

NJ Endangered and Nongame Species Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2010

Assunpink WMA
Robbinsville, NJ

ATTENDEES

COMMITTEE: Rick Lathrop, James Applegate, Howard Geduldig, Erica Miller, James Shissias, and Dale Schweitzer

Absent: Barbara Brummer, Emile DeVito, Joanna Burger, Jane Galetto, David Mizrahi.

STAFF: Dave Jenkins (Chief), Dave Chanda, Kathy Clark, Amanda Dey, Larry Herrighty, Amy Wells, Patrick Woerner.

GUESTS: Michael Davenport (CWF), Rick Dutko (DPF)

In the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the members present approved Rick Lathrop to act as the meeting chair. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. Notice of the meeting date and location were filed with and posted at the Office of the Secretary of State on September 27, 2010.

Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Shissias, seconded by Rick Lathrop to accept the September 2010 minutes as presented. 5 in favor; 1 abstained; the minutes were approved as written.

Action Items

Members reviewed the status of pending action items and the schedule of proposed agenda items.

Director's Report

Director Dave Chanda discussed current budget and staffing shortages.

Feral Cats

Dave Jenkins reviewed the proposed stakeholder process, the purpose of which is to develop recommendations for presentation to the Commissioner. Members noted the need to define how the group characterized "consensus" and were in agreement with the proposed process serving as a reasonable approach.

Landscape Project Mapping Stakeholder Meeting

Dave Jenkins asked ENSAC to review the summary of issues raised at the Landscape Project Stakeholder meeting, asked members to review the ENSP recommended actions, and express concurrence or disagreement of proposed actions DEP should take to address the issues.

Species Status Review using the Delphi Technique - Report Format and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

The Delphi Technique is a proven process for reaching group consensus, employed by ENSP to determine the status of wildlife populations. Kathy Clark explained the purpose of the SOP is to serve as a guide for staff to conduct species status reviews and prepare standardized reports. Members were asked to review and make comment/recommendations on the document with special focus on Section 8 which outlines the format for report preparation and the format of information presented to ENSAC when determining status.

Delphi Review - Freshwater Crustaceans (Crayfish & Fairy Shrimp only)

Mike Davenport, Marine Species and GIS Program Manager for the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ (CWF), presented the results of the Delphi status review of selected crayfish and fairy shrimp species. The review process consisted of 5 expert participants. A total of 17 species were reviewed, including 12 species of crayfish and 5 species of fairy shrimp.

After 4 rounds, a consensus (with 80% agreement of panel members) was achieved on 13 out of 17 species. The consensus on status was as follows: Special Concern - 1 species (eastern fairy shrimp); Secure/Stable - three (3) species (common crayfish, spinycheek crayfish, white river crawfish); Not Applicable - nine (9) species (big water crayfish, smoothlip fair shrimp, calico crayfish, mena crayfish, Allegheny crayfish, northern clearwater crayfish, rusty crayfish, virile crayfish, red swamp crawfish).

A motion was made by Jim Applegate, seconded by Jim Shissias, to approve the list of species for which consensus was reached. Discussion followed focusing on whether or not more time should have been afforded for the committee members to review the Delphi panelist's comments. Jim Applegate called the question to approve the list of species for which consensus was reached. Five members voted in favor; one opposed. The status of the list of species for which consensus was reached was approved as presented.

Members then reviewed the summary information, confidence levels, panelists' comments, and held discussion on each of the remaining species for which the reviewers had not achieved consensus.

A motion was made by Jim Applegate, seconded by Jim Shissias, to assign the status of Undetermined to the devil crawfish. 5 in favor; 1 opposed; the Committee approved the status of the devil crawfish as Undetermined.

A motion was made by Erica Miller, seconded by Jim Applegate, to assign the status of Not Applicable to the knobbedlip fairy shrimp. All in favor; none opposed, the Committee approved the status of the knobbedlip fairy shrimp as Not Applicable.

After acknowledging low confidence levels of the panel and agreement as to the minimal amount of available data on the status of the species in NJ, a motion was made by Jim Applegate, seconded by Dale Schweitzer, to assign the status of Undetermined to the

springtime fairy shrimp. All in favor; none opposed; the Committee approved the status of the springtime fairy shrimp as Undetermined.

A motion was made by Dale Schweitzer, seconded by Jim Applegate, to assign the status of Undetermined to spinytail fairy shrimp. All in favor; none opposed; the Committee approved the status of the spinytail fairy shrimp as Undetermined.

The final fairy shrimp / crayfish report will include ENSAC's recommendations for all 17 species.

Red knots and Shorebirds

Amanda Dey provided an update on the Delaware Shorebird Project followed by a presentation on the Red knot Geolocator Project which included preliminary results of 47 Red knots fitted with geolocators to track their migration. Three knots tagged in NJ were recaptured and yielded data on the birds' movements for parts of the year. The geolocators tracked Red knots in the western hemisphere and revealed long intercontinental flights and new details of migratory pathways.

Dr. Dey also informed members of a human disturbance study taking place at North Brigantine Natural Area designed to assess abundance and behavior of shorebirds during periods with no human disturbance and normal recreation activity. She followed with an update of ASMFC committees and nominees; and an update on the ASMFC Addendum VI. Members recognized a potential benefit and desire to meet with and educate the pharmaceutical industry about concerns related to the population of horseshoe crabs.

A motion was made by Jim Applegate, seconded by R. Lathrop, and approved by the Committee to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m.