

**NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee
Annual Business Meeting, 69th Midwest Columbus, OH
Meeting Minutes, December 14, 2008**

Welcome and call to order by Mark Porath at 1:10pm

Review and approval of Agenda: Motion made, motion approved.

Presentation and approval of 2007 minutes (they have been posted on the webpage):
Motion made to approve the minutes (Lynn Schlueter). Motion approved.

Lynn Schlueter asked if there any catfish tournament regulations. There was discussion about surveying states for catfish regulations. Hal Shram previously expressed interest in tournament mortality rates similar to research done on small mouth bass. Need funding.

Reports

Treasurer's report (from NCD files). We have \$18,707.83. Expenses included the catfish 2010 logo and inserts for the annual meeting in Ottawa and the Midwest fish and wildlife conference. Incoming moneys included \$5000.00 from the Fish Management section, and \$2,000 from Bass Pro to go towards the catfish 2010 meeting. 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.

Chair Report – Mark Porath

- Mark reminded everyone to review the Southern Division Catfish Committee minutes.
- Pitchford inquired about using the Southern Division discussion group and get rid of our list serve which has had problems.
 - The address to the list serve was changed and the committee was not notified
 - The Southern Division blog is not active yet
 - Schlueter expressed that we should keep the NCD list serve separate from the Southern Division
 - Porath – Action: get the list serve issues addressed with the parent society before combining with the Southern Division.
- Website – the website is taking off and encouragement to send all gray literature including state reports.
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Old Business

Update on the 2nd International Catfish Symposium

- In June 2009 catfish committee will meet in St. Louis to work out details (e.g. meet with hotels).

- We are still trying to promote nongame and international folks.
- Fundraising – The fundraising goal is for state representatives to raise \$1,000 per state. There is a CD that fundraisers can use to give to potential funders. This video is also available on U-Tube and on the Southern Division website.
 - Bill Dance needs to be recognized for doing a lot of things for AFS and especially for making the fundraising video
 - There were some concerns about where the money is going (breaks, socials, publication).
 - Some funders don't want the money to go towards alcohol
 - Tom Lang is the fundraiser coordinator
 - Get requests for funding in early
- Porath – Commented about conducting an age and growth workshop at the same time as the catfish symposium which may be challenging, but someone needs to step up.
- Lynn Schlueter suggested a poster idea for the meeting: Recreation in terms of tourism: the financial impacts of catfishing.

New Business

Officer elections: Kirk Hanson was nominated as the new Chair of the Committee and Cari-Ann Hayer was nominated as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion to accept the ballots (Schlueter). Motion accepted.

State Reports

Dakota: Fish regulations in the Red River limit is 5 per trip with only one 24" or over, only gut and gill for catfish east of Hwy 1. 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.

Indiana: Catfish fishing is number 4 in importance as a sportfishery, but don't think creel surveys are getting an accurate count. The Wabash River has a good population. Indiana has different regulations than Illinois and Indiana is looking at a trophy fishery (there is not a lot of data to look at) to bring up size limits to Illinois limits. Catfish aren't really targeted in research except for annual stream surveys.

Iowa: Found tandem baited hoopnets caught bigger fish. When stocking fish earlier they are finding a better quality of fish, but not better numbers.

Nebraska: Investigators are currently conducting 3 studies on catfish. One is a study on gear bias and gear comparison on the Platte River where they did an enclosure

experiment with known numbers and they were not catching a lot. Nebraska is finding lots of variation in comparing fall gillnet catches with baited hoopnets.

Kansas: This is the second year using baited hoopnets in reservoirs and lakes. These data are being compared to standard gill netting where there is extreme variability.

A project evaluating the effects of feeders on catch in 22 impoundments is completed. 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 placed on the list serve.

The handfishing season is entering its second year in 2009. Two to three hundred permits were issued requiring mandatory reporting. There was a 50% response, so getting a handle on fishing pressure may be difficult.

Creel surveys were conducted at night and they found that there was not a lot of harvesting at night and not a lot of pressure.

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.

Michigan: This is the first year that Michigan has had representation on the NCD Ictalurid Technical Committee. Management and research of Ictalurids has always taken a back seat to other sportfish in Michigan. Hopefully, this will change in coming years. To get more managers and researchers talking about Ictalurids, an announcement was placed in the Michigan Chapter AFS newsletter for volunteers to assist in the following focus areas:

1. Develop and implement a strategy to “show case” catfish as a sport fishery - Michigan needs to do a better job promoting these fisheries. We could easily develop a site on the intranet that shows anglers how to identify catfish, how to catch them, and where to catch them.
2. Guide future management – Michigan needs to develop a management strategy for catfish. Right now there is limited stocking to create some fisheries and for predator control of stunted bluegill populations. There needs to be some evaluation of these stocking efforts. More than likely natural reproduction will sustain these populations. If not, why? Are Michigan’s regulations appropriate? There is currently a 15 inch minimum size (5 daily bag) for flathead catfish and a 12 inch minimum size (10 daily bag) for channel catfish.
3. Develop questions for research – There have been very few research studies on Ictalurids in Michigan waters.

Daugherty, D.J., and T.M. Sutton. 2005. Population Abundance and Stock Characteristics of Flathead Catfish in the Lower St. Joseph River, Michigan. North American Journal of Fisheries Management 25:1191-1201.

Daugherty, D.J., and T.M. Sutton. 2005. Seasonal movement patterns, habitat use, and home range of flathead catfish in the lower St. Joseph River, Michigan. North American Journal of Fisheries Management 25:256-269.

Haak, R.J. 1987. Mortality, growth, and yield of channel catfish in Saginaw Bay Lake Huron. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Research Report 1947, Ann Arbor.

Missouri: A catfish harvest evaluation study (CHEP) was conducted that involved standardized sampling using Low frequency electrofishing. There is good angler exploitation information for blue catfish and flathead catfish where they found exploitation to be very high. Fifty % of tags were returned. A telemetry study is being conducted on the Missouri River on the movement of flathead catfish and blue catfish where they are finding small home ranges and that they are not as migratory as previously thought.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Attendees

Name	Organization	E-mail
Mark Porath	NGPC	MARK.PORATH@Ngpc.Ne.gov
Lynn Schlueter	NDGF	lschlue7@nd.gov
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