



Southern Division Pollution Committee History

Who are we?

- The Pollution Committee of the Southern Division American Fisheries Society (SDAFS) was formed as the “Water Pollution Sub-Committee” of the Reservoir Committee in 1958, and became a full committee in 1963. Mr. James Davis of Louisiana was the first Sub-Committee Chairman, and Mr. Frederic Fish of North Carolina was the first Chairman of the full Committee.
- Each state game and fish agency within the SDAFS appoints an official state representative to the Pollution Committee. In addition, any interested SDAFS member may join, or be appointed as a member-at-large. The Chairman of the Pollution Committee is a non-voting member of the SDAFS Executive Committee.
- The Pollution Committee disbanded in 2013 due to inactivity. Demand for revised products the committee contributed to in the past arose during late 2013/early 2014, and former members were approved by the SDAFS President to reconvene as an ad-hoc committee in January 2015 at the SDAFS spring meeting to meet this demand. In February 2016 the SDAFS Executive Committee voted to make the Pollution Committee a technical committee.

What are the goals of the ad-hoc committee?

- Develop and publish standardized and legally defensible protocols for conducting fish kill investigations and assessing monetary damages resulting from these incidents.
- Share information on causes, results, investigation techniques, and problems among SDAFS member agencies, organizations, and individuals.

What are the major accomplishments of the committee?

- 1964- Completed summary of water pollution control laws of various member states
- 1970- Published “Monetary Values of Fish”
- 1971- Published “Fish Kill Counting Procedures”
- 1975- Revised “Monetary Values of Fish”
- 1979- Revised “Fish-Kill Counting Guidelines”
- 1982- Combined the above as “Monetary Values of Freshwater Fish and Fish Kill Counting Guidelines”; published as AFS Special Publication #13 (in cooperation with other AFS divisional committees)
- 1986- Published “Fish Kill Investigation Procedures”
- 1990- Hosted special session on contaminant effects on fisheries at 44th annual conference of Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- 1992- Revised AFS publication #13 as “Investigation and Valuation of Fish Kills” – published as AFS Special Publication #24 (in cooperation with AFS Socioeconomics Section)
- 1994- Completed survey “Methodologies and Procedures Used by the Member States of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society to Assess Damages from Fish Kills”
- 2002- Revised AFS special publication #24 to update fish values and incorporate mussel kill methods of investigation and values- published as “Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mussel Kills” AFS Special Publication #30 (in cooperation with AFS Socioeconomics Section and Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society)

Incomplete projects over the years

- Chronic degradation
- Loss incurred by habitat degradation
- Estuary values
- Video of how to conduct investigation

What are the future projects of the committee?

- To revise AFS Special Publication #30 in order to update monetary values of fishes and mussels, mussel kill methods of investigation, methods of damage assessment, and legal precedents
- Evaluate the need for symposium on investigation and damage assessment
- To develop GIS layers of fish kills and other pollution events throughout member states of the Southern Division (old project)
- To standardize computer software for entry of fish kill data and report generation (old project)

OUTLINE OF POLLUTION COMMITTEE HISTORY

Created by Curtis S. Lawson & Ron Southwick in early 1990s

Updated by Rebecca O’Hearn in December 2016

Year	Activity
1958	The Pollution Committee was promulgated
1964	Frederic F. Fish, North Carolina, chairperson. Finished summary of water pollution control laws of various member states.
1965-1969	Committee was inactive.
1967	One member (H.M. Nichols) co-authored “An evaluation of cove sampling of fish populations in Douglas Reservoir, Tennessee” in Reservoir fishery resources symposium.
1970	Sam L. Spencer, Ala. Dept. of Conservation, chairperson. <i>Monetary Values of Fish</i> published and accepted by Southern Division. Worked on fish-kill counting procedures. Resolution on mercury and other heavy metals.
1971	Dr. Billy J. Grantham, Univ. of Southern Miss., chairperson. <i>Fish-Kill Counting Procedures</i> published. Began addressing chronic degradation.
1972	Daniel M. Sherry, Tenn. Game and Fish Comm., chairperson. Sent fish-kill counting guidelines for streams and lakes to each state. Preliminary outline on chronic pollution.
1973	Daniel M. Sherry, chairperson. Considered expansion to pollution and warm water streams committee. Realized difficulties of tackling pollution problems when members are not pollution specialists. Draft of Assessment of Fishery Loss Incurred by Habitat Degradation.
1974	Peter W. Pfeiffer, Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Res., chairperson. Worked on revising fish values due to inflation.
1975	Peter W. Pfeiffer, chairperson. Revised fish values with 14% increase published “Monetary Values of Fish.” Began developing more statistically valid fish counting procedures. Table chronic degradation.
1976	W. H. Peltier, EPA in Athens, GA., chairperson. Draft of fish-kill counting guidelines. Began developing manual on fish-kill investigations procedures. One member volunteered to prepare a draft by October. Began development of estuary monetary values. Began preparing newsletter.
1977	Russel D. Ober, Georgia Game and Fish Div., chairperson. Pollution committee Newsletter started. Worked on revisions to fish-kill counting guidelines. Began studying feasibility of testing guidelines at Lake Barkley study in 1978.
1978	Donley M. Hill, TVA, chairperson. Planned and tested counting guidelines at Barkley study. Looked at possibility of placing monetary values on estuaries. Worked on pollution investigation publication. North Central Division publishes reimbursement for fish values.
1979	Donley M. Hill, TVA, chairperson. Published <i>Fish-Kill Counting Guidelines</i> . Several members published results of Lake Barkley recovery of tagged fish study in Southeastern. Paper planned, reviewed, and discussed by committee.
1980	Roy W. Spears, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, chairperson. Discussed compilation of a fish-kill investigation manual. Discussed estuaries. Commented on Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act. Discussed possible inclusion of fish-kill counting guidelines in AFS Monetary values of fishes book.
1981	Roy W. Spears, chairperson. Newsletter terminated? Revisions to guidelines to incorporate Barkley study. Requirements for membership specified. Material for fish-kill investigation manual reviewed.

1982	Charlie Sledd, Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, chairperson. (Hudson M. Nichols, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, listed as chairperson in <i>Fish-Kill Counting Guidelines</i> AFS Special Publication No.13, which was published this year). Worked on audio visual program. Discussed committee membership expansion. Discussed producing a booklet on committee and its history. Number of meetings reduced to one per year plus Southeastern.
1983	Charlie Sledd, chairperson. Worked on committee history. Worked on fish-kill investigation manual. Worked on method to expand membership. Discussed chronic degradation.
1984	Wayne L. Davis, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky, chairperson.
1985	Wayne L. Davis, chairman. Completed "Fish Kill Investigation Manual."
1986	Frank Jernejcic, West Virginia DNR, chairperson. Published <i>Fish Kill Investigation Manual</i> . Review of AFS Oversight Committee's evaluation of S. E. Technical Committees.
1987	Frank Jernejcic, chairperson. Additional review of oversight Committee's report. Information exchange among members.
1988	George Guillen, Texas Water Commission, chairperson. Revision of "Fish Kill Procedures Manual." Discussion of Ohio River oil spill. Developed questionnaire on need to revise AFS Special Publication 13.
1989	George Guillen, chairperson. Continue to revise "Fish Kill Investigation Procedure" and "Fish Kill Counting Guidelines."
1990	George Guillen, chairperson. Review of draft <i>Fish Counting Guidelines</i> . Discussion and planning for upcoming special paper session at Southeastern. Hosted special session on contaminant effects on fisheries at the 44 th conference of the Southeastern Associated of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Richmond, VA
1991	Keith Ashley, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, elected chairperson. Review and discussion of the "Fish Kill Counting Guidelines." Plans to hold another special paper session at future Southeastern meeting.
1992	Keith Ashley, chairperson. Status report on the "Fish Kill Counting Guidelines." Discussion to develop computer program for assessing the impacts of fish kills. Published <i>Investigation and valuation of fish kills</i> , special publication 24.
1993	Keith Ashley, chairperson. Presentations by Jack Ralph on the results of Fish Kill Methodology Survey and Fish Kill computer software. Jack Ralph (TX) elected chairperson-elect.
1994	Jack Ralph (TX), chairperson. "Methodologies and Procedures Used by the Member States of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society to Assess Damages from Fish Kills" completed (to be published in <i>Fisheries?</i>), draft <i>Procedures Manual</i> for Pollution Committee reviewed
Incomplete history from 1995-1999	
1995	Jack Ralph (TX), chairperson
1996-1997	Ken Shirley (AK), chairperson
1998	Richard (Dick) Duchrow (MO), chairperson.
1999-2000	Richard (Dick) Duchrow (MO), chairperson. Began discussions about revision to special publication 24.
2001	Keith Floyd (Alabama), chairperson. Started discussing mussel values with Freshwater Mussel Conservation Society, Commercial Mussels Subgroup
2002	Keith Floyd (Alabama), chairperson. Fish kill continuing education course planned for 2004 AFS National Meeting conducted by Kentucky Department of Fish and wildlife Resources in cooperation with USFWS
2003	Patti Lanford (GA), chairperson. Chairperson interest in sediment pollution.

	<i>Investigation and Monetary Values of Fish and Freshwater Mussel Kills</i> , special publication 30 was published.
2004	Patti Lanford (GA), chairperson; Leanna Zwiig (MO), stand in for chairperson at annual meeting
2005	Patti Lanford (GA), chairperson; Leanna Zwiig (MO), stand in for chairperson at annual meeting. Discussions about low attendance of meeting in recent years and future of committee when revisions to publication are not underway
2006-2008	Leanna Zwiig (MO), chairperson. Discussions of NRDA methods, recreation loss methods, database and information sharing, training coordination with USFWS. Plan to organize symposium in future.
2009	Ken Shirley (AK), assumes chairmanship.
2010-2011	Ken Shirley (AK), chairperson. Committee inactive due to member travel restrictions. Several conversations between committee members about calculating fish damages, using AFS fish values for poaching cases, recreational value, trophy value, future plans to meet via conference call, approaching time for AFS fish values update.
2012	Committee inactive. Texas independently inquires with Andrew Loftus about needs for updating the AFS fish values.
2013	Committee disbanded by SDAFS EXCOM due to inactivity for past 4 years. Fall 2013, Missouri inquires with former members about update of AFS fish values.
2014	Conference call to gage interest in update. Participants include: former members, Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society, and SDAFS President. Rebecca O'Hearn (MO) assumes chairmanship for ad-hoc committee
2015	Rebecca O'Hearn (MO), chairperson. Loftus and Southwick & Associates pursuing funding for publication update. Request to include freshwater crayfish in next publication update. Discussions about workshop to assist publication process and future damage assessment symposium. Bryant Bowen volunteers to redo 1994 survey of fish kill methodologies and procedures. Bryant Bowen (GA) elected chairperson-elect. Committee granted ad hoc status by SDAFS EXCOM.
2016	Rebecca O'Hearn (MO), chairperson. Update to Special Publication No. 30 underway. Bowen (GA) completes data collection for injury and damage methodologies and procedure survey. Interest in assessing ecosystem losses and valuation of rare species. Interest in hosting workshops, symposiums, and online discussion board. SDAFS EXCOM approves motion to change committee status to a technical committee.
2017	Bryant Bowen (GA), chairperson. Draft summary for injury and damage methodologies and procedures survey.