



NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY



Walleye Technical Committee

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2007 Winter Meeting Minutes

(Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, December 9, 2007)

Chair Patrick Hanchin called the business meeting to order at 2:02 PM Sunday, December 9, 2007. Twenty four members were present. A request for additions to the agenda was made, and since none were added the agenda was approved. Minutes from the 2007 summer meeting were approved as sent to members and posted on the website.

State and Provincial Reports: Chair Hanchin asked for any state and provincial representatives to identify themselves and provide a state report if they had one. Jeff Loukmas identified himself as the new state representative from New York. He reported that their statewide management plan for walleye was originally established in 1987 and they are in the process of updating. He felt there could be major changes coming.

Chair Hanchin reported that the province of Manitoba now has seven fisheries personnel, none of whom work with walleye, so they may be removed from the list.

North Dakota had no report.

Tim Heinrich from Minnesota reported that public outcry for walleye stocking has increased their efforts in at least two Minnesota lakes. These include Red Lake, where the walleye population had been estimated at low levels, and Leech Lake where cormorant depredation has been linked to the decline of the walleye population. These fish are all OTC marked as fry (which can only be seen in otoliths) and they are seeing a high proportion of returns (80 to 86% in Red Lake, up to 65% in Leech Lake). Since these lakes receive fry stocking the question is whether these fish are recruiting or not and whether there are density dependent factors involved as seen in Mille Lacs. Mille Lacs had a huge year class last year but there are also large numbers of bigger fish as well. Leech was losing small fish numbers.

Nathan Thomas of Indiana sent the following report:

“This winter will be a wrap-up and evaluation of a six year study into the success of advanced walleye fingerling (6-8 inches total length) stockings in four lakes in Northern Indiana. Stocking rates have ranged from 4.8-20/acre, with lakes ranging from approximately 200-800 acres. Although success has varied among lakes, relative weights have been consistently low in the past. The evaluation of this project should be completed and compiled for the next business meeting.

The spring of 2008 will bring another season of walleye brood stock collection from Brookeville Reservoir. This provides the basis for fingerling stocking of the fifteen impoundments, six natural lakes and one river within Indiana currently being stocked (aside from the four natural lakes in the previous study).”

Jim Stephen reports that Kansas is developing a walleye management plan, since they have never had one before, and would like to have one by mid-summer.

South Dakota (as reported by Dave Willis) has not really experienced the expected low water levels statewide. The northern regions are not under drought conditions.

Mike Steuck (Iowa) reports that some areas on the Mississippi River are being experimentally closed to walleye fishing in an effort to reduce mortality rates when walleye are concentrated in oxygen-rich pools. Donna Hanen Muhm (Iowa) also added that a study is being proposed in the natural lakes to evaluate advanced fingerling survival and recruitment which will include differential marking of walleye reared at both Rathbun and Spirit Lake hatcheries.

Chair Hanchin reported that Michigan did not rear walleye in 2007 because of the VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia) scare. There is a graduate program studying minnow density and percent survival of walleye fingerlings, and an initial trial of treating walleye eggs with an iodophore showed that the eggs survived but it is unknown if the virus was killed. The state and five Native American tribes signed a Decree regarding harvest and management within the 1836 Treaty-ceded territory. Acceptable fishing gears outlined in the Decree include nets, spears, and angling. High tribal harvest is not anticipated, and the Decree allows for adaptation over time. The agreement has not received much media attention thus far.

Sander Award: The first Sander award, a travel grant of \$100 from the WTC to a student currently enrolled in a college or university for a degree program and hopefully involved in research of interest to the WTC, was given this year to Bethany Galster of South Dakota State University. Bethany's research project is comparing severe food competition between walleye and smallmouth bass. The Dakota Chapter matched the WTC travel award and Bethany received \$200 toward her travel expenditures.

WTC Website: Justin Chiotti is the webmaster for our website so please send him your suggestions if you would like to see additional information posted therein. Another idea would be including information for studies. Dave Lucchesi suggested that grey literature be posted but we have not received many responses to his request. This can still be done and it is not difficult to update.

Financial Report: Chair Hanchin reports that not all money donated for the walleye synopsis has been collected, and that we lost a small amount of money on the summer meeting (but not much). Donna Muhm submitted the following detailed report:

WALLEYE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT November 1, 2007

	INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
Beginning Balance, November 1, 2006			\$10,073.74
Monthly Interest November 2006 Through October 2007	\$479.64		
Synopsis Donations	Missouri \$500.00 Texas \$500.00 S. Dakota \$1000.00 Colorado \$1500.00 Wisconsin \$1000.00 Montana \$500.00 MT AFS \$500.00 MI AFS \$500.00 Iowa \$1000.00 Ontario \$1000.00 TOTAL \$8000.00		
August Summer Meeting Expenses		\$3,786.32	
August Summer Meeting Income	\$2,986.00		
Ending Balance as of November 1, 2007			\$17,753.07

Walleye Synopsis: Chair Hanchin reported that a managing editor has been selected for the Walleye Synopsis. After advertising in Fisheries four excellent candidates applied. The decision was very difficult due to the quality of all candidates, but the Steering Committee selected Bruce Barton for the position. The decision was also made by the steering committee to offer the agreed-upon fee of \$20,000 to each candidate in ranking order if this amount was refused by the top candidate. This

figure was agreed upon by the SC based on moneys already raised, which amounted to \$29,000. This would require that the WTC raise an additional \$6,000, since the AFS requires a fee of \$15,000 for publishing, and the committee felt that this was a reasonable goal. Fortunately, Bruce Barton accepted the offer, asking for payment to be spread out over the two-year period for tax purposes, and also asked for compensation for postage and telephone calls. The SC agreed to provide him an additional \$100 for this purpose. A contract was drawn up by the Steering Committee Chair (Patrick Hanchin) allowing approximately two years for completion of the manuscript. The SC will then agree upon authors and monitor the project according to an agreed-upon timeline submitted by Dr. Barton. Chair Hanchin asked for suggestions from the WTC membership for potential authors, which some would provide rewritten/updated materials but would also ask others for new analysis. There is much to do initially to get the project rolling but it would be a great resume-builder for authors as well as the managing editor. It is possible to have finished copies in the hands of members in 2.5 years. Over the next 2 years it will also be necessary to raise the additional \$6,000. Steve Gilbert (WI) suggested that Mercury Marine or the FLW Wal-Mart tour would be excellent potential donors. Chair Hanchin also mentioned that the AFS Fish Management section contributed \$5,000 to the project so it is important that everyone pay their \$5.00 section dues in support.

Introduction of 2008 Chair and Chair-elect: Chair Hanchin announced that Donna Hanen Muhm is the 2008 WTC Chair beginning immediately and that John Kubisiak of Wisconsin is the Chair-Elect. Donna will continue her duties as Secretary as well.

Discussion of WTC Summer Meeting Location: Chair-elect Muhm requested suggestions for location of the summer meeting. It was suggested that a possible joint meeting with the Esocid Technical Committee would be enjoyable, as they typically have it in northern Wisconsin at a location where fishing is plentiful. The only possible problem with this location is that the nearest airport is in Rhinelander, which is quite a drive. Donna will check with the chair of the Esocid TC to discuss feasibility. Other suggestions are also welcome.

Adjournment: Chair-elect Muhm adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.