

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 25, 1975

10:00 o'clock a.m.

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Chairman

Wild Life and Fisheries
Building
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



Helen R. Dietrich, inc.
Stenotypists

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The regular monthly Board meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Tuesday, March 25, 1975, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Harvey Clay Luttrell, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT WERE:

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Chairman

DOYLE G. BERRY, Vice Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

JEAN LAPEYRE, Member

DONALD WILLE, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director.

A G E N D A

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

1. Atlas Construction Company, Inc., requests (13)
 permit covering removal of fill material from the Mississippi River, left descending bank, central to points about 48, 54.2 and 58.3 Miles AHP.
2. Request for renewal of permit by T. L. James (15)



& Co., Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Hahnville, Louisiana.

3. Request for permit by Central States Dredging Company to remove gravel, sand and/or fill material (1) along face of middle bar opposite Kings Point-Delta Point Revetments, Mile 438.0 to Mile 440.6 AHP, (2) along middle bar opposite Delta Point Revetment, Mile 436.6 to Mile 437.9 AHP, (3) along right bank opposite Race-track Revetment Mile 431.5 to Mile 435.5 AHP, (4) along face of Middle Bar opposite below Racetrack Dikes, Mile 429.5 to Mile 431.5 AHP. (16)

MR. HARRY SCHAFER

4. Setting the commercial fishing regulations on Calcasieu Lake. (18)
5. Giving authority to Director to sign contract for construction of Bayou Lamoque Structure II. (55)

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER

6. Acceptance of spud barge constructed by Hunt (58)



Shipyard.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY

- 7. Consider purchase of 3,000 acres of land in Ouachita Parish. (70)

MR. JOE HERRING

- 8. Resolution on hand gun ammunition. (72)
- 9. Report on Spring Bayou canal. (78)
- 10. Discuss turkey season on Saline Wildlife Management Area. (80)
- 11. Discussion of Bonnet Carre Spillway. (83)
- 12. Resolution from Grant Parish Police Jury on turkey season. (88)
- 13. Request to move cattle across Saline Wildlife Management Area. (90)
- 14. Request for closure on turkey season in East Carroll Parish. (97)

OTHER BUSINESS

- Recognition of visitors. (5)
- Discussion with National Audubon Society representatives. (6)
- Chairmanship of meeting turned over to Vice Chairman Berry. (13)
- Proposed feasibility study of controlled (60)



entry of fresh water to estuary

east of Mississippi River (Mr.

A. J. Buquet).

Expression of thanks to Mr. Herring re

(105)

request for no trapping on Saline Game

Management Area.

Adjournment.

(106)



CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Ladies and gentlemen, it is time, past time, to start. I apologize for being late. We are fifteen minutes late getting started, but we had a few little odds and ends to do and it seemed like everybody was having such a fine period of gossip that I thought that might be part of the meeting, a good way to start the meeting, so I just didn't call you to order.

We are glad to see as many visitors as we have today. You know, there are certain people that I miss when they are not here, and I don't see Veillon, and he told me he was going to be here. Mr. Stanek, glad to have you. Are you going to tell Edgar that I gave him the devil for not being here after he promised he was going to be here? Mr. Braud begged off. I told him that since he had been elected chairman of the Wildlife Federation that he had to be at every meeting, by order of the Chair.

I see Campbell is here, my other good friend, but Mr. Campbell didn't bring my buddies along. He has a couple of kiddoes that I like to see once in a while. I am sorry. Cook. I will tell



Campbell what a mistake I made. Wednesday I will be down there.

We have with us this morning some special guests that I would like to recognize. We have Mr. Kellison and Mr. Fransen with the National Audubon. I have a little present for them, to say welcome to New Orleans. If you gentlemen would come up, so that the audience may see you, both of you. Welcome to New Orleans.

MR. KELLISON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: This will tell you something about our city. Welcome to you, and this will tell you something about it.

MR. FRANSEN: Thank you. We certainly appreciate that.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: We hope your stay will be pleasant. Now, if either one of you would like to say something, we would be glad for you to go to the mike where you can be heard and we will tape what you say. I might remind you it will be taped.

MR. KELLISON: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: And it will be in the



minutes.

MR. FRANSEN: That means I am not going to say anything.

MR. KELLISON: My colleague, John Fransen, is the southwestern regional representative. We put Louisiana in the southwest because, as you know, it is one of the great free and open areas that we are all proud of, and so we wanted to put a real two-gun man down in this region. That is my friend John Fransen.

We have been here the last two days, ladies and gentlemen, working on arrangements for the National Audubon convention, which will begin with registration on Thursday, April 17. We have field trips scheduled in the area around Lake Pontchartrain, Grand Isle, and a boat trip on the Mississippi River, and a trip to a plantation for our visiting delegates on Friday, the 18th.

Our sessions, our speeches and panel discussions start on Saturday, the 19th, and on that morning we have a very distinguished panel of speakers, and I will tell you their names in descending order of importance. The most important one,



of course, is Mr. Burton Angelle, the Director of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. We are very pleased that he is going to tell us something about the resources of the Gulf Coast and the program that this Commission is carrying on to protect and enhance those resources.

Our program is going to be built around the Gulf of Mexico and its resources and the coastal resources, the great marshes, the estuaries and the whole complex of life that depends on this environment.

Then we will have Mr. Russell Train, the director of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, as a speaker, and Dr. Robert White, the director of NOAA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, who is going to be talking chiefly about fisheries because they come under the National Marine Fisheries Service which is under his agency. And a man who is interestingly going to tell us about how important the Gulf of Mexico is to the weather of the central United States and the East.

Then we have a series of very interesting panels and discussions, continuing through Sunday,



including workshops on the Coastal Zone Act and preservation of natural streams and flood plains and a session on the big reptiles. Your wonderful biologist, Ted Joanen, is going to be a member of that panel, to talk about alligators and sea turtles and the crocodiles, the big reptiles.

I just wanted, sir, to extend a general invitation to all the members of the Commission and the personnel and all of our friends here to attend any and all of our meetings during that time.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Thank you, sir.

MR. KELLISON: Thank you very much for this book. We have done a little exploration of the wonders of New Orleans in the last couple of days. We have had just a little sampling of it and this will be a good guide to it. Thank you for the honor of appearing before you today.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Glad to have you any time.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Now, he got by so easy, are you sure you don't want to say something? See, we won't have anything we can hold you to, if



you don't.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Cowan (?) says he is taking care of the daily routine at this time and when he comes here about the middle of April, he wants to see what goes on at night in New Orleans.

MR. FRANSEN: I have been doing my best to show them that, but we have been busy and pre-occupied otherwise. About all I would like to say is that in my capacity as regional representative and adviser to our staff in New York, I am looking forward to working with this body in solving some of our mutual concerns and problems, one of them being the "adgigator" or alligator.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: He is an agitator!

MR. FRANSEN: Agitator, yes, that is what I was taking off on. And so I think we are coming closer and closer to an understanding on this issue and with help from you people and advice from our staff, I hope it won't be long and we will be able to make both the Audubon members and the people that are interested in the alligator as I guess you would call it a sport animal or harvestable animal, as well as a great part of the great swamps -- I think



we are coming closer and closer to an understanding in this regard. I hope that in the next year or two this will bear fruit.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Thank you.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: We are looking for a ninety-days decision, not one or two years!

MR. FRANSEN: I must have said something wrong!

MR. KELLISON: I just want to add, since John Fransen mentioned that, that I would personally on behalf of the National Audubon Society like to thank this Commission for giving us the opportunity -- in fact, you kind of pushed us into it -- of helping move some of your surplus alligators to states where they need some for restocking. That has been a very interesting cooperative experience for us and we have enjoyed the relationship and hope to continue it. Thank you.

We are going to have to go now because --

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: I want to make a statement, if you will remain just a minute. Mr. Kellison and Mr. Fransen, we have -- and there is the danger of someone thinking I am bragging -- I



think we have the most knowledgeable two people on the alligator situation in the entire United States. If you want to call on Mr. Ted Joanen or Mr. Allan Ensminger, I will say this to you, and this is truthful, just as it is.

Now, we have one other thing that I am proud of in Louisiana. We have a Director that just won't work. He works around 16 to 18 hours a day and he never explains what he does with the other six, so when you get into New Orleans, he will show you around. Somebody I am going to find out what he does with that other six hours. Just puts in 18 hours a day, that's all.

MR. KELLISON: Thank you.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Good luck! See you all in a couple of weeks.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: For the record, I would like to say this. Mr. Jimmie Thompson is not present, due to business, and Mr. Jerry Jones is absent due to family illness. We do have a quorum. We have Mr. Wille here, which gives -- well, we have a quorum sitting here now, but Mr. Wille is just temporarily tied up. I think he has some



business calls to make.

If the Chair may exercise its privilege I would like to turn the Chair over to you for this meeting.

VICE CHAIRMAN BERRY: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: I will be here for the voting.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: We are going to move right on into the business. This is my first time to chair one of these Wild Life meetings and I promise you, if people don't bog us down too much, we won't be here too long. Dr. St. Amant.

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, we have three items. The first is a request for permit by Atlas Construction Company for the removal of fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile 48, 54 and 58. This material is to be used for the foundation for a highway system in Plaquemines Parish. This company has operated permits with us before and we have no problem with this. We would recommend the permit be granted for one year at five cents a yard.



MR. JEAN LAPEYRE: I so move.

MR. MARC DUPUY, JR.: I second that, Mr. Chairman.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Atlas Construction Company, Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River, left descending bank, central to points about 48, 54.2 and 58.3 Miles AHP, near Devant, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, permit to cover a period of one year from March 25, 1975, at a royalty rate of



five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The next item is a request for renewal of a permit by T. L. James & Company, where they have been operating to remove fill material in the vicinity of Hahnville, Louisiana. This permit has been active. We have had no problem with it. It in no way affects the environment in the area where they are operating. We would recommend that the permit be reissued for a period of one year at five cents a yard.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: May we have a motion on it, please?

MR. DUPUY: I move.

MR. DONALD WILLE: Second.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Dupuy moves, Mr. Wille seconds. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

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



BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to T. L. James & Company, Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Hahnville, Louisiana, for a period of one year from March 25, 1975, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: The third is a request for permit by Central States Dredging Company to remove sand, gravel and fill material from the Mississippi River in several sites as follows: At Mile 438 to Mile 440; at the middle bar opposite Delta Point Revetment, at Mile 436 to 437; at the Racetrack Revetment, Mile 431 to 435; and along middle bar at Mile 429 to 431. This is up in the vicinity of Vicksburg. They are operating in the River on the Louisiana side.

We have examined this request. We find it will not affect the interests of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. We would recommend that a permit be granted to these people for one year



at five cents a yard.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: May we have a motion, please?

MR. WILLE: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Central States Dredging Company to dredge for gravel, sand and/or fill material from the Mississippi River at the following locations:

- (1) Along face of middle bar
opposite King's Point-Delta



Point Revetments, Mile 438.0
to Mile 440.6 AHP;

(2) Along middle bar opposite
Delta Point Revetment, Mile
436.6 to Mile 437.5 AHP;

(3) Along right bank opposite
Racetrack Revetment, Mile
431.5 to Mile 435.5 AHP;

(4) Along face of middle bar
opposite Racetrack Dikes,
Mile 429.5 to Mile 431.5 AHP,

permit to cover a period of one year
from March 25, 1975.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Schafer.

MR. HARRY SCHAFFER: Mr. Chairman and
Members of the Commission, in 1974 Act 510 was
passed, which gives the Commission authority to
set seasons, gear, possession limits, for speckled
trout and other estuarine fishes in Calcasieu Lake.
We are able to exercise this authority to set these
regulations if there is pollution or if there is a
biological reason or if there is a competition in
fishing, and the competition in fishing is what



brings us forth to set some regulations for fishing in Calcasieu Lake. There is a competition between the sportsmen and the commercial fishermen in the Lake.

We have met with both factions on several occasions and after meeting with them, our biologist over there, Charles White, and myself and several other biologists have come up with a list of regulations that we would recommend. There are seven recommendations that we recommend in the interim of a study that we will start in May, both a creel census and a biological study, to ascertain some facts and come up with some final recommendations when this biological survey is completed, which should be two to three years from now. But, in the interim, we do need some regulations.

These following regulations are the ones that we would recommend:

1. Restrict net finfishing during daylight hours from June 1 through Labor Day and allow net fishing during this closed period at nighttime.

2. No net fishing will be allowed



within 500 feet of any of the openings in any of the washouts in Calcasieu Lake.

3. Retain the 1,000 foot maximum allowable webbing permitted for each person operating in Calcasieu Lake and to retain the conditions under this resolution whereby nets measuring 1,000 feet must be fished individually and no two or more fishermen can join these nets together in excess of 1,000 feet.

4. Require all strike net fishermen using trout nets to remain with their nets at all times when set out, including night fishing during the special season.

5. All staked gill nets and trammel nets webbing fished in Calcasieu Lake, whether set with the intent of catching trout, redfish or other species of fish, shall be run as prescribed by law at present. When unattended for more than 24 hours and dead, floating fish are found in the net, the net shall be considered in violation of this regulation and confiscated by the agents of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

6. All webbing, regardless of length,



shall be tagged as prescribed by law. Any net found untagged will be in violation and confiscated by agents of Wild Life and Fisheries.

7. Exempt Calcasieu Lake from Act 215, concerning legal mesh sizes, allowing salt water requirements as prescribed by law to apply to Calcasieu Lake. These mesh sizes are: Seines, not less than 7/8 inch square or 1-3/4 inch stretched; trammel nets, not less than one inch square or two inches stretched; gill nets, not less than 1-1/2 inch square or three inches stretched. Each seine, trammel net and gill net in Calcasieu Lake shall not exceed 1,000 feet in length.

Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that these be adopted.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Do we have any comments?

MR. WILLIAM E. SHADDOCK: I would like to speak, sir.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: All right, sir. The Chair recognizes Mr. Bill Shaddock.

MR. SHADDOCK: My name is Bill Shaddock. I am with Stockwell, St. Dizier law firm in Lake Charles, and representing Big Lake Sport Fishermen,



Inc. Big Lake Sport Fishermen is a non-profit corporation composed of over 650 members. We chose to be represented in small numbers here today through this corporation rather than trying to flood the building with these numerous members, but we do speak for them.

We had trouble between sport fishermen and commercial fishermen which got pretty bad last summer, and efforts were made since that time, beginning I guess in September, when representatives of the sport fishermen and representatives of the commercial fishermen met with Mr. Charles White with the Lake Charles office of Wild Life and Fisheries in an effort to reconcile these disputes and differences and conflicts between the two types of fishermen.

After meetings with Mr. White, conferences with Mr. Schafer, over months, we have arrived at an agreement between the commercial fishermen, and by that I mean those who earn their living in Calcasieu Lake by fishing, and the sport fishermen. The seven proposals which you have heard from Mr. Schafer were made as recommendations by the biologists



of the Commission. The sport fishermen agree with these seven proposals, provided that we could get four additional ones.

The first one is that there be adequate enforcement of the regulations. Last spring, for example, you could hardly get near the bayous opening into Calcasieu Lake because of the nets. They were much closer than 500 feet to these bayous. This was a violation of the law and yet the nets remained. We need adequate enforcement, vigorous enforcement, not only of the commercial fishermen but of the sport fishermen also.

In addition, we told the Commission members and we told the personnel of Wild Life and Fisheries that we would favor some regulation on the sport fishermen. We think that limits, size and creel limits, of, say, 25 fish for speckled trout and 25 redfish as a limit on sport fishermen would be proper, because we want to preserve the lake for both sport fishermen and commercial fishermen.

The state, of course, has built vast reservoirs such as Toledo Bend and tries to



encourage visitors from out of state to come, and yet we have a natural body such as Calcasieu Lake that we don't want destroyed. We don't want it depleted. When entire schools of speckled trout are wiped out with monofilament net, surely the biologists say that maybe another school will come in from the Gulf, but that school is gone.

We have arrived at these seven proposals plus four more that we would like and we think we could live with, and they would not deprive these commercial fishermen from earning their living by fishing. We could live with them and I think they could live with them.

As I say, the first one, that there be adequate enforcement of the regulations. That a commercial fisherman be on hand to tend his nets, secondly, with a helper, so that one commercial fisherman couldn't hire twenty or thirty helpers to go run his nets under his one commercial license. The third that we would like would be to define what a commercial fisherman is, and the biologists tell us there are only eight or nine true commercial fishermen in Calcasieu Lake, and to prohibit



commercial fishing altogether except as regards the eight or nine commercial fishermen presently operating.

Mr. Schafer indicated in a telephone conversation on February 20, which was confirmed by letter, that he would go along with this proposal, provided that the Commission's attorney thought this would be legal. Certainly, if the Commission's attorneys don't think it is legal, well, then it can't be done.

Fourth, there are a number of people who are not true commercial fishermen that use nets in catching fish and they are all over Big Lake, as we locally call Calcasieu Lake, and we wanted all other net fishing prohibited.

By adopting these proposals, I think that we would preserve this great natural resource that Calcasieu Lake is for tourism, for the commercial fishermen presently earning their living, and for the sport fishing industry.

That is all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WILLE: I just wanted to ask you one



thing, and we are probably going to get back on the same subject we were on yesterday, but for the Commission to define a commercial fisherman, anyone that has the money can come up here and buy a commercial fishing license. To say that you are going to limit it to eight commercial fishermen presently on the lake, to me is a direct violation of, and excuse the expression, civil rights of people. We are still living in a democracy, thank God, that gives everyone the right, if they want to be a commercial fisherman and they come down and get a commercial license, there is nothing this Commission can do to stop them from coming out in that lake and using their nets. I don't see how we can.

What you are asking us to do in that one provision in that regulation is to actually say we are not -- you are getting back to that grandfather clause again, really, is what it amounts to, and I cannot in good conscience, and I don't know how the rest of the Board feels, but myself, I couldn't in good conscience vote down these people. It's a livelihood, it is the way they make their living, and if they have children coming up, I am



sure their children know nothing else but fishing if they have been helping their daddies. Then they should be able to go into the business, too. But to get away from the grandfather clause, what I am saying is that you all need to go back and probably have a meeting and tell us how we can define a commercial fisherman, because I don't know how to define. Anybody who can come up here and buy a license can be a commercial fisherman, and you can't say that he is not a commercial fisherman, even if he is learning the hard way. He's got the right to do that. It's part of the state law and I think that it is going to take legislation to change it.

Now, if you go to the legislature, then you have got to get them to define a commercial fisherman, and there is no way in the world you are going to get any legislator down there to define a commercial fisherman. I don't think that anybody, including our biologists on this Commission, can define a commercial fisherman.

MR. SHADDOCK: Thank you, Mr. Wille. We may very well have to go before the legislature. This was an attempt at a compromise. As I say, if



the Commission's attorneys would find this is illegal, you know, couldn't be done, then naturally that would be the end of that and we would have to go to the legislature. This was an attempt to amicably solve a serious problem. If this does not work, well, then we have no alternative but to go before the legislature.

There is, as I said, tremendous pressure in our area to absolutely close Calcasieu Lake to commercial fishing, as the legislature saw fit to do in other areas of this state, and as other states have done. As a result of this action in other areas, we have fishermen from these other areas now invading our little lake.

MR. WILLE: I understand that. We have the same problem every time we open a doe day in another parish. We have people come in from other parishes and hunt doe and a lot of people there don't like it, but we still have to control the wild life and fisheries and we do not have a biological report on this lake yet. I mean, if we get a biological report that the lake is being fished out, then I can understand us doing some restrictions



on it, but at the present time we do not have this biological data and to deprive a man of his livelihood is wrong.

Is Joe Martinez here? Where is our attorney?

CHAIRMAN BERRY: I don't think either one is here this morning.

MR. WILLE: He is in the back room. Somebody holler at Joe in the back room. Mac. I am going to get our attorney up here right now and find out if it is legal. I think it is a violation of civil rights. Personally I think that is what it is but I am not an attorney. Marc, do you know anything about that? Seriously, you are an attorney. Do you think it is in violation of civil rights or not? I think we would be open for a hell of a suit.

MR. DUPUY: We do have a lot of problems with regard to enforcement already and making it more difficult by some of the, I would say, questionable provisions might be difficult. In view of the fact that Act 510 of 1974 does not provide for penalty provisions, we may run into other problems.



MR. WILLE: Would you mind staying up just a second and reread that one paragraph that pertains to the commercial fishing?

MR. SHADDOCK: This is not written in the form of final regulations.

MR. WILLE: I understand that.

MR. SHADDOCK: It would be that no licenses be granted to any commercial fishermen other than those eight or nine commercial fishermen, those that presently earn a living at commercial fishing presently operating in Big Lake, and I suggested that this might have to be in the form of a grandfather clause, with the Commission adopting a regulation prohibiting all commercial fishermen except exempt those who presently earn their living from commercial fishing in Big Lake.

MR. WILLE: Gerald, do you think we are open on civil rights on that thing?

MR. MARTINEZ: On a brief study of it I would have to say that if you limit fishing to a particular set of people simply on the basis of their presence or present occupation or tenure, I think you might be. I can't say for certain that you



would. I would have to --

MR. WILLE: Would you look into that for us?

MR. MARTINEZ: I would be happy to.

MR. WILLE: What I would like to see, Mr. Chairman, if possible, is that we adopt the regulations, with the exception of the clauses and changes that we have made in the regulations ourselves, until such time as we can research this thing and find out, because we are really opening ourselves to a suit on this thing, I feel like.

MR. SHADDOCK: Mr. Wille, I wonder if we could, as you say, defer action until further study is made on the legality of the grandfather clause and yet adopt our number one regulation that --

MR. WILLE: I am saying that we are going to adopt the regulations as we have them here. I am going to make a motion that we adopt the regulations as we have rewritten them right here, and somebody can read these. Burt, would you read them?

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Gentlemen, could I make a comment, too, first? I want to clear up a few things in my mind.



Mr. Shaddock, as I appreciate you and your group, your ultimate goal was to do away with the commercial fishermen in Calcasieu Lake down the road, either through attrition through this grandfather clause or, as I got it yesterday, you are going to go to the legislature to do it. Am I pretty well stating your position?

MR. SHADDOCK: My position, and I say my position; the position of great numbers of people in Calcasieu Parish and in the area of Calcasieu Lake is that they want commercial fishing prohibited. However, we realize that there are eight or nine people who earn a living catching fish and selling them and we don't want to deprive these people of the privilege of earning their living in Calcasieu Lake. At the same time we want the natural resources of the fish, crab, shrimp in Calcasieu Lake protected so that they will be there for us and sport fishermen and these commercial fishermen presently operating and for future generations.

We think that by adopting a grandfather clause that would permit these people who right now are earning their living to continue as long as



they live to catch fish and continue commercial fishing would be a fair way to settle this serious dispute and to protect the lake.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Why don't we put a grandfather clause on the lawyers and also the sport fishermen and that would eliminate a lot of problems, too?

MR. SHADDOCK: Well, I am not sure the Commission has jurisdiction over them!

CHAIRMAN BERRY: I am not trying to be facetious, but it just seems to me, and I believe this with all my heart, that if every one of your club members was polled individually and asked if you want to put that man out there out of a job and out of a living and out of his way of life so you can go out and have a good time, I don't think you would vote against that fisherman.

MR. SHADDOCK: We certainly didn't and that's why we didn't propose that. Thank you, Mr. Berry. We wouldn't attempt that.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: I don't think so, and I think a man has a right to train his son to fish if he wants to fish. I think it is an honorable



profession and I think it is a necessary profession. There are a lot of old people that can't eat meat and have to eat fish and whatever to stay on their diets, and they provide a good service to the community. There is no contest to that. I don't believe it would destroy the lake. There has been commercial fishing there for how many years now? I am sure it is since before you and I were born. The lake is not destroyed now and if anybody is going to destroy the lake, it seems to me like you have got too many sport fishermen fishing on the thing or your limit is too great. If you would limit your catch to ten or fifteen speckled trout and ten or fifteen reds or whatever, you might not have any problem there.

MR. SHADDOCK: We are certainly agreeable to limits. The number is something to be negotiated, but we agree with that. We agree with that. We agree we ought to have limits, but you see, the legislature, somebody closed these vast areas of Chandeleur Sound and Breton Sound to commercial fishing. They took those that presently operate in there and said, "Get out," and they got out and



they came to see us.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: We have all made mistakes before and maybe the legislature might have made a mistake there, too. I don't know, but we have certainly passed laws on the books that we don't need and could live without a lot better than we could since we have got them. There is no contest there, and I for one am going to go on record and tell you I think it is a little bit ridiculous to ask these fishermen to relegate themselves to second-class citizens and when you sport fishermen are out there fishing and they go hide at night like a KKK member under a sheet or something and don't be seen.

MR. SHADDOCK: I believe this is something that the biologists of the Wild Life and Fisheries recommended.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: I don't know who recommended it, but I will say this. I think it is kind of ridiculous when you ask any of our citizens to relegate themselves to second class position and I won't vote for it. Yes, sir. Would you come to the mike, please, and state your name?



MR. ROLLIE BANG: My name is Rollie Bang and I have been fishing since I was big enough to go in a boat with my daddy. I have been fishing in Calcasieu Lake a little better than twelve years. I have got eight kids and my mother-in-law is 76 and she is in the hospital right now. I make a living for my family that way.

On these proposals they are going to close this thing from May or June 1 to the day after Labor Day. Now some of the sport fishermen got together. They went out there four days ago and they destroyed \$1,500 of my equipment. I mean just totally destroyed it. I had to go to the bank and mortgage my home to get me some more.

I am going to go back fishing. You had better believe I am going to go back fishing. That's all I know. But I don't understand why these people want to take my living away from me, from June 1 until after September. Why? Why do you all want to put me out of business? What do you want me to do? Go down and draw welfare?

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Let me correct you on just one thing, sir. They are suggesting that you



fish at night from June through Labor Day.

MR. BANG: Right, but I got no way of seeing them fish at night. I can't go out and find the fish. And they tell me I can't set my net at night because there's a sport down the road there watching me set it and he goes out there and takes it and tears it up, cuts it to pieces, sets it adrift. I put anchors on it so it will stay some place. I put corks so they can see them and when I do this, that just invites them to come and tear my stuff up, just maliciously tear it up for no other reason.

Suppose I would go in this man's place of business and tear his license up. If he couldn't get it replaced, how would he make a living? I don't do this. I could go out there and sit in the marsh, with a gun, and shoot a bunch of people, but I don't do this. I am asking you, why put me out of business from June first until after Labor Day, just take my living away from me? Why? I ain't hurt nobody.

MR. WILLE: Excuse me. I don't think that is what we said.



MR. BANG: Yeah, I can fish at night but I can't see the fish. I can't see them at all.

MR. WILLE: We eliminated the night clause, in the new --

CHAIRMAN BERRY: No, we are going to vote on the two adoptions, two motions.

MR. WILLE: We have two motions and we are voting to allow you to fish day and night.

MR. BANG: Well, according to the provision this man just made, I can't fish in the daytime after June first.

MR. WILLE: No, this is not the position that we have. This is the proposed set -- let me say this one thing in behalf of all the sport fishermen that are here. I am a sport fisherman myself and I love to fish. We have an alternative here with a grandfather clause, that you sport fishermen spend a whole lot of money, going out here, fishing, with rods and reels and all this bait and tackle boxes. Most of them are middle class type individuals. They are going to be the first ones that would be complaining if these fishermen are put out of business and end up on



welfare. You all are going to be the ones to pay for it, and me, too.

I think that if a man is making an honest living and we have no biological reason -- now, if we have a biological reason, when our biologists get through studying this lake, if they come up and say that the lake is going to be fished out, by God, we will close it. That is the only choice we have.

Now, I see no reason whatsoever at the present time other than to put the restrictions of getting close into the inland waters where I understand that you are running with your boats and you probably have got skiing out there and so forth and so on. I don't know. But I see no earthly reason why we should restrict and put a grandfather clause in this thing. I cannot see hurting a man from his livelihood. If he's got kids -- this man here said -- how many children do you have?

MR. BANG: Eight.

MR. WILLE: You have got eight children. How many of them fish with you?

MR. BANG: Two.



MR. WILLE: Two of them. Are we going to deprive those kids coming up when that is the only thing they know, to be able to take over when Daddy is unable to? I mean, I just can't see that that is right.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Don, may I say this, and then I am going to shut up. I have said too much already, but, gentlemen, I just don't think, if you would search your soul and your conscience, that you would go out in your free time when you are doing your hobby and destroy a man's way of life and his way of making a living. Now, if he was interfering with your way of making a living, I would think you would have a lot more ground to stand on, but when you go out in your spare time, after you have got your living made, and take to your hobby and trespass on this man's living, I think you are wrong. I think and I know in my own mind and heart and soul that you are morally wrong if you are not legally wrong, and I believe that. That is all I have got to say. Yes, sir.

MR. GENE MULLIN: I am Gene Mullin and I am president of the Big Lake Sport Fishermen,



Incorporated. I would like to go back and review just a little bit.

This thing started out as an individual basis. We organized, we met with our legislative delegation and in turn we got with the Wild Life and Fisheries. We got with the Wild Life and Fisheries first, and the biologist came up with the seven basic proposals. It was his proposal about closing the thing from June through September, and I think it was agreed by people that this was the spawning season or at that time they were coming in and spawning, and this was one of the reasons biologically they closed this thing to daylight fishing, and they agreed to this.

Mr. White, representing the Commission, has met with our group and he has met with the other groups, and this is the basic proposal we came up with, other than the additions we asked about enforcement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Thank you, sir. Does anybody else wish to comment, anybody else in the audience?

MR. LAPEYRE: I would like to ask Mr.



White if he would mind giving us his understanding of what the commercial fishing group, what their attitude is to this first recommendation.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: I think I can answer, and then Mr. White can. I am going to comment on this. Excuse me, Mr. White. No doubt that they decided to go along with it because they have got great pressure on them and they have got this wealthy bunch of sport fishermen after these poor little commercial fishermen. They will yield to anything to stay there one week longer to feed their families.

Go ahead, Mr. White.

MR. CHARLES WHITE: Gentlemen, the first time we met on this was, I think, September 5, and we met with the sport fishermen of the Lake Charles area. At that time their proposal was for a six month closure of Big Lake, complete closure for I think May through September, somewhere in that period. At this time the following week we had a meeting in Hackberry with the commercial fishermen. In attendance were several of the legislators and they asked, and then we presented this proposal

from your group, and they said they just couldn't live with this strict a restriction on them, that they just couldn't make a living. So, we asked to get together the following week and let them come up with some proposals. So, we came up with the night time closure based on their recommendations. They felt like they could stand the six month closure during the daytime and they felt this because a lot of them like to fish the Gulf this time of year and they can fish the Gulf at times but, of course, the weather is the controlling factor. When they can't fish the Gulf, they need to fish somewhere, so they could fish Big Lake at night.

Also tied in this thing is about a 20,000 pound a day crab industry that is pretty big in Big Lake, one of the biggest in the state. I think the average bait sale to the crabbers is about \$5,000 a year. They buy that much bait a year, so any restriction we place on the netting industry is going to have an effect on the crabbing industry. The night time fishing practice would make bait available. The night time was not set for biological



reasons. We have no biological reason.

We got together and we sent these proposals in, I think, in September. They were turned down by the sport group. We got back together I think on January 10 or around that period, everybody got back together with the Commission and the representatives, and we came back with the same seven proposals, and that is where are at right now.

Now we have two groups of fishermen here. The people from Cameron, and I think you all were not excluded from any of the meetings, but at the time you all were shrimping, I think, and you weren't involved in these considerations of these seven proposals.

MR. BANG: We were fishing last summer.

MR. WHITE: Well, that is a problem here. For some reason we didn't know that --

MR. BANG: I don't think the meetings were advertised in Cameron. We only know what we read in the newspapers. You see, I didn't know you all had these meetings yesterday.

MR. WHITE: Well, we tried to get the

word to everybody, really. We put it in the paper and it was on the TV and I think, you know, in the local papers. I am sorry this came up.

But these seven proposals were the basic recommendations of the Hackberry net fishermen. I think their feelings are similar to a lot of people, that they are either going to have to lean or break, and that is what we have got down to now. They think in a spirit of compromise they would like to try these seven proposals. Whether it is right or wrong, that is beside the question.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: I just can't feature any sport fishing group asking a man to endanger his life and perhaps his kids' lives to make him fish at night so you can have a little pleasure. It just doesn't make good judgment to me.

MR. PHIL RIBBECK: I am Phil Ribbeck. I am from Lake Charles. Obviously, you don't understand the lake. This wasn't done to penalize anyone. At that time of the year, the shrimping operation is going on and the net fishermen -- maybe the Commission doesn't understand how a net fisherman operates.



During this period of time there are probably a hundred people trawling in the lake. You can't net fish with trawlers in the lake. That is the only reason I could understand why they would do this. I don't think there is a sport fisherman -- I respect the commercial fishermen and I am sure they respect me. We understand each other. We both fish the same lake. Fish can be caught in the lake, and all we are asking is for the Commission to make a study of the lake and this is an agreement between the two groups that we can both live with until the study has come up and final recommendations are made for the seven points.

I think the most important reason -- I don't think the sport fishermen are trying to deny commercial fishermen fishing in the daytime, for only one reason. You can't shrimp at night but they can fish at night, and during that time of year it would be impossible to net fish. Just impossible for them. So really the night time would be the best time for them to do it. It is more advantageous then.



CHAIRMAN BERRY: I would like to hear one of these fishermen comment on that.

MR. BANG: I still don't see how shrimp-
ing has got anything to do with net fishing. I
got limited from a 2,000-foot net down to 1,000. I
went along with that. I have got a 1,000-foot net
in my boat. When you make a circle with that net
to catch fish like we use it, I don't see how I
could interfere with a man dragging a trawl off
over here. I may be a half a mile from him and
usually where I am fishing he is not going to want
to drag his trawl no way, because I am fishing for
fish, and he don't want to catch fish in that net.

I used to shrimp until I got to where I
couldn't make a living at it. It has got rough in
the shrimp industry, so I am fishing, and I have
been fishing for about twelve, fourteen years, but
I don't see where that has got anything to do with
a shrimp fisherman.

The times you are asking us to stop, in
the daytime, in the only time we can see any fish.
We look for them. We look for bird schools. They
help find the fish for us. If we can't catch those



fish during that time, we can't see them at night. How else am I going to make a living? That's the only proposal I am against.

Now I can understand setting the net at night during shrimp season. I can understand that. I can understand not setting around these game reserves, these inlets wash outs. I can understand that. That not only helps me; it helps everybody. I don't want to kill a fish on his way to spawn. I don't want to deplete the fish. I have got two boys that are getting in the business right along with me. One of them is seventeen years old. He has got a boat of his own now. He has got a net. But I can't see where I am going to hurt the shrimp fisherman. I am sure he ain't going to want to drag his trawl while I am fishing.

MR. WILLE: We are talking about the sport fisherman now. We are not even talking about the shrimp fisherman.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that changed set of regulations that we have here, one through six, which we will furnish the sport fishermen over here, be adopted by the



Commission until such time, and I just talked to Mr. Kenneth Smith, who is chief of the Fish Division, and he said that there is no way that we could net out all the fish in Calcasieu Lake in two years, if they took that long for the study, and they will posthaste make a study. I would like to make a motion that we adopt the set of rules that we have set down on this piece of paper right here.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Gentlemen, for your information, that essentially is the same set of rules except No. 1 is deleted, replaced with No. 2, and I believe that No. 4 was changed, that if a net was left unattended for over 24 hours and dead fish were found it, the net would be confiscated. I believe that is the only change. May I have a second to that, please?

MR. LAPEYRE: I will second.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. The motion was made by Mr. Wille.

MR. LUTTRELL: Question!

CHAIRMAN BERRY: The question has been called for.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman, let me just make one observation here. We are using the word "confiscated" here and I am talking about the enforcement problem. I would like to maybe hear from our attorney or maybe from Bill how this would apply in there, because we are not providing for any penalties. Really this is an agreement and it really doesn't have the effect of law, but we are talking about confiscation and I think this is going to raise a problem with our enforcement people. I would like for maybe you and our attorney to get together and see if we could maybe use some other type of language than "confiscate," if that is possible.

MR. SHADDOCK: Mr. Angelle, don't you confiscate shrimp nets?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: We have the authority to do it.

MR. SHADDOCK: It is done actually, isn't it?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: In very, very few cases.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Director, I am sorry. I am going to have to limit debate. The question



has been called for, and we will amend this thing if we need to. All in favor of this motion, let it be known by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Any opposed?

(No response)

It is unanimous. So ordered.

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

WHEREAS, Act 510 of the 1974 Louisiana Legislative Session authorized the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to set seasons, regulate the type of gear used and set possession limits for specked trout and other estuarine fish in Calcasieu Lake, located in Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes, and

WHEREAS, it has been clearly demonstrated that intense fishing competition exists between both commercial and sport fishermen,



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations for Calcasieu Lake, in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes:

1. No net fishing will be allowed within 500 feet of the following areas: the mouths of Grand and Lambert Bayous, the new "washout" south of Lambert Bayou, the old Revetment or old jetties at the south end of Calcasieu Lake, "Nine Mile Cut" and all cuts below Nine Mile along the channel spoil at East Pass in Turner's Bay.
2. Retain the 1,000 foot maximum allowable webbing permitted for each person operating in Calcasieu Lake. Retain the conditions under this resolution whereby nets measuring 1,000 feet must be fished individually and no two or more



- fishermen can join these nets together in excess of 1,000 feet.
3. Require all strike net fishermen using trout nets to remain with their nets at all times when set out.
 4. All staked gill and trammel net webbing fished in Calcasieu Lake whether set with the intent of catching trout, redbfish, gar or any species of fish shall be run daily as prescribed by law at present. When unattended for more than 24 hours and dead, floating fish are found in a net, the net shall be considered in violation of this regulation and confiscated by agents of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.
 5. All webbing regardless of length shall be tagged as prescribed by law. Any net found untagged will be in violation and confiscated by agents of the Louisiana Wild Life



and Fisheries Commission.

6. Exempt Calcasieu Lake from Act 215, H. B. 231, concerning legal mesh sizes, allowing salt water mesh requirements as prescribed by law to apply to Calcasieu Lake. These mesh sizes are: Seines: not less than 7/8-inch square or 1-3/4-inch stretched; Trammel nets: not less than 1-1/2-inch square or three-inch stretched. Each seine, trammel net and gill net in use in Calcasieu Lake shall not exceed 1,000 feet in length.

MR. DUPUY: May I just make one observation to add to this without elaborating, that the Commission is certainly going to be very much interested in enforcement of the laws. That is one of the points that the sport fishermen were vitally interested in. Secondly, with regard to the possibility of limits on sports fish, I think that our study will bring out in due course of time whether or not there should be a limit on sport



fish and Act 510 of 1974 gives us the authority to so limit and I think we will in due course of time do what might be necessary in that regard.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Bill, I certainly want to express my appreciation and I am sure the Commission's appreciation for your interest in this problem and all of you coming up here, both the commercial fishermen and the sport fishermen, and I hope that this is a compromise you can live with in peace until we can work this problem out and get a biological study two years down the pike. Thank you.

MR. SHADDOCK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Schafer, we will go on to No. 5, now, please, sir.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, the next item on the agenda is the Bayou Lamoque Structure No. 2. As you know, we have been trying since 1972 to construct a new structure at Bayou Lamoque, an additional structure at Bayou Lamoque, to introduce fresh water into the oyster seed grounds in that area.

Public Works have drawn up the plans and we have got all the permits necessary. We had a



bill passed in '72 for payment of this thing, but the new Constitution apparently wiped these funds out and we are in the process now of submitting a BA-7 to the budget committee. It is being handled by Senator Nunez and he is trying to get the additional money to build this new structure.

I would like to recommend that you give the Director the authority that if this money is forthcoming for him to execute the low bid that was received by the Public Works and recommended acceptance by the Public Works. That low bid was for \$2,108,000.

MR. LAPEYRE: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: I second.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

MR. LUTTRELL: The Chair has to vote.

Four members.



CHAIRMAN BERRY: The Chair votes for it then. We have to have four members. Mr. Wille has escaped us again.

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission did request the Louisiana Department of Public Works to advertise for bids on the construction of the Bayou Lamoque Diversion Structure No. 2 and Bayou Lamoque Improvements, and

WHEREAS, both low bids received were submitted by reputable concerns and recommended for acceptance by the Louisiana Department of Public Works,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve and request the Louisiana Department of Public Works to issue contracts to the low bidders as follows: Atlas Construction



Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,916,116.00 for the construction of Bayou Lamoque Diversion Structure No. 2; and Berry Brothers, Inc. in the amount of \$192,015.00 for Bayou Lamoque Improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be and is hereby authorized to sign any and all documents in connection therewith.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Ensminger.

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, I have one item for your consideration. This is the approval of a barge that was constructed for the Commission by Hunt Shipyard. This piece of equipment has been completed and delivered to the Commission and I would like to request that you officially accept the barge.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Luttrell makes the



motion. Do I have a second?

MR. DUPUY: I will second.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Dupuy seconds. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Opposed, no.

(No response)

It is unanimous. So ordered.

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

WHEREAS, Purchase Order DA 403460 in the amount of \$122,096.00 was issued to Hunt Shipyard by the Louisiana Division of Administration, and

WHEREAS, work called for under this purchase order has been completed to the satisfaction of the plans and specifications, and

WHEREAS, the spud barge is ready for delivery to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,



that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve acceptance of the 80' x 24' x 5' spud barge as called for under Purchase Order DA 403460, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized to execute the final acceptance of this piece of equipment.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Buquet, I believe you would like to be heard at this time. I am going to jump off the schedule a little bit there, Mr. Yancey. I believe he is president of American Shrimp Cannery Association. Is that right?

MR. A. J. BUQUET: Thank you, sir. I have been but they fired me last week!

MR. LUTTRELL: I would like to make a remark about my good friend before he gets started. I want him to prove whether he is a turkey killer or a turkey hunter.

MR. BUQUET: Mr. Luttrell, there are a lot of things I would like to say, but I must be honest with you --

MR. LUTTRELL: Take the Fifth, eh?



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Be a little reserved today!

MR. BUQUET: In thinking about hunting, I will be honest with you. I would never get before the public and admit that I can't keep up with one of these fellows, you know, boarding 18-hour searches, as you did a few minutes ago, Mr. Director. Make a confession, don't ask me to do that again!

MR. LUTTRELL: O. K.

MR. BUQUET: Gentlemen, I thank you very much for permitting us to appear before you today. I am here in behalf of the American Shrimp Cannery Association, and I owe you an apology because I think that there is some information in a letter addressed to the Director on my desk and it has been there for a week, which I should have signed and sent in to you. So, thank you for seeing us without receiving that official request. If you will permit me, I would like to introduce some people here with us.

First is Dr. David Etzold. He is with the Sea Grant Program out of the University of



Mississippi. Next is Victor Mavar, who is president of American Shrimp Cannery Association and has been the chairman of the committee on this work, and his wonderful son sitting with him, Mark. Mark is here to supervise whatever his daddy does, according to what I have heard from inside sources. Also, Paul Kahlmann, who has worked very hard with us, and he is the chairman of the Executive Committee and the past-president of the New Orleans Sportsmen's League.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: We are glad to have you with us. I think while you are ahead, A. J., you had better quit!

MR. BUQUET: Thank you, buddy! (Laughter) You know, the way you talk about me, there is something else that I heard a minute ago. When a man stands before this group of people and he apologizes for being the first time that he supervises a Wild Life meeting, how many of the people in the audience believe that Mr. Berry told the truth when he said that? (Laughter)

MR. WILLE: That is the only time I have ever had occasion with a loss for words!



MR. BUQUET: So, Mr. Angelle, if you will permit us, Mr. Chairman, I will read to you the letter that was addressed to you:

"Dear Mr. Angelle:

"The American Shrimp Cannery Association has an active committee known as the Estuarine Development Committee. This committee has been working with various groups, including the U. S. Corps of Engineers, to undertake a feasibility study regarding the possibility of controlled entry of fresh water to the estuary east of the Mississippi River. We enclose a copy of the resolution the American Shrimp Cannery Association has prepared regarding this matter. The Corps of Engineers assisted us in the preparation of this resolution.

"We enclose with this letter copies of endorsements of this resolution by the following organizations:

Louisiana Oyster Dealers & Growers



Association;

American Shrimp Cannery Association;

Gulf States Marine Fisheries

Commission;

Gulf Coast Research Laboratory;

Mississippi Marine Conservation

Commission;

Mississippi Marine Resources

Council;

New Orleans Sportsmen's League

Officers;

Louisiana Wild Life Federation;

Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association;

Louisiana Wild Life Biologists

Association."

Gentlemen, I would like to stress that this work has been going on for a period of 18 months and Mr. Mavar there has been the chairman of putting this work together. We have resolutions from all of the abovementioned organizations, endorsing a study of this placement of water across the river. Excuse me for diverting.

"We would like very much for the Louisiana



Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to endorse this proposal . . ."

Along with that, gentlemen, we have a draft, we have a resolution from all of the above-mentioned organizations that we present to you and with that we recommend that you adopt a resolution something to this effect:

"WHEREAS, the extremely high productivity of estuaries is dependent upon the flow of fresh water;

"WHEREAS, extensive flood control projects have been completed in the past with little or no consideration of that effect on estuarine productivity;

"WHEREAS, diversion of fresh water from its natural course has resulted in numerous deleterious environmental changes in Louisiana estuarine areas;

"WHEREAS, all research reports and the general consensus of knowledgeable fisheries interests agree that controlled



introduction of additional fresh water into estuarine areas would enhance fish and wildlife production and would be in the public interest; and

"WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is vitally interested in conservation and enhancement of estuarine production;

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission fully supports passage of a resolution to provide for a feasibility study by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, with a view to determining potential sources of fresh water to Louisiana estuarine areas and their controlled diversion to these estuaries;

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Louisiana's Congressional delegation is hereby requested and urged to support passage of a resolution that will accomplish these ends."

Gentlemen, I thank you very much for



presenting me the opportunity of presenting this to you. I would ask you if you would take the time for questions or discussion, and Dr. St. Amant is well versed with our problems here and he has through the past year advised us of the procedures he thought we should follow and take to get the support of these many, many groups. Yes?

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Buquet, have you talked to the Mississippi Game and Fish Commission and have they endorsed this or are they going to? Do you plan to ask for endorsement?

MR. BUQUET: Mississippi Game and Fish Commission? I think they have done that. Mr. Mavar?

MR. VICTOR MAVAR: No, we have not gotten an endorsement from them. We simply did not ask for it. We didn't think it was pertinent at this time. We can get one. There is absolutely no opposition.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Thank you, sir.

MR. LAPEYRE: Mr. Chairman, I think we could benefit from whatever comments Dr. St. Amant might want to make on this.



MR. BUQUET: Thank you.

DR. ST. AMANT: Gentlemen, I think the resolution as presented more or less outlines the situation as it has been examined in this state for more than twenty years. Actually, I suspect if we check our records, we would find one or more resolutions already passed by this Commission, indicating the need for fresh water, and as early as 1954 and '55 we entertained the idea of the introduction of fresh water through various outlets from the Mississippi River and instigated an approach to the Corps of Engineers. After a considerable period of time the MRT project was authorized to allow for some of this introduction, which you just culminated, some of it, when you took the move here to spend \$2 million on the Bayou Lamoque structure.

The only problem is that those of who examine the fresh water needs of the Coast and in view of the salt intrusion recognize the fact that these small openings are probably not going to do the necessary good that we would hope to get. You are either going to have to have a number of smaller openings or something larger in some area



where we can move the water through, but I think it goes without question that most people who have examined this recognize the fact that controlled, and I underline the controlled, introduction of fresh water would allow us to manage the estuarine areas in a manner that would be more beneficial than they are operating now, because they are totally unmanaged in some areas, and we do have a serious salt water intrusion problem.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. May I have a motion?

MR. LAPEYRE: I will make that motion.

MR. WILLE: Second.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Lapeyre makes the motion. Mr. Wille seconds it. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Any opposition?

(No response)

Unanimous. So ordered.

Mr. Mavar, the Director passed along to me a moment ago in a little private conversation that he thinks it might be well to get the Mississippi



Game and Fish Commission to endorse this. It might provide some additional funds from that part of the world to help you with your study.

MR. WILLE: That would be very appropriate if you could do it. Take care of that silvery tongued devil that is with you there.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: I'll tell you something else, A. J. Take care of my redneck friends from Mississippi, too, will you? (Laughter)

MR. LUTTRELL: You will notice that I haven't said anything!

CHAIRMAN BERRY: I am an old Simpson County boy!

MR. MAVAR: Yes, I can tell that!

MR. WILLE: You sure have been quiet today, Mr. Clay.

MR. LUTTRELL: Well, he got all over me. I am not going to say anything.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Yancey, let's move along.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, at previous meetings it was brought to the attention of the Commission that



Crown-Zellerbach Corporation has 3,075 acres of timberland in Ouachita Parish available for purchase and we now have a formal letter from Crown-Zellerbach Corporation offering this land to the Commission for a price of \$210 per acre.

Along with complete surface rights they would also offer all mineral rights to the Commission for this price, and we would like to recommend at this time that the Commission authorize the purchase of this tract of land. It is one of the last major blocks of bottomland hardwoods left in the Lafourche bottoms, and it would certainly complement the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area in Ouachita Parish.

Now this particular tract is located about six miles south-southeast of Monroe and about six miles south of the existing Commission-owned Russell Sage Game Management Area. It is excellent wildlife habitat for deer and turkey and squirrel and the typical forms of wildlife that you find in this area. Of course, if you approve the purchase of this land, we will have to get title insurance on the property. We will have to get an agreement



to sell and purchase signed by Crown by the 31st of this month, and it would be contingent upon approval of the Division of Administration and the Governor's office.

At this time we would recommend that you approve of the purchase of this property.

MR. LUTTRELL: I move the purchase as Dick has outlined.

MR. DUPUY: I will second that, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Any discussion? All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Opposed?

(No response)

It is unanimous. No opposition. So ordered. Mr. Herring. Mr. Herring, I am going to tell you like Mayor Chep Morrison told Earl Long when Charles deGaulle was in town and he started to speak, he said, "Governor, make it short and make it short."

MR. HERRING: O. K., Mr. Chairman. Since most of this information has been given out then on



hand guns to both the press and the Commission, I will just say what we are doing and leave out all the steps, and the lady can then put it in the minutes, because it is fairly lengthy, and I will give her a copy then, too. If anyone else wants copies, they are available.

Just to make you aware, the Consumer Products Safety Commission is conducting hearings on hand gun ammunition on the basis it is a hazardous substance. The Chicago Committee for Hand Gun Control has forced the Commission by court action to have hearings on this subject.

Gentlemen, this is just another step in trying to ban the sale of guns and ammunition. Should this group be successful in considering hand gun ammunition as hazardous, the ban on sale of shotgun and rifle ammunition will just follow after that. By using the Consumer Products Safety Commission to ban hazardous ammunition, this group will not have to carry its request to Congress there and it can just go ahead and declare it as hazardous, which is very serious.

In our state here, Mr. Angelle has



written a letter to them stating that it is legal here to use hand guns in hunting and that we do have some types of ammunition like .22 and .44 caliber, which is used both in rifles and pistols, and we estimate that about 75 percent of our young people who go afield initially in this state to enjoy the shooting sports begin with a .22 rifle, so it would certainly deprive many of our youth in learning how to shoot.

Also, in Section 124-8 of Title 56, only one species of game can be hunted with the rifle, and that is the raccoon, and also this would impair very much our hunter safety program that we have in the state where we use the .22 caliber rifle for these instructions.

The hand gun ammunition has been used by Louisiana hunters in both pistols and rifles for many years and we feel that the accidents have been extremely rare.

I recommend then that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission send a similar resolution to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, outlining what we have and that we are against this ban on



hand gun ammunition.

MR. WILLE: Joe, this is, like the fellow said, the means to the end; I think the beginning of taking away our hand gun ammunition is the beginning of taking away guns, and I think this is just a step in that direction. I would like to move that the Commission propose a very strong resolution against it.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Gentlemen, you have heard Mr. Wille's proposal of a resolution. Is there a second?

MR. LUTTRELL: I will second it.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: All opposed, likewise.

(No response)

Unanimous. So ordered.

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

WHEREAS, the hand gun may be legally used to hunt wild game in Louisiana in accordance with Section 123-F,



Title 56 of the Revised Statutes of 1950, and ban on the manufacture of handgun ammunition would reduce opportunities for many sportsmen to go afield in Louisiana and use this type of firearm if they so desire, and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 400,000 sportsmen who hunt wild game in Louisiana and a large percentage of these use .22 caliber and .44 caliber rifles, the ammunition used in these guns is also commonly used in pistols, a ban on pistol ammunition would in turn impose a severe limitation on those who use rifles for sporting purposes, and

WHEREAS, we estimate that about 75 percent of the young people who go afield initially in this state to enjoy the shooting sports begin by using a .22 caliber rifle, this lightweight gun is the most commonly used rifle in the state for recreational purposes and a ban on the use of .22 caliber ammunition would be



completely unreasonable, and

WHEREAS, Section 124-8 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes provide that one important game animal can only be hunted with a .22 caliber rifle, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission conducts a firearm and hunter safety program in which .22 caliber rifles are used extensively, and without ammunition continuing to be available for this purpose, costs would go up and many people would be deprived of the benefits received from going through the firearm safety course, and

WHEREAS handgun ammunition has been used by Louisiana hunters in both pistols and rifles for many years and accidents have been extremely rare and invariably where this has occurred it has been the fault of the user rather than the gun or the ammunition, for



anyone to claim that handgun ammunition is hazardous per se and presents an unreasonable risk of injury to the public; that no feasible standard would protect the public is completely ridiculous,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission goes on record as opposing to the classification of handgun ammunition as a hazardous substance. Such a classification would certainly deprive citizens of our state and nation on the right to bear arms.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to suggest to the sportsmen and other individuals in here that they should send letters to this group.

MR. WILLE: Why don't we send copies of our resolution to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and all sportsmen concerned and I think as soon as we get a copy of the resolution, release it to the press so that we can get good coverage out of it.

MR. HERRING: Thank you. At the last



regular meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission I was directed to check a canal which was constructed on our Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area. This canal was constructed for the influx of fresh water into the area and also as access for fishermen and hunters on the southeast side.

After checking this with the personnel of the Game, Fish and Water Pollution Divisions, we concluded that the canal at this time was serving its purpose and should not be blocked off as requested.

I would like to just recommend that as it is now we leave the canal as it is.

MR. WILLE: I will move.

MR. DUPUY: I will second, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: It has been moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: All opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.



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

WHEREAS, at the last regular meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission it was requested that we investigate the canal dug by the Commission from Old River, and

WHEREAS, this canal was dug to allow the introduction of fresh water from Old River through Tete Bay into the main portion of Spring Bayou Lake system, and

WHEREAS, the canal also provides access for fishermen and hunters on the southeast side into the main lake area,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that after an inspection of the area by Game, Fish and Pollution Divisions, it was determined that the canal is serving the purpose for which it was dug.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item we have pertains to our Saline Wildlife Management



Area. Personnel of our District IV office have checked on Saline because of the high water in that area at this time. In fact, on our Saline Wildlife Management Area it is approximately 90 percent-plus under water, and so with this, it makes all of our deer, turkey and other game species have to hit the high ridges there and some of our levees. Since we do have a turkey hunt that was scheduled on that area March 29 and 30 and also on April 5 and 6, four days, I recommend to the Commission at this time that we close the season due to the floods and high waters which are coming in there from the Red, Black, Ouachita and some of the Mississippi River watershed.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a statement. I checked this personally and Joe and his personnel are absolutely correct. There is no reason whatsoever, no real reason whatsoever, that we should allow anyone in there hunting turkeys and since that is in my home area, I would like to be the person that moves that it be closed, with Mr. Wille's permission.

MR. WILLE: Sure, that is fine, Mr. Luttrell.



CHAIRMAN BERRY: Mr. Luttrell, I thought we had given the Director permission some time ago in these areas where flood waters arise, that he has the right to just close these areas.

MR. LUTTRELL: We did.

MR. WILLE: We did and we can actually use this if we want to. Joe, we have got several on the turkey seasons here. I think we should just leave it up to the Director.

MR. HERRING: Right. We have time enough on these cases to bring them and inform the Commission and inform the public. That was the idea of doing that. If it had been an emergency where we would not have, certainly the Director would have taken that prerogative, but we did have time to bring it to the people.

MR. WILLE: I appreciate that.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: We have a resolution by Mr. Luttrell.

MR. WILLE: Second.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.



CHAIRMAN BERRY: Unanimous. So ordered.

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

WHEREAS, a turkey season is scheduled for Saline Wildlife Management Area March 29-30 and April 5-6, 1975, and

WHEREAS, our District personnel have checked Saline Wildlife Management Area on the ground and from the air, and

WHEREAS, they have found that 90 percent is underwater and that the wildlife is being driven to the high ridges on the area,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission goes on record as closing the turkey season as set for March 29-30 and April 5-6, 1975, on the Saline Wildlife Management Area due to flood waters.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item we have pertains to our Bonnet Carre public hunting area which is out of Norco, Louisiana. The area



consists of some 3,700 acres in size and approximately 1,500 acres of this, right through the center of it, is the flowage area for the U. S. Corps of Engineers in case they have floods where they have to open the Bonnet Carre Spillway gates.

Now, what has happened, this area has grown up very heavily with trees and shrubs in the lower end and the Corps has requested that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission clear this, as we have a lease on the area. Now, at this time we have no money for such an operation, because some of these willow trees have grown to a diameter of five or six inches there, so we don't have the funds at this time to do the clearing through the center of the area. In meeting with the Corps of Engineers then, they have suggested that we could write a letter, just cancelling this present lease agreement, and in the letter stipulate that we will get back with them to draw up a new lease agreement and take out that area right through the center and leave it under their jurisdiction, where they can keep it clear, and then we will have all the hunting areas and recreation



areas on the perimeter of it.

Now, we contacted -- he was present at yesterday's meeting -- Mr. Francis Braud, who is president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. In turn, he lives at Norco, and he got in touch with several of the clubs and sportsmen of that area and explained this situation to the sportsmen, what we were recommending here, and they were all in agreement. However, they stated that in this agreement, when we do prepare a letter to the Corps, that we recommend very strongly that the Corps leave the area open for hunting, fishing and public recreation as it now is while it is under their control, going back to this weed clearing and tree clearing and what-have-you in there. They were recommending very strongly that this be left, that the Corps leave it open for hunting and other types of recreation going on in there now, and we would so do.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Chairman, I so move.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: I have a motion by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. All in favor,



say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Unanimous. So ordered.

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

WHEREAS, personnel of the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Com-
mission have met with personnel of the
United States Corps of Engineers per-
taining to the maintenance of the flowage
area of Bonnet Carre Spillway, and

WHEREAS, trees and shrubs are
growing in the flowage area to the point
they must be removed, and

WHEREAS, such trees and shrubs
have hindered the flowage of water should
the Bonnet Carre Spillway be open for
flood control, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has no
money appropriated at this time for such
vegetative clearing, and

WHEREAS, the United States Corps



of Engineers does have the money available but cannot spend it on the Bonnet Carre as long as the Commission has a lease agreement, and

WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to cancel the present agreement so the United States Corps of Engineers could clear the area and request that a new lease be drawn up at a later date excluding the flowage area or leave the agreement open for the Corps to work in this area, and

WHEREAS, this area receives heavy recreational use in the form of hunting, fishing, bike riding, picnicking, etc., Mr. Francis Braud, President, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, was contacted pertaining to this matter, and

WHEREAS, he in turn contacted other club members in the Norco area and none has any objection to cancelling the present lease and plan for a new lease



at a later date, and

WHEREAS, the sportsmen were in agreement providing the United States Corps of Engineers leaves the area open for public hunting, fishing and public recreation as it now is,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission cancel the present agreement with the United States Corps of Engineers on the Bonnet Carre Public Hunting Area and at a later date enter into a new agreement giving vegetative control in the flowage area to the United States Corps of Engineers and that cancellation of this agreement is made provided the Corps of Engineers leave the area open for public hunting and fishing and public recreation as it now is.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next one does pertain to turkey season again. What we have is just a resolution from the Grant Parish



Police Jury to close the turkey season we set in that area because they said it is due to a low population.

However, I would like to say that it is gobblers only and it is a six-day season in there and we feel that with this short season, gobblers only, it would have no effect overall on the population in there and we would recommend that the season be continued as set in that particular area.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Wille. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: The Chair votes to make a quorum. Unanimous. So ordered.

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

WHEREAS, a request has been received from the Grant Parish Police Jury to close the turkey season in that parish as set due to low turkey



populations according to the Police Jury, and

WHEREAS, this season is set for gobblers only, the Commission sees no reason biologically to cancel the season as set,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the season as set at the February, 1975 meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission for six days, March 29-30, April 5-6, and April 12-13, 1975, continue as set in that area described as: North of Louisiana Highway 1 from intersection with U. S. Highway 167 to Louisiana Highway 8; east of Louisiana Highway 8 to Louisiana Highway 492; south of Louisiana Highway 492 to United States Highway 71; south of United States Highway 71 to United States Highway 167; west of United States Highway 167 to Louisiana Highway 1.

MR. HERRING: The next item we have, we had a telephone conversation from a Mr. Harold



Book, who is requesting a permit to drive some cows across our Saline Wildlife Management Area. That would be on the Catahoula Diversion Canal. The only thing we had on that was a telephone request from him, and at this time I would just recommend to the Commission that this be denied because of the high water in the area and, like we said earlier on the closing of the turkeys there, the wildlife we have is up on these high ridges right now and anything going through there would drive the wildlife, the deer, the turkey, back and possibly into the water or some other area, so it would be hazardous to our wildlife at this time.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: I believe you said yesterday, Joe, or Mr. Yancey did, that also this man would have to have right of ingress and egress and it would disturb the game off that high spot and drive them back in the water.

MR. HERRING: Right.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. LUTTRELL: I have a comment, but let's let our Director read the letter first, please.



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Joe, since yesterday the telephone call did come in and the gentleman did tell us that he had written a letter and mailed it Saturday morning. The letter did come in this morning, which you were not in knowledge of, and it is very, very short and it is written on 3-22-75 from Larto, Louisiana, and he says: "Dear Mr. Angelle: Due to circumstances of the rising water, I request permission to move my cattle across Wild Life and Fisheries land onto private property.

"Since I must secure a permit before this action can be taken, I ask that you would bring this matter up at the next Board of Directors meeting." He is talking about the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission meeting.

"Thank you. Harold Book, Star Route B, Box 61, Larto, Louisiana."

MR. LUTTRELL: Joe, I checked into that by telephone this morning and I can't concur in the request and I will give you the reasons for it.

The Wild Life and Fisheries turkey and deer are using that levee at the present time to stay out of the water, save themselves. The Wild



Life and Fisheries Commission has a tract of land joining the top of the levee that is not fenced. The movement of those cattle down that levee, some ten or twelve miles on foot, I don't believe there is any way that we could guarantee that there would not be cattle escaping on Saline. Saline at the present time is clear of cattle, so far as I know. It is certainly clear of horses and almost clear of hogs. I think this would be very unwise and I would like to move that the Commission stay with its policy of no livestock on Saline Game Management Area, if I am in order.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: You are in order, sir.

MR. WILLE: Can I make an amendment to that motion?

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Yes.

MR. WILLE: That we do in our letter back to this man explain to him that the reason we cannot permit him to move his cattle across there is because at the present time we are trying to increase our turkey population and they are presently utilizing that levee and it would definitely disturb and maybe destroy some of the wildlife habitat. I think



it would give him a logical explanation as to why, that we are not being inhuman but he should look for another alternate method of getting his cattle out of the water.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Gentlemen, a little out of order here. I haven't had a second to the original motion yet.

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy. I would like a second to Mr. Wille's amendment, that we write a letter.

MR. DUPUY: I thought the letter was just a matter of courtesy. Is that an amendment?

MR. WILLE: Well, it doesn't necessarily have to be, Marc. He had already made the motion so I asked for an amendment to the motion that we do explain to the gentleman why.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Why we are denying him permission to bring his cattle across the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission property?

MR. WILLE: Right, because, you know, we are so used to the bureaucracy of Washington, every time we ask them something they just tell us we



can't do it and they don't tell us why.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Would you put that in the form of a request to Mr. Herring or the Director to do it?

MR. WILLE: Mr. Herring already has it. He wrote it on the back of a postage stamp!

MR. HERRING: No, I have it bigger than that.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Unanimous. So ordered.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Harold Book has made a request to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to permit him to drive 108 cows down the Catahoula Lake Diversion Canal through the Saline Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, this distance is



approximately seven miles from Louisiana Highway 28 intersection of the Catahoula Lake Diversion Canal to the Louisiana Delta property, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has closed the Saline Wildlife Management Area for turkey hunting due to flood conditions, and

WHEREAS, turkey, deer and other species of wildlife have been driven to this and other high grounds due to flood conditions, and

WHEREAS, more than 90 percent of the Saline Wildlife Management Area is under water,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that due to flood conditions and turkey, deer and other wildlife are on the high ground, request to drive cattle on it that such a permit not be issued at this time in the best interest of our wildlife resources.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Let's go to No. 14.



MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next one was also a telephone call and verbal request from Mr. J. B. Messenger, President of Point Lookout Hunting Club, to close the turkey season on their club area in East Carroll Parish.

Presently that lies within Area E as set by the Commission for a ten-day season, March 29-April 7. This area is described as "all that portion of East Carroll Parish lying east of the main line (new) Mississippi River levee from Arkansas State line to the Madison Parish line." Point Lookout Club is just making the request for their club in there.

At this time I would like to recommend to the Commission that this area be left open for hunting and that our District personnel out of District II there keep a very close survey on the area and the high water and just go ahead and leave it open at this time, because it is a smaller part of the whole area that is open.

MR. WILLE: I move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second the motion.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: We have a motion by Mr.



Wille, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor, say aye.

MR. WILLE: Dick, did you want some discussion on this?

MR. YANCEY: This man apparently is president of the club, Point Lookout Club, and this is one of the areas where we have a turkey trapping agreement.

MR. WILLE: I see.

MR. YANCEY: We have a 15-year right to trap turkeys out of this area and transplant turkeys. This would affect only their club and you might give it consideration. It is at flood stage up there right now.

MR. WILLE: Well, Dick, I was just going by Joe's recommendation. Let's withdraw the motion and hear some more about that.

MR. HERRING: I talked to Cliff Williams last night, District supervisor up there, and he had talked with Messenger on this and his suggestion was to Messenger that they do not have to hunt the club area if they do not so desire. Since all of area would be open, their club just wouldn't have



to hunt if other clubs did in there, unless we saw fit to close the whole area.

MR. WILLE: Dick, let's hear from you.

MR. LUTTRELL: Joe, just one club is under water? The other clubs are not?

MR. YANCEY: The entire Mississippi River batture is virtually under water now from the Arkansas line all the way to Angola. This particular club is the Lookout Point Hunting Club and we stocked this land with turkeys about seven or eight years ago and in exchange for that they give us fifteen years of trapping rights on that property.

If the club is asking for this closure and it would apply only to their club lands, and they have about 10,000 acres under lease, it would seem like some pretty serious consideration should be given it.

MR. WILLE: Is it the club requesting this?

MR. YANCEY: Joe just said this is the president of the club.

MR. WILLE: Joe, would you care to change your recommendation?

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Can't they close their



own thing if they want to?

MR. YANCEY: They have got a large membership there, Mr. Berry, and they had some problems about two years ago during the '73 flood with some people coming in there and hunting and they could not control it. They weren't club members. But these turkeys were confined to some very limited acreages of ridges that were not covered by water and they had some serious problems up there, and I suspect that is really behind their request here, that they just want it closed and the turkeys that they have got there protected from any hunting at all.

Burt, I believed they called you, didn't they? I haven't spoken with them directly myself.

MR. WILLE: Dick, I am going to go with whatever Joe wants to do. That is my own opinion. Whatever he recommends is what I am going to go with, but I would like to hear what Joe has got to say.

MR. LAPEYRE: As I understand the argument there, Dick, the problem is related to flooding, isn't it?



MR. YANCEY: It is definitely related to flooding. We have got the same problem there we have got on Saline. The Mississippi River is up at flood stage and this particular tract of land lies between the levee and the Mississippi River. It's flooded.

MR. LAPEYRE: It seems to me it can be handled in the same way as we already decided it should be in the case of flooding, the Director having the authority to close.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: We decided a little while ago, I believe, Mr. Lapeyre, that since we do have time to bring these matters to the Commission's attention, we would vote. We voted on the rest of them and I would just as soon vote on this one and get it behind us. I don't want to put too much on the Director's back.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I would recommend that between today and tomorrow sometime that our people fly over the area, take a look at it. If it is all inundated, you know, then just close it within the 24-48 hour business.

MR. WILLE: All right, let's just do that



Joe, are you listening? Dick?

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Let Joe comment one more time. Give him a chance to unwind a little bit.

MR. WILLE: Did you hear what the Director just said? You all were talking up there. That you all fly over the area tomorrow and then make a decision.

MR. HERRING: That we check there tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Joe, would you like this voted on today?

MR. HERRING: Well, the only thing, we did have our personnel up there, looking at it, and this was their recommendation on it, that since it was one part of an overall area that would be open, that we leave it open there. It is true what Mr. Yancey says, that we do have other areas along the river that will be flooding, too, or have been flooded.

MR. YANCEY: What part of that land is not covered by the water?

MR. HERRING: It is mostly just the part next to the levee and a few ridges in there. Most of the area is covered in the whole river basin there.



CHAIRMAN BERRY: Gentlemen, I am going to tell you, this is the Director here and I am going to go along with him. He has the authority to close. He will take a look at it tomorrow and have it checked and if he decides it should be closed, he will, and if he doesn't, he won't. Does that suit the Commission?

MR. DUPUY: We have a standing motion like that already. We don't have to do this again, do we?

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Yes. I was just trying to get the Commissioners off the Director's back this time.

MR. WILLE: Is that all right with you, Joe?

MR. HERRING: That will be all right then. We can have someone go fly tomorrow, get the Commission plane and go on up.

MR. DUPUY: Just review what he has already reviewed.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Thank you, Joe.

(The full text of the



resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, a request has been
made by Mr. J. B. Messenger, President
of the Point Lookout Hunting Club, to
close the turkey season on the club
area which lies within Area E of the
1974-75 turkey season, and

WHEREAS, this request is being
made due to flood conditions along the
Mississippi River, and

WHEREAS, other areas along the
Mississippi River are also experiencing
flood conditions, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has
requested that all such areas be
checked for possible closure of the
1975 turkey season due to high water,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that technical personnel of the Game
Division check these flood areas along
the Mississippi River from air and
ground observations and make recommendation



to the Director if the seasons should be closed. The Commission is granting authority to the Director to close such seasons in these areas should the turkey population be in jeopardy due to flood conditions, and if the seasons are closed, appropriate news releases will be put out immediately..

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Gentlemen, is there any other business anybody wishes to bring before the Commission?

MR. LUTTRELL: Yes, I have something I want to get in the record.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Make it short!

MR. LUTTRELL: It is going to short, very short! In discussing the Saline Game Management Area turkey season, Joe was requested not to trap and I want to say that that request was carried out, leaving hunter opportunity at exactly what it was, and we should thank Joe for that, and I want to put it in the record. It was carried out.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: Thank you, Joe.

Do I have a motion for adjournment?



MR. LUTTRELL: So move.

CHAIRMAN BERRY: So ordered.

. . . Thereupon, at 11:40 o'clock
a.m., Tuesday, March 25, 1975, the
regular monthly meeting of the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission was adjourned. . . .

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

