

**Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2004, Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.**

Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (SFBPC) Members in Attendance: Bill Anderson, Jim Anderson, Doug Boyd, Noreen Clough (for Dean Kessel), Monita Fontaine, Kenneth Haddad, Ryck Lydecker, Martin MacDonald (for John Morris), William Taylor, Jim Range

Other Attendees: Beth Beard, Tom Bigford, Brian Bohnsack, Mary Burke, Kristin Chambers, Vicki Dickson, Jason Goldberg, Kit Kimball, Frank Lockhart, Tom Melius, Phil Million, Steve Myers, Mamie Parker, Laury Parramore, John Rogers, Tom Sadler, Eric Schwaab, Melissa Simpson, David P. Smith, Steve Williams

Greetings and Introductions – William Taylor, Chair

Approval of SFBPC Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of June 4, 2003 and September 23, 2004 were approved subsequent to the Council meeting.

Opening Remarks from Invited Guests

- Remarks of Kit Kimball, Chief, Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of the Interior

- Remarks of Steve Williams, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Update on SFBPC status

- Doug Hobbs, SFBPC Coordinator, updated the members of the Council on the newly signed SFBPC charter and a new provision in the charter that allows official alternates to be appointed

Boating Issues Committee update – Mike Hough, Chairman

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program Tier II Review Committee report

- Ryck Lydecker, Chairman of the SFBPC Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Tier II Program Review Committee:

- summarized the proceedings of the first meeting of the BIG committee in New Orleans, LA in February 2004
 - discussed some of the preliminary findings of the BIG Committee
 - discussed the future activities of the BIG Committee and the timeline for completion of committee work
- Brian Bohnsack, BIG Coordinator, USFWS Federal Aid Program:
 - presented a summary of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund
 - discussed the historic program funding for the BIG Program
 - highlighted the BIG project proposals for Fiscal Year 2004 and discussed the project ranking process
 - presented an overview of and prospects for program reauthorization

Remarks of David P. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

**USFWS Fisheries Program Evaluation – John Rogers, Project Facilitator,
The Conservation Fund**

- Discussion of the origins of the Fisheries Program Evaluation and the need to fulfill requirements of the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) and the Office of Management & Budget (OMB)
- Summary of the meetings, to date, of the Fisheries Program Evaluation Workgroup and process it has used
- Discussion of outputs of the Fisheries Program Evaluation Workgroup
- Summary of draft indicators with which to conduct the SFBPC program evaluation

Remarks of Kristin Chambers, Vice President for Programs, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF)

- Update on RBFF program implementation
- Update on grass roots and awareness campaigns
- Discussion of programmatic efforts related to resource stewardship, including the RBFF Stewardship Team and its national survey

RBFF Accountability Committee – William Taylor, Chairman

- Presentation of a summary of the SFBPC RBFF Accountability Progress Report including proposed indicators for measuring the success of RBFF in implementing its programs
- Brief discussion of the possibility of hosting a “Stewardship Symposium” at the 2005 AFS Annual Meeting

** Ryck Lydecker made a motion that the SFBPC empanel a committee to work with counterparts on the RBFF Board of Directors to begin work on an assessment of RBFF programs and its implementation of the National Communications and Outreach Plan.*

The motion was seconded by Monita Fontaine. After general discussion, the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Fisheries Issues Committee – Doug Hansen, Chairman

- Doug Hobbs, SFBPC Coordinator:
 - presented a summary of NFHI stakeholder meetings held, to date
- Eric Schwaab, IAFWA Resource Director:
 - summarized the IAFWA perspective on involvement in the NFHI
 - summarized future IAFWA activities associated with the NFHI

Discussion of the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

- Ryck Lydecker briefly described his review of the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
- Frank Lockhart, staff for the Ocean Commission:
 - gave an overview of the Ocean Commission and its mandate
 - discussed the broad themes of the preliminary report
 - discussed some of the recommendations included in the preliminary report, including changes in the structure of certain Federal agencies which have management responsibility for marine resources
 - sketched out the timeline for the remaining activities and deadlines of the Ocean Commission
- Jason Goldberg, USFWS Fisheries Program:
 - discussed the process for commenting on the Preliminary Report within the FWS and the DOI
 - discussed current FWS programs that are recommended for transfer out of the FWS (Marine Mammals, Coastal Program, Coastal Barrier Program, and Clean Vessel Program)

**A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of the SFBPC commenting on the Preliminary Report.*

Remarks of Mamie Parker, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Assistant Director for Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

- Update of the USFWS Fisheries Program Strategic Plan and its “Scaling Up” effort
- Summary of the FY 2006 Fisheries Program Budget
- Discussion of reimbursement for mitigation activities by the USFWS Fish Hatchery System

SFBPC Communications Committee – Ryck Lydecker, Chairman

- Review of the issues originally tasked to the Committee (manatees, Marine Protected Areas) to explore for SFBPC involvement

- Discussion about the continued existence of the Committee and possible activities to be pursued

** Members of the SFBPC agreed that the Communications Committee should remain intact and that in the short-term it should be tasked with drafting and transmitting SFBPC comments on the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy*

Other Business

- Bill Taylor, SFBPC Chairman, asked Council members to endorse the exploration of sponsorship of a “Stewardship Symposium” at the 2005 AFS Annual Meeting in Anchorage, AK. Council members endorsed the idea.

Selection of Date and Location for Next Meeting

The Council discussed possible locales for its next meeting. No decision was made. A list of possible meeting locations was circulated subsequent to the meeting. Members decided to meet in Atlantic City, NJ in association with the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Adjournment

**Monita Fontaine made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by the entire Council. William Taylor, Chair, adjourned the meeting.*