

Subject: Revised Feb minutes and Mission

Date: Fri, 31 Mar 2000 02:24:47 -0500


From: "Ga. DNR Demeris Creek Fisheries" <dnrdemcr@clds.net>

To: "William.G.Bailey@SAS02.usace.army.mil" <William.G.Bailey@SAS02.usace.army.mil>, Prescott Brownell <Prescott.Brownell@noaa.gov>, "ed_eudaly@mail.fws.gov" <ed_eudaly@mail.fws.gov>, "treinert@smokey.forestry.uga.edu" <treinert@smokey.forestry.uga.edu>, "twill@smokey.forestry.uga.edu" <twill@smokey.forestry.uga.edu>, Keegan Larry LGE-SV <lkeegan@lg.com>, bo Ellis <boellis@worldnet.att.net>, Rees Morgan <morgan.rees@prodigy.net>, judy jennings E-mail <WFQP42B@prodigy.com>, "terry.d.stratton@sas02.usace.army.mil" <terry.d.stratton@sas02.usace.army.mil>, "jennings@smokey.forestry.uga.edu" <jennings@smokey.forestry.uga.edu>, "John_Robinette@fws.gov" <John_Robinette@fws.gov>, bfarmerwafinc <bfarmerwafinc@AOL.com>

Members,

I have revised minutes and mission based on the comments recieved. I consider this the final mission statement, but we can change it if there are further comments.

Thanks for the help. Tom.

 SBCOMM	Name: SBCOMM Type: unspecified type (application/octet-stream) Encoding: base64
--	--

Striped Bass Committee Meeting Summary

Date February 22, 2000

Time: 1:30 PM

Place USACOE Savannah District Office

Attendance Record:

Tom Meronek	GADNR
Larry Keegan	Lockwood Greene
Bill Bailey	USACE
Terry Stratton	USACE
Ted Will	University of Georgia- Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Ed Eudaly	USFWS
Judy Jennings	Coastal Sierra Club
Cecil Jennings	University of Georgia- Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Tom Reinert	University of Georgia- Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

The Committee discussed record keeping and a Mission Statement per recommendations of the SEG Communications Committee. The Committee will maintain a record of minutes which will include significant discussions and decisions reached by the committee, the record will not be a verbatim transcript. The Mission Statement is presently in draft form and will be sent out to the Committee for review.

The meeting included a discussion of the current project "Assessment of spawning sites and Reproductive Status of Striped Bass in the Savannah River Estuary" to address the specific questions the study will answer concerning the deepening. The areas in **bold** indicate my understanding of items the Committee decided will be important to the EIS and the framework being established by GPA.

- a. Task 1 - Sampling for striped bass eggs and larvae, gear detection thresholds, and sampling efficiency.
 - i. Objectives
 - (1) Validate egg detection thresholds for standardized egg collection methods and calibrate efficiency with known abundances of gelatin beads.
 - (2) Quantify spatial and temporal egg abundances in the Savannah River Estuary.
 - (a) Intended Results
 - (i) **Criteria to quantify effects upon striped bass eggs due to changes in salinity in the Savannah River Estuary.**
 - (b) Deliverables
 - (i) **Index of abundance of eggs spawned in 2000.**
 - (ii) **Information on the drift patterns of eggs released at predetermined sites in the Estuary.**

- (i.e. Gelan bead study).
 - (iii) **Egg net calibration to be determined from release of gelan beads. Determine egg detection thresholds and how they differ in the front and Back River.**
 - (c) Intended use in the EIS or mitigation plan
 - (i) **Estimate of the percent or number of eggs which will be impacted by increased salinity in the harbor. This information to be based upon the egg drift patterns obtained using gelan beads.**
 - (ii) **Probability analysis of impacts to Egg Habitat necessary for successful egg survival and hatching. To be based on the current research will be completed by ATM, similar to that contained in the Tier I EIS.**
 - (iii) **From egg net calibration studies, determine what "egg sample abundance" means in terms of eggs at large in the population.**
- b. Task 2 - Maturity scheduling and ultrasonic imaging of adult striped bass.
 - i. Objectives
 - (1) Establish a maturity schedule and fecundity estimate for adult female striped bass.
 - (a) Intended Results
 - (i) **Criteria to quantify the number of eggs released by various age or length groups of female striped bass in the Savannah River.**
 - (b) Deliverables
 - (i) **When combined with a population estimate to be completed by GA DNR, an estimate of the number of spawning age striped bass in the estuary will be obtained.**
 - (c) Intended use in the EIS or mitigation plan
 - (i) **An updated review of the population structure and the dynamics of the adult striped bass population. (Obtained from the current research and ongoing GA DNR work)**

The Committee discussed new research needs specifically related to the deepening project. Presently, the only need appears to be for additional modeling for as yet undetermined scenarios.

Striped Bass Committee
Mission Statement (Draft)

The Striped Bass Committee was established as set forth in the Operating Guidelines of the Stakeholders Evaluation Group (SEG), the mission of the Committee shall be.

- (1) Identify the scientific data needed to determine impacts on striped bass which may result from expansion of the Savannah Harbor.
- (2) Define the scope of scientific data needed to determine impacts of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project on striped bass;
- (3) Review scientific study results and propose criteria for use with;
 - a. incremental impact analysis
 - b. cumulative impact analysis
 - c. hydrodynamic modeling
- (4) Cooperate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Section 1135 Back River Restoration Project Team to assure the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project will not preclude restoration of striped bass spawning habitat in Back River.
- (5) Evaluate potential mitigation alternatives and options for post construction monitoring.