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MINUTES

GAME AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES ADVISORY BOARD

November 6, 1975

The Game and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Board meeting was held at Bear Island Game Management Area on November 6, 1975. Commissioner Rhame called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. The following Advisory Board members were present - Chairman Bob Rhame, Frank Ford, Coy Johnston and Carroll Godwin. Department members in attendance included - Dr. Jim Timmerman, Jeff Fuller, Brock Conrad, Joe Logan, Jack Bayless, Robert Folk, Jim Mills, Melvin Cumbee and Tommy Strange.

Through the courtesy of the Shakespeare Company an excellent film (Bigmouth Bass) was shown.

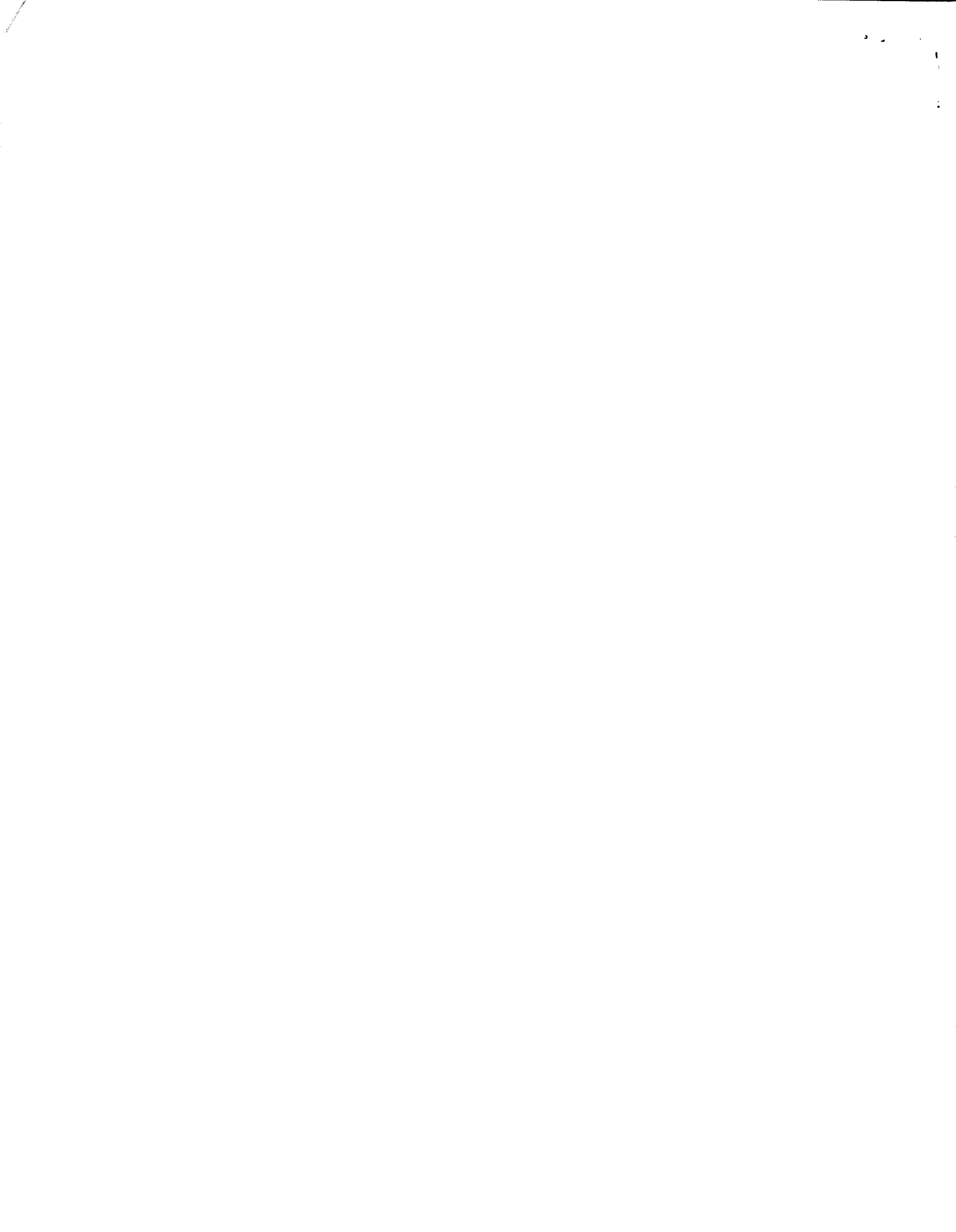
Joe Logan presented a report on bass tournaments. One section of the report concerned suggested guidelines for use by persons conducting such tournaments in South Carolina. Prior to preparing these guidelines input was procured from fishery biologists throughout the State. Items stressed under the guidelines were:

- (1) Live release.
- (2) 14" minimum size--this would cut out about two-thirds of the fish that are being brought in now under existing regulations.
- (3) Tournaments should be planned during those periods of the year when fishing pressure by the general public is low.
- (4) There should be no "blast off" at the start of the tournaments but a "no wake" procedure should be followed.

It was generally agreed by the group that these guidelines should prevail. It appeared the group was also of the opinion that we should have two separate documents - one document should reflect, as policy, the position of the Commission concerning bass tournaments in general - the second document should be more detailed and provide guidelines for persons conducting such tournaments. However, the guidelines should be presented in as brief a fashion as possible.

Dr. Timmerman offered several statements concerning several subjects:

- (1) The control of Elodea in the Santee Cooper complex is definitely a problem. Apparently some friction may be developing between the Public Service Authority and the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department concerning this matter. It was suggested that a meeting between the two groups might iron out the differences and such a meeting has been scheduled for November 18 at 10:30 A.M. in the Columbia Office of the Department. Considerable discussion ensued concerning the white amur.
- (2) It will be necessary that our current budget be cut approximately eight percent (8%).



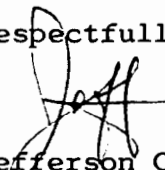
- (3) Dr. Timmerman summarized some of the problems expected on next year's budget (1976-77).
- (4) By the end of the calendar year the "Goals and Objectives" Project should be completed.
- (5) Dr. Timmerman offered general comments concerning the anti-hunt movement and presented ways to combat the "Guns of Autumn" program.
- (6) He explained that guidelines for hunting and fishing by Department employees were approved at the last Commission meeting and that this information had been made available to employees.
- (7) He explained the Commission and Department were trying to get away from political involvement in appointing conservation officers.
- (8) He stressed the importance of input from the Advisory Board with regard to the shooting preserve matter.
- (9) He stressed that possibly we should re-evaluate our waterfowl program with an idea toward alternate means of improving the program. He suggested we should get with Ducks Unlimited next February and discuss this matter with them.

Jack Bayless presented a report concerning the introduction of Florida largemouth bass into South Carolina. This report contained input from fishery biologists throughout the State, from other States and a review of available literature and reports. It was generally agreed that we need not proceed with establishing the Florida bass in South Carolina.

Brock Conrad presented a report concerning a problem in the Western Piedmont Game Management Area. The problem consists of complaints from the McCormick County Cattlemen's Association.

An interesting report on hunter safety and our Hunter Safety Program was presented by Jim Mills with assistance from Melvin Cumbee.

Respectfully submitted,


Jefferson C. Fuller, Jr.
Director, Div. of Game & Freshwater
Fisheries

JCFjr/mb
November 12, 1975

