

**NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee
Annual Business Meeting, 68th Midwest Madison, WI
Meeting Minutes, December 9, 2007**

Welcome and call to order by Greg Pitchford at 1:05pm

Handouts: agenda, NCD financial statement, minutes from 2006 meeting

Mark Porath presented award to Greg Pitchford.

Presentation and approval of 2006 minutes: Motion made to approve the minutes (Lynn Schlueter). Motion approved.

Reports

Treasurer's report (from NCD files). We have \$11,506.09 in the account and there were no expenses in 2007, but with the upcoming Catfish 2010, this will change. Mark Porath discussed the potential for developing a logo for the committee as a possible future expenditure. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report (Lynn Schlueter). Motion approved.

Catfish Sampling Advisory Panel Update: *No activity* because of focus on Catfish 2010. Contact Dave Buckmeier for information and/or interest.

Ictalurid List-serve Update: Over the past year there have been some problems with the list-serve, but it is up and running again. The directions on the NCD website are wrong, but should be fixed. This will be a good source of information for the Catfish 2010.

Chapter Representatives Update: Chapter Representatives were verified and or changed.

Reminders:

Next year is officer elections, be thinking about your availability and other candidates

The next SDAFS meeting is February 28 in Wheeling, WV.
www.sdafs.org/meetings/2008

George Scholten george.scholten@state.tn.us is currently updating the SDAFS Catfish Management Technical Committee Website (<http://www.sdafs.org/catfish>) and he is working on expanding the catfish literature section of the site. These can be final state reports, journal publications, etc. in PDF format. We would especially like to post relevant white papers as these have become very difficult to obtain. If you have final reports or manuscripts in PDF and would like to make them available, please send them directly to George at the email above. Also, if you have a few high quality catfish pictures that you would like to see on the website send those as well.

State Reports

Dakota: Fish regulations in the Red River have been modified to 1 over 24" per trip with a limit of 5. There was a somewhat widespread catfish die-off in the Red River in August between Grand forks and Fargo. 1500 dead fish were found of all sizes. Specimens were sent to Minnesota and it was found two bacteria: *Columnaris* and *Aeromonas*. Missouri River has good catfish and Lake Sakakawea does not have much interest in catfishing. There are strict ANS regulations now with stringent bait regulations.

Minnesota: Anglers were still finding dead fish late into fall near Pembina on the Red River. The next assessment on the Red River was planned in 2010, but as a result of the die-off it will be planned for sooner. There is stable to fair interest in Flathead angling.

Kansas: Opened up a handfishing season this year and had a 50% response rate. Investigators are looking into interest. Illinois and Kansas are the only NCD states with handfishing. In Missouri, they allowed handfishing by permit 10 fish/year. There was interest by about 2000 anglers and they got a trophy fish 60% of the time. This is good!

Creel surveys for the state are usually done during the day and they are looking into conducting them at night. Investigators are evaluating the effects of feeders on catch in 22 impoundments. They found that they do not attract fish as the cats are all around. They do however attract anglers. The report is done and will be available in early 2008.

Blue catfish are being stocked across the state. They found that blue catfish eat a lot of mussels which is good from a zebra mussel standpoint. At one lake there is a 35mm length limit to create a trophy fishery and also handle ANS species.

Iowa: Using baited hoopnets in small impoundments researchers are investigating how stocked fish are doing across the state. There is a flathead study on interior rivers statewide. In the Missouri River, sampling methods show low frequency electrofishing. They are looking at differences in baseline data between two sampling periods (early and late summer). A movement study in the Iowa River is being done looking at variation among individuals and the distribution of flatheads in relation to barriers. They are also looking at habitat information and mapping stretches of the river using GIS technology. The flathead fishery is almost nonexistent where only 1% of anglers are targeting flatheads in pool 13.

Wisconsin: They are putting together a species committee for catfish which will come up with specific species management plans before taking the recommendations to the policy board. There are new bait laws where anglers can not take bait fish away from any water and can not release dead bait. Flatheads and Channel catfish are treated the same and there are no size limits.

Nebraska: Investigators are currently conducting 3 studies on catfish. One is a study on gear bias; the other is a gear comparison. They have a large database of gillnets and are looking to compare these data with different sampling techniques and varying habitat. The third study involves changing current regulations from the current 10 channel catfish and blue cats combined to only one blue catfish.

Missouri: There have been a series of public meetings seeking input on restrictive regulations on blue catfish and flathead catfish in an 82-mile reach of the Missouri River. 81% voted for no change in the regulations. The decision was postponed until 2010. A catfish harvest evaluation study (CHEP) was conducted that involved standardized sampling using Low frequency electrofishing, 15Hz, 1-7 amps, pulsed DC, between April 15 and July 15. Angler exploitation exceeded 25% at times. In 2006 and 2006, 5,099 flathead and blue catfish were tagged. 19.5% were returned and 82% of tagged fish were harvested. Trotlines were the most effective method. There was angler non compliance in 2007. There were high reward tags (\$150) versus regular tags (\$25). Kevin Sullivan is looking at exploitation rates in Truman reservoir and found 81% exploitation over 3.5 years. He saw little differences between ages from otolith versus pectoral spines on the Missouri River and Truman Reservoir for flathead and blue catfish. There is some small impoundment work where stocking rates are 15/acre/year. Investigators are also examining movement of flathead and blue catfish on the Missouri River. Lots of fish were tagged and there was less movement than anticipated. Exploitation rates were around 40% and data suggests management at the reach level.

Old Business

Funding Request for the 2nd International Catfish Symposium- this will be done this upcoming year

New Business

Catfish committee logo- There is interest in designing a committee logo however, there are no artist in the committee! If interested there is more information on the website.

Catfish sampling workshop: There is not much interest in conducting a summer workshop as most effort in the next couple years will be on Catfish 2010.

2nd international Catfish Symposium Planning Update – Greg Pitchford: The meeting was originally going to be held in Memphis, TN; however as a result of logistics (\$), it has been decided to have the meeting in St. Louis, MO. We have a contract with the Millennium Hotel in downtown St. Louis where they will accept government per diem rates and a suite of other concessions that Memphis would not honor.

In-Fisherman is going to sponsor a major fishing tournament on Saturday June 19 in conjunction with the Catfish meeting which will take place June 19-22, 2010. The weigh in for the tournament will be held under the Arch.

We went briefly over the people involved in the planning, coordination of the meeting (Buckmeier, Kwak, etc.). There was reference to the sign-up sheet that was passed around at last years meeting involving committees for the 2010 meeting.

We are expecting between 300-400 people to attend the meeting. There will be angler talks early on in the schedule to coincide with the tournament and more technical talks later in the schedule.

Lynn Schlueter suggested contacting local fishing guides and putting this information on the website for interested persons.

There was discussion about plenary speaker ideas (Bill Dance?)

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45.

Attendees

Name	Organization	E-mail
Mark Porath	NGPC	Mark.porath@ngpc.ne.gov
Lynn Schlueter	NDGF	lschlue7@nd.gov
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