

SDAFS RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
2022 Spring Meeting
January 20, 2022 – 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Charleston, South Carolina

Attendees:

Sean Kinney, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (*Chair*; Rep) – In-person
Colton Dennis, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (*Secretary-Treasurer*) – In-person
Jeremy Risley, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (Rep) – In-person
John Odenkirk, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (Rep) – In-person
Emilia Omerberg, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (Rep) – In-person
Cliff Sager, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (Rep) – In-person
Lawrence Dorsey, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (Rep) – In-person
John Hammonds, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (Rep) – In-person
Tim Churchill – Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency – In-person
Gene Gilliland – B.A.S.S. – In-person
Steve Sammons – Auburn University – In-person
Jeremy Shiflet, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (*Scholarship Chair*;
Webmaster; Rep) – Virtual
Mike Homer – Texas Parks and Wildlife (Rep) – Virtual
Doug Zentner – Oklahoma State University – Virtual
Mark Fowlkes – North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission – Virtual
Seth Mycko – North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission – Virtual
Troy Thompson – Virtual
Patrick O'Rourke – Georgia Power Company – Virtual
Dustin Smith – Virtual
Dan Shoup – Oklahoma State University – Virtual
Rebecca Krogman – Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Virtual
Shane Bush – Missouri Department of Conservation – Virtual

Introduction - Sean Kinney

Reservoir Committee (RC) chair Sean Kinney called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and welcomed the attendees.

Financial Report - Colton Dennis

Secretary-Treasurer Colton Dennis gave a brief update on the current RC finances (see spreadsheet at the end of the notes). The beginning balance in January 2021 was \$18,510.45. Account deposits included a \$1,000 donation by Southern Company (Thanks, Patrick!) for the 2021 Robert M. Jenkins Memorial scholarships. Account withdrawals included providing two \$500 Jenkins scholarships at the 2021 spring meeting. **The RC's account balance at the end of December 2021 was \$20,357.57. The mutual fund account with Edward Jones Inc. made the RC \$1,847.12 in interest (+9.98%) for 2021.** No questions were asked about the financial report.

New Secretary-Treasurer – Sean Kinney

After the financial report, Colton Dennis stepped down as RC Secretary-Treasurer after serving for four years. Sean presented Colton with a plaque to recognize his four years of service.

Jeremy Risley accepted the RC Secretary-Treasurer position.



Colton Dennis (left) receives a recognition award from Sean Kinney (right)

2022 Jenkins Scholarship - Jeremy Shiflet

The winner of the 2022 Robert M. Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship was Doug Zentner with Oklahoma State University under Dr. Dan Shoup. Doug's research title:

Determining movement, reproduction, and population dynamics of exploited Catostomids in a reservoir-stream complex in the Ozark Highlands Ecoregion and **research summary:** Most fishes within the family Catostomidae (suckers) are understudied across their native range. The recent increase in non-angling no-release fishing (e.g., bowfishing, gigging) has led to a concern regarding the potential of these populations to become overfished. However, little information exists regarding the population dynamics and demographics of sucker species or their basic ecological phenomenon (e.g., movement rates and patterns, tropic positioning). For this reason, our objectives are to: 1) determine differences in population dynamics and demographics of various sucker species, 2) quantify sucker movement patterns, 3) estimate the trophic effects of sucker removal, and 4) evaluate sustainable harvest levels for suckers. From an ecological standpoint, information derived from these objectives will improve our understanding of the catostomid family and the species-specific variation in population vital rates (e.g., growth, fecundity). Ecological information will also allow us construct single-species harvest models aimed at determining the effect of gigging on yield and average size of different sucker species and to evaluate the sustainability of the fishery. Ecosystem models (e.g., Ecopath, Ecosim) will allow us to determine the influence of reduced sucker biomass on other species of management interest (e.g., piscivores such as Largemouth Bass). This project should both increase our understanding of suckers and allow for the effective management of a long-

standing and culturally-important Ozark gigging fishery. Furthermore, this project can serve as a template for investigating harvest in other non-angling no-release fisheries.



Doug Zentner (right) received the Robert. M Jenkins Memorial Reservoir Research Scholarship.

Future Jenkins Scholarship Award Sponsors and Discussion – Jeremy Shiflet

Scholarship chair Jeremy S. reported no sponsors for the 2022 Jenkins Scholarship, even though attempts to secure sponsors were made. Companies reached out to include: Pond King, American Aquatics, Fish Hidings, and Mossback. Therefore, it was decided to go ahead and award the 2022 award using RC funds. The discussion led to who RC should be reaching out to for scholarship funds and should RC change the way we approach potential donors or what we are offering to them for their donations. Gene provided the group with two options for securing funding. Option #1 – The Bass Fishing Hall of Fame. Gene believed the Hall of Fame might be willing to donate funds every year if there was some emphasis on black bass research or conservation. Option #2 – AFTCO (American Fishing Tackle Company) might be another potential long-term partner. They are currently a presenting B.A.S.S. sponsor and have a 10% pledge to fisheries conservation programs. This “conservation-minded” group is and would likely be willing to support research outside of black bass conservation or management. **Gene will reach out to both of these groups to see if these groups would be willing to donate. Gene suggested that the RC develop a one-page document outlining the history of the scholarship and previous winner achievements.**

The discussion then moved to applicants for the scholarship. Sean mentioned that the RC only received a handful of applications this year despite the effort to get the word out. Sean wondered whether it was the scholarship award amount or if students were not interested in applying. Sean mentioned that RC needs to emphasize that the scholarship provides an incentive to come to the SDAFS meetings. Lawrence noted that there is currently a limited pool of candidates working on reservoir research. Colton pointed out that the RC state reps should consider recruiting those working on reservoirs. Gene asked about the potential for the RC to consider awarding scholarships to students outside of SDAFS. The group agreed that this could increase scholarship applications. Sean said he would be willing to consider if the applicant’s

research focused on reservoir management. Sean did mention that if RC did expand it outside the SDAFS, there would be a need to broaden the scholarship parameters related to reservoir research. Jeremy S. wondered whether the scholarship should be a travel award to get recipients to attend an SDAFS meeting. The group agreed and suggested the winners should come to an SDAFS meeting and RC meeting to present their research and receive their scholarship money. Jeremy mentioned that it would require more money for the winners. The group agreed that a national scholarship would be more prestigious and potentially attract more sponsors. The scholarship discussion concluded with how to get more funding. **Jeremy S. mentioned that the first order of business would be to develop a one-page document outlining the history of the scholarship and previous winner achievements. Sean said that RC needed to announce changes to the scholarship at our summer meeting.** John H. suggested exploring an additional investment account to help fund future scholarships. Several members of the group mentioned pursuing an endowment. **Jeremy S. will get with the scholarship working group. He contacts Gene to reach out to AFTCO and Jeff Boxrucker with the Habitat Partnership. The group agreed the best payment would be \$1,000 and travel reimbursement for one student. No other action items were presented during this discussion.**

Website/Social Media – Jeremy Shiflet

Website chair Jeremy Shiflet reported to the RC that not a lot has changed over the last year. Jeremy S. has mainly been posting meeting minutes. If RC members want something posted on the website, they need to contact Jeremy S.

Sean, Lawrence, and Jeremy S. are all approved to post on the RC's Facebook page. The page currently has 403 likes and 440 followers. They have been posting and re-posting from many other states and B.A.S.S. **Emilia was added as an Administrator for the RC Facebook page. Sean invited anyone interested in becoming FB administrators to let him know.** Sean mentioned to please send info about reservoir management or habitat work to Sean, and he will post it on the page. Emilia mentioned that the group should consider making a LinkedIn page. Steve said that the group might think about how active the group wants to be on social media, from a full-time Facebook manager to maybe having a rep write a weekly post to keep interest high. Lawrence questioned whether we are building a following. Sean said that if we are going to pursue funding, we need to be share support for those companies. Steve mentioned that there is still an audience for reservoir research and a vast following for reservoir information. **No action items were presented during this discussion.**

SDAFS Excom Update – Jason Olive and Mark Rogers

Current President-elect Jason Olive and Vice President Mark Rogers provided the RC group with an SDAFS Excom update. Sean mentioned RC needed help to get information about the scholarship to more people. Mark R. said a high turn of members in other committees except for the RC. This makes developing long-term plans difficult. Gene mentioned there is also a high turnover in Fish Chiefs and administration. These positions might not be aware of the committees or the SDAFS. Jason said that one of his goals is to reengage the Fish Chiefs with technical committees. He will also suggest that the chiefs send employees to SDAFS meetings.

Sean mentioned that RC needs a list of Fish Chiefs to request representatives from each state in the SDAFS. Jason said that SDAFS maintains a list of all Fish Chiefs and SDAFS technical committee chair. Jason plans to do a better job communicating with Fish Chiefs and technical chairs to help ensure they are working together. Lawrence mentioned looking for state representatives who want to be members and participate on a committee. **No action items were presented during this discussion.**

State and Member Reports

North Carolina – Lawrence Dorsey

- Beginning the third year of a statewide black bass genetics study.
 - LMB vs. FLB
 - Speciation of black bass
- Still dealing with Alabama Bass issues
 - Statewide issue
 - Causing genetic problems with Smallmouth Bass (hybridization)
- Completed a large-scale habitat project on Harris Lake
 - Popular Largemouth Bass fishery
 - Hydrilla disappeared
 - Used artificial fish habitat structures
 - Planted native plants
- Full-scale plant nursery
 - Outside and greenhouse growing capabilities
- Willing to share reports on Lyngbya issues and control, especially related to the decline of hydrilla
- Stocking F1 bass fingerlings to try to increase trophy potential

Louisiana – Sean Kinney

- About to hire a new Inland Fisheries Director
 - Expecting internal change
- Spend roughly \$8 million annually on weed control
- Black bass genetic work
 - LMB vs. FLB
 - Minimum of 20% FLB genetics after three years of stockings to continue FLB stockings
- Continue to do stock assessments
- Removed most special black bass regulations around the state due to limited harvest

Texas – Mike Homer

- Reorganization of the Inland Fisheries Division
- Working on shoreline-based angler access and fish habitat improvement programs.
- Recently purchased their first habitat barge (31-foot boat)
- Lone-star bass stockings program

- FLB produced from ShareLunker Program brood
- Maximum growth and trophy potential
- 23 FLB, 13 pounds or larger, were submitted to ShareLunker Program from January 2021 to January 2022, mainly from O.H. Ivie Lake
- Simplifying catfish regulations
- Conducted several surveys and fish habitat projects.
- Funded 24 fish habitat projects from the conservation license plate program.
- Expanding Zebra Mussel issues and identified the first Quagga Mussel infestation (Lake Amistad)
- Completing two new major reservoirs just north of Dallas
- Several statewide research projects occurring
 - Statewide Blue Catfish project (population characteristics)
 - Hybrid Striped Bass statewide study (population characteristics and catchability)
 - Trophy bass telemetry study looking at habitat use
 - Fish use of artificial fish habitat

Tennessee – John Hammonds

- Dealing with Invasive carp issues
 - Acoustic fences appear to be effective on Berkley Lake
 - Invasive carp are using locks to move back and forth regularly
 - Research on reproduction
 - No nature reproduction found
- Two new fishing piers
- Working on several natural and artificial fish habitat projects
- Aging Smallmouth Bass using spines vs. otoliths
- Working on Yellow Perch regulations
 - Anglers want these fish to be established in some fisheries as people come to fish for them.
- Using reef balls as artificial fish habitat
 - Partnered with No Shoe Reefs and Barefoot Bay
- Stocking F1 LMB/FLB Hybrids in Boone Reservoir
- Looking to expand their hatchery system to produce more fish
- Evaluating Alabama Bass genetics
 - Watts Barr and Chickamauga
- Partnership with Bill Dance to develop a signature series fishing trail
 - Investing 15 million dollars
 - Intensive management to bathrooms at accesses or improving boat ramps
- Considering Tournament Stamp
 - Keep up with tournament numbers
 - No cost
 - Organizer must have stamp
 - Website showing tournaments

Kentucky – Jeremy Shiflet

- Using reef balls (three different sizes) for about a year and half
- Using rollers to deploy the reef balls

Virginia – John Odenkirk

- New leadership thus they are working through a strategic planning process
- F1 bass experimental stockings project
 - Long-term project
 - Five lakes (Smith Mt. Lake, Claytor Lake, Kerr Reservoir, Lake Chesdin, and Lake Anna)
 - This pilot program intends to assess the potential for enhancing the quality of Largemouth Bass fisheries in large reservoirs by stocking F1 Largemouth Bass at relatively low densities, with a specific focus on the trophy aspect of these fisheries.
 - Supplement stockings
 - Original F1 has a greater potential to get bigger and grow faster
 - Infusion of greater trophy potential
 - Fish are from the private sector
 - Using variable stocking rates based on miles of shoreline and standardized sampling (average catch of juvenile bass per mile of shoreline)
 - Stocked over six years
- The F1 information led to a group discussion about stocking pure FLB vs. F1
 - Is growth difference between F1 and pure FLB or FX generations?
 - Potentially never get an F1 in nature
 - Tennessee found most trophy Largemouth Bass were F1 in Chickamauga
 - What is the FX growth potential?
 - How far north to stock F1?
 - How are stockings of F1 impacting fish populations long-term?
- Snakeheads in reservoirs
 - 2017 – showed up
 - 2019 – standardized sampling
 - Numbers are not increasing but are expanding somewhat

Arkansas – Jeremy Risley

- Completed two large-scale habitat projects
 - Lake Greeson and Beaver Lake
 - Beaver Lake was part of the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership
- Completed a statewide bank angler survey
 - 2,557 interviews
- Hired an ANS coordinator
- Completed a 5-year Fisheries Division strategic plan
- Developing fisheries management plans for all major reservoirs in the state
- Increase funding (marine fuel tax) to put towards boating access around the state

- Started next edition of the statewide black bass management plan
 - Using a stakeholder advisory committee to develop the plan
- Continuing to work on LMB, SPB, and SMB genetics around the state
 - Looking for Alabama Bass genetics
- Research
 - Impacts of Forward-facing sonar
 - Partnered with Oklahoma State University on the development of hydroacoustic standard sampling procedures
 - Partnered with the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff on LMB/Hybrid Striped Bass interactions in Degray Lake
- Using Constant Contact email to distribute information to anglers
- Using YouTube videos/surveys to get public input on proposed fishing regulations

Georgia – Emilia Omerberg

- Working on several habitat projects around the state
 - Clark Hill Reservoir – Reservoir Habitat Partnership Grant
 - Lanier - Water willow plantings
 - Other reservoirs are being planted with aquatic vegetation
- FLB genetic work
 - West Point Lake
 - Potentially 10% of the population from stockings
- Age and growth and exploitation research occurring
- Researching Blue Catfish progress
 - Declining Channel Catfish relative weights where Blue Catfish numbers are increasing

Oklahoma – Cliff Sager

- Working on black bass genetics
 - Been stocking FLB since the 1970s
 - Seeing successes with FLB stockings
 - Maintain broodstock
 - Stock roughly 20 reservoirs with approximately 1.4 million fingerlings per year
 - 45 lakes in rotation
 - The most recent state record for Largemouth Bass was F1
 - Developing a long-term genetic monitoring program based on growth and gender to understand the growth potential and trophy potential of FX fish
 - Surplus Age-1 pure FLB
 - Some are certified for use as brood
 - The remaining fish are stocked in northern fisheries where stocking fingerlings had failed to try to impact growth and genetics
- Invasive Carp work
 - Red River – No reproduction

Missouri – Shane Bush

- Crappie
 - Several exploitation studies
 - Led to regulation changes on Mark Twain and Smithville Lakes
- Catfish
 - Blue Catfish population assessment of Mark Twain Lake
 - Flathead Catfish population assessments in several of Missouri's large reservoirs and small impoundments
- Striped Bass
 - Evaluation of low-density stocking of Striped Bass in Bull Shoals Lake
- White Bass
 - Lake Wappapello White Bass management evaluation
- Fish Habitat
 - Evaluation of fish habitat structures in Table Rock, Bull Shoals, and Truman reservoirs

Auburn University – Steve Sammons

- Working on Alabama Bass research
 - Should be very concerned about this species on Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass populations

B.A.S.S. – Gene Gilliland

- Bass Pro Shops donated \$1.5 million to the Fish Habitat Partnership from Bass Pro Shops U.S. Open National Bass Fishing Amateur Team Tournaments and Championship.
 - Focused on sportfish and angler access
 - No federal match or cap
 - Have one and half years to complete the funded project
 - It could potentially be used to purchase equipment if it is part of a larger project.
- Florida has passed a law to allow Largemouth Bass to be sold for food

Oklahoma State University – Dan Shoup

- Partnered with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to determine forage abundance using hydroacoustic and develop a hydroacoustic sampling protocol for sampling forage in large reservoirs in Arkansas.

SDAFS and CDAFS Reservoir Symposium – Jeremy Risley, Mike Homer, and Steve Sammons

- The reservoir symposium was a partnership between the SDAFS and SDAFS RCs.
- The symposium was titled: Back to the Future of Reservoir Science and Management: What Have We Learned in 50 years?
- Steering Committee was Rebecca Krogman (CDAFS), Jeremy Risley, Steven Sammons, Michael Homer, Sean Kinney, and Joseph Conroy (CDAFS).
- Summary: The 5th National Reservoir Symposium was held with the 151st Annual American Fisheries Society Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. This symposium brought

together reservoir scientists and managers from around the world (both in-person and virtually).

- Fifteen presentations were given in person in Baltimore.
- Symposium lessons focused on: reservoir aging and associated fish habitat challenges; water operations management; fisheries management changes with changing expectations; and the economic importance of fisheries. These timely lessons reflect changes in reservoir science and management priorities over 50 years, highlighting challenges fisheries professionals face in the coming decades.
- Twenty-four publications will likely be included in a special edition of the North American Journal of Fisheries Management.
- The group agreed that we should continue working with the CDAFS on future reservoir symposiums and potential joint meetings.

Microplastic Research Update – Sean Kinney

- Research on the impacts of artificial fish habitats on the environment
- A graduate student working with three professors at LSU is working on the microplastic project in Louisiana
 - Research has started at Toledo Bend
- Looking for funding for this project
 - ~\$10,000 to process samples
- Eventually want to expand to multiple lakes and states

Bass Regulations – Sean Kinney

- How are states handling their black bass regulations, especially with the decline in the harvest?
 - Answers ranged from statewide regs to special regulations like slot limits
- Oklahoma is proposing statewide one bass over 16 inches with a six-fish creel limit. They will continue to have no length limit or creel limit on Spotted Bass.
 - Promote harvest
 - Simplifies regulations
 - Will need multiple years of messaging about the benefits of harvest
 - Quality management approach
 - Will require a tournament exemption
 - The tournament director will handle exemption permits
 - Directors will be required to submit a report after tournaments
 - Improve their understanding of how many tournaments are occurring and their impacts on the black bass populations
 - It would go into effect in September 2022 if approved.

The RC meeting was concluded at 2:19 pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by Jeremy Risley (*Secretary-Treasurer*)



2022 SDAFS Reservoir Technical Committee Meeting

January 20, 2022 from 9:00 – 14:00 Eastern time

1. Introduction – Sean Kinney
2. Financial report – Colton Dennis
3. New Officer – Sean Kinney
4. Jenkins Scholarship award – Jeremy Shiflet
5. Presentation by 2022 scholarship winner
6. Next year's scholarship sponsor/s and discussion
7. Website –Jeremy Shiflet
8. State and member reports
9. SDAFS EXCOM
10. Update on micro plastic research
11. Update on AFS Reservoir Symposium
12. Discussion on Bass regulations
13. Open Discussion

SDAFS Reservoir Committee Edward Jones Mutual Fund Account Balance ending December 2021

prepared by: D. Colton Dennis Sec/Trea 1-10-2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Jan-21	\$18,510.45				
Apr-21	\$18,910.18	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$19,417.45	2021 Southern Company scholarship donation (\$1,000); Two \$500 scholarships
Jul-21				\$20,188.49	
Dec-21				\$20,357.57	
Jan-Dec 21	\$18,510.45	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		2021 Assets deposited to acct / 2021 Assets withdrawn from acct
Jan-Dec 21		\$1,847.12			2021 Mutual Funds value changes (interest)
Jan-Dec 21	\$18,510.45	\$2,847.12	\$1,000.00	\$20,357.57	Balance increase of \$1,847.12 from interest (+9.98%) for 2021
Jan-22	\$20,357.57				
Feb-22			?		One or two \$500 scholarships
Mar-22					
Apr-22					