

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee  
February 26, 2019 Meeting  
Styx Classroom  
2762 Wildlife Lane, West Columbia, SC 29172

**Members Present:**

Chairman Michael Hutchins, Vice Chairman Cleveland Smith, Titus Duren, Jonathan Rabon, Martha Herbert, Stan Halliday, Stephen Thomas and Sam Hiott.

**Members Absent:**

Robert Garmany

**Staff Present:**

Emily Cope, Ken Prosser, Billy Dukes, Will Dillman, Shelley Ivester, Ross Self, Lynn Quattro, Sarah Chabaane and Jennifer Kindel.

**Others Present:**

There were no constituents present.

Chairman Hutchins opened the meeting.

The minutes of the November 13, 2018 minutes were approved as submitted.

**2018/2019 Waterfowl Season Update**

Billy Dukes, Chief of Wildlife, gave a verbal report on the 2018/2019 waterfowl season and distributed 2 handouts: *WMA Regular Season* and *Waterfowl Management Areas Youth Waterfowl Harvest Report*, copies of which are attached to the original minutes. He reported on the total harvest, number of hunters, ducks/hunter ratio and total shots fired for the season for both handouts. There was an overall 11% increase of hunters and marsh ducks had the highest percent of kill for this season. The limit on mallards has been changed from 4 to 2 by the federal government.

**SCDNR Aquatic Education Programs**

Sarah Chabaane, SCDNR Aquatic Education Coordinator, gave a power point presentation on aquatic programs provided by SCDNR. Topics discussed included:

- Family Fishing Clinics
- Certified DNR Fishing Instructor Program
- Fishing Rodeos
- Fishing Tackle Loaner Program
- Trout in the Classroom Program
- Youth Bass Fishing League

**Bats in South Carolina**

Jennifer Kindel, SCDNR Bat Biologist, gave a power point presentation on Bats in South Carolina. Topics discussed included:

- White Nose Syndrome (WNS) Surveillance
- Northern Long-Eared Bat Project
- Bat Watch
- SCDNR Bat data base
- Partner Projects

### **Legislative Update**

As reported by Deputy Director Emily Cope, turkey season dates/limits are being discussed, deer tag changes are possible (quantity of free doe tags changing from 8 to 2), and a \$50 coyote bounty has been introduced. Chief of Fisheries, Ross Self, gave a brief overview of the bill introduced to restrict the harvest of elvers (baby eels).

### **Advisory Committee Member Comments**

Sam Hiott thanked DNR for providing the opportunity through the Aquatic Education programs for the youth of South Carolina to become involved in the sport of fishing. Stan Halliday commented that the addition of an electric fence around the McCullough dove field kept deer off the property and increased the amount of hunters able to utilize it. Stephen Thomas recommended that the committee hold a telephone conference once the Framework and Staff Recommendations are available for the 2019/2020 Migratory Bird Season. Martha Herbert commended the bat presentation and Titus Duren expressed his appreciation of DNR's Hunters Education division and our Bobwhite Quail program for their assistance with an upcoming Quail Day at his church.

### **Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held May 21, 2019 at the Styx classroom in West Columbia.