

PUBLIC HEARING

Colonial Beach, Va.

April 22, 1963

27 Present - All members present, plus K. Thomas Everngam, Chief Inspector Rafter, Supervising Inspector Paul Wenzel and Chief Law Enforcement Ryland. Press - Mrs. Cooke and J. Frye

Meeting opened. Invocation by Mr. Ball. Chairman opening statement, Compact, etc. Read Regulations word for word, Section and Sub-Section in sequence.

Regulation I.

Section 1. OK

Section 2. CRABS

(a) Robert Trader: Q. Crabbing by wading - dip net?
Answer: Is not covered in Regulations.

(b) OK

(c) OK

(d) OK

(e) George Boyce: Q. In what depths of water can crab pots be set?

Answer: No depth spelled out in Regulations.

OYSTERS

(f) Fred Wilkerson, Walter Parkinson favor proposed season.
Reason - first two weeks oysters bring \$2.00 (or so) less per bushel. Oysters are often poor.

Comment: Mr. Baylor, from Lancaster, approves - oysters poor. In hot weather in early fall, oysters get stale.
Patent Tonging - many oysters in deep water dying of old age - can't catch tonging. Recommends patent tonging.

(g) OK

FISH

(h) Leroy Balderson, Jr.: Q. Why necessary to raise fee to \$7.00 on pound nets?

Answer: Chairman Valliant said money goes back to river for improvement.

Comment: Mr. Balderson thinks fees should be on contingent basis. Let them catch seafood and then pay.

Chairman answered that this did not work in Maryland - was repealed. Other licenses are paid in advance; such as auto license.

(i) Fred Wilkerson commented he thinks fee for stake gill net set too high - over \$16.70 per 1000 ft. Should be \$15.00 per 1000 ft. and \$4.00 or \$5.00 for each additional 1000 feet.

Comment: Mr. Parkinson thinks license fee high also.

(j) Harry Bullis commented that license out of line for length. Ok for 2400 feet but too much for 1800 feet. Wants increased to 2400 feet limit.

Leroy Balderson agrees.

Mr. Baylor says 1000 fathom - 6000 feet.

(k) OK

(l) OK

(m) OK

(n) Fred Wilkerson: Q. Before June or after June?

Chairman: Answer - First come, first served basis. Applicant may wait if he wishes to apply. (Applications that come in will be acknowledged until license system is set up - then applicant will be notified.)

(o) Mr. Baylor asked the question about gaps between nets.

Answer: 200 feet between ends of nets and 1200 feet between rows.

George Boyce: Q. Does this apply to drift net, which is under water?

Answer: We will exempt float or drift gill net.

(p) Leroy Balderson, Jr.: Does not think that hook and line fishermen should be exempted from purchasing license.

Comment: Leroy Balderson, Sr. - he has had his nets cut by sports fishermen's hooks hanging in pounds and hedging, because they troll boats too close to nets.

Section 3: . OK

Section 4. OK

Section 5. Leroy Balderson, Jr. thinks that non-commercial fishermen, crabbers, and/or oystermen should be regulated or prevented from depressing prices by flooding market with their free catch, by distributing to friends.

Section 6. OK - no comment

Section 7. OK - no comment

Section 8. OK - no comment

Chairman Valliant: Any further questions?

Mr. Parkinson: Some gill netters license up to 25,000 feet. He thinks that the license fee is exorbitant.

Mr. Chairman asked if open season on gilling would be practical?

Mr. Wilkerson: It would not help down here (below Mathias Point), in his experience.

George Hundley: Thinks haul seine should be 800 yards.

Robert Trader: Suggests that license for tonging be limited to number of tongs in boat - not include culler. That is, license the tongs and not the man.

Harry Bullis: Haul Seine - no season spelled out in Regulations.

Mr. Rafter says under Maryland law - can set a haul seine or pound net any time during the year.

Mr. Wilkerson: Stake gill net license should be revised - too high.

Answer: Will take all recommendations under consideration.

Dr. Weems: Asked what recommendation we would consider on new type eel pot that was discussed at the Maryland hearing.

Answer: Some comments made, but no action taken.

Chairman Valliant: Regarding peeler traps - do watermen want a licensing system and regulations on same?

Harry Bullis and Robert Trader said they would like to have peeler traps licensed.

Sam Phillips would like to see peeler traps licensed also.

It was suggested by ? that the Commission have Article 66-C, of the Maryland laws relating to Tidewater Fisheries, printed to give each licensee.

Meeting Adjourned.