

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trout Committee Members

FROM: Larry O. Mohn, Chairman

SUBJECT: Minutes of Trout Committee Meeting, April 29-30, 1986

DATE: May 2, 1986

The spring meeting of the Trout Committee was hosted by Don Estes at the Tech Aqua Center on Center Hill Reservoir near Smithville, Tennessee. After general announcements and review of the non-existent minutes of the fall meeting, the Committee discussed the following items of old business:

Brown trout half-wild/domestic study: This long term project, that has spanned the career of several noted Committee members, has been reorganized with a formal proposal. Jim Borawa presented a study proposal developed by Wayne Jones. The states of Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia are participating in this project. Jeff Durniak suggested that Georgia also participate if arrangements can be made. The field work will begin in September, 1986 with stocking to follow in October. Marked fish will be provided by North Carolina for all states except Tennessee. Tennessee will provide their own fingerlings.

Regional trout disease problems: In a carryover discussion from the fall meeting, problems associated with transmittal of diseases was discussed. It was agreed that the newly formed Southeast Fish Disease Council was not likely to develop an adequate regional policy. Harry Hargis was appointed chairman (with Roger Schultz as assistant) of a sub committee to investigate development of a regional policy statement concerning trout disease. It was suggested that this effort be coordinated with the S. E. Fish Health Committee and that other regions be contacted concerning the existence of similar such policies (i.e. Northwest-Pacific Area). Chairman Hargis will provide a sufficiently detailed report to permit the Committee to respond by the fall Committee meeting.

Annotated brook trout bibliography: Don Estes reported that the bibliography has been completed and is in the word processor. By letter, Monty Seehorn informed the Committee that Trout Unlimited was paying for publication. Don will have the completed bibliography available by July 1, 1986 and will forward a copy to each Committee member.

Age-growth research: Don Estes asked the Committee to endorse publication by the USF & WS of an age and growth otolith study that Tech had completed on brook trout. After discussion, it was decided to first try to publish in the S. E. Proceedings without first presenting the paper at the South-eastern. Don promised to send each Committee member a copy of the manuscript.

Siltation studies: In another carryover discussion from the fall meeting, the Committee discussed the lack of data on the effects of siltation on fish and invertebrate biomass. It was suggested that the Committee attempt to direct research in this area. A subcommittee was established with Gordon Sloane as chairman and Jeff Durniak, Don Degan and Steve Moore as members, to determine what research is available, what research is needed, and how the Committee can function in directing research needs. Steve Moore will contact Coweeta concerning the status of their projects and Larry Mohn will contact Paul Brouha concerning the Forest Services siltation model. The subcommittee will assimilate the the information by July 1, 1986 and provide a report to the chairman.

Pressure/Creeel Surveys on Trout Streams: Problems associated with fisherman surveys on trout streams was discussed. It was agreed that general surveys are next to impossible to complete in a statistically sound manner with available funds. Several states mentioned the use of mail or phone surveys to more efficiently gain the data needed. All agencies conducting such surveys will bring their surveys and final reports to the fall meeting for discussion. Spencer Turner suggested that Missouri make a presentation of survey techniques at the Spring, 1987 meeting in Arkansas (we'll hold you to it Spence).

Reminders: It was recommended that the Chairman send out a reminder prior to the fall meeting for members to bring survey and any siltation studies that have been found.

Surplus funds: Larry Mohn informed the Committee that he was holding \$167.00 that was surplus from the 1985 Symposium. John Boaze motioned that the money be donated to the Southern Division fund for Committee projects. After a second, the Committee unanimously approved the donation. This historic moment marked the first recorded use of the vote in Committee history.

#### New Business

Committee goals and objectives: Larry Mohn informed the Committee that Fred Harris, Southern Division President, has requested that each Committee provide him with a document outlining the purpose, goals and objectives of each Committee. Larry reviewed an outline of such a document and after some brief discussion and modification, the Committee suggested that the Chairman draft the document and forward it to Fred. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Brown Trout Symposium: Jim Borawa suggested we consider a workshop on brown trout. Such a meeting should be planned for after completion of our brown trout study--maybe in 1988.

Summary of strain evaluations: Larry Mohn requested that all member agencies provide a brief synopsis of each attempt to use various strains or exotics in their management efforts. Mark Hudy was appointed to assimilate all information into a usable form. Each member should send Mark their data by July 1, 1986. All efforts should be documented even if results are sketchy or non-existent. Include your personal opinion of such stocking.

Agency Reports

Kentucky: Kerry Prather reported that their brown trout project did not materialize due to their inability to obtain disease-free fish in 1985. Efforts will continue this year.

Georgia: Jeff Durniak reported that the Lake Lanier trout fishery is suffering from continued eutrophication. He has initiated a study in Lanier using Fish Lake, Eagle Lake, Erwin and Wytheville strains of rainbow. Strain studies will later be applied to stocked streams.

Georgia is also interested in conducting a trout stream survey and developing a data base system. Anyone having information to help should send copies to Jeff.

South Carolina/Duke Power: Don Degan reporting for S. C. stated that they have had little success with rainbows in Jocassee. Presently they are evaluating the Tasmania strain.

Duke Power will discontinue their study on a selected stream for effects of acid rain due to the high buffering potential of the soil. Another study stream may be selected.

Great Smokies Mountain National Park: Steve Moore will be evaluating the brook trout removal projects done in the past. The Park will identify the streams with potential for brook trout recovery and not pursue the uneconomical efforts on those streams with little potential for success.

TVA: Al Brown reported that the Norris Dam re-regulation and aeration study is completed and should be available shortly.

TVA has reintroduced benthic invertebrates below Norris and are currently evaluating their success.

TVA and SCS are cooperating on a siltation and pollution abatement project on the Middle Fork Holston River in Virginia. This is a potentially high quality brown trout stream.

Al informed the Committee that he would be replaced on the Committee by Doug Powell.

Arkansas: Mark Hudy reported that Krogers has given Arkansas a trout hatchery. The state is stocking 100,000 cutthroats and about 150,000 lake trout this year and will try steelhead introductions next year. Most of these fish are stocked as 7 inch subcatchables.

Missouri: Spencer Turner reported that Missouri is experimenting with red-heads. Success is limited to date but hatchery rearing is very difficult. A more complete report will be available next year. Also working with triploid brown trout to get increased growth rate and longevity.

Tennessee: Harry Hargis reported a stocking of 4,000 4 inch redband trout with no success in a small limestone stream.

Tennessee is planning a creel survey on several tailwater trout fisheries (Elk, Caney Fork and Hiwassee). The state has also recently completed a trout angler survey--results will be available shortly.

Virginia: Larry Mohn reported that November flooding had caused considerable damage including loss of trout from two hatcheries.

Virginia is presently debating with the Shenandoah National Park over the Park's proposal to close some native brook trout streams to fishing.

Prior to adjournment, it was decided that the Spring 1987 meeting will be hosted by Mark Hudy on the White River in Arkansas. We plan to hold a two-week meeting and stay with Mark. The date for the meeting will be decided at the fall meeting in Baltimore.

Following the Trout Committee meeting, Don Estes hosted a short workshop to discuss management of tailwater trout fisheries.

LIST OF ATTENDEES  
AT THE  
THE TROUT COMMITTEE MEETING

April 29-30, 1986

Members:

John Boaze, Fisheries Consultant  
Al Brown, TVA  
Jim Borawa, NC  
Don Degan, Duke Power  
Jeff Durniak, GA  
Don Estes, USFWS  
Harry Hargis, TWRA  
Mark, Hudy, AR  
Larry Mohn, VA  
Steve Moore, GSMNP  
Kerry Prather, KY  
Gordon Sloane, USFS  
Spencer Turner, MO

Non-Members:

Chris Martin, GA  
Wayne Pollach, TWRA  
Danny Scott, TWRA