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## Minutes, Business Meeting

Southeastern Fishes Council

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## Minutes, Business Meeting

# MINUTES

## Business Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Southeastern Fishes Council

The 1999 meeting of the Southeastern Fishes Council was called to order at 4:30 PM on 15 April 1999. The meeting was held in Room C of the Coast Line Center in Wilmington, North Carolina in conjunction with the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB). Executive Committee members attending were Melvin L. Warren, Jr. (Chair), Gerald R. Dinkins (Secretary) and Stephen T. Ross (Chair-elect). Mary C. Freeman (Treasurer) was unable to attend. In his opening remarks, Mel noted it was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SFC.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Meeting attendees were reminded that minutes from the 1998 SFC meeting were published in the most recent issue of *Proceedings* (No. 38) and, in the interest of time, would not be read at that time. After a few minutes during which the attendees were allowed to review the minutes from last year's meeting, a motion was made to accept the minutes as published. The motion carried by voice vote.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary Freeman sent her regrets for being unable to attend. Chairman Warren produced a copy of the Treasurer's report, but did not read it since it was published in Issue No. 38 of *Proceedings*. Mel asked that if anyone had questions or changes to contact him or Mary.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### *Proceedings* Committee

The following items were discussed relative to the *Proceedings* Committee:

1. *Proceedings* Committee is made up of the following members: Steve Walsh, Mary Freeman, and George Sedberry. Steve Stevenson, editor of *Proceedings*, is recovering from triple by-pass surgery, and should be back at work in a few weeks. Mel asked that he be contacted by anyone wishing to serve as editor.
2. SFC by-laws approved at last SFC meeting were published in Issue No. 38 of *Proceedings*.
3. The *Proceedings* Committee is still in the process of recruiting three subject review editors to serve four-year terms plus the remainder of 1998. The *Proceedings* Committee will report their nominations for subject review editors to the Chair. The Chair will consult with Chair-elect in appointing the editors.
4. By-law changes to the SFC constitution approved at the 1998 meeting were published in Issue No. 38 of the *Proceedings*.

#### Resolutions Committee

The Chair of Resolutions Committee, Peggy Shute, was unable to attend the meeting. Acting on her behalf, Mel outlined resolutions currently being considered by committee, and asked for an update from members closely associated with their progress.

1. Rodman Dam removal: A letter has been sent to Florida governor Jeb Bush and Department of Environmental Protection Secretary David Struhs regarding restoration of the Ocklawaha River. No other information is available.
2. Southeast Appalachian Forest Coalition: No update available.
3. DuPont titanium mining: Steve Walsh reported that SFC's resolution has been sent stating SFC opposition to the proposed titanium mine on land adjacent to the Okefenokee Swamp. DuPont has agreed to not open the mine, but wants compensation for lost mining rights. There is an effort to get money allocated for purchase of the proposed mine site so it can be added to the Okefenokee Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. DuPont has agreed to the resolution.

#### American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists - Environmental Quality Committee

Chairman Warren recognized Steve Walsh as SFC's ASIH Environmental Quality Committee representative. Steve had little to report because of his recent appointment to the EQC. The most relevant new of interest to SFC was an ASIH resolution sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expressing concern over proposed downlisting of the endangered Okaloosa darter.

#### American Fisheries Society Endangered Species Committee

Chairman Warren recognized Malcolm Pierson as SFC's representative for the AFS Endangered Species committee, and reported that Malcolm was unable to attend this year's SFC meeting. Mel sent word that the chair of the AFS ESC, Leslie Tewinkle, has arranged for Malcolm to provide comments on some decidedly southeastern issues. Malcolm reviewed two federal register notices and provided comments to the AFS ESC on listing notices for the vermilion darter (*Etheostoma chermocki*) and the Alabama sturgeon (*Scaphyrhynchus suttkusi*). He also reported that further reviews of this kind will be forthcoming.

#### Technical Advisory Committee

The co-chairs of this committee are Mel Warren and Brooks Burr. Brooks was unable to attend the meeting. Mel reported the committee has reviewed the draft of "Diversity, distribution, and conservation status of the native freshwater fishes of the southern United States" as to distributions and assigned conservation status to all taxa. Mel recognized and thanked Bob Jenkins, Noel Burkhead, and Carter Gilbert as the committee's internal reviewers. Mel also thanked Pam Fuller, Leo Nico, and

Jim Williams for graciously allowing pre-publication access to their non-indigenous fishes book so that information can be cross-checked with the SFC list. Mel will send the final draft out to the Technical Advisory Committee one more time. The final draft will then be sent to several internal SFC reviewers and finally to the editor's of Fisheries. Mel reported that he has acquired adequate funding for the color plates and reprints and, hopefully, by this time next year it will be published. Funding has been provided by the Nashville office of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS Florida Caribbean Science Center in Gainesville, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Southern Research Center. In March of 1999, Mel presented a summary of the conservation status of southeastern fishes at the World Wildlife Conference in Chattanooga.

## ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Chair-elect Steve Ross headed the nominations committee. Nominees for each office were announced, as follows:

Chair elect - Mary Freeman and Wayne Starnes  
 Treasurer - Peggy Shute  
 Managing editor - Frank Pezold  
 Secretary - Gerry Dinkins (incumbent)  
 Associate editor - George Sedberry (incumbent)

The floor was opened for nominations, and none were given. After accepting a motion to close the floor for further nominations, a voice vote was held to elect officers running unopposed. Peggy Shute, Frank Pezold, Gerry Dinkins, and George Sedberry were elected to their respective offices. Blank pieces of paper were distributed by Steve Ross for the attendees to vote for Chair-elect.

## OLD BUSINESS

Dave Etnier asked if SFC had responded to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's listing of Alabama sturgeon. Chairman Warren replied that SFC did not officially respond. Hank Bart stated that comment period closes on May 26. Chairman Warren charged the resolutions committee to draft a letter supporting the listing of vermilion darter and Alabama sturgeon.

## NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Warren discussed the status of SFC's southeastern imperiled fishes initiative, and gave October 26 - 28 as the dates for meeting of a Southeastern Imperiled Fishes Working Group, to be held in Chattanooga. Tentative plans are to invite three people from each state, of which two would be state agency biologists, and the third would be someone from academia knowledgeable about local fish species. Additionally, individuals selected from federal agencies would be invited. Mel urged attendees with expertise in non-game fish identification and biology to contact their state agencies to offer assistance.

Gerry Dinkins stated that a representative from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation had

approached him regarding applications for altering springs and headwater streams. TDEC feels that often there is insufficient information in their database on distribution and status of sensitive headwater fish species. Input from SFC could be very useful in the application review process. Chairman Warren asked for and received a motion to have Gerry Dinkins work with the Executive Committee and draft a letter to TDEC regarding SFC's desire to be informed of and provide comments on applications for spring and headwater impacts. Hank Bart said a similar situation exists in Louisiana and he would contact the appropriate state agency.

On behalf of a request by Peggy Shute, Chairman Warren asked for input regarding a process by which agencies and/or individuals could be recognized for their efforts to preserve and protect out native fishes. After a brief discussion, Mel asked the resolutions committee to compile a list of nominees and send it to Executive Committee for review.

Steve Ross announced that the votes had been tallied and Mary Freeman is the new Chair-elect.

Chairman Warren noted that Steve Stevenson has been Editor of *Proceedings* for an extended period. Mel asked for and received a motion to send Steve a letter recognizing his many years of service.

Steve Layman announced the Corps of Engineers has prepared Draft Environmental Impact Statements for the compacts between the states of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida on negotiating water allocation for the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) and Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River basins. The Draft EISs were issued by the Corps for each basin in September 1998. December 31, 1999 is the deadline for the states to reach agreement on the allocations, with Final EISs to follow. Steve spoke of the schedule for the programmatic EIS project and the range of alternatives evaluated in the DEIS. Steve wants SFC to be aware the EIS is coming.

Chairman Warren opened the floor for discussion of moving the annual meeting venue of SFC from its traditional arrangement with ASB to the annual midyear meeting of the Southeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS). Steve Walsh provided some information on the origin of SDAFS and gave a historical overview. Chairman Warren asked for a motion that we approach AFS relative to meeting with their southern division. Mel also asked for a motion on drafting a list, which would be mailed to the membership, of pros and cons relative to changing the SFC venue. If changing the venue met the approval of the governing board of SDAFS and the SFC Executive Committee, the entire SFC membership will be allowed to vote by mail-in ballot on a possible change in venue. The vote of the membership will be used to guide the action of the Executive Committee.

Both motions made and unanimously passed. Dave Etnier asked that we discuss this potential move with our herpetology colleagues before moving forward.

Chairman Warren announced this was the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of SFC, and recognized attendees Bruce Bauer, Dave Etnier, and Herb Boschung as charter members. Recognition was also given Mark Sabaj, illustrator of this year's fish button depicting *Percina tanasi*, the snail darter, and to Hank Bart for his efforts putting together the anniversary fish button.

## REGIONAL REPORT

Regional reports were not presented. Attendees were referred to the most recent issue in *Proceedings* where the regional reports have been published.

After accepting a motion to adjourn, Chairman Warren closed the meeting at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerald R. Dinkins, Secretary

### Southeastern Fishes Council Treasurer's Report, April 1999

Checking Account Balance, 8 April 1998 \$1,985.03

Dues and Contributions,  
8 April 1998 through 12 April 1999:

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Past dues                  | \$60.00   |
| 1998 dues                  | \$1940.00 |
| 1999 dues                  | \$840.00  |
| 2000 dues                  | 40.00     |
| Proceeds from Button sales | \$252.00  |
| Contributions              | \$50.00   |
| Reprint sales              | \$47.40   |

TOTAL: \$3,229.70

Expenditures, 8 April 1998 through 12 April 1999:

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Proceedings 37, printing cost         | \$823.62   |
| Proceedings 37 postage                | \$161.60   |
| TN Secretary of State (annual report) | \$20.00    |
| 1998-edition Buttons, production cost | \$25.45    |
| Proceedings 38, printing cost         | \$1,028.71 |
| Proceedings 38, postage               | \$177.87   |

TOTAL: \$2,237.25

Checking Account Balance as of 12 April 1999: \$2,977.48

1999 dues received, not yet deposited \$200.00

Paine Webber Cash Fund as of

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 31 December 1998:                     | \$2,929.45 |
| Reported Fund, 31 December 1997       | \$2,786.10 |
| Earned interest and adjustments, 1998 | \$143.35   |

Total Assets \$6,106.93

Notes:

Paid membership through 1998 stands at 130 individuals and institutions. Members as of 1997 who did not renew in 1998 = 16.

## Regional SFC Reports

## REGION I - Northeast

Bob Jenkins (Roanoke College) is still a sucker, oops, still studying suckers. In summer 1999 he finished major report to USFWS on description, life history, spawning behavior, habitat, distribution and population status of the undescribed sicklefin redhorse. A major survey for this species will occur in March 2000 (with Bob involved) relative to re-licensing dams that are in, or blocking the range of, the sicklefin in the Hiwassee and Little Tennessee systems. A Redhorse sucker spawning-behavior study, with Mark Clements and Bud Freeman, has year 2000 as its fourth and final year of observations. Meanwhile, analysis of about 40 h of videotape continues. Excerpts can be viewed on the Playboy Channel. A major feature is seeing *Moxostoma carinatum* and *M. erythrurum* spawning as interspecies trios, in varied combinations of species' positions (right, left of female), and species of the female. Interspecies acts were observed in S. Fk. Holston River, VA, Valley River, NC, and Brasstown Creek, GA. Folks better be pulling more pharyngeal arches.....

Mike Pinder (Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries) completed a survey for *Enneacanthus chaetodon*, a state endangered species in VA. It was found at eight sites in the Blackwater and Nottoway systems, three of which represent new populations. His department is funding Paul Angermeir (VPI) in a study of *Percina rex* and habitat use. Depending on funding success, he hopes to fund a genetic study of the spotted form of *Noturus insignis* and a basin-wide survey for *Etheostoma osburni*.

Gene Maurakis (Science Museum of Virginia) has teamed up with Ray Katula and Bill Roston to describe breeding behaviors in *Hemitremia flammea* from field and laboratory studies. A publication is in review on comparisons of spawning and non-spawning substrates in nests of species of *Exoglossum* and *Nocomis*. Gene will be wrapping up field studies on attraction of nest associates to nests of pebble nest-building fishes in spring 2000. Gene and Dave Grimes (VA DEQ) have completed Phase I studies on methodology development for use of wedge clam (*Rangia cuneata*) in biomonitoring studies.

The North Carolina State Museum is, for the most part, consumed in efforts to get the main museum open on 7 April 2000. It will be the largest natural history museum in the South; y'all come. Another major effort has been to finalize the data base structure for computerization of all natural history collections, including fishes. With the combined holdings comprising the core NCSM collection and those of Duke University, UNC Institute of Marine Science, NCSU, the Wildlife Commission surveys, Wayne Starnes' personal collection, and several other sizeable acquisitions, this data base is anticipated to contain data on between 80,000 and 100,000 lots. The data structure is Access-based and employs the basic structure acquired from the Florida State Museum, with several modifications to accommodate NCSM's needs. One feature being added is a large database, compiled by Wayne Starnes, Art Bogan, and Wendy Gotch, containing a hierarchical tabulation