

1 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

2 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

3 State Capitol Auditorium

4 Montgomery, Alabama

5 May 3, 2014

6
7
8 * * * * *

9
10 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

11
12 * * * * *

13
14
15 Proceedings taken before Tracye
16 Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR
17 No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama
18 at Large, at the State Capitol Auditorium,
19 Montgomery, Alabama, on Saturday, May 3, 2014,
20 commencing at approximately 9:01 a.m.

21
22 * * * * *

1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 2 Mr. Dan L. Moultrie, Chairman
- 3 Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
- 4 Mr. John McMillan
- 5 Mr. Bill Hatley
- 6 Dr. Bob Shipp
- 7 Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
- 8 Mr. Grady Hartzog
- 9 Dr. Gary Lemme
- 10 Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.
- 11 Mr. T.J. Bunn, Jr.

12 * * * * *

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I'd like to call the
 14 May 3rd, 2014, meeting of the
 15 Conservation Advisory Board to order.
 16 I'd like to welcome everyone to
 17 Montgomery, Alabama. The board is glad
 18 that you are able to be here today. The
 19 invocation today will be given by Joey
 20 Dobbs.

21 Mr. Dobbs.

22 MR. DOBBS: Thank you. Bow your heads.

23 Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for
 this day. Be with our friends and

1 family as they move through this life.
2 Bless this group that's here today and
3 see to their safe travels home.
4 Especially, please look after the
5 families whose lives have been affected
6 by the storms in the north and the
7 floods in the south. Bestow your
8 blessings and grace upon them. Thank
9 you for your bounty. In Christ's name
10 we pray, Amen.

11 (Crowd responds.)

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dobbs.

13 The next order of business is the
14 introduction of the board members.

15 First I want to introduce our
16 Commissioner of Conservation,
17 Commissioner Guy.

18 Next I would introduce our Deputy
19 Commissioner, Curtis Jones.

20 Next I'd like to introduce Alabama's
21 Agriculture Commissioner, John
22 McMillan.

23 Our other ex-officio member here

1 today is Dr. Gary Lemme from the Alabama
2 Extension Service. Dr. Lemme.

3 Next I would like to let the
4 district members of the board give their
5 name and what district they represent
6 starting at the far end of the table.

7 MR. BUNN: T.J. Bunn, Congressional
8 District 7.

9 DR. SHIPP: Bob Shipp, District 1.

10 MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, Congressional
11 District 5.

12 MR. HATLEY: Bill Hatley, District 1.

13 MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, District 2.

14 MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, District 6.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dan Moultrie, Chairman,
16 District 6 also.

17 Okay. The next order of business is
18 the Advisory Board minutes. We need to
19 approve the minutes. There's two
20 meetings this time -- we had a special
21 meeting -- the March 1st meeting, 2014,
22 and the March 31st, 2014, special
23 meeting. Are there any changes to the

1 minutes?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If not, the minutes
4 approved -- stand approved as read.

5 The next order of business is the
6 Commissioner's comments. I'd like to
7 call on Commissioner Guy. Commissioner.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Dan. I don't
9 think I need that.

10 Just one item of business that I
11 would like to bring before the board.
12 And, that is, we're going to be losing a
13 long-time valued employee on June 1.
14 David Dean --

15 David, would you stand up.

16 -- our legal counsel, has been with
17 us for 33 years, and he has given us
18 great legal advice and has been a friend
19 for, you know, ever. And so I would
20 like everybody to recognize David Dean.

21 (Crowd responds.)

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: We'll definitely miss
23 David. We are going to try to see if we

1 can bring him back a little part-time,
2 but I'm worried that he's going to find
3 other adventures that he would rather
4 do.

5 But, David, thank you very much for
6 all you've done for the Department of
7 Conservation and Natural Resources.

8 MR. DEAN: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Moultrie.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner.

11 Okay. The next order of business is
12 the public hearing. When your name is
13 called, please go to the microphone and
14 give your name and subject you wish to
15 speak on.

16 (Brief interruption.)

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. We're going to --
18 before we do the public hearing, I'm
19 going to call on Director Sykes to do
20 his PowerPoint. And if the board would
21 move to these seats down here in front,
22 on the front right.

23 MR. SYKES: All right. Thank you for allowing

1 us to do this again. I think the
2 PowerPoints have expedited the
3 question-and-answer portion of this.
4 I'm going to kind of run through this
5 pretty quick. We haven't got a whole
6 lot of changes.

7 At the last meeting we proposed the
8 extension of the deer season into
9 February. We shot the Chattahoochee
10 Valley pretty hard last year. We also
11 worked on it in March and April. The
12 areas that we were looking were Houston
13 and Henry County, the top part of
14 Barbour and Russell County to see if we
15 could fine-tune those lines a little bit
16 more. And our guys, as usual, have done
17 an outstanding job getting out and
18 getting the work done.

19 21 deer were sampled in that Henry
20 County site. Approximately 95 percent
21 of them were bred before or on January
22 the 31st. Out of the four sites, six
23 deer at site one, the average conception

1 date was January the 8th. Site two was
2 December the 31st. Site three was
3 January the 11th. And site four was
4 January the 11th.

5 So we have made some corrections to
6 the map. Barbour County and Russell
7 County stayed the same. We shot those
8 areas. It's going to stay as proposed.
9 But there was a little tweaking done
10 down in Henry County that I'll go back
11 to.

12 You can see this one little portion
13 right there was taken out and the lines
14 were cleared up to make enforcement and
15 where the hunters would know exactly
16 where the boundaries were a lot more
17 clean. That's the only changes that we
18 have to the February season extension.
19 So the statewide map will look like
20 that.

21 I want to talk briefly about
22 alligator season. It's been one of the
23 most popular things I think the

1 department has done in a long time. We
2 are learning more and more about the
3 alligator population in the state each
4 year.

5 We are changing the way that the
6 applications will be processed. Last
7 year a person could apply as many times
8 as they wanted to. This year one
9 application per person per zone is all
10 we're going to take. Those three zones
11 are the Mobile Delta. There will be 150
12 tags. The west-central zone, which is
13 centered mainly around Selma, is 50
14 tags. And then the southeast zone, most
15 of the people that draw there go to
16 Lake Eufaula.

17 If you'll notice the asterisk there
18 by the southeast. We're instituting an
19 eight-foot minimum before you can
20 harvest an alligator over in that zone.
21 The reason for that is we're trying to
22 protect females. Most of the females
23 are in that six- to eight-foot range.

1 The habitat quality, the nest predation
2 is limiting recruitment over in that
3 area. So we're going to institute that
4 eight-foot minimum where we can try to
5 protect those females.

6 The cost this year will be \$20.
7 Last year it was \$5. Last year this
8 program, the application process,
9 produced approximately \$85,000 in
10 revenue. It cost the department about
11 \$85,000 to administer the program. If
12 the same amount of people apply this
13 year that did last year, it should be a
14 wash. So we're not trying to make money
15 off of this program. We're just trying
16 to pay for the administrative process to
17 administer it.

18 One big change this year over in the
19 past, there have been some people that
20 have applied five or six years that have
21 not been drawn and are kind of upset.
22 There are some people that draw every
23 year. It's just the luck of the draw.

1 This year if you do not get drawn, next
2 year you will have preference points.
3 So each year that you don't draw, your
4 preference points add up. So that way
5 we can try to keep this as fair as we
6 possibly can.

7 At the last meeting Mr. Dobbs asked
8 us to take a look at Game Check again to
9 see if we wanted to go mandatory or
10 voluntary. Here are the stats from this
11 year's Game Check.

12 Total deer reported was a little
13 over 19,000. If you look below that at
14 the hunter harvest mail survey that was
15 done last year, it was estimated we
16 killed over 260,000. Turkeys, this year
17 through Game Check we reported just over
18 2,000. The mail survey last year
19 indicated we killed over 40,000.

20 Y'all, the numbers still aren't
21 good, but what we're going to do is
22 we're going to ask for voluntary again
23 this year. Hope that the hunters saw

1 this year that this was not government
2 overreach. This was not us trying to
3 get into your business. All we're doing
4 is trying to get the best data we can to
5 make the management decisions that we
6 need to make for the future of hunting
7 in Alabama. So we're going to ask for
8 voluntary again this year. We'll
9 evaluate the numbers, and then we'll
10 come back to the board next year with
11 our recommendations.

12 And, y'all, that's it. Told you it
13 was going to be short and sweet. Thank
14 you.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Director
16 Sykes.

17 Commissioner Guy again.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. The one thing I
19 wanted to add to -- Chuck did an
20 excellent job on that. The one thing I
21 don't think he mentioned that I want to
22 add, because it's always a question, on
23 the alligator season -- and y'all might

1 remember there were claims that, you
2 know, we were -- this was a lottery and
3 it was illegal. There is no value for
4 the tag. So, in other words, the \$20
5 for the application is an administrative
6 cost.

7 So we're not charging like other
8 states do for the tag. Therefore, you
9 are not applying -- you are not, you
10 know, trying to get something of value.
11 The value is zero for the tag. All
12 we're trying to do is recoup our
13 administrative costs with the
14 application. And, consequently, since
15 we are now reducing it to one per zone,
16 our administrative costs will remain the
17 same, and so we had to go up a little
18 bit on the application cost.

19 But I just wanted to make that one
20 clarification so if there are any
21 questions about that. I don't want
22 people to get confused that that \$20 is
23 the tag cost. It is the administrative

1 cost as all departments all across the
2 country have for similar situations. No
3 value for the tag. The tag is actually
4 free.

5 And, Chuck, you do have to have a
6 license to hunt alligators, which is a,
7 what, small game license?

8 So that's the only other requirement
9 you have to have. You have to have a
10 small game license. You have to pay the
11 application fee, but the tag costs
12 nothing.

13 Thank you, Mr. Moultrie.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner.

15 And, Chuck, I think as -- and I
16 think, Mr. Bolton, you write for this
17 AON.

18 AON's survey last year showed that
19 Game Check, 52.4 percent of the people
20 thought it should be mandatory where
21 40.5 percent thought it ought to be
22 voluntary. So the public would want it
23 that way, but I think it's admirable

1 you're keeping it that way one more year
2 and let's see what happens with it.

3 That's excellent.

4 Okay. The next order of business is
5 the public hearing. When your name is
6 called, please go to the microphone and
7 give your name and subject you wish to
8 speak on. I'll remind you that you only
9 may speak at the time you are called and
10 that any interference will not be
11 tolerated.

12 As always, the first speaker is
13 Mr. Avery Bates.

14 MR. BATES: Some of y'all was looking like why
15 am I standing up back there.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Hold on, Avery. Is that
17 microphone on?

18 There you go. Just speak up.

19 MR. BATES: But, anyway, a lot going on in the
20 commercial fishing industry. A lot of
21 attacks is going to be made and has been
22 made. But we want to keep our people
23 fishing and keep the property that

1 belongs to the people of this state and
2 the country flowing.

3 And I know there's supposed to be a
4 number of things coming up with
5 reallocating the Magnuson-Stevens Act,
6 taking a share of it away from the
7 commercial fishermen and giving it to
8 recreational fishermen. Let's keep it
9 as it is. We brought it up in
10 meetings. For one reason, we supply the
11 consumer. The other reason, the 400
12 fishermen that they say is outrageous
13 for them to have 51 percent. But it
14 ain't 400 fishermen that's supplying the
15 markets.

16 We had a great Seafood Summit.
17 Chris, John, and our assistant director
18 back there was enjoying some of the good
19 seafood. We've had some great seafood
20 served around the state. John can avow
21 to that -- McMillan, our commissioner.

22 Also, as Mr. Moultrie's heart is in
23 Auburn, we had a great seafood cookout

1 and a storm over there at Pat Dye's. I
2 think y'all got some die-hard fans
3 there. They were standing ankle deep in
4 water eating seafood. But we enjoy
5 cooking, enjoy serving it.

6 This year we're going to have a big
7 question mark about our shrimping
8 industry. Brown shrimp have trouble
9 with freshwater, and we've had too much
10 rain at a bad time of year. So you
11 wonder why the price goes up.

12 Mr. Shipp, you know why it goes up.

13 When you have supply that's
14 affected, it's going to affect your
15 markets. So when you go in the market
16 and see shrimp's up, there's a reason,
17 supply and -- and also we're having a
18 great shell-planting program this year.
19 Chris and them has went along, and we've
20 had people observing it on our board --
21 our oyster board. Lawrence Johnson has
22 been observing it. He's quite receptive
23 and appreciative of what's going on.

1 It's putting the shell and the rock in
2 the right place. That determines -- and
3 it's the right time of year. So we're
4 hoping that we'll get a good spat set
5 and some oysters will come back --
6 Alabama oysters will come back in Heron
7 Bay, at Cedar Point, all these places
8 and over in Mobile Bay.

9 We want y'all to keep enjoying them
10 oysters, keep our people fishing, and
11 keep any monies coming down going to our
12 reefs.

13 Thank you, Commissioner Guy, for the
14 funds that come down. And this fund was
15 appropriated and acquired at the right
16 time for the people of the state of
17 Alabama to enjoy seafood.

18 I'm going to miss David Dean. Me
19 and David -- he had brown hair the first
20 time I met him.

21 And we got Heron Bay back, didn't
22 we, David?

23 MR. DEAN: That's right.

1 MR. BATES: For the people of the state. And
2 we want to keep harvesting oysters
3 there.

4 And, David, I'm going to miss you.
5 You're a good friend.

6 And besides that, y'all keep our
7 people fishing. When gamefish status
8 comes up for a fish --

9 MS. JONES: Time.

10 MR. BATES: -- don't let it happen because you
11 take it out of the grocery stores. And,
12 remember, as 9-2-80 says, all saltwater
13 fish is considered seafood. And we want
14 to catch it and serve it. Don't let
15 them take it away from the public.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bates.

17 MR. BATES: Thank you. Any questions?

18 MR. HATLEY: Yes, I've got -- Mr. Moultrie?

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley.

20 MR. HATLEY: Mr. Avery, at the next meeting we
21 have here would you sit down closer to
22 the front so you don't have to walk so
23 far.

1 MR. BATES: Takes me a while. I'm getting
2 older.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bates.

4 Mr. Hatley, was that a necessary
5 interruption?

6 The next speaker will be Amy George.

7 MS. GEORGE: We're going to let John Morse
8 speak on behalf of wildlife
9 rehabilitation.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Thank you, Amy.

11 The next speaker will be John Morse.

12 MR. MORSE: Thank you, sir. I'm John Morse,
13 Enterprise, Alabama, Coffee and Dale
14 County, and I'm representing wildlife
15 rehabilitators. I'd like to take the
16 opportunity to thank the board for
17 allowing me to present the information
18 and, also, Chuck Sykes for doing a fine
19 job in communicating and working with
20 the wildlife rehabilitators.

21 I would like, though, as the -- the
22 Alabama Wildlife Alliance would like to
23 request that the Wildlife and Freshwater

1 Fisheries consider the one RBS facility
2 as kind of a trial basis in that we'll
3 do -- we agree with you. We met with
4 you on this. But we'd like to make sure
5 that we can review this on an annual
6 basis to ensure that the -- Alabama's
7 wildlife and the citizens are getting
8 all the benefits of this program. We
9 really look forward to it. We are
10 looking forward to the future with a
11 good working relationship with all the
12 WFF staff.

13 Commissioner, we really appreciate
14 meeting us and working with us. And Ray
15 Metzler has been a fantastic point as
16 well to work with, and we really
17 appreciate it. Any questions?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you so much.

20 MR. MORSE: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
22 Arrion Tucker.

23 MR. TUCKER: Morning, Mr. Moultrie,

1 Commissioner, Board. My name is Arrion
2 Tucker. I'm from Guntersville, Marshall
3 County. And this morning I will be
4 asking for a hook restriction for
5 resident commercial fishing on the
6 Tennessee River.

7 I'm a third-generation commercial
8 fisherman. We would ask the board to
9 consider a hook restriction of 1,000
10 hooks per boat per day on resident
11 commercial fishermen on the Tennessee
12 River. The limit on hooks would ensure
13 a level playing field for all commercial
14 trotliners and protect our resource --
15 not just speaking for my friends and
16 family, but for the catfish guys, the
17 families that supplement their income by
18 catching fish to put in the freezer to
19 help feed their families. And let's not
20 forget the noodlers that love the
21 sport. We also have rod-and-reel
22 fishermen that have a ball catching
23 catfish.

1 What we're looking for is bigger
2 numbers of bigger fish which equals
3 bigger fun for all of our folks and --
4 for sports fishermen and bigger checks
5 for the commercial fishermen. We have a
6 sustainable fishery that produces large
7 numbers of catfish. Help me protect
8 this resource for the future.

9 The reason we're asking for this
10 hook limit is technology is advancing
11 every day. Commercial fishers are not
12 dinosaurs anymore. The learning curve
13 has been shortened by the Internet and
14 cell phones. The information can be
15 shared in minutes versus years.

16 To my knowledge, there are no laws
17 or regulations that prohibit factory
18 boats on our lakes. To give you an
19 example, fishing 5,000, 10,000 hooks per
20 day by eight to ten fishers on any given
21 lake is not a sustainable fishing
22 practice on our lakes.

23 Do you have any questions?

1 MR. HARTZOG: What is the limit now on number
2 of hooks?

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog, if you would
4 address the Chair, but go ahead,
5 Mr. Hartzog.

6 MR. HARTZOG: Well, Mr. Chair, would you ask
7 the --

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead. Go ahead.
9 We're rolling today on this meeting. So
10 go ahead.

11 MR. HARTZOG: Would you ask the gentlemen
12 downstairs what the limits are.

13 MR. DODD: Currently there is no restriction
14 on residents for number of hooks on
15 trotlines. On nonresidents it's a
16 hundred hooks per fisherman
17 restriction.

18 MR. HARTZOG: So a nonresident has a hundred
19 and a nonresident has no limit?

20 MR. DODD: No. A resident has no limit.

21 MR. HARTZOG: That's what I meant.

22 MR. DODD: Yeah.

23 MR. HARTZOG: Okay. What is the Fisheries

1 position on his request?

2 MR. NICHOLS: Well, we would need to -- we
3 need to look. We do have some recent --
4 fairly recent research on Tennessee
5 River catfish fisheries, and we just
6 need to take a look and see. But what
7 we need to see is evidence of a really
8 high harvest in order to -- you know, to
9 support a restriction of that type.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog, any more?

11 MR. HARTZOG: Well, we can't pass anything at
12 this meeting because it hasn't been
13 brought out.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's correct.

15 MR. HARTZOG: We can look at it for next
16 year. So I would ask that the Fisheries
17 division report back to us at the first
18 of next year to look at possible
19 restrictions or leave it as it is.

20 Thank you, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Mr. Jones, any
22 questions?

23 Commissioner Guy.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Could I ask you, sir, is
2 there -- I appreciate your opinion. Is
3 there a large number of other folks
4 besides yourself who feel that way?

5 MR. TUCKER: There's a few. There's not a lot
6 of us left. But, Commissioner, the
7 problem we've got is we've got some
8 folks that are what I would call rogue
9 fishermen, that they move from lake to
10 lake and they cut the population of fish
11 down to where it's not favorable for
12 them to stay on that lake. And they
13 move to another lake and they beat the
14 lake down. And we need to slow that
15 down.

16 Because like I'm a local fisherman
17 from Guntersville. I've lived there all
18 my life, and all my family has fished
19 there for years and years. And it's not
20 a very good thing for me to have to go
21 get a new job when another group of
22 fishermen move to my lake and catch all
23 of our fish out, which given three to

1 five years, our lake can come right back
2 to the best it's ever been. Catfish are
3 real resilient. And I've seen the ups
4 and the downs through the years. And if
5 we could -- we could cut the number of
6 hooks down to make it favorable for
7 everybody, then the catfish numbers
8 would stay up and everybody catch fish.
9 And that's what we're looking for.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: We'll get our folks to look
11 at it. Thank you, sir.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Tucker, I would ask
13 that you contact our district
14 representative, Austin Ainsworth, also,
15 and get with him on your concerns, if
16 you would. He's from your district.
17 Thank you very much, sir.

18 Okay. The next speaker will be Knox
19 Williams.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, thank you, sir.
21 My name is Knox Williams. I'm the
22 president of the American Silencer
23 Association. We are a nonprofit trade

1 group which represents the firearm
2 suppressor industry. I'm here today to
3 voice our support of the regulatory
4 change to allow firearm suppressors on
5 firearms while hunting. We are
6 currently working across country on
7 similar efforts.

8 To give everyone a background, there
9 are currently 39 states in the country
10 which allow civilians to own
11 suppressors. Of those 39 states, 31
12 allow for their use while hunting. Add
13 to that, on July 1st Georgia will become
14 the 32nd state in the country to allow
15 that. We are currently working in other
16 states like Louisiana and Ohio where we
17 expect to get suppressor hunting laws
18 passed this year as well.

19 With that, you know, I would be
20 happy to answer any technical questions
21 on suppressors, but --

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Does the board have any
23 questions?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, sir.

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is

5 Jessica Flowers.

6 MS. FLOWERS: Good morning. Hi, my name is
7 Jessica Flowers. I'm from Baldwin
8 County, Alabama. I'm here today to
9 discuss my opinion of opening up the
10 wildlife management to hog hunters --
11 hog dog hunters. I am one of those.

12 Regardless of the number, we can
13 agree that the population is growing
14 rapidly in the state of Alabama. We're
15 not asking to transport -- to relocate
16 wild hogs. We're only asking -- which
17 is against the law. We're only asking
18 that we can hunt, kill, and harvest our
19 hogs as far as putting them in our
20 freezer and different things like that
21 and feeding the needy. By opening the
22 wildlife management to hog dog hunters,
23 it will only help the efforts to control

1 the hog population.

2 As far as trapping, I trapped for
3 the first two years before I started hog
4 hunting. And we did catch a few.

5 That's no lie. But with dogs it's a lot
6 more efficient. Where you would catch
7 only two or three a week with a trap, we
8 can catch anywhere from three to 13 with
9 dogs, depending on the hog population in
10 that area.

11 Hog dogs -- really, there's no
12 difference in a hog dog, a squirrel dog,
13 a coon dog. I could bring my dog in
14 here today, the ones that hunt, and show
15 him to you, and you would not know the
16 difference as far as what type of dog he
17 is. They use hounds. They use Curs,
18 use Rat Terriers, use Jagdterriers. Any
19 dog can be called a hog dog if it's
20 trained properly, just like any coon
21 dog.

22 I've been to two meetings already.
23 This is my second meeting. I haven't

1 been to many. But I have not seen
2 anyone disagree with hog dogs being on
3 wildlife management or having a problem
4 with the hog dog people or community.
5 So I don't see it being a problem with
6 us as far as just giving us a chance to
7 open up wildlife management, whether
8 it's giving us tags or whether it's
9 giving us a short season. I would
10 appreciate any leniency y'all can give
11 us as far as thinking about it and
12 opening up the wildlife management. Any
13 questions?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Flowers.

16 MS. FLOWERS: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. The next
18 speaker is Cliff Hardy.

19 MR. HARDY: Chairman Moultrie, Ladies and
20 Gentlemen -- or Gentlemen of the
21 Advisory Board, I represent Black Belt
22 Outfitters. And we're here to oppose
23 the change in the regulations for deer

1 hunting. And let me tell you why.

2 We -- this regulation will reduce
3 two hunting periods for Black Belt, ten
4 days in October -- or excuse me -- two
5 weeks in October and then two weeks in
6 December. The regulation is
7 discriminatory, gentlemen. That means
8 it discriminates in favor of certain
9 hunters and against us, and here's why.

10 We can't book now for the two weeks
11 in October. It's out. Other preserves
12 can. They can -- they can -- I mean,
13 they can give a -- a hunting -- a hunter
14 time right now in October, but we can
15 not. In December, this is our best
16 hunting time for our deer, which is the
17 northern strain deer, and that's out.
18 So your question is, well, Hardy, what
19 about the extra time at the end of
20 February?

21 The deer have shed their antlers.
22 They're gone. So we are put between a
23 rock and a hard place, so to speak.

1 Now, you say what are we going to
2 do? We're in a position now that we
3 have some regulations that have been
4 studied, some regulations that -- that
5 we want to pass. The first thing we
6 would say is this: Table this until we
7 can meet with you and put in some
8 language that is not discriminatory --
9 not that the whole bill is bad, but it
10 is bad as far as our operation and other
11 operators below -- south of Highway 80.

12 The real solution is to give
13 high-fence operators a permit -- not
14 designed to shoot deer within a season,
15 but to give them a permit. They know
16 when their deer are ready to be
17 harvested. You want to bring
18 economic -- economics to the deer
19 hunting and to Alabama?

20 You do that and you'll have
21 people --

22 MS. JONES: Time.

23 MR. HARDY: -- coming in from all over to

1 hunt. And it will not be just a benefit
2 to us but to all the other industries.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hardy, we've got a
4 question from the board. Mr. Hatley.

5 MR. HATLEY: Yes, sir. Where are you located
6 specifically as far as your high fences
7 is concerned?

8 MR. HARDY: Do you know where the intersection
9 of 5 is and 80?

10 MR. HATLEY: Yes, sir.

11 MR. HARDY: You know right where that is?

12 MR. HATLEY: Yeah.

13 MR. HARDY: Our land borders 80, right there
14 at the -- right there at the southwest
15 corner. So we're just --

16 MR. HATLEY: How much land you got,
17 Mr. Hardy?

18 MR. HARDY: I don't. My client does. I don't
19 really -- Mr. Hatley, I'm a bird
20 hunter.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do you know how many acres
22 is involved, Mr. Hardy?

23 MR. HARDY: I think it's probably in excess of

1 four or 5,000 acres.

2 MR. BUNN: Under one enclosure, Mr. Hardy?

3 MR. HARDY: I don't think so. I don't think
4 so. I think the enclosure is probably
5 about a thousand acres. Now, that's
6 just roughly speaking.

7 MR. BUNN: Mr. Hardy, can I --

8 MR. HARDY: Sure.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Bunn, go ahead.

10 MR. BUNN: I'm sorry.

11 Do y'all hunt native deer outside
12 the enclosure? Do y'all sell hunts
13 outside the enclosure for native deer?

14 MR. HARDY: Yes, sir.

15 MR. BUNN: So you could still sell those hunts
16 in --

17 MR. HARDY: We could still sell those --

18 MR. BUNN: -- in February?

19 MR. HARDY: That -- that is exactly right. We
20 can sell those hunts in February.

21 MR. BUNN: So you still have deer to sell if
22 somebody wants to book a hunt with
23 you --

1 MR. HARDY: That's right. But our major
2 emphasis is the northern strain, and in
3 February the northern strain have no
4 bones.

5 MR. BUNN: Right.

6 MR. HARDY: They're gone.

7 MR. BUNN: And the only deer -- then I would
8 assume the only deer in your high fence
9 is your northern strain deer?

10 MR. HARDY: I don't know the answer to that.

11 MR. BUNN: But you do -- I'm just trying to be
12 clear. You do have -- if somebody
13 wanted to book a hunt with you in
14 February to kill a buck, you still have
15 a place for them to --

16 MR. HARDY: Sure. Sure. Sure. Sure. But as
17 you can imagine, the people want to
18 shoot a big buck deer.

19 MR. BUNN: We all do.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner Guy.

21 MR. HARDY: Well, that's you. I'd rather --

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hardy.

23 MR. HARDY: I'd rather shoot a quail if --

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hardy. Commissioner
2 Guy.

3 MR. HARDY: Commissioner Guy, yes, sir.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Hardy, how you doing,
5 sir?

6 MR. HARDY: Fine. How are you?

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: I don't know you. Are you
8 an attorney?

9 MR. HARDY: I'm an attorney.

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Do you have an
11 interest in this place?

12 MR. HARDY: No.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. So you're just here
14 on behalf of your client?

15 MR. HARDY: That's right. That's right.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: When you said northern
17 strain, is this a deer-breeder
18 operation?

19 MR. HARDY: Yes, sir, I think so.

20 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. And so you're
21 releasing captive deer that you've
22 raised into -- when you say northern
23 strain, you're saying captive deer?

1 MR. HARDY: Northern genetics. Captive deer.

2 That's right. That's right.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: All right.

4 MR. HARDY: And I don't know too much more
5 about it than that.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: That's fine.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Does the board have any
8 other questions?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hardy.

11 MR. HARDY: I'd like to say one thing.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: In closing quickly,
13 please, sir.

14 MR. HARDY: I'd like for the board to
15 recognize this, that there are no
16 regulations in Alabama against hunting
17 while you're intoxicated.

18 I think you'll agree with me on
19 that, David.

20 I was just amazed. I looked at the
21 regulations as a lawyer. And this has
22 nothing to do with why I'm down here.
23 But I'm just appalled that we don't --

1 please take a look at this, and please
2 advise us how to get out of this enigma.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hardy.

4 MR. HARDY: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
6 Clarence Herring.

7 MR. HERRING: Hi, my name is Clarence
8 Herring. I'm from Baldwin County. I'm
9 actually here to --

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Herring, if you can, I
11 know you're on crutches, but if you can
12 speak into the microphone so everybody
13 can hear, please, sir.

14 MR. HERRING: Sorry.

15 My name is Clarence Herring. I'm
16 from Baldwin County. I'm here in
17 reference to a permit system for Baldwin
18 County for dog hunting.

19 I am a resident of Baldwin County.
20 I am one of the landowners that's having
21 problems with the Halls Fork Hunting
22 Club. If this wasn't a board meeting, I
23 wouldn't be here, less than four weeks

1 of having a tumor removed from my leg.
2 I own property next to the club, and I
3 have dealt with them for the first year
4 of the dogs being on my property and
5 didn't say a word. The second year it
6 was just -- it's just done got to that
7 point.

8 Even after meeting with the
9 dog-hunting association, nothing changes
10 with this club. They continue with
11 their ways, letting the dogs run at
12 large. I do have to say I was wrong
13 about Dwayne Allen with the
14 association. He is looking out for all
15 dog hunters and means -- if that means
16 singling out the bad clubs and going and
17 doing the right thing, that is what he
18 does. I am not asking for the whole
19 dog-hunting community to be punished.
20 Just the ones that's causing the
21 landowners to not be able to use their
22 own property in a peaceful manner.

23 It has gotten to the point that I

1 offered the members of that club to buy
2 my property, and their reaction was I
3 should not have bought property next to
4 a dog-hunting club of 30 years. Well,
5 my problem with that is the real estate
6 company didn't tell me this. They
7 didn't tell me I was going to have to
8 deal with the dog-hunting club for the
9 rest of my 20 years before I retire.

10 So my question is, I would just --
11 hopefully y'all will consider putting
12 them back -- if they're such a good
13 club, then a permit system should not
14 affect them. They should be able to
15 survive within the community just like
16 anybody else. I don't see any problems
17 in the permit system.

18 So I would just hope y'all
19 consider -- continue that thought about
20 putting Baldwin County or either that
21 section -- not all of Baldwin County.
22 It doesn't have to be -- that's the only
23 club that I know of that's having a

1 problem in reference to dog -- they're
2 just letting the dogs run onto other
3 people's property.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Herring, have you
5 contacted your representative,
6 Mr. Hatley?

7 MR. HERRING: I have wrote letters. I've
8 contacted the game wardens in the area.
9 The game wardens in the area said
10 there's no help --

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Well, if you would contact
12 Mr. Hatley and direct your stuff through
13 Mr. Hatley, I think you'll find an ear
14 that --

15 MR. HERRING: Okay. After 14 years of law
16 enforcement, when a game warden tells
17 you there's nothing you can do, there's
18 a problem with the game wardens in south
19 Baldwin County.

20 MR. DOBBS: Chairman?

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Dobbs.

22 MR. DOBBS: Just two questions for
23 edification.

1 How many acres of land do you have?

2 MR. HERRING: I own 50 acres personally and I
3 lease 240 acres and I lease another 800
4 acres in Baldwin County in the same
5 area.

6 MR. DOBBS: So with regard to the Halls Fork
7 Hunting Club that you're talking about,
8 how much land do they have that is
9 adjacent to yours or total land that you
10 know of, that you're aware of?

11 MR. HERRING: The only thing I'm aware of,
12 they run little 80 acres, 200 acres, and
13 they have a 600-acre plot. But they
14 have a tendency of running small-acre
15 pieces of property, and there's no way
16 to keep the dogs -- the minute the dogs
17 get on the ground, they're already on
18 the next piece of property.

19 MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner, did you have
21 a comment?

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: No.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Herring.

1 MR. HERRING: Thank you, guys.

2 MR. HATLEY: Chairman Moultrie?

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. Mr. Hatley.

4 MR. HATLEY: I will be glad to meet with him
5 at any time.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

7 The next speaker will be T.J.
8 Thompson.

9 MR. THOMPSON: I'm T.J. Thompson from
10 Phillipsville in Bay Minette, Alabama.
11 My concern is about the same thing as
12 Mr. Herring's. I came to the last
13 meeting and spoke.

14 A lot of people has asked me if this
15 has been going on for so long why did I
16 wait until now to do it. As an adult
17 and hunting all my life, I could kind of
18 move around. And, yeah, I've grumbled
19 and complained with this club, and we've
20 grumbled back and forth. But as an
21 adult I could move.

22 I got a son now that hunts with me.
23 And, you know, he just -- you can't move

1 a child to go climb a tree here and
2 there because he has to sit in a
3 shooting house. I just don't feel
4 confident putting a child in a climber.

5 He told me two years ago that he
6 didn't want to hunt anymore because all
7 we got to see when we went over there
8 was dogs coming through this plot.

9 I made up my mind then. That hit home
10 because I wanted to make memories with
11 my son hunting as long as everybody --
12 you know, as well as everybody else
13 does. But when he told me that, that
14 hit deep.

15 So that's why I was at the last
16 meeting and I'm at this one. I just
17 want some relief in Baldwin County so
18 that we can hunt in peace, you know,
19 just like everybody else does. Thank
20 you.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

22 The next speaker is Jack Hall.

23 MR. HALL: My name is Jack Hall. I'm a member

1 of Halls Fork Hunting Club. I'm a
2 retired schoolteacher, 35 years of
3 service. Just recently retired and
4 moved back to my hometown of Bay
5 Minette, which is located in Baldwin
6 County. I'd like to talk to you about a
7 couple of things. One is about
8 heritage, and that's what I'm going to
9 talk on first.

10 I'm a dog hunter because of my
11 heritage. My dad, which is 91 years
12 old, which is still a member of Halls
13 Fork Hunting Club, basically got me
14 started when I was four and five and six
15 years old. Me and my siblings would
16 load up in a '52 Chevrolet pickup truck
17 with my dad. This is before seatbelts
18 and constraint laws. We would ride all
19 the way to Tensaw, Alabama, and hunt on
20 a small hunting club up there by the
21 name of Box Branch Hunting Club.

22 The joy that I got hunting with my
23 dad back in those days. He would always

1 take me with him. He would put me up on
2 the dog box, and my job was to call the
3 dogs. And as they would come in, he
4 would give me a good you're a good dog
5 caller, thank you very much.

6 And my excitement with my dad
7 continues today. He's hard of hearing.
8 He has hearing aids. And we go hunting
9 one night a week. We hunt fox and
10 coyotes. And we sit there at the camp
11 and we listen to the dogs run and we
12 pick them up the next morning. And he
13 still goes and we enjoy spending time
14 together with the dogs that we have
15 today.

16 Another thing I'd like to talk about
17 is we've been in contact with landowners
18 of our hunting club. We've invited them
19 to come to our hunting camp and talk to
20 us about things that we can do to
21 improve, are there any problems. We've
22 been in contact with the landowners by
23 letter. One of the landowners gave us a

1 speech about not just being seen during
2 hunting season, but to be seen 12 months
3 of the year not only just hunting, but
4 doing things for the community.

5 We have several things that we've
6 worked on and improved on. One thing is
7 we have a community fish fry coming up.
8 Y'all all are invited. We're inviting
9 our entire community to come and take
10 part in. It starts about two o'clock
11 next Saturday, and it'll run till about
12 dark. We'll have some musical
13 entertainment and games for the kids to
14 play.

15 We also have another thing that
16 we're going to do and that's a community
17 cleanup day where the club is going to
18 organize and simply clean the roads --
19 not on the hunting club itself, but out
20 in the actual community. And we're
21 actually doing other things with some of
22 the elderly in the community as well.

23 MS. JONES: Time.

1 MR. HALL: We feel like Halls Fork, which is
2 40 years old -- we like to think that
3 we'll be there another 40 years, and
4 we're taking the steps to try to be
5 there. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hall.

7 The next speaker will be Don Knight.

8 MR. KNIGHT: I'm Don Knight, state president
9 of the Alabama Dog Hunters Association.
10 And at the last meeting we had two
11 problem situations, one in Colbert
12 County and one in Baldwin County. I
13 have been involved in both of them very
14 extensively. The situation in both
15 cases is pretty much personal. It's --
16 I hate that dog hunting is being
17 involved in them, but there's an awful
18 lot of personal -- and I can't even
19 talk -- problems in both of those
20 situations.

21 Both dog-hunting clubs in these
22 situations are making corrections in
23 their way of hunting to try to help

1 these problems. Both of them have
2 agreed to do whatever they can.

3 The one in Colbert County -- and
4 Mr. Buddy will talk on it a little bit
5 later -- they went to the point of
6 giving up a Wednesday and a Saturday not
7 to turn their dogs loose period, okay,
8 except the last Saturday and Wednesday
9 of the season. That is a big step.
10 They want to communicate with the
11 people.

12 And I'll be honest with you. When I
13 had that meeting between the landowners
14 up there and the people in Colbert
15 County, the dog-hunting club, the
16 landowner had nothing. I finally just
17 adjourned the meeting and stated that we
18 weren't getting anywhere. If you put
19 those clubs on a permit system, they're
20 going to be at a tremendous disadvantage
21 and especially that one in Colbert
22 County.

23 Now, another thing that I want to go

1 over right quick is that permit system.
2 I got a copy of it, and it doesn't read
3 today like it used to read.

4 When we originally sat on that
5 board --

6 Mr. Hatley is the only one left that
7 was on that board and myself. And I was
8 on the board.

9 -- we agreed that any situation to
10 cause a problem, in other words, the
11 three complaints that you can get, they
12 had to be legitimate -- turning the dogs
13 loose on their property, something that
14 would get a citation, not just the dogs
15 running across the land. I would never
16 have agreed to that. And I sat on that
17 committee meeting and there's no way.
18 There had to be legitimate problems that
19 a citation could be written for. And I
20 would like for that to be checked into
21 and go back to Mr. Grant Lynch's -- when
22 he put up the permit system and
23 everything.

1 These people have no chance if it's
2 just a dog running across the property
3 and they're going to call it. We'll
4 have situations where people have
5 stopped on the side of the road -- and
6 I'm not saying these two people will.
7 I'm not saying these people are
8 complaining against this. But I'm
9 telling you we have had problems with
10 the landowners or the complainers
11 stopping, picking up our dogs on the
12 side of the road, and taking them to
13 their property. Now, three of those and
14 they're gone.

15 MS. JONES: Time.

16 MR. KNIGHT: That's just a little bit too
17 much. And I want y'all to consider
18 looking at that situation. I'll meet
19 with any committee, anything we can do
20 on the permit system. So I ask you to
21 take a look at that.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Bunn.

23 MR. BUNN: Mr. Knight, I do want to commend

1 you. And we all -- I think I can speak
2 for the board. We all appreciate your
3 involvement in trying to help us with
4 these problems.

5 But one thing I do have an issue
6 with -- and I appreciate Halls Fork
7 in -- y'all getting involved in the
8 community. That's great. But it's my
9 opinion -- and I don't know if it's
10 anybody else's opinion -- but it
11 shouldn't be Mr. Herring's or any other
12 private landowner's responsibility to
13 keep somebody else's dogs, you know, off
14 their property. You know, that's --
15 he's a private landowner, and that's
16 infringing on -- you know, onto his
17 property and infringing on the way he
18 likes to hunt.

19 And it gets to a point where -- and
20 I think he seemed like a reasonable
21 fellow. If it gets to a point where
22 they cannot control their dogs, then it
23 really leaves us no choice but to, you

1 know, put clubs like that on permits.
2 Because, you know, as a private
3 landowner, you shouldn't be responsible
4 for your neighbor's dogs. That should
5 be their responsibility.

6 MR. KNIGHT: I agree. I agree
7 wholeheartedly. And that's what our
8 clubs are setting up to try to do now is
9 do more things to keep those dogs off
10 that property in the one in Colbert
11 County and also the one in Baldwin
12 County. Both of them -- Halls Fork,
13 they're agreeing to cut down on their
14 dogs to try to -- where people can keep
15 them off the land --

16 MR. BUNN: How big of an area are they
17 releasing the dogs on, Mr. Knight?

18 MR. KNIGHT: In Halls Fork, I think -- what
19 have y'all got -- 3,000 acres?

20 (Crowd responds.)

21 MR. KNIGHT: 35, 3600. I've got a map of
22 their area.

23 MR. BUNN: One contiguous lot or is it --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We got a highway
2 dividing one half of it, and then we got
3 a -- probably about a 20-acre block that
4 actually -- all of our land would
5 actually join if you actually look at a
6 map.

7 MR. KNIGHT: And I had them send me a map
8 where I had it in front of me to look at
9 that, because I don't want people
10 running a hundred acres there or 200
11 acres there. I mean, that's going to
12 cause problems. If they don't have a
13 big enough set of acres, I'm going to
14 tell them you don't need to run dogs
15 there.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions from
17 the board?

18 Mr. Hartzog.

19 MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman, Don has made the
20 statement that there have been some
21 changes in the way the original -- when
22 Grant did the original permit system and
23 the way it's worded now. You know, I

1 would like for the department to send
2 all the members of the board a copy of
3 the way it's written now and the way it
4 was written back when Grant presented it
5 so that we can review what Don has
6 said.

7 The second comment, Don, right at
8 the first of your comments you said
9 that -- I've forgotten exactly how you
10 worded it -- but said that it would be a
11 hardship --

12 MR. DOBBS: Disadvantage.

13 MR. HARTZOG: Huh?

14 MR. DOBBS: Disadvantage.

15 MR. KNIGHT: Disadvantage, yeah.

16 MR. HARTZOG: Okay. That was the word you
17 used.

18 But as long as the club -- you know,
19 from the area that we had a problem with
20 that you helped me with two years ago
21 around Titus, you know, from what I
22 understand now -- you know, I actually
23 got calls -- a "thank you" because

1 everything was running good. So why is
2 it a disadvantage when now it's working
3 so good in Titus with why -- explain to
4 me the disadvantage that the gentlemen
5 in Colbert County would have where it
6 seems to be working well in other permit
7 areas.

8 MR. KNIGHT: Well, I don't like to do this,
9 but I will. It's the people. It's the
10 people, whether they want to try to get
11 along, they want to try to keep people
12 hunting.

13 A dog running across the property,
14 as long as the people are working with
15 them and they're trying to keep off of
16 them and they know that, then they
17 should be willing to help a little bit.
18 And a dog every now and then should not
19 be that big a problem. A dog every day,
20 a dog every time you go out in the
21 woods, yes, sir, that's a problem. And
22 that's what our clubs are meeting on now
23 trying to resolve.

1 But it depends on the people. Those
2 people down there were very willing to
3 work with the dog clubs and make it
4 happen. In these two situations, I have
5 met with these people -- and I don't
6 like to be ugly about the people. I
7 like the people. I want them all
8 hunting. But they're not willing to --
9 in one case we got the man fussing about
10 the dogs running on the other property.
11 He's fussing about the dogs -- not only
12 the dogs, but the four-wheelers. How
13 you going to make --

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Does the board have any
15 other questions for Mr. Knight?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Knight.

18 MR. BUNN: Thank you, Don.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
20 Susan Morrow.

21 MS. MORROW: Good morning, Chairman, Members
22 of the Board. I'm Susan Morrow from
23 Mobile County. I think y'all all know

1 me. You should by now.

2 Anyway, I would like to -- I hope
3 that y'all are voting today to give us
4 back our ten days where y'all did the
5 season shift, the ten days in December.
6 That would be a big plus for us. And I
7 think Mr. Sykes recommended it. And we
8 thank you for that.

9 And I would also like to ask y'all
10 to look into hog hunting with dogs on
11 management areas. We're not asking for
12 a whole lot. It is a big sport and it
13 is done entirely different than deer
14 hunting. And it is very controllable.
15 And I think that with 37 management
16 areas in this state that we ought to be
17 able to let the hog hunters come on at
18 least one or two, three or four. I
19 mean, we have four that we can dog hunt
20 with deer on, and there's 37. And so
21 the other 37 you can basically stalk
22 hunt on. So I would like for y'all to
23 please look at that and let's see if we

1 couldn't get something for our hog
2 hunters.

3 And if you have any questions about
4 it, you can go hog hunting with these
5 guys at any time. They would be more
6 than happy to take you to show you how
7 it's done. It's very organized. It's
8 not like -- well, I'm not saying that
9 deer hunting with dogs is not
10 organized. It could be better organized
11 on the Upper Delta. But it's
12 entirely -- it's a different thing.
13 It's like coon hunting. Coon hunting is
14 different. So don't mistake me there,
15 now. But I would like for y'all to look
16 at that.

17 And also I would like for the board
18 to look at -- I know that the state does
19 a lot of shooting to do studies of the
20 deer. Well, we have Alabama Hunger
21 Relief Program in this state, and they
22 do pay processors to process the deer
23 meat to give to charities and things.

1 And from what I understand from
2 Mr. Sykes, that the deer is no good.

3 If we knew, we could coordinate. We
4 could get people there that would go out
5 and get the deer and skin the deer and
6 take it to food processors. We have
7 people with refrigerated trucks. And it
8 would be paid for. So the deer would
9 not go to waste. And there is people in
10 this state that don't even get to kill a
11 deer during the season and they hunt.
12 But they would be more than happy to be
13 there to clean the deer, go get the
14 deer -- wouldn't have to do any of
15 that -- for the deer meat so it wouldn't
16 be throwed away. And I would appreciate
17 it if y'all would look into this.

18 MS. JONES: Time.

19 MS. MORROW: I thank y'all for all that you
20 do. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.

22 The next speaker is John Pfeffer.

23 MR. HARTZOG. Mr. Chairman?

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, sir.

2 MR. HARTZOG: I have one question.

3 What is the policy on WMAs as to hog
4 hunting? Is there no regulations,
5 Chuck?

6 MR. SYKES: As far as dogs, no.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Director Sykes.

8 MR. HARTZOG: Excuse me?

9 MR. SYKES: As far as running with dogs, no.

10 MR. HARTZOG: No. But say, for instance, if I
11 wanted to go still hunting on Barbour
12 WMA --

13 MR. SYKES: There are numerous hog-hunting
14 opportunities throughout the WMA system.

15 MR. HARTZOG: It's what, now?

16 MR. SYKES: There are numerous hunting
17 opportunities for hogs throughout the
18 WMA system. It's in all the packets.
19 Each WMA that has hogs has -- some have
20 special seasons. Some have where you
21 can harvest hogs during any season. If
22 you're squirrel hunting and you see a
23 hog, you can harvest one. So we're --

1 there's opportunities to hog hunt on the
2 WMAs.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is John
4 Pfeffer.

5 MR. PFEFFER: My name is John Pfeffer. This
6 is my second time having to come to one
7 of these meetings.

8 I'm with Halls Fork Hunting Club, a
9 dog hunter. Been a dog hunter for
10 years. I've been -- my granddaddy took
11 me on a club not far from where I grew
12 up. And where I'm at now is basically
13 my hometown, born and raised there, in
14 Perdido, which is there in Halls Fork --
15 you know, right next to the Halls Fork
16 community.

17 I've been hunting there for about
18 six years now. Well, this will be my
19 sixth year actually as a club member,
20 and everything has been going great.
21 Been having a real good time with
22 family. I hunt there with two of my
23 children, two boys, and my wife. My

1 wife don't always go, but it's mostly
2 just my two boys and I. We chose this
3 club because of the people that's
4 actually in this club. They care a lot
5 about the children and stuff that
6 actually hunts with us. That's their
7 main goal. I mean, a lot of the older
8 generation don't even carry a gun. They
9 just want, you know, the younger kids to
10 have a gun. They got their gun with
11 them, but 90 percent of the time it's
12 not even out in their hands. They got
13 little kids with their Red Rider BB guns
14 ready to shoot.

15 But we've had some issues, you know,
16 last hunting season that we've, you
17 know, been trying to address since last
18 hunting -- or this past hunting season.
19 And we've been talking about different
20 things, and we've actually -- it's like,
21 you know, Mr. Jack Hall was speaking
22 about awhile ago. He said that, you
23 know, you only want to hunt during the

1 hunting season. Then, you know, like
2 the community said, hey, you need to
3 make it where it's something where it's
4 kind of like 12 months, you know,
5 instead of just making it deer-hunting
6 season. That's what we're kind of
7 doing. And it's actually brought our
8 club even closer together than what it
9 was as far as, you know, how we're doing
10 things. It's just like they said, the
11 community cleanup. We always had an
12 annual fish fry, but we've actually went
13 out this time and actually got -- went a
14 little bit bigger scale with our annual
15 fish fry on getting people to come out
16 to this.

17 The dog issue that we've had,
18 90 percent of our dogs now have tracking
19 units on them. I would say 50 percent
20 of them is GPS tracking units. It's
21 better to locate your dogs, you know,
22 with the GPS units. You can pinpoint
23 exactly where they're at, get ahead of

1 them, cut them off, bring them back to
2 you.

3 Used to you could use -- years ago
4 you could turn a Running Walker loose
5 and just let him run and just listen to
6 him run. These days you can't.
7 Property is being swapped hands from
8 property owner to property owner to
9 property owner to where it eventually
10 gets to where somebody's got it that
11 don't like dogs or, you know, vice
12 versa.

13 Well, we've talked to a few
14 still-stalk hunters that actually is
15 around in our area. They're willing to
16 work with us. We're willing to work
17 with them on it. We've actually asked
18 them a few things about some changes
19 that could be made around there. And,
20 you know, one of the things was brought
21 up about how many days we do hunt.
22 Well, we're -- that's in the making --
23 of us cutting back on our hunting

1 schedule and hunting days as far as how
2 many days we hunt.

3 The next thing is, is when we turn
4 loose, we try to keep -- you know, be
5 respectful to the stalk hunters.
6 Because I'm a stalk hunter myself.
7 But -- and my boys are. But as a stalk
8 hunter, you got to look at what time you
9 turn your dogs loose.

10 MS. JONES: Time.

11 MR. PFEFFER: A stalk hunter usually gets in
12 there about eight, 8:30, maybe nine
13 o'clock. They'll come down at nine
14 o'clock when it ain't rut. And we don't
15 normally turn our dogs loose till about
16 nine o'clock. And that's something we
17 pretty much stay to is that. And we
18 don't hunt the areas close to the stalk
19 hunters and try to give them time to
20 actually get out. And then midday
21 that's the side we'll hunt, and then
22 we'll leave that side, so --

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Pfeffer, have you

1 contacted and worked with Mr. Hatley?

2 MR. PFEFFER: Yes, sir.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Very good. Just
4 wanted to make sure you knew who your
5 district representative was.

6 MR. PFEFFER: Yes, sir. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much,
8 Mr. Pfeffer.

9 The next speaker is Chase Waddle.

10 MR. WADDLE: Good morning. How y'all doing?

11 I'm here on behalf of Halls Fork
12 Hunting Club today. I'd like to thank
13 you for having us. I'd like to start by
14 telling you a little bit about myself.

15 I've been a part of this club for
16 about eight years, going on nine this
17 year. The last two years I've had the
18 opportunity to spend with my
19 five-year-old son and on occasions
20 sometimes my wife will go with me. For
21 me, it's not all about hunting. It's
22 about spending time with my family,
23 teaching my son to hunt the same way I

1 was taught. My dad took me dog hunting
2 when I was four years old. Instantly I
3 was hooked and not much has changed a
4 generation later. My son probably loves
5 to go more than I do. For him it's just
6 not going hunting. He enjoys playing
7 with other boys and girls who come with
8 their parents and grandparents.

9 Most of the club members in our club
10 have been a part of the Halls Fork
11 community all their lives. For me,
12 being a part of the club makes me feel
13 like being a part of the community. As
14 the hunting club as a whole, we're
15 always willing to lend a helping hand to
16 anyone and everyone. Like Mr. Pfeffer
17 was saying, we try to schedule our hunts
18 on the weekend after 9 a.m. out of just
19 pure respect to the still hunters around
20 us.

21 We also have the fish fry every
22 year, and we invite everyone in the
23 community to come. The fish fry and the

1 work day that we're going to plan this
2 year is just not a great way to give
3 back to our community; it's also great
4 morals being taught to our children to
5 come out and help and give back to their
6 community and help anyone who needs any
7 kind of help in their community.

8 I'm sure everyone in this room hunts
9 or has hunted before. That being said,
10 it takes a little effort from everyone,
11 both parties, to keep our hunting
12 tradition alive. Whether you hunt deer,
13 turkey, squirrel, coon, it doesn't
14 matter. We're all blessed to hunt and
15 share the same tradition our forefathers
16 did before us. Over the years in this
17 club I've met some great friends and
18 great people, and I hope our traditional
19 way of hunting with dogs continues for
20 generations to come. I'd personally
21 like to thank you for having our hunting
22 club today. I hope you have a great
23 day. Any questions?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much,
3 Mr. Waddle.

4 The next speaker is Buddy Willis.

5 MR. WILLIS: Commissioner, Dan, Board, my name
6 is Buddy Willis. I'm from Cherokee,
7 Alabama. That's located in Colbert
8 County. I've been hunting in that
9 county for 60 years.

10 We was here two months ago.

11 Mr. Worsham and Mr. Thompson made some
12 complaints on our dogs running across
13 their property. Well, I'd say five
14 years ago Mr. Worsham and his daddy was
15 a member of our club, and they had no
16 problems at all with our dogs. Our dogs
17 run deer over them. The two gentlemen
18 sitting back there has killed deer in
19 front of our dogs. And when we asked
20 them to pay their part of planting the
21 green fields, et cetera, et cetera, they
22 didn't want to do it no more. They
23 would pull their land out and hunt like

1 they wanted to.

2 So we was here last -- two months
3 ago, and we come up with this idea to
4 have a meeting with these people. And
5 Mr. Jones, we thought he was going to be
6 there, but he wasn't able to make it.
7 And Don was there. Four officers was
8 there from the wardens, and they heard
9 what was said. And we got minutes of
10 it. And we offered them 14 days --
11 which there's 55 days of running dogs in
12 Colbert County. We offered them 14 days
13 of that back just so we could run our
14 dogs.

15 The majority of those people that's
16 in this club is 55 or older. Some of us
17 have double-knee replacements. Four of
18 us has got prostate cancer, can't move,
19 this, that, and the other. And we have
20 no other way to get around in those
21 hills up there other -- to make a deer
22 move other than put a little dog after
23 it. I've got some dogs that's -- one of

1 them's 14, one of them's 12, and the
2 other one's about ten. And I know for a
3 fact that they run deer over to
4 Mr. Worsham and his daddy. And now this
5 is a personal thing, the only thing I
6 can see.

7 I'm asking you to consider them
8 making a counteroffer to what we made to
9 them. I mean, we hadn't broke any
10 laws. I don't know what to say about
11 it. I mean, what can you say if you
12 hadn't broke any laws and paid any
13 fines? But we were willing to turn our
14 dogs loose way beyond them or whatever.

15 Another issue was we was accused of
16 running our dogs on the management area,
17 which we figured the Saturdays and
18 Wednesdays north of the Natchez Trace,
19 that's the day that Forever Wild has
20 their hunt.

21 MS. JONES: Time.

22 MR. WILLIS: We figured that would help that.

23 So I don't know what else I can say.

1 Gentlemen, I thank you for your
2 time. And, then again, 15 seconds. I'm
3 going to give you 14 of it back like it
4 was last time you wasn't here.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Willis.

6 And I wasn't going to say anything about
7 that.

8 The next speaker is Paul Jeffreys.

9 MR. JEFFREYS: Chairman, Members of the Board,
10 I'm from Lamar County. My name is Paul
11 Jeffreys. I've been coming to these
12 meetings for several years.

13 And I just want to take this
14 opportunity to thank you for the season
15 and bag limits that you set in Lamar
16 County in our area of the state. They
17 worked out very well. We just ask that
18 y'all continue to keep them the same as
19 they are. Don't want to make any
20 changes.

21 This past deer season we had some
22 problems in Marion County on a piece of
23 property of my family with night

1 hunters. I would like to, while I've
2 got the mic up here, just commend
3 Captain Johnson and his officers in that
4 district. They worked diligently. And
5 I believe there was one arrest made. So
6 they did a wonderful job.

7 And, Chief, I would like to commend
8 your officers in that part of the
9 state. They really worked on it.

10 But long story short, I'd just like
11 to ask you to keep our seasons the way
12 they are -- seasons and bag limits, not
13 make any changes in that part. Thank
14 you.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Jeffreys.

16 The next speaker is Randy Thompson.

17 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes,
18 I'm Randy Thompson from Cherokee,
19 Alabama, and that's in west Colbert
20 County.

21 And we're here today mainly to say I
22 think we're moving in the right
23 direction maybe to help our problem.

1 But we have had a problem for years with
2 the dog hunting -- not necessarily with
3 the dog hunting, but the dog hunting
4 running on our property.

5 And, again, I just want to say I
6 think we've made a step in the right
7 direction. I understand there's a
8 motion on the table. And we put up with
9 this for a long time. And in 2013 I
10 believe we were here for the meeting and
11 kind of brought this to the attention of
12 the board and then again this past
13 meeting.

14 And we -- to bring you up to speed a
15 little bit, they've already mentioned
16 the meeting that we had. We did get a
17 call that the Blanton Hill Club wanted
18 to meet with us, and we agreed to meet
19 with them. We were told there would be
20 five or six of their members of the club
21 and then we knew it would be four or
22 five landowners and we agreed to that.
23 And I'll have to say, when we got there,

1 it looked more like a town meeting or a
2 football game.

3 There was -- about all the club
4 members were there. There was a Colbert
5 County Commissioner there. There was
6 two ladies there that addressed
7 themselves as attorneys. And I'll have
8 to say, after they found out we didn't
9 really like that, they -- including
10 Mr. Willis, he offered to leave. And he
11 and his sons, I think, did leave. We
12 didn't have any problem really with
13 anybody being there, but the problem was
14 there were people there making comments
15 that didn't know anything about the
16 problem.

17 Mr. Knight -- I wasn't going to say
18 anything about him being there, but he
19 was there. If you can picture this:
20 We've got a meeting between a club
21 that's supposed to be five members and
22 five landowners and we've got the
23 president of the Alabama Dog Hunters

1 Club presiding over the meeting. Now,
2 there's something wrong with that
3 situation.

4 So a lot of the people that were
5 there that witnessed -- because of the
6 comments that he made, it made it look
7 like we were the culprits. And trust
8 me, people, we're not bothering
9 anybody.

10 It's just like somebody said
11 earlier. I don't have a problem with
12 the dogs running. I don't have a
13 problem hearing dogs in the distance.
14 But we've got documentation. Mr. Jones
15 has got documentation we sent him.
16 We've got pictures of dogs under our
17 shooting houses, on our green fields
18 over and over.

19 So we're not being -- we're not
20 being unreasonable here. All we're
21 asking is that we be able to hunt the
22 way we want to hunt. And I wish they
23 could hunt the way they want to hunt,

1 but obviously they don't have enough
2 property to do that. Because it seems
3 no matter where they turn the dogs loose
4 they end up on top of us. And that's
5 the only problem we got. I don't have
6 anything personal with anybody, but I
7 would like for me and my family --

8 MS. JONES: Time.

9 MR. THOMPSON: -- to be able to hunt.

10 And if I could just say one more
11 thing.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead, please, sir.

13 MR. THOMPSON: The one proposal that they made
14 for those two days they wanted to give
15 up, what they're telling us is -- in
16 short, if you look at it like this,
17 they're telling us you can hunt two days
18 out of the week the way you want to hunt
19 and we'll hunt five days out of the week
20 the way we want to hunt. Now, I don't
21 think that's -- I don't think that's
22 reasonable.

23 But thank you for your

1 consideration. And, again, I think
2 we're headed in the right direction. I
3 appreciate it.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

5 The next speaker is Mike Worsham.

6 MR. WORSHAM: My name is Mike Worsham. My
7 place is in north Colbert County north
8 of Cherokee, and I'm the problem that
9 Mr. Knight referred to in his comments.
10 And anytime the facts don't support a
11 group's position on an issue, they
12 resort to personal attacks, and that's
13 what the Blanton Hill Hunting Club is
14 doing right here.

15 They're talking about their
16 willingness to meet with us and talk
17 about the issues. We tried to talk with
18 them numerous years before 2013 when we
19 appeared before the board. Buddy
20 Willis' last statement to my dad was,
21 Gene, you might as well go on; we're
22 going to do what we want to do. And
23 that's what led us to appear before the

1 board in 2013. Came back and they
2 didn't -- didn't try to get with us in
3 2013. Nothing changed in this last
4 year.

5 So they -- they did want to meet
6 with us after they talked. The board
7 was going to consider putting Colbert
8 County on the permit system. We had the
9 meeting. And Randy talked about the
10 meeting. We didn't understand there
11 were going to be five or six members.
12 They said they would bring five or six
13 members so it would just be a discussion
14 between the two groups.

15 The issue is dogs running on our
16 properties. It's not an occasional
17 dog. It's not hearing a dog. We have
18 pictures. I have a video of one running
19 under a stand. We have dogs on our
20 property every day that we hunt just
21 about -- I mean, not every day --
22 practically every day that we hunt.

23 We don't -- you know, they agreed to

1 the days that they would not turn their
2 dogs loose. Well, that in itself
3 implies that they can't keep the dogs
4 off of our property when they turn them
5 loose. So they're giving up 14 days.
6 Well, you know, you don't hunt very many
7 Wednesdays, or I don't. So that means
8 seven days out of a 55-day season that
9 they're giving us back -- giving us --
10 to hunt. And, you know, what good does
11 that do if the dogs have been all over
12 your property the other six days of the
13 week.

14 So they talk about putting standers
15 on the property line to catch the dogs
16 as they cross. Very hilly terrain, pine
17 thicket. I just don't think that'll
18 work. They've asked us to call them
19 when the dogs are on our property. We
20 will do that, but your hunt is already
21 ruined when the dogs are on the
22 property.

23 So we'd like to ask that you put

1 them on the permit system if these
2 remedies are going to work. It won't
3 have any effect on them. They -- they
4 have shown an unwillingness to abide by
5 voluntary restrictions, and this will
6 just be a reminder that if they don't
7 make a concerted effort to keep the dogs
8 on the property that they lease and off
9 of our properties, then there will be
10 repercussions.

11 You know, this is not just an
12 occasional thing. The dogs are on our
13 property every time we hunt. So I'd
14 like to ask y'all to consider putting
15 this on the -- the area of Colbert
16 County on the permit system.

17 And, for the record, I've never been
18 a member of Blanton Hill Hunting Club,
19 ever.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Worsham.

21 That concludes our speakers. For the
22 next order of business, before we get into
23 old business, I want to call on

1 Commissioner Guy. Commissioner.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Chairman

3 Moultrie. Two things of housekeeping
4 that I just forgot. I apologize to the
5 public and the members of the board.

6 One of them was the minutes -- where
7 we approved the minutes, there was a
8 request by Director Sykes at our last
9 meeting on March 1, 2014 -- on page 16,
10 he made a reference to a population
11 estimate, and he said the word "5,000"
12 and it was supposed to be "500,000."
13 And Director Sykes would like to make
14 that correction to the mistake in the
15 number he said. But he wanted to -- in
16 case it was read later, he wanted to
17 make that correction.

18 So I would ask the board, if they
19 would -- if somebody would make a motion
20 to approve that correction to the
21 minutes of March 1, 2014.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

23 MR. HARTZOG: So made.

1 MR. JONES: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Got a motion and a second
3 to amend the minutes from the previous
4 motion approving them. All of those in
5 favor raise your right hand.

6 (All board members raise hand.)

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show it's
10 unanimous.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: And just so -- the court
12 reporter got it right. We just made the
13 mistake. I see her staring at me.

14 And then, lastly, I forgot to call
15 on Chris Blankenship. If Chris --
16 Director Blankenship would come up to
17 the microphone.

18 There have been a lot of questions
19 about red snapper season, and I think
20 that we've gotten the word out that
21 that's controlled by the federal
22 authorities. But I think Chris would
23 like the opportunity to address that so

1 that people might can get a better
2 understanding of what is happening and
3 what we're trying to do.

4 Thank you, Chris.

5 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Commissioner.

6 We have a lot of good things going
7 on in coastal Alabama like Mr. Bates
8 mentioned with the planting the shells
9 for the oyster reef and so many other
10 things. But the one issue that causes
11 the most consternation down there and
12 probably in a lot of your districts as
13 well has to do with the red snapper
14 management.

15 This year it looks like on the
16 federal season it will be somewhere
17 between nine and 11 days for red snapper
18 season, and that is caused by several
19 factors that go into that. Two of the
20 factors is the inadequate stock
21 assessment that is done by the federal
22 government that sets the total amount of
23 red snapper that can be harvested, and

1 the other -- another thing is the poor
2 data collection for the landing
3 information that they collect. I want
4 to just catch you up briefly on the
5 things that we're doing with the Marine
6 Resources division to try and improve
7 those two particular areas.

8 One, on the stock assessment, we
9 funded research for several years --
10 Dr. Shipp, some of the work that he's
11 done at the University of South Alabama,
12 Dr. Powers, and then Dr. Szedlemeyer
13 with Auburn University and our own
14 staff -- on the artificial reef system
15 off the coast of Alabama to include more
16 of the information from those areas in
17 the stock assessment. And we are
18 currently participating in an exercise
19 to where we do our own stock assessment
20 off the coast of Alabama -- and we
21 should have that in the next month or
22 so -- to show -- so that our scientists
23 can show exactly what is off the coast

1 of Alabama and to work with the federal
2 government to improve their stock
3 assessment.

4 But most importantly today, where it
5 affects the board, is the collection of
6 the red snapper landings data. The
7 information system that the federal
8 government uses changed in 2013, and it
9 has not been proven to be accurate in
10 that year. The high landings rate that
11 they're using now to set the season is
12 the reason that red snapper season is
13 extremely short this year, and that will
14 affect the triggerfish season, amberjack
15 season, grouper season, you know, all of
16 those fisheries.

17 And so we have proposed at the last
18 meeting to implement a red snapper
19 reporting system here in Alabama. And
20 we do have good consensus on that. We
21 received letters of support from the
22 Orange Beach Fishing Association, the
23 Coastal Conservation Association, the

1 Dauphin Island Marina, many other
2 charter captains, and then e-mails of
3 support from people in the recreational
4 fishing community. Because we think
5 that if we can show what's actually
6 being landed in Alabama and work with
7 the federal government moving forward
8 that we can improve this -- improve the
9 process and the way that they set the
10 red snapper season on one side. And as
11 we try and move to take over the
12 management of red snapper from the
13 federal government, this information
14 from this -- from red snapper landings
15 from the red snapper reporting system
16 that we would like to implement will be
17 integral in being able to do that.

18 There was also a lawsuit recently
19 that caused the federal government to
20 change some of the way that they are
21 managing the fishery -- you know, we're
22 having to use some of this 2013 data --
23 and some inflexibility in the

1 Magnuson-Stevens Act that mandates how
2 the Gulf Council and National Marine
3 Fisheries Service has to manage the
4 fishery. So those are outside issues
5 that we are working on as well in
6 different manners. We're working with
7 our congressional delegations to make
8 some changes to the Magnuson Act, as
9 it's going to be reauthorized in the
10 next year or two, to create some
11 flexibility there.

12 And then we also passed -- worked
13 with our state legislators to pass a
14 bill this year that extended our state
15 waters from three miles to nine miles.
16 Now, that has only been passed in the
17 state legislature and still needs some
18 federal concurrence. But we are working
19 with Senators Shelby and Sessions and
20 then also our congressmen, Congressman
21 Byrne in particular, to make some -- to
22 make that -- include that in the
23 Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization for all

1 of the upper Gulf Coast states so that
2 we would all have our state waters be
3 extended out to nine miles.

4 And Mr. Bates made some -- had some
5 good comments about the commercial
6 fishery. And I just want to, you know,
7 reiterate that nothing that we're
8 proposing with the red snapper reporting
9 or these other issues that we're working
10 on with the stock assessment would hurt
11 the commercial fishery in any way. All
12 that we're trying to do is improve the
13 stock assessment, which would help on
14 the -- increase the amount of pounds of
15 red snapper that can be harvested by
16 both sectors. And this red snapper
17 reporting is -- would really just --
18 would just be for the
19 recreational/charter sector. The
20 commercial fishery is already under a
21 different system that is working very
22 well, and we're not proposing to make
23 any changes to that.

1 So I tried to make an extremely
2 complicated and a lot of moving-parts
3 process down into about five minutes
4 because I know we're all -- but I'll be
5 glad to answer any questions that you
6 have. And I would appreciate as we move
7 forward with the red snapper reporting
8 regulation --

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Blankenship -- and you
10 or Dr. Shipp can answer it, but I've got
11 a question that I want the board to
12 know.

13 Is our resource of red snapper, as
14 they decrease our limits year after year
15 and this year to a new -- I guess it's
16 never been this low that I remember. Is
17 our resource growing, is it staying the
18 same, or is it declining? What are our
19 red snapper numbers doing?

20 MR. BLANKENSHIP: The resource -- you know, we
21 feel the resource off the coast of
22 Alabama is increasing. We have a great
23 fishery here. And that -- we feel that

1 that's not being adequately reflected in
2 the federal stock assessment. And so
3 that's why we are working to do our own
4 stock assessment off the coast of
5 Alabama.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Shipp.

7 DR. SHIPP: Yeah. I'd like to follow up on
8 what Chris said and also ask the board
9 for, I guess, a favor.

10 As Chris said, right now in congress
11 the Magnuson Act is under revision. And
12 a little background, Florida and Texas
13 do have a nine-mile territorial sea.
14 Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana only
15 have three miles.

16 Our congressional delegation is
17 working to extend it to nine miles, and
18 we could have a viable fishery if we had
19 a nine-mile territorial sea. It also
20 would probably end the federal season.
21 Because it's down to nine days, eight
22 days right now. Louisiana just declared
23 a year-around opening. The day after

1 the Fishery Council decided on 11 days,
2 Louisiana said to heck with it, we're
3 going to open it year around.

4 So we're at a point where the
5 federal season is just about closed.
6 And so I don't know whether it's -- a
7 resolution is appropriate or not. But I
8 would ask this board to support our
9 congressional delegation in attempting
10 to get a territorial sea extension for
11 nine miles throughout the state of
12 Alabama.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Dr. Shipp, if
14 you would draw that up, I'm sure we
15 could have that by the end of the
16 meeting if you wanted to write that up
17 real quick.

18 DR. SHIPP: I will so do it.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. And, Dr. Shipp or
20 Mr. Blankenship, what is -- so that the
21 board knows, too, in the three-mile
22 limit and the nine-mile limit, what is
23 the average depth out at the nine-mile

1 limit and the three-mile limit, and how
2 does it affect snapper -- the holdings
3 of snapper?

4 DR. SHIPP: The nine-mile limit, my estimation
5 is that it would probably be between 60-
6 and 80-feet deep. It's not the best,
7 but we have enough structure there that,
8 you know, in the worst-case scenario we
9 could have a viable fishery out to nine
10 miles. The best-depth -- snapper go out
11 to a hundred fathoms and, you know, so
12 that's 40, 50 miles off the coast. But
13 40 to 60 feet is about the depth.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: In your estimation, how
15 many days would that nine-mile limit
16 support?

17 DR. SHIPP: We could have 180-day season with
18 a two-fish bag limit. You know, there
19 would be fewer fish than there are now,
20 but right now what's the use of having
21 all these big fish if you can't catch
22 them.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions from

1 the board?

2 Mr. Bunn, did you have a question?

3 Go ahead.

4 MR. BUNN: He answered it.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?

6 MR. DOBBS: Chairman?

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs.

8 MR. DOBBS: I wanted to add on to that. As
9 part of what you're talking about,
10 Dr. Shipp, the reef structure, what
11 majority of that -- what percentage of
12 that is manmade?

13 DR. SHIPP: Off of Alabama the vast majority
14 is manmade. We have 17,000 artificial
15 reef structures off the Alabama coast.
16 Actually, more than 20,000 have been put
17 out, but with storms and so forth they
18 get buried and then they get uncovered.
19 But we now, using side-scan sonar, have
20 identified 17,000. And every one of
21 them holds anywhere from a hundred to a
22 thousand pounds of snapper. So you do
23 the math. We could have a viable

1 fishery here. This system from the
2 federal government is insane. It's
3 absolutely insane.

4 MR. DOBBS: With that being said, if the
5 fishery continues to be limited, I
6 suspect that people will limit the
7 number of reefs that they put out --
8 municipalities and state governments or
9 individuals -- to attract these fish,
10 and that's not good.

11 MR. BLANKENSHIP: And that's already -- that
12 already has taken place.

13 MR. DOBBS: And that's happening, so -- and we
14 want to encourage that.

15 DR. SHIPP: We do. And I warn against the use
16 of attract. They produce.

17 MR. DOBBS: Produce.

18 DR. SHIPP: They don't attract them from
19 somewhere else. In fact, our research
20 indicates that our snapper stocks off
21 Alabama have provided snapper to the
22 west coast of Florida. Our tagged
23 snapper show up there. And it's a boom

1 to the whole Gulf, not just Alabama.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?

3 Commissioner McMillan.

4 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: I want to be sure I
5 understand this. It actually takes
6 congressional action to extend the
7 nine-mile --

8 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

9 MR. McMILLAN: And, secondly, I certainly
10 would be in favor of a resolution to
11 extend it out.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Absolutely. Write
13 quickly, Dr. Shipp, before the end of
14 the meeting.

15 Very good. Anything else?

16 DR. SHIPP: I'm ready.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Dr. Shipp.

18 DR. SHIPP: Real simply, that the Conservation
19 Advisory Board support the efforts of
20 our congressional delegation to extend
21 the territorial seas in the state of
22 Alabama to nine miles.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. This is not a

1 motion. It's a resolution?

2 DR. SHIPP: That's correct.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All of those in favor of
4 supporting this raise your hand.

5 (All board members raise hand.)

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show it's
9 unanimous to support the resolution.

10 Thank you, Mr. Blankenship.

11 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next order of
13 business is old business. And unless
14 anybody else has old business to be
15 brought up, I'm showing that we're clear
16 on that, and we'll move right into new
17 business with motions.

18 Does anyone on the board have a
19 motion they need to make in new business
20 or any other new business?

21 Mr. Jones.

22 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, as this board has
23 known for the last two to three years,

1 we've had some issues in Colbert County
2 with dog -- concerning dog deer hunting.
3 And I have researched this. I've talked
4 to the landowners, talked to some -- the
5 dog hunters, talked to various members
6 of the government that work up there,
7 the county commissioners, the sheriff,
8 also spoken with our wildlife officers
9 and tried to get a better handle of the
10 situation that we're facing. I'd
11 particularly like to thank all of those
12 people, but especially I'd like to thank
13 Don Knight and the Alabama Dog Hunters
14 Association for doing what they've done
15 in trying to help resolve that
16 situation.

17 And, Mr. Knight, you do a great
18 service for your association. You lead
19 them well. Thank you for that.

20 Unfortunately, though, as we've
21 heard here today, the two user groups
22 are still at an impasse. So I've had
23 to -- would like to present to the board

1 this morning a motion to place a small
2 area of extreme northwest Colbert County
3 under the permit system.

4 Best I can tell, this is only about
5 ten percent of the county. So it is a
6 very small isolated area. But this way
7 it will ensure that the dog deer hunters
8 can continue to dog hunt in the way that
9 they see fit without giving up any days
10 for as long as they so choose and they
11 abide by it within the rules of the
12 permit. It will also ensure the
13 landowners are able to peacefully enjoy
14 their land without the fear of
15 intrusion, and that is the -- what I
16 would like to do.

17 Formally, the motion I would like to
18 make is to make that section of Colbert
19 County bounded by the Natchez Trace
20 Parkway west to the Mississippi state
21 line and from U.S. Highway 72 north to
22 the Colbert County line be placed on a
23 permit system for dog deer hunting.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?

2 MR. BUNN: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I have a second.

4 Mr. Bunn.

5 Any discussion?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Being no further decision,
8 we have a motion that it would -- that a
9 section of Colbert County bounded by the
10 Natchez Trace Parkway west to the
11 Mississippi state line and from
12 U.S. Highway 72 north to the Colbert
13 County line be placed on a permit system
14 for dog hunting. All of those in favor
15 raise your hand.

16 (All board members raise hand.)

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show it was
20 unanimous.

21 Thank you, Mr. Jones. Anything
22 else, Mr. Jones?

23 MR. JONES: Not right now.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. And if the board --
2 make sure that you have a map. All the
3 board should have a map of that area,
4 and if you'll carry that with you,
5 please.

6 Okay. Anybody else, new business?

7 Mr. Dobbs.

8 MR. DOBBS: I have a motion I would like to
9 read: A motion to approve the
10 regulations promulgated by the
11 department for the implementation of the
12 alligator season.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay.

14 MR. DOBBS: I'll read it again.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

16 MR. DOBBS: Make a motion to approve the
17 regulations promulgated by the
18 department for implementation of
19 alligator season.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Is there a second?

21 (Mr. Hatley raises hand.)

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley seconds.

23 Any discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Mr. Dobbs, if you
3 would read it one more time.

4 MR. DOBBS: I make a motion to approve the
5 regulations promulgated by the
6 department for implementation of
7 alligator season.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All of those in favor
9 raise your hand.

10 (All board members raise hand.)

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show
14 unanimous. The motion is passed.

15 Mr. Dobbs, any further motions?

16 MR. DOBBS: I have another motion. I make a
17 motion that the Department of
18 Conservation adopt the season and bag
19 and creel limits and other regulations
20 as contained in the packet provided to
21 the board previously. This would, of
22 course, include the changes on feral
23 swine, management area regs, and legal

1 arms and ammunition and the February
2 deer season.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do I have a second?

4 (Mr. Hatley raises hand.)

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley, a second.

6 Any discussion?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. With no discussion,
9 we have a motion that the Department of
10 Conservation adopt the season and bag
11 limit -- bag and creel limits and other
12 regulations as contained in the packet
13 provided to the board. This would, of
14 course, include the changes on feral
15 swine, management area regs, and legal
16 arms ammunition and February deer
17 season. All of those in favor?

18 (All board members raise hand.)

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record reflect
22 unanimous vote. Motion is passed.

23 Mr. Dobbs.

1 MR. DOBBS: I have another motion. Request
2 the Conservation Advisory Board and the
3 Commissioner of Department of
4 Conservation and Natural Resources
5 promulgate the reporting request for red
6 snapper and other species as provided
7 for in Marine Resource Division Proposal
8 Number 220-3, as well to adopt the creel
9 limit changes to vermilion snapper
10 (requisite with federal regulations).

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do I have a second?

12 (Mr. Hatley raises hand.)

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley. We have a
14 second.

15 Any discussion?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. We have a motion
18 that the Department of Conservation and
19 Natural Resources promulgate the
20 reporting request for red snapper and
21 other species as provided for in Marine
22 Resource Division Proposal 220-3, as
23 well to adopt the creel limits to

1 vermilion snapper (requisite to federal
2 regulation). All of those in favor?

3 (All board members raise hand.)

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

5 (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show

7 unanimous. Motion carries.

8 Mr. Dobbs.

9 MR. DOBBS: Another motion, please. I make a
10 motion to approve all the department
11 rules and regulations adopted since the
12 last approval.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. This is our general
14 housekeeping motion. Is there a second?

15 MR. JONES: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Jones had a second.

17 Any discussion?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Being no discussion, we
20 have a motion to approve all department
21 rules and regulations adopted since the
22 last approval. All of those in favor?

23 (All board members raise hand.)

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record reflect
4 unanimous vote. Motion passes.

5 Mr. Dobbs.

6 MR. DOBBS: I have another motion -- a motion,
7 slash, resolution or resolution, slash,
8 motion. I'm not sure.

9 Mr. Dean, I'm going to read this.

10 But this is a motion to endorse the
11 efforts of Marine Resources division in
12 their process of navigating the existing
13 federal regulations; enacting reporting
14 requirements for reef and other species
15 to enable the collection of data, this
16 data to be used to implement best
17 practice management for Alabama's
18 resources.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: So can that be a
20 resolution or a motion?

21 MR. DEAN: I think that's a resolution.

22 MR. DOBBS. Resolution. That will be a
23 resolution.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All of those in favor of
2 that being voted on as a resolution that
3 this board adopt raise your hand.

4 (All board members raise hand.)

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record reflect
8 that the board adopts that resolution.

9 Mr. Dobbs.

10 MR. DOBBS: One last resolution: The
11 Conservation Advisory Board endorses the
12 progressive and positive actions of the
13 Division of Wildlife and Freshwater
14 Fisheries in managing Alabama's
15 resources. Further, we endorse the
16 positive and continued collection of
17 data relative to making scientific and
18 informed management decisions for all
19 the resources.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be a resolution
21 also.

22 All of those in favor of supporting
23 that resolution raise your hand.

1 (All board members raise hand.)

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record reflect the
5 board endorses that resolution also.

6 Mr. Dobbs.

7 MR. DOBBS: That's all of the motions and
8 resolutions.

9 I just want to say to Division of
10 Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and to
11 Marine Resources and others as well, not
12 to leave anyone out, thank you so much
13 for what you've done progressive and
14 moving forward with what -- what's
15 happening. The change is very
16 refreshing. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And let me echo that
18 support. And Chris is doing an
19 unbelievable job, and our new director
20 is doing an unbelievable job.

21 I had a chance to turkey hunt not
22 long ago with our new director, and
23 about the only thing that I found that

1 we --

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Turkey hunting?

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Turkey hunting. You were
4 out of town. And we could have been on
5 your property, Commissioner Guy, but we
6 weren't.

7 But it was early, about daylight,
8 and we were hooting. Chuck hooted and a
9 turkey gobbled. And right when a
10 gobbler -- of course, everybody always
11 points their finger. Well, I pointed
12 this way and Chuck pointed this way. We
13 hooted again and then we got in unison
14 on it. But besides that, we had a great
15 hunt.

16 It is a pleasure to have guys -- and
17 as long as I've been chairman of this
18 board, it's never been operating as
19 efficiently with Marine Resources and
20 Conservation as it has, and I applaud
21 this board's acceptance of that and
22 especially what y'all two are doing.
23 You're doing an absolutely fantastic

1 job.

2 Okay. Any other new business or
3 motions?

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: And let me say --

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: -- since we've taken care
7 of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and
8 Marine Resources, I don't want
9 Ms. Powell to be left out over there
10 who -- because she does such a great job
11 in the Lands division, particularly on
12 all the BP oil spill. And Greg Lein.

13 Where is Greg?

14 Greg over here, Parks. Y'all have
15 been noticing a lot of work in the
16 parks. It's the 75th anniversary of the
17 parks. Please don't forget it's the
18 75th anniversary. Support our parks.
19 They very badly need your business. And
20 Greg is making a lot of positive changes
21 and doing a lot of important things to
22 increase, you know, the efforts to make
23 those places even better to go to.

1 And then who -- and, oh, Steve
2 Thompson, Marine Police. So I think --
3 and help me if I'm wrong -- but
4 between -- just so everybody will know,
5 they don't always get the publicity they
6 need. The Marine Police, Wildlife and
7 Freshwater Fisheries, Marine Resources,
8 and there may have been some Lands
9 folks, too -- I think we had 64 -- 64
10 rescues during the flooding down in
11 Baldwin County, and I think we should
12 give them all a hand.

13 Our guys, you know, don't get a lot
14 of publicity and accolades. But they do
15 a terrific job when it comes to natural
16 disasters, life-saving, enforcement
17 issues, and so I'm proud of them.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We all are.

19 Patti, we give you a hard time
20 about -- and everybody knows Patti is
21 the biggest Alabama fan there's ever
22 been, but she dates an Auburn guy. So
23 we give her a hard time about that. But

1 I'm going to give equal time here --
2 because I know you and Grady will like
3 this. We're running sort of fast today
4 because I have to leave because my
5 daughter is graduating from University
6 of Alabama. Why that is I have no
7 idea. But so there's equal time for
8 you.

9 Any other business from the board?

10 Mr. Jones.

11 MR. JONES: One thing I'd like to throw out
12 for us to consider doing, I
13 wholeheartedly agree with Chuck Sykes'
14 recommendation about the Game Check and
15 the fact that we're not using it
16 enough. I would like for us to maybe --
17 the Department to look at Tennessee's
18 very similar Web-based system. I found
19 it much easier to use than ours. And I
20 don't know, you know, from a technology
21 standpoint what they do differently.
22 But their system that they have for
23 their game-check system runs much more

1 smoother than ours.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. We'll look at
3 that.

4 Okay. The next order of business is
5 the date and location of the next
6 Advisory Board meeting. The date has
7 not been set. The location has not been
8 set. And it will be announced as soon
9 as possible. It will be in the
10 following year unless we have to call a
11 special meeting.

12 Being no further business, this
13 meeting is adjourned.

14 (Meeting adjourned at
15 approximately 10:41 a.m.)

16 * * * * *

17 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

18 * * * * *

19 STATE OF ALABAMA:

20 MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

21 I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified
22 Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of
23 Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported

1 the foregoing proceedings of the Alabama Department
2 of Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory
3 Board Meeting on May 3, 2014.

4 The foregoing 115 computer-printed pages
5 contain a true and correct transcript of the
6 proceedings held.

7 I further certify that I am neither of
8 kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor
9 in any manner interested in the results thereof.

10 This 18th day of August 2014.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2014
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large