

Bird- and Fish-related conflict working group

Bird Conservation Committee Co-Chair: David Cobb (NC)

Vice Co-Chair: Scott Anderson (NC)

Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee Co-Chair: Craig Bonds (TX)

Vice Co-Chair: Jim Fredericks (ID)

Date: Sunday, September 22, 2019

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

109th Annual AFWA Meeting

Room: TBD/InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel

Saint Paul, MN

DRAFT Agenda

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 10:00 am | Call to Order/Review Agenda |
| 10:05 | Introductions |
| 10:10 | Brief Review of Working Group Charge |
| 10:15 | Recap of Summer Working Group Meeting (Boise, ID – July 23-24) |
| 10:50 | Review of Action Items from Summer Working Group Meeting |
| 11:30 | Discussion and Identification of Action Items Related to AFS-TWS Special Symposium |
| 11:50 | Wrap-up Discussion |
| 12:00 pm | Adjourn |

Notes

Call to Order/Review Agenda

Introductions

Brief Review of Working Group Charge

Discussion and Identification of Action Items Related to AFS-TWS Special Symposium

- DCCO Symposium
 - EA completed for Depredation Permits
 - Summary of national/regional meetings to now
 - Leech Lake data from MI, Oneida Lake
 - What does managing cormorants help with co-nesting species
 - Panel discussion (Brian Dorr)
 - All Day Session Thursday
- BF Conflict
 - MBTA 101
 - Species Conflict Framework
 - Managing AMWP
- USFWS funding a post-doc
 - Multi-state conservation grant program
 - Inform management primarily focused on Great Lakes, but

Laurel transitioned to chief of staff for R4 Director

Gary Whalen not present - will follow up with him to make sure last minute items taken care of.

USFWS DCCO Group Meeting

- After meeting group met to flesh out alternatives
- Briefings of DOI leadership, but no decision as of yet.
- No commitment for a decision timeline

Recap of Summer Working Group Meeting (Boise, ID – July 23-24)

Nov. 1 touch back to see action from this work.

1. Develop best practices for constructively engaging bird and fisheries management disciplines within and among state and federal fish and wildlife agencies on issues surrounding the management of bird and fisheries resource related conflicts;
 - a. Identify opportunities to establish and improve efficient and effective communication within and between state and federal agencies regarding management challenges surrounding piscivorous birds and fish;
 - i. Relevancy Roadmap: Final document will be acted on here for approval - will be available after that. Effort led by Mark Humpert.
 - ii. Take home: Formal intra-agency team; develop recommendations/implementation plan.
 1. No progress yet
 2. Tom: also relevant for the USFWS - not structured and more *ad hoc*
 3. Include USFWS service reps.
 4. Laurel still be on this group?
 - iii. Take home: Team considered long-term integration across agencies and disciplines, a number of ideas were considered
 1. Flyways meet at the North American...

2. Flyways sometimes provide travel support (20-30 trips/year)
 3. AFWA webinar opportunities
 4. Other suggestions for a structure.
 5. Webinar vs. Standalone
 - a. Webinar -> outreach
 - b. In -person -> problem work
 6. USFWS plan for disseminating DCCO info?
 - a. Not yet.
 - b. This group should be prepared to respond.
 7. Is Flyway representation here adequate?
 - a. Was there a formal request to the Central Flyway? I don't think so.
 - b. ACTION: clarify who flyway reps are, keep track of attendance.
 - i. MAKE SURE WE HAVE A CENTRAL FLYWAY REP
 - c. Discussion of the Flyway structure
 8. Add SC to possibilities for meeting - tackle the issue there.
- iv. Product: Glossary of bird and fish management terms
 1. No updates
 - b. Evaluate current processes for stakeholder input, within the purview of the group, to enhance the public input process related to bird- and fish-related conflicts.
 - i. Letter drafted to USFWS and sent
 - c. Develop a common understanding of population goals for priority birds and fish and how those goals are established.
 - i. "Not setting a population goal is a value" - Jim Fredericks
 1. [biggest dichotomy here is game vs. non-game, bird constituency less palatable to set a ceiling - what is the message to hold to? Trying to balance species populations = problem (tipping balance to keep recreation)]
 - ii. MS Flyway working on single place for storage and methodology for surveys for DCCO (Hanni)
 1. Working to get data from all Flyways collected and submitted consistently
 2. Trying to align survey years
 - iii. Compile USFWS feedback data - no action yet.
2. Develop science assessment and needs regarding impacts of bird predation on fisheries resources and priority fish populations;
 - a. Prioritize list of piscivorous birds of concern and review population characteristics and trends.
 - i. No action
 - b. Prioritize list of vulnerable fisheries resources and fisheries of concern by category, and, where possible, describe population characteristics and trends.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f. Develop a classification system to categorize evaluations of avian predation impacts by level of scientific credibility (i.e., tiered system ranging from anecdotal observations to peer-reviewed literature).
 - i. Tom (USFWS) offered to also use information/data submitted from DCCO stakeholder process

Review of Action Items from Summer Working Group Meeting

Activities and Objectives for Next Year

Workplan due to AFWA leadership by November

- Sean to draft a letter to National Flyway Council -

- Joint letter including directors highlighting the importance of intra-agency communication/collaboration
- Sean (boss of secretary of the NFC)
 - Scott
- Draft to be written in two weeks ()
- Intra-agency collaboration action item addresses representation on Flyway
- 26 new directors in 20 months
 - Flagging this conversation - report out to directors, we're working on this, this is the collaboration that needs to take place (the intra-agency)
- Population goals milestones
 - List of species - what do we know? What are the uncertainties?
 - 3-4 primary species
 - Data collection coordination piece, mention the current work!
 - Iron out in a conference call...

Discussion and Identification of Action Items Related to AFS-TWS Special Symposium

Wrap-up Discussion

Things to do:

- Draft actions from today's discussion and the July meeting into actions for next year
- Flyways
 - Devin concerned that Flyways are major driver? Confirm this is not the case.
 - Letter to National Flyway Council, Directors, Wildlife and Fish Chiefs will be drafted by Sean, and reviewed by BFRCWG. It will outline our efforts to outline areas that can help address bird/fish issues:
 -
 - cooperation/collaboration/coordination between Agency fish and bird biologists on Bird/Fish issues - recommendations on how to accomplish properly. Recs for productive conversations
 - Fish representation at Flyway non-game tech sections
 - Develop metrics to measure our progress
 - Survey? How many folks are already collaborating. Is it working? Have you implemented our recommendations? Not? Why/why not?