

COPY

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING

P R O C E E D I N G S

Tuesday, November 30, 1971

10:00 o'clock a.m.

Wild Life & Fisheries Bldg.
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana



Helen R. Dietrich, inc.
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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, November 30, 1971, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Mr. H. C. Wright, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

- H. C. WRIGHT
- C. M. HOFFPAUER
- LLOYD AUTIN
- J. E. KYLE, JR.
- J. W. THOMPSON
- J. L. WINFREE



A G E N D A

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting on September 28, 1971. (3)
 - 2. Set date for next board meeting. (4)
- HARRY SCHAFFER:
- 3. Opening of Calcasieu Lake to oyster fishing. (4)
- TED O'NEIL:
- 4. Discuss opening of nutria season. (10)



JOE L. HERRING:

45. Seismic survey request from Continental Oil (26)
Company across a portion of Saline Wild-
life Management Area.

46. Change in deer season boundaries in Tensas (31)
Parish.

47. Discuss opening of Peason Ridge Wildlife (33)
Management Area for fox hunting.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Deer season, Evangeline Parish (36)

Mandatory retirement (37)

Shortstopping of blue and snow geese (40)

Saline Game Management Area lands (50)

THE CHAIRMAN: The meeting will now come
to order. Before we start the meeting, I want to
say we have a new member of the Commission with us
this morning. Of course, he is well known. He is
not a newcomer, and I wondered if he had anything
to say before we start the meeting today.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Clay. I am
just proud and pleased to be back here and to serve
if I can and where I can.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: The first item on the



agenda is approval of the minutes for the meeting of September 28, 1971.

MR. KYLE: I so move.

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Kyle, seconded by Mr. Autin, that the minutes be approved as sent. Any opposition?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: There being none, so ordered.

Gentlemen, I think we ought to set the date for the December meeting today. I think we discussed in the informal meeting yesterday that December 20 and 21 would be the dates. Is that satisfactory with all the members? So ordered then.

Mr. Harry Schafer.

MR. SUMMERS: Mr. Schafer had to attend a meeting for Dr. St. Amant and I will present our business.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, there is one item on the agenda for your consideration. It is the oyster season for Calcasieu Lake. We have examined this area and find that there are



harvestable stocks of oysters in the area and also checked with Louisiana State Department of Health and they have indicated the water quality in this area is suitable for the harvest of oysters. Therefore, we recommend the 1971-72 season to be as follows:

That it begin Wednesday, December 1, 1971, and extend through March 31, 1972;

That the season be limited to daylight hours only;

Also a provision that, if biologically sound and justified, that the season could be extended by the Director.

Also, that it would be limited to fishing with tongs only and the area of Calcasieu Lake, including West Cove, be opened, and that the Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou area will be closed;

Also, that the three-inch culling law will be observed and that all undersized oysters will be scattered along the perimeter of the reefs, existing reefs, to allow for expansion of these reefs and future oyster stocks;



Also, we recommend that the taking of oysters shall be limited to 15 sacks per boat per day, and also allow that two sacks (three bushels) of oysters be taken per day by small boats for home consumption;

Also, that the commercial fishing of oysters be done only with the proper license.

These are the recommendations. I recommend that they be approved, please.

MR. WINFREE: Question, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Winfree.

MR. WINFREE: Can an individual family man take a little outboard boat and go out there and pick up three sacks of oysters without having to buy a license?

MR. SUMMERS: This is correct, yes, sir.

MR. HOFFPAUER: How about the 15 sacks?

MR. SUMMERS: He has to have a license. 15 sacks per boat per day.

THE CHAIRMAN: Daylight hours only.

MR. SUMMERS: Daylight hours only, sunrise to sunset.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Could a guy go out there



and pick up 14 sacks and go home, without a license?

MR. SUMMERS: No, no. He has to have a license if he fishes more than three sacks.

THE CHAIRMAN: It specifically states three sacks to a small boat.

MR. SUMMERS: Two sacks, or three bushels, rather. The reason for this recommended limit is that we have had problems with dredging in the lake, as you are probably familiar with, and we hope that this would confine the illegal activity.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the proposal. What is your pleasure?

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson.

MR. WINFREE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Winfree.

Is there any opposition?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Being none, so ordered.

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



WHEREAS, the Commission biologists and the Chief of the Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods Division have recommended the fishing of the oysters of Calcasieu Lake, including the West Cove area with the exception of the Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou, and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health has examined the growing waters of this aforementioned area and approved the waters for fishing oysters,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, at its regular public monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 30, 1971, that the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season for 1971-72 be set in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

- (1) That the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake be fixed to extend from daylight Wednesday, December 1, 1971, through sunset,



Friday, March 31, 1972, with the right being reserved to extend said season if biologically justifiable;

(2) That oyster fishing be limited only to the use of tongs and to daylight hours;

(3) The open areas shall be confined to Calcasieu Lake including the West Cove area, with the exception of Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou which shall be closed;

(4) The three-inch culling law shall be observed by all fishermen fishing the area and the culls shall be scattered around the perimeter of the reefs to provide for expansion and future harvesting;

(5) The taking of oysters shall be limited to 15 sacks per boat per day;



(6) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks) per boat per day;

(7) All commercial fishing of oysters shall be done only with proper licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized and empowered to extend the said season, if biologically sound.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. O'Neil.

MR. O'NEIL: Mr. Chairman, is this on the nutria season?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir.

MR. O'NEIL: I would like to hear from some of the other --

THE CHAIRMAN: Why don't you just come and state and tell them how short the nutria are and how small they are. That's all you need to do.

MR. O'NEIL: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission, there has been a request for not curtailing the nutria season but setting back



the beginning date of the season to the tenth of December, instead of opening on the first. This is a request primarily due to the nutria meat program in Mission, Texas, and secondly, due to a shortage of nutria during this season. There are a number of trappers in the eastern part of the state that just cannot trap at the price that they get for nutria unless they do collect the meat, unless they do get money for the meat, and the meat programs are not going to be let until December 13, I think is when the government contract for the nutria meat will be let for the Mission fly program.

I would like to hear from some of the dealers. A lot of the fur dealers are here and people representing the trappers are here, and get some of their views on curtailing this season at this late date. Could we hear from some of those people?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir. Mr. Marler.

MR. MARLER: Well, you have heard this before, gentlemen. This is not new. I am not trying to make a political speech, because I guess all of you are aware I was defeated in the last.



election, but Mr. O'Neil made the proper statement, there is a shortage of nutria throughout the state of Louisiana. I think that if you will check with your land managers, you will find out that your own state lands will probably be 25 to 50 percent short. That's the report that I received this morning.

Of course, we do realize this is a real late date to ask for a shutdown of two weeks, 15 days. We would like to see 15 days for the simple reason it would give the nutria an opportunity to put on its best fur and of course grow in size and maybe get the better quality nutria, so we can put it on the market, sometime around January.

We have two other big dealers here. I think that Mr. Steinberg is here and Mr. Mirandona is here and myself. I think we are about the three largest dealers in the state of Louisiana, probably the three largest dealers in the South.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Marler, you mentioned two other gentlemen. What percentage of the nutria crop in the state of Louisiana would you say you gentlemen purchase?



MR. MARLER: I would say we purchase 60 to 75 percent of the nutria that is caught in this state.

MR. WINFREE: The three of you together?

MR. MARLER: That's right. Gentlemen, as far as I am concerned, I think it would be a good move for the state to postpone the opening of the nutria season until the 15th. Of course, I would be tickled to death to see everything closed until the 15th, but I think it would be causing a hardship on some trappers who may want to trap rats. Now you are going to have a shortage of muskrat, too, in the state of Louisiana. There is no doubt about it.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Marler, let me ask you another question. Do you have any nutria skins held over from last year?

MR. MARLER: Yes, sir, I have some.

MR. WINFREE: How many do you have?

MR. MARLER: Well, that's a trade secret Mr. Winfree. I have two of my competitors here. I don't want them to find how many nutria I have on hand.



(Laughter)

MR. WINFREE: You have nutria for sale then, I take it.

MR. MARLER: Yes, sir. Gentlemen, I will appreciate postponement of the season until the 15th.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anybody else in the audience who would like to speak?

MR. ALBERT MIRANDONA: My name is Albert Mirandona, Mirandona Brothers. Well, I don't know; Butler said there were three of us who handle 60 to 70 percent. I would say I know we handle between the three of us better than 60 percent, or I think so, anyway, but at the present time we are carrying nutria, just as he is, Mr. Butler Marler, and at this time you can't sell a nutria. Oh, I guess you could sell them for 25 percent off, 30 percent off. You may even sell a few bales at regular price, but if you tried to force the issue and sell nutria at this time, it is impossible. There was a shortage last year of about 374,000 nutria, and there was a shortage of rats last year, and there is going to be a shortage of nutria again this year.



and the same with the muskrats.

Now you have had a shortage of nutria for two years in a row and you are faced with a shortage again this year. I can't see the sense of having a 90-day season, in view of the fact that the market is bad right now, and we haven't had good weather to prime up these skins. They will have more No. 2's, and it seems like they mostly want the 1's, the larger skins. The smaller skins haven't been doing too well. I think if you set this thing back 15 days, you would be helping the trade and the trapper, because if you don't, you probably are going to have lower prices, and that is going to hurt him and it is going to hurt us, too, but we will buy accordingly and we will buy for less, but the trapper will get less.

MR. WINFREE: I hope this is not a trade secret and perhaps you could answer it. What is the major market? Is it foreign or is it domestic?

MR. MIRANDONA: It's foreign. It's in Germany. The fact the dollar has dropped and everything and it still hasn't helped the nutria. The prices, the dollar has dropped in Europe and



there should have been a surge to buy nutria, but there hasn't been. The nutria market is bad over there right now. They are all carrying some and you try and bring a new season and force some goods on them and they are not going to buy. They are going to wait. They're not foolish.

Then they have this man, this fur broker in New York there. He is recognized all over the world. He gets out a weekly letter and he sends out a letter saying that the catch is going to be 25 percent cheaper for nutria this year. Muskrats will be about the same and the minks and so on will be about the same, but nutria definitely will be 25 percent cheaper. Well, I know a man had 6,000 nutria sold here about two weeks ago. Well, when this letter got out, the broker who had bought these skins in New York for Germany, he said, "Well, we'd better wait and see what the reaction to this letter is going to be." What the reaction is going to be, they are going to wait. They are going to wait and see how cheap they are going to be. Now if you set the season back and give as your reasons, which are the proper reasons, that the catch is



short and they want to improve the quality of the skins, it may change it a little. That fellow has done a lot of harm with that letter. If you were buying nutria in Europe, you wouldn't be in a hurry to buy, either, because they don't need them for immediate use. What they are buying now are to be put to work during the spring and summer. They can wait. That's about it. Are there any other questions?

THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else want to speak? All right. Would you state your name, please, in the microphone, so everybody will know.

MR. EDGAR MONNIN: My name is Edgar Monnin, M-o-n-n-i-n, and I have been in the fur business since 1917. There aren't many around living in the fur business today, and I go along with Mr. Mirandona and Mr. Marler on setting the season, but I do want to know one thing. Does that pertain to every parish in the state of Louisiana?

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Monnin, I don't think that has been discussed before this Commission by our biologists yet. I guess that would be answered



at a later time, at this meeting, however, but I don't think we could give you that answer right this minute. Certainly I don't have it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we were setting it for the state.

MR. MONNIN: Well, I want to know, gentlemen. I want to know. I am from Plaquemines Parish and I have nutria in my parish and if the people in West Louisiana are going to be able to operate nutria, I want to be able to operate them, too.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is statewide; there are no exceptions.

MR. MONNIN: Then I will go along with you all, gentlemen.

MR. THOMPSON: I would vote against giving one part of the state a head start on the other part, in line with what you are speaking of.

MR. MONNIN: Thank you all, gentlemen.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, you might explain that the nutria season, as I appreciate it, was set some 60 or 90 days ago for December 1, and that was statewide. What we are discussing at this particular moment is the possibility of extending



or rescinding the action of our previous board meeting 90 days ago and resetting the season at a new date.

THE CHAIRMAN: On nutria. Since you have already explained it, Jim, I don't really need to talk. Is there anybody else who wants to express his opinion?

MR. JULIAN STEINBERG: My name is Julian Steinberg, Steinberg & Company. I just might add a few things to what the other people said. I agree with everything that they said. There are large quantities of nutria that are being carried. I happen to be one that doesn't carry them, but I still know that it is for the good of the state to wait a couple of weeks to start because the price does have a much better chance of being better by not putting poorer skins on the market by trapping now and also by adding them to those that are being carried.

I might also add that in the western part of the state during the past few years, the first skins, the early skins that were produced too early, have caused trouble in the market. There has been



a pattern of complaints and claims, which is not good for the article, not good for the state and not good for the price to the people that handle it, and I agree with Mr. Marler. I think I know what he refers to. There are certain people out west that talk of hunting early, and in order to get guides, they have to have trappers out there, trapping nutria, in order to get the guides for the hunting, according to these stories. I know that's not right. The season should start the same for everybody in the whole state, not one parish one way and one another, but this delay is not really a delay because you can see from the report that there are less skins produced each year, and you have plenty of time, starting on the 15th, to get all of the skins that you need and you will get better skins.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anybody else in the audience would like to speak?

MR. THOMPSON: Could I ask a question first? There was some discussion. I would just to make some comments. I am going to probably be in favor of opening the season on the 15th. In



fact, I am almost positive I am, but I would like to make some comments, and if I am incorrect, I would appreciate if any of you four gentlemen yourselves and Ted would correct me.

As I understand it, if we set the season back to the 15th, there will be a benefit to all parties concerned. The trapper in all probability will get more money for his hides because of the market. The buyer will get more money because of the market. There is a shortage in Europe which, when these people in Europe -- and this I would like to bear down on -- when they realize that there is a shortage of nutria, and I think we are the predominant nutria-producing state -- as I correct there?

MR. O'NEIL: That's right.

MR. THOMPSON: When they realize that there is a shortage, you can certainly see what will happen to the nutria market. It is bound to go up, meaning that everyone concerned will get more money. The shortage, I was told before the meeting, if I am correct, was caused by, among other things, the hurricane that came in with 11,



12-foot tides that had a counter-clockwise motion on the western half of the state. Am I correct there? Also, I am told that this government contract that will be let for a meat purchase on the 13th day of the month, which couldn't possibly be back into the successful bidders hands until, say, the 15th, would insure a minimum of four cents per pound for the meet. Am I correct?

MR. O'NEIL: The price of meat will not be changed at all.

MR. THOMPSON: In other words, they will still get a high price for their meat, and there is no way -- in other words, what I am saying is or what I am trying to get in my mind, I think, is that the trapper as well as the fur buyer and the producer, the meat people and everyone, will be on a better keel if we hold this thing off until the 15th. Is that correct?

MR. O'NEIL: Yes.

MR. WINFREE: I think the motion is going to have to be to rescind the action of the board where we set the season on December 1, and then make a new motion.



THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a motion? Are you making a motion to rescind the action?

MR. WINFREE: I move --

MR. HOFFPAUER: Mr. Chairman, let me say this. Now the total trapping season was on December 1, but this can be an amendment to that, setting the nutria season specifically.

MR. WINFREE: Well, I think the nutria season was already set.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Well, you would have to rescind that part of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: You work out the mechanics, Mr. Director.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I move that the action of the board whereby the nutria season was set in the overall trapping picture as December 1 be rescinded at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a second to that motion?

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Winfree, seconded by Mr. Autin, that the season set for nutria as of December 1, 1971, be rescinded.



All in favor, say "aye."

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed, the same sign.

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Carried. Now do I hear a motion --

MR. AUTIN: I move that we open the season on the 15th.

MR. THOMPSON: And closing when?

THE CHAIRMAN: At the regular time that the fur season closes, which is February 29 this year?

MR. AUTIN: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do hear a second to Mr. Autin's motion?

MR. KYLE: I second Mr. Autin's motion, and that is statewide.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, all these are statewide. I think unless specified all our action is statewide.

MR. WINFREE: This gentlemen from Plaquemines Parish wanted some assurance.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, you can put it in



there, but I think the action of this Commission is statewide unless so stated. Is that not right?

MR. HOFFPAUER: Right. We are going to have a lot of criticism in the field, from the trappers in the field, about shortening their season, so to say, 15 days.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Autin, seconded by Mr. Kyle, that we open the nutria season on December 15, 1971, and extend it to the end of the trapping season, which is February 29, 1972. All in favor, say "aye."

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed, the same sign.

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: There being none, so ordered.

MR. WINFREE: I saw a look of consternation on Mr. O'Neil's face. What were you thinking out there?

MR. O'NEIL: Well, I was thinking that you all have done the right thing.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Joe Herring.



MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first item that we have on the agenda is a request from Continental Oil Company for a seismic permit to cross a portion of our Saline Wildlife Management Area. I talked with the people on these items this morning with Continental Oil Company and they are in agreement also.

No. 1 would be that Continental Oil Company will pay to Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission \$400.00 per linear mile for seismic operations, and the seismic operations will not be conducted during the hunting season unless approved by the Saline Wildlife Management Area supervisor.

Guns will not be permitted on the area at any time by Continental Oil Company employees, their crews or other designated crews. This permit will be null and void if employees or designated employees are charged with gun violations. The Continental Oil Company will pay full costs of the operation. Continental Oil Company will pay for all timber or surface damages caused by operation of their crews or other designated crews.

All road damages will be repaired immediately by Continental Oil Company. No seismic



operations will be conducted within one-half mile of existing water wells on the area or retention levees without approval of the Saline Wildlife Management Area supervisor. The seismic crews will notify the Saline Wildlife Management Area supervisor two days prior to any seismic operation.

You have heard the recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. KYLE: I so move.

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Kyle, seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any discussion? Any opposition?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: There being none, so ordered.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. V. O. Briscoe,
Division Permitman, Continental Oil
Company, P. O. Box 51266, Oil Center



Station, Lafayette, Louisiana 70501, has requested a seismic permit to cross a portion of the Commission's Saline Wildlife Management Area, and

WHEREAS, the request is to cross Commission property located in Sections 14, 15, 24 and 25, Township 5 North, Range 3 East and also in Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22, Township 5 North, Range 4 East, LaSalle Parish, Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, Continental Oil Company wishes to use the vibroseis method for seismic purposes, and

WHEREAS, Continental Oil Company will pay to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission \$400.00 per linear mile for seismic operations, and

WHEREAS, permission for seismic operations is granted insofar as the rights of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is concerned, and



WHEREAS, Continental Oil Company will assume the full responsibility of obtaining any other permission necessary for conducting the survey on said lands and agree to indemnify and to hold harmless of any liability or loss whatsoever as a result of Continental Oil Company operations under this permit, and

WHEREAS, seismic operations will not be conducted during the hunting season unless approved by the Saline Wildlife Management Area supervisor, and

WHEREAS, guns will not be permitted on the area at any time by Continental Oil Company employees, their crews, or other designated crews. This permit is null and void if employees or designated employee is charged with gun violation and Continental Oil Company will pay full cost of operation, and

WHEREAS, Continental Oil Company will pay for all timber or surface



damages caused by operations of their crews or other designated crews, and

WHEREAS, all road damages will be repaired immediately by Continental Oil Company, and

WHEREAS, no seismic operation will be conducted within one-half mile of existing water wells or retention levees without further discussion and approval of Saline Wildlife Management Area supervisor, and

WHEREAS, seismic crews will notify the Saline Wildlife Management Area supervisor two days prior to any seismic operations. Should information be needed pertaining to this matter, Continental Oil Company personnel should contact Mr. Dan Dennett, Supervisor, District IV, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, P. O. Box 426, Ferriday, Louisiana 71334, Phone 318-757-4571,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,



that this permit be issued to Continental Oil Company with the above stipulations.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, the next item we have on the agenda pertains to Tensas Parish deer season. Due to some parish ward boundary changes that we have had in that parish, we are also coming up with a recommended change for the season here, and it will follow the ward boundaries as were in effect as of July of 1971. This has been discussed with the police jury in that parish along with our Commission personnel, and the recommendations we have here are satisfactory thus far to both parties.

Ward 1 will be either sex, December 15 to 19, and December 27 to January 5, 1972. Wards 2 and 5 will be either sex, December 27-31, 1971. Wards 4 and 7 will be bucks only. Wards 3 and 6 will be either sex, December 27-31 only on Fisher Lumber Company lands and lands east of the main channel of the Mississippi River. The buck season will remain as November 20-December 19 and December 27-January 9, 1972. As stated, these recommendations are in line with the ward lines as were in



effect July, 1971.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. WINFREE: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

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

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: There being none, so ordered.

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

WHEREAS, the Tensas Parish Police Jury recommends a deer season similar to the 1970-71 season, and

WHEREAS, our field personnel have checked these areas and so recommend, and

WHEREAS, the deer season is recommended as:

Ward 1 - Either sex December 15-19

and December 27-January 5, 1971;



Wards 2 and 5 - Either sex,

December 27-31, 1971;

Wards 4 and 7 - Bucks only;

Wards 3 and 6 - Either sex,

December 27-31, 1971 only

on Fisher Lumber Company lands

and lands east of the main

channel of the Mississippi

River, and

WHEREAS, buck season is November 20-
December 19, 1971 and December 27-January 9,
1972,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
the above seasons be adopted as Parish
Ward lines existing in July, 1971.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, Representa-
tive Claude Leach of Leesville and Senator Bryan
Poston, along with others from that area, have
requested that Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission operated Peason Ridge Wildlife Manage-
ment Area be open to dog hunting for fox after the
regular deer season. It has been recommended that
the Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area be opened



on an experimental basis for 60 days and these dates are January 3, 1972 through March 2, 1972.

Gentlemen, you have heard their recommendation.

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. WINFREE: Second.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Do you have no guns in there?

MR. HERRING: Yes, no guns will be permitted during that time, too.

MR. THOMPSON: It is experimental only, as I understand you, to see what the effects will be on the deer herd, et cetera.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right.

MR. HERRING: Right. There will be no guns during that period.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Chairman, I wish that you would ask Mr. Yancey to transmit this information today to the interested parties in Vernon Parish, about the action of this Commission. I would also suggest that Mr. Duffy get a press release out on this for that western area, because this affects all the fox hunters in the eastern



part of the state likewise. They will have an opportunity to go to Vernon Parish and run their fox dogs.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and there was a second to it. Is there any other discussion? Is there any opposition?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: There being none, so ordered.

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

WHEREAS, State Representative Claude Leach, Leesville, Louisiana, and Senator Bryan Poston, along with fox hunters, have requested that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission operated Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area be open to dog hunting for fox after the deer season, and

WHEREAS, this group has met with the Commission on other such occasions pertaining to this matter,



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
that the Peason Ridge Wildlife Management Area be open on an experimental basis for sixty days. These dates are January 3, 1972 through March 2, 1972, and guns are not permitted on the area during this period.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herring, while you are up there, I would like to ask you. You know, several months ago, in fact after we set the deer seasons, we have a pretty good congregation that came down from Evangeline Parish, and we told those people at that time that we would not change anything until after the biologists had gone up there and made their study and report back to us in December; that we would have a chance at our December meeting to add a few days on it, if we could. If we could not, they would so understand. Have you done anything in this?

MR. HERRING: Yes, sir, we have. We have had one report on the first part of the season up there and we are waiting for completion now. The fellows are working on that and we did have a



written report from them on the first part of it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Herring.

Mr. Hoffpauer, do you have something you want to bring up?

MR. HOFFPAUER: Yes, sir. Gentlemen, at the last meeting we overlooked ratification of a policy on retirement. Approximately two years ago we had a mandate or an order from the Division of Administration to retire all personnel upon reaching their 65th birthday. Since then that has been rescinded and I would like ratification of the following resolution, that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby establish the policy for all personnel employed within the Commission to retire on December 31 of the year in which they reach their 65th birthday. This gives the people who retire at the age of 65, according to the new regulations or the existing regulations, it says the last three years, the highest last three years of employment, and this is averaged out. I understand that they intend to change it to the last 36 months, but until they do, I think we should in all fairness to the people extend it



to December 31st or at least the end of the calendar year in which they reach 65.

MR. THOMPSON: I want a clarification of this. Did I not hear or read or something that that was after the first six months of the year, or is that for the whole year? If they work one day --

MR. HOFFPAUER: Let's say if you reach, say 1971, January 2 you reach 65, you would be able to go until December 31 of that year. That gives you, the way the law reads now, the highest three years --

THE CHAIRMAN: My understanding of it is that the last three years, even though your birthday comes the first of December, they do not count that last year, and it does make a difference of as much as \$20.00 and \$25.00 a month in some of these employees' retirement, and I really believe that we ought to give them a chance to at least get that much because they are going to get it for the rest of their life.

MR. THOMPSON: I have no objection. I just wanted clarification.

MR. WINFREE: Mr. Hoffpauer, certainly I



feel sure that you have gone through the actuaries on this thing, on this retirement system, that it is sound.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Yes, it is sound.

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

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear a second to it?

MR. KYLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Winfree, seconded by Mr. Kyle, that employees will retire the 31st of December of the year that they reach 65. Is there any opposition to it?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: There being none, so ordered.

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission does hereby
establish the policy for all
personnel employed within the Commission



to retire on December 31 of the year in which they attain the age of sixty-five (65).

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business to come before the Commission?

MR. THOMPSON: I would like to ask a few questions and maybe make a statement. It will be particularly directed to Dick Yancey.

In Rapides Parish, the parish from which I come, there is a federal goose reserve on which there has been no activity of any meaning for quite some time. The reports that I get, first, second and third-hand, are the lack of money, et cetera. I would like to know, Dick, if you have been or if you are going to check on the geese that have been shortstopped in the northern countries, the three that I believe they have been shortstopping, under federal programs that have been shortstopping them, and if your findings are or will be, or whatever they are, that they are shortstopping them, why we can't put some pressure by virtue of the fact that they are using the money up there to stop the geese, why can't they develop the goose preserve on



Catahoula Lake. I would like to have some information to substantiate a strong battle to see that the federal government starts immediately to develop that portion of the lake.

MR. YANCEY: You are referring to the Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge over there in LaSalle Parish.

MR. THOMPSON: Right.

MR. YANCEY: Insofar as this shortstopping activity is concerned, Louisiana traditionally has wintered about 500,000 blue and snow geese, and these birds have traditionally migrated into Louisiana the last 15 days of October. About 90 percent of them come in during that 15-day period. A few come in before the 15th of October and another four or five percent come in the first week of November, but in the last two or three years, as a result of developments on federal refuges and state and private refuges up in the Midwest, these geese have been delayed in their migration into Louisiana, arriving in here well on up into December.

We saw the same thing happen when the shortstopping of Canada geese took place back in



the Forties and the Fifties, and now we no longer winter any migrating flocks of Canada geese in Louisiana. They all winter in Illinois and Wisconsin and other states in the Midwest, and the same pattern is now being followed in connection with the blue and snow geese.

Last winter we made a trip, an aerial inspection of these federal refuges up in the Midwest, and we found a large percentage of the blue and snow goose population still on those refuges on December 1 of last winter. About half the population was still up there. We have been checking into this in the last few days and this morning we got a report there are about 200,000 blues and snows still in southwestern Iowa. About sixty percent of them are snows and forty percent are blues.

It looks like this trend is continuing and if it does continue, as we brought out last winter, then Louisiana is going ultimately to be without a wintering population of blue and snow geese. Many of these refuges in Louisiana were purchased and developments planned to take care of these geese, just as the refuge that you are speaking



of. Refuges in Cameron Parish were originally acquired and developed for the purposes of accommodating these wintering flocks of blue and snow geese, but it looks like now that, with this shortstopping activity that is going on up there in the Midwest, that we are going to be without blue and snow geese here in Louisiana within just a very few short years.

Now the hunters down here normally take 80 to 90,000 of these birds, and of course these birds add a lot to the scenic values here in the coastal marshes of Louisiana. It is really going to be a crime for us to lose these wintering flocks of birds, particularly when you consider the fact that they traditionally wintered here in this state.

We have been trying to get information on the numbers of birds that are up there now, and it is fragmentary.

MR. THOMPSON: You haven't made a flight up there?

MR. YANCEY: We haven't been up there yet. We are talking about going.

MR. THOMPSON: Shouldn't you be there now?



MR. YANCEY: Last year we went on the first of December, and this is the time to go. Of course, this is day after tomorrow.

MR. THOMPSON: I would like for you to go, you and Clark or whoever goes. I don't know who, but I would like for us to start compiling the information so that we can have a good front when we go to fight that battle. I can see the battle developing now, as I think all of us can, that they are going to shortstop our geese, and I personally resent the federal government spending my money to shortstop everybody's geese in the north and buy land here under the pretense of having a game reserve for the geese here and not developing it because of the shortage of money, but yet spending it all in the north. I resent it tremendously, and I would like to have the battle guns fired.

MR. YANCEY: Last year this trip up there generated a tremendous amount of national publicity and it resulted in some protests being registered with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife by members of our Congressional delegation, and then they in turn received what they felt I believe were



commitments from the Bureau people that several steps would be taken to reduce this activity this winter.

MR. THOMPSON: Have they been taken?

MR. YANCEY: We don't know. We would have to go see.

THE CHAIRMAN: We are going to find out when they go up there.

MR. HOFFPAUER: I was up there a couple of weeks ago and you do have geese. I was in Missouri and Iowa both and the problem that we are overlooking is that I think the feds probably will comply with having their geese moved out by, say, the first of December, but you have a lot of state lands and state refuges up there that nobody has any jurisdiction over whatsoever except the states.

Now I will tell you about Iowa. Well, I won't say what Iowa said, but they said they were to hold these geese and they were going to shoot them because it was a fine sporting opportunity. The only recourse to that is having the federal government close the seasons in those states, so they can't shoot the birds.



MR. THOMPSON: Let's push for that.

MR. HOFFPAUER: I think that's our only hope.

THE CHAIRMAN: Didn't they do that with the Canadian geese, as far as Louisiana was concerned?

MR. HOFFPAUER: Well, we closed our own season, really, trying to protect our birds. The feds didn't do it, but I think that is the only way we can accomplish it.

MR. YANCEY: Well, last winter when we flew over those refuges up there, we found about 85 percent of those birds that were being shortstopped were on federal refuges, and there was one small private refuge, and now this area is only 80 acres in size, had 40,000 geese on it. We don't think it is sound biologically to overconcentrate any form of wildlife. Now these birds traditionally disperse themselves over across a couple of million acres of marshland down here and another million, million and a half acres of rice field lands. Up there, when you overconcentrate two or three hundred thousand geese on only two or three thousand acres



in size -- and here is one only 70 or 80 acres in size -- you are opening the door to all sorts of complications from disease and parasites. They could get into a flock of birds like that and just decimate the entire flock in a very short period of time.

MR. THOMPSON: Have you made the federal government aware of this? Are they aware of this situation, and they are still not doing anything about it?

MR. YANCEY: Well, as Clark brought out there, these refuges also provide a lot of parameter hunting. They have developed a hunting clientele up there who, of course, is working in the other direction, trying to hold these birds up there for the benefit of their sportsmen. So, you have politics going both ways on this thing.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, let's get our politics going.

MR. YANCEY: We don't think, though, from the biology of the bird it is desirable to do what is being done. In fact, you are carrying a high risk. Those birds for thousands of years have



wintered here in Louisiana.

MR. WINFREE: I suggest we get the National Audubon Society on it.

MR. THOMPSON: I don't know that I want the Audubon Society on it, but --

MR. WINFREE: I do. He just got through saying it is not good to hold those kind of birds up there, so let's let the country recognize it.

MR. YANCEY: They have already actively registered objections to this, in their national magazine. They don't feel it is sound, either, and they have published some very critical articles about this activity.

MR. HOFFPAUER: What about Sport and Field, Outdoor Life?

MR. YANCEY: Some of your national magazines also have come out against this, but it is still apparently going on, but the scope of it this winter we do not actually know and won't know until we go and take a look at it.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, go get the information. Let's have it.

MR. YANCEY: We can go up, take a look,



and give you a report on it, in a few days.

MR. HOFFPAUER: What really scares you is like we have a very good friend up in Kansas who used to work with the Commission here and is a director up there, but Kansas has a tremendous waterfowl development program. You just wonder where it is going to stop. We are going to be on the short end of the stick in Louisiana in not too many years. We have the mallards already declining. We have the Canada goose, I would say, completely gone, for all practical purposes. Now it only the blue and snow and when the pintail and the gadwall and the widgeon is going to start, I don't know.

MR. YANCEY: Texas is also being adversely affected by this. This bunch of birds that are in southwestern Iowa now, about 60 percent snow geese, which indicates our flock that normally winters between Calcasieu and Sabine Lake in Cameron Parish is being affected, and also East Texas is being affected by these birds that are now being held in southwestern Iowa. That's the composition of the flock that you find in that region. When you get east of Calcasieu Lake about 95 percent of the birds



are blue geese.

THE CHAIRMAN: Why don't you all give us a report on this at our next meeting?

MR. THOMPSON: While you are there, Dick, I just want to kind of serve a little notice that as long as I serve on this Commission, for whatever time that may be, I am going to regenerate the little battle that we have had on the Saline Game Management Area whereby the federal government took under false pretenses a goodly number of acres of our land to make a ditch, which has proven to be valueless, of no value to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, and at that time in numerous publications, public meetings, et cetera, they agreed to buy, I think 11,000, approximately 11,000 acres of land to replace this land. I can't say the word I want to say, but they have reneged on buying us that 11,000 acres of land. I don't know what action we can take. I had some study in it while I was on the Commission before, but I would like to reactivate our Congressmen, our legislators, everyone concerned, to see that we get that 11,000 acres of land that we are entitled to and were promised and



that they reneged on giving us. Ed, you might do a little work with your Corps of Engineer boys to help us there.

I do intend to actively participate in a program of such and I would appreciate if you would get the information together, Clark, or whoever has it, and let's get a program started on getting that 11,000 acres of land.

MR. HOFFPAUER: Fine.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business to come before the meeting?

MR. KYLE: Mr. Chairman, one thing more. I see Mr. San Miguel there, and he has done a lot on this nutria business. In fact, I think he with Ted spearheaded the thing that got the nutria contract going back, and he may want to say something. Jimmy.

MR. SAN MIGUEL: I certainly would like to thank you for the cooperation of the Commission, Mr. Hoffpauer, in Washington, and we had an awful lot of help from Senator Ellender's office, and through them we were able to get this contract. Thank you very much.



MR. WINFREE: Mr. Kyle, if you had been here yesterday, you would have heard all those nice things this young man had done.

MR. KYLE: I am sorry, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other business to come before the Commission?

(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: There being none, do I hear a motion that we adjourn?

MR. KYLE: I so move.

MR. AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Kyle, seconded by Mr. Autin, that we adjourn. The meeting is adjourned.

. . . Thereupon, at 10:55 o'clock a.m., Tuesday, November 30, 1971, the meeting was adjourned. . . .

