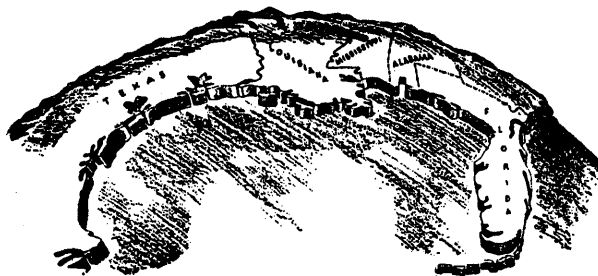


Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

MEMBER STATES
ALABAMA
FLORIDA
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS



P.O. BOX 726
OCEAN SPRINGS, MS.
39564
(601)875-5912

DATE: January 25, 1978

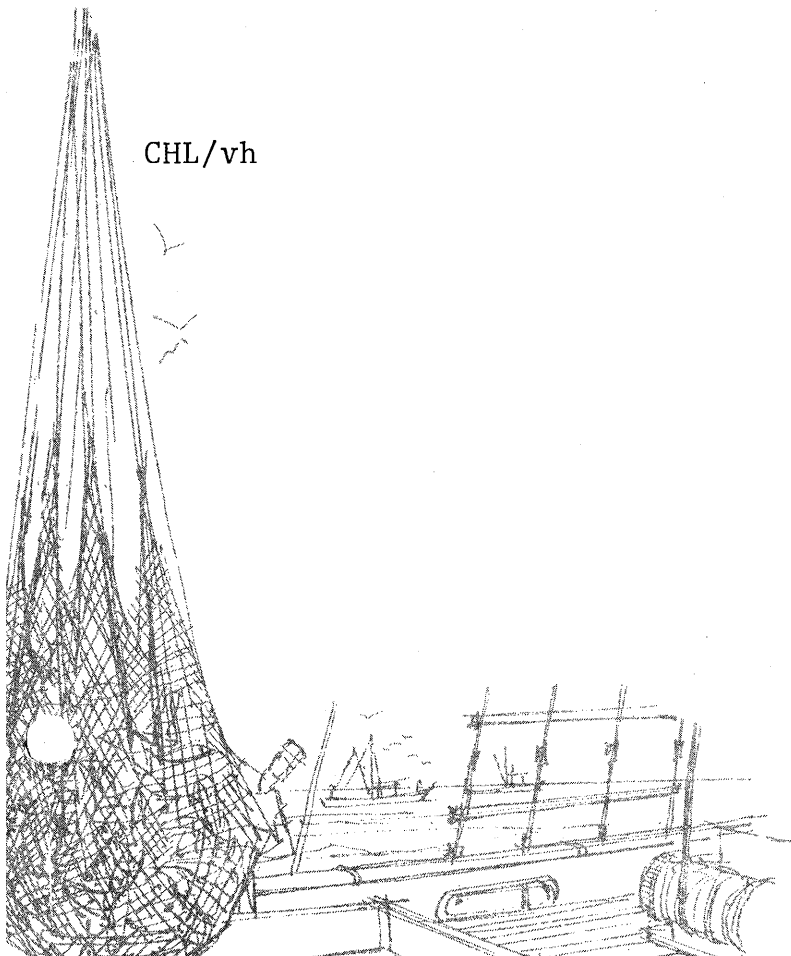
TO: COMMISSIONERS - GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

FROM: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - CHARLES H. LYLES *CHL*

SUBJECT: MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING OF GSMFC - JANUARY 20, 1978
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Attached are the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the GSMFC held on January 20, 1978 at the Airport Ramada Inn, New Orleans, Louisiana. If you have any comments or corrections please let my office know.

CHL/vh



Refer to File:

Special meeting

SPECIAL MEETING
OF
GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
AIRPORT RAMADA INN - NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
JANUARY 20, 1978

NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING:

Tom Moore	Texas
John Mehos	Texas
Leroy Wieting	Texas
Nat Sonnier	Alabama
Hugh Swingle	Alabama
Leroy Kiffe	Louisiana
J. Burton Angelle	Louisiana
Dr. Richard Leard	Mississippi

MINUTES
GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING
AIRPORT RAMADA INN - NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
JANUARY 20, 1978

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nat Sonnier at 1:20 pm at the Airport Ramada Inn, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Sonnier asked the Director to give some background information on the "why" of the position. Mr. Lyles stated that the funds for the position became available as a result of a grant from NMFS to the Commission to compensate for time the Director spends with the Council. The original amount was \$10K, the same amount granted to other commissions for service on each council. Lyles explained that little could be done with \$10K and that his first try was to employ a PhD candidate in fisheries on a part time basis. He was unable to find a candidate and so he tried to locate a retired fishery scientist who might be interested in part time employment. Again no success. At this point Mr. Stevenson suggested that extra duties might be transferred from the Regional office and that the sum might be raised to \$20K. Lyles pointed out that each of the other two Commissions obtain \$10K for each Council they serve on. The Atlantic States thus gets \$30K and the Pacific States \$20K. He stated that as a result the duties of the secretary for the Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board has been assigned to the GSMFC and that the Director will serve as coordinator for State-Federal law enforcement activities. Thus the \$20K was approved. The question was raised as to whether or not the the money has been received. Lyles stated it has not been received but it is understood the purchase order has been issued and the check should be forthcoming in a few days.

Mr. Angelle raised the question of whether or not the position was really necessary. There was considerable discussion pro and con. Mehos thought the position was necessary. Lyles then explained that there are two problem areas in the job. (1) is the quantity of reading necessary to the job; (2) the conflict of meetings and hearings. He stated that he spends almost 60% of his time on Council matters. The remainder of his time is spent on Commission business.

Angelle wanted to know if the money could be used to pay the Directors salary and for other expenses of the Commission. Lyles explained that he had inquired on this matter and while no one could say definitely, yes or no, until a G.A.O. audit, it was the

MINUTES

PAGE - 2 -

opinion of the NMFS that they would look with some disfavor on use of the money for other purposes. Mr. Angelle then moved that we explore the possibility of using part of the \$20,000 to pay part of the Directors salary. There was some thought that this might be a good idea as it might open up the whole area of payment to states. If it could be done it would be a good idea but it might be a dangerous one. Mehos asked that it be handled on an informal basis and Angelle withdrew his motion and asked Mehos to look into the matter on an informal basis.

It was then moved by Mehos that a position of Assistant Director be created, to be funded by funds from NMFS for time the Director spends on Council business. Seconded by Swingle.

The vote:	ALABAMA	yes
	FLORIDA	absent
	MISSISSIPPI	yes
	LOUISIANA	no
	TEXAS	yes

It was then moved that candidates for the position who were present be asked to present themselves separately. They were called alphabetically as follows:

Dennis Chew
David DeBlanc
Charles Lockett
J. Baron McIlwain

At the conclusion of the interview there was general agreement that there was not sufficient time to reach an agreement on which of the candidates should be selected and so it was moved by Mehos that a decision on the candidtes be delayed until the March meeting in Brownsville, Texas. Seconded by Angelle, and so the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

MINUTES
GS-FFM BOARD MEETING
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS
MARCH 14, 1978

Chairman William H. Stevenson opened the meeting at 7:20 pm, at the Fort Brown Motor Hotel. He observed after the roll call and recognition of proxies that a quorum was present.

The following proxies were recognized:

Bob Kemp for Henry Burkett

George Brumfield for Ted Millette

Walter Tatum for John Hodnett

The Chair then noted the Agenda and ask for adoption or changes. St. Amant moved the Agenda be adopted and Leard seconded. There was no opposition or alteration so the motion passed.

The Chair then asked for a reading of the minutes. Dr. Leard moved that the minutes be adopted and the motion was seconded by Dr. St. Amant. There was no discussion and the motion carried without dissent. The Chair then acknowledged the guests. Mr. Irwin Alperin, Executive Director, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Dick Schaefer, Chief of Fisheries Management, Washington, D.C. He then asked Mr. Tatum to report on the Blue Crab meeting in Charleston SC. Mr. Tatum called attention to Exhibit "C" (Page 13) of the Agenda and stated that he would be happy to answer any questions. There was no action required of the Board since the Blue Crab Committee operates under the T.C.C.

The Chair then brought up Item 5 on the Agenda and it was reported that Rep. Wieting would not be present due to his undergoing surgery in Galveston. In the absence of Rep. Wieting, Mr. Christmas reported on the meeting of December 15 which was generally covered in Exhibit "D", Page 15 of the Agenda. Three recommendations were brought forth in Exhibit "D", and had the endorsement of the Menhaden Management Committee. These were:

1. Determine the details of the suggested research projects outlined in the Menhaden Plan and determine how to institute a system of parallel implementation. Estimated approximately \$10K.
2. Determine the elements and standardization of a net log. This would include trial implementation, collection, and analysis to determine the usefulness of the separate items on the log. Estimated approximately \$25K.
3. Determine mortality induced by tagging juvenile menhaden. Estimated approximately \$10K.

Borden Wallace and J. Y. Christmas distributed copies of his parallel Implementation Plan - Exhibit "E", Page 18-26 in the Agenda.

Dalton Berry and Bob Chapoton reported on developments in the net log. Stevenson raised the question that if the net log is approved by the Subcommittee, will it be used by the industry this year? Wallace replied that it would. Chapoton reported that the log study will really be in two parts - developing the log book is only one part. The other is the matter of gathering and analyzing the data. On this a contractor is being sought.

Stevenson then raised the question of what data would go in the data bank. Christmas replied that the historical data plus that obtained from the analysis. At this point there was considerable discussion of how the money was to be spent. Mr. Stevenson suggested that the Board meet Wednesday noon and come up with a suggestion of how much should be spent on each project.

Mr. Schafer reported on the proposal to do the tag-mortality study. He said he had made the proposal but had heard nothing. Bill Turner stated that the proposal is in the system but because they were not quite geared up it has not moved through. He assured

Schafer that it would be forthcoming.

The Chairman then took up the matter of the Shrimp Management Committee. In the absence of Nat Sonnier and in the interest of expediency, Jack Brawner, National Marine Fisheries Service, reported that at the December 15 meeting the item with the highest priority was recreational fishing for shrimp. At this point there was some discussion regarding the survey, its objective and design. There was question of what additional data will be collected and in how much detail.

Walter Tatum moved that the matter be tabled until after the T.C.C. meets on Wednesday, as there is to be a discussion of the survey with National Marine Fisheries Service personnel. Motion seconded by George Brumfield. Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas voted yes. Florida not voting.

Stevenson reported that he would be leaving on Wednesday, March 15, and that Dr. St. Amant would decide when the next meeting was to be held. St. Amant then called dutch treat luncheon for Thursday at noon and requested the Executive Director to make arrangements with the Hotel for meeting space and luncheon.

At this point Stevenson raised the question of how the State-Federal funds might be spent. He called on Bill Turner who pointed out that \$100K is all that is available and that this is to be divided between two Boards which means an average of \$50K per year. Under present costs this is insufficient to manage a research program. He further stated that the Board should establish program priorities and that the funds should be used for the development of management plans and for implementation of regulatory aspects. Based on this he suggested that the Board should look to alternate sources of funding for research. He suggested that P.L. 88-309 funds might possibly be expanded. He further stated that operating in this manner would compliment the work

of the Councils under P.L. 94-265, that it would elevate the Boards - analogous to the Councils for plan development and implementation in the territorial sea. By so acting it would enhance the probability of developing into a larger and formalized program.

Dr. St. Amant pointed out that while this sounded good the fact of the matter is that we have not been able to expand 88-309 funding and that perhaps we should hold on to what we have. There was a general lack of confidence in our ability to expand funding though there seemed to be a consensus of opinion that the funds should be used for planning and implementation.

Turner then gave a short run down on how the contractual arrangements will work between National Marine Fisheries Service and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. He stated that Gulf States would be the prime contractor on all these projects and listed responsibilities of each under the arrangement. These are as follows:

<u>GSMFC</u>	<u>NMFS</u>
(Ex.Dir. - Principal Investigator)	(FMD - Administration)
2. Submits work statement, funding and time frame requirements to FMD for each proposed contract	1. Solicits work proposals on Board approved activities from GSMFC (Issue RFP's)
	3. Develops sole source documentation for contracts with GSMFC.
	4. Prepares and processes contracts to GSMFC

GSMFC

NMFS

7. Arranges subcontract with appropriate agency or institution.
 8. Approves and submits progress and completion reports and invoices to NMFS, FMD.
 10. Disburses progress payments to subcontractor.
5. Designates a technical monitor (COTR) for each contract.
 6. Submits finalized contract to Ex. Dir. of GSMFC.
 9. Final approval of progress and completion reports (through COTR) and disbursement of progress payments to GSMFC.
11. Distribution of Completion Reports.

There being no further business the meeting was recessed until noon Thursday, March 16. The Executive Director will notify Board members of meeting place.

NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING
 GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
 Fort Brown Motor Hotel - Brownsville, Texas
 Tuesday, March 14, 1978

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>STATE</u>
CHARLES H. LYLES	Gulf States Marine Fish. Comm.	Ocean Springs, MS
BILL TURNER	National Marine Fisheries Serv.	St. Petersburg, FL
IRWIN M. ALPERIN	Atlantic States Marine Fish. Comm.	Washington, D.C.
DICK SCHAEFER	National Marine Fisheries Serv.	Washington, D.C.
TOM CLARK	Alabama Dept. of Natural Resources	Orange Grove, AL
WALTER M. TATUM	Alabama Dept. of Natural Resources	Dauphin Island, AL
WAYNE SWINGLE	Gulf of Mexico Fish. Mgmt. Council	Tampa, FL
GEORGE C. BRUMFIELD	Miss. Marine Conservation Comm.	Moss Point, MS
TED FORD	LSU - Sea Grant Program	Baton Rouge, LA
LEROY KIFFE	La. Wildlife & Fisheries	Lockport, LA
JOHN MEHOS	Texas Parks & Wildlife	Austin, TX
HARMON W. SHIELDS	Fl. Dept. of Natural Resources	Tallahassee, FL
HARRY E. SCHAFER	La. Wildlife & Fisheries	New Orleans, LA
DON W. GEAGAN	National Marine Fisheries Serv.	St. Petersburg, FL
JACK BRAWNER	National Marine Fisheries Serv.	St. Petersburg, FL
J. Y. CHRISTMAS	Gulf Coast Research Lab	Ocean Springs, MS
RICHARD LEARD	Miss. Marine Conservation Comm.	Biloxi, MS
BOB KEMP	Texas Parks & Wildlife	Austin, TX
LYLE S. ST. AMANT	La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries	New Orleans, LA
W. H. STEVENSON	National Marine Fisheries Serv.	St. Petersburg, FL
ALBERT C. JONES	National Marine Fisheries Serv.	Miami, FL
T. G. CHRISTOPHER	Standard Products Co.	Moss Point, MS
RAY RICHARDSON	Seacoast Products, Inc.	Port Monmouth, NJ
DALTON BERRY	Petrou Fisheries, Inc.	Empire, LA
BORDEN WALLACE	Wallace Menhaden Products, Inc.	New Orleans, LA
ROBERT B. CHAPOTON	National Marine Fisheries Serv.	Beaufort, NC

MINUTES
UNDERWATER OBSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS
MARCH 15, 1978

Chairman Leroy Kiffe opened the meeting at 4:40 p.m. and called on Dr. Lyle St. Amant to review the reason for the called meeting. Dr. St. Amant expressed regret at the delay in the meeting but pointed out that many of the participants including himself were delayed in the previous meeting. He then discussed the early history of oil exploration, some of the problems connected with the explorations and the manner in which these were solved. This resulted in fishermen and oil companies being able to work without serious conflict or interruption. He pointed out that in the early years explosives were used and this caused additional concern among fishermen. Dr. St. Amant stated permits for seismic operations were issued by the State of Louisiana and that operations were carried out under a set of rules among which was no night operations. Dr. St. Amant also pointed out some of the difficulties fishermen operate under and that a single tow requires 4 - 5 hours including up and down time. He stated that the permit system had worked very well until about two years ago when Geological Survey suddenly changed the rules by publishing in the Federal Register and they notified the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries they would no longer need their help. This in effect cut off communications between Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, Geological Survey, the fishermen and the seismic operators. St. Amant then tried to contact Geological Survey without results. He closed his remarks by calling on Mr. Charles Darden with IAGC to act as spokesman for the offshore operators. Mr. Darden offered support of the meeting and then yielded the floor to Mr. Gene Hanson, of the Petty - Ray Geophysical Company who it seems has had the most problems with shrimpers. Mr. Hanson stated that while there have been some serious problems it has not yet reached the shooting stage. He said it was a lack of communication - vessel to vessel. He suggested that it would be

a good idea to establish identifying marks so both fishermen and operators know what each is doing. Mr. Kiffe explained that when you are onto a school of shrimp that in order to make the operation pay, you must stay with the school. He cited as one specific example an exploratory vessel coming right through where a number of boats are fishing - in other words, a thick concentration of shrimp. He said the skipper on the seismic vessel calls on Channel 8 and says the seismic vessel is coming through and the shrimp boats must vacate the area. This means considerable lost time in getting the net up and getting out of the way.

There was at this point considerable discussion of the difficulties both groups are encountering in these offshore operations. Dr. St. Amant then stated that there are some terms we must define if we are to arrive at a solution and there are some actions that must be taken. Among these are:

- (1) A definition of a shrimp fleet.
- (2) How many vessels must be in an area before we define it as a fleet?
- (3) What constitutes an intense fishing area?
- (4) Is it important to avoid heavy season concentrations of these vessels.
- (5) There must be a method of communication between the shrimpers and the seismic vessels.

John Laker, Western Geophysical, stated that his company has not had any trouble in the past two years. The question of how long a seismic cable is necessary was raised and Mr. Laker stated that unless they use a 2 mile cable they don't get good results. He stated that in the shallow water they use a stop and go method.

Mr. Darden suggested towing a cable with radar reflectors and strobe lights at certain intervals.

St. Amant suggested a seminar to educate seismic vessel operators on shrimp cycles, areas of abundance, etc. so they would understand the shrimpers problems.

PAGE - 3 -

At this point it was the consensus that the problem had been aired. Mr. Darden offered the services of his office to sponsor a meeting of select individuals at a later date to see if we could work out some rules acceptable to all concerned. While no vote was taken, it was apparent that this was acceptable to the group. We will presumably meet in Houston in the near future.

There being no further business, the group adjourned.

NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING
THE
UNDERWATER OBSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
MARCH 15, 1978
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
TED B. FORD	La. Sea Grant Program	Baton Rouge, LA
JOHN MEHOS	Gulf States Marine Fish. Com.	Galveston, TX
CHARLES H. LYLES	Gulf States Marine Fish. Com.	Ocean Springs, MS
PAUL J. HOOKER	NOAA/SEFC	Miami, FL
TOM CLARK	Ala. Dept. of Natural Resources	Dauphin Island, AL
RALPH RAYBURN	Texas Shrimp Association	Austin, TX
RUSS MIGET	Texas A & M Univ - Advisory Serv.	Corpus Christi, TX
CONWAY LEBLEU	Gulf States Marine Fish. Com.	Cameron, LA
DON W. SOLANAS	US Geological Survey	New Orleans, LA
LEROY KIFFE	Gulf States Marine Fish. Com.	Lockport, LA
ROBERT CHAMPAGNE	Fisherman	Metairie, LA
GEORGE A. SHELL	B. J. Hughes, Inc.	New Orleans, LA
JOHN A. BURGBACKER	Shell Oil Company	Houston, TX
H. B. COVINGTON	Digicon Geophysical	Houston, TX
A. G. KIRKLAND	Teledyne Exploration	Houston, TX
J. C. JOHNSON	Exxon	Houston, TX
R. L. NICHOLLS	Western Geophysical	Houston, TX
JOHN D. LAKER	Western Geophysical	Houston, TX
CHARLES F. DARDEN	Intl Assn. of Geophysical Contrs.	Houston, TX
MALCOLM CLOYD	Petty - Ray Geophysical	Houston, TX
JIM KERWIN	BLM/NOLA OCS Office	Houston, TX
GARY BARTLETT	Geophysical Service, Inc.	Stafford, TX
G. RICHARD ARRINGTON	Petty - Ray Geophysical	Houston, TX
E. L. (GENE) HANSON	Petty - Ray Geophysical	Houston, TX
ROGER L. SHARRON	Petty - Ray Geophysical	Houston, TX
WILLIS H. CLARK	Texas A & M Univ.	College Station, LA
BARNEY BARRETT	La. Wildlife and Fisheries	New Orleans, LA
DONALD MOORE	National Marine Fisheries Serv.	Galveston, TX
EDWIN KIFFE	Fisherman	Galliano, LA

MINUTES
GS-FFM BOARD MEETING
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS
MARCH 16, 1978

Dr. St. Amant opened the meeting at 12:08 p.m. in the Fort Brown Restaurant.

Dr. Ford has a correction to the Minutes of the October 18, 1977 Meeting in Mobile. Tatum then moved and Mauermann seconded that the Minutes be amended. Motion passed.

Moore then moved and Clark seconded that the Executive Director request in writing that National Marine Fisheries Service supply a member to the Seatrout/Redfish Committee and that the Minutes so reflect motion passed. St. Amant then called on Borden Wallace, Chairman of the Menhaden Advisory Committee to report on the recommendations of his committee. Wallace stated that his first recommendation was embodied in Item B (Page 20 of the Agenda Book) and Item C (Page 23 of the Agenda Book) and that these be adopted as a procedure for making system decisions.

He further recommended the \$10K be apportioned as follows: \$4K for Item A (Page 20 of the Agenda Book) to identify procedure which would be required to formalize this data base. \$6K for Item C, 1:e:2 (Page 23 of Agenda Book), which is to assume MSY has been exceeded. Criteria: do not exceed MSY. Assume MSY is being exceeded and the Advisory Committee is charged with the responsibility to determine the associated impacts and to generate alternatives to correct the situation - (20 request and R.F.P. to determine the mechanics and associated problems in generating management alternatives and carry to conclusion). It was moved by Mauermann and seconded by Tom Moore that the report be approved.

St. Amant then called on Christmas to report on the Shrimp Advisory Committee.

Christmas stated that it was the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that they follow the recommendations of the Implementation Committee with top priority being the improvement of recreational

PAGE - 2 -

and bait shrimp catches in conjunction with the National survey. In the event this does not materialize as a practical approach that the money will be utilized to carry out alternative proposals recommended by the Implementation Committee. Further that the Executive Director be authorized to work with the Contractor to utilize \$45K for the specific shrimp work. That Lyles be instructed to work with one delegate named from each State to achieve this objective. That in case this fails that we return to the 4 alternatives listed in the Minutes of the meeting in New Orleans, December 15, 1977, and select an appropriate one.

Dr. Ted Ford was then called on to report on the Blue Crab project. Dr. Ford recommended that we work cooperatively with the South Atlantic section of the ASMFC. That we have approximately \$4 - 5K for this project and it should be utilized and that the Board approve the action of the full Commission in the a.m. meeting of this date.

Moved by Tatum that the report be adopted - seconded by Dr. Leard and motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING
GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
Fort Brown Motor Hotel - Brownsville, Texas
Thursday, March 16, 1978

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>TOWN</u>
WALTER M. TATUM	Al. Dept. of Natural Resources	Gulf Shores, AL
BILL TURNER	National Marine Fisheries Serv.	St. Petersburg, FL
BORDEN WALLACE	Wallace Menhaden Products	New Orleans, LA
LYLE ST. AMANT	La. Wildlife and Fisheries	New Orleans, LA
J. Y. CHRISTMAS	Gulf Coast Research Lab.	Ocean Springs, MS
RICHARD LEARD	Miss. Marine Conservation Com.	Biloxi, MS
JACK BRAWNER	National Marine Fisheries Serv.	St. Petersburg, FL
TOM CLARK	Al. Dept. of Natural Resources	Orange Grove, AL
BOB MAUERMANN	Texas Shrimp Association	Brownsville, TX
TED FORD	Louisiana Sea Grant Program	Baton Rouge, LA
CHARLES H. LYLES	Gulf States Marine Fish. Com.	Ocean Springs, MS
TOM MOORE	Texas Parks and Wildlife	Austin, TX

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION
MARCH 16, 1978
FT. BROWN MOTOR HOTEL
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

The Meeting was called to order by the Executive Director at 9:15 a.m. in the Bert Wheeler Penthouse. He noted that both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman were absent and that it would be necessary to elect a Temporary Chairman for this meeting.

Bob Mauermann moved that Harmon Shields be made Temporary Chairman. John Mehos seconded. There was no other nominations, nor dissent and Mr. Shields was unanimously elected.

Mehos stated that it would be necessary for him to leave soon and asked that the agenda be adopted but that the order be altered. Seconded by Mauermann and passed without dissent. Whereupon he asked that Item 6 of the agenda be considered first. Chairman so ordered. John Mehos moved that the Executive Director be empowered to appoint an Assistant. Mauermann seconded and it passed without dissent. The Chairman then returned to the original order of the agenda.

Dr. St. Amant moved that the Minutes of the October 1977 meeting be adopted. Dr. Leard seconded and the motion passed without dissent. The Director then reported that the automobile cost more than estimated in the Budget, but that some other items had overages and we would probably not exceed the total estimate. He reported that the two checks which the auditor questioned in the October 1977 report had been located and all the questions around them had been resolved. He further reported that a Savings Account had been established and that funds not currently needed had drawn \$421.66 interest. (Interest accrued as of April 1, 1978 is \$1,046.20.) He also reported to the Commission on the Mexican GIFA as outlined in Exhibit D of the agenda. He explained what he had done relative to the reorganization and possible realignment of regional boundaries. Other matters such as the management letter and the employment of a new auditing firm were pointed out. The Chairman, Mr. Shields then

brought up the matter of changing the Chairman of the Technical Coordinating Committee. He stated that he had written the Executive Director and asked that a change in the By Laws be prepared. The Executive Director then read the prepared amendment to Article IV, Section 7, to read as follows: The Chairman of the Technical Coordinating Committee shall be selected by the Chairman of the Commission from the technical group who are members of the Technical Coordinating Committee and shall serve during the term of his Chairman. He may be replaced for any reason at the pleasure of the presiding Chairman. There was insufficient support for the amendment and so it did not pass. It was suggested that the following amendment be considered at the fall meeting in Tampa. "The Chairman of the Technical Coordinating Committee shall be elected by members of the Technical Coordinating Committee on an annual basis, at the same time a new Chairman of the Commission is elected.

The Executive Director was instructed to prepare in draft form, for consideration of the Commission at the October 1978 meeting, a new section of the By Laws dealing with how the Committee's are set up and a table of organization of how these Committees function. The attached T.O. is an approximation of the desires of those present.

Dr. Ford gave the T.C.C. report, a copy of which is made part of the Minutes. Dr. St. Amant moved that Dr. Ford's report be accepted. Mr. Mauermann seconded. There was no opposition and the motion passed.

Jack Brawner reported on the turtle situation. He reviewed the Federal Register of May 20, 1975, which solicited comments from the general public regarding plans to have the Pacific ridley, the green and loggerhead turtles placed on the threatened species list. He pointed out that protection of the turtles is necessary for economic survival of the industry. He compared the shrimp-turtle controversy to the tuna-porpoise controversy and reminded the Commission

that the tuna industry has suffered severely because of this controversy. The turtle is beset by many enemies. The turtles and egg are preyed on by man and beast on the beaches. There is a directed fishery offshore, the habitat has been altered so that the turtle can no longer use it for reproduction and there is an incidental catch of turtles taken along with shrimp and fish trawling.

Mr. Brawner listed some of the things we must do to protect the turtle.

1. Close down commercial turtle trade in this country.
2. Attempt to close down commercial turtle trade in other countries.
3. Operation "Head Start" that is turtle aquaculture.
4. Massive educational program aimed at:
 - (a) Commercial fishermen
 - (b) Commercial dealers
 - (c) Commercial users
5. A forceful and highly visible law enforcement program.
6. Comprehensive research programs.
7. Respond to Federal Register notice.

Other action that must be taken:

1. A Resolution to FWS and NMFS requesting comment period be increased from 30 (or 20) days to 120 days.

Follow-up actions should include a request to NMFS to provide comments to this Commission and councils. Recommend provisions for incidental catch for both threatened and endangered species. Provide turtle data presently available. Enlist Texas A & M and University of Florida in providing economic profile of commercial fishing.

Formal comments should be submitted by:

- (1) Councils
- (2) Commission

- (3) All Commercial Fishery Associations
- (4) All State Conservation Directors
- (5) Individual Firms

Mehos then asked that the Executive Director of Gulf States act as the coordinator with Councils, trade associations and others and that we request an extension of 60 to 120 days time to submit data. He also recommended that we enlist the universities to get competent data on turtles to get a true picture on who is really doing the damage to the population. Address request for delay to NMFS and FWS. Ed Joyce reported that Florida had conducted a symposium on turtles and that the proceedings are now being published.

The Executive Director reported on the fall session to be held in Tampa. He stated that plans were well under way and a tentative date had been set for October 16-20, 1978. The main program of the Gulf States will be a Colloquium on spotted sea trout and red fish or red drum. There will be joint functions with the Atlantic States and perhaps the Councils, but these details have not been fully completed. He requested that he be permitted to work with Mr. Shields or his assistant in completing details of registration costs, etc. Mr. Shields asked if there was any opposition to Mr. Lyles suggestion. There being none, he as Chairman, instructed the Executive Director to proceed. Mr. Shields stated that a big time is planned for this giant fishery meet - perhaps the largest ever held in the Gulf. The Executive Director asked permission to attend the meeting of SAOTA and to the Limited Entry meet in Denver. He was instructed to clear this with the Chairman.

The Executive Director raised the question of having the Commission go on record as favoring oil drilling in Mobile Bay. The Commission tabled the request since it was the consensus of the group that this is too much of a local problem.

The Executive Director raised the question of publishing the

PAGE - 5 -

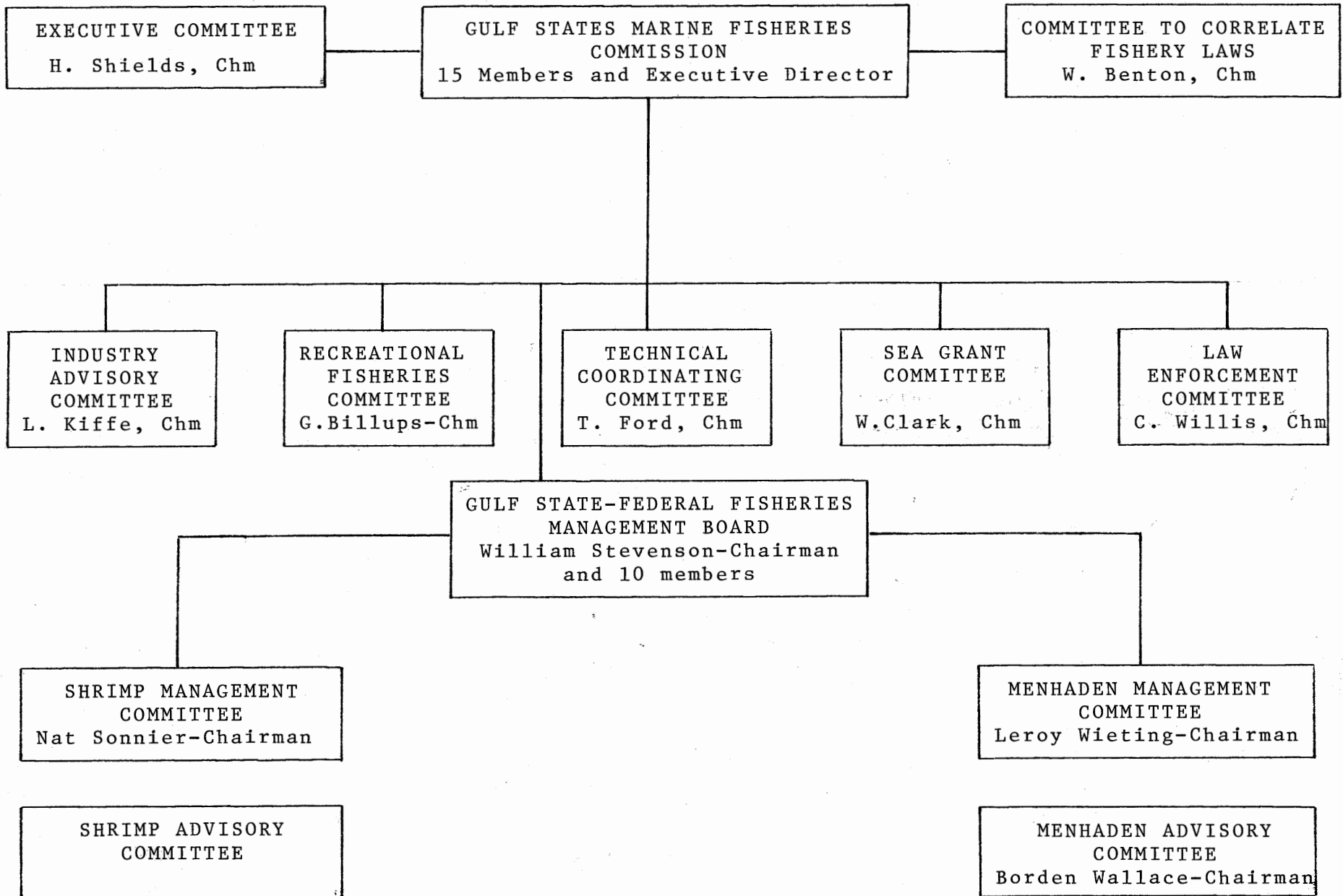
Mackerel Colloquium. It was suggested that the Gulf Council and the South Atlantic Council be contacted for contributions to defray the cost. The Director indicated that he thought Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant would furnish the offset duplicating equipment.

Mr. Gary Knight was introduced as he had a proposal which he thought the Commission might have some interest. He pointed out that P.L. 94-265, gave the U.S. government control of the fisheries within the fishery conservation zone but that the area from bays, sounds and etc. out to 3 miles had been left to the individual states. He gave the attached proposal to the Commission.

Mr. Shields thought it was a good idea and deserved support. Dr. St. Amant thought it might encounter trouble in his legislature.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
OF THE
GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION



NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING
 GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
 EXECUTIVE SESSION
 Thursday, March 16, 1978
 Fort Brown Motor Hotel
 Brownsville, Texas

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>STATE</u>
LYLE S. ST. AMANT	La. Wildlife & Fisheries	New Orleans, LA.
GEORGE C. BRUMFIELD	Miss. Marine Conservation Comm.	Moss Point, MS
JOHN MEHOS	Texas Parks & Wildlife	Austin, TX
JACK BRAWNER	National Marine Fisheries Serv.	St. Petersburg, FL
TOM D. MOORE	Texas Parks & Wildlife	Austin, TX
BOB MAUERMANN	Texas Parks & Wildlife	Austin, TX
TOM CLARK	Ala. Dept. of Natural Resources	Orange Grove, AL
WALTER M. TATUM	Ala. Dept. of Natural Resources	Dauphin Island, AL
RICHARD LEARD	Miss. Marine Conservation Comm.	Biloxi, MS
HARMON W. SHIELDS	Fla. Dept. of Natural Resources	Tallahassee, FL
EDWIN A. JOYCE	Fla. Dept. of Natural Resources	Tallahassee, FL
O. B. LEE, JR.	Fla. Dept. of Natural Resources	Tallahassee, FL
GARY KNIGHT	LSU - Law Center	Baton Rouge, LA
HOWARD LEE	Texas Coastal & Marine Committee	Austin, TX
WAYNE SWINGLE	Gulf of Mexico Fishery Mgmt Council	Tampa, FL
CONWAY LeBLEU	La. Wildlife & Fisheries	Cameron, LA
TED FORD	La. Sea Grant Program	Baton Rouge, LA

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE BREAKFAST
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1978
Fort Brown Motor Hotel
Brownsville, Texas

The meeting was opened by the Executive Director who in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman stated that the first order of business would be to elect a Temporary Chairman from those present. Mr. Kiffe refused the position and by acclamation, Dr. Richard Leard was named Temporary Chairman. The Executive Director brought forth a Resolution regarding work of the Southeast Fisheries Development Center in Charleston, SC. There was considerable discussion of the Resolution. Some remarks to the effect that the work should be carried on and at an expanded level but they felt the lab should have been placed nearer the center of the resource, rather than an area with practically no fishery resources. The Resolution is made a part of the Minutes.

WHEREAS: THE FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 PROVIDES TO THE UNITED STATES THE MEANS TO MANAGE ITS COASTAL FISHERY RESOURCES OUT TO 200 MILES NOT ONLY FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES BUT ALSO FOR FULL AND WISE UTILIZATION; AND

WHEREAS: THE SOUTHEAST REGION ALREADY SUPPORTS IMPORTANT FISHERIES, WITH LANDINGS TOTTALLING ABOUT 2 BILLION POUNDS ANNUALLY, WHILE THE MAJORITY OF STOCKS ARE NOT DEPLETED, BUT IN FACT PROVIDE A VAST BIOMASS OF DEMERSAL, PELAGIC AND SHELLFISH SPECIES FOR POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT: AND

WHEREAS: IN THE EMERGING STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING AND UTILIZING LATENT SOUTHEAST SPECIES, THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL CONTAMINANTS IN FISH

AND SEAFOODS, TOGETHER WITH A FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONTAMINANT RELATIONSHIPS TO PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF RELATED ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ON THE INDUSTRY AND HEALTH PROBLEMS TO THE CONSUMER, INCLUDING THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY THAT MAY ARISE FROM SUCH DISCLOSURES: AND

WHEREAS: WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF THE USEFULNESS OF THE NMFS DATA BASE ON MERCURY IN FISH IN PROTECTING THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE NATION'S FISHING INDUSTRY IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH FDA ON LIMITING GUIDELINES, AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT NMFS WILL BETTER ASSURE THAT THE POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ANY NECESSARY NEW PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES ARE BASED ON FACTUAL EVIDENCE AND RATIONAL ARGUMENTS: AND

WHEREAS: IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THE COLLEGE PARK/CHARLESTON LABORATORY OF THE NMFS SOUTHEAST FISHERIES CENTER (SEFC) IS THE FOCAL POINT OF THIS SPECIAL EXPERTISE IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION AND SHOULD CONTINUE VERY ACTIVELY A BROAD SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION TO INSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF THE NECESSARY INFORMATION BASE NEEDED TO ASSIST IN RATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION STRONGLY SUPPORTS AND ENDORSES THE CONTINUANCE AND STRENGTHENING OF THE WORK OF THE SEFC CHARLESTON LABORATORY IN ACQUIRING INFORMATION AND IMPROVING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINANTS IN FISH AND SEAFOODS, INCLUDING IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SPECIES UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT REGIMES IN THE SOUTHEAST, AND TO PROVIDE RELEVANT INFORMATION TO THE FISHERY COUNCILS, NMFS, INDUSTRY AND FDA AND BETTER ASSURE THAT RATIONAL DECISIONS AFFECTING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ARE MADE.

The Executive Director then passed out the Minutes of the State/Federal Management Board Meeting of the previous day (March 16) for the consideration of the Commission. Upon completion of reading, Dr. St. Amant moved that the minutes of the Board Meeting of the previous day (March 16) be adopted and that the recommendations embodied therein be adopted by the full Commission. Walter Tatum seconded the motion, no opposition and the motion carried.

The Executive Director was requested to ask for one representative from each state (T.C.C. members) to work with him and the contractor on the recreational fishing survey.

Dr. Ford stated that a Resolution on the Blue Crab profile study was not necessary and that all necessary direction had been embodied in previous minutes of both the Board and the full Commission. Walter Tatum raised a question about the sport fishing survey, particularly the design and whether or not the survey would in fact accomplish its

PAGE - 4 -

objective. Dr. Beaumariage stated that it was a poor design but that it is too late to change at this late date. He stated that Florida can not participate.

A site for the meeting with the Contractor and the T.C.C. members will be selected. Atlanta was suggested as a possible convenient site.

There being no further business, Mr. O. B. Lee moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Mr. Walter Tatum seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING
 GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
 EXECUTIVE BREAKFAST
 Friday, March 17, 1978
 Fort Brown Motor Hotel
 Brownsville, Texas

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>STATE</u>
RICHARD LEARD	Miss. Marine Conservation Comm.	Biloxi, Mississippi
DALE BEAUMARIAGE	Proxy - Clyde Richbourg	Tallahassee, Florida
LYLE ST. AMANT	La. Wildlife and Fisheries	New Orleans, Louisiana
LEROY KIFFE	La. Wildlife and Fisheries	Lockport, Louisiana
O.B. LEE	Proxy - Harmon Shields	Tallahassee, Florida
ED JOYCE	Proxy - Eugene Hodges	Tallahassee, Florida
TOM CLARK	Proxy - Senator L.D. Owen	Orange Grove, Alabama
WALTER TATUM	Proxy - John W. Hodnett	Dauphin Island, Alabama
TOM MOORE	Proxy - Henry Burkett	Austin, Texas
HOWARD LEE	Proxy - John A. Mehos	Texas
BOB MAUERMANN	Proxy - Leroy J. Wieting	Brownsville, Texas
GEORGE BRUMFIELD	Proxy - Ted Millette	Moss Point, Mississippi
PAUL FULHAM	Proxy - Bill Stevenson	Florida
FED FORD	Technical Coordinating Comm.	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
CHARLES H. LYLES	Gulf States Marine Fish. Comm.	Ocean Springs, Mississippi

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 provides to the United States the means to manage its coastal fishery resources out to 200 miles not only for conservation purposes but also for full and wise utilization; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Region already supports important fisheries, with landings totalling about 2 billion pounds annually, while the majority of stocks are not depleted, but in fact provide a vast biomass of demersal, pelagic and shellfish species for potential development; and

WHEREAS, in the emerging strategies for managing and utilizing latent Southeast species, through the development of more complete information on chemical and biological contaminants in fish and seafoods, together with a fuller understanding of the significance of contaminant relationships to public health issues, it will be possible to minimize the impact of related economic problems on the industry and health problems to the consumer, including the adverse publicity that may arise from such disclosures; and

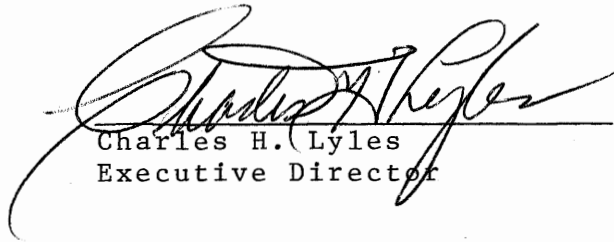
WHEREAS, we have already seen positive evidence of the usefulness of the NMFS data base on mercury in fish in protecting the legitimate interests of the nation's fishing industry in its negotiations with FDA on limiting guidelines, and the likelihood that NMFS will better assure that the potential development of any necessary new public health guidelines are based on factual evidence and rational arguments; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the College Park/Charleston Laboratory of the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Center (SEFC) is the focal point of this special expertise in the Southeast Region and should continue very actively a broad scope of investigation to insure the availability of the necessary information base needed to assist in rational fisheries management and development; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission strongly supports and endorses the continuance and strengthening of the work of the SEFC Charleston Laboratory in acquiring information and improving our understanding of contaminants in fish and seafoods, including important commercial and recreational species under consideration by the management and development regimes in the Southeast, and to provide relevant infor-

mation to the fishery Councils, NMFS, industry and FDA and better assure that rational decisions affecting fisheries management and development are made.

Unanimously adopted by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission at the Spring Meeting at the Fort Brown Motor Hotel in Brownsville, Texas on March 17, 1978.



Charles H. Lyles
Executive Director

State of Florida



APR. 6 1978

REUBIN O'D. ASKEW
Governor
BRUCE A. SMATHERS
Secretary of State
ROBERT L. SHEVIN
Attorney General
GERALD A. LEWIS
Comptroller
BILL GUNTER
Treasurer
DOYLE CONNER
Commissioner of Agriculture
RALPH D. TURLINGTON
Commissioner of Education

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

HARMON W. SHIELDS
Executive Director

CROWN BUILDING / 202 BLOUNT STREET / TALLAHASSEE 32304

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Brownsville, Texas
March 15, 1978

Notes of the Law Enforcement Committee

In view of the absence of the Chairman, a formal meeting was not held, but a general discussion took place and the following people attended:

Jerald Waller - Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
Tom Moore - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Irwin Alperin - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
John Mehos - Liberty Fish and Oyster Company
Charles Stafford - Texas House of Representatives
Clifford A. Willis - Florida Department of Natural Resources

The present status of the Gulf States cooperative law enforcement efforts was taken up and common problems of personnel issues, adequate funding, meaningful authority and political backing were discussed as well as the methods of improving the same. It was noted that Florida had been successful in collecting past due fines from Florida fishermen caught violating Alabama law in the State of Alabama after the fishermen had fled back to Florida without paying the Alabama courts. The Florida Marine Patrol has been successful in convincing the subjects to meet their obligations.

Mr. Irwin Alperin, Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, was a guest and suggested that combined law enforcement committees of both the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meet in Tampa in October to discuss State and Federal mutual law enforcement efforts. It was agreed that Florida would host the meeting and a questionnaire will be developed and mailed out to law enforcement committee members to find out the various items of concern and involvement.

Since it is safe to assume that many states will be involved in extended jurisdiction, it is time to think about State needs, interaction with various Federal agencies and plan accordingly. It was recognized that in view of the prospect of potential Federal funding for state fisheries management and anti-boat theft operations, it should behoove all the represented agencies to improve their law enforcement capability in order to qualify for federal funds and subsequent operational improvement.

CAW/jw

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD
Tuesday, October 17, 1978
Holiday Inn Central
Tampa, Florida

The Chairman, Mr. William H. Stevenson, called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM. Mr. Stevenson proposed that the Agenda be adopted with the exception of Item 4, which was a slide presentation that would be presented at the T.C.C. meeting and would therefore be redundant. Mr. Sonnier so motioned, it was seconded by Leroy Wieting and the motion carried.

Mr. Stevenson then recognized proxies: J. Y. Christmas for Rep. Ted Millette; Dennis Chew for Richard Leard; Tom Moore for Henry Burkett and/or John Mehos; and Dale Beaumariage for Harmon Shields.

Mr. Stevenson called for adoption of the minutes of the March 1978 meeting. It was moved for adoption by Dr. Lyle St. Amant, seconded by J. Y. Christmas. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Lyles stated that under the GS-FFMB Program Studies and Analyses that contracts had been signed with the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Department for the "Menhaden Tagging Mortality Study"; with the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory for the "Pilot Study for Menhaden Catch/Effort Log"; and that under the Chairmanship of Dr. James Weaver of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department the "Development of a Management Plan Profile for Spotted Seatrout and Red Drum in the Gulf of Mexico, U.S." was well under way. He indicated that a contract with Human Sciences Research, Inc. would be forthcoming shortly for the "Shrimp Recreational Fisheries Statistics Data Collection and Analysis" and that Dr. Ted Ford of Louisiana State University would be preparing a proposal for the "Formalization of a Menhaden Information Data Bank" and "Simulated Implementation of the Menhaden Management System". He stated that these signed contracts and proposed contracts would encompass the entire funds available through the GS-FFMB Program Studies and Analyses. He then called on Mr. Schafer to report on the "Menhaden Tagging Mortality Study".

Mr. Harry Schafer stated that the "Menhaden Tagging Mortality Study" that the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries was presently working on collection and holding menhaden but had run into mortality problems and that he felt like this was due in part to the weather conditions. They are modifying their approach to the study and will perhaps need an extension as far as the time period is concerned but that an increase in funds would not be necessary at this time. He will keep the Board updated on their progress. Mr. Stevenson asked where we were in the contract - what month? Mr. Lyles stated that they were about 5 months - give or take a few days.

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD

October 17, 1978

Page - 2 -

Mr. J. Y. Christmas reported on the "Pilot Study for Menhaden Catch/Effort Log". He stated that to date the project was on schedule and he did not foresee any delay in the completion.

Dr. James Weaver gave a report on the "Development of a Management Planning Profile for Spotted Seatrout and Red Drum in the Gulf of Mexico, U.S.". He reported that an outline had been prepared and that three meetings had been held. To date all of the Gulf States have prepared their portion of the outline and a final report of the Committee will be presented at the Spring Session of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission utilizing the information submitted by the States and the information received from the Colloquium being held during the present session. Mr. Stevenson instructed the Secretary of the GS-FFMB to have the Document in the hands of Board members to permit time for review prior to the meeting and that the Spring Agenda of the Board carry an item to review the Spotted Seatrout and Red Drum Document. Dr. Ford stated that Dr. Weaver's committee had thus far done an excellent job.

Mr. Lyles asked permission to drop down to Item 2 under "D" and say that Dr. Robert Hiatt of Human Sciences Research, Inc. is not present for a presentation of his proposal but that he would be available at the T.C.C. meeting on October 18th. Upon recommendation of the T.C.C. a contract will be prepared for the "Shrimp Recreational Fisheries Statistics Data Collection and Analysis" based on the T.C.C. recommendations. Mr. Stevenson said there was no reason for further action by the Board. After the Technical Coordinating Committee, which the Board uses as its technical advisor, approved the proposal of Human Sciences Research, Inc. the contractor is authorized to consummate the contract. The Board only needs to be aware of progress.

Dr. Ford stated that the formal proposals on the "Formalization of a Menhaden Information Data Bank" and "Simulated Implementation of the Menhaden Management System" would be forthcoming. He indicated a submittal date of November 1, 1978. No action by the Board.

Mr. Stevenson asked if there were any questions regarding Item 5. There was no response. Mr. Stevenson stated that the Chair did not believe any was necessary on any of those Items.

The next Item on the Agenda is the 1979 Budget. Mr. Stevenson corrected the Agenda to read 1979 Budget instead of 1980 Budget. He then called on Bill

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD

October 17, 1978

Page - 3 -

Turner of NMFS to give that report. Bill Turner presented the status of the FY1979 Budget. He stated that there is \$100,000.00 available for the program contracts. He offered three alternatives to the actual disposition of the funds for the Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Board and the South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board to decide upon. 1) To divide the funds and allocate \$50K to each of the respective Boards; 2) To allocate the entire \$100,000.00 to the South Atlantic for FY1979 and to continue in the manner in which the funds have been allocated in the past. That is the entire available funds to each of the respective Boards in alternating years; and 3) To allocate \$90,000.00 to the respective Board and to leave \$10,000.00 in reserve for any emergency situation that may arise in either of the Boards. Mr. Turner recommended the third alternative and indicated that the South Atlantic Board was favorable to this arrangement. Dr. Lyle St. Amant moved that the third alternative for the Budget and disposition of funds be approved and that this same procedure be followed in future years unless we find it necessary to make a change. Mr. Wieting seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition.

Mr. Stevenson stated that at the Spring Session of the Board that determination of how the funds would be contracted out be discussed so that the Gulf Board could begin to take early action as to the actual disposition of funds for FY1980. Mr. Stevenson instructed the Secretary to include that on the Agenda of the Spring 1979 session. The Chair then moved to Item 7, on the Agenda, Standing Committee Reports. The Chair recognized Nat Sonnier for the Shrimp Management Committee report. Mr. Sonnier asked Mr. Lyles to make the report for him.

Mr. Lyles reported that the Shrimp Management Committee had last met in December of 1977, and that the final decision of the committee was that the shrimp management goals could best be met under contract for a shrimp recreational fisheries statistics data collection and analysis and that this would be accomplished through funds made available under the State-Federal Program with the Human Sciences Research, Inc.. Mr. Stevenson asked for comments on the report of the Shrimp Management Committee. There being none, Mr. Stevenson called on Mr. Wieting to report on the Menhaden Management Committee.

Mr. Wieting reported that the Menhaden Management Committee had not taken any action since the last session and that the Advisory Committee had been moving along well and that all contracts were either in force or being drawn up for

October 17, 1978

Page - 4 -

signature. Mr. Wieting also commented on the record catch of menhaden and suggested that perhaps Cameron, Louisiana is now the largest U.S. fishing port. He then called on the Chairman of the Menhaden Advisory Committee to report on their status.

Mr. Borden Wallace, Chairman of the Advisory Committee reported that they did not have any new contracts or proposals since this was the alternating year for funds but he stated that the Gulf fishery in 1978 will now be the largest single species landings in the history of the U.S. with 820,000 metric tons, and that this figure represents 86% over the catch of last year. Mr. Wallace further commented that his committee remain active in an advisory capacity to assist in the fulfillment of existing contracts.

Mr. Stevenson raised the question of whether or not there was any need for improving the communication or coordination both with the Shrimp Management Committee and the Menhaden Management Committee on coordinating with the expanded programs in shrimp and menhaden that will result from the FY1979 increase in both these programs or within the Southeast Fisheries Center. He asked if there was anybody who felt uncomfortable with the communications and with the procedure of how those funds will be used to augment the needs of the Advisory Committees of this Board both in shrimp and in menhaden in the future. Mr. Stevenson then asked Mr. Chapoton to comment upon the procedure for integrating the needs of the Board and the needs within the menhaden program. Mr. Chapoton stated that the increase in funds came about from joint State-Federal, and industry meetings a year and a half ago. He stated that upon the advice of the various committees, some of these funds possibly could be earmarked to state or independent companies for specific research projects. These funds could not be allocated without that advice if there is any money for outside work. He stated that there is \$293,000 in the increase bringing the total funds to approximately \$570,000. Most of the increase will be spent on juvenile abundance, Gulf and Atlantic, net log information in the Gulf and some population dynamics computer work. This will require about 3 permanent staff members.

Mr. Stevenson then asked if the increase will be used in 1979 as a logical extension of the pilot study for menhaden catch/effort log that is being done under the Board this year. Chapoton replied yes, and the computer funds would be related to the proposal for the formation of a menhaden information data bank

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD

October 17, 1978

Page - 5 -

and a simulation of implementation of the menhaden management system.

Stevenson then commented that there is a relationship between the needs of the Board and how you plan to spend the money. There is no duplication.

Mr. Wallace then commented that the Beaufort Laboratory had been trying to get money for the log system for about 2 years and now with just a little bit of money we were able in the matter of a very short time to set up and implement a system that will save the Beaufort Laboratory a full year and a half. The cost effect of the money spent here is much greater than in some other places.

Stevenson asked if there was anyone who could enlighten us on the expenditures for shrimp research. Dr. St. Amant stated that the matter had been discussed and that it was agreed that if the money was spent on any of one of the three priorities it would be well spent. These were, (1) A continuation of the mark-recapture program; (2) Collection of statistical data, particularly the recreational catch of shrimp; or (3) The socio-economic area.

Mr. Stevenson then asked the Shrimp Management Committee if there was any integration between the needs they have identified and the needs that are emerging in the development of the Shrimp fishery management plan under the Council - is there any communication going on in that area right now. Mr. Christmas commented that there had been because the people on the Management Committee have been in direct communication with and participating in the plan development for the Council.

Mr. Stevenson then asked if the same three priorities mentioned by St. Amant were the ones needed by the Council. St. Amant said they were but the one difference is that the Council acts on the best available information while the Board would like to have additional data on which to base a decision.

Gerald Adkins reported on the status of the Blue Crab Subcommittee. He stated that on June 20, 1978 his committee met in joint session with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to form a joint committee and at that time Dr. Victor Burrell was elected chairman. One of the recommendations of the Committee was that they coordinate the catch statistics of the Atlantic and the Gulf. He mentioned that an overview of the fishery both of the Atlantic and the Gulf had been completed and that they had ap-

October 17, 1979

Page - 6 -

proached the problem of a uniform method of inventory of the young of the year so that we could relate this information to the industry. He stated that the committee had met that day and that three areas of interest had been discussed. (1) Other species of crab that may be of interest to the committee; (2) A report to the National Shellfish Meeting coming up in Orlando, Florida; and (3) A designated method of funding for the committee. He recommended that the Board look into the possibility of State-Federal funds in the amount of less than \$10,000.

Rep. Wieting stated that in the State of Texas a problem had arisen regarding the export of large blue crabs out of the State. He stated that this problem was due in part by new owners of the crab producing companies moving into the State and purchasing the larger crabs and shipping them north. The problem now is that only the small blue crabs are left and they are being processed by machines or smaller amounts of hand pickers and the situation is now a loss of employment to many people who have up to this point made their living in the crab processing companies of the State. There was general discussion as to whether or not this was in fact (1) a threat to the crab management of the states; (2) an economic threat to the industry; or (3) a social problem. It was recommended by William Stevenson that the subcommittee look into this problem and prepare a report to the Chairman of the Board to be presented within 60 days making recommendations for the Board to act on.

Mr. Lyles stated that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission would be sponsoring a Colloquium on Blue Crab at the October 1979, session of the Gulf States.

There being no further business to discuss the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Lyles, Secretary

GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
BOARD

LIST OF ATTENDEES
 GULF STATE-FEDERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT BOARD
 October 17, 1978

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	
William H. Stevenson	NMFS/Southeast Region	St. Petersburg, FL
Lyle St. Amant	LA Wildlife & Fisheries	New Orleans, LA
Charles H. Lyles	GSMFC	Ocean Springs, MS
Robert Champagne	Fishermen	Galliano, LA
Leroy Wieting	TX House of Representatives	Portland, TX
Tom Moore	TX Parks & Wildlife	Austin, TX
Hugh Swingle	AL Dept. of Cons. & Nat. Res.	Dauphin Island, AL
Larry B. Simpson	GSMFC	Ocean Springs, MS
Leroy Kiffe	Governors Appointee - GSMFC	Lockport, LA
Gerald Adkins	LA Wildlife & Fisheries	Bourg, LA
O. B. Lee	FL Dept. of Natural Resources	Tallahassee, FL
William Fox	NMFS/Miami	Miami, FL
Borden Wallace	Wallace Menhaden Products	New Orleans, LA
Jim Weaver	TX Parks & Wildlife	Austin, TX
Dale Beaumariage	FL. Dept. of Natural Resources	Tallahassee, FL
Harry Schafer	LA Wildlife & Fisheries	New Orleans, LA
Bill Turner	NMFS/Southeast Region	St. Petersburg, FL
Ted Ford	LSU/Sea Grant	Baton Rouge, LA
Dennis Chew	MS Marine Conservation Comm.	Biloxi, MS
J. Y. Christmas	Gulf Coast Research Lab	Ocean Springs, MS
Nat Sonnier	AL State Legislative Office	Mobile, LA
Harold Allen	NMFS/Southeast Region	St. Petersburg, FL
Bob Mauermann	Texas Shrimp Assn.	Brownsville, TX
Paul Fulham	NMFS/Southeast Region	St. Petersburg, FL
Ed Swindell	Wallace Menhaden Products	New Orleans, LA
Sandra Lamey	NMFS/Southeast Region	St. Petersburg, FL
William Lunsford	Zapata Haynie	Towson, MS
Jack Styron	Wallace Menhaden Products	New Orleans, LA

Memorandum of Committee Meeting
GSMFC Industry Advisory Committee
October 18, 1978

The basis of this meeting is to get input to the rules being written in Washington so that we can indicate our concern for the type of regulations for hang ups on the outer continental shelf. Obstructions other than OCS will be charted, however, no provisions for removal have been made at this time.

The Department of Commerce will have the responsibilities of implimenting the bill, along with deriving the answers that are being directed to it. There is a provision in the bill to provide for loss of time and catch along with proof of burden, as stated in Act E, under 403.2E. During the course of this meeting reference was brought up as to the limitations of the Commerce Department as stated in Section 404, "Burden of Proof".

This bill was passed to aid the commercial fishermen for loss of monies caused by underwater obstructions (OCS) related to the oil industry, however at this time the bill and its contents are not totally clarified to the point of what the total procedures will be.

The bill doe not specify whether it covers just the outer continental shelf or the state territorial seas and areas as well, however the wording of the bill is worded in the direction of the outside. Members of this committee are hoping that it will include inside work, or to find possibilities to do inside work through contracts and funds that be available through the state.

Funds are financed by the oil industry based on the number of leases on the outer continental shelf, but the fact remains that a pipeline does not end on the outer continental shelf, it does come in. It was the opinion of several members of the committee that a OCS pipeline in state waters (not a state pipeline) should be included. It is also not clear as to what position the oil company will be placed in as to the refunding of the funds or just what information has to be supplied by the fisherman.

The problem facing the fisherman is find out what oil company is responsible for a hang up, and the length of time it takes him to locate the owner of the obstruction, due to the fact that at times several different petroleum companies may have pipelines crossing in the same area. However, from mapping and information available through the leasing offices, these problems can be lessened.

It was brought out during the course of the meeting that only certain sizes of pipelines are required to be trenched and buried, others will just bury themselves.

There is a regulation requiring the removal of an abandoned petroleum facility, on the outer continental shelf it is enforced, however the regulation is somewhat un-enforced within state waters. Some of the debris is there by accident and carelessness and some is no fault of the oil industry at all.

Concerning the claim, fishermen are not going to be any different than they were in the past unless the obstruction can be identified as a definite part of outer continental activity (OCS) and not an obstruction of other identity. In any cause these obstructions will have to be identified prior to a claim being allowed.

It is not known whether any area(s) will be restricted to service of this bill due

Memorandum of Committee Meeting
10-18-78
cont.
Page 2

to high hang up rates.

One point brought forth from the floor was whether the bill would be retroactive to the date of signing. As an unanswerable question, it was suggested for the time being that fishermen go ahead with business as they have in the past, retaining any information concerning hang ups with obstructions (OCS) in a fashion that they believe will or may be affective to them at a later date.

At this time there is no available information to the public as to the legislative history and matters discussed in committees during the preparation of this bill. Questions have been directed to Breaux and Treen as to what discussions took place in order that the committee of GSMFC can clarify its reading of same.

It was not clear as to who or what agency would have the authority of investigating hang ups and the problems pertaining to OCS hang ups or who will absorb the costs of these investigations, especially when located within state waters.

Hearings for the formulation of regulations will be held. These formulations will then be published as proposed legislation and then there is a re-hearing which is usually set up so that persons do not have to travel to Washington, but can travel within their abilities in order to participate and communicate in same. It may be noted that these hearings are scheduled months in advance and dates can be obtained through the GSMFC office.

A suggestion was made that all associations address a letter to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce in Washington that it is desired by same to participate in the promogation of the regulations concerning this bill and the willingness and availability for communications with him in preparing the implimentation of this bill.

A second topic during this meeting was the salt brine solution, which will take place by pumping water into salt caverns to dissolve salt and then pumped out into the gulf as brine solution.

The fact that deep concern has been stressed by the commercial fishermen brings this topic to the floor of this committee.

Envoinrmental Impact Studies are being performed on these particular areas of concern. It was the understanding given at this meeting that this pumping is a one time project covering a two year period.

Questions brought forth to the panel included what effects this will have on envoinrment, the salinity of the water, vegetation growth and all aquatic life in general, and what will be the total volume that will be pumped and the accumulated damages from this pumping.

The Department of Transportation did put out an EIS a year ago which covered a ten day review period.

We can only assume at this time that the project was cleared through an EIS in order to have the permit issued. However due to any objections, this permit can be suspended.

Memorandum of Committee Meeting
10-18-78
cont.
Page 3

A permit was issued to Loupe and Loupe to cover this pumping project. Suggestions were made to request an invitation to meet with Loupe in order to obtain further information as to the process and procedures concerning this discharge.

A closer look at this situation through participation with Loupe and other available offices will give the committee a fuller point of interest in the project. The GSMFC committee will have to study this issue more fully prior to making any decisions or objections without full knowledge.

Suggestions made by fishermen was to pump the solution 10-12 miles out or barge it out farther than 12 miles into the gulf, as their fears are that it may concentrate larger areas than expected and/or move with the tide.

At this Mr. Montiff, representing the National Ocean Survey (NOS) was introduced in order to inform the committee of their plans for charting and mapping in conjunction with provisions in the outer continental shelf act.

NOS's prime concern is to develop a fishing or obstructions chart consisting with the needs of the user and is really in search of information as to what the people will need contained in these charts.

NOS has developed some considerations that they, as an agency of the Federal Government, feel that they must respond to under these provisions of the act, such as; what is needed, what is available, and what must be acquired.

It is the feeling of NOS that a large amount of this information is known by the committee and its people and that this information has been regarded as privileged information and guarded in the past. If this type of information was released and/or given to NOS, it would expediate the process.

Examples of portions of information that NOS will be looking for are:

- Loran C information
- Types of obstructions
- What the fishermen believe to be down there
- What type of trawls-mid layer or bottom trawls

NOS is in the process of developing perimeters by which a obstructions chart or fishing chart will be defined, looking at limits of chart coverage, chart scales, electronic positioning lattice if that would be necessary, what types of aids to navigation, fixed floating landmarks, etc.

NOS needs to know what kind of pathemity are to be looked for, such as; soundings of particular units, contour intervals, whether you want the contours shaded to better define the bottom, depth zones, bottom characteristics, currents, thermo-climbs.

What type of obstructions would NOS be looking for, such as; natural, man made, above or below the bottom, symbolization, new types of symbolization that would be addressed strictly to the users of the obstructions or fishing charts in the charting of obstructions.

Memorandum of Committee Meeting
10-18-78
cont.
Page 4

NOS is looking to get away from the "old time" nautical charts as we've have known these charts to be by such measures are possibly highlighting foul areas, such as dumping grounds and disposal areas.

A definition of the OCS and the NOS chart will be designed to provide navigational coverage. Does NOS need to cover ship navigational information, traffic lanes, tanker routes, etc. Do the fishermen need the fishing conservation zone limit included. Does the chart need to be defined strictly U.S., U.S. Canada, U.S. Mexico, U.S. Bahamas, U.S. Cuba? NOS is looking at the entire continental shelf, not just the Gulf area, however, at this time the Gulf of Mexico is the priority.

A few of the outlets NOS feels that they may be able to receive information from is Sea Grant colleges, National Marine Fisheries, Cruise data from the Navy, the fishermen, etc. Data required will be that data that will satisfy the perimeter discussed. Information may be acquired by using the NOS survey method, sites/sonar, conventional, sounding type surveys. There are other authoritative agencies such as oil industries which will be able to provide this type of information, possibly contractual surveys, dragging the bottom, use of the new BS Cube system which deploys approx. 21 transducers in a geometric array that scans the bottom.

Initial actions will be to determine the user needs by requesting input from National Marine Fisheries regional offices, Marine Advisory Services, etc. A person from NOS will be attending FISH EXPO in Boston this month in hopes of obtaining information as to needs of the user.

It was the feeling of the committee that concentration should point first to the areas with high extensity fishing, areas that were abundant for fishing at one time and are not workable any longer due to problems, etc.

NOS is looking at a two year time frame to acquire this data and produce obstruction charts at a possible figure of four million dollars.

It was the consensus of the committee that Mr. Lyles would request a resolution through the Executive Committee be directed to the Secretary of Commerce in which GSMFC would request that the administration of this act be centered in the Gulf regional area due to the emence expertise contained in the GSMFC committee.

As there was no further discussion the meeting was adjourned.

Louisiana Fisheries Federation

October 27, 1978

GULF STATES MARINE
FISHERIES COMMISSION

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
P. O. BOX 726
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

OCT 31 1978

Re: Tape Transcription

Attention: Mrs. Virginia K. Herring

Dear Virginia:

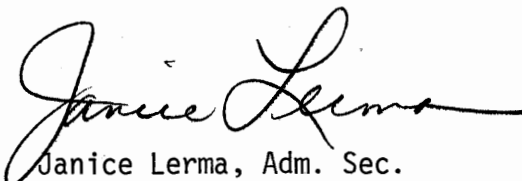
It was a pleasure for me to participate in the Gulf States' meetings. I felt that the meetings were very information and left educational impressions in the minds of everyone attending.

I must add that it was an honor to meet the persons from different agencies throughout the Gulf States, as well as persons from fishing organizations who share the resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

I have attached the transcription of the tape from the Industry Advisory Committee. We did have a few problems with the clarity of the tape due to the fact that we picked a large amount of background noise. You may wish to have Larry Simpson or Mr. Lyles review same prior to adding it to the total minutes of the Joint Meetings.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Again, thank you,


Janice Lerma, Adm. Sec.
Louisiana Fisheries Federation

JL/

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Technical Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, October 18, 1978
Holiday Inn Central
Tampa, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm, October 18, 1978, by Chairman Ted B. Ford, at the Holiday Inn Central in Tampa, Florida. The Chairman noted there were representatives from each of the five States and adopted the agenda.

Jack Brawner for the NMFS gave a presentation titled "Fisheries Management - A New Concept". The concept involved management of the fisheries which are mainly inside the States waters. This would be a voluntary procedure under the Commission to take the lead in development, planning and implementation of management regimes in fisheries, without any change in their present statutory authority, in the fisheries which have interstate responsibility.

After this presentation there was discussion of funding and the states acceptance of the concept. A motion was made by Lyle St. Amant to take this to the Executive Committee with suggestions that the states study it with their constituency which will lead to a response. J. Y. Christmas seconded and the motion was approved.

A report of the red drum and spotted seatrout subcommittee was given by Dr. Thomas McIlwain. After the initial organization meeting at Brownsville, Texas, to outline the profile of the species there have been three task force meetings to work out problems. They now have a rough draft and plan to use the additional information obtained at the Colloquium. There was a motion by Lyle St. Amant to continue the existence of the subcommittee on funds available or as needed basis. The motion was seconded by J. Y. Christmas and approved.

Dr. Lyle St. Amant gave a brief update as to the cholera situation and the crab industry in Louisiana.

Dr. Robert Hiatt from Human Science Research, Inc. gave his presentation on the proposed contract for recreational shrimp fishing survey in the Gulf States. After much discussion about the methods to be used in obtaining the information, Hugh Swingle made a motion to accept the contract for as many additional interviews as the funds allow with the stipulation there will be a meeting of the contractors, state

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Technical Coordinating Committee
MINUTES - 10/18/78
Page - 2 -

resource agency representatives and Executive Director to establish most common sites of use, seasonal peaks of fishing and other individual differences each of the states may have so as to get the best possible data they can. The motion was seconded by J. Y. Christmas and approved.

The nominations committee brought forth the name of Ted B. Ford for Chairman for the following year.

Hearing no other nominations, Dr. Ted B. Ford was elected Chairman for the next year.

A motion to have a Vice chairman appointed by the Chairman from a state other than the Chairman's and for the same term as the Chairman was made by J. Y. Christmas and seconded by Hugh Swingle. The motion carried and was to be presented to the Executive Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 18, 1978
Holiday Inn Central
Tampa, Florida

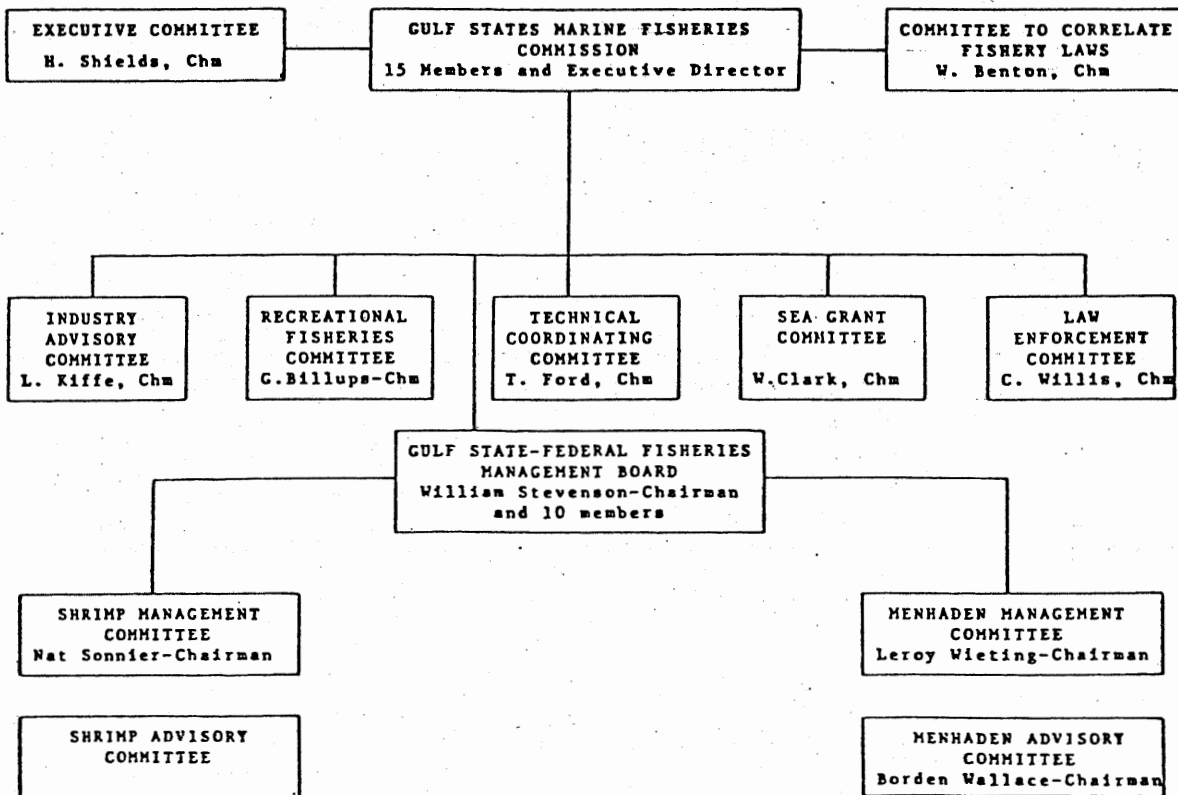
The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM by the Chairman Nat Sonnier. Mr. Sonnier established that a quorum was present and moved on to the first item on the Agenda, adoption of the minutes of the March 1978 meeting. Lyle St. Amant moved that the minutes be adopted, J. Y. Christmas seconded and the motion was approved.

The Executive Director presented proposed Bylaw amendments to the Commission for their vote. After much discussion it was moved by J. Y. Christmas to adopt the proposed amendments and seconded by Lyle St. Amant, the motion was approved. The amendments are as follows:

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Section 7. There shall be a standing Commission Committee known as the Technical Coordinating Committee. This Committee shall be composed of scientists and/or technical administrators from each of the compacted states. Each Committee member shall be a scientist or technical administrator of the state conservation authority represented on the Commission and/or from the university system doing marine research within the state. The duty of this Committee shall be that providing such scientific advice as may be needed by the Commission. The Chairman of the Technical Coordinating Committee shall be elected by members of the Technical Coordinating Committee on an annual basis, at the same time a new Chairman of the Commission is elected.

Section 9. The organizational structure of the Commission is represented by the following Table of Organization:



During the discussion of the proposed Bylaw amendments J. Y. Christmas stated that he had been appointed to a Nomination Committee for the Technical Coordinating Committee and that the Committee recommended that further Bylaw amendments be proposed. He moved that the Commissioners consider a Bylaw amendment that would empower the elected Chairman of the TCC to appoint a Vice Chairman from a State other than his own. It was seconded by Tom Moore and the motion carried. The Chairman so instructed the Executive Director to prepare a proposed Bylaw amendment for the Commissioners consideration at the March 1979 meeting of the Commission.

The Executive Director stated that his legislative report to the Commission covered three items. (1) P.L. 88-309, which had been increased by

1.2 million dollars; 2) P. L. 93-205, the Endangered Species Act. Mr. Lyles stated that he had "waged a considerable battle with some success" and although the "artillery smoke" had not cleared yet he felt certain that he had been successful in a measure; and 3) OCS Bill Title 4. Mr. Lyles stated that he was unable to tell the Commission exactly what was in store since the regulations had not yet been promulgated. He did ask the Commission to give him the authority to make the necessary contacts and recommendations to the NMFS in regards to the location of the headquarters for the administration of this Bill. He stated that it was his feelings that the Gulf area had more expertise in this particular subject than any other area in the U.S. He expressed his fear that if left to the decision of the NMFS that the location may be a far less desirable one. Lyle St. Amant moved that the Executive Director be given the authority to advise the NMFS of the Commission desire to see the headquarters for administration of the OCS Bill be located in the Gulf. It was seconded by J. Y. Christmas and the motion was approved.

A motion was made by J.Y. Christmas to instruct the Executive Director to write a letter to the Executive Directors of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Pacific States Fisheries Commission thanking them for their outstanding job of coordination with the GSMFC in their successful attempt to increase P.L. 88-309 funds. The motion was seconded by Tom Moore, and was unanimously approved.

The Executive Director presented the Proposed Budget for FY 1978-1979. He stated that the Budget for FY 1977-1978 had been a difficult one to prepare since there had been very little information to base an accurate budget on but that although some budget items had not been exact that in

EXECUTIVE SESSION

October 18, 1978

Page -4-

summary we had performed below last years approved budget. A motion was made by J. Y. Christmas to accept the Proposed Budget for FY 1978-1979 and was seconded by Leroy Wieting. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Lyles stated that the Commission was solvent and that money above the actual operating expenses were on deposit in the amount of \$47,321.16 and were accruing interest. He stated that in FY1977-1978 the Commission earned interest in the amount of \$2,321.16. He also informed the Commissioners that an audit would take place as soon as he returned to the Commission office and that this audit would be mailed to the Commissioners prior to the March 1979 meeting.

General discussion regarding the Colloquium on the Spotted Seatrout and Red Drum being held on October 19 and 20th was held. The Executive Director stated that the Colloquium would be published with funds made available under the State-Federal Program.

The Commission Secretary, Virginia Herring was asked to leave the meeting while a discussion of her salary was held. It was motioned by Hugh Swingle, that the Secretary's salary be increased by \$1,000.00 to make her salary \$8,500.00 annually. It was seconded by Leroy Wieting, and the motion was unanimously approved.

There was considerable discussion regarding the registration fee of the GSMFC Annual Meetings. It was decided to continue the subject at the next session on Thursday, October 19, 1978.

The Chairman recessed the meeting at 1:00 PM. to be adjourn on October 19th at noon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
Wednesday, October 19, 1978
Holiday Inn Central
Tampa, Florida

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 PM by the Chairman Nat Sonnier. Mr. Sonnier established a quorum. The Chair recognized Mr. Larry B. Simpson who thanked Mr. O.B. Lee on behalf of the Commission for his fine job at the Fish Fry on Wednesday evening. The Chair instructed the Executive Director to prepare a letter to Mr. Harmon Shields and his staff to thank them for their assistance with the Fall Meeting.

The discussion regarding the registration fee of the Commission's Annual meetings continued. Mr. Leroy Wieting stated that he felt the Commission should encourage more spouse participation. The Executive Director stated that expenses had increased and the fee of \$20.00 had been a long standing fee and was no longer adequate. O. B. Lee suggested that the fee should be concurrent with the expenses involved in individual locations. A motion was made by O.B. Lee that the Executive Director be permitted to charge up to \$50.00 per attendee and \$40.00 for a spouse depending on the actual expenses involved. It was seconded by Leroy Kiffe and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Lyles stated that it was not always possible for the Commission Secretary to use the GSMFC vehicle since it was not always available and that it was necessary for her to use her own vehicle while conducting Commission business such as postal pick ups. He therefore suggested that the Commission increase the mileage allowance from 15¢ to 18¢. The Motion to increase the mileage allowance to 18¢ was made by Leroy Wieting and seconded by O.B. Lee. The motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

October 19, 1978

Page - 2 -

The Executive Director stated that a rough draft would be prepared and mailed out to the Commissioners of the Annual Report for 1977-1978 as soon as he was able to compile all of the necessary information.

The Chairman called on Larry B. Simpson to present a proposal on Employee Benefits. Mr. Simpson offered the Commissioners several different policies to examine and relayed the research he had done in this regard. After considerable discussion a motion was made by O.B. Lee that the Commission use the \$1,900.00 budgeted for fringe benefits to purchase the Prudential Health Coverage for the staff of the GSMFC. It was seconded by Leroy Wieting and was unanimously approved.

Mr. Lyles made the statement that the Louisiana Shrimp Association would be meeting in New Orleans in March 1979 at the same time that the Commission would be meeting. He told the Commission that when this was brought to his attention that he had initiated talks with the Association in regards to a joint meeting. The Associations first opinion was that it was not a good idea, but after discussion within their own group decided to reopen the discussions regarding a joint meeting. Mr. Lyles asked for comments from the Commissioners and after discussion it was decided that the Commission was favorable to a joint meeting with the Louisiana Shrimp Association and instructed the Executive Director to make the necessary arrangements.

Nat Sonnier called on the Chairman of the Technical Coordinating Committee to give his report, a copy of which is attached and made part of these minutes. During Dr. Fords report he made recommendations to

the Commission that they accept the proposal of the Human Sciences Research Inc. for the recreational shrimp fishing survey subcontract now available through the Commission. There was much discussion and specific items were discussed to improve the outcome of the survey. The Executive Director was instructed to draw up the contract for the proposed survey of \$38,846.00 and to personally insure the necessary requirements of the survey.

Dr. Ford asked the Executive Director if he thought it necessary to begin work for further increases in P.L. 88-309. The Executive Director stated that he felt that it would be a better idea to wait one year before again pursuing an increase.

The Nominating Committee of the TCC nominated Ted Ford for Chairman. With the permission of the Commission, Ted Ford appointed J. Y. Christmas as Vice Chairman of the Committee.

The Executive Director called for nominations for Chairman of the Commission to preside for the period October 1978 through October 1979. Bob Kemp nominated Leroy Wieting and it was seconded by Tom Moore. The Commissioners voted Leroy Wieting Chairman by unanimous approval. J. Y. Christmas then nominated Richard Leard Vice Chairman and it was seconded by Tom Moore. The nomination was approved unanimously.

Nat Sonnier released the Chair to Leroy Wieting. The Commissioners commended Nat for his fine job and presented him with a gift of appreciation.

Leroy Wieting stated that he intended to actively support the Commission and the work it did.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

October 19, 1978

Page - 4 -

Mr. Lyles requested that Larry Simpson's salary be increased by \$1,000.00, if the 10% increase requested became a reality. It was moved by Leroy Wieting and seconded by Tom Moore. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

LIST OF ATTENDEES
GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE SESSION
October 18 - 19, 1978

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	
Charles H. Lyles	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	Gulf
Larry B. Simpson	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission	Gulf
Hugh Swingle	Alabama Dept. of Conservation & Natural Res.	AL
Nat Sonnier	Alabama State Legislative Office	AL
O. B. Lee	Florida Dept. of Natural Resources	FL
Lyle St. Amant	Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries	LA
Leroy Kiffe	Governors Appointee - GSMFC	LA
Harry Schafer	Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries	LA
Dennis Chew	Miss. Marine Conservation Commission	MS
J. Y. Christmas	Gulf Coast Research Lab	MS
Tom Moore	Texas Parks & Wildlife	TX
Leroy J. Wieting	Texas House of Representatives	TX
Robert Kemp	Texas Parks & Wildlife	TX
William H. Stevenson	NMFS/Southeast Region	FL
Ted Ford	LSU-Sea Grant	LA

UNDERWATER OBSTRUCTION MEETING
TITLE 4 OCS - FISHERMANS COMPENSATION FUND
Monday, November 27, 1978
Ramada Inn
Kenner, Louisiana

The meeting began at 1:30 PM, with Charles H. Lyles giving the legislative history of the Bill.

After some discussion, Captain C. J. Kiffe gave a prepared statement concerning the need of fishermen for compensation of loss due to hang-ups on oil and gas exploration obstruction.

General discussion and questions were then directed to Mr. W. B. Hannum and Mr. Preston Smith from the Washington office of the National Marine Fisheries Service. The topics of questions and discussion were as follows:

- (1) Boundary limits i.e. FCZ and/or territorial seas.
- (2) Amount of the fund.
- (3) Reduction in the red tape associated with filing a claim.
- (4) Location of the office for administration of the fund in Gulf area or other.
- (5) Method of confirming a hang with a witness.
- (6) Date for which hangs will be covered by this program.
- (7) What will be done to clear the hang after the report of such an obstruction.
- (8) How accurate will Loran A & C be considered for confirmation of position.
- (9) Time frame for and method of writing the proposed and final rules & regulations.
- (10) Who will have the authority to define the terms and provisions of the Bill.
- (11) What discretion will the hearing examiners have in determining who is at fault in a hang.
- (12) Does this include hangs on unlighted unapproved coast guard approved buoys.

UNDERWATER OBSTRUCTION MEETING

October 19, 1978

Page - 2 -

(13) The approximate amounts of loss and the number
of hangs in Gulf area.

The fisherman expressed a desire for the Washington Office of National Marine Fisheries Service to take this input from the fishermen in consideration when the rules and regulations were written. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

LIST OF ATTENDEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	
Larry B. Simpson	GSMFC	Ocean Springs, MS
Richard Raulerson	NMFS	St. Petersburg, FL
C. J. Kiffe	Richard K. Inc.	Cameron, LA
Philip Cantwell	Creaole Belle (shrimper)	Lake Arthur, LA
Tee John Mialjevich	Delcambre Shrimp Assn.	505 N. Railroad, Delcambre, LA
Tommy A. Kiffe	fisherman	Rt. 1, Box 82, Galliano, LA 70354
Carl Ellender, Jr.	fisherman	126 Jean Ellen Ave, Houma, LA
J. Nauricette Ellender	fisherman	126 Jean Ellen Ave, Houma, LA
Michael Lorraine	fisherman	Rt. 2, Box 275, Galliano, LA
Clannis Esposge	fisherman	P O Box 39, Galliano, LA
Melissa W. Smith	USDI-BLM	New Orleans, LA
Don W. Solanas	USDI-USGS	Metairie, LA
J. A. Prunty	Mobil Oil Corp.	New Orleans, LA
Norman Plaisance	fisherman	Rt. 1-Box 346, Galliano
Jimmy Allemand	Jennifer E., Inc.	Rt 2108 - 144st, Galliano, LA
Kirk Carney	Office of Congressman Treen	4900 Veterans Blvd, Metairie, LA
E. J. Bradley	Jimmy Dian	112 Hayden Dr., Pass Christian, MS
David G. Belsome	Papa George	P O Box 206, Lafitte, LA
Gary Graham	Texas A & M Univ.-Sea Grant	Rt. 2 Armory, Angleton, LA 77515
Warren Mermilliod	LSU - Marine Advisory Program	P O Box 59, Pointe Ala Hache, LA
Mike Wascom	LSU - Sea Grant Legal Program	52-60 LSU Law Center, Baton Rouge
Lonnie Laviolette	Seal Life I	Rt 2- Box 154e - LA
Curtis Laviolette	George Reyer	Rt 2- Box 154A
Ralph Rayburn	Texas Shrimp Association	403 Vaughn Bldg, Austin, TX
Janice Lerma	La. Fisheries Federation	Baton Rouge, LA
Bill Cantwell	La. Fisheries Federation	Baton Rouge, LA
Preston Smith	NMFS	Washington, D.C.
W. B. Hannum	NMFS	Washington, D.C.