

PRESENT - MEMBERS: Commissioners J. Clifford Hutt (Chairman),
Richard E. Lankford, Lawrence O. Hayden,
Milton T. Hickman, William P. Hunt.
(Commissioner Roy E. Julie was absent)

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

OTHERS: See attached list of those in attendance -
76 names signed. (It is estimated that at
least 100 persons were present)

Mr. Hutt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and read a letter addressed to the Commission dated July 22, 1970 from Mr. Joseph H. Manning, Director of the Maryland Fish and Wildlife Administration, concerning the results of a partial survey of soft shell clam areas in the Potomac River made by his department recently. Mr. Hutt noted his reply to Mr. Manning, and said that after canvassing members of the Commission, it was decided to hold this hearing. He then read a copy of the notice that had been circulated announcing the place, time and purpose of this meeting.

Mr. Hutt noted that the waters of the Potomac River adjacent to Charles County had not been opened when the Commission adopted regulations controlling clamming because of the expressed wishes of the citizens of Charles County, who attended a similar hearing at that time. He said that the Potomac River Fisheries Commission will be advised by those present - that expressions from interested people are desired, and the Commission is most willing to listen.

He then asked for a statement from the Fish and Wildlife Administration. Mr. Frank Hammons, the biologist who conducted the survey above mentioned, described in detail the methods used, the areas covered and the desirability of utilizing this resource in the areas involved. He said he estimated an area adjacent to Cobb Island, and one from Swan Point to Piccowaxen Creek, to contain an average clam population of more than 100 bushels per acre. The areas contain 327 and 241 acres respectively. He said the area opposite Cobb Island had been reduced just the day before, from 469 acres to 327 acres, due to the possibility of encroaching on oyster producing areas.

Mr. Hutt asked Cmdr. Rafter if he could maintain police observation of clamming in such areas. Cmdr. Rafter said that he could and would, having been instructed by Mr. Manning to do so in any and all areas opened by the PRFC.

Approximately twenty (20) persons spoke to the subject. Many more opposed than favored extending soft shell clamming by use of hydraulic dredges in waters opposite Charles County.

Mr. Hammons said that silting from such an operation would not damage adjacent oyster areas, and that there are not enough brood oysters in subject areas to be concerned about.

Mrs. Loretta Nimmerrichter and Mr. Calvin Compton, Delegates to the General Assembly of Maryland from Charles County, spoke in opposition to clamming in waters adjacent to that county.

Mr. John Hansen Briscoe, Delegate from St. Mary's County, said that the clam populations in St. Mary's County are depleted and, taking everything into consideration, should it be found that if not detrimental to other fisheries, that if the Commission feels in its wisdom that it is justifiable to do so, he would hope the Commission would approve opening the waters adjacent to Charles County to soft shell clamming.

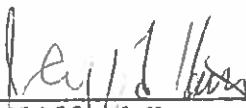
Mr. J. Willard Dutton said that the Charles County Watermen's Association had met recently and voted unanimously against clamming.

Mr. Robert Prier, Executive Secretary of the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industries Association, said that, in speaking, he is not for or against this issue, but that his organization's policy is that all seafood from the Bay or Rivers should be utilized and feels that the various fisheries should work together on this.

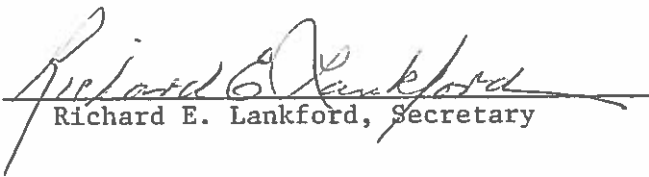
Mr. Paul J. Bailey, Senator from Charles and St. Mary's Counties, spoke at some length and concluded by asking the Commission, under the circumstances, not to open the Potomac River adjacent to Charles County to soft shell clamming.

Mr. Hutt asked if anyone else had any statement or comment. There being none, he said the Potomac River Fisheries Commission will not, and does not, favor any political, geographic or other group, and that the Commission had held this meeting in the hope of gathering facts so that it might lay out a further program for the betterment of the fisheries in general. He said that the Commission will make no decision at this time but, on the question of opening any additional areas to soft shell clamming in the Potomac River, will announce a decision at its next meeting to be held September 18, 1970.

At 9:25 p.m. the public hearing was adjourned.



J. Clifford Hutt, Chairman



Richard E. Lankford, Secretary

NAME :

ADDRESS :

REPRESENTING :

Dick Myers	Leonard Town, Md	Radio Station WKI.
Walter Dutton	White Plains	Charles
Thomas S. Symons	Cobb Island Md	Charles
Loretta Nimmerichter	Waldorf	House of Delegates
Samuel G. Bowling	Rock Point Md	Sec. CC. Baltimore, Md.
Hayes Fitzmaurice	Smyrna, Md	Natural Resources Institute
Elinor Cunningham	Solomons, Md	Natural Resources Inst.
Roy W. Rafter	Annapolis, Md.	Fish & Wildlife Adm.
Wade B. Stone	Cobb Island	Charles
Stanley Brown	St. Michaels	Charles Co.
Harvey J. Stone	Cobb Island	Charles Co.
Purcell L. Godwin	Cobb Island Md	Challin Co.
W. J. Cross Tangle	Cobb Island Md	Charles Co.
Leo W. Tangle	Cobb Island Md	Charles Co.
Calvin Cooper	Port Tobacco Md	Chas Co. Md
Paul Bailey	Mechanicville "	Senate
John B. Stone Jr.	Cobb Island	Charles Co.
Ralph Lanning	Rock Point Md	Charles Co.
Wiley B. Norris	Cobb Island	Charles County
Stephen N. Numb Sr.	Cobb Island	Charles County
Blanford A. Baily	Cobb Island	Charles County
Joseph R. Croppings	Cobb Island	Charles County
James E. Braines	Newburg, Md	Charles Co.
John H. Briscoe	Hollywood, Md	St. Mary's City.
W. J. Lewis	Waldorf	Charles Co.
F. E. Burgess	Rt. 1 Box 271 Nonneway Ch Co.	St. Mary's
Agnes S. Thompson	Avenue Md	St. Mary's
Billy Thompson	Avenue Md	St. Mary's

NAME

ADDRESS

REPRESENTING

James S. Brown	Abell Md	
James Clements	Abell Md	
Joseph Evans Fawcett	Abell PD	
Ernest Haysler	Bushwood, Md.	
Mary Russell	Queen Anne, Md	
Louis Thompson Jr.	Queen Anne Md.	
Louis Thompson III	Queen Anne Md.	
William E. Newton	California Md.	
Edith C. Bean	California Md.	
James G. Clements	California Md.	
John H. Brown Jr.	Avenue 7510	St Mary's Co
Francis A. Dickerson	Abell Md.	
Leise Newby	Abell Md.	
James Louis Hancock	Pt. 1, Box 420 Indian Head Md.	
Mrs Louis Thompson	Thompson Avenue, Md.	
Eric Edward Thompson	Avenue Md	
Maurice Bossert 2	Montross VA	
Jeff Walker	Nassawadox, Va	
Ed Russell	Hampton Va	V.M.R.C.
E. Ralph Cameron	White Stone, Va.	V. M. R. Co.
E. C. Bryant	Newburg Md.	C. W. Co.
William Quade	Coff. Deland	Charles Co.
Alice Quade	Cobb Island	Charles Co.
Alice C. Bryant	Newburg, Md.	Charles Co.
Howard H. Davis	La Plata, Md.	Char. Co.
Joseph Thompson Jr	Avenue Md	
Robert M. Gollier	Ridge, Md.	ST. MARY'S Co.

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
JOSEPH W. RUSSELL	AVENUE	ST MARY'S
Robert A. Fowler	Tompkinsville, Md	Charles Co
Richard Washington	Boswell, Md	()
John H. Hinton	Wood, Md	()
John Ed. ...	Wood, Md	()
Clara Hill	Newburg, Md	()
W. W. ...	Tompkinsville, Md	Charles Co
Ricky Pilkerton	Rock Point, Md	Charles Co.
Paul ...	Cold Spring, Md	Charles Co.
Joseph ...	Newburg, Md	Charles Co.
John ...	Tompkinsville, Md	"
George Bailey	Issue	Charles Co.
James ...	Issue	"
Mrs. Edgar Porter	Issue	Charles
William R. Dyer	Box 1034 Easton, Md	Seafood Ind.
R. R. Boyer	R2 B354 Hollywood.	ST MARY'S
Samuel Clinton Jr	Box 110 N. N. Jernoy, Md	Interstate Comm. on State
Challengers Goldsmith	Rt 1 N. N. Jernoy, Md.	Charles Co.
Charles J. ...	Maryland, Md.	Charles Co.
Robert T. Barkow	Port Tobacco, Md.	" "
J. L. Weinhold	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Charles Co Managers Swann Point

Mr. Norris of A.C. Call

James Rattroom 3:00 PT 3:30

301 769-3596

Cham grounds

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