

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

Tuesday, August 28, 1979

10:00 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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . Pursuant to notice, the regular monthly meeting of Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, August 28, 1978, in Room 102, Wildlife and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Doyle G. Berry, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT WERE:

- DOYLE G. BERRY, Chairman
- DONALD F. WILLE, Vice Chairman
- J. C. FARRELLY, Member
- J. C. GILBERT, Member
- JEAN LAPEYRE, Member
- H. CLAY LUTTRELL, Member
- CHARLES A. RIGGS, Member

A G E N D A

- 1. Approval of minutes of July 24, 1979. (5)
DR. LYLE ST. AMANT
- 2. Request for renewal to dredge fill material (5)
by Diez, Dirt & Sand Hauling, from the Amite River, 3/4 mile west of the Port Gibson Bridge, Ascension Parish.



3. Request for renewal of permit by T. L. James & Company, Inc., to pump sand material from the Mississippi River, between Mile 87.35 and Mile 88.17 near Meraux, St. Bernard Parish. (7)
4. Request for a permit from A. E. Gravois and Sons, Inc. to remove fill material (river sand) from the Mississippi River from Levee Station 1667+28 to Levee Station 1685+40, Whitney Plantation, St. John Parish. (8)
5. Request for a permit from Calcasieu Refining, Ltd. to remove fill material from the Old Calcasieu River (Lake) in order to prepare the channel and berth for Jersey Class #4 Type Tankers. (10)
6. Request for renewal of permit from Tenneco Oil Company to remove fill material from the north shoreline of Lake Boudreaux in Sections 69, 70, 71, 73 and 74, Township 19 South, Range 8 East, Terrebonne Parish. (11)

MR. HARRY SCHAFFER



7. Set oyster season in Calcasieu Lake. (19)
8. Discuss closure of part of seed ground and
closure of new shell plant. (23)

MR. KENNETH SMITH

9. Consideration of uniform policy for Fish
Division. (40)
- 9a. Discussion of Lake Bistineau. (48)

MR. HUEY SANDERS

10. Consideration of uniform policy for Education
Section. (56)

MR. ALLEN ENSMINGER

11. Consideration of uniform policy for Fur and
Refuge Division. (60)

MR. HUGH BATEMAN

12. Set waterfowl season dates and bag limits. (64)

OTHER BUSINESS

13. Set date for September meeting. (96)
14. Telegram from Mr. Lynn Greenwalt re steel shot. (96)

NOTE: The following items not on the printed
agenda were also considered:

Proposed increase in fill material royalties. (13
96)

Informal report, survey of oyster leases. (30)



Opening of oyster seed grounds. (54)

Bayou Dorcheat. (55)

Suggestion for closing certain bays for
shrimping. (97)

ADJOURNMENT (10)



CHAIRMAN BERRY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. We will call the meeting to order. The room is not overrun with people and I don't understand that when we are going to set the seasons and bag limits. I thought we would have 200 people here.

The first item on the agenda is approval of the minutes of the meeting of July 24. Do I have a motion?

MR. FARRELLY: I so move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

Dr. St. Amant.

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have five items today. Three of them are renewals and two are new permits. The first is a renewal of a dredge and fill permit in the Amite River near Port Vincent. This permit



has been in effect for a number of years and it has operated without any problems. I recommend it be renewed for one year at ten cents a yard.

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

MR. LAPEYRE: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Second?

MR. FARRELLY: 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 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to DIEZ, DIRT & SAND HAULING, INC. to remove fill material from the Amite River, 3/4 mile west of the Port



Vincent Bridge, Ascension Parish,
Louisiana, for a period of one year
from August 28, 1979 to August 28,
1980, at a royalty rate of ten cents
per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The second item is
renewal of a permit by T. L. James & Company to
pump fill material from the Mississippi River
between Miles 87 and 88 in St. Bernard Parish.
This permit has been in effect for several years
and it has caused no problem. We would recommend
it be extended for one year at ten cents a yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recom-
mendation. Do I have a motion?

MR. LAPEYRE: Move.

MR. LUTTRELL: I second it.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody 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 Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant per-
mission to T. L. JAMES & COMPANY,
INC. to pump sand fill from the
Mississippi River, between Mile
87.35 and Mile 88.17 near Meraux,
St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, for
a period of one year from August
28, 1979 to August 28, 1980, at a
royalty rate of ten cents per
cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The third is a request
by A. E. Gravois and Sons, Inc. to remove fill
material from the Mississippi River at Levee
Station 1667 to Levee Station 1685 in St. John
Parish. This is a new permit. We have examined
it and we feel it would have no effect on the
river or the productivity of the river, and there-
fore we recommend you issue the permit for one
year at ten cents a yard.



THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. We need a motion.

MR. FARRELLY: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: We need a second.

MR. GILBERT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have 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 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to A. E. GRAVOIS AND SONS, INC. to remove river sand from the Mississippi River from Levee Station 1667+28 to Levee Station 1685+40, Whitney Plantation, St. John Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from August 28,



1979 to August 28, 1980, at a royalty rate of ten cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The fourth is a request by Calcasieu Refining, Ltd. where they presently have a docking facility for oil tankers in the old Calcasieu River and they want to deepen the channel in order to accommodate deeper draft vessels. The material they are going to use from this channel dredging they propose to place on some of their property. This is a one-time deal but I suggest we issue a permit for one year at ten cents a yard and that the permit terminate upon completion of the dredging if it is before one year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. We need a motion.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Second?

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: 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 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to CALCASIEU REFINING, LTD. to remove fill material from the old Calcasieu River (Lake) in order to prepare the channel and berth for Jersey Class #4 Type Tankers, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from August 28, 1979 to August 28, 1980, at a royalty rate of ten cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The last one is a request for renewal of a permit that was held by LaTerre Corporation and which is now a subsidiary of Tenneco Company for dredging of material along the shoreline to maintain the integrity of their boundaries and shore in Sections 69, 70, 71, 73 and 74, Township 19 South, Range 8 East, Terrebonne Parish. This is in the general vicinity of Lake



Boudreaux. There is a map attached, showing the exact acres which will be kept in the files and will be used in the preparation of the permit. This type of permit has been in existence for a number of years and I would recommend that it be granted with the appropriate restrictions for a period of one year at ten cents per cubic yard.

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

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. RIGGS: 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 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant per-



mission to TENNECO OIL COMPANY to remove fill material from the north shoreline of Lake Boudreaux in Sections 69, 70, 71, 73 and 74, Township 19 South, Range 8 East, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from August 28, 1979 to August 28, 1980, at a royalty rate of ten cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: That is all, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. RIGGS: Mr. Chairman, while we are on the same deal, Mr. Angelle said yesterday, I suggested we consider charging 15 cents a yard for that sand and he said that he would set the wheels in motion and go through the legal procedures necessary. I would just like to make a motion that we consider that, consider 15 cents a yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we would like to do a little study to see what the going rate is among the free enterprise system. We doubled them up a nickel to ten cents about, what, two years



ago?

DR. ST. AMANT: About 18 months, two years ago.

THE CHAIRMAN: I know we have got an inflationary problem here within the building with our own people, but if we don't stop doubling stuff every few years, pretty soon you will have to have a wastebasket full of bills to buy you a hamburger. I am not opposed to the Commission making an extra buck if it is worthwhile but I do think we ought to maybe study it a little bit before we go too far and see if it is justified.

MR. WILLE: Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that under the provisions that we set forth the last time, I believe we appointed Mr. Gilbert and two other Commission members to a committee and they had gotten all the facts from the Department personnel and then brought it forth to the Commission, if I am not mistaken. Isn't that the way that was handled, Sonny?

MR. GILBERT: Correct.

MR. WILLE: I think that we should re-appoint that same committee to look into the



royalties again.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is when we raised it from a nickel to a dime, is that right?

MR. GILBERT: That's right.

THE CHAIRMAN: How long ago has that been?

MR. GILBERT: About 18 months, a little less than two years.

THE CHAIRMAN: Senator Gilbert, I would appreciate if you would chair that committee again and we will have the same group we had before look into it and study the proposal. Who was on that committee with you? Do you remember?

MR. GILBERT: No, I really don't.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think Marc Dupuy was. He is off the Commission now. I think a committee of 12 works real well when 11 of them are out!

(Laughter)

I will leave that to Senator Gilbert's discretion to pick him a couple of members or one member. Sonny, you pick out somebody you want and let me know and we will put it in the record.

Doc, what is your feeling on raising this thing?



DR. ST. AMANT: I agree that we need to do some checking. We need first to find out if there has been any significant inflation in the sale price of the fill material in the last 18 months. If it has been inflated by a significant amount, I feel that it is probably rational to ask for an increase in royalties, but I would remind the Commission that some of these things have a relatively long term contract that may have been developed at five cents, they are still extant, and we are trying to handle that. We have got some now that are probably new contracts under the 10-cent system that we have run for a good while. So, by and large, it is going to take a little bit of sifting of the information to find out just where we stand on this, but we can develop it and prepare the information. Mr. Gilbert went over this last time and we came to a conclusion and I think we can do it again.

MR. LAPEYRE: Doc, are there contracts that run longer than a year, because the procedure normally is to approve them for a year?

DR. ST. AMANT: Your biggest amount of



fill material that really pumps in the money is in the highway contracts, like Interstate-10 and some of these highways. They pump millions and millions of yards of that material and they may work on a highway five, six, seven years. When they initially work the contract for the fill material, they have already agreed on a price and the royalty is included in it, and so then they have a problem.

On the other hand, one like we talked about, this new one that this refining company wants to dredge a channel, he wants 600,000 yards and it is a one-shot deal. He would be caught in any new system that we adopted. He is going to pay 10 cents and if we go to 15, 20 cents, he would pay that, too, so you have that type thing. But really the bulk of your material falls into two categories. Some of these big contracts and some of the people who are selling it in small lots, where they stockpile and sell it for fill material on a day-to-day basis.

This can be worked out and we can find out from our auditors what they are selling this stuff for and we can find out if there has been



any real inflation in it. We can check with the Department of Revenue because they are also collecting some stuff, and the Highway Department will tell us what the contract prices are on their recent contracts.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I again would like this Commission, this Department, to have everything it can get within reasonable means, but we all holler about inflation and all scream we have got to do something about inflation, yet at every corner somebody is doubling the price on something. It is something I would like to look at and if it is necessary to do, then we will do it.

DR. ST. AMANT: Whatever you tell me to do, I will try to set it up.

THE CHAIRMAN: One man's opinion.

MR. LAPEYRE: We are going to have a resolution to authorize the committee?

THE CHAIRMAN: I just authorized Senator Gilbert --

MR. GILBERT: -- to make a recommendation.

MR. WILLE: You need to do that before --

MR. GILBERT: I will see who was on the



committee the last time.

MR. WILLE: -- so it can be on the record.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anything else, Doc?

DR. ST. AMANT: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you much, sir.

Mr. Schafer.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, we have on the agenda to set the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake. This is an annual thing and we are recommending the same recommendations that we do almost yearly, that the lake open November 1 one-half hour before sunrise and close March 31 one-half hour after sunset; that it be open only during daylight hours; the three-inch culling law will apply, all oysters under three inches to be returned; all oysters are to be sacked before leaving the oyster area. The commercial will be limited to 15 sacks a day, recreational to two sacks a day. Commercial must have the proper license and the tagged sacks.

Not open, we will not recommend the opening of Calcasieu River, the Ship Channel, East and West Forks and Oyster Bayou in that area. We got reports from the Health Department that there is a



bacteria count there and they don't recommend that this be opened.

We would also recommend that you give the authority to the Secretary to close, extend and limit the catch as biologically justified.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. Do you have any questions? Does anyone wish to be heard before we call for a vote on this? The Chair will entertain a motion. You have heard the recommendation.

MR. WILLE: I move.

MR. LUTTRELL: I 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.)

WHEREAS, the Department
biologists and the Chief of the Seafood



Division have recommended the fishing of the oysters in Calcasieu Lake with the exception of the Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou, and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health will examine the growing oysters of this aforementioned area and approve the waters for fishing oysters if the health standards are met,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission that the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season for 1979-1980 be set in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

- (1) That the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake be fixed to extend from one-half hour before sunrise on Thursday, November 1, 1979 through one-half hour after sunset on Monday, March 31, 1980, with the right being



reserved to extend said season or close it sooner if biologically justifiable.

- (2) That oyster fishing be limited only to the use of tongs and to daylight hours.
- (3) The open areas shall be confined to the area of Calcasieu Lake, with the exception of Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou which shall be closed.
- (4) The three-inch culling law shall be observed by all fishermen fishing the area and the culls shall be returned to the fishing area reefs to provide for future harvesting.
- (5) All oysters shall be put into sacks before leaving the oyster fishing area in Calcasieu Lake. Oysters not in sacks leaving the fishing area in Calcasieu Lake



shall be confiscated and violator subject to penalty set forth in Title 56, Section 115.

- (6) The taking of oysters for commercial purposes shall be limited to 15 sacks per boat per day.
- (7) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks per boat per day).
- (8) All commercial fishing of oysters shall be done only with proper licenses, and the sacks of oysters shall be properly tagged before leaving fishing vessel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary be and is hereby authorized and empowered to extend or close said season, and increase or decrease limit, when biologically justified.

MR. SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman, the next thing I have on the agenda is the closure of some new shell plants. As you will recall, I reported



to you that we had put in for \$1 million under this disaster fund under the 88-309 program. This money was received and we rushed through an order in order to get down some shell in the hope that we could catch some late spat on the shell plants. This all came through and they are out there now planting shell and I would like to recommend now that we keep these shell plants closed for this year, which is a routine procedure after a shell plant, that we keep them closed so that we don't disturb the shell and catch spat.

The three areas we are talking about -- one in Black Bay and two in St. Bernard, one here and one here (indicating on map). We would like the Commission to close those.

THE CHAIRMAN: As a matter of curiosity on my part, how did you happen to select those three areas out of all the waters we have out there to plant those shells?

MR. SCHAFER: It is done by the type of water bottoms that are there, the history of oyster production in the area, the salinity and everything. We have contacted some of the oyster people,



some of the associations and got their input into this.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation that they stay closed. Do we have a motion?

MR. FARRELLY: 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.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, one other matter. On this shell plant in Black Bay, as you recall last month I came before you to get the shell plant from the CEIP funds we put out there. We put out \$250,000 worth of shell in this area and you closed that plus a mile around this area. Our field people out there checking have found that they have a good spat fall on that plant and on some other wild reefs around there.

It would be our recommendation that if we



could close the rest of Black Bay and protect that spot until they get a size where they can be used to transplant as seed, biologically that would be the thing to do.

Now, economically we have got some people who depend upon the seed area for sack oysters and I don't know how many people we are going to affect if we close that, but since you have already closed a mile around that other shell plant plus this shell plant, that doesn't leave too much of Black Bay that you would have to close in addition. I think biologically it would help the oyster industry in the long run to keep this area closed and protect the spat that has fallen there now.

THE CHAIRMAN: What you are saying is either be short this year on oysters so you can have some in the years to come or get a few this year and they are out next year.

MR. SCHAFER: Right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anyone in the audience wish to comment on this, in the oyster business? Step forward and state your name, sir, and who you represent.



MR. RALPH PAUSINA: My name is Ralph Puasina. I represent the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association today.

We are wholeheartedly in favor of this recommendation. We feel that it is very important. It is going to cause some hardship on many of this year, but we think it is more important to suffer now and reap the rewards two and three and four years from now rather than reap a few sacks out of there for one month and then suffer for the next three or four years.

It is so important that we would like to maybe elaborate a little bit on the thing. It is imperative that if this is not to be opened, that it is not to be opened for anybody, not keep some people out and some people in. So, we would ask the Commission if they would direct the people in charge of enforcement and whatever patrolling that they really watch these areas. If we are going to not open it, please not to open it for anybody, and let's let nature do its course and we will all come out much better for it as a result of this.

Again, to repeat, we are all wholeheartedly



in favor of the biologists' recommendation to keep Black Bay closed. Thank you.

MR. WILLE: Buddy, before you leave, there was some discussion yesterday on this same thing, and we need the full cooperation of all the oyster people, and I think that you can get that for us, being president of the Association or past president or whatever you are now. We need to know when these people are going in these areas. If we know, because that is usually 90 percent of enforcement cases are made by other people reporting somebody doing wrong, so that means that you all are going to have to cooperate fully with us for us to protect your area.

MR. PAUSINA: I mentioned that this is a very important thing, and I think it is so important that if anyone of us sees someone else in there, we are going to holler at somebody.

MR. WILLE: That's the main thing, really.

THE CHAIRMAN: One thing that comes to my mind and kind of worries me, Buddy, I am convinced that it is good to close this area but when the biologists and the oystermen agree on the same



thing, with nobody fighting about it, it makes me a little bit nervous. There is something wrong!

MR. PAUSINA: It shows one thing, we must be hurting real bad!

THE CHAIRMAN: There is something wrong somewhere! I haven't put my finger on it yet. Thank you very much.

Does anyone else wish to be heard?

Yes, sir.

MR. MATTHEW FARAC: Good morning, gentlemen. I am Matt Farac with the Plaquemines Oyster Association. I feel the same way as Mr. Pausina feels, close the area for the benefit of the fishermen. Now you stated just now there is something wrong. It is wrong! There is no oysters! We are out!

THE CHAIRMAN: I knew something was wrong if there was nothing to fight over!

MR. FARAC: That is about all I have to say. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: You haven't got anything left to fight over, so you all want to leave it alone now.



MR. FARAC: That is right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, sir.
Does anyone else wish to be heard?

Gentlemen, you have heard Mr. Schafer's recommendation. Do we have a motion?

MR. LUTTRELL: I move.

MR. FARRELLY: 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.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, Don Wille asked me to give an informal report on the surveyor situation and I would like to go through what has happened in the last year.

As you remember, 16 months ago in the April meeting of '78, you put a moratorium on accepting applications. At that time we had 1,700 applications on file to be surveyed. That was in April. Then in May our chief surveyor, John Leigh, retired. We tried from his retirement until April



of 1979 to get a surveyor. At that time a Mr. Fred Shilling, who is with the Department of Public Works, came over to us. He had some difficulty in that he thought he was not getting a promotion he thought was due him at the Department of Public Works, so he left them and came to us and he stayed with us from April till June, when they came back and told him he had gotten his promotion, so he went back to the Department of Public Works.

In that time he was here he had to go out with the surveyors, our technicians, to find out that they were capable of doing the work and that he could sign those applications, so we did in that time only 161 applications, surveys.

Also, you know that the legislature passed Act 326 which authorized the oyster people to go out and hire their private surveyor, come in and if it was approved and didn't conflict with any of the other applications we had in here, then we would let the surveyor go out and do the surveys. To date there have been ten applications surveyed and leases issued and we have eight applications on file in the process of being worked up



by a private surveyor.

We have gone to the Board, to the Surveyors Board, asking them to see about getting some new surveyors whenever they have an examination, if they had someone who was interested in the job. We went to most of the schools in Louisiana who put out engineers who are surveyors. Civil Service has gone to all the departments in the state who hire surveyors and put this announcement out that we have this vacancy, and all to no avail. We still do not have a surveyor.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your pay scale? That is your problem, apparently.

MR. SCHAFFER: Yes, from what they can get in the private sector, of course, the \$1,500-\$1,700 just won't make it. We have contacted some private people that maybe would sign our plats after our field people went out there, did the survey, then this guy would come in and check those field notes and he would go ahead and O. K. it and sign the plats and put his seal on it. This might be the way to go. We had one in this morning, we interviewed one this morning. We thought he might



be coming to work for us because he had been working with LaTerre. Tenneco took LaTerre over and he had a contract with them and he was looking for something else to do, but when he came in this morning and found out what was entailed, he decided he could not be involved that much with this thing, but he would take it on maybe two days a week and we would pay him -- I think he --

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me interrupt you and ask this. We cannot go to Civil Service and get them to come up with the money to where we can get a decent surveyor? We have had problems in the past with surveys and we are going to get ourselves in a jam, I believe, and get in a mess, if we don't get someone to look at that department and run it, a registered surveyor. I recommend that you get with the Director and --

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Berry, we have gone that route already. We have been with Civil Service. They have just recently increased the salary but the salary is still not enough.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is the gap? What is the spread on average?



MR. SCHAFFER: Oh, the surveyors won't tell me what they are making but they tell me this is not nearly enough for them.

THE CHAIRMAN: What do you think it is, a \$500-spread, a \$1,000-a-month spread? What sticks in your mind?

MR. SCHAFFER: Well, I talked to a surveying outfit that would come in and do the thing and he said he would probably do it for about \$150,000 a year, and we pay \$17,000, so there is no way you can match something like that.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are talking about his personal salary, \$150,000 a year? That guy is on an ego trip, I can tell you that. There should be a realistic figure of \$25,000-\$30,000 a year that will hire you an in-house surveyor.

MR. SCHAFFER: Well, using our surveyor, we got two prices on this type of deal. Using our survey technicians, going out there, doing the field work, bringing the field work back in, drawing up the plats and then letting the surveyor look at them, check them out, after he decides that our people are competent. He would have to go in the



field with them. That is anywhere from \$150 to \$200 a day they want to charge us for that, plus mileage, transportation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I guess we are going to have to pay it, Harry, and maybe go up on the rates somewhere to compensate for it, but I don't believe this Department can afford to be caught without a surveyor.

MR. SCHAFER: No, it is written in the law that we have to provide one, and I can't see how we can continue to go on and on without having a surveyor. It is going to have to be done. This might be the way as a stopgap.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have got to explain that to them, Harry, like Uncle Earl Long used to tell them. He would say, "To hell with the salary. Look at the stealing rights!" (Laughter) Maybe that is the approach you are going to have to give those surveyors if you are going to get a good one!

MR. SCHAFER: We have one other possibility. Mike Myers, who has been with us a long time, as a survey technician, has taken the test once and did not pass it. He is scheduled to take the test



whenever they call him again. I don't know when that would be. Now maybe some of you Board members might be able to contact the Survey Board and see if we can work out something to get him to take the test.

THE CHAIRMAN: This Board is not going to rig that test, I can tell you that!

MR. SCHAFFER: I am not talking about rigging the test, but getting him to take the test soon. It has been a lot of waiting. They keep saying, "O. K., we are going to give a test soon," but it is a lot of waiting thing, so I think if somebody -- I have been to the Board. I have met with that Board and told them our problems, and apparently I can't do anything that way, so maybe this Board talking to that Board might be able to push it a little bit.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you will post me on when that Board is going to meet the next time, I will be happy to appear before them and talk to them, I think in a language they can understand.

MR. SCHAFFER: This is not Civil Service; this is the Survey Board.



THE CHAIRMAN: While we are on the oyster business, I want to make it known to the press and public here and whoever else is involved that I for one member know beyond a shadow of a doubt that a number of people in the State of Louisiana control more than 1,000 acres of oyster bottoms with a lease from this State. Anything beyond that is illegal and we know that some of them are using cousins, daughters, kinfolks, aunts, uncles, and we know why it is being done, and as soon as the Attorney General's race is over with, you can rest assured that this Board is going to start pushing for the Attorney General to start investigating every one of these circumstances that we are familiar with to bring it to a head and get some justice done.

We have known for a long time there have been those who have controlled, seven, eight, ten thousand acres, through various and sundry means. The law is very explicit on that and I don't want to catch somebody with their pants down and say you didn't tell me so. I would appreciate it if the press would make that known and if you in this



audience would make it known, because when the politics cool off and things get back to normal again, I am going to use all the persuasion I can with the Attorney General's office to put a special investigating team in the middle of this oyster lease business and we are going to straighten it out once and for all. It has just gone on and on and on. You have got a few hogs in the bunch, you have got some who speculate and that's a pretty good deal. I would like to have a bunch of leases myself at \$1-an-acre, knowing that pretty soon somebody is going to want to dredge through there or run a pipeline or something through there that I can get enough to pay that lease for the next 100 years if I want to hold it. That has been going on.

Gentlemen, fair is fair and wrong is wrong, and this thing has gotten, we think, way out of hand and we are going to walk in the middle of it. I just want to put you on notice that you can expect that to come up after the first of the year, and when some of them get caught and say, "Oh, my God, I wasn't doing anything wrong, I didn't



know," it is going to be too bad, because the AG is going to be out to prosecute them.

Harry, you want to add anything to that? Any of the Board members?

MR. WILLE: Harry, what were the figures you said? How many surveys have been done since the moratorium? Ten percent?

MR. SCHAFER: Ten percent of them were done. 161 were done out of 1,700.

MR. GILBERT: This gentleman you were talking to today, the man that you talked to this morning, he said he might work two days a week?

MR. SCHAFER: Two days a week, yes. He would come in here two days a week at \$150 a day. Figuring this up, that would only come to \$1,800 a month, if he worked 20 days, which is what we pay a surveyor, so that is not too bad. But you see, we don't have anything in our budget to handle something like this. We have got a salary and, of course, we have to go to the legislature and see if they would transfer salary money into this category, whatever it is, so that we could pay him on a contract basis, on a professional --



MR. GILBERT: The Budget Committee could do it.

MR. SCHAFER: They could do it, right, and this would be the procedure we would have to go through if we are going to go this route.

THE CHAIRMAN: Senator Gilbert, I would like to request of you the next time you get in Baton Rouge, since you are familiar with the operation of the state government there, if you would look into this situation and see if you can help Harry find a solution to our problem.

MR. GILBERT: I will do it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I really think it is paramount that we get a good surveyor in this Department and having one working for the Department and not somebody on a part-time basis. Harry, if we have to raise the price of oyster leases from \$1 an acre to \$5 an acre to get enough money to pay the surveyor, that is what we are going to do.

Thank you, sir. Mr. Kenneth Smith, please.

MR. KENNETH SMITH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I have a set of proposals concerning the Fish Division's wearing field work



uniforms. I might say that these regulations or proposed regulations are patterned pretty closely after those already adopted for the Seafood Division and the Game Division.

These would apply to all people in the Fish Division who are assigned field duty and who are issued uniforms. There are several recommendations we have and I might say it is clearly stated in here that ties will not be required while wearing the work uniform.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is a request I asked him to put in there yesterday. I think it is kind of ridiculous to ask a man to work, particularly in the hot weather, and wear a strangler. This is not good business and it is an unsafe practice, too.

MR. SMITH: We issue to these people field type caps. We do not do enforcement work in the Fish Division, not routinely, and we issue short-sleeve shirts, long-sleeve shirts, belts, trousers, field jackets. We don't at this time issue any footwear. We are considering some sort of a work boot. We do issue insulated overalls.



On all of these apparel we require that the Commission patch be centered one inch below the seam on the left shoulder and that the Commission emblem be centered above the bill on the crown of the cap. We believe that this will go a long way in improving the image of the Commission and Department in the field by adopting these regulations.

We further require that these not be worn on any activity other than those assigned to work. I would think that the adoption of this would improve the overall appearance, Mr. Chairman, and recommend we adopt something similar to it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

You have heard Mr. Smith's recommendations. Do I have a motion?

MR. LUTTRELL: I move we accept the recommendations.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have a second?

MR. RIGGS: 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 this resolution.)

WHEREAS, there is a demonstrated need to establish a policy for the wearing of field work uniforms by personnel of the Fish Division who are assigned field duties, and

WHEREAS, a neat and well-groomed appearance by field personnel who are wearing clean uniforms while on duty will reflect credit on the Department of Wildlife & Fisheries,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following policy is hereby adopted:

FIELD WORK UNIFORM REGULATIONS - FISH DIVISION

1. PURPOSE: To establish consistent rules and regulations for wearing the field work uniform.



2. APPLICABILITY: These rules and regulations shall apply to all Fish Division personnel authorized to wear the field work uniform and will be in effect at all times when the uniform is worn.
3. GENERAL: The following regulations set forth the required manner in which the field work uniform will be worn while on official duty. Non-uniform type clothing may be worn while on official duty as the need dictates and when the situation warrants such attire. The issued coveralls may be worn separately or over non-uniform clothing as appropriate when official duty or work is being performed. Ties not required with field work uniform.
 - A. HEADGEAR: No official hat will be issued or required. A bill-type cap will be supplied for field work, and may be worn



during official duty time in the field.

- B. SHIRT (short sleeve summer): To be worn as issued. Clean and neat and tucked in trousers at all times (exception will be those performing support duties that will not allow them to keep clean, i.e., marine mechanic, heavy equipment operation, deck-hand, field survey party, construction workers, etc.). All buttons to be fastened (collar excepted).
- C. SHIRT (long sleeve winter): To be worn as issued. Clean and neat and tucked in trousers at all times (exception as noted above). All buttons to be fastened. Weather will dictate when long-sleeved shirts will be worn.
- D. BELT: To be a plain solid black



leather with no ornamentation
or enlarged buckle.

E. TROUSERS: To be worn as issued,
clean and pressed and neat at
all times (excepted personnel
as noted above).

F. JACKET: Winter - to be worn as
issued as dictated by weather
conditions.

G. FOOTWEAR: Since no shoes are
issued, work shoes or boots or
deck-type footwear is approved
for field activities requiring
this type. Deck shoes or
rubber boots as dicated by
field work duties will be per-
mitted.

H. JUMPSUIT-COVERALLS: To be worn
as issued. They may be worn in
the field as work uniform or
over the two-piece field uniform
as conditions warrant.

I. COMMISSION EMBLEM AND DIVISION



PATCH: To be centered on left sleeve one inch below the shoulder seam or as issued. The emblem on the field cap will be centered on the crown of the cap above the bill.

4. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Each supervisor is responsible to assure conformance with the provisions of this policy.
- B. Spot inspections may be made in the field at any time by the Director and by the chief or supervisors of the Fish Division.
- C. Each employee is responsible for being clean shaven with hair neatly groomed. Uniforms are to be neat, clean and pressed.
- D. No uniforms or parts of uniforms are to be worn while engaged in activities other



than those associated with the employee's assigned work.

E. Any employee violating any of the provisions of this policy is subject to disciplinary action. Violations which reflect discredit to the uniform or result in embarrassment to the Commission may subject the offender to dismissal.

MR. SMITH: I have something else on the agenda, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: I thought I saw that but I wasn't going to recognize you!

MR. SMITH: Whatever you want.

THE CHAIRMAN: Discussion of Lake Bistineau. Go right ahead, sir.

MR. SMITH: O. K., do you want me to talk?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. SMITH: Well, as is the case each year, we conduct fish surveys and aquatic weed



surveys on Lake Bistineau. We do this fairly intensively. For one thing, this lake has been the direct responsibility of the Department to administer and we try to get the best information we possibly can.

I might comment on the fish population first. We notice that in the predatory game fish -- this is large mouth bass, striped bass and what-have-you -- we have a few species, bass are down a little, not alarmingly but some. The fishing has been reasonably good. The crappie aren't what we think they should be. I think what we are probably doing is we are not picking up all these fish. There seems to be a tendency for these fish to move out of the shallows and into the deeper water in the channels after the spawning season and we just aren't picking them up in our sets. But we are doing, you know, something like a pound or two of crappie per acre and crappie fishing has been pretty good on the lake up there. Bluegills are down some, red-ears are about the same. Overall our non-predatory game fish, which involves all of the sun-fish, is pretty close to the same. We don't have



many fish such as drum, buffalo, and that sort of thing, in these impoundments, and this reflected somewhere less than four pounds per acre. Our catfish is about the same, the channel and flatheads. We have very few other predatory food fish, a few bullfin, a few gar.

Forage fish is up, and there is some consolation in this in that there doesn't appear to be any serious competition between the stripers we placed in there, started placing about three years ago, and I might say it has furnished a considerable extra fishery in the lake. Our main concern in these big predators is that there may be competition between them and the native gamefish, which certainly we would not find desirable, but the presence of forage fish indicates that this problem doesn't exist and, as a matter of fact, we have not found it to be a problem so far anywhere we have placed these fish, and they have caught quite a few. In fact, Lake Bistineau has been probably the best striped bass fishing place in the state in recent years.

On the aquatic plant situation, our



surveys indicate there are no rooted plants in the lake. The plant which has resulted in drawdown recommendation in the past, egeria is the name we know it by, and it has completely filled in some years the upper part of the lake and rendered it completely useless. You couldn't move, you couldn't fish, you couldn't do anything. This year we find no rooted vegetation. The only thing we find is some duckweed on the lower two-thirds of the lake. This duckweed last year was in the upper third of the lake and we predicted it would move out with winds and water that would come in the upper part of the lake. This it did about midwinter. We find quite a bit of this material in the lower two-thirds of the lake, as I say, but the wind moves it around.

We can't draw you a map as to where it is or how much it is because it is constantly moving with the wind, and we don't feel that drawdowns will materially help this situation.

So, based on the information we have gathered this year, we are not recommending a draw-down for Lake Bistineau.

MR. WILLE: Kenneth, you are now recom-



mending a drawdown, is that correct?

MR. SMITH: No, sir, we are not.

MR. WILLE: O. K., I don't think that any action would be necessary on the part of the Commission then, unless we just want to bring it before us as a motion not to draw down Lake Bistineau. I think that I am in complete agreement with you on what I have seen, not from a biological standpoint but from a layman's standpoint. From what I have seen up there, the moss is probably less than it has ever been.

MR. SMITH: There is some difficulty, of course, boating through this stuff. It can be piled up pretty thick and there are some places that they have some problems, but it is one place one day and another place another day.

MR. WILLE: Well, your duck moss or your duck food out there, there is nothing anybody can do about it. It just has to run its course and hope we get some ducks this year up there. Maybe that might be the answer.

Mr. Chairman, do you think that we should make it in the form of a motion not to lower



Bistineau?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wille, it suits me fine. You have to live up there. I kind of look at that as your exclusive lake. I don't mess with that lake but very little. That's why I wasn't even going to mention it a while ago.

MR. WILLE: Well, I will tell you what, just to be on the safe side at this time, then I will say that we make a motion that we do not lower Bistineau this year because of the biological recommendations of Kenneth Smith and his staff.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a second. Any further discussion? All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered. In this case let the record show that the Chairman did not vote.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made



a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, both aquatic plant and fish population surveys were made on Lake Bistineau during the month of August, 1979, and

WHEREAS, the aquatic plant survey indicates there is no rooted submergent vegetation present in the lake but there is a relatively heavy infestation of duckweed in the lower two-thirds of the lake, and

WHEREAS, the fish surveys indicate the predatory game fish and the non-predatory game fish are down slightly, though not seriously,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, there being no biological reason to lower Lake Bistineau in 1979, the Commission hereby goes on record for no drawdown.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, I was asked about the opening of the rest of the public oyster seed grounds. That opens by law on the Wednesday



after Labor Day one-half hour before sunrise, so the rest of the area that is open will open on Wednesday, September 5, one-half hour before sunrise.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Again, back to the lake in question, this Commission has been requested by a public body to draw water out of that lake or the tributaries to it, and we are not going to do it. I guess I have had 300 letters in the last -- Bayou Dorcheat -- we have had at least 300 letters I guess, requesting that we not allow this three million gallons a day to be pulled out of there because they thought it would ruin Lake Bistineau, and I tend to agree with it. For the public's benefit and those in this room, this Commission will not entertain that request. It either has or will be denied. Am I right, Mr. Wille?

MR. WILLE: Well, the appeal will be coming up for action before the Commission next month, and I don't think that we can really state whether we are going to deny it or approve it.

THE CHAIRMAN: I just did!



MR. WILLE: I mean it has to go through the Administrative Procedures Act first, so let's let it do that.

THE CHAIRMAN: I wanted those homeowners to get a little peace of mind in the meantime. We have no official position is what you are saying.

Mr. Huey Sanders.

MR. HUEY SANDERS: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I have a resolution for your consideration for establishing uniform policy for the Education Section. Our Education Section is requesting that we have a policy established for the purchase, wear and maintenance of our uniforms, basically the same as the Fish Division. We are asking for field work uniforms and a dress uniform consisting of blazer and slacks for work with programs at universities, schools and so forth, in addition to our field work.

This is something we have been doing for a number of years but we have been informed by the Division of Administration that we need an official policy on our uniforms. What we are proposing is no different from what we have been doing, it is



just making it official, with your approval.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the request.

MR. LUTTRELL: I move we accept the recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion. Do we have a second?

MR. LAPEYRE: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion and second. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered. Thank you, sir.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you.

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Department's Education Section is daily presenting programs for schools, civic clubs, sportsmen's clubs, youth camps, manning displays,



and also presenting radio and television programs, and

WHEREAS, the Department has for a number of years been purchasing field and dress uniforms for the Education Section personnel, and

WHEREAS, the Department desires to set a uniform policy for purchase, wear and maintenance of uniforms,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby approve the attached outline as the uniform policy for the Education Section:

UNIFORM POLICY - EDUCATION SECTION

Field Uniform:

Summer - Short sleeve khaki color shirt made of 50 percent cotton and 50 percent polyester. Shirts will be made with long tails, flaps over two breast pockets, with flaps on shoulder. Department patch on left



shoulder and Hunter Safety patch on right shoulder. Slacks to be of suitable material in green or brown color.

Winter - Same as summer, but with long sleeve shirts, and including a winter insulated or shooting jacket and leather work-boots.

Dress Uniform (year-round) - Blazers, Gold, Brown, Green with Department patch on left breast pocket. Name tag. Matching slacks.

Quantities of each type uniform:

Field - Summer shirts - 6 each

Winter shirts - 4 each

Slacks - 6 each

Dress - Gold Blazer - 1 each

Green Blazer - 1 each

Brown Blazer - 1 each

1 pair Light Brown Slacks

1 pair Dark Brown Slacks

1 pair Green slacks.

Policy for wear of uniforms:



Displays - Field or dress uniform,
depending on type of display.

Field trips - Field uniform.

School programs - Elementary, Junior
and High Schools, field or dress
uniform, depending on size of
school and teacher dress regula-
tions.

College - Dress uniform.

Sportsman Clubs - Field uniform
or dress uniform.

Hunter and Boating Safety - Field
uniforms.

TV programs - Dress or field
uniform, depending on format of
program.

Shooting jackets can be used in
the place of blazers when speaking
to sportsman groups and hunter
safety classes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Allan Ensminger.

MR. ALLEN ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman and
Gentlemen of the Commission, I also have the very



similar thing that Kenneth and Huey have there. We do vary a little with their divisions in that we do have enforcement type people in the Fur and Refuge Division. These are made up of refuge supervisors and our wardens that work on these individual areas. Our Division, as you know, manages and owns about 425,000 acres of coastal marshlands that are used as refuges and wildlife management areas.

These enforcement people not only enforce our state game laws but they also enforce regulations that you gentlemen have promulgated over the years for the management of these game management areas and refuges. As Kenneth and Huey have indicated, we have been requested by the Division of Administration to provide them with a uniform code for the purchase, maintenance and wearing of these uniforms in the field. We have made up a suggested resolution and will present it to you gentlemen. The thing that you have there before you is a kind of breakdown of our individuals in the Division who are provided with field and dress uniforms and also the wearing of it was patterned after the Game



Division regulations, and I would recommend that we adopt the uniform policy for our Division also.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I would like a motion.

MR. WILLE: I move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wille moves. Do I hear a second?

MR. FARRELLY: Second.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

MR. GILBERT: I would like to ask Allen one question, if I may, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. GILBERT: Allen, I noticed in your presentation that you mentioned twice about a clothing allowance. Is there some problem?

MR. ENSMINGER: No, what we have done in the past, Senator Gilbert, was that we would provide field and dress uniforms as these people need



them. Now this has physically worked out where we provide a dress uniform on an average of about every three or four years and a work uniform on the basis of about two and a half or three years. This has created some problem in that down toward the end of a fiscal year if we didn't have money set up in a particular year, we did not have money available to replace the entire clothing issue for the entire division. I think that by going to a system where we will have an organized replacement thing, it will be much more orderly for us than to go out and buy uniforms for 80 people, two or three sets of clothing for the entire division. I think this would be a much more reasonable budgeting type of operation also. This is one of the big things that this policy will assist us from an administrative standpoint.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MR. ENSMINGER: I might add just briefly our dress uniforms that our refuge supervisors and wardens wear in the field are different from the enforcement divisions and do not confuse the public with the fact that these men are refuge people.



They do have the name on them and we did stay with a mint green color so that they would be comparable to the Enforcement Division but not identical to the enforcement agent's uniform.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Now, with one of the least controversial issues of the day, we will call Mr. Bateman up and talk about setting the waterfowl seasons.

MR. HUGH BATEMAN: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, before I give you the recommendations for this year's waterfowl hunting season dates, I would like, if I may, to make just a few brief comments concerning last year's duck harvest and also what the outlook for this year's waterfowl hunting here in Louisiana might be.

This map here simply shows the distribution of the duck harvest here in Louisiana, based on our mail survey that we ran for this last year's hunting season. We had a state total duck kill of a little over two million birds. The color codes are coordinated on this part of the chart (indicating) to the colors on the map there.

In the west zone we killed about 1,100,000



birds. It was about an equal split between the first segment and the second segment in the west zone. In the east zone they took a little less than half of the total ducks in the state and in this part of the state, of course, there was a much heavier take of birds during the much longer and later portion of that season. That was these two figures here.

As far as the distribution of the duck kill in the state is concerned, the eastern zone inland from the coast took about 65 percent of the birds taken in the east zone. The east coastal zone accounted for about 36 percent of the birds.

In the west part of the state the mail questionnaire survey indicated that only 23 percent of the total ducks harvested in the west zone were taken in the inland areas, whereas this heavily hunted area, where of course most of the ducks occur in the state, down on the southwest coastal prairies, about 77 percent of that zone's duck harvest occurred in that area.

The overall duck kill this last year, the 2,900,980 bird estimate, is down about 11 per-



cent from 1977. As you know, we had an extreme drought in particularly the east part of the state this last year, and this accounted, along with poor production this last year in Canada, for most of the decrease in the duck kill.

I know there are some gentlemen here in the audience that would be interested in knowing that right now the prospects for the fall flight this year we think are excellent. There was much improved duck production in most of the breeding areas in Canada, in the North Central United States this year. Most of the reports that we got from Ducks Unlimited, from Fish and Wildlife Service, all indicated that water conditions were improved, the number of ducks in the breeding areas was improved, and July surveys on actual duck production indicated also that duck production will be improved. Simply what that comes down to is that this coming fall I think we are looking at a real good chance for having an improved number of overall ducks here in the state and very much important is the fact that a larger portion of those birds that come to Louisiana will be young birds, and



that sets the stage for improved hunting.

As far as the framework information for what we have to deal with this year with our duck season, there has been only one major change in what we have to work with this year as compared to last year. That is simply that the 35-point category that was in force last year has been reduced to a 25-point category. That is extremely important because that category includes that real popular bird, the mallard drake, and that means that the mallard shooters of Louisiana will be able to take four birds in the bag this year. There were no other changes.

We can set a 50-day season in the 14 states in the Mississippi Flyway this year, in between the outside dates of September 29 on the bottom end and January 20 on the top end. We have 30 minutes before sunrise shooting. We have continued zoning in the state, the option to set different seasons in both zones. We are also going to have the option this year for the point system again, and just for information purposes for the Board, I think you are already aware that there is



an option in these regulations where if you would choose, you can have a standard daily bag limit of five birds. Out of that five birds, only three could be mallards and only two of those mallards could be hens. There would also be a restriction of two wood ducks in there.

Of course, I think it is obvious to me and I think it is obvious to the Board and certainly our duck hunters would much prefer to go with the point system.

If I might, let me put the chart on the point values over this, just to show you what they will be. This is just an information chart showing which birds fall under which point categories and, as I mentioned just now, the only change from last year in the point allocations would be that the 35-point category last year has been reduced to the 25-point category, and that includes your mallard drake, mottled duck and ringneck duck, and it is a kind of catch-all category for some of your miscellaneous small divers like your buffleheads, goldeneyes and birds that don't really turn up in the bag.



The real important category to a lot of coastal hunters and to a lot of people in the interior area like Catahoula Lake and some of these places where they do get a mixture of puddleducks, of course, is the 10-point category, and that has about 60 percent of the birds that occur in the bag in Louisiana in the low-point category.

All in all, I think that certainly I am and the rest of the staff is extremely pleased with the regulations that we had come out of the Fish and Wildlife Service deliberations and I think we have got pretty much everything going our way. We got just about everything that we asked for.

With that, I --

MR. LUTTRELL: Excuse me. Somewhere I got the idea that some of these restricted areas for canvasbacks were going to be allotted for them. Is that correct?

MR. BATEMAN: There have been some recommended changes in that in some areas. They are not in the Mississippi Flyway, to my knowledge. I think that they are in other flyways. Basically there has been no change in the Mississippi Flyway.



MR. LUTTRELL: I knew but I had forgotten where.

MR. BATEMAN: I could get with you after the meeting and maybe we could find them, but I don't have them on the top of my head. That is something we are going to work on in the future, too, by the way.

Gentlemen, I would like to offer the following dates for the duck season.

In the western zone of Louisiana for the 1979-80 season, the opening date would be November 3, to run through November 27. That would be for a total of 25 days. The season would close on November 27 and there would be a 17-day split. It would reopen on December 15 and run through January 13 for 30 days. That would give you a total of 55 days in the western zone of Louisiana.

In the eastern zone, the season would open on November 17 and continue for 20 days through December 6. It would reopen on December 22 and continue through January 20 for 30 days. There would be a total of 15 days between the splits.

For geese, in the western zone we would



recommend that the season open on November 3 and continue through November 27 for 25 days, reopen on December 15 and continue through January 28, 1980, for 45 days, which would give you a total of 70 days for goose hunting.

In the eastern zone we would recommend that the goose season open on November 17 and continue through January 25, straight for 70 days of goose hunting.

At the end of the duck season on January 20 in the east zone we would also recommend that allowances be made, which is simply a contact between me and the Fish and Wildlife Service on setting up another special scaup season that would extend from January 21 through January 31 for a period of 11 days and during this period there would be a scaup-only season and the bag limit would be five a day with ten in possession, and it would be allowed only in certain restricted areas in southeast Louisiana that we have had for several previous years.

Gentlemen, that would cover the recommendations that we have for the 1979-80 waterfowl



season.

MR. LUTTRELL: I would like to recommend that the east zone be set according to the recommendations of the biologist.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Clay, let me see if anyone in the audience wishes to be heard. If so, I would like them to come forward and state their name and who they represent.

MR. LOUIS BATT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Louis Batt. I speak on behalf of a group of hunters. We hunt out of Pointe a la Hache, numbering 15. Last time up I represented Clio Club. I wasn't able to contact them to get their O. K. on my recommendations at this time.

It seems that Mr. Bateman and I always come reasonably close but with a little differential. My fellow hunters and myself worked on the framework that was given to me. Incidentally, Mr. Chairman, it took an Act of Congress to get these dates as late as two o'clock yesterday, the framework. I don't know, there was some foul-up. At any rate, our object was to try and secure the



season or recommend the season that would give the maximum number of hunting days to, say, Joe Blow, the guy who works from Monday through Friday, has off only weekends and holidays.

Mr. Bateman I think has a very good framework there, with the exception I have one misgiving about it. I am going to call that lost days. Because of the number of days given, when you are trying to allot it, you come up with a certain amount of lost days. In Mr. Bateman's suggestion I find four lost days with the closing I think of the first half. I very hurriedly jotted them down.

I would like to suggest just a little bit different dating, and of course we would turn around for everybody that wants to make a suggestion. I would like to suggest that, speaking of the east zone, the opening be November 22. This is a Thursday. This is Thanksgiving Day. This will give you your initial hunt. Go forward and close on December 3, which is a Monday. Before I hear too much disgruntle about that, I will explain why it ends up on a Monday later.

It would reopen on November 14, which is



a Friday.

THE CHAIRMAN: You mean December 14?

MR. BATT: Pardon?

THE CHAIRMAN: December 14.

MR. BATT: December 14.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., you said November.

MR. BATT: And run through the 20th. You have 12 days in the first segment, 38 days in the second segment. I spoke initially about what I consider lost days, days that the average Joe Blow would not be able to hunt. I twisted this, turned it. If we were blessed with the 55 days in the west zone we wouldn't have had a problem but we had 50 so we worked with it. By twisting it, turning it, trying to make it work out, you come out with a minimum of two lost days. There is no way that you can possibly work them in. So, with these two lost days, we saw fit to put one at the end of what we thought the first segment would be, thus making it close on a Monday. At the beginning of the second season, one of the other lost days was placed on a Friday. The only assumption we can draw is that possibly hooked to a weekend the



average Joe Blow could possibly utilize that one by getting an additional day off to go Monday or maybe get off a day early to go Friday.

This, gentlemen, is the recommendation at this time. Thank you.

MR. WILLE: Sir, before you leave, can I ask you a question? What was your name again, sir?

MR. BATT: Louis Batt, B-a-t-t.

MR. WILLE: Mr. Batt, did any of your group make the public meeting in New Orleans here that we had concerning the setting of the seasons?

MR. BATT: Recently?

MR. WILLE: Well, when was it, Joe?

MR. FARRELLY: May.

MR. WILLE: In May. Well, every May --

MR. BATT: No, I am sorry we didn't.

MR. WILLE: Well, every May we have three public hearings. We have broken it down into three public hearings by Mr. Gilbert's guidance there so we could get input from all over the state. Now we took all the input that was given at those meetings from various hunting clubs throughout, we had a lot of publicity, and then all of this was compiled



by our biologists and that is the reason that you got the recommended dates that you have today, within the framework.

MR. BATT: Um-hum.

MR. WILLE: Now I don't want you all to be angry walking out of here today if you don't get the dates that you want, but I would like for you to certainly consider next May having your group up here to give their input because this is what really weighs heavily. Right now you are looking at a finished product of all the research and work that the biologists have gone through and you are walking in here in essence -- and I am not criticizing you for doing it --

MR. BATT: Sure.

MR. WILLE: -- because I don't blame you a bit, but you are walking in here on the day that the seasons are going to be set. These people have gone into all of this recommendations, various requests from different groups throughout the whole state, and took it down and broke it down and said, well, the northern part of the state can live with this as well as the southern part of the state, so



what you are looking at in essence is a finished product of what they have, and believe me, I appreciate the fact that you are up here making recommendations, but I am going to say this, for myself, I think that you should have been up here in May.

MR. BATT: Well, obviously, that would have been an advantage. Quite frankly, in May I was aware of it and out of town at the time, I couldn't make it. For other various reasons some of the other hunters didn't appear.

I would like to comment at this time that I don't know how many heard about this particular meeting. Quite frankly, early I think Thursday morning, there is a sport program and a gentleman was on it and he mentioned this meeting. Other than that -- maybe I don't travel in the right circles, I don't know -- but other than that I would not even have been aware of this meeting.

In the paper, I have been constantly going through it, and I haven't heard it mentioned. However, recently we discontinued the evening paper. If it appeared in the evening paper, I apologize for saying this, but in the morning paper it has



not even been hinted that this meeting would be. I am not suggesting any type of subterfuge to keep the public out of here; I am just saying that possibly we need a little bit broader public announcement of these meetings and I might suggest that the majority of the hunters receive The Conservationist. I was wondering if at an appropriate time when that particular issue goes out there couldn't be a flyer possibly secured to the inner cover that would bring out maybe two or three dates --

MR. WILLE: Certainly you have a good point. I think it definitely could be incorporated in The Conservationist, whether it would be as a flyer or not, but I think that, looking around at the news media over here at the table, we got pretty good coverage. I know, Mack, I am sure you put it out on UPI, didn't you, when we were going to have those public meetings, or AP --

MR. McFADDEN DUFFY: Notice went out to every paper and radio station and television station.

MR. BATT: It may have been my fault, that I didn't --



MR. WILLE: No, it could be that the television stations, radio stations, maybe we are not stressing enough importance on it, Mack. Maybe we should add a little more to our release or something and say that this is most important.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you talking about the input meetings or are you talking about --

MR. WILLE: I am talking about the input meetings, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: He was talking about the meeting today.

MR. BATT: Specifically today, but of course in a broader sense, I am talking about all the meetings.

THE CHAIRMAN: We normally have the meetings on the fourth Monday and Tuesday of each month. Of course, we normally set, according to my knowledge, the waterfowl schedules, the seasons, in the month of August. That has been I think pretty standard for how long now?

MR. BATT: Is it more or less a pattern that the date when feedback is accepted and digested into recommendations is in May, did you



say? The original meetings?

MR. WILLE: Yes. The reason we have to have it that early is because it takes a long time to collate all this information.

MR. BATT: Yes, I understand.

MR. WILLE: Most of our meetings last anywhere from three to six hours. We accept that much input from people. You would be surprised. And they all want to speak and they all want to give their input, and Mr. Herring takes all this information down and he compiles this. This concerns deer, everything, I mean it concerns the whole spectrum.

MR. BATT: If so notified I will be glad to be with you next year, of course.

MR. WILLE: I certainly hope you will be and I think you might probably get closer to what you want.

MR. BATT: Thank you very much.

MR. LAPEYRE: Mr. Batt, would you identify your four what you call lost days?

MR. BATT: Let me see if I can get back to it right fast. We are starting on what, Decem-



ber 22. I think that is a good date since it is not an off date. Now we are closing December 6, which is a Thursday. We spoke of the average Joe who wants weekends and holidays only, so Wednesday, Thursday and Monday he is not going to be able to hunt. Whereas, not pushing the issue much farther, in the particular recommendations I made, you have only two lost days, which is the two that I could not place anywhere else so I just arbitrarily put them at the end of one weekend, which is the end of the first segment, making a Monday, which for all practical purposes is a lost day, and the other at the beginning of the second segment, which is a Friday, which could be an off day. You could possibly utilize more in that position than in the middle of the week.

MR. LAPEYRE: Besides the 6th, what are the other lost days that you see in Hugh Bateman's recommendations?

MR. BATT: That is it. That is the four lost days that I was referring to.

MR. LAPEYRE: I see. So in other words, the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th of December.



MR. BATT: That would be it, yes, sir.
Thank you, gentlemen.

MR. HAWKINS: It is always an honor to be before you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Director.

I tell you, we are almost exactly like those fellows what we get. Now just to show you on days --

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hawkins, what --

MR. HAWKINS: In the west.

THE CHAIRMAN: West zone, yes, sir.

MR. HAWKINS: Cameron Parish. Now on the opening day of last year, I mean the opening week, we killed 1,742 ducks. In the same length of time, on January 5 and 9, 4 and 9, we killed 800 ducks. Now that is a difference in us getting in January. We just can't kill any ducks. They have all gone to South America and we just can't kill any.

But those boys say they will go the 6th of November and we beg to go to the 3rd of November but we would go to the 6th but then on the 14th that would fix us up and we wouldn't have to fool with January.

We appreciate your giving us all the days



you can in the opening. If you could go to the 3rd of November, I mean start on the 3rd of November and go to the 3rd of December or the 6th and then don't let us take too much time in January. But you have been nice to us to go to the 27th, but if you could do that you would have both sides happy.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hawkins, I would like to say this. In the public input meetings, I would say a good 87 -- I am picking an arbitrary figure, over 90 -- most of the people who were at that meeting, I am not even going to say a percentage, were requesting that -- in fact, we had requests that we open the season in the western zone for nine days and then close it and back it up to the back of the framework, which would be January 20 and bring it back in. Now this is how serious it really is and you can tell me -- I don't know what the percentages were, Hugh, but they were pretty high, weren't they, of this type request. This is why it is so important, and I am going to stress it again, that you folks show up at these public meetings to give the input.



What we did is a little compromise to give them a few more days in January because we had so many requests for a January late season. I think every member of this Commission will attest to this. I am talking about everybody that got up saying we want a later season in the western zone.

MR. HAWKINS: You mean the western zone?

MR. WILLE: Yes, sir, absolutely.

MR. HAWKINS: Well, you know there are not any ducks anywhere except in Cameron Parish, Calcasieu Parish and Vermilion Parish, and if they have a --

THE CHAIRMAN: There are some in Catahoula. You ask Mr. Clay.

MR. WILLE: This was down in that area that these people were from that were requesting it. That is why I am saying that your input would be very valuable when we have our public meetings again, because that is when we get all that input and put it together. We didn't feel like the later season was going to help that much. We have compromised a little bit because we had so many



people that were requesting it. You know, we are in the people business besides the fish and game business.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wille, the Chair feels, and I am serious, that the recommendations that the biologists and Mr. Bateman made are the fairest compromise that we could make to make everybody somewhat happy. I wouldn't want to see it moved to one extreme or the other, and this is kind of the middle of the road and I think that the date of November 3 to 27 is a realistic date and also from the 15th of December to the 13th of January is a realistic date. It is a compromise. Now it is not exactly what you want nor is it exactly what the people wanted who wanted to go to the 20th in the western zone.

MR. WILLE: They really did want that.

THE CHAIRMAN: They wanted to go to the 20th, they wanted to back it as far as they could.

MR. WILLE: In fact, they wanted it open only nine days in November. That is what they asked us to do.

MR. HAWKINS: Well, it would be just as



well to close, if you go back that far.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am not sure that your hunter pressure doesn't run a lot of your ducks out, but I could be wrong. You have got more experience than I, but I really feel like that if you didn't even hunt your ducks in November, that you would still have most of those ducks there in December. The hunter pressure is what moves those ducks on out before the weather does.

MR. HAWKINS: You see, all our pintail leave us not later than the 23rd day of December. They are all gone. You have to shoot gray ducks and everything else. After that it is gray ducks and a few widgeons and teal. That is all you have. Our pintail is our best duck. We don't kill mallards. We don't shoot mallards because this side asked us way back there, the east side, don't kill mallards, said let us have mallards because they have more mallards over there. We killed less than 200 mallards last year. We killed pintails and ducks like that, but we just passed up shooting the mallards to build them up because they had gotten to where they were low.



Then, of course, you all are going to do what you have to do.

MR. WILLE: Well, the only thing we can go on, Mr. Hawkins, like I said, is the input of the people, and we did do a little compromise and give them a few more days in January because we did have so many requests. Now the only way to counter that type of request is for you folks to be there when we have our public meetings.

MR. HAWKINS: Well, I know you are doing the best you can, but I thought maybe we might make it nice, since you had this crowd wanting to go to the 6th and we did, too.

MR. WILLE: I understand that and we appreciate it. We really appreciate your coming up here.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you.

MR. PAUL DUBUISSON: Mr. Chairman and Commission Members, I am Paul Dubuisson. I represent the Dutch Bayou Hunting Club and we are in wholehearted agreement with the dates set down for ducks by the biologists. We would ask that perhaps, being the season is going to be closed for two



weeks on ducks, why not go ahead and close it for two weeks also on geese and allow the waterfowl just to settle down. If you have a certain percentage of goose hunters chasing around the marsh, there may be some accidental violations as a result of being in the marsh, and hunter pressure being what it is, the birds don't know that you are shooting at just geese. I think that it might be a good idea to just let everything settle down for two weeks. Since the dates for goose season extend into February, the framework dates, go ahead and allow the goose season to run concurrently with the duck season with the exception that the dates extend on into February until the 70 days are exhausted.

MR. GILBERT: Are you in the west zone, sir?

MR. DUBUISSON: I am sorry, the east zone.

MR. LUTTRELL: If you closed for the 15 days, you wouldn't get your 70 days, would you?

THE CHAIRMAN: On this issue here, could you do that?

MR. BATEMAN: I understand what the



gentleman is asking, and he would not lose the 15 days. You could split it and go ahead and open it. In southeast Louisiana you have got a few isolated areas where they hunt geese, primarily the mouth of the river and the mouth of the Pearl River. Basically that is the only two areas. Were it in southwest Louisiana where you have geese spread out all over the marsh and we would affect a lot of duck hunters by having the goose season opened, I would tend to agree with you 100 percent. However, in southeast Louisiana I don't think it would create as much of a problem, and we would prefer to keep it the way we have it.

I understand what you are saying but I don't think it is going to create as much of a problem in southeast Louisiana where you have just these two little isolated areas where they do hunt geese.

THE CHAIRMAN: How about in the western zone? Would that be advantageous in the western zone to do that?

MR. DUBUISSON: No, that is what they have got in the western zone. They have got it



broken.

MR. WILSON THIBODEAUX: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, I am Wilson Thibodeaux. I am executive director and member of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. However, we have no recommendation. I couldn't contact President Gene Dozier.

I am here representing the Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League in the absence of our president, Foster Sanders, who is in Washington and has an appointment with Mr. Andrus in the Department of Interior concerning the Atchafalaya Basin. The Baton Rouge Sportsmen's League wholeheartedly endorses the recommendation of the biologists as they have set this. We are satisfied with it and all. I don't have anything to say about the eastern zone.

I thank you for the opportunity to come over here and I also want to invite each and every one of you all to a state duck and goose calling contest October 13 in Baton Rouge at the Howell Park Gym. Thank you, sir.

MR. GILBERT: Sir, you are in the west



zone?

MR. THIBODEAUX: Yes, sir.

MR. GILBERT: And you are happy with this recommendation?

MR. THIBODEAUX: We are definitely happy with the recommendations of the biologists.

MR. GILBERT: Where is most of your hunting done? What area?

MR. THIBODEAUX: Gueydan, Louisiana, sir.

MR. GILBERT: Gueydan. And you are happy with the season as recommended. Thank you.

MR. THIBODEAUX: Very much so, and some friends and members hunting in the Pecan Island area and so forth and so on, and then we have a number of hunters from Baton Rouge that hunt in the Atchafalaya Basin. I might as well retract my statement about no stand on the eastern zone because the Atchafalaya Basin is in the eastern zone so I will have to retract that statement and say that we are happy with both zones. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Zach, do you wish to be heard?

MR. ZACH RAUSH: Mr. Berry and Members



of the Commission, I am Zach Raush from Lake Charles, Louisiana, and we are very happy with the recommendations of the biologists. We have always gone along with them. We feel like they have done a tremendous job and we are very happy with these recommendations. I want to thank you for the opportunity to come before you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Raush.

Does anyone else wish to be heard? Yes.

MR. STU SHEER: Mr. Chairman and Committee, my name is Stu Sheer from lower Terrebonne Parish. I have run a commercial duck hunting operation down there for the past five years and I would just like to come up here and voice up my support for the recommendations that Mr. Bateman has handed down. I feel like that they are excellent recommendations. The January 20 closing in the east zone is excellent and the two-week waiting period between seasons we feel like is excellent also. Last year we just didn't have enough days in between the seasons to let the ducks rest and we feel like that this year under the framework it is perfect and we appreciate it. Thank you.



THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Sheer.

MR. LAPEYRE: Stu, would you comment on this gentleman's request for a closing of the goose season during the duck close? Does this affect you in any way?

MR. SHEER: As far as the goose season, no, it doesn't affect me. In my particular operation we don't hunt geese and I am really not concerned with that and really couldn't make a noteworthy comment on it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Anyone else?

If that is all the input, the Chair will now entertain a motion to set the seasons.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Chairman, I move we accept the recommendations of the biologists, both zones.

MR. RIGGS: Second.

MR. WILLE: Ducks and geese.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a second that we accept the seasons recommended by the biologists in the west and east zone. Any further discussion? I will call for a vote. All in favor say aye.



IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered. Unanimous.

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

WHEREAS, the waterfowl hunting regulations for the 1979-80 season have been announced by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is authorized to establish the dates during which ducks, geese and coots may be hunted within the federal framework,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby establish the following dates for the hunting of ducks, geese and coots:

West Zone

Ducks and Coots



November 3-November 27	25 days
December 15-January 13	<u>30 days</u>
	55 total

Geese

November 3-November 27	25 days
December 15-January 28	<u>45 days</u>
	70 total

East Zone

Ducks and Coots

November 17-December 6	20 days
December 22-January 20	<u>30 days</u>
	50 total

Geese

November 17-January 25	70 days
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Special Scaup Season

January 21-January 31 (11 days).

Restricted to certain coastal areas in Southeast Louisiana.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife
and Fisheries Commission does hereby
adopt all other Federal regulations
controlling the hunting of waterfowl



including shooting hours, baiting, firearm usage, etc., except that the Noon and 2:00 p.m. shooting hours on a number of wildlife management areas as previously established by the Commission, and announced, shall remain in effect.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gilbert, I would like for you, Mr. Riggs and Mr. Farrelly to form the committee to study the present fee on fill material and report back to this entire Commission within 60 days.

MR. GILBERT: We will do that, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: I believe we have one other item on the agenda this morning or two. One of them is to set the date for the September meeting, which will be the 24th and 25th of September.

Also, I would like for this Commission to go on record, perhaps in a motion, to send a telegram to Mr. Lynn Greenwalt re the steel shot issue and take the same position we took on it last year. At this time the Chair will entertain a motion to instruct the Secretary to send such a



telegram over the signature of the Commission.

MR. FARRELLY: I make that motion.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion on it? All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

Is there any other business to come before the Commission this morning? Anyone else wish to be heard? Yes, sir.

FROM THE FLOOR: Would it be in order to talk about shrimp right now?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir, if you want to talk about it, we will be glad to hear you. Come state your name and who you represent, sir.

MR. HENRY BUSH: Mr. Chairman, I am with Mr. Hawkins. My name is Henry Bush. We are from Lafayette and we hunt down at Oak Grove Hunting Club. This date that you gave, the starting date, is very good. The first half is very good. I



think the only thing Mr. Hawkins objected to was going so far in January. Averaged over the last eight years, this is four days later than the average closing date the last seven years. Mr. Bateman may bear that out if he researched it a little bit. We are just running four days later and I don't think that is going to hurt us too much. Mr. Hawkins and I will be back in May when you meet again.

I did want to talk about shrimp for just a minute. I am not a commercial shrimper. I am retired and I hunt and fish. That's all I do. My wife don't like it too much but, anyway, I still do it.

You opened the shrimping season in Vermilion Bay Monday, a week ago today, and with all the commercial boats -- I know I am raising a controversial question -- all the commercial boats that come in there, there was one day that a person could catch shrimp. It was over Monday night. Now you close certain areas for oysters. I would like for you to consider closing some bays for out-of-state shrimp boats, commercial



shrimp boats. I see some of our own shrimp boats with both booms down and I understand they are only supposed to have one boom down, dragging one net in a closed bay, but they say that is for balance.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir, let me comment on that. I have not checked it this year but last year I had numerous complaints. I was assured they were fishing double rigs. I got in my private boat. I took one of the agents with me and I went out and checked about 20 boats. They all had double doors, they all had single nets. I could not find one dragging two nets.

MR. BUSH: That's very good. I can't tell for sure whether they are dragging them or not but I see the boom out.

THE CHAIRMAN: We stopped and let them pull them up and looked at both doors and we knew without a shadow of a doubt that only one net was being drug.

MR. BUSH: I know the purpose of this meeting is not to discuss closing any bays but I would like for you to have this in your mind for



future consideration and discussion, because after the first day in Vermilion Bay I can assure you, gentlemen, you just burn up gasoline for nothing.

To carry it a little bit further, I am sure the knowledgeable biologists will bear me out that if all your shrimp are gone, there is no bait for the speckled trout when they are supposed to come into the bay in the fall, so that is going to cut down on the special trout fishing, too.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you suggesting cutting out the shrimping altogether in some of the bays or just cut the commercial operations?

MR. BUSH: Just cut the commercial out. Let the sportsmen with the 30-foot trawl -- oh, I see you grinning, sir, and I know, I have been through this when Mr. Jones was on this thing from Cameron Parish, and he said, "You ought to sit on this Commission and hear what we have to hear," so I know what you are going to hear. But I have never seen the bay closed and I would like to see it tried because I do think it would be to the advantage of everybody.

MR. LAPEYRE: I believe that you could



have a closing of that sort but I doubt that you could discriminate between commercial and non-commercial trawling.

MR. FARRELLY: I don't think you could discriminate between out-of-state and in-state.

MR. LAPEYRE: Out-of-state and in-state, absolutely no.

MR. FARRELLY: As long as they have a license.

MR. BUSH: Well, how do you do it on oysters? You close it.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is closed to everybody, not just the commercial fishermen.

MR. BUSH: It might be well to close the bay for everybody for a year for an experiment because there sure ain't no shrimp coming in there after the first day. That's it.

MR. LAPEYRE: I think that would be within the authority of the Commission but not to discriminate between types of activity.

MR. BUSH: I am sure you gentlemen have checked into it, those of you who have been on this board for a long time, and I don't want to



belabor the thing too much, but I would appreciate your consideration of something to help a man catch some shrimp after the first day. That is my point.

MR. FARRELLY: I would just like to suggest to you that there are going to be hearings throughout the state on shrimp or fisheries management concerning shrimp. It was originally scheduled for August but it has been delayed to October, tentatively. There is no date set, but I am sure if you keep your eye on any news releases in the newspapers you will find this, and when it is in your area, you should go and make your recommendations at that time.

MR. BUSH: And put it in The Conservationist, just like this other gentleman suggested. Notice of that meeting.

MR. FARRELLY: If that is possible, I am sure they would.

MR. BUSH: Thank you very much, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Any other business to come before the Commission this morning?

MR. LEOPOLD TALIANCICH: Mr. Chairman and



Gentlemen of the Commission, my name is Leopold Taliancich and I would just like to comment on what the gentleman just said. You know, it is a funny thing, I am not an oyster trawler, but I have got to buy the shrimp when I want them. That is the only way I can get them because I find that is the best way to get them. Anyhow, there is a funny thing about the commercial fishermen down there. They are all complaining there are too many sport fishermen, that's why they can't get those shrimps!

(Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Anyone else.
We stand adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 11:35 o'clock
a.m., the meeting was adjourned.)

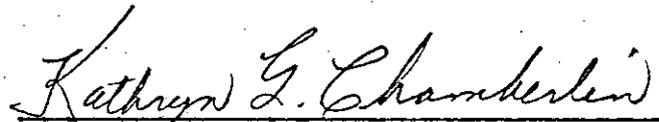
Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing (103 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 24th day of September, 1979.


Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

