



2018 Annual Meeting Minutes
Ictalurid Technical Committee
North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society
Hilton City Center, Mitchell Room, Milwaukee, WI
5:00-6:00 pm, 30 January 2018

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Email address
Tony Barada	Nebraska Game and Parks Comm.	tony.barada@nebraska.gov
Mark Pegg	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	mpegg2@unl.edu
Jeremy Tiemann	Illinois Natural History Survey	jtiemann@illinois.edu
Ben Neely	KS Dept. Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism	ben.neely@ks.gov
Connor Chance-Ossowski	KS Dept. Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism	connor.ossowski@ks.gov
BJ Schall	South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks	benjamin.schall@state.sd.us
Al Niebur	Wisconsin DNR	alan.niebur@wisconsin.gov
Henry Hansen	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	henry.hansen@huskers.unl.edu
Jim Lamer	Western Illinois University	jt-lamer@wiu.edu
Mark Porath	Nebraska Game and Parks Comm.	mark.porath@nebraska.gov
Marty Hamel	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	mhamel2@unl.edu
Lindsay Ohlman	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	lohlman@unl.edu
Jake Allman	MO Dept. of Conservation	jake.allman@mdc.mo.gov
Nick Kramer	KS Dept. Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism	nick.kramer@ks.gov
Andy Bueltmann	Indiana DNR	abueltmann@dnr.in.gov

Welcome and call to order by Ben Neely, Chair at 5:05pm

No additions suggested to the agenda.

Motion to accept February 2017 minutes by Mark Pegg, seconded by Marty Hamel. Unanimous.

Treasurer's report: No treasurer present. Tony Barada, NCD secretary/treasurer noted that ITC had \$17,239.00 in investment account and \$5,586.79 in checking account. There were no expenses to ITC in 2017.

Chair report: Catfish 2020 is fast approaching. There is still time to get projects off the ground.

Catfish 2020 discussion: Led by Jeremy Tiemann, co-chair for Catfish 2020. The ITC will be working with the Southern Division to coordinate Catfish 2020 in Little Rock, Arkansas, February 18-20. This conference will precede the annual Southern Division meeting at the same location. Jim Lamer, co-chair sponsorship committee, will be reaching out to state chapters and other potential sponsors in 2018. Suggested sponsorship from state chapters is \$1,000 in 2018 and \$1,000 in 2019. Committee chairs will be soliciting for volunteers soon. Southern Division will be coordinating financials with assistance from Tony Barada of the NCD ITC.

State Report Summaries

Dakotas – BJ Schall reporting for Dave Lucchesi

- Annual mortality and growth were estimated for channel catfish and flathead catfish from the lower James River, South Dakota. Annual mortality of channel catfish was estimated at 33%. Growth of channel catfish exceeded the North American 75th percentile, and flathead catfish growth was below the North American 50th percentile. – *BJ Schall*

Illinois – Jeremy Tiemann reporting

- Larval catfish are being sampled with an electric trawling setup in the Wabash River. – *Kaleb Wood*
- Population dynamics of channel catfish are being evaluated in Illinois' large rivers. – *Jim Lamer*
- A pilot study examining ontogenetic shift of blue catfish using stable isotopes was recently completed. – *Jim Lamer*
- There is current work looking for species-specific stable isotope signatures of bighead carp and silver carp in blue catfish. – *Jim Lamer*
- A bioenergetics model for blue catfish in the Mississippi River is being developed. – *Jim Lamer*
- An Asian catfish *Pangasianodon hypophthalmus* was captured in the Illinois River. – *Kevin Irons*

Indiana – Craig Jansen submitted report via email

- Catfishes were sampled in the Wabash and White Rivers. Trends will be monitored in presence of new regulations.
- Assisted Kentucky DFWR with trotline sampling in the Ohio River.
- Nesting boxes for channel catfish were evaluated and determined to increase reproduction. They will be used in some lower-pressure fisheries to offset stocking requests.
- Establish a put and take channel catfish fishery at Spring Mill State Park.
- Approximately 5,500 13-in channel catfish were stocked at 12 urban fishing locations.

Iowa - Dan Kirby submitted report via email

- Channel catfish and flathead catfish were included in a project to develop easy-to-follow and comprehensive statewide information concerning fish consumption and concerns of mercury. Channel catfish had only a few individuals that exceeded the screening value for concern, while exceeding this value was more frequent in flathead catfish. – *Darcy Cashatt*
- Blue catfish were introduced into DeSoto Bend in an effort to create a trophy fishery and develop a potential brood stock source.
- Approximately 80,000 8-in channel catfish were stocked in 2017.

- Channel catfish and flathead catfish were sampled from Mississippi River Pool 16 using baited hoop nets set in pairs. High water limited success, but the project will be continued in the future.

Kansas – Ben Neely reporting

- Approximately 144,000 harvestable-sized channel catfish (12 to 18 in) were stocked in urban areas in 2017. – *Luke Kowalewski*
- Floatlines have been used with preliminary success to sample large blue catfish in Wilson Reservoir. – *Bryan Sowards*
- An experiment was conducted to determine how frequently anglers could correctly identify blue catfish and channel catfish at Wilson Reservoir. Surveys were submitted to 85 anglers with a mean of 27 years angling experience. Blue catfish were misidentified 29% of the time and channel catfish 25% of the time. – *Bryan Sowards*
- Blue catfish population estimation through mark-recapture continued at Lovewell and Glen Elder reservoirs. – *Scott Waters*
- Blue catfish population estimation, exploitation, and entrainment are being evaluated in Tuttle Creek Reservoir. – *Ely Sprengle*

Michigan - Jay Wesley submitted report via email

- Michigan DNR continues to monitor the state endangered Northern Madtom in the St. Clair River system.
- A recent study evaluated effects of stocking flathead catfish to alter stunted bluegill populations. – *R.P. O'Neal*

Minnesota –Steve Shroyer submitted report via email

- The Catfish Work Group, a combination of agency representatives and catfish anglers, periodically convened during 2017. Recent topics of discussion have included sampling methods, standardization of aging techniques, regulation of tournaments, and separation of channel catfish and flathead catfish possession limits.
- Working with Wisconsin to review all border water regulations on the Mississippi River. Tentative plans are to begin public meetings in 2018. Regulations, if passed, likely wouldn't be in effect before 2020.
- Channel catfish and flathead catfish populations in the Minnesota River continue to be monitored. Flathead catfish are receiving PIT tags and a telemetry project is planned in 2018. – *Tony Sindt*
- Manuscripts assessing usefulness of unbaited hoop nets for simultaneous samples of channel catfish and flathead catfish as well as comparison of two channel catfish populations separated by a dam are in review and preparation. – *Tony Sindt*
- Final report titled 'Population dynamics of flathead catfish in the Lower Minnesota River' is being formatted as a Minnesota DNR Investigational Report and will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal soon. – *Steve Shroyer*

- Channel and flathead catfish continue to be studied in twin cities area rivers (Mississippi, St. Croix, and lower Minnesota) using a network of telemetry receivers. – *Joel Stiras*
- Channel catfish monitoring continues in the Red River of the North. – *Dennis Topp*

Missouri – Jake Allman reporting

- Vital rates of blue catfish and flathead catfish are being examined in the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. Annual exploitation varies from 10% to 14%. – *Joe McMullen*
- Commercial fishers captured 24 tons of blue catfish, 10 tons of flathead catfish, and 3 tons of channel catfish in the Mississippi and St. Francis Rivers in 2016. – *Joe McMullen*
- Electrofishing thresholds for immobilizing blue catfish and flathead catfish have been examined. Final analyses expected in 2018. – *Zach Ford*
- Population assessment and angler exploitation are being examined in Mark Twain Lake. Results are pending. – *Paul Michaletz*
- Flathead catfish will be evaluated in concert with hybrid striped bass to evaluate their influence on panfish populations. The method is being explored as a low-cost alternative to removal of gizzard shad or common carp. – *Paul Michaletz*
- An experimental minimum length limit of 16 inches was implemented on five impoundments in southeast Missouri. Growth was determined to be slow and reduced stocking rates were suggested to promote fish reaching this length. – *Paul Michaletz*

Nebraska – Tony Barada reporting

- Blue, channel, and flathead catfish population dynamics continue to be investigated in the Platte River. Otolith microchemistry revealed that population mixing through multiple systems is occurring. – *Jonathan Spurgeon*
- Standard sampling for channel catfish continued in the Missouri River. – *Dylan Turner*
- Movement of channel catfish in the Red River of the North was examined with particular emphasis on the influence of two dams. There are currently 124 channel catfish with acoustic transmitters and about 250 receivers deployed through the river and Lake Winnipeg. – *Henry Hansen*
- A denil fishway was constructed over a low-head dam on the Cedar River near Spalding. After two summers, nine species successfully navigated the fishway. In 2017, 79% of 305 tagged channel catfish passed through the fishway. – *Steve Schainost*
- A total of 182,000 10-in channel catfish was stocked in 180 different Nebraska waters in 2017. – *Tony Barada*
- A total of 21,243 blue catfish was stocked in four Nebraska reservoirs in 2017. – *Tony Barada*

Ohio – Ethan Simmons submitted report via email

- Standard channel catfish samples collected with baited tandem hoop nets.
- Continuation of project examining catchability of channel catfish in baited tandem hoop nets.

- Blue catfish introduction into Hoover Reservoir beginning in 2011 has been successful. Anglers are catching large fish, but electrofishing samples are not revealing their presence. Additional lakes will be stocked as well.
- Transmitters were implanted into trophy catfish in the Ohio River to take advantage of receiver arrays in place for Asian carp movement study.
- Ohio State University assessing the need for biennial stocking of channel catfish in lakes < 700 acres. Also assessing whether channel catfish can be stocked as fingerlings rather than yearlings.
- In an effort to protect blue catfish from overharvest, Hoover Reservoir will get a new regulation that is a four-fish limit with one over 28 in and three under 18 in. Blue catfish and channel catfish will be combined in this regulation. Previous limits allowed a one fish limit for trophy-class blue and channel catfish.

Wisconsin –Alan Niebur reporting

- Wisconsin DNR implemented standardized sampling protocols (baited hoop nets and low-pulse electrofishing) to monitor catfish populations.
- Statewide catfish team has been working on catfish management plan for Wisconsin.

Old Business: none

New Business:

- New officer elections:
 - Ben Neely nominated Connor Chance-Ossowski for secretary/treasurer of the Ictalurid Technical Committee and he accepted; no other nominations were made, therefore Connor Chance-Ossowski will take over as secretary/treasurer of the ITC following the meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 5:47 by Jake Allman, seconded by Marty Hamel. Unanimous.

NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee State Chapter Representatives		
Chapter	Name	Email
Dakota	Dave Lucchesi	dave.lucchesi@state.sd.us
Illinois	Jeremy Tiemann	jtiemann@illinois.edu
Indiana	Craig Jansen	cjansen1@dnr.in.gov
Iowa	Dan Kirby	daniel.kirby@dnr.iowa.gov
Kansas	Ben Neely	ben.neely@ks.gov
Michigan	Jay Wesley	wesleyj@michigan.gov
Minnesota	Steve Shroyer	steve.shroyer@state.mn.us
Missouri	Jake Allman	jake.allman@mdc.mo.gov
Nebraska	Tony Barada	tony.barada@nebraska.gov
Ontario	Jason Barnucz	jason.barnucz@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Ohio	Ethan Simmons	ethan.simmons@dnr.state.oh.us
Wisconsin	Alan Niebur	alan.niebur@wisconsin.gov
Chair	Ben Neely	ben.neely@ks.gov
Past chair	Tony Barada	tony.barada@nebraska.gov

Secretary/Treasurer

Connor Chance-Ossowski

connor.ossowski@ks.gov

Submitted by Ben Neely, ITC chair
February 6, 2018

