

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Colonial Beach, Virginia**

June 9, 2016

Commissioners Present: – A. J. Erskine (VA) – Chairman, Lynn H. Kellum (VA) – Vice-Chairman, Phil L. Langley (MD) – Secretary, William L. Rice, Sr. (MD) Dennis C. Fleming (MD), John M.R. Bull (VA), Ida C. Hall (VA) and Dave Blazer (MD).

Officers Present: Martin L. Gary – Executive Secretary, Ellen B. Cosby – Assistant Executive Secretary and Michael C. Mayo – Legal Officer.

Others Present: Lt. Shawn Garren – MDDNR Law Enforcement; Capt. Jim Rose and 1st Sgt. Bell – VMRC Law Enforcement; Nicholas Kuttner – Potomac Riverkeeper Network; Bob Lewis and Allison Ragula – St. Mary's River Watershed Association; John Dean, Bill Kilinski, Daryl Blackwell, Sheldon Russell, Matthew Fowler, Brian Russell, Carl Kirk, and several others who did not sign the guest register.

Press: Susan Pietras-Smith – Westmoreland News

Chairman Rice called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and the invocation was provided by Commissioner Rice. Commissioner Kellum led the pledge of allegiance.

Consideration of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Bull and unanimously passed to adopt the minutes from March 4, 2016 with two editorial changes to correct spelling.

Delinquent Seafood Catch Report Hearing

Daryl A. Blackwell – Mr. Blackwell is present. He was called to today's hearing for failure to file catch reports for his gill net license. This is Mr. Blackwell's 1st offense (Class 1). Staff's recommendation is for one year of probation. *A motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously passed to place Mr. Blackwell on one year of probation.*

Kenneth A. Powell – Absent – Mr. Powell was called to today's hearing for failure to file catch reports for his oyster hand scrape license. This is Mr. Powell's 1st offense (Class 1). Staff's recommendation is one year of probation. Mr. Powell's reports were filed prior to today's meeting. *A motion was made by Commissioner Bull, seconded by Commissioner Rice and unanimously passed to place Mr. Powell on one year of probation.*

Sheldon C. Russell – Mr. Russell is present. He was called to today's hearing for failure to file catch reports for his hook and line license. This is Mr. Russell's 1st offense (Class I). Staff's recommendation is one year of probation. Mr. Russell's reports were filed prior to today's meeting. ***A motion was made by Commission Kellum, seconded by Commission Blazer and unanimously passed to place Mr. Russell on one year of probation.***

William P. Goddard – Absent – Mr. Goddard was called to today's hearing for failure to file catch reports for his fish pot and fish trot line licenses. This is Mr. Goddard's 1st offense (Class II). Staff's recommendation is one week suspension on all licenses and one year of probation. ***A motion was made by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Blazer and unanimously passed to suspend all licenses until Mr. Goddard appears before the Commission.***

Anthony D. Hogge – Absent – Mr. Hogge was called to today's hearing for failure to file catch reports for his oyster hand scrape license. This is Mr. Hogge's 1st offense (Class II). Staff's recommendation is one week suspension on all licenses and one year of probation. ***A motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Bull and unanimously passed to suspend all licenses until Mr. Hogge appears before the Commission.***

Andrew P. Nelson – Absent – Mr. Nelson was called to today's hearing for failure to file catch reports for his oyster hand scrape license. This is Mr. Nelson's 1st offense (Class II). Staff's recommendation is one week suspension on all licenses and one year of probation. ***A motion was made by Commissioner Blazer, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously passed to suspend all licenses until Mr. Nelson appears before the Commission.***

Bradley J. Taylor – Absent – Mr. Taylor was called to today's hearing for failure to file catch reports for his oyster hand scrape license. This is Mr. Taylor's 1st offense (Class II). Staff's recommendation is one week suspension on all licenses and one year of probation. ***A motion was made by Commissioner Hall, seconded by Commissioner Kellum and unanimously passed to suspend all licenses until Mr. Taylor appears before the Commission.***

Larry J. Taylor – Absent – Mr. Taylor was called to today's hearing for failure to file catch reports for his oyster hand scrape license. This is Mr. Taylor's 1st offense (Class II). Staff's recommendation is one week suspension on all licenses and one year of probation. ***A motion was made by Commissioner Bull, seconded by Commissioner Blazer and unanimously passed to suspend all licenses until Mr. Taylor appears before the Commission.***

Female Fecundity Presentation

Mr. Gary advised that Dr. Tom Miller was unable to attend today's meeting and he will be giving the presentations on his behalf. Mr. Gary advised these presentations were given to the Crab Advisory Committee at their last meeting. The first one was presented as sperm limitation, but it's really related to reproductive potential in blue crabs. Dr. Miller first presented this to the SFGIT in December 2015. Mr. Gary has been asked previously how many young crabs can a female produce. He felt this presentation came close to answering this question.

Approximately twenty sperm are needed per egg for fertilization, and each crab contains 40 million sperm. In a female blue crab's life, under ideal circumstances, they can produce up to six to nine broods. Natural mortality and fishing mortality limit that ability to produce multiple broods. If the number of sperm is less than the amount needed to fertilize all broods, there might be a sperm limitation issue, and we may not have enough males in the population. The average number of sperm per female is 314 million. Do all females survive to produce the maximum number of broods? Dr. Miller first looked at the life expectancy of crabs. If you exclude fishing mortality, about 93 percent of the crabs survive. After that, adding in the fishing mortality rate, it drops to 89 percent survival rate. Over the lifespan of a female crab under the current management framework, a female can produce up to three broods. At the current time, it is thought that the sperm count received by a female crab is adequate.

What Happened to the 2012 Year Class

In 2012, one of the highest age 0 year classes was produced in history of the survey. People expected a large abundance of crabs that were going to recruit into the fishery, when in fact a year later the number dramatically dropped. The question is what happened to them? Several hypotheses were formed. First, the winter dredge survey overestimated the abundance of juvenile crabs, because of the limitations of not being able to get into shallow water areas. Second, was there a high level of mortality? Was there possibly a winter kill issue? Another theory was whether there was a predation issue with red drum. This question of what happened was intriguing to everyone. With research and studies, the findings for the first hypothesis was that there was no evidence of substantial changes in the distribution of the crabs. This hypothesis was not getting a lot of support. The second one shows that they did see, over time, that the mortality was higher in the upper portion of the Chesapeake Bay; however as you went down the Bay, the mortality was average or lower than normal. Dr. Miller concluded that red drum were more prevalent in the lower to middle portions of the Bay. From a red drum perspective, he is skeptical of the theory they consumed them. Whatever caused this mortality, it happened in the north. Dr. Miller felt the abundance of crabs was confirmed, and that there was an excellent reproductive event. The young crabs were there and a mortality event did occur; however he never really found out why, only that it took place in the north more than the south. He was not sold on the idea of it being a predation event tied to red drum.

Winter Crab Dredge Survey Results

Mr. Gary noted that all metrics moved in a positive direction, which is good news. The 0 age abundance did move, but barely. Age +1 abundance has been increasing over the last several years. Age +1 females, which are important to the management measure in place, also increased and are close to the target. The results show we are well above the threshold. Overall, the PRFC proportional ratio to the neighboring Bay jurisdictions has changed. There could be a number of factors driving that. More recently, it could be the number of people going catfishing, instead of crabbing. He showed several slides and noted that we are under the exploitation fraction target. The fishery is in compliance and has been in compliance for a number of years. Dr. Miller's advice is that we are not where we should be yet and we need to continue to be cautious.

Crab Harvest Report

Mr. Gary presented the 2016 preliminary crab harvest report for April and May. He stated there were 2,957 bushels of hard crabs, 190 pounds of peelers and 28 pounds of soft crabs harvested so far this season. It's too early in the season to report much more than the numbers.

Crab Advisory Committee Report – May 19, 2016

Mr. Gary advised that the Crab Advisory Committee looked at some of the data presented by Dr. Miller and the key discussion was crab management. The discussion started with the management options that Maryland and Virginia were entertaining. The bushel limits were reviewed as well. They were implemented on October 1, 2015. The intent was not necessarily to constrain harvest, but to build a fence around the fishery that we could manage consistently with the other jurisdictions. The vast majority of watermen were under the daily bushel limits. Only a few crabbers caught their daily limit of females. Other parameters such as minimum size limits and seasons have been discussed. The committee did not want to adjust the size limit since that had already been adjusted to 5 ¼" all season. The one area the committee did discuss was extending the season. There was a motion to that effect to extend the PRFC commercial crabbing season ten days through December 10, 2016.

The Committee also discussed the transfer of crab pot licenses. The committee wanted staff to develop language that would provide a provision that licenses transferred to a family member would be exempted from the downgrade. The committee wanted the Commission to decide the parameters of who those family members would be.

Discussion of Possible Management Responses for the 2016/2017 Management Year

Mr. Gary presented draft Order 2016-11 – River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits For Management Year 2016-2017. He advised that this Order updates the timeframe in which the bushel limits are in effect. The Order maintains the bushel limits for female crabs. Commissioner Rice stated he would be more comfortable exploring our options as far as easing any of the restrictions before we amend or adopt this draft Order.

Mr. Gary stated the CAC discussed three possible options: season, size limits and bushel limits. The CAC made a motion to recommend extending the season through December 10th instead of ending on November 30th. The CAC had no desire to change the size limit and a draft Order is presented to continue with the female bushel limits.

Commissioner Hall questioned if we go with extending the season, do the bushel limits have to be refigured or will they stay as they were the year before. Mr. Gary explained if the Commission extends the season through December 10th and adopts the draft order for female bushel limits, it will be effective through June 30th 2017.

John Dean representing St. Mary's County Watermen's Association stated this was discussed at their last meeting and they support extending the season to December 10th to take the pressure off the oyster industry and other fisheries. There is a good market for the crabs at that time.

Bill Kilinski, representing Charles County Watermen's Association stated they went with the majority of what the CAC wanted. The crabs are already down river, so this won't do any good for crabbers in the middle and upper portions of the river.

Commissioner Bull stated the advice from Dr. Miller to be cautious is wise, but our abundance level is higher than it has been in years. With that being said, he supports extending the season and still maintain higher abundance. He likes the direction this is going.

Commissioner Fleming stated he is concerned with the market price at the end of the season versus the beginning of the next spring season, when the crabs will bring a higher price.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blazer, seconded by Commissioner Rice and unanimously passed to amend Order 2015-15 to extend the commercial crabbing season through December 10, 2016.

ORDER #2016-12
(replaces #2015-15)

2016 CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

- (1) Hard crabs: – December 9 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season see Order 2016-11 for bushel limits.
- (2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.
- (3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

- (1) Crab pots – December 9 through March 31 next succeeding.
- (2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 9 through March 31 next succeeding.
- (3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2016-12 shall become effective June 19, 2016 and remain in effect until further notice.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Bull and unanimously passed to adopt Order 2016-11 as presented.

**ORDER #2016-11
(replaces #2015-13)**

**RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS
FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2016-2017**

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch more than fourteen (14) bushels for 300 pot licenses; nineteen (19) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty-four (24) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2016-11 shall become effective July 1, 2016 and remain in effect through June 30, 2017.

Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (SFGIT) Letter

Mr. Gary provided two letters to the Commission, one from Commissioner Rice that he has already submitted to NOAA's CBP SFGIT and one on behalf of the Commission. At the Crab Advisory Committee, the issue of a Chesapeake Bay jurisdictional allocation scheme for Blue Crab Management was raised. Commissioner Erskine requested that the Commission draft a letter to go along with Commissioner Rice's concerns. It goes into a bit more detail and essentially addresses three concerns about moving forward with exploratory jurisdictional allocations. 1) The industry and the Commissioner are comfortable with the current management framework; 2) The Commission is concerned about how the use of historical reference time frames could influence a PRFC jurisdictional quota; and 3) The Commission is concerned that reporting behavior could be altered/influenced by even the conceptual discussion of a jurisdictional based quota allocation management framework. He asked the Commission to review the letter to see if it accurately represents their thoughts as a Commission.

The other item of concern is for NOAA's consideration for possibly implementing a jurisdictionally equivalent minimum size for male hard crabs bay wide of 5 ¼". The rationale for this suggestion is based upon market considerations, specifically shifts in the consumer preference for a larger crab, the corresponding value to the harvester, consistency for regulatory enforcement, accountability in harvest reporting, and the potential ecological benefits of leaving more male crabs in the water for a longer period of time. Chairman Erskine thanked Commissioner Rice for putting together a very detailed letter and using his knowledge to put those thoughts onto paper.

Commissioner Blazer thanked Commissioner Rice and Mr. Gary for putting this information together. He stated they have had similar discussions in Maryland and we share the same concerns. The 5 ¼" proposal, is something he appreciates and is willing to discuss. The Maryland watermen are concerned if this is the right thing to do. Commission Blazer feels the discussion needs to take place in order to find out. Mrs. Cosby clarified that the 5 ¼" minimum size limit proposal should also include immature females.

Commissioner Bull stated discussion will continue to take place concerning quotas for the jurisdictions. That type of allocation will bring forth some very intense and difficult discussions. He stated that current years will not be used from his perspective because females are more prevalent in the southern end of the bay. Our management measures have been constraining the females, therefore all the harvest we've seen over the last eight years is skewed to Virginia's detriment.

Commissioner Hall stated that Dr. Miller advised that quotas are not necessary right now because we are adequately managing the crab fishery. She feels that was a very important comment. Being a Virginia crabber and working beside others, it would be a hard concept to allocate fairly. She is supportive of the PRFC writing a letter. Right now, she is not sure she could support a 5 ¼" size limit on male crabs in Virginia. This is a concern to her.

Commissioner Bull stated he is willing to discuss that issue here and he is confident that an accommodation can be reached. From his perspective, building abundance was key, so that we were at a level that was much more sustainable. Longer term, we should address the quality of the product once we have a stock that is sustainably managed and shows good abundance levels year after year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blazer, seconded by Commissioner Bull and unanimously passed to send the letter with the attachment to NOAA's SFGIT.

Oyster Harvest Report

Mrs. Cosby presented the harvest report for the 2015-2016 oyster season. She noted the reported harvest was 5,728 bushels (4,069 natural bars, 1,659 OMR). The buyers reported a little less than that. Oyster tax paid by the buyers was \$8,610.50 and \$204.00 by the harvesters. The natural bar harvest will go up slightly, because staff is working to resolve one of the buyer's reports. The licenses sold were 53 hand scrape vessels, 109 hand scrape individuals, 3 tong boat operators, 13 oyster buyers, and 39 participants with 9 crew members in the OMR program.

The tongers harvested on Jones Shore before it was closed and took a total of 35 bushels. The hand scrape licensees harvested 3,502 bushels from Popes Creek and Horseshoe combined. A few other bars had light harvest bringing the total harvest to 4,069 bushels for the natural oyster bars. The OMR participants harvested 1,659 bushels from Ragged Point.

Commissioner Fleming stated that in the Oyster/Clam Advisory minutes, Bill Kilinski asked what was the impact of the licenses sold to the PRFC and what happens with that money. Mrs. Cosby advised that any revenue from the public fishery is going into the RNOHP and she will review that budget shortly.

Oyster/Clam Advisory Committee Meeting Report – March 16, 2016

Mrs. Cosby presented the report to the Commission. They met on March 16th and discussed the harvest and previous season. They talked about the money that was raised and how it would be used. They made a motion to recommend that the Commission pursue planting to replenish some of what was harvested above the bridge. The committee acknowledged the scientists

advised not planting above the bridge and to plant below the bridge. The committee received updates from the OMR and RNOHP. They reviewed Reg. II, Sec. 2(f)(2) – Culling Required, and **the committee made a motion to leave the cull law as it is and allow staff to survey the bars and report back to them.** The committee discussed the future of the oyster industry and where it wants to go from here. Lastly, they received updated disease information from the fall oyster survey.

Oyster Management Reserve Program Meeting Reports – March 16 and May 18, 2016

March 16, 2016 - Mrs. Cosby stated the OMR participants met prior to the Oyster/Clam Advisory meeting. This was a short meeting to talk about planting on Ragged Point and they were in favor of that. A survey would be conducted by Dr. Wesson and Mrs. Cosby in May to find a new area to plant on Ragged Point. There was a review of the financial report and they approved it as presented. A discussion was held on setting triploids at Piney Point and they are also looking at different areas as alternate options. Robert T. Brown explained his setting process and volunteered to buy some triploid eyed larvae and see what survivability he gets. He will report back to the participants on that. Under new business, Kevin Warring volunteered to explore ways to start collecting oyster shell to help offset the cost of shell bags being purchased from MD DNR (\$3.25 per bag).

May 18, 2016 – Mrs. Cosby reported on the exploratory trip to Ragged Point and stated they were not able to find another satisfactory place to plant on Ragged Point. A 20 acre site is needed to accommodate the 48 participants in the program. It was decided that Cobb Island Bar would need to be planted. The participants supported that and Bill Kilinski volunteered to take Mrs. Cosby to mark out the area for planting. The financial records were reviewed. There was concern about the bags from Piney Point not containing the correct amount of shell per bag. Mr. Brown stated that ~~Dave Blazer~~ James Dumhart said he would provide a few extra bags of shell in the tanks this year to make up for the shortage. The schedule for future plantings was reviewed.

Commissioner Blazer stated he is surprised to see the statements made concerning the extra bags of shell because he does not believe he's had that discussion with Mr. Brown. He did bring up the concern with the quantity of the shell bags, but he does not recall talking about providing extra bags of shell. He is willing to talk about that but he wants it known that he did not commit to that. Mrs. Cosby stated it may have been James who stated that to Mr. Brown and she may have stated it wrong in the report. Mrs. Cosby also spoke to James and he advised her as well to providing extra bags. She stated she would correct the report to reflect that.

Chairman Erskine questioned if things have started based on the time schedule approved. Mrs. Cosby advised that we are using Piney Point right now. The participants are trying to find ways to save money. James has been very good about providing us preliminary cost estimates. The first shipment of eyed larvae was received June 1st and 3rd in two parts. Those will be planted on June 15th and more larvae will be received mid June, so we are on schedule at this point.

Mr. Gary advised everything is going well and Mrs. Cosby continues to do an excellent job heading the programs and working with the participants. The enthusiasm amongst the participants is amazing and it continues to grow each year. The fragility of the infrastructure as

it relates to key components the Commission has to fund, the larvae in particular, because we are very limited as to where we can source the triploid larvae. We are working with two sources, one who recently elevated their prices. We are reliant on Oyster Seed Holdings to come through for the Commission this year and if they can't produce the larvae, we will have to go to Ward Oyster Company, who is significantly higher in price.

Commissioner Erskine commented there may be an opportunity to discuss with some of the Eastern Shore hatcheries. Those hatcheries can filter in fresh water and work with the salinity that's needed. They may be an alternative to consider.

Carl Kirk asked for a correction to be made on the Oyster/Clam Advisory meeting minutes under new business. Staff stated they would make that correction.

Bill Kilinski stated there have been a lot of skates in the area, so there shouldn't be a concern of fresh water in the middle part of the river right now. He stated he would be more than willing to check the salinity at Cobb Bar and report back to Mrs. Cosby. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity to work up river and the numbers show it.

Order 2016-08 – Oyster Management Reserve Area Closed

Mrs. Cosby advised this Order is to close Cobb Island Bar to any oyster harvest since there will be a planting there as part of the OMR program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Blazer and unanimously passed to adopt Order 2016-08 as presented.

O R D E R #2016-08

Oyster Management Reserve Area Closed

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to expand oyster seed planting for the Oyster Management Reserve Program to Cobb Island Bar, which is designated as an Oyster Management Reserve Area and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a), Regulation VIII, Section 6(a) and 6(b): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Cobb Island Bar (360 acres) is closed to oyster harvest for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Cobb Island Bar unless the person is an eligible participant, crew, or helper in the Oyster Management Reserve Program and this area has been announced as being open and ready for harvest by the Commission.

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2016-08 shall become effective September 1, 2016 and remain in effect until further notice.

Oyster Planting on Green Hill Bar Update (RNOHP)

Mrs. Cosby advised that Green Hill Bar was planted with James River seed this spring. The oyster bar needs to be closed as part of the RNOHP and can be done with draft Order 2016-09.

Order 2016-09 – Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Bar Established

A motion was made by Commissioner Blazer, seconded by Commissioner Rice and unanimously passed to adopt Order 2016-09 as presented.

O R D E R #2016-09

Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Bar Established

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (149 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar for four years, until September 30, 2020 as the rotational program's design is followed.

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2016-09 shall become effective September 1, 2016 and remain in effect until September 30, 2020.

Financial Report for the OMR and RNOHP

Mrs. Cosby presented spreadsheets on both programs. She noted that the license fees for the OMR program totaled \$26,850. Current OMR funds are \$162,612. She advised that the revenue side is not complete yet for 2016, because harvest will take place in September, which will bring in money for the oyster tax and tags. The disbursements have a target of purchasing 211 million triploid eyed larvae at \$265 per million for a total of \$55,915. This would be set on 7,095 bushel of shells in bags, to be planted on 21 acres at Cobb Island Bar.

The RNOHP collected \$27,111 in oyster license sales, \$33,100, in surcharge fees, \$5,442 in oyster tax, \$18,375 in CLR fees, \$5,046 from oyster ID tags and \$350 in registered buyer licenses, totaling \$83,982. The program has \$212,193 banked over the last 4 years. This is the last year the Commission will contribute \$50,000 to the program. James River seed was planted on ten acres on Green Hill Bar between May 19 and May 24, 2016 with 4,485 bushels at \$11.15/bu., totaling \$50,007.75. Services to count and control the planting by Paul Newman at \$20/hr. totaled \$770. The total planting cost in 2016 was \$50,777.75.

Chairman Erskine questioned if Mrs. Cosby had a comparable cost estimate similar to the rotational planting per bushel for the triploid eyed larvae. Mrs. Cosby stated it's around \$20 per bushel to produce and plant the triploid spat on shell.

Discussion of the Next PRFC Oyster Strategic Planning Process

Chairman Erskine stated this discussion is how to facilitate the next step in the process for revitalizing the oyster fisheries in the Potomac River.

Mr. Gary explained the Blue Ribbon Oyster Panel developed the two programs the Commission was just briefed on, the OMR and RNOHP. This is the last year those programs will receive subsidies from the Commission, after that they will be financially self-sustaining programs. It is now time to figure out where the Commission wants to go from here. There have been a number of concepts talked about, therefore we need to prioritize and develop a plan. Things that were talked about were sanctuaries for ecological services and aquaculture. There was a discussion that occurred from 2011 to 2012. The Commission at that time was not ready to engage in aquaculture, but if we are going to move forward these things need to be discussed. We need to identify a group, who's going to be on the group, the scope of the products that will be developed and discussed, what is the timeline for implementation, the frequency of the meetings and basic overall discussions of where the Commission wants to go. He presented this idea at the March meeting and feels the Commission needs to give more detailed direction of how you want to proceed with this.

Chairman Erskine stated we have had some unique events happen such as the spat set on Jones Shore. This Commission made a decision to preserve and protect that area by closing it and the surrounding oyster bars. This was a step toward a plan for the future. Also, with the increase in the participation in the OMR program, the potential is there for the program to continue. All of these things are coming together, presenting an opportunity to develop a plan for the future. Sanctuaries and aquaculture also play an important role in the planning. The economic benefit is important to what we've seen in the RNOHP with the increase in license sales and the success it's produced. This is a start and we have an opportunity to build on it here. It brings together the stakeholders, and he suggested setting up a straw man to have fair support of all user groups. He called it a panel that would bring together all the expertise needed to move forward. He would like to see this finished by the fall and have a blueprint moving forward for 2017.

Commissioner Fleming stated that was his thought, to break into a sub-panel to try and work this out. It's going to take more of an in-depth discussion with everyone needed to come up with a blueprint to take us forward.

Chairman Erskine stated he would work with Mr. Gary to get the people together, including Commissioners who have expressed interest in either participating on the panel or being part of the group that would identify who the stakeholders are and charting a preliminary path of the components to start the discussions. Mr. Gary added the Commission will form the panel from the Commissioners and then into a larger group to create the panel. He asked which Commissioners would like to participate, and suggested since this is a bi-state Commission, that leadership should be from both jurisdictions. Chairman Erskine stated four Commissioners, two from each state, would be needed to get this moving. He stated he would participate. Commissioners Kellum, Blazer and Langley all stated they would participate. Commissioner Blazer noted that his time would be limited due to Maryland's oyster program, but he would be available as much as possible.

Mr. Gary stated there are a few people in the audience that are aware of this panel forming and have expressed interest in participating. Nick Kuttner from Potomac River Keeper Network, Bob Lewis and Allison Rugillla from the St. Mary's River Watershed Association have expressed interest. The all agreed and stated they would like to be involved and supportive.

Sport License Sales WG Proceedings, Discussion & Recommendations

Mr. Gary stated a memorandum (dated June 7, 2016) was included in the packet and was emailed prior to today's meeting. A workgroup was formed and the reason behind this group was revenue of license sales and the complexity of the administrative process. The workgroup met on May 11th and came up with the following recommendations:

1. Elimination of the \$5 senior sport license
2. Elimination of the \$10, 10-day short term license
3. Elimination of the \$50 non resident pleasure boat license
4. Maintain the \$48 pleasure boat decal for both residents and non residents
5. Maintain the \$15 resident individual license
6. Maintain the \$22.50 non resident individual license, pending analysis of 2011-2014 PRFC non resident license revenue.

Commissioner Blazer appreciated the work done by the workgroup, but is still uncomfortable with eliminating the non resident fees. The data that was provided to him, he feels is not conclusive one way or the other as to the potential impact. Maryland is concerned about the issue of non residents being able to obtain a cheaper priced PRFC license and be able to fish an extensively large area without paying a non resident fee. He would like to keep the resident and non resident fees for individual and pleasure boat licenses. He also suggested monitoring it for the next year or two and see if we can take a look at the specific impact on the revenue and number of licenses sold.

Commissioner Fleming stated the Commission needs to step into the 21st century. License sales are a significant part of our budget. The objective is to find ways to increase revenue. The Commission is selling licenses the same way we did back in 1963; it's antiquated, it's silly and it's cumbersome. As a vendor, he feels the licenses are just not selling. He feels the answer is automation. We need to figure out a way to move this process to online sales.

Commissioner Rice questioned what the vendors had to say about this and what direction do they want to move towards. Mr. Gary explained that most of the vendors liked the old system before resident, non resident and 10-day short term licenses were developed. They would like to get back to the three license structure. Staff could live with the changes suggested by the work group and hopes that the vendors will continue to sell PRFC licenses.

Order 2016-10 – Commercial Atlantic Menhaden Catch Limits and Restrictions

Mrs. Cosby explained this Order is to maintain the same menhaden quota and it would be effective until next June.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kellum, seconded by Commissioner Bull and passed with 7 in favor and 1 abstention (Fleming) to adopt Order 2016-10 as presented.

ORDER #2016-10
(replaces #2015-07 “Revised”)

COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,545,595 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC pound net licensees are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the pound net licensee from his licensed pound net(s).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2016-10 shall become effective June 19, 2016 shall supersede and repeal 2015-07 “Revised”, and remain in effect until June 19, 2017.

Summary of the 2016 ASMFC Spring Meeting/Preview of 2016 Summer Meeting

Mr. Gary noted this was an uneventful meeting, but for PRFC the discussion was focused on menhaden management. He noted the Draft Addendum I to Amendment 2 allowing a by-catch allowance for two licensees aboard a vessel is now out for a public comment. It will hopefully be heard at the summer meeting with implementation in 2017. That will give our pound netters some flexibility to harvest together.

The other item of importance is the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board also provided guidance to the Technical Committee regarding which total allowance catch levels (TAC) it would like to review for stock projections for at its August Board meeting. The Technical Committee is going to meet in a couple weeks, and once we have a better understanding of the options, they will be emailed to you. In the weeks coming, he is going to reach out to the Commissioners on feedback of these options.

Commissioner Blazer noted that Maryland would hold a public hearing on the by-catch allowance in Easton, Maryland on June 23rd. We are hoping to get that through ASMFC in August so it can be in play for this season.

Annual Compliance Reports

Annual compliance reports required to be submitted to ASMFC were emailed prior to the Commission meeting. A sign up sheet was provided at the meeting for anyone wishing to obtain copies of the reports.

Items for Public Hearing Consideration

Reg. I, Sec. 2(d)(1) – Crab Pots – Mr. Gary advised this relates to the transfer of a crab pot license. It suggests that when a 400 or 500 pot license is transferred it reverts to a 300 pot license, but he struggles with the language. At the Crab Advisory Committee, it was discussed to provide an exemption for family members to that downgrade of crab pot numbers. This idea is being advanced to the Commission to develop new language to exempt family members. Committee members struggled with who would be considered a family member, so it was deferred to the Commission for you to decide. Mr. Gary presented the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration document that provides an example of family members. This was presented from an audience member at the Crab Advisory Committee to use as a guide for determining who is an immediate family member. The Commission is tasked with deciding if and what language it wants to advertise for public hearing.

Commissioner Fleming stated the Commission dealt with this issue years ago, when it was addressing latent effort, in an attempt to decrease the pressure on the crabs. He stated allowing the transfer of a crab pot license “as is” to a family member will not get us to our goal of reducing effort. Also, this would limit the chance for new people to come into the fishery without paying a high price for the license.

Commissioner Bull questioned what the impact would really be if the transfer was kept at the current pot limit without reducing it. He noted the crabbers are reporting they are not catching their daily bushel limits now, so he wonders what harm it would cause. Commissioner Langley explained it devalues the license when it’s transferred.

Commissioner Rice feels that the Commission should not have the right to tell someone how to run their business and penalize them with a reduction in pots, just because they pass on or decide to get out of the business and pass it along to a family member. People who qualify should have the opportunity to keep the business intact if they so choose.

Commissioner Langley felt the MVA form is too extensive for what the Commission is trying to accomplish. We are trying to make it easier to transfer to immediate family members. He is in favor of the ability to do so, but doesn’t feel the list needs to be that extensive.

Commissioner Rice stated there is another situation where a licensee has a worker that has helped them over the years, but is not a family member and would like to have the opportunity to transfer the license to them. He feels the Regulation should have the right to appeal based on certain situations. He says that’s what the Commission is here for instead of black and white language. There may be a person more deserving of the license that is not an immediate family member.

Mr. Gary advised that staff will work with Mr. Mayo to advertise the broadest language and the Commission can work from that to narrow down exactly who and what they want the Regulation to say at the public hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Blazer to send Reg. I, Sec. 2(d)(1) to public hearing.

Reg. I, Sec. 2(l)(1) – Fish Trot Line – Mrs. Cosby noted that the history of this Regulation was changed from licensing one fish trot line for \$50 to allow five fish trot lines for \$50. The Finfish Advisory Committee recommends going back to one line for \$50, because they thought the Commission was losing revenue by doing it this way.

Commissioner Rice stated he agrees \$50 for five lines is not enough money, but when you fish different parts of the river, you have to fish shorter lines. The watermen up river feel it's not fair that they have to pay the same amount to use a shorter line. He asked Mr. Mayo if the regulation can be advertised to have the five lines, but make the license fee more than \$50. We could advertise for \$250 and come down from that if we needed to. Mr. Mayo stated that could be done. Commissioner Fleming stated its note worthy that the Finfish Advisory Committee is concerned about the Commission's revenues and wants to increase license fees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Lynn Kellum and unanimously passed to advertise to keep the five fish trot lines and increase the fee to \$250.

Reg. I, Sec. 5(d) – Reduction of License Fees – Mrs. Cosby explained the Finfish Advisory Committee supported doing away with the reduced license fees.

Commissioner Langley asked if Maryland and Virginia have reduced senior license fees. Commissioner Bull stated Virginia has reduced license fees only on the commercial license registration for seniors; he believes 70 years or older, and it's not a substantial reduction as he recalls. There is no reduction in specific gear type licenses. Commissioner Blazer stated Maryland does not have a reduction in commercial license fees for seniors.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously passed to advertise the repeal of Reg. I, Sec. 5(d).

Reg. VI, Sec. 5(b) – License Fees – Mr. Gary explained that this Regulation has the work group recommendations of eliminating the non resident pleasure boat license, the senior license and the ten-day short term license.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blazer, seconded by Commissioner Bull and unanimously passed to advertise Reg. VI, Sec. 5(d) as presented.

Third Quarter Disbursements and Cash-on-Hand

Mr. Gary presented a report of the third quarter disbursements (January through March) for the operational budget totaling \$161,709. The budget is on target at 66 percent being spent. He noted there are a few categories that are inflated due to the replacement of two HVAC units. A report of the cash-on-hand was presented showing \$686,906.63 as of June 7, 2016.

Commissioner Fleming noted the state appropriations were different between Maryland and Virginia and felt that wasn't fair and directed him comment to Commissioner Blazer to see if something could be done about that.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously passed to accept the third quarter disbursements and cash-on-hand as presented.

Audit Report

Mr. Gary explained that due to the Virginia auditor having health issues, the audit was delayed. As a result the final report should be mailed to each Commissioner very soon. The good news is, there were no findings and no operational weaknesses discovered. The auditors maintain that the Commission still operates on a fairly thin margin. They are strongly suggesting that the Commission continue to seek increased revenues in the face of increasing expenses.

Budget Committee Report (Commissioners Hall & Fleming)

Commissioner Hall presented the Budget Committee report. She stated there were a few things to note to the Commission as follows:

Revenue Projections

1. Cash balance brought forward - our best estimate for the operating budget. It does not include the monies in the long term reserve funds (future oyster work and retiree health insurance).
2. The CLR (commercial license registration for all commercial licenses) is a \$50 fee, with funds intended for oyster repletion work (via 2012 Blue Ribbon Oyster Panel)
3. Recreational Sport license projections are subjective due to the fee increases and complex changes initiated in 2015, and additional changes in 2016 to implement a 365 day forward from the date of purchase.
4. The OLS (oyster license surcharge) intended for oyster repletion work.
5. Commercial crab license – Below limited entry cap revenue projection due to some crabbers not renewing their licenses.
6. Drawdown of Oyster Reserve is a means of accounting for the transfer between reserve accounts and the operating account. (For 2016/2017, OMR and Rotational Natural Harvest Program will have no subsidies from the Commission).
7. ACFCMA Grant – Funding is pending for a new, five year cycle which will start on July 1, 2016. It is expected to be at a level similar to the past FY, approximately \$97,000/year; a major restructuring has occurred.
8. Limited Entry License – There will be one commercial hook and line license in a random drawing.

Disbursement Projections

1. Personal services – (#101) Status quo for Commissioners, legal officer and three options for full time salaried personnel (status quo, 2%, 2.5% and 3%). Part time help has been budgeted (#109) to address data entry needs for commercial harvest reporting for autumn of 2016, when Cathy Friend will be out for extended sick leave.

2. Contractual Services (#290). Continued to run a deficit in 2015/2016, due to cessation in expenditures related to MRIP related sport fishing effort surveys. For 2016/2017 MRIP funding will be shifted to a job to improve accuracy, efficiency, and reduce costs for commercial harvest reporting. Outreach and education expenditures will augment public information dissemination for 2016/2017.
3. Capital Outlay (#803). To replace the Commission's auto with a pickup truck. The existing auto is not conducive to the transport of fish samples or field equipment. Trade in of existing Ford Taurus will be added to this figure.
4. Development and Repletion. The money will come from existing reserves (#6 under revenue projections).
5. Capital Reserve – (#101) future oyster work – Drops by 50K in the upcoming fiscal cycle to \$0 now that the Commission subsidies for the OMR & RNHP programs have ended.
6. Unexpended cash balance is the expected cash balance as of 6/30/2016.

Detail of Personal Services

Includes employee specific details of salaries and historical MD & VA appropriations.

PRFC Salary Grade System

This is the official salary grade system adopted by the Commission in July 1, 2007 and most recently adjusted with reclassifications for the Human Resources & Fiscal Officer, Administrative Specialist, and Database Specialist, and step increases for the Executive Secretary and Assistant Executive Secretary effective July 1, 2014.

Special FY 2011- 2012 Worksheet

This worksheet provides the details of the Pension and Other Contributions of the disbursements (found on Page 3).

Updates to the PRFC Policy Manual

At the March 6, 2015 meeting of the Commission, the PRFC Policy Manual was updated to incorporate the following changes to Staff Level and Pay Grades and Personnel Evaluations:

1. Staff Level and Pay Grades: The Budget Committee report contains a listing of personnel services (Items 101-109) which details the number of positions by title, scope of work, and the budgeted salary. Adoption of the budget establishes the staffing level for that fiscal year. The salary figures used by the budget committee are obtained from the PRFC Salary Grade/Classification System. The grades, of which there are ten, are based on various classifications of jobs, and scope of work. The steps, of which there are twenty, are based on an annual assessment of job performance. Merit increases (if any) are awarded at the start of the Fiscal Year (July 1). Annually, the Budget Committee makes a recommendation (yes/no) to the Commission for consideration of an annual merit step increase for PRFC staff based upon annual performance evaluations, and consideration of a cost of living adjustment (COLA). The salary grade system may be adjusted annually for the cost-of-living if the Commission approves. An average of the cost-of-living index used by Maryland and Virginia is used to determine the cost of living index used to adjust the salary grade system numbers.

2. Personnel Evaluations: An Employee Performance Rating System shall be maintained. The main objectives of the performance rating system are as follows:

- 1) To help employees achieve a higher level of efficiency through regular supervisory evaluation of their performance.
- 2) To discover those Commission employees who exhibit a capacity for promotional consideration.
- 3) To determine those Commission employees whose performance reflects unsatisfactory work.

The performance rating is a continuous process, which involves observation, evaluation, discussion, criticism, assistance and recognition. Encouragement and assistance shall be given to employees to improve sub-standard performance, and recognition shall be given to employees whose service is outstanding or superior.

Each new full time Commission employee shall be hired for a 6-month probationary period. The Executive Secretary shall rate each probationary employee at least twice during the probationary period. Ratings will be made at the mid-point of the probationary period and at the end of the period.

All other employees shall be rated by the Executive Secretary once each year. This rating shall be completed and submitted into record by April 30th annually.

Employees receiving an overall unsatisfactory rating shall not be entitled to a merit (step) increase until they receive at least a satisfactory rating. Each employee receiving an unsatisfactory rating will thereafter be rated every six months until the unsatisfactory rating is removed or further disposition is made regarding the employee's status.

The performance rating report shall be prepared by the Executive Secretary for each employee. The Executive Secretary shall discuss the rating with the employee in detail, and has the responsibility of indicating ways in which the employee's performance can be improved. Performance resulting in an unsatisfactory rating shall make the employee ineligible for promotion or salary increment until such time as the rating becomes satisfactory, and may be grounds for dismissal. If the overall rating is unsatisfactory, and therefore affects one's increment status, the Executive Secretary shall personally review the situation. If a permanent employee does not agree with the rating or the Executive Secretary's review, he may request an interview with the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee's findings are final.

The Executive Secretary shall design the standard forms and procedures to govern the administration of the performance rating system, including the scope of the items to be included in the rating system, which may vary depending upon the position responsibilities.

If it is determined that an employee's job has changed, the Executive Secretary shall modify the employee's job scope of work to accurately reflect their duties. If it is determined that an employee's job has changed significantly, the Executive Secretary will conduct an assessment to determine what the employee's compensation should be, and make a recommendation to the Budget Committee for consideration of a salary adjustment. The assessment should include, but

not be limited to reviewing the scope of work, diversity of job duties, and comparison of peer compensation in comparable MD and VA State Government positions.

In April/May of 2016, the Executive Secretary conducted performance reviews of all employees at PRFC for the time frame April, 2015 through March, 2016. All PRFC employees exceeded performance expectations for this time period.

Chairman Erskine stated the budget and salary issue can not be discussed until the Commission moves into Executive Session. He moved onto any other new business before breaking into Executive Session. Once they reconvene they will discuss and make a motion on the budget and salary grade at that time.

Any Other New Business

Mr. Mayo advised that the prepayable offense schedule has been modified and has been submitted to the Supreme Court. He is waiting to hear back from them on confirmation. He sees no issue with the court approving it.

NOAA Grant

Mr. Gary advised that there are residual funds from the transfer from one NOAA grant to another. This is done every five years. The funds are remaining partly from the MRIP unresolved issue. Claudette Okraskinski contacted NOAA and received approval to hire Ben Peed to do outreach work as a college intern. He is a rising junior at Virginia Tech and will be working through the summer.

Executive Session – 12:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blazer, seconded by Commissioner Bull and unanimously passed to go into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Reconvene – 12:56 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken to confirm that only legal and personnel matters were discussed in Executive Session. All Commissioners agreed.

Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the John Thomas Parran hearing room in Colonial Beach, Virginia.

Mr. Mayo advised that he will hold the annual Mayo crab party in September and all Commissioners and spouses and or guest will receive an invitation.

Budget Committee Report Continued

A motion was made by Commissioner Erskine, seconded by Commissioner Bull and passed with 7 in favor and 1 abstention (Rice) to provide a 2 ½ percent Cola increase for all employees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Hall and passed with 7 in favor and 1 abstention (Rice) to accept the 2016-2017 FY Budget as presented.

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION
2016-2017 DISBURSEMENTS BUDGET

2016-2017 BUDGETPERSONAL SERVICES:

101-109 Compensation of Commissioners & Salaries	\$311,763
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CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

201 Advertising	9,000
201 Agent Fees	4,000
204 Postage	14,000
205 Telephone	8,000
206 800 Line	5,200
207 Internet Service	1,200
208 Electric Current	5,000
209 Freight Expenses	350
212 Lease of Equipment	4,000
214 Membership Dues & Subscriptions	17,000
216 Printing Regulations*	940
220 Travel Expenses	400
221 Water Expenses	16,000
224 Photographic Services-Charts	100
230 Computer Support	1,000
235 Sport Lic Registry	4,000
270 Repairs to Equipment	25
275 Building Maintenance	500
280 Interest Expense	97,000
281 Bank Charges	18,000
290 ACFCMA**	205,715
299 Other Contractual Services	

MATERIALS & SUPPLIES

301 Automotive Expenses	3,500
313 Office Supplies	16,000
330 Household Furnishings & Supplies	1,300

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332 Licenses, Tags, Report Books	40,000
400 Resale Supplies	<u>2,600</u>
	63,400

CURRENT CHARGES & OBLIGATIONS:

240 Insurance - surety bonds, fire auto liability, workmen's comp.	<u>7,500</u>
	7,500

PENSION AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

510 Retirement	25,556
511 Group Life Insurance	3,783
512 Group Health Insurance	74,681
513 Employer's FICA	17,903
513 Employer's Medicare	4,187
514 Deferred Compensation Match	<u>3,000</u>
	129,110

CAPITAL OUTLAY:

801 Office & Other Equipment	5,000
801 Furniture & Fixtures	4,000
803 Auto	<u>20,000</u>
	29,000

DEVELOPMENT & REPLETION EXPENSES:

331, 333 & 335 Seed Oysters/Shell/C&C	0
336 Oyster Management Reserve	0
339 Artificial Reef Construction/Transportation	<u>7,000</u>
	7,000

CAPITAL RESERVES

98 (101) Reserve - future oyster work/hatchery	0
99 (102) Reserve - future retiree health insurance	53,500

UNEXPENDED CASH BALANCE: (contingency fund)

	<u>4,387</u>
TOTAL	\$811,375

*Partially supported by ACFCMA (Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act) funds

**Fully supported by ACFCMA

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION
2016-2017 BUDGET
RECEIPTS

	<u>2016-2017 BUDGET</u>
UNEXPENDED CASH BALANCE FORWARD: (AS OF 7/1/16)	62,000
CLR - Commercial License Registration	34,000
 SALE OF LICENSES:	
Fish	75,000
Crab	67,000
Clam	250
Fish - Recreational	110,000
Crab - Recreational	700
 OYSTER:	
OMR License	27,400
OMR Identification Tags	3,500
OMR Bushels Inspection Tax	<u>3,500</u>
OMR Subtotal	34,400
 Oyster Licenses	5,325
OLS - License Surcharge	6,000
White Identification Tags	2,000
Registered Buyer	400
Oyster Bushels Inspection Tax	<u>3,000</u>
Natural Oyster Subtotal	16,725
 APPROPRIATIONS BY STATE:	
Maryland	140,000
Virginia	148,750
 SPECIAL GRANTS:	
Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act	97,850
DRAWDOWN of Oyster Reserve	0
INTEREST ON SAVINGS (C/D's)	400
RESALE SUPPLIES:	1,800
LICENSE DRAWING	3,500

SHIPPING & HANDLING (65-58)	2,000
CPID (65-58)	16,000
MISCELLANEOUS: Confiscated Property, Sale of Tags, Etc.	<u>1,000</u>
TOTAL	811,375

Maryland Department of the Environment

Mr. Gary explained the need for outreach to the Maryland Governor's office to direct and encourage MDE to support the financial award to NRG Energy that would be expended in partnership to the Commission for oyster restoration. Commissioners Langley and Rice will represent the Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blazer, seconded by Commissioner Kellum and passed unanimously to support the outreach.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. Erskine, Chairman

Lynn H. Kellum, Secretary