



Esocid Technical Committee

North Central Division
American Fisheries Society

Chair – Rodney Pierce (Minnesota DNR: rodney.pierce@state.mn.us)

Immediate Past Chair – Jim Diana (University of Michigan: jimd@umich.edu)

Chair-elect – Jonathan Meerbeek (Iowa DNR: jonathan.meerbeek@dnr.iowa.gov)

2010 Winter Business Meeting Minutes

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference - Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, Minnesota, December 12

The following notes highlight discussions from the Esocid Technical Committee (ETC) business meeting held 12 December 2010. Members in attendance at the business meeting were G. Wanner, J. Kubisiak, S. Gilbert, C. Eilers, J. Younk, J. Meerbeek, A. Fowler, and R. Pierce.

Summer Minutes and Update to North Central Division (NCD): No corrections were made to minutes from the July 2010 ETC meeting. In November, Rod Pierce provided an Annual Report of ETC Activities to the NCD. The report follows a new format from the American Fisheries Society.

Cool Water Fishes Symposium: Chair Rod Pierce organized a large cool water fishes symposium for the 71st Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. The symposium lasted a day and a half (14-15 December) and included 25 papers on aging and sampling methodology, population-level studies, spawning, recruitment, stocking, harvest dynamics and regulations. Symposium moderators were ETC members and included Terry Margenau, Curt Wagner, Jordan Weeks, Jerry Younk, and Tom Heinrich.

Summer 2011 Meeting: Due to snow, difficult travel conditions, and some folks attending both meetings, the Walleye Technical Committee (WTC) meeting got a late start and carried over into the ETC meeting. A benefit of the carry-over was discussion of a joint summer 2011 meeting between the ETC, WTC, and Centrarchid Technical committees. Locations discussed included LaCrosse, the Quad Cities, and Dubuque, with Dubuque garnering the most interest. Interest also leaned toward the meeting emphasizing fish tagging studies (their value and how to evaluate them) as well as providing an open session for contributed talks on other topics. Tentative dates are 26-28 July. Jonathan Meerbeek will coordinate summer meeting plans with Andrew Jansen andrew.jansen@ksoutdoors.com, new chair of the WTC.

Future Leadership: Jonathan Meerbeek (Iowa DNR) became the new chair of the ETC. We are looking for a volunteer to be chair-elect, preferably from Indiana because Indiana will be hosting Midwest 2012

Budget: The ETC account (managed by NCD Treasurer Randy Schulz) had a balance of \$2,144.14 through December 2009. Interest accrued though November 2010 was +\$18.92 and we had a summer meeting expense of -\$58.73 (for a plaque), leaving a balance of \$2,104.33 at the winter 2010 meeting.

Sales of the International Pike Symposium: In 2008, the ETC re-published proceedings of the International Pike Symposium (held in Lake Placid, 2006). We published 101 copies at \$50.50 each with the intent to sell them at \$60 each (US) and \$70 ea (CAN). We borrowed \$5100.50 from the NCD to pay for publishing. Up to July 2010 we had sold 32 copies at \$60 each and 1 copy at \$70 for a total of \$1,990.00 in sales. At the July 2010 ETC meeting it was decided to sell remaining copies at \$30 each. Sales for July 2010- through the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference were \$1,530 (51 copies) so that sales of the symposium now total \$3,520.00. Therefore, the ETC still owes \$1,580.50 to the NCD. We will continue to market the remaining 17 copies of the pike symposium book, but will have to consider other ways to generate some income at the summer 2011 meeting.

Website Update: Jonathan Meerbeek updated Pike Symposium Book information on the NCD website and Rod Pierce will send recent minutes to Andy Fowler, who administers the NCD website.

State and Provincial Reports: A few informal highlights were contributed from ETC members attending the December meeting. They were:

Dakotas (G. Wanner)

North Dakota is expanding spearing opportunities for northern pike in Devils Lake and some other waters. South Dakota is looking at a \$5 license fee for spearing to obtain more information on spearing activity.

Iowa (J. Meerbeek)

Iowa will be rewriting a management plan for muskellunge. Adult pit tagged fish are exhibiting movement out of the Spirit Lake/Okoboji chain of lakes into the Missouri River system. Up to 47% emigration among the chain of lakes was observed one year, but about 5% is more typical. A similar amount may be emigrating through the outlet and into the Missouri River. Restocking of reclaimed lakes with northern pike is being used as a biomanipulation technique. Previous research identified that muskellunge yearlings stocked in the spring survive and contribute to the fishery better than fall stocked fingerlings. Currently, Iowa is investigating what stocking levels are needed to maintain healthy populations.

Michigan (C. Eilers)

Michigan is still in the final stages of developing management plans for muskellunge and northern pike. The plans will likely include length limits for northern pike. Jim Diana has a student who will be investigating natural reproduction of Great Lakes strain muskellunge.

Minnesota (J. Younk and R. Pierce)

Public meetings were held by DNR last fall on introducing muskellunge to 8 new waters. The introductions are controversial and a final decision rests with the commissioner's office. Conflicts concerning spearing bans on muskellunge waters and northern pike length limits are expected in the upcoming legislative session. A human dimensions survey on northern pike angling and spearing was conducted by the University of Minnesota this year. Other studies include stock manipulations to try and promote a native strain of muskellunge in Moose Lake, and measuring thermal habitat used by northern pike.

Wisconsin (S. Gilbert and J. Kubisiak)

A statewide 40-inch minimum length limit for muskellunge has been reviewed and will be presented at spring public meetings. Some lakes (especially broodstock lakes) will have a 50-inch length limit and some others may be exempted from the 40-inch length limit. Propagated muskellunge were held in the hatchery longer than normal this year due to a virus that was unknown at the time. As a result, propagated muskellunge were larger than normal when stocked.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by R. Pierce.