

## MINUTES

### SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Dutch Plaza, Columbia, South Carolina  
April 20, 1979

The regular monthly meeting of the S. C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in the Conference Room of the Dutch Plaza Office in Columbia, South Carolina at 10:00 a.m., April 20, 1979 with Chairman Trask presiding. Notice of the date, time and place for the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners at the meeting included Commissioners Trask, Boykin, Shuler, Stubbs, Dawson and Buchanan. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Linda Amick, John Evans, Jeff Fuller, Brock Conrad, Jane Turner, T. C. Welch, Bill Chastain, Benny Reeves, Ed Joseph, Paul Sandifer, Ned Pendarvis, and Vic Burrell. Guests at the meeting included Ben Gregg of the Governor's Office, F. Paul Brannon, Jr., of Chappells, Louie Bowie and Ronald F. Goldman of Greenwood.

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Boykin moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve them as submitted. Commissioner Buchanan seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission.

#### ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Commissioner Edens was in the hospital at Duke University and will hopefully be coming home next week. Dr. Timmerman noted that this is the first meeting that he has missed and his attentiveness should be recognized and a wish for a speedy recovery should be extended in the form of a letter. The Commission agreed that such should be sent to Commissioner Edens.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Fred Zeigler is leaving the Department on May 1st to enter into private law practice. Dr. Timmerman noted that Mr. Zeigler has done an excellent job while with the Department and he will be used on retainer through the Attorney General's Office to train his replacement. Dr. Timmerman stated that it would be appropriate if the Commission would send Mr. Zeigler a letter thanking him for his services. Chairman Trask agreed with Dr. Timmerman and said that such would be done.

Dr. Timmerman noted that the Pittman-Robertson funding suit is still in litigation. In the April issue of Outdoor Life, an article appeared which described this suit in detail. Dr. Timmerman asked Larry Cartee to report on the status of this lawsuit. Mr. Cartee noted that the Justice Department has entered into this suit and filed a motion with Federal Judge Charles Richey to rule on this matter and allow the continued funding of existing projects in the states. The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has filed a memorandum supporting this motion and the National Wildlife Federation has filed a separate motion to allow the continued funding of these federal projects. The anti-hunting groups that filed the original lawsuit have filed counter-motions that would provide veto power over all state projects funded by Pittman-Robertson funds.



This is totally unacceptable to the groups representing fish and wildlife interests. At this time, a ruling is expected any day from Judge Richey on these motions or he is expected to schedule a hearing on the motions. Dr. Timmerman noted that we will continue working on this matter and following its status.

Dr. Timmerman reported that the Budget and Control Board has issued new regulations on the use of state vehicles and a copy of these regulations was passed out to the Commissioners. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Department was the first agency to develop guidelines on the use of vehicles and decals when the Budget and Control Board required such several years ago. The new regulations will affect some individuals in the Department, except for law enforcement officers which are exempt. The assignment of a vehicle is based upon the number of miles driven rather than on the basis of need for job functions. Personnel that are assigned a vehicle will be required to keep a log of all trips and pay a sixteen cent per mile commuter charge to and from their residence and office.

Dr. Timmerman noted that a recent article in the newspaper of a Legislative Audit Council report stated that the Department has forty-two vehicles with non-SG tags. To set the record straight, Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that we now have seven vehicles with non-SG tags. The Budget and Control Board has approved forty-two non-SG tags for the Department but we don't need to use this number. Dr. Timmerman distributed the Commission a copy of the Department's regulations and assignment for non-SG tag vehicles which have been sent to Colonel Spence of the Division of Motor Vehicle Management.

Dr. Timmerman stated that the Commission has discussed the distribution of conservation officers on several occasions. Dr. Timmerman noted that at the present time, the distribution of conservation officers is good and we have one county where we are considering adding one new conservation officer. Dr. Timmerman distributed a list showing the number of conservation officers by county in 1971, 1973, and 1979. Dr. Timmerman noted that Berkeley County has two less officers now than in 1973 and the number assigned there is justified on the basis of a lot of hunting area in the county and the Santee Cooper Lake system. Dr. Timmerman also noted that the distribution in the Piedmont has shown a significant increase.

Dr. Timmerman noted that securing gasoline is becoming a serious problem. We have received a call from the S. C. Department of Highways and Public Transportation that we have reached our monthly allocation of gasoline at several of their pumps. The Department's allocation from the Highway Department is based upon use in April 1978, less five percent. Last April, the law enforcement officers were restricted in gas they could use and we now have more law enforcement personnel than this time last year. Dr. Timmerman noted that he planned to see that the Department reduced its gasoline consumption by ten percent and monitor the available supplies at the state pumps to ensure that we get all gasoline available at the state pumps. Chairman Trask stated that we should see which vehicles are gas guzzlers and replace them. Dr. Timmerman noted that we are securing some smaller vehicles which should get better gas mileage. Chairman Trask noted that the Department should look at a long-range program to cope with the gasoline problem. Dr. Timmerman stated that the staff will monitor the gasoline allocations at the state pumps on a weekly basis.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that a bill limiting the number of fish traps to fifty in the Santee Cooper lakes has been introduced in the House and



Senate. Due to the complexity of the proposed commercial fishing legislation, the leaders in the House and Senate have recommended that it be further discussed before it is introduced.

Dr. Timmerman noted that Chairman Trask has expressed an interest in aquaculture and a program for such has been adopted by the Commission. This has been discussed with various legislators who have expressed interest in the program. As such, the Commission was polled and agreed to request \$1.5 million in capital improvement bonds for an Aquaculture Research and Development Center. Dr. Timmerman distributed to the Commission a letter sent to Senator Roddey requesting these bonding funds, along with our earlier bonding needs.

Dr. Timmerman noted that he and Jeff Fuller have been working with the Governor on mitigation of the Russell Dam Project. The Department plans to meet with the Governor and his staff to review a mitigation proposal developed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. Timmerman requested that Chairman Trask appoint someone to represent the Commission on this matter at the meeting scheduled for April 30, 1979. Chairman Trask appointed Commissioner Boykin to handle this matter for the Commission.

Dr. Timmerman stated that some recent articles in the newspapers have appeared concerning the use of the Department's airplanes. Dr. Timmerman noted that the airplane logs are open to the public and all legislative mandates and Commission directives concerning use of the airplanes have been followed and there is no problem concerning the Department's airplanes. Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the House adopted a proposal that legislators could only use the Department's airplanes if they were in operation for a routine patrol. A proposal to transfer control of the airplanes to the Aeronautics Commission was defeated in the House.

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Spring Director's Meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will be held April 24-25 in Charleston and invited them to attend.

Appearance of Mr. Ronnie Goldman of Greenwood: Commissioner Buchanan noted that he had three gentlemen at the meeting to discuss game management hunting rights. Commissioner Buchanan introduced Mr. Ronnie Goldman, Mr. Louie Bowie and Mr. Paul Brannon noting that Mr. Goldman would serve as spokesman for the group. Mr. Goldman's comments were as follows:

"My name is Ronald Goldman. I would like to thank the Chairman, Commissioners and Commissioner Buchanan for letting me come here today. I have two problems that I would like to discuss today. One, I would like to say this. I do not represent any special interest group. I am here not for any special interest I may have or of any special group of people. I am here for each individual that buys a hunting license and desires to go hunting. It is he, and he only, that I come here. I have some evidence that I would like to present. This is a game management map issued by the State of South Carolina. I have here a valid state hunting license, a game management area permit and a turkey tag that is partially used. I offer these as evidence. I have here in my possession two warrants issued by the magistrate in Saluda that were taken out by Officer W. A. Holmes for hunting on the lands of others. As evidence, Officer Holmes used, "saw three turkeys in car of Goldman and Bowie." I'll leave these warrants here



as evidence for you gentlemen to look at. I would like for you to pass them around and look at them. Mr. Brannon here and his friend still have outstanding warrants against them. These warrants against me and Mr. Bowie have been dropped by the landowner. These two gentlemen have yet to go to trial this coming Friday to defend themselves against this area. I have made some notes so I can be as brief as possible."

CHAIRMAN TRASK: "Were you all arrested at one time?"

MR. GOLDMAN: "No, we were arrested at different occasions. I would like to thank Mr. Buchanan personally while I'm here for taking his time, his own personal vehicles and gasoline to going down to personally to look at this property with me to see what the circumstances are and what could be best corrected for the benefit of everyone concerned. I did not come here as I said to attack the game management department or any of the game management policies. If there is anyone else in this state that offers the game management department any more support than I do, I would certainly like to meet them. I have the highest respect for the officers and the men in the Wildlife Department of any other organization that I know of. I did not come here to slander them or any policies they carry forth or any mannerism in which they carry these policies out. So that you gentlemen will get some insight of me, I am 39 years old; I reside in Greenwood County; I am married and have three children; I am a Yardmaster with Seaboard Coastline Railroad; and I was promoted to a Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officer by the Governor of this State approximately twelve months ago. I have gone to school a week of my time that cost me close to \$500 and I have gone to one day of class this year that cost me close to \$100. If you want to know how I rounded these figures, my job pays me \$81 a day and gas and oil out here and one meal. I am not complaining of this. It was something I enjoy doing and I am highly honored that they ask me to become one. This area we were hunting here, I bought a game management area permit that entitled me to hunt on any game management land under sign. I went into this area approximately four months ago. I had been through here several times prior to this. I had talked with the landowner at this particular case on three different occasions. I know him personally and he has talked with me very cordially and we had some very nice conversations. I had never been on this property before and he was kind enough to explain to me where his property boundaries were and told where the game management land was. When I went down there approximately four months ago, I noticed they were timbering back in there. At this time, I had on a visual deputy wildlife officer badge and I went in there to look for bait. I had been told that the place was heavily baited. As I went down this dirt road they had cut in, I noticed a gentleman on a dozer tractor. Just as I pulled up he was getting off the tractor. Just before I got to him, I saw game management area signs on the trees and I was very surprised because I had been lead to believe that Mr. Coleman's property, the owner of these warrants, had told me all the land along the road was his and I was under the impression that his property went clean to the river which comprised several thousand acres of land. When I saw these game management area signs, I am referring from the dirt road to the game management land not more than an area of a hundred yards. If it will help you I will be glad to use this board to sort of draw out some of this. As I approached the man on the dozer, I asked him if he had seen any activity in here, anyone in a pickup truck or anything of that nature. He said, "Why?". I said I found the other end of this place heavily baited for turkeys with scratch feed all over the ground. I said, 'I see this is on game management land.' He said, 'Yes, all



of this is Champion Paper Company land in there." I said if it wasn't for this bait in this area, it would be a good place to hunt. He said, "No, you can't hunt here. I said, "I don't understand. I see a game management sign on that tree, have they taken it out of the game management?" He said, "No, this is Billy Holmes hunting territory back in here." I said, "Who is Billy Holmes?" He said, "You are a deputy conservation officer or warden and you don't know Billy Holmes?" I said, "I'm sorry, but I don't." He said, "He's a warden in Saluda. Everynight when we leave here he locks up this gate and has a key to it, and no one can't come back in here to hunt. I said, "Well I beg your pardon, but no warden in the State of South Carolina that's gonna have 600 to 800 acres of land that's leased for hunting as his own private hunting club. There's got to be some mistake here." So I left the area. I reported the baited area to Officer Luther Harmon and I asked him, do you have a key to the gate. He said, "No, I do not." I said the area is baited and you can watch it. He said, "I'll take care of it and appreciate your calling me." I went back to the hunting area two days prior to April 1st, which was March 30th, to examine this area for turkeys and look for access to the game management area land. I found an access road that had been established for a good while. I parked on this access road and went directly in and found marked trees that would show Champion Paper Company land. The distance that I walked after I got out of my vehicle was probably two-hundred yards. I went in on a Monday morning, me and Mr. Bowie. We got there before daylight. We parked in an old area that was used for a loading ramp. We parked there and upon leaving the car, we walked directly to the game management land and proceeded to hunt. We were very lucky and fortunate enough to call up and kill three wild turkeys. We immediately tagged the turkeys before they were brought off the ground and we tied them together and left. We put them in the car and we started out of this area and got back to the main dirt road, saw a state vehicle parked on the other side of the bushes. I told Louie it must be Luke Harmon and I went to talk with him to see if he found anybody on the bait. We looked up and down the road. We saw no one there and I told Mr. Bowie, he's probably in a car with another conservation officer, so we'll just go ahead and leave. We got approximately a mile and a half, maybe two miles, down this dirt road just sort of looking around when I looked behind me and saw the conservation car behind me. I pulled over to the side. Officer Holmes got out, introduced himself and said, "I want to see your hunting license." We showed him our hunting licenses. He said, "Now, I want to see your turkey tag." We showed him the turkey tag. He said, "Now, I want to see the turkeys". I said all right and got the keys out of the switch and opened the trunk of the car and showed him the turkeys. He said, "Do you have permission to be hunting that private land?". I said, "Mr. Holmes, I did not know that I was on private land." I got down on the ground with a stick and I drew the little dirt road going in and I showed the little dirt road going up to the Saluda River Hunting Club property. They have it under lease. I said, "Mr. Holmes, we stayed back on this side of the Saluda River Hunting Club property." He said, "I'm a member of the Saluda River Hunting Club and I know that you are not a member." I said, "No sir, I did not say that I was a member. I said what I told you was that I stayed off of the Saluda River Hunting Club property. I said we went down adjacent to the dirt road and parked in the old logging area and walked directly from there in the logging road to the game management land. I said is there any other access to this property?" He said, "No, the only damn way you gonna get in there is to fly." I said, "Well, I don't think the State of South Carolina would sell me this permit and expect me to fly to get there." I didn't tell him this--this is what I thought. I said no more to this officer. He told me, "I'm going to check with the landowner and I'm gonna find out if you have



permission to be in here." I said, "Mr. Holmes, I didn't tell you I had permission to hunt Mr. Coleman's property. I told you that I parked there and went on game management land. I said I'm not telling you that I had permission to hunt Mr. Coleman's property." He said, "Well, I'm going to go over and see him and I'm not going to press anything and I'll be seeing you fellows." I said, "O.K.", and we left and we started to leave and he said to be sure to check these turkeys in at the first check station. I said, "We will", so we left there and went approximately fourteen miles to a check station. We got us a coke and Mr. Holmes pulled up again, four to five minutes later, and he walked up and said, "I want to see you two fellows before you leave here." I said "O.K.". We checked the turkeys in, gave the man his cards and got the return cards in place of cards to transport the turkeys. When everybody left, except me and Mr. Bowie, he said, "I want to see your hunting licenses again." I gave them to him and he opened up a book and wrote my name, my address, Mr. Bowie's name and his address. He said, "I talked to Mr. Coleman about this and told him you shot three of his turkeys and he's mad as hell." Now, I didn't shoot three of Mr. Coleman's turkeys. I hunted an area that the game management department has leased, stocked, opened the season, sold me a license and permit and told me that I can hunt on. I did not shoot three of Mr. Coleman's turkeys out of any fence that he had or anywhere else he might have had any private livestock. I reject this man telling him that I shot three of his turkeys. He said that Mr. Coleman is not going to swear out a warrant for you but he told me to tell you that if he catches you on the other side of Little River again over there on that dirt road to lock you up. I said, "Well, I'll go talk with Mr. Coleman. I know him and I'll go talk with him." He (Officer Holmes) said, "Let me tell you something, I don't want to catch you on the other side of Saluda River again." Now gentlemen, I come back again to those hunting license. That is a state hunting license. I have hunted wild turkeys in the Wambaw Hunt Unit under the direction of Conservation Officer Best who is one of the nicest gentlemen I ever had an opportunity to meet. I have went to the Hellhole area, I've went to the mountains, I've went to the Georgia side, I've went all over this state hunting, and I have never had anybody tell me that I had better not cross a river again. I reject again here strongly that this man told me not to cross the Saluda River again and not only my words but told me in front of this witness here (Mr. Bowie). He was there the entire time that any conversation that give here was said. The next day, Mr. Brannon and a friend of his went into this area. I did not send him. I did not know he was going there. He lives in Chappells and I live approximately 30 miles from his home. He knows this area even more than I do. He went into this area to hunt, and the same circumstances--warrants sworn out for him. Homes asked him if he knew me. He told him yes and he said all right. The next day, after this officer had already told me that Mr. Coleman was not swearing out a warrant for me for hunting, I found that two warrants had been issued for hunting on Mr. Coleman's property. I was not on Mr. Coleman's property. I was prepared. I had talked with an attorney to defend me in court. If I won, I fully intended to bring this officer and whoever signed that warrant to justice for false arrest. Mr. Buchanan had a talk with Mr. Coleman and it has been brought to my knowledge that Mr. Coleman told Mr. Buchanan over the telephone that he had given permission to Mr. Holmes to hunt his property if he would keep everybody else off. Now gentlemen, what he has wound up with is 600 acres of game management land. He's the only man that's got a key other than Mr. Coleman. I asked him if he had a key. He told me that he did. I'm not saying that the key that he has to that gate is the access to this property. I do not know that. I'm not saying that him having that key is wrong. But I am



saying that somewhere there is an access to 600 acres of game management area land. I offer this map as evidence. There is more than one tract of land, it's circled in red here, all of these are properties that have no known access. They are cited with a red pencil. It has been brought to my attention that in order to quieten this down maybe or to comprise me or compromise Mr. Buchanan or to compromise you gentlemen or to compromise Dr. Timmerman, whatever is necessary, that we possibly make this a sanctuary. Gentlemen, you don't have to make that a sanctuary, not on my behalf or of any men like me. All we are asking is just a right of way. The magistrate when he tried me in Saluda, after he told me, I went down there, and he told me that the warrants had been dropped, he told me that these warrants are no good. I couldn't have prosecuted you with these warrants to start with because I know find out that you was actually hunting on game management land. He said, "Mr. Goldman, I want to tell you this, somewhere there is an access to this property because there is no land in the State of South Carolina completely surrounded by other property that does not have an access." He said, "I'm not going to tell you that the access road is the one you were standing in. He said it may very well be a half mile up the road, I don't know. He said somewhere you've got a right to get in there. And he said the game management department is going to have to show you that access. I appreciate the magistrate's conversation with me down there. I think that I have tried to cover this thing as nicely as I can. My character, as a person, has been attacked. I have been low-rated by having these warrants sworn out for me. I have not had a warrant sworn out for me by a conservation officer before. I have given my own time to protect the rights of others. This officer, without my presence, if you will pull his record, you will find that he has already by his own peers been convicted of everything that I have been against most of my life. I'm not asking you to show me his records--I'm asking you gentlemen if you want to do anything pertaining to this when I leave here it's going to be left to you. I do not want to know anything about it, but if you gentlemen want to get to the bottom of this and protect people like me from having warrants sworn out indiscriminately and to be lied upon and to have warrants sworn out for you, if you gentlemen want to condone that then I came to the wrong place. Before a man can be anything in this world he's got to be just and honorable. I came here because I thought that I would find just and honorable men and I hope that I have."

Chairman Trask stated that he appreciated Mr. Goldman coming and assured him that the matter would be thoroughly investigated. Dr. Timmerman noted that Mr. Buchanan had called him to inform him of the incidence and Brock Conrad was asked to investigate the matter and Bill Chastain has looked into this very thoroughly. Commissioner Buchanan noted that he called Mr. Coleman three times and discussed this matter. Commissioner Buchanan stated that Mr. Coleman said that Conservation Officer Holmes had a key to the gate that he had given him permission to hunt his property with the provision that he keep everybody else off. Commissioner Buchanan noted that he was concerned about game management areas that do not have access and consideration should be given to this matter. Chairman Trask noted that when Mr. Goldman went hunting, he went through private property to get to the game management area. Commissioner Buchanan stated that there is an old logging road, but a new logging road was cut by Champion for timber harvesting which is where the gate is located. The old logging road would be thought to be the access road to the game management land. Dr. Timmerman noted that he would agree that game management land should have access or it should be turned into a sanctuary or not accept land without access.



Dr. Timmerman presented to the Commission a copy of the trespassing laws and noted that the General Assembly is considering stronger trespass laws. Brock Conrad reported that Champion Paper Company has an easement for their personnel to use this new logging road but it does not give the public the use of such. Mr. Conrad noted that we could possibly contact some of the landowners in the area and lease some of their land for the GMA program to provide access to the Champion tract. Chairman Trask asked Mr. Conrad if people had hunted this tract before. Mr. Conrad noted that people have been using this old logging road in the past and Mr. Coleman never has tried to control this access. Mr. Conrad noted that this never has been a problem before. Commissioner Dawson asked how long the logging road has been used as access for hunting. Mr. Conrad stated that he did not know how long it has been used by the public but he would find out. Dr. Timmerman noted that Brock Conrad and Jeff Fuller will further investigate this matter and come up with some alternative recommendations at the next commission meeting. In addition, Dr. Timmerman noted that this involves a personnel matter. Commissioner Buchanan moved for an Executive Session to discuss this personnel matter. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was approved by the Commission. Chairman Trask announced that the Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter would be held following the regular meeting of the Commission.

#### ITEM III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dr. Timmerman distributed Legislative Report #12 noting that Dan Dobbins is at the State House since the House of Representatives is still in session. Dr. Timmerman noted that he had met with the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee which considered several of the Commission's proposed legislation. Dr. Timmerman noted that a bill on set nets for Zones 2 and 3 which limits the number of set net licenses to 100 has been reported out of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee. Commissioner Buchanan asked about the status of the hunting seasons. Dr. Timmerman stated that no objections have been raised and will become effective in mid-May after the ninety-day waiting period in the General Assembly. Dr. Timmerman reported that we have gone out for bids on the GMA brochure and this will be produced and distributed earlier this year.

#### ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Follow-Up Discussion on the Aquaculture Program: Dr. Timmerman noted that Dr. Paul Sandifer had discussed at the last meeting. Dr. Sandifer reported that the Commission's recommendation for a joint resolution was drafted and has been introduced as Senate Bill 423 and was reported out of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee favorably yesterday. Dr. Sandifer reported that the Commission had approved the Department requesting capital improvement bond funds for the development of an Aquaculture Research Center at Victoria Bluff. Dr. Sandifer presented a plat of the property and identified a two-hundred acre tract that is ideally suited for use as an aquaculture area since it has high quality water. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Victoria Bluff property that will be transferred to the Department is a Department function to be used as a recreation area for limited hunting to remove surplus wildlife and as an aquaculture area. Dr. Sandifer noted that the aquaculture center will be used to provide space and facilities for colleges and universities. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have requested capital improvement bond funds and felt that we have a good chance for getting such approved.



B. Dr. Timmerman introduced Ben Gregg from the Governor's Office whose job will be a liaison between the Governor's Office and natural resources agencies. Ben Gregg said that the Department could call upon him when needed. In addition, Mr. Gregg noted they were working on a forum for all natural resources agencies where the Governor would meet with on a periodic basis to attain better coordination and work on legislative matters.

#### ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Division Reports

1. Administrative Services: Benny Reeves noted that the Commission had discussed the potential issuance of hunting and fishing licenses on a staggered system rather than on a fiscal year basis. This matter was discussed with Pat Ryan, Jeff Fuller and Dr. Joseph. It was noted that we may have problems informing the public of any changes in the licensing system. The data processing workload would be spread out more evenly over the year if the licenses were sold on a calendar year basis. If the licenses were issued on a calendar year basis, the law may be changed by the General Assembly during the year which could create some problems. At this point, we do not know the administrative cost conversion to go to such a system. Issuing on a calendar year would also involve a split hunting season for various species. The holiday season at the end of the year could create problems in getting new licenses to license agents. The existing audit is based on a fiscal year and having to audit on a calendar year would create problems. It would also create problems in estimating revenue. In addition, legislation would be required for this change and the Department will be moving its offices next year which could compound the problem. As such, Mr. Reeves stated that he did not recommend a change in the hunting and fishing license system at this time and would look at it again in 1980-81. Dr. Timmerman stated that it would be best not to make a change now but maybe later.

2. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller reported that he met with the Yawkey Trustees and they are satisfied with the program at South Island. The budget for this coming year was increased by \$70,000. Mr. Fuller noted that the ferry is still a problem. Mr. Cobb of the Highway Department has been contacted to discuss this matter. A replacement motor has been ordered and arrived for use as parts. Commissioner Dawson noted that the new ferry has been down for 29 percent of the time.

3. Information and Public Affairs: There was nothing to add to the written report.

4. Marine Resources: There was nothing to add to the written report.

##### B. Advisory Board Reports

1. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and Law Enforcement and Boating: Dr. Timmerman reported that there was a joint advisory board meeting and Coy Johnson served in the place of Commissioner Edens. Commissioner Shuler noted that the Law Enforcement and Boating Advisory Board did not have an agenda and followed the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board agenda. Commissioner Shuler noted that no action was taken and there was some discussion of the bow hunting situation. Jeff Fuller reported that visits were made to the hatchery



and deer pens and reports were given by staff. The mottled duck was discussed and this is to be further discussed at the next Advisory Board meeting. Commissioner Buchanan asked about the nature of the deer pens. Mr. Fuller reported that the project is designed to determine fetal development and other information to assist in management and setting deer seasons. Commissioner Shuler stated that in the long-range, this research project could have some important impacts. Mr. Fuller also reported that Dr. Kirby from N. C. State University has been collecting striped and white bass sperm for freezing and use in reproduction. The reproduction rate for this year from sperm collected last year was about 65 percent.

2. Marine Resources: Commissioner Dawson reported that the Board would meet in May.

3. Heritage Trust: Dr. Timmerman reported that this Board has not met this month.

#### C. Salary Review Committee

Dr. Timmerman reported that there was one marginal and two outstanding appraisals to report to the Commission. Dr. Timmerman noted that biologists, assistant chiefs, chiefs and directors positions were out of line with Law Enforcement. Dr. Timmerman reported that he was successful in getting these positions upgraded. The biologist IV position has been created for those with extra workloads and this is the same grade as law enforcement captains. The assistant chiefs are a grade 30, chief is the same as law enforcement, grade 32 and the director is grade 34. The State Personnel Division has approved these upgrades.

#### D. Appointments

Dr. Timmerman distributed the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of deputy wildlife conservation officer and conservation officer commissions (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Dr. Timmerman noted that the commission has requested a justification for all statewide DWCO recommendations and this has been provided. The Commission approved all appointments and re-appointments as recommended. Dr. Timmerman stated that he does have a request for a Mr. Woods, but he has not received an official response from him. Chairman Trask asked Dr. Timmerman to have someone call him.

#### E. Other Remarks

There we no additional remarks from the Commission.

#### F. Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m., May 18, 1979, at the Dutch Plaza Office Building. Dr. Timmerman suggested that the Commission consider a late June meeting and cancel the July meeting.

#### G. Call for Executive Session

The Commission had approved a motion earlier in the meeting to held an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.



ITEM VI. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting, the Commission approved a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and go into Executive Session.

