

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

---:---

P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Friday, January 27, 1978

9:00 o'clock a.m.

DOYLE G. BERRY,
Chairman

Wildlife and Fisheries
Building, Room 102
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.
Stenotypists

333 ST. CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 1221
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130 • (504) 524-4787

P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . Pursuant to notice, the regular monthly meeting of the Board of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission convened on Friday, January 27, 1978, commencing at 9:00 o'clock a.m., at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Room 102, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Doyle G. Berry, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT WERE:

DOYLE G. BERRY, Chairman
DONALD F. WILLE, Vice Chairman
MARC DUPUY, JR., Member
J. C. GILBERT, Member
JEAN LAPEYRE, Member
HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Member
C. A. RIGGS, Member
J. BURTON ANGELLE, Secretary

---:---

A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of December 13, 1977. (5)
DR. LYLE ST. AMANT
2. Consider opening Chandeleur Sound for pink (6)
shrimp.



3. Request from Industrial Fill Materials, Inc. (14)
 for renewal of permit to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in vicinity of Point Clair, at a point between Levee Stations 1660 and 1700, or being in the vicinity of Mile 196-197 AHP near Carville, Louisiana, adjacent to the East Bank.
4. Request from T. L. James & Company, Inc. for (16)
 a permit to remove fill material from Lake Pontchartrain to be used in expansion of New Orleans Lakefront Airport.
5. Request from Louisiana Cement, Division of (17)
 OKC Corporation, for renewal of permit to dredge fill material from the St. Malo Channel.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER

6. Proposed policy changes for oyster leasing. (52;
 (95;
 (127)
7. Acceptance of completion of Bayou Lamoque (49)
 Structure.

MR. KENNETH SMITH

8. Discussion of limitation of commercial (19)
 fishing gear in Lake Vernon and Lake



Anacoco.

- 9. Discuss resolutions of the East Carroll Police Jury to close Lake Providence to bass fishing. (22)

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER

- 10. Agreement between Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Robert E. Perkins re alligator farm. (25)
- 11. Discuss extension of trapping season. (31)
- 12. Superior Oil Company geophysical permit on Rockefeller Refuge. (34)
- 13. Request from Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America for pipeline crossing on Rockefeller Refuge. (39)

MR. JOE HERRING

- 14. Release of lease - Panola Land Company. (41)
- 15. Resolution pertaining to National Wildlife Week. (44)

OTHER BUSINESS

- 15. Election of Officers (125)
- 16. Set date for February meeting. (127)

NOTE:

The following items of business not on the printed



agenda were also considered:

- Introduction of new Board member, C. A. Riggs. (5)
- Discussion of oyster tags. (83)
- Further discussion of conflict re letters (84;
of no objection, oil companies and 127)
oyster fishermen, particularly in
Black Bay area.
- Authorization for Commission member to (121
attend National Wild Turkey Federation
Convention.
- Clarification of closing of state oyster (105
grounds.



CHAIRMAN DOYLE G. BERRY: Good morning. We will call the meeting to order now. We are glad to have Representative Booker here. I am sure you are representing the oyster group. Evidently the word has leaked out.

We will go on and get into the agenda. Our first item this morning is approval of minutes of the meeting of December 13, 1977. Do I have a motion on that?

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have a second on that?

MR. WILLE: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

Dr. St. Amant.

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have --

THE CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, Dr. St. Amant. I am about to slip up here this morning. We have



a new Board member with us today, Mr. Charles Riggs from Hackberry. He is on the far left. He is filling the vacated seat of Mr. Jerry Jones. I don't know a lot about the man. I had planned for him to buy me a few drinks last night and I got tied up in something else and couldn't do it. Burt, can you tell us anything about this man? Did he buy you any drinks?

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Not yet, not yet!

THE CHAIRMAN: You heard that "not-yet" business! Anyhow, we are glad to have Mr. Riggs with us and I am sure he will make a fine Commission member. The Governor is pretty good at picking appointments. However, McKeithen picked me and Edwards reappointed me and I think he showed good judgment there!

Go ahead, Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I have four items on the agenda this morning.

Item No. 1 in my group is consideration of opening of part of Chandeleur Sound for pink shrimp. Now what has happened, there has been an



unusual production of shrimp last year and apparently Gulf-wide the pink shrimp production off the Tortugas Banks in Florida has been quite good and a good many of them have moved up into this area and there is a run of these shrimp in Cat Island Pass and in the eastern end of the Chandeleur Sound.

There is a group of fishermen who want to petition the Commission that this area be temporarily opened so that they might fish for these shrimp. Now under Paragraph 497 of Title 56 the Commission has the legal authority to open such temporary seasons where the technical data indicates that the season is warranted and where there is a fishable population of marketable shrimp. We have done this in the past in the Chandeleur Sound area. However, this is the first time it is being done in the winter. Most of the time it has been done in the middle of the summer.

At this time I would like these gentlemen to make their explanation to you as to what they propose and then if you choose to take action on it, I have an appropriate resolution..



THE CHAIRMAN: You have a resolution?

DR. ST. AMANT: I have a resolution after you hear them if you decide to act.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you come forward, please, and state your name and who you represent.

MR. FRANK WITTMAN: Gentlemen, my name is Frank Wittman. I am here with Mr. Mitchell Cheval and Mr. Milton Dudenhefer.

As Dr. St. Amant told you, we represent a group of fishermen who feel that there is a harvestable yield of pink shrimp in the Chandeleur Sound. What we would like to do, there exists there between primarily the months of January and April, and what we would like to do is investigate the harvestability of these shrimp and if so open that area for the taking of the shrimp. We don't feel that they would damage the brown shrimp population at all and it has been conveyed to us by various biologists that we have talked to that this would not damage the other shrimp harvest.

Our request is for the temporary opening of the area between Cat Island and the Ship Channel in Chandeleur Sound, should the pink shrimp be



found to be available there in sufficient quantities and large enough.

MR. LAPEYRE: Is this something that has been observed before, the presence of those pink shrimp in that area?

MR. WITTMAN: Yes, sir, they have been in there quite a bit in the past. They are regularly there. I think they come from somewhere in Florida. They are better known as hoppers.

MR. LAPEYRE: The fishermen I gather have some indication that they are there again this year. You are saying, however, that we need to do some study to verify the fact that they are there in fishable quantities?

MR. WITTMAN: I think there has been evidence that they will be there in significant numbers. However, I believe it does have to be checked out further.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are saying then, Mr. Wittman, that you aren't sure they are there at this time but you think they are coming in and will be in the next month or so?

MR. WITTMAN: Yes, sir.



THE CHAIRMAN: If that is all you have,
Mr. Wittman --

MR. WITTMAN: Yes, sir, that's all.

THE CHAIRMAN: We will take your recommendation. Thank you very much, sir.

MR. WITTMAN: Thank you.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman, this crop of shrimp is in here annually. However, they vary in quality and size and volume. They come up here in the winter and normally they are not too large. However, there appear to be some large ones available this year.

I would suggest if the Commission would like to entertain this idea that we be directed to determine whether the shrimp are in there, make some type of study, and then in the event that the technical information indicates that the shrimp are there, that the season be opened with some type of proviso it be closed immediately when it is determined that the brown shrimp are beginning to move into the area or if at any time we have an enforcement problem with this.

Since this is a momentary thing and if



they are going to do any shrimping in there at all, it has to be done rather soon, this would have to be taken up on an emergency procedure basis under the Administrative Procedures Act.

So, what I have done for your consideration is prepare a resolution that reads as follows:

"WHEREAS, the Commission has been requested to consider a temporary opening of part of Chandeleur Sound to trawling for pink shrimp, and

"WHEREAS, Paragraph 497 of Title 56 allows the Commission to set such temporary seasons where technical data indicates that such a season is in the best interest of the shrimp industry; and

"WHEREAS, some evidence has been presented to indicate the need for such a season,

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
(1) that the Secretary be directed to develop the appropriate technical data and (2) that should the data indicate



the need for a season that it be declared after appropriate public notice, (3) that if opened the season be closed immediately when data indicate that the spring crop of brown shrimp become evident or if enforcement problems develop in administering the temporary season."

I would submit this resolution for your consideration.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Chairman, I move that we adopt this resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have a second?

MR. DUPUY: I will second it. I would like to urge a word of caution, Dr. St. Amant, that in the description of the area that you are going to describe and the limits, Chandeleur Sound, Cat Island, Ship Channel and so forth, that you be sure not to characterize the area as international waters, as may have appeared on one of those maps that we were looking at yesterday. We certainly don't want under any circumstances to admit this is not Louisiana ownership.



DR. ST. AMANT: I understand.

THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think there is a question in anybody's mind in this room but what this is Louisiana territory, Marc. There might be some bureaucrats in Washington that have a different opinion.

MR. DUPUY: Well, you know we are still involved in the tidelands case and a matter of three miles around Chandeleur Island still leaves some area within St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes within three miles of Chandeleur Island but that is a question of ownership and we don't want to acknowledge possibility of federal ownership.

DR. ST. AMANT: I will handle it appropriately.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perez, you might see about moving your parish lands out a little bit.

MR. CHALIN PEREZ: Well, there was something known as the Leander Meander at one time!

(Laughter)

MR. LAPEYRE: Doc, I would simply like to make the point that the maximum effort at



publicizing this proposed opening be made so that all fishermen who may have an interest in taking advantage of it should the season be opened have the best opportunity possible to do so, so I would only urge that the consideration of it even be publicized.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me get it back on the track. We have a motion and a second. I will call for the vote. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed.

(No response)

So ordered.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Lapeyre, I will prepare a news release today indicating that we are making a study and that the study will probably take at least a week and after the data is in and we make a determination, we will make another news release with the appropriate advertisement.

Item 3 on the agenda is a request from Industrial Fill Materials for renewal of an existing permit for dredging fill sand from the Mississippi River. This permit has been in effect. It



has been no problem. We would recommend that the permit be reissued for one year at five cents per yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. Do we have a motion?

MR. LUTTRELL: I move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby grant permission to INDUSTRIAL FILL MATERIALS, INC. to renew permit to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Point Clair, at a point



between Levee Stations 1660 and 1700, or being in the vicinity of Mile 196 to Mile 197 AHP near Carville, adjacent to the East Bank, Louisiana, for a period of one year from January 24, 1978 to January 24, 1979, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: Item 4 is a request by T. L. James & Company for a permit to remove fill material in and around the Lakefront Airport from Lake Pontchartrain in order to do the airport improvement work that is going on out there, and we have been working with this engineering group and with the airport throughout the period when we were developing the impact statement. The work is now proceeding and I would recommend that we issue a permit to T. L. James & Company for one year at five cents a cubic yard to provide this material for the airport.

MR. GILBERT: I move for adoption, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have a motion by Mr. Gilbert. Is there a second?



MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell.

All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries does hereby grant permission
to T. L. JAMES & COMPANY, INC. to remove
fill material from Lake Pontchartrain to
be used in the expansion of New Orleans
Airport for a term of either more or
less than one year for the period neces-
sary for the completion of this work,
at a rate of five cents per cubic yard
royalty from January 27, 1978.

DR. ST. AMANT: The final one is a
request by Louisiana Cement Company, Division of



OKC Corporation, for renewal of a permit they have had in operation for some time in the St. Malo Channel, where they are dredging some clay and material for cement production. We would recommend that this permit be reissued at the appropriate amount of five cents a yard for one year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have a motion?

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby grant permission to LOUISIANA CEMENT, DIVISION OF OKC CORPORATION, for renewal of permit to



dredge fill material from the St. Malo Channel, for a period of one year from January 28, 1978, to January 28, 1979, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair has been requested to skip Items 6 and 7 at this time and we will take up Item No. 8, Mr. Smith.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the first item I have on the agenda this morning pertains to a request from the Vernon Parish Policy Jury and a verbal request from the Anacoco Prairie Game and Fish Commission to close Anacoco Lake and Lake Vernon as well as the two miles of creek in between -- Vernon is just north of Anacoco and the same creek feeds both lakes -- to commercial gear. This is commercial web netting.

Now we looked at our fish population samples in both water bodies and we find that the type commercial fish normally taken in webbing



was extremely low. As a matter of fact, in 1977 our population figures, we didn't pick up any drum, carp, buffalo or bullheads in the lake. There were a little over eight pounds of catfish, gar and so forth, predatory food fish.

In our opinion there is not a commercial fishery in either of these lakes. The bass population is not high in these lakes. We have found a little less than four pounds in '77, a little over four pounds in '76 in Anacoco, and pretty close to the same in Vernon.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that we go along with these groups and close these two water bodies to commercial webbing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have the recommendation. Do I have a motion?

MR. WILLE: So move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second?

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell.

All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I omitted one



thing on that. We need a closing date. Since there are not many people involved, we think the commercial fishing licenses bought in this area are to fish Sabine River and not these two lakes, and we would suggest a closing date of March 1, 1978. I am sorry I left that out.

THE CHAIRMAN: So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Vernon Parish Policy Jury has requested commercial nets be prohibited in Lake Vernon, Anacoco Lake, and that portion of Anacoco Bayou between the lakes, all in Vernon Parish, and

WHEREAS, fish population samples taken by the district fisheries biologist indicated a very low population of commercial fishes, and

WHEREAS, it is evident there are no viable commercial fisheries due to the scarcity of these commercial



species,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby prohibits the use of all commercial webbing in Anacoco Lake, Lake Vernon and that part of Anacoco Bayou between the lakes. This prohibition will become effective March 1, 1978.

MR. SMITH: My next item pertains to a request from the East Carroll Parish Police Jury in the form of a resolution which was forwarded to this Commission. This resolution was adopted in November and it pertained to the closing of Lake Providence to large-mouth bass fishing from November, 1977 through December, 1978.

Now we know the bass population is low up there. We have met with the local people in 1976, the summer of 1976. We went over some analyses that were made by the LSU lab on fish that had been collected from that lake, and the information we had indicated that agricultural pesticides were the primary reason these fish populations



were low and we so stated that.

Now the adoption of this resolution, of if it were approved, in our opinion would not have any beneficial effect on the bass fishery in that lake. We know that pesticides are fairly high. As a matter of fact, some striped bass hybrids -- this is the large striped bass-white bass cross -- were released in this lake in May of 1976. They were collected in September of 1977 about 16 months later and they were completely free of pesticides when placed in the lake. We found DDE, which is a derivative of DDT which had not been used for two or three years in that area, as high as 14 parts per million. This is extremely high. Other readings are comparable.

So, we still think this is the reason. They have asked this Commission to approve their ordinance so our agents would enforce the closing of bass fishing. It is our opinion, Mr. Chairman, that we would not gain anything by this action, approving this action. We would simply hide the real problem that exists up there. We would mislead the public, and actually it would not do any



good.

Now I might mention also, for the benefit of the Commission, that we didn't offer any solutions to this problem because agricultural pesticides are exempt from pollution laws, according to Section 1462 of Title 56. We hope that pesticides will be used that will eliminate this problem but at this time this is the situation in Lake Providence.

So, as a result, I would recommend that the Commission not go along with this request.

THE CHAIRMAN: What you have said in a nutshell is that they have poisoned that lake up there with pesticides and they are hunting somebody else to take the blame for it, is that right?

MR. SMITH: Yes, sir, it is sort of a dodge and I think we would be wrong to go along with this.

THE CHAIRMAN: I agree with you. I have to ask for a motion and I assume I won't get one.

MR. LUTTRELL: I will make it, that we don't go along with it.



MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a second. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered. We won't go along with it.

MR. SMITH: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ensminger.

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, the first item I have for your consideration this morning is a request we have received by a Mr. Perkins of South Carolina to establish an alligator farm in Louisiana.

Several months ago or a year or so ago this Commission made a statement of policy or position that we would encourage and assist people who were interested in establishing alligator farms in the state by providing them with technical assistance as well as providing them with a nucleus of breeding stock, either through providing eggs or suitable breeding alligators.

Mr. Perkins has agreed to comply with the



terms that our technician set forth with regard to the construction of appropriate pens and brooding areas and he has also agreed to return to the Commission a five percent annual return of the number of alligators that he is successful in producing from eggs that we provide to him. Certainly we don't need any alligators. However, this does give us an opportunity to exert some influence over Mr. Perkins' alligator farming activity and it would also provide us with a suitable source of alligators to give to other interested alligator farmers.

I would like to request that you gentlemen approve the Director entering into a contract agreement type of arrangement with Mr. Perkins to provide him with suitable alligator stock and in turn he would then be committed to work closely with our people and return the annual five percent of his successful hatching and raising of 'gators on his farming activity.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair would like to have an amendment to that, stating that we do not have to take that five percent if we don't want



them. I am against that. We have got too damned many alligators now.

MR. ENSMINGER: This would be very appropriate of course to include a clause in there that the Commission would have the prerogative of not taking the things. He will establish his farm, by the way, in southwest Louisiana, in Calcasieu Parish I understand, which is in the delisted area, and certainly this will be a new industry for the state. The man is anticipating spending several hundred thousand dollars, so it will certainly be a new and novel part of our state's economy.

MR. WILLE: Why couldn't it be possible for us to put an option in there to exercise that five percent in the event somebody else decides to start a farm we could pull eggs out of his place.

MR. ENSMINGER: I am sure he is agreeable to anything like this.

MR. WILLE: We don't need five percent more alligators!

MR. ENSMINGER: Well, probably not. However, we are, as you are aware, participating with other states in providing --



MR. WILLE: Right, but let's give them the alligators out of the swamp. Let's don't take them from a farm and give them to the other states.

MR. ENSMINGER: Those people in Mississippi have about got all the alligators they want, I am afraid, those 10 and 12-footers. But we can work with Mr. Perkins on this thing I think to stimulate an additional natural resource industry for the state.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those of us who live in south Louisiana know quite well that it is not the alligator but us coonasses that are on the endangered species list.

MR. ENSMINGER: That is about right. I wish you guys would stop talking about alligators. I am afraid Chalin Perez is going to get up here and say something about them. I have heard a little bit from him about alligators in years gone by, too.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. Do I have a motion?

MR. WILLE: So move.



MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille and seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered. That is with the proviso, though, that you can give them that five percent back if you want to, isn't it?

MR. ENSMINGER: Right.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is in favor of encouraging the development of new resource-oriented industries in the state, and

WHEREAS, biological data collected by Department technicians has established techniques by which American alligators can be propagated in captivity, and



WHEREAS, the Department has surplus alligators located on refuges located in the portion of the state where alligators are delisted, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robert Perkins, of North Carolina, has made an official request to the Department for assistance in establishing a farm and has agreed to return to the Department five percent of the young alligators hatched from eggs provided by the Department,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the Secretary to enter into an agreement with Mr. Perkins to provide alligator eggs to establish an alligator farm, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department can exercise the option of receiving five percent of the hatchlings on an annual basis or waiving this option if the Department



technicians determine that there is not a use for these hatchlings for restocking or establishment of additional alligator farms.

MR. ENSMINGER: The second item for your consideration is a consideration for approval for the Director to extend the trapping season in specific areas along our coast if it is needed. In the past I think you gentlemen that have been on this board in years gone by have seen these extension requests come in at the last minute and there has always been a lot of controversy or comments at least about the fact that we were extending the season, and since we have taken over Mr. O'Neil's responsibilities, I didn't see any point in changing it. I thought we would come back and ask for the approval a little bit earlier, however.

We do have some areas at this time out in southwest Louisiana where we do have some extremely high muskrat and nutria populations on specific areas. The McIlhenny property, which you extended the season on last year, has continued



on through the summer months and into the fall with a very high muskrat population. We are estimating somewhere around 50,000 to 60,000 rats on a small tract of land out there and, as you can visualize, that heavy a concentration of rodents can cause tremendous edaphic damage in a localized area.

The nutria population along the north shore of Vermilion Bay, extending from about Weeks Island to the west around the northwestern side of the bay, is nearly equal to the population that I saw there in 1955 as any time since that time. There are some tremendous eat-outs occurring. The trappers in that area have taken a large number of nutria. However, this type of weather we have had here for the last few days is not conducive to good trapping. In the high water conditions in the marsh the animals stop moving and consequently the trappers have a very poor trapping success.

I think we will have some areas, possibly some here in southeast Louisiana. At the present time we are unaware of them, but I think that if the Director has the authority to extend



the season that people that are having trouble with their marshes could write in and then we could have our fur technicians look at the area and make recommendations to him to extend the season for up to 15 days in March.

With that, I would like to request that this be granted.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will only accept this request if you make that in honor of Ted O'Neil.

MR. ENSMINGER: This will be in honor of Ted, in perpetuation of his interest.

MR. WILLE: I so move.

MR. RIGGS: Mr. Chairman, I so move to adopt the resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wille, will you yield to Mr. Riggs?

MR. RIGGS: Oh, I am sorry. I will second it then.

MR. WILLE: I will yield. I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wille will yield to you, Mr. Riggs, and he will second. All in favor say aye.



IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered, and let the record so reflect that this is done in honor of Ted O'Neil.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has received several inquiries with regard to extension of the 1977-78 trapping season, and

WHEREAS, overpopulations of furbearing animals such as muskrat and nutria have historically caused damage to the habitat, and

WHEREAS, trapping is the only practical means for a marsh manager to control populations of furbearing animals, and

WHEREAS, other forms of wildlife are dependent upon marsh



plant communities, and

WHEREAS, a 15-day extension of the trapping season can be administered without jeopardizing fur resources, and

WHEREAS, extensions in the past trapping seasons have proven to be beneficial on local areas to control overpopulations,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to extend the trapping season 15 days beyond the established closing date of February 28, 1978, in areas of the coastal marshes where it is determined by technicians of the Fur and Refuge Division that additional trapping is needed to protect the plant communities.

MR. ENSMINGER: The next item I have for your consideration is a request from Superior Oil Company to conduct some geophysical activity on



their leases on our Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish.

Superior Oil Company owns two leases and is a major participator and operator in two additional leases on the refuge. This particular field is where a lion's share of our Rockefeller revenues are derived. The company has been requested by the State Mineral Board to provide them with a development program and an outline as to their anticipated future development of these leases.

In order to accurately evaluate those leases, of course, they will need to run a geophysical program over them. They have adjoining mineral operators that have contiguous boundary lines along their lease and they will obtain letters of permission from those adjoining mineral holders to extend their geophysical lines over onto their leases.

However, there will be about 10 or 12 of the lines that they would like a letter of no objection from our Commission, contingent upon receiving approval from the Mineral Board and the



Department of Natural Resources to lay reflector cables beyond their leased acreage boundary and onto unleased acreage on the refuge. These will be for evaluation purposes only for the leased acreage and there will be no shooting or shot points taken outside of their leased areas.

So, with this in mind and since it is to evaluate the leases on the refuge, I would recommend that we issue Superior a letter of no objection, that your Commission has no objection to this being granted contingent upon them receiving the appropriate approval from the Department of Natural Resources.

THE CHAIRMAN: Allan, as I understand it, these are going to run something like telephone lines out over this area to pick up reflection from the other --

MR. ENSMINGER: That is correct. This is known as stack shooting and it is the reflector cable they lay out there to record the elapsed time from the time the charge is shot until it goes down to the subsurface formation and reflects back up to the recording device.



THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. DUPUY: I will move.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Superior Oil Company has several mineral leases on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS, several of these leases have been under production for several years, and

WHEREAS, Superior Oil Company has been requested by the Mineral Board office of the Department of Natural



Resources to provide a long range development and production program of the leases, and

WHEREAS, to appropriately evaluate the mineral reservoirs, it is necessary to conduct geophysical operations, and

WHEREAS, to accurately evaluate the acreage under lease to its maximum, reflector cables need to be extended beyond the lease boundary, and

WHEREAS, no shot points are to be made outside of the lease boundary, and

WHEREAS, Superior Oil Company agrees to obtain letters of no objection from adjoining lease holders,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Superior Oil Company to conduct these activities, provided that the appropriate permission is obtained from

the adjacent lease holders as well as
the Department of Natural Resources,
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that
the Secretary is authorized to sign all
documents pertaining to this matter.

MR. ENSMINGER: The last item on the
agenda for your consideration is one from Natural
Gas Pipeline Company of America. This is a
Michigan firm or, pardon me, a Chicago firm, and
they are requesting a right-of-way to install a
12-inch natural gas pipeline across the western
end of Rockefeller Refuge.

They would pay us a fee of \$25 a rod
and this would represent some 1,200 rods for a
total fee of slightly over \$30,000. We have
several pipelines on the refuge and the method of
construction of push-type ditches with backfill
and the appropriate type of bulkheads and erosion
control features has not created problems for us
in the past, and I would recommend that you grant
the right-of-way to this company to install this
natural gas pipeline.



THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. Do I have a motion?

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Ensminger, be sure you make it one line, not multiple lines.

MR. ENSMINGER: Right. This will be on the standard state right-of-way form and this specifically spells out that it is for a single line. They have a 20-year period at which time they have an option of renewing for an additional 20 years.

MR. DUPUY: I will move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy. Do we have a second?

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Wille. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered. Thank you, Allan.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, we have received a



request from Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America to construct a 12-inch natural gas pipeline across the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish, and

WHEREAS, this work can be accomplished without adversely affecting the area,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant to Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America a right-of-way to install a 12-inch gas line across a portion of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge for a fee of \$25 per rod, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary is authorized to sign all documents pertaining to this matter.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herring.

MR. JOE HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the first thing we have is a release of a lease that we have had with Panola Land Company for approximately 8,000 acres, which was on our Concordia Wildlife



Management Area. They had requested this some time back, which we formally did release, but they say to make the release legal, they sent us some forms to fill out and ask the Commission to approve these for future sale of their land.

This is one of the real reasons that we need to own more of this land, because we do lose it in this manner once we develop it into wildlife management areas.

I would just recommend to the Commission that we approve this release.

THE CHAIRMAN: That just about winds up your --

MR. HERRING: It just about winds up that Concordia Area, Mr. Chairman. We will have about 1,200 acres left in there. It is owned by Fisher Lumber Company. At this time we don't have any indication from them that they will break that lease but the way this land is being cleared up in that part of the country for soybeans and for other reasons, it really just gets down to economics. There we do stand to lose a lot of this bottomland hardwoods that we have and this is



one reason we just need to buy as much of it as we can to insure a place that our people will have for hunting in the future there.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will entertain a motion.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell.

Do we have a second?

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy.

All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has received a request from Mr. John Sturgeon, Attorney, representing Panola Land and Development Company, for release of that Company's



land in the Concordia Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, these holdings are the major holdings in the Management Area, and

WHEREAS, this is one of the major reasons the Commission should continue and increase its land acquisition program, and

WHEREAS, the Commission stands to lose most or all of the lands we have under lease due to agriculture and other development,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission release the Panola Land and Development Company from its lease effective this date and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission continue and further strengthen its land acquisition programs.

MR. HERRING: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,



the next thing we have is a resolution pertaining to National Wildlife Week, which this year will be March 19-25, 1978, and the theme, "Wildlife Needs You."

This is something our Department has participated in each year and through a Governor's proclamation to help promote wildlife and some of the problems we have, fishery problems as well as game problems, estuarine problems, wetlands and even such things as losing the lands that we have on Wildlife Management Areas. This gives us a good opportunity during this time to make much of the public aware of some of the problems we have as well as some of the things that are being done for wildlife.

Thus far we have been pretty active in it this year in getting the activities started for this week but it kind of gives the sportsmen and others in the state some time that they might yell or bark about some of the good things that they are doing and let the public know that they are doing something good rather than some of the criticism maybe they get at some times.



So, I would just like to ask the Commission itself to go ahead and adopt that March 19 through 25 will be recognized in this state as National Wildlife Week.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you hear the recommendation. Do I have a motion?

MR. DUPUY: I will move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, this year we should reaffirm our dedication to provide a place on the American scene for our great wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, the ponds, marshes, swamps, streams, lakes, bogs, prairie



potholes, river deltas and estuarine areas -- in a word, the wetlands of our nation -- are the key to the survival of so much of our wildlife; and

WHEREAS, man is critically dependent, both spiritually and economically, on the wildlife of our wetland areas; and

WHEREAS, wetlands are an ever-shrinking resource because they are often thought to be of greater value when drained or filled to become cropland, highways, development sites, and the like; and

WHEREAS, we tend to overlook a human need of another sort -- the need to have healthy wildlife populations; and

WHEREAS, without our determined intervention, wetlands will continue to become drylands, to the detriment of ourselves and our fellow creatures; and



WHEREAS, the period March 19-25, 1978, has been designated as a special time for expressions of concern for wildlife habitat,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby proclaim March 19-25, 1978, as National Wildlife Week, urging united popular support for all governmental and private efforts to work and support this year's theme, "Wildlife Needs You."

THE CHAIRMAN: We will go back to Item No. 6 now with Mr. Schafer. Before going on to that, I want to introduce Representative Frank Patti and ask that he introduce his friends from Plaquemines Parish, Mr. Perez and some others that are here. We are glad to have you with us, Mr. Patti.

REPRESENTATIVE FRANK PATTI: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Commission. In addition to our many oyster friends from Plaquemines and St. Bernard, we do have some



elected officials here. I would like to introduce at this time our President of the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, Chalin Perez; the Vice President, Luke Petrovich. He is in the back. We also have Commissioner Mike Kirby and Commissioner Albert Beshel.

Let me also say, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to come back and say a few words later pertaining to Item No. 6 but I would like to follow the other speakers.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I am glad to have these gentlemen with us. I have known most of you for a number of years, particularly Mr. Perez and Mr. Petrovich. I enjoyed some of those good Plaquemines Parish oysters up in Washington last week. They didn't all work but they were good. Go ahead, Mr. Schafer.

MR. SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman, would you like to get No. 7 out of the way first? That is the acceptance of the channel.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. SCHAFFER: We have a letter from the Department of Public Works, recommending that we



do accept the work for Grillot Company, Inc., who did the contract on the outfall channel of Bayou Lamoque. Through Mr. Chalin Perez and the Plaquemines Parish people, we properly dedicated this structure and it is now in operation, and I would recommend that we accept this contract, this part of the contract, so Mr. Grillot can get his final payment.

THE CHAIRMAN: I heard that was a pretty good drunk instead of a dedication, but call it what you like.

MR. SCHAFER: A very good dedication!

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation, gentlemen. Do I have a motion?

MR. WILLE: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille and seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the



resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Chief Engineer
of the Department of Public Works,
State of Louisiana, has certified to
this Commission that the Contractor
has completed Contract No. 570-38-04
between the Louisiana Wildlife and
Fisheries Commission and Grillot
Company, Inc., for Bayou Lamoque
Improvements 1974 (Revised) Plaquemines
Parish, and has recommended that the
same be accepted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission that the work done by Grillot
Company, Inc., Contractor, under Con-
tract No. 570-38-04 with the Louisiana
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission,
dated January 28, 1977, be and is
hereby accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that
the Secretary be and is authorized and



directed to file a certified copy of this resolution in the Mortgage Records of Plaquemines Parish.

MR. SCHAFER: Item 6 on the agenda, Mr. Chairman, is involved in two parts that we would like to discuss. One is for the discussion of the oyster survey fees and the other is for the oyster lease rental fees.

As you know, our costs for boats and equipment, fuel, materials and supplies and insurance have been steadily going up. The payroll and the benefit costs for the payroll have steadily been going up. Our budget for the past four or five years has been pretty steady. It is on kind of a standstill budget that we are working on. The fees for the survey have not been increased since January 1, 1961, and at that time we only had 65,000 acres under lease and some 600 applications on file, as compared to about 210,000 acres under lease and about 1,800 applications on file.

The Commission has been spending, in figuring up the current year, about \$4 for every \$1 collected, doing these surveys.



Section 425 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes gives the Commission the authority to fix fees for survey and shall be paid by the applicant to the Commission in compensation for the services of making this survey.

We would like to increase these survey fees so that we can recoup the money that it is costing the survey section to make these surveys to the following: The present for minimum of 10 acres is now \$20 and we would like to go to \$50; from 10 to 20 acres, the present is \$30 and we would like to go to \$70. Every additional acre up to 200 acres, the present is 50 cents; we would like to go to \$2; and for every additional acre up to 1,000 acres, the present is 25 cents and we would like to go to \$1.

Under the new proposed fees for someone surveying a 1,000-acre application, the new cost would be \$1,230 as compared to \$320 of the old fees, which would recoup that four-to-one that it is now costing the Commission.

Would you want to act on this or do you want to go to --



THE CHAIRMAN: No, we will act on this now. It is \$50, as I understand it, for 10 acres minimum; \$70 for 10 to 20 acres; \$2 for every additional acre up to 200 acres; and \$1 for each additional acre up to 1,000 acres.

Gentlemen, you hear the recommendation. Do I have a motion? Does anybody on the floor want to speak? Mr. Perez? Mr. Chalin Perez, Parish President of Plaquemines Parish.

MR. CHALIN PEREZ: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, I don't necessarily want to speak at this time but it seems to me that inasmuch as there are going to be several very radical and far-reaching changes in all of your structure fees, particularly with regard to acreage, that I would like to suggest that we address ourselves to the whole problem at the same time rather than piecemealing this thing, because I do believe it would be an injustice both to the people who are here and also to the Commission not to have the whole picture in front of you at one time.

I would frankly like not to have to speak on this particular subject because I recognize the



need for some adjustments, but at the same time some of the things that you fellows are proposing to do today are a radical departure from what you do in other fields, and for that reason I would like to suggest maybe, if it were in order, that the whole subject matter of what to do about changing fees for oyster fishermen be discussed at one time rather than take up one particular phase of it at a time, if that is in order.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair will yield to Mr. Perez' suggestion. We will take up now the first item on the agenda under you Mr. Schafer, which is the rental.

MR. SCHAFFER: Under the oyster lease rental fees now being charged, of course the expenses are the same. The increase has been going up continuously and the longer we keep the fees that we have got now, the more in the hole we go. We figured up the same thing the '74-'75 fiscal year and back then it was costing us \$3 for every \$1; today it is costing us \$4 for every \$1 we are taking in. Those same expenses involve the rental also, and this rental fee has not



increased since this law went into effect, since the State started leasing back in 1903, when the law required \$1 per acre per year at that time, and it hasn't gone up since that time.

The legislature did give the Commission authority under Section 425 to fix these fees at not less than \$1 nor more than \$5, so you do have some authority to raise these rental fees.

We would just like you to discuss, knowing our problem of the money that we need to continue these services and to keep us from going further in the hole, we would like to see these fees raised.

MR. WILLE: Harry, at the same time with these fees, are you proposing an increase in the survey?

MR. SCHAFER: Both the survey and the rental fees, right.

MR. WILLE: O. K., because I knew that we were losing our donkey on that survey, from what I understood, anyway.

THE CHAIRMAN: He first made the recommendation a minute ago when Mr. Perez asked that



we consider that later because there is some input in the audience he wants to get in before making a decision on it.

MR. WILLE: O. K., fine. I missed that, I am sorry, Harry.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anything else you want to say, Mr. Schafer, before I call for input from the audience?

MR. SCHAFFER: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just as a matter of record, the Chair would like to know how many people in the audience today own leases.

(Show of hands)

How many in here operate on a share-cropper basis, who operate other people's leases?

(Two hands raised)

We have got two. Yes, sir.

MR. LUTTRELL: So that I can be more knowledgeable about this proposition, Harry, you said this fee was established as \$1 an acre in 1903 and it is still \$1 today.

MR. SCHAFFER: Right.

MR. LUTTRELL: What was the income of the



oyster fisherman in 1903? In other words, how much did he get per sack for oysters?

MR. SCHAFER: I understand it was about 50 cents a sack back at those days.

MR. LUTTRELL: All right, and today he gets about --

MR. SCHAFER: Oh, it runs anywhere from \$6 to \$10 now.

MR. LUTTRELL: I see. Then he is still paying the same fee for a \$7 or \$8 sack of oysters as he paid back for a 50-cent sack of oysters?

MR. SCHAFER: Yes.

MR. LUTTRELL: I see. I just wanted to get a picture of that.

MR. RIGGS: I might mention this one fact, that even considering the proposed increase in fees would make the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries break even, under the present restriction of the legislature, in another five years the Department will still be losing money, even though they adopted an increase. That is a consideration, too.

MR. SCHAFER: I think with the increase



in these fees, too, we would be able to give better services and that we won't have as many applicants coming in. There will be less speculation on what is good ground and what is bad ground. Some of the marginal stuff would probably be released and might be taken up by some of the smaller people who could work these things a little bit more intensively.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who at this time would like to be heard from the audience? Mr. Perez? Mr. Patti?

REPRESENTATIVE PATTI: Mr. Chairman, I overlooked introducing the police juror from St. Bernard Parish and my district, Mr. Rodrigues, who is standing up by that door there.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rodrigues, glad to have you with us.

MR. CHALIN PEREZ: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, I am sure, as you are aware, that this is a matter of no small importance to a large segment of the people of our parish. What is proposed here today is in one giant step to multiply by five times the fees



being paid for the right to the use of lands for people to make a living. I don't recall at any other time by any other board under any other circumstances that there was ever such a radical approach or such a drastic approach towards trying to solve a problem.

You know, I think that many of you who really are not familiar with how oyster fishermen fish and oyster culture don't realize what it takes to make an oyster bed profitable and usable. There are no questions that there are some beds which in their natural state are productive but there are many, many beds that require very substantial investments on the part of an oyster fisherman before these beds are suitable for oyster culture.

Many oyster fishermen have to come in and either put in oysters, clam shells or other shells at tremendous cost in order to be able to make their beds productive, so it is not just a question of how many dollars does it take, how many dollars is the state receiving and what it cost years ago for a sack of oysters and what do they get for a sack of oysters today. The farmer is in



the same condition and so is just about anybody else, but on the other hand, the cost to the farmer today of his fuel and his tractors and everything else he operates has increased dramatically and so has the cost, even more so, because all work on the waters has to be with an awful lot of fuel expense and other expenses have increased to the fishermen tremendously.

It is not just a consideration of what did we get in the old days and what are we getting today. One of the big problems that oyster fishermen have today is trying to protect what they legitimately want to use in order to stop other people from encroaching on them, and because of the fact that there is a great deal of lack of accuracy and the preservation of stakes where people fish, they have got to protect that acreage by buying sometimes three, four and five times as much surrounding the area that they are using in order to protect the acreage that they are actually using; so it is costing them three, four and five times as much as one dollar, but if you multiply those -- say a man has 100 acres he is



using and he picks up 400 to protect the 100, he is now paying \$400, and if you multiply that by five, you are talking about \$2,000, and that is one of the problems that we are discussing, the fact that it is not only the acreage that the man has to hold in order to produce but it is also the acreage which he has to hold to protect his area, to see to it that it is not encroached.

Another problem that oyster fishermen have is the fact that they -- just like the fields that you use, you cannot continue to utilize the same area year after year after year for oyster production. There are many areas where an oyster fisherman will plant one year here and then by the time that crop matures he has to let that lay by and go to another area. None of these considerations are being taken into account with respect to the value of oyster beds.

But I might say to you, gentlemen, I don't know whether you are going to approach the same problem with regard, for instance, to sport hunting. Are we going to decide how much it costs for all of these various wildlife refuges



throughout the state and say, O. K., it costs the state X-millions of dollars and so therefore each man who buys a hunting license, instead of paying \$5, maybe he is going to have to \$100 or \$200. If we try to figure out what the costs of acquisition, administering are, you know, are we going to say it is O. K. for the sportsmen to use this for recreation but the guy has got to make a living so we are going to get from him what it costs us to administer these programs?

I don't think that that is really a reasonable, right approach unless you are going to say you are going to do that with regard to all of government, and we know we don't operate government that way.

But let me call to your attention the fact that under the Constitution of 1974 there are no such things as dedicated funds, so you could decide that you are going to increase, if you had the authority to do it, to \$100 an acre a year, and you wouldn't have one guarantee that you would get one more dollar to be utilized for your wild-life and fishery purposes. So, if you take this



drastic action of going from \$1 to \$5, you are not guaranteeing these oyster fishermen that they are going to benefit one iota. I think that is a bad, bad thing to try to promise and make these people believe, well, look if we increase your fees here and we increase your lease rental here, we are going to be able to give you people better service. You don't know and it is not under your control to provide these people better service because of the fact that it is up to the legislature to appropriate these funds, and you have no direct control over them.

Now I know that you can go recommend. I know you can go and say to the legislature, "Gee, we increased the fees so you ought to give us some more money," but that is strictly at the will of the legislature, and maybe some north Louisiana legislators may come along and say, "Well, look, gentlemen, we think that money would be better used by buying us a wildlife refuge up in north Louisiana somewhere." That has been done time and time again.

When these funds were dedicated funds,



prior to 1974, there were tremendous balances left in the wildlife refuge fund. Where did those monies go? Throughout the rest of the state to support the rest of the state.

I say to you and I challenge any one of you to prove otherwise, that the fisheries of south Louisiana more than provide every dollar that is spent by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. In fact, you don't spend enough dollars down here taking care of the wildlife and fisheries business and too large a share of the income that comes from the wildlife and fisheries goes to sports fishing.

So, there is no justification, no reason that you can go to a fisherman and say, "Look, we are going to charge you more so we can give you better service, or we are going to charge you more because you are not putting up your fair share," because neither one of those arguments applies.

I would like to suggest to you that there has to be some other reason, some other motive, as to why there would be such a radical proposal, going from \$1 to \$5 in one giant step. I think that part of that reason, or a large part of the reason,



goes along the lines of there are many people who buy oyster leases with the hope that someday, somehow, they may receive some benefits from it and not necessarily directly from oyster culture.

I suggest to you gentlemen that the way to cure that problem, I suggest to you that there could be standards adopted with regard to the prices paid, and that if a person is actively utilizing a substantial percentage of the leased acreage, that his rental should be such that you would encourage oyster culture. On the other hand, if you have people who are holding acreage for years and years and not utilizing it, then I think those people ought to pay an awful lot because we all know that they are holding it, first of all, and not making it productive for the people of the state, and they are not producing the foodstuffs.

I would like to suggest to you that there should be some approach where we might have what might be called a grandfather clause, that those who already have it ought to be able to hold onto their acreages at a price substantially less than \$5, that any new leases, if you so feel that you



have to increase the prices, that the new leases would be under the new price, and that, if as a result of any leases being dropped, the new leases would be at the increased price.

I do think it is a tremendously drastic thing to tell a man who has had his oyster leases over the long, many years, and this is his means of livelihood and he has spent substantial sums of money improving it, and all of a sudden say, "Partner, we are going to increase your rent five times, we are going to multiply it five times." Many times it is realistically a lot more than five times what he is really using. It is a tremendously drastic thing and I think it is terribly ill-advised, and it is going to do a great deal of harm to the oyster industry. I think you fellows ought to seriously think about this.

MR. WILLE: Chalin, Mr. Chairman, I think a motion is in order right now and I am going to make it and we will see if we can get a second to it, that we appoint three Commission members as an advisory panel to work with Mr. Perez and the oyster people, and we won't make



any decision on this thing now, we will get together with the appointees that the Chairman will make and meet and we will go over this thing and see if we can come up with a sensible recommendation to the Commission --

MR. PEREZ: I would appreciate that very much.

MR. WILLE: -- within the next, well, let's say 30 to 60 days.

MR. PEREZ: I am sure the fishermen would appreciate that very much also.

MR. WILLE: O. K. I made the motion. Do I have a second?

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion by Mr. Wille. Is there a second?

MR. DUPUY: I would like to hear some more discussion before we vote on that motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you like to withdraw the motion, Mr. Wille?

MR. WILLE: All right, I will withdraw the motion at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: And we will have more discussion, is that satisfactory?



MR. DUPUY: I think there are some other people in the industry that would like to be heard.

MR. WILLE: Well, I think that most of the people that are here are all on the same side as Mr. Perez, from what I can gather, but in the event that there is any objection to that, we will be glad to hear it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perez, I think Mr. Gilbert wanted to address you for a minute.

MR. GILBERT: No, that's O. K., Chalin. I just want to tell you the hunters' license fee --

MR. PEREZ: Has jumped from one to five over a period of years, yes.

MR. GILBERT: Correct. It has gone from -- in '74 it was raised from two to five.

MR. PEREZ: Yes, sir.

MR. GILBERT: So they have borne a share and there are many, many more hunters than there are oyster leases.

MR. PEREZ: But it is only a total of \$2 to \$5 instead of \$2,000 to \$5,000, you know.

MR. GILBERT: But look how many more hunters there are in this state. We have some



400,000 hunters.

MR. PEREZ: I was only trying to utilize that as an example, from a standpoint of how much does it cost to manage, own and manage these wild-life areas throughout the state, and how much revenue does the state receive in return, as compared to how much do the fisheries interests put into the state treasury and how much do they get back. I think if you compared it, you would find out that the fisheries interests put more in than they get out, as compared to the sports hunting, which put a lot less in.

MR. GILBERT: One other point, Chalin. I don't agree with your statement that the oyster farmer, or rather the leaseholder, has to lease additional acreage all around what he has leased. If I own a piece of property and I have trespassers on this piece of property, if I followed your example I would either buy the surrounding land or lease the surrounding land.

MR. PEREZ: Well, Sonny, see, if you lived out in our neck of the woods, you would understand it a little better. When you can get



in your pickup truck and drive around the perimeter any time of day or night and protect your area, you would be right, but if you had to live out in the marshes, and people generally don't live in the marshes right where the oyster beds are any more, but when they get into questions about where a lease line is, you have always got a road or you have got something else, but you are out in the middle of the water and you have a stake, and this man picks your stake up and he moves it 200 or 300 feet over here.

You know what I have had happen with Wildlife and Fisheries leases? This is God's truth. I had a darnedest fight in Bay Adam one time. We had one lease sitting like this and another lease like this and another lease like this, and one man was planting and two other people were taking them up. If you want to see some fusses out in the marshes, you ought to come out and live with us a little while. It is not the same as living on high ground and protecting your ground there. It is an awful lot different, believe me.



THE CHAIRMAN: I was telling Sonny, don't go out there!

MR. GILBERT: Just one other point, Chalin. You know that that has not been raised since 1903.

MR. PEREZ: I am not in disagreement, sir, that there should be some adjustments. I am just saying that a \$5 increase, multiplying it by five times, and again this is these people's livelihood and you are not just talking about an acre, you are talking about up to 1,000 acres per person, so you are talking about going from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for rental. I don't think any of your tenants that you ever had on your farms, that you ever said, "Partner, I am going to multiply your rent five times in one year." I would doubt that any farmer has ever done that to one of his tenants.

MR. GILBERT: I couldn't have stayed in business if I hadn't raised it since 1903; I would not be here today!

MR. PEREZ: Senator, I am in total agreement that there should be some adjustment. I just think that what is proposed today, the radical



multiplication by five times, is just much too much, and I really think we ought to sit down and talk about it.

Thank you.

MR. RIGGS: Mr. Perez, could I address you with a question, sir?

MR. PEREZ: Yes, sir.

MR. RIGGS: I am new on the Commission but I have been informed by pretty reliable sources that some people hold large leases that they don't actually fish themselves, they sublet them to other people and more or less draw a royalty.

MR. PEREZ: First, there is a limitation, I believe -- what is it, a thousand acres per person? A thousand acres per person, so no one can hold more than a thousand acres, but that is an awful lot of acres. But the truth of the matter is that most good oyster fishermen own their own leases. Again, I have explained that an awful lot of people have spent fortunes improving the property over a period of years. I say to you that is one of the problems we are having that we need to work out, but because there are some people who

are sharecropping these things, and some people who are abusing the rights that are given to them, is no reason to penalize the 95 percent of the fellows who are good, solid, honest oyster fishermen. That is the problem we have got, you see.

MR. RIGGS: Then one other question. I understand that we do have numerous acreages leased that are non-productive, and of course the personnel here in the department seem to think that it might cause people to get out and develop these areas and make them productive if there was an increased fee, that possibly they would get out and work a little bit harder to develop them. Do you think that would happen?

MR. PEREZ: Well, the ones that are generally not developed are not ever going to be developed, anyhow, and we suspect that people buy leases for purposes other than to cultivate oysters, but be that as it may, there are ways of handling the matter, and in my remarks I suggested that what should be done is see if we can't promote oyster culture by those who are actively handling their leases, possibly having one rental, and those



who are letting these leases lay by year after year after year, making it expensive enough for them either to utilize it or give it up.

I think that we could come up with some sort of formula like that which might solve a lot of problems and at the same time encourage oyster culture.

THE CHAIRMAN: Isn't there a proviso in the law where a man who has a lease has to farm at least 10 percent of it or either lose it?

MR. PEREZ: Yes, I think it is Section 488, if you will hand me that book, please.

THE CHAIRMAN: Maybe all of a sudden this Commission ought to start enforcing that.

MR. PEREZ: Yes, there is a provision, Section 428, and if you will look at your little green book, it is on page 112, which requires that each tenant leasing water bottoms shall each year after the commencement of the lease place under cultivation at least one-tenth of the leased barren water bottoms and that each lessee shall plant their own sufficient shells and so forth.

We have a lot of good solid provisions



in the law already, and it seems to me that that is the more realistic approach rather than just say across the board, whether you have been a good productive oyster farmer and you have been putting shells in and you have been spending your money to improve the area so that we can have improved oyster culture, we are going to stick you the same as this other guy who sits there holding that lease for nothing, hoping that somebody may come along some kind of way and benefit him financially otherwise.

That is why I think this matter needs a great deal more study with some solid recommendations.

MR. LAPEYRE: Mr. Perez, I would have to say that when I came into this meeting today, and I was presented with the figures that Harry has stated, that adjustments have not been made since 1903, that the argument for a raise even to \$5 seemed entirely justifiable and reasonable, called for and probably necessary. However, you have made points which make me think that perhaps I don't fully understand the economics of the



situation, and therefore I would be prepared to second the motion if it is called again, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WILLE: I would like to know if there is anybody opposed to the motion that would wish to be heard, the motion as I made it for this thing to go under a study.

THE CHAIRMAN: State your name and who you represent, sir.

MR. WILLIAM A. KASS, IV: William A. Kass, IV, President, Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association. I would like to go on record right now as supporting Mr. Wille's motion because since 1976, I have it written in black and white, this Association has proposed to the Wildlife and Fisheries some raises to be made to compensate for the losses, and I think by sitting down and working this thing out, we can come to a justifiable reason.

Gentlemen, one thing I want to consider if you are not going to pass this motion today, I would like to have everyone heard who has their reasons, and one reason I would like to point out



right now, the survey fee should go up, yes. It has got to be worked out. But if you go up on the rentals, are you going to rebate these fishermen when they are wiped out by natural and manmade disasters which we are not protected by. I think Mr. Perez pointed out that we have great investments to be made, and the costs. You are talking about economics. Well, check into the cost of producing a sack of oysters and you will find out, I would like to go back to that 50-cents-a-sack day because there was a lot more profit made on the dollar invested.

I would encourage Mr. Wille to make this motion again and as a state association we would support it.

MR. WILLE: Let me restate the motion and say this, if the motion is defeated by the Commission, then everybody will be heard. It is not going to hurt anything for the motion to be made, so I am going to make the motion again that the Chairman of the Commission appoint a three-member body from the Commission to study this thing and give us at least 30 to 60 days, whichever is



appropriate, until we feel we can come with a good solid recommendation back to the Commission, or this body feels that they can come back with a good solid recommendation to the Commission, and that is in the form of a motion, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion made by Mr. Wille. Yes, sir, would you come forward?

I am sorry, I have a motion on the floor and I have got to get a second to it. Wait just one minute, sir.

MR. LAPEYRE: I second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have a second by Mr. Lapeyre. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, I am in full agreement with the motion but I believe that while all these folks are here we ought to hear as much we can for the record so that we will indeed know --

MR. WILLE: Marc, I have no objection to sitting here all day long. The only reason I am making a motion --

MR. DUPUY: Well, I think the motion was



premature but --

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I have a motion and a second. I would like to call for a vote. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Representative Patti.

REPRESENTATIVE PATTI: Members of the Commission, let me take a moment to congratulate Mr. Wille and the members for the motion that you just passed. I think that was the proper thing to do. I had come here this morning against the increase and of course Representative Fernandez called me last night, he was against it, so I think what you are doing here now, with a subcommittee from this Commission, plus an input from the oyster growers themselves, over a period of time can work this thing out together. You can get an input from them on their feelings and the whole thing to get a clearer picture, and I think the final conclusion will be a good thing and hopefully



a help to the commercial fishermen because lately they have been getting the short end of the stick. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Representative Patti. Yes, sir.

MR. HENRY RODRIGUES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you state your name, please.

MR. RODRIGUES: Henry Rodrigues, District Eight, Police Juror, St. Bernard Parish.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is for the record's sake so we can get it on the tape.

MR. RODRIGUES: Yes, sir. Thank you. We came up here today in opposition to what you had proposed and I am glad to see this motion pass. The only thing I would like to add, is there any possibility of a member from St. Bernard Parish being on this committee? I don't quite understand about your committee.

MR. WILLE: The committee will be from the Commission, Commission members. It will be three people from the Commission that will be



appointed by the Chairman, and they will meet with your different various committees that you may propose, like your police jury. They will meet with Mr. Perez and his group. Then when they get all though compiling all this, they will make the recommendation to the Commission. In other words, this will be an impartial committee from the Commission. There will be three Commission members.

MR. RODRIGUES: O. K. In other words, you will have three Commission members from the Wildlife and Fisheries.

MR. WILLE: Three people from this Commission that you see sitting right here now, there will be three appointees by the Chairman.

MR. LAPEYRE: And I might add, of course, members of the staff, the Commission staff.

MR. WILLE: Right, there will be Commission staff members, too, to help with this thing. It is not going to be any kangaroo type thing, I will tell you that.

MR. RODRIGUES: That is all I wanted to know. I was a little confused when I came in here. I wasn't quite sure whether I was at the Sportsmen's



League or Wildlife and Fisheries.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, sir.

The Chair at this time is going to name Mr. Wille to chair this committee, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Lapeyre. Do any of these gentlemen have any objection to being put on that, do you have time to do it? The committee stands with Mr. Lapeyre, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Wille.

Is there anybody else would like to be heard? We are going to go on until about 11:30. We have the National DU Symposium with Secretary Andrus at 12 o'clock over at the Hyatt Regency. You are all invited to this DU Symposium and that is why we set the meeting for 9:00 o'clock this morning instead of 10:00, the usual time, and we are trying to move the meeting along. Does anyone else wish to be heard? Mr. Kass.

MR. WILLIAM A. KASS, IV: Gentlemen, we have two things that have been brought to the Association.

One of the problems is the new oyster tags that we are getting four different stories on it and we would like if you all could clear it



up. We are getting one story that the tags cost a cent and three cents for enforcement. Another is three cents for cost and one cent for handling. The third was one cent on cost and three cents on severance taxes and two cents cost and two cents handling. If you all could, we would like to have this clarified.

Also, the only other problem we have is we would like to know what happened that a drilling rig was permitted to be put on top of a shell plant in the Black Bay area where we are fighting for shells right now. We are pretty short of it and we would like to know what happened to this. A lot of fishermen was pretty upset to see a drilling rig sitting on top of the shell planted this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Harry, can you answer that? I imagine one of the reasons, Mr. Kass, we are short on energy in this country and we are trying to play catch-up but we don't control all that. The State Mineral Board has the right to make the leases and do make the leases. Go ahead, Harry, and see if you can answer his questions.

MR. SCHAFFER: As for the tags, we went



through and tried to estimate what it would cost for the administrative cost, enforcement and everything having to do with these tags, the new oyster tags that the legislature gave to the Wildlife and Fisheries, which used to be with the Health Department. The new law gave this authority to the Wildlife and Fisheries.

We tried to figure all expenses involved and we came up with a four-cent per tag, buying them in a thousand-lot.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are those paper tags?

MR. SCHAFFER: Cardboard tags with a plastic dart on them so they can be stuck on the sack real fast.

THE CHAIRMAN: You can buy those for four cents apiece. Tell him what your cost is.

MR. SCHAFFER: Well, we tried to figure everything we could. Enforcement. It has nothing to do with severance tax. It does not include any severance tax. This is for the clerical help, the administrative help, the tags themselves, what it cost us to buy the tags, just any costs that we came up with, and we came up with four cents per



tag in thousand lots.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does that answer that for you, Mr. Kass?

MR. KASS: That is enforcement, the cost of the tags and the cost of handling, right?

MR. SCHAFER: Administrative, right. And it does not include any severance tax.

Now, as far as the rig that moved in, they did have a permit from the Mineral Board. They moved in at night. We didn't know about it until we woke up the next morning. A man called and said there was a rig right on the new shell plant that we planted last year that was supposed to be opened this September. We went and tried to stop them from doing anything. That was on a weekend at night. When we got there they were already some 3,500 feet down in the ground, they already had punched a hole. I had my biologist stay there the whole time and we are keeping track of what is happening on the shell plant because of the rig being there, and once this is completed, we will bring this before you, the damage that was done, and if you want to pursue it with the company



to get these damages back from the company from what they caused on this shell plant, that will be your prerogative.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your estimated cost of the damages?

MR. SCHAFFER: We don't have it completely figured yet. We are still waiting for mortality. They have moved off now, they are gone now, and we want to wait a couple of weeks and then go back and check mortality again and see if any mortality develops.

THE CHAIRMAN: When did this happen, Harry? When did this take place?

MR. SCHAFFER: This was about three weeks ago, yes. During the holidays when everybody was off.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Do you usually keep this information to yourself, Harry, or do you disseminate this within the Commission, because this is news to me as Director.

MR. SCHAFFER: It is usually disseminated.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Just one of them we missed, eh?



THE CHAIRMAN: This is the first I have heard about it.

MR. LUTTRELL: It seems that some discussion between this Board and the Mineral Board might be in order, to give a permit out without checking with us.

MR. KASS: If I may, I would like to clarify a little something here. We are talking about raising because we need more money. We are talking about over a hundred thousand dollars worth of shells that were planted for oystermen. Now for the last three months I have been coming here and getting mad like a monkey, sometimes people think it is, hollering about letters of no objection. Before that rig could be on that shell they have to have a letter of no objection from this Wildlife and Fisheries Department.

Now either somebody is incompetent in signing these letters or they have got a rubber stamp somewhere. Now all we are doing is bringing a problem, and this doesn't look good. We are fighting for survival. We are looking at taxes being raised up 500 percent, and here we are,



\$100,000 worth of shells being wasted. Sure, compensation. What, \$5,000 or \$10,000 maybe for half a million dollarsworth of seed oysters that would be so valuable this September.

You heard the biologist in here a month ago tell you there is no more seed. Now here is a shell plant area. Now somebody had to issue a letter of no objection because the Corps of Engineers won't give them this drilling rig, so I ask you gentlemen to maybe look at who is stamping these letters of no objection or who is signing them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kass, let me say this. I am sure that the Department did it, issue a letter of no objection. However, there are 4,000 or 5,000 requests made for letters of no objection each year to this Department, to the best of my recollection, and I am sure that Dr. St. Amant and his staff issued this letter, but I am sure they did it to the best of their ability. If they had a hundred more people to investigate these things, I am sure they could handle it in a much better way.



However, we will go back and see if we can recover some damages if there are damages to the reef. The State I am sure got a good handsome lease on that property. I am sure if it is a productive well that they will also get a lot of taxes from it, and hopefully we can get some more money and plant some more reefs to relieve you.

I understand your plight and I agree with you that you have got some problems and we will try to work with you and work it out.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Yes, but in defense of Dr. St. Amant, I am sure he is in the building somewhere, he might have been on the phone, but I think we should ask him while the news media is here, there are accusations being made and I think we should ask him to come in and defend himself.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will someone get Dr. St. Amant, please.

MR. KASS: Mr. Berry, you are 100 percent right about 4,000 applications, but I am sure there are very few applications that read Black Bay or Bay DuChene or any seed ground sanctuary that this state paid for, and I am sure when that



letter of objection -- because I read every one of them; in the morning it takes me five minutes to go over this set of things -- and if the bays are not labelled on there where an oyster-growing area is, I throw them in the garbage can. But anything that has an oyster-growing area, I pull them out and see that some of the fishermen in that area get it.

I think if I can go through these permits in five minutes, I am sure Dr. St. Amant, who is a much more brilliant man than I am, can do it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me say this, Mr. Kass, with respect to Dr. St. Amant. You said somebody is either incompetent or had a rubber stamp. I don't think you will find anybody in the United States, and Dr. St. Amant is known worldwide, who will tell you that he is incompetent. There might have been an error made here but I wish that everybody we had on this Commission was as competent as Dr. St. Amant. Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: I don't know what the problem is yet.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kass, would you come



back up and state that again so Dr. St. Amant can rebuke what you said or give a reason for it.

MR. KASS: Between Christmas and New Year's of this year a drilling rig was placed on top of a shell plant in the Black Bay area. Does that clarify it, Doc?

DR. ST. AMANT: I understand that there was a rig that moved in or near this plant and it did come in and they were notified there was a planting in the area. We were under the impression they were working on the edge of it. Now Mr. Dugas informed me that as they moved in there, they were within the planted section.

I don't know whether this was intentional or whether it was accidental. We have made the appropriate presentation to these people to do something about it. I think either we are going to get some correction on it or we are going to get something in kind.

THE CHAIRMAN: His question, Doc, was why a letter of no objection was issued on this particular reef, on this particular area.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Does the Department



pinpoint the location?

DR. ST. AMANT: The Department pinpoints the location of the oil well and we know we have a planting in there, but there is also an oil field right in the whole area; the State of Louisiana has issued a lease, and there is a complete set of wells all over this area. Now what happened is they exercised their right within their lease with the State of Louisiana to drill this well and they moved over toward the edge of this thing, and apparently either their line went further or our line was not well documented on the map, and we just made a mistake on it, simply that.

In handling that many permits, if we don't make a mistake once in a while, it is going to be unusual.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. St. Amant.
Mr. Perez.

MR. CHALIN PEREZ: Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify and in defense of Mr. St. Amant, we also check every well permit that comes in and there is no question that we also made a boo-boo. We have an oyster fisherman who checks every well



permit that comes in and we just flat missed this one. We didn't think it was going to affect this particular area and we found out that it did. We do know that there is a third location coming in this area and we are trying to get them to snake around so they won't have to do any dredging and we are actively working with those people now to try to see to it that they don't do any more damage, but there is no question that nobody is perfect. We in the past in Plaquemines also missed this thing, either because we didn't have the accurate information or that our man just missed it, but none of us is perfect, and I just wanted to support Dr. St. Amant.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Who is the oil company?

MR. PEREZ: It is Atlantic Richfield.

THE CHAIRMAN: Doc, I would recommend you check with them about making compensation to the Commission for any damages that might be out there.

DR. ST. AMANT: All right, we will. There will be no problem with that.



THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Yes, sir, would you come forward and state your name.

MR. LEOPOLD TALIANCICH: Ladies and gentlemen of the audience, my name is Leopold Taliancich and I am representing myself. I would like to make a few comments on this leasing deal, and I am not worried too much one way or the other about that letter of objection at this time, but I have got something on that.

You see, when something like this comes up, it is kind of hard to express your views without stepping on somebody's toes or I hope I don't make no animosity towards nobody or step on anybody's toes. I will apologize now and after, because it is not my intention.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just tell the truth and don't worry about it.

MR. TALIANCICH: Well, the subject has been brought up that the rent hasn't been raised since the State of Louisiana has started leasing. Well, before the State of Louisiana started leasing, I believe it was the Louisiana police juries, the parish where the lease was located, that made



the leases. Then in 1905 or 1906 the State took over.

Well, it is said that we paid a dollar then and we pay a dollar now. It is said that oysters sold for 50 cents then and they sell for \$6 to \$10 now. I would like to meet that man that is paying \$10. But, anyhow, at that time oysters used to sell anywhere from 50 cents to a dollar. A dollar was a dollar and a man made a living on leasing six acres, but he also claimed 100 acres, and there was no big map at this time. As a matter of fact, you couldn't even come in the Wildlife and Fisheries office and ask to see a blueprint because back around 1944 when my father died I came in there and asked to see some other people's blueprints and I was asked if I was crazy. (Laughter) That's no joke. It wasn't until Miss Sophie got in there she started opening the blue prints.

Then the big map was made because the oil companies wanted to know where the leases were and the fishermen wanted to know where the leases were. But I am getting ahead of myself. Anyhow,



in those days, it was 1937 when I first started fishing oysters at the age of 16 with my father. My daddy had been fishing most of his life. He always had an interest in leases. My uncles and cousins and different ones. So when we started going out in the bayou, my brothers and I, we had this camp across Bay Adam. Well, at that time that is all a man used to fish in, was one little location. As a matter of fact, it was no problem for oysters. There was too many oysters. Same thing with seeds.

So, anyhow, when we would go across Bay Adam we would see people, trawlers, raking in the bays and they was taking them to Mr. Battistella's father's factory. They was getting three and a half a car. Boy, I knew my brothers and I could rake 20 cars a day and at that time we was working a dollar a day, so I asked my dad why can't we do that. My dad say, "You crazy!" But I told my dad, I said, "But, Daddy, them people is claiming that, they don't have that lease." He said, "What they got leased they know you ain't going to touch that because they can put the law upon you, but what



they don't have leased, they will shoot you because you call his bluff." And if you call, then everybody else will call it.

Then there was the biggest company that was in the oyster business that used to be back of Buras for years and I wrangled with them people when that bedding ground went bad over that way and I had to start finding me some new grounds. We tried to move back of Buras after my daddy died. We finally, by studying the leases, were able to break his leases down. He used to lease the shores of the bays. At that time that company had 700 acres. It was all back of Buras.

Mr. McConnell had given him authorization to have so many acres they didn't have to put up signs. All they had to do was paint their poles, some of them yellow. What he used to do was stick a yellow willow pole about that big in the middle of the bay, paint the top of it yellow, and stick it in the bay and claim the whole bay. And he got away with it, boy. I am the soandso that broke it up.

So, anyhow, I have no objection against



anybody wants to go in the business, because there is one thing I know about it. They got speculators running around right now with a fistful of money. There is more money lost by speculators in the oyster business than what is made by the fishermen. I will guarantee you that.

Well, anyhow, we used to fish our oysters by tong and that is why you didn't need many acreage. We used to work three months a year. Them days life was simple. You didn't have to buy no gasoline because you didn't have no car. Your engine cost you \$50 in your boat, a little old one cylinder engine, putt-putt around there, and the trapper worked three months a year and made a living, and everybody else.

Then times started changing. The oil companies come down there and everything else. Well, they changed people's ways of living. You had to start expanding. And incidentally in them days we had good waters. There was no chemical pollution, no sewerage pollution. There was no herbicides which probably killed the grass, the marsh grass that we are hollering about now, prob-



ably come from all over the country. It was easy to make a living.

Then as the oysters started dying, they started digging all kinds of new canals that let salinity in there. Sometimes they would come in the bay with a dredge boat. They would dredge here, a mile away, the wind would stir up the mud, put the mud up on top of your bedding ground. Well, you knew what done it. You got a biologist and a lawyer to come out there and look at your bedding ground. The first thing the oil companies tell you, go to court.

Well, they are right, go to court. We have had to do it many times. Then as the oysters started getting worse and worse, the salinity is moving in and islands are washing away and everything else, the seed oysters start disappearing up on the state reefs. Well, when we would complain how are we going to work our reefs if we don't have no seed oysters, Wildlife and Fisheries told us, you are going to have to raise your own seed oysters. Many, many acres that we got today is on the recommendation of Wildlife and Fisheries



to try to raise our own seed oysters. Then you had a few natural growing places, if you put shells you could raise oysters. Right there in Bayou Cholas I took 200 acres with one of the biggest and richest men that was ever in the oyster business and one of the most successful men in the seafood business, Mr. Cheramie, when he went bankrupt. --

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Leopold, excuse me, because we are trying to wind this meeting up and go to the DU thing, could you make your point on what you want to say. I am enjoying what you are saying, but could you kind of try to close.

MR. TALIANCICH: Well, my point is, like it has been stated before, a lot of times you have got your bedding grounds here and there is a few acres in between your reef where you planted shells and you planted your oysters over the years, somebody will come jump in them few acres. All they want is an excuse to get in there and raid, and if you raise this rent high enough, I don't know if somebody has got a private axe to grind or what, it is going to put a lot of us -- it is



going to cripple us, I mean cripple us.

THE CHAIRMAN: I know of no axe anybody has got to grind, Mr. Leopold.

MR. TALIANCICH: I hope not.

THE CHAIRMAN: I know that the price has been the same for 75 years at \$1 an acre and here we are 75 years later and it is still the same price, and I don't know anything you could buy 75 years ago for a dollar that you can still buy for a dollar today.

MR. TALIANCICH: Yes, but 75 years ago we had wonderful waters. It was easy to raise them oysters. Today we got clay, we got dirty waters, we are not getting no protection. Right there at Morgan City I have got 250 acres under lease. I have been paying lease since 1969. I was promised by the Board of Health in 1969 by 1972 Morgan City would have its sewerage in. I kept my mouth shut. I didn't want to rock the boat on that. O. K., this is 1978, there is still no sewerage.

Then I had some applications, Dr. St. Amant or somebody cancelled them, I got the letter



right here, was supposed to be that if oysters grow there, and which oysters have growed there and they got them there right now, that they would keep it as a seed ground area for the fishermen. Well, the shell company informed me that it has been turned over to them to dig for shell, and the shell company has even tried to buy my lease, and I told them it is not for sale.

There is a lot of incidents like that, like where oil companies cut their pipeline canals and drilling rig canals and the salinity moves in and some places we got too much fresh water and most of the acreage which the legitimate fishermen has got, we have to have it or we are in a heck of a fix.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Leopold, you and I are pretty good friends and you have won this argument. We have a committee and I might suggest that we don't go too far with it.

MR. TALIANCICH: And as far as these sharecroppers, and these fishermen know it, I never did fool with one of them, but he was down so he come ask me to let him have my boat, so I



give him my boat. His boat was broke down. I had to get up nine o'clock at night and go up there, spend the night up at Empire while half a dozen other fishermen and two sheriffs and one of your agents had to go out there and get him on my own bedding ground. He wasn't on my bedding ground, he got up on somebody else's, and he was supposed to be fishing on the east side of the river and he was fishing on the west side.

If that is the kind of people you want to put us at the mercy of, like one time I caught one of the worst --

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Leopold, excuse me. We are going to have to shut this debate off and let you talk to the committee. This committee I formed will meet and they will make it known and you can go before them and talk about it.

MR. TALIANCICH: Well, it is like I said, Mr. Berry, there is so many worms in this. This ain't no can you are stirring up, you are stirring up a barrel, and once you get the full story of it, there is no way in the world it can be justified at this time. Thank you.



THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Does anybody else wish to be heard?

MR. KASS: The state reefs are to be closed February 12. There was one discrepancy came up. The fishermen want to know if that area back of the Morgan City area was included in this. It was all state leases, it was clarified. We wrote a letter and I don't think we had received a copy of it yet. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Does anybody else wish to be heard? Mr. Gilbert.

MR. GILBERT: Mr. Chairman, in regards to a matter that was discussed here a moment ago, as I understand it, the Mineral Board gives permits to the various oil companies to drill for oil on state lands. Would it be possible, and I am asking for information, hoping someone can tell me, would it be possible for the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to receive some sort of notice whereby we would have to okay any permit that the Mineral Board gave that was on or nearby these oyster leases that we have?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gilbert, let me



answer this in a few words and say this, that everybody who wants to drill a well or put a piece of pipe in the ground or a piece of piling has to get about 27 letters of no objection and furnish to the Corps of Engineers in order to get a permit. One of those letters of no objection has to come from this Commission, out of Dr. St. Amant's office. It has to come from the police jury in that area, from the land office, from the Mineral Board. They all have to have letters of no objection before the Corps will issue a permit, and we do get copies of those things, some 4,000 or 5,000 a year.

MR. GILBERT: What do we do when we get them?

THE CHAIRMAN: You will have to ask Dr. St. Amant. I am not in that line but I will say this, that his staff, which is very limited, tries to screen those that he thinks will create some problems and he sends a letter of objection and states his reasons. Those that they feel won't create problems, they give a letter of no objection, and this Commission would have to meet about 48 hours a day about 400 days a year to hear and



see all those permits. I will admit, in order to serve Mr. Kass and his people's problems, that maybe we should try. However, it is just humanly impossible for this Commission or its personnel to go over each one of these permits and look at them in detail. We would like to but it is just one of those things that is humanly impossible.

I would like to stop all accidents on the highways and all the plane crashes in the sky. I would like to see everything run like it should be run, without hurting anybody, but we are all human and we all make mistakes and those things are going to happen.

Yes, sir, Mr. Kass.

MR. KASS: I would like to clear up something that keeps getting out of hand. We keep hearing 4,000 permits, but just remember all we are asking you now, we asked you all a couple of months ago to protect all the fishermen. We are not even asking you all to protect the fishermen. We are asking you to protect the state-owned oyster grounds, and I am sure, and I will be willing to bet each and every one of you a nice dinner there



is not over a hundred of these applications in a two or three-month period. Just remember, not all the permits -- I am sure when Doc St. Amant reads a permit and he sees on it that it is an application for a wharf up in --

THE CHAIRMAN: If you are going to put it on Doc again, get Doc back in here.

MR. KASS: -- up in St. Mary Parish, up on the northern side of the Teche River, you know darned well there is no oysters in that area. This is all I do in the morning and I say again, in five minutes I can review every one of those permits that come through the mail, and everyone that is in a non-shellfish area I throw it away.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is true, but you are interested in one group and that is your oyster fishermen, which you should be interested in, but Dr. St. Amant has to look at the whole spectrum and try to protect the fishermen, the crabs, the shrimpers, the oystermen and he has to look at all the permits. You only have to look at a few and what you are saying is Dr. St. Amant should just throw everybody else down the tube and worry



about your special interest group, and he can't do it.

MR. KASS: That is not what I am saying. I am saying the ones that are around the shellfish growing areas should be handed to so many biologists that we have on the payrolls checking oyster areas. It is my understanding we have quite a few of them. You are assigned areas. Why not, when it comes in, if it is in the Black Bay area, hand it to the biologist that is on that side of the river and let him comment on this.

THE CHAIRMAN: That biologist might be taking care of something somewhere else. If we had 100 biologists to do it, we could surely do it, Mr. Kass.

MR. KASS: Well, it would sure cost a little bit less than have \$100,000 worth of shells maybe go down the drain.

THE CHAIRMAN: They won't go down the drain. If they get torn up, Atlantic Richfield will pay for these, I am told.

MR. KASS: But I still want to clarify, there is no 4,000 permits being applied for in



oyster-growing areas, and we are not asking that every individual fisherman be protected. We are trying to protect ourselves.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is right. You are trying to protect your special interest group and to hell with everybody else, that is what you are telling me.

MR. KASS: Mr. Berry, I think the Wildlife and Fisheries Board is to protect the oysterman and not the oil company man, and this is what seems to be happening right now.

THE CHAIRMAN: No, we are not protecting the oil companies, Mr. Kass; we are trying to protect all the fishermen, the shrimpers, the crabbers, the whole nine yards.

MR. KASS: Well, how come every time we bring something to this Board, the first thing we hear, we got to get the oil out of the ground. If that is not protecting the oil industry, I don't know who it is protecting. I think we are first. I think the Mineral Board has got to protect the oil people. I think that is what they are there for, but I think the first and foremost



interest of this Board is to protect the wildlife.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me say this, Mr. Kass, for your own edification, that I am not here to protect the oil companies. I am here to protect the future of this country and the free enterprise system, and anywhere you see me that is the stand I will take, and when I think one overweighs the other or justifies it, that is where I will be.

MR. KASS: Well, I sure would misinterpret your statement when I brought up about this oil reef sitting on top these shells. You said we need the energy. I grant you we need the energy, but I don't think it is this Board's job to worry about the energy. They got to worry about the fishermen right now.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will agree with you on that also. I said in addition to that that those people would pay for those oyster shells, they will be replenished if they have destroyed them. That's objective number one. Along with that, I am sure that the State of Louisiana and its people will get more revenue out of that well if it is a producer than they will out of the oyster revenue. I agree



with you our first and primary purpose here is to protect the oyster fishermen, is to protect the environment, and we are going to do it to the best of our ability, but sometimes when you have got to save one man and kill 50 others doing it, you just can't do it.

MR. KASS: Along those same lines, I am sure that oil company will come out with 10,000 percent more dollars than we are going to come out with.

THE CHAIRMAN: I will tell you one thing, you would have a hard time running your boats and your cars if you didn't have that oil and gas.

MR. KASS: Mr. Berry, oysters were fished in this country before they ever dreamed of looking for an oil well, before they ever had their first oil engine, and we can go back to it if we have to, and just remember --

THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think the majority of people want to go back to that, Mr. Kass. We didn't have traffic jams a hundred years ago, either, but you --

MR. KASS: I am not afraid to go back to

it, believe me. I think we lived better. We might not be all full of cancer and everything else. But let me just state this, too, that the oyster people are not trying to put the oil companies out of business. On the same score, we don't want to be put out of business.

THE CHAIRMAN: You don't want to be put out of business and this Commission doesn't, Mr. Kass, I can tell you that. We are trying to protect you.

MR. KASS: Well, I think the first thing is to protect us but it seems that every time I come here and bring up an instance, the first thing we hear, we need this energy.

THE CHAIRMAN: We do need the energy, Mr. Kass. Everybody in this room knows that.

MR. KASS: I think you will go along with this. You keep reading in the paper that the oil companies, this area is depleting in 25 years, we are going to be short on oil, no more oil left around here. Well, if this is the case and the oil companies pull out, who is going to pay for everything they have ruined and where are we going



to go for jobs? If they ruin two things, if they deplete the oil and they run all the seafood people out and all the wildlife out, then what do we do for a living? We start all back again with the horse and buggy. But I don't believe this stuff. I believe the oil company will be here for the next 100 years.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kass, as you know, your remedy is to sue in court. You have some lawsuits going now against the oil companies over your oysters. This Commission can't mitigate your damages. We can try to prevent it from happening but we are human, we make mistakes. Dr. St. Amant told you earlier that this thing was a mistake down in Black Bay that you are talking about. It wasn't intentional. Mr. Perez told you the same thing. That is all I have got to say about it, sir.

MR. KASS: But I do think you have to look over these letters of no objection being stamped and not checked out, and all we are asking you to do now is protect what the state owns.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. St. Amant, do you want to answer Mr. Kass on that? You are incompetent



but you can try it!

MR. KASS: I never stated Dr. St. Amant was incompetent. I said I don't know if somebody is rubber-stamping these things or incompetent. That is my quote.

DR. ST. AMANT: I don't see much point in debating from now till noon or any other time. We have done this time and time again. The only controlling factor is the existing statutes and authority that allows us to act. The State of Louisiana has never seen fit to make a decision as to what they want done in this area. All of the control is being done under broad general powers.

I have said it before and I will say it now. I will put our record up against anybody else in handling pollution and the conflict between two industries as big and as complex as the oyster and the oil industries in this area. Over the years we have had problems. We are going to have problems when I am gone and everybody else is gone. We are going to make mistakes and anybody that says you are not going to make mistakes better go back and take another look at it.



I disagree with Mr. Kass when he says we don't have that many permits. If he would like to come in and run through them, he can spend his whole day and his whole week and his whole month instead of working his oysters, fooling with permits. I have got other work to do, too, besides permits. I am supposed to be running other parts of this thing. As a matter of fact, the State of Louisiana has not seen fit to set up a section to do this. We are doing this to try to protect you out of hand. It is not even part of the job description.

We are working in a situation where the two laws overlap and combine and there is no way for us to be arbitrary about it. We do everything we can and we send a copy of this to Mr. Kass and if he wants to file suit, he can pick his lawyer and he can file suit against every oil company on every permit that comes in. The State of Louisiana tried to start an injunctive procedure in Black Bay 25 years ago before he was even involved in this. We tried to keep the oil companies and the pipelines out of Black Bay. What we told you and if



you will check with a lawyer, you will see you have got to put up enough money in case you get an injunction to pay for any damages if you lose the injunction. The State of Louisiana doesn't have a half a million dollars every time there is an oil well going in.

FROM THE FLOOR: It isn't that much, is it?

DR. ST. AMANT: Yes, it is. They will make you put up that much money if you try to get an injunction. You can get one if you want it. Go down there and file. File a petition against them. You can do it. The courts will give you a restraining order if you put the money up. But the State has no position where we can walk in and stop these people.

What we try to do and what we do, we do refer these to the biologists, and I can show you the memoranda from each biologist. We take this and then write this letter of no objection. Now it is true the letters are standardized. We are writing so many letters we have to divide them into sections so we are able to set them up in a



series so that the companies know what is going on.

Now really what we are doing is putting you and the company on notice that they are operating within an oyster area where they have a legal right to be and you have a legal right to be. They are put on notice that if they bother you, they might end up in litigation. We put them on notice there is no question of them saying they didn't

If they cause you damage and you want to get it, we go back then and help you try to get information in the form of a report, and anybody in here has gotten reports and we give those free, too. If you want to get a report you are going to pay \$200 or more for three reports done. And we

are in court and you want to sue, presently you should

But we do the same thing. I think we should do the same thing. Go to the legislature, and they say the oysters take

precedence over oil in Louisiana and have the legislature direct the Wildlife and Fisheries that in the case of any conflict of interest between the two, that the oysters will have first priority. That is what you are asking for. You don't have it now and you can't get it under the existing laws. The best you can get is a compromise situation and we try to compromise it.

I just think in the two or three instances where we can't make this compromise that we are going to have to end up in court or some other place. I am just getting a little bit tired of this reiteration over and over again of the fact that we are not doing the best we can. If somebody else wants the job, you are welcome to it. I don't need it. I have got plenty of other things to do.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. St. Amant. I am going to shut the debate off on this, Mr. Kass. I have heard enough.

MR. RIGGS: Mr. Chairman, as a Board member, I would just like to say that I think Dr. St. Amant is very efficient and I would like to



say that I think he is very conscientious, and I would like to give him my vote of confidence as a Board member.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. I feel the same way.

MR. LUTTRELL: I say amen to that. I would like to tell Mr. Kass something; you are not helping the oyster fishermen.

MR. KASS: We are getting put out of business, regardless.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kass, Dr. St. Amant told you your remedy is to go directly to the legislature.

MR. KASS: I cannot sue for the state, remember that. We are asking state-owned things. I can't sue for the State of Louisiana. I am not asking for my own. I filed my suit already. All we are asking is to protect what the state owns and I think that is your job.

DR. ST. AMANT: You can sue for the state, Mr. Kass, if you want to get out --

MR. KASS: It's your job, not mine.

DR. ST. AMANT: I told you once we have



gone to the courts. We have asked our lawyers to examine it and we have done everything we could. We tried to get an injunctive procedure 25 or 30 years ago and we were unsuccessful.

MR. KASS: Why not try now under the new laws?

DR. ST. AMANT: What new laws?

MR. KASS: The new laws say they can't dump this spoil out in the middle of the oyster beds and all. Now you all are not objecting. That letter of no objection is written, saying, no, we don't object. Well, sure, if you don't object, then we can't have no objection, either, because you all are the controlling agency.

That's a federal law. I stopped Texaco, sure. If you all want to make a case of it, that is how I stopped them, under the federal law, because it states so and I will give you a little help. So I went to the federal law and I got it stopped. Why can't the state do it?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kass, we will take that under advisement and look into this.

MR. KASS: It has been done, Mr. Berry.



THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gilbert.

MR. GILBERT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, in February there is going to be a convention and meeting of the National Wild Turkey Federation in Kansas City. This is something that we are trying to get started in not only Louisiana but all over the nation, the establishment and the furtherment of the wild turkey. It brings a lot of income in not only to Louisiana but to all of the other southern states. That is where most of the wild turkeys are found.

This convention is a national convention and I would make a motion at this time that at least one member of this Commission be authorized to attend the National Wild Turkey Federation in Kansas City.

MR. DUPUY: Do you want that to be the most experienced turkey hunter?

MR. GILBERT: That would be all right!

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. LUTTRELL: I second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell.



All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

We will send Mr. Gilbert along as our representative then.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has been engaged in a statewide wild turkey restoring program for the past two decades, and

WHEREAS, public support of the wild-trapping and restocking program of the Department has resulted in restoration of wild turkey populations in many areas of the state where suitable habitat existed, but no wild turkeys were present, and

WHEREAS, this interest in



the program and full support of Louisiana hunters has greatly increased the areas within Louisiana where wild turkeys may be hunted during the spring season, and

WHEREAS, the 35,000-member National Wild Turkey Federation has been largely responsible for national interest in restoration of wild turkey populations in North America, and

WHEREAS, some 2,500 members of the National Wild Turkey Federation along with biologists and members of wildlife departments from scores of states will attend the Second Annual Convention of the National Federation to be held in Kansas City, Missouri, February 17, 18 and 19, 1978, and

WHEREAS, numerous technical papers will be presented which will be helpful to the states participating in the restoration of wild turkey populations and that much good will



accrue to Louisiana and its wild turkey program by participation,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that J. C. Gilbert, a member of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, be authorized to attend and participate in the national convention in Kansas City, Missouri, February 17, 18 and 19, 1978.

THE CHAIRMAN: Our next order of business is election of officers. The floor is now open for nominations for Vice Chairman.

MR. LAPEYRE: I would like to nominate Don Wille to serve again as Vice Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have a second to that?

MR. LUTTRELL: I will second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other nominations for Vice Chairman?

(No response)

Do I hear a motion that nominations be closed?

MR. LAPEYRE: So move.



THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor of Mr. Wille being Vice Chairman say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Congratulations, Mr. Wille.

Now the election for Chairman is open.

Do I hear a motion?

MR. RIGGS: I nominate Mr. Doyle Berry.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have a second?

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other nominations for Chairman?

(No response)

Any objections?

(No response)

All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered. Thank you, gentlemen.

Is there any other business to come before the Commission today?



DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Berry, I would like to make one correction for the record. The oil company involved in the Black Bay problem is not Atlantic Richfield, as was stated. It is Gulf Oil Company, but it makes no difference. We will attend to it with the appropriate company.

THE CHAIRMAN: The date of the next meeting is the 27th and 28th.

Yes, sir. Mr. Leopold, you have got about three minutes.

MR. LEOPOLD TALIANCICH: Mr. Berry, my objection is this. Maybe I won't have none. After this committee meets to talk with the fishermen, will anybody that disagrees with whatever comes out of that meeting have the right to stand up and state their views without being cut off?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir. They sure will. You will get a limited time. I have no objection to hearing your views this morning, but I don't care about all your history, but any views you have we will be glad to hear them right now.

MR. TALIANCICH: Well, I mean right now you all want to go.



THE CHAIRMAN: We will take time to hear you if you want to be heard. Get on with it, but after the meeting of the committee, they might do what you want done, and I am sure you will give some input to that committee, and if not and you are dissatisfied and that committee comes back in here next month, you can have all the time you want to make any rebuttal you want to make.

MR. TALIANCICH: O. K., thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. The meeting stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 11:15 o'clock
a.m., Friday, January 27, 1978,
the regular monthly meeting of
the Board of Louisiana Wildlife
and Fisheries Commission was
adjourned. . . .)

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing (128 pages of typewritten matter) is a true and correct transcription of the tape recording and of the stenographic notes of the proceedings herein, transcribed by me, at the time and place hereinbefore noted.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 17th day of
February, 19 78

Kathryn G. Chamberlin

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

