

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION  
COLONIAL BEACH, VIRGINIA  
SEPTEMBER 27, 1990**

**COMMISSIONERS:** John W. Freeman, Sr., Chairman; James W. Peck, Vice-Chairman; William A. Hudnall, John Thomas Parran, and William A. Pruitt. Commissioner Russell was unable to attend.

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

**PRESS:** None registered.

**GUESTS:** Edward M. Frere - Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police; Robert J. Markland, Donald Z. O'Bier, C. E. Clifton, Jr., J. C. Burton, Jr., L. J. Krause, P. H. Crockett, and T. C. Marshall - Virginia Marine Resources Police; William L. Rice - Charles County Watermen's Association; Denzal Chatham, Alfred Chatham, Ivan Evans, Bobby Lewis, Kevin Hundley, William A. Wicker, Kenneth W. D. Wicker, Thomas S. Hall, Sr., Thomas S. Hall, Jr., Joseph Neale and Wayne Balderson.

Chairman Freeman called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and welcomed all those in attendance. He announced that this special meeting was called to review the request by several gill netters to move the October gill net season later in the year because of the unexpected popularity of the sports fishing permits. The Legal Officer stated that there was a quorum present.

#### **REVIEW OF CURRENT FISHERY**

The Executive Secretary reported that the commercial hook and line season opened on September 18th as scheduled. Approximately 70 persons were eligible to apply for the license. They had originally anticipated allowing 2 months to catch the quota of 10,000 pounds, but based on catch information received to date, approximately 11,000 pounds were harvested during the first week of the season. An Order was issued to close the commercial hook and line season effective September 28, 1990.

#### **STATUS OF RECREATIONAL FISHING PERMIT**

The Executive Secretary stated that to date, approximately 21,000 striped bass permits had been processed and he expected the request for permits to continue being received.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF 1990 GILL NET SEASON**

The Executive Secretary reported that the gill netters had requested their first week of fishing (October 8-14) be moved to later in the season. The recreational season will open on October 5 and with the large number of recreational permits issued, the gill netters believed there would be too much activity in the river at that time and would rather wait until the recreational fishery was over so as to lessen the chance of their nets being accidentally damaged by the recreational fishermen.

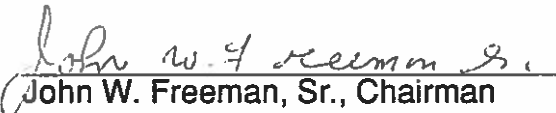
Commissioner Peck questioned the possibility of a conflict with the scheduled November gill net and recreational fisheries. The Executive Secretary replied that he did not see how the recreational season could extend into November with the number of permits issued so far, thus, alleviating any conflict in November.


Mr. Wayne Balderson presented a petition signed by approximately 14 gill netters. Their petition called for a consecutive four week season, beginning November 10 and ending December 10 and allowing each person to license 3 stands. Mr. William L. Rice stated that he had signed the petition but supports the Commission's policy of 2 stands per licensee. However he would like to see a continuous season.

After further discussion, the following motion was made by Mr. Peck and seconded by Mr. Parran:

**"THAT THE 1990 STRIPED BASS GILL NET SEASONS ESTABLISHED IN COMMISSION ORDER #90-2 BE AMENDED SO AS THE 1990 POTOMAC RIVER GILL NET SEASON SHALL BEGIN NOVEMBER 8TH THROUGH 14TH, AND PROVIDED THE QUOTA HAS NOT BEEN REACHED, WILL REOPEN DECEMBER 8TH THROUGH 14TH AND PROVIDED THE QUOTA HAS STILL NOT BEEN REACHED, WILL REOPEN DECEMBER 26TH THROUGH 31ST".** All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion except Mr. Pruitt, who voted nay. The Chairman ruled the motion carried.

It was duly moved, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

  
John W. Freeman, Sr., Chairman

  
Francis J. Russell, Secretary