



NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



## Walleye Technical Committee

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### 2008 Winter Meeting Minutes

(Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Columbus Ohio, December 14, 2008)

Chair-elect John Kubisiak called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Sunday, December 14, 2008. Seventeen members were present. A request for additions to the agenda was made, and hearing none, the agenda was approved. Minutes from the 2008 summer meeting were approved as handed out to members and posted on the website.

#### *State and provincial reports:*

North Dakota: WTC Representative Jeff Hendrickson has a new address; no report.

Missouri: A.J. Pratt took over as WTC Representative from Tim Banek at the 2008 summer meeting; no report.

Kansas: Jason Goeckler will take over as WTC Representative from Jim Stephen; no report.

Wisconsin: Steve Gilbert discussed the implication of VHS on Wisconsin's hatchery program. A negative VHS test (takes 4 weeks) must be received before any stocking; this has eliminated fry stocking. Wisconsin has noted that 1.5" fryling walleye from 0.5-acre lined ponds do not seem to contribute well. Large 6-8" fall fingerlings are required in some situations, including lakes where smelt are established.

Indiana: Sandy Clark-Kolaks will take over as WTC representative for Nate Thomas in 2009. Thomas reported that Indiana DNR's Northern Research Unit has developed a report on the success of advanced 5-9" versus June 2" fingerling walleye. A 4-lake trial of the advanced fingerlings suggested that 20 per acre may be high enough to cause density-dependent problems, but stocking fewer than 10 per acre does not result in a noticeable yearclass; 15 per acre may be a better rate. Indiana is looking into hydroacoustics and Oxytetracycline (OTC) studies.

Iowa: Randy Shultz stated that Iowa is engaged in culture research comparing pellet feeds and the contribution of 2" fingerlings. They are also evaluating the affects of angler regulations in natural lakes. Randy indicated that these results may be posted to their

website.

South Dakota: Justin Van De Hey reported that South Dakota has completed the walleye toolbox and it will be implemented in the next year or two. Justin commented that a 28-inch minimum length limit produces fisheries with excellent catch rates. Walleye and smallmouth bass competition appears to be an issue in the Glacial Lakes and Missouri River reservoirs. Other work is using OTC to evaluate walleye and yellow perch fry stocking.

Ohio: Phil Hillman reported on fingerling and fry stockings for walleye and saugeye. Fry stocking success has declined on Pymatuning Lake (14,650 acres) following increases in crappie and yellow perch populations. The Ohio Division of Wildlife and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission each contributed 293,000 1”+ fingerlings in spring of 2008. They sampled young-of-year walleye by night electrofishing in late September and had very good results, with 0.56 fish per minute sampled. This was the best fall Y-O-Y catch rate since 2000 (electrofishing catch rates range 0.1 to 1 young-of-year walleye per minute on most lakes stocked with 32 mm fingerlings). Pennsylvania and Ohio will continue to stock fingerlings at this lake, as well continuing a down-scaled fry-stocking program (i.e. 4 million 0.25” fry stocked annually), in the event that some ecological change eventually allows for better survival of fry than has occurred in recent years. They continue to have great success stocking walleye fry at nearby Mosquito Lake (7,241 acres). Berlin Lake (3,321 acres) was switched back to fry stocking (from fingerlings) since it hadn’t done particularly well with fingerling stockings and to facilitate the increased fingerling production necessary to support the Pymatuning Lake stocking. Berlin’s fall 2008 night electrofishing catch rate for Y-O-Y walleye was 0.41 fish per minute, which is the best since 2003.

Ohio is currently evaluating saugeye regulations.

***Election of Chair and Secretary:*** Donna Hanen-Muhm agreed to continue as Secretary; no other nominations were received. John Kubisiak called for nominations for the chair-elect position. Kubisiak suggested that a province or state without a recent chair would be desirable. One benefit is that the chair picks the summer meeting location. No nominations were made at the time. (Editor’s note: Justin Van De Hay, South Dakota State University, volunteered after the meeting and was selected as Chair-Elect).

***Financial report:*** (see last page) NCD-AFS Treasurer Randy Schultz reported that WTC is still short of meeting its financial goal to support the walleye synopsis and is still seeking donations.

***Walleye synopsis update:*** Submitted by Patrick Hanchin: “A basic update on the book is that authors are completing drafts of chapters. Some will probably be done by Midwest, and others not. Bruce (Managing Editor Bruce Barton) is doing a good job staying on top of things and I communicate with him regularly. Bruce has lined up numerous editors, with at least 2 for each chapter. We still need more funding, and if there is anyone from an agency/tribe that has not contributed, but may be able to, we could use \$500 - \$2,000

per contribution, and they should contact me. We will have no trouble paying Bruce, but right now could not cover half the cost of publication. That does not mean it will not be published because AFS books department will publish it even if we can't cover half the cost. We are still on schedule to have the manuscript ready for the books department December 31, 2009.”

There was discussion on where future funding might come from; it was suggested that some Chapters may have misplaced the initial request, and Kubisiak will coordinate a follow-up contact to NCD Chapters that have not yet contributed. Steve Gilbert has secured potential cover art plus line drawings for the chapters from artist Scott Zoellick for \$500. Gilbert will put together the artwork offer for an electronic vote.

**Summer 2009 meeting:** The ETC has asked if WTC would like to do a combined meeting again this summer, especially given current travel restrictions (2008 was a combined summer meeting at Lake Tomahawk, WI; combined attendance was 26). Dr. Brian Sloss (University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point) is interested in presenting a 1.5 day genetics workshop in conjunction with the summer meeting. The cost of a similar workshop in 2005 was \$100, including AFS book Population Genetics: Principles and Applications for Fisheries Scientists. Several attendees of the workshop stated that Sloss does a great job presenting genetics information to non-geneticists. A joint meeting, Mississippi River location (WI/MN/IA border) and a theme of broodstock management were tentatively agreed upon for the summer meeting, with the genetics workshop available as a 1.5-day add-on. [Editor’s note: further discussion the afternoon of December 14 resulted in plans to pursue a joint meeting including three technical committees (Centrarchid, Esocid and Walleye) at a Mississippi River border town.]

**Old business:** The Sander Award is a student award to help finance travel to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. This year’s recipient of the Sander Award is Jeremy Hammen (a Master of Science candidate under Dr. Brian Sloss at University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point). There was discussion that the application deadline of August 31st is earlier than other Midwest travel grants and a date of October 1st was proposed for future Sander applications.

**New business:** John Kubisiak took over as 2009 Chair. Outgoing Chair Donna Hanen Muhm will be recognized for her service at a later date.

**Adjournment:** Meeting Adjourned at approximately 2:10 pm.

Thank you to Casey Schoenebeck (South Dakota State University) for assisting with meeting notes.

Respectfully submitted,

**John Kubisiak**

**Walleye Technical Committee 2009 Chair**

**WALLEYE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT**

**December 1, 2008**

	<b>INCOME</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
<b>Beginning Balance, July 1, 2008</b>			<b>\$24,207.05</b>
<b>Monthly Interest July - November 2008</b>	<b>\$315.36</b>		
<b>Synopsis Donations</b>	<b>TWRA, \$1,000.00</b>		
<b>Sander Award December '08</b>		<b>\$100.00</b>	
<b>Ending Balance as of December 1, 2008</b>			<b>\$25,422.41</b>