

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION
LA PLATA, MARYLAND
AUGUST 5, 1983

PRESENT - COMMISSIONERS - Francis J. Russell, John T. Parran, Lee E. Zeni, William A. Pruitt, Ivan D. Mapp, and R. Wayne Browning

OFFICERS - Kirby A. Carpenter, Executive Secretary and J. Clifford Hutt, Legal Officer

VISITORS - Paul C. Wentzell, Henry C. Batchelor, Frank I. Wood, Natural Resources Police; Roy Scott, Charles Frisbee, Dept. of Natural Resources; Robert Markland, Ben Daniels, Oren T. Mears, Donald O'Bier, VMRC; Elgin A. Dunnington, Dr. Eileen Setzler-Hamilton, CBL; Mark A. Stinson, Congressman Bateman's Office; Samuel Linton, Maryland Legislature; Mr. & Mrs. Lynn C. Brownley, Attorney for Westmoreland County Watermen's Assoc.; John Bohanon, Congressman Dyson's Office; David Loveland, Rosaline Gay, D. C. Government Council on Water Quality; Marland Deen, Charles County Commissioner; Jim Wallace, D. C. Government, Edward Newton, Chester Jenkins, III, Laurie Murray, Robert Reamy, Thomas Bastain, James Hancock, Marvin Hancock, Thomas Courtney, John Wilson, Robert Pearson, Marvin Newton, Hugh Newton, Kenneth Dent, Billy Robertson, Hugh Newton, Jr., Norman Bishop, Eva Bishop, Russ Burroughs, Jack Robins, Charles Mason, Bill Jenkins, James Cullison, Jr., Larry W. Thrift, Lee Arnest, Gene Hundley, Gregory Chatham, Wayne France, Richard Daiger, James Johnson, Rick Devin, David Scholten, Brady Bounds, Jim Johnson, Jill Johnson, J. T. McGahey, Thomas Trader, Sr., George Trader, Artis Schoen, Harry Green, Roger Green, Victor Liguori, Robert T. Brown, James W. Dutton, Betty Anne Thacker, Kenney Wicker, Garnett Reamy, John Bell, Roland Moore, Clinton Kraft, Jim Jones, Bob Boswell, Herman Shepherd, Brian Russell, Melvin Hart, William Sanders, William Cumberland, Allen Dent, Robert M. Norris, Jr., Walter Maddox, Thomas King, Howard Doulby, Alfred Grinder, George Perry, Arthur L. Loving, Frank Castle, Charles Bourne, Paul Zanko, Ron Kuklish, Joe Norris, Herman Beasley, Chuck Bourne, James Green, Sidney Dobson, William Beach, Dwight Potter, Eugene Scott, Billy Rice, and several others who did not sign the register.

PRESS - Isobel Gough, Richmond News Leader; Larry Evans, The Free Lance-Star and Lawrence Latane, Westmoreland News

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Mr. Russell, Chairman.

Mr. John T. Parran presented the new Maryland member of the Commission. Mr. Lee E. Zeni was introduced to the visitors and Mr. Parran briefly reviewed Mr. Zeni's background and his many years of public service associated with the Tidewater Administration of the Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Russell requested consideration of the Minutes of the May 6, 1983 meeting mimeographed copies of which had previously been sent to each Commissioner. The following motion was made by Mr. Mapp and seconded by Mr. Parran:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 1983 MEETING BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN AND DISTRIBUTED. The motion was approved.

O P E N P U B L I C H E A R I N G

The Chairman, Mr. Russell, opened the public hearing at 9:40 a.m. He announced that copies of the advertised regulation changes were available in the middle aisle, as well as several other handouts of pertinent information. He asked that each speaker be as brief as possible, avoid repetition of previous speakers' comments and try to limit their time to two minutes. Each speaker would be called in turn from a sign-in sheet of persons wishing to speak. Anyone who did not sign in would be given the opportunity to speak following those on the sign-in sheet. He then called the first speaker.

John Higgins - He believes that Maryland and Virginia should investigate the effects of pollution on the Potomac. He cited the fact that there are 67 sewage disposal plants above Cobb Island with a chemical run-off. The river is being chemically sterilized. Sewage plants are the major cause and he made three proposals: create a fish hatchery, stock salmon to take the pressure off rock fish and subsidize the watermen and seafood dealers.

Frank Castle, Northern Neck Charter Boat Assoc. - He spoke in favor of any action that would bring the rock fish back to the Chesapeake. He also believes that the watermen should be subsidized if their livelihood is taken away. He believes the mesh size should be increased and that charter boats should also be ticketed for possession of any undersize fish.

Betty Anne Thacker - She spoke on behalf of the Westmoreland County Watermen's Assoc. She mentioned the many letters that had been written by U. S. Senators and Representatives and others opposing closing of the river. She also spoke on the special problems facing many of the watermen. Some of them are under educated and unqualified for any other type of work and if the river is closed they should be subsidized. She questioned the five day notice portion on closing the river. Mr. Hutt, the legal officer, explained that the five day notice also applied to reopening the river which would be a definite advantage to the watermen. He explained that the intent of this regulation was to grant the Commission authority to take action where necessary to protect the finfish industry. Ms. Thacker said the watermen object because of the expense of taking up pound nets on short notice. Five days' notice is much too short a time period. She requested that a decision not be made until the congressional correspondence has been acted upon.

Mr. Hutt was requested by the Commissioners to clarify the language of Regulation III, Section 13(b) during the course of the meeting.

Marvin Newton, Potomac River Watermen's Assoc. - They oppose the closing because there is no scientific proof that over-harvesting is the cause of the diminishing stock. Closing the river for five months is too long a period and totally unacceptable. He suggested having the river open January 16 thru April 12 and close to allow the fish to spawn. They also oppose the 600 ft. length on gill nets.

Allen Dent - Does not believe you can compare the closure of the river for fishing to the time frame for oyster tonging. Oyster tonging is different in that the watermen carry the tongs back and forth to the river but gill nets have to be set and cannot be transported back and forth on a moment's notice. He considers these proposals unAmerican and dictatorial.

Norman Bishop, National Sport Fishermen - He mentioned that at the May meeting the Commission was given some letters from the Department of Commerce and Department of Interior stating that the rock fish industry is steadily declining. He read statistics which pointed out that the only area in which rock fish appear to be thriving is the Hudson River, a river which is closed to fishing because of chemical pollution.

Charles Mason, Tall Timbers - He referred to the handout which reflects the decline of the rock fish landings over the past years. He was in favor of the closure and believed that the watermen are working against themselves by opposing this. Several years ago the residents of Tall Timbers were able to catch rock fish by the ton but this is no longer the case.

Bill Jenkins, Smith Point Charter Boat Assoc. - He spoke in favor of the closure. The decline in rock fish has been a problem for the last ten years. He would like to see the small rock become large rock. It is time for management to do something about the situation. If you close the river and give the male and females a chance to come upriver to spawn it would be a great help.

Kenneth Dent, Sr. - He disagreed with the five day notice period for a closure of the river. A waterman has a considerable amount of money invested in gear and a five day notice would be unfair after the time and money spent preparing to put out nets.

Eva Bishop - Supported the regulation changes, however, believed they would not be strong enough.

Bob Boswell, Tall Timbers - Spoke in favor of the five month closure and believed it should be in effect for the entire three years.

Lynn Brownley, Representing Westmoreland County Watermen's Assoc. - After meetings with the Westmoreland County watermen, he offered the following alternate proposals: (1) a moratorium on the issuance of gill net licenses for one year only and then a review of the results of its efforts concerning the propagation of rock fish and its effect on the watermen; (2) close the entire river from April 1 through May 15, as this is the primary spawning season of the rock fish; (3) allow 1200 ft. of gill net rather than the 600 ft. proposed and (4) the mesh size be a minimum of 3-1/2", a maximum of 7", effective from March 15 to June 1, and 3" at all other times. He also read a portion of a letter from Congressman Parris regarding the scope of the PRFC proposed actions. The commercial watermen realize there is a problem, but asked that anything done be only for one year and then a review made to determine the results.

Kenneth Wicker - He believes the gill nets are unjustly blamed for the decline in rock fish. If the Commission feels the river must be closed to rock fishing, do it for one year but let the watermen fish for other species. Rock fish can be avoided, if necessary.

Robert Reamy, Seafood Dealer - He spoke as a member of the Westmoreland County Watermen's Assoc. He agreed with the presentation by Mr. Lynn Brownley. There are many small rock fish in the river. He cited the haul seine catch that was brought into his seafood plant containing many small rock fish. He questioned whether these small fish will survive. Economics is the real problem and he depends on the watermen for his livelihood. He has made a large investment in trucks, equipment, etc., and suggested closing only the spawning area for a six week period. He displayed a letter from the members of the Smith Point Charter Boat Association Captains for the record. He believes any closure should be reviewed on an annual basis. He realizes it is hard for all the watermen to agree on a solution because of the differences in where and when they fish.

Robert T. Brown - He believes the word "ban" is a bad word. This is an involuntary ban. The watermen have been trying to ban themselves. He questioned whether anyone who does not renew his license, can permit someone else to obtain it. The men are still buying their licenses to hold their stands and not fishing them. He believes the rock fish are there and that there is no question about it. He cited the incident of his haul seine catch as proof of this. He said that Blue Plains had cut back on their chemicals in the spring. The ban is too harsh. Three years is much too long a time. Let it be for one year which will be more in line with what has been done in Maryland and Virginia. He saw no problem with Mr. Brownley's proposal for a closure April 1 through May 15.

James W. Dutton - The watermen have a vested interest in the Potomac River. The seal of Maryland displays fish. He believes the proposed five day notice of closure violates the Compact. The watermen warned the Commission six or seven years ago that this would happen and something should

have been done then. The river should only be closed for one year. He proposed that the river be closed from January 1 through February 14. It should be opened February 15 to April 12 and closed again April 13 to June 1. He also suggested reducing the price of licenses. He was in favor of the moratorium until the rock fish situation improves. He recommended only a one year closure with a review at the end of that time. In the NATIONAL FISHERMEN YEAR BOOK, it reports that sport fishermen catch more fish than commercial fishermen do. It also cited the fact that Maryland had put a ban on fishing in certain areas and that PRFC had not yet and there are just as many rock fish in the Potomac as there are in Maryland.

John Wilson - He displayed a report which showed the amount of chlorine in the water. He contended that chlorine in the water is harmful to fish and did not believe the river should be closed until a test had been done on this condition. He has caught fish containing unusual spots and growth on them.

William Rice - If the river is closed from January 1 through May, it may as well be closed for the whole year. The winter months are the only time when fishing is good. If the river must be closed please wait until April 1. The mesh size should not be increased to 3-3/4" but left as it is presently.

Samuel Linton, Maryland Legislature - He was opposed to boards and commissions having the power of law. The five day notice of closures is not sufficient as the local media would not have time to inform everyone. All areas of the river should enjoy the same length of season which may need to be different for different parts of the river. A three year ban is too long and is not a solution. If a three year restriction is imposed, the benefits would only be to people who do not work on the river. He said Governors Robb and Hughes are getting together to discuss a possible solution. He suggested that fishing should be allowed in the upper river during the period before the females arrive for spawning.

Brady Bounds, Sport Fisherman - He cited from the preamble of the Compact which states that the Potomac River Fisheries Commission will work toward the conservation and improvement of the Tidewater portion of the Potomac fishery resources. He commended the Commission for its fine work and paralleled the proposed restrictions to that of oysters. He believes that it is imperative that action be taken. The scientific community, the Governors and legislators have all asked that action be taken to save the rock fish. Many people depend on the resources of the Potomac. He asked that the Commission act according to the preamble and adopt these regulations as proposed.

James E. Price, Maryland Charter Boat Assoc. - They have voted and support the recommendations proposed to protect the rock fish. The Governor of New York is expected to sign a new bill for a 24" minimum on rock fish. Rock fish cannot continue to be harvested at the rate that has been done in the past.

Tom Bannecker, Charter Boat Captain - He believes that any laws that apply to gill netters should also apply to sport fishermen and all other fishermen.

Marland Deen, Charles County Commissioner - He believes the Commissioners have a tremendous responsibility. In looking at the proposed regulations he had a problem with the five day notice for closure. He thought the time was inadequate to allow the media sufficient time for announcement. He believed the river closure should be for only a one year period except from February 15 to April 12. He was in favor of the remainder of the proposals.

David Loveland, D. C. Council on Water Quality - The D. C. Government is working toward improving the quality of the water and is also doing studies.

Edward D. Newton, Attorney from Montross - He opposed the change if it would hurt anyone.

C L O S E P U B L I C H E A R I N G

DAMAGES TO HERON ISLAND OYSTER BAR

Mr. Carpenter reported that the Commission had recently received a check in the amount of \$250.00 as a partial payment for damages to Heron Island oyster bar. This leaves an amount due of \$1,250.00. He said that they had been somewhat delinquent in their payments but usually respond when a telephone reminder is given. The following motion was made by Mr. Pruitt and seconded by Mr. Parran:

THAT THE LEGAL OFFICER WRITE TO C & P TOWING COMPANY REQUESTING PAYMENT OF THE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT. The motion was approved.

OYSTER REPLETION PROGRAM

The seed transplanting portion of the repletion program started in March and by May 123,600 bushels had been planted on seven areas in the middle and lower river. The heavy spring rains reduced the salinity in the upper river such that the seed program was suspended until this fall. We experimented with two loads (3,400 bushels) by planting them in the lower salinity waters at Bluff Point. Weekly samples showed approximately a 50% mortality after 60 days. The seed is being transplanted at a cost of \$.48/bu. plus count and control for a total of \$63,952.00.

The shell planting portion of the program is complete. Area #1 of Jones Shore received 263,800 bushels of reef shells. Four other areas received 409,000 bushels of fresh shells. Reef shells were supplied through Department of Natural Resources' contract at a cost of \$.23/bu. and the fresh shell was supplied by various local packing houses at a cost of \$.38 to \$.39 per bushel, for a total shell cost, including count and control, of \$220,559.18.

POLLUTION RESOLUTION

The Commission's resolution on pollution was re-examined at the last meeting in response to the many complaints on the pollution situation. The 1973 resolution was rewritten and a copy mailed to approximately 400 persons, boards, commissions and councils. Mr. Carpenter reported that the response to this mailing was small, however, the Commissioners received an invitation to visit the Blue Plains Sewage Treatment Plant. Mr. Carpenter toured the plant and he believes Blue Plains has made great strides in improving the quality of sewage treatment, but the plant is plagued with many operational faults.

At 11:20 a.m. the Chairman called a 20 minute recess and the meeting reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

REGULATION CHANGES

Mr. Parran made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Mapp:

THAT REG. III, SECTION 13 BECOME SECTION 13(a) WITH THE TITLE AND WORDING UNCHANGED. The motion was approved.

Reg. III, Section 13(b) - Mr. Parran asked Mr. Hutt for his suggested wording of this regulation. Mr. Hutt recommended adding "whenever it deems it necessary for the preservation of the finfish population in the Potomac River", between the words "Commission" and "may" in the first line. The following motion was made by Mr. Parran and seconded by Mr. Mapp:

TO ADOPT THIS REGULATION, INCLUDING THE SUGGESTED WORDING ABOVE AND REQUIRE A 30 DAY NOTICE OF SUCH OPENING OR CLOSING RATHER THAN THE FIVE DAYS AS ADVERTISED.

Mr. Hutt reminded the Commissioners that a 30 day notice requirement would also apply to reopening the river after a closure. Mr. Zeni asked for comments on what would constitute an emergency situation. Mr. Parran asked Mr. Dunnington to comment on 30 days notice vs. five days. Mr. Dunnington replied that it is a matter of convenience to allow time to disseminate the information for what may be a sudden change in fishing

activity. A fish kill, poor recruitment, or other unforeseen circumstances could be deemed an emergency situation requiring action under this proposed regulation. The legal aspects of species, time, gear or area closures were discussed. Mr. Hutt said that, as presently worded, the regulation would allow any area, gear, time, or species to be closed by a Commission Order. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Reg. III, Section 13(c). Temporary Restrictions on Fishing. Mr. Parran moved to adopt this section as proposed explaining he would not vote for it but his motion was to stimulate discussion. There was no second of the motion. Mr. Hutt suggested establishing the time frame for the restrictions first and then consider the proposals by paragraph number. Several motions were made, amended and withdrawn before Mr. Parran made the following motion seconded by Mr. Mapp:

THAT THE FIRST PARAGRAPH BE APPROVED BY AMENDING THE FIRST SENTENCE OF REG. III, SECTION 13(c) BY STRIKING OUT "1985 AND 1986" AND THAT THE WORDS "FOR THE YEARS 1985 AND 1986" BE ADDED TO THE SECOND SENTENCE THEREOF. A roll call vote recorded unanimous approval.

Mr. Mapp made the following motion seconded by Mr. Zeni:

TO APPROVE PARAGRAPH #4 AS ADVERTISED. A roll call vote recorded unanimous approval.

Mr. Mapp made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Parran:

THAT PARAGRAPH #1 BE APPROVED BY AMENDING THE FIRST SENTENCE TO READ: "IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL TO TAKE AND KEEP IN POSSESSION ANY ROCK FISH CAUGHT WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE POTOMAC RIVER DURING THE PERIODS OF JANUARY 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 15 AND APRIL 1 THROUGH MAY 31." A roll call vote recorded Mr. Browning opposing and all other Commissioners approving. The Chairman ruled the motion approved.

Mr. Parran made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Mapp:

THAT PARAGRAPH #2 BE APPROVED WITH THE TIME PERIODS AMENDED TO CORRESPOND TO THOSE ADOPTED IN PARAGRAPH #1. A roll call vote recorded unanimous approval.

The following motion was made by Mr. Mapp and seconded by Mr. Parran:

THAT PARAGRAPH #3 BE APPROVED BY AMENDING IT TO INCLUDE THE WORD "WEBBING" INSERTED BETWEEN THE WORDS "NET" AND "MAY" ON THE THIRD LINE AND THE TIME PERIODS BE AMENDED TO COMPLIMENT THE ACTION TAKEN ON PARAGRAPH #1 AND #2. A roll call vote recorded unanimous approval.

Mr. Zeni made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Parran:

THAT PARAGRAPH #5 BE APPROVED WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS: THAT "DECEMBER 31, 1986" BE AMENDED TO READ "DECEMBER 31, 1984", THAT "DECEMBER 1986" BE AMENDED TO READ "DECEMBER" AND THE WORDS "YEAR 1987" BE AMENDED TO READ "NEXT SUCCEEDING YEAR" AND, THAT THE SENTENCE "THIS MORATORIUM MAY BE MODIFIED OR EXTENDED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF REG. III, SECTION 13(b) FOR THE YEARS 1985 AND 1986" BE ADDED TO THIS PARAGRAPH. A roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Mr. Parran made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Mapp:

THAT THE PENALTY PROVISIONS BE ADOPTED AS PROPOSED. A roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Mr. Parran made the following motion seconded by Mr. Mapp:

THAT REG. III, SECTIONS 13(a), (b) & (c) AS AMENDED AND ADOPTED TODAY BECOME EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 4, 1983. The motion was approved unanimously.

DISBURSEMENTS & CASH ON HAND

Disbursements for the fourth quarter of FY 82-83 (Apr-Jun) were presented by budget item totaling \$234,387.91. Of this amount \$211,682.77 was for development and repletion expenses. Some of the items exceeded the budgeted amount such as advertising which includes the publishing of the proposed regulation changes. Mr. Parran made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Mapp:

THAT THE FY 82-83 FOURTH QUARTER DISBURSEMENTS OF \$234,387.91 BE APPROVED. The motion was approved.

A statement of cash on hand as of August 3, 1983 was presented by Mr. Carpenter. He noted the amounts reflect receipt of VA's appropriation by FY 83-84.

First VA Bank - Northern Neck:

Checking (includes \$200.00 petty cash)	\$ 4,944.22
Statement savings	13,067.87

Maryland National Bank:

Savings: (for Maryland office)	17,327.18
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Maryland Bank & Trust Co.:

Certificate of Deposit	<u>150,000.00</u>
Grand total in banks	\$185,339.27

SOFT SHELL CLAMS

Mr. Carpenter reviewed the soft shell clam harvest for the period January 1 through July 23, 1983. A total of 2,165 bushels were harvested with the most productive area being Hollis Marsh. Only 612 bushels were caught in the conditionally opened areas. Mr. Carpenter reported the Commission via telephone poll had closed the conditionally opened areas within closed area "D" on July 17, after observing reduced catches and weak and dying clams in that area.

HAND SCRAPE

Mr. Dunnington presented a joint UMCEES & VIMS report regarding the expansion of the current hand scrape area which the Commission had requested at the last meeting. The report presented: (1) the landings of oysters in the hand scrape area from 1963 through 1983 for both tongers and scrapers, (2) the number of bushels of shells planted in that area, (3) the catch per boat per day for the hand scrapes, (4) the natural recruitment (setting) in the hand scrape area and in adjacent upriver areas, and (5) a discussion of data and their conclusions.

The scientists concluded: (1) the harvest by hand scrapes or tongs is related to the volume of shells planted, (2) the hand scrape area, as delineated today, is that area where recruitment is marginal to good, but upriver from that area recruitment is marginal to zero, (3) productivity in the present hand scrape area will largely be limited by the volume of shells planted, and the production of the mid-river area is dependent upon seed plantings, and (4) further extension of the hand scrape area is not recommended at this time since present rehabilitation resources are insufficient to plant the quantity of seed and shells that would be required to sustain the added harvest pressure of the more efficient gear.

Mr. Russell thanked Mr. Dunnington for the report and said they would discuss it in more detail at the next meeting.

CORNFIELD HARBOR

Mr. Russell asked Mr. Carpenter to arrange a meeting with the scientific advisors, repletion officers, and industry representatives to examine the feasibility of selling seed oysters from the Cornfield Harbor area.

OYSTER TAX

Mr. Carpenter stated that Messrs. Roger L. Parks, Thomas B. Dawson and Thomas L. Arnest were delinquent in payment of their oyster tax from the previous season and asked that they be denied the privilege of obtaining future licenses until any amounts of oyster tax were paid in full. Mr. Mapp made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Parran:

THAT MESSRS. PARKS, DAWSON AND ARNEST BE DENIED ANY FUTURE LICENSES UNTIL THEY HAVE PAID ANY TAXES DUE. The motion was approved.

HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Hearing Officer's recommendations concerning 26 persons delinquent in filing the required seafood catch reports was presented. Mr. Russell asked if anyone wished to address the Commission regarding the recommendations. Only the following three persons wished to speak.

Mr. Dwight D. Potter - Appeared and explained that he had not worked in the Potomac during the period in question. His boat had blown up and a house fire had destroyed his catch reports. The following motion was made by Mr. Parran and seconded by Mr. Mapp:

TO ALLOW HIM TO PURCHASE LICENSES AFTER HE HAD FILED ALL CATCH REPORTS. HOWEVER, ON THE FOURTH OFFENSE HE WOULD BE DENIED A LICENSE FOR A PERIOD OF TIME. The motion was approved.

Mr. Glen W. France - Appeared and said his reports had been filed. Mr. Carpenter verified that all of his catch reports had been received after the hearing but were now filed. A motion was made, seconded and approved that no action be taken at this time.

Mr. Thomas L. Arnest - Appeared and stated he was delinquent because he had lost his report book. However, a check had been mailed to cover his tardy submission of oyster tax. Mr. Russell reminded Mr. Arnest that this was not the first such incident and cautioned him against future appearances of this nature. Mr. Pruitt made the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Parran:

THAT MR. ARNEST BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE LICENSES BUT TO OBSERVE COMMISSION REGULATIONS REGARDING SUBMISSION OF CATCH REPORTS IN THE FUTURE. The motion was approved.

The following motion was made by Mr. Parran and seconded by Mr. Mapp:

THAT THE REMAINING 23 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HEARING OFFICER BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. The motion was approved.

HAND SCRAPE

Mr. Daiger asked that hand scraping be placed on the agenda for the next meeting as his association had some proposals they wished to present.

ST. CLEMENTS ISLAND

Mr. Robert T. Brown asked the Commission to investigate a dock proposed for construction at St. Clements Island. This dock will be a hindrance to haul seiners and he asked that the Commission object to the proposed location.

COMPARATIVE SALARIES

August 5, 1983

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>MD</u> <u>(7 steps)</u>	<u>VA</u> <u>(8 steps)</u>	<u>PRFC</u>
Bookkeeper	11,201 - 14,573	11,643 - 15,905	11,214
Secretary	11,934 - 15,559	11,643 - 15,905	10,217
Executive Secretary	28,823 - 37,863	28,397 - 38,781	28,350

SUGGESTED PRFC SALARY GRADE SYSTEM
(7 steps)

<u>PRFC GRADE</u>	<u>STEPS</u>						
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
1	8,247	8,679	9,111	9,543	9,975	10,407	10,841
2	9,807	10,340	10,873	11,406	11,939	12,472	13,007
3	11,422	12,058	12,694	13,330	13,966	14,602	15,239
4	11,788	12,446	13,103	13,761	14,418	15,076	15,733
5	13,782	14,558	15,334	16,111	16,888	17,664	18,441
6	14,293	15,093	15,903	16,708	17,513	18,318	19,123
7	15,500	16,376	17,252	18,128	19,004	19,880	20,755
8	18,943	20,018	21,088	22,158	23,228	24,298	25,368
9	22,307	23,568	24,829	26,090	27,351	28,612	29,873
10	28,610	30,228	31,846	33,465	35,083	36,702	38,322

SUGGESTED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Bookkeeper	Grade 3 - Step 2	(Holbrook - 6 yrs. experience)
Secretary	Grade 4 Step 1	(Daniels - 2 yrs. experience)
Executive Secretary	Grade 10 Step 1	(Carpenter - 9 yrs as Asst. 7 mos. as Exec. Secretary)

NOTES

Maryland system has 20 grades with 7 steps - salaries range from 8,343 to 44,165
 Virginia system has 23 grades with 8 steps - salaries range from 7,460 to 72,358

COMPARATIVE GRADE NUMBERING SYSTEM

PRFC	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MD	3	6	8	9	11	12	13	16	18	21
VA	2	4	6	6	8	8	9	11	13	16

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on October 28, 1983 at the Commission office in Colonial Beach, VA.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Pruitt moved that the Commissioners go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Parran seconded and the motion was approved. At 1:50 p.m. the public meeting was reconvened.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

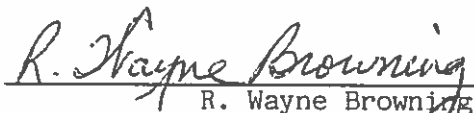
At the request of the Commissioners, Mr. Carpenter had prepared a suggested PRFC salary grade system for Commission employees based on a comparative study of the Maryland and Virginia systems. He also reported on his investigation of health insurance benefits. Any independent system would be expensive and have very limited benefits. Under the current systems in either Maryland or Virginia legislative changes would be required for Commission employees to qualify. Mr. Mapp suggested it may be advisable to seek such changes through the legislature. The suggested salary grade system was discussed in detail. Mr. Mapp made a motion seconded by Mr. Parran as follows:

THAT THE SUGGESTED PRFC SALARY GRADE SYSTEM DATED AUGUST 5, 1983 AND THE SUGGESTED CLASSIFICATION OF THE EMPLOYEES BE ADOPTED EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1983, AND THAT THE SALARIES BE ADJUSTED TO REFLECT THIS CHANGE. The motion was approved unanimously.

At 2:00 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn.



Francis J. Russell
Chairman



R. Wayne Browning
Secretary

*Following this meeting, as a result of a telephone poll, the next meeting date was changed to November 18, 1983