

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Approved: 7/15/86

BOARD MEETING


J. Burton Angelle

Friday, July 11, 1986

JACK CAPPEL
CHAIRMAN

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

July 11, 1986

AGENDA

	Page
1. Roll Call	1
2. Approval of Minutes of June 6, 1986	1
3. Enforcement Report	1
4. White Amur Project Progress Report	1
5. Flathead Project Update	1
6. Survey Report	1
7. Oyster Season	1
8. Prohibition of Nets Within One Mile of a State Park	4
9. Set Alligator Season for 1986	4
10. Dove & Migratory Species Other than Waterfowl 1986-87	5
11. National Hunting & Fishing Day Proclamation - September 27, 1986	5
12. Creeping of Geese	5
13. Steel Shot Resolution	6
14. Brief Legislative Report by Staff	6
15. Set Date for November Meeting	6

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

July 11, 1986

Chairman Jack Cappel presiding:

Members Present:

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

Mr. J. Burton Angelle was also present.

The minutes of the meeting of June 6, 1986 were approved unanimously with a motion from Mr. Vinet.

Ray Montet gave the Enforcement Report for the month of May at Thursday's meeting.

At Thursday's meeting two reports were presented by the Fish Division. Gary Tilyou reported on the White Amur Project progress. Charlie Biggar talked about the Flathead Catfish Project which will be completed soon and a full report will be given of the four year project.

The Survey Report was given at Thursday's meeting by Ron Dugas for the period of June 2-29, 1986. During this period 184 surveys were scheduled, 29 surveys were unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor. Lease rental collected was \$545.86, survey fees collected was \$8,735.00, 86 applications were filed and 18 new leases were issued.

Ron Dugas also presented the dates for the oyster season to be considered by the Commission. Joe Palmisano made a motion, seconded by Mr. Vinet and approved unanimously to accept the resolution.

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

WHEREAS, the Commission biologists and the Chief of the Seafood Division have recommended the fishing of the oysters in Calcasieu Lake within those areas open by DHHR, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Resources will examine the growing oysters of the aforementioned areas and approve the waters for fishing if the health standards are met, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission set the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season for 1986-87 in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

- (1) That the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake be fixed to extend from one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, November 10, 1986 through one-half hour after sunset on Saturday, March 29, 1987 with the right being reserved to close said season sooner if biologically justifiable.
- (2) The open areas shall be confined to the areas of Calcasieu Lake with the exception of Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou which shall be closed.
- (3) All oysters shall be put into sacks before leaving the oyster fishing area in Calcasieu Lake. Oysters not in sacks leaving the fishing area in Calcasieu Lake shall be confiscated and violator subject to penalty set forth in Title 56: Section 115.
- (4) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks per boat per day).
- (5) The three inch culling law shall be observed by all fishermen fishing the area and the culls shall be scattered around the perimeter of the reefs to provide for expansion of future harvesting.
- (6) That oyster fishing be limited only to the use of tongs and to daylight hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary be and is hereby authorized and empowered to change the limit or close said season, if biologically sound.

WHEREAS, the natural oyster reefs (oyster seed grounds) under the managerial supervision of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission must open on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 3, 1986 as provided also authorized the Commission to regulate the size limit and/or closures after January 1 of each year on state controlled grounds, and

WHEREAS, "Oyster Seed Reservations" are small portions of the "Oyster Seed Grounds" managed and controlled for seed oyster production which are opened on alternate years, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby open the public seed ground areas in the following manner:

I. East of the Mississippi River

- 1) All the public grounds east of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet should open 1/2 hour before sunrise on October 14th.
- 2) All public grounds west of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and east of Mississippi River should open 1/2 hour before sunrise September 3rd. The exceptions will be the shell plant areas. The Bay Gardene Oyster Reservation will open September 3rd for 7 days for bedding only and then close September 10th and then reopen October 14th for both sacking and bedding.

II. West of the Mississippi River

- 1) The Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation will open September 3rd. However, the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will remain open for 9 days for bedding only and then close on September 12th and then reopen on October 14th for both bedding and seed production.
- 2) The Vermilion Bay Oyster Seed Reservation will open on September 3rd, and could be set aside for bedding purposes only.
- 3) The Calcasieu Lake Public Tonging Reefs will open November 10th and close March 29th.
- 4) The Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation will remain closed for the 86/87 oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary be and is hereby authorized and empowered to close either the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation or both if it becomes necessary, and that he also be authorized to close shell plant area if they materialize and when they are properly marked.

Gerald Adkins presented a declaration of emergency to prohibit nets within one mile of the Cypremort Point State Park. Mr. Vinet made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hines to accept this emergency declaration and approve the rule, which passed unanimously.

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

Recent emergency provisions adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission under the authority of R.S. 56:317 prohibit the use of gill nets, trammel nets, seines and trawls from the Cove immediately adjacent to Cypremort Point State Park, St. Mary and Iberia Parishes, Louisiana. The area to be closed shall be landward of a line from the point commonly known as Blue Point to the point of land commonly known as Cypremort Point, including all waters therein to the existing shoreline.

This prohibition was adopted because of interference of commercial and recreational activities, fish remains and trash being washed ashore from commercial fishing activities causing health hazards to swimmers, fishermen, children and other water users.

Johnnie Tarver presented a resolution to set the alligator season for 1986. A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Hines and passed unanimously.

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has the authority under State and Federal Statute to establish an alligator season, and

WHEREAS, the alligator population in Louisiana has been determined by biologists of the Department to be capable of sustaining an annual harvest of surplus animals, and

WHEREAS, the removal of the surplus animals is considered to be a wise use of this natural resource of the State of Louisiana, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules, regulations and guidelines for administering the 1986 alligator season.

A copy of the regulations are included in with these minutes.

Joe L. Herring presented a resolution to set the Doves and Migratory Species other than waterfowl season for 1986-87. Mr. Vinet made a motion to accept these dates, seconded by Mr. Roberts, and passed unanimously.

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

WHEREAS, Larry Soileau, Research Leader attended the Migratory Bird hearing meeting in Washington, D. C., in June 1986, and

WHEREAS, at this meeting rules and regulations were discussed pertaining to the 1986-87 migratory seasons other than waterfowl, and

WHEREAS, there were no changes in these regulations from last year for Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has discussed proposed seasons with the Game Division staff, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on this the eleventh day of July, 1986, set the seasons for the Migratory Bird Seasons other than Waterfowl as recommended by the staff of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

The list of dates for these seasons are attached to these minutes.

Mr. Herring presented the National Hunting & Fishing Day Proclamation. A motion was made by Dr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Roberts to accept this proclamation which passed unanimously.

A copy of the resolution is attached.

Mr. Angelle presented the background information for a resolution to prohibit the creeping of geese. Dr. Hines made a motion to accept this resolution, seconded by Mr. Vinet and passed unanimously.

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

WHEREAS, the snow, blue and white-fronted goose resource is important to the state of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, last year's mid-winter waterfowl inventory indicates that approximately 450,000 of these geese were present in the state last winter, and

WHEREAS, approximately 116,000 of these geese were taken by sport hunters in Louisiana in 1984, the most recent harvest survey available, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has approximately 125,000 waterfowl hunters who pursue these geese, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has recently become aware that the creeping and shooting of feeding and resting geese has resulted in large over-limit kills and excessive crippling of large numbers of geese which are unretrieved, and

WHEREAS, testimony given at Commission public hearings indicate that Louisiana sportsmen and conservation organizations are opposed to this continuation of this abusive practice, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the following regulation:

It shall be unlawful to creep, stalk or crawl toward feeding or resting geese for the purpose of taking such geese or thereafter causing such geese to be taken.

Dr. Hines put into the form of a motion to accept a resolution confirming the Commission's position on steel shot, seconded by Mr. Roberts and passed unanimously. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

At Thursday's meeting Mr. Angelle gave a report of the bills that passed during the last legislative session. He talked about the most important ones which included the revenue enhancement bills.

The November meeting was set for Thursday and Friday, November 6-7, 1986 at the Rockefeller Refuge.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Cappel.

ALLIGATOR REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA ON FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1986.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries recommends

that an alligator season be hereby established in accordance with the following regulations: No exceptions of these procedures will be permitted, and anyone taking alligators contrary to these regulations will be charged in accordance with Title 56 of the Louisiana Laws Pertaining to Wildlife and Fisheries, appropriate federal laws, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission regulations, and/or Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources Regulations.

1. Open area - Alligator habitat in the state of Louisiana. Harvest quotas will be rigidly controlled according to alligator population estimates within all of the state's wetland habitat types.
2. Harvest season - The open season shall run for a 31 day period beginning on September 6, 1986 and continue through October 6, 1986. No person shall take, possess or sell alligators or their skins under 4 feet in length except as provided for by rules and regulations of the Commission. A special Department permit shall be issued to alligator hide dealers/farmers in order to ship alligator skins below 4 feet in length.
3. Harvest methods - Alligators may be taken only during daylight hours, between official sunrise and official sunset. If a licensed hunter is cited for hunting alligators out of season,

at night, or on property other than that for which tags were assigned, all tags and skins for the current season will be confiscated in addition to revocation of the alligator hunting license. Special instructions will be issued to the holders of alligator hunter licenses shortly before the opening of the season describing detailed methods regarding the skinning of alligators. Skins processed contrary to the specific requirements of the Department will be considered illegal and will be confiscated by Department personnel. Pole hunting is prohibited to protect the nesting female population. Hooks and lines may be set no more than one day prior to the season opening. No hook and line shall remain set after the closing day of the alligator season. All alligator hooks and lines must be checked daily and all hooks and lines must be removed when a hunter's tag quota is reached. Alligators cannot be cut loose from hooks and lines for purposes of selecting larger alligators.

4. Licenses - An alligator hunter must have in possession a valid commercial alligator hunter license to take or sell alligators or their skins or other alligator parts. The fee for the resident license is \$25.00 per year and for the non-resident \$150.00. These licenses are non-transferable. In order to obtain a resident license, the hunter must have established bona fide residence in the state. A hunter must complete application forms provided by the Department and furnish proof that he owns the land or has an agreement with the landowner or another authorized hunter to hunt alligators on the specified

property. Information as to the location and acreage of the property must be provided (all land descriptions must include parish, township, range, and section delineation figures). Applications must be submitted beginning August 1, 1986. Property ownership and description requirements do not apply to public lake hunters. The alligator hunter license will be issued only after the hunter has satisfactorily complied with the above requirements. Commercial alligator hunter licenses will not be issued after September 15, 1986. Non-resident hunters and resident sport hunters must coordinate their hunt through landowners and licensed resident hunters. A non-resident hunter may take no more than 3 alligators per season. A fur buyer license or fur dealer license is required for purchasing and handling raw alligator skins in Louisiana. An alligator parts dealer license is required of any person who deals in alligator parts other than hides and who: (a) Buys from an alligator hunter or farmer for the purpose of resale; or (b) Manufactures within the state alligator parts into a finished product; or (c) Purchases, cans, processes, or distributes alligator meat for wholesale or retail. A retailer selling canned alligator parts or a retailer purchasing alligator parts from an alligator parts dealer or restaurant selling prepared alligator meat for human consumption shall not be classified as an alligator parts dealer. The fee for the parts dealer license is \$50.00 per year. Persons or firms entering alligators or alligator skins and/or parts in interstate/foreign commerce in the course of a commercial activity must be licensed

in accordance with state and federal regulations. Persons shipping alligators, or alligator skins and/or parts to another state must do so in accordance with the regulations of that state. Each retailer selling canned alligator parts or purchasing alligator parts and each restaurant selling prepared alligator meat for human consumption shall secure a license from the Department before commencing business. The license shall be secured annually and shall be furnished upon the payment of five dollars.

5. Tagging - In addition to a valid commercial alligator hunting license, the hunter must also obtain from the Department, and have in his possession while hunting, official tags which must be firmly attached to each alligator immediately upon taking. Numbered tags will only be issued in the name of license holders for a sum of \$5.00 (one fee charged regardless of the number of tags involved). Alligator tags will not be issued after September 15, 1986. The tags must be attached and locked in the last 6 inches of the tail. The tag must remain attached to the skin until finally processed by the fabricator. It shall be illegal to possess alligators/or alligator skins in Louisiana without valid official tags attached. Failure to properly tag an alligator or skin will result in confiscation of both the alligator or skin and tag. Official alligator tags will be issued only to alligator hunters, and farmers and only to those who have authorized applications. The number of tags will be issued on the basis of the quantity and quality of the habitat, and the rate per acre will be fixed based on extensive population estimates.

Tags will be issued for alligator habitat only, based on final decision of Department biologists. Tags issued on public lakes are non-transferable and limited to 5 per hunter. No more than this fixed number of tags will be issued. Each official tag will bear a characteristic number, and the tag number issued to each hunter will be recorded. Hunters will be held accountable for all alligator tags issued to them. Unused tags must be returned by the hunter to the Department no later than 15 days following the close of the season. Department personnel must be notified, within 15 days following the season, of any alligator hides not sold to a commercial buyer or dealer on official Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries forms provided. Lost or stolen tags will not be replaced but must be reported within 15 days of close of season. Tags can be used only on the lands applied for and approved on the application. Tags furnished by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries must be attached to all alligator meat/parts upon transfer by a hunter or farmer.

6. Alligator Farmers and Breeders - Licensed alligator farmers or breeders must have Department authorization to kill and skin their alligators but must follow the same rules and regulations which apply to wild alligators (except farm alligators can be harvested during closed season with Department approval). Alligator farmers or breeders must have Department authorization to sell or transfer live alligators or alligator eggs.
7. Sale of Alligator Skins - All alligator skins taken during the alligator season must be validated by personnel of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries prior to the hides leaving

the state. Special skinning instructions will be verified, and any skins not prepared according to instructions issued in advance of season will be considered illegal. Buyers/dealers must abide by special skinning instructions or be subject to forfeiture of improperly skinned hides.

8. Buyer/Dealer Hide Records - All buyers and dealers making purchases of alligator hides shall maintain a complete set of records of all purchases and sales. Such records will include names and addresses of buyers and/or sellers, alligator hide tag number and length, and date purchased. Dealers will submit reports as required by the Department for all hides purchased/sold. Every buyer or dealer having raw alligator hides in his possession shall file with the Department within sixty days after the close of the alligator season, or prior to shipping out-of-state, a complete report as specified on forms provided by the Department.
9. Shipment - All interstate shipments of raw alligator skins must be tagged with official out-of-state shipping tags provided by the Department. All shipments of skins within the state must be tagged with official Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in-state shipping tags. A severance tax of 25 cents per hide must be paid on all out-of-state shipments at the time skins are transported or shipped.
10. Sale of Meat and Parts - Meat and other parts from lawfully taken alligators can only be sold according to Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources regulations, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations, and federal laws. Alligator meat sold for human food must be processed in a licensed facility, approved by the Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources.

If a person or firm is cited for buying or selling alligator meat that was not processed through a licensed alligator processing plant, all alligator meat in possession will be confiscated. Alligator hunters, farmers, and parts dealers shall maintain records of all transactions, purchases, and sales on forms provided by the Department. These forms shall be submitted to the Department within 30 days following the close of the season and thereafter at 60-day intervals until all parts are sold. All alligator meat and parts, excluding hides, shall be tagged with an official alligator parts tag (Color: Blue) to be furnished by the Department. Hunters, farmers, and alligator parts dealers shall furnish a bill of sale to all retailers and restaurants purchasing alligator parts. This bill of sale shall be maintained for a period of six months.

11. Nuisance Removal Program - A statewide alligator nuisance removal program will be administered on an annual basis. This program will allow the taking of problem alligators within the confines of municipal, eard, parish, or state responsibility where there are alligator-people conflicts. Alligators taken under this program must be taken in accordance with state regulations and local regulations/ordinances. Skinning instructions issued by the Department will be valid for one year, until the next year's skinning instructions are issued. This nuisance removal program depends upon close cooperation of state, parish, and local authorities. Tags may be issued by the Department to an approved licensed hunter who has been designated by Department supervisory personnel or officials of a local governing body. The number of

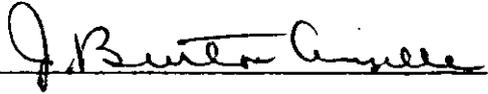
tags issued will be based on the number of complaints received and the quantity and quality of alligator habitat involved. The Commission is hopeful this program will lessen the threat to people and property by reducing human/alligator contact.

12. Hunting on Public Lakes - The Department may select public lakes for an experimental alligator hunting program. The harvest will be controlled by a tag allotment for each lake as determined by population surveys by Department personnel. An alligator hunter can receive tags for and hunt on only one public lake each season. The tag quota for a public lake is 5 per hunter. Alligator tags issued on public lakes are non-transferable. Applicants for public lake hunting must be 16 years of age or older. Applications for public lake hunting must be received at least 10 days prior to the season opening date. In the event that the number of applicants for any particular public lake exceeds the number of allowable hunters; a public drawing will be held to select hunters. Only the applicants whose names are drawn will be eligible to hunt public lakes.

13. Harvest Rates - HARVEST RATES ARE PRESENTLY BEING CALCULATED AND WILL BE DETERMINED BY BIOLOGISTS OF THE FUR AND REFUGE DIVISION. AERIAL NEST COUNTS AND NIGHT COUNT SURVEYS WILL BE COMPLETED ON 10 JULY, 1986. THIS DATA WILL BE ANALYZED, HARVEST RATES FIGURED, AND ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENTS WILL BE PRESENTED TO DEPARTMENT/ COMMISSION ADMINISTRATORS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION.

14. The Department Secretary shall be authorized to close or extend the alligator season as biologically justifiable; harvest rates will be approved when available by the Department Secretary.

This is to certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of the excerpt of the meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on July 11, 1986.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Burton Angelle", is written over a horizontal line.

J. Burton Angelle, Sr., Secretary

From Studies in Lac. Nelson Lake

Age in Months	Length (in)	Weight (lbs)	
14	27.0	15.0	60% inf. to d with coar.
16	27.0	9.0	30% grass comp/acre
22	33.0	17.1	
27	28.0	10.2	
46	30.0	13.2	
	34.0	14.5	

Plants were gone (wontail) in 2 years.

Collected in Lac Bon Harcon

Stocked December 10, 1935

rate 10/ACRE or 1100

+ 10" long + 1/2 lb

Collected in Lac Bon Harcon on 7/8/86

15 1/2" - 2 3/4 lbs

18 1/2" - 3 1/2 lbs

Impact on Lake so far

1. We have not sampled during summer before so we have no quantitative comparisons
2. Appears to be two areas approximately 1/8 acre in size which are void of submerged vegetation.
3. Lake is approximately 90% covered with coontail and 96% covered with water lilies.

State of Louisiana

J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY

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

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

COASTAL & MARINE RESOURCES

SURVEY SECTION 03 - 43 ACTIVITY REPORT

JUNE 2, 1986 THRU JUNE 29, 1986

During this period field activity consisted of:

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

Surveys that were completed consisted of:

- 37 - Leases that were tied into the monument control system.
- 31 - Applications for new area.
- 71 - Restake applications.
- 11 - 15 year limitations.

Total field activity:

<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	
575	792	829	- Surveys scheduled
306	439	626	- Surveys performed
238	325	191	- Surveys unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor
0	1	2	- Survey where fishermen refused to survey
0	0	0	- Disputes settled
28	27	8	- No shows
0	0	2	- Applications cancelled by request

Office activity during this period:

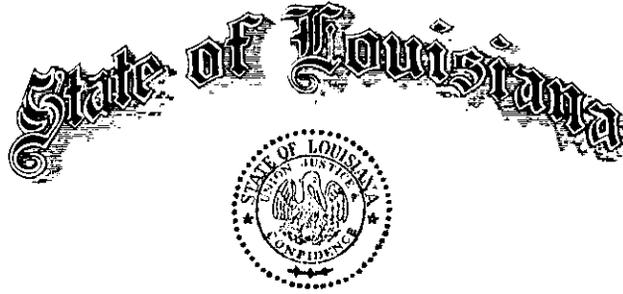
\$ 545.86	- Lease rental collected
\$8,735.00	- Survey fees collected
86	- Applications filed
18	- New leases issued



RESULTS OF THE 1985 ALLIGATOR HARVEST PROGRAM

Zone and District	No. Tags Issued	No. Tags Returned	Gators Harvested	No. Tags Lost	Acres Hunted	Sport Hunters Non Resident	Sport Hunters Resident	Commercial Hunters	Hunter Success	Average Size	Tags/Hunter	Acres/Tag
I - Minden	150	50	100	0	4,700	0	1	61	66.7%	6'8"	2.5	31.3
II - Monroe	31	5	26	0	3,607	0	1	11	83.9%	8'2"	2.8	116.4
III - Alexandria	168	71	97	0	12,596	0	0	29	57.7%	6'9"	5.8	75.0
IV - Ferriday	133	43	90	1	10,120	0	2	21	67.7%	8'3"	6.3	76.1
V - Lake Charles	356	17	339	0	101,487	8	8	24	95.2%	7'0"	14.8	285.1
VI - Opelousas	182	7	175	0	49,279	0	0	19	96.2%	7'3.5"	9.6	270.8
Avoyelles	195	30	165	0	16,718	0	0	27	84.6%	8'1"	7.2	85.7
VII - Baton Rouge	1265	212	1052	1	126,500	2	0	85	83.2%	6'0"	14.9	100.0
VIII - New Orleans												
Marsh	891	1	874	16	219,251	10	8	44	98.1%	-	20.3	246.1
Swamp	1555	5	1549	1	513,064	0	0	107	99.7%	6'6"	14.5	329.9
New Iberia	6602	97	6503	2	1,430,000	1	3	350	98.5%	6'8"	18.9	216.6
Rockefeller	5938	228*	5721	3	1,007,300	7	0	298	96.3%	6'8"	19.9	169.6
TOTAL	17,466	766	16,691	24	3,494,622	28	23	1,076	95.6%		16.2	200.1

* 109 tags confiscated



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY

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

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

July 3, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. J. Burton Angelle, Sr., Secretary
All Commission Members

FROM: Joe L. Herring, Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: National Hunting and Fishing Day - September 27, 1986

FOR COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

Because of the outstanding contributions that America's hunters and fishermen have made to conservation, recreation and the economy, they are deserving of special recognition.

Since the turn of the century, hunters and anglers have been the leaders in nearly all major conservation programs. These sportsmen-conservationists are responsible for the funding of state fish and game departments in all 50 states. They ask that they themselves, be required to buy licenses and that the money collected be used to support state conservation agencies. In the last 50 years alone, these sportsmen have provided \$2.5 billion for conservation programs.

Hunters and fishermen asked for the establishment of regulated seasons and bag limits so that sportsmen could harvest the annual crop of game and fish without damage to the basic breeding populations. The result has been that there are now more deer, elk, antelope and wild turkey in the United States than there were 50 years ago. Further, sportsmen's programs have benefited numerous species of non-game fish and wildlife through habitat development.

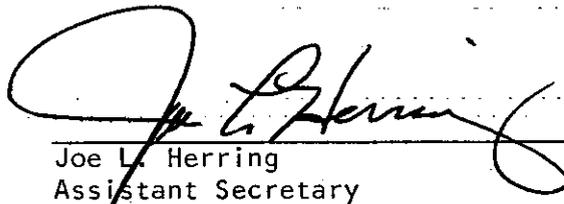
Hunters and fishermen, unique in all America, asked that their fishing and hunting equipment be taxed and that the money be used for land acquisition, research and habitat management for fish and wildlife for the enjoyment of all Americans.

Mr. J. Burton Angelle, Sr.
All Commission Members
Page 2
July 3, 1986

Through their publications and organizations--such as the National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Izaak Walton League of America, and many others, hunters and fishermen have led the nation in the battle for a better environment and the wise use of our natural resources.

By proclaiming National Hunting and Fishing Day September 27, 1986, the Commission will be helping to pass on the American tradition of hunting and fishing and ensure a healthy future for the sport that so many of our citizens enjoy.

Therefore, I would like to recommend that the Commission encourage and proclaim September 27, 1986, as National Hunting and Fishing Day in our State.



Joe L. Herring
Assistant Secretary

JLH: sb

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, because of the outstanding contributions that America's hunters and fishermen have made to conservation, recreation and the economy, they are deserving of special recognition, and

WHEREAS, since the turn of the century, hunters and anglers have been the leaders in nearly all major conservation programs. These sportsmen-conservationists are responsible for the funding of state fish and game departments in all fifty states. They asked that they, themselves, be required to buy licenses and that the money collected be used to support state conservation agencies. In the last fifty years alone, these sportsmen have provided \$2.5 billion for conservation programs, and

WHEREAS, hunters and fishermen asked for the establishment of regulated seasons and bag limits so that sportsmen could harvest the annual crop of game and fish without damage to the basic breeding population. The result has been that there are now more deer, elk, antelope and wild turkey in the United States than there were fifty years ago. Further, sportsmen's programs have benefited numerous species of non-game fish and wildlife through habitat development, and

WHEREAS, hunters and fishermen, unique in all America, asked that their fishing and hunting equipment be taxed and that the money be used for land acquisition, research and habitat management for fish and wildlife for the enjoyment of all Americans, and

WHEREAS, through their publications and organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Izaak Walton League of America and many others, hunters and fishermen have led the nation in the battle for a better environment and the wise use of our natural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby proclaim September 27, 1986, as National Hunting and Fishing Day in Louisiana. The Commission urges all of our citizens to join with the sportsmen-conservationists in a rededication to the wise use of our natural resources and their proper management for the benefit of future generations. Further, the Commission urges all citizens to take part in National Hunting and Fishing Day activities on September 27, 1986, to learn more about conservation and outdoor skills.

State of Louisiana



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY

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

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

July 3, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. J. Burton Angelle, Sr., Secretary
All Commission Members

FROM: Joe L. Herring, Assistant Secretary

SUBJECT: National Hunting and Fishing Day - September 27, 1986

FOR COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

Because of the outstanding contributions that America's hunters and fishermen have made to conservation, recreation and the economy, they are deserving of special recognition.

Since the turn of the century, hunters and anglers have been the leaders in nearly all major conservation programs. These sportsmen-conservationists are responsible for the funding of state fish and game departments in all 50 states. They ask that they themselves, be required to buy licenses and that the money collected be used to support state conservation agencies. In the last 50 years alone, these sportsmen have provided \$2.5 billion for conservation programs.

Hunters and fishermen asked for the establishment of regulated seasons and bag limits so that sportsmen could harvest the annual crop of game and fish without damage to the basic breeding populations. The result has been that there are now more deer, elk, antelope and wild turkey in the United States than there were 50 years ago. Further, sportsmen's programs have benefited numerous species of non-game fish and wildlife through habitat development.

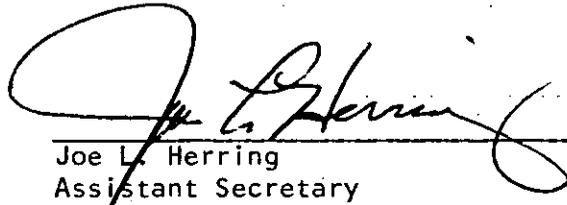
Hunters and fishermen, unique in all America, asked that their fishing and hunting equipment be taxed and that the money be used for land acquisition, research and habitat management for fish and wildlife for the enjoyment of all Americans.

Mr. J. Burton Angelle, Sr.
All Commission Members
Page 2
July 3, 1986

Through their publications and organizations--such as the National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Izaak Walton League of America, and many others, hunters and fishermen have led the nation in the battle for a better environment and the wise use of our natural resources.

By proclaiming National Hunting and Fishing Day September 27, 1986, the Commission will be helping to pass on the American tradition of hunting and fishing and ensure a healthy future for the sport that so many of our citizens enjoy.

Therefore, I would like to recommend that the Commission encourage and proclaim September 27, 1986, as National Hunting and Fishing Day in our State.



Joe L. Herring
Assistant Secretary

JLH: sb

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the snow, blue and white-fronted goose resource is important to the state of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, last year's mid-winter waterfowl inventory indicates that approximately 450,000 of these geese were present in the state last winter, and

WHEREAS, approximately 116,000 of these geese were taken by sport hunters in Louisiana in 1984, the most recent harvest survey available, and

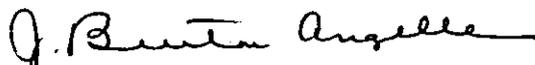
WHEREAS, Louisiana has approximately 125,000 waterfowl hunters who pursue these geese, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has recently become aware that the creeping and shooting of feeding and resting geese has resulted in large over-limit kills and excessive crippling of large numbers of geese which are unretrieved, and

WHEREAS, testimony given at Commission public hearings indicate that Louisiana sportsmen and conservation organizations are opposed to this continuation of this abusive practice, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopts the following regulation:

It shall be unlawful to creep, stalk or crawl toward feeding or resting geese for the purpose of taking such geese or thereafter causing such geese to be taken.



J. Burton Angelle

State of Louisiana



J BURTON ANGELLE, SR
SECRETARY

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

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Harry Schafer, Chief
Seafood Division

FROM: Ronald J. Dugas

DATE: June 24, 1986

Enclosed is the background information relative to setting the oyster season on Public Grounds. This will be discussed at the July 10 and 11th Board Meeting.

RJD/rcj

Copy to:
W. Perret

MANAGERIAL ACTION CONCERNING THE PUBLIC OYSTER SEED GROUNDS FOR
THE 1986-87 SEASON

BY

Ronald J. Dugas

Seafood Division

EXPLANATIONS

The Commission and the Department have managerial control over some 1,000,000 acres of Public Oyster Grounds (Figure 1). These should not be confused with the areas made available for private leasing which are actually managed by the lessee. These Public Grounds open by law on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, which this year is September 3, 1986. (Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433-Appendix II). Although a large portion of the regulations are predetermined by law there are provisions and precedents for managerial control over the "Oyster Seed Reservations" which are small units, within the Public Grounds. There also are provisions for closing certain areas, particularly shell plant areas, and there is the public tonging area of Calcasieu Lake.

The 1985 season saw a drastic decline statewide in production from the 3 previous years of over 10 million pounds/year. This is reflected in the 1985-1986 summary for the "Public Seed Grounds". The poor seed production on the grounds will make the 1986 landings even lower than 1985's 8.9 million, perhaps in the 7 million pound range.

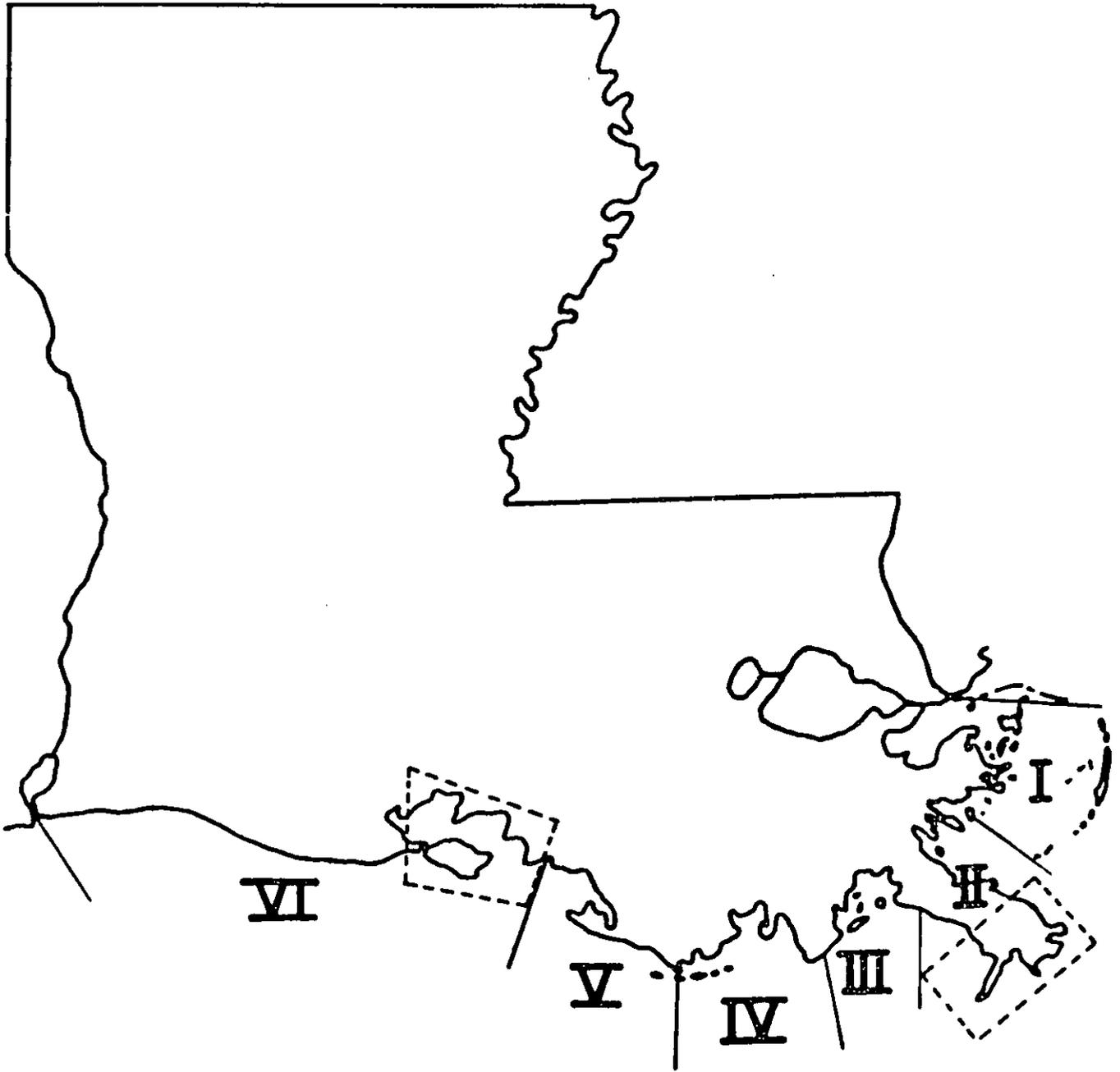


Figure 1. Map of Louisiana showing the six estuarine study areas. Areas in broken lines were not sampled.

Table 1

Oyster Harvest in Louisiana (In thousands of Pounds)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>
1968	13,121	1977	10,065
1969	9,178	1978	9,662
1970	8,639	1979	7,714
1971	10,528	1980	6,947
1972	8,805	1981	9,947
1973	8,953	1982	12,621
1974	9,972	1983	13,488
1975	13,687	1984	13,229
1976	12,334	1985	8,980*

*(Very preliminary figures)

Historical Catch Statistics -- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, and National Oceanic & Atmospheric National Marine Fisheries Service.

The following are projected production figures for these public grounds for four (4) seasons:

1985-86 Season

<u>Area I</u>	Verification of 49,494 sacks being checked through the Grand Pass facility and it is projected another 25,000 sacks were landed in Louisiana Ports. In addition, it is projected that approximately 11,500 barrels of seed were harvested
<u>Area II</u>	Approximately 353,789 sacks produced in the area 210,233 of them (59%) coming in September 1985 and 93,840 barrels of seed produced one of the lowest years on record 87,000 (94%) of those barrels harvested in September 1985.
<u>Hackberry Bay</u>	Approximately 300 sacks were harvested in February, 1986.
<u>Sister Lake</u>	Closed for the 85-86 season

Bay Junop

Approximately 17,214 sacks and 1,525 barrels were taken during the season.

Calcasieu Lake

The November through March total projected sack production was 27,400 sacks out of projected potential of 537,760 sacks prior to the season. The reduced catch is a result of massive closures by Health Department, virtually 75% of the lake is closed to oyster harvesting. The one month of March when Health officials reconsider their closure produced 8,000 sacks roughly 29% of the overall total sacks fished.

1984-85 Season

Area I

Verification of 115,290 sacks were cleared through Grand Pass with an estimated 50,000 sacks being landed in Louisiana ports and approximately 50,000 bbls. of seed for a total of 133,000 bbls. of oysters harvested.

Area II

Approximately 152,115 sacks of oysters were harvested and 130,435 barrels of seed fished.

Hackberry Bay

Approximately 500 sacks of oysters harvested.

Sister Lake

Approximately 53,911 barrels of seed were harvested during the first portion; and 0 barrels of seed and; 30,584 sacks during the second portion.

Calcasieu Lake

Approximately 100,000 sacks were harvested.

1983-84 Season

Area I

Approximately 304,970 sacks of oysters were cleared through Grand Pass, and an estimated 600,000 barrels of seed fished.

Area II

Approximately 414,338 sacks of oysters were harvested, and 123,726 barrels of seed fished. Bay Gardene's total was 76,745 sacks and 41,260 barrels of seed.

Hackberry Bay

500 sacks of oysters harvested.

Bay Junop

26,026 sacks of oysters and 835 barrels of seed.

Calcasieu Lake

150,000 sacks of oysters harvested.

1982-83 Season

<u>Area I</u>	Approximately a total of 300,000 sacks were harvested from the area with 146,153 sacks of that total checked out at the Grand Pass by Mississippi fishermen.
<u>Area II</u>	Approximately 636,488 sacks and 117,234 barrels of seed oysters were projected to have been taken out of the area.
<u>Mackberry Bay</u>	Approximately 10,000 barrels of oysters were projected.
<u>Sister Lake</u>	A record 90,056.6 barrels of oysters were harvested from the reservation. This is even more impressive, when one realizes it was closed nearly 60% of the time, because of public health reasons.
<u>Vermilion Bay</u>	No reported landings.
<u>Calcasieu Lake</u>	A projected 100,000 + sacks were harvested.

As can be seen, commercial production on the public grounds were a little lower than average, however, it was pointed out at this time last year, that there would be few large oysters with limited seed oysters projected for this year.

Table 2 will give you some idea of the projected available supply on the prime Public Grounds (Figure 1, Area II only) east of the Mississippi River, Plaquemines Parish. You will observe, it has been steadily declining since 1980.

Table 2

The Annual Projection of the Oyster Population Present in Area II
(Figure 1) obtained by Projecting Out M2 Samples.

ANNUAL ESTIMATE OF OYSTER ABUNDANCE ON THE SEED (AREA II) GROUNDS
EAST OF THE RIVER

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
July 1974	2,800,000 Barrels
July 1975	1,100,000 Barrels
July 1976	685,000 Barrels
July 1977	541,388 Barrels
August 1978	322,418 Barrels
July 1979	150,275 Barrels
June 1980	2,400,000 Barrels
July 1981	1,260,779 Barrels
July 1982	680,000 Barrels
July 1983	390,000 Barrels
July 1984	387,000 Barrels
June 1985	363,201 Barrels
**June 1986	115,460 Barrels

*The ideal would be somewhere around a 1,000,000 barrels available on the 200,000 acres to satisfy the desires for seed and commercial interest.

**Lowest assesment yet recorded

The reduced supply on the "Public Seed Grounds" (Table 2), the lowest yet recorded, will mean a very poor year for commercial and/or seed oyster production on these public grounds. This is not surprising due to the fact that key environmental factors that we have been monitoring for years were in fact, very unfavorable during 1985. The Marine Laboratory staff projected the minimum amount of acreage and therefore poor production as early as December of 1985. (report enclosed). This 1986 projection is surprisingly close to the actual abundances found in the square meter samples taken in June 1986 (Figure 2).

Enclosure Of Marine Lab.'s Predictive Report December 1985

1986 SEED PRODUCTION FORECAST ON THE PUBLIC OYSTER SEED GROUNDS AND RESERVATIONS

The abundance of seed oysters on a particular reef area in a given year is primarily dependent upon the salinity conditions which existed in that area during the preceeding year. The derivation of the "optimum annual salinity regime" for the production of seed (Chatry, Dugas and Easley 1983) identified a quantitative relationship between salinity and seed production.

Accuracy of 1983-85 forecasts

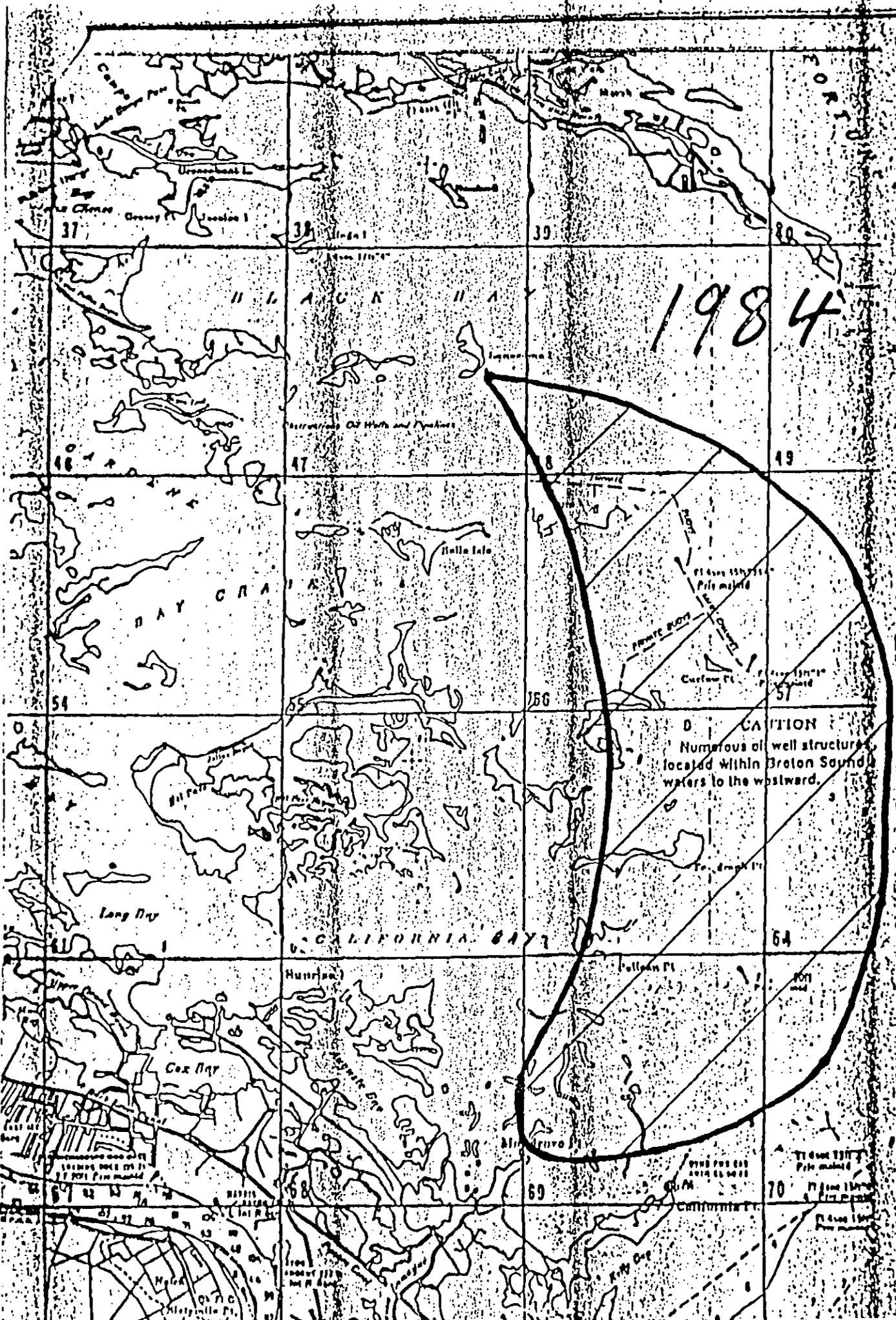
Using this procedure, predictions of seed abundance and distribution were made for Coastal Study Area II prior to the 1983, 1984 and 1985 seasons. The 1983 forecast accurately called for the Bay Gardene Area to have the greatest concentration of seed and for the grounds as a whole to have some 500,000 barrels available. The 1984 forecast for Area II identified the seaward portions of the seed grounds as showing the greatest potential of seed production. This was in fact the case in 1984 with the zone of productivity extending from and including the Pelican Island area to Stone Island. The 1985 seed forecast identified the band of greatest seed production from Lonesome Island through Belle Isle to Pelican Island. While this band did contain most of the available seed in CSA II, amounts were considerably below projection. It is likely that the shortfall was in part attributable to intense fishing activity in this area during the late winter and early spring of 1985. This activity significantly reduced the availability of seed when the 1985-86 season opened in September 1985.

The 1985 seed production forecast also included estimates of seed availability in Coastal Study Areas I, III and V. As predicted, in CSA I seed production on the Cabbage Reef Area was poor and production on the Turkey Bayou Shell Plant was good. In CSA III, exposed reefs in Hackberry Bay had fair seed oyster densities (ca. 10 seed/m²) but the total volume of seed was small due limited reef acreage.

In CSA V, it was predicted that the southern portions of Sister Lake and Bay Junop had the greatest potential for seed production in 1985. The South Shell Plant in Sister Lake has high seed densities (ca. 64 seed/m²) as did the southern portion of Bay Junop (ca. 25 seed/m²).

1986 Forecast

Throughout the public grounds in CSA II during 1985, salinities have been higher than optimal for seed production. Since salinities typically decrease from the outside areas of the seed grounds to the more inside areas, exposed reefs in the western portion of California Bay appear to be the most promising areas. Spat fall has been sufficient for good seed production in all of these areas. It is suggested that freshwater diversion structures at Bay Lamoque, Bohemia and Bellair be operated at full capacity in the coming months to increase the chances of spat survival.

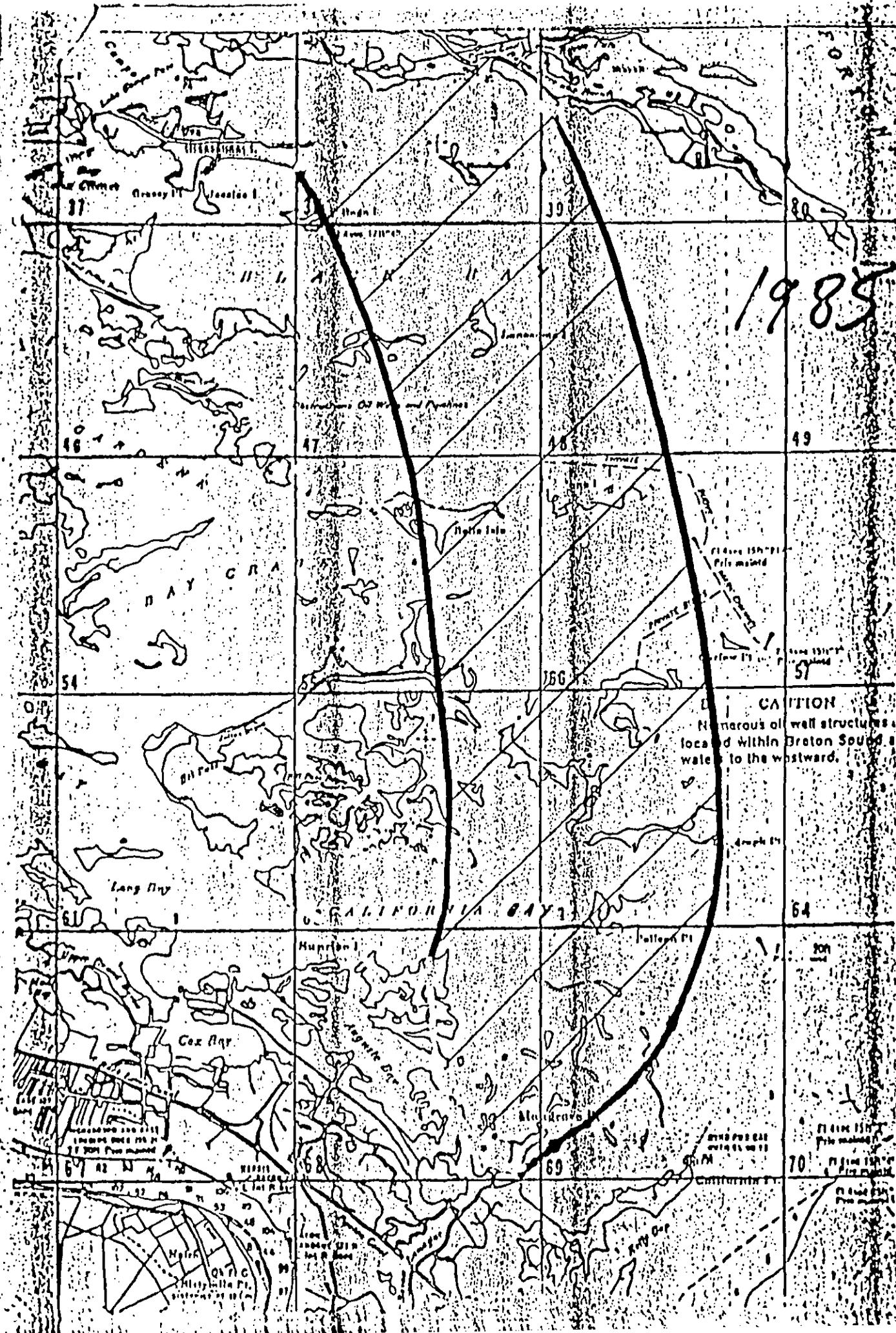


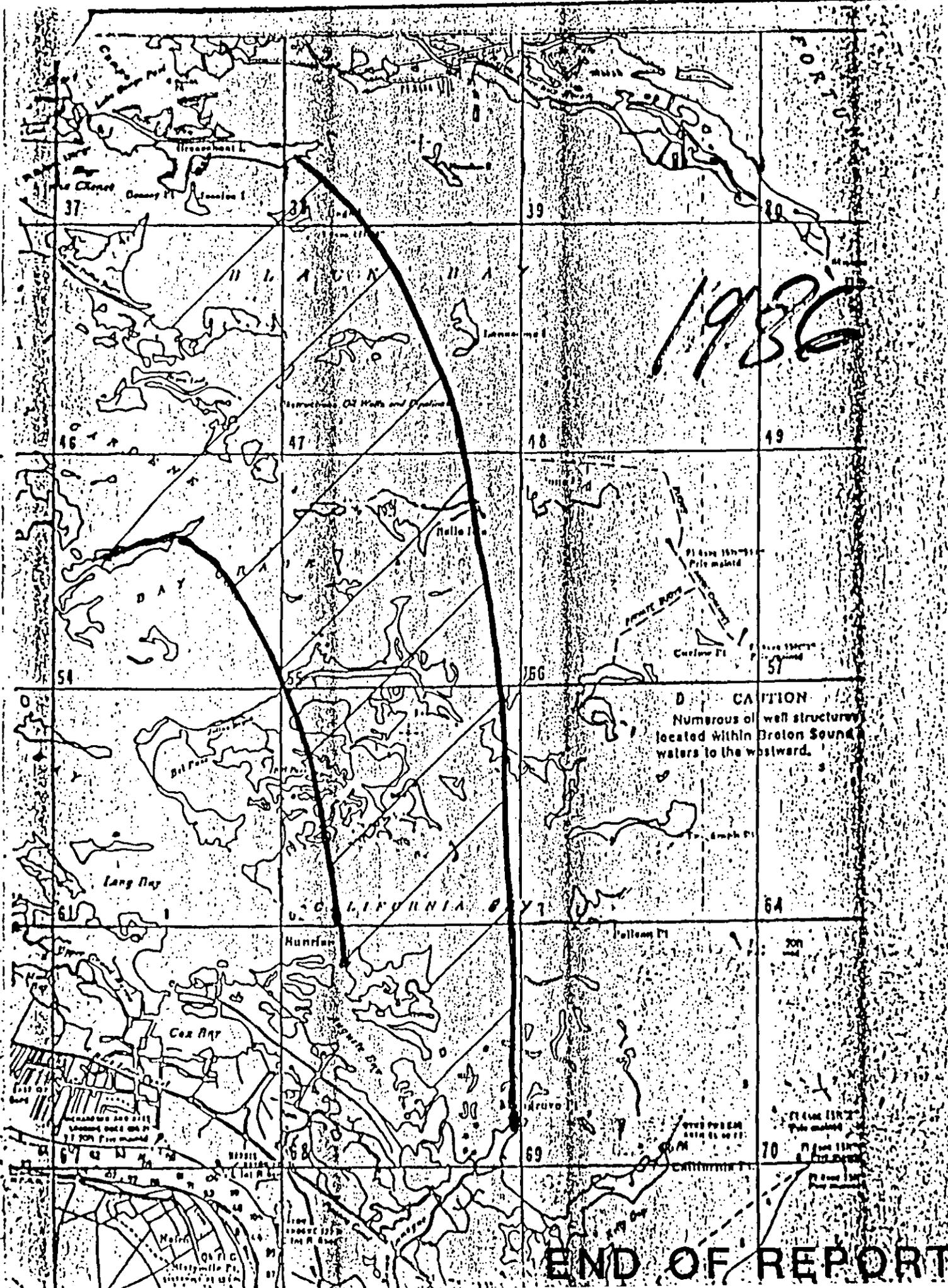
1984

CAUTION
 Numerous oil well structures
 located within Breton Sound
 waters to the westward.

1985

CAUTION
Numerous oil well structures
located within Breton Sound &
waters to the westward.





1980

DANGER CAUTION
 Numerous oil well structures
 located within Breton Sound
 waters to the westward.

END OF REPORT

1986
Prediction
line

1-3 - 2.0

3 - 2.0



1-3 - 16

3 - 19.3

1-3 - 3.3

3 - 4.7

1-3 - 1.3

3 - 2.3

1-3 - 0.3

3 - 1.7

1-3 - 0

3 - 0

1-3 - 0

3 - 0

1-3 - 0

3 - 0.3

1-3 - 0.7

3 - 0.3

1-3 - 0.0

3 - 0.0

1-3 - 1.0

3 - 0.3

1-3 - 0

3 - 1.3

1-3 - 0.3

3 - 0.3

1-3 - 1.7

3 - 0.7

1-3 - 0

3 - 0

1-3 - 0

3 - 1.3

1-3 - 0

3 - 0

1-3 - 1

3 - 0

1-3 - 1.7

3 - 6.7

1-3 - 0

3 - 0

PROJECTIONS FOR
86/87 OYSTER SEAS

115,460 BB

(LOWEST YET
RECORDED)

Actual

BATTLEBORO

1-3 - 0

3 - 0

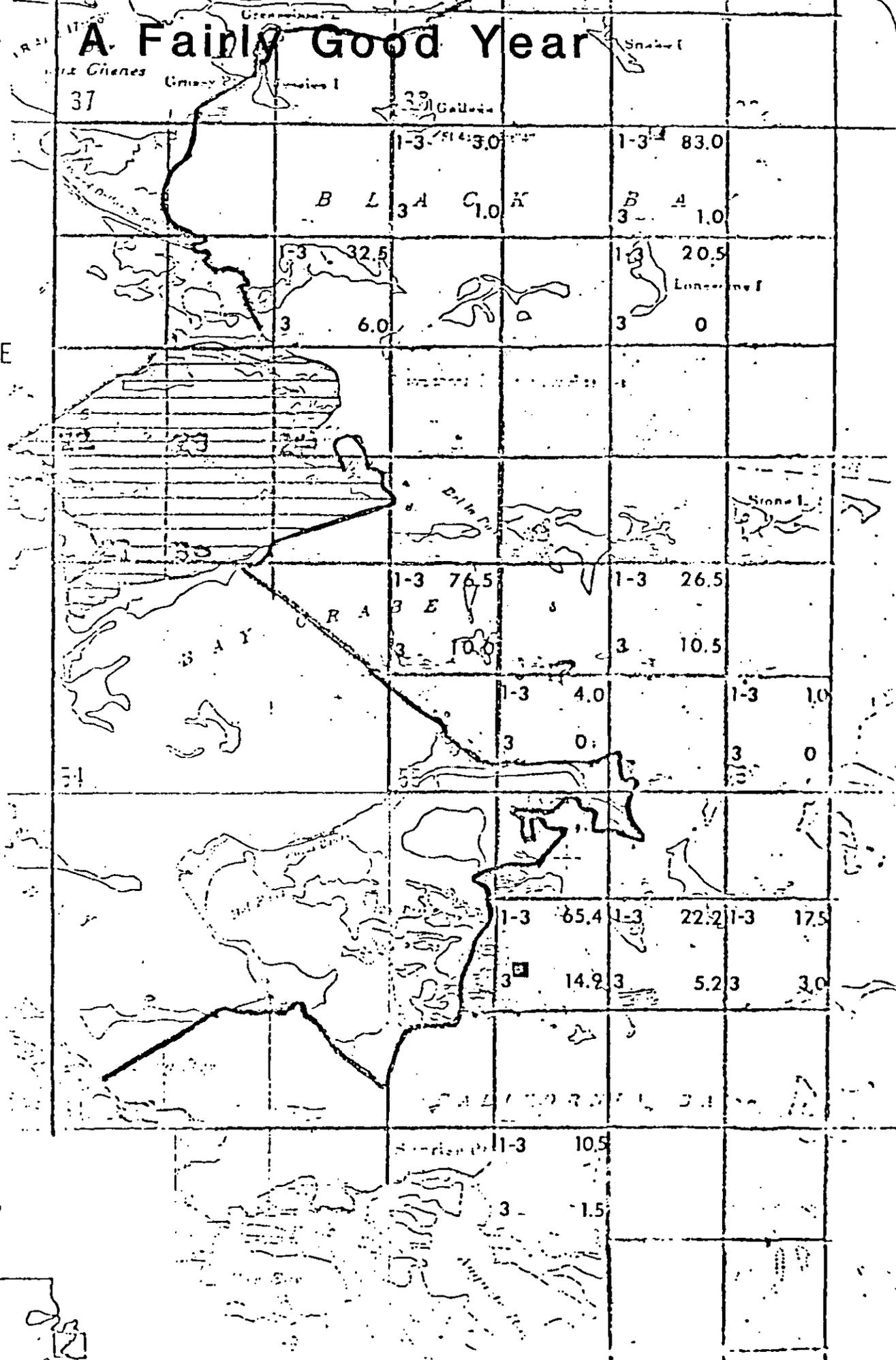
What The M² Numbers Should Be During

A Fairly Good Year

M²

JULY 1974

OYSTERS ABOVE
AND BELOW 3"



The primary reason for this reduced production is the lack of freshwater input into the seed grounds. We are experiencing very high saline conditions. When one compares production figures in Table 1 and considers that 73, 75, 79 and 83 were flood years it is easy to document the relationship between freshwater and production.

It is projected that two of the "Oyster Seed Reservations" will supply the brunt of seed production, but these are two very small bays. In addition, it appears Vermillion Bay Seed Ground area will be a prime area, however, this area will be heavily impacted by health closures. This health impact will also hold true again for Calcasieu Lake which is projected to have more this season than it had last season.

Utilizing the meter square abundance projection for the entire grounds, (Figure 2) the following are areas that should be addressed. Remember the major portion of the grounds will open one-half hour before sunrise, September 4, 1985 with these possibilities:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1986-87

1. East of the Mississippi River

- 1) All the public grounds east of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet should open 1/2 hour before sunrise October 14th.
- 2) All public grounds west of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet should open 1/2 hour before sunrise September 3rd. The exceptions will be the shell plant areas. The Bay Gardene Oyster Reservation will open September 3rd for 7 days for bedding only and then close September 10th and then reopen October 14th for both sacking and bedding.

II. West of the Mississippi River

- 1) The Sister Lake Oyster Reservation and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation will open September 3rd. However, the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will remain open for 9 days for bedding only and then close on September 12th and then reopen on October 14th for both bedding and seed production.
- 2) The Vermilion Bay Oyster Seed Grounds will open on September 3rd for bedding purposes only.
- 3) The Calcasieu Lake Public Tonging Reefs should open November 10th and close March 29th.
- 4) The Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation will remain closed for the 86/87 oyster season.

III. Also any shell plant areas done prior to the end of the 1986-87 season and which are properly marked should be closed for this 1986-87 season.

IV. The Secretary should have the authority to close either the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation and/or the Sister Lake Seed Reservation if it becomes necessary because of mortalities.

The rationale for short periods of bedding only and delaying the sacking in areas has been used before and since it was controversial to the point of resulting in a law suit, a report prepared by Phil Bowman (Enclosed) of the results of the 84/85 season is included to point the fact that it was a very successful management practice.

Enclosure Of Phil Bowman's Report On The 84/85 Season In Sister Lake

Oyster Production
1984/85 Sister Lake Oyster Seed Ground

April 18, 1985

Square meter sampling, conducted prior to the 1984/85 oyster season in Sister Lake, indicated there were 119,723 barrels (barrels of seed and sacks of commercial oyster) of oysters available for harvest. In order to maximize the benefit derived from the available oysters on the Sister Lake oyster seed grounds, the Department recommended to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission the oyster season be opened in two phases: phase 1, September 5-30, for bedding only, and phase 2, October 15-April 1, for bedding and sacking. Previous investigations indicated the yield of meat from oysters harvested during September when the season opens was extremely low, in the 3 to 4 pint range, but increased to 6 pints and above when the water temperature began to decrease during October. Based on the recommendations from the Department, the Commission set the 1984/85 oyster season in Sister Lake to run from September 5-30 for bedding only and from October 15 - April 1 for bedding or sacking. During 1984/85 season, a total 69,203 barrels of oysters (53,911 barrels of seed oysters and 30,584 sacks (15,292 barrels) of commercial oysters) were harvested.

During the first phase of the season a total of 53,911 barrels of "seed" oysters were harvested. (Tables 1 & 2). When the season opened on September 5, effort and production were high with 88 boats dredging in the Lake and these harvesting 11,885 barrels of seed. Through the first 17 days of the season, effort and harvest were greater than expected. As a result of this, the first phase of the season was shortened by 10 days and closed at 7:00 p.m. on September 21.

During the second phase of the season a total of 30,584 sacks of commercial oysters were harvested (Tables 1 & 2). When the season opened, effort and production were high and continued through the first 12 days, then declined dramatically through December 1 and became sporadic through April 1, 1985. Of note is that the dividing of the season into two phases had the effect of regimenting the conduct of the fishery. During the first phase, sacking of oysters on the seed ground was prohibited and all ("most") of the oysters harvested were bedded on private leases. However, during the second phase, when bedding and sacking were permitted, fishermen chose not to do any additional bedding and all oysters harvested were sacked for direct sale. In contrast, in past years bedding and sacking activities took place simultaneously during the first month of the season and total sacking after the first month.

Through both phases of the season, the yield of meat from the oyster harvested was monitored. This was done by randomly selecting a "sack" measure of oysters, over 3 inches in length, from the boats working in the lake, shucking the oysters and measuring the volume of drained meat. Weekly water temperatures in Sister Lake were also monitored. During the first phase of the season, a yield of 3-1/2 pints per sack was recorded during the first two weeks and 4 pints per sack during the third week (Figure 1). When the second phase of the season opened, the yield was 6-1/2 pints per sack and remained above 6 pints throughout the season with yields of 9 pints being observed during brief periods in December and January.

Table I
 Monthly Oyster Production 1984/85
 Season Sister Lake

	barrels of seed	sacks for direct sale
*September	53,911	
**October	0	21,183
November	0	6,109
December	0	1,176
January	0	673
February	0	832
March	0	611
***April	0	0
Total	53,911	30,584

- * September 5-21 bedding only
- ** October 15-31 bedding or sack
- *** April 1 only

Table II
 Oyster Production Sister Lake 1974/75
 through 1984/85*

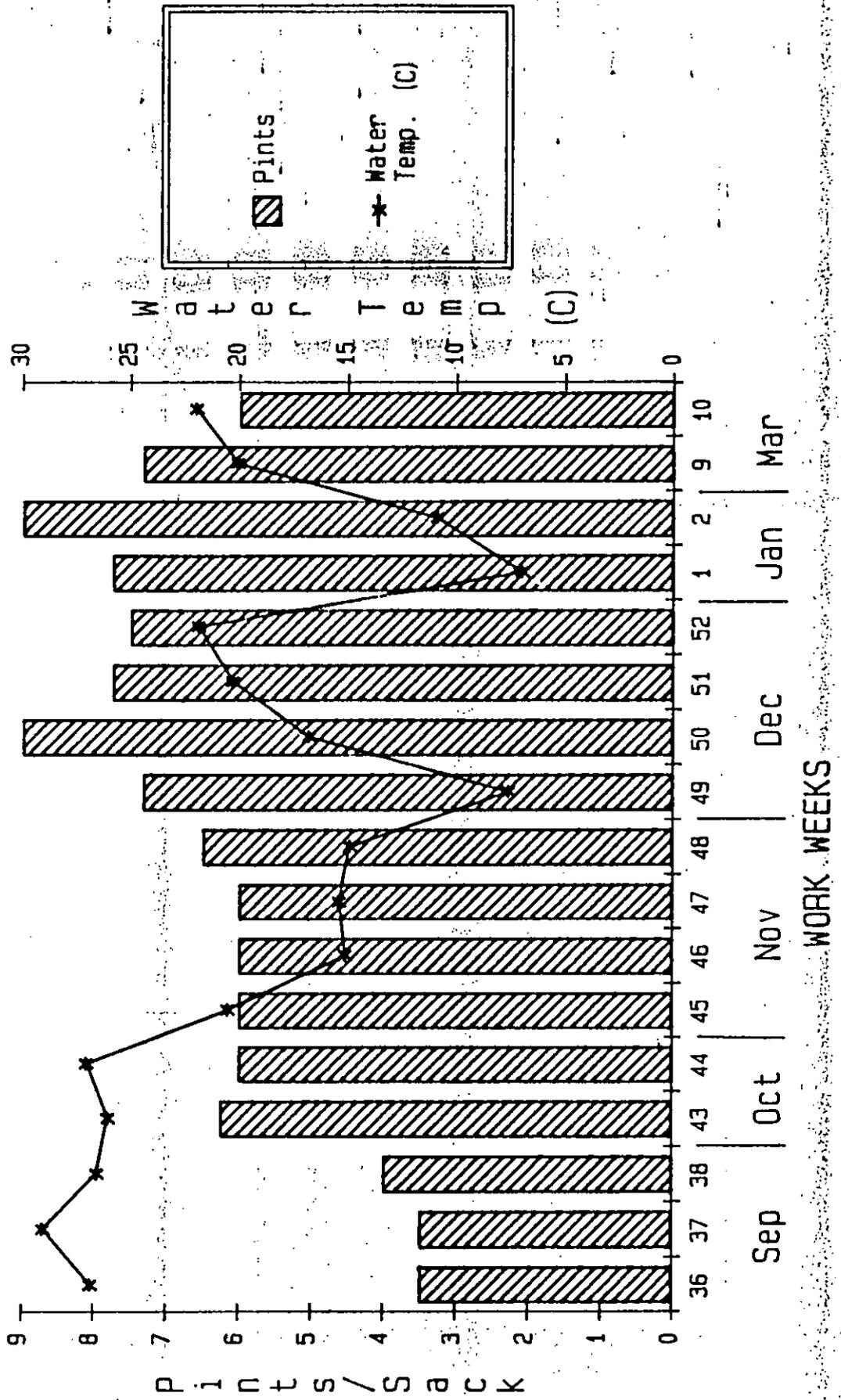
Season Year	Total Barrels	Barrels of Seed	Sack for Direct Sale
1974/75	35,180	34,313	1,734
1976/77	65,128	45,101	40,055
1978/79	54,867	33,649	42,436
1980/81	49,584	38,067	23,034
1982/83	90,057**	45,965	88,183
1984/85	69,203	53,911	30,584

* Regular seasons only

** Season shortened by Department of Health and Human Resources closure

Figure 1

Sister Lake Oyster Yield (1984-85)



APPENDIX

(APPENDIX I - MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS)

(APPENDIX II - STATUES AS THEY PERTAIN TO THE ACTIONS)

(APPENDIX III - ROUGH COMMISSION RESOLUTION)

APPENDIX I - MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS

JULY 1985 MINUTES

JULY 1984 MINUTES

JULY 1983 MINUTES

JULY 1982 MINUTES

JULY 1981 MINUTES

JULY 1980 MINUTES

JULY 1979 MINUTES

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 3, 1985

GEORGE N. GRAY
CHAIRMAN

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

July 3, 1985

Chairman George N. Gray, presiding:

Members Present:

Dr. Jack Cappel
Dr. Don Hines
Mr. Joe Palmisano
Mr. Mark Roberts
Mr. Dale Vinet

Mr. J. Burton Angelle was also present.

Since there were no additions or corrections to the minutes of June 5, 1985, Mr. Gray stated that they were approved.

Ray Montet presented the Enforcement Report for May 1985 at Tuesday's meeting. A copy of this report was given to Mr. Angelle and each board member.

Harry Schafer presented the Survey Section Report at Tuesday's meeting. During the period of June 1, through June 30, 1985 field activity consisted of 146 surveys scheduled, 48 were unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor and 7 no shows. Office activity consisted of \$879.80 collected for lease rental, \$802.00 collected for survey fees, 6 tonnage licenses issued, 2 dredging licenses issued and 16 new leases issued.

Mr. Schafer also presented the resolution for the setting of the Oyster Season. Ron Dugas presented the detailed information for these recommendations.

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

WHEREAS, the Commission biologists and the Chief of the Seafood Division have recommended the fishing of the oysters in Calcasieu Lake with the exception of the Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork, and Oyster Bayou, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Resources will examine the growing oysters of this aforementioned areas approve the waters for fishing oysters if the health standards are met, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission that the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season for 1985-1986 be set in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

- (1) That the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake be fixed to extend from one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, November 11, 1985 through one-half hour after sunset on Saturday, March 29, 1986 with the right being reserved to close said season sooner if biologically justifiable.
- (2) The open areas shall be confined to the area of Calcasieu Lake with the exception of Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork, and Oyster Bayou which shall be closed.
- (3) All oysters shall be put into sacks before leaving the oyster fishing area in Calcasieu Lake. Oysters not in sacks leaving the fishing area in Calcasieu Lake shall be confiscated and violator subject to penalty set forth in Title 56, Section 115.
- (4) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks per boat per day).
- (5) The three inch culling law shall be observed by all fishermen fishing the area and the culls shall be scattered around the perimeter of the reefs to provide for expansion of future harvesting.
- (6) That oyster fishing be limited only to the use of tongs and to daylight hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary be and is hereby authorized and empowered to change the limit or close said season, if biologically sound.

WHEREAS, the natural oyster reefs (oyster seed grounds) under the managerial supervision of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission must open on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 4, 1985 as provided also authorized the Commission to regulate the size limit and are closures after January 1 of each year on state controlled grounds, and

WHEREAS, "Oyster Seed Reservations" are small portions of the "Oyster Seed Grounds" managed and controlled for seed oyster production which are opened on alternate years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby open the "Bay Gardene

Oyster Seed Reservation". "Hackberry Bay (Du Chene) Oyster Seed Reservation" in accordance with Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, which opens said season one-half hour before sunrise on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 4, 1985 with the exception of Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation. Said season on the other reservations shall remain open with the same regulations as the regular oyster season; however, the Secretary shall be authorized and empowered to close the two areas if it is deemed necessary by biological investigations and spawning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the "Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation" will remain open for a 10 day period (September 4 through September 13, 1985), close and then reopen November 1, 1985 for the remaining portion of the public oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bayou Pierre be opened from September 4 through September 30, 1985.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary be and is hereby authorized and empowered to close either the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation on the Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation or both if it becomes necessary, and that he also be authorized to close shell plant area if they materialize and when they are properly marked.

This is an emergency action. The reason for this emergency action is that the biological surveys to determine the amount, size and condition of the oysters and oyster seed grounds have to be made continually until the week prior to the Commission meeting in which this matter is the subject on the agenda.

Mr. Vinet made a motion to accept the adoption of the 1985-86 oyster season, seconded by Mr. Palmisano, and passed unanimously.

Bob Dennie, Chief of the Information and Education Division gave a report of activities of the Division. He thanked Mr. Angelle for his support and discussed in detail the Hunter Safety, Boating Safety and the Education and Information sections of the division. He mentioned that a major responsibility of this division is the Louisiana Conservationist.

Corky Perret discussed the lifting of the moratorium on oyster lease applications. He stated that the Shrimp and Oyster Committee of the Commission has held three meetings in the different areas of coastal Louisiana to receive input from the general public, from representatives of the oyster industry. He pointed out that a resolution was received from the Terrebonne Parish Council which stated that the Council supports the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's decision to lift the moratorium on application for new oyster leases. (Copy attached)

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 10, 1984

GEORGE N. GRAY

CHAIRMAN

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Corky Perret presented two resolutions to the Commission to set the oyster season. A motion was made by Mr. Farrelly to accept recommendations, seconded by Dr. Cappel, and passed unanimously.

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

WHEREAS, the natural oyster reefs (oyster seed grounds) under the managerial supervision of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission must open on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 5, 1984 as provided for by Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, which also authorized the Commission to regulate the size limit and area closures after January 1 of each year on state controlled grounds, and

WHEREAS, "Oyster Seed Reservations" are small portions of the "Oyster Seed Grounds" managed and controlled for seed oyster production which are opened on alternate years.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby open the "Hackberry Bay (Du Chene) Oyster Seed Reservation" and the "Sister Lake (Cailou Lake) Oyster Reservation" in accordance with Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, which opens said season one-half hour before sunrise on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 5, 1984 with the exception of "Sister Lake (Cailou Lake) Oyster Seed Reservation". Said season on the other reservations shall remain open with the same regulations as the regular oyster season; however, the secretary shall be authorized and empowered to close the two areas if it is deemed necessary by biological investigations and sampling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the "Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation" will remain open for the period (September 5 through September 30) for bedding only, close and then reopen October 15 for both bedding and sacking for the remaining portion of the public oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 1984 shell plant areas in Lake Borgne, Black Bay, Pelican Island and Sister Lake which have been properly marked will remain closed for the 1984-85 season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there will be no sacking within the area described under the reciprocating agreement area (RS56:561) until October 29, 1984. This is an emergency action. The reason for this emergency action is that the biological surveys to determine the amount, size, and condition of the oysters and oyster seed grounds have to be made continually until the week prior to the Commission meeting in which this matter is the subject on the agenda.

WHEREAS, the Commission biologists and the Chief of the Seafood Division have recommended the fishing of the oysters in Calcasieu Lake with the exception of the Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork, and Oyster Bayou, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Resources will examine the growing oysters of this aforementioned areas approve the waters for fishing oysters if the health standards are met, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission that the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season for 1984-85 be set in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

- (1) That the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake be fixed to extend from one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, November 12, 1984 through one-half hour after sunset on Friday, March 15, 1985 with the right being reserved to close said season sooner if biologically justifiable.
- (2) That oyster fishing be limited only to the use of tongs and to daylight hours.
- (3) The open areas shall be confined to the area of Calcasieu Lake with the exception of Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork, and Oyster Bayou which shall be closed.
- (4) The three inch culling law shall be observed by all fishermen fishing the area and the culls shall be scattered around the perimeter of the reefs to provide for expansion of future harvesting.
- (5) The taking of oysters for commercial purposes shall be limited to 10 sacks per boat per day by law.
- (6) All oysters shall be put into sacks before leaving the oyster fishing area in Calcasieu Lake. Oysters not in sacks leaving the fishing area in Calcasieu Lake shall be confiscated and violator subject to penalty set forth in Title 56, Section 115.
- (7) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks per boat per day).
- (8) All commercial fishing of oysters shall be done only with proper licenses, and the sacks of oysters be properly tagged before leaving the fishing vessel. All sacks entering into commerce shall be tagged.

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 26, 1983

Wayne Ducote
Vice-Chairman

400 Royal St.
New Orleans, Louisiana

- (7) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks per boat per day).
- (8) All commercial fishing of oysters shall be done only with proper licenses, and the sacks of oysters be properly tagged before leaving the fishing vessel. All sacks entering into commerce shall be tagged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary be and is hereby authorized and empowered to change the limit or close said season, if biologically sound.

* * * *

Motion was made by Mr. Jesse Knowles, seconded by Mr. George Gray, and passed unanimously, to set the oyster season on public seed grounds.

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

WHEREAS, the natural oyster reefs (oyster seed grounds) under the managerial supervision of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission must open on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 7, 1983 as provided for by Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, which also authorized the Commission to regulate the size limit and area closures after January 1 of each year on state controlled grounds, and

WHEREAS, "Oyster Seed Reservations" are small portions of "Oyster Seed Grounds" managed and controlled for seed oyster production which are opened on alternate years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission does hereby open the "Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation", "Hackberry Bay (Du Chene) Oyster Seed Reservation" and the "Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation", in accordance with Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, which opens said season one-half hour before sunrise on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 7, 1983, with the exception of Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation. Said season on the other reservations shall remain open with the same regulations as the regular oyster season; however, the secretary shall be authorized and empowered to close the two areas if it is deemed necessary by biological investigations and sampling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the "Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation" will remain open for a 12 day period (September 7 through September 18), close and then reopen November 1, 1983 for the remaining portion of the public oyster season.

This is an emergency action. The reason for this emergency action is that the biological surveys to determine the amount, size, and condition of the oysters and oyster seed grounds have to be made continually until the week prior to the Commission Meeting in which this matter is the subject on the agenda.

* * * *

Motion was made by Mr. George Gray, seconded by Dr. Jack Cappel and passed unanimously, that there be a closed season on hoop nets from March 1 through May 15 each year in a portion of Toledo Bend Lake.

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

WHEREAS, studies conducted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on Toledo Bend Reservoir have demonstrated the detrimental effects that the use of certain types of commercial fish nets have on gamefish populations,

WHEREAS, a survey conducted prior to the initial net ban request of August, 1981 indicated a moderate commercial fishery does exist in Toledo Bend Reservoir, however, the majority of commercial fishermen fished only on a part time basis, and the primary fish sought after were catfishes, and

WHEREAS, commercial fishermen on this lake can still effectively take catfish with the use of hoop nets, slat traps, setlines, bush lines, and trot lines, and

WHEREAS, to protect and enhance the viable sportfishery that now exists in Toledo Bend Reservoir

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission hereby extends the prohibition on gill nets, trammel nets, flag webbing and fish seines in the Louisiana portion of Toledo Bend Reservoir and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the closed season on hoop nets continue during the period March 1 through May 15 each year only in that portion of Toledo Bend from a point north of Logansport where the lake enters Texas, and south to a point on the Lake where the Texas Duck Refuge Canal intersects the old channel of the Sabine River. The extension of this rule will remain in effect for a three year period until October 20, 1986.

- 9 -

Mr. Harry Schafer gave his monthly oyster survey report as follows: thirty-two leases were relocated, twelve monuments traversed, eight applications surveyed, seven re-stakes performed to settle disputes.

Since the lifting of the moratorium 216 appointments were made for a total of 43,000 acres, and a total of \$137,000 was collected. Of this number 37 have been surveyed and 6 leases issued.

* * *

Mr. Schafer was advised to report at the August Board Meeting on the administrative cost of processing oyster lease applications, to determine what percent will be retained from those applications using private surveyors.

* * *

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, that the following resolution be adopted establishing the oyster season for Calcasieu Lake.

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

WHEREAS, the Commission biologists and the Chief of the Seafood Division have recommended the fishing of the oysters in Calcasieu Lake with the exception of the Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork, and Oyster Bayou, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Resources will examine the growing oysters of this aforementioned area and approve the waters for fishing oysters if the health standards are met, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission that the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season for 1982-83 be set in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

- (1) That the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake be fixed to extend from one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, November 1, 1982 through one-half hour after sunset on Thursday, March 31, 1983, with the right being reserved to close said season sooner if biologically justifiable.

JULY 1982

- (2) That oyster fishing be limited only to the use of tongs and to daylight hours.
- (3) The open areas shall be confined to the area of Calcasieu Lake with the exception of Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork, and Oyster Bayou which shall be closed.
- (4) The three inch culling law shall be observed by all fishermen fishing the area and the culls shall be scattered around the perimeter of the reefs to provide for expansion of future harvesting.
- (5) The taking of oysters for commercial purposes shall be limited to 15 sacks per boat per day.
- (6) All oysters shall be put into sacks before leaving the oyster fishing area in Calcasieu Lake. Oysters not in sacks leaving the fishing area in Calcasieu Lake shall be confiscated and violator subject to penalty set forth in Title 56, Section 115.
- (7) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks per boat per day).
- (8) All commercial fishing of oysters shall be done only with proper licenses, and the sacks of oysters be properly tagged before leaving fishing vessel. All sacks entering into commerce shall be tagged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary be and is hereby authorized and empowered to change the limit or close said season, if biologically sound.

* * *

Motion was made by Mr. James Farrelly, seconded by Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that the following resolution be adopted establishing oyster season on seed reservations.

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

WHEREAS, the natural oyster reefs (oyster seed grounds) under the managerial supervision of the Louisiana Wildlife and

Fisheries Commission must open on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 8, 1982, as provided for by Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, which also authorized the Commission to regulate the size limit and area closures after January 1 of each year on state controlled grounds, and

WHEREAS, "Oyster Seed Reservations" are small portions of the "Oyster Seed Grounds" managed and controlled for seed oyster production which are opened on alternate years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby open the "Hackberry Bay (Du Chene) Oyster Seed Reservation" and the "Sister Lake (Caillou Lake) Oyster Seed Reservation" in accordance with Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, which opens said season one-half hour before sunrise on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 8, 1982. Said season shall remain open with the same regulations as the regular oyster season; however, the secretary shall be authorized and empowered to close the two areas if it is deemed necessary by biological investigations and sampling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the "Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation" will be operated utilizing a permit system.

This is an emergency action. The reason for this emergency action is that the biological surveys to determine the amount, size, and condition of the oysters and oyster seed grounds have to be made continually until the week prior to the Commission Meeting in which this matter is the subject on the agenda.

* * *

Mr. Mike Voisin, President, Louisiana Oyster Dealers & Growers Association complimented on the lifting of the moratorium. A copy of his letter was read and is attached as an addendum.

* * *

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray and passed unanimously, that the following resolution be adopted concerning the preservation of Cow Island Lake.

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

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, and passed unanimously, to ratify a permit to take mullet while fishing with a menhaden license in the Chandeleur-Breton Sound Sanctuary Area.

Dr. Ford said the purpose of the mullet permit is to permit and encourage development of a resource which has been underutilized. A sample of the permit with its restrictions and requirements, etc., is appended to these minutes. These permits are restricted to Louisiana residents only. At this time, ten (10) permits have been issued.

Dr. Ford presented information concerning the brown shrimp season which began on May 18th of this year. He stated that approximately 27,312,934 pounds of shrimp were landed which is about two million pounds more than in 1977 which was a record year. The conditions were extremely favorable this year and the shrimp harvest is probably an all-time record. (Report appended to these minutes.)

Dr. Ford presented a report on the outlook for the white shrimp season and on the Texas closure. (Reports appended to these minutes.)

Mr. James C. Farrelly's report on income from shell dredging was deferred to the August meeting. Commissioner Ducote requested additional information from Dr. Ford concerning this before the next meeting.

Mr. Ron Dugas, Supervisor, Marine Laboratory, showed some slides of the condition of the oyster seed grounds around the state. He pointed out that 1980 was a rather poor production year with 6.7 million pounds landed in the state which is the lowest production since the year 1966 when 4.7 million pounds were landed.

Mr. Harry Schafer, Chief, Seafood Division, recommended the oyster seed reservations--Bay Junop, Vermillion Bay, and the northern portion of the red line area be opened on September 9th. He recommended that Bay Gardene and Sister Lake be opened on October 12th. Sister Lake would be open for 20 days through October 31st. He also recommended that American Bay and California Bay be opened on November 2nd. Hackberry Bay and Bay Craba which had shell plants this year would remain closed for one year.

Mr. Mike Voisin, representing Plaquemines Parish Oyster Association and the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and

Growers Association, voiced his objection to the November 2nd opening in the American Bay and California Bay areas. He said there would be increased fishing pressure on the outside and may cause a conflict between the larger and smaller boats. Most of the oysters inside the Bay area are marketable and by opening this area on September 9th, this would give the smaller boats an opportunity to make some money this year.

Mr. Voisin invited all Commissioners to a "Day in the Bay" on August 22nd to be sponsored by the oyster industry. A boat would leave Point a la Hache at 8:00 AM to take the Commissioners to the seed grounds so that they could see the oysters in there and then they would eat and have a good time.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that Mr. Schafer's recommendations be accepted for the seasons in the oyster seed reservations with the exception of California and American Bay area which will open September 9th.

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

WHEREAS, the natural oyster reefs ("Public Oyster Seed Grounds") under the managerial supervision of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries must open on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 9, 1981, as provided for by Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, and

WHEREAS, "Public Oyster Seed Reservations" are small portions of the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds" managed and controlled for seed oyster production which are used as a reserve supply and opened on alternate years, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries had clam shells deposited in an area commonly referred to as Bay Craba/Plaquemine Parish and Hackberry Bay/ Jefferson Parish to provide cultch material for oyster setting and it will take approximately one year for this plant to materialize, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby set the season in the Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation on September 9, 1981, and the season in the Bay Gardene and Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, October 12, 1981, utilizing a permit system, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will open only for a twenty (20) day period and will close November 1, 1981, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the area of Bay Craba will remain closed during the 1981/82 season to allow the shell plant area to mature, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation will remain closed for the entire season.

* * *

Mr. Harry Schafer announced the Louisiana Consumers League had asked him to invite all Commissioners to a luncheon at the Nunez School in Chalmette at 12:30 today to eat shark prepared in six different ways.

Mr. James C. Farrelly made a statement for the record that Dr. Ford had previously mentioned Judge Collins had ruled on our case regarding the Texas closure. This was a misunderstanding; the Judge has not ruled on our lawsuit.

Mr. Huey Sanders stated that he came before the Commission at the December 1980 meeting regarding the U. S. Coast Guard's requirements for visual distress signals on boats which would go into effect on January 1, 1981. He said the Commission had deferred this back to the Legislature. The Legislature looked at the problem, tabled it, and took no action.

Chairman Gilbert asked that the Department publicize the Coast Guard's requirements for visual distress signals so that the public would be informed. He said the Commission would consider a resolution making this a part of the state law.

Mr. Dewey Wills discussed House Concurrent Resolution No. 71 which was passed and concurred in by the Senate at the last session of the Legislature concerning doe seasons in Louisiana. Mr. Wills stated that the Commission set the seasons based on good management programs and recommended that no action be taken.

Chairman Gilbert said the concurrent resolution "urges and requests" and is not a direct order, and, therefore, the Commission feels that no changes should be made and no action taken concerning doe seasons.

Motion was made by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, seconded by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, and passed unanimously by a roll call

by grant permission to LOUISIANA CEMENT to remove fill material from the St. Malo Channel, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from July 29, 1980, to July 29, 1981, at a royalty rate of ten cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Item 6, Harry.

MR. SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman and Board Members, you know that the oyster season opens, by law, Section 433 of Title 56, automatically opens the season for the oyster seed grounds on the Wednesday after Labor Day, which this year is September the 3rd.

Also we would like to recommend that two seed reservations be opened concurrent with the opening of the public grounds. And they are Hackberry Bay, Bay du Chene, and Sister Lake.

We have had a shell plant in Sister Lake and we would like to open this seed reservation by permit only. The fishermen can go to the camp or to our District Office over there and secure a permit and then after they are loaded, pass by the camp and checkout, and that way we'll know the

value of the shell plant that we put in there.

We would also like to -- in Bay Junope, which is also a seed reservation, we would like to open that for trawling during the shrimp season to see if some of those trawls can remove some of the shells in that area and maybe we will produce more oysters in the area. And we will be watching it closely and if there is any damage we see occurring to the oyster beds, then we will close it to the trawling.

THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any discussion by the Commission Members, and then we will ask for discussion from the audience.

Does any Committee Member have any questions or comments? Mr. Farrelly.

MR. FARRELLY: Harry, could you give the Commission information on -- I understand that our seeding of last year, I think we used \$1 million or something to do this, and I understand that this was very successful or the results of it. Do you have that information available, or perhaps someone else might?

MR. SCHAFER: We got money from two

sources last year to make shell plants and we planted -- Energy Impact money, we got \$750,000 from them, and Disaster Funding, we got \$1 million from them -- and we planted just about 3500 acres of shells in various parts of the State.

The one in Black Bay was extremely successful. We've gotten the highest seed count, seed oyster count, off of that than we've ever gotten. It ran about 900 per cubic yard in our samples, which is real high. And the other plants are not that high, but they are extremely good, and we should have lots of seed oysters from the plants that we did make.

MR. FARRELLY: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: If not, does anyone from the audience wish to make a statement?

MR. RALPH PAUSINA: Mr. Chairman, my name is Ralph Pausina of the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association.

I'm kind of left flat. I came in all excited and the way this whole thing was presented

it kind of took all the wind out of my sails.

Our Association had the privilege of doing something, which we do every year, is going out -- which we initiated last year, is going out on the grounds and taking a tour of them, accompanied by our biologist, State biologist, and from that he comes to one of our meetings and gives us a report of what's on the grounds. And he came with his few graphs and facts and figures, which are very impressive.

And the thing which lets me down is I came here to praise you gentlemen and your Department. Normally we come and complain, so I am going to go ahead and praise you all anyway, even though you all don't have the benefit of the presentation, which I think you all really should have. It's quite impressive.

Last year we had a total of some 150,000 barrels of seed available to us in the east side seed ground area. I think we have something like 2 million barrels available to us for this time. And we think that part of this has been done by good management and not all of it just by nature.

And the Energy Impact money Mr. Schafer made reference to, this was instituted by our organization some two or three years ago, and we have been doing it every year. And we cannot do it ourselves, we can only do it through a State agency. And we would like to thank the Secretary, or the then Secretary, for giving us full cooperation. And we would like to thank Harry Schafer for giving us his full cooperation for his Department, and we would like to thank Ron Dugas for doing all the leg work and getting things done. And we would like to thank Corky Perrett for going through all the red tape to get these things straightened out with the federal government, and that's quite a job just in itself.

We would also like to thank the Commission for last year allowing the Black Bay area to remain closed for a full year, to let it rest and recuperate and allow all of the shells to get some spat catch on them and give them some time to grow up to some little size to where we can dredge them out without destroying them.

And I think that all of this has shown

that through the spirit of cooperation and good will and good management that we can do something good.

And I'll just close by saying that we agree with all of the recommendations that Mr. Schafer made.

Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your kind words, Ralph.

Does anyone else wish to be heard from?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: If not, Harry Schafer has made a recommendation concerning seed reservation seasons. Do I hear a motion to adopt his recommendation?

MR. DUCOTE: I so move.

MR. RIGGS: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Motion by Wayne Ducote and seconded by Mr. Riggs. Is there any further discussion on this motion?

(NO RESPONSE)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing no discussion and no objection, Item 6 is adopted as recommended

by Harry Schafer.

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

WHEREAS, the natural oyster reefs ("Oyster Seed Grounds") under the managerial supervision of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries must open on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 3, 1980, as provided for by Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, and

WHEREAS, the "Oyster Seed Reservations" are part of the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds" and are utilized as a reserve supply and are generally fished on alternate years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby set the Hackberry Bay (Du Chene) "Oyster Seed Reservation" and the Sister Lake "Oyster Seed Reservation" season beginning one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise on the first

Wednesday following Labor Day, September 3, 1980. Said seasons shall remain open with the same regulations as the regular oyster season; however, the Secretary shall be authorized and empowered to close the two areas if it is deemed necessary by biological investigations and sampling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sister Lake "Oyster Seed Reservation" will be operated on a permit system obtained and delivered to the policing authority on the grounds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bay Gardene and Bay Junope "Oyster Seed Reservations" will not be opened to oyster harvest or transplant, however Bay Junope will be opened for shrimp trawling until biological data indicates that trawling should be stopped.

THE CHAIRMAN: Item No. 7, gentlemen, Allan Ensminger, Alligator Season.

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Commission, that little slip of

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to F & S EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC. to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile Point 142.0 at Maryville, Louisiana, for a period of one year from July 24, 1979 to July 24, 1980, at a royalty rate of ten cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: That concludes the part I have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Doc. I appreciate it. Mr. Schafer.

MR. HARRY SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman, we really have two items, and one of them is to close shell plants. We planted some shells in Bayou and in Black Bay and we are asking that Black Bay shell plant be closed during the coming season because it takes about a year for things to catch and get big enough for the industry to start harvesting seed off those oysters. We are recommending that the Black Bay plant be closed during this coming season.

for oyster harvesting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Harry, you mentioned that that is part of the federal government money that was granted to us to seed because of damages.

MR. SCHAFER: No, this was Coastal Energy Impact money from the oil industry. We got \$750,000 to plant shells. We planted about 75,000 cubic yards of shells in three places, in Sister Lake, Bay Gardene and in this Black Bay area.

THE CHAIRMAN: These are strictly going to be seed oysters?

MR. SCHAFER: This will be for seed oysters. Two of them are reservations and one of them is in the seed grounds, so it will be for the oyster industry to harvest seed.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. Do we have a motion?

MR. RIGGS: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Surely. Do you want some discussion on that, Captain? O. K. Let's hold the motion then to get some discussion on it.

MR. PETER VUJNOVICH: My name is Peter Vujnovich. I have been in the oyster industry for

the past 43 years. I class myself as among the best oyster farmers of this state. It is a fact that I had a lot to do with obtaining that \$750,000 and I would like to pass my thoughts on to you all before you vote on the resolution.

At the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association I brought the subject up that we could obtain money from the Coastal Zone Management, from the oil companies, and everybody laughed at me in the industry. So, anyway, I took it on my own shoulders to be the chairman. I wrote a couple of letters to our Senator, Senator Johnston, and here is one of them, the reply.

(Reading) "Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter I received from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Coastal Zone Management in response to my request in your behalf, concerning funds through the Coastal Energy Impact program to improve and increase the Louisiana oyster production.

"As I mentioned in my February 24 letter, you should get in touch with

officials in the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to discuss possible monies for your proposal.

"I would appreciate your keeping me apprised of developments and let me know if I can do something else to be helpful in the industry.

"With kindest regards and best wishes,

"Sincerely,

"J. Bennett Johnston."

This is the letter he sent me.

"Dear Senator Johnston"

"Thank you for informing me of the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association interest in our Coastal Energy Impact program.

"The Coastal Impact program was specifically designed to respond to a wide range of environmental, social and economic problems resulting from coastal and outer Continental Shelf



energy production. In this context the regeneration of coastal oyster beds of Louisiana appears to be the kind of project eligible for funding.

"We will be happy to work with the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers to clarify general eligibility for specific projects. However, your office was correct in directing the Oyster Association to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development which is responsible for allocation and administering CEIP funds within the state.

"Coordination will also be necessary with the State Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

"Let me know if I can be of any further assistance to you.

"Sincerely,

"Robert Knecht,

"Acting Administrator,

"Coastal Zone Management."

Gentlemen and ladies, I brought these two

to our man who is in charge of the Louisiana oyster industry, Mr. Harry Schafer. He read this, he picked up the phone, he called Mr. Angelle. Mr. Angelle told him -- I don't know what he told him but, anyway, young Corky Perret had the job of doing all the paper work. Your biologist for the state, Ron Dugas, has done a very excellent job in proving the fact that we incurred many millions of dollars of damage to the Louisiana oyster industry by the oil companies. The money was granted, the shells were planted.

Now my suggestion to this is this. I worked hard, I gave my time, and I want to thank the Department of Wildlife who done it to get this money, I am asking this. I am an oyster man and there is a general tendency when we have shell plants such as these, that if the shell plants are in this area (indicating on map), the boats are fishing over here, and by hook or by crook, some kind of way accidentally the current carries these boats on top of these oyster shells where it was planted. As you all know, we can't afford to have that many enforcement men out there 24 hours

a day. So my suggestion to you all is this -- if we are to close that area that at least around we have nothing under a mile and a half, you know, area closed, not here (indicating) where the boundary line is but at least a mile away, so that if any boats drift in that area, they can't tell you that the current carried them.

That, gentlemen, is my knowledge, because I think this, that this is federal money granted to us. The Louisiana oyster industry is on the downgrade but with a little effort from the Louisiana men in the oyster industry and this department, and if the industry wants to help themselves, and the help we are getting from the federal government, God knows what we can accumulate in the next three or four years.

Thank you all, and that is what I would like, before you all vote, to let you know.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Captain. I appreciate that. Harry, if we were to change that and say a mile around it, are we going to be in anybody's lease grounds?

MR. SCHAFFER: No, this is on the state

seed grounds, so it could be done. The only problem, of course, is marking that mile from the shell plant. The shell plant itself is marked. It has signs on it. It has stakes all around it.

Pete has got a good suggestion. If this can be enforced some kind of way so that they stay a mile away from it, that is a real good suggestion. In fact, we even looked at the possibility of closing Black Bay altogether to keep them out of there completely, but there might be a few oysters in there, and oysters are going to be scarce and we would like to at least give them a try at it. We might come back here right after the season opens and see what they are doing out there and then ask you to close the whole Black Bay after they have a chance to fish out there.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is it going to be a big problem to mark it?

MR. SCHAFER: I think once we close Black Bay, we have got some good demarcations on Black Bay. Once we close that, I don't think there is any problem in enforcing it there.

MR. LUTTRELL: Harry, I like the sugges-

tion of the increased zone, even if it does create a problem of enforcement. I think we might gain by enlarging the zone, just by the knowledge, as there will be some that won't go in it at least.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we have to do the utmost to protect our interest on that seeding. I think that the Commission should take the attitude that we have to protect that particular oyster bed and particularly at this time because of the fact that we have a very poor year, and in order to have a good year next year we are going to have to protect that bed.

MR. SCHAFER: That is right, and it might help out, too. We have a camp not too far from there and when they are patrolling, if they see somebody close to it, they can go over there and just chase them away, but if they are in the area, then they can write the citation, so it might be a good deal.

MR. LUTTRELL: Yes, if you don't have it included, then, of course, they can't warn them away. So I would like to move that we accept Harry's recommendation and amend it to include the

extra mile zone around the plant.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., can we come back and give the original motion, please?

MR. SCHAFFER: O. K. It was recommended that the shell plants in Black Bay be closed and an area of one mile around the area would be closed.

MR. LUTTRELL: That's the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: The original motion was that the area in Black Bay be closed. We are going to amend that motion to read that an area one mile past the marking point is closed to any oyster fishing. Is that correct?

MR. LUTTRELL: O. K.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., who made the motion?

MR. RIGGS: I did.

THE CHAIRMAN: And you amended it?

MR. LUTTRELL: I did.

THE CHAIRMAN: Has anybody seconded it?

MR. FARRELLY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Farrelly seconds the motion. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion carries and you seed area is closed, plus one mile.

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

WHEREAS, the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds" will open by law (RS 56:436) one-half hour before sunrise September 5, 1979; and

WHEREAS, the Department, utilizing Energy Impact Funds, has deposited clam shells on these "Public Oyster Seed Grounds" to provide surfaces for new oyster setting; and

WHEREAS, it takes generally one year for these shell plant areas to mature; and

WHEREAS, these area are properly marked and posted;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that those areas upon which the shell was deposited this year (Black Bay)

and one mile around and adjacent to the shell plant will be closed for the harvesting of oysters for the 1979-80 oyster season.

MR. SCHAFFER: The other areas that we would like to close are the Sister Lake Seed Reservation and the Bay Gardene Seed Reservation. Both these areas had plants in them, along with the Black Bay area, and also we do close these on an every-other-year basis, and it is their turn for them to be closed, so we are recommending that Bay Gardene and Sister Lake be closed and that Bay Junop be opened on September 5, which is the regular opening for the seed ground area, and that Hackberry Bay be opened on October 1. The reason we are asking for October 1 instead of September 5 on regular opening day is that there is plenty of marsh grass that was blown into Hackberry during Hurricane Bob and we think it might cause some mortality if they start moving those oysters with all this grass around.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. Do we have a motion?

MR. LUTTRELL: I move we accept the

recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. A second?

MR. RIGGS: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell,
seconded by Mr. Riggs. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Any no votes?

(No response)

The motion carries.

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

WHEREAS, the "Public Oyster
Seed Grounds" will open by law (RS 56:436)
one-half hour before sunrise September 5,
1979; and

WHEREAS, the Oyster Seed Reser-
vations are part of the "Public Oyster
Seed Grounds" and are utilized as a
reserve supply and are generally fished
on alternate years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation

will be opened this season on September 5, 1979 and Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation will be opened October 1, 1979, because of the large amount of marsh grass present as a result of Hurricane Bob;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sister Lake Seed Reservation and Bay Gardene Seed Reservation will remain closed this season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Department is given the authority to close the Reservations when biologically feasible.

MR. SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to announce also that we are in the process of getting some more funds for shell plants and this is from the disaster and the fresh water from opening the Bonnet Carre Spillway. We expect to get a million dollars and we will be planting some shells as soon as we can possibly a contract through.

THE CHAIRMAN: Fine, Harry, I appreciate that. Harry, I would like to direct you at the next meeting, if you can, to gather all your information on what has been done on the survey since we declared the moratorium. I would like to know what progress we have made, where we stand on it. Can you do that by the next meeting?

MR. SCHAFER: Yes, I can have that for you.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., I would appreciate it, even if it is just in the informal meeting. It doesn't matter. I just want to get a briefing on it and see how we stand.

MR. SCHAFER: Right. It doesn't look too good.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is what I am afraid of and I think that we need to take a little review on the thing.

All right, Allen, good old Allen.

MR. ALLEN ENSMINGER: It looks like I have really got a good one for you today. I am kind of glad that Doyle Berry is not here to accuse me of being one of those damned Washington bureau-

APPENDIX II - STATUTES AS THEY PERTAIN TO OPENING OF PUBLIC OYSTER SEASON.

§424. Taking of oysters

A. No person shall take oysters from any of the waters of the state or have such oysters in possession except in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the commission. The burden of proof shall be on the accused to establish that any oysters in his possession are lawfully possessed. For the purpose of this Subpart, all oysters in possession of any person in the state shall be deemed to be oysters taken from the waters of the state. Except as otherwise provided herein, the taking of oysters is prohibited in the water bottoms of the state of Louisiana.

B. An oyster lessee may work on his private oyster lease or he may designate an agent to harvest oysters on his lease with written permission, which shall be carried on the boat and subject to inspection.

C. Oysters may be taken during open season on those areas designated by the commission as oyster seed grounds, including but not limited to the area east of the red line described by department

183

§433. Culling oysters taken from natural reefs; size limits

A. All oysters taken from the natural reefs of this state which measure less than three inches from hinge to mouth and all dead shell shall be immediately replaced and scattered broadcast upon the natural reefs from which taken. No captain, person in charge of any vessel, canner, packer, commission man, or other person shall have in his possession off the natural reefs any natural reef oysters which were not taken in accordance with the provisions of this Subpart. Any excess of over five percent of dead shells and oysters under the size prescribed herein, in any cargo lot of oysters, shall be considered a violation of this Subpart, and any officer of the department may cause to be counted the whole or part of the cargo or lot of oysters at the expense of the person or vessel, to determine the percentage. No oysters under one inch in length from hinge to mouth shall be counted, and each half shell of proper size shall be counted as one.

B. Under its supervision and direction, the department may permit lessees of oyster bedding grounds to fish oysters of any size, without charge, from the natural reefs of the waters of this state. Such oysters are to be used as seed oysters for bedding purposes only. The department may designate from which natural reefs oysters may be fished, and the quantity to be taken therefrom by any lessee. The natural reefs may be fished starting the first Wednesday after Labor Day through April 1 of each year. The commission in its discretion may designate what parts or portions of the natural reefs may be fished for oysters, and it may suspend the fishing of oysters altogether from natural reefs not leased by it, when such reefs are threatened with depletion as determined by the department.

C. No person shall take oysters from the natural reef of the waters of the state during the period beginning April 2 and ending the Tuesday following Labor Day. No person shall can, shuck, or pack any oysters from the natural reefs during the closure period. This provision does not prevent any lessee of oyster bedding grounds from harvesting his own oysters and using them for personal home consumption or for sale during the time of closure.

D. No person shall remove oysters from any state owned natural reef for the purpose of steam processing from the first Wednesday after Labor Day through December 31, both dates inclusive.

E. The department, at one of its regular meetings, in the exercise of its duties to improve, enlarge, and protect the state owned natural reefs of this state, and after affording industry, department personnel and interested parties an opportunity to be heard, shall have the option, between the dates of January 1 and April 1 of each year, of closing any portion or all of the natural oyster reefs of this state to the harvest of oysters, and/or of setting harvesting size limits on any portion or all of the natural oyster reefs of this state, as

expected conditions warrant. The department shall notify the oyster

140

industry of its determination by filing the information in the office of the secretary, and by notice once weekly for two weeks prior to implementation, in the newspapers of general circulation in the coastal zone.

F. The limitations as to size contained in Subsection A shall not apply to seed oysters lawfully fished from the natural reefs and shall not apply between the dates of January 1 through April 1 of each year, both dates inclusive.

G. No provisions of this Section shall prevent the department from exercising its option to close the natural grounds to all oyster fishing as provided in Subsection (B).

H. The provisions of this Section do not apply to a lessee of private bedding grounds when harvesting his own oysters.

Acts 1981, No. 925, §1.

§434. Oyster seed grounds; designation and setting aside; rules and regulations concerning taking of seed oysters; areas recognized as oyster seed reservations; protection of oyster seed reservations

A. The commission shall at its discretion from time to time designate and set aside such area from the inside water bottoms of the state as it judges best adapted to the planting, propagation, growth, and policing of seed oysters. The area constitutes oyster seed grounds. Each unit thereof shall, as nearly as practicable, be so located as to facilitate its efficient policing, and be readily identifiable by reference to geographical features or local landmarks or department surveys, and shall embrace at least a recognizable portion of any body or arm of water, or definite part thereof, in which it is established.

B. Upon or following the designation of location of any oyster seed ground, the department may negotiate for and acquire existing oyster leases required to be abandoned or surrendered which are found within the limits of the designated area. The department shall compensate the leaseholder for oysters, seed oysters, shells, and other improvements found on the private leases required to be abandoned or surrendered, out of funds appropriated by the legislature. Such compensation shall be determined by an independent marine surveyor appointed by the department with the concurrence of the leaseholder, at the current-day value of the improvements on the grounds affected.

C. All seed oysters produced on oyster seed grounds or reservations established under this Subpart shall be had and held for the use and benefit of the oyster industry. The commission shall establish rules and regulations concerning the time, quantity, and method of taking by which these seed oysters shall be made available to the public. These rules and regulations shall be formulated as necessary and shall be adequate to the proper maintenance and preservation of the areas as a perpetual source of seed supply for the oyster industry.

D. No person shall take, cause to be taken, or attempt to take oysters, oyster seed, or cultch from any state owned oyster seed reservation without a permit from the secretary, directed and delivered to the policing or guarding authority immediately in charge of the ground.

E. The water bottoms located in Sister (Callow) Lake and Bay Junop in Terrebonne Parish, Hackberry Bay (Bay Duchene) in Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes, and Bay Gardene in Plaquemines Parish are designated as oyster seed reservations, and shall be managed by the department for the best interests of the oyster industry.

F. The department shall establish and maintain an adequate and vigilant watch and control over the areas designated as oyster seed grounds and oyster seed reservations, and shall see that all oysters, seed oysters, oyster cultch, or other material improvements found or placed thereon are efficiently protected from trespass, theft, or injury.

Acts 1981, No. 925, §1.

§435. Dredges and scrapers; use in removing oysters

A. All dredges and scrapers shall be no smaller than three feet in width and no longer than six feet in width measured along the tooth bar, except that a dredge smaller than three feet may be used by an oyster fisherman on his own lease after obtaining from the secretary a special permit containing thereon the oyster fisherman's lease number, or on privately leased water bottoms with written permission from the leaseholder and a special permit from the secretary containing thereon the leaseholder's lease number, or on state owned water bottoms designated as such by the commissioner, with a special permit from the secretary specifying thereon which state owned water bottoms are to be fished during open season. No such dredge shall be used by an oyster fisherman without said special permit being readily available for immediate inspection.

B. The dredge teeth shall be no longer than five inches in length,

and there shall be no more than seven dredges in use on any one vessel.

C. The lessees of propagating or bedding grounds may use on such propagating or bedding grounds any implements or appliances they may desire. However, no implements or appliances shall be used in any manner which will impair or destroy any water bottoms. The department may require lessees to procure from it permits to use such implements and appliances, such permits to be issued without charge, and to be conditioned that such implements or appliances shall not be used on natural oyster reefs in the state, and on those grounds not leased.

D. An annual license shall be obtained for each vessel which uses scrapers or dredges. The fee for this license shall be fifty dollars, except that an additional twenty-five dollar fee shall be charged for each additional dredge used over two dredges. The application for this annual scraper or dredge license shall be applied for during the period of August 1 through September 10 or within thirty days of the death of a vessel owner where the ownership of the vessel is transferred. This license shall be in addition to other licenses provided for in this Subpart. This license shall be revoked upon any breach of the conditions on which it was issued. A license for a newly constructed vessel shall be applied for within forty-five days of the registration of the vessel.

E. (1) The legislature recognizes that historically Calcasieu Lake was a major producer of oysters and that, as a result of channel alterations in the Calcasieu system, oyster stocks were almost completely destroyed. Through the combined efforts of the legislature, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Corps of Engineers, area sportsmen's leagues, and oyster fishermen to reestablish these populations in the early 1970's, the oyster stocks have recovered to levels comparable to those in the 1960's. Presently, Calcasieu Lake produces about 100,000 sacks of oysters annually. This entire production was harvested by tonging only. Due to the unique make-up of the water bottoms of Calcasieu Lake, the common practice of dredging would be detrimental to the oyster populations of this area. Consequently, the legislature recognizes that biologically the oyster populations can be maintained best by limiting the harvesting of oysters in Calcasieu Lake to tonging exclusively, unless other such use has been authorized by rule of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries identifying the reef or reefs where such use is permitted.

(2) No one shall use dredges or scrapers to take oysters from the natural oyster reefs in Calcasieu Lake which the legislature finds are in danger of being destroyed because of dredging and scraping.

(3) Whoever violates the provisions of Subsection A of this Section and rules and regulations of the department shall upon conviction thereof in any court of competent jurisdiction for the first offense be fined not less than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than one hundred and twenty days or both; for 2nd offense not less than \$750 nor more than \$3000 and imprisonment not less than 90 nor more than 180 days; for 3rd and all subsequent offenses the fine shall be not less than \$1000 nor more than \$5000 and imprisonment not less than 180 days nor more than two years.

In addition to the above fines and jail sentences, the license under which said violation occurred may be revoked and may not be reinstated at any time during the period for which it was issued and for one year thereafter, and shall include forfeiture to the department of anything seized in connection with the violation.

Acts 1981, No. 836, §1; Acts 1981, No. 925, §1; Acts 1982, No. 626.

§436. Restricted time of taking oysters

The taking of oysters from the natural reefs of this state and from privately owned bedding grounds between the hours of one-half hour after sunset and until one-half hour before sunrise is prohibited. During these hours all dredges shall be unshackled, disconnected or in such condition as to be easily determined by an agent of the department not to have been in recent use.

Acts 1981, No. 925, §1.

APPENDIX III

ROUGH DRAFT COMMISSION RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
AT ITS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING HELD IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA ON
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1986

WHEREAS, the Commission biologists and the Chief of the Seafood Division have recommended the fishing of the oysters in Calcasieu Lake within those areas open by Health Department, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Resources will examine the growing oysters of this aforementioned areas approve the waters for fishing oysters if the health standards are met, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, be the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission that the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season for 1986-1987 be set in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

- (1) That the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake be fixed to extend from one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, November 10, 1986 through one-half hour after sunset on Saturday, March 29, 1987 with the right being reserved to close said season sooner if biologically justifiable.
- (2) The open areas shall be confined to the areas of Calcasieu Lake with the exception of Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork, and Oyster Bayou which shall be closed.
- (3) All oysters shall be put into sacks before leaving the oyster fishing area in Calcasieu Lake. Oyster not in sacks leaving the fishing area in Calcasieu Lake shall be confiscated and violator subject to penalty set forth in Title 56, Section 115.
- (4) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks per boat per day).
- (5) The three inch culling law shall be observed by all fishermen fishing the area and the culls shall be scattered around the perimeter of the reefs to provide for expansion of future harvesting.
- (6) That oyster fishing be limited only to the use of tongs and to daylight hours.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary be and is hereby authorized and empowered to change the limit or close said season, if biologically sound.

WHEREAS, the natural oyster reefs (oyster seed grounds) under the managerial supervision of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission must open on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 3, 1986 as provided also authorized the Commission to regulate the size limit and are closures after January 1 of each year on state controlled grounds, and

WHEREAS, "Oyster Seed Reservations" are small portions of the "Oyster Seed Grounds" managed and controlled for seed oyster production which are opened on alternate years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby open the public seed ground areas in the following manner:

I. East of the Mississippi River

- 1) All the public grounds east of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet should open 1/2 hour before sunrise October 14th.
- 2) All public grounds west of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet should open 1/2 hour before sunrise September 3rd. The exceptions will be the shell plant areas. The Bay Gardene Oyster Reservation will open September 3rd for 7 days for bedding only and then close September 10th and then reopen October 14th for both sacking and bedding.

II. West of the Mississippi River

- 1) The Sister Lake Oyster Reservation and the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation will open September 3rd. However, the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will remain open for 9 days for bedding only and then close on September 12th and then reopen on October 14th for both bedding and seed production.
- 2) The Vermilion Bay Oyster Seed Reservation will remain open on September 3rd for bedding purposes only.
- 3) The Calcasieu Lake Public Tonging Reefs should open November 10th and close March 29th.
- 4) The Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation will remain closed for the 86/87 oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary be and is hereby authorized and empowered to close either the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation on the Sister Lake Seed Reservation or both if it becomes necessary, and that he also be authorized to close shell plant area if they materialize and when they are properly marked.

This is an emergency action. The reason for this emergency action is that the biological surveys to determine the amount, size, and condition of the oysters and oyster seed grounds have to be made continually until the week prior to the Commission Meeting in which this matter is the subject on the agenda.

J. Burton Angelle
Secretary

State of Louisiana



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY
(504) 925-3617

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 15570
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70895

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

June 17, 1986

Mr. Lloyd F. Abadie
P.O. Box 1218
Crowley, Louisiana 70526

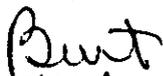
Dear Lloyd:

It was certainly a pleasure hearing from you again and bringing to our attention the penalty of paying for wildlife that poachers kill out of season or at other times. We had plansto have this in our legislative package this year but decided to put it off until the 1987 session to keep the number of bills we had down. As you know we have some important bills in this session of the legislature pertaining to our building, motorboat, hunting and fishing licenses and so on and we felt it better to postpone this penalty legislation till next year. This will give us time to get media support and have a package put together that we can sell to the public as well as the legislature.

The issue on "creeping of geese" has been placed on the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's agenda for a full discussion at the July 10-11, 1986, meeting. Looks as though we will have several interested groups to attend this meeting and we will be most happy if you, along with other outdoor writers, could be in attendance....

Looking forward to visiting with you soon and thanking you for your interest in the wildlife resources of our State, I remain

Sincerely,


J. Burton Angelle, Sr.
Secretary

JBA:JLH:sb

LLOYD F. ABADIE

P. O. Box 1218, Crowley, La. 70526 - (318) 783-8074

June 9, 1986

Mr. J. Burton Angelle
Secretary La. DWF

Dear Burt,

I hope you won't get tired of receiving missives such as the attached. I am convinced that this procedure would do much to alleviate the money problems of DWF.

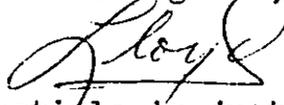
After all, who will object to making the outlaws pay for the fish and game they steal? The poachers? The law breakers? Only if they want to identify themselves as siding with the violators will members of the legislature voice opposition.

Pass this around among your staff, get their views -- this could be a hidden gold mine. Imagine bull reds costing an outlaw \$10 a piece? Such a step would cut down on the number of violations because it makes it just too darn expensive to poach . . . that's the big gain. But it will also enrich the coffers of DWF.

Hopefully we will attain our long time goal and much needed legislation this session. Why not have a properly researched and well planned program for 1987.

Better hurry, I don't have too many active years left.

Best regards,



P.S. The deadline for my article is just about on me. I still need the position of DWF regarding goose creeping for that story. I want to be able to quote the DWF's position on the matter. Will you please get this to me soon?



SECRETARY
JUN 11 1986

Outdoor Writing and Photography

Outdoor Writers Association of America / Southeastern Outdoor Press Association
Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association

Texas program puts a price on poaching

What's Wildlife Worth?

By Kevin Kasowski

It's almost enough to make a decent, self-respecting rat snake hiss in indignation. In an effort to force poachers to reimburse the taxpayer for the loss of illegally-taken animals, the Texas Department of Parks and

Wildlife has begun an innovative program which lists a range of dollar values for each of hundreds of species of wildlife. The DPW hopes that the courts will adopt the guidelines as new civil penalties to be assessed against poachers, in addition to existing criminal penalties and fines. The idea is that the poacher should not only have to pay for

breaking the law, but should be responsible as well for the cost of replacing the wildlife that was "stolen."

Alas for the poor harmless rat snake, however. It occupies the bottom of the list, along with other creatures such as the Gulf Coast toad and the six-lined race runner, any one of which will cost the would-be poacher a mere five-spot, and only then if the judge was in a particularly cantankerous mood.

But if the rat snakes are hissing and if the toads nearly croaked upon learning of their relative insignificance, the whooping cranes are—well, no doubt, whooping it up. Taking an endangered whooper in Texas could cost a poacher as much as \$10,000—a significant deterrent to itchy trigger fingers.

The new "recovery value" guidelines recommended by the Texas DPW represent an important departure from efforts in other states to recoup the full cost of illegally



Illustration by John Hainly

(continued on page 4)

WILDLIFE

(continued from page 3)

taken fish and game. States such as Missouri have attempted to set a value on wildlife species such as the white-tailed deer by estimating the amount of money that hunters pay—in the form of license fees, equipment costs, lodging, etc.—to put venison in the freezer.

But the Texas guidelines are unique in that they evaluate wildlife on a broad range of criteria. The criteria include recreational value to sportsmen, but also factors such as the educational and aesthetic value of the animal and the animal's own environmental tolerances and ecologic importance.

In much the same way that Olympic gymnasts are scored, each species is judged by a panel of experts and rated on a scale of 0 to 3 in the various categories. The scores

are then totaled and the resulting numerical sums are matched with a scale of monetary values. Generally speaking, the highest ranking species are either game animals, furbearers or endangered and threatened wildlife.

Larry McKinney of the DPW's Resource Protection division says that the guidelines are not meant to be absolutely precise.

"One of the virtues of the guidelines is that they offer flexibility to the judge and jury," McKinney says. "Depending on the circumstances of the case, they can pick a high value or a low value." He also points out that the guidelines will be reviewed annually to allow for changing circumstances in the field.

Where will it all end? It's hard to say. Rumor has it though, that the market for journalists is at .99 cents a head and falling. Such is the kind of news that can make a down-and-out rat snake smile and take heart.

5/31/86

From:

Lloyd Abadie



Mr. J. Burton Angelle
Secretary
Louisiana DWF

Dear Burt,

Inasmuch as I will be unable to be in Baton Rouge either Thursday or Friday I would appreciate your reading into the record the attached letter which is addressed to the members of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Thank you very much.

86 JUN 3 P 3:26
LA. WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Sincerely,

Lloyd F. Abadie
Lloyd F. Abadie

LLOYD F. ABADIE

P. O. Box 1218, Crowley, La. 70526 - (318) 783-8074

May 31, 1986

LA. WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

86 JUN 3 P 3:29

Members
Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, LA

Gentlemen:

Please permit me to present my views in support of the ban on "creeping" geese, a nefarious practice which is not only unethical but leads to numerous law violations.

Geese creepers invariably break the bag limit regulations. Indiscriminately firing unplugged shotguns at geese on the ground cannot be controlled. Consequently, besides those which are killed outright, the crippling loss is tremendous.

The constant harrassment of geese while they are attempting to rest or feed is causing them to change their behavior. They assemble in larger flocks now than they formerly did -- there's safety in numbers.

Because of this constant harrassment by outlaws who use radios to keep track of flight directions (and, I might add, the whereabouts of enforcement agents) in order to follow them into the next field where they will land, the birds are under severe stress.

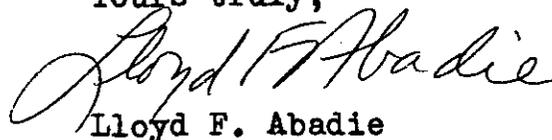
Blue and Snow Geese now travel much greater distances on feeding forays.

I urge you gentlemen to take the steps necessary to put an end to this unsporting and dastardly act.

Unless you do, what is taking place each winter will enable the outlaws to succeed in "chasing our geese away".

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,


Lloyd F. Abadie

Outdoor Writing and Photography

Outdoor Writers Association of America / Southeastern Outdoor Press Association
Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association

Proposed Regulation:

It shall be unlawful to creep, stalk, crawl, or otherwise approach feeding or resting geese for the purpose of taking such geese or thereafter causing such geese to be taken.

"Take" means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect.

Proposed Regulation:

It shall be unlawful to creep, stalk, crawl, or otherwise approach feeding or resting geese for the purpose of taking such geese or thereafter causing such geese to be taken.

"Take" means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect.

Proposed Regulation:

It shall be unlawful to creep, stalk, crawl, or otherwise approach feeding or resting geese for the purpose of taking such geese or thereafter causing such geese to be taken.

"Take" means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect.

State of Louisiana



WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

DON HINES

MEMBER

POST OFFICE BOX 130

BUNKIE, LOUISIANA 71322

318/346-7283

June 12, 1986

*Copy to:
J. B. ...
Burt ...
Honey ...
Bob Hines*

*Paula:
Please include
resolution on
the agenda
of July 11th*

Dear Burt:

Enclosed is a draft of a resolution that I plan to introduce at the next Commission meeting to reaffirm the LDWF Commission's stand on steel shot.

Please place this on the Friday, July 11, agenda for consideration.

I have tried to approach this matter in a positive manner but would appreciate any constructive comments.

I have verified that this appropriation (\$600,000.00, minus Gramm Rudman) has been made and must be contracted by September 30, 1986. Hopefully, we can get Interior to publicize this matter.

Your attention concerning this matter is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Don Hines, M. D.

DEH:dcw

Enclosure

LA WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

86 JUN 13 P 2:00



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release June 25, 1986

Megan Durham (202) 343-5634

ASSISTANT SECRETARY HORN ANNOUNCES PLANNED PHASE OUT OF LEAD SHOT FOR WATERFOWL HUNTING; NONTOXIC SHOT ZONES FOR 1986-87 WATERFOWL SEASON SET

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to phase out use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting in the United States by 1991, William P. Horn, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, announced today.

The announcement came after last-ditch negotiations on June 20 between Horn and Jay Hair, Executive Vice President of the National Wildlife Federation, failed to achieve an out-of-court settlement to a Federation lawsuit aimed at forcing a ban on lead shot for waterfowling throughout the 48 contiguous States beginning in 1987.

"The Department of the Interior is committed to solving this more than 10-year-old controversy over lead poisoning in waterfowl," Horn said. "We want to achieve a consensus among conservation groups and State wildlife agencies about how best to proceed. We have been working toward that consensus since the summer of 1984, when the Interior Department called a meeting of concerned conservation groups and State representatives at Wye Mills, Maryland. We propose to adopt a position taken in March 1986 by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (an association of State wildlife agencies) to phase out use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting by 1991. Virtually all of the concerned parties -- except the National Wildlife Federation -- appear to have agreed that this is the most practical, fair, and effective solution to this difficult problem.

"This could have been an historic occasion in resource conservation history," Horn continued. "Had the Federation agreed to this approach, a decade-long process to end lead poisoning in waterfowl and bald eagles could have been concluded this week. Instead, for legal and procedural reasons that we do not fully comprehend, the Federation has decided to throw away this opportunity. A sensible, workable, and responsible resource solution has been rejected in favor of a court show-down. The Federation has, in effect, indicated its lack of faith in the commitment and integrity not only of this Department, but of other conservation interests who have worked toward this solution.

"I deeply regret the Federation's refusal to accept an out-of-court settlement on this issue because I do not believe this decision to litigate rather than cooperate serves the long-term needs of this Nation's waterfowl resources."

A hearing on the Federation lawsuit is scheduled for June 27 in Federal District Court in Sacramento, California.

(over)

The Interior Department's proposal to phase out the use of lead shot for waterfowling is contained in a proposed rule expected to be published in the June 27 the Federal Register. The public will have 30 days to comment on the proposal. In addition, the Service's plan is contained in a "Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the Use of Lead Shot for Hunting Migratory Birds in the United States." A draft of this document was issued for public comment in December 1985 and public hearings were held at a number of locations around the country.

The environmental impact statement examines nine alternatives for eliminating lead poisoning caused by ingestion of lead shot as a significant cause of death in migratory birds. A phase-out approach was selected as the "preferred alternative" for meeting this goal. This approach was suggested in March 1986 by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The phase-out plan will prohibit use of lead shot first in the areas of the country that have the largest waterfowl harvests. These are the areas where waterfowl and eagles are most frequently exposed to lead poisoning. At the same time, it will allow reasonable time for ammunition manufacturers, retailers, and hunters to make the conversion to nontoxic shot.

Under this alternative, use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting will be completely eliminated nationwide -- including Alaska -- by 1991, beginning in the 1987-88 hunting season with a ban on lead shot in counties where waterfowl harvests are highest. The ban will be extended each succeeding year to include counties where harvests are lower, as outlined below:

Harvest Level (Waterfowl/Square Mile)	Year Lead Shot Will Be Prohibited	Percent of U.S. Waterfowl Harvest Occuring In Affected Zones
20 or more	1987-88	66%
15 or more	1988-89	69%
10 or more	1989-90	75%
5 or more	1990-91	84%
Fewer than 5	1991-92	100%

Conversion to nontoxic shot could be deferred if States carry out monitoring studies that show lead poisoning is not a problem in areas that would otherwise be affected by the conversion schedule. In no case, however, could the requirement for nontoxic shot be deferred beyond 1991.

Under this alternative, boroughs (counties) in Alaska would not be required to employ the gradual implementation schedule, but the State would convert totally to nontoxic shot by 1991 along with the rest of the country.

(more)

1986-87 Nontoxic Shot Zones

The Fish and Wildlife Service plans to begin implementing the "20 or more" zone schedule with its regulations process for the 1987-88 hunting season.

Nontoxic shot regulations for 1986-87 were appended to the final environmental impact statement and will be made final through publication in the Federal Register. The phase-out schedule adopted under the environmental impact statement does not apply to the 1986-87 regulations. These regulations are designated on a "zone" basis similar to nontoxic shot regulations for previous years. Under the 1986-87 regulations, nontoxic shot zones have been designated in portions of 39 States. Publication of regulations for additional areas will occur later, after action by State wildlife agencies.

The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed nontoxic shot zones in portions of 44 States in January 1986. Some of the zones were proposed primarily to reduce lead poisoning in waterfowl, while others were proposed to reduce exposure of bald eagles to lead poisoning. Because bald eagles get lead poisoning primarily from eating hunter-killed or -crippled waterfowl, the proposed "bald eagle protection zones" were based on areas where many waterfowl are harvested and there are large numbers of wintering bald eagles. The proposed zones were identified on a county-wide basis because information on waterfowl harvests and eagle populations is recorded by county. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service solicited review of the proposed county-wide zones by interested parties to make modifications to the boundaries, if appropriate.

As a result of the review by the States and public comments, the following changes have been made to the January 6 proposal:

--Boundaries of 51 counties in Arizona, Arkansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming were refined;

--10 counties in California, Missouri, Oregon, Texas, and Washington were eliminated from consideration as nontoxic shot zones for eagle protection for 1986-87;

--Portions of 31 counties in Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, and Texas were added to the nontoxic shot zones proposed for these States.

Nontoxic shot zones in parts of 73 counties in California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Montana, Oregon, and Washington have not yet been approved by State wildlife agencies. By law, the Fish and Wildlife Service may not enforce or implement nontoxic shot regulations in any State unless the State wildlife agency approves. The Service may, however, elect not to allow waterfowl hunting in areas proposed as nontoxic shot zones if States do not approve the nontoxic shot requirements.

(over)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began requiring nontoxic shot for waterfowl hunting in designated zones of the Atlantic Flyway in 1976. The program was expanded during subsequent years to include portions of all four waterfowl flyways where lead poisoning was identified as a problem. In 1985 the Fish and Wildlife Service also began requiring nontoxic shot in certain areas to prevent lead poisoning in bald eagles, which are listed as an "endangered" or "threatened" species throughout the lower 48 States. As of April 1985, 114 bald eagles have been documented as dying from lead poisoning, and the majority of these cases have been recorded since 1980.

Public comments on the proposed rule to phase out use of lead shot will be due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register and should be addressed to the Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Matomic Building, Room 536, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement will be available from the same address.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

June 20, 1986

Hand Delivered

Mr. Jay D. Hair
Executive Vice President
National Wildlife Federation
1412 Sixteenth St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Jay,

I was disappointed, and frankly surprised, at NWF's decision to break off settlement negotiations in the steel shot lawsuit. The decision was relayed to me through your attorneys twenty minutes before the afternoon meeting. During the morning meeting, I made clear that Interior intends to deal with the lead shot issue, by proposing to end lead shot use in waterfowl hunting through the phaseout endorsed by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA). As you know, this would terminate lead shot use in waterfowl hunting by 1991-92. It represents a consensus, created by long and diligent effort, that will fully and permanently resolve this issue. I have long believed that natural resource issues are best handled by resource professionals, not by lawyers.

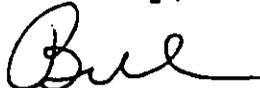
This morning, we outlined our proposal. I was under the impression that you agreed with its substance, but desired guarantees. I outlined the breadth of the consensus behind the International approach. Moreover, I indicated that we were willing to enter into a written stipulation, to be filed in open court and signed by the judge, expressing our commitment to this approach. You declined, claiming fears we might change our mind; we offered to let the lawsuit stand until the final rule was in print. We offered to put specific written commitments in the stipulation. We asked you to draft a commitment for the stipulation that would satisfy your expressed concerns; you indicated that your attorney's time was too valuable.

We broke from the morning session with an agreement that we would "go the extra mile" and prepare written commitments for your review. Your representatives would return at 3:30 to review these. At 3:10 I was informed that NWF would not return. I am speaking with restraint when I express disappointment and regret at your attitude. We have a historic opportunity to resolve this problem, once and for all, and to put these issues behind us. I regret that NWF prefers confrontation and legal disputation to consensus-building and agreement.

Regardless of your intent, Interior plans to proceed with its proposal to implement the IAFWA five-year phaseout. This coming week we will finalize our Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and publish the IAFWA concept as a proposed

rule. We still stand ready to meet with you to work out a settlement agreement and court-approved stipulation in lieu of continued judicial confrontation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill", written in black ink.

William P. Horn
Assistant Secretary
Fish and Wildlife and Parks

cc: Mr. Carl Crouse, President
National Wildlife Federation

FLATHEAD CATFISH

Four years ago we initiated a project on the production of flathead catfish. This project included the artificial propagation of flathead catfish, different methods of hatching eggs and methods of rearing the larval fish to fingerling size.

Over all the second and third years of this project were unsuccessful. The second year we paired thirteen fish and had only one spawn, the third year 40 pairs were tried and four spawns occurred. These years only the hormone, human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG) was used. This year we used a combination of HCG and a luteinizing releasing hormone (LH-RH). This combination of hormones may have been the break through we have been looking for. Twenty-four pairs of fish were used this year and eleven spawns occurred. Of course, without replication of the results, no concrete conclusions can be made.

The fish were injected with HCG the first day and LH-RH the second day. Usually if the fish were going to spawn, it occurred either the third or fourth day. Not only does this seem to be the best way to induce spawning it also gives us a better idea on when spawning will occur.

The final report of this project is due in October of this year and will include the data of all four years

Charles W. Biggar



Sheraton Baton Rouge Hotel
 Sheraton Hotels, Inns & Resorts Worldwide
 4728 CONSTITUTION
 BATON ROUGE, LA 70808
 (504) 925-2244

Today's date 5/1
 File # _____
 Definite Cancellation
 Tentative Change Form

For Office Use Only:
 Code _____
 PS# _____
 Date _____
 By _____

SBS 5/02/86

FUNCTION/RESERVATION CONTRACT

Account Name Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
 Post As _____
 Contact Paula Callais Title _____
 Address P.O. Box 15570 City Baton Rouge
 State LA Zip 70895 Telephone (____) 342-5875
 Master Account Authorities _____ P.I.C. _____

Guest Rooms Required Not Required

DAY	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
DATE					<u>7/10</u>	<u>7/11</u>	
SGL					<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	
DBL							
LKPL							
SUITE							
TOTAL					<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	
TOTAL ROOM NIGHTS							<u>7</u>

Reservations Must Be Made By 7-1-86
 Return Card Individual
 Room List Other
 All Rooms are: 6:00 p.m. 4pm
 GTD By Company
 Rates: Single \$ 35 Double \$ 43
 Triple \$ _____ Quad \$ _____ Parlor \$ _____
 Suites: 1 Bedroom \$ _____ 2 Bedroom \$ _____
 Townhouse \$ _____
 Complimentary Agreement: _____
 Net Commissionable _____ %

Contract must be signed and returned to the hotel by the Option
 Date: 5/16/86 indicated or all commitments are
 released.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Day/Date	Time	Functions	Attendance	Location	Rate
No meeting space required					

48 Hour Guarantee Required and Binding on all Meal Functions

48 Hour Cancellation Notice Required to Negate Meeting Charges.

SWITCHBOARD: <input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT RING ROOM <input type="checkbox"/> PLUG IN PHONE NEEDED <input type="checkbox"/> ADLINE REQUESTED <input type="checkbox"/> OUTSIDE PHONE LINE TO BE INSTALLED AMPLIFICATION: <input type="checkbox"/> STANDING MICROPHONE <input type="checkbox"/> TABLE MICROPHONE <input type="checkbox"/> PODIUM MICROPHONE <input type="checkbox"/> LAVALIER MICROPHONE <input type="checkbox"/> ROVING MICROPHONE OTHER _____ ITEMS REQUIRED: <input type="checkbox"/> STANDING PODIUM <input type="checkbox"/> TABLE PODIUM <input type="checkbox"/> FLIPCHART <input type="checkbox"/> A-FRAME EASEL <input type="checkbox"/> BLACKBOARD <input type="checkbox"/> RISERS <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____	MEETING STYLE: <input type="checkbox"/> THEATRE STYLE <input type="checkbox"/> U-SHAPED (Outside Seating) <input type="checkbox"/> U-SHAPED (Inside/Outside) <input type="checkbox"/> HOLLOW SQUARE <input type="checkbox"/> CONFERENCE STYLE <input type="checkbox"/> SCHOOLROOM STYLE <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTRATION TABLE <input type="checkbox"/> HEAD TABLE _____ LEVEL <input type="checkbox"/> # OF PEOPLE _____ RAISED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ BILLING & CREDIT: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAYMENT AT CHECK OUT <input type="checkbox"/> REQUESTS DIRECT BILLING <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE COMPLETE ATTACHED CREDIT FORM <input type="checkbox"/> HAS ESTABLISHED CREDIT <input type="checkbox"/> LETTER OF CREDIT TO FOLLOW <input type="checkbox"/> ADVANCE DEPOSIT REQUIRED \$ _____ BILLING ADDRESS: ATTN: _____ COMPANY: _____ ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____	FOOD & BEVERAGE: <input type="checkbox"/> ROUNDS OF 8 <input type="checkbox"/> ROUNDS OF 10 <input type="checkbox"/> U-SHAPE <input type="checkbox"/> LONGS OF _____ <input type="checkbox"/> RECEPTION STYLE <input type="checkbox"/> RAISED _____ LEVEL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____	AV RENTALS <input type="checkbox"/> 35MM SLIDE \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 16MM FILM \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> VCR <input type="checkbox"/> VHS \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> BETA \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> SCREEN \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> MONITOR \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> SAFLOK STAND \$ _____ OTHER _____ \$ _____ HOTEL MASTER ACCOUNT: <input type="checkbox"/> ALL CHARGES <input type="checkbox"/> MEETING ROOM AND BANQUET SERVICE ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> MEETING CHARGES, GUEST ROOM AND TAX ONLY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL PAY OWN ROOMS AND INCIDENTALS <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL PAYS INCIDENTALS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
---	--	--	--

I hereby approve the arrangements as shown.

JT

Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____ Salesperson _____