

**South Carolina Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee  
February 18, 2020 Meeting  
Wateree Range  
14068 Garners Ferry Road  
Eastover, SC 29044**

**Members Present:**

Chairman Mike Hutchins, Eddie Kinsey, Stephen Thomas, Martha Herbert, Jonathan Rabon and Titus Duren.

**Members Absent:**

Vice Chairman Cleveland Smith, Robert Garmany, and Stan Halliday.

**SCDNR Board Member Present:**

Jake Rasor.

**Staff Present:**

Emily Cope, Ken Prosser, Shelley Ivester, Billy Dukes, Will Dillman, Sam Chappellear, Willie Simmons, Travis Bennett, Hunter Young, Ross Self, Lynn Quattro, Michael Hook, Breck Carmichael, and Kaley Lawrimore.

**Others Present:**

There were no constituents present.

Chairman Hutchins opened the meeting.

The minutes of the November 19, 2019 meeting were approved as submitted.

**State Lakes and Infrastructure Challenges**

Ross Self, Chief of Fisheries, spoke about the conditions and infrastructure needs of the 18 State Lakes managed by SCDNR. A hand-out with the State Lakes names and their locations was provided.

**The South Carolina Bobwhite Initiative**

Michael Hook, Small Game Program Coordinator, gave a presentation on the South Carolina Bobwhite Initiative Program. With participation from private landowners and various partnerships, the bobwhite population is slowly making a comeback in South Carolina. Mr. Hook presented the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) Firebird Award to Jack Valentine for his contributions to South Carolina's efforts toward habitat-based restoration of wild bobwhite populations.

### **2019/2020 Waterfowl Season Update**

Billy Dukes, Chief of Wildlife, presented the 2019/2020 waterfowl season update. It was a slow year due to the abundance of water and warm weather. Category 1 areas averaged 2.9 ducks per hunter, with the top 3 areas being Springfield at Bear Island, followed by The Cape and Murphy Island. The top 3 species harvested were gadwall, green-winged teal, and blue-winged teal.

### **Action Item**

#### **A. Category 1 Waterfowl Area Modifications**

Proposed by Billy Dukes: SCDNR proposed removing Samworth and Wateree WMA's from Category 1 lottery hunts for at least one year for improvements to be made to the properties. Stephen Thomas made a motion to exclude Samworth and Wateree WMA's from the Category 1 hunts for the 2020/2021 duck season. Titus Duren seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 2, 2020, location to be determined.

Chair Hutchins adjourned the meeting.