North Central Division
of the American Fisheries Society

Winter Business Meeting of the Salmonid Technical Committee
3:00 – 5:00 PM (CST), Sunday, January 28, 2024

In association with the 2024 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Sioux Falls, SD
In-person and Virtual Meet option

1. **Call meeting to order**
   a. Introductions
      - Dakota – Jeremy Kientz (SD), Zach Kjos (ND), Robert Hanten (SD)
      - Iowa – Mike Siepker
      - Minnesota – Doug Dieterman
      - Nebraska – Alexandria Keiler-Klein
      - Others in attendance: Natalie Coash (past WI/MI)

2. **State and provincial reports are provided at the end of the meeting minutes.**

3. **Treasurer's report**
   Siepker reported that the STC account balance is $8,563.41, with no recent expenditures.

4. **New business**
   a) Recruiting for STC chair-elect/co-chair, secretary
      I. Looking for members to step up and volunteer for positions within STC.
         i. Siepker will serve as Chair for 2024-25
         ii. Coash offered to serve as Secretary for 2024-25, via email after the meeting

   b) Interest in salmonid-focused symposium at next Midwest meeting?
      I. There is interest in hosting a coldwater/salmonid focused symposium at the 2025 MFWC to be held in St. Louis. Possibly full or half-day depending on interest level.
      II. Out of state travel is still an issue for some states and may limit attendance.
      III. If travel is an issue, STC will see about possibility of having pre-recorded presentations for those that can't attend in person.
      IV. Reps will reach out to colleagues to gauge their interest in presenting at the symposium – **DUE March 15.**
      V. Siepker will share a spreadsheet so members can add to symposium participant list.
      VI. Decision on symposium will be made after March 15. Siepker will set up conference call to make decision on hosting – **DUE March 30th.**

   c) Interest in development of STC award? (student, travel, grants, etc)
      I. There is interest in developing various STC awards.
      II. If we host 2025 symposium, we will have a couple reps develop associated travel or student awards.

d) Updates to STC-NCD website
    I. Siepker will reach out to NCD to have website updated.

e) STC logo
    I. Kientz and Coash offered to develop a few designs for STC consideration.
    II. Goal to have logo selected prior to 2025 symposium.

6. Adjourn

Winter 2024 State Reports

- Illinois – no report
- Indiana – no report
- Kansas – no report
- Michigan – no report
- MidCanada – no report
- Missouri – no report
- Ontario – no report
- Ohio – no report
- Wisconsin – no report
- Dakota – waiting on state reports

- **Iowa**

Iowa update to STC, February 2024

- Trout stamp sales continue to be strong with an overall upward trend in Iowa over the past 20 years for residents and non-residents. A recent DNR press release reported sales of 44,278 resident and 7868 non-resident trout privileges or "stamps". The lifetime trout privilege was added in 2022 for Iowa residents 65 and over at a cost of $65.
- Around 2010, the Iowa DNR started the angler access program (AAP) to protect stream corridors and angler access on coldwater streams. Enrolled streams are permanently protected with a 150-ft wide conservation easement that allows public fishing. Today, we've protected 23.75 miles of stream and 506 acres of stream corridor at a cost of just over $1 million dollars.
- In 2020, Iowa completed "A Plan for Iowa Trout Management" that will guide the trout program in the future.
- Discontinuation of Brown Trout stocking in Iowa streams (at least for now). Yes, this is an accomplishment with over 95 streams now experiencing some level of natural reproduction of Brown Trout or Brook Trout. We stocked hatchery-propagated fingerling Brown Trout into an unnamed tributary of the Mississippi River (Tut Creek) and McLoud Run during 2023. No hatchery production of Brown Trout is occurring in Iowa this year ---- likely the first time since at least the 1950's.
- Focus shifted to Brook Trout restoration work.
    - Genetic assessment of all Brook Trout populations
    - Expanding restoration stockings into new streams each year
    - Development of "hatchery" wild females to increase numbers of fingerlings for restoration stockings
- Stream restoration work
    - Mill Creek system of Jackson County. Floodplain restoration and stream stability funded by DOT mitigation is planned for summer 2024 on 1100' of South Fork Mill Creek and will join projects previously completed on 2300' of Mill Creek that moved 40,000 cubic yards out of the floodplain of the incised stream.

- Two projects planned on North Bear Creek and another on Patterson Creek, working with TUDARE and NRCS. All three project sites are protected with permeant conservation and angler access easements.
- Two projects planned on Paint Creek to reshape banks. Projects are funded via the Iowa State Lands Water Quality Grant program and support from project partners.

- Coldwater Research
  - We continue to monitor growth of Brown Trout using PIT tags. We tagged an additional 100 trout this year (as we do most years) into streams that we monitor on an annual basis. A need to analyze these data and complete a summary report one of these years. Growth data collected using this method will be beneficial for managing wild populations of trout in Iowa.
  - Completed evaluation of winter imagery as way to locate coldwater streams in NE Iowa. Results published in journal "Remote Sensing". Imagery was very useful in locating streams that could be classified as coldwater under the State of Iowa's Cold Water Designation Assessment Protocol. In study watershed, we found 35 mi of stream that could be considered coldwater, 14 mi is currently classified as coldwater. An additional 21 miles could be considered for reclassification within our 66 sq mi study site.
  - Working with Water Quality staff to assess current surface water classifications and make recommendations for reclassification. Long-term process of collecting supporting data and providing recommendations to Commission.

Report provided by Mike Siepker, Iowa DNR

- **Minnesota**

Minnesota update to NCD Salmonid Technical Committee
Winter business meeting, 2024
Submitted by Doug Dieterman

Brook Trout movement in Northeast Minnesota

Collaborators: Nathan Stewart (Finland Area Fisheries), Jeff Jasperson (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency), Doug Dieterman (Fish Research)

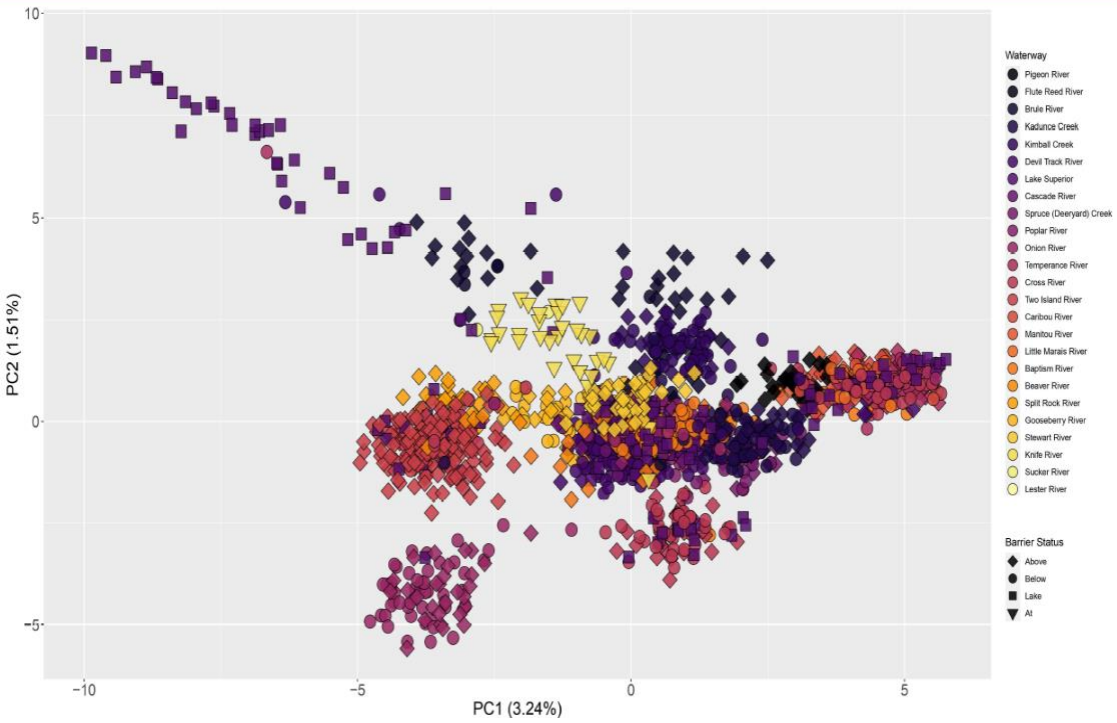
Concern in northeast Minnesota for how salmonids move among streams and their tributaries. Concerns regarding location and accessibility to and from thermal refuges that may become more important as climate changes. Also, considerable dollars being spent on culvert replacements that include facilitation of salmonid movements. Staff have initiated a Brook Trout PIT tagging study with stationary antenna arrays to assess movements among interior streams near Finland, Minnesota. Summer 2023 was the first year and staff mostly learned how best to deploy and download data from equipment. More to come.

Genomic Variation of Brook Trout along the Minnesota Shoreline of Lake Superior

Authors: Ben Kline, Nadyah Mamoozadeh, Mariah Meek (MI State), Cory Goldsworthy, Nick Peterson, Loren Miller (MN DNR).

Study is an examination of genomic variation of Brook Trout (SNPs) along the Minnesota shoreline of Lake Superior. Do populations differ (is there genetic structure)? What is the source of individuals in streams downstream of barrier falls? What is the source of individuals in Lake Superior? Multiple distinct population groups found. Above and below barrier samples are similar suggesting downstream migration. Several migrants among tributary streams. Lake Superior fish come from multiple streams. Some samples group with stocked Coaster strains.

Results – Genetic population structure



Title: Stable Isotope Analysis of Lake Superior Nearshore Native and Introduced Fishes Part One: Waters Trophic Niche Overlap

Authors: Jessica Hanson (U of M); Morgann Gordon (EPA); Nick Peterson (MND DNR); Ryan Lepak (EPA); Cory Goldsworthy (MN DNR); Valerie Brady (NRRI); Thomas Hrabik (UM-Duluth); Joel Hoffman (EPA)

Abstract: Characterizing food web interactions between introduced and native fish predators is important to quantify niche overlap, assess predator-prey balance, and support fisheries management. Lake Superior provides an ideal setting to investigate potential trophic overlap between native top predators, lake trout Salvelinus namaycush and walleye Sander vitreus, and a diverse assemblage of introduced salmonids. The goal of this study was to measure both trophic position and trophic niche overlap among and between nearshore predator fishes in the western arm of Lake Superior based on carbon and nitrogen stable isotope ratios (d13C, d15N). We used angler-caught fish and survey-captured fish to obtain samples. Within each source of data, location differences in species composition, sex, and size were not apparent. Among species, the range in d15N values was >5‰, indicating that the study species occupy ~2 trophic levels, ranging from omnivores to piscivores. The range in d13C values among species was consistent with dietary reliance primarily on a mix of pelagic and benthic prey. Combined, the d13C and d15N values revealed siscowet lake trout as the apex predator having a distinct trophic niche, while walleye and lean lake trout are intermediate trophic position predators with overlapping trophic niches, and introduced salmonids were the lowest trophic position predators with overlapping trophic niches. We conclude that the overlapping trophic niches indicate strong potential for resource competition among native lake trout and walleye, as well as among introduced salmonids, but less so between native and introduced predators.

**Target: Journal of Great Lakes Research –Lake Superior Special Edition - 2024*

Cool note: A record breaking cisco year class born in 2021. We will duplicate this study (samples collected in 2022-2024) to evaluate any changes that occurred post-cisco boom.

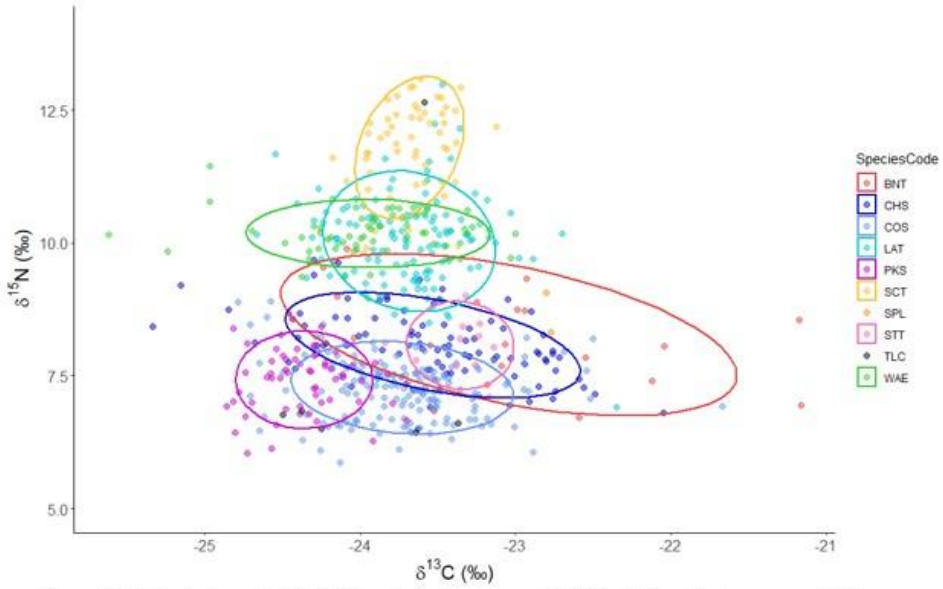


Figure 5. Stable isotope ratio biplot. Closed circles represent individual fish and colors represent fish species. The solid line is the 70% confidence ellipses around species centroids. Species codes as in Table 1.

Title: Stable Isotope Analysis of Lake Superior Nearshore Native and Introduced Fishes Part Two: Prey Source Contributions

Authors: Jessica Hanson (U of M); Morgann Gordon (EPA); Nick Peterson (MND DNR); Ryan Lepak (EPA); Cory Goldsworthy (MN DNR); Valerie Brady (NRRI); Thomas Hrabik (UM-Duluth); Joel Hoffman (EPA)

Abstract: Niche partitioning of time, space, or resources facilitates the coexistence of competitor species. The Lake Superior food web includes several piscivores that are important to fisheries including native lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) and walleye (*Sander vitreus*), and introduced chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Our goal was to quantify specific prey source contributions to these predators in the western arm of Lake Superior using dual stable isotope mixing models based on carbon and nitrogen stable isotope ratios. For each species, three mixing models were constructed to examine predator size effects: one model with all predator fish sampled, and two models with either the ten smallest or the ten largest fish sampled. Native and introduced species had distinct diets from one another; there was strong similarity between native species (lean lake trout and walleye had high prey contributions from invasive rainbow smelt, *Osmerux mordax*) and among introduced salmonids (which had high prey contributions from native invertebrates, *Mysis diluviana* and *Diporeia* spp.). Additionally, siscowet lake trout, lean lake trout, chinook salmon, and coho salmon exhibited size-based (i.e., ontogenetic) shifts in prey contributions. The low piscivory in introduced salmonids and high reliance of native predators on rainbow smelt was likely due to the low abundance of native Coregonus, mainly cisco (*Coregonus artedii*). Our study reveals complex, potentially adaptive responses of both native and introduced nearshore predators to both native and invasive prey resources in Lake Superior.

**Target: Journal of Great Lakes Research –Lake Superior Special Edition - 2024*

Cool note: A record breaking cisco year class born in 2021. We will duplicate this study (samples collected in 2022-2024) to evaluate any changes that occurred post-cisco boom.

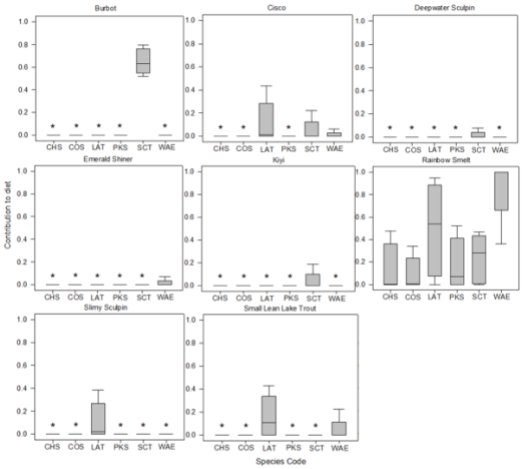


Figure 6: Boxplots of prey fish estimated diet contribution from mixing models for each predator. Prey fish in bold above each corresponding boxplot. Asterisks represent predators that did not have that prey item in their mixing model.

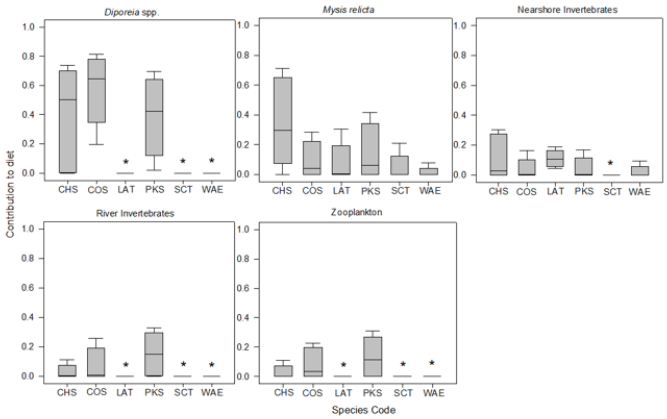


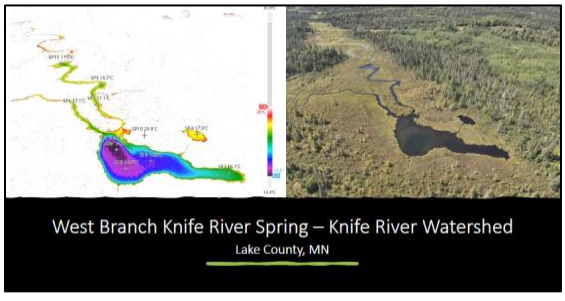
Figure 7: Boxplots of invertebrates estimated diet contribution from mixing models for each predator. Prey fish in bold above each corresponding boxplot. Asterisks represent predators that did not have that prey item in its mixing model.

Title: Movements and habitat use of native Brook Trout and nonnative Salmonids in two Lake Superior watersheds.

Project Partners: Justin VanDeHey (PA) & Joshua Raabe, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Nick Peterson & Cory Goldsworthy, Minnesota DNR, Jeffrey Jasperson, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Rationale and objectives:

- Environmental variation and warming rates in the Great Lakes region have exceeded much of the contiguous US. Brook Trout are a native, stenothermal coldwater species, hence understanding their habitat use and available thermal refugia in Great Lakes tributary streams is imperative for restoration and conservation efforts.
- Brook Trout, a species of conservation concern in Lake Superior, is the primary target species that will benefit from this research. Additionally, all salmonids including steelhead, a recreationally important species, inhabiting Lake Superior tributaries will benefit from this research.
- This work supports the Brook Trout Rehabilitation Plan for Lake Superior. The plan states, “The habitat objectives are achievable only to the extent that continued research focuses on identifying those habitats that are critical for all life stages;” this research will specifically address habitat use and allow for more focused protection and rehabilitation efforts. This research will also address the Minnesota DNR’s Fisheries Management Plan for Lake Superior which highlights that limited knowledge exists on the interactions between Brook Trout and non-native Salmonids.
- **Research questions:** What habitats do Brook Trout use seasonally in streams with (Knife) and without (Stewart) non-native salmonids? Is there substantial habitat overlap among Brook, Brown and Rainbow Trout and does this relate to the expression of alternative life history variants? Where are thermal refugia located within each watershed and do these habitats vary seasonally and with variable flows? Are Brook Trout using restored habitats on the Stewart River?
- **Objectives:** Our research objectives are to determine (1) seasonal movements, habitat use and relative abundance of Brook, Brown and Rainbow (steelhead) Trout, (2) if Brook Trout habitat use differs between streams with and without nonnative salmonids, (3) if movements are related to discharge, temperature and oxygen levels and (4) where Brook Trout thermal refugia exists seasonally within two watersheds (Knife and Stewart rivers).
- **Relevance:** This research will aid in restoring and maintaining self-sustaining Brook Trout populations (goal #1 of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 2016), and will identify critical habitats which allows for protecting, maintaining, and restoring fish habitat (goal #3). Relative to the GLRI Action Plan III: this research is directly related to “Focus Area 4: Habitats and Species” as this work will identify habitats that support important Great Lakes species. This research directly addresses research priority 3 on Ecological Interactions in the Lake Superior Committee’s Fishery Research Priorities: “Are there negative interactions (competition, predation) between Brook Trout and non-native salmonines preventing restoration objectives for Brook Trout.”

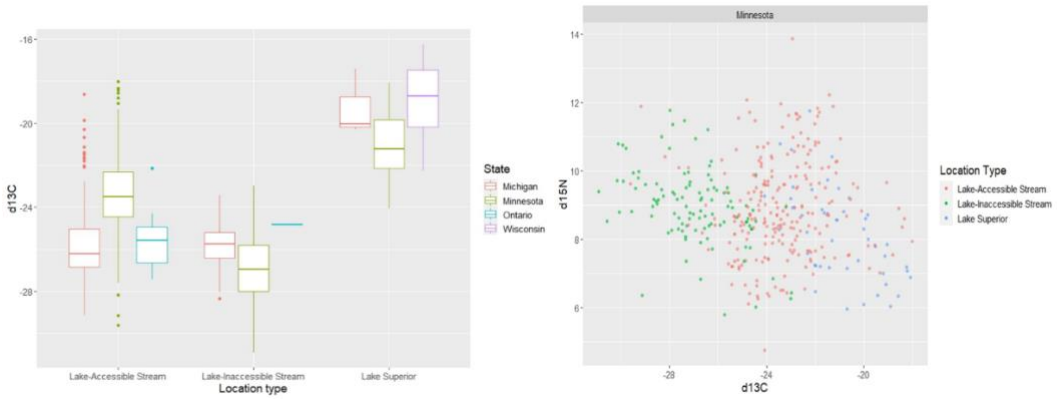


Adfluvial Life-history of Brook Trout in Lake Superior Tributaries Using Stable Isotope Analysis

Authors: Troy Zorn (MI DNR), Nick Peterson (MN DNR), Brandon Gerig (N. Michigan U.), Kevin Pangle (Central Michigan U.), Henry Quinlan (USFWS)

Abstract: Coasters are defined as brook trout that spend a portion of their lives in the Great Lakes, though a variety of life history patterns involving usage of Great Lake and stream habitats have been described. Coaster brook trout in Lake Superior show different patterns of Lake Superior usage ranging from entirely lake-dwelling, to adfluvial with late-summer to fall migration into the spawning stream, or spring migration into the spawning stream, to near year-round movement between stream and Lake Superior habitats. Fishery managers are particularly interested in protecting and increasing the abundance of the migratory component of brook trout populations in tributaries supporting brook trout populations with a mixture of migrant individuals and residents at different times of the year. An important first step in this process is to identify streams with remnant migratory brook trout for protection and rehabilitation. Brook trout were collected from streams and Lake Superior nearshore areas in Minnesota, Ontario, Michigan, and Wisconsin in 2021. Our overall objective was to explore stable isotope analysis of fin tissue from brook trout as an inexpensive, non-lethal technique for documenting prior foraging (and residency) of brook trout inhabiting Lake Superior and its tributaries. We examined patterns in δ13C and δ15N from brook trout were captured among three habitat types: Lake Superior nearshore habitat, accessible stream habitat (below natural migration barriers), and inaccessible stream habitat (above natural migration barriers) throughout the Lake Superior basin. Our specific objectives were to: 1) compare patterns in delta13C and delta15N isotopes of Brook trout captured among three habitat types (Lake Superior, accessible, inaccessible), 2) develop a model to assign a probability of Lake Superior foraging among individual brook trout captured from accessible stream habitats, 3) examine relationships between probability of Lake Superior foraging and Brook Trout length. δ13C isotope identified differences in foraging dynamics of Brook trout captured among the three habitats, and the δ15N isotope showed large variability in trophic position among fish captured among habitats (but no significant relationship among habitats). SIA (specifically the δ13C isotope) useful to confirm Lake Superior foraging in stream-captured brook trout in Lake Superior at the scale of an individual fish and is a useful tool for future management and research (document foraging dynamics, movement, and life history variability among BKT). Overall relationships between probability of Lake Superior foraging and Brook Trout length was not obvious, except in a few instances, and highly variable among streams throughout the basin.

Target: Journal of Great Lakes Research –Lake Superior Special Edition - 2024



Didymo impacts to critical Coaster Brook Trout tributary spawning habitat for Lake Superior

Authors: David Burge, Mark Edlund, Heidi Rantala, Nick Peterson, Cory Goldsworthy

In September 2021 the nuisance alga, Didymosphenia geminata, was identified blooming in 6 new streams of northeastern Minnesota (i.e., Caribou, Devil Track, Flute Reed, Kadunce, Kimball, & Onion Rivers), an

increase from a single known occurrence in the Poplar River during 2018. This discovery is a finding of ongoing research to investigate the origins of North Shore didymo populations and ascertain whether they are related to Lake Superior Didymo populations. Building upon the ongoing research we examined the didymo impacts to critical Coaster Brook Trout tributary spawning habitat for Lake Superior by 1) describing the extent within 4 river networks to which blooms form, 2) characterizing instream nutrient storage and trophic changes (i.e., algae, macroinvertebrates, & fish communities) for stream reaches with and without didymo, and 3) amplifying our results through concurrent research and outreach (e.g., social media, press, citizen science, and education).

Note: 600 fin clips from Brook Trout, Rainbow trout, and coho salmon sent to Cornell for Stable isotope analysis (C and N). Objectives: 1) elucidate lake foraging and "coaster" BKT life history, 2) characterize isotope signatures of North Shore stream RBT and COS juveniles, 3) evaluate tissue turnover rate for individual recaptured brook trout (26 total individuals bkt recaps captured among June, August, October surveys) and potential for temporal shifts in SIA signatures, 4) compare diet and SIA to evaluate trophic niche overlap among native BKT and nonnative RBT & COS.

Brook Trout reintroduction into Southeast Minnesota streams

Collaborators: Melissa Wagner, Jason Roloff, Travis Viker (Lanesboro Area Fisheries), Shawn Haase (Peterson Hatchery), Kevin Stauffer, Brian Beyerl, Dan Spence (Lake City Area Fisheries), Loren Miller, Doug Dieterman (Fish Research).

Minnesota DNR staff are accelerating a Heritage Brook Trout reintroduction effort. Putatively native Brook Trout, termed Heritage strain had been documented previously in selected streams and efforts are now underway to propagate more fish for reintroduction into new streams and streams formerly stocked with known east-coast-strain Brook Trout. Efforts were made to spawn males and females in the field and return viable eggs to the Peterson Hatchery to increase survival. However, disease testing concerns slowed production efforts. For more info: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/2023/08/28/dnr-stocks-heritage-brook-trout-southeast-minnesota

Sculpin Reintroductions in Southeast Minnesota streams

Collaborators: Doug Dieterman, Loren Miler (Fisheries Research), Brian Beyerl (Lake City Fisheries), Melissa Wagner, Travis Viker, Jason Roloff (Lanesboro Area Fisheries).

Minnesota DNR staff are also studying and reintroducing native sculpin among streams in southeast Minnesota. Reintroduction efforts are intended to restore sculpin to streams they formerly inhabited and to provide an important prey source for larger adult salmonids. Studies include investigating the current distribution and genetic structure of populations, assessing genetic viability of sculpin populations reintroduced about 15 years earlier, as well as initial genetic viability of newer reintroductions. Studies also include an assessment of the food web interactions of newly stocked sculpin.

Evaluation of Stream Habitat Projects in Southeast Minnesota

Collaborators: Doug Dieterman (Fish Research), Dusty Hoffman, Dean Paron (Fisheries Habitat Program), Melissa Wagner, Jason Roloff (Lanesboro Area Fisheries).

Project is a long-term study to evaluate all the instream habitat rehabilitation projects that have been implemented in southeast Minnesota. Study goals include determining (a) how long stream habitat projects last and factors influencing habitat project longevity, (b) benefits of habitat projects and how long those benefits last and (c) how habitat projects influence stream geomorphology and fish habitat upstream and downstream

of projects as well as fish survival, growth and immigration/emigration among reaches with and without habitat projects.

- **Nebraska**

Salmonid Technical Committee Report 2023

For State of Nebraska

The following report is being submitted to the Salmonid Technical Committee meeting in January 2024 at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference being held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Rivers and Streams Program Update-

Three trout projects were worked on in 2023 including the North Platte Valley tributaries, Ogallala rock weir, and Bordeaux Creek projects.

North Platte Valley tributaries
We collected genetics on rainbow trout from 8 different tributaries of the North Platte River to determine if we had separate populations of rainbows or if they were moving throughout the system. Also wanted to determine if stocking efforts were beneficially working in areas where rainbows were stocked.

Rock Weir Trout Fishery Project below Lake Ogallala
Over-winter survival of Rainbow Trout is likely dependent on water releases by Lake Ogallala Keystone Diversion dam (Keith County). Investigations began in 2023 to monitor Rainbow Trout densities pre and post winter within the highly engineered pools downstream of the Dam. Additionally, Dissolved Oxygen measurements are also being collected by deployed data loggers, to assess if and when pools reach critical thresholds for Trout survival. Monitoring efforts are expected to continue over the next few years, given opportunities to capture varying water release conditions. Results from the project will be used as supplemental information for reviewers of FERC Relicensing Permit by Nebraska Public Power District.

Northwest District-

Bordeaux
Rainbow trout were individually marked in a control, treated (habitat restoration), and below treated stream segment. Other native fish were VIE marked with site specific colors to determine movement on or off initially captured stream segments.

Stream habitat improvement project on Bordeaux Creek WMA. The goals of the project were to re-connect the stream to a floodplain, improve instream habitat with rock and wood riffles, pool habitat, and stable sinuosity. The overall goal of the design was to improve habitat for brown trout and native species.

To gain insights into the fish community responses following the installation of nearly 3.2 kilometers (2.0 miles) of instream habitat at Bordeaux Creek WMA (Dawes County), annual fish surveys have been conducted since 2021. These surveys utilize mark-recapture and triple-pass depletion methods. Individual marking of brown trout has been conducted using PIT and VIE tags, with the VIE tags color-coded by site. All other fish were given VIE tags; however, starting in 2023, only white suckers received VIE tags due to poor tag returns. These findings will hopefully help inform future habitat management and conservation efforts across Nebraska's coolwater streams.

Carter P . Dam at Fort Robinson
Another project in the works is the decommissioning of Carter P. Dam on Fort Robinson. The project includes rehabilitating Soldier creek to improve trout fishing.

Nine Mile Creek
A private landowner on the lower end received an NET grant to do restorations work on his property. This project is in design stages and NGPC is helping by providing suggestions and input into the project. We are not providing any financial support that I am aware of.

Southwest District-

Ogallala Renovation
Lake Ogallala was renovated in 2023 to reset the fishery and give the advantage to trout for the next several years. There have been 24,291 8.5-10" rainbows stocked back in the Lake since the renovation. In addition, 5,620 tiger (brown x brook) have also been stocked since the renovation. These fish will be monitored with monthly sampling efforts during 2024. In addition, we marked (adipose fin clip) 926 rainbows during December and have stocked them back directly into the upper pool of the North Platte River rock weir fishery below Lake Ogallala. The intent of this was to study movement of these fish throughout the three pools during periods of low flow. As part of NPPD's FERC license, they are only required to release 25 cfs through these pools during the winter months and we do not feel that flow is adequate to maintain a quality fishery. We will likely contest that flow requirement when the FERC license comes up for renewal in the 2033. The pools will be sampled in Feb/early March before large scale releases are made to determine survival and movement. We have also installed temp/DO loggers into the pools to monitor these variables throughout the winter months.

Cutbows

We have also put in a request for cutbows (cutthroat x rainbow) to be stocked into Lake Ogalla during December 2024. The hatchery system will be receiving these eggs soon and to my knowledge it might be the first time that they have been stocked in Nebraska waters. Colorado has good luck with stocking these fish into reservoir/lake systems, so it will be interesting to see how they perform in Lake Ogallala.

Trout Sampling

Other sampling for trout consisted of sampling Elm Creek east of Red Cloud. This small tributary of the Republican River has a couple miles of trout supporting water, with about a .5 mile of public stream access on a WMA. It gets stocked with 500 trout in March and 1000 trout in late September. Sampling occurred in October and one rainbow was found, but also caught some Central Stonerollers and Darters.

Southwest District Trout Stockings

Most of what we do with trout management are the seasonal trout stockings in urban water bodies.

During 2023, we stocked about approximately 16 community waters with approximately 37,500 catchable 10" rainbows. We also request some larger trout for fall stocking in a few of our waterbodies. During 2023 we stocked six water bodies with 875 of these larger fish. While the request is normally for 12 to 15" lunkers, Grove went above and beyond this year and brought us trout that ranged from 15 to 18 inches. These large fish tend to spice things up a bit for anglers and provide them with a bonus when they hook into one of them.

Yanney Park Pond – Kearney, Nebraska

Yanney was also stocked by a private citizen during 2023 (and has been for about 12 years) with large trout that are purchased from a private hatchery. These have proven to be extremely popular with local anglers, but the person who pays for the trout has decided to not purchase them in the future, so this program may be in jeopardy.

Report provided by:

Matthew Perrion
matthew.perrion@nebraska.gov