

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 22, 1983

James Farrelly

Chairman

New Orleans, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION

November 22, 1983

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MINUTES OF MEETING  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA  
November 22, 1983

Chairman James C. Farrelly, presiding:

Members present:

Dr. Jack Cappel  
Mr. Gary Chouest  
Mr. Wayne Ducote  
Mr. George Gray  
Mr. Jesse Knowles  
Mr. Charles Riggs

Secretary Jesse J. Guidry was present.

\* \* \* \*

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission was called to order by Mr. James Farrelly, Chairman, on Monday November 21, 1983 at 2:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Dr. Jack Cappel, seconded by Mr. Jesse Knowles to go into a committee of the whole.

Invocation was offered by Mr. Charles Riggs.

A roll call of members present was taken.

\* \* \* \*

Motion was made by Mr. George Gray, seconded by Mr. Jesse Knowles and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 27, 1983 meeting.

\* \* \* \*

Motion was made by Mr. George Gray, seconded by Mr. Charles Riggs and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of October 12, 1983.

Mr. Harry Schafer reported on the activities of the survey section for the period October 12 - November 8, 1983. During this period field activity consisted of surveying 91 leases (the majority of which were underapplication due to expiration by prescription) that were tied into the monument control system in a congested area to enable new application surveys.

\* \* \* \*

Dr. Ted B. Ford suggested that copies of the proposed seismic rules and regulations be distributed to everyone concerned and schedule a meeting at a later date to allow adequate time to review the material.

Mr. Gary Chouest, Mr. Wayne Ducote and Dr. Jack Cappel were appointed to a committee to meet with the interested individuals and make recommendations to the Commission on these rules.

\* \* \* \*

Motion was made by Mr. Jesse Knowles, seconded by Mr. Charles Riggs and passed unanimously that the managerial recommendations for the oyster season on public grounds be approved.

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

WHEREAS, R. S. 56:433, E allows the Commission to hold a public hearing to consider the closure of the oyster season and size regulations on the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds" after January 1 of each year, and allowing for two week notification;

WHEREAS, the Department biologist, surveyed the "Oyster Seed Grounds" in the state finding heavy fishing pressure and few oysters remaining on the ground and these should be protected as a source of seed for the 1984-1985 season;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a size limitation of three inches on commercial harvesting of oysters from the "Oyster Seed Grounds" be reinstated for the remainder of the 1983-84 season;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the "Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation" will close January 1, 1984 and remain closed for the remaining portion of the season;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all remaining open portions of the "Oyster Seed Grounds" and "Oyster Seed Reservations" will close April 1 as indicated by R.S. 56:433;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary has the authority to close all the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds" should enforcement problems develop;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this Commission action affects the leased area of the state.

\* \* \* \*

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne Ducote, seconded by Mr. Jesse Knowles, and passed unanimously to adopt the following emergency action pertaining to commercial fishing on Lake Bruin.

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

WHEREAS, the Tensas Parish Police Jury passed a resolution on August 9, 1983 requesting the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission to do a study on Lake Bruin concerning the fish population and the feasibility of a special commercial or rough fish harvest on the lake; and

WHEREAS, results from fish population samples and fish species composition in net sets in Lake Bruin show a preponderance of buffalo and carp relative to other species of fishes in the lake.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission, invoking the Emergency Procedures Act, does hereby open a special 90 day commercial fishing season on Lake Bruin to commence on December 2, 1983 and to close on March 1, 1984. It is necessary to have this special season during the period of December - February to minimize conflicts between the net fishermen and the recreational users who utilize heavily this 3,000 acre oxbow lake during the spring and summer months.

Commercial fisherman will be required to obtain a special permit from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to fish with nets in Lake Bruin during this special season and will also submit a monthly catch report to the Department. Net fishing will be permitted during daylight hours only, except that trammel and gill nets can remain set overnight but fish captured may be removed during daylight hours only.

The following types of nets will be allowed:

Fresh water gill nets and trammel nets greater than or having at least a minimum mesh of 4" bar and 8" stretched.

Fresh water fish seines greater than or having at least a minimum mesh of 2" bar or 4" stretched.

\* \* \* \*

Motion was passed by Mr. Jesse Knowles, seconded by Mr. Gary Chouest, and passed unanimously adopt the following resolution concerning alignment with the Central Flyway.

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

WHEREAS, Louisiana has actively sought consideration toward alignment of the state with the Central Waterfowl Flyway since January, 1969 following a study of waterfowl migration by Frank Bellrose, a nationally recongized authority on waterfowl management, and

WHEREAS, Bellrose's study of the migrational patterns of waterfowl using radar has demonstrated that a substantial portion of wintering waterfowl in Louisiana come through the Central Flyway. Following this report, Bellrose conducted an in-depth study in 1972 which confirmed his earlier findings by concluding that 65% of Louisiana's wintering waterfowl arrive by way of the Central Flyway and

WHEREAS, Dr. Don W. Hayne, a nationally recognized statistician from the Institute of Statistics, North Carolina State University, conducted an independent analysis of Louisiana's duck harvest in 1972 and concluded that Louisiana's duck harvest was 11% more important to the Central than to the Mississippi Flyway, and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to act on the findings of these studies but instead insisted that an additional study be conducted to finally determine Louisiana's proper waterfowl flyway alignment. Therefore, in 1975, a cooperative study between the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service was initiated. This initial four-year study was extended for two years. The study resulted in the banding of approximately 90,000 ducks at a cost of over \$2,000,000 to both agencies, and

WHEREAS, this cooperative study has confirmed the findings of earlier studies and has concluded that 65% of the dabbling ducks and 61% of the total ducks banded in the West Zone of Louisiana arrive by way of the Central Flyway, and

WHEREAS, nothing in any of the above described studies suggests that the implementation of Central Flyway hunting regulations in the West Zone would adversely affect the duck populations. Louisiana's West Zone has in the past and will in the future harvest Central Flyway ducks. If a restriction in season length is needed in the Central Flyway to protect duck populations, it will apply to the West Zone as well as the rest of the Central Flyway, and

WHEREAS, the final report of this recently concluded detailed and expensive biological investigation supporting Louisiana's position was distributed to the state directors of the Central and Mississippi Flyway Councils on September 22, 1983 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and

WHEREAS, Louisiana, in a spirit of compromise, has agreed to maintain Mississippi Flyway bag limits statewide and to postpone the changeover to Central Flyway season length for the West Zone until 1985, seventeen years after the the original request,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission strongly urges that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service immediately announce that Louisiana's West Zone shall have the same season length as the Central Flyway for hunting waterfowl, beginning with the 1985-86 hunting season.

\* \* \* \*

Motion was made by Dr. Jack Cappel, seconded by Mr. Jesse Knowles, and passed unanimously to amend the falconry rules and regulations.

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

WHEREAS, Act 310 of the Louisiana Legislature enacted during the 1977 regular session amended Section 123 of Title 56 to provide for falconry as an approved method of taking game, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on July 25, 1978 adopted rules and regulations governing the use of raptors for taking game and authorizing the issuance of an annual

joint state/federal falconry permit, and

WHEREAS, the falconry rules and regulations adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission are similar to federal regulations, and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service amended federal regulations to allow a falconry permittee to purchase, sell, or barter any lawfully possessed raptor which is bred in captivity under authority of a federal raptor propagation permit and banded with a seamless marker authorized by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, subject to compliance with all federal falconry rules and regulations published in Federal Register Vol. 48, No. 132 dated July 8, 1983,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does amend its falconry rules and regulations by adding the following:

- "10. Any permittee may purchase, sell, or barter any lawfully possessed raptor which is bred in captivity under authority of a federal raptor propagation permit and banded with a seamless marker authorized by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, subject to compliance with all federal falconry rules and regulations published in Federal Register Vol. 48, No. 132 dated July 8, 1983.

\* \* \* \*

Motion by Mr. Charles Rigges, seconded by Mr. Wayne Ducote and passed unanimously to accept a donation of land to the Department.

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

WHEREAS, Charles J. Ledoux, Ann West Ledoux, William H. Ledoux, Carol Ulmer Ledoux, James E. Ledoux, Joy Johnson Ledoux, Ralph W. Brockman, Jr., and Jana West Brockman desire to donate 19.50 acres more or less, more specifically described in the Act of Donation, in Ouachita Parish, to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Commission,

WHEREAS, said property is adjacent to the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area and the acquisition of this acreage would be of benefit for Wildlife Management,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby accept said property on behalf of the State of Louisiana, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Act of Donation.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles Riggs, seconded by Dr. Jack Cappel, and passed unanimously to approve expenses incurred for Mr. Jesse Knowles to attend a mitigation meeting in Baton Rouge on November 2, 1983.

\* \* \* \*

Motion was made by Dr. Jack Cappel, seconded by Mr. Jesse Knowles that Wayne Ducote be re-elected Vice-Chairman. Mr. Wayne Ducote was elected by acclamation.

\* \* \* \*

Motion was made by Mr. Charles Riggs, seconded by Mr. Wayne Ducote that Mr. George Gray be elected Chairman.

\* \* \* \*

The January meeting was scheduled for the 23rd and 24th in New Orleans at the Monteleone Hotel.

A motion was made by Mr. Jesse Knowles that the meeting be adjourned.

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Minutes transcribed by  
Linda Gregson