



**2016 Annual Meeting Minutes
Ictalurid Technical Committee
North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grandview A, Grand Rapids, MI**

3:00-4:00pm, 24 January 2016

Welcome and call to order by Tony Barada, Chair

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Email address
Tony Barada	NE Game and Parks Comm	tony.barada@nebraska.gov
Mark Porath	NE Game and Parks Comm	mark.porath@nebraska.gov
Rebecca Krogman	Iowa DNR	rebecca.krogman@dnr.iowa.gov
Jay Wesley	Michigan DNR	wesleyj@michigan.gov
Greg Pitchford	Missouri Dept Conservation	greg.pitchford@mdc.mo.gov
Stephen Siddons	University of Nebraska - Lincoln	ssiddons2@unl.edu
Debbie King	Indiana DNR	dking@dnr.IN.gov
Melissa Wuellner	South Dakota State University	melissa.wuellner@sdstate.edu
Doug Austen	American Fisheries Society	dausten@fisheries.org

Review and approval of February 2015 NCD-ITC business meeting minutes: Motion made to approve minutes by Rebecca Krogman, seconded by Melissa Wuellner and approved.

Treasurer's report: We now have \$5650.59 with a major transfer of \$15,000 to the AFS investment portfolio. We gained \$76.90 from Catfish 2014 and \$31.02 in interest. The portfolio took an end-of-the-year dive resulting in overall status quo. Given the economy, the portfolio's performance is reasonably good, as we didn't lose any money. Nonetheless, the AFS is looking into its financial investment strategy.

Chair report: Relayed information included in the ITC report to the NCD. Reminded everyone that leadership opportunities are open to anyone interested. We would like to see some new faces.

State Report Summaries

Dakotas – no representative present

- A collaborative effort to tag and track several hundred Channel Catfish in the Red River involves University of Nebraska, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and North Dakota Game and Fish, and Manitoba Fisheries. The study seeks to establish movement patterns over the many modified dams of the Red River mainstem. Contact Mark Pegg (UNL) for more information.
- Catfishing is growing in the Dakotas. Put-and-take Channel Catfish stocking into small ponds has provided small-scale fisheries but with positive feedback. Flatheads were

again detected in Lake Oahe, and an unauthorized, rapid-growing (possibly undesirable) Flathead population has become established in Lake Mitchell.

- Baited hoop nets are being used in South Dakota to capture wild Channel Catfish for put-and-take stocking in urban and community fisheries and for standard sampling.
- [Read the state report for more information.](#)

Illinois – no representative present

- Numerous research projects are ongoing in Illinois, including studies on the Rock, Kaskaskia, lower Ohio, Wabash, and Fox rivers.
- [Read the state report for more information.](#)

Indiana - Debbie King reporting; handoff to Craig Jansen

- New statewide catfish regulations went into effect in December 2015, increasing the minimum length limit on rivers and streams and establishing “trophy” fish protections. These regulations mirror many neighboring states.
- Catfishing’s popularity grows with requests for Blue Catfish stocking, use of Channel Catfish at the Indiana State Fair fishing pond, and addition of a catfish filleting workshop in the Hunt, Fish, Eat program.
- [Read the state report for more information.](#)

Iowa - Rebecca Krogman reporting for Dan Kirby

- Blue Catfish have been stocked in an oxbow DeSoto Bend Lake in order to provide a trophy fishery and possibly a broodstock population. DeSoto Bend is isolated from the river and has a gizzard shad forage base. Evaluation will occur in the next few years as fish recruit to the sampling gear.
- The cage-reared catfish program ended in 2013, and catfish were instead produced at Rathbun Hatchery. Post-program evaluation indicates that catfishing will be largely unaffected. During 2015, approximately 80,000 8-inch channel catfish and 75,000 2-inch channel catfish were produced at Rathbun Hatchery and stocked in Iowa.
- A completed research study on channel catfish movement and habitat use in northeastern Iowa rivers indicated overwintering habitats. Two locations are regaining connectivity upstream and should provide improved channel catfish habitat. Contact Greg Gelwicks for the report.
- An ongoing study on fish mercury accumulation rates in interior rivers includes channel catfish and flathead catfish. Flathead catfish reached consumption advisory limit of 0.30 mg/kg at a total length of 780 mm. Channel catfish in the upper reaches of the Iowa River reached the advisory limit at a total length of 620 mm.
- [Read the state report for more information.](#)

Kansas – no representative present

- Channel Catfish and its hybrid with Blue Catfish are popular, providing put-and-take fisheries in major urban areas and small impoundments. Hybrids grew quickly in several study lakes and may provide an alternative to overwintering Channel Catfish in a

hatchery. A freeze branding study showed brand retention for at least one year but more research is needed to determine longer-term persistence.

- A major study by Kansas State University on Blue Catfish distribution in Milford Reservoir is nearly complete. Contact Martha Mather for more information.
- [Read the state report for more information.](#)

Michigan - Jay Wesley reporting

- Continued concern regarding high possession limits for Flathead Catfish, which could hinder the development of trophy fisheries. Few data are available to support a regulation change at this time.
- A University of Michigan M.S. (Whitney Conard) completed a study on Northern Madtom populations and habitat use in the St. Clair-Detroit River system.
- [Read the state report for more information.](#)

Minnesota – no representative present

- The Catfish Work Group, a combination of agency representatives and catfish anglers, succeeded in establishing more accommodating bait regulations and continue to work together.
- Tony Sindt was hired as Minnesota's first Minnesota River biologist. He and Steve Shroyer are working on Channel and Flathead Catfish population dynamics in the river.
- [Read the state report for more information.](#)

Missouri - Greg Pitchford reporting for Ross Dames

- Studies to guide regulation decisions are ongoing at Mark Twain Lake, Truman Reservoir, Lake of the Ozarks, and the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Community growth effects of stocking Flatheads are being investigated at nine reservoirs across the state. Channel and Blue Catfish continued to be stocked in over 300 public lakes.
- Two new state records were set for the "alternative method" of take, one for Blue Catfish and one for Flathead Catfish.
- [Read the state report for more information.](#)

Nebraska - Tony Barada and Stephen Siddons reporting

- Studies are ongoing for catfish population dynamics in the Red River of the North, Platte River, Missouri River, Branched Oak Reservoir, Pawnee Reservoir, and Little and Big Nemaha Rivers. The Pawnee Reservoir project is quantifying pre- and post-low-dose rotenone treatment effects.
- Catfish movement studies on the Red River and through a fish bypass at Spalding Dam on the Cedar River are ongoing.
- [Read the state report for more information.](#)

Ohio – no representative present

- Standard sampling and aging methods are being investigated. Contact Rich Zweifel regarding sampling with gillnets and tandem baited hoop nets. Contact Steve Tyszko regarding Channel Catfish otolith aging.
- Blue and Flathead Catfish movement and exploitation is being studied in the Ohio River to inform management decisions designed to protect and sustain trophy catfish fisheries.
- [Read the state report for more information.](#)

Old Business: none

New Business:

- Catfish 2020 Discussion: SDAFS Catfish Committee is leaning toward a smaller, special session forum rather than a major stand-alone symposium, possibly in Little Rock? We could hold a special session in conjunction with the AFS Annual Meeting. However, AFS 2020 will be the 150th anniversary of the Society and may or may not be held in the Midwest (possible locations are Baltimore, Cleveland and Cincinnati). If held in conjunction with Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, the meeting will likely be in Illinois. However, we do not want to deter SDAFS folks from participating. No clear consensus on which option is best; depends on feedback from the SDAFS Catfish Committee.

Submitted by Rebecca Krogman, Secretary-Treasurer
3 February 2016