



## *Fisheries Committee Summary*

**July 9, 2014**

### **Meeting Attendees**

#### **Committee Members**

Wes Seegars, Chair  
Mark Craig  
Neal Hanks  
Richard Edwards

#### **Commissioners**

Garry Spence	Dave Hoyle
John Litton Clark	Jim Cogdell
Dell Murphy	Tom Berry
Ray Clifton	John Coley
Joe Budd	

#### **Staff**

Gordon Myers	Todd Kennedy
David Varel	Brad Gunn
Betsy Haywood	Mallory Martin
A.J. Evans	Isaac Harrold
Kate Pipkin	Erica Garner
Victoria Bennett	Bob Curry
Shannon Deaton	Rob Nichols
David Cobb	Jodie Owen
Christian Waters	Kerry Linehan
Mark Hamlett	

#### **Visitors**

Russell Poole – NC Bowhunters Association  
Hall Atkinson – Camp – Younts Foundation  
Bill Holman – The Conservation Fund  
Patty Poole - NCBA

Fisheries Committee Chairman Wes Seegars called the meeting to order at 11:45 am.

### *Mountain Heritage Trout Waters*

- Bob Curry presented information on the Town of Lansing's request to recognize the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters section of the Big Horse Creek as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. Lansing has been instrumental in obtaining and maintaining unrestricted public access to this reach of Big Horse Creek. Staff recommended including the reach in the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters program, and the Committee unanimously approved the recommendation.

**Action:** The Fisheries Committee recommends that the Commission designate the Town of Lansing as a Mountain Heritage Trout City and recognize the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters section of Big Horse Creek as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters.

### *Fisheries Management Updates*

- Pisgah Bird Predation Update – Bob reported the trout were stocked during May through July per the response plan and the fish were 9-10 inches in length. The target number and size of trout will be available for the stockings beginning in October.
- Lake Mattamuskeet Update – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hosted an open house on June 26 to announce improvements to fisheries and fish access at the lake. Commission Fisheries and Wildlife Management staff attended. At the meeting, USFWS staff indicated that they had completed careful review of the Commission's recommendation to "hold lake levels higher" and the plan (USFWS decision) was to continue to allow the lake level to ebb and flow under the current passive management strategy with no active management. Bob reported that Commission biologists continue to evaluate the lake's fishery including the stocking of largemouth bass fingerlings as part of ongoing research, tagging adult largemouth bass collected from the lake, and conducting an angler creel survey. The Commission has recently agreed to provide partial funding from October 2014 – September 2015 for the lake's two USGS gauging stations (\$5,000 per station). Erik Christofferson reported that renovations to the boating access area near the lodge are finished and work on the Rose Bay Canal access area will be completed in the very near future. Mark Hamlett is currently working with NCDOT to conduct a bathymetric survey of the lake and he is coordinating with biological staff to define the scope of work.

**Action:** Staff was asked to look at the extent of saltwater plume within the lake and its impact on aquatic vegetation.

No additional topics were discussed.

Chairman Seegars adjourned the meeting at 12:05.