

FINAL MINUTES
Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Meeting
July 13, 2009

Members Present

George Hudgins - Chairman	Jim Deibler
Edward Rhodes - Vice-chairman	Jesse "Jimmie" Duell
Carlisle Bannister	Charles Randolph
Carolyn Brown	

Members Not Present

John Barr
Charles Southall

At 7:04 p.m., Chairman Hudgins called the meeting to order.

Ms. Sonya Davis announced that Dr. Orth had called earlier in the day. He thanked the Board for their past support. At this time, he is withdrawing his request for Item H of \$48,309. Funding from NOAA and the Army Corps of Engineers has been made available for a few years, so he does not need recreational funds at this time.

Ms. Jane McCroskey provided an update on the budget. Currently, there is \$1.6 million available for project allocation. Since the last meeting, two events occurred that greatly increased the funds available for projects. The first event was the completion of the 2005-2008 audits of license sales by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). The DGIF transferred almost \$700,000 owed to the Commission for past saltwater license sales. The second event was the return of unspent funds, totaling \$558,983, from the Law Enforcement Division. Ms. McCroskey does not expect either event to occur in future years. Also, normal license sales added an additional \$350,000 to the Fund. Mr. Rhodes asked about the next round of budget reductions. Ms. McCroskey explained that each State Agency must submit plans for a 5%, 10%, and 15% reduction. In September, more on the budget reductions should be known. Mr. Rhodes also asked if anything could be done to protect the funds. Ms. McCroskey was not aware of any means to do so, except that in the past, funds already obligated to projects have remained so.

Mr. Hudgins asked for a review of the draft May 11, 2009 RFAB meeting minutes. Mr. Randolph made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Brown seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to accept the draft minutes as final.

Multi-Year Projects for 2009 Renewal.

- A) 2009 Sunshine Children's Fishing Program. Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Anglers Club. **\$7,194.** Mr. Dobbins provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- B) 2009 Saxis Fishing Pier Youth Fishing Tournaments (Year 8). Allen Evans, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. **\$1,325.** Mr. Sam Sellard, representing the Club, provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.

- C) 2009 Hope House & Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Excursions and Clinics. D. Hurst, C. Macin, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association. **\$4,000**. Mr. Chuck Macin provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- D) 2009 Youth Developmental "Hooked on Fishing" Adventure (Year 2). A. Fisher, R. Lockhart, Virginia Charter Boat Association. **\$5,780**. Mr. Al Fisher provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- E) 2009 Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection (Year 3). J. Grist, J. Cimino, VMRC. **\$10,000**. Mr. Joe Grist provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- F) 2009 Deployment of Artificial Reef Structure. Mike Meier, VMRC. **\$100,000**. Mr. Meier provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- G) 2009 Estimate and Assess Social and Economic Importance and Value of Menhaden to Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders and Region (3 Year Study) - Year 3. James Kirkley, VIMS. **\$154,452**. No one was in attendance for this project. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- H) 2009 Enhancing Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Habitat: Research and Education for Restoration (Year 15). Robert Orth, VIMS. **\$48,309**. Request is withdrawn.
- I) Federal Assistance (Wallop-Breaux) Matching Funds, Federal FY 2010. Jack Travelstead, VMRC. **\$235,563**. Mr. Rob O'Reilly provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- J) Jun. – Dec. 2009, Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay (Yr 8 ½). M. Fabrizio, T. Tuckey, VIMS. **\$24,544**. Dr. Mary Fabrizio mentioned this project has been withdrawn because the Commission approved the project to be funded with commercial funds.

Multi-Year Projects for 2010 Renewal.

- K) 2010 Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 13). Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association-Peninsula. **\$6,500**. Mr. Cowling provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- L) 2010 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 9). Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$6,500**. Mr. Brown provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- M) 2010 Virginia Game Fish Tagging (Year 16). J. Lucy, VIMS and L. Gillingham, VMRC. **\$87,800**. Mr. Lewis Gillingham provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- N) 2010 Improving Stock Assessment of Weakfish - Year 3. Y. Jiao, D. Orth, VPI & SU, and R. O'Reilly, VMRC. **\$111,356**. Mr. Rob O'Reilly provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.

- O) Jan.-Dec. 2010, Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay (Yr 9). M. Fabrizio, T. Tuckey, VIMS. **\$46,574**. Dr. Mary Fabrizio provided a recap of the program. No public comment was provided at the meeting.

New Projects for 2009.

- P) 2009 Virginia Fishing Line Recycling Program. A. Nelson, J. Grist, VMRC. **\$3,500**. Mr. Joe Grist provided a recap of the program. This is a one-time request. About 20 locations are on a waiting list to receive one of the collection bins. Biological Sampling Technicians collect the monofilament line from the existing sites, during their normal travels to fish sampling sites. The line is sent to Berkley Trilene to be recycled into fish habitats. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- Q) 2009 Trophic Position and Ecological Function of Juvenile Menhaden in Chesapeake Bay. C. Jones, J. Schaffler, ODURF. **\$43,967**. Dr. Jason Schaffler provided a recap of the program. Omega Protein will not provide any funding towards this project. There is a perception that if Omega Protein provides funding, the data may be suspect. Omega Protein will provide any menhaden samples needed. No public comment was provided at the meeting.

New Projects for 2010.

- R) 2010 Academic Anglers Children's Fishing Clinic. C. Roberts, A. Bracey, Academic Anglers Fishing Team. **\$1,000**. No one was in attendance for this project. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- S) 2010 Understanding the Impacts of Mycobacterial Disease on Striped Bass: When and Where does Mortality Occur in the Rappahannock River. J. Hoenig, W. Vogelbein, VIMS. **\$50,535**. Mr. Matthew Smith, graduate student, provided a recap of the program. Two benefits of this project are an improved precision of estimates of mortality, and a better understanding of the disease and its dynamics on striped bass. Temperature is hypothesized to speed up mortality, but more fish at different times of the year are needed. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- T) 2010 Connecting Productivity in Eelgrass Beds to Recreationally Important Finfishes in Chesapeake Bay: Forage Fishes as Trophic Conduits. R. Latour, K. Sobocinski, J. van Montfrans, J. E. Duffy, VIMS. **\$58,329**. Dr. Rob Latour provided a recap of the program. This is a one-time request. The goal is to begin to quantify the value of seagrass beds for the production of recreational finfishes. This study is part of a larger collaborative effort with Dr. Jones at ODU. Pilot data is needed to help in the effort to secure funding from the National Science Foundation for the larger multi-year project. No public comment was provided at the meeting.
- U) 2010 Blueline and Golden Tilefish Population Dynamics Along the Virginian Continental Shelf, Year 1. J. Ballenger, C. Jones, ODURF. **\$72,768**. Mr. Joey Ballenger provided a recap of the program. Outside funding sources are being researched to expand the project to also include some grouper species. The target sample size for the 3 years of study is

about 500 fish. The plan is to rely mainly on donated fish, but the purchase of some fish samples may be necessary. No public comment was provided at the meeting.

Mr. Jim Wilson, representing the City of Hampton, discussed the fees and discounts to be applied to the Buckroe Beach Saltwater Fishing Pier. The fees discussed and approved were: Adult Daily Fishing Fee of \$8.00; Senior Daily Fishing Fee of \$6.00; Child Daily Fishing Fee of \$6.00; Fishing Monthly Pass of \$60.00; and Fishing Seasonal Pass of \$250.00. After some discussion about senior and child saltwater licenses, the discounts discussed and approved were: \$2.00 discount on a daily fishing fee, a \$10.00 discount on a monthly fishing fee, and a \$25.00 discount on a seasonal fishing fee. The individual must provide some type of valid Virginia saltwater fishing license to receive the discount. The discounts will be implemented on August 1, 2009. Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the fees and discounts, as discussed, and was seconded by Mr. Randolph. The vote passed 7-0.

The date for the next RFAB meetings of this review cycle is September 14, 2009. The Work Session will be at 5:30 p.m. and the Final Recommendations meeting will be at 7: 00 p.m.

Mr. Rhodes made a motion to approve the funding for Items A, B, C, and D and was seconded by Mr. Randolph. The vote passed 7-0. The RFAB recommendations for the funding of these 4 projects will be presented to the Commission on July 28, 2009.

Chairman Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

[Note: Audio files of the meeting are available at <http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/vsrfd/index.shtm> (Choose, Current Proposals, on the left-hand menu)]