

## MINUTES

S. C. WILDLIFE & MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
Marine Resources Center  
Charleston, South Carolina

July 17, 1975

The regular monthly meeting of the South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Commission was held at the Marine Resources Center in Charleston, South Carolina at 10:00 am, July 17, 1975 with Chairman Hudson presiding. Other Commissioners present were Boykin, Lumpkin, Buchanan, Glenn, Rhame, Bennett and Dennis. Others present were Advisors Ford, Johnson; Dr. Timmerman, Jeff Fuller, Dr. Joseph, Dr. Laurent, Pat Ryan, Wash Belangia, John Culler, Charlie Bearden, Bill Chastain, Bobby Gifford, Brock Conrad, Larry Cartee, Ned Pendarvis, Tommy Welch, Pat Robertson, Dr. Burrell and various other staff members.

### CALL TO ORDER

ITEM I. READING OF LAST MEETING MINUTES: Minutes were approved as they were mailed out with no corrections or additions.

### ACTION REPORT

DISTRIBUTION: PROPOSED USE PLAN FOR CAPERS: Dr. Joseph reported that he has mailed to each Commissioner a copy of this plan along with a summary letter briefly outlining the plan. He reported that in the report the staff has tried to spell out the concept of use for the island. Have not designated any particular areas as camp sites, etc. Can best accommodate low density use and not the type of use a state park would have. Do not feel that the principle value is a hunting area. Feel that this island has great appeal as a natural area and have already had a lot of interest from groups such as the Charleston Natural History Museum, College of Charleston and it would provide the opportunity to study one of these unique coastal environments. A motion was made by Commissioner Lumpkin to accept this plan as the official use plan for Capers Island; it was seconded by Commissioner Rhame and passed.

STATEMENT TO ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE: RE: LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE: Dr. Joseph stated that the suggestion has been made that the Loggerhead Turtle, among others be put on the threatened species list and our general area of concern was that the Federal Regulations relating to this say that these turtles cannot be captured or molested, enter into commerce or anything of this nature and it excludes the accidental capture of turtles by fishing activities except where those activities are adjacent to known spawning or breeding grounds. This covers the whole South Carolina coast. He feels that we have to respond to this, but have just not gotten a response together as yet, but will do so in the near future.

FUEL TAX REBATE (COMMERCIAL VESSELS): Dr. Joseph reported that staff is working on this, but are not ready to report. (This was a question of looking into a possible rebate to the commercial fishers on some of the fuel taxes, essentially highway taxes.) Some years ago fishing vessels and farm equipment were excluded or had the opportunity of reapplying and getting the fuel taxes back. Some years ago the fishing industry was excluded from this and they now pay highway tax on all gasoline, etc. used at sea. He will look into this and see how much it really amounts to and see if there is some way we could assist them in getting this exclusion so they could get a refund of what they are paying in highway taxes.



CONTACT DR. DAVIS (USC) REGARDING SAILBOAT REGULATIONS: Tommy Welch reported that he has received no response from his letter to Dr. Davis.

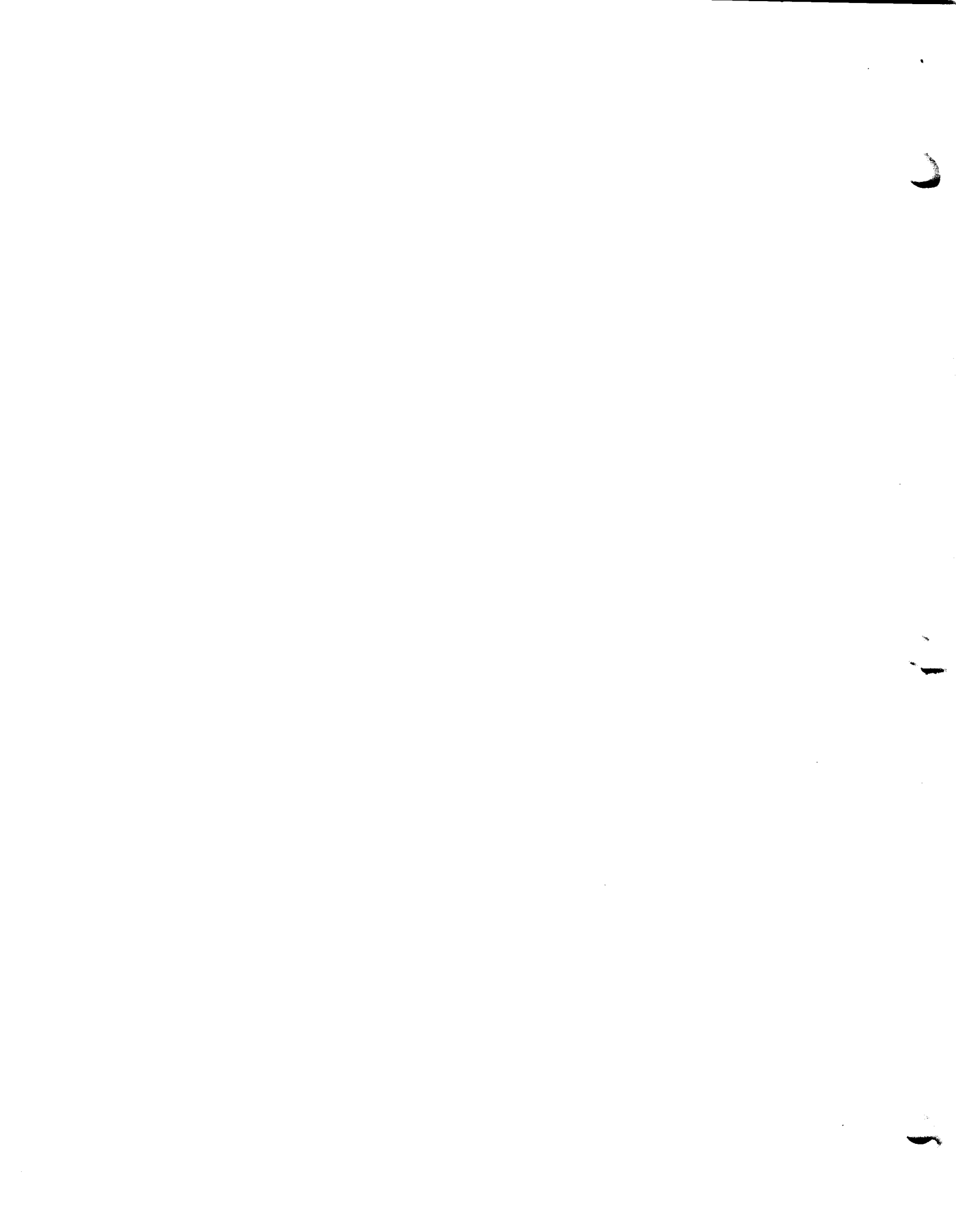
TROTTER SHOALS AVAILABILITY: Andy Laurent reported that this study will be completed by July 31st. As soon as it is completed, copies will be sent to the Commission. A special briefing has been set for August 19th. Dr. Stepp will be available to answer questions, etc. Chairman Hudson asked Laurent to mail this information out to the proper people. Also that those person who have expressed an interest in this such as Bryan Dorn, The Wildlife Federation and others should be invited to this hearing.

INFORMING CONSERVATION OFFICERS OF UPGRADING ATTEMPTS: Chairman Hudson stated that he mailed out some information on revised grades of Conservation Officers. We are proposing to fall in line more with the other law enforcement divisions having various steps in the grading where they can get promotion for the work that they do. Pat Ryan was asked to explain this proposal. Mr. Ryan gave some statistics on how many officers would be receiving raises, etc. in a years time. He and his staff feel that some type of revision needs to be made and he asked Bobby Gifford to present the basic guidelines of the proposal. This would add other levels of promotion and would give some incentive to the officers. Feel that moral such as this would increase the officers earning potential. Dr. Timmerman stated that he has sent a copy of this proposal over the State Personnel and told them that he couldn't formally request this until after the Commission has acted on it. He talked with them yesterday afternoon and they informed him that they are looking favorably on this, in addition to assistance to the biologists aids and he has made arrangements for his staff to meet with their staff if there were any major problems because he told them that he felt strong enough about it that if they were unable to do anything to help in this upgrading he would suggest to the Commission that we go before the Budget and Control Board. Commissioner Dennis stated that he spoke to Dr. Mullins this morning and he said that the year end requirements of his staff made it impossible before this point to make an indepth study, but his staff members have told him that it looks favorable. Commissioner Rhame suggested that the military system rating of officers be given consideration. Commissioner Boykin made a motion to adopt this proposal as it is presented, it was seconded and passed. Bill Chastain passed out a proposed re-classification of Law Enforcement Division for information only. Any comments on this would be made to the Law Enforcement Division.

Commissioner Buchanan stated that if there were no objections, he would like to call an Executive Session of the Commission immediately following the regular meeting. There were no objections.

Chairman Hudson reported that at the last Commission meeting it was suggested to the Game and Fish Division to contact some people who have some expertise in various areas. We have contacted Dr. Ed Kozicky of Olin Corporation, who is their Chief Biologist and he has gotten Tom Kimball, head of the Wildlife Federation and Dan Poole who is President of the Wildlife Management Institute and they are coming to Columbia on the 4th and 5th of next month. Chairman Hudson has asked Commissioner Rhame and Boykin personally to meet with that group and any other Commissioners who would want to attend would be welcome. Timmerman has asked staff to prepare a presentation to tell this task force what we have been doing so that they can make recommendations. As soon as the written report is received,

See Amendment  
on page 6



Chairman Hudson will get it out to the Commission.

Commissioner Dennis expressed a concern again over the salary grade of the biologist aides and requested that they be given every consideration along with the action being taken on the conservation officers salaries.

#### COMMENTS

Dr. Timmerman asked Wash Belangia to report on the procedure for handling the sale of non-resident game management area permits. Belangia reported that in May the General Assembly enacted a law increasing the cost of Game Management Area permits for non-residents to \$20.25, and setting a limit on the number of such license which we can sell by a formula which essentially freezes the number to last years' total of 7,000. His proposal is to sell these non-residents licenses through the Columbia office and out of the check stations on the Game Management Areas throughout the state to insure the control we need. As soon as the personnel are chosen and the locations selected, news releases can be sent to neighboring states and to notify all of our licensing agents of the procedure. In this way, proof of residency can be checked better. Chairman Hudson suggested that we go back to teh Legislature and try to get them to remove the limit of the number of non-resident permits we may sell and then we could go back to the old method of letting the license agents sell these. It was noted that in addition to the non-resident permits being available at the check stations, the regular license and resident permits would also be available. The Commission was in agreement that this proposal would be the procedure to follow at this time until further information can be obtained and recommendations for changes for next year made.

Dr. Timmerman reported that we have primarily four bonding projects and the operation is temporarily on freeze. He reported that he will be working with Pat Smith and his office to do everything we can to move along with these projects. Commissioner Dennis commented that the freeze was adopted as a ruling by the Budget and Control Board because of a provision put into the General Appropriations Act for the current fiscal year which provides an annual debt service for payment of existing capital bonds shall not exceed 5% of the current income for the state and in making calculations the auditors office cam up with the situation that all bonds authorized and and requested would immediately be beyond the 5% allowed. In order for them to make a complete annalasis of the situation and see where we are the freeze was put on. Yesterday at a meeting, it was considered that a meeting would be held by the Budget and Control Board next Monday and again take this up and make some modifications. He will report to Timmerman after that meeting. This pertains only to Capital Improvement Bonds.

Dr. Timmerman reported that we presently rent about 33,000 square feet of space and our annual rent on these facilities in Columbia runs approximately \$180,000. He asked for agreement of the Commission for staff to come up with several options as to whether we should stay where we are, build our own building, move to the Capitol Complex, etc. After discussion by the Commission, Commissioner Dennis recommended that plans be undertaken immediately for a site for a new facility to be constructed for the Wildlife Department. There was no objection to this, therefore, Chairman Hudson asked Dr. Timmerman to proceed



in putting this information together as to choosing a site, cost, etc. Dr. Timmerman will report back to the Commission when this information is received.

ITEM II: These items were covered in the action report.

ITEM III: NEW BUSINESS

A. Lockwood Greene Appearance: Phase II, Dennis Center: Dr. Timmerman has the plans for this if anyone would like to see them, and these will also be available at the Dennis Center. Since we had this presentation from Lockwood Greene last month, we will not go into it again.

B. Management Plan - Santee Gun Club: Andy Laurent went over this general draft with the Commission, pointing out the various areas on the map. It was noted that the hunting seasons for Santee Club have been set and a news release has been sent out. There will be four three-day gun hunts in addition to the archery hunts that were approved, and they will be limited to fifty (50) person per three-day hunt. This will be handled by a public drawing in about a month and the first hunt will be about one month after the draw. This management plan is for information only at this time and will be submitted for final approval at a later date and should be ready by the next Commission meeting.

C. Proposed Regulations - 75-76 Migratory Game Birds: Jeff Fuller read the proposal, of which a copy has been given to the Commission. There was some discussion on the dates for the dove season and it was decided that the dates would be opening September 8th and closing October 4th; opening November 24th and closing November 29th; and opening December 10th and closing January 15th. Fuller stated that this would be within the framework and Commissioner Dennis a motion to adopt these dates, it was seconded and passed. On rails, gallinules, snipe, woodcock, and sea ducks a motion was made by Commissioner Rhame and seconded by Commissioner Dennis to approve these dates as submitted. The motion was passed.

D. DIVISION REPORTS:

1. Administrative Services Division: Wash Belangia reported that we should about zero out on our budget this year. Dr. Timmerman reported that in a meeting yesterday with the Directors, Chiefs, etc. the budget was discussed and basically this year each Director is going to be responsible for his budget, the Chief is going to be responsible for his operation and everyone at various levels are going to get involved in the operation. The Director and his subordinates are responsible to see that he stays within his bounds. Commissioner Dennis pointed out that by not having surplus money on hand, we would be in a better budgeting situation with the General Assembly in the future. A tighter rein must be held in Department expenditures in order to continue operating as we are now. Belangia reported that Commissioner Boykin has met with Dr. Timmerman and himself and set up tentative dates for the 1976-77 Budget Review. Any Commissioner who would like to attend these meetings may do so. July 22nd, Division Directors meeting in Columbia to review with Timmerman the proposed budget for present year; August 16, Division Directors meeting with Timmerman in Columbia to review proposed 1976-77 budget; September 12th, Commission





Finance Committee meets to review proposed Budget for 1976-77 in Columbia; September 15th, Budget will be turned into the Budget and Control Board. A list of these dates will be mailed out to the Commission.

SEPTEMBER COMMISSION MEETING DATE: At the last meeting it was decided that the September meeting would be held on the 12th for the Commission to review the proposed budget. Chairman Hudson states that a lot of people are not going to be able to be here and that it is not important that we review this since it is not the final form of the budget. We have received an invitation from Mr. Coy Johnson to stay overnight at Bonneau Ferry on the 18th of September and have the meeting on the 19th. There was a motion made by Commissioner Dennis, seconded and passed. This motion also included giving the Finance Committee authority to submit the tentative budget to the Budget and Control Board. THE SEPTEMBER COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE AT DENNIS CENTER SEPTEMBER 19th.

2. Game & Freshwater Fisheries Division: Jeff Fuller announced that we have filled the position of Research Coordinator with Dr. Norris Jeffrey. Dr. Jeffrey was introduced to the Commission.

3. Information & Public Affairs Division: John Culler reported to the Commission on the Congaree Swamp article and stated that in the future when a controversial issue such as this comes up, he will get the agreement of all the Department on his statement. This does not mean we will have any kind of Board of Censors on the magazine, simply that the whole Department will become involved in the reply.

4. Marine Resources: Dr. Joseph reported that on recommendation from staff, he is attempting to open the Bulls Bay area for five days since there are reasonable quantities of harvestable browns in that area.

5. Natural Area Acquisition & Resource Planning: Dr. Laurent reported that the fact finding study on the Congaree is out and we should have something on that soon.

E. SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE: Dr. Timmerman reported that all salary reviews are in line and recommended with no changes. As a matter of policy, he passed this on to the Chairman.

F. APPOINTMENTS: Dr. Timmerman recommended to the Commission the following:

REAPPOINTMENT - SALARIED PERSONNEL: Philip A. White, Georgetown County, Don R. Brock, Whitmire, Newberry County (Conservation Officers);

REAPPOINTMENT - NON-SALARIED: L. C. Dangar; T. Keith White; Harold H. Cooler; C. E. Graham Reeves; A. Talley Moore; William H. Cleveland; William K. Proveaux; areas of authority as listed with the Executive Office and submitted for approval;

NEW APPOINTMENT NON-SALARIED: James T. Owens; Charles Allen Miller; Tony Garvin; Robert Beverley Evans, Jr.; areas of authority as listed with the Executive Office and submitted for approval; Commissioner Lumpkin made a motion to approve all of the recommendations subject to the resident Commissioners approval, it was

