

Commissioners 'Strongly Oppose' Proposed Ban On Gill-Netting

BY RAHN ADAMS
At the request of about 30 local fishermen and State Rep. David Redwine, Brunswick County Commissioners Monday adopted a resolution to "strongly oppose" a Wildlife Resources Commission proposal that would ban gill-netting in inland waters.

The action came at the outset of the commissioners' 4 1/2-hour meeting Monday night which included the

board's first executive session of the year.

Redwine, who addressed commissioners on behalf of the fishermen, said he opposed any changes in state laws involving gill-netting.

"I've gone on record being opposed to any ban on gill-netting," Redwine said, adding that local fishermen have experienced enough problems lately from the recent closing of shellfishing beds due to the "red

tide." On a motion by Chris Chappell, commissioners unanimously voted to instruct County Attorney David Clegg to draft a resolution opposing any proposed bans on gill-netting and haul-seining in Brunswick County.

Jimmy Davis, coastal area supervisor of fisheries for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, said Tuesday that the gill-netting ban was proposed to protect game fishing in in-

land waters and would not affect fishing in the Intra-coastal Waterway.

He emphasized that commercial fishermen would not be affected by the proposed ban. In Brunswick County's inland waters, gill-netting is done mainly in the Waccamaw River for catfish, suckers, blackfish and yellow perch, he said.

The Wildlife Resources Commission is currently holding a series of public hearings across the state on

the proposed ban. A hearing for Brunswick County's wildlife district was held last Thursday night in Elizabethtown.

Davis said the public basically has opposed the proposed ban, although "there wasn't really a lot of controversy" at last Thursday's hearing.

"I really doubt that this proposal will pass," he commented.
Reef Funds Given

In another fishing-related matter Monday, commissioners unanimously granted a request from the Brunswick County Artificial Reef Association for \$12,000 to retire its debt on a reef project involving the old Holden Beach Bridge.

Association Chairman Dale McDowell said his group has reorganized its board and hoped to get off to a fresh start by retiring the
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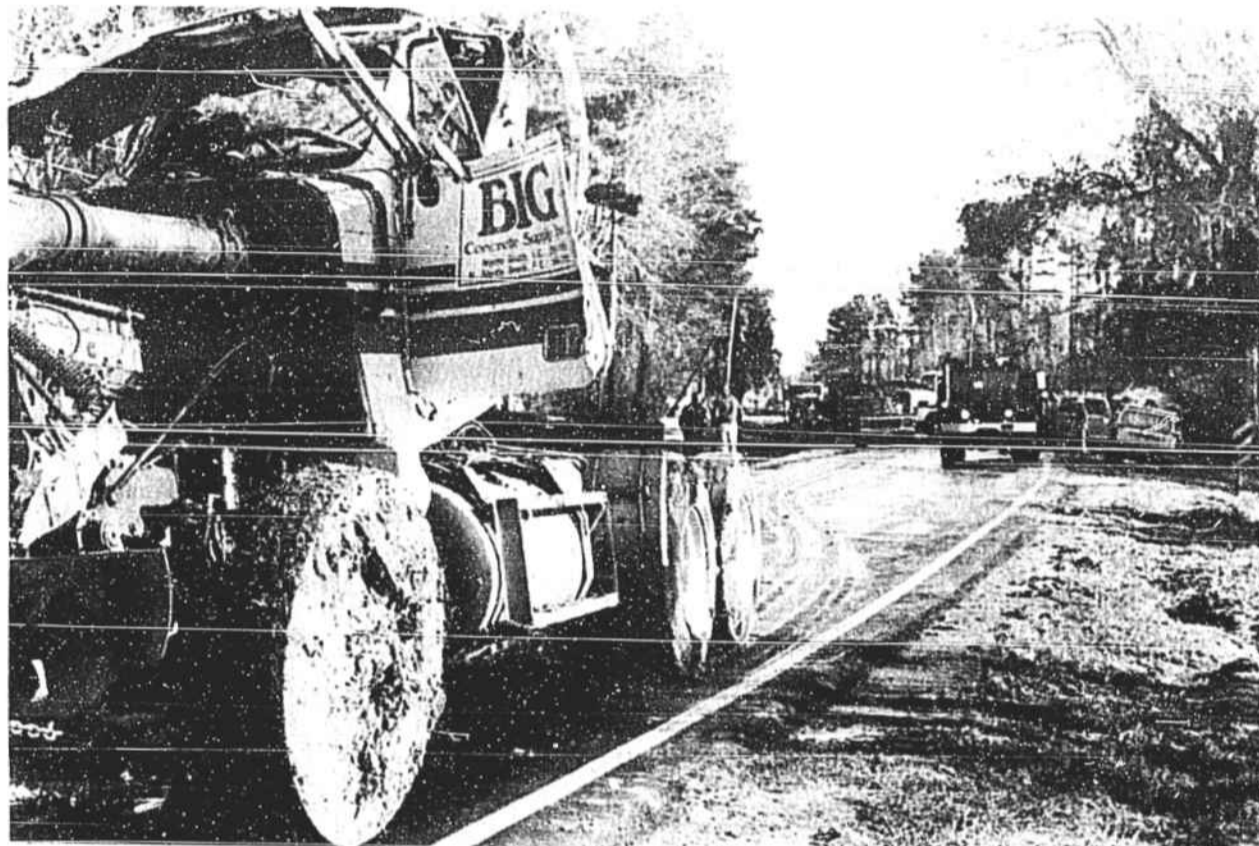
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STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

THE DEMOLISHED CAB of one vehicle sits coated in mud while wrecking crews work to remove the second tractor trailer from a ditch (far right). The cab at left

was the one in which Earl Preston Black of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., was killed.

Fertilizer Spill Causes Highway Death

A Myrtle Beach, S.C., man was listed in fair condition at Grand Strand General Hospital Tuesday following a traffic accident last week which left another man dead.

The early morning wreck along U.S. 17 at Bolivia involved two tractor trailer rigs and was apparently caused by a spill of organic matter being transported by truck from Pfizer Inc. at Southport.

Daniel Lee Holder, 49, of Myrtle Beach, survived the accident and was admitted to Grand Strand in critical condition last Wednesday. The extent of his injuries was not available.

Earl Preston Black, 51, of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., was killed in the accident. It took more than three hours to pull his body from the vehicle.

Holder was trapped in the cab for about two hours before rescue crews were able to get him out using the "Jaws of Life."

A Volkswagen driven by James Washington Hargrove, 35, of Supply, also slid off the road after the trucks had wrecked. He was uninjured and

there was no damage to the vehicle.

Robert Nubel, plant manager at Pfizer, said the fertilizer spill appeared to have resulted from the failure of a double-locking mechanism on the truck's tailgate.

He said the system probably failed when the truck hit a bump on a Midway Road bridge about a mile south of the U.S. 17 intersection.

Nubel said it appeared that when the truck hit the bump, the primary tailgate system failed, the load shifted to one side of the truck bed and a chain holding the tailgate snapped.

He said the tailgate was probably secure up until that time because there were no traces of fertilizer on the road before the bridge.

The load of fertilizer was being delivered to a farm near Bolivia, said Nubel. He added that the spill consisted of several thousand pounds of a 35,000-pound load.

According to State Highway Patrol spokesman Ruby Oakley, the accident occurred around 4:50 a.m. No charges were filed by the state.

Brunswick County Emergency Management Director Cecil Logan said the two trucks were traveling north on U.S. 17 when they came across the spill and ran off the highway.

Both vehicles ended up in roadside ditches along a curve between Midway and Galloway roads, just north of the Brunswick County Government Complex.

The trucks were the property of Big Concrete Inc. of Myrtle Beach.

Bobby Steele, company manager, said the trucks were traveling to Wilmington to pick up a load of dry cement when the accident occurred.

He said the company's insurance agent would decide if any legal action would be taken.

"We just view it as an unfortunate accident," said Steele. "Nobody did anything intentionally."

Logan said rescue squads from Southport and Town Creek responded to the accident. The roadway was later cleared of organic matter by fire departments from Bolivia and Supply.

Two Sentenced; Another Pleads Guilty In Drug Trafficking Cases

BY RAHN ADAMS
A Holden Beach building contractor and a Tabor City man were given active prison terms last week for cocaine trafficking, while a Calabash man pleaded guilty to cocaine charges but was not sentenced.

The three were among 37 defendants indicted on cocaine trafficking charges in Brunswick County last June and July by the state's first special investigative grand jury.

All three cases were heard last Thursday in Brunswick County Superior Court in Bolivia by Resident Superior Court Judge Giles R. Clark.

Elliott Wade Coleman, 39, of Holden Beach, received a seven-year prison sentence after pleading guilty last September to one count of conspiracy to traffic in more than 28 grams of cocaine. He earned credit for two days served while awaiting trial.

In addition, Coleman's probation from a previous drug conviction was revoked, and he was ordered to serve a 10-year prison term to run concurrently with the seven-year sentence.

Charles Ronald Strickland, 34, of Tabor City—who had pleaded guilty last August to six cocaine trafficking counts involving more than 400 grams of the controlled substance—also was sentenced to 10 years in prison, but was recommended for immediate work release.

In both cases, Clark found that the defendants had provided "substantial assistance" to the state in its drug investigations—findings which enabled the judge to hand down lighter sentences than state drug trafficking laws prescribe.

Also last Thursday, Willard R. "Richard" Woods, 38, of Calabash, pleaded guilty to drug charges stemming from the special grand jury investigation and other undercover operations.

Coleman Case
According to court records, Coleman was indicted June 11, 1987, on charges of conspiracy to traffic in more than 28 grams of cocaine and trafficking by possession of more than 28 grams of cocaine. He faced a maximum of 30 years in prison on

those original charges.

On Sept. 9, 1987, he pleaded guilty to the conspiracy count, and the possession charge was dismissed as part of a plea agreement, cutting his possible maximum sentence in half.

During Coleman's sentencing hearing last Thursday, an SBI agent said the charge stemmed from an incident on Dec. 15, 1984, when the defendant obtained an ounce (28 grams) of cocaine for \$2,000. Coleman later testified that he bought the cocaine for his own use.

The agent outlined the defendant's assistance to local, state and federal investigators—help which Coleman said he provided for about three years after he was convicted of marijuana trafficking in 1983.

In June 1983, Coleman was fined \$10,000 and was placed on five years of supervised probation after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to traffic by possession of more than 10,000 pounds of marijuana, according to testimony. He was placed on unsupervised probation less than a year
(See TWO SENTENCED, Page 2-A)

Coastal Waters Clear Of Toxic 'Red Tide' Levels

BY DOUG RUTTER

Coastal waters tested free of all toxic levels of the "red tide" algae last week, as North Carolina continued to monitor shellfish meats with the hope of soon reopening oyster and clam beds.

Bob Benton, supervisor of the shellfish sanitation program of the N.C. Division of Health Services, said Monday, "Everything is clearing up pretty well. Our main problem now is just waiting until the oysters and clams are clear of all toxins."

He said shellfish meats taken from the mouth of the Cape Fear River, Lockwood Folly Inlet and Shallotte Inlet will be tested for toxicity later this week.

The state has continued to conduct toxicity tests on oysters and clams in the northern sections of the 200-mile stretch closed to shellfishing.

Although waters near Cape Hatteras have been clear of the algae for more than three weeks, Benton said last week's tests continued to show toxicity in those meats. He added that clams have been purging themselves faster than oysters.

Jim Tyler, spokesman for the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, which will be responsible for opening shellfish beds, said, "We won't know anything until the test results are available this Friday."

He said most state environmental officials and commercial fishermen who attended recent public hearings upstate agreed that areas should not be reopened to shellfishing until oysters and clams in a large region are able to cleanse all toxins from their bodies.

Opening a small area to harvest, he explained, could be detrimental to long-term shellfish populations in that area.

Meanwhile, water samples taken last Thursday contained no toxic levels of the "red tide" organism. This marked the first time since October that all state waters were clear of toxic amounts of algae.

Algae contents as high as 2,000 cells per liter were detected at Topsail Inlet off Pender County, but there were no traces of *pyrodiscus brevis* found north of that point. Algae counts greater than 5,000 parts are considered toxic.

Lockwood Folly Inlet was the only location in Brunswick County where traces of the "red tide"

organism were detected last week. The count in that area was also 2,000 organisms per liter.

Benton said additional samples taken from local waters Monday showed "absolutely no traces of the algae."

"It's cleared up real good as far as the water is concerned," he said. "I think this is basically gone for all intents and purposes."

In South Carolina last week, the state Department of Health and Environmental Control also sampled waters and detected no toxic levels of "red tide" algae.

Ron Tata, district director for the S.C. Environmental Quality Control Division, said, "We have found only traces of it from the North Carolina line to Murrells Inlet and no traces farther south."

Tata said the state will continue to analyze water samples and will begin testing shellfish meats for toxicity once algae counts have disappeared.

He added that state environmental health officials are optimistic that the "red tide" will soon be gone.

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries also continued its local oyster relocation program in Davis Creek near Long Beach last Wednesday after a week of uncooperative tides.

Shellfishermen moved oysters from areas permanently closed to pollution to areas currently closed because of the "red tide" infestation. The state pays shellfishermen \$1 per bushel and up to \$100 per day to replant these oysters by hand.

Fritz Rohde, biological coordinator with the Wilmington branch of Marine Fisheries, said the program was to be moved to Shallotte River Wednesday, after five days of hand relaying in Davis Creek.

During the three earlier days of relocation in Lockwood Folly River, 76 shellfishermen had replanted more than 15,000 bushels of oysters. Accurate figures were not available for Davis Creek.

According to Diana Heatwole, fisheries development secretary with Marine Fisheries in Wilmington, the 400 shellfishermen who had participated in the state program as of last Tuesday had relocated more than 200,000 bushels of oysters.

The program first started Dec. 15 in New Hanover and Pender counties and was expanded to include Brunswick County Feb. 1.

Gift Establishes Marie Foscue Rourk Professorship In Chemistry At UNC-G

A new endowed professorship in chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro will honor the memory of "a servant of good causes and of her community," the late Marie Foscue Rourk of Shallotte.

Dr. Malcolm Henderson Rourk of Shallotte gave the university \$333,000 to establish the professorship in honor of his late wife.

When joined with \$167,000 in matching funds provided by the state under a program approved by the 1985 General Assembly, the \$333,000 gift makes possible a \$500,000 endowed professorship, the Marie Foscue Rourk Distinguished Professorship in Chemistry.

UNC-G Chancellor William E. Moran commented that the gift is "generous and meaningful."

"In honoring his wife, Marie, he honors and strengthens her alma mater as well," said Moran. "The field chosen is one that Marie chose as her major area of study many years ago. The satisfaction and pleasure in learning that marked her stay here, by means of this gift, will be offered to others in a renewed form."

"Marie Foscue Rourk was a servant of good causes and of her community. The goal of service which the University ever seeks to impart to its graduates was a familiar one for her. In memorializing her life, the new professorship reminds us of the importance of service."

Marie Foscue Rourk died on Oct. 11, 1987, at age 82. The Maysville native was graduated from North



Marie Foscue Rourk

Carolina College for Women (now UNC-G) in 1927, with an A.B. degree in chemistry. After studying laboratory technology in Charlotte for one year, she was director of the laboratory at James Walker Memorial Hospital in Wilmington from 1928 through 1930. She also taught chemistry in the hospital's school of nursing.

She was married to Dr. Rourk in 1930. After several moves they settled in Shallotte in 1947. Her survivors in addition to her husband include two children, Dr. Malcolm H. Rourk Jr. of Durham and Mrs. Marie R. Harrison of Shallotte; eight grandchildren and seven great-

grandchildren.

Mrs. Rourk was active in community and county civic affairs for many years. She served as chairman of the Brunswick County March of Dimes during and succeeding the polio era. She was a charter member of Shallotte Presbyterian Church. She was appointed by Gov. Terry Sanford to the original board of trustees of Southeastern Community College, where she served several terms.

She served several terms as president of the Brunswick County Historical Society, worked extensively on behalf of Brunswick Town State Historic Site and was active in efforts to save from destruction the original building of Sunnyside School in Shallotte. She held membership in several national historical organizations.

She served as a trustee of the Southport/Brunswick County Library from 1962 to June 1979, including three terms as vice-chairman, and was instrumental in establishing the West Brunswick Branch Library, dedicated in May 1979 in Shallotte.

She was instrumental in bringing the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra to Brunswick County for a concert each year, beginning in 1949.

Dr. Rourk practiced internal medicine for 42 years before retiring and was also a cardiologist. The UNC-Chapel Hill graduate completed two years of studies at the

(See PROFESSORSHIP, Page 2-A)