

Mainstream

President's Message by Randy Schultz



Despite a blizzard for the books, The 71st Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference was a great success! Thanks to the Minnesota Steering Committee for another great conference. We were fortunate to have AFS President Wayne Hubert attend and present an overview for the Parent Society, plus join us for nearly the whole conference. My proposed plan of work and budget was accepted, with the NCD continuing to support student initiatives such as the Joan Duffy Student Travel Award and the Janice Lee Fenske Award and break-fast. Our revised Procedural Manual and Bylaws were approved by membership and the Parent Society, and we continue to make progress on revising the NCD's Strategic Plan to match the Parent Society's. Kudos to Gwen White, Ann Holtrop, Neil Fisher, Joseph Conroy, Corrine Higley, Dale Burkett,

Mark Pyron, Jeremy Tie-
mann, and Jim Perry for their dedication to this important work. And, thank you to all the NCD members that provided guidance for the revised document. The NCD Resolution on Ecological Separation of the Great Lakes Ecosystem that was developed by Resolutions Chair Phil Moy in conjunction with Chapters having such a resolution was approved by the NCD membership. This resolution was accepted by the AFS Governing Board at the mid-year meeting for potential development into a Society-level resolution. Thanks to Past-president Mark Porath for keeping this resolution moving forward.

Please keep up to date with what is happening in the NCD by following along on the web (NCD-AFS.org) and please mark your calendars for this year's MFWFC in Des Moines, December 4 – 7 (<http://www.midwest2011.org/>).

As I'm speeding past the half-way point of my Presidency, it causes me

to reflect on this great professional society we belong to. I have been a member of the NCD for 22 years and continue to find membership in our Society and Division greatly rewarding. I am humbled and privileged to serve the NCD at the level of President. I have had the opportunity to work with many outstanding people in the NCD, and am constantly amazed at their devotion to AFS, professionalism, and work toward enhancing aquatic resources. Many of our exceptional leaders in AFS have come from the NCD, and that speaks to the dedication of people in this Division to furthering the mission of AFS.

Finally, I want to thank my fellow excom members for their experience they so willingly share, their guidance, and their dedication to AFS, our Division, and especially you, the members: Gwen White, President-elect, Gary Whelan, 1st Vice President, Jason Goeckler, Secretary/treasurer, and Mark Porath, Past-president.

This newsletter is published twice a year. Deadlines for submission are April and September 1st. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the NCD.

Editors: Tom Slawski
Sara Teske

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continuing Education Committee by Rebecca Papke

The continuing education committee of the North Central Division of AFS is planning three workshops for the upcoming Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference being held in Des Moines. The workshops will be held on December 4th Sunday with details of the workshops to be planned to be forth coming in the coming weeks. If you are looking for additional skills or creating new research avenues, this is an oppor-

tunity to explore these great workshops at the conference.

Early registration is highly recommended. Details will be announced shortly. I also am recruiting for additional help with the continuing education workshops at the conference. Areas I would need assistance would be with registration check-in, room reservations, and meeting details at the conference.

If you are interested in assisting on Sunday December 4th and would be attending the conference, please contact me at papker@michigan.gov.

Be sure to watch the website for updates on the workshops and registration information <http://www.midwest2011.org>.

Walleye Technical Committee

The Walleye Technical Committee held their winter business meeting in conjunction with the 71st Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis, MN on December 12, 2010. During this meeting, Andy Jansen was promoted to Chair and Paul Christel was elected to Chair-Elect for the committee. The following state reports and other business items were discussed among the membership at the meeting.

State and Provincial Reports:

Wisconsin, Steve Gilbert:

1. There will be 5 proposed walleye regulation changes to the Conservation Congress this spring. One change is a proposal to change the baseline walleye regulation in the southern two thirds of the state from a 15" minimum and 5 bag to an 18" minimum and 3 bag in most waters. Some exceptions include waters with good natural reproduction like the Lake Winnebago system and the larger rivers. If passed, this regulation

would go into effect in 2012.

2. The walleye/bass interaction discussion continues in Wisconsin. John Kubisiak has a rule proposal to remove the 14-inch minimum length limit from bass and increase the walleye length limit from 15 to 18 inches on Minocqua Chain due to an exploding bass population and walleye recruitment failure.
3. The state is also evaluating issues related to survival of stocked walleye at various sizes and stocking rates. This is an issue most states in our region are wrestling with. They feel that systems with established centrarchid populations will require larger sized walleye. This could get quite expensive as Wisconsin must purchase their forage fish – in September of 2010 one of the two main walleye hatcheries was spending \$8,000 a week on live forage.

Illinois, Jeremiah Haas:

The experimental closed season regulation for walleye and sauger on Mississippi River Pools 13 & 14 has been removed. However, the 20-27" protected slot limit will still be in effect.

Minnesota, Dale Logsdon:

There is a bill submitted to the MN legislators to increase the number of lines per angler during the summer from 1 line to 2 lines (MN anglers can currently use two lines during winter but only one during summer). Melissa Drake has completed some modeling to identify the impact of this regulation change and found that 30-50% of anglers would choose to use 2 lines and projects that the second line will increase harvest by 34%. This could increase harvest by 9-15%.

The MDNR early retirement incentive has shown interest as there have been 20 takers thus far, about 10% of their Fisheries staff. The state is unsure when these vacancies will be filled.

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Paul Venturelli has joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota. Paul has experience working with walleye and stock/recruit modeling. He will begin teaching next fall.

On-going studies/issues:

Catch rates of YOY walleye were down this year but the fish were fairly large. Not sure if this is a gear selectivity issue or missing year class

Gear selectivity study on Mille Lacs where Patrick Schmalz is developing a statistical catch at age model for walleye.

Fryling vs. fingerling stocking evaluation

Impact of egg taking operations: 10% of fry collected go back into the collection lake. Preliminary results may indicate that this may be too high.

Carlson—bioenergetics modeling with cormorants on Leech Lake

OTC marking—increased use throughout state. Studying osmotic uptake of calcein and OTC.

Carlson and Pierce working with acoustic tagging of walleye. They want to see where walleye are moving in relation to cisco. Preliminary results indicate there are differences among individuals.

Walleye/bass interactions where formerly naturally reproducing walleye are now unable to sustain populations, even with fingerling stocking (Mike Knapp, Aitkin)

Kansas, Jason Goeckler (via e-mail): Jason reports that Kansas

continues to experiment with 3N saugeye. We are acquiring a new pressure chamber for the 2011 production in an effort to protect sauger and walleye populations. Additionally, we are planning a genetic evaluation of our percid populations for 2011-2012 to detect changes in allele contamination. The last of Mike Quist's work in Kansas are now in press for publication:

Exploitation of walleye in a Great Plains reservoir: harvest patterns and management scenarios

M. C. QUIST, J. L. STEPHEN, S. T. LYNOTT, J. M. GOECKLER, R. D. SCHULTZ

An evaluation of angler harvest of walleyes and saugeyes in a Kansas reservoir

M. C. QUIST, J. L. STEPHEN, S. T. LYNOTT, C.S. GUY, J. M. GOECKLER, R. D. SCHULTZ

Wes Fleming, a graduate student at Fort Hays State University, is working on a study evaluating aging structures and development of a recruitment index for walleye in Cedar Bluff Reservoir. Wes has completed one field season and will be summarizing information over the winter.

South Dakota, Justin VanDeHey and Megan Thul:

On-going studies:

Evaluation of high-density freshwater drum on walleye recruitment (Thul)
Evaluation of introduction of gizzard shad into northeast South Dakota lakes (VanDeHey)

Bioenergetics modeling of walleye on Missouri River reservoirs (Fincel)

Evaluation of trophy walleye regulation (711mm minimum length limit) on Reetz Lake (Blackwell)

Michigan, Patrick Hanchin (via e-mail):

It is pretty much business as usual in Michigan. I thought I'd use this report to communicate what D-J studies are being conducted in Michigan related to percids. Many of these are ongoing annual assessments.

Assessment of natural reproduction of walleye in the bays de Noc, Lake Michigan.

Assessment of the contribution of river versus lake spawning walleye in the bays de Noc.

Saginaw Bay walleye population dynamics.

Population dynamics of yellow perch in Michigan waters of Lake Michigan.

Assessment of the coolwater fish community of the Les Cheneaux Islands and St. Marys River of Lake Huron.

Dynamics of Lake Erie walleye and yellow perch populations.

Status of the Lake St. Clair fish community.

Distribution, movement, and recruitment dynamics of walleye in the Inland Waterway, Cheboygan County, Michigan.

Additionally, several of the tribes in the 1836 Treaty-ceded territory are annually conducting walleye population estimates and recruitment surveys as part of Tribal Wildlife Grants. We gained some knowledge over the past year about VHS and walleye which will hopefully expand our production, though not to former

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levels. It appears that walleye are poor carriers of VHS and that iodophor treatments of the eggs are successful. The Michigan DNRE is still taking precautions since an accidental introduction of the virus into one of our hatcheries would require a total depopulation of the hatchery.

Missouri, Tory Mason (via e-mail):

Identification of Factors Limiting Hatchery Production and Post-Stocking Survival of Black River Strain Walleye Fingerlings is ongoing. Hatchery production, stock assessment, and monitoring data will be collected to facilitate the identification of limiting factors contributing to poor fingerling survival of BRS walleye in hatchery ponds and to determine the bottlenecks of BRS walleye propagation and increase the yearly production of fingerlings to meet stocking requests. The ultimate goal is to supplement the native walleye population and consequently improve walleye angling in the Current, Black, Eleven Point, and St. Francis rivers.

Evaluation of walleye and sauger populations in the MO portion of the Upper Mississippi River was completed. Sauger abundance is moderate and size structure is good in the uppermost sites. Low walleye abundance in all study sites. Total annual mortality for sauger is high due to high natural mortality.

Small lake walleye stocking and exploitation evaluation in NW Missouri is ongoing. Two new quality walleye fisheries have been created in a 1,000-acre reservoir and a 110-acre reservoir through bi-annual 2" walleye fingerling stocking rates of 20 per acre. Growth is good: walleye are 15" in 2 years in both lakes. Reward tagging study has shown angler interest increasing and exploitation rates of 16% in the 110-acre lake and 28% in the 1,000-acre lake.

We are finishing up a report titled "Towards an understanding of movement and survival of Black River strain walleye *Sander vitreus* in southern Missouri rivers".

2010 is the final year of a two year walleye exploitation study on the Black and Current rivers.

Nebraska, Jason DeBoer (via e-mail):

On April 9, 2010, a bank angler at Lake McConaughy in western Nebraska came within 2 ounces of breaking the 39-year old state record for walleye. Brad Cochran of Imperial, NE caught a 16-pound, 31 1/4-inch walleye while fishing from the face of Kingsley Dam. The lunker was two ounces shy of the state record walleye caught at McConaughy in 1971. Due to abundant winter snowpack and summer rains, water levels in many reservoirs across Nebraska are on the rise in the last year, and biologists predict good things are to come for walleye anglers in coming years.

Regulation Updates

006.12M LAKE MCCONAUGHY (Keith County)

From sunset to sunrise, April 1 through April 30, fishing from a boat within 30 yards of the dam should be allowed only on that portion of the dam 200 feet north of the morning glory (outlet), with travel in a south-to-north (counter clockwise) direction required.

Justification: Boating regulations already make it illegal for boats to

operate within 200 feet of the morning glory at Lake McConaughy. This Fisheries regulation would reinforce that restriction and is also intended to reduce conflicts between shore anglers and boat anglers fishing along the dam at night in April for spawning walleyes, by establishing a "boat-free" area that should attract and concentrate shore anglers. The regulation is also intended to reduce conflicts among boat anglers by creating a more orderly flow of traffic.

Research Updates

University of Nebraska-Kearney
Chris Uphoff (M.S.), with Dr. Casey Schoenebeck

We are looking at the growth of juvenile walleyes in Harlan County Reservoir. There is a lot of intrapopulation variation in growth both within and among years; for example, juvenile walleye this fall in Harlan ranged from 6 to 12 inches in length. We are looking at different factors that may be affecting these differences in growth, including the use of stable isotope analysis to track seasonal changes in juvenile walleye food habits. The first year of sampling has been completed and samples are being processed and sent in for stable isotope analysis. Not much for results yet, but did notice that walleyes switched to feeding on shad sometime in June and continued to feed on them through the last sampling period in November. Processing of samples is still underway.

Talk # 146 in Fish Biology I, 1:20pm on Monday: "Sexual Size Dimorphism and Management Implication for Yellow Perch."



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Seth Lundgren (M.S.), with Dr. Casey Schoenebeck
OTC marked yellow perch were released in September into eight I-80 lakes (each had varying bass densities, surface areas, depths, and vegetation features) in order to try and find suitable lakes to establish a yellow perch fishery. Stocking mortality and water quality parameters were assessed to determine if anything other than largemouth bass predation contributed to mortality. We found no stocking mortality and no water quality parameters that would indicate mortality. Largemouth bass were then electrofished after dark and lavaged to determine yellow perch mortality due to predation. Results forthcoming.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jason DeBoer (Ph.D.), with Dr. Kevin Pope

We are trying to identify recruitment bottlenecks for walleye (and white bass) in irrigation reservoirs of SW Nebraska. We have completed 4 years of sampling on this project (2 with me at the helm). We are still processing zooplankton, larval fish, and juvenile fish samples, with the intent of determining hatch dates, growth rates, and diet for walleye (and white bass). Descriptive modeling from Nebraska Game & Parks gillnet data shows age-1 walleye abundance is negatively correlated several factors during their first year of life, including adult bluegill and adult gizzard shad abundance, and to spring water elevation/precipitation. We are also exploring relationships with reservoir fluctuation, nutrient levels, and retention time.

Red Willow Reservoir, one of the premier trophy walleye and wiper fisheries in the U.S., with numerous shows and articles from

the crew at In-Fisherman, developed a hole in the dam last year. The reservoir was drawn down nearly 30 feet last winter, and although plans are underway to repair it, it will likely take several years to repair and refill the dam. In the meantime, turbidity and nutrient levels and water temperatures may inhibit production of walleye and other sportfish.

Talk # 366 in Cool Water Fishes, 2pm on Tuesday: "Does retention time affect fishes in irrigation reservoirs?"

Peter Spirk (M.S.), with Dr. Kevin Pope

We are exploring whether different harvest regulation may have an effect on population dynamics of sexually-size dimorphic fishes (e.g., walleye, white bass, white crappie). To evaluate differences in population dynamics, we estimated size, gender, and age from angler-harvested walleye at two Nebraska reservoirs that have different harvest regulations. Additionally, we used Leslie matrix models to evaluate how population dynamics of sexually-size dimorphic fishes would differ using various length limit. Through modeling, subtle changes in length limits produced a highly skewed sex ratio of fish harvested for walleye, the species with greatest sexual-size dimorphism.

Talk # 145 in Fish Biology I, 1pm on Monday: "Effects of different harvest regulations on the population dynamics of sexually-size dimorphic fishes."

Dustin Martin (Ph.D.), Chris Chizinski (Post Doc), with Dr. Kevin Pope

This project conducts interviews with anglers on various Nebraska water bodies to deter-

mine harvest, motivations for angling, and other factors. The data collected will assist Nebraska Game and Parks in understanding angler-participation patterns, and motivations for angler participation. This, in turn, will help guide management actions. As walleye are the most preferred sportfish in Nebraska (according to a recent survey), this project is expected to offer insight into harvest rates of walleye, as well as information about walleye anglers.

Carla Knight (M.S.), with Dr. Kevin Pope

My project focuses on the ability of Nebraska anglers to correctly identify fish, including sauger and walleye. Information gained will allow us to quantify anglers' current abilities to correctly identify fish species, and evaluate several different products designed to educate anglers about fish identification. Understanding angler ability to correctly identify fish is important for predicting the likely success of complex fishing regulations.

Iowa, Randy Schultz:

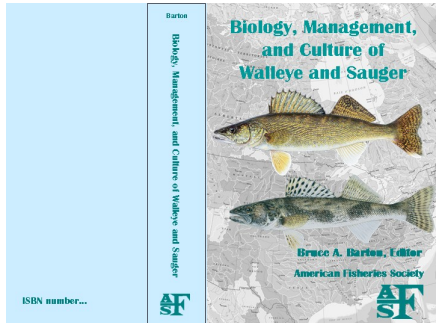
Mark Flammang is conducting a study on the movement of walleye in Rathbun reservoir using visual implant tags. Mark has found that 10% of the tagged walleye are moving through the dam. Therefore, he is working with the Corps of Engineers to install a bubble and strobe system to deter them from congregating near the outlet structure.

Ben Dodd is conducting a study to increase the walleye minimum length limit from 18" to 21" on Big Creek Lake. This 800 acre impoundment receives high exploitation and a more restrictive limit may be necessary.

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Iowa will be hosting the 2011 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference in Des Moines. There will be a walleye culture symposium held at this conference (also see New Business).

Walleye Synopsis Update, Patrick Hanchin, Steering Committee Chair:



The WTC's new AFS book [Barton, Bruce A (editor). 2011. Biology, Management, and Culture of Walleye and Sauger. AFS Bethesda, Maryland, about 650 pp.] will be available at the AFS Annual Meeting in Seattle.

Additionally, one of the 25 symposia accepted by the AFS host committee for the 2011 annual meeting in Seattle, is "Biology, Management, and Culture of Walleye and Sauger: Status and Needs." The co-organizers of the symposium are Nick Baccante, Bruce A Barton, and John C. Bruner. Many of the new book's chapter authors will be key presenters in the symposium. Also, many of the reviewers for the chapters will be presenting at the symposium. An open-forum discussion moderated by Nick Baccante, on future research and management needs and challenges for walleye will end the symposium, with plans to prepare a summary paper from the forum for possible publication in Fisheries. There will also be a "Sauger Social" and book signing on Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011, 6 to 8 pm at Ivar's Acres of Clams on Pier 54, about a 14 block walk from the Washington State Convention Center. This is the original Ivar's

restaurant and is considered a Seattle landmark. The Sauger Social will be limited to a maximum of 50 people. It will be an open buffet and will have a cash bar. Reservations for the Sauger social must be made with John Bruner (jbruner@ualberta.ca) by Monday, August 15, 2011. We are still seeking more sponsors for the symposium/social.

Walleye/Sauger session at Seattle AFS (book signing, special session, talks)

In addition to the "Biology, Management, and Culture of Walleye and Sauger: Status and Needs" symposium at the AFS annual meeting in Seattle, there will also be a *Sauger Social* and book signing on Tuesday night, 6 to 8 pm on Sept. 6, 2011 at "Ivar's Acres of Clams" on Pier 54. This is the original Ivar's restaurant and is considered a Seattle landmark. It is a 14 block walk from the Washington State Convention Center. The Sauger Social will be limited to a maximum of 50 people. It will be an open seafood buffet and have a cash bar. **Reservations for the Sauger social *MUST* be made with John Bruner (jbruner@ualberta.ca) by *Monday, August 15, 2011*.** We are still seeking more sponsors for the symposium/social. Please note that first preference will be given to walleye/sauger symposium presenters and to chapter authors. There are only 45 spots left. The total cost of the dinner might run as high as \$54/person (includes taxes and gratuity) and that there will be a separate cash bar. If we are able to secure sponsors, the price will go down.

2011 Midwest Conference—Walleye Culture Symposium

A Walleye Culture Symposium is planned for the 2011 MFWFC, Des Moines, Iowa December, 2011. Contact either Alan Johnson, IDNR (alan.johnson@dnr.iowa.gov) or Bob Summerfelt, ISU

(rsummerf@iastate.edu). Alan and Bob encourage both case study reports by hatchery personnel as well as research projects by Agency and University personnel. Alan and Bob plan to market this symposium to hatchery staff throughout the Midwest region and hopefully draw a larger hatchery representation to the Midwest conference.

WTC summer meeting location and theme

Joint Meeting of the Walleye, Esocid, and Centrarchid Technical Committees

Dates: July 26, 2011 – Applications of Program MARK in fish tagging (Instructor: Dr. Bob Klaver, USGS). For more information, please contact Andy Jansen (andrew.jansen@ksoutdoors.com) or Mark Kaemingk (mark.kaemingk@sdstate.edu). July 26-28, 2011 – Joint meeting of Centrarchid, Esocid and Walleye Technical Committees

Place: E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center at Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, Dubuque, IA

Formal Meeting Announcement Coming Soon!!

Respectfully submitted by Andy Jansen, Chair, Walleye Technical Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS

2011 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

Make plans to attend the 72nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, December 4 – 7, Des Moines!

Plans are moving along nicely for another great conference. This year's theme is Reconnecting People with Natural Resources. The Steering Committee is very excited to have Dr. Don Jackson, Missis-

sippi State University and immediate Past-president of AFS committed for the plenary session, and we are very close to confirming two other prominent speakers to match our theme. Some symposia in development include one to match the theme, Strategies for Urban Fisheries Management, Walleye Culture for Stock Enhancements,

Freshwater Mollusks, Human Activity and Aquatic Resource Quality and Quantity, Control Strategies for Nonnative and Native Nuisance Aquatic Species, and Eco-flow Modeling and Water Allocation in the Midwest. Please keep up to date at <http://www.midwest2011.org/> and we hope to see you in Des Moines!

CHAPTER REPORTS

Iowa Chapter by Andy Fowler

The Iowa Chapter recently held our annual meeting on January 20-21 at the new Honey Creek Resort State Park near Moravia, IA in conjunction with the Iowa Chapter of the Wildlife Society. It was a very successful meeting with over 180 participants in attendance. The raffle and the white elephant auction were very popular and benefited the chapter greatly. Jon Lore of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources won the Best Professional Presentation at the meeting with his presentation entitled, "Identifying Stressors Causing Fish Community

Impairments in the High Island Creek Watershed." Anthony Sindt of Iowa State University took the Best Student Presentation honors with his presentation entitled, "Validation of Fish Species Distribution Models Based on GIS Measured Habitat Variables." And finally, but not least, Jesse Fischer, also of Iowa State University, won the Best Student Poster Award with his poster entitled, "The Design and Development of a Boat-Mounted RFID Antenna for Monitoring Freshwater Mussels." In other areas of chapter business, our chapter communications have dramatically

improved recently. Mike Colvin has done a wonderful job updating our website and Kim Hawkins has revamped the newsletter into an excellent must-read publication. I encourage everyone to check out both at



<http://www.fisheries.org/units/iowa/index.html>.

Indiana Chapter by Debra King

The Indiana Chapter co-hosted our 41st annual meeting in February with the Indiana chapter of The Wildlife Society in February, entitled "Ecological disasters and the aftermath, What have we learned?" The meeting was a resounding success.

For the plenary session we co-hosted three excellent guest speakers. Michael Carloss, Biologist Director of Coastal and Nongame Resources Division with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), who shared with us his departments response effort to the Gulf oil spill in 2010 including; impacts to wildlife and fisheries, continuing operations, Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA), and lessons learned. Dan Sparks, Environmental Contaminants Specialists with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), shared his agency's response to the Enbridge pipeline rupture on the Kalamazoo River near Marshall, Michigan in July 2010, including; initiating damage assessment, publicity issues, working with different stakeholders, and associated challenges. Gary Whelan, Program Manager for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Fisheries Division and 1st Vice President AFS-North Central Division, gave us some insight into large scale emergency responses, including the Enbridge oil spill, from a state perspective and lessons learned. All three speakers had a collective voice is stressing preparedness and their collective experiences working with and without an Incident Command System were very informative. There were 147 attendees representing 5 universities, 18 public and private organizations, and re-

tired members. The joint program included 20 technical presentations and 10 posters. The fisheries technical session had 10 presentations; four of which were presented by students representing our new student subunit, Manchester College, and Purdue University. The fisheries poster session included 9 posters; six of which were presented by students representing Ball State and Purdue Universities. Our annual Legislative breakfast was canceled due to an ice storm. We'll continue to keep membership abreast of legislative issues via the listserve.



Plenary speakers: Dan Sparks, USFWS, Gary Whelan, Michigan DNR, and Michael Carloss, Louisiana DWF.

Several awards were presented at the spring meeting. Sandy Clark-Kolaks was awarded the Exceptional New Member award. Sandy has been very active in the chapter since becoming a member in 2008.

Christian Perry of Purdue University received Best Student Paper for his presentation "Comparing population indices of multiple fish species in Indiana's glacial lakes." Jacki Eft of Ball State University was awarded Best Student Poster for "Stream fish aspect ratio and habitat selection". Best Professional Paper went to Jason Doll, Aquatic Biologists for the Muncie

Bureau of Water Quality, for his presentation "Models for estimating animal abundance from removal sampling." Best Professional Poster went to Michelle Cain, Assistant Fisheries Biologist for Indiana DNR, for her poster "A comparison of aging structures for largemouth bass at Patoka Lake."



Exceptional New Member, Sandy Clark-Kolaks.

Sandy Clark-Kolaks, Assistant Research Biologists for Indiana's South Region Fisheries Management, is our newly elected Vice President. Sandy will be instated at the 2011 fall meeting. The Indiana Chapter's Member Services Committee is currently evaluating our member services, looking for ways to improve. We are also reviewing our position on a historic resolution pertaining to water quality, currently in committee. Jennifer Campbell-Allison just recently attended the NCD - Rivers and Streams Technical Committee meeting in Milan, IL. The Chapter is also planning its annual Day at the State Fair Fishing Pond to teach kids how to fish and Student Sub-Chapters have several events planned.

North Dakota

The Dakota Chapter's annual meeting was held in Bismarck, North Dakota from February 21 through 23, 2011. There were 75 participants, 17 paper and 12 poster presentations. The meeting started with an aquatic invertebrate identification and ecology continuing education course taught by Andre Delorme. The awards ceremony and banquet were held on February 22.

Luke Schultz (South Dakota State University) won the Best Student Paper for his presentation "Fish Assemblages, Habitat, and 'Thermal Effects: Patterns of Mountain Sucker Distribution in the Black Hills". The Best Poster was awarded to Matthew Ward, for his poster titled, "Relations Between Number of Largemouth Bass Raised and Their Size in Blue Dog Hatchery Ponds". Paul Bailey won the Best Professional Paper for his presentation "Estimating Population Size of Garrison Reach Pad-dlefish".

Several scholarships were awarded, including the Schmulbach Scholarship presented to Bobbi Adams from SDSU.

Alven Kreil Memorial Scholarships were presented to Terrance Velazquez and Nathan Satre.

Sauger Scholarships were presented to Aaron Burgad and Adam Larson from Valley City State University; and Nathan Satre and Kristopher Stahr from South Dakota State University.

Awards were presented for recognition of professional service and contributions toward improving the appreciation and use of aquatic

resources in their communities. Brian Blackwell won the Robert L Hanten Distinguished Professional Service Award. Matthew Ward and Jerry Wilhite won Outstanding Young Professional Awards. The Aquatic Resource Conservation Award was presented to Chris Nannenga and the Ransom County Soil Conservation District..

New chapter officers were elected at the meeting. Gary Knecht (Secretary/Treasurer), Jason Sorenson (Vice-President) and Michael Olson (President-Elect) join President-Elect Chris Longhenry as incoming officers for 2011.

Mike Barnes was recognized as Past President.



Andre Delorme instructs Dakota Chapter members on aquatic invertebrate identification.



Best poster and paper winners were (L-R) Matthew Ward, Luke Schultz and Paul Bailey.



Kristopher Stahr receives the Schmulbach Scholarship from Jeff Hendrickson, Dakota Chapter president.



Jacob Davis (center), SDSU subunit president, presents Sauger Scholarships to (L-R) Aaron Burgad, Adam Larson, Nathan Satre and Kristopher Stahr.



Brian Blackwell receives the Robert L. Hanten Distinguished Professional Service Award.

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Terrance Velazquez and Nathan Satre receive Alven Kriel memorial Scholarships.



Chris Nannenga receives the Aquatic Resource Conservation Award.



Mike Barnes (R) receives the Past Presidents plaque from Will Sayler.



Mathew Ward receives the Outstanding Young Professional Award.



Michael Olson is the new President -Elect.



Jerry Wilhite receives the Outstanding Young Professional Award.



Jason Sorenson (Vice President L), Gary Knecht (Secretary/Treasurer C) join current President-Elect Chris Longhenry (R) as incoming officers for 2011.

Michigan Chapter

The Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MIAFS) held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Michigan Chapter of the Wildlife Society (MITWS) and the Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative (MIBCI). This is the first time MIAFS has met with MIBCI, and the first time in many years we have met with MITWS. To celebrate the broad range of interests of the attendees, we kicked off the meeting with a joint session on climate change. Dr. Matt Spencer (Lake Superior State University) gave the first keynote presentation, which documented the current state of research and knowledge on global climate change. The second keynote was provided by Chris Hoving (Michigan DNR) who spoke about Michigan's changing climate and its potential effects on wildlife. Seven other speakers from universities, NGO's, and tribes also spoke in the joint session.

The meeting was held at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey, Michigan, on April 6-7. (MIBCI activities stretched through April 9). A total of 173 people registered for the four-day conference, with approximately 140 attending the first two days that included the MIAFS meeting events. There were 24 oral presentations and 12 poster presentations, with the vast majority being presented by undergraduate or graduate students. Dan Traynor (MDNR) led a workshop on identifying digested fish remains using cleithra that was attended by 14 participants. Tiffany Radka, from the LSSU Student Subunit, organized a panel discussion on tips for finding and applying for jobs and graduate schools, which included nine panel participants and more than 30 attendees. Overall, the level of student participation at the conference was extremely impressive. The future of fisheries professionals certainly appears to be in good hands!

Conference registrants were treating to dinners prepared by the renowned chef of the Jordan Inn and lunches prepared by North Central Michigan College. A poster session and social were held on April 6, which included a wine tasting and the screening of the film "Lake Invaders: The Battle for Lake Huron." In addition, the Lake Superior State University (LSSU) Student Subunit hosted the annual raffle, and there was a MIBCI silent auction.

During the business meeting, Mark Tonello (MDNR) was honored for his service as Chapter president, Dr. Geoff Steinhart (LSSU) was installed as president, and Dave Clapp (MDNR) was announced as president-elect. New Volunteers (e.g., Ralph Tingley, Membership Committee) were recognized. Other topics at the business meeting included an update from NCD representative Gary Whelan (MDNR) and the news that Michigan State University is in the process of creating a student subunit. After the business meeting, students from at least seven Michigan universities met to discuss student activities and concerns. In addition, the rivers and streams and water quality subcommittees held a joint meeting.

Congratulations to the award winners recognized at the meeting. Dr. Mike Wiley (University of Michigan) was awarded the Justin W. Leonard Award to recognize outstanding professional competence and achievement of a fishery professional. Roger Greil (LSSU) was honored with the Grayling Award to recognize his outstanding contributions to Michigan's fisheries and fishery profession. The Albert S. Hazzard Award was given to Sherry Martin (Michigan State University) to honor her excellent student research on "Land-use legacy effort: Combining spatial and temporal drivers in statistical and mechanistic models of lake water chemistry." The 2010 Best Student Paper

award winner was Jessica Sherman, Central Michigan University, for her presentation entitled "What defines a refuge for unionids from dreissenid mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha* and *D. bugensis*) in Great Lakes coastal wetlands?" Jessica Kosiara (LSSU) received the 2010 Best Student Poster Award for her research "Disturbance of benthic algae by spawning Pacific salmon in Thompson Creek, MI." Student travel grant winners were announced: Tiffany Radka (LSSU), Megan Cookingham (Grand Valley State University), and Jan-Michael Hessenauer (Michigan State University).

Other recent award winners were also reviewed: Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award winners Brianne Lunn (University of Alberta, current MIAFS member and former LSSU student) and Alexander Galt (Fort Hays State University); AFS Outstanding and NCD Most Active Student Subunit winners from the LSSU Student Subunit; Dr. Kelly Smith for receiving the Mentoring for Professional Diversity in Fisheries/Aquatic Sciences Award; Jordan Allison was awarded the Sander Award from the NCD Walleye Technical Committee.

In addition to the annual meeting, Becky Papke (MDNR and NCD Continuing Education Chair) organized a Fish Disease Workshop held on 2 March 2010, in East Lansing. The workshop, led by Dr. Mohammed Faisal (Michigan State University) filled up in a matter of days and was a smashing success. We are investigating the possibility of hosting a second workshop to accommodate the demand. Finally, planning for our 2011 meeting, most likely a joint meeting with the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, is already underway. Check out our website at www.fisheries.org/units/miafs/index.html to see what we're up to!

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

North Central Division Annual Meeting and Awards

The North Central Division (NCD) held its annual meeting December 12 – 15, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis Minnesota, in conjunction with the 71st Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. The meeting was well attended and successful, despite record snowfall of up to 21.5" that collapsed the Metrodome roof and delayed travel. This year's theme, "Cascading Effects from Earth to Sky" was highlighted by plenary speakers Dr. L. David Mech, who discussed his research on the varying effects of wolves, and Dr. Lee Frelich, who detailed how European earthworms create a cascade of changes in ecosystems that affect plants, deer, water quality, and even climate change.

A standing-room only crowd of 50 NCD members attended the business meeting, where AFS President Wayne Hubert detailed his initiatives for the upcoming year and updated members on the switch from Allen Press to Taylor & Francis for journal publishing, the annual meeting in Seattle, AFS certification, and the two current Policy Statements on climate change and lead in sportfish tackle. The NCD's award ceremony recognized the Indiana Chapter for two awards, Most Active Small Chapter and Best Communications, and Lake Superior State University for the Most Active Student Subunit. The NCD's Joan Duffy Student Travel Award was awarded to seven students this year: Justin VanDeHey (Dakota Chapter); Stephen Jacquemin (Indiana Chapter); Weston Fleming (Kansas Chapter),

Brianne Dunn & Justin Hanisch (Mid-Canada Chapter), Brenda Pracheil (Nebraska Chapter), and Matt Faust (Wisconsin Chapter). Twenty five NCD students were selected as finalists for the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award, with the Fisheries Award going to Brianne Lunn (University of Alberta), and Alexander Galt (Ft. Hays State University, Kansas) received the Wildlife Award. A \$500 scholarship accompanied each award.

The NCD was very pleased to recognize the contributions of Mr. Marion Conover with the 2010 Fisheries Excellence Award for contributions to the AFS, NCD and fisheries profession throughout his 38 year career. As Iowa Fisheries Chief from 1992 to retirement in 2008, Marion led efforts to develop the lake restoration program, serving small pond fisheries, supporting interstate cooperation on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, and supervising the formation of Iowa's Aquatic Invasive Species program. Outside Iowa's borders, he represented the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on the National Fish Habitat Partnership Board, providing staff participation in four habitat partnerships affecting Iowa. Marion served on the American Sportfishing Association's Future Fishermen Foundation Board and maintained a relationship with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation which has proven invaluable in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources marketing strategy to increase fishing license sales. In addition, he was actively

involved in the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, serving on the Angler and Boating Participation Committee, Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee, and Drug Approval Working Group. Additional accomplishments during Marion's career include participating on the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee, serving as President of the American Fisheries Society Fisheries Administration Section (FAS) from 1995-1996; receiving recognition from the FAS for outstanding Sport Fish to Restoration projects in research, aquatic education and development as Chief of the Fisheries Bureau; and the Meritorious Service Award for outstanding dedication to interjurisdictional river fisheries issues as Chair of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association. In retirement Marion continues as a Senior Fisheries Biologist for Allflex USA, Inc. where he represents them in marketing radio frequency identification devices (PIT tags) for fish and wildlife. Perhaps one of Marion's greatest legacies will be involvement with Iowa's Water and Land Legacy Amendment to establish a dedicated trust fund for the purposes of protecting and enhancing water quality and natural areas in the state through a dedicated three-eighths of one percent increase in the State sales tax. In short, Marion is a leader in the sustainability of fisheries and natural resources both in spirit and through his actions.

(continued on next page)

2010 Fenske Award Winners

Brianne Lunn, University of Alberta, Fisheries
Alexander Galt, Fort Hays State University, Wildlife



(from left to right) Tim Cross, MN AFS; Brianne Lunn, Fisheries Award Winner; John Loegering, Midwest Student Events Chair; Geoff Steinhart, MI AFS



(from left to right) Greg Hoch, MN TWS; Alexander Galt, Wildlife Award Winner; John Loegering, Midwest Student Events Chair



NCD President Randall Schultz & the Lake Superior State University Student Subunit members, winners of the 2010 Most Active Student Subunit



2010 Joan Duffy Student Travel Award winners (from left to right) Matt Faust, (WI), Weston Fleming (KS), Justin VanDeHey (Dakota Chapter), Brenda Pracheil (NE), and Stephen Jacquemin (IN). Not pictured, Brianne Lunn, and Justin Hanisch (Mid-Canada Chapter).

USDA Forest Service National Forest System

Date: February 18, 2011

Topic: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Forest Service

Issue: GLRI is a presidential initiative that began in FY10, with the expectation that the program will be funded each year through 2014, to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Funded at \$475M in FY10, the funding went to the Environmental Protection Agency, and then to other agencies, states, tribes and NGOs to implement the Action Plan. The President proposed a \$300M funding level for FY11, however, funding for FY11 is uncertain.

Summary/Key Points:

FY10: FS Funding: \$15.458M, (NFS \$8.458M, S&P \$6.5M, Research \$0.5M)
\$12.3 M has been obligated through February 1, 2011

Accomplishments:

State and Private Forestry:

- Brownfields (toxic substances reduced in industrial cities) – 7 grants for \$2M
- Emerald Ash Borer (community preparation/restoration) – 12 grants for \$3M
- Urban Forestry (providing tree assessment tools) – 6 grants for \$1M
- EcoSystem Services Bank (matching landowners to buyers) – 2 grants for \$0.5M

National Forest System:

- Populations of invasive species controlled, 775 acres
- Aquatic invasive species education/outreach, 93.5M people
- Cooperative Weed Management Areas established, 6
- Cooperative Weed Management Areas enhanced, 6
- Rivers re-opened to fish passage, 156 miles
- Barriers removed to fish passage, 11
- Threatened & Endangered species monitoring, 875,000 acres
- Wetlands restored or enhanced, 322 acres
- Wetland-associated uplands restored, 3448 acres
- Wetlands inventoried/assessed, 297 acres

Research:

- Analysis of Forest EcoSystems (Lake Michigan and Superior) – 2 assessments completed

The Forest Service annually sponsors technical workshops that focus on "Stream Simulation Design Approach for Providing Aquatic Organism Passage at Road-Stream Crossings". NRCS and Forest Service engineers, biologists and state and county participate. Workshops provide for an ecological "All Lands" approach to restore aquatic passage in watersheds across large landscapes and multiple owner ships.

Issues:

The new administrator at EPA is emphasizing that projects must accomplish on-the-ground work (no research, monitoring, modeling, inventory, planning, assessments, studies). Many agencies are concerned with this change as several projects that were initiated in FY10 will be curtailed.

Opportunities:

The Forest Service is well positioned to receive funding in FY12 and beyond, due to our land base and on-the-ground projects.

Contact: Jim Peña, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System 202-205-1523.

ARRA Funding in Region 9 for Ecosystem and Watershed Restoration

What outcomes resulted from the projects for fish passage?

As long linear ecosystems, rivers and streams are particularly vulnerable to fragmentation. Historic human activities disrupted the continuity of river and stream ecosystems in the East. The most familiar human-caused barriers are dams. However, road crossings can affect river and stream ecosystems through the loss and degradation of habitats and by disrupting ecological processes that structure and maintain these systems over time. Important ecological processes significantly affected by road crossings, especially the movement of organisms including fish passage, became a priority conservation strategy to evaluate on Eastern Region national forests.

In 2005, Region 9 national forests estimated that 2,500-3,000 structures were in need of replacement. Cost estimates to replace crossings and small earthen dams that impeded fish passage, improved water quality, restored riparian and wetland habitat and improved driving safety ranged from \$125 Million to \$300 Million (using \$50,000 to \$100,000/site). Due to an aggressive national and regional training program and technical workshop schedule since 2005, the role of road crossings – and especially culverts – in altering habitats and disrupting river and stream continuity was identified. The availability of stimulus funding resulted in twenty-six major fish passage projects (bridges, culverts and dams) on ten national forests totaling \$13.7 million. Barrier removal consisted of replacing undersized bridges and culverts

and removal or modification of small dams for passage in seven states. Benefitting aquatic species included state listed species, regional forester sensitive species, and numerous species of recreational sport value (crayfish, mussels, salamanders, and fish). Hundreds of miles of blocked streams were reconnected thereby restoring species viability.

Approximately \$7.5 million was spent on crossings in need of deferred maintenance. Barrier removal or modification projects complemented strategic conservation plans for six nationally recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships including the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Ohio River Basin, Great Lakes Basin, Fishers and Farmers, Midwest Glacial Lakes, and Reservoir Fisheries.



Websites:

Parent company: <http://www.fisheries.org>

North Central Division: <http://www.ncd-afs.org>

NCD Listserve email to: ncdlist@lists.fisheries.org