

**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

**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. McCrary, Georgia Forest Watch

**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

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.