Dakota—Illinois—Indiana—Iowa—Kansas—Michigan—Mid-Canada—
Minnesota—Missouri—Nebraska—Ohio—Ontario—Wisconsin

Mainstream

Volume 28, Issue 2
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President's Message by Gwen White

Where should the AFS NCD focus strategic efforts in the next few years? Thanks to a dedicated 2011-2015 Strategic Plan Revision Committee, the American Fisheries Society North Central Division (NCD) is updating its strategic plan. To help guide this process, the committee prepared questions for an online survey which was then programmed, posted and tabulated by Dr. Dan Witter, DJ Case & Associates. All current NCD contacts with email addresses on record (2,276) were invited to respond to a web survey posted by NCD between 3 March and 5 April, 2011. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the 398 respondents indicated membership in the parent society. Thanks to all who participated!

Transition was an overarching theme in the 2011 NCD Strategic Plan Survey Report, reflecting a time of change on many levels for fisheries. Issues highlighted by respondents included: 1) rapid shift in administration from older to younger employees; 2) challenging impact of global and landscape-level changes; and 3) increasing demographic diversity. Objectives identified by respondents that may address these issues were: 1) deliver unbiased authoritative scientific information to decision-makers; 2) provide appropriate and accessible professional development; 3) bridge communications between chapters, subunits and the parent society; and 4) revisit the value of AFS services including membership dues, professional certification, awards, electronic services and strategic planning.

Open-ended comments provided a great deal of detail about many aspects of AFS function within the Division and beyond. For more information, check out what your fellow fish heads said in the survey report on the division website at http://www.ncd-afs.org or contact Gwen White at gwen@dcase.com or 317-281-9445. We intend to have the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan for your review later this fall. Keep an eye out for it.

By all measures the AFS annual meeting in Seattle was a huge success with 4,000 participants – keeping in mind that this number represents nearly half of the Society! The Governing Board approved plans for a 2015 meeting in Portland and began anticipating the major leadership changes as AFS Executive Director Gus Rassam enters his final 2-year contract before retirement. The Society Successional Committee, led by Donna Parrish is conducting several surveys to begin seeking input from the AFS Governing Board, staff and external stakeholders on future direction for AFS as it pertains to selection of a new Executive Director. We will keep you posted as this situation progresses.

Personally, I'm very grateful for the work that Gus has done since the turn of the century (1999) to bring fiscal solvency and innovation in publications business processes during a stressful time in the nation's history.

And speaking of transition, thanks to Randy Schultz for his excellent service as NCD President this past year! Unfortunately, he won't be resting on his laurels as the Iowa crew prepares for us to head to Des Moines for the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. If you haven't yet made plans for the conference, please do so soon. It will be a great event (and maybe a smaller blizzard than in Minneapolis).

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.

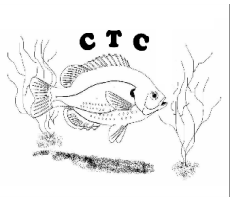
Editors: Tom Slawski
Sara Teske

Inside this issue:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Centrarchid Technical Committee

2011 SUMMER CENTRARCHID TECHNICAL MEETING REPORTS DUBUQUE, IOWA JULY 27-28



BRIEF SYNOPSIS:
The 2011 summer CTC meeting was held in conjunction with the WTC and ETC. The CTC organized the workshop at this meeting which was on Program MARK and was taught by Dr. Bob Klaver (USGS; bklaver@usgs.gov). Revenue from this workshop was added to the CTC account ($797.33). Representatives from the Dakota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Iowa chapters were present and reports were shared at the meeting and other reports were read from those chapters who could not attend. Discussion on organizing a symposium at the 2012 AFS meeting in Minneapolis, MN or the 2013 meeting in Little Rock, AR was also brought up. One idea initiated by Lewis Bruce (Iowa Rep) was related to angling regulations and angler perceptions on Centrarchids. Other ideas are welcome at this time and should be forwarded to Dan Dembkoswki (daniel.dembkowski@sdstate.edu). Dan Dembkoswki (PhD student at South Dakota State University) is taking over the CTC chair position as I am stepping down and will become the Dakota Chapter CTC representative. The next meeting is scheduled for the upcoming Midwest Fish and Wildlife Meeting during December (4-7) in Des Moines, IA.

Mark Kaemingk
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BUDGET:
$749.87 (Existing balance) + $797.33 (Program MARK workshop) = $1547.20.

DAKOTA CHAPTER:

North Dakota
- Ongoing crappie stock assessment project in Pipestem Reservoir, involving estimation of angler exploitation, age & growth, and recruitment. Recruitment is sporadic, growth is relatively slow, and wintertime harvest is very high (85%), which resulted in the decimation of the two major year-classes. Bag limit was reduced from 20 crappie/day to 10 crappie/day on Pipestem Reservoir in an attempt to ease the impact of exploitation on the population. ND Game and Fish biologists are currently evaluating this special regulation.

- A Save Our Lakes (SOL) project took place in fall 2010 at Sweetbriar Dam in central ND. Natural bluegill reproduction was lacking, and 175 yd^3 of pea gravel were hauled in and placed in strategic locations throughout the reservoir, creating 9400 ft^2 of fresh spawning habitat. ND Game and Fish biologists are currently evaluating impacts of the added spawning substrate.

South Dakota
- Ongoing research in conjunction with SDSU assessing the impact of smallmouth bass predation on yellow perch recruitment in northeastern SD glacial lakes. Project arose from previous work that quantified smallmouth bass diets, which were composed of between 25% and 82% yellow perch. Work scheduled to begin May 2012.

- Ongoing research in conjunction with SDSU assessing stock contributions of advanced-sized fingerling largemouth bass (100 mm TL) supplementally stocked into small impoundments. Fingerlings were reared during winter months and stocked in spring. Over-summer and over-winter survival was greater for advanced-sized fingerlings than for smaller fingerlings (75 mm TL), suggesting that supplemental stocking of advanced-sized fingerlings may be a viable management option for maintaining fisheries in small impoundments.

- Proposed research in conjunction with SDSU examining effects of exploitation on smallmouth bass populations. Proposed research would include evaluation of basic population dynamics in multiple systems with and without slot limits to model how smallmouth bass respond to simulated harvest.

- Research on the table for consideration in coming years includes stocking of redear sunfish in West

(continued on next page)

River impoundments to cope with yellow grub parasite, which requires snails as part of its life cycle. It is anticipated that redear sunfish will consume snails, thereby reducing prevalence of the parasite.

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MISSOURI CHAPTER:

Black Bass and Crappie Recruitment in Missouri Reservoirs:
Trends, Synchrony, and Environmental Influences

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Abstract. - Largemouth bass *Micropterus salmoides*, spotted bass *M. punctulatus*, white crappie *Pomoxis annularis*, and black crappie *P. nigromaculatus* are popular components of many large reservoir sport fisheries and a better understanding of these populations and their dynamics would improve our management capabilities. We used long-term datasets collected from 15 reservoirs to assess temporal trends and synchrony in sport fish recruitment and examined the influence of a suite of environmental variables on recruitment using stock-recruitment models. Black bass recruitment exhibited few temporal trends, whereas recruitment of black crappie increased in all reservoirs. White crappie recruitment was stable in some reservoirs, and either abruptly declined or increased in the remaining reservoirs. Some regional synchrony in recruitment occurred for largemouth bass, white crappie, and black crappie but not for spotted bass. Little evidence also existed for synchronous recruitment among species within reservoirs. Few stock-recruitment relationships alone explained the variation in recruitment. Inclusion of hydrologic variables often improved largemouth bass stock-recruitment models. Although sometimes included in the models, neither hydrologic or temperature variables consistently improved the spotted bass stock-recruitment models. No environmental variables consistently influenced white crappie recruitment, whereas hydrologic and productivity variables were important to black crappie recruitment. Even though we used relatively long-term datasets, most recruitment models explained relatively little of the variation in recruitment. The most useful relationships we found were these between hydrologic variables and largemouth bass and black crappie recruitment supporting the need for increased and sustained water levels during and after the spawning period to improve sport fish recruitment.

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Smallmouth Research

A FY12 project was funded by MDC to focus on the exploitation rate of smallmouth bass. This study is just one component of much work on this species the past year and a half. Other components include: 1) a statewide angler mail survey with emphasis on southern MO, 2) species sampling guidelines, 3) an update of special management area criteria, and 4) a telemetry study determining annual movement from thermal refuges on the Current River.

This component of the project will require tagging about 1600 legal-sized (≥12 inches) smallmouth on five rivers in southern MO; rivers include the Black, Castor, Courtois, Current (2 sites) and North Fork of the White rivers. These rivers were selected by biologists to represent different size-classes of streams and were under statewide black bass regulations because special management areas tend to displace anglers that prefer harvesting smallmouth bass.

Tagging will occur May-June of 2011, and funding will be requested again in FY13 for these same rivers. Each tag has a phone number to report catch information, an individual tag number, and the reward value ($25-75).

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NEBRASKA CHAPTER:

Tanner Stevens – Undergrad, UNL: Comparison of three models to estimate population size of LMB.
Seth Lundgren – MS Student, UNK: Population estimates and food habits for LMB at 8 borrow pits along I-80, from May-Oct.
Publication forthcoming on terrestrial invertebrates in LMB diet.
Comparison of LMB CPUE versus density in same lakes.
No more catch-and-release regulation on LMB in high-use areas; switched to 21"minimum, statewide still 15" minimum. Panfish regs changed: daily bag to 15 statewide; combination of 30 statewide and 10 in high-use areas.
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IOWA CHAPTER:

Known Age Fish

We are evaluating and standardizing our age and growth labs. Part of this will be creating a library of known age structures from multiple species around the state. Largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, and channel catfish will be stocked into small impoundments and subsampled annually. All centrarchid species will be OTC marked, VIE tagged, and have a visual clip(spine). Ten fish will be pulled from each impoundment and all of the structures will be removed after collecting lengths and weights.

Low Dose Rotenone

A study on low dose rotenone treatments to remove shad found in southern Iowa impoundments will start this fall, ISU and DNR will be working together. Some preliminary work has been done over the last few years on a few lakes with mixed results. Last year we applied rotenone in two bodies of water at the same concentration. After a period of time the water was tested to see how long the chemical sustained a level high enough to kill shad. One lake maintained the level for 17 days while the other lake dropped off after 10 days. The goal is to maintain a level between 5 and 7 parts per billion(ppb).

Synergized brands of rotenone act differently than other manufacture types. Also found that not all brands of rotenone have the same amount of active ingredient. Treatments are being conducted in the fall just prior to ice up. This is a slower time for management crews and the ice hides bodies so public relations is not a big issue. Hopefully in the future this will be another management tool, it is inexpensive and can provide great benefits to anglers.

In order to complete a low dose treatment a very accurate bathymetry map is needed to calculate the amount of chemical needed and the chemical needs to be applied evenly throughout the lake to avoid hot spots.

Old Reservoir

Treated in 2009
Treated late fall with 5 ppb
Effective for two years
Sport fish have had great response

Lake Sugema

Treated in 2010
5 micro grams/liter active ingredient for 17 days.
No shad have been found in the system, too early to see effects on sport fishery.

Badger Creek Lake

Treated in 2010
Treated with the same concentration as Lake Sugema and still have shad.
Might be due to high levels of organics in the water, rotenone binds to organics in the water column.

Standardizing electrofishing boats

All of the sampling has been completed. Management teams around the state used their boats with the current configuration and power goals, and then they used the AFS standards. Lakes were sampled from all areas of the state which represented a wide range of conductivities. Analysis will be completed this winter. Hoping to show there is no measurable difference between the two configurations making it easier to switch to the AFS standard sampling protocols.

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WISCONSIN CHAPTER:

Black Bass—Much of the recent discussion surrounding black bass management in Wisconsin has focused on an apparent increase in bass densities, particularly Largemouth Bass in the Northwest part of the state. Concerns are being raised as to the implications of the increases which include reduced growth rates and substantive com-

munity interactions, particularly negative effects on walleye populations. The cause of the increases in bass abundances is unknown however many have been suggested including climate change, overly restrictive regulations, fluctuations in water levels, increased water clarity and changes in angler dynamics. An experimental suite of regulations and walleye stocking have been implemented on 20 waters in northern Wisconsin with the general goal of reducing bass abundance and increasing walleye abundance. Research at UW-Stevens Point and UW-Madison is focusing on quantifying the magnitude of changes due to the regulation changes as well as modeling potential cause and effect pathways between the most probably variables.

Panfish – A literature review is being completed of panfish management in Wisconsin. Several analyses are also in process. 1)UWSP – Master's thesis proposal - Evaluation of creel and length limits for crappie and yellow perch in Wisconsin.2)UWSP – similar analysis with bluegill 3) Wisconsin DNR – responses of panfish to a daily bag limit of 10.

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MINNESOTA CHAPTER

A statewide bass workgroup has been formed to discuss all things related to bass from basic biology to regulations. Initial conversations have focused on how we manage bass in different areas of the state. Ask a manager how they know a lake is a good lake for bass and you'll likely get many different answers. For example, while most managers use electrofishing as the primary tool for evaluating largemouth bass, some rely more on gill nets. For smallmouth, managers weight electrofishing and gill nets more equally. Some managers focus primarily on abundance with these CPUE indices, while others prefer a structural index such as PSD or RSD to measure the success of bass management. Along with this, a statewide mail survey of bass anglers will be conducted in the next year to obtain angler views on bass angling and management.

Some other notes of interest:

As special bass regulations are coming up for review, many anglers are opposed to regulations requiring release of bass over 12" (slot or maximum length). Their current preference and strong support is for a 14" size restriction because 10" – 12" bass are too small to harvest in their opinion.

Mike McInerny put together some good data from creel surveys showing that urban anglers within the Twin Cities Metro Area have significantly higher release rates for largemouth bass than in other parts of the state. This data also showed that release rates across the state have been increasing overall.

Although bass have been given most of the attention in MN as of late, there has also been a focus on fish habitat. Cindy Tomcko has been studying bluegill abundance along naturally vegetated, restored, and barren shoreline areas. Those areas without vegetation held (not surprisingly) fewer bluegills than those areas containing vegetation. Evaluating habitat restoration efforts is an important link as an increasing emphasis is placed on habitat improvement and maintenance.

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OHIO CHAPTER

We are continuing to evaluate black bass regulations and are seeking to initiate some new black bass research projects.

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No Report for the following chapters: Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Ontario, and MidCanada.

PROGRAM MARK WORKSHOP

The workshop at this year's CTC/WTC/ETC joint summer meeting in Dubuque, IA focused on Pro-

gram MARK (a program designed to analyze mark-recapture data). The Centrarchid Technical Committee organized the workshop and invited Dr. Robert Klaver, who is a landscape wildlife biologist (USGS) at EROS data center near Sioux Falls, SD, to administer the 1-day workshop. The workshop was filled within a couple weeks of posting and thus appeared to be a relevant topic for this year's workshop. A total of 24 participants, representing 7 different states and 14 different agencies/universities, attended the workshop. A follow-up survey indicated that most participants were very satisfied with the workshop. Most topics presented were of interest by everyone in attendance. Suggestions for future workshops of this nature were to either cover less information or extend the workshop to 2 or more days. As a result of the workshop participants left with more information on the Program than they knew before but thought they would still need to invest more time on their own to become comfortable with the Program. A few specific comments from the participants included

- "It was a good workshop and Dr. Klaver did a great job presenting a lot of information"
- "I am glad I attended the workshop, regardless of the information overload"
- "I thought the workshop was very helpful and enjoyed it very much."
-"The packet that was distributed is an excellent resource and having the files on hand from the zip-drive provides a nice template for formatting my own data."

We would like to thank Dr. Klaver for putting on this workshop as he volunteered his time and resources for this event. In addition, thanks to all those who attended the workshop.

Mark Kaemingk

Walleye Technical Committee by Andrew Jansen

2011 Summer Meeting: From July 26-28 the WTC in conjunction with the ETC and CTC held their joint annual meeting at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center/Mines of Spain Recreation Area in Dubuque, IA. A total of 52 people were in attendance. We had a total of 14 scientific papers presented at the meeting including talks from 10 students. Additionally, we had a great welcome social at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque. Thanks to the folks at E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center for their hospitality and support. Also, a big thanks to Megan Thul and Mike Steuck for providing local arrangements and helping out with meeting logistics. In conjunction with the summer meeting, an Introduction to Program MARK workshop was presented by Dr. Robert Klaver (USGS). Information from our meeting is below.

State and Provincial Reports:

Missouri (Tory Mason):

2011 stocking numbers included:
Bull Shoals = 435,954
Norfolk = 221,131
LOZ = 331,134
Osage River = 190,909 Truman Lake = 139,099 Salt River = 66,000
Pomme de Terre = 52,874
Jacomo Lake = 19,947
Long Branch = 24,057

Longview Lake (930 acres) was selected to analyze how annual high stocking rates impacted the walleye population. Previous stockings were variable and consisted of three different sized fish for a study in 1987. In 1993 and 1996 the lake was supplementally stocked with advanced fingerlings to further analyze stocking success. The current evaluation began in 2001. Since then over 400,000 walleye fingerlings (~50/acre/year; range 46-70) have been stocked into Longview Lake, with most fish being approximately 1 inch in length. Condition of stocked fish was variable and appeared related to plankton density. Two years after the increased stocking began, spring electrofishing catch rates began to increased from ~30/hour to ~73/hour for walleye ≥ 15 inches in length. Fall sampling for young of year (YOY) walleye ranged from 2-12 YOY/hour . In 1997, 2001 and 2011 population estimates (Schnabel method) were 159, 184 and 312 fish/acre respectively.

A stocking evaluation is being con-

ducted in northwest Missouri small impoundments. Two lakes have been stocked with 1-2" walleye fingerlings at 20/acre. These fisheries are being evaluated using reward tags.

Bilby Ranch Lake (110 acres) received 2,750 <2" fingerlings every other year (study complete). This lake had 16 tag returns from over 140 tagged fish over the course of the study resulting in a corrected exploitation rate of 17%. 100% of the fish captured with tags were harvested, 50% of anglers were targeting walleye while only 31% were targeting largemouth bass.

Mozingo Lake (1000 acres) received 20,000 <2" fingerlings every other year (study will be completed in 2012).
2008 – 15.5% year one; 30.5% exploitation
2009 – 14.8% year one; 33.9% exploitation
2010 – 13.5% year one; 21.3% exploitation
2011 – 21.4% so far.
167 tag returns from 848 tagged fish provides a cumulative corrected exploitation rate of 28%. About 57% of fish were caught in May and June with 89% of those harvested; 54% of anglers were targeting walleye, 22% were targeting largemouth bass, 19% crappie and 5% other.

Biologists on Bull Shoals Lake worked with a local angler group to collect walleye aging structures. Structures were collected from a total of 195 walleye and has generated some questions and will be used as baseline age/growth information for an upcoming study. Walleye were estimated to be reaching 20" by age three through back-calculations.

In Stockton Lake, annual stockings of walleye in three consecutive years (750,000 in 2010) has resulted in "better than average" walleye fishing.

Black River walleye is considered a unique strain in Missouri that they are trying to maintain the genetic integrity. The fish were stocked (9,500 fingerlings) into the St. Francis River in 2011. Additionally, there is a current exploitation study (2009-2010) on the Black River.
2009 – 36% corrected tag return rate @ 60% harvest = 23% fishing mortality
2010 – 26% corrected tag return rate = 14% fishing mortality

Missouri is currently hoping to expand its number of walleye fisheries statewide.

Kansas (Ron Marteney):

Saugeye production has increased in recent years for small impoundment stockings to create angler opportunities and to control crappie populations. With concerns over genetic integrity of walleye, administrators decided to stock triploid saugeye. The department recently got a new press to pressure eggs to induce triploidy. They have also begun using tanic acid in saugeye production instead of fullers earth as fullers earth had too low of hatch rate for saugeye when trying to induce triploidy.

In 2010, approximately 89 million walleye eggs were collected for stocking.

There is a project proposal being evaluated to look at growth, survival and other population parameters in diploid and triploid saugeye.

Research projects underway
Weston Fleming – MS student at Fort Hayes State University. Weston is comparing various aging structures for walleye, and assessing age, growth and recruitment in Cedar Bluff Reservoir.

Wisconsin (Steve Gilbert):

Walleye Regulations

2011 Proposals

Several regulation changes related to walleye management in the state were presented at our spring 2011 public state wide hearings. All passed except the one that would have raised the minimum size limit to 18 inches and reduced the bag limit to 3 on waters throughout a 19 county area in Southern Wisconsin.

Ben Heussner presented the details of this regulation proposal in his talk given at the WTC. The regulation passed on a state wide vote but lost in several counties in the region where the new regulation would go into affect. For this reason the proposal was withdrawn at this time.

Future Proposal Process

Due to the passing of recent legislation the process for making fish-

eries rule changes will be more complex. Rule proposals will now be reviewed by the Governors' office. Proposals will also be reviewed for economic impacts. This will likely add a year to the current two year process.

Research

Walleye Vs Bass

A project titled Climate Change and Resilience of Sport Fisheries in Lakes was recently funded by USGS. The focus of this project is looking at "critical thresholds" that create changes in fish communities. This will include changes of waters from walleye to bass dominated ecosystems.

Parts of the project will be carried out by UWSP and UW Madison students and staff.

Walleye mortality rates paper

Michael Hansen published a paper on fishing and natural mortality rates on Escanaba Lake in the recent issue of NAJFM.

Michael J. Hansen, Andrew H. Fayram, and Steven P. Newman (2011): Natural Mortality in Relation to Age and Fishing Mortality on Walleyes in Escanaba Lake, Wisconsin, during 1956-2009, NAJFM, 31:3, 506-514

Hatchery Production

Wisconsin continues to evaluate stocking of large walleye fingerlings. Current requests by managers are more than the system is currently producing. Production facilities are currently looking at ways to increase numbers of fish greater than six inches in length.

Staff Update

As with other states in the region funding and retirements have created many vacancies in the state fishery program. Currently there are over 51 vacant positions in fisheries. Plans are to fill some of these positions based on need in the next year. Anyone interested in employment with WDNR should visit the following web sites for details on the application process: www.dnr.wi.gov or wisc.jobs

The biologist exam will be offered some time this fall.

Iowa (Randy Schultz):

Working on two impoundment walleye projects.

Big Creek walleye stocking evaluation.

Big Creek Lake is an 883 ac impoundment located near Des Moines. Intense angling pressure (116 h/ac) and numerous angler trips (32,000) reflect the importance of this fishery to central Iowa anglers. Preferred stockings of 8-in walleye fingerlings have been reduced due to the popularity of this size fish. We are attempting to evaluate the contribution of fry, freeze-branded 2-in and freeze-branded 8-in walleye at this impoundment. Tributaries to Big Creek are believed to have the capability to provide adequate habitat and prey for 2 in fingerling stockings, and this stocking method warrants further investigation.

During 2011 32,000 2-in walleye fingerlings were freeze-branded and stocked in two tributaries to Big Creek. Fall nighttime electrofishing will be conducted to evaluate success of the stocking. We determined initial (2h) mortality to be 5.2%. We attempted to hold 100 freeze-branded and 100 control fish for 2 wk to evaluate long-term mortality. Fish were held in separate circular tanks and fed walleye starter diet. On day 8 we started experiencing large scale mortalities in both tanks. Neither one week nor two week mortalities differed between treatments (chi square = 0.98; df = 1; P = 0.32 and chi square = 0.0.49; df = 1; P = 0.48, respectively). Eight inch walleye fingerlings will be differentiated with a unique freeze-brand and stocked this fall.

During spring 2010 195 walleye were collected and tagged with Carlin dangler tags to evaluate exploitation within Big Creek. Nearly all tags that were returned came from the shallow upper end of Big Creek during summer months. Emigration was evident with two tagged fish caught below Big Creek in the Des Moines River. We attempted to conduct a windshield surrogate postcard survey to determine tag return rates, but only 7% of postcards were returned. We estimated 2010 exploitation to be 32% after compensating for a 25% non-reporting rate and 9% tag loss (Quist et al. 2010).

Quist, M. C., J. L. Stephen, S. T. Lynott, C. S. Guy, J. M. Goeckler, and R. D. Schultz. 2010. Exploitation of walleyes in a Great Plains reservoir: harvest patterns and management scenarios. Fisheries Management and Ecology 17:522 – 531.

Rathbun Lake outmigration study.

We are working with Michael Weber (SDSU) to utilize MARK to evaluate walleye emigration in an effort to convince the USACE to

assist with a non-physical barrier placement at Rathbun Lake to retain Iowa broodfish walleye. Much attention has been given to the restoration of the walleye population at Rathbun Lake, Iowa. Large-scale declines in the 80's was met with a concerted research effort to improve and sustain this population and by the late 90's the biomass had effectively been tripled and restoration goals were met. However, recent high levels of out-migration have placed the sustainability of this population in jeopardy. Since the spring of 2008 more than 11,000 walleyes, totally more than 17,000 lbs have been collected post-passage in the Rathbun Lake tailrace, VI-tagged, and returned to Rathbun Lake. Spring 2011 estimates of the Rathbun Lake walleye population are 8,270 broodstock (i.e. ≥ 17 in) and 27,269 adult walleyes (i.e. ≥ 12 in). Total biomass is estimated at 6.4 lbs / ac for Rathbun Lake. Multiple estimates suggest that a minimal estimate of adult walleye loss in 2010 and 2011 likely exceeds 10% and 17%, respectively. This is especially troubling in that this was during a period of the year in which walleyes are generally believed to be their least vulnerable to passage and flows were only moderate. Minimal estimates of broodstock loss from 2010 to 2011 during record floodwater discharge approaches 40%. The associated valuation of fish loss as evidenced by recapture efforts in the tailrace exceeds $600,000 since spring of 2009. We therefore suggest that the construction and operation of a nonphysical barrier is critical to the sustainability of this important walleye fishery and the cost effectiveness of such a structure is obvious.

Preliminary modeling results indicate:

- Smaller fish are more likely to leave reservoir
- The greater the distance from the dam that walleye are returned to the lake (furthest distance up-lake) the less likely fish are to be found again in the tailrace
- Greater discharge = greater movement

Although these results are not "rocket-science", they do provide firm data to justify placement of a non-physical barrier in Rathbun Lake.

South Dakota (Justin VanDeHey):

Flooding on the Missouri River was extensive this spring with the highest water levels since construction of the mainstem dams. The river connected to its floodplain in many areas for the first time in a long time. Biologists are hypothesizing that this may be good for fish recruitment and hopefully some of the native species will have a strong year class. However, the thermocline had not set up as of the middle of July in the reservoirs with water temperatures holding in the 50s. Only time will tell the impacts of this flooding.

Research projects underway
Megan Thul – MS student, South Dakota State University is continuing work to assess potential recruitment bottlenecks of walleye possibly due to interspecific competition with freshwater drum. Megan has a field component (diets, stable isotopes) and a mesocosm component she is working on.
Mark Fincel – PhD student, South Dakota State University is wrapping up his research on walleye in Lake Oahe looking at diets and bioenergetics post-establishment of gizzard shad in the reservoir and since the return of high smelt numbers. Mark recently took a position in Pierre, South Dakota with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department.
Justin VanDeHey – Completed PhD research assessing the impacts of stocking adult, pre-spawn gizzard shad on walleye and yellow perch populations. Walleye benefitted from the presence of age-0 gizzard shad, although not as much as in some systems where prey was more limiting. The introduction of shad did not seem to impact yellow perch, at least in the eutrophic systems where the study was conducted.
Dan Dembkowski – PhD Student, South Dakota State University is beginning work looking at yellow perch biomass estimates in South Dakota glacial lakes and the impacts that smallmouth bass populations are having on yellow perch.

Nebraska (Jason DeBoer):

Research projects underway
Jason DeBoer – PhD Student, Nebraska Cooperative F&W Research Unit: 2 more years of data collection. Watershed-scale and reservoir-scale recruitment models being developed from 17 years of gillnet data at 5 reservoirs.
Peter Spirk – MS Student, Nebraska Cooperative F&W Research Unit: Sexually dimorphic growth of walleye, population-level response to regulation changes via harvested fish.
Chris Uphoff – MS Student, UN-Kearney: Still collecting data (last field season) on seasonal food habits of walleye using stable isotope analysis.
Seth Lundgren – MS Student, UN-Kearney: yellow perch stocking feasibility study in 8 borrow pits along I-80 in Nebraska. Only complication appears to be LMB predation.
Jordan Katt – Biologist, NGPC:

Sherman Reservoir male WAE population estimate. 2009-2011, VIE tagging/anal fin punch during spring WAE egg take; tagged >3500 fish tagged, population in flux. Also monitor length-frequency distribution in response to regulation change (slot limit) in 2009; increased relative abundance of female walleye within slot.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has sought to enhance walleye fisheries in major reservoirs throughout the state because of the walleye's popularity. Length-limit evaluations were completed on 18 reservoirs. Populations of walleye regulated by an 18-inch minimum-length limit had greater catches of preferred- to memorable-length (20-25 inches) and memorable- to trophy-length (25-30 inches) fish than did populations regulated by a 15-inch minimum-length limit. Catches of stock- to quality-length (10-15 inches) and quality- to preferred-length (15-20 inches) walleye did not differ between populations regulated by these two length limits, which we suggest is indirect evidence that recruitment of walleye was similarly affected by these two regulations. There is a possible interaction between catches, especially for of quality- to preferred-length walleye, and waterbody size that is differentially influenced by these two regulations.

In addition, walleye fingerling stocking evaluations were attempted on 18 major walleye reservoirs throughout the state. Analysis of this project was confounded for a variety of reasons, including detection of OTC marked fish in reservoirs where they were not stocked. Further discussion is underway.

Michigan (Patrick Hanchin):

1. In 2011, the Michigan DNR walleye production/stocking returned to nearly pre-VHS levels though only 2 of 3 Great Lakes broodstocks were used (Bay de Noc and Muskegon River; Tittabawassee River was not used).

2. Keweenaw Bay Indian Community began stocking walleyes from the Portage Lake brood source and is looking to build a walleye pond or enter a cooperative arrangement with a local walleye club.

3. The Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA) raised walleye to levels equal to that of pre-VHS using brood sources from Bay de Noc and the St. Mary's River.

4. The DNR, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and Michigan State University recently initiated a study to examine abundance, seasonal distribution, movement, recruitment dynamics and predation/diets of walleye in the Inland Waterway (Emmet and Cheyboygen counties).

5. In April of 2010, the court ruled in the DNR's favor on all counts of a lawsuit from a commercial fisher who sued to commercially harvest walleye in Saginaw Bay. A summary judgment was made without proceeding to trial or hearing oral arguments.

Research projects underway
Seth Herbst, PhD student at Michigan State University. (See point #4 above). Seth's research is being conducted on 4 interconnected lakes which connect to Lake Huron (blocked by a lock-n-dam). The lakes range from Oligotrophic to eutrophic and since 1998 have been invaded by zebra mussels, alewives and now have a tribal harvest. In 2009 the population estimate showed a declining population compared to 1998 which prompted the study. The study will assess movement between the lakes, provide a forage assessment and index reproduction in the system. This is being conducted in collaboration with the MDNR, and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians (Max Field) received a state wildlife grant to conduct fisheries research on inland waterways and they are hoping to renew the grant to assess movement of fishes and increase knowledge on habitat usage and other parameters.

Financial Report:

Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2011: $26,027.09
Income: $100 (Mystery Deposit), $135.91 (Interest from December 2010)
Expenses: $5,000 (Editor Services)
Ending Balance as of July 1, 2011: $21,262.99

Walleye Synopsis Update

(submitted by Patrick Hanchin, Steering Committee Chair)

The book is complete, printed and available on the AFS website at the bookstore. All authors have or will receive a complimentary copy and all organizations who donated money for production costs, including state chapters of AFS, will receive a copy. These could be raffled off at chapter meetings as a fundraiser.

Walleye/Sauger Special Session and Sauger Social at the Seattle AFS meeting:

142nd Annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society, Seattle, Washington Sept. 4-8, 2011

Symposium: Biology, Management, and Culture of Walleye and Sauger: Status and Needs
Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, 8 am to 5:30 pm

*On Tuesday, 6 to 8 pm, Sept. 6, 2011, there will be a *SAUGER SOCIAL* and book signing at Ivar's Acres of Clams on Pier 54 in Seattle. Ivar's Acres of Clams is a Seattle landmark and is the original Ivar's restaurant dating back to 1938. It is a 14 block downhill walk from the Washington State Convention Center where the AFS annual meeting is being held.*

The cost per person is $47 (includes Washington state sales tax, gratuity, and a large slice of Sauger sheet cake). The price of the meal is for the seafood buffet. There will be a cash bar. Please make your reservation with John Bruner as soon as possible as the capacity of the private dining room is limited to 50 people. There are less than 25 spots left and it is first come, first served for the reservations now. Reservations close August 2, 2011.

Barton, Bruce A. (editor). 2011. Biology, Management, and Culture of Walleye and Sauger. American Fisheries Society. Bethesda, Maryland. 600 pp.

John
****
****
Mr. John C. Bruner
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Sander Travel Award:
The Sander travel award gives $100.00 for student travel to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in December, and a matched is requested from the student's state chapter AFS for an award total of $200.00. The deadline for application for this award is September 30th. If you are interested or know an interested student please send applications to chair Andy Jansen at his email address: andrew.jansen@ksoutdoors.com

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Justin VanDeHey, Immediate Past Chair, Walleye Technical Committee

Continuing Education Committee by Rebecca Papke

We are excited to be offered three workshops at the 72nd Fish & Wildlife Conference being held in Des Moines, IA. Dr. Gary White, Professor Emeritus of Colorado State University will be offer "An Overview of the Program MARK". Dr. White is creator of the widely used program "MARK ". Next Mark Damian Duda will be offering a workshop on The Sportsman's Voice: Hunting and Fishing in America: A Workshop to Better Understand Hunting and Fishing Participation and Recruitment and Retention. Mark Damian Duda is Executive Director of Responsive Management, a survey research firm specializing in natural resource, hunting and fishing, and outdoor recreation issues. Our 3rd workshop will be on Monitoring and "TRACS"-ing Implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plans: Current Methodology & Future Expectation. This workshop will be held with multiple instructors with the lead instructors being Karen Kincaid and Katy Reeder, Iowa DNR Wildlife Program Coordinators. This workshop will provide participants with information on the new USFWS Software "TRACS" which will be implemented in 2012 and utilized to track progress on Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs.

Registration for these courses can be found on the conference website by following this link http://www.midwest2011.org/?page_id=84. Please fill out the continuing education registration form found on the website. The form can be emailed to me, faxed or sent snail mail. Payment for the courses can be made through PayPal or you mail a check directly to me.

Questions, feel free to email Becky Papke at papker@michigan.gov. or Clay Pierce at cpierce@iastate.edu.

See you in Des Moines!

Membership Committee by Doug Workman

The membership of the North Central Division is comprised of members of good standing in the following states and provinces: Alberta, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Manitoba, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Northwest Territories, Ohio, Ontario, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Membership of the North Central Division increased by a total of 20 members from 2010 to 2011. Although student membership decreased by a total of 20 members from 2010 to 2011, regular and retired membership accounted for the largest gain, with a total gain of 44 members.

Province/State	Honor-	Life	Regular	Retired	Student	Young Pro-	Total
Alberta		4	44	2	9	5	64
Iowa		13	32	6	16	4	71
Illinois		16	56	7	37	12	128
Indiana		10	39	5	25	8	87
Kansas	1	1	16	1	14	7	40
Manitoba		1	17	4	3	1	26
Michigan		28	105	16	80	22	251
Minnesota		23	76	6	26	9	140
Missouri		18	48	5	13	6	90
North Dakota		4	7		4		15
Nebraska		5	14	1	9	1	30
Northwest Territo-			2		1		3
Ohio		10	48	4	35	7	104
Ontario	2	10	137	6	45	16	216
South Dakota		2	22	4	24	4	56
Saskatchewan		1	13		2		16
Wisconsin		17	75	10	22	11	135
Total by Type	3	163	751	77	365	113	1472

Summary of members by location. Data source: AFS September 12, 2011.

Upcoming Events

2011 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

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

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, Mississippi State University and Past-president of AFS, Mark Damian Duda, Executive Director of Responsive Management, and Dick McCabe, formerly of the Wildlife Management Institute and Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow committed for the plenary session. A very dynamic and informational program has been developed with13 symposia topics, nearly 100 wildlife and 100 fisheries oral presentations submitted along with over 100 poster presentations.

Please keep up to date at http://www.midwest2011.org/ and we hope to see you in Des Moines!

Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award

The North Central Division, Iowa Chapter, and Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the Iowa and Michigan chapters of The Wildlife Society, in cooperation with the Steering Committee for the 2011 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, are pleased to accept applications from students for the ***Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award***. Up to 25 outstanding students majoring in fisheries or wildlife management will be selected, formally recognized for their achievements, and invited to attend an exclusive breakfast held during the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in honor of the late Jan Fenske. The breakfast will provide a unique opportunity for students to meet and closely network with many fish and wildlife leaders from around the region.

Undergraduate and graduate students who plan to attend the Conference are encouraged to apply. Student finalists will be selected based on academic ability and scholarly achievements. Two of the student finalists, one majoring in fisheries management and one majoring in wildlife management, will be presented with a Fenske Memorial Award that includes a scholarship of $500. The two winners of the Fenske Memorial Award will be selected based on the characteristics that made Jan a remarkable fisheries biologist, including enthusiasm to protect fisheries and wildlife resources through management activities, selflessness and motivation to teach others, interest in professional involvement, and integrity, positive attitude, and compassion.

To apply, please submit a resume including your GPA, two letters of recommendation from academic advisors or professionals in fisheries or wildlife management, and a cover letter including future career goals and reasons for attending the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference to:

Mark Tonello
Mark Tonello, Fisheries Management Biologist
Central Lake Michigan Management Unit, Michigan DNR
8015 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, MI 49601
(231)775-9727 ext. 6071
(231) 775-9671 FAX
Email: tonellom@michigan.gov

Deadline for submission is October 30th. E-mail submissions are preferred, although mail or fax submittals will be accepted. Student applicants selected as finalists will be notified by November 20th.

2012 American Fisheries Society Conference

142nd Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society
August 19-23, 2012
Minneapolis – Saint Paul, Minnesota

Begin making plans to attend next year's Annual Meeting in the Land of 10,000 Lakes, beautiful Minnesota. The meeting focus is Fisheries Networks: Building Ecological, Social and Professional Relationships. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to network with fisheries professionals and students, stay current on the latest in fisheries science, and enjoy the sights and scenes of the Twin Cities and beyond.

For more information and news and updates **visit** the following link:
http://www.afs2012.org/

CHAPTER REPORTS

Indiana Chapter by Debra King

The Indian Chapter is getting set for our fall meeting/workshop hosted by our newest student subchapter, Manchester College, on October 6. We're holding a continuing education featuring, Jerry Sweeten, Ph.D, Associate Professor of Biology and Director of Environmental Studies at Manchester College. Jerry is also the advisor to the Manchester College student subchapter. Jerry will give a brief history of some Eel River habitat improvement projects involving dam removals. ROAD TRIP! Transportation is arranged for on-site visits to the dam removal projects as well as an environmental monitoring station maintained on the Eel River by Manchester College. Check out the IAFS website for more details at http://www.fisheriessociety.org/indiana/

The Chapter is also humbled by the, Outstanding Small Chapter Award, presented to the Chapter by the Parent Society at Seattle in September. The Chapter has plans to maintain its momentum, continuing our efforts to promote professional excellence in fisheries science, management, and education.

Debra A. King
Indiana AFS, President

Once again, the Indiana Chapter had a great turnout at the "IAFS Day at the State Fair Fish Pond", teaching over 200 kids how to fish!

Iowa Chapter by Andy Fowler

This summer the Iowa chapter sponsored an age and growth continuing education workshop. A diverse group of 41 participants from Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Nebraska, Michigan, Canada, USGS and FWS attended this year's 2-day course to improve their skills at recognizing and counting age structure annuli from varied species of fish. The course was instructed by University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point Assistant Professor Dan Isermann and assisted by Lewis Bruce, Clay Pierce, Jonathan Meerbeek, Darcy Cashatt, Andy Fowler, Jesse Fischer, Michael Colvin and Kris Stahr. Valuable hands-on-experience was gained in removing, preparing and aging structures. An aging test was completed by all participants to highlight the variability in readers and this course gave participants enough knowledge and experience to begin reducing this variability.

Recently, the chapter was approached by its membership to develop a position statement on the use of lead tackle in the fishing industry. A 7 member committee was formed to develop a statement to be brought forward to the membership for a majority vote. Due to the contentious nature of this topic within our membership, the committee has decided to bring two position statements to the membership. Generally, one position statement does not support an eventual transition away from lead based tackle at this time until there is a documented population level impact from lead. The second position statement does support an eventual transition at this time away from lead based tackle due to potential future accumulation impacts as well as current individual level impacts from lead. The membership will vote on adopting one of these position statements for the chapter before or within our annual chapter business meeting held during the 2011 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Des Moines, IA (December 5-7).

Michigan Chapter by Geoffrey Steinhart

The Michigan and Wisconsin Chapters of the American Fisheries Society are teaming up to hold a joint annual meeting in 2012. The joint meeting will be in Marinette, WI, and is tentatively scheduled for February 7-9. Besides the usual scientific presentations, the meeting will include multiple workshops and socials, a combined raffle, and a field trip to see some fish passage work on the Menominee River. It has been 7 years since our last joint meeting with Wisconsin and we are looking forward to sharing ideas and experience with our neighbors to the west. For more information about the meeting, contact MIAFS President Elect Dave Clapp (231.547.2914 x 237; clappd@michigan.gov).

Congratulations to Randall Claramunt for receiving the 2011 AFS Excellence in Public Outreach Award. Randy is a MIAFS member and Fisheries Research Biologist with the Michigan DNR. The award is for going "the 'extra mile' in sharing the value of fisheries science/research" with the public. Randy is the first to receive this award since 2008.

MIAFS would like to thank Liz Hay-Chmielewski for her service as the Communications Committee Chair. We also appreciate the help offered by Heather Seites, who has agreed to take over the Chair of this committee and to prepare our future chapter newsletters.

MIAFS is pleased to report that the salmon fishing has really picked up around the Great Lakes. The numbers and sizes of salmon have increased due, in part, to a big year-class of alewife. Notable fish include a new IGFA world record landlocked Atlantic salmon (26 lb. from Torch Lake), a 37 lb. Chinook salmon (biggest since 2002), and a 28 lb. coho salmon (biggest since 2000).

Check out our website at www.fisheriessociety.org/miafs/ to see what we're up to!

Manchester College Student Subunit by Matt Linn

Manchester College, a liberal arts institution of approximately 1,350 students, is located in north central Indiana. The college is located on the banks of the Eel River, a 160 kilometer tributary to the Wabash River. With a long-standing Environmental Studies major established in 1971, the program has grown over 500% over the past 10 years. Environmental Studies students have been actively involved in several research projects focused on the Eel including fish community structure, nonpoint source pollution, and removal of two dams.

Last year a Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society was established through assistance of the Indiana Chapter of AFS. We are now one of three student subunits in Indiana with the other two being Purdue University and Ball State University. Group membership has increased to nearly 25 members this year and the major focus for this year will be the replacement of a large group of seniors with underclassmen. The group is planning to be active in the community by participating in the Middle Eel River Watershed Initiative annual river clean up on September 17th and to start a new community outreach activity called Tackle for Tots. The goal of this program is to collect fishing rods and distribute them to children during the holiday season, in hopes that the equipment may promote a love of the outdoors. If you would like to donate to the program or would like additional information regarding Tackle for Tots please contact Matt Linn, Subunit President at: mdlinn@spartans.manchester.edu . To encourage the exchange of regional fisheries and aquatic ecological information, there are plans to invite a number of guest speakers from both academia and management agencies. Additional group activities will include: canoe floats, Christmas white elephant fishing lure exchange, IAFS spring conference, and the annual end of the year cookout/fishing contest.

University of Illinois Student Subunit

see News and Announcements (page 26)

Mid-Canada Chapter by Tom Boag

The AFS Mid-Canada Chapter is pleased to announce the executive committee (excom) for 2011 to 2012:

President: Tom Boag, Applied Aquatic Research Ltd., Calgary, AB
Email: president@midcanadaafs.org

Vice-president: Jessica Reilly, Golder Associates Ltd., Edmonton, AB
Email: vp@midcanadaafs.org

Past-president: Cam Stevens, Golder Associates Ltd., Edmonton, AB
Email: past-pres@midcanadaafs.org

Secretary-Treasurer: Margaret Docker, University of MB, Winnipeg, MB
Email: sec-treas@midcanadaafs.org

Communications Officer: Patrick Nelson, North-South Consultants Inc., Winnipeg, MB
Email: news@midcanadaafs.org

Feel free to contact any of the ex-com with your questions or ideas, and visit the website at http://www.midcanadaafs.org/wordpress/ for information on regional fisheries issues, training courses and other AFS Chapter activities.

Wisconsin Chapter by Tom Slawski

Over this past year our Chapter has approved two new resolutions recognizing the potential negative impacts of fragmentation to our fisheries resources due to bridges, culverts, crossings, dams and other infrastructure and the critical need to reduce fragmentation to enhance native species diversity, abundance and sustainability, and preserve habitat. Improvements at crossings can be accomplished by outright removal and/or replacement of the structure or by retrofitting techniques. Dam removal can be a tremendous tool for rehabilitation/ restoration of fisheries resources, however, done improperly can lead to uncontrolled release/erosion of sediments from the impoundment and excessive deposition in the downstream reaches smothering habitat and organisms. These resolutions are included below and also can be found at the following website: http://www.wi-afs.org/resolutions.shtml

The Environmental Issues Committee is working toward sharing information, project experience, and protocol develop to provide guidance/training for fish passage assessment and design for retrofitting and replacing road crossing structures as well as potential dam removal and dam retrofit fish passage projects, including measures to minimize the risk of spreading non-native species in general and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

We continue to support our two student subunits one at Northland College (contact, Scott Braden, northland-subunit@wi-afs.org) and one at University of Wisconsin-Steven's Point (contact, Jordan Brillowski, uswp-subunit@wi-afs.org). We are also pleased to announce that the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay is putting in the paperwork to start a new student subunit at their campus (contact, Patrick Forsythe forsythp@uwgb.edu).

In other news, we are looking forward to a joint Annual meeting with the Michigan Chapter comrades that will take place in Marinette WI on Feb 7-9th.

Thank you,
Tom Slawski

(continued on next page)

Resolution to Support Protection of Fishes and Mussels and Their Habitat Associated with the Construction, Modification, or Removal of Dams and Other Hydraulic Structures

Whereas, placement of public and private dams and other hydraulic structures (e.g. drop structures) for power generation and flood control purposes has played an important part in the economic development of the State of Wisconsin; and recognizing that numbers of these structure no longer serve the purpose for which they were constructed (e.g. hydropower generation or navigation) or other purposes (e.g. stormwater management or recreation and aesthetics); and

Whereas, these structures have frequently been in place for a considerable period of time and consequently have accumulated significant quantities of sediments and other potential contaminants, these structures form a barrier to fish migrations, and failure of these structures pose a risk to fish and aquatic habitat, humans, and property as a consequence of failure; and

Whereas, research has shown that without recognition of the historic accumulation of materials with the dam basin and active management to mitigate this legacy, sediments and other potential contaminants will be transported from the impoundment, conveyed significant distances downstream, and deposited within stream channels to the detriment of fish and aquatic organisms; and

Whereas, research has shown that dams alter the hydrological system in which they are placed, transform lotic systems to lentic systems, leading to fundamental changes in water quality, thermal regimes, other habitat features, the fishery and mussel composition and diversity as well as fragmentation of aquatic habitat necessary to support a healthy sustainable fishery by restricting access during one or more critical life history stage including refuge from predation and environmental extremes such as drought, flood, and temperature; juvenile rearing; feeding; and, spawning of fishes and other organisms; and

Whereas, research has shown that such negative impacts to fishes are cumulative where multiple dams exist within a particular watershed or river system; and

Whereas, research has shown that dam removal or retrofit to provide and/or enhance fish passage can lead to restoration of lotic habitat, and diversity and abundance of fish and aquatic life within a previously impounded stream reach; and

Whereas, it is recognized that numbers of structures have exceeded their design life, are no longer maintained, no longer serve a beneficial purpose, fail to meet current safety standards, or lack the economic resources to repair or replace them; and

Whereas, it is further recognized that the removal or replacement of said structures has been adopted by the State of Wisconsin as a policy; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has determined that full consideration of the potential for the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and measures to minimize the risk of spreading non-native species in general and AIS in particular are to be recognized.

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society supports ongoing maintenance, repair, and retrofitting of dams to promote upstream and downstream fish passage and connectivity, without compromising the structural integrity of crossings, public safety, and passage of flood flows; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society supports the preparation of abandonment and associated stream channel restoration plans as part of the design of new, or reconstructed, dams and prior to abandonment of existing dams; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society recognizing the potential damages arising from the uncontrolled release of sediments from the impoundment, which is manifested as erosion in the basin and deposition in the downstream reaches, supports the inclusion of provisions to protect upstream reaches from erosion and downstream reaches from sedimentation by prohibiting excessive sediment transport from the impoundment during and after dam removal; and

Be it Finally Resolved, that the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society shall form a subcommittee to provide inter alia information, project experience, and protocols, including measures to minimize the risk of spreading non-native species in general and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in particular, to guide potential dam removal and dam retrofit fish passage projects.

Submitted by your Environmental Issue Committee Chair, Thomas M. Slawski, PhD, Past President of Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
January 31, 2011

Resolution to Support the Protection and Restoration of Fish Passage at Bridges, Culverts, Crossings, and Other Infrastructure to Reduce Fragmentation, Enhance Native Species Diversity, Abundance and Sustainability, and Preserve Habitat

Whereas, recreational fishing is an important economic activity within the lakes and streams of the State of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, non-recreational native fish species are critical to a properly functioning ecosystem and;

Whereas, placement of public and private transportation related infrastructure such as bridges, culverts, and other crossings on the landscape by humans can be a barrier to fish migrations both upstream and downstream of said infrastructure; and

Whereas, improper planning and construction of said infrastructure will negatively impact the transport of water and sediment necessary to maintain stable and properly functioning stream and floodplain morphology, water quality and aquatic habitat characteristics, and;

Whereas, the maintenance and continuity of sustainable game fish species of economic importance and those species and other aquatic organism upon which they depend (i.e. forage fishes and invertebrates) is associated to a large degree with the protection, restoration, and access to appropriate habitat; and

Whereas, research has shown that bridges, culverts, crossings, and other infrastructure, while not always complete barriers to fish passage, have the potential to limit the frequency and timing of fish passage due to inadequate water depth and width, and/or resting areas as well as extremes in water velocity, particularly at the inlet and outlet points of transition of a structure; and

Whereas, road/stream crossings can interrupt the natural transport of sediment that can lead to streambed and bank failure, which can be detrimental to the long-term stability and function of streams and floodplains, and can compromise stream ecology both upstream and downstream of the crossing; and

Whereas, research also has shown that such infrastructure can fragment the aquatic habitat necessary to support a healthy sustainable fishery by restricting access during one or more critical life history stage including refuge from predation and environmental extremes such as drought, flood, and temperature; juvenile rearing; feeding; and, spawning of fishes and other organisms; and

Whereas, research has shown that increases in the number and frequency of crossings has been invariably associated with decreased abundance and diversity of fishes and other aquatic organisms as well as degraded habitat associated with increased discharge, erosion, deposition of sediment and diminished water quality and other habitat; and

Whereas, experience has shown that adequate long-term fish passage can be achieved through retrofitting existing infrastructure, replacement, and/or removal; and

Whereas, these infrastructure are not permanent, and require replacement or modification over time requiring federal, state and tribal review and permits; and

Whereas, the permit review process insures that the replacement or modification of these infrastructure are consistent with sound engineering practices while limiting impacts to public safety, flood conveyance and the natural environment; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has determined that full consideration of the potential for the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and measures to minimize the risk of spreading non-native species in general and AIS in particular are to be recognized.

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society urges its members to partner with federal, state, and municipal engineers and other professionals in the assessment, design and construction of crossings of lakes and streams to ensure adequate fish passage for game fish and other aquatic organisms upon which they depend without compromising the structural integrity of crossings, public safety, and passage of flood flows; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society supports the efforts of federal, state, and municipal engineers and other professionals in the implementation of strategies to limit the number of stream crossings and other structures to the extent possible, to design crossings to allow the passage of aquatic organisms, to adopt design standards adequate to support the passage of fish and other aquatic organisms at the time of reconstruction or replacement of such infrastructure, and to remove unnecessary structures where practicable; and

Be it Finally Resolved, that the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society urges its members to develop a protocol and provide training for fish passage assessment and design for retrofitting and replacing structures, including measures to minimize the risk of spreading non-native species in general and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in particular.

Submitted by your Environmental Issue Committee Chair, Thomas M. Slawski, PhD, Past President of Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
January 31, 2011

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contact: Caroline Mercado
HTI - Hydroacoustic Technology, Inc.
Phone: 206.633.3383
cmercado@HTIsonar.com

715 NE Northlake Way
Seattle, Washington
USA 98125

PRESS RELEASE

National Geographic Channel's Jakub Vâgner Tracks Texas Titans Using High-Tech Acoustic Tag Telemetry

Seattle, April 25, 2011: Adventure angler, conservationist, and National Geographic Channel host Jakub Vâgner and his team set out in the wilds of the Trinity River to track an elusive Texas Titan, the alligator gar. In an effort to better understand and advance vital species research, the team put the latest high-tech fisheries research equipment to work to detect and monitor the gar's behavior and movement in the wild.

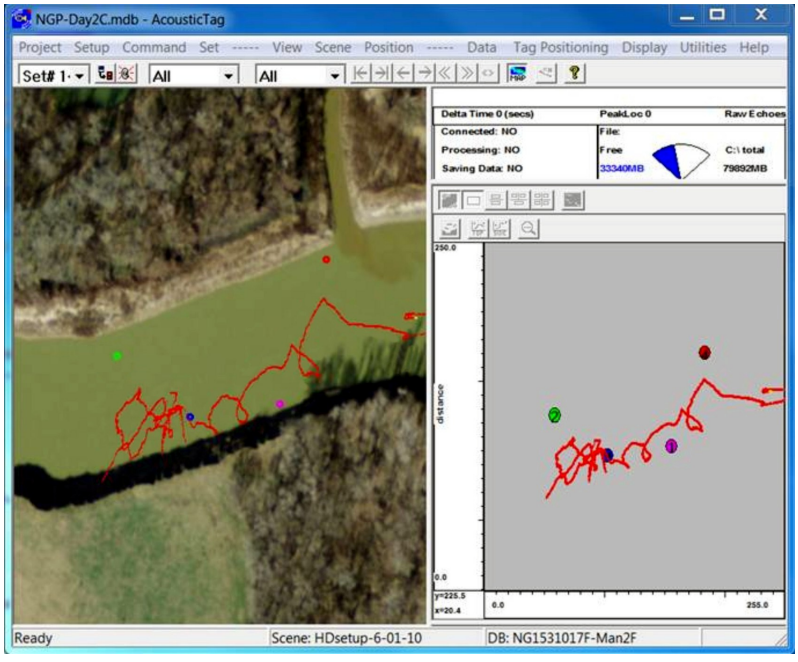
The beautiful, prehistoric gar are one of the biggest freshwater fish in the United States. Its muscular body looks like a long torpedo-shaped fish and its head has an elongated snout similar to that of an alligator. With a dual row of large, sharp, pointed teeth, it can quickly immobilize prey making it a highly effective predator weighing up to 300 lbs. As one of the world's last remaining dinosaurs, their anatomy hasn't changed much since prehistoric times. Their ancestors used to roam many parts of the world, but today they can only be found in North America, e.g. Texas. The Trinity River offers a perfect habitat for the gar to hide and hunt with its deep murky waters that wind over 700 miles from northern Texas into the Gulf of Mexico. The Trinity has also become a popular place for sports fishermen. Local wildlife officials are concerned about the fish's ability to survive and grow. They are now protected by state law, limiting catches to one gar per day. However, it is still uncertain if this limit will protect the largest fish.

To help understand more about the secret lives of the gar, Jakub and his team investigated their behavior using the latest in high-tech acoustic tag telemetry. After Jakub hooked and lassoed the large fish into the boat "Texas-style," Senior Fisheries Scientist Sam Johnston from HTI used a long tube to place a small, *Model 795G Acoustic Tag* into the gar's stomach. "This is the first time we've ever done alligator gar in the wild…the fish can be anywhere is this area and we'll be able to track it…we're hoping that this sort of technology will help us understand the gar better so that they can survive," Sam explained.

In a matter of minutes, the gar was put back into the river and tracked with the use of acoustic telemetry. The team then watched its behavior in real-time as the gar made its way around the cloudy freshwater river. Employing software developed by HTI, they were able to watch the gar travel along a geo-referenced map on their laptop screen.

"I think that tagging research is really important especially for future generation of alligator gar and as well for fishermen, because we can learn a lot of things from biologists about fishing," explained Jakub. To watch the episode of alligator gar being tracked in the Trinity, check your local listings for National Geographic Channel's Fish Warrior: Texas Titans. To find out more about the latest acoustic tag technology used in this episode, visit HTIsonar.com.

FOR RELEASE 3:00 PM PST, APRIL 25, 2011
IMAGES ATTACHED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Implementing the Watershed Condition Framework in Region Nine
Executive Briefing Paper
August 9, 2011

Background:

In Fiscal Year 2011, the Forest Service is emphasizing watershed improvement projects and conservation practices within high priority landscapes. Consistent with this effort, all Forest Service field units completed Step A of the Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) as of March 31, 2011. The resulting National Watershed Condition Classification (WCC) map was recently posted on the internet by Secretary Vilsack.

Most watersheds Region 9 watersheds are in Class 1 (Functioning Properly) or Class 2 condition (Functioning at Risk). Only the Mark Twain and Wayne National Forests have Class 3 (Functionally Impaired) watersheds. Impaired watersheds on the Mark Twain are located within the lead mining area, while those on the Wayne are associated with past coal mining activities.

In June 2011, the Chief requested that Regions accelerate completion of Step B (identifying priority watersheds) and Step C (completing watershed restoration action plans) for at least two priority watersheds within each National Forest/Prairie by September 30, 2011. To provide oversight and direction, a Regional Steering Team was established that includes Directors from key program areas plus a Deputy Forest Supervisor and 2 Forest Supervisors. We have requested each forest/prairie to submit a Pre-Proposal form for their priority watersheds by August 15. The pre-proposals will encourage regional dialogue and help frame watershed restoration action plans. The Steering Team will review the pre-proposals to evaluate projects and position the Region for anticipated funding needs and opportunities for FY 2012. The steering team will also improve regional positioning for funding and ensure connectivity between multiple landscape level efforts.

Status:

- Pre-Proposals for Priority Watersheds due to RO on August 15
- Steering Team will review proposals and provide feedback by August 25.

Watershed Action Plans for Priority Watersheds due by 30 September

Challenges:

Completing assessment of non-Forest Service lands in each 6th level watershed and integration with analysis of Forest Service lands,

Coordinating the WCF effort with other on-going interdisciplinary efforts (Transportation Rule – Subpart A),

Moving toward higher level, landscape scale conservation projects in Priority Watersheds,

Uncertainty regarding any Agency initiatives for competitive funding in FY 2012 and beyond, and

Selecting regional proposals in accordance with the WO criteria for competitive funding (e.g. "Priority Watershed and Jobs Stabilization Initiative"),

Point of Contact – Tom Doane, Director of AWLSME, at (414) 297-4030 or tdoane@fs.fed.us

Dr. Nick Schmal of the U.S. Forest Service Honored

Brooklyn Center, MN –Dr. Nick Schmal of the U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Region, was named recipient of Wildlife Forever's 2011 Distinguished Service Award.

During the 101st annual meeting of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Omaha, Nebraska, Dr. Schmal graciously accepted the honor. Attending Wildlife Forever's Directors' Breakfast were federal, state and conservation leaders from across the country.

"I'd like to thank Wildlife Forever, their board of directors and my family for this incredible honor. I'm very privileged to have a job I'm passionate for; serving the public and America's national forests." said Dr. Schmal.

The Distinguished Service Award is Wildlife Forever's highest honor recognizing those individuals who exemplify the mission to conserve North America's fish and wildlife heritage through education, management and habitat preservation.

According to Doug Grann, Wildlife Forever, President and CEO, "Through Nick Schmal's dedication, service and personal stewardship, he has distinguished himself and greatly advanced America's conservation efforts. His personal stewardship in developing new partnerships, opening doors and achieving high results is simply outstanding. By elevating awareness of invasive species and youth conservation education, Dr. Schmal is a shining example of conservation partnerships."

About Wildlife Forever

Wildlife Forever is a multi-species non-profit conservation organization that works to preserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and scientific management of fish and wildlife species. Working at the grassroots level, Wildlife Forever has funded conservation projects in all 50 states, committing millions of dollars to "on the ground" conservation efforts. To learn more visit www.WildlifeForever.org.

Contact:
Pat Conzemius
pconzemius@wildlifeforever.org

USFS Releases Interactive Watershed Condition Framework Map

Roy Jemison[1], Anna Jaramillo-Scarborough[1], Wayne Robbie[1], Penny Luehring[2] & Jarl Moreland[1]
[1]USFS Southwestern Region, Albuquerque, NM & [2]USFS National Office , Washington, DC

Introduction: In June 2011 the Forest Service released an interactive map showing the condition of each 6th code Hydrologic Cataloging Unit containing Forest Service Land. The map is the product of Step A in the Watershed Condition Framework *(USDA FS-977, May 2011)* (WCF), a comprehensive approach for:

1. Evaluating the condition of watersheds
2. Strategically implementing restoration, and
3. Tracking and monitoring program accomplishments

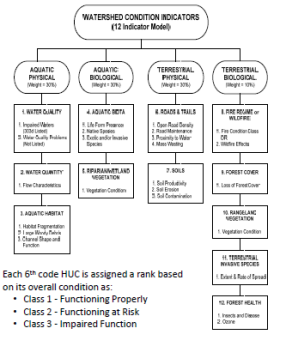
The WCF Six-Step process improves the way the Forest Service approaches watershed restoration by targeting the implementation of integrated suites of activities in focus watersheds.

Why Watersheds? Watersheds are integral parts of broader ecosystems and can be viewed and evaluated at a variety of spatial scales. Watersheds are spatially located landscape features that have been uniformly mapped for the entire United States. Watershed condition integrates the effects of all activities within a watershed.

What is watershed condition? Watershed condition is the state of the physical and biological characteristics and processes within a watershed that affect the soil and hydrologic functions supporting aquatic ecosystems *(as defined in the Watershed Condition Framework. USDA FS-977, May 2011).*

What is watershed condition assessment? Watershed condition assessment is the process of classifying watershed condition to one of three classes that reflect the level of watershed health. Primary emphasis is placed on indicators that directly or indirectly impact soil and hydrologic functions and riparian and aquatic ecosystems.

How are watersheds classified? Watersheds are classified using a core set of watershed condition indicators. There are twelve indicators representing four ecosystem process categories: 1) Aquatic Physical, 2) Aquatic Biological, 3) Terrestrial Physical and 4) Terrestrial Biological. Each indicator is evaluated using a defined set of attributes *(Watershed Condition Classification Technical Guide. USDA FS-978, July 2011).*



Each 6th code HUC is assigned a rank based on its overall condition as:

- Class 1 - Functioning Properly
- Class 2 - Functioning at Risk
- Class 3 - Impaired Function

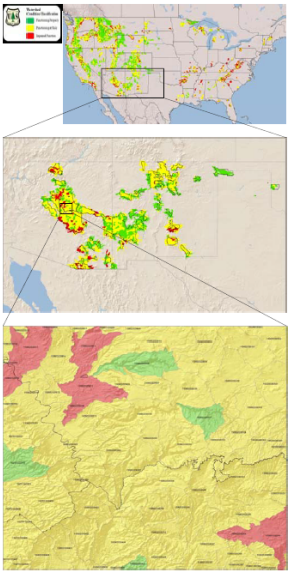
The WCF establishes a consistent, comparable, and credible process for improving the health of watersheds on all national forests and grasslands. These condition maps in combination with information on ecological, social and economic factors as well as partnership opportunities, will be used to focus restoration efforts across the 193 million acres of National Forest System Lands.

Southwestern Region

In the Southwestern Region, the Forest Service manages over 20 million acres of public land in Arizona, New Mexico, west Texas and the Oklahoma panhandle, as well as provides assistance to state and private landowners. In Step A of the Framework process (completed March 30, 2011), watersheds in the Southwestern Region ranked as follows:

Class	No. 6th Code HUCs	Percentage
1 – Functioning Properly	559	36
2 – Functioning at Risk	890	58
3 – Impaired Function	97	6
Total	1546	100

In Step B of the Framework process (completed July 1, 2011) we prioritized watersheds by forest, and in Step C (to be completed September 30, 2011) we are developing Action Plans for treatments to improve and maintain watershed conditions.



The link below will direct you to our national website where currently you can review the WCF program documentation, interactive classification maps, and their attribute ratings. In November 2011, the interactive maps will also allow you to see Priority Watersheds, view reasons for their selection, and read the Action Plans. http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/watershed/

5th Annual Midwest Student Fisheries Colloquium

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

January 20th and 21st, 2012

Purpose:
To provide undergraduate and graduate students within the North-Central Division of the American Fisheries Society to present current research in a peer-friendly and professional setting as well as provide an avenue for students to build strong networks among their peers.

Speakers:
Those wishing to present will be given 15 minutes, 12 minutes will be allowed for presentation followed by 3 minutes for a question and answer period. Any topics related to aquatic sciences are encouraged.

Posters:
Those wishing to present a poster are also encouraged to participate. Posters will be available during the dinner and social on Friday the 20th.

Abstracts and Registration:
To register, please send abstracts, along with your name, university, status (i.e. undergraduate, Masters, PhD) to Greg Gaulke (gaulke2@illinois.edu) or Zach Zuckerman (zzucker2@illinois.edu). Registration fees will be dependent upon the number of participants, however, to encourage participation, will not exceed $20.

Green Bay Perch Information

On Friday, August 26, 2011, WDNR completed the 34th annual late summer yellow perch trawling surveys on Green Bay. Despite mechanical delays at the start and weather delays at the end, the majority of the survey period went off without a hitch onboard the RV Gaylord Nelson. We were on the water for a total of 9 days and collected various species and sizes of fish for contaminant analysis, outreach/education (Laura Herman), research (John Janssen), and management (Scott Hansen), in addition to my data.

I'd like to thank the fabulous crew who did all the work: **Captain Dick Pagel, Captain Brandon Bastar, Tim Kroeff, Brad Ryan, Dave Schindelholz, Pat McKee,** and **Ken Royseck**. You did an excellent job of being safe and efficient. You worked long days, skipped many breaks and took abbreviated lunches to get the work done. I would also like to thank those who helped with logistics (staffing, vehicles, equipment): Brad Eggold, Mike Donofrio, Al Blizel, Bill Ruff, Ron Smith, Joanne Finnell, Kevin King, John Goldschmidt.

A glance at the data suggests that the 2011 year class of yellow perch was comparable to the strong 2005 and 2009 year classes. You may recall that the 2010 year class was the 3rd highest in over 30 years (2003 and 1986 being 1st and 2nd best). Good survival of those fish was evident in this year's trawling surveys, with some quarter-mile drags resulting in over 500 likely yearling fish (5-6 inches in length).

Some interesting things that we encountered:

- The highest abundance of YOY yellow perch was off the mouth of the Pensaukee River (8-12 feet of water), with several quarter-mile drags netting over a thousand YOY, and one drag netting over 2400.
- YOY and yearling YP captured in the Little River (Marinette) area were very robust--they looked like gravid females in April. We dissected some, and found that the smaller fish had stomachs full of cladocerans, while some of the 4+ inch fish had YOY round gobies inside. See attached photo of one 5 1/4" fish with 12 YOY gobies!

- A record white bass year class in the Longtail Point and Point Sable (southern GB) areas. Typically we see only a token white bass YOY and lots of white perch YOY. This year, however, the tables have turned.
- High alewife numbers and multiple age classes (attached photo), comparable to those last seen in trawl surveys in the mid to late 1990's. This is good news for brown trout anglers, since alewife abundance one year prior explains a significant proportion of the variance in Green Bay brown trout harvest over the last 22 years (R^2 = 0.71). One theory is that abundant alewives may buffer predation on small, vulnerable brown trout at the time they are stocked resulting in better survival.

One spotted musky (18 1/2 inches, LV clip; from 2010 stocking); one sauger near Longtail Point.

I still have some analysis to complete, and final yellow perch CPE's will be determined after the fish are aged this fall.

Tammie

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(() **fax:** (715) 582-5005
(+) **e-mail:** tammie.paoli@wisconsin.gov

Spotlight on the AFS Water Quality Section

As the Chair of the Michigan Chapter's Water Quality Committee and the recently installed President of the Parent Society Water Quality (WQ) Section, I'd like to use this newsletter as an opportunity to solicit interest from the NCD membership to support Chapter, Division and Section efforts to re-introduce water quality as an issue of concern to AFS fisheries folks and re-energize AFS members to consider and act on state, regional and national water quality issues that affect their (our) resources. Historically, AFS helped shape the Clean Water Act to better address aquatic life concerns. Currently, many state, regional and national water quality policies are being proposed that affect fisheries professionals both positively and negatively so the opportunity is ripe to join like-minded AFS members in responding to such proposals.

AFS WQ Issue History -AFS participation in WQ issues grew in the 1960's alongside the iterations of what became the Clean Water Act. AFS chartered the Water Quality Section (WQS) in 1976 as the fourth Section within AFS at that time. The first organizational meeting was held in Dearborn, Michigan. A history of AFS involvement in water quality issues was developed by Dr's Robert Gray and John Meldrim and can be found on the WQS website at, http://www.fisheriessociety.org/wqs/

WQS participation peaked in the early '80s but has since waned due to a combination of factors, 1) diversified interests of AFS members, 2) budgetary reductions supporting new investigations (circa 70's and early 80's), 3) the establishment of other organizations (NABS, SETAC, NALMS, and the host of others within the Great Lake States) perceived as more focused on and supportive of water quality-related interests, and 4) the longstanding challenge in AFS to mobilize membership to volunteer efforts towards supporting Chapter, Division, and Parent Society committees.

The officers of the AFS Water Quality Section would like to invite water quality-focused AFS NCD members to 1) look through the WQS website, 2) consider joining the WQS (free to students, super-cheap for all others), 3) explore the value of a topic-related committee at the Division level, 4) participate in the Chapter level activities tied to water quality concerns, and finally 5) send the WQS officers questions on how you can join and become more involved in discussions, training, and activities at all levels in AFS.

Thanks,
Doug Bradley
President, AFS Water Quality Section

NCD Annual Award Nomination Request

North Central Division Awards
The North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society is soliciting nominees for four awards given annually: Most Active Large Chapter; Most Active Small Chapter; Most Active Student Subunit; and Best Communications, awards. Submissions for the Meritorious Service, and Fisheries Excellence awards are also considered each year. Each award is fully described below.

Most Active Chapter Awards
Two awards will be given to the North Central Division Chapters that have carried out the most active programs of enhancing professionalism and fisheries science, relative to its size and the geographic distribution of its membership. Most often, members will nominate their own chapter. Nomination materials should include the number of members, names of officers, number and type of meetings, special activities, recruitment activities, and a brief (1 page) description of what makes this chapter an active and important contributor to the NCD, AFS, and fisheries profession. Additional materials of support may also be included.

Most Active Student Subunit Award This award will be given to the North Central Division student subunit that has carried out the most active program in developing interest among undergraduate and graduate students in fisheries science and fulfilling the mission of the American Fisheries Society. Most often members will nominate their own subunit.

Best Communications Award
This award will be given to the North Central Division Chapter that has developed the most efficient, useful, and attractive newsletter and website to disseminate information to its members. Both printed and electronic newsletters will be considered. Submissions should include copies of two or three of the Chapter's most recent newsletters and a brief description of the newsletter, including frequency of publication, readership, and primary means of distribution. Most often members will nominate their own subunit by sending these materials and a cover letter.

Fisheries Excellence Award This award will be given to a North Central Division member who has made an outstanding contribution to the fisheries profession. This contribution may be a single activity or a collection of achievements over the individual's career. Former Division members may be nominated if most of their work occurred while they were NCD members. Nominations should include the names and signatures of at least 2 nominators, a brief (1 page) biographical sketch of the nominee, a brief (1 page) narrative of significant contributions made by the nominee, and copies of any additional materials to support the application.

Meritorious Service Award This award will recognize extraordinary service to the AFS by a NCD member. Nominations may be based on a single outstanding achievement or a variety of service activities, and may include the Chapter, Division, Section or Parent Society level. In the nomination, evidence must be presented that this service has gone beyond the routine and that it has made a genuine and lasting contribution to the betterment of the Society. Nominations should include the names and signatures of at least 2 nominators, a brief (1 page) biographical sketch, a brief (1 page) narrative of significant contributions made by the nominee, and copies of any additional materials to support the application.

Nomination forms for each award are available by going to the NCD's homepage www.ncdafs.org and clicking on the "Awards" button in the left hand banner. Nomination materials should be submitted by **NOVEMBER 7, 2011** to:

Gary Whelan
MI DNR Fisheries Division
P.O. Box 30446
Lansing, MI 48909

Call 517-373-6948 or email *whelang@michigan.gov* with any questions.

Ecological Separation Resolution

Hello All:
The Ecological Separation resolution we put forward to the Society about separating Lake Michigan from the Mississippi River drainage was passed by the AFS membership. The resolution is included below and also is posted on the AFS website at the following link
http://www.fisheries.org/afs/policy/policy_res

Thanks for your help,
Phil Moy
NCD Resolution Committee Chair

Resolution on
Ecological Separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Drainage Basins

Whereas Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) have adversely affected the ecosystems of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River and place the biodiversity and economic uses of our native ecosystems at risk and

Whereas the Chicago Area Waterways (CAWs) made permanent the intermittent aquatic connection between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes drainage basins and

Whereas AIS including round goby *Neogobius melanostomus*, white perch *Morone americana* and zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha* have recently used the CAWs to expand their ranges from the Great Lakes into the Mississippi River basin and

Whereas the water flea, *Daphnia lumholtzi* moved into the Great Lakes basin via this pathway and bighead *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis* and silver carp *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* are on the verge of entering the Great Lakes via the CAWs and

Whereas additional AIS may use the CAWs for range expansion and

Whereas an electric barrier has been installed on the CAWs to reduce the risk of AIS movement between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin and

Whereas electric pulse and acoustic or visual barriers rely on organism response to be effective and

Whereas the electric barrier is effective only on life forms able to respond to the discomfort of the electric field and swim against the water flow and

Whereas the electric barrier is less effective on small fish and ineffective on planktonic life forms and

Whereas the CAWs are important for interstate commerce and a vital corridor for commercial and recreational navigation in the Chicago Region and

Whereas tow boats or barges with water ballast or damaged barges can transport water across the barrier potentially serving as a vector to move organisms independent of the organisms' response to an electric field and

Whereas alternative technology is available to lift and move heavy cargo, ships and recreational vessels overland and

Whereas the CAWs are a critical conduit for the conveyance of waste water and storm waters from Chicago and

Whereas water quality can be a barrier, but the effect will likely not be localized nor effective on all life stages of all aquatic organisms and

Whereas in order to be effective and localized, chemical barriers would require constant treatment and detoxification and

Whereas waste water treatment systems can be improved to treat sanitary discharges such that they meet Great Lakes discharge standards and

Whereas alternative solutions can be engineered to address periodic storm water conveyance needs in the CAWs now

Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the American Fisheries Society call for permanent ecological separation of the Great Lakes drainage from the Mississippi River drainage to severely limit the range expansion of all AIS and other aquatic life forms via the CAWs and

Be It Further Resolved that the selected approach to separation of these two major Midwest watersheds should address and minimize or mitigate all impacts to the current services provided by the CAWs including commercial and recreational navigation, wastewater discharge and storm water conveyance.

Revised per the AFS Governing Board motion by the AFS Resolutions Chairman on March 28, 2011

Adopted by AFS membership vote in July 2011.

Project Returns Fish Passage to a Chippewa National Forest Lake

By Pat Rivers, Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Coordinator

On April 22, 2011, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Fisheries Technician Greg Whaley and I sampled fish at the outlet of Pigeon Lake. Two trap nets would confirm what we suspected: the fish passage project completed last fall was a success. The Chippewa National Forest (CNF) partnered with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (LLBO) to design and construct a natural channel through the Pigeon Lake Impoundment, a natural lake with elevated water levels due to a constructed dam. The completed channel is approximately 15 feet wide and designed to allow for passage of fish and other organisms, yet maintain the water level of the lake. The trap nets contained a sampling of these fish, including northern pike up to 33 inches in length.

Pigeon Lake is located north of Lake Winnibigoshish on the Chippewa National Forest in Itasca County, Minnesota. Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the survey and design phase of this project was awarded in October of 2009 with actual surveying starting in the spring of 2010. The goal was to naturalize the channel and provide water flows suitable for fish traveling upstream. With the start of summer, work on the ground began at the Pigeon Lake Impoundment in July. As a family of trumpeter swans watched on, 4000 tons of rock was hauled in, taking over three weeks. Construction on the passage began on August 18. Delicately, a backhoe operator placed each rock in the passage and rapid change and improvement were noted on a daily basis. The existing outlet structures were removed and replaced with eight rock weirs that were strategically placed to ensure fish passage. From one weir to the next, there is a gradual drop in elevation to reach the final water elevation level of the river. The new passage slows the water velocity so that fish can navigate more easily to the lake. As vegetation establishes between the rocks, the banks of the Pigeon River will return to a natural stream bank appearance.

The Pigeon Lake Fish Passage project will help improve the over-all health of the Lake Winnie watershed by providing passage for all aquatic organisms which include northern pike, walleye, yellow perch and forage fish. Long-term, the project may also increase fish populations throughout this area.

The Chippewa National Forest has approximately 45 impoundments that are maintained by the LLBO and the USFS. Additional fish passage opportunities are being explored. For more information, please contact Todd Tisler, Chippewa National Forest Fish and Wildlife Program Manager, at 218-335-8629.

Greg Whaley and a 33-inch northern pike.

Pigeon Lake outlet before project.

The newly created channel.

Attention Students: Beginning Your Professional Journey Workshop

"Beginning Your Professional Journey"
A career preparation workshop for undergraduate students

Are you trying to figure out the requirements and best way to apply to graduate school, or what types of positions employers have for new graduates and what they're looking for in future employees? Eager to prepare for those inevitable interview questions such as "Why should we hire you for this position?" If so, 'Beginning your Professional Journey' is the workshop for you! Four sessions will include Resumes and Professional Correspondence, Academic and Employer Panels, Networking, and Interview Skills. Participants will receive binders full of resource materials for future use. And for those who register for the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, there will be ample opportunity to (1) learn about ongoing research in fisheries and wildlife as you listen to talks given by professionals and students and (2) practice your newly acquired skills during Sunday evening's reception and several other Conference events. Previous participants gave the workshop a "thumbs up!" From a student participant, "*It would be hard to find this much information anywhere else."*

The workshop will be held on Sunday, December 4 from 8:30a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and is limited to the first 50 pre-paid registrants. Workshop cost (including breaks, lunch and a binder stuffed with relevant resources) is only $25! **NOTE: Registration for the conference is NOT included in this fee. To register for the workshop and/or conference, please do so at http://www.midwest2011.org/.

Questions? Contact co-organizers: Rebecca Christoffel (christof@iastate.edu) or Jim Schneider (schne181@msu.edu). We look forward to seeing you in Des Moines!

Websites:

Parent company: http://www.fisheries.org
North Central Division: http://www.ncd-afs.org
NCD Listserve email to: ncdlist@lists.fisheries.org