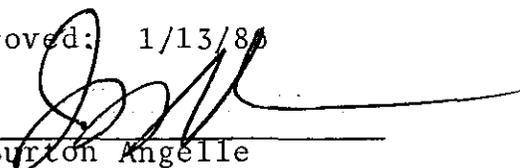


LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Approved: 1/13/86



J. Burton Angelle

BOARD MEETING

Friday, January 10, 1986

JACK CAPPEL, JR.
CHAIRMAN

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

January 10, 1986

AGENDA

1. Roll Call 1
2. Approval of Minutes December 13, 1985 1
3. Survey Report 1
4. Enforcement Report 1
5. Status Report-Sand, Gravel & Fill Material Agreements 1
6. Size Limits on Spanish Mackerel 1
7. Trapping Season Update 2
8. Wildlife Management Area Report - District VII 2
9. Deer Management Plan 2
10. Dates for Hunting Season Public Hearings 2
11. National Wildlife Week Resolution 2
12. Caddo Lake Net Ban 3
13. Hunter Safety Report 3

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

January 10, 1986

Chairman Jack Cappel, presiding:

Members Present:

Mr. Lyle Crain
Dr. Don Hines
Mr. Joe Palmisano
Mr. Mark Roberts
Mr. Dale Vinet

Mr. J. Burton Angelle was also present.

The minutes of the meeting of December 13, 1985 were approved with a motion from Mr. Vinet.

At Thursday's meeting Harry Schafer gave the Survey Report. During the period of December 1-31, 1985 85 surveys were scheduled, 43 surveys were unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor. Lease rental collected was \$398,940.86, survey fees collected was \$37,033.60 and 10 new leases were issued.

Winton Vidrine, Assistant Chief of the Enforcement Division discussed the Enforcement Report for November 1985 at Thursday's meeting.

A status report for sand, gravel and fill material agreements was worked up by Corky Perret, Blue Watson and Don Puckett. This report was given by Corky and Blue went into more detail. This report is attached to these minutes.

Corky Perret presented a resolution for size limits on Spanish mackerel. Dr. Hines made a motion to accept the size limits, seconded by Mr. Palmisano and passed unanimously.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, through cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and all Northern Gulf of Mexico states has conducted stock assessment studies on existing stocks of Spanish mackerel (Scomberomorus maculata) and,

WHEREAS, information gained from these stock assessment studies has indicated a need to impose certain regulations pertaining to lengths of Spanish mackerel legal to capture and market, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's representative to this regulatory body is in agreement with these recommendations and has voted for the adoption of such, now

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that a minimum legal size for Spanish mackerel be established and adopted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and its Commissioners. This minimum legal size shall be 12" fork length or 14" total length, measured from the tip of the snout to the anterior (forward) edge of the fork or to the posterior (rearward) edge of the fork.

Johnnie Tarver gave a update on the trapping season at Thursday's meeting.

Dave Moreland presented a slide series showing activities of the Game Division in District VII. Wildlife management areas in the district are Joyce, Manchac and Pearl River. This was also done at Thursday's meeting.

Hugh Bateman also discussed the deer management plan.

Joe Herring discussed the dates for the hunting season public hearings. These will be held in conjunction with the monthly Commission meetings. February 5th in Baton Rouge, March 5th in Lake Charles and the April 3rd hearing will be in Natchitoches.

A resolution was presented by Joe Herring designating March 16-22, 1986 as Wildlife Week. Mr. Palmisano made a motion to accept this resolution, seconded by Mr. Roberts and passed unanimously.

(The full text of the resolution here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, wildlife is a source of inspiration, beauty, and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, by learning about wildlife, we realize that our welfare is inseparable from the welfare of other living things; and

WHEREAS, wildlife must have habitats that provide food, water, shelter, and space to live; and

WHEREAS, loss of habitat is the major threat to species' survival; and

WHEREAS, we share the responsibility to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and practice sound wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation has set aside the week of March 16th through March 22nd, 1986, as a special time to discover wildlife and its importance in our world; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, J. Burotn Angelle, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries do hereby join the National Wildlife Federation in proclaiming March 16th through March 22nd, 1986, as National Wildlife Week, urging one and all to unite in support of every activity that will protect and conserve our wildlife and thus strongly affirm the importance of the theme "Discover Wildlife in Your World".

No action was taken on the Caddo Lake net ban issue at this time. No changes were recommended.

Chester Carpenter gave a report on the Hunter Safety courses that have been presented in 1984 and 1985 at Thursday's meeting.

Huey Sanders also discussed the universal fishing license slides and presentation which the Department will be working on.

Bob Dennie presented Mr. Angelle and the Commission members with copies of the new cook book. This project was started to help raise funds for the Department.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

CHRONOLOGY, FILL MATERIAL ACTIONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
3/28/72	Discussion of fill material royalty increase.
10/23/73	Requested Dr. St. Amant make a study and to make a recommendation to the Board regarding the price that we receive.
10/23/73	Set a one-year limit on all fill material agreements until a study could be made.
12/18/73	Discussion of increased royalty. Rates increased from 5 to 10 cents/yd.
2/28/78	Announcement that a rate increase would be considered at the March '78 meeting.
3/21/78	Discussion of proposed rate increase for fill material.
8/28/79	Further discussion of rate changes.
5/17/83	Report to the Commission on increasing royalty rates.
6/28/83	Submission of study of forms and fees.
9/27/83	Adopted the revised agreement reflecting the current rates.
10/25/83	Further discussion of the new agreement.

Prior to 1978 the fee for fill was \$.05/yd. On February 28, 1978 Mr. Gilbert indicated that Dr. St. Amant would present arguments in writing for increasing the rate. Mr. Gilbert indicated that the study would be presented at the March meeting.

On March 21, 1978 by resolution offered by Mr. Gilbert and passed unanimously by the Commission, the royalty payment was changed to \$.10/yd for fill, \$.11/yd for screened sand, \$.10/yd for unscreened sand and gravel combined and \$.30/yd on washed gravel. The Commission also grandfathered all long-term contracts then in effect such that the old rates would apply until such time as those contracts expired and were renewed.

On August 28, 1979 there was a discussion between Dr. St. Amant and the Commission on the recommendation of Mr. Riggs that perhaps an increase in royalty to \$.15 was in order. Mr. Gilbert was then authorized to select a committee to study the matter and to determine if the increase might be necessary.

Chronology, Fill Material (Continued)

On June 28, 1983 a resolution passed the Commission stating that fill permits were to be issued as interim permits approved on a month by month basis according to existing requirements until a final decision was reached on permit form and fee.

On September 27, 1983 the Commission adopted a revised fill material agreement which is the one currently in use. The fees in the new agreement are as follows:

Screened Sand @ \$.22/yd
Gravel, screened and washed @ \$.60/yd
Gravel & sand unscreened @ \$.40/yd
Fill @ \$.20/yd

A copy of the agreement is in the record of this meeting.

On October 25, 1983 Mr. Ducote gave Dr. Ted Ford several recommended changes for the fill material agreement.

Upon examination of the record we could find no documentation of the discussions which led to the final decision to impose the \$18,000 minimum annual fee per pit nor the rationale for the increased bond from \$1,000 to \$75,000. We do have a verbatim record of the discussion of the new agreement between the Commission and Dr. Ford on September 27, 1983, however. This record apparently represents the culmination of prior, unrecorded discussions and meetings.

Any discussions conducted by the committee or others involved in the decision making were off the record, but it was apparently assumed that rule making was not necessary to increase the fees since no rule making was initiated. This may well be the case, but we have not as yet determined that. It is my understanding that the consensus was that the increases could be written into the new agreements by Department personnel and, if signed by the permittee would be in effect. Therefore, since the increase was handled by contractual agreement no further Commission action was deemed necessary.

We are at present looking into the current agreements and the regulations under which we are now operating. We plan to make some recommendations to you which we hope will clear up some of the problems that we are now experiencing in the administration of the program.

I cannot at this time predict when we will be prepared to present our recommendations to you, but we do not anticipate that it will be longer than a few months. By that time we should have a much better handle on the proper mechanism which is needed to completely and properly promulgate a regulatory program for the equitable collection of royalty.



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
DISTRICT VIII
400 ROYAL ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130
COASTAL & MARINE RESOURCES

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

SURVEY SECTION
03 - 43
ACTIVITY REPORT

DECEMBER 1, 1985 THRU DECEMBER 31, 1985

During this period field activity consisted of:

- 85 - Surveys that were scheduled.
- 43 - Surveys that were unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor.

Surveys that were completed consisted of:

- 39 - Leases that were tied into the monument control system.
- 0 - Applications for new area.
- 0 - Restake applications.
- 3 - 15 year limitations.

Total field activity:

<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	
832	1312	1440	- Surveys scheduled
648	775	751	- Surveys performed
156	460	651	- Surveys unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor
		1	- Survey where fisherman refused to survey
23	3		- Disputes settled
	73	37	- No shows

Office activity during this period:

\$398,940.86	- Lease rental collected
\$ 37,033.60	- Survey fees collected
10	- New leases issued





J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
P.O. BOX 15570
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70895
504/342-9267

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

January 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: J. Burton Angelle, Sr., Secretary
FROM: Joe L. Herring, Assistant Secretary
SUBJECT: Public Hearings - 1986-87 Hunting Seasons

FOR COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

Hugh Bateman and I have discussed possible locations, times and dates for the 1986-87 Public Hearings for the purpose of setting the Hunting Seasons. A suggestion is:

1. February 5-6, 1986 - Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in conjunction with the regular Commission meeting. The hearing would be on the night of February 5, 1986.
2. March 5-6, 1986 - Lake Charles, Louisiana. This would cause the Commission to change the proposed March meeting from Baton Rouge to Lake Charles. But would combine two meetings into one. The public hearing would be the night of March 5, 1986.
3. April 3-4, 1986 - Natchitoches, Louisiana. Again the Commission would have to change the meeting place for Commission meeting from Baton Rouge to Natchitoches. It has been many years since a meeting has been in Natchitoches.

The Game Division staff would then meet in Alexandria at the District Office on April 9, 1986, to put together the staff and public recommendations.

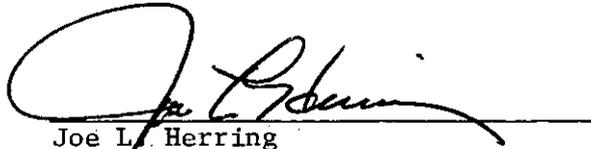
On April 17, 1986, the Game Division staff would meet with the Hunting Season and Wildlife Management Area Committee of the Commission to present the Game Division staff recommendations. For this meeting all Commission

J. Burton Angelle, Sr.
Page 2
January 9, 1986

members are always invited. This meeting could be at Rockefeller Refuge as we did last year, Baton Rouge or wherever the Commission should decide. After this meeting the Game Division staff would then put together the final recommendations for the 1986-87 Hunting Seasons.

The Game Division staff would then make final recommendations on the 1986-87 Hunting Seasons at the May 1-2, 1986, Commission meeting in Kenner. This meeting is in conjunction with the Shrimp Season hearing.

By setting the seasons in May this would give additional time for printing and proofing. Proofing is a tedious job in getting dates, areas, etc. correct in the pamphlet for public distribution.



Joe L. Herring
Assistant Secretary

JLH:sb



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
DISTRICT VII
P. O. BOX 15570
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70895
504/342-5875
July 10, 1984

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

Joyce Wildlife Management Area

Joyce Wildlife Management Area is located in southern Tangipahoa Parish 5 miles south of Hammond, Louisiana. The area consists of 12,809 acres that is owned by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and was donated by the Joyce Foundation of Chicago in 1982. An additional 850 acres is leased by the department and provides access from Interstate Hwy. 55 and Hwy. 51 and brings the total acreage to 13,659.

This entire area is a wetland within the Pontchartrain Basin and consists primarily of cypress-tupelo swamp. A large portion of the area is a dense shrub-marsh community with red maple, wax-myrtle, red bay, and younger cypress-tupelo. A 500 acre fresh marsh of primarily maiden-cane is located on the northern portion of the property.

Access into the interior of the property is limited. There are no roads that lead into the wooded swamp. The primary means of access are several abandoned logging canals that enter the area from the west off I-55. Entrance into one of these more prominent "runs" is marked by a wooden foot bridge. These logging runs are narrow and travel is limited to piroques and canoes. Access by outboard motor is limited to the upper reaches of Middle Bayou. There are public boat launches at the North Pass bridge along Hwy. 51.

Game species found on the Joyce area are deer, rabbits and waterfowl. The primary importance of the tract to hunters is its waterfowl resource. Mallard and woodducks are the major species using the area with gadwall, widgeon and pintail occurring less frequently. Trapping is permitted and the fur animals include raccoon, nutria, muskrat, otter, mink and opossum. Alligators are also common on the area.

Future plans for the Joyce area include improving access and improving waterfowl habitat with potential expansion of this property.

Additional information may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 15570, Baton Rouge, La. 70895. Phone (504)342-5875.

MAN DAYS

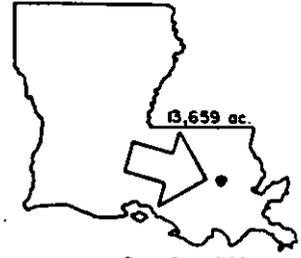
Recreational Use of Wildlife Management Areas

Area: Joyce

Period Covered: July 84 - June 85

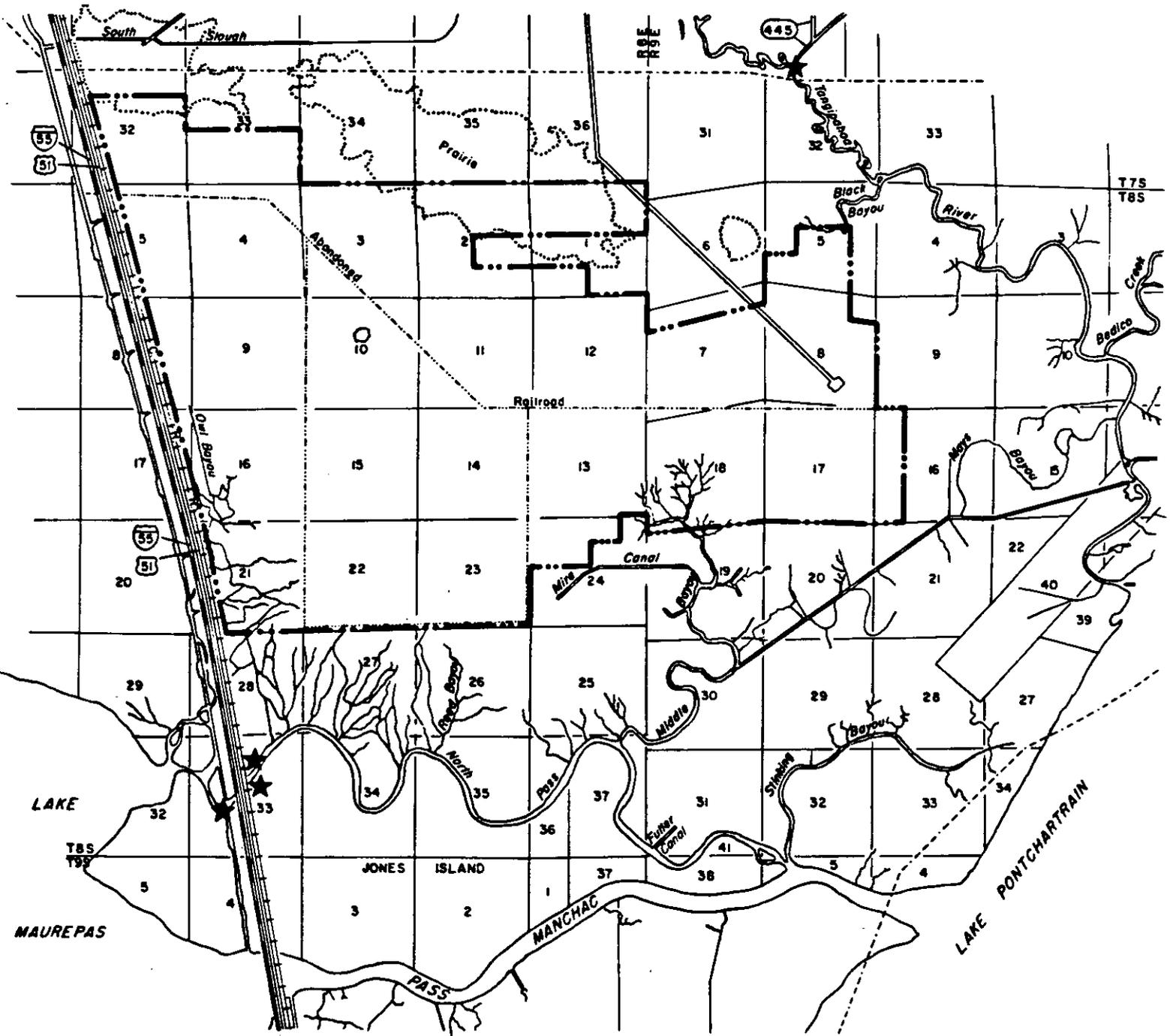
	Daily Permit	Questionnaire Interview	Estimated
Hunting		13	
Deer (gun)			500
Deer (bow)			50
Deer (muzzle loader)			
Squirrel			125
Rabbit			200
Quail			
Dove			
Waterfowl		6	750
Woodcock			
Snipe			
Rail			
Gallinule			
Raccoon			
Turkey			
Fishing			
Sport fishing (fresh)			5500
Sport fishing (salt)			
Commercial fishing			800
Crawfishing			200
Crabbing			
Frogging		1	550
Shrimping			
Other			
Trapping	62 Season Permits		1240
Field Trials			
Camping			
Boating			2500
Sky diving			
Motor bikes			
Bird watching			300
Horse back riding			
Hiking			
Sight seeing			250
TOTAL MAN DAYS	62	20	12,965
GRAND TOTAL MAN-DAYS	13,047		

JOYCE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



Drawn: Oct., 1982

- LEGEND**
- Boundary
 - ~ Stream
 - +— Railroad
 - == Interstate Highway
 - == Improved road
 - - - Ditch
 - - - Power line
 - ★ Boat launch



MANCHAC WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Manchac Wildlife Management Area is located in the northern most portion of St. John the Baptist Parish about 17 miles north-northeast of LaPlace, and about 15 miles south-southeast of Hammond. Access to Manchac is by boat only with public launches located at the north pass bridge along Hwy. 51. There are several canals on the south side of Pass Manchac which allow ingress to the interior of the swamp. The large house on the southside of Pass Manchac is leased to Southeastern University for use as a Biological Field Station.

This 8,325 acre-area is characterized by flat, low swamp land subject to flooding especially with easterly winds. Major vegetation was originally bald cypress but nearly all of this has been taken from the area by logging and natural subsidence leaving an open fresh to intermediate swamp.

Predominant vegetation includes bull tongue, smartweed, alligator weed, and water hyacinth. Submerged aquatics are naids, pondweeds, fanwort, and coontail. A strip of cypress tupelo is present along the Lake Ponchartrain boundary. The canopy is generally open and the understory consists of young growths of cypress-tupelo, maple, hackberry, live oak, water oak, elderberry, peppervine and assorted grasses.

This area is very popular for waterfowl hunting. Other species hunted are snipe, rabbits, and occasionally deer along the lakeside. Permit trapping for nutria, muskrat and raccoon is normally allowed each year. The Manchac swamp supports a healthy alligator population which is also maintained by permit hunting. Throughout the year a variety of shorebird species are present on Manchac. Therefore birdwatching enthusiasts find it as interesting as it is scenic.

The fish most sought after in the Pass Manchac area is catfish. Gar, sunfish, and bass are also present. Frogging is also a popular sport in the Manchac canals. Crabs are fished commercially in the Pass.

Additional information may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, P.O. Box 15570, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895. Phone (504) 324-5875.

MAN DAYS

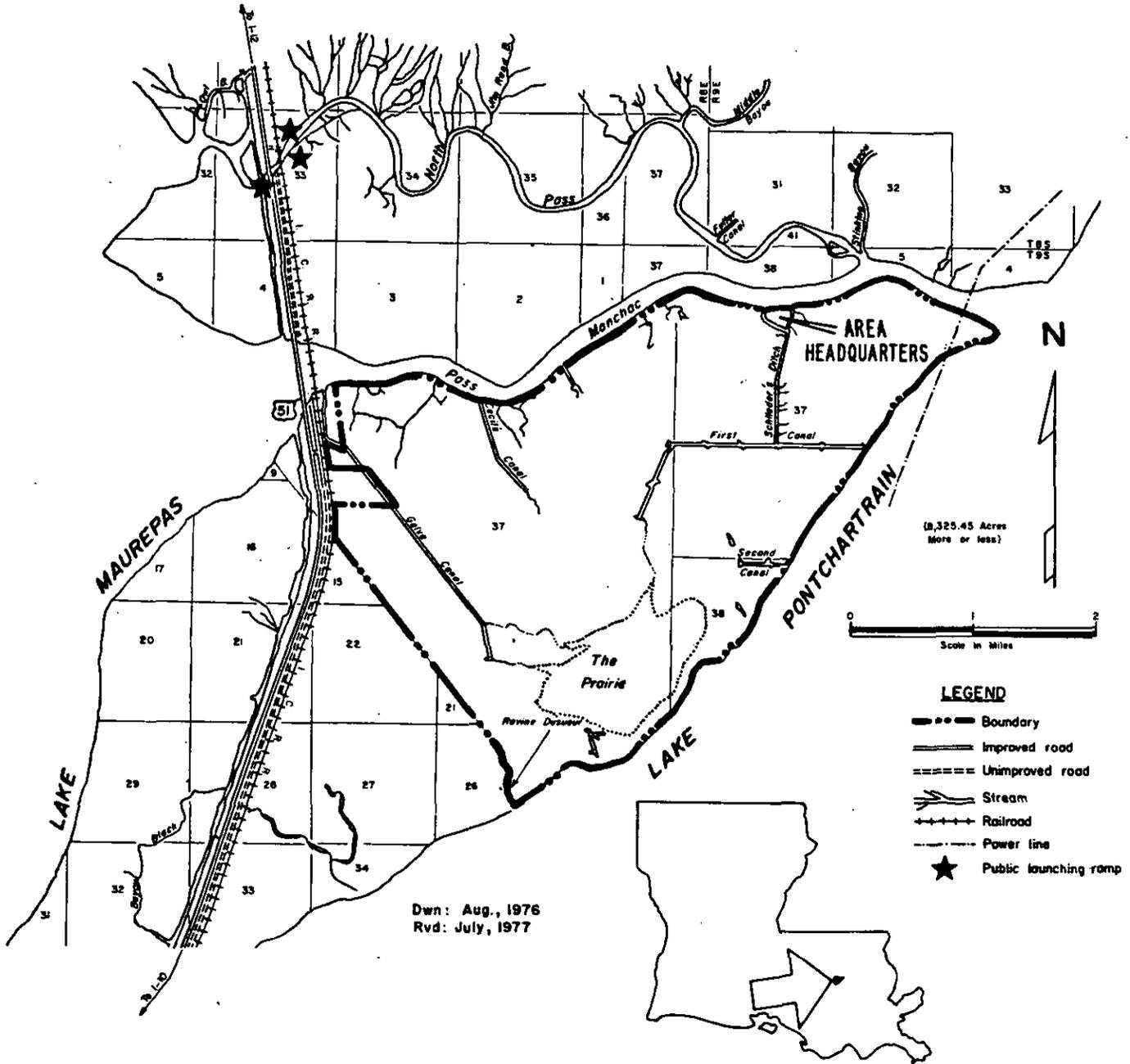
Recreational Use of Wildlife Management Areas

Area: Manchac WMA

Period Covered: July 1, 1984 - June 30, 1985

	Daily Permit	Questionnaire Interview	Estimated
Hunting			
Deer (gun)		1	10
Deer (bow)			
Deer (muzzle loader)			
Squirrel			
Rabbit			1500
Quail			
Dove			
Waterfowl		861	650
Woodcock			
Snipe			
Rail		11	25
Gallinule		See Rail	
Raccoon			
Turkey			
Fishing			
Sport fishing (fresh)		98	8500
Sport fishing (salt)		2	1200
Commercial fishing		55	12000
Crawfishing			
Crabbing			500
Frogging			500
Shrimping			1000
Other			
Trapping, Fur	6 Season Permits	262	
Field Trials			
Camping			
Boating			3500
Sky diving			
Motor bikes			
Bird watching			
Horse back riding			
Hiking			
Sight seeing			300
Alligator Trapping	5 Season Permits		50
TOTAL MAN DAYS	11	1290	29,735
GRAND TOTAL MAN-DAYS	31,036		

MANCHAC WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



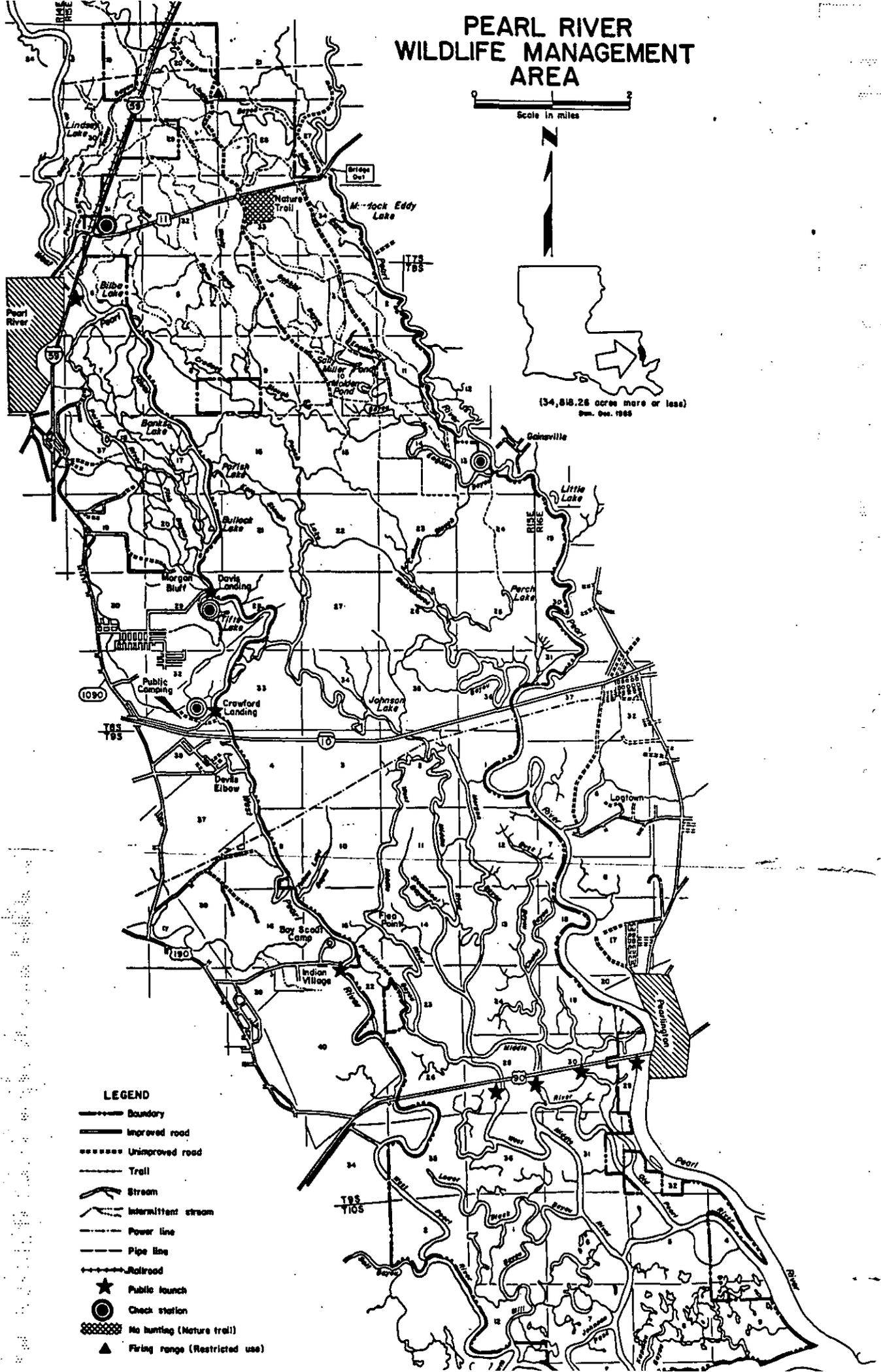
LEGEND

- Boundary
- ==== Improved road
- Unimproved road
- ~ Stream
- + + + + Railroad
- - - - Power line
- ★ Public launching ramp

PEARL RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



(34,618.26 acres more or less)
Dec. Dec. 1968



LEGEND

- Boundary
- Improved road
- Unimproved road
- Trail
- Stream
- Intermittent stream
- Power line
- Pipe line
- Railroad
- Public launch
- Check station
- No hunting (Nature trail)
- Firing range (Restricted use)

Pearl River Wildlife Management Area

Pearl River Wildlife Management Area is located approximately six miles east of Slidell and approximately one mile east of the town of Pearl River. Access is available via car from old Highway 11 and by boat. Several ramps are located along US Highway 90; concrete ramps have been constructed at Davis and Crawford Landings, and a commercial ramp is located at Old Indian Village. The ramps along US Highway 90 and those at Davis and Crawford Landings have ample parking space.

Pearl River is 34,828 acres in size and is owned by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The terrain is flat, drainage is poor, and the area is subject to annual flooding. The intensity of flooding varies from year to year, or from one flooded period to another during the same year.

The forest cover varies from an all age hardwood stand in the northern 45 percent, to cypress tupelo in the next 35 percent and an intermediate type marsh in the southern 20 percent. The mixed hardwoods are made up of water oak, cow oak, obtusa oak, shumard oak, live oak, bitter pecan, hickory, beech, magnolia, sweetgum, and sycamore. The overstory varies from moderately open to closed. Timber stand improvement work has begun to improve and enhance habitat conditions.

The understory is intermittently open to dense and includes the following species, water oak, red maple, white bay, sassafras, dogwood, Virginia willow, mulberry, willow, French mulberry, wild azalea, smilax, black and tupelo gum and ash.

There are five streams totaling about 38 miles. They provide fishing, canoeing, and boating. There are also ten bayous which provide fishing, craw-fishing, and waterfowl hunting. These are accessible only from the boat ramps previously mentioned. Several ponds are located on the northern end of the area along I-59.

Game species hunted are deer, squirrels, rabbits, turkeys, waterfowl and woodcock. Bowhunting is allowed for deer. Trapping is allowed for furbearers and the species available are beaver, nutria, mink, opossum, raccoon, bobcat, skunk and fox. An alligator season is open in September on a permit basis.

The bald eagle occurs along the streams and lakes in the fall and winter and the golden eagle can be seen occasionally. Swallowtail kites and Ospreys are frequently seen.

Camping is available at Crawford Landing. A rifle range has been constructed on the area and is available for public use at specified times.

MAN DAYS

Recreational Use of Wildlife Management Areas

Area: Pearl River

Period Covered: July 1984-June 1985

	Daily Permit	Questionnaire Interview	Estimated
Hunting	2996	304	300
Deer (gun)			
Deer (bow)		166	100
Deer (muzzle loader)		122	150
Squirrel		1653	1000
Rabbit		161	200
Quail			
Dove			
Waterfowl		611	400
Woodcock		20	50
Snipe			
Rail		43	25
Gallinule		See Rail	
Raccoon	44 season permits	18	220
Turkey		69	150
Fishing			
Sport fishing (fresh)		691	20000
Sport fishing (salt)		17	5000
Commercial fishing	1 season permit		
Crawfishing		309	500
Crabbing		2	250
Frogging		4	200
Shrimping		2	300
Other			
Trapping, Fur	29 season permits	17	800
Field Trials	112		
Camping			1500
Boating			10000
Sky diving			
Motor bikes			
Bird watching		46	200
Horse back riding			
Hiking			200
Sight seeing		127	750
Nature Trail		100	500
Alligator Trapping	2 season permits		10
TOTAL MAN DAYS	3,108*	4,482	42,805
GRAND TOTAL MAN-DAYS	50,395		

* excludes season permits



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
P.O. BOX 15570
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70895
504/342-9267

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

January 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. J. Burton Angelle, Sr., Secretary
FROM: Joe L. Herring, Assistant Secretary
SUBJECT: National Wildlife Week - March 16-22, 1986

FOR COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

National Wildlife Week this year will be March 16-22, 1986, and the theme will be "Discover Wildlife In Your World". The theme is very appropriate for our State with the many types of wildlife, game, non-game, sport and commercial we have. The type and species vary from coastal areas to the hill parishes in North Louisiana. We are certainly blessed with a variety.

National Wildlife Week gives our State Sportsmen an opportunity to make the non-hunting public aware of what they have done and are doing for wildlife. This is an opportunity for our Sportsmen to work in the schools, and with civic, church and other groups to let the public know what they are doing for conservation of our wildlife resources. Discover Wildlife In Your World is a good topic to bring all people together since the human population can experience a variety of wildlife in our Great State.

Many of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation Clubs will be sponsoring wildlife programs during this important week to make the public aware of our wildlife heritage. I am asking the Commission to adopt the prepared resolution proclaiming March 16-22, 1986, as National Wildlife Week in our State.

Joe L. Herring
Assistant Secretary

JLH:sb
Attachment

RESOLUTION

National Wildlife Week, March 16-22, 1986

WHEREAS, wildlife is a source of inspiration, beauty, and enjoyment;
and

WHEREAS, by learning about wildlife, we realize that our welfare is
inseparable from the welfare of other living things; and

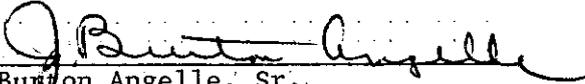
WHEREAS, wildlife must have habitats that provide food, water, shelter,
and space to live; and

WHEREAS, loss of habitat is the major threat to species' survival;
and

WHEREAS, we share the responsibility to preserve and enhance wildlife
habitat and practice sound wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation has set aside the week of
March 16th through March 22nd, 1986, as a special time to discover
wildlife and its importance in our world; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, J. Burton Angelle, Secretary of the Louisiana
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries do hereby join the National
Wildlife Federation in proclaiming March 16th through March 22nd,
1986, as National Wildlife Week, urging one and all to unite in
support of every activity that will protect and conserve our
wildlife and thus strongly affirm the importance of the theme
"Discover Wildlife In Your World."


J. Burton Angelle, Sr.

1-10-86
Date

HUNTER SAFETY COURSE TOTALS

	<u>*Calendar year 1985</u>	<u>Calendar Year 1984</u>
Total Hunter Safety Staff Employees	7	6
Total Student Employees	2	1
Total volunteer instructors on active roster	1,243	1,001
Total volunteers actively participating	627	450
Total student certification courses	646	339
Total students certified	21,278 ✓	9,832 ✓
Total students participating but not certified	2,349	3,024
Total volunteer instructor workshops	47	23
Total volunteer instructors certified	540	164

* 1985 totals are not complete as all paperwork for the month of December has not been turned in.

HUNTER CASUALTY TOTALS

Allen Parish	October 6, 1985	Non-fatal	gun fired while victim was loading
Beauregard Par.	Sept. 1, 1985	Fatal	Unknown cause - victim was under influence of alcohol.
Bienville Parish	Sept. 24, 1985	Fatal	Victim stumbled & fell causing gun to fire.
Bienville Parish	Nov. 24, 1985	Non-fatal	Victim was mistaken for game.
Bienville Parish	Nov. 24, 1985	Non-fatal	Victim was mistaken for game.
Calcasieu Parish	January 3, 1985	Non-fatal	Victim shoving on barrel with hand & shoulder causing gun to fire.
Cameron Parish	January 27, 1985	Non-fatal	Victim moved in line of fire.
DeSoto Parish	October 6, 1985	Non-fatal	Careless handling of firearm. Victim under influence of alcohol.
DeSoto Parish	October 6, 1985	Non-fatal	Hand slipped on trigger while shooter trying to uncock gun.
DeSoto Parish	October 7, 1985	Non-Fatal	Victim mistaken for game.
DeSoto Parish	October 10, 1985	Non-fatal	Shooter stumbled and fell.

Hunter Casualty Report Continued

Lincoln Parish	November 9, 1985	Non-fatal	Deer charged victim. Victim struck at deer with firearm causing gun to fire.
Rapides Parish	Sept. 22, 1985	Non-fatal	Victim covered by hunter swinging on game.
St. Helena Par.	January 17, 1985	Non-fatal	Gun fired when victim was clubbing over game with gun.
** Winn Parish	November 10, 1985	Non-fatal	Unknown cause
** Winn Parish	November 10, 1985	Non-fatal	Unknown cause

** Shooter shot at two victims.



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EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Johnnie Tarver, Chief
FROM: Greg Linscombe, Research Biologist
DATE: January 8, 1986
RE: Status of the 1985-86 Trapping Season

The 1985-86 trapping season has gotten off to a very slow start. Participation appears to be off statewide.

In North Louisiana the number of active buyers appears to be down from last year. All dealers report a much lower volume of raccoon pelts and most dealers report the number of trappers selling is down by at least 50 percent. Raccoon abundance according to dealers is high in the Sabine-Calcasieu parish area and North and East of Alexandria. Populations are reportedly down in the Leesville-DeRidder area and in Bienville, Jackson, Lincoln, Claiborne and Webster Parishes. Fur Buyer-Dealer reports will confirm or deny these projections from dealers once they become available following the close of the season.

Trappers in North Louisiana are averaging approximately \$9.00 for raccoons with a top price of \$15 - \$18. The prices being paid for both red and gray fox are running from \$10 - \$15. Some dealers are not interested in buying any red fox as the market appears very weak. Bobcats are bringing a top price of \$40. The harvest of raccoons, fox and bobcat will all be down substantially from last year. Trapping effort may increase some once the deer season closes, as more land becomes available to trappers.

The coastal trapping effort is also down substantially, particularly in southeast Louisiana. Reports from land managers and dealers in the area indicate that most trappers had not begun trapping as of the end of December. There are probably several reasons for this. With projections of lower fur prices some may have decided this year was a good one to reevaluate a marginally profitable operation. Some trappers may have decided that fur populations had been hurt by recent storms. No doubt many of the trappers in southeast Louisiana received damage to houses, boats and other personal property. This may have delayed

Mr. Johnnie Tarver, Chief
January 8, 1986
Page -2-

movement to the marsh for the season. The Internal Revenue Service is requiring buyers to maintain a list of names and addresses of trappers selling fur this year. This could have discouraged some trappers.

Since the trappers have not been trapping it is very difficult to estimate what population levels of nutria are present. Very limited reports from land owners with active trappers indicate that the catch is down. Our earlier estimates of storm related mortality may have been too low. We may have lost many more animals than our first estimates indicated, following a week of flood tides from Hurricane Juan in October. Southeastern dealers and buyers as a group have purchased very little fur considering that one-third of the season is over. Land owners, managers and dealers report many trappers are now stocking camps, buying traps and moving to the marsh. Therefore the harvest may yet recover some. Even with the late activity, the nutria harvest could be 40 to 50 percent down from last year. The muskrat harvest will probably be at an all time low.

Eastern nutria are averaging \$2.75 to \$3.00. Very good easterns in certain sections of Terrebonne or St. Mary and the north shore of Pontchartrain may bring slightly more.

An insufficient number of muskrat have been sold to even establish a price. Only the very high quality No. 1 eastern or western could be sold internationally at this time.

Western coastal trapping activity is below normal, but in progress. Trapping will increase next week with the end of the duck season as trappers finish guiding duck hunters and began running more traps. Some land managers are reporting near normal effort and harvest, while others are reporting some reduction in both. Trappers in the west may be discouraged by yet another year of relatively low prices.

Substantial concentrations of muskrat are present south of Pecan Island and east to Chenier au Tigre, North of Creole, and along the east shore of Calcasieu Lake. Trapping of these rats is just now beginning.

Western trappers are receiving approximately \$5.00 for No. 1 nutria, \$3.50 for medium, and \$1.50 for small. Top price for muskrats is around \$3.00. Coastal raccoons are ranging from \$7 - \$10 for tops depending on fur quality and color.

Within two or three weeks we will be able to determine much more about the level of trapper activity and harvest coastwide.


Greg Linseombe
Research Biologist

GL:ybd

cc James Manning, Assistant Chief