



Fisheries Resources Committee/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Coordination Meeting

Chairman Ross L. Self

Meeting of Sunday, October 16, 2016.

Baton Rouge, LA

Meeting convened at 9:00 am.

Chaired by Ross L. Self and Allan Brown

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

USFWS:

Dave Miko, Angie Rodgers, Allan Brown, Laurel Barnhill, Bob Curry

Scheduled Discussion Items:

Welcome/Call to Order – Ross L. Self & Allan Brown

SEAFWA Conference Overview – Ricky Moses

Fish & Aquatic Conservation Program Update - Dave Miko – USFWS

Update was provide on USFWS Headquarters with new hires announced for Branch Chiefs in hatcheries, Nat Wilkey, and Communications, Linda Fryer. Eleven new species were added by rulemaking to the injurious species list. Interstate transport of nine constrictor snakes was proposed for restriction. This decision has been challenged in Court, oral arguments on the case were heard April 1st and a decision is pending. Decision could have significant impact on the application of the Lacey Act to interstate transport of fish and wildlife.

USFWS is working with industry to enhance programs working to limit the spread of injurious species.

Fish habitat partnerships are being asked to submit their data which will drive their rankings for funds allocations. There are no significant changes in the ranking system for FY17. There was

discussion of pending legislative actions that could lead to changes in the involvement of NFHAP Board in allocation decisions for available annual appropriations. This decision will have an impact on the Service's regional NFHAP coordinators. If funds are shifted to the NHAP Board the Service's coordinators with likely need to be assigned to other duties.

There are discussions and reviews underway looking toward drafting a national standard for aquatic resource friendly culverts.

The Service has been working with the Air Force under the Sikes Act to support resource management on Air Force properties. The Service is exploring expanding this activities with other military branches.

Regional FAC updates - Allan Brown - USFWS

Budgets

The Service is operating under a continuing resolution through December 7. The fisheries budget is good for now.

Funding Allocations COE/TVA/Appropriations

The National Fish Hatchery Program in on sound fiscal ground currently with the mitigation stocking reimbursements being made by the Corps of Engineers and TVA. The agreement with TVA is current through 2018 and a new agreement with the Corps is pending signatures.

Status of OTC to mark fish

FDA has new rules taking effect January 1, 2017 that will require veterinary prescriptions for drugs currently used to treat common fish diseases. This decision will affect the timeliness of treating disease outbreaks on hatcheries and will affect the use of oxytetracycline for batch marking of fishes.

MICRA/Asian Carp - Angela Rodgers LMFWCO

Black carp have been observed in a few locations in the Mississippi Drainage.

Due to the complexity and interjurisdictional nature of dealing with Asian carp expansion in the Mississippi Drainage there are discussions underway to explore the establishment of an Inland Fisheries Commission based on the existing Commission models.

There continues to be support of increased funding for Asian carp issues for areas both in the Great Lakes and outside of the Great Lakes. An acoustic receiver array is being established in the Mississippi drainage to aid in surveillance of Asian carp expansion in the system.

There is a cooperative multistate Carp Blitz being planned that will bring together commercial, recreational and Agency personnel to remove carp from the regions of the drainage. This effort will provide information on abundance and will aid in the efforts to track population expansion.

Cormorant Rulings Q&A's - Laurel Barnhill - USFWS

The depredation order for cormorants was vacated by the Court due to inadequacies identified in the NEPA review process on which it was based. As a result, the Service no longer has the authority to issue permits for cormorant control. The Service is working actively on working through a new NEPA review for cormorant control but there is currently no estimate on when the process will be completed and permitting of control measures re-initiated.

Invasive Species Update – USFWS

Topic addressed during the MICRA/Asian Carp discussion

WSFR Update - Bob Curry - USFWS

The new Assistant Director for WSFR is Paul Rauch. WSFR headquarters staff is working to address communication within the program. Any requests for additional administrative funding have currently been put on hold until internal programmatic reviews are completed.

The Joint Task Force asked for clear vision for TRACS and the Wildlife Management Institute was task with a review of the program. Their report should be available shortly. A new version of TRACS should be released in late 2017 or early 2018.

A national federal aid coordinator meeting is being planned for 2018.

New guidance on license certification and boating access is forth coming

Quarterly HQ/Fish Chief Conference Calls - Dave Miko – USFWS

The Service intend to continue the quarterly conference calls with Fish Chiefs and any suggestions for discussion topic should be forwarded to Dave Miko.

Other Discussion Items: none

Action Items and Recommendations:

Allan Brown will forward to the Fisheries Resources Committee members the information he has available concerning the pending FDA rules impacting availability of therapeutics for the treatment of fish disease and the batch marking fishes.

Committee Recommendation for Chair: n/a

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 am

List of current committee members and contact information:

Member	Email	Phone
Brian Canaday - MO	Brian.Canaday@mdc.mo.gov	573-522-4115 x3174
Christian Waters - NC	christian.waters@ncwildlife.org	919-707-0223
Barry Bolton - OK	barry.bolton@odwc.ok.gov	405-521-3721
Ross Self - SC -Chair	SelfR@dnr.sc.gov	803-734-3808
Frank Fiss - TN	frank.fiss@tn.gov	615-781-6519
Craig Bonds - TX	craig.bonds@tpwd.texas.gov	512-389-4643
Michael Bednarski - VA	mike.bednarski@dgif.virginia.gov	804-367-6878
Bret Preston - WV	bret.a.preston@wv.gov	304-558-2771
Ricky Moses - LA	rmoses@wlf.la.gov	225-765-2331
Chris Racey - AR	chris.racey@agfc.ar.gov	501-978-7336
Tom Champeau - FL	Tom.Champeau@MyFWC.com	850.617.9561
John Biagi - GA	John.Biagi@dnr.ga.gov	770-918-6406
Ron Brooks - KY	ron.brooks@ky.gov	502-564-3400
Nick Nichols - AL	nick.nichols@dcnr.alabama.gov	334-242-3471
Larry Pugh - MS - Vice Chair	larry.pugh@mdwfp.state.ms.us	601-432-2205

List of interested participants:

Larry Bull, Jerry Brown, Lynn Quattro, Don Groom, Ryan Hamm, Jessica Graham, Patricia Allen, Devin Demario

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