

September 22, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Gena Boyle
Office of the Governor

FROM: George L. Harizanoff
Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries

SUBJECT: Responses for HB 110 Report

1. The department maintains data on license sales to individuals in the listed age groups, as follows:

Year Sold	Ages 65 to 74	Ages 75 to 84	Ages 85 and Over
2001	65	7	1
2002	217	47	2
2003	761	179	4
2004	5,552	1,113	47
2005	32,849	7,765	218
2006	37,255	9,730	442
Totals	76,699	18,841	714

The data shows that more senior citizens are being served.

2. Department staff observes that senior citizens participate to a considerable degree in hunting, fishing, recreational boating, and non-game activities. Generally speaking, the agency has the capacity to serve all interested seniors at present. However as persons become older they often have more time to participate in outdoor activities, and this increases the demand for agency services. In particular, access to outdoor activities is expected to become a more pressing issue. The department currently operates 68 handicapped accessible boat ramps, boat piers, and restrooms. Handicapped accessible hunting is available at the Phelps Wildlife Management Area, in northern Virginia, and the department provides platform lifts that function mechanically as a deer stands, when requested. A greater demand for these facilities has been incorporated into the department's planning.
3. Recreational hunting and fishing licenses are sold at a discount to Virginia citizens 65 and older.

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4. Information about department programs and activities is increasingly available on its web page. During the last year, services were expanded to include the on-line sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The department's publications and websites are fully accessible to seniors.
5. For individuals with mobility problems, the department provides or coordinates managed hunts and issues permits to allow hunting from a stationary vehicle. The department is planning for an increasing number of individuals to participate in these programs the general population ages.