

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
IN COLUMBIA DECEMBER 19 , 1952

All members of the Commission were present, along with State Forester Charlie Flory, Dr. Robert Lunz and Alonzo Seabrook.

Dr. Lunz discussed the crab trawling resolution adopted after the November 28 meeting in Beaufort and said that although it followed only one-third of the recommendations of the Bears Bluff Laboratories the newspaper impression was that it was based entirely on these recommendations.

He added that during the winter months the male crabs are the ones valuable from a commercial angle and they are usually found in the rivers rather than in the sounds. He recommended that trawling for crabs in the rivers be allowed and that commercial fishermen be allowed to have a five-inch mesh tail bag attached on their regular shrimp nets, which would be sound from the standpoint of conservation and from that of the commercial fishermen.

Mr. Johnson suggested that the resolution adopted after the Beaufort meeting be amended to conform with Dr. Lunz' recommendations and the Secretary was instructed to do this and file the amended resolution with the Secretary of State.

(The new resolution follows:

"That during the months of December 1952, and January and February 1953, trawling for crabs will be permitted in the sounds, bays and rivers with trawl nets having a five-inch mesh tail bag. Code sections 3408 and 3410 prohibit the trawling for shrimp during these three months in any bay, sound, river and creek, and those trawling for crabs will not be permitted to take shrimp during those three months. License on trawl boats will be issued the same as was done for shrimp boats, but for the



entire year of 1953 instead of just the shrimp season, with a \$5.00 crab net license for January and February, and when the shrimp season opens a \$5.00 license will be sold for shrimp nets but the boat license will be good for the entire year.")

The shad situation came up for discussion and Mr. Warren said that a commercial fisherman from Georgetown -- Mr. Cathou -- told him that the commercial shad fishermen were discriminated against in comparison with the neighboring states, since they have only three days of fishing each week.

Mr. Seabrook brought out the distinction between commercial and sport shad fishermen and said that men fishing with bow nets considered themselves sport fishermen, although they usually sold their catch.

Mr. Warren pointed out that a Fish and Wildlife Service study of shad along the Atlantic Seaboard was being conducted and any permanent legislation should probably await its completion. He added that the Commission should ask the Legislature for authority to declare seasons and limits and set certain regulations, such as those governing net sizes.

Mr. Seabrook was instructed to advertise and sell several old outboard motors that have been stored at Wehman's Sporting Goods store in Charleston, provided he received as much as Mr. Wehman's offer of \$575.

Mr. Flory was invited to discuss the possibility of working out plans for public hunting and fishing on lands owned by the Forestry Commission and the U. S. Forest Service. He said the Forestry Commission would be delighted to work out agreements with the Commission but that all enforcement would have to be done by Wildlife Resources Department personnel.

Mr. Warren then read a letter from Mac Boykin of Sumter, in which Mr. Boykin suggested that the 28,000 acres in the Manchester State Forestry area--on which the game management is administered by the Sumter County Game and Fish Association -- have a special game warden.



Mr. Flory explained that the area was under a 55-year lease, with renewal privileges, from the U. S. Department of Agriculture and had been subleased to the Sumter association provided it furnish law enforcement and patrol. He said he thought the Forestry Commission could concern itself solely with forestry matters on the area. He added that it was logical that the wildlife on the area should be supervised by the Commission rather than a local association, although the association with the Sumter group had been most satisfactory. He said the Forestry Commission would be glad to enter into some arrangement with the Wildlife Resources Commission, provided the Sumter group relinquishes its rights.

Mr. Flory added that the Manchester area, as well as the Chesterfield area, were poor game lands, and the Secretary stated that Jim Webb had said he did not believe the Manchester land supported enough game to warrant the employment of a special warden.

The Commission decided that Mr. Webb should make a study of the Manchester area to decide whether the game populations could be materially increased and whether a warden might be warranted.

The possibilities of public hunting on the Chesterfield and Francis Marion areas were discussed and it was decided to invite U. S. Forester Riebold to a later meeting.

At the request of Mr. Smith, Mr. Flory discussed the Forestry Commission organizational setup.

Mr. McKeithan reported on the game warden situation in Georgetown. He said that Senator Morrison and Rep. Moore had called on him regarding the possibility of reappointing Mr. Harry Cribb as game warden but that the Georgetown Conservation Club opposed this. He added that a Mr. Venters was highly recommended and the Commission agreed that anyone Mr. McKeithan and Mr. Richardson agreed upon would be satisfactory.

... ..  
... ..

*Handwritten:* ... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..

Mr. Smith stated that closer supervision of wardens was badly needed. The Commission agreed to take no action on an assistant director and on supervisors until after the Wildlife Management Institute report had been received and studied. A plan for advertising warden vacancies was also postponed. *re org*

The Commission approved the appointment of the following wardens without pay:

Clarence E. Weaver, Clarks Hill; T. R. Brown, Barnwell, and Robert Garland, Brays Island, Yemassee.

It disapproved the appointment of Benjamin R. Ross, Jr., of York county, as a regular warden.

Mr. Warren read a letter from Assistant Attorney General James Verner stating that the Commission could not authorize the expenditure of Clarendon county game protection funds for the federal project on Taw Taw creek but that it could be authorized by the General Assembly.

Mr. Warren said he had received a letter from ex-Senator Brantley Harvey of Beaufort recommending the expenditure of Beaufort game protection funds for the construction of boat ramps. He suggested that he see if this meets with the approval of Senator-Elect E. B. Rodgers.

The Commission also discussed several matters that could be settled after the receiving of the Wildlife Management Institute report, including duties of Commissioners and expenditures by the Information and Education Division. The Secretary reported that he had talked with Mr. Paul V. Moore regarding a State Fair exhibit and suitable space would be available.

The meeting was then adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

Note: A complete audiograph recording will be made of all future meetings. Since this will be so long, no copy will be sent to the Commissioners unless they wish it but it will be kept in the office as a matter of record.

*Eddie Finlay*

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..