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Legislative Research Department

July 29, 1976

M I N U T E S

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME

Chanute, Kansas

July 19-20, 1976

Members Present

Representative R.E. Arbuthnot, Chairman
Senator Richard Williams, Vice Chairman
Representative James Cubit
Representative James Holderman

Staff Present

Robert Haley, Legislative Research Department
John Rowe, Legislative Research Department
Don Hayward, Revisor of Statutes Office

Conferees Present

Dick Wettersten, Director, Kansas Forestry, Fish and
Game Commission
Roy Schoonover, Division of Fisheries, Kansas Forestry, Fish
and Game Commission
Johnny M. Ray, Southeast Regional Fisheries Supervisor,
Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission
John Moir, Division of the Budget, Department of Administration

Tour of Selected Forestry, Fish and
Game Facilities in Southeast Kansas

The Committee departed Chanute at 7:30 a.m., July 19, 1976, for the Farlington Fish Hatchery. Attachment I identifies the Forestry, Fish and Game staff who accompanied or met the Committee at the various locations. The hatchery was acquired from the federal government in 1971. The agency indicated that as a condition of the acceptance, the Commission assumed all federal obligations for the stocking of farm ponds in Kansas. The hatchery consists of 149.35 acres of land and 30 ponds which include seven ponds constructed by the Commission in 1974. Other facilities include three residences, a service building, a fish holding house, and storage buildings.

The Committee toured the Strip Pits Fish and Wildlife Area. The area was first managed intensively for wildlife resources in 1962. Because of variety of mining dates and vegetation introduced by man, the areas are in a number of different stages of vegetation. Those areas which have developed into woodland types are allowed for the most part to evolve naturally. Areas dominated by grasses and shrubs are managed more intensively and manipulated where necessary. The agency has a program to provide access to the water for fishermen. According to a traffic and use survey conducted by area personnel in FY 1975, use of the mined land fish and wildlife area was 91.2 percent by state residents and 8.8 percent by out-of-state. There was an estimated 800 man-days of hunting (3.3 percent of the total use), 17,200 of fishing (70.2 percent), and 6,500 of other uses (26.5 percent). Other uses include camping, sightseeing, hiking, picking fruit, gathering nuts, etc.

The Committee then proceeded to tour the Pittsburg Quail Farm. The quail farm has been in continuous operation since 1936. The facilities include a residence, six 150 foot flight pens, 150 laying pens, 240 rearing pens, hatching and incubating rooms with attached shop and feed milling space, 11 heated brooder houses, garage/storage facility and a small office house. Small fields located on the grounds produce a tall milo used for cover in the flight pens.

One game farm superintendent and three groundskeepers, assisted by three temporary laborers during the summer months, operate the quail farm. During the past five years the average number of birds release yearly was 13,348 at an average annual cost of \$46,045. Birds are released in the spring and fall.

The Committee next toured the Neosho Waterfowl Management Area. The marsh was constructed by the Commission during 1960 and 1961. The area comprises 2,976 acres of which 1,590 acres are covered by water. An estimated 130,000 mallard ducks winter in the area.

Pumps located on Flat Rock Creek provide water for flooding all four pools. Prior to the hunting seasons three pools are covered with one-to-two feet of water. The pools are drained in late winter while the refuge area remains flooded throughout the year.

The last tour by the Committee was of the Neosho State Fishing Lake. The lake area is the oldest state fishing lake (dedication in 1928) in Kansas and includes 124 acres of land and a 92 acre lake. In 1954 three wooden fishing piers were constructed. These piers still receive heavy use. In December, 1969, 11 fishing piers were constructed of rock by Fish and Game employees. In addition to these facilities there is a house for the lake and groundskeeper, shelter house, sanitary facilities, sanitary dump station and two rearing ponds.

Public Meeting

The public hearing was called to order by Chairman Arbuthnot at 7:30 p.m., July 19, 1976, in the Civic Auditorium of Chanute, Kansas. The Chairman explained the meeting's purpose as being part of an effort to evaluate Forestry, Fish and Game programs in relation to the needs of Kansas sportsmen. He welcomed those in attendance (Attachment II) and invited their suggestions concerning programs and in identifying the needs of the state's sportsmen. He stressed the need to have input from both the avid and weekend sportsman. Chairman Arbuthnot then introduced the Committee members, staff and agency representatives present. Following the introductions, Chairman Arbuthnot opened the meeting for testimony.

Bob Harrington asked that a rumor be clarified concerning a lawsuit between a former employee of the agency and the Commission. He understood that the action resulted from the dismissal of an employee. Chairman Arbuthnot indicated that the Committee had no factual knowledge concerning any such situation. In review of an action during the last legislative session, the Chairman mentioned that several positions were eliminated and noted that such reductions in staff always result in difficult situations. Mr. Wettersten, director of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, stated that the Commission was not involved in such a lawsuit; however, there was one individual who had been dismissed and whose case had appeared before the state's civil service board.

Gerald Bratton, president of the Kansas Bow Hunters Association, thanked the Commission for the work it had done over the last few years and for the excellent cooperation it had given to the Bow Hunters Association. He expressed concern for the loss in quality personnel by the Commission, the fee charged for the Commission's magazine, and the reported reduction in the writing staff for the magazine. Mr. Wettersten indicated that the magazine staff had not been reduced. Mr. Bratton also expressed concern about providing non-hunting or fishing related facilities on Commission land. The Bow Hunters Association prefers the development of hunting sites over the development of such facilities.

Representative Holderman questioned Mr. Bratton as to what type of facilities he was concerned about. Mr. Bratton replied that camping areas, dumping stations, and plug-ins were examples of unnecessary facilities and that land acquisition and habitat development programs were more important. Mr. Wettersten indicated that facility development was limited and that only a few dump stations, tables, and outhouses were provided.

The Bow Hunters Association also wanted to be on record as being opposed to any reorganization of the Commission such as the creation of a Department of Natural Resources proposed during the last legislative session. The Bow Hunters Association wants no change in the current structure of the Commission.

Chairman Arbuthnot noted that the bill requiring reorganization had died in the last session. He explained that the bill would have to be reintroduced and that he felt it would still be difficult to put the reorganization procedure through the Legislature.

John Robie requested a statement of the meeting's purpose and was answered by Chairman Arbuthnot with a summary of the challenges facing the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission in balancing funds to programs. The Chairman explained that when the Legislature approved the SASNAK program it did not provide for the needed revenue. As a result, the Commission has used the larger part of its fund balance. The concern now is to ensure continuing revenue sufficient to fund needed programs.

Mr. Wettersten concurred with the Chairman and restated the need for public input. The Chairman indicated that much research has been done in this area and that a problem does exist in balancing program costs among different sporting groups. Representative Cubit also stressed the need to hear from a good cross-section of the state's sportsmen.

Mr. Robie asked whether or not specific fees collected were used to fund those activities related to the fee. He indicated that his association would possibly make a donation if the funds would be used to support fishing. Mr. Moir, Division of the Budget, answered at the request of the Chairman by stating that gifts from groups may be earmarked through the legislative processes for given activities. Mr. Robie stated that, in his opinion, most Kansas sportsmen are willing to pay fees if receipts are used to equitably support various sports.

Representative Rex Crowell, Longton, Kansas, spoke for his constituents in saying that many farmers feel the lease requirements for Commission land are agriculturally restrictive. He also noted that as opposed to cash leases for land from the Corps of Engineers, the Commission's in-kind lease agreements do not send money back to the relevant local governments.

Mike Burke of the Fall River area spoke out against the restrictive covenants of the Commission's leases. He felt that the federal leases have been better suited to the needs of farmers. The Commission requires uneconomical practices such as strip planting of crops, retention of brush acres and prohibits most grazing.

Mr. Wettersten replied that the problems mentioned were acute for the farmers. He said that farmers are often misled by assuming that lease restrictions are the same under both Corps of Engineers management and management by the Commission. The federal government will not allow the state to use the same lease terms that the Corps had used. However, the basic conflict with agriculture is that when the Commission takes over land from the Corps, it is for the purpose of maximizing wildlife habitat, not for maximizing farming.

Paul Hibbard explained that he farmed 500 acres between Fall River and Toronto. He understood that the local governments were to have a portion of the share-cropping funds returned to them and that the flooding easements taken by the Commission eliminated the returned revenue. Another problem is that the Commission is not adequately controlling noxious weeds on its property. This inadequate control results in increased weed control costs for the counties. The Chairman proposed a tour by some of the Committee members to the Fall River - Toronto area to see the agricultural practices in question and requested the Revisor of Statutes review the legal situation.

Pat Burke stated the need to be able to graze cattle on state property. Mr. Wettersten indicated that grazing permission was a function of the Corps of Engineer management and not the Commission's. Mr. Burke also wanted to know how to improve communication with the Corps. Mr. Wettersten said that communication with the Corps is a problem for the Commission as well.

John Wade recommended that, due to the large number of out-of-state hunters coming into the state, out-of-state fees should be increased. He also mentioned that because hunting seasons in Kansas do not parallel those of other neighboring states that many out-of-state hunters flow into Kansas.

Mr. Robie suggested that sporting vehicles, trucks, campers, smaller trailers, boat trailers, boat, and outboard motors should be charged fees for the use of Fish and Game facilities.

Mr. Harrington asked why the Commission needed an increase in revenue and what it had done to benefit the sportsmen. Johnny Ray of the Commission's Fisheries Division answered that with the implementation of SASNAK in 1973, many long-range goals are being met. Planning and determining what fishermen want are continuing operations. Currently both a creel census and stream survey are being undertaken to determine needs. Efforts are also being made to stop pollution. Dean Smith noted that the expense of planting the pools on the waterfowl refuge was relative to the number of hunters.

Interest was expressed in the possibility of selling a life-time license. Mr. Wettersten answered that it was being considered and that some states now provided such a license. It was his concern that such a license would provide an immediate revenue surge, but would reduce revenue in the long-run.

Representative Cubit expressed a concern for license exemptions, noting that the over-65 exemption eliminates much federal aid. Concern was expressed that the elimination of the under-16 exemption could result in a hardship for families. Mr. Robie suggested that the drop in sales that occurred when fees were increased could have been a result of the energy crisis. Dennis Crocker stated that the avid sportsmen will pay most any fee, but that weekend sportsmen will not. He said that it is important to get information to the public. He also suggested that selected harvesting be done from prime wooded areas of Commission land to generate revenue.

Mr. Wettersten was asked if there had been any direct efforts made to increase the racoon populations in the state. He answered that no direct efforts had been made, but that the habitat improvement programs benefit the racoons as well as other animals.

Mr. Cunningham asked that the Commission's fee fund retain the interest generated on its deposit. Chairman Arbuthnot recognized the question regarding interest income as one of statewide policy. Chairman Arbuthnot thanked everyone for attending and participating and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Committee Meeting

Chairman R.E. Arbuthnot called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., July 20, 1976, in the Commissioner's Room, City Hall, Chanute, Kansas. The Chairman welcomed those in attendance and expressed his appreciation for the efforts put forth in making the previous day's tour and public hearing successful. The Chairman confirmed August 4 and 5 at Junction City for the next Committee meeting. The Committee determined that a public meeting like the one held in Chanute should be held in Junction City following a tour of the Commission lands in the area. Representative Cubit stressed the need for adequate publicity for the public meeting and the need to reach the occasional sportsmen as well as the avid sportsmen.

Mr. Wettersten suggested that the Committee view some of the land leased to farmers by the Commission around the upper end of Milford Reservoir. He also suggested that a demonstration of various procedures and some equipment would be possible. The Committee determined that the next meeting would review the organization and operation of the Commission's Game Division.

In consideration of the September meeting, the Chairman suggested that a decision for a tour would be deferred to a later time. He also confirmed September 1 and 2 in Pratt for the dates and location of the September meeting contingent upon the schedules of the Committee meeting.

Mr. Wettersten suggested that in conjunction with the visit to Pratt, the Committee could see Cheyenne Bottoms. Chairman Arbuthnot proceeded with the agenda items and heard staff presentation on the impact of rate changes on license sales volume (Attachment III).

Representative Holderman suggested that the revenue from increased fees was offset by the elimination of the upland bird stamp fee. He also felt that it would be important for the Committee to have a summary of the suggestions made by the public to the Commission for improving hunting and fishing. Mr. Wettersten replied that much of SASNAK was a result of public suggestions for improvement; however, it would be difficult to compile such a summary. Mr. Wettersten also stressed that there are other variables (weather, etc.) impacting both the increase and decrease of license sales than those mentioned in the staff report. The staff concurred with that assessment.

Chairman Arbuthnot asked if the Commission should become involved with charging a fee for uses of camping facilities. He expressed concern whether or not the additional revenues would equal the expenditures required to generate them and if it would be fair to the taxpayer to charge a fee for such services.

Representative Cubit also asked if it would be worthwhile to require a use sticker that would be purchased prior to the use of Commission lands and facilities. Such a sticker could accompany the sale of a license.

The Chairman reviewed the problem of enforcement with such a system and the potential for confusion between two types of stickers, one for parks under the Park Authority and another for Commission lands. Mr. Wettersten added that there is considerable nonsportsmen's use of the land.

Mr. Wettersten stated that Cheyenne Bottoms is a multiple use area and that the collection of fees there would be difficult. Control of traffic through the area would be sufficient. Boating fees are the only ones that are now returned to the activity charged. Special use permits would have to be coordinated with the Corps restrictions and would be difficult to enforce.

Johnny Ray responded to the Chairman's questions on how to implement a use fee in his area. Mr. Ray gave the example of a public swimming beach developed at Montgomery Lake. This site has a concession stand which is highly used. The Commission maintains the area. Cleaning and maintaining of public use areas are done with sportsmen's dollars. In terms of keeping habitats developed, non-consumption users abuse the land at the sportsmen's expense. His suggestion would be to implement a use fee of one-half of a regular hunting/fishing license. Mr. Schoonover also said that there is a need for the use of Commission property by those other than the sportsmen.

Mr. Moir asked if the Commission had figures on how much of its budget supports non-consumption uses. Mr. Wettersten answered that a very rough estimate would be from 20-25 percent and that figures are available as individual areas.

Representative Cubit wanted to know what percent of license buyers use Commission lands versus private lands. Mr. Wettersten answered that 25 percent of all licensed hunters will use public lands at some time and that 13 percent of all hunting is done on public lands.

Chairman Arbuthnot also stressed that the current authorized exemptions were shown in the staff report to have a significant impact on the Commission's revenues. Representative Cubit noted that, when the exemptions were granted, the Commission had a large fund balance. The Committee should now look to eliminating the exemptions. He mentioned that those now exempted need not be charged at the full fee rates and that the sale of additional licenses would generate more federal participation.

Mr. Wettersten noted possible alternatives that have been discussed by the Commission include:

1. A general fee increase;
2. A resident license fee increase and a resident trip license; and
3. Special use fees. (An example would be a resident hunting fee plus an upland bird hunting and habitat fee -- \$7 each -- as Nebraska now charges.)

Representative Holderman was concerned about resident trip permits causing problems through excess demand on the opening day of the season. He asked if major funding competitions bring in many out-of-state sportsmen and if fishermen generally return their catches to the water. Mr. Wettersten indicated that most competitive anglers do return their catches. Special use fees for special events are being considered by the Commission. Currently such things as dog trials must have a special use permit, but these permits are supplied free of charge. The charging of such fees creates new expenses as well as new revenues.

The Committee next heard a presentation by Dick Wettersten concerning the programs and operations of the Fisheries Division of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission (Attachment IV).

The Commission is considering a size limit on bass for total fish management. This action, though, has been postponed because of staff reductions. It was also Mr. Wettersten's observation that some areas of the state have fishing resources in excess of fishing pressure.

Representative Holderman asked about the size limit on bass. Mr. Wettersten answered that a 2-3 pound size limit would encourage the development of breeding size fish.

Chairman Arbuthnot asked for clarification of Mr. Wettersten's statement concerning the fishing resources being in excess of demand. Mr. Wettersten answered that Kansas is in a desirable location for fishing, especially the eastern half of the state. The development of fishing waters in the western half of the state has produced excellent fishing resources with only light fishing. He indicated the possibility of developing an out-of-state market for fishing in this area. Mr. Wettersten said that the expenditures by out-of-state fishermen would benefit the whole economy of the state and should not interfere with the current level of in-state demand.

Representative Holderman stressed his feeling that the Committee must meet with the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission to establish a concentrated effort to reach coordinated goals. Mr. Wettersten said that he had been directed by the Commission to submit a totally re-evaluated program for the department with specific directions given for continuing SASNAK goals. Mr. Wettersten also suggested that the feeling of the Commission is currently to retain the license exemptions due to public appeal for the exemption.

Representative Holderman again stressed the need for a cooperative effort between the Committee and the Commission. Chairman Arbuthnot said that it would be helpful if the two bodies meet together prior to the final approval of any policy recommendations. The Chairman noted that the Pratt meeting on September 1 and 2 would allow for the joint review of findings.

Chairman Arbuthnot confirmed the schedule for the August meeting to include a tour of the Junction City/Manhattan area and that a subcommittee should tour the Fall River/Toronto area. This subcommittee tour would review the agricultural land under lease from the Commission and the restriction of such leases.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were approved by the Committee and the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Arbuthnot at 12:30 p.m.

Prepared by John Rowe

Approved by the Committee on:

9-2-76
(Date)

J. Arbuthnot

FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION STAFF
ATTENDING TOUR OF SELECTED FACILITIES

Wayne Mossom; Pittsburg Quail Farm, Box 43, Pittsburg, Kansas 66762

Jack Nuss; Farlington Fish Hatchery, Farlington, Kansas 66734

Johnny Ray, Southeast Regional Fishery Supervisor; Southeast Regional
Fish and Game Office, 222 West Main Building, Suites C and D,
Chanute, Kansas 66720.

Roy Schoonover; Division of Fisheries, Pratt Fish and Game Headquarters,
P.O. Box 1028, Pratt, Kansas 67124.

Dean Smith; Neosho Waterfowl Management Area, Route 1, St. Paul,
Kansas 66771.

T. Webster; Neosho State Fishing Lake; Route 1, Parsons, Kansas 67357.

Richard D. Wettersten, Director of the Forestry, Fish and Game
Commission; Pratt Fish and Game Headquarters, P.O. Box 1028,
Pratt, Kansas 67124.

PERSONS ATTENDING PUBLIC MEETING -
KANSAS FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

July 19, 1976

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Address</u> | <u>Representing</u> |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Ivan Beales | 202 South Anderson Coffeyville, Kansas 67337 | Vergris Valley Field Trial Association |
| Herman L. Bonine | Route 2, Box 72 Thayer, Kansas 66776 | |
| Gerald Bratton | 1102 West Ninth Chanute, Kansas 66720 | President, Kansas Bow Hunters Association |
| Mike Burke | Severy, Kansas 67137 | Fall River Area Lease holders |
| Pat Burke | Fall River, Kansas 67047 | Fall River Area Lease holders |
| Dennis K. Crocker | Girard, Kansas 66743 | H.U.C. LTA. |
| Rex Crowell | R.F.D. Longton, Kansas 67352 | Representative, District 76 |
| Ted Cunningham | R.R. 1 Wamego, Kansas 66547 | Kansas Wildlife Federation |
| Bob Harrington | 14 Morningside Drive Paola, Kansas 66071 | <u>Miami Republican</u> |
| Paul Hibbard | Toronto, Kansas 66777 | Fall River Area Lease holders |
| Dale Mast | Severy, Kansas 67137 | Fall River Area Lease holders |
| Roland L. McClay | 103 West 26th Chanute, Kansas 66720 | Kansas Bowhunters Association |
| Tim McIntosh | Route 1, Box 129 Coffeyville, Kansas 66720 | |
| Mickey Means | 612 East Eighth Coffeyville, Kansas 67337 | Vergris Valley Field Trial Association |
| John Moir | Statehouse, Topeka, Kansas 66612 | Division of the Budget |

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Address</u> | <u>Representing</u> |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Dalton Newberry | R.R. 1 St. Paul, Kansas 66771 | |
| Kenneth Phillips | Route 1, Box 96 Edgerton, Kansas 66021 | |
| Johnny M. Ray | Chanute, Kansas 66720 | Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission |
| John M. Robie | Chanute, Kansas 66720 | Jayhawk Bassmasters |
| Jerry Schell | Chanute, Kansas 66720 | |
| Roy Schoonover | Pratt, Kansas 67124 | Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission |
| Dean W. Smith | St. Paul, Kansas 66771 | Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission |
| Greg Taylor | Chanute, Kansas 66720 | |
| Gene Tucker | Route 4 Coffeyville, Kansas 66720 | Southeast Kansas Hound and Wildlife Association |
| John Wade | 102 Warwick Coffeyville, Kansas 67337 | Vergris Valley Field Trial Association |
| T.E. Webster | Neosho State Fishing Lake | Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission |
| Richard D. Wettersten | Pratt, Kansas 67124 | Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission |
| Darrell Wilson | Chanute, Kansas 66720 | Jayhawk Bass Club |
| Ron Wiltse | Chanute, Kansas 66720 | Jayhawk Bass Club |

MEMORANDUM

TO: Special Committee on Forestry, Fish and
Game Commission

FROM: Legislative Research Department

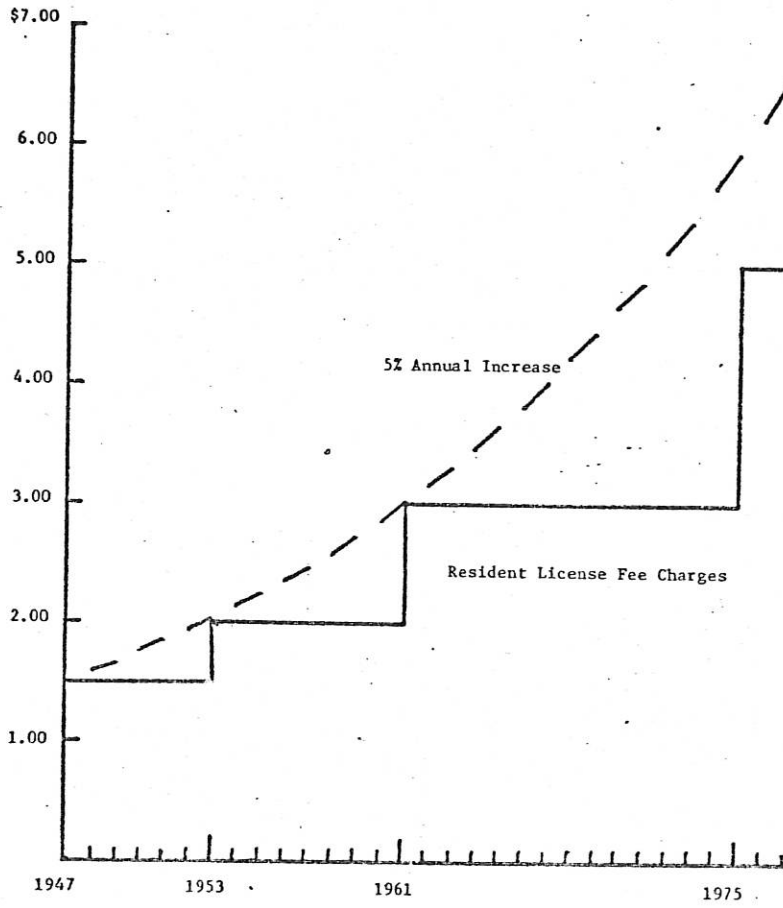
SUBJECT: Impact of 1974 and 1975 Rate Changes
on Sales Volume

Background

The Committee requested at the June 11, 1976, meeting that staff provide a report indicating the fiscal impact of past rate changes upon license sales and the fiscal impact of licensing fishermen and hunters ages 14 and 15 and 65 and over. Caution should be used in any attempt to estimate the fiscal impact of future rate changes based on these historical figures. The following chart reflects the resident hunting and fishing rate changes:

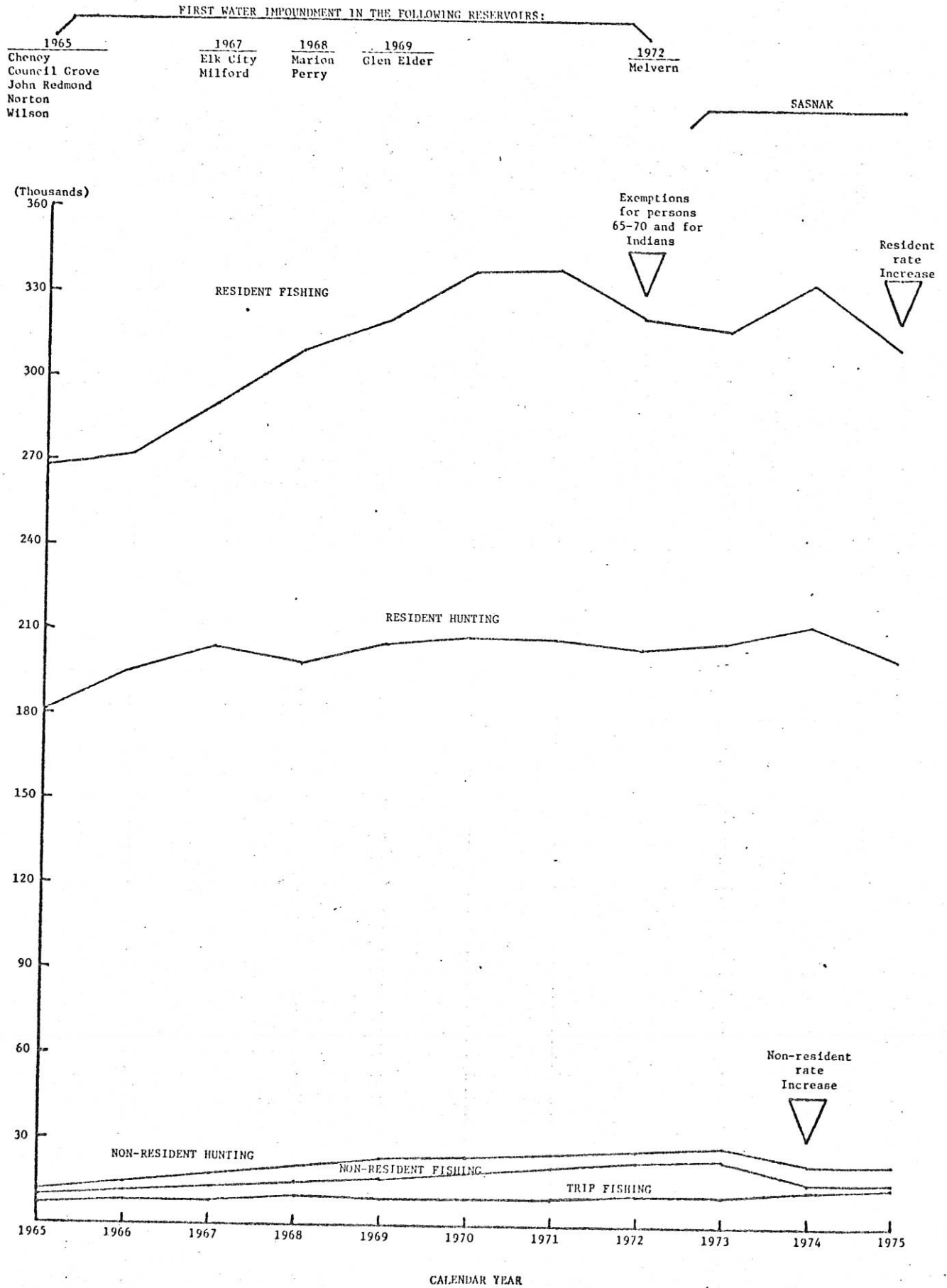
| <u>Year</u> | <u>Rate</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Prior to 1947 | \$1.00 |
| July 1, 1947 | 1.50 |
| July 1, 1953 | 2.00 |
| January 1, 1961 | 3.00 |
| January 1, 1975 | 5.00 |

The agency has indicated that the rate increases through 1961 resulted in a rate equal the rate that would have resulted from an annual five percent increase; however, the 1975 rate was only 84 percent of what an annual five percent increase would have been. The following chart reflects this relationship:



A review of the ten year sales volume experience may also provide useful background information. The following graph indicates the sales volume curves of the major licenses and some significant events that occurred during the period:

NUMBER OF LICENSES SOLD



Resident Rate Increase

The two major resident licenses are for hunting and fishing. Since the "combination license" requires the individual to pay the same amount that he would if he purchased the hunting and fishing licenses separately, it is integrated into the individual licenses for this report. The following table reflects the impact of the \$3.00 to \$5.00 increase on January 1, 1975:

| <u>License</u> | <u>CY 1974 Licenses Sold</u> | <u>CY 1975 Licenses Sold</u> | <u>Percentage Change in Sales Volume</u> | <u>Percentage Change in Rate</u> | <u>Percentage Change in Sales Volume Per Percentage Change in Rate</u> |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Resident Fishing | 333,206 | 311,477 | (6.52)% | 66.7% | (.097)% |
| Resident Hunting | 212,068 | 200,496 | (5.47)% | 66.7% | (.082)% |

Nonresident Rate Increase

There are three licenses in this category that must be reviewed. The following table reflects the impact of the rate increases on January 1, 1974:

| <u>License</u> | <u>CY 1973 Licenses Sold</u> | <u>CY 1974 Licenses Sold</u> | <u>Percentage Change in Sales Volume</u> | <u>Percentage Change in Rate</u> | <u>Percentage Change in Sales Volume Per Percentage Change in Rate</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Nonresident Hunting (\$15.00-\$25.00) | 28,449 | 21,339 | (24.99)% | 66.7% | (.375)% |
| Nonresident Fishing (\$5.00-\$10.00) | 23,017 | 14,069 | (38.88)% | 100.0% | (.389)% |
| 10-day Trip Fishing (3.00-\$5.00) | 9,655 | 11,885 | 23.09% | 66.7% | -- |

It appears that the increase in trip fishing did not result from the increase in the trip fishing license but rather the shift of license holders from the regular non-resident fishing license to the less expensive trip license. The increase in trip fishing license sales volume is approximately 25 percent of the decline in nonresident fishing license sales volume.

Summary of the Impact of a Rate Increase

The preceding sections provided a review of the impact of the 1974 and 1975 rate increases. It is very difficult to draw any conclusions from these data on the level of impact of future changes; however, conclusions can be drawn on the direction of change. As rates are increased, the sales volume of all major licenses will decrease except the trip fishing license which may increase. Past experience appears to indicate that nonresident license sales will drop off faster than resident sales. The agency has assumed that all license sales will decrease by ten percent and recover in two years. While resident license sales may recover, it could take five years or longer. It is also possible that nonresident sales will not recover.

License Exemptions

License rate increases do not qualify the state for additional federal aid; however, a policy that generates additional sales volume would qualify the state to receive some additional federal funds. At the June 11, 1976, meeting of the Committee, Mr. Wettersten, Director of the Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, indicated that the state could receive approximately \$0.40 for each additional fishing license sold and approximately \$1.25 for each additional hunting license sold. The following table reflects the revenue that would result from the agency's estimate of potential license sales in each category at current rates.

| | <u>Agency Estimate of Sales Volume</u> | <u>Resulting Sales Revenue (Current Rates)</u> | <u>Additional Federal Aid</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Ages 14-15 | | | | |
| Hunting | 14,962 | \$ 74,810 | \$ 18,703 | \$ 93,513 |
| Fishing | 22,792 | 113,960 | 9,117 | 123,077 |
| Subtotal | <u>37,754</u> | <u>\$188,770</u> | <u>\$ 27,820</u> | <u>\$216,590</u> |
| Ages 65-70 | | | | |
| Hunting | 13,538 | \$ 67,690 | \$ 16,923 | \$ 84,613 |
| Fishing | 21,190 | 105,950 | 8,476 | 114,426 |
| Subtotal | <u>34,728</u> | <u>\$173,640</u> | <u>\$ 25,399</u> | <u>\$199,839</u> |
| Military | | | | |
| Hunting | 3,596 | \$ 17,980 | \$ 4,495 | \$ 22,475 |
| Fishing | 5,395 | 26,975 | 2,158 | 29,133 |
| Subtotal | <u>8,991</u> | <u>\$ 44,955</u> | <u>\$ 6,653</u> | <u>\$ 51,608</u> |
| Indian | | | | |
| Hunting | 805 | \$ 4,025 | \$ 1,006 | \$ 5,031 |
| Fishing | 1,260 | 6,300 | 504 | 6,804 |
| Subtotal | <u>2,065</u> | <u>\$ 10,325</u> | <u>\$ 1,510</u> | <u>\$ 11,835</u> |
| Total | <u>83,538</u> | <u>\$417,690</u> | <u>\$ 61,382</u> | <u>\$479,072</u> |