

**NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee
Annual Business Meeting
73nd Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
Wichita, KS
Meeting Minutes, December 9, 2012**

Welcome and call to order by Jeremy Tiemann.

Review and approval of agenda: Motion made to approve agenda (Schultz), motion approved.

Review and approval of 2011 NCD-ITC business meeting minutes: Motion made to approve minutes (Pitchford), motion approved.

Treasurer's report (from NCD files): We have \$19,977.07 after the final check (\$3,900.42) was cut to the Southern Division for its share of the Catfish 2010 profits. Motion made to approve report (Pitchford), motion approved.

Old Business:

'Catfish College' workshop idea has come up multiple times in the past

- Pitchford – collaborate with student subunits?
- Tiemann – W. Illinois has dorm type facilities at a field station
- Rathbun Lake, Iowa has also been proposed as a possible site

New Business:

- Request for catfish tissue samples was emailed to the group
 - Email Doina.Voin@fws.gov if you can help with collection of bullhead species

State Reports:

Dakotas

- Investigating channel catfish populations and food habits in SD reservoirs

Illinois

- Channel catfish demographics research – regulated vs unregulated rivers
- Documenting flathead catfish population response after reintroduction into Rock River following 2009 fish kill
- Stocked channel catfish into Rock River, infested with washboard mussel glochidia. Attempting to re-establish an important mussel species and enhance a stretch of river that experienced a fish kill.

- Fox River catfish study continued to evaluate populations. Collaborating with anglers and using standard sampling techniques to answer questions about the population.

Indiana

- Indiana DNR wanting to get a better handle on commercial harvest of catfish in the Ohio River
- 'GoFishIN in the City' fishing program starting up.
 - Large channel catfish stocking program will make some adjustments to support the new program
 - Unique partnership between DNR and Terre Haute Federal Correctional Complex will allow for winter holdover fish to be grown to larger sizes
 - Angler surveys and hoop-net sampling are planned to monitor the program

Iowa

- Assessing catfish mortality rates in low-dose rotenone treatments used to eliminate gizzard shad
 - Mesocosm studies at ISU and DNR field trials suggest that catfish were not impacted by treatments of 6 micrograms/liter in 2011 and 9.5 micrograms/liter in 2012
- 'Evaluation of channel catfish populations in Iowa's small constructed lakes' Federal Aid in Fish Restoration study was completed
- Summer heat and drought conditions during 2012 led to stress and mortality of catfish in some Iowa rivers
- Media attention has focused on handfishing in Iowa the past year following the arrest of four men for illegal handfishing of flathead catfish in the Des Moines River. "Hands" are not a legal form of take in Iowa.

Kansas

- Milford Reservoir blue catfish research
 - Movement and habitat study
 - Using telemetry and stationary receivers

Missouri

- 'Noodlers in Missouri' book recently published
 - Describes the social aspects of noodling
- Public meetings held about possible blue catfish regulation changes at Truman Reservoir
 - Slot length limit first proposed then went through a 2nd round of public meetings

- Played this video at the end of the meeting for those interested:
<http://mdc.mo.gov/fishing/regulations/truman-reservoir-and-lake-ozarks-blue-catfish-management-changes-considered>
- Research being conducted on Mark Twain Reservoir
 - Low frequency electrofishing and jug lines
- Parts of the harvest evaluation project still ongoing

Nebraska

- Research projects continue on the Platte and Missouri River focusing on channel catfish and flathead catfish
- Channel catfish exploitation is also being assessed in southeast NE flood-control reservoirs
- Branched Oak Lake flathead catfish trophy fishery population assessment and telemetry study

Wisconsin

- WDNR is nearing completion of the first Catfish Management Plan for Wisconsin and hope to have it complete in early 2013
- WDNR also working to finalize recommendations for catfish age determination in Wisconsin
- Catfish sampling conducted on two segments of the middle Wisconsin River, two sites on the lower Wisconsin River, Wolf River and Pools 8 and 9 of the Mississippi River
- Tested the use of Video Ray ROV to locate wintering flathead catfish in the Wolf River in November. Scuba divers are able to cover pools much more effectively in a shorter amount of time compared to the ROV. Lake tests will be conducted this winter.

Attendees:

Name	Organization	Email
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Submitted by Tony Barada