustainability, quality of life, and historical participation in the fishery (Flynn, C. (1983)); and
5. Social attitudinal - trip data, use of catch, attitudinal data, satisfaction, user group conflicts, attitudes towards regulatory actions, motivation of recreational fishers and experience/participation in alternative fisheries.

Research Plans and Expectations

It is unlikely that funding will be available for sufficient data collection to facilitate all of the socioeconomic analysis suggested in the previous section of this report. A more likely scenario is that researchers will have no new data available to them before the next meeting of the Socioeconomic Panel on red drum and that their analyses will be limited accordingly. Also, no research commitments have been made at this writing by any of the economists or sociologists on the Socioeconomic Panel or known to them. If the Council wants to have at their disposal any of the research suggested by the Socioeconomic Panel, priorities will have to be identified. The Socioeconomic Panel may then need to meet again to consider research commitments and funding sources. An integrated research plan could be then submitted to the Council for review and adoption. Results on high priority work will not actually be available to the Council until October, 1993. Most of the funding sources (SK and MARFIN) available to economists and sociologists require a full year's lead time prior to the time data collection or actual analysis can begin.

MARFIN Activities

The MARFIN Program, which is administered by NMFS, has funded a great deal of research which provided information on red drum and the fishery through progress reports, completion reports, and publications submitted to NMFS. It also yielded a great deal of raw data useful in population assessments and other analyses useful for management. Projects, exclusive of those of SEFC, were summarized in previous operations plans. The GSMFC SEAMAP Red Drum Group is developing a MARFIN proposal for determining the age composition of the offshore population which will be submitted in 1994.

Long-Term Research Requirements

Research and data collection requirements were adequately described in the following documents.

- ~~(1) Secretarial FMP for Red Drum (Section 12:9 including RAP)~~
- (2) State-Federal Cooperative Research Program for Red Drum in the Gulf of Mexico (SEFC).
- (3) A Research Agenda for the Economics of the Red Drum Fishery (SFI).
- (4) Annual Scientific Assessment Group reports (Council).
- (5) Stock assessment panels research protocol for mark/recapture and age composition study of offshore population (Appendix A).

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED RESEARCH PROTOCOL FOR RED DRUM MARK/RECAPTURE AND AGE COMPOSITION STUDIES OF THE OFFSHORE STOCK

PURPOSE: To estimate the size of the offshore stock and its age structure.

TIMING (OFFSHORE STUDIES): Three-year study (sampling conducted by NMFS under Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel oversight/review).

- 1) 1994 - Aerial survey to assess study area for 1995 tagging phase.
- 2) 1995 - (A) Tagging study, (B) Offshore age structure.
- 3) 1996 - (A) Recapture study, (B) Offshore age structure, (C) Aerial survey.

This time period was selected because it is anticipated that changes in stock abundance resulting from increased escapement from state waters should be more easily detected. Gulf-wide state regulations to increase escapement were first implemented in 1988. The cohort from the fall spawn of 1988 is the first cohort to be protected by these Gulf-wide rules. Full recruitment to the schools of offshore spawning stock appears to occur at ages 5 to 8 years. The 1988 cohort should be fully recruited to the offshore stock in 1993. By 1996 fish of age classes 5, 6 and 7 should be detected in the offshore stock. Because of the environmentally related variations in year class strength, the Panel did not feel it was appropriate to measure the size of the stock based on emigration of single year class, but instead should allow three year classes to enter the offshore stock. The studies should be repeated in five years beginning in 1999 with the aerial survey.

1. Geographical Study Areas:

Aerial survey - U.S. Gulf Coast and, if possible, Mexican Gulf Coast to Vera Cruz
Tagging/Recapture and Aging Studies - Determined from 1994 aerial survey with study area to be at minimum from Mobile Bay to Galveston Bay.

The 1987 NMFS Tagging/Recapture study (Nichols, 1988) was conducted from Mobile Bay to Galveston Bay largely based on aerial surveys (Lohofener et al., 1988) which indicated 73 to 78 percent of the offshore stock biomass was located in this area. This higher density improved the efficiency of the tagging/recapture phases of the study and thereby the precision of the estimate of stock size. The distribution of the offshore stock biomass may have changed since Lohofener, et al. conducted their study; therefore, it is proposed the study be repeated in 1994 and used as the basis for selecting the tagging/recapture study area. The 1996 aerial survey will be used as the basis of expanding the stock estimate from the tagging/ recapture study to the stock for the entire northern Gulf of Mexico.

2. Marking (Tagging) Phase (1995)

- 2.a. Target Level - 20,000 fish will be tagged, with the proviso the level may be changed based on stock assessments, statistical considerations, sampling strata selected or at sea sampling considerations affecting vessel operations.

- 2.b. **Sample Period** - Fish will be tagged and sampled for age/tissue analyses during June through September. This encompasses the spawning period allowing maturation/fecundity studies and generally is a period of favorable weather for locating offshore schools.
- 2.c. **Sample Procedure** - A maximum of 1,000 fish will be tagged from a single school collected by purse seine with the captain and/or spotter pilot providing an estimate of the school size. Nichols (1988) in using this procedure found that there was a high degree of mixing of fish between schools with an interval of approximately five months between completion of the tagging phase and initiation of the recapture phase. The current proposal would increase the time period to nine months (i.e., September to June) to maximize mixing. Examination of lateral movement of fish between areas of tagging and recapture is also enhanced by the longer period.
- 2.d. **Tagging Procedure** - All fish will be double tagged with one anchor and one dart tag. This will increase the likelihood that a tagged fish can be identified in the recapture phase and reduce to the maximum extent the population analysis adjustments necessary for shed or illegible tags.
- 2.e. **Vessel Tagging Facilities/Operations** - The on-board tagging facilities and netting operations described in the Nichols (1988) study which maximize capture and survival will be repeated.

3. Recapture Phase (1996)

- 3.a. **Target Level** - A minimum of 20,000 fish will be captured and examined for tags. This level may be adjusted based on the stock assessments, statistical considerations, the study area selected by aerial survey and sampling strata selected within the study area.
- 3.b. **Sample Period** - Fish will be captured for examination for tags (including state and other tags) and for samples for age/tissue analyses during June through September.
- 3.c. **Sample Procedure** - A maximum of 2,000 fish from a single school will be captured for tag examination and age/tissue samples, with the captain and/or spotter pilot providing an estimate of school size. This level was the maximum that could be retained in a net while processing them without significant mortality. The level may be reduced based on water conditions (anoxia, etc.), temperature, etc., i.e., fish held in the net are released if they appear to be stressed. The level may be adjusted based on the stock assessments, and sampling strata adopted under the tagging phase.
- 3.d. **Vessel Fish Handling Facilities/Operations** - See 2.e.
- 3.e. **Collection of Recapture Information** - Only the recapture information collected by the NMFS - contract vessel will be utilized in the population estimate. Information on tagged fish collected by the public cannot be used in the estimate because the number of fish examined for tags is unavailable or anecdotal. Therefore, no public announcements of the study will be made nor will public participation be sought. Tags or tag numbers turned in by the public will be useful only in terms of migration.

The Panel feels that limited commercial quota to collect fish for on-shore examination for tags is inappropriate because of the mortality of adults associated with such a proposal and because collection of fish will not likely be distributed over the study area strata.

4. Marking/Recapture Analyses

- a. Population Estimate Analysis should be by NMFS with Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel review.
- b. Procedures should be those reported by Nichols (1988) unless changes in procedure are warranted.

5. Aerial Surveys (1994 and 1996)

- a. Procedure and sampling design should be those of Lohofener et. al. (1988) unless changes are warranted.
- b. NMFS should attempt to utilize the same personnel who conducted the 1986 and 1987 surveys to ensure consistency in sampling protocol.
- c. Population distribution analyses should be by NMFS with Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel review.
- d. Results from the 1996 aerial survey should be utilized to expand the tagging/recapture stock estimate for the study area to the offshore stock of the total northern Gulf of Mexico.

6. Age Composition/Reproduction Characteristics of Offshore Stock

- 6.a. Collection of Samples - From the 1995 and 1996 Marking and Recapture phases.
- 6.b. Sample Size - no more than 2,000 fish annually with at least 20 fish from each school. Data used for age composition studies by Wilson et. al. (1992) suggest differences in age structure by school.
- 6.c. Specimen and Data Analyses - Procedures cited by Wilson et. al. (1992) should be utilized as the minimum acceptable protocol.
- 6.d. Estimated Cost - Approximately \$40/sample for age and tissue analyses.
- 6.e. Disposition of Carcasses - Donate to non-profit institutions to extent possible; properly dispose of the remainder.

8. Cost Estimates

<u>Survey</u>	<u>Year 1 (1994)</u>	<u>Year 2 (1995)</u>	<u>Year 3 (1996)</u>
Aerial	\$250,000		\$250,000
Marking/ Recapture		\$500,000	500,000
Age/Fecundity	_____	<u>80,000</u>	<u>80,000</u>
Year Total	\$250,000	\$580,000	\$830,000
Grand Total =	\$1,660,000		

9. Literature Cited

Lohofener, R., C. Roden, W. Hoggard, K. Mullin, and C. Rogers. 1988. Distribution, relative abundance, and behavior of near-surface schools of large red drum (Sciaenops ocellatus) in the north-central Gulf of Mexico. NMFS. SEFC. Draft Mimeo. Rpt. 54 p.

Nichols S. 1988. An estimate of the size of the red drum spawning stock using mark/recapture. NMFS. SEFC. Draft Mimeo. Rpt. 26p.

Wilson C., D. Beckman, D. Nieland, and A. Stanley. 1992. The variation of year-class strength and annual reproductive output of red drum, Sciaenops ocellatus, and black drum, Pogonias cromus, from the northern Gulf of Mexico and age structure and reproductive potential of the northern Gulf of Mexico offshore population of red drum not vulnerable to purse seine capture: the missing fish. Dept. Commerce Coop. Agreement. NOAA (MARFIN). Final Mimeo. Rpt. 56p.

January 29, 1994

John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dear Jeff:

I have reviewed the document titled "Third Annual Report on the Status of Red Drum" prepared by the staff of the Marine Fisheries Division of the Department. As the Assistant Secretary for Fisheries I oversaw and helped develop the Department's first extensive report on the status of red drum produced in 1991. The current document is an extension of the methods that we employed in the first report, and I continue to believe that the basic approach is appropriate.

I emphatically do not support, however, the staff's recommendation to allow an increase in the harvest of red drum at this time. There are a number of reasons for my position. Perhaps most disappointingly is the argument on page nine that the harvest should increase because if people in Louisiana are not allowed to harvest these fish now, these fish will be harvested offshore because the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council "might" open the fishery in the future. To my knowledge, not one state in the Gulf, nor the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) supports the staff's recommendation to add to Louisiana's harvest. I find it disingenuous on the staff's part to offer such an argument.

Next, the staff points out correctly that the original concern for red drum was raised when the offshore stocks were found to have severely depleted cohorts (year classes) that were later tied to overharvest from inshore. The current report relies heavily on the 1993 purse seine data that shows 76% of the offshore population less than 9 years old, whereas the same number never exceeded more than 28% in any previous year. My point is that this radical increase in young fish in one year's data over another is almost surely an artifact of the fact that the number of purse seine samples in recent years has declined and the data is simply less useful for drawing conclusions (it has higher variance). Why is there less concern that, according to the report, there were no schools seen in 1993 that averaged less than 9 years in age like they had seen in earlier years? Further, as is discussed in the report on page 7, Goodyear's 1993 assessment has an offshore population estimate significantly below the Department's. I believe that this difference should be resolved before you authorize any increase in the harvest rate.

It is also important to note that the Department's estimates of fishing mortality are almost always less than Goodyear's for individual years, and for one of the years the Department's estimate of escapement is almost 50 times Goodyear's estimate. This kind of variation in estimates should lead the authors to be cautious about their recommendations, and this does not seem to be the Department's approach.

At one point in the report it states: "Much of the Department's uncertainty in the status of the stock as presented in last year's assessment has been resolved." I believe that statements such

as this are simply not supported by the data or the analysis in hand, especially given that other equally valid stock assessments have reached different conclusions.

I continue to believe that the Department is on the right track with their science. I think the stock assessment continues to improve, but I believe that the management conclusions being drawn from the research are inappropriate and do not adequately protect Louisiana's important natural resources. Without going too far along these lines, I would hope that Louisiana would not return to those days when everyone thought that fishing had little impact on the status of stocks, and people were more concerned about harvesting every fish that could be caught. I know the Commission has taken more than a little criticism over the last few years for its attempts to protect the state's resources, but I think it should do it once again and reject the Department's advice.

Sincerely,

Jerry E. Clark

Jerry E. Clark, Ph.D.

PERRIN, LANDRY, deLAUNAY & DURAND

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

A PARTNERSHIP OF LAW CORPORATIONS

P. O. BOX 53597

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70505

WARREN A. PERRIN
DONALD D. LANDRY
GERALD C. deLAUNAY
ALLAN L. DURAND*
(LLM -TAXATION)

*TEXAS AND LOUISIANA

OFFICES:

225 LA RUE FRANCE
LAFAYETTE, LA 70508
(318) 233-5832
(318) 237-8500

ERATH, LA
(318) 937-5468
FAX NO.
(318) 235-4382

January 31, 1994

Mr. Jeff Schneider
LDWF Commission
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

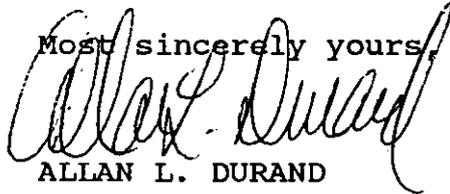
Re: Redfish

Dear Chairman Schneider:

Please protect the redfish by maintaining game fish status.

Thanks for your help.

Most sincerely yours,



ALLAN L. DURAND

ALD/sn

Cembell Industries, Inc.

5417 PARIS ROAD
POST OFFICE BOX 167
CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA 70044

February 1, 1994

Louisiana Wildlife Commission
P.O.Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA. 70898

Gentlemen:

This is an urgent request to retain our present Game Fish status for redfish.

Although this specie has come back to a considerable extent, it has a long way to go.

Opening up a commercial season would be a disaster; especially with the considerable number of netters along the Gulf Coast.

Please don't change our course.

Sincerely,



Chris Brupbacher

CB:cc

MAGNOLIA MARKETING COMPANY OF LAFAYETTE
RELIABLE MARKETING COMPANY OF LAFAYETTE
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70502

F.K. DOWTY
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

P.O. Box 3587
(318) 233-9244
FAX (318) 261-1870

February 1, 1994

Mr. Jeff Schneider
Chairman
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Dear Chairman,

Please, for the sportsman's sake and for preservation of the redfish, do not change its present game status.

Dick Dowty
(dictated but not read)

DD/kb

THE ALBACH COMPANY, INC.

Equipment Engineered to Serve Industry

FABRICATION
STRUCTURAL
SHEET METAL
PIPING
MISC. IRON
TANKS

P. O. Box 1159
301 E. Prosper Street
Chalmette, LA 70044-1159
(SUBURB OF NEW ORLEANS)
Telephone 271-1113 Fax # 271-1032

STEEL
ALUMINUM
STAINLESS
COPPER
MONEL
MAGNESIUM

February 1, 1994

Louisiana Wildlife Commission
P.O.Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA. 70898

Gentlemen:

This is an urgent request to retain our present Game Fish status for redfish.

Although this specie has come back to a considerable extent; it has a long way to go.

Opening up a commercial season would be a disaster; especially with the considerable number of netters along the Gulf Coast.

Please don't change our course.

Sincerely,



B.S. Brupbacher, Jr.

BSB:cc



HARRY KELLEHER & CO., INC.
INSURANCE AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

February 1, 1994

Mr. Bert Jones
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

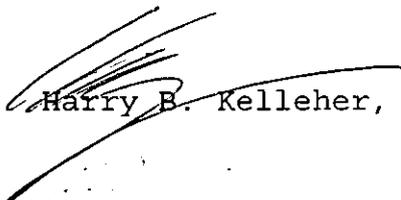
Dear Bert:

I write to you as an avid outdoorsman and businessman who has discovered the availability of various guide services in South Louisiana. Last year we entertained our clients at least a dozen different times with Red Fish guide services in our area. In addition, when take these trips, we often visit restaurants, convenient stores, tackle shops, Etc. I estimate that our small business spent in excess of \$4,000 last year chasing Red Fish.

Bert, the economic impact on our state by allowing the commercial harvest of Red Fish will be devastating. Under "Game Fish Status" the Red Fish have started a comeback. Let us not destroy the biological gains we have made by the implementation of sound management practices. Remember, 1 gill net in a strategic area can destroy all existing stock as well as breeding stock. One does not have to be a rocket scientist to understand that the quickest way to render a species extinct is to destroy it's ability to reproduce. In addition, don't forget about the Marinas, Boat Dealers, Tackle Stores, Convenient Stores, Motels, Etc. - These people are counting on you to protect this valuable resource.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Harry B. Kelleher, III

January 31, 1994

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
FAX: (318) 247-8916

Attn: Bert Jones

Dear Mr. Jones,

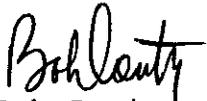
I am writing you to express my concern on the upcoming recommendation by the LDWF to the Legislature on Gamefish status of Redfish.

I find it hard to believe that the Legislature would jeopardize a law that is clearly working. I cannot tell you how enjoyable it is to make a fishing trip and catch a dozen or two redfish or trout. That's right! A dozen or two, this is all the average sportsman is asking. After a few slow years (Mid 1980's), we are finally seeing the re-establishment of these fine gamefish. In contrast, the Legislature is being asked to succumb the interests of a powerful few businesses who tell you they are hurting by this prohibition. Their business is not hurting; Their doors are not closing; They only want more.

Conversely, sportsmen are satisfied following the daily creel limits currently imposed; We see it works. We are satisfied with 5 redfish and two dozen trout. We are willing to follow and practice moderation to continue to enjoy this Sportsmans' Paradise.

Please consider the interest of the popular majority who have no powerful or well funded Lobbies to oppose this. Its working; Let's not change a good thing.

Sincerely,



Bob Dowty
Post Office Box 77215
Baton Rouge, LA 70879

Alexander M. Crighton
P. O. Box 3005
Houma, Louisiana 70361-3005
(504)851-4743 or (504)872-9635

January 31, 1994

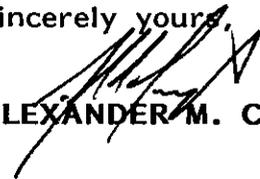
Mr. Bert Jones
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Dear Mr. Jones:

It is my understanding that the LDWF Commission will be holding a hearing on February 3, 1994 at 10:00 a.m. to consider rescinding the game fish status of redfish. As an avid coastal angler I can assure you that game fish status has done much for the redfish population. However, to increase the harvest of redfish by recreational fishermen, or to allow the commercial netting of redfish would serve only to undo all of the positive effects realized since commercial netting was banned.

Thanking you for your consideration, I remain

Sincerely yours,


ALEXANDER M. CRIGHTON

agc

MAGNOLIA MARKETING COMPANY OF LAFAYETTE
RELIABLE MARKETING COMPANY OF LAFAYETTE
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70502

F.K. DOWTY
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

P.O. Box 3587
(318) 233-9244
FAX (318) 261-1870

February 1, 1994

Mr. Bert Jones
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Dear Mr. Jones,

Please, for the sportsman's sake and for preservation of the redfish, do not change its present game status.

Dick Dowty
(dictated but not read)

DD/kb

Feb. 2, 1994

TO: LDWF Commission

REF: Game Fish Status for Red Fish

Dear Mr. Bert Jones

I'm of the understanding that the Commercial Fishermen and the Restaurants will lobby the Legislature to remove Game Fish Status for the Red Fish.

The fishermen will say they need the Reds to survive and the restaurants need them to stay in business - I've heard this since 1976 and we all know this is B.S.

I've fished the marshes of La. most of my life (approx. 45 yrs.). The Game Fish Status on Reds has made a good start in bringing them back and I believe it TOO EARLY to increase the harvest.

We must consider, not only pressure on the resource, but erosion of the reproductive habitat, and pollution. Therefore, it will take much longer to enhance the Red Fish Population.

Sincerely
R. P. Gros

R. P. GROS
1109 GAUDET DR.
MARRERO, LA. 70072



HENRY HOTARD, JR.
ASSESSOR
PARISH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
1801 WEST AIRLINE HIGHWAY
ROOM # 103
LA PLACE, LOUISIANA 70068

WHITNEY JOSEPH, JR.
CHIEF DEPUTY ASSESSOR
LA PLACE OFFICE
PHONE (504) 652-5311
EDGARD OFFICE
PHONE (504) 497-8788
FAX: (504) 652-8746

January 27, 1994

Mr. Jeff Schneider, Chairman
La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
2302 Highway 22 East
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

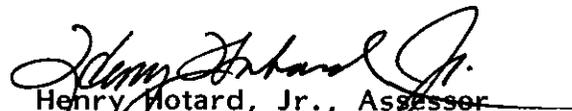
Dear Mr. Schneider:

In reference to the LDWF Commission meeting on February 3, 1994, my friends and family members who fish out of Cypremort Point (Vermillion Bay), feel that the game fish status for Red Fish should continue.

We are recreational fishermen, and feel that the Red Fish, which was almost wiped out, is just starting to make a comeback. We feel that it is still too early to increase the catch of this game fish.

Your help in continuing the game fish status for Red Fish will be appreciated.

Sincerely,


Henry Hotard, Jr., Assessor
Parish of St. John the Baptist

HH/mab



Salt Water Sportsman
280 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02210
(617) 439-9977
Fax (617) 439-9357

2/1/94

Mr. Jeff Schneider
Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

Dear Jeff;

I have recently been made aware of what appears to be very favorable trends in the population of redfish along Louisiana's coast. If this is true, then the conservation measures that have been put in place appear to be getting the desired results.

It goes without saying that the LWFC will be the recipient of pressures to overturn the "game fish" status for redfish and return to the "good old days". On behalf of the ten of thousands of readers along the Gulf Coast and in Louisiana, I urge you to resist these pressures.

Simply put, the "good old days" are the reason that restrictive measures were put in place. The sport fishery and the industry supported by this fishery have sacrificed and supported regulations that will insure a viable long-term fishery. I am not aware of any economic studies, but I would be very surprised if a pound of redfish caught in the sport fishery were not worth many times more than a pound caught in the commercial fishery.

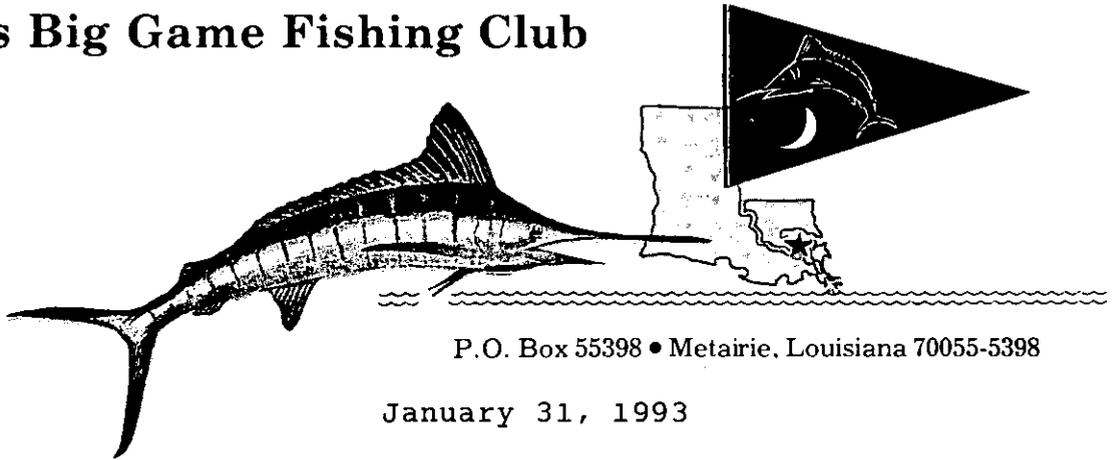
Sustainable long-term resources, the highest number of users and the greatest economic impact for the State of Louisiana lead me to believe that maintaining "game fish" status is in the state's best interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bip", written over a large, loopy flourish.

C.M. "Bip" Cunningham Jr.
Editor In Chief

New Orleans Big Game Fishing Club



P.O. Box 55398 • Metairie, Louisiana 70055-5398

January 31, 1993

Mr. Jeff Schneider
2302 Highway 22 East
Pontchatoula, LA 70454

Dear Jeff:

I have the honor of being the president of the NOBGFC. This Club, established thirty one years ago, enjoys a membership of 160 avid fisherman. Although our fishing activities center around pelagic bluewater gamefish, practically every member fishes for redfish as well.

Our members have witnessed first hand the gradual comeback of the redfish population and are heavily involved in the tagging program for redfish. Club member, Maumus Claverie, was instrumental in implementing this program.

With a higher success ratio per trip, club members have "geared-up" to target redfish, spending more money on watercraft, tackle, fuel, and generally making more fishing trips per year. This renewed interest in fishing for redfish has contributed greatly to the need and construction of a new recreational marina in Venice, Louisiana. That's economic impact!

We must continue the Game fish status for redfish! Its too early to increase the harvest of redfish by either recreational or commercial interests. Under gamefish status, the redfish have started a comeback as well as help create a positive economic impact. Please defend the gamefish status for redfish and let's keep things moving in the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Samuel "Bo" Sanders,
President

BS/srw

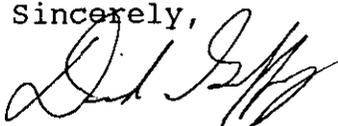
January 31, 1994

Jeff Schneider
2302 Highway 22 East
Pontchatoula, LA 70454

Dear Mr. Schneider,

I hope that you will recommend to the Louisiana Legislature to EXTEND the gamefish status on Redfish. As you and I are well aware, the populations are recovering but are still not at level where they can withstand gillnetting. If the band comes down, we will be in the same position (with resource on the brink of extinction) as we were several years ago. Until a valid management with enforcement program is set up (with real fines and penalties) we cannot afford to let our redfish resource be exploited again. Please vote for the resource! We all know the redfish was never a mainstay fish for gillnetters, but it is now because they are coming back. I sure wouldn't want them to become like the croaker. What ever happened to that fish?

Sincerely,



David Gaffney
Post Office Box 104
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

A. H. RACK
330 Fairway Drive
New Orleans, Louisiana 70124
504/486-4111

Jan. 30, '94

Dear Jeff:

Congratulations on being elected
Chairman of the Commission. I
know you will continue the good
job of Jimmy.

I know that science will in-
fluence your recommendation on
Game Fish Status for Reds and
hope you will be able to protect
the resource. It's too early
to increase the harvest of Reds even
for the recreatorials.

Best Wishes,
Hap

SWETLAND AND CHILDRESS
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

650 Poydras St., Suite 2245
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
(504) 524-8311

1/31/94

LJWF Commission

I am sure all the letters, testimony, and scientific data that will be presented this week will be duly considered by the Commission. However, let me share with you the two BEST reasons to protect redfish: KATHLEEN + STEPHANIE.

I am a fortunate father to have two little girls who enjoy the outdoors and fishing with their Dad. Due to the protection afforded the redfish, their enjoyment and our family participation in this recreational activity has increased geometrically.

Please consider retaining gamefish status to allow Louisiana's children the experience of catching this wonderful fish. We have plenty of other fish on the "menu" to enjoy when we go out to eat.

Thank you for your consideration.
Joe Childress, Jr.



JIM BOWIE CHAPTER
LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF COASTAL ANGLERS
P.O. BOX 48
OPELOUSAS, LA. 70571-0048
318-948-9791 / 800-228-7953 / FAX 318-948-3731

Jan. 29, 1994

Mr. Jeff Schneider, Chairman
Louisiana Department of Wildlife
& Fisheries
2302 Hwy. 22 East
Ponchatoula, La. 70454

Dear Mr. Schneider,

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the Commission meeting on Feb. 3, 1994 at 10:00 AM in Baton Rouge, La. Undoubtely many of those in attendance will want to allow commercial status to the redfish. The plan in effect now is working just fine. If the redfish are again subjected to the way they were about 4 years ago, in no time we will have diminished the source to almost nothing. I, and the members of the Louisiana Coastal Anglers Association, urge you to vote against putting our redfish in jeopardy.

The gill netters have also been allowed to harvest a crop of redfish and speckled trout indiscriminately. We want our children and their children to experience the enjoyment of fishing and the outdoor life. If there are no fish left not even the commerical fisherman will be able to survive.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,



Rodney F. Mayeux
President
Jim Bowie Chapter
LACA

CHARLES T. GOODSON

Petroleum Landman

625 EAST KALISTE SALOOM ROAD

SUITE 101

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70508

PHONE: (318) 232-7028

P.O. Box 51205

January 31, 1994

Louisiana Department of Wildlife
and Fisheries Commission
2302 Highway 22 East
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Attention: Mr. Jeff Schneider
Chairman

Dear Chairman Schneider:

It has come to my attention that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will hold hearings on Thursday, February 3, 1994 to consider dropping the game fish only status for red fish due to pressure from the commercial fishing industry and the restaurant association. My first comment is, at some future point in time the red fish will regain sufficient population to allow it to be commercially harvested. However, at this point in time if the recreational harvest numbers are any indication of the red fish population, we must wait. The red fish is a valuable Louisiana resource that if allowed to normally replenish, it may again become an important source of income for the commercial and recreational industry, but the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries must realize that allowing its commercial harvest at this time is premature.

Yours very truly,


Charles T. Goodson

cc: Mr. Gerald Hanchey
P. O. Box 510
Broussard, LA 70518

Mr. J. B. Cormier
804 E. Alexander Street
Lafayette, LA 70501

Mr. Henry Mouton
P. O. Box 53097
Lafayette, LA 70505

DAVID M. KAUFMAN
(A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION)
309 LA RUE FRANCE
SUITE 102
P. O. BOX 4604
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70502-4604

DAVID M. KAUFMAN
MICHAEL J. BREAUX

January 31, 1994

TELEPHONE
(318) 284-1597
FAX
(318) 237-4156

Mr. Jeff Schneider
2302 Highway 22 East
Ponchatoula, Louisiana 70454

Re: "Game Fish" Status for Redfish

Dear Mr. Schneider:

The purpose of this correspondence is to state my position on the continued status of redfish as "Game Fish" in lieu of my live appearance at the Commission hearing on the subject scheduled for Thursday, February 3, 1994.

For years, I have enjoyed recreational fishing for redfish and speckled trout during the winter months in the coastal marshes of Louisiana. I have seen firsthand the dramatic decline in the redfish population in the Chef Paul Prudhomme "Blackened Redfish" era and following the freeze of 1989. I have also seen the steady progress made by the species after protective "Game Fish" status was achieved under legislation enacted in LSA-R.S. 56:325.3.

For Louisiana to remain truly the Sportsman's Paradise, and for this state to continue to realize the tremendous economic benefits derived from recreational fishing, it is imperative that redfish remain "Game Fish", protected from commercial harvest.

Many of my friends and colleagues are avid recreational fishermen who love the outdoors and fishing for redfish. I know they join with me in strongly urging the Commission to report favorably to the state Legislature on continued "Game Fish" status for the Louisiana redfish.

Please convey my position to the other Commission members at the hearing. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL J. BREAUX

MJB/ctb

Dear Mr. Schneider,

1/31/94

Please protect our redfish at the forthcoming Commission meeting on Feb. 3, 94. This natural resource was almost completely wiped out by gill netters just a few short years ago. It was through the efforts of sports fishermen that limits were set and the species protected. Now that they are beginning to make a little come back, the greedy are ready to wipe them out again. A hook + line will only catch fish when they are hungry and conditions permit; but a gill net fishes constantly day and night, windy or calm, in clear or dirty water, and does not discriminate against what it catches. They are deadly.

Please vote to protect our natural resources of speckled trout and redfish with game fish status for each.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully

A Lenny D. Barker
207 So. Lockely Dr.
Lafayette, La.
318 - 235 - 6534

DAVID M. KAUFMAN
(A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION)
309 LA RUE FRANCE
SUITE 102
P. O. BOX 4604
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70502-4604

DAVID M. KAUFMAN
MICHAEL J. BREAUX

January 31, 1994

TELEPHONE
(318) 264-1597
FAX
(318) 237-4156

Mr. J. B. Cormier
804 East Alexander
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501

Re: "Game Fish" Status for Redfish

Dear Mr. Schneider:

The purpose of this correspondence is to state my position on the continued status of redfish as "Game Fish" in lieu of my live appearance at the Commission hearing on the subject scheduled for Thursday, February 3, 1994.

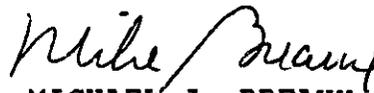
For years, I have enjoyed recreational fishing for redfish and speckled trout during the winter months in the coastal marshes of Louisiana. I have seen firsthand the dramatic decline in the redfish population in the Chef Paul Prudhomme "Blackened Redfish" era and following the freeze of 1989. I have also seen the steady progress made by the species after protective "Game Fish" status was achieved under legislation enacted in LSA-R.S. 56:325.3.

For Louisiana to remain truly the Sportsman's Paradise, and for this state to continue to realize the tremendous economic benefits derived from recreational fishing, it is imperative that redfish remain "Game Fish", protected from commercial harvest.

Many of my friends and colleagues are avid recreational fishermen who love the outdoors and fishing for redfish. I know they join with me in strongly urging the Commission to report favorably to the state Legislature on continued "Game Fish" status for the Louisiana redfish.

Please convey my position to the other Commission members at the hearing. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL J. BREAUX

MJB/ctb

MAGNOLIA MARKETING COMPANY OF LAFAYETTE
RELIABLE MARKETING COMPANY OF LAFAYETTE
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70502

F.K. DOWTY
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

P.O. Box 3587
(318) 233-9244
FAX (318) 261-1870

February 1, 1994

Mr. J. B. Cormier
804 E. Alexander Street
Lafayette, LA 70501

Dear Mr. Cormier,

Please, for the sportsman's sake and for preservation of the redfish, do not change its present game status.

Dick Dowty
(dictated but not read)

DD/kb

SWETLAND AND CHILDRESS
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

650 Poydras St., Suite 2245
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
(504) 524-8311

1/31/94

LJWF Commission

I am sure all the letters, testimony, and scientific data that will be presented this week will be duly considered by the Commission. However, let me share with you the two BEST reasons to protect redfish: KATHLEEN + STEPHANIE.

I am a fortunate father to have two little girls who enjoy the outdoors and fishing with their Dad. Due to the protection afforded the redfish, their enjoyment and our family participation in this recreational activity has increased geometrically.

Please consider retaining gamefish status to allow Louisiana's children the experience of catching this wonderful fish. We have plenty of other fish on the "menu" to enjoy when we go out to eat.

Thank you for your consideration.
Joe Childress, Jr.



January 31, 1994

J. B. Cormier
804 East Alexander St.
Lafayette, LA 70501

Dear Mr. Cormier,

I am writing you to express my concern on the upcoming recommendation by the LDWF to the Legislature on Gamefish status of Redfish.

I find it hard to believe that the Legislature would jeopardize a law that is clearly working. I cannot tell you how enjoyable it is to make a fishing trip and catch a dozen or two redfish or trout. That's right! A dozen or two, this is all the average sportsman is asking. After a few slow years (Mid 1980's), we are finally seeing the re-establishment of these fine gamefish. In contrast, the Legislature is being asked to succumb the interests of a powerful few businesses who tell you they are hurting by this prohibition. Their business is not hurting; Their doors are not closing; They only want more.

Conversely, sportsmen are satisfied following the daily creel limits currently imposed; We see it works. We are satisfied with 5 redfish and two dozen trout. We are willing to follow and practice moderation to continue to enjoy this Sportsmans' Paradise.

Please consider the interest of the popular majority who have no powerful or well funded Lobbies to oppose this. Its working; Let's not change a good thing.

Sincerely,

Bob Dowty
Post Office Box 77215
Baton Rouge, LA 70879

JIM BOWIE CHAPTER
LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF COASTAL ANGLERS
P.O. BOX 48
OPELOUSAS, LA. 70571-0048
318-948-9791 / 800-228-7953 / FAX 318-948-3731

Jan. 29, 1994

Mr. J. B. Cormier
Louisiana Department of Wildlife
& Fisheries Commission
804 E. Alexander St.
Lafayette, La. 70501

Dear Mr. Cormier,

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the Commission meeting on Feb. 3, 1994 at 10:00 AM in Baton Rouge, La. Undoubtely many of those in attendance will want to allow commercial status to the redfish. The plan in effect now is working just fine. If the redfish are again subjected to the way they were about 4 years ago, in no time we will have diminished the source to almost nothing. I, and the members of the Louisiana Coastal Anglers Association, urge you to vote against putting our redfish in jeopardy.

The gill netters have also been allowed to harvest a crop of redfish and speckled trout indiscriminately. We want our children and their children to experience the enjoyment of fishing and the outdoor life. If there are no fish left not even the commerical fisherman will be able to survive.

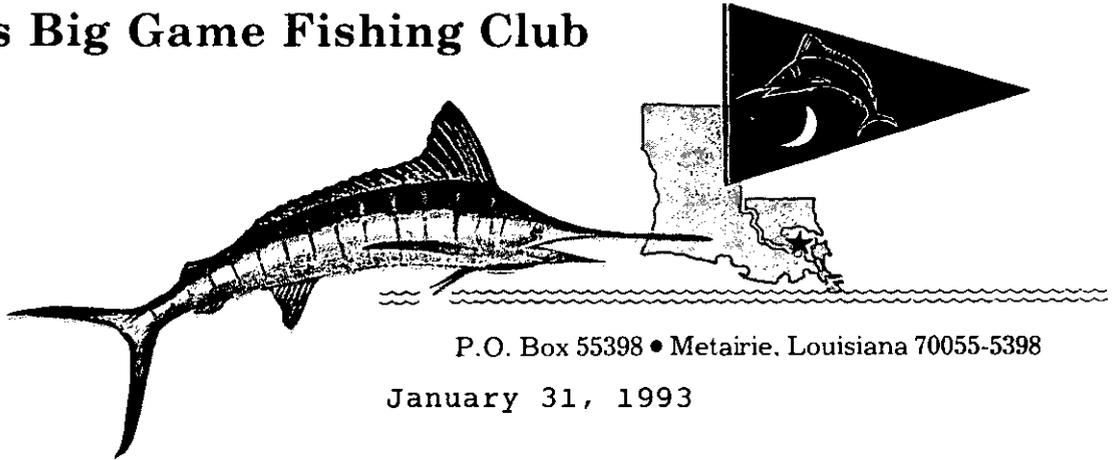
Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,



Rodney F. Mayeux
President
Jim Bowie Chapter
LACA

New Orleans Big Game Fishing Club



P.O. Box 55398 • Metairie, Louisiana 70055-5398

January 31, 1993

Mr. J. B. Cormier
804 East Alexander Street
Lafayette, LA 70898

Dear Mr. Cormier:

I have the honor of being the president of the NOBGFC. This Club, established thirty one years ago, enjoys a membership of 160 avid fisherman. Although our fishing activities center around pelagic bluewater gamefish, practically every member fishes for redfish as well.

Our members have witnessed first hand the gradual comeback of the redfish population and are heavily involved in the tagging program for redfish. Club member, Maumus Claverie, was instrumental in implementing this program.

With a higher success ratio per trip, club members have "geared-up" to target redfish, spending more money on watercraft, tackle, fuel, and generally making more fishing trips per year. This renewed interest in fishing for redfish has contributed greatly to the need and construction of a new recreational marina in Venice, Louisiana. That's economic impact!

We must continue the Game fish status for redfish! Its too early to increase the harvest of redfish by either recreational or commercial interests. Under gamefish status, the redfish have started a comeback as well as help create a positive economic impact. Please defend the gamefish status for redfish and let's keep things moving in the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Samuel "Bo" Sanders,
President

BS/srw

A. H. RACK
330 Fairway Drive
New Orleans, Louisiana 70124
504/486-4111

Dear Mr. Comier: Jan 30, '94

I hope you will let
science influence your thinking
about the status of Redfish.

Please protect the resource.

Sincerely,
A. H. Rack

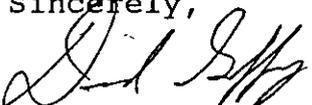
January 31, 1994

J. B. Cormier
804 East Alexander St.
Lafayette, LA 70501

Dear Mr. Cormier,

I hope that you will recommend to the Louisiana Legislature to EXTEND the gamefish status on Redfish. As you and I are well aware, the populations are recovering but are still not at level where they can withstand gillnetting. If the band comes down, we will be in the same position (with resource on the brink of extinction) as we were several years ago. Until a valid management with enforcement program is set up (with real fines and penalties) we cannot afford to let our redfish resource be exploited again. Please vote for the resource! We all know the redfish was never a mainstay fish for gillnetters, but it is now because they are coming back. I sure wouldn't want them to become like the croaker. What ever happened to that fish?

Sincerely,



David Gaffney
Post Office Box 104
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Mr. Cormier,

1/31/94

Please protect our redfish at the forthcoming Commission meeting on Feb. 3, 94. This natural resource was almost completely wiped out by gill netters just a few short years ago. It was through the efforts of sports fishermen that limits were set and the species protected. Now that they are beginning to make a little come back, the greedy are ready to wipe them out again. A hook + line will only catch fish when they are hungry and conditions permit; but a gill net fishes constantly day and night, windy or calm, in clear or dirty water, and does not discriminate against what it catches. They are deadly.

Please vote to protect our natural resources of speckled trout and redfish with game fish status for each.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully
A Lenny D. Barker
207 So. Locksley Dr.
Lafayette, La.
318 - 235 - 6534

CHARLES T. GOODSON

Petroleum Landman

625 EAST KALISTE SALOOM ROAD

SUITE 101

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70508

PHONE: (318) 232-7028

P.O. Box 51205

January 31, -1994

Louisiana Department of Wildlife
and Fisheries Commission
2302 Highway 22 East
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Attention: Mr. Jeff Schneider
Chairman

Dear Chairman Schneider:

It has come to my attention that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will hold hearings on Thursday, February 3, 1994 to consider dropping the game fish only status for red fish due to pressure from the commercial fishing industry and the restaurant association. My first comment is, at some future point in time the red fish will regain sufficient population to allow it to be commercially harvested. However, at this point in time if the recreational harvest numbers are any indication of the red fish population, we must wait. The red fish is a valuable Louisiana resource that if allowed to normally replenish, it may again become an important source of income for the commercial and recreational industry, but the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries must realize that allowing its commercial harvest at this time is premature.

Yours very truly,


Charles T. Goodson

cc: Mr. Gerald Hanchey
P. O. Box 510
Broussard, LA 70518

Mr. J. B. Cormier
804 E. Alexander Street
Lafayette, LA 70501

Mr. Henry Mouton
P. O. Box 53097
Lafayette, LA 70505

NOTICE OF INTENT

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to change the classification of Caney Creek Reservoir from a "quality" lake to a "trophy" black bass lake.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§149. Black Bass Regulations-Daily Take and Size Limits

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission establishes a statewide daily take (creel limit) of 10 fish for black bass (Micropterus spp.). The possession limit shall be the same as the daily take on water and twice the daily take off water.

In addition, the Commission establishes special size and daily take regulations for black bass on the following waterbodies:

Concordia Lake (Concordia Parish), False River (Pointe Coupee' Parish) and Caney Creek Reservoir (Jackson Parish):

Size limit: 15 inch - 19 inch slot

Daily take: 8 fish of which no more than two fish may exceed 19 inches maximum total length.*

Possession limit: On water - Same as daily take.

Off water - Twice the daily take.

A 15 - 19 inch slot limit means that it is illegal to keep or possess a black bass whose maximum total length is between 15 inches and 19 inches, both measurements inclusive.

Lake Bartholomew (Morehouse and Ouachita parishes), Black Bayou Lake (Bossier Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Cross Lake (Caddo Parish), Lake Rodemacher (Rapides Parish) and Vernon Lake (Vernon Parish):

Size Limit: 14 inch - 17 inch slot

Daily Take: 8 fish - of which no more than four fish may exceed 17 inches maximum total length.*

Possession limit: On water - Same as daily take.

Off water - Twice the daily take.

A 14 - 17 inch slot limit means that it is illegal to keep or possess a black bass whose maximum total length is between 14 inches and 17 inches, both measurements inclusive.

*Maximum total length - The distance in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the most posterior point of the depressed caudal fin as measured with mouth closed on a flat surface.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25)(a), 325 (C), 326.3

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 14:364 (June 1988), amended LR 17:278 (March 1991), repromulgated LR 17:489 (May 1991), amended LR 17:1122 (November 1991), LR 20: .

Interested persons may submit written comments of the proposed rule to Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Inland Fish Division,

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA
70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 5, 1994.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider

Chairman

JACKSON PARISH WATERSHED COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 10
CHATHAM, LA 71226

CHAIRMAN
Shelton Stuckey
VICE CHAIRMAN
Lamarr Davis
SECRETARY
Kay Colvin
TREASURER
Sharon Brown
MEMBERS
Scott Brown
Glynn Saulters
Frank Williams

January 11, 1994

Benny Fontenot, Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 9800
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Dear Mr. Fontenot,

At our January 6, 1994 meeting a discussion was held on the current status of Caney Lake with regards to the outstanding successes of fishermen. Since we want to increase the value of the lake in terms of future record catches, not to mention the impact on tourism in Jackson Parish, the Jackson Parish Watershed Commission adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, this Commission recognizes the trophy status of Caney Lake in that most of the top 20 bass caught in Louisiana have come from Caney Lake, and

WHEREAS, the bass population continues to increase in size and fishing pressure continues to increase as publicity expands beyond local areas, and

WHEREAS, the LDWF statistics and management practices indicate the desirability of increasing the current bass slot to a higher level to help insure a continued population of trophy fish,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jackson Parish Watershed Commission approves the LDWF proposal to upgrade the designation of Caney Lake from a "Quality Lake" to a "Trophy Lake" with its inherent change of the current slot and limit to a 15-19 inch slot and eight fish limit with two over the slot.

RECEIVED

JAN 14 1994

INLAND FISHERIES
DIVISION

This resolution offered by Scott Brown, seconded by Sharon Brown and was unanimously carried. The Watershed Commission hereby asks LDWF to proceed with the status upgrade.

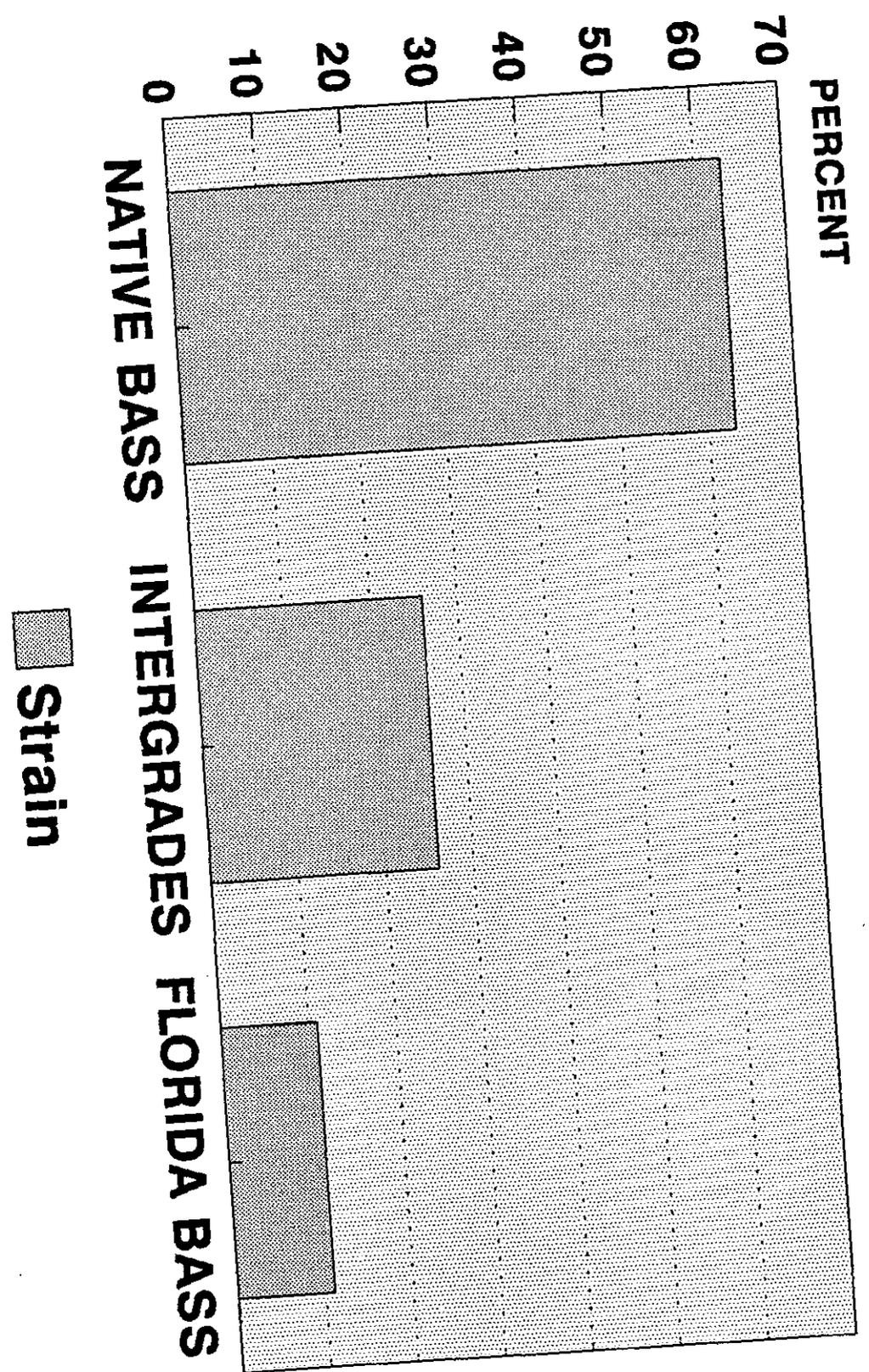
I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted Thursday, January 6, 1994 by the Jackson Parish Watershed Commission.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Colvin".

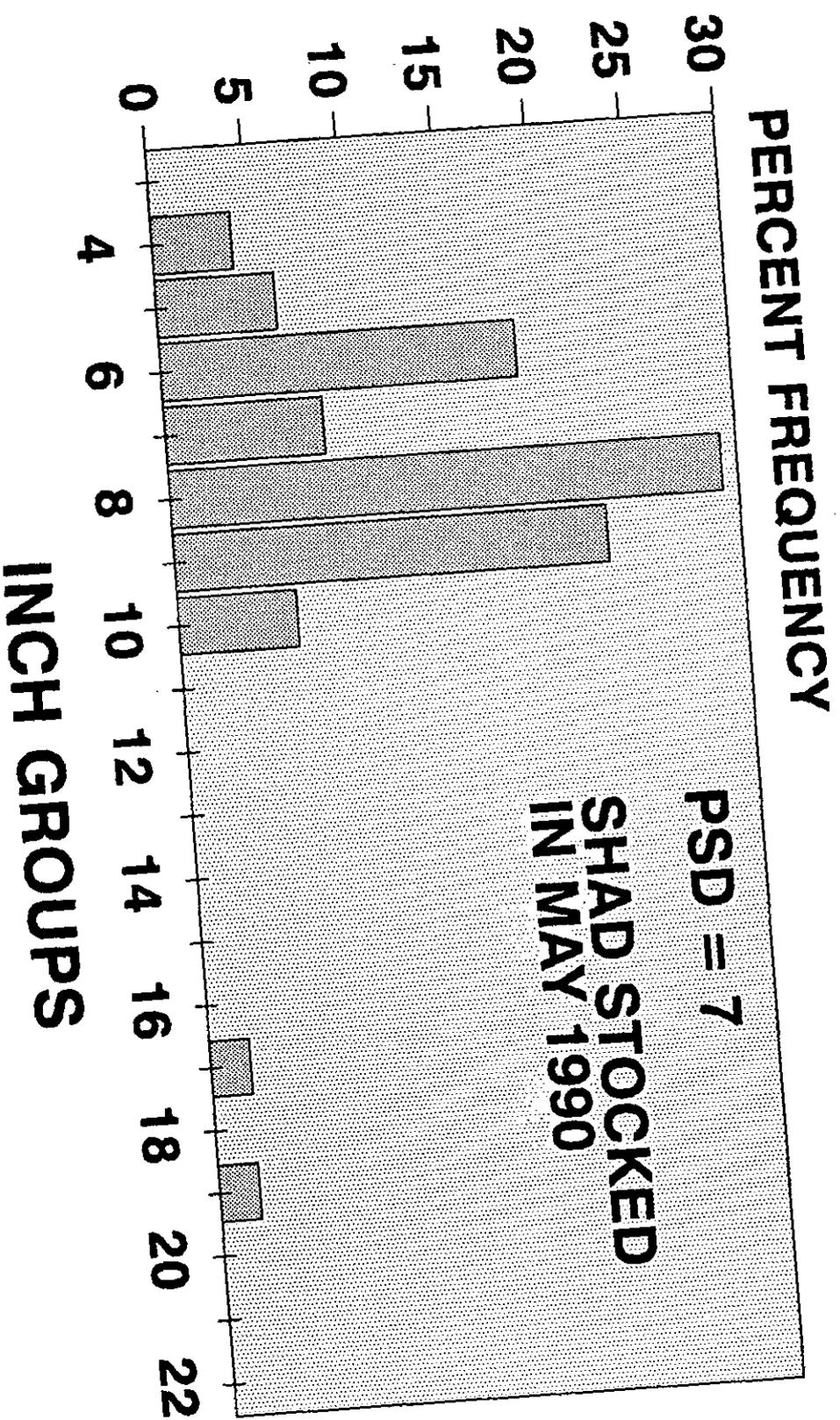
Kay Colvin, Secretary

LARGEMOUTH BASS SUBSPECIES



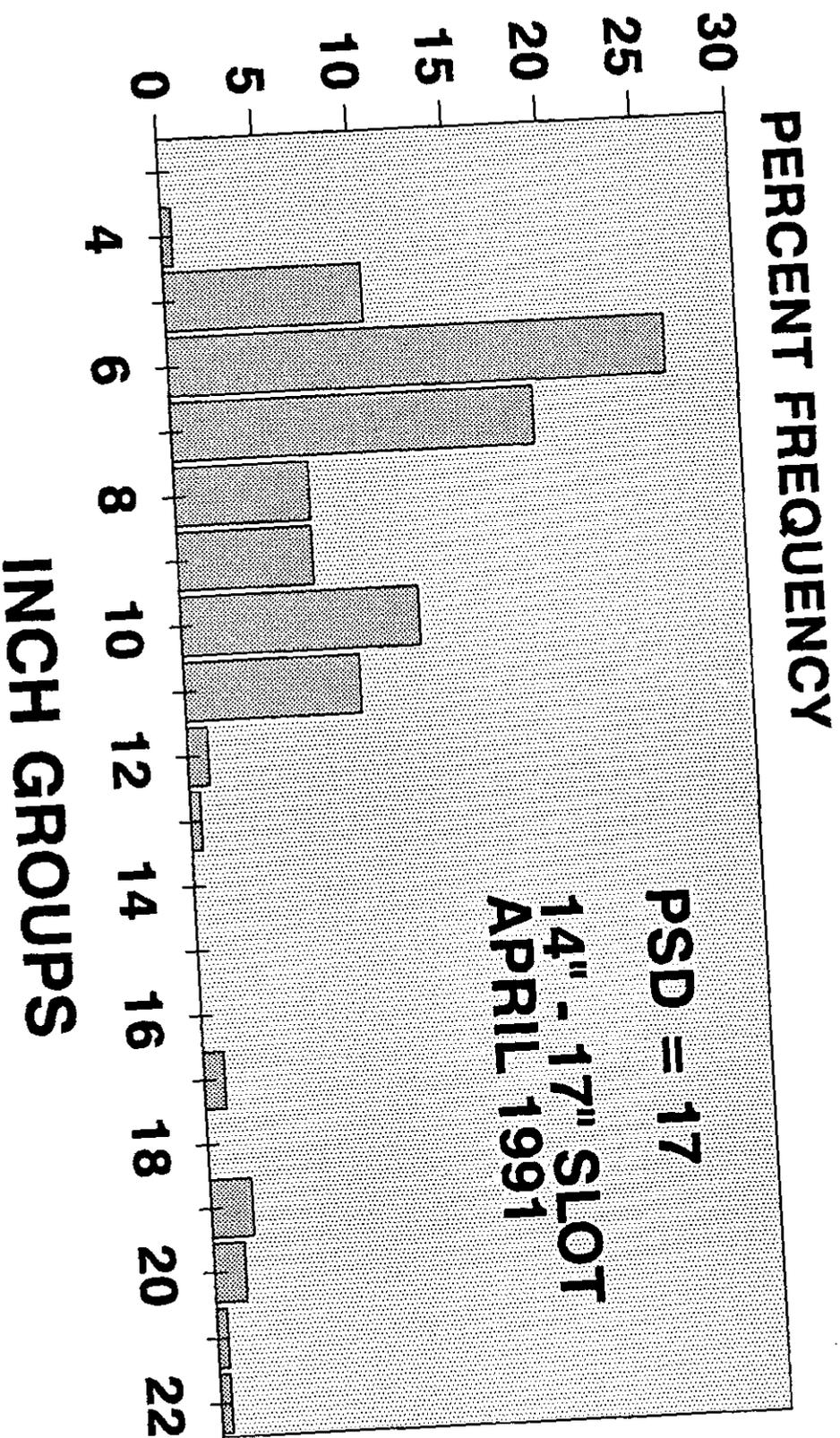
Caney Lake - 1991

LARGEMOUTH BASS - 1990



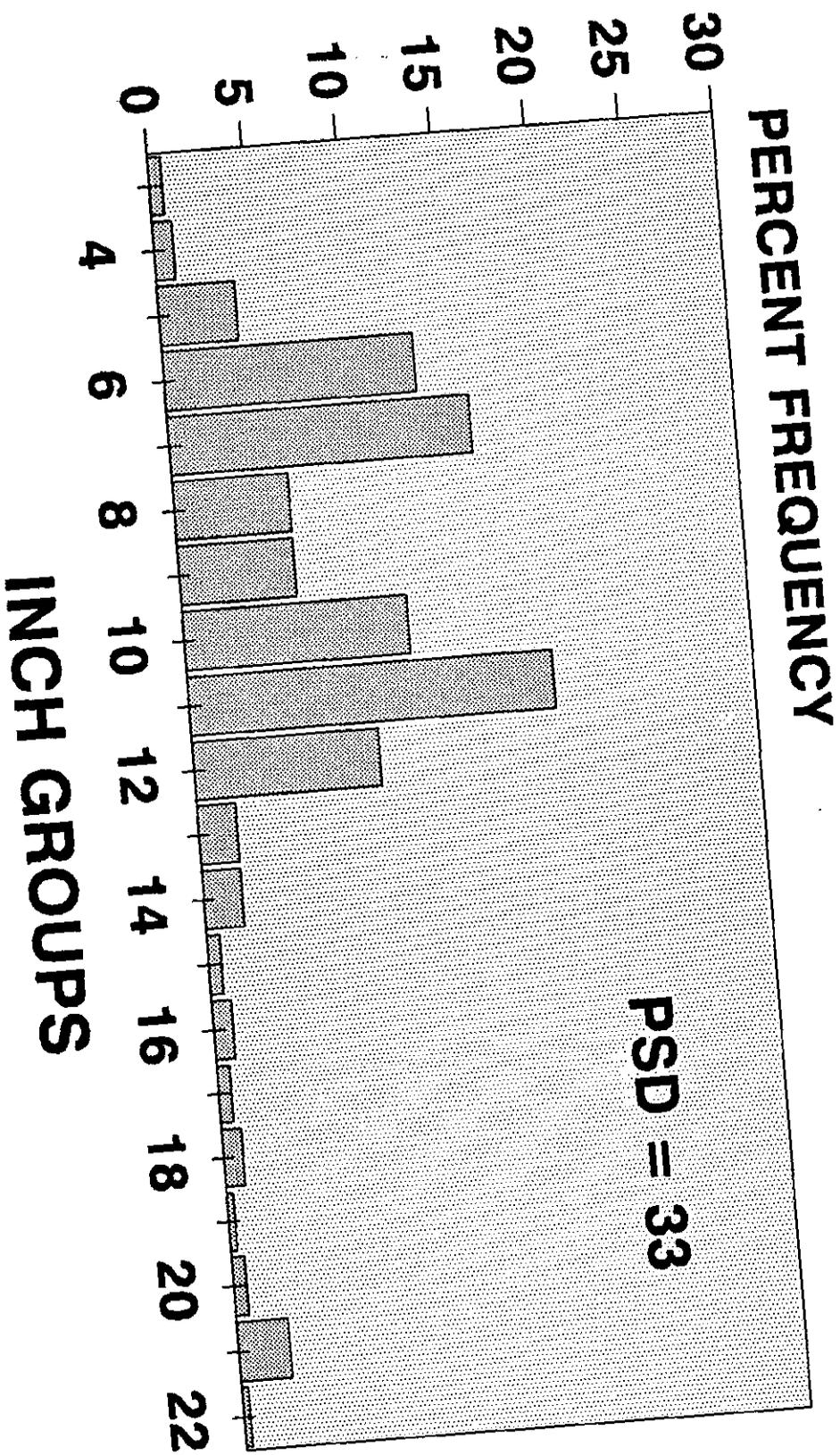
Caney Lake

LARGEMOUTH BASS - 1991



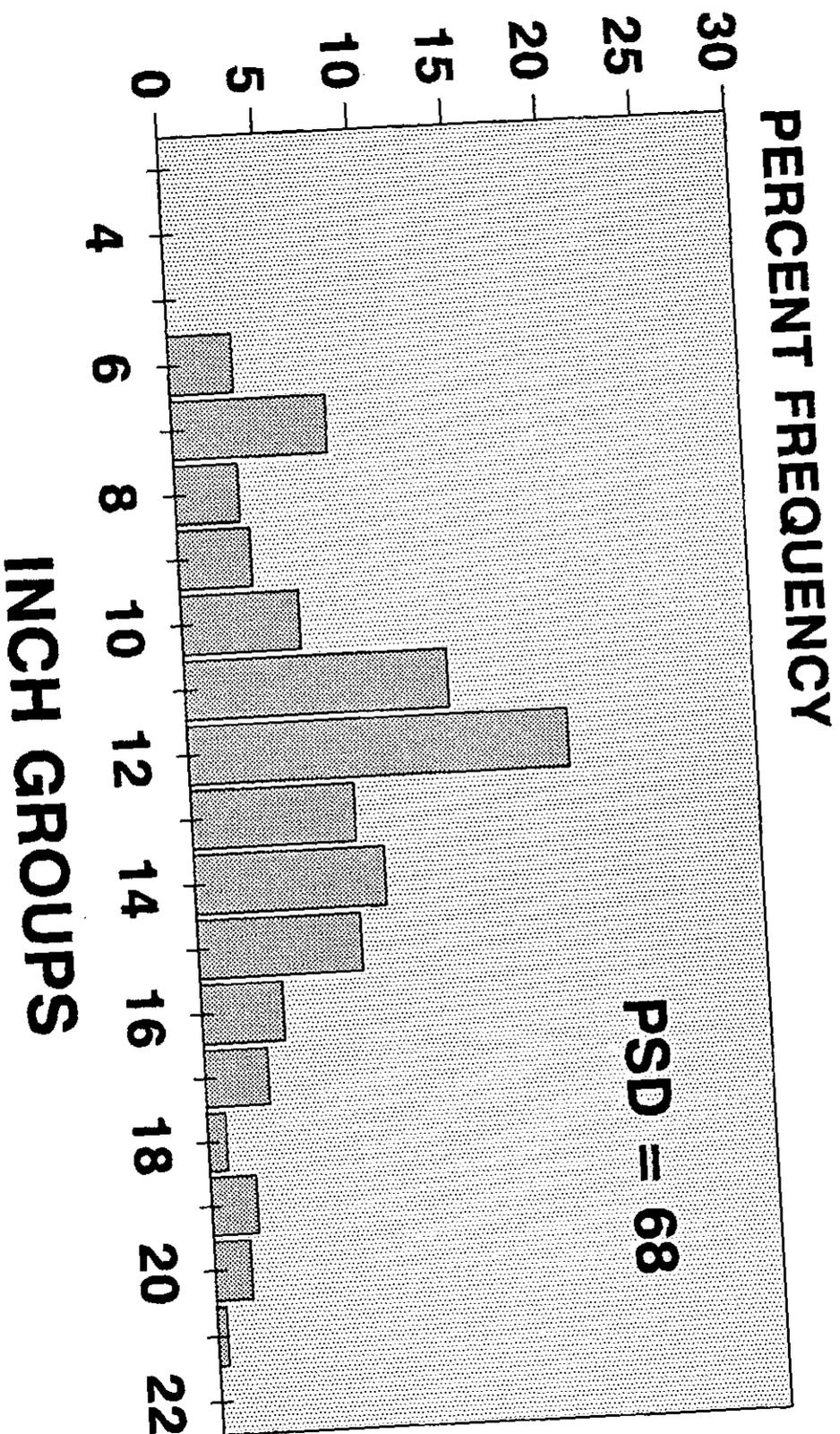
Caney Lake

LARGEMOUTH BASS - 1992



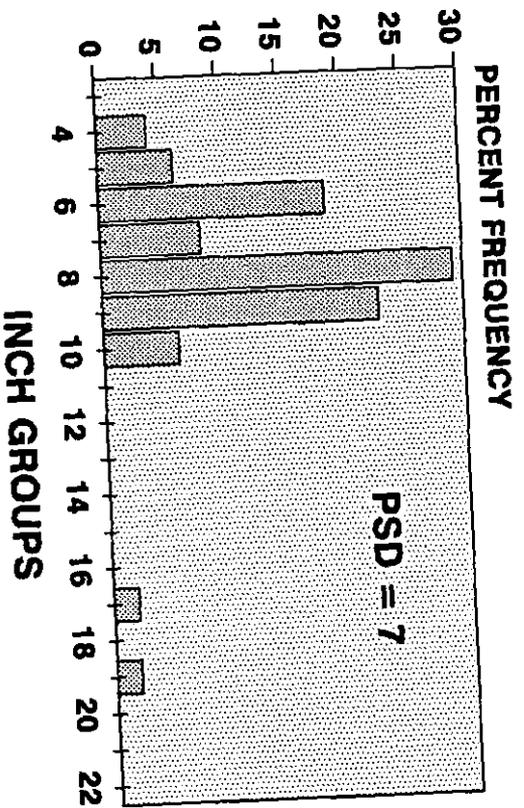
Caney Lake

LARGEMOUTH BASS - 1993

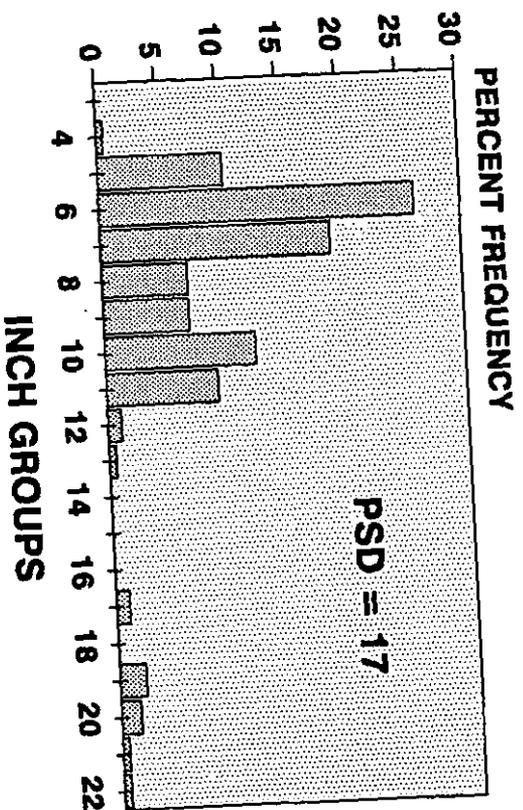


Caney Lake

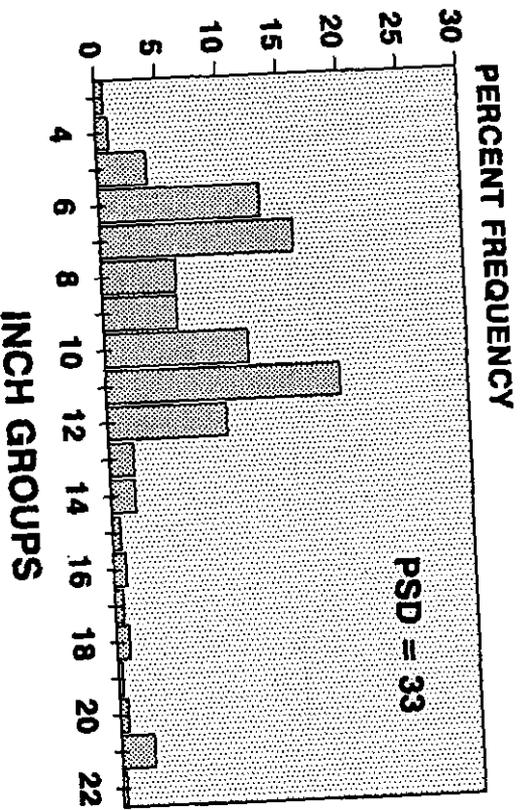
MARCH - 1990



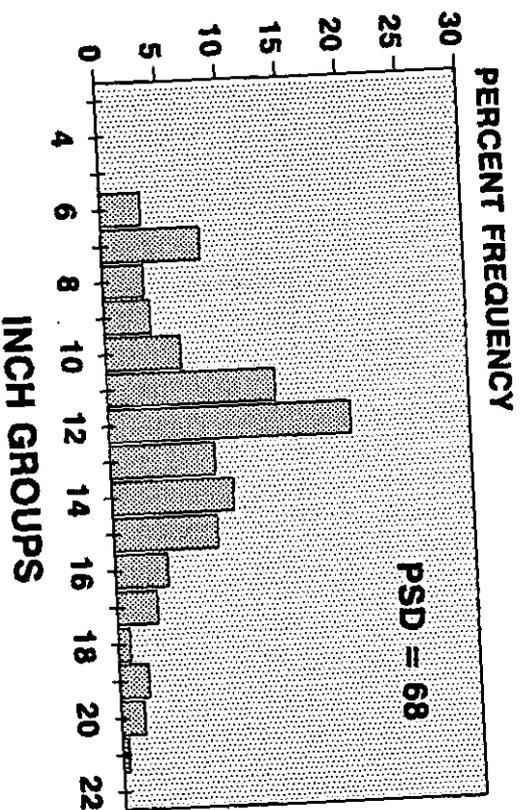
MARCH - 1991



MARCH - 1992

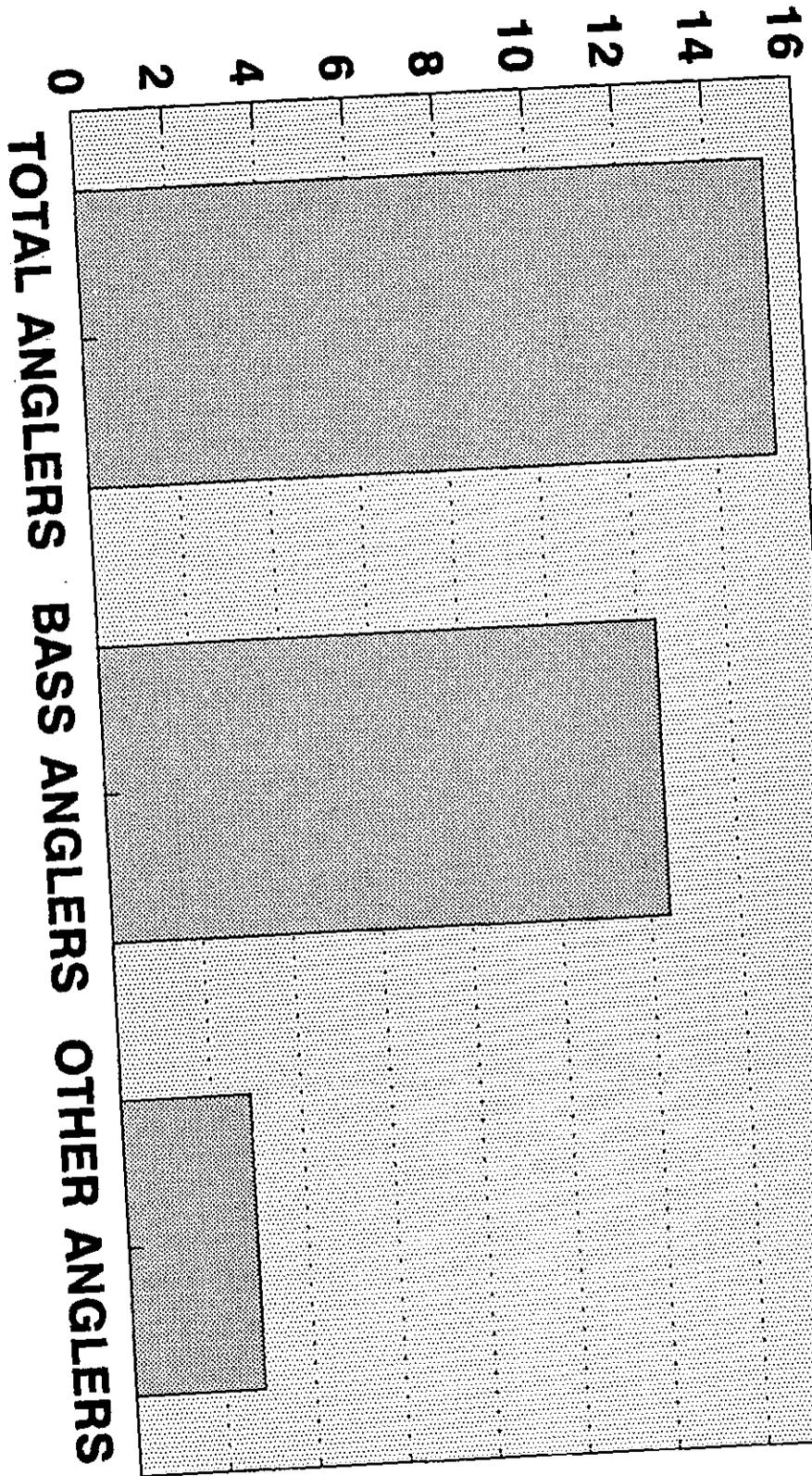


MARCH - 1993



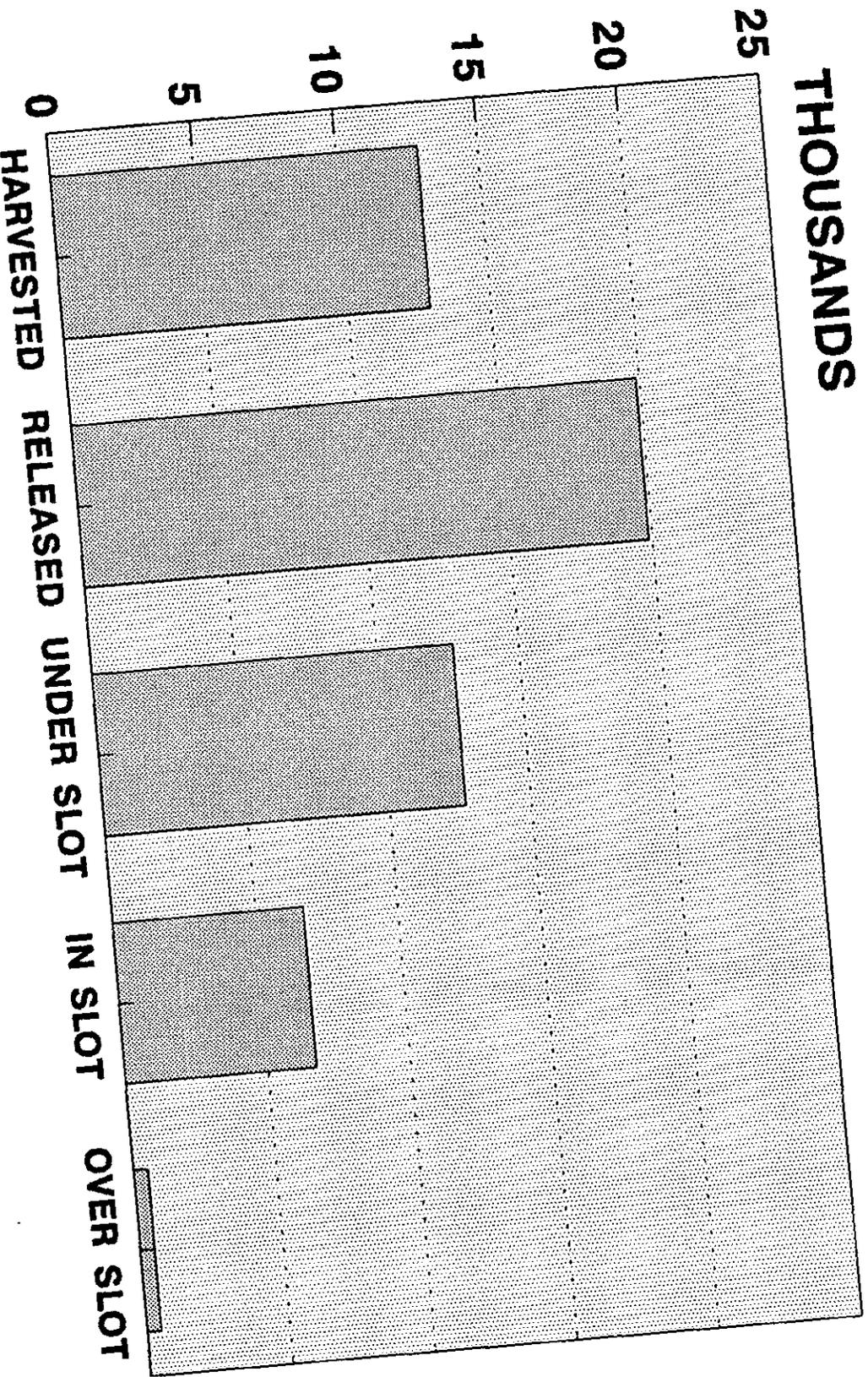
ESTIMATED ANGLERS 1993

THOUSANDS



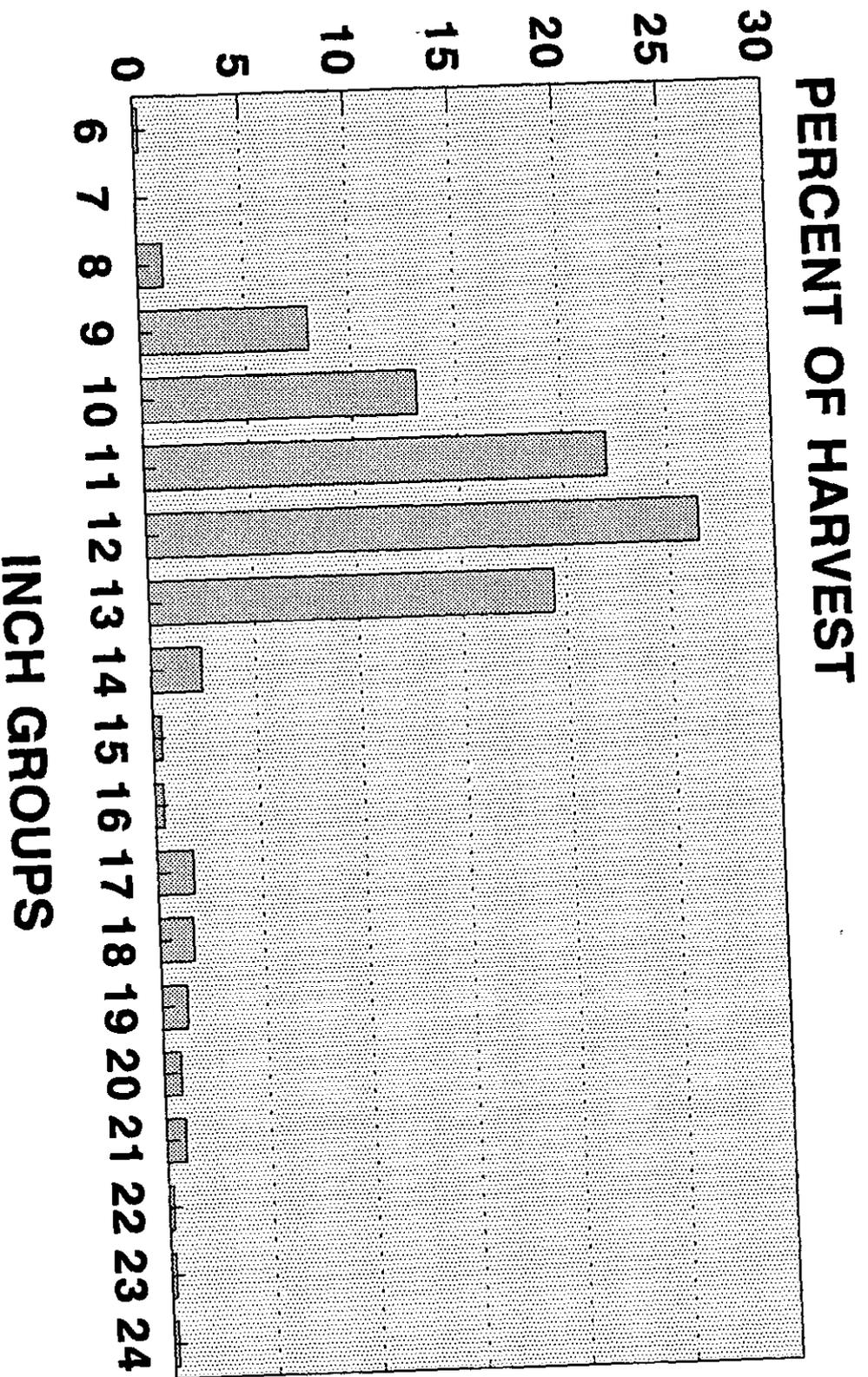
CANEY LAKE

ANGLER CATCH - LARGEMOUTH BASS



CANEY LAKE - 1993

LARGEMOUTH BASS HARVESTED



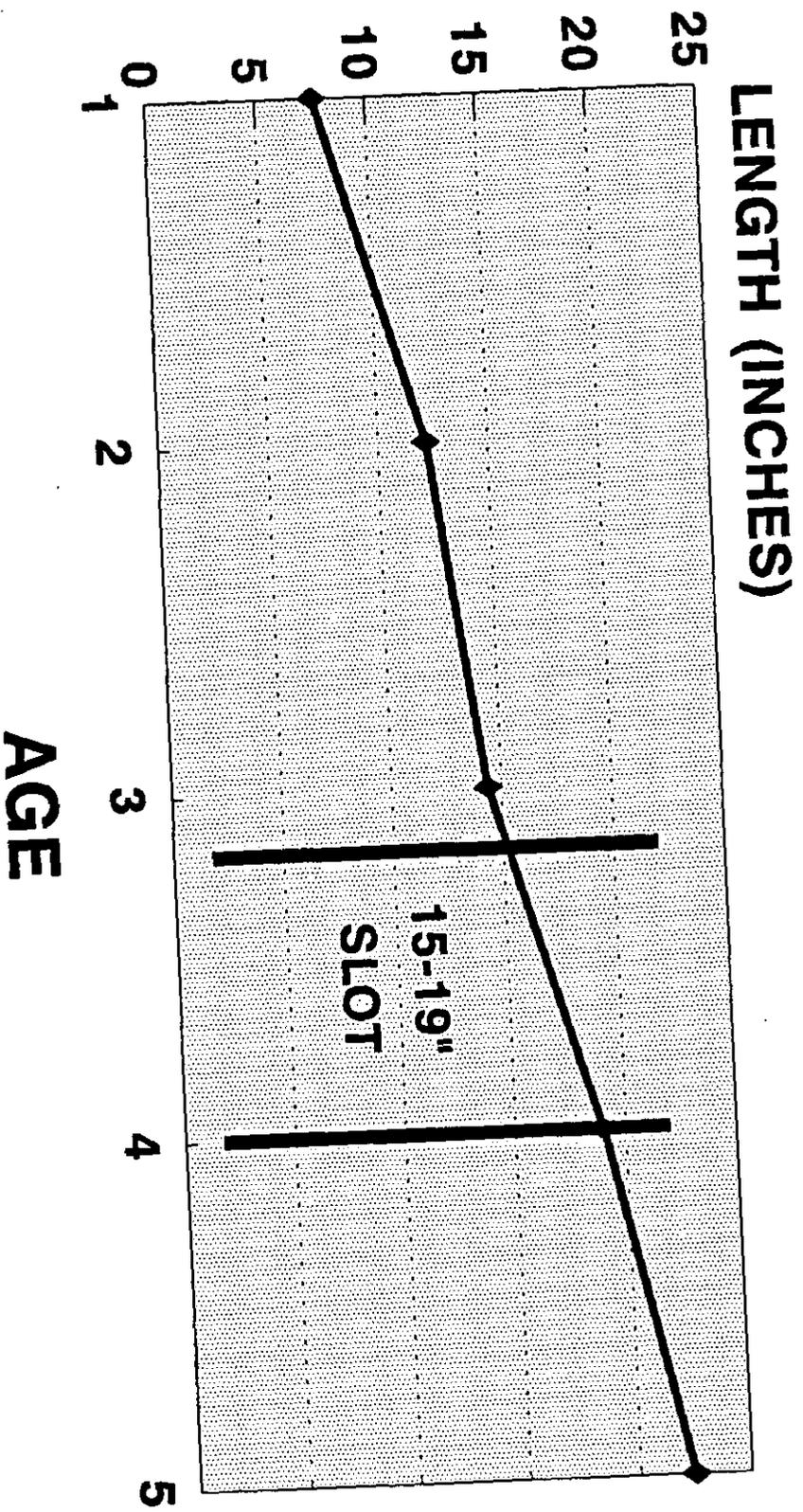
CANEY LAKE, 1993

LARGEMOUTH BASS - AGE & GROWTH

AGE	STATEWIDE (MEAN)	CANEY 1990	CANEY 1991
AGE 1	6.3	6.2	7.6
AGE 2	11.0	11.1	12.2
AGE 3	14.0		14.4
AGE 4	15.7	15.9	19.0
AGE 5	17.2		22.5

LENGTH IN INCHES

GROWTH OF LARGEMOUTH BASS



CANEY LAKE

SIZE OF LARGEMOUTH BASS IN SLOTS

PRESENT 14" - 17" SLOT

1.5 - 2.8 POUND BASS HAVE TO BE RELEASED

PROPOSED 15" - 19" SLOT

2.0 - 4.5 POUND BASS HAVE TO BE RELEASED

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
LOUISIANA 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 Procedures 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, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby orders a closure of that portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters from the beach out to three miles from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou effective at 12:01 a.m. Saturday February 12, 1994. 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. Historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's outside waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated. 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 also hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open any special seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp in the State's Inshore Waters as indicated by technical data derived from the Department's ongoing shrimp monitoring program.

RESOLUTION

**1994 Offshore Shrimp Season Closure
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the open shrimp seasons for all or part of the state waters shall be fixed by the 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 white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October 15th through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and

WHEREAS, in the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, water temperatures have now dropped below 20 degrees centigrade which has slowed the growth rate of white shrimp in offshore waters, and

WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated on the third Monday in December, and

WHEREAS, closing a portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters will protect these small white shrimp and allow them the opportunity to grow to a more valuable size.

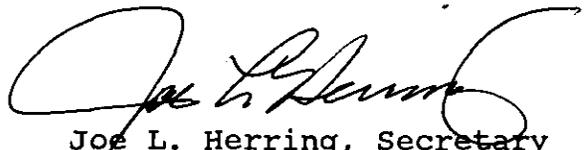
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby close the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, from the beach out to three miles, by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, February 12, 1994.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of ~~the~~ Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open any special shrimp seasons or open ~~the~~ State's Offshore Territorial Waters when biological and technical data indicate the need to do so.

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



John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission



Joe L. Herring, Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
LOUISIANA 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 Procedures 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, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby orders a closure of that portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters from the beach out to three miles from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou effective at 12:01 a.m. Saturday February 12, 1994. 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. Historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's outside waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated. 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 also hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open any special seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp in the State's Inshore Waters as indicated by technical data derived from the Department's ongoing shrimp monitoring program.

RESOLUTION

1994 Offshore Shrimp Season Closure
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the open shrimp seasons for all or part of the state waters shall be fixed by the 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 white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October 15th through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and

WHEREAS, in the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, water temperatures have now dropped below 20 degrees centigrade which has slowed the growth rate of white shrimp in offshore waters, and

WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated on the third Monday in December, and

WHEREAS, closing a portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters will protect these small white shrimp and allow them the opportunity to grow to a more valuable size.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby close the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, from the beach out to three miles, by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, February 12, 1994.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open ^{or close} any special shrimp seasons or open ^{or close} the State's Offshore Territorial Waters when biological and technical data indicate the need to do so.

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

John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Joe L. Herring, Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

**DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
LOUISIANA 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 Procedures 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, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby orders a closure of that portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters from the beach out to three miles from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou effective at 12:01 a.m. Saturday February 12, 1994. 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. Historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's outside waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated. 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 also hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open any special seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp in the State's Inshore Waters as indicated by technical data derived from the Department's ongoing shrimp monitoring program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby close the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, from the beach out to three miles, by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, February 12, 1994.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open any special shrimp seasons or open the State's Offshore Territorial Waters when biological and technical data indicate the need to do so.

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

John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Joe L. Herring, Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

RESOLUTION

1994 Offshore Shrimp Season Closure
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the open shrimp seasons for all or part of the state waters shall be fixed by the 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 white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October 15th through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and

WHEREAS, in the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, water temperatures have now dropped below 20 degrees centigrade which has slowed the growth rate of white shrimp in offshore waters, and

WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated on the third Monday in December, and

WHEREAS, closing a portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters will protect these small white shrimp and allow them the opportunity to grow to a more valuable size.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY
LOUISIANA 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 Procedures 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, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby orders a closure of that portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters from the beach out to three miles from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou effective at 12:01 a.m. Saturday February 12, 1994. 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. Historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's outside waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated. 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 also hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open any special seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp in the State's Inshore Waters as indicated by technical data derived from the Department's ongoing shrimp monitoring program.

RESOLUTION

1994 Offshore Shrimp Season Closure
adopted by the
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 provides the open shrimp seasons for all or part of the state waters shall be fixed by the 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 white shrimp is 100 (whole shrimp) count per pound, except during the time period from October 15th through the third Monday in December when there shall be no count, and

WHEREAS, in the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, water temperatures have now dropped below 20 degrees centigrade which has slowed the growth rate of white shrimp in offshore waters, and

WHEREAS, historical and current biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that white shrimp in much of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters do not average 100 count minimum size or larger since the count was reinstated on the third Monday in December, and

WHEREAS, closing a portion of the State's Offshore Territorial Waters will protect these small white shrimp and allow them the opportunity to grow to a more valuable size.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby close the State's Offshore Territorial Waters, from the beach out to three miles, by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, from the Mississippi-Louisiana State Line west to South Pass of the Mississippi River and from Bayou Lafourche west to Freshwater Bayou at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, February 12, 1994.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open^{or close} any special shrimp seasons or open^{or close} the State's Offshore Territorial Waters when biological and technical data indicate the need to do so.

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

John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Joe L. Herring, Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

RESOLUTION

1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season

adopted by the

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

February 3, 1994 - Baton Rouge, LA

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set no less than two shrimp seasons each calendar year for all inside waters by zone, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 also authorizes the Commission to open or close outside waters and set special seasons, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 states the shrimp seasons shall be based on biological and technical data which indicates that marketable shrimp are available, and

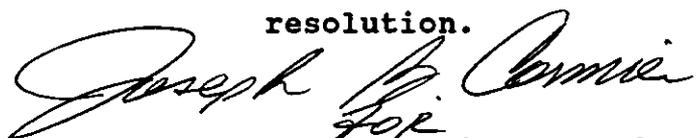
WHEREAS, historical biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that harvestable amounts of pink shrimp are found in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds during the late winter and early spring period,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, to open in that area of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rules (Title 76, Part 7, Chapter 3, Section 307 D), at sunset on Friday, February 18, 1994 and extend through sunrise March 31, 1994 and shall be restricted to night-time (sunset to sunrise) fishing only,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season if biological and technical data indicates

the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop. The Secretary is also hereby authorized to set any special inshore shrimp seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp, as indicated by technical data secured through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' shrimp sampling program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season and granting special powers to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, is attached to and made a part of this resolution.


John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission


Joe L. Herring, Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

LOUISIANA 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 Procedures Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all inside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set a Special Pink Shrimp Season to open in that area of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (Title 76, Part 7, Chapter 3, Section 307 D) at sunset on Friday, February 18, 1994 and extend through sunrise March 31, 1994 and shall be restricted to night-time (sunset to sunrise) fishing only. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is also hereby authorized to close the Special Pink Shrimp Season if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop. The Secretary is also hereby authorized to close and reopen the shrimp season in the State's Territorial Sea and set any special inshore shrimp seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp, as indicated by technical data secured through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' shrimp sampling program.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Joe L. Herring, Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

RESOLUTION

1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season

adopted by the

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

February 3, 1994 - Baton Rouge, LA

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set no less than two shrimp seasons each calendar year for all inside waters by zone, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 also authorizes the Commission to open or close outside waters and set special seasons, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:497 states the shrimp seasons shall be based on biological and technical data which indicates that marketable shrimp are available, and

WHEREAS, historical biological sampling conducted by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has indicated that harvestable amounts of pink shrimp are found in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds during the late winter and early spring period,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season by public notice in accordance with R.S. 56:497, to open in that area of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rules (Title 76, Part 7, Chapter 3, Section 307 D), at sunset on Friday, February 18, 1994 and extend through sunrise March 31, 1994 and shall be restricted to night-time (sunset to sunrise) fishing only,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season if biological and technical data indicates

the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop. The Secretary is also hereby authorized to set any special inshore shrimp seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp, as indicated by technical data secured through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' shrimp sampling program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Declaration of Emergency setting the 1994 Special Pink Shrimp Season and granting special powers to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Joe L. Herring, Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

LOUISIANA 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 Procedures Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all inside waters, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby set a Special Pink Shrimp Season to open in that area of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds as described in the menhaden rule (Title 76, Part 7, Chapter 3, Section 307 D) at sunset on Friday, February 18, 1994 and extend through sunrise March 31, 1994 and shall be restricted to night-time (sunset to sunrise) fishing only. The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is also hereby authorized to close the Special Pink Shrimp Season if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop. The Secretary is also hereby authorized to close and reopen the shrimp season in the State's Territorial Sea and set any special inshore shrimp seasons to harvest overwintering white shrimp, as indicated by technical data secured through the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' shrimp sampling program.

John F. "Jeff" Schneider, Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Joe L. Herring, Secretary
La. Dept. of Wildlife and
Fisheries

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT 1992-93

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR NO. SALE GOODS	CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN
July, 1992	105	26,553	(10,515)	103	5,578	
Aug, 1992	137	26,153	(3,241)	95	5,292	
Sept, 1992	214	34,341	(3,245)	82	6,186	
Oct, 1992	346	238,388	(19,670)	119	8,310	292
Nov, 1992	34	17,264		220	11,744	4,651
Dec, 1992	122	76,371	(7,012)	97	5,042	1,275
Jan, 1993	77	35,470	(979)	75	7,389	3,799
Feb, 1993	40	10,787		81	13,141	6,941
March, 1993	37	15,552	(1,876)	60	13,479	5,848
April, 1993	24	8,418	(10,809)	31	5,000	2,379
May, 1993	21	16,063	(1,599)	39	5,704	2,381
June, 1993	40	23,637	(7,454)	27	8,356	4,077
Total FY 93	1,197	528,997	(66,400)	1,029	95,221	31,643
July, 1993	25	21,039	(9,778)	29	4,855	2,545
August, 1993	53	44,922	(1,137)	41	7,950	3,603
Sept., 1993	42	137,635	(17,938)	35	6,783	3,048
October, 1993	49	21,471	(11,282)	40	3,285	1,519
Nov., 1993	57	31,207	(13,260)	32	3,053	2,845
Dec., 1993	53	13,777	0	27	6,507	6,713
Jan., 1994	38	18,918	0	32	4,423	2,831

ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	CURRENT MONTH	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE	INCEPTION TO DATE
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	01/01/1994 TO 01/31/1994	07/01/1993 TO 01/31/1994	01/31/1994
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES
36	\$18,918.30	325	\$424,014.23
0	\$0.00	55	\$52,939.85-
0	\$0.00	23	\$18,166.20
38	\$18,918.30	325	\$389,240.58
32	\$4,422.72-	219	\$37,835.28-
0	\$0.00	4	\$2.99
23	\$2,830.93-	192	\$23,746.17-
2	\$1,107.16	4	\$3,354.78
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
2	\$169.65	3	\$214.75
4	\$1,339.25-	4	\$1,339.25-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
134	\$262,299.77-	141	\$263,811.64-
0	\$0.00	2	\$466.42-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
476		476	\$526,217.43

RESTITUTION ASSESSED	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT
PAYMENTS	32	\$4,422.72-	219	\$37,835.28-	1,157	\$140,639.19-
OVERPAYMENTS	0	\$0.00	4	\$2.99	18	\$160.00
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	23	\$2,830.93-	192	\$23,746.17-	542	\$57,169.90-
REFUNDS	2	\$1,107.16	4	\$3,354.78	6	\$3,747.58
REMUNERATION REFUNDS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$7,038.85
RETURNED CHECKS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$0.80
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$15.00
DEBITS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
REASSESSMENTS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
DEBITS	2	\$169.65	3	\$214.75	12	\$3,001.34
CREDITS	4	\$1,339.25-	4	\$1,339.25-	33	\$9,228.05-
ADJUST VIOLATION	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
DEBITS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
CREDITS	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
WRITE-OFFS	134	\$262,299.77-	141	\$263,811.64-	173	\$267,897.55-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	0	\$0.00	2	\$466.42-	4	\$586.70-
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$97.80-
** TOTAL OUTSTANDING			476		476	\$526,217.43

FOOTNOTE:	PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	AMOUNT PAID TO COLLECTOR	0	\$0.00	5	\$1,100.00	31	\$10,262.59
				\$0.00		\$275.00		\$2,565.64

CAN NOT BE INVOICED	AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES
1 - 30 DAYS	0
31 - 60 DAYS	33
61 - 90 DAYS	42
91 - 120 DAYS	25
121 - 150 DAYS	59
151 - 180 DAYS	71
181 - 365 DAYS	55
CASES SENT FOR COLLECTION	148
OVER 1 YEAR PENDING	14
OVER 1 YEAR (OTHER)	0
	29

** TOTAL AGING 476 \$526,217.43

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CLASS I ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 1-FEB-1994

	CURRENT MONTH 01/01/1994 TO 01/31/1994	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE 07/01/1993 TO 01/31/1994	INCEPTION TO DATE 01/31/1994
FINES	444	3,903	29,388
HEARING COSTS			
DEBITS	84	1,409	6,999
CREDITS	1	1	1
TOTAL DUE	\$24,475.00	\$234,570.00	\$1,658,872.07

PAID IN FULL	158	2,344	15,031	\$768,242.90-
PARTIAL PAYMENTS	7	93	353	\$15,023.76-
OVERPAYMENTS	2	39	193	\$11,575.08
REFUNDS	0	17	32	\$2,106.50
RETURNED CHECKS	1	5	17	\$850.00
MISC CHANGES				
DEBITS	1	5	17	\$255.00
CREDITS	0	14	72	\$65.90-
ADJUSTMENTS TO VIOLATION				
DEBITS	0	18	39	\$2,150.00-
CREDITS	0	0	3	\$50.00-
VOIDS	0	187	1,243	\$47,236.63-
NOT GUILTY	7	104	249	\$12,375.00-

TOTAL OUTSTANDING \$832,814.46

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES
FROM CITATION DATE

0 - 30 DAYS	269	\$13,500.00
31 - 60 DAYS	0	\$0.00
61 - 90 DAYS	0	\$0.00
91 - 120 DAYS	0	\$0.00
121 - 150 DAYS	0	\$0.00
151 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 365 DAYS	3,108	\$200,518.00
OVER 1 YEAR UNCOLLECTABLE	0	\$0.00
OVER 1 YEAR PENDING	0	\$0.00
OVER 1 YEAR (OTHER)	9,672	\$618,796.46

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES
FROM HEARING DATE

PRE HEARING	960	\$49,050.00
0 - 90 DAYS	1,638	\$81,950.00
91 - 180 DAYS	0	\$0.00
181 - 270 DAYS	0	\$0.00
271 - 365 DAYS	2,912	\$196,648.00
OVER 1 YEAR UNCOLLECTABLE	0	\$0.00
OVER 1 YEAR PENDING	0	\$0.00
OVER 1 YEAR (OTHER)	7,539	\$505,166.46

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

JANUARY 1994

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT -JANUARY 1994

REGION 1

TOTAL CASES-89

ENFORCEMENT-88

OTHER DIV. - 1

- 9-Boating
- 4-Angling W/O A License
- 1-Fish W/O Resident Pole License
- 3-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 1-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 4-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 3-Hunt From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way
- 4-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
- 2-Possess Of Buckshot During Closed Deer Season
- 4-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 4-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 3-Fail To Comply W/Hunters Orange Regulations
- 4-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp
- 5-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 5-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 3-Possess Untagged MGB
- 2-Possession Over The Two-Day Limit Of MGB
- 1-Wanton Waste Of MGB
- 5-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 4-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 3-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
- 1-Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated
- 6-Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road

Page (2)

REGION I CONT'D.

3-Operate ATV Vehicle On Public Road

1-Flight From An Officer

1-Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

3-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

22 ducks, 1 rifle.

GRAND TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION I:

9-Boating

5-Fishing

28-Hunting

29-MGB

18-Misc.

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-82

ENFORCEMENT-71

OTHER -11

4-Boating

8-Angling W/O A License

4-Hunting W/O Resident License

9-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

2-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

4-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours

4-Hunt From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way

1-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

3-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours

3-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road

2-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season

2-Possess Over Limit Of Deer

5-Possession Of Illegally Take Deer

2-Fail To Comply W/Hunters Orange Regulations

5-Hunt/Trap On DMAP Lands W/O Permit From Owner/Lessee

2-Hunt Raccoons Or Opossums Illegally

1-Trap Or Sell F.B.A. Or Parts W/O Resident Or Non-Res.License

2-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

1-Transport Completely Dressed MGB

4-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks

1-Taking Herons-No Season

3-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA

4-Littering

Page (4)

REGION 2 CONT'D.

1-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

5-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

1 doe deer, 22 ducks, 5 guns, 2 rabbits.

GRAND TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2:

4-Boating

6-Fishing

50-Hunting

11-Other

3-Game

8-MGB

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-128

ENFORCEMENT-102

OTHER - 26

8-Boating

12-Angling W/O A License

1-Taking/Possess Over Limit Or Undersized Freshwater Gamefish

1-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Comm. License

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Comm. Gear License

6-Hunting W/O Resident License

1-Failure To Abide By Commission Rules

2-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

1-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

6-Hunt From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way

4-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp

1-Possess Of Buckshot During Closed Deer Season

1-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

5-Hunt Deer Illegal Hours

4-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season

9-Fail Comply W/Hunters Orange Regulations

5-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp

1-Hunting With Unsigned Duck Stamp

2-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun

4-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

3-Possession Over The Two-Day Limit Of MGB

4-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

REGION 3 CONT'D.

1-Possession Of Live MGB Illegally

1-Hunting Ducks Closed Season

2-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks

11-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA

1-Operating While Intoxicated

4-Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road

1-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

4-Operate ATV Vehicle On Public Road

1-Flight From An Officer

1-Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

CONFISCATIONS:

9 guns, 24 deer tags, 4 deer, 39 ducks, 3 woodcock, 1 state duck stamp, 1 federal duck stamp.

GRAND TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR EACH REGION 3:

8-Boating

16-Fishing

97-Hunting

7-Other

REGION 4

TOTAL CASES-138

ENFORCEMENT-100

OTHER - 38

- 2-Boating
- 3-Angling W/O A License
- 1-Angling W/O A License Non-Resident
- 3-Take Or Possess Game Fish Illegally
- 1-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
- 5-Use Illegal Length/Mesh Nets
- 2-Take Bowfin With Nets Closed Season
- 9-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 1-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License
- 2-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 3-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 1-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
- 4-Hunt From Public Road Or Right-Of-Way
- 5-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
- 5-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 2-Running Deer Dogs During Still Hunt Season
- 2-Hunt Or Take Deer Closed Season
- 3-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours
- 1-Hunt Or Take Deer Public Road
- 3-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season
- 1-Possess Over Limit Of Deer
- 3-Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer
- 4-Fail To Comply W/Hunters Orange Regulations

REGION 4 CONT'D.

2-Hunt Raccoons Or Opossums Illegally

34-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

1-Resisting An Officer

1-Operating ATV Vehicle On Public Road

1-Flight From An Officer

3-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp

2-Hunting With Unsigned Ducks Stamp

2-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

4-Possess Untagged MGB

5-Possession Over The Two-Day Limit Of MGB

9-Wanton Waste Of MGB

1-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

1-Transport Illegally Taken MGB

1-Hunting Ducks Closed Season

5-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks

CONFISCATIONS:

5 guns, 450 yards of 2 inch gill net, 5 deer, 29 ducks, 7 coons, 57 crappie, 1 bowfin, 1 barfish, 7 bass.

GRAND TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4:

2-Boating

15-Fishing

51-Hunting

34-WMA

3-Other

33-Federal

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-147

ENFORCEMENT-147

OTHER - 0

5-Boating

3-Angling W/o A License

3-Angling W/O License Non-Resident

1-Fish W/O Resident Pole License

2-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Comm. License

5-Take Commercial Fish W/O Comm. Gear License

4-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

2-Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings

2-Possession On Untagged Oysters

12-Hunting W/O Resident License

14-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

25-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours

6-Hunt From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way

1-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp

3-Hunt Or Take Deer Closed Season

4-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours

6-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road

5-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season

14-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp

1-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun

5-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

2-Hunting MGB Over Baited Area

1-Hunting MGB From A Vehicle

REGION 5 CONT'D.

11-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

1-Taking Ibis-No Season

2-Littering

2-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

2-Possess/Take Over Limit Federal Controlled Fish

1-Possess/Take Undersize Federal Controlled Fish

1-Poss. Of Firearm Of Convicted Felon

1-Fail To Keep Federally Controlled Fish Intact

CONFISCATIONS:

9 guns, 2 geese, 1 duck, 1 woodcock, 1 red snapper, 1 amberjack, 1 rabbit, 1 box crabs-released to water.

4,022 pounds of assorted types of fish sold for \$8,000.00.

**NOTE: ON FEDERAL CASES, MONIES COLLECTED FROM SALE OF SEIZED FISH IS DEPOSITED
IN THE U.S. TREASURY.**

GRAND TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5:

5-Boating

23-Fishing

119-Hunting

REGION 6

TOTAL CASES-161

ENFORCEMENT-141

OTHER - 20

- 20-Boating
- 10-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 3-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
- 6-Fail Comply W/Hunters Orange Regulations
- 13-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs.On WMA
- 1-Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road
- 1-Hunt Deer Illegal Methods
- 1-Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer
- 16-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 8-Hunt From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way
- 13-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours
- 2-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
- 2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
- 6-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 3-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 3-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 18-Angling W/O A License
- 1-Allow Another To Use Recreational License
- 2-Angling W/O A License Non-Resident
- 2-Failure To Abide By Commission Rules
- 5-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 1-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 3-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp

REGION 6 CONT'D.

- 2-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season
- 1-Fish W/O Resident Pole License
- 2-Hunt/Trap On DMAP Lands W/O Permit From Owner/Lessee
- 2-Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana
- 2-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 1-Discharge Firearm From Public Road
- 2-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 4-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
- 4-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Levee Road
- 1-Hunting MGB With Illegal Firearm

CONFISCATIONS:

11 guns, 5 deer, 18 woodducks, 1 freshwater and saltwater licenses, 3 mallard ducks, 2 rabbits, 4 buffalo fish,
1 yellow catfish.

GRAND TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6:

- 20-Boating
- 113-Hunting
- 26-Fishing
- 2-Misc.

REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-162

ENFORCEMENT-131

OTHER - 31

- 1-Angling W/O A License
- 3-Angling W/O License Non-Resident
- 2-Fish W/O Resident Pole License
- 2-Poss. O/L Of Red Drum
- 2-Poss. O/L Of Spotted Sea Trout
- 1-Take Or Poss. Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License
- 2-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
- 1-Transport W/O Required License
- 3-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 27-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 5-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 20-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
- 16-Hunt From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way
- 24-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours
- 12-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 1-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season
- 1-Hunt Or Take Deer W/Illegal Weapon
- 1-Possession Of Untagged Deer
- 1-Field Possession Of Deer Meat W/O Tag
- 6-Fail To Comply W/Hunters Orange Regulations
- 4-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp
- 1-Hunting With Unsigned Duck Stamp
- 2-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun

REGION 7 CONT'D.

7-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

4-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

2-Resisting An Officer

3-Criminal Trespass

1-Operating Vehicle While Intoxicated

3-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

1-Flight From An Officer

1-Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

CONFISCATIONS:

28 guns, 1 rabbit, 140 speckled trout, 7 deer, 5 ducks, 16 red drum, 1 vehicle.

GRAND TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7:

14-Fishing

117-Hunting

23-Other

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-210

ENFORCEMENT-191

OTHER - 19

28-Boating

16-Angling W/O A License

1-Poss. O/L Of Red Drum

3-Take Or Possess Undersized Red Drum

15-Take Or Possess Undersized Black Drum

17-Take Or Possess O/L Black Drum

4-Angling W/O a License Non-Resident

1-Not Abiding By Commission Rules & Regs.

1-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

8-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

6-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

10-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

2-Fail To Maintain Records

4-Illegal Use Of Monofilament

1-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

2-Take/Poss. Undersize Cml. Finfish

1-Buy Commercial Fish From Un-License Fisherman

1-Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings

1-Use Illegal Length/Mesh Nets

1-Failure To Mark/Tag Nets

1-Take/Possess Black Drum W/O Permit

1-Use Illegal Mesh Gill Net

REGION 8 CONT'D.

8-Leave Nets Unattended

2-Failure To Mark/Tag Nets

1-Violation Of Mullet Regulations

4-Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel

1-Possession Of Untagged Oysters

2-Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester License

10-Hunting W/O Resident License

6-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

4-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

13-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours

2-Hunt From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way

1-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp

1-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

1-Hunt Or Take Deer W/Illegal Weapon

4-Fail Comply W/Hunters Orange Regulations

6-Take And/Or Possess Over Limit Of Rabbits

1-Possess Untagged MGB

3-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

3-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks

1-Taking Killdeer-No Season

CONFISCATIONS:

15 guns, 1 boat, 1 motor, 600 feet of seine, 2 trawls, 12 gill nets totalling 6,313 feet, 21 unattended gill nets totalling 9,600 feet, 117 whole fish, 53 rabbits, 23 ducks, 722 pounds of fish sold for \$200.80

760 pounds of shrimp sold for \$1,658.60.

GRAND TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8:

28-Boating

56-Sport Fishing

52-Commercial Fishing

7-Oyster

45-Hunting

3-Alligator

7-MGB

7-Misc.

5-WMA

REGION 9

TOTAL CASES-229

ENFORCEMENT-205

OTHER - 24

18-Boating

17-Angling W/O A License

11-Angling W/O Saltwater License

2-Taking/Possess Over Limit Or Undersized Freshwater Gamefish

5-Poss. O/L Of Red Drum

1-Take Illegal Size Black Drum

1-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

10-Take Or Possess Undersized Red Drum

11-Take Or Possess Undersized Black Drum

1-Take Or Possess O/L Black Drum

1-Take Or Possess Undersized Spotted Sea Trout

1-Possess O/L Spotted Sea Trout

7-Sell Undersize Crabs

1-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

3-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

4-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

1-Transport W/O Required License

1-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish Shipping Regs., Tags & I.D.

3-Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings

1-Possess Red Drum Illegally

1-Failure To Have Written Permission

REGION 9 CONT'D.

- 2-Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area
- 1-Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease
- 2-Fail To Cull Oysters In Proper Location
- 4-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 9-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 8-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 12-Hunt From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way
- 1-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp
- 2-Hunt Or Take Deer Closed Season
- 7-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours
- 2-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season
- 4-Hunt Or Take Deer W/Illegal Weapon
- 1-Fail To Comply W/Hunters Orange Regulations
- 1-Possessing F.B.A. W/O License
- 3-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. WMA
- 4-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/o Federal Stamp
- 1-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 5-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 2-Hunting MGB From Moving Motorboat
- 4-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 2-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 1-Resisting An Officer
- 1-Aggravated Assault On An Officer
- 1-Illegal Spotighting From Public Road
- 1-Public Intimidation

REGION 9 CONT'D.

2-Littering

1-Disturbing Peace (Intoxicated)

1-Obstruction Justice

1-Possess Stolen Firearm

1-Resisting Officer

16-Possess Overlimit Federally Controlled Fish

5-Possess Redfish Federal Waters

1-Fail To Keep Federally Controlled Fish Intact

1-Careless Operation M/V

3-Driving With Expired License

6-Discharging Firearm From Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

19 sacks of oysters, 10 cobia, 4,579 lbs. of red snapper sold for \$12,522.90, 68 fish fillets, 13 rabbits, 211 lbs. of black drum sold for \$105.50, 26 lbs. of speckled trout sold for \$28.60, 34 black bass, 242 lbs. of shrimp sold for \$897.93, 1,080 lbs. of crabs released to water, 14 coons, 2 deer, 18 ducks, 8 bowfin, 1 coot, 300 feet of gill net, 2 vessels, 26 guns, 12 crab traps.

GRAND TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9:

18-Boating

42-Misc.

83-Fishing

6-Oysters

42-General Hunting

16-Deer

1-FBA

3-WMA

18-MGB

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES-19

- 2-Possess Red Snapper Closed Season
- 2-Possess Red Drum Federal Waters
- 2-Possess Undersize Red Snapper
- 1-Fail To Tag Containerized Oysters
- 1-Fail To Maintain Records
- 1-No Commercial Fish License
- 1-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish
- 1-No Vessel License
- 1-No Vehicle Transport License
- 1-No Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
- 1-Expired Drivers License
- 1-Reckless Operation Of Motor Vehicle
- 1-Possession Overlimit Of Red Drum
- 1-Possession Overlimit Of Black Drum
- 1-Possession Undersize Red Drum
- 1-Possession Undersize Black Drum

CONFISCATIONS:

5 1/2 sacks of oysters, 4,815 lbs. of reef fish, 4 bags of redfish filets, 2 gill nets, 9 black drum, 8 red drum.

SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES-116

12-Boating

3-Angling W/O A License

1-Angling W/O A License Non-Resident

3-Poss. O/L Of Red Drum In Excess Of 27"

4-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regs.

3-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

3-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

3-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

3-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

2-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Transport W/O Required License

2-Illegal Use Of Monofilament

5-Buy Commercial Fish From Un-Licensed Fisherman

1-Failure To Hold Oyster Tags For Sixty (90) Days

2-Hunting W/O Resident License

2-Unlawful Taking Of Wild Birds

9-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

1-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

3-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours

6-Hunt From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way

2-Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp

4-Take And/Or Possess Over Limit Of Rabbits

4-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours

SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE CONT'D.

- 2-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp
- 1-Hunting With Unsigned Ducks Stamp
- 2-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 5-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 2-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 1-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 1-Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana
- 2-DWI
- 2-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
- 7-Possess/Take Undersize Federal Controlled Fish
- 2-Possess/Take Over Limit Federal Controlled Fish
- 1-Flight From An Officer
- 3-Take Federal Controlled Fish In Closed Season
- 1-Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle
- 1-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

789 lbs. redfish, 421 lbs. of cobia \$863.05, 3500 lbs. of beeliner sold for \$16,380.00, 83 lbs. of red snapper sold for \$249.00, 15 lbs. of gag grouper disposed of, 1,002 lbs. of shrimp \$2,556.53, 211 lbs. black drum \$105.50, 26 lbs. speckled trout \$28.60, 497 lbs. of mullet \$99.40, 6 sacks of oysters, 51 rabbits, 5 guns, 2 trawls, 2,000 feet of gill net.

S.W.E.P.

TOTAL CASES-85

RUNNING HOURS-121

BOATS CHECKED-109

- 6-No Commercial License
- 7-No Vessel License
- 4-No Gear License
- 1-Used Crab Traps W/O Proper Markings
- 4-Fail To Display Proper #'s On Vessel
- 2-Harvest Oysters W/O Harvester License
- 1-No Commercial License In Possession
- 2-Angling W/O A License
- 4-Illegal Use Of Monofilament
- 1-Take Black Drum Over 27 inches W/O Permit
- 5-Fail To Comply With P.F.D.
- 2-Operate Unregistered Motorboat
- 3-Fail To Display Valid Decal
- 3-Unproper Boat Numbers
- 6-Overlimit Of Rabbits
- 1-No Hunting License
- 2-No Boat Numbers
- 2-Fail To Have P.F.D. On Person Under 13.
- 4-No Boat Registration Certificate In Possession

S.W.E.P. CONT'D.

2-Possess Undersize Gag Grouper

6-Possess Red Drum In Federal Waters

7-Possess Undersize Cobia

1-Possess Undersize Crabs

4-Possess Undersize Red Snapper

CONFISCATIONS:

1-600 feet of unattended gill net, 1-800 feet of monofilament gill net, 2-50 foot trawls, 1-1,200 feet of gill net, 211 lbs. of drum sold for \$105.50, 26 lbs. of trout sold for \$28.60, 260 sacks of oysters returned to water, 2 cobia, 5 red drum, 255 lbs. of catfish sold for \$86.40, 1,210 lbs. of shrimp sold for 2,556.53, 497 lbs. of mullet sold for \$99.40, 15 gag grouper disposed of.

Page (26)

TOTAL CASES ENFORCEMENT-1176

TOTAL CASES OTHER DIV. - 168

TOTAL CASES OSFORCE - 19

TOTAL CASES SSFORCE - 116

TOTAL CASES S.W.E.P. - 24

GRAND TOTAL CASES - 1344



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Enforcement Division
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

JAN 31 1984

F/EN4:TSpsn

Colonel Winton Vidrine
Chief of Enforcement
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 9800
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Dear Colonel Vidrine:

I would like to express our appreciation to you and your agents for the diligent work recently accomplished with regard to federal fisheries.

Through information gathered by agents James Nunez and Jessie Savoie and the contributions of Captain Glen Angelle, last week we were able to seize 21,210 pounds of illegally taken red snapper. Through confidential information, your agents were able to provide names of fishing vessels that were taking the red snapper out of season. Specifically, the following seizures were made:

Cameron, LA	F/V JOYCE B.	6,018 lbs.	sold for \$20,554
Port Boliver, TX	F/V CAPT. ROLLIE	5,500 lbs.	sold for 14,400
Port Boliver, TX	F/V LADY ANNIE	5,220 lbs.	sold for 15,600
LaRose, LA	F/V TWO FRIENDS	4,472 lbs.	sold for <u>12,522</u>
		<u>21,210</u>	<u>\$63,076</u>

Though two of these cases were made in Texas, they were a direct result of the information supplied by your agents. In addition, the case made in LaRose, Louisiana was a direct result of Sgt. Forrest Travirca's extensive efforts. Though sick, he worked until 3 a.m. to seize and secure the \$12,500 worth of red snapper.

We depend on and appreciate the support provided by your organization. I understand that in the last 30 days, your agents documented an additional 14 cases under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

I look forward to our continued cooperation and if I can be of assistance in any way, please call.

Sincerely yours,

Suzanne M. Horn
Special Agent in Charge



cc: Joe L. Herring Secretary
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P.O. Box 9800
Baton Rouge, LA 70899-9000

Dr. A. J. Kemmerer, Regional Director
DOC/NOAA/NMFS, Office of the Director
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Photo by Nancy Webb
Habitat: Cypress Swamp
Ascension Parish

June 1994

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>MAY 1994</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>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 31</p>	<p>JULY 1994</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>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 31</p>					
<p>Charterelle mushrooms fruiting in bottomland oak forests.</p> <p>Free Fishing Day</p> <p>12</p>	<p>Boating Safety Week (6-12)</p> <p>National Fishing Week (6-12)</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Broad-leaved spiderwort blooming on salt domes in south Louisiana.</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Statewide surveys on bird breeding conducted this month.</p> <p>Frog season opens.</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Mottled duck/ree duck brooding.</p> <p>B.R</p> <p>2</p>	<p>Peak fawn drop in upland areas.</p> <p>Hybrid striped bass schooling.</p> <p>Eastern coral snakes lay eggs this month.</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Nation's largest terrapin nesting frenzy on Louisiana's barrier islands.</p> <p>4</p>
<p>Father's Day</p> <p>19</p>	<p>Rare red penstemon in flower in upland deep sands of Central and northwestern Louisiana.</p> <p>20</p>	<p>Peak bobwhite calling.</p> <p>Flag Day</p> <p>14</p>	<p>Bluebirds begin building nests again in preparation for second brood.</p> <p>Diamondback terrapin season opens.</p> <p>15</p>	<p>First quarter moon</p> <p>Peak alligator nesting.</p> <p>16</p>	<p>Louisiana Fishing Enhancement Act signed into effect in 1986, creating Louisiana's Artificial Reef Program.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Brazilian free-tailed bats give birth this month.</p> <p>18</p>
<p>Get a jump on other sportsman by purchasing 1994-95 sport and recreational gear licenses early.</p> <p>26</p>	<p>Threatened ringed snailback turtles laying eggs June through July in Pearl River Basin.</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Summer solstice (first day of summer)</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Threatened loggerhead sea turtles return to beaches of Chandeleur Islands to nest.</p> <p>22</p>	<p>Full moon</p> <p>1993-94 hunting, fishing and recreational gear licenses expire.</p> <p>Last quarter moon</p> <p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>		

State of Louisiana



Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Office of Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
504/765-2384

Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

William S. "Corky" Perret
Assistant Secretary

January 27, 1994

TO: Wildlife & Fisheries Commission
FROM: John Roussel, Marine Fisheries
SUBJECT: Update on the Shrimp Task Force.

Per your request, attached please find a report on the activities of the Shrimp Task Force since the last Commission Meeting.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

JR:lr

Attachment

cc: Joe Herring
W. S. "Corky" Perret

State of Louisiana



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

January 26, 1994

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: John E. Roussel, Acting Administrator, Marine Fisheries
FROM: L. Brandt Savoie, Programs Manager, Marine Fisheries
SUBJ: Report on activities of Shrimp Task Force

The Governor's Task Force on Shrimp Management did not meet during the month of January. Even though the Task Force did not meet, work continued on setting up a series of public hearing on shrimp sanctuaries throughout coastal Louisiana. LSU Cooperative Extension Service Agents have secured firm commitments for locations and dates for eight meetings across the coast. Upon final approval by the members of the Task Force at its February 8, 1994 meeting this schedule will be announced to the public by way of a news release.

The members of the Task Force have also had time to review the questionnaire which will be distributed at the hearings. Comments have been received and changes to the questionnaire made. All that is needed to complete the questionnaire is final approval by the members. Also a series of maps has been put together for use at the hearings. The appropriate maps will be distributed at each hearing and those in attendance will have an opportunity to mark possible sanctuary locations on these maps.

Pending final approval by the Task Force, we are prepared to begin the public hearings during the latter part of February with all of them being completed by mid-March.

LBS:bs

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

Joe L. Herring
Secretary



CONTACT
(504) 765-2923

94-19

1/28/94

FEBRUARY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA ANNOUNCED

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will conduct its next regular meeting on **Thursday, Feb. 3, 1994**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Louisiana Room, Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge.

The meeting is open to the public. The agenda follows.

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of Jan. 6 minutes.
3. Aircraft report.
4. Report on National Youth Hunter Education Challenge.
5. Notice of Intent: modifications of black bass regulations on Caney Creek Reservoir.
6. Declaration of Emergency: closure of offshore territorial waters to shrimping.
7. Declaration of Emergency: special pink shrimp season in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds.
8. Red Drum Report, including Commission recommendation to Legislature regarding game fish status.
9. Civil restitution and class 1 update.
10. Monthly law enforcement report/January.
11. Secretary's report to the Commission.
12. Set June 1994 meeting.
13. Public comments.

January 25, 1994

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED:  _____

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting as set by the Commission will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 3, 1994 in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 1994
3. Aircraft Report
4. Report on National Youth Hunter Education Challenge
5. Notice of Intent - Modifications of Black Bass Regulations on Caney Creek Reservoir
6. Declaration of Emergency - Closure of Offshore Territorial Waters to Shrimp
7. Declaration of Emergency - Special Pink Shrimp Season in Breton & Chandeleur Sounds
8. Red Drum Report; Including Commission Recommendation to Legislature Regarding Game Fish Status
9. Civil Restitution and Class 1 Update
10. Monthly Law Enforcement Report/January
11. Secretary's Report to the Commission
12. Set June 1994 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments

Page 2
Commission Meeting
January 24, 1994

WYNNETTE KEES

8. Civil Restitution and Class 1 Update

WINTON VIDRINE

9. Monthly Law Enforcement Report/January

JOE L. HERRING

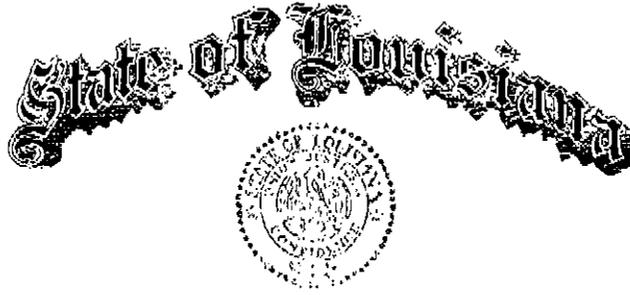
10. Secretary's Report to the Commission

11. Set June 1994 Meeting Date

PUBLIC COMMENTS

JLH:sch

C: Clyde Kimball
Fred Prejean
Lee Caubarreaux
Corky Perret
Don Puckett
John Medica
Division Chiefs



WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

JOHN F. "JEFF" SCHNEIDER

CHAIRMAN

RT. 1, BOX 201

LORANGER, LOUISIANA 70448

504/878-6733

To: Susan Hawkins
Sub: Agenda

I believe the 120 period of days
is up on the change of the
out of State fishing licenses.
Please check and if so, add to
agenda -

Thank -
Jeff

FAX'd 1/20/94-
2:00p.m.

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: Jeff Schneider
Chairman

FAX# _____

FROM Susan Hawkins

RE: February Commission Agenda

Please approve the attached agenda for the February 3rd Commission Meeting. If any changes need to be made, let me know. Thank you.

DATE: January 20, 1994

TIME SENT _____

FOR INFORMATION CALL (504) 765- 2806

OUR FAX # (504) 765-2607

PAGES TO FOLLOW 2

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: Joe L. Herring, Secretary
SUBJECT: February Board Meeting Agenda

The next regular public board meeting as set by the Commission will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, February 3, 1994, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following will be on the agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 1994

LEE CAUBARREAU

2. Aircraft Report

CORKY PERRET

3. Notice of Intent - Modifications of Black Bass Regulations on Caney Creek Reservoir
4. Red Drum Report; Including Commission Recommendation to Legislature Regarding Game Fish Status
5. Declaration of Emergency - Closure of Offshore Territorial Waters to Shrimp
6. Declaration of Emergency - Special Pink Shrimp Season in Breton & Chandeleur Sounds

BOB DENNIE

7. Report on National Youth Hunter Education Challenge

Page 2
Commission Meeting

WYNNETTE KEES

8. Civil Restitution and Class 1 Update

WINTON VIDRINE

9. Monthly Law Enforcement Report/January

JOE L. HERRING

10. Secretary's Report to the Commission

11. Set June 1994 Meeting Date

PUBLIC COMMENTS

JLH:sch

C: Clyde Kimball
Fred Prejean
Lee Caubarreaux
Corky Perret
Don Puckett
John Medica
Division Chiefs

State of Louisiana



RECEIVED

JAN 10 94

INLAND FISHERIES
DIVISION

Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

January 7, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, and Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries

FROM: Joe L. Herring, Secretary *JLH*

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 3, 1994

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, January 18, 1994 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, February 3rd 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 3rd. 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!

JLH/sch

January 11, 1994

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Johnnie Tarver
Bennie Fontenot ✓
John Roussel
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner

Susan:

Please include the following
item on the agenda for the February
3, 1994 Commission Meeting:

Modification of Black Bass
Regulations - Caney Creek
Reservoir.

Thank you.

B. J. Fontenot, Jr.
Bennie J. Fontenot, Jr.

State of Louisiana



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

February 12, 1993

TO: Susan Hawkins
FROM: Don Puckett
SUBJ: February 1994 Commission Agenda: Red Drum Report

For the February 1994 agenda, please make the Red Drum Report agenda item read as follows:

Red Drum Report; including Commission recommendation to
Legislature regarding game fish status *

I can discuss with you a method for ensuring that this matter is properly diaried so that it is included on next year's agenda. Additionally, at that time, I will review to see if any statutory changes have been made that would obviate the need for listing this item as set out above.

* Adopt March '93 Agenda

Lavoyage
JH

REC'D

FEB 16 93

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

State of Louisiana



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

January 13, 1994

TO: Joe L. Herring, Secretary

FR: Bob Dennie, Director, Information and Education *BD*

RE: February Commission Meeting

I & E would like to be put on the agenda for the February Commission Meeting to report on the National Youth Hunter Education Challenge. Louisiana teams won first place in both Jr. and Sr. competition. Also, Sharon Sullivan, a 14 year old female competitor, was top overall in the Jr. Division.

Bud Carpenter, Statewide Hunter Education Coordinator would give a brief overview and introduce Mr. Ed Tuggle, President of the Louisiana Hunter Education Instructor Association. Mr. Tuggle will make some brief remarks about the team and the Association. There is a possibility that some team members may be present.

Maurice Cockerham will supervise coordination of all publicity for the award by a press release/newsletter and some mention of their accomplishments in the CONSERVATIONIST.

BD/lm

CC: Al Carver
Maurice Cockerham
Bob Penley
Bud Carpenter
Mr. Ed Tuggle

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ed Tuggle".

RECEIVED
JAN 18 94
LA WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

State of Louisiana



REC-11
JAN 10 94

Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

January 7, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife, and Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: Joe L. Herring, Secretary *JLH*

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 3, 1994

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, January 18, 1994 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, February 3rd 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 3rd. 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!

JLH/sch

- cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Bob Dennie ✓
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Johnnie Tarver
Bennie Fontenot
John Roussel
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner

*Yes, see attached Memo -
Bob Dennie 1-10-94*

State of Louisiana



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

January 7, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife, and Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: Joe L. Herring, Secretary *JLH*

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 3, 1994

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, January 18, 1994 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, February 3rd 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 3rd. 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!

JLH/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine ✓
Hugh Bateman
Johnnie Tarver
Bennie Fontenot
John Roussel
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner

REC'D

JAN 14 94

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Enforcement Report!
W. Vidrine
1-12-94

State of Louisiana



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

January 7, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife, and Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: Joe L. Herring, Secretary *JLH*

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 3, 1994

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, January 18, 1994 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, February 3rd 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 3rd. 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!

JLH/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Johnnie Tarver
Bennie Fontenot
John Roussel
Wynnette Kees ✓
Karl Turner

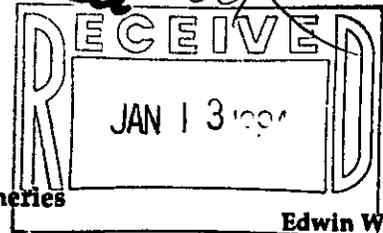
RECEIVED

JAN 11 1994

OFFICE OF
MANAGEMENT & FINANCE

Civil Restitution
W. Kees
1-12-94

State of Louisiana *ced*



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

January 7, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, and Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries

FROM: Joe L. Herring, Secretary *JLH*

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 3, 1994

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, January 18, 1994 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, February 3rd 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 3rd. 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!

JLH/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Johnnie Tarver
Bennie Fontenot
John Roussel
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner

None
ced

REC'D

JAN 26 94

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
AND FISHERIES

State of Louisiana



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

January 7, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, and Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries

FROM: Joe L. Herring, Secretary *JLH*

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 3, 1994

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, January 18, 1994 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, February 3rd 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 3rd. 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!

JLH/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Johnnie Tarver ✓
Bennie Fontenot
John Roussel
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner

no items are planned.
Johnnie Tarver
1-13-94

State of Louisiana



Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

January 7, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, and Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries

FROM: Joe L. Herring, Secretary *JLH*

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 3, 1994

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, January 18, 1994 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, February 3rd 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 3rd. 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!

JLH/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Johannie Tarver
Bennie Fontenot
John Roussel
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner

Jan 10, 1994
I have nothing to include on the agenda for to 02/03/94 Commission meeting
Karl Turner

State of Louisiana



Joe L. Herring
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504) 765-2800

Edwin W. Edwards
Governor

January 7, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-Office of Wildlife, and Assistant Secretary-Office of Fisheries

FROM: Joe L. Herring, Secretary *JLH*

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 3, 1994

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Tuesday, January 18, 1994 any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, February 3rd 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 3rd. 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!

JLH/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Bob Dennie
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Johnnie Tarver
Bennie Fontenot
John Roussel
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner