

MINUTES

FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

MONTANA STATE SENATE

February 13, 1979

The eleventh meeting of the Fish and Game Committee was called to order by Chairman Smith at 12:35 P.M., in Room 402 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present, with the exception of Senator Galt, who was excused, and Senator Manley.

The meeting was called by Chairman Smith to discuss with Fish and Game Department personnel HB 26, A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO INCREASE REVENUE FROM STATE FISHING LICENSES BY INCREASING THE FISHING LICENSE FEES AND ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE NONRESIDENT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FEE."

This bill is, to date, unsponsored and unintroduced. It was proposed by the Fish and Game Department, drafted by the Legislative Council, and sent to the House Fish and Game Committee. Since they have not sponsored it, the Fish and Game Department has requested the Senate Fish and Game Committee's consideration of sponsoring it.

Mr. Art Whitney, Administrator of the Fisheries Division, Montana Fish and Game Department, explained why the funds are needed. (Attachment #1) He said license sales have been increasing their income about 5 percent per year - only half the present rate of inflation. He also said that license fees for fishing have not been increased since 1967.

Mr. Whitney then distributed a tabulation, comparing our fees with those of other states. (Attachment #2)

He said there was a fiscal note on this bill (which the Committee did not have). (Attachment #3) He said he predicts about \$600,000 income per year from this increase, if it is approved. However, he said, it is very hard to arrive at an accurate figure with all the variables involved.

Senator Anderson asked what some of the sportsmen's groups, such as Trout Unlimited, felt about the proposed increase. Mr. Whitney said he has discussed it with many groups; some of them agree, some do not. He said he talked with the Butte group and they had some reservations about what the money will be used for.

Senator Galt wanted to know what portion of the \$600,000 would be from residents and what part would be from nonresidents.

Senator Goodover questioned page 2, line 3, concerning the \$1 Conservation License. He said there is legislation in the mill to change this to \$2. Mr. Whitney replied it would still be \$1 a year, but put out on a two-year basis. He said the Sportsman's License and the big game license for the nonresident would not be changed, so people who bought them would actually be getting a break on the fishing license.

Mr. Whitney showed Senator Goodover a break-down on the resident and nonresident license incomes.

Senator Stimatz said he had talked to the Butte group and they are basically opposed to the increase. However, he said, he didn't know if that was the general consensus in his District.

Senator Van Valkenburg said the Western Montana Fish and Game Association supported the increase. He asked Mr. Whitney why the Department couldn't find support for the bill in the House.

Mr. Newby said he had discussed it with Representative Rex Manuel because he is on the Appropriations Committee and is familiar with the Fish and Game Department budget. In view of this, Mr. Newby said, he thought he would be an ideal sponsor; however, he declined, and none of the other House Fish and Game Committee members wished to sign the bill.

Senator Van Valkenburg asked if the House Committee had formally rejected the bill. Senator Anderson said since they have not acted on the bill, it would be considered rejected.

Chairman Smith asked if the Fish and Game Department hadn't recently received federal monies to update fisheries areas. Mr. Whitney replied the Department received \$66,000 from the U. S. Corps of Army Engineers; this was reimbursement for fish planted in Lake Koocanusa (Libby Dam) since 1970.

Mr. Whitney continued, saying that 4 million dollars have been allocated for the Murray Springs Hatchery (Eureka). This money is for its construction, operation, and maintenance, and will be used for supplying fish for Lake Koocanusa.

Mr. Newby was asked how much it costs to renovate an old fish hatchery. He replied that it cost 2 million dollars to modernize the Great Falls hatchery.

Senator Goodover wondered why the resident license couldn't remain the same and then the nonresident license increased.

Dr. Wambach, Director of the Department, said if the Department receives only half of the increase, he feels it would be better to just wait for the next session and try again; he said one-half just wouldn't be enough to accomplish what is planned.

Mr. Whitney brought out that right now there is talk of a national fishing license, if a state wants to qualify for federal funds. He said the bill proposes that anyone 62 years of age or older who holds a license in his home state can fish anywhere in any state free of charge.

Chairman Smith said what the Department is proposing is a 33 and 1/3 percent increase for the nonresident license. He said perhaps we should make it a smaller increase.

Senator Van Valkenburg said we are not talking about that much of an increase - we are talking about 12 years of not having a license increase.

Dr. Wambach said because of inflation, the fisheries program cannot be sustained at the present level. He said much of their fisheries program is supported by resident hunters who also fish. The nonresident does not always come back for hunting, so he should be charged for his fishing privileges.

Senator Anderson said he felt the Department's request was a very modest one. It might be a good idea, he felt, to change the bill and make provisions for youngsters under 16 years of age. He said the biologists and other Fish and Game Department personnel are very dedicated, hard-working people, and he feels we are getting a bargain out of the whole Department.

Mr. Whitney said he was finished with his explanation of the purpose of the bill.

Senator Van Valkenburg said he thought, with the transmittal deadline, the Committee should take action on this bill. He said if we are going to hear it, it must be done soon.

There was a question as to whether or not the rules require a unanimous vote to introduce a Committee bill. Debbie Schmidt read from page 30 of the rules book that 3/4 of the standing committee must consent to the introduction of a standing committee bill.

Chairman Smith polled the Committee. Senator Van Valkenburg made a motion to introduce HB 26 as a Senate Fish and Game Committee bill. The motion was seconded by Senator Anderson. The outcome of the roll call vote was that the motion was defeated 3 to 2, with Senators Anderson and Van Valkenburg voting "yes" and Senators Smith, Goodover, and Stimatz voting "no."

Senator Goodover explained he had told his constituents he would work diligently for tax relief, and voting for this bill didn't coincide with that promise.

It was suggested by Mr. Newby that an interim study be made on this bill. Chairman Smith said he would take care of this matter.

Chairman Smith brought out the game starvation presently existing in other states and announced that he intended to introduce a Committee resolution to provide for feeding game animals. Dr. Wambach said, up to now, Montana has not experienced the starvation problems of our neighboring states. He said the biggest problem the Department has is damage to hay stacks. Chairman Smith said that would indicate the animals are hungry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: On Thursday, February 15, the following bills will be heard in Committee: SB 440, SB 472, SB 475, SB 456, & SJR 21.

On Saturday, February 17, the following bills will be heard in Committee: SB 497, SB 485, SB 488, SB 461, and SB 470.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 1:25 P.M.

Ed B. Smith

Date 8-13-7

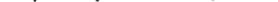
ROLL CALL

FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

46th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 1979

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SMITH, Ed, Chairman	✓		
GALT, Jack E., Vice Chairman			✓
ANDERSON, Mike	✓		
GOODOVER, Pat M.	✓		
MANLEY, John E.			
STIMATZ, Lawrence G.	✓		
VAN VALKENBURG, Fred	✓		

Each Day Attach to Minutes.

SENATE  COMMITTEE

BILL

VISITORS' REGISTER

DATE 1-1-74

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY

Attachment #1

WHY A FISHING LICENSE INCREASE?

In 1967 the cost of a Montana resident fishing license was increased from \$3.00 to \$4.00, a nonresident 6-day license from \$3.00 to \$5.00 and a nonresident seasonal license from \$10.00 to \$15.00. This was the last increase in fishing license costs that provided additional funds for general fisheries management operations other than for acquisition, operation and maintenance of fisherman access sites.

What has happened to the costs of conducting business since 1967?

INDEPENDENT RECORD



FROM
MONTANA'S
CAPITAL
CITY

Helena, Montana, Wednesday evening, May 31, 1973

The beef jumped over the moon

Inflation sits at 10%

WASHINGTON (AP) — A record increase in beef prices forced consumer prices up 0.9 percent in April, the largest rise in more than a year, the Labor Department said today.

The latest increase meant the annual rate of inflation for the past three months was 10 percent, the department said.

Beef prices jumped 6.6 percent in April, accounting for more than one-third of the 2.4 percent in grocery prices.

The 0.9 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index was the largest since February 1977, when prices rose by the same amount. The increase in beef prices surpassed the record 6.5 percent rise in May 1973.

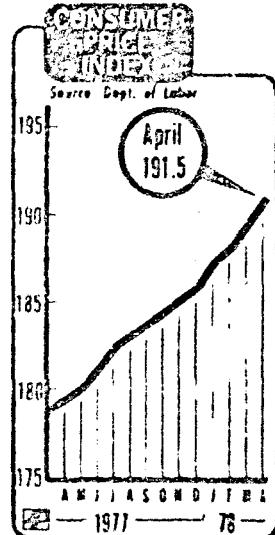
Food prices have climbed steadily since the start of the year, but the latest report showed they were accelerating even faster.

PRICES FOR ALL foods and beverages were up 1.8 percent in April after rising about 1.2 percent in each of the three previous months.

Prices for fresh vegetables, which declined in March, rose 0.7 percent in April, led by an increase for lettuce. Since then, lettuce prices have started coming down, however.

Prices of pork, poultry, dairy products, sugar, candy and vegetable oils all increased more in April than in March or February. Prices turned downward for eggs, fresh fruit and coffee.

ANOTHER BIG contributor to inflation during April was rising housing expenses, which were up 0.9 percent costs of home financing, taxes and insurance advanced 1.7 percent, while home maintenance and repair services rose 1.4 percent.



— It now costs \$191.50 —
to buy what \$100
bought in 1967

Home-purchase prices increased 0.8 percent and rent was up 0.7 percent. Charges for natural gas and electricity each rose 1.8 percent in April, the third straight month of big increases.

The gloomy April report followed an Agriculture Department estimate Tuesday that consumer food prices will rise 8 percent to 10 percent this year, up from an earlier forecast of 6 percent to 8 percent.

Inflation cuts the dollar to four bits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices rose sharply again in October, and for the first time, the American dollar could buy only half as much as it did in 1977, the Labor Department said today.

Rising beef, poultry and pork prices led to the 0.8 percent increase in consumer prices last month, the same increase as in September and about average for 1978.

For the first time, the Consumer Price Index passed the 200 mark, rising to 209. That meant the average product that cost \$100 in the 1967 base period now costs \$200.90, the department said.

Food is 118 percent more expensive than in 1967, housing 109 percent, fuel 120 percent, clothing 63 percent and medical care 89 percent. Since October 1977, prices have risen 8.9 percent, the department said. The average worker's

purchasing power dropped 16 percent in the same period.

In October, the average worker's real spendable earnings declined 0.1 percent, the third decline in a row.

PRESIDENT CARTER announced an anti-inflation program in October to halt rising prices, but officials expect it will take until mid-1979 before its effects can be seen.

Economists expect little headway against inflation the rest of this year because wholesale prices are continuing to go up.

The October wholesale price report, released Nov. 2, showed that the prices retailers paid for their products jumped 0.9 percent in October. These costs are usually passed on to consumers. The Carter administration, which had predicted a 5.9 percent yearly inflation rate at the start of 1978, now expects prices to rise at least 8 percent for the year and probably more.

TESTIFYING ON Capitol Hill last week, President Carter's Inflation fighter, Alfred Kahn, said, "If I don't have things to show you by February, I'll be more than disappointed."

And it may be next August before the program has "an observable" impact on prices, he said.

Kahn, chairman of Carter's council on wage and price stability, said it would be a "small victory" if oil-producing countries held down or eliminated any 1979 increases.

Assistant Treasury Secretary C. Fred Bergsten just returned from the Middle East, said Monday a U.S. delegation had "good successes" in persuading oil exporters to moderate price hikes.

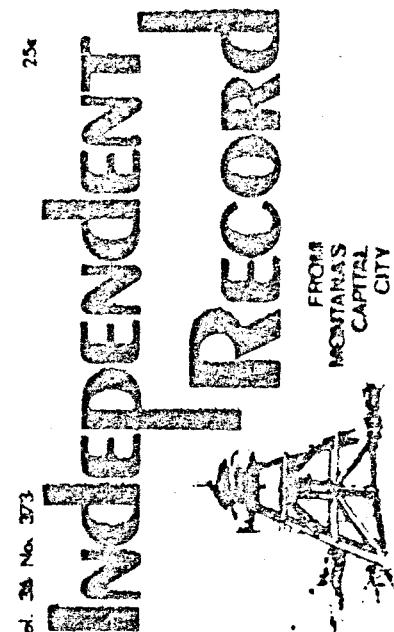
On Oct. 24, Carter announced an anti-inflation program intended to hold wage increases to 7 percent and price increases throughout the economy to 5 1/2 percent.

On Monday, the Interstate Commerce Com-

mission rejected a 6.2 percent truck freight rate increase requested by the Southern Motor Carriers Rate Conference Inc. Commissioners said their action also is intended to set guidelines for the entire trucking industry. Last week the administration persuaded railroads to reduce their requested freight rate increases from 8.1 to 7 percent.

Carter, who is trying to convince labor unions they will not lose out under his program, warned urban leaders Monday they too will have to make sacrifices.

At the National League of Cities convention in St. Louis, Carter said the next federal budget will be "very, very tight" and that city officials will have to exercise restraint to help fight inflation. Carter is committed to cutting his 1980 federal budget by between \$15 billion and \$20 billion to achieve a federal deficit of no more than \$20 billion.



Some of our major items of expenditure show comparable increases.

INCREASES IN OPERATIONAL COSTS

FISHERIES DIVISION

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>		<u>Increase</u>
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1977</u>	
Fish Food (No. 1 & 2)	14¢	24¢	1.7 X
Fish Food (3/32" & 5/32")	8 3/4¢	18 3/4¢	2.1 X
3/4 Ton 2 WD Pickup/Mi.	7 1/2¢	16¢	2.1 X
3/4 Ton 4 WD Pickup/Mi.	7 1/2¢	18¢	2.4 X
Deisel Dist. Truck/Mi.	15¢	35¢	2.3 X
Large Gas. Dist. Truck/Mi.	20¢	40¢	2.0 X
Utilities (Gt. Falls Htchy)	\$2,850	\$5,615	2.0 X
Per Diem Rate	\$ 10	\$ 28	2.8 X
Salaries			
Hatchery Manager	\$ 660	\$1,330	2.0 X
Asst. Manager	\$ 595	\$1,121	1.9 X
Fish Culturist	\$ 430	\$ 788	1.8 X
Average =	2.1 X		

How have we kept in operation for the last 10 years?

The number of licenses sold has increased and two new types of licenses developed since 1967 (1-day nonresident and conservation license) have increased license income about 50 percent. Federal Aid funds have increased, we have solicited contracts from outside funding sources for special studies, and hunting license income is being used to fund the overall fish program.

Can't these other sources of money continue to keep the fisheries program funded at its present level?

Not with the present rate of inflation and not if we ever expect to accomplish major repairs and renovation necessary at our older fish hatcheries. These repairs have been delayed for many years in order to keep our operational levels high enough to meet our legal and environmental responsibilities.

License sales have been increasing our income about five percent per year - only half the present rate of inflation.

Licensing fees
for trout

LICENSE FEES REQUIRED TO FISH FOR TROUT IN 12 STATES OF THE MOUNTAIN WEST

Compiled by A. N. Whitney
Montana Department of Fish and Game
May 1, 1978

STATE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT-SEASONAL	R-NR Factor	NONRESIDENT - LIMITED				
				Long-Term		Short-Term		
				Days	Dollars	\$/Day	Days	Dollars
New Mexico	\$ 7.50 4.25 Tr.S 11.75	15.50 5.25 Tr.S 20.75	1.8x	5	\$8.00 3.00 Tr.S 11.00 2.20		1	3.25 2.00 Tr.S 5.25
Alaska	10.00	30.00	3x	10	15.00 1.50		1	5.00
Nevada	10.00	20.00	2x	10	7.50 .75		2	5.00
California	4.00 2.00 Inland 3.00 Tr.S 9.00	15.00 2.00 Inland 3.00 Tr.S 20.00	2.2x	10	5.00 2.00 Inland 3.00 Tr. S 10.00 1.00			
Oregon	9.00	25.00	2.8x	10	10.00 1.00		1	2.50
Washington	8.50	24.00	2.8x	7	7.25 1.04			
Utah	8.00	25.00	3.1x	5	7.50 1.50		1	2.00
Colorado	7.50	25.00	3.3x	5	10.00 2.00			
Arizona	4.00 3.00 Tr.S 7.00	12.00 8.00 Tr.S 20.00	2.9x	5 9	6.00 1.20 8.00 .89		1	3.00
Idaho	6.00	20.00	3.3x	7	7.00 1.00		1	3.00
Wyoming	5.00	25.00	5x	5	5.00 1.00			
Montana	5.00	20.00	4x	6	10.00 1.67		1	2.00

Tr.S = Trout Stamp

Note: California's basic license allows only ocean fishing. A \$2.00 stamp is required to fish Inland waters and another \$3.00 stamp is required to fish trout waters.

STATE OF MONTANA

Request No. 258-79

FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

Attachment #3

In compliance with a written request received February 6, 1979, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for House Bill 26 pursuant to Chapter 53, Laws of Montana, 1965 - Thirty-Ninth Legislative Assembly. Background information used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Office of Budget and Program Planning, to members of the Legislature upon request.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

House Bill 26 is proposed legislation to increase fishing license fees and the nonresident wildlife conservation license fee as follows:

- Section 1. Increases the nonresident wildlife conservation license fee from \$1 to \$2.
- Section 2. Increases the resident fishing license fee from \$5 to \$7.50
- Section 3. Increases the nonresident fishing license fee from \$20 to \$30.
- Section 4. Increases the 6-day nonresident fishing license fee from \$10 to \$15.
- Section 5. Increases the 1-day nonresident fishing license fee from \$2 to \$4.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. This act is effective May 1, 1980.
2. Fee increases will cause resident license sales to decrease and non-resident sales will fall the first year they are imposed.

REVENUE IMPACT:

FISCAL YEAR 1981 ONLY

Revenue Impact	Revenue under current law	Revenue under proposed law	Estimated Increase
Sec. 1 - Nonresident Conservation	\$106,000	\$ 141,200	\$ 35,200
Sec. 2 - Resident Fishing	920,000	1,342,500	422,500
Sec. 3 - Nonresident Seasonal Fishing	392,000	411,000	19,000
Sec. 4 - 6-day Nonresident Fishing	286,000	343,500	57,500
Sec. 5 - 1-day Nonresident Fishing	350,000	408,000	58,000
Total Revenue	<u>\$2,054,000</u>	<u>\$2,646,200</u>	<u>\$592,200</u>

The additional revenue will accrue to the Fish and Game Earmarked Revenue Account.

Pauline Dearing, Jr.
BUDGET DIRECTOR
Office of Budget and Program Planning
Date: 2-13-79

SENATE COMMITTEE FISH AND GAME

Date 2-12-89 74.8 Bill No. 246 Time 1:25

Sherri R. Smith
Secretary

ED B. SMITH
Chairman

Motion: To instruct our 76 B.C. as a permanent bill.

Watson's *Pholidoptera*

(include enough information on motion--put with yellow copy of committee report.)