

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA AUGUST 125, 1960

Present were Commissioners Warren, Cantey, Cox, Hopkins and Tison, Directors Webb and Lunz and Mr. Schley.

Mr. Warren said that the main order of business was to discuss certain commercial fisheries matters and Director Lunz said that in view of money coming in from the fishing pier tax something should be done for the sport fishermen who were paying the tax, this having been suggested by Mr. Warren.

Mr. Cox brought up the oyster lease situation and the many hearings that are resulting and said something should definitely be done to determine the extent and areas of leases and also to determine ownership of land in some instances.

Mr. Lunz said that he would like \$6,200 from the pier tax money to carry on both oyster and sports fishing studies, pointing out that oyster beds were a definite help to sports fishing.

The possibility of working out a combination federally-aided project not only to determine what marshlands are owned by the State but to also determine the amount of oyster beds was brought up by Mr. Webb. This was discussed at some length.

A resolution of Mr. Warren was adopted as follows:

"WHEREAS, Section 65-801 of the Acts of 1959 provides that the revenue from the fishing pier tax is hereby allocated to the use of the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission;

AND WHEREAS, there has been collected during 1959-60 the sum of approximately \$9,500,

AND WHEREAS additional funds may be collected from this same source during the ensuing months,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission direct that \$6,250 of the total be allocated to Bears Bluff Laboratories for the purpose of a marine fisheries study; and the sum of \$500 be transferred to the Administrative Division to defray expenses and travel in connection with hearings on oyster leases; and the sum of \$500 be allocated to the Division of Commercial Fisheries to help defray expenses in connection with



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an oyster survey. The Commission hereby directs that these funds be taken from the 1960-61 pier tax, if available."

The question of artificial reefs offshore was brought up by Mr. Cantey and Mr. Lunz stated they were not practical in South Carolina, except possibly in limited areas.

An answer to a question from Mr. Lunz, Mr. Webb stated that a non-pay warden may arrest persons for oyster thefts but only on areas to which his authority was restricted.

A motion of Mr. Cox was adopted that the Commission "approve such person as Commissioner Tison and Mr. Webb recommend for the position of game warden in Horry county."

After the reappointment of several non-pay wardens had been approved, the Commission adopted a motion of Mr. Tison that the remainder of the list be approved as recommended by Mr. Webb.

Mr. Webb reported that 180 Francolins, an Asiatic game bird, had been released on Belmont and the Eutaw Springs refuge and that some Iranian blacknecked pheasants were being secured for propagation from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Webb reported that almost 30,000 boats had been registered and that a booklet on boating regulations was being sent to owners of all registered boats.

Eddie Finlay

