

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION
Colonial Beach, Virginia
March 9, 1965

Vice-Chairman Milton T. Hickman called the meeting to order at 3:35 P. M. in absence of Chairman H. C. Byrd.

Present: Commissioners Neville G. Ball, Milton T. Hickman, Jeremiah Valliant, George J. Weems, Lewis Jones, Jr.

Also present: K. Thomas Everngam, Legal Officer; Robert M. Norris, Jr., Executive Secretary; Paul C. Wentzell, Supervising Inspector.

Members of the Press: Miss Isabelle Gough, Messrs. James Moser and John Frye.

Visitors: Messrs. Harry T. Stine, Sheldon G. Russell, Harry Crowder, Franklin Lumpkins, David Sayre, C. B. Dickinson, R. H. Woodward, Elmore Ballard and Elgin Dunnington, Acting Head, Invertebrate Section, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.

Motion offered by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Valliant, that Minutes of meeting of January 22, 1965 as circulated, be approved. Motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. David Sayre, Chairman of St. Mary's County Waterman's Association, requested that the Commission allow stake gill net licensees to set nets with the tide - that is, parallel to shoreline rather than requiring them to set nets across tide or perpendicular to shoreline.

Mr. Harry T. Stine, Chairman of Charles County Waterman's Association, on behalf of the watermen in his county, requested that the Commission license anchored gill nets, not to exceed 600 feet in length, with floats and flags marking each end of net; and between successive nets in same row there shall be at least 200 feet of interval or open space.

Commissioner Hickman reported for committee that C. J. Langenfelder & Son, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, have advised Commissioner Byrd that they will: (a) supply and plant one million (1,000,000) bushels of shells in the Potomac River, at a cost of 13.50 cents per Maryland bushel; to be completed between May 1st and July 15th, or (b) they will supply 500,000 bushels of shells on the same basis. Commissioner Hickman further reported that Radcliffe Materials, Inc., Norfolk, Virginia, will furnish one million (1,000,000) bushels of shells at 14.89 cents per Virginia bushel, which is equivalent to 13.90 cents per Maryland bushel. Commissioner Valliant offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones, that committee be authorized to execute a contract with the lowest bidder. Commissioner Jones asked that we get satisfactory assurance from supplier that they will perform and deliver according to terms of the contract. Mr. Dunnington advised Commission that July 15th is too late for planting; that we will miss early spatfall, and recommended a date no later than July 1st for completion of job. Commissioners Valliant and Jones granted consent that above motion be withdrawn, and Commissioner Valliant then offered motion we accept C. J. Langenfelder's offer of 13.50 cents per bushel, provided that all shells can be spread on bottoms of our choice by June 15, 1965. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jones. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner Jones offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Valliant, that it be the policy of the Commission that any person, firm, partnership or corporation be allowed to license one or more clam dredging rigs in the Potomac River. Motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Dunnington presented a report on survey of the section of the Potomac River along St. Mary's County shore between the mouth of Wicomico River and Posey's Bluff, examined on March 2, 1965 for the purpose of delineating oyster and clamming bottoms. His recommendations are as follows:

1. Clam dredgers should operate in accordance with the existing laws of Maryland waters and remain the specified distance from the charted oyster bars.
2. The area between Blakiston Island and the entrance to St. Catherine Sound contains many small, scattered, uncharted bars of oysters, which are locally known and harvested. The bottom type throughout this region is extremely hard, making dredging for clams economically marginal and would therefore best be designated as an area for oyster harvesting only. This would facilitate law enforcement in this area also.

Commissioner Jones offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Valliant, that areas opposite Charles County, Maryland, to the Virginia low water mark be closed, in accordance with regulations effective Monday (A.M.) March 15, 1965. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Jones offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Valliant, that a committee consisting of R. M. Norris, Jr., Chairman, Elgin A. Dunnington, Supervising Inspector Paul C. Wentzell, Chief J. William Ryland and John C. Widener be appointed to report back to Chairman Byrd areas designated for the taking of soft shell clams, the manner and method of properly marking areas; and that their report be presented as soon as possible. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Jones offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Valliant, that it be the policy of the Commission that any and all confiscated property be disposed of only by public auction. Motion approved unanimously.

Question arose regarding right to operate a deceased licensee's fishing device. Acting Chairman Hickman requested this matter be included in the agenda for the next meeting, and requested Legal Officer Everngam present suggested wording at the next meeting for a policy that "Executors or administrators of an estate be allowed to operate under said licenses, and that when an estate is settled, heirs may have the first option to the locations of the fixed fishing devices".

Items on agenda; namely, (a) printing of Compact and current Regulations in loose-leaf pamphlet form; (b) consideration of itemized list of disbursements from January 1, 1965 through February 28, 1965, were tabled until next meeting.

Commissioner Jones offered motion, seconded by Commissioner Weems, that Minutes of the meeting of October 22, 1964 and the Minutes of meeting of December 10, 1964, be approved as circulated. Motion unanimously approved.

Legal Officer Everngam reported a request from Senator J. Frank Raley, Jr., of St. Mary's County, that the area in the Heron Island - Blakiston Island triangle, now under jurisdiction of this Commission, be conveyed to Maryland by straightening line from outer tip of Heron Island to tip of Blakiston Island. Acting Chairman Hickman suggested that Mr. Everngam write Senator Raley that it appears premature to attempt to revise the Compact piecemeal, and that in any event, this particular proposal cannot be accomplished merely by joint action of Maryland and Virginia Legislatures; it will require that a special commission from each State be appointed by Governors of the States to study and make recommendations. Poll of each Commissioner indicated unanimous approval of the above suggestion.

At 5:05 P.M. the Commission went into executive session.

There was discussion on Mr. David Sayre's request regarding direction in which nets must be set. Motion offered by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Valliant as follows: People whose nets are now set not as specified in licenses, but not otherwise in violation of Regulations, shall have forty-five (45) days from this date to comply with description in license. Motion approved.

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A report from Mr. John C. Widener, Chief Engineer of Maryland Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs, on jurisdictional line targets above Route #301 Bridge, was presented. Report indicated seven (7) targets and poles are missing and twelve (12) others are leaning, apparently pushed over by ice. Decision was to resurvey the locations of missing and leaning markers and where possible, relocate on dry land to prevent future ice damage, and that an estimate of cost be presented at next meeting.

Executive Secretary requested Commission's authorization to hire an extra clerk, making a total of four (4) office employees, in order to handle the increasing workload. In answer to question, Executive Secretary assured the Commission it was impossible to maintain the administrative work on current basis without additional help. The Commission authorized hiring of Mrs. Catherine M. Burrell, at a salary of \$180. per month.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 P. M.

ACTING CHAIRMAN


SECRETARY