



American Fisheries Society

Southern Division

May 29, 1979

Alabama	Mississippi
Arkansas	N. Carolina
Florida	Oklahoma
Georgia	S. Carolina
Kentucky	Tennessee
Louisiana	Texas
Maryland	Virginia
West Indian Islands	

MEMO TO: Trout Committee members

Dan Catchings -AL
Bob Wollitz - VA
Don Phares -WV
Randy Geddings -SC
Bob Baker -AR
Rich Fatora -GA

Doug Peterson -TN
Kerry Prather -KY
Monte Seehorn -USFS
John Boaze -US F&WS
Tom Harshbarger -USFS

FROM: Bill Bonner, Chairman

SUBJECT: Spring meeting

Our annual spring meeting was held at Crossnore, N.C., as scheduled. The following members and guests attended: Monte Seehorn -USFS; Tom Harshbarger -USFS; John Boaze - US F&WS; Dan Catchings -AL; Rich Fatora -GA; Randy Geddings -SC; Bill Bonner -NC; Kerry Prather -KY; Doug Harned -TVA; Hal Boles -US F&WS; Bob Brown -NCWRC; Bud Ratledge -NCWRC.

One of the main topics discussed was our wild vs. domestic trout stocking project. From preliminary info., it appears that we had a very low survival rate (at one year) for the 2-inch wild and domestic brown trout, and conflicting results. For instance, North Carolina reported a survival rate of 1.9% for the wild strain in Paddy's Creek vs. 0.9% for the domestic strain; and 1.5% for the wild vs. 1% for the domestic strain in East Prong Roaring River. South Carolina, on the other hand, had a higher survival rate for the domestic strain in one of their streams. Kentucky had 0% survival for both strains in 3 of their streams. We don't have all the information in yet on the wild vs. domestic rainbow stockings, but North Carolina reported a survival rate (at one year) of 7% for the wild strain and 5% for the domestic in Honeycutt Cr., a lightly-fished stream; and 3% for the wild vs. 1% for the domestic in Curtis Cr., a heavily-fished stream. Following a discussion of the results, the Committee decided to continue the brown trout phase of the project using larger fish. We also decided to cut back on the scope of the operation---i.e., to stock only a few streams known to have suitable trout habitat. Barring some unforeseen catastrophe in the hatchery, North Carolina will try to provide the wild strain fish (developed from Southern Appalachian wild stock)---possibly as early as this fall. Most of the streams to be stocked initially probably will be on U.S. Forest Service land within the State of North Carolina, thus getting around political problems associated with transferring State fish to other agencies. However, anyone having a stream they would like considered for inclusion in the project should submit to me the name of the stream along with pertinent information such as length, width, average flow, species composition and standing crops, maximum summer water temperatures, and whether or not you have hatchery facilities for raising fingerlings to a larger size. All information still out on the initial wild rainbow and brown stockings should be sent to : Joseph R. Fatora, Dept. of Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division, Rt. 1, Clarkesville, Georgia 30523.

Briefly, let me mention some other points of interest brought out by those in attendance. Tom Harshbarger has been studying the trout spawning environment in the Southern Appalachians and has found, among other things, that salamanders are major predators on trout eggs. Monte Seehorn is planning a stream improvement workshop to be held in Asheville, N.C. in November. Monte also mentioned that problems with analkeesta (sp.?) formations (produces acid run-off) are still plaguing the Robbinsville-Tellico road project in the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests. Hal Boles said that lake trout are to be raised at Dale Hollow Federal Hatchery in Tennessee for the Great Lakes fishery. Doug Harned announced that TVA is trying to work out some type of minimum flow for tailwaters; and is planning to make a schedule of power releases available to fishermen. Both will be important developments if carried out. Rich Fatora said that several of Georgias' renovated brook trout streams are holding up well under angling pressure eventhough there is no size limit. Randy Geddings announced that South Carolina will stock steelhead in Lake Jocassee---they have had poor results with domestic rainbow stockings there. John Boaze expects catchable trout numbers to be reduced on the Cherokee Indian Reservation in the near future, but foresees little damage to their highly successful put-and-take program. Kerry Prather said that Kentucky had lost one of their major put-and-take fisheries when a reservoir had to be drained. Dan Catchings discussed some of the problems Alabama has had with trout stockings in marginal, spring-fed streams. I mentioned that North Carolina is studying an amphipod that may be of value as forage for trout and other fishes in deep, oligotrophic mountain reservoirs; and that our steelhead project has produced good spawning runs from at least one reservoir.

Well, it wasn't all work and no play. Despite continuous rain squalls followed by an arctic blast that produced temperatures in the 30's with blowing snow by the afternoon of May 25, a few brave souls tried their luck at trout fishing in the nearby Linville River. Although fish were few and far between, Kerry Prather, Dan Catchings, and Hal Boles at least can claim they weren't skunked. Not so, however, for our stalwart angler from Atlanta, Mr. Seehorn. He came in empty-handed complaining bitterly about slick rocks---and one glance told the tale: the high water mark wasn't on his hip boots, it was up around his Adam's apple. Better luck next time, Monte!

Let's all try to make it to the Southeastern in Hot Springs.