



**Joint Fisheries/Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee
Meeting Summary**

May 21, 2014

9:00 – 10:30 am

Centennial Campus, Raleigh

MEETING ATTENDEES

Committee Members

Wes Seegars, Fisheries Chair
Joe Barker
Tim Spear
John Coley, Migratory Birds Chair

Richard Edwards
Tommy Fonville
Brian White

Commissioners

Joe Budd
Ray Clifton
Tom Berry
Garry Spence

Jim Cogdell
David Hoyle, Jr.
Neal Hanks
Ray Clifton

Staff

Gordon Myers
Betsy Haywood
Joe Fuller
Christian Waters
Kyle Briggs
Isaac Harrold
Kate Pipkin
David Sawyer

Chris Dillon
Brad Gunn
Doug Howell
Russell Wong
Tommy Clark
Todd Kennedy
David Cobb

Visitors

Pete Campbell, USFWS

Dick Hamilton, NC Wildlife Federation

Wes Seegars, *Fisheries Committee Chair*, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Follow-up

- Bob Curry presented an analysis of the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Program including trends in license sales, expenditures associated with program implementation, and potential loss of revenue. He also provided a proposed process for addressing new requests for participation in the program. The Committee discussed the purpose of the program and how to better address the cost to the agency.

Action: Staff was asked to conduct a survey of Mountain Heritage Trout Waters license holders to refine the lost revenue projections. In addition, staff will prepare information on the Town of Lansing's request to enter the program and present it for consideration at the next Fisheries Committee meeting. The Committee agreed that additional sites will not be added to the program until further analysis is conducted.

Fisheries Management Update – Pisgah Bird Predation

- Bob Curry updated Commissioners on the predation by great blue herons on trout at the Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatchery. He provided an overview of the response plan which includes reducing the number of trout stocked in all Hatchery Supported and Delayed Harvest Trout Waters through August 2014, placing screen covers on the raceways, and installing sonic and light deterrents. The Committee discussed the overall impact on the trout program. Bob explained that the hatchery had sufficient smaller trout on hand that will be raised to target size by this fall and all stocking requests should be fully met from that point forward.

Action: Staff will finalize a news release explaining the reduced stockings and will also notify resource partners.

Lake Mattamuskeet Update

- Chad Thomas presented information about fisheries management and recommended lake level management. Doug Howell provided an overview of waterfowl and submerged aquatic vegetation in the lake and addressed the potential impacts of lake level management. Doug recommended a bathymetry study and a comprehensive monitoring program for vegetation. Erik Christofferson presented an update on renovations to two of the lake's boating access areas and indicated that plans are being made to conduct a hydrologic study and hydrographic survey. The committees discussed the operation of the water control structures and management of the lake. Pete Campbell, *Lake Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge Manager*, attended the meeting and answered questions.

Action: Staff was asked to analyze pH and salinity data and compare them with the gauge height.

Sea Ducks

- Kate Pipkin presented information on using motorboats to take crippled waterfowl in special sea duck areas.

Action: The Committee agreed to address this issue through rule-making during the 2015-2016 regulatory cycle.

No additional topics were discussed.

Migratory Birds and Waterfowl Committee Chairman John Coley adjourned the meeting at 10:46 am.