



MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2019

Moody Gardens Hotel and Conference Center, Galveston, Texas

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am CMT and a roll call of the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee members was conducted by Aaron Bunch (Chair). It was determined that a quorum was not met; the meeting was called to order.

State representatives participating:

Justin Homan (AGFC), Tim Bonvechio (GA), Jason Herrala (KY), Joe McMullen (MO), Ben Ricks (NC), Josh Johnston (OK-proxy), Eric Ganus (TN), Kris Bodine (TX), Aaron Bunch (VA), Nate Taylor (WV).

Members and guests:

Jason Olive (AR), Charlie Jordan (AR Tech U), John Jackson (AR Tech U), Bob Greenlee (VDGIF), Warren Schlechte (TPW), Dan Shoup (OSU), Vascar Nepal KC, Chris Brooke (MDC), Jason Jawarski (Perdue U), Avery Matthews (Purdue U), Corbin Hilling (VTU).

Welcome:

Aaron Bunch introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Catfish Management Technical Committee meeting. Attendee introductions ensued. An agenda was distributed and finalized.

Old Business:

The 2018 meeting minutes are available for review on the website, no comments were received.

Catfish 2020: <http://catfish2020.weebly.com/>

Jason Olive (Catfish 2020 Co-Chair) updated the group on the 3rd International Catfish Symposium (Catfish 2020) to be held in conjunction with the SDAFS meeting in Little Rock, AR, 18-20 February 2020. A welcome social is planned for Tuesday (2-18-20) evening and the big social is planned for Wednesday (2-19-20) evening. First call for papers and posters has gone out; [Click here to submit a](#)

[presentation](#). Manuscripts will be due just before the symposium (Jan-Feb 2020) and can be submitted for publication through the AFS submission portal. Plenary speakers will include Rob Neumann (In-Fisherman), Vince Travnichek (Missouri Department of Conservation) will discuss ‘Catfish Science Since 2010’, and a representative from Conservation Fisheries to discuss ‘Madtom/Catfish Conservation’. Catfish 2020 committee assignments are posted on the website. Workshops will tentatively include ‘Ageing’ (otolith extraction, mounting, and slide preparation and may include pectoral spine ageing as well) and ‘Catfish Population Modeling’. The group also discussed the possibility of workshops on ‘Catfish Sampling’ or more specifically ‘Electrofishing for Catfish’. There was a great deal of interest among members for a workshop on ‘Catfish Creel Surveys’.

***Members should contact Jim Lamer at lamer@illinois.edu if they know of private companies that should be proposition for donations.**

***Members should contact Kris Bodine if they have recommendations for workshop instructors/speakers.**

Treasurer’s Report

Joe McMullen discussed financial details from the committee’s BB&T Bank Account. There was an expense of \$300 for the SDFAS Catfish Committee Scholarship which was awarded to Vaskar Nepal KC. There was an expense of \$8.43 for checks. The old checking account was closed due to an extended \$0 balance and a new checking account was opened in its place; future treasurers should be aware that accounts must maintain a \$1 minimum balance. A savings account and three CDs have been opened to take advantage of interest earning opportunities. Committee funds include \$8,260.62 on deposit in various accounts. The committee has received and has on deposit in various accounts, a total of \$28,270 in Catfish 2020 donations. Account totals include: Checking - \$1, Savings - \$3,529.62, CD1 - \$13,000, CD2 - \$6,000, and CD3 – \$14,000. All CDs will mature during 2019 and are anticipated to earn \$503.39 in interest.

Catfish Management Scholarship Award:

The scholarship was presented Vaskar Nepal KC (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) with the Catfish Management Scholarship Award. Vaskar presented his doctoral research to the group via webinar – *Invasive Blue Catfish in the Chesapeake Bay Region*.

Trophy Catfish Management:

Kris Bodine presented on trophy catfish management and the need to evaluate the effectiveness of regulations imposed to improve trophy catfish fisheries. Many states have imposed conservative large catfish bag limits (e.g., 1 fish \geq 36 inches per day) but evaluation of these regulations is limited and needed to determine if they are achieving fishery goals. Goals generally include improving the current stock (increasing the number of trophy fish available to anglers), protecting the current stock of trophy fish, and appeasing anglers/improved public relations. The keys to achieving biologically based goals include the existence of regulatable harvest, sufficient density of sub-trophy fish, and conditions that allow growth and recruitment of sub-trophy fish to outpace the mortality of trophy fish. Combinations of fisheries independent data (e.g., quantified dynamic rates), fisheries dependent data (e.g., harvest), and population modeling is likely needed to evaluate regulations. Furthermore, updated, clear, public messaging will be important to change perceptions and behaviors. The group discussed the possibility of comparing stocks in states that do have trophy regulations to those that do not. There is likely a dearth of fisheries dependent data and need for collection of creel data or compilation and analysis of existing creel data. The group discussed the possibility of having a section dedicated to this topic at Catfish 2020.

***Kris Bodine will ensure that a message related to this topic is included in the Catfish 2020 call for papers.**

***Aaron Bunch and Kris Bodine will consider forming a group/committee dedicated to addressing creel data collection/analysis. Dan Shoup volunteered to be an organizer for this group.**

***Aaron Bunch will email members (listserv) to solicit data/presenters on the topic while exploring alternative avenues for information exchange (e.g., Facebook).**

***Aaron Bunch will request that members update and/or contribute publications to be housed on the committee website.**

***Aaron Bunch will inform the NCD leadership of the committee's intentions and ensure their support before moving forward.**

SDAFS EXCOM:

The SDAFS Executive Committee visited with the group briefly, primarily to discuss and encourage student participation. To convey a sense of inclusivity and

promote broader participation the group discussed omitting the word 'technical' from the committee name and referring to our meetings as an 'open forum'.

***Committee members should share thoughts with the SDAFS Executive Committee on how to improve student involvement.**

State Reports:

Written summaries of reports were sent to Aaron Bunch via email prior to the meeting. Brief state reports were given by some state representatives.

***Dan Shoup will make state reports available on the committee website.**

New Buisness:

***Aaron Bunch will consider establishing a new nationwide ListServe and invite participation; AFS may have resources available to assist.**

***Aaron Bunch will request that state representatives review and update the state regulations table and consider inviting the NCD Catfish Committee to participate.**

***Aaron Bunch will work with Kris Bodine and Joe McMullen to update the scholarship protocols. The Executive Committee recommended mandatory attendance at the annual meeting to be considered for the scholarship.**

Adjourn:

Aaron bunch adjourned the meeting.