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USDA -- APHIS  
AQUACULTURE PUBLIC MEETING  
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Taken at the Mississippi Forestry & Ag Museum,  
Main Building, Jackson, Mississippi,  
on October 10th, 2001,  
beginning at 2:32 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

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USDA-APHIS-VETERINARY SERVICES  
345 Keyway Drive  
Flowood, MS 39232

OTIS MILLER, JR.  
USD of Agriculture  
National Aquaculture Coordinator  
4700 River Road, Unit 46  
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ALSO PRESENT:

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HARRIS GLASS  
USDA Wildlife Services  
LOUIE THOMPSON  
DAN MILLER  
MIKE MCCALL  
CARLA TAYLOR  
DR. JACK  
BEN PETECOST  
JIM LIPE  
DARREN NOWLIN  
HUGH WARREN  
CURTIS GVILLO  
HARRIS GLASS

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REPORTED BY: Todd J. Davis, CSR #1406, RPR  
Davis Court Reporting  
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0003

1	INDEX	
2	Style and Appearances.....	1
3	Index.....	3
4	Proceedings.....	4
5	Certificate of Court Reporter.....	30

6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
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1 MR. MILLER: We're going to go ahead and  
2 start now. First of all, I want to welcome all of  
3 you for coming. I know you came from various  
4 distances to be with us today.

5 This is the APHIS -- which stands for  
6 Animal Plant Health Inspection Service -- public  
7 meeting on aquaculture. Basically, what we'll do  
8 today is I will outline for you -- first of all, a  
9 welcome to be given on our head table.

10 We have to my left Dr. Deborah Brennan.  
11 She is area veterinarian in charge for the State  
12 of Mississippi for veterinary services. To her  
13 left is the -- representing Davis Court Reporting,  
14 Todd Davis. As you can see, this meeting is  
15 recorded. And this will be the status for our  
16 transcript that we provide at the end of this  
17 meeting in approximately about two weeks.

18 All of these meetings that we have had  
19 have been transcribed and will be available on our  
20 Internet web site. The web site address is at the  
21 registration table. You can feel free to copy  
22 that down and use that information for your  
23 pleasure.

24 What we will do is after the speech is  
25 given on behalf of our administrator, then we will

0005

1 go forth and give instructions to you as far as  
2 what the speakers will need to do.

3 And then after that, the speakers will  
4 start with the information that they have. And  
5 when the last speaker has spoke, we will reserve  
6 the right to end the meeting at that time.

7 That's basically the agenda for what we  
8 will go forward. There is possibly a special  
9 guest that will be coming with us. I don't know  
10 if Mr. Hawks is going to be here or not,  
11 but we anticipate him being here. If not, he had  
12 the desire to be here and then maybe something  
13 came to take him away at that time.

14 Well, again, this is the APHIS  
15 Aquaculture Public Meeting. I would now like to  
16 present to you the area veterinary in charge for  
17 the State of Mississippi, Dr. Deborah Brennan. We  
18 now welcome her.

19 MS. BRENNAN: Hello. I would like to  
20 welcome you to the meeting here today. As I  
21 already said, this was one of several open  
22 meetings that have been held across the  
23 United States to gather information from different  
24 segments of the aquaculture industry. And we are  
25 very pleased that you all could be here with us

0006

1 today and provide your comments and input into the  
2 rule making process.

3 I need to read a prepared speech written  
4 by the lawyers in Washington, so you get the same  
5 thing exactly everybody else got. And when I am  
6 done with that, I guess Otis will be able to  
7 introduce you and you all will be able to provide  
8 us your comments and feedback.

9 "On behalf of the acting administrator  
10 for veterinary services, Bobby Accord, and also  
11 Alfonso Torres, who is our deputy administrator  
12 for veterinary services, we would like to welcome  
13 you to this the last of eight public meetings on  
14 aquaculture.

15 "On Thursday January 25th of 2001,  
16 APHIS held the first in a series of eight public  
17 meetings to discuss the role the agency should  
18 play in protecting and promoting the health of  
19 U.S. aquaculture. We are holding these public  
20 meetings around the country to follow up on our  
21 advanced notice of proposed rule making and  
22 request for comments which was published in the  
23 federal register in May of 1999.

24 "At that time we indicated that we are  
25 considering the possibility of designating farm

0007

1 raised fin fish as livestock and establishing  
2 programs and regulations for such animals. It was  
3 clear from the comments we received that many  
4 aquaculture producers support the idea of defining  
5 farm raised fin fish as livestock and are  
6 interested in the services agents can provide.

7 "What is not clear from the comments was  
8 which segments of the industry would be interested  
9 in accessing our services and to what extent. The

10 aquaculture industry is as diverse as any sector  
11 of agriculture industry. Many varieties of  
12 domesticated fin fish are produced for export,  
13 domestic consumption, ornamental purposes and for  
14 use as bait. Also, there is the shellfish  
15 industry.

16 "Our aim is not to impose our services  
17 on those who don't want them, or see them as  
18 unnecessary or undesirable, but we want to work  
19 with the aquaculture industry in whatever way we  
20 can. The goal of this public meeting is to  
21 discuss industry and public needs and how we as  
22 APHIS can meet those needs.

23 "Many commentors on the notice expressed  
24 interest in pursuing a negotiating rule making  
25 process. A process where industry representatives

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1 and other industry parties meet with agency  
2 officials and draft the proposed regulations  
3 together. Unfortunately, negotiated rule making  
4 is not practical for all situations. The process  
5 worked best when there is a small number of stake  
6 holders with similar if not identical concerns.

7 "We believe the aquaculture community is  
8 too large and too diverse for negotiated rule  
9 making to be effective or efficient. Indeed  
10 aquaculture is the fastest growing segment of the  
11 animal production industry. Between 1983 and 1994  
12 the market growth for U.S. aquaculture increased  
13 by 120 percent and it continues to increase.

14 "The industry now accounts for more than  
15 180,000 jobs and has an economic impact of more  
16 than 5.5 billion dollars. Accordingly, agency  
17 officials design the public meetings to allow  
18 industry and the public to tell us what kind of  
19 regulations, if any, they would like.

20 "Our agency's mission is to protect the  
21 health of U.S. agriculture. We prevent the  
22 introduction of foreign diseases and pests in a  
23 safe international trade of agriculture  
24 commodities. In carrying out this mission, our  
25 veterinary service programs the National Center

0009

1 for Import and Export evaluates requests for  
2 importation of live animals and animal products to  
3 determine whether there are pests and disease  
4 risks that are associated with importing these  
5 commodities.

6 "Some products and animals may be  
7 allowed under specific circumstances. For  
8 example, there may be specific quarantine period,  
9 testing or health certifications that may be  
10 required. Other products and animals may be  
11 considered to pose too great a risk to be allowed  
12 entry at all.

13 "Our veterinary services program also  
14 works to eradicate certain animal diseases that  
15 are already established in the United States and  
16 monitors for the outbreak of new and existing  
17 diseases. Additionally, we regulate veterinary  
18 biologics to ensure that they are safe, potent and

19 pure.  
20 "APHIS already works with aquaculture  
21 producers in some of these areas. We provide  
22 laboratory diagnostic and health certification  
23 services for export. We license fish vaccines and  
24 other biologics and control wild life damage  
25 caused by birds and other animals.

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1 "To support the health certification  
2 activities, veterinary services approves  
3 laboratories to perform specific diagnosis test  
4 for aquaculture animals and animal products  
5 intended for export.

6 "We provide this service and response  
7 to importing countries' request that diagnostic  
8 test be performed at USDA approved laboratories.  
9 Most countries recognize APHIS as the official  
10 confident authority in the United States with  
11 jurisdiction over export animal health  
12 certification and diagnostic testing of animals  
13 for export.

14 "We would like to be able to do more to  
15 promote U.S. aquaculture and to protect it from  
16 foreign disease just as we worked to protect  
17 animals traditionally defined as livestock from  
18 such threats. We have been very successful in  
19 keeping out devastating diseases such as  
20 bovine sponge form encephalopathy, also known as  
21 mad cow disease. The effects of this disease  
22 continue to be felt throughout Europe.

23 "By acting quickly to impose  
24 restrictions and other prevented measures, APHIS  
25 has been able to protect our livestock resources

0011

1 from this threat. However, in the case of  
2 infectious salmon anemia or ISA, our involvement  
3 is limited to supporting Maine's effort to monitor  
4 for the disease and improving the production of a  
5 vaccine that protects fish from contracting ISA.

6 "If farm-raised fin fish are defined as  
7 livestock, APHIS could extend the services it  
8 currently provides to other agriculture producers  
9 to the aquaculture section. We will proceed based  
10 on what you tell us at these public meetings. Our  
11 goal is to help the industry remain healthy and  
12 expand markets abroad as it continues to grow.  
13 Thank you."

14 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Deborah. I  
15 appreciate that very much. Let me now introduce  
16 the other members that are with us today. On the  
17 registration table we have Charles Shaw that is on  
18 the registration table who actually works here  
19 with Dr. Brennan. He is an animal health  
20 technician. And from Maryland from our office of  
21 Riverdale we have Dr. Jim Davis.

22 Dr. Davis is with the import export  
23 staff. And of course, I serve as the national  
24 aquaculture coordinator in veterinary with APHIS  
25 as well as veterinary services.

0012

1 Let me give you the instructions for the

2 speakers today for your comments. Basically, you  
3 see a mike there in the middle of the room. We  
4 would like for you to address that mike for all  
5 your comments that you would make. Of course, the  
6 recorder will take those comments.

7 What we would like to do is use our  
8 sign-up sheet as the order that we would use. And  
9 as I call your name, if you have a speech or a  
10 comment or written material that you want to give  
11 us, or you simply don't have a comment at this  
12 time, but maybe reserve the right later because  
13 someone may say something that you now want to  
14 comment on, you can do that.

15 We will go through this order until all  
16 names have been read on the list. I will go back  
17 through the list again to give an opportunity for  
18 those that may want to say something now. Then  
19 after everyone has finished, if you have written  
20 material, please turn it in to us, and we will  
21 have this as the official part of the record.

22 Now, when you take the microphone,  
23 though I will already call your name and the  
24 association that you are with, before you begin  
25 making your comments, say your name again and the  
0013

1 company that you represent and then go forward and  
2 make your presentation. Basically that's the  
3 steps that we need to follow.

4 We will get ready now to go through this  
5 as we call the names that have been given to us.  
6 If anyone for some reason did not sign in at a  
7 certain point that you would like to speak, please  
8 just see the register so they can get your name  
9 and we will take that again and call your name.  
10 Okay. Any questions on what we went over so far?

11 Okay. Representing Catfish Farmers of  
12 America, Louie Thomas -- or Louie Thompson.

13 MR. THOMPSON: Lewis Thompson  
14 representing Catfish Farmers of America. I am  
15 also a catfish farmer and the name of the company  
16 is Thompson Fisheries, Incorporated.

17 Thank you for this opportunity to make a  
18 few remarks. I am going to make it brief. I have  
19 got some written materials that I am going to hand  
20 you. I think Mr. Warren has already submitted  
21 this and I am going to resubmit.

22 MR. MILLER: Sure.

23 MR. THOMPSON: Personally, basically  
24 what it says is that we do appreciate what you  
25 have been doing. There are some needs that go to  
0014

1 help with the export of fish. And we appreciate  
2 the things that you have been doing, but we don't  
3 believe right now that there is any need to do any  
4 more for the catfish industry.

5 MR. MILLER: Sure.

6 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

7 MR. MILLER: Thank you. We appreciate  
8 that. Thank you very much. Dan Miller of  
9 Miller Catfish. Do you have any comments?

10 MR. DAN MILLER: I have none.

11 MR. MILLER: Mike McCall of  
12 "The Catfish Journal."  
13 MR. MCCALL: No comments.  
14 MR. MILLER: Carla Taylor.  
15 MS. TAYLOR: No comments.  
16 MR. MILLER: Dr. Jack.  
17 DR. JACK: No comment at this time.  
18 Thank you.  
19 MR. MILLER: You are welcome. Thank  
20 you. Ben Pentecost, Catfish Farmers of  
21 Mississippi.  
22 MR. PENTECOST: My name is  
23 Ben Pentecost. I'm a catfish farmer and president  
24 of the Catfish Farmers of Mississippi. I have  
25 reviewed the position statement of Catfish Farmers  
0015  
1 of America, and I would like to go on the record  
2 as saying that Catfish Farmers of Mississippi  
3 concurs with their position.  
4 MR. MILLER: Thank you very much. We  
5 appreciate that. Jim Lipe.  
6 MR. LIPE: Jim Lipe with the Mississippi  
7 Department of Ag and Commerce. We have read the  
8 CFA comments and we concur with them.  
9 MR. MILLER: Okay. Thank you very much.  
10 Mr. Damon Nowlin.  
11 MR. NOWLIN: Nowlin. He spoke for me,  
12 too.  
13 MR. MILLER: Okay. Hugh Warren.  
14 MR. WARREN: No comment.  
15 MR. MILLER: Is there anyone's name that  
16 was not called that would like to speak? What is  
17 your name?  
18 MR. GVILLO: Curtis Gvillo.  
19 MR. MILLER: Curtis, how do you spell  
20 your last name?  
21 MR. GVILLO: G as in George, V as in  
22 Victor, I-L-L-O.  
23 MR. MILLER: And you are with?  
24 MR. GVILLO: Let's see. I am a fish  
25 farmer in Alabama. I represent the Catfish  
0016  
1 Farmers of Alabama, and I'm also the CFA chairman  
2 of the executive -- yeah, the board. Yeah.  
3 MR. MILLER: And in what capacity will  
4 you be speaking to us today?  
5 MR. GVILLO: All the above, I guess. I  
6 can't separate the three groups.  
7 MR. MILLER: All right.  
8 MR. GVILLO: Sometimes I feel like I  
9 would like to maybe, but it doesn't work that way.  
10 First what I would say is ditto, I reckon. It is  
11 well -- the letter that has been written by CFA is  
12 well written.  
13 It expresses exactly how we feel about  
14 things. Y'all are doing a good job in areas that  
15 you have helped us with in the past. And at this  
16 point, you know, our problems are beyond y'all's  
17 scope, I think. And we appreciated your efforts  
18 and we want to see you continue to do that and  
19 refer to that written work there if you are in

20 doubt.

21 MR. MILLER: We appreciate your  
22 comments. I want to address one item that's on  
23 the easel so that we can make sure that if you do  
24 have any comments on other items that you can  
25 address those.

0017

1 When we had the advanced notice of  
2 public rule making there were at least three  
3 things that were not clear to us. We need answers  
4 to those. If you are in a position to answer any  
5 of these questions, we would like you to do so at  
6 this time. Let's draw your attention to these  
7 three questions.

8 One of the things that was not clear is  
9 the service that we are providing or services that  
10 we would like to be providing in the future  
11 should they be of a mandatory nature or a  
12 voluntary nature.

13 Many people have commented to us that  
14 they understood that there was import requirements  
15 that would have to be mandatory. Where if it was  
16 dealing with a health certification, that would be  
17 voluntary. That's a correct understanding. If  
18 there's any differences that you may want to bring  
19 forth at this time, we would like to hear those.  
20 The second one was --

21 MR. WARREN: Say that again, Otis.

22 MR. MILLER: If there was any  
23 differences to that --

24 MR. WARREN: No. I mean back up before  
25 that. About import.

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1 MR. MILLER: Import protocols. Import  
2 protocols would be those requirements to bring  
3 products into United States. Whether a live  
4 product or a dead product. Is that --

5 MR. WARREN: Yes, sir. We want them  
6 very strict.

7 MR. GVILLO: Mandatory.

8 MR. THOMPSON: Talking about live?

9 MR. MILLER: Well, it doesn't matter.  
10 It can be dead or alive. What we would like on  
11 this comment -- I don't need you to come back up  
12 to the microphone at all. I have your names  
13 down. I would just like to know what you  
14 generally feel about these questions. Now, if you  
15 want to give a talk or a speech or something, then  
16 we would like to give address for that.

17 A lot of people expressed that they  
18 wanted services in the responses that we had 55  
19 comments that came back on advanced notice  
20 proposed rule making. Shellfish was one of the  
21 groups that was there.

22 So we're asking -- we had a meeting in  
23 Washington, which I'm sure helped us a lot in the  
24 State of Washington Shellfish Association, but if  
25 anyone wants to comment on whether they feel

0019

1 shellfish should be included or not, feel free to  
2 do so at this time.

3           The second group is also whether it  
4 should be included or not was ornamental  
5 fin fish. And of course, we have talked with that  
6 group as well. But, again, extend the same  
7 courtesy to you if there is anyone that wants to  
8 comment about that, you may do so as well.

9           So those are the things that we still  
10 need in addition to the statements that you have  
11 made today which we gratefully appreciate. All of  
12 these will be taken into consideration. But let's  
13 stop here and see if anyone has any comments, any  
14 questions. Yes.

15           MR. GVILLO: I had a comment on the  
16 shellfish and ornamental fin fish. I would feel  
17 like that would be appropriate for people who are  
18 producing those fish to make comments on them.  
19 And I'm not involved in that so I wouldn't comment  
20 on that.

21           But on the first statements that you  
22 made about the imports being mandatory, and then  
23 the second part of that was something about it  
24 being voluntary --

25           MR. MILLER: Health.

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1           MR. GVILLO: Is that inspection of  
2 animals that you plan to sell as brewed stock or  
3 what was your point?

4           MR. MILLER: Sure. The second one deals  
5 with health certifications. This would be for  
6 international exportation or it could be for  
7 interstate if we went that route. But that would  
8 be that cap.

9           MR. GVILLO: So do you propose then to  
10 put regulations on interstate sales and movement  
11 of fish; is that what you're saying?

12           MR. MILLER: No. We have two parts  
13 right now. We have an international exportation,  
14 which is already in place. We provide health  
15 certificates to be able to shift to whatever  
16 countries people want to go to. That's currently  
17 voluntary. We do not have addressed the  
18 interstate commerce at this time.

19           That's one of the questions that we  
20 asked in the advanced notice of proposed ruling.  
21 The comments that came back basically said that  
22 they would like for us to address that last of  
23 interstate movement.

24           They would like to deal first with  
25 facilitating international exports. The second

0021

1 thing they would like to address is the protection  
2 of domestic products on farm animals disease and  
3 pests.

4           Then the third thing that they had for  
5 us, also, is to have the necessary -- what I would  
6 call the emergency management steps put in place  
7 in case there was an industry disruptive  
8 catastrophic disease that the industry could not  
9 address through normal practices. Then the last  
10 one is, as I spoke earlier, would be interstate  
11 commerce.

12 If we did involve ourselves with  
13 interstate commerce, it only deals with those  
14 roles that are -- that say limited to communicable  
15 diseases. So it will not be just the transport or  
16 sale of the product as you mentioned earlier; that  
17 would not be of our interest.

18 Such a disease significance that you  
19 didn't want to transport it across state lines,  
20 then that's the communicable sides that we would  
21 be addressing. Did that answer your question?

22 MR. GVILLO: I guess what I -- I  
23 wouldn't want every little fish that went from  
24 Mississippi to Alabama and vice versa to have to  
25 be certified with health papers, you know, at this

0022

1 point. I think maybe at some point we would need  
2 that, but right now we don't need that.

3 MR. MILLER: We don't have --

4 MR. GVILLO: That's what I wanted to see  
5 how big this iceberg might be.

6 MR. MILLER: We don't have that in  
7 place. That's really not the role that we play.

8 MR. GVILLO: Okay.

9 MR. MILLER: The closest example I could  
10 give you is the postal industry right now. The  
11 postal industry ships product internationally and  
12 also interstate. The states have come together to  
13 determine what type of form they would use for  
14 interstate commerce. And it's a form that they  
15 all recognize that those are in that program, the  
16 products move freely based on the conditions that  
17 perform that task; mainly pullorum disease,  
18 mycoplasmosis, and those industries that determine  
19 what those conditions would have been if those are  
20 found. And that's basically how that was done.

21 So that would be up to the industries to  
22 determine what standards that would be met, what  
23 they would like to do if it in fact got to that  
24 point. I have a hand in the back.

25 DR. JACK: So what you are really

0023

1 describing is a service that USDA may provide at  
2 some point down the line when the industry says,  
3 "We want to the look at these diseases and stop  
4 the trafficking in these diseases."

5 MR. MILLER: You are absolutely right.  
6 We have been approached by the State of Florida to  
7 look at the management practices for interstate  
8 movement. But again, we are not at that point to  
9 address it on the national basis but just to share  
10 with you there are states that would like to see  
11 this moved forward; but that would have to be  
12 shaped by more dialogue as we are having now. But  
13 it was clear to us that this item was the last  
14 item that the industry would like addressed.

15 Well, I'm going to go one more time just  
16 for the sake of clarity. There is any more  
17 comments that people would like to make related to  
18 the three questions that are there or comments  
19 that may have come from the discussions. I will  
20 take the quiet as a "no."

21 DR. JACK: Can I ask one more question?

22 MR. MILLER: Sure.

23 DR. JACK: If individual states chose to  
24 go this route, say let's pick on somebody out of  
25 our region. Say Colorado wants health papers on  
0024

1 every shipment of catfish going into Colorado,  
2 what kind of -- how does that work out if there  
3 isn't an agreement between Alabama and Arkansas  
4 but Montana wants us to show that all catfish  
5 don't have Whirling disease, for instance?

6 MR. MILLER: Sure. The way it functions  
7 right now the state has that right of how it would  
8 like to be done. What we have done -- thank you.  
9 What we have done in the past to help  
10 organizations like the bovine industry, we worked  
11 with the various states and developers we call the  
12 uniform methods and rules.

13 What that means is the states get  
14 together and we actually help them draft the  
15 documents. We put standards together that those  
16 states agree to follow. And it is a voluntary  
17 item. But what it does is standardized things  
18 across the board. And they determine what those  
19 standards will be. And that worked quite well for  
20 the livestock industry.

21 Right now though, we don't have that so  
22 one state may have conditions that another state  
23 may actually oppose or would consider to be  
24 problematic for them. And that would continue  
25 that way until we address some standardization  
0025

1 maybe as we did the livestock industry or  
2 differently.

3 Now, we have had one additional person  
4 to join us. What we have done -- and for the sake  
5 of you, I will just reiterate what the procedure  
6 is. We have went through all of the names that  
7 were signed up. I have asked each speaker to come  
8 to the microphone after I call their name. Say  
9 your name again for our court reporter, and what  
10 the company you represent. Then give your  
11 statement or if you have something that you want  
12 to give to us that will be good or make them  
13 both -- read your statement and give your  
14 statement to us.

15 After that, I ask each one about these  
16 three questions. While you are up speaking, if  
17 you would address the three questions if you have  
18 something you want to say about them. One, should  
19 our programs be mandatory or voluntary. If you  
20 want to speak on that you can.

21 You may not represent the shellfish  
22 industry, you may not represent the ornamental fin  
23 fish industry, you may not feel comfortable about  
24 saying anything about that; but if you do, you can  
25 bring your comments at this time. Your comments  
0026

1 are official records, your hand-in statements are  
2 official records.

3 This is the last meeting of the eight

4 that we have had from January 25th. And I will  
5 just say this now so I won't have to say it again  
6 or I might forget. We have extended the comment  
7 period so even though this is the last meeting  
8 public meeting, you can still turn in comments up  
9 until or on or before February 1st of 2002.

10 What this will do for you is just as the  
11 dialogue we just had, let's say that you had  
12 wanted time research how you would like to see the  
13 regulations drafted, how you would like to see a  
14 proposed rule implemented specific detail, how you  
15 would like to see something actually done, then  
16 you have the time to submit that packet to us in a  
17 format that you would like to see that you feel is  
18 the best work for the industry.

19 So giving you ample enough time we hope  
20 so that you can go back to your boards, draft what  
21 you feel you need to represent your industry in  
22 more detail than you may have done at the public  
23 meeting session itself. This is about as close as  
24 we can get to a negotiated rule making process.  
25 So we are affording you an opportunity to utilize

0027

1 that to the best of your association's abilities  
2 or your industries' abilities.

3 So with that, we have Harris Glass of  
4 the USDA Wild Life Services.

5 MR. GLASS: Once again, my name is  
6 Harris Glass. I'm with the U.S. Department of  
7 Agriculture Wildlife Services. I am a district  
8 supervisor here on the Starkville district on the  
9 eastern side of the Mississippi. I'm just here  
10 for informative session just to see what was going  
11 on and how it might affect some of our cooperators  
12 near --

13 MR. MILLER: Sure.

14 MR. GLASS: -- that we are currently  
15 working with.

16 MR. MILLER: We appreciate you coming  
17 and attending with us. Wildlife services has been  
18 very instrumental in working with us which is a  
19 branch of APHIS as well. I am sure you're  
20 familiar with the services here in Mississippi. I  
21 probably (unintelligible) anything about bird  
22 depravation. But I am glad to have you  
23 representing and being present with us today.

24 One other statement I didn't say that,  
25 Mr. Glass, you may want to be aware of. All of

0028

1 these are transcripts that come from the public  
2 meeting are made a public record. And on the  
3 registration table you will find a flyer that  
4 lists the web site address. So if you or anyone  
5 would like to view those transcripts of the last  
6 seven meetings, I think five of them are already  
7 up, but eventually all of them will be there  
8 including this one. You can ascertain that by  
9 getting the web site from the register's table.

10 All right. Well, it is my impression  
11 that there is no further comments to be made by  
12 anyone in this room. It is also my understanding

13 that there is no comments to be made further to  
14 addressing the questions that are here. And if  
15 that is the case, I would like to thank everyone  
16 for coming.

17 We enjoyed the opportunity to present  
18 this public forum to you today for your input and  
19 I would like to have closing remarks given by the  
20 area veterinarian in charge of Mississippi,  
21 Dr. Deborah Brennan.

22 MS. BRENNAN: I would also like to thank  
23 you all for coming. Several of you I have the  
24 opportunity to work with regularly, some of you  
25 have come through the office with some exports.

0029

1 Our office does serve your needs as far as  
2 certification. If you have certification needs or  
3 health certificates, if you want to export either  
4 animals or fly internationally, we will help you  
5 and assist you with that. We also support  
6 aquaculture in Mississippi through a grant at  
7 Mississippi State at the Thad Cochran Center. So  
8 we support your industry that way.

9 If there is anything else that you would  
10 like to know about international regulations or  
11 information about other countries that would  
12 assist you in marketing your products or whatever,  
13 again, feel free to call our office.

14 We are located here in Flowood at  
15 345 Key Way Street, and our phone number is  
16 (601) 965-4307. And as I say, we are happy to  
17 work with you all and enjoy that you came to give  
18 us your comments. And if we can be of further  
19 assistance, please don't hesitate to call upon us.  
20 Thanks.

21 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

22 (Ended at 3:04 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER  
2 I, Todd J. Davis, Court Reporter and  
3 Notary Public in and for the County of Hinds,  
4 State of Mississippi, hereby certify that the  
5 foregoing 29 pages contain a true and correct  
6 transcript of the proceedings as taken by me in  
7 the aforementioned matter at the time and place  
8 heretofore stated, as taken by stenotype and later  
9 reduced to typewritten form under my supervision  
10 to the best of my skill and ability by means of  
11 computer-aided transcription.

12 I further certify that under the  
13 authority vested in me by the State of Mississippi  
14 that the witness was placed under oath by me to  
15 truthfully answer all questions in this matter.

16 I further certify that I am not in the  
17 employ of or related to any counsel or party in  
18 this matter and have no interest, monetary or  
19 otherwise, in the final outcome of this matter.

20 Witness my signature and seal this the  
21 29th day of October, 2001.

22

23

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TODD J. DAVIS, CSR #1406

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My Commission Expires:

25 April 29, 2005