

President's Blog

September 2020

What is the NCD?

As the newly minted President of the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society, I think it is important for you and me to agree on the role of the NCD. So here I ask and answer: *What is the NCD?*

I have pondered this question for about a decade, and it feels like just now that I am starting to form a real opinion.

My initial thoughts when working on the revision of the NCD Strategic Plan back in 2010–2011 was that the NCD was really a conduit, with information flowing from the Society to the Chapters and from the Chapters to the Society. The NCD was not really a gatekeeper deciding what the Society or the Chapters needed to hear but rather a facilitator, ensuring that the messages sent from each of those entities were received by the other. This role is clearly important, but ultimately, I do not think it the most important role.

The NCD exists to stimulate a sense of community and shared cause among a geographically distinct set of fisheries professionals. That is, the NCD needs to represent the interests and causes of fisheries professionals in the five provinces, two territories, and 12 states which comprise the NCD. We, collectively, have unique interests, unique challenges, and unique approaches which demonstrably differ from those of the other Divisions. It is up to us to use the resources at hand, whether our local Chapters, our Technical Committees, or our representatives on Society committees to advocate for those aspects most important to us.

I ask for your help in doing so. We need good communication between the Chapters and the NCD; we need active engagement by Chapter members on our Technical Committees; we need active and interested Technical Committee Chairs; we need volunteers to serve the NCD and the Society through committee work. Please know that I will be reaching out to all NCD members to “step up” and contribute. Here is your chance to decide your own thoughts on *What is the NCD*.

To volunteer or inform me of your interests or challenges, please reach me by email at joseph.conroy@dnr.ohio.gov.

