



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

FERAL SWINE WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Chair: Gray Anderson (Virginia)
Vice-Chair: Jim LaCour (Louisiana)

Tuesday, March 15th
1:00 – 3:00 PM (PST)

87th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference*
[Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane, Washington](#)

Minutes

- 1:00 Call to Order/Review Agenda (G. Anderson/J. LaCour)
- Chairman Anderson called the hybrid meeting to order and the agenda was reviewed
- 1:10 Introductions
- 27 participants attended the hybrid meeting: most attended virtually
- 1:20 Agency Regulations regarding Feral Swine Management (Jon Gassett, WMI)
- WMI received a Multistate Conservation Grant to conduct a survey of state agencies to compile regulations regarding feral swine and is currently waiting on final approval from FWS to move forward with the survey. One of the major concerns is the potential spread of African Swine Fever Virus, should it be detected. In addition, SEAFWA has asked WMI to evaluate toxicant delivery systems for feral swine and that effort will soon be operational.
- 1:30 National Feral Swine Damage Management Program update (Michael Marlow, APHIS)
- The NFSDMP operates in 36 states and 33 territories. Currently projects are begin conducted in 12 states, with 34 projects in those states. Since the program began, swine have been eliminated in 5 jurisdictions, 6 states are in a 2-year detection phase and FS have been moved to a lower level of concern in 18 states.
 - In FY21, 6000 FS were sampled for ASF.
 - Also sampling for CWD and anthrax.



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

- Have conducted trials of sodium nitrite as a toxicant in Texas and Alabama; once concern is mitigating uptake by passerine birds.
- Developing a feral swine genetic profile
- Assessing economic impacts of feral swine
- Outreach is being conducted about feral swine impacts via a federal agency newsletter, and a new video series
- The NRCS program is going well through the farm bill
- Assessing the toxicant Kaput; toxicant was not palatable. Registration was overturned in Louisiana because black bears could access the bait in feeders.
- Texas legislature wants a widespread test, which is in process (lead by TAMU).

1:45 Public Perceptions Regarding Feral Swine (John Tomecek, TAMU)

- Results of this survey were presented by Dr. Tomecek
- The goal of the survey was to determine behavior and attitudes of the public regarding FS.
- Most responses were from hunters
- Many believed that FS were a native species

2:00 Report from the SEAFWA & MAFWA Feral Swine Groups (Kevin Lowrey (GA)/Terri Brunjes (KY))

- Wildlife Services is wrapping up aerial operations; 83 FS were taken in Kentucky, 1020 in Missouri.
- MAFWA and SEAFWA have the same objectives
- Could we develop a plan to eradicate or reduce FS at the national level? It is unlikely that everyone will agree on best practices but there are effective techniques. Is there a potential to develop a best practices document? This would need to be a living document that would incorporate newly developed methods and techniques. Wildlife Services has state level plans.

2:15 Report from the National Wild Pig Task Force (G. Anderson)

- The 2022 Virtual Wild Pig Conference will be held during August 8-11, 2022.
- For more information on the conference visit <https://nwptf.org/>

2:30 Updates on progress from last meeting (Bryant White, AFWA)

- Should begin the effort soon to develop a pamphlet on the negative impacts of feral swine on various species of fish and game. This document would be geared toward hunters. An ad hoc group needs to be developed that will consist of experts from various agencies and organizations to produce the pamphlet.

2:45 Next steps and Wrap-up Discussion (G. Anderson/J. LaCour)

3:00 Adjourn