

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 3, 1998

**THOMAS M. GATTLE, JR.
CHAIRMAN**

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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

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

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808
For more information, call (504) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
DECEMBER 3, 1998

| | Page |
|---|------|
| 1. Roll Call | 1 |
| 2. Approval of Minutes of November 5, 1998 | 1 |
| 3. Presentation of 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist Award | 1 |
| 4. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association | 1 |
| 5. Rule Ratification - 1999 Turkey Hunting Regulations | 1 |
| 6. Declaration of Emergency - Special Snow Goose Only Hunting Regulations | 11 |
| 7. Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season | 14 |
| 8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November | 19 |
| 9. Division Reports | |
| a. Update Waterfowl Migration and Hunting Season Activity | 19 |
| b. Update on Deer Hunting Seasons | 20 |
| c. Farm Bill Programs, DWLF Brochure | 21 |
| d. Presentation of 1999 <u>Louisiana Conservationist</u> Calendar | 21 |
| 10. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman | 21 |
| 11. Set April 1999 Meeting Date | 22 |
| 12. Public Comments | 22 |
| 13. Adjournment | 25 |

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, December 3, 1998

Chairman Tom Gattle presiding.

Bill Busbice
Danny Babin
Tom Kelly
Norman McCall
Jerald Hanchey

Secretary James Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioner Glynn Carver was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **November 5, 1998 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Busbice and seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed with no opposition.

Presentation of 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist Award was handled by Mr. Marty Floyd. The award, presented by the Louisiana Wildlife Biologists Association, is in its 20th year. This year's recipient, Mr. Mark McElroy, has been a biologist of the Inland Fisheries Division for 15 years, stated Mr. Floyd. He has served as the catfish study leader and participated in and supervised numerous studies on the commercial and recreational harvest of catfish. Recently, Mr. McElroy has assumed the duties of coordinating the field work in the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion project and expanding the sampling program. Mr. Floyd then presented a plaque to Mr. McElroy. Chairman Gattle congratulated Mr. McElroy.

Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association began with Mr. Hugh Bateman stating a special contest is held within the Association's members. At their annual convention, the winning mount is chosen. Mr. Bateman then introduced Mr. Tommy Michelli, President of the Association. Mr. Michelli stated a different species has been chosen for this contest every year since 1988. This year's mount consisted of two squirrels, a fox squirrel and grey squirrel. Mr. Darren Flynn from Loranger had the winning mount. Mr. Bateman stated Mr. Flynn's work will be displayed in the office for everyone to see. Mr. Flynn then presented the mount to Secretary Jenkins.

Mr. Fred Kimmel handled the next agenda item, **Rule Ratification - 1999 Turkey Hunting Regulations**. He began stating the Department's recommendations for the turkey season were

presented at the August Meeting and now was the time to ratify the rule. One minor change has occurred, moving the deadline for the wildlife management area lottery applications to February 15, 1999. Mr. Kimmel then went over the significant changes that were made from prior years seasons. Area A season will start one week later than last year and will be reduced by 7 days. Area B season will start one week earlier with no reduction in days. Area C season will start one week later with no reduction in days. Bayou Macon will be added to the list of WMAs and will have a two day lottery turkey hunt. Chairman Gattle asked if the deadline to receive lottery applications was January 31 or February 15? Commissioner Busbice stated he received several letters on changes made from last year's season and asked why were the changes made. Mr. Kimmel stated five letters were received in opposition to the Area A changes. He then explained one reason was to eliminate the peaks and valleys and to stabilize the harvest; and another was to protect the areas with low population. Commissioner Busbice asked if there were two opening dates? Mr. Kimmel stated they were trying to get away from three different openings and have the dates closer together. Chairman Gattle asked about the bag limits on the WMAs.

Mr. John Barton, Jr., representing hunters from East Feliciana, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee Parishes, urged the Commission to keep the season as it is and consider having a general opening date. He then suggested looking at the last two weeks of March as being enjoyable for hunting turkeys. The decline in turkey population has not been due to the turkey hunters, stated Mr. Barton. Avian fowl pox or bad hatches could be possible reasons for the decline in the turkey population. Again he urged the Commission to keep the season like it has been with the same number of days and same opening date. Commissioner Busbice asked how could avian fowl pox be transferred from turkey to turkey? Mr. Barton stated feeding turkeys from one feeder prior to the season.

Chairman Gattle then asked Mr. Kimmel to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner McCall made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 3, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA, December 3, 1998.

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

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

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for sport hunting on both public and private lands, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department staff have jointly reviewed and considered biological information, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached rules, regulations, season dates, and bag limits affecting sport hunting of wild turkeys are hereby ratified by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

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

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

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the Notice of Intent published in the August 1998 Louisiana Register, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, at its regular monthly meeting in December hereby ratifies regulation on open hunting season dates, bag limit, methods of taking, and rules and regulation on Department operated wildlife management areas for turkeys. Authority to establish regulations are vested in the Commission by Section 115 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON SCHEDULE

Daily limit is one gobbler, three gobblers per season. Still hunting only. Use of dogs, baiting, electronic calling devices and live decoys is illegal. Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns, including muzzleloading shotguns, using shot not larger than #2 lead or BB steel shot, and bow and arrow but by no other means. Shooting turkeys from a moving or stationary vehicle is prohibited. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells prohibited.

No person shall hunt, trap or take turkeys by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area. Baiting means placing, exposing, depositing or scattering of corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take turkeys.

A baited area is any area where corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed capable of luring, attracting or enticing turkeys is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Such areas remain baited areas for 15 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

Wildlife agents are authorized to close such baited areas and to place signs in the immediate vicinity designating closed zones and dates of closure.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

It is unlawful to take from the wild or possess in captivity any live wild turkeys or their eggs. No pen raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state.

All licensed turkey hunters are required to have a Turkey Stamp in their possession while turkey hunting in addition to basic and big game licenses.

STATEWIDE TURKEY HUNTING AREAS

Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Open Only in the Following Areas

Area A

March 27-April 25

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Livingston, Natchitoches (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Rapides (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

Allen: North of La. 26 from DeRidder to the junction of La. 104 and north of La. 104.

Avoyelles: That portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River northward from Simmesport, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by La. 452 from Brouillette to La. 1 eastward to Simmesport, EXCEPT that portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Beauregard: North of La. 26 east of DeRidder, west of Hwy. 171 from the junction of Hwy. 26 south to Calcasieu Parish.

Calcasieu: West of U.S. 171 north of I-10 and north of I-10 from the junction of U.S. 171 to Texas state line.

Caldwell: West of Ouachita River southward to Catahoula Parish line, east and north of La. 126 and south and west of La. 127.

Catahoula: West of Ouachita River southward to La. 559 at Duty Ferry, north of La. 559 to La. 124, south and west of La. 124 from Duty Ferry to La. 8 at Harrisonburg and north of La. 8 to La. 126, north and east of La. 126. ALSO that portion lying east of La. 15.

Concordia: That portion east of Hwy. 15 and west of Hwy. 65 from its juncture with Hwy. 15 at Clayton.

Evangeline: North and west of La. 115, north of La. 106 from St. Landry to La. 13, west of La. 13 from Pine Prairie to Mamou and north of La. 104 west of Mamou.

Franklin: That portion lying east of Hwy. 17 and east of Hwy. 15 from its juncture with Hwy. 17 at Winnsboro.

Iberville: West of La. Hwy. 1. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

LaSalle: All lands lying west of La. 127 from the Caldwell Parish line to the junction of La. 124; south of La. 124 to the junction of La. 124 and 126; west of La. 126 to the junction with La. 503; north of La. 503 to Summerville; west of La. 127 from Summerville to Little River. Also that portion of land east of La. 126 from the Caldwell Parish line to the Catahoula Parish line.

Madison: That portion lying west of U.S. Hwy. 65 and south of U.S. Hwy. 80.

Pointe Coupee: All except that portion bounded on the west by La. 77 and La. 10, northward from U.S. 190 to La. 1 at Morganza, on the north and east by La. 1 to its junction with La. 78 and by La. 78 from Parlange to U.S. 190. Further EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Richland: That portion south of U.S. Hwy. 80 and east of Hwy. 17.

Sabine: That portion north of Hwy. 6 from Toledo Bend Lake to Many; east of Hwy. 171 from Many to the Vernon Parish line.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the north by U.S. 190, west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee. ALSO that portion of the parish bounded on the north by La. 10 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to Burton's Lake, on the east by Burton's Lake, on the south by Petite Prairie Bayou to its junction with the old O.G. Railroad right-of-way then by the O.G.R.R. right-of-way westward to U.S. 71 and on the west by the West Atchafalaya Guide Levee to its junction with La. 10, EXCEPT the Indian Bayou tract owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Upper St. Martin: All within the Atchafalaya Basin. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Tensas: That portion west of Hwy. 65 from the Concordia Parish line to its juncture with Hwy. 128, north of La. 128 to St. Joseph; west and north of La. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry. Also all lands lying east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Vernon: That portion east of Hwy. 171 from the Sabine Parish line to the junction of Hwy. 111, south of Hwy. 111 westward to Hwy. 392, and south of Hwy. 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for season dates.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of the National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve season dates.

Area B
April 3-April 18

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster, Including Caney Ranger District of Kisatchie National Forest.

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Caddo: That portion north of La. 2 from the Texas state line to U.S. 71, east of U.S. 71 from La. 2 to I-20, south of I-20 from U.S. 71 to U.S. 171, and east of U.S. 171 to the DeSoto Parish line.

DeSoto: That portion east of U.S. 171 from the Caddo Parish line to U.S. 84 and south of U.S. 84.

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to La. 144, west of La. 144 to La. 34, west of La. 34 to Chatham, north and west of La. 4 from Chatham to Weston, north and west of La. 505 from Weston to Wyatt, west of U.S. 167 from Wyatt to Winn Parish line.

Ouachita: East of La. 143 from Union Parish line to Bayou Darbonne, north of Bayou Darbonne to the Ouachita River, west of the Ouachita River from the mouth of Bayou Darbonne northward to the Union Parish line.

Morehouse: West of U.S. 165 from the Arkansas line to Bonita, north and west of La. 140 to junction of La. 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), west of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, north of U.S. 165 from Bastrop to Ouachita Parish line.

Union: West of La. 15 from Ouachita Parish line to La. 33 west of Farmerville, north of La. 33 to La. 2 at Farmerville, north and east of La. 2 to La. 143 at Crossroads, east of La. 143 to the Ouachita Parish line.

Area C
March 27-April 4

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

Avoyelles: That portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Concordia: North and east of Sugar Mill Chute (Concordia Parish) from the state line westward to Red River, east of Red River northward to Cocodrie Bayou, east of Cocodrie Bayou northward to U.S. Hwy. 84, south of U.S. Hwy. 84 eastward to La. Hwy. 15 (Ferriday), east of La. Hwy. 15 northward to U.S. Hwy. 65 (Clayton), east of U.S. Hwy. 65 northward to Tensas Parish line.

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the south by La. 10, on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, on the east by La. 105, and on the north by the Avoyelles Parish line.

Tensas: East and south of U.S. Hwy. 65 from Concordia Parish line to Hwy. 128, south of Hwy. 128 to St. Joseph, east and south of La. Hwy. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry.

1999 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS GENERAL

The following rules and regulations concerning management, protection and harvest of wildlife have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with the authority provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Section 109 of Title 56. Failure to comply with these regulations will subject the individual to citation and/or expulsion from the management area.

Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed are open to turkey hunting.

All trails and roads designated as ATV Only shall be closed to ATVs from March 1 through September 15. ATV off-road or trail travel is prohibited. Walk-in hunting only (bicycles permitted), unless opened by sign on trail.

Bag limits on WMAs are part of the season bag limit. The bag limit for turkeys on Wildlife Management Areas is one per area, not to exceed two per season for all WMAs. The bag limit for turkeys is one gobbler per day and three gobblers per season including those taken on WMAs.

PERMITS

Self-Clearing Permits: All turkey hunts, including lottery hunts, are self-clearing and all hunters must check in daily by picking up a permit from a self-clearing station. Upon completion

of each daily hunt, the hunter must check out by completing the hunter report portion of the permit and depositing it in the check-out box at a self-clearing station before exiting the WMA.

Lottery Hunts: Bayou Macon, Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is February 15, 1999. Application fee of \$5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any district office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1 - P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055; 318/371-3050]; [District 2 - 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203; 318/343-4044]; [District 3 - 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360; 318/487-5885]; [District 4 - P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334; 318/757-4571]; [District 5 - 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, 70601; 318/491-2575]; [District 6 - 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, 70570; 318/948-0255]; [District 7 - P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898; 504/765-2360].

Wildlife Management Turkey Hunting Schedule*

| WMA | Season Dates | Permit Requirements | Lottery Dates** |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Bayou Macon | April 3-April 4 | Self-clearing | April 3-4 |
| Bens Creek† | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Big Lake | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Bodcau | April 3-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Boeuf | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Boise Vernon | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Camp Beauregard | March 27-April 10 | Self-clearing | None |
| Dewey Wills | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 March 29-31 |
| Fort Polk | March 27-April 25 | Self-clearing | None |
| Georgia-Pacific | April 3-April 11 | Self-clearing | April 3-4 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------|---|
| Grassy Lake | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Jackson-Bienville | April 3-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Little River | March 27-April 10 | Self-clearing | None |
| Loggy Bayou | April 10-April 11 April 17-April 18 | Self-clearing | April 10-11 April 17-18 |
| Pearl River | March 27-April 11 | Self-clearing | None |
| Peason Ridge | March 27-April 25 | Self-clearing | None |
| Pomme de Terre | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Red River | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Sabine | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 |
| Sandy Hollow† | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Sherburne | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 March 29-31 |
| Sicily Island | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11 |
| Three Rivers | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Tunica Hills | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11 |

*Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed have a turkey hunting season. All other areas are CLOSED. For seasons on smaller lands managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, contact the local district office.

** The deadline for receiving applications for all turkey Lottery Hunts on WMAs is February 15, 1999.

† No turkey hunting within 100 yards of food plots identified by two yellow paint rings around the nearest tree.

Kisatchie National Forest Turkey Hunting Schedule: Caney Ranger District, April 3-18; Winn Ranger District closed except Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve, March 27-April 18; all other Kisatchie National Forest Districts, March 27-April 18.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: (December 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Declaration of Emergency - Special Snow Goose Only Hunting Regulations was handled by Mr. Robert Helm. The issues on waterfowl do not seem to want to go away this year, began Mr. Helm. Action is being proposed to address the overpopulation of snow geese. Reminding the Commission of the extent of the problem, the fall flight estimate for snow geese is around 10 million for this year's migration. Reasons for the abundant numbers of snow geese were then explained by Mr. Helm. Two proposed rules have been published in the Federal Register and are being offered in 18 states within the Central and Mississippi Flyways. The public comment period will end on January 8, 1999 and it is hoped a final rule would be published by February 1, 1999. The first proposed option will allow unplugged shotguns and electronic calling devices during the existing snow goose only season, February 1 - February 21. The second option, called the Conservation Order, will allow unplugged shotguns, electronic calls, no daily bag or possession limits and extending the shooting hours. Also the Conservation Order would extend the season to March 14 instead of February 21. Mr. Helm felt the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be challenged to have the final rule available by February 1, 1999. Also legal action is being suggested by anti-hunting groups on both of the options. If legal action is taken on the Conservation Order, the use of electronic calls and unplugged guns could begin on February 1, 1999. Then on February 6, 1999, if no legal action takes place and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approves it, the Conservation Order will take effect. Mr. Helm stated the Declaration of Emergency presents both options and is contingent upon actions by the federal government and/or against the federal government.

Commissioner Busbice asked if both the unplugged shotguns and electronic calls had to be taken? Mr. Helm stated no, the rules could be more restrictive. Then Commissioner Busbice asked if from an enforcement standpoint would unplugged shotguns present a problem? Col. Winton Vidrine stated not for this season. Lt. Col. Charlie Clark stated there is a device that can be put on a shotgun that would add to the number of shells that can be loaded into a gun. Chairman Gattle asked if these options are an official rule? Mr. Helm explained the process the federal government goes through for proposed rules. Commissioner Babin asked if the Commission allows the use of electronic calls and unplugged guns from February 1 through February 6 and then finds out the Conservation Order is not promulgated, would the Department be in violation of some law? Mr. Helm answered no. Then he stated action taken by the Commission may result in no action because of the federal concerns.

Commissioner Babin then asked if the Declaration of Emergency was not approved, the federal government could say we will allow these options, but the State Commission chose not to allow them. Mr. Helm advised, only 2 million snow geese will be taken without these extra options, however, 5 million will be taken if these options are adopted. Commissioner McCall asked when will the largest population of geese be in the State? Mr. Helm stated the birds are here now. He then added that the plans should be available each year until the goose population falls. Commissioner Babin asked if a problem is created if shotgun extensions is not addressed? Lt. Col. Clark stated there is one extender that can be used on shotguns. Chairman Gattle stated Commissioner Babin was suggesting the Declaration of Emergency should address the limits and capability of the shotguns. Mr. Helm stated the proposed rule only addresses unplugged guns and the Commission could be more restrictive. Secretary Jenkins felt the whole exercise is to kill as many geese as possible and the unplugged guns will not be a big problem. Commissioner Babin stated everyone is trying to bring resource down to reasonable limits, but felt there is a difference between unplugged guns and the act of slaughtering geese. Commissioner Busbice stated the Declaration of Emergency could be passed as it is this year; and then if an enforcement problem comes about, modify the rule next year. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Helm to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. Commissioner Babin made a substitute motion to include the following: to limit the unplugged shotgun portion to the manufacturer's capacity. There was no second to the substitute motion. The original motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

December 3, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA, December 3, 1998.

WHEREAS, snow goose populations have increased to record high levels that are now having a negative impact on their breeding range in the Arctic, and

WHEREAS, efforts are being made throughout North America to increase the harvest of snow geese, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently developing rules that will enhance the opportunity to harvest snow geese, and

WHEREAS, these rules are currently being considered through the Federal Register process and will not be finalized until February 1, 1999, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are in agreement that steps need to be taken to reduce the continental population of snow geese to minimize habitat damage on the breeding grounds, and

WHEREAS, significant numbers of snow geese winter in Louisiana and maximum harvest of snow geese may alleviate some of the habitat damage in the Arctic breeding grounds, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission feels compelled to alert the public to changes that will impact their sport, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the attached Declaration of Emergency that will legalize electronic calls and allow the use of shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Louisiana will also participate in the "Conservation Order" developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that is designed to reduce snow goose populations by removing the daily and possession limits and increasing shooting hours to include one-half hour after sunset in addition to the previous items, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that implementation of this Declaration of Emergency is predicated on the passage of rules currently being developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Should the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fail to pass the proposed rules then this Declaration of Emergency will not be implemented.

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

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

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provision of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopt the following emergency rule pending final action by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on special regulations concerning the taking of snow geese. It is anticipated that USFWS final rules should be promulgated by February 1, 1999.

Effective February 1, 1999, the use of electronic calls and unplugged guns capable of holding more than 3 shells will be legal for taking of snow geese. These regulations will be in effect until February 21, 1999 or until superseded by the USFWS's "Conservation Order".

Pending approval by the USFWS, Louisiana will participate in the "Conservation Order" for the reduction of snow goose populations effective February 6, 1999. Under the "Conservation Order", the following rules shall be in effect for the taking of snow geese February 6, 1999 through March 14, 1999.

1. The use of electronic calls shall be legal for taking snow geese.
2. Unplugged shotguns holding more than 3 shells will be legal.
3. There will be no daily or possession limits on numbers of geese taken.
4. Shooting hours will be one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has notified the States that they are in the process of developing a Rule with these stipulations in an attempt to alleviate problems associated with overabundant snow goose populations. This Declaration of Emergency is being promulgated now in order to alert the public of the pending action and allow Louisiana the opportunity to assist with management regimes designed to stem the continued expansion of snow goose populations.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

The Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season is the result of action taken by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, stated Mr. Harry Blanchet. The meeting, held in November, addressed the harvest of red snapper by recreational and commercial fishermen. The federal government has not taken any action on the proposed rule, but the recreational fishery is set to re-open January 1, 1999. The federal government's proposed rule is

to delay opening the season until March 1, 1999. Mr. Blanchet then stated there was a lot of flexibility in the Resolution that will allow the Secretary to adjust the dates according to the rule passed by the National Marine Fisheries Service for federal waters. The Declaration of Emergency will set the opening date for recreational red snapper season as March 1, 1999; gives the Secretary authority to close the season when the quota was projected to be met; gives the Secretary authority to re-open and close the season if information is received the quota was not met. Chairman Gattle asked why is the Gulf Council making this recommendation? Mr. Blanchet stated the major concern was to allow the recreational season to extend into September and October for fishing tournaments that may occur at that time. Chairman Gattle asked if there is better fishing during the summer and fall rather than January or February? Mr. Blanchet answered there is more activity in the summer and fall. Chairman Gattle then asked what is the total allowable catch (TAC) figure for 1999? Mr. Blanchet stated the proposed TAC is 9.12 million pounds, which is the same as last year. Commissioner Babin mentioned the recreational bag limit would be reduced to 4 from 5, set a zero bag limit for captains and crew, and reduce the size limit from 15 inches to 14 inches for both commercial and recreational if National Marine Fisheries Service acts upon these issues. Mr. Blanchet noted the 4 fish bag limit was already in effect, but the other issues would have to be addressed. Chairman Gattle asked if the Commission was giving authority to the Secretary to act upon a rule adopted by National Marine Fisheries Service? Mr. Blanchet answered yes. Mr. John Roussel explained why the item was placed on the agenda for discussion and action. He then added they hope to have a final decision by the January Commission Meeting.

Chairman Gattle asked if there were any public comments on the subject? Mr. Blanchet stated he received one letter from a sugar cane farmer that is also a winter time fisherman and he stated, to move the opening would cut him out of the fishery. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Blanchet to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner McCall seconded the motion. Chairman Gattle asked if the Commission was giving authority to the Secretary to act on an additional season should one be approved? Mr. Blanchet stated yes. Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

1999 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON REGULATION

December 1998

- WHEREAS,** the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council), and
- WHEREAS,** regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore, and
- WHEREAS,** NMFS has put into place a regulatory amendment under the framework procedure of the reef fish fishery management plan that establishes a recreational red snapper quota equal to the recreational allocation, and authorizes the closure of the fishery for the remainder of the fishing year (= calendar year) in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico when the quota is reached or is projected to be reached, and
- WHEREAS,** the 1999 recreational quota for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico was set at 4.47 million pounds, and
- WHEREAS,** NMFS has closed the recreational fishing season for red snapper effective 12:01 a.m., September 30, 1998 through December 31, 1998 by reducing the bag limit to zero in the EEZ off of Louisiana for that time period, and
- WHEREAS,** the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has enacted a closure in Louisiana state waters consistent with the EEZ closure, and
- WHEREAS,** the Gulf Council has recommended to NMFS that the 1999 recreational red snapper season should begin on March 1, 1999 rather than on January 1 as previously established, and
- WHEREAS,** it is unlikely that NMFS will complete review of this and related proposals, and publish final rules for Federal waters prior to the December 1998 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting, and
- WHEREAS,** any regulations related to this subject should be in place prior to January 1 if possible so that anglers would have adequate time to become informed of these regulations, and
- WHEREAS,** consistent regulations within both Federal and State jurisdictions are preferable as they assist in enforcement of fishery rules, and

WHEREAS, in order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 1999 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted, and

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a Declaration of Emergency to change the opening date for the 1999 recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters from January 1, 1999 until March 1, 1999, is attached to and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to evaluate the rules established by NMFS for the Federal waters offshore of Louisiana, and if necessary, to modify the opening date of the 1999 recreational red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters until the opening of that season in adjacent Federal waters, if he is informed that National Marine Fisheries Service modified the opening date for the 1999 recreational season, and

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open an additional recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters if he is later informed that the National Marine Fisheries Service has opened an additional recreational season and to close such season when he is informed that the recreational red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled, and

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

promulgate and effectuate this emergency rule, including but not limited to, the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

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

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

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council). Regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore. Rules were recently established by NMFS to close recreational harvest season in the EEZ off of Louisiana effective 12:01 a.m., September 30, 1998 through December 31, 1998 by reducing the bag limit to zero, and NMFS requested that consistent regulations be established in Louisiana waters. At the November meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, NMFS was requested by the Council to re-set the opening date of the 1999 recreational red snapper season to March 1, 1999. NMFS typically requests consistent regulations in order to enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

In order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 1999 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted.

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

The season for the recreational fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will remain closed until 12:01 a. m., March 1, 1999 by reducing the bag limit to zero for that time period.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

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

Region I - Minden - 132 citations.
Region II - Monroe - 164 citations.
Region III - Alexandria - 134 citations.
Region IV - Ferriday - 216 citations.
Region V - Lake Charles - 205 citations.
Region VI - Opelousas - 118 citations.
Region VII - Baton Rouge - 143 citations.
Region VIII - New Orleans - 204 citations.
Region IX - Thibodaux - 148 citations.
Statewide Strike Force - 65 citations.
Seafood Investigation Unit - 56 citations.
Oyster Strike Force - 59 citations.
SWEP - 10 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of November was 1,464.

The aviation report for November 1998 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 40.1 hours for enforcement and 25.3 hours for other divisions.

Commissioner Busbice asked, if a person's vehicle could be confiscated if they are charged with a serious violation? Major LaCaze stated they do not normally confiscate vehicles at the time of arrest because of the storage problem. Then Commissioner Busbice asked if there was a reason for more violations occurring on WMAs and refuges? Finally Commissioner Busbice asked if the stand removal every evening was causing any problems? Chairman Gattle asked if any new information has been received on the hunter killed in Union Parish?

Chairman Gattle then asked for the **Division Reports**, beginning with an **Update Waterfowl Migration and Hunting Season Activity**. Mr. Hugh Bateman introduced Mr. Randy Myers, the North American Coordinator and stated he would present the report. The first half of the season was expected to be high with a fall flight index of

84 million ducks, began Mr. Myers. Louisiana has a 60 day, 6 duck limit again this year and it represents one of the most liberal since 1984. Waterfowl hunter numbers have also increased and are at an all time high since the late 1970's. Pre-season aerial survey flights indicated 1.9 million birds were in the State, stated Mr. Myers. These numbers were below the 5-year average and significantly down from last year. Dry conditions and warm weather have been occurring and the high marsh levels have returned to near normal. After a cold front passed through the state on November 11, 1998, hunters have noticed a marked increase in the number of waterfowl coming into the State. An e-mail message from a waterfowl biologist in Saskatchewan explaining the delay in migration was read by Mr. Myers. The first split of the west zone opened November 7, 1998 and closed November 29; the east zone dates are November 14, 1998 until December 6, 1998. Success on the WMAs ranged from approximately 3 ducks to 5 ducks per hunter. The hunting success in the southwest rice fields was down on opening weekend, but has increased since the influx of birds. Goose hunting remained good especially for specklebellies. The southwest marshes produced spotty success for the opening weekend. Sabine National Wildlife Refuge's success was down with 1,000 fewer birds taken this year as compared to last year. The marshes of St. Mary and Terrebonne Parishes and the Atchafalaya Delta were doing well. Overall success rate for the west zone for the first split was considered spotty. The southeast marshes in the east zone have been reporting good to excellent hunting, stated Mr. Myers. The Mississippi River Delta marshes have been below average due to Hurricane George. The northeast parishes of the State are experiencing very dry conditions with no backwater flooding occurring. Hunting success for ducks and geese has been good. If more winterlike weather and normal rainfall occurs, the second split should be better for most of the state. The second split opens for both zones December 12, 1998 and closes January 17, 1999, concluded Mr. Myers. Commissioner Babin stated he has received a number of calls on the Commission not extending the season date to January 30. He then requested the news media mention what would have to be given up in order to receive the January 30 extension.

Mr. Dave Moreland provided an Update on Deer Hunting Seasons. He began stating deer hunting has been slow. Some of the reasons for this included the warm temperatures and the native habitat was still green and growing. Areas 2 and 3 still has a month left for hunting. Areas 1 and 6 season dates will go into January and it is hoped there may be a change in the weather patterns. The Wildlife Division conducted the managed deer hunts over the Thanksgiving weekend. Data from 21 WMAs during the weekend provided either sex hunting for over 16,000 hunters and a harvest of 2,610 deer.

Also Mr. Moreland announced a copy of the first DMAP Newsletter was included in the packets. Included in the Newsletter was a deer baiting survey. Thus far 218 responses have been received, 155 indicated they do bait and 144 will not support a ban

on hunting deer over bait. A complete report will be provided once all the data is compiled. The staff is continuing to test corn from feeders in the field and further information will be provided. Chairman Gattle asked what was expected from the baiting survey? Mr. Moreland stated 1300 surveys were mailed and it is hoped to receive about 1000 responses. Commissioner Busbice asked what other grains are used for baiting? Mr. Moreland stated the primary grains are corn or soybean.

Mr. Hugh Bateman thanked Mr. Moreland and Mr. Larry Savage for working on the Newsletter and felt the information would be useful and helpful to the public. He then stated people are making common careless mistakes with firearms and these are being referred to as hunting accidents. One additional hunting accident occurred over the Thanksgiving weekend where a gentleman fell from a tree stand and passed away from a severe head injury. Accidents from climbing tree stands is becoming as big a problem as gun safety, stated Mr. Bateman. He then noted future regulations may be addressed to tighten up this incident. Chairman Gattle requested that future copies of the DMAP Newsletter be sent to each Commission Member.

The **Farm Bill Programs, DWLF Brochure** was handled by Mr. Mike Olinde. The Upland Game Section summarized all the farm bill programs into one leaflet so the public can find out easily where to apply for farm programs. The 1996 bill has been the most environmental friendly farm bill ever passed, stated Mr. Olinde. Potential impacts of these programs on farm wildlife in Louisiana alone was \$20.5 million.

The last division report, **Presentation of 1999 Louisiana Conservationist Calendar** was handled by Ms. Marianne Burke. A new approach has been taken in promoting and marketing the Calendar. It is being presented as a package deal with the Department's Seafood and Wild Game Cookbook. The recipes in the Calendar are from Louisiana chef's and consists of Louisiana seafood and game. The package deal is being released a month early for possible Christmas presents. Commissioner Busbice stated the staff does a great job with the Magazine. Ms. Burke stated the Department plans to use this program for promoting nutria meat. Commissioner McCall asked where did the recipes come from? Ms. Burke stated people from across the state submitted recipes during a recipe collection period, then the recipes were tried by professional nutritionist and cooks.

Chairman Gattle began the next item, **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman** by stating he has enjoyed serving as Chairman and wished well the new Chairman. He then stated the procedure would be conducted with voice vote and a show of hands. Chairman nominations would be taken first. Mr. Mike Landrum stated the Commission should adopt the procedures to be used in the Election. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the procedures which would include voice vote and a show of hands. Commissioner McCall

seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Commissioner McCall nominated Commissioner Busbice for Chairman and it was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. Hearing no other nominations, Chairman Gattle closed the nominations. The Commission unanimously voted for Bill Busbice for Chairman.

Chairman Busbice thanked the Commission for their vote of confidence. He then commended Commissioner Gattle on the outstanding job he did as Chairman and the way he handled the day to day problems. Nominations for Vice-Chairman were then asked for. Commissioner Hanchey nominated Commissioner Gattle for Vice-Chairman and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. There being no other nominations, the Commission unanimously voted for Tom Gattle as Vice-Chairman.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners agreed to hold the **April 1999 Meeting** on Thursday, April 1, 1999 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Busbice then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mr. Bob Urann, representing former Commission Member Captain Pete Vujnovich, stated he received a call from Captain Vujnovich complaining that his oyster harvest was way off and it was because drum fish were eating his oysters. He learned there was a Resolution passed by the Legislature urging the Commission to look into predation problems caused by drum fish. Mr. Urann stated Captain Vujnovich has prepared a video to show the before and after effects of drum fish in areas where oysters are being grown. Captain Vujnovich stated he has been an oyster fisherman since he was 12 years old. The drum fishery was a problem 50 to 60 years ago also, but there were ways to solve the problem such as building fences to keep the drum fish out. Today, the Barataria Bay area has been devastated and the drum fish are coming in. Captain Vujnovich felt the problem occurs when the seed oysters are pumped into the water and the pumps shine on the oysters attracting the drum fish. The oysters on the east side of the River have a thin shell and the drum fish love to eat them. A video on oyster farming was shown and narrated by Captain Vujnovich. He stated he was there to ask for help from the State.

Mr. Urann stated he spoke with Mr. Roussel and it was indicated the Commission was working on the problem. He then commented Captain Vujnovich has volunteered his beds and his sons to help work on the problem. Chairman Busbice asked Mr. Roussel if he has looked at the situation. Mr. Roussel stated the Legislature did pass a Resolution urging and requesting the Department to look at the problem. The Department developed and sent out a mail survey to all oyster leaseholders to determine and document what the problem was, the extent of the problem and to obtain information on what direction the Department could take. The results are just coming in and have not been compiled enough to draw good conclusions. But preliminary review suggested there are

strategies that can be developed that will help to minimize the problem. Mr. Roussel stated they would look at the survey in more detail and try to develop recommendations for the oyster industry. Chairman Busbice stated this was still in the preliminary stage and there was a need to understand it better. He thought it may take legislative action to get the funding to do anything with the problem. Mr. Urann stated they wanted the opportunity to do a show and tell and they would present the problem to the Legislature as well. Commissioner McCall asked how big is the problem area? Mr. Roussel explained Captain Vujnovich's farming operations. Commissioner McCall then asked if the problem was more with the farming areas rather than the public grounds? Mr. Roussel answered yes.

Chairman Busbice asked if there was a new aquatic vegetation in Toledo Bend? Mr. Roussel stated the plant is called Giant Salvinia. The common form of Salvinia has been in the State for a large number of years and has recently become a significant problem in the southern areas. The Giant Salvinia in Toledo Bend is related to the common form, but presents a lot more problems. The Giant Salvinia has the ability to explode in numbers in open water areas. Staff met recently with other southeastern state aquatic plant personnel to develop a regionwide strategy to eradicate the Giant Salvinia. Chairman Busbice stated he read it could spread so rapidly and could cover miles of waterbody very quickly. Then he asked if the Legislature has been notified about this new vegetation problem? Mr. Roussel stated the Legislature has not been notified yet since it was just recently documented.

Mr. Walter Forshla stated he wanted to talk about the Biloxi WMA to see if mooring areas could be designated. Commissioner Babin stated he spoke to Mr. Forshla and asked him to come present his problem. Mr. Forshla stated he has hunted Biloxi WMA for the last 25 years, and up until last season when duck hunters were involved in a problem with commercial fishermen, the Department is not allowing hunters to stay overnight like in years past. Chairman Busbice asked Mr. Forshla if Enforcement Agents asked them to move? Mr. Forshla answered yes, to keep them from mooring overnight.

Mr. Tom McConnell stated the problem is the law states you must designate mooring areas and no area has been developed in the Biloxi WMA. He then asked the Commission to temporarily suspend the enforcement of the mooring regulation until such time as these areas can be designated. He also added the regulation states no camping on the WMA and the agents are interpreting that to include boats that are mooring.

Mr. Phil Bowman stated the Department has a lease with Biloxi Corporation for the WMA. There are regulations that allows camping only in designated areas and there are no areas designated on Biloxi WMA. The procedures to be followed to change the

regulations can not be done in a timely manner for this particular hunting season. Mr. Bowman then stated the Commission and Department will look at this suggestion when the hunting regulation process begins in January or February. Commissioner Babin stated he was contacted by hunters for that area and suggested they contact Mr. Bowman and his staff. He then stated this regulation has been on the books for years and has not been enforced until this year possibly due to charterboats coming in from Mississippi. He then asked for someone to explain why this regulation is being enforced now? Col. Winton Vidrine stated these regulations have been enforced in the past, but not as stringent. They received numerous complaints from fishermen in the area. He then stated Lt. Col. Charlie Clark would show slides that explains some of the problems occurring. The major problem is littering. Lt. Col. Clark began the slide presentation stating the problem began 2 months ago. One of the major access points is Bayou Biloxi and there have been times when 100 foot boats with piggyback boats attached were in Bayou Biloxi blocking navigation. When an agent went to investigate the situation, there were 17 large boats in the area and the area is not set up to prevent a safety hazard. Lt. Col. Clark stated this was not a issue of resident versus non-resident, they had to retreat to what the law said. He then explained the litter problem, putting platforms down and the preemption of space. There were not that many problems with the smaller boats in the area until 2 years ago. This year's problem is due to Hurricane George destroying the fishing in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds and the charterboats have moved into the interior marsh. There are many canals in the area that are not on the WMA that they have access to and can spend the night, stated Lt. Col. Clark. Chairman Busbice agreed that you have to retreat to the law especially when littering and damaging the marsh occurs. He then wondered what Biloxi Corporation was saying. Lt. Col. Clark stated the Department is committed to cleaning the area and finding solutions to the problems. Commissioner McCall asked where were the charterboats coming from? Lt. Col. Clark stated they were coming from the Mississippi Gulf Coast area. Commissioner Gattle stated this was a complex issue that could not be resolved immediately. He then thought maybe in the future there could be designated areas with controls. Commissioner Babin agreed with adhering to the law, but it should have been addressed some years ago. He also felt this was another reason the State should regulate the charter industry.

Mr. Gary Clark, representing the Louisiana Bass Federation, stated Louisiana has captured 2 major fishing tournaments. The Bass Masters Classic will be held in New Orleans in August 1999 and in May the Wrangler Anglers National Championship will be held. He then asked the Commission if they would be interested in holding their Meeting in Shreveport and taking part in the Wrangler Anglers Championship. If available, more information will be provided at the January Commission Meeting.

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



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, December 3, 1998

Chairman Tom Gattle presiding.

Bill Busbice
Danny Babin
Tom Kelly
Norman McCall
Jerald Hanchey

Secretary James Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioner Glynn Carver was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Gattle called for a motion for approval of the **November 5, 1998 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Busbice and seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. The motion passed with no opposition.

Presentation of 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist Award was handled by Mr. Marty Floyd. The award, presented by the Louisiana Wildlife Biologists Association, is in its 20th year. This year's recipient, Mr. Mark McElroy, has been a biologist of the Inland Fisheries Division for 15 years, stated Mr. Floyd. He has served as the catfish study leader and participated in and supervised numerous studies on the commercial and recreational harvest of catfish. Recently, Mr. McElroy has assumed the duties of coordinating the field work in the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion project and expanding the sampling program. Mr. Floyd then presented a plaque to Mr. McElroy. Chairman Gattle congratulated Mr. McElroy.

Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association began with Mr. Hugh Bateman stating a special contest is held within the Association's members. At their annual convention, the winning mount is chosen. Mr. Bateman then introduced Mr. Tommy Michelli, President of the Association. Mr. Michelli stated a different species has been chosen for this contest every year since 1988. This year's mount consisted of two squirrels, a fox and grey squirrel. Mr. Darren Flynn from Loranger had the winning mount. Mr. Bateman stated Mr. Flynn's work will be displayed in the office for everyone to see. Mr. Flynn then presented the mount to Secretary Jenkins.

Mr. Fred Kimmel handled the next agenda item, **Rule Ratification - 1999 Turkey Hunting Regulations**. He began stating the Department's recommendations for the turkey season were

duff 12-23-98

*Corrections made
12/28/98 - sch*

presented at the August Meeting and now was the time to ratify the rule. One minor change has occurred, moving the deadline for the wildlife management area lottery applications to February 15, 1999. Mr. Kimmel then went over the significant changes that were made from prior years seasons. Area A season will start one week later than last year and will be reduced by 7 days. Area B season will start one week earlier with no reduction in days. Area C season will start one week later with no reduction in days. Bayou Macon will be added to the list of WMAs and will have a two day lottery turkey hunt. Chairman Gattle asked if the deadline to receive lottery applications was January 31 or February 15? Commissioner Busbice stated he received several letters on changes made from last year's season and asked why were the changes made. Mr. Kimmel stated five letters were received in opposition to the Area A changes. He then explained one reason was to eliminate the peaks and valleys and to stabilize the harvest; and another was to protect the areas with low population. Commissioner Busbice asked if there were two opening dates? Mr. Kimmel stated they were trying to get away from three different openings and have the dates closer together. Chairman Gattle asked about the bag limits on the WMAs.

Mr. John Barton, Jr., representing hunters from East Feliciana, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee Parishes, urged the Commission to keep the season as it is and consider having a general opening date. He then suggested looking at the last two weeks of March as being enjoyable for hunting turkeys. The decline in turkey population has not been due to the turkey hunters, stated Mr. Barton. Avian fowl pox or bad hatches could be possible reasons for the decline in the turkey population. Again he urged the Commission to keep the season like it has been with the same number of days and same opening date. Commissioner Busbice asked how could avian fowl pox be transferred from turkey to turkey? Mr. Barton stated feeding turkeys from one feeder prior to the season.

Chairman Gattle then asked Mr. Kimmel to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner McCall made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 3, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA, December 3, 1998.

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

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

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for sport hunting on both public and private lands, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department staff have jointly reviewed and considered biological information, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached rules, regulations, season dates, and bag limits affecting sport hunting of wild turkeys are hereby ratified by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

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

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

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the Notice of Intent published in the August 1998 Louisiana Register, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, at its regular monthly meeting in December hereby ratifies regulation on open hunting season dates, bag limit, methods of taking, and rules and regulation on Department operated wildlife management areas for turkeys. Authority to establish regulations are vested in the Commission by Section 115 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON SCHEDULE

Daily limit is one gobbler, three gobblers per season. Still hunting only. Use of dogs, baiting, electronic calling devices and live decoys is illegal. Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns, including muzzleloading shotguns, using shot not larger than #2 lead or BB steel shot, and bow and arrow but by no other means. Shooting turkeys from a moving or stationary vehicle is prohibited. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells prohibited.

No person shall hunt, trap or take turkeys by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area. Baiting means placing, exposing, depositing or scattering of corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take turkeys.

A baited area is any area where corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed capable of luring, attracting or enticing turkeys is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Such areas remain baited areas for 15 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

Wildlife agents are authorized to close such baited areas and to place signs in the immediate vicinity designating closed zones and dates of closure.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

It is unlawful to take from the wild or possess in captivity any live wild turkeys or their eggs. No pen raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state.

All licensed turkey hunters are required to have a Turkey Stamp in their possession while turkey hunting in addition to basic and big game licenses.

STATEWIDE TURKEY HUNTING AREAS

Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Open Only in the Following Areas

Area A
March 27-April 25

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Livingston, Natchitoches (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Rapides (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

Allen: North of La. 26 from DeRidder to the junction of La. 104 and north of La. 104.

Avoyelles: That portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River northward from Simmesport, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by La. 452 from Brouillette to La. 1 eastward to Simmesport, EXCEPT that portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Beauregard: North of La. 26 east of DeRidder, west of Hwy. 171 from the junction of Hwy. 26 south to Calcasieu Parish.

Calcasieu: West of U.S. 171 north of I-10 and north of I-10 from the junction of U.S. 171 to Texas state line.

Caldwell: West of Ouachita River southward to Catahoula Parish line, east and north of La. 126 and south and west of La. 127.

Catahoula: West of Ouachita River southward to La. 559 at Duty Ferry, north of La. 559 to La. 124, south and west of La. 124 from Duty Ferry to La. 8 at Harrisonburg and north of La. 8 to La. 126, north and east of La. 126. ALSO that portion lying east of La. 15.

Concordia: That portion east of Hwy. 15 and west of Hwy. 65 from its juncture with Hwy. 15 at Clayton.

Evangeline: North and west of La. 115, north of La. 106 from St. Landry to La. 13, west of La. 13 from Pine Prairie to Mamou and north of La. 104 west of Mamou.

Franklin: That portion lying east of Hwy. 17 and east of Hwy. 15 from its juncture with Hwy. 17 at Winnsboro.

Iberville: West of La. Hwy. 1. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

LaSalle: All lands lying west of La. 127 from the Caldwell Parish line to the junction of La. 124; south of La. 124 to the junction of La. 124 and 126; west of La. 126 to the junction with La. 503; north of La. 503 to Summerville; west of La. 127 from Summerville to Little River. Also that portion of land east of La. 126 from the Caldwell Parish line to the Catahoula Parish line.

Madison: That portion lying west of U.S. Hwy. 65 and south of U.S. Hwy. 80.

Pointe Coupee: All except that portion bounded on the west by La. 77 and La. 10, northward from U.S. 190 to La. 1 at Merganza, on the north and east by La. 1 to its junction with La. 78 and by La. 78 from Parlange to U.S. 190. Further EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Richland: That portion south of U.S. Hwy. 80 and east of Hwy. 17.

Sabine: That portion north of Hwy. 6 from Toledo Bend Lake to Many; east of Hwy. 171 from Many to the Vernon Parish line.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the north by U.S. 190, west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee. ALSO that portion of the parish bounded on the north by La. 10 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to Burton's Lake, on the east by Burton's Lake, on the south by Petite Prairie Bayou to its junction with the old O.G. Railroad right-of-way then by the O.G.R.R. right-of-way westward to U.S. 71 and on the west by the West Atchafalaya Guide Levee to its junction with La. 10, EXCEPT the Indian Bayou tract owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Upper St. Martin: All within the Atchafalaya Basin. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Tensas: That portion west of Hwy. 65 from the Concordia Parish line to its juncture with Hwy. 128, north of La. 128 to St. Joseph; west and north of La. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry. Also all lands lying east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Vernon: That portion east of Hwy. 171 from the Sabine Parish line to the junction of Hwy. 111, south of Hwy. 111 westward to Hwy. 392, and south of Hwy. 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for season dates.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of the National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve season dates.

Area B
April 3-April 18

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster, Including Caney Ranger District of Kisatchie National Forest.

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Caddo: That portion north of La. 2 from the Texas state line to U.S. 71, east of U.S. 71 from La. 2 to I-20, south of I-20 from U.S. 71 to U.S. 171, and east of U.S. 171 to the DeSoto Parish line.

DeSoto: That portion east of U.S. 171 from the Caddo Parish line to U.S. 84 and south of U.S. 84.

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to La. 144, west of La. 144 to La. 34, west of La. 34 to Chatham, north and west of La. 4 from Chatham to Weston, north and west of La. 505 from Weston to Wyatt, west of U.S. 167 from Wyatt to Winn Parish line.

Ouachita: East of La. 143 from Union Parish line to Bayou Darbonne, north of Bayou Darbonne to the Ouachita River, west of the Ouachita River from the mouth of Bayou Darbonne northward to the Union Parish line.

Morehouse: West of U.S. 165 from the Arkansas line to Bonita, north and west of La. 140 to junction of La. 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), west of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, north of U.S. 165 from Bastrop to Ouachita Parish line.

Union: West of La. 15 from Ouachita Parish line to La. 33 west of Farmerville, north of La. 33 to La. 2 at Farmerville, north and east of La. 2 to La. 143 at Crossroads, east of La. 143 to the Ouachita Parish line.

Area C
March 27-April 4

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

Avoyelles: That portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Concordia: North and east of Sugar Mill Chute (Concordia Parish) from the state line westward to Red River, east of Red River northward to Cocodrie Bayou, east of Cocodrie Bayou northward to U.S. Hwy. 84, south of U.S. Hwy. 84 eastward to La. Hwy. 15 (Ferriday), east of La. Hwy. 15 northward to U.S. Hwy. 65 (Clayton), east of U.S. Hwy. 65 northward to Tensas Parish line.

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the south by La. 10, on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, on the east by La. 105, and on the north by the Avoyelles Parish line.

Tensas: East and south of U.S. Hwy. 65 from Concordia Parish line to Hwy. 128, south of Hwy. 128 to St. Joseph, east and south of La. Hwy. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry.

1999 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS GENERAL

The following rules and regulations concerning management, protection and harvest of wildlife have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with the authority provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Section 109 of Title 56. Failure to comply with these regulations will subject the individual to citation and/or expulsion from the management area.

Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed are open to turkey hunting.

All trails and roads designated as ATV Only shall be closed to ATVs from March 1 through September 15. ATV off-road or trail travel is prohibited. Walk-in hunting only (bicycles permitted), unless opened by sign on trail.

Bag limits on WMAs are part of the season bag limit. The bag limit for turkeys on Wildlife Management Areas is one per area, not to exceed two per season for all WMAs. The bag limit for turkeys is one gobbler per day and three gobblers per season including those taken on WMAs.

PERMITS

Self-Clearing Permits: All turkey hunts, including lottery hunts, are self-clearing and all hunters must check in daily by picking up a permit from a self-clearing station. Upon completion

of each daily hunt, the hunter must check out by completing the hunter report portion of the permit and depositing it in the check-out box at a self-clearing station before exiting the WMA.

Lottery Hunts: Bayou Macon, Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is February 15, 1999. Application fee of \$5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any district office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1 - P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055; 318/371-3050]; [District 2 - 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203; 318/343-4044]; [District 3 - 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360; 318/487-5885]; [District 4 - P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334; 318/757-4571]; [District 5 - 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, 70601; 318/491-2575]; [District 6 - 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, 70570; 318/948-0255]; [District 7 - P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898; 504/765-2360].

Wildlife Management Turkey Hunting Schedule*

| WMA | Season Dates | Permit Requirements | Lottery Dates** |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Bayou Macon | April 3-April 4 | Self-clearing | April 3-4 |
| Bens Creek | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Big Lake | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Bodcau | April 3-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Boeuf | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Boise Vernon | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Camp Beauregard | March 27-April 10 | Self-clearing | None |
| Dewey Wills | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 March 29-31 |
| Fort Polk | March 27-April 25 | Self-clearing | None |
| Georgia-Pacific | April 3-April 11 | Self-clearing | April 3-4 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------|---|
| Grassy Lake | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Jackson-Bienville | April 3-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Little River | March 27-April 10 | Self-clearing | None |
| Loggy Bayou | April 10-April 11 April 17-April 18 | Self-clearing | April 10-11 April 17-18 |
| Pearl River | March 27-April 11 | Self-clearing | None |
| Peason Ridge | March 27-April 25 | Self-clearing | None |
| Pomme de Terre | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Red River | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Sabine | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 |
| Sandy Hollow† | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Sherburne | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 March 29-31 |
| Sicily Island | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11 |
| Three Rivers | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Tunica Hills | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11 |

*Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed have a turkey hunting season. All other areas are CLOSED. For seasons on smaller lands managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, contact the local district office.

** The deadline for receiving applications for all turkey Lottery Hunts on WMAs is February 15, 1999.

† No turkey hunting within 100 yards of food plots identified by two yellow paint rings around the nearest tree.

Kisatchie National Forest Turkey Hunting Schedule: Caney Ranger District, April 3-18; Winn Ranger District closed except Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve, March 27-April 18; all other Kisatchie National Forest Districts, March 27-April 18.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: (December 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

Declaration of Emergency - Special Snow Goose Only Hunting Regulations was handled by Mr. Robert Helm. The issues on waterfowl do not seem to want to go away this year, began Mr. Helm. Action is being proposed to address the overpopulation of snow geese. Reminding the Commission of the extent of the problem, the fall flight estimate for snow geese is around 10 million for this year's migration. Reasons for the abundant numbers of snow geese were then explained by Mr. Helm. Two proposed rules have been published in the Federal Register and are being offered in 18 states within the Central and Mississippi Flyways. The public comment period will end on January 8, 1999 and it is hoped a final rule would be published by February 1, 1999. The first proposed option will allow unplugged shotguns and electronic calling devices during the existing snow goose only season, February 1 - February 21. The second option, called the Conservation Order, will allow unplugged shotguns, electronic calls, no daily bag or possession limits and extending the shooting hours. Also the Conservation Order would extend the season to March 14 instead of February 21. Mr. Helm felt the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be challenged to have the final rule available by February 1, 1999. Also legal action is being suggested by anti-hunting groups on both of the options. If legal action is taken on the Conservation Order, the use of electronic calls and unplugged guns could begin on February 1, 1999. Then on February 6, 1999, if no legal action takes place and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approves it, the Conservation Order will take effect. Mr. Helm stated the Declaration of Emergency presents both options and is contingent upon actions by the federal government and/or against the federal government.

Commissioner Busbice asked if both the unplugged shotguns and electronic calls had to be taken? Mr. Helm stated no, the rules could be more restrictive. Then Commissioner Busbice asked if from an enforcement standpoint would unplugged shotguns present a problem? Col. Winton Vidrine stated not for this season. Lt. Col. Charlie Clark stated there is a device that can be put on a shotgun that would add to the number of shells that can be loaded into a gun. Chairman Gattle asked if these options are an official rule? Mr. Helm explained the process the federal government goes through for proposed rules. Commissioner Babin asked if the Commission allows the use of electronic calls and unplugged guns from February 1 through February 6 and then finds out the Conservation Order is not promulgated, would the Department be in violation of some law? Mr. Helm answered no. Then he stated action taken by the Commission may result in no action because of the federal concerns.

Commissioner Babin then asked if the Declaration of Emergency was not approved, the federal government could say we will allow these options, but the State Commission chose not to allow them. Mr. Helm advised, only 2 million snow geese will be taken without these extra options, however, 5 million will be taken if these options are adopted. Commissioner McCall asked when will the largest population of geese be in the State? Mr. Helm stated the birds are here now. He then added that the plans should be available each year until the goose population falls. Commissioner Babin asked if a problem is created if shotgun extensions is not addressed? Lt. Col. Clark stated there is one extender that can be used on shotguns. Chairman Gattle stated Commissioner Babin was suggesting the Declaration of Emergency should address the limits and capability of the shotguns. Mr. Helm stated the proposed rule only addresses unplugged guns and the Commission could be more restrictive. Secretary Jenkins felt the whole exercise is to kill as many geese as possible and the unplugged guns will not be a big problem. Commissioner Babin stated everyone is trying to bring resource down to reasonable limits, but felt there is a difference between unplugged guns and the act of slaughtering geese. Commissioner Busbice stated the Declaration of Emergency could be passed as it is this year; and then if an enforcement problem comes about, modify the rule next year. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Helm to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to accept the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. Commissioner Babin made a substitute motion to include the following: to limit the unplugged shotgun portion to the manufacturer's capacity. There was no second to the substitute motion. The original motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

December 3, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA, December 3, 1998.

WHEREAS, snow goose populations have increased to record high levels that are now having a negative impact on their breeding range in the Arctic, and

WHEREAS, efforts are being made throughout North America to increase the harvest of snow geese, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently developing rules that will enhance the opportunity to harvest snow geese, and

WHEREAS, these rules are currently being considered through the Federal Register process and will not be finalized until February 1, 1999, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are in agreement that steps need to be taken to reduce the continental population of snow geese to minimize habitat damage on the breeding grounds, and

WHEREAS, significant numbers of snow geese winter in Louisiana and maximum harvest of snow geese may alleviate some of the habitat damage in the Arctic breeding grounds, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission feels compelled to alert the public to changes that will impact their sport, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the attached Declaration of Emergency that will legalize electronic calls and allow the use of shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Louisiana will also participate in the "Conservation Order" developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that is designed to reduce snow goose populations by removing the daily and possession limits and increasing shooting hours to include one-half hour after sunset in addition to the previous items, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that implementation of this Declaration of Emergency is predicated on the passage of rules currently being developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Should the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fail to pass the proposed rules then this Declaration of Emergency will not be implemented.

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

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

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provision of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopt the following emergency rule pending final action by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on special regulations concerning the taking of snow geese. It is anticipated that USFWS final rules should be promulgated by February 1, 1999.

Effective February 1, 1999, the use of electronic calls and unplugged guns capable of holding more than 3 shells will be legal for taking of snow geese. These regulations will be in effect until February 21, 1999 or until superseded by the USFWS's "Conservation Order".

Pending approval by the USFWS, Louisiana will participate in the "Conservation Order" for the reduction of snow goose populations effective February 6, 1999. Under the "Conservation Order", the following rules shall be in effect for the taking of snow geese February 6, 1999 through March 14, 1999.

1. The use of electronic calls shall be legal for taking snow geese.
2. Unplugged shotguns holding more than 3 shells will be legal.
3. There will be no daily or possession limits on numbers of geese taken.
4. Shooting hours will be one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has notified the States that they are in the process of developing a Rule with these stipulations in an attempt to alleviate problems associated with overabundant snow goose populations. This Declaration of Emergency is being promulgated now in order to alert the public of the pending action and allow Louisiana the opportunity to assist with management regimes designed to stem the continued expansion of snow goose populations.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

The Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season is the result of action taken by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, stated Mr. Harry Blanchet. The meeting, held in November, addressed the harvest of red snapper by recreational and commercial fishermen. The federal government has not taken any action on the proposed rule, but the recreational fishery is set to re-open January 1, 1999. The federal government's proposed rule is

to delay opening the season until March 1, 1999. Mr. Blanchet then stated there was a lot of flexibility in the Resolution that will allow the Secretary to adjust the dates according to the rule passed by the National Marine Fisheries Service for federal waters. The Declaration of Emergency will set the opening date for recreational red snapper season as March 1, 1999; gives the Secretary authority to close the season when the quota was projected to be met; gives the Secretary authority to re-open and close the season if information is received the quota was not met. Chairman Gattle asked why is the Gulf Council making this recommendation? Mr. Blanchet stated the major concern was to allow the recreational season to extend into September and October for fishing tournaments that may occur at that time. Chairman Gattle asked if there is better fishing during the summer and fall rather than January or February? Mr. Blanchet answered there is more activity in the summer and fall. Chairman Gattle then asked what is the total allowable catch (TAC) figure for 1999? Mr. Blanchet stated the proposed TAC is 9.12 million pounds, which is the same as last year. Commissioner Babin mentioned the recreational bag limit would be reduced to 4 from 5, set a zero bag limit for captains and crew, and reduce the size limit from 15 inches to 14 inches for both commercial and recreational if National Marine Fisheries Service acts upon these issues. Mr. Blanchet noted the 4 fish bag limit was already in effect, but the other issues would have to be addressed. Chairman Gattle asked if the Commission was giving authority to the Secretary to act upon a rule adopted by National Marine Fisheries Service? Mr. Blanchet answered yes. Mr. John Roussel explained why the item was placed on the agenda for discussion and action. He then added they hope to have a final decision by the January Commission Meeting.

Chairman Gattle asked if there were any public comments on the subject? Mr. Blanchet stated he received one letter from a sugar cane farmer that is also a winter time fisherman and he stated, to move the opening would cut him out of the fishery. Chairman Gattle asked Mr. Blanchet to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the Resolution. Commissioner McCall seconded the motion. Chairman Gattle asked if the Commission was giving authority to the Secretary to act on an additional season should one be approved? Mr. Blanchet stated yes. Hearing no further discussion, the motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION

1999 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON REGULATION

December 1998

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the 1999 recreational quota for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico was set at 4.47 million pounds, and

WHEREAS, NMFS has closed the recreational fishing season for red snapper effective 12:01 a.m., September 30, 1998 through December 31, 1998 by reducing the bag limit to zero in the EEZ off of Louisiana for that time period, and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has enacted a closure in Louisiana state waters consistent with the EEZ closure, and

WHEREAS, the Gulf Council has recommended to NMFS that the 1999 recreational red snapper season should begin on March 1, 1999 rather than on January 1 as previously established, and

WHEREAS, it is unlikely that NMFS will complete review of this and related proposals, and publish final rules for Federal waters prior to the December 1998 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting, and

WHEREAS, any regulations related to this subject should be in place prior to January 1 if possible so that anglers would have adequate time to become informed of these regulations, and

WHEREAS, consistent regulations within both Federal and State jurisdictions are preferable as they assist in enforcement of fishery rules, and

WHEREAS, in order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 1999 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted, and

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a Declaration of Emergency to change the opening date for the 1999 recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters from January 1, 1999 until March 1, 1999, is attached to and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to evaluate the rules established by NMFS for the Federal waters offshore of Louisiana, and if necessary, to modify the opening date of the 1999 recreational red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters until the opening of that season in adjacent Federal waters, if he is informed that National Marine Fisheries Service modified the opening date for the 1999 recreational season, and

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open an additional recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters if he is later informed that the National Marine Fisheries Service has opened an additional recreational season and to close such season when he is informed that the recreational red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled, and

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

promulgate and effectuate this emergency rule, including but not limited to, the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

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

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

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council). Regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore. Rules were recently established by NMFS to close recreational harvest season in the EEZ off of Louisiana effective 12:01 a.m., September 30, 1998 through December 31, 1998 by reducing the bag limit to zero, and NMFS requested that consistent regulations be established in Louisiana waters. At the November meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, NMFS was requested by the Council to re-set the opening date of the 1999 recreational red snapper season to March 1, 1999. NMFS typically requests consistent regulations in order to enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

In order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 1999 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted.

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

The season for the recreational fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will remain closed until 12:01 a. m., March 1, 1999 by reducing the bag limit to zero for that time period.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

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

Region I - Minden - 132 citations.

Region II - Monroe - 164 citations.

Region III - Alexandria - 134 citations.

Region IV - Ferriday - 216 citations.

Region V - Lake Charles - 205 citations.

Region VI - Opelousas - 118 citations.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 143 citations.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 204 citations.

Region IX - Thibodaux - 148 citations.

Statewide Strike Force - 65 citations.

Seafood Investigation Unit - 56 citations.

Oyster Strike Force - 59 citations.

SWEP - 10 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of November was 1,464.

The aviation report for November 1998 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 40.1 hours for enforcement and 25.3 hours for other divisions.

Commissioner Busbice asked, if a person's vehicle could be confiscated if they are charged with a serious violation? Major LaCaze stated they do not normally confiscate vehicles at the time of arrest because of the storage problem. Then Commissioner Busbice asked if there was a reason for more violations occurring on WMAs and refuges? Finally Commissioner Busbice asked if the stand removal every evening was causing any problems? Chairman Gattle asked if any new information has been received on the hunter killed in Union Parish?

Chairman Gattle then asked for the **Division Reports**, beginning with an **Update Waterfowl Migration and Hunting Season Activity**. Mr. Hugh Bateman introduced Mr. Randy Myers, the North American Coordinator and stated he would present the report. The first half of the season was expected to be high with a fall flight index of

84 million ducks, began Mr. Myers. Louisiana has a 60 day, 6 duck limit again this year and it represents one of the most liberal since 1984. Waterfowl hunter numbers have also increased and are at an all time high since the late 1970's. Pre-season aerial survey flights indicated 1.9 million birds were in the State, stated Mr. Myers. These numbers were below the 5-year average and significantly down from last year. Dry conditions and warm weather have been occurring and the high marsh levels have returned to near normal. After a cold front passed through the state on November 11, 1998, hunters have noticed a marked increase in the number of waterfowl coming into the State. An e-mail message from a waterfowl biologist in Saskatchewan explaining the delay in migration was read by Mr. Myers. The first split of the west zone opened November 7, 1998 and closed November 29; the east zone dates are November 14, 1998 until December 6, 1998. Success on the WMAs ranged from approximately 3 ducks to 5 ducks per hunter. The hunting success in the southwest rice fields was down on opening weekend, but has increased since the influx of birds. Goose hunting remained good especially for specklebellies. The southwest marshes produced spotty success for the opening weekend. Sabine National Wildlife Refuge's success was down with 1,000 fewer birds taken this year as compared to last year. The marshes of St. Mary and Terrebonne Parishes and the Atchafalaya Delta were doing well. Overall success rate for the west zone for the first split was considered spotty. The southeast marshes in the east zone have been reporting good to excellent hunting, stated Mr. Myers. The Mississippi River Delta marshes have been below average due to Hurricane George. The northeast parishes of the State are experiencing very dry conditions with no backwater flooding occurring. Hunting success for ducks and geese has been good. If more winterlike weather and normal rainfall occurs, the second split should be better for most of the state. The second split opens for both zones December 12, 1998 and closes January 17, 1999, concluded Mr. Myers. Commissioner Babin stated he has received a number of calls on the Commission not extending the season date to January 30. He then requested the news media mention what would have to be given up in order to receive the January 30 extension.

Mr. Dave Moreland provided an Update on Deer Hunting Seasons. He began stating deer hunting has been slow. Some of the reasons for this included the warm temperatures and the native habitat was still green and growing. Areas 2 and 3 still has a month left for hunting. Areas 1 and 6 season dates will go into January and it is hoped there may be a change in the weather patterns. The Wildlife Division conducted the managed deer hunts over the Thanksgiving weekend. Data from 21 WMAs during the weekend provided either sex hunting for over 16,000 hunters and a harvest of 2,610 deer.

Also Mr. Moreland announced a copy of the first DMAP Newsletter was included in the packets. Included in the Newsletter was a deer baiting survey. Thus far 218 responses have been received, 155 indicated they do bait and 144 will not support a ban

on hunting deer over bait. A complete report will be provided once all the data is compiled. The staff is continuing to test corn from feeders in the field and further information will be provided. Chairman Gattle asked what was expected from the baiting survey? Mr. Moreland stated 1300 surveys were mailed and it is hoped to receive about 1000 responses. Commissioner Busbice asked what other grains are used for baiting? Mr. Moreland stated the primary grains are corn or soybean.

Mr. Hugh Bateman thanked Mr. Moreland and Mr. Larry Savage for working on the Newsletter and felt the information would be useful and helpful to the public. He then stated people are making common careless mistakes with firearms and these are being referred to as hunting accidents. One additional hunting accident occurred over the Thanksgiving weekend where a gentleman fell from a tree stand and passed away from a severe head injury. Accidents from climbing tree stands is becoming as big a problem as gun safety, stated Mr. Bateman. He then noted future regulations may be addressed to tighten up this incident. Chairman Gattle requested that future copies of the DMAP Newsletter be sent to each Commission Member.

The **Farm Bill Programs, DWLF Brochure** was handled by Mr. Mike Olinde. The Upland Game Section summarized all the farm bill programs into one leaflet so the public can find out easily where to apply for farm programs. The 1996 bill has been the most environmental friendly farm bill ever passed, stated Mr. Olinde. Potential impacts of these programs on farm wildlife in Louisiana alone was \$20.5 million.

The last division report, **Presentation of 1999 Louisiana Conservationist Calendar** was handled by Ms. Marianne Marsh. A new approach has been taken in promoting and marketing the Calendar. It is being presented as a package deal with the Department's Seafood and Wild Game Cookbook. The recipes in the Calendar are from Louisiana chef's and consists of Louisiana seafood and game. The package deal is being released a month early for possible Christmas presents. Commissioner Busbice stated the staff does a great job with the Magazine. Ms. Marsh stated the Department plans to use this program for promoting nutria meat. Commissioner McCall asked where did the recipes come from? Ms. Marsh stated people from across the state submitted recipes during a recipe collection period, then the recipes were tried by professional nutritionist and cooks.

Chairman Gattle began the next item, **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman** by stating he has enjoyed serving as Chairman and wished well the new Chairman. He then stated the procedure would be conducted with voice vote and a show of hands. Chairman nominations would be taken first. Mr. Mike Landrum stated the Commission should adopt the procedures to be used in the Election. Commissioner Babin made a motion to accept the procedures which would include voice vote and a show of hands. Commissioner McCall

seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Commissioner McCall nominated Commissioner Busbice for Chairman and it was seconded by Commissioner Hanchey. Hearing no other nominations, Chairman Gattle closed the nominations. The Commission unanimously voted for Bill Busbice for Chairman.

Chairman Busbice thanked the Commission for their vote of confidence. He then commended Commissioner Gattle on the outstanding job he did as Chairman and the way he handled the day to day problems. Nominations for Vice-Chairman were then asked for. Commissioner Hanchey nominated Commissioner Gattle for Vice-Chairman and it was seconded by Commissioner Kelly. There being no other nominations, the Commission unanimously voted for Tom Gattle as Vice-Chairman.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners agreed to hold the **April 1999 Meeting** on Thursday, April 1, 1999 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Busbice then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mr. Bob Urann, representing former Commission Member Captain Pete Vujnovich, stated he received a call from Captain Vujnovich complaining that his oyster harvest was way off and it was because drum fish were eating his oysters. He learned there was a Resolution passed by the Legislature urging the Commission to look into predation problems caused by drum fish. Mr. Urann stated Captain Vujnovich has prepared a video to show the before and after effects of drum fish in areas where oysters are being grown. Captain Vujnovich stated he has been an oyster fisherman since he was 12 years old. The drum fishery was a problem 50 to 60 years ago also, but there were ways to solve the problem such as building fences to keep the drum fish out. Today, the Barataria Bay area has been devastated and the drum fish are coming in. Captain Vujnovich felt the problem occurs when the seed oysters are pumped into the water and the pumps shine on the oysters attracting the drum fish. The oysters on the east side of the River have a thin shell and the drum fish love to eat them. A video on oyster farming was shown and narrated by Captain Vujnovich. He stated he was there to ask for help from the State.

Mr. Urann stated he spoke with Mr. Roussel and it was indicated the Commission was working on the problem. He then commented Captain Vujnovich has volunteered his beds and his sons to help work on the problem. Chairman Busbice asked Mr. Roussel if he has looked at the situation. Mr. Roussel stated the Legislature did pass a Resolution urging and requesting the Department to look at the problem. The Department developed and sent out a mail survey to all oyster leaseholders to determine and document what the problem was, the extent of the problem and to obtain information on what direction the Department could take. The results are just coming in and have not been compiled enough to draw good conclusions. But preliminary review suggested there are

strategies that can be developed that will help to minimize the problem. Mr. Roussel stated they would look at the survey in more detail and try to develop recommendations for the oyster industry. Chairman Busbice stated this was still in the preliminary stage and there was a need to understand it better. He thought it may take legislative action to get the funding to do anything with the problem. Mr. Urann stated they wanted the opportunity to do a show and tell and they would present the problem to the Legislature as well. Commissioner McCall asked how big is the problem area? Mr. Roussel explained Captain Vujnovich's farming operations. Commissioner McCall then asked if the problem was more with the farming areas rather than the public grounds? Mr. Roussel answered yes.

Chairman Busbice asked if there was a new aquatic vegetation in Toledo Bend? Mr. Roussel stated the plant is called Giant Salvinia. The common form of Salvinia has been in the State for a large number of years and has recently become a significant problem in the southern areas. The Giant Salvinia in Toledo Bend is related to the common form, but presents a lot more problems. The Giant Salvinia has the ability to explode in numbers in open water areas. Staff met recently with other southeastern state aquatic plant personnel to develop a regionwide strategy to eradicate the Giant Salvinia. Chairman Busbice stated he read it could spread so rapidly and could cover miles of waterbody very quickly. Then he asked if the Legislature has been notified about this new vegetation problem? Mr. Roussel stated the Legislature has not been notified yet since it was just recently documented.

Mr. Walter Forshla stated he wanted to talk about the Biloxi WMA to see if mooring areas could be designated. Commissioner Babin stated he spoke to Mr. Forshla and asked him to come present his problem. Mr. Forshla stated he has hunted Biloxi WMA for the last 25 years, and up until last season when duck hunters were involved in a problem with commercial fishermen, the Department is not allowing hunters to stay overnight like in years past. Chairman Busbice asked Mr. Forshla if Enforcement Agents asked them to move? Mr. Forshla answered yes, to keep them from mooring overnight.

Mr. Tom McConnell stated the problem is the law states you must designate mooring areas and no area has been developed in the Biloxi WMA. He then asked the Commission to temporarily suspend the enforcement of the mooring regulation until such time as these areas can be designated. He also added the regulation states no camping on the WMA and the agents are interpreting that to include boats that are mooring.

Mr. Phil Bowman stated the Department has a lease with Biloxi Corporation for the WMA. There are regulations that allows camping only in designated areas and there are no areas designated on Biloxi WMA. The procedures to be followed to change the

regulations can not be done in a timely manner for this particular hunting season. Mr. Bowman then stated the Commission and Department will look at this suggestion when the hunting regulation process begins in January or February. Commissioner Babin stated he was contacted by hunters for that area and suggested they contact Mr. Bowman and his staff. He then stated this regulation has been on the books for years and has not been enforced until this year possibly due to charterboats coming in from Mississippi. He then asked for someone to explain why this regulation is being enforced now? Col. Winton Vidrine stated these regulations have been enforced in the past, but not as stringent. They received numerous complaints from fishermen in the area. He then stated Lt. Col. Charlie Clark would show slides that explains some of the problems occurring. The major problem is littering. Lt. Col. Clark began the slide presentation stating the problem began 2 months ago. One of the major access points is Bayou Biloxi and there have been times when 100 foot boats with piggyback boats attached were in Bayou Biloxi blocking navigation. When an agent went to investigate the situation, there were 17 large boats in the area and the area is not set up to prevent a safety hazard. Lt. Col. Clark stated this was not a issue of resident versus non-resident, they had to retreat to what the law said. He then explained the litter problem, putting platforms down and the preemption of space. There were not that many problems with the smaller boats in the area until 2 years ago. This year's problem is due to Hurricane George destroying the fishing in Breton and Chandeleur Sounds and the charterboats have moved into the interior marsh. There are many canals in the area that are not on the WMA that they have access to and can spend the night, stated Lt. Col. Clark. Chairman Busbice agreed that you have to retreat to the law especially when littering and damaging the marsh occurs. He then wondered what Biloxi Corporation was saying. Lt. Col. Clark stated the Department is committed to cleaning the area and finding solutions to the problems. Commissioner McCall asked where were the charterboats coming from? Lt. Col. Clark stated they were coming from the Mississippi Gulf Coast area. Commissioner Gattle stated this was a complex issue that could not be resolved immediately. He then thought maybe in the future there could be designated areas with controls. Commissioner Babin agreed with adhering to the law, but it should have been addressed some years ago. He also felt this was another reason the State should regulate the charter industry.

Mr. Gary Clark, representing the Louisiana Bass Federation, stated Louisiana has captured 2 major fishing tournaments. The Bass Masters Classic will be held in New Orleans in August 1999 and in May the Wrangler Anglers National Championship will be held. He then asked the Commission if they would be interested in holding their Meeting in Shreveport and taking part in the Wrangler Anglers Championship. If available, more information will be provided at the January Commission Meeting.

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

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

Original

NFL/OUTDOORS/BOXING



Associated Press photo

Hunters may get to unload on geese

By **JOE MACALUSO**
Advocate outdoors writer

State goose hunters could reap a bonanza from the snow goose season if regulations passed by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission are approved at the national level.

An overpopulation of snow geese prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list several dramatic measures in the Federal Register, and it was these measures the LWFC acted upon Thursday.

Beginning Feb. 1, 1999, snow goose hunters would be able to use electronic calls and use unplugged shotguns to take the birds. These new regulations would be in effect through Feb. 21, 1999.

Another set of regulations, called a "Conservation Order" by the USFWS, would supersede the Feb. 1-21 season with the electronic calling and unplugged-shotgun rules along with additional relaxation of regulations to include no daily or possession limits and hunting hours running from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

State Waterfowl Study leader Robert Helm said these dramatic changes in waterfowl regulations face final approval by the USFWS.

"These regulations are not etched in stone yet, but we want the state to be ready if the Fish and Wildlife Service finalizes their proposals," Helm told the commission. "We believe with the two sets of regulations, we will have the table cleared if, and when, the regulations are approved."

Current snow-geese hunting regulations do not allow the use of electronic calls, nor is the use of "unplugged" shotguns. Plugs are devices which limit the number of shot shells a shotgun can hold. Most shotguns have a five-shot capacity, but federal and state laws mandate the use of "plugs" to limit the capacity to three shells, one in the chamber and two in a tube-like magazine.

Current regulations also have a daily limit of 20 snow geese and current hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Helm pointed out that these special regulations may not get approval, which would make the

LWFC's vote moot.

He said it's also possible that the first set of regulations could go into effect Feb. 1 and run through Feb. 5, when if the USFWS issues the Conservation Order, the second set of rules could kick in Feb. 6 and run through March 14, 1999.

The USFWS is taking the action after the snow-geese population quadrupled over the last 25 years to the point where North American's mid-continent snow-geese population has swelled to 10 million. Waterfowl biologists fear further population increases could lead to an outbreak of avian disease which could wipe out most of the snow-geese population. The increasing numbers of snow-geese have already destroyed much of the birds' breeding and nesting grounds in Arctic and sub-Arctic areas near Hudson Bay.

The commission approved the 1999 Spring Turkey Hunting Season for the state's turkey-hunting areas. The seasons will run from March 27-April 25 in Area A, which includes the Capital City area; from April 3-18 in Area B; and, from March 27-April 4 in Area C, which includes Ascension and Iberville parishes east of the Mississippi River. Also approved was a Feb. 15 deadline for applications for lottery hunts on eight wildlife management areas.

Other action included:

- Approval of a recreational red snapper season to begin March 1 to coincide with the recreational season in federal waters;
- Awarding the 1998 Outstanding Field Biologists Award to Baton Rouge District fisheries biologist Mark McElroy;
- Presenting Loranger's Darin Flynn with the Secretary's Cup for his display in the Louisiana Taxidermist Assn. state contest;
- Electing Lafayette's Bill Busbice as chairman and Tom Gattle of Lake Providence vice-chairman for 1999;
- Heard complaints from two New Orleans area hunters about increased Enforcement Division efforts to keep campers and boaters from setting up camp or mooring in the Biloxi Marsh Wildlife Management Area;
- And, approved April 1, 1999 for its meeting date in Baton Rouge.

Bledsoe

ely winning over skeptics

He also took the Patriots to the Super Bowl and has been in three Pro Bowls in his five full seasons.

So what's been missing?

Perhaps the problem is the Bledsoe the public knows often speaks in a monotone and shows little facial expression. On the field, he's generally restrained — although he punched the air after the decisive pass against Miami and raised his bandaged finger in triumph after the pass against Buffalo.

"If guys (like Favre) run around screaming and they have success doing it, people are going to think that's the standard you go by," backup quarterback Scott Zolak said. "I think Drew's starting to develop his own aura about himself and people are getting adjusted to it."

Bledsoe, just 21 when he was the top pick in the draft, said he feels more comfortable in a

s that
another
n proba-
an I have
ouldn't say
"

w Bledsoe
quarterback

cepted with
in over-
fumble
England's

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, December 3, 1998
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

| | Attended | Absent |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Tom Gattle (Chairman) | <u>✓</u> | — |
| Tom Kelly | <u>✓</u> | — |
| Daniel Babin | <u>✓</u> | — |
| Glynn Carver | — | <u>✓</u> |
| Bill Busbice | <u>✓</u> | — |
| Jerald Hanchey | <u>✓</u> | — |
| Norman McCall | <u>✓</u> | — |

Mr. Chairman:

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

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
December 3, 1998
10:00 AM

- ✓1. Roll Call
- ✓2. Approval of Minutes of November 5, 1998
- ✓3. Presentation of 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist Award -
~~Steve Mathies~~ *Marty Floyd*
- ✓4. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist
Association - Hugh Bateman
- ✓5. Rule Ratification - 1999 Turkey Hunting Regulations -
Fred Kimmel
- ✓6. Declaration of Emergency - Special Snow Goose Only
Hunting Regulations - Robert Helm
- ✓7. Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational
Season - Harry Blanchet
- ✓8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November - Keith LaCaze
9. Division Reports
 - ✓a. Update Waterfowl Migration and Hunting Season
Activity - ~~Robert Helm~~ *Randy Myers*
 - ✓b. Update on Deer Hunting Seasons - Dave Moreland
 - ✓c. Farm Bill Programs, DWLF Brochure - Mike Olinde
 - ✓d. Presentation of 1999 Louisiana Conservationist
Calendar - Lyle Soniat
- ✓10. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- ✓11. Set April 1999 Meeting Date
- ✓12. Public Comments
13. Adjournment

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
December 3, 1998
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of November 5, 1998
3. Presentation of 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist Award - Steve Mathies
4. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association - Hugh Bateman
5. Rule Ratification - 1999 Turkey Hunting Regulations - Fred Kimmel
6. Declaration of Emergency - Special Snow Goose Only Hunting Regulations - Robert Helm
7. Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season - Harry Blanchet
8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November - Keith LaCaze
9. Division Reports
 - a. Update Waterfowl Migration and Hunting Season Activity - Robert Helm
 - b. Update on Deer Hunting Seasons - Dave Moreland
 - c. Farm Bill Programs, DWLF Brochure - Mike Olinde
 - d. Presentation of 1999 Louisiana Conservationist Calendar - Lyle Soniat
10. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
11. Set April 1999 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Adjournment

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 3, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA, December 3, 1998.

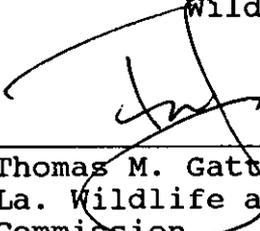
WHEREAS, it is the constitutional responsibility of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to establish hunting season for turkeys, and

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

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for sport hunting on both public and private lands, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department staff have jointly reviewed and considered biological information, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached rules, regulations, season dates, and bag limits affecting sport hunting of wild turkeys are hereby ratified by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.



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



James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the Notice of Intent published in the August 1998 Louisiana Register, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, at its regular monthly meeting in December hereby ratifies regulation on open hunting season dates, bag limit, methods of taking, and rules and regulation on Department operated wildlife management areas for turkeys. Authority to establish regulations are vested in the Commission by Section 115 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON SCHEDULE

Daily limit is one gobbler, three gobblers per season. Still hunting only. Use of dogs, baiting, electronic calling devices and live decoys is illegal. Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns, including muzzleloading shotguns, using shot not larger than #2 lead or BB steel shot, and bow and arrow but by no other means. Shooting turkeys from a moving or stationary vehicle is prohibited. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells prohibited.

No person shall hunt, trap or take turkeys by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area. Baiting means placing, exposing, depositing or scattering of corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take turkeys.

A baited area is any area where corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed capable of luring, attracting or enticing turkeys is directly or indirectly

placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Such areas remain baited areas for 15 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

Wildlife agents are authorized to close such baited areas and to place signs in the immediate vicinity designating closed zones and dates of closure.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

It is unlawful to take from the wild or possess in captivity any live wild turkeys or their eggs. No pen raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state.

All licensed turkey hunters are required to have a Turkey Stamp in their possession while turkey hunting in addition to basic and big game licenses.

STATEWIDE TURKEY HUNTING AREAS

Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Open Only in the Following Areas

Area A

March 27-April 25

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Livingston, Natchitoches (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Rapides (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

Allen: North of La. 26 from DeRidder to the junction of La. 104 and north of La. 104.

Avoyelles: That portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River northward from Simmesport, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by La. 452 from Brouillette to La. 1 eastward to Simmesport, EXCEPT that portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Beauregard: North of La. 26 east of DeRidder, west of Hwy. 171 from the junction of Hwy. 26 south to Calcasieu Parish.

Calcasieu: West of U.S. 171 north of I-10 and north of I-10 from the junction of U.S. 171 to Texas state line.

Caldwell: West of Ouachita River southward to Catahoula

Parish line, east and north of La. 126 and south and west of La. 127.

Catahoula: West of Ouachita River southward to La. 559 at Duty Ferry, north of La. 559 to La. 124, south and west of La. 124 from Duty Ferry to La. 8 at Harrisonburg and north of La. 8 to La. 126, north and east of La. 126. ALSO that portion lying east of La. 15.

Concordia: That portion east of Hwy. 15 and west of Hwy. 65 from its juncture with Hwy. 15 at Clayton.

Evangeline: North and west of La. 115, north of La. 106 from St. Landry to La. 13, west of La. 13 from Pine Prairie to Mamou and north of La. 104 west of Mamou.

Franklin: That portion lying east of Hwy. 17 and east of Hwy. 15 from its juncture with Hwy. 17 at Winnsboro.

Iberville: West of La. Hwy. 1. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

LaSalle: All lands lying west of La. 127 from the Caldwell Parish line to the junction of La. 124; south of La. 124 to the junction of La. 124 and 126; west of La. 126 to the junction with La. 503; north of La. 503 to Summerville; west of La. 127 from Summerville to Little River. Also that portion of land east of La. 126 from the Caldwell Parish line to the Catahoula Parish line.

Madison: That portion lying west of U.S. Hwy. 65 and south of U.S. Hwy. 80.

Pointe Coupee: All except that portion bounded on the west by La. 77 and La. 10, northward from U.S. 190 to La. 1 at Morganza, on

the north and east by La. 1 to its junction with La. 78 and by La. 78 from Parlange to U.S. 190. Further EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Richland: That portion south of U.S. Hwy. 80 and east of Hwy. 17.

Sabine: That portion north of Hwy. 6 from Toledo Bend Lake to Many; east of Hwy. 171 from Many to the Vernon Parish line.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the north by U.S. 190, west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee. ALSO that portion of the parish bounded on the north by La. 10 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to Burton's Lake, on the east by Burton's Lake, on the south by Petite Prairie Bayou to its junction with the old O.G. Railroad right-of-way then by the O.G.R.R. right-of-way westward to U.S. 71 and on the west by the West Atchafalaya Guide Levee to its junction with La. 10, EXCEPT the Indian Bayou tract owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Upper St. Martin: All within the Atchafalaya Basin. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Tensas: That portion west of Hwy. 65 from the Concordia Parish line to its juncture with Hwy. 128, north of La. 128 to St. Joseph; west and north of La. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry. Also all lands lying east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Vernon: That portion east of Hwy. 171 from the Sabine Parish line to the junction of Hwy. 111, south of Hwy. 111 westward to

Hwy. 392, and south of Hwy. 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for season dates.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of the National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve season dates.

Area B

April 3-April 18

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster, Including Caney Ranger District of Kisatchie National Forest.

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Caddo: That portion north of La. 2 from the Texas state line to U.S. 71, east of U.S. 71 from La. 2 to I-20, south of I-20 from U.S. 71 to U.S. 171, and east of U.S. 171 to the DeSoto Parish line.

DeSoto: That portion east of U.S. 171 from the Caddo Parish line to U.S. 84 and south of U.S. 84.

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to La. 144, west of La. 144 to La. 34, west of La. 34 to Chatham, north and west of La. 4 from Chatham to Weston, north and west of La. 505 from Weston to Wyatt, west of U.S. 167 from Wyatt to Winn Parish line.

Ouachita: East of La. 143 from Union Parish line to Bayou Darbonne, north of Bayou Darbonne to the Ouachita River, west of

the Ouachita River from the mouth of Bayou Darbonne northward to the Union Parish line.

Morehouse: West of U.S. 165 from the Arkansas line to Bonita, north and west of La. 140 to junction of La. 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), west of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, north of U.S. 165 from Bastrop to Ouachita Parish line.

Union: West of La. 15 from Ouachita Parish line to La. 33 west of Farmerville, north of La. 33 to La. 2 at Farmerville, north and east of La. 2 to La. 143 at Crossroads, east of La. 143 to the Ouachita Parish line.

Area C

March 27-April 4

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

Avoyelles: That portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaize structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Concordia: North and east of Sugar Mill Chute (Concordia Parish) from the state line westward to Red River, east of Red River northward to Cocodrie Bayou, east of Cocodrie Bayou northward to U.S. Hwy. 84, south of U.S. Hwy. 84 eastward to La. Hwy. 15 (Ferriday), east of La. Hwy. 15 northward to U.S. Hwy. 65 (Clayton), east of U.S. Hwy. 65 northward to Tensas Parish line.

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the south by La. 10, on

the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, on the east by La. 105, and on the north by the Avoyelles Parish line.

Tensas: East and south of U.S. Hwy. 65 from Concordia Parish line to Hwy. 128, south of Hwy. 128 to St. Joseph, east and south of La. Hwy. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry.

1999 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS

GENERAL

The following rules and regulations concerning management, protection and harvest of wildlife have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with the authority provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Section 109 of Title 56. Failure to comply with these regulations will subject the individual to citation and/or expulsion from the management area.

Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed are open to turkey hunting.

All trails and roads designated as ATV Only shall be closed to ATVs from March 1 through September 15. ATV off-road or trail travel is prohibited. Walk-in hunting only (bicycles permitted), unless opened by sign on trail.

Bag limits on WMAs are part of the season bag limit. The bag limit for turkeys on Wildlife Management Areas is one per area, not to exceed two per season for all WMAs. The bag limit for turkeys is one gobbler per day and three gobblers per season including those taken on WMAs.

PERMITS

Self-Clearing Permits: All turkey hunts, including lottery hunts, are self-clearing and all hunters must check in daily by picking up a permit from a self-clearing station. Upon completion of each daily hunt, the hunter must check out by completing the hunter report portion of the permit and depositing it in the check-out box at a self-clearing station before exiting the WMA.

Lottery Hunts: Bayou Macon, Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is ~~January 31~~ ^{February 15}, 1999. Application fee of \$5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any district office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1 — P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055; 318/371-3050]; [District 2 — 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203; 318/343-4044]; [District 3 — 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360; 318/487-5885]; [District 4 — P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334; 318/757-4571]; [District 5 — 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, 70601; 318/491-2575]; [District 6 — 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, 70570; 318/948-0255]; [District 7 — P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898; 504/765-2360].

Wildlife Management Turkey Hunting Schedule*

| WMA | Season Dates | Permit Requirements | Lottery Dates** |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Bayou Macon | April 3-April 4 | Self-clearing | April 3-4 |
| Bens Creek† | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Big Lake | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Bodcau | April 3-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Boeuf | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Boise Vernon | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Camp Beauregard | March 27-April 10 | Self-clearing | None |
| Dewey Wills | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 March 29-31 |
| Fort Polk | March 27-April 25 | Self-clearing | None |
| Georgia- Pacific | April 3-April 11 | Self-clearing | April 3-4 |
| Grassy Lake | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Jackson- Bienville | April 3-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Little River | March 27-April 10 | Self-clearing | None |
| Loggy Bayou | April 10-April 11 April 17-April 18 | Self-clearing | April 10-11 April 17-18 |
| Pearl River | March 27-April 11 | Self-clearing | None |
| Peason Ridge | March 27-April 25 | Self-clearing | None |
| Pomme de Terre | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Red River | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Sabine | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 |
| Sandy Hollow† | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |

| | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------|---|
| Sherburne | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 March 29-31 |
| Sicily Island | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11 |
| Three Rivers | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Tunica Hills | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11 |

*Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed have a turkey hunting season. All other areas are CLOSED. For seasons on smaller lands managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, contact the local district office.

** The deadline for receiving applications for all turkey Lottery Hunts on WMAs is ^{February 15} ~~January 31~~, 1999.

† No turkey hunting within 100 yards of food plots identified by two yellow paint rings around the nearest tree.

Kisatchie National Forest Turkey Hunting Schedule: Caney Ranger District, April 3-18; Winn Ranger District closed except Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve, March 27-April 18; all other Kisatchie National Forest Districts, March 27-April 18.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: (December 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
December 3, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA, December 3, 1998.

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

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

WHEREAS, this action will provide for the protection and conservation of wild turkeys and allow for recreational opportunities for sport hunting on both public and private lands, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and Department staff have jointly reviewed and considered biological information, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached rules, regulations, season dates, and bag limits affecting sport hunting of wild turkeys are hereby ratified by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

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

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife &
Fisheries

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the Notice of Intent published in the August 1998 Louisiana Register, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, at its regular monthly meeting in December hereby ratifies regulation on open hunting season dates, bag limit, methods of taking, and rules and regulation on Department operated wildlife management areas for turkeys. Authority to establish regulations are vested in the Commission by Section 115 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON SCHEDULE

Daily limit is one gobbler, three gobblers per season. Still hunting only. Use of dogs, baiting, electronic calling devices and live decoys is illegal. Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns, including muzzleloading shotguns, using shot not larger than #2 lead or BB steel shot, and bow and arrow but by no other means. Shooting turkeys from a moving or stationary vehicle is prohibited. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells prohibited.

No person shall hunt, trap or take turkeys by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area. Baiting means placing, exposing, depositing or scattering of corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take turkeys.

A baited area is any area where corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed capable of luring, attracting or enticing turkeys is directly or indirectly

placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Such areas remain baited areas for 15 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

Wildlife agents are authorized to close such baited areas and to place signs in the immediate vicinity designating closed zones and dates of closure.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

It is unlawful to take from the wild or possess in captivity any live wild turkeys or their eggs. No pen raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state.

All licensed turkey hunters are required to have a Turkey Stamp in their possession while turkey hunting in addition to basic and big game licenses.

STATEWIDE TURKEY HUNTING AREAS

Shooting Hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

1999 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Open Only in the Following Areas

Area A

March 27-April 25

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Livingston, Natchitoches (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), Rapides (Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for National Forest dates), St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

Allen: North of La. 26 from DeRidder to the junction of La. 104 and north of La. 104.

Avoyelles: That portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River northward from Simmesport, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by La. 452 from Brouillette to La. 1 eastward to Simmesport, EXCEPT that portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Beauregard: North of La. 26 east of DeRidder, west of Hwy. 171 from the junction of Hwy. 26 south to Calcasieu Parish.

Calcasieu: West of U.S. 171 north of I-10 and north of I-10 from the junction of U.S. 171 to Texas state line.

Caldwell: West of Ouachita River southward to Catahoula

Parish line, east and north of La. 126 and south and west of La. 127.

Catahoula: West of Ouachita River southward to La. 559 at Duty Ferry, north of La. 559 to La. 124, south and west of La. 124 from Duty Ferry to La. 8 at Harrisonburg and north of La. 8 to La. 126, north and east of La. 126. ALSO that portion lying east of La. 15.

Concordia: That portion east of Hwy. 15 and west of Hwy. 65 from its juncture with Hwy. 15 at Clayton.

Evangeline: North and west of La. 115, north of La. 106 from St. Landry to La. 13, west of La. 13 from Pine Prairie to Mamou and north of La. 104 west of Mamou.

Franklin: That portion lying east of Hwy. 17 and east of Hwy. 15 from its juncture with Hwy. 17 at Winnsboro.

Iberville: West of La. Hwy. 1. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

LaSalle: All lands lying west of La. 127 from the Caldwell Parish line to the junction of La. 124; south of La. 124 to the junction of La. 124 and 126; west of La. 126 to the junction with La. 503; north of La. 503 to Summerville; west of La. 127 from Summerville to Little River. Also that portion of land east of La. 126 from the Caldwell Parish line to the Catahoula Parish line.

Madison: That portion lying west of U.S. Hwy. 65 and south of U.S. Hwy. 80.

Pointe Coupee: All except that portion bounded on the west by La. 77 and La. 10, northward from U.S. 190 to La. 1 at Morganza, on

the north and east by La. 1 to its junction with La. 78 and by La. 78 from Parlange to U.S. 190. Further EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Richland: That portion south of U.S. Hwy. 80 and east of Hwy. 17.

Sabine: That portion north of Hwy. 6 from Toledo Bend Lake to Many; east of Hwy. 171 from Many to the Vernon Parish line.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the north by U.S. 190, west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee. ALSO that portion of the parish bounded on the north by La. 10 from the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to Burton's Lake, on the east by Burton's Lake, on the south by Petite Prairie Bayou to its junction with the old O.G. Railroad right-of-way then by the O.G.R.R. right-of-way westward to U.S. 71 and on the west by the West Atchafalaya Guide Levee to its junction with La. 10, EXCEPT the Indian Bayou tract owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Upper St. Martin: All within the Atchafalaya Basin. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

Tensas: That portion west of Hwy. 65 from the Concordia Parish line to its juncture with Hwy. 128, north of La. 128 to St. Joseph; west and north of La. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry. Also all lands lying east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

Vernon: That portion east of Hwy. 171 from the Sabine Parish line to the junction of Hwy. 111, south of Hwy. 111 westward to

Hwy. 392, and south of Hwy. 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for season dates.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of the National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve. Exception: See Kisatchie National Forest hunting schedule for Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve season dates.

Area B

April 3-April 18

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster, Including Caney Ranger District of Kisatchie National Forest.

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Caddo: That portion north of La. 2 from the Texas state line to U.S. 71, east of U.S. 71 from La. 2 to I-20, south of I-20 from U.S. 71 to U.S. 171, and east of U.S. 171 to the DeSoto Parish line.

DeSoto: That portion east of U.S. 171 from the Caddo Parish line to U.S. 84 and south of U.S. 84.

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to La. 144, west of La. 144 to La. 34, west of La. 34 to Chatham, north and west of La. 4 from Chatham to Weston, north and west of La. 505 from Weston to Wyatt, west of U.S. 167 from Wyatt to Winn Parish line.

Ouachita: East of La. 143 from Union Parish line to Bayou Darbonne, north of Bayou Darbonne to the Ouachita River, west of

the Ouachita River from the mouth of Bayou Darbonne northward to the Union Parish line.

Morehouse: West of U.S. 165 from the Arkansas line to Bonita, north and west of La. 140 to junction of La. 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), west of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, north of U.S. 165 from Bastrop to Ouachita Parish line.

Union: West of La. 15 from Ouachita Parish line to La. 33 west of Farmerville, north of La. 33 to La. 2 at Farmerville, north and east of La. 2 to La. 143 at Crossroads, east of La. 143 to the Ouachita Parish line.

Area C

March 27-April 4

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

Avoyelles: That portion surrounding Pomme de Terre WMA, bounded on the north, east and south by La. 451, on the west by the Big Bend Levee from its junction at the Bayou des Glaise structure east of Bordelonville southward to its junction with La. 451.

Concordia: North and east of Sugar Mill Chute (Concordia Parish) from the state line westward to Red River, east of Red River northward to Cocodrie Bayou, east of Cocodrie Bayou northward to U.S. Hwy. 84, south of U.S. Hwy. 84 eastward to La. Hwy. 15 (Ferriday), east of La. Hwy. 15 northward to U.S. Hwy. 65 (Clayton), east of U.S. Hwy. 65 northward to Tensas Parish line.

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

St. Landry: That portion bounded on the south by La. 10, on

the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, on the east by La. 105, and on the north by the Avoyelles Parish line.

Tensas: East and south of U.S. Hwy. 65 from Concordia Parish line to Hwy. 128, south of Hwy. 128 to St. Joseph, east and south of La. Hwy. 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry.

1999 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS

GENERAL

The following rules and regulations concerning management, protection and harvest of wildlife have been officially approved and adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission in accordance with the authority provided in Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Section 109 of Title 56. Failure to comply with these regulations will subject the individual to citation and/or expulsion from the management area.

Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed are open to turkey hunting.

All trails and roads designated as ATV Only shall be closed to ATVs from March 1 through September 15. ATV off-road or trail travel is prohibited. Walk-in hunting only (bicycles permitted), unless opened by sign on trail.

Bag limits on WMAs are part of the season bag limit. The bag limit for turkeys on Wildlife Management Areas is one per area, not to exceed two per season for all WMAs. The bag limit for turkeys is one gobbler per day and three gobblers per season including those taken on WMAs.

PERMITS

Self-Clearing Permits: All turkey hunts, including lottery hunts, are self-clearing and all hunters must check in daily by picking up a permit from a self-clearing station. Upon completion of each daily hunt, the hunter must check out by completing the hunter report portion of the permit and depositing it in the check-out box at a self-clearing station before exiting the WMA.

Lottery Hunts: Bayou Macon, Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is ~~January 31~~ ^{February 15}, 1999. Application fee of \$5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any district office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1 - P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055; 318/371-3050]; [District 2 - 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203; 318/343-4044]; [District 3 - 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360; 318/487-5885]; [District 4 - P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334; 318/757-4571]; [District 5 - 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, 70601; 318/491-2575]; [District 6 - 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, 70570; 318/948-0255]; [District 7 - P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898; 504/765-2360].

Wildlife Management Turkey Hunting Schedule*

| WMA | Season Dates | Permit Requirements | Lottery Dates** |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Bayou Macon | April 3-April 4 | Self-clearing | April 3-4 |
| Bens Creek† | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Big Lake | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Bodcau | April 3-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Boeuf | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Boise Vernon | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Camp Beauregard | March 27-April 10 | Self-clearing | None |
| Dewey Wills | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 March 29-31 |
| Fort Polk | March 27-April 25 | Self-clearing | None |
| Georgia- Pacific | April 3-April 11 | Self-clearing | April 3-4 |
| Grassy Lake | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Jackson- Bienville | April 3-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |
| Little River | March 27-April 10 | Self-clearing | None |
| Loggy Bayou | April 10-April 11 April 17-April 18 | Self-clearing | April 10-11 April 17-18 |
| Pearl River | March 27-April 11 | Self-clearing | None |
| Peason Ridge | March 27-April 25 | Self-clearing | None |
| Pomme de Terre | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Red River | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Sabine | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 |
| Sandy Hollow† | March 27-April 18 | Self-clearing | None |

| | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------|---|
| Sherburne | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 March 29-31 |
| Sicily Island | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11 |
| Three Rivers | March 27-April 4 | Self-clearing | None |
| Tunica Hills | March 27-March 28 April 3-April 4 April 10-April 11 | Self-clearing | March 27-28 April 3-4 April 10-11 |

*Only those Wildlife Management Areas listed have a turkey hunting season. All other areas are CLOSED. For seasons on smaller lands managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, contact the local district office.

** The deadline for receiving applications for all turkey Lottery Hunts on WMAs is January 31, 1999.

†No turkey hunting within 100 yards of food plots identified by two yellow paint rings around the nearest tree.

Kisatchie National Forest Turkey Hunting Schedule: Caney Ranger District, April 3-18; Winn Ranger District closed except Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve, March 27-April 18; all other Kisatchie National Forest Districts, March 27-April 18.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 24: (December 1998).

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

December 3, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA, December 3, 1998.

WHEREAS, snow goose populations have increased to record high levels that are now having a negative impact on their breeding range in the Arctic, and

WHEREAS, efforts are being made throughout North America to increase the harvest of snow geese, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently developing rules that will enhance the opportunity to harvest snow geese, and

WHEREAS, these rules are currently being considered through the Federal Register process and will not be finalized until February 1, 1999, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are in agreement that steps need to be taken to reduce the continental population of snow geese to minimize habitat damage on the breeding grounds, and

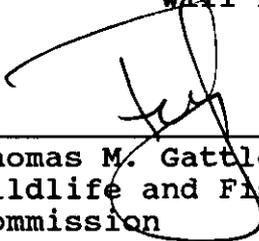
WHEREAS, significant numbers of snow geese winter in Louisiana and maximum harvest of snow geese may alleviate some of the habitat damage in the Arctic breeding grounds, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission feels compelled to alert the public to changes that will impact their sport, now

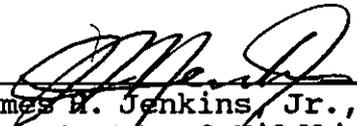
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the attached Declaration of Emergency that will legalize electronic calls and allow the use of shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Louisiana will also participate in the "Conservation Order" developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that is designed to reduce snow goose populations by removing the daily and possession limits and increasing shooting hours to include one-half hour after sunset in addition to the previous items, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that implementation of this Declaration of Emergency is predicated on the passage of rules currently being developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Should the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fail to pass the proposed rules then this Declaration of Emergency will not be implemented.



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



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

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provision of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopt the following emergency rule pending final action by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on special regulations concerning the taking of snow geese. It is anticipated that USFWS final rules should be promulgated by February 1, 1999.

Effective February 1, 1999, the use of electronic calls and unplugged guns capable of holding more than 3 shells will be legal for taking of snow geese. These regulations will be in effect until February 21, 1999 or until superseded by the USFWS's "Conservation Order".

Pending approval by the USFWS, Louisiana will participate in the "Conservation Order" for the reduction of snow goose populations effective February 6, 1999. Under the "Conservation Order", the following rules shall be in effect for the taking of snow geese February 6, 1999 through March 14, 1999.

1. The use of electronic calls shall be legal for taking snow geese.
2. Unplugged shotguns holding more than 3 shells will be legal.
3. There will be no daily or possession limits on numbers of geese taken.

4. Shooting hours will be one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has notified the States that they are in the process of developing a Rule with these stipulations in an attempt to alleviate problems associated with overabundant snow goose populations. This Declaration of Emergency is being promulgated now in order to alert the public of the pending action and allow Louisiana the opportunity to assist with management regimes designed to stem the continued expansion of snow goose populations.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

December 3, 1998

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge, LA, December 3, 1998.

WHEREAS, snow goose populations have increased to record high levels that are now having a negative impact on their breeding range in the Arctic, and

WHEREAS, efforts are being made throughout North America to increase the harvest of snow geese, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently developing rules that will enhance the opportunity to harvest snow geese, and

WHEREAS, these rules are currently being considered through the Federal Register process and will not be finalized until February 1, 1999, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are in agreement that steps need to be taken to reduce the continental population of snow geese to minimize habitat damage on the breeding grounds, and

WHEREAS, significant numbers of snow geese winter in Louisiana and maximum harvest of snow geese may alleviate some of the habitat damage in the Arctic breeding grounds, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission feels compelled to alert the public to changes that will impact their sport, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the attached Declaration of Emergency that will legalize electronic calls and allow the use of shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Louisiana will also participate in the "Conservation Order" developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that is designed to reduce snow goose populations by removing the daily and possession limits and increasing shooting hours to include one-half hour after sunset in addition to the previous items, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that implementation of this Declaration of Emergency is predicated on the passage of rules currently being developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Should the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fail to pass the proposed rules then this Declaration of Emergency will not be implemented.

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

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

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provision of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopt the following emergency rule pending final action by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on special regulations concerning the taking of snow geese. It is anticipated that USFWS final rules should be promulgated by February 1, 1999.

Effective February 1, 1999, the use of electronic calls and unplugged guns capable of holding more than 3 shells will be legal for taking of snow geese. These regulations will be in effect until February 21, 1999 or until superseded by the USFWS's "Conservation Order".

Pending approval by the USFWS, Louisiana will participate in the "Conservation Order" for the reduction of snow goose populations effective February 6, 1999. Under the "Conservation Order", the following rules shall be in effect for the taking of snow geese February 6, 1999 through March 14, 1999.

1. The use of electronic calls shall be legal for taking snow geese.
2. Unplugged shotguns holding more than 3 shells will be legal.
3. There will be no daily or possession limits on numbers of geese taken.

4. Shooting hours will be one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has notified the States that they are in the process of developing a Rule with these stipulations in an attempt to alleviate problems associated with overabundant snow goose populations. This Declaration of Emergency is being promulgated now in order to alert the public of the pending action and allow Louisiana the opportunity to assist with management regimes designed to stem the continued expansion of snow goose populations.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

C O V E R



FAX

To: Tom Gattle, 318-559-1524
Bill Busbice, 318-837-1423
Jerald Hanchey, 318-233-3534
Norman McCall, 318-775-7025
Tom Kelly, 318-276-7867
Danny Babin, 504-563-4202
Glynn Carver, 318-256-0323

Subject: Background Material

Date: December 1, 1998

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

The attached background material is on the snow goose regulations agenda item for Thursday's Commission Meeting.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806
Fax: 225-765-0948

RESOLUTION

1999 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON REGULATION

December 1998

- WHEREAS,** the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council), and
- WHEREAS,** regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore, and
- WHEREAS,** NMFS has put into place a regulatory amendment under the framework procedure of the reef fish fishery management plan that establishes a recreational red snapper quota equal to the recreational allocation, and authorizes the closure of the fishery for the remainder of the fishing year (= calendar year) in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico when the quota is reached or is projected to be reached, and
- WHEREAS,** the 1999 recreational quota for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico was set at 4.47 million pounds, and
- WHEREAS,** NMFS has closed the recreational fishing season for red snapper effective 12:01 a.m., September 30, 1998 through December 31, 1998 by reducing the bag limit to zero in the EEZ off of Louisiana for that time period, and
- WHEREAS,** the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has enacted a closure in Louisiana state waters consistent with the EEZ closure, and
- WHEREAS,** the Gulf Council has recommended to NMFS that the 1999 recreational red snapper season should begin on March 1, 1999 rather than on January 1 as previously established, and
- WHEREAS,** it is unlikely that NMFS will complete review of this and related proposals, and publish final rules for Federal waters prior to the December 1998 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting, and
- WHEREAS,** any regulations related to this subject should be in place prior to January 1 if possible so that anglers would have adequate time to become informed of these regulations, and

WHEREAS, consistent regulations within both Federal and State jurisdictions are preferable as they assist in enforcement of fishery rules, and

WHEREAS, in order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 1999 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted, and

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a Declaration of Emergency to change the opening date for the 1999 recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters from January 1, 1999 until March 1, 1999, is attached to and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to evaluate the rules established by NMFS for the Federal waters offshore of Louisiana, and if necessary, to modify the opening date of the 1999 recreational red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters until the opening of that season in adjacent Federal waters, if he is informed that National Marine Fisheries Service modified the opening date for the 1999 recreational season, and

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

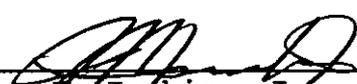
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to close the recreational red snapper season when he is informed that the recreational red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open an additional recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters if he is later informed that the National Marine Fisheries Service has opened an additional recreational season and to close such season when he is informed that the recreational red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this emergency rule, including but not limited to, the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.



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



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

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council). Regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore. Rules were recently established by NMFS to close recreational harvest season in the EEZ off of Louisiana effective 12:01 a.m., September 30, 1998 through December 31, 1998 by reducing the bag limit to zero, and NMFS requested that consistent regulations be established in Louisiana waters. At the November meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, NMFS was requested by the Council to re-set the opening date of the 1999 recreational red snapper season to March 1, 1999. NMFS typically requests consistent regulations in order to enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

In order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 1999 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted.

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

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish; the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby sets the following seasons for recreational harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters:

The season for the recreational fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will remain closed until 12:01 a. m., March 1, 1999 by reducing the bag limit to zero for that time period.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

RESOLUTION

1999 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON REGULATION

December 1998

- WHEREAS,** the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council), and
- WHEREAS,** regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore, and
- WHEREAS,** NMFS has put into place a regulatory amendment under the framework procedure of the reef fish fishery management plan that establishes a recreational red snapper quota equal to the recreational allocation, and authorizes the closure of the fishery for the remainder of the fishing year (= calendar year) in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico when the quota is reached or is projected to be reached, and
- WHEREAS,** the 1999 recreational quota for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico was set at 4.47 million pounds, and
- WHEREAS,** NMFS has closed the recreational fishing season for red snapper effective 12:01 a.m., September 30, 1998 through December 31, 1998 by reducing the bag limit to zero in the EEZ off of Louisiana for that time period, and
- WHEREAS,** the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has enacted a closure in Louisiana state waters consistent with the EEZ closure, and
- WHEREAS,** the Gulf Council has recommended to NMFS that the 1999 recreational red snapper season should begin on March 1, 1999 rather than on January 1 as previously established, and
- WHEREAS,** it is unlikely that NMFS will complete review of this and related proposals, and publish final rules for Federal waters prior to the December 1998 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting, and
- WHEREAS,** any regulations related to this subject should be in place prior to January 1 if possible so that anglers would have adequate time to become informed of these regulations, and

WHEREAS, consistent regulations within both Federal and State jurisdictions are preferable as they assist in enforcement of fishery rules, and

WHEREAS, in order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 1999 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted, and

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a Declaration of Emergency to change the opening date for the 1999 recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters from January 1, 1999 until March 1, 1999, is attached to and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to evaluate the rules established by NMFS for the Federal waters offshore of Louisiana, and if necessary, to modify the opening date of the 1999 recreational red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters until the opening of that season in adjacent Federal waters, if he is informed that National Marine Fisheries Service modified the opening date for the 1999 recreational season, and

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open an additional recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters if he is later informed that the National Marine Fisheries Service has opened an additional recreational season and to close such season when he is informed that the recreational red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this emergency rule, including but not limited to, the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

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

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

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council). Regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore. Rules were recently established by NMFS to close recreational harvest season in the EEZ off of Louisiana effective 12:01 a.m., September 30, 1998 through December 31, 1998 by reducing the bag limit to zero, and NMFS requested that consistent regulations be established in Louisiana waters. At the November meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, NMFS was requested by the Council to re-set the opening date of the 1999 recreational red snapper season to March 1, 1999. NMFS typically requests consistent regulations in order to enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

In order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 1999 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted.

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

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission may set seasons for saltwater finfish; the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby sets the following seasons for recreational harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters:

The season for the recreational fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will remain closed until 12:01 a. m., March 1, 1999 by reducing the bag limit to zero for that time period.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.

Chairman

2nd
draft

| |
|----------|
| 11/20 |
| 11/23/98 |
| 11/24/98 |

HD
KF
Rouel

RESOLUTION

1999 RECREATIONAL RED SNAPPER SEASON REGULATION

December, 1998

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the 1999 recreational quota for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico was set at 4.47 million pounds, and

WHEREAS, NMFS has closed the recreational fishing season for red snapper effective 12:01 am September 30, 1998 through December 31, 1998 by reducing the bag limit to zero in the EEZ off of Louisiana for that time period, and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has enacted a closure in Louisiana state waters consistent with the EEZ closure, and

WHEREAS, the Gulf Council has recommended to NMFS that the 1999 recreational red snapper season should begin on March 1, 1999 rather than on January 1 as previously established, and

WHEREAS, it is unlikely that NMFS will complete review of this and related proposals, and publish final rules for Federal waters prior to the December, 1998 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting, and

WHEREAS, any regulations related to this subject should be in place prior to January 1 if possible so that anglers would have adequate time to become informed of these regulations, and

WHEREAS, consistent regulations within both Federal and State jurisdictions are preferable as they assist in enforcement of fishery rules, and

WHEREAS, in order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 1999 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted, and

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a Declaration of Emergency to change the opening date for the 1999 recreational red snapper

season in Louisiana state waters from January 1, 1999 until March 1, 1999, is attached to and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to evaluate the rules established by NMFS for the Federal waters offshore of Louisiana, and if necessary, to modify the opening date of the 1999 recreational red snapper seasons in Louisiana state waters until the opening of that season in adjacent Federal waters, if he is informed that National Marine Fisheries Service modified the opening date for the 1999 recreational season, and

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open an additional recreational red snapper season in Louisiana state waters if he is later informed that the National Marine Fisheries Service has opened an additional recreational season and to close such season when he is informed that the recreational red snapper quota for the Gulf of Mexico has been filled, or is projected to be filled, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this emergency rule, including but not limited to, the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Recreational Red Snapper Season Closure

The red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico is cooperatively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with advice from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council). Regulations promulgated by NMFS are applicable in waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S., which in Louisiana is generally three miles offshore. Rules were recently established by NMFS to close recreational harvest season in the EEZ off of Louisiana effective 12:01 am September 30, 1998 through December 31, 1998 by reducing the bag limit to zero, and NMFS requested that consistent regulations be established in Louisiana waters. At the November meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, NMFS was requested by the Council to re-set the opening date of the 1999 recreational red snapper season to March 1, 1999. NMFS typically requests consistent regulations in order to enhance the effectiveness and enforceability of regulations for EEZ waters.

In order to enact regulations in a timely manner so as to have compatible regulations in place in Louisiana waters for the 1999 recreational red snapper season, it is necessary that emergency rules be enacted.

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

The season for the recreational fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will remain closed until 12:01 a. m. March 1, 1999 by reducing the bag limit to zero for that time period.

Thomas M. Gattle, Jr.
Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

NOVEMBER 1998

REGION 1:

PARISHES: BIENVILLE, BOSSIER,
CADDO, CLAIBORNE,
DESOTO, RED RIVER,
WEBSTER

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 132 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 21 |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 7 | Boating |
| 13 | Angling W/O A License |
| 2 | Angling W/O A License – Non-Resident |
| 5 | Fishing W/O Resident Cane Pole License |
| 1 | Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License |
| 1 | Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License |
| 2 | Take Game Fish Illegally |
| 5 | Hunt W/O Resident License |
| 1 | Hunt W/O Non-Resident License |
| 15 | Hunt From A Moving Vehicle |
| 3 | Hunt W/Unplugged Gun |
| 1 | Hunt, Stand, Loiter From A Public Road |
| 8 | Failure To Comply W/Hunter Safety Regulations |
| 3 | Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License |
| 1 | Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 9 | Hunt Deer Illegal Hours |
| 9 | Hunt Deer From Public Road |
| 1 | Take Illegal Deer Open Season |
| 9 | Failure To Wear Hunter Orange |
| 1 | Take Alligator Closed Season |
| 3 | Hunt MGB W/Unplugged Gun |
| 1 | Hunt MGB From Moving Motorboat |
| 1 | Rallying MGB |
| 6 | Use Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot |
| 3 | Hunt Ducks Closed Season |
| 1 | Possession Over Limit Ducks |
| 2 | Take &/Or Possess non-game birds – No Season |
| 16 | Not Abiding By Rules & Regs on GMA |
| 1 | Operate ATV on Public Road |
| 1 | Discharge Firearm From Public Road |
| | |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|--|
| 2 rifles; 59 lead shot shells; 4 ducks; 3 dowitchers; 1 revolver & shells; 3 deer; 1 q-beam spotlight; 1 flashlight; 7 crappie; 1 gar; 1 bowfin; 1 bucket of net. |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 1

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 7 | Boating |
| 4 | Commercial Fishing |
| 17 | Federal Migratory |
| 0 | Littering |
| 2 | Miscellaneous |
| 20 | Recreational Fishing |
| 65 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 16 | WMA Rules and Regulations |
| 1 | Alligator |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 0 | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 | Jackson-Bienville |
| 14 | Bodcau |
| 5 | Loggy Bayou |
| | |

REGION 2:

PARISHES: E. CARROL, JACKSON,
LINCOLN, MOREHEAD,
QUACHITA, RICHLAND
UNION, W. CARROL

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 164 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 78 |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 4 | Angle Without A Resident License |
| 2 | No Running Lights |
| 78 | Violation Of Rules and Regulations on WMA |
| 2 | Using Lead Shot In Steel Shot Area |
| 1 | Wanton Waste Of MGB |
| 2 | Possession Of Over Limit Ducks |
| 2 | Possession of Alcohol Under 21 Years Of Age |
| 1 | Operate ATV On Public Road |
| 2 | Possession of Over Limit Deer |
| 12 | Hunt Deer Illegal Hours |
| 3 | Hunting Without A Resident License |
| 1 | Hunting Without A Non-resident License |
| 4 | Hunting Without A Resident Big Game License |
| 1 | Hunting Without A Non-resident Big Game License |
| 4 | Hunt/Take Deer From Public Road |
| 5 | Fail To Comply With Hunter Orange Regulation |
| 8 | Hunt From Moving Vehicle |
| 2 | Possess Over Limit Of Deer |
| 3 | Littering |
| 2 | Careless Operation |
| 1 | Take Over Limit Of Deer Daily |
| 1 | Hunting Turkey Closed Season |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 1 | Possess Lead Shot In Steel shot Area-FED |
| 2 | Hunt From Public Road |
| 1 | Possession Of Wild Quadruped Without Permit |
| 1 | Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer |
| 3 | Discharge Firearm From Public Road |
| 1 | No Driver's License |
| 5 | Hunt From Moving Vehicle |
| 1 | Criminal Trespass |
| 3 | Possession Of Marijuana and Paraphernalia |
| 1 | Obstruction Of Justice |
| 1 | Flight From An Officer |
| 1 | Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle |
| 1 | Improper Lane Usage |
| 1 | General Speed Law |
| | |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|---|
| 1 Male Turkey, 1 Remington 30.06 with scope, 1 Winchester 30.30 Rifle, 1 Huskvarnar Rifle with scope, 1 Bag Marijuana and Papers, 1 Rail, 1 Browning .270 with Scope, 1 Q-Beam, 1 Box 12 Gauge, 1 Remington 270, 17 Ducks, 1 set Hunting License, 1 300 Magnum Rifle, 2 Doe, 2 Yearling Deer, 3 Buck Deer. |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 | Boating |
| 0 | Commercial Fishing |
| 6 | Federal Migratory |
| 3 | Littering |
| 15 | Miscellaneous |
| 4 | Recreational Fishing |
| 56 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 78 | WMA Rules and Regulations |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--|
| 10 | Public Assistance – Assist Search For Lost Persons, Assist Stranded Motorists and Boaters |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 21 | Russell Sage WMA |
| 7 | Ouachita WMA |
| 16 | Union WMA |
| 34 | Georgia Pacific WMA |
| | |
| | |

REGION 3:

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

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 134 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 24 |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 11 | Boating |
| 4 | Angling W/O A License |
| 1 | Hunting W/O A Non-Res. Big Game License |
| 5 | Hunting W/O A Res. Big Game License In Possession |
| 12 | Fail To Wear Hunters Orange |
| 4 | Hunt From Moving Vehicle |
| 15 | Hunt Deer From Public Road |
| 4 | Hunt Deer Illegal Hours With Artificial Light |
| 10 | Hunt Deer Closed Season |
| 1 | Hunt W/O A Non-Res. Basic License |
| 1 | Not Abiding By Commission Rules & Regulations |
| 4 | Hunting W/O A Basic Resident License |
| 5 | Littering |
| 2 | Fail To Comply With Hunter Safety Regulations |
| 1 | Operate A.T.V. On Public Road |
| 5 | Over Limit Wood Ducks |
| 2 | Hunt After Legal Hours |
| 2 | Use Lead Shot In Steel Shot Only Area |
| 2 | Hunt Ducks W/O Federal Stamp |
| 3 | Hunt Ducks W/O State Stamp |
| 1 | Sell Fish W/O Wholesale – Retail dealers License |
| 1 | Fail To Maintain Records |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 2 | Hunt M.G.B. With Unplugged Gun |
| 4 | Use Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only |
| 4 | Hunt M.G.B. Illegal Hours |
| 2 | Hunt Ducks W/O Federal Stamp |
| 1 | Wanton Waste Of M.G.B |
| 5 | Possess Overlimit Of Ducks |
| 16 | Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations |
| 1 | Take Overlimit Of Squirrels |
| 2 | Possess Illegal Deer Open Season |
| 1 | Take Illegal Deer Open Season |
| | |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|--|
| 2 basic hunting license, 2 big game license, 2 bow hunting license, 66 ducks, 106 federal 12ga 7 ½ shot shells, 10 squirrels, 1 beer can, 1 natural light beer can, 2 12ga lead shot shells, 3 20ga lead shot shells, 1 night blaster million candle power spotlight, 1 rem. 12ga pump shotgun, 1 doe deer. |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 11 | Boating |
| 1 | Commercial Fishing |
| 14 | Federal Migratory |
| 5 | Littering |
| 3 | Miscellaneous |
| 4 | Recreational Fishing |
| 80 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 16 | WMA Rules and Regulations |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 0 | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5 | Spring Bayou W.M.A. |
| 2 | Camp Beauregard W.M.A. |
| 5 | Alexander State Forest W.M.A. |
| 3 | Pomme DeTerre W.M.A. |
| 1 | Sabine W.M.A. |
| 1 | Boise Vernon W.M.A. |
| 2 | Grassy Lake W.M.A. |
| 5 | Peason W.M.A. |

REGION 4:

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

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|------------|
| TOTAL CASES | 216 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 160 |
|--------------------|------------|---|------------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 8 | Boating |
| 4 | Angling W/O A License |
| 9 | Hunting W/O Resident License |
| 2 | Bow Hunt W/O Bow License |
| 3 | Hunting From Moving Vehicle |
| 1 | Hunting W/Unplugged Gun |
| 2 | Hunting MGB W/O State Stamp |
| 4 | Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License |
| 1 | Possession Of Pods While Bow Hunting |
| 3 | Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours Or With Artificial Lights |
| 3 | Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road |
| 1 | Possession Over Limit Of Deer |
| 1 | Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer |
| 16 | Failure To Comply W/Hunters Orange Regulations |
| 2 | Hunt Raccoons Illegally |
| 2 | Take Over Limit Of Raccoons |
| 1 | Take Non-Game Quadrupeds Closed Season |
| 1 | Pelting In Closed Season |
| 3 | Hunting Ducks W/O Federal Stamp |
| 5 | Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only |
| 3 | Possess Over Limit Of Ducks (Field Possession) |
| 128 | Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations On WMA |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 1 | Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations On State Land |
| 1 | Criminal Trespass |
| 2 | Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana |
| 2 | Littering |
| 5 | Other Than Wildlife & Fisheries |
| 2 | Operate ATV On Public Road |
| | |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|---|
| 1 marijuana pipe, 1 container w/trace of marijuana, 2 cig. lighters, 1 box of rolling papers, 2 arrows with pods attached, 8 lead shot shells, 2 rifles, 1 shotgun, 2 beers, 2 ice chests, 8 ducks, 7 otter, 6 coons & 3 deer. |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 8 | Boating |
| 0 | Commercial Fishing |
| 11 | Federal Migratory |
| 2 | Littering |
| 11 | Miscellaneous |
| 4 | Recreational Fishing |
| 52 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 128 | WMA Rules and Regulations |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 5 | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 27 | Big Lake WMA |
| 39 | Boeuf WMA |
| 8 | Buckhorn WMA |
| 26 | Dewey Wills WMA |
| 41 | Red River WMA |
| 10 | Sicity Island WMA |
| 9 | Three Rivers WMA |

REGION 5:

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

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 205 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 24 |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 33 | Boating |
| 21 | Angling Without A License |
| 2 | Angling Without A Non-Resident License |
| 1 | Use Gear Without Recreational Gear License |
| 1 | Angling WithOut A Saltwater License |
| 1 | Take Or Possess Game Fish Illegally |
| 2 | Use Wire Net Illegal Area |
| 1 | Take Or Possess Overlimit Red Drum |
| 3 | Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum |
| 12 | Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum |
| 4 | Take Or Possess Overlimit Black Drum |
| 1 | Take Commercial Fish W/O Comm. Gear Lic. |
| 1 | Sell/Or Buy Fish W/O Retail Seafood Lic. |
| 1 | Take Comm. Fish W/O Non Approved Devices |
| 1 | Violate Crab Trap Escape Ring Requirements |
| 1 | Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum, Comm. |
| 2 | Trolling Inside Waters W/Oversized Double |
| | Rigs Over 25 Feet |
| 4 | Hunting W/O A Res. License |
| 1 | Hunting W/O A Non. Res. License |
| 2 | Hunting From Moving Vehicle/Aircraft |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 4 | Hunting Wildlife Quadrupeds Illegal Hours |
| 1 | Hunt/Stand/Loiter From Public Road |
| 1 | Hunt W/O Non. Res. Big Game License |
| 3 | Hunt Deer Dogs During Still Hunt Season |
| 6 | Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours |
| 1 | Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License |
| 2 | Hunt Deer Illegal Methods |
| 1 | Hunt Deer Illegal Weapons |
| 7 | Failure To Wear Hunter's Orange |
| 4 | Hunt Raccoons Illegally |
| 2 | Hunting W/Unplugged Gun |
| 5 | Hunting Migratory Game Birds Illegal Hours |
| 5 | Hunting Migratory Game Birds Over Bait |
| 1 | Possession Untagged Migratory Game Birds |
| 4 | Using Lead Shot In Areas Designated SS Only |
| 2 | Hunting Doves Closed Season |
| 1 | Possession Overlimit Ducks; Field Possession |
| 24 | Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations of WMA |
| 12 | Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana |
| 1 | Littering |
| 5 | Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries Violations |
| 1 | Trespass On Property After Forbidden |
| 2 | Possession Of Firearm Of Convicted Felon |
| 6 | Operating ATV On Public Road |
| 6 | Flight From An Officer |
| 1 | Driving Without An Operator's License |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 2 | Violation Of Sanitary Code, Chapter 9 |
| | Failure To Refrigerate Properly |
| | |
| | |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|--|
| MONIES COLLECTED: \$3,995 1 wire net, 3-22 cal. rifle, 1-22 cal. Pistol, 1-30-06 cal.rifle with scope. 1-38 cal. pistol, 1-12 Ga. shotgun, 1-16 ga. Shotgun, 1-357 Mag. Rifle, 1-rabbit, 10-crab traps, 2-marijuana cigarettes, 7-pills (drugs), 3-woodducks, 12-teal ducks, 6-spoonbill ducks, 4-scaups, 4-ring neck ducks, 4-gray ducks, 2-mallards, 38-blackdrum, 11-redfish, 1-flounder, 1-blue catfish, 1-bass, 1-doe deer, 1-doe tag, 4,700 lbs. of shrimp, 2-shrimp tarawls. |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 33 | Boating |
| 11 | Commercial Fishing |
| 20 | Federal Migratory |
| 1 | Littering |
| 33 | Miscellaneous |
| 48 | Recreational Fishing |
| 35 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 24 | WMA Rules and Regulations |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 3 | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|---|
| 1 | Rockefeller Refuge |
| 5 | Marsh Island |
| 17 | WestBay |
| 1 | Marshy Bayou |
| 0 | Sabine Island Wildlife Management Area |
| 0 | State Wildlife |

REGION 6:

PARISHES: IBERIA, IBERVILLE,
LAFAYETTE, PT. COUPEE,
ST. LANDRY, W.B. ROUGE

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 118 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 12 |
| | | | |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 36 | Boating |
| 15 | Angling W/O A License |
| 9 | Take Illegal Size Black Bass |
| 8 | Take/Possess Undersize Black Drum |
| 1 | Take/Possess Overlimit Black Drum |
| 1 | Angling W/O a Non-Resident License |
| 1 | Possess Bowfin Eggs Illegally |
| 1 | Hunt From Moving Vehicle |
| 1 | Hunt From Public Road |
| 1 | Fish W/O Resident Pole License |
| 1 | Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale Retail Dealers License |
| 1 | Failure To Mark Or Tag Nets |
| 2 | Hunt Wild Quadruped Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours Or Artificial Light |
| 1 | Hunt W/O Muzzleloader License |
| 2 | Hunt Ducks/Geese W/O Federal Stamp |
| 2 | Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp |
| 2 | Hunt MGB Illegal Hours |
| 3 | Use Leadshot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only |
| 1 | Hunt MGB With Unplugged Gun |
| 5 | Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum |
| 1 | Hunt Wild Quadruped Illegal Hours |
| 2 | Failure To Appear In Court For Hunt Deer Illegal Hours |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 5 | Not Abiding By Rules/Regulations On WMA |
| 2 | Hunt Raccoons or Opossums Illegally |
| 1 | Hunt MGB From Moving Motorboat |
| 1 | Taking Grebe – No Season |
| 1 | Possess Over limit of Ducks |
| 1 | Littering |
| 1 | Driving Under Suspension |
| 2 | Hunt With Unplugged Gun |
| 2 | Possess Untagged MGB |
| 2 | Hunt Deer Illegal Hours or Artificial Light |
| 3 | Hunt W/O Resident License In Possession |
| | |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|---|
| 6 lbs. Bowfin eggs, check in the amount of \$24.00, 13 black bass, 33 black drum, 7 red drum, 30 leadshot shells, 6 spent steel shot shells, 3 shotguns, 9 shotgun shells, 5 gadwalls, 2 blue-wing teal, 1 grebe, 12 coots |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 36 | Boating |
| 3 | Commercial Fishing |
| 15 | Federal Migratory |
| 1 | Littering |
| 1 | Miscellaneous |
| 40 | Recreational Fishing |
| 17 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 5 | WMA Rules and Regulations |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 0 | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--|
| 6 | Attakapas Wildlife Management Area |
| 0 | Thistlethwaite Wildlife Management Area |
| 6 | Sherburne Wildlife Management Area |
| | |
| | |
| | |

REGION 7:

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

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 143 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 18 |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 12 | Boating |
| 13 | Angling W/O A License |
| 17 | Hunting W/O Resident License |
| 5 | Hunting W/O Big Game License |
| 20 | Failure To Wear Hunters Orange |
| 8 | Hunting W/O Muzzleloader License |
| 3 | Hunt Deer Illegal Hours |
| 4 | Hunt Deer From Public Road |
| 3 | Hunt From Moving Vehicle |
| 8 | Hunt With Un-plugged Gun |
| 1 | Take Illegal Deer Open Season |
| 1 | Hunt MGB W/Lead Shot (Ducks) |
| 1 | Possess Over Limit MGB (Ducks) |
| 1 | Angling W/O Non-resident License |
| 2 | Angling W/O Pole License |
| 2 | Fail To Comply With Hunter Safety Regulations |
| 1 | Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp |
| 1 | Hunt With An Illegal Weapon |
| 3 | Hunt W/O Non-resident Basic License |
| 6 | Hunt MGB Illegal Hours |
| 1 | Hunt MGB W/O Federal Duck Stamp |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 1 | Illegal Possession Of Alligator |
| 1 | Illegal Possession Of Stolen Things |
| 1 | Littering |
| 2 | Take Over Daily Limit Of Deer |
| 5 | Criminal Trespassing |
| 1 | Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License |
| 1 | Possess Undersize Specs (Trout) |
| 1 | Possess Undersize Black Drum |
| 1 | No Non-resident Wholesale Retail License |
| 1 | Take Commercial Fish W/O A Gear License |
| 1 | Take Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel License |
| 1 | Use Saltwater Net Illegally |
| 1 | Take Commercial Fish W/O A Commercial License |
| 1 | Transport W/O Required License |
| 2 | Possess Loaded Gun In Vehicle On WMA |
| 3 | Hunt With Rifle During Closed Gun Season On WMA |
| 2 | Failure To Wear Hunters Orange On WMA During Gun Season |
| 4 | Adult Hunting With Rifle During Youth Hunt Only On WMA |
| | |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|---|
| 6 deer, 17 black drum, 1 red fish, 3 speckled trout, 1 muzzleloader, 800' gill net. |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 12 | Boating |
| 6 | Commercial Fishing |
| 10 | Federal Migratory |
| 1 | Littering |
| 6 | Miscellaneous |
| 19 | Recreational Fishing |
| 73 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 16 | WMA Rules and Regulations |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| - 0 - | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 5 | Manhac W M A |
| 2 | Tunica W M A |
| 10 | Pearl River W M A |
| 1 | Bens Creek W M A |
| | |
| | |

REGION 8:

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

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 204 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 51 |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 20 | Boating |
| 43 | Angling W/O A License |
| 4 | Angling W/O A Non-resident License |
| 15 | Angling W/O A Saltwater License |
| 1 | Angling W/O A Non-resident Saltwater License |
| 1 | Take Game Fish Illegally (Take Bass With Cast Net) |
| 4 | Take/Possess Over The Limit Of Red Drum |
| 5 | Possess Over The Limit Of Red Drum In Excess Of 27" |
| 11 | Take/Possess Undersize Red Drum |
| 2 | Take/Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout |
| 3 | Take/Possess Undersize Black Drum |
| 2 | Take/Possess Over The Limit of Spotted Sea Trout |
| 2 | Sell Fish Caught Recreationally |
| 1 | Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License |
| 1 | Commercial Fisherman Sell To Other Than A Licensed Wholesale/Retail Seafood Dealer |
| 2 | Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License |
| 2 | Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License |
| 2 | Sell/Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License |
| 2 | Transport W/O Required License |
| 2 | Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish |
| 1 | Take/Possess Undersize Commercial Finfish (Catfish) |
| 1 | Fail To Comply With Gamefish Shipping Regulations |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 3 | Sell Or Purchase Game Fish |
| 1 | Violation Of Mullet Regulations |
| 1 | Take Mullet Commercially W/O A Permit |
| 3 | Take Commercial Mullet With Mullet Strike Net In Excess Of 1200' |
| 1 | Trawling Inside Waters W/ Oversized Double Rigs |
| 1 | Use Trawls Exceeding Size Requirements |
| 1 | Fail To Have Written Permission |
| 10 | Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reef |
| 5 | Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel |
| 1 | Possession Of Untagged Oysters |
| 1 | Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester's License |
| 3 | Hunt W/O Basic License |
| 5 | Failure To Abide By Commission Rules and Regulations |
| 2 | Hunt From Moving Vehicle |
| 4 | Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours |
| 2 | Hunt From Public Road |
| 2 | Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours Or W/ Artificial Light |
| 2 | Hunting Ducks W/O A Federal Stamp |
| 1 | Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun |
| 1 | Hunting MGB Illegal Hours |
| 1 | Possess Untagged MGB |
| 4 | Transport Completely Dressed MGB |
| 1 | Use Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only |
| 3 | Possess Over The Limit Of Ducks |
| 2 | Hunt MGB W/O State Duck Stamp |
| 1 | Hunt MGB W/O State Hunting License |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 3 | Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA |
| 1 | Resist An Officer |
| 2 | Criminal Trespass |
| 1 | Operate ATV On Public Road |
| 1 | Obtain License By Fraud |
| 2 | Flight From An Officer |
| 2 | Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle |
| 2 | Violation Of Sanitary Code-Chapter 9-(Fail To Refrigerate Properly |
| | |
| | |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|--|
| Seafood sold: red drum-200 pounds-\$500.00-shrimp-475 pounds-\$2,447.05-mullet-164 pounds-\$82.00.seafood destroyed-black drum-3-seafood returned to water-147 sacks of oysters-1 spotted sea trout-1-red drum-seafood and game donated-ducks-38-duck breasts-13- coots-8 -wild hogs - 2--spotted sea trout-143 --catfish-395 pounds-bass-7-crappie-1-black drum-17-red drum-78-flounder-42.--hardware confiscated:rifles-3-shotguns-2-shotgun shells-59-motorboat-1-trawls-4-cast net-1-ice chests-4-mullet strike nets-2=2300'-harvester's license-1-commercial license-1-commercial gear license-1-resident fishing license-1-resident saltwater fishing license-1-scale-1-Mississippi boat registration-1- |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 20 | Boating |
| 43 | Commercial Fishing |
| 16 | Federal Migratory |
| 0 | Littering |
| 12 | Miscellaneous |
| 93 | Recreational Fishing |
| 17 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 3 | WMA Rules and Regulations |
| | |
| | |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 3 | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 19 | Biloxi |
| 9 | Salvador |
| 23 | Pass a Loutre |
| | |

REGION 9:

**PARISHES: ASSUMPTION, LAFOURCHE,
ST. JAMES, ST. JOHN,
ST. MARTIN, ST. MARY,
TERREBONNE**

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 148 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 40 |
|--------------------|------------|---|-----------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 22 | Boating |
| 6 | Angling W/O A License |
| 2 | Angling W/O A License Non-Resident |
| 1 | Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License |
| 2 | Angling W/O Saltwater License |
| 1 | Angling W/O Saltwater License Non-Resident |
| 1 | Possess Over 10 Red Drum (Off Water) |
| 1 | Fail To Have Fish Intact (Saltwater) |
| 6 | Take Undersized Red Drum (Recreational) 16" Minimum |
| 2 | Take Undersized Spotted Sea Trout (Recreational) |
| 11 | Take Undersized Black Drum (Recreational) |
| 5 | Take O/L Black Drum (Recreational) |
| 1 | Sell Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License |
| 1 | Fail To Maintain Records |
| 6 | Failure To Have Written Permission |
| 1 | Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms |
| 15 | Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area (Polluted) |
| 1 | Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease |
| 4 | Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly |
| 1 | Harvest Oysters From Unmarked Lease |
| 4 | Hunting W/O Resident License |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 1 | Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours |
| 5 | Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp |
| 1 | Take Illegal Deer Open Season |
| 1 | Fail To Wear Hunters Orange |
| 2 | Hunting Ducks W/O Federal Stamp |
| 1 | Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun |
| 11 | Hunting MGB From Moving Motorboat |
| 1 | Possession Of Completely Dressed MGB (No Wing Tip Left On) |
| 12 | Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only |
| 1 | Possess Over Limit Of Coots (Field Possession) |
| 12 | Possess Over Limit Of Ducks (Field Possession) |
| 1 | Hunt MGB Without State Stamp |
| 1 | Hung MGB Without State Hunting License |
| 1 | Other Than Wildlife (Driving Under Suspension) |
| 2 | Violation Of Sanitary Code – Chapter 9 Fail To Refrigerate Properly |
| 1 | Miscellaneous Federal Violation (Hunting MGB From Moving Vehicle) |
| | |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|--|
| 27 red drum, 2 hooded mergansers, 8 speckle trout, 1 rabbit, 74 coots, 158 sacks oysters, 3 gadwalls, 20 teals, 12 scaups, 62 black drum, 29 pintails, 6 ringnecks, 3 shovelers, 53 fish fillets, 1 deer, 5 oyster dredges, 2 rifles, 1 ice chest, various shotgun and rifle shells |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 22 | Boating |
| 30 | Commercial Fishing |
| 42 | Federal Migratory |
| 0 | Littering |
| 4 | Miscellaneous |
| 38 | Recreational Fishing |
| 12 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 0 | WMA Rules and Regulations |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 4 | Manchac |
| 1 | Attakapa |
| 25 | Atchafalaya Delta |
| 10 | Point Aux Chene |
| | |
| | |

S.W.E.P. – PATROL COASTAL WATERS

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---|----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 10 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 0 |
|--------------------|-----------|---|----------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 1 | Boating |
| 2 | Angling W/O Basic License |
| 2 | Federally Possess Completely Dressed MGB |
| 3 | Federally Possess Over Limit Of MGB |
| 2 | Possess Over Limit Of Spotted Sea Trout |
| | |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|---|
| 17 ducks, 78 spotted sea trout, 1-60 qt ice chest. |

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

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Boating |
| 0 | Commercial Fishing |
| 4 | Sport Fishing |
| 0 | Littering |
| 0 | Miscellaneous |
| 0 | DUI |
| 5 | MGB |
| | |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 0 | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 0 | |

**SPECIAL NOTE: TOTAL ENGINE HOURS: 19
(Boat Was In Yard For Repair)**

REGION –STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE

PARISHES: STATEWIDE

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---|-----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 65 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 33 |
|--------------------|-----------|---|-----------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 5 | Boating |
| 1 | Fish W/O Resident Pole License |
| 1 | Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession |
| 1 | Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License |
| 2 | Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License |
| 2 | Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel License |
| 1 | Take Commercial fish With Non-Approved Devices |
| 1 | Taking Fish Illegally |
| 1 | Illegal Take Or Possession Of Game Fish |
| 1 | Possession Of Red Drum And Spotted Sea Trout |
| 1 | Leave Nets Unattended |
| 1 | Use Saltwater Nets Illegally |
| 1 | Failure To Mark/Tag Nets |
| 1 | Failure To Have Written Permission |
| 1 | Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms |
| 1 | Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease |
| 5 | Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reef |
| 1 | Harvest Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester License |
| 1 | Harvest Oysters From Unmarked Lease |
| 1 | Hunting W/O Resident License |
| 1 | Hunting With Unplugged Gun |
| 1 | Hunting From A Moving Vehicle |
| 1 | Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 1 | Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours With Artificial Light |
| 1 | HUNT Or Take Deer From Public Road |
| 1 | Fail To Comply With Hunter Orange Regs. |
| 2 | Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp |
| 2 | Possess Over Limit Of Ducks |
| 1 | Use Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only |
| 1 | Taking Or Possession Of Other Non-Game Birds (No-Season) |
| 1 | Hunt MGB W/O State Stamp |
| 1 | Hunt MGB W/O State Hunting License |
| 20 | Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA |
| 1 | Littering |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|--|
| 1 Titan .38 Special Pistol, 1 big game license, 1 basic hunting license, 1-600 feet of gill net, 1 commerical license, 1 oyster harvester permit, 1 oyster dredge license, 1 Mississippi boat registration, 6 pintail 1 shore bird, 50 sacks of oysters returned to water, 9 red drum , 25 lbs. of sheephead, 68 lbs. of black drum, 52 lbs. of flounder. |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 5 | Boating |
| 23 | Commercial Fishing |
| 8 | Federal Migratory |
| 0 | Littering |
| 1 | Miscellaneous |
| 1 | Recreational Fishing |
| 7 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 20 | WMA Rules and Regulations |
| 0 | Lacy Act |
| | |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 0 | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 20 | Red River |
| 7 | Atchafalaya Delta |
| 3 | Biloxi Marsh |
| 1 | Bodcau |
| 1 | Russell Sage |
| 1 | Ouachita |
| | |

REGION -SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

PARISHES: STATEWIDE

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---|----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 56 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 1 |
|--------------------|-----------|---|----------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|---|
| 2 | Boating |
| 2 | Angling W/O A License |
| 4 | Angling W/O A Non-Resident License |
| 3 | Angling W/O A Saltwater License |
| 2 | Angling W/O A Non-Resident License |
| 2 | Take/Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout |
| 1 | Take/Possess Undersize Black Drum |
| 2 | Sell Fish Caught Recreationally |
| 2 | Take Or Sell Commercial Fish/Bait Species W/O Commercial License |
| 2 | Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License |
| 2 | Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License |
| 2 | Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O Gear License |
| 3 | Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealers Licnese |
| 3 | Fail To Maintain Records |
| 3 | Transport W/O Required License |
| 1 | Illegal Shipping Of Commercial License |
| 2 | Possession Of Red Drum And Spotted Sea Trout |
| 2 | Leave Nets Unattended |
| 2 | Take Saltwater Commercial Fish With Net In Closed Season |
| 2 | Sell And/Or Purchase Game Fish |
| 1 | Buy Fish From Un-licensed Fisherman |
| 2 | Failure To Tag Sacked Or Containerized Oysters |
| 1 | Not Abiding By Rules And Regs On WMA |

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 2 | Littering |
| 3 | Violation Of Sanitation Code-Chapter 9-Fail To Refrigerate Properly |
| 1 | Adulterated Of Misbranded Seafood |
| 2 | Possess Red Drum Illegally |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|--|
| 2 sacks of oysters returned to water, 57 pints of oysters destroyed, 36 ½ pints of oysters, 9 speckled trout, 70 lbs. of red drum, 100 lbs. of red drum, 100 lbs. of flounder, 50 lbs. of black drum, 25 lbs. of sheephead. |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 | Boating |
| 37 | Commercial Fishing |
| 0 | Federal Migratory |
| 2 | Littering |
| 0 | Miscellaneous |
| 14 | Recreational Fishing |
| 0 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 1 | WMA Rules and Regulations |
| | |
| | |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 0 | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Pass a Loutre |

REGION -OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

PARISHES: STATEWIDE

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---|----------|
| TOTAL CASES | 59 | WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA) & REFUGES | 0 |
|--------------------|-----------|---|----------|

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION OF CITATION |
|--------------|--|
| 0 | Boating |
| 1 | Angling W/O Non-Resident Basic License |
| 1 | Angling W/O A Basic Non-Resident License |
| 1 | Angling W/O A Non-Resident Saltwater License |
| 2 | Take Undersize Spotted Sea Trout |
| 1 | Take Undersize Red Drum |
| 15 | Take Oysters From Unapproved Area |
| 7 | Failure To Have Written Permission To Take Oysters From A Private Lease |
| 4 | Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly |
| 13 | Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reefs |
| 1 | Possess Untagged Oysters |
| 2 | Take Oysters W/O Harvester License |
| 2 | Take Oysters W/O Commercial Fisherman's License |
| 2 | Take Oysters W/O Gear License |
| 2 | Take Oysters W/O Vessel License |
| 1 | Theft Of Oysters From A Private Lease |
| 1 | Theft Of Oysters From State Water Bottoms |
| 1 | Harvest Oysters From Unmarked Lease |
| 2 | Failure To Refrigerate Oysters |
| | |

CONFISCATIONS:

| CONFISCATION DESCRIPTION |
|--|
| 346 sacks of oysters, 36 gallons of oysters, 5 oyster dredges, 5 spotted sea trout, 2 red drum. |

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 0 | Boating |
| 53 | Commercial Fishing |
| 0 | Federal Migratory |
| 0 | Littering |
| 0 | Miscellaneous |
| 6 | Recreational Fishing |
| 0 | State Hunting/Trapping |
| 0 | WMA Rules and Regulations |
| | |

TOTAL NUMBER FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

| TOTAL | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 0 | Public Assistance |

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES MADE ON WMAs AND REFUGES

| TOTAL | NAME OF MANAGEMENT AREA |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| 0 | |

TOTAL CASES WMA AND REFUGES- 428

TOTAL CASES -1464

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
NOVEMBER, 1998

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. - 30.1

185-Float - 70365
Hrs. -

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 35.3

Enforcement Hours - 40.1

Other Divisions - 25.3

Total Plane Use - 65.4

DMAP Baiting Survey

Name of Cooperator _____ Parish _____

- 1) Do you feed or bait deer during the season? Yes ___ No ___
- 2) How often do you feed or bait deer? Year-round ___ Only during hunting season ___
- 3) Do you hunt over bait? Yes ___ No ___
- 4) Would you support a ban on deer hunting over bait? Yes ___ No ___
- 5) Were you aware of the aflatoxin problem this year? Yes ___ No ___ Did you make adjustments in the method that you fed or baited deer? Yes ___ No ___ What grain(s) do you bait or feed with? _____
- 6) Do you make food plots to attract deer? Yes ___ No ___
- 7) Do you hunt over food plots? Yes ___ No ___



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 440 BATON ROUGE LA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
ATTENTION: WILDLIFE DIVISION
PO BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE LA 70898-9950



DMAP Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 1998

DMAP 1997 - 1998

Increasing interest in the intensive management of Louisiana's white-tailed deer and deer habitat is evident in the continued popularity of the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). In 1997 there were 1,322 cooperating landowners and hunting clubs that participated in this voluntary program. They contributed \$160,618 to the LDWF Conservation Fund. Statewide, DMAP enrollment reached 2.5 million acres -- 10% of the State's deer habitat. This is an 8 % increase over last year (Figure 1). At least 1 DMAP cooperator was located in every parish except 1 during 1997-98 (Figure 2).

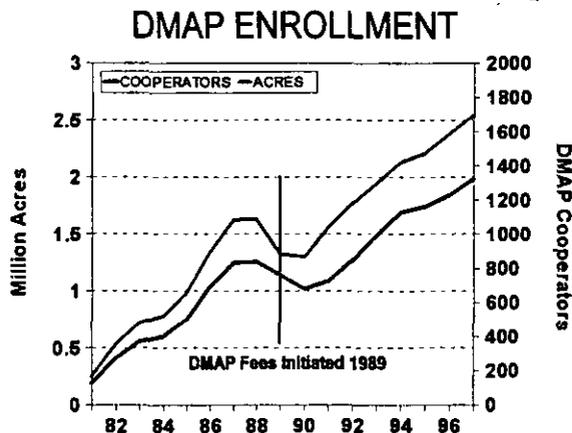


Figure 1.

As land-use and economic trends continue to reduce access to deer habitat, hunters are turning to intensive management practices to produce more with less. For assistance in making the transition from deer shooters to deer managers, clubs are increasingly taking advantage of DMAP (see Club Spotlight). DMAP provides cooperators with technical assistance from LDWF Biologists that are backed by 50 years of research and hands-on deer management experience. DMAP biologists make recommendations based on the cooperators specific management objectives and the unique combination of people, habitat potential and deer population found on each management unit.

DMAP cooperators reported harvesting 30,005 deer: 89.6% with Modern Firearm, 6.4% with bow and 4.0% with muzzleloaders (Table 1). One deer was harvested for

DMAP continued on page 3

THE DROUGHT OF NINETY-EIGHT

The 1998 growing season was one of the driest and hottest in over 100 years of record keeping in Louisiana. The impact on the state's deer herd is uncertain and may not be fully evident for several years. As illustrated by the Palmer Drought Indices map (Figure 3)(Courtesy of Louisiana Office of State Climatology), the majority of the state was under severe drought conditions in August. The Northwest corner of the state suffered extreme moisture stress with 12.4" of rainfall needed to break the drought.

Palmer Drought Indices thru August 1998

| DIV | CROP MOISTURE INDEX | PALMER DROUGHT INDEX | RAIN TO END DROUGHT |
|-----|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| NW | Severely Dry | Extreme Drought | 12.4" |
| NC | Severely Dry | Severe Drought | 11.1" |
| NE | Extremely Dry | Severe Drought | 11.6" |
| WC | Too Dry | Severe Drought | 10.1" |
| C | Severely Dry | Severe Drought | 12.0" |
| EC | Severely Dry | Severe Drought | 11.6" |
| SW | Too Dry | Severe Drought | 11.0" |
| SC | Abnormally Dry | Severe Drought | 10.3" |
| SE | Abnormally Dry | Moderate Drought | 8.6" |

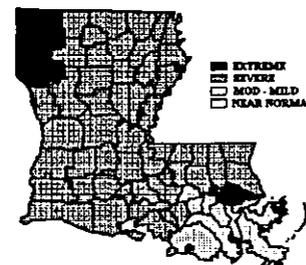


Figure 3.

Two physiologically stressful periods in the white-tailed deer's annual cycle -- antler growth and milk production -- are timed by nature to coincide with abundant rainfall and rapid plant growth that normally occur in spring and early summer. This year's April through July rainfall was the lowest ever recorded.

Antler is the fastest growing tissue in the animal kingdom and much is written about nutritional requirements

Drought continued on page 3

LDWF TESTS DEER CORN FOR AFLATOXIN

The drought not only reduced natural deer foods this year; it also tainted about half of the state's 700,000-acre corn crop with aflatoxin. Aflatoxin is a toxic chemical by-product of fungus that grows on drought stressed corn and can be harmful to wildlife, livestock and humans.

The common soil fungus that produces aflatoxin can suddenly increase at anytime during handling, transportation, storage or feeding of corn. The hard seed coat on a kernel of corn is a natural barrier to invading fungi. However, when mechanical damage or insects break this barrier, the soft inner kernel is vulnerable to attack. Optimum conditions for rapid growth and significant production of aflatoxin are 85% relative humidity, temperatures 81 to 86 degrees F and kernel moisture content of 18%.

Other than balance their deer herd through proper harvest, managers can do little to reduce the impact of this year's drought stress on deer. However, they can prevent any additional stress that can be caused by chronic aflatoxin poisoning. Wildlife in the bottomland areas of the state may be exposed to blighted corn as waste from normal farming practices. However, in the states largest habitat unit, the pineywoods, deer and turkeys will be exposed to aflatoxin only if it is transported to them. This is done when otherwise well meaning club members feed contaminated corn.

Aflatoxin is toxic in very small quantities. Contamination rate is measured in parts per billion (ppb). How much is a part per billion? One example recently given is that a ppb is equivalent to the thickness of one quarter in a stack of quarters 1,500 miles high.

Aflatoxin is not safe at any level. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration rules do not allow dairy cattle feed to exceed 20 ppb of aflatoxin since it can be passed to humans through the milk. Feed for most other livestock cannot exceed 100 ppb. The University of Georgia Wildlife Disease Unit recommends that corn exceeding 100 ppb should not be used for supplemental wildlife feeding.

Assisted by cooperating DMAP clubs, LDWF collected random corn samples in August. Samples were tested for aflatoxin at Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry laboratories. One in five or 19% of the 36 samples of corn grown in 1998 exceeded 100 ppb for aflatoxin. Similar tests done by Texas Parks and Wildlife showed that 20% of sack corn purchased from retailers in August had levels above 100 ppb. LDWF will conduct additional tests on corn from feeders in November and December in an effort to determine the extent of wildlife exposure. DMAP cooperators wishing to participate in

these tests can call their LDWF biologist and submit about two pounds of corn in a paper (grocery) bag taken directly from a feeder.

Clubs unintentionally exposing their wildlife resources to bad corn are not likely to witness a die-off of animals around feeders. The actual impact can be invisible long-term losses of apparently healthy animals due to chronic exposure to aflatoxin.

Acute poisoning occurs when an animal dies from eating a large amount of corn with high concentrations of aflatoxin over a short period of time. Acute poisoning of deer has only been demonstrated in the lab, not in the wild. A news report from central Texas indicates 25 dogs recently died from acute aflatoxin poisoning after eating dog food that contained contaminated corn. Birds such as turkeys are apparently more susceptible than mammals to acute poisoning. Direct mortalities have occurred in ducks, sandhill cranes and geese exposed to aflatoxin contaminated waste grain in agricultural fields.

Chronic poisoning occurs when animals eat small amounts of blighted corn over long periods of time. This low-level exposure to aflatoxin causes sub-lethal health problems. Laboratory test on young deer and young turkeys show sub-clinical symptoms on otherwise healthy looking animals including reduced food intake, damage to internal organs, suppressed immune system and weight loss. In Mother Nature's harsh world these unthrifty animals are more likely to succumb to predators and secondary disease infections that healthy animals could ward off.

These losses will be largely invisible and undetectable because they are individual events that occur over a long period of time. As a consequence, it is seldom seen. Even farmers and ranchers who closely check their livestock and poultry daily have trouble detecting significant aflatoxin problems. Nevertheless, the club ultimately will suffer a subtle, self-inflicted loss of recreational opportunity.

LDWF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Just say "no" to corn feeding. This is the only way to be absolutely certain that no adverse aflatoxin induced problems occur. In habitats where natural food is abundant, landowners are increasingly eliminating supplemental feeding altogether from deer and turkey management programs. Along the Mississippi River Anderson Tulley, Inc. (1984), International Paper Co. (1996) and other private landowners have stopped all feeding.
2. Use only corn certified to be below 20 or 100 ppb aflatoxin. DO NOT use untested corn directly from the field. Unirrigated cornfields had the highest rate of aflatoxin in 1998.

Aflatoxin continued on page 4

DMAP

Drought

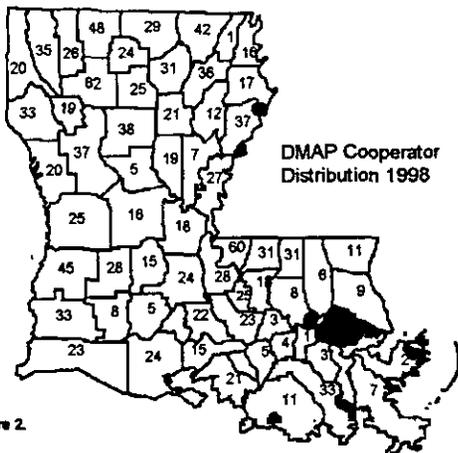


Figure 2

each 84 acres of habitat enrolled in DMAP. This is the highest overall harvest rate since 1991 and was due to an increase in both buck (1/183 acres) and antlerless deer (1/157 acres) harvest rates. Hard working DMAP hunters extracted jawbones from 69% of the deer harvested to provide LDWF with this valuable management information.

Harvest rate is one way of evaluating just how successful the hunting season has been. Farmers determine their productivity or yield on the basis of bushels/acre or bales/acre. Deer season yield is measured by the number of acres of habitat for each deer harvested or acres/deer harvested. The harvest summary table 1 shows more antlerless deer were harvested than antlered bucks. This indicates that cooperators are working hard to keep herds in balance with their habitat.

Table 1. Louisiana DMAP State Harvest Summary

| Season | Antlered | Antlerless | Total |
|----------------------|----------|------------|--------|
| Archery | 668 | 1,258 | 1,926 |
| Firearms | 12,740 | 14,151 | 26,891 |
| Muzzle-loader | 416 | 772 | 1,188 |
| Total | 13,824 | 16,181 | 30,005 |
| Acres/Deer Harvested | 183 | 157 | 84 |

The age distribution of antlered bucks was 46% young (1.5 year old) animals and 52% adult (2.5+ years old) bucks (Table 2). Buck age structure continues to increase as more cooperators pursue quality buck management and reduce the harvest of young animals (Figure 4). Age and nutrition are the keys to successful quality buck (2.5+) management.

DMAP continued on page 6

necessary for optimum antler development. Hard working does are also struggling to produce new bone growth (fetal skeleton) and milk (richer in fat, protein and energy than cow's milk) that requires just as much or more nutrition than antler growth. Nutrients for these vital processes come primarily from the growing shoots of native shrubs, vines and weeds found in the "brushy" areas of deer habitat.

Deer are very picky eaters that select only the tender parts of a few first choice browse plants. New plant growth is loaded with calcium, phosphorous, protein and energy. Digestibility is directly related to the rate of plant growth. Like a gardener picking small tender okra pods from the top of a plant (and ignoring the over-mature pods), deer choose rapid plant growth (tender) over slow growth (tough). When plant growth declines, so does the available nutrition for deer.

All plant growth was significantly reduced this summer. State farmers were devastated by an estimated \$456 million in losses due to the drought. As an example, statewide hay production was 30 to 70% below normal. A 50% loss of natural browse growth would be the equivalent to forcing deer living on 2,000 acres (the average DMAP Club) to make their living on only 1,000 acres. This reduced habitat carrying capacity (food supply) would in effect cause temporary overpopulation. Symptoms of poor nutrition due to overcrowding are reduced fawn production, lower body weight, stunted antler growth and lowered disease and parasite resistance.

One obvious drought symptom would be a sudden increase in the incidence of spike antlers in yearling (1.5 yr. old) bucks. Yearling bucks are in the process of growing a young body and will rob nutrients from antler growth (resulting in spikes) to properly develop their skeleton and muscle. Older bucks that have mature bodies are less likely to demonstrate drought-induced reductions in antler growth.

Clubs that have restrictions on harvesting spikes could see a reduction in the number of forked-antlered bucks killed this year. This in turn may increase the carry-over of yearling (spike) bucks. To ensure the nutritional recovery and proper growth of these young bucks next year, all DMAP tags should be used to balance deer numbers with the habitat deficiencies caused by the drought.

An early indication of increased spikes came from the opening weekend of deer season on Jackson-Bienville, WMA October 24, 1998. All but one of 29, 1.5 year-old bucks harvested had spike antlers. Two had no visible antler growth and only one had branched antlers. Last year under normal growing season conditions over half of the young bucks had branched antlers.

Drought continued on page 5

SCRAPE RESEARCH

Researchers presented two studies on buck scraping behavior at the 21st Annual Southeast Deer Study Group meeting in Georgia this year. Using the latest remote camera technology they spied on buck activity around both natural and mock scrapes under real-life conditions in the woods. In the past, many detailed studies of scraping behavior have been conducted in the unnatural setting of deer research pens.

Karen Dasher used motion-activated video cameras to continuously monitor scrapes on a 3,000 acre-hunting club in Georgia that practiced quality buck management. This deer herd had a good adult (2.5-yr. and older) buck component and an estimated 1:1 buck to doe ratio.

Two of her most interesting camera locations were scrape 2 and scrape 3 located only 300 yards apart. Five bucks (2-1.5-yr. old and 3-2.5-yr. old) visited scrape 2, but only the 2.5 yr. bucks displayed scraping behavior. A single 3.5-yr. buck passed by the camera but did not work the scrape. Only 300 yards away at scrape 3, the camera revealed seven different bucks (4-1.5 yr., 2-2.5 yr. and 1-3.5 yr.) not seen at scrape 2. Four 3.5-yr. bucks not recorded on camera were killed within 500 yards of these two scrapes.

Other interesting findings during the study included:

- Buck activity at scrapes peaked two weeks before and two weeks after the peak breeding or rut period.
- Dominant bucks were not the only ones working scrapes. Subordinate or low-ranking bucks not only performed scraping behavior, they often started scrapes. Yearling (1.5-yr.) bucks were going through the full scrape making sequence.
- Bucks visited scrapes without working them.
- Eighty percent of buck (and doe) visits were at night.

Ben Koerth used infrared-triggered still cameras to monitor deer activity at mock scrapes in Texas. Deer are attracted to scrapes by both the sight of bare soil and the smell deposited by other deer. To determine which produced the most response from deer, five different combinations of mock scrapes and scent stations were used: scrapes without scents, scrapes with commercial rutting buck scent, scrapes with commercial doe scent, buck scent without a scrape and doe scent without a scrape. Mock scrapes were constructed in areas typical of natural scrapes and worked by researchers every two days.

All five combinations received some visits by deer. The most frequent buck visits occurred at mock scrapes with buck scent, scrapes with doe scent and doe scent without scrapes. Doe scent without a scrape was the combination most often visited by does. Additional observations included:

Scrape continued on page 5

Aflatoxin (continued from page 2)

3. Properly handle, store and feed corn. Treat deer corn like it will be fed to prize livestock. During transportation do not expose to rainfall. Store in water, insect and rodent resistant container placed in a cool location.
4. Use feeders that protect corn from the weather and dispense small quantities. Frequently filling feeders with small hoppers will keep corn fresh. DO NOT use wet or moldy corn. Move feeder location frequently to reduce the risk of secondary diseases and parasites.
5. Terminate your feeding program by February 15. At spring "green-up" wildlife food habitats change from high carbohydrate winter foods (corn) to foods rich in calcium, phosphorous, and protein. As the days get longer, they begin the growth and reproductive phases of their annual cycle and are less dependent on a high carbohydrate diet.
6. Thoroughly clean storage containers and feeders annually. Remove dirt, old corn and debris and wash with Clorox water at the end of the season.
7. Maintain healthy well-balanced deer herds by proper application of either-sex harvest as recommended under DMAP. Research on livestock indicates that stress-free well-fed (high protein) animals are not as susceptible to aflatoxin related disorders as under-nourished animals with additional stress factors (parasites, etc.).

Tarsal Gland (continued from page 5)

Georgia researchers believe the tarsal gland may provide each deer with a unique individually identifying odor. This scent is the product of a unique interaction of tarsal gland secretion, urine, and the resident bacteria.

As a buck travels through a thick piney woods cutover during the rut, he does not have to see other deer. His "calling card" scent probably makes them aware of his presence, his ID and social rank.

Dr. Miller said that urine is a very important part of deer communication and that commercial deer scents that stimulate a response from deer may do so simply because of the urine component and not some "doe in heat" ingredient.



- Bucks visited these sites only once and did not make repeat visits.
- After visiting one mock site bucks did not go to other sites. Only one buck was captured on camera at two different sites.
- All mature (2.5 yr. and older) buck visits were made at night.
- Most daytime deer visits occurred 30 minutes before or after sunset.
- Deer visits to mock sites were very brief. As a hunting technique, mock scrapes may only be useful as a way to briefly stop deer passing through a particular area.



TARSAL GLAND--DEER NAME TAG ??

Most deer hunters are familiar with the tarsal gland, that foul smelling tuft of hair on the hock of bucks killed during the rut. It is the most obvious of seven different glands found on the head, legs and genital of deer. Deer deliberately urinate on this gland during scent marking behavior such as scrape making. Scents produced by the tarsal gland may be the most important form of social communication between deer.

Researchers at the University of Georgia have been studying every aspect of the tarsal scent gland for the past 20 years. Dr. Karl Miller gave a presentation of their research at the initial meeting of the Bayou Choctaw DMAP Association (see Association News) in Baton Rouge in July. Their research has demonstrated that:

- The individual hairs of the tarsal gland are designed to catch and hold as much urine as possible.
- Secretions from the tarsal gland remove and concentrate fat compounds from the urine.
- Twenty-two species of bacteria have been isolated from tarsal glands. Eleven of these bacteria are found only on deer tarsal glands. Mature bucks have the best bacteria "garden" with the highest species count.
- The tarsal gland is the point of highest body temperature on deer. This may be an adaptation to promote bacteria growth and help "wick" or evaporate scents.
- The brown coloration of the tarsal gland is produced by the decomposition of urine by bacteria.

Tarsal Gland continued on page 4

Another important but less obvious impact would be a reduced fawn crop next year. Does under stress from nursing fawns during this extremely poor growing season could enter winter in poor body condition. Depending on recovery time (food availability), they may come into estrus late and breed several weeks later than normal. Late fawn drop could lead to poor health and lower fawn survival next year. A reduction in the male fawn crop in 1999 would affect yearling buck numbers available for harvest in the year 2000. There are some indications that there was decreased fawn production this year from early WMA data.

This happened in the piney-woods of North Louisiana in 1989. An absolute acorn crop failure in 1987 was followed by an early summer drought in 1988. Large areas of maturing pine plantations were shading out browse at a time when deer herds were already overpopulated. At this time, most clubs were harvesting 75 to 85% yearling buck and very few does. The loss of fawns in 1988 caused the buck kill to plummet in 1989 (when 1988 male fawns would have first antlers). Unaware of the 1988 fawn loss, hunters erroneously attributed the low buck kills of 1989 to recent increases in doe harvest under DMAP.

Recently Mother Nature has been good and she has been bad to the states deer herd. The past two winters have been very mild and acorn crops have been abundant. The 1998 drought is a serious blow but so far, not the combination punches (mast failure + drought) thrown in 1988. Surprisingly red oaks across most of the state have had at least an average acorn crop this year.

Mother Nature's "sucker punch" this year was the drought blighted aflatoxin corn. However it can only become a stress factor to deer and turkeys if it is mistakenly carried and fed to them by well-meaning clubs and landowners. With winter weather, spring flooding and next summer's rainfall still at her disposal, Mother Nature may not be "punched out" yet. The final impact of the 1998 drought will be determined by what combination of environmental stress factors are to follow this winter and next summer.

A healthy, well-balanced deer herd is very resilient and can cope with environmental stress. As a deer manager, you have no control over nature but you do influence the health of your deer herd by keeping them in balance with their natural food supply. DMAP cooperators that harvested recommended numbers of does last year are to be commended. They prepared their deer herd in advance for the 1998 drought by keeping them healthy. Cooperators who didn't fill their tags and carried-over to many deer may face some serious long-term drought related problems. DMAP cooperators should harvest the recommended number of females as soon and completely as possible in 1998-99 hunting season to dampen the impact of this past summer's drought.

Table 2. DMAP Statewide Harvest Age Distribution

| Age | Antlered | | Antlerless | |
|----------|----------|----|------------|----|
| | N | % | N | % |
| 0.5 Buck | 133 | 2 | 887 | |
| 0.5 Doe | | | 1,615 | 14 |
| 1.5 | 3,815 | 46 | 2,578 | 22 |
| 2.5 | 2,616 | 31 | 3,016 | 27 |
| 3.5 | 1,314 | 16 | 2,130 | 19 |
| 4.5 | 328 | 4 | 967 | 8 |
| 5.5 | 100 | 1 | 591 | 5 |
| 6.5 | 24 | 0 | 288 | 2 |
| 7.5 | 11 | 0 | 125 | 1 |
| 8.5+ | 7 | 0 | 108 | 1 |
| Total | 8,348 | | 12,340 | |

ANTLERED BUCK AGE STRUCTURE 1989 - 1997

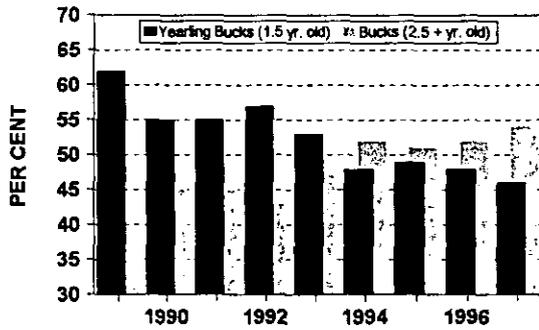


Figure 4.



Southpoint H.C. Recognition Award

DMAP BAITING SURVEY

Please complete the postage-free mail survey on baiting and return self-addressed card promptly.

DMAP DEADLINE

All 1998-99 deer records and unused DMAP tags are due by March 1, 1999

A *deer management association* is simply a group of adjacent hunting clubs or landowners working together to accomplish a common deer management objective. Associations first appeared along the Mississippi River 20 years ago where clubs were trying to increase antler size by increasing the number of older bucks. Flooding and high hunting pressure prevented quality buck management from working on small clubs. Clubs banded together to form cooperatives to reduce the harvest of young bucks and to increase the size of the management unit for improved protection of far ranging bucks.

Associations are increasingly being used by Louisiana DMAP cooperators to improve their deer management potential. There are currently 15 active associations in DMAP.

Simply working with a neighbor may be one of the simplest most cost effective deer management tools available. Statewide, DMAP units average about 2,000 acres. State LDWF biologists feel that typically a minimum of 5,000 acres is needed to successfully pursue a quality buck management objective. If your chosen management objective is similar to your neighbors', increasing the size of the habitat unit by working together under a common plan will improve the management potential for both areas. Combined records from several small clubs provides better data on the area's deer herd. As a result, biologists can develop better management recommendations.

CHOCTAW-BAYOU QDM COOPERATIVE – The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Quality Deer Management Association, and A. Wilbert's Sons, L.L.C. held a quality deer management seminar July 18, 1998 at the LDWF headquarters in Baton Rouge. This was the initial meeting for the formation of Choctaw-Bayou QDM Cooperative. This is a unique group of landowners and hunting clubs in the Atchafalaya Basin who are actively trying to improve the quality of their deer population by habitat management, increased either-sex deer hunting and selective harvest of young bucks. Vic Blanchard, wildlife biologist for A. Wilbert's Son's, initiated the cooperative that includes 15 hunting clubs and totals 37,365 acres.

EAST CARROLL ASSOCIATION – The ninth annual meeting of the East Carroll Association was held at South Point Hunting Club on September 18, 1998. This group of 12 landowners and hunting clubs consists of 12,818 acres of narrow riverfront hardwood habitat along the Mississippi River in East Carroll Parish. The host and catalyst for the formation of this successful quality buck management association has been South Point Hunting Club. South Point members were awarded a plaque by LDWF Region II Office in appreciation for their leadership role in the stewardship of wildlife resources in East Carroll Parish. Individual clubs began working separately on quality buck programs as charter members of the new Intensive Deer Management Program (prior to DMAP) offered by LDWF in 1981. However, success didn't come until they began working together as an association in 1989. The adult buck harvest has gone from 20% of the buck harvest in the early-1980's to over 80% of their buck kill in 1997. As a result, East Carroll Association is one of the primary reasons East Carroll Parish led the state in the harvest of 200+ pound bucks on DMAP lands in 1997.

Hunting Club Spotlight

Buffalo Hole Hunting Club

Buffalo Hole is a 4,786 acre piney-woods hunting club located in Union Parish near Marion, Louisiana. Local hunters drawn together by the desire to protect their deer herd and increase hunting opportunity started Buffalo Hole in 1973. They certainly accomplished their objective. Establishing a club was difficult in this region of the State where open-land hunting was the general rule and hunting clubs were not yet common. However, Buffalo Hole soon gained the reputation as a place poachers and trespassers should avoid. The key to their **maximum protection** management plan was the personal involvement of members in patrolling and reporting illegal activity to local LDWF agents. All does were rigidly protected even during archery season.

At about the time the deer herd began to respond to protection, the industrial timber company that owned the land began converting native mixed pine-hardwood forest to monoculture pine plantations. The combination of absolute doe protection and temporary habitat improvements created by large-scale clear-cutting produced an explosion in deer numbers. Overprotection soon resulted in a rapid overpopulation of deer.

As with most clubs, Buffalo Hole's genuine interest in their deer resource led them to apply their protection policy a little too long. By the mid-1980's, the buck kill declined to less than 30 animals -- primarily young spikes. The place was crawling with does but members began seeing large groups of does at food plots and bait stations without fawns. Members concerned about the declining buck kill and low fawn crops contacted LDWF about developing a new management plan under DMAP.

LDWF biologists conducted the first habitat and deer herd health surveys in 1986 as an initial step of DMAP participation. Browse surveys revealed that deer were feeding on starvation foods such as pine seedlings and sweetgum. A deer herd health check conducted jointly by LDWF and University of Georgia Wildlife Disease Unit revealed a high exposure to the viral disease bluetongue and high numbers of stomach worms and other internal parasites. The obvious conclusion --- overprotection had resulted in a very unhealthy deer herd living far above the natural food supply.

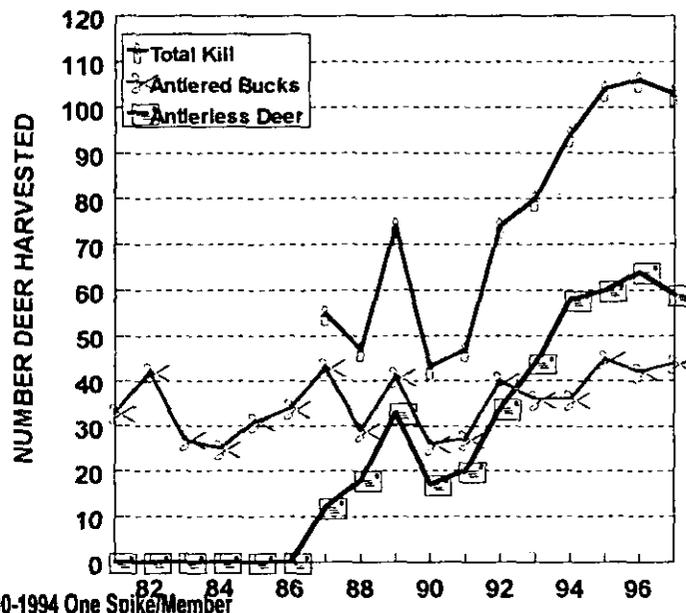
The LDWF biologists recommended a controlled harvest of does to balance the deer herd with prevailing habitat conditions. Buffalo Hole made the first tentative steps at harvesting does under DMAP from 1987 to 1989. With a long history as strict protectionist, members became nervous and began telling "ghost stories" about low deer numbers. A temporary setback in doe harvest occurred in 1990. However, from that point on they gradually gained confidence by keeping excellent records and holding annual meetings with the LDWF biologist to review annual harvest data and discuss management recommendations.

The positive results of this gradual (17-year) change from a bucks-only to an either-sex harvest strategy are readily apparent in Figure 4. As antlerless deer harvest increased, the food supply and health of the entire herd improved. Records indicate fawn production in both adult and young does have significantly increased (Figure 5). A doe that is wet (with milk) during the hunting season has produced at least one and maybe two fawns. Buffalo Hole has taken advantage on this increased production by increasing their harvest of both bucks and does.

By keeping open minds and excellent records, Buffalo Hole members have proven the most basic concept in deer management --- fawn production is the key to successful deer management. Whether the objective is to improve buck quality or increase total deer kill, the more fawns that survive each growing season, the more deer (bucks) that are available for harvest the next or subsequent hunting seasons. Maximum fawn production can only occur in a healthy well-balanced deer herd.

Buffalo Hole members love the social aspect of the hunting camp and enjoy managing, watching, harvesting and eating white-tailed deer. A brief attempt was made at managing for quality bucks (1990-1994) but records indicated it was not successful. Numerous spikes passed up for three years were not being killed as adult bucks (2.5+ years old) for some reason.

BUFFALO HOLE HUNTING CLUB REPORTED DEER HARVEST 1981 - 1997



Members are currently managing under an optimum sustained harvest objective. They are simply harvesting as many deer as can safely be taken each year and having fun doing it.

Records show that they have been very successful at meeting their objective. Annual harvest has averaged 104 deer the past three seasons (49% males and 51% females) -- a harvest rate of one deer for each 46 acres on the club. Other piney-woods DMAP clubs in northeast Louisiana average about half that (1/84 acres). On the hoof, Buffalo Hole harvested approximately 10,852 pounds of deer in 1997-98. That's a lot of low-fat, low-cholesterol, and hormone-free red meat for home consumption.

What about buck harvest? Hasn't shooting all those does reduced their buck kill? Antlered buck kill on Buffalo Hole has been over 40 three consecutive seasons for the first time in 17 years that records have been maintained. Typically the fawn crop each year is about half male and half female. As fawn production increases so does the number of young bucks entering the herd and the harvest.

Change the name and the Buffalo Hole story could be told for a thousand clubs in the piney-woods of North Louisiana in the past 20 years. Only the ending would be different. Most clubs have failed to make the complete transition from deer shooters to deer managers, as Buffalo Hole Hunting Club has done.

BUFFALO HOLE HUNTING CLUB ANTLERLESS DEER HARVEST 1986 - 1997

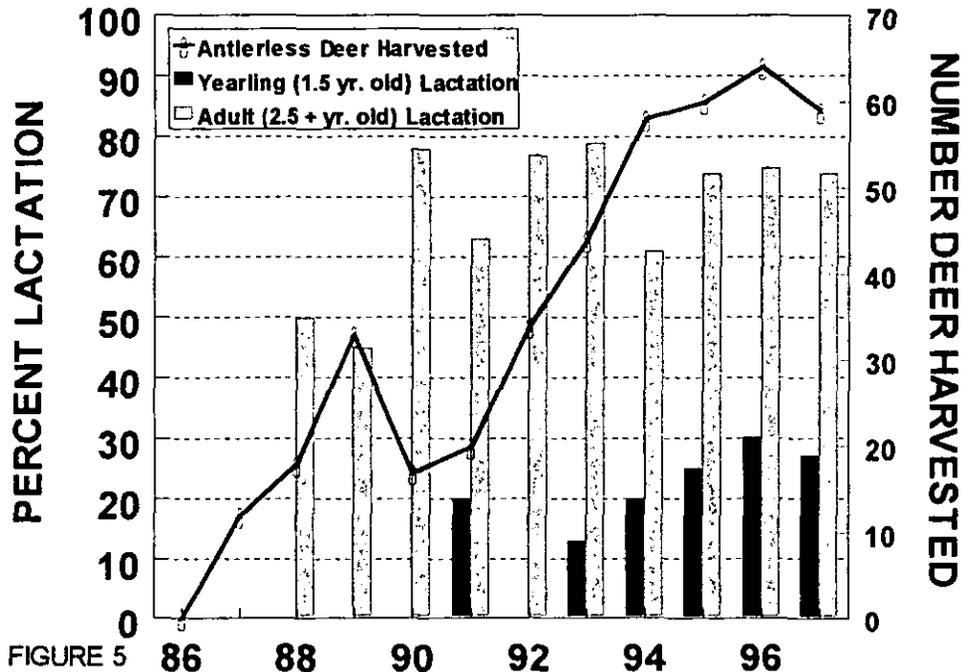
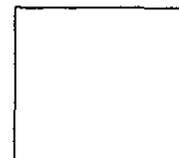


FIGURE 5

LA. DEPT. OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
P.O. BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE LA 70898-9000



USDA Conservation Programs Offering Wildlife Benefits

| Program | Eligible Lands | Wildlife Options | Enrollment Period | Landowner Responsibility | Payments or Cost Share | Other Information |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) | Land has to have been cropped 2 out of the last 5 years or in some cases, marginal pasture land. It must also fit into 1. of the following categories: 1) highly erodible, 2) cropped wetland, 3) subject to scour erosion, 4) located in a Conservation Priority Area, 5) cropland associated with non-cropped wetlands, or 6) devoted to certain priority practices (filter strips, riparian buffers, grassed waterways). | Be sure your conservation plan permits positive wildlife habitat practices, i.e. wildlife friendly grass/legume plantings/forb plantings; a higher seeding rate; controlled burning; tree thinning; light strip discing; or food plots. Conservation Practice 4 (CP-4) may offer the most wildlife habitat flexibility. Other practices, such as native grass establishment (CP-2) are good as well. Priority practices, such as filter strips and riparian buffers can provide excellent wildlife cover if managed properly. Several conservation practices can be used together to provide optimum habitat. Beginning with Sign-Up 18, portions of Louisiana are located in a longleaf pine Conservation Priority Area (CPA). Areas within the CPA to be planted in longleaf pine do not have to meet the erodibility requirement and receive EBI bonus points. | Continuous sign-up now open for priority practices such as filter strips and riparian buffers. Other sign-ups periodically announced by the USDA. | Sign-up at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Contracts are for 10 or 15 years, depending on the practice. | Annual per acre rental payment, plus 50% cost-share from USDA for cover establishment. Bonus on rental payments for most continuous sign-up practices. | In standard sign-ups landowners can re-enroll existing CRP acres, but will have to rebid areas. Acceptance into CRP is nationally competitive based on the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) score. Continuous sign-up practices are not competitive and are automatically accepted. |
| Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) | Lands in livestock or agricultural production.. | Avoid using Bermuda or Bahia grass in filter strips or field borders. Instead, establish native species. Riparian buffers of hardwoods or pines planted at densities less than 500 trees per acre, and which incorporate a herbaceous transition zone, can provide good wildlife habitat. | Sign-ups periodically announced by USDA. | Sign-up at local FSA office. 5-10 year contracts. Limit of \$10,000 per fiscal year or \$50,000 for contract period. | Cost-share for up to 75% of the cost for establishment of eligible practices | Nationally, fifty percent of funding is for livestock related resource concerns. Emphasis is on lands within Conservation Priority Areas. |
| Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) | All land not enrolled in other USDA programs such as Conservation Reserve and Wetland Reserve. Federal lands are ineligible. | Applications are ranked according to the wildlife or habitat benefits of the plan. Plans which involve management or restoration of upland habitat receive priority in the Louisiana WHIP plan. Eligible practices beneficial to wildlife include tree and shrub planting, prescribed burning, field border establishment, native grass and legume planting, filter strip establishment, and creation of shallow water areas. | Continuous sign-up. Projects are ranked and funds dispersed several times a year. | Sign-up at local NRCS office. Contracts are for 5-10 years. | Cost-share for up to 75% of establishment cost of eligible practices. | In Louisiana, plans that emphasize riparian buffer establishment, longleaf pine restoration, upland hardwood establishment, and native prairie restoration will be ranked highest. |
| Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) | Agricultural land containing restorable wetlands. Must have hydric soils with wetland restoration potential. | Eligible acreage can include adjacent uplands or existing wetlands. Tree planting and restoration of natural hydrology are the primary practices. | Continuous sign-up. | Sign-up at local NRCS office. 10 year agreements, 30 year, and permanent easements are available. | 10 year agreements. USDA pays 75% of the cost of restoration. Easements: 75% - 100% of restoration cost and easement payments. | Landowner controls access and recreational use of the land. NRCS must approve of other uses such as timber harvest or grazing. |
| Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) | Non-industrial private lands participating in the Forest Stewardship program that have an approved plan are eligible for SIP funds. At least 10 forested acres are required to participate in the Forest Stewardship Program. | Under SIP-8 (Wildlife Habitat Enhancement), cost-share is authorized for permanent wildlife plantings, prescribed burning, creation of forest openings, tree thinning for wildlife, creation of snags, and water source development. Non-forested lands are eligible and can be managed for wildlife if adjacent to enrolled forest land. | Continuous sign-up. | Sign up at FSA offices for SIP funds. Must have a Forest Stewardship Plan which can include a wildlife resource management plan. | Cost-share for up to 50% of eligible practices. | Contact the Louisiana Office of Forestry or the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for information on the Forest Stewardship Program. |

Note: Although Bahia and Bermuda grass establishment is allowed in some of these programs, other plantings such as native grasses, legume mixtures, and native cover (allowing areas to revegetate naturally) will provide much better wildlife habitat.

Farm Bill Wildlife Opportunities

Soil conservation and water quality were the primary objectives of the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills. Resulting Farm Bill programs had positive impacts on wildlife in some areas of the country, particularly the midwest. However, in Louisiana and most of the southeast, much of the acreage enrolled in these Farm Bill programs went into dense pine tree plantings or other practices offering few wildlife benefits.

This situation changed dramatically with the 1996 Farm Bill. For the first time, the 1996 Farm Bill granted wildlife habitat equal status with soil and water conservation. This means some of the ongoing programs, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) have been fine-tuned to offer more wildlife benefits. Additionally, new Farm Bill programs such as the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are structured to offer increased wildlife opportunities.

For the farmer or landowner interested in wildlife, there are more opportunities than ever before to incorporate wildlife habitat projects into ongoing farming or land management operations. This brochure highlights USDA Farm Bill program opportunities and provides information about where to locate additional information about these programs.



Farmland Wildlife Decline

Throughout the southeast, wildlife species that depend on early successional/grassland cover have experienced dramatic decreases in the past 30 years. This is the type of cover provided on farms and ranches throughout Louisiana. Bobwhite quail are a good indicator of early successional/grassland habitat conditions in Louisiana. It will come as no surprise to landowners that bobwhite quail have declined significantly in Louisiana. Since 1966, bobwhites have declined by almost 5% per year. In fact, bobwhite quail have virtually disappeared from many Louisiana farms. Just a little planning and a few habitat improvements can significantly improve habitat for bobwhites and other farm wildlife. Several farm bill programs are available that will help landowners implement practices that can provide a greater variety of wildlife habitat across the rural landscape.

Sign-Up Procedures

The majority of farm bill programs will involve some type of enrollment period at the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. While at those offices, it is important that you make it known what type of habitat program or wildlife practices interest you. After the sign-up visit, your inquiry will be processed for acceptance or denial and a plan prepared.

You are encouraged to begin immediately learning more about the wildlife opportunities

in the USDA Conservation Programs. Do not wait until a sign-up period to begin asking questions or planning. For many of these farm bill programs, applications are accepted based on an Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) score. The higher the EBI, the more likely your application is to be accepted. Therefore, planning to maximize your EBI is critical. The table contained within this brochure will provide guidelines as to the practices that are suggested for wildlife habitat improvement.

For assistance you can contact:

- *Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries*
Contact local office or call 225/765-2350
- *Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Contact local parish office or call 318/473-7751
- *Farm Services Agency*
Contact local parish office or call 318/473-7734
- *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
Call 318/291-3100
- *Louisiana Office of Forestry*
Contact local office or call 225/925-4500

Wildlife Habitat Options In USDA Conservation Programs



Louisiana Department of
Wildlife and Fisheries

This public document was printed at a cost of \$223.40. Five thousand copies were printed at this first printing. This material was printed by Key Offices Equipment in accordance with the printing standards for state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31. Its purpose is to inform the public about wildlife habitat options in USDA farm programs.

**Procedure for Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
(According to Article IV of the Bylaws)**

I. Election Procedure

Chair entertains motion to adopt the recommended procedure, subject to whatever changes the Commission deems appropriate.

- Include within this motion or in a subsequent motion, the method of voting. Choose:

1. Viva voce, coupled with show of hands;

OR

2. Roll call.

(See II.D. below.)

II. Chairman

A. Chair entertains nominations for chairman

- Any number may be nominated.
- No second required for nominations.
- Chairman may not serve succeeding terms.

B. When it appears that no further nominations are forthcoming, the Chair can declare nominations closed.

C. When nominations are closed, the chair will call for votes for each of the persons nominated - in the order of nomination.

D. Voting must be by:

1. Viva voce, in which case the Chair would say: "All in favor of 'X' "for Chairman, say 'Aye'" (this should be combined with a show of hands) or
2. Roll call, in which case each member, when called upon, states his preference for Chairman from among the *nominees*.

E. When any nominee receives a majority vote of the members present, then voting ceases and he is declared Chairman.

F. In the event that there are more than two nominees for Chairman and no nominee receives a majority vote of those present, then the balloting should be repeated as many times as necessary until one candidate obtains a majority vote. If second and subsequent balloting is required, all nominees are kept on the ballot.

G. Chairman-elect takes possession of his office immediately upon election.

III. Vice-Chairman

When a Chairman is declared, then the Commission proceeds to elect a Vice-Chairman using the same procedure set out above for Chairman. (Vice-Chairman can succeed himself.)

IV. Points of Order - All objections, questions or points of order concerning the above procedure or the election must be made prior to adjournment of this meeting.

1999

April

1999

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 30-NOV-1998

| | CURRENT MONTH | | FISCAL YEAR TO DATE | | INCEPTION TO DATE | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | # CASES | AMOUNT | # CASES | AMOUNT | # CASES | AMOUNT |
| ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED | 19 | \$8,887.79 | 68 | \$43,817.73 | 3,661 | \$2,513,475.22 |
| HEARING COSTS ASSESSED | 10 | \$250.00 | 17 | \$425.00 | 167 | \$4,175.00 |
| SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 331 | \$269,865.45- |
| SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 148 | \$71,951.21 |

| | CURRENT MONTH | | FISCAL YEAR TO DATE | | INCEPTION TO DATE | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | # CASES | AMOUNT | # CASES | AMOUNT | # CASES | AMOUNT |
| RESTITUTION ASSESSED | 19 | \$9,137.79 | 68 | \$44,242.73 | 3,661 | \$2,319,735.98 |
| PAYMENTS | 11 | \$1,765.97- | 47 | \$8,638.98- | 2,401 | \$406,548.71- |
| DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS | 9 | \$1,092.43- | 38 | \$4,137.36- | 1,656 | \$198,671.58- |
| OVERPAYMENTS | 2 | \$9.37 | 6 | \$291.54 | 105 | \$2,118.94 |
| REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT | 1 | \$9.36 | 3 | \$247.03 | 41 | \$7,607.36 |
| APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 4 | \$18,449.45- |
| APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 4 | \$10,601.49 |
| REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD. | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 18 | \$78,254.09 |
| RETURNED CHECKS | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 1 | \$36.75 |
| MISC. ADJUSTMENTS | | | | | | |
| DEBITS | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 2 | \$35.00 |
| CREDITS | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 13 | \$10.22- |
| REASSESSMENTS | | | | | | |
| DEBITS | 0 | \$0.00 | 1 | \$309.52 | 20 | \$6,877.19 |
| CREDITS | 0 | \$0.00 | 2 | \$1,764.98- | 56 | \$35,860.44- |
| WRITE-OFFS | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 207 | \$138,113.64- |
| ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 6 | \$1,399.24- |
| ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$2.00- | 0 | \$4,297.59- |
| FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE | 1 | \$44,800.60- | 1 | \$44,800.60- | 30 | \$72,733.50- |
| CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 | 0 | \$0.00 |
| ** TOTAL OUTSTANDING | | | 1,035 | \$1,549,182.43 | | |

FOOTNOTE:

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------|---|----------|----|--------------|
| PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT | 1 | \$25.00 | 4 | \$100.00 | 62 | \$11,194.67 |
| AMOUNT PAID TO COLLECTOR | | \$6.25 | | \$25.00 | | \$2,798.66 |
| FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS | 0 | \$0.00 | 1 | \$0.00 | 3 | \$3,202.60 * |

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

| AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES | | AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES | |
|--|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN | | CAN NOT BE INVOICED | |
| 1 - 30 DAYS | 0 | CURRENT | 7 |
| 31 - 60 DAYS | 1 | 1 - 30 DAYS | 16 |
| 61 - 90 DAYS | 17 | | 9 |
| 91 - 120 DAYS | 9 | 31 - 90 DAYS | 6 |
| 121 - 150 DAYS | 25 | | |
| 151 - 180 DAYS | 15 | | |
| 181 - 365 DAYS | 27 | 91 - 180 DAYS | 4 |
| OVER ONE YEAR | 56 | 181 - 365 DAYS | 39 |
| OVER TWO YEARS | 114 | CASES SENT FOR COLLECTION | 109 |
| OVER THREE YEARS | 176 | OVER 1 YEAR PENDING | 0 |
| | 256 | OVER 1 YEAR (OTHER) | 845 |
| | ===== | | ===== |
| ** TOTAL AGING | 696 | ** TOTAL AGING | 1,035 |
| | \$567,443.85 | | \$1,549,184.43 |

\$0.00
\$24.00
\$17,747.80
\$7,554.70
\$42,337.52
\$4,092.05
\$33,064.15
\$36,447.42
\$65,724.96
\$176,890.23
\$183,561.02

\$3,214.14
\$5,920.81
\$23,394.86
\$1,299.76
\$1,992.48
\$27,296.88
\$506,573.59
\$0.00
\$979,491.91

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

| PERIOD | NO. CASES ASSESSED | AMOUNT ASSESSED | CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS | NO. CASES PAID | AMOUNT PAID | DISCOUNTS TAKEN | Percent Dollars Paid | Percent Cases Paid |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| FISCAL YEAR 1993-94 | | | | | | | | |
| July, 1993 | 25 | 21,039 | (9,778) | 29 | 4,855 | 2,545 | | |
| Aug., 1993 | 53 | 44,822 | (1,137) | 41 | 7,950 | 3,603 | | |
| Sept., 1993 | 42 | 137,635 | (17,938) | 35 | 8,783 | 3,048 | | |
| Oct., 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 | | 27 | 6,507 | 6,713 | | |
| Jan., 1994 | 38 | 18,918 | | 32 | 4,423 | 2,831 | | |
| Feb., 1994 | 68 | 38,131 | (8,238) | 46 | 9,124 | 5,993 | | |
| Mar., 1994 | 38 | 22,739 | (2,482) | 51 | 10,854 | 6,796 | | |
| April, 1994 | 14 | 44,732 | (1,404) | 27 | 7,307 | 4,632 | | |
| May, 1994 | 10 | 4,504 | (185) | 7 | 5,447 | 3,808 | | |
| June, 1994 | 29 | 26,167 | (2,986) | 12 | 1,886 | 1,214 | | |
| Total FY 1994 | 476 | 425,242 | (68,670) | 379 | 71,474 | 45,547 | 27.5% | 79.6% |
| FISCAL YEAR 1994-95 | | | | | | | | |
| July, 1994 | 17 | 2,127 | (335) | 23 | 2,101 | 1,437 | | |
| Aug., 1994 | 41 | 96,403 | (3,035) | 20 | 1,010 | 605 | | |
| Sept., 1994 | 34 | 14,614 | (14,002) | 28 | 2,566 | 2,342 | | |
| Oct., 1994 | 94 | 17,426 | (8,677) | 38 | 2,922 | 3,179 | | |
| Nov., 1994 | 43 | 103,592 | | 45 | 3,992 | 2,803 | | |
| Dec., 1994 | 68 | 31,400 | | 35 | 4,315 | 2,329 | | |
| Jan., 1995 | 55 | 27,901 | | 52 | 7,493 | 4,921 | | |
| Feb., 1995 | 70 | 81,119 | | 41 | 6,472 | 3,973 | | |
| Mar., 1995 | 31 | 25,072 | | 44 | 8,315 | 4,737 | | |
| Apr., 1995 | 13 | 15,353 | | 18 | 3,565 | 1,538 | | |
| May., 1995 | 23 | 11,632 | | 16 | 4,315 | 654 | | |
| June 1995 | 45 | 31,008 | | 18 | 2,630 | 1,025 | | |
| Total FY 1995 | 534 | 437,347 | (26,049) | 374 | 49,726 | 29,543 | 18.1% | 70.0% |
| FISCAL YEAR 1995-96 | | | | | | | | |
| July, 1995 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| Aug., 1995 | 46 | 17,425 | | 27 | 9,028 | 1,729 | | |
| Sept., 1995 | 1 | 125 | | 21 | 3,093 | 2,049 | | |
| Oct., 1995 | 122 | 206,244 | | 29 | 2,720 | 1,161 | | |
| Nov., 1995 | 55 | 23,124 | | 62 | 10,151 | 6,383 | | |
| Dec., 1995 | 50 | 18,607 | | 32 | 4,781 | 2,803 | | |
| Jan., 1996 | 49 | 13,815 | (15,296) | 36 | 5,297 | 3,473 | | |
| Feb., 1996 | 50 | 14,717 | | 38 | 5,778 | 3,417 | | |
| Mar., 1996 | 33 | 24,937 | | 36 | 6,035 | 3,422 | | |
| Apr., 1996 | 30 | 11,007 | | 36 | 7,173 | 2,712 | | |
| May., 1996 | 23 | 7,989 | | 24 | 3,942 | 2,020 | | |
| June 1996 | 50 | 22,151 | | 16 | 2,790 | 1,182 | | |
| Total FY 1996 | 509 | 360,141 | (15,296) | 357 | 60,787 | 30,350 | 25.3% | 70.1% |
| FISCAL YEAR 1996-97 | | | | | | | | |
| July, 1996 | 40 | 71,894 | | 32 | 5,250 | 2,948 | | |
| Aug., 1996 | 32 | 5,363 | | 32 | 6,255 | 3,784 | | |
| Sept., 1996 | 41 | 7,210 | | 29 | 2,260 | 1,327 | | |
| Oct., 1996 | 29 | 11,093 | | 25 | 3,698 | 2,262 | | |
| Nov., 1996 | 20 | 10,009 | | 22 | 1,625 | 698 | | |
| Dec., 1996 | 13 | 238,466 | | 22 | 5,877 | 2,122 | | |
| Jan., 1997 | 27 | 11,755 | | 17 | 4,393 | 2,377 | | |
| Feb., 1997 | 47 | 18,521 | | 42 | 8,580 | 5,553 | | |
| Mar., 1997 | 28 | 13,434 | | 27 | 5,000 | 2,758 | | |
| Apr., 1997 | 10 | 2,909 | | 15 | 2,323 | 1,299 | | |
| May., 1997 | 20 | 11,883 | | 15 | 5,199 | 1,399 | | |
| June 1997 | 5 | 8,037 | | 10 | 2,335 | 765 | | |
| Total FY 1997 | 310 | 410,373 | 0 | 288 | 52,794 | 27,290 | 19.5% | 92.9% |
| FISCAL YEAR 1997 - 98 | | | | | | | | |
| July, 1997 | 10 | 2,812 | | 8 | 1,585 | 823 | | |
| Aug., 1997 | 14 | 8,741 | | 8 | 1,496 | 779 | | |
| Sept., 1997 | 29 | 19,928 | | 12 | 2,052 | 1,278 | | |
| Oct., 1997 | 12 | 4,717 | | 23 | 3,185 | 2,064 | | |
| Nov., 1997 | 23 | 54,965 | | 10 | 2,425 | 1,218 | | |
| Dec., 1997 | 25 | 36,881 | | 15 | 4,377 | 2,776 | | |
| Jan., 1998 | 42 | 30,026 | | 17 | 5,300 | 3,534 | | |
| Feb., 1998 | 37 | 31,165 | | 29 | 22,962 | 6,501 | | |
| Mar., 1998 | 9 | 13,273 | | 32 | 9,407 | 4,372 | | |
| Apr., 1998 | 10 | 5,628 | | 10 | 2,603 | 1,280 | | |
| May., 1998 | 0 | 225 | | 8 | 2,885 | 950 | | |
| June 1998 | 5 | 2,414 | | 6 | 1,042 | 98 | | |
| Total FY 1998 | 216 | 210,774 | 0 | 178 | 59,317 | 27,673 | 41.3% | 82.4% |
| FISCAL YEAR 1998 - 99 | | | | | | | | |
| July, 1998 | 9 | 1,390 | | 8 | 1,964 | 717 | | |
| Aug., 1998 | 10 | 2,241 | | 10 | 1,048 | 372 | | |
| Sept., 1998 | 8 | 2,769 | | 11 | 2,000 | 1,148 | | |
| Oct., 1998 | 22 | 28,705 | | 14 | 1,860 | 807 | | |
| Nov., 1998 | 19 | 9,138 | | 11 | 1,766 | 1,092 | | |
| Dec., 1998 | | | | | | | | |
| Jan., 1999 | | | | | | | | |
| Feb., 1999 | | | | | | | | |
| Mar., 1999 | | | | | | | | |
| Apr., 1999 | | | | | | | | |
| May., 1999 | | | | | | | | |
| June 1999 | | | | | | | | |
| Total FY 1999 | 68 | 44,243 | 0 | 54 | 8,639 | 4,137 | 28.9% | 79.4% |

SCHEDULE FOR FINAL RULES TO BE PUBLISHED IN STATE REGISTER

DEC-98 RULE - 1999 Turkey Season

JAN-99 RULE - Black Bass Regulations, Eagle Lake

RULE - Harvest Regulations - Billfishes

FEB-99 RULE - Seismic Exploration

MAR-99 RULE - Shark Regulations

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

98-333

11/30/98

AMENDED AGENDA

DECEMBER COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will hold its next regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 3, 1998 at 10 a.m. The meeting is open to the public and will take place in the Louisiana Room at Department of Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge.

The agenda follows.

1. Roll call
2. Approval of minutes of Nov. 5, 1998
3. Presentation of 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist award
4. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association
5. Rule ratification - 1999 turkey hunting regulations
6. Declaration of emergency - special snow goose only hunting regulations
7. Declaration of emergency - red snapper recreational season
8. Enforcement and Aviation reports/November
9. Division reports
 - a. Update on waterfowl migration and hunting season activity
 - b. Update on deer hunting seasons
 - c. Farm Bill programs, LDWF brochure
 - d. Presentation of the *Louisiana Conservationist* 1999 Calendar
10. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
11. Set April 1999 meeting date
12. Public comments
13. Adjournment

November 30, 1998

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: 

AMENDED AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, December 3, 1998, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of November 5, 1998
3. Presentation of 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist Award
4. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association
5. Rule Ratification - 1999 Turkey Hunting Regulations
6. Declaration of Emergency - Special Snow Goose Only Hunting Regulations
7. Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season
8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November
9. Division Reports
 - a. Update Waterfowl Migration and Hunting Season Activity
 - b. Update on Deer Hunting Seasons
 - c. Farm Bill Programs, DWLF Brochure
 - d. Presentation of 1999 Conservationist Calendar
10. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
11. Set April 1999 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments
13. Adjournment

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923

98-332

11/25/98

AGENDA FOR DECEMBER COMMISSION MEETING

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will hold its next regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 3, 1998 at 10 a.m. The meeting is open to the public and will take place in the Louisiana Room at Department of Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge.

The agenda follows.

1. Roll call
2. Approval of minutes of Nov. 5, 1998
3. Presentation of 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist award
4. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association
5. Rule ratification - 1999 turkey hunting regulations
6. Declaration of emergency - special snow goose only hunting regulations
7. Declaration of emergency - red snapper recreational season
8. Enforcement and Aviation reports/November
9. Division reports
 - a. Update on waterfowl migration and hunting season activity
 - b. Update on deer hunting seasons
 - c. Farm Bill programs, LDWF brochure
10. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
11. Set April 1999 meeting date
12. Public comments
13. Adjournment

Hawkins, Susan

From: Hawkins, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 1998 10:56 AM
To: 'Steve Mathies'
Subject: RE: December Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting

Your request to make a presentation at the December Commission Meeting has been approved. As I may have told you when we talked, you are 3rd on the agenda. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive in Baton Rouge.

Call if you need additional information.

Susan Hawkins

From: Steve Mathies[SMTP:MATHIESS@SMTP.LMN.USACE.ARMY.MIL]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 1998 4:10 PM
To: Hawkins, Susan
Subject: December Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting

On behalf of the Louisiana Wildlife Biologist Association, please add to your December Commission meeting agenda a presentation of our 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist Award to Mr. Mark McElroy of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. I will be available to make the presentation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at 862-2878.

Thanks

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

November 24, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: December Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, December 3, 1998, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of November 5, 1998
3. Presentation of 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist Award
4. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

5. Rule Ratification - 1999 Turkey Hunting Regulations
6. Declaration of Emergency - Special Snow Goose Only Hunting Regulations

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

7. Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season

WINTON VIDRINE

8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November

Page 2
Commission Meeting
November 24, 1998

9. Division Reports
 - a. Update Waterfowl Migration and Hunting Season Activity
 - b. Update Deer Hunting Seasons
 - c. Farm Bill Programs, DWLF Brochure
10. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
11. Set April 1999 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

NOVEMBER 24, 1998

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, December 3, 1998, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of November 5, 1998
3. Presentation of 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist Award
4. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association
5. Rule Ratification - 1999 Turkey Hunting Regulations
6. Declaration of Emergency - Special Snow Goose Only Hunting Regulations
7. Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season
8. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November
9. Division Reports
 - a. Update Waterfowl Migration and Hunting Season Activity
 - b. Update on Deer Hunting Seasons
 - c. Farm Bill Programs, DWLF Brochure
10. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
11. Set April 1999 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments

C O V E R



FAX

To: Tom Gattle

Fax #: 318-559-1524

Subject: December Agenda

Date: November 20, 1998

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please review the attached and then call. Thanks.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

225-765-2806
Fax: 225-765-0948

, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: December Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, December 3, 1998, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of November 5, 1998
3. Presentation of 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist Award
4. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

5. Rule Ratification - 1999 Turkey Hunting Regulations
6. Declaration of Emergency - Special Snow Goose Only Hunting Regulations

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

- . Declaration of Emergency - Red Snapper Recreational Season

WINTON VIDRINE

- . Enforcement & Aviation Reports/November

Page 2
Commission Meeting
, 1998

- . Division Reports
 - a. Update Waterfowl Migration and Hunting Season Activity
 - b. Update on Deer Hunting Seasons
 - c. Farm Bill Programs, DWLF Brochure
- . Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
- . Jenkins et al. vs. Odom et al., 19th JDC (Executive Session)
- . Set April 1999 Meeting Date
- . Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Jim Patton
Phil Bowman
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

November 4, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr. Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - December 3, 1998

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Wednesday, November 18th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, December 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 December 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!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Lyle Soniat
Brandt Savoie

Dear Susan:

*I have no items
for the agenda. Thanks
Bennie*

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800
November 20, 1998

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Phil Bowman, Assistant Secretary, Office of Wildlife

FROM: Hugh A. Bateman, Administrator, Wildlife Division *HB*

SUBJECT: December 3, 1998 Commission Meeting

The Wildlife Division will have several items to bring before the Commission at the December board meeting, as follows:

- (1) Final Ratification, 1999 Turkey Hunting Regulations - Fred Kimmel
- (2) Emergency Declaration, Special Snow Goose Only Hunting Regulations - Robert Helm
- (3) Division Reports:
 - A) Update, Waterfowl Migration and Hunting Season Activity - Robert Helm
 - B) Update, Deer Hunting Seasons - Dave Moreland
 - C) Farm Bill Programs, DWLF Brochure - Mike Olinde

Please let me know if you have any Questions regarding our agenda item or presenters?

CC: Prickett, Morrision, Olinde, Helm, Kimmel, Timmer, Myers

REC'D

NOV 20 1998

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Hawkins, Susan

From: Steve Mathies[SMTP:MATHIESS@SMTP.LMN.USACE.ARMY.MIL]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 1998 4:10 PM
To: Hawkins, Susan
Subject: December Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting

On behalf of the Louisiana Wildlife Biologist Association, please add to your December Commission meeting agenda a presentation of our 1998 Outstanding Field Biologist Award to Mr. Mark McElroy of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. I will be available to make the presentation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at 862-2878.

Thanks

Hawkins, Susan

From: Foote, Karen
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 1998 11:58 AM
To: Roussel, John E
Cc: Hawkins, Susan; Boudreaux, Claude; Blanchet, Harry
Subject: Commission agenda

I just spoke with Kemmerer, he thinks that your suggestion of simply delaying the season is the wise one for the Dec. agenda. He expects that the other issues will be resolved in time for the January or February meetings. He remains extremely concerned about the 14".

Please ONLY include the following red snapper item on the Dec. agenda:

Declaration of Emergency- Red Snapper Recreational Season

Need:

DOE, NOI, RES - Change RS size limit to 14", ALSO reduce charter captain/crew bag to 0

DOE, RES - Close rec. RS season until 3/1/99, give sec. auth. to open or close in concert w. Feds.

DOE, RES - (update drafted ones) Commercial season RS

Roussel, John E

From: Foote, Karen
Sent: Monday, November 16, 1998 3:58 PM
To: Roussel, John E
Cc: Boudreaux, Claude; Blanchet, Harry
Subject: Commission agenda

To: SUSAN

If you approve, please forward the following items on to Susan:

- Declaration of Emergency: Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits of Reef Fish:
- Red Snapper Commercial Seasons and Size Limit
 - Red Snapper Recreational Season and Daily Take, Possession and Size Limit

O.K.
11/17/98

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

November 4, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr. Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - December 3, 1998

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Wednesday, November 18th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, December 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 December 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!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Lyle Soniat ✓
Brandt Savoie

*Do not have anything for
agenda. Wayne Huston, Asst Dir.*

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

November 4, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr. *[Signature]* Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - December 3, 1998

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Wednesday, November 18th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, December 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 December 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!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Lyle Soniat
Brandt Savoie ✓

None
[Signature]

REC'D

NOV 06 98

FUR & REFUGE
BATON ROUGE

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

November 4, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr. *[Signature]* Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - December 3, 1998

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Wednesday, November 18th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, December 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 December 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!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Lyle Soniat
Brandt Savoie

NOTHING TO ADD

[Signature]

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

November 4, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr. Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - December 3, 1998

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Wednesday, November 18th any agenda items your office may have for the Thursday, December 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 December 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!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Lyle Soniat
Brandt Savoie