

# RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

## *RFHP News and Updates*

December 22, 2009

Vol. 1, No. 5 – P.1

---

### **Organizational Changes**

Phil Durocher, the leader of the Reservoir Partnership for the past 3 years, is retiring from Texas Parks and Wildlife – and, at the same time, stepping down as interim Chair of the RFHP. He will be missed immensely. He provided the leadership, cohesion, and drive needed to make this partnership a reality and to lead it to designation as a Fish Habitat Partnership. We all owe him an immense debt of gratitude. He will not be forgotten. Mike Armstrong, Deputy Director, Arkansas Game and Fish, has assumed the interim Chair position pending the first meeting of the partnership's new Executive Committee.

### **RFHP's Executive Committee**

The first meeting of the 12-member RFHP Executive Committee – the permanent governing body that will replace the current Steering Committee – is now being planned and will be hosted in early 2010. The exact date and location of the meeting will be forthcoming, once finalized. At the meeting, the Committee will establish a Charter for the RFHP, consider expansion of the Committee to fifteen members, and address critical issues facing our partnership in the upcoming months. We anticipate the Committee will also set a date for the next national RFHP partnership meeting.

The Executive Committee consists of the following representatives:

Mike Armstrong – Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Robert Curry – American Fisheries Society Administration Section  
Dwight Fielder – Bureau of Land Management  
Chris Horton – BASS ESPN  
Mark Hoyer – North American Lake Management Society  
Stuart Leon – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jeff Lucero – Bureau of Reclamation  
Martin MacDonald – American Sportfishing Association/Bass Pro Shops  
Neil Manji – Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Doug Nygren – Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Tim Toplisek – Army Corps of Engineers  
TBA – Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

### **New RFHP Coordinator**

Starting January 4, 2010, Cecilia Lewis will assume coordinator responsibilities for the RFHP. An employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C., Cecilia has been active in the partnership since the seminal NCTC meeting in fall, 2009. She now works in the Service's Fisheries Program (headed by Stuart

Leon, our new Executive Committee member) and will act as that program's reservoir coordinator and representative. She will work closely with Karl Hess to ensure a smooth transition in coordination over the next several months. In addition, she will continue to work closely with Tom Busiahn, FWS staff to the National Fish Habitat Action Plan – ensuring seamless coordination and cooperation between the RFHP and NFHAP. Cecilia can be reached by telephone at 703-358-2102 or by email at [Cecilia\\_Lewis@fws.gov](mailto:Cecilia_Lewis@fws.gov). She is highly supportive of the partnership and will contribute significantly to its future success.

### **Fish and Wildlife Service Financial Support**

The RFHP will receive \$90,000 in support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2010. These funds will be used to complete the national reservoir assessment and classification. Reed Green, USGS in Arkansas, and Steve Miranda, USGS/Mississippi State, will lead the research and development funded by these dollars under the auspices of the Science and Data Sub-Committee. In order to launch this effort, there will be a tele-conference for the Science and Data Sub-Committee on Tuesday, January 12, at 11am EST. Call-in number and passcode for the call are: 517-308-9406 / 41759. Every member of the RFHP that has interest in this effort is invited to join the call.

### **Asheville, NC, Meeting of Science and Data Sub-Committee**

Jeff Boxrucker has made arrangements for a meeting of the RFHP Science and Data Sub-Committee in conjunction with the February 25-28, 2010, meeting of the Southern Division, American Fisheries Society in Asheville, NC. Details of the meeting will be discussed on the January Science and Data Sub-Committee conference call (referenced above).

### **Last Word**

Phil Durocher left a great legacy for fisheries management in the United States: the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership. He supported this partnership with generous contributions of staff and financial resources – and, most critically, an unwavering commitment to the vision of a holistic, system-based approach to reservoir management. We inherit what he worked so hard to complete. Let us now move forward to transform his vision into a reality of unparalleled success. To all of you, we wish the best of the holiday season and an upcoming year of achievement, prosperity, and happiness. Onward to 2010!

### **Contact Information:**

For additional information regarding RFHP and its activities, please contact: Mike Armstrong ([mlarmstrong@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:mlarmstrong@agfc.state.ar.us)), Karl Hess ([Karl\\_Hess@fws.gov](mailto:Karl_Hess@fws.gov)), or Cecilia Lewis ([Cecilia\\_Lewis@fws.gov](mailto:Cecilia_Lewis@fws.gov)). Please share this newsletter with anyone who might be interested in the partnership.