

Enclosure 22

Memorandum for Record
Informal Consultation Telecon
17 May 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Fish Spawn Coordination Teleconference, 17 May 2004

1. The following agency representatives participated in this week's teleconference:

Jerry Ziewitz, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Panama City, FL
Russ Ober, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Albany, GA
Memphis Vaughan, USACE, Mobile, Water Management Section
Cheryl Hrabovsky, USACE, Mobile, Water Management Section
Rob Erhardt, Meteorologist, USACE, Mobile, Water Management Section
Matt Lang, USACE, Mobile, Planning and Environmental Division
Joanne Brandt, USACE, Mobile, Planning and Environmental Division

We attempted to contact Ted Hoehn and Charlie Mesing of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) for the teleconference, but both were out of the office. However, the USACE representatives were able to get Rick Long of FWCC online after this telecon to summarize the agency discussions.

2. Joanne summarized the results of last week's teleconference. Our water management staff had planned to reduce outflows from Jim Woodruff Dam (JWD) to the Apalachicola River last week, in anticipation of continued dry conditions and reduced inflows into the basin. However, it was agreed to maintain the 9100 cfs minimum release out of JWD through today to see if any beneficial rainfall would be received in the basin over the weekend, and to reassess the basin inflows. Without the additional rainfall the 9100 cfs release from JWD could not be sustained without impacts to the system resulting in drawing down the upstream reservoirs.

3. Rob noted that there had been little if any rainfall over the ACF basin last week and this past weekend. There would be only spotty and scattered showers over the next 2 days, and then a hot dry pattern would continue for the next 10 days, as a ridge of high pressure strengthens over the southeast and particularly over Georgia. We seem to be experiencing the summer weather patterns several weeks early this year.

4. Russ reported that several fish kills (primarily bass) had been experienced at Walter F. George Lake (WFG) over the last couple of weeks. They are planning to collect fish to send to the lab for analysis, but it appears that this may be a virus infection similar to that experienced several years ago. Russ requested that elevations at WFG be kept as steady as possible in order to avoid any additional stress to the fish. He would not like to see any further draw-down in lake levels at WFG.

5. Cheryl reported that we had continued to make the minimum 9100 cfs release from JWD, but that the 3-day average inflows were currently between 8200 and 8300 cfs. It was proposed to

immediately begin to reduce releases from JWD to match the system inflows, with releases to be gradually reduced (500 cfs per day) to 8200 cfs. With this reduction in releases from JWD, lake levels at WFG would remain steady at around 188.4 ft. and West Point Lake levels would remain steady at around 633 ft. This would bring both lakes to levels just below Zone 2 over the next couple of weeks. This reduced release would be able to be maintained for approximately one week. However, we would then need to re-evaluate system inflows and may need to make a further reduction in releases next week to around 7000 cfs., depending on inflows and any additional beneficial rainfall.

6. Jerry repeated that we should continue to try to keep lakes steady (especially WFG to alleviate fish stress) and to match outflows to the basin inflows. This would be in keeping with the gradual reduction in flows to the Apalachicola River to 8200 cfs over the next couple of days.

7. We will continue to monitor inflows and basin conditions over the next week. The next teleconference is scheduled for Monday, 25 May 2004, 9:00 a.m. CDT/10:00 a.m. EDT.

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