

The meeting was called to order at 10:23 A. M. (EDT) by Chairman Jeremiah Valliant, in the Commission Offices, Colonial Beach, Virginia. Commissioners Hickman, Byrd, Jones, Weems, Ball, and Legal Officer K. Thomas Everngam were present. Guests of the Commission were Mr. James B. Engle, Director, Biological Laboratory, U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Oxford, Maryland; Dr. L. Eugene Cronin, Director, and Mr. G. Francis Beavan, of the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Solomons, Maryland; Dr. William J. Hargis, Director, and Dr. J. D. Andrews, of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Virginia. Present were Supervising Inspector Paul C. Wentzell, Inspectors Ralph Dameron, Charles Allen and W. H. Webb. From the Press were Mr. John Frye and Mr. Dallas Long. Mr. and Mrs. John DosPassos were spectators.

Motion offered by Commissioner Byrd, seconded and carried that the reading of the Minutes of meeting of June 10, 1963, which previously had been circulated to Commissioners by mimeographed copies, be dispensed with.

Plan of the meeting was outlined by the Chairman, concurred in by the Commission that discussion be confined to formulating a "Proper Plan of Action for Expeditious Repletion of Oyster Resources of the Potomac River", and that approximately forty minutes be allowed for discussion. Mr. Engle, Dr. Hargis and Dr. Cronin were each recognized. Chairman Valliant suggested using the services of Mr. Fred Sieling, of Maryland Tidewater Fisheries, and Mr. Charles Bagnell, of the Virginia Commission of Fisheries, to work out an inventory of oysters and oyster bottoms, as a base for comparison in future years of increase or decrease in inventory. The question was asked, and answered, "that this discussion be restricted to oysters". The biologists retired to confer. The resultant report formulated by Mr. Engle, Dr. Cronin and Dr. Hargis is attached to these Minutes. A motion by Dr. Weems, seconded and carried unanimously, authorized the acceptance of the report with thanks and that it be incorporated in Minutes, and that a copy be sent to each Commissioner.

Executive Secretary reported that shell-planting of approximately 200,000 bushels of shells, authorized at previous meeting, has been completed. Approximately 100,000 bushels planted on the Virginia shore in the vicinity of Hog Island, between the Yeocomico and Coan Rivers. Approximately 50,000 bushels on Cobb Island Bar, in Charles County. Also that Chesapeake Biological Laboratory is sampling weekly these areas for spatfall. Inspectors Wentzell and Dameron reported that these areas were selected upon advice of local people and personnel of the Fisheries Commissions of each State as likely areas where shell cultch would possibly be effective.

Chairman Valliant reported that engineers have agreed to reference locations and place temporary markers on jurisdictional lines between Potomac River and tributaries, from Point Lookout to the Dahlgren Bridge, and that work will proceed as soon as the necessary charts and specifications are available from engineering departments of the Tidewater Fisheries Commissions.

It was moved by Mr. Hickman, seconded by Dr. Weems, and carried unanimously that the report of the three biologists, in Paragraph #3 above, be made available as soon as possible, along with factual report of program they recommend and what they and their departments can do for this Commission and the estimated annual cost of the recommendations therein.

Mr. Hickman offered motion, which was seconded and carried that the same group submit to us the names of four or five persons who would be qualified to act as "Management Biologists" and amount of salary that would be recommended for such a position.

Dr. Byrd asked Inspectors Wentzell and Dameron how much additional, if any, police force will be needed. Mr. Wentzell said that answer depends on what this Commission wishes the Law Enforcement to do: law enforcement and in addition oyster tax collection?


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Dr. Byrd suggested that Law Enforcement Chiefs should make a recommendation and report at next meeting. Chairman Valliant requested that the Chiefs re-evaluate and state needs of law enforcement.

Commissioner Hickman reported that Commission of Fisheries of Virginia is requesting Legislature for funds for additional boats and men on the Potomac River. Several Commissioners commented that this Commission should have a separate law enforcement group under our jurisdiction.

The date of the next meeting to be Tuesday, July 30, 1963 at 6:00 P. M. and carry over to Wednesday, July 31, 1963.

Meeting adjourned.


CHAIRMAN


SECRETARY