

Missouri Chapter American Fisheries Society

Minutes of March 30, 1992 Planning Meeting

Norm Stucky introduced his revised agenda, asked for additional agenda items and asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

Attendees: Norm Stucky, Donna Menown, Dave Galat, Gary Novinger, Phil Pitts, Phil Jeffries, Mark Stoner, Mark Haas, Gordon Farabee, Ron Dent, Doug Noltie, Joe Hunn, Joe Dillard, Bob DiStefano, Jeff Koppelman, Mike Roell

Culling Issue: Gary Novinger explained the request of professional bass tournament anglers for an exception to the current laws that prevent the release of a fish once it is reduced to "possession" in a livewell. Such an exemption would allow tournament anglers to release a bass from their livewell if another, larger one is caught and they already possess the legal limit of bass. Such "culling" of the catch enables the tournament angler to bring a limit of the very largest bass they catch to the weigh-in site. Gary explained that the revision in the rules was offered by Assistant Department of Conservation Director, Ken Babcock, and supported by Fisheries Division Chief, Jim Fry, who cited the past support of tournament anglers to Department of Conservation programs as a reason for supporting the change. Tournament anglers reportedly stated that many large bass tournaments would no longer be held in Missouri unless the rule was changed, which would represent a substantial economic loss to the state. Mr. Babcock reportedly recommended to the Department of Conservation Regulations Committee that bass tournament anglers, be allowed to release bass from livewells during a fishing tournament. Kevin Richards was appointed to write a definition of what a suitable livewell would be. Much discussion followed regarding livewell design, survival of fish held in livewells, and how to define a "suitable" livewell. In the end, Norm Stucky asked Jeff Koppelman to prepare a paragraph outlining our concerns about the rule change and summarize some of the literature Jeff had reviewed on the subject of mortality of bass released from livewells.

Future Chapter Involvement In FFA: The Missouri Chapter has been exhibiting at the FFA Career show since 1966, sharing space with the Wildlife Society. In the past, yearly costs (\$200) rotated between the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, The Wildlife Society and the Missouri Department of Conservation. However, The Wildlife Society will no longer participate in the show. Phil was concerned that the career show display gave more publicity to the Department of Conservation than to the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and the Department's presence in the display has been reduced. Norm suggested contacting Human Resources to see if they would share costs with the Missouri Chapter AFS. Norm will also check with the North

Central Division and the Parent Society of AFS to see if they would be interested in a cost-share agreement with the Missouri Chapter. There was general agreement that this was a useful endeavor for the Chapter.

Student Support Trust Fund: Norm described his interest in seeing the Chapter establish a \$10,000 trust fund, the proceeds of which would go towards helping students. Proceeds would be used according to plans developed by Doug Noltie's Student Support Committee. Doug described his experiences with similar fund raising for student support in Ontario. Ron Dent made a motion to approve the concept and Donna Menown provided a second. The motion passed by consensus.

Soil and Water Conservation Society: Reggie Bennett described the Soil and Water Conservation Society's interest in becoming a co-sponsor for the Forest Fish and Wildlife Conference and his efforts to ask each of the current sponsoring societies for permission. Dave Galat expressed some concerns about adding another large group to the conference, making it too large for most meeting facilities. Also, adding another co-sponsor would require that each society appoint representatives who could serve a four-year term on the conference planning committee instead of the current three years. Joe Dillard made a motion to accept the SWCS on a contributing basis for at least one year (i.e. workshop sponsor, etc.). Dave Galat provided a second and the motion passed by consensus. Norm agreed to send a letter to the SWCS inviting them to be a part of the conference on a contributing basis.

Membership: Norm expressed concerns that culturists (from both the public and private sector) were not participating in the AFS. Phil Pitts stated that only 3 of the 56 Missouri Department of Conservation fish culturists were AFS members. Dave Galat described the concerns of one private aquaculturist who felt that the AFS was not responsive to the concerns of culturists and, occasionally, was working against their interests. Much discussion centered around the divergence in interests between fish culturists and managers/researchers and therefore this issue was dropped as a Chapter concern.

Membership in Missouri Conservation Federation: Norm recommended that rather than the Chapter joining the Missouri Conservation Federation, that we should encourage our members to join the Federation as private citizens. A statement in the Chapter newsletter would be an appropriate way to encourage members to join as individuals.

Chapter Long-Range Plan: Mike Roell described comments received on the second draft of the plan and projected a revised plan would be delivered to the EXCOM by mid-May. He requested all

final comments by mid-June so that the final plan could be published in the August newsletter.

Status of Procedural or Operational Manual: Norm Stucky reported that Steve Weithman was nearing completion of this manual.

Fund Raising: Gordon Farabee reported on plans to develop a stream management workshop in conjunction with Steve Gough. He also reported on an EPA grant of \$25,000 that could be used to develop a stream habitat improvement manual for stream teams. He also reported that a supply of 500 new bumper stickers with the message "Our Streams are Going Downhill" were available. Norm Stucky (with help from Dave Galat) will continue his fund raising projects from last year including a Chapter-sponsored catfish tournament and soliciting contributions directly from anglers.

Recipient of Disabled Angler Equipment: Greg Stoner reported on efforts to educate disabled anglers about the availability of this equipment by advertising in the magazine, Disabled Outdoors and in other areas. Steve Eder was contacting outdoor magazines (Field and Stream, etc.). The possibility of a disabled angler portion of a Chapter-sponsored catfish tournament was discussed.

Display for Chapter Awards/Update on recording History: Joe Dillard reported that he planned to first compile the Chapter's history, and then archive the records at the Missouri Historical Society. A home for the Chapter's awards is still being sought.

Potential Environmental Concerns: Joe Hunn provided a list of potential environmental concerns to be addressed by the Chapter. The list included coal and lead mining, chlordane contamination, development of a spill response team by DNR, paper processing contaminants, endangered and threatened fishes and the effects of non-point pollution from agricultural practices.

Miscellaneous:

-The Chapter decided not to have a booth at the Missouri Academy of Sciences meeting in Rolla, April 24-25, 1992.

-The Chapter decided to address at a later date involvement in Stream Team Awards.

-The Chapter discussed hosting the 1996 Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, noting the size of the commitment and concerns about the Chapter assuming full responsibility without the support of the Missouri Department of Conservation.

-Norm agreed to write a letter in support of MICRA