

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

SPECIAL
BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 23, 1982

JESSE M. KNOWLES
CHAIRMAN

Lake Charles, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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AGENDA

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MINUTES OF MEETING

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Lake Charles, Louisiana

SPECIAL CALL MEETING

March 23, 1982

Chairman Jesse M. Knowles, presiding.

Members present:

Mr. Wayne C. Ducote
Mr. James C. Farrelly
Mr. George N. Gray
Mr. Jesse M. Knowles
Mr. Charles A. Riggs

Members absent:

Mr. J. C. Gilbert
Mr. Ronald Menville

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A special call meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Jesse M. Knowles, on Tuesday, March 23, 1982, at 6:30 P.M., at the Sheraton Chateau Charles, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Mr. Harry E. Schafer, Chief, Seafood Division, stated a couple of months ago the Commission adopted a resolution to conditionally lift the oyster lease application moratorium. The Department following the mandate of the Public Information Act sent copies of this resolution to both the Senate and House Task Force Committee who oversees any changes in rules and regulations.

Mr. Schafer said the Department received a letter back from the Senate in the thirty-day allotted time but we have not received a letter back from the House Task Force Committee.

Mr. Schafer explained that somewhere along the line, the letter was misplaced and the House will be

voting on this by mail ballot next Friday but their thirty days was up last Saturday. The law reads that they have thirty days to pass, change or deny any change in the regulations. As far as we can ascertain, those thirty days are up. He said Mr. Guidry met with two of the members and he is bringing a letter of explanation, however, if we do not have this before the Commission tonight then any change in this would be a six months' delay to get this back through the Public Information Act procedure.

Mr. Schafer emphasized that we need to open this, lift the moratorium, to give some relief to the oyster fishermen who need some new leasing grounds because of the salinity encroachment.

Mr. Schafer explained that in order to conditionally lift the moratorium we have some rules and regulations that in order to lease some waterbottoms from the Department, the oyster fisherman will be eligible to put in an application provided he hires his own surveyor. The oyster fisherman will have six months in order to have this survey or six months after he can do this. There are rules and regulations setting up the mechanism for doing this by issuing numbers, making appointments, etc.

Mr. James C. Farrelly, Vice Chairman, stated that back in 1978, the Commission felt it should place a moratorium on the leasing of oysters because there was such a backlog at that particular time. The Survey Section was unable to keep up with the amount of leases the people were requesting. It took some time to solve this particular problem and now it is felt that the Department can begin leasing again. It is important to the oyster industry that we have this moratorium removed as soon as possible.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, that a conditional lifting of the oyster lease application moratorium be lifted according to the rules and regulations of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission during the April, 1978 meeting issued a moratorium on the taking of applications for water-bottoms to culture oysters, and

WHEREAS, there was a Wildlife and Fisheries Commission "Oyster Committee" meeting to look into this critical issue held January, 1982, and

WHEREAS, there is still a large backlog of old applications, but it is felt that the Department has the responsibility to provide a recourse for those individuals desiring to enter the fisheries, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission proposes to make a rule change that will conditionally lift the moratorium for those applicants who will agree they will hire a private surveyor to perform their survey and this survey must be performed within six months after they are able to survey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that applications will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis according to the following rules:

- I. A. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, Survey Section Office, will open officially at 8:30 A.M., Monday, May 3, 1982. At that time, numbers will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis. These numbers will be issued consecutively daily, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. for a one month period beginning May 3, 1982, and ending June 3, 1982. These individuals will then be taken consecutively by number on an appointment basis.
- II. B. Any bona fide resident or any corporation domiciled in or organized under the laws of this state represented by its

president/chairman of the board may make an application.

- II. The appointments will begin the following week on Monday, May 10, 1982, with the following rules:
- A. The applicant will be taken in five-number increments daily with the first five numbers (applicants being dispersed consecutively) among the five slots mentioned above and each individual will only be allowed one hour. If the said individual misses his or her appointment, that number will be revoked. The remaining applicants will be taken consecutively in five-applicant increments until all the numbers are exhausted.
 - B. At the time of application, the regular application fee will be paid to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This would be retained until completion of surveys. If survey is not completed within the allotted time, this application fee will be retained for services rendered.
 - C. At the time the individual obtains his number he will be issued an appointment.
 - D. Only an individual, unless he or she is president or chairman of the board of a corporation, is entitled to make an appointment in his or her name.
 - E. No power of attorney will be honored.

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Chairman Knowles stated he had one other item which was called to his attention by the Fur and Refuge Division. He said on May 29, 1969, a prohibition was placed on the hunting of frogs at night in Salvador and Point-au-Chien Wildlife Management Areas. Recently, a bulletin was published and this regulation was left off the bulletin whereby you could not hunt frogs. As a

result of this, there have been some enforcement problems.

Chairman Knowles said he was not taking an official vote but would like an expression from the Commission as to whether or not they felt night frog hunting should be still prohibited in Salvador and Point-au-Chien Wildlife Management Areas.

The Commission Members said they wanted to continue the ban on frog hunting at night on Salvador and Point-au-Chien Wildlife Management Areas.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, and passed unanimously, the meeting be adjourned.

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Jesse M. Knowles
Chairman

Jesse J. Guidry
Secretary

Minutes transcribed
by Jan Sommers