

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 11-12, 1990

WARREN POL

CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
JANUARY 11-12, 1990

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MINUTES OF MEETING

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JANUARY 11-12, 1990

Chairman Warren Pol residing:

Thursday, January 11, 1990

Dr. Don Hines
Mr. James Jenkins
Mr. Bert Jones
Mr. Norman McCall

Secretary Van Sickle was also present.

Friday, January 12, 1990

Dr. Don Hines
Mr. James Jenkins
Mr. Bert Jones
Mr. Norman McCall

Secretary Van Sickle was also present.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting on December 14-15, 1989, were unanimously approved at Thursday's meeting with a motion from Mr. Jenkins and seconded by Dr. Hines.

At Thursday's meeting the Bylaws relative to attendance of Commissioners at the Commission meetings was discussed by Mr. Puckett. Mr. Puckett advised that the present resolution is one approach to the attendance question and read the portion of the resolution amending the bylaws to the Commissioners. It reads "The attendance of every Commission member is required at every regular Commission meeting. Should any member be absent from two consecutive regular monthly meetings he shall submit to the full membership of the Commission a written explanation of the reasons for his absences. Should he fail to do so the Chairman shall submit to the Governor a written request and recommendation on behalf of the Commission that the member be removed from the Commission."

Mr. Pol stated that this is not directed at any Commission member and is a recommendation by the Task Force appointed by the Governor of which Secretary Van Sickle served. Secretary Van Sickle asked if the Governor would have the authority to remove a Commissioner based upon such a request? Mr. Puckett stated that if it were put in the bylaws it would be a qualification of membership by which the Governor could terminate the term of the

Commissioner if he violated a qualification of his membership. Mr. Jenkins asked if legislative action would have to be taken for this to be achieved. Mr. Puckett advised that it may have to be incorporated into the commission that each Commission member receives in order to terminate the Commissioners term short of legislation. Mr. Jenkins asked if this differs from the panel recommendation. The panel's recommendation was for four meetings within a twelve month period stated Mr. Puckett. Dr. Hines questioned that before the bylaws could be acted upon weren't there certain requirements that must be followed and stated that he did not think the Commission would be following them at this time. Mr. Puckett stated that there were requirements and before the Commission acted upon this he would review the requirements and report back at Friday's meeting.

At Friday's meeting Mr. Don Puckett reported back to the Commission on his findings pertaining to the bylaws. The resolution that was prepared by the Legal Counsel to change the bylaws cannot be done and as it appears now the removal of any Commissioner, other than the one who serves at the pleasure of the Governor, could only be accomplished by a Constitutional Amendment.

Dr. Hines asked if the Senate reconfirmed Commission members other than the initial confirmation. Mr. Puckett answered that there is no reference to reconfirmation and it looks like the first time is the only time. Dr. Hines further asked if by legislative act this could not be accomplished either. Mr. Puckett stated that it would take a legislative act amending the Constitution and it would take a Constitutional Amendment.

Secretary Van Sickle asked if there would be a way for the Commission to pass an amendment where basically they could censor someone for not attending meetings? Mr. Puckett advised that there might be some measures that the Commission could take short of removal that can be looked into. Mr. Puckett stated that he could look at other avenues and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Chairman Pol explained to those attending the meeting who did not know what the Commission was talking about that the Study Committee had recommended that there be some way to at least encourage members to attend the Commission meetings where it was assured to having a quorum and this is the results of what Mr. Puckett had come up with. Other ways will be explored to at least encourage the Commission members to attend the meetings. Dr. Hines pointed out that the Study Committee was not just for attendance it was to remove any member who might be incapacitated either from physical or mental illness as well as just excessive absenteeism. Three or four consecutive absences during a twelve month period were recommended or if they were incapacitated in any other method and a two-thirds vote of the Commission would be required to remove a member.

Mr. Puckett stated that it appears that the Constitution is really solid on these Constitutional Officers.

At Thursday's meeting the bycatch in shrimp trawls was discussed by Mr. Gerald Adkins. Mr. Adkins gave an assessment of bycatch in the Louisiana Shrimp Fishery. Bycatch is termed as generally any animal or anything that is caught while being engaged in the primary business of catching something else. This project was begun on January 1, 1989 and terminated December 31, 1989. It was primarily designed to survey the offshore and inshore trawlers and the wingnet fishermen in coastal Louisiana and assess the numbers, species composition, and weight of all incidentally caught organisms. Historically, participation in the Louisiana shrimp fishery has been very high and as an example more than twenty five thousand vessels actively fished in 1986 and they harvested nearly two million pounds of shrimp. The objective of the study was to quantify the bycatch of the Louisiana shrimp fishery. The method the department used to collect this information was to go to the trawl boats, offshore, inshore and wingnet fishermen, and collect approximately a forty liter sample, generally a five gallon bucket, as the catch was picked up out of the water. If there was a large number of shrimp in the sample the department personnel moved away from the shrimping boat, worked the sample, returned the shrimp and kept the miscellaneous fish to measure and identify. This data is going to be compared to the landings information gathered by the National Marine Fisheries Service and hopefully a ratio will be established of the bycatch that was obtained from the samples and the ratio of the shrimp that was taken to the total amount of shrimp caught in coastal Louisiana. One day a week was spent on this study in each of seven study areas because of the budgetary and other work limitations. Mr. Adkins advised that he could give the Commission some preliminary results of the study although it terminated only two weeks ago. All of the data is not on computer and not all of the data has been received from the different seven coastal study areas. The data that can be given is very general, preliminary and Mr. Adkins cautioned that it be used as such. A final publication of this information will probably not be ready before July 1, 1990. Mr. Adkins continued and gave the data which was available. Of the animals taken from the trawlers, that are considered bycatch, the great majority of them were sub-adult animals. The data was collected from offshore trawlers, inshore trawlers and wingnets with inshore trawlers and wingnets comprising the majority of the fishermen that were visited. The most numerous animals that were encountered were the brown and white shrimp, blue crab (most numerous invertebrate), and the drum family made up most of the fish that were caught (croaker, spot, stardrum, bay anchovy, menhaden, sea catfish, etc.). The area sampled generally dictated the number and the types of animals caught. It has been noticed that going through the data thus far that only thirty five spotted seatrout have been taken in approximately ninety one samples that have been analyzed. These thirty five seatrout were approximately

eight inches in length and most of them came from east of the river and seemed to have been caught by trawlers who were more active during night time. There were no black drum caught in the samples and have also found zero red drum in the samples. Flounder, Spanish Mackerel, Sheephead, and some of the more popular fish (recreational and commercial) are generally less than fifty in number concluded Mr. Adkins.

Mr. Jenkins asked what happens to the bycatch in the trawl fishery. Mr. Adkins answered it depends on the type and size. Some of the blue crabs are retained and sold by the fishermen, and some of the finfish if there are a significant number and size, are retained and sold. If the fish are not of sufficient quantity or of sufficient size to sell then they are generally discarded stated Mr. Adkins. Mr. Jenkins asked what the ratio of the bycatch to the shrimp catch was. Mr. Adkins advised that there have been several studies that have been done and generally the ratio that has been developed regardless of whether the study was done is twenty to one either in number or in pounds depending upon the particular study that is been viewed. The ratios that were developed were generally developed over a large area. The National Marine Fisheries Service has published some studies to this effect from the south Atlantic and the ratios that they developed may have been higher than you would expect in other parts of the country for several reasons explained Mr. Adkins. The figure that Mr. Adkins gave, twenty to one even though it is factual, may only average for particular studies in particular areas and Mr. Adkins would not think that this is going to be the case in Louisiana and most of the information that he is aware of in Louisiana would establish a ratio of somewhere around nine or ten to one. Mr. Jenkins asked about the percentage of the bycatch that was finfish. Probably somewhere around forty percent answered Mr. Adkins. Mr. Jenkins asked if Mr. Adkins was familiar with the Texas study that was done last year. Mr. Adkins was familiar with some of the study but not all of it because he has not gotten all the information. Mr. Jenkins stated that he was wondering how Texas and Louisiana compared on this. In 1989 Texas had about six hundred million pounds of bycatch, offshore, discarded and the majority of the bycatch consisted of finfish and invertebrates other than shrimp with finfish often comprising seventy five to ninety percent of the catch Mr. Jenkins pointed out and he was wondering why Louisiana's would only be half that much on the finfish. Mr. Adkins answered generally because of the species mentioned in the Texas study would be much higher in number in that area then they would be in Louisiana. Mr. Jenkins asked if there was any plans or any thoughts on stopping the waste of bycatch in shrimp trawls. Mr. Adkins answered that there has been some work done in the past. The Sommergeiles family in Golden Meadow several years ago together with the Tabby Catfood Company opened a plant down there that was suppose to get the bycatch, process it and sell it for catfood. They were not able to offer the fishermen enough monetary return in order to encourage them to save the bycatch and in some way

preserve that bycatch until it went to the processing company. They tried again with a "Mother Ship" which they parked out in the bay for the fishermen to bring their bycatch to to be processed and still the amount of money they were able to offer the fishermen for that product was not enough to be rewarding to the people advised Mr. Adkins. As far as Mr. Adkins knows there has never been a successful attempt primarily because those people cannot be paid enough for the bycatch to make it worth their while to pick it out, to preserve it, and to transport it to a processing house or facility to sell it. Secretary Van Sickle advised that there is at least one, possibly two operations in the Gulf right now off of Alabama, Bayou La Batre, where they are trawling for bycatch and are selling them to one of the Gulf Council members so there is a growing market for this. About a month ago a man came to the department wanting to know what kind of permits he would have to have to do this off the coast of Louisiana stated Secretary Van Sickle and he was warned about the upcoming regulations on reef fish and if he had more than seven red snapper in his hole then he could be arrested. The new reef fish regulations will a deterrent for many proliferation of these bycatch processing plants offshore. Mr. Pol asked if the bycatch was the reason they closed inshore waters in North Carolina? Mr. Adkins stated that he was familiar with the results of the study but was not familiar why the inshore waters were closed initially and believes it was a part of an experiment that they were doing to see what effects it had on shrimp (sizes, numbers, migrations, etc.).

Mr. Dean Blanche, President of Dean Blanche's Seafood, Grand Isle, Louisiana addressed the Commission and stated that in Mr. Marshal's article on bycatch he listed false information and did not put anything that the bycatch was useful for. Bycatch is responsible for feeding birds, handicapped fish and other fish and it also fertilizes the waterbottom. Furthermore Mr. Marshal is against commercial fishermen because they do not have to read his articles to catch fish. In his report he stated that trawling killed sixty to ninety percent of red snapper. Mr. Blanche would like to know what they are doing with the fish because he bought five million pounds of shrimp and less than two hundred pounds of red snapper, two king mackerel and about forty five hundred pounds of spanish. Mr. Blanche believes that there is a conspiracy by special interest groups that control shrimp farms and foreign shrimp.

Mr. Jenkins commented that he thinks what is kind of significant about this, and thinks the Commission should be concerned, is the fact that if these figures are correct you are talking about the waste of anywhere from two to four billion pounds of bycatch a year. If something can be done about this the Commission and department should be working towards that end. Mr. Jenkins stated that he did not ask that this issue be brought up to take action but was just trying to get some information because

he had read the Texas plan and appreciated Mr. Adkins for giving them the information.

At Thursday's meeting Mr. Bennie Fontenot presented to the Commission a notice of intent to close the taking of sturgeon fishies in Louisiana for a three year period, starting on May 1, 1990 and ending at sunset on April 30, 1993. Mr. Fontenot pointed out that there are three species of sturgeon in Louisiana, the Gulf Atlantic, the Pallet, and the Shovelnose. The department along with the Fish and Wildlife Service are quite concerned about this fish. Mr. Fontenot has been informed by the Fish and Wildlife Service that probably by mid-summer the Pallet sturgeon will be listed on the endangered species and the Gulf Atlantic sturgeon may be listed as threatened within the next year. There is no action being taken on the Shovelnose and relatively speaking it is probably the most populace in the state commented Mr. Fontenot. There is little information on these fish and with this in mind the department would like to do a study on the status of the populations of these fish in the state especially in light of the new regulations that will be placed on them advised Mr. Fontenot.

At Friday's meeting Mr. Bennie Fontenot read the notice of intent on sturgeon, taking and possession. Mr. Jenkins made motion that this notice of intent be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Jones and passed unanimously.

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

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby expresses intent to prohibit the taking and possession of the Gulf Atlantic Sturgeon, Acipenser oxyrhynchus; the Pallid Sturgeon, Scaphirhynchus albus; and the Shovelnose Sturgeon, S. platorynchus; or sturgeon body parts, including eggs (roe) is hereby prohibited for a three year period beginning May 1, 1990 and ending at sunset April 30, 1993.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule until 4:30 p.m., February 23, 1990, at the following address: Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Freshwater Fish Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

At Thursday's meeting Dr. Jerry Clark was to present a notice of intent on Reef Fish but informed the Commission that at this time there would be no action on this notice because the Reef Fish Amendment No. 1 produced by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council was sent to the federal government sometimes last year with the idea that the amendment would be in place in federal waters by the first of the year. The department was following up on this as quickly as they could so that the state would have compatible regulation. The department has been unable to get a copy of the

federal regulation and as Dr. Clark understands the federal rules have been delayed for thirty days possibly because of the complexity of the rules. Dr. Clark recommended that until the department has a copy of the federal rules and to make sure that the state is consistent with them that this issue not be acted upon now.

Chairman Pol advised that this will be held in abeyance until Dr. Clark can get a copy of the federal rules. Secretary Van Sickle highlighted the proposed regulations for reef fish in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

At Thursday's meeting Colonel Winton Vidrine presented the Monthly Law Enforcement Report. Colonel Vidrine reported that in the month of December the following cases were made:

Region I - Minden - 160 cases, (150 enforcement/10 other divisions)
Region II - Monroe - 59 cases, (52 enforcement/7 other divisions)
Region III - Alexandria - 119 cases, (105 enforcement/14 other divisions)
Region IV - Ferriday - 99 cases, (45 enforcement/54 other divisions)
Region V - Lake Charles - 142 cases (133 enforcement/9 other divisions)
Region VI - Opelousas - 268 cases (265 enforcement/3 other divisions)
Region VII - Baton Rouge - 160 cases (152 enforcement/8 other divisions)
Region VIII - New Orleans - 500 cases (480 enforcement/20 other divisions)

Colonel Vidrine pointed out that there were a lot of confiscations during the month of December and there was a total of 1,635 cases made in December (1,507 enforcement/125 other divisions/3 SWEP). This is a hundred cases less than last year. A game and fish road check was done in the parishes of Plaquemine and Terrebonne. This is a type of roadblock that is set up and all vehicles are checked coming from hunting and fishing areas. There was a total of 79 cases; 47 people cited; 220 ducks seized and redfish seized (over limit and under sized). These road checks were conducted with twenty enforcement division personnel and two U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents concluded Colonel Vidrine.

Mr. McCall questioned Colonel Vidrine on the hours of the Rip Tide and Delta Tide which totaled 54 hours running time with six cases made. Colonel Vidrine advised that the reason the hours on the boats were low was because there is not a full crew for both boats. Several personnel have quit and interviews will be taking place next week to fill these positions. Mr. McCall stated that he was a little concern about the running time for big boats like these and it looks like there is not enough utilization of these boats, especially for the amount of money that it cost to keep them

up, keep a crew, insurance, etc. Mr. McCall would like to know if there isn't a way that the department can get more utilization of these boats. Colonel Vidrine stated that he would look into this and give a report at the next Commission meeting on the two boats.

Chairman Pol asked if there was a log of who hunts and who uses Pass-a-Loutre. It was pointed out that this area was just like the other wildlife management areas and the only time you have to have a permit is when you are participating in the special archery season. A log is kept on the wildlife management areas that do have camps and non-departmental people are charged \$10 a day unless it is directly related to department work.

Mr. McCall asked Colonel Vidrine to also give a breakdown on what it cost to operate one of these boat a day in his report to the Commission next month. Colonel Vidrine stated that this would be done.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the problem was that there were not enough people to man the boats and if so why can't the department get the people. Colonel Vidrine answered yes this was the problem and it is hard to find a person that qualifies to be a boat captain, who also has the law enforcement requirements, plus a vessel license.

At Thursday's meeting Dr. Jerry Clark gave an Evaluation of the Freeze Affects on Fisheries. Dr. Clark summarized the report that each Commissioner had received on this issue. A final assessment on the fish freeze will not be available until April, May or June because of the nature of the freeze and the weather that took place before the freeze. There were six cold fronts in Louisiana between November 15 and this freeze reported Dr. Clark. A typical winter in Louisiana there might be one or two freezes during this time period. The department biologists and people throughout the coast noted that during the six week time period the fish were relocating (leaving marsh and heading to the Gulf). Dr. Clark stated that is probably the best news that he has for the fish. When the freeze hit, the department thinks that the marsh in many areas were depopulated of finfish which helped a lot because the water temperatures, the ice that accumulated and the length of the freeze was much worse than 1983. The department's estimation of the impact on the resource is that it is relatively light across the coast. In certain areas, deadend canals, behind structures in marsh management areas, and areas of normal refuge there have been significant fish kills. These are isolated and not across the coast advised Dr. Clark and the freeze seems to have been worse east of the river than west of the river. This is an interim report and if in fact the department is right the fish in the bays and estuaries will not be there until later in the spring, April, May and June when they will come back in from the Gulf following the shrimp into the bays and estuaries. If this happens

the fish will start showing up in gill nets but if they don't then the department was wrong reported Dr. Clark. On the shellfish there was a four foot tide change and in those areas where shellfish were uncovered the shellfish beds had a hundred percent mortality. On oysters the best estimate is that there is a ten or fifteen percent mortality on oysters across the coast. In some oyster areas because of the temperature of the water, the oyster itself shut down and did not grow and won't grow and the department is looking at an interim growth reduction of maybe twenty or thirty percent in the oysters reported Dr. Clark.

Mr. McCall asked Dr. Clark what type of fish suffered the most. The fish that suffered the most, across the coast, were spotted seatrout, red drum and striped mullet in approximately equal numbers but just like the freeze itself this was not equally distributed across the coast answered Dr. Clark. Mr. Jenkins stated that he had talked to two individuals who first thought that there was entire devastation but are now catching fish. Dr. Clark added that what the department is talking about is the biology of this issue and not economics and it is possible for this state to have a very bad economic impact from this freeze and still not have had a tremendous impact on its biological resources. Both of these things are possible and the department's reports indicate that both may in fact be happening at this time but at this time there are no recommendations for action to be taken stated Dr. Clark. If there are no fish in the gill nets in April, May, or June Dr. Clark advised that he will be back before the Commission with biological recommendations to protect the fishery. Mr. Pol asked what was the estimated date of when the speckled trout quota would be reached. Dr. Clark answered that the latest recommendation of his staff is at sometime in early March. Mr. Jenkins stated that in New Orleans Dr. Clark had reported that the speckled trout catch for October was twice what it was the year before and asked if he had November's data. Dr. Clark advised no and neither December which is very important and the staff will be working very hard on getting these.

Dr. Clark went on to address the issue of not letting people pick up the fish that had died during the freeze. Dr. Clark pointed out several overwhelming reasons why people should not be allowed to pick up dead fish. First, the direct effect would be that there is no way of knowing what the health aspects of this practice would be. Second the indirect effect which is even more important to the industry of the state is that Dr. Clark is not sure people in the midwest or people in restaurants would truly appreciate finding out that the dinner they just had was picked up dead. This is not to the benefit of the state's commercial fishing market to have this get out into the public. Third, Dr. Clark did not know of any authority that the Secretary or Commission has to suspend law and let the people pick up the fish. Most of the rules and regulations that the department have are in place through a rule or regulation or passed by the legislature. Fourth, many of

the fish that were picked up were still alive, stunned fish that were floating on the surface or moving very slowly. If the impacts of the freeze is negative so is picking up stunned fish advised Dr. Clark. Mr. McCall asked what were the chances of survival of the stunned fish. Dr. Clark reported that people who have actually picked up stunned fish and put them back into warm water the fish just picked up, swam around and had no problem whatsoever. Mr. McCall advised that most of the fish caught in East Fork were stunned fish.

Mr. Mark Hilzin with the Louisiana GCCA addressed the Commission on fisheries and the freeze. Mr. Hilzin stated that Dr. Clark had covered a lot of the things that he himself was concerned about and that he also had received a lot of phone calls. At this time Mr. Hilzin wanted to pass along some of the concerns that he has been getting possibly to incorporate them into any research, etc. that may be done to obtain answers on this issue. One of the concerns is is there a need for a special set of rules to handle this type of situation to protect the resource. Another concern was if there were any special efforts made to count the fish that were being picked up as opposed to being caught with a hook and line or net. The most important thing is planning for these kinds of situations can be done and how to react to situations, such as the freeze, as they occur. Mr. Hilzin left the Commission with the thought "does the finfish section role need to be looked at again and see if maybe the resources that are being put into that section need to be rethought".

Mr. Richard Bankston, Baton Rouge, addressed the Commission and asked what the freeze did to the inland fisheries

Dr. Clark informed the Commission that the department's inland fisheries people have been on alert, reported and responded to all fish kills that have occurred. To date Dr. Clark, as far as he knew, has not had any reports on a sunfish kill. There have been reports on kills in inland waters which consisted of gizzard shad and threadfin shad but these are fish that reproduce very rapidly. As far as the department is concerned there were no problems with inland fisheries commented Dr. Clark.

At Thursday's meeting Secretary Van Sickle gave her report to the Commission. Secretary Van Sickle gave a summary of the Game, Fur and Refuge and the Habitat Division reports on effects of the freeze. The effects on upland game in general have been minimal, if not even observable in the field. Big game species, like deer and turkey, were very lightly impacted; only a few deaths of deer were attributed to the freeze, no reports on losses to squirrel, rabbit and quail; waterfowl prepare for this kind of situation and went to open waters and there were very few waterfowl deaths that were reported for ducks and geese. The surveys by the Refuge Division and Game Division will continue. Some of the non-game birds that were lost were the great blue heron, rails, marsh wrens,

snowy egrets, and rosette spoonbills. Personnel from Rockefeller Refuge reported that killdeer for some reason were especially hard hit by the freeze. Nutria suffered tremendously from the freeze which may be a blessing because of the damage they are doing to the marsh. The department staff has estimated between ten and twenty percent of the nutria were killed so far and may lose a few more. There was a minimal light impact on the alligator populations in general but just like in fisheries there were a few isolated place where the alligator impacts were real heavy. Lacassine Refuge had fifty dead alligators. The impacts on alligators will be latent and the department has already started getting reports just as recently as two days ago. The most important losses experienced as the result of the freeze involve the brown pelican. There are only about 2,500 brown pelicans coastwide with three rookeries that are the nesting colonies of these brown pelicans. These rookeries are located on the Chandeleur Islands, Timbalier Island and Queen Bess Island located in the upper Barataria Bay region. The Queen Bess pelicans nest earlier than the ones on the other two islands advised Secretary Van Sickle and actually started laying eggs and nesting in November. The other colonies had not nested yet. On Queen Bess Island there were eight hundred nests that were totally destroyed. Estimated two hundred to three hundred eggs were lost as well as an equal number of fledglings on Queen Bess Island. In addition to the loss of the juveniles an aerial survey revealed the lost of about two hundred sub-adults costwide. The bald eagle reports showed that none of the birds had been lost except one dead bird on the shore of Lake Salvador.

Secretary Van Sickle advised that a resolution had been received from the Plaquemines Parish Government regarding the freeze. The resolution stated that sixty percent of the finfish have been destroyed, sixty percent of the oysters have been destroyed, sixty percent of the crabs have been destroyed, etc. and are asking for any assistance that the department, and the state government could provide them for disaster relief. It was pointed out by Secretary Van Sickle that as Dr. Clark stated the department cannot say there was a biological disaster on any of the species that the Plaquemines Parish Government has brought up but it is not to say that they are not going to have some economic impacts. This issue needs to be sent to the Office of Disaster Preparedness who make the economic declarations and works with the federal government on any disaster aid that will go to a parish. The department will respond to the Plaquemines Parish Government and give them this information.

The fishing pamphlet is going to press this week and the department should have it by the end of the month. The pamphlet will contain a lot more information about the commercial fishing laws and the recreational fishing laws.

Secretary Van Sickle announced that Mr. Wade Byrd will be working with her more closely in the future as an Assistant to the

Secretary handling many things, including the Responsive Management Survey which Mr. Byrd is the coordinator. The survey has been done and next Tuesday the information will be presented to the staff in Baton Rouge. Mr. Byrd will then be visiting the district offices next week sharing the information that has been obtained from the Responsive Management Survey. Secretary Van Sickle stated that at the next Commission meeting the entire results of the survey will be presented.

Secretary Van Sickle reported that there was a retreat with some of the chief staff of the department for planning activities. One of the things that the Transition Team recommended two years ago was more long range planning. This ties directly into programmatic budgeting and towards the end of this year there will be individual job descriptions that are tied to the different programs so that the department can be sure that they are spending the scarce resources that they have on the things that have been set out as being objectives and missions of the department through a planning process that will involve all of the staff.

Secretary Van Sickle passed out to the Commissioners a copy of a notice of intent that the Attorney General's office prepared at the request of Dr. Clark and herself regarding shell dredging. The Commissioners at their last meeting indicated and asked Secretary Van Sickle to be prepared to present to them technical information regarding the impacts of shell dredging on Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas at least six months prior to the renewal of any lease. The department is not going to depend upon DEQ or DNR to collect the data but will be able to use the information that is gained from the DEQ Adjudicatory hearings and from many other sources. But to be sure that everybody has a right to submit information public comments will be obtained through the department.

Secretary Van Sickle reminded the Commissioners of the tiny shrimp that were being harvested, 187 count shrimp, and the problem the department had in making a case because the shrimper would say that he caught them in federal waters so the department would have to actually witness the taking to make a case. Through the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Shrimp Fishery Management Plan this can be rectified. The Secretary of Commerce has asked the department to provide economic information and justification for doing this and last week the department provided the information. Hopefully before the next season starts the state will have the federal government's concurrence on this and shrimp that are caught in federal waters and landed in Louisiana must be consistent with the state laws.

The civil penalties that were ratified at the Commission meeting in December will be in effect and Ms. Baker is getting ready to send out bills to violators. The procedure will be that the department will get a copy of the citation from the Law

Enforcement section and Ms. Baker's office will be sending out a bill with a cover letter explaining the bill. The cover letter will also note that if the bill is not paid within thirty days it will be turned over to the District Attorney and the violator will pay additional court cost. The District Attorney will be allowed to collect forty percent of this fee for processing this on behalf of the department. This will be starting at the end of this month stated Secretary Van Sickle.

Another issue that had been discussed at a previous Commission meeting involved the safety of offshore vessels and the exposure to oil spills from ruptured pipelines. A letter to Senator Hollings and others has been written for Chairman Pol and Secretary Van Sickle's signatures asking for Congressional hearings on this issue of pipeline burial and removal. Secretary Van Sickle asked Chairman Pol and the other Commissioners if they had any changes in the letter to let her know. This letter will go to the committees responsible for pipeline safety in Congress and the entire Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

Secretary Van Sickle pointed out that each Commission member was given a report from the Information and Education Section which is their annual performance report and hopes the members will spend some time going through the report.

The Appropriations Committee has an Oversight Hearing when budget changes in departments of government are reviewed reported Secretary Van Sickle. Mr. Arthur Williams and Mr. Gary Tilyou went with Wynettee Kees to the meeting and got the renovations for the Beechwood Fish Hatchery approved. This will be about a two million dollar renovation. The Beechwood hatchery was built back around 1925. This is the only major fish hatchery in the state and this is just a start of some major freshwater fisheries initiatives that you will be seeing from the Office of Fisheries this year stated Secretary Van Sickle.

On March 16, 1990 in Denver, Colorado the 51st Annual North American Wildlife Conference will be held. This is a meeting of the Southeastern Association, Western Association, all the states' fish and wildlife agencies, Federal Government, Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other wildlife organizations announced Secretary Van Sickle. Secretary Van Sickle then invited one of the Commissioners to attend this conference with the members of the department that are going.

Secretary Van Sickle commended the staff for the work that they have done over the past month regarding the freeze and the time that they spent on this. She also commended the staff on the whale rescue effort which was successful.

Mr. McCall suggested that something in writing, if possible, be sent to the personnel who worked during the freeze to let them know how much it was appreciated.

Chairman Pol called for motion to adjourn Thursday's Commission meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jenkins for adjournment of Thursday's Commission meeting and resume it on Friday at 9:00 A.M., same location. Seconded by Mr. McCall and passed unanimously.

At Friday's meeting Mr. Hugh Bateman gave an update on the North American Waterfowl Plan. Mr. Bateman reported that a couple of years ago he appeared before the Commission and showed them a video tape of a new commitment by the United States and Canada in doing things for wetlands to try to change the trend of losing wetlands on a continent wide bases. Since that time there have been numerous meetings and a lot of things that have gone on both at the Congressional level here in the state of Louisiana, across the country and in Canada. Mr. Bateman has had the opportunity to attend a lot of the meetings and be a part of the development of the plan and today he simply wanted to mention to the Commission that they are now at a threshold with the North American Waterfowl Plan in that there will very soon be a Louisiana State Action Plan that outlines what the state will be doing. Secretary Van Sickle has been involved with federal people on the wetlands loss. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan has provided some opportunities for the department people to start communicating with others in trying to do some things positive that will help both fish and wildlife in Louisiana. Mr. Bateman introduced Mr. Jimmy Emfinger who will be the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Coordinator. Mr. Emfinger has been with the department for twenty three years and it is felt that he will do a good job. The Mitchell Bill has passed Congress which will allow additional funds for purchase of wetlands concluded Mr. Bateman.

At Friday's meeting Chairman Pol announced the Dates and Locations for the Public Hearing to be held for Hunting Seasons.

On February 1-2, 1990 the regular monthly Commission meeting will be at 2:00 P.M. in Lake Charles at the Civic Center with the Public Hearing being held at 7:00 P.M. on February 1 in Lake Charles at the Civic Center. The Commission meeting will resume on Friday, February 2, 1990 at the same location.

On February 15, 1990 the Public Hearing will be held in Hammond at 7:00 P.M. at Southeastern Louisiana University, Keva Room, Teacher Education Building.

On March 1-2, 1990 the regular monthly Commission meeting will be at 2:00 P.M. in Monroe at the Holiday Inn, Monroe Room with the Public Hearing being held at 7:00 P.M. on March 1 in Monroe, Holiday Inn, Monroe Room. The Commission meeting will resume on Friday, March 2, 1990 at the same location but in the Canal Room.

Mr. Bateman stated that the Information and Education Division will be putting out a news release on the meeting dates for the Public Hearings and there should be an appropriate amount of time for this to get into the news media and make sure everybody has plenty of public notice.

Chairman Pol announced that there has been a delay in appointing the different Commission committees this year because the Governor has not yet filled the vacancy on the Commission but he is asking Mr. Bert Jones to chair the committee for the Public Hunting hearings. Mr. Jones accepted the Chairmanship of this committee.

At Friday's meeting Ms. Bettsie Baker gave an update on the New Orleans property. Ms. Baker reported that the first appraisal has been received on the two properties in New Orleans and they came in at a nice value. The old Police Station was appraised at about six hundred thousand dollars and the Parking Garage was appraised for one hundred and eighty thousand dollars. Liquidation will be done through a public auction and the question is whether to try and sell them separately or as a joint package. Ms. Baker thinks the value to the department would be enhanced if they are sold as a package and would prefer to sell them as such. If these buildings are sold together you are looking at seven hundred and eighty thousand dollars total stated Ms. Baker. One thing that has to be taken into consideration that has to be considered when establishing the minimum bid price for these properties is that the Police Station has asbestos in it and any bidder that bids on the property is going to want to negate the cost of the asbestos demolition from the appraised value. There are two appraisals coming in but the second one has not been received. Once the appraisal is received the minimum bid price can be established. The asbestos demolition cost would be around a hundred thousand dollars and if the asking bid price would be six hundred and eighty thousand dollars Ms. Baker believes this would be in the ballpark. Once these properties are sold it give the department some flexibility to get the personnel in New Orleans in a new office location which they desperately need.

The property at 400 Royal Street was contracted for appraisal and the contract has been returned from Contractual Review and was approved. The appraiser is in the process of finalizing his report and by the time of the next regular Commission meeting there should be an appraisal from him.

Mr. Jenkins commented that if he is not mistaken it is not uncommon at public auctions for bids to be taken as separate properties and combined properties and then take the higher of the total. Ms. Baker asked if this can be done in a public bid, this will not be a sealed bid. Mr. Jenkins answered you can auction

them off completely one way and auction them off completely the other way and then take the higher of the two prices. Ms. Baker stated that she was unaware that it could be done this way and suggested that she follow up on this and do it this way if possible.

Chairman Pol asked about the plans for the money that will be received from the sale of the properties. Ms. Baker advised that she has been negotiating with Greg O'Brien who is the Chancellor of the University of New Orleans for a piece of property that they have control over but do not own. They are working with the Lakeshore Development District, which is immediately adjacent to the University of New Orleans, to establish a research, commercial park and would like to have the department as an anchor tenant. This would be an ideal location since it is easy to get to, and near the university. This is an existing building and needs to be renovated. If the renovation process is handled through the UNO Foundation the Foundation can actually contract for the building services to do the renovations and the department could possibly be in by June or July if the transaction takes place. The University and Landmark Land Development, who owns the property, are trying to come to a mutually agreeable deal on the trade and sale of the property. Ideally this is where the department would like to go but if this does not come to pass then other options will have to be looked at. To expedite the process it would behoove the department to find something that is already constructed rather than build a new facility stated Ms. Baker. This piece of property with renovation will run approximately seven hundred to eight hundred thousand dollars. In the event that there are active bidders who are really interested in the French Quarter properties the price that is received may be significantly in excess of the appraised value.

Mr. Jones asked if the department is committed to an auctioneer. Ms. Baker advised that the department will work through Facility Planning with whatever is standard state operating policy and is under the impression that the Sheriff will be selling it as though it is a Sheriff's Sale. Mr. Jones was concerned because auctioneers have a tendency to take a pretty good chunk of the profits. Ms. Baker stated that it will all come back to the department. The appraisal should be in hand for the next meeting and then the department will know what they are looking at in terms of potential value concluded Ms. Baker.

Chairman Pol asked Secretary Van Sickle if she had anything else to report to the Commission.

Secretary Van Sickle stated that she has three items. The first one is in response to a resolution that the Commission passed regarding the Catahoula Lake oil spill. The department has heard from Natural Resources Commissioner, Pat Bachelor, basically transmitting to the department the response from Placid Oil.

Placid Oil, Placid Pipeline Division is responsible for maintaining the pipelines, etc. Mr. Bateman attended a meeting yesterday with these people in Alexandria and the Secretary asked him to tell what had taken place at this meeting regarding this issue.

Mr. Bateman reported that he met with representatives of DEQ, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Conservation from the Department of Natural Resources in Alexandria yesterday. Also three/four members of Mr. Bateman's staff attended who work on the lake on a regular basis with the local persons who are in the oil business. When the background was reviewed of why the department asked the Commission to pass the resolution on Catahoula Lake all the public agencies that were attending the meeting supported the basics of what the Commission recommended in the resolution. There is a lot more to be done and the department has not met with the oil companies themselves. At the meeting yesterday the various things that the agencies would like to see done on Catahoula Lake were discussed. Oil production has been on Catahoula Lake since 1948. There has been two hundred and twelve wells drilled, currently twenty-two to twenty-three active wells, there are thirty four to thirty five miles of active pipeline crossing the lake and most of these lines are laying on the surface, the lake is very productive for inland fisheries both commercial and sport, fifty to seventy five thousand canvasback winter on the lake and has up to a half of million waterfowl at times on the lake pointed out Mr. Bateman. The annual daily production of oil on the lake is about a thousand barrels and it is not at all inconceivable that if there were an oil spill that fifty to hundred barrels of oil could get to the surface of the lake fairly quickly, if the wind conditions and all the other things were right there could be a very bad situation. The concern is that there is not in place the plans, containment, equipment and facilities to do the very best job at minimizing what the environment impacts would be should an oil spill happen. The people that attended the meeting, including the Office of Conservation, basically agreed with the department Mr. Bateman advised. The stage has been set to proceed further with doing some very, very positive things on Catahoula Lake. There will be another meeting next month at which the group will specifically outline the things that will be asked of the oil companies and believes that with all these regulatory agencies working together and in agreement that there will be cooperation from the oil companies.

Secretary Van Sickle stated that getting the companies to cooperate is what she is most concerned about, pointing to the letter from Placid saying they do not have to do this. Mr. Bateman stated that he had gotten a similar letter from one of the other companies saying that have a Spill Contingency Plan and it is part of what EPA requires and are not planning to do anything else. Once the specific steps are outline possibly Secretary Van Sickle can meet with the DEQ Secretary because there is no question that

this plan is going to be expensive but the value of the lake and what is at risk demands this commented Mr. Bateman.

Mr. Jenkins asked if there was any legislation that requires the oil companies to do this and if not this is where the department should start. Secretary Van Sickle added that the oil spill bill that the department is considering will not just affect coastal waters it will affect inland waters also. Mr. Bateman stated that he did not know about the coastal area but on the lake itself the department comments and issues permits to do any work on the lake in regards to laying pipelines, drilling wells, etc. so the department has the regulatory authority without any additional legislation to require that some of these things be done and by getting the other regulatory agencies, both federal and state, to agree with the department, which they have at this point at the field level could have some results. Mr. Bateman believes that the door has been opened as to what can be done to improve the situation on Catahoula Lake and this is what they are looking to do.

Dr. Hines asked if Catahoula Lake was under the control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Wildlife and Fisheries. Mr. Bateman answered it is under the control of Wildlife and Fisheries but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has an adjacent refuge, Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, and last year when the oil spill occurred at high river stages most of the damage occurred on on the refuge because the oil left the lake and was pushed by the wind on to the property.

Secretary Van Sickle introduced Ms. Karen Foote, the Acting Administrator of Marine Fisheries. Ms. Foote will be assisting Dr. Clark and working closely with Mr. Bowman, Mr. Perret and other members of the Marine Fisheries staff.

A letter from LPB, Ms. Beth Courtney, was read by Secretary Van Sickle. The letter stated that the November 1989 Neilsen Ratings for the Baton Rouge market have been received and LPB is delighted to report that the Louisiana Conservationist T. V. Magazine was their number one rated program. A statewide report will be received by April of 1990 and LPB is anticipating a good show in that report for the program.

Mr. Bettsie Baker acknowledged Mr. Guy LaBranche and Mr. Karel Bauer who have worked tirelessly on this program. Chairman Pol thanked everyone involved for a fine job.

At Friday's meeting dates were set for the April and May Commission meeting. The April meeting will be on April 5-6, 1990 in Baton Rouge, Wildlife and Fisheries Building. The May meeting will be May 3-4, 1990 in New Orleans and will be at the University Center. The Shrimp Season Hearings will also be held at this time.

Chairman Pol asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Commission on any matter.

Mr. Pete Agarcer, Lake Pontchartrain Fish Association, addressed the Commission. Mr. Agarcer stated that he felt he spoke for a large number of the fishermen in the state of Louisiana. They are very disappointed in what they have heard so far from the Wildlife and Fisheries as far as the freeze is concerned and as far as it has been a insignificant fish kill. Mr. Agarcer does not see it this way. Mr. Agarcer has received reports from all over the state from people witnessing large fish kills. Compared to the freeze of 1983 this one was much worse. The amount of red fish that Mr. Agarcer saw floating after the freeze was significant in his eyes, however, he is still catching seventy five percent of what he caught before the freeze which tell him there were a lot more red fish than anybody wanted to admit. If the freeze was insignificant as the department is saying it was, Mr. Agarcer does not see why there are quotas on speckled trout or red fish because of the amount of fish that were found floating and that are still on the bottom in bays and marshes. Mr. Agarcer stated that financially the fishermen are ruined for the next four to five months and they need the department to help the Governor to do what he said he was going to do and that was he said that if the people needed help in this state he would help. As yet the people have not gotten help from the department or the Governor's office concluded Mr. Agarcer.

Mr. T. John Mialjevich with Concerned Shrimpers of America and of Louisiana addressed the Commission. Mr. Mialjevich stated that likewise he echoes his concerns about the evaluation of the fish, shrimp, oyster or crab kill. Mr. Mialjevich is not condemning the Wildlife and Fisheries but is just asking, after attending two meetings, one in Plaquemines Parish and one in West Jefferson, to reevaluate and not look at what died but to look at the displacement that happened. This is an economic condition that occurred from the freeze by moving the normal seafood from the normal mode of fishing operations. Where are those people that are accustomed to fishing in a area every year, that they have been commercial fishermen, going to make a living. Maybe the seafood wasn't killed in significant numbers for the department to realize and declare an immediate disaster. Somewhere down the line it will be significant but it might be to late for the people to get help stated Mr. Mialjevich. What is immediate is the displacement of the ability of those people to continue with their livelihood and this is directly attributed to the freeze.

Secretary Van Sickle addressed Mr. Mialjevich and stated that he was right on the point. The fish were displaced and this is what the department's report said yesterday. The department will not know until the spring what the impacts will be on speckled trout and in the fall what it will be on the red fish. The department did a biological analysis and there was not a biological

disaster with these species or shrimp or crabs that can be detected at this point. It was pointed out at yesterday's meeting that this does not mean there is not a economic disaster that will affect fishermen. The department will provide an analysis to the Governor's Office of Disaster Preparedness. The Wildlife and Fisheries does not have anything to do with declaring an economic disaster except for providing information. The department can point out in their letter to the Office of Disaster Preparedness is exactly what Mr. Mialjevich said about the displacement of the traditional fishing grounds this time of year and how that does deserve a look from an economic and a disaster analysis stated Secretary Van Sickle.

Mr. Pete Agarcer again addressed the Commission. The biggest problem that he has with displacement is the fact that in his area (Lake Pontchartrain) the front before the freeze started the fish to come into the lake. No large amounts of trout were caught until right before the freeze. The small puppy drum were starting to leave because of the cold effect but there were big amounts of trout, white, speckled and red fish. The red fish are still there but the trout are gone stated Mr. Agarcer. If someone went out with a small dredge (clam dredge) or a trawl with big nets (ten foot test net with three inch mesh) they would find the dead fish on the bottom. This is why Mr. Agarcer's concern was that maybe there might be a little more impact that was suspected.

Mr. Barry Schaffecia, a commercial fisherman, addressed the Commission. During the last Commission meeting Mr. Schaffecia called the 800 number that belongs to the Wildlife and Fisheries and requested an agent to call his house. To this day no agent has ever returned his phone call. There have been boats that came from Alabama and Mississippi and out by Grand Pass and dumped a whole boatload of crab traps and Mr. Schaffecia believes not one of them had a crab license from Louisiana. They were never checked. There are boats dragging oversized trawls and fish nets in Lake Borgne catching undersized fish. Nothing is ever done about it. Secretary Van Sickle asked Mr. Schaffecia to stay after the meeting and his call was going to be traced. All calls on the 800 line are logged. Mr. Schaffecia stated he would and Secretary Van Sickle asked Colonel Vidrine to take care of this. Mr. Jones asked that the Commission be informed of the outcome of this issue at the next meeting.

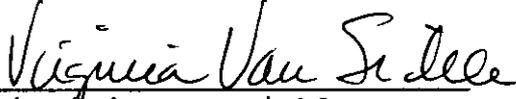
Secretary Van Sickle stated that a notice was just received that there may be a potential major oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico at the LOOP platform. As of this time no details are known and permission has been asked to use dispersants.

Ms. Bettsie Baker brought up a couple of budget items. A budget has been prepared based on continuation level funding which the budget office mandates. This is taking the current level of operations and extrapolate them forward making adjustment for what

it would take to keep the same level of service. Doing this and looking at what the anticipated revenue is from Conservation Fund dollars the department was looking at about a two and a half to four million dollars shortfall considering adding a few things on and taking a few things away. Secretary Van Sickle and Ms. Baker have been meeting with the Governor and talked about all these issues. Ms. Baker had a meeting yesterday afternoon and Wildlife and Fisheries was put on the list of possible things to be funded. There were three different items and they were: (1) revenue shortfall with a fairly high priority on this item, (2) shell dredging swap with a fairly high priority, and (3) wildlife land acquisition under high profile priority items to fund.

Chairman Pol asked if what Ms. Baker is saying is that there will only be a two and a half million dollars shortfall. Ms. Baker answered two and a half million dollars for Conservation dollars is absolute base line. There were some enhancements that were being looked at which brought it up into the three to four million dollar range but the absolute Conservation dollars were two and a half million dollars. Chairman Pol asked if the Governor offered any help. Secretary Van Sickle explained the process and stated that basically the department has come out so far as being one to be recommended to the Governor for funding.

There being no further business to come before the Commission Mr. Jenkins made a motion that the meeting be adjourned which was seconded by Mr. Jones and passed unanimously.


Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
JANUARY 11-12, 1989

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of December 14-15, 1989
3. By Laws Relative to Attendance of Commission Meeting - *Walter Pal*
4. By-Catch in Shrimp Trawls - Jimmy Jenkins
5. The North American Waterfowl Plan Update - Hugh Bateman (Friday)
6. Announce Public Hearing Dates for Hunting Seasons - Hugh Bateman (Friday)
7. Notice of Intent, Sturgeon Closure - Jerry Clark
8. Notice of Intent, Reef Fish - Jerry Clark
9. Monthly Law Enforcement Report - Winton Vidrine
10. Evaluation of Freeze Affects on Fisheries - Jerry Clark
11. Secretary's Report to the Commission
13. Building Update (New Orleans) - Bettsie Baker (Friday)
13. Set March, April and May Meeting Date Meeting Date

OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ROLL CALL
January 11-12, 1990

| | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------|----------|----------|
| Don Hines | <u>✓</u> | <u>✓</u> |
| Jimmy Jenkins | <u>✓</u> | <u>✓</u> |
| Bert Jones | <u>✓</u> | <u>✓</u> |
| Norman McCall | <u>✓</u> | <u>✓</u> |
| Joe Palmisano | <u>A</u> | <u>A</u> |
| Warren Pol | <u>✓</u> | <u>✓</u> |
| Dale Vinet | <u>A</u> | <u>A</u> |

Mr. Chairman:

There are 5 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.

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w/ Secretary Van Sickle ^{is also} present

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OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

RESOLUTION

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS: ARTICLE III

WHEREAS, It is necessary and appropriate that all the members of the Commission be diligent and conscientious in their attendance of Commission meetings in order to most effectively carry out the Commission's mandate of conserving and protecting the State's fish and wildlife resources, and

WHEREAS, It is therefore appropriate that the By-Laws be amended to impose attendance requirements on the members of this body and to provide for a mechanism for removal from office in connection therewith.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby amends Article III of its By-Laws to add a new section, Section 4 to read as follows:

"The attendance of every Commission member is required at every regular Commission meeting. Should any member be absent from two (2) consecutive regular monthly meetings, he shall submit to the full membership of the Commission a written explanation of the reason(s) for his absences. Should he fail to do so, the Chairman shall submit to the Governor a written request and recommendation on behalf of the Commission that the member be removed from the Commission.

Warren I Pol, Commissioner

Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary

ARTICLE III

QUORUM - MINUTES

1. The attendance of four Members at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.
2. A tentative draft of the minutes of each meeting shall be submitted to each Commissioner within fifteen days after such meeting.
3. Final minutes will be available to Commission members not later than the next regular meeting.

7. That Title 56:1(E) be revised to read: No person who has served as commissioner for two terms, regardless of length of term, shall be eligible for reappointment.

Currently Title 56:1(E) states: No person who has served as commissioner for six years or more shall be eligible for reappointment.

Under the present system a commissioner is eligible for reappointment if he has served only a four year term or part(s) of four or six year terms (i.e. he resigned before his term was completed). Providing eligibility for reappointment after one term would make it feasible to reappoint productive and willing commissioners for two terms without vacating commission slots for reappointment consideration.

8. That each commissioner be automatically subject to reconfirmation by the Senate at its next regular session should he or she miss 3 consecutive meetings or a total of 4 meetings during a 12 month period. Furthermore the panel recommends that any commissioner may be subject to reconfirmation by the Senate upon receipt of resolution by 2/3 majority of the commission.

The commission meets at least monthly and has complex and pressing issues to handle at each meeting. Full participation by all commission members allows the commission to be most productive. If a commissioner is not able to participate fully, as his interest has waned, or due to business or health complications, the burden to analyze, develop policy and make

final decisions is put on the rest of the commission. Presently, the commission has no method of ensuring that its members remain productive. The automatic review by the Senate is recommended to stimulate commission members to attend and participate on a regular basis.

There may be circumstances which would prevent a commissioner from serving in an appropriate and productive manner, even though he would be able to attend meetings. For instance, mental incapacitation due to disease or drug or alcohol addiction may preclude effective participation. To provide a vehicle of review for the appointments of these individuals, it is recommended that the individual would be subject to Senate reconfirmation with a 2/3 vote by the commission (5 of 7 commissioners). The 2/3 vote requirement would most likely be obtainable only for major reasons and it would be unlikely that it could be exercised for punitive reasons.

9. That the secretary/director be hired by the commission subject to confirmation by the Senate.

It was the consensus of the panel that the most effective system of operation is one in which the secretary/director is appointed by the commission. The latest legislation (Title 56:6) gives the commission authority to act "through its secretary", which could limit the commission's power as the secretary may not be required to follow the commission's direction, and the secretary reports to the governor, not the commission.

Under the proposed system the commission would have control over the secretary/director. There would be continuity in administration of the agency as it would not change with each

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INSTRUMENTS
OFF II
WINE NET

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four - Dec 31 1989

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A Comprehensive Assessment of Bycatch in the Louisiana Shrimp Fishery

MARFIN Grant No. NA89WC-H-MF006
Project Funding - \$89,069.00

This project began January 1, 1989 and terminated December 31, 1989. Primarily designed to survey offshore and inshore trawlers and wingnet fishermen and assess the number, species composition and weight of all incidentally caught organisms.

Historically, participation in the fishery has been high; for example, more than 25,000 vessels actively fished in 1986, harvesting nearly 200,000,000 pounds of shrimp.

Objective of the study was to quantify the bycatch of the Louisiana shrimp fishery.

Study methods included collecting a 40 liter sample of unsorted catch from three offshore boats, three inshore boats, and three wingnets each month in each of three offshore and four inshore grids. Data gathered would be compared to landings data gathered by National Marine Fisheries Service, poundages of shrimp compared and ratios developed relative to our sample weight and overall landed weight.

Although the project terminated only two weeks ago, some preliminary results are available. I would caution you, however, that data are preliminary, subject to ongoing analysis and refinement. A final publication will probably not be ready before July 1, 1990.



Table 1. Map showing grids.

| CSA-I | CSA-II | CSA-III | CSA-IV | CSA-V | CSA-VI |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| East of Miss. River | Barataria Bay Region | Timbalier-Terre. Area | Vermilion-Cote Blanche | | West of Vermilion Bay |
| Offshore 12.0 | 13.0 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 16.0 | 17.0 |
| Inshore 12.1 | 13.1 | 14.1 | 15.1 | 16.1 | 17.1 |

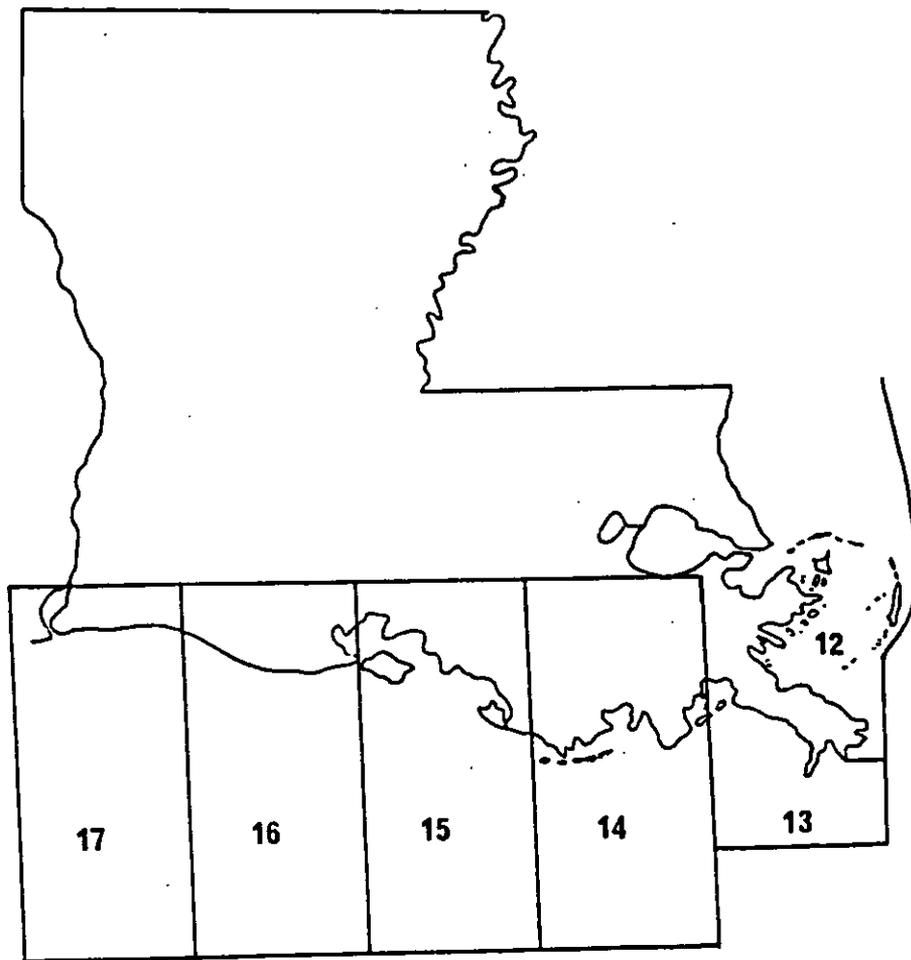


Figure 29. National Marine Fisheries Service grid zones.

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FRI

DATES AND LOCATIONS OF MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

February 1-2, 1990
Thursday-2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
Friday-9:00 AM

-Lake Charles Civic Center
Rooms at the Lake Charles Hilton
505 North Lakeshore Drive
318/433-7121

February 15
Thursday-7:00 PM

-Hammond - Southeastern Louisiana University
Kiva Room, Teacher Education Building
504/549-2301

March 1-2, 1990
Thursday-2:00 PM & 7:00 PM
Friday-9:00 AM

-Monroe - Holidome
New Orleans Room - Thursday
Canal Room - Friday
318/387-5100

7 2

NOTICE OF INTENT

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

TITLE 76

Wildlife and Fisheries

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishery

S 145. Sturgeon, Taking and Possession.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby expresses intent to prohibit the taking and possession of the Gulf Atlantic Sturgeon, Acipenser oxyrhynchus; the Pallid Sturgeon, Scaphirhynchus albus; and the Shovelnose Sturgeon, S. platyrhynchus; or sturgeon body parts, including eggs (roe) is hereby prohibited for a three year period beginning May 1, 1990 and ending at sunset April 30, 1993.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule until 4:30 p.m., February 23, 1990, at the following address: Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Freshwater Fish Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

CITATION NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:22
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. 16: ().

Warren Pol
Chairman

GULF FISHERY NEWS

 GULF FISHERY NEWS is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council for persons interested in the Gulf's fishery resources VOLUME 9, NUMBER 6
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 1989

CHANGES IN GULF REEF FISH REGS APPROVED - TO BE EFFECTIVE IN JANUARY

Proposed changes in regulations for reef fish in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico have been approved by the Secretary of Commerce and will become effective in mid-January. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has been advised that essentially all its major proposals for restoring declining stocks of snappers, groupers, and amberjack have been accepted to become federal regulations on completion of processing.

Included among the proposals are:

Fishermen are to be restricted to the recreational bag limits unless they possess a commercial permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service. To qualify for a commercial permit, a fisherman must be able to prove that in the previous year more than 50 percent of his earned income came from commercial or charter/head boat fishing. Retirement income and similar income does not count as earned income. Reef fish taken under a bag limit, i.e., without a commercial permit, may not be sold.

Recreational bag limits for red snapper are to be 7 fish per person per trip. A commercial quota of 3.1 million pounds (equivalent to 80 percent of the average landings from 1985-1987) is proposed for the first year. A minimum size limit for red snapper remains unchanged at a 13-inch total length.

Recreational bag limits for other snappers, excluding vermilion and lane, is 10 fish in the aggregate. There are no bag limits for vermilion and lane snappers. Minimum size limits are 12 inches for gray, mutton, and yellowtail, and 8 inches for lane and vermilion snappers. No commercial quotas are set for these species. A 5 fish recreational bag limit for all groupers combined and a minimum size limit of 20 inches on red, gag, black, yellowfin, and Nassau groupers, and 50 inches on jewfish are to be implemented.



Commercial quotas of 9.2 and 1.8 million pounds are to be set for shallow water and deep water groupers, respectively. Deep water groupers include only snowy, yellowedge, misty, and warsaw groupers.

Black seabass will have a minimum size of 8 inches with no bag limits or commercial quotas.

A recreational bag limit for greater amberjack will be set at 3 fish per angler per trip and a minimum size limit of 28 inches fork length. A commercial size limit of 36 inches will regulate the commercial catch. All bag limits are to be trip limits with an allowable possession limit up to 2 days on multi-day trips aboard charter and head boats.

Bottom longlines for reef fish will be prohibited within 50 fathoms west and 20 fathoms east of Cape San Blas, Florida. Incidental catches of reef fish on other longlines, shrimp trawls, and nets will be limited to the recreational bag limit (only one day trip limit to be allowed in possession) and minimum size limits. This limit will not apply to commercial groundfish trawlers where catch is not sorted at sea. (This is the one change made in the Secretarial partial approval).

Fish traps are to continue to be allowed outside designated stressed areas but will be limited to 100 traps per permit holder and annual permits are to be required.

As a result of public comment received more recently, the Council has proposed as a separate action a complete prohibition on the taking of jewfish, a grouper which may reach up to 1,000 pounds. Commercial fishermen and recreational divers report a virtual disappearance of this species. Public hearings on this action are being scheduled throughout the Gulf Coast in early January.



10

State of Louisiana



VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 88000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 785-2800

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

January 11, 1990

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor Buddy Roemer and LDWF Commissioners

FROM: Virginia Van Sickle *VVS*

SUBJECT: Update on Freeze Impacts to Fish and Wildlife

Assessments by the staff continue. The following is an interim summary report on the December 1989 freeze impacts to fish and wildlife:

Marine Fisheries - In the coastal area, marine biologists have continued surveying the marshes, bays and canals. Aerial surveys, boat surveys and net samples were made throughout coastal Louisiana. Considerably more dead fish (sheepshead, mullet, red drum, speckled seatrout) were found this week throughout all habitat types.

Analysis of collected data indicates that fish mortality occurred coastwide with concentrated kills found in areas such as dead-end location canals, deep natural bayous, deeper mid-marsh habitat, and impounded and semi-impounded areas. It is not to be construed that all of these areas were affected nor at the same magnitude; rather, observed concentrations were found there. In the majority of the coastal marsh freezing conditions had a light impact on finfish. No changes in regulations or management regimes are recommended at this time.

The apparent impact on red drum was primarily of the age 0 to 3 year class with age 1 to 4 for spotted seatrout. Since November 15, six strong cold fronts crossed the coast, causing many fish to find refuge in the gulf or deeper inshore areas prior to the freeze. Water levels dropped 2 to 4.5 feet below normal trapping fish in shallow areas during the recent freeze. The effects of freeze mortality in conjunction with fish moving to deeper Gulf waters has

reduced the abundance of available fish in coastal marshes of Louisiana until such time that environmental conditions favor their return. Recreational fishing reports and monitoring samples however, do indicate that in some estuarine areas red drum and spotted seatrout are still available. The ultimate impact of the freeze on the resource cannot be fully evaluated until fish re-enter the estuaries. Spotted seatrout typically return to the estuaries in the spring when water temperatures rise and salinities are favorable; while red drum become available in the fall.

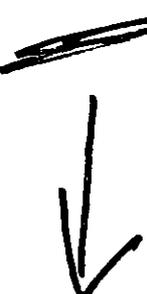
The extremely low tide exposed many oysters to freezing temperatures. Field observations by Department personnel confirmed that oyster losses were confined to shallow waterbottoms, while no excessive mortalities were observed in the deeper areas. Fishermen depending on oysters in the shallow marshes may find fewer or no oysters on their fishing grounds. This may result in a 10% to 15% decline in oyster production. Fishermen depending on seed oysters stocks produced on their shallow leases in the interior marsh may have their bedding activities suspended. Water temperatures dropped below the threshold of the feeding response of oysters resulting in a 20% to 30% decline in the yield of shucked oysters. This condition will soon rectify itself as warmer waters return.

Typical of conditions coastwide, water temperatures at Grand Terre declined 16⁰F in 24 hours on the 22nd and reached a minimum value of 29⁰F on the 24th. Water temperature remained below 32⁰F for over 100 hours and slowly rewarmed to 42⁰F by the 31st. These conditions were colder and longer lasting than either the December 25, 1983 or January 20, 1985 freezes in the Louisiana coastal area.

Freshwater Fisheries - The majority of reported freshwater fish kills were minor and species affected consisted primarily of threadfin and gizzard shad. Kills were reported in: Lake Bistineau, Lake Claiborne, Cross Lake, Bayou DeSiard in North Louisiana; Cane River Lake, Sibley Lake, Black Lake, Chicot Lake and Lake Concordia in Central Louisiana; and, Henderson Lake, Three Mile Lake, City Park and University Lakes in South Louisiana.

The only severe kill observed was in Spanish Lake in Iberia parish where the primary species affected was again gizzard shad. Monitoring of freshwater areas will continue in order to observe if more fish might rise at a later date.

Wildlife - Even though some loss of wildlife from the severe cold of December 17-25 has been noted, no long lasting effects have been noted. Big game species such as deer and turkey were lightly impacted during this period. Although individual animals were found dead, no widespread deer or turkey deaths were observed. Some deer


VA

deaths were attributed to breaking through ice and not being able to escape back to dry ground.

Significant losses to species such as squirrel, rabbit and quail have not been noted.

Migratory species were also influenced by extreme weather conditions but impacts noticed were more associated with shifts in concentrations. Waterfowl were forced to migrate from frozen wetlands to areas of open waters. In some cases feeding activities were relocated from wetlands to dry agriculture fields. Waterfowl are adaptable and weather conditions experienced had little impact on mortality rates.

Woodcock were impacted by freezing conditions. These birds were forced as far south as coastal Louisiana to find suitable areas for feeding. Because of their method of feeding, some birds were lost as a result of an inability to probe in the frozen ground for food. However, long term impacts are negligible.

Surveys by Refuge Division biologists are continuing. Numerous dead snakes were found in the fresh to slightly brackish marshes. Several great blue herons, rails, marsh wrens, terns, snowy egrets, various species of shore birds and roseate spoonbills were also observed to have succumbed to the extremely low temperatures. Killdeers seem to have been especially hard hit.

Nutria occupying some open fresh marsh habitats were found to be dead or in poor physical condition. Many surviving nutria were in a weakened condition. As expected, young or immature were the first to die and did so in larger numbers. Continuing observations over the next few weeks should provide additional insights.

On a statewide basis minimal alligator mortality has been observed. The most obvious finding from all the survey data for alligators was that mortality occurred in all size classes and in all habitat types. Aerial surveys were probably biased toward identifying the larger animals; however, when nesting habitats were intensively surveyed, smaller size classes were well represented in the overall freeze mortality. Sick and dying alligators are being observed demonstrating that mortality probably occurs over a prolonged time period. Experience from the 1983 freeze suggests that alligator freeze related losses may be latent.

The Brown Pelican colony on Queen Bess Island in Barataria Bay began nesting in November 1989. The 1990 production on the nests varied in age from 1 day old to 3-4 weeks of age and 100% mortality is expected. At least 800 nests were counted with total mortality of

10-2090
NUTRIA IN
FRESH MARSHES
PROB
PROB

GATOR
LGT

**
]

MOST
MAY

2500 (COSTA SE
3 ADDITIONAL)

ALL WILDLIFE
GATOR TOUR
QUEEN BESS - Upper Barataria

fledglings and eggs. An estimated 200-300 eggs were lost as well as an equal number of fledglings.

An aerial survey of coastal beaches revealed a total mortality of 200 birds. Most of the observed birds were immatures. The mortality of the adults and subadults was probably due to weather related stress. Ice cover restricted feeding activity and caused physical damage to the birds while feeding (plunge-diving for fish).

The other two colonies (North Island and Raccoon Point) have never nested earlier than March. It is reasonable to assume that these two colonies have not begun to nest this year. Colony congregation prior to nesting activity probably has not begun; therefore, concentrated mortality is not evident like that experienced at Queen Bess. However, the same factors that were responsible for that mortality were active at the other two locations for adults and subadults.

We will continue to monitor the population in anticipation of the birds' re-nesting efforts later this spring, which typically occur when the first attempt is unsuccessful.

+ One dead bald eagle was found in the vicinity of a nest on Salvador WMA immediately following the freeze. A survey by a volunteer helicopter pilot of 10 eagle nests this week indicated that no fledglings were killed as a result of the freeze. Normally, bald eagles nest and produce young in December and January so the Department was concerned about their survival status. Apparently the weather had little effect on the overall eagle population.

VVS:CSG

CAFCES
36 number
present in SC NEST

1 DEAD CAFCES

10 (11A)

NOTICE OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In accordance with the policies and under authority of LA R.S. 56:1 et seq., LA R.S. 30:601 et seq., and Louisiana Constitution Article IX, the Secretary gives notice that the Department requests submission of information relative to the environmental and socio-economic impacts of rangia clam shell dredging in Lake Ponchartrain and Lake Maurepas. Information submitted pursuant to this notice will assist future agency decisions relative to shell dredging in these two lakes.

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments, scientific studies, and other documentary evidence relative to said impacts. Such comments should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on _____, 1990 to Ms. Virginia VanSickle, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Post Office Box _____, Baton Rouge, Louisiana _____.

A public comment hearing will be held at _____ on _____, 1990 in the _____ Room of the _____ Building. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments.



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 785-2800

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

January 11, 1990

Senator Ernest Hollings, Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
U.S. Senate SD-508
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hollings:

There have been a number of major accidents in Gulf coast waters from pipeline ruptures by vessels. Some of these accidents have resulted in fatalities. Just three months ago a Louisiana menhaden trawler snagged an exposed natural gas pipeline and eleven fishermen died. Efforts to initiate safety procedures such as pipeline inspections, removal of abandoned lines, etc. have been thwarted, primarily due to the cost of carrying out this work. Although there are regulations which require these lines to be buried, there is little or no government supervision or enforcement to carry them out.

Many of Louisiana's pipelines have been exposed in the marine environment for decades; the length of time that these lines maintain their integrity is unknown. The entire approach to verifying the location of pipelines, cleanup of debris around platforms, removal of abandoned pipelines and other industry facilities no longer in use is a continuing and growing problem both inshore and offshore. The lack of effective laws and adequate enforcement of existing laws pertaining to oil and gas operations will, if recent events are an indication, continue to result in the loss of life as well as incur very grave environmental damages that the state of Louisiana can ill-afford.

The primary interest of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in the operations of the oil and gas industry is for the safety of fishermen and others endangered by these facilities. We are also concerned with environmental damage which is apt to occur from a ruptured oil pipeline.

Page 2
January 11, 1990
Pipeline Legislation

The Commission and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are therefore requesting congressional action to protect our citizens and our environment from accidents due to improper and neglectful maintenance of oil and gas facilities (see attached resolution).

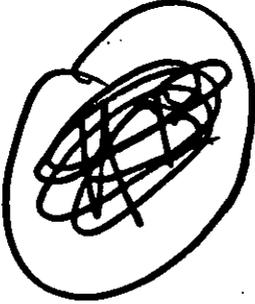
Both the Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will assist in suggesting legislation, participate in field hearings, provide data, or participate in any other way which you may require, in an effort to provide a safe and pollution free environment.

Sincerely,

Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary, Louisiana Department
of Wildlife and Fisheries

Warren Pol
Chairman, Louisiana Wildlife
and Fisheries Commission

Attachment



State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

January 9, 1990

MEMORANDUM

TO: Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary

FROM: Bob Dennie, Information/Education Director *AD*

SUBJECT: Education Section Annual Performance Report

The following information is a review of activities provided by the Education Section for the 1989 calendar year.

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Volunteer instructor activities: A total of 181 instructors were certified in 15 instructor workshops. An additional 417 volunteers were recertified through refresher workshops. One advanced instructor workshop and award banquet was held with 78 volunteers participating.

Student certification activities: Hunter Education recorded 468 basic student courses held during 1989. A total of 21,533 individuals participated with 18,677 students receiving certification. Hunter Education has certified over 169,000 students since it was organized in 1975. One advanced student hunter education championship was held with 100 participants. Twenty-two of these youngsters competed nationally in Alberta, Canada.

Hunter Casualty Reports: Twenty-two hunting related casualties were reported to the Hunter Education office. Of these 6 were fatalities. These totals represent a 50% reduction in casualties and a 30% reduction in fatalities for 1987/88.

The following is a list of other activities provided by the Hunter Education Section:

1. Completed a statewide range survey in cooperation with the National Rifle Association.
2. Planned training and education facility for central Louisiana.
3. Planned 3 ranges: opened one at Bodcau Wildlife Management Area.
4. First year entire appropriation of \$550,000 was utilized.

Ms. Van Sickle
January 9, 1990
Page 2

5. Attended North American conference on Hunter Education.
6. Attended Federal Aid Conference.
7. Plans are underway for construction of two education classrooms for availability to education programs.
8. Produced a special 27 minute TV program on hunter education.

AQUATIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES: (From March 1, 1989 through December 31, 1989)

Volunteer Instructor Activity: Developed an instructor certified program for fishing clinic. A total of 50 volunteers were certified

1. Literature review on program across the United States.
2. Incorporated Aquatic wild into Aquatic Education program by certified teachers.
3. Prepared Aquatic Program Narrative to meet requirements for federal funds design.
4. Contacted state bass clubs and youth organizations about program.
5. Developed and printed Louisiana saltwater and freshwater sportfish chart.
6. Attended science education conference to acquaint science educators to the aquatic education program.
7. Assisted in planning an education center for central Louisiana.
8. Developed printed brochures to inform public on aquatic education.
9. Promoted aquatic education on various TV programs.
10. Currently developing aquatic education curriculum for junior high schools.
11. Currently reviewing and revising various publications that are available to the public through the Department's library.

Ms. Van Sickle
January 9, 1990
Page 3

PROJECT WILD: (From March 1, 1989 through December 31, 1989)

Project Wild facilitator workshops: Held initial facilitator workshop in early May. Certified 49 facilitators through December, 1989.

Educator workshops: Held 34 project wild educator workshops certifying 625 educators.

Other Project Wild activities:

1. Developed Project Wild handbook and forms specific for Louisiana.
2. Compiled list of supply material available through the Department.
3. Attended annual International conference on Project Wild Coordinators.

BOATING EDUCATION: (From March 1, 1989 through December 31, 1989)

Volunteer Instructor activity: A total of 75 instructors were certified with 100 pending for a total of 175.

Student certification activity: 500 students were certified with 175 pending for a total of 675.

Other Boating Education activities:

1. Began dialogue with U.S. Power Squadron and the Coast Guard Auxillary to coordinate boating education efforts. (8 meetings)
2. Began teaching course to state employees to reduce liability insurance (4 courses)
3. Revised boating education course manual which was printed and is now in use.
4. Wrote and designed state boating regulation brochure. Bids are being solicited for its printing at this time.
5. Prepared ground work to implement mandatory boating education program should legislative action be passed (forms, certificates, policies, etc).
6. Prepared course objectives for use with a 7th and 8th grade outdoor education course.
7. Purchased 80 educational video tapes.

Ms. Van Sickle
January 9, 1990
Page 4

Should you require additional information or clarification, please contact me.

JLG:mdg

cc - Jonathan Glasscock, Wildlife Educator Manager

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
90 JAN 10 410 : 46

NOTICE OF INTENT
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In accordance with the policies and under authority of LA R.S. 56:1 et seq., LA R.S. 30:601 et seq., and Louisiana Constitution Article IX, the Secretary gives notice that the Department requests submission of information relative to the environmental and socio-economic impacts of rangia clam shell dredging in Lake Ponchartrain and Lake Maurepas. Information submitted pursuant to this notice will assist future agency decisions relative to shell dredging in these two lakes.

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments, scientific studies, and other documentary evidence relative to said impacts. Such comments should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on _____, 1990 to Ms. Virginia VanSickle, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Post Office Box _____, Baton Rouge, Louisiana _____.

A public comment hearing will be held at _____ on _____, 1990 in the _____ Room of the _____ Building. Interested persons are invited to attend and submit oral comments.

ENFORCEMENT

CASE REPORT

JANUARY 1990

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT-JANUARY 1990

REGION I

TOTAL CASES-86

ENFORCEMENT-83

OTHER - 3

17-Boating

24-Angling

4-Fish Without Resident Pole License

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

2-Fail to Have Commercial License In Possession

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

2-Netting In Closed Area

1-Take Or Possess Undersize Commercial Fish

5-Hunting W/O Resident License

1-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License

1-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

1-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours (Except Deer, Bear
Turkey)

1-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way

2-Hunt W/O State Duck Stamp

2-Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License

2-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Illegal Hours

3-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road

3-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange

3-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp

1-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun

1-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

2-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

Page (2)

REGION I CONT'D.

- 1-Possess Over limit of Snipe
- 1-Taking Or Possession Other Non-Game Birds-No Season
- 1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
- 1-DWI
- 1-Other Than Wildlife and Fisheries

CONFISCATIONS:

4 rifles, 2 spotlights, 26 fish, 1 yellow leg bird, 5 ducks, 2 hoop nets.

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-72

ENFORCEMENT-72

OTHER - 0

- 8-Boating
- 7-Angling W/O A License
- 11-Fish Without Resident Pole License
- 3-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 1-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License
- 4-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 1-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 5-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours (Except Deer, Bear Turkey)
- 2-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way
- 3-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 2-Hunt Deer Closed Area
- 2-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Closed Season
- 1-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 1-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange

Page (3)

REGION 2 CONT'D.

- 1-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 5-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 2-Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana
- 2-DWI
- 1-Criminal Trespass
- 6-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
- 2-Trespass On Property After Forbidden
- 2-Operate ATV On Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

4 rabbits, 1 resident hunting license, 1 bag marijuana, 2 deer, 1 spotlight, 1 Q Beam Light, 1-12 gauge shotgun, 1-22 rifle.

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-96

ENFORCEMENT-91

OTHER - 5

- 4-Boating
- 14-Angling W/O A License
- 2-Fish Without Resident Pole License
- 5-Take Game Fish Illegally
- 1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
- 1-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale /Retail Dealer's License
- 1-Use Illegal Nets
- 2-Take Or Possess Undersize Commercial Fish
- 1-Blocking Passage Of Fish
- 3-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 6-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

Page (4)

REGION 3 CONT'D.

- 6-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours (Except Deer, Bear, Turkey)
- 5-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway-Right-Of-Way
- 1-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Levee Road
- 3-Hunt Without State Duck Stamp
- 1-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 1-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Illegal Hours
- 3-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 6-Possession Of Untagged Deer Or Bear
- 1-Trap Or Sell F.B.A. Or Parts Without License
- 3-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 2-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 7-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 5-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 1-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 4-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
- 5-Criminal Trespass
- 2-Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

11 ducks.

REGION 4

TOTAL CASES: 102

ENFORCEMENT-90

OTHER -12

13-Boating

2-Angling W/O A License

REGION 4 CONT'D.

- 11-Fish Without Resident Pole License
 - 1-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
 - 1-Use Illegal Nets
 - 6-Hunting W/O Resident License
 - 3-Failure To Abide By Commission Rules
 - 4-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
 - 3-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
 - 2-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
(Except Deer, Bear, Turkey)
 - 3-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Levee Road
 - 2-Hunt Without State Duck Stamp
 - 9-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
 - 2-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
 - 4-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer O/S
 - 2-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
 - 1-Possessing F.B.A. Without License
 - 5-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
 - 1-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
 - 5-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
 - 2-Possess Untagged MGB
 - 2-Possess Over The Two-Day Limit of MGB
 - 1-Wanton Waste Of MGB
 - 6-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
 - 3-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
 - 7-Not By Rules and Regulations On WMA

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REGION 4 CONT'D.

1-Aggravated Assault On An Officer

CONFISCATIONS:

2 rabbits, 30 ducks, 2 snow geese, 1 otter, 1 deer, 250 yards of 2 inch webbing, 50 yards of 2 1/2 inch webbing, 1 hoop net with lead.

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-301

ENFORCEMENT-282

OTHER - 19

55-Boating

2-Angling W/O A License

1-Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum Or Spotted Sea Trout

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species Without Commercial License

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

1-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

1-Transport W/O Required License

2-Leave Nets Unattended

2-Failure To Have Written Permission

2-Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area

1-Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reef

10-Using Dredges Or Scrapers In Calcasieu Lake And Sabine Lake

18-Hunting W/O Resident License

6-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License

3-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

5-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

11-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours

(Except Deer, Bear, Turkey)

REGION 5 CONT'D.

- 7-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way
- 1-Possession Of Wild Quadrupeds Or Wild Birds Without Permit
- 16-Hunt Without State Duck Stamp
- 3-Hunt Rabbits Closed Season
- 4-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 1-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Closed Season
- 1-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Illegal Hours
- 2-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 5-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
- 2-Fail To Maintain Sex I.D. Or Tag Meat
- 2-Trap Or Sell F.B.A. Or Parts Without License
- 25-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 1-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 19-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 2-Hunting MGB Over Baited Area
- 3-Hunting MGB From A Vehicle
- 2-Possess Untagged MGB
- 9-Wanton Waste Of MGB
- 24-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 1-Hunting Doves Closed Season
- 1-Hunting Geese Closed Season
- 9-Possess Over Limit Of Geese
- 24-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 3-Taking Robins-No Season
- 2-Taking Herons-No Season

REGION 5 CONT'D.

2--Taking Or Possession Of Other Non-Game Birds--No Season

6--Resisting Arrest

1--Criminal Damage Of State Property

1--Aggravated Obstruction Of Highway Of Commerce

CONFISCATIONS:

188 ducks, 73 geese, 10 rabbits, 5 snipe, 1 quail, 19 blackbirds, 2 doves, 1 woodpecker, 12 robins, 7 deer, 1 egret, 42 sacks of oysters.

REGION 6

TOTAL CASES--279

ENFORCEMENT--266

OTHER - 13

31--Boating

16--Angling W/O A License

2--Fish Without Resident Pole License

1--Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

6--Take Game Fish Illegally

2--Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

7--Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species Without Commercial License

3--Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

3--Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

1--Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

1--Transport W/O Required License

1--Fail To Remove Unserviceable Traps

6--Set Crab Traps In Nav. Channels Or Entrance To Streams

1--Buy Commercial Fish From Un-License Fisherman

9--Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area (Polluted)

REGION 6 CONT'D.

- 5-Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reef
- 16-Harvest Oysters Without Oyster Harvester License
- 18-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 12-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 2-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 15-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
- 10-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or Highway Road Right-Of-Way
- 2-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Levee Road
- 7-Hunting Without State Duck Stamp
- 3-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 2-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear C/S
- 2-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Illegal Hours
- 1-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 2-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegally From A Boat
- 3-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer O/S
- 1-Possession Overlimit Of Deer Or Bear
- 6-Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer Or Bear
- 2-Field Possession Of Deer Meat Without Tag
- 2-Hunt Raccoons Or Opossums Illegally
- 1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations
- 11-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 10-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 6-Possess Untagged MGB
- 1-Possession Of Completely Dressed MGB (No Wing Tip Left On)
- 2-Possession Over The Two-Day Limit Of MGB

REGION 6 CONT'D.

- 2-Wanton Waste Of MGB
- 14-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 3-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 8-Taking Robins-No Season
- 7-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
- 5-Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana
- 2-Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road
- 2-Littering
- 4-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

CONFISCATIONS:

133 sacks of oysters-returned to water, 77 ducks, 7 gallinules, 1 canadian goose, 6 rabbits, 3 robins, 1 squirrel, 7 deer, 1 Dodge Pickup, 3 aluminum boats-3 outboard motors, 12 guns, 2 1/2 dozen crabs, 184 undersize catfish, 1/4 lb. marijuana, 10 game fish, 1 oldsmobile automobile, 6 lbs. deer meat.

REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-173

ENFORCEMENT-168

OTHER - 5

- 21-Boating
- 16-Angling Without A License
- 3-Fish Without Resident Pole License
- 1-Use Illegal Nets
- 1-Leave Nets Unattended
- 15-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 1-Bow Hunt W/O Bow License
- 7-Hunt From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

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REGION 7 CONT'D.

- 5-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 8-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
(Except Deer, Bear Turkey)
- 6-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way
- 6-Hunt Without State Duck Stamp
- 5-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 1-Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License
- 3-Hunt Deer Closed Area
- 2-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Illegal Hours
- 3-Take Deer Illegal Means During Bow Season
- 15-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 1-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegally From A Boat
- 6-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer O/S
- 1-Buying Or Selling Deer Or Meat
- 1-Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer Or Bear
- 16-Possession Of Untagged Deer Or Bear
- 1-Fail To Maintain Sex Identification
- 4-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
- 1-Possessing F.B.A. Without License
- 6-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 1-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 8-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
- 1-Resisting Arrest
- 2-Criminal Trespass

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REGION 7 CONT'D.

2-Littering

1-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

CONFISCATIONS:

4 doe deer, 1 buck deer, 2 rabbits, 1 otter, 4 ducks, 520 lbs. deer meat, 17 gill nets, 6 shotguns, 3 rifles.

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-636

ENFORCEMENT-606

OTHER - 30

56-Boating

38-Angling W/O A License

9-Fish Without Resident Pole License

9-Angling W/O Saltwater License

4-Take Game Fish Illegally

7-Possess O/L Of Spotted Sea Trout Or Red Drum

1-Possess O/L Of Red Drum In Excess Of 30"

1-Fail To Have Fish Intact

17-Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum Or Spotted Sea Trout

6-Take Or Possess Undersized Black Drum (Recreational)

5-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

55-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

23-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

26-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

3-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

1-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Transport W/O Required License

REGION 8 CONT'D.

- 4-Use Illegal Mesh Nets
- 3-Illegal Use Of Monofilament
- 5-Leave Nets Unattended
- 1-Take Or Possess Undersize Commercial Fish
- 1-Sell And/Or Purchase Game Fish
- 8-Buy Commercial Fish From Un-License Fisherman
- 1-Fail To Comply With Closure Order
- 4-Failure To Mark/Tag Nets
- 1-Commercial Truck Without Display Of Owner Name And Address
- 15-Failure To Have Written Permission
- 8-Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
- 19-Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area (Polluted)
- 1-Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease
- 1-Use Undersized Dredge Without Permit
- 9-Take Oysters Illegal Hours
- 11-Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel
- 4-Harvest Oysters Without Oyster Harvester License
- 2-Fail To Cull Oysters In Proper Location
- 1-Allow Another To Use Commercial License
- 1-Fail To Maintain Required Records Of All Alligator Transactions
- 1-Fail To Comply W/Alligator Parts Records Required
- 1-Fail To Comply With Alligator Parts Tagging Required
- 6-Possessing F.B.A. W/O License
- 3-Not Abiding By Rules & Regulations On WMA
- 14-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp

REGION 8 CONT'D.

- 1-Hunting With Unsigned Ducks Stamp
- 3-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 4-Hunting MGB Over Baited Area
- 14-Possess Untagged MGB
- 22-Possession Of Completely Dressed MGB (No Wing Tip Left On)
- 11-Possession Over The Two-Day Limit Of MGB
- 2-Wanton Waste Of MGB
- 18-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 2-Transport MGB Illegally,
- 35-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 6-Possession Wild Birds Or Wild Quadrupeds W/O A License
- 2-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License
- 4-Failure To Abide By Commission Rules
- 18-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 2-Buying And/Or Selling Wild Quadrupeds Or Wild Birds (Except Deer)
- 17-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours (Except Deer, Bear, Turkey)
- 3-Possess Firearm While Frogging
- 10-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way
- 12-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Levee Road
- 14-Hunting Without State Duck Stamp
- 10-Take Rabbits Illegal Methods
- 1-Possession Of Squirrels C/S
- 2-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 1-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer O/S

REGION 8 CONT'D.

- 3-Possession Of Untagged Deer Or Bear
- 1-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
- 10-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 1-Taking Robins-No Season
- 2-Resisting Arrest
- 5-Criminal Trespass On State Property
- 1-Possession Of Illegal Type Firearm
- 4-Criminal Trespass
- 2-Illegal Spotlighting From Public Road
- 1-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
- 1-Illegal Use Of Firearm
- 4-Fail To Tag Gill Nets

CONFISCATIONS:

105 red drum, 2,044 lbs. filet, 147 black drum, 2 perch, 33 sacks of oysters, 7 oyster dredges, 2 deer, 188 lbs. alligator meat, 325 ducks, 3 gallinules, 1 goose, 1 robin, 7 snipe, 1 squirrel, 2 otters, 16 rabbits, 23 nutria pelts, 1 automatic weapon, 7 rifles, 9 shotguns, 2,080 feet of gill net, 6 boats, 3 motors, 44 duck decoys, 1 state duck stamp, 1 federal duck stamp, 7 oyster dredges.

TOTAL CASES S.W.E.P. - 0

TOTAL CASES ENFORCEMENT-1658

TOTAL CASES OTHER - 87

GRAND TOTAL -1745



LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

P. O. Box 44486
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4486
(504) 342-2402

Representative Bruce M. Bolin
Chairman

Representative Sam H. Theriot
Vice-Chairman

W. Wade Adams
Attorney
Jane D. Hammers
Attorney
Tracy Caldwell
Secretary

December 29, 1989

Mr. Warren Pol, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

RE: Black Drum Rule

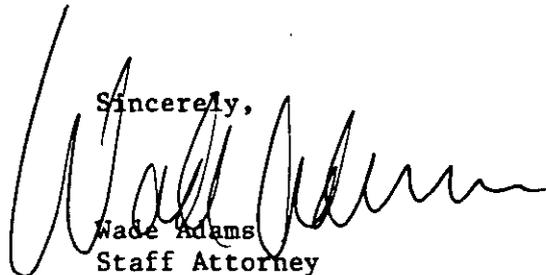
Dear Mr. Pol:

Please be advised that on December 29, 1989, the Oversight Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee adopted the following subcommittee resolution by a vote of 7-0:

"The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is hereby requested to review the black drum fishing industry and take action to ensure the preservation of the species from the standpoint of commercial and recreational harvest and, in that regard, try to develop a recreational creel limit and a slot limit for the commercial harvest of fish that would be something in the neighborhood of the 16 to 24 inch size recommendation that the department originally suggested at the commission meeting in November."

The subcommittee has directed me to prepare and forward to you this resolution.

Sincerely,



Wade Adams
Staff Attorney

WWA:jsb

cc: Virginia Van Sickle
Subcommittee Members

Enclosure



LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

P. O. Box 44486
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Representative Bruce M. Bolin
Chairman

Representative Sam H. Theriot
Vice-Chairman

W. Wade Adams
Attorney

Jane D. Hammers
Attorney

Tracy Caldwell
Secretary

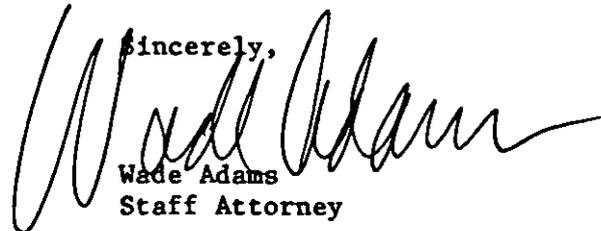
December 29, 1989

The Honorable Buddy Roemer
Governor
State of Louisiana
State Capitol
P. O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9004

Dear Governor Roemer:

Enclosed is the report of the Oversight Subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources regarding the rejection of the proposed black drum rule by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, as required by R.S. 49:968(F).

Sincerely,



Wade Adams
Staff Attorney

WVA:jsb

cc: Subcommittee Members
Senate Natural Resources Committee
Louisiana Register
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Enclosure



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Vice-Chairman

House Natural Resources Subcommittee
on Oversight

W. Wade Adams
Attorney
Jane D. Hammers
Attorney
Tracy Caldwell
Secretary

January 2, 1990

REPORT

Pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 49:968, the House of Representatives Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight met on December 29, 1989 and reviewed certain proposed rules by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to provide for the minimum size for the recreational and commercial taking of black drum and to provide for quotas for the commercial harvesting of black drum with the following results:

The proposed rule was found to be unacceptable by a vote of 7 - 0.

The subcommittee questioned the procedure by which the commission adopted the rule and by a vote of 7-0 adopted the following subcommittee resolution:

"The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is hereby requested to review the black drum fishing industry and take action to ensure the preservation of the species from the standpoint of commercial and recreational harvest and, in that regard, try to develop a recreational creel limit and a slot limit for the commercial harvest of fish that would be something in the neighborhood of the 16 to 24 inch size recommendation that the department originally suggested at the commission meeting in November."

Attached is a copy of the proposed rule. In accordance with R.S. 49:968(F), copies of this report are being forwarded this date to the, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Senate, and the State Register.

Bruce M. Bolin

Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
House Natural Resources Committee

attachment

RULE

**Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

**Title 76
Wildlife and Fisheries
Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life**

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishing

S. 331. Size Limits and Quotas Set by Commission

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations establishing minimum size limits and quotas for black drum (*Pogonias cromis*):

The minimum legal size for the recreational taking of black drum shall be 14 inches total length.

The minimum legal size for the commercial taking of black drum shall be 18 inches total length.

An interim quota for the commercial taking of black drum shall be 300,000 fish beginning October 12, 1989.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to enact an emergency closure, upon seventy-two (72) hours notice, when the commercial harvest reaches 300,000 fish.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S.56:326.1 and 326.3
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries,
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, L.R. : ().

**Don Hines
Chairman**



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

January 11, 1990

Senator Ernest Hollings, Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
U.S. Senate SD-508
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hollings:

There have been a number of major accidents in Gulf coast waters from pipeline ruptures by vessels. Some of these accidents have resulted in fatalities. Just three months ago a Louisiana menhaden trawler snagged an exposed natural gas pipeline and eleven fishermen died. Efforts to initiate safety procedures such as pipeline inspections, removal of abandoned lines, etc. have been thwarted, primarily due to the cost of carrying out this work. Although there are regulations which require these lines to be buried, there is little or no government supervision or enforcement to carry them out.

Many of Louisiana's pipelines have been exposed in the marine environment for decades; the length of time that these lines maintain their integrity is unknown. The entire approach to verifying the location of pipelines, cleanup of debris around platforms, removal of abandoned pipelines and other industry facilities no longer in use is a continuing and growing problem both inshore and offshore. The lack of effective laws and adequate enforcement of existing laws pertaining to oil and gas operations will, if recent events are an indication, continue to result in the loss of life as well as incur very grave environmental damages that the state of Louisiana can ill-afford.

The primary interest of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in the operations of the oil and gas industry is for the safety of fishermen and others endangered by these facilities. We are also concerned with environmental damage which is apt to occur from a ruptured oil pipeline.

Page 2
January 11, 1990
Pipeline Legislation

The Commission and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are therefore requesting congressional action to protect our citizens and our environment from accidents due to improper and neglectful maintenance of oil and gas facilities (see attached resolution).

Both the Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will assist in suggesting legislation, participate in field hearings, provide data, or participate in any other way which you may require, in an effort to provide a safe and pollution free environment.

Sincerely,

Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary, Louisiana Department
of Wildlife and Fisheries

Warren Pol
Chairman, Louisiana Wildlife
and Fisheries Commission

Attachment

Nov. 1989

Page (15)

S. W. E. P.

RIP TIDE AND DELTA TIDE

73 running hours

42 boats checked

TOTAL CASES-10

3-Commercial Fishing License

2-No Vessel License

1-Allow Another To Use Commercial Vessel License

4-Take Polluted Oysters

CONFISCATIONS:

600 feet of gill net, 7 oyster dredges.

NOTE: 4 Search and Rescue

Nov. 1989

TOTAL CASES ENFORCEMENT: 1589

TOTAL CASE S.W.E.P. : 10

TOTAL CASES OTHER : 190

GRAND TOTAL : 1789

Oct. 1989

Page (14)

S.W.E.P.

RIP TIDE AND DELTA TIDE

TOTAL ENGINE HOURS-162

TOTAL BOATS CHECKED-146

TOTAL CITATIONS ISSUED-40

10-No Commercial Fishing License

4-No Commercial Gear License

4-No Vessel License

4-No Boat Registration In Possession

1-Undersize Red Drum

1-No Boat Numbers

6-Allow Another To Use Commercial License

1-Trawling Inside Waters With Double Rig Over 50 feet

2-Using 4 Rigs in Double Rig Zone

7-Oversize Trawls

CONFISCATIONS:

4000 feet of gill net, 2-54 foot trawls, 17 trawls.

TOTAL CASES ENFORCEMENT-1397

TOTAL CASES S.W.E.P. - 40

OTHER - 136

GRAND TOTAL -1573

Sept. 1989

Page (11)

S.W.E.P.

RIP TIDE AND DELTA TIDE

32 Hours Running Time

18 Boats Checked

TOTAL CITATIONS-5

2-Oversize Trawls

1-No Commercial License

1-No Dealer License

1-No Vessel License

CONFISCATIONS:

2 trawls.

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TOTAL CASES ENFORCEMENT-1510

TOTAL CASES S.W.E.P. - 5

TOTAL CASES OTHER - 190

GRAND TOTAL -1705

Aug. 1989

Page (10)

S.W.E.P.

DELTA TIDE AND RIP TIDE

120 HOURS RUNNING TIME

25 BOATS STOPPED

TOTAL CASES-58

3-No Commercial License

4-Allowing Someone else To Use Commercial Fishing License

31-Trawling In Closed Season

1-Using Oversize Trawl

10-Resisting Arrest

4-Criminal Damage To State Property

4-Destroying State Evidence

1-Allowing Incompetent Person To Operate Boat Evading Prosecution

Page (11)

TOTAL CASES ENFORCEMENT -1813

TOTAL CASES S.W.E.P. - 58

TOTAL CASES OTHER DIVISIONS- 107

GRAND TOTAL -1978

July 1989

Page (10)

S.W.E.P.

RIP TIDE AND DELTA TIDE

134 HOURS RUNNING TIME

53 BOATS

**Note: 36 hours Boating Safety

working drowning In Gulf of Scuba Diver

11 TOTAL CITATIONS

2-Commercial Gear License

1-No Commercial Vessel License

1-Four Rig In Two Rig Zone

1-Oversize Trawls

4-Trawl In Closed Season

1-Fail To Comply With Spotted Sea Trout Closure Order

1-Trawl in Lake Ponchartrain Sanctuary

CONFISCATIONS:

12 trawls.

Page (11)

TOTAL CASES ENFORCEMENT: 2455

TOTAL CASES S.W.E.P.: 11

TOTAL CASES OTHER DIVISIONS: 158

GRAND TOTAL: 2624



VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

January 11, 1990

Senator Ernest Hollings, Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
U.S. Senate SD-508
Washington D.C. 20510

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Many of Louisiana's pipelines have been exposed in the marine environment for decades; the length of time that these lines maintain their integrity is unknown. The entire approach to verifying the location of pipelines, cleanup of debris around platforms, removal of abandoned pipelines and other industry facilities no longer in use is a continuing and growing problem both inshore and offshore. The lack of effective laws and adequate enforcement of existing laws pertaining to oil and gas operations will, if recent events are an indication, continue to result in the loss of life as well as incur very grave environmental damages that the state of Louisiana can ill-afford.

The primary interest of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in the operations of the oil and gas industry is for the safety of fishermen and others endangered by these facilities. We are also concerned with environmental damage which is apt to occur from a ruptured oil pipeline.

Page 2
January 11, 1990
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The Commission and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are therefore requesting congressional action to protect our citizens and our environment from accidents due to improper and neglectful maintenance of oil and gas facilities (see attached resolution).

Both the Commission and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will assist in suggesting legislation, participate in field hearings, provide data, or participate in any other way which you may require, in an effort to provide a safe and pollution free environment.

Sincerely,

Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary, Louisiana Department
of Wildlife and Fisheries

Warren Pol
Chairman, Louisiana Wildlife
and Fisheries Commission

Attachment

ENFORCEMENT

CASE REPORT

DECEMBER, 1989

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT-DECEMBER 1989

REGION I

TOTAL CASES-160

ENFORCEMENT-150

OTHER - 10

M murder

- 1-Boating
- 1-Take Game Fish Illegally
- 2-Take Undersize Black Bass
- 4-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 3-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License
- 5-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 10-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 2-Possession Of Live Wild Quadrupeds, Wild Birds W/O Permit
- 27-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way
- 13-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 2-Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License
- 5-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Closed Season
- 6-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Illegal Hours
- 26-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 8-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer O/S
- 3-Take Or Hunt Deer Or Bear W/Illegal Weapon
- 1-Possess O/L Of Deer Or Bear
- 1-Buying Or Selling Deer Or Bear
- 2-Possession of Untagged Deer Or Bear
- 7-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
- 4-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 1-Hunting With Unsigned Duck Stamp

Page (2)

REGION 1 CONT'D.

- 1-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 1-Possess Untagged MGB
- 7-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
- 2-Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana
- 1-DWI
- 5-Littering
- 3-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
- 1-Possession Of Firearm By Convicted Felon
- 3-Operate ATV Vehicle On Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

2 wood ducks, 16 wild turkeys, 12 white perch, 3 1/2 deer carcasses, 1 ice chest, 21 cans beer, 4 guns, 2 box shells, 1 small can of marijuana, 1 hoop net.

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-59

Monroe

ENFORCEMENT-52

OTHER - 7

- 4-Boating
- 2-Fish Without Resident Pole License
- 4-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 2-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 5-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way
- 3-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 5-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 1-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer O/S

Page (3)

REGION 2 CONT'D.

- 4-Take Or Hunt Deer Or Bear W/Illegal Weapon
- 5-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
- 2-Take Foxes Or Bobcats Illegally
- 4-Hunting With Unsigned Duck Stamp
- 4-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
- 12-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
- 2-Operate ATV On Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

none

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-119

ENFORCEMENT-105

OTHER - 14

Alexandra

- 8-Boating
- 15-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 1-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
- 6-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 4-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 6-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
- 17-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way
- 6-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 1-Hunt Deer Closed Area (Dept. Reg.)
- 20-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 5-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer O/S
- 5-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 4-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

REGION 3 CONT'D.

- 8-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 6-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 1-Taking Robins-No Season
- 5-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations on WMA
- 2-Operates ATV Vehicle On Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

1-12 gauge shotgun, 1 doe, 1 buttonbuck, 15 ducks, 7 robins, 2 gadwall, 2 wood ducks, 11 mallards, 5 widgeons.

REGION 4

TOTAL CASES-99

Handwritten signature

ENFORCEMENT-45

OTHER -54

- 6-Boating
- 1-Fish Without Resident Pole License
- 5-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 2-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License
- 3-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 1-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 2-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
- 3-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Levee Road
- 1-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 1-Hunt W/O Non-Resident Big Game License
- 6-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
- 3-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Deer O/S
- 1-Possess O/L Of Deer Or Bear
- 1-Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer Or Bear

REGION 4 CONT'D.

- 1-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
- 4-Hunt Raccoons Or Opossums Illegally
- 1-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 3-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 3-Hunting Ducks Closed Season
- 1-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 48-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
- 1-Littering
- 1-Shooting Within City Limits

CONFISCATIONS:

9 ducks, 5 squirrels, 3 deer, 5 guns, 1 boat, 78 lead shot shells.

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-142

Lake Charles

ENFORCEMENT-133

OTHER - 9

- 8-Boating
- 1-Fail To Have Fish Intact
- 1-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
- 1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species Without Commercial License
- 1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
- 4-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License
- 1-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License
- 1-Take Or Possess Undersize White Shrimp
- 1-Failure To Have Written Permission
- 1-Fail To Have Typed Instruction Aboard Vessel
- 10-Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reef

Page (6)

REGION 5 CONT'D.

- 3-Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly
- 14-Hunting W/O Resident License
 - 1-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License
 - 6-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
 - 1-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
- 11-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way
 - 2-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 26-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road
 - 3-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
 - 6-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
 - 2-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
 - 7-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
 - 4-Hunting MGB Over Baited Area
 - 1-Hunting MGB With Illegal Firearm
 - 2-Hunting Geese Closed Season
 - 2-Hunting Ducks Closed Season
 - 9-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
 - 2-Taking Killdeer-No Season
- 1-Littering
- 1-Violation Of Marine Mammal Act
- 6-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
 - 1-Possession Illegal Firearms
 - 1-Overlimit of Oysters

Page (6)

REGION 5 CONT'D.

CONFISCATIONS:

128 Migratory Game birds (104 Ducks, 24 geese), 1 squirrel, 1 redfish, 5 rabbits, 3 1/2 bushels shrimp, 291 sacks of oysters.

REGION 6

TOTAL CASES-268

Opposition

ENFORCEMENT-265

OTHER - 3

63-Boating

4-Angling W/O A License

1-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

6-Take Game Fish Illegally

7-Taking And/Or Possessing Over Limit Of Game Fish

2-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regulations

1-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

7-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

1-Fail To Maintain Records

2-Transport W/O Required License

1-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish Shipping Regs, Tags & Identifications

1-Buy Commercial Fish From Un-License Fisherman

2-Take Oysters Closed Season

1-Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly

26-Hunting W/O Resident License

1-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License

15-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

1-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

8-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours

Page (7)

REGION 6 CONT'D.

- 8-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way
- 2-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Levee Road
- 3-Possession Of Wild Quadrupeds Or Wild Birds Without Permit
- 3-Hunt W/O Federal Duck Stamp
- 7-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
- 1-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Illegal Hours
- 1-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer O/S
- 2-Take Or Hunt Deer Or Bear W/Illegal Weapon
- 1-Field Possession Of Deer Meat Without Tag
- 10-Hunt Raccoons Or Opossums Illegally
- 2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations
- 9-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 1-Hunting With Unsigned Duck Stamp
- 1-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 14-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 2-Hunting MGB From A Vehicle
- 1-Hunting MGB With Illegal Firearm
- 3-Possess Untagged MGB
- 1-Possession Over The Two-Day Limit Of MGB
- 1-Wanton Waste Of MGB
- 8-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 1-Possess Over Limit Of Geese
- 1-Hunting Ducks Closed Season
- 10-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 3-Taking Robins-No Season

Page (8)

REGION 6 CONT'D.

9-Taking Or Possession Of Other Non-Game Birds-No Season

1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA

1-Resisting Arrest

1-Littering

1-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

1-Goose Creeping

CONFISCATIONS:

8 guns, 1 air rifle, 58 ducks, 1 deer, 465 fish, 9 dip nets, 29 lbs. of deer meat, 14 sacks of undersize oysters, 39 sacks of oysters, 4 alligator tags, 48 lbs. shrimp, 1 scanner, 2 coons, 1-15 HP Evinrude motor, 1-14 foot boat, 1 trailer, 9 robins, 1 woodpecker, 1 cardinal, 2 finch.

REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-160

ENFORCEMENT-152

OTHER - 8

15-Boating

7-Angling W/O A License

3-Fish W/O Resident Pole License

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species Without Commercial License

1-Sell And/Or Purchase Game Fish

15-Hunting W/O Resident License

1-Bow Hunt W/O Bow License

9-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

6-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

5-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours

Page (10)

REGION 7 CONT'D.

13-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way

5-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

1-Possession Of Pods While Bow Hunting

1-Hunt Deer Closed Area

3-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Illegal Hours

13-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road

5-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer O/S

1-Buying Or Selling Deer Or Meat

12-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange

1-Selling Alligator Meat Illegally

3-Take Alligators Without License

3-Taking Or Possessing Alligators Closed Season

1-Illegal Possession Of Alligators, Eggs Or Their Skins

3-Possession Of Live Alligators Without Permit

1-Dealing In Alligator Parts Without Proper License

5-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp

2-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun

7-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

2-Possess Untagged MGB

1-Possession Of Completely Dressed MGB

1-Possession Over The Two-Day Limit Of MGB

1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations

2-Resisting Arrest

4-Criminal Trespass

6-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

Page (11)

REGION 7 CONT'D.

CONFISCATIONS:

2 wood ducks, 1 doe deer, 1 illegal buck deer, 5 deer, 7 ducks, 12 alligators,
1 revolver, 8 shotguns, 1 compound bow w/3 arrows.

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-500

ENFORCEMENT- 480

OTHER - 20

44-Boating

12-Angling W/O Saltwater License

8-Take Game Fish Illegally

1-Taking And/Or Possessing Over Limit Of Game Fish

23-Possess O/L Of Spotted Sea Trout Or Red Drum

5-Possess O/L Of Red Drum In Excess Of 30"

7-Fail To Have Fish Intact

24-Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum Or Spotted Sea Trout

4-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

10-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species Without Commercial License

10-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

16-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

1-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

2-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Shocking Fish

4-Use Illegal Nets

10-Leave Nets Unattended

5-Take Or Possess Undersize Commercial Fish

7-Sell And/Or Purchase Game Fish

New Orleans

Page (12)

REGION 8 CONT'D.

- 3-Allow Another To Use Commercial License
- 2-Fail To Comply With Closure Order (Red Drum)
- 1-Fail To Comply With Closure Order (Spotted Sea Trout)
- 7-Failure To Have Written Permission
- 9-Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms
- 30-Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area (Polluted)
- 6-Unlawfully Take Oysters Off Of A Private Lease
- 1-Using Illegal Gear For Taking Oysters On Public Grounds
- 3-Take Oysters Illegal Hours
- 1-Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly
- 1-Failure To Tag Sacked Or Containerized Oysters
- 5-Hunt Raccoons Or Opossums Illegally
- 1-Illegal Possession Of Alligators, Eggs Or Their Skins
- 4-Possessing F.B.A. Without License
- 1-Take Non-Game Quadrupeds Illegally
- 2-Trespass On Marshlands To Take F.B.A.
- 20-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 2-Hunting With Unsigned Duck Stamp
- 4-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 3-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 3-Possess Untagged MGB
- 1-Possession Of Completely Dressed MGB (No Wing Tip Left On)
- 3-Wanton Waste Of MGB
- 22-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 4-Hunting Ducks Closed Season

Page (12)

REGION 8 CONT'D.

- 19-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
 - 1-Possess Over Limit Of Gallinules
 - 1-Taking Robins-No Season
 - 1-Taking Killdeer-No Season
 - 1-Taking Or Possession Of Other Non-Game Birds-No Season
- 30-Hunting W/O Resident License
 - 6-Possess Wild Birds Or Wild Quadrupeds W/O A License
- 13-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 10-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
 - 6-Illegal Possession Of Wild Quadrupeds, Wild Birds Or Thereof
- 21-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
- 10-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way
 - 3-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Levee Road
 - 1-Hunt Rabbits Closed Season
 - 2-Take Rabbits Illegal Methods
 - 4-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License
 - 1-Running Deer Dogs During Still Hunt Season
 - 1-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer O/S
 - 3-Take Or Hunt Deer Or Bear W/Illegal Weapon
 - 3-Possession Of Illegally Taken Deer Or Bear
- 11-Fail To Wear Hunters Orange
 - 4-Resisting Arrest
 - 2-Simple Assault On An Officer
 - 7-Criminal Trespass
 - 2-Littering

Page (13)

REGION 8 CONF'D.

3-Possess/Take Over Limit Federal Controlled Fish

1-Buy Commercial fish From Un-Licensed Fisherman

CONFISCATIONS:

55 speckled trout, 270 and 6800 lbs. red drum, 59 black drum, 32 large mouth bass, 172 ducks, 19 gallinules, 1 robin, 1 sparrow hawk, 4 killdeer, 1 wood duck, 1 deer, 22 rabbits, 10 raccoons, 39 nutria, 8 alligator hides, 3 rifles, 13 shotguns, 1 pistol, 8 boats, 5 motors, 2 pirogues, 2 vans, 5 ice chests, 45 sacks of oysters, 7 oyster dredges, 940 feet of gill net, 1 resident commercial fishing license, 1 recreational vessel license, 1 resident gear license, 1 license renewal.

Page (14)

S.W.E.P.

RIP TIDE AND DELTA TIDE

54 HOURS ENGINE RUNNING TIME

6 BOATS CHECKED

TOTAL CASES-3

1-No Registration Certificate In Possession

1-No P.F.D.

1-Possession Of Filet Fish

NOTE: OFFICERS WERE INVOLVED WITH NASBLA CONVENTION AND ALSO A SEARCH AND
RESCUE, LAKE BORGNE.

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TOTAL ENFORCEMENT CASES-1507

TOTAL SWEP CASES - 3

TOTAL OTHER - 125

GRAND TOTAL -1635

AMENDED AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

On Thursday, January 11th, 1990 the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will meet at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Quail Drive, Baton Rouge at 11:00 P.M. to discuss the department's 1990 Legislative package and following at 2:00 P.M. the regular monthly Commission meeting will be held at the same location.

On Friday, January 12th, 1990 the Commission meeting will be continued at the same location at 9:00 A.M. and upon adjournment of the regular monthly Commission meeting the Commission will resume the department's 1990 Legislative packet meeting.

The following items will be on the agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of December 14-15, 1989
3. By Laws Relative to Attendance of Commission Meeting
4. By-Catch in Shrimp Trawls
5. The North American Waterfowl Plan Update
6. Announce Public Hearing Dates on Hunting Seasons
7. Notice of Intent, Sturgeon Closure
8. Notice of Intent, Reef Fish
9. Monthly Law Enforcement Report
10. Evaluation of Freeze Affects on Fisheries
11. Secretary's Report to the Commission
12. Building Update (New Orleans)
13. Set March, April and May Meeting Date

OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

*Put on
one page.*

AMENDED AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

package

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1. Roll Call
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4. By-Catch in Shrimp Trawls
5. The North American Waterfowl Plan *Update*
6. Announce Public Hearing Dates *for Hunting Seasons*
7. Notice of Intent, Sturgeon Closure
8. Notice of Intent, Reef Fish
9. Monthly Law Enforcement Report
10. Evaluation of Freeze Affects on Fisheries

11. Secretary's Report to the Commission
12. Building Update (New Orleans)
13. Set March, April and May Meeting Date

OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
JANUARY 11-12, 1989

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of December 14-15, 1989
3. By-Catch in Shrimp Trawls - Jimmy Jenkins
Commission Attendance - Warren Pol
4. The North American Waterfowl Plan - Hugh Bateman (Friday only)
By Laws Relative to Attendance at Commission Meetings
5. Announce Public Hearing Dates - Hugh Bateman (Friday only)
6. Notice of Intent, Sturgeon Closure - Jerry Clark
7. Notice of Intent, Reef Fish - Jerry Clark
8. Evaluation of Freeze Affects on Fisheries - Jerry Clark
- ~~9. Responsive Management Survey Update - Wade Byrd~~
10. Monthly Law Enforcement Report - Winton Vidrine
11. Secretary's Report to the Commission - Spring Mtg. May 3-4
12. Set March Meeting Date
May 11 11

OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

12. Bldg. update - Bethsie Baker (Friday only)

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
Secretary

89-156



1/3/90

Contact
(504) 765-2917

AGENDA FOR JANUARY COMMISSION MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11 at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building on Quail Drive in Baton Rouge. On Friday, Jan. 12, the commission will resume its regular meeting at 9 a.m.

The following items will be on the agenda:

1. Roll call.
2. By-catch in shrimp trawls.
3. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
4. Announce public hearing dates.
5. By-laws relative to attendance at commission meeting.
6. Notice of intent, sturgeon closure.
7. Notice of intent, reef fish.
8. Responsive Management survey update.
9. Monthly law enforcement report.
10. Secretary's report to the commission.
11. Set March meeting dates.

OTHER BUSINESS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

January 2, 1990

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: Virginia Van Sickle
RE: January Board Meeting

The next regular public board meeting as set by the Commission will be at 2:00 PM on Thursday, January 11th, 1989, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Quail Drive in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

On Friday, January 12th, the meeting will be continued at the same location at 9:00 AM.

The following will be on the agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of December 14-15, 1989

JIMMY JENKINS

2. By-Catch in Shrimp Trawls

HUGH BATEMAN

3. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan
4. Announce Public Hearing Dates

DON PUCKETT

5. By-Laws Relative to Attendance at Commission Meetings

JERRY CLARK

6. Notice of Intent, Sturgeon Closure
7. Notice of Intent, Reef Fish

Page 2
January 2, 1990

BOB DENNIE

8. Responsive Management Survey Update

WINTON VIDRINE

9. Monthly Law Enforcement Report

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE

10. Secretary's Report to the Commission

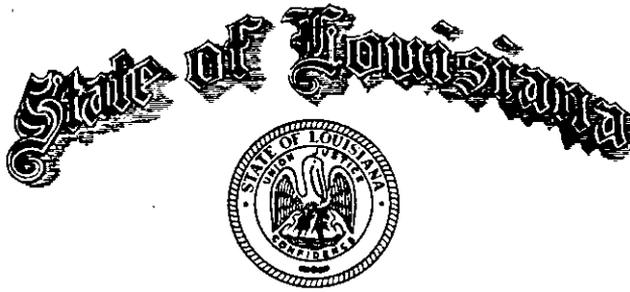
OTHER BUSINESS

11. Set March Meeting Date

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VVS:sb

C: Don Puckett
Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker
Jerry Clark
John Medica
Division Chiefs



VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

January 2, 1990

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: Virginia Van Sickle *VVS*
RE: January Board Meeting

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JIMMY JENKINS

2. By-Catch in Shrimp Trawls

HUGH BATEMAN

3. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan
4. Announce Public Hearing Dates

DON PUCKETT

5. By-Laws Relative to Attendance at Commission Meetings

JERRY CLARK

6. Notice of Intent, Sturgeon Closure
7. Notice of Intent, Reef Fish

Page 2
January 2, 1990

BOB DENNIE

8. Responsive Management Survey Update

WINTON VIDRINE

9. Monthly Law Enforcement Report

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE

10. Secretary's Report to the Commission

OTHER BUSINESS

11. Set March Meeting Date

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VVS:sb

C: Don Puckett
Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker
Jerry Clark
John Medica
Division Chiefs

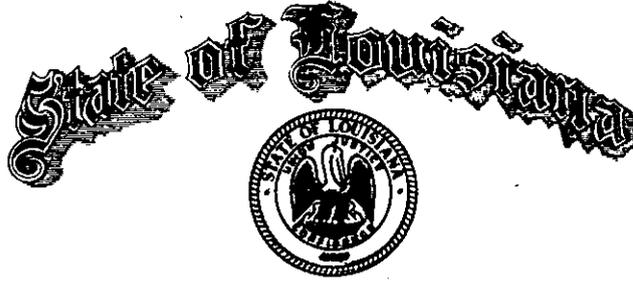
AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

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The following items will be on the agenda:

1. Roll Call
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4. Announce Public Hearing Dates
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6. Notice of Intent, Sturgeon Closure
7. Notice of Intent, Reef Fish
8. Responsive Management Survey Update
9. Monthly Law Enforcement Report
10. Secretary's Report to the Commission
11. Set March Meeting Date

PUBLIC COMMENTS



VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

December 6, 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary *VVS*

SUBJECT: Agenda Item
Public Hearings on Hunting Seasons for 1990

At the upcoming meeting in New Orleans you should start considering when and where you wish to hold the annual series of public hearings on hunting seasons and bag limits.

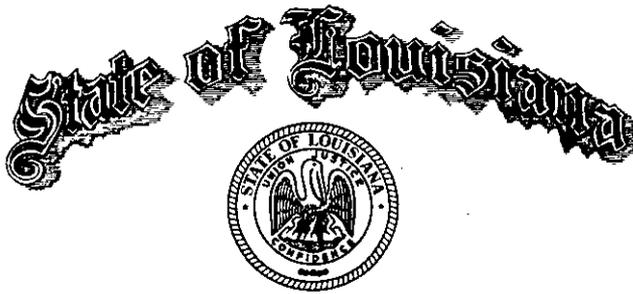
Last year and for the past several years, the Commission has held these public hearings in conjunction with the February and March Commission meetings. These meetings were held in Bossier City (16 February 1989) and Baton Rouge (2 March 1989). A third and special meeting was held in New Iberia (16 March 1989).

For timing and proper advance public notice you will need to set and announce these three public hearings at the January meeting in Baton Rouge.

HAB:sd

cc: Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker
Assistant Secretaries
Division Chiefs

Jan



VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

October 2, 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO: Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary
FROM: Hugh Bateman, Administrator, Game Division
SUBJECT: Commission Meeting, Toledo Bend

HAB

I will be in Canada (NAWMP) all this week. Tommy Prickett and Dave Morrison will be at Toledo Bend for the Commission meeting and will handle our agenda items.

By way of this memo I would like to suggest some time on the November or December Commission meeting agenda to update you and the board members concerning two important programs, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Deer Management Assistance Program. ~~Each topic would require about 10-15 minutes depending on questions, etc.~~

remind Paula (Jan.)

We now have a huge number and variety of activities in Louisiana underway which are connected with the NAWMP. Robert Helm needs to acquaint everyone with those very positive programs in a summary report. Jerry Farrar should be in a position by November or December to provide details of how we came through the fee assessment for DMAP. As suspected we did lose some cooperators but overall the outcome has been positive.

HAB:sd

cc: Kell McInnis
Bettsie Baker

Informed Sandy
12-18-89
J.B.

Paula - please put these two items on the December agenda and let Betty know.

Va



VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898
PHONE (504) 765-2800

BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR

December 18, 1989

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary Office of Fisheries, Undersecretary and Office of Wildlife Chiefs

FROM: Virginia Van Sickle *VVS*

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Thank you for your cooperation!

VVS/sb

C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie

Case Report

[Signature]

To Paula



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DEC 19 1989

INFORMATION & EDUCATION DIV.

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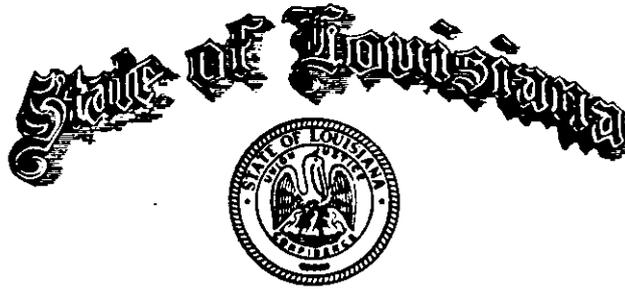
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VVS/sb

C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie

Bob Dennie or Wade Byrd will report on the Responsume inst survey - at this meeting
Bob 11/19/89



Jerry Clark
Bennie Fontenot
Please comply 12/18
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LA. DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

DEC 18 1989

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OFFICE OF FISHERIES**

**BUDDY ROEMER
GOVERNOR**

**VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
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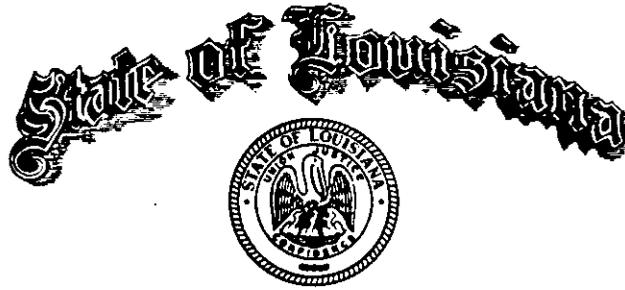
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VVS/sb

**C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie**

Freshwater Fish Division - Bennie Fontenot
"Notice of Intent" - Sturgeon Closure
"Notice of Intent" - Reef fish

Lester



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Bob Dennie

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Turner

State of Louisiana



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C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie

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[Handwritten signature]



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C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie

None

Sharon D. Watson

State of Louisiana



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VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE
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Habitat Conservation Div.

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C: Don Puckett
Bob Dennie

I don't have anything for the agenda.
Blue



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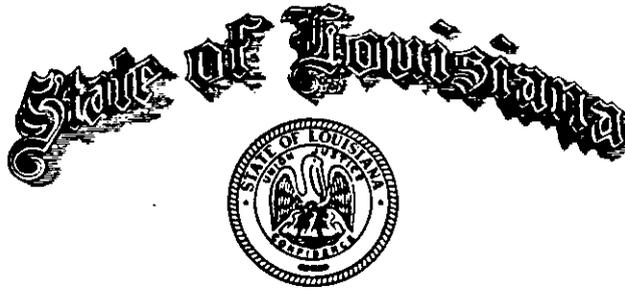
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Bob Dennie

*I have no items for the Adgenda
Thank you*

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
DEC 19 89
FISHERY REFUGE
BATON ROUGE

① Draft

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MINUTES OF MEETING

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JANUARY 11-12, 1990

Chairman Warren Pol residing:

Thursday, January 11, 1990

- Dr. Don Hines
- Mr. James Jenkins
- Mr. Bert Jones
- Mr. Norman McCall

Secretary Van Sickle was also present.

Friday, January 12, 1990

- Dr. Don Hines
- Mr. James Jenkins
- Mr. Bert Jones
- Mr. Norman McCall

Secretary Van Sickle was also present.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting on December 14-15, 1989, were unanimously approved at Thursday's meeting with a motion from Mr. Jenkins and seconded by Dr. Hines.

At Thursday's meeting the Bylaws relative to attendance of Commissioners at the Commission meetings was discussed by Mr. Puckett. Mr. Puckett advised that the present resolution is one approach to the attendance question and read the portion of the resolution amending the bylaws to the Commissioners. It reads "The attendance of every Commission member is required at every regular Commission meeting. Should any member be absent from two consecutive regular monthly meetings he shall submit to the full membership of the Commission a written explanation of the reasons for his absences. Should he fail to do so the Chairman shall

submit to the Governor a written request and recommendation on behalf of the Commission that the member be removed from the Commission."

Mr. Pol stated that this is not directed at any Commission member and is a recommendation by the Task Force appointed by the Governor of which Secretary Van Sickle served. Secretary Van Sickle asked if the Governor would have the authority to remove a Commissioner based upon such a request? Mr. Puckett stated that if it were put in the bylaws it would be a qualification of membership by which the Governor could terminate the term of the Commissioner if he violated a qualification of his membership. Mr. Jenkins asked if legislative action would have to be taken for this to be achieved. Mr. Puckett advised that it may have to be incorporated into the commission that each Commission member receives in order to terminate the Commissioners term short of legislation. Mr. Jenkins asked if this differs from the panel recommendation. The panel's recommendation was for four meetings within a twelve month period stated Mr. Puckett. Dr. Hines questioned that before the bylaws could be acted upon weren't there certain requirements that must be followed and stated that he did not think the Commission would be following them at this time. Mr. Puckett stated that there were requirements and before the Commission acted upon this he would review the requirements and report back at Friday's meeting.

At Friday's meeting Mr. Don Puckett reported back to the Commission on his findings pertaining to the bylaws. The resolution that was prepared by the Legal Counsel to change the bylaws cannot be done and as it appears now the removal of any Commissioner, other than the one who serves at the pleasure of the Governor, could only be accomplished by a Constitutional Amendment.

Dr. Hines asked if the Senate reconfirmed Commission members other than the initial confirmation. Mr. Puckett answered that there is no reference to reconfirmation and it looks like the first time is the only time. Dr. Hines further asked if by legislative act this could not be accomplished either. Mr. Puckett stated that it would take a legislative act amending the Constitution and it would take a Constitutional Amendment.

Secretary Van Sickle asked if there would be a way for the Commission to pass an amendment where basically they could censor someone for not attending meetings? Mr. Puckett advised that there might be some measures that the Commission could take short of removal that can be looked into ~~it~~. Mr. Puckett stated that he could look at other avenues and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Chairman Pol explained to those attending the meeting who did not know what the Commission was talking about that the Study Committee had recommended that there be some way to at least

encourage members to attend the Commission meetings where it was assured to having a quorum and this is the results of what Mr. Puckett had come up^{with}. Other ways will be explored to at least encourage the Commission members to attend the meetings. Dr. Hines pointed out that the Study Committee was not just for attendance it was to remove any member who might be incapacitated either from physical or mental illness as well as just excessive absenteeism. Three or four consecutive absences during a twelve month period were recommended or if they were incapacitated in any other method and a two-thirds vote of the Commission would be required to remove a member.

Mr. Puckett stated that it appears that the Constitution is really solid on these Constitutional Officers.

At Thursday's meeting the bycatch in shrimp trawls was discussed by Mr. Gerald Adkins. Mr. Adkins gave an assessment of bycatch in the Louisiana Shrimp Fishery. Bycatch is termed as generally any animal or anything that is caught while being engaged in the primary business of catching something else. This project was begun on January 1, 1989 and terminated December 31, 1989. It was primarily designed to survey the offshore and inshore trawlers and the wingnet fishermen in coastal Louisiana and assess the numbers, species composition, and weight of all incidentally caught organisms. Historically, participation in the Louisiana shrimp fishery has been very high and as an example more than twenty-five

thousand vessels actively fished in 1986 and they harvested nearly two million pounds of shrimp. The objective of the study was to quantify the bycatch of the Louisiana shrimp fishery. The method the department used to collect this information was to go to the trawl boats, offshore, inshore and wingnet fishermen, and collect approximately a forty liter sample, generally a five gallon bucket, as the catch was picked up out of the water. If there was a large number of shrimp in the sample the department personnel moved away from the shrimping boat, worked the sample, returned the shrimp and kept the miscellaneous fish to measure and identify. This data is going to be compared to the landings information gathered by the National Marine Fisheries Service and hopefully a ratio will be established of the bycatch that was obtained from the samples and the ratio of the shrimp that was taken to the total amount of shrimp caught in coastal Louisiana. One day a week was spent on this study in each of seven study areas because of the budgetary and other work limitations. Mr. Adkins advised that he could give the Commission some preliminary results of the study although it terminated only two weeks ago. All of the data is not on computer and not all of the data has been received from the different seven coastal study areas. The data that can be given is very general, preliminary and Mr. Adkins cautioned that it be used as such. A final publication of this information will probably not be ready before July 1, 1990. Mr. Adkins continued and gave the data which was available. Of the animals taken from the trawlers, that are considered bycatch, the great majority of them were sub-adult

animals. The data was collected from offshore trawlers, inshore trawlers and wingnets with inshore trawlers and wingnets comprising the majority of the fishermen that were visited. The most numerous animals that were encountered were the brown and white shrimp, blue crab (most numerous invertebrate), and the drum family made up most of the fish that were caught (croaker, spot, stardrum, bay anchovy, menhaden, sea catfish, etc.). The area sampled generally dictated the number and the types of animals caught. It has been noticed that going through the data thus far that only thirty five spotted seatrout have been taken in approximately ninety one samples that have been analyzed. These thirty five seatrout were approximately eight inches in length and most of them came from east of the river and seemed to have been caught by trawlers who were more active during night time. There were no black drum caught in the samples and have also found zero red drum in the samples. Flounder, Spanish Mackerel, Sheephead, and some of the more popular fish (recreational and commercial) are generally less than fifty in number concluded Mr. Adkins.

Mr. Jenkins asked what happens to the bycatch in the trawl fishery. Mr. Adkins answered it depends on the type and size. Some of the blue crabs are retained and sold by the fishermen, and some of the finfish if there are a significant number and size, are retained and sold. If the fish are not of sufficient quantity or of sufficient size to sell then they are generally discarded stated Mr. Adkins. Mr. Jenkins asked what the ratio of the bycatch to the

shrimp catch was. Mr. Adkins advised that there have been several studies that have been done and generally the ratio that has been developed regardless of whether the study was done is twenty to one either in number or in pounds depending upon the particular study that is been viewed. The ratios that were developed were generally developed over a large area. The National Marine Fisheries Service has published some studies to this effect from the south Atlantic and the ratios that they developed may have been higher than you would expect in other parts of the country for several reasons explained Mr. Adkins. The figure that Mr. Adkins gave, twenty to one even though it is factual, may only average for particular studies in particular areas and Mr. Adkins would not think that this is going to be the case in Louisiana and most of the information that he is aware of in Louisiana would establish a ratio of somewhere around nine or ten to one. Mr. Jenkins asked about the percentage of the bycatch that was finfish. Probably somewhere around forty percent answered Mr. Adkins. Mr. Jenkins asked if Mr. Adkins was familiar with the Texas study that was done last year. Mr. Adkins was familiar with some of the study but not all of it because he has not gotten all the information. Mr. Jenkins stated that he was wondering how Texas and Louisiana compared on this. In 1989 Texas had about six hundred million pounds of bycatch, offshore, discarded and the majority of the bycatch consisted of finfish and invertebrates other than shrimp with finfish often comprising seventy five to ninety percent of the catch Mr. Jenkins pointed out and he was wondering why Louisiana's

would only be half that much on the finfish. Mr. Adkins answered generally because of the species mentioned in the Texas study would be much higher in number in that area ^a then they would be in Louisiana. Mr. Jenkins asked if there was any plans or any thoughts on stopping the waste of bycatch in shrimp trawls. Mr. Adkins answered that there has been some work done in the past. The Sommergeiles family in Golden Meadow several years ago together with the Tabby Catfood Company opened a plant down there that was suppose to get the bycatch, process it and sell it for catfood. They were not able to offer the fishermen enough monetary return in order to encourage them to save the bycatch and in some way ^{two ways} preserve that bycatch until it went to the processing company. They tried again with a "Mother Ship" which they parked out in the bay for the fishermen to bring their bycatch to to be processed and still the amount of money they were able to offer the fishermen for that product was not enough to be rewarding to the people advised Mr. Adkins. As far as Mr. Adkins knows there has never been a successful attempt primarily because those people cannot be paid enough for the bycatch to make it worth their while to pick it out, to preserve it, and to transport it to a processing house or facility to sell it. Secretary Van Sickle advised that there is at least one, possibly two operations in the Gulf right now off of Alabama, Bayou ^{Lubatta?} Labratte, where they are trawling for bycatch and are selling then to one of the Gulf Council members so there is a growing market for this. About a month ago a man came to the department wanting to know what kind of permits he would have to

have to do this off the coast of Louisiana stated Secretary Van Sickle and he was warned about the upcoming regulations on reef fish and if he had more than seven red snapper in his hole, ~~if he has nothing but bycatch down~~ then he could be arrested. The ^{new} ~~new~~ reef fish regulations will a deterrent for many proliferation of these bycatch processing plants offshore. Mr. Pol asked if the bycatch was the reason they closed inshore waters in North Carolina? Mr. Adkins stated that he was familiar with the results of the study but was not familiar why the inshore waters were closed initially and believes it was a part of an experiment that they were doing to see what effects it had on shrimp (sizes, numbers, migrations, etc.).

Mr. Dean Blanche, President of Dean Blanche's Seafood, Grand Isle, Louisiana addressed the Commission and stated that in Mr. Marshal's article on bycatch he listed false information and did not put anything that the bycatch was useful for. Bycatch is responsible for feeding birds, handicapped fish and other fish and it also fertilizes the waterbottom. Furthermore Mr. Marshal is against commercial fishermen because they do not have to read his articles to catch fish. In his report he stated that trawling killed sixty to ninety percent of red snapper. Mr. Blanche would like to know what they are doing with the fish because he bought five million pounds of shrimp and less than two hundred pounds of red snapper, two king mackerel and about forty five hundred pounds of spanish. Mr. Blanche believes that there is a conspiracy by

special interest groups that control shrimp farms and foreign shrimp. ~~These people which are government subsidized are under cutting shrimp prices.~~ By supporting environmentalists ~~in~~ trying to get trawling ^{ban} ~~ban~~ these groups would have complete control of the shrimp and fish industry and will be able to set their own price. This would work the same way if the government would put a ban on t.v. and radio, newspaper sales would go up a thousand percent and the Times Picayune would be able to afford a knowledgeable journalist and transfer Mr. Marshall to a department more suitable to his talents, like delivering the paper stated Mr. Blanche. In closing Mr. Blanche told the Commission that pulling a net cannot be all that bad because in his Bible Jesus told Nickadamus to put his nets and the catch would be plentiful. The fishermen have always been God's people, so who are you going to believe, Jesus or Mr. Marshall concluded Mr. Blanche.

Mr. Jenkins commented that he thinks what is kind of significant about this, and thinks the Commission should be concerned, is the fact that if these figures are correct you are talking about the waste of anywhere from two to four billion pounds of bycatch a year. If something can be done about this the Commission and department should be working towards that end. Mr. Jenkins stated that he did not ask that this issue be brought up to take action ~~on~~ but was just trying to get some information because he had read the Texas plan and appreciated Mr. Adkins for ~~the~~ giving the ^{in the} information.

At Thursday's meeting Mr. Bennie Fontenot presented to the Commission a notice of intent to close the taking of sturgeon fishies in Louisiana for a three year period, starting on May 1, 1990 and ending at sunset on April 30, 1993. Mr. Fontenot pointed out that there are three species of sturgeon in Louisiana, the Gulf Atlantic, the Pallet, and the Shovelnose. The department along with the Fish and Wildlife Service are quite concerned about this fish. Mr. Fontenot has been informed by the Fish and Wildlife Service that probably by mid-summer the Pallet sturgeon will be listed on the endangered species and the Gulf Atlantic sturgeon may be listed as threatened within the next year. There is no action being taken on the Shovelnose and relatively speaking it is probably the most populace in the state commented Mr. Fontenot. There is little information on these fish and with this in mind the department would like to do a study on the status of the populations of these fish in the state especially in light of the new regulations that will be placed on them advised Mr. Fontenot.

At Friday's meeting Mr. Bennie Fontenot read the notice of intent on sturgeon, taking and possession. Mr. Jenkins made motion that this notice of intent be adopted. Seconded by Mr. Jones and passed unanimously.

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

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The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby expresses intent to prohibit the taking and possession of the Gulf Atlantic Sturgeon, Acipenser oxyrinchus; the Pallid Sturgeon, Scaphirhynchus albus; and the Shovelnose Sturgeon, S. platyrhynchus; or sturgeon body parts, including eggs (roe) is hereby prohibited for a three year period beginning May 1, 1990 and ending at sunset April 30, 1993.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule until 4:30 p.m., February 23, 1990, at the following address: Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Freshwater Fish Division, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000.

At Thursday's meeting Dr. Jerry Clark was to present a notice of intent on Reef Fish but informed the Commission that at this time there would be no action on this notice because the Reef Fish Amendment No. 1 produced by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council was sent to the federal government sometimes last year with the idea that the amendment would be in place in federal waters by the first of the year. The department was following up on this as quickly as they could so that the state would have compatible regulation? The department has been unable to get a copy of the federal regulation and as Dr. Clark understands the federal rules have been delayed for thirty days

possibly because of the complexity of the rules. Dr. Clark recommended that until the department has a copy of the federal rules and to make sure that the state is consistent with them that this issue ~~is~~ not be acted upon now.

Chairman Pol advised that this will be held in abeyance until Dr. Clark can get a copy of the federal rules. Secretary Van Sickle ^{highlighted} ~~explained~~ the proposed regulations for reef fish in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. ~~Included among the proposals are:~~

"Fishermen are to be restricted to the recreational bag limits unless they possess a commercial permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service. To qualify for a commercial permit, a fisherman must be able to prove that in the previous year more than 50 percent of his earned income came from commercial or charter/head boat fishing. Retirement income and similar income does not count as earned income. Reef fish taken under a bag limit, i.e., without a commercial permit, may not be sold.

Recreational bag limits for red snapper are to be 7 fish per person per trip. A commercial quota of 3.1 million pounds (equivalent to 80 percent of the average landings from 1985-1987) is proposed for the first year. A minimum size limit for red snapper remains unchanged at a 13-inch total length.

Recreational bag limits for other snappers, excluding vermilion and lane, is 10 fish in the aggregate. There are no bag limits for vermilion and lane snappers. Minimum size limits are 12 inches for gray, mutton, and yellowtail, and 8 inches for lane and vermilion snappers. No commercial quotas are set for these species. A 5 fish recreational bag limit for all groupers combined and a minimum size limit of 20 inches on red, gag, black, yellowfin, and Nassau groupers, and 50 inches on jewfish are to be implemented.

Commercial quotas of 9.2 and 1.8 million pounds are to be set for shallow water and deep water groupers, respectively. Deep water groupers include only snowy, yellowedge, misty, and warsaw groupers.

Black seabass will have a minimum size of 8 inches with no bag limits or commercial quotas.

A recreational bag limit for greater amberjack will be set at 3 fish per angler per trip and a minimum size limit of 28 inches fork length. A commercial size limit of 36 inches will regulate the commercial catch. All bag limits are to be trip limits with an allowable possession limit up to 2 days on multi-day trips aboard charter and head boats.

Bottom longlines for reef fish will be prohibited within 50 fathoms west and 20 fathoms east of Cape San Blas, Florida. Incidental catches of reef fish on other longlines, shrimp trawls, and nets will be limited to the recreational bag limit (only one day trip limit to be allowed in possession) and minimum size limits. This limit will not apply to commercial groundfish trawlers where catch is not sorted at sea. (This is the one change made in the Secretarial approval).

Fish traps are to continue to be allowed outside designated stressed areas but will be limited to 100 traps per permit holder and annual permits are to be required.

As a result of public comment received more recently, the Council has proposed as a separate action a complete prohibition on the taking of jewfish, a grouper which may reach up to 1,000 pounds. Commercial fishermen and recreational divers report a virtual disappearance of this species. Public hearings on this action are being scheduled throughout the Gulf Coast in early January. Secretary Van Sickle and Dr. Clark supported this action on jewfish at the recent Council meeting. These are the highlights of what will be proposed once the federal regulations are in place advised Secretary Van Sickle.

At Thursday's meeting Colonel Winton Vidrine presented the Monthly Law Enforcement Report. Colonel Vidrine reported that in the month of December the following cases were made:

Region I - Minden - 160 cases, (150 enforcement/10 other divisions)

Region II - Monroe - 59 cases, (52 enforcement/7 other divisions)

Region III - Alexandria - 119 cases, (105 enforcement/14 other divisions)

Region IV - Ferriday - 99 cases, (45 enforcement/54 other divisions)

Region V - Lake Charles - 142 cases (133 enforcement/9 other divisions)

Region VI - Opelousas - 268 cases (265 enforcement/3 other divisions)

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 160 cases (152 enforcement/8 other divisions)

Region VIII - New Orleans - 500 cases (480 enforcement/20 other divisions)

Colonel Vidrine pointed out that there were a lot of confiscations during the month of December and there was a total of 1,635 cases made in December (1,507 enforcement/125 other divisions/3 SWEPS). This is a hundred cases less than last year. A game and fish road check was done in the parishes of Plaquemine and Terrebonne. This is a type of roadblock that is set up and all vehicles are checked coming from hunting and fishing areas. There

was a total of 79 cases; 47 people cited; 220 ducks seized and redfish seized (over limit and under sized). These road checks were conducted with twenty enforcement division personnel and two U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents concluded Colonel Vidrine.

Mr. McCall questioned Colonel Vidrine on the hours of the Rip Tide and Delta Tide which totaled 54 hours running time with six cases made. Colonel Vidrine advised that the reason the hours on the boats were low was because there is not a full crew for both boats. Several personnel have quit and interviews will be taking place next week to fill these positions. Mr. McCall stated that he was a little concern about the running time for big boats like these and it looks like there is not enough utilization of these boats, especially for the amount of money that it cost to keep them up, keep a crew, insurance, etc. Mr. McCall would like to know if there isn't a way that the department can get more utilization of these boats. Colonel Vidrine stated that he would look into this and give a report at the next Commission meeting on the two boats.

Chairman Pol asked if there was a log of who hunts and who uses Pass-a-Loutre. It was pointed out that this area was just like the other wildlife management areas and the only time you have to have a permit is when you are participating in the special archery season. A log is kept on the wildlife management areas

that do have camps and non-departmental people are charged \$10 a day unless it is directly related to department work.

Mr. McCall asked Colonel Vidrine to also give a breakdown on what it cost to operate one of these boat a day in his report to the Commission next month. Colonel Vidrine stated that this would be done.

↑ Agenda for next mo.

Mr. Jenkins asked if the problem was that there were not enough people to man the boats and if so why can't the department get the people. Colonel Vidrine answered yes this was the problem and it is hard to find a person that qualifies to be a boat captain, who also has the law enforcement requirements, plus a vessel license.

At Thursday's meeting Dr. Jerry Clark gave an Evaluation of the Freeze Affects on Fisheries. Dr. Clark summarized the report ~~that each Commissioner had received on this issue~~ that each Commissioner had received on this issue, ~~There is not~~ available until April, May or June because of the nature of the freeze and the weather that took place before the freeze. There were six cold fronts in Louisiana between November 15 and this freeze reported Dr. Clark. A typical winter in Louisiana there might be one or two freezes during this time period. The department biologists and people throughout the coast noted that during the six week time period the fish were relocating (leaving marsh and heading to the Gulf). Dr.

Clark stated that is probably the best news that he has for the fish. When the freeze hit, the department thinks that the marsh in many areas were depopulated of finfish which helped a lot because the water temperatures, the ice that accumulated and the length of the freeze was much worse than 1983. The department's estimation of the impact on the resource is that it is relatively light across the coast. In certain areas, deadend canals, behind structures in marsh management areas, and areas of normal refuge there have been significant fish kills. These are isolated and not across the coast advised Dr. Clark and the freeze seems to have been worse east of the river than west of the river. This is an interim report and if in fact the department is right the fish in the bays and estuaries will not be there until later in the spring, April, May and June when they will come back in from the Gulf following the shrimp into the bays and estuaries. If this happens the fish will start showing up in gill nets but if they don't then the department was wrong reported Dr. Clark. On the shellfish there was a four foot tide change and in those areas where shellfish were uncovered the shellfish beds had a hundred percent mortality. On oysters the best estimate is that there is a ten or fifteen percent mortality on oysters across the coast. In some oyster areas because of the temperature of the water, the oyster itself shut down and did not grow and won't grow and the department is looking at an interim growth reduction of maybe twenty or thirty percent in the oysters reported Dr. Clark.

Mr. McCall asked Dr. Clark what type of fish suffered the most. The fish that suffered the most, across the coast, were spotted seatrout, red drum and striped mullet in approximately equal numbers but just like the freeze itself this was not equally distributed across the coast answered Dr. Clark. Mr. Jenkins stated that he had talked to two individuals who first thought that ~~the~~ there was entire devastation but are now catching fish. Dr. Clark added that what the department is talking about is the biology of this issue and not economics and it is possible for this state to have a very bad economic impact from this freeze and still not have had a tremendous impact on its biological resources. Both of these things are possible and the department's reports indicate that both may in fact be happening at this time but at this time there are no recommendations for action to be taken stated Dr. Clark. If there are no fish in the gill nets in April, May, or June Dr. Clark advised that he will be back before the Commission with biological recommendations to protect the fishery. Mr. Pol asked what was the estimated date of when the speckled trout quota would be reached. Dr. Clark answered that the latest recommendation of his staff is at sometime in early March. Mr. Jenkins stated that in New Orleans Dr. Clark had reported that the speckled trout catch for October was twice what it was the year before and asked if he had November's data. Dr. Clark advised no and neither December which is very important and the staff will be working very hard on getting these.

Dr. Clark went on to address the issue of not letting people pickup the fish that had died during the freeze. Dr. Clark pointed out several overwhelming reasons why people should not be allowed to pickup dead fish. First, the direct effect would be that there is no way of knowing what the health aspects of this practice would be. Second the indirect effect which is even more important to the industry of the state is that Dr. Clark is not sure people in the midwest or people in restaurants would truly appreciate finding out that the dinner they just had was picked up dead. This is not to the benefit of the state's commercial fishing market to have this get out into the public. Third, Dr. Clark did not know of any authority that the Secretary or Commission has to suspend law and let the people pickup the fish. Most of the rules and regulations that the department have are in place through a rule or regulation or passed by the legislature. Fourth, many of the fish that were picked up were still alive, stunned fish that were floating on the surface or moving very slowly. If the impacts of the freeze is negative so is picking up stunned fish advised Dr. Clark. Mr. McCall asked what were the chances of survival of the stunned fish. Dr. Clark reported that people who have actually picked up stunned fish and put them back into warm water the fish just picked up, swam around and had no problem what^{one word}-so-ever. Mr. McCall advised that most of the fish caught in East Fork were stunned fish.

Mr. Mark Hilzin with the Louisiana GCCA addressed the Commission on fisheries and the freeze. Mr. Hilzin stated that Dr.

Clark had covered a lot of the things that he himself was concerned about and that he also had received a lot of phone calls. At this time Mr. Hilzin wanted to pass along some of the concerns that he has been getting possibly to incorporate them into any research, etc. that may^{be} done to obtain answers on this issue. One of the concerns is, is there a need for a special set of rules to handle this type of situation to protect the resource. Another concern was if there were any special efforts made to count the fish that were being picked up as opposed to being caught with a hook and line or net. The most important thing is planning for these kinds of situations can be done and how to react to situations, such as the freeze, as they occur. Mr. Hilzin left the Commission with the thought "does the finfish section role need to be looked at again and see if maybe the resources that are being put into that section need to be rethought".

Mr. Richard Bankston, Baton Rouge, address^d the Commission and asked what the freeze did to the inland fisheries

Dr. Clark informed the Commission that the department's inland fisheries people have been on alert, reported and responded to all fish kills that have occurred. To date Dr. Clark, as far as he knew, has not had any reports on a sunfish kill. There have been reports on kills in inland waters which consisted of gizzard shad and treadfin^h shad but these are fish that reproduce very rapidly.

As far as the department is concerned there were no problems with inland fisheries commented Dr. Clark.

At Thursday's meeting Secretary Van Sickle gave her report to the Commission. Secretary Van Sickle gave a summary ^{of} the Game, Fur and Refuge ~~Divisions reports~~, ^{and} as well as the Habitat Division report ^{on} effects of the freeze. The effects on upland game in general have been minimal, if not even observable in the field. Big game species, like deer and turkey, were very lightly impacted; only a few deaths of deer were attributed to the freeze, no reports on losses to squirrel, rabbit and quail; waterfowl prepare for this kind of situation and went to open waters and there were very few waterfowl deaths that were reported for ducks and geese. The surveys by the Refuge Division and Game Division will continue. Some of the non-game birds that were lost were the great blue heron, rails, marsh wrens, snowy egrets, and rosette spoonbills. Personnel from Rockefeller Refuge reported that killdeer for some reason were especially hard hit by the freeze. Nutria suffered tremendously from the freeze which may be a blessing because of the damage they are doing to the marsh. The department staff has estimated between ten and twenty percent of the nutria were killed so far and may lose a few more. There was a minimal light impact on the alligator populations in general but just like in fisheries there were a few isolated place where the alligator impacts were real heavy. Lacassine Refuge had fifty dead alligators. The impacts on alligators will be ^{latent} late and the department has already

started getting reports just as recently as two days ago. The most important losses experienced as the result of the freeze involve the brown pelican. There are only about 2,500 brown pelicans coastwide with three rookeries that are the nesting colonies of these brown pelicans. These rookeries are located on the Chandeleur Islands, Timbalieu Island and Queen Best Island located in the upper Barataria Bay region. The Queen Best^S pelicans nest earlier than the ones on the other two islands advised Secretary Van Sickle and actually started laying eggs and nesting in November. The other colonies had not nested yet. On Queen Best^S Island there were eight hundred nests that ~~experienced~~^{were} totally destroyed. ~~mortality of fledglings and eggs.~~ Estimated two hundred to three hundred eggs were lost as well as an equal number of fledglings on Queen Best^S Island. In addition to the ~~lost~~^{loss} of the juveniles an aerial survey revealed the lost of about two hundred sub-adults coastwide. ~~On the bald eagle~~^{reports} ~~the survey~~ showed that none of the birds had been lost except one dead bird on the shore of Lake Salvador.

Secretary Van Sickle advised that a resolution had been received from the Plaquemines Parish Government regarding the freeze. The resolution stated that sixty percent of the finfish have been destroyed, sixty percent of the oysters have been destroyed, sixty percent of the crabs have been destroyed, etc. and are asking for any assistance that the department, and the state government could provide them for disaster relief. It was pointed

out by Secretary Van Sickle that as Dr. Clark stated the department cannot say there was a biological disaster on any of the species that the Plaquemines Parish Government has brought up but it is not to say that they are not going to have some economic impacts. This issue needs to be sent to the Office of Disaster Preparedness who make the economic ~~calls~~^{declarations}, and works with the federal government on any disaster aid that will go to a parish. The department will respond to the Plaquemines Parish Government and give them this information.

The fishing pamphlet is going to press this week and the department should have it by the end of the month. The pamphlet will contain a lot more information about the commercial fishing laws and the recreational fishing laws.

Secretary Van Sickle announced that Mr. Wade Byrd will be working with her more closely in the future as an Assistant to the Secretary handling ~~the pamphlets~~ and many ~~other~~ things, including the Responsive Management Survey which Mr. Byrd is the coordinator. The survey has been done and next Tuesday the information will be presented to the staff in Baton Rouge. Mr. Byrd will then be visiting the district offices next week sharing the information that has been obtained from the Responsive Management Survey. Secretary Van Sickle stated that at the next Commission meeting the entire results of the survey will be presented.

Agenda Item

Secretary Van Sickle reported that there was a retreat with some of the chief staff of the department for planning activities. One of the things that the Transition Team recommended two years ago was ^{now} long range planning. ~~This is the only thing that the department did not tackle.~~ This ties directly into programmatic budgeting and towards the end of this year there will be individual job descriptions that are tied to the different programs so that the department can be sure that they are spending the scarce^C resources that they have on the things that have been set out as being objectives and missions of the department through a planning process that will involve all of the staff.

Secretary Van Sickle passed out to the Commissioners a copy of a notice of intent that the Attorney General's office prepared at the request of Dr. Clark and herself regarding shell dredging. The Commissioners at their last meeting indicated and asked Secretary Van Sickle to be prepared to present to them technical information regarding the impacts of shell dredging on Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas at least six months prior to the renewal of any lease. The department is not going to depend upon DEQ or DNR to collect the data but will be able to use the information that is gained from the DEQ Adjudicatory hearings and from many other sources. But to be sure that everybody has a right to submit information public comments will be obtained through the department.

Secretary Van Sickle reminded the Commissioners of the tiny shrimp that were being harvested, 187 count shrimp, and the problem the department had in making a case because the shrimper would ^{say} ~~said~~ that he caught them in federal waters so the department would have to actually witness the taking to make a case. Through the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Shrimp Fishery Management Plan this can be rectified. The ^{Secretary of Commerce} ~~council~~ has asked the department to provide economic information and justification for doing this and last week the department provided the information. Hopefully before the next season starts the state will have the federal government's concurrence on this and ^{shrimp} ~~anything~~ ^{a/c} that ~~is~~ caught in federal waters and landed in Louisiana must be consistent with the state laws.

The civil penalties that were ratified at the Commission meeting in December will be in effect and Ms. Baker is getting ready to send out bills to violators. The procedure will be that the department will get a copy of the citation from the Law Enforcement section and Ms. Baker's office will be sending out a bill with a cover letter explaining the bill. The cover letter will also note that if the bill is not paid within thirty days it will be turned over to the District Attorney and the violator will pay additional court ^{costs}. The District Attorney will be allowed to collect forty percent of this fee for processing this on behalf of the department. This will be starting at the end of this month stated Secretary Van ^{Sickle} ~~Scikle~~.

Another issue that had been discussed at a previous Commission meeting involved the safety of offshore vessels and the exposure to oil spills from ruptured pipelines. A letter to Senator Hollings, ^{and others} has been written for Chairman Pol and Secretary Van Sickle's signatures asking for Congressional hearings on this issue of pipeline burial and removal. Secretary Van Sickle asked Chairman Pol and the other Commissioners if they had any changes in the letter to let her know. This letter will go to the committees responsible for pipeline safety in Congress and the entire Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

Secretary Van Sickle pointed out that each Commission member was given a report from the Information and Education Section which is their annual performance report and hopes the members will spend some time going through the report.

The Appropriations Committee has an Oversight Hearing when budget changes in departments of government are reviewed reported Secretary Van Sickle. Mr. Arthur Williams and Mr. Gary Tilyou went with Wynettee Kees to the meeting and got the renovations for the Beechwood Fish Hatchery approved. This will be about a two million dollar renovation. ^{the} Beechwood ^{hatchery} was ~~built back~~ ^{constructed} around 1925. This is the only major fish hatchery in the state and this is just a start of some major freshwater fisheries ^{initiatives} that you will be seeing from the Office of Fisheries this year stated Secretary Van Sickle.

On March 16, 1990 in Denver, Colorado the 51st Annual North American Wildlife Conference will be held. This is a meeting of the Southeastern Association, Western Association, all the states' fish and wildlife agencies, Federal Government, Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other wildlife organizations announced Secretary Van Sickle. Secretary Van Sickle then invited one of the Commissioners to attend this conference with the members of the department that are going.

Secretary Van Sickle commended the staff for the work that they have done over the past month regarding the freeze and the time that they spent on this. She also commended the staff on the whale rescue effort which was successful.

Mr. McCall suggested that something in writing, if possible, be sent to the personnel who worked during the freeze to let them know how much it was appreciated.

Chairman Pol called for motion to adjourn Thursday's Commission meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jenkins for adjournment of Thursday's Commission meeting and resume it on Friday at 9:00 A.M., same location. Seconded by Mr. McCall and passed unanimously.

At Friday's meeting Mr. Hugh Bateman gave an update on the North American Waterfowl Plan. Mr. Bateman reported that a couple

of years ago he appeared before the Commission and showed them a video tape of a new commitment by the United States and Canada in doing things for wetlands to try to change the trend of losing wetlands on a continent wide bases. Since that time there have been numerous meetings and a lot of things that have gone on both at the Congressional level here in the state of Louisiana, across the country and in Canada. Mr. Bateman has had the opportunity to attend a lot of the meetings and be a part of the development of the plan and today he simply wanted to mention to the Commission that they are now at a threshold with the North American Waterfowl Plan in that there will very soon be a Louisiana State Action Plan that outlines what the state will be doing. Secretary Van Sickle has been involved with federal people on the wetlands loss. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan has provided some opportunities for the department people to start communicating with others in trying to do some things positive that will help both fish and wildlife in Louisiana. Mr. Bateman introduced Mr. Jimmy Emfinger who will be the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Coordinator. Mr. Emfinger has been with the department for twenty three years and it is felt that he will do a good job. The Mitchell Bill has passed Congress which will allow additional funds for purchase of wetlands concluded Mr. Bateman.

At Friday's meeting Chairman Pol announced the Dates and Locations for the Public Hearing to be held for Hunting Seasons.

On February 1-2, 1990 the regular monthly Commission meeting will be at 2:00 P.M. in Lake Charles at the Civic Center with the Public Hearing being held at 7:00 P.M. on February 1 in Lake Charles at the Civic Center. The Commission meeting will resume on Friday, February 2, 1990 at the same location.

On February 15, 1990 the Public Hearing will be held in Hammond at 7:00 P.M. at Southeastern Louisiana University, Kiva^e Room, Teacher Education Building.

On March 1-2, 1990 the regular monthly Commission meeting will be at 2:00 P.M. in Monroe at the Holiday Inn, Monroe Room with the Public Hearing being held at 7:00 P.M. on March 1 in Monroe, Holiday Inn, Monroe Room. The Commission meeting will resume on Friday, March 2, 1990 at the same location but in the Canal Room.

Mr. Bateman stated that the Information and Education Division will be putting out a news release on the meeting dates for the Public Hearings and there should be an appropriate amount of time for this to get into the news media and make sure everybody has plenty of public notice.

Chairman Pol announced that there has been a delay in appointing the different Commission committees this year because the Governor has not yet filled the vacancy on the Commission but he is asking Mr. Bert Jones to chair the committee for the Public

Hunting hearings. Mr. Jones accepted the Chairmanship of this committee.

At Friday's meeting Ms. Bettsie Baker gave an update on the New Orleans property. Ms. Baker reported that the first appraisal has been received on the two properties in New Orleans and they came in at a nice value. The old Police Station was appraised at about six hundred thousand dollars and the Parking Garage was appraised for one hundred and eighty thousand dollars. ~~Looking right at eight hundred thousand dollars between the two buildings.~~ Liquidation will be done through a public auction and the question is whether to try and sell them separately or as a joint package. Ms. Baker thinks the value to the department would be enhanced if they are sold as a package and would prefer to sell them as ~~a~~ such. If these buildings are sold together you are looking at seven hundred and eighty thousand dollars total stated Ms. Baker. One thing that has to be taken into consideration that has to be considered when establishing the minimum bid price for these properties is that the Police Station has asbestos in it and any bidder that bids on the property is going to want to negate the cost of the asbestos demolition from the appraised value. There are two appraisals coming in but the second one has not been received. Once the appraisal is received the minimum bid price can be established. The asbestos demolition cost would be around a hundred thousand dollars and if the asking bid price would be six

hundred and eighty thousand dollars Ms. Baker believes this would be in the ballpark. Once these properties are sold it gives the department some flexibility to get the personnel in New Orleans in a new office location which they desperately need.

The property at 400 Royal Street was contracted for appraisal and the contract has been returned from Contractual Review and was approved. The appraiser is in the process of finalizing his report and by the time of the next regular Commission meeting there should be an appraisal from him.

Mr. Jenkins commented that if he is not mistaken it is not uncommon at public auctions for bids to be taken as separate properties and combined properties and then take the higher of the total. Ms. Baker asked if this can be done in a public bid, this will not be a sealed bid. Mr. Jenkins answered you can auction them off completely one way and auction them off completely the other way and then take the higher of the two prices. Ms. Baker stated that she was unaware that it could be done this way and suggested that she follow up on this and do it this way if possible.

Chairman Pol asked about the plans for the money that will be received from the ^{sale}~~sell~~ of the properties. Ms. Baker advised that she has been negotiating with Greg O'Brien who is the Chancellor of the University of New Orleans for a piece of property that they

have control over but do not own. They are working with the Lakeshore Development District, which is immediately adjacent to the University of New Orleans, to establish a research, commercial park and would like to have the department as an anchor tenant. This would be an ideal location since it is easy to get to, and near the university. This is an existing building and needs to be renovated. If the renovation process is handled through the UNO Foundation the Foundation can actually contract for the building services to do the renovations and the department could possibly be in by June or July if the transaction takes place. The University and Landmark Land Development, who owns the property, are trying to come to a mutually agreeable deal on the trade and sale of the property. Ideally this is where the department would like to go but if this does not come to pass then other options will have to be looked at. To expedite the process it would behoove the department to find something that is already constructed rather than build a new facility stated Ms. Baker. This piece of property with renovation will run approximately seven hundred to eight hundred thousand dollars. In the event that there are active bidders who are really interested in the French Quarter properties the price that is received may be significantly in excess of the appraised value.

Mr. Jones asked if the department is committed to an auctioneer. Ms. Baker advised that the department will work through Facility Planning with whatever is standard state operating

policy and is under the impression that the Sheriff will be selling it as though it is a Sheriff's Sale. Mr. Jones was concerned because auctioneers have a tendency to take a pretty good chunk of the profits. Ms. Baker stated that it will all come back to the department. The appraisal should be in hand for the next meeting and then the department will know what they are looking at in terms of potential value concluded Ms. Baker.

Chairman Pol asked Secretary Van Sickle if she had anything else to report to the Commission.

Secretary Van Sickle stated that she has three items. The first one is in response to a resolution that the Commission passed regarding the Catahoula Lake oil spill. The department has heard from Natural Resources Commissioner, Pat Bachelor, ~~who is the head of the Office of Conservation~~ basically transmitting to the department the response from Placid Oil. Placid Oil, Placid Pipeline Division is responsible for maintaining the pipelines, etc. ~~Petroleum actually produces the oil but Placid is saying that they do not have to have a Spill Prevention Plan because all they are is a transmission company.~~ Mr. Bateman attended a meeting yesterday with these people in Alexandria and ^{de} Secretary asked him to tell what had taken place at this meeting regarding this issue.

Mr. Bateman reported that he met with representatives of DEQ, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Conservation from the

Department of Natural Resources in Alexandria yesterday. Also three/four members of Mr. Bateman's staff attended who work on the lake on a regular basis with the local persons who are in the oil business. When the background was reviewed of why the department asked the Commission to pass the resolution on Catahoula Lake all the public agencies that were attending the meeting supported the basics of what the Commission recommended in the resolution. There is a lot more to be done and the department has not met with the oil companies themselves. At the meeting yesterday the various things that the agencies would like to see done on Catahoula Lake were discussed. Oil production has been on Catahoula Lake since 1948. There has been two hundred and twelve wells drilled, currently twenty-two to twenty-three active wells, there are thirty four to thirty five miles of active pipeline crossing the lake and most of these lines are laying on the surface, the lake is very productive for inland fisheries both commercial and sport, fifty to seventy five thousand canvasback winter on the lake and has up to a half of million waterfowl at times on the lake pointed out Mr. Bateman. The annual daily production of oil on the lake is about a thousand barrels and it is not at all inconceivable that if there ^{were} ~~was~~ an oil spill that fifty to hundred barrels of oil could get to the surface of the lake fairly quickly, if the wind conditions and all the other things were right there could be a very bad situation. The concern is that there is not in place the plans, containment, equipment and facilities to do the very best job at minimizing what the environment impacts would be should an oil

spill happen. The people that attended the meeting, including the Office of Conservation, basically agreed with the department Mr. Bateman advised. The stage has been set to proceed further with doing some very, very positive things on Catahoula Lake. There will be another meeting next month at which the group will specifically outline the things that will be asked of the oil companies and believes that with all these regulatory agencies working together and in agreement that there will be cooperation from the oil companies.

Secretary Van Sickle stated that getting the companies to cooperate is what she is most concerned about, pointing ^{to} out the letter from Placid saying they do not have to do this. Mr. Bateman stated that he had gotten a similar letter from one of the other companies saying that have a Spill Contingency Plan and it is part of what EPA requires and are not planning to do anything else. Once the specific steps are outline possibly Secretary Van Sickle can meet with the DEQ Secretary because there is no question that this plan is going to be expensive but the value of the lake and what is at risk demands this commented Mr. Bateman.

Mr. Jenkins asked if there was any legislation that requires the oil companies to do this and if not this is where the department should start. Secretary Van Sickle added that the oil spill bill that the department is ~~going to be proposing~~ ^{considering} will not just affect coastal waters it will affect inland waters also. Mr.

Bateman stated that he did not know about the coastal area but on the lake itself the department comments and issues permits to do any work on the lake in regards to laying pipelines, drilling wells, etc. so the department has the regulatory authority without any additional legislation to require that some of these things be done and by getting the other regulatory agencies, both federal and state, to agree with the department, which they have at this point at the field level could have some results. Mr. Bateman believes that the door has been opened as to what can be done to improve the situation on Catahoula Lake and this is what they are looking to do.

Dr. Hines asked if Catahoula Lake was under the control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Wildlife and Fisheries. Mr. Bateman answered it is under the control of Wildlife and Fisheries but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has an adjacent refuge, Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, and last year when the oil spill occurred at high river stages most of the damage occurred on on the refuge because the oil left the lake and was pushed by the wind on to the property.

Secretary Van Sickle introduced Ms. Karen Foote, the ^{Acting}~~new~~ Administrator of Marine Fisheries. Ms. Foote will be assisting Dr. Clark and working closely with Mr. Bowman, Mr. Perret and other members of the Marine Fisheries staff.

A letter from LPB, Ms. Beth Courtney, was read by Secretary Van Sickle. The letter stated that the November 1989 Nielsen Ratings for the Baton Rouge market have been received and LPB is delighted to report that the Louisiana Conservationist T. V. Magazine was their number one rated program. A statewide report will be received by April of 1990 and LPB is anticipating a good show in that report for the program.

Mr. Bettsie Baker acknowledged Mr. Guy LaBranche and Mr. Karel Bauer who have worked tirelessly on this ~~Sw.~~ program. Chairman Pol thanked everyone involved for a fine job.

At Friday's meeting dates were set for the April and May Commission meeting. The April meeting will be on April 5-6, 1990 in Baton Rouge, Wildlife and Fisheries Building. The May meeting will be May 3-4, 1990 in New Orleans and will be at the University Center. The Shrimp Season Hearings will also be held at this time.

Chairman Pol asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Commission on any matter.

Mr. Pete Agarcer, Lake Pontchartrain Fish Association, addressed the Commission. Mr. Agarcer stated that he felt he spoke for a large number of the fishermen in the state of Louisiana. They are very disappointed in what they have heard so far from the Wildlife and Fisheries as far as the freeze is concerned and as far

as it has been a insignificant fish kill. Mr. Agarcer does not see it this way. Mr. Agarcer has received reports from all over the state from people witnessing large fish kills. Compared to the freeze of 1983 this one was much worse. ~~During the freeze of 1983 Mr. Agarcer 3 1/2" exhaust on his boat did not freeze, it froze this time; in 1983 two days after the freeze Mr. Agarcer was catching between five hundred and a thousand pounds of trout every set, this time only two to three trout are being caught in a set,~~ the amount of red fish that Mr. Agarcer saw floating after the freeze was significant in his eyes, however, he is still catching seventy five percent of what he caught before the freeze which tell him there were a lot more red fish than anybody wanted to admit. If the freeze was insignificant as the department is saying it was, Mr. Agarcer does not see why there are quotas on speckled trout or red fish because of the amount of fish that were found floating and that are still on the bottom in bays and marshes. Mr. Agarcer stated that financially the fishermen are ruined for the next four to five months and they need the department to help the Governor to do what he said he was going to do and that was he said that if the people needed help in this state he would help. As yet the people have not gotten help ^{from} ~~form~~ the department or the Governor's office concluded Mr. Agarcer.

Mr. T. John Mialjevick^h with Concerned Shrimpers of America and of Louisiana addressed the Commission. Mr. Mialjevick^h stated that likewise he echoes his concerns about the evaluation of the

fish, shrimp, oyster or crab kill. Mr. Mialjevick^h is not condemning the Wildlife and Fisheries but is just asking, after attending two meetings, one in Plaquemines Parish and one in West Jefferson, to reevaluate and not look at what died but to look at the displacement that happened. This is an economic condition that occurred from the freeze by moving the normal seafood from the normal mode of fishing operations. Where are those people that are accustomed to fishing in a area every year, that they have been commercial fishermen, going to make a living. Maybe the seafood wasn't killed in significant numbers for the department to realize and declare an immediate disaster. Somewhere down the line it will be significant but it might be too late for the people to get help stated Mr. Mialjevick^h. What is immediate is the displacement of the ability of those people to continue with their livelihood and this is directly attributed to the freeze.

Secretary Van Sickle addressed Mr. Mialjevick and stated that he was right on the point. The fish were displaced and this is what the department's report said yesterday. The department will not know until the spring what the impacts will be on speckled trout and in the fall what it will be on the red fish. The department did a biological analysis and there was not a biological disaster with these species or shrimp or crabs that can be detected at this point. It was pointed out at yesterday's meeting that this does not mean there is not a economic disaster that will affect fishermen. The department will provide an analysis to the

Governor's Office of Disaster Preparedness. The Wildlife and Fisheries does not have anything to do with declaring ^{an economic} a disaster except for providing information. The department can point out in their letter to the Office of Disaster Preparedness is exactly what Mr. Mialjevick said about the displacement of the traditional fishing grounds this time of year and how that does deserve a look from an economic and a disaster analysis stated Secretary Van Sickle.

Mr. Pete Agarcer again addressed the Commission. The biggest problem that he has with displacement is the fact that in his area (Lake Pontchartrain) the front before the freeze started the fish to come into the lake. No large amounts of trout were caught until right before the freeze. The small puppy drum were starting to leave because of the cold effect but there were big amounts of trout, white, speckled and red fish. The red fish are still there but the trout are gone stated Mr. Agarcer. If someone went out with a small dredge (clam dredge) or a trawl with big nets (ten foot test net with three inch mesh) they would find the dead fish on the bottom. This is why Mr. Agarcer's concern was that maybe there might be a little more impact that was suspected.

Mr. Barry Schaffecia, a commercial fisherman, addressed the Commission. During the last Commission meeting Mr. Schaffecia called the 800 number that belongs to the Wildlife and Fisheries and requested an agent to call his house. To this day no agent has

ever returned his phone call. There have been boats that came from Alabama and Mississippi and out by Grand Pass and dumped a whole boatload of crab traps and Mr. Schaffecia believes not one of them had a crab license from Louisiana. They were never checked. There are boats dragging oversized trawls and fish nets in Lake Borgne catching undersized fish. Nothing is ever done about it. Secretary Van Sickle asked Mr. Schaffecia to stay after the meeting and his call was going to be traced. All calls on the 800 line are logged. Mr. Schaffecia stated he would and Secretary Van Sickle asked Colonel Vidrine to take care of this. Mr. Jones asked that the Commission be informed of the outcome of this issue at the next meeting.

Secretary Van Sickle stated
~~Ms. Karen Foote, Administrator of the Marine Fisheries~~
Division, ~~announced~~ that notice was just received that there may be a potential major oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico at the LOOP platform. As of this time no details are known and permission has been asked to use ^{dispersants.} ~~dispersions.~~

Ms. Bettsie Baker brought up a couple of budget items. A budget has been prepared based on continuation level funding which the budget office mandates. This is taking the current level of operations and extrapolate them forward making adjustment for what it would take to keep the same level of service. Doing this and looking at what the anticipated revenue is from Conservation Fund dollars the department was looking at about a two and a half to

four million dollars shortfall considering adding a few things on and taking a few things away. Secretary Van Sickle and Ms. Baker have been meeting with the Governor and talked about all these issues. Ms. Baker had a meeting yesterday afternoon and Wildlife and Fisheries was put on the list of possible things to be funded. There were three different items and they were: (1) revenue shortfall with a fairly high priority on this item, (2) shell dredging swap with a fairly high priority, and (3) wildlife land acquisition under high profile priority items to fund.

Chairman Pol asked if what Ms. Baker is saying is that there will only be a two and a half million dollars shortfall. Ms. Baker answered two and a half million dollars for Conservation dollars^{is} absolute base line. There were some enhancements that were being looked at which brought it up into the three to four million dollar range but the absolute Conservation dollars were two and a half million~~s~~ dollars. Chairman Pol asked if the Governor offered any help. Secretary Van Sickle explained the process and stated that basically the department has come out so far as being one to be recommend^d to the Governor to fund.

There be no further business to come before the Commission Mr. Jenkins made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mr. Jones and passed unanimously.

Virginia Van Sickle
Virginia Van Sickle
Secretary