

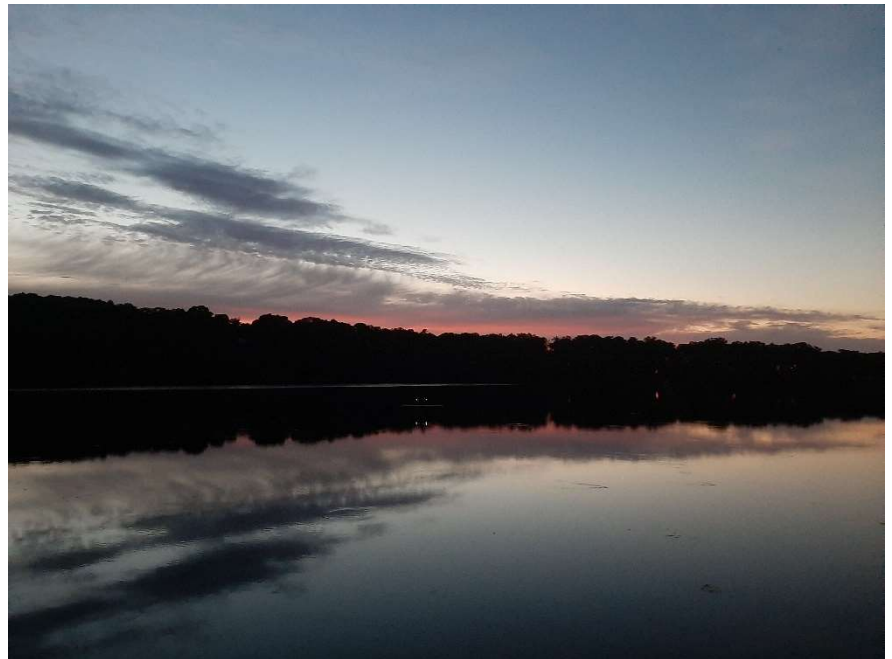
Hey NCD, squeaking in a June Presidents Blog here on the last day of the month ...

What a spring. Now we are sneaking into summer. Is the economy open, is it not, should it be? What stores are safe to go in? Are we now to the point that we are just going to keep rising into a second wave of cases?

What does this all mean for us in our fisheries work? People have bought fishing licenses like crazy, and our resources are seeing pressure that is much higher than normal – is there an impact on fish populations? How do we sample appropriately? Will we always have to take individual vehicles to sampling locations? Do I really have to wear a mask while stream shocking in 90 degree heat and 90% humidity? How about when I'm pulling up that hoop net with 300 pounds of channel catfish in mid-August?

Enough with the worries about now and what is to come. When I ran for this position, I said I wanted to focus on field staff and agency staff. I felt that AFS had moved away from those core constituents, and I hoped to bring some focus back in that direction. The current corps of NCD officers feel much the same way. I cannot say that I have moved AFS very far in this direction, but I have kept up the pressure. In talking about this issue, a friend of mine recently said “but ‘nimble’ and ‘AFS’ don’t belong in the same county, so it’s definitely an uphill battle to effect change.” One way to make change is from the top down, and another is from the bottom up! A bottom up way to affect change is to show the importance of field and agency staff by nominating them for awards, and this is another priority of the current NCD Officer Corps.

I can say that I have recently contributed to a nomination of one of our Iowa “field staff” colleagues for a Fisheries Management Section Award. I believe he will be very competitive! President-elect Joe Conroy and I made it a goal to nominate deserving NCD members for AFS awards, and we are currently completing those nominations. Hopefully we will be able to share more good news from these efforts soon.



Take care, be well and have a great summer! And go fishing! Here are some photos from my recent trip to one of my favorite places, Otter Tail County, MN. A wonderful sunset; beautiful panfish, and a 4# largemouth. Fun Times!

Thanks,

*Jeff*

