

Summer Meeting  
Esocid Technical Committee  
Milford Iowa,

The summer meeting was held on July 26, 2018. A total of 6 states were represented at this meeting.

An update on the budget was presented with no questions asked from people attending this meeting.

Each state provided an update of activities which include the following highlights.

Missouri – Mike Andersen shared that a muskie management plan has been completed. Individuals can contact Mike if they would like to see this article and he may try and forward it to the Esocid technical committee as a pdf document in the near future. They also are exploring the use of an on line trip information form to get angling data. They also had a “Show-Me Muskie Project” newsletter that he shared with the group.

Wisconsin has quite a bit going on. Jordan informed us that an effort to set science based 50” lakes is underway. They will also look at some of the other regulations moving forward including the 28” length limit in locations where muskie were stocked but not native. The number of trolling lines allowed is currently being discussed and has some regional differences with the regulation. In addition to the Green Bay muskie movement and habitat use project that Robert Sheffer presented on at the meeting, Wisconsin is also evaluating hot weather hooking mortalities.

Minnesota – Nate Hodgins and Loren Miller presented on population estimate work in Southern Minnesota and advancement of muskie genetic database during the meeting. Additionally, Minnesota reported some public concerns had arose over the transition to 54” size limits that happened in the past. In response to this a statewide technical committee is planning to assess 54” and 50” regulations. They are also planning on updating the 10 year plan and will begin collecting public input. A stable isotope project in relation to dietary patterns of introduced and native populations as well as in lakes with cisco and without cisco has also been initiated. Finally, the Vermillion population estimate is also being completed.

Kansas – Andrew Schaffer informed us that the pike population in Kingman Reservoir was eliminated with a rotenone event intended to get rid of white perch. After the rotenone the pike were re-stocked but have not been recruiting. They will work with personnel to develop access to a wetland that has been disconnected and it is believed improved recruitment historically.

Iowa – During the meeting Jonathan Meerbeek presented on the unusually large genetic Iowa strain muskies and updated us on improved survivability of larger 13” muskies vs those shorter in length. He also updated us on entrainment loss through an electrical barrier at the bottom end

of Okoboji Lake. Other Iowa happening include Clear Lake will also try to stock larger fish, PIT readers are being distributed to some anglers and looking at 40" minimum.

Nebraska – The broodstock source for northern pike has traditionally come from lakes on the USFWS refuge. The series of lakes in this refuge will be rotenoned over the next couple years as they attempt to remove carp from this system, so alternative sources may need to be used. Merritt Reservoir continues to produce good spring catch rates of muskies and a diversity of opinions on whether this population should be managed more conservatively or liberally is starting to develop.

New business – the last agenda item discussed was submitted by Cory Kovacs. In 2020, Ohio will be hosting the national AFS meeting and Cory wanted to know if the ETC had an interest in submitting a symposium. It was agreed that the location of this meeting does warrant discussion on esocids and those attending supported the idea of this symposium. We also delegated Cory to lead the charge on this and we would support him....someone should tell him I suppose.