

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Colonial Beach, Virginia
November 22, 1996**

Commissioners Present: John W. White, Sr. (VA) - Chairman, Paul H. Kellam, III (MD) - Secretary, Gordon M. Birkett (VA), John T. Parran (MD), William A. Pruitt (VA), William L. Rice, Sr. (MD), and Kenneth W. Williams, Sr. (VA). Sarah J. Taylor-Rogers (MD) - Vice Chairman was unable to attend.

Officers: Kirby A. Carpenter - Executive Secretary and J. Clifford Hutt - Legal Officer.

Others Present: Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton - Chesapeake Biological Lab., Roy Scott - MdDNR, Ellen Cosby - VMRC Fisheries Management, Sgt. C. Sauter, Cpl. J. Jowanowitch and Ofc. F. Webb - MdDNR Law Enforcement, Capt. M. Ray Jewell - VMRC Law Enforcement, Richard Daiger, William Feldman, Herman Delvo, Roger Hill, John Dean, John Morris, Joseph Thompson, Jr., Michael Yeatman, Gary Owens and several others who did not sign the register.

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed all those present. Commissioner Williams provided an invocation.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Parran, seconded by Commissioner Pruitt and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 13, 1996 meeting as written and distributed.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

The Executive Secretary reported advertising requirements had been met for today's public hearing. Chairman White opened the hearing at 9:32 a.m.

Open Jones Shore for Hand Scraping - The proposal would allow oyster harvest on Jones Shore by means of a hand scrape.

The Executive Secretary reported that this was the second public hearing held on this issue this year. The Commission voted against this proposal after a public hearing held during the June 1996 meeting. A public request was made at the September meeting for the issue to be reconsidered and the Commission directed another hearing be scheduled.

A report on the November 19, 1996 joint meeting of the Shellfish Advisory and Oyster Repletion Committees was presented which showed they reviewed the latest oyster stock information then voted unanimously in favor of opening Jones Shore for hand scraping.

Cubby Russell and William Feldman spoke in favor of opening Jones Shore.

Black Sea Bass - The proposal would allow the creel limit for black sea bass to be set by Commission Order.

The Executive Secretary stated the Commission is required to comply with the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Black Sea Bass Management Plan which currently calls for a 9 inch minimum size limit. This proposal would allow the Commission to adjust size, season and creel limits as necessary when changes are made in the management plan. No other comments were offered on this issue.

Recodification - The proposal would recodify current Reg. II, Sec. 2(j) to Reg. III, Sec. 1(b).

The Executive Secretary stated Reg. II, Sec. 2(j) "Resisting or Impeding Officers" should be moved to Reg. III with other law enforcement related regulations. The Legal Officer stated this proposal did not affect the substance of the regulation. No other comments were received.

Residency Requirement - The proposal was to remove the last sentence of Reg. I, Sec. 3(b) regarding residency requirements.

The Executive Secretary stated that residency requirements for purchasing commercial licenses are addressed in Reg. I, Sec. 1(a). When amendments to the residency requirements were made last February, the reference in Reg. I, Sec. 3(b) was overlooked. He said it was necessary to remove this sentence so that the regulations would be consistent with one another. No other comments were offered on this subject.

There being no further testimony, the Chairman closed the public hearing at 9:45 a.m.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Consideration of Regulation Changes

Jones Shore - Commissioner Rice suggested opening Jones Shore during March of 1997 then reviewing the proposal again before next season. There was a great deal of discussion on whether to open Jones Shore permanently or temporarily. It was determined that if today's proposal was approved the Commission would have the ability to close the area by Order, if necessary, as provided for in Regulation II, Section 2(b).

Roy Scott was asked for his opinion on what effect hand scraping would have on Jones Shore. He stated that in the past, Jones Shore had received extensive shell plantings by PRFC for seed production. It was hit hard by MSX and Dermo in recent years and had become virtually non-productive. A light spat set occurred there in 1994 and the fresh water flows of the past few years helped to depress the parasite activity so that more oysters survived to market size. He stated there was currently a denser and healthier population of oysters on Jones Shore than had been for the last several years. He felt this would be a good year to harvest those surviving oysters.

The following motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Pruitt and unanimously approved:

"That Regulation II, Section 2(a)(4) be amended to read as follows so that hand scraping will be allowed on Jones Shore during March 1997 with the understanding that the Commission will evaluate all pertinent information before determining if Jones Shore will be open for hand scraping in future seasons."

(a)(4) **Closed Areas.** The following area(s) shall be closed for the purpose of taking or catching, or attempting to take or catch oysters by means of a hand scrape at any time:

- (1) "All areas lying upstream from a straight line between a point (38°10'37.1" North Latitude, 76°32'59" West Longitude) at HERRING CREEK JETTY LIGHT NO. 1 (LL3352) at the mouth of Herring Creek in St. Mary's County, Maryland and a point (38°05'54" North Latitude, 76°34'50" West Longitude) at BONUM CREEK NORTH JETTY LIGHT NO. 2 (LL3350.52) at the mouth of Bonum Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia."

The foregoing delineation of closed area(s) shall not be construed to limit or proscribe the Commission's authority to open or close areas pursuant to these Regulations. (Note: "LL" refers to Coast Guard Light List).

Black Sea Bass - The following motion was made by Commissioner Pruitt, seconded by Commissioner Parran and unanimously approved:

"That Regulation III, Section 10(a) be amended to read as follows so that the black sea bass creel limit may be set by Commission Order:"

(a) **Catch Limits.** It shall be unlawful, during any single day, for any person to remove from the Potomac River by any means, or to possess, or to sell, or to offer for sale any otherwise lawful fish which has been taken from the waters of the Potomac River, in excess of the limits provided herein (except as provided in Regulation III, Sec. 11(c)):

- (1) **Commercial.** The limits for any person who holds a valid commercial fish license issued by this Commission, while fishing under that license, are:
 - (i) Black bass (either large or small mouth)- 5, for personal consumption only.
 - (ii) Black drum - 1.
 - (iii) Red drum - 5 with only 1 fish in excess of 27 inches total length.
 - (iv) Striped bass (rockfish) - as may be fixed from time to time by Commission Order.
- (2) **Charter.** The limits for any fee paying person aboard any charter, party, head, or guide boat whose captain holds a valid charter boat captain's license issued by this Commission, shall be the same as those provided in sub-section (3) herein, except as contained herein:
 - (i) Striped bass (rockfish) - as may be fixed from time to time by Commission Order.
- (3) **Recreational or Sport.** The limits for any person not covered in sub-section (a) or (b) herein are:
 - (i) Black bass (either large or small mouth) - 5.
 - (ii) Black drum - 1.
 - (iii) Red drum - 5 with only 1 fish in excess of 27 inches total length.
 - (iv) Or, any species listed hereafter, as may be fixed from time to time by Commission Order:

- Atlantic croaker
- Black sea bass
- Bluefish
- Channel catfish
- Spanish mackerel
- Spotted seatrout
- Striped bass (rockfish)
- Summer flounder
- Weakfish

Recodification

The following motion was made by Commissioner Parran, seconded by Commissioner Rice and unanimously approved:

"That Regulation II, Section 2(j) be recodified as Regulation III, Section 1(b)."

Residency Requirement

The following motion was made by Commissioner Kellam, seconded by Commissioner Williams and unanimously approved:

"That Regulation I, Section 3(b) be amended to read as follows to remove its reference to residency requirements:"

(b) Unlawful to Commercially take Seafood without a License. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the commercial taking and catching of oysters, crabs, finfish, soft shell clams and other seafood on the Potomac River in the area prescribed in the Regulations of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, nor shall any person use or permit the use of any net, boat, tongs, dredge, or other device, nor shall any person take any action for which a license is required under the foregoing Regulations, without first having procured a license from the Commission as provided in the Regulations of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. All persons so engaged shall exhibit their licenses for so doing when required by any enforcement officer of the State of Maryland or Virginia or agent of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

Effective Date of Regulations

A motion was made by Commissioner Parran, seconded by Commissioner Rice and unanimously approved that the foregoing amendments to the regulations become effective January 1, 1997.

Limited Entry Crab Pot Fishery - Order #97-1

The Executive Secretary stated it was necessary for the Commission to update its Order regarding the number of crab pot licenses available in 1997. The proposed order would establish the number available not to exceed the number issued in the previous year. It would also prohibit unexpired crab pot licenses from being available in the random license drawing until the number of licenses issued falls below 500.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Williams and unanimously approved to adopt Commission Order 97-1 as follows:

ORDER #97-1 LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall not exceed the number of licenses issued the previous license year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that persons eligible for the above established limited entry licenses shall be the Potomac River crab pot licensees from the previous year, including those persons eligible under Regulation I, Section 1(e) (*Death of Licensee or Surrender of License*).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that any crab pot license not renewed on or before January 31st of each year shall become non-renewable and non-transferrable.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that unexpired crab pot licenses shall not be made available for a public random drawing as provided for in Regulation I, Section 1(d), unless and until the number of licenses issued is less than 500.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #97-1 shall become effective January 1, 1997, supersedes and repeals Order #96-4, and will remain in effect until further notice.

1997 Commercial Fishing Limits - Order #97-2

A draft Order listing the 1997 commercial season, size and catch limits was presented for consideration. The only change from the 1996 restrictions was the 9 inch minimum size limit for black sea bass. As reported during today's public hearing, the Executive Secretary stated this change was necessary for the Commission to be in compliance with the ASMFC/MAFMC Black Sea Bass Management Plan. He also noted that species whose limits are established by regulation were included in this Order to provide one working document for commercial limits.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Order as presented. Some discussion regarding the practical application of a 9 inch minimum size limit in the Potomac and the adoption of ASMFC/MAFMC limits ensued. Several Commissioners objected to the concept and were prepared to vote against the motion. However, since the Order contained regulations for all other species for the year and after further discussion, the following motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Parran and unanimously approved:

"That Order #97-2 be approved to include the new restrictions on black sea bass as follows:"

**ORDER #97-2
1997 COMMERCIAL FISHING
SEASON, SIZE AND TRIP/SEASON LIMITS**

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Section 9, 10, 11, and 13(b), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS** that the 1997 commercial seasons, size limits, and trip/season limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Size Limit</u>	<u>Catch Limit</u>
(1) American eel:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
(2) Atlantic croaker:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	10" min.	No limit
(3) Black bass: (large or small mouth)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	15" min. (March 1-June 15) 12" min. (all other times)	5 - for personal consumption only
(4) Black drum:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1
(5) Black sea bass:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
(6) Bluefish:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31*	8" min.	No limit
(7) Catfish - Bullhead:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	10" min.	No limit
(8) Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
(9) Red drum:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. 27" max.	5 fish with 1 over 27"
(10) Shad: (American or hickory)	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
(11) Spanish mackerel:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31*	14" min.	No limit
(12) Spot:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
(13) Spotted sea trout:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
(14) Striped bass:	To be announced	18" min.	To be announced
(15) Sturgeon: (Atlantic or shortnose)	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
(16) Summer flounder:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31*	14" min.	No limit
(17) Weakfish:	July 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	No limit
(18) White perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
(19) Yellow perch	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED** that the commercial fisheries for bluefish, Spanish mackerel, and/or summer flounder may be closed immediately by ORDER of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order #97-2 shall become effective January 1, 1997, shall supersede and repeal Order #96-11, and remain in effect until further notice.

1997 Recreational Fishing Limits

A motion was made by Commissioner Parran, seconded by Commissioner Pruitt and unanimously approved to adopt Order #97-3 as follows:

ORDER #97-3
1997 RECREATIONAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Section 9, 10, 11, and 13(b), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS** that the 1997 recreational seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Size Limit</u>	<u>Catch Limit</u>
(1) American eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
(2) Atlantic croaker:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	10" min.	20 per person
(3) Black bass:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	15" min. (March 1-June 15)	5 per person
(large or small mouth)		12" min. (all other times)	
(4) Black drum:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
(5) Black sea bass	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
(6) Bluefish:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	10 per person
(7) Catfish:			
Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	10" min.	No limit
(8) Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
(9) Red drum:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min.	5 fish with
		27" max.	1 over 27"
(10) Shad: (American or hickory)	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
(11) Spanish mackerel:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
(12) Spot:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
(13) Spotted sea trout:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
(14) Striped bass:	To be announced	18" min.	2 per person
(15) Sturgeon:	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
(Atlantic or shortnose)			
(16) Summer flounder:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	8 per person
(17) Weakfish:	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
(18) White perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
(19) Yellow perch	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	5 per person

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order #97-3 shall become effective January 1, 1997, shall supersede and repeal Order #96-10, and remain in effect until further notice.

Shellfish Advisory Committee Report

The following items of new business discussed by the Shellfish Advisory Committee were presented.

Jurisdictional Lines: Eddie Davis stated a conflict still exists over MD/PRFC jurisdictional lines at Calvert Bay and St. Catherine Sound. The Committee asked that the Commission be made aware of this situation.

Crabbing Time Limit: Elgin Nininger and Bobby Boarman requested the Commission allow crabbing to begin 2 hours before sunrise during the month of October each year. They stated that crabbers in the NSWC testing area cannot fish all of their pots before the range boats clear the area.

The Executive Secretary stated the jurisdictional line issue had been resolved in 1993 with an agreement that Maryland DNR would move those markers at Calvert Bay/Smith Creek and St. Catherine Sound to points as existed prior to their relocation. It was then reported that the markers had already been moved.

The issue of crabbing time limits in the NSWC testing area had also been previously addressed by the Commission with no proposal to change the time limit. No further action was taken on this item.

Crab Harvest Report

A preliminary report on the 1996 Potomac crab landings from April through November was presented which showed a total of 132,618 bushels of hard crabs and 76,742 pounds of peelers harvested. This was compared to the 1995 April through November total of 98,666 bushels of hard crabs and 73,545 pounds of peelers and a ten year average for those months of 132,506 bushels and 54,406 pounds respectively.

The Executive Secretary pointed out that, even with record low harvests during the beginning of the season, the overall harvest was better than last year and was in line with the ten year average.

Oyster Harvest Report

An oyster harvest report was presented which showed the amount of tax collected, licenses sold and oyster harvest by bar and gear for the period October 1 through November 19, 1996. Tongers (76 boat licenses sold) reported 2,584 bushels while hand scrapers (23 boat licenses sold) reported 201 bushels for a total harvest thus far 2,785 bushels.

Fall Oyster Survey

Roy Scott reported the annual oyster survey was conducted for the purpose of determining recruitment and mortality rates, prevalence of MSX and Dermo, size structure, and other information necessary to assess the general status of the oyster stock. In the Potomac, the unusually high fresh water flow caused low recruitment throughout the river and high mortality rates on upper river oyster bars. The positive impact was that it suppressed the parasite activity in the lower river.

Advisory Committee Vacancies

Finfish and Shellfish Advisory Committee positions for which terms will expire in March of 1997 were announced. Anyone wishing to serve on either committee was asked to contact the committee chairmen or the PRFC office.

1997 Oyster Repletion Committee Appointment

The Chairman announced he would make appointments to the Repletion Committee at a later time.

Nominating Committee

Chairman White appointed Commissioners Pruitt and Parran as the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of officers for 1997. He asked them to present their report at the February meeting.

Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Review

Chairman White appointed the Executive Secretary, Legal Officer and Commissioners Rice and Williams to serve as an Ad Hoc Committee to review advisory committee by-laws which were adopted several years ago. They were asked to see if any adjustments were necessary to improve the efficiency of the committees.

Financial Reports

A report on the first quarter (July through August 1996) disbursements was presented by budget item which totaled \$139,582.57. The Executive Secretary noted that \$50,000 reserve for capital improvements had been moved to a category titled special project expenses. He noted no other unusual expenditures.

A report on receipts showed that annual appropriations from Maryland and Virginia had been received. Each state's appropriation was in the amount of \$150,000, not \$165,558 as requested. The Executive Secretary also reported that, due to an error in the electronic fund transfer system for the ACFCMA Federal grant, the Commission received an additional payment of \$38,970.00. This amount had been returned to NOAA.

A report of cash on hand as of November 20, 1996 was presented as follows:

First Virginia Bank - Northern Neck:	\$57,770.08
Checking (includes \$400.00 petty cash)	
Nations Bank (Maryland Office):	26,856.57
Virginia Local Government Investment Pool:	186,719.58
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool:	<u>183,804.10</u>
Grand Total in Banks	\$455,150.33

The following motion was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Rice, and unanimously approved:

"That the first quarter disbursements of \$139,582.57 be approved as presented."

ASMFC Issues

1997 Gill Net Season - The Executive Secretary reported that Maryland, Virginia and PRFC acted jointly in proposing changes in the 1997 striped bass fishery for the Bay which could mean increases in allowable catch for all three jurisdictions. However, the ASMFC will not make its decision until the third week of January on what the 1997 quota will be. Commission Order #96-6 established the 1997 gill net and miscellaneous gear seasons to begin on January 13. Since staff will not know what the striped bass quota will be at that time, Mr. Carpenter requested the Commission modify the 1997 gill net season to begin on February 1 and run continuously through March 20. This would provide staff with the time necessary for distributing striped bass identification tags to the fishermen once their quota has been established.

It was announced that the ASMFC would be holding a public hearing on January 7, 1996 in LaPlata, Maryland to consider Addendum 1 to Amendment 5 of the Striped Bass Management Plan. Since the outcome of that hearing would have an impact on which management approach would be selected, all interested fishermen were encouraged to attend.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Williams and unanimously approved to adopt Commission Order #97-4 as follows:

ORDER #97-04
(Replaces Order #96-6)
1997 COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9 and 13(b);

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons, shall be, for each gear type or segment listed below, as follows:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1) <u>Gill Net:</u> | February 1 through March 20, 1997. |
| 2) <u>Miscellaneous Commercial Gear:</u>
(Includes Haul Seine, Fyke Net
Fish Trot Line & Fish Pot Only) | February 1 through March 20, 1997. |

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that, except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order #97-4 shall become effective January 1, 1997, shall supersede and repeal Order #96-6, and will remain in effect until further notice.

Hearing Officer's Report

The Commission reviewed the Hearing Officer's report for five individuals delinquent in filing seafood catch reports. The Hearing Officer recommended that no new licenses be issued to any of the individuals until they appeared before the Commission. The Executive Secretary stated that notices of this recommendation and today's meeting had been sent to each individual by registered mail. The Chairman asked each person to come forward as his name was called. The following individuals were not present: Charles Haverman Banagan, Kevin Howard McCabe and James Henry Rencher. The Commission accepted the Hearing Officer's recommendation on these individuals.

Joseph Donald Thompson, Jr. - Mr. Thompson was delinquent in filing his crab catch reports for eighteen weeks. He stated he did not send in his reports because he was not crabbing. He also said he did not receive any of the late notices sent to him because he had moved. Mr. Thompson was told that it was his responsibility to inform the Commission of any address change and was directed to provide his current address to PRFC staff before leaving the office today. He was also reminded that filing catch reports is part of his job as a waterman. The following motion was made by Commissioner Parran, seconded by Commissioner Williams and unanimously approved:

"That Mr. Thompson be allowed to purchase his licenses. However, he shall be placed on probation for one year and if during that year he fails to file his catch reports his license shall be immediately suspended."

Michael Carlton Yeatman - Mr. Yeatman had not filed his commercial hook and line catch reports for eighteen weeks. Mr. Yeatman apologized for not following through on his responsibility. After further discussion, the following motion was made by Commissioner Pruitt, seconded by Commissioner Parran and unanimously approved:

"That after filing his delinquent reports, Mr. Yeatman be allowed to purchase his license. Further, he shall be placed on probation for one year and if during that year he fails to file his catch reports his license shall be immediately suspended."

New Business

Mr. Marvin Harley stated that he had been working with the ICPRB in an effort to restore American shad to the Potomac River resulting in the release of over 3,000,000 shad fry since the program began in 1995. The Chesapeake Bay Program had funded to program but was unable to do so this year. Mr. Harley asked the Commission to support the continuation of the shad restoration program either directly or by contacting other agencies that may be able to provide funding. The following motion was made by Commissioner Pruitt, seconded by Commissioner Parran and unanimously approved:

"That the Executive Secretary prepare a letter of support for the Shad Restoration Program."

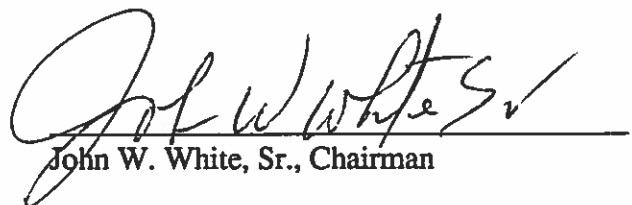
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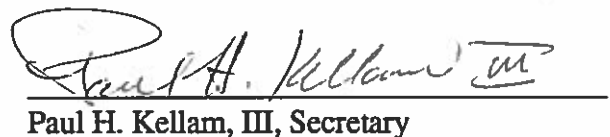
The Commission's next meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m., February 14, 1997 in Richmond, VA.

Adjourn

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


John W. White, Sr., Chairman


Paul H. Kellam, III, Secretary