

**South Carolina Department of Natural Resources  
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Advisory Committee  
October 27, 2020 meeting  
Rembert Dennis Building, Room 335  
Columbia, SC 29201**

**Members Present:**

Chairman Mike Hutchins, Vice Chairman Cleveland Smith, Stan Halliday, Eddie Kinsey, Stephen Thomas, Martha Herbert, Jonathan Rabon, Titus Duren, and Will Shirley.

**Members attending via teleconference:**

Robert Garmany

**Staff Present:**

Emily Cope, Ken Prosser, Billy Dukes, Sam Chappellear, Tom Swaynham, Will Dillman, Ross Self, Lynn Quattro, Andrew Grosse, and Shelley Ivester.

**Staff attending via teleconference:**

Kaley Lawrimore

**Others Present:**

There were no constituents present.

Chairman Hutchins called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted and the minutes from the April 2, 2020 teleconference call were also approved as submitted.

**Opening Day of Dove Season Results**

Billy Dukes, Chief of Wildlife, presented opening day of dove season results. Six of the eight best dove fields were in Region 1.

**ADULTS** Total of adult hunters: 3341  
Total doves harvested: 9774  
Doves per hunter: 2.93

**YOUTH** Total youth hunters: 425  
Total doves harvested: 1075  
Doves per hunter: 1.10

**WFF COVID Response**

Sam Chappellear, Assistant Chief of Wildlife and Lynn Quattro, Assistant Chief of Fisheries, presented WFF's response to COVID-19. After Governor McMaster's executive order of March 20, 2020 and before Phase I was implemented, WFF had a viable plan of action in place on

April 3, 2020 to continue division operations. Administrative staff are working remotely where possible and technical/field staff are working following COVID protocols to keep SCDNR properties, lottery hunts and boat ramps operating safely. Canada and other states used some of SCDNR's COVID response tactics.

### **WMA Sunday Hunting**

Emily Cope, Deputy Director of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, discussed the possibility of opening Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) on Sundays. Chairman Mike Hutchins polled the Advisory Committee, and it was unanimous that WMA's should remain closed on Sundays.

### **Update on Waterfowl Area Enhancements and Restoration**

Sam Chappelle presented a power point presentation providing an update of waterfowl area enhancements and restoration activities. Between hiring contractors and SCDNR staff working on the enhancements, many of the repairs have been expedited. South Carolina is a leader in applying for and receiving grants for these repairs.

### **Fish Stocking Update**

Lynn Quattro provided an update on fish stocking. Despite COVID, SCDNR continues to grow stock. Striped bass numbers are stable for the year and American shad and catfish numbers are up. Stocking efforts are ongoing for other species.

### **Tegus in South Carolina**

Andrew Grosse, SCDNR Herpetology Program Coordinator, gave a power point presentation and spoke about tegus in South Carolina.

- Tegus are a non-native species.
- First confirmed tegu sighting in South Carolina was August 13, 2020.
- There have been 11 confirmed tegus in South Carolina, seven were removed, with additional sightings of over 150.
- Tegus are omnivores and pose a threat to quail and turkey eggs.
- SCDNR created a website to report sightings.

### **Legislative Update**

Emily Cope presented topics for the 2021 two-year legislative session starting in January 2021. One of particular interest will be proposed changes/additions to regulation on deer hunting with dogs. Chairman Hutchins polled the Advisory Committee on changing and/or adding regulations on deer hunting with dogs and the result was eight yea's and two nays.

Chairman Hutchins recognized and thanked Mr. Bobby Garmany and Mr. Stephen Thomas for their service to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Committee. Both members served two terms, which expired on June 30, 2020.

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

The next meeting of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Committee will be held February 9, 2021, location to be determined.

Chairman Hutchins adjourned the meeting.