



## Walleye Technical Committee

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### **2012 Winter Business Meeting Minutes**

*73<sup>rd</sup> Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita, KS, December 9, 2012*

Chair Christel called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM to the 19 members in attendance. There were no changes to the agenda noted, motion was made and carried to accept the agenda as written.

#### **Present Sander Travel Award:**

There were four applicants for the 2012 Sander Award. Kasey Yallaly was selected as the winner of the 2012 Sander Award. Kasey is an undergraduate student at Southeast Missouri State University. She will be presenting a paper presentation on Sauger population dynamics and reproduction ecology in the Upper and Lower Mississippi River at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference. Kasey was presented a \$100 check to help cover her travel expenses to the conference. Congratulations Kasey!

#### **Approval of the 2012 summer business meeting minutes:**

No changes to the 2012 summer meeting minutes were noted; therefore motion was made and carried to accept the meeting minutes as written.

#### **State and Provincial Reports:**

##### **Nebraska, Jason DeBoer and Casey Schoenebeck:**

THE news this year would absolutely be the drought. One of our wettest years followed immediately by one of our driest—life on the Great Plains! Don't even think about what it will be like if 2013 is as dry as 2012! We now have an archery record for sauger, 3 pounds 8 ounces, taken from the Missouri River in Cedar County. I believe the summer drawdown was particularly hard on our fish community in Sherman Reservoir, but even then data that Jordan Katt (NGPC, SE District Office) has collected during the walleye spawn the past few years indicates that our protected slot limit there has been successful at protecting and enhancing the numbers of brood stock walleyes. Our fall standard survey there also showed that. I am putting the 2013 Fishing Forecast together right now and there will be some excellent walleye fishing opportunities in Nebraska again this year, be sure to pick up a copy in the spring! Submitted by: *Daryl Bauer, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission*

#### **Research Updates**

##### ***University of Nebraska-Kearney***

*Chris Uphoff (M.S.), with Dr. Casey Schoenebeck*

*Seth Lundgren (M.S.), with Dr. Casey Schoenebeck*

##### ***University of Nebraska-Lincoln***

*Jason DeBoer (M.S.), with Dr. Kevin Pope*

We are trying to identify recruitment bottlenecks for walleye (and white bass) in irrigation reservoirs of SW Nebraska. We have completed 5 years of sampling on this project (3 with me at the helm). We are nearly finished processing zooplankton, larval fish, and juvenile fish samples, with the intent of determining hatch dates, growth rates, and diet for walleye (and white bass). During spring 2012 we sampled spawning walleye from two reservoirs in SW Nebraska to determine if fecundity or egg size differed between reservoirs with high and low zooplankton availability (as forage for emerging larval walleye). Egg samples and female dorsal spines were collected, and will be processed by the end of the year. We are also collaborating on research with biologists from Manitoba to look at the difference in yearly timing of spawning by female walleye based on age.

*Robert Kill (M.S.), with Dr. Kevin Pope*

Population modeling for walleye in the irrigation reservoirs of the Republican River Basin is ongoing. Sensitivity analyses have revealed individual growth as the greatest cause of uncertainty in population growth rate. This means that it is more beneficial, from a biological aspect, for managers to spend limited time and financial resources on better understanding changes in individual growth rate among years. Population simulations featuring varying degrees of age-0 survival have revealed that strong year-class production does not necessarily need to occur annually for walleye populations in these reservoirs. Lastly, water elevation is being used to modify age-0 survival in a population model, with the intention of projecting walleye populations under various environments (i.e., low, medium, and high water availability), the results of which should aid managers in understanding population dynamics in response to varying degrees of water availability.

*Peter Spirk (M.S.), with Dr. Kevin Pope*

Effects of length limits on sexually size dimorphic fishes – M. S. Thesis abstract

Length limits are used by fishery managers as a method to alter size structure of fish populations. Unfortunately, biological differences between fish sexes (i.e., sexual-size dimorphism) may lead to sex-specific rates of recruitment, growth, and mortality. The addition of angler harvest to most aquatic systems likely accentuates differences in sex-specific rates by selectively harvesting the fastest-growing and largest fish from a population. The first objective of this study was to document the extent of sexual-size dimorphism for white bass and walleye at a Nebraska reservoir. Growth rates were similar between male and female white bass although male white bass were consistently shorter than their female counterparts at a given age. Male walleye grew slower and were consistently shorter than their female counterparts at a given age. The second objective was to document the size, sex, and age of white crappie, white bass and walleye harvested in two Nebraska reservoirs. Harvest was female biased for both white crappie and white bass, whereas harvest was similar for both male and female walleye. The third objective was to determine if size-, sex- or age-selective harvest was occurring for white bass and walleye at a Nebraska reservoir. Anglers harvested female white bass at a greater proportion than was sampled during NGPC annual population surveys. Anglers at Sherman Reservoir did selectively harvest walleye based on size, although in contrast to the white bass population, sex-selective harvest was not apparent for walleye. The final objective was to provide a model that predicts possible outcomes from using different length limits for sexually size dimorphic fishes. Although there was a noticeable difference in the number of fish in a population for each length limit, the pressure applied to the population by catch-and-release mortality kept the sex ratio close to a 1:1.

#### **South Dakota State University**

*Mark Kaemingk (Ph.D.), with Dr. Dave Willis*

Tony Barada (Nebraska Game and Park Commission) also mentioned that they are looking into ways to produce walleye at small reservoirs using a variety of different sizes of product at stocking.

#### **Dakota, Melissa Wuellner:**

Dr. Graeb and Dr. Fincel has a new student (Andrew Carlson) that will be investigating the influence of the 2011 floods on walleye entrainment on the Missouri River using otolith microchemistry. This project has just started so stay tuned for results!

Dr. Wuellner has a new student (Jeff Grote) that will be investigating walleye stock/recruitment relationships. He will also be looking at different gears to assess walleye recruitment as the current fall age-0 sampling strategy may not be sufficient. Jeff will also evaluate body composition metrics for walleye entering their first winter.

#### **Wisconsin, Steve Gilbert:**

- 1) There is a new regulation proposal that would allow each angler to troll with three lines statewide.
- 2) Other regulation proposals include standardization of walleye regulations on the Wisconsin River system. This would include a 15 inch minimum length limit with a 20-28 inch protected slot limit and a creel limit of one fish over 28 inches. This regulation proposal will go to public hearing in April 2013.
- 3) WAE/Black Bass interactions continues to be a hot topic. Students at UW—Stevens Point and UW—Madison will continue research to further investigate this topic. There will be a presentation on this topic during the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference.
- 4) Wisconsin DNR has formed a state walleye committee to evaluate stocking rates of varying sizes of walleye. The committee will make recommendations for statewide guidance to management biologists. The current maximum stocking rates is 10 fish/acre for large fingerlings and 50 fish/acre for fry.
- 5) Wisconsin DNR has hired 10 new biologists.

**Indiana, Sandy Clark-Kolaks:**

Indiana DNR had a tough year for walleye broodstock collection which made it difficult to get walleye stocking requests filled. Ball State University will be utilizing a long-term data set from Lake Monroe for Bayesian modeling to evaluate fall walleye catch rates and mortality within some missing year classes.

**Texas, Charlie Munger:**

The 12-year drought has made it tough for walleye management in Texas. Some of the reservoirs are experiencing record low water levels. They have also discovered increased levels of chlorides which have led to golden algae blooms. The low water levels have also resulted in the Department not being able to collect walleyes from the reservoirs, so the future of walleye in Texas may have to be re-evaluated.

**Kansas, Jason Goeckler:**

The early spring made for a tough year of walleye egg collection. Fortunately, Nebraska was able to help out and provide surplus eggs to meet stocking demands. Improvements to Milford Fish Hatchery are planned for 2013. A new filtration system will help improve water quality and help with prevention of aquatic nuisance species inside the facility. Triploid saugeye production will be continued in 2013 using the new pressure chamber. We were not able to produce any triploid saugeye in 2012 due to some security issues with the broodstock.

**Iowa, Randy Schultz:**

- 1) Similar to other states, the weird spring weather made it a tough year for walleye production. Additionally, zebra mussels were discovered in Spirit Lake (one of the broodstock collection lakes) which may complicate fry stocking.
- 2) Mark Flammang is finishing up a project to evaluate the effectiveness of a barrier to prevent walleye emigration from Rathbun Reservoir. The barrier used a variety of deterrents including sound frequencies, strobe lights, and a bubbler system. Strobe lights were not useful in deterring walleyes.
- 3) There is a project on walleye stocking rates and exploitation study of an urban lake near Des Moines. In general, the fry and advanced fingerling stocking has worked well.
- 4) They have been looking at using low dose rotenone in small impoundments with gizzard shad issues. The walleye have not tolerated this treatment technique very well.
- 5) Jonathan Meerbeek will be presenting a paper during the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference on using back-calculation at age-1 as a method for evaluating contribution of stocked walleye fingerlings in Iowa's natural lakes.

**Financial Report: Donna Hanen Muhm**

	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
<b>Beginning Balance, July 1, 2012</b>			<b>\$12,456.25</b>
<b>Sander Award</b>		<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>Plaque for Paul</b>		<b>\$25.00</b>	
<b>Summer Meeting Profit</b>	<b>\$1230.30</b>		
<b>Interest to date</b>	<b>\$145.77</b>		
<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$13,707.32</b>

### **Update from NCD Governing Board Meeting (Paul Christel):**

There have been some issues with setting up the 2016 National AFS Meeting. Organizing a national AFS meeting has put a lot of strain on state AFS chapters funding and staff. AFS is looking at hiring a meeting management company in 2016 to take those burdens off the state chapters. The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held somewhere in the North-Central Division. Some of the potential locations include: Winnipeg, Kansas City, Chicago, and St. Louis.

The NCD is looking for a new webmaster for the NCD website. Interested individuals should contact the current NCD president, Gary Whelan, [whelang@michigan.gov](mailto:whelang@michigan.gov).

### **Chair-elect nominations and installation of the 2013 Chair:**

Dan Isermann (University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point) will be the 2013 Chair. Dan was not able to make the meeting, so Andy Jansen presented Chair Christel with the outgoing Chair Certificate of Appreciation plaque. No nominations were received for the 2013 Chair-Elect position. Anyone interested in the Chair-Elect position should contact Dan Isermann, [daniel.isermann@uwsp.edu](mailto:daniel.isermann@uwsp.edu)

### **WTC Summer 2013 Meeting**

Steve Gilbert (Wisconsin DNR) presented a proposal handout for the 2013 Summer Joint Meeting of the Centrarchid, Esocid, and Walleye Technical Committees:

Dates: July 22-25

Location: Wausau, WI

Conference Facility and Lodging: Stoney Creek Inn

Potential schedule-at-a-glance:

July 22: possible class sponsored by Wisconsin AFS chapter. Some topics include: fish identification, using Microsoft Excel for fisheries work, fish genetics, etc.)

July 23: second day of class if needed. Float trip down Wisconsin River (if interested). Social at Stoney Creek Inn.

July 24: Discussions and talks (Stoney Creek Inn). Cookout at Rib Mountain State Park. Maybe a social at The Bar Sports Bar (walking distance to Stoney Creek Inn) with Gilbert's World Famous Roadkill Game for entertainment.

July 25: Wrap up and business meetings

Local contact: Steve Gilbert, WDNR, 715-356-5211 ext. 229, [stephen.gilbert@wisconsin.gov](mailto:stephen.gilbert@wisconsin.gov).

There was some discussion as to whether the meeting location should be moved around more (outside Wisconsin) to promote more attendance. However, the overall consensus was this would be a good venue and the Esocid and Centrarchid were on board with the location. **So, pencil in July 22-25, 2013 in Wausau, WI on your calendars!**

### **New Business**

Chair Christel mentioned an email he received from John Bruner (below) concerning the correct genus name for the Sander Award. After a short discussion among the membership, it was decided to maintain the current award name.

Paul Christel

From: John Bruner: [jbruner@ualberta.ca](mailto:jbruner@ualberta.ca)

Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 12:45 PM

To: [pchristel@cheqnet.net](mailto:pchristel@cheqnet.net)

Subject: *Stizostedion lucioperca* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Dear Paul Christel:

I have a question concerning the WTC's name for the student travel award. "Sander" is the Austrian common name for *Stizostedion lucioperca*. "Sander" is also a common German epithet for males in the 16th and 17th centuries, e.g. Prince Sander. Why is a North American fisheries organization naming an award for a European species of fish? *Stizostedion* is the correct generic name for walleyes and saugers. The AFS/ ASIH names committee is wrong in accepting Lorenz Okenfuss (who published under the name Lorenz Oken), 1817 mention of Sander as one of Cuvier's genera. Sander was listed as a German common name for *Perea lucioperca* Linnaeus, 1758 (now *Stizostedion lucioperca* (Linnaeus, 1758) several times in the literature prior to Oken, 1817. Sander is not a Latin or Greek name. I think it is incumbent upon the WTC to correct the AFS/ASIH names committee's mistake.

A motion was made for adjournment, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM.

*Respectively submitted by Andy Jansen on behalf of Donna Hanen Muhm*