



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

FISHERIES AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY

Chair: J.D. Strong (OK)

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Tuesday, September 24th, 2019

1:00 pm –5:00 pm

Minnesota West Ballroom

109th Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting

InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel

Saint Paul, MN

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- 1:00 pm Call to Order/Introductions/Review Agenda – *J.D. Strong, OK*
- *Action: Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda/March 2019 minutes*
 - Minutes approved
- 1:10 Subcommittee and Working Group Reports
- Subcommittee on Water – *Jason Olive, AR/ Jon Sjöberg, NV*
 - Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Survey
 - Many agencies do not know about the Act
 - Inconsistencies in use across the country
 - Working to address issues
 - Section 401 – Proposal for AFWA prepare comment letter on the Section 401 changes and explore signing on to other efforts on issue – Motion along those lines - Approved
 - Drafting paper developed
 - Legal Committee is also examining court cases around Section 401
 - FY2020 WRDA Bill – Comments by the end of the month
 - Quarterly conferences noted and invited Committee attendees
 - Drug Approval Working Group – *Alan Johnson, IA/ Kevin Kwak, CA*
 - Priority drug list – 16 on list – Changes in formalin and peroxide
 - Survey sent out to assist in examining list
 - Added drugs – Esterdiol and Common Carp Pituitary
 - MOA – Final draft reviewed and will finalize for signatory directors (AFWA, USGS, USFWS, NOAA)
 - Aquatic Drug Coalition – Improve approval process
 - FDA letter will ask for improvements and will request a meeting on issue
 - Quarterly calls will be conducted ASAP and will examine science to improve process along with MUMS

- Bird & Fish Related Conflict Working Group – *Craig Bonds, TX/ Jim Fredericks, ID*
 - Written report done
 - No specific actions
 - Joint working group between this committee and bird conservation committee
 - Four activities
 - Finalized focus areas and goals
 - Communication
 - Science needed for issue
 - Recommendations
 - Invited to USFWS Cormorant Core Team meeting – Provided input from state perspective – Letter provided on USFWS assistance to workgroup
 - Two-day meeting in July
 - Needs and challenges on core areas and goals
 - Working group deliverables
 - Other opportunities to communicate – Special Symposium in Reno (Oct 1) – 11 presentations and panel session
 - Oct 3 – A Great Lakes focused symposium
 - Letters – Conduit for AFWA comments on rule making, Coordination on intra-agency communication
 - USFWS Actions
 - 4-5 actions given to USFWS leadership and updates given up to the Secretary's office (Thursday)
 - Additional would be flexible, likely on aquaculture and wild fish

2:00

American Fisheries Society – *Doug Austen, AFS*

- Update on Standard Sampling book proposal and Grey Literature clearinghouse proposal
 - MSGP
 - Standardized sampling underway and chapters moving along – Scott Bonar will be here in the spring
 - Grey Literature Clearinghouse – Reference service similarity
 - Improve communication
 - Should be ready end of year
 - Four this year
 - Updating Bluebook on fish health
 - State employees are plugged into process
 - Ad hoc group reviewing gaps and expect a call for state input into writing team
 - Standardized sampling
 - Research BMP on priorities, current research and workshops using external info sources too
 - Current research database
- Books
 - New Books – Trout and Char of the World
 - Looking for more
 - New marketing
 - Many are e-books
 - How to get them out better – Subscriptions to all books – IA, ID and TX testing
 - Looking for more cooperators
- Partners
 - Expand voice

- CASS (Consortium of Aquatic Science Societies) – Eight entities on aquatic sciences
 - Joint meeting June/May 2022 in Grand Rapids, MI
- 150th Anniversary AFS Meeting
 - Units developing materials/exhibits
 - Mississippi/Yangtze River symposium – International big rivers meeting there too
- Hutton Program
 - TX model mentioned – Using a grant to support
 - Six-week work period and bring them together in one place (VTU) for a week
- AFS/TWS 2019 Reno
 - 4000 attendees
 - 3000 presentations and hundreds of symposia
 - Video on Monday – Issues by state
 - NFHP Film Festival

2:15 AFWA Government Affairs Update – *Devin DeMario, AFWA*

- Legislative summary handout
- RAWA – House bill and changed prime sponsors (Fortenberry) – House Natural Resources Committee HR3742
 - New tribal title and not under PR/DJ - BIA
 - General fund is now revenue source instead of energy funds
 - Added pathogens as an eligible area
 - 10% to competitive grants to support technologies for SGCN
 - 116 cosponsors and likely subcommittee hearing soon
 - No Senate bill yet but likely pending
 - Toolkit available
- Appropriations
 - CR likely – House passed bills and Senate is meeting now on Interior et al bill
- WRDA pending
 - Directs USACOE operations and has a lot of natural resources items in it
 - Requests to Devin by September 30
- Surface Transportation Bill
 - Infrastructure is not in it
 - DJ reauthorization – Angling and Boating Coalition language will be included
 - Connectivity is another key piece and webinar pending
- AFWA comments on CWA WOTUS
 - Repealed 2015 WOTUS rule – 2007/8 Guidance document in place
 - Developing new rule

2:30 Presentation on MICRA Fisheries Commission Concept – *Brian Canaday, MO*

- Patch work of states
- Currently independent management
- Considering an Inland Fishery Commission with federal funding
- 1989 support
- Successes
 - Focus areas
 - Mussels
 - Habitat
 - AIS
 - STN and Paddlefish

- Getting about \$3-8 million annually
- Why
 - Provide for long-term consistent funding for fisheries and access
 - GLFC model is closest fit
 - SEL was formed
 - IJ fisheries management
 - 6 sub-basins
 - Joint Strategic Plan
 - Formal commitment
 - Non-regulatory and non-binding
 - Consensus based
 - Key to have the plan
- Changes
 - Formalize commitment
 - Federal recognition – Economic and social value, investment mgt need, cooperative mgt
- Benefits
 - More effective fish mgt
 - AIS management improvement
- Next
 - Finalizing plan
 - Fish Chief briefing on concept with all agencies – Looking for feedback
- Example – Brad Parsons MN
 - High flows caused many AIS moved north
 - Acoustic array – Silver Carp from Pool 16 along with 3 Paddlefish – Silver Carp now in WI River
 - Currently on soft funds and need a stronger funding source
- Tribes would be included

2:45 CO₂ Piscicide Registration – *Mark Gaikowski, USGS*

- Advantages
 - Rotenone is the only piscicide
 - Can be a good barrier
 - Easy to obtain
 - Inexpensive and low health risk
- Non-selective
- Need larger scale technical infrastructure
- Will need state permitting
- Feasibility study on Fox River being done
- Cost estimates available from Mark
- Other uses
 - Dreissenid mussels
 - Red Swamp Crayfish
- Examining non-target mortality
- Carp Label – April 2019
 - Asian Carp deterrence
 - Under ice lethal control for aquatic nuisance species
 - Restricted to USGS, USFWS, USACOE and state agencies
- Web enabling reporting system similar to INAD reporting
- USGS would act like a the INAD agent and USFWS is the registered agent
- USFWS developing SOPs for labels in 2021

- Must have state registration before label use
- Antimycin registration is also moving forward using same process as CO2
 - Aerial delivery discussed for rotenone and eventually for antimycin on a label expansion
 - Looking for supply sources at this time
- Mark needs an estimate for rotenone on a per acre foot basin

3:00 Health Break

3:10 USFS Update –*Chris Worth, USFS*

- RBFF - Showed banners for state fishing licenses at USFS stations
- National Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment
 - 5000 taxa on lands
 - Ecotrust – Building a national database that is nationally available to evaluate where opportunities exist
 - NatureServe data
 - NFHP database
 - TU Trout Assessment
 - BISON data system
- Shared stewardship strategy
 - How to align forests in each state with governor’s priorities
 - Governors and USFS Regional Foresters – MOU between them on priorities
 - Six to date with NC, NM (Nov)
 - NC includes fish and wildlife priorities
 - State sets priorities
 - CA – Watershed protection priority – Potable water
 - Align USFS broadly with state goals
 - Good Neighbor Authority would be included
 - Increase tools available for cooperative efforts with a reduction in paperwork
- R3 Initiatives
 - Mostly on the fisheries side

3:25 FWS FAC Update – *David Hoskins, FWS*

- Handout provided
- AIS
 - 44 plans approved – 43 funding requested - \$42-44K
 - Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers website to allow materials to be shared and customized
 - Joint MOU under development to strengthen invasive species prevention
 - Risk Screening summaries characterize risk – 1140 available – relative risk guide
- Hatcheries
 - \$ 1 million for system wide needs – Genetic mgt plans, new database and lab data system
 - Modernization evaluations at 5 national fish hatcheries
 - Engineering tech support improved – In house into Refuges
 - 70 hatcheries, production nationwide
 - Released 109M fish and distributed more than 79M eggs in FY18 – WAE, CHS, AME, RBT, Steelhead lead the numbers
- Habitat
 - Sikes Act with USAF - \$33 million support provided
 - Service liaison with Army
 - NFHP funding stable with op support increased to \$85K to all partnerships
 - Board scored partnership project submissions and scores considered

- Reduced to 1/3 USFWS to 2/3 Board from 50:50
 - Funds are at regions – 18 of 20 get project funding
 - Bloede Dam removed by Fish Passage Program (\$14 million annually) with MD DNR and DOT
 - AADAP
 - FDA approved LHRHa spawning aid for immediate release
 - OTC 200 study report submitted and will approve for all species for columaris
 - DAWG needs survey to prioritize future work
 - Facilities needed to conduct labeled claims – Romet, OTC 200, Chlormine T – F hydrophilia and Edwardsia and Columaris
 - Filled 2 positions and term INAD position
 - President’s Budget shows reduction to \$800K
 - Communications and Partnerships
 - SFBPC elected new leadership and members of committee
 - Recs on Clean Vessel Act, streamlining boating and fishing access, and needed fix to website
 - RBFF website link to licenses
 - R3 Plan in progress at Regions and will be shared with the Committee
 - 15 hatcheries opened to fishing along with more coming
 - Refuges have not started discussions and managed separately from rest of Fisheries program
 - Budget
 - Hatcheries - \$59K
 - Maintenance and Equipment - \$22K
 - Habitat – Assessment - \$31K and Pop Assessment and Mgt - \$30M
 - AIS - \$22M – 50% Asian Carp
 - Total - \$167M
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- 3:40 USGS Update – *Camille Hopkins, USGS*
- Reorganizing AIS and pathogens programs
 - Bio surveillance and consequence mgt
 - Mass Mortality
 - Boise – PKD workshop held
 - Goal was to get all up to date on state of science
 - Needs identified
 - Bryozoan host
 - Vaccine
 - Host
 - Surveillance underway – eDNA and new lab tools developed
 - Map hotspots for risk assessment
 - Environmental conditions link
 - Mussels
 - Clinch River, Huron River (MI), IA – Next generation techs
 - Symposium on mussel/shellfish health at AFS-TWS next week (Oct 1)
 - Bluebook discussion at end
 - Webinar on mussel project will be setup this fall (Nov)
 - Aquatic Animal Health Workgroup Meeting
 - Matt Nichol chaired on initial meeting
 - 8 state agencies and USGS, USFWS and USFS at initial meeting
- 3:55 BLM Update – *David Hu, BLM*
- Reorganization underway with Grand Junction (Management)

- Rest of staff to state offices
- Split up agency into new sections
- Flat budget
 - Hydrologists and Fish Biologists (60 now) being reduced overtime
 - Capacity in decline
- Sportfishing is a key area and enhancing existing access
- AIS another key area – Lower CO River is getting \$1 million for zebra mussel work
- Family based fishing – R3 plan also includes resources
 - Supporting state agencies
 - Fishing for Veterans – Looking for input
- Asking for assistance on how they should do work into the future on aquatic habitat management
- 4:10 EPA Office of Research & Development – *Bill Fisher - Monica Linnenbrink, EPA*
- Same presentation as in other committee updates
- eDNA question
 - Methodology is changing – Is there collaboration between agencies – Not directly.
 - Maybe a need for federal fisheries summit
 - Government eDNA workgroup does do collection with a workshop in FL – ACOE, USFS, USFWS, USGS
 - Loop in states in eDNA work as we have much to offer
- Monitoring HAB database is available
- 4:25 Additional Federal Agency Updates
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- 4:30 National Fish Habitat Action Plan Updates – *IDGF Director, Ed Schriever/Ryan Roberts, AFWA*
- PPT
- 4:45 AFWA 2020 Strategic Plan Discussion – *J.D Strong, OK- Tabled*

Questions to Consider:

- #1 - *What strategic objective, that is related to this committee's work, would you like to see in AFWA's next strategic plan?*
- #2 – *How would you like to see the work of this committee reflected in the next Strategic Plan? What would you change from the current plan?*

Note: AFWA's current strategic plan is available at this [LINK](#)

- 4:50 Committee Workplan – *Devin DeMario, AFWA*
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- Review plan from Devin and provide comments/thoughts to Devin.
 - Let Devin know if you are willing to assist on workplan and new NCN for 2021.
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4:55 Identify Follow-up Issues and Next Steps - *J.D. Strong, OK*

5:00 Wrap-up/adjourn – *J.D. Strong, OK*

Committee Charge:

Discuss, develop and recommend Association positions related to:

- *Federal laws, regulations and policies concerning water uses, aquatic habitat conservation, fisheries resources and related funding for such programs.*

- *Fisheries management practices and emerging issues (e.g. climate change) for both freshwater and marine resources.*

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

- *Drug Approval Working group*
 - *Subcommittee on Water*
 - *Bird & Fish Related Conflict Working Group*
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