

NCD Ictalurid technical committee – Annual Business Meeting

January 28, 2020

Vista 2, Wyndham Springfield City Centre, Springfield, IL

Attendees:

Ben Neely, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism

Bryan Sowards, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism

Mark Porath, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Zach Klein, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Sarah Molinaro, Indiana DNR

Mike Thomas, University of Missouri

Nathan Lederman, Illinois DNR

Chris Brooke, Missouri Dept of Conservation

Jeff Kopaska, Iowa DNR

Jeremy Tiemann, Illinois Natural History Survey

Rebecca Krogman, Iowa DNR

Scott Bonar, AFS-President

Call to order by Ben Neely at 5:01 pm

Motion accepted to approve minutes by Zach Klein, seconded by Mike Thomas.

Secretary Treasurer Report: Printed on the agenda; investment fund doing very well. We have \$19,146 and \$5,751.79 in checking account. Motion to approve treasurer's report by Jeremy Tiemann, seconded by Zach Klein.

Chair Report: Chris Brooke has agreed to be a candidate for new chair. Connor Ossowski doesn't think he'll be able to come to future meetings with any certainty. We are looking for a new secretary/treasurer, potentially. Ben asked if anybody would be interested in being the secretary treasurer and to email Chris if they are.

Jeremy Teimann: Catfish 2020 update: 11 papers submitted in a Special Issue through North American with page restrictions, not a book; 280-340 pages (possibly); This will make it a more searchable form. Registrants will get a free copy of the Special Issue (Tiemann). 180 registrants so far; 78-83 oral

presentations and 19 poster presentations from madtoms to flatheads. Received \$42,000 in sponsorship so the committee should make money. Mark Porath is handling publication portion of Catfish 2020. They will not be printing abstracts. Goal to have the Special Issue within 1 year of Catfish 2020.

Scott Bonar: Presidential Plan: 150th anniversary meeting coming up. One more day for Symposium submission: fishery history, present and future fisheries symposia, celebration, exhibits. Variety of projects coming through AFWA: standard sampling update (120 responses from survey); taking those guidelines to update the new edition, specifically for catfish, a section on LFE for catfish, and more regarding hoop nets for catfish. Should be out in a year and a half. Making a push for science communication and climate change. Issues with flooding, wildfires, coral reefs reduced by 90% in some areas. Requesting that we all make climate change a priority in terms of communicating to the public. Share the science. Ben Neely asked about a fact sheet on climate change: Scott: we have a website in the initial stages, IT Dept, University of Arizona (verbal judo techniques). We included IPCC info, fourth US assessment, etc. Outreach committee finalizing a fact sheet.

State Reports:

Nathan: Illinois: age and growth on all 3 major species, movement on IL River, Brandon Roe (?) barrier for Asian Carp movement from getting upstream. Carp are currently 7 miles below that proposed barrier. Another electric barrier 4 miles upstream of proposed barrier. Community pond stockings; bait study in hoop nets (clam, soybeans, cottonseed). That will be at Catfish 2020.

Sarah: Indiana; not much but most is on big rivers. Survey in relation to commercial fishing; overnight hoop nets and some high and LFE. Mostly flathead, but some channels and blues. Populations look good. Age and growth is coming. Trot lining in the Ohio River in a pool. Fresh cut common carp instead of frozen shad, better. Stocking going on, 80,000, 8-12", stocked at 148 locations. Urban parks stocked multiple times. CCF stockings are age-1 fish.

Jeff: Iowa; stocking BCF; Three-mile and DeSoto Bend (oxbow on Missouri R). The oxbow population floods out; Three-mile doesn't have native BCF but they're doing great since they were stocked 2 years ago and already achieving catchable size (11"+). No regulation on any catfish in Iowa. Andy Jansen is the biologist for three-mile. Research for 2020: looking at potential catfish anglers in urban areas that seem to be more harvest oriented; compared to general anglers and found they're very different. General anglers seem to be more release oriented. Recruitment potential in urban communities and they want to harvest. Worried about Flathead trophy harvest on rivers, no protective regs other than bag limits (15 per day in rivers, 8 per day in reservoirs).

Chris: Missouri; Truman Reservoir – takes so long for population frequency to change when changing a reg. Lots of stuff targeted for catfish2020: FHC and BCF on MO and MI rivers: age/growth, mortality, precision estimates of spines and otoliths, and tagging stuff. Started producing BCF at hatcheries: some went to IO, NE, and KS. Commercial fishing summary from 2018. Mike has an electrofishing project looking at electrofishing efficiency, thresholds. Done in a 150 gal tank. Effective conductivity and power goal recommendations; FH have lower effective conductivity than thought, this info is provided in report. Waveforms recommend 15 hertz, 30% duty. Put catfish with known sizes and numbers in ponds and used drones to count surfacing fish (novel). More apt to get FHC to surface. 15/30 better for BCF, but higher waveforms better for FHC. Used power settings (V and Amps) provided for other species (LMB?). Presenting at catfish2020 for more info. More potential for using drones for counts. Population

assessment of BCF in Mark Twain. Introduced FHC and hybrid striped bass in small impoundments and how they affect fisheries (shad, common carp). FHC added to control carp. Evaluation on MLL on CCF. Slot regs on BCF. Post evaluation 8 years after regulation was put on, 2.5 years away. Age and growth info will be added. FHC pop dynamics study approved for 2020 in 5 or 6 reservoirs in MO and small impoundments in NW MO, including sampling protocols specifically for FHC. Trying to get more info on FHC fisheries in MO impoundments.

Bonar question: Hoop nets, what is the best overall bait?? Is there one we say yes to? Boatcycle cheesebait stopped working real good, soybeans are used in long-term protocol for upper miss R, they are standard in other states. The answer is: it depends. Folks are doing a lot of different baits for hoop nets for CCF. Soybeans is the most commonly used (Krogman said they surveyed this). Zote Soap and turtles: does anybody have issues? Not many.

Mark – NE, nothing to add to Tony's report.

That's it for state reports.

NEW:

Krogmann: older grant, grey literature clearing house: a grant to revive papers that are hidden in the grey literature. This is stuff not making it into the peer-reviewed journals. This is an online system that is searchable for this information. 1,800 test records imported from some states. Hiring a moderator with dedicated job of facilitating entry of new records. Looking at future funding for this position. Looking at rolling this out this coming summer. You can upload your grey lit on the AFS website and the moderator will determine. Another grant: fisheries research tracking and information exchange tool; people will be able to search current projects, so they don't duplicate efforts. Direction: make it an online home for the Tech Comms. The tech comms can update information. Our place to share information. Would like to have an Ictalurid tech comm member in the loop on these efforts. Objective is to facilitate communication. Third grant, research agenda development project: who is responsible for the states driving standard sampling decisions.

Jeff- big proponent on entering information in 1 place at 1 time. Get rid of NCD other stuff, and just use this (tracking and info exchange tool).

Sarah: citizen science with catfish: are other states doing this? MO had a project with angler diaries 15 years ago but nothing recently. Illinois did a angler diary, incorporated angler catch into creel info. KS is getting angler reports on tagged fish but not having anglers tag them themselves. We gave local guides 50+ tags to tag BCF on the Kansas River but didn't work very well.

Bryan: See KS update...

Ben adjourned the meeting at 6:14pm.