

No. 47	Names of Fishes Committee	Larry Page
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TO: John Boreman, President
FROM: Larry Page, Chair, Committee on Names of Fishes
DATE: 1 July 2013

I. Motion Report – *Nothing to report*

II. Activity Report

Members: Larry Page (Chair), Carter Gilbert, Nick Mandrak, Karsten Hartel, Lloyd Findley, H.J. Walker, Carole Baldwin, Juan Jacobo Schmitter-Soto, Robert Lea

1. The "Common and scientific names of fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, 7th edition" was published as AFS Special Publication No. 34 in 2013.

2. The Committee on Names of Fishes met at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, 11 August 2012, and the following future activities of the Committee were identified:

a) Update the List with new and revised names of fishes as required for an 8th edition to be published in approximately 8-10 years (or sooner if the Committee and AFS agree).

b) Expand coverage beyond the bathymetric (200-m depth) limit now used to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This will produce a list of all species within the legal jurisdictions of the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Nick Mandrak has such a list for Canada. Karsten Hartel has compiled a preliminary list extending to the EEZ for the area from New England to Virginia that includes approximately 477 species. John McEachran's two-volume "Fishes of the Gulf of Mexico" published in 1998 and 2005 provides a working list for the Gulf of Mexico. A list for the Pacific Ocean will require the most work.

c) Develop an Online Version of the List to reflect proposed changes in names as they appear in print and/or are proposed by the Committee. The Online Version will provide opportunities for comments from members of ASIH and AFS to be considered by the Committee on new or existing names. The Committee will review comments as well as relevant publications and periodically post decisions as "Official Names."

d) The size of the committee should increase to nine members with the membership reflecting the expertise required for revisions to be made in the list; i.e., the emphasis on greatly expanding the list of names of marine fishes.

e) Three subcommittees should be formed with members appointed by the

Committee Chair and approved by a majority of the Committee. These appointments will not require approval of ASIH or AFS, but will be made to assist the Committee in meeting the needs of users of the List of names of fishes.

(1) The Advisory Subcommittee will consist of individuals who are not on the Committee but who regularly offer advice useful to the committee and may be called upon periodically to investigate or offer advice on a particular issue.

(2) The Online Names List Subcommittee will consist of individuals charged with developing and maintaining the Online Version of the List. Rick Mayden has given two demonstrations at previous meetings of ASIH on features of a portal that could be modified for use as the Online Version and should be asked to Chair this subcommittee.

(3) The Market Names of Fishes Subcommittee will determine if the Committee should develop a list of market names for fishes sold as food by consulting with federal agencies. This should be of interest to federal agencies required to deal with marketable fishes and would, in part, involve the coining of common names for genera (e.g., Cod, Bass, Pollock, etc.) or other groups of fishes "correctly" referred to as 'Catfishes,' 'Cod,' 'Bass,' etc. Names proposed by this committee would appear in the Online and Published lists and are subject to approval by the Committee.

3. The Committee voted to recommend that the composition of the committee be expanded to reflect the expertise needed to produce the list of marine fishes found in waters extending to the EEZ. Individuals recommended were Larry Page to remain as Chair, Nick Mandrak, Bob Lea, Lloyd Findley, Karsten Hartel, H.J. Walker, and Carole Baldwin. It is recommended that Carter Gilbert be re-appointed for his expertise on freshwater and shallow water marine fishes, and Juan Schmitter-Soto be appointed for his expertise on the freshwater fishes of the U.S. and Mexico.¹ Former members Héctor Espinosa-Pérez and Richard Mayden, as well as advisors Bruce Collette, John Morrissey, Claude Renaud, Rob Robins, and Bill Eschmeyer are likely to be asked to serve on the Advisory, Online, or Market Fishes subcommittees. Members of the newly established subcommittees are not subject to approval by the society presidents, and were appointed in early 2013.

¹Note: The committee was appointed as recommended by presidents of AFS and ASIH in early 2013.