

WHEREAS, According to the rules of the fishing contest, several species of fish with various predetermined monetary prizes were tagged beginning in April, 1985 and continuing through September 30, 1985; and

WHEREAS, Among its other rules, the fishing contest stated that fish must be caught in a "sporting manner" on rod and reel and that the contest was open to the public for free; and

WHEREAS, On or about 6:30 p.m. on May 21, 1985, Mr. Owen Lewis of Wingate, MD 21675 caught a sea trout with the words "April 13" on its tag; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis was the first person to return a fish to the Department of Natural Resources for collection of a predetermined prize of \$1,000; and

WHEREAS, When Mr. Lewis applied for his prize of \$1,000, the Department of Natural Resources would not award the predetermined prize of \$1,000 because it stated that the sea trout tagged "April 13" was released on May 20, 1985 and, thus, violated a contest rule that a fish must be at large for two days after tagging before becoming eligible for prizes; and

WHEREAS, It was logical and Mr. Lewis had every reason to believe that the sea trout he caught on May 21, 1985 was released on the date indicated on its tag, namely April 13, 1985, and that, under the rules of good sportsmanship, he was entitled to receive his prize; and

WHEREAS, On June 4, 1985, the Honorable Torrey C. Brown, M.D., Secretary of Natural Resources, wrote to Mr. Lewis stating that Mr. Lewis was not eligible for the stated prize of \$1,000 since the sea trout was not at large for the requisite two-day period; and

WHEREAS, In the same letter, the Honorable Torrey C. Brown, M.D., Secretary of Natural Resources, awarded Mr. Lewis \$200 for being the first person to turn in a tag in the "Catch a Fortune Sportfishing Contest", but that the \$200 was not a prize and was a special award for being the first return; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Department of Natural Resources is requested to act in a sporting manner and give Mr. Lewis the full amount of the prize to which he was entitled, and not rely on flimsy excuses previously given to Mr. Lewis; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Reference to the Honorable Torrey C. Brown, M.D., Secretary, Department of Natural Resources, Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401 and Mr. Owen Lewis, Wingate, MD 21675.

Signed May 13, 1986.
