

NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee Annual Business Meeting
72nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Des Moines, IA
Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2011

Welcome and call to order by Jeremy Tiemann.

Review and approval of agenda: Motion made (Pitchford), motion approved.

Chair Report – Jeremy Tiemann: Report to the NCD-AFS regarding Ictalurid Technical Committee's annual activities was presented. Reviews and comments requested.

Review and approval of 2010 NCD-ITC business meeting minutes: No motion to approve 2010 minutes because meeting was cancelled (Minnesota snow storm).

Treasurer's report (from NCD files): We have \$23,389.75. However, one more check (\$3,900.42) still needs to be cut for the Southern Division for its share of the Catfish 2010 profits. Motion made to approve report (Pegg). Motion approved.

Old Business:

Greg Pitchford – closing comments on Catfish 2010

- Blown away about how well it was received!
- All proceedings have been mailed, now for sale on AFS website
- Professionally successful with great information exchange
- Profitable

'Catfish College' workshop idea has been multiple times in the past

- Flamang – originally was being planned to be held at Rathburn
 - Diversity of sampling opportunities nearby
 - Plenty of room at hatchery
- Tiemann – another option would be to hold it at W. Illinois
 - Further discussion with Kirk Hansen is needed

New Business:

- Southern Division will be hosting a Catfish Sampling Workshop on January 27, 2012 in Biloxi, MS (contact Jason Olive with questions).
- Discussion on hand fishing
 - Do we need to look at this and take a stance as a committee?
 - TX has had major issues due to individuals going above TDWP straight to legislature – hand fishing was legalized without input from biologists
 - Should we put together a comprehensive bibliography/paper/fact sheet about hand fishing?
 - What we know, what we don't know
 - Each states regs, available data, etc.
 - Educate legislators and administrators and guide future research

State Reports

Dakotas

- Investigating channel catfish populations and food habits in SD reservoirs

Illinois – Get from Jeremy. Fish kill stuff...

Indiana

- Indiana DNR is in the process of rewriting strategic plans and an updated catfish workplan is under development.
- DNR proposed regulation change: increase minimum size limit from 10 to 15 inches on channel, flathead and blue catfish including only one channel catfish ≥ 28 inches and one flathead and one blue catfish ≥ 35 inches (recreational and commercial fishing). The proposed change has been tabled citing the need to identify and collect additional information that resulted from public comment.

Iowa

- Flathead catfish projects on interior rivers and the Mississippi River
 - Evaluating sampling methods, seasons, population parameters
- Southwest Iowa small impoundments
 - Stocking density and population density vs. other variables

Kansas

- Followed Missouri in experimental handfishing regulations
 - Evaluating human dimensions, catch rates, etc.
 - # permit holders decreasing (50 was maximum), broadening list of water bodies
- Legalized jug (float line) fishing
 - Select locations, special creel
- New coop unit leader will be conducting research on blue catfish
 - movements, stockings to utilize zebra mussels

Michigan

- Nothing new on gamefish
- Northern madtoms statewide assessment

Minnesota

- Statewide – a group has been assembled to discuss statewide catfish issues
 - Capture and transport of live bait and inconsistent regulations between WI and MN on the Mississippi River are hot topics
- St Croix and Mississippi River catfish assessment continues (started in 2009)

- Proposal of a telemetry study to determine catfish movement between the rivers
- Minnesota River – Telemetry project published in Catfish 2010
 - New project evaluating the usefulness of large un-baited hoop nets for sampling adult flathead catfish

Missouri

- Catfish harvest evaluation project being conducted on multiple rivers and reservoirs
 - Seeing high harvest rates of blues and flatheads (using \$ return tags)
 - Jug fishing evaluation on Truman Reservoir
- Hand fishing still an issue

Nebraska

- River systems (Missouri, Platte, Niobrara) have been and continue to be a priority for research for the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Reservoir fisheries are also being assessed through UNL-NGPC collaborations
 - Statewide channel catfish evaluation
 - Branched Oak Lake flathead catfish trophy fishery population assessment and telemetry study
 - Channel catfish exploitation in SE Nebraska reservoirs

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Email
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Submitted by Tony Barada