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Regional SFC Reports

Southeastern Fishes Council

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Regional SFC Reports

It is in our archives.

A copy of the amended constitution (19 June 1977: this is merely the original constitution with changes penciled in.) is in the archives. Does anyone remember if these changes were ever typed up? Also, two changes were recommended in a letter dated 2 September 1980 by Herb Boschung. Does anyone remember if these changes were ever voted on or ratified?

A copy (Form SS-4) of the Federal Tax Number is still lacking from the archives. Does anyone remember the origin of the Employer Identification Number (EIN) 62-1133894 referred to by IRS on our Paine Webber Account?

Receipts and bank statements for 1980-1986 are still missing from the archives. Does anyone know their whereabouts?

Minutes of the 1980-1986 annual board and membership meetings are still missing. Does anyone know of their whereabouts?

Member lists for 1975-77 and 87 are in the archives; 1978-1986 and 88-92 are missing.

No copies of resolutions are available in the archives.

A complete set of Proceedings is in the archives.

Fish buttons depicting the frecklebelly madtom, cypress darter, bluenose shiner, barrens topminnow, spring pygmy sunfish, Cape Fear shiner, and pygmy sculpin are in the archives. The Maryland darter and rustyside sucker are missing. Does anyone have a copy of these buttons they could donate to the archives.

The history of the Southeastern Fishes Council has been updated through 1993 and will soon be published.

REGIONAL SFC REPORTS

REGION I - Northeast

Bob Jenkins at Roanoke College is working on redhorses, still. He organized an intensive sampling effort in May 1993 on the Pee Dee River around the NC/SC border searching for *Moxostoma robustum*. Electroshocking boats from Carolina Power and Light, North Carolina Division of Environmental Management, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and South Carolina Wildlife participated with assistance from REJ and FCR. No *robustum* were taken. Commercial fishermen working the area had not seen any either for a number of years. REJ, Bud Freeman, and two Roanoke College students canoed the river in the fall and seined at appropriate habitats for juveniles, but none were captured. REJ has been reviewing the extensive gray literature (primarily power company and environmental consulting firm reports) for the Pee Dee from Blewett Falls Dam down to Cheraw, SC. He's not sure that *robustum* lives anymore except in the Oconee River in Georgia. Several disturbing observations have resulted from the *robustum* searches. Large introduced catfishes, *Ictalurus furcatus* and

Pylodictis olivaris, have apparently decimated the native riverine *Ameiurus* populations. I have also seen this occurring in the lower Cape Fear River. *Pylodictis* was introduced into the Pee Dee in 1978 and is now flourishing. *Ictalurus furcatus* is also plentiful and is getting help from the SC hatchery in Cheraw. The state has released 123,772 in the Pee Dee River over 30 years, mostly in the last 15 years. Another downer was the capture of mostly introduced fishes in the upper Yadkin last May by REJ, BJB, and Don Cloutman. *Cyprinella lutrensis* could become or already is a weed there. Bob has applied for a grant to study the sicklefin redhorse, an undescribed species found in the Little Tennessee River, lower Tuckaseegee River, and Brasstown Creek in the southwestern NC and adjacent GA. This fish could be of hybrid origin. REJ with student Brian Kopia will conduct a status survey and reproductive behavior study on *Etheostoma osburni* in VA. It currently is known from only two streams and appears to be disappearing in VA and probably WV. It seems deserving of federal endangered status.

Paul Angermeier at VPI and Roy Smoger are developing recovery plans for Virginia state endangered fishes. The plan for *Phoxinus tennesseensis* is almost finished. Next will be *Enneacanthus chaetodon*, then *Etheostoma acuticeps* and *E. variatum*. The South Fork Holston River site for *E. acuticeps* was snorkeled but none were seen. Paul has two students working on logperches. One student is studying recolonization dynamics and habitat use in *Percina rex*. The second study on *P. burtoni* in the Holston and Clinch rivers is looking at associations with habitat configuration. Paul has finished a two-year study of the Clinch River above Norris Reservoir using IBI (Index of Biotic Integrity) to identify if a region is good or bad and where the problem areas are.

Sue Bruenderman of Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, Nongame Section, is setting up long-term monitoring sites for rare fishes. Initial study was on Copper Creek. Virginia has put out a publication geared to land owners - "Copper Creek - a valuable resource" by J. Flynn, D.L. Weigmann, and S. Bruenderman. They canoed Copper Creek and identified threats to landuse patterns. After three years of sampling, they found a five mile reach where *Noturus flavipinnis*, dusky darter, and hellbender are hanging on. They resurveyed TVA's mussel sites and found them wiped out. On the positive side, Sue reports that the range of *Percina rex* has been extended up the North Fork Roanoke River by Mark Ferguson. She is moving to Missouri this summer where she will work with Bill Pflieger on a re-survey of Missouri fishes.

Eugene Maurakis has relocated at St. Pauls College in Lawrenceville, VA. He is continuing his work with Bill Woolcott on *Semotilus* and has several papers in review. St. Pauls College is starting up an aquaculture program with research, teaching, and grow-out facilities. Last summer, Gene taught three courses in Greece where he found time to collect fish. This led to new distribution records and range extensions.

John Alderman of North Carolina Wildlife, Nongame Section, is completing a survey of *Notropis mekistocholas*.

John is looking at basic life history and, in particular, spawning periodicity this spring. The species appears to be in better shape than originally thought. It is found in the Deep River from Coleridge in Randolph County down to the headwaters above Buckhorn Dam; in the lower Rocky River below NC 902; in Bear Creek; and a small population exists in the Haw River below Bynum and above US 15-501. Overall fish diversity and abundance is low in the Haw River and there has been a big decline in mussels. The Cape Fear shiner is no longer extant in Fort Creek nor the Cape Fear River below Buckhorn. *Cyprinella monacha* is doing well in the Little Tennessee. One area surveyed had 30+ individuals with three or four age classes present.

Jerry West at Western Carolina University has a student who just finished a thesis on the life history of *Clinostomus funduloides* subspecies: growth rates and reproduction. Jerry has a video of *Notropis leuciodus* spawning in *Nocomis micropogon* nests. He will be investigating the timing and behavior further.

Alvin Braswell of North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences hopes to publish soon the endangered fishes report. He reports that the NC Wildlife Resources Commission has been working on definitions of critical habitat for the three species of federally-listed fishes: *C. monacha*, *N. mekistocholas*, and *Menidia extensa*.

Fritz Rohde of NC Division of Marine Fisheries and Rudy Arndt at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (formerly Stockton State College) have been conducting status surveys on various NC state-listed fishes. In 1993, they searched for *Noturus flavus*, *E. acuticeps*, and *P. burtoni*. The range of *E. acuticeps* is farther up the North Toe River than previously thought; a paper is in press. *Percina burtoni* appears to occur only in the South Toe River. It is a difficult fish to capture with traditional methods. Snorkeling may be the answer. *Noturus flavus* is restricted to the Cane River. Work continues on the distribution of fishes in the upper Dan River, NC and VA. The spotted form of *Noturus insignis* was found at several locations just below Pinnacles Powerhouse down to the NC/VA border. FCR and RGA are starting work on the distribution of freshwater fishes in South Carolina and would appreciate collection data that anyone may have.

F. Rohde

REGION II - Southeast

South Carolina -- Gary Meffe, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, and Ron Carroll, University of Georgia, just completed a book entitled "Principles of Conservation Biology," (Sinauer Press, Inc., 559 pages, 106 illustrations, \$33.95 paper, \$66.00 cloth). Gary will likely sojourn at the National Biological Survey (NBS) fish lab (ex-National Fisheries Research Center) in Gainesville, FL for a six month sabbatical. He plans to work on community ecology

conservation problems in the Etowah River, complete some postponed projects, and to simply hang around some ichthyologists who know more than three species of fish.

Georgia -- There are numerous conservation issues and activities occurring in Georgia that are of interest to SFC. The Division of Fisheries, Georgia DNR, is planning an artificial propagation experiment of the seriously imperiled, and hopefully soon-to-be-listed, robust redhorse, *Moxostoma robustum*. The apparent sole surviving population of this large sucker occurs in the upper Coastal Plain of the Oconee River below Sinclair Dam in Georgia. Historically, this species apparently ranged from the middle or upper Piedmont of the Pee Dee River in North Carolina to the same physiographic regions of the Altamaha River drainage, Georgia. Demographic data suggest that the Oconee population is composed mostly of old individuals, and there is no evidence of any reproductive success in the past 6 to 8 years. Jimmy Evans, GA Division of Fisheries, is orchestrating the propagation efforts. The offspring from these spawning efforts will be stocked in yet-to-be-selected rivers in Georgia, within the probable native range of *M. robustum*. Bob Jenkins, Roanoke College, Virginia, and Bud Freeman, University of Georgia, are nearing the completion of the tome detailing (and I mean *detailing*) the correct identity of *M. robustum*, and providing a name for the sucker species that was misconstrued to be *M. robustum*.

The Tri-State water project (a plan to divert water from the Coosa River system, Alabama and Georgia, to the Apalachicola River system, for use by Atlanta) is lumbering along, gaining its own inertia as is typical of such projects. It appears that only cursory attention is being paid to environmental concerns. Some good work may come of this project. For example, Mary Freeman, NBS National Ecology Center office in Auburn, is using IFIM methods to characterize all available fish habitats at selected study sites in Coosa and Apalachicola tributaries. Rather than attempting to characterize habitat curves for selected species, Mary is attempting to collect data on all microhabitats in the river reaches she is studying. At given discharges, she hopes to be able to predict total habitat complexity and availability for a given stretch of river. Mary also indicates she and Bud have made some progress on the analysis of new *Percina* from the Apalachicola, but need to create a block of time devoted to the study to complete the description.

Perhaps the Etowah River should be recognized as the real crowning jewel of the upper Coosa system. At least one new *Ulocentra* was recently discovered in the upper Etowah; it is tentatively dubbed the "mountain darter." This is the second *Ulocentra* discovered in the system (the Cherokee darter was the first). The species (or complex) will be described by Noel Burkhead, Steve Walsh (NBS, Gainesville), and Bud Freeman. The mountain darter may be confined to the upper Etowah River system, and if this tentative assumption is correct, the number of Etowah system endemic fishes would be three (Cherokee, Etowah, and mountain darters), a rather incredible indigenous diversity for a river that is only 165 river miles in length. Currently, we consider

the Etowah River ichthyofauna to have been composed of about 80 species (10 fishes and possibly 65% of the estimated 50 species mussel fauna are extirpated). The number of listed or candidate species is also high: four fishes, five mussels, three snails, and one mayfly. In addition to being threatened by one of the largest cities in the south (Atlanta), the Etowah suffers from the typical litany of degrading forces besieging rivers of Southern Appalachia.

Bob Jenkins and Bud Freeman, nearly simultaneously discovered yet another new redhorse, a falcate-finned beast that may be an upland replacement of *M. carinatum* sequestered in the upper Little Tennessee and Hiwassee river systems. Dave Etnier (University of Tennessee) and I actually collected the redhorse while on a *Cyprinella monacha* survey in the late 1970s -- if we had only pulled the teeth! It is not surprising that many of the recently discovered fishes are cryptic taxa, but it is amazing that we are still finding some large fish that have eluded scientific recognition for about 240 years.

Steve Vives (Southern Georgia University) and students are conducting an ichthyofaunal survey of Ft. Stewart Army Base in south Georgia. Initially, the survey focused on *Enneacanthus chaetodon* and *Etheostoma parvipinne*, but Steve indicates they are thoroughly surveying all sampling sites. Other survey work in Georgia includes initiation of an ichthyofaunal survey on Ft. Benning (Jim Williams, NBS, Gainesville), and conservation status surveys for *E. brevirostrum* and *E. tricella* (Noel Burkhead), and for *Cyprinella callitaenia* (Bud Freeman).

Florida -- Carter Gilbert (University of Florida) and Jim Williams are making slow but steady progress on the Florida fishes book project. Given the wisdom of their respective ages, they refuse to offer an ETC--estimated time of completion.

As many of you know, the NBS is a reality, and as a federal agency, it should make significant contributions to the conservation of southeastern aquatic faunas. Basically, the NBS is modeled after the old Bureau of Biological Survey and its primary missions are endangered species research, survey, monitoring, and biological sciences research. As with any new federal agency, it is suffering growing pains, but should emerge as an agency highly focused on stewardship and conservation of the nation's vast natural resources. In a sense, the staff at the NBS lab in Gainesville feel like they have come out of the closet, and can openly practice systematics, zoogeography, faunal survey, environmental physiology, and conservation biology of southeastern aquatic species.

The NBS (ex fisheries) lab in Gainesville has active studies on Gulf slope freshwater mussels, headed by Jim Williams, and includes Jayne Brim-Box (distribution and ecology of Apalachicola mussels), Hannah Hamilton and Ricardo Lattimore (laboratory growth studies), and Anne Keller and Leslie Straub (toxicology and artificial propagation). Fish research activities are diverse. Bill Smith-Vaniz and Jim Williams have a proposal under consideration to conduct work towards a monograph on the fishes of the Florida Keys. Leo Nico, relatively new to the lab, is

responsible for studies of non-indigenous fishes and plans projects in south Florida and the Tampa Bay area. Steve Walsh and Dennis Haney are conducting thermal physiology research on southern Appalachian spring and mountain species, and ion physiology on catfishes in the Suwannee River drainage. In addition to his physiology work, Steve is collaborating with Noel Burkhead and Bud Freeman on a variety of conservation studies of Etowah River fishes, and on patterns of imperilment of southern Appalachian fishes. The long awaited and in-press-so-long-that-the-publication-date-could-be-1980-something-to-1990-something book, *Freshwater Fishes of Virginia*, by Bob Jenkins and Noel Burkhead, finally was published on 12 April 1994. It, however, beat the not-yet-but-surely-soon-to-be-published *Fishes of Tennessee*.

Farther south, Buck Snelson (University of Central Florida) reports that he is not working on freshwater fishes, but he may wander inland sometime in the near future. Lastly, Walt Courtenay (Florida Atlantic University), is continuing his efforts on non-indigenous species problems.

N. Burkhead

REGION III - North-Central

In comparison with the report at last year's meeting in Virginia Beach, this year, we can say that the Tennessee fish book is more than a virtual reality, but is not in our hands yet. Problems with the color separation for the xx color plates have delayed publication until....., but we certainly will have the book in hand by the next year's meeting.

We began our report last year with newly recorded species in the Tennessee system. This year, we can report that *Menidia berylina* is now widespread in Kentucky Reservoir and into the lower Cumberland River. This species has probably invaded from the lower Ohio, and not via the TENN/TOM.

TVA is still in the process of producing models and NEPA documentation for various scenarios of releases from Tims Ford Reservoir to accommodate trout fishing interests in the tailwaters and improving habitat conditions for *Etheostoma wapiti* and other rare aquatic species (mussels) farther downstream. Although Scott Mette and Pat O'Neil (Alabama Geological Survey) reported collecting (and releasing) several boulder darters in the Alabama portion of the mainstream Elk River, attempts at collecting boulder darters (for captive propagation) in the Tennessee portion of the river and in Richland Creek were futile. The species is certainly existing in low numbers, if present in that portion at all.

AL Geological Survey biologists (Stuart McGregor et al.) found slackwater darters at several new localities in the Flint River system. They also noted that spawning in this area seemed to occur in the stream (like a fish should!) in submergent vegetation instead of the wetland areas typically used by the species in Cypress Creek and other localities.

They are continuing their monitoring this year (last year of it?).

TVA, under its newly outlined "Clean Water Initiative", has designated several River Action Teams (RATs). These teams are groups of biologists and other resource personnel who will work within a designated subwatershed in the Tennessee River drainage. They are intended to be permanent teams who will identify important natural (and other) resources within their watersheds and work to conserve these, as well as to improve degraded situations. The first RATs to be designated are Hiwassee, Holston, Clinch/Powell and Wheeler/Elk. Ed Scott was with the Elk team in the headwater tributary and recently collected *Etheostoma luteovinctum* there. The latter two teams were designated relatively recently. Therefore, they haven't yet accomplished much field work, but the Hiwassee and Holston teams have been busy with reconnaissance surveys.

Noel Burkhead and a crew from Gainesville intensively surveyed all of the known *Erimystax cahni* localities last summer (1993). They were unable to collect any. Before the species is written off as extinct, there are plans to repeat the effort this summer 1994, in an effort to lower the "dotted line" in Etnier's scenario of "detecting and collecting" southeastern fishes.

Brooks Burr and a recent UTX graduate, David Eisenhower, were also unable to collect any additional specimens of the *Noturus elegans*-type madtom that was originally collected by Charlie Saylor and crew in Little Chucky Creek (Greene Co., TN), a Nolichucky tributary a few years ago. Burr and Jim Grady are under contract with FWS to work out the taxonomic relationships between this animal, the one in the mid-upper Duck and the Buffalo.

TN Ecological Services Division, Water Pollution Control Board personnel required a survey of the locality in the lower Duck River where some I-40 roadwork was being done. They required this to determine current status of the state-threatened *Etheostoma aquali* at the site. Charlie Saylor assisted in this collection, and they turned up several *Noturus stanauli*, including adults and YOY. This is a new locality for the species in the Duck River (other locality is lower, at the mouth of Hurricane Creek) and the first collection in the Duck River since the late 1970's.

Etnier and his Regional Faunas class last fall made a float trip on the main-channel Mississippi River in Tennessee (somewhat post-flood) and found several interesting things. They collected *Macrohybopsis meeki* at two localities: two miles downstream of Doyall Landing, Tipton Co., TN; and further upstream near mouth of Obion River. They also got the first record of *Percina sciera* from the main channel, and collected both *Noturus nocturnus* and *Noturus flavus* (or the taxon with very small eyes). Etnier brought copies of species lists for his MS River collections.

CFI released 160 captively-bred (!) and propagated *Phoxinus Cumberlandensis* into No Business Creek, Cambell Co., TN. There were no previous records of the species from No Business Creek, but it is reported from the system. Some were kept for a captive population, and the remainder (100)

were put into Mud Creek, in Whitley Co., KY, as the adult animals had come from Kentucky.

Duskytailed darters, *Etheostoma (Catonotus)* sp., were reintroduced (for the first stocking) into Abrams Creek, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Blount Co., TN, in summer 1993. A huge NPS shocking crew doing depletion sample in one of the reintroduction sites turned up none of the stocked duskytails, but did collect a smoky madtom (probably had been stocked there 4 months earlier).

Yellowfin madtoms were reintroduced into the lower portion of Citico Creek for the first time in fall of 1993. There was HEAVY flooding in this area a few weeks ago, and we don't yet know the effect of this on these rare fishes.

P. Shute and D. Etnier

REGION IV - South-Central

Pledger Moon from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office in Panama City, FL, made the catch of the year when he and two co-workers captured an Alabama sturgeon in the Alabama River. Pledger also reports netting, radio-tagging, and collection of genetic material of gulf sturgeon is ongoing in several gulf drainages, as does Doug Fruge' at the Ocean Springs office.

Carl Couret in the Service's Daphne, AL, office reports that work in tailwaters below dams on the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers to study flow pattern affects on ichthyofauna are continuing. Instream flow surveys in Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River are ongoing to determine optimum flow for tailwaters below the proposed dam. Work on *Tulotoma* continues, and Carl's office is working with the Forest Service to protect mussels on federal lands.

Bud Freeman reports that the bad news for the Etowah River System is the construction of landfills and dams that threaten the Cherokee darter, which is proposed for listing as threatened. Good news is range extensions for *Percina antesella* and *Percina lenticula*. Bud is building a database of all fishes ever collected in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Rivers project area. He also wanted everyone to know that *Etheostoma etowahae* is proposed for listing as an endangered species.

Mary Freeman at Auburn University is directly involved in the tri-state water use study by collecting data on discharge flow and habitat characteristics in Georgia and Alabama, which will be used in the habitat modeling for the project. She also has a student working on the life history of the Halloween darter.

Hank Bart at Tulane University reports that the upland goldstripe darter was extant in a ditch as of two weeks ago and that the description is coming along, as is that of the two species of the subgenus *Cottogaster*. He and Dr. Suttkus are naming them the coal darter (Alabama) and the pearl darter (Mississippi). The description of the Yazoo, Tombigbee, and

Alabama snubnose darters is in page proof. Hank and Sut are still gathering data on carp and buffalo suckers, and Hank's study on fish diversity is continuing. Some bad news is a plan by the Corps to dredge the lower Pearl River, which may imperil the pearl darter, *Percina lenticula*, *Noturus munitus*, and Louisiana *Pteronotropis signipinnis*. David Heins, Tulane University, continues to work with John Baker, University of Arkansas, on life-history patterns of fishes that produce multiple clutches, including *Cyprinella venusta*, *Etheostoma lynceum*, and *Etheostoma caeruleum*. David and John also are studying three-spine stickleback from Alaska, so their work in the southeast faces competition from afar.

Randy Haddock of the Cahaba River Society reports that a comprehensive management plan for the Cahaba River drainage is being undertaken to identify major problems and try to determine which entities are charged with addressing these problems. Greenways to establish buffer zones around the Cahaba are being built in the Birmingham area, and an Alabama State Rivers Coalition is being formed to help establish other river groups like the Cahaba River Society.

Scott Mattee of the Alabama Geological Survey just finished a report on water quality and its affects on the invertebrate and fish fauna of the upper Cahaba River System. He is collecting information on the life history of the Alabama shad, and work is continuing on the status of *Etheostoma boschungii*. Scott is initiating surveys of mussels and gastropods in selective Mobile Basin drainages, and later this year will publish a status report on *Notropis cahabae*.

Melvin Warren with the U.S. Forest Service Hydrology Lab in Oxford, MS, has been working on fish and mussel community structure in the Sipsey Fork of the Black Warrior River and on fish communities in channelized and unchannelized streams in the upper Tallahatchie River. Life history data has been collected on the Yazoo shiner, and he and Brooks Burr have the palezone shiner description in press. Bob Butler, Paul Hartfield, and Wendell Haag are working on the description of a unique superconglutinate on a federally threatened mussel; its glochidia are at the end of a long gelatinous fishing line in the form of two "minnows" with eyespots and myomeres.

Steve Ross at the University of Southern Mississippi is still working on fishes in floodplains of Pascagoula River drainages. His state fish book is further along that last year, but not finished. He is working on the status of *Phoxinus erythrogaster* in Mississippi and the affect of rapid erosion in Bayou Pierre on *Etheostoma rubrum*.

Mark Peterson at Mississippi State has been examining habitat preference of *Enneacanthus gloriosus* in several Mississippi coastal streams, and in studying the salinity tolerance of young largemouth bass. He just ended a study on the abundance and size of larval fish and how this interacts with the survivorship of stocked walleye (the unique Tombigbee population). From this study, Mark has built a larval fish collection of over 14,000 specimens.

Carol Johnston of the U.S. Forest Service Hydrology Lab in Oxford, MS, is working on the sound production in stream fishes. She is also working on the life histories of the

Yazoo darter and *Notropis boops*, and along with Charles Knight on *Pteronotropis welaka* ecology.

Malcolm Pierson of Alabama Power reports that, along with Art Bogan and Paul Hartfield, has completed surveys of aquatic gastropods in the Coosa and Cahaba river systems in Alabama and Georgia. Out of the original 78 species which occurred in the Coosa River, three genera and 26 species are presumed extinct. The Cahaba River has fared much better; 32 species historically occurred in the system, and 24 species are still extant. In 1994 work will continue in the Alabama, Black Warrior, and Tallapoosa river systems.

Chuck Lydeard at the University of Alabama will be examining the taxonomic relationships of several species of snails in the family Pleuroceridae and several mussels using DNA sequencing of mitochondrial genes. Herb Boschung continues to work on a state fish book for Alabama along with Rick Mayden. Rick is continuing a status survey of *Etheostoma tuscumbia* and is also studying the effects of malathion on a upper Tombigbee River tributary. He and Bernie Kuhajda reevaluated the systematics and taxonomy of the Alabama sturgeon, and they assure everyone that it is a distinct species.

Bernie Kuhajda

REGION V - Northwest

Conservation Issues

Efforts by the Saline County (AR) Rural Development Authority to impound the North Fork of the Saline River (Ouachita River Drainage) for public water supply to the City of Denton have been at least temporarily stymied. The Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology denied a request by the Saline County RDA to change the water quality designation of the North Fork Saline River from ecologically sensitive to a less restrictive category. The Pollution Control and Ecology Commission overwhelmingly denied the request. The Saline County RDA is in the process of deciding whether to appeal in court. The North Fork Saline River is home to the Ouachita madtom (*Noturus lachneri*) and a threatened freshwater mussel (Arkansas fatmucket). The proposed project would impound approximately eight river miles of the North Fork Saline.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is developing plans to impound Sullivan Creek, a tributary of the White River near Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas. The impoundment would serve north-central Arkansas as a public recreation lake. The Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District has requested that an Environmental Impact Statement be prepared to assess impacts of the proposed Sullivan Creek project. The additional costs of EIS preparation may render the project economically unfeasible.

A proposal to divert water from the White River (near DeValls Bluff, Prairie County, Arkansas) to the eastern

Arkansas rice country during summer drought is currently being reviewed by regulatory agencies. The Grand Prairie region of Arkansas has experienced significant reductions in ground water level over the past 20 years due to irrigation pumping for rice. The agricultural community and its associated lobbyists are sponsoring this project. (A summary of the proposed project as presented in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice will be attached to the formal report.)

The Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting a status review of *Notropis ozarcanus* (Ozark shiner) throughout its range (AR, MO) to determine if protective status is warranted. The status review is slated for completion in December, 1995.

Taxonomy/Systematics

Henry Robison reports two additions to the Arkansas state fauna: 1) the recently described *Notropis suttkusi* (rocky shiner) occurs in Red River tributaries in Arkansas and Oklahoma, and 2) the occurrence of *Notropis wickliffi* has been validated from Mississippi River specimens collected in northeast Arkansas.

Wayne Starnes and Henry Robison continue to work on the upper Ouachita River form of *Notropis umbratilus*. Bruce Thompson and Henry Robison are continuing work on the *Percina nasuta* complex. Biochemical analyses of the *nasuta* complex have confirmed that the Ouachita River form is a distinct, undescribed species. Other interesting anomalies were discovered in White River *nasuta* populations and there are currently being resolved.

Odds and Ends

Robinson reports that Bill Pflieger intends to revise the *Fishes of Missouri*. Several attempts to reach Pflieger could not confirm that work is in progress.

Arkansas and Missouri continue to track the spread of the Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and monitor population levels. It is known to occur in the Missouri and Arkansas River mainstems, and is likely to spread to any tributaries with barge traffic (barges have been documented as the primary vector for dispersal). A recent, unconfirmed report has placed the Zebra mussel in the White River at DeValls Bluff, Arkansas. Efforts to educate the public and prevent introductions to other drainages continue in both states.

John L. Harris

With the notable exceptions of Royal Suttkus and Henry Robinson, who sent their regrets, those assembled at the Workshop represented those ichthyologists with the greatest experience and knowledge of Louisiana freshwater fishes. By consensus, 43 species were listed in six categories. Five species, *Scaphirhynchus albus*, *Alosa alabamae*, *Phenacobius mirabilis*, *Percina* cf. "copelandi" and *Percina lenticula*, were evaluated as endangered in Louisiana waters.

At this time, museum records of the 43 target species are being entered into a MUSE database. All Louisiana collections of freshwater fishes from the UMMZ, Cornell and the University of New Orleans have been recorded (nearly 2,000 entries). The LSU and Tulane materials are currently being entered and that task should be completed by the end of May. Data from collections at Northeast Louisiana University should be entered by mid-summer.

B. Cashner

ANNOUNCEMENT

An invited symposium, jointly sponsored by the SFC and the Endangered Species Committee of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), and dealing with changes in southeastern fish communities inferred from long-term data sets, is being planned for the 125th Annual AFS Meeting in Tampa, FL in August 1995. Mel Warren is organizing the event. A contributed paper session featuring papers on endangered species recovery efforts and other topics related to the symposium theme is also being planned for the meeting. SFC members are encouraged to attend the symposium and submit abstracts for the contributed paper session. For additional information on the symposium please contact Mel Warren at the U.S. Forest Service Hydrology Lab, Oxford MS 38655. Please contact the AFS for information about the meeting.

REGION VI - Southwest

The Rare and Endangered Freshwater Fishes of Louisiana Workshop was held at the University of New Orleans on 25-26 February. Bruce Thompson and I were co-conveners. Mel Warren, U.S. Forest Service, and Carter Gilbert, University of Florida, were featured speakers and offered valuable information on how to initiate a state project on rare and endangered species. Both suggested forming partners with state agencies and conservation organizations.