

**Minutes of the
AFS Southern Division Trout Committee Meeting
Frostburg State University, Frostburg, Maryland
June 5th, 2000**

The 2000 AFS Southern Division Trout Committee met at the East Coast III meeting at Frostburg State University in Frostburg Maryland. Chairman Frank Fiss opened meeting @ 3:40 PM. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. Lee Keefer reported that the checking account balance was \$6883.97, and that the Brown Trout account balance was \$192.42. A quorum of 13 persons was present.

Old Business

Jim Borawa suggested that we send BNT workshop proceedings to libraries or give them away and pay postage.

John Stark talked about the disposal of the remainder of habitat workshop account. The committee owes about \$2 k to AFS to be used as seed money for the next workshop.

Chairman Frank Fiss reported that he has updated the procedure manual for the committee, and he will pass it on to the next chair. Frank also reported that the electrofishing article was published in July 99 issue of Fisheries.

New Business

Larry Mohn brought up the need for the committee to develop a management plan for southern brook trout. Jim Borawa felt that most managers could come to some agreement on this issue. If we do not do something, feds may step in can come up with their own standards. Steve Moore reported that in GSMNP hybrid BKT populations seem to be losing northern alleles over time. Steve also reported on a research proposal to relate morphological characteristics to genetic markers. He estimated it would cost about \$25,000 to complete.

Jim Borawa reported on his recent summary of information concerning BKT genetics in the SE, and pointed out the following:

- 700 BKT populations are known in the SE (about 200-300 populations are yet to be discovered)
- 348 populations have been typed
- 154 populations have been identified as southern

Jim asked, "How much more do we need to know to manage for southern fish?"

Steve Moore recommended that we finish the meristic study on Southern BKT

Jim Habera asked what the scope of a regional BKT management plan would be, and he proposed that a summary of what has been done in the past with this fish be compiled. Jim Habera agreed to serve as chair of a sub-committee to look into status of southern BKT.

TU will be asked to help pay for meristic work. Stan will revise his proposal and circulate it.

Election: Call for nominations for secretary/treasurer

Mike Green ^{House} was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Next Meeting: Jacksonville and West Virginia were proposed. After some discussion, West Virginia was selected.

Round Table

Arkansas: John Stark

John discussed minimum the flow problems in the White River system. Legislation requiring minimum flows has been held up by a USCOE study on the potential impact to other users before it can be implemented.

A hooking mortality study on BNT is underway, but problems have been experienced with the florescent grit marking system being used. IPN has been found in wild rainbows in the Bull Shoals tailwaters. The source of this disease is unknown at this point

West Virginia: Mike Shingleton

Limestone treatments to reclaim acidified streams are continuing. They are adding new streams to program using limestone sand. Water quality improves rapidly after treatment. Fly-fishing only regulations are common on reclaimed streams. Two new special regulation streams proposed last year, bringing the total to about 20 streams at this time.

North Carolina: Jim Borawa

Jim reported the following:

- North Carolina is beginning the FERC re-licensing process on several hydro projects that have trout resources.
- NCWRC has been involved in the restoration of streams for N. C. DOT as mitigation for new highway construction.
- NCWRC is conducting significant trout hatchery renovation and upgrades.
- An evaluation of the stocking of ½ wild BNT is taking place in the Lake James Bridgewater tailrace on the Catawba River.
- The delayed harvest program continues to grow. Three waters were added in 1999, and two more will be added for 2000.

- N.C. participated in the USFWS Fish Health Survey.
- N.C. is mapping trout distributions based on survey data.
- They are continuing to pursue the genetic typing of brook trout populations.

Missouri: Notes attached.

GSMNP: Steve Moore reports that the Antimycin BKT renovation treatment has been approved. The proposal to open BKT streams to fishing in the Park is on his desk. Many brook trout streams have been closed to fishing for years, and anglers have been pushing to have them reopened to fishermen.

Acid deposition studies in the park are continuing. ANC's of less than 50 prevail in most of the Park. The release of Aluminum due to low pH is a concern. Al+ concentrations have jumped to as high as 3500 mg/l during rain events.

The Park has received a request from the Cherokees to use part of the Oconaluftee as a pay fishing stream (on the Park).

Tennessee: Jim Haberra and Frank Fiss

Jim reported that the 1999 cold-water report is now complete. Call him for copy or get it on the TWRA web page at: www.twra4streamshomestead.com/32700.html Jim reported that this was the 10th consecutive year of monitoring on standardized sampling streams in Tennessee. Jim observed that floods seem to have a significant negative impact on streams. A wild trout regulation change has been proposed to allow the use of all artificial lures. Size & creel limits may be changed next year. Current regulations on wild trout streams allow 3 fish with a 9" minimum size, and this may go to 5 fish with a 7" minimum size. Brook trout restoration projects are continuing using electrofishing.

Frank Fiss reported that on Tennessee tailwaters, regulations allowed the harvest of 1 fish over 22" and that spawning areas were closed in some streams. A major fish kill occurred on the Watauga TW during the past year. Fish were killed over a 10-mile segment of river, but the invertebrates were not hurt. He estimated that between 1 and 3 x 10⁶ fish were killed. They are currently working to get D.O. and flow improvements below Corps Dams.

President Frank Fiss thanked the program sponsors.

Adjourned @ 6:15