

11-1-1976

News Notes

Southeastern Fishes Council

Follow this and additional works at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/sfcproceedings>



Part of the [Marine Biology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Southeastern Fishes Council (1976) "News Notes," *Southeastern Fishes Council Proceedings*: No. 3.

<https://doi.org/10.7290/sfcp0342r9>

Available at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/sfcproceedings/vol1/iss3/3>

This article is brought to you freely and openly by Volunteer, Open-access, Library-hosted Journals (VOL Journals), published in partnership with The University of Tennessee (UT) University Libraries. This article has been accepted for inclusion in Southeastern Fishes Council Proceedings by an authorized editor. For more information, please visit <https://trace.tennessee.edu/sfcproceedings>.

News Notes

with catfish. We feel that such action on the part of Mr. Thomas would completely destroy the *E. nuchale* habitat and result in the elimination of that population.

Prognosis of the Watercress Darter.—The watercress darter undoubtedly will be extirpated unless quick and accurate decisions are made relative to its recovery. On 25 May 1976 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officially appointed a watercress darter recovery team consisting of the following: Herbert T. Boschung, Jr., University of Alabama; John S. Ramsey, Auburn University; and W. Mike Howell, Samford University (Leader). Four possible plans of recovery seem available: 1) the purchase and future protection of either the Glenn Spring or Thomas' Spring-pond property; 2) the possibility that Mr. Glenn, upon his death, may will his property jointly to Auburn University, University of Alabama, and Samford University, so that concerned persons at these institutions could formulate plans to protect the habitat and the species; and, 3) the transplantation of the watercress darter from either Glenn Spring or Thomas' Spring into other nearby springs in the Black Warrior River system.

Mr. Thomas has indicated to us that he would definitely sell his spring-pond property. We feel that this possibility is by far the most promising for the recovery of the watercress darter. We feel that the Thomas' Spring

habitat is large enough that it could support a large population of the watercress darters. At a later date when population structure is well known, individuals could then be removed for transfer into nearby springs.

The transplanting of specimens at this time from either of the spring populations, with their present low numbers of individuals, is not considered by us to be a wise step in view of the Prince Spring transplant failure previously mentioned.

The recovery team is engaged in an appraisal of the situation and soon will be reaching final decisions on a recommended course of action.

LITERATURE CITED

HOWELL, W. M. and R. D. CALDWELL. 1965. *Etheostoma (Oligocephalus) nuchale*, a new darter from a limestone spring in Alabama. *Tulane Studies in Zoology* 12 (4): 101-108.

U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Office of Endangered Species and International Activities. 1973. *Threatened Wildlife of the United States*, Resource Publication 114, published by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

News Notes . . .

The "Endangered Species Technical Bulletin", an excellent monthly information publication, will be of interest to many of our members. Four issues have been published in the series. For information write: Endangered Species Program, Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

SFC at Desert Fishes Council Meeting

Royal D. Suttkus represented the SFC at the eighth annual meeting of the Desert Fishes Council in Grand Junction, Colorado, on 18-20 November. Copies of the *Proceedings* were displayed, and a report on our New Orleans meeting was presented.

Snail Darter Update

On 14 October the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments on the TVA Tellico Dam — Snail Darter controversy. The case is still under consideration, and the ruling is expected at any time.

Savannah River Dam Contested in Suit

The National Wildlife Federation and nine other state and local groups filed suit against the Corps of Engineers in an effort to halt construction of a dam on the upper Savannah River in Georgia and South Carolina. The dam would provide hydroelectric power and add to flatwater recreation, but would inundate the last free-flowing 30 miles of the upper Savannah. The suit was filed 16 November.

New River Saved

President Ford signed into law a bill designating 26.5 miles of the New River in North Carolina as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River system. The provisions of the bill will prevent construction of two dams on the river that were licensed by the Federal Power Commission.

Manuscript Request

The Alabama Museum of Natural History is seeking manuscripts on natural history subjects of the Southeastern United States for publication in *Bulletin of the Alabama Museum of Natural History*. Single manuscripts of not less than 100 pages, or a series of short papers on similar subjects (such as, descriptions of new species of fishes) are desirable. Manuscripts will be evaluated by the editor and an editorial committee. Anyone interested is encouraged to write to: Herbert Boschung, Director/Alabama Museum of Natural History/The University of Alabama/P. O. Box 5897/University, AL 35486.

Bulletin:

Two lawsuits against the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in Mississippi and Alabama were filed in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. on 30 Nov. Plaintiffs in the cases, the L & N Railroad, the Environmental Defense Fund, and CLEAN are requesting an injunction against design, construction and all work on the waterway until a comprehensive review is made by Congress.

Southeastern Fishes Council
PROCEEDINGS
DRAWER Z, MISSISSIPPI STATE, MS 39762

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF SOUTHEASTERN FISHES

Escatawpa Supported for Wild and Scenic River System

Congressman Jack Edwards of the 1st District of Alabama has introduced a bill in Washington to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to include a section of the Escatawpa River, a tributary of the Pascagoula River, in Alabama and Mississippi. The section would be about 75 miles of the river from Deer Park, Washington County, Alabama to approximately 3 miles North of the proposed I-10 crossing in Jackson County, Mississippi.

On November 13, 1976 Congressman Edwards, John Brown, the division chief in Atlanta for Wild and Scenic Studies, Ron Cooksy, an official from the Department of the Interior in Washington, and about 60 interested local people made a canoe trip down 15 miles of the Escatawpa River in Mobile County, Alabama. The main purpose of the trip was to acquaint the Interior officials with the river and urge them to initiate a feasibility study on including the Escatawpa in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. An informal meeting to discuss the pros and cons of the Escatawpa's inclusion in the Act was held that evening at the University of South Alabama. Mr. Brown outlined guidelines for evaluating wild, scenic, and recreational rivers. Congressman Edwards and various representatives of local environmental groups voiced their support for including the Escatawpa River in the Wild and Scenic Act while local land owners voiced their opposition based

on their having to give up a portion of their land and a certain amount of privacy. An official from the Mobile Water Commission, and a Farm Bureau agent opposed the measure based on the need for the Escatawpa to supply drinking water and water for irrigation of nearby farmlands.

Gene Beckham

Tombigbee River Conservation Council

A full time office focusing on the Tenn-Tom Waterway has recently opened in Starkville, MS. The office will serve as an information base and will coordinate activities aimed at saving the Tombigbee River. Memberships (\$3 and \$15), information, "SAVE THE TOMBIGBEE" T-Shirts and bumperstickers are available from: Randall Grace, Director, Box 524, Starkville, MS 39759

PROCEEDINGS is a publication of the Southeastern Fishes Council, Inc. and is published in Mississippi State, Miss. Officers are: R. D. Suttkus, Chairman; D. A. Etnier, Chairman-elect; H. T. Boschung, Secretary-Treasurer. Editor for PROCEEDINGS is G. H. Clemmer, Drawer Z, Mississippi State, Miss. 39762. Phone (601) 325-5722.