

THE COOPERATION BETWEEN TECHNICAL AND ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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ABSTRACT

Cooperation between technical and enforcement personnel in South Carolina is excellent. This cooperation is the result of both a mutual respect between the technical and enforcement personnel and a recognition by our directors and commissioners that such cooperation is essential if an effective job of wildlife conservation is to be accomplished.

An excellent example of a cooperative effort in South Carolina is the annual operation of the Moncks Corner Striped Bass Hatchery. This operation requires about six weeks of 24-hour per day duty. In 1965, 55 million striped bass fry were produced by one biologist and 28 enforcement personnel.

Another example is the cooperation between enforcement personnel and game technicians pertaining to their duties in management, restocking and controlled hunts.

INTRODUCTION

Through the years, and long before biologists arrived in South Carolina, enforcement personnel were responsible only for law enforcement and had no knowledge regarding the scientific management of fish and game.

In the early 1950's, fish and game biologists were employed in South Carolina much to the puzzlement of the majority of men who made up our law enforcement body. Few thought that any good would come out of the employment of a bunch of idealistic college boys.

In the past 15 years, however, the biologists have been able to sell themselves and their methods of scientific management of fish and game populations mainly because their methods have resulted in more and better fish and game.

Also, enforcement personnel have found that they could call upon technical personnel to help answer the many inquiries that they receive on a great range of subjects concerning fish and game and also to assist landowners in increasing their fish and game populations.

Finally, while assisting technical personnel in their work the enforcement men are able to learn and to appreciate the value of the technical programs.

MONCKS CORNER STRIPED BASS HATCHERY

A good example of the team-work which now exists in South Carolina is the operation of the Moncks Corner Striped Bass Hatchery. During the period from about April 1 to May 15 each year this hatchery is operated on a 24-hour-a-day-basis. The operation consists of capturing striped bass; injecting the females with hormones to make them spawn in captivity; keeping a constant watch over the injected females to be sure they don't spawn in the holding pond or become over-ripe; stripping ripe females and males and placing the fertilized eggs in hatchery jars; constantly watching the eggs until they hatch and constantly watching the fry until they are stocked at three days of age.

During the 1965 operation of the hatchery, 55 million fry were produced and all but about five million were stocked in the reservoirs and streams of South Carolina. The remaining five million were given gratis to 10 different states, Russia and the federal government for experiments into the rearing of fry to fingerlings.

The operation of the hatchery in 1965 was accomplished by 28 enforcement men under the general supervision of fish biologist Bob

Stevens. Seven key enforcement personnel, who had had several years experience in the operation of the hatchery, were assigned as "biologist of the day" in rotation and it was each man's responsibility to carry out all the functions of the hatchery on his day with the help of the other enforcement personnel.

The effectiveness of the enforcement personnel in operating the hatchery was very impressive to the majority of the representatives of other wildlife departments who visited the hatchery in 1965 and many favorable comments were received from these visitors.

Enforcement personnel first began this hatchery duty five years ago and the number of men required has increased yearly. We expect this trend to continue as the hatchery expands and more technical information is gained.

Regarding the cooperation with technicians in the game management field, enforcement personnel performs such duties as deer kill reports from hunting clubs, dove call counts and deer track counts. In assisting District Biologists with the game management program wardens have actually operated equipment and assisted in making food plot plantings, namely, on the Horse Pasture area in Pickens and Oconee counties. In many cases the enforcement personnel have assisted in deer and wild turkey trapping and restocking. Also have accompanied technical personnel on checking on various farm crop damages caused by deer. On controlled hunts which we have many of in South Carolina, enforcement personnel are called upon to man check stations and assist in many other ways during these hunts.

One of the most important events improving relations between enforcement and technical men are the big dinners held after hatchery operation and managed hunts are over. These dinners are put on by both enforcement personnel and technicians to which their families are invited. These annual social events have proved that getting the families of both together has an influence on better cooperation.

As a law enforcement officer, I feel that the information gained through our cooperation with our technicians will benefit us in many ways not only in the eyes of the sportsmen but when we appear as witnesses in our courts.

SUMMARY

Many more examples could be cited to illustrate the good feelings between all the personnel of the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department but the real answer is this — it takes every member of our organization working together to make a success, not only for the people of South Carolina but for the welfare of our fish and game populations as well. We in South Carolina recognize that this cooperation is vital to the success of our department and this fact is becoming more true and more important as each year passes. The pressures of the population explosion is going to require more and more a united front and the best efforts of everyone and there will be no room or justification for conflict or jealousy among wildlife people.

HOURS AND MILEAGE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO HATCHERY OPERATION - 1965

WARDENS	APRIL		MAY		TOTAL	
	HRS.	MILEAGE	HRS.	MILEAGE	HRS.	MILEAGE
W. H. Baxley	101	607	36	175	137	780
M. A. Bilton	19.5	145			19.5	145
R. C. Borders	84	580	24	160	108	720
J. G. Branham	84	520	36	305	120	825
John H. Clayton	84	444	56	296	140	740
B. J. Craft	24	318	12	216	36	534
Herman Crosby	106	869	60	496	166	1,366
W. W. Cross	50	50	24	100	36	150
O. M. Dennis	183	453	107	322	290	775
G. W. Fennell	106	620	60	435	166	1,055
L. M. Freeman	98	595	24	160	122	755
John Gamble	175	2,104	187	1,286	302	3,390
W. L. Hill	12	6	24	12	36	18
J. K. Johnson	84	252	48	144	132	396
J. R. Johnson	112	825	62	415	164	1,240
Rupert Moore	234	2,289	119	1,419	353	3,708
Robert Morris	96	454	56	425	152	679
C. R. Murray	207	1,111	89	413	296	1,524
M. O. Parsons	12	90	32	225	44	315
F. L. Prevatte	231.5	2,849	124	1,608	355.5	4,457
C. R. Roberson	105	330	60	220	165	550
E. M. Rush			24	180	24	180
Earl C. Tairney	12	30	24	64	36	94
Dewey Thornbrow	25.5	390	8.5	130	34	520
J. A. Timmons	94	615	48	332	142	947
C. R. Walker	84	155	36	68	120	223
R. L. Wyndham	112	520	42	195	154	715
TOTALS	2,495.5	17,199	1,352.5	9,799	3,848	26,998

This report does not include the hours and mileage of Warden J. L. Boone of District No. 3

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