

## **Summary of Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture conference call: 10/22/04 (9-10AM)**

### **Participants:**

Doug Beard  
Doug Besler  
Bob Carline  
Dave Cross  
Mark Huddy  
Jarrod Kosa  
Andy Loftus  
Steve Perry  
Gordon Robertson  
Kim Ryals  
Eric Schwaab  
Doug Stang  
Leon Szypticki  
Samara Trusso (new IAFWA / NBII Coordinator)  
Jeff Waldon  
Mike Weimer

### **Steering Committee**

The Committee needs to consider an appropriate time and venue to re-convene Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture partners (EBTJV); perhaps a face-to face meeting in early 2005?

- The North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference being held in the Washington, DC area (Arlington, VA; March 2005) might be a good opportunity to get together and have a face-to-face meeting of participants in the EBTJV. However, this may be difficult to do, as the agendas of many of the potential participants may be very full.  
It may be critical to complete the brook trout sub-basin mapping before we get everyone back together again. The completion of the assessment is needed to adequately prepare the Conservation Strategy. We also need to get feedback from States and others on the criteria that were used to gather assessment data.

**Decision:** *The Steering Committee should target a face to face meeting in late March or early April. One agenda item for the Steering Committee meeting will be to develop a process and timeline for convening a follow up meeting of all EBTJV partners later in 2005. The full meeting will be professionally facilitated under the new multistate conservation grant and administered by CMI.*

*That meeting may occur proximal to the North American Natural Resources and Wildlife Conference. Mike Weimer will poll the group regarding potential dates, with emphasis on dates just prior to or immediately following the North American.*

### **Conservation Strategy Work Group**

Doug Besler will send out the EBTJV Conservation Strategy draft as a "rough framework" to everyone on the original invitee list (June 04 meeting at the NCTC) and solicit their comments, with responses due back to Doug by the end of November (1 month to comment). Doug will make clear in that communication that the Conservation Strategy is a work in progress that will evolve significantly once Status and Distribution work is available for incorporation.

The Habitat Workgroup is completing text for the "Habitat Protection and Improvement" section of the CS. This material will be forwarded to Doug ASAP to be included in CS draft document. The original timeline for completion of the Conservation Strategy (December 31, 2004) will be extended to allow for input and edits based on the results of the completed status and trends assessment (Spring, 2005), and additional direction from the EBTJV Steering Committee.

Doug had previously sent the CS draft to all conference call participants.

The CS Work Group will hold a conference call on November 5<sup>th</sup> from 9-10AM to review edits to the draft CS document.

### **Status and Distribution Work Group**

The Status and Distribution Work Group has set up a meeting to be held at State College PA on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (Doug Beard is the lead). They are working to get representation from all States (with eastern brook trout concerns) at the meeting.

The goals of the meeting will be to:

- Get agreement from States on the process to be used for compiling and analyzing status and distribution assessment data.
- Get involvement from "smaller" States (those with fewer trout waters), and produce a first-cut assessment of the 8 levels of assessment that will come out of the table.
- Agreement on how they will finalize work being conducted with "larger" States.
- Strategize as to how the first-cut of the map building will be conducted (by sometime in January?)

The Work Group will then work with States to put threat levels behind the data. Mark Huddy has been working with Virginia and West Virginia; there are 6,000 to 8,000 watershed calls. The list grows to about 16,000 if you include both lentic and lotic. Mark will bring Virginia's classification system to the November 3-4 workshop for comparison and discussion. He'll be meeting with the personnel from Virginia in the near future to confirm original classifications and "limiting factor" information. States with less-developed data sets will be more difficult to incorporate (comparing "apples to oranges").

**Action Item:** *A letter to state fish chiefs will be developed following the November 3-4 workshop. Eric Schwaab will circulate the letter, which will be based on draft language provided by Doug Beard.*

Trout Unlimited has funding that may be used to provide support in data collection (perhaps hire personnel to assist). They could also use the balance of the funds to produce

a report (outreach products) to provide to Congress, other agencies (etc) by Summer, 2005 (earliest possible).

### **Habitat Work Group**

No Work Group Chair update provided.

Mike Weimer is drafting text for the “Habitat Protection and Improvement” section of the CS. This material will be forwarded to Habitat Workgroup members for comment and review, and will be forwarded to Doug for addition to the CS working draft.

### **Outreach and Education Work Group**

Kim Ryals will work with Mike Weimer to begin putting together a one-page fact sheet on the EBTJV. The fact sheet will be provided to State fishery chiefs to provide support to the Joint Venture. The draft will be submitted to the Steering Committee for review by November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Kim has assessed the outreach and education materials available to partners on brook trout. Currently, there’s not much out there. Kim is beginning to assess the materials that will be necessary as the EBTJV moves forward. There is a need to 1) construct a message, and 2) identify our target audience.

### **EBTJV Multi-State Grant**

Jeff Waldon thanked everyone that was a part of pulling together the EBTJV Multi-State Grant proposal.

The proposal consists of 3 major components:

- Information Compilation
- Assessment and Planning
- Education and Management

Jeff (CMI) will essentially act as the general contractor on the proposal, providing funds to individual “sub-contractors”.

Currently, there is no game plan established for project planning and stakeholder involvement on the EBTJV. There is funding available for a facilitator to work with a larger group (at NCTC? Spring, 2005?). Recommendations will be made to the Steering Committee for their review and endorsement.

**Action Item:** *CMI will seek to procure a facilitator in time to participate in the Steering Committee meeting in early Spring, 2005.*

### **Non-natives**

In the past, there had been some discussion about creating a work group to address the issue of non-native species, and that group would also look at hatchery/stocking issues. A decision was made at the NCTC workshop not to create separate work group explicitly for this non-natives.

There is, however, a need for coordinating efforts between agencies specific to trout stocking. A group may need to convene on this subject in the future, but not at this point.