

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION
COLONIAL BEACH, VIRGINIA
MARCH 15, 1991**

COMMISSIONERS: John W. Freeman, Sr., Chairman; James W. Peck, Vice-Chairman; Francis J. Russell, Secretary; John Thomas Parran, William A. Pruitt and William A. Hudnall.

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

PRESS: Isobel Gough - The Richmond News Leader; Ann Marie Maloney - The Enterprise; and Lawrence Latane - Richmond Times Dispatch.

GUESTS: Elgin Dunnington - Chesapeake Biological Laboratory; Sam Johnson, Richard Daiger - Virginia Extension Service; Major Woody Willing, Captain Edward Frere, Sergeant John F. Mattingly - Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police; Robert J. Markland, Herbert N. Sadler, J. H. Simpson, Lynwood Hogge, A. V. Johnston, Philip Thatch, R. L. Holder, Mark A. Kirkland, John L. Miller, IV, Charles Crocket, Kenneth Oliver - Virginia Marine Resources Police; Butch Cornelius, Robert T. Brown - St. Mary's County Watermen's Association; William L. Rice - Charles County Watermen's Association; Brady Bounds - Maryland Saltwater Sportfisherman's Association; Walter Maddox, William Bowie, III, W. Sanders, Norman Brock, James Willett, Alvin Dudley, Parker Hancock, Alton Hancock, Jim Wilkerson, L. O. McQuillan, Jr., Robert Holden, Eugene Booth, Elgin Nininger, Jr., Dean Nininger, Douglas T. Gray, Joseph C. Boswell, Steven F. Robey, Thomas E. Lewis, Jr., Thomas B. Monahan, Ivan G. Evans, Herbert Hancock, Bill Childers, Walter Parkinson, George Melson, Charles H. Simms, George Perry, Dennis Simms, John D. Burch and several others who did not sign the register.

Chairman Freeman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed all those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

"THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 2, 1990 BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN AND DISTRIBUTED". The motion passed unanimously.

LICENSE FEE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Peck reported that the License Fee Review Committee, with the additional members appointed at the November 2, 1990 meeting, had met and re-evaluated its previous proposal, as the Commission requested. He then read the following recommendations drafted by the Committee.

The general and State specific findings submitted in the November 2, 1990 committee reports continue as valid findings. One additional item was identified, that the current regulations established an April 1 through May 31 open drift gill net season. A season which has been closed to all gill netting since 1983, and no drift gill net licenses have been issued since 1983. Drift gill nets were used primarily to catch shad, which are on a limit of 2 fish per person per day.

The November 2, 1990 recommendation of an additional \$250 harvesters license was reviewed and rejected by the Committee. The Committee further discussed a delayed entry system in light of Maryland's experiences with such a system and the differences between the Potomac and Maryland license systems.

Recommendations:

- Delete drift gill net license provisions (Reg. I, Sec. 2(i)(2)) and its associated season (Reg. III, Sec. 9(4)) and include drift nets under unlawful methods (Reg. III, Sec. 8(a)).

- No changes in current license fees at the present time.
- Implement a 2 year commercial harvesters delayed entry system for all harvester, gear and/or boat type licenses, except anchor/stake gill nets which are already under a limited entry system. Non-harvest license i.e. oyster buyer, crab buyer and charter boat captain would not be included in the delayed entry system.
- Provide for an exchange of one license type for some other license only after the licensee has held the same type of license for a minimum of 3 of the most recent years. The original license would be surrendered and voided before the new license would be issued at full cost. Example, after holding an oyster tonger license for at least 3 years, someone could turn in his oyster license and buy a crab pot license without waiting the 2 year period.
- Exempt any person who applies within one year from date of discharge from active military service.
- Renewal licenses must be purchased within 12 months of the expiration date of the license for which renewal is sought. Otherwise, applications will be considered as "new" and subject to the delayed entry provision.
- Continue the current moratorium on new commercial hook and line licenses until day after the effective date of implementation of the delayed entry system. The provision allowing exchange of licenses will not apply for the first two years after implementation of the system for commercial hook & line licenses.

The Committee discussed the possibility of exempting young persons from the 2 year delay, but does not recommend any exemption other than those noted above.

Committee Members

William P. Jensen (Absent)
Jack Travelstead
J. Clifford Hutt
James W. Peck
William A. Hudnall
William Rice (Absent)
Edward Gaskins (Absent)
A. C. Carpenter

Mr. Peck reported that a limited entry program is already in effect in Maryland and is highly successful at preventing sudden shifts in effort for any particular species.

Mr. Butch Cornelius noted that no watermen from St. Mary's County served on this Committee. Mr. Robert T. Brown stated that the watermen realize that a change is needed in the Potomac's license structure and that they would like to present a copy of the recommendations proposed here today to the St. Mary's County Waterman's Association for comments before the Commission votes on this issue.

The Legal Officer pointed out that the License Fee Review Committee presented these recommendations to the Commission for consideration. However, before any action could be taken, formal regulations would have to be drafted and public hearings held, as in any other regulation change considered by the Commission.

The Chairman asked the Watermans' representatives or any individual to forward their comments on today's report to the Executive Secretary for distribution to the Commissioners as soon as possible.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Robert T. Brown asked the Commission to consider the appointment of a committee to be chaired by a working waterman and consist of watermen representing each county along the Potomac and such other scientific and/or staff members as the Commission would deem necessary, to review and advise the Commission on matters concerning fisheries in the Potomac. Mr. Brown stated that he felt the watermen "needed more control over their own destiny".

After discussions regarding selection and number of members, the following motion was made by Mr. Pruitt and seconded by Mr. Peck:

"THAT THE LEGAL OFFICER AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY DRAFT STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MAY 1991 COMMISSION MEETING." The motion passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORT ON 1990 STRIPED BASS FISHERIES

The following information, received from the ASMFC, spelled out commercial striped bass landings estimates for 1990 by state.

State	Landings	ASMFC Cap
ME	X	X
NH	X	X
MA	150,000	232,000
RI	1,000	35,000
CT	X	X
NY	85,00	128,000
NJ	<1,000 *	80,000 *
DE	7,000	34,000
PA	X	X
MD	133,000	344,000
PRFC	168,000	158,000
VA	211,000 +	211,000
DC	X	X
NC	10,000	96,000
TOTAL	766,000	1,318,000

X No commercial fishery
* "Trophy fishery" 20 lbs

Mr. Carpenter noted that on a coastwide basis the total commercial harvest was approximately 766,000 pounds while the recreational anglers harvested approximately 2,250,000. He also noted the PRFC was the only jurisdiction to report exceeding their commercial cap.

The Commission reviewed the following report which will be formally presented to the ASMFC this Spring:

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION
1990 STRIPED BASS HARVEST REPORT

Twenty percent of the 1970's average commercial harvest for the Potomac was 158,619 pounds. The Potomac River Fisheries Commission established target harvest caps for each major gear type. The recreational fishery, because the creel limit was in excess of that allowed in the PLAN, had established target harvest caps. This cap was calculated to be 45% of the commercial cap. It too was subdivided into the individual and charter fisheries.

Table 1 - Comparison of the proposed seasons and target harvest versus the actual length of seasons and the actual harvest for the 1990 Potomac River Striped Bass fishery.

TABLE 1

Gear	Target Cap in Pounds	Proposed Maximum Length of Season	Actual Length of Season	Actual Catch in Pounds	Actual Over/Under Target (%)
COMMERCIAL					
Hook & Line	10,000	43 days	11 days	**25,877	
Haul Seine	800	70 days	1 day	1,207	
Fyke Net	200	70 days	46 days	170	
Pound Net	35,000	*21 days	21 days	30,755	
Gill Net	110,000	20 days	14 days	111,051	
Unallocated	2,619				
Sub-Total	158,619			169,060	+6%
RECREATIONAL					
Individual					
Hook & Line	57,000	45 days	13 days	**62,577	
Charter Boat	14,000	45 days	13 days	**18,204	
Unallocated	381				
Sub-Total	71,381			80,781	+13%
(45% of Commercial)					
Combined Totals	230,000			249,841	+9%
ASMFC Calculated Hook and Release Mortality				19,732	
Total Potomac River Harvest and Mortality				269,573	

*Pound Netters also had individual limits in addition to season limitation.
** Contributing to the 18.5% Hook and Release mortality

Commercial Data - The Potomac River Fisheries Commission's mandatory seafood catch reporting system was modified this year from monthly to weekly reporting periods in an effort to increase the accuracy of the information and to provide more timely information. Timely estimates were needed to allow for closure when particular gear types approached its targeted cap. The reports provide information by month, by area, by gear and by the size of fish, as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Commercial landings by month, by area, by gear type and by reported sized for 1990 Potomac River commercial Striped Bass fishery.

TABLE 2					
BY MONTH	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Pounds	27,084	9,761	72,880	59,335	169,060
%	16	6	43	35	100
BY AREA	Upper	Upper	Lower	Lower	TOTAL
Pounds	147	Middle 35,887	Middle 84,226	48,800	169,060
%	< 1	21	50	29	100
BY GEAR	Hook & Line	Pound Net	Gill Net	Misc.	TOTAL
Pounds	25,877	30,755	111,051	1377	169,060
%	15	18	66	1	100
BY SIZE	Mixed	18" - 6 lbs.	6 lbs. & up		TOTAL
Pounds	82,108	84,120	2,832		169,060
%		97	3		100

Samples of the 1990 harvest were analyzed with regard to age, size and sex. Representative samples from the gill net fishery were transported to VIMS for analysis. Results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 - Age, sex, average length and weight of striped bass harvest from 1990 Potomac River Striped Bass fishery.

TABLE 3					
AGE		6 Years	5 Years	4 Years	3 Years
Year Class		1984	1985	1986	1987
MALES					
Number		-	5	10	1
%		-	31.25	62.5	6.25
Avg. Length		-	23.7	20.8	18.8
Avg. Weight		-	5.3	3.8	2.9
FEMALES					
Number		1	2	4	-
%		14.3	28.6	57.4	-
Avg. Length		28.1	22.2	21.0	-
Avg. Weight		7.5	4.3	3.9	-
SEXES COMBINED					
Number		1	7	14	1
%		4.35	30.44	60.9	4.35
Avg. Length		28.1	23.2	20.9	18.8
Avg. Weight		7.5	5.0	3.9	2.9

DRAFT 1991 GEAR SPECIFIC STRIPED BASS FISHERY PROPOSALS

Mr. Carpenter read the following Staff Recommendations which were presented as guidelines for the 1991 Striped Bass Fishery.

Commercial Hook and Line

- Maximum number of licenses available: 68
- Quota: 10,000 pounds
- Pounds per licensee = 147 per season
- Suggested season: Tuesdays and Thursdays during September = 8 days or until quota is reached.
- Daily limit no more than 50 pounds per licensee per day
- Season limit no more than 200 pounds per licensee per season (Note: 200 pounds x 68 fishermen = 13,600 pounds but would require each of the 68 fishermen to limit out in the first four days)

Haul Seine

No maximum number of licenses available
 Quota: 800 pounds
 Pounds per licensee = unknown
 Suggested season: Same as Commercial Hook and Line
 Seasonal limit per license = $800 / \# \text{ of licenses issued by July 1, 1991}$ (Currently 8 licenses issued which equals 100 pounds per license)

Fyke Net

No maximum number of licenses available
 Quota: 200 pounds
 Pounds per licensee = unknown
 Suggested season: Same as Commercial Hook and Line
 Seasonal limit per license (or net) = $200 / \# \text{ of licenses issued by July 1, 1991}$
 (Currently 40 licenses issued which equals 5 pounds per net)

Pound Net

No maximum number of licenses available
 Quota: 35,000 pounds
 Pounds per licensee (or net) = unknown
 Suggested season: September 30 - October 4, 1991
 November 4 - 8, 1991
 December 2 - 6, 1991
 No daily limit
 Seasonal limit per license = $35,000 / \# \text{ of pound nets set and fished during "open" weeks}$. Would also require each netter to apply for quota. (Currently 75 pound nets licensed which equals 467 pounds per net)

Recreational

Individual daily creel limit: 1 fish per person
 Season: 10 days - August 30 (Friday) - September 8 (Sunday)
 11 days - October 4 (Friday) - October 14 (Monday)
 10 days - November 1 (Friday) - November 10 (Sunday)
 31 days

Special Permit: Needed for each individual between 16 and 65 years of age and fishing from the shore and/or piers. Needed only for the captain (operator) of each boat. The Captain will be responsible for recording the entire catch for all persons aboard his/her boat.

Charter Boat

Season: Same as Recreational
 Creel Limit: Same as Recreational

Gill Net

1991 Season closed February 12, 1991 after yearly quota was reached. The following gill net proposals would be for 1992. Specifics should be delayed until ASMFC announces changes, if any, for 1992 quotas. However, several general conditions would be recommended such as: Allow nets to be set only after 8:00 a.m. on Mondays and removed by 4:00 p.m. Fridays; require the licensee to be in the boat when nets are set, fished or removed; establish an appropriate seasonal maximum per licensee and provide for automatic season closure each Friday unless specifically extended by Commission Order.

1992 Season: February 3 - 7, 1992

and may be continued on February 10 - 14, 1992, if announced
 and may be continued on February 17 - 21, 1992, if announced
 and may be continued on February 24 - 28, 1992, if announced
 and may be continued on November 9 - 13, 1992, if announced
 and may be continued on December 7 - 11, 1992, if announced

The Executive Secretary noted that at this time, neither Maryland nor Virginia has proposed any recreational seasons for this fall. He recommended that Maryland and the Potomac have as similar a season structure as possible for the recreational fishery to avoid major shifts in effort against the species.

Mr. Bob Holden requested the Commission consider allowing the Commercial Hook and Liners be allowed to have an unlicensed helper aboard their vessel.

1991 ROCKFISH STUDY GROUP

The Chairman reactivated the 1989 Rockfish Study Group asking them to review the staff proposal and to make their recommendations at the next scheduled quarterly Commission meeting. He then named Mr. Brady Bounds to replace Mr. Charles Mason and Phil Jones to replace Dr. George Krantz. Mr. Bill Goldsborough was invited to attend as an observer.

EVALUATION OF "BOTTLE FISHING" TECHNIQUE

The Executive Secretary reported that at the request of several watermen, the Commission authorized the issuance of several experimental use permits for "bottle fishing" at its April 25, 1989 meeting. Since then, permits have been issued to four individuals for the months of October through March.

The catch has been primarily catfish, but other species have occasionally been observed. During the past two seasons no adverse comments or situations have come to our attention. It appears this gear will have limited impact but may be a locally useful supplemental source of income for some fishermen. He recommended this gear be incorporated into the fish trot line license, with limitations and restrictions imposed by regulations such as were imposed under the experimental permits.

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

"THAT THE COMMISSION ADVERTISE REGULATION CHANGES NECESSARY TO INCORPORATE "BOTTLE FISHING" AS A LEGAL FISHERY WITHIN THE FISH TROT LINE LICENSE REGULATIONS AND THAT IT BE RESTRICTED AS IT WAS UNDER THE EXPERIMENTAL USE PERMIT. FURTHER, SUCH ADVERTISEMENT SHOULD OCCUR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NEXT AVAILABLE PUBLIC HEARING FOR REGULATION CHANGES". The motion passed unanimously.

GILL NET MORATORIUM

The Executive Secretary, referring to the procedure for removing the gill net moratorium which was adopted at their August 17, 1990 meeting, reported that there had been approximately 24 locations issued since the procedure began on March 4. At present there are still 219 locations available with only 3 working days left for priority to be given to prior licensees to reclaim locations they held between 1983 and 1989, so it appeared as though there would be some locations available to new gill net fishermen on March 21.

The Commission requested the Executive Secretary keep a list containing the name and address of those persons present on March 21st who wished to secure a location after the maximum number have been issued. The Commission specifically stated that this list in no way entitled the individual to anything, it was just a way of documenting their presence.

Mr. Butch Cornelius recommended the Commission abandon their fixed location system and allow only drift gill nets. The Legal Officer responded that the Commission has to step very lightly in any action it may take which will affect the striped bass and did not recommend supporting Mr. Cornelius' recommendation.

FIRST QUARTER DISBURSEMENTS AND STATEMENT OF CASH ON HAND

A report of the second quarter (October - December 1990) disbursements was presented by budget item which totaled \$50,982.21. The Executive Secretary noted no unusual expenditures. A statement of cash on hand as of March 13, 1991 was presented as follows:

<u>First Virginia Bank - Northern Neck:</u>	\$46,757.68
Checking (includes \$200.00 Petty Cash)	
<u>First National Bank of Maryland:</u>	23,771.42
Savings: (Maryland Office)	
<u>Maryland National Bank:</u>	100,000.00
Certificate of Deposit	
<u>Peoples Bank of Montross:</u>	100,000.00
Certificate of Deposit	
<u>Virginia Local Government Investment Pool:</u>	46,670.33
<u>Maryland Local Government Investment Pool:</u>	44,959.12
GRAND TOTAL IN BANKS:	\$362,158.55

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

"THAT THE SECOND QUARTER DISBURSEMENTS OF \$50,982.21 BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED". The motion passed unanimously.

CRAB HARVEST REPORT

A preliminary (April through December) report on the 1990 crab landings showed a total of 126,746 bushels of hard crabs and 49,006 pounds of peelers had been harvested from the Potomac. This compares with the 1989 harvest of 131,035 bushels of hard crabs and 42,740 pounds of peelers. Mr. Carpenter noted that the report generally shows the number of crabbers decreased while the average number of pots being fished per crabber has increased over the last five years.

CLAM HARVEST REPORT

A 1990 Soft Shell Clam harvest report was presented. It showed a total harvest of 2,799 bushels with an average catch rate of 1.40 bushels per hour. In addition, a report on the Razor Clam harvest was also presented, it showed a total harvest of 2,431 bushels of razor clams with an average catch rate of 6.66 bushels per hour.

SOFT SHELL CLAM COMMITTEE

Mr. Butch Cornelius questioned the Commission regarding their appointment of a Soft Shell Clam Committee. Chairman Freeman appointed the following members which were read aloud by Commissioner Russell.

2 PRFC Commissioners

1. John Thomas Parran - Maryland
2. William A. Pruitt - Virginia

2 Clammers

1. James Lathroum, President St. Mary's Clammers Association
2. John F. Tucker Brown

1 Oysterman

1. Roger Hill, Virginia Tonger, member of Oyster Repletion Committee

1 Crabber

1. William Rice, President, Charles County Waterman's Association

2 Law Enforcement

1. Edward Frere - Maryland
2. Donald O'Bier - Virginia

2 Scientists

1. Elgin Dunnington - Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
2. Roy Scott - Maryland Department of Natural Resources

2 PRFC Staff

1. Clifford Hutt - Legal Officer
2. A. C. Carpenter - Executive Secretary

12 Members

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, 1990 through March 14, 1991. The total harvest thus far is 67,050 bushels and the average catch per tonger was 4.24 bushels per day. The report also showed a slight increase in the number of tongers and hand scrapers.

1991 OYSTER REPLETION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Secretary presented the following report of the 1991 Oyster Repletion Committee.

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| I. | Estimated Funds Available for Spring 1991 Program | \$120,000 |
| II. | Cost Estimates for 1991 | |
| | Fresh Shell | 45 cents/bu. |
| | Reef Shell | Not Available |
| | Seed - Jones Shore | Not Available |
| | VMRC Piankatank River Shell | \$1.85 to \$3.44/bu. |
| | James River Shell | \$6.00/bu. |

III. Staff Committee Recommendations

1. Allocate up to \$20,000 for the purchase of seed oysters from either the Piankatank River or the James River as an experimental planting of diseased seed. The Piankatank source would more closely resemble Jones Shore and is therefore the preferred source. It would also be cheaper.

The planting would be in the Colonial Beach area on the Virginia side. Both Monroe Bay and Rosiers Creek have been planted recently with seed from the James. By keeping the experimental planting on the same area we would hope to reduce any possible additional spread of the disease. The planting would be monitored each August and November for disease, growth and mortality.

2. Balance of funds would be used for fresh shell planting on Jones Shore.
3. Oysters above the Rt. 301 bridge should not be transplanted.
4. With the very limited funds available this year, do not attempt any bagless dredging.

IV. Industry Committee Recommendations

1. Use \$20,000 for purchase of seed from the VMRC Piankatank River shell planting as an experimental planting in the Colonial Beach area as proposed by Staff Committee in recommendation #1. (10,800 bushels)
2. Use \$50,000 for purchase of James River seed and plant it on Church Point Bar. James River Seed is currently being planted in Monroe Bay adjacent to Church Point and is doing very well. (8,300 bushels)
3. Use \$50,000 for purchase of fresh shell for equal planting on Great Neck and Kitts Point (55,000 bushels on each bar).
4. Extend oyster season for two weeks for any person who holds a valid oyster license issued before March 1, 1991. During this extension any qualified person could hand scrape Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. till noon in the area down stream of a line drawn between the Cross on St. Clements Island and Hollis Marsh. Any area worked extensively under this proposal should be monitored for spat fall.

Mr. Carpenter reminded the Commission that these recommendations to transplant seed oysters was counter to, and if adopted would change a policy adopted in 1987 that this Commission would not move any diseased seed. However, two Virginia creeks off of the Potomac are currently being planted with seed from the James River.

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

"THAT THE COMMISSION ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS 1, 2 AND 3 MADE BY THE INDUSTRY COMMITTEE". The motion passed unanimously.

HAND SCRAPING

Mr. Hutt ruled that the Commission's regulations prevented it from giving any longer the right to hand scrape without a hand scrape license. After much discussion regarding Recommendation #4 made by the Industry Committee, the following motion was made by Mr. Pruitt and seconded by Mr. Parran:

"THE COMMISSION DECLARE THAT AN EMERGENCY EXISTS AND EXTEND THE HAND SCRAPING SEASON THROUGH APRIL 12, 1991 FOR ANYONE WHO HOLDS A VALID HAND SCRAPING LICENSE. ALSO, THAT THE COMMISSION EXTEND THE AREA FOR HANDSCRAPING UPSTREAM TO AND INCLUDING HERON ISLAND OYSTER BAR ON THE MARYLAND SIDE AND UPSTREAM TO AND INCLUDING KING COPSICO OYSTER BAR ON THE VIRGINIA SIDE, SAID ADDITIONAL AREA TO OPEN APRIL 1 THROUGH APRIL 12, 1991. The motion passed unanimously.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

The Executive Secretary stated that the Commission's NEC P2 Pinwriter printer with a cut sheet feeder, purchased in 1984 was inoperative and had been replaced. Also, the Commission was in possession of a broken IBM Selectric typewriter which had been purchased in 1967. He requested these items be declared surplus.

The following motion was made by Mr. Pruitt and seconded by Mr. Russell:

"THAT THE NEC P2 PINWRITER PRINTER WITH CUT SHEET FEEDER AND THE IBM SELECTRIC TYPEWRITER BE DECLARED SURPLUS PROPERTY AND THAT THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BE DIRECTED TO DISPOSE OF SAID SURPLUS EQUIPMENT IN A MANNER HE DEEMS APPROPRIATE". The motion passed unanimously.

PERCH FISHERY

William Rice requested the Commission look into regulating a winter perch fishery. He felt it was a viable alternative for commercial watermen.

BAGLESS DREDGING

Mr. Robert T. Brown noted that the St. Mary's County watermen would like to do some bagless dredging on a piece of ground on the outside edge of Sheepshead Bar at no cost to the Commission. After further discussion, the following motion was made by Mr. Peck and seconded by Mr. Russell:

"THAT THE COMMISSION ALLOW THE ST. MARY'S COUNTY WATERMAN'S ASSOCIATION TO BAGLESS DREDGE AN AREA ON THE OUTSIDE EDGE OF SHEEPSHEAD BAR, AT NO COST TO THE COMMISSION. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION OFFICE MUST BE NOTIFIED AT LEAST FIVE (5) DAYS PRIOR TO ANY WORK BEING ATTEMPTED, AND ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE FOR A LAW ENFORCEMENT OBSERVER TO BE PRESENT. The motion passed unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman Freeman called for the report of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Parran, reporting for the Committee, nominated Mr. Peck as Chairman, Mr. Hudnall as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Russell as Secretary for 1991. There being no other nominations, Mr. Parran moved the election of the officer by acclamation. Mr. Pruitt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF FY 1991-92 BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chairman Freeman appointed Commissioners Parran and Hudnall to serve as the Budget Committee for fiscal year 1991-92 and requested they make their report at the May 1991 Commission meeting.

HEARING FOR THOMAS LARRY CROWDER, JR.

The Executive Secretary reported that pursuant to Reg. III 13(c), anyone late in filing catch reports for their pound net catch automatically had their license suspended. The Commission did not receive three of Mr. Thomas Larry Crowder, Jr.'s pound net catch reports on time, therefore, his license had been suspended. After much discussion, the following motion was made by Mr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Hudnall:

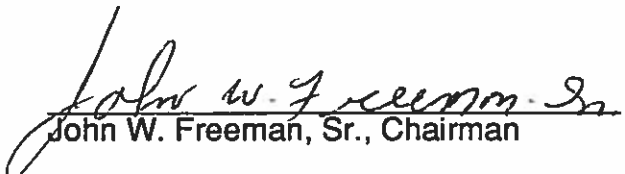
"THAT THOMAS LARRY CROWDER JR.'S POUND NET LICENSE BE REINSTATED". The motion passed unanimously.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission was scheduled for Friday, May 31, 1991 at 9:30 a.m. in Colonial Beach at the Commission Office.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Mr. Pruitt and seconded by Mr. Parran to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m.


John W. Freeman, Sr., Chairman


Francis J. Russell, Secretary