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## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

HARMON W. SHIELDS  
Executive Director

CROWN BUILDING / 202 BLOUNT STREET / TALLAHASSEE 32304

November 2, 1976

Colonel Jim Gilispie  
Enforcement Division  
Louisiana Wildlife and  
Fish Commission  
400 Royal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Dear Colonel Gilispie:

We missed you at the last meeting of the Law Enforcement Committee of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. However, Mr. Ray Montet did a very good job of representing you and your state.

Since the representative of the State of Louisiana will chair the meetings of the entire Gulf States this coming year, it was thought appropriate that you, as Louisiana's enforcement representative, should logically chair the Enforcement Committee. Therefore, you were elected chairman and the small supply of Commission stationery that I have is forwarded to you for your use.

I greatly enjoyed the hospitality of your fine state while in New Orleans and look forward to a return trip.

Here's wishing you the best of luck in your additional job.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "C.A. Willis".

Colonel C. A. Willis, Director  
Division of Law Enforcement

CAW/jw  
enclosures

cc: Harry E. Schafer  
Ray Montet  
Carlton Jackson ✓

# Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES  
ALABAMA  
FLORIDA  
LOUISIANA  
MISSISSIPPI  
TEXAS



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
J. V. (JOE) COLSON  
HEADQUARTERS OFFICE  
531 ST. LOUIS STREET  
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November 3, 1976

## MINUTES

Law Enforcement Committee  
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

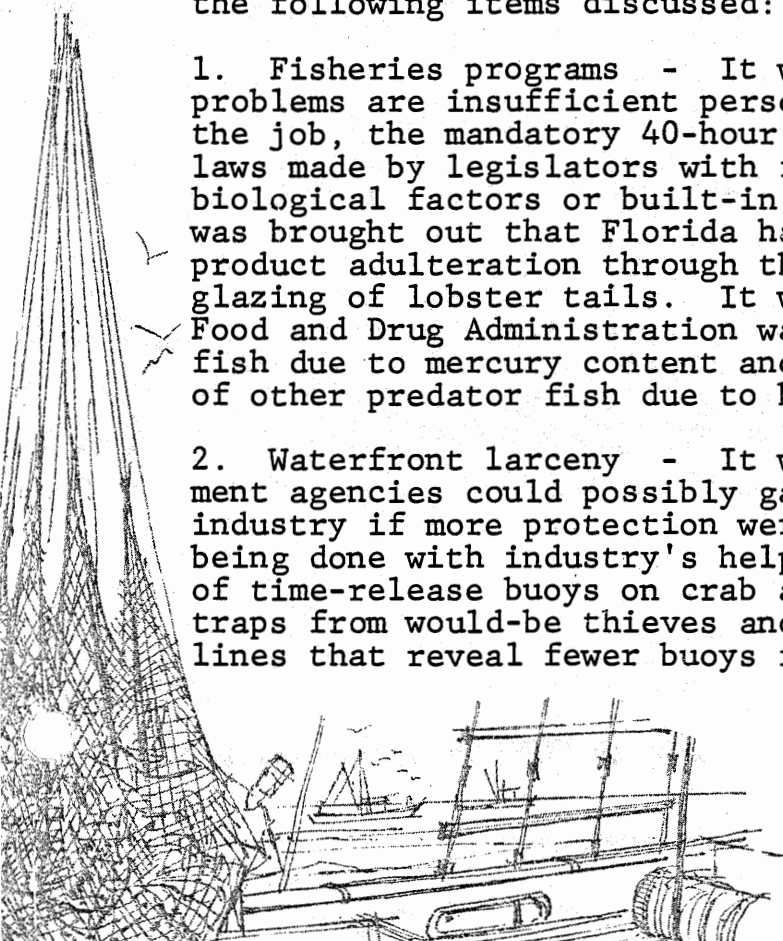
New Orleans, Louisiana -- October 21, 1976

The Committee meeting was attended by the representatives of the following states: Mr. Jerald Waller of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Mr. Ray Montet of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission; Mr. Windell Curola of the Marine Advisory Extension Service, Louisiana State University; and C. A. Willis of the Florida Department of Natural Resources.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and the following items discussed:

1. Fisheries programs - It was agreed that some of the major problems are insufficient personnel and proper equipment to do the job, the mandatory 40-hour work-week, and unenforceable laws made by legislators with insufficient knowledge of the biological factors or built-in law enforcement loopholes. It was brought out that Florida had particular problems in fishery product adulteration through the watering of oysters and overglazing of lobster tails. It was also brought out that the Food and Drug Administration was curtailing the sale of swordfish due to mercury content and would possibly curtail the sale of other predator fish due to kepone content.

2. Waterfront larceny - It was pointed out that law enforcement agencies could possibly gain more support from the fishing industry if more protection were given their property. This is being done with industry's help in some states through the use of time-release buoys on crab and lobster traps that hide the traps from would-be thieves and also the use of traps on trot lines that reveal fewer buoys for location by would-be thieves.



Some other protective measures are surveillance of fishery gear by law enforcement officers in unmarked boats, the use of scuba police officers, law enforcement airplanes, telescopes, ultraviolet powder in Vaseline on trap line buoys, etc. The increased theft of boats and motors was discussed and it was agreed that stonger state titling and registration laws were needed as well as increased penalties for falsifying records. It was brought out that boat insurance theft frauds were being committed and the use of false registration certificates and fictitious names were becoming commonplace.

3. Cooperation with Federal enforcement agencies - It was brought out that the states and Federal agencies were sharing enforcement responsibilities in the protection of porpoises, manatees, whales, and also boating safety. There was discussion on the role of state enforcement agencies with the Department of Commerce, Department of Interior, and U. S. Coast Guard following implementation of the 200 mile limit. It was agreed that there was a need for the states to increase their capabilities in handling inshore problems if they are not to loose their activity by default after implementation of the new Federal Act. It was further agreed that there was a need to cooperate closely with commercial and sportfishing groups in order to have the support of their lobbies. The role of state marine police working with U. S. Customs and the Drug Enforcement Administration was discussed and the possible obtainment of confiscated boats for use as patrol craft was further evaluated.

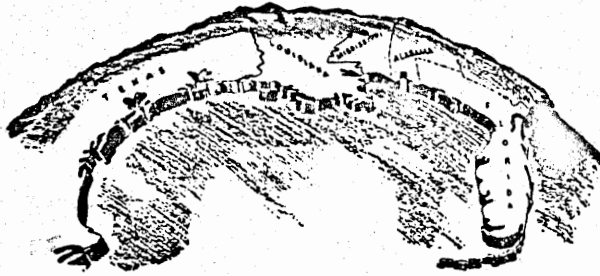
4. Training and equipment - It was brought out that the funds for specialized marine police training was in short supply for all agencies and it was hard to obtain sufficient equipment and funds for maintenance. It was again agreed that closer association with lobbieists of commercial and sportfishing groups would be advantageous in calling these needs to the legislators attention.

Elections were held for a new Law Enforcement Committee Chairman for the coming year and it was agreed that the representative from Louisiana could serve the needs of the Committee well at that time. Therefore, Colonel Jim Gilispie was unanimously elected to serve.

CAW/jw

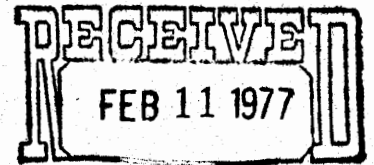
# Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES  
ALABAMA  
FLORIDA  
LOUISIANA  
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TEXAS



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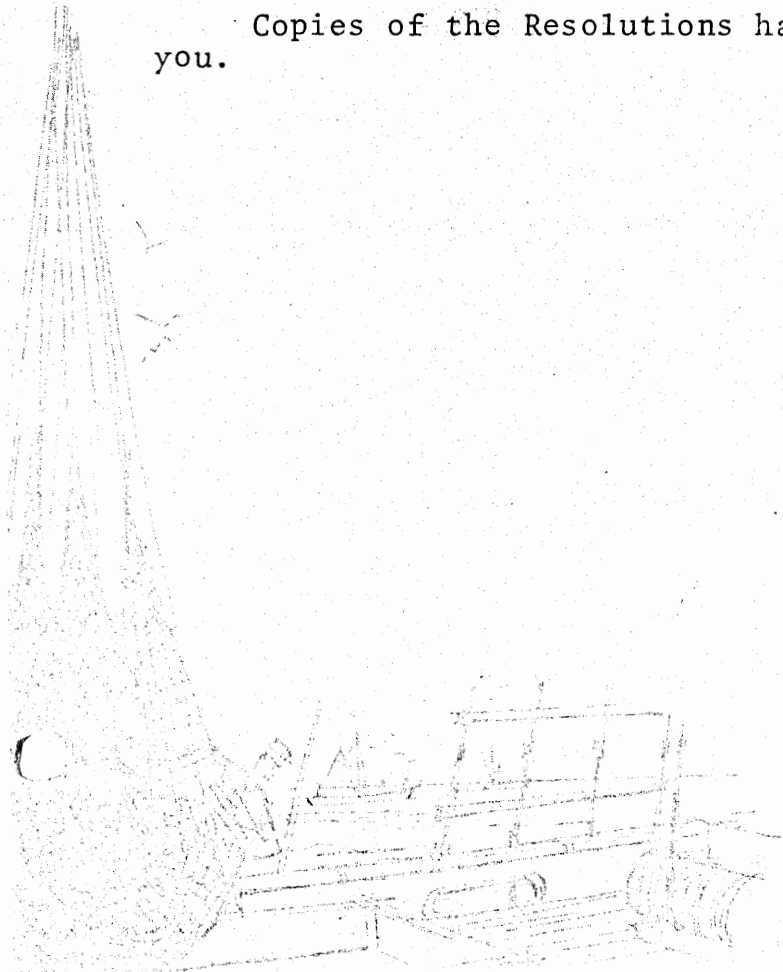
January 31, 1977



TO: All Commissioners, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
FROM: Charles H. Lyles, *C.H.L.*  
SUBJECT: Minutes of the October 20, 1976, Meeting in New Orleans

Attached is a copy of the minutes of the Executive meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission held in the Monteleone Hotel on the afternoon of October 20, 1976.

Copies of the Resolutions have been previously forwarded to you.



JOIN THE EASTLAND FISHERMEN'S SURVEY

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE  
GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING  
October 20, 1976  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Members present:

Alabama: Nat Sonnier  
Wayne Swingle  
Hugh A. Swingle (proxy for Senator Owens)

Florida: Harmon Shields  
Charles R. Futch (proxy for Rep. Gene  
Hodges)

Louisiana: J. Burton Angelle  
Dr. Lyle S. St. Amant  
Edward W. Swindell  
Leroy Kiffe  
Conway LeBleu

Mississippi: Charles Lyles  
W. W. Gillis  
Ted Millette

Texas: Tom D. Moore  
Terrance R. Leary  
Gary L. Powell  
Leroy L. Whieting  
John Mehos  
Bob Kemp

The regular fall meeting of the Executive Committee was opened by the Executive Committee Chairman, Charles H. Lyles, on the afternoon of October 20, 1976. The meeting was held at the Monteleone Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. Minutes of the last meeting were distributed for review as were copies of the audit of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission through July of 1976. Mr. Harmon Shields, Commission Chairman, discussed the overall financial status of the Commission this past year commenting that it was a bad year from a financial standpoint. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission lost its Executive Director, Joe Colson, and Mr. Carlton Jackson, his own administrative officer, was taking Mr. Colson's place on a temporary basis. Mr. Jackson will give an interim report later in the meeting.

Summarizing some of the events that have transpired in the past year, Mr. Shields stated that since we last met, the 200 mile limit bill, PL 94-265, had passed and is now the law of the land. The Federal Government, through the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Regional Management Council, is bringing forth management plans for specific fisheries and they seem to be doing a good job of it. Mr. Shields further stated that "he had reluctantly reached the conclusion that, in view of developments since passage of Public Law 94-265 the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is more important now than ever and that we need this Commission

to keep our independence and the independence of the councils that some of us serve on. The importance of this Commission is greater than it has ever been before. I would like to see the Commission held together because we have a cooperative arrangement here that can achieve a great deal in the management of our fisheries in the inshore areas." Mr. Shields stated that "we need to do the best job that we can in the months ahead."

Mr. Shields then brought up the consideration of the Commission budget and the formula to be arrived at for the contributions of each state. At this point Mr. Shields called on Mr. Mehos to discuss the formation of a budget. Mr. Mehos indicated that the uncertainty of how we are going to operate makes the development of a budget a very difficult thing. He further stated that the lack of any knowledge of the man who is going to head up this Commission and what we are going to have to pay makes preparation of the budget a difficult task. He stated that we really need to know something in the way of our financial status and he requested the report to be given by Mr. Carlton Jackson. Mr. Mehos stated that various methods of arriving at a formula could be considered by that it would be a good idea to take a look at the formula utilized in the 88-309 funds. In the meantime, we can perhaps find the right man to head up the staff. Then we can make some basic policy decisions and draft a proposal to the states regarding funds. We need to

adopt a final budget at the spring meeting. Dr. St. Amant pointed out that we are using a sort of modified 88-309 plan at present. There are three maximum states in the Gulf. These are Louisiana, Texas and Florida. Mr. Mehos suggested that perhaps we might use a formula of the three top states -- Texas, Louisiana and Florida -- taking one quarter share each and Alabama and Mississippi accounting for one eighth each. Mr. Lyles spoke up and stated that when you consider production, the number one state is Louisiana and the number two is Mississippi, and that while we feel the influence of the Mississippi River in the production of fish and shellfish in our state waters, we nevertheless are a harvesting segment of that and from the standpoint of influencing the economy, this volume is influencing Mississippi's economy. Consider fish meal, for example. Louisiana and Mississippi produce all of the fish meal in the Gulf states and when you consider the volume and the distribution to the poultry business over the entire region, it has a tremendous influence over the economy of all the Gulf states. Mr. Lyles stated that he felt that Mississippi should bear its fair share of the financial responsibility of the Commission.

There was considerable further discussion on the formula and its relative merits. There were those present who seemed to think that since all states shared equally in benefits of the Commission that an equal formula might be a better way of dividing it up. In the final analysis, Mr. Mehos agreed to



work on the interim budget and to not rush to get the top man. Mr. Angelle moved and Mr. Harmon Shields seconded a resolution that Louisiana, Texas and Florida contribute 25 per cent each of the proposed budget and that Mississippi and Alabama pay twelve and a half per cent each and that Alabama and Mississippi pay \$7,500 annually and Texas, Louisiana and Florida to pay \$15,000 each. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. St. Amant raised the question that, before proposing a budget, we need to know where we are going from here and how we are going to operate. At this point, there was considerable discussion of Public Law 94-265 and what it does regulate and what it does not regulate. It was pointed out that not all fisheries are included under Public Law 94-265 and if we do not do something about caring for these fisheries and managing them for a sustained yield, the Federal Government most certainly will take over this responsibility.

It was also pointed out that the Gulf region needs some input from the federal level. There is a need for research dollars. We have thirty-one per cent of the fishery production and get about five per cent of the research money. It was pointed out that there is a need to interface with the other commissions for a common good and for more research dollars. Here in the Gulf it is particularly important for the Commission to interface with the council in order to see that funds are programmed into the right area and in an amount needed to do the job. Mr. Mehos pointed out the need to

interface with the coastal commissions -- Sea Grant and other agencies, and that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission was the proper agency to do this as well as whatever representation is to be made to the United States Congress.

The Commission also serves a useful function in dealing with other agencies, keeping track of legislation and other federal agencies, and particularly in keeping all of the commissioners informed of the activities. Mr. Harmon Shields suggested that he did not think that the Commission should accept grant funds from the Regional Management Council for operational purposes. He further stated that if funds are received by the Commission, it would be a payment for services rendered. Mr. Mehos pointed out that it would not preclude contracting with the council for a specific service on a cost basis.

At this point, Mr. Carlton Jackson was called on to render a report on the finances for the past year. He distributed a copy of the auditor's report to all present. He said that the requirements for a financial report would be part of the administrative manual. Mr. Jackson pointed out the move of the executive offices to Room 203 of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission building. The rental fee is fifty dollars per month plus utilities. Mr. Jackson also brought out that he received a letter from Mr. Frank Bruno requesting a sum of \$1,500 for damages and non-payment of rent at the old address. Mr. Mehos moved that the Commission adopt the recommendations

made by the auditor and that Mr. Carlton Jackson be commended for doing a fine job. This was seconded by Charles Lyles. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Jackson stated that he would be happy to help on any basis he could.

Dr. St. Amant indicated that Charles Lyles had indicated an interest in the job as Executive Director and would like to hear an expression from him. Mr. Lyles gave the Commission some of his background and interest in the job. He said that he would be willing to take any salary offered to him but that he must operate out of Mississippi. He said the area is of prime consideration. Dr. St. Amant questioned him as to how long he thought he would work for the Commission if he was selected for the job and he replied "about three years, possibly more depending on conditions." Dr. St. Amant said that it may take a change in the by-laws to change the location of the Executive Director and thought that it would be important to know how long he would be able to take the job. Dr. St. Amant asked Mr. Lyles that if political conditions were resolved in his state, would he stay or return. Mr. Lyles indicated that his decision at this stage was irrevocable and that he would accept the Commission position if he were offered the job. Mr. Mehos moved that this Commission make an offer to Charles Lyles for the job and the acceptance must be made by December 31. The salary for the Executive Director was discussed and \$17,000 was recommended. Mr. Mehos moved that this Commission hereby offer Charles Lyles the Executive

Director position of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission at a salary of \$17,000 per year and said offer to be kept open until December 31, 1976. Vote was unanimous.

Leroy Wieting moved that the 1978 annual meeting in October be held in the Tampa area. Motion was seconded by Charles Lyles. Vote was unanimous.

This was necessary to coordinate with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute. It was moved by Charles Lyles and seconded by Leroy Wieting that J. Burton Angelle be named Chairman of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for the coming year and Nat Sonnier of Alabama be named vice chairman.

The following Resolutions were approved by the Commission:

1. Commending Wayne Swingle on Eastland Survey.
2. Commending Joe Colson for his contributions.
3. Recommending extension and increased funding for the Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act which provides federal aid to the states.
4. Recommending that future federal budget allocations for extended jurisdiction include funding for the state management role under P.L. 94-265.
5. Recommending that the state-federal fisheries management program be continued to cover work on species not covered by P.L. 94-265.
6. Recommending changes in the FY 77 budget for extended jurisdiction similar to those expressed in your letter to Mr. Schoning.

7. Commending Mr. Harmon Shields and Carlton Jackson for taking over the Commission operations during the absence of an executive director.

Copies of these Resolutions have been previously forwarded.

There being no further business the Commission adjourned.