

Ictalurid Technical Committee

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2012 report to the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society regarding the Ictalurid Technical Committee's (ITC) 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.

Unit Strategies:

1. The ITC holds its annual business meeting at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference where we discuss committee business, ideas, and initiatives. Chapter reports are also presented allowing for exchange of information and lessons learned about catfish sampling, aging, management, and conservation. We also encourage use of the Southern Division's 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 ITC's website (<http://www.ncd-afs.org/Default.asp?mid=23&sid=34>) provides resources in the form of published literature and gray papers pertinent to ITC members and others who work with catfishes.

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.

Unit Strategies:

1. The ITC co-hosted the Second International Catfish Symposium in 2012. The proceedings (*The Conservation, Ecology, and Management of Catfish: The Second International Symposium*) have been published and are available for purchase on the AFS bookstore website (<http://www.afsbooks.org/54077C>).

2. 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 has been 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.

3. The ITC co-sponsored a catfish-sampling workshop with the Southern Division's Catfish Management Committee (see <http://www.sdafs.org/meetings/2012/workshops.html>). The workshop was 27 January 2012 in Biloxi, MS. Workshop participants learned about current sampling methods for blue, channel, and flathead catfish in various habitats.

Goal 3: Value of Membership

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

Unit Strategies:

1. The ITC serves its members by providing a message board (<http://sdafs.org/catfish/phpbb/>) for information exchange, promoting coordinated catfish research and management, and providing continuing educational opportunities to our members.

2. The ITC also has a website (<http://www.ncd-afs.org/Default.asp?mid=23&sid=34>) where its members can download papers on catfish conservation and management.

3. The ITC provided tissue samples for bullheads, channels, blues, and flatheads for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory this year