

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE AND MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

MARCH 16, 1973

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission was held in Columbia in the Commission Room on Friday, March 16, 1973, Chairman J. W. Hudson, presiding. Also in attendance were Vice-Chairman Glenn, Commissioners Rhame, Eltzroth and Lumpkin along with Major Cantey, Executive Director Webb, Wash Belangia, Tommy Welch, Pat Ryan, Dr. Timmerman, Dr. Joseph, Charlie Bearden, Dr. Laurent, Fred Ramage, Bill Chastain, Jeff Fuller, Bob Joyner, John Culler, Brock Conrad, Ed Latimer, Carl Wilkes, Joe Logan and Bob Liming of The State Newspaper.

Commissioner Eltzroth raised a point of order that a quorum was present for the meeting. Dr. Lumpkin arrived later in the meeting.

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

JACK'S HOLE: Executive Director Webb reported that this Agreement has now been signed and everything is ready for the final plans to be drawn. Chairman Hudson inquired if this Agreement incorporates what the Commission wanted in it and Mr. Webb replied that it was exactly as we had wanted it originally.

NIGHT HUNTING BILL: This was to be taken up in the Legislative Report to be given later in the meeting.

HERRING RULES AND REGULATIONS: To be included later in the meeting in report to be given by Joe Logan.

DENNIS WILDLIFE CENTER: Executive Director Webb reported that progress is continuing in the construction of the building. It had been held up due to bad weather but now practically all the framing is up. Mr. Webb reported that bids had been opened on the second phase which is the construction of a pond for the rearing of fish. The low bid was \$385,000. The first alternative provided for the deletion of \$5,000 if the sample pond was not constructed. Mr. Webb recommended the low bid be accepted. A motion was made by Commissioner Glenn to approve the bid. This was seconded by Commissioner Rhame. The motion passed unanimously.



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES: Dr. Timmerman reported that he had been notified that the Governor would like for him to negotiate with the proper authorities in NOAA to establish a lease agreement. A meeting will be held probably around the first of April to discuss these negotiations further.

PROPOSED NEW LICENSES: This was to be taken up at a later time during this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Marine Resources Division Report - Dr. Timmerman presented his report which listed meetings he had attended during the past month. He reported that a meeting had been held at Fort Johnson of all District Nine Law Enforcement and other Conservation Officers in the coastal area. A copy of Dr. Timmerman's report is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes.

A report for the Marine Laboratory was given by Dr. Joseph. He reported that they had been busy putting the final touch on the Sea Grants proposal which was to go to the printer on Tuesday. Dr. Joseph reported that he expected the Lab would receive between \$212,000 and \$250,000 under the Sea Grant program.

Dr. Joseph reported that they are progressing satisfactorily though somewhat slowly on their winter MARMAP cruise and the winter cruise is more than half completed.

Dr. Joseph reported that they had signed another research contract earlier this month with the Coastal Plains Regional Commission which deals with the development of the soft crab industry in South Carolina. Dr. Sandifer will be responsible for this.

Charlie Bearden gave the report of the Office of Marine Conservation Management Services. A copy of this report is attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes. Mr. Bearden reported that plans are now being made by the Division staff for the World Mariculture Society meeting which will be held in Charleston in January of 1974 and Dr. Timmerman and Mr. Bearden were appointed as local arrangers for this conference which will be attended by approximately 300 persons from various countries.

Dr. Timmerman stated that a number of oystermen had contacted the Marine Resources Division for help and advice pertaining to possible rulings by the Internal Revenue Service by which they would be required to pay taxes as "employers". Dr. Timmerman said that his



Division will attempt to render every aid possible to the oystermen in this connection.

Another item which was brought up by Dr. Timmerman was The Marshland House which is on the National Register of Houses. The exterior of the house is in need of painting and Dr. Timmerman asked the permission of the Commission to proceed with obtaining bids for the work. Dr. Lumpkin moved, seconded by Mr. Eltzroth, that Dr. Timmerman go ahead with the necessary steps to scrape and paint the exterior of The Marshland House. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Eltzroth gave a brief report on a meeting of the Coastal Plains Commission recently held in Washington.

#### NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS - Commissioner Eltzroth recommended that the Appointments as mailed out previous to the meeting be approved. Commissioner Glenn seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Webb recommended the appointment of a salaried Conservation Officer in Sumter County - Mr. John H. Tindal. Commissioner Eltzroth made the motion that this matter be deferred until it is approved by Commissioner Wade Williams, in whose district this officer would be located.

Commissioner Glenn recommended, seconded by Commissioner Lumpkin, that the Commission be furnished a listing of all non-pay Game Wardens by district and their location within the district. Bill Chastain replied that this would be done.

FINANCE REPORT - The Finance Report was accepted as presented without comment.

LEGISLATION - Wash Belangia presented the report of legislation in the absence of Bill Cotty.

Commissioner Eltzroth suggested that if possible, the Legislative Report be mailed out on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning so that if there is something that needs to be done locally by some of the Commission Members, they would have the weekend in order to contact the Members of the House or Senate.

It was reported that the Night Hunting Bill was adopted by the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee and is presently on the contested calendar for second reading.



GAME AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES REPORT -Mr. Ryan

presented the report for his Division. Mr. Ryan reported that a meeting of all District Supervisors and Unit Leaders was held in Columbia. This meeting proved to be very informative. Each Unit Leader has been requested to fill out a work plan each week and present this to the Supervisor. This has been found to be working out real well. Mr. Ryan also reported that all of the procedures and recommendations of the Commission Sub-Committee had been implemented.

Bill Chastain reported that three people had been transferred into District 9 in order to expand commercial fisheries law enforcement. Mr. Chastain reported that he believed there would be a better working relationship due to having had this school.

Mr. Ryan reported that he had attended a meeting in Atlanta at which time the new Marine Mammal Protection Act was discussed. It was requested that each state along the coast submit to the Department of Commerce a contract proposal to help enforce this Act. Mr. Ryan reported that his Division is in the process of working on this contract.

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

REPORT ON SPECIAL HERRING AND ELECTRIC SEINE

STUDY - Joe Logan reported on a meeting that was held at the end of the Tailrace Canal to demonstrate the use of the electric seine to the public. This was arranged as a result of a meeting in the Columbia office with personnel from the Fisheries Division with Representative Alex Sanders from Richland County who had been contacted by commercial fishermen. Mr. Logan stated that he believed the Department proved its point that it was not killing the fish by using the electric seine. Mr. Logan said that Mr. Sanders wanted to talk to the Commission and at this point, Commissioner Eltzroth moved that Chairman Hudson contact Mr. Sanders and set up a special meeting if he so desires, at a convenient time for Mr. Sanders.

Mr. Logan told the Commission that he was concerned that if they started up the electric shocker, the commercial fishermen have said they would bring an injunction. Mr. Logan wanted a statement from the Commission as to how to proceed. Commissioner Eltzroth moved that we continue to work just as we have been doing in the past. This was seconded by Dr. Lumpkin and passed unanimously. Chairman Hudson stated that the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department had "gone the extra mile" in doing everything it could and if the commercial fishermen brought an injunction, the Department would go to court with them.



OAK GROVE LAKE RIGHT-OF-WAY - A development company adjoining Department property wants to put in a sewer line along our property and the Department would also have an opportunity to tie into this sewer line if needed. Mr. Webb recommended that this right-of-way be approved. The Commission approved this without objection.

LEASE - CITY OF BENNETTSVILLE - The City of Bennettsville requested a lease to build a well on Department-owned property in Bennettsville. After considerable discussion relating to liability, etc., Commissioner Eltzroth made a motion that the Department sell this property to the City of Bennettsville for \$1 with a reverter clause to apply in the event the property be ever used for anything other than a well or should the City find that it no longer has need for this property. In either event it would revert to the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. Commissioner Lumpkin seconded this motion and the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF LAKE PERMIT LICENSE - This report was given out at the meeting. Carl Wilkes, Supervisor of the License Section, compiled this report setting forth the advantages and disadvantages of such a system. This research had been done in conjunction with personnel from General Services Data Processing Center. After discussion of the matter, Mr. Wilkes presented his recommendation that the Department not go to one license at the present time. The Commission concurred in this recommendation and decided to leave the permit as it is for the present time.

#### UNCLASSIFIED ITEMS

Commissioner Eltzroth brought a request from Dr. Willard Davis, from the University of South Carolina, in regard to the Sailing Club from Lake Murray laying out a sailing course for sailing matches and requests permission for this course which will be used for national regattas. Mr. Ryan reported that what Dr. Davis wants is a permanent-type buoy. After discussion of this matter, Commissioner Eltzroth moved that the Executive Director, Director of Game and Freshwater Fish and the Chief of Boating consult with Dr. Davis and make a recommendation to us in regard to this matter at the next meeting. This was seconded by Commissioner Glenn and the motion carried without objection.

Chairman Hudson reported that he had received another request from the South Carolina Field Trial Association. They are requesting two trials this year rather than one. Mr. Webb stated that the Association should allow the Department to schedule the trial. Chairman Hudson will write to the Association and tell Mr. Crouch, the President, that this will be agreeable to the Department but that it will be subject to scheduling by the Department.



Chairman Hudson brought a request from the Spartanburg County Delegation to close Lake Edwin Johnson one week prior to the fishing rodeo sponsored by the Sertoma Club. The Lake would be re-opened immediately after the fishing rodeo. Chairman Hudson would like for the Commission to approve this subject to a formal request from the Spartanburg County Delegation. It was stated that this had already been received and the Commission gave its approval for Lake Edwin Johnson to be closed one week prior to the Sertoma Fishing Rodeo. Chairman Hudson would so inform the Delegation.

Commissioner Eltzroth reported for the Committee on Law Enforcement and offered for consideration by the Commission, a Resolution commending the Governor for his position regarding the minimum pay for Law Enforcement officers and they also recommend to the General Assembly that they set a minimum of \$6,500 for Law Enforcement personnel with the hope that the legislation can be passed this year. This was seconded by Commissioner Lumpkin. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Webb passed out seasons for Game Management Areas for next year for the Commission's approval. It was agreed that the Commissioners would review these and act on this at the next Commission Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 P. M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Peggy A. Lowman, Secretary  
Wildlife and Marine Resources  
Commission

