



Morone Technical Committee

Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society



Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2025

Asheville, NC

Chair – Sean Lusk

Secretary – Kelsey Roberts

Treasurer – Jake Norman

- 1) Welcome and SDAFS ExCom introduction (Jessica Baumann- SDAFS Vice President)
- 2) Determination of quorum and state introductions
- 3) Treasurer's report (Jake Norman)
 - <\$10,000
- 4) Old Business
 - a. 2024 meeting minutes approved (1. Sean Lusk motion, 2. Dan Wilson)
 - Question following up about the grey literature reports and goals from 2024 meeting. Discussed grey literature options.

Action Item: Determine the best method to add grey literature to either the committee's website or the existing AFS grey literature website.

- 5) New Business
 - a. SNP panel presentation and discussion (Sean Lusk)
 - Worked with a commercial company in California and five states
 - The SNP panel is now available to everyone in the Morone Committee
 - Microsatellites (more expensive, slower turnaround) vs SNP panel (faster turnaround, commercial lab = better accessibility, cheaper)
 - Striped Bass is complete for Atlantic and Gulf strains
 - White Bass was not successful when the panel was combined with Striped Bass
 - If doing hybrid Striped Bass work, will have to wait until WHB is complete
 - Still working on being able to distinguish between original vs reciprocal crosses
 - Get parental fin clips from the hatchery broodfish and keep track of parents and ponds if evaluating stocking location or other PBT analyses (some limitations with pond space)
 - \$11-14 per sample
 - Contact Debbie Plouff – dplouffe@aquatechcenter.com

Action Item: Ask Debbie for a final report on panel development

- b. New Chair of Morone Committee introduced (Stephen Stang)

- Discussed the relevance of the committee
- Update website to have a grey literature tab

Action Item: Contact AFS regarding the submission process for the grey literature database. Determine the best method to add grey literature to either the committee's website or the existing AFS grey literature website.

Action Item: Create template for state reports. Standardize monitoring reports, or what committee members should ask for when soliciting for the technical state reports. Discussed possibly breaking reports up by waterbody or project and standardizing what to report from hatchery managers and coastal regions in the template.

- c. Future direction, goals, objectives
 - Discussed possibly inviting Debbie Plouff to attend a meeting
 - Discussed Coastal vs inland populations and potentially adding coastal representatives or providing space for them in the agenda
 - Discussed inviting hatchery managers to speak and how to involve hatchery staff
- d. State Reports

(Please see final state reports for full details of research or monitoring efforts for each state)

Louisiana

- Introduced Striped Bass to take pressure off other fisheries. Doing a telemetry study on Striped Bass
- Striped Bass collaborative anglers project (SBCAP) - people can request a fin clip kit, a carcass pick up, or fin clip pick up
- Requesting to stock more fish in the future
- Gulf vs Atlantic strain
- Some discussion about mixing stocks/strains

Florida

- Using liquid nitrogen to freeze milt to increase genetic diversity
- Major renovation of the state hatchery last year, relying heavily on federal hatcheries
- Evaluating regulation in one project using a creel survey and a tailwater camera to estimate effort
- Planning to utilize SNP panel for White Bass
- Pensacola Bay telemetry update, hoping to use this to help find broodstock better

Georgia

- The Savannah River is dependent on stocking
- Flathead Catfish are in all river systems now

- Removed Flatheads, did a diet survey, and found juvenile Striped Bass in Flathead stomachs.
- Removing Flatheads in stocking areas showed some promise; this is the first instance of documented predation on recently stocked Striped Bass.
- Hartwell – receives stockings from Georgia and SC and they stock different crosses, want to evaluate the differences
- Looking to do some electrofishing and partner with guides to better survey populations
- Some discussion on boat vs bank stocking, Virginia saw survival double when they used boat stocking
- Density loads - discussed the threshold for Striped Bass

Kentucky

- Purchased hybrids and had issues with differences in water temperatures; didn't meet the requested numbers for hybrids
- Instituted a mandatory reporting system, receiving a lot of data from this system
- Saw differences in creel reports vs guide reports
- Have to have guides vs outfitters tiers with different tiers

Oklahoma

- Biological control of White Perch
- Fry vs fingerling stocking
- Survey of guide industry found many people use guides that wouldn't otherwise utilize that fishery; results are on the website (Betsy York)
- Mostly producing hybrids
- Working on a management plan
- Looking into White Bass and backcrossing with hybrid Striped Bass

Alabama

- Brood stock collection - used to use gillnets, but now use electrofishing and gillnets
- Observed differences in fertility between fish collected in tributaries vs the main lake
- Doing some telemetry work
- Stock two per acre for a few systems and four to six per acre in other lakes

Virginia

- Environmental changes affecting one of their populations
- Changed to late stocking and using phase II fish in one of their reservoirs and had success
- Regulatory changes in the summer – investigated summer catch and release mortality, think they've seen an increase in survival
- Looking at summer mortality using telemetry

Texas

- Using captive broodfish has improved their success
- Producing reciprocals using captive broodfish
- One lake that still receives fry, but they mostly stock fingerlings
- Still evaluating original vs reciprocals
- Try to stock 10 fish/acre

South Carolina

- Parents have a strong effect when assessing factors that affect stocking success.

Tennessee

- Removing an oxygen line in one of their systems, worried about the future of that population
- SNP project with hybrid Striped Bass and Striped Bass evaluating stocking location and other factors that affect survival

North Carolina

- Wrapping up management plan for landlocked moronid populations
- Finalizing a telemetry report on hybrid Striped Bass seasonal vertical and horizontal distribution in Lake Norman
- Developing research to evaluate the use of hybrid Striped Bass to control stunted Black Crappie in a reservoir
- Issues with hatchery production of hybrid Striped Bass this year due to ferry shrimp
- Established captive brood source and system for White Bass.
- Working to establish a captive Striped Bass brood source for hybrid Striped Bass.
- Working toward switching to reciprocal hybrid Striped Bass, but still stocking about 50/50 of original vs reciprocals

6) Adjourned