

Ictalurid Technical Committee

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Report to the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society regarding the Ictalurid Technical Committee's annual activities as they pertain to the goals of the American Fisheries Society.

Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership

AFS will be a global leader providing information and technical resources for the sustainability and conservation of fisheries resources.

1. The Ictalurid Technical Committee holds its annual business meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference where we discuss committee business, ideas, and initiative. Chapter reports are also presented allowing for exchange of information and lessons learned about catfish sampling, aging, and management. We also encourage use of the Southern Division Catfish Management Committee's message board (<http://sdafs.org/catfish/phpbb/>). This message board allows information exchange among catfish managers in both divisions.

2. The Ictalurid Technical Committee co-hosted the Second International Catfish Symposium June 19-22 in St. Louis, Missouri. The symposium had over 200 attendees and nearly 100 oral and poster presentations contributed from 32 states and five countries. The meeting served as an excellent information exchange for the ecology, biology, conservation, and management of worldwide game and non-game catfish species. A joint meeting between the committee and the Southern Division Catfish Management Technical Committee was also held to discuss possible future collaborations between the sister committees.

Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education

AFS will facilitate life-long learning through world-class educational resources at all academic levels and provide training for practicing professionals in all branches of fisheries and aquatic sciences.

1. From the nearly 100 oral and poster presentations at the Second International Catfish Symposium, 65 manuscripts were received for inclusion in the symposium proceedings. Publication of the proceedings is expected to occur in 2011.

2. The committee is planning a catfish workshop next summer at the Iowa DNR's Rathbun Fish Hatchery. Most details are yet to be determined but information about the meeting will be coming out in early 2011.

3. Following the joint meeting of the Catfish Technical Committees of the North Central and Southern Division AFS at Catfish 2010, a joint group was formed to compile a Catfish Sampling Information Summary "white paper". This group will be contacting state and federal agencies requesting information on catfish sampling and management protocols and conducting a thorough literature search and compilation. The final product will identify techniques that work best for sampling the three major catfish species in both river and lake habitats. It will serve as a great tool for managers designing catfish studies and will also identify gaps in our knowledge of catfish sampling that need further investigation.

Goal 3: Value of Membership

AFS will serve its members and fisheries, aquaculture, and aquatic science constituencies to fulfill the mission of the Society.

1. The Ictalurid Technical Committee serves its members by providing forums for information exchange, promoting coordinated catfish research and management, and providing continuing educational opportunities to our members.

2. The Ictalurid Technical Committee sponsored a student travel award that provided financial assistance for a student to attend the 2nd International Catfish Symposium.