

COPY

P R O C E E D I N G S

of the

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 27, 1971

J. G. JONES, Chairman

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



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.

Stenotypists

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . . The regular monthly meeting of the Board of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 1971, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, J. G. Jones, Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

- J. G. JONES, Chairman
- H. C. WRIGHT, Vice-Chairman
- C. M. HOFFPAUER, Director
- HOBSON NORRIS
- J. L. WALKER
- J. L. WINFREE

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A G E N D A

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting (8)
held on March 23, 1971.

RICHARD K. YANCEY:

- ✓ 2. Discuss purchase of land in lower Pearl (9)
River Basin.

- ✓3. Discuss oil, gas and mineral lease in Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area. (16)
- ✓4. Discuss Water Lake appraisal - Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area. (30)

LYLE S. ST. AMANT:

- ✓5. Request of William T. Burton for renewal of permit to dredge for clam and reef shell in Sabine Lake. (30)
- ✓6. Request by Carroll Sand and Gravel Company, Inc., to dredge sand and gravel from the Mississippi River. (32)
- ✓7. Request by Louisiana Cement Company for an amendment to permit for removing fill material from St. Malo Channel located in Lake Borgne. (34)
- ✓8. Request by Jahncke Service, Inc., for permit to dredge for fill material in Mississippi River. (36)
- ✓9. Setting of spring shrimp season. (12)

ALLAN ENSMINGER:

10. Request by Southern Natural Gas Company to install a four-inch pipeline across (37)



Pointe au Chien Wildlife Management
Area.

- ✓ 11. Request by General American Oil Company (40)
to locate a well on their lease at
Pass-a-Loutre Waterfowl Management
Area.

JOE HERRING:

- ✓ 12. Discuss closing of Turkey Creek Game and (43)
Fish Preserve to webbing and nets as
requested by the Franklin Parish Police
Jury.
- ✓ 13. Lake Bistineau management plan. (68)

CLARK M. HOFFPAUER:

- ✓ 14. Discuss Mares' alligator skins. (46)
- ✓ 15. Discuss exportation of 150 alligators to (48)
El Salvador.
- ✓ 16. Discuss Pollution Enforcement Section. (56)

OTHER BUSINESS.

(See Page 4-A.)



REPORTER'S REFERENCE NOTE:

The following matters of Other Business were brought before the meeting:

New Iberia enforcement problem

(100

(Mr. Smith)

Changes in Shrimp Line (Dr.

St. Amant)

(100

Live bait industry discussion

(149

(Mr. Frank Campbell)

164

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THE CHAIRMAN: We have two items on the agenda which will apparently take a little time and we have a number of people here on these two items that desire to be heard. We want to hear everyone's side for a reasonable length of time.

The two items are the proposed Lake Bistineau management plan and the setting of the shrimp season. We are going to take the shrimp season item last. We will take the Lake Bistineau management plan item second to last.

Let me make some comments about the shrimp season. As I understand, many of you attended the meeting that was held by the Commission in New Orleans Friday, where our personnel gave you the benefit of their technical data and where you had an opportunity to meet with people in other phases of the industry.

We want to conduct the hearing in an orderly fashion and we want everybody to be heard, but we don't want to have a bunch of repetition because it really is not going to do us any good. We want to have an intelligent discussion about



the setting of the shrimp season, so I am going to ask your help in doing that. We have a number of groups that are present from each shrimp group. I am going to ask that you select one person from your group to make your presentation and if you have someone else from your group that would like to be heard who will say something different and not just get up and repeat what the other fellow said, we'll let him be heard. If there are some of you who don't belong to any group and you want to be heard, we are going to let you be heard, but we ask you to limit what you say to something new. We really don't want you to just get up and repeat and repeat and repeat, because you are not doing your own cause any good. We want to attempt to make an intelligent decision.

Now, I am going to ask you to do one other thing. We have had in the past six months numerous meetings where the shrimp industry was involved. We have had other problems other than the mere setting of the season. We have had the problem about the drawing of the inside-outside



line. We have had the problem about proposed legislation. We have made suggestions to you that the representatives of your industry get together and see if they can't come up with some type of industry recommendation. I know that's hard to do because you have competing factions.

I am going to ask a favor of the Commission now, if you would have a representative of each one of your groups go outside and take a few minutes and you all talk about it and see if you can't reach some common ground maybe on this problem about when the season ought to be set.

MR. WINFREE: May I ask a question?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. WINFREE: Could you tell the Commission and the people in this audience the existing law relative to the latest date a shrimp season in Louisiana could be set by legislative act?

THE CHAIRMAN: May 25.

MR. WINFREE: That by law is the latest?

THE CHAIRMAN: The latest date, yes.



MR. WINFREE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: So, if at this time -- we are going to take up your item last. You may not accomplish anything but waste fifteen minutes of your time, but you are going to be sitting here, in fact, wasting your time, anyway, while we take up the other business. So, if at this time one or two representatives of each one of your groups desire to do it, if you could go out and just talk about it, the Commission would appreciate it.

If you don't want to do it, keep your seat. If you want to go, we would ask you at this time to do it.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I suggest we recess for about three minutes to allow these people who are going to leave --

THE CHAIRMAN: I will just wait. I see even Mr. Lennox is involved. He went out the door.

All right. Let's proceed down the agenda. The first item of business is the approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 23, 1971. What is your pleasure?



MR. WRIGHT: I move approval.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright.

MR. WINFREE: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Winfree.

Is there any objection? Any discussion?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. WINFREE: I might say, Mr. Chairman, that after reading the minutes, it doesn't read like it sounds when you get through saying it up here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yancey. Item No. 2.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, this item on the agenda has to do with the proposed establishment of a new wildlife management area over in the lower Pearl River Basin of St. Tammany Parish.

As we all know, the Commission has been establishing game management areas in the state since 1949, and we now have some one million acres of game management areas and refuges scattered around Louisiana. However, over in the Florida parishes, we have only one 5,000-acre tract.



This proposal does provide an opportunity of possibly establishing a major wildlife management area in the Pearl River Basin.

The Baronne Services Corporation of New Orleans has offered 16,500 acres of its land to the Commission for a price of \$82.50 per acre. We have had some preliminary surveys made of the tract by biologists of the Commission, Larry McNeese and Dewey Wells, and they have concluded that this tract would make a suitable game management area. They found that there is about 1,500 acres of marshland in the lower end of the property and about 12,000 acres of cypress tupelo gum type habitat in the middle reaches of the property and about 3,000 acres of oak-hickory hardwood type timber in the upper reaches of the property.

Of course, it is subject to tidewater conditions, but we have concluded that this tract would make a suitable game management area and we would like to propose at this time that the Commission adopt a resolution favoring the establishment of this tract as a game management area,



provided that an appropriate appraisal is made according to Bureau of Outdoor Recreation specifications which would show that the value of the land equals or exceeds the selling price; secondly, that the necessary legislative appropriation is made out of the conservation fund to buy the tract with; thirdly, that the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation would approve the purchase of the property and agree to the reimbursement of 50 percent of the purchase price; and last, and of course very important, is the fact that the necessary papers would be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Commission attorney, Mr. Peter Duffy.

We would like to recommend that you approve a resolution of this type at this time in order that we can proceed with the necessary groundwork for exploring the possibility of setting this tract up as a game management area.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Walker.

MR. WALKER: I so move that we proceed with the recommendations of Mr. Yancey.



MR. WINFREE: I would second that motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Winfree, that we adopt the recommendations of Mr. Yancey. Is there any further discussion?

MR. WALKER: I just have one question to ask Dick. This tract will qualify for BOR approval, won't it?

MR. YANCEY: Your resolution would be contingent upon that, that it would be approved by BOR for reimbursement of about half the purchase price.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions? Mr. Hoffpauer.

MR. HOFFPAUER: I was wondering, Richard, if we could explore the possibility of including in the purchase price the capital improvements before we get the land, such as headquarters site and fencing and so forth.

MR. YANCEY: This was suggested by members of the Budget Committee that when we ask for funds to buy the land with, that we also ask



for the necessary funds to develop the tract or at least initiate a development program on it.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Even, you know, hiring personnel and so forth.

MR. YANCEY: Certainly this would be desirable if we could do this. We are now in the process of sounding out local sentiment in the St. Tammany Parish area. Certainly if we get good public support for this project, then we will be in a position to move on with it. If we don't, then certainly we would not push the project. We certainly want the local people to know about it, and we want their approval and concurrence in it. Otherwise, it certainly would not be a successful project. The game management areas that we do have in other parts of the state have been popular locally and we feel that this would be an opportunity for St. Tammany Parish to acquire a game management area that would provide their local people with a place to hunt, fish and camp in the years ahead and it would also insure the perpetuation of some of the wildlife resources in that

region of the state. We think it is a good deal but we also want the people there to know about it and have their concurrence before we proceed with it.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Yancey, along those lines then, you would propose a meeting with the governing authorities of the parish who are more or less the voice of the people of the parish and suggest what this Commission has in mind.

MR. YANCEY: We have a meeting scheduled today at 12:45 with the Chamber of Commerce and they have invited all the parish officials, Representative McLain and the Police Jury and as we understand it, all the parish officials are going to be there and a lot of the public are going to be there, and we are going to explain this to them to date.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made a part of



the record.)

WHEREAS, Baronne Services Corporation has offered to sell approximately 16,500 acres of land to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission by agreement dated March 9, 1971, for \$82.50 per acre, and

WHEREAS, this tract is located in the lower reaches of the Pearl River Basin in St. Tammany Parish, and

WHEREAS, preliminary surveys by technical personnel of the Commission have indicated that this property is suitable for establishment of a major Wildlife Management Area, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby go on record as favoring the acquisition of this tract provided: 1. that an



appraisal will be made that will prove its value equals or exceeds the sales price; 2. that necessary appropriation of funds is made by the Legislature to cover the cost of the purchase; 3. that it meets United States Bureau of Outdoor Recreation standards and approval for reimbursement of part of the purchase price; 4. that the transaction would be consummated in accordance with the requirements of the Commission attorney.

MR. YANCEY: Back in 1960 the Commission acquired the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area near Monroe by purchase and at the time that 15,000-acre tract was bought, the Commission acquired title to half the minerals. It also acquired supervisory rights over the half of the materials that was retained by the seller. This has posed somewhat of a problem in the administer- and leasing of the lands within the game management area for mineral development and over the years it has come up before the Commission on



many occasions for discussion. At this time we have two resolutions for consideration by the Commission which we feel would clarify the leasing of the minerals on that property. Both of these resolutions have been discussed in detail by our Commission attorney and the attorney representing the owners of the private minerals.

We would like to recommend to the Commission at this time that they adopt both of these resolutions.

The first resolution would be one that rescinded the previous action of the Commission which relinquished this supervisory right over the private minerals on this property. Then we would go back to the terminology originally set forth in the act of sale under which the Commission purchased that tract.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Yancey.

MR. YANCEY: Yes, sir.

MR. WINFREE: When was this resolution adopted, the one you are referring to now, which you ask be rescinded?



MR. YANCEY: This resolution was adopted on November 19, 1968. That resolution that was adopted then relinquished the supervisory rights of the Commission over the development of the private minerals on that property. At that time the Commission thought that this would break this deadlock and would then permit the leasing and the development of the minerals on that property. However, it did not do the job intended, so we would suggest that you rescind that action. Then you would go back to the original terminology set up in the act of sale. That would be the first resolution that we would propose now.

The second resolution that is proposed here would be that we then ask the State Mineral Board to advertise for bid and for lease a certain portion of that property, that they would lease 100 percent of the minerals, both the Commission's half of the minerals and the privately owned half of the minerals on that tract, with the understanding that the distribution of the revenue from the private ownership would be carried out at the



cost of the lessee, the mineral lessee. Secondly, that we would not be assessed any liability in connection with the leasing of these private minerals.

Now I would like to ask at this time if Peter Duffy has any comments. He is our attorney and he has worked with Mr. Neal Dixon who represents the owners of the private minerals. I would like to ask if he would recommend that the Commission adopt these resolutions.

MR. WINFREE: I have a question, Mr. Chairman, of Mr. Yancey before we hear from Mr. Duffy.

Mr. Yancey, do you know whether or not revenues, royalties or bonuses or whatever from the Commission's 50 percent mineral interest goes into the general fund or does it go into the conservation fund?

MR. YANCEY: It goes into the Marsh Island or Russell Sage fund. That was the fund that provided the revenue to purchase the tract with, so the small amount of mineral revenue that



we do get now goes into the Russell Sage fund, which is then used for the purchase of land and other wildlife projects around the state, as well as the continued development of Marsh Island.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Duffy, come up to the mike, please.

MR. PETER DUFFY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I have reviewed the proposed resolution to request the Mineral Board to advertise bids for mineral interests that we have and the resolution appears proper and I recommend it be adopted in the form it has been presented.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your pleasure, gentlemen?

MR. WINFREE: Relative to the first resolution, that is, rescinding the action of the Board in 1968, I move that the appropriate resolution be adopted to rescind the action.

MR. WRIGHT: I will second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Winfree, seconded by Mr. Wright, that the original resolution



of 1968 be rescinded. Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

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

WHEREAS, on November 19, 1968, this Commission adopted a resolution authorizing the transfer, release and conveyance to the Ouachita Farm Corporation, its successors or assigns, stockholders or agents, the rights to manage and supervise the undivided one-half interest in minerals reserved by the Ouachita Farm Corporation in conveyance to Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission by instrument dated December 28, 1960, and recorded in the Ouachita Parish Conveyance Records on January 5, 1961, under Registry No. 482,337; and



WHEREAS the release and conveyance of these executory rights have not been completed or accepted; and

WHEREAS interest has been expressed by parties desiring to obtain oil and gas leases affecting the Commission's one-half mineral interest and the privately owned one-half mineral interest which is subject to these executory rights; and

WHEREAS it has been suggested to this Board that if the executory rights are released by the Commission title problems will be created which might make it impossible for any person to obtain a valid lease affecting 100 percent of the minerals underlying this tract;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the resolution of this Commission,



adopted on November 19, 1968, authorizing the release, transfer and conveyance of the executory rights reserved to this Commission in the deed from the Ouachita Land Corporation to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission dated December 28, 1960, and recorded January 5, 1961, in the Conveyance Records of Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, under Registry No. 482,337, be and hereby is rescinded and cancelled.

MR. WINFREE: I now move, Mr. Chairman, that the resolution as presented by Mr. Yancey and approved by Mr. Duffy be adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second?

MR. WRIGHT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Winfree, seconded by Mr. Wright, that we adopt the recommendation, adopt the resolution. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.



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

WHEREAS interest has been
expressed to this Commission for the
public bids for an oil, gas and
mineral lease affecting certain
property and rights owned by this
Commission; and

WHEREAS this Commission
desires, under authority of Louisiana
Revised Statutes 30:153, that the
State Mineral Board offer this land
and interest for leasing;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
that this Commission, acting under
authority of Louisiana Revised
Statutes 30:153, requests that the
State Mineral Board, State of Louisiana,
invite bids for one (1) oil, gas and
mineral lease to be granted applicable
to both:



- A. The one-half interest in the minerals acquired by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission by virtue of acquisition to full ownership subject to a one-half mineral reservation, by deed dated December 28, 1960, recorded in Ouachita Parish Conveyance Book 722 at Page 251, under Registry No. 482,337; and
- B. The one-half mineral interest sold by the Ouachita Farm Corporation to A. B. Freyer, Jr., Trustee by instrument dated December 21, 1960, and recorded in the Ouachita Parish Conveyance Records on December 23, 1960 in Conveyance Book 721 at page 359, being the one-half mineral interest excluded from the sale to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission described in the



preceding paragraph "A", which interest is to be leased by exercise of the executory rights to manage, lease and otherwise control the privately owned one-half mineral interest, which executory rights were granted to this Commission in the instrument described in the preceding paragraph "A";

which oil, gas and mineral lease will therefore purport to affect 100 percent of the minerals under the following described property situated in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, to-wit:

A tract of land containing 160 acres, more or less, in Section 19, Township 17 North, Range 5 East, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, described as: Beginning at the Southwest Corner of Section 19, Township 17 North, Range 5 East;



run thence East along the South line of Section 19 a distance of 1,320 feet; run thence North parallel to the West line of Section 19 a sufficient distance to reach the North line of Section 19; run thence West a distance of 1,320 feet to the Northwest Corner of Section 19; run thence South along the West line of Section 19 to the point of beginning; and

all of Section 24, Township 17 North, Range 4 East, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, less and except the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4 of NW/4) thereof, containing 600 acres more or less; and

all of Section 25, Township 17 North, Range 4 East, Ouachita Parish, Louisiana, less and



except the West Half of the Northwest Quarter (W/2 of NW/4) and less and except the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4 of SW/4) thereof, containing 520 acres more or less.

FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commission requests that the State Mineral Board, State of Louisiana, stipulate that any bid accepted or lease granted affecting this property contain a clause to read substantially as follows:

In connection with this lease as it affects the privately owned one-half mineral interest through exercise of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's executory rights over this privately owned interest, lessee agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the State of Louisiana or any of its agencies for any



liability assessed against the State of Louisiana or any of its agencies by a final judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction decreeing invalid the execution of this lease as to these privately owned minerals. Lessee, at its expense, shall assume the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's obligation under these executory rights for payment of the lease bonus, any shut in royalties and any production royalties allocable to this one-half (1/2) privately owned mineral interest to the owners of those minerals, and shall indemnify the State of Louisiana, or any of its agencies, for all attorneys' fees and court costs the State, or its agencies, may incur in connection with



any litigation provoked by any party against the State or its agencies, concerning the proper payment, disposition of and accounting for these funds.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would personally like to commend Mr. Yancey and Mr. Duffy on working out a knotty problem, a real knotty problem, and they have worked it out apparently to our real interests because these are funds that we get to keep and use for wildlife purposes.

MR. WINFREE: I would also like to commend the principals involved who have kept us busy on this thing, Mr. Chairman, for a wonderful job.

MR. YANCEY: This Item 4 does not require any Commission action.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have four items to discuss at this time.

The first is a request by W. T. Burton Industries, Inc. of Starks, Louisiana, that their



permit to dredge for clam and reef shell in Sabine Lake be renewed effective May 1, 1971.

As you will recall, Mr. Burton has been placed on an annual permit for dredging in Sabine Lake, and it is time for renewal. We suggest that this permit be renewed but that it continue to contain the restrictive operations clauses which it includes now, and this has to do with dredging near the shore only in one site. At all other points they are not to dredge within reasonable limits of the shoreline.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chairman refute himself so that he may make this motion.

(Laughter)

THE CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Burton, as long as he stays out of Calcasieu Lake, it's fine with me.

MR. WRIGHT: I so move.

MR. WINFREE: I second the motion of Mr. Wright.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr.



Wright, seconded by Mr. Winfree, that the permit be granted. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(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 WM. T. BURTON INDUSTRIES, INC. to renew a permit to dredge for clam and reef shell in Sabine Lake, effective May 1, 1971, for a period of twelve (12) months.

DR. ST. AMANT: The second item is a request by Carroll Sand and Gravel Company, Inc., for permit to dredge sand and gravel from the Mississippi River, Mile Post 477 to 482 and 487 to 493 on the Louisiana side, located in East Carroll Parish, and from the Old Mississippi River



Channel, known as Palmyra Chute, located in Tensas Parish, Louisiana.

The Carroll Sand and Gravel Company has requested this permit and it does meet all the requirements set forth by the Commission. Therefore, I recommend the permit be granted.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. WINFREE: I so move.

MR. WRIGHT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Winfree, seconded by Mr. Wright. Is there any discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(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 Carroll Sand and Gravel Company,



Inc., to dredge sand and gravel from the Mississippi River from Mile Post 477 to Mile Post 482 and from Mile Post 487 to Mile Post 493 on the Louisiana side, in East Carroll Parish; and from the Old Mississippi River Channel, known as Palmyra Chute, located in Tensas Parish, Louisiana.

DR. ST. AMANT: The third item has to do with an amendment to the existing permit held by the Louisiana Cement Company. This company has a permit for dredging in Malo Channel in the Lake Borgne area and that permit has a limited amount of yardage as it exists now, and they would like to increase the amount of yardage in the permit by 325,000 cubic yards.

This appears to be a reasonable request and it meets the requirements of the Commission. Therefore, I recommend that this amendment be added to the permit.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the



recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WINFREE: I so move.

MR. WRIGHT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Winfree, seconded by Mr. Wright. Is there any discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution is here made part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant the request of the Louisiana Cement Company to amend their permit dated June 27, 1967, to remove an additional 325,000 cubic yards of fill material from the Malo Channel, Lake Borgne, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana.

THE CHAIRMAN: No. 8.

DR. ST. AMANT: This is a request for



Jahncke Services, Inc., to dredge fill material from the Mississippi River between Mile 17.6 and Mile 18.4 A.H.P. and between Mile 22.5 and Mile 24.0 A.H.P. in the amount of approximately 450,000 cubic yards or until the project is completed. This material is to be used as a fill for the Buras to Lower Fort Jackson Highway, so it has to do with the highway project and the dredging permit will conclude when this project is completed.

I recommend that the Jahncke Services be granted this permit.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: I so move.

MR. WINFREE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Winfree. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(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 Jahncke Service, Inc., to dredge fill material from the Mississippi River between Mile 17.6 and Mile 18.4 A.H.P. and between Mile 22.5 and Mile 24.0 A.H.P. in the amount of approximately 450,000 cubic yards or until the project is completed, to be used as a fill for the Buras to Lower Fort Jackson Highway.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. St. Amant. Next, Mr. Ensminger.

MR. ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen of the Commission, we have two items on the agenda for your consideration today.

The first is a request that we have received from Southern Natural Gas Pipeline Company to install a four-inch pipeline across a portion of our Pointe au Chien Wildlife Management



Area. This line will be located on the eastern portion of the tract, involves about 222 rods of right-of-way, and Southern Natural Gas has agreed to pay us our standard fee of \$20.00 per rod for this right-of-way.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where does that money go?

MR. ENSMINGER: This would go into our Marsh Island fund, also. This area is being managed out of funds out of Marsh Island. Of course, we would incorporate in the right-of-way grant all of the necessary terms and conditions to protect the wildlife interests. I would like to recommend that this be approved and that the Director be granted permission to sign all documents in conjunction with this right-of-way.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. NORRIS: I move adoption.

MR. WINFREE: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Winfree. Is there any further



discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution
is here made part of the
record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission has
received a request from Southern
Natural Gas Company to install a
four-inch pipeline across a portion
of our Pointe au Chien Wildlife
Management Area, and

WHEREAS, this company has
agreed to pay the standard right-of-
way fee and to install the pipeline
under conditions which would not be
detrimental to wildlife,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fish-
eries Commission does hereby grant per-
mission to Southern Natural Gas Company
to install a four-inch gas pipeline on



the Pointe au Chien Wildlife Management Area in Lafourche Parish,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents in conjunction with this right-of-way grant.

THE CHAIRMAN: No. 11.

MR. ENSMINGER: The next item is a request we have received from General American Oil Company of Texas to excavate an access canal on our Pass-a-Loutre Waterfowl Management Area at the mouth of the Mississippi River.

We have reviewed this and find that this work can be approved provided that this company agrees to certain terms and conditions in construction of the access route. This is a new lease on Pass-a-Loutre and I would like to recommend that we grant this company a permit to dredge their access route to their drilling site.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?



MR. WINFREE: I would like to ask Mr. Ensminger a question.

Mr. Ensminger, would the dredging of this canal in any way inure to the benefit of our area down there?

MR. ENSMINGER: Possibly. We have a very active waterfowl area right in this general lease area, and I have selected a route that I suggested to this company in advance of their application. They went down and reviewed it and agreed to go this route. This would entail utilizing an existing waterway coming out of Pass-a-Loutre for a portion of their access route into this site, and we feel this would be the least detrimental to us, if they would follow this route.

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second?

MR. WRIGHT: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Winfree, seconded by Mr. Wright. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?



(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission has
received a request from General American
Oil Company of Texas to excavate an
access canal to a proposed drilling site
on State Lease 5606, Well No. 1, and

WHEREAS, this request is in
compliance with requirements of the
State Lease issued to this company, and

WHEREAS, this work can be
approved provided certain terms and
conditions are incorporated to protect
the interest of wildlife,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fish-
eries Commission does hereby grant
approval to General American Oil Company



of Texas to excavate an access canal to service State Lease 5606, Well No. 1,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director be authorized to incorporate in the permit certain terms and conditions to protect the interest of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and sign all documents in regard to this permit.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first item we have is a resolution from the Franklin Parish Police Jury to close the Turkey Creek Game and Fish Preserve to the use of webbing and nets. We would like to recommend that the area stay open for the use of webbing and nets for the taking of commercial fish because it is valuable in there to assist in sport fishing by the removal of commercial fish from the area and we are providing more areas, you might say, for the sport fish. Also, the commercial fish are competing for some of the same foods on there that



the sport fish are.

At this time we would like to recommend to the Commission that the Turkey Creek Game and Fish Preserve stay open for commercial fishing and the use of nets and webbing.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WRIGHT: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright. Is there a second?

MR. WINFREE: I would like to ask a question, or can I do that without a second?

MR. WALKER: I'll second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Walker. Go ahead, Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: Let me ask this question. I wasn't present here on this. What was the reason behind the Franklin Parish Police Jury's request that this be closed?

MR. HERRING: They said that they had had individuals in that area request that the nets and webbing not be used in there, because it



occasionally interferes with sport fishing in that area. They felt like, too, on occasion that some of the commercial people were taking out game fish.

MR. WINFREE: What you are saying, though, is that this thing should remain open in order to take these rough fish from this area to assist the sport fishermen in the area.

MR. HERRING: Yes, sir, that's right, because all the commercial fish that they can remove, rough fish out of the area, it does provide more space, you might say, in the area for the game fish. Also, you have a build-up of the rough fish in the area so they are not being removed, so you have a crowding of these with no one removing them. It is better to go ahead and remove your rough fish out of there by commercial fishermen.

It was the local people who came to the Police Jury meeting and asked that they pass a resolution removing them, and they were just following the wishes of the local people.



THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Thank you, Joe. We will come back to you later.

Mr. Hoffpauer.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Gentlemen, several meetings ago we under court order returned alligator skins back to Mr. Mares, Rene and Joe Mares, as per court order. There were 333 alligator skins of various sizes.

At this time Mr. Mares wishes to sell these skins or get rid of these skins, which we instructed him not to. One thing is that the man did not have the correct license with which to sell these skins. To go along with the wishes of the court and also allow this man to sell these skins, I recommend that we sell him a dealer's license and also charge him the going severance tax on these hides when he does sell them.

Now, I don't know where he is going to sell them, because I don't think he could find a



buyer in the United States, but that's his problem. I would like to get the thing closed. In fact, I would like to get rid of all the alligator skins that we have, either burn them, sell them, bury them, before we ever have another alligator season. Just clear all the books in the state. We do have a few skins on hand.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is my information that they can be sold in Japan. Is that correct, Mr. O'Neill?

MR. O'NEILL: Yes, sir.

MR. WRIGHT: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wright. Is there a second?

MR. NORRIS: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Norris. Is there any further discussion?

MR. HOFFPAUER: Yes, sir. I would like a little more in that resolution, that this man has to have a license and so forth.

MR. WRIGHT: We are talking about what you put in the resolution.



MR. HOFFPAUER: All right. Made a circumstance that he buy a dealer license, and that's to ship this one bunch of 'gators, no more.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

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

WHEREAS, on October 27, 1970, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission authorized the return of 333 alligator skins of various sizes to Rene and Joe Mares as a result of recent court decisions, and

WHEREAS, Mares Brothers now wish to dispose of these skins by sale, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ted O'Neil, Chief of the Fur Division, advises that Mares Brothers has a letter of



credit from Japan which will make it possible to sell these skins there,

BE IT RESOLVED that Mares Brothers are authorized to dispose of these skins by sale provided they acquire the necessary dealer's license and pay the appropriate severance tax on the skins and comply with all Louisiana statutes.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. No. 15.

MR. HOFFPAUER: We at one time entered into an agreement with Mr. Weems to put up 100 alligators to move to El Salvador where they have a tremendous growth rate and we are getting some research returns from the area. At this time he wants to move another 150 alligators and it would more or less be a concurrence with the Commission.

As far as I can understand about the law, we have no -- as long as a man has a breeder permit and is not possessing skins but live alligators, he can export them as he wishes, but he would like the concurrence of the Commission. At



this time I would like to call on Allan Ensminger to give us a little background on exactly what has been going on in El Salvador.

MR. WALKER: We should make it clear that this man --

MR. HOFFPAUER: Yes, this man has bought his alligators, both the first 100 he developed, and also he has bought this 150, purchased through the Alligator Breeders.

MR. WALKER: They are not our property.

MR. HOFFPAUER: No, no, they are not the property of the State of Louisiana or Wild Life and Fisheries.

MR. ENSMINGER: Mr. Director and Gentlemen of the Commission, I welcome this opportunity to bring to you a brief discussion of this experimental propagation project that this gentleman is entering into.

As the Director has mentioned, this man did purchase all of his present stock of alligators he has in El Salvador as well as the ones he has on hand here in the United States from Louisiana game breeders. Now he came to our



Commission back in the early part of last summer, asking for information with regard to the possibility of raising alligators under controlled conditions. This opened up a very interesting field to us from the technical standpoint and we felt it would provide Ted Joanen, myself and other persons within the Commission that are interested in alligators an opportunity to enter into some long-range alligator research, where these animals would be grown under a tropical condition.

We have found out through considerable research work that we have done at Rockefeller Refuge that alligator farming is feasible. We have a number of successful alligator farmers here in Louisiana that are producing a relatively small number of young 'gators annually. A lot of their figures we feel are tied into crowded conditions and what-have-you, but our Fish and Game Division and Fur Division are working with these people. I think that within the next five to ten years that we will see a paying commercial alligator farming operation here in Louisiana.



To get on into the El Salvador project, this would provide us with some year-round data. We found that by holding young hatched alligators in heated tanks of 90 degrees or higher water temperatures that the survival rate of these young alligators is increased from about 20 to 30 percent to around 80 to 90 percent survival. This is all tied into the biology of the animal absorbing the milk sac in its stomach and preventing tumors and what-have-you.

The additional interesting aspect of a high temperature on reptiles has been brought to our attention by the fact that the crocodiles in Central Africa have a very extended breeding season. The female ovulates for a period of two to three months. Males produce live sperm for a period of five to six months. Our Louisiana alligators, the females have an ovulation period of about 15 days and the males are sexually active for only a period of about 30 days.

We feel that this is all tied into our temperature conditions. Of course, under a hot-house condition, we feel that we could extend this



breeding season of our American alligators, but this would be extremely expensive, probably in the neighborhood of \$100,000.00 for facilities to do this type of work. So, we were quite anxious to get into a tropical condition, where someone else was paying all the expenses, especially, and were willing to give us the opportunity to participate with them in the research work along this line. In turn, our Commission would have this information available to us that we could disseminate out to our local farmers here in Louisiana if this thing ever turned out to be worthwhile from a commercial standpoint.

With this in mind, Ted Joanen and myself visited this area in El Salvador at the expense of Mr. Weems. We made recommendations to him in the construction of his pens down there. He has followed this work out and, as the Director said, he shipped 100 alligators last summer down to the area. He has these in captivity down there. They are doing very well. This has created a very favorable impression with the officials of the



country of El Salvador. They have issued a special decree to this gentleman to carry out this experimental work. I think it is very complimentary to our Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that we have participated in this project.

I would like to recommend to the Commission that we go on record as being in favor of the man's experimental work and that we continue to work with him and provide him with whatever assistance we can to tabulate the growth rates and all the other biological aspects of this project in the future.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: I would like to ask Mr. Ensminger some questions.

Mr. Ensminger, I don't want you to think that these are pointed or loaded questions, but you are the Chief of the Refuge Division of this Commission, are you not?

MR. ENSMINGER: Yes, sir.



MR. WINFREE: To your knowledge, have any alligators owned by this Commission or taken from any refuges under control of this Commission ever been sold or given away to anybody?

MR. ENSMINGER: Mr. Winfree, we have participated in a very extensive alligator restocking program in southwest and south central Louisiana for many years. This has primarily been in the form of transferring alligators from these heavily populated refuge areas onto privately owned lands. The Director and myself and many, many people in this room here have participated in this type of work. It is through this type of work that we feel that much of the heavy alligator population in southwest Louisiana was brought about, was through this restocking program. We moved about 400 animals into Terrebonne Parish. We do have plans to move four or 500 more small alligators into Terrebonne, and this is alligators up to about 30 inches in size.

This is a very successful program. The other animals that have been moved off of



Rockefeller have been in the form of eggs and young animals that have gone either into the LSU Wildlife Research Unit at LSU or into the LSU Med School here in New Orleans. They have a very active alligator blood parasite and urinology research work going on at LSU Med School. They have had some very interesting medical work done with alligators that we gave these people off of our refuge.

As far as alligators going to private individuals for private use, we have not. Of course, Mr. Yancey just gave me this note here that the restocking program that we have carried out in Terrebonne and in Cameron and in Vermilion has been through Commission resolution.

MR. WINFREE: Thank you, Mr. Ensminger.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have forgotten what the question was.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Well, we are approving Mr. Weems' transfer to El Salvador of 150 alligators that he presently owns.

MR. ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman, I would



like to also expand that to say that we will cooperate with this man in this work and that we will receive the information from it, because this I think, as I mentioned, is a storehouse, a wealth of knowledge, that will be available to our Commission for no expense to us.

MR. HOFFPAUER: As I understand it, he is going to pay us the 25 cents severance tax on the alligators.

MR. ENSMINGER: When he sells them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a motion?

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Walker.

MR. WINFREE: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Winfree.
Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild



Life and Fisheries Commission is desirous of expanding its research work in the field of alligator management, and

WHEREAS, the pen rearing of American alligators in Louisiana has become an item of considerable interest to state residents, and

WHEREAS, extensive long range research data is needed in the overall biology of the alligator, and

WHEREAS, Mr. G. G. Weems of Gretna, Louisiana, has offered to supply detail research information collected from an experimental propagation venture which he is conducting in the Republic of El Salvador, Central America, and

WHEREAS, information to be gained from this research work would be comparable to information from animals being studied at Rockefeller



Refuge and LSU Medical School,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve this experimental propagation project; the exportation of Mr. Weems' personally owned alligators; and does hereby also approve technical personnel of the Commission to cooperate with Mr. G. G. Weems in carrying out this project from a biological standpoint, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that technical information gained from this cooperation will be tabulated in the form of an annual progress report and be made available to the citizens of the state of Louisiana.

THE CHAIRMAN: Item No. 16. We will call on Mr. Walker. The Commission appointed a pollution sub-committee and Mr. Walker is the chairman of that committee, and I would like to call on him for a report at this time.



MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Since the inception of the pollution control sub-committee, the committee has met and discussed the problems of pollution control within the state of Louisiana and, due to the lack of time, I will just very briefly present our recommendations that we have at this time to the Commission.

It is the recommendation of the pollution control sub-committee that a Pollution Enforcement Section be formed within the Commission. We recommend that we have a Pollution Enforcement Chief. This man will be comparable to an Enforcement Agent 4. We recommend that we have an Assistant Chief that will supervise North Louisiana and this man will be the equal of an Enforcement Agent 3. We also recommend that we have an Assistant Chief for South Louisiana, and this man shall also be equal to an Enforcement Agent 3.

The North Louisiana portion of the state shall be divided into Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4. We further recommend that in District 1 in North



Louisiana that it will have three agents. District No. 2 shall have two agents. District No. 3 shall have two agents. District No. 4, three agents.

South Louisiana District shall comprise Districts 5, 6, 7 and 8. District No. 5 in South Louisiana shall have four agents. District No. 6 shall have two agents. District No. 7 shall have three agents and District No. 8 shall have five agents.

It is the further recommendation of this sub-committee that the Chief of Pollution Enforcement shall be responsible to and report directly to the Director.

We further recommend that transfer enforcement agents in the same grade or any grade that the Director shall select, transfer them with their equipment, which shall be their cars, their radios, their uniforms, to the Pollution Enforcement Section.

We further recommend that we change the Civil Service classification from Enforcement Agent to Pollution Enforcement Agent and, further,



in the future we recommend that we set up within the Wild Life and Fisheries budget a budgetary unit entitled Pollution Enforcement Section.

I would, Mr. Chairman, with your permission, like to ad lib for a little bit on our recommendations. It is the recommendation of this sub-committee that we have a Pollution Enforcement Section. They will be independent of other sections of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. It will operate solely under the direction of the Director and that the Chief of this Enforcement shall report and be responsible only to the Director.

I would like to mention at this time that we recognize that the Director is the appointing authority for all personnel in the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, and it is our feeling and our wish that he make immediate transfers and appointments to this Pollution Enforcement Section. It will be left up to his discretion as to who is transferred and who may go on this Pollution Enforcement Section.



Further, in the 1970-71 budget we were authorized 20 enforcement agents. These have been transferred to the 1971-72 budget which shall become effective July 1 and I would like to point out that we are not robbing any section of its enforcement agents. We are not robbing them entirely. We have proposed 27 agents for the state of Louisiana. In the '71-72 budget we will get 20 agents to fill these vacant positions if they so elect.

We feel that the Director is capable of making the proper selection of the people to fulfill these obligations and we are very heartily supporting the position we have taken. We want to do a good job in pollution enforcement.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Commission adopt the recommendations of the pollution control sub-committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second to that motion?

MR. WRIGHT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr.



Walker and seconded by Mr. Wright that we adopt the report of the sub-committee on pollution control. Is there any further discussion?

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: Certainly I agree with the committee's proposal in principle and I think it is a fine thing. I think it should be pursued, but I still know in my own mind that the only employee that this Commission has is the Director. A constitutional amendment passed two years ago stated that the Director of the Wild Life Commission shall be the sole disbursal officer of all personnel of this Commission.

Mr. Walker has stated that in the budget for 1971-72 that there is a provision for 20 new agents. That may be so. He says it is so, so I will accept it, but at the same time I think that approval of this project as stated by Mr. Walker is a little far reaching, and I would certainly think that we could adopt it in principle but then the mechanics would certainly have to be worked



out by the Director and his personnel that he has as to how this thing will be put into operation.

I am not familiar with Agent 4's, Agent 3's and that sort of thing. I haven't pursued that. As I say, I have no objection to it, in principle. At the same time, I think it would be a little far reaching for this Commission to adopt such a thing as recommended by the committee at this time other than in principle.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, let me -- I brought up the 20 agents that have been held over from the '70-71 budget into the '71-72 budget. I brought this subject up just merely for information so that the Commission personnel would not have to feel like we are robbing some division. I mean we are not robbing them. We want to do a job.

I also would like to mention that I have been in state government at this level for 11 years and I know it takes time to implement these things. Talk about the budgetary unit. It may take us three months, six months or a year. I realize this. I don't expect our Director -- I



don't think he will do this; he has the authority to appoint 27 agents in the morning. I mean, this I don't see. It is the principle of what we have said before. Let the Commission pass on it. Give us a goal to work at. Give us a job to do, and if we are wrong, I'll be the first to admit that we are wrong.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

MR. HOFFPAUER: Actual transfer in accordance with Civil Service and transferring funds to another --

MR. WINFREE: Well, Mr. Chairman, let me say this. That is what I said. The mechanics would have to be worked out later. I wholeheartedly agree with this sub-committee's report in principle, but I just don't think that I am capable of sitting here and saying what should be done by these other people and I am sure Mr. Walker agrees. As he was just explaining, the principle is what he is trying to get started.

MR. WALKER: I want something to work



towards, Clark. I want to set up something that we can look forward to in the future. I would like to see personally a Pollution Enforcement Section or Division in the future, maybe '72, '73, that will be an independent section of this Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

Now, I am willing to work with it. I am willing to work with you any way you want.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Mr. Winfree, in other words, I implemented this thing about six months ago, and what the pollution sub-committee has done is just iron out the kinks in this recommendation.

MR. WINFREE: Well, certainly, as I said, I agree with it wholeheartedly in principle and then let the mechanics be worked out, but I couldn't honestly vote on saying about what he read into these minutes about all these agents and what-not because I just don't know about that.

MR. WALKER: Maybe I should present two different segments of the report, but then I think I came back and said that I asked the Commission to adopt it in principle.



MR. WINFREE: Well, I can go along with that.

MR. WALKER: But I would say further, this would be our goal that I want to work toward.

MR. WINFREE: Well, I would think if the sub-committee got this adopted in principle, the sub-committee's work would be through.

MR. WALKER: Oh, I disagree with you. I think we've got a lot of work to do.

MR. WINFREE: I think you would turn this over to the Commission, Mr. Walker, for its approval.

MR. WALKER: Well, I would like to think that this sub-committee, and I will ask a ruling from the Chairman, might be a standing committee, that we would have the powers to hold meetings and to consult with the people of the Pollution, and see what they are doing. I think this is the purview of any Commission to have sub-committees to oversee certain segments of it. I don't intend to run it. God, no, I've got plenty of problems of my own.



THE CHAIRMAN: I think we are talking about the same thing and the main thing that we are talking about is that Mr. Hoffpauer is the mechanic, the mechanics to handle all the mechanism for it. That's really what we are talking about, and I think we have given him something to work with and to get started.

MR. WINFREE: And that's what I will agree to.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, as I understand, Mr. Walker has made a motion to adopt the report of the sub-committee which is contained -- you have a written report that sets up a table of organization, and that is what you are asking the Commission to adopt?

MR. WALKER: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K.

MR. WALKER: And let me just make one other statement. I don't expect this table of organization to be implemented completely by tomorrow or the next week. I think it is a goal for us to work with. We may not have the people,



the personnel, that are available to fill this table of organization. It may take the Director six months to find people who will accept these jobs or these positions. I am just setting it up as a table of organization to work toward, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Wright, that we adopt the report of the sub-committee on pollution. All those in favor of adopting the motion will raise their hands.

(Show of hands)

Five hands. Unanimous.

On the matter of the continuing of the sub-committee, it was originally intended that the committee be continued as long as it found that there was something to do. That's the best practical way. When there is nothing else for you to do, you are not going to do anything, so as long as the Committee feels that it can pursue the matter within its particular realm without taking over the authority of the Director or anything else,



which I know you don't intend to do, but as long as you feel you have a service to provide to the Commission, I think you should continue, Mr. Walker.

MR. WALKER: Thank you.

MR. HOFFPAUER: I don't think there is any dispute about that.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K. Mr. Herring will talk about the Lake Bistineau management plan and then we will get to the shrimp season. As I understand, we have some people here that would like to be heard about the Lake Bistineau management plan. How many are there here that would like to be heard?

(Show of hands)

I see one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight hands. Is there any way -- are you all on the same side? Or am I asking the wrong question? You don't know? Well, I guess we will have to find out. What I am going to ask is if you can limit it to one person talking on one side and one on the other, and if you want to introduce



all of your friends on your side so we will know the numbers, and the other fellow introduce all of his, and if they have anything different to say, then we can call on you.

Joe, we are very familiar with the plan that the Commission proposes and the background of the plan. We have read all the reports, and maybe if you could give us about a one-minute synopsis of the plan, I know that is limiting you a lot but it won't be repetitious, and then we can ask the other people for their comments.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

About five years, in 1966, the then existing Lake Bistineau Commission began a fluctuation program on this lake for assistance in noxious weed and aquatic weed control and also to help the fish population. This Commission did call on the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission for their recommendations and a work plan that they could go by in managing the lake.

Personnel of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission then did draw up a work plan



for the Lake Bistineau Commission. The first four years of this plan, they carried it out, the water fluctuation program. The fifth year then the legislature turned the lake over to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission for operation, so we in turn then carried the thing up to the last year.

I just might say that one-half of the lake is in Webster Parish and one-fourth is in Bienville Parish and one-fourth is in Bossier Parish. In carrying out this fluctuation program for the five-year period, I might show to the group here and also to the Commission what has been accomplished.

In 1954, prior to any of these plans, a fish population sample was made of the lake, and we found that we had 36 pounds of game fish per acre in this lake. In 1966 at the beginning of the fluctuation program, we had roughly 47 pounds of fish to the acre, and also in this same year about 6,880 acres of the lake was covered with weeds, or 40 to 45 percent was covered with



aquatic weeds. In 1970 at the completion of the fluctuation program, our fish samples showed that we had 63 pounds of game fish to the acre on there and that the amount of weeds had been reduced to 20 to 22 percent on the lake. Actually, this means an increase of 16 pounds of game fish per acre on the lake over this period of time and also a reduction in the aquatic weeds on the lake of 3,440 acres.

With this in mind then, we will be coming up with a new management plan for Lake Bistineau and, as in the past, the drawdown has been started the day after Labor Day or thereabout. The reason for this is that we feel like that this is the time that the maximum use of the lake will drop off. School will be starting, the winter months will be coming on, and people do not use the lake as heavily then as they do during the summer months.

Our recommendation then would be to start drawing the lake down the day after Labor Day and drop it to a level not less than six

feet nor more than eight feet below what is the normal spill stage, and then closing the gates on January 15 and the lake would refill. During this time we feel like we should get cold enough weather in there to keep the weeds down in the lake. At no time do we say that the water fluctuation program will actually eradicate the aquatic weeds out of this lake, but what it will do, it will assist in keeping the weeds under control.

Prior to this five-year fluctuation program we had many complaints about the mammoth aquatic vegetation on the lake, from both fishermen and skiers and boaters. We feel like now that we have accomplished something on this lake and we do have most of the aquatics fairly well under control at this time.

MR. WALKER: Now that was done all over the lake; that wasn't done at just any one spot?

MR. HERRING: Yes, sir. The dots here indicate that here is where we took the fish samples both times. That was where the fish



samples were taken over this period of time. They were taken in the same location each time so we would have comparative data in making our statements.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anyone here who opposes the plan? How many do we have that oppose the plan? Do you have one or two of you that can speak for the group? O.K., why don't you come up and identify yourself, please, sir, at the mike?

MR. RUBEN WHITE: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, I am Ruben White, member of the Bossier Parish Police Jury and representing the Bossier Parish Police Jury along with the Parish Engineer, Dave Gransee. I have a copy of the minutes of a motion that was made by Mr. Arthur A. Teague and seconded by Mr. Wesley Burdine that the jury voted unanimously for you to not lower the lake.

We appreciate all that you have done for the lake but unlike Mr. Herring's report, I don't think, we don't think and the people don't think in this area, especially on the Bossier side, that



it has done any good as far as the moss and everything to the lake.

I also have copies of letters. I won't go into reading these letters to you. I will give you these letters, though. A letter from Representative Walter Bigby, asking you not to lower the lake, Representative from Bossier Parish. Representatives Algie Brown and Frank Fulco from Caddo Parish. Representative Ford Stinson from Bossier Parish. Also, letter from Senator Charles Barham, asking you not to lower the lake. Also, letter from Representative Jimmy Strain, asking you not to lower the lake.

I am not a real authority on this. I have talked to a lot of people about this and all the people that I have talked to don't think that it is doing any good. Now the fish, I don't know the samples that Mr. Herring got. However, the longer the lake is and the more fish gets bigger if you don't have any people fishing in it and not catching as many fish out of it. So I would appreciate very much, and we would want to keep



on if we had any other solution that you might come up with, without lowering the lake, we would appreciate this.

THE CHAIRMAN: That was one of the questions I was going to ask you, if you had any suggestions other than what our technical people recommend to us to solve this problem. We all admit that there is a problem there. Do you have any suggestions that we could consider, other than what Mr. Herring's people have recommended to us?

MR. WHITE: Well, I could say, I don't know. I'm no marine biologist.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm not, either. That's why I have to rely upon the technical people and they have given us a recommendation. I thought maybe if you people had heard of anything else we could do, we'd like to hear.

MR. WINFREE: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question. Perhaps then you could elaborate a little bit as to the group that you represent, as to why they wouldn't want the lake drawn down. Our people in the last five



years have been drawing down on this lake. I understand that that was done before. Didn't you have a commission up there, a Lake Bistineau Commission or something before that, to control this lake, and then it seems to me like last year the legislature by act transferred control of this lake from that commission to this Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

Now, prior to that time, did your Lake Bistineau Commission draw this lake down, or can you answer that?

MR. WHITE: I don't know. I'm rather new on the Police Jury.

MR. WINFREE: Are you aware that there was a Lake Bistineau Commission or something?

MR. WHITE: Yes.

MR. WINFREE: Well, now, as I say, perhaps you could answer, why do these people that you represent object to the drawdown of the lake? As I understand, it has been done for the last four years, and this is the fifth year of the program. The last five years.



MR. WHITE: I don't know. Some --

MR. WINFREE: Have they objected to it prior to this time? That is what I am trying to find out.

MR. WHITE: Yes.

MR. WINFREE: They had. Did they object to the Lake Bistineau Commission?

MR. WHITE: The only objection is the lowering of the lake. We don't feel --

MR. WINFREE: Well, now, let me go back a moment. You just said that it had been objected to. Well, now, the Lake Bistineau Commission had control of this lake, is that correct?

MR. HOFFPAUER: Right.

MR. WINFREE: And they in turn asked this Commission to work with them in suggestions for control of the lake, is that correct?

MR. HOFFPAUER: We issued recommendations for four years.

MR. WINFREE: Well, wait a minute now. Did they ask the Commission?

MR. HOFFPAUER: For a working plan.



MR. WINFREE: For a working plan, and this Commission then worked with the Lake Bistineau Commission and they followed our suggested plan. Now, there is no longer a Lake Bistineau Commission.

MR. HOFFPAUER: No, sir.

MR. WINFREE: And it is under the rules and regulations of this Commission.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Right.

MR. WINFREE: Now, I am getting back to my question. Did these people object to the Lake Bistineau Commission when we were drawing the lake down?

MR. WHITE: No, sir, un-unh. We certainly want you still to be in the planning of Lake Bistineau.

MR. WINFREE: No, what I meant was, though --

MR. HOFFPAUER: Jim, they objected to the Lake Bistineau Commission having governing authority of the lake.

MR. WINFREE: I see.



MR. HOFFPAUER: And then it got so hot for them.

MR. WINFREE: And that's the reason the Lake Bistineau Commission said, "Well, we don't want it; we'll give it to you."

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other questions? Do you have one other person who desires to be heard who is opposed to the plan?

FROM THE FLOOR: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Would you like to come up, please? State your name and your position.

MR. ARCHIE COLLINS: I'm Archie Collins, Green Park, from Lake Bistineau, and I think on this test, we have 17,000 acres of lake and we had three tests made. Four tests? Well, I thought it was three. Anyhow, I don't think out of a 17,000-acre lake, that is a fair test to start with. We feel, and we see the lake every day, and we don't feel that it has done any good. I understand they have maps that they can pinpoint, they can show us that it has done some good, but we are there every day and we are seeing moss already



this year that we have never seen before. Mr. Lee is here now. He has boat trailers coming out every day and he hasn't had any moss like he has had this year because it's hanging two or three foot down off his boat trailers now.

We feel that a restocking program or maybe a fertilization program will have the same effect that this does. As far as controlling the weeds, we would rather live with the weeds than lower the water. We admit we got the problem and we feel we could live with it better and probably have a restocking program or maybe a fish netter or something that would relieve the strain. During the winter months we have the different bass clubs there. They come down and fish our lake. But if you don't have any water in the lake, they are not going to put those 18, \$2,000, \$3,000 rigs in to run into stumps, but they will fish the lake.

We feel like the Commission could come up with some other solution to it through spraying. Now the hyacinth program they have there is good but it should be increased.



THE CHAIRMAN: Is the reason that you all are objecting, number one, that our plan is not doing any good, or are you objecting because of the water level being low? Which of the two is it?

MR. COLLINS: Both.

THE CHAIRMAN: Both?

MR. COLLINS: Because we don't feel like the plan is doing any good. If it was doing any good, we wouldn't see as much moss. We see more moss every year now. Last year we had a big rainfall, and we didn't see as much moss because of the rainfall. On Bistineau we had five or six inches more rain last year than usual. Now this year we are low on water and the moss is there. I mean you can't hardly fish in places around my camp and around Big Tootlelum and Blue Pond and all up and down the lake, even Webster Parish. I made a point to go all the way up to Webster Parish, State Park 2, State Park No. 1, and they had just as much moss there this year as they've ever had, and I'll be glad to take anybody with



me to prove it.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your occupation?

MR. COLLINS: I own a camp, Green Park, in Lake Bistineau.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Do you have problems putting in boats when the water is down low?

MR. COLLINS: Don't have problems because I have a deep canal now, but I will in another month. Now down at Camp Joy, now he's already coming out with all kinds of moss, and I'm seeing it come up now, so in another two or three weeks, we'll have the same problem we have always had. When I first went into there four or five years ago, I didn't have any moss at all.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Let's now move on to some of the -- I think there were some hands -- well, O. K., if you want to now. I was going to ask the proponents.

MR. WRIGHT: Is there any other alternative but to lower the lake? Have you got any other plan or is there any other way?

MR. HERRING: No, sir. Economically,



we don't. He mentioned one, fertilizing the lake, but this is a, you might say, flowing stream, so any fertilizer you would put in would go, you might say, on out of the lake at the same time, if you would use the same application, because right now in Lake Bistineau the water is fairly clear in there. We roughly estimate it would take about 400 pounds to the acre right now of fertilizer to get it started on a fertilizing program, which at \$50.00 per ton on that would be somewhere around \$172,000.00 that the fertilizer would cost. Now like on any body of water that you would fertilize, this would not be a one-shot cure. I mean this would have to be continued, like on some of your farm ponds.

Chemical applications then would be the same. It is always just a one-shot deal. I mean you can eradicate through chemical use some of the plants, but by the use of diaquide on the area, which will kill off a lot of the plants, to do this would take about \$430,000.00 at the going rate of the chemical right now. Aquathol-



plus, enough chemical, would even double the price, that you could use on it, so economically this is the best plan that you can come up with.

We realize, too, as he mentioned, a lot of the fishermen are not using Lake Bistineau but at this time I think we have to consider the number of lakes and impoundments that have been built into this area. Toledo Bend, which is fairly close -- well, they have taken the map down -- but it is fairly close to Lake Bistineau. It is a new impoundment. Fishing is good, because it is new. Lake Claiborne, just north of there, is another large impoundment that has been constructed, and we are continuously constructing impoundments in the lake, or they are being constructed, and this has taken the fishermen from one lake going to a new lake. Even Darbonne Lake is pulling some of the traffic that we used to receive from Lake Bistineau.

With the construction of a lot of these other impoundments, it is taking some of the fishermen and these old lakes, as a lake does get



old it does not produce the number of fish, it does not produce the number of fish, it does not produce good fishing as a new lake will. So, if a new lake is constructed, then we do have a lot of these people leaving the old lakes, you might say, and going to the new ones.

MR. WRIGHT: One other question, if you can answer it. I don't know if you can answer it or not. How long do you estimate it would be before the lake would be solid with grass if you did nothing? In other words, if they don't draw it down, if you don't try something, you know it is not going to be any use to anybody in a year or so.

MR. HERRING: The areas that were infected when we started, heavily, the ones marked in red, you might say, here, I would say possibly three years, two to three years.

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

MR. HERRING: I am just estimating, guess-timating. I would like to say one other thing, that he brought up about the weeds this



this year. I would say that a lot of our lakes are going to have weed problems this year, for the simple reason we had a very mild winter in most of the state, and we depend a lot of times, even whether the water is fluctuated or not, in some areas of the winter helping us in some of our aquatic weed problems. As most of you know, we had a very mild winter this year, and we will have weed problems in some areas possibly where we have not had them before, because of this mild winter. It is going to be a big problem in the state.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Herring, in answer to Mr. Wright's question, did you specifically say that if the drawdown on this lake did not continue that in three years time it would be completely taken over by weeds?

MR. HERRING: Not the whole lake. The areas that were infested before.

MR. WINFREE: Well, what are we talking about? Let's be specific.

MR. HERRING: We are talking about possibly 30 percent of the lake being totally infested



and possibly 50 percent of the remainder there being infested with water weeds, so you get somewhere around, on the total lake, approximately 60 to 75 percent infestation.

MR. WINFREE: Let me ask you another question. Mr. Collins suggested the possibility of restocking the lake. Now didn't you tell me some time ago, when I asked about stocking areas, that if you had two breeders in a pond that they would develop something like 50,000 fish, and so it was a misnomer on the part of the persons themselves that we do it, and we do restock areas, but if they have the fish in the lake, it restocks itself?

MR. HERRING: Yes, sir, I think that with the fish samples we just showed the number of game fish coming out, it has increased, and you are right in your statement there. I always use the example of our own fish hatchery ponds. We usually take about four female bream and four males and put them in less than an acre of water, and we will be taking out around 200,000 fingerlings



from these, so if you have a fish population in these large bodies, they will restock themselves. With the production they have, there is no way we could put in as many fish into a lake as normally what your reproduction would be in this lake, in restocking it. We couldn't put in that many fish. It does not need restocking on that basis.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Joe. We have one person who wants to talk in favor of the plan. I will ask you to please limit your remarks to just a minute or so. I might ask a favor of the people who have those two lights shining in my eyes, if you are not using them now, we would appreciate it.

MR. "POP" McDONALD: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I was the Lake Commission Chairman of Lake Bistineau for over five years. I am the one that asked for the survey and the program, and the program was drawn up, not just for fishing but as a recreational, a long-range program for the development of the lake. Because of the political situation, the lake is in the three parishes, we could never get the three parishes agreed on any



program. Therefore, since the Lake Commission was directly under the supervision of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, I recommended to the Webster Parish Police Jury that we turn it back directly to them to get the police juries out of the fishing business.

As for the lake being improved, I fish it anywhere from three to five times a week. I write a little fishing column twice a week for the newspaper there in Minden, Louisiana, and I am on the radio twice a week with a fishing program, and I know the fishermen in the area. There are thousands of them. There are four hundred or more camps around Bistineu and there must be forty commercial camps. Some of them are doing fair. Some of them are not doing much. Some of them are doing a lot. It's according to the type of camp they have, but we can never satisfy everybody.

While I was on the commission, we tried to strike a compromise so that the lake could be utilized by everybody and all types of recreation and we wanted this lake lowered in July when we



would get the benefit, full benefit, of breaking the cycle of this underwater aquatic growth. The hyacinths don't bother us like the elodea and other kinds of mosses. The program that we put on definitely eradicated enough of the aquatic growth that you can get a boat anywhere on Lake Bistineau. Four years ago there was 6,000 acres of Lake Bistineau that you couldn't get a boat through. You couldn't paddy a boat through it. It was too thick. The pictures -- we don't have too many of them because we didn't think this thing was coming up.

Now then, just last week, I fished down within 300 yards of Mr. Collins' camp and caught some of the biggest sea-bream that I have ever caught on Lake Bistineau. I always can catch bass on Bistineau because I know where to go. There are thousands of acres of Bistineau that you can go down there and fish on and never catch anything, but if you know where to go, you can catch it.

If the water fluctuation on Lake Bistineau is discontinued, I will guarantee you that there



will be at least 15 camps, commercial camps, that will be out of business. You have letters, I know from representatives up there and I could quote you some Senators and so forth in favor it, but I think that we are going to be a smart bunch of people if we take advantage of the know-how of the technical people working for the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries. You've got some mighty fine boys.

THE CHAIRMAN: Before you leave, what is your name, sir?

MR. McDONALD: McDonald, Pop McDonald.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would ask you what the numbers on your boat were, so I could follow you, if I were going up there.

MR. McDONALD: I don't use a big boat. I use a little one that I can catch fish on.

FROM THE FLOOR: Mr. Chairman, can I tell you one thing?

THE CHAIRMAN: One thing, yes, sir.

FROM THE FLOOR: There's two big gravel pits up there, and they can muddy that lake all



the way to the dam and they can leave it muddied as long as we promise nobody is going to sue them, and if you muddy that lake and keep that sunshine off that moss, it will kill it with the water in there. That's just something I would like you all to think about.

THE CHAIRMAN: Joe Herring, think about that.

MR. HOFFPAUER: After the meeting, let me have the names of those gravel pits, because if you do have turbidity --

MR. WINFREE: I would like to tell this gentleman who made this remark that that would be fine and dandy, but what are you going to do about these ecologists that jump in there on you now and raise Sam with us and say, "Why, you are just ruining this beautiful running stream with this filthy water"?

FROM THE FLOOR: If you keep the sunshine off that moss, it will go down. That water is clear now. I agree with these folks. We are going to have water out in the channel whether you



lower it or don't lower it because the lake is so clear. It fills up all around it and there is no activity going on, no spawning, because the water is clear and it stays clear all the time, so everybody has got blueprints now. Now if we could muddy that lake for about 50 years we could get rid of that moss down there and we won't have to draw that water down and put everybody on that lake out of business.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Is there any other discussion by a member of the Commission?

(No response)

Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation of Mr. Herring. What is your pleasure?

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I believe the minutes will reflect from last meeting that we would hear these people and hear our biologists and then we discuss it and take it up at our next scheduled meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is that your pleasure? Do you all want to table the matter now?



MR. WINFREE: I would like the benefit of reading the minutes of all of this that these people have testified to and I think that is what we agreed. You weren't present, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: That's exactly right.

MR. WINFREE: We still have plenty of time. This is just the first of May, this coming week, and I think that these people were asked to come here and I think we should take this under advisement and consider all that they have said and consider what our people recommend.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K.

MR. WALKER: I notice another hand or two in the audience.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you have something new to add? Would you come to the mike and state your name, please?

MR. WINFREE: I would like for it all to go in the record so we can know what we are doing here.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you can, limit your remarks; if you can't, talk.



MR. LEE CLARK: I am Lee Clark from Lake Bistineau. The only thing I would like to ask is if you are going to table this matter, that you contact the Senators and Representatives in our area and find out what the feelings of the people are. We have had petitions circulated up there and Mr. McDonald said how Webster Parish wanted it down and so forth. I am from Webster and I don't want it down. He said that 15 camps would go out of business if you didn't lower it. I am one who will go out if you keep lowering it. You are taking my livelihood. I enjoy the lake. I use it. People out at my place use it, but you can't use a stump field and there's moss there and you are not doing any good.

I would like you to contact the Senators and Representatives, if you would.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

MR. HOFFPAUER: There's another one right over here.

THE CHAIRMAN: The gentleman right here. Anything new?



MR. JOHN HAGOOD: Mr. Chairman, Commission, I am John Hagood, secretary of the Webster Wild Life and Sportsmen's Club. They asked me to come here and ask you to continue the drawdown program as you have in the past. It has many good aspects to it, but let me point out the first thing. It doesn't cost anything. On a tight budget you can manage the lake at relatively no cost.

The environmentalists should like it because it requires no chemicals. It requires no poisons of any kind. It fits right into Nature's plan you hear so much about in environment nowadays, because all of our Louisiana lakes originally fluctuated.

We realize that it is inconvenient for a large group of people, but unfortunately you can't have any program that is going to help everybody all of the time, so we think it is best for most of the people most of the time. It fits in good with our environment. It doesn't hurt the shrimp down the coast when you turn the



water loose and it doesn't cost anything.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. If I hear no objection, the matter will be tabled until the next --

MR. WRIGHT: One more hand, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. PRYOR: Name is Pryor that owns Pryor's camp over on Lake Bistineau. I have been on the lake now for some 29 years. I think I am a pretty old hand down there. The last time that we had any fingerlings put in Lake Bistineau was 17 years ago.

Another thing with your fluctuation program, they raise the dam gates. No screen over the dam. The fish go right on down through the Red River and into the Mississippi. There's no control over it whatsoever.

Another thing, the only fish we ever get in that lake is when the Red River gets up and backs up into the lake. Then we do pick up tons of fish, but every year we lose them when the gates



is open, because we all know that in the fall fish is going downstream. Thank you.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. WINFREE: Maybe Mr. Herring could rebut what he was talking about, about this dam. I would like to hear about losing these fish, Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: Not really a rebuttal but we do have, on these fluctuation programs, a lot of people, when we let the water out, they always refer to it as "all of our fish are going out of the lake at the same time". This is not true because fish do stay in the lake.

I would like to give an example when I go to these meetings. All of us in here who are fishermen can see this themselves, but when I go to a meeting, I take about a gallon bucket with a lot of little fish in the bottom or it and start gradually pouring this water out, and you will see how they keep trying to go upstream a lot.

When we open these gates, the fish cannot go out of the lake. They have a tendency to try



to move up to the water to find another source. I think just your own self, you can take a bucket of water a lot of times and see a simple example of it. We do not lose our fish.

MR. WINFREE: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K. Joe, next time you open them up, if we do, put a net and see if you catch any.

That will conclude the discussion on the Lake Bistineau management plan.

We will now take up the matter of the setting of the shrimp season.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, could we have a five minute recess?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, we will take a five-minute recess.

MR. WINFREE: Some of these gentlemen might want to leave, these Bistineau people.

(A short recess was here taken.)

THE CHAIRMAN: We are ready to start, and again I have some preliminary remarks I would



like to make. I want to tell you that the Commission appreciates the cooperation that your industry gives us when we sit down and talk man-to-man about the business of shrimp seasons. We have always proceeded in a very orderly fashion and we appreciate it and we want to spend all the time that you want to spend on it, as long as we are covering new material and something that's of benefit.

We want to attempt again to get your cooperation in avoiding getting into personalities. We know that you have different positions. Let's just talk about your positions and let's don't fuss at each other personally.

I am going to ask Dr. St. Amant first to give a brief synopsis of what his technical data is, very brief, because we had a meeting last Friday and you all had the opportunity to see it in great detail. He won't indulge on it very long. Then after we finish that, I am going to ask that representatives of each group come up and take about a minute or two. I think you can cover your



position in that length of time. I am not going to really try to stop you as long as you are talking about something new, but if you continue to go on off on something else, I am going to have to stop you. I think that way we can probably cover the matter is about 15 minutes. I know what a lot of you are going to say because you have said it before, so if we can, let's try to confine it to about 15 minutes. Then if there is something your spokesman hasn't said, we will recognize you. We want everybody to be heard.

We can hold down the clapping and all that. It is not a problem of numbers, of how many we have. It's what we are going to do. I was attempting to wait until Mr. Walker got back, if we could.

DR. ST. AMANT: I have the matter of the line business, if you would like to take that up before he comes back.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'd like him to be here.

While we are waiting, there was a gentleman from New Iberia that had an enforcement



problem. He would like to talk to us for about one minute. Is that gentleman in here?

FROM THE FLOOR: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Could you do it in a minute?

MR. SMITH: Smith, Henry John Smith, from New Iberia.

THE CHAIRMAN: We'll give you a minute or so, if you will, if you can.

MR. SMITH: Gentlemen, I am having a problem with the deer outlaws out there and I would like to see it built up. I have spoke to Mr. Percenter and Mr. Roberts and they are trying to help me, so I'm not going to say too much, but it's pitiful the way they are outlawing our deer. One fellow gets up in the tree and another man goes out there with deer dogs, supposed to be hunting fox, and he runs the deer to the other fellow and he kills them, skins them, puts them in the sack and brings them in and nobody stops him.

Every time I make a report. Three, four years ago I came down here. Didn't get any action and I wrote a letter down here, before Joe Walker's



time -- he's dead now, poor fellow -- and the other fellows, his brothers, they came sneaking up on my camp, trying to catch me outlawing, and they're going along, telling my friends, that they're going to catch me. Instead of looking for outlaws, they come looking for me. I've been trying to break it up for 20 years and I've got the evidence now.

Three weeks ago I went with a city trustee. I've got proof of everything I say. I've got men that will back it up now. I took a city trustee -- just a minute -- I took a city trustee out there fishing and we come back. We find a little small deer, hide and head, couldn't have been over 30 pounds. They put it right where we had to cross to our boat, just to show us that they were still killing the deer, because I do everything possible to keep them off. They are shooting the camp up. They do everything to try and discourage me and get away from there. I've got pictures. I don't want to take up your all's time to show you. I've got aerial photographs.



The place is south of Avery Island, about three miles south, what they call the commercial canal. I hope Mr. Roberts and Mr. Tortina watch for this man and get something done. I'm not afraid of anybody. I'm not scared of any of them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me say something. If you have any names and that type of thing, give it to them.

MR. SMITH: I'm not going to implicate myself but I'll show them. If anybody comes up there, I'll show them and I'll bring them the men that can tell them who they are.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K. That's the thing they need.

MR. SMITH: I'll take them out there and show them the men out there on the grounds.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. In response to your request, I'll ask the Director to make a special effort to keep in touch with Mr. Roberts about the situation you complained of and give us a report about it. Thank you, Mr. Smith.



MR. SMITH: Another thing I want to say, I heard one of your game wardens tell one of the biggest outlaws out there during the bow and arrow season, which, as you know, is a month before the regular hunting season. He asked him if he could shoot, could kill the deer and cut it up and put it in the sack and he said, "Yeah, but you'll have to bring the head in." Then he said, "No, you don't have to bring the head if you can kill a doe with a bow and arrow." That was a month before the regular hunting season. So what's to prevent a man from shooting the deer in the head, a doe in the head, cut the head off, cut the meat. That's a terrible thing for a game warden to tell a --

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you willing to give the Director the name of that game warden? That's the only way he can do anything about it. He's got to know who it is.

MR. SMITH: No, I, ah --

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, you see, that's the problem we have, in enforcing the law.



MR. SMITH: I got no proof on that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, here's the point. We can't do anything, either, if we don't have any proof. In order for us to get out -- we are talking about limiting people's freedom, putting them in jail, charging them with things, and we've got to have proof, and until people are willing to tell us who they are, we can't go out and just arrest somebody.

MR. SMITH: You send somebody to New Iberia and I'll point them out to you.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, you'll give us their names. Mr. Hoffpauer, you send somebody over there.

MR. SMITH: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. O.K. Mr. Walker is back. Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, we have two items to deal with shrimp today. The first one I think will be, I hope, non-controversial. Last month we reestablished the line with Lambeth coordinates and other



types of descriptions and passed it by Commission action with a resolution.

Since that time we have found that in order to draw this thing up, we had to by-pass some areas that were of considerable interest to the fishermen, and we have been able to reach a point where we can adjust the line and we have got a redescription of some small areas. I would like permission of the Commission to make these adjustments in the outside-inside line in order that Mr. Duffy and I can present a proper and acceptable bill to the legislature and also that we can satisfy the needs of the fishermen.

Any adjustments that we would make would be made in the next day or two and they would be effective as far as enforcement was concerned, also. I would ask that you give me permission to make these adjustments.

THE CHAIRMAN: These will be changes in the line?

DR. ST. AMANT: It will be changes in the vicinity of the Delta Mississippi River where,



in order to simplify the description, we drew straight lines across from point to point. We have now devised a system where we can work back into the fingers of the Delta and allow them to fish on the outside waters. There is still some discussion as to just where the line might best be placed in the Caillou Bay area where we had the original problem, and it is possible with a complete meeting of the minds we can get a re-description or adjustment in here that would be satisfactory to most people and would also be the one that we would like to recommend to the legislature.

MR. WINFREE: Dr. St. Amant, may I ask a question? In this proposed line, this proposed change, you have taken into consideration now the so-called legal limits that Louisiana is claiming as her tidelands against the United States?

DR. ST. AMANT: We have but there is no way to draw the fishery line exactly as the original line was drawn and was to be enforced. We used the same system of description.



MR. WINFREE: You used Lambeth coordinates?

DR. ST. AMANT: Yes, Lambeth coordinates and also latitude and longitude as well as written descriptions, and our attempt was to redescribe the original line that we had in our law as nearly as possible, but because of the voluminous amount of description with Lambeth coordinates, there were some small embayments and areas that normally had been fished that we left out. Many of the fishermen raised a point about this and there was a hardship, I agree, and there is no reason to prevent them from fishing in these areas if we can describe it properly.

We have worked out a system of description and this is what we want to do, make these minor adjustments.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WINFREE: I would certainly suggest that Dr. St. Amant and Mr. Duffy be given all the necessary assistance that they can possibly have



to get this bill drafted for the legislature in proposing this new line, going along, of course, that it does not conflict with any state ownership as against the federal government.

DR. ST. AMANT: This has always been the case, even with the original line, and this can be so stated in the bill

MR. WINFREE: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second to that motion?

MR. WRIGHT: I second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Wright. Is there any further discussion? Any objection? Yes, sir.

(Inaudible remarks from the floor.)

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, ask the gentleman to identify himself if he is going to ask a question of Dr. St. Amant so we can hear this for the record.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your name, sir?

(Inaudible reply from the floor.)

MR. WINFREE: Now what was his question?



THE CHAIRMAN: His question was how was the shrimper going to be able to tell where the line is; are we going to have buoys on these lines? Dr. St. Amant.

DR. ST. AMANT: Gentlemen, the question of marking the line in those areas, those few areas where it crosses open water, has always been one that has been difficult. All that is required by law is that the line be described in the law in such a manner that it will meet legal requirements. It is then up to the fisherman to learn how to identify the line or what the law is and then to abide by it.

Of course, it is also incumbent upon our enforcement people as well who try and enforce the law and to know where the line is and to so enforce it. It would be quite nice if we could put buoys in these areas but every study that has been made of any type of buoy system has been extremely expensive, not only in initial establishment of a buoy system but in the maintenance of it. If the buoys are large enough to be all-weather and immovable and stay in once place, then they are



very, very costly. If they are small, cheap, simple buoys, anybody can pick them up and drag them around and put them where they please, and this happens from time to time, when we set out buoys, and frequently when oyster leases are staked, people move the stakes around.

It is not so simple as just walking out of here and marking off with buoys that would be of a nominal cost. I think the studies show that the cost of all-weather, lighted and sound buoys and this type of thing that would have to be put up there to meet navigation regulations and also would stay in one spot would be beyond the cost and the capability of this Commission.

We have in fact tried to reduce the water distances as much as possible. This is one of the reasons that we are asking your indulgence in making some adjustments. There have been some questions brought up by the fishermen and perhaps we can define some adjustments in the location of the line crossing these wide water areas that would reduce the distances and make it more reasonable, both from an enforcement standpoint and from



the fisherman's standpoint.

MR. WINFREE: Dr. St. Amant, would it be much of a problem to ascertain the cost of these buoys, just so that this Commission would be aware of the expense, and then the people that are interested could be notified. Maybe somewhere down the line we could perhaps do it, but under the present circumstances I know we couldn't.

DR. ST. AMANT: I think we can find out. We also have some information on hand. I know we have been contemplating two lights out here on the east side of the river, to mark the thing for night fishing, and the cost on those was pretty high. We thought it would be a simple matter to put a blinking light out there, but it's not quite that simple.

MR. HOFFPAUER: That's correct, Doctor.

DR. ST. AMANT: It was something like \$5,000 or \$10,000 per light, and this didn't include maintenance. When we get into this type of thing, we get into --

MR. WINFREE: Well, what I was driving



at, perhaps we could pursue the idea of some federal assistance, maybe, in setting some of these markers or lights. I know on offshore structures that are unattended they have blinking type lights and I don't know whether the Coast Guard or the U. S. Engineers or just what agency would have the problem of the expense or contribute to these lights.

DR. ST. AMANT: The oil companies pay for that, Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: Oh, I know, but I am talking about what this Commission could do for the benefit of our fishermen in this state.

DR. ST. AMANT: On this side we are talking perhaps of three lights, one on each end and possibly a permanent light in the center. When you get down in there, it would depend. It would probably take two or three lights.

MR. WINFREE: Well, why don't we look into that thing, anyway.

DR. ST. AMANT: Maintenance is something, too.



THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion? Is there any objection to the motion?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

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

WHEREAS, during the regular February meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, a resolution was passed describing a line which separates the inside and outside waters for the purpose of setting the shrimp season, and

WHEREAS, a complete description of this line was entered into the minutes of the February meeting, and

WHEREAS, it has now been determined that there are certain discrepancies in the location of the line which need correction, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED



that the description of the line separating inside and outside waters be corrected by the following amendments:

Amendment No. 1.

On page 3, line 10, delete the sentence: "Thence S. $01^{\circ} 33'$ W. for approx. 43,000' to the most westerly point of Isles Dernieres, known as Raccoon Point, lat. $29^{\circ} 03' 27''$ N. (y-143,328.672), long. $90^{\circ} 57' 54''$ W. (x-2,117,689.820)."

Amendment No. 2.

On page 3, line 10, after the period ending the sentence insert the following:

"Thence south $58^{\circ} 30'$ E. for approx. 8,000' to U.S.C. & G.S. Station Lite, lat $29^{\circ} 09' 59''$ N. (y-181,944.45), long. $90^{\circ} 56' 36''$ W. (x-2,124,426.48). Thence in a southeast direction along the northeast



shore of Caillou Bay to a most westerly point of land on the north side of Grand Pass Des Ilettes, lat. $29^{\circ}07' N.$ (y-163,927.15), long. $90^{\circ}53'' W.$ (x-2,143,703.30). Thence south $36^{\circ} E.$ for approx. 3,000' to the most westerly point of land on the south side of Grand Pass Des Ilettes, lat. $29^{\circ}06'30'' N.$ (y,160,902.77), long. $90^{\circ}52'43'' W.$ (x-2,145,223.31). Thence in a southeast direction along the northeast shore of Caillou Bay to the most westerly point on the north side of Pass Wilson, lat. $29^{\circ}04'50'' N.$ (y-150,833.47), long. $90^{\circ}51'15'' W.$ (x-2,153,072.26). Thence S. $07^{\circ} E.,$ for approx. 3,000' to the most westerly point on the south shore of Pass Wilson, lat. $29^{\circ}04'25'' N.$ (y-148,308.18), long. $90^{\circ}51'15'' W.$ (x-2,153,082.82). Thence S. $34^{\circ}30' E.,$ for approx. 8,500' to the most westerly point on the south shore of Caillou



Boca, lat. $29^{\circ}03'45''$ N. (y-144,284.64),
long. $90^{\circ}50'30''$ W. (x-2,157,093.59).
Thence south, southeast along the west,
southwest coast of the island to
U. S. C. & G. S. Station Gap, lat.
 $29^{\circ}02'18''$ N. (y-135,588.61), long.
 $90^{\circ}49'56''$ W. (x-2,160,083.23)."

Amendment No. 3.

On page 6, line 11, delete the
first four words of the sentence:

"Thence south for 2,500'".

Amendment No. 4.

On page 6, line 11, after the
period ending the sentence insert
the following:

"Thence in a northerly direction
along the west shore of Scott Bay and
Dixon Bay to the southeast side of a
cut to Tom Loar Pass, lat. $29^{\circ}06'26''$ N.
(y-165,784.659), long. $89^{\circ}20'$ W.
(x-2,638,710.468). Thence in a north-
easterly direction along the northwest



shore of Dixon Bay to a point at lat. $29^{\circ}07'13''$ N. (y-170,707.799), long. $89^{\circ}18'07''$ W. (x-2,648,649.473). Thence S. $40^{\circ}30'$ E. for approx. 8,300' to a point on an island at lat. $29^{\circ}16'$ N. (y-224,018.898), long. $89^{\circ}17'12''$ W. (x-2,652,576.612). Thence in a southwesterly direction along the southeast shore of Dixon Bay and Scott Bay to a point in the most southeasterly portion of Scott Bay, lat. $29^{\circ}02'45''$ N. (y-143,510.926), long. $89^{\circ}19'30''$ W. (x-2,641,762.726). Thence in a northwesterly direction along the shore"

Amendment No. 5.

On page 6, line 20, after the period ending the sentence, delete the following sentence: "Thence north along the west shore of East Bay."

Amendment No. 6.

On page 6, line 20, add the



following sentence: "Thence due east for approx. 1,400' to a point of land."

Amendment No. 7.

On page 7, line 11, delete the following: "Thence north along the west shore. Thence southeast along the east shore of Redfish Bay."

Amendment No. 8.

On page 7, line 11, after the period ending the sentence, add the following: "Thence N. 87° E., for approx. 9,000' . . ."

Amendment No. 9.

On page 7, line 23 (last line) delete the following sentences, which continues on page 8: "Thence N. 44° W. for approx. 26,000' to the most northerly point of the northeast side of Octave Pass North, lat. 29°21' N. (y-254,820.682), long. 89°12' W (x-2,679,642.896). Thence N. 79°20' W. for approx. 15,000' to the most southerly point of Bird Island,



lat. $29^{\circ}24'$ N. (y-272,233.559), long.
 $89^{\circ}20'$ W. (x-2,636,852.348)."

Amendment No. 10.

On page 7, line 23, (last line),
after the period ending the sentence,
insert the following:

"Thence in a southwesterly
direction to the most northerly
point on the east shore of Thomasin
Bayou, lat. $29^{\circ}13'55''$ N. (y-212,801.412),
long. $89^{\circ}03'11''$ W. (x-2,727,305.081).
Thence south 70° W., for approx, 7,500'
to the most northerly point on the
east shore of Meyers Bayou, lat.
 $29^{\circ}12'30''$ N. (y-204,078.555),
long. $89^{\circ}04'30''$ W. (x-2,720,475.909).
Thence in a southerly direction to a
point in the most southeasterly
portion of Customhouse Bay, lat.
 $29^{\circ}12'$ N. (y-201,101.315), long.
 $89^{\circ}04'$ W. (x-2,723,194.087). Thence
in a southwesterly direction along



the south shore of Customhouse Bay to U. S. C. & G. S. Station Lout 1955, lat. $29^{\circ}11'19''$ N. (y-196,816.216), long. $89^{\circ}05'19''$ W. (x-2,716.261.606). Thence in a northerly direction along the west shore of Customhouse Bay to the most northerly point on the east shore of Willies Bayou, lat. $29^{\circ}12'30''$ N. (y-203,970.684), long. $89^{\circ}05'32''$ W. (x-2,714,982.211). Thence in a north-westerly direction along the shore to the most northerly point on the east shore of Tommy Dantz Bayou, lat. $29^{\circ}12'57''$ N. (y-206,597.295), long. $89^{\circ}06'30''$ W. (x-2,709,789.976). Thence north $50^{\circ}30'$ W. for approx. 2,500' to the most easterly point on the north shore of Hingle Pass, lat. $29^{\circ}13'10''$ N. (y-207,937.744), long. $89^{\circ}06'14''$ W. (x-2,711,182.056). Thence in a northerly direction to the most northerly point on the east shore of Raphael Pass, lat. $29^{\circ}13'58''$ N.



(y-212,750.905), long. $89^{\circ}06'34''$ W.
(x-2,709,315.990). Thence north 45
W. for approx. 4,800' to the most
easterly point on the south shore
of Twenty-Seven Pass, lat. $29^{\circ}03'47''$ N.
(y-150,974.103), long. $89^{\circ}07'15''$ W.
(x-2,706,875.511). Thence in a northerly
direction to the most easterly point on
the south shore of Dead Women Pass,
lat. $29^{\circ}15'15''$ N. (y-220,482.626),
long. $89^{\circ}07'$ W. (x-2,706,862.285).
Thence N. $18^{\circ}30'$ W., for approx.
2,200' to the most northerly point
on the north shore of Dead Women Pass,
lat. $29^{\circ}15'38''$ N. (y-222,800.292),
long. $89^{\circ}07'03''$ W. (x-2,706,551.655).
Thence N. $59^{\circ}30'$ W. for approx.
7,000' to Harris (B.S.E.) Station,
lat. $29^{\circ}16'28''$ N. (y-226,763.201),
long. $89^{\circ}18'05''$ W. (x-2,647,832.795).
Thence in a northerly direction along
the shore to the most northerly point



on the east shore of Contrariete Pass,
lat. $29^{\circ}17'04''$ N. (y-231,388.296),
long. $89^{\circ}08'$ W. (x-2,701,336.814).

Thence in a northwesterly direction along
the shore to the most northerly point
on the east shore of Bienvenue Pass,
lat. $29^{\circ}17'30''$ N. (y-233,988.602),

Continued,

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No hiatus here.



long. $89^{\circ}8'15''$ W. (x-2,699,958.363).
Thence in a westerly direction along
shore to Octave (B.S.E.) Station, lat.
 $29^{\circ}17'45''$ N. (y-235,405.427), long.
 $89^{\circ}09'13''$ W. (x-2,694,794.481). Thence
in a northerly direction along shore to
the most northerly point of the east
shore of the east fork of Gaspar Bayou,
lat. $29^{\circ}18'07''$ N. (y-237,627.248), long.
 $89^{\circ}09'13''$ W. (x-2,694,752.212). Thence
in a northwesterly direction along the
shore to the most northerly point on
the east shore of the west fork of
Gaspar Bayou, lat. $29^{\circ}18'36''$ N.
(y-240,537.499), long $89^{\circ}09'24''$ W.
(x-2,693,722.776). Thence N. 46° W.,
approx. 5,000' to the most easterly
point on the north side of Delta Pass,
lat. $29^{\circ}18'34''$ N. (y-240,271.766),
long. $89^{\circ}10'02''$ W. (x-2,690,362.848).
Thence N. $36^{\circ}30'$ W. for approx.
14,000' to the most northerly point



on the east side of Main Pass, lat. $29^{\circ}21'$ N. (y-254,870.205), long. $89^{\circ}11'30''$ W. (x-2,682,297.441). Thence N. 70° W., approx. 4,000' to the most northerly point on the west shore of Main Pass, lat. $29^{\circ}21'15''$ N. (y-256,325.687), long. $89^{\circ}12'06''$ W. (x-2,679,083.800). Thence in a southwesterly direction along the shore to the most northerly point on the east shore of Octave Pass, lat. $29^{\circ}19'16''$ N. (y-244,230.427), long. $89^{\circ}12'53''$ W. (x-2,675,147.402). Thence in a southwesterly direction along the shore to the most westerly point of the north shore of Battery Bayou, lat. $29^{\circ}18'05''$ N. (y-236,975.107), long. $89^{\circ}13'45''$ W. (x-2,670,676.529). Thence in a west, northwest direction along the shore to the most northerly point on the west shore of Spoonbill Bend which is also the most northerly



point on the east shore of East Fork Pass, lat. $29^{\circ}18'32''$ N. (y-239,625.749), long. $89^{\circ}14'32''$ W. (x-2,666,465.933). Thence in a northwesterly direction along shore to the most northerly point on the east shore of Emeline Pass, lat. $29^{\circ}20'45''$ N. (y-252,988.591), long. $89^{\circ}15'15''$ W. (x-2,662,415.743). Thence north $38^{\circ}30'$ W., approx. 5,000' to the most northerly point on the west shore of Kimbel Pass, lat $29^{\circ}21'38''$ N. (y-258,246.878), long. $89^{\circ}16'14''$ W. (x-2,657,098.499). Thence N. 66° W., approx. 20,000' to the most northerly point on the south side of Taylor Pass, lat. $29^{\circ}23'27''$ N. (y-268,900.748), long. $89^{\circ}20'$ W. (x-2,636,910.524).

Amendment No. 11.

On page 8, line 6, delete the following words: "N. 45° E. for approx. 15,000' . . ."

Amendment No. 12.



On page 8, line 6, add the following words, at the beginning of the line:

"N. 47° E., for approx. 47,000' . . ."

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, would you move to the second point?

DR. ST. AMANT: Now we would like to consider the setting of the shrimp season for 1971. We have examined the data and we have had our annual meeting last Friday here in New Orleans. We had a very good attendance and I think most of the people in the shrimp industry were represented at this meeting.

Briefly, what we found is this: last year was another good production year. It was probably one of the better ones we have had in recent times. The production last year came about from rather good growing season in the marshes because the level of post larvae that was produced, this second chart, shows that we only had a nominal movement of post larvae in 1970 as compared to some very high years in 1964 and '65 which were not necessarily good productive years.



There is no close relationship between the amount of larvae moving in and the amount of production. There seems to be a closer relationship between the weather conditions and the environmental parameters and the final production.

Now the post larvae in 1971 are even slightly lower than 1970, and at first glance we would assume that perhaps we did not have good conditions in 1971. However, our examinations of the catch records in the Barataria Bay area where a good deal of work is done indicate that the number of shrimp on the ground, as indicated by the average catch per sample, is equivalent to last year, these two broken lines, if you will examine your charts. This amount of production is running somewhere between 120 and up to as high as 200 per ten-minute drag with a 60-foot trawler. This is considerably higher than 1964, which was one of the lowest years we have had recently, and it is higher than 1965, which we considered an average production year.

Outside of the Barataria Bay area, we



find that production is also good in the three principal areas in the central part of the state, that is, from the Mississippi River westward to Bayou Lafourche, from Bayou Lafourche to Bayou Terrebonne, and from Bayou Terrebonne over to the Point au Fer or Atchafalaya Bay area. These are the major producing areas, at least in the early part of the season. We find that production in all these areas is running well above most years and we consider it above average production.

Even out in the far western area of the Calcasieu Lake region we find a higher number of post larvae and a higher number of juvenile shrimp than we normally find, although they are somewhat later than the central portion of the state.

East of the River the shrimp have not yet appeared in any great number, but they usually do run later than the western side of the River.

Now the growth rate of the shrimp for 1971 is approximately the same as it has been in past years and it is also approximately the same as the 12-year average, which indicates that the



shrimp are about on a normal schedule of growing. We did have some setbacks with the Easter cold spell and it seemed to slow it down for about a week or a few days, and we had another cool spell last week that had some effect on it, but it is our feeling that the projection of this growth will mean that by sometime in May we will have an exceptional population of shrimp that are at least 100 count in size.

Now this final chart shows what this projection indicates. It is compared to last year and it indicates that by the tenth of May we will have about seven percent of the population that is greater than 100 count and possibly are usable, by the 17th of May we will have 16 percent of the population that is greater than 100 count or larger than 100 count, and by the 24th of May, which is almost the last day that we can set the season, we would have 36 percent of the population that would be larger than 100 count and usable. It would only be as late as May 31 that we could expect more than 50 percent of the shrimp to reach



a size that was greater than 100 count.

Based on these data, I recommended to the shrimping industry, and I recommend to the Commission, that we set the season on May 24, which is a Monday, and that this season extend for 60 days from that date.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions from members of the Commission for Dr. St. Amant?

MR. WALKER: Yes, sir. What day did you open the season last year, Doctor?

DR. ST. AMANT: I think we opened it on the 18th of May last year, which was earlier than most of the data indicated last year, but we had a considerable amount of agitation about it and at that time a compromise was made by the Commission.

MR. WINFREE: Dr. St. Amant, based on your charts, on the 18th of May last year seven percent of the population was 100 count and on May 17 this year you projected 16 percent. Is that correct?

DR. ST. AMANT: That is right.

MR. WINFREE: Also, on May 24 you project

36 percent growth increase as compared to 30 percent on May 25 of last year.

DR. ST. AMANT: That is correct.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you, Dr. St. Amant.

Let's see. Let's have a raising of hands as to how many spokesmen we have.

(Show of hands)

All right. We have one, two, three, four, five. O.K. If there is no objection, I will start on this side of the room and move this way. Did I miss one? O.K., six.

MR. WALDO ORRSON: Gentlemen, my name is Waldo Orrson. I am from Metairie, Louisiana, first vice-president of Louisiana Shrimp Association.

Among the desired aims that led to the formation of the Louisiana Shrimp Association 12 years ago after a disastrous 1957 season was the necessity of a sound program of conservation and management of our shrimp fishery. Keeping in mind these principles, the Louisiana Shrimp



Association voted last week to petition Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to keep the inside waters of the state closed for trawling of shrimp until May 31, 1971. State biologists last week predicted that more than 50 percent of the brown shrimp crop would be of a usable size by the end of May.

Since the May 31 date is not acceptable because of a Louisiana statute, the Louisiana Shrimp Association recommends to the Commission the opening date of Tuesday, May 25, 1971. This is the latest possible time prescribed by law for the opening of the spring season. Last year the Association also asked for a May 25 opening. The Association commends the Commission for providing the industry with valuable information concerning brown shrimp at its yearly assessment program.

Louisiana, we believe, is the only state in the Union which extends such a valued service to its shrimp industry. The Louisiana Shrimp Association also wants to remind the Commission of its responsibility of maintaining intelligent



management programs and policies for the betterment of the state's shrimp industry.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K., moving across the room, who is the next person to speak?

MR. CYRUS SEVIN: Cyrus Sevin, president of the Coastal Parish Shrimpers Association.

Mr. Chairman, Board of Commissioners, I don't know what I will accomplish here today because a while ago I talked to some of the people of the shrimping industry to try to reach some kind of agreement as to where we wouldn't have any confrontation with each other, to where we could agree on a date that all of us could live by.

The biologists are trying to save the shrimp. That's what they claim. Now what I want you people to keep in mind is that our brown shrimp does not mature in inland waters but that our white shrimp do, and that the fisherman cannot survive with just the brown shrimp crop. We have to have two seasons. I understand if you open too early in the May season you might be hurting some



of the brown shrimp, but if you go too late in the month of July, you will destroy the crop of white shrimp, and we need to have two seasons, not one.

Like I stated just a while ago, we cannot live with just one season. Mr. Orrson a while ago had a piece of paper he showed me that Texas made more money than Louisiana and Louisiana produced more pounds of shrimp than Texas. That's right. But this is not Texas, this is Louisiana. If we wait for the shrimp in Louisiana to get to the size that they trawl in Texas, we will never trawl in Louisiana.

I have attended meetings last year here and I have never gotten mad and I wish I could do the same this year, but I can't, because I am mad today at the injustice that has been done to people of the fishing industry, the small fishermen. I am going to tell you what, right now, one of Dr. St. Amant's men told me that the brown shrimp crop this year came out three weeks ahead of last year. The weather is warmer this year than last year, and last year we opened the date



on the 18th, was the opening date for the brown shrimp season, and we harvested a real good crop, brown and white. So, if it's three weeks earlier than last year, and we harvested a good crop last year, why in the world should we wait for the 24th this year? I can't understand that.

Furthermore, the percentage Dr. St. Amant has, I don't know if they are correct or not but I believe the only way you will decide the percentage that he is talking about is to catch the shrimp and then you can find out what percentage you will lose or you will harvest.

In 1969 we were told that we had 17 percent of our crop of shrimp that was white shrimp in '69. Now this year we have more white shrimp than we had in '69, so I don't know what percentage he is talking about, if it's just the brown shrimp or both crops put together, brown and white. I believe it is just the brown shrimp, I think.

Anyway, and something else Dr. St. Amant said that I don't agree with, that the white shrimp by May the 24th would make about a 35 count.

Gentlemen, we have shrimp in this box right here that was caught in inland waters, and I am talking about way inside, that make the 26-30 right now. How in the world can it make 31-35 by May 24? The only way it can do that is it has to shrink. That's the only way it can go back to 31-35.

Something else I want to tell you people is to keep in mind that the Brazilian shrimp does not reach maturity in inland waters. We are not talking of just saving shrimp. We are talking about human beings that have to go in these waters and earn a living. I am going to tell you why we get mad. I am going to give you some examples.

By delaying the season until the 24th this year, it will happen the same way it happened in 1969. The shrimp will move out in outside waters, our brown shrimp crop. They don't want us to catch it in inland waters but the boats that will be trawling on outside waters, they will be trawling legally. They will take this brown shrimp that will move out, put it on the deck,



take the few white shrimp they have in that brown shrimp and then shovel that brown shrimp back in the water, and if the season opens early, the small fishermen will kill it the same way the man is killing it outside but he will sell it.

Remember, these poor people didn't work for six months. If you keep that season closed until May 24, it will give us six months that we have been out of work. We'll stay tied at our wharf and watch them go out and ride outside there in Caillou Bay and all those up in there outside the island and watch these people take it legally and throw it back in the bayou.

If you people could imagine yourselves as fishermen for just a few minutes and try to get in our situation and see how you would feel if you would be mad enough. I am asking you, if you people don't want to see our shrimp season destroyed, please give us an early opening date. The fishermen are willing to cooperate. I met with people of the shrimping industry all this last winter. I met as high as twice in one week.

Almost every week we had a meeting. I would leave and I would come to New Orleans. Do you know what we have accomplished? Not a darn thing. I mean nothing. We're just like when we started. In fact, I believe it is worse, because I believe they have dropped an iron curtain between the fishermen and the processors and the Wild Life and Fisheries.

I have worked along these bayous to promote relations, good relations, between the fishermen and the Wild Life and Fisheries and the processors, and I believe I lost my time. I am going to tell you the truth.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me ask you a question. Do you have a particular date that you would recommend for the opening of the season?

MR. SEVIN: Yes, I have a particular date but before I wanted to tell you the date, Mr. Jones, I wanted to say to you why we felt the way we felt.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Sevin. He mentioned that he had some



shrimp samples of brown shrimp taken in inland waters that were running 35 to the count.

MR. SEVIN: Not brown, sir.

MR. WINFREE: Oh, white?

MR. SEVIN: White. We have brown, too.

MR. WINFREE: Now these were not selected shrimp, Mr. Sevin?

MR. SEVIN: No, sir, just like they came out of the nets.

MR. WINFREE: Could we see those shrimp?

MR. SEVIN: Yes, sir, I have some in this box right here.

MR. WINFREE: I would like to see one. Just hold it up. I can see it.

(Inaudible remarks from the floor.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, now. We are going to have to keep this orderly, please.

(Mr. Sevin demonstrates.)

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, Mr. Sevin, if you will proceed now and if you can, wind it up



as soon as you can, please, sir.

MR. SEVIN: Well, O.K., I'll wind it up. If you don't open on the 10th of May, as we are recommending, some fishermen might want to start before the 10th of May, and with the resolution of the Wild Life and Fisheries outfit, I would like to leave that resolution in existence, if possible, but gentlemen, we cannot let our crop of brown shrimp go into outside waters and be destroyed and our boats being tied at our wharves and see this going on.

I am going to tell you right now, I am not pressing you people. This is your decision, but I am asking of you, give us a favorable date for the opening of the brown shrimp season.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Sevin.

All right, who is the next person? We are going to proceed across the room. Who's the next person that raised his hand? Will you come to the mike, please?

MR. NERVY COLLINS: I am Nervy Collins,



representing the Quality Seafood, Incorporated. I am also a member of the Police Jury in North Tammany. I believe I was here a couple of years ago, fighting for about the same thing we are fighting against today.

As you know, the big fishermen right now is fishing twelve months out of the year and they are fishing 24 hours a day. There is no law for them, but the small people, these are the ones that got to put up with the law today. As you know, a while back the season used to open for the 15th of April, and used to go to the 15th of June. In those days the fishermen used to make that a season in about approximately a month and a half.

I remember at one time -- I used to trawl in those days -- we used to have good seasons in those days, on account that the fishermen themselves used to come there and stop when they would open for the 15th. What they used to do was go and trawl about two, three days and then tied up themselves. Around the fifth and



the tenth of May, this is when the small fishermen really used to start fishing. But today they cannot do that no more. The fishermen in those days used to do their own law themselves. They used to take it upon themselves, but when it come to white shrimp during all this season, we had shrimp, because for the 15th of June, this is when the small shrimp, the white shrimp season starts coming out, the smaller white shrimp starts coming out.

Now up to the 5th of May you start seeing more and more. Now most of them white shrimp, most of what they call Brazil shrimp, brown shrimp they call, from the 5th to the 15th of July was caught inside and mostly white shrimp, the out-of-season shrimp, they call them.

Now I am going to tell you all right now. You all put it up to the 24th of July, it's no use to open or it's no use to close. We might as well keep going. We are trying to work with the conservation. We are trying to work with Dr. St. Amant and all of them, but why is it that the law



has got to be on the small ones and never on the big ones? Regular season should open in May season. That's what you call your May season. It's never changed. It never will. Louisiana is in May and June. From July on, the small Brazil that's inside are moving out.

Now the white shrimp, it's coming in, and as the white shrimp comes in, the Brazil moves out. Sure, they have a few Brazil inside. That is correct. But if you catch all them white shrimp, now if you destroy a few white, Brazil, in the May season, what's wrong with the small shrimp in July that we are killing, that our fishermen are killing?

Gentlemen, I tell you right now, I would rather see the season open for the 10th of May and close the end of June, instead of the way they want to put it open for the 24th and go to the 24th, because we are killing two seasons in one time. I went to a lot of expense right now and I am not only talking for myself. I am talking for the people that just don't know what they are



doing. Some of them smart people that they don't know what they are talking about, but they are going back to what the biologists said.

Now I will take for an example what the biologists say. There is a lot of truth in it. I believe in it. I believe in a whole lot of things that he does, but I don't believe in everything he says, either, because I tell you right now that the biologists is going to tell you right now that when the season is coming and bringing shrimp up 16 percent, a week later 32 percent or whatever it is, you have shrimp coming in all the time. You are going to have small shrimp coming in one after the other.

Now if you all really want to protect, then get it over so we can find something else to do and close the inside water and then you will be protecting the whole lot if you all want to protect just the big ones. Now to talk to you all, I want to tell you all right now, we had a meeting yesterday. We had a meeting. We had a get-together and I will tell you how my fishermen feel about it.



Their experience don't count nothing no more. Well, if their experience don't count nothing no more, what are the people studying doing? I believe they are studying just on our expense. People that's working all their lives, before we even had that. We want to work with the conservation department but I believe I'll tell you how we feel about it. We feel that if you don't want to try to work with us a little bit, we feel like we can spot them.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who is the next person who would like to be heard, moving toward this side of the room? Here is a gentleman. I will ask again if you will assist us in limiting your remarks as much as possible to the subject and then give us your recommendation for the date and give us your reasoning behind it. We would appreciate that very much. You can get your position over to us a lot better if you will. Thank you.

MR. SCOTT MOLERO: Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen



of the Commission, Director Hoffpauer, I am from the east side of the Mississippi. I see I am the only one here, besides fishermen, from there. Every year, gentlemen, we come before you and we all hear about Dr. St. Amant. I say in Dr. St. Amant we have an intelligent man; we have a man that knows what he is doing. He has experience. All I am going to ask is that for once let's go along with Dr. St. Amant's recommendations.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, O.K., the next person. That must be the last one that we just heard. Oh, we have one more besides this. Would you state your name, please?

MR. ALLEN ROBINSON: My name is Allen Robinson.

Chairman Jones, Director Hoffpauer, Gentlemen of the Commission, I am president of the American Shrimp Cannery Association, serving today as spokesman for 22 independent member canners who are responsible for over 95 percent of the total canned shrimp production in the Gulf area.



We wish to express our thanks to the tremendous Commission and its staff for your continued efforts and your knowledgeable interest directed toward maintaining good conservation enforcement and management of our natural resource, Shrimp, the most valuable resource fished by this country, made further gains in 1970, continuing the annual increase in total volume of catch and returning to the fisherman an equal record monetary value.

Louisiana's leadership in these annual national statistics can be attributed to the tireless efforts, the study and records developed by Dr. St. Amant and the members of his staff, records of success through conservation that cannot be ignored.

Thus, we of the American Shrimp Cannery Association unanimously endorse the recommendations of Assistant Director St. Amant and respectfully request that the members of the Commission favor May 24 as the opening date for the 1971 Louisiana spring shrimping season.



Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We have one other person here. We also want to remember, I know some of you would like to come back and say some more and answer the guy that talked before. We want to stay away from that, if we can. If you have some new material, present it. Your name, sir?

MR. FRANK CAMPBELL: Frank Campbell of Shelby. I am not up here to talk about anything about this shrimp season, when it should open or when it shouldn't open. We are on the east side of the River and I know we don't have any shrimp on our side to amount to anything yet.

The reason I am here is to try and have some solution worked out for the live bait dealers.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you can hold your remarks just a minute and let us get through with this shrimp season and not get into that, we will give you the opportunity to talk after we have set this season, if you will, so we won't get off the subject. We want to stick to the subject.



MR. CAMPBELL: All right.

THE CHAIRMAN: I gather this is all the people that have asked to be heard. Are there any members of the Commission who have any questions of Dr. St. Amant?

MR. WINFREE: Dr. St. Amant, this chart which I have before me which you read some projections from -- it doesn't have a number on it but it is headed "Projected Growth Rate at 1.5 Millimeters per Day" -- in 1970 it indicates that seven percent of the shrimp were marketable on May 18 and we opened the shrimp season on May 15, as I understand it.

DR. ST. AMANT: That's right, May 18.

MR. WINFREE: And this year your chart shows projection of 16 percent on May 17.

DR. ST. AMANT: That's right. They are about, possibly a week ahead, than they were last year.

MR. WALKER: Didn't we have a real mild winter?

DR. ST. AMANT: We had a mild winter in



the early part of the season and up through March. We had two rather unusual cold spells, one of them just before Easter, I think around Easter, and one just a week or so ago. Now the cold spells have their most effect during the month of April. In the early months of the spring we expect cold water. Then the dips in the temperature cycle don't have as much effect as after it warms up and then it suddenly drops.

MR. WINFREE: Dr. St. Amant, certainly I don't wish to embarrass anyone at any time, but can you explain why those white shrimp are so large?

DR. ST. AMANT: Yes, I can explain why they are so large.

MR. WINFREE: Why are they?

DR. ST. AMANT: The white shrimp that you see in this area each year bear residual shrimp that winter over. They are the small shrimp that last year we got criticized so much for because people caught them when they were under 68 count. These shrimp went offshore. We



can trace them each year. They move out ahead of the first good norther. After they get out there we don't know how many survive. This is one of the gaps that we have in our knowledge. A certain percentage of these shrimp do survive, and as soon as the water warms up, they tend to migrate back into the near shore waters and eventually into the lower embayment systems.

Terrebonne Parish is one of the areas where these shrimp do migrate. There are also some of them in the lower part of Barataria Bay. We have never denied that these shrimp were there nor that they were big enough to catch nor that they would probably make somebody a nice profit. The question is how to catch them legally. There are probably not over a million and a half or two million pounds of white shrimp in these areas that they are talking about, and even though Mr. Sevin says that they are 30 count, I think he is probably showing us shrimp that come from a specific area and not a cross-section of all the white shrimp of this thing.



I think our figures are accurate and they are not quite that big, but they are usable. They are around 45-50 count now and they probably will be down now. All of them will be as big as his or even larger by the 24th. The thing is there is no simple way to catch these shrimp and still protect what we think is a major crop of brown shrimp that last year ran around 28 million pounds.

This is obviously an administrative decision or some type of decision where you try to protect one population at the expense of the other. The argument is not what happens to the shrimp but who catches them. I cannot sell them. I am no economist, nor a sociologist, nor a shrimper. I am Dr. St. Amant, a biologist.

What these shrimpers have done is they have asked you, requested you, to sell it. Who is going to get the money from these shrimp? I can feel for these men. I know what it is to be short of money, but I am not in a position, by state or law or by any other position, to make



decisions for them.

We have asked them year after year to come up with some answers, with some compromise, to come and introduce some recommendations that will do them the most good, but each year it's the same thing. They don't come. They just blame us.

MR. WINFREE: In effect, what're saying now is that white shrimp occur every year?

DR. ST. AMANT: Sure, they occur. Yet, there are legal ways for them to fish. We tried to open this area down there for a while, to let them fish in July. In less than two days' time we got in trouble and we were forced to close. It is going to take a great deal of self-discipline and without their full cooperation, we will make little progress. If all they are going to do is rebel, we'll have little opportunity to do more than to get into another fight. This isn't good for the industry. I hope that we will come soon to the point in time when we can get by without these discussions and debates or whatever you want to call them.



I'll stand on the date I've recommended. I can refute every point that has been made here today. I have done it before. The question of why the white and brown and what we catch. All you have to do is look at the chart. We did open early one year and the total catch was less.

There's another thing the shrimp people don't remember or recognize if they do remember, but back before 1950, 90 percent was white shrimp and we were not even fishing for the brown shrimp. Now we are fishing about 50 percent. This is ecology.

No, sir, the entire shrimp picture has changed in the last 20 years, and if they are not in a position to accept these data, that the facts have changed, I must agree with them that we are not helping them. We are causing them to fight and have dissension.

Regarding the standards for the data, they can be defended any way we are requested to.

MR. WINFREE: I kind of think you are like Mr. Sevin, you're mad.



Wait a minute. Don't leave. Now going back to this chart, in 1970, May 15, you show seven percent, and this year 16 percent on May 17. Would that have any significance?

DR. ST. AMANT: This has to do with the size of the shrimp. What most people do not realize is that shrimp weight increases by length. The point is that what we are trying to do is to establish a time when the most people can catch the most usable shrimp. We think we have that recommendation, and that is the best thing to do.

MR. WINFREE: Thank you, Dr. St. Amant.

(Inaudible remarks from audience.)

THE CHAIRMAN: We have established the rules to go go. I have asked everyone in the audience if they wanted to speak and I have told you before that we are not going back into argument.

MR. SEVIN: The case is, either he is lying or we are lying, for the white shrimp.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, that is not the



point.

MR. SEVIN: I am willing to say if we are lying. One biologist, Mr. Atkins, it was nine o'clock, I think, and by that time I had my day's work done before he ever got there.

MR. WINFREE: I was the one who asked Dr. St. Amant, and I think that Dr. St. Amant answered the question perfectly. I don't know if this gentleman intended to embarrass Dr. St. Amant.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your pleasure, gentlemen, on the matter?

MR. WINFREE: I would like to suggest that we ask everyone --

THE CHAIRMAN: We have gone across the room and given everyone the opportunity to speak.

MR. WINFREE: Well, except for one thing. You specifically asked Mr. Sevin what opening date he would recommend and he said --

THE CHAIRMAN: He told us May 10.

MR. WINFREE: Excuse me.

THE CHAIRMAN: My list shows Mr. Sevin recommended May 10, Mr. Collins May 10, Mr.



Robinson May 24; and Dr. St. Amant has recommended May 24.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Collins.

MR. COLLINS: I would like to say this. I can prove about the white shrimp during the July season, what we were doing. We are ruining our white crop and we are going to do that by May 17 or May 24. We are going to ruin our August season. If I could prove that, what could I do?

THE CHAIRMAN: What I am going to suggest. In the future if you have any data, bring it to the Commission. That is what we want. If any of you have some data, bring it up to us. This is what we want to hear.

MR. COLLINS: I don't disagree with Dr. St. Amant. I just want to try to prove that in July, it's not all brown shrimp.

FROM THE FLOOR: May I ask a question?

THE CHAIRMAN: I am going to cut off all discussion after this. Do you have anything pertaining to the opening date?

MR. SEVIN: How come Dr. St. Amant can

say we have more white shrimp today than the last few years, from 1965, '66, '67, '69, and '70? They had more shrimp in 1941 and 1940 than you have today.

DR. ST. AMANT: I am going to ask Mr. Sevin to refer to the year 1950 when the shrimp production records, as far as we have them, show one million pounds. This was during the years of price controls and a number of other things.

Last year we had a bumper year. One of the best, 95 million pounds. It is the highest year we have ever had in the last 15 years of actual records. There were some years back in the late forties that probably were equal to this and we had some bad years, too. 1957 and 1964 were pretty sorry. They are just like crops, corn, cotton. You have good and bad years. We don't try to predict. We are only trying to count them. Perhaps our counting is at fault, but it is the best we have at this time.

FROM THE FLOOR: Maybe this year in the month of July we could get samples of the white



shrimp. We would have something to go by. This is something.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. St. Amant, you do continue to take samples?

DR. ST. AMANT: We have taken samples. We try to keep track of this annually, statistically, by area, by region, by fish. We can do it by sections. We can set it up as a special study.

I think what you are going to find, though, is simply the same thing that we have today, but the man who says you are killing all the shrimp doesn't know, because he doesn't see all the statistics.

We will be very happy to come up with specific data next year on this. I believe we can produce something that will make more sense for you.

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

You have heard the recommendations. You have heard the discussions. What is your pleasure?

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I am a new



member on the Commission. I have to evaluate all this technical data that you men read here and I'll continue to do it as long as I am on the Commission.

I recommend that the date be set according to Dr. St. Amant's recommendations.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Walker that the date of May 24 be set as the opening date for the brown shrimp season and that the season run for 60 days.

Is there a second to that motion?

MR. WINFREE: Is that a compromise motion? Is there no second?

THE CHAIRMAN: Unless you permit me to second it. I will second it.

MR. WINFREE: Certainly you have that right, of course.

THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor --

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer a substitute motion. I move, based on the data which Dr. St. Amant has prepared and in which I have every confidence, that the date



be advanced one week, based on his projections of 16 percent growth as against seven percent last year on the same date. I will suggest May 17 as a compromise. I would offer a substitute motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a substitute motion by Mr. Winfree that the date be May 17. Is there a second?

MR. WRIGHT: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Wright. Is there any further discussion?

MR. WINFREE: Are we voting on the first motion first?

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to say something. I have kept my mouth shut all this time and there were a number of things said. I have said it many times before in the past. I believe that there is going to be controversy, but the only people I know who can work out the problems are those in the industry itself. If the industry is not willing to make a compromise, then it is hard for me to make a compromise for them. The only thing



I can do is rely on the people who worked for the Commission, the people who know a lot more about this than I do.

In the past I have voted for compromise, but now I think I was wrong, because if the industry can't go out and compromise, how in the world can we do it? The only thing we can do is control the people we employ.

MR. WINFREE: Well, perhaps I used the wrong word, compromise. I was merely suggesting a substitute motion, and if I used that word --

THE CHAIRMAN: All of those in favor of the substitute motion, setting the date as May 17, please raise your hands.

(Show of hands)

Mr. Winfree, Mr. Norris and Mr. Wright.

All those opposing the date of May 17, raise your hands.

(Show of hands)

Mr. Walker and Mr. Jones.

The motion is carried.



MR. WINFREE: Everybody is unhappy.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is a gentleman who wants to say something about bait shrimp. Please come up to the microphone and state your name.

MR. CAMPBELL: Frank Campbell. The thing I am up here to ask you is a little favor so we can have --

THE CHAIRMAN: Will you please keep it quiet out there?

MR. CAMPBELL: Something has to be done for the live bait industry. We in the live bait industry are catching shrimp and keeping them alive. That's really my business and we are really having a hard time in staying within the 60 days. You know what I mean to say?

We are in business all year long, with just a little time that we have to catch bait because our commodity is really limited as to what we sell. We only catch what we sell. We don't catch them and sell them on the market. Our business is strictly live bait and when we don't have live bait, we don't have hardly any business.



Mississippi and Texas, both of them, have laws that allow the bait fishing men of both places to catch bait for a longer time, I would say, than regular commercial fishermen. I would like to know if it would be possible, if anything can be done in the state of Louisiana for us.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would suggest that you prepare a proposal and take it to the legislature. Let them take a look at it. We will take a position for or against it.

MR. CAMPBELL: Well, could I do that any time I wanted to?

MR. WINFREE: Is it within the purview of this Commission to do that? It would have to be legislative action.

FROM THE FLOOR: Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does your business pertain to shrimp?

FROM THE FLOOR: Yes, sir. Members of the Commission, I would like to direct most of my remarks to the fishermen here today. This has demonstrated again that we are not together on



anything and that if we were to form an organization to try to get together with all the fishermen we might work out some kind of a compromise.

We can also work right now on ourselves by policing ourselves. We can start by adhering to the laws of the state of Louisiana pertaining to fish nets, size of shrimp and so forth. This would help the industry more than all this arguing amongst ourselves and with the Wild Life Commission.

MR. WINFREE: You sound like what our Chairman has been doing, instructing you people to work for a compromise. Anybody can compromise if you set your mind to it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further business?

(No response)

The meeting is adjourned.

. . . Thereupon, at 12:30
o'clock p.m., Tuesday,
April 27, 1971, the meeting
was adjourned. . . .

