



# ESOCID TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

North Central Division / American Fisheries Society

Minutes from the Esocid Technical Committee Meeting held July 9-11, 2001 at Kemp Natural Resources Station near Woodruff, WI

**General Session:** Attendance for the summer meeting was down some from previous years; between 8 to 10 individuals attended both the general session and the business meeting. The general session included talks concerning winter pike harvest in South Dakota, use of telemetry to locate northern pike spawning habitats in Indiana lakes, shoreline erosion control structures and their potential effects on esocid habitats, proposed genetic research designed to determine the optimal strain of muskellunge for stocking in Illinois reservoirs, and an update on the status of Wisconsin's muskellunge fisheries. We also spent a significant amount of time outlining some objectives for the ETC to achieve over the coming years. We also decided that we would develop a theme for each summer meeting in an effort to encourage participation and facilitate discussion.

## **Business Meeting:**

**Minutes:** Steve AveLallemant moved to accept the minutes from the winter meeting held in Minneapolis on December 3, 2000 (Isermann 2<sup>nd</sup>). Paul stated that he would pass the minutes on so that they could be posted on the website.

**Treasurer's Report:** Paul Cunningham indicated that our current balance was right around \$1000 pending any costs for the summer 2001 meeting. Ed Braun moved to accept the treasurer's report (AveLallemant 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**Recognition for Funding:** Ave brought up the fact that a letter needed to be drafted thanking USFWS for supplying funding for the publication of the muskellunge symposium.

**Managing Muskies e-book:** Paul reported that going through AFS to have the book made web-compatible might not be in our best interest. We discussed the idea of securing outside funds to cover the project, possibly via Muskies, Inc.

**Summer Meeting 2002:** We once again voted to hold the ETC summer meeting at Kemp during July 15-17 with evening arrival on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We approved the theme for next summer's meeting as "**Assessment and Management of Esocid Habitats**".

**Scale Exchange Program:** Dr. Casselman had emailed some raw data in tabular form to Ave. Dr. Casselman had indicated that he wanted to publish some of aging material in the northern pike symposia; however, we are unsure concerning the current status of that symposium. Based on the symposia deadline we will decide to formalize our opinions on the project at the winter meeting (mostly concerning the funding provided by Muskies Inc.).

**Old Reports and Grey Literature:** As part of the objectives we discussed in our general session we set forth the goal of getting our old reports (i. e., stocking summary) and gray literature list in electronic format so that these items could be updated and posted on the website. Isermann stated that he would have some forms ready at the winter meeting for state representatives to fill out so that the reports could be brought up to date.

## **Objectives Discussed at 2001 Summer Meeting**

### **New Topic Direction For ETC Over the Next 10 years**

1. Esocid Synopsis of Biological Info (FAO Report).
2. Esocid Monitoring Techniques Manual
3. Develop and Direct Habitat Emphasis to ETC

### **Improving Communications and Information Exchange**

1. Updates of past reports, selecting some for annual updates. Make reports electronically available. (*high priority and in progress*)
2. Keep better track of technical presentation summaries, abstracts, minutes, and notes. (*mandatory*)
3. Offer expertise and problem solving network on-line (*low priority*)
4. Technical theme for each summer meeting (*done*)
5. Plan focused symposiums at MWFC every few years, not necessarily for publication (*medium priority*)
6. Make grey literature more available and well known (*mandatory*)
7. Update grey literature database (*high priority*)
8. Use and share ETC listserv among biologists (*medium priority*)
9. Improve communications with angler groups by providing a link on their websites (*low priority*)

### **Identify and Prioritize Management Questions and Issues, Seek Collaboration Among States to Implement Research**

1. Selection of genetic strains for stocking introduced waters (i. e., southern reservoirs)
2. Criteria for selecting appropriate new esocid waters
3. Post-stocking mortality assessment (size, season, hauling/handling, strain)