

**Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council
Meeting Minutes
September 28/29, 2004, Trump Marina Hotel
Atlantic City, New Jersey**

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

Other Attendees: Doug Austen, Josh Avery, Hannibal Bolton, Bob Bryant, Tom Busiahn, Noreen Clough, Forbes Darby, Steve Eder, Bill James, Anne Lange, Andy Loftus, Julie McQuade, Phil Million, Dallas Miner, Stan Moberly, Mamie Parker, Tim Richardson, John Rogers, Eric Schwaab, Gwen White, Steve Williams, Charlie Wooley

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Greetings and Introductions – William Taylor, Chair

Fisheries Issues Committee – Doug Hansen, Chairman

- **National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI)**

Council members heard a series of presentations related to the National Fish Habitat Initiative. Summaries of the SFBPC Report of the NFHI National Stakeholder Meetings and the "Working Group on Healthy Fish Habitat" science workshop were presented. There was also discussion about next steps related to the development of the National Fish Habitat Plan. That work would be done by a committee to be assembled by the IAFWA Fisheries & Water Resources Policy Committee. The Council officially transmitted its report on the NFHI Stakeholder Meetings to FWS Director Williams and IAFWA Executive Director John Baughman.

Subsequent to the SFBPC meeting the Executive Committee of the IAFWA recommended to the FWS funding 5 Multi-state Conservation Grants related to the NFHI. If funded, the grants would total approximately \$1.9 million dollars. One grant would fund the continued coordination and development of the NFHI. FWS approval for grant funding is expected in January 2005.

Opening Remarks from Invited Guests

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

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

- Summary of the FY 2005 Fisheries Program Budget
- Summary of FY 2006 Budget priorities

- **SFBPC Evaluation of the FWS Fisheries Program**

The Council was updated on the status of the program evaluation of the FWS Fisheries Program that it is conducting. The Council learned that the evaluation framework has been finalized and that a meeting with FWS Fisheries Program to clarify data needs has occurred. A data call to the FWS Fisheries Program has been made.

SFBPC Communications Committee – Ryck Lydecker, Chairman

The Council discussed wide-ranging communications opportunities. First, Committee Chairman Ryck Lydecker updated members on the work done to draft SFBPC comments on the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. The Communications Committee led the Council effort to craft comments on the preliminary report. Other reports included an update by Bill Anderson on the recently announced creation of the Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Panel in California, a summary from Noreen Clough of the outcomes of the BASS/ESPN Fishing Leadership Conference at this past summers Bassmaster Classic, and a preview of ASA's Sportfishing Summit by Gordon Robertson. Doug Hobbs offered other ideas on communications tools including a Council newsletter, a new website, a possible special report on the "costs" associated with unrecovered mitigation expenses, a Council accomplishments report, and enhancement of communications with DOI staff.

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Boating Issues Committee update – Mike Hough, Chairman

- **Boating Infrastructure Grant Program Tier II Evaluation**

Ryck Lydecker & Andy Loftus updated the members of the SFBPC on the ongoing review of the BIG Tier II Program. Completion of the review is expected in early 2005. Andy Loftus presented a summary of feedback received from a questionnaire sent to State boating administrators. A similar questionnaire has been sent to those that received project funding.

- **Characterization of recreational boating in the Tampa Bay region**

SFBPC Member Ken Haddad presented the findings of research conducted cooperatively by the State of Florida and the Florida Sea Grant Program. The research utilized survey results to spatially map the use patterns of Tampa Bay area boaters. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has found the survey data useful in making recent policy decisions.

- **Aquatic Nuisance Species management: National perspective and regional case study**

FWS staff, Kari Duncan (FWS National Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator) and Mike Hoff (FWS Region 3 Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator), presented information on FWS Aquatic Nuisance Species Program and specific information pertaining to the Asian carp in the Mississippi River system. The SFBPC is represented by Chris Horton, BASS, on a workgroup that has been tasked with creating a control strategy for Asian carp in the Mississippi River system.

Remarks of Bruce Matthews, President, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF)

Bruce Matthews updated the Council on RBFF programs.

SFBPC National Communications & Outreach Plan Implementation Assessment

Members of the SFBPC were updated by Council member Doug Boyd and Council Coordinator Doug Hobbs on the latest regarding the SFBPC effort to assess the activities of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) in implementing the National Communications and Outreach Program. Boyd and Hobbs highlighted a proposal to move forward with the RBFF assessment. Two specific items were discussed; 1) empanelling a new "assessment" committee and 2) the possible retention of outside evaluation expertise. The previous SFBPC Accountability Committee completed its work on creating "measures" of success with its 2002 report. A new Council assessment group needs to be empanelled to actually conduct an assessment using previous Council work and where available, new materials.

** A motion was made by Doug Boyd to empanel an Assessment Committee consisting of: Bill Anderson, Doug Boyd, Noreen Clough, Monita Fontaine, Ken Haddad, and Ryck Lydecker. The motion was seconded by Martin MacDonald and was agreed to unanimously by Council members. Council members also discussed the utility of retaining an assessment expert to guide the Assessment Committee's work. Council members agreed that bringing expertise to bear on the RBFF assessment effort would be useful and Doug Boyd offered a motion to explore possible contractors that could provide the needed services. The motion was seconded by Bill Anderson and was agreed to unanimously by Council members.*

American Fisheries Society "Stewardship Symposium" proposal

Chairman William Taylor presented a proposal from Barb Knuth, Cornell University and incoming President of the American Fisheries Society, to seek SFBPC sponsorship for a "Stewardship Symposium" to be held at the AFS 2005 Annual Meeting. The proposal seeks funding from both the SFBPC and the RBFF. A discussion by Council members ensued about SFBPC representation on the symposium steering committee, on the costs associated with the symposium, and the need for RBFF's Board of Directors to agree to the proposal. Monita Fontaine volunteered to serve as a SFBPC representative on the steering committee.

** A motion was made by Bill Anderson to add Monita to the symposium steering committee and to approve the Council's share of funding pending action by the RBFF Board of Directors. Martin MacDonald offered a second and the motion was unanimously agreed to by Council members.*

Approval of SFBPC Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the May 6, 2004, Council meeting were unanimously approved.

Adjournment

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