Dakota—Illinois—Indiana—Iowa—Kansas—Michigan—Mid-Canada—
Minnesota—Missouri—Nebraska—Ohio—Ontario—Wisconsin

Mainstream

Volume 32, Issue 2

September 2015

President's Message by Melissa Wuellner

Fall is upon us once more. Summer memories made are transitioning of thoughts of what's to come – another school year, football and hunting season, falling leaves, evenings around the fire, and pumpkin-flavored everything!

September is a time of transition in the NCD, too. Our leader for the past year, Vince Travnichek, advances to the Past President's position as I begin to take the reins. Thanks for a great year, Vince!

I thought I'd take this opportunity to share with you all my plans for the NCD for the next year. Many of you saw may plan either when you read my candidate bio or when I presented this plan at the Division business meeting in Indianapolis back in February. If so, feel free to stop reading (ha ha!). Here are my goals and what I've been working on so far:

GOAL #1: Updating and revising NCD governing documents

Vince Travnichek and Joe Conroy have been leading the efforts to revise the bylaws in accordance to AFS guidelines. Thanks to these two for volunteering their time on this project! Hopefully we'll have something to show the membership in Grand Rapids.

Our strategic plan is almost expired and the Society plan was recently revised and adopted. I will be leading a committee to work on the NCD plan over the next few months. See the listserv and this newsletter for information on how to volunteer on this committee.

GOAL #2: Increase communications within the NCD

Have you checked out the new *President's Blog* on the NCD webpage (http://ncd.fisheries.org/presidents-blog)? Thanks to Sarah Fox and Brian Borkholder (NCD webmaster) for helping me get this monthly blog up and running. While you're on the website, see all of the other great things Brian has created and let us know what else you'd like to see on the blog on webpage.

To all of the Standing and Technical Committee Chairs and the Chapter and Subunit Leaders: If you haven't yet sent me your updated contact information right away. We'll be using our new e-mail distribution list to get important AFS information to you in a timely manner!

To all NCD members: Make sure you're on our listserv to receive up-to-date information and announcements. Thanks to Doug Workman for his continued service as our listserv administrator. Contact him at dworkman@advancedecological.com if you have any questions.

GOAL #3: Identify and "sell" the unique value of membership to the NCD relative to the Society and Chapters

This is an ongoing goal in

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This newsletter is published twice a year. Deadlines for submission are April and September 1st. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the NCD.

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President's Message (continued)

which I need your help and that I hope inform our next strategic plan. What can the Division do or provide that the Society and Chapters cannot? What can the NCD do more of to help Chapters and Subunits achieve their visions? These are just some of the questions I've been thinking about over the past few months as President-Elect and that I will continue to think about as President. If you have thoughts to share on these topics, please call or e-mail me.

In closing, I raise my glass and toast to another great year and continued success in the NCD! I look forward to seeing you all in Grand Rapids!
Happy Fall! ~Melissa

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee by Doug Workman

The membership of the North Central Division is comprised of members of good standing in the following states and provinces: Alberta, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Manitoba, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Northwest Territories, Ohio, Ontario, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Membership of the North Central Division increased for first time in two years by a total of 140 members from 2014 (Total number of members = 1,278) to 2015 (Total number of members = 1,418). Both regular members and young professionals showed the largest decline in membership in 2014. However, regular membership accounted for the largest growth, with a total reduction of 54 members, followed by young professionals (+49 members) in 2015. Student membership grew by a total of 30 members from 2014 to 2015, which demonstrates two years of positive growth for student members.

Province/State	Honorary	Life	Regular	Retired	Student	Young Professional	Total Number
Alberta		5	39	1	6	14	65
Iowa		14	25	3	10	8	60
Illinois		16	51	9	44	20	140
Indiana		9	24	3	14	7	57
Kansas	1	3	23	3	16	6	52
Manitoba		1	14		4		19
Michigan		26	101	17	81	27	252
Minnesota		24	72	6	39	16	157
Missouri		16	48	4	24	11	103
North Dakota		3	2		8	1	14
Nebraska		5	16	1	10	3	35
Northwest Territories			1			1	2
Ohio		11	32	6	19	12	80
Ontario	2	10	93	6	54	17	182
South Dakota		3	18	3	20	6	50
Saskatchewan		1	16		4		21
Wisconsin		20	54	10	26	19	129
Total by Type	**3**	**167**	**629**	**72**	**379**	**168**	**1418**

Summary of members by location. Data source: AFS August 31, 2015.

Esocid Technical Committee by Cory Kovacs

The Esocid Technical Committee met jointly with the Centrarchid and Walleye Technical committees in Brookings, South Dakota July 21-23. The Esocid Technical Committee had a total of 6 attendees. During the business meeting topics of discussion included budget summary, committee status, and future business meetings. The winter 2016 ETC business meeting will be held in conjunction with the Muskellunge Symposium being held in Minnetonka, MN. For more information on the 2016 Muskellunge Symposium please visit http://ncd.fisheries.org/call-for-papers-3rd-international-muskellunge-symposium/ for additional details. There are still a few copies of the Proceedings of The *International Pike Symposium* book available. If interested please contact Cory Kovacs.

Walleye Technical Committee State Updates by Hilary Meyer

Illinois

Update sent from Jason DeBoer and Mike Garthaus

Our current statewide walleye management plan is over 15 years old, although revisions and updates are currently underway.

Current Fishing Regulations

Illinois has a statewide regulation for walleye, sauger, and saugeye. The statewide regulation is a 14" minimum length limit with a 6 per day harvest limit. Some water bodies have site specific regulations for walleye, sauger, and saugeye (e.g., larger minimum size, smaller/larger daily bag limit, protected slot).

Proposed 2015 Stocking

Illinois stocks walleye, saugeye, and sauger in a variety of large and small lakes, reservoirs, and rivers. All of our stocked walleye, saugeye, and sauger come from local broodstock and in-state hatcheries.

	Fry (< 2")	Fingerling (2-4")	Sub-adult (4-8")
Walleye	11,989,070	1,479,612	
Saugeye		171,845	3,450
Sauger	1,000,000	394,364	
total	*12,989,070*	*2,045,821*	*3,450*

Northern Illinois Rivers Stocking Evaluation Steve Pescitelli IDNR

We have been stocking walleye on the Kankakee and Fox Rivers since 2000. We also started a sauger stocking program on the Des Plaines River in 2001. These programs have been successful based on electrofishing surveys and angler reports (no creel studies); the target CPUE range for walleye in Illinois is 15-20/hr.

For the Kankakee River, prior to stocking, catch rates were in 1-3/hour range. Since then the catch rates have averaged 30/hour in spring sampling. For 10 years the stocked walleye fingerlings were marked with OTC, and fish of all sizes were harvested for otolith analysis. Based on that study, about 70% of the walleye were of hatchery origin. For this program, brood stock have always been obtained from native Kankakee River walleye. We release about 90,000 2" fingerlings into the Kankakee and Iroquois Rivers. Anglers have also reported increased catch rates since the program began.

For the Fox River, 50,000 2" walleye fingerlings are stocked per year in the area between Montgomery Dam and Silver Springs State Park. Catch rates are a bit lower for the Fox River, generally between 5-10/hour. In fall 2014, 79 walleye were collected below the Montgomery Dam including many YOY. The upper Fox River appears to get walleye "overflow" from the Chain-O-Lakes stocking program, with catch rates in selected areas exceeding 20/hour.

Prior to stocking, sauger did not occur in the 'upper' Des Plaines River (upstream of Brandon Road Dam), at least in recent history. As part of the Illinois River system, they were endemic to the upper Des Plaines prior to dams and historic water quality limitations. Brood stock for this program is obtained from the Illinois River. On average about 20,000 2" sauger fingerlings are released per year. At prime habitat locations, catch rates were as high as 40 per hour (average 10-15) and anglers reported good catch as well. Sauger move throughout the system and many appear to over winter in the deep tailwaters below the Lockport lock.

INHS

Lake Shelbyville – Matt Diana INHS

Project underway to determine the status of the walleye and sauger fishery as well as evaluate sampling protocols.

Lake Michigan – Josh Dub, Charlie Roswell INHS

In terms of yellow perch, we have several long-term datasets: our spring spawning assessment (started in the early 90's with fyke nets and occurs now with 600' multi-panel gill nets), our juvenile, small-mesh gillnet assessment (started in 2005), and our fall bottom trawl survey for YOY yellow perch (started in 1987). We also survey perch prey items, zooplankton, benthic invertebrates, and fishes. Our creel survey also has a long-

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term dataset on yellow perch harvest, catch rate, and perch directed effort in Illinois waters of Lake Michigan going back to 1986.

In addition to these multi-year datasets I am working on a few new projects:

1) I examined the relationship between cleithra length and fish total length for several Lake Michigan prey species; I am using these relationships to re-create the size of juvenile yellow perch prey items in an effort to better understand when and why yellow perch become piscivorous. **Results suggest that round goby are allowing yellow perch to transition to piscivory earlier than previously described in Lake Michigan**; we are hoping to evaluate what this means for growth and survival.
2) Charlie and I are working on a project that uses external characteristics (shape, size and color) of the urogenital papilla (UGP) to determine the gender of yellow perch. We collect spines from angler-harvested fish for age estimation and are hoping to apply our UGP method to photos of angler-harvested fish to get a better idea of the sex ratio of angler harvest.
3) It is generally believed that Illinois waters of Lake Michigan have substantial rocky substrate suitable for yellow perch spawning; a relatively new project I am working on is mapping historical yellow perch spawning grounds in Lake Michigan using side scan sonar in an effort to quantify and qualify the suitability of nearshore spawning habitat.
4) Lastly, while not targeted specifically at yellow perch, our creel survey is working on an economic project this year to evaluate the spending habits of anglers which could be used to identify differences in perch fishing relative to other (e.g., salmon) fisheries.

Iowa

Update by Randy Schultz

Iowa continues to evaluate a potential barrier to walleye and crappie escapement at Rathbun Reservoir. This is particularly concerning for the walleye population because Rathbun Reservoir is a major brood stock source for the Iowa DNR. We are working with the Corps to provide them requested data in hopes they will assist with funding the barrier. Walleye were tagged and Program MARK was used to estimate apparent survival, detection, and escapement probability. Probability of escapement increased with increasing mean daily discharge and decreased with increasing fish length and release distance from Rathbun dam. Variable weights indicated that discharge was the primary factor related to escapement. Escapement probability increased exponentially with daily discharge and doubled as discharge increased from 40 to 60 m^3/s. In a related study, we utilized a laboratory experiment to evaluate the effectiveness of a bioacoustics bubble-strobe barrier at reducing Walleye escapement rates. Walleyes approached the barrier and were successfully deterred most often when lights were off and sound was on. Walleye escapement rates declined from 89.3% with the barrier off to 44.1% with low and medium sound, whereas up to 100% of the fish escaped with the addition of light. Most Walleyes escaped around sunset indicating that fish were most active during the crepuscular period. Due to these results, an electric barrier is being evaluated.

The Iowa DNR's Interior Rivers and Streams research team is evaluating the relative contribution of intensively reared Walleye fingerlings to interior river Walleye fisheries due to improved methods for producing Walleye fingerlings in plastic lined ponds at Rathbun Hatchery. Using intensive fry culture may produce a larger product than the traditional extensively cultured Walleye raised at Fairport Hatchery. The Iowa DNR's pond stocking program has been discontinued, in an effort to provide additional time to raise river strain Walleye at Fairport Hatchery.

Donna Muhm, Spirit Lake Hatchery management biologist and long term WTC secretary retired December 2014. Donna was acknowledged by the WTC with a certificate of appreciation and received the NCD's Meritorious Service award for her 14 years serving as WTC secretary. Her position was recently posted to be filled.

Kansas

Update by Jeff Koch

The percid egg demand in Kansas is slightly increasing in recent years. In 2014, 85M walleye eggs, 7M saugeye eggs, and 4M sauger eggs were collected from brood reservoirs.

Milford Reservoir was the site of the 2015 NTC tournament sponsored by Cabelas. A total of 185 teams participated and the winning three-day bag was 10 fish weighing 43 lb. Public pressure from local anglers and agency personnel led to an evaluation of the tournament by angler diary (prefishing and tournament diary) and concurrent exploitation study. Participation in the angler diary was poor, with only about 10% of anglers participating, and the data acquired was poor as well. A follow-up online survey was sent to all tourney anglers, but only ~15% of anglers responded. Take home messages were that anglers did not like wipers and blue catfish, generally did not report tagged fish, and did not harvest fish as assumed. Current exploitation rates to date suggest about 45% annual exploitation with mostly poor walleye fishing months ahead.

Kansas is experimenting with Iowa protocols to produce fingerlings and advanced fingerling walleye in tank culture. The pilot project was met with some success. Stocking large fingerlings may be attempted in reservoirs with high densities of nuisance white perch where getting walleye recruitment is difficult.

Kansas may be implementing more restrictive regulations in attempt to provide high-quality walleye fisheries and reduce the likelihood of overfishing, as Mike Quist's work

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suggested. Restrictive seasonal length limits (i.e., 24" MLL), are being discussed in some large reservoirs.

Kansas continues to stock quite a few saugeye in small impoundments and reservoirs with marginal walleye habitat. Triploid saugeye have been produced the last several years, and an evaluation is being conducted to assess growth and survival of triploids and diploids. After year one, diploid saugeye had about 50% higher survival than triploids. Three years of stocking will occur for this evaluation.

Human dimensions work regarding angler perception of walleye management in Kansas was conducted in the last Kansas licensed angler survey. In general, most anglers preferred a moderate minimum length limit over liberal and restrictive regulations. Most anglers did not prefer restrictive regulations; however, anglers that fished waters with restrictive regulations were generally supportive of them after seeing effects on populations.

A recently conducted graduate study at Fort Hays State University regarding food habits and biological control of invasive white perch via piscivores indicated that walleye generally consume white perch at a greater rate than other predators. As such, walleye may be the best management option available for this problem species.

Minnesota

Update by Dale Logsdon

Stocking and production:

2024 stocking:

294,628,228 fry
334,517 small fingerlings
3,054,285 large fingerlings
140,335 yearlings
16,172 > age 1

2015 egg take: 4,636 quarts = 579,809,000 eggs

Research projects underway:

Grace Loppnow (UofM) - Induced nest failure as a mechanism for controlling invasive smallmouth bass (recent modeling paper published in TAFS)

Paul Venturelli (UofM) - Continued research on use of growing degree-days to describe life history and predict sustainable exploitation rates

Jake Graham (BSU) - Red Lakes walleye population dynamics (pelican predation responsible for <1% total annual walleye mortality)

Ethan Karppine (BSU) - Factors influencing the success of walleye fry stocking

Tyler Ahrenstorff (MNDNR) - Bioenergetics of predator species in Mille Lacs

Tim Cross (MNDNR) - Substrate characterization and spawning habitat in Southern Minnesota

Dale Logsdon (MNDNR) - Impacts of walleye stocking in lakes with walleye egg take operations (density dependent effects on YOY growth on Woman and Winnibigoshish)

Melissa Treml (MNDNR) – Population modeling on Mille Lacs

Large Lakes:

Mille Lacs continues to experience poor survival beyond age 1 without a clear explanation of why or what can be done about it. Understanding walleye dynamics is confounded by spiny water flea, zebra mussel, and Eurasian water milfoil infestations, reduced nutrient loading and increased water clarity, increasing temperatures and reduced Tullibee abundance, as well as increased abundance of northern pike and smallmouth bass. Walleye harvest has been restricted to a daily bag of 1 fish that must be between 19" and 20" with no night fishing during the open water season. Smallmouth bass limit increased from 1 to 6 (1 over 18") and northern pike from 3 to 10 (1 over 30" but you must keep 2 below 30" before harvesting the one over 30").

Leech Lake rehabilitative fry stocking discontinued after 10 years (and a cumulative total of 149 million fry) due to the recovery of the population and the subsequent density-dependent reductions in YOY growth and recruitment that accompanied the higher fry densities from increased natural reproduction. Sharpshooters continue to cull cormorants and will be experimenting with exchanging cormorants eggs in the nest with clay eggs to reduce nesting success.

Upper Red Lake regulations planned to be relaxed to reduce apparent density dependent reductions in walleye growth and perch abundance.

Lake Pepin experienced a major increase in perch abundance; perhaps in response to recent reductions in walleye and sauger abundance.

Lake Vermilion is experiencing walleye recruitment issues in west basin and system-wide reductions in perch. Vermilion is an egg source lake that is part of stocking study. Cormorant control through egg oiling has recently been initiated.

Statewide:

There has been a reduction in yellow perch abundance across state.

Increase in night fishing for walleyes is likely biasing our creel estimates.

Remnant populations of a unique walleye strain has been identified is some southern Minnesota

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lakes. DNR staff working to locate pure egg sources for rearing and comparison to strains from northern Minnesota.

New joint DNR/citizen workgroup has recently been formed. Besides the typical discussion about stocking, there was genuine interest by many in the group to consider reduction of the statewide bag limit from 6. Discussion continued about how large a reduction would be required to see a response in the fishery and what effects a bag reduction might have on tourism and license sales. No consensus was obtained, but this will likely be pursued further.

DNR is proposing a 3 zone northern pike regulation that may also benefit yellow perch and walleye populations in the Central part of the state where the proposed regulation would increase the bag limit from 3 fish to 10 fish with 22-25 inch protected slot and only 2 fish over 26 inches. The southern part of the state would see a 24 inch minimum with a bag of 2 and the northeast corner of the state would see a maximum size of 30 inches and a bag of 2.

Missouri

Update by Paul Ciezslewski

Chesapeake Hatchery:
In March, 150 males and 60 female walleye were collected from Bull Shoals Reservoir. These fish yielded 6,464,193 eggs which resulted in 4,547,545 fry (70%). Fry per gram was 250. Twelve, one acre ponds were stocked with 154,000 fry each. These twelve ponds yielded 1,099,809 fingerlings (ave, 1.6"). The walleye fingerling return from fry stocking was 58%. Fingerlings were stocked in the following impoundments:

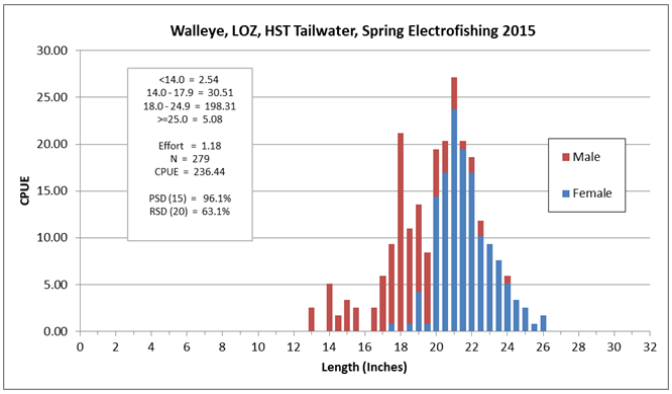
Bull Shoals Reservoir	366,855
Lake Jacomo	19,400
Lake of the Ozarks	243,033
Longview Lake	18,600
Norfork Lake	225,625
Pomme De Terre Lake	18,000
Stockton Reservoir	158,296

Northwest Region
Mozingo Lake: This 1,000 acre impoundment was stocked with 20,000 walleye fingerlings (20/A) in 2014. This impoundment is stocked every other year. In March 2015, the walleye catch rate was 102 /hr. The PSD(15) was 97 and the RSD(20) was 56.

Bilby Ranch Lake: This 110 acre impoundment was stocked with 2,200 walleye fingerlings (20/A) in 2014. It is stocked on a two year rotation. In March 2015, the walleye catch rate was 50 /hr. The PSD(15) was 100 and the RSD (20) was also 100.

Kansas City Region
Longview Lake: Longview Lake is a 930 acre reservoir on the southeast corner of Kansas City, MO. Longview was stocked with three different size walleye in the late 1980's and genetics were used to detect which size-class contributed more to the fishery. It was determined that 2-inch fingerlings were the most cost-effective size-class. The original walleye population was maintained by stocking 30 fingerlings/acre every three years but the population crashed when two consecutive stockings, 1993 and 1996, failed. Based on an evaluation of stocking 50 walleye fingerlings per acre per year, we have reduced the stocking rate to 20/acre and maintained annual stockings
Central Region

Lake of the Ozarks: The annual population survey/brood stock collection below the Truman Dam in Lake of the Ozarks was conducted on March 16th. Through a long-standing agreement, the COE adjusts discharge to 3,500 cfs from Units 1 and 2. This flow adjustment is initiated approximately 36 hours prior to the MDC survey. Discharge is from Units 1 and 2 concentrate walleye along the rocky south bank of the power channel. If Units #3-6 are used, flows concentrate walleye in the center of the channel where MDC staff can't effectively sample.



Southwest Region
Table Rock Lake: Between 2003-2005, MDC stocked 291,377 walleye fingerlings in the James River Arm of Table Rock Lake. These walleye were produced from brood stock that were collected from the Kings River Arm of Table Rock Lake and raised in the MDC hatchery system. We first documented natural reproduction of these stocked fish in 2008. Since that time, surplus walleye have been stocked in the James River Arm at a rate of 10 per acre (90,000) in 2010, 2013, and 2014.

On March 23, 2015 we conducted a walleye sample on the James River to evaluate the stocking success and relative contribution from stocking. A total of 137 walleye were collected in 1.58 hours

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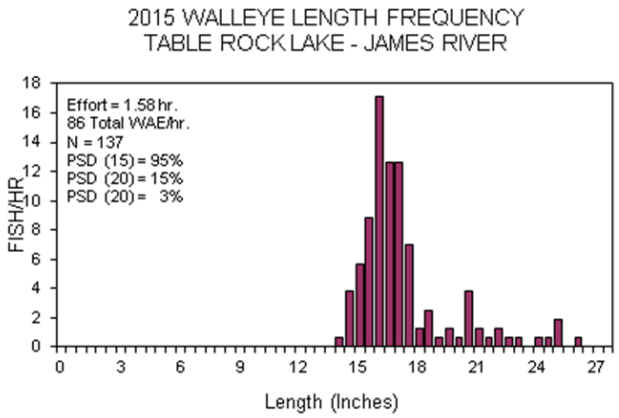
of electrofishing for a CPUE of 86 walleye/hour. This represents the highest catch rate of walleye since the initial stockings in 2003. PSD(15) was 95% and RSD(20) was 15%. Based on past aging of the original OTC marked walleye that were stocked, the majority of the fish collected (14"-17") were 2 years old. Although natural reproduction has been documented in the James River Arm, these fish were likely a result of the 2013 stocking and should reach the legal size limit of 18" by 2016. Surplus walleye were also stocked in 2014 and should greatly contribute to the walleye fishery in the James River Arm of Table Rock Lake.

Pomme de Terre Reservoir: The Pomme de Terre Lake walleye population is assessed by spring sampling using electrofishing gear along the lake dam and in the lake's two main tributaries (Pomme de Terre River and Lindley Creek). In 2015 within the lake, the total walleye catch rate was 66.7 fish per hour. Walleye size structure within the



lake is good with RSD(20) values ranging from 23% to 53% during 2011 through 2015.

In 2015 within the tributaries, total walleye catch rate was 45.0 fish per hour. Overall, catch rates in the tributaries seem to be more variable when compared to those of the lake sites, probably due to greater fluctuations of water conditions. Size structure is also more variable than that of the lake sites, with RSD(20) values ranging from 48% to 81% during the period 2011 through 2015. In accordance with Missouri's Walleye Management Plan, walleye are stocked into Pomme de Terre Lake if surplus are available (up to 47,000 per year). Fortunately, surplus walleye have been available six out of the last seven years (2009 – 2015). In 2012, no surplus was available; therefore, no walleye were stocked.

Stockton Lake: A two year access creel survey was initiated in 2015 which aims to collect walleye harvest rates, catch rates, and angler information during the walleye spawning period on Stockton Lake. The creel ran from February 15th- April 15th and was conducted in dam area of the lake. The dam area has the highest concentration of spawning walleye at Stockton Lake. This creel is the first one that has targeted walleye creel data from the walleye spawning period on Stockton Lake. A roving creel is also being completed on Stockton from March 15th to November 15th. It has been 10 years since a creel has been conducted on Stockton Lake. Data collected during the 2015-2016 Stockton creel surveys will be available and useful when the Missouri State Walleye plan is revised/updated in 2017. The annual stocking of 300,000 walleye fingerlings into Stockton Lake continues to result in more consistent year classes observed in spring samples.

Ozark Region

Bull Shoals Lake: Walleye brood stock were collected from Bull Shoals Lake on March 16th. This effort resulted in a very good production year as Bull Shoals was later stocked with 452,805 (<2") fingerlings. The lake's annual stocking request is 352,000 fingerlings (8 fish/acre), so this year's production includes a surplus stocking of 100,805 fingerlings.

Norfork Reservoir: Norfork Reservoir was stocked with 225,625 (<2") fingerlings, which includes 5,625 surplus stocked fingerlings. The annual stocking request for Norfork is 220,000 (10 fish/acre). Both reservoirs are shared with Arkansas, and the above stocking rates are based on the each lake's entire size and not just Missouri's portions.

Southeast Region

Black River Walleye Strain Research Project: Ongoing Project: Identification of Factors Limiting Hatchery Production and Post-Stocking Survival of Black River Strain Walleye Fingerlings

Goals:

- Increase fingerling returns from ponds to 20 - 25%
- Stock rivers on four year rotation
- Stocked fingerlings > 50% of year class
- Conduct exploitation studies
- Conduct angler mail surveys to estimate angler interest, effort, and catch (on going)

In March, 17 male and 8 females were collected from the Black River. All walleye underwent genetic testing to determine haplotype. Five females produced 914,165 eggs which yielded 263,706 fry (29%). Fry per gram was 143. All 263,706 fry were stocked into a 1-acre pond. A total of 72,472 fingerlings were produced (27% return from fry). These fingerlings (ave, 1.5") were marked with OTC and 70,472 fingerlings were stocked into the St. Francis River

Nebraska-

Update by Brett Miller for Casey Schoenebeck

NGPC biologists Jordan Katt, Keith Koupal, and Brad Eifert in collaboration with Casey Schoenebeck at UNK reported an experimental protected slot limit at Sherman Reservoir has been successful at protecting and enhancing the numbers of brood stock walleyes (well, at least the females, abundance of males has

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decreased). Future work on this population includes continued monitoring of the females and the declining male abundance using mark recapture.

Zach Woiak (MS student – UNK) in collaboration with NGPC has completed investigating the energetic benefits of the age-0 walleye ontogenetic diet shifts within Harlan County Reservoir, Nebraska. Food habits of age-0 walleye were similar between years and showed an ontogenetic diet shift directly from zooplankton to piscivory during the sampling week of June 4th, 2012 at an average length of 61 mm and during the sampling week of June 24th, 2013 at an average length of 68 mm. Peak larval gizzard shad densities occurred on June 3rd and June 18th during 2012 and 2013 respectively, which likely influenced the timing of the age-0 walleye switch to piscivory during both years. Intrachohort variability in length of age-0 walleye was documented throughout the entire duration of both growing seasons. The high contribution of stocked age-0 walleye documented throughout this study (greater than 90% for both years) suggests that the intracohort varability in length observed was not due to differences in growth between naturally produced and stocked age-0 walleye.

Brett Miller (MS student – UNK) in collaboration with NGPC is currently creating a standardized sampling protocol for age-0 white bass and age-0 walleye comparing three gear types across three months over two years on Harlan County Reservoir, Nebraska. CPUE values will be calculated for each gear type to determine which gear type is most appropriate for each month. Diet analysis will also be conducted on age-0 white bass to determine food habits.
Matthew Perrion (MS student – UNK) in collaboration with NGPC is focusing on early life-stages of white bass and walleye in Lake McConaughy, Nebraska. He will describe the seasonal diets of juvenile white bass and walleye (age-0 and age-1) and evaluate walleye (using OTC) and white bass (using otolith microchemistry) stock contribution.

BJ Schall (MS student – UNK) in collaboration with NGPC will be assessing the population dynamics of the sportfish community in Lake McConaughy, Nebraska. Additionally, he will be examining the seasonal spatial distribution of fishes throughout the reservoir.
NGPC biologist Tony Barada reported that an intensive effort to produce and stock advanced walleyes and saugeyes is underway. In previous years very few water bodies were stocked with advanced fish (8-9"). Nine Nebraska water bodies were stocked with advanced walleye during the fall of 2014. The 2015 plan includes nine water bodies to be stocked with advanced saugeye and 17 water bodies to be stocked with advanced walleye. A regulation change was implemented on most waters stocked with advanced fish where the daily bag limit may now include only one fish 15-18" and three greater than 18" OR four greater than 18", with no more than one 22" or longer. This change from the statewide 4 daily bag and 15" minimum length limit is intended to limit premature harvest of the expensively raised advanced walleye and saugeye, while still allowing some harvest of smaller individuals.

North Dakota
Update by Tod Caspers
The walleye population in Devils Lake is doing well. There are many age-classes of walleye in the lake and some of the fish can become quite old, as a 21 year old was sampled two years ago.

We recently finished up our Standard Adult Sampling on Devils Lake. Results are still preliminary, but the overall CPUE of walleye fell to 18.2 walleye/net-night in our 125' variegated gill nets. (24.8 last year)

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has continued working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and local angling groups to open up the Lake Alice National Wildlife Refuge to ice fishing. If everything happens on schedule, ice fishing should be allowed starting this winter. This would allow anglers access to what has become a 15,000 acre lake that supports walleye, pike, perch and white bass.

In the Northeast District of the state, some of our most impressive walleye waters continue to be new fisheries that were formerly duck-marsh type habitats. Some of these waters are also able to produce good numbers of walleye over 24" long.

Across the rest of the state, the good old days of walleye fishing continue to be right now. We are still relatively wet and the fish populations have responded very well to the abundance of water. Since 1997 we have added 87 new walleye fisheries. State-wide there are currently 146 waters that have fishable walleye populations and we seem to be able to add a few on to the total each year, as there were 141 last year. About the only place where walleye are not doing so well is the Missouri River system below Lake Sakakawea. This is due to habitat degradation and poor forage production since the flood of 2011. Conditions are improving, but there are still some areas where the walleye populations are still in tough shape.
Our department stocked walleye in 131 lakes this year. The 8.5 million fingerlings stocked were generally about 30 days old and were around 1.25" long.

South Dakota
Updated by Mark Fincel
Spawning:
During 2015, a total of 75.7 million walleye eggs were collected from 9 South Dakota Lakes (I can get you the list of lakes if needed.) and this resulted in 36.1 million walleye fry (48% hatch) being stocked into South Dakota lakes or hatchery ponds. Also, 7.1 million yellow perch eggs were collected which resulted in 4.5 million eyed eggs being available to either stock

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hatchery ponds, natural rearing ponds, or use to produced fry. Yellow perch fry production attempts were unsuccessful during 2015.

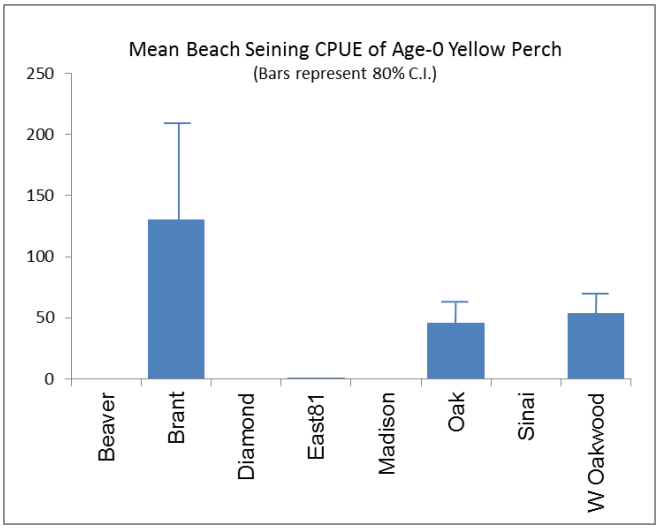
Projects:

Natal contribution and movement of walleye in Lake Sharpe, SD evaluated using otolith microchemistry.
Previous microchemistry research pointed to North Shore, Fort George, and West Bend being the most important natal contributors to the Lake Sharpe walleye population. Current research suggests West Bend is the most important natal contributor, with all other sites contributing less than 8%. Also, entrainment in 2013 was 19% with 70% entrained during the flood. 2014 entrainment seems to have decreased to only 1%. Hipple Lake doesn't seem to be important at any stage of Lake Sharpe walleyes' life histories, but contributes to 20% of natal gizzard shad production.

Lake Oahe walleye tagging
Approximately 9,100 walleye jaw tagged in 2015 with over 2,000 returns to date. This project is currently in its third (of five) years.
Questions to answer:
-Movement of walleye
-mortality rates
-model effects of different regulations

Stocking Produces a Large Yellow Perch Year Class in Brant Lake, South Dakota
In 2014, the stocking of 499,000 (500/acre) hatchery-reared yellow perch fingerlings (600-950/lb) into 987-acre Brant Lake has apparently produced a large year class. The lake was stocked due to several consecutive years of poor natural recruitment. About 75% of the fingerlings were OTC-marked so stocking contribution could be assessed.

More age-0 yellow perch were caught while beach seining Brant Lake than any of the other waters sampled last fall (see figure below). Bright OTC marks were present on the otoliths of 43 of 61 fish (70%) indicating a 93% stocking contribution.



The Brant Lake stocking represents our first success at producing a strong yellow perch year class in a large lake. Fingerling stocking has increased yellow perch abundance in some smaller waters (< 400 acres), but success has varied. The abundance of naturally-produced fish has often exceeded that of stocked fish. Additionally, the contribution of perch fry stocked into natural rearing ponds has also been negligible. Continued evaluation will be needed to ultimately determine whether yellow perch stocking can significantly improve fishing in South Dakota.

Chair Schultz updated the committee on the budget of the WTC:

07/07/15

2015 WTC	Description	Expenses	Deposits	Balance
01-Jan				13,450.22
27-Jan	Sander	$100.00		
19-Feb	Schultz Midwest reg	$310.00		
23-Mar	plaque	$25.00		
07-Jul	MM interest		$19.92	
		$435.00	$19.92	13,035.14

- The WTC has the second largest budget of all the technical committees
- D. Isermann moved to approve the budget and M. Wuellner seconded
- Chair Schultz mentioned that the WTC would be donating money to the SDSU student Sub-unit for their help in catering the WTC summer meeting
- Chair Schultz inquired about the Sander Travel award for students to attend the Midwest
- Secretary Meyer advised that the award announcement was sent out the NCD and WTC listserv, as well as to a number of professors that are involved with the WTC.

The executive committee is looking for a chair-elect for next year

Old Business

- Secretary Meyer is currently working with Chair Schultz on up-dating the WTC procedures manual and will eventually put it on the website to provide better description of job duties

If anyone is interested in being involved in working on the procedures manual contact secretary Meyer

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New Business

- Chair Schultz recommended contacting IL and IN members about whether they might be able to attend a meeting in Chicago next year
  - ◊ D. Isermann suggested that travel restrictions in IL are so tight that they may not even be able to afford a meeting in state
- M. Wuellner asked about when the best time would be to hold a mid-year governing board meeting for NCD at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids, MI
  - ◊ Did not want to overlap with the joint tech committees

The group discussed holding a joint WTC/CTC/ETC winter meeting due to low attendance; most members were supportive of this.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Make Plans to Join Us!

The **76th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference** will be held **January 24 - 27, 2016** at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The annual conference attracts over 800 biologists and students from state, federal and tribal natural resource agencies across the 13 Midwestern states. Highlights include: over 400 technical presentations, poster displays; including a new digital format, plenary sessions, networking opportunities and social events.

Conference registration is open! Click here to review registration options and pricing.

Using Acoustic Tags to Track Fish

4-5 February 2016 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Attend Online or On-Site
Hosted at the University of Washington School of Aquatic Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA
http://www.HTIsonar.com/at_short_course.htm

This course addresses all aspects of tracking fish movement with acoustic tags, including three-dimensional tracking with sub-meter resolution. It includes hands-on-operation and a variety of fish monitoring applications are covered. Lunch is provided for on-site students. Reserve a seat or ask a question at **support@HTIsonar.com.**

Tuition Rate Offer (50% discount) for university students, university staff, non-profit and tribal organizations.
http://www.htisonar.com/Training_Special_Offer.htm

Using Hydroacoustics for Fisheries Assessment

11-12 February 2016 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Attend Online or On-Site
Hosted at the University of Washington School of Aquatic Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA
http://www.HTIsonar.com/ha_short_course.htm

CHAPTER & STUDET SUBUNIT REPORTS

Missouri Chapter & Student Subunits submitted by Amanda Rosenberger

Education Initiative in Missouri
Greg Pitchford, our president-elect, traveled around Missouri this year to visit all of our student subunits. It was a terrific way to connect these subunits with the chapter and the parent society and make them more aware of the opportunities that MOAFS offers. Greg took that opportunity to get feedback from students regarding what they want from MOAFS and AFS membership. In summary, our students appreciate our financial support for attending meetings, scholarships, awards, and opportunities for leadership. They would like to get more involved with the Missouri natural Resources Conference and want additional opportunities to present their work and make contacts. But what they want most of all, is to learn - to be the best fisheries biologists that they can be when they enter the job market. That being said, we are, as a state, currently struggling with just this issue. Universities in Missouri, dealing with lack of funds, flagging legislative support, fewer permanent faculty facing increasing enrollment, and changing priorities of university leadership, are struggling or simply cannot provide a complete and comprehensive fisheries curriculum to the state's fisheries students. In Greg's words: "As a professional society we need to help rebuild our fisheries education programs in the state or we will have no students to support in the future. In my opinion, this is an issue that can not only energize our chapter, but have a positive impact for years to come."

Can we, as a society, help fill in some of the gaps and use that to better connect with and serve the needs of our student members? With this in mind, I set up an ad hoc committee to investigate what courses and educational experience our students most need in Missouri – what gaps there are in curricula and what classes may be 'on the books' but no longer have a permanent faculty to guarantee their availability to students. The AFS certificate for Fisheries Professionals offers the most comprehensive list of classes fisheries students need, so we are using that as our guideline.

Student Support – A new course set for student support trust fund
Five years ago, the MOAFS achieved its goal of raising $100,000 to support students who are pursuing careers in fisheries. An investment plan developed in 2000 called for using the annual earnings from the one hundred grand principle to help students interested in becoming aquatic resource scientists and managers. Unfortunately, interest rates have not provided near the revenue that the chapter had originally hoped for, with SSTF investments yielding less than two percent on the principle over the past five years. Ways to gain a better return on the SSTF were discussed at the executive Committee meeting in November of 2014. A 21 page preliminary report outlining four prospective investment strategies were submitted to the members of the Executive and Finance committees the following month. Afte3r further discussion among officers and committee members, the plan was presented at the chapter's annual business meeting. A majority of those attending wanted to adopt a new 50/50 investment strategy. Acting on this, the Finance committee created a Student Support Trust Fund Investment Plan unanimously approved by the committee, which has been implemented by our treasurer.

New Fundraiser
The Missouri Chapter is currently raising funds for student support. The goal is to raise $10,500 by 2016 to promote educational and professional aquatic Science opportunities for our future fisheries professionals. Funding will be used to provide scholarships, recognitions and travel awards to deserving students. A donation of $25 provides a chance at winning one of up to 15 hunting rifles. The raffle is graduated in nature, meaning that, the more tickets we sell, the more rifles are up for raffle and the odds remain steady at 1/30. Drawing will occur right before Christmas and be announced on our website on Christmas Day. This raffle is part of our ongoing efforts to engage the public and reach outside of our membership to generate funds for student support.

New Student Scholarship Opportunity
MOAFS is proud to offer a **$2500** scholarship for undergraduates at Missouri schools in the aquatics sciences fields. The deadline to apply is **October 1.** Preference will be given to students who are active in AFS.

Anglers with Disabilities – Third Annual Day at the Trout Park
On a beautiful day in April, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), MOAFS, The James Foundation, Meramec Springs Trout Park, and Choices for People Center gave anglers with disabilities an opportunity to enjoy "A Day at the Trout

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Park" Fishing event and Meramec Spring Trout Park. About 80 disabled anglers enjoyed time catching over 100 trout.

MOAFS Student Support Committee Recognizes Award Winners

The MOAFS Student Support Committee was busy these last few months with recognizing several award winners, both from MOAFS and other organizations

- MOAFS Student Achievement Award: Terry Gerke (University of Central Missouri); Sierra Comer (Missouri S&T)
- MAOFS Best Student Aquatics Presentations at the Missouri Natural Resource Conference: Matthew Schrum, poster (University of Missouri); Corey Dunn, platform (University of Missouri)
- MAOFS Duffy Travel Award: Kyle Bayles (Southeast Missouri State)
- Conservation Federation of Missouri Ed Stegner and Carl Morrow Scholarships: Mary Mabery (University of Missouri); and Matthew Schrum (University of Missouri)

In addition, the committee assisted UCM students with their costs to travel to Missouri Natural Resources Conference.

Documentation and History of our Chapter

Joe Dillard, one of our esteemed, longtime members of MOAFS has been compiling historical records and hopes to get them posted on the website. It is a long, arduous, and valuable process. He has compiled documentation of our beginnings, our meeting times and places, our officers, our meeting summaries, our meeting minutes, our resolutions, our awards (given and received), our guiding documents, and our policies and procedures. Joe is also in the process of revising our procedural manual to bring it up to date and in line with our bylaws revision of 2007.

Legislative Storms in Missouri

The recently ended 2015 legislative session in Missouri saw an unprecedented 27 bills, of which only two could be categorized as pro-conservation. Two would have hampered or prevented MDC from cooperating with like-minded not-for-profit conservation groups. Six pertained to cervids as livestock, Chronic Wasting Disease, and deer/vehicle collisions. Three bills would have hampered MDC law enforcement practices. Four bills would have negatively impacted revenue for MDC. Our representative with the Conservation Federation of Missouri kept membership abreast of legislative developments, and, thanks in large to the efforts and vigilance of the Conservation Federation of Missouri, none of these poorly-conceived and potentially damaging bills passed.

Symposia and Workshops

The MOAFS Rivers and Streams Committee sponsored a workship titled, "How to involve volunteers in conservation efforts" at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference. Approximately 30 people attended the workshop and were very engaged. MOAFS also organized a symposium prior to the Missouri Natural Resources Conference to highlight research taking place in universities around the state. Overall, 17 presentations were given, 11 by students. Approximately 80-100 people were in attendance.

Our Membership is on the Front Lines of Asian Carp!! Activities of the USFWS Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

The USFWS Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (CFWCO) has had a busy Spring conducting fisheries sampling for Pallid Sturgeon broodstock collection and population assessment, young sturgeon habitat assessment, and Asian carp research. During broodstock collection efforts on the Lower Missouri River this year, CFWCO deployed 4,653 trotline hooks and captured 32 Pallid Sturgeon. Habitat assessment sampling (HAMP) began on May 4, and will continue through the end of October. This is the second year of this project, which is focused on comparing age-0 sturgeon abundance among five different reaches in the Lower Missouri River, each with varying levels of shallow water habitat (SWH; depths <1.5 m under average flow conditions). Reaches are classified as having low SWH (<20-30 acres/river mile) or high SWH (>20-30 acres/river mile). This research should also allow us to identify microhabitat features that are important for YOY sturgeon survival. Additionally, subsamples of collected YOY sturgeon are being used in a diet analysis study conducted by Oklahoma State University. Confirmed larval Pallid Sturgeon were collected from the Lower Missouri River last year by HAMP crews from USACE (N=1) and MDC (N=2). The Columbia HAMP crew collected 1,680 YOY sturgeon in the 2014 season and we are waiting for our genetics results with our fingers crossed!

CFWCO has been a leading innovator in the development of new gears to combat invasive Asian carp. Some of the techniques currently being tested include the Paupier butterfly frame trawl (which can be electrified) and several types of surface trawls. In addition to building, testing and conducting gear comparisons, crews have been traveling to Illinois to help with projects near the electric barrier in Chicago and on the Illinois River. At the beginning of April, Greg Faulkner of Innovative Net Systems, traveled to Columbia from his home in Louisiana. As one of the world's master net makers, Greg helped us evaluate and modify new net and trawl door designs for Asian carp sampling. We tried to soak up as much knowledge as we could, and now have some interesting new additions to our Asian carp arsenal.

Continuing Education – Spring Student Workshop

MOAFS and the Missouri Chapter of the Wildlife Society held a joint spring student workshop on April 17-19 in Saint Louis. Students from four universities in Missouri participated. Students participat-

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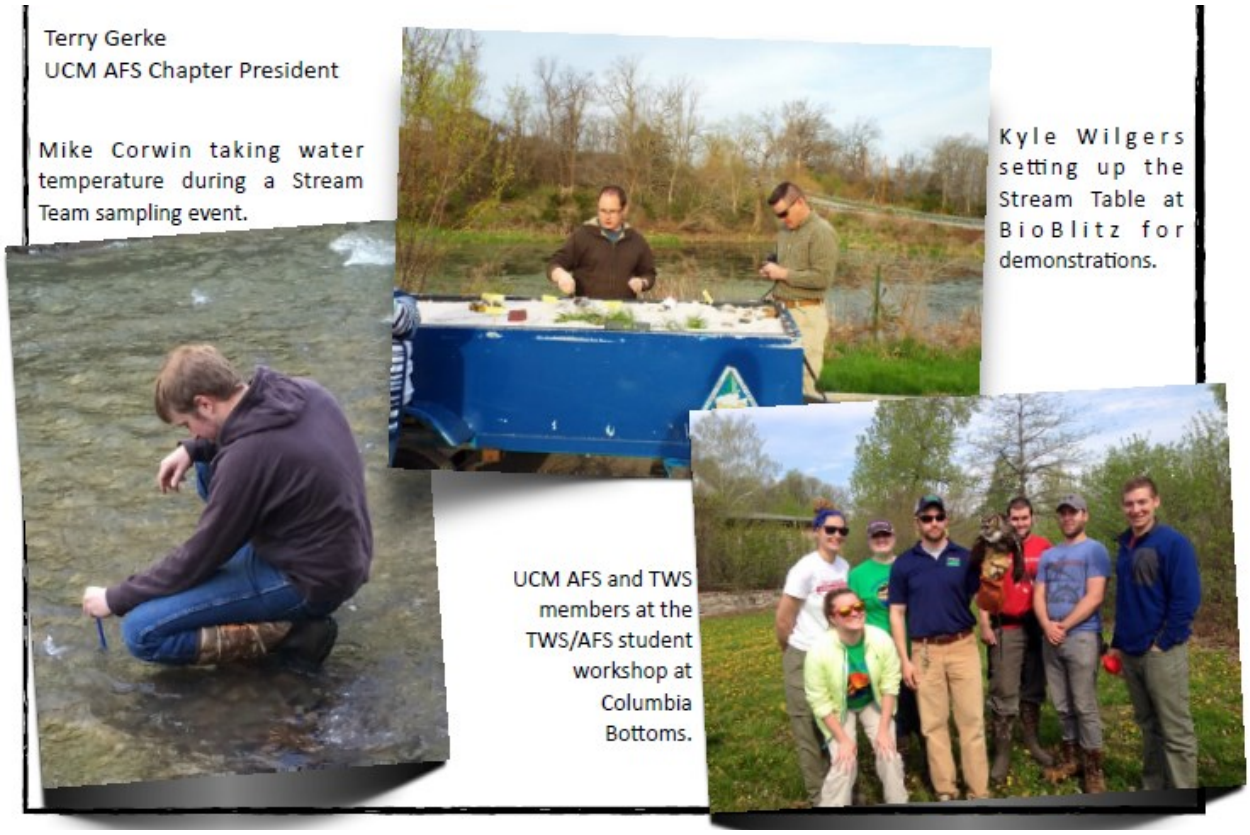
ed in several sampling and management activities for herps, fish, birds, deer, and habitat, and even learned a thing or two about Asian carp cleaning and cooking!!

University of Missouri Student Subunit (FASS)
Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Society (FASS) is the official student subunit of the American Fisheries Society at the University of Missouri, Columbia. The purpose of FASS is to promote interactions and activities that allow members interested in aquatic sciences to develop professionally and to involve members in matters important to the preservation, conservation, and enhancement of aquatic resources in Missouri.

In spring 2015, FASS has been involved in many activities. As members of the Missouri Stream Team, FASS collected water quality data from Grindstone Creek within the city limits of Columbia, Missouri for the Missouri Department Conservation and Missouri Division of Natural Resources. FASS members also presented a proposal to the Director of the School of Natural Resources and the Department Chair of Fisheries and Wildlife to have a native fish aquarium installed in the Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building. The project was approved by the administration and FASS is currently moving forward with aquarium construction.

This academic year, FASS collaborated with Dr. Mark Morgan in the Parks and Recreation department with ongoing research examining the possibility of producing a market for Asian carp here in Columbia, Missouri. FASS held an Asian carp chili fundraiser in fall of 2014 and an Asian carp fish taco fundraiser in spring of 2015.

University of Central Missouri Student Subunit Report
This past February the University of Central Missouri Fisheries Society attended the Missouri Natural Resource Conference down at Tan-Tar-A hotel and resort. While there the students networked with professionals and other students interested in the natural resource field. Since then some of the students have attended Pond Management Workshops, a Stream Team Introductory Workshop here on campus, and assisted the Blind Pony Fish Hatchery with Paddlefish spawning. We also had one of our members help with Pallid Sturgeon broodstock sampling. At the annual BioBlitz, which was put on by both the Fisheries Society and the Wildlife Societies here on campus, we had an Asian Carp fillet demonstration, a fly tying booth with Mark Van Patton, and stream table demonstrations. A week later, the TWS/AFS student workshop was attended by several our members as well, and more look forward to attending in the future. Lastly we have done some Stream Team monitoring on Post Oak Creek here in Warrensburg.



Southeast Missouri State Student Subunits

Semo1 — Andy Bueltmann (left) and Dr. Quinton Phelps (right) picking up trash along Cape la Croix Creek

It has been a busy spring for our subunit at Southeast Missouri State. We began this semester with officer elections in which Nick Kramer was chosen to be president, Mike Wolf as vice president, Seth Love as our Treasurer, and Jacob Fernholz as the new secretary. Our new officers got to work right away making plans for future activities most of which are scheduled for the summer months. We did manage to squeeze in some activities during this spring semester such as helping MDC with a stream clean up on Cape La Croix Creek in Cape Girardeau and a group fishing trip to Devil's Kitchen Lake in southern Illinois. We had numerous students attend and present research at various conferences such as the MOAFS symposium at MNRC, Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Indianapolis, IN, and the Mississippi River Research Consortium in La Crosse, WI. We also had students present at their respective home state's AFS meetings with one going to Minnesota's chapter meeting and two presenting at Iowa's chapter meeting.

At these conferences, the majority of the active members of our subunit presented research and a few members received awards: Kyle Bales, Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award Finalist and the Joan Duffy Award at Midwest; Nick Kramer, Mike Wolf, and Chris Schwinghamer, Student Travel Award at MRRC.

Other plans for the Summer months consist of helping boy scouts obtaining their fisheries and wildlife conservation badges, helping out at a kids fishing derby, and providing a live fish identification presentation to junior high students in our area.

Semo2—Subunit members presented at the 47th annual Mississippi River Research Consortium. Presenters from Left to Right: Dr. Quinton Phelps, Chris Schwinghamer, Andy Bueltmann, Mike Wolf*, and Nick Kramer* (*denotes student travel award winners)*

Indiana submitted by Mark Pyron

About 15 Indiana AFS members met on August 22nd at the Indiana State Fair to help about 200 children catch catfish and bluegill. Our chapter assists with the State Fair fishing pond every year as an opportunity to reach young anglers.

Our Fall meeting will be September 23 at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge in southern Indiana. We are conducting a continuing education program "Natural Resources Management in an Increasingly Connected World." This program will highlight newer technologies for collecting field data or for data analyses including mobile apps, underwater cameras, sonar or mapping technologies and integration with water resources.

Our fall meeting in 2014 was a workshop by Dr. Alan Temple from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, "Increasing Fish Capture Efficiency and Sampling Precision of Electrofishing". Topics were electric waveform attributes (e.g., peak voltage, duty cycle), features of waveforms important for capture, electric field elements and mapping techniques, experimental approaches to determine effective waveforms, electrode design, development and use of power goal tables , electric field standardization, and determination of equipment operating range across water conductivity. An overall framework for increasing capture efficiency and precision will be discussed. This workshop was useful to our members who use electrofishing, and we highly recommend the workshop by Alan Temple to other chapters.

Wisconsin Chapter & Subunits submitted by Mike Seider, President

The Wisconsin Chapter is beginning to plan for its upcoming annual meeting being held on February 17-19th, 2016. The meeting will be held on the shores of the Mississippi River at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The chapter is also organizing a two-day continuing education course on fish health lead by the La Crosse Fish Health Center (USFWS) to be held immediately prior to the annual meeting. The course will focus on the field identification (and cause) of infectious and noninfectious fish diseases. More information about the meeting and continuing education is available at the Wisconsin Chapter website: http://www.wi-afs.org/Home.aspx/

The chapter continues to support the student subunits at UW-Stevens Point (contact, Sam Schaick, uwsp-subunit@wi-afs.org), Northland College (contact, Katie Windschitl, northland-subunit@wi-afs.org), UW-Green Bay (contact, Jeremiah Shrovnal, uwgb-subunit@wi-afs.org), and UW- Stout (contact, Jeremy Eckert, uwstout-subunit@wi-afs.org). As the student subunits have grown and offer more opportunities for their membership to participate in various field projects they often struggle to provide enough gear (e.g. waders) for their membership. These projects provide invaluable experience to students, so the Wisconsin Chapter recently agreed use a portion of their budget to purchase new gear for the subunits annually.

The UW-Green Bay subunit is holding their first annual 5K Spawning Run on Saturday, October 17th. Proceeds from the event will support education and outreach, habitat restoration and fisheries conservation efforts in Green Bay. For more information or to register visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/uwgb-5k-spawning-runwalk-tickets-17416419981.

The UW- Stevens Point subunit has another busy semester including electro-shocking on the Little Plover River, fyke netting on the Wisconsin River, and assisting the WiDNR with Chinook processing at the Strawberry Creek Salmon Weir (on Lake Michigan). The subunit plans to hold a workshop on either minnow identification or age and growth. Throughout the year, they also welcome guest speakers to their weekly meetings, both professionals and students, to share their fisheries experiences. If anyone is interested in following the UW-Stevens Point subunit, "Like" them on Facebook: American Fisheries Society – UWSP Student Subunit.

Minnesota Chapter & Subunit submitted by Owen Baird

The Minnesota Chapter will be having their 2016 annual meeting in Duluth, MN on February 1-3, 2016. This will be a joint meeting with the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. Abstract submission, registration, and more details will be available at http://mnafs.org/

Minnesota State University Mankato Student Subunit

submitted by Scott Malotka and Nathan J. Lederman

2014 was a year full of plenty noteworthy events for the Minnesota State University, Mankato Subunit (MNSU-AFS). Events focused on the technical, professional, and personal development of student members. Events included coordinating a listening session for the Minnesota River Congress on the campus of MNSU and attending the main Minnesota River Congress, held in New Ulm, Minnesota. Members were presented an opportunity to enhance their public outreach capabilities and start to their build professional networks. Public outreach efforts also included directing two community river cleanup on the Minnesota River that involved citizen volunteers, support from state and local governing agencies, as well as the community engagement department at MNSU. Members connected with other students, shared their knowledge with community members, as well as networked current professionals in the field. Members even attended and presented at both state and regional conferences like the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MN-AFS) annual meeting and Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Members also participated in marcophyte, fish identification, and fish age and growth workshops. Workshops included field work of collecting specimens using a variety of sampling gear and lab work of preparing and preserving samples as reference collection building their technical experience in the field of fisheries. Workshops were incorporated in the development of a fisheries experiment that included grant writing and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) form preparation. Culminating in the submission of the grant application to Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and the Education sector of AFS and the IACUC form submission to campus directors. The subunit's IACUC was approved and they were awarded a grant from Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

The subunit also completed various fundraisers through Toppers, Pizza Ranch and at a variety of events including the MN-AFS annual meeting. One fundraiser that the subunit used throughout the year included selling hand made bottle cap lures that were sold at a variety of events, such as the MN-AFS conference.

Currently, events and activities planned for 2015 have already been initiated. The subunit is participating in the South Central Service Cooperative Science and Nature Conference and have partnered with MinnAqua of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to host a learning session for conference attendees on aquatic food webs. The subunit also plans to continue to host speakers in both the fisheries and aquatic sciences field present to and host workshops for the subunit. The subunit will also attend and present the finding from their larval fish deformation project at 2016 Minnesota Chapter American Fisheries Society annual meeting. For more information regarding the MNSU- student subunit and our upcoming events, find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/mnsuafs!

Ohio submitted by Tory Gabriel

On September 18, 2015 the Ohio Chapter held a summer meeting for the first time since 2012. The meeting was generously hosted by the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium, and after the business meeting the Curator of Fishes & Invertebrates led us on a behind the scenes tour of the newly renovated aquarium building. New exhibits include several native species displays, including a 7,000+ gallon tank representing the Lake Erie Islands, with Lake Sturgeon being prominently displayed. There is also an informative display tank exhibiting local Ohio invasive species as "living pollution" in our native waterways.

During the business portion of the meeting Past President Chris Winslow reported successfully implementing one of his main goals during his term by offering a series of workshops at Stone Lab. These one to two day workshops include Fish Aging, Fisheries Fundamentals, Fish Sampling Techniques, Aquatic Invasive Species Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (AIS-HACCP), Algal Identification, and Dealing with Cyanobacteria. Regarding the Fish Sampling Techniques workshop, a motion was passed during the meeting that OCAFS would make funds available for up to two scholarships for deserving students enrolled in the workshop.

Current Education Committee Chair Eugene Braig and former Secretary/Treasurer John Navarro reported on their experience judging science fair projects at Ohio's State Science Day to award OCAFS sponsored awards. They were overall encouraged with the quality of projects, and noted that recently most projects that apply for our award focus on aquaponics.

Other topics discussed included updating the Ohio Chapter strategic plan, coordinating and scheduling future meeting dates and topics, and recruiting new members to the chapter. Former chapter presidents Joe Conroy and Curt Wagner outlined a potential plan for chapter meetings through 2019, and after discussion a motion was passed to create a Meetings subcommittee within the Ohio Fisheries Leadership committee that will focus on planning and organizing annual meetings. Regarding recruitment of new members, President Elect Chris Mayer noted that there appears to be growing interest among students from both University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University to potentially form new student subunits. We were fortunate to have several new faces at this meeting, three of whom were students of the aforementioned universities. We are excited about the possibility and the long term positive effects of having larger student representation in the Ohio Chapter!

photo credit: Toledo Zoo & Aquarium

photo credit: Toledo Zoo & Aquarium

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted: NCD Short-term Volunteers

Are you looking to serve AFS at the Division level?
We are looking for volunteers to serve on the NCD Strategic Plan Revision Committee that will go into effect for 2016 – 2021. A team of 6 – 8 NCD members representing our membership – including those employed by state, federal, NGO, and private organizations, students, faculty, Americans , Canadians, and all other groups – is desired. The group will start around mid- to late-October and will meet by conference call every two to four weeks to build the plan. The good news is that every new version of the Strategic Plan at the Society and Division levels seem to get shorter and shorter!

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Melissa Wuellner at melissa.wuellner@sdstate.edu.
The current NCD and AFS strategic plans can be found at http://ncd.fisheries.org/afs-north-central-division-strategic-plan/ and http://fisheries.org/afs-strategic-plan-for-2015-2019. Serving on this committee is a great way to learn more about and contribute to what the Division can do! Hope you'll serve!

Hey, NCD leaders!

Have you updated your leader name and contact information recently? We're still looking for information on who is leading the following standing committees, technical committees, chapters, and subunits:
Archives Committee
Resolutions Committee
Student Affairs Committee
Communications Committee
AFS Meritorious Service Award
Rivers and Streams Technical Committee
Salmonid Technical Committee
Illinois Chapter
Minnesota Chapter
Missouri Chapter
Southern Illinois Student Subunit
University of Illinois Student Subunit
Ball State University Student Subunit
Indiana University Student Subunit
Manchester University Student Subunit
Purdue University Student Subunit
Iowa State University Student Subunit
University of Minnesota Student Subunit
Missouri State University Student Subunit
University of Nebraska – Lincoln Student Subunit
Please note for the subunits, we're looking for the student president contact information.

Send the leader name and preferred email to Melissa Wuellner at melissa.wuellner@sdstate.edu. We are hoping to use this email distribution list often over the next year to share important information between the NCD and these units. Thank you for your time!

Calling all fisheries professionals! That means you, too, students!

We are requesting your help with a research project examining perceptions of walleye and black bass interactions among fisheries professionals. We have developed a 15-20 minute online voluntary survey designed to collect data for this research.

If you are interested in completing this survey, please visit http://questionpro.com/t/ALWQUZSxY3. There are no known risks or benefits to you for participating in this study. Your responses are strictly confidential. When the data and analysis are presented, you will not be linked to the data by your name, title or any other identifying item. We plan to present the results of this survey at future AFS meetings and in AFS publications where appropriate.

If you took this survey at the Joint Technical Committee Meeting in Brookings, SD this past July, no need to repeat the survey. Thank you for your prior participation!

Thank you very much for your time and assistance with this work! We look forward to reviewing the results!

Sincerely,

Melissa R. Wuellner
Assistant Professor
South Dakota State University
605-688-5963
melissa.wuellner@sdstate.edu

Daniel J. Dembkowski
Fisheries Research Scientist
Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit
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NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

Walleye Technical Committee
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
Student Travel Grant
"Sander Award"

Purpose: To financially assist a student conducting research of interest to the Walleye Technical Committee (WTC).

Description: A travel grant of $100 from the WTC of the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society for a student to attend the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

Eligibility Criteria: The recipient of this award must be a student who is currently enrolled in a college or university for a degree program. Preference will be given to those involved in research of interest to the WTC.

Documentation required: An application letter from the student that includes: student's name, address, telephone number, educational institution, department, degree level, a short description of current research, reasons for wishing to attend the meeting (paper or poster presentation, pertinent paper session, sub-unit business and/or technical meetings), and reasons why financial assistance is needed.

Selection Criteria: The Operations Subcommittee of the WTC will evaluate applicants based on the following criteria:

a. AFS involvement (reasons for attending the meeting).
b. Relevance of research to the goals of the WTC.

Frequency of Award: The WTC will select one recipient each year.

Deadline: The deadline for receipt of completed applications by the Chair of the WTC is October 31st, 2015.

Please e-mail application materials to: Randy Schultz at Randy.Schultz@dnr.iowa.gov

*The Chair of the WTC will request matching funds from the student's AFS Chapter (total award up to $200), however there is no formal arrangement that guarantees matching funds.

AFS Now Accepting Applications for 2016 Class *Planning and Executing Successful Rotenone and Antimycin Projects*

The 2016 AFS continuing education class *Planning and Executing Successful Rotenone and Antimycin Projects* is now accepting applications for enrollment. The 4 ½ day course is recommended training by EPA for those using rotenone and antimycin and has been accredited for continuing education hours in state Qualified Applicator License/Certificate programs. The course will be held at Utah State University, Logan from May 23-27, 2016, and interested applicants can apply by contacting Shawn Johnston at (301) 897-8616 ext. 230 or sjohnston@fisheries.org or by registering on line at http://fisheries.org. For more information contact Brian Finlayson (briankarefinlayson@att.net) or Don Skaar at (dskaar@mt.gov).

2014 NCD-AFS Awards

Each year, the NCD recognized the accomplishments and contributions of students, professionals, subunits, and chapters through seven awards given at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Our 2014 award winners were recognized in February in Indianapolis:

- Most Active Student Subunit – Lake Superior State University
- Most Active Chapter (Large) – Missouri Chapter
- Best Communications – Michigan Chapter
- Meritorious Service Award – Donna Hanen Muhm (Iowa Department of Natural Resources)

Joan Duffy Student Travel Awards (6) – Kyle Bales (Southeast Missouri State University); Hadley Boehm (University of Wisconsin Stevens Point); Jason Doll (Ball State University); Travis Ellens (Grand Valley State University); Zachary Mitchell (Eastern Illinois University); David Schumann (South Dakota State University) Congratulations to these deserving winners! Keep up the great work!

It's never too early to start thinking about applying for the next round of awards! Two of our awards (Most Active Small Chapter and the Fisheries Excellence Award) received no nominations this past year, and we would love to see each state select a Duffy Award winner!

For more information all NCD awards, their criteria, and the application process, check out http://ncd.fisheries.org/awards/.

- The NCD Awards Committee