

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

June 15, 2006

Commissioners Present: William A. Pruitt (VA) – Chairman, William L. Rice, Sr. (MD) – Vice-chairman, Kenny Keen (MD) – Secretary, Ida C. Hall (VA), Howard ‘Bip’ Kimball (MD), Kyle J. Schick (VA), Robert H. Bowes (MD) and J.T. Holland (VA).

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

Others Present: Lt. Charles Sauter and Sgt. Charles Simmons – MdDNR Law Enforcement; Col. Steve Bowman and Capt. M. Ray Jewell – VMRC Law Enforcement; Joe Comino – VMRC; John Morris, Herman Delvo, Elgin Nininger, Jim Berthe and Dean Bowie – Crab Advisory Committee; Mark Gares, John Dean, Phil Angle, James Bowling, Kenneth Wicker, Thomas Lewis and Robert T. Brown – Finfish Advisory Committee; Paul Springer – Oyster/Clam Advisory Committee; Phil Hayden, Bert Hayden, Charles Bourne, Jr., Kirk Lancaster, Kevin Payne, Nathan Bourne, Walter Johnson, Doug Jenkins, Candy Porter, Rick Simpson, Kenny Pearson, Richard Daiger, Robin Wicker, Charlie Jones, Herman Beasley, Jr., Dennis Roth, Patrick Goldsmith, Parker Hancock, Sam Dorough, Joseph Neale, Bert Hayden, George Townsend and several others who did not sign the guest register.

Chairman Pruitt called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Commissioner Holland gave the invocation and Chairman Pruitt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Holland; seconded by Commissioner Rice to approve the minutes of March 9, 2006 as presented today. The motion was approved.

Introductions

Mr. Carpenter introduced the new Assistant Executive Secretary for the PRFC, Mrs. Ellen Cosby. Chairman Pruitt introduced the new Commissioner for VMRC, Col. Steve Bowman.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – 2:15 P.M.

Mr. Carpenter advised the idea of receiving public comment today on the issues dealing with license ownership and latent crab pot effort from last the meeting was to decide what issues the Commission would want to advertise for a public hearing.

Having Two Names on a Commercial Gill Net License – There were no public comments.

Clarify Language to Restrict Only One Crab Pot License to Any Individual – There were no public comments.

Establish a Crab Pot License Buy Out Program – John Morris felt a buy-out program is a way to reduce the number of latent licenses. If license fees are raised and the pots are cut in half, it will force watermen to buy the latent licenses to make a living. The watermen should not be the one's who have to do that. He is opposed to a buy-out program.

Crab Pot Transfer Program – There were no public comments.

Turn in Two 300-Pot Licenses for One 500-Pot License – John Dean spoke for himself and St. Mary's County Watermen's Association. He said at the last meeting, all the items were discussed, and turning in two 300-pot licenses for one 500-pot license is the only thing St. Mary's County Watermen's Association supports. They would like everything else left alone so the watermen can work.

Doug Jenkins and James Bowling also agreed with leaving things status quo.

Uniform Crab Size Limit in the Potomac River and its Tributaries – The proposal would be that the main stem Potomac River, the Maryland tributaries and the Virginia tributaries would all have a uniform size limit for the entire crab season. It has been suggested to both states that we would be willing to try this for 3 years with an automatic sunset clause if everyone is not satisfied.

Mr. Elgin Nininger was concerned with that size limit would impose if this were implemented. He would not want to catch 5 ¼" crabs while the rest of Virginia is catching 5" crabs. Chairman Pruitt explained that depends on what Virginia and Maryland decide. Public hearings would have to be held before any decisions would be made.

Mr. Carpenter noted that he has spoken with the Maryland and has made a presentation to the Tidal Fish Advisory Committee. The reception at that meeting was to have them think about it. MdDNR has given us a commitment to review the issue and to consider it. As for Virginia, there has not been a Crab Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for us to present the issue at this time. However, they have agreed to place the issue on the agenda for their next meeting. Mr. Carpenter also noted there was a fax received from the Maryland Watermen's Association opposing this issue.

Doug Jenkins representing the Twin River's Watermen's Association questioned who requested this issue. Mr. Carpenter explained that about 65% of the crab harvest caught during August, September and October prior to the size limit increase were sold as #1 crabs. Since the change to the 5 ½" size limit, about 85% to 95% are being sold as #1 crabs. You have gained a substantial amount of large crabs and the idea of starting the season at 5 ¼" will allow the 5" crabs to shed one more time before they enter the market. This will provide larger crabs earlier in the season when the market is paying a much better price. Doug Jenkins believes that smaller crabs fit the average budget today. There is nothing wrong with a 5" fat crab. The lower river watermen depend on a 5" crab to make a living.

Robert T. Brown expressed that 5" crabs during the spring of the year are considered #1 crabs. He questioned if there are any safeguards included in the 15% harvest reduction against exceeding the biomass or over fishing the resource. Mr. Carpenter stated there were "triggers" but the stock assessment has not been done this year. Mr. Brown stated that right now we are within our limits of the bi-state plan. He feels this is more of an economic issue of some versus protecting the resource. The Commission, over the past, has dealt with the resources in terms of over harvesting. This is an economic issue not a resource issue. St. Mary's County is against all the issues except turning in two 300-pot licenses for one 500-pot license.

Mr. Carpenter noted there were no comments received on issues such as the ownership of the license. Do we want corporations to own licenses and do we want that type of license structure? These are issues the Commission needs to address.

Kenneth Wicker questioned if any of these issues have been presented to the advisory committees. Chairman Pruitt explained that staff was advised at the last Commission meeting to receive public comment at the June meeting and wait for direction from the Commission at that time. Mr. Carpenter added that once the Commission gives direction, based on the issues it would like to discuss, the Advisory Committees would meet prior to the next Commission meeting to provide recommendations as well.

Robert Lumpkins is concerned with being able to transfer licenses should these issues go forward. Chairman Pruitt advised the comments received today will be taken into consideration in deciding what issues will go forward to public hearing.

Robert T. Brown was under the assumption that all the issues discussed today would be going to public hearing. With that not being the case he felt he had more to say. In regards to establishing a crab pot license with a buy-out program, that would cut the number of pots in half and then the licensee would be responsible for leasing pots from someone else, is no way to run a business. Trying to reduce latent effort should not be the watermen's responsibility. As of right now, the states of Virginia and Maryland do not have any public hearings scheduled to discuss latent effort. As he said before St. Mary's County Watermen's Association is opposed to all issues except turning in two 300-pot licenses for one 500-pot license.

CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT – 2:30 P.M.

Chairman Pruitt asked the Commission what its intentions are with regards to these issues.

Commissioner Keen felt the Commission has discussed these issues and received public comment. Based on what he is hearing, the public is not for any of these issues except for turning in two 300-pot licenses. His suggestion would be to hold these issues for a while.

Commissioner Rice agreed with tabling these crab issues stating if it's not broke then don't fix it. It seems like the Commission is trying to fine-tune this too much and right now things are going pretty well. He felt with the way prices are today, that should discourage any newcomers from

coming into the business. The way things are set up now, you can sell or buy a license if you want to get into the business. He felt turning in two 300-pot licenses for one 500-pot license may be of some interest and should be discussed further.

Commissioner Bowes also agreed with Commissioners' Keen and Rice.

Commissioner Schick felt that the issue of clarifying language should be addressed. He felt the Commission should preserve the individual watermen's right to fish and does not want to see corporations buying up licenses for profit. The two names on a gill net license should also be sent forward to public hearing. It is possible to over fish the crab industry and the Commission should keep a close eye on the situation.

Commissioner Holland expressed based on comments from Commissioner Schick, the Commission should have an understanding on what to send to public hearing and go forward with those issues.

A motion was made by Commissioner Holland, seconded by Commissioner Bowes and passed with one abstention to send the following items to public hearing:

- 1. Having Two Names on a Commercial Gill Net License***
- 2. Clarify Language to Restrict Only One Crab Pot License to Any Individual***
- 3. Turn in Two 300-Pot Licenses for One 500-Pot License***

Report on Winter Striped Bass Harvest

Mr. Carpenter recalled that last year there was concern over the gill net fishery exceeding the quota set by ASMFC. The report showed that the gill net catch in the month of March was 414,331 pounds landed and the total harvest from January to March was 488,222 pounds. The quota was set at 482,431 for the gill net fishery and was exceed by about 6,000 pounds. He doesn't anticipate that would require any adjustments in any of the other gear types for the rest of the year. Commissioner Rice asked that, since the gill net quota was filled this spring, would there be a fall season. Mr. Carpenter advised he would have to look at the amount of gill net tags left outstanding and bring that issue back at the September meeting.

American Eel YOY Survey

Chairman Pruitt announced the American Eel Young of the Year (YOY) survey is available for the public to review and asked if there were any questions from the Commission.

American Shad Restoration Project

Mr. Carpenter announced that a report from Virginia was received thanking the Potomac River Fisheries Commission for our cooperation allowing them to remove some brood stock from the river this spring. The report stated there were 1,158,000 fry put back into the river in 2006.

Crab Harvest Report

Mr. Carpenter presented a report of the 2006 crab harvest landings for April through May. It showed a harvest of 5,289 bushels of hard crabs, 4,737 pounds of peelers and 181 pounds of soft crabs compared to 3,140 bushels of hard crabs, 1,471 pounds of peelers and 23 pounds of soft crabs for the same period last year. He noted earlier discussions on the value of crabs in April and May stating that 5" crabs can be considered #1 crabs during that time, but harvesting larger crabs will yield a bigger profit.

Oyster Harvest Report

Mr. Carpenter presented a final oyster harvest report for the 2005-2006 oyster season. It shows that 3,346 bushels of oysters were caught compared to 303 bushels from last year. Swann point and Gum Bar, which had received a seed planting a few years ago, accounted for over two-thirds of the total harvest. The remainder was the lower river bars.

Robert T. Brown of St. Mary's County Watermen's Association stated they held a meeting this week about the seed area on Jones Shore and requested the Commission open Jones Shore to power dredging. Mr. Carpenter advised the Commission that when it opened areas for power dredging the Commission specifically left Jones Shore closed as a test area for a five year period to be reviewed with a sunset clause in 2009. That was one of the control area to see what happens. The Commission has discussed this request two times before and staff would advise to leave the current plan in place so that the Commission can evaluate power dredging in 2009.

Commissioner Keen questioned how law enforcement could control the area if part of Jones Shore were open to power dredging. Lt. Charles Sauter from Maryland's Natural Resources Police felt it would be difficult to control unless the area has adequate marking.

Commissioner Holland stated this was discussed last year and Jones Shore should remain as a reserved area.

Chairman Pruitt called for a motion three times, and hearing none, Jones Shore remains as it is.

EIS Update / Request for Leasing Authorization

Mr. Carpenter explained that the Commission is participating with the development of an EIS which will evaluate both native and non-native alternatives to oyster restoration within the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River. There is a lot of progress that has been made on the development of the EIS and although the reports are not complete, there is a strong indication that aquaculture will be one of the primary methods of restoring the population.

Chairman Pruitt asked if staff needs a motion to seek legislation approval for leasing from both states. Mr. Carpenter said yes.

Commissioner Hall asked what would be leased for the aquaculture. Mr. Carpenter explained the Potomac River Compact does not allow the Commission to regulate or license leasing, dredging

or patent tonging without specific authorization from Maryland and Virginia. What staff is seeking today, is approval to get legislative authority for the Commission to explore leasing. The questions of what, when, where, who, and how, etc. are better left until the Commission actually has the legislative authority to proceed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schick, seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously passed to seek both Maryland and Virginia legislative authority for leasing the water column and bottom rights for seafood aquaculture within the Potomac River.

Commissioner Hall requested a more complete update on the EIS to be given to the Commission at the September meeting. Commissioner Keen suggested that Mr. Tom O'Connell address the Commission on that issue.

ASMFC Issues

Mr. Pruitt commented that Mr. Carpenter does an excellent job representing the PRFC at the ASMFC meetings. Mr. Carpenter announced there is a vacancy to serve on the ASMFC Weakfish Advisory Panel representing the PRFC. The Commission is actively looking for someone to represent the commercial interests on this panel.

Mr. Carpenter stated the summery of the 2006 ASMFC spring meeting and the 2005 finfish reports that have been submitted to ASMFC are included in today's meeting packet. He announced there is a sign up sheet for anyone else who would like to receive a copy of the reports. He added a final note that the Annual ASMFC Meeting will be the third week in October and will be hosted by North Carolina in Atlantic Beach.

Financial Reports

A report of the third quarter disbursements (January through March) for the operational budget was presented, by budget item, totaling \$190,803 and a report of the cash-on-hand was also presented totaling \$253,818.54, as of June 12, 2006. There were no unusual disbursements to note.

Commissioner Hall asked for clarification on the budget item of Development and Repletion Expenses noting that the budget set aside \$47,020 and the third quarter now shows \$60,505 in expenditures. Mr. Carpenter explained this is a resulted from a contract, related to the EIS that was written in the prior fiscal year, but not completed and paid for until this fiscal year.

Commissioner Pruitt also announced that each Commissioner should have received their copy of the FY '04 – '05 Audit Report. He noted all funds were properly accounted for and there were no discrepancies.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schick, seconded by Commissioner Rice and unanimously passed to approve the third quarter disbursements as presented.

Budget Committee Report

The Budget Committee consisted of Commissioners Schick and Kimball and Mr. Carpenter. They met, deliberated, developed and presented the Budget Committee Report that contained several items in addition to the proposed budget. The Commission reviewed and acted on each item as follows:

- 1.) To authorize a single lump sum principle only payment of \$50,000 on the building loan during the current FY 05-06 budget year. *A motion was made by Commissioner Schick, seconded by Commissioner Keen and passed.*
- 2.) Establish the mileage reimbursement rate (effective today) at 40 cents per mile. *A motion was made by Commissioner Kimball, seconded by Commissioner Schick and passed with 6 votes in favor, 1 opposed.*
- 3.) Increase the minimum value of capitalized items from \$250 to \$500. *A motion was made by Commissioner Schick, seconded by Commissioner Keen and passed.*
- 4.) Declare 5 old computers and the rapid print date machine (HP 4500 printer was trade-in on a new printer) surplus, and all other items less than \$500. *A motion was made by Commissioner Kimball, seconded by Commissioner Keen and passed.*
- 5.) Authorize the budget Committee to conduct a comparative salary study and report their findings at the next meeting. (This may involve amending the budget.) *A motion was made by Commissioner Schick, seconded by Commissioner Keen and passed.*
- 6.) Authorize the staff to seek MD/VA legislative clarification that ‘retirees’ are also eligible for health and related insurance benefits. (Questions have been raised because the compact only refers to ‘employees’) *A motion was made by Commissioner Kimball, seconded by Commissioner Schick and passed.*
- 7.) Adopt the proposed FY 06-07 Budget and the PRFC Salary Grade System as presented. *A motion was made by Commissioner Schick, seconded by Commissioner Keen and passed.*

Operating Budget –

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION
2006-2007 DISBURSEMENTS BUDGET

2006-2007 BUDGET**PERSONAL SERVICES:**

101-109 Compensation of Commissioners & Salaries	\$246,326
--	-----------

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

201 Advertising	4,000
201 Agent Fees	2,200

204 Postage	9,000
205 Telephone	4,500
206 800 Line	1,000
207 Internet Service	750
208 Electric Current	4,200
209 Freight Expenses	500
212 Lease of Equipment	4,000
214 Membership Dues & Subscriptions	500
216 Printing Regulations*	2,000
220 Travel Expenses	15,000
221 Water Expenses	600
224 Photographic Services-Charts	500
230 Computer Support	12,000
270 Repairs to Equipment	1,000
275 Building Maintenance	1,500
280 Interest Expense	6,000
281 Bank Charges	300
290 ACFCMA**	101,000
299 Other Contractual Services	<u>115,000</u>
	285,550
<u>MATERIALS & SUPPLIES</u>	
301 Automotive Expenses	2,200
309 Fuel for Heat	0
313 Office Supplies	10,000
330 Household Furnishings & Supplies	1,000
332 Licenses, Tags, Report Books	30,000
400 Resale Supplies	<u>1,500</u>
	44,700
<u>CURRENT CHARGES 7 OBLIGATIONS:</u>	
240 Insurance - surety bonds, fire auto liability, workmen's comp.	7,500
085 Loans Payable	<u>50,000</u>
	57,500
<u>PENSION AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:</u>	
510 Retirement	18,520
511 Group Life Insurance	488
512 Group Health Insurance	54,000
513 Employer's FICA	14,541
513 Employer's Medicare	3,400

514 Deferred Compensation Match	<u>2,000</u>
	92,949
<u>CAPITAL OUTLAY:</u>	
801 Office & Other Equipment	5,000
801 Furniture & Fixtures	2,500
803 Auto	<u>0</u>
	7,500
<u>SPECIAL PROJECT EXPENSES:</u>	
100 Reserve for Capital Improvements	0
<u>DEVELOPMENT & REPLETION EXPENSES:</u>	
225, 331, 333 & 335 Seed Oysters and/or Shell	52,175
<u>UNEXPENDED CASH BALANCE: (contingency fund)</u>	<u>20,000</u>
TOTAL	\$806,700

*Partially supported by ACFCMA (Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act) funds

**Fully supported by ACFCMA

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION

2006-2007 BUDGET

RECEIPTS

	<u>2006-2007 BUDGET</u>
UNEXPENDED CASH BALANCE FORWARD: (AS OF 7/1/06)	150,000
 SALE OF LICENSES:	
Fish	62,000
Oyster	2,500
Crab	60,000
Clam	200
Fish - Recreational	75,000
Crab - Recreational	1,000
OYSTER BUSHEL INSPECTION TAX:	500
 APPROPRIATIONS BY STATE:	
Maryland	175,000
Virginia	175,000
 SPECIAL GRANTS:	
Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act	101,000

INTEREST ON SAVINGS (C/D's)	2,000
RESALE SUPPLIES:	1,500
MISCELLANEOUS: Limited entry license drawing	0
Confiscated Property, Sale of Tags, Etc.	<u>1,000</u>
TOTAL	806,700

Reg. I, Section 3(e) Hearing

Mr. Carpenter advised the Commission there is a regulation requiring each striped bass caught commercially to be tagged with identification tags provided by the Commission. It is also a violation of the regulations to counterfeit, alter or modify the tags. Anyone found guilty of violating this regulation can be called to a hearing before this Commission and possibly have all striped bass tags recalled that were issued to that person or refuse to issue any tags to that individual or their assignees in the future.

This situation developed this past February where four individuals were charged with violating this regulation. They have been tried in King George County General District Court and their cases have been adjudicated. Based on that, the four individuals have been called to a hearing before the Commission. They have been notified about the hearing and were also advised of staff's recommendation in this case.

Executive Session – 3:40 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Holland, seconded by Commissioner Schick and passed to go into executive session to discuss legal matters. Chairman Pruitt also asked Col. Steve Bowman to join the Commission in executive session.

Reconvene – 3:55 p.m.

Chairman Pruitt poled each Commissioner to confirm that only legal matters were discussed during executive session.

Mr. Mayo introduced Mr. George Townsend, who is an attorney and is here to represent the four men called to today's hearing. Mr. Townsend advised the Commission that he would like to call a few witnesses on behalf of the defendants. Chairman Pruitt asked all the witnesses to stand and raise their right hands so they could be sworn in.

Mr. Townsend explained that he represents Mr. Charles S. Bourne, Jr., Mr. Kevin L. Payne, Mr. Kirk B. Lancaster and Mr. Nathan C. Bourne. They are considered full-time watermen and rely on commercial fishing to make a living. They were charged with this offence on February 26, 2006 based on a routine inspection performed by Ofc. Perry Flinchum who found 25 damaged

tags that were issued to Charles Bourne, Jr., 6 damaged tags that belonged to Kevin Payne, 4 belonging to Kirk Lancaster and 2 belonging to Nathan Bourne aboard the boat. It appeared that the tags had been reused based on their appearance.

His clients appeared in King George County General District Court on April 11, 2006 and took full responsibility for what they had done. The court system fined each person at \$125 for each tag seized as follows: Charles Bourne, Jr. - \$1,000 (maximum fine allowed by the PRFC) and pled guilty, Kevin Payne - \$750 and pled guilty, Kirk Lancaster was placed on advisement for one year, was not found guilty but paid a fine of \$500. His charge will be dismissed at the end of the year if he has been otherwise compliant (peace and good behavior). Nathan Bourne received the same finding as Kirk Lancaster but only had to pay \$250 for the 2 tags seized.

Mr. Mayo advised the prerequisite for proceeding today is a finding of guilt in the King George County Court. He explained the Commission couldn't proceed with a hearing for Kirk Lancaster and Nathan Bourne because they have not been found guilty. Chairman Pruitt stated from this point on the Commission would only hear about Charles Bourne and Kevin Payne. Mr. Townsend agreed.

Mr. Townsend advised that prior to the court hearing, Mr. Carpenter seized the rest of the striped bass tags each person had in their possession. Charles Bourne returned 500 tags, Kevin Payne returned 6 tags, Kirk Lancaster returned 200 tags and Nathan Bourne returned 183 tags. The defendants valued those tags at \$10 each because they were seized during the height of the gill net season. They did not contest returning the tags, however after reviewing the regulations, there is gray area whether the Commission could take that action or more specifically, whether the Executive Secretary can take that action, unilaterally, without a hearing held by the Commission. Prior to the Commission meeting each client received a certified letter stating that staff will recommend recalling all remaining striped bass tags for 2006 and that no striped bass tags be issued for any gear type for the 2007 fishing season. It seems the response by the Commission should be proportional to the offense.

Buddy Beasley, Elgin Nininger, Kenny Pearson, Mrs. Lisa Bourne and Nathan Bourn all spoke on behalf of the clients and said they were honest, good people, who are trying to make a living. Mrs. Bourne asked the Commission not to take away Mr. Bourne's livelihood because it was the only source of income and due to health problems she is unable to work.

Chairman Pruitt thanked everyone who spoke and advised that the Commission has met and spoke with the attorney, as well as the Executive Secretary, and now the matter is before the Commission. Mr. Carpenter advised that staff has changed its recommendations to: Charles S. Bourne, Jr. and Kevin Lee Payne will have all their striped bass tags returned to them for the 2006 season and the Commission will not issue any striped bass tags for the 2007 season to them or their assignees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Keen, seconded by Commissioner Bowes and unanimously passed to keep all 2006 striped bass tags and issue striped bass tags for the 2007 fishing season as well as be on probation for 2007, knowing that if they are caught for any violation, all striped bass tags will be taken away for the remainder of that year.

Delinquent Oyster Hearing

Mr. Carpenter advised there were a few people who failed to file seafood catch reports for the 2005-2006 oyster season. The following names were called before the Commission.

William Howard Beck – Absent – *A motion was made by Commissioner Holland, seconded by Commissioner Bowes and passed to have (two) weeks suspension on all licenses, with one (1) week's suspension deferred pending successful completion of probation.*

Lewin S. Blackistone, III – Absent – *A motion was made by Commissioner Holland, seconded by Commissioner Bowes and passed to have (two) weeks suspension on all licenses, with one (1) week's suspension deferred pending successful completion of probation.*

Martin Eugene Latham – Absent – *A motion was made by Commissioner Holland, seconded by Commissioner Bowes and passed to have (one) week suspension on all licenses, deferred pending successful completion of probation.*

Roger Haddaway Morris – Absent – *A motion was made by Commissioner Holland, seconded by Commissioner Bowes and passed to have (two) weeks suspension on all licenses, with one (1) week's suspension deferred pending successful completion of probation.*

Kenneth E. Welch – Absent – *A motion was made by Commissioner Holland, seconded by Commissioner Bowes and passed to have (two) weeks suspension on all licenses, with one (1) week's suspension deferred pending successful completion of probation.*

Dustin Aaron Westman – Absent – *A motion was made by Commissioner Holland, seconded by Commissioner Bowes and passed to have (one) week suspension on all licenses, deferred pending successful completion of probation.*

Resolution of Appreciation

Mrs. Peggy Holbrook, who was retiring after 31 years of service to the commission, was asked to come to the hearing room. She was presented with a Resolution of Appreciation, read by Commissioner Holland.

WHEREAS, Peggy J. Holbrook is retiring after 31 years of service and has provided leadership through her knowledge and experience to further the protection of the Potomac River's natural fishery resources, thus helping to further the Potomac River Fisheries Commission's goals, and;

WHEREAS, Peggy J. Holbrook was most noted for her untiring efforts to collect the fishery dependent catch reports – Oh those first and second delinquent notices! - The data upon which this Commission so heavily relies, and;

WHEREAS, Peggy J. Holbrook has and gained the respect of the Commissioners, the staff and even some of the watermen with whom she has worked during her 31 years:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and its staff express their gratitude to Peggy J. Holbrook for her dedicated, faithful service to the Potomac River, its resources and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Potomac River Fisheries Commission wishes Peggy J. Holbrook the "best of luck" when she sails away in search of warmth all year 'round. She will truly be missed in every since of the word,

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission for all to see and be reminded of the contributions of Mrs. Peggy J. Holbrook.

Mrs. Holbrook was also presented a painting of a sailboat that had hung over her desk for many, many years.

Date and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in the John T. Parran Hearing Room of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission Building.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Pruitt, Chairman

Kenneth C. Keen, Secretary