

annual catch between 1945-65 was \$20,190,805. This was the commercial or seafood industry value. The value of salt water sport fishing in 1955 in Virginia was \$24,601,500. By 1965 that had risen to \$40 million—a 10-year increase of \$15.4 million, or 62 percent. Surely, Virginia cannot afford to look lightly on this source of income.

There are few salt water fish of any importance to Virginia that are not critically tied to the estuarine zone for at least part of their lives.

Thus far, Virginia has not had such serious estuarine damage as many States but constant vigilance is needed to assure that greater damage does not occur in the future.

In Virginia, as elsewhere, the estuaries which are the source of such income—and even more income from recreational opportunities—boating, swimming, etc.—are disappearing. Once gone they are lost forever since they cannot ever be replaced by man.

But what does all this have to do with 9 acres of mud flat at the mouth of Hunting Creek. This bit of stream and tidal estuary has been almost totally destroyed already. Why not complete that job by granting the subject permit, it is argued. Then grant the next one to the north. Jones Point itself will become just about worthless as green shoreline for the public, so turn that over to someone for development. Then go to work on Dyke Marsh to the south and on down the Potomac estuary a hundred miles.

The fact is that vast estuarine areas have been lost just that way—by attrition, small piece by small piece—the 67 percent of California's estuaries including one-third of San Francisco Bay, the 50 percent of Long Island's south shore, most of Connecticut's coastal wetlands, significant portions of Tampa Bay.

Is this what the Potomac estuary deserves—we think not. If this is not what the people want, we are at the time and place when we should say emphatically no!

This small area can recover from the damages inflicted upon it in recent years. The pollution of the Potomac can be cleaned up, and must be cleaned up under the Water Quality Act of 1965. Jones Point and its immediate environs can be protected and simply developed as an essential amenity in the existing conglomerate of highways, bridges, and urban developments.

The Potomac estuary is without question one of the really great resources of the Eastern United States, every square foot of which will be needed to serve the scenic and recreation needs of the burgeoning megalopolis of the future. That is now and always will be its highest purpose.

We respectfully urge that the bulkhead and fill permit be rescinded.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT STAND FOR THE RAPE OF HUNTING CREEK—STATEMENT OF A. Z. SHOWS REPRESENTING SEVERAL CITIZEN ASSOCIATIONS

I come before you as the authorized representative of several citizen associations of the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts of Fairfax County and the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Enclosure (1) is a list of the citizen groups representing a total of more than 100,000 residents of the nearby Virginia area. Our purpose has been, and will continue to be, the preservation of our federally protected right and privilege to the quiet use and enjoyment of Hunting Creek, a navigable waterway of the United States, located within the State of Virginia. To carry out this goal many questions are raised, especially in view of the prior actions of Virginia State, county, and city officials. The only logical conclusion we can reach is that "money talks." Supporting this theory, several former officials of Fairfax County, attorneys (officers of the court), and citizens have been sentenced for their conduct in connection with bribery in zoning actions. The sentence was recently upheld by the Supreme Court. It is obvious that congressional action is now imperative to redress the wrongs being committed against citizens of the United States and particularly some residents of Virginia.

Copy of Virginia bill H. 591 (this bill was passed and signed) is submitted as enclosure (2). This bill as drawn is in our opinion based on fraud, and deliberate distortion of the truth—no riparian rights existed, the water was not stagnant and did support marine life, and was navigable. Also, current market value of the area is about \$64 per square foot (43,560 sq. ft. to the acre) for the 17,5945 acres, in lieu of the ultraconservative sum of not less than \$30,000 mentioned