

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION AT BELMONT MAY 12, 1967

All Commissioners were present except Mr. Oliphant. Also present were Directors Webb and Lunz, Pat Ryan and Fred Ramage.

After a brief executive session, Chairman Eltzroth announced that the Commission has approved the recommendations of the sub-committee of the Commission for salaries of both the Division of Game and Boating. The Secretary was given a complete list of salaries. Later the salaries of the Division of Commercial Fisheries were approved.

Mr. Eltzroth said that the shrimpers' representatives who had said they would like to appear before the Commission had told him after a hearing in Columbia Wednesday that they did not think their appearance would be necessary. He then related what had happened at the hearing before the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee and how after he had explained the position and aims of the Commission that there had been no opposition from the shrimpers.

He said that he had told the shrimpers' representatives that the Commission would be glad to meet with them or hear from them at any time.

On motion of Mr. Eppes the minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Several game wardens commissions were approved after being presented by Mr. Webb, that of a Pickens man being approved subject to further investigation..

A compliance form on civil rights was signed by the Chairman, Mr. Webb stating that in past year he had signed it but this year it required the signature of the Chairman of the Commission.

Dr. Lunz said that he had nothing to take up at that time, and added that he would be forced to miss the next meeting.

Mr. Eltzroth reported on a trip taken to Washington along with Dr. Lunz, Mr. Webb and Bob Alexander of the Governor's office to discuss the possibility of securing financial help for Commercial Fisheries studies. He said that he had been told the first thing to do was to work up a comprehensive plan for ways and means of doing the needed work. He said that they said a competent man should be secured to prepare the



final comprehensive plan, whose fee would probably run to \$10,000 to \$15,000. The fees of this consultant would run around \$100 a day and expenses.

Mr. Cantey asked what this would lead to and why it was necessary, and Mr. Eltzroth said it would give the Commission a chance to see what was wanted and needed, and could be accomplished.

Mr. Webb outlined a talk he had had with a top official at which he had been told that a sport fisheries study for offshore and coastal fishing would be approved on a 50-50 basis if submitted. The question of doing work beyond three mile limit was not discussed.

In answer to a question by Dr. Lunz he said that application for an offshore fishing reef could be submitted as an amendment to the Outdoor Recreation plan already approved.

Dr. Lunz mentioned his attempt several years ago to get legislation extending the State's jurisdiction out to the 12-mile limit and said he would try and locate a draft of the proposed legislation for Mr. Eltzroth, who said he would like to take it up with the Governor.

Dr. Jones asked the status of the Edgefield radio station and Mr. Webb said it was hoped it could be in operation by late summer.

Dr. Jones also inquired about the progress of the rescue squads being set up and Mr. Ryan said some equipment had been secured; some was being converted; and studies were being made on the remaining equipment that would be needed.

There was a discussion about boats for offshore work and Dr. Lunz said he would look into two 60-foot boats that Mr. Eltzroth said he understood were at the Navy Yard.

There was a general discussion of the possibility of offshore commercial fisheries development, during which Dr. Lunz said it should be determined whether offshore



exploration of fisheries potential should be a state or a federal responsibility. He said that a main problem that would have to be met in South Carolina at present was distribution, there not being a sufficient guaranteed supply to meet market demands.

Mr. Eltzroth mentioned the success of a charter boat sports fisherman out of Hilton Head as an example of what could be done.

The commercial utilization of trash fish resources was also discussed and Dr. Lunz said there was a public relations question involved.

The next meeting of the Commission was set for Oconee or Pickens counties on June 9, the exact place and details to be worked out by Commissioner Jones.

Eddie Finlay

