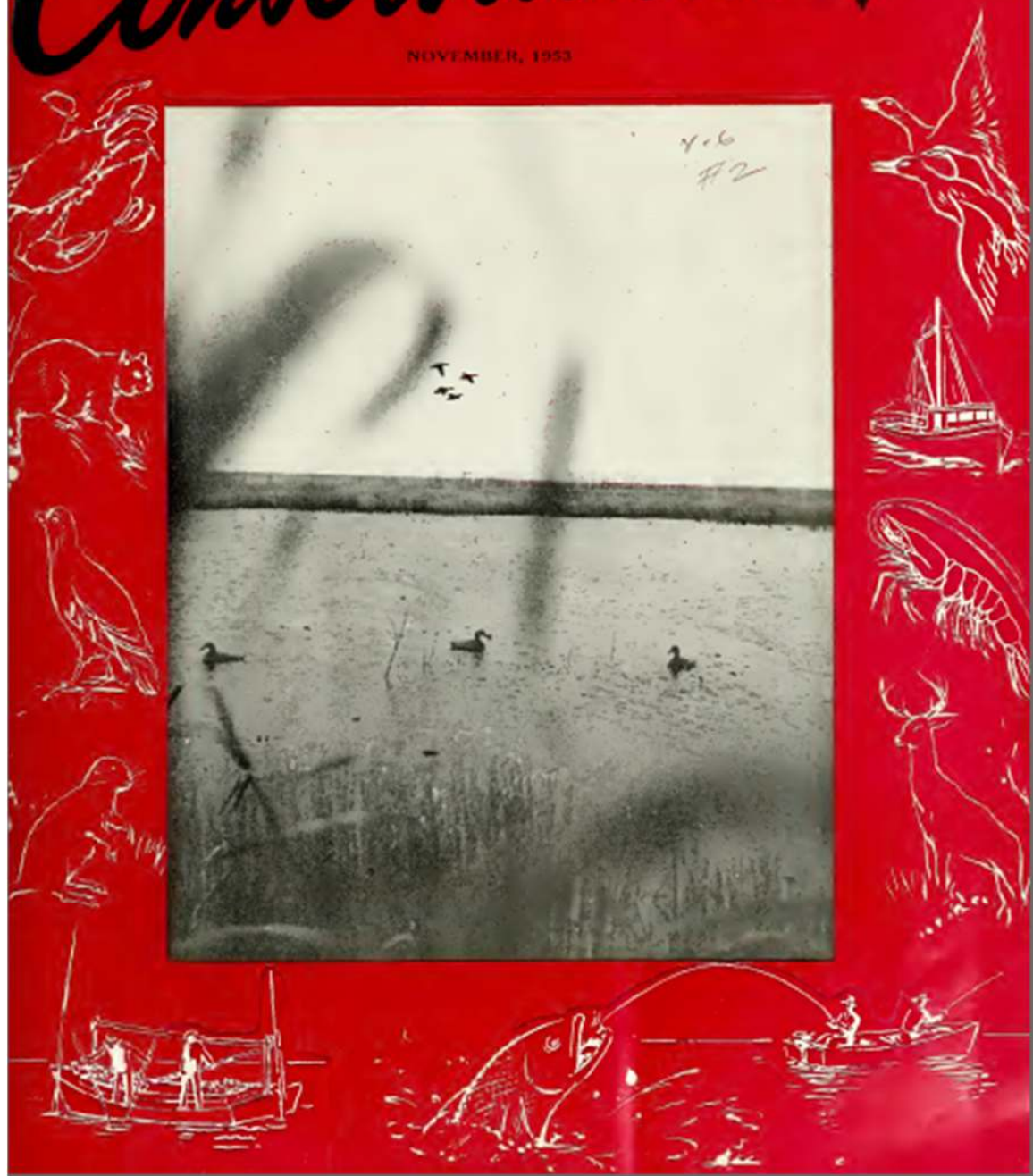


# LOUISIANA *Conservationist*

NOVEMBER, 1953







Characteristic tight matting of hyacinths.

Water Hyacinth Control Program aims at the clearing of waters which have been sprayed in the past so that the work which has been done there will not be wasted, along with the clearing of as many new areas as is practical. It is also intended that a patrol system for areas already sprayed should be put into effect so that the areas which have been cleared as the program progresses will remain available to the sportsmen of Louisiana.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**  
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—THE END



Hyacinth seedlings sprouting on old hyacinth mat which has failed to sink.

These hyacinths block all boat travel on this waterway at Lockport until the tide changes and moves them out.



## Milestone Resource Meeting Held

On September 15 a little publicized event took place in the city of New Orleans which many people think will have far reaching effects. It may indeed prove to be the most important meeting ever held in the southeast and gulf coast region with relation to natural resources. Representatives of factions concerned with the various aspects of resource use, exploitation, and conservation met in the Monteleone Hotel for the express purpose of outlining their own particular problems and concerns. Most of the representatives present availed themselves of the opportunity, and in the short space of some four hours there was recorded for the first time the various conflicts among the different land use agencies in their respective operations. In merely setting down these problems a tremendous step forward was taken, and the door was opened for negotiations and future meetings to alleviate or eliminate many of these difficulties.

Among those present at the meeting were: From the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission—L. D. Young, Jr., James N. McConnell, Robert Eddy, Dr. Lyle St. Amant, Frank Coogan, Warren Simon, John Blanchard, and Claude Gresham.  
 From the State Mineral Board—John W. Olivey, Wesley H. Clanton, and Edwin F. Hunter. From the Louisiana Department of Conservation—Peter A. Huth and G. O. Coignet. From the State Board of Health—John H. O'Neill. From the Louisiana Department of Public Works—H. B. Myers. U. S. Corps of Engineers—A. D. Harvey. U. S. Coast Guard—Commander J. J. Hutson, Jr. and L. L. Comm. R. A. Schulz. Representative Alvin Dyson.  
 U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Travis S. Roberts. Louisiana Wildlife Federa-

tion—Charles Bosch. Docks Unlimited—J. J. Benson. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission—W. D. Gunn and Donald Bollinger. Oyster Industry—Joseph Jurisich, Robert Blum, Baldo Pausina, Ross Ziblich, John Popick, Leopold Taliancich, J. Ziblich, Earl Hedrick, and E. J. Vinet. Shrimp Industry—A. R. Chauvin and A. J. Buzquet.  
 Trapping Industry—Harris Waguetpack, Henry Marmande, Frank Ritchie, and Major James Brown. Apache Exp. Co.—W. H. Parker, Jr. California Com-

pany—A. W. Gunther, R. H. Wegener, and Fred Schreder, Jr. Continental Oil Company—G. F. Berry and R. R. Johnson, Jr. Delta Exp. Co.—Leonard M. Ferrell. General Geophysical Co.—J. P. Daniel. Gulf Refining Company—Albert A. Glott.  
 Humble Oil & Refining Co.—E. M. Wolf, Nathan Beard, and Sam E. Buchanan. Phillips Petroleum Co.—S. A. Spencer and T. S. Graham. Shell Oil Co.—A. J. Moore. Southern Natural Gas Co.—L. M. Brown and P. H. Timothy. Stanolind Oil and Gas Co.—L. C. Adams. Sun Oil Co.—H. C. Weston and J. L. Patton. Texas Company—W. G. Lastrapes.  
 Tide Water Associated Oil Co.—E. M. Rogers and E. K. Senac. Jr. Union Producing Co. and United Gas Pipe Line Co.—M. P. Watson. Froopport Sulphur Co.—George W. Lappert and V. H. Brogdon. Plaquemines Parish—John C. deArmas, Jr. and E. W. Gravolet.

We present here pertinent excerpts from each of the talks:  
**JAMES N. MC CONNELL**, Chief, Division of Oysters and Water Bottoms: "The primary problem as far as geophysical operations are concerned and as far as our Department is concerned is, first, that the regulations which have been promulgated be lived up to. I must state that in some instances we have had difficulties with geophysical operations, but we do not have any actual proof that when the operations are conducted in accordance with our regulations that damage will occur. However, I must state that in some cases in certain areas coincidental to geophysical operations heavy oyster losses have occurred. . . . The problem that affects all of the industries on the coast, and I suppose even more the shrimp fishermen than anyone else, is the obstruction to navigation caused by leaving pipes either close to the surface of the water, or in many instances pipes being either blasted apart or broken off from one foot to three feet off the bottom. Navigational hazards occur from this, and we believe that most of our Agents realize this and try to do everything in their power to see that the pipes are removed properly. . . . We think it is the duty of the U. S. Engineers to see that navigation problems are taken care of. It is my understanding that both the oil companies and the geophysical companies would be glad to stand the salary and expenses of a man to be furnished by the U. S. Engineers to enforce their regulations in regard to navigation.  
 "Now let us speak of canals, canals presently being dug in our shallow coastal areas, in many instances through some of our best natural reef areas, and also in some of our best oyster producing areas where oysters are cultivated. This is a very serious problem. Oysters remain in one spot and depend upon the currents bringing to them their food supply. When currents are changed by these canals, and where dredgings are placed along the sides

of the canal, in many cases currents are stopped entirely or the flow is lessened noticeably, causing not only navigational problems but changes in the ecology of a given area. . . .

"Anyone familiar with our coastal waters will know that many bays today are no longer navigable, due to the dredgings deposited when canals were dug by various oil interests. I understand that the permits issued by the U. S. Engineers state that the dredging must not raise the bottom elevation more than six inches. Yet I find in almost every area in our state where these canals have been built and these dredgings deposited that the bottom elevation has been raised much more than six inches. It is true that there are some locations where openings have been left; if you knew where they were you might be able to get through, but in very few instances are these locations marked, and although they might have been marked when they were originally placed there, later those stakes are lost and the company that dredged the canal fails to reset stakes. This type of operation is clearly a navigational hazard, and such bays become almost impossible of navigation. Even shallow draft boats run on the canal banks and at times have to wait hours and sometimes even overnight for high tide before being able to proceed. That is one of the problems that the fishermen complain about as far as the canals are concerned.

"Now the pipelines. In many instances along one of these pipelines you see mud deposited on either one side or both sides, stopping the natural flow of bayous where the pipeline crosses. These are all facts, gentlemen, and I think anybody who is familiar with our marsh today knows what I'm saying is true.

"The object of this meeting is to let everybody see the picture as we see it. And I know with concerted effort on the part of everyone concerned much can be done, and we can find some method to alleviate some of the suffering to those engaged in the oyster, shrimp, trapping and fishing industries along the coast."

ROBERT L. EDDY, JR., Chief, Commercial Seafoods Division: "I am most concerned with an expression of values regarding the two industries. My office and I stand for efficient and complete exploitation of resources without detriment to others; and if we weigh the fisheries against the oil companies and mineral companies we find that they, the fisheries, are self-replenishing and consequently are more important to the economy and the future of this state than are the minerals which when once removed, of course, are forever gone. We would like to see the oil and gas and sulphur and salt exploited to its fullest, but without detriment to that cornucopia of wealth, the fisheries."

REPRESENTATIVE ALVIN DYSON, representing Ted O'Neil, Chief, Fur and

Refuge Division: "I have been operating in Cameron Parish for 25 years for Steinberg & Company in New Orleans, holding a tract of land covering 155,000 acres. In the last, I'd say since 1940, our trapping lands, as such, are just about gone. One thing that has happened is our drainage. Now the shipping industry out of Lake Charles dredged a canal through Calcasieu Lake, that is on the western end of the land that I am taking care of; and in putting this ship channel through there is dredging out all fresh water out of our fresh water marshes. . . . And back in 1944 the Humble Oil Company dredged a canal from the Gulf of Mexico into the game preserve (Rockefeller) up to Grand Cheniere. . . . These canals, and other canals that the oil companies have dredged into these marshlands with no protection levees on either side, drain our fresh water out so fast that unless the salt water comes back in, it kills all our fresh water marsh, and all we had now is gone. No feed whatever."

DR. L. S. ST. AMANT, representing George Moore, Chief, Fish and Game Division: "A point which I hope to clear up in this talk is the general misconception that the primary cause for our reduction in fish and game is increased hunting and fishing pressure resulting from increased human populations and more leisure time. It is clear to those who have studied the problem that the causative agent behind our decrease in fish and game is more often a change in land use and general habitat conditions resulting from the activities of various agencies using the land or advocating changes in land use than it is the result of hunting and fishing pressure. . . .

"It so happens that various private, state, and federal agencies in their course of normal operations are damaging and reducing this valuable crop of fish and game in the state. We do not wish to imply here that such agencies should stop or curtail their normal activities, but we do feel that the damage that they cause should be recognized and evaluated. In cases where such damage is excessive and not in the best interest of the majority of people, this fact should be made clear to the taxpayers and sportsmen. In addition, some adjustment in plans should be considered and/or compensation for loss be added to the total cost of the proposed operation."

TRAVIS S. ROBERTS, Field Supervisor, Office of River Basin Studies, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: "I believe that legislation should be enacted to make fish and wildlife a part of all State and Federal projects and that benefits that may be gained should be provided at project costs. Even with the opportunity of enhancement of fish and wildlife as part of project plans we would not always be able to prevent serious losses to habitat." A prime example of irreplaceable losses results from a drainage project planned for reclamation of

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timberlands for agricultural purposes. Clearing of hardwood forests and subsequent planting of such crops as cotton or sugar cane results in serious losses to forest game. Removal of temporary waters from these lands also results in diminution of fish and waterfowl habitat. These losses are permanent, with no opportunity for mitigation. Laws currently in force do not provide for these losses to be offset by habitat enhancement in other projected areas. This weakness is further complicated in that there is no enforcement provided by existing laws to insure that mitigation measures that are possible will be included by the planning agency.

FRANK J. COOGAN, Chief, Division of Research and Statistics, and Secretary, Stream Control Commission: "We are interested in the contamination of streams by turbid waters introduced as a result of the cutting of pipeline canals. Right at the present time we have two cases of this kind in the Atchafalaya Basin. We will run up against the same problem in other areas of the state where similar topographic areas are found.

"The contamination comes about in this manner. In the Atchafalaya Basin in particular the topography is such that canals must be dredged in order that pipelines might be laid. The companies operate on the basis that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points, and the line is laid straight across the middle of the basin, cutting across the fresh water streams that drain from north and south. The canal ends at the east guide levee. On the inside of this levee is the Intercoastal Canal water, which is always muddy, is running through dredged canal and into the freshwater stream, with resulting damage to those fishing waters."

JOSEPH M. JURISICH, President of the Oyster Dealers and Growers Association: "We have problems. One of them in particular would be a section of south Louisiana called Olga. Olga is a sort of marshland containing hundreds of lagoons and bayous. The oil companies went through these digging these canals and they deposited the mud on each side, blocking these lagoons and bayous and destroying all the oysters that were in these places. That could have been stopped in the beginning if we could have sat down and talked with you. There was no reason to block these bayous. They could have taken that mud and thrown it on the land. Leave these oysters exist. And that's one particular example of what we call just outright destruction. It's through carelessness."

LEOPOLD TALLIANCICH, Oysterman: "In 1949-50 there was no dynamite up around Grand Lake; they had a successful year. In 1950-51 I moved up in Grand Lake, I hooked 45 loads with my boat—

I call it the Oyster Queen because it's one of the biggest boats in the business. Out of those 45 loads of oysters I know I had 60,000 sacks of oysters in three. Seed oysters. I wasn't even able to pull three thousand dollars' worth of oysters and bring them to the factory. The next year there was no dynamite in Grand Lake (or Barnataria Bay, as the present name is), and then we had two successful years. This year the companies insist on coming in there. Well, myself and most of my friends, we bedded up in Grand Lake, and that just about produces the bulk of Louisiana's steam pack, which is seventy percent of Louisiana's production. What I would like to know is, if we lose that crap who's going to accept the responsibility for that loss? Are we going to be to blame or the people who really destroyed it?"

BALDO PAUSINA, Vice-President of the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association: "My experience with the exploration work is that they did most damage during the summer months. That is, there's certain times of the year where we can't even move an oyster, can't do anything with it, looks like it's in such bad shape. At other times of the year you can take an oyster and break it in half and throw it back into the water; in 24 hours sometimes that forms a shell and is growing again. That's the point that I'm trying to bring out, that when these exploration work leases are issued out if there's some way we could work it out so that these people, when they do go into these oyster areas, would do their work at the peak of the oyster season—in other words, during the winter months when the oysters are at their best. That's about all I wanted to stress."

A. R. CHAUVIN, Chairman, Seaford Committee, Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce: "We appreciate fully the value of these minerals that are being developed in our parish. We welcome you to Terrebonne Parish. We welcome to you to Houma. We want to work with you, but we're being hurt. And the man who's being hurt is the man who can't afford to be hurt, in most cases. There is no big tremendous fishing fleet owned by a big corporation in the parish of Terrebonne. Every fishing boat out there is owned by a little independent, and I would say a great many of them can't help themselves. . . .

"I've heard these oystermen talk. I've never had any battle with the oil companies on the oyster business because it was a small operation with us, but in my opinion we have sacrificed our oyster business to the oil interests."

DONALD BOLLINGER, Chairman, Investigating Committee, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission: "Now, in the shrimp business Mr. Chauvin is correct; we had a little meeting last night in Lafourche and the shrimpers are starting to raise sand

again. The pipes are not being pulled out. That's on the inside. On the outside, I'm in a kind of peculiar position—I'm an officer of a drilling company, and I'm an operator of tow boats and barges which supply equipment to the oil companies, and I know quite a bit of the operation. We've been sued by the oyster people and they've been right. We've done some damages with our tugboats, we've put silt over the oysters, we've smothered oysters, and we've paid off because we're wrong. But that doesn't take care of the production. . . . We saw it once before in Morgan City when all the evidence was brought on the courthouse steps; the shotguns came out and it's not a pleasant thing, 'cause I've been shot at from both sides."

HARRIS WAQUESPACK, Trapper: "I've made my living trapping, and I have trapped out in the swamp myself and also operated some trapping lands. Most of the land that I had was swampland, and the oil companies came in and explored and dug wells. The damage is not all oil companies, they're not one hundred percent to blame, but some of the damage to the trapping land areas is the result of the oil companies. The damage by oil companies is not permanent damage. It will come back, but it will be a long time before it comes back. The damage in the swamp is gradual. The oil companies drill a little bit of oil here, a little bit of oil there, and spill a little bit of salt water here and a little bit of salt water there. After a while all the trees are dead, the grass is dead, and all the rats are gone. Something just has to be done to correct this."

FRANK RITCHIE, Louisiana Land and Exploration Company: "I think if it is done properly, and properly supervised, that you can do drilling, you can do exploration work, you can shrimp, you can cultivate oysters, and you can conduct trapping operations. If it is done properly. In my experience, I've seen this. We went into an area in 1928, and we made one of the most extensive geophysical operations of any of the lands that the company holds, and I'd say that we had lines 1320 feet apart, but in that operation, while we were conducting those operations, a marsh tractor didn't leave a line when he got finished in the evening and just strike out across the marshes, just anywhere. He confined all the work, all the traveling on the land, to those lines. If the personnel working on the crews at night, when they got finished with their work, if there were four marsh tractors in the field, one marsh tractor went to the landing, the balance of the marsh tractors stayed on the line. There was no reason just running all over the marsh and doing that."

CHARLES BOSCH, JR., Executive Secretary, Louisiana Wildlife Federation: "I think that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wildlife and Fisheries

Commission, and our field office have ample documented facts and evidence of the damage that has been done to the wildlife habitat. By wildlife I'm speaking not only of the hunting and fishing angle, but also of oysters, shrimp, and the trapping. This damage has been done by some Federal agencies, by some state agencies, by the oil companies, the geophysical companies and the pipeline companies. There are some 500,000 fishermen in the State of Louisiana. There are over 300,000 hunters. That represents about one-third to one-fourth of the total population of Louisiana. We think that that important segment must be given every consideration. We believe up to now that it has been grossly ignored."

GEORGE W. LEPPERT, representing Freeport Sulphur Company: "I'm very well acquainted with the Pass-a-loutre area. I merely want to point out for the sake of the record that the closure of the Pass-a-loutre hunting club to the general public antedated our operations in that area. We haven't even started actual production of sulphur. We're constructing a mine down there and doing it under plans which have been submitted in great detail to all interested departments."

J. J. BESSON, representing Ducks Unlimited: "I was up in Canada the first of July and had an opportunity to visit the duck breeding grounds. And in every instance we found that the ducks were hatching and growing and whatnot where there was an abundance of cool, fresh, clear water with plenty of food. New Ducks Unlimited's primary purpose is to continue to build such lakes to produce more ducks and actually live up to their name of producing unlimited amounts of ducks. Certainly all of you people here, from what I've heard, are interested in some phase of duck hunting. Now, whether you will have duck hunting down here will naturally depend upon how much effort you are willing to put forth in providing more cool, clear, fresh water with plenty of food so that we might hold ours up. Certainly when you raise them in a place where they have an abundance of fresh, clear water and send them down here where there is no food and they have to drink a brackish water, ducks are not crazy enough to stay there."

JOHN W. OLVEY, Chairman, State Mineral Board: "In all leases since this Mineral Board has been letting leases on the Rockefeller preserve, we put into every lease that they must enter from the fresh-water side from the preserve with a canal. I understand that it's been in the leases that we have granted; we've made arrangements to use the canal that is already in from the freshwater side without digging any further canals. And I feel that it can be maintained as a game preserve and still do a lot of developing for oil and gas. I'm sure that the oil companies will cooperate in every way, and they cannot make any installations

except under the supervision of the fish and game commission."

WESLEY H. CLANTON, Vice-Chairman, State Mineral Board: "The only thing that I would like to say is that the operation of the Mineral Board is primarily the leasing of state lands. Now there are some other instances in which we function, particularly in the Rockefeller Foundation. The grant makes each operation there subject to our approval. But I would like to say that I don't know of a single instance in which the present Mineral Board has not gone along and functioned in perfect accord and cooperation with your Wild Life and Fisheries Board. . . . I want to say that it would be my thought that the present Mineral Board would certainly be very happy to go along with the Wild Life and Fisheries Board, their recommendations on any of these state lands."

H. E. MYERS, Engineer, Louisiana Department of Public Works: "The Department of Public Works cooperates with State Lease Boards and Police Juries. We do not issue permits as such but make recommendations to the bodies which we serve as to the granting of permits for pipeline crossings, geophysical operations, drainage canals, navigation canals and rice water siphons. We will be very glad to work with and assist any state or federal body in the solution of the problems that we have heard discussed today."

G. O. COIGNET, Louisiana Geological Survey, Louisiana Department of Conservation: "We of the Geological Survey and Department of Conservation issue the geophysical permits according to regulations promulgated by the Mineral Board and also in compliance with the Wildlife and Fisheries regulations. And about all I can offer is our cooperation in anything that might develop from these meetings."

JOHN H. O'NEIL, State Sanitary Engineer, Louisiana State Board of Health: "The interest of the Board of Health in this matter of geophysical testing is primarily related to the protection of the quality of water supplies. Where deep holes are drilled for the placing of charges and penetrating and overlying the previous layer in many places in the state, it sets up an opportunity whereby contamination from the surface or elsewhere might contaminate otherwise satisfactory water supplies. We feel that any such holes drilled for geophysical testing in places where our water supplies might be threatened should be filled and not left open."

A. D. HARVEY, Engineer, United States Corps of Engineers: "We issue the permits for work in navigational waters from a navigational standpoint. And we will cooperate in any way we can. Thank you, and that's all I have to say."

H. C. WESTON, Sun Oil Company: "There are also several methods being used now where the pipe is pulled immediately after shooting or prior to the shooting. The shot hole is drilled and the pipe is recovered before the shot is fired. As you know, the

shooting flares the bottom of the pipe and makes it very hard to pull, and there are methods now being used to pull pipe before shooting. . . . As far as making the pipe, I think it is an excellent idea because it would be protection for the companies who are making an earnest effort to pull it. . . .

"There are a few suggestions that I would like to make that have presented themselves. One is the fact that there are no provisions for emergency permits. . . . Another is that state permits, as far as possible, be of the same duration. It's purely red tape, gentlemen, but the Wild Life and Fisheries permit is for four months, renewable for a four-month period; the Mineral Board and Conservation Department permit is for six months, renewable at three-month intervals, and it makes it necessary for a man in my position to keep those up always renewing one or the other agency permits. . . .

"Another thing in regard to these oyster leases. When we move into an area we have to send a representative to the Wild Life and Fisheries office here, and he goes through the files and takes their maps and tries to locate all of the oyster leases on our maps, and he makes a copy and sends it in to our office so that our program supervisor might lay out our work to miss these leases. It requires quite a bit of time, and I'm sure quite a bit of confusion down in this office to have one or two companies come in—to get these leases. Someone down here has to show them the files. As a suggestion, when these two organizations, the Mineral Board and the Wild Life and Fisheries, get together to keep each other posted as to the locations of the oyster leases, I would like for them to make available to the oil companies, at a cost, a map, so that when we assign an area we can write Mr. McConnell and get copies of this map showing the oyster leases in order that our seismograph work may be planned to avoid the planted oyster beds, that we can then plan our program and in areas where it was impossible to shoot because of the large number of oyster beds, then we could just decide whether or not we wanted to shoot that area, or we could go in ahead and make some arrangements with the owners of these leases to get on them."

JOHN C. DE ARMAS, JR., Engineer, Plaquemines Parish: "It is my duty to represent the Police Jury in approving letters requesting applications for geophysical work as well as for oil locations before the Federal Engineers will issue their permits. That okay means that the parish has no objection to that particular work. But in order to see that our people are protected as well as we can we have certain regulations that we insist on being carried out. The first regulation is that they must employ a man whom we delegate, a deputy sheriff with police powers, to see that our regulations are fully carried out in conjunction with the conservation men. In lots of cases we request that a local man be delegated as this seems advisable."

MR. J. P. DANIEL, General Geophysical Company: "At the present time, as you brought out, we are making an effort to recover every bit of our pipe prior to shooting. It works, I'd say, in 90 percent of the cases. There are some cases where we are unable to use this method due to extremely bad quicksand and unusually deep holes. However, in these cases we also try to be very diligent and pull all of the casings just as soon as possible. I must say that most of the fishermen have cooperated with us in every way. I'm sure that most of them will say that we've tried to respect their rights as fishermen and their rights to make a living."

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