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Minutes, Business Meeting

Southeastern Fishes Council

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Minutes, Business Meeting

MINUTES

Business Meeting 26th Annual Meeting Southeastern Fishes Council

The 2000 meeting of the Southeastern Fishes Council (SFC) was called to order by Chair Steve Ross at 5:32 PM on 15 April 1999. The meeting was held in Plaza Room B of the Marriot Hotel and Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee in conjunction with the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB). Executive Committee members attending were Stephen T. Ross (Chair), Gerald R. Dinkins (Secretary), Mary Freeman (Chair-elect), and Peggy Shute (Treasurer).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes from the 1999 SFC business meeting held in Wilmington, North Carolina were distributed and were reviewed by attendees. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written, and was carried by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Peggy Shute provided a summary of the treasurer's report, and noted that it will be revised to reflect \$76 found in SFC button vest (proceeds from sale of SFC buttons at 1999 meeting). A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as printed, and was carried by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Technical Advisory Committee

Mel Warren, co-chair of the Technical Advisory Committee, provided a status report of his committee's review of the diversity, distribution, and conservation status of the native freshwater fishes of the southern United States. Mel noted that the manuscript has been submitted to Fisheries, the monthly membership magazine of the American Fisheries Society.

Resolutions Committee

Steve Ross noted that the committee has been forwarded for consideration a resolution regarding the Needmore Tract, a large piece of land in western North Carolina bordering the Little Tennessee River just upstream of the Fontana impoundment. The resolution, drafted by the Little Tennessee River Watershed Association, urges Nantahala Power and Light to take measures to protect the biological resources on the entire Needmore Tract.

Steve Walsh provided an update on the resolutions regarding the Rodman Dam removal and the Ichetucknee River. The Rodman resolution was sent to Florida Governor Jeb Bush, urging him to support removal of the Rodman (=Kirkpatrick) dam on the Oklawaha River. The Ichetucknee resolution was also sent to Governor Bush, and stated the Council's opposition to the construction of cement plant about three miles from the Ichetucknee State Park and very near the type locality (and only known population) of the federally threatened Squirrel Chimney Cave Shrimp.

OLD BUSINESS

Several matters pertaining to old business were briefly discussed, including:

- Current status of listing the Alabama sturgeon as federally protected;
- Recent conference, held in Chattanooga, on southeast imperiled fishes initiative;
- Timeliness of having SFC play a larger role in conservation issues;
- Availability on U.S Fish and Wildlife Service's webpage, of report on Southeast Imperiled Fish Strategy document, authored by Dick Biggins;
- SFC being placed on Tennessee Department of Conservation mailing list for notification of application wanting to alter headwater streams.
- Status of SFC's southeastern imperiled fishes initiative, and meeting of a Southeastern Imperiled Fishes Working Group, to be held in Chattanooga in October 2000.

Chairman Ross described ongoing efforts within SFC to establish a system by which individuals or agencies could be recognized for their work in conserving southeastern fishes. As yet, this has not been finalized, but the Council is closer to bringing to the membership for vote a way to acknowledge conservation efforts.

The final matter of old business brought to the floor of the business meeting pertained to a proposal, initially brought in front of the Council during the 1999 SFC meeting in Wilmington, NC, to change the annual meeting venue of SFC from its traditional arrangement with the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB), to the annual midyear meeting of the Southeastern Division of the American Fisheries Society (SDAFS). As a result of the discussion in Wilmington, the members in attendance decided that a list of the pros and cons of this suggested change should be drafted, and, if such a change met the approval of the governing board of the SDAFS and the SFC Executive Committee, that the entire SFC membership would be allowed to vote on a possible change in venue by a mail-in ballot. A list of pros and cons was mailed to the membership in December 1999. Votes were collected by the Secretary via mail and email and brought to the meeting in Chattanooga. Chairman Ross invited those in attendance who had not yet voted to cast their ballot as he opened the floor for further discussion. Most in attendance expressed their view regarding this matter. Chairman Ross then closed the floor, and announced the results of the vote: 33 had cast their ballot in favor of changing the venue, and 33 opposed the change. Based on these results, Chairman Ross announced that SFC will meet with ASB in New Orleans in 2001, and in the future will consider alternating between meeting with ASB (in years when the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists does not meet in the southeast) and the Southern Division of the

American Fisheries Society (SDAFS). SFC will pursue cosponsoring another symposium at a future mid-year meeting of the SDAFS, similar to the one held in Savannah, Georgia in February 2000.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Ross reported that the SFC website is currently handled by George Burgess at the University of Florida's Museum of Natural History. Steve expressed his desire for more information to be posted, and for more people to be involved with posting information.

REGIONAL REPORT

Regional reports were not presented. Attendees were referred to the SFC webpage where the reports have been posted.

After accepting a motion to adjourn, Chairman Ross closed the meeting at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald R. Dinkins, Secretary

Southeastern Fishes Council Treasurer's Report, March 2000

Checking Account Balance, 21 March 2000 \$2,977.48

Dues and Contributions,

12 April 1999 through 21 March 2000:

1998 dues	\$80.00
1999 dues	\$1,360.00
2000 dues	\$440.00
2001 dues	\$60.00
Contributions	\$72.00

TOTAL: \$2,032.00

Expenditures, 12 April 1999 through 21 March 2000:

Proceedings # 39, printing cost	\$751.96
Proceedings # 39, postage	\$113.95
TN Secretary of State (annual report)	\$20.00
Meeting venue survey copying & postage	\$93.95
1999-edition Buttons	\$222.00
Returned check & fee	\$25.00

TOTAL: \$1,226.86

Checking Account Balance as of 21 March 2000: \$3,782.62

2000 dues received, not yet deposited \$100.00

Paine Webber Cash Fund as of 31 December 1998: \$3,067.76

Reported Fund, 31 December 1997 \$2,929.45

Earned interest and adjustments, 1998 \$138.31

Total Assets \$6,950.38

Notes:

Membership on 21 March 2000 is as follows:

Paid only through 1997 (not renewed): 9 individuals (also, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission; MS State Univ.)

Paid through 1998: 17 individuals or institutions (also, Univ. Illinois; Zoological Record)

Paid through 1999: 101

Paid through 2000: 19

Paid through 2001 & lifetime members: 6

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy W. Shute

Regional SFC Reports

REGION I - Northeast

That well-known deviant and voyeur, Bob Jenkins (Roanoke College), has been spending all of his free time in the past two springs observing sucker sex. In fact, he has been so consumed with it that I have little to report on his activities this past year. Hopefully, by next year he will have tired of it and be ready to enlighten us all.

Mike Pinder (Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries) reports that since 1998, his department's Wildlife Diversity Division has been developing techniques to propagate mussels for eventual release into the upper Tennessee River. The cultivation facility is located on the South Fork Holston River near Marion, VA. Presently, they are holding over 22 species (307 individuals). Fourteen have successfully spawned in hatchery raceways with low mortality for most species. In June biologists will survey a potential release site on the Clinch River. The wavyrayed lampmussel (*Lampsilis fasciola*) and the oyster mussel (*Epioblasma capsaeformis*) will be the first artificially propagated species released at this study site.

Eugene Murakis (Science Museum of Virginia) has been spending a considerable amount of time (4 year grant) studying freshwater fishes of Greece which is slightly outside the purview of SEFC but he still has managed to continue his work on southeastern fishes. In press is a comparison of spawning and non-spawning substrates in nests of *Nocomis* and *Exoglossum*. Along with Ray Katula and Bill Roston, he has submitted a manuscript on spawning in *Hemitremia flammea* and with a student (Will Gretes, Univ. Richmond) is completing a comparisons of myomere counts among larval *H. flammea* and populations of *Semotilus*. Finally, he is wrapping up nest attractant studies and spawning of *Nocomis effusus*.

Wayne Starnes (North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences) took the plunge off the cliff again and got married in January. According to various sources, he is still happily married. Congratulations, Wayne. The past two springs, he joined up with several agencies, including Carolina Power and Light Co., Duke Power Co., NC Wildlife Resources Commission, SC Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NC State University and others in a massive electroshocking survey of the Pee Dee river in NC and NC in search of further specimens of the robust and undescribed