

Fishes Tech Committee Minutes

Date: December 14, 2016

Location: PFBC Pleasant Gap Facility.

Attendees: Criswell, Fischer, Stauffer, Shank, Reagle, Porter (phone), Horwitz (phone), Argent (phone)

Old business: No old business to discuss since last meeting. Doug Fischer welcomed our two newest members to the Fishes Technical Committee, Nathan Reagle (PA DCNR) and Matt Shank (SRBC)

PABS updates: Proposed PABS Operating Manual. It was determined that the operating manual discussion is with Jerry Hassinger. Future discussion may occur at the forthcoming PABS meeting.

FTC member updates 2014-2016:

- Update on Paddlefish work in Pennsylvania. Argent noted they have recently published a paper summarizing their work on Paddlefish (Argent et al. 2016, An evaluation of interstate efforts to re-introduce paddlefish to the Upper Ohio River Basin, *Northeast Naturalist* 23:454-465). Argent noted that he received a small grant to look at Southern Redbelly Dace in the Kings Creek Basin on northwestern Washington County
- Stauffer reported on his work with Brook Trout populations in Pennsylvania. He believes there as many as four different populations of Brook Trout. Using fin clips, he and project partners are examining Fst values. His work in the state parks has determined that there are some fish with range expansions. This work is ongoing and should be completed by the end of the year. He commented that they found Brook Trout in waters that he believes would be too warm for them to otherwise occur in.
- Sampling in the Delaware River has focused on larger wadeable streams according to Horwitz. This work has been in done in anticipation of possible restoration work. In addition work here has focused on documenting crayfish and salamanders. Pearl Dace has been reported in Valley Creek; and Iron Color Shiner has been reported in New York.
- Porter reported that his post-doc, Tony Honick has a manuscript just about ready to go out for review to the *Northeast Naturalist*. Porter noted that while new gear was used, i.e., electrified benthic trawl there is evidence to suggest that *Nothonotus* darters are experiencing a range expansion. Porter noted that work continues at Powdermill Run looking at the diets of three naturally reproducing trout species. Lastly, they continue their work with Three Rivers Quest, sampling water from a variety of places.
- Matt Shank introduced himself. He has been with the SRBC since 2008. He state that the SRBC has recently published a paper on methodologies to assess aquatic resources in the Susquehanna River Basin (Shank et al. 2016, Examination of a single unit, multiple pass electrofishing protocol to reliably estimate fish assemblage composition in wadeable streams in the Mid-Atlantic Region of the USA, *North American J. of Fisheries Management* 36(3):497-505). He also discussed a project to reintroduce American Eel to the Susquehanna River and accessing the SRBC's fish database.
- Rob Criswell/Doug Fischer– Their combined report focused on the listings/de-listings of fish (see below).
- Potential status adjustments (Rob Criswell and Doug Fischer)

- The FTC received two proposed status adjustments:
 - Pugnose Minnow – The committee reviewed the status proposal. Doug Fischer, Rob Criswell, and Joe Brancato collected 10 specimens this past fall. Recommendation is to list as endangered. After some discussion a motion was made by Rob to recommend to the PFBC that Pugnose Minnow be listed as state endangered. The motion was seconded by Doug Fischer. Everyone voted in favor and the motion passed.
 - Blacknose Shiner – The committee reviewed the status proposal by Doug Fischer. He indicated that the majority of recent collections were made on PA State Gamelands. After some discussion a motion was made by Jay Stauffer and seconded by Rob to recommend to the PFBC that Blacknose Shiner be listed as state endangered. Everyone voted in favor and the motion passed.
 - In a follow up email, Doug made a few revisions to the documentation and forwarded to Argent who will send it to Chris Urban on behalf of the committee.
- De-listings: - A discussion regarding four species and their current status began. Rob and Doug presented information to suggest that these species are stable and no longer warrant protection by the PFBC. Much of this work resulted from field work associated with assembly of the Fishes of Pennsylvania. Rob and Doug suggested that they would prepare paperwork to have these species de-listed.
 - Least Brook Lamprey – We currently have numerous locations with stable populations. Populations that have been routinely revisited produce adults and ammocetes.
 - Central Mudminnow – It was stated that if you find the habitat, you find the fish
 - Eastern Mudminnow – Horwitz reported that habitat in southeastern Pennsylvania destroyed, but that this species is present on private lands, and appears stable in the northeast
 - Brook Stickleback - Also appears to be stable where encountered
- Extirpated? – Delist: Lack of recent data suggest that these species should be listed as extirpated from the state. A brief discussion about each species and historic accounts ensued.
 - Gravel Chub
 - Black Bullhead
 - Banded Sunfish
 - Cisco
- Declines: These species were noted by Rob and Doug as species to watch. During investigations to assemble the Fishes of Pennsylvania they believed that these species are in great decline over former investigations. Paperwork to this effect may follow.
 - Bigmouth Shiner – threatened to endangered status is proposed.
 - Bigeye Chub – secure in the Lake Erie drainage, extirpated from the Ohio drainage, look for specimens
- Future investigations: this collection of species were identified as species to watch.
 - Threespine Stickleback
 - Fourspine Stickleback
 - Mountain Madtom – listed as Endangered
 - Northern Madtom – listed as Endangered
 - Ghost Shiner
 - River Shiner – no recent collections, possible collection in Montgomery slough, but cannot validate catch.

- Rob Criswell – Swallowtail Shiner and Comely Shiner – two other fishes to keep an eye on in the Susquehanna and Delaware.
 - Satinfish Shiner - as noted by Matt Shank also appears in decline.
- Other FTC business:
 - Website - it was noted that contributions by the FTC to the PABS website are out of date. Argent indicated he would send materials to Roger Latham for inclusion on the website. Of note would be the membership list, our 2014 and 2016 meeting minutes, and information on the Fishes of Pennsylvania publication.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.