

BIRD AND FISH RELATED CONFLICT WORKING GROUP

Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee Co-Chair: Craig Bonds (Texas)
Vice Co-Chair: Jim Fredericks (Idaho)

Bird Conservation Committee Co-Chair: David Cobb (North Carolina)
Vice Co-Chair: Scott Anderson (North Carolina)

Date: September 10, 2020
Time: 10AM – 12PM CDT

110th Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting
Virtual

DRAFT Agenda

10:00	Call to Order/Review Agenda
10:05	Introductions
10:15	Review Working Group Charge
10:20	Review Working Group Accomplishments from 2019 and 2020 Work Plans
10:30	Discussion on Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future of Working Group• Determining Charge Accomplishment
11:30	Discussion on 2021 Foci and Work Plan
11:55	Wrap-up Discussion
12:00	Adjourn

Attendees

Will get full list from Jen Shaeffer (28 folks)

- Craig Bonds
- David Cobb
- Jim Fredericks
- Scott Anderson

Leadership Pre-Discussion

- What next? How do we determine whether we've accomplished our charge?
- Leave a playbook behind?
- Steps towards AFWA meeting
 - Review documents
 - [Follow-up Action Items from Boise Meeting](#)
 - [Boise Meeting Notes/Actions](#)
 - [2020 Workplan](#)
 - [Notes from first BMP meeting here](#), [second meeting here](#)

- Add inter- and intra-agency communication and conflict resolution (internal and external).
- How to incorporate current efforts to bigger document?
- Recommendations for maintaining the functionality of the group?
- Where did this group fall short?
 - No inclusion of all state interests? (Pacific Flyway example)
 - Opinion: Flyways/states should feel free to have different opinions...
- What are the other national issues?
 - AMWP
 - CATE
 - NTCO

Call to Order/Review Agenda

[Agenda Link](#)

DCCO Review

Lesley Kordella

- List of conflict categories
 - No longer “free-swimming fish” -> “wild and publicly stocked”
- Conflicts not felt uniformly across the country
 - Privately-owned ponds -> Great Lakes
- 2019 - increased authorized take
 - 51,571 -> 74,396
- Fall 2020 - USFWS prepares final EIS and makes decision on management
 - Currently reviewing over 1,000 complex comments
 - OMB review is unpredictable
- How will we monitor nationally?
 - Role for this WG?
 - How does this get paid for? SportFish or PR? <-recommendation to go into playbook?
- David Hanni - monitoring
 - Coordinating CWB monitoring across the Flyways.
 - Ken R. - yep, will need to dig into this.
- David Cobb - robust discussion on integration SC under NAWMP in changes in monitoring
 - Opportunity to pull these conversations together
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Review Working Group Charge

Review Working Group Accomplishments from 2019 and 2020 Work Plans

- [Reviewed this document](#) - accomplishments, set stage for next steps
- Cobb: Develop an approach that allows for same kind of collaboration 5, 10, 15 years from now
 - How to describe this group's work.
- Ken: can possibly be a version of the
- How to carry on this relationship, multi discipline work?
 - Ken: Example - conflict-resolution paper
 - Perhaps leave roadmap for the next issue??
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Discussion on Next Steps

Future of Working Group

Determining Charge Accomplishment

Invitation for Open Comments

- Improvements?
- Nationwide Fish Chiefs have conference calls together - Wildlife Chiefs beginning to host calls also
 - Opportunity for us to engage in those discussion.
 - Jen and David Lind host these, happy to provide coordination
 - Tend to be back-to-back.

- Jen Mock-Shaeffer - arranging Bear management calls - some challenges with this management - conflict issue here with different dynamics
 - Craig: How different/similar are we from this committee?
 - Short on experience here - need deeper dive to answer
- Ken Richkus - AFWA/NA is the main meeting venue for these meetings, difficult for USFWS (in normal times)
 - Wish we could bring more to bear on this...
 - Lots of folks behind the scenes - opportunity for smaller group participation - smaller meetings are often easier
- Craig: where is the best entry point for private pond owners
 - Ken: NEPA public comment periods
 - Involved through flyways, individual state agencies
 - FACA rules
 - Cobb: agree, NGOs, state agencies
 - NGOs also come to Flyway Council meetings
- Steve - APHIS
 - John McConnell (NC) is the expert for DCCO
 - Vote for seeing it continue in some form.
 - Lesley - ensure consistent messaging - central connection with
 - Value in keeping the network connected.

Briefing Paper

- Comments on future DCCO rule making
- Briefing Paper Parameters
 - Audience change?
 - Directors
 - BCC/FWC leadership/committees?
 - Keep it focused - State Directors are a specific audience, requiring a considered approach.
 - Started with recognition of the number of new directors across the nation.
 - What is the desired outcome?
 - Note: Flyway representation has shifted away from Directors.
 - Director tenure tends to be short; possible need to re-address with "churn"; can shore up long-term effects by targeting lower down the org chart.
 - Option: Broader playbook to State Chiefs, but with focus on Directors in an Executive Summary.
- Lesley - need to continue to stay connected - how is implementation going?
 - Regional differences in implementation from final DCCO rule.
 - Being able to have a forum where frank, candid discussion can happen!
 - Understanding different state needs and changing... Connections and structure.
- Outreach
 - What is this groups role coordinating with Ontario and their "open season" on DCCO.
 - Comment: Outreach Efforts?? I'm thinking of this from a media standpoint - helping to get information on this topic out to anglers.... How are this group and the AFWA state agencies coordinating with Ontario and their "open season" on cormorants (that starts in 5 days)? Does what they are doing influence this group and its recommendations to Directors and FWS? U.S. anglers are eager to follow that plan! How can we help provide information updates/progress reports to constituents?
 - Lesley - will be addressing the why/why not of hunting will be addressed in the final DCCO rule
 - Beyond the scope of this group?
 - Discussed during formation - rejected at that point.
 - Decided to stay focused on technical issues.
 - Gary - there also mechanisms for providing feedback to Ontario in other venues (fish agreements).

Future meeting?

Discussion on 2021 Foci and Work Plan

- Any review/comment final DCCO rule
- Continue engagement with DCCO rule implementation - forum
 - Capture feedback on how the final rule is working for different states/situations

- Consider shifting focus to other avian species that aren't as cosmopolitan.
- Participation in USFWS efforts to evaluate and define monitoring protocols.
- Develop a briefing paper of best practices and case studies (see notes above)
- 2021 in-person workshop (Amy)
 - Broader audience than workgroup
 - Avoid hurricanes
 - Separate from AFWA/SEAFWA/North American to encourage USFWS participation
 - Consider factors that enable greatest participation from a diversity of interests
 - Consider summer - with enough lead time to complete any work for AFWA.
- Future in-person meeting (Gary)
 - Planning next year, target 2022
 - Keep considering

Wrap-up Discussion

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