

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

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

VISITORS: Major Paul C. Wentzell and Capt. Harvey C. Cook,  
Maryland Natural Resources Police; Howard S. Hudnall,  
VMRC; Elgin A. Dunnington, CBL; Dexter S. Haven,  
VIMS; Dr. R. P. Morgan II, Bob Lunsofrd, Phil Jones  
and John S. Wilson, CBL; Dr. Fred Holland, Martin  
Marietta Labs.; B. M. Florence, Maryland Fisheries  
Administration; Michael Crescenzo, Charles County Dept.  
of Planning; Harry T. Stine, President of Charles  
County Watermen's Association; Sam Bailey, Jr.,  
James T. Russell, Louis Thompson III, James Lathroum,  
W. G. Bowie and J. W. Dutton.

PRESS: Jackie M. Shinn, Westmoreland News; Jerry Lazarus,  
Richmond Times Dispatch; Isobel Gough, Richmond News  
Leader; Elgin Perry, Free Lance-Star; Morty Payne,  
Northern Neck News.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James E. Douglas, Jr. at 9:35 a.m. Mr. Douglas asked for consideration of the Minutes of the December 6, 1974 meeting, mimeographed copies of which had been sent to each Commissioner prior to today. The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the Minutes of the meeting held December 6, 1974 be approved." The motion was approved.

A status report on the application for Federal Grant-In-Aid Shellfish Emergency Rehabilitation Program was presented by Mr. Norris. He said that the Commission had recieved a letter from Mr. Russell T. Norris, Regional Director of NMFS advising that the "application is considered approvable and that steps have been taken by NOAA to obtain the requested \$281,000 in the fiscal year 1975 supplemental budget."

Mr. Norris reported that asale of the confiscated property was held on January 10, 1975 on the parking lot of our office. All items confiscated were sold, their total sale price being \$1,465.00. Expenses connected with the sale were \$203.04 for advertising and \$75.00 Auctioneer's fee (which the acutioneer donated to the Colonial Beach Rescue Squad), thus net proceeds were \$1,186.96. Mr. Everngam said that ads were put in six (6) local newspapers in both Maryland and Virginia for each of the two weeks prior to the sale. He also reported that there were about 40 people who reviewed the equipment before the sale began and that the bidding was "active".

Mr. Norris, speaking for the Legislative Committee, stated that the Committee had met four (4) times and had reviewed the recommendations, which were submitted at the last meeting together with other possible regulation changes. He noted that a great deal of work remains to be done before the Committee will be ready to present its recommendations. In view of the large amount of work already done, he said the Committee report should be ready for the next Commission meeting. At the request of Mr. Rubelmann, the Chairman appointed Mr. Ben Florence to the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Johm T. Parran, Jr. introduced Mr. Sam (Bo) Bailey, of St. Mary's County, who requested that a river wide survey for soft shell clams be conducted. He suggested using 7 or 8 commercial clam boats to assure adequate coverage of the clamming areas and to conduct the survey as soon as possible. Mr. Dunnington cautioned that using 7 or 8 boats for a survey could be difficult to administer. Mr. Bailey felt that if all the boats are kept in a relatively small area, these problems could be minimized. Mr. J. T. Russell supported the use of several boats, because some boats have short elevators for shallow water and others longer elevators for deeper areas. After confirming that the necessary personell would be available to donduct this type of survey, the following motion was made and seconded:

"That the Commission approves a survey to determine if harvestable quantities of soft shell clams exist in the Potomac River, and that the survey be confined to areas which were open for clamming prior to closing, and that Mr. Norris should organize and coordinate this survey as soon as possible." The motion was approved.

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, were considered. December '74 totaled \$16,604.02 (\$10,000 for transfer of funds), and January '75 was \$6,547.10. The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the disbursements and transfers between banks, as listed and itemized totaling \$27,151.12 for the months of December 1974 and January 1975 be approved." The motion was approved.

A statement of funds as of February 5, 1975 was presented showing \$17,489.98 in checking account in the Bank of Westmoreland, Inc., plus \$70,000 in C/D's divided among the Bank of Southern Maryland, Maryland Bank & Trust Company and The Peoples Bank of Montross.

Mr. Norris presented a comparative report on oyster production for this season and last as follows:

| <u>Date</u>       | <u>#Bushels</u> | <u>Tax</u> | <u>#Tongers</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| 10/1/74 to 2/5/75 | 43,027          | \$10,766   | 291             |
| 10/1/73 to 2/5/74 | 28,567          | 7,158      | 251             |

He said that to date 839 fish licenses have been sold, compared to 870 for the same period in 1974.

A discussion centered on the 1975 Oyster Repletion Program. The public was reminded that the Commission had expended larger than normal amounts of money on last years Repletion Program and that, therefore, the funds available for this years program would be somewhat limited. After due consideration of all comments and recommendations from CBL, VIMS and others, the following motion was made and seconded:

"That the Oyster Repletion Committee will determine the location for the planting of an estimated 400,000 bushels fresh shells, and that Mr. Norris is hereby authorized to contract for such shells. And further, if funds are available, approximately 100,000 bushels of seed from the Jones Shore area should be moved up river to areas designated by the committee." The motion was approved.

Mr. Douglas explained that since both members of the Nominating Committee were unable to be present today, he had appointed a second committee. He stated that it had been a great pleasure serving as the Chairman and then called for the report of the Nominating Committee. Mr. Hickman, speaking for the committee, nominated Mr. John T. Parran, Jr., Chairman; Mr. James E. Douglas, Jr., Vice-Chairman; and Mr. Robert J. Rubelmann, Secretary. There being no other nominations, a motion was made, seconded and approved that the above slate of officers be elected for 1975.

Mr. Douglas turned the Chair over to Mr. Parran, who continued the meeting.

It was brought to the attention of the Commission that the current rate of compensation for the use of personal automobiles for official business in both Maryland and Virginia was now \$0.12 per mile. The following motion was made and seconded:

"That the rate of compensation for the use of a personal automobile for official PRFC business will be \$0.12 per mile effective February 6, 1975." The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Fred Holland, of the Martin Marietta Laboratories gave a brief outline of some of the projects in which his organization is involved in the Potomac River, under the auspices of the Maryland Power Plant Siting Program. After learning about some of these programs, the following motion was made and seconded:

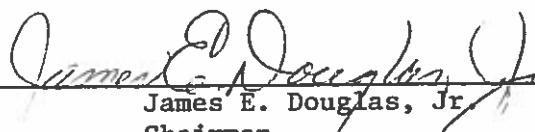
"That the Maryland Power Plant Siting Program should be advised of the motion approved at the last meeting requesting the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and/or other public agencies to determine the effects and identify the sources of harmful chemicals introduced into the river." The motion was approved.

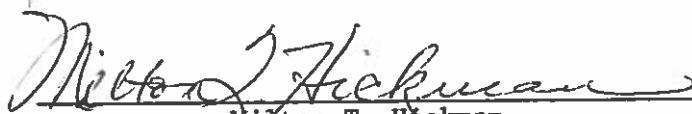
Mr. Stine and Mr. Dutton spoke of the difficulty of maintaining lights on fixed fishing devices. Mr. Parran said he felt sure that the Commission will work with the watermen to seek a solution to this problem. Mr. Douglas asked Mr. Carpenter to collect and report at next meeting information concerning any regulations of various agencies dealing with lights on nets such as Maryland, Virginia, U. S. Corps of Engineers, U. S. Coast Guard or any others with authority on the Potomac River.

Dr. Raymond P. Morgan II, CBL, presented the final report for 1974 on the Potomac River Fisheries Study-Striped Bass Spawning Stock Assessment (copies of which are on file). He spoke briefly of how the study was conducted and discussed some of their findings. He also said that the study will be repeated again this year using a different size mesh in some gill nets.

There being no other business brought before the Commission, the next meeting was set for May 30, 1975 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commission Office in Colonial Beach, Virginia.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 11:35 a.m.

  
James E. Douglas, Jr.  
Chairman

  
Milton T. Hickman  
Secretary