

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION IN COLUMBIA MAY 11, 1960

All Commissioners were present, along with Directors Webb and Lunz, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Schley, Mr. McKeithan and Mr. Thrower.

Mr. S. S. Tison, of Bennettsville, new commissioner from the Sixth District, was introduced by Chairman Warren.

Senator Tuten of Hampton county appeared before the Commission to inquire as to the possibilities of a public fishing pond in his county. A resolution was adopted authorizing the Department to look into the matter and to proceed with a study to determine the feasibility.

At the request of Director Lunz the Commission adopted a resolution ratifying and confirming the closing of the oyster season and the refusal to extend the crab season, this action having been taken prior to the May 11 meeting.

Director Lunz said that letters had been sent to 300 shad fishermen who had not reported their catches and that there had been only one objection, and that he expected reporting to be much better next year.

The growth of the seed oyster industry has been gratifying, Director Lunz said, with the revenue from seed oysters being over \$5,000, while the regular severance tax on oysters brought something over \$7,000. He pointed out that the seed oyster industry was utilizing polluted areas that could not otherwise be used. He also said that the total acreage under rent for oyster production had increased from 4,000 to 6,000 acres.

Director Lunz stated that hucksters catching shrimp with cast nets and selling them were not being required to buy licenses at present but persons paying licenses for catching shrimp by other methods were objecting to this. He said that under the law there were two licenses that could be applied, one costing \$5 and the other \$20. His recommendation that the \$5 license be put into force was adopted.



He said a somewhat similar situation existed where crabs were being caught, boiled, and sold on the streets but that there was no law governing this, and the question was to whether to ignore this or to impose a \$20 license, which would put the sellers out of business. It was agreed to take no action on this matter at present.

Director Lunz also said that there was a problem in some areas as to the restrictions on shrimp boats coming close to the beaches. In some areas the law provides that they not approach within closer than one-quarter mile of the beach high water mark, but at low water the boats were very close to the beach. However, at Hilton Head and some other areas the place from which the quarter-mile be measured is not set. A motion of Mr. Tison was adopted that the quarter-mile be measured from the mean tide mark where not otherwise specified. Since this can be handled by regulation the Secretary was instructed to promulgate this, along with one prohibiting boats from dumping trash within one-quarter mile of beaches, these being effective as of May 11.

He also said one crab buyer was trying to prohibit all non-residents from crabbing and also to prohibit out-of-state shipments of crabs but that this could not be permitted.

A hearing will have to be held on the Toler lease request on Shem Creek, he said, and this was referred to Mr. Cox and Mr. Tison for hearing, along with one from Sam Williams of Little River.

Director Webb recommended that former Warden Morris of Berkeley county be reinstated with the understanding that he would be on probation and would be paid with Berkeley county funds and this was adopted by the Commission, effective May 1.



A request from the Jasper delegation that each of the three county wardens be paid \$600 more annually from county funds effective July 1 was discussed. It was agreed that this might set a bad precedent, which would be followed by other counties. Director Webb was directed to investigate the possibility of transferring \$1,800 to the county from the funds credited to the county for game protection purposes.

Also considered was another request from the Jasper delegation that a temporary warden be put on for three months to work the Coosawhatchie area, paid from funds credited to the county. It was voted that Chairman Warren and Director Webb work this out and see if the right type man could be secured.

Director Webb reported on a shortage in the accounts of Warden Delk of Lexington county, his report being received as information. He said that the auditor had been asked to check wardens making large payments at the end of the license year, and that it was planned to increase the bonds of wardens handling licenses and also keep a closer check.

The question of another warden for Orangeburg county was discussed and Mr. Cantey agreed to talk with Senator Williams about this.

Director Webb reported that 23,624 boats, exclusive of state and county boats, had been registered. He added that there might be some confusion over the kind of life preservers required under the law and that cases would not be made if preservers were in good and serviceable condition, even if not bearing a Coast Guard tag.

The Commission commended Director Lunz and Frank Nelson for recent activity reports and said these were extremely worthwhile.

Mr. Thrower said that the Federation was still working on plans to increase its membership and strength. He added that everyone was extremely well pleased with Lake Wallace, which was providing excellent fishing.

Eddie Finlay

