**FISHERIES AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Chair: Jim Fredericks (ID)**

**Vice-Chair: Craig Bonds (TX)**

**Thursday, March 23, 2023 – 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM CT**

**Gateway B – Marriott Lower Level**

**88**

**th**

**North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference**

**St. Louis, MO**

**Agenda**

2:00

PM

Call to order/Agenda Review –

*Jim Fredericks, Chair, ID*

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Introductions

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Agenda Review

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Approval of 2022 North American FWRPC Meeting Minutes - Gary and Craig an d



* Approval of Minutes – Gary Whelan (motion) and Craig Bonds (2nd) - approved
* Subcommittee on water
  + NHD+ update from USGS – 3D as it corporates topography
  + IFC and AFS – IF and WL training program
    - Leadership, training, research and integration of methods
    - Draft report comments complete
    - Unclear on whether it will be brick and motor
    - Public Trust Doctrine update – Richard Ross Collins has updated and are available at IFC website
    - Rotenone issues with liquid production – Looking to share existing supplies
      * Working to get another manufacturer
      * USFWS Region 3 has some
    - ICWP – Letter supporting stream gauging and programs was submitted
      * Added more stream temperature monitoring
* Bird & Fish Related Conflict Working Group
  + Will have a virtual meeting
  + Agenda – DCCO survey status, DEIJ, Fish Chief Paper
  + Dave Cobb is retiring and looking for a replacement on the bird side
    - Scott will likely by the co-chairs
  + White paper is in progress
    - Several meeting to work on the recommendations
    - High level outline is ready
      * 2-3 pages per item
    - Communications
    - By annual meeting completion
  + Fish Chief Survey to follow up on effectiveness of DCCO permit system
    - ID will assist WI
  + Meeting in late June and July – Emphasis on new species and key interactions
  + Time for a rebuild
  + Need a co-chair on both and requested
    - Contact Randy C to be co-chair
* FW Coordination Act Working Group
  + Looking to identify mutually
  + Developing a repository of materials
  + Trainings available with the USFWS and NCTC
  + Educational talks
  + Recommendation – Explore a Fish and Wildlife Workshop at the Annual AFWA Meeting
* NASA Earth Science Fisheries Research and Apps
  + How to fill gaps with NASA data
  + Mummichog in space anniversary – 50 years ago
  + Earth Science Division - $ 2B budget -25-26 satellites along with U2 aircraft
    - Programs
      * Tech
      * Flight
      * Research and Analysis
      * Data and Compare
      * Apps
  + Remote Sensing
    - True Color Imagery
    - Spectral imaging
  + Engagement
    - Need temperature and water elevation data
    - Research and analysis
    - Competitive grants
    - Showed salmonid fish response modeling
    - How to get the information on the ground
    - 10-week pilot projects - Develop
      * Do this quickly
    - Encourage ECRs, NASA interns and students
    - Applied science geospatial needs
  + Fine scale information is needed on elevation, water temperature and water surface elevation
    - Need aquatic vegetation
    - Flight centers are key locations
    - Big data handling
  + Mechanism is unclear to get involved but Jessica is a good contact
* AFS
  + MSGC
    - Grey literature project noted
    - Books – 200 – Electronic subscription
    - Bluebook – Best procedures
      * First done in 1975 based on 1974 meeting
      * Standard methods
      * CD then online
      * Widely used
        + USFWS
        + NOAA
        + Tribal
        + State
        + Testing labs
        + Researchers
      * Diverse steering committees
      * Original Grant
        + Rewrite
        + Institutional issues had to be resolved to allow a new Bluebook

Approval for the process

* + - * + New parts

Risk evaluation

New standard testing committees

YouTube Video available that provides all details

* + - * + Grant has $20K left
        + Second grant to getting the writing job done
  + Federal Fisheries Summit
    - Purpose – To improve mgt and conservation of aquatic species and habitats through better federal relationships and collaboration
    - Objectives
      * Roles and responsibilities of federal agencies
      * Build community between federal agencies
      * Develop a shared vision
    - 14 federal agencies participated and 5 tribal organizations, DOI, AFS, NAFWA and AFWA
    - http://Necoopunit.unl.edu/fedfishsummit
    - Report being developed
      * Next steps will be part of report
  + Freshwater Fish of America Graphic – Status of Fishes Report
    - State of Fish Report
    - Example
      * Worlds Forgotten Fish
      * State of Trout
      * State of Birds Report
    - Many routes
    - Why
      * Our obligation is to share this compelling story
      * Requires collaboration across all levels
      * Data sharing and standards needs
      * Prioritize research needs
      * Knowledge gaps and support – Such as tribal lands
      * Prepare for next
    - Periodic report card
    - Feasibility Study
      * Steering committee
      * Evaluation options
      * Workplan
      * MSCG is an obvious option with many federal agencies included
  + National Cooperators Coalition Update
    - 7 additional units this year
    - $32M ask for this year
  + BIL/IRA Implementations
    - USFWS
      * Many federal partners working together for reviewing including a fish passage workforce
        + Looking to release a report
        + Single website with all funding opportunities
      * FY2022 - $38 million – 100 barriers with 3000 miles opened
      * FY2023
        + Better coordination effort
        + LOI in November

292 letters received - $950M

Asked about how much water would be reopened for future use

Highest priorities by region with $10 million per region

$50 million submitted to get to $38M with selection in April

* + - * + Invasive species efforts being increased, particularly with prevention

New rule writers

Highest issues with the Smithsonian

* + - * General Fish Passage Work
        + $5 million – Fisheries Irrigation Act funding off of the $18 Million

Fish screens and diversions – West coast

* + - * SPFBC
        + ACE Act required dual reporting with new charter which is ready to solicit memberships
        + Had to rebuild – A range of members and organizations
        + Review of RBFF
      * Gap analysis
        + Similar to propagation
        + Habitat gap analysis being done across all offices

Lower GL, Lower MS River, and Lahontan CUT

* + - * ADAP
        + INAD fees will be back - $700
        + Backfilled research director and other
        + Aqui-S – Extended light sedition – 72 hour withdrawal
        + Benzonac
    - NOAA
      * BIL
        + $891M

$491M for habitat

Underserved communities

Capacity building into the future

Definition in progress – Social and economic data for social indicators on fishing communities

Justice 40 will be worked on with federal workgroup

Transformational

Resilience with habitat

Holistic perspective key

$400M for fish passage with 15% for tribal

Office of Habitat Conservation

Four competitions

$105M in fish passage recommendations – 36 projects

More are coming and will be included on webpage

* + - * Written report submitted to David
        + National Recreational SW Policy

Should be done soon

Will drive each offices’ focus and work

Climate change

* + - * + Bycatch Engineering Reduction

Full proposals on April 3

* + - * + MS Act

Standards and guideline review – Three in review with advance note coming – 4,8,9

Allocations

Communities

Bycatch

Likely will take a few years to update to get to new guidelines

* + - * + Habitat

$14M GLRI in Great Lakes and AOCs

Multi-year projects

Resilience and rehab

* + - * + Marine Aquaculture Drugs

To support community

Framework is guiding work in area

Signed MOU on DAWG

* + - * + Science

NOAA Climate and Ecosystem Monitoring System

Assess risks

Implement new and better mitigation

* + - * + Fish Distribution Mapping Site – DISMAP

800 marine species from bottom trawl data

* + - * + DEJ Strategy

Will be shared in a month’s time

Plans will be incorporated into standing strategies

* + - * + Budget

$1.1B

$74M above previous

$13M below Presidents Budget

$18M for North Atlantic Right Whale

Offshore wind work

$6M wind work

$5.5 M for survey work for offshore wind

$6.8B requested - $423M increases

Executive Order - $80.2M for climate change work

Equity in workforce - $9M

Facilities

$55.7M for maintenance and repair

Green Book is coming

* + - USFS
      * Not available
    - USGS
      * BIL – No directly funds
        + Active with taskforce
        + Role to assist with long-term effectiveness of passage
      * Native FW Mussel Strategy – April
        + Stressors
        + Conservation
        + Distribution
      * Commissions
        + Working to assist with all of them on all coasts
      * Prairie Fishes and Streams
        + State and universities involved - CRUs
        + Five subgroups

Human Dems

Research Syn

Database

Policy and practice

Research priorities

* + - * Aquaculture
        + Conservation side with fish health
        + Mussel rehabilitation noted
      * NFHP – Daniel W noted
        + Want to be more involved
      * Puget Sound – SOS bill makes them involved
        + Science on ecohydrology and CHS-forage fish
      * Looking to expand arts into the science education
      * State of the Nations Fish
* Legislative Update
  + RAWA
    - Did not get through this year
    - Senate bill will go to floor next week and will bypass committee with little changes
      * New pay-for will get locked in
    - House is moving at a difference pace and are okay with Senate pace
  + USFWS, USFS, and USGS briefings coming
    - Much question and answer
    - Interior house testimony in place with usual request
      * Wild Horse and Burro
      * State and Tribal Wildlife Grants - $100M
        + Mini-fly-in coming in April
      * National Cooperators - $34M
      * ICW – Stream gages, cooperator funding
    - April 5 to Senate DOI – 4-page limit
  + America the Beautiful Challenge Grants using LOI due April 20 with invites in June for full
  + BIL – American sourcing – Approved waivers for DOI assistance agreements up to $250K
    - Up to 5% of construction costs
    - Specific project waivers – Public interest – much detail, Not availability, and Unreasonable cost waiver that increase costs by over 25%
  + National Seafood Strategies comments are out and now extended to March 31.
    - Consultation and enforcement assistance
    - Young Commercial fishers
    - Increased stock assessment
    - Supply chains
  + WRDA
    - Priorities
      * Recreational use on USACOE projects
      * Brandon Road
      * PPAs
    - BOEM
      * Offshore wind energy comments
      * March 31 deadline at this time and have requested 45 days
        + Will try to provide high level comments if not given
    - WOTUS
      * Rule released for all but ID and TX
      * 26 red states AGs have filed suit
      * House passed resolution with Senate following suit that will be vetoed
    - Permitting Reform
      * House
        + Tap American Resources Act – Moved and going nowhere
        + Serious consideration for House
        + Fix for Cottonwood – Restart negotiations with new info under ESA
* NFHP
  + PPT given
  + Invasive species inclusion question in assessment
* MICRA
  + 1990 formed with 26 states
  + Mission noted
  + Wanted to become a fishery commission
  + Cooperative interagency IJ fishery mgt a key purpose
    - Research needs and data sharing
    - Long term stable funding
  + 2021 – Joint Strategy Plan developed
    - 26 Directors signed MOU and open to all 31 states
    - Document
      * Common goal statement
      * Key problem areas
      * Strategies
      * Process
  + Vision – MICRA similar structure
    - Implement JSP with voluntary
    - Subbasin mgt
  + Purposes
    - Coop fish mgt
    - AIS control will be a key area
    - Research to support mgt
  + Draft legislation
    - Working with Congress
    - Authorize formation of Commission hosted by DOI
      * Authorize 10-year appropriations
      * $1 M then $30M for Year 2-3 and $50M Year 7-10
      * Competitive grants for research and projects to support mgt and non-competitive grants for capacity
* PFOS/PFAS - ASA
  + Recent publication noted
    - Angler risk from consumption
    - Exposure is uncertain
  + 117th Congress regulations for drinking water, and polluter payment for damages
  + ME schedule for 2030 elimination law
    - 2023 report PFAS in products and inability to do fully report
    - Trying to develop a path forward
  + Looking at alternatives
  + Green and wildlife groups want more strict regulations
  + ASA is developing a messaging strategy
    - Looking to develop alternatives to allow phase out
  + Great Lakes Consortium is developing consistent messaging
    - Caution is warranted on how to proceed
* Committee DEI
  + Virtual meeting to go through
  + DEI Committee think sheet was done without how to proceed
    - Thoughtful suggestions are likely the outcome