

# Fishery Committee Defers Making Rule on Crab Pots

## Oyster Area to be Closed; Scrap Fish Discussed

Action on prohibiting crab pots was deferred at the fisheries hearing in Morehead City Saturday afternoon. Nobody protested the closing of the Point of Marsh area to oystering and factions opposing the regulation on taking and selling scrap fish were asked to appear before the commercial fisheries committee yesterday afternoon.

Cecil Morris, Atlantic, chairman of the commercial fisheries committee, presided. Sixty-five fishermen and fish dealers attended.

The crab pot proposal placed before the group pertained to closing the northern portion of the Neuse River and the northwest portion of Pamlico Sound.

A crab pot is a new device in Carolina waters. It is used for the taking of hard crabs and has caused extensive controversy because shrimp trawlers say the pots tear up their nets.

Comments by the fishermen:  
R. K. Jagers, Columbia — Do you propose to close any part of Albemarle Sound to crab pots?

Chairman Morris — No.  
Jimmy Swindell, Hobucken — I'm opposed to the closing of any bottom to crab pots in winter. Oystering is going down and we need something to take its place.

Clyde Potter, Belhaven — I don't think there's 12 crab pots in that section you want to close. The Pungo and Pamlico Rivers are the big crabbing area. There's no need for getting alarmed about this until we see what the crab pots will do.

Harry Jarvis, Englehard — I've heard that they're using pots at Manteo and getting \$150 to \$250 a week. At Stumpy Point, Croatan Sound, the season could be left open the year around.

Earl Daniels, Wanchese — From Aug. 1 to Nov. 30 crab pot season in our area is closed. We'd like to have it opened up. There's very little shrimping in that area.

Eric Rodgers, administrative assistant to C&D Director Ben Douglas — That area was closed in the recent legislature by request of Dare County legislators, but Director Douglas has the power to change that ruling.

Director Douglas said he would make Aug. 1 to Nov. 30 an open season in the Dare County area for the taking of crabs in pots.

Mr. Jarvis of Englehard — Crab pots are out of the way of commercial fishermen. They can't shrimp where the pots are because of the pound net stakes.

Earl Holton, president of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, said his group was in favor of keeping that season open. He also presented specific plans for closing parts of Pamlico Sound to crab pots but his suggestion, to wait until early next year when crab pots will be put out again in Pamlico, was accepted. If regulations are needed then, they can be made, he said.

Most of the shrimpers said that after the Virginia crab potters were told to go home last winter, they weren't bothered.

**Crabbing by Trawl**  
Wilbur Hudnal, Oriental, said that in the Neuse River crabs are taken by trawl and men who do that don't like to see their gear torn up on pots.

Berkley Willis, Atlantic, remarked that a potter has as much right to set his pots as does the man who takes crabs in a trawl.

Garland Fulcher, Oriental, concurred with Halton's suggestion to delay action on passing crab pot prohibitive regulations. Mr. Rodgers stated that the Institute of Fisheries Research has been asked to make a study of the crab fishery during the next few months.

Proposal to close the Point of Marsh area to oystering met with no opposition. The area extends from Point of Marsh to Swan Point including areas up to the Thoroughfare.

Dr. A. F. Chestnut, oyster specialist with the Institute of Fisheries Research, said that a portion of that area should be worked before too long because if the oysters get too old, they aren't prime products. He suggested that this certain area be opened when the market for oysters is good.

Mr. Jarvis of Englehard suggested about 12 days either before Thanksgiving or Christmas for the opening. Dr. Chestnut was requested to confer with Commissioner C. G. Holland relative to the time to be set.

**Attorney Appears**  
Clair Wheatley, Beaufort attorney, representing the Seashore Packing Co. Beaufort, buyer of scrap fish, asked to present his client's opinion of the recent "scrap fish" regulation.

Chairman Morris suggested that be deferred until Monday, but when fishermen said they couldn't come back then, the committee decided to hear arguments "for information."

The scrap fish ruling makes it unlawful for shrimp trawlers to take scrap fish and for dealers to have scrap fish in their possession.

Mr. Wheatley pointed out that the companies buying scrap fish make use of a by-product of the shrimping industry. He said if the scrap fish ruling is enforced, Beaufort harbor will be full of scrap fish, as it has been since Friday, simply because the fish were dumped overboard.

He suggested that more information be obtained on the issue but until then let the scrap fish sales continue.

Chairman Morris said that the matter came to a head because some shrimpers are taking scrap purposely for sale and the scrap is not a "by-product of shrimping." Scrap fish buyers have been paying a dollar a box for the trash fish, dehydrating it and selling the meal.

Mr. Morris said, "It's reached the point where everybody wants to buy a dehydrator." He said the scrap fish regulation applies not only to shrimpers, but long haulers and anybody who takes scrap fish.

W. H. Potter of Beaufort Fisheries, said the menhaden operators are not opposed to the food fish scrap operators, as some people were saying. He said that the kind of meal turned out at the menhaden factory is superior to the scrap fish meal and his business is not affected.

In relation to utilization of scrap fish, he said, "There is possibility, with proper supervision, of developing a \$300,000 to \$400,000 industry."

Mr. Jarvis of Englehard, who operates a scrap fish plant, said that until he put in his plant at Englehard everyone was complaining about the stench from scrap fish thrown overboard. People were poisoned by eating fish that fed on the dead fish.

**Sportsmen to Blame**  
Actually, he added, most people are too lazy even now to bring him scrap fish, inferring that they wouldn't go to get it on purpose. He said the sports fishermen cause the commercial fishermen the most trouble. They see the scrap fish taken in the shrimp trawls and then start complaining about all the fish that are killed.

Chairman Morris said that the commercial fisheries committee had received letters complaining about the small fish mortality and that's why, "something finally had to be done" about the scrap fish.

Mr. Jarvis said, "You can stop scrap fish taking if you cut out pound netting, long hauling and shrimping!"

Vernon H. Lee, Mefry Hill, presented a petition requesting that seine fishing at the mouth of the Chowan River in Albemarle Sound be prohibited. He said the seine is taking rock fish and white perch.

Lee, a sports fisherman, said he was "co-leaguering" with pound netters of the area to get the seine fishing stopped. The pound netters said that if the pound netters may not work after May 1, they don't see why a seine should be allowed to operate.

Supporting that contention were Willie P. Howell of Colerain, Richard Elliott, and E. C. Howell, Edenton, and Jeff White, Merry Hill.

Norman Perry, Colerain, was told by Mr. Rodgers that as far as he (Mr. Rodgers) knew, seine fishing was not illegal but taking of rock fish now is illegal.

Mr. Waff, Edenton, said he buys the fish taken in the seine and said the catches vary from \$2 on some days to \$1,000 on others. He said the seine takes white perch and carp, which he buys.

Mr. Douglas pleaded with pound netters to take up all their old stakes and the session recessed until yesterday afternoon when again the scrap fish problem was taken up.



## Flue-Cured Tobacco REFERENDUM

County tobacco farmers and their wives voted overwhelmingly Saturday in favor of continuing marketing quotas, price support and a 10-cent per acre leaf assessment.

B. J. May, ASC manager who supervised the referendum, gave the following vote report:  
In favor of quotas for three more years—506  
In favor of quotas for one more year—6  
Against quotas—5  
In favor of the dime assessment

to promote the tobacco export program—497; against—5.  
County farm officials' estimate of the number eligible to vote in the referendum was raised from the 600 mentioned last week to 800. Mr. May said that the turnout at the polling places was the "best Carteret has ever had."

He attributed the high vote to the fact that more farmers' wives went to the polls.  
The tobacco program was carried throughout the state by a majority of 97 per cent.

## 12 Members of 1931 Smyrna Class Meet Thursday Night

It was dinner at The Rex. Not an unusual thing for Carteret folks but it was a real occasion for the 12 members of the 1931 graduating class of Smyrna when they were reunited there Thursday night for the first time in many years.

Though the occasion was somewhat impromptu, a little telephoning and personal contact brought about the presence of two-thirds of the class.

The group sat at one large table where the sharing of all information garnered from the years passed was the featured entertainment. Since all the members of the class were unable to be present at this meeting, plans were made for a formal reunion in the latter part of July next year.

Members present at this reunion planning session were Mrs. Marie Willis Robinson of McLain, Va., Mrs. Dollie Lawrence Loyd of Louisville, Tenn., Mrs. Helen Lawrence Willis of Bettie, Mrs. Edna Gillikin Hancock of Otway.

Mrs. Mildred W. Willis of Smyrna, Mrs. Mary Davis Lewis of Marshallberg, Mrs. Matilda Davis Smith of Atlantic, Mrs. Alle Davis Smith of Beaufort.

Mrs. Matilda Gaskill Pruitt of Newport, Mrs. Callie Gillikin Hardesty of Beaufort, and Mrs. Zada Alligood Noe of Beaufort.

Other members of the class are Mrs. Lucille Gillikin Copeland of Beaufort, Miss Evelyn Chadwick of Straits, Mrs. Armecia Willis

**Take a Rest!**  
Philadelphia (AP)—A milkman found this note in an empty bottle on his route: "Will you please be kind this week and not slam front door? Am on vacation and do not have to rise at 7 a.m. You can begin slamming it again next week as I have to get up anyhow. Thanks."

Carroll of Greenville, Mrs. Louise Golden Bunny of Ocean City, Md., Mrs. Victoria Davis Mulky of Milliner, Ga., Mr. Earnest Watson of Kinston, Mr. Harold Davis of New Bern, and Albert Fulford of Beaufort.

Two members, Paul Chadwick of Straits and Leona Lewis of Otway have died within recent years.

# Tar Heel Gets More for Tax Dollar Than Any Other Dollar

In North Carolina the taxpayer gets more for his tax dollar than any other dollar he spends according to Henry Bridges, state auditor.

Mr. Bridges was the speaker at Thursday night's meeting of the Morehead City Rotary Club at Fleming's Restaurant.

Mr. Bridges said North Carolina was the only state in the union, with the exception of Delaware, that has a complete highway system on the state level, and is the only state in the nation that has a 12-grade, nine-month school system on a state level.

He said most of the tax dollar spent in North Carolina goes to schools and highways.

North Carolina, he added, has as good an accounting system as could be devised, and though there still exists some red tape, it was his contention that the red tape protects our tax dollars.

A General Motors executive who has been looking into state governments throughout the country said that North Carolina had the "straightest, cleanest government" that he had seen, Mr. Bridges reported.

Pointing out that North Carolina has been progressing rapidly he said that the estimated revenue back in 1934 was 23 million dollars. Last year the total had risen to 190 million.

Of the revenues collected 12 million are collected through the general fund which includes money collected in sales tax and beverage taxes.

A great deal is collected by the state through its special funds, such as the tax on fertilizer, with the money to be used only for agricultural purposes.

Mr. Bridges said that there was 64 million dollars in the Highway Fund, but most of this money has been allocated for projects that are underway and will be underway in the near future.

Mr. Bridges said that the revenue at the June 30th accounting showed 190 million dollars which was 2.78 per cent over a year ago, and it was his belief that the revenue would hold up since the nation is on an upswing business cycle.

The last legislature cut down the estimate from 52 million to 19 million needed in additional taxes, according to Mr. Bridges. Among the new taxes are a 3 per cent on all building materials, one cent additional tax on beer cans and bottles, one per cent on motor vehicles, 3 per cent on motels and hotels, and a boost of the liquor tax from 8½ per cent to 10 per cent.

Government units, federal, state and local operate 71 per cent of all the hospital beds in the nation.

He said that the state has a balanced budget and that the total expenditures would total 425 million. There will be 426 millions available.

In answer to a query from one of the Rotarians he said that the legislature had not passed a state withholding tax, but that it was his hope that the next session of the legislature will pass one.

Guests at the meeting included Rotarians Lee Nance, Ayden; Wade Gailant, Raleigh; Jim Fleming, Greenville, and J. H. Blewett, Franklin, Ky.

The club accepted the resignation of G. T. Windell.

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