MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza, Columbia, S. C.
February 20, 1981

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Dutch Plaza, Columbia, S. C., at 10:00 a.m., on February 20, 1981, with Chairman Edens presiding. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Edens, Stubbs, Dawson, Compton, Altman, Owen, Shuler and Harrelson. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Pat Ryan, Sonny Baines, Jeff Fuller and various others. Guests at the meeting included Ben Campbell of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee, Dr. Jackie Jacobs of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Ben Gregg of the Governor's Office, Ellis Cannon of Chapin, Fred Snell of Columbia, Pat Robertson of the "Columbia Record" and Laniel Chapman of Belton.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edens called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Compton moved to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the January 16, 1981 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman noted that we are co-hosting the Operation Respect Conference with the South Carolina Wildlife Federation and we are trying to raise money to pay for the speakers with raffle tickets. Each Commissioner was given a packet of tickets and it was requested that we try to sell these tickets.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that we have received some of the Advisory Board appointments from the Governor's Office. These include the appointment of Frederick Ehrlich of Chester to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board, Ed Bennett of Springfield to the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board, and Harold Alexander of Richland to the Marine Resources Advisory Board. It was noted that Dr. Harry Freeman and Carroll Godwin will be re-appointed, but this is not official yet. Chairman Edens noted that we are still seeking the other appointments to be made to the Advisory Boards.

Dr. Timmerman presented an in-depth discussion of the proposed license fee increase legislation and the tax donation legislation for non-consumptive programs. Chairman Edens noted that the success of this program thus far is due to the hard work of the members of the Study Committee on Program Funding. We will communicate our appreciation to all members of the Study Committee. On behalf of the Commission, the Chairman of the Study Committee, Laniel Chapman, and the members of the Study Committee were recognized through the presentation of a Certificate of Meritorious Service to Laniel Chapman. Mr. Chapman stated that he had sent a letter that the Study Committee should receive this award and that he was accepting it on behalf of the Study Committee rather than just himself. Mr. Chapman noted that the Committee will continue working on the proposed legislation until the job has been completed.

Dr. Timmerman distributed to the Commissioners, a list of our new telephone numbers for the Dennis Building. A new Departmental directory will be completed soon and sent out. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will be moving to the Dennis Building over the next few days. Dr. Timmerman stated that if all committments for the Conference Room tables and chairs come in, we will have more than enough funds to pay for the tables and chairs.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Ways and Means Committee has put a proviso in our budget to limit by $500, any expenditures from County Game and Fish Funds. Since we have used this in the past to purchase equipment, an additional $200,000 will be placed in our budget for equipment.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the final report of the Marine Resources Study Committee is being typed and will be sent out in the next ten days or two weeks.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Hunting Accidents: Tommy Edwards noted that some concern was expressed at the last Commission meeting regarding hunting accidents. There has been an exchange of ideas on this matter and we are working on a mechanism to bring it to hunters attention that the Department will take a deep concern on hunting accidents. Mr. Edwards stated that we may look at revoking hunting rights or assessing points through administrative actions, but we do not want to get involved in determining what constitutes negligence. It has also been suggested that legislation be adopted to establish a negligent or reckless use of firearms in the criminal code and leave it up to the Solicitors to bring charges.

If a person were convicted, the Department could be notified with points assessed against the person as an administrative duty of the Department. Mr. Edwards noted that these ideas are being considered at this time. Dr. Jackie Jacobs advised the Commission that the Wildlife Federation Board will consider this a program of the Wildlife Federation and requested the Commission to endorse this program so it can be considered by the Board at its annual meeting. Dr. Jacobs distributed a copy of a draft resolution for the Commission's endorsement and then the Wildlife Federation will seek to have legislation introduced. (Copy of draft resolution attached to original Commission Minutes.) Chairman Edens suggested that the Board consider including the assessing of points under the points system legislation in conjunction with their proposal. Dr. Timmerman suggested that the Commission adopt this resolution in principle and to consider other specific recommendations that may be forthcoming. Commissioner Shuler moved for the Commission to endorse the resolution in principle. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Stubbs noted that a recent letter was sent to Dr. Timmerman on restricting the use of buckshot on doe days. There was other discussion on hunting accident trends and problems with man drives for deer hunting. Chairman Edens suggested that the staff from Hunter Safety, Law Enforcement and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries dicuss this issue and have this on the agenda for the next meeting. Dr. Timmerman stated that he will organize such a meeting and have information for discussion at the next Commission meeting.

B. Tire Disposal Project: David Cupka noted that $50,000 was appropriated to study the feasibility of tire disposal in South Carolina through various options. Mr. Cupka discussed the summary and various recommendations from the consultants report noting that one option is to use the scrap tires for the construction of artificial fishing reefs. Various funding proposals for such a project were also identified in the report. Mr. Cupka noted that the Marine Resources Division has reservations in implementing this program of using tires for reef construction on a large scale at this time. The Marine Resources Division is studying the use of tires and other types of materials for reef construction. Mr. Cupka noted that a study needs to be conducted to determine the effects of ocean currents and wave action on tire structure on reefs. Mr. Cupka noted that they recommended that such a study be conducted and a pilot program be implemented. The program needs to be approached cautiously and looked at on a small scale before it is implemented on a large-scale basis. Dr. Timmerman noted that Senator Waddell has requested that the Commission take a position

on this study. It may be useful to make a copy of this report available to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources and Senate Fish, Game & Forestry Committees. Chairman Edens stated that he would like for the Commission to receive a copy of this report and have this on the agenda for the next Commission meeting. Mr. Cupka distributed a copy of his comments on this study to the Commission for information (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Chairman Edens stated that we should limit our involvement to the purposes for which the Department can benefit. Commissioner Dawson noted that this could be a good program if the tires will stay in place.

C. Deer Depredation Recommendations: Jeff Fuller noted that about a year and a half ago, the Commission had approved some regulations on deer depredation permits and these were used this past year with good success. Recent discussion on this system have resulted in further refining this system. A letter on these proposed changes was sent to the Commission a couple of weeks ago (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). These suggestions will be developed into a bill form in the near future to reflect what we have been doing in this system and it is requested that the Commission endorse the proposed changes. Commissioner Shuler moved for the Commission to accept this proposal and to authorize the staff to pursue the proposed legislation. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 1981 Goals and Objectives: Dr. Timmerman distributed a list of goals and objectives for 1981 to be pursued by the Department for the Commission's information (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). In addition, a list of accomplishments for 1980 was also distributed for information. Dr. Timmerman asked the Commission for guidance and input on objectives for 1981. Chairman Edens noted that the problem with hunting accidents and efforts to reduce the number of accidents should be an objective for 1981. Any further input on objectives for 1981 can be provided by the Commissioners to Dr. Timmerman.

B. Proposed Bow Hunting Regulations in Game Zone 7: Commissioner Dawson noted that he had received a request recently from Senator Ellis (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) regarding opening the season for hunting deer with bow and arrow two weeks earlier in Game Zone 7 which includes Horry County. Brock Conrad stated that this would be for bucks only and there is no biological problem with the proposal. Senator Ellis has requested the support of the Commission before introducing legislation on this matter. Commissioner Dawson moved for the Commission to endorse this

proposed change. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

C. Oyster Lease Assignment: Tommy Edwards presented an in-depth discussion of the assignment of three oyster leases in Beaufort County. This assignment involves Oyster Leases numbers 8, 10 and 17, in Beaufort County which were held by the Yonges Islands Canning Company and the Ocean Lake and River Fish Company, formerly owned by Gilbert and L. Paul Maggioni of Beaufort, South Carolina and Savannah, Georgia respectfully. There was a discussion regarding the division of the Maggioni family assets with the oyster leases being transferred to Mr. L. Paul Maggioni who had primarily managed the subject shellfish grounds during the term of the leases. In order to be eligible to hold the leases, however, it was explained that Mr. L. Paul Maggioni had formed two South Carolina corporations to manage the leases and serve as holders of these leases. Pending the formation of these two South Carolina corporations, it was further explained that the leases were temporarily placed in the names of the attorneys for Mr. L. Paul Maggioni so that the division of the family assets could be accomplished in a timely manner. Mr. Edwards explained that his office agreed that the temporary transfer to the attorneys could be viewed as an escrow arrangement wherein the leases were held in trust for the benefit of the ultimate assignee pending the formation of the two South Carolina corporations. The leases were immediately assigned to the above corporations upon their establishment as South Carolina corporations as the Chatham Seafood Company - South Carolina, Inc. and the L. P. Maggioni - South Carolina, Inc. Commissioner Compton asked if there were any outstanding objections on this assignment. Mr. Edwards stated that none existed as all objections had been resolved and removed. Commissioner Compton moved for the Commission to approve the assignment of these three leases as recommended by Mr. Edwards. Commissioner Harrelson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Additions to GMA Regulations: Brock Conrad recommended two changes in the GMA regulations and distributed a copy of the proposed changes to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). One proposed change is to modify Regulation #26 as follows: "No shooting from a vehicle is permitted except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take game from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance on roads and designated trails." The other proposed change is to do away with the gun hunts at Victoria Bluff and to schedule two archery hunts and to designate small game hunting regulations as shown on the handout. Commissioner Shuler moved for the Commission to adopt these proposed changes in the regulations as presented. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

E. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the license sales status report to the Commission noting that non-resident license sales have decreased this year and we have received about $250,000 in revenue from the non-resident big game permit. There was some discussion regarding the problems of non-residents purchasing resident licenses. Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that we plan to use undercover agents to purchase licenses in the future to see if the agents are checking on proof of residency. If the agents are not checking this, corrective actions will be taken.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: There was nothing further to report.

3. Law Enforcement and Boating: Pat Ryan distributed an agenda to the Commissioners on the upcoming workshop of coastal law enforcement and marine management personnel (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Ryan invited the Commissioners to attend this workshop on April 9 - 10, 1981.

4. Information and Public Affairs: There was nothing further to report.

5. Marine Resources: Dr. Timmerman noted that when we met with the S. C. Shrimpers Association, we had agreed to follow certain procedures. A copy of these procedures was passed out to the Commission for information (copy attached to original Commission Minutes).

F. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen presented an overview of the Minutes of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board meeting to the Commission for information.

2. Law Enforcement and Boating: Commissioner Shuler noted that the Board will meet next month.

3. Marine Resources: Commissioner Compton noted that the Board will meet next month.

4. Heritage Trust: Dr. Timmerman noted that the next meeting will be held the first part of March at the Yawkey Center.

G. Salary Review Committee: Dr. Timmerman stated this report is in order and a copy has been sent to Chairman Edens.

H. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Conservation Officers and Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Commissioner Shuler asked why so many of the DWCO re-appointments were for statewide authority. Pat Ryan noted that most of these had a statewide appointment and had requested that the re-appointment have statewide authority. Following other discussion, Dr. Timmerman noted that in the future, if there are any

changes in the authority for a DWCO re-appointment, this be brought to the attention of the Commission. Following other discussion, the Commission approved all appointments, re-appointments, revocations, etc., of DWCO's and Conservation Officers as denoted on the handout, including the DWCO appointment of Alvin Dixon Stokes with authority in Horry, Georgetown, Charleston, Colleton, Beaufort and Jasper Counties.

I. Other Remarks: Dr. Jackie Jacobs asked the Commission for their support for the upcoming Operation Respect Conference as we need to encourage people to attend. Dr. Jacobs noted that Dr. Timmerman, Johnny Evans, and Charlie Snider will be honored by the Wildlife Federation at its upcoming Annual Banquet at Myrtle Beach.

Commissioner Dawson noted that the South Island Ferry continues to be a serious problem and should be on the agenda for discussion. Dr. Timmerman stated that we will discuss this matter to secure facts on the matter and have this item on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting.

Commissioner Stubbs asked why boats given to an eleemosynary organization have to be titled. Dr. Timmerman stated we would check into this and be back in touch with him on this matter.

Mr. Fred Snell of Columbia expressed his thanks for all the good work the Department is doing all over the state and noted that his hunting club has endorsed the proposed license fee increase.

Mr. Ellis Cannon requested that the Commission consider allowing deer hunting in the Central Piedmont Hunt Unit around Thanksgiving when it is now closed. It was noted that the regulations have been standardized and this matter has already been discussed and acted upon by the Commission.

J. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Edens announced that the next meeting will be held in the Dennis Building at 10:00 a.m. on March 20, 1981.

ITEM V. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Commission adopted a motion to adjourn the regular meeting.