

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING AT SPARTANBURG NOVEMBER 6, 1953

All members were present except Mr. Warren and Mr. Johnson presided. Also present were Director A. A. Richardson, Mr. Wolling and Mr. Fuller.

The principal order of business was agreement upon a series of recommendations for changes in the game and fish laws. It was decided to print the recommendations in the report to the General Assembly, as well as sending them to all legislators. It was also voted to send the recommendations to all chapters of the Wildlife Federation so that members could discuss the bills with their local legislators.

A list of recommendations compiled by the Secretary was taken up and acted upon individually as follows:

1. The Commission should be granted the power to set seasons and bag limits and also to designate game zones, after studies and after public hearings in the areas to be affected.

2. It was decided not to ask the General Assembly to give the Commission power to close or shorten hunting seasons in periods of fire danger or other emergency in case No. 1 was not approved. Members said recommending this might interfere with acceptance of No. 1 but if No. 1 was not approved this could be introduced.

3. For the same reason it was decided not to ask for the shortening of any seasons, unless No's. 1 and 2 were not approved.

4. Establishment of a state-wide fishing license and abolition of all special permits was approved with the provision that it not apply to landowners, their families, or tenants living on the property, as is the case with hunting licenses.

5. A possession limit on game fish **double the daily limit** was approved with the details to be worked out. It was also recommended that the possession of game fish in any place of business be prohibited.

6. It was decided to make no recommendation for change in the car confiscation provision of the night hunting law.

7. It was decided not to recommend a reciprocal license agreement, Mr. Richardson pointing out that there would be too much confusion among the license agents.

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8. A two-day, non-resident fishing license costing \$3.10 and good for all waters of the state was approved, with the abolition of all inconsistent provisions

9. Exempt boys and girls under the age of 12 from buying licenses or permits provided they are accompanied by a license holder.

10. Make fines more in line with the violation. (The Director was authorized to examine the code and make recommendations for increases in fines where the penalties were thought inadequate.

11. Pass a state-wide law making it mandatory to have the head of a deer attached when being brought from the woods.

12. Allow authorized agents of the Department to conduct fish cultural operations and scientific investigations in such manner and at such times as are considered necessary.

13. Request the General Assembly to appoint a legislative committee to completely rewrite the game and fish laws, as well as the commercial fisheries laws, and offer the services of the Directors.

The appointment of Walter Gnann as a non-pay warden at Bear Island was approved.

The appointment of Vernon J. Derrick as a non-pay warden in Richland county was approved.

The question of appointing Robert McIntyre as a regular Marion warden was turned over to Mr. McKeithan and Mr. Richardson.

Eddie Finlay