



NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES  
SOCIETY  
Walleye Technical Committee



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Web site: <http://ncd.fisheries.org/walleye/>

**Sunday January 24, 2016 Winter Business Meeting Agenda**

*3 to 5 pm, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Thornapple room, Grand Rapids, Michigan*

*“The purpose of the Walleye Technical Committee of the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society is to promote the research and development of functional management strategies leading to the wise use of native, and introduced stocks of walleye, sauger and their hybrids, to improve culture techniques, and to facilitate the dissemination of pertinent data and technology to both the scientific and user communities.”*

**1.) Approval of winter agenda & summer meeting minutes:** Steve Gilbert moved that the summer meeting minutes be approved. Casey W. Schoenebeck seconded the motion. Motion passed. There were no suggested amendments to the agenda. 20 people from both the WTC and CTC, were in attendance at the winter meeting: Casey Schoenbeck, B.J. Schall, Matthew Perrion, Brett Miller, Andy Jansen, Michael Vaske, Trevor Keyler, Loranzie Rogers, Joe Larscheid, Steve Gilbert, Lewis Bruce, Jason DeBoer, Matt Vincent, Tom Bacula, Sandy Clark-Kolaks, Heather Dawson, Andrew Carlson, Patrick Hanchin, Melissa Wuellner, and John Bruner.

**2.) Welcome by chair:** John Clay Bruner and introduction of chair-elect, Jeff Koch, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1830 Merchant, Emporia, Kansas 66801, 620-459-6922, [jeff.koch@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:jeff.koch@ksoutdoors.com)

**3. a. Treasurer’s Report:** Andy Jansen, NCD AFS Secretary-Treasurer

1/4/16

2015

WTC	Description	Expenses	Deposits	Balance
	1-Jan			13,450.22
	27-Jan Sander	\$100.00		
	19-Feb Schultz reg	\$310.00		
	23-Mar plaque	\$25.00		

	summer			
14-Aug	meeting	\$2,308.55	\$2,320.00	
25-Aug	SDSU donation	\$250.00		
19-Oct	plaque	\$25.00		
7-Jul MM interest			\$19.92	
		\$3,018.55	\$2,339.92	12,771.59

This financial report spreadsheet includes all expenses and deposits for calendar year 2015. Please remember that the money market account was closed this past summer, so you will no longer receive interest deposits from that account.

**1/12/2015:** \$13,450.22; **1/8/2014:** \$13,469.62; **9/26/2012:** \$13,707.32; **10/31,2011:** \$13,335.40

Some NCD chapters (e.g. Nebraska) have invested in the AFS portfolio instead of the money market accounts. But, \$10,000 is needed to invest and some people did not want all that money tied up when the WTC only has \$12,771.59.

**3. b. Sander Travel Award to Trevor D. Keyler:**

Trevor D. Keyler, University of Minnesota, Duluth is the 2016 winner.

Below: Lewis Bruce, President of the AFS Iowa Chapter, presented Trevor a check for \$100.



Below: Andy Jansen, Treasurer of AFS NCD, presented Trevor with a check for \$100 from the WTC.



The members of the WTC were encouraged to see Trevor's poster presentation, entitled, *Visual Sensitivity of Walleye (Sander vitreus): A Comparison of Freshwater Fishes.*

Also, two other student members of the WTC received \$200 in Duffy travel awards from the NCD, Michael Vaske, University of Wisconsin, Steven Point, and Brett Miller, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

**3. c. Invitation to 2016 Joint Summer Meeting of the Centrarchid, Esocid, and Walleye Technical Committees - North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society:** The meeting will be at the Nebraska state aquarium, Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium (Ak-Sar-Ben is Nebraska spelled backwards) located outside of Gretna, Nebraska, July 25-28, 2016. Keith Koupal (NGPC) was not able to attend so Casey W. Schoenebeck, University of Nebraska at Kearney, presented a short PowerPoint presentation to the committee on his behalf advertising the joint meeting. There will be a continuing education workshop in conjunction with the meeting. Potential topics discussed so far are habitat improvement and developing methods for sportfish control.



Above: Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium

#### **4.) New Business:**

**4. a.** “OPERATIONS MANUAL FOR THE WALLEYE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION, AFS” has been updated and is now posted on the WTC website.

**4. b. Certificate of appreciation for the outgoing Chair:** This will be presented to Randy Schultz at the summer meeting at the Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium.

**4. c. Break out session for WTC and CTC State and Provincial Reports:**

**4.c.I.** The following submitted written reports (posted on WTC website):

**Canada:**

- 1.) Alberta,** Michael G. Sullivan
- 2.) Ontario,** Steven M. Bobrowicz
- 3.) Manitoba,** Geoff Klein
- 4.) Québec,** Emmanuelle Chretien
- 5.) Saskatchewan,** Mark Duffy

**U.S.A.:**

- 1.) Idaho,** Rob Ryan
- 2.) Illinois,** Jason A. DeBoer
- 3.) Iowa,** Randall Schultz
- 4.) Kansas,** Jeff Koch

- 5.) **Minnesota**, Dale Logsdon
- 6.) **Montana**, Adam Strainer
- 7.) **Michigan**, Seth J. Herbst
- 8.) **Missouri**, Paul Cieslewicz
- 9.) **New York**, Jeff Loukmas
- 10.) **North Dakota**, Todd Caspers
- 11.) **Ohio**, Matthew Faust
- 12.) **South Dakota**, Mark Fincel
- 13.) **Texas**, Charles Munger
- 14.) **Washington**, Bruce Bolding
- 15.) **West Virginia**, David I. Wellman, Jr
- 16.) **Wyoming (2 reports)**; [I.] Jason Burckhardt, and [II.] Mark Smith
- 17.) **Indiana**, Jason Doll
- 18.) **Nebraska**, Casey W. Schoenebeck
- 19.) **Wisconsin**, Steve Gilbert
- 20.) **Pennsylvania**, Robert M. Lorantas

4.c.II. The following attendees presented updates on current projects:

**Steve Gilbert**, Wisconsin, started by giving further comments on his state report. One change was the number of trolling lines per boat. Fishers are allowed 1 line per person up to 3 lines/boat.

**Casey W. Schoenebeck**, Nebraska, had three of his students talk about their projects:

- 1) **B.J. Schall** talked about Lake McConaughy, he is doing a temporal/spatial distributional study of walleye and population dynamics of sport fish;
- 2) **Brett Miller**, talked about Harlan County Reservoir, creating a standardized sampling protocol for age-0 white bass and walleye, documenting age-0 white bass diets, determining stock contribution of age-0 walleye by verifying presence of OTC, and documenting trends in zooplankton, larval fish, and water quality parameters. The standardized sampling protocol involves comparing catch rates among bag seines, boat electrofishing, and small-mesh gill nets from July to September for age-0 white bass and walleye;
- 3.) **Matthew Perrion** talked about analyzing stock contribution and food habits of juvenile White Bass *Morone chrysops* and Walleye *Sander vitreus* and also diet overlap with gizzard shad in Lake McConaughy, Nebraska.

**Seth Herbst**, Michigan, talked next on a study of community related, climate related, foraging limits. With climate change, the prediction is that centrarchids will continue migrating north. The water quality protocol of where to stock will have to change.

**Patrick Hanchin:**

1. For the Michigan DNR the webinar put on by the WDNR and USGS about trends in walleye was a big eye opener for us. They have a powerful dataset and showed that both adult walleye density and age-0 walleye relative

abundance have been significantly declining across the northern part of the state. Although our data in Michigan is not as extensive, we very well could be experiencing the same trend that they are.

2. In Michigan we are also looking at using physio-chemical characteristics of lakes to establish criteria for walleye stocking. Some lakes do not have enough usable area in terms of temperature and oxygen to support walleye.
3. Michigan is also looking at revising benchmarks for walleye recruitment evaluations.

**Melissa Wuellner** reported an M.Sc. student recently completed an assessment of stock-recruitment models for fry and fingerling stockings in eastern South Dakota. The state either has or is currently reducing its stocking rates of these products based on the results. She and other collaborators have collected data regarding fisheries biologists' perceptions of walleye and bass (smallmouth and largemouth) interactions in their state. Results will be presented in Kansas City and will hopefully be published by the end of the year. They are also looking at stock-recruitment models on walleye populations in eastern South Dakota lakes. Preliminary data suggests South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks may need to reduce stocking rates. Two other Ph.D. students at SDSU under Dr. Brian Graeb are working on walleye-related projects: one is working on a tagging study in Lake Oahe to estimate the population size and harvest; and the other is working on a hydro-acoustics study to better assess prey availability in Lake Oahe. Andrew Carlson reported briefly on his master's research using otolith microchemistry to determine natal walleye contributions from tributaries.

**Jason A. DeBoer** reported, Illinois doesn't do much research or management targeted at walleye or sauger, though a few of us are hoping to change that in upcoming years.

**Heather Dawson** gave a report on centrarchids in Michigan. She talked about how research was conducted on the effects of catch and immediate release, specifically when male bass are removed, can they make it back to their nest. This research suggested no change to bass recruitment in the short term. Michigan has now changed their fishing regulations to permit catch-and-immediate-release fishing of largemouth and smallmouth bass all year. She reported on a Michigan DNR report in which 10,000 crested cormorants were culled. Nine public meetings were held to engage the public in new fishery regulations. She reported a 9.33-pound, 24.50-inch smallmouth bass was caught in Hubbard Lake, Alcona County, Michigan, which broke the previous record catch set in 1906. And, according to research published in January 2015 in *Freshwater Biology* by Crane et al., bass are eating round gobies in the Lakes Erie and Ontario.

**Sandy Clark-Kolaks** the exploitation rates of black bass in Indiana are based on the 8% tag return. Metal jaw tags are used and get returns up to 2 years later. A slot limit of 12" to 15" is in place with a limit of 2 over 15" (which used to be 12 inches). For crappie, it was found water quality is what affects them the most. A larger size limit regulation will start in the spring. Indiana tried to issue a regulation of 25 fish excluding crappie.

**Casey W. Schoenebeck** interjected that a 10 inch size limit for crappie in Nebraska was successful on the one reservoir on which it was tried.

**Tom Bacula** (substituting for Jason Doll) There was a walleye study on Indiana's largest reservoir (10,750 acres) with a mark-recapture study for angling exploitation that finished up in 2015. There are continued tweaks and evaluations with various sized walleye stockings (Fry, fingerling, and advanced fingerlings). In Southern Indiana reservoirs, there is a switch from low numbers of fingerlings to hopefully closer to target fry stockings, while Northern Indiana glacial lakes are switching from fingerlings to advanced fingerlings. Northern Lakes continue to tweak rates to find the best benefit for stocking. Also, Northern Indiana recently was able to get a minimum size limit increased up to 16 inches from 14 inches that was statewide (still for Central/Southern Indiana). Since this is a new regulation, continued evaluations and monitoring will occur.

**Andy Jansen** stated Iowa is conducting a transportation stress study and an emigration study on Walleye. One of Iowa's hatcheries had a new recirculation system installed.

**Trevor Keyler** gave a summary of his poster presentation on the visual sensitivity of walleye. He found that walleye are most sensitive to blue wavelengths of light and that they are less sensitive than perch and bluegills to all wavelengths of light.

**Casey W. Schoenebeck** moved the meeting be adjourned, **Jason DeBoer** seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*John Clay Bruner, Chair, Walleye Technical Committee*