

FINAL MINUTES
Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Meeting
September 8, 2008

Members Present

George Hudgins - Chairman
John Barr
Carolyn Brown

Jim Deibler
Jesse "Jimmie" Duell
Charles Randolph

Members Not Present

Edward Rhodes - Vice-chairman
Carlisle Bannister

Charles Southall

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman Hudgins called the meeting to order.

Ms. Jane McCroskey informed everyone that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) transferred \$600,000 to \$700,000 less than was projected to be collected during the months of May, June, and July. Currently, there are no funds available for new or renewal projects. Ms. McCroskey will contact the DGIF to see if license sales are down, or if more funds will be transferred. Some license revenue is expected to be collected in the months of August, September, and October. Anecdotal information indicates that people are not boating as much because of the high gas prices. Freshwater license sales and North Carolina saltwater license sales are also slow for this same time period.

Mr. Hudgins asked for a review of the draft July 14, 2008 RFAB meeting minutes. Mr. Barr 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 Renewal.

- A) 2009 Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 12). Rob Cowling, Newport News Rotary Club and Coastal Conservation Association-Peninsula. **\$6,000.** No public comments were provided for Items A or B. Mr. Cowling and Mr. Brown told everyone that the 2008 programs went well, and they both had good attendance and fishing. They wish to continue with the 2009 programs.
- B) 2009 Kiwanis Club Children's Fishing Clinic (Year 8). Wesley Brown, Capital District Kiwanis Club. **\$6,000.** See Item A.
- C) Federal Assistance (Wallop-Breaux) Matching Funds FY 2009. Jack Travelstead, VMRC. **\$321,820.** No public comments were provided. Mr. Travelstead was asked what would happen to the Wallop-Breaux projects, if additional revenue was not collected for the state match. Mr. Travelstead reminded everyone that the budget estimate was only for license sales through July, and he expected additional funds to be collected for August through November. Mr. Lewis Gillingham added a comment that with the 365-day license, people have more flexibility with renewing their licenses. The revenue collection is spread throughout the year versus when funds came in for calendar

year licenses. Mr. Travelstead expects a slight surge in the license sales, especially if the Commission considers expanding the Bay striped bass season back to 2 fish for the whole winter season.

- D) Improving Stock Assessment of Weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*) – Year 2. Y. Jiao, D. Orth, VPI & SU, and R. O'Reilly, VMRC. **\$130,876**. No public comments were provided. Dr. Yan Jiao explained that she had received the weakfish data from all of the coastal states and the ASMFC, and has analyzed all of the data received to date. She also attended the last weakfish stock assessment data committee, and the committee members are collaborating with Dr. Jiao's research team. She would appreciate continued support of the recreational board to continue the work started this year.
- E) 2009 Virginia Game Fish Tagging (Year 15). J. Lucy, VIMS and L. Gillingham, VMRC. **\$86,698**. No public comments were provided. Mr. Lucy and Mr. Gillingham were asked whether they were seeing a drop in tagging effort that corresponded to the drop in license sales and the increase in the cost of gas. Mr. Lucy did not believe they were seeing any drop in effort yet, but they might. Mr. Lucy said it would be a good idea to review the data and see if there was any correlation. Mr. Deibler complimented Mr. Lucy on the final report for 2007.

New Projects.

- F) Migrations of Adult Summer Flounder from Chesapeake Bay: Implications for Stock Structure. M. Fabrizio, M. Henderson, VIMS. **\$83,605**. No public comments were provided. Dr. Mary Fabrizio and Mr. Mark Henderson were in attendance, but no questions were asked.
- G) Use of Pop-Up Satellite Archival Tags (PSATs) to Determine the Fate, Movements, and Habitat Utilization of Red Drum Released from Virginia's Recreational Fishery. J. Graves, A. Horodysky, J. Lucy, VIMS. **\$93,569**. No public comments were provided. Dr. John Graves provided some data on 1 red drum that was tagged in May with a tag provided by the manufacturer. The tag was set to release from the fish in 30 days, and they were able to retrieve the tag from a person that picked it up in Sandbridge. Most of the time, this tagged red drum stayed in shallow water, and they were also able to see the normal increase of the Bay water temperature. Since the tag was retrieved and could be refurbished for \$800, his budget could be reduced by \$3,200.
- H) Seasonal Caloric Needs and Energy Intake of Chesapeake Bay's Predatory Fishes: Which Prey Fuel Growth and Reproduction? A. Horodysky, R. Latour, VIMS. **\$40,060**. No public comments were provided. Mr. Andrij Horodysky invited the RFAB members to a presentation he will be making to the Peninsula Saltwater Sport Fishing Association (PSWSFA) on Tuesday, September 16th. He also gave the members an update on all his public outreach efforts for the visual function studies, which were previously funded by the recreational fund.

Summary of the Education and Outreach Subcommittee.

Ms. Brown summarized the August 20, 2008 subcommittee meeting. One short-range possibility is to earmark some funds for mini-grants for teachers. These mini-grants would be used by teachers to

meet some of the educational goals of the RFAB. One long-range possibility is to look at collaborating with DGIF in creating some new and/or improving existing access sites. Also, the subcommittee plans to review the educational goals set by the RFAB. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 17, 2008. More details will be provided to the RFAB at the Work Session meeting on November 10, 2008.

Mr. Randolph mentioned a couple of other programs going on that the RFAB members may want to promote or participate in. There are some programs that ask for volunteers to take wounded veterans out fishing. Another program is the “Wish-A-Fish” program that takes children with “special needs” and their families out fishing. (The local 2008 “Wish-A-Fish” event takes place on Saturday, September 13 out of Portsmouth City Park. The “Take a Hero Fishing” event takes place on Saturday, October 4 out of Cove Marina, Little Creek Amphib Base. There is also the “Wounded Warrior Project” and more details may be found at <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>)

The next Second Cycle of RFAB meetings are scheduled for November 10, 2008, Work Session and Final Recommendations.

Chairman Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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