STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 10, 2012

Pages 1 through 119

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STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

State Capitol Auditorium
Montgomery, Alabama
March 10, 2012

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, at the State Capitol Auditorium, Montgomery, Alabama, on March 10, 2012, commencing at approximately 9:01 a.m.
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Dan L. Moultrie, Chairman
Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
Mr. John McMillan
Mr. Bill Hatley
Dr. Bob Shipp
Mr. Austin Ainsworth
Dr. Warren Strickland
Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
Dr. Gary Lemme
Mr. W. Grant Lynch
Mr. T.J. Bunn, Jr.

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CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The March 10, 2012, meeting of the Conservation Advisory Board will come to order. I'd like to welcome everyone to Montgomery, Alabama, again. The board is glad you're able to be here today. The invocation today will be given by Commissioner John McMillan. Commissioner McMillan.

COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Our Gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you for this beautiful day. We thank you for the opportunity to gather here to consider the many important aspects that we are responsible for. We pray that you will be with everybody here today, that the words of our mouths and meditations of our hearts will be acceptable in thy sight. Be with us while we're here together and then again as we take our separate ways departing for home, that we might have safe travels and return to our families. We pray that you will be with us, bless us and keep us. In
1 Christ's name, Amen.

2 (Response from audience.)

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner McMillan.

4 The next order of business is the introduction of the board members.

5 First I'd like to introduce our Commissioner of Conservation,

6 Commissioner Gunter Guy.

7 Next I would like to introduce our Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Curtis Jones, who's sitting by my daughter that attends again. She's probably attended as many advisory board meetings as most people. Ashley, we're glad to have you here -- or her "Rick and Bubba" name, Ellie May Clanton.

8 Next I would like to introduce Alabama's Agriculture Commissioner,

9 Commissioner John McMillan.

10 COMMISSIONER McMILLAN: Good morning.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Our other ex-officio member here today is Dr. Gary Lemme from
the Alabama Extension Service.

Dr. Lemme.

Next I would like to introduce -- we have -- our new District 7 board member has been appointed. It is T.J. Bunn. T.J., if you would raise a hand.

T.J. lives in Tuscaloosa and brings a wealth of knowledge to his position. He is a 2004 graduate of the University of Alabama. So if y'all would give T.J. a hand.

Next I would like to start down at the end with Mr. Grant Lynch and let each district member give their name and what district they represent.

Mr. Lynch.

MR. LYNCH. I'm Grant Lynch. I'm Congressional District Number 3.

MR. BUNN: I'm T.J. Bunn. I represent Congressional District Number 7.

MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, Congressional District Number 5.

DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland,
Congressional District Number 5.

DR. SHIPP: Bob Shipp, Congressional District Number 1.

MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, Congressional District Number 4.

MR. HATLEY: I'm Dan Moultrie.

No. My name is Bill Hatley, and I represent District 1.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I think y'all all know Mr. Hatley has got as long a tenure as anybody on this board and consistently you have heard lies out of his mouth.

Thank you for all the board members in attendance today. There are two board members not here today.

The next order of business is the approval of the February 4th, 2012, Advisory Board Minutes. Are there any changes to the minutes?

(No response.)

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

The next order of business is the
Commissioner's comments. Commissioner Guy.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I really have none today.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No comments. Okay. Very good, sir.

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

The next order of -- the first speaker -- Betsy, did you give me -- here we go. I've got it.

Mr. Avery Bates. Mr. Bates.

MR. BATES: Good morning. Now, if you follow me --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Bates, turn that microphone on, please, sir. Flip that switch if that's what the problem is.

(Brief interruption.)
MR. BATES: How about that?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's a lot better. And speak into the microphone for Tracye, if you would, please, sir.

MR. BATES: All right. My name is Avery Bates. I'm vice-president of Organized Seafood Association, a long-time commercial fisherman. In fact, I wore this body out with commercial fishing.

Many things has come to our attention over the last number of years, especially the last two years. Several gamefish status has been made -- or proposed over the last couple of years, pompano at the latest. Last year it was sheepshead, and then we had Spanish mackerel.

As you know, these fish don't only belong to the commercial fishermen. They belong to everybody in the state of Alabama. And as you see -- and if y'all got some of the e-mails and stuff the CCA put out -- I didn't give y'all a
copy of this, but it says the
gillnetters are really doing a number on
pompano. As you saw, Mr. Ainsworth -- I
faxed you the actual fax -- not true.
Gillnetters is not killing a majority of
the pompano or harvesting it.

These seafoods are commerce.

If you read Article 1, Section 8 of the
U.S. Constitution, many times our
commerce has been hampered by
special-interest groups. We do handle
seafoods. In fact, we fed many of y'all
at the Seafood Bash good healthy
seafood, flounder. That come from
commercial fishermen, not recreational
fishermen.

We've fed millions of pounds of
seafood across this country and around
the world, and it is our duty to have
access to that so the public can have
access through us. This is law
9-12-125. We are the access to the
people in Huntsville, Tuscaloosa -- by
the way, we fed thousands of people in Tuscaloosa with good healthy seafood during the tornados. We enjoy doing that. We enjoy our job.

Remember, our constitution also says -- the state constitution -- we're entitled to, what, in Article 35, Section -- Article 1, Section 35 of the Alabama Constitution: We're entitled to life, liberty, and property, that property being seafoods. 9-12-20 says that seafoods are the property of the state to be held in trust for, who, the people of the state.

We supply the people. Do not deny the people access of any one fish. We are not hurting the fish. The state manages them. That is their responsibility.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. BATES: This is something that we want to continue to do. If y'all have any questions about the stats or this
proposal by the special interest, let me
know and I will answer them if I can.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bates.
The next speaker will be Arthur Colean.

MR. COLEAN: Good morning, gentlemen. I'm
Arthur Colean. I'm a gillnetter from
Baldwin County. And it's plain to see
from what you see in the paper, the
numbers, tourism, the sportfishing
industry, that we haven't hurt
anything. They're flourishing. And
there's no reason to put us through
this. What we need is more time with
the pompano.

We all know what this is. We all
know that this is the CCA with their
employees or cohorts, whatever, just
trying to drill another little hole in
our boats. We're already dying. We're
going out. There will be no more
licenses issued. They go when we die.
This is just more or less us on the --
our deathbed and them hopping up on us
and kicking us a couple of more times.
There's no use.
And we need more time. We have a
little narrow strip of beach that we can
fish. We're good to maybe a
quarter-mile out. We have the three
months after the fish are gone. We have
October, November, and December. The
fish are leaving in October. They have
them 12 months a year. And they killed
them last year. They kill them every
year.

It doesn't say catch pompano. It
doesn't say catch your limit. It's pile
up on pompano. Last year they were
riding around with coolers full trying
to sell them to the fish markets, to the
fish houses, the same thing they don't
want us to do.

It's not right. And we hope you see
it our way and let us to continue to
catch these. Because, I mean, there's
people all across this entire country
who they and their ancestors has made
all -- the hard-working tax-paying.
They've paid all the contributions and
even sacrificed to make this country
what it is, and they are just as worthy
and -- of these products as anybody that
lives along this coast.

It's -- it wouldn't be fair to the
American citizens, the consumers. It's
not fair to the producers, and it's
nothing but greed. We know what it is.
We know where it's coming from. And we
just hope you see it our way and do the
right thing.

I mean, somewhere, I know, in your
life you've heard when you were younger,
you know, it's not right to take
something from somebody just because
you're bigger than they are. Don't go
take that kid's lunch money because
you're bigger than they are and you can
do it. You know, you've heard it. And
you've probably told your kids or your
grandkids. And that's exactly what this
is.

And I don't know how they can come
and do something like this on Saturday
and then go to church on Sunday and
think about how good they are. I mean,
we know what it was. We didn't -- you
know, you just didn't say cast your
12-foot surf rods over the side of the
boat. You should catch fish. We know
how it went down. You know, just do the
right thing. That's all we ask. Thank
you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: Thank you, Mr. Colean.

The next speaker is Ricky Collier.

Mr. Dean, can you come up and
approach the chair, please?

Go ahead, Mr. Collier.

MR. COLLIER: I'm a commercial gillnet
fisherman from Coden.

The pompano Mr. Shipp throws up.
Pompano is closed from -- I mean, it's
open from September to August (sic) 31st. The run of pompano is right now. They're catching pompano on the beaches now. From now until August is the main run of pompano. I don't even own a pompano net.

I mean, I'm going to ask all of y'all -- I have to show 50 percent of my income every year to own a gillnet license. Do y'all have to show any kind of amount of money to another man, to another person to show when it ain't their business?

I'm the only commercial license -- like the dog hunters that everybody permits here. I have to show what I make. And it's not going here. I have to spend it on gillnets. I have to spend it on -- I mean, I pick thousands of pounds of catfish if I make a mistake in the summertime, and then they take and they take and they take.

It ain't but like 80 of us left.
And you can go on YouTube and look at this and look at that. But you got farmers with farms that's got sons that's going to raise that farm with them, and my son can't even fish with me. When my license -- when I die, that license dies too. GCA rod and reel, hook-and-liner, it'll be going. Kids will be going. My son will never be able to go and do what I did, my grandfather did, his grandfather, all because of I hate you and you hate me.

So on the pompano deal, nobody gets efficient data on the pompano because we don't catch them in the heart of the season. We catch mackerel. And just like in the newspaper, we started catching a few skipjack, ladyfish. Now they put in there, well, we killing them, too, now. It's always something, add on and add on and add on.

I do this for a living. I don't go on the weekends to go hunting or
recreational killing -- no. This is my livelihood. I feed my kids. This is all I do. I love it just like everybody else loves what they do.

But the pompano deal, you can't get sufficient data. Because I don't even own a pompano net. You can't catch them. They gone. Just like now. They catching them right now. Can't catch them because it's closed. So, I mean, you can't catch a fish when it's a closed season. So that's all I got to say.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Collier.

The next speaker is Dan Kolenich.

MR. KOLENICH: Good morning. I'd like to thank the board for giving me a few minutes to talk to you.

My name is Dan Kolenich, and I am a fishing guide. I've been earning my living as a full-time guide for 13 years.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,
please, Mr. Kolenich.

MR. KOLENICH: I've been earning my living as a fishing guide for 13 years now. And when I look back over those 13 years, who would have guessed, any of you, 13 years ago that we would have such a short season on snapper, grouper would be regulated, and all the other fish that have been regulated to my business and to recreational fishermen.

With that in mind, the commercial industry has been regulated for red snapper. Their quotas set the limit. However, the gillnetters do not have any limit on their catches and takes. And so I'm asking for you to consider -- I realize this pompano is just one small fish in a very local area. It's very important this time of year when they migrate through our Alabama waters that we start to protect our species.

You know, the main reason I've been told why the recreational limits keep
getting smaller and smaller is because overfishing has reduced the number of fish that are out there, and that's what we have to do to protect those species for our future generations. And so if -- we realize that with the limits on redfish and speckled trout. You know, ten years ago there weren't any limits on flounders, but now there are and we accept those limits. And that's so that my son can take his son fishing and have the ability to take him to catch flounder and, right now, pompano as well.

And so it's -- it's in your hands to make a very tough decision. You know, myself and the gillnetters, this isn't anything personal. They make their living on the water the same way I do. And I used to have offshore permits to fish for snapper. I used to be able to go catch red snapper in January and February within three miles of the beach
in my small boat. I can't do that anymore. I've sold my offshore permits because I have to go beyond the limit that my insurance company will insure my boat of 20 miles to catch red snapper during the time the season is in. These things have impacted me greatly. And, again, I -- I can't stress enough that I really realize this is a tough decision for you to make. It's a hardship on everybody. But we have to make tough decisions and do difficult things in order to preserve our resources for our future generations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Kolenich.

The next speaker is Christopher Vecsey.

MR. VECSEY: Thanks for hearing me today, Board. My name is Chris Vecsey. I work at Sam's Bait & Tackle in Orange Beach, Alabama. I feel like I'm here to represent not only tackle shops but
really any kind of store along the Gulf Coast that deals with fishing tackle sales or caters to recreational fishing along the beach.

Obviously, I'm in support of the gamefish status on pompano being changed. I think what it is, is it's not a personal thing, whether it's commercial or recreation, as much as determining the greater value of the species. And I think there's no doubt that pompano generate more income, more interest on the recreational level than they do commercial.

Yeah, I've been working in a tackle shop for ten years. You know, I've seen how much money people spend throughout the winter, especially our snowbirds. They're important to our economy during the winter, during our slow season. Pompano is one of the main targets. And even despite that, you know, I'm in the store, you know, anywhere from five to
seven days a week. And, you know, I hear the reports. I hear the catches. And it seems that pompano are still, even on a recreational level, taken in very small quantities -- maybe not by all. And, of course, you're going to have some that follow the limits and some that don't. But, in general, they're still taken in smaller quantities.

When you look at it that way, this isn't the typical attack on gillnets that -- you know, of course, you hear from CCA and stuff like that. And my views, of course, differ from theirs. I'm just looking at the greater value, I guess you'd say. And I'm not saying that the gillnets need to stop along beaches altogether, but I do think that there should be some proposed limits as far as how close they can bring their nets into the beach. I think there should be a distance barrier to protect
those, you know, valuable surf species
including pompano.

I also feel that having those nets,
in closing, not only are you going to
have more of a bycatch of those species,
but it's also kind of almost more of a
negative image on the beach. I think
that in order to protect the image,
which is what -- you know, the image is
everything for our local economy. We
are a tourist-based industry. I think
we need to keep those nets a little
further off the beach. Like I said, not
to stop gillnetting. I'm not, you know,
on necessarily that bandwagon. But I do
think we need to set some distance
barriers so that they're not, you know,
intentionally or, you know, accidentally
catching that species. So I just think
it's a better value as a -- from a
recreation standpoint. That's really
all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Vecsey.
The next speaker is Bill Arant.

MR. ARANT: Good morning, gentlemen. I'm Bill Arant. I am the state chairman of the CCA this year and would like to very much urge you all to make -- give pompano gamefish status.

We feel that this is a way to help the stocks build. I know on the Florida side they're beginning to return, and I think Alabama is getting some (inaudible) from this. And this is not in opposition of gillnet fishing. Just if they're after the Spanish, then, you know, leave them be because the -- just slightly further offshore and let the pompano survive and be available for everyone, our children and grandchildren alike.

The economic impact of the surf fishermen that especially come in the wintertime, our snowbirds, is significant, as the gentleman just mentioned. And these people come back
year after year. And I would hope that you all would grant this gamefish status to the pompano. I think it will be good for our state and good for the resource.

I've got some letters here that were written by some of our board members from Birmingham. If I could just pass them to you. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Arant.

The next speaker is Manley Cummins.

MR. CUMMINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for this opportunity to address the board.

I stand before you as a pompano fisherman, a recreational pompano fisherman. I had the occasion to catch my first pompano back in about 1963 or '64 in Panama City, fishing very extensively there and at Orange Beach, Alabama, starting in the late '70s and early '80s. I fished inshore almost
exclusively, and pompano was one of my favorite fish. I had the good luck of catching the state record in 1992. I've also fished for the fish in Louisiana and throughout the panhandle of Florida.

I have seen what happens when the effort on the beaches for commercial fishing is stopped. The state of Florida in 1994 did away with their netting. As a result, we had a lot of pressure on our beaches. I did a lot of fishing at night out of Orange Beach back in the '90s. I saw a lot of the commercial landings. I saw a lot of pompano on the dock.

It has changed somewhat. I think our fish -- fishing for pompano has improved. I don't think it's as strong as it needs to be. I think a lot of it is the collateral effect of maybe some fish from Florida moving in to Alabama.

But I do believe that pompano is a
very unique fish because it's available
to the shore angler. You don't have to
have an expensive boat. You don't have
to burn a lot of gas. You take a
double-hook rig like this and hook it
onto your average bass rod with a lead
and throw it out there and you can catch
one.

Unfortunately, pompano is uniquely
susceptible to overfishing. That's
because you can get in your boat and run
down the beach in very shallow water and
the pompano will skip across the top
like stones. And it's quite easy for a
net boat -- and they do it under the
law, now -- to stop at the ends of the
pompano skipping, drop the net around
them. And within a hundred yards of the
beach probably 90 percent of the pompano
will be in that zone a hundred to 200
yards out. So they are very susceptible
to net fishing.

Talk a little bit about the value.
Chris addressed that. I know probably a lot of y'all get down to our beaches and you see the beach fishermen out there. And their primary species if they were asked what fish they would like to catch, it would be a pompano. I can't tell you how many times this time of year I respond to people who send me requests for how to catch these fish. And, you know, you just got to be able to get access to the beach and you got to have fish there to be able to catch them.

So I would ask the board to consider three things. I would ask you to consider the economics of it. And that's been addressed with the hundreds and thousands of beach anglers that come down here each year who just want a simple way to enjoy our beach and maybe catch a few fish to take home.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. CUMMINS: And consider the equities and
the environmental aspects of it. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, Mr. Cummins.

The next speaker is Terry Moralis.

MR. MORALIS: Commissioner Guy and Chairman Moultrie, Board, I appreciate it. I'm here on the pompano bill. I'm a commercial fisherman. I'm vice-president of ASA. I'm also a member of OSA.

We -- from what I'm hearing so far, it's a moot deal. We are off the beaches during their prime season. We cannot fish for pompano till September. All the prime -- August, July when the forces are going to be there, we can't fish pompano on the beach. We can't even touch them on the beach. It's closed to us a quarter-mile out.

I don't understand why they say we're on the beaches. We're not on the beach except for nighttime from six
o'clock till six o'clock for mackerel, ladyfish. Daytime we're not on the beaches when they do their sportfishing. We are not there.

And as far as the economic part of it, you give us back our pompano we had to start with and we could hurt them. But we don't hurt them because we don't -- we're not able to. They got the peak season. We have -- we have one little area there September and October you can catch a few pompano in, which means a lot of us don't gear up and target them. You got a few. If you take that away from us, those few that's targeting a few pompano, they'll start targeting the mackerel. They'll start targeting the mullet. They'll make a different species in trouble. If you keep it spread out, no more than there are of us, we can handle it, you know.

And it ain't -- we're not -- you heard the man himself. The pompano
fisherman said it's getting better already. If it's getting better, we're not hurting anything. That's common sense there.

I mean, I understand why they want it. They want to take it away from us so they can have it strictly them. We -- you know, I don't -- I don't stand to make a load of money off of pompano because I don't fish them like I used to, but I do make enough out of them every now and then that when my granddaughter needs $200 to pay her light bill, I can give it to her. It don't kill you to do it.

If you restrict me to just certain fishes and them fish ain't there -- because sometimes the pompano is there when nothing else is there. You know, there's no ladyfish, no mackerel. Some reason or another, riptide and stuff, it changes around.

As far as the peak season, they've
got it already. We are not on the beaches during that peak season as far as the sports are concerned. And as far as the value of the fish, the only reason we're -- we don't have the value of the fish if we're not able to fish them when they're there.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Dr. Strickland, would you like to address the speaker?

DR. STRICKLAND: Actually, Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to have a little more clarity of, I guess, the controversy with pompano fishing.

MR. MORALIS: Yes, sir.

DR. STRICKLAND: Do we have any idea of the commercial impact -- and this is probably for one of the marine biologists or -- that commercial fishing is having on the pompano?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Mr. Blankenship, would you come to the microphone.

DR. STRICKLAND: I'm just trying to get a little more insight of the controversy.
MR. BLANKENSHIP: Sure. The average landings since about 2001 are around between four and 5,000 pounds a year for the commercial pompano fishery. And it is -- like Mr. Moralis and some others said, that the closed fishing season is from January through Labor Day, and they are allowed a five-percent bycatch during that time. If they're fishing for other species and they catch pompano, they can keep up to five percent by weight of whatever they're catching. And those have been a minuscule amount of the landings over the past ten years.

DR. STRICKLAND: And I guess my question, then, from the biologist's standpoint, do you feel that the limited commercial fishing that's performed on the pompano at this time -- is it having a significant impact?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: From the -- strictly from the biological aspect of it and working
with our biological section, it
doesn't -- you know, it's not -- it
doesn't appear -- it's not as big a part
of the fishery that we have. You know,
it's around four to 5,000 pounds a year,
and it's not having a tremendous
negative impact on the fisheries.

DR. STRICKLAND: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Lynch, did you have a
question?
MR. LYNCH: I had a question for somebody.
In Florida if they don't have
gillnets anymore -- and we've got a
chart here that says there's quite a
bit -- and then they've got a lot of,
you know footage of beaches -- but how
do they catch their pompano down there
commercially?
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Blankenship, could you
come back to the microphone?
MR. BLANKENSHIP: You may be better able to
answer that.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Either of y'all can answer
MR. BLANKENSHIP: They have a -- they do allow some gillnet fishery -- not necessarily in Florida waters, but in federal waters adjacent to Florida. And they have a corridor they can come back into Florida to land those fish. And so that -- and then they catch some hook-and-line down there. They have an endorsement on their Saltwater Products License that allows them to catch them commercially but not necessarily with gillnets in state waters.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead, Mr. Lynch.

MR. LYNCH: Could y'all catch them under that same kind of system that the Florida people catch them commercially?

MR. MORALIS: No, sir. They have a spot down there off of Key West that's nine miles out, and nine miles out is still shallow water. It ain't like it is up here. Up here when you get off -- a quarter-mile off the beach, you're in deep water, 35,
40 foot on the deeper end. You get deep
in a hurry.

And most of the pompano they catch
over here is caught on the beaches. I'm
not lying about that. But, like I say,
during the peak season we're off the
beaches. If they give it back to us
like we had before -- we used to catch
good -- me and my brother used to catch
good pompano. When they -- when Vernon
took that away from us in -- oh, it was
back in the '90s or maybe 2000,
something like that -- it put us to
where it wasn't feasible for us to
target them no more.

Nobody's harvesting pompano for any
length of time anymore. You got that
one little month or two. Then they're
gone anyway. And that's what few fish
is caught -- most of the fish that's
captured is two or three pounds, four or
five pounds, eight or ten pounds when
you're catching mackerel and stuff, you
know.

But if you take a thousand dollars away from me, that's a lot of my paycheck at the end of the year. You know, it means a lot to me. It means a lot to my grandkids, my kids. Anybody in our family that needs money, somehow or another -- they come to me for some reason or another. Seems like it anyway. And when they do this, if you take that little bit away from me, you know, that means a lot. That's money I can't give them if they need it. It's good money spent right here in the state. I mean, I promise you, my kids spend their money right here in the state and they do it fast.

CHAIRMAN MOULTERIE: Mr. Moralis -- thank you very much, Mr. Moralis. Thank you.

The next speaker is Keith McCartney.

MR. McCARTNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Keith McCartney, and I live in Wetumpka, Alabama. And I'm a retired
federal conservation officer, have been retired for several years. But I'm also a very, very avid hunter and got a big interest in what goes on in hunting regulations all over the state.

I have lived in seven different states -- been assigned to several different -- seven different states and have worked in more than that, of course. And I've been in states where they had legalized baiting. And I know this board has always relied very heavily on the conservation department biologists on what is good biology and what is not, and I really encourage you to do that.

But I've seen some things with legalized baiting, and I've got some really good friends in some of these states. And it's really terrible because one of my good friends who is a state biologist in Louisiana, I found that he was hunting over some bait --
well, it's not really bait because it was legal. And I was surprised. And, you know, I confronted him about it. And he said, I do not like it, but if I don't do it, I won't do anything because my neighbors are all doing it.

I went to Oklahoma this past year. Got a good friend there. They just legalized it just in the last year. And I found out that he had corn out, and I was really surprised. He's a retired state conservation officer. And the same question -- the same answer he gave me was, you know, I don't like it. It makes me feel bad. But if I don't put it out, I won't have anything because my neighbors are pouring it out.

So it's just not a good thing. And I really would hope that you would continue to rely on the state conservation department. If they should say biologically it's sound and something we should do, I guarantee you
I would change my idea of my opinion about it.

The same thing with extending the deer season that's been talked about lately. There's some things that a lot of these folks in this room probably don't realize is that there are not hardly any states that are open in February. If we continue -- if we keep this season open in to February, boy, are we ever going to be a target for out-of-state leasers. And there's a lot of folks in this room that lease land, and they're going to be competing with money that comes out of south Louisiana and a lot of other places that are going to be able to extend their deer season considerably.

One more thing I want to talk about real briefly -- and I've given you -- there's a paper there that goes into more detail about this stuff. And I know I've been at board meetings before
where they talked about feedback on the
permit system on dog hunting. And I
didn't check that, but I want to address
that because I've talked to somebody
here.

    I'm in a -- I hunt in the county
where that is -- where a permit system
is in effect. We had good cooperation
from our local conservation officer. We
didn't have a -- the dog hunters there
are not really bad people, but we always
had dogs on us. And we complained like
we're supposed to do. Didn't --
didn't -- of course, didn't molest any
dogs, do anything like that. We
complained to our conservation officer.
He worked with the club that we're
having the most problems with and told
them they would be losing their permit
if they --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. McCARTNEY: And to end this, I'll say that
they decided not to apply for a permit
and it was wonderful. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. McCartney.

The next speaker is Don Abercrombie.

MR. ABERCROMBIE: My name is Don Abercrombie. I'm from Clayton, Alabama, Barbour County. I bought a valued catfish processing plant where we sell 100-percent U.S.-source products, and we also use the logo -- the logo from Organized Seafood for our business now.

So I want to discuss today the need to create a stimulus for an existing industry and that's hunting. The stimulus is hunting the perceived rut. And that will stabilize and it will expand the hunting in Alabama and, if necessary, just Barbour County.

Proposal is simple. We want it for Alabama or south Alabama, because we have a big game in this fight, but at least for Barbour County as a pilot program. We want to extend gun season
for two weeks, February the 1st through the 13th. We want four-points on one side. We had the three-points on one side, which has become a really huge success story because of the weights and everything we've seen associated with that program that y'all put in place about five years ago. And if we need to give two weeks back for the small game hunters, we'd like for it to be from December the 3rd through the 16th.

A recent study shows that 82 percent of the nonresident hunters who have leases in Alabama are leasing from Montgomery southward. For every one of the people that come in this restaurant with out-of-state leases, we have 15 more that are coming from other parts of the state. So what we're seeing is it's not just an out-of-state issue here.

Now, the rut that y'all have here on this map that you're showing, the late season rut, the perceived rut or
whatever, 82 percent of those are in south Alabama. And these economies need the money, these gas stations, everybody, you know, and also the Barbour County Management Area, which we’re familiar with. If you had two or three 2,000, you know, per three-day hunt hunts there, can you imagine how much money it would be for the state coffers.

These hunters want to hunt the rut, and our area needs an economy that is created in attracting and retaining the lease hunters. We want to do this in a biologically friendly way, and that’s four-points on one side. And it’s important. People are more interested than ever in a trophy deer. So the perception of being able to hunt the rut in Barbour County will cause them to let the young ones walk and then be able to look for that trophy buck during the time that they’re available.
So it's pretty simple, pretty, you know, straightforward. And so basically -- I do want to say something to John McMillan. If you're looking at this stimulus part of the deal -- you know, it took me five years to convince Auburn University Entomology Department to spray for boll weevil at the two-leaf stage. You see how many jobs that the boll weevil eradication program that passed in '85 made for that industry.

In 1997 I introduced a proposal for a time-of-use rate with Alabama Power in west Alabama to put it in the catfish industry. And now, then, you see Alabama Power with a lower rate against Black Warrior over there trying to get a better rate. And so this stimulus has moved the industry from the Mississippi Delta toward west Alabama.

And currently we're in a -- my company --

MS. JONES: Time.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Abercrombie, let me address something before you leave the microphone. Mr. Abercrombie.

For the board's knowledge, in Barbour County since 1997 our department has over 150 number of deer collected. The average date of conception runs from November 22 to the latest being February 4th. Of all the other five -- I believe it's five -- samplings, all of them are before the end of the season.

Now, we understand a lot of times what -- you may be looking for to hunt into February, but, again, I think this board needs to see solid facts that there's a biological need to go into February.

MR. ABERCROMBIE: Well, the thing that we're seeing there, we have so many outfitters in the area. And one outfitter, you know, he said it would increase his like $68,000 just in revenue for that 13 days. We have another one that says 40
hunts would be $5,000 for --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I understand that, sir, but, again, the biological need -- emotion should not make deer seasons.

Biological data -- Mr. Hatley, you had something.

MR. HATLEY: My point is you people do not seem to be -- you're concerned more about the economical impact than you are about the resource.

MR. ABERCROMBIE: No. What we are in Barbour County -- we've been doing this for 20 years. I've -- a lot of people are familiar with Guice Slawson and the big landowners there. They've actually been managing their deer herd year around for 20 -- you know, for the last 20 years. And so we're looking at a lot more biologically friendly area than what you see.

So we want to have programs to where we get your top biologists to come in and actually put on programs so that
they can show how to do the post rut
biologically friendly type work, like
the -- you know, and not doing this --
you know, what you're seeing on the
other -- on the other part of the deal.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland, you had a
comment.

DR. STRICKLAND: I have to agree that, you
know, we have to have sound biological
data to make those decisions. The buck
limit that we put in place has already
had a tremendous impact on the quality
of deer that we harvested in the state.
And the greatest amount of stress is
post-rut stress. That's when you have
the largest amount of your buck
mortality. And I really feel -- and the
biologists do as well -- extending that
season into February is going to put a
significant amount of stress here on the
bucks and it's just going to increase
the mortality.

MR. ABERCROMBIE: Well, in Barbour County and
the people I've talked to -- we had a meeting. We had 200 people at the meeting. And everybody -- nobody had a problem with going from three bucks to two bucks. I didn't put it on here because I feel like that's your issue.

But in Barbour County, Alabama, the main rut this year was the 6th through the 10th of February. And whether it's real or perceived, then if we go and we can market this, then what we'll be able to do is be able to increase the, you know, jobs in Alabama.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Lynch, you had a comment.

Did you have a -- okay.

Thank you, Mr. Abercrombie. Thank you.

The next speaker is Larry Dillard.

MR. DILLARD: Thank you, Board, for allowing us to come before you today and speak. My name is Larry Dillard, and I live in north Shelby County. And I'm on the
county commission there. And we are grateful that the Forever Wild Board has arranged for a 99-year lease on the Cahaba Wildlife Management Area so that our citizens will have a place to hunt forever. A 99-year lease is a long time.

We also appeared before the Forever Wild Board to get them to buy the State Cattle Ranch down in Greensboro. That's going to be dedicated to youth hunting and to folks with handicaps to hunt and a place for all venues to have field trials. And we have worked hard to get four beagle enclosures of 65 acres each over on one side. We've got those built, and we've just got to get the rabbit population up so that our eight AKC-registered gun dog beagle clubs in Alabama will have a place to forever have field trials.

Because our clubs are always losing the land they've got for running grounds
because of development, and it can't ever happen on Forever Wild land. And I would be remiss to say, I hope every one of you gentlemen work hard to help Mr. Guy and all of us hunters forever have this Forever Wild program by voting again in November.

Now, I'm here today to represent the small game hunter. I cried enough when I was five years old till my daddy let me start go rabbit hunting with him. And I've got 69 years of rabbit-hunting experience. So if you can add, you know I'm 74 now.

I enjoyed that so much. And I raised my sons up and my son-in-law rabbit hunts with me and I've got grandsons rabbit hunting with me. And I want to encourage you.

I've seen the deer season extended from January the 1st through January the 15th and then from January the 15th through the end of January. Now, if you
go beyond that into February, you are just going to execute a death knell for the small game hunter. I'm not just talking about rabbit hunters. I'm talking about all of the squirrel hunters and the coon hunters and the folks that still hunt opossums, and that's coon dogs that can't quite make it. And so I want you to know that we have got to save something for the rest of the folks.

Now, all of us small game hunters are not blessed to have big hunting areas that are commercial hunting areas.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. DILLARD: Just one more second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would sum it up, please, sir.

MR. DILLARD: I will sum it up.

We cannot afford the land leases and all that. But, now, we do get invited by a lot of those deer clubs to hunt in February because most of us have dogs
that don't run deer. We don't tolerate that stuff. And we have dogs that don't run deer. So I can rabbit hunt every day in February on these deer leases because they've got people in those clubs that like to rabbit hunt. But you cannot hunt next to one of them or close to them any other time because some of them will shoot your dogs.

Gentlemen, I'm begging you to really consider holding the deer-hunting time down to where it is now at the end of January and at least give us poor people one month to hunt. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

The next speaker is Jack Bradford.

MR. BRADFORD: I'm Dr. Jack Bradford. I live in Millbrook. That's in Elmore County. I'm speaking on behalf of the Alabama Safari Club today.

The Safari Club really wants to applaud all of you for the fine job you've done in placing public safety
regulations in place. We want safe
hunting throughout all of Alabama. It
is my understanding, however, that the
board may be considering at a point in
time the placement of stands -- deer
stands on private property. I would --
I would say that that is a private
situation and that what we need to do is
courage landowners to be cooperative
of other landowners.

In many cases with private property
the avenue marking the property lines
are cleared for maintenance of those
lines and they are cleared so that we
can have a delineation of where the
property lines are. In many cases those
are the only places for appropriate
placement of a stand.

Now, we don't want people shooting
across property lines on someone else's
property. That's not the right thing to
do. But to place it there may be the
only place where the trees are cleared.
It may be the only place where stands
can be placed. So I would ask you to
keep that in mind.

If it deals in the realm of public
safety, I am and SCI is all for those
regulations. But if it's a private
matter, it needs to be settled
privately. Appreciate your thoughts on
that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bradford.
The next speaker is Barry Estes.

MR. ESTES: Good morning. Barry Estes. I
live over in Prattville. I appreciate
both Mr. Moultries letting me speak here
today.

That was a joke.

I'm also here wanting to talk about
the boundary rule if it were to come
up.

Bowhunters in Alabama, which I
represent, we have an urban deer control
program which was created several years
ago at the request of the conservation
department to deal with issues about subdivisions and deer problems in the areas. And, obviously, a 50-yard rule for a bowhunter in an urban deer control program would shut it completely down because you're dealing with close proximities and everything else in archery. But that's just a rule we would like to see addressed if it were to be pursued.

Once again, I'd like to support Forever Wild. I hope everybody does. I got to shoot a couple of pigs this year down at Lowndes on that new property. And it's ugly. But it's fun to get out there and hunt. It's nice to have a place to go chase a pig every once in a while. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTrie: Thank you, Mr. Estes.

The next speaker is Jim Dye.

MR. DYE: Thank you, Board, for letting me come up and speak today. My name is Jim
Dye. I hunt in Greene County, Alabama.
I am a dog hunter. I hunt with C & W
Hunting Club. We've been in business --
not business. We've been a club for
well over 25, 30 years.

We'd just like to continue hunting
the way we like to hunt, to dog hunt.
We hunt as legal as we can. We abide by
the state rules and do everything we can
to minimize any issues or problems that
may come up. To my knowledge, we
haven't had any major issues that I'm
aware of.

But we do want to continue doing
what we do. And I want to encourage all
dog hunters to do the right thing, hunt
the right way, police yourselves, and do
dog hunting the way it ought to be
done. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dye.

The next speaker is Jimmy Fort.

MR. FORT: Good morning. I'm Jimmy Fort from
Butler County. The reason I came up
today, I was trying to get from the horse's mouth, so to speak, what is going on with the extension of the deer season controversy back and forth.

And I approach things with an open mind here. I'm a hunter. I like to dog hunt. I'm also president of a 900-acre still-hunting club. And at the end of season I've got some beagles that I run rabbits with. And so it's hard to take sides with anyone here because I like it all.

But I came up here with my mind set of extension. But the more I hear and talking out in the lobby of the people that when you give something over here, you're taking from somebody else over here. And what I do and our members that's in our still-hunting club, we go to a neighboring dog-hunting club for the first part of the season and join them and go dog hunting because that's how you kill the deer. The deer are not
moving in the early part of the season.
A dog will make the deer move. And
you're more -- and, really, in the long
run you have more fun because there's
more people involved, the chase of it,
the gathering up later, what all's going
on.

And my interest is -- and, like I
say, I won't ask y'all to show your
hands, but just think about this: How
many of you here have ever been dog
hunting? And if you haven't, I would
just suggest this year in your area to
find out of a local dog-hunting club,
ask them to go with them for a day to
get the insight of what it's about.

No matter who here is whatever
issue, there's always two sides one way
or the other. I've done it all, the
still hunting and the dog hunting. I've
dog-hunted for 50 years from a little
kid. I love the chase. I could
actually put my gun up and just enjoy
the chase. But like I was telling one
of the guys, if I did that, that's when
the old big one would come out and I'd
be like where is my gun, you know.

So I don't -- I'm just glad I'm not
in your position about this. But to let
you know, I think I've sort of -- from
what I'm seeing, I think we sort of need
to stick with what we got.

And on the dog still-hunting issue,
to me, like we've been saying the last
couple of years, cooperation, I think,
in the still hunters themselves and the
dog hunters themselves. If you really
want to understand it, try to get
together. And what I have seen in the
past, if you'll carry a still-hunter dog
hunting with you one day -- and I've
seen it more than once -- next weekend
he's back, but, look, he picked up a dog
over the week. Because what it is, they
enjoy it and -- but you -- no matter
what you do, you want to have -- to be
part of it. So you want your little
thing to go along with it, whether it's
rabbit hunting or whatever.
So I have trouble criticizing
someone else because what I'd be
criticizing, I do the same thing. So I
don't know if I've said anything, but
the main thing is --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. FORT: -- I wish y'all would be
open-minded about this and just do the
best you can.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Fort.
The next speaker -- if you'll hold
your applause until the end of the
session, please.
The next speaker is Mr. Giles, Lamar
Giles.

MR. GILES: Mr. Chairman, Board Members, my
name is Lamar Giles. I'm the
secretary/treasurer of Old Union Point
Hunting Club in east Chilton County,
Alabama.
In the March 12th, 2011, advisory board meeting you heard complaints from three landowners about deer dogs trespassing on their property. I have the minutes of that meeting, and I have read their complaints. I won't say the gentlemen lied, but they certainly embellished the truth.

The truth is these gentlemen bought land that joins a hunting club that had been in existence over 30 years when they purchased the property. There's nothing separating the two except the land line.

Chilton County has approximately 450,000 acres of land. These three gentlemen have less than 700 acres combined. In 2010 the census of Chilton County had 43,643 residents. Two of the three people who complained do not reside in Chilton County or vote in Chilton County. Only one was a citizen of our county. Yet this board voted
unanimously to put Chilton County on the
dog deer hunting by permit only system.
There was no mention in their complaints
of any bad conduct or confrontation
between anyone because there hadn't been
any.

Now, next season will be the 40th
year of our club's existence. In those
40 years, to my knowledge, we've had one
ticket from the conservation
department. We've been able to co-exist
with landowners and neighbors around our
club, because we're mostly local
people.

I believe your decision was unfair
to the citizens of our county. You had
the authority to put us on the permit
system, and I believe you have the power
to take Chilton County off the permit
system. And I'm asking you to do so.

Now, as far as the problem with the
dogs and these landowners, if they can't
tolerate a deer dog occasionally
crossing their property, then since they're the Johnny-come-latelies -- we've been there almost 40 years and they've been there less than ten. Let the burden of keeping the dogs off of their property be theirs. Let them fence their property.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. GILES: That would solve the problem. And we would appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: Thank you, Mr. Giles.

The next speaker is Don Knight.

MR. KNIGHT: I'm Don Knight, state president of the Alabama Dog Hunters Association.

Dan, just for what it's worth -- and it'll probably take up a little bit of my time -- but I've been hunting in Barbour County for 30 years, and your dates are within a couple of dates of what we see deer going into the rut every year. And we've had this land for over 40 years. So just to throw that out.
Now I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, and all concerned on this board for giving Coffee County a year to get their problems worked out and get things straightened out. And I'd like to tell you what we're doing about that.

What we're trying to do, we've got a meeting that's trying to be scheduled. It will be set here shortly. We're trying to set it to where we can get the most people there we can. And what we're trying to do is we're going to set up a committee with at least one committee member from each club in that county. And we'd like to include Elmore, if we could, because we don't think it ought to be shut down by an area. If you get a good club coming back in, you can't open them up if their area has been closed down. We don't like the areas -- I think we talked
about all this -- and have club to club

to set up the accountability and
everything.

So what they're going to do, when we
get this committee set up, we'll have a
chairman. Anybody that's got a
complaint and calls Grady or the
conservation department, anything like
that, they can register that complaint
with that chairman. That chairman will
have a person from those clubs on his
committee. He will talk to them and the
other club members. We will see if it
is a legitimate complaint. If we don't
think it's a legitimate complaint, we
will make a notation of that and give
you that at the end of the season. If
we think it is a legitimate account --
or complaint, then we will work on that
as a group and tell you what our
solutions were that we implemented to
stop this complaint from happening
again.
That's what we're trying to do in Coffee, and we would like to have Elmore County included in that. That's what we want to do. It's not a foolproof thing, but I think it shows that we want to police our own. We're going to try to set this up in other counties. There's a lot of counties out there that need the permit system. We know it works, where it's needed, where it's not needed. We don't think our hunters ought to be restricted any more than any other hunter in the woods.

So that's one of the things we're trying to do to solve the problems in Coffee County. And we will continue this wherever we've got problems. We'll try to set up a committee and make it work, police our own.

And I would also like to tell you that our film is not quite ready yet, but they -- the people up in Wisconsin tell me they'll have it for us probably
next month. And we'll get it in your hands before the next meeting where you can see it and all. He says it's going to be really good, and they're trying to do that now.

Please --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. KNIGHT: Okay. Just consider putting Elmore County in with Coffee and don't close down any areas. We'd rather have it club-by-club basis accountability.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Knight, we appreciate your involvement as a board in the dog hunting in Alabama. Thank you.

The next speaker is Susan Morrow.

MS. MORROW: Good morning, Chairman, Members of the Board. I'm Susan Morrow. I'm from Mobile County. You know, I'm an avid dog hunter and I'm also a stalk hunter.

I want to thank y'all again for the extra five days that y'all gave us on
management areas. That was wonderful. And I'm here again to ask for two more
days on the Upper Delta at the beginning
of the season because usually it's not
wet in there then and we can drive in.
And I would also like to see another
management area opened for dog hunting.

And I also would like to add that I
don't think that deer season needs to be
extended. If you extend it, you will
wind up taking away some of our dog
days. And it would wind up being like a
split system -- season -- excuse me --
in Mississippi, and that's -- if you've
ever been over there and hunted, it's
very confusing. And I don't think that
we are at that point to where we need
that yet. So I wish y'all would
consider that. And I know that y'all
will do the right thing on that. Thank
y'all very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.
The next speaker is Loney Mullinex.
MR. MULLINEX: Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Loney Mullinex, and I hunt in Greene County. Been hunting in there since 1962, landowner also. But we are a dog-hunting club -- primarily dog-hunting club. Been doing it for years.

We also -- to the small game, we invite anybody there -- we've had -- like the gentleman said earlier about getting a stalk hunter there or a still hunter. We have converted several, several still hunters into dog hunters in the past ten to 15 years.

Our biggest thing, though, is tradition and our kids. I was raised up there, my sons, my -- our members, their sons and grandsons, granddaughters, nieces and nephews. What we're asking is you make real consideration of leaving the dog hunting alone. Let us enjoy what we do the best.

We are working on a system to police
our dogs, to track our dogs, to take
care of our dogs and keep them off, as
much as possible, the landowners next
door to us, to be hospitable to them, to
consider them. But we understand, you
know, they spend a lot of money, too, on
their hunting places and so we do. But
we want to get along with all of them.
And, like I said, we will work on a plan
to take care of this. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Mullinex.

The next speaker is Donald Nelson.

MR. NELSON: Good morning, gentlemen. I'm
Mayor Don Nelson from Creola, Alabama,
and I'm speaking on behalf of Big Rack
Hunting Club in Butler County that's
been there for 50 years, also, personal
family land in Butler and members'
family land in Butler County.

During the 2010 season I shared last
year with the board that I was
recovering from cancer surgery and
chemotherapy. We had two glitches
happen during the 2010 season, and I had
to come back and stand in front of this
board and tell them and Mr. Hartzog what
I planned to do to correct those
problems when I was absent from a lot of
that season.

We initiated a four-step program to
eliminate the problem. We actually did
two more things. I'm happy to say in at
least six conversations I had last year
with Mr. Mike McNeil, who is a
lieutenant with the conservation
department in Butler County, in our area
particularly, at the start of the
season, during the middle of the season,
end of the season, I said, Mike, did we
have any problems? He said, zero. I
said, Mike, did we have any complaints?
He said, zero. Mike, did we have any
violations? He said, zero. And I said,
great.

He has my number, my business card,
my cell, my home number. I have his.
We communicated continually. Because our goal is to have zero problems. We don't want that. We don't want you to have to fight this issue every year.

We went beyond that. Well, we -- the communication. Mike has been invited to hunt with us, come to our cookouts at the end and beginning of the season. He is a regular fixture with us, which we're glad.

We did some other things. This right here which I'm carrying right here -- and a lot of clubs is going to them, and I just went to it last year -- is a Garmin GPS system, the greatest thing, I think, since sliced bread. I'm not a Garmin salesman, but, gentlemen, I can tell you where my dog is, if he's running, where he's been, and where he's going. I didn't have any dogs out overnight last year. It helped tremendously. It's not the end solution, but it helps tremendously.
And we stress this for our members there, very -- trying to be proactive is what we're trying to do there.

I mentioned we've been in Butler County for 50 years. We pay over $25,000 a year on just leases. Some years have been as high as 40,000. If you do your math, that's over a million dollars in leases. And we're glad to do that because it supports our economy and the conservation department there. I dare say how many millions of dollars our 30 to 50 members spend in the local economy. It's probably several million dollars there. And we want to continue doing that.

We want to continue to have the privilege to hunt dogs in Butler County. And we -- I worked with Mr. Knight and Mr. Hartzog last year. I give him our plan. I think it's working. I know we had one gentleman speak against us back in the February
meeting, which I missed, unfortunately.
And he may speak today, which is fine.
But our goal is, is to be a good
neighbor and to continue to utilize --
to have the privilege to hunt dogs in
Butler County. We want to do that.

One thing in closing I've heard
about the season. I killed zero deer
the last -- and I don't care. I enjoy
fellowship. I have a three-year-old
grandson --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. NELSON: -- that I'm going to see today,
and I want to bring him hunting with me.
Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mayor, if the rest of the
mayors in the state would get as
involved as you have, we wouldn't have
the kind of problems we have. You're
doing a tremendous job. Thank you for
your work.

MR. NELSON: Thank y'all for allowing me to
speak, gentlemen. If I can help, please
don't hesitate to call.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Just out of curiosity, what does a system -- GPS system like that per dog cost?

MR. NELSON: Okay. The collars is $200. Now, I had to beg my wife and get on her good side and do a lot of "honey-do's." It probably cost me 1500 to $2,000. It was worth it. I've seen deer this year in front of my dogs. And, like I said, this helps out. This is the best thing I've ever seen.

MR. JONES: Is it $200 per dog?

MR. NELSON: $200 a collar.

MR. JONES: A collar.

MR. NELSON: And about five to $600 for this unit here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mayor, thank you so much.

The next speaker is James Akers.

MR. AKERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is James Akers. I live in Covington County about ten miles north of the
Florida state line. I own 80 acres right in the middle of timber company land.

Dog hunting was opened up south of 84 two years ago. In that two-year time I've had several problems with dogs getting over on me. I know dogs do not know property lines. There's a difference between true dog hunters and these wannabe dog hunters.

The problem is not lying with people like the gentleman who just spoke and his club. The problem is with the clubs that do not regulate their members. They buy dogs right before deer season starts. They use these dogs during deer season. Then they turn them loose. I've had to put dogs down on my place because they would just turn them loose at the end of season.

Also, night stalk hunting. I call it night stalkers, the night hunters. In five years -- I live two-and-a-half
miles off of 331 on a dirt road, and in
five years I've counted between 25 and
30 carcasses threwed out, nothing but
the horns cut off of them. This is a
waste of meat. This is killing the buck
population. In our area where I was
seeing four or five, six eight-points a
year, I've seen one this year.

Our biggest problem is enforcement.
I've called the game warden twice. One
time he showed up for one night patrol
only in that area. I told him the
nights they were hunting. I could even
take him to the place where they're
doing the killing at. But nobody wants
to listen.

But our biggest problem is
enforcement over this night hunting.
And it's getting ridiculous. They're
cutting the horns off of them, selling
them to people for knives and stuff like
that, and it's not right. And thank you
for hearing me. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Akers, can you get with Kevin Dodd and give him that area where those -- that's happening after the meeting?

MR. AKERS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

The next speaker is Keith Blackburn.

MR. BLACKBURN: Good morning. My name is Keith Blackburn. I own property in west Butler County. And right now I'm really taken out of my game. I will contradict everything the mayor just said awhile ago.

We have had ongoing problems with that particular hunting club for years dating back 30 years or so. I have had gentlemen arrested on my property for trespassing. The dog hunting is out of control there in that part of the county.

I presented Mr. Hartzog with a map in February showing where I've got 15 landowners that support a permit system
in Butler County to try to get a handle on this. I guess people there think I'm the mayor of the community or something. But, anyway, they keep sending me all these complaints.

One of the main complaints is, is that we have a two-acre cemetery right in the middle of some of our property. And a lot of these older women are scared to go to the cemetery to visit their husbands because they're afraid of these hunters lined up and down the road. They throw their dogs in there on posted properties, and it's just -- it's out of hand.

So basically what I'm asking is please consider a permit system for the west part of Butler County. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Blackburn.

The next speaker is David Cowan.

MR. COWAN: Good morning. My name is David Cowan. I'm from Birmingham, Alabama. My brother, who is from Tuscaloosa, and
I own property in northern Greene County, Alabama. And I'm appearing before you today to ask that deer hunting with dogs in north Greene County be put on the permit system.

The problem that I'm going to discuss with you today is long-standing, it is systemic, and it is oppressive. This morning when I got here I gave your secretary a packet of information detailing years of trying to get something done about this and to try to get to a resolution of this. But because we had no success, I'm here today.

One of the gentlemen a few minutes ago mentioned that a landowner should expect an occasional interference with his activities, and I agree with that. In the information that I have provided you -- and it's documented not just by my words. But in the information that we provided you, in the 2010-2011
hunting season we had dogs on property
that we own on six of eight weekends.
We had dogs on property that we lease on
seven of the eight -- seven of those
eight weekends. Last season it was four
weekends out of six.

What makes the problem even worse is
that on some of those weekends it
involves both days, Saturday and
Sunday. The problem is further
magnified by the fact that some of those
intrusions last all day long.

For example -- and, again, I give
you this just as an example. On
January 8th, 2011, members of the
hunting club, who I have identified in
my packet, were on the northern border
of our property yelling up dogs at 4:30
in the afternoon. They had run on us
all day. That problem repeated itself
the next morning at 9 a.m. on
January 9th, 2011. On February 7th,
2012, this year, we had guests and
hunters in evening hunts because we had
dogs on our property all day.

Now, I get that people want to dog
hunt. I understand it. But I think
requiring someone to give up 80 percent
of their weekends --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. COWAN: -- is asking too much. All we're
asking for is the permit system. And,
again, I would just reference you to the
information packet and the evidence that
I have provided to you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Cowan, if you could
get with your new area representative,
Mr. Bunn, and start the conversation.

MR. COWAN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Paul
Jeffreys.

MR. JEFFREYS: Members of the Board, I would
like to thank you for being able to come
before you today. My name is Paul
Jeffreys. I'm a landowner in Lamar
County.
This morning me and Mr. Hatley were discussing how long it's been that I've been coming to these meetings. And I know for a fact it's been 12 years, because when we started, my son, who's 12 now, had just been born.

Back then we started our seeking a ban on dog deer hunting in Lamar County, and it grew from just Lamar County to Marion County and into Franklin County. And then we had a serious problem. We were having upwards of 60 and 70 complaints a season in one county, in Lamar County, my county in particular, a season against clubs with dog hunting.

I hold in my hand the list of complaints now, this year. And this past year in Lamar County alone we had nine complaints. Nine complaints by landowners complaining about dogs running on their private property. You cannot argue with numbers. That is a fact.
We went -- go back and check the records. In early 2000 -- '99, 2000, 2001, check your records of how many complaints we had by landowners and check them today. It's proof in the numbers.

Again, the dog hunters are now coming forward and saying we want to police ourselves, we want to use tracking collars. Let me just pose this idea to you: As a hunter who is trying to find a deer, to harvest a deer, would that not give an unfair advantage of having a GPS on a dog that is pursuing an animal, to run it from cover and they're standing there with a device that is showing them which way that dog is running and where it's going?

I just want you to think about it. I'm not -- I mean, before you make any decisions I want you to consider this. Consider these -- what might be the outcome of this.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody -- let me --

excuse me, Mr. Jeffreys.

Mr. Moody, is there any regulation

that keeps these dog hunters from using

that?

Mr. Dodd?

MR. DODD: No.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. For the board's

information, there is not any regulation

against that being done.

Mr. Jeffreys, go ahead.

MR. JEFFREYS: Right. Right. There's not a

regulation. I just want you to think

about that.

That being said, in Lamar County we

would like to thank you for our season

and bag limits. It has been a success

story. We would like to thank you for

our bans. Landowners in that part of

the state now have the free right --

when we started 12 years ago, I told

this board -- and Mr. Hatley, I believe,

is the only one that was present on this
board at that time -- this was not a hunting issue. It never was, never has been. This was 100-percent a private landowner rights issue. And that was --

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. JEFFREYS: The private landowner should have the right to say what takes place on his or her property.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Jeffreys.

MR. JEFFREYS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Steve Pierce.

MR. PIERCE: Good morning, gentlemen. I'd like to first thank the chairman for the invitation to come back from last month. I appreciate it. And I don't want to hash over the old stuff. You know I don't like the night hunter at all. We desperately still need some help with enforcement.

Gentlemen, I'd be glad to go with -- and I've offered -- our game warden. I can't call his name now, but he's in my
cell phone and I'm in his. I've offered. The corn sacks are laying outside the gates on this particular club. They're still laying there. That ain't right. We need something done with enforcement.

I don't mean to be just harping on the enforcement guys. I know they got a big load, a bad situation. But what else can we do?

We -- something -- if it -- when you call and after calling them it seems like it falls on deaf ears, why you want to keep calling if it's not doing any good?

Don't know what else to say about tracking collars or whatever. I understand that. And that's great people are trying to help take care of the problem of looking after their dogs. Appreciate it.

But, also, any of you gentlemen hunters, if you ever set in a stand and
tried to still hunt and dogs running around all under your feet, it ain't very nice.

And you're not -- I'm not saying extend the season. Don't think we need to do that neither. But no -- I don't know what the biologists come up with. But the game cameras out on our place this year after the season, after I was here last month -- the main part of the rut, yes, was later into February in Covington County. But what's causing that? Is it they're not having time to settle down after dog season and so they're doing that or what? I don't know. I'm not a biologist.

(Brief interruption.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Hold any comments from the gallery, please.

Go ahead, Mr. Pierce.

MR. PIERCE: But there needs to be something done. What we need to do -- we're asking for help.
You know, it's not nice to sit there and try to stalk hunt -- I know we've got the whole season to stalk hunt, but it's not nice to sit there and stalk hunt when you got a club setting here with 2700 acres joining you. They're not running over yonder and their dogs jumping a deer and coming across. No. A dog can't read property lines. I don't -- it ain't the dog's fault. But when they're -- the club is setting there less than a hundred yards off the property line and turn their dogs loose to come across you, that ain't right worth a durn. We need some help out of the enforcement, please. Thank you, gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Pierce, if you will get with Mr. Dodd after the meeting, I assure you it won't fall on deaf ears.

MR. PIERCE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Andrew Scott. This is our final speaker.
MR. SCOTT: I've got to have notes. My name is Andrew Scott, and I live in Birmingham and have family in Greene County.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Scott, can you come up to the microphone?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Speak into the microphone, please, sir.

MR. SCOTT: My name is Andrew Scott. I live in Birmingham and I have family in Greene County.

First of all, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to address the board. I want you to know that I recognize that each of you serve on this board voluntarily and you are here because you care about the conservation and wildlife issues in this state.

The issue I bring before you is the issue of deer hunting with dogs in the north part of Greene County. I will briefly describe my experiences this year in a minute, but I want you to be
sure to understand the material I've submitted to Ms. Jones.

In your hands there should be two reports, one labeled A, North Greene County Dog Hunting Issues prepared by Brock Jones, a member of this board until recently, and another labeled B, 2011 Incidents of Problems with Dog Hunting in North Greene County.

The report by Mr. Jones was prepared prior to his resignation from this board and represents a pretty good effort recounting what has transpired in this part of Greene County in the recent past. More specifically, I'd like to briefly explain my experiences, a more detailed version of which can be found in the Report B I submitted.

I have counted the number -- I haven't counted the number of weekends in the deer season that just passed, but I can tell you that I hunted almost every weekend, including the last part
of deer season when dogs were banned statewide, and I had problems each weekend. I may not have caught the dogs each time I was there, but they were certainly running through my property.

Briefly, weekend of Thanksgiving, caught a dog. Called her owner. Reported it to the game warden in writing. Week of December the 15th, caught a dog and released it. New Year's weekend, caught a dog. Removed it. Caught another dog. Called the owner. January the 7th, caught a dog, the same owner.

So those are my experiences this past season. That does not mean that this past season is the only season I've had problems. But I'm here today because it has reached the point where I cannot enjoy a peaceful hunt on my own land.

I want you to know that I have no personal problems with any members of
the hunting clubs around me and actually
lease land to some of the dog hunting
clubs. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Scott.

The next order of business is old
business. I will start with the issues
I show open from the last meeting. If
you are following in the minutes, note
that the new business at the last
meeting begins on page 189 of the
minutes.

The season and bag limits and all
departmental recommendations.
Mr. Hatley, I believe you had a motion
on that.

MR. HATLEY: Yes, sir. I move that all
regulations --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley, can you speak
into the microphone, please, sir, and
start back over?

MR. HATLEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that all
regulations and staff reports as
presented be approved.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?

MR. LYNCH: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a second.

Mr. Hatley, your motion one more time.

MR. HATLEY: That all regulations and staff reports as presented be approved.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. All those in favor, please hold a hand up.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Motion carries.

The next item is the -- we had a discussion about discarding dead fish and fish parts in coastal and inland waters. Mr. Hatley, I show you again have a comment.

MR. HATLEY: That was on what? I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: On discarding dead fish
and fish parts.

MR. HATLEY. Oh, yeah. I thought that was encompassed in my original motion.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We'll, we're going to bring it up for discussion because I think we need to clarify what happened with that.

MR. HATLEY: Well, in that case I need to get a staff person --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You want Mr. Blankenship?

Mr. Blankenship.

MR. HATLEY: Chris.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: After the last meeting, looking at our miscellaneous regulations that included discarding bycatch, on the inside waters they can discard bycatch within 500 feet of the shoreline. We have a proposed regulation that would allow them to discard fish within 500 feet of the shoreline in the Gulf waters as well as on the inside waters except for shrimp boats. And this would -- will take care of the issue that the
1 speaker had about cleaning fish on the
2 Gulf State Park Pier and would make the
3 Gulf waters consistent with what we have
4 on the inside waters.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley, I believe we
6 need a separate motion on that to make
7 sure that's inclusive of what's being
8 passed if you're in favor of that.

9 MR. HATLEY: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry for
10 the misunderstanding. I thought that my
11 original motion would include this,
12 Chris, and I apologize to you for that
13 fact. But, yes, again, I will make a
14 separate motion to clarify this issue.
15 I move that we approve the new
16 proposal as it relates to bycatch on the
17 state pier and on the limit as far as
18 the distance is concerned.

19 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

20 MR. HATLEY: Is that correct?

21 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a motion. Is
23 there a second?
DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a second.

We have a motion to approve the new recommendation on the bycatch. Any discussion?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All those in favor by a show of hands.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show that it is unanimous, that it passes.

The next open item from old business is regulations requested on harvesting turtles.

Dr. Strickland, I know the department has a position on this, but I believe you wanted to talk on this also.

DR. STRICKLAND: I think each of the board remembers received the new and revised turtle policy and regulation which actually put in a policy that will
protect our turtle resources from
overharvesting from commercial means.

Mr. Chairman, do we need a motion on
this or --

CHAIRMAN MOULTYIE: Yes. We do need a
separate motion, Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: Okay. Do you mind if I go
ahead and put that on --

CHAIRMAN MOULTYIE: Please, sir. Please, sir.

DR. STRICKLAND: Okay. At this time I would
like to have a motion to approve the
revised turtle regulation that now bans
the commercial harvest of wild turtles
in the state of Alabama but continue to
allow turtle farming and, most
importantly, allow the recreational
harvest of up to two turtles annually.

CHAIRMAN MOULTYIE: Very good. We have a
motion. Is there a second?

MR. JONES: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTYIE: We have a second.

On this motion, is there any
discussion -- the Commissioner would
like for the department to clarify what
they've done on this issue.

Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: If somebody could just
stand up and speak to that. What were
you saying, Fred?

MR. HARDERS: That restriction on the
recreational turtle ban to two would be
daily instead of annually.

DR. STRICKLAND: Daily. Okay.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Fred, would you or whoever
you want to designate --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Step to the microphone.

COMMISSIONER GUY: For the benefit of the
public, would you go ahead and just
explain what we did to try to protect
the turtle population in that regard.

MR. HARDERS: After the last board meeting,
our wildlife section, who has the
responsibility -- biological
responsibility for turtles, and the
enforcement section got together and
looked at the current turtle reg and
came up with the changes that Dr. Strickland mentioned.

It would eliminate the commercial harvest of turtles from public waters. It would still allow turtle farmers to be in business. It would allow recreational harvest of up to two turtles of those not listed daily. It would prohibit the importation of certain turtles. And I believe that's all that it would do.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Harders, was this in conjunction with the folks that spoke from Auburn?

MR. HARDERS: Yes, it was. We -- we were already looking at this, and the individuals that spoke brought it to y'all's attention and the public's.

DR. STRICKLAND: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Lemme.

DR. LEMME: Do you feel that the separation between the commercial and the recreational turtle harvesting is
1 enforceable?
2 MR. HARDERS: Yes.
3 DR. LEMME: Okay.
4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions from the board?
5 (No response.)
6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. We've got a motion and a second. We're finished with discussion.
7 All those in favor hold your hand.
8 (All board members raise hand.)
9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?
10 (No response.)
11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show unanimously it passes.
12 The next old business item is, Mr. Moody, we were asked to get together on a situation discussed by Brad Biddle of too few deer in Marshall County. Could you tell us what your findings on that were?
13 MR. MOODY: I can. We asked two of our wildlife biologists to visit with
Mr. Biddle. And they did so, I think, the week after the board meeting and met with him, looked at his property and also talked with one of his landowners there, rode around the area to get familiar with the general habitat. So they prepared a report on their visit which we forwarded to Board Member Mr. Ainsworth.

And, basically, the habitat is not as -- what you would classify as the best deer habitat in Alabama, but it's adequate for a certain level of population, certain level of hunting. They did find evidence of multi-age deer there. They found evidence of both does and bucks. I think one of the things Mr. Biddle had said was there weren't any does there and he wasn't seeing any does. But they found good evidence that that was not the case. And one of the neighbors told them he had seen -- I think it was 19 does just the week
before. So they feel like for the
habitat that's there that the population
is about as good as you could expect.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Moody.
The next old business item was the
proposed regulation changes in upper
Mobile Bay to reopen a temporary
non-trawl zone.

Mr. Blankenship, could you come up
and discuss that briefly?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: I think that regulation was
included with the ones that
Mr. Hatley --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's correct. But the
Commissioner would like for you to just
briefly discuss it.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Sure. We closed -- back in
2004, upper Mobile Bay, we closed an
area on the west side of Mobile Bay, on
the north side of Mobile Bay, and then a
small area on the east side of Mobile
Bay within a half a mile of the
shoreline to the use of shrimp trawls.
And we agreed when that was closed in 2004 that we would provide a -- we would study that area to see if it had any effects on the shrimp or fish production or grass beds. We protected the grass beds and the grass beds came back.

Our biological staff did complete that study this past year and produced the report that was provided in your packet. Essentially the area in western Mobile Bay and northern Mobile Bay showed that it did serve either as a shrimp nursery area or allowed for the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation during certain times of the year. But that area on the eastern shore within a half-mile of the shoreline, we -- they didn't see any benefits to have that area remaining closed, and so we proposed to reopen that area within a half-mile of the shoreline from May Day Pier in Daphne down to Grand Hotel at Great Point Clear.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, Chris. That passed in Mr. Hatley's motion.

The next open item from old business, Dr. Shipp, you had motions you would like to make.

DR. SHIPP: I had two motions, the first one regarding the Florida pompano. What I would like to do is move that we table that motion until the May meeting. We've had some requests for additional information. So I would like to amend that motion to table until the May meeting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Without the motion being a second, that's fine. The chair will table that for you.

The next motion, Dr. Shipp.

DR. SHIPP: The next motion is to the minimum legal size to retain triple tail be increased from 16-inches total length to 18-inches total length.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Do we have a
1    second?
2    MR. AINSWORTH: Second.
3    CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. We have a motion
4            and a second.
5        Any discussion?
6        (No response.)
7    CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Shipp, would you like
8        to tell us a little more about that.
9    DR. SHIPP: Yes. Since our original size of
10       16-inches minimum was put in place, we
11       have discovered that triple tail don't
12       reach sexual maturity until about
13       18 inches. So this change in regulation
14       would allow them to at least spawn one
15       time before they're targeted.
16       This species has become very popular
17       in recent years. In the past there was
18       not much concern about the health of
19       that stock, but with the trend towards
20       people targeting triple tail, we feel
21       like this regulation is necessary. And
22       I've talked to Chris and Kevin, and I
23       think they're in agreement.
1  CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Any other
discussion?
    (No response.)
4  CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a motion and a
second, the motion being the minimum
legal size to retain triple tail be
increased from 16-inches total to
18-inches total.
    All those in favor by a show of
hands, please.
    (All board members raise hand.)
12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?
    (No response.)
14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show the
motion carries unanimously.
    (Inaudible portion.)
17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Was that an "against" or a
"for"?
19 MR. JONES: A "for."
20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Very good,
Mr. Jones.
22 Okay. The next open item would be
the -- and, Chris, this was included in
there -- in the previous motion by Mr. Hatley -- but the size and bag limit on sheepshead. Would you just address real quick what that new size and bag limit is.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: The new size limit on sheepshead will be 12-inch fork length and ten fish per person. And that's a -- like Dr. Shipp says, with the -- like with the triple tail, that will allow the -- 50-percent range is around that 12 inches, and that will allow them to spawn one time before they're harvested.

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: Thank you very much.

The next open item is -- there is no other. Does anyone else have any old business?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTON: Being no old business, the next order of business is new business.

Mr. Lynch, I believe you have -- in Grady's absence, you have an e-mail to
be read but not a motion to be made on.

MR. LYNCH: That is correct. Yeah. This is for Grady Hartzog, who is one of our board members. It concerns a potential dog deer permit placed on Elmore County. And I would like to read the description of that area in Elmore County for Mr. Hartzog.

The line should run along Coosa County/Elmore County line from the east bank of Lake Jordan to Highway 9, then south along Highway 9 to the intersection of Highway 231, then south along Highway 231 to the intersection of Highway 14, then west along Highway 14 to the east bank of the Coosa River, then north along the east bank of the Coosa River and Lake Jordan back to the Coosa County/Elmore County line.

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: Is that it?

MR. LYNCH: That is it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: Very good. And I am going to read something from Mr. Dobbs, who is
not here. But I want the board to note when you have a controversial item, just as Mr. Hartzog's, there will not be a motion received on it unless you are here to present it yourself within your district.

The -- before I read Mr. Dobb's letter, Mr. Hatley, you had an item you wanted to bring up on turkey season.

MR. HATLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I've been contacted by several people around the state in regards to spring and fall turkey seasons. At current time it's my understanding -- and, Gary, you correct me if I'm wrong -- that we have six counties that are under a fall turkey season. I am going to propose probably in -- at our May meeting, Commissioner, that we take a look at this.

Since turkey hunting has become such an avid spring season issue, then I'm going to look at proposing that we may make changes in those six counties and
bring the whole state into compliance
with those -- those six counties into
compliance with the rest of the state of
Alabama.

CHAIRMAN MOULTTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hatley.

The next item of new business, with
Mr. Dobbs not here, his letter that
there will be no motion made upon is --
Mr. Chairman, please read this. Please
acknowledge Drew Scott from Birmingham
who hunts in Greene County and will be
relaying his issues with dog deer
hunting to all board members. I advised
him all decisions would be tabled until
the new board member is appointed. He
has been in contact with Mr. Jones
previously.

The next item, many outdoorsmen have
requested more days for youth seasons
for turkey, deer, and duck to encourage
participation and involvement of
Alabama's youth.

Allowing hunting for coyotes at
night with a light, with a shotgun, and
ammunition agreeable to conservation
officers during all seasons unless or
except during gun deer or turkey
seasons. Many hunters have commented
about the prevalence of coyotes and the
potential predation of our resources.
Allow the same for feral hogs.

Provide for a self-sustaining system
of carcass tags and reporting for antler
deer and turkeys. The cost of tags or
fees shall be used for the express
purpose of administering this program
and providing the research and data
benefiting our ongoing deer herd and
turkey resource management plans.

Update on regulations for harvesting
turtles, resident and non-resident and
commercial licenses and limits.

Work to delineate an area around
supplemental feeding that is standard
and is enforceable and clear to the
hunting public.
Work toward a provision to allow a lifetime hunting license for persons with life-altering disabilities which would preclude them from normal outdoor or hunting activities without the physical aid of a caregiver. Define specific guidelines for disabilities. No license provisions for caregivers or attendants.

Sorry I cannot attend. I will be at the next board meeting. Mr. Dobbs.

The next other item of new business, Mr. Ainsworth, I believe you have a housekeeping motion.

MR. AINSWORTH: Yes, sir. Make a motion to approve all DCNR regulations since the last approval.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a motion. Is there a second?

DR. STRICKLAND: Second.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a second.

This is a housekeeping motion we pass each time. Any discussion?
(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Being no discussion, all
in favor, hold hand.

(All board members raise hand.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show it
passes unanimously.

The board will stand at ease just a
minute.

Okay. The -- I want to bring to the
board's attention -- if I can get your
attention. I want the record to reflect
that, also, within your packets of what
was approved was our annual CPI increase
on licenses. The Commissioner wants to
make sure that you saw that and that
you're in acceptance of that and that
this is an ongoing each year CPI
increase and something we needed very
desperately years ago. And I think it
will benefit the department greatly.

But we want to make sure you're aware of
Okay. Any other new business?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dean, was that good?

MR. DEAN: That was very good.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other --

Mr. Blankenship, please come to the

microphone.

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir. In the packets

that were provided for this meeting, in

the saltwater fish creel possession

regulation 220-3-.30 there were two

additional changes. We concurred with

Dr. Shipp's recommendation to make the

triple tail from 16 to 18 inches. The

week after our last meeting the National

Marine Fisheries Service produced a

final rule that changed the commercial

size limit for gag grouper from

24 inches to 22 inches. So we would ask

that that change be made in that

regulation.

And then we asked for sandbar sharks
to be made a prohibited species. There
is a small research fishery for sandbar
sharks. And so in the packet I added a
phrase that clarified that if the person
possessed that federal permit to allow
the possession of those -- those sandbar
sharks for research fishery purposes,
that they would be allowed to possess
those in Alabama.

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: Those items were included
in Mr. Hatley's motion. Let that be
noted in the minutes that those items
were included in Mr. Hatley's motion.

Thank you, Mr. Blankenship.

Any other new business?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: The next order of business
is the date and location of the next
advisory board meeting. The date will
be May 19, 2012. The location will be
at Five Rivers Delta Center on Causeway
in Spanish Fort, Alabama.

Being no further business, this
meeting is adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:48 a.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF ALABAMA:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

I, Tracey Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Alabama DCNR Board Meeting on March 10, 2012.

The foregoing 117 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.

I further certify that I am neither of kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor in any manner interested in the results thereof.
This 29th day of April 2012.

_________________________
Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2012
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large