

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : Trout Committee Members, SDAFS

DATE: February 1, 1977

FROM : Hal Boles

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF THE TROUT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI,
OCTOBER 25, 1976

Members attending were: Monroe Schmidt, Arkansas; Russ England, Georgia; Tom Hill, Georgia; Randy Geddings, South Carolina; Bob Wollitz, Virginia; Barry Smith, Alabama; and Hal Boles, FWS. Guests attending were: Rick Fatora, Georgia; Lloyd Hess, West Virginia; and Gary Henry, FWS.

Minutes were reviewed of our last meeting (October 1975) at St. Louis.

A letter from the U.S. Forest Service to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the protest of consideration for nominating the Appalachian strain of brook trout for threatened status on the Federal Register was read before the membership. Discussion on this matter revealed that a representative from Tennessee would ask for the Trout Committee to make a resolution (at the S.D. business meeting) against nominating this particular brook trout for threatened status; however, the consensus of opinion indicated that this procedure (of presenting a resolution) would be premature in that the context of the FWS request merely noted "consideration" for nomination of this brook trout for threatened status. It was further agreed that the USFS had valid reason for protesting this request in that further study of this species is contemplated and necessary in other geographical areas of the Appalachians. It was also mentioned, in retrospect, that considerable more work on this "strain" in the Smoky Mountain area is planned by the FWS.

In regard to which streams would be used for testing wild versus domestic strains of brown trout, the members agreed that the following streams would have first priority: Middle Broad Creek, Georgia; Davidson Creek, North Carolina; Cedar Creek, South Carolina; and Citico Creek, Tennessee. The prospect of using streams in the Talladega Forest, Alabama, for testing brown trout (which has previously been suggested by Seehorn) was discussed with Barry Smith. Barry indicated that he would be in favor of this selection.

In the general discussion, it was revealed that no progress had been made by individual members toward surveys of these streams to determine their stocking requirements or study areas. As a result, Russ England was



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assigned, as subcommittee chairman, to coordinate the gathering of this information from members of the states where test streams were selected to determine the stocking requirements, study areas, and standardization of sampling methods.

In view of the possibility that the Appalachian strain of brook trout may eventually be listed as threatened, the committee agreed that we should omit brook trout from our plans for testing wild versus domestic trout stocking.

In discussion on the various sources of wild trout stocks, it was pointed out that the Convict Lake strain of brown trout will be supplied from the California Department of Fish and Game and that hatching and rearing will be provided by the FWS hatchery at Walhalla, South Carolina.

The prospect of obtaining kamloops rainbow eggs from California, and the McConaugh strain from Nebraska will be investigated by Hal Boles and Chuck Stearns.

Bob Wollitz indicated that wild brook trout might be available from Seneca Lake, Ontario; however, in view of the test stream locations, it was agreed that any introduction of other brook trout might jeopardize the homogeneity of the Appalachian strain.

Since no progress has been made by individual members (on a state by state basis) toward the project of evaluating trout regulations in the Southeast, Randy Geddings was assigned, as subcommittee chairman, to coordinate this project.

The committee agreed that recommendations for the next Trout Committee chairman should be presented to the new S.D. president before the business meeting. Pending decision of the next Committee chairman, the Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held in May 1977, in the White River area of Arkansas. Monroe Schmidt obligingly agreed to sponsor the meeting.

Hal Boles

Annual Report of the Trout Committee S.D. American Fisheries Society - 1976

File
w/BJ
Trout
Committee

Two resolutions formed by the Trout Committee were passed at the last business meeting October 13, 1975, requesting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to (1) place more emphasis on the rearing of brown including wild strains and (2) to include rearing wild strains of brook and rainbow trout for special waters.

The committee plans to test wild and domestic strains of all three species in streams to be selected by committee members in their respective states. Both members from North Carolina and Georgia collected wild brown trout spawners in the fall of 1975, and these ~~wxx~~ were held at the Walhalla National Fish Hatchery.

Unfortunately, collections were made late in the spawning/^{period}and many of the browns were already spent. Although some eggs were taken, too few hatched to provide a sufficient number of fish for testing. The wild spawners did not adapt to pelletized food and those remaining were not suitable for holding for subsequent spawning this year.

The State of California was contacted for the purpose of getting eggs from wild stock. California no longer takes eggs from the wild convict lake brown trout spawners. However, they fish of this strain are now held at Mt. Whitney Hatchery. This strain is the wildest stock that they maintain, so we have ordered 100,000 eyed eggs from this source. They have ~~xx~~ not had a furunculosis problem at this hatchery and this appears to be the best egg source at this time for getting a sufficient number for testing with comparable numbers of the eastern domestic strain.

The best source of wild rainbow eggs from California would be the British Columbia strain of Kamloops in Junction Reservoir. This strain was found to be more successful and more vulnerable to fly fishing in ~~California~~ California

lakes and reservoirs. We intend to obtain some of these eggs from California next spring. Arrangements have already been made for rearing the California browns and the local domestic strain at Walhalla National Fish Hatchery.

Committee members are in the process of selecting test streams in their respective states and are surveying other streams for the procurement of wild brood stocks.

Seehorn

Mr. Monte ~~Seehorn~~ ^{Seehorn} has two streams in the Talladega National Forest, Alabama, which he suggests a test for brown trout. Other streams suggested were

_____, _____, _____.

Another project of the committee which was carried over from last year is the delineation of natural trout waters in the Southeast. Seven states have responded to questionnaires solicited by committee members. Monte ^{ee} ~~Seehorn~~ is presently compiling these data, but apparently he is unable to attend the meeting.