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Business Meeting Minutes

Southeastern Fishes Council

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Business Meeting Minutes

Stout, 1975; Gale and Gale, 1977; Rabito and Heins, 1985). The agonistic behavior of *C. venusta* seems to be typified by a higher degree of violent encounters with conspecific males than in other *Cyprinella*. For example, males of *C. leedsii* mostly exhibit "mock battles" (extended agonistic displays and lateral-butting fights), chases, and threat displays (Rabito and Heins, 1985); but the larger *C. venusta* often showed swift attacks, fights and chases. Swift attacks were not observed for *C. leedsii*, and *C. venusta* spent relatively little time engaging in agonistic displays (Heins, pers. obser.). In addition, fights described for other species generally seem to involve lateral butting (Pflieger, 1965; Stout, 1975; Rabito and Heins, 1985) rather than the more violent lateral-ramming fights that I also observed for *C. venusta*.

Comparisons of behaviors in *Cyprinella* are tentative because variable treatments in earlier reports do not always allow direct comparison. In some cases, behaviors were named but not described. In others, descriptions of behaviors lack the details necessary to be certain of their identity. Furthermore, observations have been made for only a small number of species in the genus.

To summarize, I have described reproductive behaviors in *C. venusta*, including alternative mating tactics among males. Alternative mating tactics in *C. venusta* arise from sexual selection based on its crevice spawning mode. Dominant, territorial males sequester and defend presumably limited spawning crevices in nature (Pflieger, 1965) through primary tactics involving aggressive, sometimes violent, competition to monopolize access to females. Large (non-territorial) and small males use alternative tactics to gain fertilizations of eggs. Both large and small males will spawn in a crevice when the territorial male is not in the immediate area. Small, sneaky males dart between the territorial male and a female making a spawning run along the crevice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MINUTES

Business Meeting 15th Annual Meeting Southeastern Fishes Council

The Southeastern Fishes Council met at Charlotte, N.C. in the Welwyn Room of the Hilton at University Place on April 7, 1989. Chairman Robert E. Jenkins presided. The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:04 pm local time.

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the 1988 meeting appeared in the *PROCEEDINGS*. The Minutes were approved without correction.

Treasurer's Report:

	<u>Balance</u>
Checking Account (1-31-89)	\$1,371.55
1989 dues received (3-31-89)	380.00
Cost of Issue No. 18	(310.31)
Checking Account Balance (3-31-89)	<u>1441.24</u>
Paine Webber Cash Fund (2-24-89)	1761.31
TOTAL ASSETS (4-1-89)	<u>\$3202.55</u>

Editor's Report:

Mike Stevenson reported that Issue No. 18 of the *PROCEEDINGS* had been mailed and he is currently working on Issue 19 with a projected mailing date of June 1989. In Issue No. 19 he plans to have a map showing the limits of all regions and a new drawing of our logo. Mike also indicated that he has received manuscripts for a possible December issue.

Chairman Jenkins indicated he had a few items he wished to inform the membership of before continuing with the order of business.

1. Regional Reports (perhaps better called Subregional Reports) should be transmitted to the Secretary in writing for inclusion in the minutes.

Rick Mayden questioned whether we should continue to publish Regional Reports in the *PROCEEDINGS* as was done in Issue No. 18. Perhaps we should publish these separately as a newsletter. There is concern over the use of manuscript names when publishing these reports. There was general agreement that manuscript names used in Regional Reports should not appear in the *PROCEEDINGS*.

2. Should we publish a Membership Directory? Secretary Wieland indicated this is being looked into and may be possible at minimal cost once the membership files are transferred to a computer data base.
3. There are several committees for which the Chair does not have a record of membership. If you are on a committee, or know who the members of these committees are, please contact the Chair.

Bob Cashner then indicated that he was the Chair of the Nominating Committee and further indicated he was prepared to make nominations for Chairman Elect.

Not wishing to prolong the meeting Chairman Jenkins turned the order of business to the election of officers.

Election of officers:

Bruce Bauer was elected as Chairman Elect.

Old Business:

1. Chairman Jenkins stated that at our last meeting there was a question as to whether the Council had any "Life Members." A discussion followed and from evidence gathered it was agreed that Herbert T. Boschung and Royal D. Suttikus were "Life Members."

2. The Chair related to the membership that we need to become more concerned as to what system or method is used by the various southeastern states in granting scientific collecting permits. Bob has written to the appropriate state agencies and hopes to get answers soon. He will report to the membership either at the next meeting or through the *PROCEEDINGS*.

Jim Williams indicated that in the future someone (SFC, ASIH, AFS, etc...) will need to contact these states about their regulations on collections. This should be done before collection guidelines are put into place by each state.

Carter Gilbert indicated that perhaps if an article were published on this subject one could cite this article and it would have more of an effect than just a letter.

3. Fish Count – What is the status of the Desert Fishes Council fish count? Jim Williams could not provide any information as he did not attend the last meeting of DFC. There was a suggestion that perhaps we could publish our fish count in the *PROCEEDINGS*.

Buck Snelson asked if there was a target date when these collections should be made? If the target date is in the spring is this a good time (i.e. in the S.E. the waters are high at this time and it can be very difficult to collect, however, at this time of year there are no fry and the adults are available)?

Steve Ross related that he has been conducting a "count" since 1975 but he samples in the Fall.

After some discussion the consensus was that samples from various parts of the S.E. will not be comparable anyway. Therefore each individual could pick their own time and method.

There was a question from the floor regarding why these fish counts should be conducted and what they would show? This was answered by indicating that information from such counts could show long term trends at specific localities.

4. Bob Cashner stated there was no button this year and perhaps the job of putting out a new button each year should not be the responsibility of the Chair. Bob volunteered to produce the button for the Charleston meeting and will coordinate this in the future. Afterward several suggestions were heard from the floor for future buttons.

Buck Snelson suggested the possibility of a T-shirt instead of a button where upon Carter Gilbert added that "a T-shirt lives forever."

Mike Stevenson provided a list of buttons he has available and the order in which they were produced. Buttons were produced from 1980 to 1987 with 1981 and 1985 missing.

New Business:

1. Bob Stiles informed the membership as to the latest environmental problem on the Cahaba River. The Cahaba is the last major free flowing river in Alabama and has a rich and diverse fauna. There is a proposal to drill for "coal bed methane" in the Cahaba basin. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management is currently in the process of reviewing some of these proposals. There are at present about 1000 methane wells proposed for the Cahaba basin.

The proposals request permission to discharge from these wells into the Cahaba River. The original proposal gives a discharge rate of 130,000 lbs. per day which will enter the river. This discharge will contain large amounts of chlorides. The general public in the area is greatly upset because they perceive a deterioration of water quality in the Cahaba River.

Current guidelines are that the four day average discharge does not exceed 400 mg Cl/l and the average daily discharge

does not exceed 860 mg Cl/1. No guidelines for a one time maximum discharge limit which can not be exceeded has been established, only average discharge rates.

A permit to discharge has already been granted for a small facility at Centreville, Alabama. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has established a deadline of April 19, 1989, for submission of comments on these proposals.

After discussion the membership expressed great concern for the stability of the Cahaba River fauna. The proposed manner of disposal for discharge from these wells is probably the least expensive method, but is not considered to be environmentally sound. Since those individuals making these proposals stand to make a profit from the sale of the resulting methane it is reasonable that they should be willing to provide a more environmentally safe method of disposal. The membership did not foresee any problem of establishing such an environmentally sound method of disposal using current technology.

Chairman Jenkins, upon unanimous recommendation of the membership, asked Bob Stiles to draft a letter regarding the Council's concerns on this matter for distribution to the Executive Committee. This letter should specifically list all critical species, in addition to fishes, within the Cahaba basin. The Council will then forward this letter to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management prior to the April 19 deadline.

2. Chairman Jenkins asked for input as to the northwest limit of the S.E. Region. There seems to be a discrepancy on this limit between what is stated in the Constitution and available maps. Someone from the floor commented that Ray Bouchard may have a copy of the original map.

After discussion a motion was made to adopt the limits as stated in the Constitution and redraw the map accordingly. The motion was passed.

3. Secretary/Treasurer Wieland informed the membership that after some investigation he has learned from the IRS that the Council does not have official tax exempt status. Although we do have a "tax ID number" on our Paine Webber account the origin of this number is in question.

The membership asked the Secretary/Treasurer to take appropriate steps to resolve this matter.

Regional Reports:

Oral Regional Reports were given by the following individuals:

Bob Jenkins	– Northeast
Noel Burkhead	– Southeast
David Etnier	– North-central
Rick Mayden	– South-central
Bob Cashner	– Southwest
no report	– Northwest

Due to the late hour the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 6:47 p.m.

Everyone was reminded that the 1990 meeting will be in Charleston, SC with ASIH.

Respectfully submitted,

Werner Wieland

Secretary

REGIONAL SFC REPORTS

REGION I – Northeast

The Roanoke logperch, *Percina rex*, is almost through the federal process of being listed as endangered nationally. That status was officially accorded the Cape Fear shiner, *Notropis mekistocholas*, in 1988.

The Virginia Endangered Species Symposium will be held 28-29 April 1989, at Virginia Tech. This comes about 10 years after the first such Virginia symposium. As with the first, the symposium proceedings will be published. The Fishes committee is chaired by R.E. Jenkins.

Grave concern was expressed regarding the increasing popularity, as an aquarium pet fish, of the red shiner, *Notropis lutrensis*. This species is often called the rainbow shiner in the aquarium trade; its generic allocation will be *Cyprinella*. This fish is generalized and seemingly hardy, and when introduced to a drainage it has potential to effect reduction and extirpation of endemic *Cyprinella* species, as it has done in some areas outside the southeast. It has become established in the Pee Dee drainage, North Carolina.

R. Jenkins

REGION II – Southeast

Gary Meffe (Savannah River Ecology Lab) and Buck Snelson (University of Central Florida) recently published *Ecology and Evolution of Live Bearing Fishes (Poeciliidae)*. Also, they are investigating energetics and lipid cycling in *Gambusia* relative to annual and single ovarian reproductive cycles. Ecological studies by GM focus on genetic structure of fish populations and genetic responses to environmental perturbations.

George Burgess from the Florida Museum of Natural History is finishing, with David Synder, a manuscript on fishes of the lower St. Johns River; other activities are marine. Carter Gilbert, with Jim Williams and Noel Burkhead, reports that the fishes of Florida book will be completed in 2 or 3 years. The fish accounts for the 10 year update of FCREPA (Fla. Comm. on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals) are nearly finished. The present list has not changed considerably from the 1978 list, except in Special Concern categories, or some additions.