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Regional SFC Reports

Southeastern Fishes Council

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Regional SFC Reports

REGIONAL SFC REPORTS

REGION I – Northeast

Progress is slowly being made on the "Fishes of Virginia" but with no publication date yet established. The future events in this regional subdivision will be reported by Fritz Rhode who will be taking over as Region I reporter.

R. Jenkins

REGION II – Southeast

The Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser Oxyrhynchus desotoi*) has gone through the review process for threatened listing and should be placed in that category by the end of December. Twenty years ago today Jim Williams and Glen Clemmer began an investigation into the status of the Alabama sturgeon, *Scaphirhynchus* sp. (c.f. *platorhynchus*) with a several year (decade) hiatus due to lack of specimens. This work continues with the description of same now in review. Congratulations Jim! That is all.

N. Burkehead

REGION III – North-central

Madtom propagation. – Our efforts to establish additional smoky (*Noturus baileyi*) and yellowfin (*N. flavipinnis*) populations continue. This is our second year of culturing eggs and larvae in the excellent facilities at Aquatic Specialists, a Knoxville aquarium shop (Randy Shute, John Tullock, Pat Rakes). The facility was designed for the madtom work, employs biological, activated charcoal, and filter pad filtration, and provides water of controllable temperature and exceptional purity. Mortality of eggs taken during early developmental stages and young just prior to release in late summer has been reduced to very acceptable levels. Late last summer 245 smoky and 102 yellowfin madtoms were released into Abrams Creek, again near the GSMNP campground. Aquarium growth is at least as good as that in the wild. This year's egg/larvae harvest from Citico Creek is about to get underway. A captive brood stock is being held at Aquatic Specialists. These fish, of both species, are now one year old and in excellent condition, but they will not be sexually mature until next year. The first indication of possible success of our efforts came recently — a large adult male *baileyi* was found guarding a nest site under a rock near the transplant area this June.

Cyprinella monacha recovery efforts involving transplant of adults from the upper Little Tennessee River below Franklin, NC, into Abrams Creek were made difficult by high water levels. A crew of five of us managed to seine only about 50 specimens (we rather easily got our "limit" of 250 in a half day last year). We transplanted these farther upstream in Abrams Creek, near the

GSMNP campground. The October 1988, transplant was to the extreme lower end of the creek.

The Tennessee fish book is in its final stages and is scheduled to go to UT Press for copy editing by 1 July. Wayne Starnes and I are delighted to add Dick Bryant to the title page as photographer for the book. Both TVA and TWRA have generously provided pre-publication "up-front" money that will allow us to spread color illustrations throughout the text as did Robby and Tom in the Arkansas book, and still keep the price below \$50.00. TVA also came through with expense money for a rush of last minute color photos employing anesthetized rather than formalin-fixed specimens. Dick, Wayne, and I have made several trips to middle and west Tennessee and have made "new" photos of nearly 150 fishes, in addition to finding an embarrassingly high number of significant new distribution records, some of which are mentioned below. Brooks Burr, Carter Gilbert, Larry Page, Buck Snelson, and Jim Williams each received about one-fifth of the book for review, and all of them did an excellent job.

Significant new records for fishes in the area include two *Acipenser fulvescens* from the Mississippi River near Tiptonville, 1988-1989; *Etheostoma crossotum*, *Phoxinus erythrogater* and *Notropis dorsalis* from Bear Creek, a tiny direct trib to the Mississippi River below the mouth of the Hatchie River in Tipton County, Tennessee; *Notropis texanus* from a western trib to the lower Tennessee near Pickwick dam, thanks almost certainly to the Tenn-Tom Waterway; *Umbra limi* from the lower Forked Deer system near Dyersburg, and *Etheostoma camurum*, *E. tippecanoe*, and *Percina phoxocephala* from Red River, lower Cumberland drainage, Robertson Co., TN. Carley Saylor, TVA, provided *Phoxinus* specimens from a Chickamauga Reservoir (Tennessee River) trib on the top of Waldens Ridge, Bledsoe Co., TN, that may represent a new species. He got 47 specimens in this 1976 collection, but Wayne, Dick, and I were unable to find any there this spring. UMMZ recently sent down three fine specimens of *Percina copelandi* collected during February 1947, from a small tributary to the Nolichucky River in Tusculum, Green Co., TN. This is the only record I know of from the entire French Broad system. Maybe it's still there!

Several attempts to collect *Etheostoma striatulum* for photographs from known localities in the upper Duck system this spring failed to produce a single specimen. Either we have a terrible search image for this thing, or it should be carefully monitored.

Darter Dreams – Recent additions to the UT collection include the following rather interesting combinations: *Percina caprodes* X *P. nigrofasciata*, *P. nigrofasciata* X *P. shumardi*, and *P. caprodes* X *Etheostoma rufilineatum*.

D.A. Etnier

REGION V – Southwest

At Northeast Louisiana University

Neil Douglas is continuing his studies on species changes in NE LA rivers where the red shiner (*Notropis lutrensis*) has increased in abundance in altered streams while *N. venustus* has

declined there. *N. lutrensis* is uncommon in unaltered streams. Neil is focusing on the partially channelized Tensas R. where *N. venustus* has been hanging on still while *N. lutrensis* numbers are increasing in a pattern of "partial replacement".

A student of Neil's, Madelen Carter, is comparing within drainage systems physical and chemical data from streams with increasing numbers of *N. lutrensis* versus those with fewer *N. lutrensis*. Another student of Neil's, Steven George, is doing a comparative fecundity study of darter subgenera.

Neil Douglas and Frank Pezold just completed a survey of the Big Black River in Mississippi. No *Ammocrypta clara* were obtained but healthy populations of *A. vivax* and *A. beani* were discovered. The river is highly silted in spots (a definite threat to sand

darters) and has more new bridges under construction or recently completed than any other stream in the Nearctic. This activity definitely increases the silt load and perhaps the only place in MS to collect a sand darter is the Mississippi River itself. Frank Pezold is also revising the New World *Eleotris* as a starter to the rest of the world. These occasional denizens of LA fresh waters are represented in NA by something other than *E. pisonis* (limited to Brazil and perhaps Guiana). Our representative is either *E. abacurus* or *E. amblyopsis*. More study is needed. Frank and Neil have also just submitted a proposal to the Board of Regents to study the distribution, movement and relative abundance of the buffalo (*Ictiobus sp.*) in the lower Ouachita drainage. And lastly, Neil is gearing up for a revision of the *Fishes of LA*.

R. Cashner

ATTENTION

The business meeting of the SFC will be held from **4-6 PM** on Friday, April 12 in the Broyhill Inn – East Room. This is as it will appear in the April ASB Bulletin, not as in the January Bulletin.

Cable News Network (CNN) has a new feature unit called *Earth Matters* that airs everyday at 1:30A, 9A, and 2P (EST). They are interested in stories covering a broad spectrum of environmental topics (e.g. fish restoration programs, impact analyses, present and future endangered species concerns and etc.). To submit a story, contact: Melissa Ballard, Producer

CNN Earth Matters
One CNN Center
Atlanta, GA 30348-5366
OP 404/827-3391
FAX 404/827-3665

NEWS NOTES

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is now providing the following reference service in disseminating agency supported research reports and other information concerning co-operative units, state agencies and endangered species recovery teams:

Fish and Wildlife Reference Service

5430 Grosvenor Ln., Suite 110
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

1-800-582-3421

- Literature Searches
- Technical Reports
- Fish and Wildlife
Thesaurus
- Indexes of State Fish
and Wildlife Research
- Newsletter
- Referrals to other
Sources

Reading Room open to the
public.

Write, Visit,
or Call.



PROCEEDINGS is a publication of the Southeastern Fishes Council, Inc. and is published in New Orleans, Louisiana. Officers are: Franklin F. Snelson, Chairman; Bruce Bauer, Chairman-elect; Werner Wieland, Secretary/Treasurer. Editor for the PROCEEDINGS is Michael M. Stevenson, Biological Sciences, University of New Orleans, LA 70148. Phone: (504) 286-7057.

Southeastern Fishes Council PROCEEDINGS

Information for Contributors

The primary intent of the PROCEEDINGS is to publish research papers, critical reviews of problems, area reports and other pertinent information pertaining to the biology and conservation of Southeastern fishes.

Manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate with the original on good quality bond paper. A good guide for manuscript preparation is the *Fifth Edition of the CBE Style Manual* (1983) available from the Council for Biology Editors, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

The entire manuscript including the abstract (if desired), text, Literature Cited, tables, headings and legends must be double-spaced. The title, author's name and author's address should be centered on the first page. Indicate a suggested running head of less than ten words at the bottom of the first page. An abstract (if included) will be placed at the beginning of the text. Acknowledgements will be cited in the text immediately before the Literature Cited. All references cited in the paper will follow the standard format of using the last name of the author(s) followed by the year of publication of the paper. In the Literature Cited, the references will be alphabetical by the author's last name and chronological under a single authorship. The entire reference should be given with the complete name of the journal spelled out if possible.

Tables should be typed on a separate page, consecutively numbered and should have a short descriptive heading. Figures (to include maps, graphs, charts, drawings and photographs) should be consecutively numbered and if grouped as one figure each part block lettered in the lower left corner. In general, high quality prints or photocopies are preferred to the original line art. Legends for figures must be on a separate sheet and each figure must be identified on the back. The desired location of each table or figure should be indicated in the margin of the manuscript.

Manuscripts will be subject to editing and will be reviewed by at least one person expert in the subject matter. The edited manuscript and page proofs ("galley") will be furnished to the author. Reprints will be available at a nominal cost.

Regional reports, news notes and other short communications will also be edited and included when possible in the next number.

Only manuscripts from members of The Southeastern Fishes Council will be considered for publication. There is no charge for publishing in the PROCEEDINGS. All manuscripts and short communications should be sent to the editor of the PROCEEDINGS:

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