



Committee Report: Fisheries Resources Committee

Chairman Ross L. Self

Meeting of Sunday, October 16, 2016

Baton Rouge, LA

Meeting convened at 1:00 pm

Chaired by Ross L. Self

Committee Members Attending:

Alabama – Nick Nichols	Mississippi – Larry Pugh
Arkansas – Chris Racey	North Carolina – Todd Ewing {proxy}
Florida – Dennis Renfro (proxy)	Oklahoma – Ken Cunningham (proxy)
Georgia – Matt Thomas (proxy)	South Carolina – Ross L. Self
Kentucky – Ron Brooks	Tennessee – Frank Fiss
Louisiana – Ricky Moses	Texas – Craig Bonds

Guests:

Larry Bull, Jerry Brown, Devin Demario, Lynn Quattro, Bob Curry, David Cline, Allan Brown, Don Groom, Ryan Hamm, Stephanie Hussey, Joe Tomasso, Cova Arias, Ash Bullard, Jessica Graham, Jen Mock Schaeffer.

Scheduled Discussion Items:

Welcome and Introductions - R. Self

RBFF Update - S. Hussey

Updates were presented on RBFF's involvement in the 60 in 60 initiative, Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation initiative (R3) and the Vamos A Pescar Hispanic outreach initiative. Details were shared on the success Georgia has observed in R3 efforts with first time license buyers.

In-Service Training and Distance Learning Opportunities

Auburn University - Joe Tomasso and David Cline

The School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences has developed plans to offer to the Southeastern states in-service training opportunities for the State's fisheries staff. Auburn will serve as the facilitating institution and will call on expertise from across the region to meet

training needs. The University's David Cline will coordinate with the Fisheries Resources Committee to identified common needs across States and will coordinate development and scheduling of in-service courses. This developing staff training opportunity is the result of discussions that were initiated between the Fisheries Resources Committee and Auburn in 2014 and 2015.

Clemson University - Rick Kaminski

Clemson University has just approved an online non-thesis fisheries and wildlife master degree option. This on-line option will be available starting with the Fall semester, 2017. The degree will require 30 credit hours (15 required, 15 elective). It is estimated that the program will take 2-3 years to complete and the costs are estimated to be \$18,000 per year for SC residents and \$26,000 per year for non-residents.

Marine Counterpart Involvement - R. Self

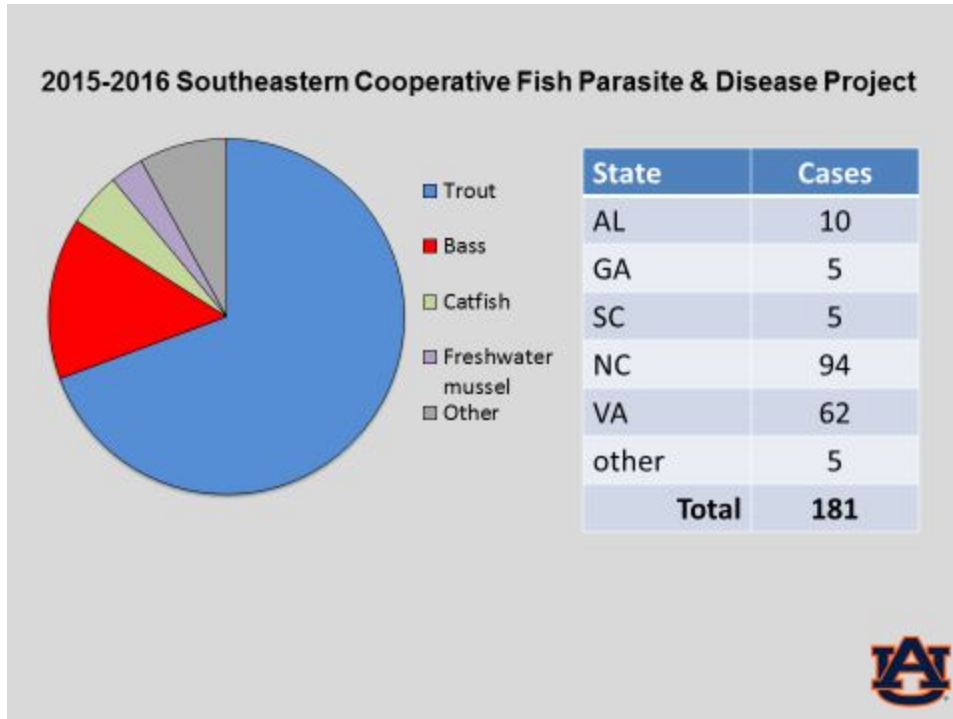
Discussed the desires of the Directors to have involvement of the marine resources management programs in the southeast with the Fisheries Resources Committee (FRC). Previous attempts to engage marine colleagues were unsuccessful. Ross Self and Larry Pugh will put together a subcommittee to make a new attempt to engage with the marine programs seeking their participation with the FRC.

Refreshment Break

SARP Update – J. Graham

Update focused primarily on SARP connectivity efforts and focused on enhancing the barrier database with more information on culverts, bridges and low water crossings. SARP is working to make available to State field staff an ARCGIS Online Collector App which could help fill in the data gaps in the barrier database. SARP is working in multiple states with American Rivers and in other states with The Nature Conservancy to establish connectivity teams. These teams meet via teleconference multiple times a year and an annual in person meeting and incorporate multiple sectors into state specific efforts targeting connectivity projects.

Update from Southeastern Cooperative Fish Parasite and Disease Project - Cova Arias  
During FY16 the Coop handled 181 fish health cases from member states.



A fish health workshop was conducted for Georgia. Coop personnel contributed to the ongoing revision to the AFS Bluebook, fish diagnostic protocols, The University provided some infrastructure enhancements which should allow the Coop to process certain diagnostic procedures (i.e. whirling disease) to be completed more rapidly and with lower costs. The Coop now has a licensed veterinarian on staff.

#### Whirling Disease Update – Group

North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee continue to monitor trout resources for evidence of whirling disease. To date whirling disease has not been detected in trout populations in Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee. Most South Carolina tests have been run by AFS Bluebook protocol. Tissue samples were retained and more sensitive PCR based diagnostics are pending. The Southeastern Cooperative Fish Parasite and Disease Project tested samples from the Chauga River in SC with the PCR protocol and the results were negative for whirling disease.

#### Industry Outreach – State Experiences

Georgia, Florida and South Carolina discussed their experiences in working with the American Sportfishing Association and participation in the ICAST tradeshow to conduct outreach to the sportfish products manufactures. The general goals of these efforts are to build relationships with industry based in those states and to share information on how the industries excise tax dollars are being used to conserve fishery resource, provide access opportunities and encourage participation in recreational fishing. ICAST offers a significant opportunity to interface with the sportfishing products industry and to initiate relationships with industry representatives and to learn more about the industry operating in specific states. Committee members were encouraged to consider engaging in similar outreach efforts.

## Committee Operational Structure - R. Self

The need to revise the Committee leadership sessional plan was briefly discussed. Additional discussion and decision making was deferred to a Committee conference call later in 2016.

Other Discussion Items: none

### Action Items and Recommendations:

1. Chair will schedule a conference call later in 2016 to discuss engaging with marine resources counterparts and to revise the committee's operational plan.
2. Chair will coordinate with David Cline from Auburn University to provide input from the committee in order to develop a list of in-service training priority needs for State fisheries resources personnel.

Committee Recommendation for Chair: Pending committee conference call.

Meeting adjourned 5:15pm

List of current committee members:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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Ross Self - SC -Chair	SelfR@dnr.sc.gov	803-734-3808
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Craig Bonds - TX	craig.bonds@tpwd.texas.gov	512-389-4643
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Larry Pugh - MS - Vice Chair	larry.pugh@mdwfp.state.ms.us	601-432-2205

List of interested participants:

Larry Bull, Jerry Brown, Devin Demario, Lynn Quattro, Bob Curry, David Cline, Allan Brown, Don Groom, Ryan Hamm, Stephanie Hussey, Joe Tomasso, Cova Arias, Ash Bullard, Jessica Graham, Jen Mock Schaeffer.

Active committee members:

All members are active through attendance, representation by proxy, or pre-meeting communications with Committee Chair. Efforts need to be made to engage with Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands.

Submitted by: Ross L. Self

