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Minutes, Business Meeting

Southeastern Fishes Council

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Minutes, Business Meeting

MINUTES

Business Meeting 27th Annual Meeting Southeastern Fishes Council

The 2001 meeting of the Southeastern Fishes Council (SFC) was called to order by Chairman Steve Ross at 5:17 PM on April 5, 2001. The meeting was held in the Cypress Room of the Radisson Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. Executive Committee members attending were Stephen T. Ross (Chair), Gerald R. Dinkins (Secretary), Peggy Shute (Treasurer), and Mary Freeman (Chair-elect).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes from the 2000 SFC business meeting held in the Marriot Hotel and Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee were distributed by Secretary Dinkins for review. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written, and was carried by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was distributed for review by Peggy Shute, who noted debt and cost of publishing bulletin by Mel Warren et al. Peggy urged everyone to check their status of payment of membership dues to SFC. Chairman Ross noted 2001 button of Altamaha shiner, drawn by Gini Knight. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as printed, which was carried by voice vote. Chairman Ross acknowledged Peggy's efforts as treasurer for the recent term.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

Chairman Ross acknowledged efforts of the nominating committee, composed of Mary Freeman, Peggy Shute, Gerry Dinkins, and Steve Walsh, to procure nominees for Executive Committee offices. Agreeing to run for Chairman of SFC were Hank Bart and Rick Mayden. Chris Skelton and Peggy Shute were running unopposed for secretary and treasurer, respectively. Election ballots were then distributed to the business meeting attendees.

Editorial Committee

No report.

Technical Advisory Committee

Chairman Ross thanked Mel Warren, co-chair of the Technical Advisory Committee, and his co-authors for preparing the article on diversity, distribution, and conservation status of native freshwater fishes of the southern United States.

Resolutions Committee

No report from Resolutions Committee, but Chairman Ross acknowledged ongoing efforts on the Needmore Tract Resolution.

Other Committees

Chairman Ross described efforts of Steve Walsh, Noel Burkhead, himself, and others relative to organizing a new conservation organization dedicated to fish conservation in the southeastern United States. The "Southeastern Imperiled Fishes Organization" would do more than just SFC because it would be deeply involved with outreach, advocacy, and education, and would constitute a broad coalition from NGO's, Federal and State agencies, industry, and academia. SFC would contribute much of the fish expertise to this new group.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Ross noted Resolution on Rodman Dam removal has been sent to Governor Jeb Bush of Florida.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Ross noted next year that SFC will meet with Southern Division of American Fisheries Society (SDAFS) in Little Rock, AR. This meeting is the result of last year's vote, which showed split results between staying with ASB and going with AFS. There was a general discussion about the special symposium to be held at the SDAFS in Little Rock, Arkansas. Ross noted the death of David Lindquist, a long-time, active member of SFC and SEASIH. He stated that a letter will be sent to Dave's wife, Donna, on behalf of the SFC. An obituary will be written by Peggy Shute and published in the Proceedings. Ross also commented on the passing of Robert K. Johnson, another very active southeastern member of ASIH.

Ross commented on the pending retirement of David A. Etnier of the University of Tennessee, with a celebration in Knoxville on Saturday, June 9.

Mary Freeman announced the results of the SFC Executive Committee election: Hank Bart was elected chair, Chris Skelton was elected Secretary, and Peggy Shute was re-elected treasurer.

REGIONAL REPORT

Regional reports were not presented. Attendees were referred to the SFC webpage where the reports will be posted.

Chairman Ross concluded the 2001 business meeting by stating it was an honor to have served as Chairman of SFC the last two years, and acknowledged Mary Freeman as incoming chair of SFC. Chairman Ross wished Mary success in her position.

After accepting a motion adjourn meeting, the meeting ended at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald R. Dinkins, Secretary

Southeastern Fishes Council Treasurer's Report, April 2001

Checking Account Balance, 3 April 2001 \$3,767.69

Dues and Contributions,
21 March 2000 through 3 April 2001:

Dues	\$4,039.00
Button sales (old buttons)	\$200.00
Sale of SFC <i>Proceedings</i> back issues	\$12.50
Ear-marked* contributions	\$250.00
*for the Warren et al. <i>Fisheries</i> publication)	
TOTAL	\$4,641.50

Expenditures, March 2000 through 3 April 2001:

Proceedings # 40, printing cost	\$2,410.44
Proceedings # 40, postage	\$264.00
Proceedings # 41, printing cost	\$1,656.78
Proceedings # 41, postage	\$205.70
TN Secretary of State (annual report)	\$20.00
Council of Aquatic Sciences (annual dues)	\$100.00
Returned check & fee	\$25.00
 TOTAL:	 \$4,656.92

Checking Account Balance as of 21 March 2000: \$3,767.69

Paine Webber Cash Fund as of 29 December 2000: \$3,250.37

Reported Fund, 31 December 1999	\$3,067.76
Earned interest and adjustments, 1998	\$182.61

Total Assets \$7,018.06

Notes:

Membership on 21 March 2000 was 170 individuals or organizations, distributed as follows:

Paid through 1997:	7
Paid through 1998:	14
Paid through 1999:	28
Paid through 2000:	64
Paid through 2001	52
Paid through 2002 and lifetime members:	8

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy W. Shute

Regional SFC Reports

REGION I - Northeast

The fishes unit at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences is plugging along and attempting to weather the state's massive budget shortfall. The struggle to curate and data base the tremendous backlog of collections which accrued from the combination of the UNC Institute of Marine Science, Duke U., and several other collections over the past few years

continues, as well as trying to keep abreast of day-to-day acquisitions and requests. The most recent sizeable acquisition was Rudy Arndt's Stockton State University collection of fishes from New Jersey and other areas. With this accession added to previous, NCSM now has among the strongest representations of fishes from the middle Atlantic states, particularly New Jersey, Maryland, North and South Carolina, as well as West Virginia. The data base is fully modified and operational. Fish folks are especially proud of the NCSM drainage hierarchy (for U.S. & portions of other regions) data base and taxonomic data base which are linked to cataloging for quality control. Data based lots are approaching four thousand. Only perhaps another 80,000 or more to go! The outcome of an NSF proposal to support data basing fishes and other collections at NCSM is being anxiously awaited.

The outcome of the funding request is especially important as the fishes unit will be losing both of its technicians soon. Lynn Womack, after five years of service, has elected to pursue a career in teaching and will depart the unit at the end of April; she will be missed. The current temporary technician, Chris Wood, will depart in June to begin a masters program at Appalachian State. With the aforementioned state budget crisis, permanent positions are frozen so replacing one or both of these folks may be a long time in coming. Gabriela Hogue continues to do a sterling job of developing and managing the data base as well as the collections. Our former technician, Morgan Raley, who did doctoral work on molecular systematics of minnows and darters with Rob Wood at St. Louis U., has moved down the street to the NCSU Vet school where we have established, as a joint venture, a fledgling molecular lab to pursue biodiversity questions in the regional fauna. He has begun sequencing work with a few fishes, mussels, and land snails as funding permits.

As for research and field work, Wayne Starnes finally returned the post-review emended version of a large manuscript on historical analysis and biotic integrity of fishes in the lower Potomac near D.C. to be published in the *Proceedings of Biological Society of Washington's* historic series on Plummer's Island area biota (a hanging project from Smithsonian days). He is collaborating with Joe Nelson and Mel Warren on a paper discussing and espousing the capitalization (it's coming, see below!) of fish names (for *Fisheries* journal) and is trying to pursue some other projects on both freshwater and marine fishes. But curatorial responsibilities stemming from the backlog and databasing effort weigh in heavily these days when added to other time demands. Field work this year will focus on a funded survey aimed at identifying fish hosts for an endangered mussel (the Carolina heelsplitter) and characterizing fish communities where they occur. Other work will be aimed at further surveys for the undescribed "Carolina Redhorse" and, hopefully, searching for additional populations of the Bridled Shiner, *Notropis bifrenatus*, which was recently rediscovered in a NC Division of Water Quality collection from the lower Neuse basin (known previously in NC from a single record in 1961). Funding for survey work and genetic studies work on both of these species has been requested.

There will also probably be another multi-agency assault on the Pee Dee River this spring seeking additional Robust Redhorse specimens. A total of three are recorded since 2000 between Blewett Falls dam in NC and Cheraw, SC. Several