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Business Meeting Minutes

Southeastern Fishes Council

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Minutes
1987 Business Meeting
Southeastern Fishes Council

Location: Georgia Center, Univ. of Georgia,
Athens GA

Date: April 9, 1987

Presiding: Robert C. Cashner, Chairman

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. There was no Secretary's report and no Treasurer's Report. Election of Offices:

Werner Wieland was nominated for the office of Secretary/Treasurer. No other nominations were made. Wieland was elected Secretary /Treasurer by acclamation.

Richard L. Mayden, James D. Williams and Franklin F. Snelson were nominated for the position of Chairman Elect.

Bob Jenkins pointed out that no person could be nominated for an office unless present at the meeting. Williams' name was therefore removed from the list of candidates.

Franklin F. Snelson was elected Chairman Elect.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SFC PROCEEDINGS

Michael Stevenson, Editor of the SFC PROCEEDINGS, announced that Vol.4 No. 4 of the PROCEEDINGS is out. Also, many members did not receive copies. At present we are not sure as to the location of our mailing list. It is believed that Carter Gilbert has a mailing list but he is presently out of the country. Carter will be contacted as soon as he returns and the first job of the Secretary / Treasurer will be to establish a current mailing list and update the records of dues paid.

Micheal also informed us that the numbering system for the PROCEEDINGS will change to consecutive numbers for each issue. The next issue will be No.17. Because of the irregular manner in which the PROCEEDINGS have been published in the past it is hoped that this will reduce confusion as to the Vol. and No. of issues and the year of publication.

Issue No. 17 is almost ready for publication. It will contain two manuscripts and some curatorial notes. Michael would also like to receive news from the membership for inclusion in future issues in addition to normal manuscripts. In the future we hop to include a list of the Regional Reporters and their addresses along with a map depicting the regions. This should help individuals who wish to forward noteworthy news items of their region to the proper individual for dissemination to the membership. Also, we hope to include the annual Regional Reports in the PROCEEDINGS. Additional items for inclusion in future issues are a membership list and the Treasurer's report.

2. Dues

A dues notice has been sent out for 1987. However, there has been a major problem with members not receiving the PROCEEDINGS or their canceled checks. A second dues notice will be sent with an address correction. New buttons are available to paid up members (free) and to non-members for \$1.00.

3. New Journal

Chairman Cashner turned the meeting over to David Heins and Franklin F. Snelson for explanation and discussion of this topic.

Heins and Snelson have circulated a questionnaire to about 35 individuals in the southeast outlining their reasons for studying the feasibility and need for a new journal with a possible title of "North American Journal of Ichthyology." They received 13 replies with the following results: 9 positive; 2 negative; 2 maybe. Additional comments were received as to the content of such a journal. Most individuals expressed their opinion that this should be a National or International journal rather than limited to subject matter pertaining to the southeast. There was 50-50 split as to whether we should attempt to publish

such a journal ourselves or seek a major publisher. Also, there were varied opinions as to the format. Generally everyone expressed a willingness to pay an initial fee (subscription) or perhaps an initial life membership (\$100.00) to start such a journal.

Snelson expressed his thoughts on such a new journal. It should be open to all topics in Ichthyology (freshwater and saltwater) and to all the Americans. He is concerned about the perpetuity of such an endeavor and would not like to begin unless there appears to be some reasonable chance of continuation. Additionally, he does not intend for this to "spawn" a new society, only that it may condense much of the literature into a single source and perhaps provide an outlet for manuscripts. Snelson then opened the floor for discussion.

Rick Mayden asked if it were not possible to poll a wider audience perhaps using the ASIH mailing list? This was considered as a future possibility.

Another question from the floor was "What makes you think that authors will gravitate to this journal as opposed to it being just one more journal to read?"

Steve Ross then stated that it takes approximately 13 months from submission until publication for the average manuscript submitted to Copeia. Steve has questioned Bob Johnson as to the appropriateness of natural history manuscripts for Copeia and relayed his comments to us. Bob replied that a well written paper is appropriate for Copeia and would be welcome. Bob further stated that natural history papers were not being published in Copeia with frequency because papers on this subject were not being submitted. In the 1986 Volume 53% of the papers in Copeia were fish papers (notes & papers). The rejection rate is about 50% for both fish and herp papers.

Snelson then addressed comments of concern that a new journal might take manuscripts away from Copeia or that any additional journal may not be of the same quality. Snelson stated that Herpetologia and the Journal of Herpetology are of high quality and there are still plenty of papers in Copeia. He questioned whether it is the

opinion of the Copeia Referees that Natural History papers do not belong in Copeia and should therefore go to regional journals? There currently appears to be a discrepancy between the actions of the Referees and the philosophy of the editor.

Steve Ross noted that Bob Johnson would like to meet with "us" in New York in June.

A general willingness was expressed to discuss the matter of the national ASIH meeting in Albany, NY. However, there was also general agreement to further explore the possibility of publication of a new journal.

Bob Cashner then called for a close to the discussion, to be resumed at a later date.

4. Regional Reports

Only two regional reports were presented and these will be published in the next issue of the PROCEEDINGS. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

REGIONAL SFC REPORTS

ALABAMA

Mike Howell reported that population surveys have been conducted on the watercress darter (*Etheostoma nuchale*) at three spring sites. All populations are doing well except the Glenn Spring population. There are plans to transplant individuals from Roebuck Springs to three other springs in the Birmingham area.

Scott Mettee reported that the underscribed pygmy sunfish (*Elassoma* sp.) has been reintroduced into Pryor Spring (1984) and this population was sampled in 1985 and 1986-individuals were found on both occasions, indicating successful reproduction. Tom Jandebaur and John Pulliman have scouted for other suitable transplants sites in the Tennessee River drainage.

Bob Stiles and his student James Oliver have studied the reproductive cycles of the underscribed Cahaba shiner and *Notropis volucellus* and have determined that they are different. He is concerned about recent logging operations and the resulting silt load being introduced into the Cahaba River in the Piper

bridge area - a stronghold for the Cahaba shiner.

Steve Krotzer and myself are finishing a distribution study of the blue shiner (*Nortopis caeruleus*) in Alabama. Unfortunately, no new populations have been found. Blue shiners have been recently collected in Litter River (Cherokee Co.) Choccolocco Creek (Calhoun Co.), and Weogufka Creek (Coosa Co.) (all Coosa River tributaries). The Conasauga river in northwest Georgia and southern Tennessee continues to support the largest population of blue shiners.

Recent collections in the Cahaba River below Centreville reveal that populations of *Noturus munitus*, *Ammocrypta asprella* and *Percina lenticula* continue to exist in small to moderate numbers.

M. Pierson

NORTH CAROLINA

On 8 April 1987 the Waccamaw siverside, *Menidia extensa*, was listed as a federally-threatened species and Lake Waccamaw was designated as critical habitat. The Cape Fear shiner, *Notropis mekistocholas*, is still being considered. A decision should be reached in the next several months.

The species faces a number of potential problems - coal mining, new plants, water diversion, and bridge building.

The nongame section of the Wildlife Resources Commission has formed a study group to prepare nongame legislation. Additionally, John Alderman of the section has started work and the spotfin chub, *Hybopsis monacha*, in the Little Tennessee. He made two collections last fall - 35 individuals/hr and 47/hrs 15 min. More work is planned this year.

The presence of the shortnose sturgeon, *Acipenser brevirostrum*, was confirmed from the Cape Fear River drainage. The fish has been deposited in the N.C. State Museum. According to a reliable source, the species is fairly abundant in the lower Cape Fear system.

F. Rohde and S. Ross propose to conduct status surveys on the two Sandhill endemics, *Semotilus lumbee* and *Etheostoma mariae*, this fall. E. Menhinick's manuscript on the NC freshwater fishes is currently undergoing review.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Very little appears to be happening. The P. Coleman-R. Moore checklist on the freshwater fishes is still in the works. Clemson University is conducting work on those exotics-herrings and striped bass. On the coast T. Smith is doing some telemetry work on shortnose sturgeon telemetry work on shortnose sturgeon.

F. Rohde