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## Minutes, Business Meeting

Southeastern Fishes Council

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## Minutes, Business Meeting

# MINUTES

## Business Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting Southeastern Fishes Council

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Southeastern Fishes Council was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Greenville, South Carolina on 18 April 1997, site of the 1997 meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB). Executive Committee members attending were Stephen J. Walsh (President), Mary C. Freeman (Treasurer), and Gerald R. Dinkins (Secretary). Steve called the meeting to order at 4:58 PM.

Copies of the 1996 SFC meeting minutes were then distributed. Steve noted that in the interest of time everyone would be given a few minutes to review the previous year's meeting minutes rather than having the secretary read them. After a brief period a motion was made to accept the 1996 meeting minutes, and was carried by voice vote. Mary then gave the Treasurer's report and provided a brief explanation of each item. Steve recognized and thanked Gerry, artist of the 1997 SFC button depicting the unique robust redhorse, for his effort in producing the button. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded, and passed unanimously by voice vote.

A short discussion was led by Steve Walsh regarding some of the issues associated with publishing the Proceedings, followed by Committee Reports. Mel Warren of the Nominations Committee reported that Stephen T. Ross and Robert C. Cashner were nominated for Chair-Elect, and Mary Freeman and Gerry Dinkins were nominated for Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, for the election to be voted upon during the meeting with terms to extend from 1997-1999. Steve opened the floor for additional nominations. None were made and Mel distributed election ballots.

The meeting then moved on to old business. Steve yielded the floor to Hank Bart who gave a brief report of his efforts to resolve SFC's tax exempt status. Hank, along with the former SFC secretary, submitted a Tax Exempt Status form to the Internal Revenue Service, and our exempt status is pending. Hank reported that additional time and \$150 will be required to finalize tax exempt status. Continuing with old business, Steve provided a summary of his correspondence with Partners in Wildlife and the Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative.

Continuing on to regional reports, Steve asked each reporter to provide a summary of their regional activities. Beginning with Region I (Northeast), Fritz Rhode spoke about Bob Jenkins and Wayne Starnes' efforts to find the Carolina redhorse, and the pending channelization of the Roanoke River with long-term monitoring of *Percina rex*. Fritz reported that the threatened and endangered fishes of North Carolina will soon be published, and two ammocoetes of *Ichthyomyzon greeleyi* were captured recently in Staccoa Creek (possibly a new drainage record). Fritz will try to get additional specimens of the mountain brook lamprey with colleagues from Furman

University and Bud Freeman.

For the Region II (Southeast) report, Bud Freeman corrected a mistake in Noel Burkhead's report relative to the number of *Moxostoma robustum* stocked at the locations noted. Steve Walsh said he would bring this to Noel's attention.

Dave Etnier (Region III, North-Central) asked Bud to bring everyone up to date on recent efforts to capture sicklefin redhorses in the Little Tennessee River system. Bud reported that redhorses were captured in the mouth of Abrams Creek (Chilhowee Reservoir) and in Fontana Reservoir, but no sicklefins were taken. Peggy Shute spoke about the discovery of *Alasmidonta raveneliana* in lower Tuckaseegee River, North Carolina. Peggy also spoke about the Little River Action Team, their efforts to build a coalition to protect the river, and fish distribution maps needed by Larry Master of the Nature Conservancy in Boston.

Bernard Kuhajda (Region IV, South-Central) reported that with the recent capture of a two-pound immature Alabama sturgeon approximately two miles downstream of Claiborne lock and dam, the total number of specimens of this species known to have been captured in the 1990s stands at five. This most recent individual was caught on a trotline. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided funding to partially retrofit a fish hatchery at Marion, Alabama, for captive propagation of this species. Bernie also reported that students of Stephen T. Ross recently captured a Gulf sturgeon in the Pascagoula River—a new record for the Pascagoula. The University of Alabama Ichthyological Collection (UAIC) has moved to a new location, the Scientific Collection Facility, with new compactable shelving which triples the former shelf space!!

John Harris (Region V, Northwest) was not present to give a summary of the regional report.

Frank Pezold (Region VI, Southwest) reported that the Red River chloride control project is still alive, and spoke about information being disseminated regarding the project's pros and cons. Frank also discussed the upcoming retirement of Neil Douglas. A "Neil-Fest", planned for May 10, was noted. For more information regarding festivities, the audience was asked to contact Frank.

Following the Regional reports, Mel Warren announced that tallying of SFC election ballots was completed: Stephen T. Ross was announced as the new Chair-Elect, and Mary Freeman and Gerry Dinkins were re-elected to posts of Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

Moving on to new business, Steve Walsh distributed a paper copy of the pilot SFC web page and opened the floor for comments. A suggestion was made to put an index of past Proceedings articles rather than actual text of the articles, and someone questioned how upkeep of the website would be supported. Gerry Dinkins volunteered to develop a new SFC

logo, with assistance and comments from other members. Mel Warren suggested that development of the web page should not be deferred for lack of a new logo. Mel advised providing immediate public access to the web page via the Internet and including a newly-designed logo at a later date. Steve called for a voice vote to proceed with development of an official SFC web page. A motion was made, seconded, and carried.

Steve then moved to proposed resolutions and informed attendees that Hugh Irwin of the Southeast Appalachian Forest Coalition (SAFC) had approached him regarding environmental concerns about the Conasauga River. A coalition of groups is working on Conservation Plans for actions on southeast forests, and they are particularly interested in the Conasauga River and Citico Creek watersheds. SAFC wants to propose resolutions which would encourage the Forest Service to delay large-scale logging until conservation plans are in place. Under these plans, the whole watershed of each would be managed as one unit. Relevance of this approach is timely because Forest Service has more than one major project currently planned within the Conasauga watershed. One of these involves logging approximately 8,000 acres and constructing many miles of new roads. Steve acknowledged recent scientific efforts in both watersheds by Peggy and J. R. Shute and Patrick Rakes, and asked for their assistance in bringing to the attention of appropriate Forest Service managers the sensitivity of both watersheds. Steve noted that the resolution would be directed toward the District Manager, Regional Manager, and Regional Office of Forest Service. A motion was requested and received for assisting SAFC with this resolution.

The next resolution discussed pertained to a proposed titanium mine on approximately 38,000 acres of Trail Ridge, adjacent to the Okefenokee Swamp. In April, DuPont was strongly urged by the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw their mining plans because of serious concerns about environmental impacts on the ecosystem and a perceived conflict between the proposed mining and the intended use and protection of the swamp associated with the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. A general discussion ensued of how the SFC should respond. A motion was made and passed by voice vote that a position statement would be drafted by Steve Walsh for review by the Resolutions Committee.

Mel Warren was asked by Steve to take the floor and discuss two initiatives that Mel had prepared. Mel spoke about his recent efforts to develop resolutions urging the Environmental Quality Committee of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) and the Endangered Species Committee of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) to accept a representative from the SFC on a two-year term. A question was asked if the SFC person should be a "dues-paying" member of both ASIH and AFS. Mel responded by saying yes. Mel then talked about the need for developing a list of imperiled fish species emphasizing the southeast. Concerns were expressed about inadequacies of the most recent AFS list of endangered and threatened fishes. Mel argued that a more comprehensive effort, drawing on expertise within the

southeastern ichthyological community, is needed because of recent findings and because the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently dropped recognition of "candidate" species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Consequently, Mel suggested that there are many "orphan" species that need monitoring, and that development of a list of taxa would bring much-needed publicity to the plight of species and populations of concern. To that end, Mel read a resolution he had had drafted regarding this issue. Steve called for a motion for the SFC to endorse Mel's efforts and for him to finalize and submit these resolutions through appropriate channels to the ASIH and AFS. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

Steve Walsh asked for any other items of interest to the SFC; none were forthcoming. A motion for adjournment was made, seconded, and the meeting concluded.

## REGIONAL SFC REPORTS

### REGION I - Northeast

It's redhorse update time again. Dr. Bob (Roanoke College) is still immersed in *Moxostoma* systematics. He has been sampling, studying in museums, taking anatomical data, occasionally summarizing to find trends and differences, and occasionally writing parts of manuscripts. In addition to this group he is studying jumprocks, *Scartomyzon*, and torrent suckers, *Thoburnia* in order to bring his level of knowledge up with those of redhorses to avoid making conclusions in papers that need to be revised later. One of these papers to be published concerns further phylogenetic analysis. Bob is emphasizing study of young of the year redhorses, partly to identify characters enabling easy identification. He's had good success so far. With Roanoke College students Mark Clements, Aaron Coons, Stephanie Moore, and Loren Walker, three studies of life history aspects of suckers are well advanced: (1) reproductive behavior and habitat of redhorses and jumprocks; (2) age, growth, and maturation of the river and robust redhorses, and maximum age and size of redhorses; and (3) foods of age-0 river redhorse and comparative feeding behaviors in the *Moxostoma* group. Bob wants feedback from colleagues about his tentative plans to change some common names, some warranted due to taxonomic changes, others because current names have undesirable connotation. Aiming to use best names for all time, after the "dust settles" regarding controversy of name-changing, Bob is considering or has concluded: (1) black redhorse to become dusky redhorse. It's not a black fish; it usually is about as brassy as golden redhorse; the name black redhorse has led to many, many misidentifications. (2) Blacktail redhorse should change to stripetail redhorse. Only two or three caudal rays are dusky or black, and this is often or usually masked in life by red; the highly diagnostic tail has a white and black stripe in