

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

FEBRUARY 16, 1973

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Columbia on February 16, 1973, Chairman J. W. Hudson, presiding. Also in attendance were Commissioners Glenn, Eltzroth, Thompson, Rhame, Williams, Lumpkin, Major Cantey, General Harris, Executive Director Webb, Pat Ryan, Charlie Bearden, Brock Conrad, Gene Howell, Bill Chastain, Joe Logan, Bob Joyner, Carl Wilkes, Fred Ramage, Ed Latimer, Ken Hare of The State Newspaper and Bill Black of The Columbia Record, Johnny Evans, Bill Cotty.

The first item of business taken up was the Action Report for the February Commission meeting.

Jack's Hole: Mr. Rhame reported that the papers are in the process of being drawn up but that he had been out of town for the last few days and had heard nothing recently. Mr. Webb stated that he had not received anything on this, either.

Night Hunting Bill: Mr. Webb reported that work has been done on this and a draft has been completed which he thinks will be acceptable to be recommended for passage. A copy of this was distributed by Mr. Webb and he asked each Commissioner to review the Bill so if changes are needed they may be done in order that the Bill could be introduced next week.

Legislation: The proposed legislation was presented by Bill Cotty. It was recommended that the Commissioners review the list of recommendations and let Mr. Webb have their comments in order that this legislation could be put into proper legal form for submission to the appropriate Committees of the General Assembly.

Coastal Plains Commission: Chairman Hudson reported that he had written letters to the Congressmen and Senators and the Coastal Plains Commission setting forth the hope that this money will be continued. Mr. Hudson said that this does not look too promising at the present time but he had received favorable replies from everyone in the state to whom he had written. As soon as all replies are received, he will present them to the Commission for their review.



Herring Rules and Regulations: Mr. Webb reported that these have been approved and adopted by the Legislative Delegations of those counties surrounding the lakes. These rules and regulations are being filed with the Secretary of State.

At this point, Commissioner Rhame explained that some of the commercial fishermen who were interested in this Herring Rule and Regulation were present and would like to speak to the Commission. Mr. Livingston, who spoke for the group stated that the group would like to request that the electric seine be discontinued in the lakes. He said this caused a tremendous amount of fish to be killed and he had a report from Navy divers that substantiated this fact. Copies of this report were passed around to the Commissioners. Mr. Webb informed Mr. Livingston that biologists had made an in-depth study of this problem and found that the electric seine did not harm a great number of fish.

Chairman Hudson informed Mr. Livingston that the Commission would be glad to take this under advisement and would be happy to meet with Mr. Livingston's group on the site at a mutually convenient time.

Contractors for New Marine Complex: Chairman Hudson reported that the firm of Lockwood-Greene had been chosen to do the architectural work on this new facility. This is contingent upon approval by the Budget and Control Board.

Use of Facilities: The policy and fee schedule have been implemented. Commissioner Rhame moved that the Commission extend this privilege to all retired Wildlife Department personnel to use the facilities as set forth in the guidelines. This was seconded by Commissioner Glenn and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

DENNIS WILDLIFE CENTER - Mr. Webb reported that the plans for the second phase of construction have been completed and this has been put out for bids. He expects the bids to be back in the first of March.

NIGHT HUNTING BILL: Bill Cotty presented a draft of the proposed Bill. It was explained that much discussion and review by members of the Department was done in putting together this Night Hunting Bill. Two changes were suggested for the Bill. They were to delete the words, "vehicle" and "vessel" in the first paragraph of the Bill. The other change was to delete the sentence regarding loss of privilege to hunt and fish on a first offense charge.

Mr. Eltzroth suggested to Mr. Webb that Bill Cotty prepare a draft of legislation for a point system for fishing and hunting which the Commission could recommend for passage.



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICES FOOD TECHNOLOGY

LAB: The Chairman reported that Dr. Timmerman had met with this group on February 8th and 9th and it seems definite that this facility will locate in Charleston. They are awaiting word from the Legislature on the appropriation for this.

USE OF FACILITIES: This was taken up with the Old Business and it is re-stated that the policy shall include extension of such privileges to use the facilities to all Wildlife and Marine Department personnel who have retired.

GAME AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES REPORT: This report was distributed to all members of the Commission by Mr. Ryan. Mr. Ryan called the Commission's attention to the accident report by the Boating Section which was compiled for the year 1972. This report will be printed and distributed shortly.

Mr. Ryan reported construction of twenty-five holding troughs for striped bass fry to be located at the Dennis Wildlife Center.

The 1973 Lespedeza bicolor delivery schedule was prepared and coordinated with the Soil Conservation Service which will handle individual deliveries to landowners; 1230 bags will be delivered during February.

A copy of the Game and Freshwater Fisheries report is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes.

FINANCE REPORT: The Finance Report was accepted as previously distributed to the Commission Members. Commissioner Glenn reported that all the suggestions presented have been incorporated into the finance report.

LEGISLATION: It was agreed that this item had been covered in previous discussion of Old Business and the Night Hunting Bill.

MARINE RESOURCES REPORT: Charlie Bearden presented the monthly report for the Marine Resources Division in the absence of Dr. Timmerman. This report is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes.

Mr. Bearden requested permission of the Commission to cancel the oyster lease number 20 which was assigned to Mr. R. B. Leland from Jennings Thames with the condition that the planting quota for this lease be completed within four months following assignment. The conditions of this agreement have not been met and permission was given by the Commission for Mr. Latimer to proceed with cancellation of this lease.



APPOINTMENTS: Commissioner Eltzroth moved that all appointments which had been mailed out be approved. This was seconded by Commissioner Glenn. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointments which had not been mailed out to the Commission Members were given out at the meeting. Mr. Webb recommended that two salaried Conservation Officers be approved. They were: William A. Holmes of Saluda County and Donald G. Busbee who would be employed to work in the Western Piedmont Area under an agreement with the U. S. Forest Service and financed by the Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Act. These were approved unanimously by the Commission Members.

Mr. Webb recommended the appointment of Michael Lee Wood of Greenville as non-pay Game Warden. This was approved by the Commission.

Mr. Webb recommended the appointment of non-pay commission to Mr. William Lee Sires who is an employee of Mr. W. O. Hanahan, Sr. This was approved by the Commission Members.

Commissioner Eltzroth moved the Commission appoint Frederick T. Woods, Yemassee and William H. Woods, Green Pond, non-pay Game Wardens. This was seconded and carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

(a) Conservation Officers' Hours - Commissioner Eltzroth, Chairman of this Committee, reported that this Committee had a partial report ready. They had met with representatives of the Conservation Officers, the Unit Leaders and Supervisors and with the Law Enforcement personnel at headquarters. As a result of these meetings, Mr. Ryan recommended to the Executive Director the following:

- (1) That all Conservation Officers be given at least one weekend off each month.
- (2) That Conservation Officers be given compensatory time for any state holidays when they are required to work.
- (3) That a work week be considered as five days instead of six with regard to annual and sick leave.

The following matters with regard to the total subject will be implemented administratively:

(1) A meeting will be held between the Conservation Officer Supervisors and Unit Leaders in order to further clarify the responsibilities of each. At this time, the following features will be stressed:



(a) All Supervisors will be instructed to delegate authority to Unit Leaders to make certain that all policies are understood and carried out by the officers.

(b) All Unit Leaders will make a weekly work plan for all officers in his unit which will be submitted to the Supervisor. These plans will be subject to change by the Unit Leader or Supervisor should conditions arise necessitating a change.

(c) The matter of more uniform statewide policies in the administration of law enforcement districts will be implemented in order that all supervisory personnel will be working on a similar basis. The Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement will be instructed to see that this uniformity prevails.

Commissioner Eltzroth, as Chairman of the Committee, presented the recommendation for the Committee that the above law enforcement practices be made a policy of the Commission. This was seconded by Commissioner Rhame and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Eltzroth also recommended that the Committee as appointed be allowed to continue to function for the purpose of implementation of these policies. Commissioner Williams put this in the form of a motion, it was seconded by Commissioner Rhame and the motion passed unanimously.

UNCLASSIFIED ITEMS

Commissioner Eltzroth suggested that an item be placed on next month's Agenda pertaining to having one permit available to the public that will allow them the use of all the waters in the state. This has been discussed with Carl Wilkes, Supervisor of the License Section, and will be on the Agenda for discussion at the March meeting. Also to be discussed will be the simplification of our license system. Mr. Eltzroth would like some thought to be put into this for discussion at the March meeting. Mr. Webb stated that he would have something out to the Commissioners in the near future on this for their review.

Commissioner Glenn asked the Commissioners to please take time to tour the License Section and see what is being done in this area. He would like for them to take note of the conditions in this area. The Commissioners were conducted through the License Section by Supervisor of License Section, Carl Wilkes.

Commissioner Glenn inquired as to the policy for declaring a sanctuary. He had received a letter from Mr. Earl Gibson requesting



information on making a bird sanctuary. Mr. Webb replied that he had written to Mr. Gibson setting forth procedures to be followed in this regard and he had requested his staff to make a review of this land.

The Commission adjourned at 11:50 A. M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy A. Lowman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Peggy A. Lowman, Secretary
Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission

