

Enclosure 23

Memorandum for Record  
Informal Consultation Telecon  
24 May 2004

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Fish Spawn Coordination Teleconference, 24 May 2004

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

Jerry Ziewitz, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Panama City, FL  
Charlie Mesing, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Russ Ober, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Albany, GA  
Brent Hess, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, West Point Lake contact  
Cheryl Hrabovsky, USACE, Mobile, Water Management Section  
Rob Erhardt, Meteorologist, USACE, Mobile, Water Management Section  
Larry Henderhott, USACE, Mobile, Operations Division

We attempted to contact Ted Hoehn Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) for the teleconference, but he was out of the office. However, the USACE representatives left a message and were able to get Charlie Mesing with FWCC online for the teleconference.

2. Cheryl summarized the results of last week's teleconference. Our water management staff reduced outflows from Jim Woodruff Dam (JWD) to 8200 cfs to the Apalachicola River last week, due to continued dry conditions and reduced inflows into the basin.

3. Rob forecasted no rain for the next week and continued hot and dry conditions.

4. Russ reported that several fish kills (primarily bass) had been experienced at Walter F. George Lake (WFG) over the last three weeks. They have collected some fish and sent them to the lab at Auburn for analysis. It is now thought that the problem is not a virus. 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 8200 cfs release from JWD, but that the 3-day average inflows were currently between 8000 and 8200 cfs and dropping. It was proposed to begin to reduce releases from JWD starting on Tue, to match the system inflows, with releases to be gradually reduced (500 cfs per day) to 7200 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 633.9 ft. 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 6000 cfs., depending on inflows.

6. Larry added that this weekend is a big holiday weekend for recreation at all of our lakes, and the recreational groups would like to see the lakes full. This is for both the recreational benefits and the safety of those using our lakes. At lower elevations, more rocks, etc are exposed or have little clearance for the many boaters posing increased safety concerns. Of course, they all understand the need for flows to the river for the fish and are fine with keeping the lakes steady. They do not want to see any more declines before or during the holiday weekend.

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 7200 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 Tuesday, 1 Jun 2004, 10:30 a.m. CDT/11:30 a.m. EDT.

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Water Management Section