

12-1-1988

Regional Reports

Southeastern Fishes Council

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Recommended Citation

Southeastern Fishes Council (1988) "Regional Reports," *Southeastern Fishes Council Proceedings*: No. 18.

<https://doi.org/10.7290/sfcp18t4yf>

Available at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/sfcproceedings/vol1/iss18/6>

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Regional Reports

Regional Reports:

Regional reports were presented by the following individuals and copies will be mailed to Mike Stevenson for publication in the PROCEEDINGS.

Region 1, North East, Bob Jenkins

Region 2, South East, Carter Gilbert

Region 3, North Central, David Etnier (by Bob Jenkins)

Region 4, South Central, Rick Mayden

Region 5, North West, Henry Robison (by Bob Jenkins)

Region 6, South West, Bob Cashner (with additions by R.D. Suttikus)

At the conclusion of the Regional Reports, Jim Williams made some comments regarding developments pertaining to exotics. The Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*) has been imported into Arkansas by bait fish farmers. Last October, during flooding, this species escaped into the local streams. Florida and Alabama have now passed laws specifically limiting this species. Many other states have laws limiting importation of exotics, however, there appears to be some question as to how these apply to bait fish. Recently North Dakota indicated that they wish to introduce *Lucioperca* (zander). There is evidence that this species could tolerate warm water and therefore move downstream to Memphis or Baton Rouge.

After some discussion regarding regulations governing collecting permits Bob Jenkins stated he will write all states for information on collecting permits.

The 1989 meeting will be held in Charlotte, NC with ASB, April 5-9. In 1990 we will meet the ASIH in Charleston, SC.

The meeting ended at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

W. Wieland
Secretary/Treasurer

OPEN LETTER TO SFC MEMBERS

From: Steven P. Platania

To: Interested Parties

28 March 1988

At the 1987 Desert Fishes Council meeting in Hermosillo, Mexico, a special symposium on monitoring of fish populations was held. The main reoccurring theme

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throughout the session was the need for annual systematic monitoring of fish populations throughout the southwest.

It was suggested that one possible way to conduct such a program was to initiate a census similar to the ornithologists' Christmas Bird Count. This idea has received the support of the Desert Fishes Council and we are going to try to initiate it in 1988.

Each participant should select one or two sites, preferably close to where they live or work, for sampling. Remember, the idea is that this/these same site/sites will be collected each successive year during the census period.

Our goal for the first year of this fish count is to have at least two different individuals sampling in different sections of each of the states covered by the Desert Fishes Council (hopefully more). We too will use a holiday as the focal point of our count and at several peoples suggestions, have picked the 4th of July. In order to allow plenty of time for collections to be made you will have three weekends around which sampling could be performed (June 27 - July 11).

There are certainly a number of questions, which I have not addressed and I hope to do that in the next letter. In the meantime, give this project some thought as I am open to any and all suggestions. Also, if you have a suggestion for what we should call this endeavor, let me know.

REGIONAL SFC REPORTS

REGION 1 - North East

The Roanoke logperch *Percina rex*, was originally petitioned by N.M. Burkhead for threatened status nationally. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service deems it worthy of endangered status; the process of its formal enlistment is well underway. In the same petition the orange fin madtom, *Norturus gilberti*, was also considered to merit threatened status, but the USFWS judged it does not warrant federal status.

Conferral of status to the Roanoke logperch and designation of much of upper Roanoke River and its main forks as critical habitat would protect much of the distinctive, species upper Roanoke ichthofauna. That fauna currently is threatened by a proposed reservoir on a small Roanoke River tributary near Salem. The purpose of the reservoir, planned by Roanoke County authorities, is storage of drinking water that is to be

pumped from the main river, including during times of certain low-river levels. Noel Burkhead and an active conservation group, Friends of the Roanoke River, have been integral in evaluation of proposed water withdrawal levels, such that the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Army Corps of Engineers and the USFWS caused Roanoke County planners to reduce projected river withdrawals.

In fall, 1988, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will hold a symposium on Virginia biota needing protection. A major publication is expected to result. R.E. Jenkins is on the Steering Committee for the symposium and chairs the Fishes Committee. The VDGIF recently made a computer analysis of vertebrates to determine species to be protected. As a result the following five species have officially been added to the state endangered list: *Enneacanthus chaetodon*, *Etheostoma acuticeps*, *E. collis*, *E. jessiae*, and *E. tippecanoe*. Additional species on the Virginia list are those already federally protected. Notable is that the Roanoke logperch is not included by the VDGIF, perhaps pending federal listing, nor is the orange-fin madtom.

A manuscript describing the rare duskytail darter is being completed by R. E. Jenkins. This species merits either threatened or special concern status nationally.

The Cape Fear shiner, *Notropis mekistocholas*, is about to be federally designated endangered.

E. F. Menhinick's book on the freshwater fishes of North Carolina soon will be published by the N. C. State Museum of Natural History. Ed published (1987. J. Elisha Mitchell Sci. Soc. 102 (2): 54- 86) an interesting numerical method for ranking jeopardized freshwater fishes.

The bridle shine, *Notropis bifrenatus*, a species that has declined or disappeared in certain southern parts of its range, Virginia and North Carolina, has been found in a reservoir of the Santee drainage, South Carolina, by Peter Coleman of the Charleston Museum.

R. Jenkins

REGION 3 – North Central

Madtom transplants

We enter our third year of transplanting fingerling *Noturus baileyi* and *N. flavipinnis* from Citco Creek to lower Abrams Creek. The technique is to find nests by snorkeling, rob those with late embryos and/or emerged larvae, and culture in aquaria, feeding live *Daphnia artemio* and mosquito larvae. There is no significant mortality early on, but again, at the stage when school-

ing behavior breaks down, mortality becomes a severe problem. We solved it to some extent this year by stocking earlier as smaller fish, and this year we will attempt to solve the late mortality problem by (1) providing more space per fish after schools breakup and (2) providing a wider variety of food. After at that time we stocked about 100 of each species last spring. No positive results are expected realistically, until 1986-87 when the transplants reach sexual maturity, spawn, and produce a year-class. Members of this class should be large enough to see late in their first summer. The North Fork of the Holston River (VA & TN) is being considered for 1989 transplants of *N. flavipinnis*.

R.E. Mayden and crew captured and released a presumptive snail darter from other Little River below Mill Dam at Melrose, ca 20 river miles upstream from TN 33 bridge, where the only other Little River *P. tannasi* was collected. Rumors abound considering its actual identity with juvenile logperch currently attracting the bulk of the smart money.

Long awaited descriptions of 3 *Ulocentra* (*zonistum*, *pyrrhogaster*, *flavorum*) should be available within the year (Univ. Mich pubs.). *E. (Nothonotus) wapiti* (Proc. Bio. Soc. Wash.) might also make it in '88, but Etnier's lack of tact has led to an uncomfortable situation with the editorial staff.

Phoxinix sp. (cf. *oreas*) of the upper Tennessee drainage is now considered a distinct species by Starnes and Jenkins (Proc. Bio. Soc. Wash.). Description, as *P. tennesseensis*, expected in 1988.

Except for the last 20 pages and Lit. Cited, the Tennessee Fish book is back to typist, the ms. plus corrections/additions is being transferred to IBM Word Star. Hopefully, entire text (with sample range maps, color and black and white photos) will go to UT Press this spring. Range maps and a few pen and ink illustrations to accompany keys need to be completed. Volunteers are needed to review various chapters!

Peggy and Randy Shute plus John Tullock have opened an aquarium shop, Aquatic Specialists, in west Knoxville, TN. Marine, brackish, and freshwater fishes, marine inverts, and freshwater outdoor ponds are included. Looks like it will fly. Certain investors (Etnier, Rick LeDuc) hope so. The former maintains a morgue which periodically gets incorporated into the UT collection.

The TN aquarium in Chattanooga is a go and will emphasize native species from "the mountains to the Mississippi". The plans look fantastic, starting with Blue Ridge stream and forest and ending in cypress swamps with intervening warm-water streams, rivers vs. reservoirs, Coastal Plain streams, and etc.

The search for *Fundulus abolineotus* in the lower bend of Tennessee River failed to discover any specimens. An excellent new population of *Etheostoma tuscumbia* was found in north Alabama, in a spring pond below water supply for New Hope, Mountain Fork Creek system, Madison Co.

D. Etnier

REGION 5 - North West

The following represents the information I was able to gather for "my" report at the S.E. Fishes Council meeting next week. I was able to talk with Bill Matthews but unable to reach Bill Pflieger in Missouri.

Oklahoma

Notropis girardi, the Arkansas River shiner, will be proposed for Federal listing as "Threatened Status" due to the rapid decline of this species throughout its native range. Two items seem primarily responsible for this rapid decline in the past 15 years. First, replacement of *N. girardi* by *N. bairdi* from the Red River has occurred; however, the prime factor seems to be the regulation of flows in the Arkansas River by the large dams which decreases the reproductive success of *N. girardi*.

The only remaining stronghold for *N. girardi* seems to be in the lower South Canadian River (Bill Matthews, pers. comm.).

General News:

- a. Oklahoma does have an official state list of threatened and endangered fishes.
- b. *Etheostoma radiostum* (orangebelly darter) systematic study by Bill Matthews reveals no new subspecies contrary to earlier reports.
- c. Paul James, OSU graduate student, is studying the reproductive habits of the leopard darter, a federally threatened species.

Arkansas

The Ozark Cavefish, *Amblyopsis rosae*, has officially been placed on the federal threatened list. The Ouachita madtom, *Notropis lachneri*, is in the review process federally.

General News:

- a. The *Fishes of Arkansas* by Henry Robison and Tom Buchanan will be published by the University of Arkansas Press in June. The book will be 608 pages with black and white or color photos of all 215 species inhabiting the state. Cost will be \$50.00 for cloth cover; \$30.00 for paper.
- b. Robison continues work on *Cottus carolinae* west of the Mississippi with Dick Robins.
- c. Matthews and Robison have completed a multivariate analysis of the distribution of native Arkansas fishes based on 2323 collections from the last 20 years.

Missouri

Pflieger and Robison continue work on an undescribed form of *Etheostoma flabellare* in the White River system of Missouri and Arkansas.

H. Robison

NEWS NOTES

Citizens' Guide to Wetlands Protection – Ms. Wendy Wagner of Wyoming, MI has begun a popular guide to wetlands ecology and their usefulness in order to provide citizens with information enabling them to participate more fully in governmental decisions affecting wetland resources. Her concentration at this time is on the states of Alabama, Georgia and North and South Carolina. A similar guide now exists for the state of Virginia. She is requesting any information you may have and wish to contribute to this effort. You may contact her at 2780 Woodlake Apt. #4. This project is underwritten by the Southern Environmental Law Center in Charlottesville, VA.

Conservation Awards – The seven winners of Chevron's Conservation Awards in the southeast are listed below. The Conservation Awards Program is the oldest privately-sponsored program of its kind in the United States. The honorees will receive \$1,000 cash award and a bronze plaque commemorating their achievements. "These honorees have displayed an ability to work cooperatively with government, business, other conservation organizations and the media to make their personal goals a reality. In their own way, each has selflessly devoted time, expertise and resources to protecting the vital elements of our environment."

MARYLAND – The Chester-Sassafras Foundation, Inc., Chestertown – a grass roots organization that pre-