



NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



Esocid Technical Committee

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2008 Winter Meeting Minutes
69th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
Fayette Room Hyatt Regency Hotel Conference Center – Columbus, OH
December 14, 2008

Chair, Ed Braun called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM Sunday, December 14, 2008. Thirteen members were present including:

- Andy Fowler andy.fowler@dnr.iowa.gov
- Benjamin Cross bros217@uwsp.edu
- Brandon Spude Bspude@uwsp.edu
- Chris Aman Chris.Aman@dnr.state.oh.us
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- John Kubisiak JohnF1.Kubisiak@wisconsin.gov
- Ken Fry Kenneth.fry@dnr.state.oh.us
- Phil Hillman phil.hillman@dnr.state.oh.us

Treasurer report was provided by Randy Schultz, North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society (NCD-AFS) treasurer/secretary. The Esocid Technical Committee has \$2,110 dollars in our account. Two additional checks were just received for Pike Symposium publications, thus, our current balance is \$2,230. The NCD-AFS paid for the pike symposia publications we currently have available for sale, but we have to pay them back. This doesn't show on Randy's accounting of our balance.

Proceedings of the International Pike Symposium publication sales are slow. We currently have sold 20, including one international order from Scotland. Five books were shorted in the last shipment of pike symposia; Ed Braun (IN) is contacting someone from Hydrobiologia in Germany to correct this error. Ed Braun will continue handling sales for this publication from his office, however, he plans on retiring in July and we may have to find someone else to finish this project.

The 2010 Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference will be in Minnesota, thus, as was approved at the summer business meeting, the state rep from Minnesota, Rod Pierce, will be the next chair-elect. However, all travel from Minnesota was stopped by their state government, thus Rod Pierce was not present. However, all members present approved of his appointment to chair-elect.

Jordan Weeks (WI) in absentia stated that he is still trying to contact and receive a response from all states for the Esocid Angling Regulation Publication that our committee is planning on releasing.

Summer meeting schedule:

- It was noted that no fish were caught at the Kemp station meeting this year!
- John Kubisiak (WI), chair of the Walleye Technical Committee reported that the WTC voted to pursue a joint meeting with other technical committees at a Mississippi River location (WI/MN/IA border). ETC attendees agreed, at the summer meeting, to pursue a July meeting with the WTC. Dr. Brian Sloss (University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point) is interested in presenting a 1.5 day workshop on conservation genetics for fisheries scientists in conjunction with the technical committee summer meetings. This workshop has been tentatively scheduled 2 days before the meeting at an estimated cost of \$100 per person, including the AFS book Population Genetics: Principles and Applications for Fisheries Scientists. Several past attendees of a past similar workshop stated that Dr. Sloss does a great job presenting genetics information to non-geneticists.
 - Genetics workshop even layman can understand
 - Describes how geneticists differentiate between stocks of fish and research
 - Why fisheries professionals should care about population genetics
 - Introduction to principles, helps to talk about genetic considerations at meetings
 - Assists fisheries professionals toward stocking with an eye towards genetics
- Brian Sloss had a conflict with the normal meeting times but has temporarily penciled in the third week of July for the workshop.
- 3rd week of July is also around the time of the Centrarchid meeting; talk of tri-meeting to save money for everyone's travel costs since states are cutting back on these funds
- Summer meeting tentatively scheduled for Mid July to third week of July for joint meeting.
- Prairie du Chein - Cabelas was brought up as possible venues for the meeting.
- Wyalusing State Park (South of Prairie du Chein, WI) - also brought up as a possible meeting area. It will hold 50-60 people, with only 30 people there is plenty of room. Full kitchen facilities, \$100 per day for the entire group. All inclusive, only cost is food brought in; freezer, refrigerator available (Note-no air conditioning at Wyalusing.)
- We will continue to keep on discussing dates
- Most likely will join all three tech committee meetings (Centrarchid, Esocid, and Walleye) together with the genetics workshop for this year due to budget shortfalls in all states.

State Reports

OHIO

- Reduced bag limits from 2 fish to 1 fish.
- New website implemented for musky anglers to voluntarily enter their angler catch per lake, size, time, etc...
 - High proportion of musky anglers using the website
- 2 new lakes in their musky program
 - Milton and East Fork lake - stocked at normal 1 fingerling per acre
- Evaluating stocking and risks with transferring Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) around the state with mitigation studies using iodine and egg treatment protocols with collaboration from the Ohio State University Aquaculture Laboratory
 - Fry hatched from eggs (control group with no treatments at all) taken from females whose ovarian fluid tested positive for VHS, did not contract the virus

WI

- New tournament rules are planned for this rule
 - Existing permit system now collecting fees on tournament applications
 - Newly enacted tournament restrictions based on size (100 acres over, limit angler days per acre)
 - Biologists will have more authority to condition the permits
- Detection of VHS in spring, 2007 was disruptive to hatchery operations. Mandatory VHS tests take about 4 weeks, so fry can no longer be stocked and small fingerling walleyes have a tight timeline between testing and stocking. Wisconsin stocks most muskies at 9-12 inches in fall, so there is time for testing. Wisconsin no longer seines lakes for wild forage, but purchase VHS-certified minnow forage, increasing production costs. Adjustments were made after 2007 and hatchery production was back to full quotas in 2008.
- No major changes for musky regulations except for some individual waters
- Green Bay changes – local clubs would like to have a 54 inch minimum. Muskies there get to 50 inches very quickly due to gizzard shad and other forage, but ultimate length of females is estimated to be 53.3 inches.

IA

- Losing many mature fish over the dam, 2 years ago lost over half population over the Okoboji Dam
- 40 inch length limit minimum and stocking in spring have both worked well for IA's musky program.
- Noted: last 2 years Okoboji lakes had the highest trophy catch rates of musky in the U.S.
 - 1 individual caught over 7 trophy muskies in one day

IN

- Pellet reared, 30 day forage finish is the current production technique in use by the state
- A sampling of trapped musky caught in Lake Michigan style fyke nets showed that forage finished fish were more abundant than traditionally reared muskies on pellets only.
- Pellet / forage finish seems to be working real well, over 60 fish caught in one net

MI

- State has gone through development of state management plan for muskies and pike
- The biggest change is the intent of stocking Great Lake muskies only in Great Lake watersheds in order to alleviate genetic concerns of stocking northern genetics outside the natural range.
- Planning on establishing two inland brood stock lakes but now the plan is to use Lake St. Clair fish as brood stock in one lake. The fish will be introduced as fall fingerlings, after testing of the adults, eggs, and reared fry for presence of VHS. This will take some time to build the population up to brood stock size, thus, it will be around 10 years before egg take can be implemented.
- Planned changes in pike regulations
 - Only keep fish below 24 inches and above some number (possibly 30 inches)
 - Stunted lakes, no change as fish don't get over 24 inches
 - Other lakes, no change either except to protect medium size fish
 - Regulation change meant to standardize regulations so don't have exceptions for all the stunted lakes

Ed Braun (IN) noted that the ETC is in the middle between symposiums as the musky and pike symposiums just occurred recently. We, as a committee, should continue to provide a basic sharing of information such as angling regulations and stocking goals between each other.

Meeting adjourned by Jim Diana at 1:39 PM.