Agenda
East Texas Initiative Work Group Meeting
February 24, 2022, 10:00 a.m. (CST)

I.   Welcome, overview, and updates: Natural Resources Program, Texas Comptroller's Office

II. Presentations:

  a. East Texas mussels research update, Texas State University

  b. Alligator snapping turtle research update, Stephen F. Austin State University

  c. Western chicken turtle and alligator snapping turtle research update, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Break at 10:55 a.m. Restart meeting at 11:00 a.m.

  d. Data and research needs for East Texas fishes, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

III. Discussion items:
  a. Do the proposed calls for proposals on East Texas fishes address stakeholder needs? Please see attachments A and B.

  b. Other items for discussion.

Attachment A: Draft scope of work for call for proposals for fish survey of upper Sabine watershed

1.1 Species of Interest
- All fishes of the Sabine River watershed upstream of Toledo Bend Reservoir

1.2 Geographic Area
- Sabine River watershed upstream of Toledo Bend Reservoir

1.3 Project Timeline

- 36 months

1.4 Research Goals

- To assess current distribution and abundance of all freshwater fish species of the Sabine River watershed upstream of Toledo Bend Reservoir.

- Assess relationships between distributions of potential fish hosts and freshwater unionid mussels, including Louisiana pigtoe (*Pleurobema riddellii*) and Texas heelsplitter (*Potamilus amphichaenus)*

- Provide accessible data and methodologies for stakeholders and potential end-users, which include state and federal agencies, consultants, private landowners, river authorities and public utilities.

1.6 Research Objectives

Suggested tasks include:

1. Work with stakeholders to perform a literature review and collect all published data, gray literature, and any other available fish survey data of the Sabine River, organize this data, and make it easily accessible to all stakeholders.

2. Before surveys are conducted, coordinate with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to plan for the long-term storage and accessibility of all survey data and specimens; and acquire scientific collection permits.

3. Inventory all fish species of the Sabine River watershed upstream of Toledo Bend (including mainstem, tributaries and floodplain habitats) using appropriate multiple biological and habitat survey methodologies across different habitat types and seasons as needed to document fish assemblage dynamics across a two-year field sampling period. Identify all species and record abundance, habitat associations, and distributions.

4. Perform data analysis to 1) quantify species and fish assemblage trends using historical and contemporary data and 2) assess relationships between distributions of potential fish hosts and freshwater unionid mussels.

5. Make project data available to stakeholders and potential end users for the duration of the contract (e.g., https://dataverse.tdl.org/dataverse/root). Share data in an easily accessible format in consultation with stakeholders and potential end users. Formats may include, public meetings, an interactive website, Texas Natural Diversity Database submissions, museum vouchers, etc.

6. Recommend standardized survey methodologies for long-term ecological monitoring for fishes of the Sabine Watershed. Coordinate with stakeholders and potential end-users to incorporate practical considerations such as field conditions (including habitat, flow, and weather), cost, equipment, etc., and provide training, if necessary, to implement recommended survey methodologies.

Attachment B: Draft scope of work for call for proposals for fish survey of Neches and Angelina watersheds

1.1 Species of Interest
- All fishes of the Neches and Angelina watersheds

1.2 Geographic Area
- Neches and Angelina watersheds

1.3 Project Timeline
- 36 months

1.5 Research Goals
- To assess current distribution and abundance of all freshwater fish species of the Neches and Angelina watersheds.

- Assess relationships between distributions of potential fish hosts and freshwater unionid mussels, including Louisiana pigtoe (*Pleurobema riddellii*) and Texas heelsplitter (*Potamilus amphichaenus)*

- Provide accessible data and methodologies for stakeholders and potential end-users, which include state and federal agencies, consultants, private landowners, river authorities and public utilities.

1.6 Research Objectives

Suggested tasks include:

1. Work with stakeholders to perform a literature review and collect all published data, gray literature, and any other available fish survey data of the watersheds of the Neches and Angelina rivers, organize this data, and make it easily accessible to all stakeholders.

2. Before surveys are conducted, coordinate with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to plan for the long-term storage and accessibility of all survey data and specimens; and acquire scientific collection permits.

3. Inventory all fish species of the Neches and Angelina watersheds (including mainstem, tributaries and floodplain habitats) using appropriate multiple biological and habitat survey methodologies across different habitat types and seasons as needed to document fish assemblage dynamics across a two-year field sampling period. Identify all species, record abundance, habitat associations, and distributions.

4. Perform data analysis to 1) quantify species and fish assemblage trends using historical and contemporary data and 2) assess relationships between distributions of potential fish hosts and freshwater unionid mussels.

5. Make project data available to stakeholders and potential end users for the duration of the contract (e.g., https://dataverse.tdl.org/dataverse/root, http://www.fishesoftexas.org,). Share data in an easily accessible format in consultation with stakeholders and potential end users. Formats may include, public meetings, an interactive website, Texas Natural Diversity Database submissions, museum vouchers, etc.

6. Recommend standardized survey methodologies for long-term ecological monitoring for fishes of the Neches and Angelina watershed. Coordinate with stakeholders and potential end-users to incorporate practical considerations such as field conditions (including habitat, flow, and

weather), cost, equipment, etc., and provide training, if necessary, to implement recommended survey methodologies.