

From: Marilyn O'Leary [mailto:marilyn.oleary@gmail.com]
Sent: Oct. 23, 2009
Subject: Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership SIFN
Activities Update

Items at a glance:

1. WebEx reminder: Freshwater Flow for Estuaries presentation October 29 at 1:00 Eastern
2. Save the Date: Colorado's Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool presentation and SIFN workshop preparation via WebEx, November 18 at 1:00 Eastern
3. SIFN Second Annual Workshop, SETTING INSTREAM FLOW STANDARDS: WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW? invitation and logistics

Details:

1. WebEx: Freshwater Flow for Estuaries presentation Thursday, October 29 at 1:00 Eastern Southern Instream Flow Network - Freshwater Inflows for Estuaries

Estuaries are the most productive ecosystems on the earth and freshwater inflows are the single most important determinant of that productivity. Altering the timing and amount of inflows reduces the overall productivity of the bays and changes its character, which in turn adversely impact fisheries. Freshwater inflows are important to coastal ecosystem, because they:

- Maintain the salinity necessary to sustain juvenile fish and shrimp.
- Provide much of the nutrients and phytoplankton that form the base of the estuarine food web.
- Flush Pollutants from the bays.
- Sustain a mosaic of habitats from salt marshes to grass flats to oyster bars.
- Signal fish to spawn or move to different habitat.

We will have two speakers talking about determining inflow requirements for estuaries in their states. Cindy Loeffler of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will kickoff a discussion among coastal southern states about determining flow requirements for estuaries. She will describe the Texas Methodology and their progress over the last 10 years. Sid Flannery of Florida's Southwest Water Management District will describe their recent Minimum Flow determination for the Alafia River estuary.

Please join us at the WebEx described below with your questions and issues on setting estuarine flows in your state.

Topic: SIFN - Freshwater Inflows for Estuaries

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2009

Time: 1:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)

2. Save the Date: Colorado's Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool and Water Supply Study presentation and SIFN workshop preparation via WebEx, Wednesday, November 18 at 1:00 Eastern

Colorado has recently published their approach to assessing instream flow requirements as part of a water supply study. This is the best example to date of the Ecological Limits of Hydrologic Alteration (ELOHA) approach. Please join the workshop preparation via WebEx to hear two of the authors, John Sanderson and Thomas Wilding, present this project. Download the report at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/COsWaterSupplyFuture/CosWaterSupplyFuture.htm>; Appendix 4. You will have the opportunity to ask them about what did and did not work when using existing studies to develop the flow-ecology relationships for two watersheds. This will lead off a discussion of the upcoming SIFN workshop and preparations to help participants get the most from the workshop to further their work towards protective instream flow standards.

3. Plan now to attend SIFN's 2009 workshop, SETTING INSTREAM FLOW STANDARDS: WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW? It will be December 1-3, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Express in downtown Nashville, TN. The workshop centers on identifying the scientific information and analyses needed to set credible instream flow standards. Each of the main sessions will focus on a different step in the scientific process and will feature panelists representing different states that have used a range of approaches to accomplish these steps. The panelists' brief case studies will key up a facilitated discussion of how to accomplish this step in a southern state 'test case.' We would like to encourage at least two SIFN team members from each state to attend. A registration form is attached. (Open it in Acrobat Reader, fill in the fields, and click on the upper right hand corner that tells you to submit.) The hotel is providing a conference rate of \$119 plus tax per night until Nov. 27, 2009. This is the federally approved rate for Nashville. Parking is \$10 per night. Space is limited so make your reservation by calling 877-443-7829 as soon as possible. Identify yourself as part of the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership group. Check in time is 3 p.m.

Some financial assistance is available for SIFN members by contacting Scott Robinson at 770-557-3040 or scott_robinson@dnr.state.ga.us.

We are seeking sponsors for a social hour at the end each day. These opportunities for one-on-one sharing extend the value of the workshop. Please contact me (Marilyn O'Leary, 225-892-7470 or moleary@mbolcomm.com) if your organization is interested in contributing.

Have a great weekend. Marilyn

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