

Summer 2023

Issue 67

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Dakota Chapter

American Fisheries Society

Newsletter



President's Message: Paul Bailey

We're accustomed to difficult winters here in the Dakota's but the winter of 2022-23 was a doozy. Here in Bismarck, our 101.2" of snowfall fell just 0.4" short of breaking our seasonal record set in 1996-97. And, when additional factors like air temperature and persisting snowpack are considered, we just experienced our second most "severe" winter on record behind only 1978-79.

One of our many blizzards occurred in February as members were planning to travel to Bismarck for the Annual Meeting of the Dakota Chapter. With travel dangerous to impossible throughout the Dakotas, Chapter officers made the difficult decision of cancelling the in-person meeting and making the switch to a virtual format.

I was personally amazed at how well the short notice transition from an in-person to a virtual meeting went! This was due in large part to some hard work and great ideas from Russ Kinzler, BJ Schall, Dylan Gravenhof, and Brian Blackwell as well as very patient and flexible paper presenters. I am always impressed by the quality and diversity of information presented at our Annual Meeting and this year was no exception.

I also want to express my appreciation to David Coulter, Alison Coulter, and Mark Kaemingk for coming up with a creative way for poster presenters to virtually share their information and interact with others.

One of the biggest drawbacks to a virtual meeting is missing out on the personal interactions and discussions that are facilitated by an in-person meeting. A second is not being able to properly recognize Chapter award recipients. We had many deserving students and professionals that were recognized for their achievements and contributions (listed in this newsletter). Please take a moment to congratulate them when you have the opportunity.

One positive aspect of the virtual format was that participation in our Annual Meeting was outstanding! By my estimation, we had approximately 150 individuals attend a portion of the meeting, and 60 individuals participate in the Otolith Microchemistry Workshop conducted by Dr. Greg Whitledge.

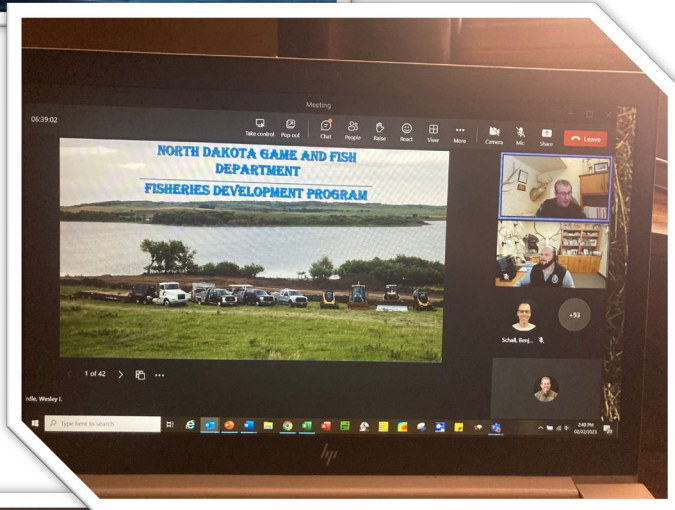
I hope you all have a safe and productive field season and am looking forward to seeing you all in-person in Sioux Falls!

Paul Bailey



Chapter President Paul Bailey

Blizzard Prompts Virtual 2023 Dakota Chapter Meeting



2023 Dakota Chapter Award Winners

**Robert L. Hanten Distinguished Professional Service Award –
Mark Fincel**

**Aquatic Resource Conservation Award –
Not Awarded in 2023**

**David W. Willis Outstanding Young Professional Award –
BJ Schall**

**Dr. James C. Schmulbach Memorial Scholarship –
Lauren Allex**

**Robert A. Klumb Memorial Scholarship –
Logan Culter
Riley Mounsdon**

**Sauger Scholarship –
Lauren Allex
Elise Anderson
Alexis Gerber
Emma Millsap**

**Northern Pike Scholarship –
Colby Dows
Austin Ebach
Noah Reddy**

**Will Sayler Memorial Scholarship –
Justin Harms**

“The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more.”

--Jonas Salk

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Update

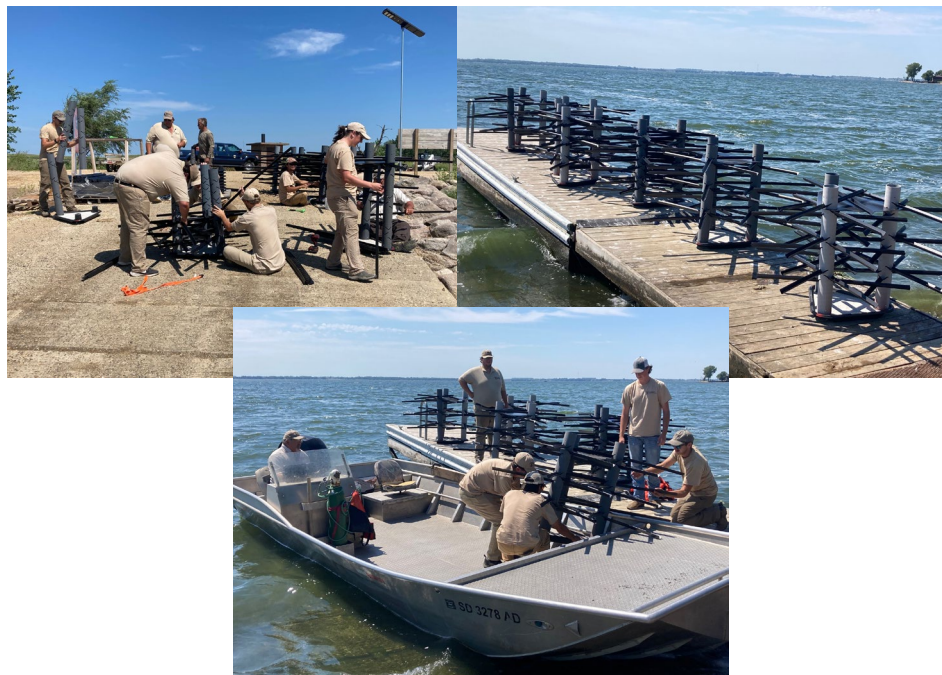
John Lott, Section Chief

SDGFP Staff Changes

The first half of 2023 has been slow for staff changes within the aquatics section of GFP. Liz Renner was promoted to a wildlife biologist, in our Ft. Pierre office, and Jackson Bertus was hired as a resource biologist at Cleghorn Springs SFH, following the resignation of Shaylee Martling.

Aquatics Program Priorities

Aquatic Habitat and Access and Fish Production are priority programs for GFP right now. With regards to the fish production program, we strive to maximize angler satisfaction by better meeting angler expectations and increasing the consistency with which we meet fisheries manager stocking requests. One area where we have struggled to meet fish stocking requests is fish for urban and community fisheries. To address this issue, we are expanding rearing capacity of recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) at Cleghorn SFH in Rapid City and pursuing development of eastern South Dakota RAS facilities to produce warmwater fish and trout. We will update the Dakota Chapter on progress on these efforts, as it occurs.



South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Update

John Lott, Section Chief, continued

Trends in Fishing License Sales

One thing fisheries chiefs and administrators do is track income and expenses for state fishing programs, in association with budgeting and looking for potential impacts of angler recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) efforts. I thought I'd share some year-to-date license sale data, through June, for the last four years, to help illustrate trends or patterns we have experienced in license sales. There definitely was a "Covid Bump" for resident license sales in 2020, while nonresident license decreased slightly during that year. Beginning on July 1, 2020, the new requirement for all hunting and fishing licensees in South Dakota to purchase a habitat stamp (\$10 for residents, \$25 for nonresidents) went into effect, for all license types except 1-day licenses. As anglers are savvy, with regards to saving a few dollars, nonresident anglers began purchasing multiple 1-day licenses, instead of a 3-day license, to avoid habitat stamp fees. Since 2020, South Dakota has been relatively stable, with regards to resident license sales, while nonresident license sales have increased.

License Type	2020	2021	2022	3-yr Avg	2023
1-Day Fishing	3,412	3,119	2,589	3,040	3,237
Annual Fishing	58,743	46,583	43,885	49,737	45,561
Senior Fishing	12,722	12,150	11,651	12,174	12,133
RESIDENT TOTALS	74,877	61,852	58,125	64,951	60,931
1-Day Fishing	11,257	21,458	18,956	17,224	18,825
3-Day Fishing	12,916	12,274	11,062	12,084	11,381
Annual Fishing	22,232	25,362	31,487	26,360	31,717
NONRESIDENT TOTALS	46,405	59,094	61,505	55,668	61,923
COMBINED TOTALS	121,282	120,946	119,630	120,619	122,854

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Update

John Lott, Section Chief, continued

Join Us at the 2024 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference!

The State of South Dakota is hosting the 2024 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (MFWC) from January 27-31, 2024, in Sioux Falls. SDGFP, as a member of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA), has been designated as the lead agency for conference planning. The conference theme will be “*Habitat: Working Today to Benefit Tomorrow*”.

The business meeting for the Dakota Chapter of the AFS will be held in association with the MFWC. There will not be a separate Dakota Chapter-AFS meeting in 2024, so I encourage chapter members to consider attending the MFWC. I encourage Chapter members who would typically present papers or posters at the chapter meeting to do so at the MFWC. There should also be some excellent continuing education workshops and symposia that will likely match the interests of Chapter members.

We are excited about the opportunity to help showcase fish, wildlife, and habitat management in the Dakotas at this meeting. The conference website is <https://www.midwestfw.org/> and information on calls for symposia, workshops, and related meetings are currently open. The call for presentations and poster submission will be in mid-August. Please contact me at john.lott@state.sd.us if you have questions about the meeting or if you would like to be involved in conference planning efforts.



84TH MIDWEST FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

January 28-31, 2024 | Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Habitat: Working Today to Benefit Tomorrow

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Greg Power, Division Chief

What seems to have become the norm, a look at North Dakotas fisheries seems like another reiteration of records set! As so often stated, records are meant to be broken ... and that certainly remains the case for the Dakotas (note the future references to 'record'!).

As we all know, the winter of 2022-23 was a nasty one, particularly on the bookends. Due to record or near-record snowfall that remained on our lakes for 5-6 months, our biologists were able to confirm some level of winterkill in about two-thirds of the ~ 90 waters that were on our watch list due to concerns with low dissolved oxygen levels, etc. Fortunately, however, not all of these waters experienced a total or significant winterkill – many were just partial kills.



Due to the 'lateness' of spring (one of the latest on record), our normal very tight timeline to address a long list of spring activities got further condensed. Thankfully, field staff were able to perform all the following in just a few weeks and in the end, met or surpassed every expectation –

Northern pike spawning; walleye spawning; trap and transport (including more than 30,000 pounds of pike channel catfish, yellow perch and bluegill); hatchery stocking of ~33,000 pounds of rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout; chinook salmon stocking into Sakakawea; limited winterkill investigations; limited cormorant control; paddlefish harvest monitoring; new ramp pours and silt removal at numerous ramps; boat dock deliveries and installs across the state; Aquatic Nuisance Species CD3 and ILIDS installations; Minnesota bait vendor checks; and more – and again, all this is in just a few weeks!

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Greg Power, Division Chief, continued

As the cold May melted quickly into summer, some interesting observations were made by field staff. Before any walleye stocking occurred, some of our test netting of numerous lakes throughout the state resulted in YOY walleye. The number of lakes and the magnitude of this natural reproduction is something that we've never observed before in North Dakota (record setting!).

Also of note, the Departments standardized adult population sampling in 2023 yielded very positive information on most lakes for future anglers. Fish populations and in particular walleye populations are at or near record setting levels.

During the second of June, approximately eight million walleye were stocked into more than 140 waters. This marks yet another of good hatchery production at Garrison Dam National Hatchery.

On the aquatic nuisance species (ANS) front, a multi-faceted approach of information/education, monitoring, watercraft inspections, etc. continues. Despite record setting monitoring and inspections, similar to 2022, there have been no new ANS infestations to date documented this year in North Dakota waters. Lastly, after a long drawn-out process, it does appear the Department will be able to use Corp WRDA funding to further strengthen the ANS program.

On the personnel front, longtime career fisheries biologists continue to age out (!). In the past 1 ½ years Jeff Hendrickson, Jason Lee and Scott Elstad all retired and this summer Randy Hiltner and Pat John will be following suit. Losing all this talent and experience (nearly 20% of our very small fisheries division) will present many challenges but we all wish them the best – hopefully enjoying the fruits of their labor fishing North Dakota!

From an anglers perspective, the open water 2023 fishing season (to date) has been record-setting for North Dakota. Once the waters began to warm in late May, through all of June and continuing into July, the walleye fishing has never been better throughout most of the state. Not only were Sakakawea, Devils Lake and Oahe highly productive but also many/most of our new prairie lakes provided lots of fish and smiles.

There's never a bad time to go fishing and even with the intense summer heat yet to come, find some time and get out and wet a line! Better yet, do your part to grow R3 efforts – take someone 'new' and introduce them to the fishing world!!!



From the Field –

Impact of Climate Driven Changes to Water Levels on Recreational Fisheries in the Northern Glaciated Plains

Alison Coulter, Mark Kaemingk, Dave Coulter, Steve Chipps, Taufique Mahmood, Maddy Siller (MS student, SDSU), Michaela Neal (MS student, UND), and Matthew Maldonado (MS student, UND).

Our collaborative SDSU-UND team has been making progress on the USGS Climate Adaptation Science Center project that aims to investigate climate-driven changes to recreational fisheries in South Dakota and North Dakota. The primary aim of the project is to provide fisheries managers with information about future climate impacts to aquatic habitats, fish communities, and angler communities.

Since our last project update, we set up a computer model to predict water's journey above, across, and under the land surface before it pools in Devils Lake. During the next phase, we will examine how and why Devils Lake's volume increases or decreases downstream. The Devils Lake

hydrology model will allow us to understand and predict changes in water levels throughout other parts of North Dakota and South Dakota. Simultaneously, we have been working to gather input data for analysis including lake fisheries, stocking history, surface area, and water quality. Thank you to those who queried databases and contributed files! Finally, we have also been developing resource size-use models to predict how changes in lake surface area will impact angler effort. Devils Lake has been a useful model system to understand how changes in water levels could impact angler effort in the future.

We thank everyone that was able to attend and provide input during our initial cooperator meeting this past February after the annual Dakota Chapter AFS meeting. Thank you for sharing your insight for how we can improve this project. We look forward to providing more updates and seeing many of you this summer and at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Sioux Falls, SD on January 28-31.



From the Field –

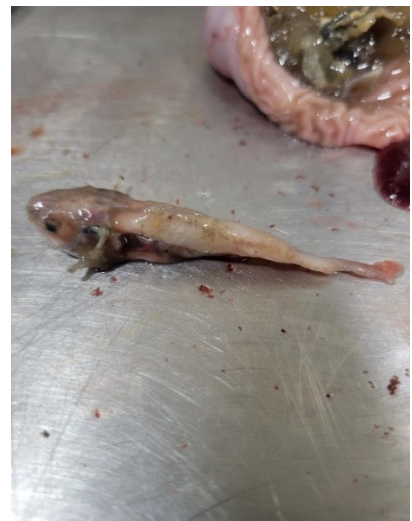
Can Channel Catfish Serve as a Biocontrol for Overabundant Black Bullhead?

Tyler Bennett, Alison Coulter, Paul Bailey, and Mark Kaemingk

Black Bullhead dominate many fisheries across the Midwest and are generally not valued by anglers. A collaborative project between the North Dakota Game and Fish and the University of North Dakota seeks to evaluate whether stocking channel catfish can be used as a management technique to reduce Black Bullhead populations (via consumption or competition).

We conducted a population estimate of Black Bullhead (>180 mm) following ice out in Sweet Briar Dam, North Dakota. We estimated the population of Black Bullhead to be 252,572 before Channel Catfish were stocked. A total of 4,180 Channel Catfish (mean total length = 502 mm; mean weight = 1038 g, mean relative weight = 79) were collected by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department on Lake Oahe in April 2023 and were subsequently stocked into Sweet Briar Dam. A total of 59 Channel Catfish were then collected at the end of May (three weeks after stocking) for diet analysis. Black Bullhead comprised 34% of the total percent dry weight and contributed the most of any other prey item to Channel Catfish diets. The W_r of sampled Channel Catfish increased from 79 (initial stocking) to 88 within three weeks (although some of this could be attributed to gonadal development).

We will collect additional Channel Catfish diets in August and October to see if Black Bullhead continue to be the dominant prey item, potentially giving promise to using Channel Catfish stockings to control overabundant Black Bullhead populations in the Midwest.



From the Field –

Constructing and Understanding Angler Typologies Using License Purchasing Histories

Michael Lant, Cayla Bendel, Chad Parent, and Mark Kaemingk

Angler behavior information is a critical component of fisheries management and conservation efforts. Much of our understanding of angler behavior is associated with the period after an angler has purchased a fishing license, yet little is known about how an angler makes the decision to purchase a license and what can be inferred from license purchasing patterns (e.g., analogous to your Amazon purchasing history). Interannual license purchasing patterns related to license type, sequence of purchases, timing, and duration could reveal unique angler typologies. Such unique angler license typologies may further reveal specific sociodemographic characteristics of the angler population that could be used to predict future changes in overall license sales. Once these license typologies have been identified it could facilitate targeted efforts for the allocation of limited resources to improve recreational fishing opportunities for the diversity of anglers on the landscape.

A collaborative project between North Dakota Game and Fish and the University of North Dakota aims to identify the number of North Dakota resident angler license typologies and associated sociodemographic characteristics. Angler license typologies were constructed using North Dakota Game and Fish angler license sales from 2009 to 2018. We identified three distinct angler license typologies based on differences in

the sequences, timing, and duration of license types purchased. Each angler license typology contributed uniquely to management efforts (Dingell-Johnson funds) and was represented by unique sociodemographic characteristics. Angler license typologies can be used for strategic marketing, survey design, and to reveal anglers with different levels of commitment and expectations – potentially leading to specialized forms of fisheries management to sustain or create new typologies.



From the Field –

South Dakota Governor Noem and Lieutenant Governor Rhoden go Walleye Spawning



RAS Muskies Stocked from Cleghorn Fish Hatchery

Muskies were stocked in eastern South Dakota Lakes on June 26, 2023, marking the first use of recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) at Cleghorn Fish Hatchery for Muskies in the region. A total of 250 Muskies were released, with North Island receiving 22, Sinai 86, Lynn 85, and Middle Lynn 57 fish, at a stocking rate of 1 fish per 20 surface acres. These Muskies had an average length of 15.6 inches and were tagged with passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags for individual identification. Additionally, 20 Muskies in Lynn Lake were implanted with acoustic transmitters to assess their post-stocking survival. Weekly tracking will be conducted on these 20 fish to monitor their locations and well-being through ice-up.



From the Field –



Bramble Park Fishing Pier

Collaborating closely with the City of Watertown Street Department, the Aquatics Habitat and Access staff successfully undertook the reconstruction and reinstallation of the fishing pier at Bramble Park in Watertown, South Dakota. This significant project involved the installation of a new cement plank ramp and the replacement of all the lumber surrounding the pier's frame, ensuring improved durability and functionality for fishing enthusiasts and visitors.

Paddlefish Citation

On May 28, 2023, South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officers at Big Bend Dam, observed an individual place a bag over a paddlefish and attempt to carry the fish to his vehicle. Officers contacted the individual and found that he did not have a paddlefish license. A citation was issued, and the fish was seized. Unfortunately, the fish had been hidden in the rocks for an extended period of time and was unable to be returned to the water.



From the Field –



Sheridan Lake Stocked with RAS Walleye

An extraordinary stocking event recently took place at Sheridan Reservoir, setting a remarkable milestone. In a groundbreaking initiative, the staff introduced 1,468 walleyes into the reservoir. What makes this stocking truly exceptional is that these walleyes were catchable-sized, averaging nearly a pound in weight and measuring approximately 14 inches in length. This stocking marks the first time such a remarkable feat has been accomplished using the RAS (Recirculating Aquaculture System) method. The introduction of these mature walleye into Sheridan Reservoir promises to enhance the fishing experience for anglers and contribute to the ecosystem's overall health.

Disabled Angler Enjoys Lake Francis Case Paddlefish Season

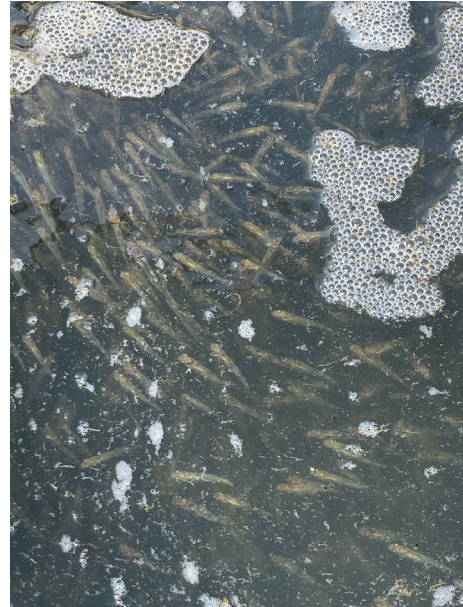
In early 2022, Steve Molengraaf approached the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) Commission to seek a permit that would enable him to assist his friend, Nathan Mueller, in fishing for paddlefish. Nathan, who has only one arm, and Steve were both fortunate to secure tags for the Lake Francis Case Paddlefish season in 2023. During their fishing excursion, Nathan successfully snagged the paddlefish, while Steve skillfully landed the fish. This achievement was made possible due to the disabled angler's assistance permit obtained from SDGFP.



From the Field –

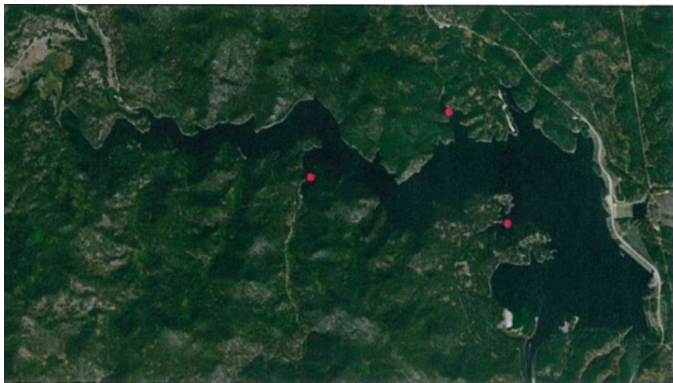
Walleye Stocking into Lake Oahe

In 2023, Lake Oahe was stocked with small fingerling walleye (1-1.5 inches) reared at Blue Dog State Fish Hatchery. The numbers for each stocking location are as follows: West Pollock received 105,245 walleye, Shaw Creek was stocked with 399,717 walleye, Indian Memorial received 596,139 walleye, Indian Creek was stocked with 500,555 walleye, Swan Creek received 878,270 walleye, East Whitlocks was stocked with 817,193 walleye, Minneconjou received 200,196 walleye, and Spring Creek was stocked with 211,496 walleye. These impressive numbers culminate in a total of 3,708,811 walleye being stocked into Lake Oahe.



Pactola Lake Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project Gets Green Light from USFS

On June 17, 2023, James Gubbels, District Ranger for the USFS, signed the Pactola Lake Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project Decision Memo. The project is a collaborative effort between the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and the Mystic District of the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF). Its primary goal is to enhance the aquatic habitat in Pactola Lake by introducing natural structures, specifically tree root wads, to benefit various fish species such as northern pike, largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, perch, and rock bass. The proposed locations for these structures, namely Osprey Bay, Bear Gulch, and Boarding House Gulch, were carefully selected to avoid conflicts with recreators or dam operation. Christmas trees were initially considered for addition, but after discussions with the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR), this plan was discarded due to potential nutrient concerns. The project falls within an exempt category of actions, as its environmental impact is not expected to be significant.



From the Field –

New Paddlefish Sport Fishery Developing in Lake Sharpe

Recently, fisheries crews from the Ft. Pierre District Office began monitoring efforts on a budding Paddlefish fishery in Lake Sharpe. Historically, Paddlefish were extirpated from Lake Sharpe following dam construction in the 1900s. Paddlefish were first reintroduced to Lake Sharpe in 2015 with the hope that these long-lived fish would create a future sport fishery. These stockings have continued annually, and fish from the initial stockings are now reaching a size that makes them vulnerable to capture by GFP survey methods. It appears these stockings were successful, and the stocked Paddlefish have been surviving and growing well in Lake Sharpe. SDGFP biologists have started collecting and tagging these fish to commence a population monitoring program to track abundance and growth of this new fishery. Although catches are lower compared to other Paddlefish sport-fisheries in South Dakota, biologists are optimistic that a new Paddlefish sport-fishery could be available to SD anglers in Lake Sharpe in as soon as 3-5 years. Paddlefish stocked in Lake Sharpe were reared from the Gavin's Point Dam National Fish Hatchery and represent a great working relationship between SDGFP and USFWS. Annual stocking requests will continue and approximately 15,000 large fingerling paddlefish are stocked in Lake Sharpe each year.



From the Field –

American Creek Marina Installs Handicap Accessible Boat Ramp

We are delighted to announce the successful installation of a handicap-accessible boat loading ramp at the American Creek Marina, situated along the picturesque shores of the Missouri River in Chamberlain, South Dakota. This remarkable initiative was made possible through a collaborative effort involving The City of Chamberlain, South Dakota Game Fish and Parks, Walleyes Unlimited, and the Chamberlain Explorers Club. The primary goal of this project was to create an inclusive and accessible environment for individuals with mobility challenges, providing them with the opportunity to partake in boating experiences without limitations.

The idea for the accessible ramp was inspired by Eric Reuer, a passionate young fishing enthusiast who faced difficulties loading and unloading into his father's boat due to being in a wheelchair. To address this challenge and accommodate others like Reuer, the Chamberlain Explorers Club undertook fundraising efforts, contributing nearly \$8,000 to support two initiatives in Chamberlain. One of these initiatives was the creation of the handicap-accessible boat loading ramp, which features an adjustable mesh sling and lift, ensuring a smooth and safe loading and unloading process for individuals with disabilities.

The recent visit of the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission to the Arrowwood Conference Center in Oacoma, SD, on July 20th, marks a significant recognition of the importance of this project. Mike Lauritsen, Lake Francis Case Economic Development Director, expressed his sincere gratitude to the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission for their support and acknowledgment of this groundbreaking initiative.



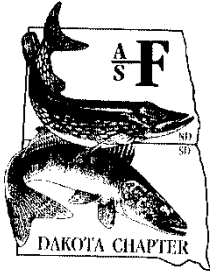
From the Field –

North Dakota Looks at PFAS

In the summer of 2022, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (ND DEQ) sampled the Red River for presence and concentration of PFAS (Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) at multiple locations. PFAS are manufactured chemicals utilized for a variety of consumer and manufacturing processes such as nonstick cookware, water-resistant clothing, automotive, electronics, and aviation. These are termed ‘forever compounds’ as they do not break down in the environment and tend to bioaccumulate. Thus, causing potential for pollution and health related concerns. Four PFAS compounds were detected throughout the Red River samples at varied concentrations. Currently, the EPA is in the process of developing Health Assessments and Health Advisories for these chemicals as pertains to drinking water standards. Further detailed information can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/iris>. Lane Dahl, of ND DEQ, has initiated fish tissue sampling for PFAS with walleye and rainbow smelt collected from Lake Sakakawea during spring 2023 spawning. Lab results are still being processed and future plans for expanding fish tissue sampling are underway. We hope to have Lane at our upcoming Dakota Chapter meeting to share some further information on this developing area.



2023 Business Meeting Minutes – Dylan Gravenhof



Dakota Chapter
American Fisheries Society
Est. 1987

Business Meeting Minutes
2/22/2023

Call to Order – Paul Bailey at 15:24

Additions to the Agenda

- 2024 meeting plans in conjunction with Midwest conference
- Committee reports will be available in next newsletter rather than during business meeting

Officer's Reports

President Report – Paul Bailey

- About 95 registrants for the 2023 annual Dakota Chapter meeting
- Potentially refund student registrations and partial professional due to moving to virtual format
- Planning for 'virtual' poster session to still allow those folks a chance to present
- Continuing Ed. still planned for 3/1/2023: Microchem with Greg Whitledge

Vice President Report – Russ Kinzler

- Thanks to Paul for late transition to virtual due to weather and thanks to presenters for being accommodating

President-Elect Report – Brian Blackwell

- 2024 Dakota Chapter meeting will be held in Sioux Falls in conjunction with Midwest: more details to come

Secretary/Treasurer Report – Dylan Gravenhof

- Edward Jones - \$5,627.62
- Klumb - \$7,611.50
- Schmulbach - \$11,815.91
- Will Sayler Memorial Fund - \$1,600.00
- Checking
 - o Available balance of ~\$1800 prior to 2023 meeting
 - o Registration brought in about \$12,000

- Final balance will be provided in next newsletter pending registration refunds and meeting cancellation fees

SDSU Student Subunit Report

- Took a trip to tour Gavins Point Hatchery and hosted an end of year chapter BBQ
- Hosted a fall electrofishing workshop at Sexaur Park
- Conducted Seining on the Big Sioux River
- Hosted an otolith ageing workshop and business meetings over-winter
- Toured Prairie Aquatech in Brookings
- Wrote and received a grant for travel funds to Bismarck meeting
- Will still be looking to sell t shirts online to raise money for subunit

VCSU Student Subunit Report

- No report

Approval of the 2021 Business Meeting Minutes

- Motion was made (BJ Schall) to approve the 2022 business meeting minutes, motion seconded (Russ K.), and a vote in favor of the motion was accepted

Committee Reports

- No committee reports, will be provided in next 2023 newsletter

Old Business**Active versus 'non-active' chapter members**

- 59 'members' of Dakota Chapter through Parent Society membership, some of these folks have never or no longer attend meetings
- Change was made to make a member in good standing someone who has attended 1 chapter meeting in last 3 years
- Can a quorum be considered 30% of only 'active' members
 - This change could potentially require bylaw change
- M. Finsel suggested a change of wording to 30% of membership or a minimum of X number of voters
 - This would only require wording change and not bylaw change
- What is an appropriate number for the minimum number of voters?
- Many sections and chapters have changed to go this route

New Business**Additional Membership Category**

- D. Gravenhof provided background for this need
- Can we provide discounted registration to folks who are no longer a student but not yet a professional
 - These folks may like to attend but don't have funding provided by employer or discounted rates that students receive or travel grant opportunities
- D. Gravenhof made motion to allow these individuals to be eligible for 'student' rates
- L. Renner made amendment to additionally include early career professionals
 - Amendment was rescinded following discussion
- Original motion was seconded by B. Blackwell, and a vote in favor of motion was accepted

New NCD Urban and Community Fisheries technical committee created

- There is a need/request for someone to be a representative for Dakota Chapter on this committee
- No volunteers came forward, EXCOM will be reaching out to find a volunteer for this position

Please contact EXCOM if anyone wishes to be replaced as various technical committee leads

2024 Midwest Conference / Dakota Chapter meeting

- Information provided by B. Blackwell and J. Lott
- Will be held January 28-31 2024 in Sioux Falls, SD at the Sheraton Hotel and Convention center
- Professional registration will be ~\$430-450 and student will be \$175
 - o One day registration will be available for \$200
 - o No Dakota chapter registration on top of Midwest cost
- Hope would be to build Dakota Chapter talks and business meeting into the overall Midwest conference

Election of Officers

- President-elect - Dave Fryda
- Vice President - Todd Kaufman
- A motion was made (R. Kinzler) for unanimous ballot, motion seconded by B. Schall, and a vote in favor of the motion was accepted.

Adjournment at 1613



Dakota Chapter Bylaw Revision Passes

At the 2023 Chapter Business Meeting, a revision of the Chapter Bylaws was proposed with regard to achieving a quorum for conducting Chapter business. The bylaw change was approved through a Chapter vote. This bylaw revision provides a reasonable ability for the Chapter to achieve a quorum at future Annual Meetings once it is approved by the Parent Society.

In accordance with the Society Constitution, an adopted amendment shall be reviewed by the Society's Constitutional Consultant for conformity with the Constitution, Rules, and Procedures of the Society. The Constitutional Consultant presents the adopted amendment to the Society Management Committee for approval. An amendment will take effect when the Unit receives written notice of their approval by the Management Committee from the Executive Director.

The change to Article VIII of the Dakota Chapter Bylaws is as follows (the addition is indicated in red):

Article VIII - Voting and Quorum

Decisions at meetings of the Chapter shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the Society. A quorum at any meeting for the transaction of official business shall be thirty percent (30%) of the entire membership or 40 members, whichever number is lower.

Membership Committee Report – Matt Ward

A total of 94 individuals (28 students and 66 professionals) were registered for the 2023 DCAFS meeting. Registered attendees represented six universities (Minot State; Nebraska-Lincoln; North Dakota; South Dakota State; Valley City State; and Wisconsin-La Crosse) and six state or federal agencies (Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; North Dakota Environmental Quality; North Dakota Game and Fish; South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Forest Service).

A total of 63 members joined the Dakota Chapter via the AFS parent society website but 20 of these members also registered for the 2023 Dakota Chapter meeting. So, an additional 43 members were added via the parent society website that otherwise would not have joined the Dakota Chapter this past year. These 43 members represented the US Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Concordia College, Federal University of Technology Akure, University Putra Malaysia, Iowa State University, University of Idaho, University of South Dakota, Iowa State University, SUNY ESF, Paul Smith's College, USDA Forest Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Cal Poly Humboldt, North Dakota State University, Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, South Dakota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives, State Fisheries Department of Odisha India, Iowa DNR, New Mexico State University, and University of Wisconsin Madison.

Ictalurid Technical Committee Report – Christopher Cheek

BJ Schall, a biologist with South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) and graduate student at South Dakota State University, is evaluating the impact of water level fluctuations on catfish population in eastern South Dakota as part of his Ph.D. research. SDGFP staff from Sioux Falls have attended a catfish tournament in Scotland, SD annually since 2017 to collect basic data (age, weight, and pectoral spines) on fish captured in the lower James River. These data, plus data on Flathead Catfish collected using low-frequency electrofishing in the James River and on Channel Catfish collected with hoop nets and high-frequency electrofishing on the Big Sioux River will be used to assess the influence of water level fluctuations on growth by comparing back-calculated growth increments to hydrologic and environmental variables. Eastern South Dakota has been subject to extreme flood events and droughts in the past 5 years, and the growth and condition of catfish appears to positively correspond to high-water events. To date, SDGFP staff have collected over 1,000 Channel Catfish and nearly 650 Flathead Catfish from the James River and over 250 Channel Catfish from the Big Sioux River. Aging is complete on all fish collected through 2021, and fish collected in 2022 will be aged in winter 2022-2023. Preliminary analysis of Channel Catfish collected at the Scotland fishing tournament indicates a linear positive relationship between Channel Catfish condition and river discharge exists. Additional sampling and analysis will continue in 2023 and 2024, and results will be summarized as part of a Ph.D. dissertation.



Esocid Technical Committee Report – Brian Blackwell

North Dakota

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) has wrapped up our 2017-2021 trophy northern pike (≥ 100 cm) tagging studies on Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe (two mainstem Missouri River Reservoirs). Our goal was to assess current angler use of trophy northern pike in these fisheries and compare this use to guidance available for sustaining trophy muskellunge fisheries (exploitation should not exceed natural mortality; Casselman et al. 2017). We tagged 341 trophy pike on Lake Sakakawea and documented an annual exploitation rate of 12.3% along with an annual mortality rate of 15.7%. For Lake Oahe, we tagged 324 trophy pike and documented an annual exploitation rate of 7.4% along with an annual mortality rate of 20.6%. Exploitation did not exceed natural mortality for either fishery. This indicates that exploitation of both Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe trophy northern pike is acceptably low and the general statewide NDGF northern pike harvest regulations (5 fish daily limit, 10 fish possession limit, no length restrictions) are currently compatible with the long-term sustainability of these fisheries.

South Dakota

South Dakota received 114 adult Muskellunge from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resource in 2022. The fish were broodstock at the Lee Kay Fish Rearing Ponds (Salt Lake City, Utah). Interestingly, the Utah Muskellunge had originated from a South Dakota private hatchery. The fish made the journey (1,015 miles) back to South Dakota and their new home at Middle Lynn Lake in April. The fish were PIT tagged in their dorsal musculature before their release. The average size of the Muskellunge was 34.6 inches.

Fingerling Muskellunge were received from Iowa in July 2022 and stocked into a pond at Blue Dog State Fish Hatchery. Fathead Minnows were fed to the Muskellunge until draining the pond on October 25, 2022. The harvested fingerlings averaged 11.8 inches TL. A total of 1,008 were stocked into Middle Lynn Lake, and 1,096 were stocked into West Highway 81 Lake. Stocked Muskellunge had PIT tags implanted in their dorsal musculature before their release.

South Dakota has started experimenting with raising Muskellunge in recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS). The first RAS fish stocking is anticipated to occur in 2023.



Walleye Technical Committee Report – Mark Fincel

WTC annual meeting highlights

Logan Zebro

WTC Chair

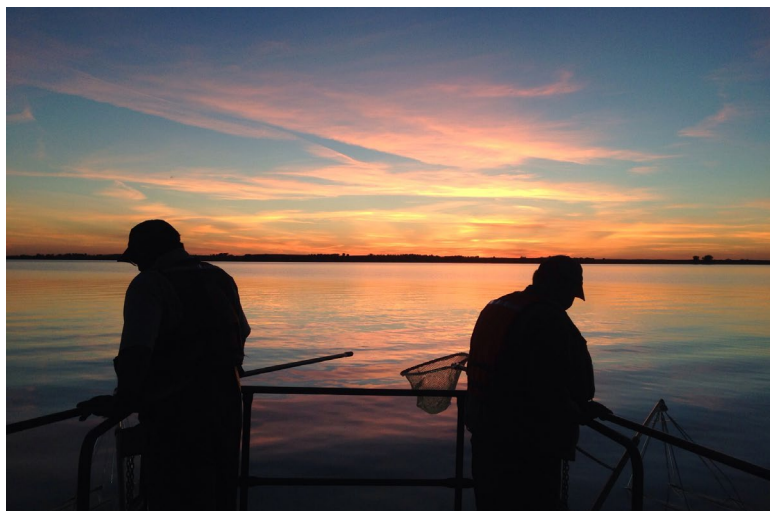
The bills for the North American Journal of Fisheries Management special issue have been paid and finalized, finally. AFS was delayed in getting the final bills to the WTC but those are paid with a total cost of \$3,230 being paid out of the WTC account. The 2023 joint technical committee meeting was a success and was held at Kemp Station in Woodruff, WI. 15 individuals attended the WTC business meeting from MN, WI, IL, MI, NE, IA, and SD. There will be a walleye symposium held at the 2023 annual AFS meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. This symposium is intended to involve broader stories that states are focusing on in regard to walleye research and management. During the 2022 summer business meeting it was voted on to award up to three Percid travel awards to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference but will be voted on by the executive committee on how many awards will be given annually based on available funds. Secretary Joe Rydell suggested reducing the travel award back to one recipient in 2023. Jason Gostiaux (MI DNR) was approved as chair-elect at the winter business meeting. Jason accepted that position and we are currently seeking candidates for a chair-elect to be named at the 2024 winter business meeting. Although the WTC is a nonprofit organization, we are working to sell merchandise through the NCD website and at upcoming conferences (annual AFS meeting and MFWC). If the summer technical committee meeting doesn't come out ahead, there are no funds added to the account. With an annual expense for the Percid travel award, the account would deplete quickly with no additional income. We are still debating on a location for the 2024 summer joint technical committee meeting. Beaver Island, MI was proposed by Jason Gostiaux, however, there are logistical concerns due to the island being located on Lake Michigan requiring a ferry ride to the island. Other states that volunteered include both Indiana and Illinois.



Walleye Technical Committee Report – Mark Fincel

Update on the Percid Telemetry Project in Lewis and Clark Lake
Will Radigan
PhD University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Walleye *Sander vitreus* and Sauger *Sander canadensis* are both socioeconomically important sportfish species in Lewis and Clark Lake, an interjurisdictionally-managed mainstem Missouri River reservoir fishery. Since 2011, adult catch per unit effort (CPUE) of both Walleye and Sauger has remained at approximately 50% of pre-2011 levels. Presumed reasons for the suppressed CPUE of Walleye and Sauger are sedimentation occurring in the reservoir since impoundment exacerbated by a catastrophic flood in 2011 and substantial entrainment of both age-0 and adult fish resulting from the reservoir's high average turnover rate (7 d). Acoustic telemetry was used to quantify adult movement and entrainment and ichthyoplankton trawls were used to assess larval entrainment. Female Sauger and Walleye exhibit site residency (moving less than 10 km upstream or downstream from tagging location) more frequently than male conspecifics. Of 71 tagged Sauger, 20% of females and 14% males are site residents. Of 130 tagged Walleye, 42% of females and 37% of males are site residents. Around 20% of both male and female Walleye tagged below Fort Randall Dam are site residents, suggesting that both a migratory and non-migratory population persist below the dam. Preliminary data suggests entrainment is a source of loss for larval Walleye and Sauger in Lewis and Clark Lake, because entrainment through Gavins Point Dam has exceeded entrainment through Fort Randall Dam each year from 2021-2023. Total annual losses of all species due to emigration through Gavins Point Dam are estimated to be over 1 million fish for both 2021 and 2022, with over 95% of these fish being Freshwater Drum *Aplodinotus grunniens*. Total annual gains of all species due to immigration through Fort Randall Dam are estimated to be 150,000-300,000 fish for 2021 and 2022 with over 90% of these fish being Freshwater Drum. Further, exploitation is a substantial source of loss for adult Walleye and Sauger, with annual exploitation rates of tagged fish ranging from 8-19% for Walleye and 10-15% for Sauger.



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Scott Gangl (ND)
Brian Blackwell (SD)

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Dan James (co-chair, SD)
Greg Power (co-chair, ND)
John Lott (SD)
Dave Lucchesi (SD)

Environmental Concerns

Jake Davis (co-chair, SD)
Michael Johnson (co-chair, ND)

Student Affairs

Bryce Capesius (SDSU)
Sanden O'Connell (VCSU)

Information and Web Support

Dylan Turner (SD)

Membership

Matt Ward (chair, SD)
Casey Williams (ND)
Jake Davis (SD)

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Jeremy Kientz (SD)
Joshua Wert (ND)

Resolutions

Chelsey Pasbrig (SD)
Gene Galinat (SD)

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Todd Caspers (ND)

NCD Centrarchid Tech Committee

Elizabeth Renner (SD)

NCD Escocid Tech Committee

Brian Blackwell (SD)

NCD Ictalurid Tech Committee

Christopher Cheek (SD)

NCD Rivers and Streams Tech Committee

Joshua Wert (ND)

