LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 6, 1997

DANIEL BABIN
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.
Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808
For more information, call (504) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
NOVEMBER 6, 1997

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Chairman Daniel Babin presiding.

Jerald Hanchey
Norman McCall
Glynn Carver
Perry Gisclair
Joseph Cormier
Tom Gattle

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Chairman Babin called for a motion for approval of the **October 2, 1997 Commission Minutes.** A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Cormier and seconded by Commissioner Carver. The motion passed with no opposition.

Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association began with Mr. Harry Blanchet introducing Mr. Millard Hutchinson of the Louisiana Taxidermist Association. Mr. Hutchinson thanked the Department on behalf of the Association for the relationship shared over the last 10 years. Each year's Convention is highlighted by a competition which includes the Secretary's Cup. The species for next year will be a pair of squirrels and then woodcocks the following year. Mr. Bill Authement presented his winning taxidermy work of a speckled trout. Mr. Blanchet then stated he attended the Convention and saw some of the work on display and Mr. Authement's mount was a good example of the type of work they do. One of the rules in the competition is the mount has to be skin mounted which proves to be a special challenge for the taxidermists. Commissioner McCall asked if the trout came from Big Lake? Commissioner Carver stated the trout had the right lure in his mouth. Chairman Babin stated it was a beautiful mount.

Donation to Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation by Petroleum Engineers Society was handled by Mr. Tommy Prickett. He stated the Delta Chapter of the Society sponsored the Louisiana Oilman's Sporting Clays Tournament in Covington, Louisiana. The proceeds would be donated to the Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation for the Hunter Youth Education Challenge and the woodduck box program. Mr. Prickett explained the events that occur at the Hunter Youth Education Challenge and the success Louisiana's youth has achieved. The woodduck box program set a goal of 3,000 boxes to help maintain the population and that goal will be reached this year. Mr. Prickett then introduced Mr. David Bryant with the Louisiana

Oilman's Sporting Clays who would make a presentation to Commissioner Carver. Mr. Bryant stated the 1997 tournament was a great success with 237 shooters. A donation in the amount of $10,000 was then given to Commissioner Carver for the Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation. It was requested that 70 percent of the donation go to the Youth Hunter Education Challenge and the remaining 30 percent to the woodduck box program. To date, a total of $31,800 has been donated to the Foundation. The 5th anniversary of the tournament will be held on August 29, 1998 and Mr. Bryant asked the Commissioners to be part of the event. Commissioner Carver thanked Mr. Bryant for the donation. He then explained that all contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible and the donee can specify where the donations are to be used.

Mr. Johnnie Tarver began the presentation on the **Louisiana Natural Areas Registry**. This program was established in 1987 by Act 324 and enables the Department to recognize contributions made by citizens and natural resource managers in conserving the natural legacy. Over 60,000 acres have been enrolled into the program thus far. Mr. Tarver then explained how an area qualifies for entry into the program, such as having a rare animal or plant or a special feature. He then asked Mrs. Lisa Creasman with the Nature Conservancy to come forward. Mrs. Creasman stated this program is co-administered with the Department and is a voluntary program to promote and protect certain areas. The partnership involved in this new area is between the Corps of Engineers, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Nature Conservancy. The Bayou Fordoche site is located in the Atchafalaya Basin and is part of the Mississippi Valley. Preliminary surveys of the uniqueness of this area provides for 200 bird species, 70 species of fish, 60 species of reptiles and amphibians and over 100 types of plants. Mrs. Creasman again thanked the Corps of Engineers for their participation and asked Lt. Col. Clark to come up and accept a plaque. Lt. Col. Clark stated the Corps is dedicated to conserving the lands they control which includes managing lands for preservation of natural habitat and indigenous species.

The **1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Art Contest Winner & Display of Paintings** was handled by Mr. Dave Morrison. The 10th annual competition for the 1998-99 print contest was held on November 5, 1997. This program has generated approximately $5 million which is used for acquisition or enhancement of wetlands. Mr. Morrison explained where this money has been spent and expressed hope for continued success with the program. There were 35 mallard entries submitted and about 50 percent made it through the first round of judging. The third place painting was painted by Mr. Bruce Heard; second place by Mr. Greg Chappell; and first place went to Mr. R. C. Davis. Mr. Davis stated Louisiana is a special place when it comes to wildlife and fisheries. He then stated he was proud to be part of the team and asked everyone to help in keeping Louisiana the way it is. Chairman Babin thanked Mr. Davis for his beautiful painting. Mr. Morrison then stated, with this being the 10th

anniversary, there would be a Governor's Edition stamp created as well as a commemorative print. All proceeds will go back into the duck stamp fund to continue improving waterfowl.

Mr. Danny Timmer handled the next agenda item, **Ratify Final Rule on 1998 Spring Turkey Hunting Seasons.** In July 1997, a Notice of Intent was approved by the Commission and opened for public comment. Two changes have occurred since that time. The first change was closing an additional portion of Madison Parish east of Highway 65 to the Mississippi River. The second change was closing a portion of Sabine and north Vernon Parishes due to restoration projects. Chairman Babin asked Mr. Timmer to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Gattle made a motion accepting the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner McCall. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
November 6, 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, November 6, 1997.

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

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

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

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

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

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the Notice of Intent published in the July 1997 Louisiana Register, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, at its regular monthly meeting in November hereby ratifies regulation on open hunting season dates, bag limits, methods of taking and rules and regulations on Department-operated wildlife management areas for turkeys. Authority to establish regulations are vested in the Commission by §115 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

1998 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

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

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain

containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

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

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

1998 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Open Only in the Following Areas

Area A
March 21-April 26

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant, Livingston, Natchitoches, Rapides, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXCEPTION: See Indian Bayou tract owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers for special season dates.

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

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

Vernon: That portion east of Hwy. 171 from the Sabine Parish Line to the junction of Hwy. 111, south of Hwy. 111 westward to Hwy. 392, and south of Hwy. 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of the National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve.

Area B
April 11-April 26

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

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

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

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to La. 144, west of La. 144 to La. 34, west of La. 34 to Chatham, north of La. 146 from Chatham to La. 155, north of La. 155 to La. 542, north of La. 542 to Quitman, north of La. 155 from Quitman to Parish Road 105 (Bear Knoll Road), west of Parish Road 105 to La. 147, north of La. 147 to Bienville Parish line.

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

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

Road), west of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, north of U.S. 165 from Bastrop to Ouachita Parish line.

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

Area C
March 21-March 29

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

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

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

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

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

1998 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS

GENERAL

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

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

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

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

PERMITS

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

Lottery Hunts: Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is January 31, 1998. Application fee of $5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any district office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1 — P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055; 318/371-3050]; [District 2 — 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203; 318/343-4044]; [District 3 — 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360; 318/487-5885]; [District 4 — P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334; 318/757-4571]; [District 5 — 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, 70601; 318/491-2575]; [District 6 — 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, 70571; 318/948-0255]; [District 7 — P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898; 504/765-2360].

Wildlife Management Turkey Hunting Schedule*

WMA	Season Dates	Permit Requirements (Mandatory)	Lottery Dates**
Bens Creek†	March 21-April 12	Self-Clearing	None
Boeuf	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Big Lake	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Bodcau	April 11-April 26	Self-Clearing	None
Boise Vernon	March 21-April 12	Self-Clearing	None

Camp Beauregard	March 21-April 5	Self-Clearing	None
Dewey Wills	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 23-25
Fort Polk	March 21-April 26	Self-Clearing	None
Georgia-Pacific	April 11-April 19	Self-Clearing	April 11-12 April 13-15
Grassy Lake	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Jackson-Bienville	April 11-April 26	Self-Clearing	None
Little River	March 21-April 5	Self-Clearing	None
Loggy Bayou	April 18-April 19 April 25-April 26	Self-Clearing	April 18-19 April 25-26
Pearl River	March 21-April 5	Self-Clearing	None
Peason Ridge	March 21-April 26	Self-Clearing	None
Pomme de Terre	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Red River	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Sabine	March 21-March 22 March 28-March 29	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 28-29
Sandy Hollow†	March 21-April 12	Self-Clearing	None
Sherburne	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 23-25
Sicily Island	March 21-March 22 March 28-March 29 April 4-April 5	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 28-29 April 4-5
Three Rivers	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Tunica Hills	March 21-March 22 March 28-March 29 April 4-April 5	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 28-29 April 4-5

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

** The deadline for receiving applications for all turkey Lottery Hunts on WMAs is January 31, 1998.

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

CORPS OF ENGINEERS - INDIAN BAYOU AREA. Turkey hunting dates are March 21-29, 1998. Lottery hunts are March 21-22 and March 23-25. For information, annual permit, and lottery hunt application, contact Corps of Engineers Headquarters, Post Office Box 187, Krotz Springs, LA 70750; phone 318/566-3561.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 23: .

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Mr. Phil Bowman was next with an item to **Ratify Rule on Waddill Wildlife Refuge.** He reminded the Commissioners they approved the Department publishing a Notice of Intent to amend a rule on Waddill Wildlife Refuge. The change dealt with the prohibition of possession of alcoholic beverages on the refuge. The Department did not receive any public comments on the proposed change. Mr. Bowman then asked the Commission to ratify the rule after it was read for the record. Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to accept the Rule. Commissioner Cormier seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

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

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby amends a rule pertaining to the visitor regulations for Waddill Wildlife Refuge.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part III. State Game and Fish Preserves and Sanctuaries

Chapter 3. Particular Game and Fish Preserves and Commissions

§325. Waddill Wildlife Refuge

* * *

B. General

* * *

10. The possession of firearms, bows, liquor and controlled dangerous substances on the refuge is prohibited; provided, however, that the Department is authorized to construct, maintain and operate ranges, in which case, shotguns and bows will be permitted under guidelines developed by the Department; and, further provided that the prohibition on the possession of firearms shall not apply to duly authorized law enforcement officers.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 et seq. and 56:109.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 22:861 (September 1996); amended LR 23: (November 1997).

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Notice of Intent on Modification of Black Bass Harvest Regulations on False River Lake, Pointe Coupee Parish and Discussion of Act 449 of the 1997 Louisiana Legislature began with Mr. Bennie Fontenot asking that the False River modification be addressed first. In January, it was first noticed there were serious problems with the bass populations in False River. He then recommended the present slot limits be modified. Mr. Tim Morrison gave a slide presentation on what has been found in False River. Different ways of measuring the fish population were spring and fall electrofishing, wintertime gill net sampling, summer nighttime shoreline seining and rotenone sampling, if necessary. Slides shown gave population results from 1995, 1996 and 1997 electrofishing data, summer nighttime shoreline seining results for years 1990 through 1997, rotenone results of forage fish and bass fingerlings, gill net sample results from 1990 through 1997, and water level fluctuations from the beginning of March through April for several years. Another way of looking at the health of a lake, stated Mr. Morrison, is through habitat, which is aquatic plant growth. Beginning in 1991, a decline in plant area coverage and species diversity was occurring. The only vegetation observed in 1997 was a small strip of hydrilla on the southern portion of the lake. Mr. Morrison noted the change in the aquatics and fisheries was due to sediment discharge into the lake. False River is presently set up with trophy lake status, but now does not have any of the qualities to maintain its current status. The staff was now recommending a 14 inch minimum length on largemouth bass with a 5 fish creel for False River.

Commissioner Gattle asked what has changed the stability of the water level? Mr. Morrison stated there have been watershed projects completed by the SCS on the south and north end of the

lake. Commissioner Carver asked if the sediment problem will get better in the future? Chairman Babin reiterated that the slot limit was not working for a number of reasons, but primarily because of the introduction of water and sediments into the lake. Then he stated Pointe Coupee Parish needed to address some of these same concerns. Mr. Fontenot stated there was a need to protect the reproduction occurring in the lake now. Then he asked the Commission to approve the Notice of Intent. Chairman Babin asked Mr. Fontenot to explain the timetable involved. Then he stated Act 449 would not be a biological tool to help False River, but the staff's recommendation could be that tool and would also accommodate the economic impact Act 449 allows for. Commissioner Gattle asked for an explanation on the Notice of Intent since it included several other lakes in the proposed rule. Commissioner Gattle then asked if Concordia and Caney Lakes currently have a 15 to 19 inch slot limit? Chairman Babin stated the only part being amended was section 3 in the Notice of Intent that affects False River. Commissioner Carver made a motion to accept the Notice of Intent and it was seconded by Commissioner Gattle. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Babin recognized Representative Robert Marionneaux and stated now they would discuss Act 449. Representative Marionneaux thanked the Commission and Department on behalf of Pointe Coupee Parish. He then stated the point of Act 449 has been solved by approving the Notice of Intent. But as far as the other Representatives and Senators that voted for the bill, Representative Marionneaux asked that the Commission promulgate rules for lakes in their districts. The Representative then assured Commissioner Gattle they would look at the sediment problem. He again expressed his appreciation. Chairman Babin stated the Commission was responsible for protecting the resource and did not want to put an economic burden on any area. He assured Representative Marionneaux it was not the intention of the Commission to go against the Legislature. Representative Marionneaux asked the Commission to promulgate a rule in accordance with Act 449, but if they did not deem it necessary, the Legislature could amend the bill or come before the Commission themselves. Secretary Jenkins explained, from past experience, how the legislative process occurs and how they came to realize the Department should manage the resources. Then he stated Act 449 was correct when it asked the Commission to promulgate a rule. Representative Marionneaux stated all throughout the process, he was in contact with staff of the Department and would never have considered not including the Department.

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

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to amend a rule for black bass.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sport and Commercial Fishing

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

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

B. In addition, the Commission establishes special size and daily take regulations for black bass on the following water bodies:

1. Concordia Lake (Concordia Parish), and Caney Creek Reservoir (Jackson Parish):

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

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

c. Possession limit:

i. On water - Same as daily take.
ii. Off water - Twice the daily take.

2. Lake Bartholomew (Morehouse and Ouachita parishes), Black Bayou Lake (Bossier Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Cross Lake (Caddo Parish), John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir (Red River Parish), Lake Rodemacher (Rapides Parish) and Vernon Lake (Vernon Parish):

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

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

c. Possession limit:

i. On water - Same as daily take.
ii. Off water - Twice the daily take.

3. False River (Pointe Coupee Parish)

a. Size limit: 14 inch minimum size limit.

b. Daily Take: 5 fish.

c. Possession limit:

i. On water - Same as daily take.
ii. Off water - Twice the daily take.

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

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

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:364 (June 1988), amended LR 17:278 (March 1991), repromulgated LR 17:488 (May 1991), amended LR 17:1122 (November 1991), LR 20:796 (July 1994), LR 23:1168 (September 1997), LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., January 7, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

A **Notice of Intent on Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission - Reef Fish** was presented by Mr. Harry Blanchet. The Notice of Intent would revise the existing rule on harvesting of reef fish in state waters. The change will adjust the rule so it parallels the regulations in effect in federal waters. The size

limit for red snapper would change on January 1, 1998, but the normal rulemaking process will not allow the Commission's proposed rule to become effective until March 20, 1998. He then explained where the existing rule was modified. Chairman Babin asked when will this proposed rule come up for vote? Mr. Blanchet stated this was a new Notice of Intent. Commissioner Gisclair asked if all the changes followed the verbiage in the federal regulations? Chairman Babin asked if there would be any conflict with the federal regulations? Mr. Blanchet stated no. Hearing no further discussion, Commissioner McCall made a motion accepting the Notice of Intent. Commissioner Cormier seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

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

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (Title 76.VII.335(A)) modifying recreational creel and size limits for reef fish, and rules for commercial harvest of reef fish, which are part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of triggerfishes, amberjacks, grunts, wrasses, snappers, groupers, sea basses, tilefishes, and porgies within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

Species	Recreational Bag Limits
* * *	
4. Greater amberjack	1 fish per person per day

* * *

B. 1. All persons who do not possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish resources are limited to the recreational bag limit.

2. Persons who are limited to a recreational bag limit shall not sell, barter, trade, exchange or attempt to sell, barter, trade or exchange any reef fish.

* * *

D. 1. For charter vessels and headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 there will be an allowance for up to two daily bag limits on multi-day trips provided the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips of over 12 hours, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.

2. Any fish taken from charter vessels or headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 or any charter vessel as described in L.R.S. 56:302.9 shall not be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged or attempted to be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged. The provisions of this section apply to fish taken within or without Louisiana's territorial waters.

3. No person aboard any commercial vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of fish between vessels on state or federal waters.

* * *

G. No person shall purchase, sell, exchange, barter or attempt to purchase, sell, exchange, or barter any red snapper in excess of any possession limit for which a commercial permit or endorsement was issued.

H.	Species	Minimum Size Limits
1.	Red Snapper	16 inches total length
2.	Gray, mutton and yellowtail snapper	12 inches total length
3.	Lane snapper	8 inches total length
4.	Red, gag, black, yellowfin and nassau grouper	20 inches total length

5.	Jewfish	50 inches total length
6.	Greater amberjack	28 inches fork length (recreational) 36 inches fork length (commercial)
7.	Black seabass	8 inches total length
8.	Vermillion snapper	10 inches total length

I. Federal regulations 50 CFR Part 641 as amended by FR Vol. 55, No. 14, defines charter vessels and headboats as follows:

Charter vessel - a vessel whose operator is licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry six or fewer paying passengers and whose passengers fish for a fee. A charter vessel with a permit to fish on a commercial quota for reef fish is under charter when it carries a passenger who fishes for a fee, or when there are more than three persons aboard including operator and crew.

Headboat - vessel whose operator is licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry seven or more paying passengers and whose passengers fish for a fee. A headboat with a permit to fish on a commercial quota for reef fish is operating as a headboat when it carries a passenger who fishes for a fee, or when there are more than three persons aboard including operator and crew.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996); LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Mr. Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to January 1, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Mrs. Janis Landry presented the next item, **Notice of Intent - Reduction of 3-day Basic Nonresident Recreational Fishing License and 3-day Nonresident Saltwater License Fees.** The Legislature

passed a bill to increase the 3-day non-resident freshwater license from $10 to $20 and also created a 3-day saltwater license for a fee of $20. The proposed action would change the 3-day freshwater license back to $10 and make the 3-day saltwater license $15. The effective date for this change would need to be decided by the Commission, stated Mrs. Landry. She then explained the problems with changing the fees during the current license year. Commissioner Carver stated he could not see the Department spending $12,000 for 60 days. Chairman Babin stated, if the date of July 1, 1998 was used, the Department would save re-publication fees and let other states know this Department is working to have a better relationship with them. Commissioner Carver asked Mrs. Landry how much would a person pay for a non-resident license if bought on the Louisiana side and on the Texas side. With the difference in costs, not only are license fees lost but also tourist money, stated Commissioner Carver. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the Legislature passed this bill on their own or was it a request from the Department. Mrs. Landry stated the Department wanted the bill to change the 2-day license to a 3-day license with no fee changes. Then Commissioner Gisclair asked if the charterboat captains could issue a non-resident license for $3.50? Mrs. Landry answered yes, but the fee is $2.50. Then Commissioner Gisclair stated this was a big injustice. Chairman Babin stated the charterboat license fees needed to be addressed. Secretary Jenkins agreed with Commissioner Gisclair and stated the Department fought this bill in the Legislature. Then he stated it cost the Department approximately $250,000 to lose those licenses the first year. Commissioner Carver asked if the Commission had the right to override the fees? Mr. Don Puckett stated the Commission could change any non-resident recreational fishing or hunting license fees. Chairman Babin stated this could be discussed at an upcoming meeting. Commissioner Carver asked how much would it cost to put it into effect? Commissioner Gattle asked, on the saltwater side, have other states protested the cost of our license fees? Secretary Jenkins stated the Department has received a lot of complaints from Mississippi. Chairman Babin stated he was approached by people from Mississippi that wanted to make a presentation to the Commission at their December meeting. Commissioner McCall asked what was the cost of a fishing license in Mississippi? Secretary Jenkins felt no one fished in Mississippi waters. Chairman Babin stated there was a need to change the cost of the licenses, but there was also a need to look at how much the change would cost from an economic standpoint. Mr. Puckett advised there was a need for a motion, a second and a 2/3 majority vote to add the item to the agenda as an action item. Commissioner Carver made a motion to include this on the agenda as an action item. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Then Mr. Puckett suggested amending the Notice of Intent to include an effective date. Chairman Babin asked if July 1, 1998 was the official date for new licenses? Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to amend the Notice of Intent to read July 1, 1998 as the official date to change the non-resident fishing

license fees. Commissioner Gattle seconded the motion and it also passed with no opposition. Then, Commissioner Gisclair made a motion adopting the amended Notice of Intent and it was seconded by Commissioner Gattle. This motion passed with no opposition.

Secretary Jenkins asked if the Commission wanted an item on the December's agenda to discuss charterboat licenses? Chairman Babin stated yes. Then Chairman Babin asked why are licenses available mid-year? Mrs. Landry stated this is how the law is written. Chairman Babin asked if there would be a better time to issue fishing licenses in this State? Then he asked if Point of Sale was ever implemented, could it solve a lot of problems? Mrs. Landry answered yes, as long as the program was implemented and designed properly. Commissioner Carver stated a lot of states issue fishing licenses that are good for a year. Then he commented if a person buys a license in May, that license would only be valid for two months. Commissioner Gattle asked who could develop a comparison of the license fees of the adjoining states to Louisiana? Mrs. Landry stated she could develop a listing. Chairman Babin asked Mrs. Landry if this could be done for the December Meeting, to which she stated it could.

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

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby gives notice of its intent to adopt a rule relative to fees for three-day basic and saltwater nonresident recreational fishing licenses.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 4. License and License Fees

§407. Three-day Basic and Saltwater Nonresident Recreational Fishing License Fees

A. In lieu of the basic recreational fishing license, nonresidents may purchase a three-day basic recreational fishing license for a fee of $10. This three-day license shall be valid for three consecutive days, including the day of issue.

B. In lieu of the saltwater recreational fishing license, a nonresident may purchase a three-day saltwater recreational fishing license at a fee of $15. This three-day license shall be valid for three consecutive days, including the day of issue.

C. The above fees hereby supersede those fees established for the above licenses at R.S. 56:302.1B(1) and (2)(a).

D. The effective date of the above fees shall be July 1, 1998.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(28).
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic statement, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Janis Landry, Office of Management and Finance, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, February 5, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

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

Region I - Minden - 89 citations.

Region II - Monroe - 118 citations.

Region III - Alexandria - 137 citations.

Region IV - Ferriday - 49 citations.

Region V - Lake Charles - 193 citations.

Region VI - Opelousas - 93 citations.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 110 citations.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 262 citations.

Region IX - Thibodaux - 337 citations.

Seafood Investigative Unit - 31 citations.

Statewide Strike Force - 110 citations.

SWEP - 59 citations.

Oyster Strike Force - 198 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of October was 1,388.

The aviation report for October 1997 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 50.6 hours for enforcement and 38.5 hours for other divisions.

Commissioner McCall asked, of these cases, how many are repeat offenders? Then he asked if this was a major problem? Chairman Babin stated it was unfortunate the penalty does not fit the crime in some cases.

Chairman Babin then asked for **Division Reports.** Mr. Dave Moreland gave a slide presentation on the **Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).** The DMAP program allows the Department to assist private landowners in managing the deer population on their land. It is designed to control the antlerless segment of the deer population. At least 500 acres of land is needed to enroll in DMAP with a fee of $25 registration and 5 cents per acre. Deer habitat is one area looked at as well as a recommendation of how many deer should be harvested. Some hunting clubs or landowners manage their herds for quality deer or trophy deer. Mr. Moreland stated the number of clubs enrolled in the program more than doubled since 1989. East Carroll Parish is in the high harvest category having the best habitat in the State and a high deer population. Vernon and Beauregard Parishes' harvest has started to increase due to more lands being leased, stated Mr. Moreland. He anticipates a good deer season this year. Commissioner Gattle asked what the percentage is of DMAP tags being filled. Mr. Moreland stated the average was between 60 and 70 percent. Commissioner Carver asked if the staff was looking at deer destroying crops? Mr. Moreland stated the Department and Commission needed to develop a policy on deer depredation. Then Commissioner Carver asked if the issuance of permits to control depredation could be controlled? Mr. Hugh Bateman stated this problem will have to be dealt with more frequently in the future as the deer herds grow and the rural areas become urbanized. He then stated he was proud of the way Mr. Moreland is handling the deer program statewide and the way he has represented the Department. The DMAP program is a success and pays for itself as well as provides additional funding for the Department.

Then Mr. Bateman stated the next division report was also a slide presentation on **Catahoula Lake Brush Control.** Catahoula Lake

has over 500,000 ducks on it now, stated Mr. Bateman. Invasions of woody plants occur on the lake during the dry part of the year. In 1996, about 10,000 acres along the perimeter of the lake were being invaded with trees. This year approximately 2,800 acres have been cut with tractors and it proved to be very successful. The northeast portion of the lake encompassing 250 acres of the lake was treated with a heavy duty bushhog machine. Isolated willow trees were treated with a herbicide in an effort to kill them. Mr. Bateman hoped an additional 3,000 acres could be treated next year. Ducks Unlimited provided funding to help with this project. Commissioner McCall asked if the trees bushhogged this year would come back next year or were they eliminated? Mr. Bateman stated the mechanical treatment allows for 3 to 6 years before treatment would be needed again.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **March 1998 Meeting** on Thursday, March 5, 1997 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Babin then asked if there were any **Public Comments.** Commissioner Gisclair read a letter from Mr. George Barisich with United Commercial Fisherman's Association. The purpose of the letter was to request the Commission consider extending the shrimp season east of the Mississippi River and to allow the harvesting of black drum and sheepshead that are devouring everything in their path. Mr. John Roussel stated the staff would look at the situation, but he noted they could not predict what the shrimp would be like next month. He suggested that it be put on the December agenda and the staff would be able to provide information at that time.

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

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

Changes made 11/17/97 - sch

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Chairman Daniel Babin presiding.

Jerald Hanchey
Norman McCall
Glynn Carver
Perry Gisclair
Joseph Cormier
Tom Gattle

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Chairman Babin called for a motion for approval of the **October 2, 1997 Commission Minutes.** A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Cormier and seconded by Commissioner Carver. The motion passed with no opposition.

Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association began with Mr. Harry Blanchet introducing Mr. Millard Hutchinson of the Louisiana Taxidermist Association. Mr. Hutchinson thanked the Department on behalf of the Association for the relationship shared over the last 10 years. Each year's Convention is highlighted by a competition which includes the Secretary's Cup. The species for next year will be a pair of squirrels and then woodcocks the following year. Mr. Bill Authement presented his winning taxidermy work of a speckled trout. Mr. Blanchet then stated he attended the Convention and saw some of the work on display and Mr. Authement's mount was a good example of the type of work they do. One of the rules in the competition is the mount has to be skin mounted which proves to be a special challenge for the taxidermists. Commissioner McCall asked if the trout came from Big Lake? Commissioner Carver stated the trout had the right lure in his mouth. Chairman Babin stated it was a beautiful mount.

Donation to Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation by Petroleum Engineers Society was handled by Mr. Tommy Prickett. He stated the Delta Chapter of the Society sponsored the Louisiana Oilman's Sporting Clays Tournament in Covington, Louisiana. The proceeds would be donated to the Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation for the Hunter Youth Education Challenge and the woodduck box program. Mr. Prickett explained the events that occur at the Hunter Youth Education Challenge and the success Louisiana's youth has achieved. The woodduck box program set a goal of 3,000 boxes to help maintain the population and that goal will be reached this year. Mr. Prickett then introduced Mr. David Bryant with the Louisiana

Oilman's Sporting Clay who would make a presentation to Commissioner Carver. Mr. Bryant stated the 1997 tournament was a great success with 237 shooters. A donation in the amount of $10,000 was then given to Commissioner Carver for the Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation. It was requested that 70 percent of the donation go to the Youth Hunter Education Challenge and the remaining 30 percent to the woodduck box program. To date, a total of $31,800 has been donated to the Foundation. The 5th anniversary of the tournament will be held on August 29, 1998 and Mr. Bryant asked the Commissioners to be part of the event. Commissioner Carver thanked Mr. Bryant for the donation. He then explained that all contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible and the donee can specify where the donations are to be used.

Mr. Johnnie Tarver began the presentation on the **Louisiana Natural Areas Registry**. This program was established in 1987 by Act 324 and enables the Department to recognize contributions made by citizens and natural resource managers in conserving the natural legacy. Over 60,000 acres have been enrolled into the program thus far. Mr. Tarver then explained how an area qualifies for entry into the program, such as having a rare animal or plant or a special feature. He then asked Mrs. Lisa Creasman with the Nature Conservancy to come forward. Mrs. Creasman stated this program is co-administered with the Department and is a voluntary program to promote and protect certain areas. The partnership involved in this new area is between the Corps of Engineers, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Nature Conservancy. The Bayou Fordoche site is located in the Atchafalaya Basin and is part of the Mississippi Valley. Preliminary surveys of the uniqueness of this area provides for 200 bird species, 70 species of fish, 60 species of reptiles and amphibians and over 100 types of plants. Mrs. Creasman again thanked the Corps of Engineers for their participation and asked Lt. Col. Clark to come up and accept a plaque. Lt. Col. Clark stated the Corps is dedicated to conserving the lands they control which includes managing lands for preservation of natural habitat and indigenous species.

The 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Art Contest Winner & Display of Paintings was handled by Mr. Dave Morrison. The 10th annual competition for the 1998-99 print contest was held on November 5, 1997. This program has generated approximately $5 million which is used for acquisition or enhancement of wetlands. Mr. Morrison explained where this money has been spent and expressed hope for continued success with the program. There were 35 mallard entries submitted and about 50 percent made it through the first round of judging. The third place painting was painted by Mr. Bruce Heard; second place by Mr. Greg Chappell; and first place went to Mr. R. C. Davis. Mr. Davis stated Louisiana is a special place when it comes to wildlife and fisheries. He then stated he was proud to be part of the team and asked everyone to help in keeping Louisiana the way it is. Chairman Babin thanked Mr. Davis for his beautiful painting. Mr. Morrison then stated with this being the 10th

anniversary, there would be a Governor's Edition stamp created as well as a commemorative print. All proceeds would go back into the duck stamp fund to continue improving waterfowl.

Mr. Danny Timmer handled the next agenda item, **Ratify Final Rule on 1998 Spring Turkey Hunting Seasons.** In July 1997, a Notice of Intent was approved by the Commission and allowed for public comment. Two changes have occurred since that time. The first change was closing an additional portion of Madison Parish east of Highway 65 to the Mississippi River. The second change was closing a portion of Sabine and north Vernon Parishes due to restoration purposes. Chairman Babin asked Mr. Timmer to read the Therefore Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. Commissioner Gattle made a motion accepting the Resolution and it was seconded by Commissioner McCall. The motion passed with no opposition.

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

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
November 6, 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, November 6, 1997.

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

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

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

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

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

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

La. Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the Notice of Intent published in the July 1997 Louisiana Register, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, at its regular monthly meeting in November hereby ratifies regulation on open hunting season dates, bag limits, methods of taking and rules and regulations on Department-operated wildlife management areas for turkeys. Authority to establish regulations are vested in the Commission by §115 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

1998 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

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

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries strongly discourages "feeding" agricultural grains to wild turkeys as this practice increases the risk of birds contracting potentially lethal diseases. Repeatedly placing grain in the same area may expose otherwise healthy birds to disease contaminated soils, grain

containing lethal toxins and other diseased turkeys using the same feeding site. Properly distributed food plots (clovers, wheat, millet and chufa) are far more desirable for turkeys and have the added benefit of appealing to a wide variety of wildlife.

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

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

1998 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Open Only in the Following Areas

Area A
March 21-April 26

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant, Livingston, Natchitoches, Rapides, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXCEPTION: See Indian Bayou tract owned by the U.S. Corps of Engineers for special season dates.

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

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

Vernon: That portion east of Hwy. 171 from the Sabine Parish Line to the junction of Hwy. 111, south of Hwy. 111 westward to Hwy. 392, and south of Hwy. 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of the National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve.

Area B
April 11-April 26

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

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

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

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to La. 144, west of La. 144 to La. 34, west of La. 34 to Chatham, north of La. 146 from Chatham to La. 155, north of La. 155 to La. 542, north of La. 542 to Quitman, north of La. 155 from Quitman to Parish Road 105 (Bear Knoll Road), west of Parish Road 105 to La. 147, north of La. 147 to Bienville Parish line.

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

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

Road), west of La. 830-4 to Bastrop, north of U.S. 165 from Bastrop to Ouachita Parish line.

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

Area C
March 21-March 29

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

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

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

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

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

1998 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS

GENERAL

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

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

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

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

PERMITS

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

Lottery Hunts: Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is January 31, 1998. Application fee of $5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any district office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1 — P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055; 318/371-3050]; [District 2 — 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203; 318/343-4044]; [District 3 — 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360; 318/487-5885]; [District 4 — P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334; 318/757-4571]; [District 5 — 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, 70601; 318/491-2575]; [District 6 — 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, 70571; 318/948-0255]; [District 7 — P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898; 504/765-2360].

Wildlife Management Turkey Hunting Schedule*

WMA	Season Dates	Permit Requirements (Mandatory)	Lottery Dates**
Bens Creek†	March 21-April 12	Self-Clearing	None
Boeuf	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Big Lake	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Bodcau	April 11-April 26	Self-Clearing	None
Boise Vernon	March 21-April 12	Self-Clearing	None

Camp Beauregard	March 21-April 5	Self-Clearing	None
Dewey Wills	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 23-25
Fort Polk	March 21-April 26	Self-Clearing	None
Georgia-Pacific	April 11-April 19	Self-Clearing	April 11-12 April 13-15
Grassy Lake	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Jackson-Bienville	April 11-April 26	Self-Clearing	None
Little River	March 21-April 5	Self-Clearing	None
Loggy Bayou	April 18-April 19 April 25-April 26	Self-Clearing	April 18-19 April 25-26
Pearl River	March 21-April 5	Self-Clearing	None
Peason Ridge	March 21-April 26	Self-Clearing	None
Pomme de Terre	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Red River	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Sabine	March 21-March 22 March 28-March 29	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 28-29
Sandy Hollow†	March 21-April 12	Self-Clearing	None
Sherburne	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 23-25
Sicily Island	March 21-March 22 March 28-March 29 April 4-April 5	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 28-29 April 4-5
Three Rivers	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Tunica Hills	March 21-March 22 March 28-March 29 April 4-April 5	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 28-29 April 4-5

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

** The deadline for receiving applications for all turkey Lottery Hunts on WMAs is January 31, 1998.

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

CORPS OF ENGINEERS - INDIAN BAYOU AREA. Turkey hunting dates are March 21-29, 1998. Lottery hunts are March 21-22 and March 23-25. For information, annual permit, and lottery hunt application, contact Corps of Engineers Headquarters, Post Office Box 187, Krotz Springs, LA 70750; phone 318/566-3561.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 23: .

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Mr. Phil Bowman was next with an item to **Ratify Rule on Waddill Wildlife Refuge.** He reminded the Commissioners they approved the Department to ~~proceed with~~ publishing a Notice of Intent to amend a rule on Waddill Wildlife Refuge. The change dealt with the prohibition of possession of alcoholic beverages on the refuge. The Department did not receive any public comments on the proposed change. Mr. Bowman then asked the Commission to ratify the rule after it was read for the record. Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to accept the Rule. Commissioner Cormier seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

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

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby amends a rule pertaining to the visitor regulations for Waddill Wildlife Refuge.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part III. State Game and Fish Preserves and Sanctuaries

Chapter 3. Particular Game and Fish Preserves and Commissions

§325. Waddill Wildlife Refuge

* * *

B. General

* * *

10. The possession of firearms, bows, liquor and controlled dangerous substances on the refuge is prohibited; provided, however, that the Department is authorized to construct, maintain and operate ranges, in which case, shotguns and bows will be permitted under guidelines developed by the Department; and, further provided that the prohibition on the possession of firearms shall not apply to duly authorized law enforcement officers.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 et seq. and 56:109.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 22:861 (September 1996); amended LR 23: (November 1997).

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Notice of Intent on Modification of Black Bass Harvest Regulations on False River Lake, Pointe Coupee Parish and Discussion of Act 449 of the 1997 Louisiana Legislature began with Mr. Bennie Fontenot asking that the False River modification be addressed first. In January, it was first noticed there were serious problems with the bass populations in False River. He then recommended the present slot limits be modified. Mr. Tim Morrison gave a slide presentation on what has been found in False River. Were Different ways of measuring the fish population ~~was~~ spring and fall electrofishing, wintertime gill net sampling, summer nighttime shoreline seining and rotenone sampling, if necessary. Slides shown gave population results from 1995, 1996 and 1997 electrofishing data, summer nighttime shoreline seining results for years 1990 through 1997, rotenone results of forage fish and bass fingerlings, gill net sample results from 1990 through 1997, and water level fluctuations from the beginning of March through April for several years. Another way of looking at the health of a lake, stated Mr. Morrison, is through habitat, which is aquatic plant Area growth. Beginning in 1991, a decline in plant ~~aerial~~ coverage and species diversity was occurring. The only vegetation observed in 1997 was a small strip of hydrilla on the southern portion of the lake. Mr. Morrison noted the change in the aquatics and fisheries was due to a sediment discharge into the lake. False River is presently set up with trophy lake status, but now does not have any of the qualities to maintain its current status. The staff was now recommending a 14 inch minimum length on largemouth bass with a 5 fish creel for False River.

Commissioner Gattle asked what has changed the stability of the water level? Mr. Morrison stated there have been watershed projects completed by the SCS on the south and north end of the

lake. Commissioner Carver asked if the sediment problem will get better in the future? Chairman Babin reiterated that the slot limit was not working for a number of reasons, but primarily because of the introduction of water and sediments into the lake. Then he stated Pointe Coupee Parish needed to address some of these same concerns. Mr. Fontenot stated there was a need to protect the reproduction occurring in the lake now. Then he asked the Commission to approve the Notice of Intent. Chairman Babin asked Mr. Fontenot to explain the timetable involved. Then he stated Act 449 would not be a biological tool to help False River, but the staff's recommendation could be that tool and would also accommodate the economic impact Act 449 allows for. Commissioner Gattle asked for an explanation on the Notice of Intent since it included several other lakes in the proposed rule. Commissioner Gattle then asked if Concordia and Caney Lakes currently have a 15 to 19 inch slot limit? Chairman Babin stated the only part being amended was section 3 in the Notice of Intent that affects False River. Commissioner Carver made a motion to accept the Notice of Intent and it was seconded by Commissioner Gattle. The motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Babin recognized Representative Robert Marionneaux and stated now they would discuss Act 449. Representative Marionneaux thanked the Commission and Department on behalf of Pointe Coupee Parish. He then stated the point of Act 449 has been solved by approving the Notice of Intent. But as far as the other Representatives and Senators that voted for the bill, he asked that the Commission promulgate the rules for other lakes involved in Louisiana. The Representative then assured Commissioner Gattle they would look at the sediment problem. He again expressed his appreciation. Chairman Babin stated the Commission was responsible for protecting the resource and did not want to put an economic burden on any area. He assured Representative Marionneaux it was not the intention of the Commission to go against the Legislature. Representative Marionneaux asked the Commission to promulgate a rule in accordance with Act 449, but if they did not deem it necessary, the Legislature could amend the bill or come before the Commission themselves. Secretary Jenkins explained, from past experience, how the legislative process occurs and how they came to realize the Department should manage the resources. Then he stated Act 449 was correct when it asked the Commission to promulgate a rule. Representative Marionneaux stated all throughout the process, he was in contact with staff of the Department and would never have considered not including the Department.

This is confusing

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

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to amend a rule for black bass.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sport and Commercial Fishing

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

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

B. In addition, the Commission establishes special size and daily take regulations for black bass on the following water bodies:

1. Concordia Lake (Concordia Parish), and Caney Creek Reservoir (Jackson Parish):

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

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

c. Possession limit:

i. On water - Same as daily take.
ii. Off water - Twice the daily take.

2. Lake Bartholomew (Morehouse and Ouachita parishes), Black Bayou Lake (Bossier Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Cross Lake (Caddo Parish), John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir (Red River Parish), Lake Rodemacher (Rapides Parish) and Vernon Lake (Vernon Parish):

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

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

c. Possession limit:

i. On water - Same as daily take.
ii. Off water - Twice the daily take.

3. False River (Pointe Coupee Parish)

a. Size limit: 14 inch minimum size limit.

b. Daily Take: 5 fish.

c. Possession limit:

i. On water - Same as daily take.
ii. Off water - Twice the daily take.

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

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

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:364 (June 1988), amended LR 17:278 (March 1991), repromulgated LR 17:488 (May 1991), amended LR 17:1122 (November 1991), LR 20:796 (July 1994), LR 23:1168 (September 1997), LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., January 7, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

A **Notice of Intent on Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission - Reef Fish** was presented by Mr. Harry Blanchet. The Notice of Intent would revise the existing rule on harvesting of reef fish in state waters. The change will adjust the rule so it more parallels with the regulations in effect in federal waters.

The size limit for red snapper would change on January 1, 1998, but the normal rulemaking process will not allow the Commission's proposed rule to become effective until March 20, 1998. He then explained where the existing rule was modified. Chairman Babin asked when will this proposed rule come up for vote? Mr. Blanchet stated this was a new Notice of Intent. Commissioner Gisclair asked if all the changes followed the verbiage in the federal regulations? Chairman Babin asked if there would be any conflict with the federal regulations? Mr. Blanchet stated no. Hearing no further discussion, Commissioner McCall made a motion accepting the Notice of Intent. Commissioner Cormier seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

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

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (Title 76.VII.335(A)) modifying recreational creel and size limits for reef fish, and rules for commercial harvest of reef fish, which are part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of triggerfishes, amberjacks, grunts, wrasses, snappers, groupers, sea basses, tilefishes, and porgies within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

Species	Recreational Bag Limits

* * *

4.	Greater amberjack	1 fish per person per day

* * *

B. 1. All persons who do not possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish resources are limited to the recreational bag limit.

2. Persons who are limited to a recreational bag limit shall not sell, barter, trade, exchange or attempt to sell, barter, trade or exchange any reef fish.

* * *

D. 1. For charter vessels and headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 there will be an allowance for up to two daily bag limits on multi-day trips provided the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips of over 12 hours, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.

2. Any fish taken from charter vessels or headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 or any charter vessel as described in L.R.S. 56:302.9 shall not be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged or attempted to be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged. The provisions of this section apply to fish taken within or without Louisiana's territorial waters.

3. No person aboard any commercial vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of fish between vessels on state or federal waters.

* * *

G. No person shall purchase, sell, exchange, barter or attempt to purchase, sell, exchange, or barter any red snapper in excess of any possession limit for which a commercial permit or endorsement was issued.

H.

	Species	Minimum Size Limits
1.	Red Snapper	16 inches total length
2.	Gray, mutton and yellowtail snapper	12 inches total length
3.	Lane snapper	8 inches total length
4.	Red, gag, black, yellowfin and nassau grouper	20 inches total length

5.	Jewfish	50 inches total length
6.	Greater amberjack	28 inches fork length (recreational) 36 inches fork length (commercial)
7.	Black seabass	8 inches total length
8.	Vermillion snapper	10 inches total length

I. Federal regulations 50 CFR Part 641 as amended by FR Vol. 55, No. 14, defines charter vessels and headboats as follows:

Charter vessel - a vessel whose operator is licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry six or fewer paying passengers and whose passengers fish for a fee. A charter vessel with a permit to fish on a commercial quota for reef fish is under charter when it carries a passenger who fishes for a fee, or when there are more than three persons aboard including operator and crew.

Headboat - vessel whose operator is licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry seven or more paying passengers and whose passengers fish for a fee. A headboat with a permit to fish on a commercial quota for reef fish is operating as a headboat when it carries a passenger who fishes for a fee, or when there are more than three persons aboard including operator and crew.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996); LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Mr. Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to January 1, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Mrs. Janis Landry presented the next item, **Notice of Intent - Reduction of 3-day Basic Nonresident Recreational Fishing License and 3-day Nonresident Saltwater License Fees.** The Legislature

passed a bill to increase the 3-day non-resident freshwater license from $10 to $20 and also created a 3-day saltwater license for a fee of $20. The proposed action would change the 3-day freshwater license back to $10 and make the 3-day saltwater license $15. The effective date for this change would need to be decided by the Commission, stated Mrs. Landry. She then explained the problems with changing the fees during the current license year. Commissioner Carver stated he could not see the Department spending $12,000 for 60 days. Chairman Babin ~~asked~~, if the date of July 1, 1998 was used, the Department would save re-publication fees and let~~s~~ other states know this Department is working to have a better relationship with them. Commissioner Carver asked Mrs. Landry how much would a person pay for a non-resident license if bought on the Louisiana side and on the Texas side. With the difference in costs, not only ~~is~~ license fees lost but also tourist money, stated Commissioner Carver. Commissioner Gisclair asked if the Legislature passed this bill on their own or was it a request from the Department. Mrs. Landry stated the Department wanted the bill to change the 2-day license to a 3-day license with no fee changes. Then Commissioner Gisclair asked if the charterboat captains could issue a non-resident license for $3.50? Mrs. Landry answered yes, but the fee is $2.50. Then Commissioner Gisclair stated this was a big injustice. Chairman Babin stated the charterboat license fees needed to be addressed. Secretary Jenkins agreed with Commissioner Gisclair and stated the Department fought this bill in the Legislature. Then he stated it cost the Department approximately $250,000 to ~~loose~~ those licenses the first year. Commissioner Carver asked if the Commission had the right to override the fees? Mr. Don Puckett stated the Commission could change any non-resident recreational fishing or hunting license fees. Chairman Babin stated this could be discussed at an upcoming meeting. Commissioner Carver asked how much would it cost to put it into effect? Commissioner Gattle asked, on the saltwater side, ~~has~~ other states protested the cost of our license fees? Secretary Jenkins stated the Department has received a lot of complaints from Mississippi. Chairman Babin stated he was approached by people from Mississippi that wanted to make a presentation to the Commission at their December meeting. Commissioner McCall asked what was the cost of a fishing license in Mississippi? Secretary Jenkins felt no one fished in Mississippi waters. Chairman Babin stated there was a need to change the cost of the licenses, but there was also a need to look at how much the change would cost from an economic standpoint. Mr. Puckett advised there was a need for a motion, a second and a 2/3 majority vote to add the item to the agenda as an action item. Commissioner Carver made a motion to include this on the agenda as an action item. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition. Then Mr. Puckett suggested amending the Notice of Intent to ~~place~~ an effective date. Chairman Babin asked if July 1, 1998 was the official date for new licenses? Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to amend the Notice of Intent to read July 1, 1998 as the official date to change the non-resident fishing license fees. Commissioner

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Gattle seconded the motion and it also passed with no opposition. Then, Commissioner Gisclair made a motion adopting the amended Notice of Intent and it was seconded by Commissioner Gattle. This motion passed with no opposition.

Secretary Jenkins asked if the Commission wanted an item on the December's agenda to discuss charterboat licenses? Chairman Babin stated yes. Then Chairman Babin asked why are licenses available mid-year? Mrs. Landry stated this is how the law is written. Chairman Babin asked if there would be a better time to issue fishing licenses in this State? Then he asked if Point of Sale was ever implemented, could it solve a lot of problems? Mrs. Landry answered yes, as long as the program was implemented and designed properly. Commissioner Carver stated a lot of states issue fishing licenses that are good for a year. Then he commented if a person buys a license in May, that license would only be valid for two months. Commissioner Gattle asked who could develop a comparison of the license fees of the adjoining states to Louisiana? Mrs. Landry stated she could develop a listing. Chairman Babin asked Mrs. Landry if this could be done for the December Meeting, to which she stated it could.

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

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby gives notice of its intent to adopt a rule relative to fees for three-day basic and saltwater nonresident recreational fishing licenses.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 4. License and License Fees

§407. Three-day Basic and Saltwater Nonresident Recreational Fishing License Fees

A. In lieu of the basic recreational fishing license, nonresidents may purchase a three-day basic recreational fishing license for a fee of $10. This three-day license shall be valid for three consecutive days, including the day of issue.

B. In lieu of the saltwater recreational fishing license, a nonresident may purchase a three-day saltwater recreational fishing license at a fee of $15. This three-day license shall be valid for three consecutive days, including the day of issue.

C. The above fees hereby supersede those fees established for the above licenses at R.S. 56:302.1B(1) and (2)(a).

D. The effective date of the above fees shall be July 1, 1998.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(28).
HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic statement, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Janis Landry, Office of Management and Finance, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, February 5, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

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

Region I - Minden - 89 citations.

Region II - Monroe - 118 citations.

Region III - Alexandria - 137 citations.

Region IV - Ferriday - 49 citations.

Region V - Lake Charles - 193 citations.

Region VI - Opelousas - 93 citations.

Region VII - Baton Rouge - 110 citations.

Region VIII - New Orleans - 262 citations.

Region IX - Thibodaux - 337 citations.

Seafood Investigative Unit - 31 citations.

Statewide Strike Force - 110 citations.

SWEP - 59 citations.

Oyster Strike Force - 198 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of October was 1,388.

The aviation report for October 1997 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 50.6 hours for enforcement and 38.5 hours for other divisions.

Commissioner McCall asked, of these cases, how many are repeat offenders? Then he asked if this was a major problem? Chairman Babin stated it was unfortunate the penalty does not fit the crime in some cases.

Chairman Babin then asked for **Division Reports.** Mr. Dave Moreland gave a slide presentation on the **Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).** The DMAP program allows the Department to assist private landowners in managing the deer population on their land. It is designed to control the antlerless segment of the deer population. At least 500 acres of land is needed to enroll in DMAP with a fee of $25 registration and 5 cents per acre. Deer habitat is one area looked at as well as a recommendation of how many deer should be harvested. Some hunting clubs or landowners manage their herds for quality deer or trophy deer. Mr. Moreland stated ~~DMAP is working with~~ the number of clubs enrolled in the program more than doubling since 1989. East Carroll Parish is in the high harvest category ~~with it~~ having the best habitat in the State and a high deer population. Vernon and Beauregard Parishes' harvest has started to increase due to more lands being leased, stated Mr. Moreland. He anticipates a good deer season this year. Commissioner Gattle asked what the percentage is of DMAP tags being filled. Mr. Moreland stated the average was between 60 and 70 percent. Commissioner Carver asked if the staff was looking at deer destroying crop damage? Mr. Moreland stated the Department and Commission needed to develop a policy on deer depredation. Then Commissioner Carver asked if the issuance of permits to control depredation could be controlled? Mr. Hugh Bateman stated this problem will have to be dealt with more frequently in the future as the deer herds grow and the rural areas become urbanized. He then stated he was proud of the way Mr. Moreland is handling the deer program statewide and the way he has represented the Department. The DMAP program is a success and pays for itself as well as provides additional funding for the Department.

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Then Mr. Bateman stated the next division report was also a slide presentation on ~~the~~ **Catahoula Lake Brush Control.** Catahoula Lake has over 500,000 ducks on it now, stated Mr. Bateman. Invasions of woody plants occur on the lake during the dry part of the year. In 1996, about 10,000 acres along the perimeter of the lake ~~was~~ were being invaded with trees. This year approximately 2,800 acres have been cut with tractors and it proved to be very successful. The northeast portion of the lake encompassing 250 acres of the lake was treated with a heavy duty bushhog machine. Isolated willow trees were treated with a herbicide in an effort to kill them. Mr. Bateman hoped an additional 3,000 acres could be treated next year. Ducks Unlimited provided funding to help with this project. Commissioner McCall asked if the trees bushhogged this year would come back next year or were they eliminated? Mr. Bateman stated the mechanical treatment allows for 3 to 6 years before treatment would be needed again.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **March 1998 Meeting** on Thursday, March 5, 1997 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Baton Rouge Headquarters.

Chairman Babin then asked if there were any **Public Comments.** Commissioner Gisclair read a letter from Mr. George Barisich with United Commercial Fisherman's Association. The purpose of the letter was to request the Commission consider extending the shrimp season east of the Mississippi River and to allow the harvesting of black drum and sheepshead that are devouring everything in ~~its~~ their path. Mr. John Roussel stated the staff would look at the situation, but he noted they could not predict what the shrimp would be like next month. He suggested that it be put on the December agenda and the staff would be able to provide information at that time.

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

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

draft

The Advocate ONLINE
BATON ROUGE • LOUISIANA • USA

Atchafalaya swamp site named natural area

Published on November 7, 1997

Advocate staff report

Nearly 4,000 acres in the Indian Bayou area of the Atchafalaya swamp has been designated a natural area, according to the Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Bayou Fordoche Natural Area, southwest of Krotz Springs in St. Landry Parish, is registered through the Louisiana Natural Area Registry Program.

Through the program, owners of qualifying natural areas volunteer to protect all or portions of their property. To qualify, a site must contain a rare animal or plant, an exemplary natural plant community or a special natural feature.

The Bayou Fordoche area supports swallow-tailed kite nests and several waterbird nesting colonies.

The Bayou Fordoche registry agreement includes management guidelines jointly developed by the corps, the Nature Conservancy and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

It is the first designated natural area owned by the corps' New Orleans District. It is the only registered tract in the Atchafalaya swamp. The corps bought the tract as part of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Project.

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The Advocate ONLINE
BATON ROUGE • LOUISIANA • USA

Wildlife and Fisheries seeks to remove False River from Trophy Lake Program

Published on November 7, 1997

By JOE MACALUSO
Advocate outdoors writer

Citing data which showed a drastic decline in largemouth bass reproduction, the state's Inland Fisheries Section proposed drastic changes in size and daily creel limits for False River at Thursday's Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Notice of Intent seeks the removal of the 3,200-acre, Pointe Coupee Parish oxbow lake from the state's Trophy Lake Program, sets a 14-inch minimum size and a five-black bass daily limit.

Baton Rouge district fisheries biologist Tim Morrison told the commission that seine counts showing 140-150 bass fingerlings per test area 10 years ago dropped to 2-3 fingerlings in this year's surveys. Other tests also showed over 100-percent increase in buffalo in the lake.

Morrison said those changes can be traced to three factors, increased drainage into the lake of surrounding farm lands and resulting siltation deposited on the lake's bottom; rapid water-level fluctuations during the spring when bass and other fish spawn; and, the disappearance of aquatic plants along 95 percent of the lake's banks.

False River was among the first waterbodies in the state stocked with Florida bass fingerlings in the early 1980s. Five years after the first stocking, the lake produced Larry LeJeune's state-record bass, the first bass over 12 pounds recorded in Louisiana. With increased stockings of the rapidly growing Florida bass fingerlings, LeJeune's catch is no longer among the top 20 on the State's Fish Record List.

Morrison said that record fish, along with four other criteria — stable water levels, aquatic plant coverage, good forage (baitfish) base and above-average growth rates — made False River a prime candidate for the Trophy Lake Program. Along with Lake Concordia, False River were entered in the program 10 years ago. Caney Creek Lake was added four years ago. It meant that False

River had an eight-fish daily limit and a 15-19 inch slot limit, which meant bass measured within those lengths had to be released back into the lake.

"What we've seen over the last three years is that False River does not meet any of those criteria," Morrison said.

"The 14-inch minimum size will allow small bass in the lake to spawn at least once, and the five-fish daily limit is to protect the 15-19 inch-long fish that are already in the lake."

He said there is a good population of the 15-19 inch bass there, but the real concern is over the future of the lake and that the lack of small bass in the population indicates future problems.

Other commission action included:

- Approval of the 1998 spring turkey season dates and bag limits. Area A, which includes the Baton Rouge area, will run from March 21 through April 26. Area B, the northwestern parishes, has an April 11-26 season and Area C, which covers Ascension Parish and areas along the Mississippi River north of West Feliciana Parish, will run March 21-29. The daily limit remains one male turkey per day and a limit of three per season;
- Approval of a Notice of Intent calling for a decrease from three-per-day to one-per-day daily limit on the recreational catch of greater amberjack, the prohibition of the sale of recreationally caught reef fish (to include amberjack, grouper and all snapper), and revised minimum length limits on all snapper, grouper, black seabass and jewfish to conform to Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council limits;
- Approval of Notice of Intent to change non-resident, three-day basic recreational fishing and saltwater license fees;
- Accepting of 4,000 acres of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer-management lands in the Indian Bayou area into the Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Program;
- Accepting a $10,000 donation from the Louisiana Oilman's Association for funding the State Youth Hunter Education Challenge and the state's Wood Duck Box Program;
- Naming R.C. Davis of Amite as the winner of the 10th-annual Louisiana Duck Stamp Art Contest for his painting of a mallard which will become the state's 1998-99 waterfowl stamp;
- Ratification of a ban on alcoholic beverages at the new Waddill Wildlife Refuge in Baton Rouge;
- Learned that the Enforcement Division issued 1,388

citations in October, including 289 on state wildlife management areas;

- And, set its March 1998 meeting date for March 5 at Department of Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters in Baton Rouge.

All Notice of Intent issues will come up for ratification at the March meeting.

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COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Thursday, November 6, 1997
Baton Rouge, LA
Wildlife & Fisheries Building

	Attended	Absent
Daniel Babin (Chairman)	✓	___
Perry Gisclair	✓	___
Tom Gattle	✓	___
Glynn Carver	✓	___
Joseph Cormier	✓	___
Jerald Hanchey	✓	___
Norman McCall	✓	___

Mr. Chairman:

There are 7 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.

Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
November 6, 1997
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes of October 2, 1997

3. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association - Harry Blanchet

4. Donation to Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation by Petroleum Engineers Society - Tommy Prickett

5. Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Presentation - Lisa Creasman

6. 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Art Contest Winner & Display of Paintings - Dave Morrison

7. Ratify Final Rule on 1998 Spring Turkey Hunting Seasons - Danny Timmer

8. Ratify Rule on Waddill Wildlife Refuge - Phil Bowman

9. Notice of Intent - Modification of Black Bass Harvest Regulations on False River Lake, Pointe Coupee Parish and Discussion of Act 449 of the 1997 Louisiana Legislature - Bennie Fontenot

10. Notice of Intent - Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission - Reef Fish - Harry Blanchet

11. Notice of Intent - Reduction of 3-day Basic Nonresident Recreational Fishing License and 3-day Nonresident Saltwater License Fees - Janis Landry

12. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/October - Winton Vidrine

13. Division Reports
    a. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) - Dave Moreland
    b. Catahoula Lake Brush Control - Hugh Bateman

14. Set March 1998 Meeting Date

15. Public Comments

16. Adjourn

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The Nature Conservancy
OF LOUISIANA

P.O. Box 4125
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

TEL 504 338-1040
FAX 504 338-0103

International Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia
TEL 703 841-5300

BULLET

6 November 1997

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Program Announcement

Presenting: Lisa Creasman, Director, The Nature Conservancy
Lt. Colonel Raymond G. Clark, New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Johnnie Tarver, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries

Subject: Registry of 4,000 acres of forested wetlands in Atchafalaya River Basin (see attached description of project).

recycled paper

Forested Wetlands Protected in Atchafalaya Swamp

The Louisiana black bear, swallow-tailed kites and numerous other wildlife may sleep easier tonight thanks to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, which has taken the initiative to designate nearly 4,000 acres of its newly acquired Indian Bayou tract as an official state natural area through the Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Program. Located in St. Landry Parish, the BAYOU FORDOCHE NATURAL AREA is found within the 12,000 acre Indian Bayou area southwest of Krotz Springs.

The Indian Bayou tract was purchased by the Corps as part of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Project. The Corps has been acquiring land in the lower Atchafalaya floodway since 1988 for flood control projects, wildlife habitat conservation and public recreation. The Bayou Fordoche Natural Area is the first designated natural area owned by the New Orleans District and the largest registered tract in the Atchafalaya River swamp.

An ecologically significant region, the Atchafalaya is the largest river overflow swamp in North America and the largest contiguous forested wetland in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain. It consists of a rich diversity of natural communities that provide habitat for threatened and rare species such as the Louisiana black bear, bald eagle, roseate spoonbill, and pallid sturgeon. Over 200 bird species, 70 species of fish, 60 species of reptiles and amphibians, and over 100 types of plants have been documented in preliminary surveys. The Bayou Fordoche Natural Area supports nesting occurrences of swallow-tailed kites, known in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain only from the Atchafalaya swamp. Several waterbird nesting colonies are also present in the natural area and surrounding swamp.

The Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Program is an innovative and effective conservation program jointly administered since 1987 by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Natural Heritage Program and The Nature Conservancy, Louisiana Field Office. The Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Program is a registration procedure by which owners of qualifying natural areas voluntarily agree to protect all or portions of their property. The Registry enables the Conservancy and the state agency to jointly recognize the contributions made by Louisiana citizens in protecting our state's natural legacy, i.e.,"citizens-based conservation." Government agencies and businesses are also encouraged to participate.

To qualify for the Registry, a site must contain a rare animal or plant; an exemplary natural plant community; or a special natural feature. To date over 60,000 acres have been entered into Registry agreements, with over 65 private, industrial and government landowners and agencies participating!

The Bayou Fordoche registry agreement includes management guidelines jointly developed by the Corps, TNC and LDWF. In general the site will be left in its natural state with only minimal unnatural disturbances allowed. Outdoor recreational activities are encouraged include hunting and fishing and crawfishing.

The Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, has been participating in the Registry Program since 1991 when they designated 8 separate natural areas in north Louisiana.

The Nature Conservancy is an international organization committed to protecting plants and animals and the lands and waters they need to survive. Operating in the U.S. since 1951, the Conservancy has helped protect over 10 million acres and maintains more than 1,500 preserves. The Louisiana field office, established 10 years ago in 1987, has 13 preserves and has worked in partnership to protect nearly 200,000 acres.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program is an endangered species and non-game program within the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge. It works to inventory and preserve Louisiana's native fauna and flora, and the diverse natural habitats that house them.

FAX COVER SHEET

LOUISIANA NATURE CONSERVANCY
P.O. Box 4125
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821
(504) 338-1040
FAX: (504) 338-0103

DATE: 30 October '97

COMPANY: LDWF

ATTENTION: Susan (Asst. Sec. office)

FROM: Nelwyn McInnis

PAGES INCLUDING THIS ONE: 4

COMMENTS: Please include this information in the packets for the LDWF commissioners.
Also please give a copy to Johnnie Carver.
Thanks!
Nelwyn

PRESS RELEASE: November 6, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: The Nature Conservancy, Baton Rouge, LA, and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District

SUBJECT: Special designation of 4,000 acres in the Atchafalaya Swamp

Forested Wetlands Protected in Atchafalaya Swamp

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The Bayou Fordoche registry agreement includes management guidelines jointly developed by the Corps, TNC and LDWF. Outdoor recreational activities are encouraged include hunting and fishing and crawfishing. In general the site will be left in its natural state with minimal unnatural disturbances allowed.

The Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, has been participating in the Registry Program since 1991 when they designated 8 natural areas in north Louisiana. Bayou Fordoche is the first state natural area set aside by the New Orleans District. Colonel Bill Conner, District Engineer of New Orleans District, said "the New Orleans District is dedicated to multiple-use management of lands, including establishing areas to be managed primarily to conserve natural habitats and indigenous species".

Lisa Creasman, the Director of the Louisiana Nature Conservancy states "The Atchafalaya Basin is the ecological jewel of the Mississippi Valley, and as such is a top focus for The Nature Conservancy". We applaud the New Orleans District for taking a leadership role by conserving special sites on their lands.

"The Louisiana Natural Areas Registry is an important component of this Department's conservation efforts, said Jimmy Jenkins, Secretary, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. "We appreciate participation in the Program by the New Orleans District."

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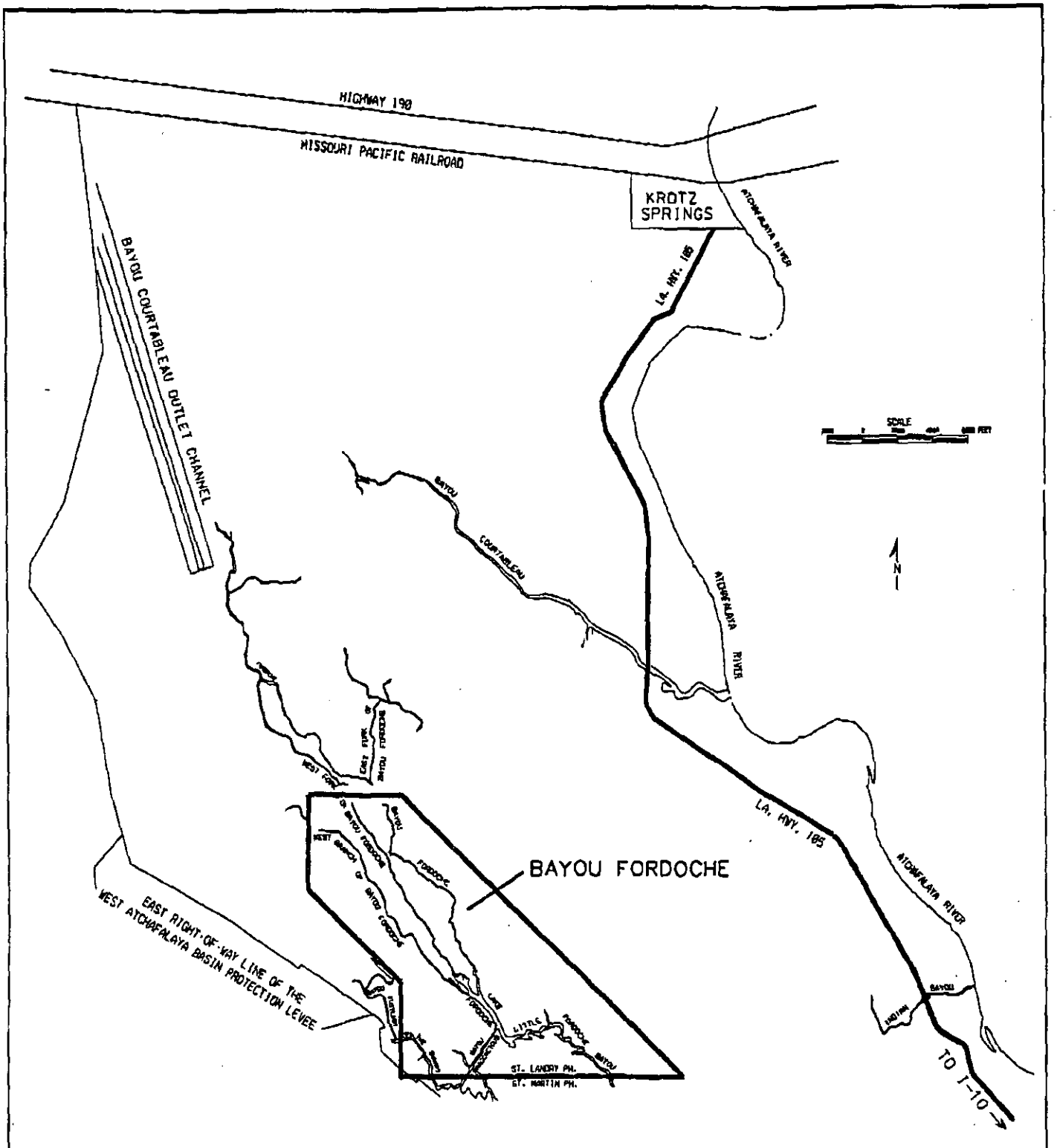
For more information, contact:

Nelwyn McInnis, The Nature Conservancy, at 504-338-1040
Gary Lester, LA. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, at 504-765-2821
Bob Russell, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans, at 504-862-2530



BAYOU FORDOCHE
STATE NATURAL AREA
ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA

order of presentation
① Johnnie - ① talk about registry program
② thank CORPS for registering
③ Introduce Lisa Creasmasel
② Lisa ① explain Bayou Fordoche Nat. Area
② Introduce Lt. Col. Gordon Clark
③ Lt. Col. Gordon Clark -

BULLET

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES, NATURAL AREAS REGISTRY PROGRAM

What is this program? - The Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Program was established by Act No. 324 of the state legislature in 1987. The program is a registration procedure by which owners of qualified natural areas voluntarily agree to protect all or portions of their property.

Who operates the program? - The Act assigned the responsibility of implementation of its parts to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and further stipulated that the Department could cooperate with various entities, including private organizations, ~~to implement the provisions~~. Since its inception, the program has been jointly administered by LDWF's Natural Heritage Program and The Nature Conservancy, LA Field Office.

Goals of the program - The Registry Program enables the Department to recognize the contributions made by Louisiana citizens and natural resource managers in conserving our states' natural legacy. The program also allows LDWF to educate landowners regarding special natural resources and to provide management recommendations if desired by the landowner.

Benefits to LDWF - The Registry Program provides an avenue for the Department to positively influence natural resource management of biologically significant areas beyond its own land base. The state could not have acquired the moneys necessary to purchase all of the areas now under voluntary conservation and thus it is a very cost-effective program. To date over 60,000 acres have been entered into the program.

What are the qualifications for the program? - To qualify for the Registry, a site must contain a rare animal or plant; an exemplary natural plant community; or a special feature such as a waterfall. Landowners participating in the program may be private, public, or industrial.

thank COE
1st NO Dist.

Cormier

Latest Draft
+
Ballet for Johnnie
Nem
call me

PRESS RELEASE: November 6, 1997

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LWF ANNOUNCES 34TH CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is now accepting nominations for the 34th annual Governor's State Conservation Achievement Awards. The awards program seeks to recognize those individuals, organizations and businesses that have made significant and outstanding contributions toward the protection and wise use of the state's natural resources — its air, soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife.

There are 8 award categories for which nominations can be made. The deadline for submitting nominations is February 10, 1998. Self-nominations are completely acceptable. Further, in nearly all cases it is necessary to enlist the cooperation of the nominee in order to provide the judging committee with adequate supporting information. So please do not feel awkward about nominating yourself or providing background material for someone who may wish to nominate you for one of these awards. We urge you to bring your accomplishments or those of others you know of to the public's attention through this program.

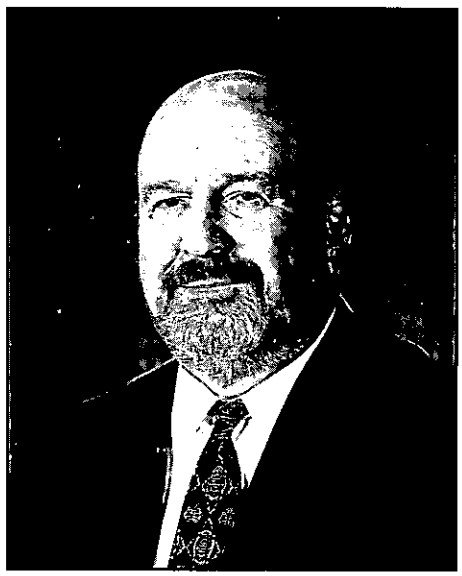
Awards will be presented at a special Saturday evening recognition banquet to be held in conjunction with the Louisiana Wildlife Federation's 59th annual convention March 6-8 at the Holiday Inn, Gonzales, Louisiana.

A nomination form, explanation of the award categories, regulations and procedures and other details of the program follow. Additional nomination forms are available by writing or calling the LWF office — P.O. Box 65239, Baton Rouge, LA 70896; 504/344-6707.

Award Categories

Awards will be presented to those persons and/or organizations who have been currently active in Louisiana and make the greatest contributions in conservation work along a selected line of endeavor. Competition will be limited to the following categories. Each winner must be truly deserving of recognition. Winners may not be named in every category. Recognition will be based primarily on accomplishments during 1997. Immediate past winners are not eligible to succeed themselves in the same category of accomplishment for which they were recognized the previous year.

Honorable M.J. "Mike" Foster



With the knowledge and understanding that conservation, wise management and use of our State's natural resources is essential to the health, happiness, welfare, and economic well-being of Louisiana's citizens; and with the belief that proper recognition of conservation efforts promotes wise resource management and use.

I, M.J. "Mike" Foster, Governor of Louisiana, do hereby endorse the concept of the Governor's State Conservation Achievement Awards Program as conducted annually under the auspices of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

M. J. "Mike " Foster, Governor

1.) CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR (PROFESSIONAL)

For outstanding accomplishments during the year by a resource professional who has made a significant contribution to the management, enhancement, or protection of Louisiana's fish, wildlife, air, water, soil or forest resources, or related recreational opportunities. (A Professional is a person whose primary source of income is from work in the renewable natural resource, management or recreation field including biologists, enforcement officers, wildlife managers, administrators, scientists, researchers, etc.)

2.) CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR (NON-PROFESSIONAL)

For outstanding accomplishments during the year by a volunteer who has made a significant contribution to the management, enhancement, or protection of Louisiana's fish, wildlife, air, water, soil or forest resources, or related recreational opportunities.

3.) YOUTH CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

For outstanding conservation effort by a youngster (under 19 years of age). Youth groups acting together in a conservation program are also eligible. The winner should have demonstrated outstanding ability, leadership, and accomplishment in any phase of conservation either individually or as a group effort.

4.) CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR BY CORPORATION, FIRM OR COMPANY

For outstanding achievement by a firm, company or corporation in pollution control, conservation, providing public recreation, habitat development, donating lands for public recreation, donating lands for public wildlife areas, etc. (This category is to honor a firm or company and not an individual person. It covers a vast variety of possible achievements. If in doubt, submit an entry and let the judges consider your nomination.)

5.) CONSERVATION EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

For outstanding effort in conservation education by a professional or volunteer. Instructors of hunter safety and outdoor ethics are eligible in this category as are teachers of the natural sciences, fish and wildlife management, and environmental design and management. Emphasis should be on teaching and working with students rather than research or other activities.

6.) CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR - ELECTED OFFICIAL

For outstanding conservation effort by an elected official. All Louisiana elected officials are eligible in this category.

7.) CONSERVATION COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

For outstanding effort by a writer, reporter, radio or T.V. broadcaster, photographer, artist, cartoonist, radio or T.V. station, or newspaper or other publication in creating a public awareness of the importance of environmental quality and natural resource conservation needs or having made a most significant contribution toward the solution of a major conservation problem in the state.

8.) CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

For outstanding contribution to the conservation effort by a state or local organization. Bona fide organizations including but not limited to garden clubs, civic organizations, sportsmen's clubs, women's clubs, environmental groups, etc., are eligible. Recipients should have demonstrated keen interest on projects and programs within the state which deal with basic and serious natural resource problems and have evolved an action program from that interest. In special cases, where state, or federal or local agencies or institutions have accomplished extraordinary work above and beyond their normal responsibilities, such organizations will be given consideration for this award.

Program Rules and Procedures

1.) The Thirty-fourth Governor's State Conservation Achievement Recognition Program shall be restricted to achievement completed prior to December 31, 1997. Awards will be presented based on efforts of the immediate past year; prior records may be considered but this will be left up to the judges.

2.) Nominations for the Governor's State Conservation Achievement Awards must be delivered in person or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 65239 Audubon Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5239 (street address: 337 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806), and be postmarked on or before midnight February 10.

3.) The Conservation Achievement Awards shall be presented at the annual Recognition Banquet held during the 59th Annual Louisiana Wildlife Federation Convention, Saturday, March 7, 1998, 7:00 PM, Holiday Inn, Gonzales, Louisiana.

4.) Please specify on the Nomination Form the category for which the nomination is made. No nomination will be accepted for the Governor's Award. Kindly attach to the Nomination Form the nominee's resume of achievements. The resume should not exceed 3 single spaced typed pages. Include a narrative description of the specific acts and accomplishments upon which the nomination is based and other information such as organization memberships, past recognitions, etc. A full documentation is needed by the judging committee and must accompany resume. The documentation should be a supplement to the resume - proving the resume! If someone is nominated for more than one category, a nomination form and a resume must be submitted for each category entered.

5.) Please include with the nomination a clear head/shoulders photograph of the nominee. Nominations without photos are acceptable, however, and submission should not be delayed due to unavailability of a photo which can be forwarded at a later date.

6.) All rules must be strictly adhered to. Nominations which do not meet all standards and criteria will be returned to sender for resubmission when proper additions or modifications are made. Applications may be declared ineligible by judges if proper documentation and supportive materials are not included. The decision of the judging committee will be final.

GOVERNOR'S AWARD

For the outstanding over-all conservation effort and achievement or most significant contribution to the cause of conservation or toward solution of a major conservation problem in the state. The Governor's Award recipient is selected by the judging committee from among the nominees for the 8 conservation award categories listed.

NOMINATION FORM

LWF

Date: _____

Full Name of Nominee: _____ Category #: _____

Address: _____

Recommended By: _____

Address: _____

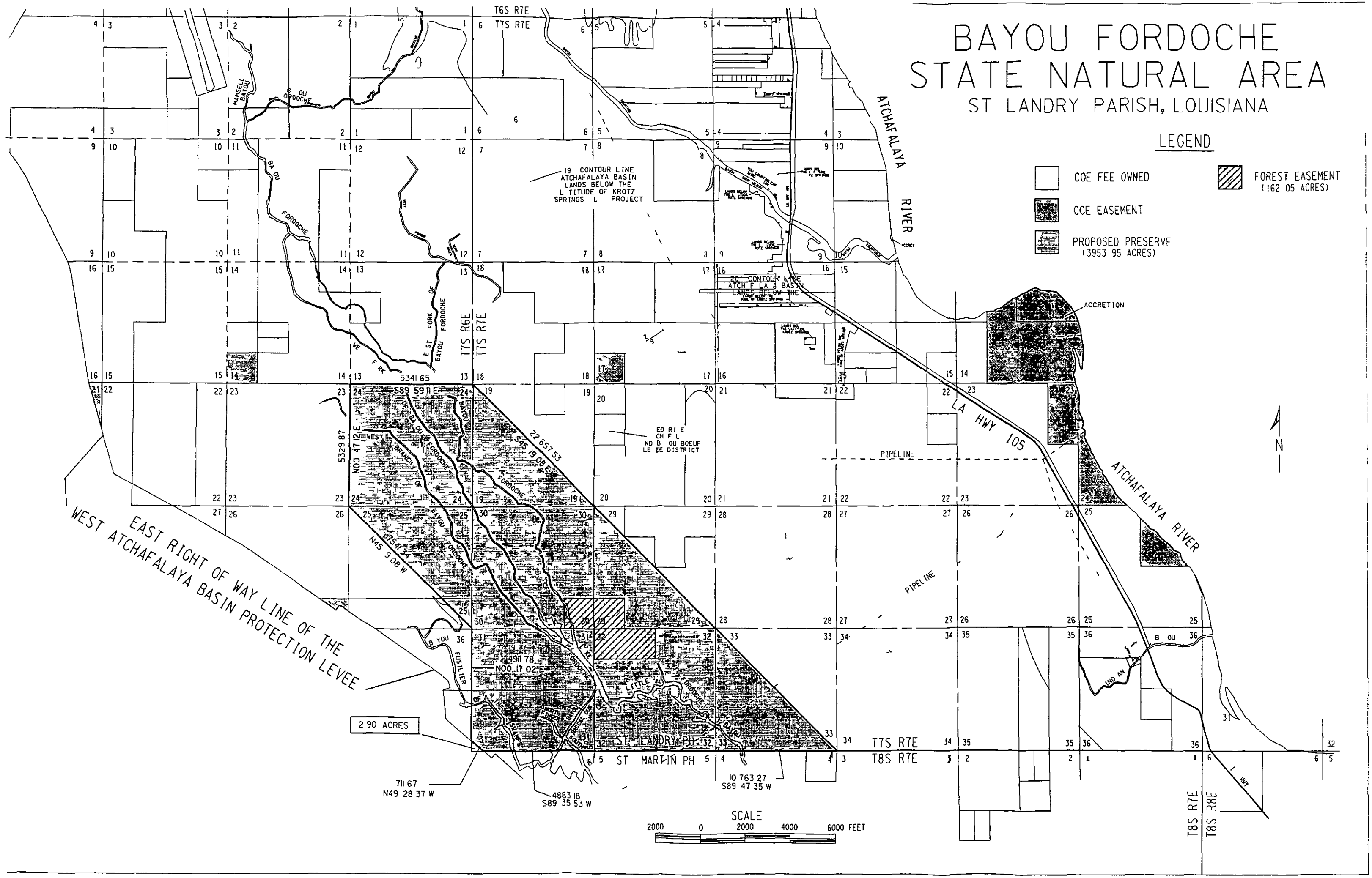
Phone: _____ Signed By _____

Title (if any): _____

Reply to:
Louisiana Wildlife Federation P.O. Box 65239 Audubon Station, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5239

BAYOU FORDOCHE STATE NATURAL AREA

ST LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA



THE
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OF THE
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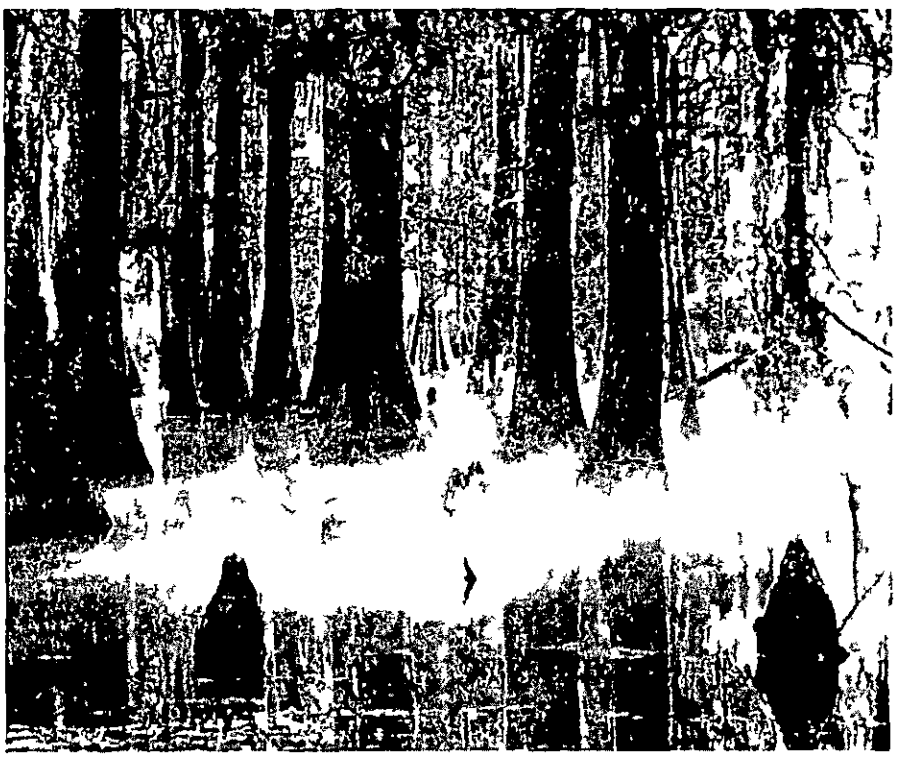

AN ECOSYSTEM IN CRISIS

CREDITS

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A PLAN OF ACTION

TO PROTECT AND RESTORE ONE OF NORTH AMERICA S GREATEST NATURAL SYSTEMS

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INTRODUCTION

Many regions of the world are experiencing dramatic loss of habitat and environmental degradation Threatened extinctions wetland loss global warming and sea level rise desertification are all results of human overpopulation and land use alterations The citizens of this planet are increasingly aware of these global issues But what many are unaware of is that we are suffering dramatic ecological losses in **our own backyard**

Our quality of life is connected deeply to the land As con cern for the environment grows public awareness calls for a shift to maintaining biological diversity the protection of watersheds and wildlife habitats, and recreation and tour ism based on natural areas The floodplain forests of the Mississippi River still have the potential to be a vast and wild natural resource base but these forests are threatened We must take steps to protect our forested wetlands - they represent our past and are the foundation for our future

80 % of the Mississippi River s forested wetlands have been lost due to alteration of the landscape

In contrast to the amount of attention given to rain forest clearing in Brazil **only 10 % of the Amazon tropical forests have been cut**

THE FORESTED WETLANDS

The Mississippi River the world s third largest river drains two thirds of the United States Deposition of its sediment laden waters is responsible for nutrient rich floodplain soils The Mississippi River Alluvial Plain originates in southern Illinois and extends over 700 miles to the river s mouth at the Gulf of Mexico It takes no fewer than seven states to contain it Louisiana Arkansas Mississippi Tennessee Kentucky Illinois and Missouri Mark Twain recognized the Mississippi basin as the second largest valley of the world exceeded only by that of the Amazon The floodplain of the Mississippi River is covered by a variety of habitat types including the bottomland hardwood forests and cypress tupelo swamps native to the region It is one of the most productive inland ecosystems in North America

The Mississippi River Alluvial Plain once supported the largest expanse of forested wetlands in the United States approximately **21 million acres**

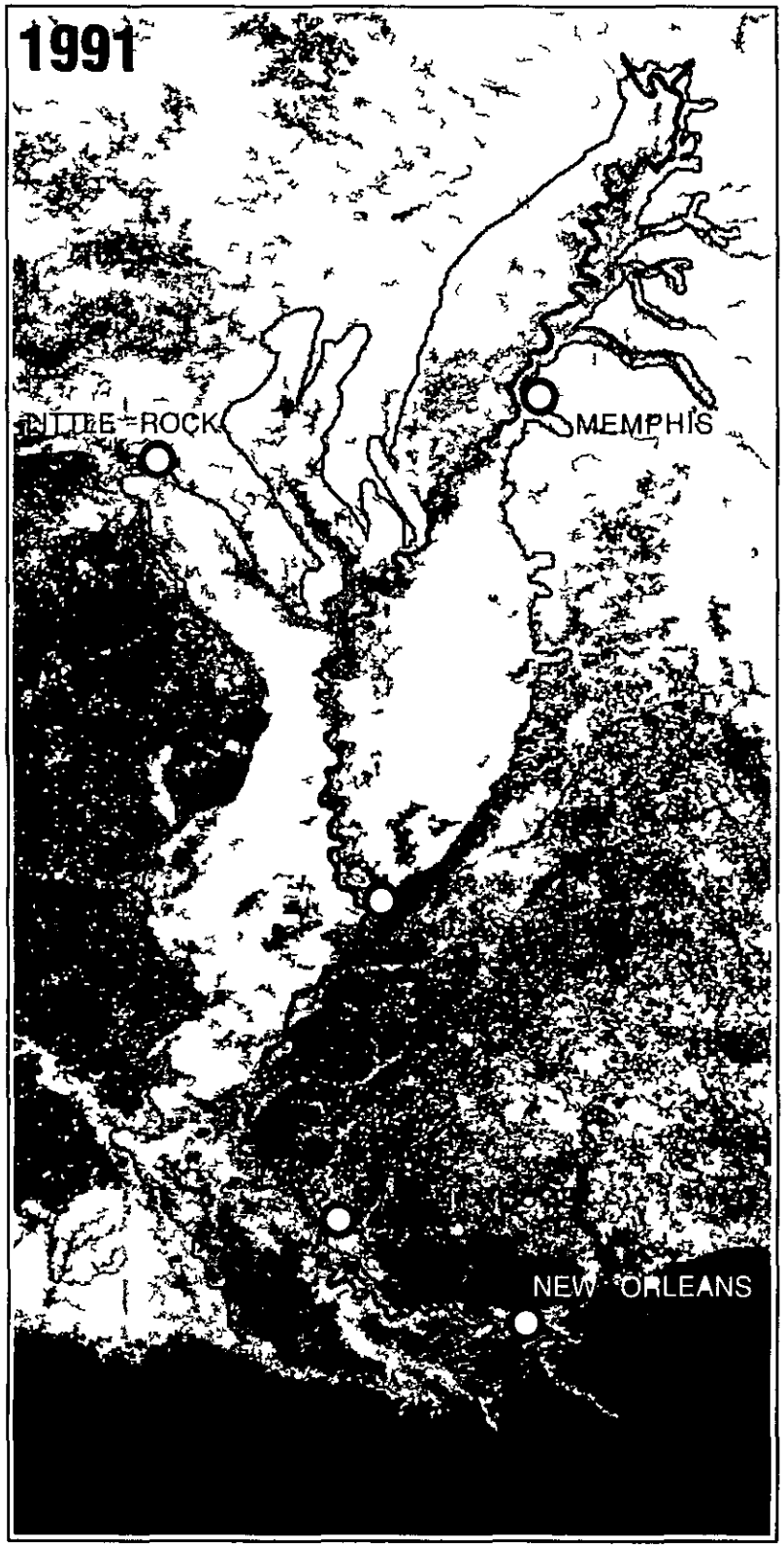
Original Forested Wetlands along the Mississippi River (historical reconstruction)

Forested Wetlands

Water

Other

OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER



Today this once immense forest has undergone a dramatic decline No other wetland system on the North American continent has suffered such a tremendous reduction in area An elaborate system of levees and drainage canals completed in the late 1930 s opened the land to agriculture and the forest was quickly reduced to one half its original size By Spring of 1991 only **4 9 million acres** of forested wetlands remained

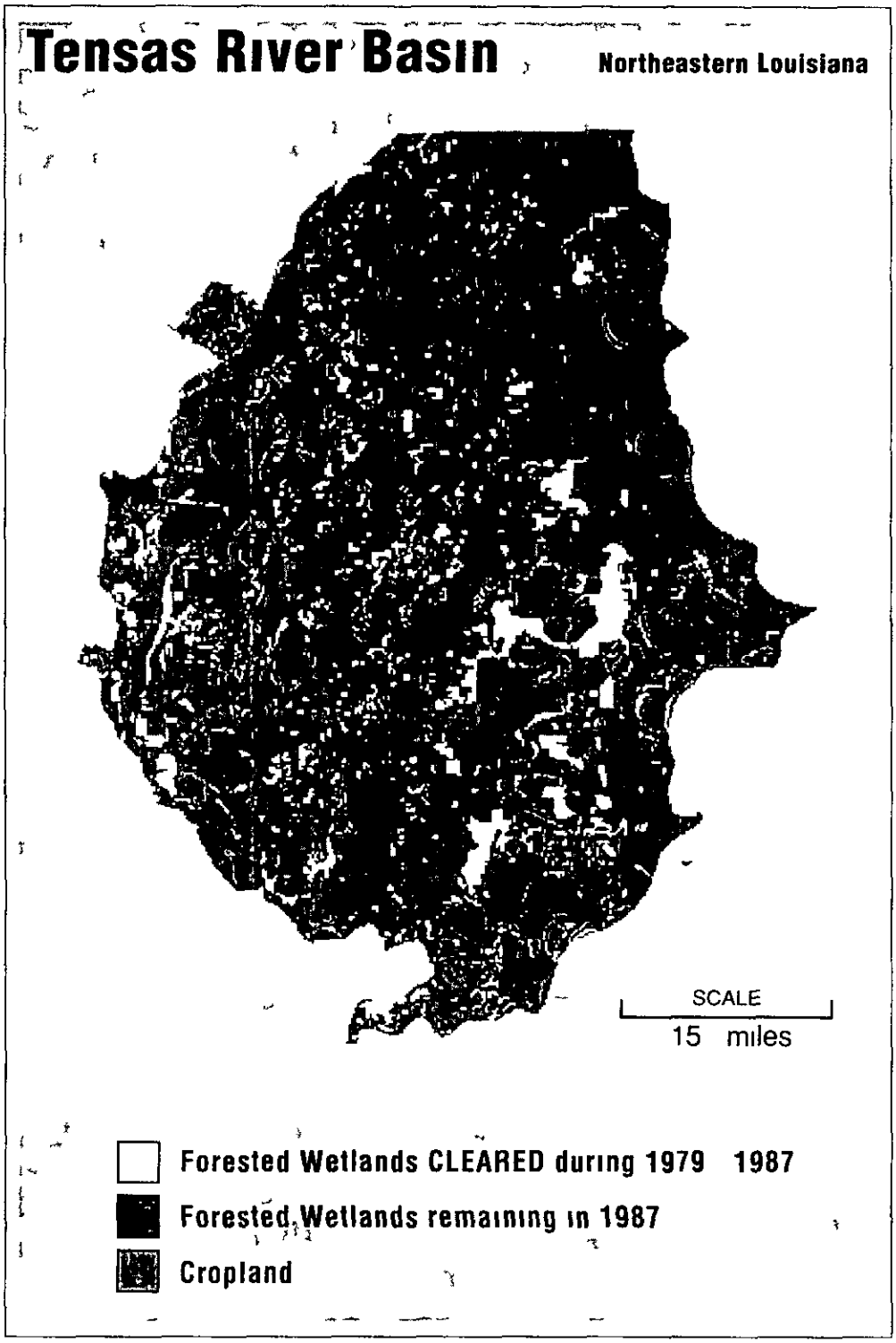
The vast majority (95 7%) of these wetland forests occur in Louisiana Arkansas and Mississippi The largest contiguous area is the Atchafalaya basin in southern Loui siana comprising 31% of the total forested wetlands in the alluvial plain of the Mississippi River

Current Forested Wetlands along the Mississippi River (from satellite imagery)

- Forested Wetlands
- Water
- Cropland
- Upland or Marsh

A FRAGMENTED SYSTEM

A geographic or aerial examination of the remaining forested wetlands that at one time covered the entire lower Mississippi River floodplain reveals that the remaining 4 9 million acres exist as forested islands or patches in an altered landscape

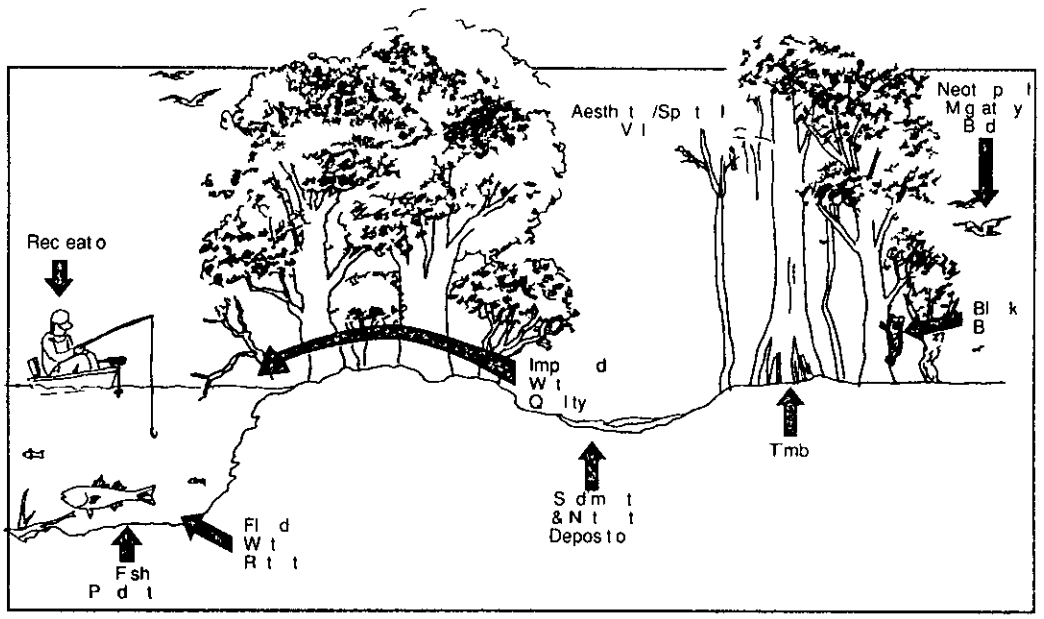


Forested wetland conversion is not a phenomena of the past Clearing continues to occur in the Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plain Between 1979 and 1987 182 500 acres of forested wetlands were cleared in the Tensas basin

WHAT ARE WE LOSING?

Because of clearing and the conversion of forests to other uses many of the benefits derived from forested wetland ecosystems have been either greatly reduced or are at risk of being lost altogether The loss of the Mississippi River s forested wetlands is even more dramatic because of what accompanies this loss Alluvial forests provide many biological and cultural values

- **recreation and tourism**
- **flood control**
- **erosion control**
- **storm buffer**
- **maintenance of water quality**
- **aesthetic and spiritual values**
- **education and scientific research**
- **commercial values—timber, fisheries, etc**
- **wildlife habitat and biodiversity**



WITH EACH ACRE OF WETLAND LOST...

WE LOSE...

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Patches of forest do not provide the benefits associated with a large, contiguous forest

Black Bears need a home range as large as 40 000 acres
Over 500 000 acres of contiguous forest are required to support a viable population of 500 bears In the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain only 19 forest patches greater than or equal to 40 000 acres remain today The only remaining tract of forested wetland large enough to support a viable population is in the Atchafalaya basin Because of the degradation of habitat and a result ant declining population the Louisiana Black Bear was federally listed as a threatened species on December 30 1991

Research has shown that neotropical migratory birds such as the Swallow tailed Kite and Prothonotary Warbler need at least 7,000 acres of interior forest
In fact neotropicals may require as many as 10 000 acres because of variations in the shape of a patch and the additional buffer or edge necessary to maintain a full complement of these migratory birds As a result of habitat loss the populations of many neotropical migratory species are declining

The Florida Panther, which once roamed Mississippi River s forests, needs a home range of almost 150 000 acres
Few forest patches of this size remain in the Mississippi River region As a result the Florida Panther is now extirpated from these forests The Red Wolf Bachman s Warbler and Ivory billed Woodpecker are extinct

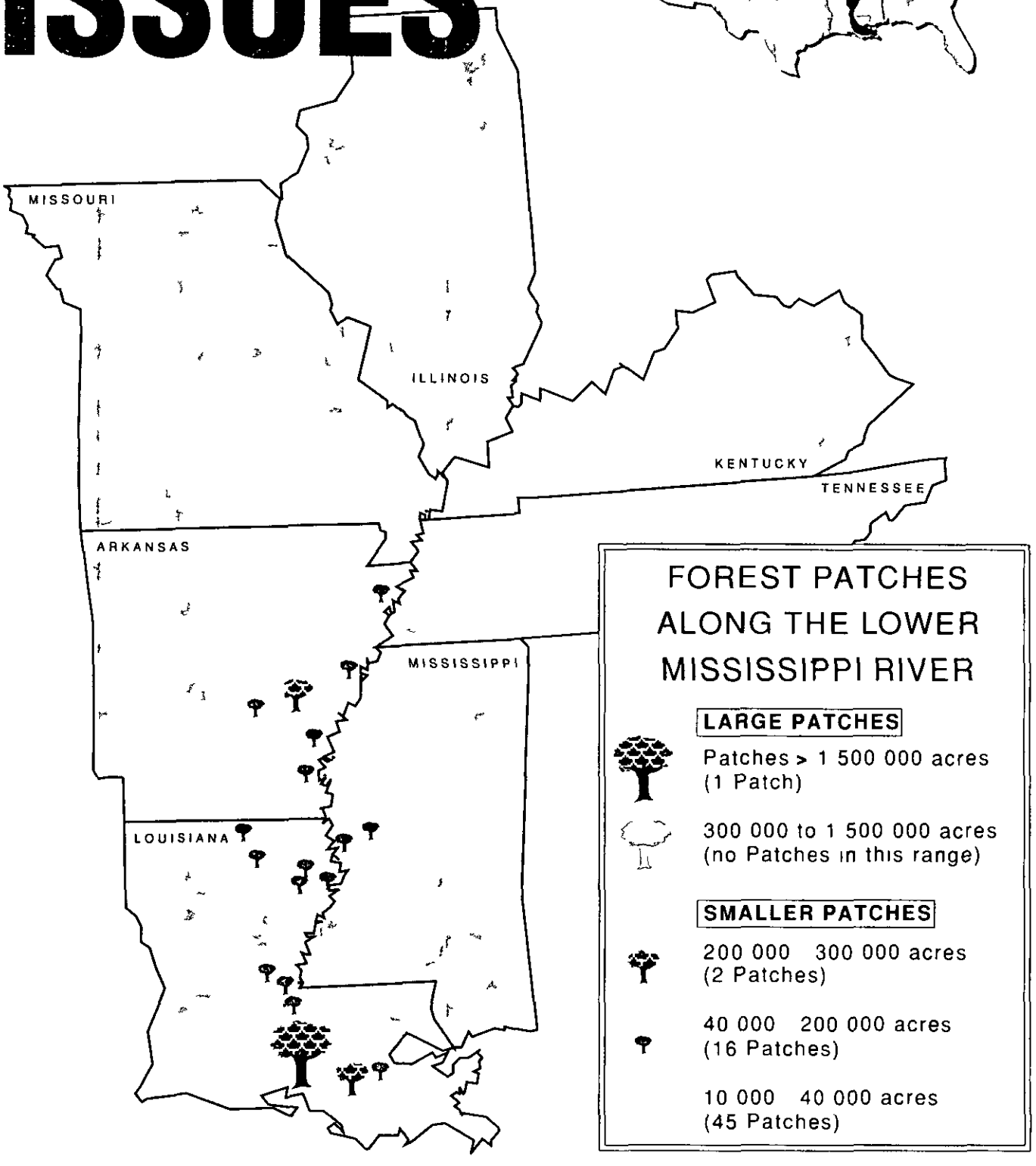
QUALITY OF LIFE

More than species and habitats are at stake in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain **The recent devastating floods in the South were caused in part because of the cumulative impacts that result from incremental forested wetland clearing and levee construction** In 1991 the Yazoo Basin in Mississippi sustained $121 8 million in damages when 1 364 000 acres were flooded During the same period $93 9 million in damages were caused by the flooding of over 1 4 million acres in the Tensas basin of Arkansas and Louisiana

Water quality also suffers Many tributaries of the floodplain do not meet Clean Water Act criteria for fishing drinking or swimming primarily because clearing has increased erosion and pesticide runoff For example none of the water bodies found in the Louisiana portion of the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain fully meet their designated uses As recently as December 1991 unsafe levels of DDT banned nearly 20 years ago were found in fish collected from the Tensas River in northeast Louisiana This river flows through the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge and is fished on a regular basis for recreational purposes and as a food source

Closely tied to issues of the environment is the socioeconomic integrity of the Mississippi River floodplain Although the people of the region have contributed significantly to the economic wealth of this nation poverty rates are the highest in the United States—as high as 52 9% in Tunica County Mississippi According to 1985 statistics the per capita income for the Mississippi River Delta averaged $8 224 66% of the national average Per capita income for Lee County Arkansas in 1985 was 50% below the national average **Unemployment** in West Carroll Parish Louisiana was 24 86% in 1988—**over four times the national average**

REGIONAL ISSUES



ILLINOIS

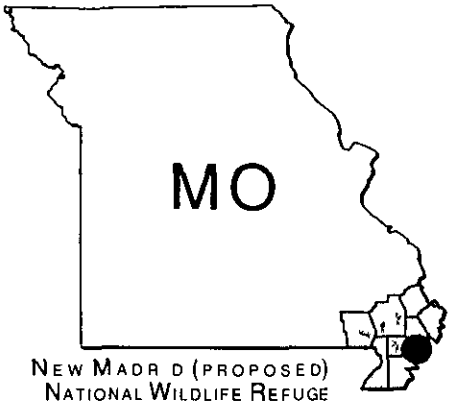
Only 9% of the state's original Mississippi River forested wetlands remain.

Southern bottomland forests and cypress swamps occur in the southern tip of Illinois principally in the 478 000 acre Cache River basin Once almost entirely forested this watershed is now predominantly in row crops and pasture approximately 85% of the forest communities and more than 75% of the wetlands have been lost Although large scale land clearing in the watershed has peaked the remaining high quality patches of habitat are still at risk from excessive timber harvest conversion to agriculture and other uses and fragmentation by right of way development

The remaining swamps and bottomland forests together with adjoining converted wetlands are now targeted for acquisition and restoration under the Cache River Wetlands Project a joint venture of The Nature Conservancy Ducks Unlimited the Illinois Department of Conservation and the U S Fish and Wildlife Service The Horseshoe Lake State Conservation area a protected site in the project area is considered the single most important wintering site for Canada geese in Illinois Five federally listed endangered and threatened species and 100 state listed species occur in the watershed

MISSOURI

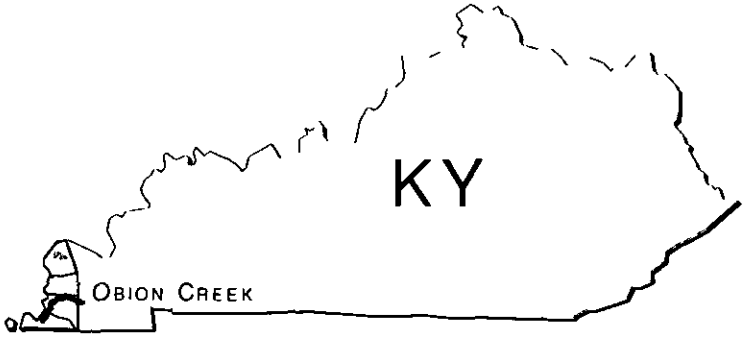
Only 14% of the state's original Mississippi River forested wetlands remain.



Historically overflow waters in the southeast region created more than 2 5 million acres of wetland habitat primarily flooded bottomland hard woods Only about 50 000 acres of those forested wetlands remain Seasonal flooding has been limited by flood control projects and much of the historical wetland value has been lost The remaining wetland habitats in southeastern Missouri are vital to wintering mallards and are included as a priority for restoration and improvement in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Conserving wetlands in this region is critically important for the number and diversity of rare threatened and endangered species using the riverine marsh and lowland hardwood wetlands in the region These include Least terns King rails Mississippi Kites nesting and wintering Bald Eagles Swainson s Warblers River Otters and Mole Salamanders A high priority site for acquisition in the Missouri bootheel is the proposed New Madrid National Wildlife Refuge The refuge would be managed to benefit migrating and wintering waterfowl and to protect and restore bottomland forests and other indigenous wildlife and fish

KENTUCKY

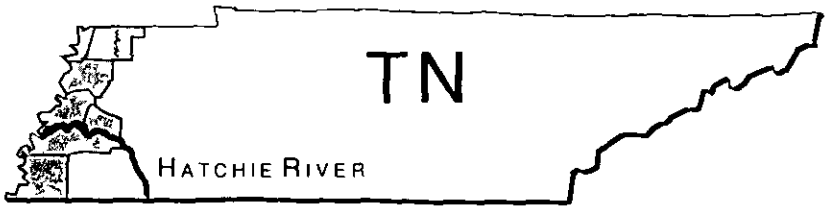
Only 4% of the state's original Mississippi River forested wetlands remain.



Bottomland hardwood forests once blanketed 1 600 000 acres in Kentucky Today over 80% of the state s wetlands have been drained developed and converted Obion Creek a tributary of the Mississippi River is the least altered tributary in western Kentucky In the late 1970 s a study revealed that only 50% of the creek s 30 000 acre floodplain remained forested The Obion Creek floodplain is habitat for 94 species of neotropical migrants The area provides wintering and migratory habitat for approximately 100 000 ducks and 200 000 Canada geese annually There are 58 species of fishes in Obion Creek and the area also supports 19 species of rare plants and animals

TENNESSEE

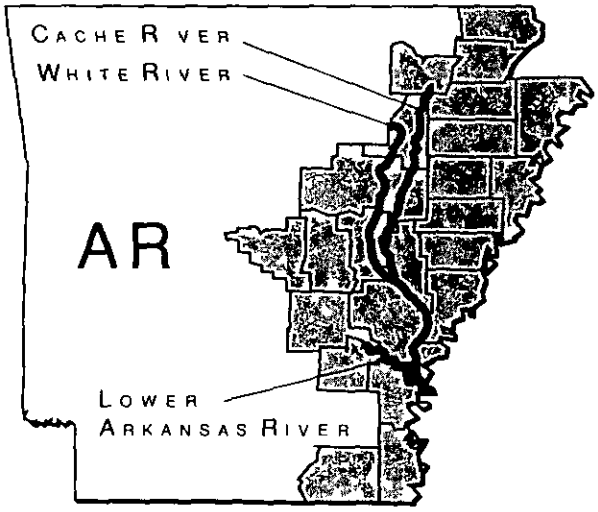
Only 9% of the state's original Mississippi River forested wetlands remain.



Tennessee s stronghold of forested wetlands is pocketed throughout the Delta region of the state The Hatchie River a tributary of the Mississippi drains a watershed that covers 1 664 000 acres The lowlands of this watershed support a stand of approximately 138 000 acres of bottomland hardwood forest the largest remaining acreage in western Tennessee s watersheds Today the Hatchie is the only totally unchannelized river system in the lower Mississippi River delta Although the Hatchie River represents a pristine system in many respects it is suffering from serious non point agricultural runoff Poor water quality not only affects the quality of life for those living in that region but threatens the system s biological diversity For example the Hatchie is the only system in Tennessee containing the highly threatened Southern Hickory Nut Mussel which depends on acceptable water quality

ARKANSAS

Only 15% of the state's original Mississippi River forested wetlands remain.



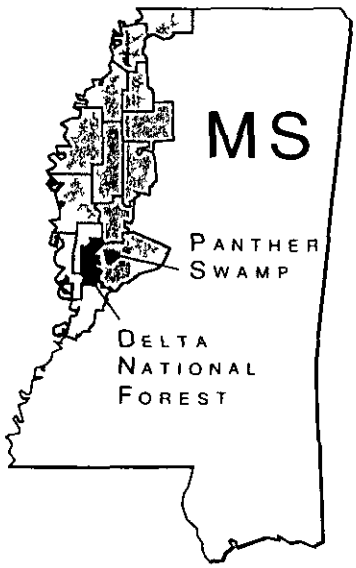
The floodplain forests of Arkansas Cache and White Rivers have been recognized by the 49 nations of the Ramsar Convention as Wetlands of International Importance Only eight wetlands have been so honored in the United States Although the state s wetlands are internationally recognized only 15% of the original 8 million acres remain Those 1 2 million acres of forested wetlands found in the Arkansas portion of the Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plain exist primarily in the bottomlands along the Arkansas White and Cache Rivers

The lower 41 miles of the Arkansas River are the single remaining stretch of undisturbed undeveloped big river in Arkansas Besides the Hatchie River in Tennessee it is the only other river in the entire Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plain where significant channel migration point bar building shoreline erosion and bank sloughing still occur Because of these and other qualities the Lower Arkansas was listed in the Registry of Arkansas Natural and Scenic Rivers

Several large colonies of federally listed endangered interior least terns nest on sand bars near the confluence of the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers The region also provides wintering habitat for an average of 31% of all mallard ducks in Arkansas and 10% of all those counted in the Mississippi Flyway The area also contains one of the few nesting sites for bald eagles in Arkansas One to several pairs nest within the White River National Wildlife Refuge Although a network core of 240 000 acres is in public ownership as National Wildlife Refuges or as state Wildlife Management Areas the Big Woods of Arkansas need additional protection and restoration to create a forested wetlands complex that could support much of the original diversity of the region

MISSISSIPPI

Only 15% of the state's original Mississippi River forested wetlands remain.



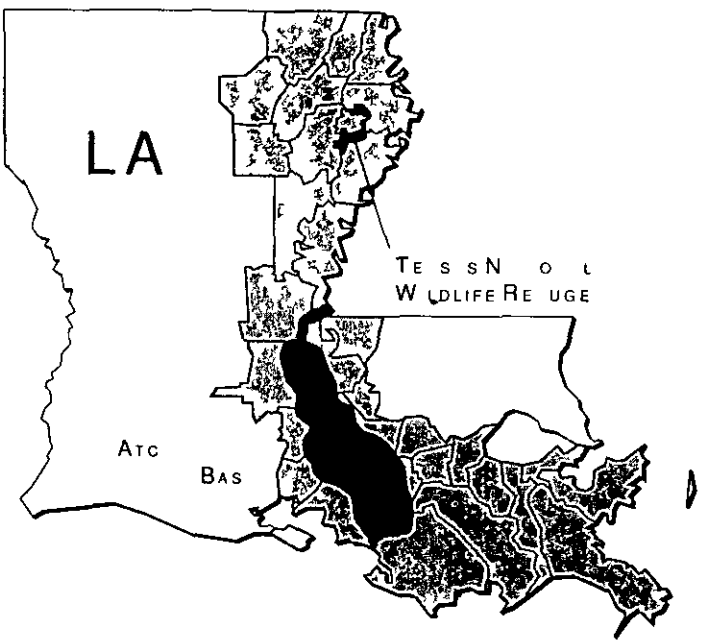
The Lower Yazoo Basin an area of some 700 000 acres contains almost 140 000 acres of nearly contiguous bottomland hardwood forest The core of this forest includes the 60 000 acre Delta National Forest 27 000 acre Panther Swamp and 8 000 acre Lake George Wildlife Management Area The latter is a major mitigation restoration project initiated by the Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers The Yazoo Basin supports Bald Eagles Wood Storks Louisiana Black Bear Pondberry migratory waterfowl and neotropical migrants

The 140 000 acre core habitat requires expansion through targeted conservation acquisition efforts Substantial opportunities also exist for restoring habitat developing wetland corridors and creating forest corridors from bottomland to upland hardwood forest of the loess bluffs These objectives can be accomplished through combined acquisition and well funded coordinated Department of Agriculture programs (Forest Stewardship Incentive Program Conservation Reserve Program Wetland Reserve Program) Department of Interior programs (Partners for Waterfowl) and private efforts

LOUISIANA

Only 35% of the state's original Mississippi River forested wetlands remain.

Of the remaining forested wetlands in the Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plain 59 3% are found in the state of Louisiana Of the 1 9 million acres of forested wetland in Louisiana 1 5 million acres occur as a single patch in the Atchafalaya basin Because of the unique status of forested wetlands in the Atchafalaya a strong citizen s coalition has worked diligently to develop a comprehensive easement program to ensure protection of the system However acquisition by the Corps of Engineers of the original authorized acreages has been insufficient It is critical that federal and state government maintain the easement agreement and increase appropriations towards purchasing land from willing sellers for perma nent protection



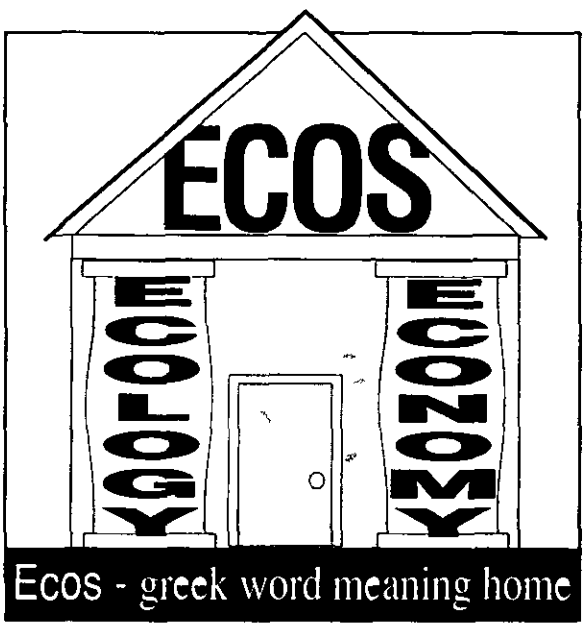
The Tensas basin located in the northeastern corner of the state of Louisiana encompasses approximately 2 5 million acres Historically over 90 percent of the basin was forested with bottom land hardwood species According to 1987 land use statistics only 387 790 acres remain an 85% decline To protect part of the remaining forested wetlands the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1982 Currently 59 000 acres are protected by the refuge and an additional 19 000 acres are protected in the adjacent Big Lake Wildlife Management Area The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana with Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency is developing a watershed protection plan for the basin Efforts are also underway to coordinate ongoing activities with the implementation of the Wetlands Reserve Program

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF THE FORESTED WETLANDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

The Mississippi River Alluvial Plain is a major but fragmented ecosystem in the heart of the United States The restoration of the system is critical to improving the environment and the economy Once the Missis sippi River Alluvial Plain supported 21 million acres of forested wetlands Early explorers experienced these wetlands as seemingly endless forests of massive hardwood and towering cypress trees untouched by the saw and abounding in wildlife Our dependency on the system s resources has altered that historic picture Today the nation depends on the timber and agricultural products grown in the region The people of this region also depend on the availability of clean water and protection from floods opportunities for recreation and a stable economy

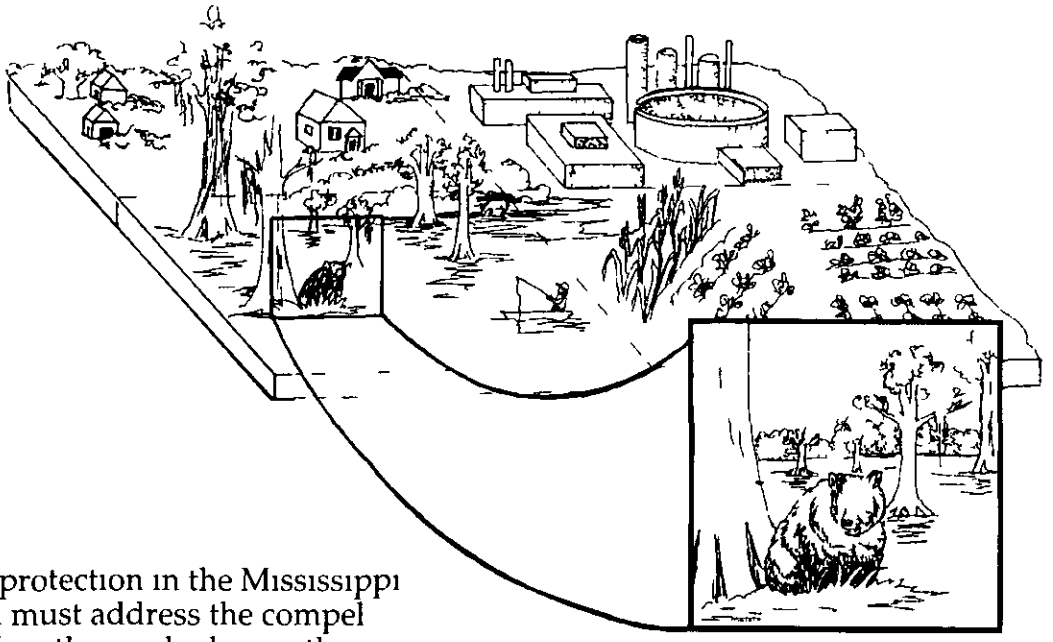
OUR COMMON HOUSEHOLD



The Mississippi River Alluvial Plain still supports a magnificent bounty of natural assets In recent years society has seen the conflicts between the economy and ecology in our common household the planet earth To ensure an improved and continued quality of life on earth it is time for planning to incorporate elements of each Environmental and economic issues can no longer be considered independent of one another

LOOK AT THE BIG PICTURE LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

Only by stepping back broadening our perspective and looking at the BIG PICTURE can we plan for the future A community or an ecosystem is made up of many components that interact and influence one another We need to consider the relationship among agricultural production habitat protection quality of life and economic development



Realistic landscape protection in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain must address the compel ling problems that face those who live in the region Issues related to the quality of life opportunities for the future and day to day concerns are integral components to planning for the future A stable economy and a sustainable resource base can be attained through

- **information**
- **protection and restoration of the forested wetlands**
- **the development of compatible human uses**

A STRATEGY

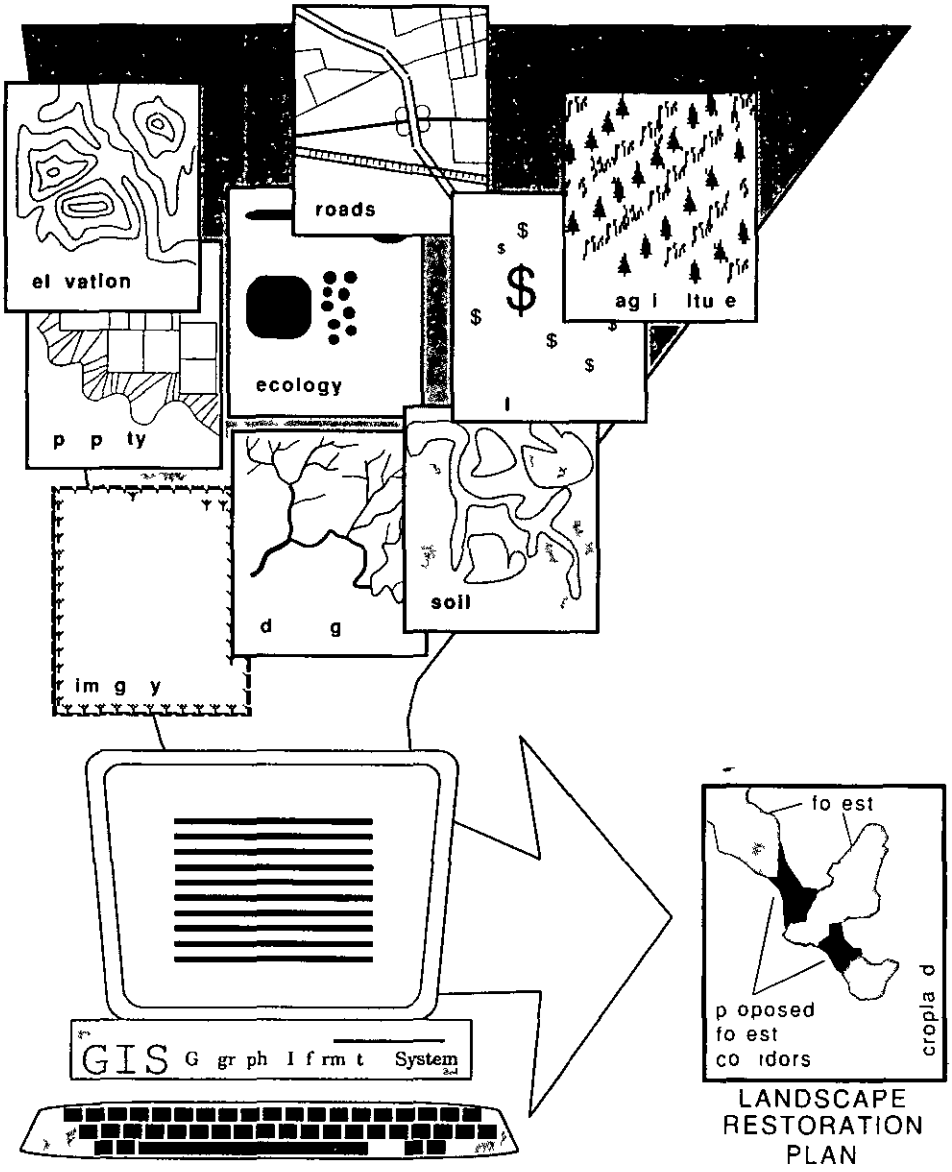
Before making decisions about the most cost effective means of restoring the ecology and economy of the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain we must produce a spatial inventory of the remaining forested wetlands A comprehensive approach requires a plan or strategy that prioritizes areas for protection restoration and development based on technical information To accomplish this a Geographic Information System (GIS) is being developed for the entire alluvial system

The GIS sets priorities for protecting and restoring forested wetlands based partly on the **principles of landscape ecology and conservation biology** including

- **species richness increases with forest area,**
- **for a given total forest area, one large patch supports more native interior species than two or more smaller ones,**
- **for a given forest area, adjacent patches will support more species than patches farther apart,**
- **forest patches connected by strips of protected habitat or "corridors" are preferable to isolated patches**

BASED ON INFORMATION

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM



A GIS takes data and compiles it geographically in layers The information in the GIS includes land use land ownership hydrology water quality socio economic data roads streams and the locations of rare and endangered species and unique habitats These data once compiled in the computer can be analyzed to determine a strategy for landscape restoration

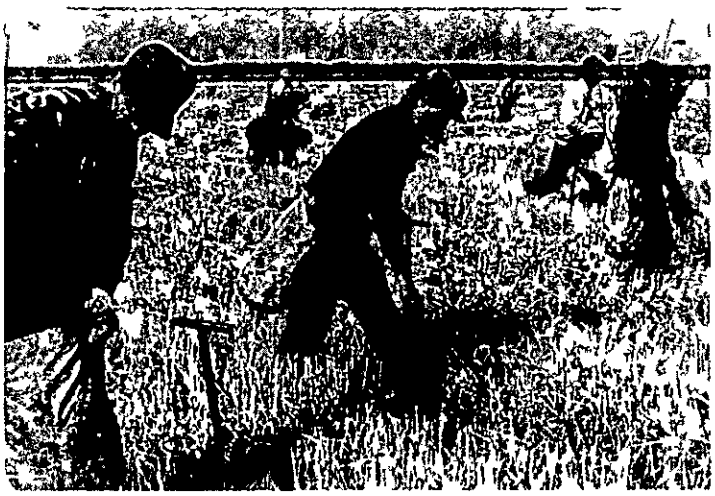
WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?

PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

The goal for protecting the forested wetlands in the Mississippi River valley should focus on preserving the remaining large patches through acquisition and/or private land owner incentives The original system of forested wetlands in the lower Mississippi River Valley covered 21 million acres Today approximately 1 2 million acres of that original system are protected by federal and state land management agencies **At least 10% of the original area must be maintained in its original state to mimic and perpetuate the valuable components of that system** This means that an additional million acres of land must be protected through either

- **outright acquisition,**
- **conservation easement, or**
- **long term agreements with private landowners**

With 95% of the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain in private ownership efforts to restore and protect the region in a sustainable way will require the involvement and commitment of the private sector Some wetlands that were converted have proved to be inefficient areas for sustained agricultural production Although state and federal agencies provide the landowner with incentives to restore these marginal farm lands additional funding and new programs are needed These programs should be expanded further to provide technical and financial assistance to the private landowners to improve the quality of their land and the surrounding landscape through a variety of measures including improvements to habitat and reducing associated non point pollution sources



PROGRAMS

LANDOWNER INCENTIVE

The **WATER BANK PROGRAM** protects enhances and improves breeding waterfowl habitat by restoring wetland habitats on private land As of April 4 1990 34 328 acres of privately owned wetland in Arkansas were enrolled for the year Mississippi enrolled 39 302 acres of wetland into the program during 1990 while in Louisiana 19 026 acres of privately owned wetland had been enrolled for the year The payment to private landowners in Louisiana for their 1990 enrollment totaled $454 105 (USDA)

The **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)** began as a means to control erosion by establishing permanent vegetative cover on highly erodible croplands The program also offers cost sharing to help establish approved cover on eligible lands which often include converted wetlands During 1989 a total of 49 373 wetland acres were enrolled in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain Illinois (4108 acres) Missouri (1857 acres) Kentucky (74 acres) Tennessee (2027 acres) Arkansas (9063 acres) Mississippi (10 612 acres) and Louisiana (21 632 acres) (USDA)

The **FOREST STEWARDSHIP** and **STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE** programs have been created to help the landowner develop and implement management plans for a variety of purposes including but not limited to water quality improvements wildlife habitat enhancement timber stand improvement on nonindustrial private forest lands (U S Forest Service)

The **PRIVATE LANDS INITIATIVES** was launched in conjunction with the North American Waterfowl Management Plan The program identifies management practices that are beneficial for waterfowl habitat and works with the private landowner through extension education Under the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Program wetlands are protected restored and enhanced and technical and financial assistance is provided to the private landowner (U S Fish and Wildlife Service)

The **WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM** focuses on restorable wetlands but existing productive wetlands and adjacent buffer areas qualify when associated with restorable sites The 1990 Farm Bill establishes a 1 million acre maximum sign up with a voluntary enrollment of 30 years or perma nent easement for the five years of the current farm bill For 1992 $46 357 000 have been appropriated for implementation of a pilot program in eight states two of which are located in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain Louisiana and Mississippi

An additional option available to the private landowner is a **CONSERVA TION EASEMENT** a legal agreement that property owners make to restrict the type and amount of development that may take place on their property Each easement s restrictions are tailored to the particular prop erty and to the interests of the individual owner People grant conservation easements to protect their land from inappropriate development while retaining private ownership A conservation easement can yield tax savings in addition to the knowledge that a piece of property has been protected The donation is a tax deductible charitable gift provided that the easement is perpetual and is donated exclusively for conservation purposes to a qualified conservation organization or public agency

COMPATIBLE HUMAN USES

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture will always be an integral feature of the Mississippi River Valley Some of the most productive cropland in the lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plain was originally wetlands and should remain in production as cropland However the farm industry in many of the region s counties and parishes is hurting Mechanization urban job opportunities discouraging equipment costs and perennial battles with weather and crop prices continue to force farmers particularly small time farmers out of business Fewer than 50 000 people in Louisiana were working in farm production in 1990 roughly one fourth the number estimated in 1950 To assist in stabilizing the agriculture workforce opportunities for multiple use of the land and alternative agriculture will need continued development

FORESTRY

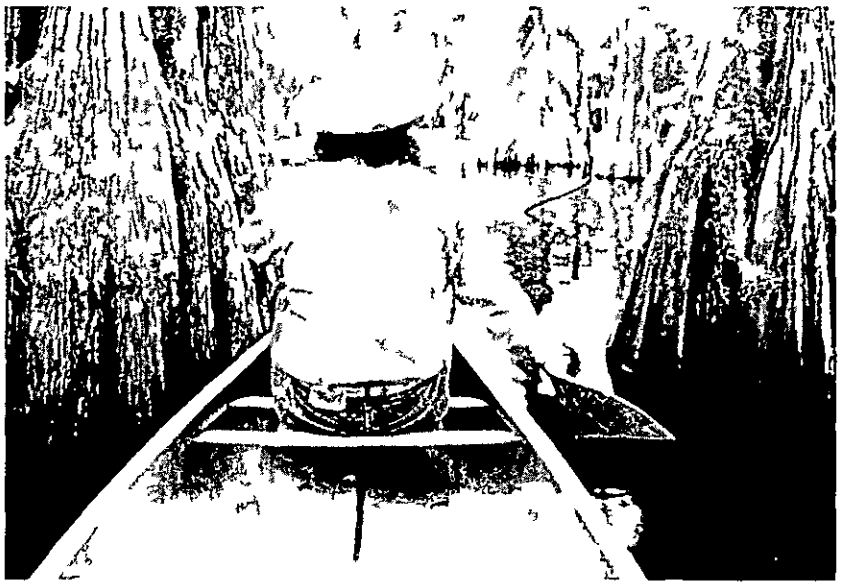
A healthy timber industry is also an integral part of the delta forests Timber production can co exist with healthy wetlands For example saw timber selectively cut can generate income and maintain woodland values Production of pulpwood species which are harvested on a shorter rotation is appropriate for more infrequently flooded sites As with any land use practice the implementation of best management practices is critical to maintaining water quality flood control and habitat for wildlife

NATURE BASED TOURISM

The Mississippi River supports a way of life that is the very root of southern culture Generations have depended on the river for transportation irrigation and livelihood The river culture has been memorialized and romanticized in the spoken and written word Marketing this culture will become a leading economic factor in the years ahead

One of the fastest growing industries in the United States is nature based tourism Ecotourism refers to a partnership in which tourism promotes the protection of the environment while the natural habitats serve the tourism industry Ecotourism stimulates the local economy by attracting visitors from outside the local area and by providing a source of jobs Expenditures for travel and tourism

affect transportation lodging restaurants retail and additional service businesses The market for lodg ing and related services is in the range of $300 billion annually in the United States with one billion consumer purchases Travel industry employment for 1989 increased by nearly 3 million jobs nationwide from 1988 Tourism is predicted to be the leading industry in the United States and the world by the year 2000



The same opportunities exist in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain Our fastest growing sector is recreation and tourism As the environmental and cultural riches of our for ested wetlands become increasingly accessible and attractive this sector is sure to grow more rapidly Millions of dollars are spent annually on nature related activities in the floodplain region Visitation to a single 12 000 acre park in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain region near Memphis generated funds exceeding $2 66 million in 1989 This market could become a billion dollar industry for the Lower Mississippi Valley

CONCLUSION

As we restore the ecological functions of the system, eco nomic opportunities and improvements will follow More and more, people recog nize the inseparable relationship between the environment, the availability of resources, the impor tance of healthy surroundings, and the economy Eco nomic development can help preserve the natural environ ment, and the natural environment can be used to accelerate development A plethora of economic benefits will be enjoyed with the protection and restoration of the forested wetlands of the Mississippi

A PLAN OF ACTION

WHAT WE

Compile information

In order to consider the Big Picture the relative locations of the different land use features should be compiled in a Geographic Information System (GIS). In order to guide decisions that are complimentary not antagonistic data bases must be built that contain the information necessary to make informed management decisions.

Protect critical remaining habitat

Some important habitat in the region are already protected as national wildlife refuges and wildlife management areas but key tracts of remaining forest and wetland are still at risk. Federal state and private funds must be appropriated to ensure protection of key areas through acquisition conservation easements or landowner incentives. Only long term protection and management of natural areas can secure the survival of the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain biological diversity.

Restore forested patches and develop corridors to link patches

The ecological processes of the Mississippi River's forested wetlands depend on large landscape patterns. Because of land use conversion and the resultant habitat fragmentation and isolation reforestation is critical. One primary restoration effort is to connect the remaining patches of forested wetland to mimic a larger forest aggregate. For example if a patch of 20 000 acres can be connected with a forested corridor to a nearby forest or wetland patch of 20 000 to 40 000 acre complex has been created—the home range necessary for the Black Bear. Such a design provides many of the values associated with large contiguous forest.

Provide landowner incentives

The majority of the land in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain is privately owned with less than 5% of the remaining forested wetlands in public ownership. Efforts to restore and protect the region in a sustainable way therefore require the involvement and commitment of the private sector. However to develop landowner interest increased options and opportunities should be provided. Existing programs for the private landowner not only need increased appropriations but new programs should be developed to assist the farming community during the current downturn in the agriculture industry.

CAN DO?

The challenge to protect the forested wetlands of the Mississippi River will be to combine the best of the natural world with continued economic growth for this region It is no longer valid to destroy one place and then move on to another We must take care to ensure the continued function of natural systems Ultimately human resources and human well being depend upon these natural systems

Increase public awareness and outreach

Landscape level efforts will succeed only if the public recognizes the urgency of the situation and their role in creating a more sustainable future Public involvement and programs to increase awareness are crucial to successfully implement comprehensive management strategies A full complement of information must be provided to the public so they can make informed decisions

Develop partnerships in the private and public sectors

Communicating protection needs coordinating land and water management efforts and implementing sound scientifically based practices are the primary means to achieve protection and restoration of the system Coordinated efforts of local state and federal governments conservation groups private landowners business and industry and the academic community are necessary to promote and coordinate conservation and compatible land use activities

Promote research on functions and values of forested wetlands and successful restoration

Scientific research is an essential component of successful conservation There is little knowledge about the functions of forested wetlands beyond a conceptual nature The scientific community agrees that more information is needed to guide forest managers on best management practices and to guide the massive restoration effort necessary to reverse the trend of wetland loss in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain Research on socioeconomic issues is also essential because many of the attitudes and efforts made toward conservation are dependent on economic and social factors

Promote compatible human use

Any effort to conserve ecosystems without including the human factor will fail Ecosystems can be protected only if the needs of human communities living in and around them are met Effectively integrating economy and ecology is the challenge of our culture Compatible human use in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain will include silviculture agriculture and tourism that emphasizes the ecological and historical values of the region

Ensure stable funding

Funding for comprehensive planning and management is a wise investment for the future Long term commitments of people resources and dollars will be necessary to fully achieve a sustainable environmental and economic system Secure funding for research acquisition incentive programs and other conservation initiatives is essential for the protection and restoration of the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain

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The Nature Conservancy

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
November 6, 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Baton Rouge LA, November 6, 1997.

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

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

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

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

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

Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

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

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RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the Notice of Intent published in the July 1997 Louisiana Register, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, at its regular monthly meeting in November hereby ratifies regulation on open hunting season dates, bag limits, methods of taking and rules and regulations on Department-operated wildlife management areas for turkeys. Authority to establish regulations are vested in the Commission by §115 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950.

1998 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON SCHEDULE

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

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

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

A baited area is any area where corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed capable of

luring, attracting or enticing turkeys is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Such areas remain baited areas for 15 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

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

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

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

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

1998 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON

Open Only in the Following Areas

Area A

March 21-April 26

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Grant, Livingston, Natchitoches, Rapides, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island).

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Also Open:

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

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

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

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

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

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

15.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vernon: That portion east of Hwy. 171 from the Sabine Parish Line to the junction of Hwy. 111, south of Hwy. 111 westward to Hwy. 392, and south of Hwy. 392 westward to the Sabine Parish line.

Winn: Only that portion within the boundaries of the National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve.

Area B

April 11-April 26

All of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Bienville, Bossier, Claiborne, Lincoln, Red River, Webster

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

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

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

Jackson: West of Parish Road 243 from Lincoln Parish line to Parish Road 238, west and south of Parish Road 238 to La. 144, west of La. 144 to La. 34, west of La. 34 to Chatham, north of La. 146 from Chatham to La. 155, north of La. 155 to La. 542, north of La. 542 to Quitman, north of La. 155 from Quitman to Parish Road 105 (Bear Knoll Road), west of Parish Road 105 to La. 147, north of La. 147 to Bienville Parish line.

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

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

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

Ouachita Parish line.

Area C

March 21-March 29

Portions of the Following Parishes Are Open:

Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River.

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

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

Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River.

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

1998 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS

GENERAL

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

management area.

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

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

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

PERMITS

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

Lottery Hunts: Dewey Wills, Georgia-Pacific, Loggy Bayou, Sabine, Sherburne, Sicily Island and Tunica Hills WMAs are restricted to those persons selected as a result of the pre-application Lottery. Deadline for receiving applications is January 31, 1998. Application fee of $5 must be sent with each application. Applicants may submit only one application and will be selected for one WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting

more than one application will result in disqualification. Contact any district office for applications. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

Requests for information on WMA regulations, permits, lottery hunt applications and maps may be directed to any district office: [District 1 — P.O. Box 915, Minden, 71055; 318/371-3050]; [District 2 — 368 Century Park Drive, Monroe, 71203; 318/343-4044]; [District 3 — 1995 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, 71360; 318/487-5885]; [District 4 — P.O. Box 426, Ferriday, 71334; 318/757-4571]; [District 5 — 1213 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, 70601; 318/491-2575]; [District 6 — 5652 Highway 182, Opelousas, 70571; 318/948-0255]; [District 7 — P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, 70898; 504/765-2360].

Wildlife Management Turkey Hunting Schedule*

WMA	Season Dates	Permit Requirements (Mandatory)	Lottery Dates**
Bens Creek†	March 21-April 12	Self-Clearing	None
Boeuf	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Big Lake	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Bodcau	April 11-April 26	Self-Clearing	None
Boise Vernon	March 21-April 12	Self-Clearing	None
Camp Beauregard	March 21-April 5	Self-Clearing	None
Dewey Wills	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 23-25
Fort Polk	March 21-April 26	Self-Clearing	None

Georgia-Pacific	April 11-April 19	Self-Clearing	April 11-12 April 13-15
Grassy Lake	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Jackson-Bienville	April 11-April 26	Self-Clearing	None
Little River	March 21-April 5	Self-Clearing	None
Loggy Bayou	April 18-April 19 April 25-April 26	Self-Clearing	April 18-19 April 25-26
Pearl River	March 21-April 5	Self-Clearing	None
Peason Ridge	March 21-April 26	Self-Clearing	None
Pomme de Terre	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Red River	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Sabine	March 21-March 22 March 28-March 29	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 28-29
Sandy Hollow†	March 21-April 12	Self-Clearing	None
Sherburne	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 23-25
Sicily Island	March 21-March 22 March 28-March 29 April 4-April 5	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 28-29 April 4-5
Three Rivers	March 21-March 29	Self-Clearing	None
Tunica Hills	March 21-March 22 March 28-March 29 April 4-April 5	Self-Clearing	March 21-22 March 28-29 April 4-5

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

** The deadline for receiving applications for all turkey Lottery Hunts on WMAs is January 31, 1998.

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

CORPS OF ENGINEERS - INDIAN BAYOU AREA

Turkey hunting dates are March 21-29, 1998. Lottery hunts are March 21-22 and March 23-25. For information, annual permit, and lottery hunt application, contact Corps of Engineers Headquarters, Post Office Box 187, Krotz Springs, LA 70750; phone 318/566-3561.

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

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 23: .

Daniel J. Babin

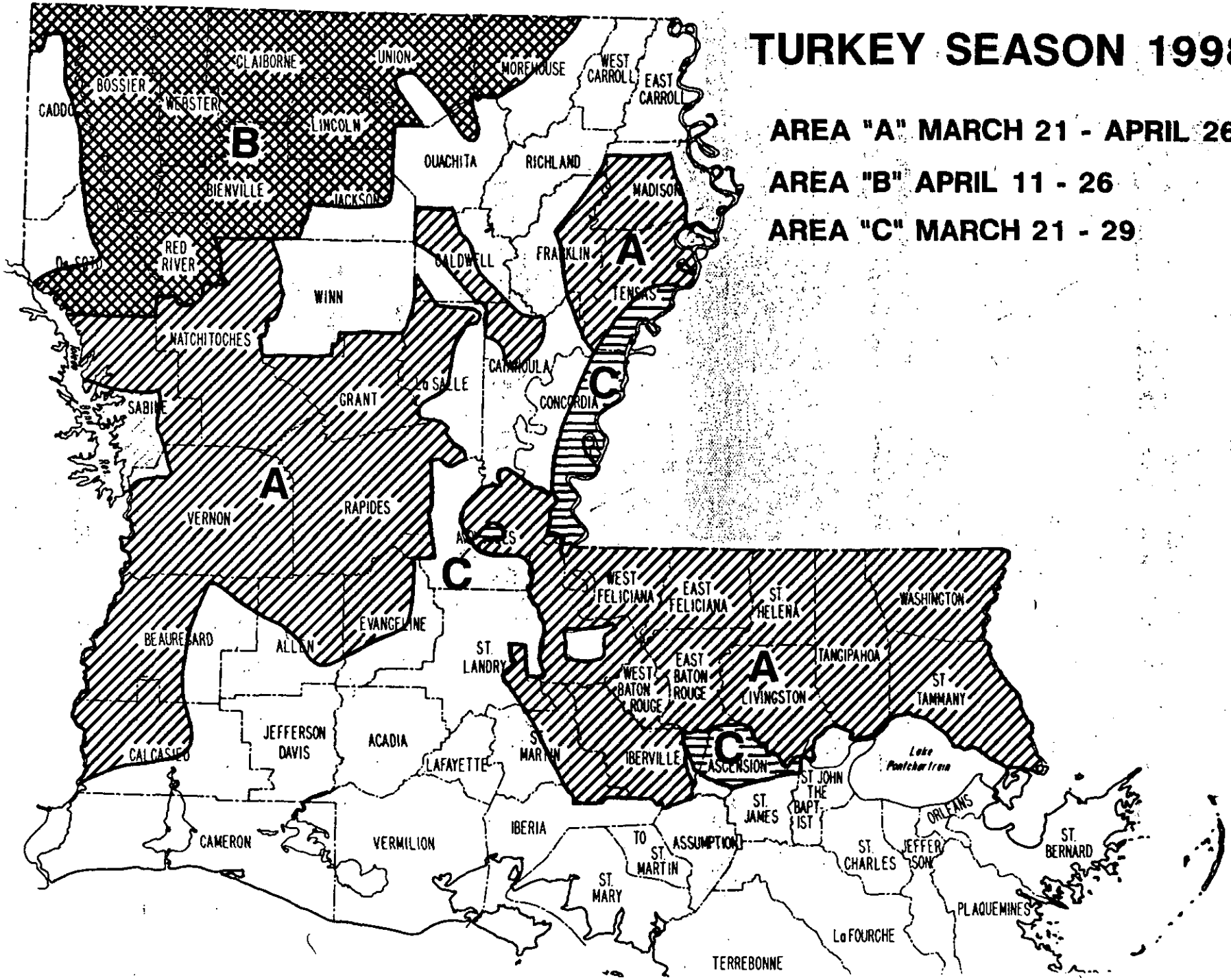
Chairman

TURKEY SEASON 1998

AREA "A" MARCH 21 - APRIL 26

AREA "B" APRIL 11 - 26

AREA "C" MARCH 21 - 29



RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby amends a rule pertaining to the visitor regulations for Waddill Wildlife Refuge.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part III. State Game and Fish Preserves and Sanctuaries

Chapter 3. Particular Game and Fish Preserves and Commissions

§325. Waddill Wildlife Refuge

* * *

B. General

* * *

10. The possession of firearms, bows, liquor and controlled dangerous substances on the refuge is prohibited; provided, however, that the Department is authorized to construct, maintain and operate ranges, in which case, shotguns and bows will be permitted under guidelines developed by the Department; and, further provided that the prohibition on the possession of firearms shall not apply to duly authorized law enforcement officers.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 et seq. and 56:109.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 22:861; amended LR 23: .

Daniel J. Babin

Chairman

ENROLLED

Regular Session, 1997

HOUSE BILL NO. 2409 Act # 449

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARIONNEAUX AND SENATOR GREENE

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 56:318.1, relative to fishing; to provide relative to fishing tournaments; to provide definitions, terms, conditions, requirements, and procedures; to provide for special permits for the possession of certain fish; to provide for applications; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:318.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§318.1. Fishing tournaments; special permits

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the commission may adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to establish special permits authorizing large tournament participants to possess live black bass, Micropterus spp., or its hybrids, that would otherwise fall outside of legal limits.

B. The application for the permit may be accompanied by a fee in an amount determined by the department as necessary to cover the reasonable administrative costs incurred by the department in issuing and enforcing the permit. The permit application shall be made on a standard form provided by the department and shall include the name, address, and phone number of the sponsoring organization or individual; the location and date of the tournament; total value of the

prizes and expected number of participants The permit application shall be submitted to the department at least thirty days prior to the proposed event

C Permits are not transferable and shall clearly demonstrate the expiration date

D An employee of the department may be assigned as an observer and be present at any tournament

E As used herein large tournament shall mean any tournament in which the number of qualified entries exceeds one hundred boats

Section 2 This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or if not signed by the governor upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor as provided in Article III Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED _____

M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Baton Rouge
70804-9004

POST OFFICE BOX 9400
(504) 342-7015

October 21, 1997

Mr. Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
105 Lewald Drive
Houma, LA 70360

Dear Mr. Babin:

As you are aware, Act 449 of the 1997 Regular Session of the Legislature allows the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (Commission) to adopt rules for an exemption to the "slot limits" on bass tournaments with one hundred or more boats participating. Further, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has advised me that the tournaments described in the Act are "catch and release" events and that safeguards, such as permitting these tournaments from October 1- April 30, can be provided through the rule-making process.

I understand that some of the members of the Commission received a presentation concerning this Act, but no action was taken following the presentation. With the above in mind, I would like to request that Act 449 be included on the agenda of the November Commission meeting. Placement on the agenda will give the commissioners who were not present the opportunity to be briefed on Act 449, in addition to allowing the commissioners who were present to gather more information.

I appreciate the commitment of the members of the Commission members. I would not request that an item be considered on the agenda if I personally felt resulting actions could harm our state's resources. Please let me know if my administration can be of assistance in this matter, and I look forward to hearing about your November meeting.

Sincerely,

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

kkg

c: ✓ Honorable Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROBERT M. MARIONNEAUX, JR.
District 18

P.O. Box 577
Livonia, Louisiana 70755
Telephone: (800) 462-5029
(504) 637-3623
Fax: (504) 637-3124

Administration of Criminal Justice
Agriculture
Transportation, Highways and Public Works

September 10, 1997

Mr. James H. Jenkins, Jr.
SECRETARY, DEPT. OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
P.O. Box 98000
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, La. 70808

Re: Act 449 of the 1997 Legislative Session

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

It was with much dismay that I read THE ADVOCATE on Friday, September 5, 1997, wherein it was reported that the LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION refused to approve rules, as authorized by the above referenced Act, which would have allowed an exemption from slot limits on bass for tournaments with 100 or more boats as participants.

It was in the name of economic development, which has been one of this administration's number one priorities, that this bill was introduced at the urging of the FALSE RIVER LAKE COMMISSION. Since the introduction of "slot limits" Pointe Coupee Parish has suffered due to the loss of large fishing tournaments. This catch-and-release type of tournament would do nothing to the strides which have been made since the inception of these "slot limits."

Since this Act became law, we have been able to schedule five large tournaments, drawing people for all parts of the state, including some from out of state. We anticipate, that with these tournaments, a draw of more than 5,000 people in and around the Pointe Coupee area. The participants of these tournaments will lodge, eat, drink, and buy all necessary items such as bait, gas, fishing license, etc . . . all as a result of this very important piece of legislation.

For these reasons, I urge that you promulgate the necessary rules to enact this statute. Likewise I ask that it be placed on next month's agenda (October) so that we may continue to make the necessary arrangement for these tournaments. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

RECEIVED
SEP 12 1997
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Sincerely,

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

RMM:jlg

cc: Honorable Murphy "Mike" J. Foster
Members of the Legislature
False River Lake Commission
Pointe Coupee Chamber of Commerce

STATE OF LOUISIANA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MITCHELL R. THERIOT
District 54
Transportation, Highways & Public Works,
Vice Chairman

P.O. Box 308
Lockport, Louisiana 70374
Telephone: (504) 532-3608
1-800-259-3608
Fax: (504) 532-8040

Insurance

September 15, 1997

Mr. James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
200 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

RE: Act 449 of 1997 Legislative Session
Pointe Coupee Parish

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

This letter is to recommend that you approve the rules as authorized by the above referenced Act allowing exemptions from slot limits on bass for tournaments with 100 or more boats.

This Act is of great importance to Pointe Coupee Parish. These fishing tournaments give a boost to their economy with the dollars spent on various aspects of fishing.

I urge you enact this Act by approving the rules as specified.

Thank you.

Cordially,

MITCHELL R. THERIOT

MRT/jmt

cc: Rob Marionneaux
Pointe Coupee Chamber of Commerce

REC'D
SEP 17 1997
OFFICE OF FISHERIES
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

RECEIVED
SEP 17 1997
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

STATE OF LOUISIANA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROBERT M. MARIONNEAUX, JR.
District 18

P.O. Box 577
Livonia, Louisiana 70765
Telephone: (800) 462-5029
(504) 637-3623
Fax: (504) 637-3124

Administration of Criminal Justice
Agriculture
Transportation, Highways and Public Work

September 15, 1997

The Honorable Richard P. Ieyoub
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF LOUISIANA
P.O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Re: Attorney General Opinion Request

Dear Mr. Ieyoub:

It has been called to my attention that the DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION has refused to promulgate rules necessary to enact the provisions of Act. 449. This bill, authored by myself, would have allowed an exemption from slot limits on all lakes in the state which would have one hundred or more boats qualifying for such tournaments. Obviously, it was my intention to have the rules promulgated once this piece of legislation cleared both chambers and was eventually signed by the governor. The commission has to refused to adopt or promulgate the necessary rules, and I ask for an opinion as to whether or not they have the authority to do so, when, in fact, the DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES supported this measure.

Please be advised that there is a DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION meeting set for October 2, 1997, wherein, I would like to address the commission relative to their refusal to adopt these rules. Therefore, the expedience of this opinion would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

RMM/jlg

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Baton Rouge
70804-9095

RICHARD P. IEYOUB
ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. BOX 94095
Tel.: (504) 342-4604
Fax: (504) 342-3885

OCTOBER 07 1997

OPINION NO. 97-432

Honorable Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.
State Representative
P.O. Box 577
Livonia, LA 70755

Dear Representative Marionneaux:

This office is in receipt of your letter requesting an Attorney General's Opinion regarding whether the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has the authority to promulgate rules necessary to implement the provisions of Acts 1997, No. 449. Act 449 provides in pertinent part:

> . . . the commission **may** adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to establish special permits authorizing large tournament participants to possess live black bass, Micropterus spp., or its hybrids, that would otherwise fall outside of legal limits. (Emphasis added)

Act 449 continues by providing guidelines for permit fees and transferability, necessary information which must be provided on applications, including name, location of the tournament, and number of expected participants, and finally, a definition of "large tournament."

The legislature has given the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission the power, under the specific guidelines provided in Act 449, to issue regulations allowing issuance of permits to large tournaments participants to possess fish that would otherwise be illegal. We can find nothing in the Constitution or laws of Louisiana which prohibits granting the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission such powers.

We note that Act 449 is permissive and not mandatory. When interpreting a statute we are guided by R.S. 1:3 which states that the word "shall" is mandatory and the word "may" is permissive. See also La. Code of Civil Procedure Article 5053. This is also apparent when comparing Act 449 to other acts of 1997 which use the word "shall" in directing agencies to promulgate regulations. See Acts 1997, No. 169 ("The secretary of the [Department of Health and Hospitals] shall promulgate rules and regulations [for licensure of basic care facilities]"); Acts 1997, No. 210 ("The secretary [of the Department of Transportation and Development] shall promulgate rules and regulations to [issue to issue prestige license plates]"), and; Acts 1997, No. 527 ("The secretary of the Department of

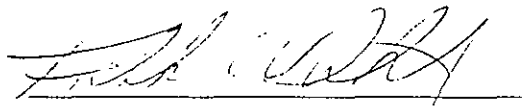
Wildlife and Fisheries shall promulgate rules and regulations for the issuance of [a commercial fisherman's sales card"). Had the legislature desired to require the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to promulgate regulations under Act 449, they clearly could have done so.

It is the opinion of this office that Act 449 authorizes, but does not require, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to promulgate such regulations.

We trust the foregoing has been helpful. Should you have any further questions, please contact this office.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD P. IEYOUB
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BY: 

FREDERICK C. WHITROCK
Assistant Attorney General

RPI/FCW/tp

STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROBERT M. MARIONNEAUX, JR.
District 18

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Livonia, Louisiana 70755
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Fax: (504) 637-3124

Administration of Criminal Justice
Agriculture
Transportation, Highways and Public Works

September 25, 1997

Mr. James H. Jenkins, Jr.
SECRETARY, DEPT. OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
P.O. Box 98000
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, La. 70808

Re: Act 449 of the 1997 Legislative Session

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

Per our conversation, please place on the agenda the above referenced act so that we may encourage the commission to enact and promulgate the rules necessary to have this matter resolved. I have enclosed, for your review, a copy of Act 449 so that you may forward it to any of the persons you feel that would be an asset to our cause.

I have discussed this matter with Governor Foster who has indicated that he is full support of our attempts, and is willing to offer any assistance to help us accomplish our goal.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

RMM:jlg

cc Governor Mike Foster
False River Lake Commission
Pointe Coupee Parish Chamber of Commerce

STATE OF LOUISIANA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROBERT M. MARIONNEAUX, JR.
District 18

P.O. Box 577
Livonia, Louisiana 70755
Telephone: (800) 462-5029
(504) 637-3623
Fax (504) 637-3613

Administration of Criminal Justice
Agriculture
Environment

September 16, 1997

Mr. Perry Gisclair
141 West 139th Street
Cut Off, Louisiana 70345

RE: ACT 449 OF THE 1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Dear Mr. Gisclair:

Enclosed please find two letters which I have received from the False River Lake Commission as well as the 1998 Bayou GMC/Thomas Marine Pro-Am Circuit. As you can see, one tournament has already canceled their appearance at False River due to the failure to adopt the rules necessary to enact Act 449.

I look forward to discussing this with you at the next Wildlife and Fisheries meeting set for November 6, 1997.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

enclosures

LWFC approves ban on importing deer into La.

By JOE MACALUSO
Advocate outdoors writer

Heeding warnings about the introduction of disease spread by non-native deer, seizure of native wild deer by private landowners and losing overall regulatory powers over the wild animals of the state, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved an immediate ban on the importation of whitetail deer into the state at its regular monthly meeting Thursday.

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists told the commission the ban was needed to protect the state from a series of rules and regulations currently being written by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) for whitetail deer farming operations. The LDAF is acting on Act 461 of the 1995 State Legislature which established deer farms as a viable agricultural practice.

State Wildlife Division administrator Hugh Bateman told the commission the LDAF rules would allow not only importation of deer, but would also establish high-fence hunting areas in the state under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture and to the exclusion of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission-approved hunting seasons and bag limits.

"It's our understanding that the 1995 Legislature intended for this to be a deer-farming operation, not private hunting clubs," Bateman said. "The intention was to raise deer to export to Texas."

With three members, Tom Gattle, Jerald Hanchey and Norman McCall absent, the LWFC voted 4-0 on the emergency decree.

Other action taken by the commission included:

- Ratifying the 1997-98 duck and goose seasons. The West Zone duck season will run from Nov. 8-Nov. 30 and Dec. 13-Jan. 18 and the East and Catahoula Lake zones will run from Nov. 15-Dec. 14 and from Dec. 20-Jan. 18. A special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day was set for Jan. 24, 1998. The statewide snow and blue goose season will run from Nov. 8-Feb. 22 and the specklebellied goose season was set for Nov. 8-Nov. 30 and from Dec. 13-Jan. 28. There will also be a special Jan. 20-28 Canada goose season in a designated area in the southwest Louisiana;
- Approving an increase in the non-resident Louisiana Waterfowl Stamp fee from $7.50 to $13.50;
- Approving a change in the proposed 1998 turkey hunting rules to ban hunting in parts of Madison, Franklin, Catahoula, Concordia and Tensas parishes. Bateman said hunters in the area wanted the closure to allow turkey populations to recover from several years of spring floods that cut into turkey populations along the Mississippi River in those parishes;
- Approving the state fur-harvest (trapping) season to run from Nov. 20 to March 20;
- Ratifying rules bringing the John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir near Coushatta into the state's Quality Lakes Program, which mandates a 14-17 inch slot limit and a eight-fish daily creel limit on black bass;
- Refusing to approve rules that would allow an exemption from slot limits on all lakes in the state's Trophy and Quality Lakes program for bass tournaments which have 100 or more boats.

Act 449 of the 1997 State Legislature allowed for the exemption. The Notice of Intent was not considered because it failed for lack of a motion from any of the four commission members;

- Approving state rules to concur with National Marine Fisheries Service regulations which open commercial seasons for red snapper through Sept. 15, and for the first 15 days of October, November and December, or until the NMFS determines that that commercial quota of 4.65 million pounds is reached;
- Approving a delay from Jan. 4, 1998, until April 12, 1998, for the lifting of the moratorium on the taking of new oyster lease applications;
- And, delayed a discussion of black bass regulations in the Atchafalaya Spillway and Lake Verret-Belle River area until its Oct. 2 meeting.

The issue of whitetail deer farming dominated the meeting.

Bateman further explained Department of Agriculture regulations "...purported to authorize them (landowners) to enclose wild deer on the property within deer-proof fences, thereby converting this publicly owned wildlife resource to private property."

He cited the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in captive and wild whitetail deer in some states, and that the deer ""proposed to be imported from New York were from an area with a very high incidence of Lyme disease."

He said while Lyme disease, which is transferred to humans by a variety of ticks, is found in Louisiana, it is very low. He said he considered both problems to be a threat to public health.

Agriculture Department attorney Jim Gelpi defended the plan by insisting the program fell into the realm of agriculture and agri-business.

He also said the LDAF offered Wildlife and Fisheries several opportunities to clear up the disagreements between the two agencies.

"They have not taken us up on the offer," Gelpi said.

Bateman and wildlife biologist Fred Kimmel disagreed with Gelpi and said they had objected to several paragraphs in the deer-farming program, but that the LDAF had refused to add or delete the objectionable wording.

Additional hunt field secured for doves

Advocate news services

State biologists have secured a sixth public-hunt field for Saturday's opening of the mourning dove season. The field is located in Avoyelles Parish near Marksville. It can be reached from La. 1 in Marksville on Slim Lemoine Road (it's next to the Grand Casino) and travel 1.1 miles east from La. 1. From there bear left onto a gravel road. The field is three-tenths of a mile down the gravel road.

The additional field brings to 1,698 acres leased for the one-day hunt. Other fields, which were listed in Thursday's Advocate Outdoors, are in West Baton Rouge, Tangipahoa, Washington and Ouachita parishes.

FALSE RIVER LAKE COMMITTEE
POST OFFICE BOX 126
VENTRESS, LOUISIANA 70783
(504) 638-4413

October 16, 1997

Representative Robert Marionneaux
P. O. Box 577
Livonia, LA 70755

ACT 449--BASS TOURNAMENTS

The failure of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to promulgate the rules of the ACT 449 has caused a great loss off revenue in Pointe Coupee Parish. When this ACT became law, five (5) large tournaments were scheduled for False River.

When the rules failed to pass the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, two (2) of these tournaments rescheduled and moved their tournaments to other locations in the state. The largest tournament, the Bayou GMC Truck Tournament, is also in question. Enclosed is a letter from Dub Noel, tournament director for the Pro-Am Circuit and the GMC Truck Tournaments concerning this matter.

The loss of these tournaments **SHALL** cause the loss of an anticipated 3,000 or more participants and spectators to the Pointe Coupee area. This economic loss is a direct result of the Commission not to promulgate the rules regarding the "SLOT LIMIT" permits.

We appreciate your concern and efforts getting this ACT passed in the legislation. Please keep the False River Lake Committee informed as to what it can do to help get this passed the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Sincerely,

Dan R. Thornton / pj

DAN R. THORNTON - CHAIRMAN
FALSE RIVER LAKE COMMITTEE

pj

c: Senator Tom Greene
Jimmy Bello

1998 Bayou GMC/Thomas Marine Pro-Am Circuit
13946 Katherine Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

October 6, 1997

Mr. Dan Thornton
Chairman
False River Advisory Committee
P. O. Box 126
Ventress, LA 70783

Dear Dan,

As per our telephone conversation, this is to regrettably confirm that the Bayou GMC/Thomas Marine Pro-Am Bass Circuit will not be coming to False River due to Wildlife & Fisheries Commission failure of adopting the resolution allowing the permit for tournaments waiving the slot.

We have announce the dated of the Bayou GMC Truck Tournament and as you also are aware, have not determined whether we are coming to False River or not, that is strictly up to the Bayou GMC Dealers. As soon as the decision is made I will let you know one way or the other.

I am really sorry we are not coming up there for I think the fishermen and the local businesses would have benefited from it greatly.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Dub

Dub Noel
Tournament Director,
Bayou GMC/Thomas Marine Pro-Am
and Bayou GMC Team Tournament

State of Louisiana

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

September 19, 1997

Honorable Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.
State Representative
District 18
P. O. Box 577
Livonia, LA 70755

Dear Representative Marionneaux:

I am in receipt of your letter expressing disappointment that the Commission did not approve special permit regulations, which would have allowed an exemption from slot limits on black bass during certain tournaments that exceed 100 boats. The Department developed a set of proposed permit regulations which were presented to the Commission at its September meeting. No action was taken due to the lack of a motion. You might possibly want to contact Mr. Daniel Babin, Commission Chairman, directly and request it be placed on the October meeting agenda for reconsideration.

Mr. Babin can be contacted at the following address and phone number:

Mr. Daniel J. Babin, Chairman
105 Lewald Drive
Houma, LA 70360
Phone: 504-563-7851

Your interest in the fishery resources of this state is appreciated.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.

JHJ/fs

cc: Mr. Daniel Babin

STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROBERT M. MARIONNEAUX, JR.
District 18

P.O. Box 577
Livonia, Louisiana 70755
Telephone: (800) 462-5029
(504) 637-3623
Fax: (504) 637-3124

Administration of Criminal Justice
Agriculture
Transportation, Highways and Public Works

September 25, 1997

Mr. James H. Jenkins, Jr.
SECRETARY, DEPT. OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
P.O. Box 98000
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, La. 70808

Re: Act 449 of the 1997 Legislative Session

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

Per our conversation, please place on the agenda the above referenced act so that we may encourage the commission to enact and promulgate the rules necessary to have this matter resolved. I have enclosed, for your review, a copy of Act 449 so that you may forward it to any of the persons you feel that would be an asset to our cause.

I have discussed this matter with Governor Foster who has indicated that he is full support of our attempts, and is willing to offer any assistance to help us accomplish our goal.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

RMM:jlg

cc Governor Mike Foster
False River Lake Commission
Pointe Coupee Parish Chamber of Commerce

Copy

STATE OF LOUISIANA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

3125 W. Pinhook Road
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508
Telephone: (318) 237-1181
Fax: (318) 237-1185

Commerce
Labor & Industrial Relations
Natural Resources

MIKE MICHOT
District 43

September 20. 1997

Mr. Jerald Hanchey
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

RE: Act 449 of the 1997 Legislative Session

Dear Mr. Hanchey:

I am requesting that you promulgate the necessary rules as authorized by the above referenced Act which would allow an exemption from slot limits on bass for tournaments with 100 or more boats as participants.

The passage of this law (authored by Representative Marionneaux and Senator Greene) has resulted in the scheduling of a number of large fishing tournaments in Louisiana. A draw of several thousand people from throughout the state as well as from outside of Louisiana to these tournament locations is expected. These participants will provide a boost to the local and state economies by spending money on lodging, food and items necessary to this sport (i.e., bait, fuel, fishing licenses, etc.). An added advantage is the boost provided to Louisiana's tourism industry.

Needless to say, Mr. Hanchey, if the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission refuses to approve the rules of Act 449, the State stands to lose all of the positive effects of this Act. In the name of economic development, I urge the Commission to promulgate the necessary rules to enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Michot
State Representative
District 43

MJM:mbb

State of Louisiana

Mr. Marionneaux

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

September 22, 1997

The Honorable Mitchell R. Theriot
State Representative, District 54
P. O. Box 308
Lockport, Louisiana 70374

Dear Representative Theriot:

I am in receipt of your recommendation that the Department approve rules allowing exemptions for slot limits on black bass in tournaments with 100 or more boats. I must inform you that Act 449 of the 1997 Legislative Session empowers the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, not the Department, to enact these special regulations.

The Department did, however, develop a set of proposed permit regulations which were presented to the Commission at its September meeting. No action was taken due to the lack of a motion.

Your interest in the fishery resources of this state is appreciated.

Sincerely,

James H. Jenkins, Jr.

BJF/fs

An Equal Opportunity Employer

State of Louisiana

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

October 2, 1997

Mr. Terry Ryder, Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9004

RE: Act # 449 (HB 2409)
Rep. Rob Marionneaux

Dear Terry:

Yesterday Representative Marionneaux spoke to you and me about this bill to allow fishing tournament participants to weigh-in fish caught within the slot. I have attached a copy of HB 2409 for your information.

Representative Marionneaux stated that he had discussed the matter of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's refusal to implement rules and regulations pertaining to the implementation of the legislation.

It is the position of the department that the implementation of this act will not affect the resource as the fishing tournament requires "catch and release" after weigh-in.

This legislation is a matter of economics, not resource. Actually, the large fishing tournaments are no longer held on bodies of water such as False River, which has been declared a trophy lake. This is due to the prohibition of weighing in the fish caught within the slot.

Please contact me if you have any other questions.

Sincerely yours,

Clyde

Clyde W. Kimball
Deputy Secretary

CWK/mew

cc: Representative Rob Marionneaux

State of Louisiana

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

October 2, 1997

Mr. Terry Ryder, Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9004

RE: Act # 449 (HB 2409)
Rep. Rob Marionneaux

Dear Terry:

Yesterday Representative Marionneaux spoke to you and me about this bill to allow fishing tournament participants to weigh-in fish caught within the slot. I have attached a copy of HB 2409 for your information.

Representative Marionneaux stated that he had discussed the matter of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's refusal to implement rules and regulations pertaining to the implementation of the legislation.

It is the position of the department that the implementation of this act will not affect the resource as the fishing tournament requires "catch and release" after weigh-in.

This legislation is a matter of economics, not resource. Actually, the large fishing tournaments are no longer held on bodies of water such as False River, which has been declared a trophy lake. This is due to the prohibition of weighing in the fish caught within the slot.

Please contact me if you have any other questions.

Sincerely yours,

Clyde

Clyde W. Kimball
Deputy Secretary

CWK/mew

cc: Representative Rob Marionneaux

LWFC to hear 'modifications' for False River

11/6/97

By JOE MACALUSO
Advocate outdoors writer

The official word is "no comment" from the State's Inland Fisheries Division, the section responsible for proposing the changes in black-bass regulations on False River.

It is calling the changes "modifications," and has prepared a Notice of Intent for consideration at today's 10 a.m. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission meeting.

If the LWFC approves whatever changes are proposed, it will start the process of removing the 13-mile-long Pointe Coupee Parish oxbow lake from the state's Trophy Lake Program, which also included Lake Concordia near Ferriday and Caney Creek Lake in Jackson (check) Parish. Trophy lakes have more restricted daily limits and a 15-19 inch slot limit on bass, a rule that requires anglers to release black bass in that length range back into the lake.

False River has been the target of intense Wildlife and Fisheries study over the last two years. State biologists have voiced concern over decreasing numbers of small bass and bream in the lake, which was once considered to be among the nation's five most productive lakes.

The agenda includes discussion of ACT 449 passed during the recent Legislative Session. It allows the commission to suspend slot limits on Trophy and Quality lakes for bass tourneys attracting more than 100 boats.

Other agenda items include approving dates and bag limits for the 1998 spring turkey hunting season, presentations of the Secretary's Cup for the State Taxidermist Association contest, the annual Petroleum Engineers Society donation, and the state Natural Areas Registry Program; announcement of the 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp contest; rule ratification on Waddill Wildlife Refuge, and a notice of changes to daily creel and size limits for reef fish.

Division reports will include a presentation on the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) and updates on Catahoula Lake's brush control program.

The meeting is scheduled for the Louisiana Room at Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters on Quail Drive.

☐ **BASIN REPAIR:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District send out an advisory late last week concerning repairs of a breach in the bankline of the West Access Channel — that's Bayou Chene — near the Bayou Jean Louis Cemetery near the waterside community of Bayou Chene.

The advisory indicated the work will be completed sometime this month. The breach is allowing the Atchafalaya River into Bayou Jean Louis. During high-water periods, the water overflows the area and has been eroding the area in and around the cemetery.

The corps indicated it will have to dig a flotation canal in a silted-in area of Bayou Chene.

If history serves as a guideline, the digging and breach repair is likely to muddy the water in the area and fishermen should alter their plans.

☐ **MORE THREE RIVERS:** The Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area gained 2,040 more acres after Wildlife and Fisheries purchased the acreage from the Canal Land Company.

Cost was $1.7 million, of which $1 million came from a Pittman-Robertson Fund grant. The other $700,000 was taken from the state's wildlife Habitat Trust Fund.

The addition brings Three Rivers to a total of 26,347 acres. The new land also includes two miles fronting on the Mississippi River.

LDWF spokesman Bob Love said most of the newly acquired land is in "mature bottomland hardwood forest" and includes high ground which provides resident game a secure habitat during periods of flooding.

Love said the new tract is open for the hunting season.

The land is the final acreage of the Lum Glendale Plantation, part of which was bought in 1975.

☐ **FALL SHRIMPING:** State marine biologists said high dockside prices helped shrimpers have a better than average inshore fall shrimp season.

Biologist Mark Schexnayder said shrimpers found good numbers of shrimp in inside waters in Terrebonne Parish and around the Atchafalaya Delta. He termed catches around the Caernarvon Project on the Mississippi River "respectable," and said catches in the Barataria Bay near Grand Isle and the Calcasieu system below Lake Charles were below average.

He said late October cold fronts have reduced the catch to small white and brown shrimp in the 80-100 per pound count size, and expects the trend to continue.

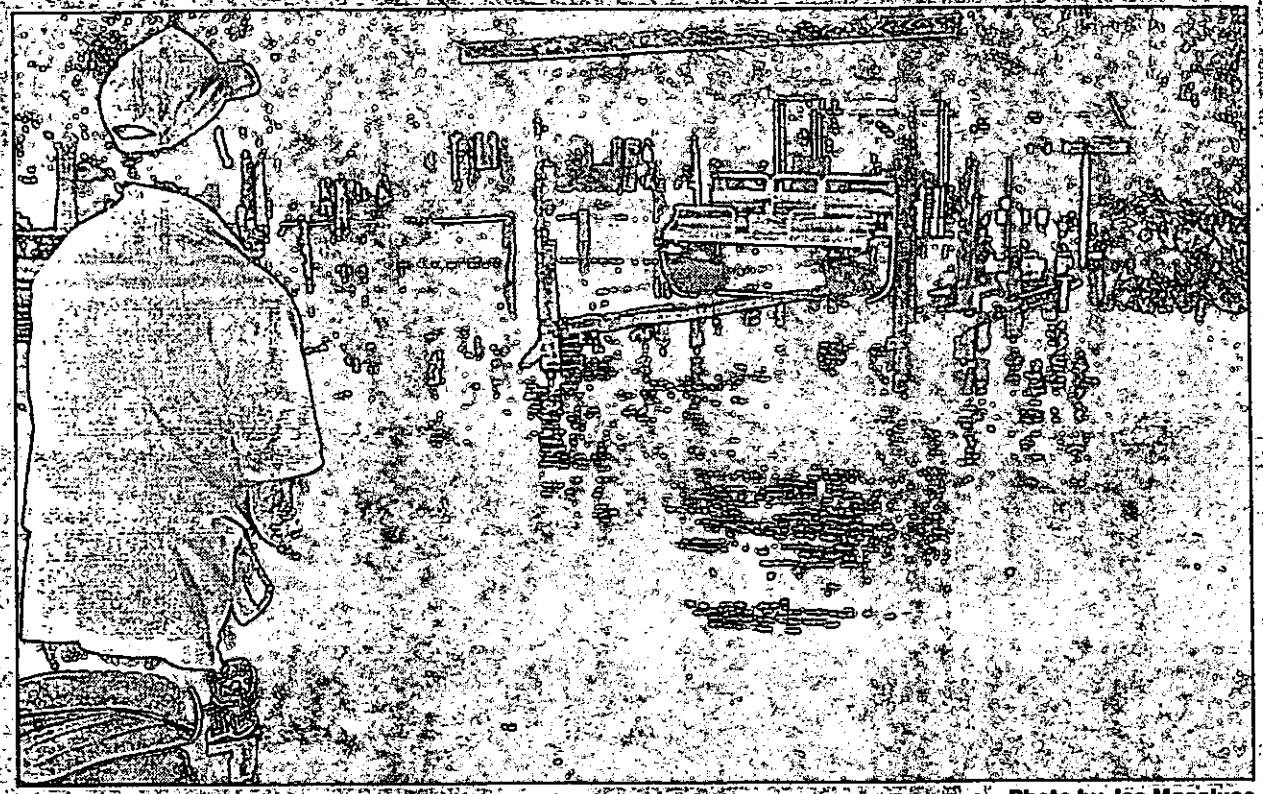

Photo by Joe Macaluso

Ventress resident Mike Kysar casts a plastic worm at a False River pier during a recent bass tournament. State biologists will propose regulations to change the creel and size limits on the Pointe Coupee Parish lake, a move that would remove the lake from the state's Trophy Lake Program.

NOTEBOOK

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. President	Ellington	Landry
Bagneris	Fields	Lentini
Bajoie	Greene	Malone
Bean	Guidry	Robichaux
Branch	Hainkel	Romero
Cain	Heitmeier	Schedler
Campbell	Hines	Short
Casanova	Hollis	Siracusa
Cox	Irons	Smith
Cravins	Johnson	Tarver
Dardenne	Jones	Theunissen
Dean	Jordan	Ullo
Dyess	Lambert	

Total—38

NAYS

Total—0

ABSENT

Barham

Total—1

The Chair declared the bill was passed. The title was read and adopted. Senator Ellington moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed and laid the motion on the table.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2400—
BY REPRESENTATIVE MURRAY

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 33:2923.1, relative to local finance; to authorize political subdivisions to issue certificates of indebtedness for certain customary and necessary benefits; to provide for terms and procedures for such issuance; and to provide for related matters.

The bill was read by title. Senator Bagneris moved the final passage of the bill.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. President	Greene	Malone
Bagneris	Guidry	Robichaux
Bajoie	Hainkel	Romero
Branch	Heitmeier	Schedler
Cain	Hines	Short
Campbell	Hollis	Siracusa
Cox	Irons	Smith
Cravins	Johnson	Tarver
Dardenne	Jones	Theunissen
Dyess	Jordan	Ullo
Ellington	Lambert	
Fields	Lentini	

Total—34

NAYS

Casanova	Dean	Landry

Total—3

ABSENT

Barham	Bean

Total—2

The Chair declared the bill was passed. The title was read and adopted. Senator Bagneris moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed and laid the motion on the table.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2409—
BY REPRESENTATIVE MARJONNEAUX

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 56:318.1, relative to fishing; to provide relative to fishing tournaments; to provide definitions, terms, conditions, requirements, and procedures; to provide for special permits for the possession of certain fish; to provide for applications; and to provide for related matters.

The bill was read by title. Senator Greene moved the final passage of the bill.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. President	Fields	Lentini
Bagneris	Greene	Malone
Bajoie	Guidry	Robichaux
Bean	Hainkel	Romero
Branch	Heitmeier	Schedler
Cain	Hines	Short
Campbell	Hollis	Siracusa
Casanova	Irons	Smith
Cox	Johnson	Tarver
Dardenne	Jones	Theunissen
Dean	Jordan	Ullo
Dyess	Lambert	
Ellington	Landry	

Total—37

NAYS

Total—0

ABSENT

Barham	Cravins

Total—2

The Chair declared the bill was passed. The title was read and adopted. Senator Greene moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed and laid the motion on the table.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2442—
BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:7.1(F), relative to certification of teachers; to provide for certain reciprocal agreements for teacher certification; to require that such agreements include certain educational requirements under certain circumstances; to provide an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

The bill was read by title. Senator Jones moved the final passage of the bill.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. President	Ellington	Lambert
Bagneris	Fields	Landry
Bajoie	Greene	Lentini
Bean	Guidry	Robichaux

Bruce	Hunter	Smith, J.R.—30th
Bruneau	Johns	Stelly
Carter	Kennard	Theriot
Chaisson	Kenney	Thompson
Clarkson	Lancaster	Thornhill
Copelin	Landrieu	Toomy
Crane	LeBlanc	Travis
Curtis	Long	Triche
Damico	Marionneaux	Vitter
Daniel	Martiny	Walsworth
Deville	McCain	Warner
Diez	McCallum	Welch
Doerge	McMains	Weston
Donelon	Michot	Wiggins
Dupre	Montgomery	Wilkerson
Faucheux	Morrell	Willard-Lewis
Flavin	Morrish	Windhorst
Forster	Murray	Winston
Frith	Odinet	Wright
Fruge	Pierre	

Total—86

NAYS

Hebert	Jenkins	Rousselle
Iles	Perkins	Smith, J.D.—50th

Total—6

ABSENT

Brun	Fontenot	Powell
DeWitt	Hudson	Strain
Dimos	Jetson	Thomas
Durand	McDonald	
Farve	Mitchell	

Total—13

The Chair declared the above bill, having received a two-thirds vote of the elected members, was finally passed.

The title of the above bill was read and adopted.

Rep. Toomy moved to reconsider the vote by which the above bill was finally passed, and, on his own motion, the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2389—
BY REPRESENTATIVE MICHOT

AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 887(A) and to enact Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 887(I), relative to the imposition of court costs on criminal defendants; to provide that court costs may be imposed when the defendant enters into a pretrial diversion program; and to provide for related matters.

Called from the calendar.

Read by title.

Rep. McCain moved the final passage of the bill.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. Speaker	Gautreaux	Pierre
Alario	Glover	Pinac
Alexander, A.—93rd	Green	Pratt
Alexander, R.—13th	Guillory	Quezaire
Ansardi	Hammett	Riddle
Barton	Heaton	Romero
Baudoin	Hebert	Rousselle
Baylor	Hill	Salter
Bowler	Holden	Scalise
Bruce	Hudson	Schneider
Bruneau	Iles	Shaw
Carter	Jenkins	Smith, J.D.—50th
Chaisson	Jetson	Smith, J.R.—30th
Clarkson	Johns	Stelly
Copelin	Kennard	Theriot
Crane	Kenney	Thomas
Curtis	Lancaster	Thompson
Damico	Landrieu	Thornhill
Daniel	LeBlanc	Toomy
Deville	Long	Travis
DeWitt	Marionneaux	Triche
Diez	Martiny	Vitter
Doerge	McCain	Walsworth
Donelon	McCallum	Warner
Dupre	McMains	Weston
Durand	Michot	Wiggins
Faucheux	Montgomery	Wilkerson
Flavin	Morrell	Willard-Lewis
Fontenot	Morrish	Windhorst
Forster	Murray	Winston
Frith	Odinet	Wright
Fruge	Perkins	

Total—95

NAYS

Total—0

ABSENT

Brun	Hunter	Strain
Dimos	McDonald	Welch
Farve	Mitchell	
Hopkins	Powell	

Total—10

The Chair declared the above bill was finally passed.

The title of the above bill was read and adopted.

Rep. McCain moved to reconsider the vote by which the above bill was finally passed, and, on his own motion, the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2409—
BY REPRESENTATIVE MARIONNEAUX

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 56:318.1, relative to fishing; to provide relative to fishing tournaments; to provide definitions, terms, conditions, requirements, and procedures; to provide for special permits for the possession of certain fish; to provide for applications; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Rep. Marionneaux moved the final passage of the bill.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. Speaker	Glover	Pierre
Alario	Green	Pinac

Alexander, A.—93rd	Guillory	Pratt
Alexander, R.—13th	Hammett	Quezaire
Barton	Heaton	Riddle
Baudoin	Hebert	Romero
Baylor	Hill	Rousselle
Bowler	Holden	Salter
Bruce	Hopkins	Scalise
Brun	Hunter	Schneider
Bruneau	Iles	Shaw
Carter	Jenkins	Smith, J.D.—50th
Chaisson	Jetson	Smith, J.R.—30th
Clarkson	Johns	Stelly
Copelin	Kennard	Theriot
Crane	Kenney	Thomas
Curtis	Lancaster	Thompson
Damico	Landrieu	Toomy
Daniel	LeBlanc	Travis
Deville	Long	Triche
DeWitt	Marionneaux	Vitter
Diez	Martiny	Walsworth
Doerge	McCain	Warner
Donelon	McCallum	Welch
Dupre	McMains	Weston
Faucheux	Michot	Wiggins
Flavin	Montgomery	Wilkerson
Fontenot	Morrell	Willard-Lewis
Forster	Morrish	Windhorst
Frith	Murray	Winston
Fruge	Odinet	Wright
Gautreaux	Perkins	

Total—95

NAYS

Total—0

ABSENT

Ansardi	Hudson	Strain
Dimos	McDonald	Thornhill
Durand	Mitchell	
Farve	Powell	

Total—10

The Chair declared the above bill, having received a two-thirds vote of the elected members, was finally passed.

The title of the above bill was read and adopted.

Rep. Marionneaux moved to reconsider the vote by which the above bill was finally passed, and, on his own motion, the motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2424—

BY REPRESENTATIVES CRANE, BRUN, R. ALEXANDER, BARTON, BAUDOIN, BOWLER, BRUCE, BRUNEAU, DEVILLE, DIEZ, DIMOS, DONELON, DUPRE, FLAVIN, FONTENOT, FORSTER, FRITH, FRUGE, GAUTREAUX, HAMMETT, HEBERT, HILL, HOPKINS, JOHNS, KENNARD, KENNEY, LANCASTER, MARTINY, MCCALLUM, MCDONALD, MCMAINS, MORRISH, PINAC, ROUSSELLE, SALTER, SCALISE, SHAW, STELLY, THORNHILL, TRICHE, VITTER, WALSWORTH, WIGGINS, AND WRIGHT

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3351(A)(5), relative to tuition and attendance fees at public colleges and universities; to provide for the powers, duties, and responsibilities of public higher education management boards; to grant authority to the management boards to establish in accordance with certain guidelines tuition and attendance fees applicable to nonresident students; and to provide for related matters.

Read by title.

Rep. Crane sent up floor amendments which were read as follows:

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by Representative Crane to Engrossed House Bill No. 2424 by Representative Crane, et al.

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, at the beginning of line 7, change "(5)(i)" to "(5)(a)"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, at the beginning of line 8, change "(ii)" to "(b)"

On motion of Rep. Crane, the amendments were adopted.

Rep. Crane moved the final passage of the bill, as amended.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. Speaker	Gautreaux	Pinac
Alario	Glover	Powell
Alexander, A.—93rd	Green	Pratt
Alexander, R.—13th	Guillory	Quezaire
Ansardi	Hammett	Riddle
Barton	Heaton	Romero
Baudoin	Hebert	Rousselle
Baylor	Hill	Salter
Bowler	Holden	Scalise
Bruce	Hopkins	Schneider
Brun	Hudson	Shaw
Bruneau	Hunter	Smith, J.D.—50th
Carter	Iles	Smith, J.R.—30th
Chaisson	Jetson	Stelly
Clarkson	Johns	Strain
Copelin	Kennard	Theriot
Crane	Kenney	Thomas
Curtis	Lancaster	Thompson
Damico	Landrieu	Thornhill
Daniel	LeBlanc	Toomy
Deville	Long	Travis
DeWitt	Marionneaux	Triche
Diez	Martiny	Vitter
Doerge	McCain	Walsworth
Donelon	McCallum	Warner
Dupre	McMains	Welch
Durand	Montgomery	Weston
Farve	Morrell	Wiggins
Faucheux	Morrish	Wilkerson
Flavin	Murray	Willard-Lewis
Fontenot	Odinet	Windhorst
Forster	Perkins	Winston
Frith	Pierre	Wright

Total—99

NAYS

STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MITCHELL R. THERIOT
District 54
Transportation, Highways & Public Works,
Vice Chairman

P.O. Box 308
Lockport, Louisiana 70374
Telephone: (504) 532-3608
1-800-259-3608
Fax: (504) 532-8040

Insurance

September 15, 1997

Mr. James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
P.O. Box 98000
200 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

RE: Act 449 of 1997 Legislative Session
Pointe Coupee Parish

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

This letter is to recommend that you approve the rules as authorized by the above referenced Act allowing exemptions from slot limits on bass for tournaments with 100 or more boats.

This Act is of great importance to Pointe Coupee Parish. These fishing tournaments give a boost to their economy with the dollars spent on various aspects of fishing.

I urge you enact this Act by approving the rules as specified.

Thank you.

Cordially,

MITCHELL R. THERIOT

MRT/jmt

cc: Rob Marionneaux
Pointe Coupee Chamber of Commerce

REC'D
SEP 17 1997
OFFICE OF FISHERIES
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

RECEIVED
SEP 17 1997
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

STATE OF LOUISIANA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OBERT M. MARIONNEAUX, JR.
District 18

P.O. Box 577
Houma, Louisiana 70355
Telephone: (800) 462-5029
(504) 637-3623
Fax: (504) 637-3124

Administration of Criminal Justice
Agriculture
Transportation, Highways and Public Works

September 16, 1997

Mr. Henry M. Mouton
P.O. Box 53097
Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-3097

RE: ACT 449 OF THE 1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Dear Mr. Mouton:

Enclosed please find a copy the letter I spoke to you about yesterday. I also enclosed the newspaper article, and a copy of House Bill Number 2409 authored by myself and Senator Tom Greene.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

RMM:jlg
enclosures

LWFC approves ban on importing deer into La.

By JOE MACALUSO
Advocate outdoors writer

Heeding warnings about the introduction of disease spread by non-native deer, seizure of native wild deer by private landowners and losing overall regulatory powers over the wild animals of the state, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved an immediate ban on the importation of whitetail deer into the state at its regular monthly meeting Thursday.

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists told the commission the ban was needed to protect the state from a series of rules and regulations currently being written by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) for whitetail deer farming operations. The LDAF is acting on Act 461 of the 1995 State Legislature which established deer farms as a viable agricultural practice.

State Wildlife Division administrator Hugh Bateman told the commission the LDAF rules would allow not only importation of deer, but would also establish high-fence hunting areas in the state under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture and to the exclusion of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission-approved hunting seasons and bag limits.

"It's our understanding that the 1995 Legislature intended for this to be a deer-farming operation, not private hunting clubs," Bateman said. "The intention was to raise deer to export to Texas."

With three members, Tom Gattle, Jerald Hanchey and Norman McCall absent, the LWFC voted 4-0 on the emergency decree.

Other action taken by the commission included:

- Ratifying the 1997-98 duck and goose seasons. The West Zone duck season will run from Nov. 8-Nov. 30 and Dec. 13-Jan. 18 and the East and Catahoula Lake zones will run from Nov. 15-Dec. 14 and from Dec. 20-Jan. 18. A special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day was set for Jan. 24, 1998. The statewide snow and blue goose season will run from Nov. 8-Feb. 22 and the specklebellied goose season was set for Nov. 8-Nov. 30 and from Dec. 13-Jan. 28. There will also be a special Jan. 20-28 Canada goose season in a designated area in the southwest Louisiana;
- Approving an increase in the non-resident Louisiana Waterfowl Stamp fee from $7.50 to $13.50;
- Approving a change in the proposed 1998 turkey hunting rules to ban hunting in parts of Madison, Franklin, Catahoula, Concordia and Tensas parishes. Bateman said hunters in the area wanted the closure to allow turkey populations to recover from several years of spring floods that cut into turkey populations along the Mississippi River in those parishes;
- Approving the state fur-harvest (trapping) season to run from Nov. 20 to March 20;
- Ratifying rules bringing the John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir near Coushatta into the state's Quality Lakes Program, which mandates a 14-17 inch slot limit and a eight-fish daily creel limit on black bass;
- Refusing to approve rules that would allow an exemption from slot limits on all lakes in the state's Trophy and Quality Lakes program for bass tournaments which have 100 or more boats.

Act 449 of the 1997 State Legislature allowed for the exemption. The Notice of Intent was not considered because it failed for lack of a motion from any of the four commission members;

- Approving state rules to concur with National Marine Fisheries Service regulations which open commercial seasons for red snapper through Sept. 15, and for the first 15 days of October, November and December, or until the NMFS determines that that commercial quota of 4.65 million pounds is reached;
- Approving a delay from Jan. 4, 1998, until April 12, 1998, for the lifting of the moratorium on the taking of new oyster lease applications;
- And, delayed a discussion of black bass regulations in the Atchafalaya Spillway and Lake Verret-Belle River area until its Oct. 2 meeting.

The issue of whitetail deer farming dominated the meeting.

Bateman further explained Department of Agriculture regulations "...purported to authorize them (landowners) to enclose wild deer on the property within deer-proof fences, thereby converting this publicly owned wildlife resource to private property."

He cited the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in captive and wild whitetail deer in some states, and that the deer ""proposed to be imported from New York were from an area with a very high incidence of Lyme disease."

He said while Lyme disease, which is transferred to humans by a variety of ticks, is found in Louisiana, it is very low. He said he considered both problems to be a threat to public health.

Agriculture Department attorney Jim Gelpi defended the plan by insisting the program fell into the realm of agriculture and agri-business.

He also said the LDAF offered Wildlife and Fisheries several opportunities to clear up the disagreements between the two agencies.

"They have not taken us up on the offer," Gelpi said.

Bateman and wildlife biologist Fred Kimmel disagreed with Gelpi and said they had objected to several paragraphs in the deer-farming program, but that the LDAF had refused to add or delete the objectionable wording.

Additional hunt field secured for doves

Advocate news services

State biologists have secured a sixth public-hunt field for Saturday's opening of the mourning dove season. The field is located in Avoyelles Parish near Marksville. It can be reached from La. 1 in Marksville on Slim Lemoine Road (it's next to the Grand Casino) and travel 1.1 miles east from La. 1. From there bear left onto a gravel road. The field is three-tenths of a mile down the gravel road.

The additional field brings to 1,698 acres leased for the one-day hunt. Other fields, which were listed in Thursday's Advocate Outdoors, are in West Baton Rouge, Tangipahoa, Washington and Ouachita parishes.

1998 Bayou GMC/Thomas Marine Pro-Am Circuit
13946 Katherine Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70815

October 6, 1997

Mr. Dan Thornton
Chairman
False River Advisory Committee
P. O. Box 126
Ventress, LA 70783

Dear Dan,

As per our telephone conversation, this is to regrettably confirm that the Bayou GMC/Thomas Marine Pro-Am Bass Circuit will not be coming to False River due to Wildlife & Fisheries Commission failure of adopting the resolution allowing the permit for tournaments waiving the slot.

We have announce the dated of the Bayou GMC Truck Tournament and as you also are aware, have not determined whether we are coming to False River or not, that is strictly up to the Bayou GMC Dealers. As soon as the decision is made I will let you know one way or the other.

I am really sorry we are not coming up there for I think the fishermen and the local businesses would have benefited from it greatly.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Dub Noel
Tournament Director,
Bayou GMC/Thomas Marine Pro-Am
and Bayou GMC Team Tournament

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby advertises its intent to amend a rule for black bass.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sport and Commercial Fishing

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

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

B. In addition, the Commission establishes special size and daily take regulations for black bass on the following water bodies:

1. Concordia Lake (Concordia Parish), and Caney Creek Reservoir (Jackson Parish):

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

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

c. Possession limit:

i. On water - Same as daily take.

ii. Off water - Twice the daily take.

2. Lake Bartholomew (Morehouse and Ouachita parishes), Black Bayou Lake (Bossier Parish), Chicot Lake (Evangeline Parish), Cross Lake (Caddo Parish), John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir (Red River Parish), Lake Rodemacher (Rapides Parish) and Vernon Lake (Vernon Parish):

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

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

c. Possession limit:

i. On water - Same as daily take.

ii. Off water - Twice the daily take.

3. False River (Pointe Coupee Parish)

a. Size limit: 14 inch minimum size limit.

b. Daily Take: 5 fish.

c. Possession limit:

i. On water - Same as daily take.

ii. Off water - Twice the daily take.

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

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

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:364 (June

1988), amended LR 17:278 (March 1991), repromulgated LR 17:488 (May 1991), amended LR 17:1122 (November 1991), LR 20:796 (July 1994), LR 23:1168 (September 1997), LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed rule in writing to Mr. Bennie Fontenot, Administrator, Inland Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 until 4:30 p.m., January 7, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin

Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of intent to amend a Rule (Title 76.VII.335(A)) modifying recreational creel and size limits for reef fish, and rules for commercial harvest of reef fish, which are part of the existing rule for daily take, possession, and size limits for reef fishes set by the Commission. Authority for adoption of this Rule is included in R.S.56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 56:326.3.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§335. Daily Take, Possession and Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish

A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations regarding the harvest of triggerfishes, amberjacks, grunts, wrasses, snappers, groupers, sea basses, tilefishes, and porgies within and without Louisiana's territorial waters:

Species	Recreational Bag Limits
* * *	
4. Greater amberjack	~~3~~ 1 fish per person per day
* * *	

B. 1. All persons who do not possess a permit issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Federal Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish resources are

limited to the recreational bag limit.

2. Persons who are limited to a recreational bag limit shall not sell, barter, trade, exchange or attempt to sell, barter, trade or exchange any reef fish.

* * *

D. 1. For charter vessels and headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part ~~641~~ 622.2 ~~as amended by FR Vol. 55, No. 14~~, there will be an allowance for up to two daily bag limits on multi-day trips provided the vessel has two licensed operators aboard as required by the U.S. Coast Guard for trips of over 12 hours, and each passenger is issued and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.

2. Any "fish taken from charter vessels or headboats as defined in Federal Regulations 50 CFR Part 622.2 ~~as amended by FR Vol. 55, No. 14~~ or any charter vessel as described in L.R.S. 56:302.9 shall not be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged or attempted to be sold, traded, bartered or exchanged. The provisions of this section apply to fish taken within or without Louisiana's territorial waters.

3. No person aboard any commercial vessel shall transfer or cause the transfer of fish between vessels on state or federal waters.

* * *

G. No person shall purchase, sell, exchange, barter or attempt to purchase, sell, exchange, or barter any red snapper in excess of any possession limit for which a commercial permit or

endorsement was issued.

~~G.~~H. Species	Minimum Size Limits
1. Red Snapper	**16 inches total length**
2. Gray, mutton and yellowtail snapper	12 inches total length
3. Lane ~~and vermillion~~ snapper	8 inches total length
4. Red, gag, black, yellowfin and nassau grouper	20 inches total length
5. Jewfish	50 inches total length
6. Greater amberjack	28 inches fork length (recreational) 36 inches fork length (commercial)
7. Black seabass	8 inches total length
8. Vermillion snapper	**10 inches total length**

I. Federal regulations 50 CFR Part 641 as amended by FR Vol. 55, No. 14, defines charter vessels and headboats as follows:

Charter vessel - a vessel whose operator is licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry six or fewer paying passengers and whose passengers fish for a fee. A charter vessel with a permit to fish on a commercial quota for reef fish is under charter when it carries a passenger who fishes for a fee, or when there are more than three persons aboard including operator and crew.

Headboat - vessel whose operator is licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry seven or more paying passengers and whose passengers fish for a fee. A headboat with a permit to fish on a commercial quota for reef fish is operating as a headboat when it

carries a passenger who fishes for a fee, or when there are more than three persons aboard including operator and crew.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), 56:326.1 and 326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 16:539 (June 1990), amended LR 19:1442 (November 1993), LR 20:797 (July 1994), LR 21:1267 (November 1995), LR 22:860 (September 1996); LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit comments relative to the proposed Rule to: Mr. Harry Blanchet, Marine Fisheries Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000, prior to January 1, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin

Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Three-day Basic and Saltwater Nonresident Recreational Fishing License Fees (LAC 76:VII.407)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby gives notice of its intent to adopt a rule relative to fees for three-day basic and saltwater nonresident recreational fishing licenses.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 4. License and License Fees

§407. Three-day Basic and Saltwater Nonresident Recreational Fishing License Fees

A. In lieu of the basic recreational fishing license, nonresidents may purchase a three-day basic recreational fishing license for a fee of ten dollars. This three-day license shall be valid for three consecutive days, including the day of issue.

B. In lieu of the saltwater recreational fishing license, a nonresident may purchase a three-day saltwater recreational fishing license at a fee of fifteen dollars. This three-day license shall be valid for three consecutive days, including the day of issue.

C. The above fees hereby supersede those fees established for the above licenses at R.S. 56:302.1B(1) and (2)(a).

D. The effective date of the above fees shall be July 1, 1998.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(28).

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

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Janis Landry, Office of Management and Finance, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, January 5, 1998.

Daniel J. Babin

Chairman

RULE

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Three-day Basic and Saltwater Nonresident Recreational
Fishing License Fees (LAC 76:VII.407)

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts a rule imposing fees for three-day basic and saltwater nonresident recreational fishing licenses.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 4. License and License Fees

§407. Three-day Basic and Saltwater Nonresident Recreational Fishing License Fees

A. In lieu of the basic recreational fishing license, nonresidents may purchase a three-day basic recreational fishing license for a fee of ten dollars. This three-day license shall be valid for three consecutive days, including the day of issue.

B. In lieu of the saltwater recreational fishing license, a nonresident may purchase a three-day saltwater recreational fishing license at a fee of fifteen dollars. This three-day license shall be valid for three consecutive days, including the day of issue.

C. The above fees hereby supersede those fees established for the above licenses at R.S. 56:302.1B(1) and (2)(a).

D. The effective date of the above fees shall be _____, 1998.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(28).

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

Daniel J. Babin

Chairman

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

OCTOBER 1997

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT-OCTOBER 1997

REGION I

TOTAL CASES-89 W.A.&REFUGES-26

3-Boating

2-Angling W/O A License

1-Angling W/O A License Non-Resident

5-Fishing W/O Resident Pole License

1-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

1-Failure To Have Commercial License In Possession

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

5-Hunting W/O Resident License

1-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License

2-Bow Hunt W/O Bow License

4-Hunt From A Moving Vehicle

8-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun

1-Possession Over Limit Wild Quadrupeds

2-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours Or W/Artificial Light

1-Hunt, Stand Loiter From Public Road

4-Failure To Comply W/Hunter Safety Regulations

1-Take Over Limit Of Squirrels

2-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

4-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours

2-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road

REGION 1 CONT'D.

2-Possession Over Limit Deer

3-Field Possession Deer Meat W/O Tag

1-Failure To Wear Hunter Orange

18-Not Abiding By R&R On W.A.

3-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

2-Trespass On Property After Forbidden

6-Operate ATV On A Public Road

2-Flight From An Officer

1-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

13 squirrels, 1 basic hunting license, 1 basic big game license, 6 weapons, 1 spotlight, 1 Honda 4-wheeler, 1 Yamaha outboard motor, 3 buck deer, 1 headlamp, 1 buffalo fish, 1 black bass, 100 yards of 3 inch webbing.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 1:

3-Boating

9-Sport Fishing

2-Commercial Fishing

62-Hunting

13-Misc.

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-118 W.A.&REFUGES-26

2-Boating

6-Angling W/O A License

1-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

5-Hunting W/O Resident License

2-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License

3-Failure To Comply With Hunter Safety Regulations

2-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

8-Hunt From Moving Vehicle

2-Hunt From Public Road

1-Failure To Comply With Hunter Orange Regulations

1-Hunt W/O Non-Resident Bow License

2-Hunt From Public Road

1-Possession Buckshot During Closed Deer Season

10-Hunt Deer Illegal Hours

5-Hunt Deer Illegal Method

1-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season

3-Take Deer With Illegal Weapon

3-Possession Spotted Fawn

1-Hunt DMAP Lands Without Permit

26-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On W.A.

REGION 2 CONT'D.

1-Resisting Arrest

5-Criminal Trespass

1-DWI

2-Littering

5-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

1-Possession Of Firearm By Convicted Felon

4-Operate ATV On Public Road

6-Flight From An Officer

6-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

2-Reckless Operation Of A Vehicle

CONFISCATIONS:

6 pods, 1 fawn deer, 4 weapons, 1 resident hunting license, 1 resident big game license, 1 resident bow license, 1 daily permit, 1 Q-Beam.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2:

2-Boating 2-Littering 27-Public Assistance

7-Sport Fishing

82-Hunting

25-Other

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-137 W.A.&REFUGES-52

2-Boating

9-Angling W/O Resident License In Possession

1-Angling W/O Non-Resident License In Possession

2-Possession Undersize Black Bass

5-Take Game Fish Illegally

13-Hunt W/O Basic Resident License

2-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

1-Hunt W/O Archery License

2-Hunt W/O Non-Resident Basic License

1-Possession Wild Quadrupeds W/O License

2-Possession Wild Non-Game Quadrupeds W/O Permit

4-Hunt Deer Illegal Hours

7-Possession Buckshot During Closed Deer Season

2-Hunt Deer In Closed Area

1-Possession Of Pod While Bow Hunting

2-Possess/Take Squirrels In Closed Season

1-Possess Overlimit Of Squirrels

6-Hunt With Unplugged Gun

1-Take Squirrels With Illegal Rifle

7-Failure To Wear Hunters Orange

REGION 3 CONT'D.

1-Take Deer Illegal Methods

3-Hunt Deer From Public Road

2-Hunt Deer Over Bait

1-Fail To Abide By Commission Action

1-Hunt From Moving Vehicle

1-Trapping In Closed Season

44-Fail To Abide By Rules And Regs. On W.A.

1-Fail To Comply with Hunter Safety Regulations

1-Illegal Possession Of Alligator Meat

1-Take Alligator W/O License

1-Hunt Alligator At Night With Firearm

1-Take Alligator From Other Than Approved Area

3-Illegal Possession Of Marijuana

1-Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia

2-Criminal Trespass

2-Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

26 squirrels, 3 deer, 1 gray fox, 1 raccoon, 3 black bass, 10 crappie, 1 bag alligator meat, 2 weapons, 1 ladder deer stand, 2 steel traps, 1 spotlight, 1 arrow, 1 arrow with pod, 1 roll orange flagging tape, 19 buckshot shells, 3 marijuana cigarettes, 1 marijuana smoking pipe.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3:

2-Boating

17-Sport Fishing

106-Hunting

4-Reptile/Amphibian

8-Other

REGION 4

TOTAL CASES-49 W.A.&REFUGES-34

1-Boating

5-Angling/O A License

1-Fishing W/O Resident Pole License

1-Take Or Possess Gamefish Illegally

1-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealers License

1-Use Illegal Mesh Nets

2-Hunt W/O Resident License

2-Bow Hunting W/O A Bow License

2-Hunting From A Moving Vehicle

3-Hunting With Unplugged Gun

2-Hunting Wild Quadrupeds Illegal Hours

2-Hunt Across Road Or Public Right-Of-Way

2-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

1-Failure To Comply With PFD Requirements

1-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

1-Take Herons-No Season

1-Taking Or Possession Of Other Non-Game Birds

1-Possession Of Firearm By Convicted Felon

19-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On W.A.

REGION 4 CONT'D.

CONFISCATIONS:

3 guns.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4:

1-Boating

9-Fishing

35-Hunting

4-Federal

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-193 W.A.&REFUGES-56

38-Boating

12-Angling W/O A Resident License

5-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

1-Take Or Possess Game Fish Illegally

6-Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum

12-Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum

2-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O A Commercial License

2-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Gear License

3-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel License

2-Sell And Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealers License #

2-Take Fish Illegally

6-Blocking Passage Of Fish

3-Taking Shrimp Illegal Gear

38-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On W.A.

2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On State Land

1-Obtain License By Fraud

3-Hunting W/O A Resident License

1-Hunting W/O A Non-Resident License

2-Hunting With Unplugged Gun

2-Possession Of Buckshot During Closed Deer Season

REGION 5 CONT'D.

1-Failure To Comply With Hunter Safety Regulations

2-Hunt Squirrel Closed Season

1-Possess Squirrel Closed Season

3-Hunt W/O Resident Big Game License

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

1-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road

2-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer Open Season

3-Failure To Wear Hunters Orange

5-Hunt/Trap On DMAP Lands W/O Permit From Owner/Lessee

1-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O A Federal Stamp

2-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun

3-Hunting MGB With Illegal Hours

4-Hunting And Or Possess Ducks OtherThan Teal During Teal Season

1-Wanton Waste Of MGB

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

2-Possess Over Limit Of Doves

1-Hunting Ducks Closed Season

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

1-Hunt MGB Without State Stamp

1-Hunt MGB Without State Hunting License

2-Criminal Trespass On State Property

REGION 5 CONT'D.

1-Criminal Trespass

1-Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana

5-Littering

2-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

CONFISCATIONS:

38 undersize black drum, 7 undersize red drum, 2 doe deer, 2 buck deer, 26 doves, 5 ducks, 15 ice chests of shrimp, 2 baskets of shrimp, 1 woodpecker, 1-7x10 butterfly net, 2 squirrels, 2,983 lbs. Of shrimp sold for $8,219.50, 12 weapons.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5:

38-Boating

97-Fishing

58-Hunting

6-Public Assistance

REGION 6

TOTAL CASES-93 W.A.&REFUGES-10

31-Boating

25-Angling W/O A Resident License

3-Fishing W/O A Resident Pole License

1-Taking/Possess Over Limit Of Freshwater Gamefish

8-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

2-Take Or Possess Undersize Red Drum

9-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On Refuge

1-Flight From An Officer

3-Take/Possess Undersize White Shrimp

1-Hunt Squirrel Closed Season

2-Hunting Without A Resident License

1-Possess Wild Bird/Quadrupeds Without A License

3-Hunting With Unplugged Gun

3-Fail To Comply With Hunter Safety Regs.

CONFISCATIONS:

18 squirrels, 1 shotgun, 186 lbs. Of shrimp sold for $150.40, 8 black bass, 66 sac-a-lait.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6:

31-Boating	1-Misc.
39-Sport Fishing	3-Trawling
9-W.A.	10-Hunting

REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-110 W.A.&REFUGES-10

17-Boating

16-Angling W/O A License

2-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

8-Angling W/O Pole License

1-Take Over Limit Freshwater Game Fish

1-Possess Undersize Red Drum

17-Hunt Without License

4-Hunt Without Non-Resident License

2-Hunt Without Resident Bow License

3-Hunt From A Moving Vehicle

11-Hunt With Unplugged Gun

3-Hunt From Public Road

3-Possess Buckshot During Closed Deer Season

1-Fail To Comply With Hunter Safety Regulations

1-Obtain License Fraudulently

1-Hunt Without Resident Big Game License

1-Possess Gun While Bowhunting

5-Hunt Deer Illegal Hours

1-Hunt MGB With Unplugged Gun

1-Possess Freshly Killed MGB Closed Season

REGION 7 CONT'D.

1-Using Lead Shot In Steel Shot Zone

5-Failure To Abide By Rules And Regs. On W.A.-Loaded Gun In Vehicle

2-Criminal Trespass

1-Illegal Possession Of Drugs

1-DWI

1-Violate Probation

CONFISCATIONS:

1 wood duck, 1 red fish, 2 weapons, 1 license.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7:

17-Boating

28-Sport Fishing

55-Hunting

10-Other

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-262 W.A.&REFUGES-56

25-Boating

59-Angling W/O Basic Resident License

8-Angling W/O Non-Resident Basic License

2-Angling W/O Saltwater License

5-Take/Possess Over The Limit Of Red Drum

1-Possess Over The Limit Of Red Drum In Excess Of 27"

5-Failure To Have Saltwater Fish Intact

12-Take/Possess Undersized Red Drum

6-Take/Possess Undersized Speckled Trout

4-Take/Possess Undersized Black Drum

12-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regs. For Finfish

2-Failure To Comply With Charter Boat Regs.

10-Take Commercial Species W/O Commercial License

7-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

7-Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel License

4-Leave Nets Unattended

7-Take Saltwater Commercial Fish Illegal Hours

4-Take Commercial Fish Using More Than One Strike Net

1-Destroy Legal Traps Or Remove Contents

2-Allow Another To Use Commercial License

REGION 8 CONT'D.

2-Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use commercial Vessel License

1-Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Commercial Gear License

1-Tend Crab Traps Illegal Hours

36-Take Undersized Oysters From Natural Reef

3-Hunt W/O Resident License

2-Possess Wild Birds Or Wild Quadrupeds W/O A License

2-Fail To Abide By Commission Rules And Regs.

2-Possess of Buckshot During Closed Deer Season

1-Hunt Squirrel In Closed Season

1-Take/Possess Over The Limit Of Squirrel

1-Hunt Ducks W/O a Federal Stamp

5-Hunt Or Possess Ducks Other Than Teal During Teal Season

1-Possess Untagged MGB

1-Transport Completely Dressed MGB

1-Possession Over The Two Day Limit Of MGB

3-Wanton Waste Of MGB

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

2-Possession Over The Limit Of Ducks

2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On W.A.

8-Other

REGION 8 CONT'D.

CONFISCATIONS:

139 sacks of oysters, 2 red drum, 2 speckled trout, 75 lbs. Of squid, 3,071 lbs. Of shrimp sold for $6,546.15, 23,856 lbs. Of mullet (totals monies for mullet not available at this time), 9 lbs. Of triple tail for $4.50, 329 lbs. Of crabs sold for $148.05, 34 squirrels, 5 rabbits, 10 white trout, 92 speckled trout, 26 ducks, 44 catfish, 128 red drum, 131 red snapper, 15 lbs. Of shrimp, 10 croakers, 67 black drum, 1 charter license, 1 non-resident vessel license, 1 commercial gear license, 1 non-resident commercial fisherman's license, 1 resident vessel license, 1 resident skimmer license, 1 shotgun, 1 power of attorney statement, assorted drug paraphernalia, 8,400 feet of strike net.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8:

25-Boating

113-Recreational Fishing

86-Commercial Fishing

30-Hunting

8-Other

SHRIMP ACTIVITY REPORT

REGION 8 ENFORCEMENT

COMPLAINTS

1. No shrimp complaints were received this month. Activity was minimal in inside waters. Activity in outside waters was largely in compliance-all seasons open.

PATROLS

1. Regular patrols by boat have been continued. Only a few license cases were made on shrimpers. Most shrimpers checked were in compliance. Shrimp effort was down due to lack of shrimp.

INQUIRIES

1. We received a few inquiries for TED information, which were referred to the LEU Cooperative Extension Service Fisheries Agent Gerald Horst.

2. We received fewer calls regarding the shrimp season openings and closings. There were also a few calls regarding the change back to 1-1/4" mesh for the fall season.

REGION 9

TOTAL CASES-337 W.A.&REFUGES-19

26-Boating

69-Angling W/O A License

2-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

2-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

21-Angling W/O Saltwater License

17-Failure To Have Saltwater Stamp

7-Possess Over limit Of Red Drum

1-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

42-Possess Undersize Red Drum

9-Possess Undersize Speckle Trout

61-Possess Undersize Black Drum

24-Possess Over limit Of Black Drum

1-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

1-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Sell Fish W/O Retail Seafood License

1-Commercial Fisherman Sell To Other Than Wholesale/Retail Dealer

1-Buy Commercial Fish From Un-licensed Fisherman

1-Theft of Crab Trap

REGION 9 CONT'D.

2-Take Undersize White Shrimp

1-failure To Comply With Industry Regs.

2-Failure To Have Written Permission

2-Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area

2-Fail To Cull Oysters In Proper Location

4-Hunting W/O Resident License

2-Possess Wild Quadrupeds W/O A License

1-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds With Artificial Light Illegal Hours

1-Hunt From A Public Road

1-Take Over Limit Of Squirrels

2-Take Deer Illegal Hours With Artificial Light

2-Take Deer Illegally From A Boat

1-Field Possession Of Deer Meat W/O Tag

1-Fail To Maintain Sex I.D.

2-Take Spotted Fawn

4-Hunt Racoons Illegally

2-Take Over Limit Of Raccoons

1-Illegal Possession Of Alligator

1-Collect Reptile W/O Basic Fishing License

1-Sell Reptile W/O Collectors License

1-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun

REGION 9 CONT'D.

1-Taking Of Other Non-Game Birds

3-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On W.A. By Illegal Hours

1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On W.A. By Commercial Fishing

2-Littering

1-Unauthorized Use Of A Movable Under $100

1-Driving W/O Operators License

2-Violation Of Sanitary Code

CONFISCATIONS:

849 lbs. Of shrimp sold for $355.80, 10 lbs. Of shrimp released, 19 squirrels donated, 109 red drum, 1 black bass, 16 speckle trout, 50 sacks of oysters, 4 raccoon, 1 barred owl, 2 deer hind quarters, 2 deer back strap, 1 spotted fawn, 1 alligator, 200 lizards, 2 snakes, 1 reptile box, 2 skimmer nets, 1 boat paper seizure, 4 weapons, 55 crab traps, 2 headlights and batteries, 1 ice chest, 5 purchase records.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9

26-Boating	2-MGB
255-Sport Fishing	10-Other
9-Commercial Fishing	
2-Trawling	
7-Oysters	
23-Hunting	
3-Reptiles	

SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

TOTAL CASES-31

8-Angling W/O A License

6-Angling W/O A Saltwater License

1-Possess Over limit Of Red Drum In Excess Of 27"

1-Take/Sell Commercial Fish/Bait Species W/O Commercial License

1-Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

1-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Buy Commercial Fish From Un-Licensed Fisherman

1-Sell Undersize Crabs (10% to 19%)

2-Take/Possess Undersize White Shrimp

2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On W.A.

1-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

1-Possess/Take Undersize Federally Controlled Fish

1-Possess/Take Over Limit Of Federally Controlled Fish

4-Lacy Act Violations

CONFISCATIONS:

200 lbs. Of crabs, 496 lbs. Of mullet sold for $264.80, 849 lbs. Of shrimp sold for $420.00, 71 lbs. Of red snapper.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT:

15-Recreational Fishing 16-Commercial Fishing

STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES-110

10-Boating

1-Allow Another To Use Recreational License

20-Angling W/O A Basic License

5-Angling W/O A Basic License (Non-Resident)

2-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

3-Angling W/O Saltwater License

2-Angling W/O a Saltwater License (Non-Resident)

2-Take Or Possess Over Limit Of Red Drum

6-Take Or Possess Undersized Red Drum

4-Take Or Possess Undersized Spotted Sea Trout

2-Take Or Possess Undersized Black Drum

12-Not Abiding By Commission Rules

4-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

4-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

5-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

1-Sell Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail License

1-Leave Nets Unattended

1-Allow Another To Use Commercial License

1-Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Vessel

STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE CONT'D.

1-Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Gear License

3-Hunt W/O Resident License

2-Fail To Abide By Commission Rules

1-Hunt With Unplugged Gun

2-Obtain License Fraudently

1-Hunt Or Take Deer Illegal Hours

1-Possess Over The Limit Of Deer

10-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On W.A.

1-Littering

1-Flight From An Officer

1-Use More Than One Mullet Strike Net To Take Mullet

CONFISCATIONS:

2 deer, 5 rabbit, 8035 mullet, 121 red snapper, 18 speckle trout, 21 red fish, 11 black drum, 2 weapons, 1 spotlight, 1300 lbs. Of shrimp sold for $6645.25.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE:

10-Boating

59-Sport Fishing

19-Commercial Fishing

10-Hunting

10-WMA

2-Misc.

S.W.E.P.

TOTAL CASES-59

BOATS CHECKED-220

RUNNING HOURS- 70

10-Boating

11-Angling W/O A License

16-Take Undersize Red Drum

2-Take Undersize Spotted Sea Trout

4-Take Overlimit Red Drum

7-Take Undersize Black Drum

3-Take Overlimit Of Black Drum

3-Allow Another To Use Commercial License

3-Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Commercial Vessel

3-Allow Unlicensed Fisherman To Use Commercial Gear

3-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

4-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Vessel License

1-BWI

CONFISCATIONS:

100 red drum, 76 black drum, 19 spotted sea trout, 26 shark filets, 28 shark fins, 1/4 bag of marijuana, 1 pipe, 1 pack of marijuana rolling papers.

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

10-Boating

43-Recreational Fishing

17-Commercial Fishing

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES-198

57-Take Undersize Oysters From State Grounds

1-Failure To Tag Sacked Oysters

10-Violation Of Sanitation Code-Chapter 9

3-Failure To Maintain Wholesale/Retail Dealers Records

1-Buying/Selling Oysters Without Wholesale/Retail Dealers License

1-Failure To Retain Oyster Tags For 90 Days

1-Violate Oyster Packaging Regs.

2-Take Oysters Without Gear License

2-Take Oysters Without Vessel License

15-Possess Undersize Black Drum

3-Possess Overlimit Of Black Drum

20-Possess Undersize Red Drum

10-Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout

1-Possess Overlimit Undersize Catfish

1-Possess Overlimit RedDrum

1-Allow Another To Use Recreational License

26-Angling Without A Basic License

17-Fishing Without A Saltwater License

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE CONT'D.

16-Fishing Without Marine Conservation Stamp

4-Take Doves Over Bait

3-Take Overlimt Of Doves

1-Failure To Maintain Sex I.D.

1-Field Possess Deer Meat Without Tag

1-Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

844 sacks of oysters, 43 red drum, 68 black drum, 18 spotted sea trout, 33 catfish, 51 doves, 2 deer hind quarters and 2 backstrap.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE:

78-Oyster 1-Littering

110-Recreational Fishing

9-Hunting

TOTAL CASES W.A. & REFUGES- 289

TOTAL CASES -1388

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT
OCTOBER, 1997

185-Amph. - 61092	185-Float - 70365	210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 42.0	Hrs. - 27.7	Hrs. - 19.4

Enforcement Hours - 50.6

Other Divisions - 38.5

Total Plane Use - 89.1

1998		March			1998	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SCHEDULE FOR FINAL RULES TO BE PUBLISHED IN STATE REGISTER

NOV-97	RULE - Waddill Wildlife Refuge
	RULE - 1998 Turkey Hunting
FEB-98	RULES - Proof of Income (Spotted Seatrout, Mullet & Saltwater Rod & Reel License)

ENF_521U

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 3-NOV-1997

	CURRENT MONTH 10/01/1997 TO 10/31/1997		FISCAL YEAR TO DATE 07/01/1997 TO 10/31/1997		INCEPTION TO DATE 10/31/1997	
	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT
ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED	12	$4,716.81	65	$36,196.19	3,441	$2,295,254.01
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	133	$3,325.00
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	331	$269,865.45-
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	148	$71,951.21
RESTITUTION ASSESSED	12	$4,716.81	65	$36,196.19	3,441	$2,100,664.77
PAYMENTS	23	$3,184.83-	51	$8,317.77-	2,239	$346,910.07-
DISCOUNTS FOR TIMELY PAYMENTS	20	$2,063.89-	41	$4,944.18-	1,517	$171,805.68-
OVERPAYMENTS	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	92	$1,613.27
REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	37	$7,150.51
APPLIED CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	4	$18,449.45-
APPLIED EXCEEDING BALANCE DUE	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	4	$10,601.49
REFUND OF CONFISCATED COMMOD.	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	18	$78,254.09
RETURNED CHECKS	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	1	$36.75
MISC. ADJUSTMENTS						
DEBITS	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	2	$35.00
CREDITS	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	13	$10.22-
REASSESSMENTS						
DEBITS	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	18	$6,532.69
CREDITS	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	52	$33,593.61-
WRITE-OFFS	0	$0.00	1	$0.02-	206	$112,914.44-
ASSESSMENTS WITHDRAWN	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	6	$1,399.24-
ADJUDICATION ADJUSTMENTS	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$58.90-
FOUND NOT RESPONSIBLE	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	21	$22,867.51-
CASES VOIDED BY ENFORCEMENT	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
** TOTAL OUTSTANDING					979	$1,496,879.45

FOOTNOTE:

PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	1	$29.00	2	$49.00	57	$11,069.67
AMOUNT PAID TO COLLECTOR		$7.25		$12.25		$2,767.41
FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	$0.00	1	$3,202.60	2	$3,202.60 *

ENF_521U

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 3-NOV-1997

AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES

VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN	0	$0.00
1 - 30 DAYS	9	$880.30
31 - 60 DAYS	11	$7,626.25
61 - 90 DAYS	15	$4,635.40
91 - 120 DAYS	14	$9,150.60
121 - 150 DAYS	10	$2,186.70
151 - 180 DAYS	14	$7,411.65
181 - 365 DAYS	36	$26,558.60
OVER ONE YEAR	176	$177,582.08
OVER TWO YEARS	156	$127,763.70
OVER THREE YEARS	94	$53,379.57
** TOTAL AGING	535	$417,174.85

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES

CAN NOT BE INVOICED	7	$2,223.68
CURRENT	8	$3,016.15
1 - 30 DAYS	9	$14,018.59
31 - 90 DAYS	5	$6,419.24
91 - 180 DAYS	15	$14,229.36
181 - 365 DAYS	56	$33,601.08
CASES SENT FOR COLLECTION	109	$506,698.59
OVER 1 YEAR PENDING	0	$0.00
OVER 1 YEAR (OTHER)	770	$916,672.76
** TOTAL AGING	979	$1,496,879.45

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS	NO. CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN	Percent Dollars Paid	Percent Cases Paid
FISCAL YEAR 1993-94								
July, 1993	25	21,039	(9,778)	29	4,855	2,545		
Aug., 1993	53	44,922	(1,137)	41	7,950	3,603		
Sept., 1993	42	137,635	(17,938)	35	6,783	3,048		
Oct., 1993	49	21,471	(11,282)	40	3,285	1,519		
Nov., 1993	57	31,207	(13,260)	32	3,053	2,845		
Dec., 1993	53	13,777		27	6,507	6,713		
Jan., 1994	38	18,918		32	4,423	2,831		
Feb., 1994	68	38,131	(8,238)	46	9,124	5,993		
Mar., 1994	38	22,739	(2,482)	51	10,854	6,796		
April, 1994	14	44,732	(1,404)	27	7,307	4,632		
May, 1994	10	4,504	(165)	7	5,447	3,808		
June, 1994	29	26,167	(2,986)	12	1,886	1,214		
Total FY 1994	476	425,242	(68,670)	379	71,474	45,547	27.5%	79.6%
FISCAL YEAR 1994-95								
July, 1994	17	2,127	(335)	23	2,101	1,437		
Aug., 1994	41	96,403	(3,035)	20	1,010	605		
Sept., 1994	34	14,614	(14,002)	26	2,596	2,342		
Oct., 1994	94	17,426	(8,677)	38	2,922	3,179		
Nov., 1994	43	103,592		45	3,992	2,803		
Dec., 1994	68	31,400		35	4,315	2,329		
Jan., 1995	55	27,601		52	7,493	4,921		
Feb., 1995	70	61,119		41	6,472	3,973		
Mar., 1995	31	25,072		44	8,315	4,737		
Apr., 1995	13	15,353		16	3,565	1,538		
May., 1995	23	11,632		16	4,315	654		
June 1995	45	31,008		18	2,630	1,025		
Total FY 1995	534	437,347	(26,049)	374	49,726	29,543	18.1%	70.0%
FICAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1995	0	0						
Aug., 1995	46	17,425		27	9,028	1,729		
Sept., 1995	1	125		21	3,093	2,049		
Oct., 1995	122	206,244		29	2,720	1,161		
Nov., 1995	55	23,124		62	10,151	6,383		
Dec., 1995	50	18,607		32	4,781	2,803		
Jan., 1996	49	13,815	(15,296)	36	5,297	3,473		
Feb., 1996	50	14,717		38	5,778	3,417		
Mar., 1996	33	24,937		36	6,035	3,422		
Apr., 1996	30	11,007		36	7,173	2,712		
May., 1996	23	7,989		24	3,942	2,020		
June 1996	50	22,151		16	2,790	1,182		
Total FY 1996	509	360,141	(15,296)	357	60,787	30,350	25.3%	70.1%
FICAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1996	40	71,894		32	5,250	2,948		
Aug., 1996	32	5,363		32	6,255	3,784		
Sept., 1996	41	7,210		29	2,260	1,327		
Oct., 1996	29	11,093		25	3,698	2,262		
Nov., 1996	20	10,009		22	1,625	698		
Dec., 1996	13	238,466		22	5,877	2,122		
Jan., 1997	27	11,755		17	4,393	2,377		
Feb., 1997	47	18,521		42	8,580	5,553		
Mar., 1997	26	13,434		27	5,000	2,758		
Apr., 1997	10	2,909		15	2,323	1,299		
May., 1997	20	11,683		15	5,199	1,399		
June 1997	5	8,037		10	2,335	765		
Total FY 1997	310	410,373	0	288	52,794	27,290	19.5%	92.9%
FICAL YEAR 1997 - 98								
July, 1997	10	2,812		8	1,585	823		
Aug., 1997	14	8,741		8	1,496	779		
Sept., 1997	29	19,926		12	2,052	1,278		
Oct., 1997	12	4,717		23	3,185	2,064		
Nov., 1997								
Dec., 1997								
Jan., 1998								
Feb., 1998								
Mar., 1998								
Apr., 1998								
May., 1998								
June 1998								
Total FY 1998	65	36,196	0	51	8,318	4,944	36.6%	78.5%

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary

CONTACT
504/765-2923

97-284a

11/5/97

NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA REVISED

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has revised the agenda for its next meeting, to be held tomorrow, Nov. 6, at 10 a.m. at Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge. The meeting is open to the public.

The revised agenda follows.

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of Commission meeting minutes of Oct. 2, 1997.
3. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by the Louisiana Taxidermist Association.
4. Donation to the Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation by the Petroleum Engineers Society.
5. Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Program presentation.
6. 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp art contest winner and display of paintings.
7. Ratification of 1998 spring turkey hunting seasons.
8. Ratification of rule regarding Waddill Wildlife Refuge.
9. Notice of Intent: modification of black bass harvest regulations on False River Lake (Pointe Coupee Parish) and discussion of Act 449 of the 1997 Louisiana Legislature.
10. Notice of Intent: daily take and size limits set by the Commission — reef fish.
11. Notice of Intent: reduction of 3-day basic non-resident recreational fishing license and 3-day non-resident saltwater license fees.
12. Enforcement and Aviation reports/October.
13. Division Reports:
    a. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).
    b. Catahoula Lake brush control.
14. Set March 1998 meeting date.
15. Public comments.
16. Adjourn.

-30-

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary

CONTACT
504/765-2923

97-284

10/31/97

NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will hold its next regular meeting on Thursday, Nov. 6, 1997, at 10 a.m. The meeting is scheduled to convene at the Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge.

The meeting is open to the public. The agenda follows.

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of Commission meeting minutes of Oct. 2, 1997.
3. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by the Louisiana Taxidermist Association.
4. Donation to the Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation by the Petroleum Engineers Society.
5. Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Program presentation.
6. 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp art contest winner and display of paintings.
7. Ratification of 1998 spring turkey hunting seasons.
8. Ratification of rule regarding Waddill Wildlife Refuge.
9. Notice of Intent: modification of black bass harvest regulations on False River Lake (Pointe Coupee Parish) and discussion of Act 449 of the 1997 Louisiana Legislature.
10. Notice of Intent: daily take and size limits set by the Commission — reef fish.
11. Enforcement and Aviation reports/October.
12. Division Reports:
    a. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).
    b. Catahoula Lake brush control.
13. Set March 1998 meeting date.
14. Public comments.
15. Adjourn.

-30-

This public document was printed at a cost of $.6.40. Four hundred copies of this document were printed in this first and only printing. This document was printed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 to provide timely information about department programs for numerous interest groups and the general public. This document was printed in accordance with the printing standards for state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.

faxed 10/30/97 -
3:42PM - sch

COVER SHEET

FAX

To: Representative Marionneaux

Fax #: 504-637-3124

Subject: November Commission Agenda

Date: October 30, 1997

Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

The enclosed agenda is being sent per the request of Secretary Jenkins for your information.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

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

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

State of Louisiana

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

October 28, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: November Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at **10:00 A.M. on Thursday, November 6, 1997**, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes of October 2, 1997

3. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association

4. Donation to Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation by Petroleum Engineers Society

5. Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Presentation

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

6. 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Art Contest Winner & Display of Paintings

7. Ratify Final Rule on 1998 Spring Turkey Hunting Seasons

8. Ratify Rule on Waddill Wildlife Refuge

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

9. Notice of Intent - Modification of Black Bass Harvest Regulations on False River Lake, Pointe Coupee Parish and Discussion of Act 449 of the 1997 Louisiana Legislature

10. Notice of Intent - Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission - Reef Fish

WINTON VIDRINE

11. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/October

12. Division Reports
    a. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)
    b. Catahoula Lake Brush Control

13. Set March 1998 Meeting Date

14. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Ron Couvillion
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

October 28, 1997

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____

AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for **10:00 A.M. on Thursday, November 6, 1997**, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes of October 2, 1997

3. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association

4. Donation to Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation by Petroleum Engineers Society

5. Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Presentation

6. 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Art Contest Winner & Display of Paintings

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12. Division Reports
    a. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)
    b. Catahoula Lake Brush Control

13. Set March 1998 Meeting Date

14. Public Comments

15. Adjourn

COVER SHEET

FAX

To: Danny Babin

Fax #: 504-563-4202

Subject: November Commission Agenda

Date: October 27, 1997

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please review the attached and call. Note item #9 in particular.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

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

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: November Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at **10:00 A.M. on Thursday, November 6, 1997**, in the Louisiana Room at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes of October 2, 1997

3. Presentation of Secretary's Cup by Louisiana Taxidermist Association

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5. Louisiana Natural Areas Registry Presentation

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

6. 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Art Contest Winner & Display of Paintings

7. Ratify Final Rule on 1998 Spring Turkey Hunting Seasons

8. Ratify Rule on Waddill Wildlife Refuge

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

9. Notice of Intent - Modification of Black Bass Harvest Regulations on False River Lake, Pointe Coupee Parish and Discussion of Act 449 of the 1997 Louisiana Legislature

10. Notice of Intent - Daily Take & Size Limits Set by Commission - Reef Fish

WINTON VIDRINE

11. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/October

12. Division Reports
    a. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)
    b. Catahoula Lake Brush Control

13. Set March 1998 Meeting Date

14. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

cc: Clyde Kimball
Ron Couvillion
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

State of Louisiana

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

October 1, 1997

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - November 6, 1997

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Friday, October 17 any agenda items your office may have for the **Thursday, November 6th** Commission Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 2000 Quail Drive. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on November 6th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

Wildlife Division

1- 1998 La. Duck Stamp Art. Contest Winner Display of Paintings - D. Morrison
2- Ratify Final Rule on 1998 Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons - H. Bateman
3- DMAP Program - Division Reports, Dave Moreland
4- Catahoula Lake Brush Control, Division Reports, H. Bateman

State of Louisiana

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

October 1, 1997

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - November 6, 1997

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JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION:

NOTICE OF INTENT: MODIFICATION OF BLACK BASS HARVEST REGULATIONS ON FALSE RIVER LAKE, POINTE COUPEE PARISH.

Bennie J. Fontenot, Jr.

State of Louisiana

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

October 1, 1997

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - November 6, 1997

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JHJ/sch

Please circulate and return to me by October 13. thanks. Karen to John

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

~~Award of~~ Presentation of Secretary's cup - La. Taxidermist's Assn.

- ~~Ratification of recall/size limits reef fish~~

- Notice of intent - reef fish rule

Items?

ROUTING LIST	DATE:
[redacted]	
FOOTE	
BOUDREAUX	
BLANCHET	10/10
DUGAS	None 10/13
HANSEN	
[redacted]	
SCHEXNAYDER	None 10.6.97
SHEPARD	None
Thomas	10/10
Impastato	

Bob & Maurice - any additions? write on bottom & return to Susan Hawkins.

State of Louisiana

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

October 1, 1997

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - November 6, 1997

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JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

Penley - NO
Maurice - NO

The Nature Conservancy®
OF LOUISIANA

P.O. Box 4125
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

TEL 504 338-1040
FAX 504 338-0103

International Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia
TEL 703 841-5300

October 2, 1997

Mr. Bob Russell
Planning Division
Department of the Army
New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a completely signed original of the Natural Areas Registry Agreement for the Bayou Fordoche Natural Area at Indian Bayou. We and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are happy to have this three-way conservation partnership with the New Orleans District of the Corps of Engineers!

We discussed with Secretary Jimmy Jenkins and Assistant Secretary Johnnie Tarver about having a press announcement and presentation at the next Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries commissioners meeting on November 6, 1997. We would like to jointly present a plaque to Colonel Conner at this time. Perhaps that afternoon some of us could take any interested press out to the site.

Let me know if these plans are acceptable to your agency. If not, we could investigate doing this in December at the next commissioners meeting.

Sincerely,

Nelwyn C. McInnis

Nelwyn C. McInnis

add to agenda
thanks johnnie
10-9-97

cc: Lisa Creasman, Secretary Jenkins, Asst. Secretary Tarver, Gary Lester

REC'D
OCT 06 1997
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

recycled paper

State of Louisiana

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

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

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

October 1, 1997

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - November 6, 1997

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JHJ/sch

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Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
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STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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ROBERT M. MARIONNEAUX, JR.
District 18

Administration of Criminal Justice
Agriculture
Transportation, Highways and Public Works

September 25, 1997

Mr. James H. Jenkins, Jr.
SECRETARY, DEPT. OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
P.O. Box 98000
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, La. 70808

Re: Act 449 of the 1997 Legislative Session

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

Per our conversation, please place on the agenda the above referenced act so that we may encourage the commission to enact and promulgate the rules necessary to have this matter resolved. I have enclosed, for your review, a copy of Act 449 so that you may forward it to any of the persons you feel that would be an asset to our cause.

I have discussed this matter with Governor Foster who has indicated that he is full support of our attempts, and is willing to offer any assistance to help us accomplish our goal.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr.

RMM:jlg

cc Governor Mike Foster
False River Lake Commission
Pointe Coupee Parish Chamber of Commerce

RECEIVED
SEP 29 1997
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

LWFC approves ban on importing deer into La.

By JOE MACALUSO
Advocate outdoors writer

Heeding warnings about the introduction of disease spread by non-native deer, seizure of native wild deer by private landowners and losing overall regulatory powers over the wild animals of the state, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission approved an immediate ban on the importation of whitetail deer into the state at its regular monthly meeting Thursday.

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists told the commission the ban was needed to protect the state from a series of rules and regulations currently being written by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) for whitetail deer farming operations.

The LDAF is acting on Act 461 of the 1995 State Legislature which established deer farms as a viable agricultural practice.

State Wildlife Division administrator Hugh Bateman told the commission the LDAF rules would allow not only importation of deer, but would also establish high-fence hunting areas in the state under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture and to the exclusion of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission-approved hunting seasons and bag limits.

"It's our understanding that the 1995 Legislature intended for this to be a deer-farming operation, not private hunting clubs," Bateman said. "The intention was to raise deer to export to Texas."

With three members, Tom Gattle, Jerald Hanchey and Norman McCall absent, the LWFC voted 4-0 on the emergency decree.

Other action taken by the commission included:

- Ratifying the 1997-98 duck and goose seasons. The West Zone duck season will run from Nov. 8-Nov. 30 and Dec. 13-Jan. 18 and the East and Catahoula Lake zones will run from Nov. 15-Dec. 14 and from Dec. 20-Jan. 18. A special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day was set for Jan. 24, 1998. The statewide snow and blue goose season will run from Nov. 8-Feb. 22 and the specklebellied goose season was set for Nov. 8-Nov. 30 and from Dec. 13-Jan. 28. There will also be a special Jan. 20-28 Canada goose season in a designated area in the southwest Louisiana;
- Approving an increase in the non-resident Louisiana Waterfowl Stamp fee from $7.50 to $13.50;
- Approving a change in the proposed 1998 turkey hunting rules to ban hunting in parts of Madison, Franklin, Catahoula, Concordia and Tensas parishes. Bateman said hunters in the area wanted the closure to allow turkey populations to recover from several years of spring floods that cut into turkey populations along the Mississippi River in those parishes;
- Approving the state fur-harvest (trapping) season to run from Nov. 20 to March 20;
- Ratifying rules bringing the John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir near Coushatta into the state's Quality Lakes Program, which mandates a 14-17 inch slot limit and a eight-fish daily creel limit on black bass;
- Refusing to approve rules that would allow an exemption from slot limits on all lakes in the state's Trophy and Quality Lakes program for bass tournaments which have 100 or more boats.

Act 449 of the 1997 State Legislature allowed for the exemption. The Notice of Intent was not considered because it failed for lack of a motion from any of the four commission members;

- Approving state rules to concur with National Marine Fisheries Service regulations which open commercial seasons for red snapper through Sept. 15, and for the first 15 days of October, November and December, or until the NMFS determines that that commercial quota of 4.65 million pounds is reached;
- Approving a delay from Jan. 4, 1998, until April 12, 1998, for the lifting of the moratorium on the taking of new oyster lease applications;
- And, delayed a discussion of black bass regulations in the Atchafalaya Spillway and Lake Verret-Belle River area until its Oct. 2 meeting.

The issue of whitetail deer farming dominated the meeting.

Bateman further explained Department of Agriculture regulations "...purported to authorize them (landowners) to enclose wild deer on the property within deer-proof fences, thereby converting this publicly owned wildlife resource to private property."

He cited the incidence of bovine tuberculosis in captive and wild whitetail deer in some states, and that the deer ""proposed to be imported from New York were from an area with a very high incidence of Lyme disease."

He said while Lyme disease, which is transferred to humans by a variety of ticks, is found in Louisiana, it is very low. He said he considered both problems to be a threat to public health.

Agriculture Department attorney Jim Gelpi defended the plan by insisting the program fell into the realm of agriculture and agri-business.

He also said the LDAF offered Wildlife and Fisheries several opportunities to clear up the disagreements between the two agencies.

"They have not taken us up on the offer," Gelpi said.

Bateman and wildlife biologist Fred Kimmel disagreed with Gelpi and said they had objected to several paragraphs in the deer-farming program, but that the LDAF had refused to add or delete the objectionable wording.

Additional hunt field secured for doves

Advocate news services

State biologists have secured a sixth public-hunt field for Saturday's opening of the mourning dove season. The field is located in Avoyelles Parish near Marksville. It can be reached from La. 1 in Marksville on Slim Lemoine Road (it's next to the Grand Casino) and travel 1.1 miles east from La. 1. From there bear left onto a gravel road. The field is three-tenths of a mile down the gravel road.

The additional field brings to 1,698 acres leased for the one-day hunt. Other fields, which were listed in Thursday's Advocate Outdoors, are in West Baton Rouge, Tangipahoa, Washington and Ouachita parishes.

ENROLLED

Regular Session, 1997

HOUSE BILL NO. 2409

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARIONNEAUX AND SENATOR GREENE

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 56:318.1, relative to fishing; to provide relative to fishing tournaments; to provide definitions, terms, conditions, requirements, and procedures; to provide for special permits for the possession of certain fish; to provide for applications; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 56:318.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§318.1. Fishing tournaments; special permits

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the commission may adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to establish special permits authorizing large tournament participants to possess live black bass, Micropterus spp., or its hybrids, that would otherwise fall outside of legal limits.

B. The application for the permit may be accompanied by a fee in an amount determined by the department as necessary to cover the reasonable administrative costs incurred by the department in issuing and enforcing the permit. The permit application shall be made on a standard form provided by the department and shall include the name, address, and phone number of the sponsoring organization or individual; the location and date of the tournament; total value of the

prizes; and expected number of participants. The permit application shall be submitted to the department at least thirty days prior to the proposed event.

C. Permits are not transferable and shall clearly demonstrate the expiration date.

D. An employee of the department may be assigned as an observer and be present at any tournament.

E. As used herein, "large tournament" shall mean any tournament in which the number of qualified entries exceeds one hundred boats.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

_____
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

_____
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____