

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION  
Colonial Beach, Virginia  
December 6, 1974

PRESENT - MEMBERS: James E. Douglas, Jr., Chairman, John T. Parran, Jr., Richard E. Lankford, Robert J. Rubelmann, William P. Hunt, Milton T. Hickman.

OFFICERS: K. Thomas Everngam, Legal Officer; Robert M. Norris, Jr., Exec. Secty; Kirby A. Carpenter, Asst. Exec. Secretary.

VISITORS: Supt. Roy W. Rafter, Major Paul C. Wentzell, Capt. Harvey C. Cook, of Maryland Marine Police; Louis N. Phipps, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Edward S. Digges, Maryland Attorney General's Office; Supervisor E. Ralph Dameron, Virginia Marine Police; Dr. Jackson Davis and Dexter Haven, Virginia Institute of Marine Science; Elgin A. Dunnington, Jr., Chesapeake Biological Laboratory; W. S. Bowle, James W. Dutton, William E. Ashburn, Jr., W. E. Ashburn, Sr., George C. Hundley, Charles E. Squires, James E. Hundley, George Decatur.

PRESS: Jack Kershaw, The Enterprise; James S. Henderson, The Westmoreland News; Elgin Perry, Free-Lance Star.

At 10:00 a.m. Chairman James E. Douglas, Jr. called the meeting to order. Mr. Douglas expressed regret on being notified of Mr. Roy E. Julie's resignation. He then welcomed Mr. Robert J. Rubelmann as the new Commission from Maryland.

Mr. Douglas asked for action on the record of the last two meetings, recalling that there was not a quorum present at the meeting held September 13, 1974. He said that the record of that meeting and the Minutes of the meeting held June 28, 1974 had been mimeographed and circulated to the Commissioners prior to today.

the following motion was made and seconded:

"That the proceedings of meeting held 9/13/74 be approved as submitted and entered in the record as part of the Minutes of December 6, 1974 meeting." The motion was approved.

The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the Minutes of the meeting held June 28, 1974 be approved." The motion was approved.

#### Grant

A report on the status of the application(s) for Federal-In-Aid Shellfish Emergency Rehabilitation Program was presented by Mr. Norris. This report showed: 1) that the original application for \$381,000 through Virginia Office of Emergency Services was never approved; 2) through the efforts of Mr. Douglas, we have received \$78,000 from PL 88-309-4(b) funds of the National Marine Fisheries Service, with \$11,000 due at a later date; and, 3) a revised Grant-In-Aid application for \$281,000 has been submitted to NMFS. Final decision on this \$281,000 is expected no earlier than March or April 1975.

Mr. Everngam read the Resolutions of Appreciation for former Commissioners J. Clifford Hutt, James L. Sisson, Jr., and Roy E. Julie, Jr.

The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the Resolutions as read be adopted and that the originals be forwarded to the Commissioners and a copy be spread upon the Minutes of this meeting." The motion was approved unanimously.

#### "RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mr. J. Clifford Hutt has successfully completed his two terms as a Virginia member of the POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION spanning the years 1966-1974; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hutt has in our judgment exhibited outstanding leadership on this bi-state commission of the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia in the management, conservation and improvement of the fishery resources of the tidewater portion of the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hutt was interested, active and influential in the establishment and maintenance of programs to accomplish the aforesaid goals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hutt served with marked leadership, ability and energy as Chairman of this Commission during the calendar years 1968, 1970 and 1972;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the members of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, do hereby commend J. Clifford Hutt, of Westmoreland County, Virginia, for his able performance as Commissioner and Chairman and express appreciation for their pleasure in the fellowship of his company during the years of his membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of this Commission and the original be presented to Mr. J. Clifford Hutt.

Adopted December 6, 1974"

"RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mr. James L. Sisson, Jr. has served as a Virginia member of the POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sisson has by his qualities of interest, fairness and leadership continued the high purpose of the founders of the Maryland and Virginia Potomac River Compact of 1958 in administering the fishery resources of the tidewater portion of the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sisson at all times exerted his efforts to conserve and improve the Potomac River fishery for the benefit of the citizens of Maryland and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sisson was elected to serve as Chairman of the Commission in the year 1974;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned do hereby adopt this Resolution to express to James L. Sisson, Jr., of Virginia Beach, Virginia, our recognition of his fine services as a member of this Commission and our high regard for the opportunity of having served with him as fellow Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of this Commission and the original be presented to Mr. James L. Sisson, Jr.

Adopted December 6, 1974"

"RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mr. Roy E. Julie, Jr. has served as a Maryland member of the POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION during the years 1969-1974; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Julie has a keen interest in preserving seafood resources, and as a member of this Commission did manifest a concern that the necessary conservation and maintenance of the tidewater portion of the Potomac River fishery be improved; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Julie has in our judgment attempted at all times to further the fine purpose expressed by the General Assemblies of Maryland and Virginia in enacting the Potomac River Compact of 1958;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission do hereby express their regard and esteem for his service on the Commission and the fellowship of his company during the years of his membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of this Commission and the original be presented to Mr. Roy E. Julie, Jr., of Annapolis, Maryland.

Adopted December 6, 1974"

There being no other old business, new business was declared in order.

Disbursements, which had been circulated to the Commissioners in itemized form several days prior to the meeting for the following months, were considered:



"That any property(ies) which had been confiscated and subsequently forfeited by the courts to this Commission for its disposition should be sold at a public auction, and further that the Executive Secretary and Legal Officer be hereby authorized to arrange and conduct an auction of this equipment as soon as possible." The motion was approved.

A "progress report" on Development of a Long Range Plan for Management of the Oyster Fishery in the Potomac River, by Dr. Jackson Davis and Mr. Dexter Haven (VIMS) and Messrs. K. Drobeck and E. Dunnington (CBL), was presented and briefly explained and discussed. Copies of this report are on file. At the request of the Commission, those presenting the "progress report" said that they would continue working and present the final report as soon as it is completed.

Mr. Robert J. Rubelmann reported that he had attended a meeting in Newport News regarding Maryland General Assembly's House Joint Resolution #61 (1974 session), which requested the Maryland Governor to ask the Virginia Governor to appoint an interstate committee to study fisheries laws and practices. It was concluded at that meeting that the Potomac River Fisheries Commission was most important and involved because of present or existing interaction between the two states. He said that the Potomac River is an important focal point between Maryland and Virginia in regard to any new interstate management.

Mr. Norris presented the revised fish and oyster license applications, explaining that the major differences between this form and the old form was that the new application did not require a Notary's signature and had been shortened in size but not in content. The forms were examined and the following motion was made and seconded:

"That the fish and oyster license applications bearing a revision date of August 1974 be approved for use." The motion was approved.

The Salary Study Committee reported its findings on salary ranges for comparable positions in Maryland, Virginia and PRFC. After the Committee's recommendations were heard, the following motion was made and seconded:

"That the annual salary for the position of Bookkeeper will be \$6,240.00; of Office Manager \$9,000.00; of Assistant Executive Secretary \$11,000.00; of Executive Secretary \$17,000.00; and of Legal Officer \$7,500.00, and that these salaries will be effective January 1, 1975." The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. John T. Parran, Jr. said that he had received a request from some St. Mary's County residents to open the river for clamming. Mr. Elgin Dunnington reported that he, Dexter Haven, Robert Norris, Ralph Dameron and A. C. Carpenter had recently conducted a survey at the request of the same people. A local clam boat was used to determine if harvestable quantities of clams existed in the Potomac. The areas checked were selected by the clam boat operator. The results indicated only one small area at Blakiston Island with adult clams but not in harvestable quantities. No clams were found elsewhere. The Commission then decided that no action would be taken on this matter at this time.

Mr. James W. Dutton requested that the Commission issue a statement listing the type, or types, of lighting devices that would satisfy the Regulations. He then objected to the Legislative Committee having no watermen representation. The Chairman informed him that the watermen would have ample time to express their views at the public hearing held on any proposed Regulation changes. Mr. Dutton presented the Commission with a copy of proposed changes he felt were needed. These were turned over to the Legislative Committee for study. Mr. Dutton pointed out that Maryland has recently repealed and re-enacted all fisheries laws and that the Compact calls for enforcement of Maryland laws prior to 1958, which have not been changed or modified by this Commission. Therefore, he questioned what effect the Maryland action has had on any Maryland law which might apply on the Potomac River. Mr. Douglas said he did not think there would be any effect; he then asked Mr. Everngam to study this and give a written reply.

After a discussion of the possibility of excessive use of chlorine in light of recent discoveries by Marine Biologists that even very small amounts can be harmful to marine life, specifically oyster larvae, the following motion was made and seconded:

"As the Potomac River Fisheries Commission is vitally interested in maintaining and improving the seafood resources of the Potomac River, it hereby requests that the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and/or any other public agency from either state that may be involved with water quality, establish a research program to determine the amounts and identify the sources of chemicals introduced into the river which would in any manner pollute, damage or adversely affect the river waters, the oysters, crabs, clams, fish and other seafood, or their spawning and growing areas and the natural rocks and habitats in which they exist." The motion was approved.

Mr. Norris reported that Mr. Herbert Wilkerson has offered to sell cultchless spat to this Commission. The spat were offered for .005¢ for 1/2" spat and .0075¢ for 3/4" spat. After a short discussion, it was decided that although we are interested in the cultchless spat, our present financial status would not allow any commitment at this time.

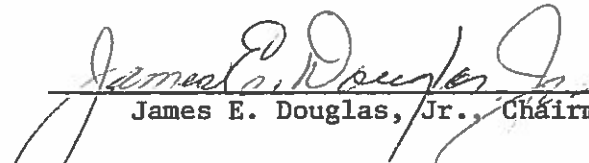
The following motion was made and seconded:

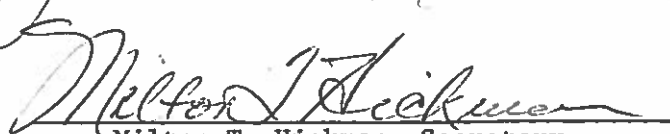
"That the Legal Officer be authorized to proceed with whatever action was proper and necessary to arrive at a final settlement with the building contractor concerning some corrections that have been necessary to the building and its components." The motion was approved.

Mr. W. E. Ashburn, whose 1975 gill net license renewals had been delayed by the Executive Secretary due to a number of complaints about his gill net operation last spring, was informed that he would be allowed to renew his licenses but was told that the Legislative Committee would be studying possible changes in fishing laws due to said complaints.

The next Commission meeting was set for 10:00 a.m., February 7, 1975 at Colonial Beach, Virginia.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 11:50 a.m.

  
James E. Douglas, Jr., Chairman

  
Milton T. Hickman, Secretary