

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Colonial Beach, Virginia
January 15, 1999**

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

Officers: Kirby A. Carpenter – Executive Secretary, J. Clifford Hutt and Michael C. Mayo – Legal Counsel.

Others Present: Ellen Cosby – Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Dr. Eileen M. Setzler-Hamilton – CBL, UMCES, Col. Steve Bowman – VMRC Law Enforcement, Mark Sanders, Garland Nixon – MdDNR Law Enforcement, Dr. Herb Austin, Chris Hager – VIMS, Jim Drummond, James Bowling, John Dean, Marvin Louis Harley- Finfish Advisory Committee, Douglas Jenkins, Sr. – Twin River Waterman's Group, Richard Daiger, Robert T. Brown, Art Mercilliot, Chuck Hayden, Donald Wheeler, Truitt Shook, Les Campagne, Frank Beau, F. J. Pilkerton, Kenneth Cumberland, Robert Dade and several others who did not sign the register.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Commissioner Parran provided an invocation.

Consideration of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Parran and seconded by Commissioner White to approve the minutes of November 20, 1998 as written and distributed. The motion passed.

Legal Officer's Report on Oyster Cull Law Review

The Legal Officer noted the Compact provides a prescribed manner to change regulations. The use of Commission Orders is and has been limited to emergency situations and those items requiring frequent changes and often on short notice from the ASMFC. He recommended that we continue to change the oyster cull laws in accordance with the Compact. Without objection the Chairman accepted the Legal Officer's recommendation.

Status of Pre-Payable Fine Schedule

The Legal Officer reported the Supreme Court of Virginia has issued a ruling, effective February 1, 1999, granting the Commission's request to include our fine schedule, adopted pursuant to Regulation I, Section 6(b) on the list of acceptable pre-payable fines used by the Virginia District Courts. The Executive Secretary noted that the Commission had already set, adopted, and approved the complete fine schedule.

Douglas F. Jenkins, Sr.

Mr. Douglas F. Jenkins, Sr. stated that following the last meeting he had reviewed his records and believes the Commission records cited at the that meeting were inaccurate. He had two letters, one from Mr. Wilkerson stating that he fished with him during 1982 and one from Mr. Bosenworth that he fished with him in 1984. Mr. Jenkins stated, for the record, that the last couple of years before the moratorium that he did renew his license he did not fish because of health reasons. He said that his tax returns showed he had spent money on licenses in 1982 and 1983. The letters and tax returns were not submitted into the record.

Financial Reports

A report on the second quarter (October 1 through December 31, 1998) disbursements by budget item was presented totaling \$132,712.39. No unusual expenditures were reported, however, the Executive Secretary noted the increase in revenue from license sales was the direct result of the fee increases adopted last year.

A report of cash on hand as of January 15, 1999 was presented as follows:

First Virginia Bank (Checking – includes \$400 petty cash)	\$ 72,857.72
Nations Bank (Savings – DNR License Sales)	8,226.35
Virginia Local Government Investment Pool	283,904.62
Maryland Local Government Investment Pool	<u>279,725.61</u>
	\$644,714.30

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

“That second quarter disbursements of \$132,712.39 be approved as presented.”

Crab Harvest Report

A preliminary report on 1998 Potomac River crab landings during April through November was presented which showed a total of 129,303 bushels of hard crabs and 86,862 pounds of peelers harvested in the Potomac. He noted the hard crab harvest was well below the record setting 1997 harvest but if you average the last three years you are still above the long-term average. He also noted that number of pots being set and the number of boats working has increased.

The Executive Secretary reported that he and Commissioners Pruitt, White and Taylor-Rogers attended the Bi-State Blue Crab meeting in Annapolis, Maryland on January 7, 1999 and nothing was presented at that meeting that would result in any changes in regulation for the upcoming year.

Oyster Harvest Report

A preliminary oyster harvest report was presented which showed the amount of tax collected, licenses sold and oyster harvest by bar and gear for the period of October 1 through January 8, 1999. Tongers (61 boats) reported 2,116 bushels while hand scrapers (114 boats) reported 8,286 bushels for a total reported harvest thus far of 10,402 bushels.

The Executive Secretary noted that handscraping has been the predominant source of oysters this year with Cornfield Harbor, Jones Shore and Ragged Point leading the production. The average catch is 3 bushels per man whether working by handscrape or by tongs.

Finfish Advisory Committee Report

Jim Drummond presented a summary of actions taken at the Finfish Advisory Committee meeting held on January 4, 1999.

1999 Striped Bass Seasons and Limits – Several variations on season dates were discussed. Motions were made, seconded and approved to recommend the following striped bass seasons for 1999.

Recreational & Charter (unanimous)			
Spring – Below 301 Bridge	April 24 - May 15	28” min	1 fish with permit
Fall – Below WW Bridge	July 1 – Dec. 31	18” min.	2 fish w/o permit
Pound Net (8 yes, 1 no, 2 abstentions)			
	Feb. 15 – March 25	18” min. – 28” max.	
	June 1 – Dec. 15	18” min.	
Misc. Gear – Haul Seine, Fyke Net, Fish Pot, Fish Trot Line (9 yes, 2 abstentions)			
	Feb. 15 – March 25	18” min. – 28” max	
	June 1 – Dec. 15	18” min.	
Commercial Hook & Line (10 yes, 1 abstention)			
	Feb. 15 – March 25	18” min. – 28” max.	
	June 1 – Dec. 31	18” min.	
Gill Net (10 yes, 1 abstention)			
	Jan. 12 – March 25	18” min.	
	Nov. 2 – Dec. 31	18” min.	

ASMFC Issues – The Committee recommended the following:

Bluefish - to remove the 8” minimum size limit and maintain the 10 fish creel limit (7 yes, 3 no, 1 abstention).

Atlantic Croaker – to remove the 10” minimum size limit and maintain the creel limit (9 yes, 2 abstentions).

Black Sea Bass – to increase the minimum size limit to 10” (9 yes, 2 abstentions).

Summer flounder – debated 3 options and voted for a 2 fish daily creel limit and maintain the 15” min. size limit and no season restrictions (unanimous).

Striped Bass Tags - It was requested that striped bass tags issued to an individual be useable with any gear licensed to that individual and not be restricted to the particular gear type for which they were issued. No motion was made on this issue.

Menhaden – Jim Drummond reported that he had attended the board meeting in Alexandria, VA on January 11, 1999. They had produced a peer review document at the meeting but no other action was taken.

Fish Trot Line – Louis Harley had talked about the trot line being changed from a personal to a gear license in addition to an increase in license fees. There was some discussion and then Mr. Carpenter suggested setting up a sub-committee to discuss the issues and the Committee concurred.

Committee Membership - The chairman noted a number of the members terms were expiring and asked if any new persons were interested in serving, or current members wishing to be re-appointed, they should to get in touch with him or the staff.

1999 Commercial Striped Bass Seasons

The Executive Secretary presented a draft of Order 99-03, which would establish the 1999 striped bass seasons. He noted that the advisory committee’s recommendations for additional time for the pound nets, commercial hook and line and miscellaneous gear was February 15 through March 25, where the staff’s recommendation was from March 1 through March 25, both with a 28” maximum size limit on those gears. The gill nets would not have a maximum size limit because they are limited to a 7” maximum mesh size. He pointed out that over 80 % of the quota was harvested last year (725,000 lbs. of the 880,000 lbs. quota), and reported 15,000 unused tags were returned and 6,000 tags were still outstanding, noting that if all the tags had been used, we would have exceeded the quota. He was concerned about adding the additional time and gears because it could possibly put us over the commercial quota, which would require us to reduce next year’s quota by the overage, and may adversely, impact the markets.

After further discussion on this issue, a motion was made by Commissioner Pruitt, seconded by Commissioner Kellam and unanimously approved to adopt Order #99-03 as recommended by the Finfish Advisory Committee and therefore to read as follows:

ORDER #99-03
(Replaces #99-01)
1999 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:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

<u>Gear</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Size Limit</u>
1) Commercial Hook and Line:	February 15 through March 25, 1999 and June 1 through December 31, 1999	18” min. / 28” max. 18” min.
2) Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25, 1999 and June 1 through December 15, 1999	18” min. / 28” max. 18” min.
3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine, Fyke Net, Fish Pot and Fish Trot Line Only)	February 15 through March 25, 1999 and June 1 through December 15, 1999	18” min./ 28” max. 18” min.
4) Gill Net:	January 12 through March 25, 1999 and November 2 through December 31, 1999	18” min./ no max 18” min.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: 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: this Order #99-03 shall become effective February 15, 1999, shall supersede and repeal Order # 99-01 and remain in effect until further notice.

The staff proposed to give the commercial hook and line fishermen additional striped bass identification tags stating that in the past they have consistently under caught their quota because, we believe, they were waiting to use their tags on the bigger fish. With this proposal the commercial hook and line fishermen will be encouraged to keep the smaller fish. Mr. Robert Dale, speaking as a person who could not get a license, suggested that instead of increasing the number of tags per fishermen increase the number of fishermen.

Commissioner Parran said he has received many calls and questions about this license particular license over the years since it has become a limited entry license. He felt increasing the number of licenses available was appropriate and was willing to propose such. The Executive Secretary stated that we could increase the number of licenses however, he suggested giving the Advisory Committee an opportunity to review it first. He reminded the Commission of incidents that had happened in the past and suggested setting up a plan of action.

Commissioner White made the following motion:

“To postpone this issue until next meeting”

The Legal Officer stated that we needed to make it so that everyone has a fair chance to get a license. He agreed that it should be sent it back to the committee to get their recommendations.

Commissioner White withdrew his previous motion, which had not been seconded.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Pruitt, seconded by Commissioner Kellam and unanimously passed:

“That Commissioner White’s and Parran’s proposal, to increase the number of commercial hook and line licenses issued, be sent to the Advisory Committee for further study and a report be brought to the Commission.”

Commissioner Parran stated that he was concerned about the number of absences on the Finfish Advisory Committee asking if there was anything that the Commission could do to help. Mr. Drummond stated that there are vacancies that need to be filled and that he had already spoken to staff about this.

1999 Recreational and Charter Striped Bass Seasons and Restrictions

A motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved to adopt Order #99-04 as recommended by the Finfish Advisory Committee and therefore to read as follows:

O R D E R #99-04 1999 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER STRIPED BASS SEASONS AND RESTRICTIONS

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, 10 and 13(b), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

<u>Spring Season:</u>	Dates:	April 24, 1999 through May 16, 1999
	Open Area:	Downstream of Harry W. Nice Bridge (Rt.301)
	Creel Limit:	One (1) fish per person per day
	Minimum Size Limit:	Twenty-eight (28) inches total length
	Bait Restrictions:	No live eel. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.
	Special Permit:	A validated spring permit is required for each boat

Summer/Fall Season:Dates: July 1 through December 31, 1999

Open Area:	Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I95)
Creel Limit:	Two (2) fish per person per day
Minimum Size Limit:	Eighteen (18) inches total length
Bait Restrictions:	None
Special Permit:	None

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #99-04 shall become effective February 15, 1999, shall supersede and repeal Order #98-13, and remain in effect until further notice.

1999 Recreational and Charter Fishing Season, Size and Catch Limits

The Executive Secretary reported that the proposed recreational black sea bass size limit changed from 9” to 10” is an ASMFC/MAFMC mandated item. He also reported that the State of Maryland was concerned about the proposed elimination of the size limit on the Atlantic croaker. The staff had proposed the elimination of the size limit so that we could be uniform with at least one of the two states. Maryland has changed their regulation several times over the past few years, there is no minimum size limit required under the ASMFC plan, and therefore the staff recommends being uniform with the State of Virginia. The State of Maryland strongly encourages and supports the adoption of a 9” size limit and the 25 fish creel limit on the croaker. They have also assured us, as best they can, that they would maintain consistent regulation.

The new ASMFC/MAFMC Bluefish Management Plan Addendum that has been adopted with no size limit on bluefish, Virginia has no minimum size limit and Maryland has an 8” minimum size limit. Staff proposes to eliminate the 8” size limit on bluefish.

The Executive Secretary reported that the Summer Flounder Board had met with the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council in a joint meeting yesterday. The PRFC advisory committee had reviewed the information available at the time of their meeting on summer flounder. They were presented 3 options and based on the information given to the committee, they are recommending the 2 fish creel limit, 15” size limit and no season restrictions. The staff would support and encourage the Commission to have the same recreational regulations on summer flounder as Maryland has in the Chesapeake Bay. The staff recommendation was for 3 fish creel limit, 15” minimum size limit and an April 16th opening date. The Finfish Advisory Committee recommendation was for a 2 fish creel limit, year round fishery. However, Jim Drummond stated that if they had the option of a 15” minimum size limit, 4 fish creel limit and a May 1st opening date, he felt very strongly that the committee would have endorsed that option.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Rice, seconded by Commissioner Pruitt and unanimously approved to adopt Order #99-05 as follows:

ORDER 99-05
1999 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER
FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH 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, Sections 9, 10, 11, and 13(b), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter 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>
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No Limit	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	March 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	10" min.	No limit
Bluefish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No Limit	10 per person
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
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min.	5 fish with
		27" max.	1 over 27"
Shad (American or Hickory)	-----C L O S E D-----		
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person

Striped Bass	-----PUBLISHED SEPARATELY-----		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	-----CLOSED-----		
Summer flounder	May 1 - Dec. 31	15" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
White perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	5 per person

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #99-05 shall become effective February 15, 1999, shall supersede and repeal Order #98-09, and remain in effect until further notice.

1999 Commercial Fishing Season, Size and Catch Limits

A motion was made by Commissioner Pruitt, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved to adopt Order #99-06 as follows:

**ORDER 99-06
1999 COMMERCIAL
FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH 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, Sections 9, 10, 11, and 13(b), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS** that commercial 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>
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	None	No limit
-----CLOSED-----			
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1
Black Sea Bass*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	10" min.	No limit
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	None	No limit
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
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. 27" max.	5 fish with 1 over 27"
-----CLOSED-----			
Shad (American or Hickory)			
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	Published Separately	Published Separately	Published Separately
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	-----CLOSED-----		
Summer flounder*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Tautog	Jan 1. - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish	July 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	No limit
White perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, 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: this Order #99-06 shall become effective February 15, 1999, shall supersede and repeal Order #98-10, and remain in effect until further notice.

1999 Commercial Striped Bass Catch Limits and Restrictions

The Executive Secretary stated that we (MD, VA and PRFC) had proposed a bay-wide increase in the commercial and recreational quotas for striped bass, which was denied at the ASMFC meeting, so none of the quotas will change.

Pound Net Cull Ring Study (Preliminary Findings)

The Executive Secretary introduced Mr. Chris Hager from VIMS, who worked on this project. Mr. Hager explained that this study involved looking at different cull ring arrangements to try to remove small fish from the pound nets. They have developed an excluder, or a bi-catch release device, which is connected to the pocket and consists of a funnel that leads from the pocket, to a

fyke net. The fyke catches all the fish that pass through the excluder or they can prove what size fish are released and what size are retained in the pound.

They designed and tested three different excluder panels this past summer. One of the panels is all slots, which is designed for flounder because of the body shape, there is one designed with all 2" rings which was designed for weakfish in particular, and one was rings and slots mixed so that they could compare and study what the slots let out, what the rings let out, and what the slots and rings together let out. The rings alone did not let out enough sub-legal summer flounder, it culled flounder to about 8", well below the legal limit of 12". The slots, which let out a larger portion of the smaller summer flounder, also let out some legal size summer flounder. The panel of 2" rings let out a large number of legal size gray trout, which shows that it is culling perfectly to 14", the problem is that the legal size limit for gray trout is 12".

The excluder is working, but it has the wrong size opening. In order to improve the efficiency and cull to the correct size, they designed a fourth excluder that reduced the size of the rings and the slots and reduced the number of the slots and rings down to 19 and 48. This fourth experimental excluder culled the trout almost perfectly, except for one legal size fish. They also compared the results on the summer flounder and are now culling them perfectly and are within 5mm of culling them perfectly.

If a more workable design can be developed he believes this device will efficiently meet the ASMFC's 33% reduction in mortality for gray trout. The suggestion of how to actually install these devices is to put a combination of rings and slots into each of the four corners of the pound, at the bottom where they will act as the funnel. The Executive Secretary recognized Mr. John Dean and Mr. David Bradley for their cooperation on this project.

The Executive Secretary stated that last year we had a provision in our regulations which had a 5% tolerance for undersized flounder. We were found to be out of compliance with the ASMFC/MAFMC plan that has a 0% tolerance. If these devices were installed and implemented in the pound nets, we would be achieving the 100% release of small flounder. There had been a number of other studies done and this study has shown the greatest potential of succeeding. The Chairman appointed a committee consisting of Chris Hager, Herb Austin, John Dean, David Bradley and any pound netters who would volunteer, and law enforcement and staff to continue to working on a design and a practical application of this study.

Commissioner Pruitt congratulated Dr. Herb Austin and Chris Hager on a job well done. He also recommended that Eddie Gaskins be added to the committee. The Executive Secretary stated that he would send invitations to pound netters so that Chris Hager could give this presentation to them. The Chairman complimented Dr. Austin, Mr. Hager and the pound netters for a job well done.

Marvin Louis Harley

Mr. Marvin Louis Harley complained about the cost of the fish trot line stating that he was not aware that the price per fish trot line changed from \$50.00 per person to \$50.00 per line.

The Executive Secretary stated that the license fees had changed in July 1998. It was changed from a vessel license to a gear license and as a consequence of that action people who fish more than one line are being required to buy more than one license. Because the regulation was changed in July it wasn't until December, when everyone who fished that gear was renewing their licenses, that they began to realize the impact of the change. Since license fees are set by regulation, a public hearing will be required to make any changes. We are already into license renewal this year and the trot liners have agreed to pay the fee this year but they would like the Commission to reconsider a vessel license or some other license structure that would more fairly represent their fishery.

The Chairman directed the staff, law enforcement and the sub-committee to meet and discuss this matter and report their finds at a later meeting.

Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers

Commissioner Pruitt, reporting for the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for 1999: Chairman – Paul Kellam, III, Vice Chairman – Gordon Birkett, and Secretary – John T. Parran. There being no other nominations, a motion was made by Commissioner

Pruitt, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved to accept the 1999 slate of officers as presented. Commissioner Pruitt commended outgoing Chairman Williams for a job well done. The gavel was turned over to the Chairman Kellam.

Authorization to Sign Checks

A motion was made by Commissioner Pruitt, seconded by Commissioner White and unanimously approved:

“That the Chairman, Vice-chairman, Executive Secretary and the Administrative Assistant are each authorized to sign checks in amounts up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). Checks in amounts over five thousand dollars shall be signed by the Executive Secretary and counter signed by either the Chairman or Vice-chairman. This motion supersedes all previous motions in reference to the authorized signatures and amounts for the checking account.”

Appointment of Finfish and Shellfish Advisory Committee Members

A list of positions on the Finfish and Shellfish Advisory Committees for which terms would soon expire was presented showing members willing to serve another term and vacancies.

Chairman Kellam asked if someone was interested in serving on the committee, but wasn't from the area specified, could they serve or should we try to get people from that specific area only. He stated that it would be better to appoint someone who was willing and able to come to the meetings whether they were from that area or not rather than someone who didn't want to come

at all. The Executive Secretary agreed with Chairman Kellam but stated that that would require a change in the bi-laws of the committee that the Commission had adopted. The Commission has a structured committee representation. He recommended reviewing that structure and bringing it back to the April meeting. He also recommended renewing the Shellfish Advisory Committee Members.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 1999 at 3:00 p.m. in La Plata, MD.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth W. Williams, Sr., Chairman

Gordon M. Birkett, Secretary