

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 29, 1975

10:00 o'clock a.m.

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Chairman

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

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



Helen R. Dietrich, inc.
Stenotypists

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The regular monthly Board meeting of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Tuesday, April 29, 1975, beginning at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Harvey Clay Luttrell, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT WERE:

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Chairman

DOYLE G. BERRY, Vice Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

JERRY G. JONES, Member

JEAN LAPEYRE, Member

JIMMIE THOMPSON, Member

DONALD F. WILLE, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director

A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of March 7, 1975. (7)

MR. RICHARD YANCEY

2. Land acquisition, Pomme-de-terre tract in Avoyelles Parish. (118)

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER



3. Request from Sun Oil Company to dredge canal on Marsh Island. (8)
4. Request from Atlantic Richfield Company to install two pipelines across a portion of Pass-a-Loutre Wildlife Management Area. (11)

MR. JERRY JONES

5. Reconsideration of regulations on Calcasieu Lake, Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes. (20)

MR. GERALD MARTINEZ

6. Adoption of Rules of Practice. (131)

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

7. Setting of the spring shrimp season. (38)
8. Request from Marshland Dredging Company, Inc., Baton Rouge, for permit to dredge fill material from the Mississippi River at vicinity of Mile 229.6 to 230.3 AHP. (15)
9. Request from Bal Construction Co., Inc. of Belle Chasse, Louisiana, for permission to remove fill material from the Mississippi, right descending bank, central to a point from 70.5 Miles AHP, in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. (16)



- 10. Request from B & B Tug Corporation for permission to remove approximately 70,000 cubic yards of fill material from Bayou Lafourche in vicinity of Leeville, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. (18)

OTHER BUSINESS

- 11. Set date for June meeting. (36)
- Rules of procedure for meeting. (4)
- Recognition and remarks of visitors. (6)

CHAIRMAN HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL: Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention, please. We have a nice large crowd and this usually indicates a group of people who have things to say.

I want to welcome you here this morning and tell you that we are glad to have you and lay down some of the rules that we usually go by when we have a crowd of this size.

It is going to be necessary that we have some understanding. I am sure that there must be several groups and I hope that you have appointed

a speaker that could represent the viewpoint of your group. By doing that we can get the opinion of all the people involved in the question this morning and at the same time cover the regular business of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. I am going to have to ask that you do this: if you care to speak, hold up your hand and the Chair will recognize you. When I do recognize you, I want you to come to the mike so that you can be heard, I want you to give your name and tell whom you represent. Now our secretary sometimes misses those names, so when you get through with your comments, if you will go to the recorder and sign the pad, then we can get your name properly spelled in the minutes.

I will ask also, you that have been here a long time know that my mode of operating is to be rather lenient and let those people who care to speak. I will ask that my Commission members feel free to comment at any time but I will also ask that they be recognized before speaking. This will give us an orderly meeting with a large group and we can get through in the proper time.



One of the most important things, of course, is to recognize our visitors. I see in the back Mr. Buquet, former Commission member and a man connected with the shrimpers and oyster people. Glad to have you, Mr. Buquet. I also see Mr. Braud, newly elected president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. Mr. Braud, would you care to say a word?

MR. FRANCIS BRAUD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, I am Francis Braud. I am president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and it is encouraging to me to see such a group here that are interested in the wise management of our natural resources today and particularly the shrimp in the area, and we want to assure you that the Louisiana Wildlife Federation is going to cooperate with the commercial people as much as we have in the past and we would like to continue to cooperate with you.

As you know, the sportsmen groups are always a group that like an early season, as early as possible, but we want to abide by the findings



of the research group of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission staff. What they recommend and what will be satisfactory to the commercial people we will be glad to abide by.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is all I have to say. If anybody has any questions, I would like to be able to answer them. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Braud.

We are always glad to have our neighbors and co-workers; some of the people who may be a little bit angry with the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at times might call you our co-conspirators. I wouldn't want to use that term.

We have a few routine things that we will take first and then we will hear our shrimp people last. We have some people that need to get away and some items that are so routine it won't take long.

The first item for consideration, of course, will be the approval or disapproval of the minutes of March 7. Do I have a motion?

MR. WILLE: So move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.



THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille,
seconded by Mr. Thompson. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

We have a request from Sun Oil Company to dredge a canal on Marsh Island. Mr. Allan Ensminger will handle that. Mr. Ensminger.

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Commission, we have received a written request from Sun Oil Company for two well locations on the new leases at Marsh Island. Both of these wells are located on State Lease 6589 and both will involve the construction of short canals to the drilling sites.

The No. 1 well location is about a mile and a half south of our headquarters off Bird Island Bayou and will involve construction of about 1,600 feet of new canal into the marsh area to reach the drilling site. The second well is a stub canal about 650 feet long off an existing oil company canal on the eastern edge of this same



lease. Both of these well sites have been examined on the ground at Marsh Island and we feel that the access routes can be approved and, of course, the terms and conditions under which they purchased their lease require that they abide by the regulations incorporated by this Commission into their permit.

I would recommend that we do issue permits to Sun Oil Company for the construction of both of these access canals on their lease.

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

MR. WILLE: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. Is there any discussion?

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Ensminger, in the event of a dry hole, is there a provision in the regulations which would require the plugging of the canal?

MR. ENSMINGER: Yes, this will be incorporated into the letter permits issued to the company that these will be plugged at our discretion, as



to where the plug will be installed.

MR. DUPUY: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other discussion?

MR. BERRY: Question.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those in favor of the recommendation, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full 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 Sun Oil Company to construct two access canals on State Lease 6589 on our Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge to service their Nos. 1 and 2 well location, and

WHEREAS, this work can be approved provided certain terms and conditions are incorporated in the



permit to protect the interest of
Marsh Island,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fish-
eries Commission does hereby approve
Sun Oil Company's request to install
two access canals on our Marsh Island
Wildlife Refuge located in Iberia
Parish to service State Lease 6589,
Well Nos. 1 and 2;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that
necessary terms and conditions be
incorporated in the permit to protect
the wildlife interest of Marsh Island,
and

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED
that the Director is hereby authorized
to sign all documents pertaining to
this matter.

MR. ENSMINGER: The second thing I have
for your consideration today is a request from
Atlantic Richfield Oil Company to install two pipe-
lines on our Pass-a-Loutre Waterfowl Management



Area. These lines are two ten-inch lines that will be coming into the area from offshore production. They skirt along the very fringe of Southeast Pass on the area, go through an area known as Blind Bay on Pass-a-Loutre, and cross the passes of Pass-a-Loutre and North Pass.

We have very little land that these pipelines will cross. Primarily our property consists of the existing pass banks there. It is a very narrow portion of the area that they will cross. Atlantic Richfield has agreed to buy right-of-way for 1,500 feet back into the water area off the edge of the pass bank from the Commission at our right-of-way fee of \$30 a rod for a 100-foot right-of-way.

I would recommend that we do issue a right-of-way permit to Atlantic Richfield for the installation of these two lines.

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

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Berry,



seconded by Mr. Wille. Any discussion? Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full 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 Atlantic Richfield Company to install two pipelines across a portion of our Pass-a-Loutre Waterfowl Management Area, and

WHEREAS, this work can be permitted provided certain terms and conditions are incorporated in the right-of-way permit,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant unto Atlantic Richfield Company



a 100-foot right-of-way across a portion of our Pass-a-Loutre Waterfowl Management Area near the junction of Pass-a-Loutre and North Pass for the purpose of the installation of two pipelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Atlantic Richfield Company be assessed the fee of \$30 per linear rod for this right-of-way;

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents pertaining to this right-of-way.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dr. St. Amant, we will take No. 8 on your list.

Oh, just a second. I didn't know whether the people that we just finished with, the Sun Oil and the other people, had any statement that you would want to make. Now, you are at leisure to go or to stay, just suit yourselves.

FROM THE FLOOR: I believe we will go. We have no statement, sir. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Doc, we are ready.



DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have three items with respect to requests for dredging permits. No. 8, the first one, is by Marshland Dredging Company, Inc., of Baton Rouge. They are asking for a permit to dredge for fill material in the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile 229.6 to 230.3.

We have examined this proposal. We find it will have no effect on the Wild Life and Fisheries interest in the area, and we would recommend that they be granted a permit for one year at a royalty of five cents.

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

MR. THOMPSON: So move.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. Any discussion? Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.



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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Marshland Dredging Company, Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile Post 229.6 to 230.3 AHP, the permit to cover a period of one year from April 29, 1975 to April 29, 1976, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: C. K., Doc, No. 9.

DR. ST. AMANT: Item 9 is a request from the Bal Construction Company, Inc., Belle Chasse, Louisiana, for permission to remove fill material from the Mississippi River on its right descending bank at a point 70.5 miles AHP in Plaquemines Parish.

We have looked at this proposal and we find that it will not materially affect any



interests that we have, and we recommend that they be granted a permit for one year at five cents.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. WILLE: So move.

MR. JONES: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille, seconded by Mr. Jones. Is there any discussion? Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Bal Construction Co., Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River on the right descending bank, central to a point



about 70.5 miles AHP, about 4.5 miles southerly from Belle Chasse, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, the permit to cover a period of one year from April 29, 1975 to April 29, 1976, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

DR. ST. AMANT: Item 10 is a request by the B & B Tug Corporation for permission to remove approximately 70,000 cubic yards of fill material from Bayou Lafourche in the vicinity of Leeville, to improve their land and to fill behind a bulkhead.

We would recommend that this permit be granted for a period of one year, five cents, or that it be terminated upon the completion of the work if it was before one year.

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

MR. JONES: So move.

MR. LAPEYRE: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. Is there any discussion? Those in favor, say aye.



IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant per-
mission to B & B Tug Corporation
to remove fill material from Bayou
Lafourche in vicinity of Leeville,
Louisiana, in the amount of approx-
imately 70,000 cubic yards, the
permit to cover a period of one year
from April 29, 1975 to April 29,
1976, at a royalty rate of five
cents per cubic yard.

NO HIATUS HERE.

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THE CHAIRMAN: We have Item No. 5, I believe, to be handled by Mr. Jones.

MR. JERRY JONES: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, I think it was last month that you adopted some rules and regulations regarding commercial netting in Calcasieu Lake. As you recall, the legislature last year authorized the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission to adopt regulations concerning netting in the lake. There has been sort of a dispute between the commercial fishermen and the sport fishermen.

Since your last meeting the groups have gotten together at the request of Senator Knowles and Representative LeBleu and they have made a recommendation that we reconsider one of the regulations that was not adopted last time and that regulation would provide that there would be no net fishing during daylight hours from June 1 through Labor Day. This would apply only until such time as we complete our biological study of the lake.

Now I have a letter from Senator Knowles and from Representative LeBleu and it is signed by



a representative of the Big Lake Sport Fisherman Association and the Hackberry Commercial Fisherman Association, approving it.

This morning I think we have one or two people who may want to be heard, have some comments about this. Rollie, you want to be heard?

THE CHAIRMAN: I recognize the gentleman. I can't call his name, so will you give us your name and who you represent.

MR. ROLLIE BANG: I am Rollie Bang and I represent the commercial net fishermen there in Cameron.

We wasn't invited to this meeting that they got this agreement on, so we couldn't get in on it, but there is five of us here this morning from Cameron.

THE CHAIRMAN: You can speak for all five of them, can you not?

MR. BANG: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. BANG: What they are asking for is to close the lake from June 1 until the day after Labor Day. We went to a meeting in Lake Charles



and listened to the sportsmen's association. One of them got cussed out by a commercial fisherman who caught the man robbing his nets. Now, that started the thing, as best we could understand. But now they want to turn around and put us out of business. They don't want to stay in the lake with the commercial fishermen. That is exactly what was said at the meeting up there in Lake Charles. They just don't want to be in the lake while the commercial fisherman is out there with his nets.

Now we don't go up there and burn their rice fields. We don't go up there and shoot their cattle. We don't go up there and rob their cash registers, because we would go to jail. Three weeks ago they went out there and they took both, two of my nets. One belonged to me and one belonged to my son. They were legally tagged, and they totally destroyed them. I mean they just completely destroyed them. Mr. Oliver Burrs last year, they went down and poured gasoline in his boat, burned his net, burned his boat, burned his motor, put him completely out of business, too.

We can't get any protection. We went to



the sheriff's department. We go to Fish and Wild Life. There is no way to protect us, but now they say that they can't get along with us in the lake because one of them got cussed out.

Now, I believe that every man in this building knows that if I went down and took part of his paycheck or destroyed his way of making a living, I wouldn't be the one that would have to get along with the other man. But now they are telling us that they are going to pass a petition out and have all these people sign it to close the lake completely like they did Chandeleur Sound, and put us completely out of business, if we don't go along with this thing and go out there at night and fish instead of the daytime.

Now the best time for fishing is the time they are asking to be closed. That is the only time bird schools go. Now, up there at this meeting, we listened to the sports talk. They catch anywhere from 150 to 300 to 500 fish a day. They will average anywhere from two to five pounds. What do they do with these fish on a two-dollar license? I am paying the Commission over a hundred



dollars a year to fish in that lake, but they can go out there on a two-dollar license and take these fish. They either throw them away, give them away, or they sell them. I sell every fish I catch, for a living, and now they have cut my netting down from 2,000 feet to a thousand feet.

They are making it hard on us. We can't fish none of the passes. They have got their reserves. They have got all the north end of the lake closed off already. Why should they come down in Cameron Parish and close our lake? But they are hiding a stick in their claws; they are telling us that if we don't go along with this thing that they are going to pass legislation to close the lake completely.

That's all I have got to say about it. I don't think it's right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

(Applause)

MR. THOMPSON: I would like to ask the gentleman a question.

THE CHAIRMAN: Come back to the mike, please.



MR. THOMPSON: How many fish do you catch a year? Just roughly.

MR. BANG: Just roughly, I would say maybe 10,000 pounds a year.

MR. THOMPSON: That's all?

MR. BANG: I get forty cents a pound. I make around \$4,000, maybe \$5,000 a year. They have already put me in the hole for this whole year's fishing. Now they are going to put me out of business from June 1 until the day after Labor Day.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Will you sign the book back there?

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, let me just make a comment or two. Mr. Bang and I are friends and have been for years. I have known him a long time. I feel like he does. You know how I feel in the conflict about commercial fishing and sport fishing. I don't think it is really right for the sport fishermen to in effect push the commercial fishermen out of their means of making a living.

On the other hand, I am a realist and I understand what is going to happen if we don't reach some type of compromise. In fact, the



Louisiana Wildlife Federation, one of their vice-presidents got involved in this dispute and set up the meeting at which this compromise was worked out, because it was seen at that meeting that if this doesn't happen, if we don't have this compromise, we are going to wind up with a bill in the legislature that is going to pass, closing the lake to all commercial fishermen. In all probability, the crab fishermen, the shrimpers and everybody will ultimately suffer.

One of the good things that is coming out of this is that we have a study Charlie White is getting ready to start, to really find out some information about the lake, and these will be the rules that we will operate under in this interim while the study is taking place, and then when he does have some reliable information, we can then take another look at it.

I move, reluctantly I move that we amend the regulations that we adopted to provide that there would be a closing to net fishing during daylight hours from June 1 through Labor Day. Now, when I say "net fishing," that is not closed to



trawls. That is closed to gill nets. I so move.

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

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy. Now, discussion. Mr. Berry.

MR. BERRY: I made my position clear on this at the last meeting. Mr. Jones wasn't here, I believe. The sport fishermen came in here at the last meeting and made it abundantly clear to all of this Commission that their full intent was to run all the commercial fishermen out of Calcasieu Lake. Mr. Jones, they are going to do it, if they can by the legislature, or any way they can do it.

I think it is a sad time in this country of ours, in this republic or this republic which we used to have which has gotten to be a democracy, apparently, that we can take a man who is making a living fishing, probably the only thing most of them know how to do, and let somebody else's hobby put that man out of business. (Applause)

Thank you. I said it before and I will



say it again. I believe if you brought each one of those so-called sport fishermen in here and got him to look you in the face and vote one at a time and you asked him if he wanted to take this man and his friends who make a living fishing out of their livelihood and put them on welfare or something worse, I don't believe they would vote for it.

I don't think the legislature is 100 percent sure that they are going to put you out of business, fellow, because I will go up there and help you fight. I think they are doing you wrong. I think they are doing you an injustice and, as I said a while ago, I was against it last time and I am still against it, and I am going to vote with you. (Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Berry. Do we have any other comments by any of the Commission members?

MR. DUPUY: May I address a question to Mr. Jones? Jerry, the letter that you just read, did that not bear the signature of the president of the commercial fishing organization?

MR. JONES: Yes, one of the organizations.



I think, Marc, that apparently Rollie must either not belong to that one or they have another loose organization. It bears the signature of the president of the Hackberry Commercial Fisherman's Association, and the Big Lake Sport Fisherman Association, Senator Knowles and Representative LeBleu.

MR. DUPUY: Is that not also the same proposal that was studied at length at the last meeting, which we considered and voted down?

MR. JONES: Right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the Chair cannot permit open remarks from the audience. If you want to speak, hold up your hand and be recognized. Mr. Berry has asked for the right to speak and I recognize him at this time.

MR. BERRY: One of the points I made at the last meeting and I didn't make at this meeting, I am going to make now.

I think it is also a sad state of affairs when these so-called sport fishermen -- and I am not against them; if I am any kind of fisherman at all, I am a sport fisherman, I am not a commercial fisherman; I know a lot of commercial fishermen --



but don't you think it is kind of absurd and ridiculous to ask those people to stay out of sight and to only fish at night at this particular time we are talking about, from the first of June through Labor Day? I think they are first class citizens myself. They work and make an honest living. I don't think they should have to hide at night.

First of all, it is dangerous for them and the younger kids they are teaching how to fish and, secondly, I would just as soon, in fact I would rather see a good commercial fisherman out there who is sober, who is doing his thing and practicing his vocation of making a living at fishing than I would a bunch of drunk sport fishermen out there. Thank you. (Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. I will recognize you, but first, the gentleman who spoke to the proposition has the first choice. Do you want to come back to the mike for just a minute? Mr. Bang, I finally learned your name.

MR. BANG: Yes, sir. There is one other point that was brought up at this sportsmen's meeting there in Lake Charles that we attended. Now,



we didn't say anything. We just went to listen, to see what they were so mad about, because we didn't know. It all sprung on us all of a sudden.

They said something about if they didn't go along with his, they are going to outlaw monofilament netting. If the study that they agreed on at the last meeting would have went ahead and they can see where commercial net fishing is hurting the lake, I would myself go along for a closure, but let's don't just pick out the commercial fishermen. As many fish as these sports say at that meeting they catch, they are catching more than I can catch, anyway.

Let's close the lake completely. If the Board wants to shut it down from June 1 until the day after Labor Day, let's close it to everybody, the sport fishermen, the net fishermen. Let's close it to everybody. Don't just single out one group to close it, because if the Board checks, they are going to find that the sports up there are catching just as many or more fish than we are catching.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bang, that is what



the study is about and, of course, when we get more information, why, our biologists I think will recommend something that would be good for everybody.

Now, I recognize this gentleman. Please state your name, sir.

MR. RANDOLPH LABAUVE: Randolph LaBauve from Terrebonne Parish, one of the only two year-round net fishermen who fought Mr. Burt Angelle eye and teeth in the legislature when this particular bill was introduced, spoke to Senator Knowles, agreed with the bill, but if I recall in the committee rooms there was a recommendation made by the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee that Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries make a study of these different type nets and equipment to determine what needed to be done.

Now, when this bill was introduced by Senator Knowles and approved by the legislature, they was supposed to, at that time, or any time, make a study before they shut it down. Now the sportsmen are coming here, asking to shut it down, before they take this study. Well, while the study



is being made, why can't these people have the right to fish in the daytime and not hide at night, the way we got to do in Terrebonne Parish at the present time?

Here I have in my hand paid advertisement by sportsmen organizations, soliciting money to fight the commercial fishermen, actually what it boils down to, to deny us equal rights, even though we are a minority group. I think Mr. Burt Angelle, this Commission will find that they are going to wind up having a lot of lawsuits on their hands on equal rights because I think it is about time the commercial fishermen are starting to organize and realize that they are going to have to get together. And this is the point at the meeting here that I, even though I am not from Cameron Parish, will take a stand for fishermen in another area because I see them being hurt just like we are hurt now.

They have our particular area shut down for no reason whatsoever, no biological reason, except the sport fishermen say we are interfering with their pleasure. Well, gentlemen, that fish



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is my living. I have got to depend on that fish next year. If I don't have fish next year to eat, my family don't eat. Who is going to conserve more so than a man making a living? But there is always the man at the bottom of the totem pole who gets the raw end of this. That has happened here and even in Cameron Parish. It has happened in Terrebonne Parish, all along the coastline.

Next it is going to be the shrimp. They are going to say the trawls are destroying our fish; that is why we can't catch no more speckled trout.

The real answer to the problem, gentlemen, is a study to be taken, to determine what needs to be done. Let's have conservation, if we are going to have conservation. We are not going to have conservation, we are going to have politics, and I don't think this Commission is needed or any other Commission is needed. Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. LaBauve.
Please sign your name, please.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other discussion?



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You have heard the recommendation. Jimmie, did you have something?

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I may not get a second to my motion, but I failed to attend the meeting last month and I am not as current as probably I should be. I have many mixed emotions on this. I don't properly know how to vote. I don't want to abstain from voting. I don't want anyone to say that I won't stand up to the issue.

I would like to make a motion that we table this motion until next month's meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Jimmie, I have a motion and a second, and we are in the middle of discussion. Now, you could amend the motion.

MR. THOMPSON: I made a motion to table it, a substitute motion to table the motion until next month's meeting, and if I don't get a second

THE CHAIRMAN: Substitute motion to table. No, no, you don't have to have a second for that and it is not debatable. Those in favor of the motion to table, hold up your hands so I can count you.

(Show of hands)



THE CHAIRMAN: Three, four. The motion to table has carried, so we will proceed with business.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I have one item. With this last item, we will have completed our regular Commission meeting, except for an item that is rather long and we will bring it up later. After this item I will go into the shrimp meeting. I believe that our people are in the frame of mind this morning, if one can speak, that we will be able to solve this problem and hear all of your wishes, as we have the others.

Now, we have to set the June meeting. After discussion with our biologists and other people who are deeply involved in this meeting, and since this is the meeting at which we will set all the hunting seasons except, of course, the duck season, I have decided that we can save one extra meeting if we will set that meeting in June to be June 30 and July 1. Now I have one suggestion to make that will help us. The Deer Committee should meet.

Mr. Thompson, I would suggest that the



Deer Committee meet the second week of June so that we could have the recommendations for the June 30 and July 1 meetings. The men on that committee are Jimmie Thompson, chairman, Jerry Jones and Mr. Wille. That takes care of the June meeting.

MR. JONES: Meet when? The second week of June?

THE CHAIRMAN: I would suggest the second week of June. Mr. Thompson is the chairman of the committee and he can set, of course, what date he wants.

MR. THOMPSON: Why don't we check with the biologists to see when their data will be in and set it accordingly?

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, you are the chairman. You do that. You call that.

MR. THOMPSON: I will wait until the biologists tell us they are ready with their data and then we will set the meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suggested two weeks because in talking it over with some of our professional staff, if we have any changes to make, like we sometimes do, it gives us fifteen days between



that time and the time of the regular meeting to set the dates, but you are the chairman, you handle that thing.

MR. THOMPSON: O. K.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We are ready for the shrimp question, Doc.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen, we have come to the annual circus when we attempt to set the shrimp season and try to see what we can do with the information we have and also with the personalities we have.

For the information of those who were not there, we had a meeting last Friday, the 25th. There were about 300 in attendance. We went over the data in some detail and discussed it pro and con and we made at least three recommendations or options that we thought the industry and the Commission might consider. We hoped and assumed that the industry would evaluate these alternatives and options and let us know something about it. Actually, since then we have only received two communications, one a telegram and one a letter. I assume



that there are people here today who will probably have additional information they might want to suggest to the Commission. So much for how we got to this point.

I think perhaps briefly we would like to run through a couple of slides, just to refresh the memory of those who were at the meeting and to let those who were not present at the last meeting see what we are up against. Then we will look at some of the proposals that you might want to consider. If you will, put the slides up.

By and large, what has happened this year is similar to what happened in '73 and again in '74 and even back in 1964, which makes it an unattractive season, with possibility that our production may not be up to average. However, there is no indication yet that the season is a tragedy or totally lost. It appears from the data we have on hand that we will have a season at least as good as last year, with some probability or possibility, if these shrimp survive, that you will have a pretty good catch after all.

Now, to give you some point of reference



as to what we are talking about in the coast and what happens on the coast, this map shows where the shrimp are caught. This represents an average catch or where most of the shrimp were caught between 1959 and '74. The black lines represent the brown shrimp catch and the hatched lines or the lighter colored lines represent where most of the white shrimp are caught. It is pretty obvious that those Areas 5 and 6, which is roughly the area from the Mississippi River west to the Atchafalaya system, or almost that far, is where the bulk of the shrimp are caught.

This particular slide -- no, excuse me, this is the inside catch. This is where the shrimp are caught inside. In the area we are talking about today, when we are trying to open it. Let's look at the next slide, which should be the offshore. Now the offshore catch shifts a little bit to the west, particularly for the white shrimp. Once the shrimp move out, the greater poundage is caught a little bit westerly of that center section, and the browns tend to shift with a greater catch to the west, but they tend to equalize more



and you do get a significant catch of brown shrimp off Areas 130 and 140, which are outside the Barataria-Terrebonne section.

For those of you who are interested in seeing what happened, the 1974 catch is shown on that map. The solid line represents the browns for 1974. You can see in the area off Section 150 your catch was higher than normal, considerably higher than that black line. However, in the Terrebonne area offshore it was down. In the Barataria area the line was not quite up to par.

Will you back up to the last slide and we will see what happened there? The catch inside was considerably peculiar. However, in Area 5, which is the area from the River almost over to Terrebonne, you will notice that dotted line is above the average from '59 to '74, but then it begins to drop and in all other areas it is down below these peaked black catch, the average catch. But we did have a peculiar setup last year where in one area we did catch a few more shrimp, but in most areas we caught less than normal but not significantly less.



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Let's go through the slides now. Here is the thing that we look at each year that gives us some indication of what is going to happen to the shrimp and when they will be available and something about how much production you are going to get. This shows the number of hours during the month of April in which the water temperature was below 20 degrees Centigrade. That is the line on the right. It goes from zero at the top, when the water is continuously warm, to as much as 150 hours at the bottom, where it has been cold throughout the entire April period.

Now, if you will notice, in those years when we have had warm water throughout all of April, that is the years '68, '69, '70, '71 and '72, we had high production. That is the years we got good brown shrimp, and what happens here is, when the young shrimp or larvae come in, they hit this warm water and it is usually salty if it is warm because this means you don't have too much rain and cold weather, and they begin to grow and they survive quite well.

In the years when we have had unusually



cold springs, and the first one that hit us real hard was '64, that we recognized; apparently the same thing happened in '61 and we didn't have enough data at that time to recognize it. Again in '73 we had a drop in temperature throughout April, around 125 hours it was cold and we got little or no production. In '74 the temperature went back up and we got a little better production and in '75 you can see that the temperature is colder than it was in '74 but still somewhat warmer than in '73.

This does two things. It tends to reduce production and it slows down the growth rate so that the shrimp are not of any size in the early weeks of May.

Now, may we look at the next? This is another indicator of what happens to your shrimp and shrimp production. This represents the river discharges, the Mississippi and the Atchafalaya really, what you are looking at. The broken line represents the amount of water that is coming out of the river but it is inversely to the other line to the solid line. In other words, on the left is



how water per thousand cubic feet per second is coming. For example, point to the left, a little over, the deep one, down lower, right there, that indicates the river was flowing in the summer and the river was high with over 600,000 cubic feet per second flow and your white shrimp production is down, and it matches up pretty much with that river. In those years when the river flow at mid-summer is low and the salinity is high, the white shrimp production goes up. So, the best data we have on later white shrimp production seems to be the late river situation in this state.

The same thing happens to the brown, but it is the spring river. If the rivers are up during the spring, then the brown production is generally down. If the rivers are low during the spring, then the brown production is usually up. These are not just one year; this represents a five or ten-year period. We feel like the data are fairly reliable. The question of what causes it, whether it is all the water out of the river or whether the river really indicates what is happening in the way of rainfall and other problems is still not



clear but you do have an indicator of what is going to happen to your crop.

Can we look at the next slide, please. This shows the salt condition that exists in '75 as opposed to some of the other years that you have recently had. '75 you will notice the water is rather low in salt. It is a little bit lower than '74. It is around '73 and it is considerably fresher than it was in '71 and '72. We think that if the river is dropping and the temperatures go up, perhaps it will climb rapidly and we will begin to get a situation where we have adequate salt in the area, but while it is down low we have a problem.

Can we look at the next one, please. Here is an example of the amount of shrimp that have moved in and this is the thing in the early part of the season which we thought might indicate we would have an exceptional year coming, and we still are not sure that we don't have it, but we are a little worried about it. You will notice that the heavy dark line indicates we had a high production of post-larvae in February. It dropped



off some in early March but we continued to get strong movement of post-larvae as late as in April. Now, the early post-larvae, of course, had we continued to have warm weather, would probably be pretty good sized shrimp by now. Somewhere or other we have lost those shrimp or we can't lay our hands on them or find too many of them.

The two peaks in the tail end are now running about 50 millimeters, 60 millimeters, and those shrimp are in the neighborhood of about three or four hundred count, maybe 500. Those are the shrimp we are depending on for your crop when the season is opened sometime in May. We feel like that this is the part of the crop that needs to be protected.

The broken line on that graph shows what happened in 1971, which was a bumper year. You can see that the amount of shrimp that had moved in this year, that is, the larvae, in '75 is pretty much like it was in '71 except it was a little earlier. The '73 larvae were quite low and you had poor production along with poor water conditions. We are hoping that this exceptional amount of



larvae will help the situation this year and if we get good conditions, maybe we will make it all right.

Can we look at the next one? Here is the thing that kind of bothers us. The average size of the shrimp is the broken line, and you will see a tendency to level off after about the fourteenth week. This is when the cold weather hit. These shrimp started off pretty good and were growing quite well and then they level and actually drop. The reason they tended to reduce in size is because we added some young ones to the unit and they are not growing.

But the thing that worries us is that average catch. On the seventeenth week we were only catching about 125 per sample. Now, let's look at 1974, which was last year, in the same area, and the average catch is running somewhere between 150 to 200 but prior to that it had been running four to five hundred. Now this drop that occurred in there may be a factor where these shrimp are shifting and it may be that we still have them, we are just not counting them properly.



Can we have the next slide? This is in Barataria Bay, which is one of the key areas. This shows the average catch that we are making in 1975 compared to other years. Now we were going along pretty good in '75. At one point it was even above '71 and then it managed to drop back down and it is now just barely back above '74 but it seems to be coming up. Now, this is what we are not sure about. We don't know whether we lost these shrimp, they died, or whether they have gotten out in the marsh and we can't measure them.

Can we try the next one? This is the brown shrimp catch in all of the study areas compared and you will notice in Area 3, which is Barataria, it had a high catch at one time. Area 5, which is Timbalier, Lake Pelto, and Area 6, which is western Terrebonne, that is the area below Sister Lake and down Bayou duLarge and that thing, those are where the shrimp are now and they are showing some evidence of size.

To the east of the river, Area 1 and 2, and to the west in Cameron, we find the same thing we find each year. There is nothing available at



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this time. They are running two, three, four weeks later than the center part of the state. This is a classic type of thing and we see it each year. This year we may try to do something about it when we look at that.

This again shows you the size of the shrimp and here again Area 3, Area 5 and Area 4 have all the growth, what growth we have. They are up near 60 millimeters, fifty-some; that is a little over two inches. Areas 1, 2 and 7 are considerably smaller, running several weeks late.

O. K. Here is what happened to the growth. When the temperature dropped around the middle or early part of April, then the size of the shrimp leveled off. They just quit growing. They are almost straight across. Now, if that thing had stayed warm, they presumably would have gone up to the top of the page.

Next, this growth rate shows the comparison between past years and '75 is well up there because we got some pretty good growth early in the season when the waters were warm and they have held that much. They haven't lost any.



31 — The next one. This is the white shrimp situation as we see it. The only place where there are any white shrimp is in Area 5, which is the area down below Terrebonne, parts of Terrebonne, and Area 7, there was some evidence of shrimp in that area earlier but they seem to have either moved out or disappeared. There are still a few white shrimp or were a few white shrimp in Area 5 as late as the seventeenth week.

Next slide. This represents the size of those white shrimp but it is apparently a little bit smaller than they are. The white shrimp are running, I understand, around 36-40 to 40-50, somewhere in that size range.

The next one. This is what the situation looks like. It shows what percent of the population we project will be usable and on what dates. If you were to open at the end of April, the 28th, you would have less than five percent. If you open May 5, you would have less than 13 percent. May 12 would be 29 or 30 percent. May 15, 57 or 58 percent, and the last date, May 26, which would be a Monday but beyond the time that we can set



legally, we would have 78, 77 percent, 76.9.

This is pretty close to where it was last year in percentages. The question has been brought up by some people as to why some of these percentages tend to shift from year to year on these different dates in the early dates, and this seems to be a function of the type of curve it is. If we have some peaks or secondary peaks in the curve and one of them crosses the line between one week and another, it may shift the percentage on a basis that does not seem to be a linear progression, but anybody that wants to discuss that, we will give them the raw data to look at.

I think that is all we need for this time. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Doc, that finishes your presentation?

DR. ST. AMANT: It finishes the data. I might want to discuss the alternatives unless you would like to listen to the people in the industry.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to have your recommendations. I am going to need to use this in the process of voting.



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DR. ST. AMANT: Well, at the meeting last Friday we proposed or at least looked at three alternatives. Some of them were radical and different. You will recall last year when we got into this thing there was some discussion about setting the season late and going into a zone situation. We felt last year that perhaps it was kind of fast to spring it on you all of a sudden without some thought on it, so we ended up last year setting a shrimp season for the entire coast on one date. If I remember correctly, that date was fairly early, about the 13th. I remember also our predictions held out that the shrimp were kind of small, too. This in turn caused you some problems with what people wanted to pay you for them, but that is history.

This year we have looked at this situation a little bit more and we have discussed it with you and I have discussed it with the biologists and we have a couple of options.

One, we would recommend, if it is the wish of the industry and the Commission, that we have a single opening date and we fish the entire



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coast at the same time, that we open on the latest possible date. That would be the 24th, Saturday. We can't open on a Sunday because it is against the law and if we went to the 26th, which is a Monday and our normal type of opening date, then that would be illegal.

If you moved it back along that thing, you would then begin to probably take care of some of the central section's problems but you would not be doing any favors to the east and the west.

The second alternative is one that we are proposing that -- it's experimental but under the law we can do it. We would like to try it if the industry is willing to go along with it and if the Commission sees fit. Since the bulk of the shrimp are caught in this zone, Zone 2, which runs from Atchafalaya River over to the mouth of the Mississippi, we propose that this zone be opened first and that it be opened not earlier than the 19th. We feel that the growth in here and the size of the shrimp in here more than likely will reach a usable size, according to this chart, by the 19th and about fifty-some percent of them should be



available.

Zone 3 and Zone 1, which just have no shrimp in them at all at the present time, we would recommend that they be opened considerably later. We have run into a problem. If we open it on a Monday, we have to open June 2. June 1 is a Sunday. If we move it back a week, we could move back to the 24th, which would open on a Saturday. Now I don't know that there would be any great difference there. I think June 2 probably would serve as well as any time, but this is a question that may be debated here a little later.

I would certainly not recommend that we open Zone 1 or Zone 3 at any earlier date than the 24th.

Let me make one point clear. These recommendations are based on the fact that you are going to fish at least fifty days and probably sixty in all of these areas. We are not talking about cutting you down or anything else. If you open in here early, you are going to close early. Now, those who think you might be affecting the white shrimp will have that advantage. These



people here will fish the full sixty days. Of course, the boats can move back and forth. We are not going to attempt to confine that.

This is obviously an experimental thing. We think it is a better way to approach the management of shrimp in this state and we don't feel that doing it for one year could hurt anything. We think it should show us whether or not this is a feasible way to operate.

This would be my recommendation for this type thing if it went to a zone basis.

There was a third alternative or option that was proposed at the last meeting, and it is extremely experimental. One, this option would go with this zone system. We would open Zone 2 first and Zones 3 and 1 at a later date, but we would consider opening an experimental four-day season quite early below this red line. Now this line across here is on a buoy line. It would be well marked so everybody knows where that Freeport Sulphur buoy line is. There are a few white shrimp in here and possibly a few large browns that have drifted out of this early thing and down in there.



This, of course, has some drawbacks and it is our impression, although we are not certain about this, the only information I have is that the two letters we have gotten oppose this. We have one from the Jefferson Parish Fishermen's Association. It says that they want no season to open before the 19th of May. We have another letter from the Louisiana Shrimp Association, which I read to you yesterday, also stating that they oppose the trial season and that we open as late as possible, preferably the 26th, but of course we could not open on the 26th if we open the whole area.

I have had no other direct information. I understand indirectly that most of the people oppose this, that they feel like they have not had adequate time to gear up, that they would not be able to take advantage of it, and as I said, it was just an experimental suggestion, so as far as I am concerned we can forget it.

I would like to put the Commission on notice and the shrimp people, however, that this idea I think is a sound idea and I think next year, if we can get around this business of notifying



everybody legally sixty days and ninety days in advance under the administration act, that we might want to consider opening this area perhaps even somewhat earlier, maybe the last week in April, to see whether we can catch white shrimp in here, and then go ahead and proceed with the brown shrimp season at a later date.

I would not under any circumstance recommend ever opening a trial season like this anywhere up in May, like the fifth, sixth or seventh, because you are going to crowd it too much. You are getting into your brown situation and there are going to be pockets of browns that are moving in and you are going to find people trying to fish them and they are going to begin to catch some browns that are usable and they are going to get a lot of little ones, and we are going to have a brawl down there and we are not going to be very successful.

But, if we can keep an early fishing season well separated from any possibility of catching any browns or any significant number of brown shrimp from the current year crop, then this



is a feasible suggestion and we would like to put you on notice to think about it. Maybe next year we can give you enough advance notice to look at the thing.

Today is the 29th, very nearly the first. We feel that the shrimp at the present time are running about 60 millimeters on an average for the whole group, and it will take at least two weeks or two and a half weeks for them to reach some usable size, and therefore we suggest the earliest date as being around the 19th. It is whatever you decided to do in this thing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Doc. Doc's recommendations will necessitate my changing the format of conducting the meeting. Usually in parliamentary procedure I should call for a motion and a second and then discussion, but since we have three recommendations, it is impossible to have a motion on the three recommendations, so I am going to call for discussion. I have written these down, Doc, and then I can requote the recommendations and I will call for a motion and second at the end of the discussion.



Now, if you commercial fishermen will pardon me, I would call for discussion from the Board members first, if they so care. Do we have any one of the Board members who cares to discuss Doc's recommendations?

MR. DUPUY: When do you plan to hear the comments from the industry?

THE CHAIRMAN: Just as soon as you have had your opportunity.

MR. THOMPSON: Why don't we hear from the industry first?

THE CHAIRMAN: That's all right. I just wanted to give you the opportunity. That is exactly what I intend to do, but I just wanted to show you the courtesy.

I am going to make one other statement to the Commission. I have one part of the agenda that I bypassed and we will take it up as soon as we have finished with the shrimp session, so don't anyone leave when that is over with because we have one other part of the agenda to take up.

We are now ready to hear from the industry. Please signify those who care to speak. I



will recognize the gentleman in the back. Come to the mike, state your name and who you represent.

MR. DUDENHEFER: I am Milton Dudenhefer of the East Bank Commercial Fishermen Association.

At a meeting just recently all our members voted to ask the Commission to consider as late as possible date because on the east side of the river we have a problem with shrimp running several weeks behind. Last year when the season opened we had shrimp that were running 115 to the pound, which made it very hard to make a living at these type shrimp for the price you would receive for them. So we are making recommendations, asking for a late date, possibly the eighth of June, because of the moon location, the tides and all, and we consider the eighth.

Another thing I would like to bring out, Dr. St. Amant had mentioned something like in the neighborhood of 70 percent of the shrimp would be a marketable size on the 24th. This is across the whole state. I had asked Dr. St. Amant where does he draw the line on marketable shrimp, and his answer to me was 90-count shrimp.



Now, gentlemen, on the east side we consider this a very small shrimp. When it comes down to price and marketing, we have problems of getting rid of these shrimp at a fair market price. That is why we are asking for the later date. The eighth, like I mentioned, about the moon and all, would be right for wing net fishermen, and also the tide movement. We feel also that wouldn't be too late, that the brown shrimp wouldn't be of a size that they would start to move out of the estuaries at that time.

We are greatly in favor of the zone concept. This would give us down where Zone 1 on the east side of the river could be opened at a later date, which would give our shrimp on that side a chance to grow. The shrimp on that side right now, a lot of them haven't even shown up yet. We feel like the shrimp at any date earlier than that, the shrimp would be too small, and the zone concept would give everybody a chance to get exactly what they are looking for, the type and size shrimp that they are interested in fishing. We are very much in favor of this zone concept.



I would like to thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Will you sign your name, please. O. K., next speaker. I recognize this gentleman.

MR. KERNER: You know, for the last five years, I have been coming up here and giving my name and "the mayor in litigation". Today I am Leo Kerner and I am the Mayor of Lafitte.

This is my eighteenth year that I have appeared before the Commission. I have an article back here in August 13, 1957, when I made my first appearance before the Commission on the shrimp industry. In 1957 we used to open the season on April 15 and we used to close it on June 21 and at that time they had a three-mile limit, and still the shrimp seasons were bad. That is why we were up here.

Since 1957 I don't think we have seen any difference in the shrimp situation. We wait for the shrimp to come in and we try to catch them before they go out. I just heard the gentleman say a few minutes ago that the shrimp, if we open the season early, we catch them at 110 to the pound.



I don't believe there is a man here that has fooled with the shrimps in the last twenty years or more or anybody in the shrimp business that cans shrimp can tell you that they will can any amount of shrimp, and the Brazilian shrimp I am talking about, that has run anywhere between 80 and 110 to the pound. It never has been and it never will be that you will can a tremendous amount of Brazilian shrimp under 80 to the pound. I have never known them to make the count when there is plenty of Brazilian shrimp.

As you can see, this map was drawn in the days of Dr. Viasca. As you can see, it hasn't been mapped well and in those days we waited for the shrimp to come in March, we looked at them to go out in June and July, coming in, the little white shrimp, in July, looked for them to go back out in September and October during the northwesterners, and always, and we hate to say this, unless you get a disturbance, a little hurricane or a little storm in September and October and November, the white shrimp catch is very small. Every year we get a little disturbance like we did last year, we get a



tremendous white shrimp. It looks like we have to get some kind of disturbance to bring this shrimp in, but I really do believe that the Conservation has an obligation to tell the fishermen where the shrimp actually come from.

If you go down all the bayous, and I have been all over the state, because one time I was state chairman of the shrimp fishermen from Delacroix Island all the way up to Cameron Parish, and you talk to twenty fishermen and some say the shrimp breed inside, some say they breed outside, some say they come in to lay their eggs, some say they come out to ground. I think the Conservation has an obligation to tell us where the shrimp come from. Dr. St. Amant said the shrimps come in. Come in from where? I mean, do they come in from the bayous?

The only thing I know is, when they used to open the shrimp in April, on April 15, and the fishermen used to go out, they used to come back in, and you would ask, "What's wrong?" "There's no south wind. We need south wind." "Why do you need south wind?" If the shrimps are in the grass,



you sure don't need south wind to bring the shrimp out. They must come from the Gulf of Mexico, and I really do believe that the Conservation should come out and make that statement because that is where they come from. The shrimp get pregnant out in the Gulf. They deposit the eggs and they are at the mercy of the current. They will come in with the current and they will go back out with the current.

If we do like they did in the state of Mississippi, if you can go back a few years in the state of Mississippi, they used to can shrimp like we did. But what did they do in the state of Mississippi? They waited to make the shrimp larger so they extended the season backwards. I think they open it in June now, and what happens to the people in Mississippi? When they start trawling the shrimp, the shrimp is already going back. You have got about three to five factories in Mississippi, and if it wouldn't be for Louisiana, they couldn't operate. They would have to close. And the day that we start opening this season in June, you can look for Southern Shell, Rauch Canning



Company and the rest of them to be closed unless they get shrimp from Texas, because they can't get a quantity of Brazilian shrimp unless they take them in small.

Brazilian shrimp is always known to be small and history will show you that, because in Lafitte we used to have the largest drying platforms in the United States of America, and you know what killed them? The count. When they started that 68-count and they would go out there on those little white shrimp and make these Chinamen throw them away, they had to close up because the Chinamen left the platforms because they couldn't operate them and the count did it.

Now we have a common shrimp and a white shrimp. O. K., that's well enough, but let's don't run into Brazilian shrimp by opening it too late. You take every year, you can go to the factories, and they will tell you Vermilion Bay has lots of shrimp. They say, "We are going to wait until they get larger and we are going to move in and catch them." And what happens? When they go in to catch them there's not many there any more because they



have already gone back to the Gulf of Mexico.

Now, if you wait and open this season on the 24th of May, which is too long, you are going to miss the first batch of those Brazilian shrimp because they will start moving out.

Now, to give you a little facts about it, let's look when we start catching shrimp, when the fishermen start. They can't use a butterfly net. When the season begins they can't use a butterfly net. The reason for that is because no shrimps are moving out. You night-trawl when the shrimps are moving out, and you catch them while they are moving out in the current. They are on top of the surface of the water. When you start the beginning of the Brazilian season, you have to go on the bottom to catch them, and as the season progress, then you start catching them at night, but try catching them at night at the beginning of the season. You won't catch a one. The reason for that is because the shrimps are coming in and they are not moving out. But once they get here on the inside waters, and I have heard them say we have sanctuaries -- there is no such thing as that in



the inside waters, because the shrimp will stay inside as long as it can until the currents take it back out, but when it gets big it is not going to stay here because it didn't come from here so it wants to go back home.

I remember back in 1962, '63, when we were buying shrimp, we bought shrimp and caught them in Lake Salvador, and if a man would bring in 100 pounds, we had to cull them because he had 50 pounds of black that were dead and 50 pounds that were live, that hadn't died before they were caught. So, if they stay in inland waters too long, they die. A shrimp is not supposed to live in inland water. They have tried to make shrimps I don't know how many times, spent many, many dollars, but wherever they put a hundred shrimps, they never did take out 101. They always took out less but never 101.

So, the proof of the pudding is that the shrimps breed on the outside and they move in the inland waters at the mercy of the current. So, gentlemen, I just hate to see us keep pushing the season back every year until we get like Mississippi



and then we have to lose all this industry we have here with the canners, and which will hurt the economy and everybody else.

So, I would recommend, and I have met with the fishermen in Lafitte yesterday evening, and I would recommend that the season be opened May 12 and definitely not later than May 19.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Leo. Please sign my book. All right, I recognize this gentleman.

MR. KIFFE: My name is Steven Kiffe. I have been a shrimper for 34 years, shrimp all over this Gulf, Mexico and all over, and as far as I am concerned, the people from Jefferson that I talked with, the people from Lafourche, last night I went to the meeting they had in Terrebonne over there at the School Board building, and most of the people from Lafourche, Jefferson, St. Mary and Terrebonne are in favor of an early opening to be able to conserve the white shrimp later on, but no later than a June 30 date to close, so that we would be able to conserve the white shrimp.

Now, I also want to thank Mr. Berry for



expressing the commercial fisherman's view about these people, that is the only way of life, that is the only way we make our living, and I believe that sports fishermen should take us in consideration and think about our livelihood first, and sporting secondly.

Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: You didn't give us a recommendation of the dates. Mr. Kiffe, would you come back?

MR. KIFFE: Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: I didn't get your recommendation of the date. You said --

MR. KIFFE: The shrimpers from Jefferson, the ones that I have talked to, I have been to their meeting this past Wednesday, and then I was in Terrebonne Parish last night, and I have talked to a lot of different shrimpers -- I have been appointed a representative for the people of Lafourche Parish; we are forming a Louisiana Fishermen and Boat Owners Association -- I have been appointed by the people to be their speaker.

THE CHAIRMAN: Give me a date, please.



sir.

MR. KIFFE: Oh, yeah. O. K. The people would like between the 5th and the 12th of May and a closing no later than June 30 and no extension whatsoever. No fifteen days, in other words, from June 30 to July 15, because that is when we are going to kill all the white shrimp.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: I am ready for the next speaker.

MR. MELERINE: I am Wilson Melerine, President of the St. Bernard Commercial Fishing Association. We feel that this zoning of Louisiana waters is a step in the right direction. From hearing here today, everyone has different ideas, and it seems that every area is different.

In our area, which is east of the river, we feel that our date should be, I would say, the last week in May, no later than the second of June, no earlier than the 26th.

I feel that Wild Life and Fisheries has the education. The fishermen maybe do not have the



education but they have the experience, and it is equally important. I feel about this zoning that the fishermen should have a voice in their area, their local area, each local fisherman wherever, because most of the fishermen fish in a certain area and they don't usually move around too much. I feel that they should have a voice in this area and combining the education and the experience together that we can come out with a plan that would be beneficial to everybody.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now I want to ask one question. I missed your dates. I am keeping a copy of them.

MR. MELERINE: No later than the second of June and no earlier than the 26th of May.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Any other comments?

MR. NAQUIN: Mr. Chairman, Norman Naquin, President of the Terrebonne Parish Commercial Fishermen and Boat Owners and Associates. We said "associates" because we are including the deckhands in it because they have their ways of making a living also.



We had a meeting approximately a month ago and we had made some testing prior to then. We had found good signs. Then the night we had another meeting but we didn't find the signs, so we had a discussion of what happened. Well, they had left, the shrimp had moved. So we decided we wanted a May first opening. The reason for the May first was to be able to close it on June 30 to preserve the white shrimp. There was no expectations of none of the fishermen to be doing any good on May first, but they wanted an early opening for that reason and catch some of the large white if they were still in.

Now, their recommendation was a May first opening. We hear a lot of times the views of fishermen. I might take five minutes; I am going to try to go as fast as I can but I will read it to you.

(Reading) The views I shall express represent the feelings of the vast majority of Louisiana shrimpers. I have been associated with the shrimp fishermen all my life and I beg your kind indulgence to listen and deliberate the points



I will put forth in this address.

In the past a basic lack of communication between the shrimp fishermen of Louisiana and the technical people of the Wild Life and Fisheries and government bodies have been due to the inability of the fishermen to express their views because of a lack of formal education.

The Louisiana shrimp fisherman possesses a vast knowledge of the practical aspects of shrimp fishing but could not properly organize this knowledge to inform the government bodies and agencies of their needs, nor could these fishermen substantiate their recommendation in a proper and convincing manner that would be acceptable to the more educated in government.

The picture of an uneducated fisherman is a picture of the past. As you listen to this address, you must realize that the fishermen of today will not accept laws based on theories of the so-called biologists, the technical people in government, or ignorant of the practical working methods of the shrimp fishing industry. Thus the industry is forced to accept their decisions. In



the past we have differed strongly with technical people who are fulltime employees to accumulate data and substantiate their theories. Dr. St. Amant has said many times that the present shrimp management problems are basically of economic origins rather than the biological principles, yet the biologists do not know the economics involved in the fishing operation and refuse to accept the advice of the fishermen who know best the cost-profit margins associated with their business.

The biologists constantly say the larger the shrimp, the higher the price per pound. That is like telling a Chevrolet car dealer his profit could be increased by selling Cadillacs, because they cost more. The fact is that every year the biologists want to hold the season so the shrimp will grow, but we know that the brown shrimp move offshore and out of state waters when conditions are right for migration whether they are large or small.

One example is in May of 1973. Biologist Gerald Atkins said in the HOUMA COURIER three days before the season opened that large brown



shrimp 60-80 count were present in the inland waters. We knew and have proved that at this very time the shrimp were moving offshore and rapidly westward. Some were caught but most escaped. The boats following the migrating schools estimated that in three days, the time the season opened, these shrimp were in Texas waters. I can verify this and if all I was paid to do was to study this, I could present you with a book on it.

We know once shrimp move offshore they scatter out, making more time needed by a boat to capture a given pound of shrimp, thus utilizing a greater amount of fuel or, as biologists would say, a greater amount and in a very conscious time this must mean something to you. Also, fishing offshore presents higher operating and maintenance costs.

In 1974 when times got rough, it was the steel hulls that hurt the most, proving that the inshore and near offshore boats were the most efficient. The present Wild Life and Fisheries laws are size-oriented. Ask Dr. St. Amant for economic reasons; Dr. St. Amant is not an economist, so why should he make laws and set seasons



for economic reasons? Who knows better than the fishermen themselves what economically benefits them the most?

I believe that the majority of the fishermen want an early season and I think I have presented an argument for it considering I do not have 100 men paid fulltime to prepare what I have said. If I was given more time, I could prepare more facts in my case.

Thank you. That is all I have to say.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naquin, when you sign your name, would you come back, please.

I want to make a remark and I hope you will listen closely because I do not intend to be ugly. I have made all of the shrimp meetings. I haven't missed one since I have been on the Commission, and your statement that the fishermen, because of their lack of education, couldn't express themselves adequately -- I don't agree with that. But I want to tell you one thing. I have always noticed that you people got over your desires pretty well at these meetings we were at.



Now, a man that I respected tremendously, a former Secretary of Agriculture, Harry D. Wilson, said this, and you may want to use it. "If you want to emphasize something and emphasize it well, use a good healthy hell or damn, and you will get your point over."

Thank you.

MR. NAQUIN: Another thing I would like to ask the Board. I have asked the biologists in our area to have a weekly report on their findings. I don't think it should be too much to ask what they are finding in our lakes when they start coming, have a weekly report in our local paper. That would satisfy a lot of us. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I would like to ask Mr. Naquin, I think I know what his answer will be, have you recommended a date? I didn't get it down.

MR. NAQUIN: Yes, May first.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And you are talking about Zone 2 or coastwise?

MR. NAQUIN: Zone 2.



THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, an early season.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And you favor the zone system of management?

MR. NAQUIN: Yes, right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have someone else? You have spoken once.

FROM THE FLOOR: Yes, but I would like to add something, if no one else wants to speak.

THE CHAIRMAN: Correct. I will call you. Do we have someone else who has not spoken?

Ladies and gentlemen, we are not cutting this meeting short and we certainly do not want to cut anyone out who cares to speak on a thing that is as important as this is. This is your livelihood. But so I could get an idea of about how long this meeting will go along, we have some other business, those who have not spoken, would you raise your hands so I would have an idea who else really cares to speak. I have a few second speakers, I see. (Show of hands) We have one other new person after this gentleman.

Now, is Doc here? Doc, we want you to



know this, that any time that you want to answer one of these questions, feel free to come up and I will of course let Doc speak at any time.

All right, would you state your name, please?

MR. SEVIN: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, my name is George Sevin from Chauvin.

I got a record over here to show and I can, in other words, prove something, that ever since they have been monkeying around with our opening date, our brown shrimp season, this record shows from 1913 to 1966. All right. From 1948 to 1957, and I think it is 1957 -- maybe Doc can fill me in on it -- that that is when they started monkeying around with our opening dates on brown shrimp season. It used to open 1957 May first. I just took ten years of it.

Yes, we had a bad year. A lot of people remember that is the year that Audrey hit Cameron. It was a very bad year. I will agree with that. But ever since then, going up to 1948, I can go further back than that, we had one bad year. That



was 1957. Then, coming back, 1958, 1967, that is when they started delaying the season. May 15 and May 20, going down the line. We have got a record to show over here, and in ten years we had three good years and seven bad ones. The record is over here to show where it come from, if somebody want to see it.

So, I say this. Let's go back to our season where it used to open kind of early, the records over here to show. And I would say this, that in our area, I think that is a good decision, whoever came up with it, on the Zone 1, 2 and 3, I think in our area we produce more shrimp for the state or for the Gulf of Mexico. We had a meeting last night in Houma, in Terrebonne, and the fishermen voted May 12 and not later than June 30. The reason we don't want to go later than June 30 is because we feel if we go later than June 30 we will be destroying our August season, and that is the season that the people in the industry used to make the money with, is with our white shrimp.

It looks like to me our depletion of the white shrimp population is gone and the brown shrimp



only stay inside from six weeks and then the rest of the year we have got to depend on, in other words, your white shrimp production. That's from August, the third Monday in August it open, all the way through December 20. In our area I think we would be satisfied with it, with Zone 2. In other words, the people from Cameron or to the east of us, if they want to have a late opening date as far back as the Commission can hold it back with the new law I think they changed, that is fine with us, but in our area, in other words, we don't want to go any later than June 30 because we feel we destroy our white shrimp. That is the same thing like right now they wouldn't want you to trawl the little brown shrimp. Well, we feel by going June 30 we will be destroying our August season, and them last 15 or 20 days they give in July.

Maybe one of you all can fill me in. If we do go, in other words, on the 12th of May, if we do have an opening date in Zone 2, in other words, June 30 will be 45 days or 57 days, in other words, so many days you all can give us in that zone. That would be a 40-day season?



THE CHAIRMAN: No, I understand you get your 50-day season regardless. Am I correct? Yes.

MR. SEVIN: Fifty days?

THE CHAIRMAN: You get that regardless.

MR. SEVIN: Well, how late it would push it back in June if you open it --

THE CHAIRMAN: Someone who has a chart will have to figure that for me.

MR. SEVIN: The fourth of June, the fifth? Well, if you all have to go with fifty days, but we would, in other words, accept 45 in that area. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. I have one question. You recommend the 12th. Do you think your people could possibly accept the 19th?

MR. SEVIN: No, no. Thank you.

MR. BERRY: George, I want to ask you this. I am on the board of directors of an international concern and they own one of the largest private shrimping fleets in the world. I think probably only the Japanese government or the Russians own anything larger. We shrimp all over the world other than I will say across the southern



part of the United States. It seems to me like when we have bad years here, I have looked back at the records of shrimp companies, down in the British Guianas where we operate and off the Brazilian coast and what-have-you, it seems to me that the shrimp seem to come and go the world over at the same time. That is a phenomenon I can't understand and don't appreciate for some reason or other, but the best records I have ever obtained from our people are that if the shrimping is good down in Brazil and down around the Guianas, it is usually good on the Gulf Coast and it is good in Australia. For some unknown reason, if shrimping is bad in Australia and it is bad in the Guianas and bad down in Brazilian waters, it is also bad in the Gulf.

I would like somebody to try and answer that one for me.

MR. SEVIN: Well, I tell you, like Jacques Cousteau said, if the industry don't stop polluting our waters and do something about it, he said in fifty years from now they won't have a living creature in the Gulf of Mexico. I do have respect for that man and I believe if we don't stop



polluting our waters, from the housewife to the oil industry, that will happen. I thank you and that is all I got to say.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: I recognize the gentleman in the back.

MR. COUTURE: Gentlemen, I am Douglas Couture, President of the Southeast Louisiana Commercial Fishermen Association.

We recommend the latest possible date for opening of the brown shrimp season east of the Mississippi River. We also recommend you adopt a zoning of different areas related to opening of seasons. We were the first to ask for this type of zoning of areas last year, for most of you. This year it may become a reality. We recommend around the 25th of May would be perfect with us.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are recommending zoning. You mean the 25th of May for what, for Zone 2?

MR. COUTURE: Zone 1. East of the river.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K.

MR. COUTURE: I also have a letter from



a police jury member to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

(Reading) "Gentlemen: I regret not being here with you today. It is with great importance that I have to be in Washington, D. C. on official business.

"I attended the meeting Friday to help men assign the open dates of our shrimp season. I am in full agreement with Dr. St. Amant's recommendations. He is fully aware of the shrimper situation, so I ask you, the shrimpers of our great state, to back Dr. St. Amant, Director Burt Angelle and his staff to the fullest.

"Every area of the Louisiana Gulf Coast is different. It seems to me that zoning these areas is the answer to our problems and the best thing that could happen to our shrimp industry. As for the shrimpers of the East Bank of the Mississippi River, the latest opening date possible would be what I recommend."

Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, I believe the indication was that I had no new speakers and



I have a request from two people to be heard a second time. I recognize this gentleman first.

FROM THE FLOOR: I don't believe it will be necessary for me to speak. I think the point was covered by a previous speaker.

THE CHAIRMAN: I recognize this gentleman next. Didn't you ask to speak again?

FROM THE FLOOR: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have no other comments?

MR. LAPEYRE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment on whether or not a late season affects the August season production. This is a point that Mr. Sevin made which is, of course, an important point, but it is a point that Dr. St. Amant covered Friday in his presentation and I think there was a chart to show that, as a matter of fact, the best August seasons in the recent past have occurred when there was a later than the 15th of May opening of the spring season.

Now, I may be somewhat off on that observation but if Doc would care to come up and make a comment on that, I would personally appreciate it.

DR. ST. AMANT: Mr. Lapeyre, we have



recognized that a great many people think that late fishing affects the white season. We have tried to find data that would verify this fact. We have not found any relationship between when the shrimp season opens and what happens to the white.

One of the worst white years was last year, in the recent past, and we opened the earliest we had. It was the 13th. It didn't suit everybody but it was earlier than normal.

One of your best white years was '63, I guess it was.

MR. SEVIN: '64, sir.

DR. ST. AMANT: '64, yes.

MR. SEVIN: '67 was the best year for brown shrimp. Like I say, I am talking from 34 years of experience.

DR. ST. AMANT: That's right. Now, the only evidence that we have, the controlling factors on these shrimp, appears to be the river stages, and we don't have any data to show otherwise. The only suggestion I can make, and it would probably require a change in the law, but if they feel strong enough there could be a law developed perhaps



when there is more than five percent white shrimp in the catch we close the season automatically, if they want to protect their white that badly.

But it doesn't make sense to me to ruin one crop, which you know you have on hand, at least you are attempting to catch it when it is too small and perhaps hurt it, to save a crop you don't even know you are going to get. The white shrimp production is a double peak. Sometimes you get an August catch. You usually get one later on. We have found no connection and if we could find a connection, we would probably come up with some recommendations. Until that time, I have nothing else to show for it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Doc.

I want to recap this just a little bit, and it looks like we will finish before 12 o'clock or by noontime. I have the two things to take up with the Board after the shrimp people get away. Thank you for being here. Thank you for your input. I think you have expressed yourselves quite well.

My tabulation shows to the Board members that we have three groups for early and three groups



for late. Now, I call for a motion, but let me state the recommendations by Dr. St. Amant so that you might -- Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I want to make an observation and a comment to the shrimpers while they are here, because I know the minute we set this season they are going to get up and they are going to get away.

I want you to be real aware and give us your input, your comments, between now and next year. We discussed yesterday the possibility of opening a four-day season, starting, I believe it was, Monday, in the section here in Zone 2 for the purpose of getting some shrimp. It was strictly experimental, for the purpose of getting shrimp that were in that area now and to find out what the story was. The reason we haven't considered that, this Board hasn't considered it, in my judgment, is the fact that the time, if we told you today that you are going to have a four-day season starting Monday, you don't have physically time to get your equipment ready to be prepared.

But, next year, if the conditions are



right -- bear in mind, if the conditions are not right, this can't come to pass, and if I am wrong on this, correct me, Doc -- but if the conditions are right, it is possible that we will have a short two, three, four-day season for an experimental purpose to gain data to learn what is happening. The reason I am saying this to you know is so that next year my good friend John can't come to me and say, "Jimmie, they don't know what is happening. They don't know anything about it."

Now, you may be completely in disagreement with this thing. We would like to have your input between now and next year, I personally would, and then we possibly will set it if the conditions and all are proper. Am I correct?

THE CHAIRMAN: My friend Jimmie is correct and we appreciate it. It is the third recommendation by Dr. St. Amant. I will read the recommendations and then call for a vote unless someone else has something he wants to say.

MR. SEVIN: I hate to put it this way but I believe it is kind of a big joke about the opening of the season and all like we talked about;



I don't know that it has ever really been closed. People have been fishing all year long in my neighborhood where I come from. I believe it could be verified by all the parishes, too. What we really need, in other words, regardless of whether we like it or not, we need strong conservation measures. That is No. 1 on the agenda. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will notify the enforcement officers. That is well said.

Now, the recommendations of Dr. St. Amant are these:

One recommendation was that we have a single season across the entire coast as late as possible, maybe the 24th.

The second recommendation was that we adopt a zone system, opening Zone 2 May 19, Zone 3 on May 24 or June 2.

Now, we had a third recommendation and it would require the zone system. Doc recommended that if the industry wanted it and if the Commission agreed we would have a little four-day season on white shrimp to see what the results would be,



strictly experimental.

Now, gentlemen, we have those three recommendations. Now I am ready for a motion.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, could I interrupt and ask, I would like to see a show of hands in the audience of the people who are in favor of a four-day season and those who are opposed to a four-day season. Could I see your hands, those of you who are in favor of a four-day season, a short season, say, starting Monday and going for four days.

(Show of hands)

FROM THE FLOOR: Too late, too late.

MR. BERRY: Those opposed to it?

(Show of hands)

MR. THOMPSON: May I ask a question, Doyle?

MR. BERRY: Yes, sir.

MR. THOMPSON: If you were ready right now to move out in the morning, how many would then be acceptable to a four-day season? Could I see a show of hands? If you were ready.

MR. BERRY: Four-day experimental season.



MR. THOMPSON: Definitely, just experimental.

MR. BERRY: Just to go catch shrimp, see what's out there.

THE CHAIRMAN: They are talking about strictly a little four-day season, experimental.

MR. THOMPSON: This is not going to come to pass this year. We are just trying to get your feeling.

FROM THE FLOOR: That is just in certain sections?

MR. THOMPSON: That's right, just in certain sections, just in one little section.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, let's bring this thing to order.

MR. BERRY: This is for your benefit. I am just asking for knowledge, trying to acquire some knowledge from you, so we can do what you want to do, what's right, and try to mix in what you think and what the biologists think and get the best of both worlds.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. We have too many people speaking out at one time and I



didn't hear anyone. I didn't get a single opinion. We have a gentleman here.

MR. SEVIN: Mr. Chairman, what you were wanting to do is going to the legislature and make a law on that for four days extension?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, sir. No, sir, that isn't it at all.

MR. SEVIN: Well, the Commission would have, let's say another year, you would have a lot of large white shrimp in them areas, like Terrebonne and Lafourche, 15, 20, 21, 25, if the fishermen would want a four or five day opening date, with time to go, if they would be warned, not in 24 hours, seven day notice --

THE CHAIRMAN: That is what Mr. Doyle Berry was asking, would you favor it then if you had time to have a short experimental season.

MR. SEVIN: Right, right.

MR. BERRY: With notice.

MR. THOMPSON: One specific area.

MR. BERRY: Next year, an experimental season.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: The answer to your



question, George, is that the Commission has the authority now to set this type of season because of legislation that was adopted in 1974. You don't have to go back to the legislature and get that authority. The Commission has that authority now.

MR. SEVIN: I understand. Well, that's the point I wanted to bring across. Yes, if we go out and test, ask Mr. Angelle to send us some biologists and go in there and some years find a lot of white shrimp, we would want four or five days, an experiment date, right. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, gentlemen, I know this is contrary to opinion, but many times we have opinions that are not correct. The Commission, Mr. Angelle and the professional staff, are quite receptive to your opinions. Now the problem comes about in trying to find out and really realize what the majority opinion is. That is our problem. Whenever we set a date or make a decision, and when I say "we" I am including in that the Commission who actually does the voting and the professional staff, I believe that they set that to the best of their knowledge, what they



believe to be for the best of the majority of the people. I believe that. Now it doesn't always please everyone.

MR. BERRY: That man wants to speak, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, sir.

MR. MELERINE: I hate to think people would start tampering with something, like, say, you just mentioned, sir, a five-day try-out season. Suppose it does work for one part of the state and maybe quite a few people -- well, I shouldn't say quite a few people -- maybe the majority of the people of this zone, let's say Zone 2, that is what they want, but that is contrary to what people in Zone 1 want and contrary to what people in Zone 3 want. Then the next year the decision would be made by people from Zone 2? No, sir?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, sir.

MR. MELERINE: I am sorry, I misunderstood you.

THE CHAIRMAN: This was for information only and then the following year, if a program of this type should be started, the decision would be,



of course, from a consensus of opinion from everybody. This would be an experimental only season.

MR. THOMPSON: I know everybody is wanting to go to dinner but this is important to these people. All I do is eat shrimp and I am ready for that, too, but I would like to have Dr. St. Amant come back. I don't think it is clear in their minds, or maybe it is not clear in my mind, what this four-day experimental season is to accomplish. In other words, Doc, if you would come back -- where are you? If he would come back, or Harry can explain it, I would like for you all to be as clear as I think I am on this, because it is immaterial to me; I am sitting here, trying to help you the best way that I can and I want you to be prepared next year. You may have some thoughts, you may come up with some reason why we shouldn't have this.

Doc, if you would explain, and I think what they are not grasping, or maybe I am getting the other side of the picture, is that this experimental season is to catch a shrimp that is of marketable size today, namely, the white shrimp,



that will not be there at a later day. Would you explain that, in the area that we were speaking of, strictly experimental? If you don't every try it, you are not going to know, and we want, if you concur, we want to try to make something better for you.

FROM THE FLOOR: And it might only happen one time.

MR. THOMPSON: It might not. If the conditions are not right, you understand, the temperature of the water, the salinity of the water, all this, is not correct, it is possible next year we won't even say a word to you, because of Doc's recommendations. Let him talk.

DR. ST. AMANT: Well, one of the biggest unknowns, I guess, in this shrimp thing, is what happens to the white shrimp during the winter. We constantly have an argument in this state as to what we should do with the shrimp size in the late fall. But, just as surely as shrimp don't grow in the spring when the water is cold, they quit growing in the fall when it gets cold.

So, depending on when the white shrimp



shrimp crop comes in in October or September or if they come in late and we get the bulk of them late in the fall, we end up with a white shrimp crop that is illegal, according to the law as it is written at the present time. There has been some discussion off and on to change this, but right now if you have got anything smaller than 68 count, you have got problems.

You have one other problem with white shrimp in the fall and that is that when you get a norther, the shrimp move out in waves and people like to catch them when they are moving.

So, if you enforce the law, you stand to have a fair size of shrimp go offshore in the winter and be technically and actually illegal. Since we do not close the area out to three miles or beyond, these small shrimp can be fished during the wintertime, and since we have no possession law, they are fished. We end up with a surviving population of white shrimp that tend to grow as soon as the waters begin to warm up in the spring, and they tend to concentrate in one or two areas. They are usually down in this lower area, in this



Sister Lake, and we get another crop of them over here in Calcasieu Lake, and occasionally if we don't have too much fresh water in there, we may have them in Vermilion Bay and in the Atchafalaya Bay system. We don't normally have them anywhere else in the coast.

For a long time we have been, I wouldn't say criticized, but we have been questioned as to why these shrimp couldn't be caught. Quite frequently they are large shrimp. They may be as much as 30-count shrimp and very valuable, at a time when the market and the fishermen could use them. If the shrimpers and people who have been around a long time will remember, the time that they opened the shrimp season in April, back in the 40's and 30's, this is what they did it for. If you will be honest with yourself, you will remember what happened. They would open, you would go out there and fish a week, you would catch a good many white shrimp, depending on what you had on, and then you would go for days, waiting for the browns to come in, and they would show up sometime in the middle of May. People forget that.



And they showed up in May, depending on when the water temperature put them in there. I can't tell you how many people, when we first started, when they were opening early, they would just eat us alive because they would say there were no shrimp. The season would be opened on the first, they would make a few passes, they would catch a few whites, a few big browns, and then, wham, they would catch nothing. They were buying gas, they were buying fuel and cussing us because there were no shrimp.

Then one day, sometime in the middle of May, the last week in May, they would all bloom out again, and that is when the crop would come in. Our data, all it did was show what happened over the years.

We are not trying to push this thing one way or the other. The only problem we have now, and unless we get this straightened out in the next legislature, the one that is going on right now, under the new act that requires prior notification, we had to go on record in February this year that we were going to set a shrimp season



today. That is how much advance notice we had to give. We had no idea what the shrimp were going to be in February. We hadn't seen the first ones. When you are dealing with shrimp that grow as fast as they do and they show up and move over night on a moon change or a norther or a tide change, we need a lot more speed and a lot more flexibility. Under this new law we are kind of handicapped.

So, we set up to set a season today and since we had it set up in the program, we tried to do everything we can. Now, next year, if the industry is interested, and I don't think we need to do anything that the industry or at least a significant segment of the industry is not interested in, because we are not working for ourselves and for fun, we are willing to look to set up a proposed early test season. What we would have to do probably would be put into the record that we plan to set this season sometime in December and point out that maybe in the March meeting that we would set a temporary season on shrimp, depending on what the technical data said. Next year there may not be any white shrimp out there and we would



not recommend anything. It may be that there would be a significant population that was evident in March and we might go along then and say, O. K., we will open for a week, ten days, or something in late March or April or whenever we thought was feasible.

We don't want to set a season that is going to interfere with the brown crop, and anything that we would set later than that would tend to get into the question of whether we were infringing on the upcoming brown season, and we don't think this would be wise at this time.

Now that was what the proposal was and I am sure that we made the recommendation or suggestion in good faith. We thought maybe somebody could use it this year. If they can't, that's fine with us. If they can't use it next year and are not interested, it is still fine with us.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Doc.

MR. THOMPSON: What would you say the white shrimp count would be? I think this is the area you were discussing (indicating). This was the one we were discussing for an experimental



season.

DR. ST. AMANT: Down here, and here, and right up in here (indicating on map).

MR. THOMPSON: O. K., what would the count be on the white shrimp?

DR. ST. AMANT: The count on the 17th week, which was the week that we did the study last week, was running about 36-40 and 40-50, which is a pretty good size shrimp. There are not a whole lot. We figured there were probably 500,000 to a million pounds of shrimp available to catch. This is a nice piece of change if you can get it and put it into circulation pretty quick. You are looking at maybe a million and a half dollars, maybe two million if you get a good price for them. This is what we were trying to do. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mayor, I recognize you.

MR. KERNER: I would just like to make one comment just to clear the record. You know, I have been around here a long time with the Conservation. I have been Justice of the Peace now 15 years, and I just want to say this, that we have



had plenty of good administrations in the Conservation in the past years and we have had some bad ones, but I want to say this to all of you, that I believe we have got less violation going on now than we ever had before.

Now, I think that is a record because everywhere else in the country we are having more crime, and it looks like with the good law enforcement, and I say this without worrying about being contradicted, that we have the fairest and squarest law enforcement from the Conservation now that we have ever had in the history of Louisiana, and the reason why I say that is because I have experienced and know. They make charges with me and I will tell you this, that they are after whoever violates the law and there is no partiality shown to this administration that I know of, and I really do say this with high regard, that even though we do have some violation, and we know that, we know that but that's why we have law enforcement and that is why you have laws, is to stop the violations, but right now we have got as fair and as square law enforcement by Conservation as we ever had.



(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. I recognize this gentleman here. Give us your name, please.

MR. ROBIN: I am Charles Robin, Jr., from St. Bernard Parish. I would like to say this. You talk about good law enforcement. Why they not down there right now, catching them guys catching them white shrimp down there now?

And another thing now. Everybody talks about trying to protect the white shrimp. Now, you have got an area here that has got white shrimp, right? Right here, that Area 2 you are trying to open. Now, when you go kill those white shrimp, what little shrimp you going to have when the other season open, the August season open? Because when you kill those white shrimp now, you are killing the mamas and the papas that is going to lay them eggs there. That happens in our area every year. They kill the big white shrimp and then you ain't got no shrimps to lay eggs then.

MR. BERRY: Charlie, may I ask this: where did you say this outlawing is going on?



MR. ROBIN: Down at Ycloskey, down at Hopedale right now, at this time probably.

MR. THOMPSON: Doyle, don't worry about it; all our people are patrolling the Causeway!

(Laughter and applause)

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That's probably where they are, too!

MR. BERRY: Chief Hogan, would you make a note of that, please.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, gentlemen, we have to address ourselves to the question before the house. We have to address ourselves to the setting of the shrimp season. I appreciate these comments about law enforcement and so forth, but really we are trying to set the shrimp season, and if we get on law enforcement we are going to go all day.

I recognize the gentleman in the back.

MR. ROBIN: I know you are doing wrong but I thank you.

MR. SNOW: Mr. Chairman, Commission Members, I am George Snow, Louisiana Shrimp Association. You have our written position on this



and the interesting thing that developed in the last few minutes is the method of taking a popular vote on controlling your shrimp season. Now, you can't manage a natural resource on a popular vote, obviously. If you think back to one hour ago, in which you told people that you are not going to allow the gill net people to manage it on a popular vote, you are going to do it on the basis of research.

We have an excellent research program going on the Louisiana shrimp populations. I am fairly satisfied with the competency of the staff. There are many instances in which I do not agree with their findings but that is my responsibility to dig into their data, find out if they made an error, and come up with my thoughts. So I think you have, as I say, a recommendation from the staff, you are spending approximately a half million dollars per year for this research. If you are not going to abide by the findings, then it is questionable whether you should continue the research.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Snow.



MR. BERRY: May I address Mr. Snow one time, Mr. Chairman, and say this. Mr. Snow, I asked for that straw vote a while ago not to manage our resources with but to merely get an opinion on how these gentlemen felt about it. I like all the input I can get to make a decision. I don't like to look through one knothole. I like to look through all four of them.

MR. SNOW: Yes, sir, but at the same time we have to look at the biological findings, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jones, do you want to make a comment?

MR. JONES: I want to make a motion.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That man is trying to get your attention.

THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry.

MR. LEBLANC: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Garrett LeBlanc. I am a commercial fisherman. You are talking about opening the season for four days. I have a big boat. I have no voice in this because I can't go inshore, but there is a lot of fishermen from Jefferson Parish, little boats, that, excuse



my language, have been raising hell about they want to catch the white shrimp that is inshore right now. I don't have no biology report on it, but as this gentleman said over there, if it is going to hurt the white shrimp industry, I say no, but I say if it wouldn't hurt it, I say why not, for four days, because they need the chance to pick up some money on the off-season as it is right now. I am not helping myself by saying anything like this, because I am a big boat fisherman. Thank you.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think we have really covered this thing. In fact, we are beginning to cover things that we have already covered, so I am going to read the recommendations one more time and then I am going to call on Mr. Dupuy for a comment and a motion.

Now, the recommendations of Dr. Lyle St. Amant that we open the -- recommendation one of three -- that we open the entire coast at the same time as late as possible, perhaps the 24th. Recommendation two, we use a zone system, opening Zone 2 on May 19, Zones 1 and 3 perhaps on the



24th of May or the second of June, and of course, recommendation three, I will read it again although it is moot and I think it has been settled, that we have a little four-day experimental season.

Now, Mr. Dupuy, I recognize you.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, I was going to make a suggestion but I would like to pass the opportunity to Mr. Jones.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that the season in Zone 2 begin on May 12, the season in Zones 1 and 3 begin on May 26 -- I understand that is a Monday -- and that they all run for 60 days, but that the Director is given the authority to stop either of the seasons on 50 days in the event he finds or the biologists find there is possibly some damage to the white shrimp crop.

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

MR. BERRY: I would like to amend that motion, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a second, please, sir.



For the record, moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Wille. Now I recognize Mr. Berry.

MR. BERRY: I amend that motion to read that the season open on May 19, Monday, for Zone 2, and June 2, Zones 1 and 3.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Do I have a second to the amendment?

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. We have to vote on the amendment first and then, of course, on the original motion.

MR. JONES: Let me ask you, Doyle, how many days are you talking about? Sixty days?

MR. BERRY: Same conditions.

MR. JONES: O. K.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are ready now for discussion.

MR. DUFUY: By way of discussion, we have heard quite a bit of discussion with regard to some wanting an early season and some wanting a late season. I believe, however, if you analyze the input that we have had so far today, with regard to a zone breakdown, I really do believe



there is a consensus and the consensus seems to be in the nature of an early or May 12 for Zone 2 and a later or May 26 or as late as possible for Zones 1 and 3. I want to keep in mind, however, that the consensus is the expression of the industry who are represented here today and at the same time we need to consider Dr. St. Amant's findings and his belief and his statistical information that there would be only 29.9 percent marketable on May 12 and 57.7 percent marketable on May 19.

On that basis alone it would seem to me that logic would prevail for a one week later opening date and at the same time with a 60-day total period within which to fish it would seem to me that we would do less harm to the shrimp population by a May 19 opening date for Zone 2 and a May 26 or possibly June 2 for Zones 1 and 3.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, of course, our position is to try to set seasons so that our shrimpers can get as much income as humanly possible and we have to weigh heavily, I do, on the advice of our biologists for this information.

Do I have any other discussion? Mr.



Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Question on the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Question on the amendment.

The question has been called for. Discussion ceases. Let me read the amendment. The amendment to the motion says that the shrimp season in Zone 2 start on May 19 and in 1 and 3 starts on June 2. Those in favor of this amendment, raise your hands, please, so I can count.

MR. BERRY: That amendment also has the same 60-day thing that Mr. Jones brought up, and discretion of the Director to change it, if necessary.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. Now discussion has to cease. The question has been called for. May I have the vote?

(Show of hands)

One, two, three, four. The amendment has carried. Gentlemen, it is not necessary to vote on the original motion, as the amendment supersedes the motion and it is so ordered. Thank you for being here.

MR. THOMPSON: We want to make it crystal



clear to you, there is not, there is not a four-day experimental season. Don't any of you go out there and says, "Hey, they said -- " Don't get caught.

MR. BERRY: Hope you all catch lots of shrimp this year.

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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has reviewed the requests of the fishermen, industry and sportsmen, as well as the biological predictions and recommendations of the biologists of the Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods Division,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby declare the 1975 spring brown shrimp season to be as follows:

ZONE 1 - Mississippi State line to Southwest Pass, at the mouth of the Mississippi River,



including Lake Pontchartrain,
June 2 through July 31, 1975.
ZONE 2 - Southwest Pass, at the
mouth of the Mississippi River,
west to Atchafalaya River, at
Point au Fer, May 19 through
June 17, 1975.
ZONE 3 - Point au Fer to the
Sabine River/Texas State line,
June 2 through July 31, 1975.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that
the Director be and is hereby author-
ized to close said season before the
above stated sixty-day periods if
found to be biologically necessary.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I just wanted to
point out that we are glad you all came. Glad to
see you.

(A brief recess was here taken,
while the representatives of
the shrimping industry conversed
informally with the Board before
departing.)



THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have to get this show on the road. Sorry to stop the conversation but we will have an agenda to complete.

Mr. Yancey, we will now hear you. Mr. Lapeyre, we are fixing to start our meeting in this place to transact business. Those that are not connected are free to go or stay, but please be quiet. Thank you.

FROM THE FLOOR: We do have the right to stay?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. This is a public meeting, open to the public.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, in continuing with the Commission's land acquisition program for the purpose of setting up additional wildlife management areas in the state, a Mr. Morgan Walker of Alexandria has offered to the Commission 3,840 acres of land in Avoyelles Parish. He is offering this to the Commission for the appraised value.

We had the land appraised by an MAI appraiser through the Division of Administration and the land appraised for \$160 per acre. We



would like to recommend that the Commission authorize and approve the purchase of this particular tract.

It is located just east of the existing Spring Bayou Game Management Area, just south of Bordelonville, just east of Moreauville, and the habitat in there is similar to the Spring Bayou Area to a certain degree. There are lakes, bayous, marshes and other wetlands in the area. There is one real good fishing lake on the property. We would like to recommend that the Commission approve of the purchase of this land.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Thompson, do you want to comment before --

MR. THOMPSON: I think he is wrong. Do you have your letter there?

MR. YANCEY: I have the memorandum from Dewey Wills here.

MR. THOMPSON: I think the situation was this, that he would not accept less than \$155. Marc, are you here?

MR. DUPUY: Yes.

MR. THOMPSON: Not less than \$155 per



acre was the way the letter read, if I am correct.

MR. DUPUY: No, sir. The letter said, "I will sell for the appraised price but not less than \$156 an acre."

MR. THOMPSON: O. K. Well, then, he said to me he would sell it for \$156 an acre. I so move we purchase it at \$156 an acre if he accepts it.

MR. WILLE: I would like to --

THE CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, please. We will have to get a second and then we will discuss it. Do I have a second?

MR. BERRY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. It has been moved by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Berry that we offer the man \$156 per acre. Now, is there any discussion?

MR. WILLE: Yes, sir. I would like to make an amendment to that motion that we empower the Director, if the man will not accept the \$156, that we do go up to the appraised price on it.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. I have an amendment. Do I have a second? We are going to



give you a chance to discuss it.

MR. BERRY: I don't believe we have a second.

THE CHAIRMAN: We don't have a second. The amendment dies for lack of a second. Mr. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I would hope that you would vote against that amendment. If I was selling the land, I would say to heck with you; the Director is going to go up to \$160, to hell with the \$156. I will take the \$156.

MR. WILLE: Jimmie, what I am saying is that if the man will not accept anything but the appraised price -- he had already said at one time -- do we have a letter of intent from the man that he is going to accept \$156 an acre?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have the letter here, if you want to read it. I don't remember the exact wording.

MR. DUPUY: I can tell you what the wording is, and it says that "we will sell for the appraised price, as approved by an approved



appraiser but not less than \$156 per acre."

MR. THOMPSON: O. K., he did to us what we are fixing to do to him. He told us he would sell it for \$156 an acre.

MR. DUPUY: No, he said if it appraised for less than \$156, he wouldn't sell it.

MR. THOMPSON: O. K., but then he said he would for \$156.

MR. DUPUY: No, he said he would sell it for the appraised value.

MR. THOMPSON: You are are not traders like me, I guess.

THE CHAIRMAN: What was the appraised price, Dick?

MR. YANCEY: It appraised for \$160 and he had this in his letter, that he would sell for the appraised price. That is up to the Commission, as far as I am concerned.

MR. WILLE: All we are trying to do is not lose the land over \$4 an acre.

MR. THOMPSON: It's going to be there next month. That is \$15,360. If you all want to throw some more license money away, throw it away.



MR. WILLE: I will withdraw my --

MR. THOMPSON: Don't withdraw it. Leave it there. I will abstain from voting.

THE CHAIRMAN: He still has to have a second. Are you going to second it for him?

MR. WILLE: You know, if you are going to stab me with \$15,000 that I am going to waste of the Commission's money, then I am not going to do that, so I will withdraw my motion, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: He has the right to withdraw his motion and the Chair accepts that right. I have a motion that we offer the man \$156 per acre by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Berry. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to be recorded as abstaining from the vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. The ayes have it, and please for the record, record Mr. Marc Dupuy as abstaining from the vote.

(The full text of the



resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission is greatly
interested in establishing additional
wildlife management areas in Louisiana;
and

WHEREAS, the Commission
initiated a program of land purchase
in 1961 to accomplish this purpose and
to preserve at least a portion of the
state's largely disappearing game
ranges in various regions of Louisiana;
and

WHEREAS, a certain tract of
land hereinafter particularly described
in Exhibit A annexed hereto and made a
part hereof, consisting of a total of
3,840 acres, more or less, located in
Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, has been
offered for sale to the Commission for
the full and true sum of \$599,040.00; and

WHEREAS, this tract, if



acquired, will make an excellent wild-
life management area for waterfowl,
furbearing animals, deer, alligators,
rabbits and other forms of marsh life;
and also will provide additional public
hunting and fishing opportunities for
sportsmen throughout the State of
Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of
this property has been carefully con-
sidered by the Chairman, the Director,
and all members of the Commission, after
which consideration, it is the conclusion
of all members and the Director that the
acquisition thereof will be most favor-
able and advantageous to the future
welfare of the fish and wildlife as a
wildlife management area and that the
acquisition thereof would also be
mutually beneficial to the State of
Louisiana, this Commission, and the
citizens and residents of the state,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED



that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission purchase from MORGAN WALKER the following immovable property located in Avoyelles Parish, State of Louisiana, totalling 3,840 acres, more or less, described in Exhibit A annexed hereto and made a part hereof.

The said sale is to be subject to the following conditions and stipulations:

1. The purchase price of this sale by Seller to Buyer, its successors and assigns, for the hereinabove described property - Exhibit A - shall be in the sum of FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE AND FORTY AND NO/100 (\$599,040.00) DOLLARS, payable in cash at the time of the act of sale.
2. Real estate taxes for the year 1975 will be pro-rated to the date of the act of sale. All proper and necessary mortgage and other certificates and tax researches are to be paid



by Seller.

3. The Seller shall deliver to Buyer good and merchantable title to the property. The decision as to whether Seller's title to the property is good and merchantable shall rest solely with Buyer based upon title opinions rendered to Buyer by attorneys of its selection. In lieu of title opinions rendered to the Buyer by attorneys of its selection, Buyer reserves the right to obtain title insurance on the said property from a title insurance company authorized to do and doing business in the State of Louisiana. Seller agrees to assist Buyer, its attorneys, or the title insurance company in securing any curative matter which Seller may be able to obtain in order to satisfy any requirements of any title opinion or interim title insurance binder



rendered to Buyer. All curative matter thus obtained shall be the property of Buyer which is hereby authorized after passage of the act of sale to file same for record. Final approval of title shall be at the sole discretion of Buyer, its attorneys, and the title insurance company selected by Buyer, and Buyer shall have the right to waive and forego satisfaction of any requirements of any title opinion rendered by its attorneys or title insurance binder hereunder.

4. The act of sale is to be passed before Buyer's notary at the State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or such other location as designated by Buyer within the territorial limits of the State of Louisiana 120 days from the date of this agreement, provided that if bona fide curative work in connection with the title



is required, the parties agree to and do extend the time for passage of the act of sale by an additional thirty (30) days. The sale shall be with full warranty and full rights of subrogation and substitution and shall be in a form acceptable to the Seller and Buyer. The property shall be delivered free and clear of all liens, encumbrances, taxes (except taxes for the year in which the act of sale is passed), leases and mortgages (except the encumbrances accepted and agreed to by Buyer).

5. In the event Seller fails to comply with this agreement within the time specified, Seller, without formality beyond tender of title to Buyer may declare this agreement null and void, or Seller may, at his option, demand specific performance.
6. Occupancy shall be available at the time of the act of sale.



7. This agreement and the sale contemplated hereby is subject to and conditioned upon the approval of the Division of Administration, State of Louisiana.
8. The notices, payments and other matters required hereunto shall be delivered or addressed to Mr. Morgan Walker, P. O. Box 1088, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301.
9. This agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, successors, executors, administrators and assigns. Where the terms "Seller" and "Buyer" are used herein, this shall be deemed to include their respective heirs, successors, executors, administrators and assigns of such parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman and the Director of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission be, and



they are hereby appointed, authorized and empowered to act for and on behalf and in the name of this Commission to purchase the aforementioned lands, buildings and improvements and appurtenances thereon, to sign any and all necessary deeds and documents may contain, and to incorporate and include in the said documents and all additional stipulations, conditions and provisions as they, in their sole discretion, deem to be to the best interest of the Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am ready now. You are a patient man. I think the Good Lord is going to reserve a place in the heavenly bodies for people like you and chairmen of commissions of this sort.

MR. GERALD MARTINEZ: I think Chairmen of commissions and commissioners --

THE CHAIRMAN: -- and directors.

MR. MARTINEZ: -- and directors. In any event, we have on the agenda today approval of the rules of practice for the Louisiana Wild Life



and Fisheries Commission to bring us into compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act which became effective on January 1, 1975. I have previously submitted a copy of the rules to the Commission. There have been no changes in those rules and it simply requires a motion and a vote to approve the rules.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, gentlemen.

MR. JONES: I move we approve the rules.

MR. WILLE: We have a motion to approve the rules and I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: But he has a change of the rules that he wrote yesterday, if I can get these people's attention, doesn't he?

MR. MARTINEZ: No, sir. There have been no changes in the rules.

THE CHAIRMAN: In other words, you have the same motion that you had before us yesterday?

MR. MARTINEZ: Well, I have the same rules that I had at the last meeting. There have been no changes in the rules.

THE CHAIRMAN: But we discussed, or am I wrong, we discussed rewriting this, wording it in



such a way it would apply to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission only.

MR. MARTINEZ: That is another matter.

THE CHAIRMAN: Another matter, O. K. I stand corrected. I am ready for the motion.

MR. WILLE: You have got a motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Wille. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.

MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do we have anything else to come before the Commission, gentlemen?

MR. BERRY: I move that we adjourn.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved that we adjourn. Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

. . . . Thereupon, at 12:35 o'clock p.m., Tuesday, April 29, 1975, the meeting was adjourned. . . .

