

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trout Committee Members

FROM: Randy Geddings, Chairman

DATE: October 1, 1981

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Trout Committee Meeting, May 27-29, 1981

The first meeting of the Trout Committee in 1981 was held in Helen, Georgia and hosted by Rich Fatora - Georgia Game and Fish Commission.

The meeting was attended by the following members and guests: Monte Seehorn, U.S.D.S.; Doug Watson, U.S.F.S.; Steve Moore, Nat. Park Service; John Boaze, U.S.F. & W.S.; Kerry Prather, Kentucky Fish & Wildlife; Hal Chestnutt, Ga. Dept. Nat. Res.; Tom Harshbarger, U.S.F.S.; Bill Couth, Univ. of Ga.; Bud Ratledge, N. C. Wildlife Res. Comm.; Russ England, Ga. Dept. Nat. Res.; Bob Wollitz, Va. Comm. of Game & Inland Fish; Pat Hutson, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.; Jack Wingate, N. C. Wildlife Res. Comm.; Tim Hess, Ga. Dept. Nat. Res.; Hal Boles, U.S.F & W.S.; Ron Pasch, T.V.A.; Rich Fatora, Ga. Dept. Nat. Res. and Randy Geddings, S.C. Wildlife Res. Dept

Old and Ongoing Projects

The first order of business was to continue discussion of the introduction of wild and domestic rainbow and brown trout into selected streams. The discussion initially centered on determining if the stocking of one-half and three-quarter wild brown trout should be continued. Past problems with this project included poor environmental conditions, small size of the stocked fish, availability of wild fish, flooding on study streams, incomplete sampling and the unavailability of a preliminary report. A sub-committee, chaired by Rich Fatora and Monte Seehorn was appointed to prepare a preliminary report, to evaluate the findings and to recommend the future course of action of this project. Other members of the sub-committee include: Doug Peterson, Tenn.; Kerry Prather, Ky; Jack Wingate, N.C.; and Randy Geddings, S.C. The preliminary report is due by the next committee meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma. North Carolina volunteered to furnish one-half wild fish for stocking under this project. Monte Seehorn will be coordinating with the various agencies in regard to marking and distribution of these fish.

Hal Boles and Ron Pasch presented a report on the status of the Brook Trout Bibliography. At the time of the meeting, they had identified 434 titles. Work is still in progress to more thoroughly explore various literature sources. A discussion was held on the best way to present the information and on what appearance the final product would have and also on funding the bibliography. A rough draft will be available at the Tulsa meeting.

*Rich Fatora
Monte Seehorn*

*Hal Boles
Ron Pasch*

John Boaze reported that information on age and growth of rainbow trout was slow in coming in to him. In his work at Cherokee, he has found few rainbow trout over two years old with fishing pressure having little or no effect on this maximum age. This phenomena was supported by a 1945 U. S. Park Service report which showed similar maximum ages for rainbow trout. This has been observed in studies of Cherokee Creek in South Carolina. Please send any relevant information you may have to John.

It was discussed that trout regulations should be an open-ended topic for the Committee as regulations change and new findings become available for study and application. John Boaze was appointed as sub-committee chairman. Please send John any pertinent information you may have concerning trout regulations.

New Business

It was suggested that standardized methods of sampling cold water streams be added to the Standardized Methods Handbook that the Warmwater Stream Committee is currently putting together. John Boaze and Monte Seehorn will relay our comments to the Warmwater Stream Committee.

A motion was made and passed to add the National Park Service to the membership of the Trout Committee.

Virginia and the National Park Service offered to host the 1982 spring meeting. No action was taken on these offers.

Scheduled presentations were presented by Tom Harshbarger, Bill Couch and Steve Moore. After these presentations, each member briefly discussed the work in their area.

On May 29, 1981, several members accompanied Rich Fatora to Waters Creek to inspect the logistics of a hand-fed, trophy trout stream. All were greatly impressed with this successful fishery.

The meeting was adjourned at 1720 hours to travel to a fish fry organized by the host state.