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News Notes

Southeastern Fishes Council

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News Notes

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News Notes

Pond Creek Shiner Lives

The Pond Creek shiner, an undescribed species of *Notropis* thought to be extinct, has been rediscovered by Royal Suttkus. Populations have been found at several sites in lower Pond Creek, a tributary of Blackwater Bay in Florida. On his most recent trip to the area (June 9) Suttkus seined up several additional specimens from the Shoal River.

More Watercress Darters

A happy foot note to the status of the watercress darter has been added by Mike Howell and Anne Black. A population of *Etheostoma nuchale* was discovered approximately 40 air-miles northeast of Glenn Springs in Roebuck Springs, a tributary of Village Creek, near the Alabama State Bay Industrial School in Jefferson County.

Endangered and Threatened Plants and Animals of Alabama

The title above, published as Number 2, Bulletin Alabama Museum of Natural History is an excellent compilation of studies on the troubled biota of Alabama. The section on freshwater fishes by John Ramsey and the overall effort edited by Herbert Boschung are valuable references and will no doubt impose standards for similar regional reviews published in the future. The Bulletin is available from the Alabama Museum of Natural History, The University of Alabama, Box 5897, University, AL 35486. The price is \$5.00.

Snail Darter Case Moves to Supreme Court

TVA has petitioned the Supreme Court to review the ruling of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals which halted additional work on the Tellico Dam on the Little Tennessee River. The Appeals Court on 31 January issued a permanent injunction "halting all activities incident to the Tellico Project which may destroy or modify the critical habitat of the snail darter. This injunction shall remain in effect until Congress, by appropriate legislation, exempts Tellico from compliance with the Act, or the snail darter has been deleted from the list of endangered species or its critical habitat materially redefined."

As a result of the decision two House bills have been introduced by Tennessee legislators that would amend the Endangered Species Act. Representative Duncan's bill, H.R. 4557, would exempt the Tellico project from the 1973 Act. A similar bill introduced by Rep. Gore, H.R. 5879, would exempt the proposed Columbia Dam on the Duck River from provisions of the Act.

Congressional hearings on the Endangered Species Act are presently scheduled for mid July. Meanwhile the Endangered Species Office is processing data on several other species of fishes from the southeast. Critical habitat and listing for *Percina pantherina*, *Etheostoma boschungii*, *Speoplatyrhinus poulsoni*, *Noturus flavipinnis*, *Hybopsis cahnii*, and *Hybopsis monacha* should be completed in the near future.

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

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF SOUTHEASTERN FISHES

"We must now protect against the cumulative effects of reducing our total wetlands acreage." We must identify as quickly as possible the best remaining candidates for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System before they are dammed, channelized, or damaged by unwise development along their banks." The quotes may sound like Leopold, Odum, or maybe an emotional Sierra Club member, but they are taken from the environmental message of the President, Jimmy Carter. In his message to Congress on May 23 President Carter again reiterated his strong support for preserving our wilderness, wildlife, and natural resources. Of particular interest to members of SFC is the proposal to designate several river segments for study as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system: Illinois River, Arkansas; Shenandoah River, Virginia and West Virginia; Cacapan River, West Virginia; Guadalupe River, Texas; Loxahatchee River, Florida; Tangipahoa River, Louisiana and Mississippi; Ogeechee River, Georgia. President Carter also recommended deauthorization for the Cross-Florida Barge Canal and legislation for including the Oklawaha as a Wild and Scenic River.

In response to the Carter review of water development projects, the Executive Committee presented the following statement at a public hearing held in Columbus, MS on 29 March 1977.

The upper Tombigbee River has one of the richest assemblages of native freshwater fishes in all of North

America. Approximately 115 species inhabit this river system.

The construction of the proposed Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway with its series of locks and dams will impound the river proper, inundate sections of the tributaries, artificially manipulate the hydrological cycles, and lower the water table in the northern portion of the project area. These extensive modifications will jeopardize the integrity of this rich natural diversity and will certainly exterminate several riverine species.

Additional degradation can be expected to result from the mixing of the Tennessee River fauna and the Tombigbee River fauna. Of particular concern is the potential introduction of the shortnose gar and parasitic Ohio lamprey into the Tombigbee system where they do not now occur.

The Southeastern Fishes Council, therefore, strongly opposed the construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and urges that all funding be deleted for the project.

R.D. Suttkus
Chairman

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