

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

Eutaw Springs
June 17, 1983
10:00 A.M.

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held at Eutaw Springs, S. C., at 10:00 A.M., on June 17, 1983. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was mailed to the state's media. Commissioners present at the meeting included Commissioners Webster, Harrelson, Owen, Altman, Compton, Stubbs, Dawson and Dennis. Directors and staff members present included Dr. Timmerman, Larry Cartee, Dan Dobbins, Benny Reeves, Jeff Fuller, Dr. Ed Joseph, Bill Chastain and various other staff. Guests at the meeting included R. Kenneth Williams of Kinloch Plantation, Charles Caul of the South Carolina Crabbers Association, Gene Fraley and Charles Marshall of Blue Channel Crab Corporation, Betty Spence and Al Cannon of the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Fred Rigsbee of the Charleston Post-Courier, Ray Smith of Ridgeland, Tom Boseman of the South Carolina Bowhunters Association and Coy Johnston of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Webster called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed all guests to the meeting.

ITEM I. READING OF THE MINUTES

The Commission approved a motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the May 20, 1983 Commission Meeting and approve them as submitted.

ITEM II. COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that Mr. Marshall W. Jordan has been appointed to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board.

Dr. Timmerman noted he had received a letter from the South Carolina Shrimpers Association concerning the possible closure of the sound at Bulls Bay. Dr. Joseph will discuss this later in the meeting.

Dr. Timmerman noted the staff will thoroughly discuss the Law Enforcement Study Report and get back with the Commission on recommendations possibly in August.

Dr. Timmerman advised the Commission that he was very pleased with this year's legislative session and he discussed the areas where additional funds were received in our budget.



Dr. Timmerman informed the Commission that the Cooperative Agreements with Clemson and USC are underway and will be implemented.

Dr. Timmerman noted that all law enforcement vacancies were funded by the legislature in our budget and new Conservation Officer positions were added as follows: two in Sumter County, one in Lexington County and one in Jasper County for District #9. The legislature also appropriated \$375,000 for equipment in law enforcement in our budget.

ITEM III. APPEARANCE - Mr. R. Kenneth Williams

Mr. Williams, manager of Kinloch Plantation, appeared before the Commission to express his concerns on waterfowl hunting in the Georgetown area. He commended the Department for a recent hearing held in the area and urged the Department to take some meaningful actions as a result of the hearing. Mr. Williams distributed a copy of his recommendations to improve waterfowl hunting in the area to the Commission (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Following discussion by the Commission, Dr. Timmerman noted that the biologists are taking a serious look at this matter and we plan to do what's in the best interest of the resource.

ITEM IV. APPEARANCE - Blue Channel Crab Corporation

Mr. Gene Fraley and Mr. Charles Marshall presented comments to the Commission regarding problems in the crab industry. They noted that one problem is that various people buy and sell the larger crabs which go out of state, but do not keep records on these transitions. They requested that regulations be adopted for stiffer inspections of trucks and to require record keeping for the number of crabs which go out-of-state. Another problem which was noted is the size limitation and it was suggested that there be more stringent inspection of trucks leaving the state on size requirements and also see that records are maintained. Dr. Timmerman noted that we have been trying for years to get better control on record keeping. Following other discussion, Chairman Webster asked the Marine Advisory Board and the marine staff to review this matter and develop appropriate recommendations.

ITEM V. APPEARANCE - Mr. Charles Caul - S. C. Crabbers Association

Mr. Charles Caul presented comments to the Commission requesting the development of a tolerance limit for undersized crabs. Mr. Caul read a prepared statement to the Commission on this matter (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Mr. Caul noted that his organization recommended a tolerance limit in 1979 to the General Assembly for crabbers and processors and they still support that position. Following other discussion, it was noted the marine and law enforcement staff will work with the Advisory Boards on this recommendation and report back to the Commission.



ITEM VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dan Dobbins noted that a great deal of legislation recommended by the Department was adopted this year by the General Assembly. Mr. Dobbins expressed thanks for a great deal of assistance this year to Senators Dennis and Waddell, and Representatives Snow and Altman. Mr. Dobbins went over various bills which were adopted and discussed various actions taken during the last few days of the session. Senator Dennis commended Mr. Dobbins for a job well done during this year's legislative session. Dr. Timmerman expressed thanks to Representative Linwood Altman for his assistance on the House side. Dr. Timmerman noted that the Commission has been notified that this is Representative Altman's last meeting as a member of the Commission. Chairman Webster and Dr. Timmerman presented a plaque to Representative Altman for his service and dedication as a member of the Commission.

ITEM VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division Reports:

1. Administrative Services: Dr. Timmerman noted that the staff is developing the proposed FY 84-85 budget request and this will be presented at the July Commission Meeting.
2. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Jeff Fuller advised the Commission that Senator McLeod does not want the doe tag issuance system of the Department in Colleton County this year and has suggested that we have doe days in the county instead. Senator McLeod had recommended a procedure for doe days in Colleton County this year and the staff has recommended an alternate plan for a doe day system in the county. It was noted that to continue the tag system, a majority of the County Delegation including the resident Senator must approve the issuance of tags. Following extensive discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Compton moved for the staff to continue the doe tag system in Colleton County as in the past. Commissioner Stubbs seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.
3. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was nothing further to report.
4. Information & Public Affairs: There was nothing further to report.
5. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph noted that Dr. Timmerman has received a letter from the S. C. Shrimpers Association regarding a possible closure of the sound at Bulls Bay. He noted that they were contacted by letter that this matter would be brought to the attention of the Commission to be reviewed by the staff and the Marine Advisory Board to bring a report back to the Commission. Commissioner Dennis moved for the Board and staff to review this request and report back to the Commission. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.



B. Advisory Board Reports:

1. Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries: Commissioner Owen noted the Board met on June 16th and the new appointment, Mr. Marshall Jordan, was in attendance at the meeting.

Commissioner Owen noted the Board developed some funding proposals for the Commission to consider, but this matter will be deferred until the next meeting.

Commissioner Owen advised the Commission that the Board developed a 5-point recommendation on waterfowl hunting in Georgetown County and a copy of this was distributed (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). Tommy Strange provided a background discussion on the public hearing which was held and the development of these recommendations. Following other discussion, Commissioner Owen moved for the Commission to adopt these recommendations. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Dennis moved for the Chairman to appoint a sub-committee to review making the second recommendation (No Sunday waterfowl hunting) a statewide provision. Commissioner Dawson seconded the motion and was adopted by the Commission. Chairman Webster asked Commissioner Harrelson to address this matter and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Owen stated the Board reviewed a proposed extension in the turkey season, but did not recommend that this be done. Commissioner Dennis noted that a number of people have requested opening the season for two (2) more weeks on the Francis Marion GMA to be the same season for turkey hunting as Game Zone 6. David Baumann noted the biologists do not favor extending the turkey season.

Commissioner Owen distributed, to the Commission, a copy of the proposed FY 1983-84 Duck Stamp Budget (copy attached to original Commission Minutes) and moved for this to be approved by the Commission. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Harrelson moved for the staff to study extending the duck season beyond the current ending date in the new five-year term which will be developed. Commissioner Owen seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

2. Law Enforcement & Boating: There was no report from the Board this month.

3. Marine Resources: There was no report from the Board this month.



C. Appointments: Dr. Timmerman distributed a copy of the recommendations for appointments and re-appointments of Deputy Wildlife Conservation Officers and Conservation Officers (copy attached to original Commission Minutes). In addition, Dr. Timmerman recommended that Mr. James W. Blake of Georgetown be appointed as a DWCO with countywide authority in Georgetown County. Commissioner Harrelson moved for the Commission to approve all appointments and re-appointments as recommended. Commissioner Compton seconded the motion and it was adopted by the Commission.

D. Other Remarks: Chairman Webster and Dr. Timmerman presented a plaque to Mac Flood who is retiring and expressed appreciation for his service to the Department.

Commissioner Dennis asked about the status of promotions of Conservation Officers. Bill Chastain noted a committee of officers has been appointed to develop recommendations on this matter. Dr. Timmerman noted that some promotion will occur before this study is completed. Commissioner Dennis asked when law enforcement vacancies will be filled. Dr. Timmerman stated that we will start filling these vacancies after July 1, 1983.

Commissioner Harrelson noted there has been some recent correspondence on the enforcement of steel shot and a decision needs to be made by the Commission on this matter. Chairman Webster stated this will be an agenda item for the July meeting.

E. Time and Place of Next Meeting: Chairman Webster announced that the next Commission meeting will be held in Columbia at 10:00 a.m., on July 15, 1983.

ITEM VIII. ADJOURN

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

