

PRESS RELEASE

Potomac River Fisheries Commission • P.O. Box 9 • Colonial Beach, VA 22443
Phone: (804) 224-7148 • Fax: (804) 224-2712

For Immediate Release

Date: September 7, 2001

Contact: Kirby A. Carpenter

Potomac River Fisheries Commission Meeting

Colonial Beach, VA —

Chairman William L. Rice, Sr. announced today the Potomac River Fisheries Commission will hold its next regular meeting, including an advertised public hearing, on Friday, September 21, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. in the hearing room of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission Building, 222 Taylor Street, Colonial Beach, Virginia. Mr. Rice invites all interested persons to attend this open public meeting.

A public hearing will be held on the possible amendment to the Commission's eeling regulations as follows: a.) to close the area upstream of the power lines crossings from Possum Pt. VA to Moss Pt. MD to the District of Columbia boundary line, a distance of 21 nm., for the commercial harvest of eels for a period of at least 5 years, b.) close the commercial eel season from June 15th through September 15th and from December 15th through March 15th each year and, c.) require at least 20 square inches of uncoated ½" x ½" wire escape panels installed in all ½" x ½" coated wire eel pots during the spring season, and at least 20 square inches of uncoated ½" x 1" wire escape panels in all eel pots fished during the fall season.

Items on the agenda include: a) the oyster repletion program report, b) a preliminary report on this season's crab harvest, c) the oyster/clam advisory committee report, which will include the committee's recommendation on the location on a mid-river oyster sanctuary and the dates and times for the upcoming oyster season and, d) the finfish advisory committee report, which will include the committee's recommendations on requiring the use of circle hooks while chumming, the locations of pound and fyke nets, and the initiation of small mesh gill net fisheries.

Other items on the agenda also include, but are not limited to: a) the adoption of the 2001-2002 oyster season dates, days and times and establishing a mid-river oyster sanctuary, b) the Commission will discuss the small mesh gill net fisheries proposals, c) hearings for persons delinquent in filing seafood catch reports and, d) an update of ASMFC issues will be presented.

Prior to the regular meeting, the Commission invites everyone to attend the ground-breaking for their new office facility, 222 Taylor Street, Colonial Beach, VA at nine o'clock in the morning.

PRFC does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities; therefore, if you are in need of reasonable accommodations due to a disability, please call (804) 224-7148 no later than three work days prior to the meeting date and identify your needs.