
Small Impoundments Technical Committee
American Fisheries Society – Southern Division
State Report Format

State Reporting: Alabama

Name of Representative to Technical Committee: Graves Lovell

Co-Authors:

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Phone: 334-850-1769

Date Submitted: 1/10/20

Project Name or Description of Activities:

Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries continues to maintain 23 public fishing lakes (20-184 acres) located throughout the state. Little has changed since our last report. The model that worked so well years ago has been struggling to justify continuing the program in the same manner. The operation of several lakes has been handed over to city jurisdiction. Some lakes have been renovated recently with different stocking rates to attempt to produce populations that will attract more anglers. We are considering opening the gate on some of the lakes with little or no operational management.

AWFF continues to offer technical assistance to private pond owners, include onsite visits when necessary. AWFF visited approximately 300 private ponds in 2019.

Objective:

Current Status:

Small Impoundments Technical Committee
American Fisheries Society – Southern Division
State Report Format

State Reporting: Alabama/Auburn University Bass Harvest Project

Name of Representative to Technical Committee: Graves Lovell

Co-Authors: Dr. Matt Catalano and Taylor Beaman

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Phone:

Date Submitted: 1/10/20

Project Name or Description of Activities:

Unsure. It's a project to evaluate practicality of bass harvest as a technique to improve an older bass-crowded fish population.

Objective:

To test the true effects of annual bass harvest on old bass crowded ponds

Current Status:

Two private ponds in Alabama were treated before the actual project ensued to get a better handle on methods, practicality, etc. After 2 years, one pond improved briefly but quickly returned to a bass-crowded state. The other pond will be evaluated this spring, but it appears to be following a similar pattern. Taylor Beaman, an Auburn University Masters student began the official 2-year project on 10 bass-crowded ponds in summer 2019.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee
American Fisheries Society – Southern Division
State Report Format

State Reporting: Arkansas

Name of Representative to Technical Committee: Brett Timmons

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Date Submitted: 01/13/2020

District 3 Northeast Arkansas

Lake Poinsett – Acreage: 500

The lake is currently undergoing a multi-million renovation project. The project is currently in Phase I construction to replace the water control structure, repair the outflow pipe, regrade auxiliary spillway. District Fisheries Biologists are also planning a large scale fish habitat restoration project to rejuvenate the 59 year old lake. Included in the habitat restoration is the design and placement of reinforced concrete pipes, pallet towers, spider buckets, mossback habitat structures, and natural woody debris. Habitat restoration is focusing on using donated recycled materials (pallets and scrap ABS pipe) from local industry to gain community involvement and lessen overall costs of the habitat restoration project. Biologists are also working with EAST (Education Accelerated by Service and Technology) at Harrisburg Middle School to design habitat placement using GIS. Goal of the habitat restoration is to place pallet towers, pallet pyramid bushes and spider buckets along creek channels and transition areas from deep water to shallow water, creating corridors for fish movement.

Mallard Lake – Acreage: 300

Population assessments of the Largemouth Bass and catfish populations were performed in 2019. Spring electrofishing was conducted to sample Largemouth Bass. Six randomly selected sites were sampled. Total pedal down time was 1 hr. Twenty-eight LMB were sampled for a CPE of 27.9 fish/hr. Total length ranged from 104 – 476mm, mean TL was 342 mm, PSD and PSD-P were 91.7 and 54.2, respectively. Tandem Baited Hoop Net Sampling was conducted to sample channel catfish. Eight net sets were set at randomly selected sites. Forty-one CCF were sampled for a total CPE of 5.13 fish/net set. Total length ranged from 195 – 555mm, mean TL was 300mm, total weight ranged from 67 – 2112g, mean weight was 269.6g and PSD was 7.7.

Lake Hogue – Acreage: 280

Population assessments of the Largemouth Bass and crappie populations were performed in 2019. Spring electrofishing was conducted to sample Largemouth Bass. Eight randomly selected

sites were sampled. Total pedal down time was 1.3 hr. Eighty LMB were sampled for a CPE of 58.6 fish/hr. Total length ranged from 119 – 555mm, mean length was 296.2 mm, total weight ranged from 24 – 3049g, mean weight was 604.2g. PSD and PSD-P were 53.0 and 24.2, respectively. Fall lead netting was performed to sample crappie. A total of 96 net nights were sampled, and a total of 933 crappie were sampled. CPE was 9.7 fish/net night, total length ranged from 78 – 359mm, mean TL was 190.2mm, and PSD and PSD-P were 35.5 and 3.7, respectively.

Lake Frierson – Acreage: 335

A small scale habitat project was conducted in 2019. Biologists created 42 new habitat sites across the lake. Areas of focus were bank fishing areas, creek channels and creek channel confluences. Introduced habitat included Christmas trees, spider buckets, and pallet pyramids. In total 354 individual structures were deployed in the project. Fish attractors GPS locations for all fish attractors across the state can be downloaded from the AGFC by following the link: <https://www.agfc.com/en/fishing/where-fish/fish-attractors/>

District 5 Southeast Arkansas

Lake Enterprise - Acreage: 200

The Crappie population was sampled with 8 lead nets in October for a total of 16 net nights, 8 lead nets in November for a total of 16 net nights, and 8 lead nets in December for a total of 16 net nights. Six trap nets were also deployed in October to increase the sample size.

Water Level Management: The gate on the gravity flow drainage pipe was opened in June to drain water off of flooded docks and houses. The gate was closed on July 24.

Vegetation Management: A contractor was hired to apply herbicide treatments to control duckweed, alligatorweed, and water hyacinth. Duckweed was treated with Diquat from April 2-3 and May 7-15. On June 20, the duckweed was treated with Flumioxazin and alligatorweed was treated with Imazamox. Water hyacinth was treated with Glyphosate by AGFC personnel on July 5. The contractor treated duckweed with Diquat and alligatorweed with Imazapyr from August 6-12. Diquat was used to treat Duckweed and Glyphosate was used to treat Water Hyacinth from September 17-24. On October 22, Water Hyacinth was treated with Glyphosate by AGFC personnel. A total of \$23,446.47 was spent on vegetation treatments from April-September 2019. Over the course of the spraying period duckweed cover was reduced from 29.9 acres (15% cover) to 3 acres (2% cover).

Lake Grampus - Acreage: 305

A fish kill attributed to low dissolved oxygen was investigated on October 24. Two hundred sixty-two dead fish were counted, the majority of which were Bigmouth Buffalo.

Vegetation Management: Herbicide treatments were applied by a contractor to control water hyacinth, alligatorweed, and Cuban bulrush. Water hyacinth was treated with Diquat on April 16, and with Glyphosate on May 20-23 and June 11-13. Imazamox was used to treat alligatorweed

and Glyphosate was used to treat water hyacinth from June 18-20. Glyphosate was applied on water hyacinth from September 18-22. The vegetation was treated again on October 9. The contractor began to treat the lake on October 22, but was called off because of a fish kill.

Lake Saracen - Acreage: 470

Water quality sampling was conducted on August 16. Secchi depth, pH, conductivity, chlorophyll-a, alkalinity, and hardness were measured.

Vegetation Management: On July 8, terrestrial vegetation encroaching the Brumps Bayou fishing pier was trimmed and treated with Glyphosate. Emergent vegetation along the shoreline of a bank fishing access was also treated with Glyphosate.

Lake Wilson - Acreage: 139

The Channel Catfish population was sampled with tandem-baited hoop nets May 14-17, for a total of 8 net series. Three catfish were collected, which resulted in a CPUE of <1 fish/net series.

Community electrofishing was conducted from June 10-11. A total of 13 sites were randomly selected.

Lake Wallace - Acreage: 347

The Largemouth Bass population was sampled with daytime electrofishing from November 4-6. Thirty sites were randomly selected. The lake was sampled for 5.0 hours of pedal-down time. One hundred seventy-eight Largemouth Bass were collected, which resulted in a CPUE of 35 fish/hour.

Vegetation Management: Contractors treated water hyacinth and alligatorweed on Lake Wallace in 2019. Water hyacinth was treated with Diquat on April 17. Water hyacinth and alligatorweed were treated with Glyphosate from May 6-8, and water hyacinth was re-treated with Glyphosate May 15-16. Water hyacinth was treated again with Glyphosate from June 4-6 and June 11. Glyphosate was used to treat the water hyacinth again on August 7 and September 23. Water hyacinth was treated with Glyphosate by AGFC personnel on October 23. A total of \$30,700.25 was spent on vegetation control for Lake Wallace from April-September 2019. Over the course of the spraying period water hyacinth cover was reduced 58.8 acres (17% cover) to 3.2 acres (1% cover).

District 7 Southwest Arkansas

South Fork Lake – Acreage: 77

District Biologists have been assisted the Black Bass Program on an advance fingerling stock contribution study of Florida Bass fingerlings.

Black Bass Program

South Fork Lake – Acreage: 77

Conducting an FLMB advance fingerling stock contribution study. The initial results for fall sampling contribution of advanced fingerlings in November was 8% contribution.

Bragg Lake – Acreage: 160

Conducting an FLMB advance fingerling stock contribution study. The initial results for fall sampling contribution of advanced fingerlings in November was 17% stocking contribution.

Mallard Lake – Acreage: 300

Completion of a two year Northern Largemouth Bass survival and contribution of advanced fingerling study. Northern Largemouth Bass were freeze branded and stocked in 2018. Standard length fingerlings (~50 mm) were stocked in June and advanced length fingerlings (~100 mm) were stocked in September. Four to six electrofishing samples were completed at each lake from fall 2018 to spring 2019. Survival of wild Largemouth Bass was 7.6% over 264 days versus 0.4% for advanced bass over that time period. Standard bass survival was 2.9% over 328 days. Wild bass had significantly higher survival than advanced bass ($F = 17.53$; $P = 0.0031$), but not standard bass ($F = 1.91$; $P = 0.20$). Standard bass had significantly higher survival than advanced bass ($F = 8.16$; $P = 0.021$). No significant difference was indicated ($P = 0.35$) in length between wild and advanced bass at the time of stocking. Standard bass in the fall of 2018 were significantly smaller than both wild bass ($P < 0.001$) and advanced bass ($P < 0.001$). Advanced bass and standard bass comprised 7.0% and 19.3%, respectively of the age-1 bass collected. An estimated 20 advanced bass survived to reach age-1 while an estimated 277 standard bass reached age-1. Initial costs of standard fingerlings were \$0.02 at Joe Hogan Hatchery while the cost to produce an advanced fingerling was \$0.20. After accounting for overwinter survival, the cost of a standard bass in the spring was \$0.84. The price per advanced bass in the spring ranged from \$13.07 to \$51.30.

Lake Frierson – Acreage: 335

Completion of a two year Northern Largemouth Bass survival and contribution of advanced fingerling study. Northern Largemouth Bass were freeze branded and stocked in 2018. Standard length fingerlings (~50 mm) were stocked in June and advanced length fingerlings (~100 mm) were stocked in September. Four to six electrofishing samples were completed at each lake from fall 2018 to spring 2019. The 265 day survival of bass at Frierson Lake was 41.9% and 1.7% for wild and advanced bass, respectively. There was a significant difference in survival between the wild bass and advanced bass ($F = 38.25$; $P = 0.0035$). Advanced bass were significantly longer ($P = 0.00095$) in length than wild bass at the time of stocking ($P = 0.00095$). Only one advanced bass and one standard bass was collected therefore contribution of each treatment 8.3%. Based on survival estimates and 10% seven day stocking mortality, it is estimated that 77 advanced bass reached age-1. An estimate for standard bass could not be calculated. Initial costs of standard fingerlings were \$0.02 at Joe Hogan Hatchery while the cost to produce an advanced fingerling was \$0.20. After accounting for overwinter survival, the cost of a standard bass in the spring was \$0.84. The price per advanced bass in the spring ranged from \$13.07 to \$51.30.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee
American Fisheries Society – Southern Division
State Report Format

State Reporting: Georgia

Name of Representative to Technical Committee: Keith Weaver

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Date Submitted: 1/09/2020

Project Name or Description of Activities: Angler Gateway to Fishing; Urban Wildlife Program; and PFA Record Program

Objective: Increase angling opportunities in Atlanta's Metro Counties and Georgia's State Parks; and Recognizing trophy catches at Georgia's Public Fishing Areas.

Current Status:

Georgia's state parks are owned and operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Many of the parks are located on or near a major waterbody, and have fishable waters within the park. The Wildlife Resources and the Parks and Historic Sites Divisions of Georgia DNR have partnered to improve fishing and fishing access at state parks across the state. Fifteen state parks are targeted for initial improvements to fisheries. These enhancements include activities such as fish population assessments through sampling, development of fish stocking and management plans, habitat enhancements, installation of automatic fish feeders and feeding stations, fertilization programs, offering beginner fishing programs and Kids Fishing Events, and implementing the rod and reel and tackle loaner programs at each park. Wildlife Resources Division staff who are experienced in Kids Fishing Events and educational activities have also held training sessions for Parks staff so they can learn to fish and be prepared to answer questions about fishing, train new anglers, and host Kids Fishing Events on the parks. This program began in 2019. This year we hope to see increased angling on Parks waters and increased visitation to Parks while making Georgia State Parks the Gateway to Fishing for new anglers and their families.

Fisheries will have an active role in the Urban Wildlife Program. While not necessarily a part of the core program, FM staff connected to the urban wildlife program will have their work duties adapted to provide a more focused and concerted effort in the assigned 10-county metro area. For example, the fisheries staff aligned with the Urban Wildlife Program will serve as lead in the management of small public lakes in the metro area. These lakes are often water supply lakes, public park lakes etc. FM staff will also liaison with partners (Parks, municipalities, organized groups) to enhance efforts in providing fishing opportunities within the 10-county metro area.

PUBLIC FISHING AREA (PFA) RECORD PROGRAM :

The Angler Award Program will now recognize record fish from each WRD Public Fishing Area. This will be the largest fish of each species caught and properly documented at each PFA.

Public Fishing Area Record Fish Rules:

- Time Frame: Applications must be submitted within 7 days of the catch.
- Qualifying Weight: The fish must weigh at least two ounces more than the existing record to be a new record. If there is no existing record, fish must meet the Angler Award minimum sizes to qualify as a PFA record.
- Eligible species: PFA records will be recognized for Largemouth Bass, Black or White Crappie, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and Channel Catfish.
- Identification: A WRD Fisheries Section biologist or technician must identify the fish either in person, or be able to clearly identify the fish species and where it was caught from photos or video, and sign the application.
- Certified Scale: PFA Record Fish must be weighed on a certified scale.
- Witnesses: Fish must be weighed in the presence of two witnesses, both of whom must be at least 18 years old and not a member of the entrant's immediate family. Both witnesses must provide an address and telephone number on the application. Witnesses are not necessary if the fish is weighed on a certified scale at a WRD office or PFA in the presence of WRD personnel

Small Impoundments Technical Committee
American Fisheries Society – Southern Division
State Report Format

State Reporting: Kentucky

Name of Representative to Technical Committee: Dane Balsman

Co-Authors: Dane Balsman

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Date Submitted: January 9, 2020

Project Name or Description of Activities: Overview of the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) Program

Objective: To develop high quality urban fisheries in Kentucky that lead to high angler use, catch rates, and satisfaction.

Current Status: Ongoing

During 2019, 122,465 catfish (channel catfish and channel catfish x blue catfish hybrids), 119,800 rainbow trout, 28,350 hybrid sunfish (bluegill x green sunfish) and 33,190 redear sunfish were stocked in the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINs) lakes. These stockings of large keeper-size catfish (15 in avg), trout (10 in avg), and hybrid sunfish (6 in avg) provide anglers with quality fishing opportunities close to home. The program currently includes 44 lakes in 28 counties. A memorandum of agreement is in place with all lake owners enrolled in the FINs program giving Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) the authority to manage fish populations and set standardized regulations for all lakes in the program.

Advertising and marketing efforts were employed in a continuing attempt to raise awareness of the FINs program, increase participation, and recruit new anglers. Facebook and Twitter notifications were posted around stocking dates. District fisheries biologists also mentioned the FINs program and stocking schedules in their weekly fishing reports. A video segment highlighting the FINs program was also featured on KY Afield. Flyers promoting the FINs program were distributed at boat shows. A one-page advertisement for the FINs program appeared in Kentucky Fishing and Boating Guide. Additionally, a one-page stocking table appeared in the Kentucky Afield calendar. Newspaper, magazine and radio interviews, as well as press releases, were issued to promote the program. All lake owners were notified prior to fish being stocked so they could contact their followers via social media. The FINs website was routinely updated to convey the latest stocking information and list of lakes enrolled in the program. Kiosk posters promoting the FINs program and KDFWR's role in fish management

and stocking was displayed at 25 of the 44 lakes. Information on the kiosk posters included the FINs logo, mission statement, fish stocking dates and quantities, license requirements, fishing regulations, fish identification, poacher hotline, no littering graphic, brief overview of fishery and past sampling, basic knot tying and the location of a rod loaner program if present.

Spring electrofishing is conducted at every lake on an every other year basis. Samples are conducted to gather information on species composition, catch rates, and size structure. Furthermore, tandem hoop nets are used to sample catfish populations in the fall at every lake, every three years to monitor standing stock and condition of catfish.

Furthermore, exploitation studies, creel surveys, and use of time-lapse cameras to assess fishing pressure have been used to assess angling pressure at FINs lakes. Time lapse cameras have been deployed at 42 of the 44 lakes for a 12-month period to survey fishing pressure in recent years. Timelapse Image Analyzer was used to assist personnel with image analysis.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee
American Fisheries Society – Southern Division
State Report Format

State Reporting: Louisiana

Name of Representative to Technical Committee: Jody David

Co-Authors:

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Date Submitted: December 30, 2019

Project Name or Description of Activities: 2019 update

Comments: Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF), Office of Fisheries 2019

In Louisiana, technical advice to owners of ponds and small lakes is a part of the responsibility of the Inland Fish Division. Division biologists make several site visits assisting residents of the state on problems ranging from construction and stocking requirements, to harvest and disease identification. The biologists also answer numerous phone inquiries about various pond-related problems.

Aquatic vegetation has become a problem in most small impoundments. Biologists provide advice and technical assistance as well as aquatic plant identification assistance for pond owners on request. Inland Fish division also issues triploid grass carp permits to individuals that have aquatic vegetation problems.

Louisiana has not provided fish to private pond owners since 1988. Private pond owners are given a fingerling producers list where they can purchase fish. Also, a pond management guide is offered to these individuals for helpful management ideas. This producer's list and pond management booklet is on our web site www.wlf.louisiana.gov.

The Office of Fisheries has developed community fishing program for LDWF. Within this program, LDWF identifies potential opportunities to bring fishing access to municipal areas as well as suburban and rural communities. LDWF believes fishing should be a readily accessible activity to all Louisiana residents and that the development of community fishing opportunities significantly increases access to quality fishing. LDWF will only support community fishing opportunities that allow open access to the public, with particular attention to access typically in short supply; shoreline angling and accessibility to the handicapped. For the purposes of this

program, a public waterbody is one that is no more restricted to the general public than to any other group or individual. The objectives of this program are as follows:

Increase the number of recreational fishing opportunities and participation in recreational fishing each year

1. Develop cooperative relationships with local government and community organizations to provide community fishing opportunities
2. Develop and/or maintain a fishery that will provide the opportunity to catch fish
3. Provide training and educational opportunities to teach children and adults how to fish and enjoy other related aspects of nature
4. Develop and increase anglers' and nonanglers' environmental awareness and conservation ethics in the community

The Get Out and Fish Program! seeks to increase the number of people with access to quality fishing. The program intends to recruit new anglers to the sport of fishing and promote outdoor activities for future generations. In order to accomplish this mission, public water bodies that meet the required specifications will be chosen by LDWF biologists and stocked on a regular basis for up to one year. LDWF will promote the launch of each new site with a Get Out and Fish! Event.

A total of 13 ponds/lakes throughout Louisiana have been stocked in 2019. Species consisted of Adult channel catfish and rainbow trout. Below is a list of species stocked in 2019:

Site	Species	Jan-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	Jun-19	Sep - 19	Oct-19	Nov-19
Purple Heart Memorial Park - Ragley	Rainbow Trout	300						
	Channel Catfish		600	600	600	600		600
Girard Park - Lafayette	Rainbow Trout	200						
	Channel Catfish				400	400	400	
Zemurray Park - Hammond	Rainbow Trout	300						
	Channel Catfish		300	300			300	
BREC's Burbank Park - Baton Rouge	Rainbow Trout							
	Channel Catfish				800			800
Kiroli Park - West Monroe	Rainbow Trout	400						
	Channel Catfish		500	500	500	500		

William T. Polk Park - Vidalia	Rainbow Trout	200						
	Channel Catfish				400	400		400
Turners Pond - Minden	Rainbow Trout	500						
	Channel Catfish		1000	1000	1000	1000		1000
Grambling City Park - Grambling	Rainbow Trout	200						
	Channel Catfish		400	500*	400	400		400
Southside Regional Park - Fabacher Field - Youngsville	Rainbow Trout	200						
	Channel Catfish				400	400	400	
Elmore D. Mayfield Park - Ruston	Rainbow Trout	500						
	Channel Catfish		1000	1100*	1000	1000		1000
Sidney Hutchinson Park - Walker	Rainbow Trout	200						
	Channel Catfish				400	400	400	
Joe W. Brown Park - New Orleans	Rainbow Trout							
	Channel Catfish						1000	
I-10 Park - Jennings	Rainbow Trout							
	Channel Catfish						1000	
TOTALS	Rainbow Trout	3,000						
	Channel Catfish		3800	4000	5900	5100	3500	4200

In 2019 LDWF stocked 26,500 pounds of channel catfish and 3,000 pounds of rainbow trout

Species stocked by LDWF in small ponds/lakes in Louisiana less than 100 acres in 2019: (Not in the Get Out and Fish Program)

Florida Largemouth Bass	7651 (Fingerlings)
Florida Largemouth Bass	823 (Adults)
Florida Largemouth Bass	140,250 (Fry)
Channel Catfish	4,633 (Fingerlings)
Bluegill	11,323 (Fingerlings)

Redear sunfish	3,450 (Fingerlings)
Golden Shiner	4,510 (Fingerlings)

Plans for 2020: Channel Catfish

Zemurray Park	Hammond, LA – 300 pounds
Girard Park	Lafayette, LA – 200 pounds
BREC’s Burbank Park	Baton Rouge, LA – 400 pounds
Southside Regional Park	Youngsville, LA - 200 pounds
Kiroli Park	West Monroe, LA – 400 pounds
William T. Polk Park	Vidalia, LA – 200 pounds
Purple Heart Memorial Park	Ragley, LA – 300 pounds
Turner’s Pond	Minden, LA – 500 pounds
Grambling Park	Grambling, LA - 200 pounds
Sidney Hutchinson Park	Walker, LA - 200 pounds
Elmore D. Mayfield Park	Ruston, LA - 500 pounds
1-10 Park	Jennings, LA – 500 pounds
Joe W. Brown Park	New Orleans, LA – 500 pounds

Also in 2020, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries will be stocking 4,400 pounds of rainbow trout at 13 Get Out and Fish! community fishing ponds throughout the state this January. The rainbow trout will average from 1 to 2 pounds.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee
American Fisheries Society – Southern Division
State Report Format

State Reporting: North Carolina

Name of Representative to Technical Committee: Amanda Bushon (sitting in for Kelsey Roberts)

Co-Authors: Nick Shaver

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Date Submitted: 1/9/2020

Project Name: Winter Trout Stockings and Fishing with Santa

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) has continued winter trout stockings in small impoundments across central and western North Carolina. In November and December 2019, the Commission stocked 34 ponds (18 in the mountain region and 16 in the piedmont region) with 55,792 trout (32,132 in the mountain region and 26,676 in the piedmont region). Winter trout stockings remain very popular because they diversify angling opportunities, provide high catch rates, and provide an excellent place for young anglers to learn to fish. Generally, the ponds chosen for trout stockings are less than 10 acres, have easy access, and staff willing to monitor activity and host trout fishing events. One such pond was the site of a brand-new winter fishing event coordinated by our new Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation Specialist, Nick Shaver. The first Fishing with Santa event was held at one such pond in December 2019. With the help of Trout Unlimited's Land O' Sky Chapter and National Youth Program staff plus several local sponsors, thirty youth ranging in age from 5 to 18 spent the afternoon fishing for trout with new rods and reels that Santa delivered himself. Events like this can serve as a recruitment tool to those that haven't fish before by providing a positive experience in a "target rich" environment that increases the odds of catching a fish, while there is knowledgeable help to help guide a new angler through their first excursion. Additionally, by giving each participant a rod and reel this type of event removes a potential barrier to continued angling. Fishing with Santa was a huge success, but with the potential these wintertime impoundment stockings provide, this initial event could serve as a case study for similar events across the state.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee
American Fisheries Society – Southern Division
State Report Format

State Reporting: North Carolina

Name of Representative to Technical Committee: Amanda Bushon (sitting in for Kelsey Roberts)

Co-Authors:

Email:

Phone:

Date Submitted:

Description of Activities: Community Fishing Program

The Community Fishing Program (CFP) is a statewide program in which the Commission partners with local governments to provide fishing opportunities in small impoundments across the state. The Commission provides 75% of the operating funds through the Sport Fish Restoration Fund, while the local government funds 25% and provides the fishing site. Participating organizations receive stockings of catchable-sized Channel Catfish throughout the summer months. This program is managed as a put-grow-and-take fishery. Since its creation in 1989, the CFP program has continued to grow and has recently outgrown production capacity. In addition, there are many unknowns associated with the CFP regarding adequate stocking rates, angler use, and economic advantages. To more efficiently and effectively manage these small ponds for catfish, a CFP management was created in 2015. This plan outlines the need for biological and human dimensions research as well as guidelines for approving new CFP sites, and how to improve education and outreach efforts for the CFP. The Commission took steps to develop an updated CFP management plan in 2019 which will focus on reducing the number of catfish stocked to free up hatchery space as well as making sure the CFP sites are accurately represented on the agency's website and online maps. The completed management plan will likely be completed in 2020.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee
American Fisheries Society – Southern Division
State Report Format

State Reporting: Oklahoma

Name of Representative to Technical Committee: Keith Thomas

Date Submitted: January 8, 2020

1. Project Name or Description: Close to Home Fishing Program

Contact Information:

Name: Keith Thomas

Co-Authors:

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Phone: 405.325.7288

Objective: Expand program statewide by adding new cooperators

Current Status: Expanding. 3 ponds added to program. City of Tulsa signed 3 year MOU with OK Dept. of Wildlife

Abbreviated abstract: Existing ponds in property obtained by Tulsa River Parks Authority on the west side of Arkansas River. Ponds were electrofished to determine existing fish populations. Low density largemouth, sunfish and channel catfish at all ponds. Park is named Turkey Mountain and is open to the public. Two out of three ponds were stocked with 500 - 7" hybrid sunfish. Ponds are scheduled for regular fish stockings in 2020.

2. Project Name or Description: State Fishing Lake Renovation Program

Contact Information:

Name: Kurt Kuklinski

Co-Authors:

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Phone: 405.325.7288

Objective: Improve access and fishing opps. at OK Dept. of Wildlife Conservation fishing lakes

Current Status: Ongoing

Abbreviated abstract: Half a dozen lakes have been renovated up to now. Dahlgren Lake in the OKC Region was reopened in 2019 to the public. Five new jetties, a new fishing pier, new boat ramp, and an enlarged parking lot. Several fish holding structures were constructed including brush piles, spider blocks and inverted tree trunks. Several more lakes are on the waiting list including Schooler in the SE and Jap Beaver in the SW. Currently, the entire dam at Lake Watonga in the NW is being rebuilt.

3. Project Name or Description: Establishing quality sunfish fisheries in Oklahoma based on age, growth, and population dynamics

Contact Information:

Name: Michael Porta

Co-Authors:

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Phone: 405.325.7288

Objectives: 1) Establish baseline population parameters describing high quality sunfish fisheries in Oklahoma. 2) Determine factors contributing to presence of large sunfish in small impoundments (lake characteristics, predator/prey interactions, and potential management manipulations [fish removal to simulate harvest, stocking]). 3) Identify or establish a high quality sunfish fishery in each management region within Oklahoma.

Current Status: Completed

Abbreviated abstract: This study provides preliminary sunfish angler information in Oklahoma. Some of the most important information gained from this survey was angler opinions regarding sizes of harvestable, quality, and trophy sized sunfish. Based on these opinions, all of these populations produce good abundances of quality-sized (6.9 inches) Bluegill and Redear Sunfish. Further, all of the study lakes produce trophy-sized (9.3 inches) Redear Sunfish. Using these standards, it is likely that many more fisheries in Oklahoma could be considered quality sunfish populations.

4. Project Name or Description: Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP)

Contact Information:

Name: Jeff Tibbits

Co-Authors:

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Objective: Provide hunters and anglers more opportunities to access private land

Current Status: Ongoing

Abbreviated abstract:

A core principle of the OLAP is to increase walk-in access opportunities for hunting, fishing, stream access, and wildlife viewing. This goal compliments a main tenant of the North American Conservation Model: that every citizen has an opportunity, under the law, to hunt and fish. The democratic foundation of this conservation model has made it the most successful in the world, and the OLAP seeks to increase access for multiple opportunities throughout the state. There are 8 ponds / strip pits / small lakes currently open to the public totaling 51 acres. Fish size and creel limits are the same as statewide rules. Arrangements are underway to lease land to gain stream access as well.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee
American Fisheries Society – Southern Division
State Report Format

State Reporting: Tennessee

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Date Submitted: 1/10/20

Small impoundments in Tennessee consist of State Lakes, Community Fishing Program, and technical assistance. Other aspects consist of the Winter Trout Program and Youth Fishing derbies. Although the majority of activities on small impoundments in 2019 were routine sampling, there were several non-routine activities from a couple of regions.

Region 1 – West Tennessee

- New concessionaire contracts have been awarded at four state lakes, and concessionaires at each location will have all new fixtures, furnishings, fishing tackle, and fishing supplies.
- Constructed a total of 45 new fish attractors on six lakes, replaced 12 drainage culverts, and three new piers.
- Constructed a 30X36 picnic pavilion, 10 picnic tables and installed automatic entrance gate at the newly renovated Carroll Lake, set to open spring 2020.
- Conducted catfish sampling for the first time at three state lakes in an effort to collect baseline data in order to develop trends for a better understanding of catfish stocking contribution from our hatcheries.
- Working on developing new small impoundment stocking strategies to determine if lower numbers can continue to provide good densities, especially with catfish.
- Using production ponds at Humboldt State Fish Hatchery, research will be conducted to determine the effects of predation and survivability of young of the year catfish in small impoundment settings.

Region 2 – Middle Tennessee

- ADA improvements are currently in progress at five lakes.
- Added over 400 fish attractors (corrugated pipe structures) in eight lakes, in addition to 30 spawning mats, and 20 floppy “bush” structures.

Region 4 – East Tennessee

- Added a new community and winter trout stocking lake in Maryville, with the help from the city and TU. A creel survey will be conducted to evaluate angler use.
- Some preliminary work and information gathering has begun on identifying small impoundments in “distressed” counties that could be enhanced for fishing. This includes investigating access, amenities, fish population structure, habitat, and economic status of the surrounding area.

State Lakes Program

These lakes range from 20 to 600 acres and are mostly managed for optimum fish production with lakes being managed for bass, bream, crappie, catfish, hybrid striped bass, and walleye. Most lakes have creel limits, and many lakes use different protected length range (PLR), and minimum or no size limits for crappie. Results from a survey taken in 2018 indicated that 44% of lake users did not require a daily lake permit. They were either above or below a certain age, had a lifetime or sportsman’s license, or had purchased an annual permit. Over 50% of anglers interviewed fished the designated lake more than eleven times per year. It was interesting to note that the lakes with the highest percentage of eleven trips or more also received the highest percentage of a good to excellent fishing rating. The percentage of free users utilizing the lakes has declined from 55% during the last survey in 2011. This updated percentage has been utilized to gain more accurate user estimates, which after several years of declines, seems to have stabilized. Fisheries staff also assists with the management of state park lakes. Most of these lakes are not intensively managed, and much of the work on these lakes centers on creel/size limits, stocking rates and aquatic vegetation control.

Community Fishing Program (CFP)

The CFP works to bring fishing opportunities to municipal areas as well as suburban and rural communities, by working with local/state government and community organizations. It seeks to increase the number of anglers with access to fishing “closer-to-home”. There are currently 15 small impoundments in the program ranging from 2 to 30 acres. Most are managed using statewide regulations for bass and bream, with stocked species consist of channel catfish and/or trout in the winter (Dec.-Mar.).

Work is to begin on revising the CFP plan with objectives and strategies to increase the impoundments in the program, especially in or near the larger metropolitan areas of the state.

Winter Trout Program

This program stocks approximately 30 small impoundments across the state with rainbow trout during the months of December through March. These lakes are generally less than 10 acres with easy access. Approximately 75,000 rainbow trout, averaging 10 inches are stocked during this three-month period, with a daily creel limit of seven, and no size limit. A trout license is required in addition to a regular fishing license. Angler use has been steady or increasing, with trail cameras being used on several lakes to estimate angler effort/use. Stocking strategies are also currently being evaluated.

Youth Fishing Derbies

Eighty-two youth fishing derbies were either sponsored or co-sponsored across the state in 2019. The agency provided approximately 40,000 pounds of channel catfish, and 5,000 rainbow trout

for these events. Based on evaluations from the derby organizers, approximately 10,000 youth participated, with 70% of them catching at least one fish. Most of these derbies are organized by local cities/counties, state/federal agencies, sport fishing clubs, and civic groups. With the limited amount of channel catfish for this program, and as we get more request for catfish, we are having to either change stocking allocations, or in some cases we are not able to provide them. We are looking into ways to either expand catfish production, and/or purchase more fish from a private vendor.

Small Impoundments Technical Committee

American Fisheries Society – Southern Division

State Report Format

State Reporting: Texas

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Project Name or Description of Activities: Texas has over 1,000 waterbodies that range in size from 0.1 – 500 acres. These smaller impoundments are typically controlled by local governments (cities, townships and counties) and serve the purpose of flood control, water supply and recreation. Many small impoundments are focal points in small communities and serve as a great attraction for residents. Others are spread throughout major metropolitan areas and serve as close-to-home opportunities for fishing and outdoor recreation. Most of these waters are managed with regular fish stockings to sustain fishing activity. Over 1,000,000 Channel Catfish and over 330,000 Rainbow Trout were stocked into Texas waters in 2019; many into small impoundments to provide excellent fishing opportunities for Texas anglers.

Small impoundments in Texas are separated into 3 categories specific to the size and management strategy applied to the waterbody. The most well-known category of small impoundments is Neighborhood Fishin' ponds (NFPs). The Neighborhood Fishin' Program consists of 18 small (1-6 acre) ponds located in parks of 11 major metropolitan areas. Ponds are stocked on a seasonal, biweekly schedule with Channel Catfish or Rainbow Trout eleven months of the year to maintain a 'put-and-take' fishery. This program is supported by numerous local government and private partners, including Gulf States Toyota and Sport Fish Restoration. Total program operating costs are ~\$550K per year at current levels. Fishing regulations for these sites are strict, intended to "spread the wealth" among as many anglers as possible. Habitat enhancements or additional management activities are rare on NFPs and only occur if there are exigent circumstances. For more information on NFPs, please visit:

www.neighborhoodfishin.org

The second, and most numerous, category of small impoundments is community fishing lakes (CFLs). These ponds are defined as a public impoundment ≤ 75 acres located totally within incorporated city limits, a public park, or any impoundment lying totally within the boundaries of

a state park. There are over 800 known CFL impoundments in the state, and more are being added every year. Most CFLs are managed for self-sustaining populations of Largemouth Bass and sunfish. Many CFLs receive annual stockings of Channel Catfish and Rainbow Trout. Fishing regulations for most CFLs align with statewide regulations, except those pertaining to catfish and fishing gear. As urban fisheries become more popular and utilized, management efforts on these small impoundments are increasing rapidly. Additional stockings, habitat enhancements, and amenity improvements are among the most common activities employed on these small impoundments.

The final category is small lakes. Small lakes are typically between 75 and 500 acres, excluding those located in state parks, constructed as water supply reservoirs for smaller cities. These reservoirs may have regulated access and more restrictions than our larger reservoirs to preserve water quality and wildlife populations. When appropriate, TPWD will manage these small lakes similar to large reservoirs by applying fishing regulations, restoring fish habitat and improving angler access to enhance fishing opportunities. Stockings may not be applied as rigorously as in some smaller impoundments since the larger size and habitat availability will aid self-sustaining populations. Creel surveys and general fish population monitoring efforts are typically conducted as needed in these small lakes

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) partners with waterbody controlling authorities, local vendors and interest groups and educational institutions to plan, fund and complete management activities on small impoundments across Texas. Management activities in these small impoundments in 2019 consisted of fish community and vegetation surveys, vegetation treatments, fish stockings, construction and installation of spawning structures, shoreline stabilization, aerator installation to improve water quality, and habitat enhancement with native vegetation and various types of artificial habitats. Many of these projects were partially supported by TPWD Conservation License Plate (CLP) funds. In 2019, almost \$71,000 was awarded to TPWD district offices for fish management and fish habitat and angler access enhancement projects across the state. For more information about CLPs and the projects they fund, please visit: www.conservationplate.org

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department puts a lot of effort into educating the public about natural resource use, management and conservation. In 2019, TPWD participated in 263 public outreach events, many of which pertained to youth and family fishing, continuing education courses for Master Naturalist groups, “How to Fish” workshops, and career days at elementary, middle, and high schools. Several fishing events were hosted by TPWD and/or our partners at CFLs and NFPs across the state. In addition to these in-person outreach activities, most Inland Fisheries districts utilize social media (Facebook) to connect with people. In total, the Inland Fisheries Facebook pages have a current total of nearly 53,000 followers. The most popular posts for the five most active pages reached over 620,000 people and the second most popular posts reached almost 325,000 people. We have found that our most popular posts pertain to sport fish stockings (Largemouth Bass or Red Drum) and large or unique fish being collected during

sampling events or caught by anglers. This gives our agency a great tool to reach and educate our current and future anglers about Texas' natural resources. Additionally, our largest metropolitan districts are working to update our database of CFLs; collecting information on fish community, fish habitat, and park amenities. Once the database has been updated, we hope the information will be added to the queryable platform of the Outdoor Annual phone app to help anglers find locations to fish near them. Eventually, we hope the database will be used to create a queryable map that will replace our current CFL map on the TPWD website.

In recent years, Inland Fisheries has worked on updating and simplifying (as necessary) our regulations for Largemouth Bass, Catfish, and Alligator Gar. These regulations primarily pertain to large reservoirs and rivers, but some are also used on CFLs. This year, we have decided to review and improve CFL regulations. A committee has been formed and we are working to collect data on our fisheries and other agencies regulations for similar programs or waterbodies.

Objective:

Current Status:

Small Impoundments Technical Committee
American Fisheries Society – Southern Division
State Report Format

State Reporting: Virginia

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Date Submitted: 1/2/20

Project Name or Description of Activities: 2019 Small Impoundment Reports

Objective:

Current Status:

District Biologists from around the state have utilized a variety of structures to create fish habitat in DGIF owned impoundments which includes: pallet teepees, Christmas trees, PVC structures, hardwood brush piles, and hinge trees. SCUBA has been used at several sites to evaluate habitat preferences of gamefish. Hardwood brush piles and PVC structures seem to hold the most fish, while hinge trees and pallet teepees are occupied by the largest fish.

Channel Catfish spawning boxes have been placed in a half dozen DGIF owned impoundments over the last few years. Biologists have found 100% usage during the spawning period with males present guarding eggs or fry. Staff is currently conducting a tagging study on several small impoundments that receive annual Channel Catfish stockings to see if any naturally spawned CCF are recruiting to the fishery.

DGIF is developing a FishLocalVA program to expand on the already successful Urban Fishing Program throughout more of the state. This program is looking to incorporate some of the components of the current Urban Fishing Program when appropriate (Trout and Catfish stocking components).