

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION
COLONIAL BEACH, VIRGINIA
March 4, 1966

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Mr. Lewis Jones, Jr., Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A. M. Invocation was offered by Mr. Ball.

Members present: Commissioners Neville G. Ball, H. C. Byrd, Milton T. Hickman, Lewis Jones, Jr., Jeremiah Valliant, George J. Weems.

Officers present: K. Thomas Everngam, Legal Officer, and Robert M. Norris, Jr., Executive Secretary.

Visitors present: Mr. Elgin A. Dunnington, Jr., of Chesapeake Biological Laboratory; Cdr. Roy W. Rafter and Lt. Paul C. Wentzell, of Maryland Marine Police; Chief J. William Ryland and Inspector Ralph Dameron, of Commission of Fisheries of Virginia.

Members of the press: Miss Isabel Gough, Messrs. John Goolrick, Dallas Long and John Frye. Also present: Messrs. Jessie Dent, William A. Cumberland, Augustus C. Rollins, Charles Bourne, Allen Dent, Kenneth L. Cumberland, Harry Green, Sidney Dobson, Stanley Rollins, S. L. Elliott, W. L. Elliott, Bernard L. Elliott and Elgin Nininger, Jr.

Motion was made by Mr. Hickman, seconded by Dr. Weems, as follows:

"That Minutes of meeting of January 6, 1966, as previously circulated to each Commissioner, be approved". Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Valliant, seconded by Mr. Ball, as follows:

"That the Commission accept the report of Mr. Elgin A. Dunnington, Jr., dated January 24, 1966, regarding request from clambers for opening three (3) areas in question: (1) near Sheepshead Bar, (2) back of Heron Island, and (3) near Huggins Point, and that these areas remain closed to clamming". Motion carried unanimously.

There followed a general discussion on a seed and shell planting program for spring of 1966. The following motion was made by Dr. Byrd and seconded by Mr. Valliant:

"That Chairman and Executive Secretary be authorized to purchase approximately One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars worth of seed oysters; if price does not exceed approximately \$1.50 per bushel overboard, leaving about Sixty Thousand (\$60,000.00) Dollars for purchase and planting of shell for 1966 spring season; and that Chairman and Executive Secretary be hereby authorized to borrow money to pay for seed oysters; said loan to be repaid from funds now evidenced by Certificates of Deposit maturing in June and July 1966 and from Maryland and Virginia annual appropriations due July 1, 1966.

Motion was made by Dr. Byrd, seconded by Mr. Valliant as follows:

"That Chairman and Executive Secretary be authorized to investigate the possibilities of contracting for mining reef shells in the Potomac River for planting, and report back at the next meeting". Motion was approved.

Chairman Jones asked Mr. Dunnington to discuss in detail where he thinks seed should be planted. Mr. Dunnington elaborated on report dated February 9, 1966 addressed to the Commission, made by Dr. Andrews, Mr. Dunnington, Mr. Fred Seiling, Lt. Wentzell, Mr. Dameron and Executive Secretary. This report recommended

several areas as follows:

(1) Area between Huggins and Poseys Bluff, known locally as "Knott's Hollow", (2) King Copisco area, (3) Sheepshead Bar area, (4) Heron Island area, (5) Colonial Beach area, (6) Swan Point area, and (7) Bluff Point area.

Motion was made by Dr. Byrd, seconded by Mr. Valliant as follows:

"That the first bar (Knott's Hollow), which committee recommended as preferable, be as fully planted as practicable with 400 bushels per acre; with 20,000 bushels to be scattered on other suggested areas, as the Chairman and Executive Secretary deem desirable". Motion approved unanimously.

After further discussion on seed planting, the Commission decided that the area at Knott's Hollow be marked and closed to tonging.

A list of several suggested additions and modifications of present Regulations was offered to the Commission. After some discussion, Chairman requested that the Committee continue to work on the proposed Regulations to include all possible desirable additions and cover all needed changes, and report at next meeting.

Cdr. Rafter, of the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs, said he thought it expedient to have radio contact with the Potomac River Fisheries Commission office. Dr. Byrd suggested that the discussion on radio be postponed until next meeting; for Chairman and Executive Secretary to study and make a full report on the cost of such installation. Chairman Jones said that this would be done.

Chairman Jones stated that report of the committee appointed to study the feasibility of sub-office in Maryland would submit such report at next meeting.

The question of Potomac River Fisheries Commission having a separate Summons Book for use of Maryland and Virginia law enforcement officers, as recommended in recent report of law enforcement chiefs, was discussed. There being complete agreement between the Commissioners and law enforcement officers, based on recent recommendations of County Judges, Chairman ordered that Executive Secretary and Legal Officer work with Cdr. Rafter and Chief Ryland to formulate and have printed a Summons Book, under the name of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

Motion was made by Dr. Byrd, seconded by Mr. Valliant, as follows:

"That disbursements dated January 1 through January 31, 1966, totaling \$3,599.54 and disbursements for period of February 1 through February 28, 1966, totaling \$2,314.29 be approved". Motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Jones said that Mr. Dunnington and Executive Secretary recommend that individual records on individual oyster bars in the Potomac River would be very helpful. After discussion, Chairman ordered Executive Secretary to proceed to have necessary forms printed to maintain such records.

Law enforcement officers and Executive Secretary suggested to the Commission that personal identification of owner be included on all licenses, with reference to age, weight, height, color of eyes and race; that this is necessary for law enforcement officers to determine proper ownership of licenses. Thereupon, motion was made by Mr. Valliant and seconded by Mr. Hickman as follows:


"That identification of applicants as regards to date of birth, weight, height, color of eyes and race be required on all applications and be included in all licenses". Motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Jones recognized Mr. Allen Dent, President of Northern Virginia Watermen's Association, and others. Mr. Dent spoke on behalf of the upper river crabpotters; requesting that white perch be made legal for use as bait in crab pots. Chairman Jones told Mr. Dent that this would be considered in the study of regulations and would be on the agenda for the next meeting; and that matters regarding the size, possession and use for crab pot bait of the "Roccus Americanus", commonly known as the white perch, would be discussed at that time.

Date of next meeting of the Commission will be held May 6, 1966 at 10:00 a. m., Daylight Saving Time.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p. m.


CHAIRMAN


SECRETARY