

**SDAFS Small Impoundments Technical Committee
Conference Call
January 19, 2017**

Members/ Guest in attendance were:

- 1) Graves Lovell – Alabama DCNR – Chair
- 2) Greg Grimes – Aquatic Environmental Services
- 3) Brett Timmons – Arkansas GFC
- 4) Matt Catalano – Auburn University
- 5) Nick Phelps – Florida FWC
- 6) Dane Balsman – Kentucky DFWR
- 7) Jody David – Louisiana WLF
- 8) Daniel – Louisiana WLF
- 9) Keith Meals – Ole Miss
- 10) Keith Thomas – Oklahoma DWC
- 11) Hal Beard – South Carolina DNR
- 12) Mike Bramlett – Tennessee WRA
- 13) Steve Owens – Virginia DGIF
- 14) Brandon Keplinger – West Virginia DNR
- 15) Matt Marshall – Alabama DCNR (visitor)

INTRODUCTION – ROLE CALL

FINANCIAL REVIEW

- \$1,487.60 as of 1/15/16
- - \$200.00 donation to AFS KC annual meeting
- + \$164.55 Small Impoundment book royalty
- **\$1,452.15 as of 1/19/17**

OLD BUSINESS

- Small Impoundment Management in North America textbook
- Need to stimulate research on small impoundments

STATE UPDATES

- KY – Use of time lapse cameras to assess fishing pressure at small impoundments and determine bait type for sampling channel catfish with tandem hoop nets in small impoundments now that Boatcycle changed formula of cheese logs
- LA – Get Out and Fish, partnering to stock small impoundments 2 – 5 acres in cities with adult sized catfish and rainbow trout. Provide accessible fishing in cities with amenities. State stocks for one year then partner takes over stocking responsibilities.
- OK – Close to Home Fishing Program – 44 ponds, 306 acres, \$250,000 to improve facilities and make renovations. Shifting from put-grow-take to put-take fishery. Also making renovations to small state owned lakes by dewatering, deepening and adding habitat.

- SC – October 2015 historical floods overwhelmed small impoundments, many small impoundments took major hit, acquired equipment to do improvements at several lakes in need of repair.
- FL – Stocking multiple bluegill multiple years to reduce exotic species recruitment in several lakes

PRESENTATION - SHORELINE ROTENONE TREATMENT TO CONTROL LARGEMOUTH BASS RECRUITMENT IN SMALL IMPOUNDMENTS

- Need criteria for study lake candidates to disseminate to committee and private consultants for strengthen study for publication
- Develop methodology when future funding opportunities present themselves
- Partnership opportunities with Auburn University and private consultants to provide data

General protocol for shoreline rotenone treatment (Spring 17 – Spring 18)

Trip 1) Electrofish pond on a day in spring when good age distribution can be collected. Get TL and WT on all bass. Bass under 275mm should be kept for ageing, or frozen and sent to AU for ageing.

Trip 2) Once most YOY are expected to be 1-2 inches and on the bank, seine treatment pond in about 10 marked locations. Record all YOY bass in inch groups. Seine similar control pond immediately after in similar manner (approx. same time of day). Go back to treatment pond and apply rotenone around the entire margin (1 pint/100yds of shoreline).

Trip 3) Return following day to treatment pond the same time of day as before and seine the marked locations. Then immediately go seine the control pond. At some point, need to go around treatment pond and estimate mortality of adult fish.

Trip 4) Two weeks post-treatment, seine both treatment and control ponds the same time of day in marked locations. Apply the second treatment of rotenone in the same manner as the first.

Trip 5) Return following day to seine both ponds and assess mortality.

Trip 6) Two weeks following the 2nd treatment, seine both ponds.

Trip 7) Electrofish the following spring collecting the same data as before to assess relative abundance and size of age-1 bass.

Characteristics of a good treatment pond:

- 1) Treatment pond should be at least 5 acres.
- 2) Fish population must be primarily largemouth bass and bluegill (and/or shellcracker). Other species such as catfish might be OK if they are in small numbers and relatively stable recruitment.
- 3) Fish population should be at least 5 years old and must have an abundant bass population with relatively high recruitment.
- 4) Treatment pond should be relatively unmanaged for years – some management such as fertilization is OK as long as it has been consistent 2 years prior and during the experiment.
- 5) A marginal band of vegetation or other cover is OK. But, large amounts of cover far out from the shoreline could attract YOY LMB and confound results.

6) Obviously, a treatment pond with high flow where treated water would be leaving the pond is no good.

7) Treatment pond should have a control pond close by. Control pond doesn't have to be very similar, but needs to have similar species with YOY bass that can be seined.

FUTURE RESEARCH NEEDS

- Bass harvest at bass crowded lakes, what size and weights need to be harvested to have desired effects? Are old recommendations of 25/lbs. per acre still viable or do we need to adjust weights and size of harvested fish per acre? Harvest or lower recruitment is needed to have desired effect.
- Stocking of tiger musky as top level predator to reduce bass numbers in bass crowded lakes
- Does bass growth resume after stunting when forage becomes available? Yes, it appears to.
- Many trophy bass waters seem to have trout available as seasonal forage, possibility of stocking to increase maximum bass size in certain circumstances

ADJOURN