

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Savannah Harbor Expansion Project;  
Summary of 21 April Interagency Meeting on Evaluation of Fisheries

1. Attendees:  
USFWS: Ed Eudaly  
NMFS: Stephania Bolden  
SCDNR: Mark Collins  
GADNR-CRD: Pat Geer  
COE: Bill Bailey  
  
By phone:  
UGA-Coop Cecil Jennings
2. The Agenda is attached.
3. The following is a summary of the discussion and does not include all the information that was presented or all comments made during the discussion.
4. We scanned the conclusions of our previous meeting and used them as a basis for discussions at this meeting.
5. We started with a discussion of the habitat suitability criteria for **Shortnose sturgeon**. I agreed to add a map to show the river miles; possibly one map for the overall river and another for the estuary. We discussed the areas of concern for this species: Juveniles in winter in mouth of Middle River; Adults in winter in Savannah River; Juveniles in summer further upstream in Savannah River. We then discussed several changes to the wording of the document. I recorded the specific recommended changes on a hard copy of the document. We agreed we wanted the DO data from only a portion of the channel cross-section. Where the Hydrodynamic Model grid is 3 cells wide, we want the deepest cell. Where the grid model has >3 cells wide, we want the deepest 2 cells.
6. We then discussed the habitat suitability criteria for **Southern flounder**. We developed several changes to document we reviewed. I recorded the specific recommended changes on a hard copy of the document.
7. We then discussed the habitat suitability criteria for **American shad**. We developed several changes to document we reviewed. I recorded the specific recommended changes on a hard copy of the document.

8. I agreed to send out revised copies of the three habitat suitability criteria we discussed to ensure I had captured all the changes. After we agree on the changes, I would send out the documents again for agency approval.
  
9. NOTE: I sent out the revised versions on 23 April and on 14 May I sent the final versions out for agency approval. I requested the agencies provide their positions by 6 June.

William Bailey  
Environmental Resources Branch

# SAVANNAH HARBOR EXPANSION PROJECT

## INTERAGENCY FISHERIES COORDINATION

APRIL 21, 2003

### AGENDA

#### REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- Use Hydro Model to also identify Dissolved Oxygen levels when performing analyses of habitat suitability
  - Use to obtain picture of overall health of aquatic environment
  - Report 5 % occurrence level every 0.2 miles
  - Runs performed for every species
- Discussion on habitat suitability for three species:
  - Southern Flounder
    - Adults & juveniles; summer months; bottom layer
    - Consider 0.7 suitability threshold for D.O.
  - American shad
    - Juveniles; summer months; bottom layer; D.O  $\geq$ 4.0 mg/l
  - Shortnose sturgeon
    - Winter & summer months
    - Separate “Area of Concern”
- Discussion of use of degrees of suitability
  - Joint decision to proceed with separating into GOOD or NOT GOOD, and not use intermediate degrees of suitability.

#### DISCUSSION OF THE WRITE-UPS FOR HABITAT SUITABILITY CRITERIA

- Shortnose sturgeon
- Southern flounder
- American shad

#### WRAP-UP

- Next Steps