Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee
Brasstown Valley Resort
6321 Highway 76
Young Harris, GA 30582

Wednesday, December 7, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members
Randy Dellinger, Chair
Joe Hatfield, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Nick Ayers
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Paul Shailendra
Miki Thomaston
Gary Vowell
Bill Jones, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Staff Members
Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Donald Kirkland
Artica Gaston
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Ted Will
Antoinette Norfleet
Clint Peacock

Board Members
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Patrick Denney
Dwight Evans
Rob Leebern
Bodine Sinyard
Dee Yancey

Guests
Aaron Mitchell, Georgia Power
Rosa Chi, Georgia Power
J. D. McCrney, Georgia Forest Watch

Richard Dunn, Director
John Eunice
Karen Hays
The December 7, 2022 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Bill Jones.

Chairman Jones called on Patrick Denney, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee. Mr. Denney called on Clint Peacock, Assistant Chief of Fisheries to present the proposed amendments to Fishing Regulations, Rule 391-4-3.

Mr. Peacock stated that during the October 25, 2022 board meeting, the committee was briefed on the proposed amendments to fishing regulations in Georgia regarding the Blueback Herring. He further stated the amendment would add Lake Allatoona to the list of water bodies where it is legal to possess Blueback Herring and use them for bait. He added that this species is native to some of Georgia’s waterways and historically has been introduced into other water bodies around the state. He further added that in recent years it has become evident that Lake Allatoona has an established population of this species and anglers are interacting with them on the lake using a cast net while catching bait fish.

Mr. Peacock stated during the 30-day comment period, the public had the opportunity to provide feedback via phone, U S. Mail and email. He further stated that thirteen comments were received: two of which were unrelated, one sought clarification, and nine were in favor and all but one was unopposed to any degree. He added that these responses suggest the overall high-level support for this change and is also consistent with feedback regional biologist technicians were receiving on the water throughout the year, prior to the beginning of this process.

Mr. Peacock requested favorable consideration for the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously, that the Committee recommends the Board approve the Proposed Amendments to Fishing Regulations, Rule 391-4-3.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.