

**Minutes of the NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee Meeting  
Omaha, Nebraska  
December 3, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm.

Handouts: agenda, NCD financial statement, minutes from December 2005 meeting, Scope and Prospectus of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Catfish Symposium.

**Presentation and approval of 2005 minutes:** Motion made to approve the minutes (Stu Shipman). Motion approved.

### **Reports**

Treasurer's report (from NCD files). Included one \$300 expense (to Rivers and Streams Technical Committee in support of the Rivers and Streams monitoring symposium. Motion to accept (Stu Shipman). Motion approved.

### **State Reports:**

Missouri: Handfishing remains an issue in Missouri. Efforts continue to get it legalized. Research is now underway to gather information on catfish population dynamics and harvest rates. There are indications of high harvest rates in some study streams. Some work planned using otolith microchemistry to examine flathead migration and natal streams. Paul Michaletz recently published a paper on catfish/bluegill interactions in small impoundments. Kevin Sullivan is investigating the blue catfish population in Truman Lake. He is seeing high harvest rates combined with slow growth rates. He has found pectoral spines compare favorably with otoliths for aging blue catfish in Truman Lake. Danny Garrett (University of Missouri) is using radio telemetry to track flathead and blue catfish in the Missouri River and some of its tributaries.

Nebraska: Investigators are marking catfish then introducing them into enclosures in the Platte River to examine sampling effectiveness and efficiency.

Texas: There is a push to allow bow fishing for catfish for one year. During that time data will be collected to determine whether to permanently allow the method. Plans are underway for a gear bias evaluation next summer. Low frequency electrofishing, tandem baited hoopnets, and gillnets will be evaluated.

South Dakota: Cari-Ann Hayer described her recently completed work in Alabama. She examined detection probabilities for various size groups of blue and channel catfish sampled with low frequency electrofishing. The largest fish were not observed.

North Dakota: Limited work. Minnesota and North Dakota are concerned about tournaments and delayed mortality.

## Kansas

Investigators are looking into the growth and movement of flatheads in the Kansas River. Fish were tagged with floy tags. Kansas will begin a handfishing season June 1. No evaluation of its impact on the population is proposed.

## Arkansas

Work is underway to gather baseline information on catfish in various rivers and streams. They are comparing spines and otoliths for aging flathead catfish. There was discussion about conflicts between setliners, hoopnetters, and handfishers on the Ouachita River. This small river gets heavy fishing pressure. Some people were angry about handfishers taking too many large fish. There is evidence of recruitment overfishing on this river.

## Indiana

A collaborative work with SIU Carbondale is looking at population demographics of channel catfish in three different reaches of the Wabash River. Each reach has various gear restrictions on commercial fishing. Information includes age at maturity and growth. Information on flatheads and blues has also been collected.

## Iowa

Investigators continue to collect information on flatheads in Iowa Rivers and Streams. Greg Gelwicks is using radio telemetry to study movement and habitat use of flatheads in rivers and streams.

## Catfish Advisory Panel

Jason Vokoun is chairing a committee to review catfish project proposals to help with sampling design. It is hoped that collaborating on projects will one day allow us to make recommendations for sampling channel, blue, and flathead catfish in various systems. Stu Shipman suggested that information about the advisory committee be placed on the NCD homepage. It was also suggested that we place information about the committee in Fisheries Magazine.

Report From the Southern Division Catfish Management Committee: The next meeting is Thursday February 8, 2007. Zack Brown's sampling survey is almost complete.

## **New Business**

### Officer Nominations/elections

Mark Porath was elected Chair

Cari-Ann Hayer was elected Secretary/Treasurer

## **Funding for the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Catfish Symposium**

There was discussion regarding funding the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Catfish Symposium. Before the inception of the NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee, proceeds from the Catfish 2000 Symposium and subsequent sales of the proceedings were being set aside as seed money for another symposium. That money was transferred to the NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee's account. Planning is underway for the next catfish symposium June 26-30, 2010 in Memphis, TN. It will be a collaborative effort between the NCD and Southern Division of the AFS. It was decided that \$10,000 from the NCD account would be set aside as seed money for the symposium. It is hoped that after the 2010 meeting that the \$10,000 can be repaid and set aside for another event.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Catfish Symposium Committee is going to submit a budget with a time line for various deadlines. The end product for this symposium would be another proceedings similar to the Catfish 2000 book.

A motion was made by Tony Barada to transfer \$10,000 to a Catfish 2010 account. There was no second, so the motion died.

Stu Shipman made a motion requesting the Catfish 2010 committee to develop a budget with a timeline when monies are needed. The money would be taken out of the NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee account when needed. The motion was seconded by Vince Travnicek. The motion carried.

There was further discussion regarding the Catfish 2010 prospectus. Everyone agreed that it was important to have a place for anglers and professionals to meet and communicate. A sign-up sheet was passed around so people could indicate what committees they were interested in serving on.

### **Ictalurids List-server**

The list-server has been down for several months. Discussions with AFS IT staff indicate they want committees to go with a forum type server. It was agreed to do that if a message was sent out to people letting them know when an item had been added so they could go and follow the discussion thread. Greg Pitchford will follow up with AFS IT staff.

There was some discussion on the summer sampling workshop. No one volunteered to coordinate, so we will put off until another time.

There was some discussion about the importance of madtoms and other non-game catfishes. Hopefully the catfish technical committees can facilitate communication between those working with non-game catfish and those commercial and recreationally important species.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.  
Respectfully submitted by Greg Pitchford