



# Commission Says It Isn't Sidestepping Menhaden Issue

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committee, headed by Michael Orbach, were approved at a March 21 meeting in New Bern.

These include having the Division of Marine Fisheries summarize available information on menhaden for the commissioners' study and approving creation of an ad hoc advisory board with broad representation to advise the commission and subcommittee on menhaden issues in North Carolina.

The ad hoc group is to present its first batch of recommendations on menhaden at the Commission's June 14-15 meeting at Morehead City, in time for any regulatory action taken to go into effect for the fall season that begins in October. These are to relate to conflicts that stem from the menhaden's multiple role as an industrial fish and its popularity as bait for sports fish.

A full set of recommendations should be ready for the Commission's fall consideration, Costlow said.

Commission member Charles Peterson told the fishermen the panel wanted balanced input—to hear from all users affected by regulation of the menhaden fishery. "I believe you will see some sort of action," he said. "I'd be shocked if you see nothing."

### Disappearing?

Those favoring regulation of the menhaden industry say that without constraints, the menhaden will disappear in 10 to 15 years from overfishing.

North Carolina is the only South Atlantic state that doesn't regulate the industry, but Costlow said other states have regulated it for varying reasons that may or may not apply to North Carolina's fishery.

To encourage adoption of menhaden regulations, area legislators have introduced bills that would limit pogy boats, in one instance, to one-half mile off Brunswick County shores, and in another, three miles off the state's entire coastline.

Industry spokesmen say keeping fishermen three miles out would put the industry out of business, something both the legislators and the fishermen say is not the intent of regulation.

But, said Sam Long, president of the New Hanover County Fishing Club, "I think the impact would be greater if the menhaden disappear."

"If the decline continues 10 to 15 years, you won't have to worry about regulating the menhaden industry—there won't be one."

"And what's worse," he added, "there won't be any menhaden."

Standard Products Co. last year closed the only menhaden processing plant in Brunswick County. Standard Products, Beaufort Fisheries and Sea and Sound Processing Co. each operate one plant at Beaufort.

According to a report prepared by Mike Street of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries for the Commission, North Carolina was responsible for 25.9 percent of the 1984 Atlantic Coast menhaden harvest, with more than 186 million pounds of fish. Landings were worth \$4.7 million while processed products were valued at about \$7.9 million.

The staff summaries are to look at the menhaden fishery in light of four types of management options: biological conservation; 2) economic structure, condition and trends in the industry; 3) forage and food chain in-

teractions involving menhaden and other commercial or recreational fisheries; and 4) multiple-use conflicts involving commercial menhaden fishing.

"We have to be very clear what about it we're regulating," said Orbach.

The commission's efforts were delayed, Costlow said, when it found out that it didn't have the power to appoint an ad hoc committee. A list of persons recommended to serve on the committee have since been forwarded to Thomas Rhodes, state secretary of Natural Resources and Development, for consideration.

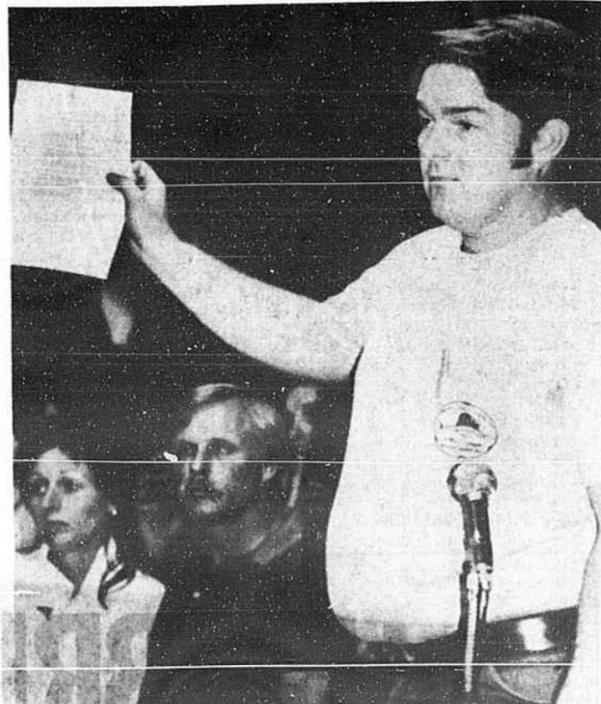
Monday night were Charles Derrick of Long Beach gave the Commission a copy of a resolution adopted by the Town of Long Beach that seeks a ban on menhaden fishing from Bald Head Island west to Lockwood Folly Inlet for a distance three miles offshore.

In fishermen's organized concern about the state of the menhaden fishery, Billy Winn of Wilmington said, the Commission was seeing "the first stirrings of a sleeping giant," sports fishermen's potentially large political influence.

"We want you to have the strength and intestinal fortitude to adopt the regulations you know are needed," he said.

Dale McDowell, representing the Brunswick County Fishing Club, also told commissioners the club supports establishment of a menhaden nursery area between Bald Head Island and Lockwood Folly Inlet, a one-mile limit along the North Carolina coast and a split season.

A letter signed by Club President Carlis Sweat added, "We will not stand by to watch you do nothing."



DALE MCDOWELL, secretary of the Brunswick County Fishing Club, joined other speakers at a Marine Fisheries Commission hearing Monday in seeking regulation of the menhaden industry.

BRUNSWICK TECHNICAL COLLEGE must have an ongoing building program to house current and future programs, President Joseph Carter told county commissioners Wednesday night at a joint meeting with the college's governing board.

## Phenomenal Growth Experienced

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3) calling a multimillion-dollar referendum to meet the capital construction needs of the college alone and/or to meet the needs of the public schools and the county complex also, either of which would require a coordinated campaign.

For the college, Johnson advised Wednesday, "a couple of million dollars is what you're looking at over the next several years."

Since opening its doors in 1980 the college has experienced phenomenal growth, President Joseph Carter told the commissioners, and has rapidly crowded its facilities—the old extension office at Supply, the old Southport Middle School in Southport, a single vocational building on its new campus at Supply and a small fleet of modular classrooms.

"Sometimes I feel like the master of a three-ring circus," BTC President Carter said of his efforts to manage a divided campus, "because that's what we're operating here."

## State Says Orrock Deserves Job Back

(Continued From Page 1-A) because of family and financial problems.

Rivenbark, who drove kidney patients to and from dialysis treatments in Wilmington, testified that because she had problems seeing after dark, Orrock had "promised" her an office job, but failed to deliver on that promise.

To accommodate the eye problem, Orrock testified he had allowed others to drive the van for Ms. Rivenbark. Ms. Coward said he was apparently acting within his discretion as director, based on testimony by County Manager Billy Carter.

Evidence presented by the two parties was "diametrically opposed" on major points, she said.

She added that the department offered no eyewitnesses to support Ms. Rivenbark's claims or to weaken testimony offered on behalf of Orrock.

A DSS supervisor, Evelyn Johnson, testified that Orrock had exhibited a

change in behavior toward Rivenbark and that Rivenbark had told her about the promised job.

But, wrote Coward, Ms. Johnson's credibility as a witness was "irreparably impeached" by contradicting testimony in one instance by three other employees. The agency, she added, offered no ulterior motive which might have influenced their testimony.

"In light of the fact she was not a permanent employee and had continuously failed to pass the merit examination, both requirements for the position, it is difficult to understand how she believed that (Orrock) had promised her the job."

Rivenbark first complained to the social services board at a mid-November 1983 meeting with Wayland Vereen, at that time board chairman; Avery Bordeaux, the board's attorney; and Mrs. Varnam, then vice-chairman. Audiotapes of her accusations were transcribed into a 41-page sworn affidavit.

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